

Green Implementation Advancement Board
Office of Sustainability and Resilience (OSAR) Staff Report
February 16, 2023

Tree Planting Project

The City entered into an agreement with Community Greening on June 14, 2022, to continue the program. Meetings with Department staff, Community Greening, and community groups are ongoing, to identify planting locations and develop planting plans. On January 21st there was a planting event on NW 5th Ave at the Spady Museum and the adjacent CRA property, along with a tree giveaway. On February 4th, 63 trees were planted in retention areas at Wallace Drive and SW 10th Ave. Plantings are scheduled at Plumosa School of the Art and NW 15th Ave. OSAR staff worked with the PIO to have our tree plantings and giveaways posted on the calendar of events in the new City of Delray Beach app and on the main calendar on the City website.

Dead Tree Removal

OSAR staff wrote Scope of Services language, to pursue contracting for removal of dead trees identified in the Tree Inventory. This step was recommended in the recently completed Urban Forest Management Plan. The draft language was sent to Purchasing and a new Purchasing Agent was assigned to the project in late January. The Purchasing Agent is putting together an ITB (Invitation to Bid).

Tree Trust Fund

The balance of the Tree Trust Fund as of 02/06/2023 is \$496,258.67. This balance is in excess of the \$325,808 that is encumbered for the current Tree Planting Program agreement which runs through June 2023. No new deposits have been made since October 2022.

Google EIE (Environmental Insight Explorer) Tree Canopy

Google's "Environmental Insights Explorer (EIE) uses exclusive data sources and modeling capabilities in a freely available platform to help cities and regions measure emission sources, run analyses, and identify strategies to reduce emissions — creating a foundation for effective action." You can learn more about it here: <https://insights.sustainability.google/>. OSAR staff reached out to Google last year to inquire about a tree canopy analysis layer that was being piloted in a few other cities and request that this layer be added to our City information if it was possible. Last week OSAR was notified that Google had complete the layer and it was now available for use by the City. Google EIE for the City, including the tree canopy analysis can be found here: <https://partnerdash.google.com/apps/environmental-insights/places/ChIJ42rskPzf2IgRuLhuUygBeMc?a=1258616204>.

Green Building Ordinance

The ordinance will take effect on Nov 1, 2023. In the interim, OSAR staff is planning outreach activities to raise awareness and help ensure a smooth roll out.

Sustainability and Climate Action Plan

OSAR staff completed a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory, associated with a cohort facilitated by the Florida League of Cities, and ICLEI. OSAR staff completed a summary report for the inventory and this is provided in the agenda for today's meeting, for discussion regarding forwarding to Commission. ICLEI also provided a document which includes targets for meeting the Race to Zero initiative goal of 50% carbon emission reduction by 2030. OSAR staff began working with Public Works staff to identify electric

meters which serve only streetlights. This information will save money, as FPL has a program to put the meters on a reduced rate. This approach will also be used in efforts to reduce electrical usage and the associated greenhouse emissions. Identifying the specific meter which feeds an area will allow staff to monitor how changes we implement affect electrical usage.

Legislative Issues

The 2023 Florida legislative regular session will begin on Mar 7, 2023. Pre-session Committee meetings are underway. One bill of interest is HB363, [House Bill 363 \(2023\) - The Florida Senate \(flsenate.gov\)](#), which proposes a new section of Florida Statute, 403.7034 FS, which would allow a coastal community to establish a pilot program to regulate single-use plastic products. Senate bills include SB506, [SB 506 \(flsenate.gov\)](#), relating to a comprehensive waste reduction and recycling plan; and SB498, [SB 498 \(flsenate.gov\)](#), relating to the preemption of recyclable and polystyrene materials.

Recycling

Contacts have been identified in most City programs, to work with OSAR on maintaining a comprehensive recycling effort throughout City offices. The first meeting with Department contacts was held on Feb 9, 2023. This group will work as a network to monitor recycling in City buildings, and address any questions or issues that arise are addressed. OSAR staff met with the cleaning services vendor in Dec 2022, and will follow up again in the near future. OSAR, working with Neighborhood and Community services, Public Works, staff recycling contacts, and the cleaning vendor will make for a robust system, which should significantly increase recycling activities in City offices. Recycling along the beaches is expected to begin by May before the Blue Flag designation is awarded. Recycling receptacles to be placed at beach access points have been obtained. OSAR and Parks and Rec staff have a meeting February 13, 2023 with the Delray Tennis Open organizers and SWA staff to discuss the potential of the 2024 Delray Tennis Open being a Recycle Right event. OSAR and Neighbor and Community Services are collaborating on an EPA Community Recycling Education and Outreach grant.

Habitat Restoration

OSAR staff are working with Parks and Recreation staff, and George Gann from the Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC) to build knowledge of habitat management methods. Multiple benefits will come out of this training, including continuation of habitat restoration begun last year at Barwick and Orchard View Parks. The second training event took place on January 13, 2023 at Orchard View park focusing on invasive plant control. The third training will take place at Bexley Park on February 24th. A volunteer Community Garden group will be removing invasive plants at Orchard View Park on February 23rd.

OSAR Webpage and Social Media Outreach

New outreach materials and social media posts are regularly developed and rolled out for various sustainable initiatives, e.g. tree planting events, invasive plants, green building certification programs. OSAR has started meeting with the PIO office weekly to update them on OSAR events, and to discuss future initiatives.

GIS

OSAR staff checked in with IT staff regarding adding layers and gaining access to the City GIS system that will allow a faster review of potential tree planting locations. The request is still in the queue for action by IT.

Solid Waste

On Jan 10, the City Commission gave direction to negotiate for solid waste and recycling collection services. OSAR staff were notified that they would be included on the negotiation team.

GIAB Annual Report

The GIAB is required to make an annual presentation to the Commission in February of each year. The topics to focus on for 2023 include: solid waste, the green building ordinance, greenhouse gas emissions, trees, plastics, climate resiliency, and education. This annual report is scheduled to be on the agenda for the February 21st Commission meeting.