

**EVALUATION AND APPRAISAL REPORT
OF THE
CITY OF FELLSMERE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
APPENDIX D – RECREATION ELEMENT**

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.

Policies	Current 2009 Conditions	Comments										
<p>Policy REC A-1.1: Level of Service Standards for Parks and Recreation Facilities. The park development plans shall be programmed and scheduled in the capital improvement program and budget. System improvements, including the characteristics of sites and facilities, shall be based on the level of service standard of 2.0 acres per 1,000 people. The level of service standards for recreation facilities are as follows:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">FACILITY</th> <th style="text-align: center;">MEDIAN STANDARD</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Equipped Play Areas</td> <td>1 Area (1000 sf) per 500 pop.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Softball/Baseball Diamond</td> <td>1 Diamond per 1000 pop.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Basketball Courts</td> <td>1 Court per 500 pop.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Football/Soccer Field</td> <td>1 Field per 1000 pop.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	FACILITY	MEDIAN STANDARD	Equipped Play Areas	1 Area (1000 sf) per 500 pop.	Softball/Baseball Diamond	1 Diamond per 1000 pop.	Basketball Courts	1 Court per 500 pop.	Football/Soccer Field	1 Field per 1000 pop.	<p>The required level of service has been maintained. The City feels this LOS is adequate.</p>	<p>None.</p>
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<p>Policy REC A-1.2: Monitor and Update Recreation Demand and Supply Analysis. The City shall update on or before the time of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report the recreation land and facility demand/supply analysis contained in the Comprehensive Plan 2020: Data Inventory and Analysis.</p>	<p>This policy is being implemented with this review.</p>	<p>Revise to reflect new planning horizon.</p>										
<p>Policy REC A-1.3: Mandatory Land Dedication or Fees in Lieu Thereof. The City shall continue land development regulations that require mandatory dedication of land for parks and recreation or fees in lieu thereof. These regulations are intended to assure that new development provides necessary recreation lands, facilities, and/or fees in lieu thereof in order to accommodate the demands generated by new development.</p>	<p>Code provisions are in place.</p>	<p>None.</p>										
<p>Policy REC A-1.4: Future Recreation Capital Improvements. If the City identifies recreation improvements for which public funds are needed, as opposed to developer financed improvements, the City shall schedule and incorporate such projects costing \$15,000.00 or more in the Capital Improvements Element.</p>	<p>The City implements this policy through the annual CIE update.</p>	<p>None.</p>										

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Policy REC A-1.5: Maintenance of Existing Recreation Land and Facilities. The City shall ensure that recreation facilities are well managed, well maintained, and that quality recreation programs are available to all residents by using proper management and funding techniques.	The City implements this policy through the annual CIE update and ongoing management programs through the Public Works Division.	None.
Policy REC A-1.6: Utilize Creative Design Concepts in Park Development. All plans for new park development or redevelopment of existing parks shall incorporate creative design and landscape concepts. Active and passive recreation areas shall be planned in a manner compatible with unique natural features or resources of the site. Park development plans shall be designed to preserve environmentally sensitive features of the site. The design shall provide a circulation system to minimize conflict between pedestrians and vehicles. Adequate landscape and screening shall be integrated into park development plans to minimize land use conflicts, protect stability of established residential areas, and enhance community appearance.	The City follows the guidance contained in this policy to the extent feasible.	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.

Policies	Current 2009 Conditions	Comments
Policy REC A-2.1: Implementing Land Development Code. In addition to the mandatory park and recreation land and facilities regulation, the City shall enforce land development regulations that include specific open space definitions and standards addressing protection of open space, natural vegetation, landscape, and signage. Regulations shall include stipulations governing the provision and use of open space for buffering; protection of natural corridors, including drainage ways, as well as other commonly accepted uses.	Code provisions are in place.	None.
Policy REC A-2.2: Evaluate Lands for Open Space Potential. As part of the scheduled stormwater management plan (see Public Facilities Element), the City shall study the feasibility of using drainage easements, unused road or railroad easements or rights-of-way as public passive recreation and open space.	This policy has not been implemented.	None.

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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.

Policies	Current 2009 Conditions	Comments
Policy REC A-3.1: Right-of-Way Improvements. The City has established vehicle access facilities serving all public and private recreational sites. As future roadway improvements are analyzed, the City shall provide, where feasible, for non-motorized transportation needs using FDOT design standards for bicycle facilities.	This policy is implemented as part of the continuing planning process and intergovernmental coordination activities.	Revise to accept alternative design standards on local roads.
Policy REC A-3.2: Design of Access Facilities. Public parks and facilities shall be designed and constructed with access ways that are compatible with the character and quality of on-site natural resources.		None.
Policy REC A-3.3: Bicycle/Pedestrian Access ways. All parks shall be provided with bicycle and pedestrian access ways and bicycle parking facilities where land is available.	This policy is continuing to be implemented on existing parks as funds allow.	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.

