

FLORA AND FAUNA

GOAL:

TO PROTECT THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT THROUGH SUSTAINABLE METHODS AND PRACTICES.



Objective 1:

To Protect and Preserve the City's Natural Resources in a Manner that is Balanced with the Needs of the Community.

The Vision Connection:

While the vision recognizes and promotes the need to protect and preserve the City's natural resources, the preferred image of the City supports sustainability, the term used to describe the goal of integrating environmental and developmental concerns. This view of preservation is entirely consistent with the City's vision and receives support from the concept of "Sustainable Development," as defined by Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland: "development which meets the needs of the present without endangering the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Strategies:

- Protect environmentally sensitive lands, but provide public access and appropriate passive use opportunities.
- Afford residents input into the development of management plans for preservation areas. Public input shall be sought regarding: **1** - desired use (passive recreation); **2** - access; and **3** - how public funds are spent.
- Relay to appropriate governmental entities the City's dissatisfaction with the goal of acquiring and setting aside properties without opportunities for passive use, and assert the City's goal of conservation with appropriate public access and use.
- Assist Palm Beach County in the acquisition/management of environmentally sensitive lands through joint applications for grant and other funding.

Objective 2:

To Initiate a Citywide Approach to Protection of Environmentally Sensitive Lands.

The Vision Connection:

This objective of the vision entails comprehensive planning to ensure the City's ability to designate preservation areas as well as areas to be developed. A city-wide approach, as opposed to a piecemeal determination of preservation areas, is not only consistent with the City's vision, such an approach also ensures pathway linkages, the importance of which was outlined earlier in this plan. This avenue would also provide the City with the ability to identify larger areas for preservation designation.

Strategies:

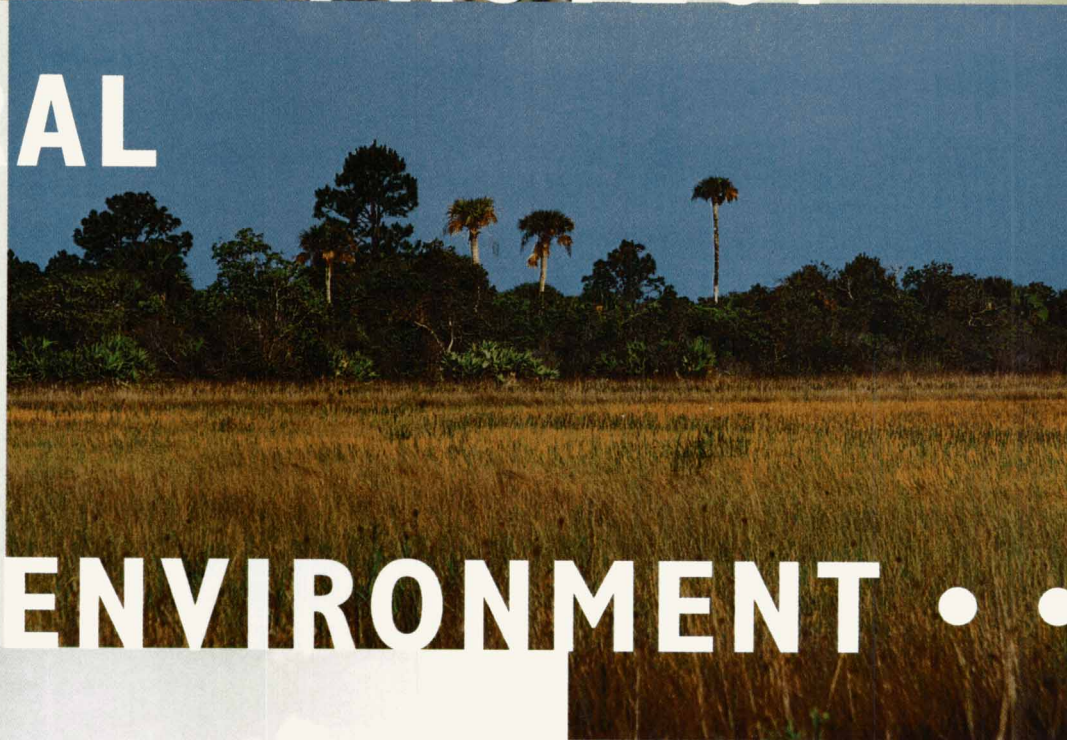
- Designate a Greenway System that establishes linked preservation areas, meeting the City's environmental set-aside requirements. The Greenway shall protect the City's natural resources and open spaces, yet define developable areas for future improvement. This Greenway System shall complement the Parkway System and replace, where possible or appropriate, the current practice of preservation on a development-by-development basis.
- Investigate a program to acquire and designate a parcel as a mitigation banking area/receiving site for use by developers of properties within the City. This property shall serve as a receiver site for protected species that must be relocated from developing parcels, and as a banking area for mitigation of development impacts.
- Initiate a study to re-introduce greenway linkages in the developed areas of the City, via native species and landscaping relocation, within rights-of-way, easements and other appropriate open spaces.



Gopher Tortoise found at Pine Flat Woods in Palm Beach Gardens.

PROTECT • •

• NATURAL



Residents enjoy the environment in an ECO-hike at the Loxahatchee Slough.

ENVIRONMENT • •

