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## RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

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### Goal 7

**To provide park facilities, recreation programs, and open space resources that are safe, adequate, and accessible to all City residents, and that contribute to the character and quality of life that defines Fort Pierce.**

7.1 *Objective:*

*Provide a sufficient supply of park, recreation, and open space facilities to satisfy established level of service (LOS) standards.*

7.1.1 *Policy:*

LOS standards for public recreation and open space facilities are hereby established as follows:

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Unit of Measure</u>
Neighborhood Park:		
	2010	1.36 acre/1,000 population
	2015	1.5 acre/1,000 population
	2020	1.75 acre/1,000 population
	2025	2.0 acres/1,000 population
	2030	2.0 acres/1,000 population
Community Park:		
	2010	2.50 acre/1,000 population
	2015	2.75 acre/1,000 population
	2020	2.75 acre/1,000 population
	2025	3.0 acres/1,000 population
	2030	3.0 acres/1,000 population

7.1.2 *Policy:*

The City of Fort Pierce shall schedule projects to address existing facility deficiencies and foreseeable facility needs as part of the Five-Year Schedule of Capital Improvements (SCI). The Capital Improvement Program shall be updated on an annual basis to reflect the identification, planning and completion of recreation and open space projects and facilities.

7.1.3 *Policy:*

Capital outlays for recreation and open space facilities shall be scheduled in chronological order according to the following priorities:

1. facility additions, improvements, expansions and/or replacements required to address preexisting LOS deficiencies;
2. facility additions, improvements, expansions and/or replacements required to mitigate forecasted LOS deficiencies; specifically the creation of additional neighborhood parks in strategic locations throughout the City;

3. opportunities to secure environmentally sensitive and pristine lands such as wetlands, waterfront properties, shorelines, and habitat of endangered species;
4. acquisition of lands that further the development of linked and continuous open space corridors;
5. provision of recreation and/or open space facilities that are geographically located within areas not presently served by such opportunities; and,
6. all other recreation and open space facilities not otherwise described above.

7.2 *Objective:*

*Require a proportionate amount of open space and recreation area to be provided by both private enterprise and public agencies.*

7.2.1 Policy:

The City of Fort Pierce shall require that all future site development, and modifications of existing development to the extent possible, incorporate perimeter and interior landscape areas as outlined in the City's Land Development Code.

7.2.2 Policy:

The City's Land Development Regulations will include public open space requirements for new development and modifications to existing development in all zoning classifications.

7.2.3 Policy:

The City of Fort Pierce shall require publicly accessible recreation areas to be incorporated within all planned residential developments, mixed use developments, and residential development. The size of the required areas and the corresponding amenities shall be consistent with standards incorporated into the Land Development Regulations.

7.2.4 Policy:

The City of Fort Pierce shall implement and review regulatory mechanisms to facilitate the accrual of financial and land resources for the provision of Neighborhood Park and Community Park facilities by December 2012. Suggested mechanisms include, but are not limited to, impact fees, mandatory land dedications, preferential tax treatment, recreation and open space credits, and/or transfer of development rights.

7.2.5 Policy:

The City of Fort Pierce shall provide incentives for providing off-site publicly accessible recreation and open space areas as part of private applications for development approval. These incentives shall be established and enumerated within the City's land development regulations by December 2010. Incentives may include such features as setback reductions, deviation from minimum lot dimensional requirements, inclusion of aquatic areas for purposes of calculating open space, and/or increases in permissible lot coverage, amongst other development characteristics and features as deemed acceptable by the City of Fort Pierce.

7.2.6 Policy:  
The City shall require a proportionate fair-share contribution for recreational and open space facilities if the development contributes to a deficiency in the adopted level-of-service standard for recreational and open space facilities.

7.2.7 Policy:  
The City shall establish and implement a regular evaluation of community park and recreation needs during the annual Capital Improvements Element update process, especially the needs of youth and seniors.

7.3 *Objective:*  
*Establish programs and procedures to continually monitor the quality and utility of all recreation and open space facilities within the City of Fort Pierce.*

7.3.1 Policy:  
The City of Fort Pierce shall consider and evaluate the creation of a Parks and Recreation Department by 2015. Alternatively, the City will employ a point person within the Planning or Public Works Department that will oversee Parks and Recreation Planning.

