
**CONSERVATION ELEMENT
GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

GOAL 4: CONSERVATION

To conserve, manage, appropriately use and protect the natural resources of the Town ensuring continued resource availability and environmental quality.

- 4.1 *Objective:*
Maintain the best possible air quality, meeting or exceeding state and federal air quality standards.
- 4.1.1 Policy:
The Town shall support the enforcement of applicable standards for air quality to control significant emissions of air pollutants in order to maintain and improve the existing air quality.
- 4.1.2 Policy:
Through the site plan approval process, the Town shall ensure appropriate measures are taken to contain and stabilize exposed or destabilized soil surfaces at construction sites to prevent erosion and the degradation of ambient air quality through the generation of dust particles.
- 4.1.3 Policy:
The Town shall continue to coordinate, as appropriate, with Palm Beach County ("PBC") and the Division of Forestry (Open Burning Controls) to maintain and improve air quality.
- 4.1.4 Policy:
The Town shall promote the development of multi-use trails and increasing the efficiency of the roadways through the Town to promote energy conservation and the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
- 4.1.5 Policy:
Educate the public through a public awareness campaign to limit idling of automobiles and trucks.
- 4.2 *Objective:*
Conserve, appropriately use and protect the quality and quantity of current and projected water sources and appropriately regulate the Town's stormwater run-off and other water sources and waters that flow into estuarine waters or oceanic waters.

- 4.2.1 Policy:
The Town shall cooperate with local, regional, state and federal agencies for the management of fresh water resources to maintain adequate fresh water supplies.
- 4.2.2 Policy:
The Town shall cooperate with ~~Palm Beach County~~ PBC and the South Florida Water Management District for the implementation of water demand management policies and programs.
- 4.2.3 Policy:
The Town shall ensure that existing and new development shall be serviced with an adequate supply of potable water at the adopted levels of service, and that, at a minimum, meet the state water quality standards.
- 4.2.4 Policy:
The Town shall cooperate with the South Florida Water Management District and ~~Palm Beach County~~ PBC to conserve water resources in emergencies and during declared water shortages.
- 4.2.5 Policy:
Activities and land uses known to adversely affect the quality and quantity of identified water sources and within natural groundwater recharge areas shall be regulated to protect the quality and quantity of this water source.
- 4.2.6 Policy: Reserved
~~The Town shall participate in the development of the Regional Water Supply Plan in conjunction with the South Florida Water Management District.~~
- 4.2.7 Policy:
For site plan approval, the Town shall require that surface water management systems be designed and operated consistent with the Town's adopted drainage level of service.
- 4.2.8 Policy:
The Town shall provide for open space as a part of the requirements for all development and redevelopment to promote shallow water aquifer recharge and stormwater filtration.
- 4.2.9 Policy:
The Town shall work towards the further education of the public regarding various methods of water conservation at the household and small business level. In this regard, the Town shall procure publications from the South Florida Water Management District for distribution to residents and posting on the Town's website.

4.2.10 Policy:

The Town shall encourage the utilization of the Best Management Practices developed by the Florida Department of Agriculture to promote the protection of water, quality. The Town shall provide, as available, education material on the Best Management Practices.

4.2.11 Policy:

The Town shall coordinate and cooperate with the South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army corps of Engineers on the development and implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program, and similar projects designed to protect the natural ecosystems of ~~Palm Beach County~~ PBC and south Florida, including Lake Okeechobee.

4.2.12 Policy:

The Town ~~shall coordinate with~~ operating as the Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District shall maintain canals in the Town and ~~relating to the maintenance and insure water quality therein of the canals in the Town.~~

4.3 *Objective:*

Assure that generation, storage, transport and disposal of wastes in the Town is managed with the best existing available technology to protect environmental quality.

4.3.1 Policy:

The Town shall provide environmental pollution prevention and education materials obtained from state agencies on the Town's website and shall assist property owners in the identification of available clean-up programs and agencies.

4.3.2 Policy:

New septic tank systems shall meet applicable state standards for permitting.

4.3.3 Policy: Reserved (~~Moved to Infrastructure Policy E.4.3~~)

~~The Town shall cooperate with appropriate public agencies to assure that solid and hazardous wastes generated within the Town are properly managed to protect the environment. The Town shall report any solid or hazardous waste violation they may become aware of to the appropriate jurisdictional agency.~~

4.3.4 Policy:

The Town shall coordinate with ~~Palm Beach County~~ PBC and the state to encourage the development of effective strategies to improve the area-wide Solid Waste Management Program to include more innovative solid and hazardous waste management technologies to save energy, produce renewable energy and effectively manage solid and hazardous waste.

4.3.5 Policy:
The Town shall work closely with the Palm Beach County Solid Waste Authority to ensure ~~small quantity~~ hazardous waste generators dispose of wastes properly as required by the County Solid Waste Authority.

4.3.6 Policy:
The Town shall assist the Palm Beach County Solid Waste Authority in implementing programs for the proper storage, collection, recycling and disposal of hazardous waste.

4.3.7 Policy:
The Town shall adopt land development regulations to require producers of hazardous waste to coordinate with the Palm Beach County Public Health Unit and/or the Solid Waste Authority at the time of ~~occupational license~~ Business Tax Receipt (BTR) issuance and renewal.

