



CONSERVATION ELEMENT

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City of Boynton Beach
Conservation Element
Goals, Objectives and Policies

Goal 4: *The development and maintenance of a high quality natural environment based on the preservation, improvement and wise exploitation of local existing natural resources.*

Objective 4.1 **Through the two planning horizons, meet or exceed minimum air quality standards for recognized air pollutants.**

Measurability: *Reduction in the levels of air pollutants found through air quality monitoring reports.*

Policy 4.1.1 The City shall continue to support the air quality monitoring and pollution control programs of the Palm Beach County Public Health Unit, Division of Environmental Science and Engineering Air Pollution Control.

Policy 4.1.2 The City shall continue, with the cooperation of the State, County and regional regulatory authorities to require pollution control devices on all major point sources of air pollution which are located within the City.

Objective 4.2 **Through 2018 the City shall maintain ground water quality equal to or better than existing levels for recognized pollutants and conserve, appropriately use and protect the quality and quantity of groundwater.**

Measurability: *Reduction in the levels of recognized pollutants determined through groundwater monitoring.*

Policy 4.2.1 The City shall continue to participate in all areawide wellfield protection and regulatory activities of Palm Beach County.

Policy 4.2.2 The City shall develop a procedure to standardize the review of all local users of potential water contaminants by the appropriate County or State regulatory agencies.

Policy 4.2.3 The City shall continue to require sanitary sewer wastewater collection and disposal as a condition of project and permit approval and water service.

- Policy 4.2.4 The City shall continue to review and, where necessary, require environmental review and approval of occupational licenses for those businesses categorized as users of potential groundwater contaminants.
- Policy 4.2.5 The City shall continue to enforce land development regulations to be consistent with the requirements of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council relative to the management of hazardous wastes to protect natural resources by submitting each project for evaluation by the City's Risk Management Officer prior to permitting.
- Objective 4.3 Through 2018 the City shall maintain a local stormwater quality equal to or better than existing levels for recognized pollutants and conserve, appropriately use and protect the quality and quantity of waters that flow into the Intracoastal Waterway.**
- Measurability:* *Reduction in the levels of pollutants determined through stormwater monitoring.*
- Policy 4.3.1 The City shall continue to enforce and, where appropriate, improve subdivision regulations to require all new development or substantial redevelopment to provide on-site retention or detention of at least the first inch of rainfall.
- Policy 4.3.2 The City shall continue to support the water quality regulatory programs of the State of Florida, Palm Beach County and the South Florida Water Management District.
- Policy 4.3.3 The City shall continue to promote and participate in periodic areawide waterway clean-up programs.
- Policy 4.3.5 The City shall continue to evaluate the street sweeping program every two years for needed improvements to efficiency, quality and capital improvements to be based upon technology and economic feasibility. The City shall continue to stay apprised of continued advances in street sweeping technology with regard to feasible and effective mechanisms to remove roadway contaminants; in the event that the technology emerges, the City shall consider the individual or shared purchase of the machinery.
- Policy 4.3.6 The City shall continue to enforce subdivision regulations which require the channelization of stormwater runoff through vegetation prior to entering a receiving water body.

Policy 4.3.7 The City shall continue to enforce land development regulations to protect and conserve the natural functions of existing soils, fisheries, floodplains, wildlife habitats, natural reservations, canals, lakes, rivers, wetlands, estuaries, harbors, freshwater beaches and shores and marine habitats.

Objective 4.4 Through the long term planning horizon the City shall reduce levels of wastewater pollutants flowing into oceanic waters.

Measurability: Cessation of wastewater discharge into oceanic waters.

Policy 4.4.1 By December 2008 the City shall increase the capacity of its reuse distribution system to 8 MGD, and participate in the expansion of the Regional Wastewater Facility's Reuse Water Treatment system to increase the plant's generation to 100% of capacity, thereby reducing the discharge of wastewater to the Atlantic Ocean during dry weather.

Policy 4.4.2 By December 2008 the City shall participate in the development of a deep well injection facility at the Regional Plant, thereby ceasing the discharge of all wastewater effluent to the Atlantic Ocean during wet weather.

Objective 4.5 To provide for the continued existence of at least 75% of the acreage occupied by "A" rated ecosystems sites through the long term plan horizon.

Measurability: Number of acres of "A" rated ecosystem sites retained.

Policy 4.5.1 The City shall continue to recognize all natural resource areas depicted in Figure 4 as environmentally sensitive sites. The City shall also adopt the "Conservation Overlay" of "A" rated ecosystems sites as part of the Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan.

Policy 4.5.2 The City shall continue to provide the County with updates to the City's inventory of sensitive ecosystems and formally request assistance and financial support from State and County agencies to preserve "A" rated ecosystems sites in the City. The City shall continue to, as routine procedure, also notify the County of development proposals formally initiated on "A" rated sites.