7.3.2 Policy:  
The City of Fort Pierce shall maintain, renovate and rehabilitate existing facilities to prevent unplanned and untimely deterioration of physical assets and to maximize the benefit of past expenditures.

7.3.3 Policy:  
The City of Fort Pierce shall develop a Parks and Recreation Master Plan by December 2011. The Plan shall do the following:

- Inventory all publicly-owned recreation and open space facilities in the City;
- Identify locational and accessibility criteria for locating recreational facilities with respect to neighborhoods ;
- Identify opportunities to develop new park facilities on City owned lands and acquire additional open space areas for public use;
- Determine recreational amenity requirements for park facilities; and
- Establish a future vision for each such facility including recreation equipment, pedestrian accommodations and other physical improvements.

7.3.4 Policy:  
The City of Fort Pierce shall continually solicit resident input to assess satisfaction with recreation and open space facilities, as well as prioritize acquisition sites. Findings shall be contained within the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and used to determine future installations and improvements at each publicly-owned facility and development of future facilities.

7.4 *Objective:*  
*Maximize the utility and function of recreation facilities and open space resources.*

- 7.4.1 Policy:  
The City of Fort Pierce shall encourage the strategic placement of recreation and open space facilities in a manner that coincides with and affords the preservation of existing native vegetation, visual corridors, and other quality natural resources.
- 7.4.2 Policy:  
The City of Fort Pierce, as well as private parties and organizations, shall design and improve recreation facilities and open space areas in such a manner that respects natural environmental conditions, to the maximum extent possible.
- 7.4.3 Policy:  
The City of Fort Pierce shall actively pursue the development of linear parks and integrated open space systems along waterfront properties. This shall be accomplished by collocating pathways, pedestrian accommodations and plantings alongside waterways and water bodies such as, but not limited to, canals, creeks, streams, rivers, lakes, channels and other water features. Public access to waterfront areas shall be secured through the recordation of access easements or land dedication as outlined in the Land Development Regulations.
- 7.4.4 Policy:  
The City of Fort Pierce shall develop a Greenways and Trailways Program as part of the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan to ensure connectivity between existing and future recreation and open space areas in the City.
- 7.4.5 Policy:  
The City of Fort Pierce, in conjunction with St. Lucie County, shall actively pursue the development of open space corridors that establish continuous linkages between park and recreation facilities, conservation areas, environmentally sensitive lands, non-vehicular pathways, natural water bodies, and other open space areas located throughout the City and extending beyond the City's municipal boundary.
- 7.4.6 Policy:  
The City of Fort Pierce shall discourage development proposals that would degrade visual corridors or vistas, compromise peaceful enjoyment, or otherwise produce incompatibilities that may encroach upon public recreation facilities and open space resources. The Land Development Regulations shall be updated by December 2010 to account for this requirement.
- 7.4.7 Policy:  
The City of Fort Pierce shall encourage the preservation of quality natural resources and environmental areas by requiring conservation easements as a condition of development approval.
- 7.4.8 Policy:  
The City of Fort Pierce shall consider opportunities for educational exhibits and programs, observation areas and nature trails during the planning and design process for all future publicly accessible recreation and open space facilities and renovation of existing facilities.

7.4.9 Policy:  
The City of Fort Pierce shall prohibit the encroachment of unrelated easements, dedications, reservations, encumbrances, utilities and tracts within the boundaries of required recreation acreages and facilities.

7.4.10 Policy:  
The City of Fort Pierce shall require that recreation areas within all future residential developments be improved with pedestrian or multi-use pathways, recreation equipment, shade structures, and other pedestrian amenities..

7.4.11 Policy:  
The City of Fort Pierce shall require that all future residential developments in excess of 100 dwelling units provide a community clubhouse, recreation center or similar communal building that is "hurricane hardened," and equipped with a generator and accessory fuel storage system to supply power in the event of prolonged power outages.

7.5 *Objective:*  
*Provide unimpeded access to all public recreation facilities.*

7.5.1 Policy:  
All future dedications or purchases of land for public recreation use or purpose shall be located adjacent to a public right-of-way or access easement that provides a direct and continuous connection between publicly accessible lands.

