

ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

CATEGORY:

CODE NUMBER:

Facilities/Properties/Equipment/Vehicles AC-5-9

TITLE:

Water Conservation Landscaping on
county-owned Property

ADOPTED:

4/4/90

AMENDED:

11/9/94

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:

Community Development

PURPOSE/SCOPE:

The following policies are intended to reduce county water and energy consumption through the use of water conservation techniques outlined and promoted by the South Florida Water Management District, (SF&).

POLICY/PROCEDURE:

- 1) All county-owned projects incorporating landscaping whether new or renovation, shall use water conserving techniques as outlined by the South Florida Water Management District (SF&M).
- 2) Planting plans shall be developed for all county projects where plant installations are required. If irrigation is to be installed, irrigation plans are required. County projects include; parks, certain road projects, and other county facilities.
- 3) The following guidelines shall be incorporated into professional service and construction contracts for county projects involving landscaping and shall be adhered to for all county projects involving landscaping:
 - a. Preserve existing native plant communities where feasible, and;
 - b. Emphasize the use of native plant species by using at least seventy-five percent (75%) native trees and fifty percent (50%) native shrubs;
 - c. Be designed to provide proper ecological placement of landscape plants;
 - d. Utilize drought tolerant landscape plants;
 - e. Correctly remove and prohibit the planting of invasive exotic plant species listed in the Lee County Land Development Code, as amended, where environmentally or physically practical as determined by the director of the Department of Community Development;
 - f. Utilize water-conserving irrigation practices, including rain sensor devices,
 - g. Utilize effluent reuse systems where available;
 - h. Emphasize the use of melaleuca landscape mulches and prohibit the use of cypress (Taxodium disichum) landscape mulch;

- 4) The Division of Natural Resources Management **and the Division of Planning and Construction shall review landscaping** plans for County-owned projects to ensure the best use of water **conservation** techniques.
 - a. The Division of Natural Resources Management and the Division of Planning and Construction shall provide initial and subsequent review of landscaping **projects** with the department responsible for that project, upon **the** request of that department.
 - b. The Division of Natural Resources Management shall review the planting plans and appropriate irrigation plans through the development order **process** to ensure compliance with the use of water conservation **techniques**.
- 5) **The Director of the** Department of Community Development may exempt a project or **portion** of a project from the **requirement of this policy**.