

Proposal for Florida Friendly Landscape and Effective Irrigation Use.

Resolved that the Venice Environmental Board recommends that the city planning board place requirements for the planting and maintaining of Florida friendly landscaping and low impact irrigation procedures in the land development codes for all future developments open space and homeowner lots . The objective is to provide for the increase in the installation and maintenance of Florida-friendly landscaping and landscaped to utilize landscaping and landscaped as an effective means of conserving energy, to preserve and maintain and improve the aesthetics thereby promoting the health and general welfare of the citizenry .

- (a) Promote Florida-friendly landscape principles by using drought-tolerant plants, grouping plant material by water requirements, using irrigation systems that conserve water, maximize the use of appropriate mulch and limit the amount of fertilizer used.
- (b) Provide food, cover and habitat for birds, butterflies and other wildlife.
- (c) Prevent the destruction of the city's tree canopy and promote the expansion of a healthy, sustainable urban forest as set forth in the comprehensive plan.
- (d) Promote the use of drought-tolerant trees and shrubs for energy conservation by encouraging cooling through the provision of shade and the channeling of breezes, thereby helping to offset global warming and local heat island effects.
- (e) Contribute to the processes of air movement, air purification, oxygen regeneration, ground water recharge, and stormwater retention, while aiding in the abatement of noise, glare, heat, air pollution and dust generated by major roadways and intense use areas.
- (f) Improve the aesthetic appearance of residential development through the use of attractive, drought-tolerant plant material, thereby protecting and increasing property values within the city while also conserving South Florida's precious freshwater resources.
- (g) Reduce the negative impacts of invasive plant species that

invade native plant communities by prohibiting their use and encouraging the use of native plants.

- (h) Promote the use of trees to protect and buffer the effects of high winds on structures.
- (i) Promote the principle of planting the right tree or plant in the right place to avoid problems such as clogged sewers, cracked sidewalks and power service interruptions.
- (j) Promote the principle of choosing low-maintenance plants that are able to tolerate short periods without rainfall and that are relatively free from pests and diseases.
- (k) Promote the principle of replacing high-maintenance and/or problem-prone plants with low-maintenance plant species that have low water and fertilizer requirements and few pest and disease problems.
- (l) Implement Florida-friendly landscaping principles as identified by the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program operated by the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Services Extension ("UF/IFAS Extension") and Best Management Practices ("BMPs") identified in the Florida-friendly Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industries (2008) as amended and as provided by law;
- (m) Specific management guidelines to minimize negative secondary and cumulative environmental effects associated with the misuse of fertilizers.

Low impact site design practices, such as preserving existing native trees and vegetation, shall be used if feasible. Where established native vegetation is incorporated into the landscape design, irrigation of those areas shall not be required.

- (2) The plant palette and irrigation system shall be appropriate for site conditions, taking into account that, in some cases, soil improvement can enhance water use efficiency.
- (3) Plants shall be grouped together by irrigation demand. The percentage of landscaped area in irrigated high water use should be minimized.
- (4) All landscapes must be designed and planted in accordance with

Florida-friendly landscaping principles. The percentage of landscaped area, excluding turfgrass areas, in irrigated high water use shall be minimized to no more than twenty (20) per cent of the total non-turfgrass landscaped area.

- (5) Site designs and landscape plans shall be prepared in accordance with the requirements of all applicable Florida and local laws, rules, regulations and ordinances. All landscape and irrigation system designs shall be consistent with the standards required by F.S. § 373.228, as amended.
- (6) The landscape plan shall consider natural drainage features to minimize runoff. The use of pervious surface and areas is preferred, therefore impervious surfaces and materials within the landscaped area shall be limited to borders, sidewalks, step stones, and other similar materials, and shall not exceed ten (10) per cent of the landscaped area. Use of pervious paving materials, where appropriate, is encouraged.
- (7) The landscape plan should consider the soil requirements for trees based on their size at maturity and their distance from any adjacent paved/hardscape areas and utility infrastructure. Larger soil volumes lead to greater tree size, better tree health, longer tree life, greater environmental benefits, and fewer costs, such as those associated with tree replacement and damage by roots to property improvements and infrastructure.
- (8) Reclaimed or non-potable water should be used for irrigation if an acceptable source is determined to be available by the water provider.
 1. Irrigation using a micro-spray, micro-jet, drip or bubbler system is allowed anytime.
 - 2 **A high volume irrigation area shall not exceed 50 percent of the landscaped area. Low or medium volume irrigation areas may be utilized in lieu of any high volume irrigation area.**
 - 1 **3. A medium volume irrigation area shall not exceed 25 percent of the landscaped**
 - 2 **area. However, the landscaped area may contain up to 75 percent medium volume**
 - 3 **irrigation area, if no high volume irrigation area is utilized on site.**
 - 4 **4. A low volume irrigation area may be utilized for an entire**

5 landscaped area with
the exception of native vegetation areas regulated by section
50-373(b)(4).

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