



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**TO:** Jim Liesenfelt, Interim County Manager

**THRU:** Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager

**FROM:** Billy Prasad, Director, Planning and Development Department

**SUBJECT:** Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2025065

---

CEER # 2025065, titled "Leaving some wetland," was received by the County from Jesse Baker.

**Citizen Statement:**

Hello, I am writing you today to bring up how little wildlands, food and shelter we leave for the wildlife around us

**Citizen Recommendation:**

My recommendation is to leave as much wildland as possible when constructing new projects. And try to dedicate some land to no construction. We have seen dramatic drops in wildlife of every kind in large numbers. Something along the lines of 95% of our songbirds (Specifically songbirds) can only feed their young caterpillars. Those caterpillars need their local host plants to either be eaten by said songbirds or become the butterfly they can be. When is the last time you saw a A praying mantis? A lightning bug? A painted bunting? (Vibrantly colorful song bird, as or more colorful then a parrot!) Thank you for your time.

**Staff Analysis:**

***Parks and Recreation Department (PRD) Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL)***

***Program***

The Board of County Commissioners (Board) bonded \$3 million for Parks and Recreation Department (PRD) Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program land acquisition. A variety of properties have been identified for future acquisition. These properties are a



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

mixture of both wetlands and uplands and are primarily outparcels within or directly adjacent to existing conservation lands. EELs is in the process of hiring a contractor to pursue the acquisition of lands with the allocated funds. If the Board approves additional funds, the contractor will already be on board to carryout additional efforts.

Additionally, the EEL Program has been working diligently with the community since the mid-1990's to provide mitigation opportunities. EEL manages over 1,600 acres of conservation lands that have been directly donated or restored by the development community to offset habitat loss impacts caused by residential and commercial development. These donation and restoration projects have also included over \$750,000 in management fees that are used by the EEL Program to manage these lands into the future.

***Planning and Development Department (P&D) Review and Coordination to Ensure Compliance With Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations***

Building permits, site plans, subdivisions, and zoning actions are received in the Planning & Development Department, as may be required under County Code and Florida Building Code prior to commencement of building construction. If a reviewer of any of these application types determines that it does not meet code requirements, the application is put into a status of deficiency and will not be approved unless and until the issue is rectified. For example, as part of the application process, parcels are researched individually to ensure the present zoning and land use is consistent with the proposed project.

Building permit applications go through a detailed review under the Code requirements of Building, Engineering, Land Development, Natural Resources, Public Works, Traffic, and Zoning. A permit may additionally be reviewed by Utilities, Fire Prevention, Concurrency, and Address Assignment as applicable to the permit application.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

As it pertains to zoning actions, Planning and Development coordinates with the Natural Resources Department (NRM), who conducts a review of new development for any impacts regulated by Brevard County Code of Ordinances, including, but not limited to, impacts to protected species (see section “Natural Resources Management Department (NRM) Environmental Review,” below).

***Natural Resources Management Department (NRM) Environmental Review***

NRM conducts environmental review of nearly all land development activities on developed and undeveloped properties in unincorporated Brevard County. NRM assesses proposed development for compliance with 10 environmental protection ordinances including wetland, floodplain, aquifer recharge, and surface water protection.

Development review includes site plans, subdivisions, and building permits, and other NRM-specific permits (e.g., surface water protection, small scale land clearing, and land alteration).

During these reviews, NRM also assesses for indicators of protected species that may reside in a particular habitat (e.g., Florida scrub jays, gopher tortoises, marine turtles, manatees, and bald eagles). These species are regulated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. However, NRM informs applicants about the potential presence of any protected species and provides contact information for the applicable State or Federal permitting agency.

Note that the criteria within NRM's ordinances have a secondary effect of species protection through habitat protection. NRM ordinances can be viewed at

[www.brevardfl.gov/naturalresources](http://www.brevardfl.gov/naturalresources).



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**Communications/SCGTV Office**

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way  
Building C, Room 301  
Viera, Florida 32940

NRM also continues to implement and refine policies and Land Development Regulations (LDR) that align with Low Impact Development principles and ensure avoidance and minimization of impacts to natural coastal ecosystems, including native vegetation, wetlands, floodplains, aquifer recharge areas, and dunes.

- Chapter 62, Article XIII, Division 2 - Landscaping, Land Clearing & Tree Protection, Section 62-4341 requires at least 50% native preserved or planted trees for new development. Additionally, at least 50% native or water-wise shrubs are required. Trees and shrubs must be maintained on-site in perpetuity. Meeting all principles of Xeriscaping or water-wise landscaping is incentivized through a 50% reduction in the required shrub quantity for new developments.
- Chapter 62, Article XIII, Division 2 - Landscaping, Land Clearing & Tree Protection, Section 62-4344 provides incentives for increased canopy preservation and landscaping above the required thresholds. For example, one preserved specimen tree can offset the requirement for planting up to 16 smaller trees, thereby retaining the environmental benefits of the established preserved tree and offsetting the risk of establishing new, smaller planted trees. Landscaping credit may also be accumulated for the preservation of healthy vegetation of special concern, such as rare, endangered or threatened plant species or hardwood hammock, barrier island scrub, or sand pine scrub.
- Chapter 62, Article XIII, Division 2 - Landscaping, Land Clearing & Tree Protection,



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Section 62-4346, provides for an administrative waiver of up to 30% of nonresidential parking standards for the preservation or additional planting of native or Florida-Friendly Landscaping. This waiver reduces impervious surfaces while requiring additional planted green space.

**Staff Recommended Action:**

It is recommended that Board of County Commissioners accept CEER #2025065 with revisions as provided in staff analysis.

CC: Frank Abbate, County Manager

## Horst, Rachel

---

**From:** CEER@brevardfl.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2025 8:02 PM  
**To:** Horst, Rachel  
**Subject:** A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2025065

### Recommendation # 2025065

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2025065 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

#### Contact Information:

##### Group/Organization

<b>Name</b>	Jesse Baker
<b>Address</b>	1102 Fay Blvd, Cocoa FL 32927
<b>Phone</b>	(321) 362-8735
<b>Email</b>	sicchicken@gmail.com
<b>Alternate Email</b>	sicchicken@gmail.com

#### Recommendation Information:

<b>Recommendation ID</b>	2025065
<b>Recommendation Title</b>	Leaving some wildland
<b>Areas Affected</b>	
<b>Department Affected</b>	
<b>Current problem</b>	Hello, I am writing you today to bring up how little wildlands, food and shelter we leave for the wildlife around us
<b>Recommendation</b>	My recommendation is to leave as much wildland as possible when constructing new projects. And try to dedicate some land to no construction. We have seen dramatic drops in wildlife of every kind in large numbers. Something along the lines of 95% of our songbirds (Specifically songbirds) can only feed their young caterpillars. Those caterpillars need their local host plants to either be eaten by said songbirds or become the butterfly they can be When is the last time you saw a A praying mantis? A lightning bug? A painted bunting? (Vibrantly colorful song bird, as or more colorful then a parrot!) Thank you for your time.
<b>Attachments</b>	No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.