

A. Introduction.

To create a permanent fund to acquire Natural Lands for Orange County’s Environmental Sensitive Lands program (Program). Acquisition of Nature Lands will include lands for conservation, passive recreation, and environmental education.

B. Title.

Establish a permanent Natural Land acquisition fund for Environmental Sensitive Lands for Orange county.

Ballot Proposal:

The Orange County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) shall ~~Establish a budget line budget~~ ~~\$7,500,000~~ per year to fund the purchase of Environmental Sensitive Lands to be preserved as conservation, passive recreation, and environmental education; shall be preserved forever from development and linear facilities. These lands shall not be sold, leased or taken by any person or corporation, public or private. Renewal by Citizens every ten years by simple majority.

Comptroller estimated financial impact: _____

_____ Yes

_____ No

C. Text Revisions: Article X of the Orange County Charter is created and Section 1000.0? is added. (Underline text is added to the charter).

1. The Orange County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) shall budget \$7,500,000 per year for funding purchases of Environmental Sensitive Lands within Orange County.
2. Effective Date of the charter amendment shall become effective upon passage and implemented within the new budget year.
3. Environmental Sensitive Lands funding shall be use for only purchasing lands as directed by the Park Land Acquisition for Conservation and Environmental Protections (Green PLACE); appointed citizens committee; managed by Environmental Protection Division.
4. Membership of the Citizens Committee shall include (based on availability): local Environmental NGOs, Government personal with Natural Resource Qualifications, GIS, and up to two interested Orange County citizens. Membership is limited to seven and shall not exceed a two-year term appointment to the Citizen Committee.
5. Lands to be acquire Including Environmental Sensitive Lands for conservation, passive recreation, and environmental education. Acquisition goal shall include creating viable biological corridors for Flora and Fauna to pass through Orange County
6. These lands shall be preserved forever from development and linear facilities. They shall not be sold, nor shall they be leased or taken by any person or corporation, public or private.

7. The Environmental Sensitive Lands program shall be renewed by the citizens of Orange county every ten years by simply majority vote of orange county voters.
8. Due to some unforeseen need, the BCC requires a suspension of the program, a supermajority vote of the BCC shall be required. The BCC can do an emergency suspension, but it shall go to the voters within 180 days from the BCC suspension vote. Orange county citizens will decide with a 60% vote to continue the Suspension. Suspension shall only be for a period of two years from the date of citizens vote that will be automatically reestablish the program.

D. Definitions

Environmentally Sensitive Lands (ESL) – include creek, stream or river banks, major drainage ways, beaches, shorelines, viable wetlands, floodplains, water resource lands, poor soil areas not suitable for development, wellhead protection areas, prime groundwater recharge areas, parks and recreation areas, and natural systems that contribute to greenway corridors and wildlife habitat.

Linear facilities: include electric transmission and distribution facilities, telecommunications transmission and distribution facilities, pipeline transmission and distribution facilities, public transportation corridors, and related appurtenances

Green PLACE: The Park Land Acquisition for Conservation and Environmental Protections.