



Coastal Management Element





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The Broward County Coastal Management Element (CM) provides a framework to guide the County's decisions and programs to maintain and restore the coastal resources. The County has twenty-three miles of Atlantic beaches (Hillsboro Beach, Deerfield Beach, Pompano Beach, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Fort Lauderdale, Dania Beach, Hollywood, and Hallandale Beach, each with their own character) and 300-plus miles of Intracoastal Waterway and navigable inland canals. The CM's goal is to plan for and, where appropriate, limit development activities that would damage or destroy coastal resources. The Florida Statutes require the CM address coastal management, natural disaster, and deep water port issues. This element primarily addresses the management of development activities in Broward County's coastal area to maximize aesthetic, environmental, recreational, and economic values. Natural disaster and port issues are respectively addressed in the Natural Disaster and Deepwater Port Components of the CM.



Broward's Blue Wave Certified Beaches

The Fort Lauderdale Beach is Blue Wave Certified by the Clean Beaches Council, together with Hollywood, Deerfield Beach, Pompano Beach, Dania Beach, and Lauderdale-by-the-Sea.

Policy History

- 1982 The Reef Monitoring Program was established to track and record various species to compare spatial and temporal differences throughout the reef system. Broward County has created over 100 artificial reefs off its shores. Broward County's ongoing [Artificial Reef](#) Program has provided additional habitats for various marine organisms and helps to decrease user pressure on natural reefs.
- 1989 Broward County began its [Mooring Buoy](#) program with initial efforts originating from the local dive industry and the Ocean Watch Foundation, a non-profit organization. Broward County and the Ocean Watch Foundation obtained State and federal environmental permits to install the mooring buoys along the reef tract, purchased supplies, and helped coordinate volunteer efforts to maintain the buoys.
- 2004 Broward County developed a [Sea Turtle Conservation Program](#) in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. The County's program is one of the most comprehensive conservation programs in the State of Florida, allowing daily sea turtle nesting surveys from March 1 – October 31. The County coordinates with coastal municipalities to adopt local regulations which limit the amount of artificial light on County beaches.
- 2005 [Segment III](#) Shore Protection Project began on 6.8 miles of Broward County's shoreline placing approximately 1.7 million cubic yards of sand on eroded beaches. The beach was widened, depending on previous width, up to 200 feet. The project was completed in February 2006.
- 2007 Broward County developed a [Manatee Protection Plan](#) to implement additional manatee protection measures throughout the County's waterways that are accessible to manatees.
- 2015 State Legislature adopts "Peril of Flood" legislation, Section 163.3178, Florida Statutes, requiring coastal jurisdictions to adopt policies in the Coastal Management Element that address reducing flood risk due to natural disasters and storm surge.
- 2016 Segment II [Beach Renourishment](#) Project recommenced to complete approximately 1 mile of beach, extending from Hugh Taylor Birch State Park to Terramar Street, in Fort Lauderdale.

Focus Areas

- Protect remaining wetlands and living marine resources
- Increase living shorelines and dunes
- Maintain estuarine environmental quality
- Protect and restore beaches

Legal Authority

Section 163.3177 (6)(g), Florida Statutes: *the coastal management element shall set forth the principles, guidelines, standards, and strategies that shall guide the local government's decisions and program implementation with respect to the following objectives:*

1. *Maintain, restore, and enhance the overall quality of the coastal zone environment, including, but not limited to, its amenities and aesthetic values.*
2. *Preserve the continued existence of viable populations of all species of wildlife and marine life.*
3. *Protect the orderly and balanced utilization and preservation, consistent with sound conservation principles, of all living and nonliving coastal zone resources.*
4. *Avoid irreversible and irretrievable loss of coastal zone resources.*
5. *Use ecological planning principles and assumptions in the determination of the suitability of permitted development.*
6. *Limit public expenditures that subsidize development in coastal high-hazard areas.*
7. *Protect human life against the effects of natural disasters.*
8. *Direct the orderly development, maintenance, and use of ports identified in Section 403.021(9) Florida Statutes, to facilitate deep water commercial navigation and other related activities.*
9. *Preserve historic and archaeological resources, which include the sensitive adaptive use of these resources.*
10. *At the option of the local government, develop an adaptation action area designation for those low-lying coastal zones that are experiencing coastal flooding due to extreme high tides and storm surge and are vulnerable to the impacts of rising sea level.*



The Coastal Management Element includes Goals, Objectives and Policies for the Focus Areas. Once the policies are adopted by the Board, government agencies, partners, and the community work together to advance and implement those policies. Below is an example of some of the benefits from implementing the beach re-nourishment policies.

Beach Renourishment

1,837,660
 **NEW SAND**
 cubic yards

PROPERTY
 **\$1.4B**
 VALUE

VISITORS
15 
 MILLION

\$548m
 annually
ECONOMY

TOURIST
 spend
\$422m

17,700
JOBS 
 full-time

Source: Beach Renourishment: <http://www.broward.org/BeachRenourishment/Pages/Default.aspx>

GOALS, OBJECTIVES & POLICIES

GOAL COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Conserve and enhance natural resources in Broward County's coastal area to maximize aesthetic, environmental, recreational, and economic values.

OBJECTIVE CMI

Protect and conserve remaining wetlands, living marine resources, coastal barriers, mangroves, seagrass, and wildlife habitat, as applicable, in the coastal area.

POLICY CM1.1 Broward County shall limit the specific and cumulative impacts of development or redevelopment upon wetlands, water quality, water quantity, wildlife habitat, living marine resources, and the beach dune system through the review of development applications.

