RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

Goals, Objectives and Policies

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GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

GOAL

To provide ~~adequate public and private recreation facilities to meet the needs of~~ recreational and open space opportunities and facilities for Dunnellon residents and visitors.

Objective 1:

Provide and manage land, recreational facilities and parks to ~~meet adopted level of service standards~~ improve quality of life and support recreational tourism in Dunnellon.

Policy 1.1:

~~The City shall maintain a level of service standard of 2 acres per 1,000 population for its neighborhood parks, defined as fewer than five acres.~~ The City shall not implement recreation concurrency or adopt LOS standards for regulatory purposes. This policy does not limit the City's ability to utilize discretion in approving or denying developments where there are open space or recreational requirements set in the land development regulations.

~~**Policy 1.2:**~~

~~The City shall maintain a level of service standard of 2 acres per 1,000 persons for its community parks, defined as five acres or more.~~

~~**Policy 1.3:**~~

~~New residential developments shall comply with the City's concurrency management requirements.~~

~~**Policy 1.4**~~ **Policy 1.2.:**

The City will periodically evaluate whether to adopt a Recreation/Parks impact fee.

~~**Policy 1.5**~~ **Policy 1.3:**

The City will research the feasibility of acquiring right-of-ways for recreational facilities such as hiking trails, greenways, and on-road biking facilities as shown on the City of Dunnellon Bicycle, Pedestrian and Bluewater Master Plan.

Objective 2:

Ensure that existing City of Dunnellon public recreation facilities are managed and maintained ~~available to all~~ for use by residents and visitors.

Policy 2.1:

Allocate sufficient funding in the Capital Improvements Element and annual capital and operating budget to adequately maintain existing park and recreation facilities.

Policy 2.2:

The City shall research various forms of funding to support land acquisition and facilities for resource and riverfront protection, parking, beach improvements, and provision of children's play apparatus, including: acquisition of adjacent properties and facilities through private and public donations, fund raisers and matching grant programs.

~~**Policy 2.3:**~~

The City shall continue to coordinate with the State and Marion County on capital and operational/maintenance funding for ~~initial capital improvements, and maintaining and operating the Dunnellon Sports Complex year-round~~ recreation facilities.

Policy 2.4 Policy 2.3:

The City periodically shall assess the feasibility of developing improved, public recreational facilities at all City parks.

Objective 3:

~~Ensure~~ Reasonable public access to City of Dunnellon recreation sites and facilities, including freshwater beaches and shores, ~~are accessible to all of~~ shall be provided consistent with applicable federal and state requirements such as, but not limited to, building codes, accessibility requirements, etc. ~~Dunnellon's residents~~.

Policy 3.1:

Bicycle facilities, including connections to parks and schools, shall be required of new development where the development is adjacent to or includes lands on which future bicycle facilities have been identified on the City of Dunnellon Bicycle, Pedestrian and Bluewater Master Plan.

Policy 3.2:

Design criteria in the land development regulations and/or applicable federal or state requirements shall ensure reasonable accessibility to recreation facilities for all residents and visitors.

Policy 3.3:

Road improvement programs ~~shall~~ may include sidewalks and bicycle facilities, where feasible, in order to provide access to recreation sites and facilities.

Policy 3.4:

Coordinate with DEP Office of Greenways and Trails to facilitate recreational access and trail connectivity.

Policy 3.5:

Bicycle parking facilities shall be included at all new public and private parks as part of

their initial development~~, and at all existing parks~~.

Policy 3.6:

Continue coordination mechanisms with the Marion County Sheriff's Department, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and other agencies to ensure enforcement of laws and regulations governing the use of the Rainbow and Withlacoochee rivers.

Objective 4:

The City shall regulate conservation areas identified on the Future Land Use Map and ensure the provision of open space by both public agencies and private enterprises.

Policy 4.1:

The City shall promote the designation of open space and natural areas through adoption of land development regulations, which require that all new multi-family and non-residential development and all new subdivisions provide a minimum~~, of 30 percent~~, amount of usable open space or green area as specified in the land development regulations,, except in the historic district.

Policy 4.2:

The City shall protect the following areas as open space amenities:

A. The Withlacoochee and Rainbow Rivers, conservation lands, and wetlands.
B. Areas within the wellfield protection radius of existing and future wellfields.
C. Areas owned by the State of Florida, including the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway Corridor, which may be leased or acquired in the future for recreation.
D. Areas that will protect the quality of natural springs.

Objective 5:

The City shall coordinate with other governments and organizations and the public to plan for recreation.

Policy 5.1:

The City will coordinate with Marion County to provide regional recreation facilities that will serve City residents.

Policy 5.2:

The City shall coordinate with the Marion County Recreation Department, the Little League, schools, and other governments and organizations to provide recreation programs for children and adults in the City.

~~**Policy 5.3:**~~

~~The City shall coordinate with Marion County School Board and public schools in the City to allow public school facilities to be safely utilized after school hours for recreation programs and informal recreation.~~

Objective 6:

Parks and recreation facilities in the City will be developed and used in a sustainable manner.

~~**Policy 6.1:**~~

~~Tubing access along the Rainbow River shall be limited and monitored in order to protect wildlife, wildlife habitats, and water quality. Monitoring and limiting access shall be a cooperative effort between the City, Marion County, and DEP.~~

~~**Policy 6.2:**~~

~~Improved recreational access points along the Rainbow River and Withlacoochee River shall be limited and monitored in order to protect wildlife, wildlife habitats, and water quality. Monitoring and limiting access shall be a cooperative effort between the City, Marion County, and DEP.~~

~~**Policy 6.3**~~ **Policy 6.1:**

The City shall encourage and participate in recreational impact studies, such as carrying capacity studies, river use studies, or recreational use studies, for the Rainbow River and Withlacoochee River.

~~**Policy 6.4**~~ **Policy 6.2:**

If future park sites include natural resources, the parks shall be designed to ensure the protection of those resources.