

Green Implementation Advancement Board  
Office of Sustainability and Resilience (OSAR) Staff Report  
March 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. A planting took place at Plumosa School of the Arts on Mar 4, and one is scheduled for NW 15<sup>th</sup> Ave retention area. A tree giveaway is scheduled for Earth Day. 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. OSAR met with the Purchasing Agent to review the ITB (Invitation to Bid), and final edits and questions are being addressed.

Tree Trust Fund

The balance of the Tree Trust Fund as of 03/08/2023 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. OSAR staff is confirming this balance with finance.

Green Building Ordinance

The ordinance will take effect on Nov 1, 2023. In the interim, OSAR staff is planning outreach activities in April as a part of Earth Day events. We tentatively will have a weekly webinar, focusing on one of the four green building certification programs, along with an overview of the ordinance.

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. Future plans are for the City to formally accept the GHG inventory, and adopt reduction targets.

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. OSAR staff meet with the cleaning services vendor on an ongoing basis, and regularly check in with City staff recycling contacts. 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 met on 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 wrote and submitted an EPA Community Recycling Education and Outreach grant application.

### 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 are already being seen, including continuation of habitat restoration at Barwick and Orchard View Parks. The third training event took place on February 24, 2023 at Bexley Trail Community Park focusing on invasive plant control. A volunteer Community Garden group removed invasive plants at Orchard View Park on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Next staff training event is scheduled for Mar 30.

### 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. Additional GIS IT staff have been hired by the City.

### Green Resource Guide

OSAR staff reached out to the PIO office to discuss moving forward with creating a green resource guide for Delray Beach. Some of the info that was discussed at the last GIAB meeting is on the website already, but would just need to be put together into one area to make it easier to navigate. PIO office will look into whether a section can be added onto the City app for this also.

### Pocket Refuge Planting

One pocket refuge planting that was done in partnership with Parks and Rec and the National Wildlife Refuge Association was completed on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>.