

ARTIFICIAL TURF RESEARCH
Florida Certified Local Governments (Historic Programs)

JURISDICTION	DETAILS
City of Ft. Lauderdale	<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"> • 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	<p>The City of Orlando’s Land Development Regulations include regulations relating to Artificial Turf:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<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"> • <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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.