

2.6 RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

Goal: Provide adequate recreation facilities, active and passive, and open space to sufficiently meet the needs of the present and future population of the City.

Objective 1 *The City will identify, ensure preservation of, and provide for public access to recreation facilities and open spaces.*

Policy 1.1 As deemed necessary, and when land is available, the City will provide parking areas and bicycle racks for recreation sites.

Policy 1.2 When necessary and when feasible, bike paths and pedestrian walkways that can accommodate alternative means of transportation shall be built to provide access to recreation areas. The City will encourage the establishment of recreation trails to increase opportunities for biking, walking and other forms of outdoor recreation.

Policy 1.3 All future recreation facilities shall provide usability and access to all segments of the population, including the very young, the handicapped, and the elderly.

Policy 1.4 When necessary and when feasible, all existing recreation facilities shall provide usability and access to all segments of the population, including the very young, the handicapped, and the elderly.

1. To facilitate barrier-free access to both existing and future parks, ramps will be used instead of stairs. Railings will also be provided for the elderly, handicapped, and the young to grasp. Restroom facilities will be designed to provide access to the handicapped. All other facilities will be constructed for use by all.

Objective 2 *Throughout the planning period, the City shall coordinate with, other local governments, and the private sector to ensure that future recreation needs of the City are met.*

Policy 2.1 When necessary and when feasible the City shall seek formal or informal agreements with the Holmes County School Board for use of school playfields and other facilities.

Policy 2.2 The City shall require the dedication of land for recreation, or a fee in lieu of land, for all future residential developments.

Objective 3 *Ensure that parks and recreation facilities and open spaces are adequately and efficiently provided by public agencies and private enterprises to maintain the adopted level of service standard.*

Policy 3.1 The City hereby adopt the following recreation levels of service:

1. Neighborhood Parks - provide a compatible balance of activities through casual and programmed play with facilities found in a mini-park and multi-purpose courts/fields, pavilion, walkways, jogging paths, etc.
1-acre optimum minimum size up to 5 acres; within or adjacent to neighborhood(s); 2 acre per 1,000 population; 1/4-mile service area radius and/or serve population of up to 2,500
2. Open Space - medians, public squares or right-of-way
No minimum size; 1 acre per 1,000 population; municipal service area radius
3. Community Parks - includes facilities found in neighborhood parks, athletic facilities, and other specialized facilities such as community buildings, tennis courts, swimming pools, etc.
5-acre optimum minimum size up to 50 acres; serving more than one neighborhood or community; 2 acres per 1,000 population; 1/2-mile service area radius and/or serve population of 2,500+
4. Regional Parks - includes facilities found in community parks and other specialized facilities such as community centers, arenas, etc.
20-acre optimum minimum; serving several communities; 2 acres per 1,000 population; no service area radius and serves the entire county population.

Policy 3.2 The City shall meet bicycling needs during the planning period as state roads are repaved and paved shoulders/bike lanes are added under policies established by the Florida Department of Transportation.

Policy 3.3 The City, through the adopted Concurrency Management System, track the capacity of recreation facilities and when additional facilities are needed, shall utilize funds acquired through implementation of Policy 2.2, grant applications for State or Federal funds or local general revenues to provide the needed additional facilities concurrent with that need.

Policy 3.4 The City shall continue to maintain and improve existing park sites and recreation facilities.

Policy 3.5 Through negotiations with property owners, obtain title, easements, or other ownership interest in areas commonly used for public access to waterways in the City.

Objective 4 *Throughout the planning period, the City, and the private sector shall coordinate in a continuing and professional effort to provide adequate open space within the City. This objective shall be accomplished, in part by using the subdivision review process, which shall require the provision of open space.*

Policy 4.1 In addition to open space provided through natural reservations, protected environmental lands, and stormwater management areas, the City shall require the provision of open space within all future residential development projects.

Policy 4.2 The land development regulations shall include definitions of open space, parks, and recreation facilities.