

Potential Changes to the Wetland Minimum Standards

	County wide minimum (as written these standards are more strict than the state and would require the local governments to revise their implementing ordinances)	Lands mapped as NRMA or contiguous to Outstanding Florida Waters, intended to survive annexation	Lands within ECO as identified on October 19, 2007, intended to survive annexation
Protection increases			
Purpose of standards	Minimize the disturbance of wetlands within the county as a whole.	Provide additional protection to wetlands within areas identified in the County Comprehensive Plan as environmentally sensitive areas in a way that survives annexation.	Provide additional protection of wetlands within the ECO areas to protect connected wildlife habitat corridors, without impacting allowable densities within the ECO lands.
Exemptions	<p>Section 50-206(1) currently allows “nonmechanical clearing of vegetation from an area less than 10% of the wetland”. Propose clarifying to allow non-mechanical clearing of wetland and/or buffer up to 500 square feet and not more than 25 feet wide for access to open water consistent with current county code.</p> <p>Section 50-206(5) currently exempts alteration of wetlands for bona fide agricultural uses with no provision for future conversion. Propose requiring permitting and mitigation for alteration* of wetlands, surface water and buffers conducted after the adoption date, and as part of a bona-fide agricultural use if that land is converted to a non-agriculture use within 10 years.</p> <p>Section 50-206(13) currently exempts developments which obtain a state permit or for which a state permit is not required. Propose that the local government provide notification to the County for all dock and seawall permits and the County would assess appropriate mitigation if the state has not required mitigation (the state currently does not require permitting for docks less than 1000 square feet or less than 500 square feet in Outstanding Florida Waters, some seawalls, and does not</p>	<p>All the minimum requirements and:</p> <p>Section 50-206(4) currently exempts docks and boardwalks 4 feet wide or less. Propose requiring permitting and mitigation for all impacts associated with boardwalks and docks consistent with current county code (no increased burden to land owner unless the property annexes).</p>	<p>All the minimum and NRMA requirements and:</p> <p>Section 50-206(9) currently exempts impacts to wetlands one-half acre or less. Propose requiring permitting and mitigation for impacts to wetlands under one half acre, consistent with current state rules (no increased burden to land owner).</p>

	require mitigation for some impacts). Would require the deletion of 50-206-(13), last sentence of 50-209(a), and 50-214(c)).		
Avoidance criteria	<p>Currently no UMAM is required (no accounting for functional value) and avoidance and minimization is not well addressed. Propose requiring UMAM score for any wetlands to be altered. Create a presumption that impacts to low functioning wetlands are permissible. Require a statement of avoidance and minimization (add to 50-209(e)) for all other wetland impacts.</p>	Require UMAM score and a statement of avoidance and minimization. Create a presumption that no wetland impacts are permissible for highly functioning wetlands without a higher standard of review (approval from the development review board).	Require UMAM score and a statement of avoidance and minimization. Create a presumption that no wetland impacts are permissible for moderate or highly functioning wetlands without a higher standard of review (approval from the development review board).
Buffers	Minimum of 25 feet (no change)	Average of 75 feet, not less than 50 feet	Average of 100 feet, not less than 75 feet

Additional Changes (applicable county-wide)	
Section 50-207 to read “The county and individual municipalities shall meet on an annual basis to determine appropriate intergovernmental assistance and cooperation to ensure enforcement of this standard.”	
Section 50-204 to include a certain number of months for municipality adoption for this change and any future amendment.	
Add “and other surface waters” to Section 50-205 to be consistent with the state definition of wetlands	
Move 50-209(d)(10) to be (d)(1) and move 50-209(d)(9) to be (d)(2) to further emphasize avoidance and minimization of impacts.	
Add “or buffers” to 50-210(b) to allow for mitigation of buffer impacts (but not require buffer mitigation for wetlands that are completely impacted).	
Add reference to UMAM as the required measure for wetland mitigation to 50-213.	
Eliminate reference to mitigation ratios in 50-213(b)(1).	

*Alteration includes: Any activity which will remove, fill, drain, dredge, clear, or destroy any wetland or buffer.