



CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH

Community SustainabilitySM

Ordinance 2026-10: Consideration of an ordinance amending Chapter 23 “Land Development Regulations” related to artificial turf, associated definitions, and installation standards.

Proposal/ Background Analysis

- **The proposed amendments** revise Chapter 23 of the Land Development Regulations to establish definitions, standards, permitting requirements, and review procedures for artificial turf installations within the City.
- **Artificial Turf:** The ordinance adds a definition for "Artificial Turf" and updates the definition of "Semi-Pervious Surface" to clarify how artificial turf is treated for development regulation purposes. The proposed amendments also create standards regulating where artificial turf may be installed, including limitations on front yard use, restrictions within required landscape areas, drainage features, utility easements, and public rights-of-way.
- **Proposed regulations:** minimum material specifications, permeability standards, installation requirements, maintenance obligations, tree protection requirements, and permit application procedures. The ordinance also requires City review and approval prior to installation and establishes inspection requirements to ensure compliance with adopted standards.

Summary

“Artificial Turf” updates the definition of “Semi-Pervious Surface” to clarify how artificial turf is treated for development regulation purposes. The proposed provisions establish minimum material specifications, permeability standards, installation and maintenance requirements, tree protection standards, and permit application procedures for artificial turf. In 2024, the Florida Legislature adopted Section 125.572, Florida Statutes, which establishes limitations on local government regulation of synthetic turf on certain residential properties.

Advisory Boards

- **The Planning & Zoning Board (PZB)** unanimously voted to recommend approval of the proposed text amendments at their meeting on July 1, 2026.
- **The Historic Resources Preservation Board (HRPB)** voted 3-3 to not recommend approval of the proposed text amendments at their meeting on July 8, 2026. Concerns included environmental impacts (microplastics, runoff, drainage, heat island effect) and potential safety concerns for pets.
- **Tree and Landscape Board (TLB)** voted 1-2 to not recommend approval of the proposed text amendments at their meeting on August 13, 2026. Concerns included Environmental and installation considerations.

Additional Considerations

The Commission may consider the following for single family properties less than 1 acre.

- The Rule in Florida Administrative Code allows the City to adopt a 10 inch per hour permeability requirement applicable to single-family residential properties of one acre or less.
- To ensure compliance with the Rule, and the additional permeability restriction, if adopted, requiring a permit and inspection for single-family residential properties of one acre or less.
- These changes could be accomplished through modification to the applicability paragraph, adding a separate paragraph that applies to requirements for single-family residential properties of one acre or less, and re-formatting the remainder that applies to other properties.
- If the Ordinance is adopted as-is, without a specific permeability, permit, or inspection requirement for single-family residential properties of one acre or less, the City would be later restricted from adding those provisions by SB180.

POTENTIAL MOTION:

- I move to approve/disapprove Ordinance 2026-10 on first reading, and to schedule second reading and public hearing for September 1, 2026.



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