

*Halifax River Audubon*

*P.O. Box 166  
Daytona Beach, FL 32115-0166*

RECEIVED

AUG 30 2005

LAND ACQUISITION  
AND MANAGEMENT

August 23, 2005

William Scovell  
Chairman, Volusia County  
Charter Review Commission

Re: Comments at the Listening Session

Dear Sir,

I was unaware of the request to provide written comments as well as those made in person at the Listening Sessions. So here is a slightly expanded and hopefully more coherent version of my comments made earlier tonight at the Votran Office in South Daytona.

Speaking on behalf of our 460+ members, I would request that the concept of Urban Growth Boundaries be enshrined in the Volusia County Charter. The recently completed "Smart Growth" process has yet to issue its final guidelines but early drafts of their report demonstrate a severe lack of understanding regarding the desire of the vast majority of our citizens to maintain our Conservation Corridor. Overwhelming majorities have voted time and again to limit growth and to tax themselves to set aside land for conservation. The County's development rules are lax enough but compared to several of the cities, they're iron clad stringent. The solution for developers is to have their land annexed into one of the municipalities so that the environmental destruction can go on regardless of the consequences.

Often we're told that there are adequate protections in place to guarantee drinking water, infrastructure, etc. Then acre after acre of wetlands are turned into manicured sod farms with row after row of single family homes and strip malls. These will eventually be subject to flooding because development should never have been authorized there in there first place. More than adequate proof of this assertion can be viewed in Port Orange, Deltona and DeLand today.

If meaningful growth management is ever to save us from the impending day of having developed ourselves out of drinking water, Urban Growth Boundaries may be the tool with which to accomplish the task. Tonight I heard mention of the prospect of desalinization as a possible solution to our drinking water problems. This option sounds good to those who aren't aware of the vast environmental challenges to be surmounted

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when trying to provide drinking water to a large population utilizing this method of water purification. Tampa and Hillsborough County have spent over half a billion dollars on their plant. It's supposed to be state of the art and was promised to have been delivering considerable sums of drinking water long ago. This is not the case. They have been plagued with a multitude of problems and are unable to provide even a fraction of what was promised.

We can no longer tolerate having municipalities grab off large chunks of prime, environmentally sensitive land so that they can turn it over to developers so as to have an increasing tax base. If we are to ever have a chance of maintaining the quality of life that brought us here in the first place, Urban Growth Boundaries must become a part of the Volusia County Charter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Hartgrove". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

David Hartgrove  
Conservation Chair