

**CONSERVATION ELEMENT**

**GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

**Goal 1.0.0.** Conserve, protect, enhance and appropriately use the City's existing natural resources while maintaining a balance between natural resource protection, public health, safety and providing for the City's population through appropriate development and redevelopment.

**Objective 1.1.0.** To protect and improve the air quality in the city of Coral Springs.

Measure - Comparison of pollutants and concentration with ambient air quality standards established for the regional air shed.

**Policy 1.1.1.** The City shall support the County's program of reduced exhaust emissions produced by automobiles stopped at intersections through synchronization of traffic signals along arterial roads and major collectors.

**Policy 1.1.2.** The City will encourage, via the Future Land Use Element and development regulations, the type and density of development that is consistent with proper maintenance of clean air.

**Policy 1.1.3.** The City shall emphasize the recruitment of business and industry that is clean and compliant with the latest emissions standards acceptable to the City, the County, the State and Federal Government.

**Policy 1.1.4.** Policies within the Transportation and Capital Improvements Elements will be implemented to minimize traffic congestion and resultant pollution.

**Policy 1.1.5.** The City will continue to add segments to the Master Bikeways/Walkways Plan as opportunities arise with new development and redevelopment projects such as Downtown Coral Springs.

**Policy 1.1.6.** The City will continue to enforce the tree preservation ordinance to promote air quality through the protection and replacement of tree canopy, which enhances air quality.

**Objective 1.2.0.** The City shall protect existing and future potable water sources from pollution and degradation in productivity.

Measure - Extent of compliance with regulations as reflected by water quality monitoring reports; ratio of water withdrawn to "water use" permit allocation.

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**Policy 1.2.1.** The City shall continue to provide for the protection of water supply and quality by complying with the Broward County Wellfield Protection Ordinance and managing hazardous waste to keep it from impacting these and other natural resources.

**Policy 1.2.2.** The City's Utilities Division shall not locate wellfields, or their attendant cones of influence, within areas zoned for commercial or industrial use and shall encourage the NSID, the CSID and Royal Utilities (or its successor) to do the same.

**Policy 1.2.3.** The City Utilities Division, the NSID, the CSID and Royal Utilities or any successors will work with the City of Coral Springs Code Compliance\_Division to enforce local water conservation measures during times of low water supply and drought conditions.

**Policy 1.2.4.** The City shall amend its water use regulations to promote the use of non potable water sources for irrigation to lessen the need for treated water.

**Policy 1.2.5.** The City shall enforce in the land development regulations the increased use of native tree and plant species and other landscaping materials that are drought resistant so to conserve water supplies.

**Policy 1.2.6.** The City shall evaluate alternative pest control and fertilization measures within public areas maintained by the City to reduce the effects of chemicals on the surface and ground water supply.

**Policy 1.2.7.** The City shall continue to enforce zoning regulations which protect the surface waters of the Biscayne Aquifer as well as other alternative water supplies and wellfield cones of influence (Zones 1-3) located beneath the City's municipal boundaries and Chapter 27 of the Broward County Code of Ordinances.

**Policy 1.2.8.** The City shall ensure compliance with the requirements outlined in the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit and complete the required annual report and apply for recertification every five years.

**Policy 1.2.9.** The City shall continue to regulate land clearing and construction so that land areas exposed are treated by such means as mulching and sodding to prevent erosion and for protection of the water supply.

**Policy 1.2.10.** The City's land development regulations should require treatments and other measures consistent with the Best Management

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Practices of the U.S. Soil Conservation Services to minimize soil erosion on new construction sites.

**Policy 1.2.11** The City's Florida Friendly Landscape Ordinance shall continue to use state of the art, water saving irrigation techniques for new and redevelopment projects.

**Policy 1.2.12** Twice-weekly watering restrictions are encouraged and enforceable through the City's Florida Friendly Landscape Ordinance.

**Policy 1.2.13.** The City shall continue partnering with Naturescape Broward through an interlocal agreement to assess and improve the efficiency of irrigation systems throughout the City.

**Policy 1.2.14.** The City shall encourage local businesses to make use of the irrigation assessment offered by Naturescape Broward through the City's interlocal agreement.