Policies	Current 2009 Conditions	Comments
Policy REC A-4.1: Coordination with the State Internal Improvement Trust Fund. The City shall continue to work with the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, FDEP, Florida Communities Trust, and other granting agencies to assure proper management and use of state funded recreational sites and resources.	This policy is implemented as part of the continuing planning process and intergovernmental coordination activities.	None.
Policy REC A-4.2: Coordination with Recreation Associations. The City of Fellsmere shall strive to continue existing and foster new relationships with Recreation Associations or other community organizations for the provision of recreation activities.	This City seeks opportunities as they arise.	None.

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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.

Policies	Current 2009 Conditions	Comments
Policy REC A-5.1: Joint School-Park Concept. The City shall promote the implementation of the joint school-park concept by working with the Indian River County School Board. The City shall attempt to maximize joint use of the land resources at Fellsmere Elementary School or other local schools serving Fellsmere students for both school and recreational activities.	This policy is implemented as part of the continuing planning process and intergovernmental coordination activities.	None.
Policy REC A-5.2: Coordinate with the Private Sector. The land development code shall continue provisions requiring new residential development to provide recreation land and facilities for their residents, or dedicate fees to the City in lieu of such facilities or land.	Code provisions are in place.	None.
Policy REC A-5.3: Review Plans and Policies/Fiscal Management. The City shall review and amend as necessary existing plans and policies based on continuing analysis of problems and issues related to parks, recreation, and open space. Identified future land and capital improvements shall be scheduled and programmed in the capital improvement program and budget.	This policy is implemented as part of the continuing planning process and intergovernmental coordination activities.	None.
Policy REC A-5.4: Utilize Grant Writers and Other Appropriate Fiscal Advisors. The City shall pursue the use of grants and outside funding sources to provide for recreational or other public facility and service needs.	The City seeks grant funds as opportunities arise.	None.
Policy REC A-5.5: Future Bike/Pedestrian Trails. The City shall coordinate with appropriate agencies to consider a bike/pedestrian trail system throughout the City within open space, parks, and street corridors.	This policy is implemented as part of the continuing planning process and intergovernmental coordination activities.	None.
Policy REC A-5.6: Inform Citizens of Existing Recreation Opportunities and Issues. The City shall coordinate with the local press in order to advise local residents of activities and special events taking place at City parks. Outreach efforts shall target residents such as the handicapped or economically disadvantaged who do not regularly participate in recreation programs, as well as more traditional user groups.	The City utilizes the press as needed. The City is continually trying to identify means to reach handicap and economically disadvantaged residents.	None.
Policy REC A-5.7: Cooperative Programs. The City shall use park and recreation resources as an instrument for environmental education and other educational programs. This effort shall facilitate the use of local parks as year round community education and recreation facilities for all age groups.	The City makes available appropriate park lands for wider community use and public/private partnerships for the provision of varying uses or services.	None.

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Policies	Current 2009 Conditions	Comments
Policy REC A-5.8: Improve Coordination with Other Human Service Planning Efforts. The City shall ensure realistic plans and responsive action to meet identified needs in a cost-effective and fiscally equitable manner by encouraging the use of local park and recreation resources for a wider range of human delivery services (i.e., health information, consumer protection, nutrition, bookmobiles, etc.).	The City makes available appropriate park lands for wider community use and public/private partnerships for the provision of varying uses or services.	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.

Policies	Current 2009 Conditions	Comments
Policy REC A.6.1 Provide Recreational Amenities at Public Water Bodies Access Sites. The City shall ensure public access to recreation sites and water bodies through the provision of parking, boat ramps, canoe launches, trailheads with recreational boating, fuel, fishing piers, and bike and pedestrian ways through acquisition and other land use controls.	The City has no recreational lakes at this time. The City continually seeks funding sources to implement access and improvements to recreational facilities.	None.

Objective REC A.7 Adoption of Master Greenway Plan Map. The Greenways/Trails Map, adopted by Resolution 09-G, identifies and includes 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 linkages, enhancing existing Greenways and recreation trail systems, and the acquisition of acreage for destination areas and trailheads.

Policies	Current 2009 Conditions	Comments
Policy REC A.7.1 Coordinate Regional Rail to Trails along the historic Fellsmere Rail Road ROW. The City in coordination with the St. John's River Water Management District and Florida DEP's Office of Greenway and Trails (OGT) shall identify and acquire available abandoned railroad right-of-ways with recreational trails potential to provide linkages or access to new or existing public parks, recreation areas, recreational trails, natural waterways, historic sites or resources.	The City will continue to pursue grants to implement this policy as well as extractions from developments that may provide such facilities.	None.