

**COASTAL MANAGEMENT/CONSERVATION ELEMENT
GOALS, OBJECTIVES & POLICIES**

(Conservation has been separated into a New Conservation Element)

GOAL

THE TOWN SHALL PRESERVE, PROTECT-AND ~~ENHANCE~~ ENSURE THE HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE FOR TOWN RESIDENTS AND VISITORS THROUGH THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES OF THE TOWN, AND LIMIT PUBLIC EXPENDITURES IN AREAS SUBJECT TO DESTRUCTION BY NATURAL DISASTERS, WHILE ENSURING MAXIMUM ENJOYMENT AND WITH-MINIMUM EXPOSURE TO THE IMPACTS OF NATURAL DISASTERS ALONG THE OF HUMAN LIFE IN THE COASTAL ZONE.

OBJECTIVE 1

The Town shall protect the quality of its air from degradation. The measurement of this objective is the extent to which air quality is protected, and the degree to which the following policies are implemented.

POLICY 1.1

Continue to prohibit industry within the Town through existing restraints in the Zoning Code.

POLICY 1.2

Continue to prohibit commercial development from spreading beyond commercial areas as designated in the Zoning Code.

POLICY 1.3

Maintain lush, vegetated strips, along roadways and in high density areas, through enforcement of the Historic and Specimen Tree Ordinance, landscaping ordinance, and through Town initiated landscaping projects.

POLICY 1.4

The Town will annually review the Palm Beach County Air Quality Report. Should this report cite the Town for air quality degradation, the Town shall develop methods for addressing the problems within one year of the report date. Implementation of proposed methods will ensue within an additional year. **(relocated to the Conservation Element)**

OBJECTIVE 2 (relocated entire objective and its policies to the Conservation Element)

The Town shall protect native vegetational communities and their associated wildlife. The measurement of this objective is the extent to which native vegetation is protected and restored,

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and the degree to which the following policies are implemented:

~~POLICY 2.1~~

~~Modify the Town's Landscape Ordinance to:~~

- ~~a — Incorporate standards for tree removal, landscaping aesthetics, and minimum native vegetation requirements;~~
- ~~b — Prohibit planting of pestilent exotics; and require removal of pestilent exotic species from sites of new construction or development.~~
- ~~c — Prohibit removal of vegetation species listed as endangered or threatened by State or Federal agencies on publicly owned property and new private development.~~
- ~~d — Allow very limited trimming of shoreline vegetation for visual access, upon the approval of the Town and any other government agencies having jurisdiction.~~

~~POLICY 2.2~~

~~The Town will continue to serve as coordinator in support of efforts to revegetate, and remove exotic vegetation from, the Lake Worth shoreline.~~

~~POLICY 2.3~~

~~The Town will continue to use native or drought resistant vegetation in all public landscaping projects.~~

~~POLICY 2.4~~

~~The Town shall change its land redevelopment regulations to stipulate that no development or construction which destroys wetland vegetation, including seagrass beds, shall be permitted in the Town unless the loss is 100% mitigated, and unless the applicant has received the approval of any other governmental agency having jurisdiction.~~

OBJECTIVE 3 (relocated entire objective and its policies to the Conservation Element)

~~Protect and preserve, native vegetated areas, wildlife and its habitats, especially those species listed by State and Federal agencies as threatened or endangered. The measurement of this objective shall be the extent to which wildlife is protected and preserved, and the degree to which the following policies are implemented.~~

~~POLICY 3.1~~

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Continue assisting with sea turtle nesting studies each year for the duration of the planning period.

~~POLICY 3.2~~

~~The Town will continue to cooperate with the appropriate local, state and federal agencies for the protection of wildlife, endangered and threatened species and significant plant, flora, fauna and animal habitats.~~

~~POLICY 3.3~~

~~The Town will protect and conserve the natural functions of existing soils, fisheries, rivers, lakes, floodplains, estuarine marshes, native habitats/plant materials/ecosystems and marine habitats through enforcement of existing local, state, and federal regulations designed to protect and conserve these functions.~~

~~POLICY 3.4~~

~~The Town will continue to enforce landscaping standards that require the preservation of existing natural growth where practical, and the removal of invasive, exotic plant species.~~

OBJECTIVE 4 (relocated entire objective and its policies to the Conservation Element)

