



DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY  
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To: Honorable Mayor and City Commission  
From: William Waters, DCS Director  
Through: Jamie Brown, Interim City Manager  
Date: February 6, 2026  
Subject: Landscape Regulation Issues

Per the agenda review meeting of January 30, 2026, provided here is a general summary of the issues that property owners, businesses, consultants, staff and others have had or are having with the current Landscape Regulations found Chapter 23 Land Development Regulations, Article 6 Environmental Regulations, Section 6-1 Landscape regulations.

[https://library.municode.com/fl/lake\\_worth\\_beach/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR\\_C\\_H23LADERE\\_ART6ENRE](https://library.municode.com/fl/lake_worth_beach/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_C_H23LADERE_ART6ENRE)

1. Several definitions related to hatracking, pruning, and other accepted methods of maintenance need further clarification and brought up to best practice. There is no distinction made among deciduous, conifer, flowering and or fruit trees, except for pruning for fruit production. Furthermore, the definitions do not account for the appropriate treatment based on whether the tree in question is a small, medium or large tree.
2. Specific types of large, medium and small trees need to be provided with both installation and maintenance specifications within separate guidelines to ensure that the current point system (if remains) is clear, concise and enforceable.
3. Living ground cover species including installation and maintenance within separate guidelines is lacking making enforcement challenging.
4. Diagrams providing a concrete example of how to achieve the required points are needed.
5. Use of artificial turf within the required landscape area is not addressed. At present, all required landscaping must be living or mulch.
6. Minimum maintenance requirements with the Landscape Regulations are in conflict with some of the general property maintenance requirements in Chapter 2 Administration.
7. The pruning of trees and tree preservation sections need updating and brought up to current best practices, especially in terms of hurricane preparedness.
8. Prohibited and nuisance trees need to be reviewed and updated.
9. Landscape permits being required to need updating providing options other than a formal landscape plan.
10. Landscape design standards need to be reviewed, updated and brought current to best practice and industry standards. Address requirements for irrigation and types of systems.
11. Are planting specifications involving size and height appropriate for the types of trees and palms?
12. Should native palms be allowed to achieve more landscape points than exotic or nonnative palms?

13. Should native trees verses nonnative trees be afforded more points?
14. Does the City want to regulate the height of hedges? Are the visibility triangle requirements enforceable and understandable?
15. The definition, types and installation methods for mulch both organic and inorganic need to be updated.
16. Irrigation requirements need to be updated.
17. The tree preservation section including removal with and without a permit, tree mitigation, tree planting off site or only City property needs to be evaluated and updated.
18. Shall the regulations apply to the private sector and public sector equally?
19. Replacement tree mitigation needs further clarification taking into account the species, type and mature size of the tree involved.
20. Some measures associated with general maintenance and hurricane preparedness would be considered tree abuse under the current regulations. These need to be updated to take into account the species, type, and mature size of trees involved.
21. Determining tree health needs to be more quantifiable and less subjective.
22. Provide some staff discretion, which is totally lacking, to achieve compromises, solutions or alternative methods for meeting the landscape regulations or their enforcement predicated that this discretion is clearly defined and not arbitrary.
23. Provide for more emphasis and points related to right tree, right location.
24. Evaluate other issues related to landscapes, trees, installation and maintenance, if necessary, where the regulations do not represent best management practices or industry standards.

Please let us know of any concerns, issues and/or questions you may have. Thank you.