7.5.2 Policy:  
Pedestrian and bicycle access shall be incorporated into all future plans for new public recreation facilities and modifications to existing public recreation facilities.

7.5.3 Policy:  
All existing and future parks and recreation facilities shall comply with provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

7.5.4 Policy:  
The City of Fort Pierce shall support and encourage the provision of mass transit services and infrastructure at all public recreation sites.

7.5.5 Policy:  
The City of Fort Pierce shall amend the Land Development Regulations to require all future development and redevelopment plans for public recreation facilities to incorporate bicycle racks and vehicular parking spaces.

7.5.6 Policy:  
To the maximum extent feasible, parking areas shall be located in proximity to the primary attractions of each recreation site. However, the City shall not require automobile access to neighborhood or smaller parks.

7.5.7 Policy:  
The City of Fort Pierce shall require paved pedestrian access between all internal facilities and buildings, vehicular use areas and access points, and peripheral pathways at the site of all future park and recreation facilities.

7.6 Objective:  
*Establish strategies to effectively coordinate the retention of existing recreation and open space opportunities, as well as the development of future opportunities, to meet public demands.*

7.6.1 Policy:  
The City of Fort Pierce shall continue to exchange ownership and share maintenance responsibilities with St. Lucie County for recreation and open space facilities located within City limits.

7.6.2 Policy:  
The City of Fort Pierce shall refrain from liquidating recreation and open space lands located within existing City limits and future annexation areas.

7.6.3 Policy:  
The City of Fort Pierce shall maintain cooperative relationships and seek to develop partnerships with both public and private agencies, groups, individuals, organizations and facilities that currently or may potentially offer recreation opportunities to City residents.

7.6.4 Policy:  
The City of Fort Pierce shall pursue funding through recreation grants and bonds, as well as private donations and contributions, to meet local recreation needs.

7.6.5 Policy:  
The City of Fort Pierce, in cooperation with St. Lucie County, shall coordinate efforts to facilitate the development of an urban-district park along or proximate to the western edge of the FPUA Urban Service Boundary.

7.6.6 Policy:  
The City of Fort Pierce shall participate in the exchange of publicly owned land, excluding established recreation and open space properties, with private property owners as a method to secure attractive and/or desired property for the provision of public recreation and open space opportunities.

7.6.7 Policy:  
The City of Fort Pierce shall evaluate the establishment of a Park and Recreation Trust Fund to accommodate financial contributions in lieu of land dedications for required recreation acreage. Financial contributions shall be considered and acceptable only in instances deemed appropriate by the City of Fort Pierce.

7.6.8 Policy:  
In furtherance of an equitable distribution of recreation and open space facilities, the City of Fort Pierce, in cooperation with St. Lucie County, shall encourage the dedication, contribution and acquisition of land for neighborhood and community

park facilities both in the western area of existing City limits and throughout the western portions of the City's future annexation area.

7.7 *Objective:*

*Establish parks and recreation facilities that are equally distributed throughout the City and accessible to residents of all neighborhoods.*

7.7.1 *Policy:*

The City shall work to provide neighborhood parks according to the following criteria:

- be provided within a ½ mile of all residential neighborhoods;
- be located on a minimum of 5 acres, where possible;
- be connected to the surrounding neighborhoods, community facilities, and other parks through bicycle and pedestrian access;
- provide opportunities for passive as well as active recreational facilities;
- be developed in conjunction with school playgrounds, where possible; and
- be located on local streets or neighborhood collectors.

7.7.2 *Policy:*

The City shall work to provide community parks according to the following criteria:

- be provided within 2 miles of all residential neighborhoods;
- be located on a minimum of 15 acres, where possible;
- be connected to the surrounding neighborhoods, community facilities, and other parks through bicycle and pedestrian access;
- be served by public transportation, where possible;
- provide opportunities for passive as well as active recreational facilities;
- contain higher traffic generating recreational uses, such as swimming pools, recreation centers, athletic centers, and adult league playing fields;
- have direct access from arterials rather than local streets; and
- provide protection for on-site natural areas.