**Objective 1.3.0.** The City shall maintain an adopted Environmentally Sensitive Lands Map that identifies, inventories and catalogues areas of significant native and indigenous tree and plant cover to be conserved, protected and enhanced.

Measure - Adopted "Environmentally Sensitive Lands Map" identifying areas of significant native tree and plant cover and recommendations for their protection.

**Policy 1.3.1.** Through plat and site plan approval, the City shall conserve, protect and manage the use of designated environmentally sensitive lands to maintain their environmental, aesthetic and recreational value in accordance with land development and redevelopment regulations.

**Policy 1.3.2.** The City shall cooperate with Broward County to enforce all Environmental Impact Report conditions of County plat approval relating to development within designated Local Areas of Particular Concern and Urban Wilderness Areas.

**Policy 1.3.3.** All developments proposed within Local Areas of Particular Concern, Urban Wilderness Areas, Municipal Natural Resource Areas or other areas as designated by the City Commission shall include with the plat or site plan a tree survey in accordance with City or County requirements, whichever are the more restrictive, showing tree species and size and where appropriate, lot lines and building pad locations.

**Policy 1.3.4.** In evaluating the effectiveness of tree preservation efforts, as exemplified through the implementation of Policy 1.3.2, the City should

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consider the use of setback and/or other development waivers when such action(s) would result in the preservation of additional significant trees.

**Policy 1.3.5.** The City shall cooperate with the County, South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to prevent degradation or destruction of wetlands. Degradation or destruction of wetlands should only occur if appropriate mitigation plans are prepared and accepted, and:

1. This activity is necessary to prevent or eliminate public hazard; or
2. The activity is in the public interest and no other reasonable alternative exists.

**Policy 1.3.6.** Existing wetlands will be incorporated into site plans and developments in the City and be preserved in such a way so as they are not adversely impacted and provide a benefit to the community.

**Policy 1.3.7.** Lands within Local Areas of Particular Concern, Urban Wilderness Areas or other areas as designated by the City Commission for protection from development, or other inappropriate alternations, shall be identified in a legal agreement or other mechanism providing equal or greater protection from development.

**Policy 1.3.8.** The City should develop routine inspection and maintenance programs to ensure that the ecological communities are maintained in a healthy state, free of animal, insect or other potentially destructive pests.

**Policy 1.3.9.** All public parks shall have public access consistent with the Florida Handicap Accessibility Guidelines which is regulated to protect the natural resources of the ecological community.

**Policy 1.3.10.** The City shall develop Resource Management Plans for Environmentally Sensitive Lands acquired through the City's environmental bond.

**Policy 1.3.11.** The City shall protect known animal habitat where possible.

**Policy 1.3.12.** The City shall identify and protect wildlife corridors where possible.

**Policy 1.3.13.** The City will continue to protect Environmentally Sensitive Lands and acquire land with environmentally significant features as the opportunity arises.

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**Policy 1.3.14.** The City shall establish and enforce a flora and fauna protection ordinance to enhance the preservation and protection of native, rare or threatened plant and animal communities, as listed in the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's "Official Lists of Endangered and Potentially Endangered Fauna and Flora in Florida", from destruction by development activities.

**Policy 1.3.15.** Wetlands should be protected, restored and enhanced by either public acquisition and/or environmental mitigation techniques. Such techniques could include utilizing wetlands as water retention/detention filtration areas and restoration programs administered by Broward County permits and the City's Land Development Code.

**Policy 1.3.16.** The City's Land Development Code shall be amended by a Natural Resource Ordinance which will contain among other things regulations addressing mitigation of wetlands by protection, restoration or "banking" programs, tree protection and care, wildlife habitat and native plant community protection.

**Objective 1.4.0.** The City shall maintain tree and plant protection regulations to enhance the environment and protect known wildlife habitats.

Measure - Percentage of exotic/invasive plants in environmental sites stays below 5%. At least 50% of all new plants planted during development throughout the City are native.

**Policy 1.4.1.** The City shall utilize the Environmentally Sensitive Land Map adopted by the City Commission as the basis for identifying areas where development should be sensitive to preserving trees and plants.

**Policy 1.4.2.** Native and indigenous trees and tree rows of significant aesthetic character shall be preserved wherever possible consistent with public health and safety.

