

4. PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE & CONSERVATION ELEMENT

GOAL 1: To provide sufficient parks, recreational lands and open spaces to satisfy the needs and diverse desires of the existing and future populations.

OBJECTIVE 1.1: The Town shall provide an adequate amount of recreational and open space lands, resource and activity oriented, to serve the needs of the existing and projected population.

Policy 1.1.1 The Level of Service standard for recreation and open space lands as herein adopted is ten (10) acres per 1000 population, with recreation lands comprising a minimum of three (3) acres per 1000 population. The level of service standard shall be used to determine service adequacy at the earliest of the following processes: plat approval, site plan approval or during building permit review.

Policy 1.1.2 Land development regulations shall require the dedication of land by developers to satisfy the level of service standard for the projected population. Alternatively, the developer may pay the land value in lieu of dedication, at the discretion of the Town and where adequate land of a suitable nature is not available within the development.

Policy 1.1.3 By December 31, 2010 develop a Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan, identifying all public and private parks, trails, open spaces, natural resources and recreational facilities which are available to the general public. The Plan shall illustrate a long range vision and provide for the long term stability of all parks and open spaces by assessing future needs, identifying potential expansions/improvements, calculating expected maintenance needs, establishing a parks and open space facility monitoring system, and identifying potential obstacles to the long term stability of the resources.

Policy 1.1.4 The Town shall pursue the acquisition and development of park sites to satisfy the level of service standard, in accordance with the Capital Improvements Element.

Policy 1.1.5 The Town should pursue joint efforts with other jurisdictions and such interested organizations as the Florida Communities Trust, the Trust for Public Lands, and the Davie Area Land Trust in the acquisition, development and maintenance of pathways as a means for reducing costs and pooling resources, and to address regional park and open space issues.

Policy 1.1.6 Amend the land development regulations to incorporate evaluation criteria for the acquisition of recreation and open space. The criteria shall include land cost, existence of natural resources, the recreational needs of the area, suitability for preservation, compatibility with adjacent uses, costs of all necessary improvements and ongoing maintenance. If land is to be purchased through a bond, then any and all of the criteria of the bond must be met.

Policy 1.1.7 The Community Services Department shall continue to involve the public in determining the facility needs at neighborhood-level park sites.

Policy 1.1.8 Community-level park and recreational facilities shall be located so that they are accessible to the general public, and are not internalized within a particular neighborhood.

Policy 1.1.9 Improve the maintenance of all parks and trails and open space via implementation of the Parks and Open Space Master Plan, which shall detail the requirements for ongoing maintenance and evaluations of all resources and facilities.

Policy 1.1.10 Continue to identify and evaluate lands for acquisition through the Open Space Bond Program.

OBJECTIVE 1.2: Parks and recreational facilities shall be developed so as to be accessible to the public.

Policy 1.2.1 All parks and recreational facilities shall be developed so as to maximize accessibility, to the greatest extent possible, for all segments of the population.

Policy 1.2.2 Automobile and bicycle parking facilities should be provided, to accommodate the needs of the particular facility. Where appropriate, the Town should provide hitching posts and watering troughs for horses.

OBJECTIVE 1.3: Parks, recreational facilities and open spaces shall be developed with amenities consistent with the orientation of the site, to maximize the enjoyment of the facilities.

Policy 1.3.1 Activity-oriented sites shall contain a wide variety of recreational opportunities, with multipurpose fields and courts that can accommodate different sports activities.

Policy 1.3.2 Park sites should be located adjacent to school sites, when possible, to maximize the potential for joint use of facilities.

Policy 1.3.3 Resource-oriented sites shall be developed in a fashion that is compatible with the resource, maintains the integrity of the native vegetation and wildlife, and encourages enjoyment of a passive nature.

GOAL 2: To provide a network of recreational pathways that provide linkages between parks, recreational facilities, open spaces, and other community facilities throughout the Town.

OBJECTIVE 2.1: The Town shall continue to maintain and update the plan for the primary network of recreational pathways, which accommodates bicycle, equestrian, pedestrian and other recreational uses.

Policy 2.1.1 The Town shall create a series of typical cross-sections for development of paths for bicycle, equestrian and pedestrian use. Standards established by recognized authorities and agencies shall be explored in the development of the cross-sections.

- Policy 2.1.2 Land development regulations shall provide for the accommodation of recreational pathways, to include shaded pathways, during plat and site plan review of proposed developments. Developers shall be required to incorporate pathways in their planning efforts, and develop the pathways in accordance with the standards established by the Town.
- Policy 2.1.3 For pathways developed along existing and planned roadways, the development of recreational pathways shall reflect adequate separations from vehicular travel lanes.
- Policy 2.1.4 Identify parcels which are strategic to the completion of the Town's trails network, and shall pursue the acquisition of those parcels when they become available for purchase.
- Policy 2.1.5: The Town shall explore the possibility of obtaining grants, gifts, contributions, funding assistance, and other financial resources for the development of recreational pathways.
- Policy 2.1.6 The Town should pursue joint efforts with other jurisdictions in the acquisition, development and maintenance of pathways as a means for reducing costs and pooling resources, and work with Broward County and neighboring jurisdictions to ensure trails and pathways interconnect.
- Policy 2.1.7 The Town shall support the Broward Urban River Trails (BURT) program as an endeavor that is a means of improving the quality of Broward County for boaters, tourist and residents.

OBJECTIVE 2.2: The recreational pathway system shall link park sites, recreational and community facilities, schools and regional parks and shall utilize open space areas of natural vegetation and unique features in the development of the pathway corridor.