~~The Town shall pProtect and restore wetland habitat and estuarine water quality the Town, thereby protecting fisheries and marine habitat. The measurement of this objective is the extent to which wetland habitat and estuarine quality are protected, and the degree to which the following policies are implemented.~~

~~POLICY 4.1~~

~~The Town shall update its Long Range Public Works Plan (Storm Drainage Chapter) regularly to meet the requirements of the EPA NPDES Program, when necessary.~~

~~POLICY 4.2~~

~~Ensure that the negative impacts of stormwater discharge upon water quality in Lake Worth are ameliorated by the retention of the first two (2) inches of rainfall prior to discharge into the Town system, or the post-development runoff does not exceed predevelopment runoff for a three-year one-hour storm, whichever is greater.~~

OBJECTIVE 51

The Town shall protect and restore its beaches and dunes. The measurement of this objective is the extent to which beaches and shores are protected and restored, and the degree to which the following policies are implemented.

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POLICY 5.1.1

The Town will manage its beach resources through continued implementation of the 1998 Comprehensive Coastal Management Plan (CCMP). ~~and the scope and cost of the CCMP will be reviewed annually by Town staff, the Shore Protection Board, and Town Council.~~

POLICY 5.1.2

The Town shall continue to implement the mission of the Beach Management Agreement (BMA) with the Florida Department of Environment Protection to regulate all possible structural or non-structural alternatives for beach protection and beach erosion prevention, consistent with the Town's Comprehensive Coastal Management Plan.

POLICY 5.1.3

The Town shall require that all new development and redevelopment on the Atlantic shore restore dunes, where restoration potential exists and is necessary, as determined by the Town and FDEP. Primary dune restoration to a higher crest elevation and sediment volume along Reach 1 is a high priority for coastal flood control. (Recommended by the Woods Hole Level-Up Plan).

POLICY 5.1.4

The Town shall maintain its bulkhead line along Lake Worth at the mean high-water line.

POLICY 5.1.5

The Town shall continue to enforce Land Development Regulations which minimize the impact of man-made structures on beach and dune systems, as well as specific measures and guidelines for dune protection, restoration and maintenance.

POLICY 5.1.6

The Town shall evaluate opportunities to protect coastal investments and infrastructure, as necessary and feasible, from the impacts of climate change. Specifically, the Town will maintain shoreline protection and erosion control by the following.

- a) Continuing the appropriate use of beach renourishment.
- b) Facilitating the installation and maintenance of native beach dune vegetation along appropriate areas of beach.
- c) Continuing to implement the Comprehensive Coastal Management Plan through 2023 2044 with input from the Shore Protection Board.
- d) Establishing the bulkhead line in Lake Worth as the Mean High-Water Line (MHWL).

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POLICY 5.7

~~Explore the possibility with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, pursuant to Florida Statutes 380.05(3) of designating the Town as an Area of Critical Concern as it relates to the shoreline, natural and historic resources and sea level rise. The basis for seeking this designation is the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) June 2015 Study, Critically Eroded Beaches, noted the “area extending south of Lake Worth Inlet along the town of Palm Beach (R76 R128) are 10.9 miles of critical erosion threatening private development, local parks, and State Road A1A.~~

OBJECTIVE 6 (Relocated to Conservation Element)

~~Protect soils and groundwater by establishing standards which will minimize the impacts of construction, and by preventing hazardous wastes contamination. The measurement of this objective is the extent to which soils and groundwater are protected, and the degree to which the following policies are implemented.~~

POLICY 6.1

~~The Town will require soil erosion control techniques be used during construction.~~

POLICY 6.2

~~The Town will regulate the installation of underground storage tanks for petroleum products in a manner consistent with the regulations of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.~~

POLICY 6.3

~~The Town will continue mutual aid agreements with West Palm Beach and Palm Beach County for hazardous materials removal and storage.~~

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OBJECTIVE 72

The Town will continue to enforce Land Development Regulations which establish priorities for shoreline uses.

POLICY 7.4

The Town shall ~~continue to implement priorities for the~~ utilize the remaining limited opportunities for shoreline land uses for essential services provided for protection of natural resources and ultimately the residents in of the Town.

OBJECTIVE 83

The Town will provide and maintain existing public access to beach areas which have been renourished at public expense, publicly-owned beachfront parks, and the Municipal Docks on Lake Worth. The measurability of this objective is the extent to which public access is provided and maintained, and the degree to which the following policies are implemented.

