

MOWING AND LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE PRACTICES IN FLORIDA CITIES

Orlando

Similar to Jacksonville. The Public Works Department is responsible for mowing of all rights-of-way, storm drainage facilities and sewer lift stations, all of which is outsourced to private contractors. The Parks Department is responsible for mowing of all parks, most of which is outsourced to private contractors except for a few signature parks that are handled by city staff for quality purposes. The Code Enforcement Division contracts out for mowing and lot clearing for nuisance abatement purposes. They have different mowing contracts for different functions because the timing and level of service differs from function to function – parks are mowed more frequently than road rights-of-way; parks and public building landscaping get herbicide and fertilizer treatments that rights-of-way don't get, etc. The Code Enforcement contract has 2 prices – one cost for simple mowing and a second volume-based cost for picking up and disposing of tires, wood, concrete, furniture, garbage and everything else that gets dumped on untended lots.

Tallahassee

Similar to Jacksonville. The Public Works, Parks and Recreation and Code Enforcement departments are all responsible for mowing their own facilities, either with in-house personnel or by contract. Code Enforcement contracts out all its mowing. City-owned cemeteries are mowed by the city's Property Management Division (formerly in the Public Works Department, but moved several years ago to the Executive Department – it's responsible for managing the cemeteries and the city's parking garages and surface lots). Utility easements are maintained by the City's Electric Department. The Public Works Department's Drainage Operations Unit is responsible for stormwater facilities using a contractor for mowing and litter control around ponds and ditches, and city personnel for tree trimming and illegal dump removal. The Urban Beautification and Forestry Unit contracts for mowing along road rights-of-way, vacant city lots and along bike trails. City forces provide landscape and median maintenance and tree trimming. The Chief of the Public Works Operations Division strongly counseled against consolidating all mowing into one large citywide contract on the grounds that a bid protest over one aspect of the contract could bring all mowing to a halt until the protest is resolved. They believe it is better to have multiple contracts for that reason, and also because the mowing standards will be different for each type of area and therefore better to be bid separately.

Miami

The Parks and Recreation Department mows its facilities with in-house personnel.

Tampa

Similar to Jacksonville. The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for all mowing in parks and major street medians, using private contractors. The Neighborhood Enhancement Office in the Neighborhood Empowerment Department mows rights-of-way in neighborhoods and along the edges of interstate highways and maintains alleys using mostly private contractor forces. Code enforcement lot cleanup and maintenance of vacant city lots is done entirely by contractors. The Public Works Department maintains stormwater ponds and a few select street medians, also primarily with contract forces. Each of the departments has a few mowers on hand to be able to respond to problem spots or complaints that may arise due to excessive growth from a rainy season, a special clean-up campaign, etc.