

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

RECREATION & OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

Policy Document

CHAPTER 6: RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

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INVENTORY OF MAPS

FIGURE 6 – 1 RECREATION FACILITIES - EXISTING (2009) AND PLANNED (2025)

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Recreation and Open Space Element¹ is to present a comprehensive recreation and open space plan for the City of Port Orange. This Element presents what has been determined to be the most appropriate strategies that the City should follow to achieve the best use for land and resources in developing a comprehensive recreation and open space system.

Parks and natural open space areas promote physical activity and social interaction. Areas with natural vegetation also have direct effects on physical and mental health. One review of studies showed that access to places for physical activity combined with outreach and education can produce a 48% increase in the frequency of physical activity². Exposure to natural open space has additional benefits to health. More generally, living in proximity to open space is associated with reduced self-reported health symptoms, better self-rated health, and higher scores on general health questionnaires³. Trees and open space also improve the physical environment by removing air pollution from the air and mitigating the urban heat island effect produced by concrete and glass.

It is the goal of the Port Orange Parks and Recreation Program to ensure the quality of life for our citizens through recreation and open space, in a manner that meets the changing needs of our community. This is achieved by providing our citizen's multiple sports leagues, enrichment classes, community events, educational opportunities, community parks and playgrounds, extreme sport facilities, a multitude of recreational experiences for area youths and adults, and open space areas as an essential component of a balanced, well designed community. In addition, City residents frequently mention that part of the benefit of living in Port Orange is having convenient access to other recreational amenities such as the City's golf course and other area golf courses, County facilities and natural resources such as the beaches, the Daytona International Speedway, Kennedy Space Center, Walt Disney World and other nearby theme parks.

This Element will be implemented by maintaining and expanding the recreation and open space system to meet future needs and improve the quality of life for the residents of the City. Several important trends need to be considered in planning for present and future recreation needs, such as the City's population growth and changing age distribution. However, maintaining and expanding the City's existing recreation and open space system will be a continuing challenge due to rising costs and limitations on staffing and equipment. Nonetheless, the degree to which the City maintains the quality of its recreation facilities and open spaces will in large part determine the desirability of the City as a place to live.

¹ This Element contains the documentation required by Section 163.3177(6)(e), Florida Statutes (F.S.) for the contents of the Recreation and Open Space Element.

² Kahn EB. The effectiveness of interventions to increase physical activity. *Am J Prev Med.* 2002;22(4):73-107.

³ Vries S, de Verheij RA, Groenewegen PP, Spreeuwenberg P. Natural environments - healthy environments? An exploratory analysis of the relationship between green space and health. *Environment and Planning A.* 2003;35(10):1717-1731.

THE PLAN FOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Over the years, the City has been successful in maintaining a schedule for the purchase and development of parks and recreation areas as set forth in the Comprehensive Plan. The City's policy regarding the multiple use of recreation and open space areas wherever possible will be maintained. The combination of recreation impact fees, user fees, and available grant monies will continue to be the major source of funding for these projects. It is anticipated that private development will continue to supply recreational amenities in order to compete in the real estate market. Based on current and future funding projections, it is not likely that the City will be constructing new neighborhood parks; thus, it will be increasingly more important that common open space provided in new neighborhoods be designed to be usable open space for the use and enjoyment of the residents of the development within which it is located. Recreation facilities should also be incorporated into commercial development (e.g. central park at the Pavilion at Port Orange).

As previously stated, there is strong desire by residents for additional trail facilities within the City. Although an LOS standard specifically for trails has not yet been developed by the City, policies have been added to the Comprehensive Plan to provide for the development of a multi-use trail system as part of the City's mobility strategies that will provide connections and linkages to neighborhoods, and recreation and open space facilities. In addition to the Cross-town Trail identified in the table below, additional improvements needed for a City-wide multi-use trail system are identified in the Transportation Element.

Based on the analysis of need, current and anticipated development trends, community priorities, and the City's goals and objectives, the following outline has been prepared detailing new park acquisition and development that should be implemented over the planning horizon, as funding is available. A general location map showing existing and future recreation facilities is shown in Figure 6-1.

