

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

GOAL F - TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT PARKS, RECREATION FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE AREAS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO THE CITY OF FORT WALTON BEACH.

OBJECTIVE F.1 - A SYSTEM OF PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES MAINTAINED AND UPDATED ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS OF THE POPULATION.

Policy F.1.1

The City hereby adopts level of service standard of 4.32 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons within the City.

Policy F.1.2

The City will continue to offer a balance of passive and active recreational activities to meet the needs of all citizens.

Policy F.1.3

The City will preserve and maintain existing parks and recreation facilities, including the Temple Mound, to meet the needs of current and future residents through the use of adequate operating budgets and proper management techniques.

Policy F.1.4

The City will maintain a five-year site plan of park improvements.

Policy F.1.5

The City will identify, and where economically feasible, acquire properties and implement capital improvements to link natural areas and other public open spaces.

OBJECTIVE F.2. ALL PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES SHALL HAVE APPROPRIATE ACCESS FOR ALL CITIZENS.

Policy F.2.1

The City will implement recreation improvements designed to provide appropriate access to all facilities within the City.

Policy F.2.2

Public parks and facilities will continue to be designed and improvements constructed with access ways that are compatible with the onsite resources.

Policy F.2.3

Where parking spaces are needed to ensure appropriate access, the City will provide such parking spaces.

OBJECTIVE F.3 - THE CITY WILL ENSURE ADEQUATE AND FUNCTIONAL OPEN SPACE THROUGH REGULATIONS TO PROVIDE OPEN SPACE ON DEVELOPMENT

SITES, PROVISION OF OPEN SPACE AREAS ON RECREATION LANDS, AND PROTECTION OF CONSERVATION LANDS.

Policy F.3.1

The City will continue to enforce the open space requirements within its Land Development Code.

Policy F.3.2

The city will continue to require that sites in new large-scale residential development be dedicated, for public parks, playgrounds or other public uses.

Policy F.3.3

Upon acquisition of lands to be used as passive parks, the City will evaluate the extent and location of appropriate recreational facilities consistent with the objectives of the parks. Facilities to be considered should include wildlife/scenic observation areas, nature trails, boardwalks, waterway access facilities, and picnic areas. These facilities should be designed and constructed in a manner that minimizes impacts to the natural resources that occurs on or adjacent to the site.

OBJECTIVE F.4 - REVIEW AND COORDINATE, ANNUALLY, EFFORTS WITH ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

Policy F.4.1

The City will continue its cooperative efforts with the private sector, non-profit organizations (such as YMCA), and the Okaloosa County School Board in the utilization of facilities.

Policy F.4.2

The City will continue to apply for all available state and federal funds to maintain and meet park and recreation needs.