4.3.8 Policy:
The Town shall encourage the diversion from landfills of all materials that are recyclable when issuing construction demolition permits.

4.4 *Objective:*
Conserve, appropriately use and protect natural resource systems, including floodplains, in recognition of their inherent values.

4.4.1 Policy:
The Town shall require approval from all applicable jurisdictional agencies regarding the protection of environmentally sensitive habitat, and shall require consistency with the policies in the Comprehensive Plan that govern:

- A4. Management of surface water;
- ~~B2.~~ Preservation of open space; and
- ~~C3.~~ Preservation of native vegetation.
- D. Preservation of indigenous wildlife; and
- E. Preservation of wetlands.

4.4.2 Policy:
Compliance with approved permits from state, federal and other local governments, when applicable, for conservation of natural resources shall be incorporated into the Town planning process.

4.4.3 Policy:
New development encroaching into the 100 year floodplain shall incorporate elevation and flood protection measures sufficient to protect against the 100 year flood. The Town shall maintain consistency with program policies of the National Flood Insurance Program and shall monitor new cost effective programs for minimizing flood damage. Such programs may include

modifications to construction setback requirements or other site design techniques, as well as upgraded building and construction techniques.

4.4.4 Policy:
The Town shall cooperate with adjacent local governments to conserve, or appropriately use, unique vegetative communities located within one or more local jurisdictions.

4.4.5 Policy:
The Town shall adopt standards to identify and designate local environmentally sensitive lands for protection. The Town shall adopt protection standards for these identified environmentally sensitive lands.

4.4.6 Policy:
The Town shall provide technical support to private sector efforts towards the creation of a conservation land trust and conservation easements that benefits the public.

4.4.7 Policy:
The Town shall adopt standards that will allow for protection and enhancement of the existing tree canopy.

4.5 *Objective:*
Conserve, appropriately use and protect natural functions of fisheries, wildlife, wildlife habitat and marine habitat.

4.5.1 Policy:
The Town shall protect and conserve the natural functions of existing soils, fisheries, lakes and floodplains through the support of local, state and federal regulations designed to protect and conserve these functions.

4.5.2 Policy:
The Town shall support the state and federal laws for the protection of endangered and threatened species and significant plant and animal habitat.

4.5.3 Policy:
Protective landscape buffering shall be required between designated conservation areas and between lands recognized by the county, state or federal government as environmentally sensitive and any land uses that may negatively impact these conservation and sensitive ecosystems.

4.5.4 Policy:
The Town shall adopt open space standards as a part of the requirements for all development and redevelopment. Open space areas shall be designated and treated in such a manner as to maintain the integrity, whether the primary purpose is to serve as natural vegetative or wildlife habitat, or as cultivated

landscaped space. No land shall be developed, used or occupied such that the amount of open space on the parcel proposed for development is less than the open space established by Town ordinance.

4.6 *Objective:*

Assure the maintenance and conservation of trees Within the Town, through the continued maintenance of trees within Town properties and through the site plan review process for new development.

4.6.1 Policy:

~~Within one year of adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, the~~ The Town shall adopt landscaping and tree protection standards. These standards shall address the preservation of existing natural growth, the regulation of invasive and exotic plant species, the promotion of native plant materials usage and minimal landscape buffer criteria. These standards shall also contain restoration and mitigation measures to compensate for the loss of native vegetation and shall define stabilization measures for areas impacted by development.

4.6.2 Policy:

The Town shall provide native landscaping in public open spaces and facilities within the Town through grant applications or other funding sources as available

4.6.3 Policy:

The Town shall encourage and educate the public in the planting and maintenance of trees and provide public education on the placement of canopy trees and other landscape materials to strategically provide shade and reduce energy consumption.

4.6.4 Policy:

The Town shall encourage buffering mechanisms to promote and enhance the rural, natural environment.

4.6.5 Policy:

The Town shall examine the feasibility of additional landscaping programs along canals, ~~in accordance with the Transportation Master Plan to be developed.~~

4.6.6 Policy:

With all new development, the Town shall regulate Category I invasive exotic vegetation as defined on the ~~most current list established by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council.~~ maintained by the Town.

4.6.7 Policy:

The Town shall examine the feasibility of tree planting and restoration programs through grant applications or other funding sources as available

4.7 *Objective:*
Wetlands and natural functions of wetlands shall be protected. Future land uses that are incompatible with the protection or conservation of wetlands and wetland functions shall be directed away from wetlands. Where incompatible land uses are allowed to occur, mitigation shall be considered as one means to compensate for loss of wetland functions.

4.7.1 Policy:
Buffering shall be required between wetlands and land uses that may negatively impact the wetland ecosystem.

4.7.2 Policy:
As a condition of development approval when applicable, the Town shall require approval from all applicable external agencies regarding the protection of wetland habitat.

4.7.3 Policy:
The Town shall coordinate and cooperate with the wetland jurisdictional agencies to encourage directing environmental mitigation to benefit the Town when the impacts occur within the Town.

4.8 *Objective:*
Conserve, appropriately use and protect the natural minerals and soils, in recognition of the inherent values of these areas.

4.8.1 Policy:
The Town shall adopt standards to prohibit commercial mineral extraction within the Town.

4.8.2 Policy:
The Town shall require all development projects to adhere to the erosion control requirements as specified in the Floodplain Development Application (FDA) and development permit application.