



FLERA FOCUS!

Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies

www.flera.org

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FLERA 2007 Legislative Priorities

The 2007 Session of the Legislature begins today in Tallahassee. Many bills have not yet emerged out of the drafting process. In general, issues of concern to FLERA can be summarized in one word: PRE-EMPTION! Pre-empting the ability of local governments or the public to set environmental standards or otherwise determine their own destiny will be the major issue for FLERA and other local government representatives this year. While bill numbers may not yet be assigned, the general issues to watch are listed below. Go to the FLERA website (<http://www.flera.org/legislative.html>) for a complete listing of all legislation being tracked at this time.

- **Charter Amendments** (HB 791/SB 2080) – Similar to legislation filed last year, the bills require that any amendments to a charter that transfer powers from a city to the county must be adopted by a dual vote. It also eliminates the ability of the electorate (through their charter) to adopt amendments authorizing the county to determine whether the BCC has countywide authority in matters relating to land use planning. In its current form, the legislation is poorly worded and will likely be amended in its first committee of reference.
- **Fertilizer Application** – An effort by DACS to regulate the sale of household fertilizers in Florida is moving through the rule adoption process. It will limit the sale of fertilizers to only low- or no-phosphorus fertilizers. For nitrogen, the original idea of limiting content to 50% slow-release has been replaced by only 15% slow-release nitrogen. Nonetheless, limiting content on a statewide basis furthers the argument that local governments should be pre-empted from adopting their own, more stringent standards. Legislation to that effect is not yet filed but has been adopted in other states after statewide regulations on content have been adopted. *Stay tuned!*
- **On-site Sewage Treatment** (SB 756/HB 1075) – Legislation filed last Session would have superseded local regulations concerning onsite sewage treatment facilities. This year's legislation requires periodic inspections of on-site systems.
- **Mining Operations** - SB 2784 requires state and local governments to consider the state's needs for construction aggregate when adopting a change to a comprehensive plan. It creates a special task force to examine the future need for aggregate materials for road building needs.
- **Florida Forever Funding** – FLERA is participating with a coalition of interests seeking an increase in funding for the State's land acquisition programs. Any significant increases in funding will likely occur in 2008, not 2007.

Florida Forever Grant Opportunities

Florida Communities Trust has opened its seventh Florida Forever application cycle. Approximately \$66 million (unless changed by the Legislature) will be available this funding cycle for grants to local governments and environmental non-profit organizations to acquire land for conservation, open space and outdoor recreation purposes. The deadline for submitting an application is May 9, 2007. For a copy of the grant application or additional information about the FCT program, visit <http://www.floridacommunitydevelopment.org/fct>.

2007 Annual Conference – Mark Your Calendar!

Save the Date! FLERA's 2007 Annual Conference is August 1-3, 2007 at the Sarasota Hyatt. This year's theme is "Local Environmental Programs Working Toward Sustainability in Florida." Stay tuned to the FLERA website for more program information as it becomes available.

"Providing Community-Based Environmental Protection"

[Home \(FloridaCommunityDevelopment.org\)](http://www.floridacommunitydevelopment.org)

Home - Florida Communities Trust

News

- Florida Communities Trust (F.C.T.) will open its 2007 Florida Forever grant application cycle on February 23. Approximately \$66 million in grant funds will be available to local governments and non-profit environmental organizations for the acquisition of parks and conservation lands. The application deadline is 5:00 p.m. on May 9. In addition, F.C.T. will hold a series of application workshops across the state.
 - New FCT-4 grant application: [Word](#) | [P.D.F.](#)
 - Florida Forever Program - Rule 9K-7, *Florida Administrative Code* [P.D.F.](#)
 - Land Acquisition Procedures for Florida Forever - Rule 9K-8, *Florida Administrative Code* [P.D.F.](#)
 - [Application Workshop Schedule](#)
- More [News](#) . . .

What is Florida Communities Trust?

Florida Communities Trust (F.C.T.) is a state land acquisition grant program that provides funding to local governments and eligible non-profit environmental organizations for acquisition of community-based parks, open space and greenways that further outdoor recreation and natural resource protection needs identified in local government comprehensive plans. [More about . . .](#)

- [Governing Board](#)

- [Staff](#)
- [Publications](#)

Florida Community Trust's Florida Forever Grant Program

The Florida Communities Trust provides grants to eligible applicants for the acquisition of land for community-based parks, open-spaces and greenways that further the outdoor recreation and natural resource protection needs identified in local government comprehensive plans. Approximately \$66 million (unless otherwise allocated by the legislature) is available each funding cycle. [More . . .](#)

- [Applying For a Florida Forever Grant](#)
- [Other Florida Forever Funded Land Acquisition Programs](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Program Authority](#) (Administrative Rules and Enabling Statutes)
- [2005 Florida Forever Projects](#)
- [2006 Florida Forever Projects](#)

Technical Assistance

The Florida Communities Trust provides technical assistance throughout the grant and land acquisition process. [More . . .](#)

- [Application Assistance](#)
- Application Instruction Guide [Word](#) | [P.D.F.](#)
- Application Form FCT-4 [Word](#) | [P.D.F.](#)
- [If Your Project Was Funded](#)
- [Acquisition Process](#)
- [Appraisal Requirements](#)
- [Management Plans](#)
- [Entrance Signs](#)
- [Stewardship Reports](#)

- Willing Owner Statement [Word](#)
- [Funds for Park Development](#)

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