POLICY 8.3.1

The Town will inspect public access facilities on an annual basis for impediments or structural damage. The Town will eliminate any impediments to public access on a priority basis.

POLICY 8.23.2

The Town will ~~In order to~~ maintain visual access to Lake Worth, ~~the Town shall~~ to allow selective trimming of vegetated areas along the shoreline when such trimming is accompanied by measures to improve the natural resources of the shoreline.

POLICY 8.33.3

The Town shall provide public access to beach areas nourished at public expense unless otherwise exempted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

POLICY 8.43.4

The Town will enforce the public access requirements of the 1985 Coastal Zone Protection Act.

POLICY 8.53.5

The Town shall continue to provide and maintain existing on-street parking facilities near beach access points.

POLICY 3.6

The Town will adapt public access facilities to also function as coastal flood control structures. (Recommended by the Woods Hole Level-Up Plan).

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OBJECTIVE 9. (moved to the Historic Preservation Element)

~~The Town shall protect and preserve its prehistoric and historic resources. The measurement of this objective shall be the extent to which such resources are protected, and the degree to which the following policies are implemented.~~

POLICY 9.1

~~The Town will update its list of historic structures as needed.~~

POLICY 9.2

~~Continue to designate structures, sites, and districts considered worthy of Landmarking in accordance with the Town's Code of Ordinances.~~

POLICY 9.3

~~Prevent destruction of Historic Landmark Structures through provisions in the Town's Code of Ordinances.~~

POLICY 9.4

~~The Town will address preservation of prehistoric resources in its optional Historic Preservation Element~~

OBJECTIVE 10.4

The Town shall increase public awareness of potential hazards to human life in the event of a natural disaster. The measurement of this objective is the extent which public awareness is increased, and the degree which the following policy is implemented.

POLICY 10.14.1

~~The Town shall annually prior to the start of hurricane season, a~~At least once per year during the hurricane season, publish on the Town website basic hurricane evacuation precautionary information.

OBJECTIVE 11

~~When an emergency evacuation is necessary, protect, within the Town's ability, residents and visitors, and maintain or reduce evacuation times. The measurement of this objective is the extent which population exodus evacuation is provided, and the degree which the following policies are implemented.~~ Confusing language. Similar and concise language related to same is Objective 3 of the Public Safety Element.–

POLICY 11.1

~~The Town, o~~Once a hurricane watch has been declared, the Town shall coordinate with the Florida Division of Emergency Management and the County Emergency Management

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officials to facilitate orderly and timely evacuation of residents and visitors in the Town.
Moved to Public Safety Element Policy 3.4

POLICY 11.2

The Town shall annually review Palm Beach County's Hurricane Evacuation Plan to identify any changes that may affect the evacuation of Town residents during a storm event, and shall ensure that the Town's Hurricane Evacuation Plan remains integrated with the County's Plan by amending the Town's Plan, as necessary. Moved to Public Safety Element Policy 3.4

POLICY 11.3

~~The Town shall (Through the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) and their Hurricane Evacuation Model, ensure traffic impacts of proposed development in adjacent municipalities within concurrency exemption zones address all factors including, but not limited to the following:~~

- ~~a. Increased development~~
- ~~b. Bridge crossing and times~~
- ~~c. Increased passenger rail traffic~~
- ~~d. Increased freight rail~~
- ~~e. Hurricane sheltering~~

The Town is not within a Transportation Concurrency Exception Area

OBJECTIVE 12

~~The Town shall foster post-disaster redevelopment activities that will reduce or minimize exposure of human life and public or private property to the effects of natural disasters, particularly hurricanes. The measurement of this objective is the extent which exposure of life and property is reduced, and the degree which the following policies are implemented.~~

POLICY 12.16.1

~~The Town will continue to support and use the post-disaster redevelopment plan sponsored and published by the Countywide Issues Forum.~~

The Town maintains their own CEMP that includes the SERP and COOP. See Objective 3 of the Public Safety Element.

OBJECTIVE 13 Moved to Conservation Element

~~The Town shall continue to employ its criteria for marina siting.~~

POLICY 13.1

~~The Town shall continue to require, as part of its building permitting process, that:~~

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- ~~a. All new marinas, docks, and boat ramps will be located and designed in accordance with the Manatee Protection Plan, published by the FDEP and Palm Beach County.~~
- ~~b. Marinas are situated adjacent to recreational or commercial land uses, and have adequate upland support services.~~
- ~~c. Marinas do not adversely affect environmental quality of Lake Worth.~~
- ~~d. Marinas are economically feasible as established by a feasibility study.~~

OBJECTIVE 14-5

Public access shall be maintained to all recreational facilities, including recreational and commercial working waterfronts consistent with Florida Statutes, under the jurisdiction of the Town of Palm Beach.

