

Did you know...

- The dunes in Delray Beach are naturally occurring ecosystems that develop from windblown sand.
- Dunes provide a defense against coastal storms and beach erosion.
- The system incorporates 120+ plant species, only half of which were installed in the dune's construction.
- Delray Beach's dunes are unique ecosystems with many species of endangered vegetation.
- Although dune plant species are hardy, tolerant to high salinity conditions, direct sun, extreme heat, infertile soil and a stingy rainfall, the dune plants cannot survive being trampled by vehicle or man. **(Note all the footprints in our dunes in the photo below)**



City of Delray Beach
Florida

DUNE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

PRESERVING TODAY
FOR A SAFER
TOMORROW

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DELRAY BEACH HISTORY

The City of Delray Beach has one of the most successful beach maintenance and preservation programs in the United States. Prior to 1973, beach erosion was so severe that portions of State Road A1A had collapsed into the Atlantic Ocean.

In 1973, the City embarked on a program, supplemented by Federal, State and County funding, to nourish and maintain the eroded beach. Since 1973, the beach has been successfully maintained by the City.

Planning for the next renourishment event and ongoing post-construction monitoring of the last renourishment project is currently underway.



BEACH DUNES ARE

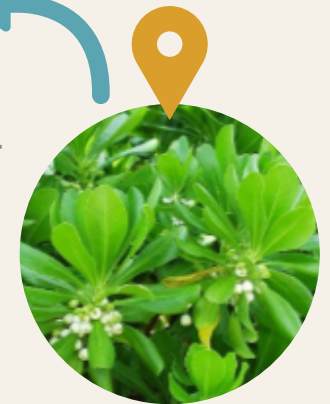
A natural barrier to the destructive forces of wind and waves and a strong line of defense against coastal storms and beach erosion. Dunes absorb the impact of storm surge and high waves, preventing or moderating flooding of inland areas and damage to structures. Dunes also supply sand to the eroding beach during storms and buffer windblown sand and salt spray.

PRESERVING NATIVE DUNE PLANTS

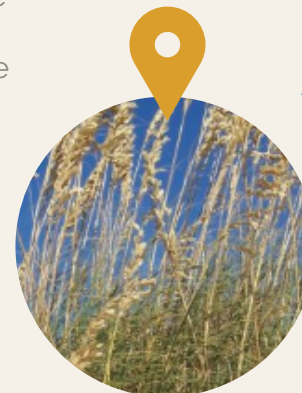
Native salt-resistant vegetation is essential to the beach and dune system, to accumulate and stabilize sand. Vegetation traps wind blown sand and builds up the dune—a process known as “accretion”. A dense natural thicket of sea oats and back-dune species reduces storm erosion and provides valuable natural habitat for many native plant and animal species. The dune landscape preserves the historic character of Delray Beach.

REMOVING EXOTIC PLANTS

The **Hawaiian half-flower** (*Scaevola frutescens*) is a common invasive exotic dune plant. The plant's shallow roots and fragile stems are easily destroyed in high winds or storms making it far less effective in dune stabilization than sea oats and native species.



Another invasive exotic dune plant is the **Australian pine**. Australian pines inhibit the growth of other plants by their shading effect and the acidic nature of their needs. They can create weak spots that makes the dune vulnerable to storm erosion.



AUSTRALIAN PINE

