

ARTIFICIAL TURF RESEARCH
Florida Certified Local Governments (Historic Programs)

JURISDICTION	DETAILS
City of Ft. Lauderdale	The Historic Preservation Design Guidelines discuss appropriateness of landscape elements, stating, <i>“Landscape elements should complement a building’s architectural style.”</i> • City staff utilizes this reference in their COA staff reports to discourage its use. • The City does not see turf as a historic material that should replace landscaping or sod and it is considered an alteration that is not in keeping with the historic nature of a building. • Natural grass is the appropriate historic material for the site.
City of Orlando	The City of Orlando’s Land Development Regulations include regulations relating to Artificial Turf: • Requires a permit; • Not permitted in right-of-way, nor within 50’ or any artificial or natural water body, nor within drainage features (e.g. retention ponds, swales, etc.); • Indoor/outdoor plastic or nylon carpeting is prohibited; • Must be installed outside of the drip line of any tree; • In Historic Districts - not permitted where visible from right-of-way; permitted in rear yards with Minor COA Application; • Is considered impervious for calculation purposes; • Must appear natural in color, other colors to be reviewed by staff; and, • Must be maintained in fadeless condition, free of dirt, mud, stains, weeds, debris, holes, an impressions, and must be replaced if it falls into disrepair.
City of St. Augustine	St. Augustine’s Architectural Guidelines for Historic Preservation discuss the appropriateness of and recommended approaches for landscaping. It also includes a thorough list of Period Appropriate Historic Plant Material. • <i>“Plant material is provided for use by developers so that when landscaping is required by the City Code for a construction project, historically appropriate plant materials can be used.”</i> • It is not recommended to <i>“Add conjectural landscape features to the site such as period reproduction lamps, fences, fountains or vegetation that is historically inappropriate, thus creating a false sense of historic development.”</i> • <i>“Traditionally, most landscaping consisted of herb and vegetable gardens, flower gardens, fruit trees, and vines grown on a trellis or wall. Trees and shrubs should be native or documented as having been introduced prior to 1821, and must reflect the small scale of pre-1821 buildings. Design concepts from the 18th Century should be used for flower, vegetable and herb gardens. Foundation plantings are not appropriate.”</i> • <i>“Plant materials should reflect the scale of the building. Only those plant materials known to have been introduced around the date of construction of the primary building should be planted.”</i>
City of West Palm Beach	• Must not be visible from a right-of-way; • Only allowed in side and rear yards for residential properties, cannot be use in required buffers; • Considered impervious, must have permeability of 30 inches per hour per sq. yd., cannot be used with permanent drainage features (ponds, swales, etc.), • Must be lead-free, must be disposable at any U.S. landfill station, and be recyclable; • Code includes maintained requirements, must have an 8-year warranty; • Can be used as part of a non-residential development; and • Requires site plan approval and building permit.
City of Winter Park	• Winter Park was anticipated to adopt an ordinance the week of 2/19/23 to codify a definition and create new artificial turf regulations. Proposed regulations were fashioned after the City of Orlando’s 2021 ordinance. City staff has been enforcing artificial turf rules as “city policy;” the proposed ordinance would officially adopt the informal City policy. • Allow artificial turf in historic districts or designated properties but it counts as 100% impervious (which limits use) and cannot be used in any front yard or street facing yard.