

ORDINANCE NO. 21-2018

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PALM BEACH, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF PALM BEACH AT CHAPTER 66, NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION, AT ARTICLE 1, IN GENERAL, SECTION 66-2, DEFINITIONS; AT ARTICLE IV, VEGETATION, SECTION 66-212, PURPOSE AND INTENT; TO INCLUDE A NEW SECTION 66-285, GENERAL UNDER DIVISION 4, DESIGN REQUIREMENTS; AMENDING SECTION 66-286, WATER CONSERVING LANDSCAPE DESIGN; AND AMENDING SECTION 66-311, PROHIBITED PLANTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PALM BEACH, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The foregoing recitals are hereby ratified and confirmed.

Section 2. The code of Ordinances of the Town of Palm Beach is hereby amended at Chapter 66, Natural Resource Protection; Article I, In General; Section 66-2, Definitions, to read as follows:

“Sec. 66-2. - Definitions.

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

DSH means diameter at standard height (4.5 feet or 1.37 meters) measured from the top of rootball.

~~Evapotranspiration-based controller means an irrigation controller that calculates soil moisture from known weather and related inputs, as follows:~~

- ~~(1) Receives and monitors weather data or on-site environmental conditions;~~
- ~~(2) Calculates the amount of moisture input to and moisture lost from the soil and plants;~~
- ~~(3) Automatically creates or adjusts the irrigation schedule to apply only the amount of water necessary to maintain adequate soil moisture.~~

Hat racking means the removal of main stems, tops of trees, or a significant percentage of tree canopy, generally by cross-cutting the main stem(s) or leaders, leaving stubs.

Hedge means a dense row of regularly spaced shrubs planted to form a continuous, unbroken visual screen.

Mulch means ~~nonliving~~organic, arsenic free material such as wood chips, pine straw or bark placed on the soil to reduce evaporation, prevent soil erosion, control weeds and buffer soil temperature. and synthetic materials customarily used in landscape design to retard erosion and retain moisture.

Native plant community is a natural association of plants dominated by one or more prominent native plant species.

Native plant species shall be the plant species indigenous to the ecological communities of South Florida, as indicated as native to South Florida by the University of Florida in the Atlas of Vascular Plants, or that can be scientifically documented to be native to South Florida.

Pollarding is a pruning system involving the removal of the upper branches of a tree thus promoting a dense head of foliage and branches.

Section 3. The code of Ordinances of the Town of Palm Beach is hereby amended at Chapter 66, Natural Resource Protection; Article IV, Vegetation, to read as follows:

“DIVISION 1. - GENERALLY

Sec. 66-212. - Purpose and intent.

It is the intent of the town to promote the health, safety and welfare of existing and future residents of the town by establishing minimum standards for the protection of natural plant communities, and the installation and continued maintenance of landscaping within the town, in order to:

- (1) Promote health and safety through greater use of cultural and biological controls and reduced use of chemical pesticides for the management of pests, such as whitefly.
- (2) Promote the planting of appropriate native vegetation to encourage the presence of birds and wildlife and to eliminate or significantly reduce the need for fertilizers, pesticides and water
- (3) ~~Promote water conservation and~~ Improve air quality by promoting evapotranspiration and through the use of permeable land areas for aquifer recharge and surface water filtration.
- (4) Maintain and improve the aesthetic appearance of the town through appropriate landscape design; thereby protecting and increasing property values throughout the community.
- (5) Improve the environmental quality of the town.
- (6) ~~Eradicate or control certain~~ Category I invasive exotic plant species ~~and eradicate or control Category II invasive exotic plant species as listed on the most current Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council’s List of Invasive Plant Species.~~
- (7) Protect and encourage native shoreline and wetland ecosystems.
- (8) Offer special guidelines for the removal and control of those pestilent exotic species that are particularly deleterious to native shoreline environments.
- (9) Protect listed plant species that inhabit the town as referenced in Sec. 66-312.
- (10) Reduce noise and pollution by designing landscaping to visually screen unsightly views and reduce noise impacts from major roadways and incompatible uses, through the filtering capacity of living trees and vegetation.
- (11) Provide a visual buffer between otherwise incompatible types of land uses.
- (12) Strengthen important vistas and reinforce desirable site design.
- (13) Promote energy conservation by encouraging cooling through the use of vegetation that creates shade.

