

# Economic Planning & Environmental Preservation

In an age of growth and expansion as it pertains to homes, businesses, and infrastructure, the need arises to ensure the protection and preservation of the nation's environmental resources and wildlife habitats. Engineers, builders, and policy makers strive to reach solutions that foster a sustainable balance between natural and economic goals.

## Preserving Natural Beauty

For decades, regions across the country have innovated and implemented this endeavor. In recent years, however, efforts aimed at preserving natural beauty — while at the same time fostering positive economic outcomes — have increasingly become a focal point for builders and naturalists alike.

In Florida, for instance, environmental considerations are not only a social concern, but [part of legal requirements](#) to which all builders and community planners must adhere.

## The Balance of Nature and Economic Growth

Despite some criticism, builders and community planners have proven it is economically feasible and sound to attain harmony between nature and growth/expansion through several factors, including on-site nature preserves. A long-time Florida requirement of new building projects, this idea has recently gained nationwide interest and implementation. Strategic habitat conservation rules require builders to include in their plans predetermined tracts that cannot be developed. These tracts then become protected natural land aimed at sustaining and preserving wildlife and vegetation.

Another means by which to accomplish this goal is through land acquisition programs, which seek to secure in each town designated areas where animals and native plants can exist undisturbed by the public. These are often part of a larger park or trail system project.

## Lasting, Sustainable Accord

Implementing measures by which mankind's wants and needs exist in harmony with nature affords humans the ability to foster an atmosphere where economic growth and expansion are realized not at the expense of the environment, but rather at its protection and preservation for future generations to enjoy.

## About the FDEP

The Sunshine State's official-level interest in environmental preservation dates back to the 1960s. Since then, several agencies that would later merge to form the current [Florida Department of Environmental Protection](#) (FDEP) have established regulations and policies to protect and preserve waterways, swamp land, and wildlife refuge areas.

FDEP's focus spans several concentrations, including:

- air and water pollution oversight and regulation
- coastal and aquatic protection and preservation
- water resources management through water management district oversight
- state geological resources survey
- power plant, natural gas pipeline, and hazardous waste facility location
- management of the Florida State Park system, including Everglades State Park restoration
- and more