

## **Trees and Greenspace**

### **Measure 29 – Government Greenspace Plan**

**5 Points**

Develop and adopt a Greenspace plan that provides for connectivity of protected greenspace within and among communities.

#### Discussion:

From 2004 to 2005, Cobb County contracted with the Trust for Public Land in order to develop an innovative greenspace plan known as the Cobb County Greenprint. This Greenprint is an interactive GIS model that assists the county with greenspace protection and preservation. This tool in and of itself is the county's greenspace plan because it incorporates the desires of the community and the need of protecting various sensitive environments in an effort to create interconnected greenways throughout the community.

As part of the process of developing this greenspace plan, a number of variables were placed into the model including the following: Hydrology (rivers, streams, floodplain, water bodies, wetlands, and areas with permeable soils); Park gaps and needs (areas with a large percentage of children under the age of 18, densely populated areas, areas with a high population of low income individuals, and areas not served by existing parks); Undeveloped land (large acre tracts where there may be up to one main structure on a property with 75% of the parcel in a natural state); Trails (areas with 300 feet of an existing, proposed, or programmed trail or multi-use facility); Historic sites (structures on the national or local register of historic places); and Public facilities (Libraries, schools, senior centers, and health centers). Together, these criteria establish a weighted model that is based upon community input that provides a conservation value to properties throughout the county. This model helps prioritize our efforts at conservation and protection as is shown by our use of this tool in support of the two Parks Bonds that have been approved by county residents.

#### Documentation:

The following documentation is enclosed with this application:

- The section of the Comprehensive Plan that makes the Greenprint part of county policy.
- The Commission Meeting minutes indicating approval by the Board to incorporate the plan into county policy.