



Polling: Ideas to  
Keep or Delete

# HISTORIC PRESERVATION ELEMENT

The Historic Preservation Element is intended to protect and preserve the historic and cultural resources within the City of Fernandina Beach and to promote public awareness of the benefits of preserving such resources. This is the first time the City has had a Historic Preservation Element in the Comprehensive Plan. Consideration of the needs for future survey and study of cultural and historic resources in the community are a part of this element, as are policies that strengthen and support historic preservation practices that have been a part of Fernandina Beach since the 1970's. The Element goal is that the City shall ensure preservation and protection of historic, archaeological, paleontological, and cultural resources within Fernandina Beach.

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Keep or Keep with  
Changes

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION ELEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

1. Continue to conduct historic, cultural, and archaeological resource surveys as needed, and update and develop ordinances, guidelines, and databases that seek to protect and preserve cultural and historic resources;
2. Ensure protection of archaeological resources;
3. Establish programs and policies that incentivize historic and cultural resource preservation;
4. Emphasize the City's role in being a good steward and leader in protection of historic resources;
5. Encourage maintenance and preservation of historic structures;
6. Include historic and cultural resources in post-disaster redevelopment planning;
7. Encourage compatible design and planning within and surrounding historic districts;
8. Increase community awareness of historic and cultural resource preservation;
9. Protect and revitalize non-designated historic structures and neighborhoods;
10. Promote historic preservation as a form of sustainable development;
11. Maintain and protect Bosque Bello Cemetery; and
12. Increase intergovernmental coordination regarding historic and cultural resource preservation.

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Keep all objectives in Historic Preservation  
Element 1





## Goal 11: Historic Preservation

### Research/foundation

In addition to previous studies and additional ones that might be recommended, the following needs to be done:

- We need a study that identifies the **most important factors that create a sense of place** for Fernandina Beach. In other words, what natural and manmade characteristics make people love Fernandina Beach or return here? This will provide strong guidance on priorities we should have in maintaining our economic, social and environmental sustainability.
- In the research recommended in Goal 1, we recommended research on **canopy loss and needs**. This also relates to our old and established trees in the city, which are part of our cultural heritage. We need more complete data on our urban forest, both on public and private property. In addition to inventories and GIS data, we need to monitor and measure canopy loss and additions in order to have a firm foundation for planning.

### Implementation

Based on surveys, we know that our canopy and our ancient trees are among the factors that create a sense of place in Fernandina Beach. We need to provide more protection for our mature trees.

#### The following changes must be made immediately:

- Maintenance in city parks, rights of way and Bosque Bello **must be done by dedicated, trained staff**. This function may be handled by full-time staff or contracted out, but it is critical that we stop the abuse that is done to our canopy by mowers, weed-wackers, failure to water trees recently planted, etc.
- Both the trees and stones in **Bosque Bello** have been ruined by maintenance staff. This must be addressed by appropriate hiring and training.
- The mature trees in our parks and in rights of way are abused by machinery, vehicles, equipment of various kinds being repeatedly parked and rolled over tree roots.

**Compaction** is one of the main threats to trees.

- The city must restrict parking on tree roots. This can be done with the use of mulch, decorative fencing, etc. Violations must be fined.
- The city must educate individuals or organizations that utilize city parks so that they don't abuse our mature trees.
- Permits must be denied if the individuals or organization cannot guarantee that tree roots will not be subjected to compaction. This must be monitored by Enforcement and fined when it occurs.

#### Other important policies and objectives:



**amelia tree conservancy**

## **Goal 11: Historic Preservation**

- **Our oldest and most magnificent trees, even our Heritage Trees, are abused because their branches and roots extend beyond property lines.** Old trees and heritage trees must be protected from this behavior because they are primary to our sense of place and moderate the city temperature. These restrictions may limit building on a lot, but these are features of the lot when that lot is purchased, which means it was the choice of the buyer to acquire that situation. These restrictions will also pressure property owners to build around and within their environment.
  - Property owners must be restricted in cutting limbs larger than 5 inches in diameter on trees that extend over their property.
  - Property owners may not cut roots larger than 3 inches in diameter that cross property lines into their yards.
- Policy 11.07.07 states that the City shall **cooperate with local preservation organizations** in identifying existing and potential local historic preservation issues and in addressing solutions to those issues... Cooperation with organizations that conserve trees and other aspects of our environment should be added to these policies and specific goals should be set.
- We need to **expand and incentivize our heritage tree program.**