POLICY CM1.2 In accordance with the [Broward Climate Action Plan](#), Broward County shall incorporate sea level rise and increasing storm surge impacts into hazard areas in coastal zones. Revised hazard area designations should better reflect the risks to communities associated with climate change and allow reevaluation of suitability for development in these areas.

POLICY CM1.3 Broward County should determine whether existing construction siting and design requirements for the Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL) Program and the Coastal Storm Area sufficiently addresses avoidance of "significant adverse impacts" due to climate change. Broward County shall continue to support [Chapter 161, Florida Statutes](#), Beach and Shore Preservation, which sets forth guidelines for the regulation of beach construction and reconstruction, beach and shore preservation, coastal zone protection, and coastal resources.

POLICY CM1.4 Broward County shall work to ensure that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Marine Turtle Conservation Guidelines are met for local government implementation of sea turtle conservation programs.

POLICY CM1.5 Broward County shall continue to maintain the artificial reef program in order to contribute to the enhancement and restoration of local fisheries and hard bottom communities.

POLICY CM1.6 Broward County shall ensure planning and permitting of new marine facilities is consistent with requirements of the Land Development Code and the Broward Manatee Protection Plan.

OBJECTIVE CM2

Protect and enhance dunes and coastal biological communities, review State-mandated construction standards which minimize the impacts of man-made structures on dunes, and restore altered dunes.

POLICY CM2.1 Broward County shall assist state agencies, as requested, in the enforcement and monitoring of compliance with the Department of Environmental Protection Coastal Construction Control Line regulations in accordance with Florida Statutes.

POLICY CM2.2 Broward County shall monitor development in the coastal areas to ensure proper compliance with State and local regulations.

POLICY CM2.3 Broward County shall continue to implement climate adaptation and planning programs to ensure development and redevelopment in the coastal area does not degrade or destroy existing natural beaches or berm areas, and should consider providing additional coastal buffer area between the developed areas and the shoreline.

POLICY CM2.4 Broward County shall continue to encourage local governments and property owners to protect existing beach vegetation, to revegetate beaches, where appropriate, and to encourage landscaping with native trees, shrubs, and ground covers in areas of historic beaches or berm communities.

POLICY CM2.5 Broward County shall continue to seek and evaluate alternative sources of sand for beach renourishment projects.

POLICY CM2.6 Broward County shall continue to work with its local municipalities to designate Adaptation Action Areas, per Florida Statutes [Chapter 163, Section 163.3164](#), using the Priority Planning Areas for Sea Level Rise Map as a basis for identifying areas especially vulnerable to sea level rise, in order to develop policies for adaptation and enhance the funding potential of infrastructure adaptation projects.

OBJECTIVE CM3

Maintain or improve estuarine environmental quality in Broward County.

POLICY CM3.1 Broward County shall provide for restoration or enhancement of disturbed or degraded natural resources, including estuaries, and programs to mitigate future disruptions or degradations through the Broward County Land Development Code.

POLICY CM3.2 Broward County shall coordinate efforts and existing resources protection plans, where possible, to protect estuaries within the jurisdiction of more than one local government.

POLICY CM3.3 Broward County shall monitor for potential development impacts on estuaries through the development review processes, including site plan and plat applications.

POLICY CM3.4 Broward County shall coordinate with existing resources protection plans of other agencies through participation in the development review process.

OBJECTIVE CM4

Protect and restore beaches to continue to provide storm protection, recreational opportunities, and habitat for marine life.

POLICY CM4.1 Broward County shall maintain Broward County's beaches to a width of approximately 75 feet in accordance with the Broward County Beach Nourishment Program.

POLICY CM4.2 Broward County shall renourish eroded beaches in accordance with the Broward County Beach Nourishment Program.

POLICY CM4.3 Broward County shall implement the sand bypass at the Port Everglades Navigational Inlet.

POLICY CM4.4 Broward County shall integrate beach dunes and other living shoreline features, as appropriate, as part of all beach renourishment projects to improve shoreline resilience and provide for the economic wellbeing of coastal infrastructure and operations.

POLICY CM4.5 Broward County shall conduct economic benefit studies, as needed, to support beach renourishment projects.



Beach renourishment is a means of shore protection designed to retain and rebuild natural systems, such as beaches, while reducing or preventing the consequences of beach erosion.

OBJECTIVE CM5

Preserve historic and archaeological resources within the coastal area, including the sensitive adaptive use of these resources.

POLICY CM5.1 Continue to implement policies and programs that protect and preserve Broward County's historic and archaeological resources, as per the Historic Preservation Component.

Goals, objectives, and policies regarding natural disaster planning issues can be found in the Natural Disaster Component and policies regarding the orderly development, maintenance, and use of the port can be found in the Deepwater Port Component.

OBJECTIVE CM6 – Peril of Flood

Promote reduction of flood risk resulting from high-tide events, storm surge, flash floods, stormwater runoff, and sea level rise in coastal areas, as well as areas connected to or influenced by coastal waters, through development and redevelopment principles and strategic planning.

POLICY CM6.1 Broward County shall plan and develop strategies to promote the reduction of flood risk in the Broward Municipal Services District and related to County infrastructure and facilities that are at risk from potential flooding from natural events and disasters. These may include updating the County’s development regulations based on projected impacts of sea level rise, increased rainfall frequency, and potential storm surge.

POLICY CM6.2 By 2020, Broward County shall amend the Comprehensive Plan to update policies to address “Peril of Flood” legislation, Section 163.3178, Florida Statutes.