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TERRA FIRMA

YOUR GUIDE FOR SOLID LAND USE PLANNING

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DESOTO COUNTY EVALUATION & APPRAISAL REPORT FOUND SUFFICIENT

The Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) issued DeSoto County a finding of sufficiency for their recently adopted Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR).

Land Planning Solutions (LPS) was retained by DeSoto County in March 2009 to assist with the preparation of the EAR. Completion of the EAR is required by each local government every seven years per Florida Statutes in order to evaluate necessary updates to the Comprehensive Plan based on changes to statutory requirements, as well as changes in conditions and trends throughout the community.

LPS assisted DeSoto County Staff in the formulation of recommendations to address a variety of complex planning issues such as sprawl, platted lot inventories and economic development/diversification.

The EAR received a unanimous recommendation of approval by the DeSoto County Planning Commission and unanimous approval to adopt by the Board of County Commissioners August 25, 2009.

LPS specializes in policy analysis and offers competitive rates for the coordination and preparation of Evaluation and Appraisal Reports throughout the State of Florida. Please contact us at (239) 405-7983 or allison@lpsfl.us.

S.P.Y. CAMP 2009 *Sharing Planning with Youth*



Land Planning Solutions, Inc.
hosting S.P.Y. Camp 2009
at Veterans Community Park

Naples from Monday, December 21st through Wednesday, December 23rd.

S.P.Y. Camp 2009 (*Sharing Planning with Youth*) is intended to teach children about land use planning, sustainability and local government. The program was designed by **Land Planning Solutions'** professional land use planners interested in providing kids with the opportunity to learn about their community and city planning.

This three day camp is full of action packed, hands on learning exercises (a.k.a. spy missions) based around a detective theme. Each camper will learn the skills necessary to be an effective secret agent - including spy lingo, understanding special missions and instructions, and the importance of team building. Role playing and undercover work, conducting surveys and interviews, a super-sleuth scavenger hunt, agent trivia challenge and the creation of a box city are the highlights of the camp - all designed to teach children about community planning in a fun, interactive way. The camp concludes with a graduation ceremony for the agents.

The 3-day camp runs from 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m., with early drop-off and late pick-up available at 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. at no extra charge. The cost per child \$200 and includes the official S.P.Y. Kit and Tote Bag.

Registration is available through the Collier County Parks website at www.collierparks.com or at any Collier County Parks facility.

Don't wait - Registration ends on December 14th at a maximum of 26 secret agents (a.k.a. campers) will be admitted! Sign your child up today!

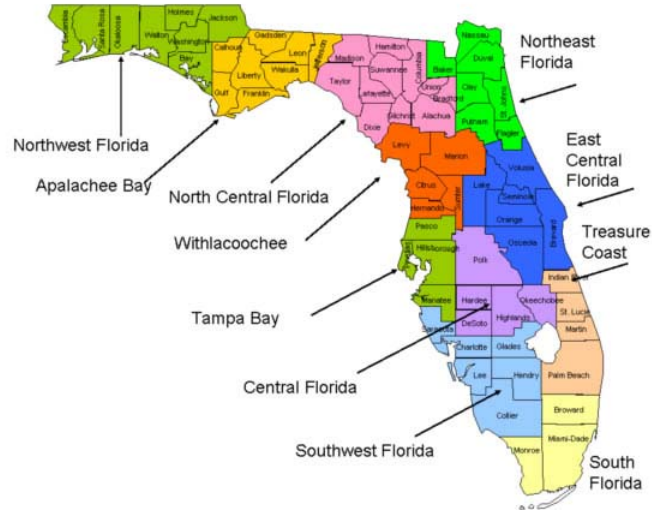
Please contact Allison at allison@lpsfl.us or 239-405-7983 with any additional questions you might have about **S.P.Y. Camp 2009**.



ROLE OF REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS IN FLORIDA

Pursuant to Chapter 186 of Florida Statutes, Regional Planning Councils (RPCs) are quasi-governmental organizations that address planning issues of a regional nature and scope, as well as support local governments by providing input into state policy development. The State

Florida is served by eleven (11) separate RPCs which range in size from (3) counties to eleven (11) counties.



The fundamental role of each RPC is the formulation of the Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP). The SRPP is required to address, at minimum, five (5) key issues that affect the region as a whole, including: affordable housing, economic development, emergency preparedness, natural resource and regional transportation. Through the examination of each of these issues, the RPC is charged with identifying regional resources and facilities, forecasting conditions and trends (including expected growth patterns), and establishing regional goals and policies that guide a program of actions to address each identified issue.

Under Florida Statutes, RPCs are also charged with the coordination of Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs). DRIs are large-scale development projects that may have a substantial effect upon the health, safety, or welfare of the citizens of more than one county due to their size, character, or location. RPCs play a vital role in the review of these projects, which are typically complex and require input from numerous reviewing agencies across multiple jurisdictions. As well as serving as the clearinghouse for current DRIs, RPCs are required to monitor approved DRIs for consistency with their Development Order through an annual monitoring report.

In addition to their growth management functions, RPCs are regularly involved in a variety of other programs, such as hazard mitigation planning, Geographic Information System (GIS) services, emergency preparedness and economic development.

Each RPC is comprised of a council membership designed to equitably represent all counties within the region. At a minimum, each county must have one voting member on the council. Local governments and the Governor of Florida

may appoint either locally elected officials or citizens, provided that at least two-thirds of the voting members are locally elected officials. In the case of the Southwest Florida Regional Council, the council is comprised of a thirty-four members, with at least four (4) representatives from each county within the region.

Due to the 2008-2010 Sunset Review of the Department of Community Affairs, there is speculation as to the future of RPCs and the potential for a dramatic change in their current responsibilities. Despite the uncertainties that lie ahead in the 2010 legislative session, it is clear that RPCs play an important role as the primary agency for regional coordination and inter-jurisdictional planning.

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