

Green Implementation Advancement Board
Office of Sustainability and Resilience (OSAR) Staff Report
March 20th, 2025

Tree Planting Program

- Year 4 program contract was executed on August 21, 2024.
- 464 trees of the 719 allotted in the contract have been given away.
- 413 of the 877 tree allotment have been Dropped Off
- A Tree Giveaway is planned for April 13 at the Coco Market.
- Sites along Lowson Blvd/ SW 10 ST, and Train Depot were suggested for plantings, the former by City Commission. Coordination with other Departments was initiated. The Train Depot was ruled out as a site. Assessment of Lowson Blvd/10 ST is pending. Plantings at Leon Weekes were requested by a resident through Community Greening, considered, and ruled out.

Tree Trust Fund

- Fund Balance as of Mar 13: \$ 71,761.92
- Encumbered for Current Year: \$ 179,627.19
- Grand Total: \$ 251,389.11

City of Delray Beach Facility Benchmarking

- An email was sent from the Southeast Sustainability Directors Network to multiple leadership and customer service personnel at Florida Power and Light, requesting easier access to energy usage data. The email was written with input from Delray Beach and other local governments in south Florida. Follow-up inquiries were made by OSAR, but FPL did not indicate a willingness to engage directly.

Climate Action Plan

- A webinar on the draft CAP was presented on Feb 21. A recording of the presentation will be posted on the OSAR website and social media. OSAR had a booth at the Coco Market on Mar 2. Due to our tent location, we did not get the amount of foot traffic we expected. Next time we will ask to be set up with the other vendors, instead of the health and wellness section.
- Narratives have been written for each CAP section with the intent of eliciting community feedback, using the bullet points in the CAP presentation.

Legislative Issues

- The 2025 Florida regular legislative session began on Mar 4, 2025. The regular session will end on May 2, 2025.
- SB50/ HB371- Nature-Based Methods for Improving Coastal Resilience
- SB62/ HB143- Resilient Buildings
- SB510/HB35- Heat Illness Prevention
- SB1148/HB1063- Carbon Sequestration

Habitat Restoration

- \$50,000 was approved in the Park's budget for the current fiscal year for habitat restoration at Leon Weekes Preserve.
- The Institute for Regional Conservation is scheduled to have an invasive removal event at Atlantic Dunes Park on Apr 19 for Earth Month.
- OSAR and IRC shot a video at the restoration area in Atlantic Dunes Park, to be released in April.
- The Grass River Garden Club hosted an invasive plant removal event at Orchard View Park on February 24. Poor weather resulted in a low turnout. They have scheduled a makeup event on Apr 3.

OSAR Webpage and Social Media Outreach

- OSAR meets biweekly with the PIO office to discuss activities, events, future initiatives, and website updates.
- OSAR website is being edited to streamline and update the information. Planned content and minor organization updates to the website are to begin shortly.
- Work continues on a "Climate Action Dashboard", with the next step being to obtain timeline and cost estimates. A follow up email was sent on 2025/01/08
- We are still awaiting the cost estimate for creating the dashboard. I am assured it is in the final stages and will be delivered soon.

Outreach

- OSAR had a booth at the Coco Market on Mar 2. Main topics for engagement were the Climate Action Plan, and Tree Drop Off Program.
- Multiple activities for Earth Month are in preparation, most involving collaboration with City partners and staff. Here is a partial listing:
 - Apr 2- Coral Outplanting Site Assessment Dive
 - Apr 3- Grass River Garden Club invasive removal event at Cornell Park
 - Apr 4: First Friday Art Walk- Climate Action Plan Outreach at Arts Warehouse and the Cornell Museum
 - Apr 9: Solar 101 webinar by Solar United Neighbors
 - Apr 11: Energy Savings Performance Contracting webinar by NAESCO
 - Apr 13: Tree Giveaway by Community Greening at Coco Market
 - Apr 16: IRC & OSAR Video, Atlantic Dunes Park habitat restoration
 - Apr 19: IRC invasive removal event at ADP
 - Apr 22: Draft Climate Action Plan presentation to City Commission
 - Apr 26: Great American Cleanup at Sandoway House
- Two short videos that will be posted during Earth Month were shot, one at Atlantic Dunes Park and another at the Delray Beach Historical Society Heritage Gardens.
- OSAR worked along with other City staff and partners, preparing an application to submit for the All-America City award. The application was submitted on March 6th. We are hopeful to receive a finalist announcement soon.

- We have organized a Sustainability Photo Scavenger hunt at 10 locations around Delray. There will be 5 items to be photographed at each location. Photos will be used to show community support for Sustainability.

Summer Intern

- We interviewed for interns last week on the 11th.
- This year's summer intern project will have 2 focuses
- First on a 20% sampling of trees planted over the last 4 years of the Tree Planting Program. 5% per year.
- Second will be an invasive plant species mapping project in a few of our parks. Focusing on Leon Weekes. We will use GPS technology to combine with GIS to provide useful maps.

EPA Community Change Grant

- OSAR worked with the Community Development Corporations of Delray Beach, Boynton Beach, and Riviera Beach to develop an application for this EPA grant, the "Green and Resilient Homes Program." Recent announcements from EPA indicate funding was being cancelled for projects that previously had been selected.
- Palm Beach County's Climate Resilient Communities Project was funded. This was a different Community Change Grant Track than the CDC application and is for outreach and training purposes.

LEED for Cities

- OSAR registered Delray Beach and is beginning training to implement this project.
- A side-by-side FGBC vs LEED for Cities comparison has been completed for the purposes of determining what required LEED documentation we already have from completing the FGBC certification. This is a document tying together the related FGBC and LEED for Cities credits.
- A preliminary LEED for Cities checklist has been completed to help give direction to discussions to be held with stakeholders.
- As a complimentary document to the checklist additional information for each credit has been added to the "LEED for Cities Crosswalk". This document is designed to be a living document to assist in individual credit management.
- Using the crosswalk, an in depth "Gap Analysis" is being completed on the LEED for Cities program. As much of the required documentation that already exists is being collected and organized on a SharePoint site dedicated to the LEED for Cities certification.
 - IP-Integrative Process – review completed
 - NS - Natural Systems - review completed
 - TR – Transportation – review completed
 - WE - Water Efficiency - review completed
 - EN - Energy and GHG - review completed
 - MR – Materials & Resources – Review completed
 - QL – Quality of Life – Review ongoing
- Delray Beach was accepted into the 2025 LEED for Cities Local Government Cohort