

**ARTIFICIAL TURF RESEARCH**  
**Florida Certified Local Governments (Historic Programs)**

JURISDICTION	REGULATIONS AND/OR DESIGN GUIDELINES	DETAILS
City of Ft. Lauderdale	YES	<p>The Historic Preservation Design Guidelines discuss appropriateness of landscape elements, stating, “<i>Landscape elements should complement a building’s architectural style.</i>”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City staff utilizes this reference in their COA staff reports to discourage its use.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Natural grass is the appropriate historic material for the site.</li> </ul>
City of Orlando	YES	<p>The City of Orlando’s Land Development Regulations include regulations relating to Artificial Turf:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires a permit;</li> <li>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.);</li> <li>Indoor/outdoor plastic or nylon carpeting is prohibited;</li> <li>Must be installed outside of the drip line of any tree;</li> <li>In Historic Districts - not permitted where visible from right-of-way; permitted in rear yards with Minor COA Application;</li> <li>Is considered impervious for calculation purposes;</li> <li>Must appear natural in color, other colors to be reviewed by staff; and,</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
City of St. Augustine	YES	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“<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>”</li> <li>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>”</li> <li>“<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>”</li> <li>“<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>”</li> </ul>
City of West Palm Beach	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must not be visible from a right-of-way;</li> <li>Only allowed in side and rear yards for residential properties, cannot be use in required buffers;</li> <li>Considered impervious, must have permeability of 30 inches per hour per sq. yd., cannot be used with permanent drainage features (ponds, swales, etc.),</li> <li>Must be lead-free, must be disposable at any U.S. landfill station, and be recyclable;</li> <li>Code includes maintained requirements, must have an 8-year warranty;</li> <li>Can be used as part of a non-residential development; and</li> <li>Requires site plan approval and building permit.</li> </ul>
City of Winter Park	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>