- Policy 4.5.3 The City shall continue to require a detailed flora and fauna survey on any “A” rated site subject to a development proposal and any site greater than 10 acres in size. The City shall require preservation of a minimum 25% of all native plant communities which occur on an “A” rated ecosystems site the specific location to be determined as a result of the site survey. Habitat shall be preserved with intact canopy, understory and ground cover.
- Policy 4.5.4 The City shall continue to enforce land development regulations to prohibit land clearing practices that destroy native Florida ecosystems in whole or in part prior to permitting by the City.
- Policy 4.5.5 The City shall continue to enforce policies regarding the preservation of native habitat and endangered or threatened species and these policies shall also apply to any property which is owned or acquired by the City.
- Objective 4.6 The City shall, to the maximum extent feasible, protect all remaining areas of substantial native upland and wetland vegetation and eliminate undesirable exotic tree species.**
- Measurability: Number of acres of upland and wetland vegetation, including mangroves, maintained.*
- Policy 4.6.1 The City shall continue to require a detailed flora and fauna survey on any “B or C” rated site subject to a development proposal which is greater than 10 acres.
- Policy 4.6.2 The City shall modify and enforce regulations such that outright preservation of existing, non-exotic trees on any existing vegetated site shall be preferred over “cut and replace” preservation techniques. Removal and replacement shall be discouraged. Preservation of existing trees shall be encouraged, and removal must be unavoidable due to site layout needs with replacement equal to or greater in size and quality to that removed.
- Policy 4.6.3 The City shall continue to enforce and, where appropriate, improve upon existing subdivision or other development regulations which require shoreline vegetation buffer strips, restrict the amount or location of site clearing, maintain natural drainage flows and require the removal of on-site exotic tree species.
- Policy 4.6.4 The City shall continue, while discouraging clear-cutting prior to development, to enforce regulations that require removal of exotic

tree species on sites being developed, particularly those sites containing sensitive ecosystems rated "A".

Policy 4.6.5 The City shall continue to enforce the land development regulations that require native vegetation species to satisfy at least 50% of all site landscaping requirements as a condition of development or permit approval.

Objective 4.7 The City shall continue to the maximum extent feasible, to preserve, conserve, appropriately use and protect fisheries, and wildlife and marine habitats which serve as habitat for endangered and threatened plant and animal species.

Measurability: Number of acres of habitat preserved pursuant to the objective.

Policy 4.7.1 The City shall continue to enforce the land development regulations requiring a site survey for natural areas identified on the City's Natural Resources Map which are greater than 10 acres. In the event that a site survey indicates the existence of a representative plant or animal species designated as endangered or threatened on Federal, State or Florida Committee on Rare and Endangered Plants and Animals lists, the developer shall prepare a plan in consultation with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service for protecting the resident population. Preservation should be provided to the satisfaction of the City in consultation with the Federal and State agencies.

Policy 4.7.2 The City shall support and monitor the progress of the Lake Worth Lagoon Estuary Study, and implement the modification of plan policies in accordance with relevant study findings related to manatee protection.

Policy 4.7.3 The City shall require continued consistency of all policies and City actions with the Lake Worth Lagoon Management Plan and require policies which may further the plan.

Objective 4.8 The City shall continue to implement potable water conservation measures such as rate structure, aquifer storage and recovery, education and reuse, and other policies and programs as listed in the Water Conservation Chapter of the City's Water Supply Facilities Work Plan (WSFWP), to reduce per capita average daily water usage from the current 159.3 gpcd to 155 gpcd by 2025.

Measurability: Reduction in per capita water consumption rates consistent with the objective. The City will monitor and measure the outcome of the water conservation programs and related activities that are intended to conserve water resources through the applicable conditions as required by the SFWMD Consumptive Use Permit.

Policy 4.8.1 The City shall expand the reclaimed water distribution system to serve additional large users in order to cost-effectively reduce demand for potable water currently being used for irrigation purposes.

Policy 4.8.2 The City shall continue to promote water conservation strategies through the use of educational brochures and presentations to students and interested citizens groups.

Policy 4.8.3 The City shall continue its current program for participation in the Water Resource Conservation Subcommittee of the Palm Beach County Water Management Advisory Board.

Policy 4.8.4 The City shall continue to examine the feasibility of implementing at least one Water Wide Landscaping demonstration project.

Policy 4.8.5 The City shall coordinate with the South Florida Water Management District to obtain Water Wise Landscaping information for public distribution for use in the site plan review process and incorporate the information in the land development regulations.

Policy 4.8.6 The City shall continue to require that at least 50% of all required site vegetation be taken from the desired vegetation species listings as a condition of development or permit approval.

Policy 4.8.7 The City shall continue to implement water shortage use restrictions in accordance with the requirements of the South Florida Water Management District's Water Shortage Plan.

Objective 4.9 The City shall continue to minimize the potential damage from flooding and the loss of local soil resources.

Measurability: Number of development orders or permits issued consistent with the objective.

Policy 4.9.1 The City shall continue to enforce minimum finished floor flood elevation criteria as identified by the Federal Flood Insurance Administration.

Policy 4.9.2 The City shall continue to enforce local drainage system requirements and flood control policies as specified in the Drainage Sub-Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Policy 4.9.3 The City shall support the timely maintenance of regional drainage system features including structure repairs and replacement and maintenance of dredging of drainage canals by the responsible governing agency.

Policy 4.9.4 The City shall continue to enforce land development regulations such that during site clearing and development preparation stages, erosion control fencing, soil moisturizing, seeding, mulching and/or other best management techniques must be performed by the developer to control soil erosion.