FACILITY	TARGETED AGE GROUP
Specialized Facilities	
<i>Allen Green Center</i> – Renovate the existing building to accommodate a small community theater, offices, and meeting rooms.	Primary: all Secondary: adults
<i>Central Wellfield Property</i> – Develop trails for mountain bike, dirt bikes, and 4-wheelers, and a comfort station (i.e. a small pavilion with public restrooms).	Primary: teens and adults Secondary: all
<i>Cross-town Trail</i> – Develop a 12-foot wide paved bicycle and pedestrian trail within the FPL transmission corridor easement from Clyde Morris Boulevard to Jackson Street, crossing Nova Road.	all
<i>Halifax Drive Linear Park</i> – Turn Riverside Drive/Halifax Drive into a one-way street from Meeker Place to Commonwealth Boulevard, and develop a linear park on the existing northbound land.	all

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<i>Riverwalk Park</i> - Develop a continuous dynamic linear park that will provide public access to the waterfront with a variety of program areas that have both natural and civic qualities and could include a public marina.	all
<i>Russell Property</i> – Develop camping cabins, a ropes course, and a banquet and meeting facility.	Primary: adults and teens Secondary: all
Community Parks	
<i>Airport Road Community Center</i> – Develop a community center that includes a gymnasium, activity room, after school play rooms, and offices.	Primary: school-aged children Secondary: all
<i>Coraci Sports Complex</i> – Complete the sports complex with the addition of a concession stand, restrooms, two additional ball fields, a football field, and a community center.	Primary: school-aged children Secondary: all
<i>Woodhaven Park</i> – Develop a community park that includes playfields, outdoor courts, and picnic pavilions.	Primary: school-aged children Secondary: all

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

GOAL: PROVISION OF RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

ENSURE THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE RECREATION AREAS AND OPEN SPACE TO SATISFY THE NEEDS OF ALL PORT ORANGE CITIZENS, INCLUDING THE ELDERLY, VERY YOUNG, HANDICAPPED, AND VISITING POPULATION, IN AN EFFICIENT AND COST EFFECTIVE MANNER.

Objective 1: Continue the development of a park system that provides a broad spectrum of active and passive recreation facilities.

Policy 1.1: Continue to maintain the following adopted minimum level-of-service recreation facilities standards:

Parkland	7 acres / 1,000 persons
Ball Field	1 field / 5,000 persons
Basketball Court	1 court / 4,000 persons
Multipurpose Field	1 field / 3,500 persons
Tennis Court	1 court / 4,000 persons
Neighborhood Center	1 facility / 15,000 persons

Policy 1.2: Broaden the types of facilities provided to the public in order to accommodate differing preferences and age groups.

Policy 1.3: Ensure that park sites are readily accessible to the majority of residents based on a service area radius of 1 mile from neighborhood parks and 3 miles from community park facilities. These criteria are not part of the City's adopted level-of-service standards and are utilized only as a guide for development review and land acquisition.

Policy 1.4: Provide for park sites large enough to accommodate a broad spectrum of facilities. New park sites should be no less than five acres in size.

Policy 1.5: Develop, promote and maintain a multi-use trail system as part of the City's mobility strategies that provide connections and linkages to neighborhoods, and recreation and open space facilities.

Policy 1.6: To the extent practical, utility easements (overhead transmission lines, gas and water) and other open space areas shall be considered in the development of trails.

Policy 1.7: Prior to the approval of an application for a residential final subdivision plan or final site plan, the City will review the proposed development application to ensure that recreation facilities necessary to support the development are available concurrent with the impacts of such development, based on the Concurrency

Management System as set forth in the City's Land Development Regulations and the Capital Improvements Element.

Objective 2: Provide facilities for the efficient administration of organized programs.

Policy 2.1: Plan for and maintain existing park facilities large enough to accommodate league and tournament play.

Policy 2.2: Provide community activity centers to meet the needs of the surrounding community based on yearly evaluation of program requests.

Objective 3: Provide for the protection and acquisition of open space and conservation areas while protecting these areas from incompatible land uses and allowing them to remain functionally intact.

Policy 3.1: The City shall utilize land development regulations which address the protection of native vegetation in open space and buffers, in accordance with the provisions of the Conservation Element.

Policy 3.2: Incorporate natural open space, especially wetlands and areas unsuitable for development into neighborhood and community parks as passive recreation space.

Policy 3.3: The City shall continue to require that 60% of the total project area of any new residential PUD shall be established and maintained as open space. This percentage may include environmentally sensitive areas to be preserved according to the provisions of the Conservation Element and other Elements of this Comprehensive Plan. A minimum of 20% of the total project area shall be established and maintained as *common* open space or common facilities. No area shall be accepted as *common* open space unless it satisfies the following standards.

