

RECREATION
AND
OPEN SPACE
ELEMENT

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT
Goals, Objectives, and Policies

GOAL #1: TO PROVIDE A FULL RANGE OF RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES THAT ARE ACCESSIBLE, COMPATIBLE AND CONTINUOUS WITH THE OVERALL MULTI-PURPOSE OPEN SPACE SYSTEM. [9J-5.014(3)(a)]

OBJECTIVE #1: THE CITY SHALL ENSURE THAT THE PUBLIC HAS REASONABLE ACCESS TO ALL RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND FACILITIES. [9J-5.014(3)(c)(3)]

Policy #1: The City shall enhance and improve the accessibility of parks and recreational facilities while protecting their quality by:

Strategy #1: Ensuring that facilities are accessible by the handicapped (handicapped parking, ramps, etc.)

Strategy #2: Requiring that all City owned park and recreational facilities have direct access on a public street.

Strategy #3: Adopting a comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan to ensure the accessibility of all recreational opportunity.

Policy #2: The City shall maintain and/or improve access to waterways by:

Strategy #1: Encouraging the County to acquire beach and waterfront property through a 1% sales tax or any means approved by a public referendum.

Strategy #2: Maintaining its current recreational parks along the waterfront.

Strategy #3: Ensuring ample, functional boat ramps are adjacent to waterfront parks to meet the current and future demands of the public. The City shall take a proactive stance toward acquiring and developing additional boat ramp facilities within the City.

OBJECTIVE #2: THE CITY SHALL ENSURE THAT CURRENT AND FUTURE OPEN SPACE USES ARE COMPATIBLE AND CONTINUOUS WITH THE PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE AREA AND WITH THE ADJACENT LAND USES AND FEATURES OF THE AREA. [9J-5.014(3)(b)(4)]

Policy #1: The City shall design parks that are compatible to various segments of the population and the ecosystem.

Policy #2: The City shall design parks so one particular use does not destroy the value of the site for other intended purposes.

Policy #3: The City shall give consideration to the impacts on surrounding areas of new park sites (transportation, character of adjacent property, noise activity level, etc.).

GOAL #2: TO PROVIDE OPEN SPACE AS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT NEEDED FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE CITY'S CHARACTER AND QUALITY OF URBAN LIFE. THE CITY SHOULD ENHANCE PUBLIC USE ON PRIVATE PROPERTY WHEN APPLICABLE (i.e., SMALL PARKS, NATURE WALKS, PASSIVE RECREATION, ETC.) AND EXPLORE THE FUNDING ALTERNATIVES TO ACQUIRE SUCH TRACTS FOR OPEN SPACE THROUGH PRACTICAL MEANS. [9J-5.014(3)(a)]

GOAL #3: TO ACQUIRE AND PRESERVE WITHIN BUDGETARY LIMITS ANY AND ALL AREAS IDENTIFIED WITHIN THIS PLAN TO BE SPECIAL AND/OR ENDANGERED ECOSYSTEMS. [9J-5.014(3)(a)]

OBJECTIVE #1: TO PRESERVE AREAS WITH OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION POTENTIAL FOR THE CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS OF THE CITY.

Policy #1: The purchase of land for parks, recreation, conservation and open space shall be based upon comprehensive and coordinated short and long term plans. The following criteria shall apply in the implementation of this policy:

Strategy #1: The City shall develop a short term and long term land acquisition plan for park, recreation, conservation and open space areas.

Strategy #2: Priorities will be assigned to acquire recreational land/facilities in areas identified as being deficient.

Strategy #3: Potential recreational areas most vulnerable to immediate development shall be identified and given 'highest' priority for acquisition.

Strategy #4: The City shall attempt to acquire or reserve future park sites and recreational areas in advance of new development to optimize locational advantages and ensure preservation for public use at the least tax payers cost.

Strategy #5: The City shall attempt to acquire or reserve open space areas which would conserve or preserve certain natural, geologic, or historic resource elements, maintain natural processes, restore or enhance degraded natural areas, or protect environmentally sensitive areas.

Policy #2: The City shall establish selection criteria in order to set priorities for acquisition/preservation of recreation and conservation lands. This criteria shall contain, as a minimum, the following:

1. Maximum Utility - a measure of the number of recreational activities for which natural features of the site are suitable, the more possible uses of the site, the greater its suitability for park purposes.
2. Aesthetic Quality - a measure of amenity values due to the existence of steep slope, forests, water, historic association, or other identified feature.
3. Cost - a measure of land value; the less expensive the land, the greater its suitability for acquisition as a park considering its functional utility.
4. Supply and Demand - measured as a ratio between the supply of available parks and the measure of demand for recreation taken from a survey and estimated for each of a number of subareas of the city; areas of high demand relative to supply are given higher priority.

