

Current Comprehensive Plan

Conservation Element

Policy B-2.3 A tree permit shall be necessary to remove or destroy any tree which has a diameter of four inches or greater.

Policy E-1.1 By February 1st of each year, the Green Implementation Advancement Board (GIAB), shall review City operations and policies toward achieving Delray Beach's green and sustainability goals and providing a report of recommendation to the City Commission regarding: [Amended by Amendment 10-1]

1. Ways to improve the environmental Sustainability of City programs, services, and equipment facilities.
2. Strategies for improving environmental sustainability of the community
3. Incentives for residents, businesses, and organizations to practice environmental conservation including recycling.
4. Proposed means to enhance water and energy conservation.
5. Ideas for promotion of tree planting and xeriscaping.
6. Best Practices for implementation in Delray Beach, including long-term strategies.
7. Proposed revisions to City Ordinances to address Green Technologies.
8. Strategies to address factors that affect energy conservation.

Open Space and Recreation Element

Policy B-1.2 The City shall continue its on-going street beautification efforts, including programs such as Adopt-A-Tree, landscaping upgrades as part of street construction projects, and an emphasis on providing sufficient funds to maintain existing landscaping at a high level.

Tree Canopy – Always Delray Comprehensive Plan

Open Space, Parks, and Recreation

Objective OPR 3.5 Tree Canopy

Preserve and enhance the tree canopy to mitigate the heat island effect and provide City-wide beautification.

Policy OPR 3.5.1

Conduct a formal study of the existing tree canopy and adopt strategies to protect and enhance the canopy. The study shall evaluate canopy coverage in both public rights-of-way and on private properties to determine areas with inequitable coverage. The City shall monitor the tree canopy and produce a biennial report on the condition of the tree canopy. [Complete by 2025]

Policy OPR 3.5.2

Establish a goal for tree canopy coverage within parks and open space areas and actively increase tree plantings on an annual basis to mitigate the heat island effect and provide City-wide beautification.

Policy OPR 3.5.3

Design park and open spaces to preserve stands and clusters of mature trees, and require planting of appropriate and storm-resilient species.

Policy OPR 3.5.4

Prioritize expanding the tree canopy in accordance with the right tree right place standards within the public rights-of-way in neighborhoods that are largely developed with few opportunities to establish new parks and open space.

Conservation Sustainability & Resiliency**Policy CSR 8.5.1**

The City shall conduct a tree inventory within three (3) years (including City rights-of-way and private lands) and set an appropriate canopy goal to maintain as a strategy to address heat islands and stormwater. The City shall also develop a list of priority planting areas in conjunction with the inventory. [Complete by 2022].

Policy CSR 8.5.2

Maintain the City's status designated as a Tree City USA. The City shall seek funds to develop and maintain an urban reforestation program, in order to expand green infrastructure, reduce the heat island effect and encourage local carbon sequestration and storage.

Policy CSR 8.5.3

Develop better data regarding current and projected heat island effects in the City. Encourage planting of native trees known to sequester carbon on available public and private lands and pursue programs and funding strategies designed to mitigate heat island effect and create carbon emission offsets through tree plantings and/or carbon mitigation banks.

Healthy Community**Policy HCE 3.2.8**

Encourage residents and property owners to plant and maintain trees on their own property to increase air quality.