POLICY 14-5.1

The Town will, on continuing basis, inspect public access points at public facilities located within the Town of Palm Beach, but not under the Town's jurisdiction, to identify any impediments to access. The Town will notify respective governing agencies of impediments within three months of their identification.

OBJECTIVE 15-6

The Town shall adopt and implement policies that limit development and public expenditure within the Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA) to increase community resiliency and protect property, infrastructure, and cultural and natural resources from the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise, changes in rainfall patterns, and extreme weather events. (Language added from recommendations from the Woods Hole Level-Up Plan)

POLICY 15-16.1

The Town will continue to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System (CRS) and strive to maintain or improve its current CRS rating.

POLICY 15-26.2

The Town will require that the impact of sea level rise be addressed in all Future Land Use Map amendments.

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POLICY ~~15.16.3~~

Publicly funded facilities that subsidize development will not be built in the Coastal High Hazard Area. However, this limitation does not apply to such facilities necessary to serve projects approved under prior development orders but not yet built, or to such facilities necessary to maintain adequate levels of public facilities and services to existing residents. Nor does it apply to publicly funded projects associated with providing beach restoration, public access, recreation, resource restoration, or the rehabilitation, maintenance or construction of shore protection structures such as groins, revetments or seawalls.

POLICY ~~15.2~~

~~The Town shall not expand utility systems or public services that would be necessitated by increased development within the Coastal High Hazard Area.~~

POLICY ~~15.36.4~~

The Town will continue to enforce its building code and drainage requirements. The Town will coordinate with, and will rely on, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to enforce building limitations seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line.

POLICY ~~15.46.5~~

The Town shall continue to prohibit the use of septic tanks.

POLICY ~~15.56.6~~

The Town will mitigate hazards through building practices and implementation of FEMA requirements, stormwater retention requirements, and other restrictions within the Coastal High Hazard Area.

POLICY ~~15.66.7~~

The Town will limit residential development within the Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA).

POLICY ~~15.76.8~~

The Town will limit public building and infrastructure investment in the CHHA.

POLICY ~~15.8~~ 6.9

Town-funded public facilities shall not be built in the coastal high hazard area, except for purposes of public safety and/or access, required public utilities or services, enhancement of water-related activities or significant resource protection.

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POLICY ~~15.96.10~~

The Town will not permit density increases in the CHHA for redevelopment and new development unless such requests are consistent with this Comprehensive Plan.

POLICY ~~15.1057.11~~

Continue to examine community-wide strategies to increase the resiliency of the Town to address future effects of coastal storms and climate change on the community.

POLICY ~~15.11~~ 7.12

The Town shall collaborate with Palm Beach County to increase regional resilience by sharing technical expertise, assessing local vulnerabilities, advancing agreed upon mitigation and adaptation strategies, and developing joint state and federal legislation policies and programs.

POLICY ~~15.12-7.13~~

The Town shall continue to utilize best practices and initiate mitigation strategies to reduce the risk of flooding in coastal areas that may result from high tide events, storm surge, flash floods, stormwater runoff, and the related impacts of sea level rise. [\[New state law Section 163.3178, F.S\]](#)

- a. Incorporate Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Floodplain Management Regulations or higher regulatory standards to guide development and redevelopment activities where applicable.
- b. Support the implementation of engineering solutions to prevent flooding including retaining walls, and elevation of seawalls.

POLICY 7.14

The Town shall prioritize public outreach and education to residents and the business and development community on the importance and benefits of mitigating flood risk, and how the Town's participation in these efforts results in reduced flood insurance premiums.

OBJECTIVE 16 (Objective and policies relocated to Conservation Element)

~~The Town will continue to promote ways to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and become more Energy Efficient.~~

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~~POLICY 16.1~~

~~As provided in the Town's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (EECS) the Town will help the community take advantage of technologies, incentives, and knowledge to conserve energy use in homes and businesses.~~

~~POLICY 16.2~~

~~The Town will use the EECS to optimize the way energy is consumed within municipal operations and identify ways to use renewable energy and offset energy use overall.~~

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