5. Other Facilities - a measure as proximity to major existing City, County, State or Federal recreation facilities; the higher the proximity to such existing facilities, the lower the priority for a City park at the location.
6. Accessibility - measured as proximity to people and transportation facilities; the better the accessibility, the higher the suitability of a site for a City park.
7. Threat of loss - measured by potential for urban development; the greater the development pressure, the higher the priority to acquire the site for parkland/open space.

Policy #3: The City shall study the feasibility of an existing city owner parcel's use for park and open space before attempting to sell currently owned parcels. [9J-5.014(3)(c)(2)]

Policy #4: Open spaces, defined as any land, air, or water surface that affords unobstructed physical movement and is relatively free of defacing man-made structural mass, shall be provided within urbanized areas for the aesthetic, health, environmental and economic benefits. Open Space shall be provided through the utilization of the following mechanisms:

Strategy #1: Acquisition of conservation easements and the accompanying identification of the conservation areas by posting.

Strategy #2: Each park shall have an identification located on-site.

Policy #5: The City shall use a level of service standard of 2.41 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents within the City limits in reviewing the impacts of new development and redevelopment upon public facility provision.

OBJECTIVE #2: THE CITY SHALL ENCOURAGE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN ALL RECREATIONAL PLANNING ACTIVITIES IN ORDER TO ASSESS PERCEIVED NEEDS.

Policy #1: Improve the level of public knowledge and understanding of available opportunities for participation in recreation activities. The following standards shall apply, at a minimum, in the implementation of this policy:

Strategy #1: The City shall prepare and distribute a City park map denoting various park and recreational areas.

Strategy #2: Each park shall have an identification sign located on-site.

Policy #2: The City shall establish a Parks and Recreation advisory committee (composed of residents of the city appointed by Council) to assess sites and determine whether each site meets the above criteria delineated in Policy #2 under Objective #1.

Policy #3: The City shall conduct periodic opinion surveys of the residents of Titusville in regard to the adequacy of the provision of recreational facilities and opportunities within the City. Each survey shall be conducted as follows:

Strategy #1: The survey shall be developed by the Advisory Committee in conjunction with staff.

Strategy #2: The results of said survey shall be used to gather input from the citizens to be utilized by the advisory committee and staff to plan for present and future park and recreational needs.

OBJECTIVE #3: THE CITY SHALL STUDY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT.

Policy #1: The City shall study the establishment of its own Parks and Recreation Department to ensure a quality level of service that meets the needs of its people.

OBJECTIVE #4: THE CITY SHALL ENCOURAGE THE PROVISION OF OPEN SPACE BY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

Policy #1: The City shall examine all possible private and public resources in order to enhance its current and future recreation/open space areas including:

- land acquisition
- development of areas and facilities
- technical and advisory services
- consumer education
- research and planning

Policy #2: The City shall encourage the development of recreational/open space areas on private property by:

Strategy #1: Allowing the developer credit on the required park impact fee for land and capital facilities established for recreational purposes (i.e., credit for land and improvements).

Strategy #2: Education of development/real estate interests as to the benefits of providing these amenities to its prospective tenants.

Strategy #3: The City shall cooperate with private developers who are attempting to provide recreational opportunity not available within the City in order to encourage its provision and to open the facility to the general public.

OBJECTIVE #5: THE CITY SHALL PARTICIPATE IN THE COORDINATION BETWEEN ALL INVOLVED GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH RESPECT TO PROVIDING OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES.

Policy #1: Recreational programs and recreational facility development shall be effectively coordinated to provide the most cost effective services to the public. The following strategies shall apply in the implementation of this policy:

Strategy #1: The City shall periodically review interlocal agreements that have been established for the provision of parks and recreational facilities and programs.

Strategy #2: The City shall ensure that local planning of park and recreational facilities is coordinated with the Brevard County School Board and Brevard County.

Strategy #3: The City shall encourage the development of an "ALL CHILDRENS PLAYGROUND" (designed for both normal and handicapped children).

Strategy #4: The City shall continue to support the user fee charged for rental of the pavilion at Sandpoint Park for clean-up purposes.

OBJECTIVE #6: THE CITY SHALL ENSURE WELL-MANAGED RECREATIONAL/OPEN SPACE AREAS.

Policy #1: The City shall select and maintain facility equipment and site amenities that are durable and of good quality.

Strategy #1: Periodic inventories and inspections shall be conducted to evaluate the condition of facilities.

Strategy #2: New recreation facilities shall be designed to meet the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) specifications.

Policy #2: The City shall select and maintain play equipment for children that is safe and contributes to their physical and mental development.

Strategy #1: Periodic inventories and inspections shall be conducted for evaluation of program effectiveness.

Policy #3: The City shall locate its recreation areas in places that will get maximum uses (i.e., distribute according to density and identifiable neighborhood needs).

Policy #4: The City shall associate or separate activities appropriately in order to sustain minimal conflicts with various groups using the recreational facility.