

Green Implementation Advancement Board
Office of Sustainability and Resilience (OSAR) Staff Report
January 19, 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. Seventeen oak trees were planted at Eagle Park on Jan 12th. The next planting at Carver Middle School is scheduled for January 14th. On January 21st there will be planting event on NW 5th Ave at the Spady Museum and the adjacent CRA property, along with a tree giveaway at the City parking lot just to the south. 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 they are putting together an ITB (Invitation to Bid). The goal is to have it ready to go out by February.

Tree Trust Fund

The balance of the Tree Trust Fund as of 01/09/2023 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 Inventory, associated with a cohort facilitated by the Florida League of Cities, and ICLEI. OSAR staff are editing a template provided by ICLEI to create a summary report for the inventory. 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 street lights. 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.

Recycling

Recycling in City buildings is running well with no reported issues this month from City staff. OSAR staff met with the cleaning services vendor manager to discuss improving our recycling program further. Contacts have also been identified in most City programs, to work with OSAR on maintaining a comprehensive recycling effort throughout 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.

Habitat Restoration

OSAR staff held a training for Parks and Recreation staff that is responsible for Barwick and Orchard View Parks where habitat restoration projects have taken place since June. George Gann from the Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC) led the initial training onsite at Barwick Park, which focused on habitat maintenance through invasive species control. The next training event is scheduled for January 13th at Orchard View park.

OSAR Webpage

Editing of the OSAR webpage is ongoing. New outreach materials to address various sustainable initiatives, e.g. green building certification programs, are being edited and added. In the past month there have been a few instances in which the Tree Inventory interactive map was consulted by City staff.

GIS

OSAR staff met with IT staff to discuss adding layers in the City GIS system that will allow a faster review of potential tree planting locations. The discussion also covered future use and updating of the layers, so that a near real time status of tree canopy can be maintained.

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.