**Policy 1.4.3.** All healthy native and indigenous trees removed as a result of construction activity shall be replaced with the equivalent value of native landscaping.

**Policy 1.4.4.** The City encourages the appropriate removal of exotic species; i.e., Australian Pines, Melaleuca and Florida Holly and replacement with native species for environmental, aesthetic and safety reasons.

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**Policy 1.4.5.** The City will coordinate with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in the implementation of recovery plans and neo-tropical flyways for listed birds and species.

**Policy 1.4.6.** The City shall promote a culture of coexistence with wildlife through education and the promotion of wildlife habitat creation and certification on public and private property.

**Policy 1.4.7** The City shall continue monitoring previously preserved native plant communities on private and public property to ensure that the ecological integrity of these areas remains intact.

**Objective 1.5.0.** The City shall seek to increase its tree canopy coverage from 17% to at least 35% by 2025.

Measure –Regular tree canopy analysis reports every 5 years beginning in 2010.

**Policy 1.5.1.** The City shall continue to rely upon implementation and enforcement of landscaping ordinances to encourage the growing of additional shade trees to restore and maintain a good tree canopy.

**Policy 1.5.2.** The City shall educate residents and business owners on the importance of “Right Tree, Right Place”.

**Policy 1.5.3.** The City shall promote the planting of tree species that have proven to be relatively reliable during hurricanes.

**Policy 1.5.4.** The City shall continue to actively promote the establishment of a sustainable urban forest through tree planting. This urban forest will maximize the benefits derived from trees including reduction in air pollution, improved storm water drainage, improved wildlife habitat, reduction of the urban heat island effect and traffic calming.

**Policy 1.5.5.** The City shall lead by example when designing new landscape installations around public buildings, in medians and parks by emphasizing the use of Florida Friendly landscaping.

**Policy 1.5.6.** The City shall continue applying for and being recognized as a Tree City USA as well as receiving the Tree City USA Growth Award when possible.

**Goal 2.0.0.** To encourage an environmentally sustainable city through actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants and reduce the use of non-renewable natural resources leading to an overall reduction of the City’s carbon footprint.

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**Objective 2.1.0.** Increase education of sustainable building practices and use of environmentally sustainable products within the city.

Measure - Percentage of City used environmentally sustainable products, energy star rated equipment and high efficiency vehicles and the reduction of the use of kilowatts of electricity per square foot of city buildings.

**Policy 2.1.1.** City will provide education to the residents and business owners to support better energy efficient buildings, energy efficient appliances, waste recycling, building products from renewable resources, non-toxic building products and water efficient fixtures and landscapes.

**Policy 2.1.2.** City will utilize non-toxic cleaning techniques throughout its facilities.

**Policy 2.1.3.** City will enhance the energy efficiency of City facilities through the purchase of Energy Star rated or equivalent equipment and appliances for City use, design of efficient cooling systems and employee education on energy conservation.

**Policy 2.1.4.** City will purchase products that utilize recycled materials and return City waste for reuse.

**Policy 2.1.5.** The City shall continue to promote, as is appropriate and cost-effective, improvements to the operational characteristics of trafficways within the City to optimize traffic flows and levels of service as a means of minimizing gas powered vehicles and equipment emissions.

**Policy 2.1.6.** The City will encourage vendors and suppliers to use low emissions vehicles when doing business in Coral Springs.

**Policy 2.1.7.** The City shall require all new and redevelopment projects to provide, at a minimum, a LEED checklist identifying which LEED elements are being implemented for the project.

**Policy 2.1.8.** The City shall have a LEED-AP or equivalent employee/consultant on staff to provide analysis and advice in LEED, green building and sustainability matters.

**Policy 2.1.9.** The City will encourage research for increasing the proportion of electricity generated by alternative and renewable energy sources within the County, such as solar, wind, geothermal and ocean energy technologies.

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**Policy 2.1.10.** Coral Springs shall continue to review policies and promote programs which advance greenhouse gas reduction and energy conservation strategies; promote compact, transit-oriented, pedestrian-friendly development; further green construction practices and the design of climate sensitive and energy efficient buildings; encourage cluster development in order to retain or create native vegetative communities.

**Policy 2.1.11.** The City shall continue working with its solid waste partners, residents and business community to attain a recycling rate of 70% by 2020.