Section I. Developed and disturbed lands.

Urban. Urban consists of areas of intensive use with much of the land occupied by man-made structures. High impact is densely developed areas where examples of low impact would be represented by areas of low intensity residential, rural residential or recreational type subdivisions.

Agriculture. Agricultural lands are those lands which are cultivated to produce food crops and livestock. There are various sub-categories of agriculture. The subcategories within the Town are:

- **Improved Pastures.** Improved pastures typically have been cleared, tilled, reseeded with specific grass types, and periodically improved with brush control and fertilizer application.
- **Unimproved Pastures.** Unimproved pastures include cleared land with major stands of trees and brush where native grasses have been allowed to develop. Normally, this land will not be managed with brush control and/or fertilizer application.
- **Row Crops.** Corn, tomatoes, potatoes and beans are typical row crops found in Florida. Rows remain well defined even after crops have been harvested.
- **Field Crops.** Wheat, oats, hay and grasses are the primary types identified as field crops.
- **Citrus Groves.** Oranges, grapefruit, and tangerines are the typical crops grown in citrus groves. Citrus groves are a subcategory of tree crops which also includes fruit orchards.
- **Other Agriculture.** This category includes those agricultural lands whose intended usage cannot be determined.

Bare Soil/Clearcut. Barren Land has very little or no vegetation and limited potential to support vegetative communities. In general, it is an area of bare soil or rock. Barren land may also temporarily exist due to human activity such as clearing or resource extraction.

Section II. Wetlands and open water.

Open Water. Open water is area that is predominantly and persistently water covered. Open water includes streams, lakes and sloughs, as well as manmade water features. The Indian River lagoon estuary and the Intracoastal Water Way is open water.

Wetlands. Marsh, wet prairie and swamps are the types of wetlands found within the Town. Wetlands are those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or ground water at a frequency and a duration sufficient to

support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soils and standing water. Shallow water bodies having emergent vegetation or observable submerged vegetation are also placed in the wetlands category.

- **Wet Prairie.** Wet prairies are composed grassy vegetation in hydric soils. There is a complex mosaic that makes up the longer hydroperiod marsh and the shorter hydroperiod wet prairie. Wet prairies are often difficult to delineate, and designation is often based on soil and indirect evidence of average high water levels. In general, wet prairies are distinguished from a marsh by having less water and shorter herbage. Additionally, wet prairies typically have a very diverse species community unlike marshes which are dominated by fewer than 10 species.

- **Marshes.** The plants in marshes and wet prairies show a wide range of adaptations for dealing with floods and anaerobic conditions, droughts and aerobic conditions. Most marsh types are dominated by fewer than 10 species, marshes frequently will be dominated by one species. Marshes can be isolated or adjacent to canals, rivers, lagoons, lakes or sloughs. Marshes are herbaceous and can be freshwater or saltwater.

- **Salt Marsh.** Salt marshes are situated between the land and the sea and experience the effects of both salt and fresh water. Salt marshes are found in flat, protected waters usually within the protection of a barrier island, estuary, or along low-energy coastlines. Salt marsh plants are salt-tolerant or halophytic species that have developed biological and physiological mechanisms to adjust to a range in environmental conditions and to tolerate the stresses of salinity changes and periodic inundation. Tidal effects are greatest on salt marsh areas below mean low water, while upland freshwater sources influence areas above mean high water.

Swamps. Forested wetlands are referred to as swamps. Forested communities support a tree canopy closure of 10% or more. Swamps are further identified by type, such as mangrove, hardwood, cypress or mixed wetland forest, which are the types found within the Town.

- **Hardwood Swamp.** Hardwood swamps must be 66% or more dominated by wetland hardwood species, either salt or freshwater.

- **Cypress Swamp.** Cypress swamps can be composed of pond cypress or bald cypress which is either pure or predominant.

- **Mixed Wetland Forest.** A mixed wetland forest supports a tree canopy closure of 10% or more with communities in which neither hardwoods or conifers achieve a 66% dominance of the crown canopy composition.

