

**Comprehensive Plan Objectives and Policies
Addressing Landscaping, Land Clearing and Tree Protection**

Conservation Element

GOAL

PROTECT, CONSERVE, ENHANCE, MAINTAIN AND APPROPRIATELY USE NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS, MAINTAINING THEIR QUALITY AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND ECONOMIC WELL BEING OF BREVARD COUNTY.

Air Quality

Policy 1.8

Land use should also be compatible with the maintenance of good area quality. Development should be designed in such a way as to minimize traffic congestion. Urban land uses should be buffered from stationary and linear pollution sources (roadways). *Vegetation should be utilized whenever possible to buffer air pollution sources and maintain air quality.* Multi-use developments, such as Planned Unit Development, or other innovative land uses should be utilized to reduce the need to travel. Facilities that house the elderly, very young or sick should be located away from emission sources or areas of poor air quality. (emphasis added)

Energy

Policy 2.1

Brevard County shall address various energy saving methods including:

Criteria:

- A. Encouraging appropriate Planned Unit Development and multi-use developments;
- B. Regulating subdivisions to address bicycle and pedestrian pathways; and
- C. *Regulating land clearing and landscaping regulations to augment passive cooling by trees.* (emphasis added)

Soil Erosion

Policy 7.1

Brevard County shall continue to implement its adopted land clearing, tree protection, and landscaping ordinances to address re-vegetation and premature land clearing.

Criteria:

- A. Require permitting prior to any land clearing,
- B. Require phased clearing in conjunction with phased construction.
- C. Require permits for the removal of trees or vegetation in conjunction with land surveying along property lines.
- D. Require areas cleared of vegetation to be re-vegetated with biologically appropriate vegetation, to prevent wind or water erosion, within ninety (90) days of initial land clearing activity where no approved landscape plan exists or no active development order has been issued. Native vegetation should be utilized to the maximum extent possible.

- E. Exempt single-family residential lots of two and one-half (2 1/2) acres or less in size, from the requirement of written notification to clear land, after the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy for the single-family residential lot.
- F. Exempt land clearing in conjunction with agricultural purposes or normal silviculture utilizing best management practices.

Vegetation

Objective 8

Conserve, appropriately use and protect native vegetative communities, including forests as appropriate, by regulating land clearing and landscaping practices within Brevard County.

Policy 8.1

Brevard County shall continue to implement and improve the land clearing and tree protection ordinance, and the landscaping ordinance, as amended.

Policy 8.3

Brevard County shall continue to review all development plans for compliance with vegetative protection regulations. By 2002, Brevard County shall develop environmental design criteria that encourages the use of community green space and clustering developments, and shall coordinate with the Building and Construction Advisory Committee, the Brevard County Home Builders Association and other appropriate groups to develop an environmental design incentive program.

Policy 8.5

By 2002, Brevard County shall protect vegetative communities from inappropriate development using the following minimum criteria:

Criteria:

- A. Vegetative communities classified by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory as G1, G2, S1 and S2 should be considered for protection. *(NOTE: The vegetative communities ranked S1 or S2 within Brevard County are: Beach Dune, Coastal Grassland, Coastal Interdunal Swale, Coastal Strand, Dry Prairie, Estuarine Grass Bed, Maritime Hammock, Scrub, and Shell Mound.)*
- B. The inventory and identification of vegetative communities developed by the Office of Natural Resources Management and other agencies shall be utilized in developing the ordinance.
- C. Protection of vegetative communities shall be coordinated with federal, state, and local wildlife habitat protection regulations.

Policy 8.7

Brevard County should contact the municipalities within the county and pursue developing a county-wide vegetation protection ordinance to standardize existing landscaping ordinances.

Policy 8.8

By 2002, Brevard County should develop an urban forestry program to implement the County's landscaping, native vegetation preservation, and tree protection policies. This program should address the following criteria, at a minimum

Criteria:

- A. Establish principles and practices regarding the management of vegetation in Brevard County.
- B. Include a public information program to make citizens aware of the importance of vegetation and vegetative communities.
- C. Inventory areas containing vegetation of special concern.
- D. Monitor the success of existing vegetation requirements, including the conversion of previously undeveloped land by commercial or residential interest. These sites should be closely monitored to determine the impact on existing native vegetation within and surrounding the project boundaries. Recommendations for changes to the regulations should be made based on monitoring data.
- E. Brevard County shall establish a noteworthy tree program to encourage the protection of these trees through recognition.