(14) Encourage the use of rain harvesting systems, such as cisterns, as a means to conserve water by reducing overwatering of landscapes.

(15) Promote water conservation and lower water costs through the use of smart irrigation systems and planting native plants appropriate for the location.

Section 4. The code of Ordinances of the Town of Palm Beach is hereby amended at Chapter 66, Natural Resource Protection; Article IV, Vegetation, to read as follows:

DIVISION 4. - DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

Sec. 66-285. – General

(1). At least 25 percent (25%) of all new required landscaping, in the form of trees, shrubs and ground cover plants, other than grass, shall consist of native vegetation. To determine appropriate native vegetation the Xeriscape Plant Guide by the South Florida Water Management District, or if available County or regional lists as amended may be used.

(2) The hatracking of trees is prohibited; however pollarding is permitted.

Section 5. The code of Ordinances of the Town of Palm Beach is hereby amended at Chapter 66, Natural Resource Protection; Article IV, Vegetation, to read as follows:

Sec. 66-286. - Water conserving landscape design.

(5) *Use of organic mulches.* When appropriate, a minimum of two inches of arsenic-free organic mulch shall be installed around each tree planting for a minimum of 18 inches beyond its trunk in all directions, including palms, and throughout all hedge, shrub, and groundcover plantings. Mulch shall be pulled a minimum of two inches away from trees and palms. Appropriate mulching material consists of by-product or alternative mulches such as eucalyptus, pine needles, pine finds, oak leaf, Atlas grow soil, utility or other mulch as recommended by Florida Friendly Landscaping principles. The use of Cypress mulch, pine mulch, and dyed mulches is prohibited.

Section 6. Sec. 66-311. Prohibited Plants is hereby amended to include the following provisions:

(d) *Prohibition of ficus benjamina.* Due to extreme susceptibility of the invasive white fly pest and the consequent enforcement issues to require owners to treat or remove infested ficus benjamina, no new planting of ficus benjamina shall be allowed. The planting of appropriate native vegetation in a hedge or hedgerow is encouraged.

~~(e)~~ *Protection of natural area and incentives.* The county has recognized the Palm Beach Island Sanctuaries (R43 T43 S34; R43 T44 S03/10/15) located within

the town as a natural area containing high quality ecosystems that are worthy of protection. The town hereby adopts for purposes of the protection of said natural area and for purposes of the regulation of the buffer area around said natural area those sections of the County Code known as the "Palm Beach County Countywide Prohibited Invasive Non-Native Vegetation Removal Ordinance" relating to the protection and regulation of these areas. Additionally, the town adopts the incentive program offered by the county as incorporated within the "Palm Beach County Countywide Prohibited Invasive Non-Native Vegetation Removal Ordinance."

(fe) Enforcement. Violations of this section shall be:

- (1) Failure of a property owner to remove or eradicate prohibited invasive non-native vegetation in accordance with subsection (a) and (c) of this section.
- (2) Failure of a property owner to maintain nonexempt properties free of prohibited invasive non-native vegetation in accordance with subsection (c) of this section.

Section 7. Severability.

If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or applications, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared severable.

Section 8. Repeal of Ordinances in Conflict.

All other ordinances of the Town of Palm Beach, Florida, or parts thereof which conflict with this or any part of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 9. Codification.

This Ordinance shall be codified and made a part of the official Code of Ordinances of the Town of Palm Beach.

Section 10. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage and approval, as provided by law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED in a regular, adjourned session of the Town Council of the Town of Palm Beach on first reading this 19th day of March, 2019, and for second and final reading on this 9th day of April, 2019.

Gail L. Coniglio, Mayor

Danielle H. Moore, Town Council President

Margaret A. Zeidman, Council President Pro Tem

Julie Araskog, Town Council Member

ATTEST:

Lewis S.W. Crampton, Town Council Member

Kathleen Dominguez, Town Clerk

Bobbie Lindsay, Town Council Member