- A. Common open space shall be dedicated to and usable by all residents of the planned unit development or specific phase thereof.
- B. Common open space shall be suitably improved for its intended use. Such use may include aesthetic, amenity, buffering or recreational purposes (including multi-use open fields).
- C. Common open space set aside for the preservation of natural features or listed species habitats, or for buffering purposes shall remain undisturbed and be protected by conservation easements dedicated to the city.
- D. Common open space shall not be used for the construction of any structures other than recreational facilities and incidental maintenance buildings.
- E. Common open space shall be maintained by the Home Owners Association of the PUD or specific phase thereof.

Policy 3.4: The City shall encourage the incorporation of open space into all new non-residential projects, in addition to any environmentally sensitive areas preserved

in accordance with the Conservation Element and other Elements of this Comprehensive Plan.

Policy 3.5: To the extent practical based on available funding, the City shall acquire or preserve lands with unique environmental assets and that provide community access and/or recreation opportunities/value to the community, and coordinate this effort with all levels of government, quasi-public agencies and the private sector as described in Objective 6 of this Element and its corresponding policies.

Objective 4: Require all public recreational facilities to have adequate public access by automobile, bicycle paths, pedestrian paths or other means as appropriate.

Policy 4.1: Public parks and facilities shall have access by at least two modes. The types of access should be compatible with the character and type of natural areas and facilities at the site.

Policy 4.2: The City's bicycle path program, as outlined in the Transportation Element, shall be designed to coordinate with and interconnect the City's park network.

Policy 4.3: All new recreation facilities or renovation of existing facilities shall be designed to accommodate and integrate the handicapped and disabled consistent with Federal and State ADA standards.

Objective 5: Maintain existing public access and, acquire additional public access points to local waterways. The City shall coordinate any acquisition program with the appropriate local, regional, state, and federal agencies, so as not to harm or degrade the habitat of the Florida manatee.

Policy 5.1: The City will retain and improve existing public access points to the Halifax River, consistent with the Volusia County Manatee Protection Plan.

Policy 5.2: The City will work with the appropriate local, regional, state, and federal agencies, in its efforts to acquire additional public access points to Spruce Creek through development approvals.

Policy 5.3: The City will work with private property owners, the appropriate local, regional, state, and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and others to develop a blueway trail along Spruce Creek.

Policy 5.4: The City will work with the appropriate local, regional, state, and federal agencies, in its efforts to acquire additional public access along the Halifax River in concert with the Port Orange Town Center redevelopment plan.

Policy 5.5: Any construction work along local waterways shall be performed in

accordance with the provisions of the Conservation Element.

Objective 6: Coordinate efforts with all levels of government, quasi-public agencies and the private sector to provide recreational opportunities and open space while exploring and utilizing creative mechanisms for funding acquisition and development of parks and facilities.

Policy 6.1: Continue to cooperate with the Volusia County School Board on joint utilization and development of School and Park Sites.

Policy 6.2: Maintain and review the Recreation Impact Fee Program in order to assure that new development contributes its proportional share of the cost to expand recreation facilities, consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

Policy 6.3: Continue to actively participate in the Volusia County land acquisition programs and to request utilization of available funds for open space land purchases within the City as appropriate and to the maximum extent feasible. .

Policy 6.4: Maintain close contact with state agencies by monitoring state recreation development grant programs.

Policy 6.5: Design a mechanism for accepting and utilizing private donations for parks and recreation facilities by no later than 2012.

Policy 6.6: Continue to work with the appropriate local, regional, state, and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, St. Johns River Water Management District, Metropolitan Planning Organization, Florida Communities Trust, Volusia Forever, and others to acquire and manage the recreation and open space system.

Policy 6.7: The City shall continue to submit applications for grants under programs sponsored by various State and regional governments including but not limited to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the Florida Inland Navigation District.

Policy 6.8: Wherever possible, recreational trail corridors shall be coordinated with other national level trails such as the East Coast Greenway, as well as other state trail systems.

Objective 7: Maintain a continuous park and recreation planning program.

Policy 7.1: Annually review changing trends and demand for new programs through surveys, research and the input from the City's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Policy 7.2: Continue to develop the Plan for Park Acquisition and Development and evaluate the plan on an annual basis.