

**EVALUATION AND APPRAISAL REPORT
OF THE
CITY OF FELLSMERE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
CHAPTER THREE – SUCCESSES & SHORTCOMINGS OF THE
RECREATION ELEMENT**

RECREATION

The Recreation Element (REC) contains seven objectives under one goal statement. The objectives address five of the major issues facing the community: Maintaining the Historic Character of the City, Complete Streets, Economic Development, Codes to Meet Vision, and Capitalize on Conservation Areas. A review of each objective is provided below including an assessment as to whether the plan objectives as they relate to major issues have been achieved. In addition, the review of each objective will identify, as appropriate, any unforeseen or unanticipated changes in circumstances that have occurred resulting in problems or opportunities with respect to the major issues and the social, economic, and environmental impacts of the issue.

OBJECTIVE REC A-1: SYSTEM OF PARKS AND RECREATION. *The City shall on an annual basis and prior to adoption of the annual capital budget, review the need for new recreation sites and facilities. The analysis shall be predicated on data, standards, and policies contained in the Comprehensive Plan. The analysis shall be directed toward maintaining a system of recreational sites and facilities that is responsive to user needs.*

Has the plan objective, as it relates to the major issues, been achieved?

Objective A-1 does not relate to the major issues of the community. The objective has been achieved as there are adequate parks at this time. Through the requirements of the Comprehensive Plan, the City feels that this objective will be maintained and that future facilities will be planned or programmed through a combination of public and private initiatives.

Has there been any unforeseen or unanticipated changes resulting in problems or opportunities?

The annexation of vast amounts of vacant lands will allow the City to expand its recreational opportunities. The City boundary also now touches major conservation areas under the ownership of the State or SJRWMD further expanding opportunities. Although, not addressed in this objective, provision of recreation amenities in the annexed areas and relating to the conservation tracts will help to achieve the City's desire to capitalize on the conservation lands.

Required Actions for Objective REC A-1:

- None

OBJECTIVE REC A-2: PROTECT OPEN SPACE SYSTEMS. *The City shall maintain land development regulations that include performance criteria designed to protect lands designated as open space from incompatible land uses, and such designated lands shall remain functionally intact.*

Has the plan objective, as it relates to the major issues, been achieved?

Achievement of Objective A-2 will help to maintain the historic character of Fellsmere and ensure codes are developed to meet the City's vision. Although the City is a rural town, it has always had a feeling of openness due to its surrounding agricultural lands and ample vacant land within the City limits and strategically located open spaces. The objective has certainly been achieved.

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Has there been any unforeseen or unanticipated changes resulting in problems or opportunities

The annexation of vast tracts of lands has reinforced the need for the City set forth clear open space standards within these areas. To this end, the City has developed guidance on the design and location of open space as part of the Villages of Fellsmere amendment to ensure such spaces serve to anchor communities and lay the groundwork for sustainable urban centers.

Required Actions for Objective REC A-2:

- None.

OBJECTIVE REC A-3: ACCESS FACILITIES. *The City shall assure that all public parks and recreational facilities under the City's control have operational automobile, bicycle, and pedestrian access facilities.*

Has the plan objective, as it relates to the major issues, been achieved?

Achievement of Objective A-3 will help to develop complete streets and capitalize on conservation areas. Retrofit of existing parks is an ongoing process of the City. Access to existing parks meeting the objective is also ongoing primarily through the street paving program of the City. All new parks meet the objective. Achievement of this objective is ongoing.

Has there been any unforeseen or unanticipated changes resulting in problems or opportunities?

None.

Required Actions for Objective REC A-3:

- None.

OBJECTIVE REC A-4: COORDINATION WITH PUBLIC AGENCIES TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED PROVISION OF RECREATION IN FELLSMERE. *The City shall coordinate with public agencies to ensure that existing recreation opportunities continue and new areas become available in the future.*

Has the plan objective, as it relates to the major issues, been achieved?

Achievement of Objective A-4 will help to capitalize on conservation areas and obtain greater economic development. Although this objective is worded to be a continuing process, the City has had great success during the evaluation period in placing in public ownership or otherwise requiring the contribution toward major regional greenway components. The regional greenway system will open up vast opportunities to capitalize on the conservation areas and hopefully lead to recreation and ecotourism based economic development.

