

# HISTORIC PRESERVATION ELEMENT

## Element Overview

The past several decades have witnessed a growing recognition of the importance of historic resources in community life. With that increased awareness has come an evolutionary change in the definition of those resources. In the past, communities focused preservation efforts on singular buildings associated with prominent persons or great events. Today, groups of buildings, such as historic neighborhoods, have become the object of preservation activity because, like individual buildings, the districts and neighborhoods form the community's past and give it the "sense of place" that attracts residents.

Preservation must enlist the cooperation of the community to succeed. Historic preservation programs draw neighborhoods together and instill a socially constructive pride in the community. By stressing the positive aspects of a neighborhood, historic preservation becomes an agent for renewal. All participants, citizens and government officials alike, must understand the goals that are sought and the means the community must employ to achieve them. It is "sense of place," and awareness of a place's historical context that helps to distinguish neighborhoods, commercial districts, and other resources of value for protection. The process of historic preservation should encourage citizen participation and enable residents to help protect those aspects of the community that give the community a recognizable past and a sense of identity and individuality.

This Element focuses community effort toward preserving historic resources that are recognized for their economic, historical, or architectural value, and defines the role of government in that process.

## Element Goals, Objectives and Policies

### GOAL HP.1.0.0

Identify, document, and preserve the City's prehistoric and historic resources, which include architectural, archaeological, documentary, and scenic resources of cultural value. Instilling public awareness of such resources shall be a part of the City's effort.

#### OBJECTIVE HP.1.1.0

The City shall continue to implement the historic preservation program.

(SRPP 15.1.1, et. seq.)

#### POLICY HP.1.1.1

The Development Services Department shall be responsible for carrying out the City's historic preservation program. Staff shall continue to coordinate and provide support for the Historic Preservation Board.

#### POLICY HP.1.1.2

The City shall consider amendments to the Code of Ordinances related to historic preservation in order to comply with the requirements for obtaining Certified Local Government status.

**POLICY HP.1.1.3**

The City shall continue to investigate and develop appropriate financial and other incentives that will help stimulate reuse and preservation of historic resources. Incentives shall include, but are not limited to: Building Code relief, Land Development Code relief, tax relief, easements, lot coverage, transfer of development rights, and so forth, and adopt such as deemed appropriate.

**OBJECTIVE HP.1.2.0**

Historic Preservation measures shall be implemented through the Boca Raton City Code regulations.

(SRPP 15.1.1, et. seq.)

**POLICY HP.1.2.1**

Section 19-239, Code of Ordinances, which references Section 202 of the Florida Building Code, and specifically provides for certain code exemptions to protect historic buildings, will continue to be implemented.

**OBJECTIVE HP.1.3.0**

The City shall maintain and expand an inventory of buildings, structures, districts, sites, objects and places significant in local, state, and national history, architecture, and archaeology.

(SRPP 15.1.1)

**POLICY HP.1.3.1**

Funding for the completion and updating of the inventory of historic resources shall be sought from State and Federal grants and from foundations and private historic associations.

**POLICY HP.1.3.2**

The City will identify (where appropriate), examine, and protect all significant archaeological sites located on publicly owned land.

**POLICY HP.1.3.3**

The Historic Preservation Board will continue to encourage the nomination of eligible historic sites, buildings, and districts to the National Register of Historic Places.

**POLICY HP.1.3.4**

Development Services staff shall continue to provide assistance to the Historic Preservation Board in preparing designation reports for properties recommended to the City Council for designation as historic sites or historic districts.

**POLICY HP.1.3.5**

The Historic Preservation Board and Development Services Department shall provide notices to owners of historic properties regarding the status of their properties, eligibility for various programs, and the results and benefits of designation.

**POLICY HP.1.3.6**

The Development Services Department will continue to map the location of designated historic resources, update such maps, and ensure information regarding the designation is recorded in the public records of the Palm Beach County land records so that future property owners will be advised of the status of such properties.

**POLICY HP.1.3.7**

Through the auspices of the Historic Preservation Board and Development Services Department staff, the City shall continue to advise and assist residents in the application process for locally designating significant historic sites under local ordinance or to the National Register of Historic Places.

**OBJECTIVE HP.1.4.0**

The City, through the auspices of the Historic Preservation Board and designated department of municipal government, shall cooperate with the Boca Raton Historical Society in programs designed to enhance neighborhood and civic pride and instill greater awareness throughout the community of its historically and culturally significant sites.

(SRPP 15.1.1.1)

**POLICY HP.1.4.1**

The Historic Preservation Board shall continue to award plaques marking historically significant properties. In addition, the Board shall encourage the use of signage for all historically significant properties. The cooperation of local organizations shall continue to be sought in identifying such eligible properties and selecting those deserving of recognition.

**POLICY HP.1.4.2**

The Development Services Department shall continue to seek the cooperation of local organizations in publishing informational brochures and maps describing historic resources.

**POLICY HP.1.4.3**

The Historic Preservation Board shall continue to effectively use National Preservation Week, tours of historic areas, and other forms of publicity to enhance public awareness of historic resources in the community.

**OBJECTIVE HP.1.5.0**

The City shall continue to implement the Historic Preservation Ordinance as well as continue to promote awareness among residents of its advisability and requirements.

(SRPP 15.1.1)

**POLICY HP.1.5.1**

The City shall continue to implement the demolition-by-neglect provision of the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

**POLICY HP.1.5.2**

The Historic Preservation Board shall continue to follow the procedures mandated by the Historic Preservation Ordinance for designating historic resources, including the application process for certificates of appropriateness.

**POLICY HP.1.5.3**

Guidelines shall be implemented for use by the Historic Preservation Board in determining the appropriateness of requests for alteration to designated properties.

**OBJECTIVE HP.1.6.0**

The City shall promote the preservation and enhancement of historic resources and scenic streets, parks, and by-ways that are under its jurisdiction.

(SRPP 15.1.1)

**POLICY HP.1.6.1**

The Historic Preservation Board shall continue to research and establish guidelines for designating scenic streets, parks, and by-ways as historic sites subject to review authority.

**POLICY HP.1.6.2**

Should the guidelines called for in Policy HP.1.6.1 be approved and locations designated, then efforts shall be made to determine the historic setting of such scenic streets, parks, and byways, and to restore or maintain such settings where feasible. This should include encouraging and accepting private funding for replanting distinctive foliage and trees along public thoroughfares.

**POLICY HP.1.6.3**

Should any street furniture, street lighting, or other municipal appurtenances be accepted by the City from private contributors and placed with a regard for historical appropriateness, the advice of the Historic Preservation Board shall be sought.

**POLICY HP.1.6.4**

When place names are attributed by the City to streets or physical locations, consideration should be given for the use of well-known historic persons associated with Boca Raton's past or the original plat names.

**POLICY HP.1.6.5**

Any structure designated as historic by the Boca Raton City Council that undergoes "substantial improvement," as defined in the Building Code shall be required to comply with current fire safety codes to the maximum extent technically feasible, without degradation of the historic nature of the structure, per Section 19- 239, Code of Ordinances.