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YOUR GUIDE FOR SOLID LAND USE PLANNING

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HAPPY EARTH DAY!

Land Planning Solutions celebrated Earth Day this past April 22nd, along with many others in our local community and across the globe, in order to show our appreciation for Mother Earth.

Since the first Earth Day celebrated in 1970 by millions of Americans demonstrating for a healthier, cleaner environment, the event has grown into an international celebration involving more than 180 countries and hundreds of millions of people.

In honor of this important day, Land Planning Solutions has compiled the following tips for protecting the environment on Earth Day and everyday.

Tip #1: When you're in the car avoid waiting in long drive-thru lines. When visiting fast-food restaurants or banks, park your car and go in. Also, try combining your errands into one trip which helps reduce air pollution emissions and also saves money on gas.

Tip #2: At home unplug electronics, lamps, appliances and chargers that aren't being used. Even when turned off, electronic devices continue to pull a charge if they're plugged in. Recent studies have shown that "standby power" accounts for 5 to 10 percent of total household energy use.

Tip #3: At the office reach for the company mug rather than a styrofoam or paper cup for your morning cup of joe - show your company pride and help save the planet at the same time!

For more Earth Day fun, join the Bonita Springs Nature Place for their Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration on Saturday, May 2nd from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m at 27601 Kent



Road, Bonita Springs, FL 34135. For directions and further information click on the link below:

[Bonita Springs Nature Place Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration](#)

And don't forget to make Earth Day everyday!

FAMILY AND RURAL LANDS PROTECTION ACT

In 2001, Florida passed the Rural and Family Lands Protection Act (Section 570.70, Florida Statutes). The Act was supported by economic, environmental and land planning leaders in the State. The concerns they had at the time that led to their support of the legislation included the realization that important agricultural lands were disappearing to development at an outstanding pace.



The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services estimates that as much as 5 million acres of Florida's agricultural land will be lost to conservation and development by 2020.



Funding for the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program was provided during the 2008 Legislative Session as part of the re-authorization of the Florida Forever Program. The Rural and Family Lands Protection Program focuses on maintaining the integrity and function of working agricultural landscapes and ensuring opportunities for viable

agricultural activities on working agricultural lands.

The acquisition of development rights through permanent easements agricultural land owners who are both willing and who qualify is the basis for the program. Through these easements, this program will permanently protect agricultural lands. This will allow agriculture to remain a viable occupation in Florida and also maintain rural landscapes for all of us to enjoy.



It is important to give agricultural property owners options to be able to stay in agriculture. The temptation to sell the land to a developer is far too easy. However, to retain agricultural lands, it has to be economically beneficial to the property owner. Programs such as the Family and Rural Lands Protection Act and the Rural Land Stewardship Program need to remain in place to provide alternatives for agricultural property owners to consider, otherwise, we will find their lands in the path of urban development.

LPS IN THE NEWS!!

We are proud to announce that the 2009 Nominating Committee of the Promised Lands Section of the American Planning Association has voted to add **Alexis Crespo's** name to the slate of officers for the position of Vice-Chair of the Section. Elections will occur in July 2009. If confirmed, Alexis will serve the term from 2009-2011 beginning this August. Alexis is a Senior Planner at **Land Planning Solutions**.

The slate of officers nominated to fill the next term includes Ken Heatherington for Section Chair, **Alexis Crespo** for Section Vice Chair, Todd Wyatt for Section Treasurer, Wendi Wilkie for Section Secretary and **Allison Megrath**, Immediate Past Chair of the Section.



The Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association provides an opportunity for members to network and for professional development. For more information about Florida Chapter visit www.floridaplanning.org

The Promised Lands Section consists of approximately 250 members and covers a six county region, including Lee, Collier, Charlotte, DeSoto, Hendry and Glades Counties. The Section organizes professional development events, workshops and sessions, as well as opportunities to socialize and network for the members and colleagues in associated fields. Visit www.floridaplanning.org/promisedlands/index.asp for more information about the Promised Lands Section.

Land Planning Solutions remains a committed and active participant in the Promised Lands Section. Company president, **Allison Megrath** is currently finishing her term as Section Chair (2007-2009) and previously served the Section as Vice Chair from 2004-2007. Allison will begin her term as Immediate Past Chair in August 2009 and will continue in that capacity until August 2011.

WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON...

Land Planning Solutions is pleased to announce we will be working with the North Olga Community to assist with the development of their first Community Plan.

The Community Plan will be developed through close partnership with the North Olga Community Planning Panel and the local residents to define the Community's vision and formulate a set of goals for the future of this special area of Lee County.



We are excited about working with the North Olga Community on this project!

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