- **Mangrove Swamp**. Mangrove communities occur in depressions along the coast and near shore where precipitation and sheetflow collect and are tidally influenced. Red mangroves are more common along the coastal areas, while black and whites dominate further inland. Dense mangrove forests do not typically have understory plant associations, except for mangrove seedlings. The local distribution of mangroves is affected primarily by a variety of interacting factors that include microclimate, substrate type, tidal fluctuation, terrestrial nutrients, wave energy, and salt water. Mangroves are unique in that their morphological specialization such as aerial roots, vivipary, and salt excretion or excluding abilities.

Shrub Swamp. Shrub swamps are wetlands where the crown closure threshold does not meet the forested category or the associated species contains willow and low scrub with no dominate species.

Section III. Native Upland Vegetative Communities

Dry Prairie. This category includes upland prairie grasses which occur on non-hydric soils but may be occasionally inundated by water. These areas are generally treeless with a variety of vegetation types dominated by grasses, sedges, rushes and other herbs including wire grasses with some saw palmetto present. The dry prairie community is a pyrogenic landscape with a ground cover diverse in regionally endemic plant taxa.

Grassland. A grassland is an upland community where the predominant vegetative cover is very low-growing grasses and forbs, most commonly in monocultures of non-invasive, nonnative species.

Shrub and Brushland. This category includes saw palmettos, gallberry, wax myrtle, coastal scrub and other shrubs and brush. Generally, saw palmetto is the most prevalent plant cover intermixed with a wide variety of other woody scrub plant species as well as various types of short herbs and grasses. Coastal scrub vegetation would include pioneer herbs and shrubs composed of such typical plants as sea purslane, sea grapes and sea oats without any one of these types being dominant.

Scrub Communities. Florida scrub is a plant community easily recognized by the dominance of evergreen shrubs and frequent patches of bare, white sand. Florida scrub in its various phases has been called xeric scrub, sand scrub, big

scrub, sand pine scrub, oak scrub, evergreen oak scrub, dune oak scrub, evergreen scrub forest, slash pine scrub, palmetto scrub, rosemary scrub, and rosemary bald. Florida scrubs may be classified as coastal or interior. Scrubs are often named by the dominant plant species, as in rosemary scrub, sand pine scrub, palmetto scrub, or oak scrub. When sand pines (*Pinus clausa*) are present in scrub they do not form a continuous canopy but occur as scattered individuals or clumps of individuals. The scrub subcommunity identified within the Town include the following:

- **Sand Pine.** This pine community grows on deep, infertile deposits of marine sands and clays. There are two varieties of sand pines, both occurring in Florida. The Ocala variety naturally occurs in South Florida growing in densely-stocked, pure, even-aged stands. The Choctawhatchee variety of western panhandle Florida commonly occurs in unevenaged stands invading oak communities. A root disease complex gives many sand pine stands a disheveled appearance. Its dark crown coloration distinguishes it from other southern pines.

- **Xeric Oak.** This community is similar to and occupies the same sites as the Longleaf Pine - Xeric Oak community except that the pines, if present, are not the dominant species. In many cases longleaf pine may have been present in significant numbers prior to harvesting but were never regenerated. Species common to this class include sand live oak, bluejack oak, turkey oak and post oak.

Pinelands. These forests are quite common throughout much of Northern and Central Florida. Originally, longleaf pines were common on drier sites while slash pines, which are less fire resistant, were confined to moister sites; wildfire being the contributing factor in this distribution. However, fire control and artificial reforestation have extended the range of slash pine into former longleaf sites. The pine flatwoods class is dominated by either slash pine, longleaf pine or both and less frequently pond pine. The common flatwoods understory species include saw palmetto, wax myrtle, gallberry and a wide variety of herbs and brush.

Mixed Pine. This category is a mixture of sand pine and slash pine with a wide variety of hardwoods.

Hardwood Forests and Hammocks. This classification of upland forest lands has a crown canopy with at least a 66% dominance by hardwood tree species. This class, like the Upland Conifer class, is reserved for naturally generated stands. Common components of the temperate hammock may include, depending upon the location, a wide variety of oaks, red bay, sweetbay,

magnolia, sweetgum, sugarberry, hickories, cabbage palm, hollies and cedar. Various pines are minor associates.