



# TOWN OF ORLEANS

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SELECT BOARD

TOWN  
MANAGER

## NATIVE PLANTINGS POLICY

### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to continue evolving our dedication to the environment, including the Pollinator-Friendly Resolution (January 19, 2022), by promoting a predominance of native plant species on Town-owned properties for the purpose of building resilient landscapes and increasing biodiversity in a changing climate. This policy is intended to support pollinator species and other native wildlife and help maintain and enhance the Town of Orleans' living green infrastructure.

### 2. POLICY GUIDELINES

#### 2.1. Plant Selection

Only native plant species as defined by regional and state guidelines shall be used.

Emphasis on species adapted to local soil and climate conditions is encouraged to reduce maintenance and resources.

#### 2.2. Site Planning and Maintenance

2.2.1. Incorporate native vegetation into landscaping plans for new projects and renovations.

2.2.2. Minimize lawn areas and prioritize low maintenance native ground cover, wildflower meadows, shrubs, and trees. When turf lawns are a necessary part of a site, consider turf species that are durable and drought tolerant and have low plant health care needs (such as weeding, feeding, and mowing).

2.2.3. Implement sustainable practices such as mulching and composting.

#### 2.3. Community Engagement and Education

The Town will strive to educate residents and staff about the benefits of native plants and encourage similar practices on private property. The Town will develop signage and materials to highlight native planting initiatives on town-owned properties.

### 3. APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all new vegetation installations on town-owned properties, including parks, conservation areas, municipal buildings, roadways, and other open spaces installed by a town employee or third-party vendor. Existing trees and plants shall remain unaffected by this policy.

### 4. EXEMPTIONS

4.1. Property that is leased or licensed for dedicated agricultural purposes.

4.2. Sports facilities that rely on non-native plants or turf for a specific function. (i.e., Bluegrass on the infield)

4.3. Annual plants that complete their life cycle in one growing season, those of which are not planted in the ground (raised beds, planters, baskets, etc.)

4.4. Vegetation planted for the purpose of food production.

### 5. QUESTIONS - Please direct questions to the Town Manager's Office

Adopted: March 12, 2025

Revised: May 21, 2025

