



DRAFT 9-25-25

CHAPTER 5. CONSERVATION ELEMENT GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & POLICIES

GOAL CON 1

CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE RESIDENTS THE NEXT 10 (2035) and 20 (2045) YEAR PLANNING PERIODS.

Objective CON 1.1 Meet state and federal air quality standards and promote the reduction of greenhouse gases to maintain air quality within the City.

Policy CON 1.1.1 Continue requiring ~~Require~~ that air quality meet established state and federal standards.

Policy CON 1.1.2 Support incentives for ~~Incentivize~~—developments that incorporate transportation alternatives to the single-occupant vehicle, such as bicycling, walking, mass transit, carpooling, ride-sharing, and/or alternatively fueled vehicles.

Objective CON 1.2 Protect native vegetative communities by minimizing invasive plants and animals.

Policy CON 1.2.1 Continue requiring ~~Require~~ removal of invasive vegetation identified by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council for all new development.

Policy CON 1.2.2 Continue coordinating ~~Coordinate~~ with SID to develop an Exotic Species Management Plan.

Objective CON 1.3 Preserve and protect the quantity and quality of ground and surface waters.

Policy CON 1.3.1 Continue requiring ~~Require~~ that the impacts of development on stormwater runoff and water quality be addressed during the development approval process by requiring development to receive and comply with all applicable state and federal environmental permits.

Policy CON 1.3.2 For all amendments to this Plan, evaluate the presence of wetlands on the parcel of land at issue, and direct land uses on such parcels that are



incompatible with the protection and conservation of wetlands and wetland functions away from such wetlands, or require appropriate mitigation to compensate for loss of wetlands. The type, intensity or density, extent, distribution, and location of allowable land uses and the types, values, functions, sizes, conditions, and locations of wetlands are land use factors that shall be considered when directing incompatible land uses away from wetlands.

- Policy CON 1.3.3** ~~Continue coordinating~~ Coordinate with SID during the development order approval process concerning the impacts of development orders on stormwater runoff and water quality to ensure compliance with applicable requirements of SID, the state, and other governmental entities with jurisdiction.
- Policy CON 1.3.4** ~~Continue coordinating~~ Coordinate with SID to protect water resources within the City from activities and land uses that adversely impact water quality and quantity. Protection can include appropriate mitigation and best management practices.
- Policy CON 1.3.5** ~~Continue compliance~~ Comply with Palm Beach County Wellfield Protection Ordinance.
- Policy CON 1.3.6** ~~Continue requiring~~ Require new development and redevelopment to use reuse water for irrigation where it is available.
- Policy CON 1.3.7** ~~Continue ensuring~~ Ensure development complies with applicable state and federal criteria for the protection of wetlands.
- Policy CON 1.3.8** ~~Continue ensuring~~ Ensure development orders are only approved in special flood hazard areas in accordance with established Florida Building Codes and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) standards.
- Policy CON 1.3.9** ~~Continue requiring~~ Require emergency conservation of water resources in accordance with the SFWMD plans.
- Policy CON 1.3.10** Encourage the use of water-conserving fixtures in all new construction and redevelopment projects consistent with the Florida Building Code.
- Policy CON 1.3.11** Coordinate with SFWMD and SID to provide information resources regarding water conservation.



Policy CON 1.3.12 Continue promoting ~~Promote~~ water efficient landscapes by coordinating with SFWMD and Palm Beach County Extension Office of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agriculture Services (Palm Beach County IFAS Extension) on their Florida Friendly Landscaping programs.

Policy CON 1.3.13 The M Canal serves as a source of public water supply to the City of West Palm Beach. The Plan recognizes the M Canal as an allowed conservation use within the civic and residential Future Land Use Categories. Development is prohibited within the M Canal right of way. Further, development shall be prohibited north of the M Canal right of way and within the 100 feet south of the M Canal right of way. This does not prohibit construction of roads or any development in the M Canal right of way related to the expansion, operation and maintenance of the M Canal. The Land Development Regulations shall address compatibility between the M Canal and any adjacent development. The City will coordinate with SFWMD and SID to encourage drainage from development within the City to discharge into the SID drainage system as permitted by SFWMD, and not into the M Canal.

Policy CON 1.3.14 To the extent the City has jurisdiction, require drainage from development within the City to discharge into the SID drainage system as permitted by SFWMD, and not into the M Canal.

Objective CON 1.4 Maintain and enforce procedures to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation into water bodies.

Policy CON 1.4.1 Continue requiring ~~Require~~ that all grading, filling, excavation, storage and/or disposal of soil and earth materials associated with development activities be undertaken using best management practices so as to reduce the potential for soil erosion and sedimentation in water bodies or drainageways. Erosion control measures will be required for all such activities.

Objective CON 1.5 Conserve and protect native and protected wildlife and their habitat should they exist within the City.

Policy CON 1.5.1 Continue ensuring ~~Ensure~~ development complies with applicable state and federal criteria for the protection of endangered and threatened listed species.

Policy CON 1.5.2 Conserve, appropriately use, and protect minerals, soils, and native vegetative communities, including forests and wildlife habitat, from destruction by development activities.



City of Westlake Comprehensive Plan

Policy CON 1.5.3 Continue managing ~~Manage~~ hazardous waste in a manner that protects natural resources, and cooperate with Palm Beach County and SWA on hazardous waste programs.

Policy CON 1.5.4 Should any unique vegetative communities that cross jurisdictional lines exist within the City, the City will cooperate with such jurisdictions to conserve, appropriately use, or protect such unique vegetative communities.

Objective CON 1.6 Evaluate and respond to potential climate-related impacts including sea level rise, flooding, and extreme weather events.

Policy CON 1.6.1 Coordinate with the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact and Palm Beach County to access updated vulnerability assessments.

Policy CON 1.6.2 Encourage use of resilient design practices in public and private development to address long-term climate risks.

Objective CON 1.7 Promote vegetative cover and shade to reduce urban heat, support biodiversity, and improve air quality.

Policy CON 1.7.1 Encourage planting of shade trees in parking lots, along rights-of-way, and within open spaces.

Policy CON 1.7.2 Support preservation or replacement of trees during development.