

Suggestions for Code Improvements LANDSCAPE REQUIREMENTS for new projects requiring a landscape plan.

Communities that are the most pleasing aesthetically have sufficient landscape buffers, shade trees along the walkways – and a pleasing design for the landscaping. The landscape requirements are key to defining a community.

1. I worked with Debra Levulis, horticulturalist, to compare Juno Beach landscape requirements with the landscape codes of Palm Beach County, Jupiter, and Palm Beach Gardens.
2. Based on this benchmarking review, it seems that Juno Beach has the least amount of landscaping requirements, then Palm Beach County, then Jupiter. Palm Beach Gardens holds the highest standards for landscaping requirements.
3. I would suggest that we adopt Palm Beach Gardens (PBG) landscape requirements, Division 8 of their code, keeping some Juno Beach (JB) requirements, if they are more restrictive such as, JB's 34-1087, a minimum of 20 square feet of landscaping per parking space, with each parking row terminated by a landscape island not less than 5' in width and not less than 90 square feet in area, one tree per 90 sq feet island.
 - a. PBG for its foundation plantings requires of a height and quality that softens walls, 5' wide not less than 30% of height, 1 shade tree or palm cluster every 30 linear ft. For JB, in its commercial general requires foundation planting 40% the length of the building.
 - b. Palm Beach Gardens has a selection of a palette of plants for acceptable landscape plans. Kim Delaney of Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council said that having a landscape palette helps to define an area as a community. It gives a sense of place with a feeling that you have arrived at a location.
 - c. PBG has a points system for its landscape plans that assures the quality of the plant material and design.
 - d. PBG for parking lots has a landscaped island for every 9 parking spaces, where JB has an island for every 10 spaces. However, PBG islands are smaller in size to the Juno Beach landscape island. A shade tree or its equivalent is required every 40 feet in PBG.

- e. PBG places the burden on developers to preserve native trees and/or to pay for replacement trees. JB has the developer advertise that it is removing native trees and places the burden on the residents of JB to preserve native trees.
4. In order to further explore this option, we could ask staff to make tables of the different requirements between Juno Beach and Palm Beach Gardens for: Parking Lot Plantings, Foundation Plantings, Buffer Planting, Roadway Planting and interior planting requirements. We should explore other portions of their code.