

**RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND IMPLEMENTING POLICIES.**

This section stipulates goals, objectives, and implementing policies for the Recreation and Open Space Element pursuant to ¶163.3177(6)(e), F.S., and §9J-5.014(3), F.A.C.

**GOAL REC A: PROVIDE ADEQUATE RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE. INSURE PROVISION OF AN ADEQUATE COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE SITES WHICH MEET THE NEEDS OF EXISTING AND PROJECTED USER GROUPS.**

**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.

**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:

<b>FACILITY</b>	<b>MEDIAN STANDARD</b>
Tennis Courts	1 Court per 2,000 pop.
Equipped Play Areas	1 Area per 2,000 pop.
Softball/Baseball Diamond	1 Diamond per 1,500 pop.
Basketball Courts	1 Court per 1,500 pop.
Football/Soccer Field	1 Field per 4,000 pop.
Golf Course	1 9-hole per 50,000 pop.

**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.

**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.

**Policy REC A-1.4: Future Recreation Capital Improvements.** If in the future 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.

**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.

**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.

**Policy REC A-1.7: Encourage Multi-Purpose Use of Recreation Facilities.** The City shall design all future recreation facilities for multi-purpose use where appropriate.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.



**Adoption Draft (4-08 Transmittal) August, 2008 CC meeting**

**CITY OF FELLSMERE**

**CHAPTER 6: RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT**

**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.

**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. Out reach 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.

**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.

**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.).

**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.

**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

**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.

**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.