Has there been any unforeseen or unanticipated changes resulting in problems or opportunities?

Coordination with Indian River County, other municipalities within the County, various State agencies and non-profits have resulted in a number of success related enhancing recreational opportunities within the City. During the evaluation period, the City has purchased an 80-acre conservation tract with the assistance of the FDEP. The County has developed a North County Greenways Plan setting forth a vision of interconnected regional trails and has begun to

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construct key links within the system. Through the annexation of various lands, the City has also negotiated the dedication of major stretches of the regional greenways.

Required Actions for Objective REC A-4:

- None.

OBJECTIVE REC A-5: PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COORDINATION IN PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS. *During its annual review of recreation site and facility needs, the City shall coordinate recreation improvements with appropriate levels of government and the private sector in order to promote recreational opportunities, such as environmental education activities, public acquisition programs, park expansion, or expansion of public accessibility to recreation/conservation/natural lands in a cost effective manner.*

Has the plan objective, as it relates to the major issues, been achieved?

Objective A-5 is supported by a range of policies covering numerous issues. The objective also covers similar topics as Objective REC A-1. The underlying policies address one of the major issues facing the community: Complete Streets. The policies as written imply an ongoing affair. As these tasks are continually being implemented, the objective can be considered to be achieved.

Has there been any unforeseen or unanticipated changes resulting in problems or opportunities?

None.

Required Actions for Objective REC A-5:

- None.

Objective REC A-6: Provide More Access to Public Water Bodies. *The City shall pursue providing additional public access points and recreational boat/canoe launching facilities with appropriate jurisdictions, along the St. Johns River, Blue Cypress Lake, Stick Marsh, and C-54 canal, or others as feasible and appropriate.*

Has the plan objective, as it relates to the major issues, been achieved?

Objective A-6 has not been implemented to date. Achievement of this objective will help the City to capitalize on its conservation areas while stimulating economic development. The objectives and underlying policies are to some degree on hold pending completion of the construction of the new Fellsmere Water Management Area. In the interim, the City and major property owner adjacent to the Fellsmere Water Management Area have been coordinating with the SJRWMD to ensure future access to this new waterway. Achievement of this objective will allow the City to capitalize on the conservation areas and provide for economic development.

Has there been any unforeseen or unanticipated changes resulting in problems or opportunities?

The Fellsmere Farms annexed lands will have over five miles of shoreline with water management areas providing high quality recreational amenities to the City. The City and major property owner adjacent to the Fellsmere Water Management Area have been coordinating with the SJRWMD to ensure future access to this new waterway. The Conceptual Plan being adopted for the Villages of Fellsmere as part of the SSA for DCA 09-01 reflects numerous water access points along the Fellsmere Water Management Area.

**EVALUATION AND APPRAISAL REPORT
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CHAPTER THREE – SUCCESSES & SHORTCOMINGS OF THE
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Required Actions for Objective REC A-6:

- None.

Objective REC A.7: Adoption of Master Greenway Plan Map. *The County and Cities have been working on a Master Greenways map for over a year. The data and analysis justifies the need to adopt a Conceptual Greenways/Trails Map for the City. The Map, to be adopted by Resolution, shall identify and include existing and proposed recreation trail systems (such as the Trans-Florida Railroad, the historic railroad in the City) or conservation areas to link open space and recreation areas. Land acquisition efforts will focus on new linkages, enhancing existing Greenways and recreation trail systems, and the acquisition of acreage for destination areas and trailheads.*

Has the plan objective, as it relates to the major issues, been achieved?

Objective A-7 is in the process of being implemented. Achievement of this objective will help the City to capitalize on its conservation areas while stimulating economic development. The City and major property owners of the Trans-Florida Railroad have been coordinating to ensure future access for a trail system.

Has there been any unforeseen or unanticipated changes resulting in problems or opportunities?

The annexed lands contain considerable portions of the Trans-Florida Railroad. Through annexation agreements and as part of future development orders, the City will obtain access to these rights-of-way for development of a regional greenway. In some cases, construction and maintenance of the greenway will remain a responsibility of the developer.

Required Actions for Objective REC A-7:

- None.