



# **Chapter 7 Recreation & Open Space Element**

## **CHAPTER 7**

### **RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT**

#### **Goals, Objectives, and Policies**



## **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of the Recreation and Open Space Element is to provide and maintain a recreation and open space system that will meet the present and future needs of the citizens of DeLand, provide recreational opportunities and protect, enhance and improve the natural environment within the City. The objectives and policies provide a framework to achieve this goal.



**GOAL r-1:** Ensure adequate recreation facilities and open space for all residents to enjoy, including senior citizens, young adults, children, handicapped and visiting population, in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

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**Objective r1.1:** Develop a network of park and recreation facilities that provide a broad spectrum of "active" and "resource" based facilities.

Policy r1.1.1: Continue to maintain the adopted minimum standard for level of service as established in the Capital Improvements Element.

Policy r1.1.2: Develop neighborhood park and recreation assessments for those areas lacking in neighborhood facilities.

Policy r1.1.3: Upgrade the functions of existing facilities, to the greatest extent possible, in order to accommodate differing preferences and age groups.

Policy r1.1.4: Continue the maintenance of existing park and recreation facilities by allocating adequate operating funds to the Parks and Recreation Department.

Policy r1.1.5: Collect non-resident user fees at selected existing park and recreation facilities where a joint-use contract is not in effect.

Policy r1.1.6: Require new private development to include recreation sites within their overall master development plans, or require a monetary contribution in lieu of sites. The option of requiring public recreation development or cash payment by the developers shall be with the City of DeLand. Utilize park and recreation impact fees collected for new development in the creation of facilities.

Policy r1.1.7: Provide for park sites large enough to accommodate a broad spectrum of facilities. Except in rare cases, new park sites should be no less than five (5) acres.



Policy r1.1.8: Require the allocation of public recreation facilities, or open spaces, with the construction of all new public facilities developed within the City of DeLand.

Policy r1.1.9: Continue the consideration and preservation of historical sites and facilities that have been recognized as a valuable asset to the City of DeLand as a source of recreation and as a tangible link to our heritage.

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**Objective r1.2:** Provide adequate recreation facilities for persons with disabilities and senior citizens of the City of DeLand.

Policy r1.2.1: Continue the existing policy of improving recreation sites which do not currently have access points and/or public facilities to accommodate persons with disabilities.

Policy r1.2.2: Require all new recreation facilities to be accessible to the handicapped or as barrier free as possible.

Policy r1.2.3: Explore opportunities to expand Senior Citizen Facilities.

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**Objective r1.3:** Preserve existing City-owned open spaces and explore options for passive recreation and development of new parks.

Policy r1.3.1: The City shall update regulations specifically outlining open space standards for new development, protection of native vegetation and new open space after initial development, and the use of open space as buffering for all new development.

Policy r1.3.2: Explore options to acquire available vacant property for the creation of new parks and recreation centers.

Policy r1.3.3: Identify vacant land suitable for inclusion into a City-wide open space system by preparing a City of DeLand Open Space and Recreation Master Plan.



**Objective r1.4:** Coordinate efforts with all levels of government, quasi-public agencies and the private sector to provide recreational opportunities while exploring and utilizing creative mechanisms for funding acquisition and development of park and recreation facilities.

Policy r1.4.1: Maintain a formal joint use agreement with the Volusia County School Board for the use of City Facilities.

Policy r1.4.2: Develop formal joint use agreements with county and state agencies for the continued use of their property for park and recreation facilities.

Policy r1.4.3: Maintain contact with state and federal agencies regarding recreation development grant monies.

Policy r1.4.4: Design a mechanism for accepting and utilizing private donations for park and recreation facilities.

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**Objective r1.5:** Assure the continued maintenance of existing park and recreation facilities, and implement the necessary changes to increase the level of safety for the user.

Policy r1.5.1: Prepare a study of existing safety features at each park location (i.e. lighting, fencing, signage, etc.) which will recommend additional procedures of features necessary to decrease the chance for injuries sustained at park or recreational sites.

Policy r1.5.2: Institute user fees at selected sites and utilize the funds to increase the level of maintenance at City recreation sites.

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**Objective r1.6:** Provide facilities for the efficient administration of organized programs.

Policy r1.6.1: Provide community or activity centers to meet the needs of the surrounding community based on yearly evaluation of program requests.

Policy r1.6.2: Plan for specialized facilities large enough to accommodate league and tournament play.



- Objective r1.7:** Coordinate with Volusia County to connect bicycling and walking trails.
- Policy r1.7.1: Coordinate with new development to provide barrier-free public access to bicycling and walking trails to allow for future connectivity.
- Policy r1.7.2: Review and update the City of DeLand’s Greenway Report-Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan to create a strategy for trail connectivity within the City.
- Policy r1.7.3: Work with Volusia County to connect and extend sidewalks and trails throughout the City and surrounding area.

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