- Policy 2.2.1 Development of the recreational pathway corridors shall maximize existing native vegetation and features.
- Policy 2.2.2 Planning for recreational pathways shall include amenities that need to be provided at destination points and at interim locations.
- Policy 2.2.3 The types of pathways provided within each of the linkages shall reflect the departure and destination locations, and the recreational orientation of the linkage.

GOAL 3: To preserve and protect the natural resources of the Town for the use and enjoyment of the existing and future residents.

OBJECTIVE 3.1: The Town shall promote the conservation and preservation of open spaces, wildlife habitats, native vegetative communities, marine habitat, and critical environmental areas.

- Policy 3.1.1 The Town shall identify wildlife habitats and native vegetative communities for acquisition and/or preservation under the auspices of the Open Space Program.

- Policy 3.1.2 Utilize native vegetation and xeriscaping© techniques for parks whenever possible, to lower water consumption and maintenance costs.
- Policy 3.1.3 Sites designated as Natural Resource Areas (NRA), Local Areas of Particular Concern (LAPC), Urban Wilderness Areas (UWA), or other appropriate designation by Broward County shall be managed in accordance with the applicable County regulations.
- Policy 3.1.4 The Town shall maintain its Tree Preservation Ordinance to insure the protection of native trees and vegetation, and to replant trees when canopy loss is unavoidable.
- Policy 3.1.5 Periodically update its Tree Inventory list to assess the quality and quantity of the Town's publicly owned and maintained trees.
- Policy 3.1.6 Periodically assess the tree canopy coverage in order to determine actions necessary to achieve desired coverage.
- Policy 3.1.7 The Town shall seek to achieve a tree canopy coverage of thirty percent or more by 2030.

OBJECTIVE 3.2: The Town shall protect the functions of existing soils, floodplains, wetlands and lakes.

- Policy 3.2.1 Development shall be in accord with applicable Federal Emergency management Agency (FEMA) regulations regarding flood plain management.
- Policy 3.2.2 The development of man-made lakes shall be pursuant to a reclamation plan approved by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and which provides for revegetated slopes and littoral zones, to enhance water quality and promote fish and wildlife.
- Policy 3.2.3 Development of open spaces and recreational pathways in open spaces should include methods of educating the public as to the proper handling of native vegetation and wildlife.
- Policy 3.2.4 Development shall be consistent with the South Florida Regional Planning Council's policy of no-net loss in wetlands. Revegetated wetlands, required as a condition for development, shall be accommodated and sited at locations that provide the most productive environment and may include off-site locations.
- Policy 3.2.5 Coordinate with appropriate regulatory agencies in the disposal of hazardous wastes, to preserve and maintain the integrity of the natural environment.
- Policy 3.2.6 The Town adopts by reference the water quality standards for storm water effluent contained in Article V, Chapter 27 of the Broward County Code.
- Policy 3.2.7 The Town's land development regulations shall require that all invasive exotic plant species be removed as a condition of development approval.

OBJECTIVE 3.3: The Town shall encourage a reduction in water consumption.

- Policy 3.3.1 The Town shall review and, as appropriate, amend the regulations which address landscaping, to encourage and promote the use of non water intensive native vegetation (xeriscape ©).
- Policy 3.3.2 The Town shall promote public education and awareness concerning water conservation methods and shall implement water conservation measures in accord with the requirements of the South Florida Water Management District or other appropriate regulatory agency.
- Policy 3.3.3 The Town will provide measures to protect water quality in any and all traditional and new alternative water supply sources developed.
- Policy 3.3.4 The Town shall continue to utilize a water rate structure that promotes water conservation by charging a per gallon rate for single-family residences that exceed a preset volume of water, and adjusts block rate and surcharges during SFWMD declared Phase I and II water restrictions.
- Policy 3.3.5 The Town has adopted and will continue to adopt all Broward county-wide ordinances, including the Water Conservation Ordinance 91-8 which provides for water shortage and emergency procedures and permanent restrictions on landscape irrigation systems.
- Policy 3.3.6 The Town will continue to abide by Broward County Code Section 39-78, as amended, which stipulates measures to conserve water usage through landscaping and irrigation.

OBJECTIVE 3.4: The Town shall promote the improvement of air quality.

- Policy 3.4.1 The Town shall promote effective roadway design that facilitates vehicular movement in an efficient and safe manner, so as to reduce the impacts of this non-point source of air pollution.
- Policy 3.4.2 The Town shall pursue roadscape and shade tree plantings alongside roadways, to provide a visual amenity and filter air pollution created by automobile and truck traffic.
- Policy 3.4.3 The Town will promote the reduction of motor vehicle pollution by utilizing cleaner burning, energy efficient vehicles, including hybrids, and utilizing alternate fuels such as biodiesel and hydrogen and shared bicycle and pedestrian systems.
- Policy 3.4.4 Reduce pollution and conserve resources through public education and encouraging the following:
1. Directing development to targeted redevelopment areas.
 2. Vegetative buffers between arterial roadways and residential neighborhoods;
 3. The use of alternative modes of transportation including public transit, bicycle and pedestrian paths/corridors, light rail and car pooling;
 4. The installation of sidewalks for all new developments, the retrofit of neighborhoods with sidewalks and the repair of existing sidewalks, and requirements such as provision of bicycle racks; and

5. Implementation of a “paperless office” program and enhanced recycling efforts.

Monitoring and Evaluations

The quantifiable measures established in the Objectives shall be monitored on a regular basis, with the Community Services Department providing counts on park attendance and participation. The measurement of adequacy cited in Objective 1.1 is compliance with the acreage requirements. Accessibility to the public, per Objective 1.2, and development in accord with the natural features, per Objective 1.3, shall be a function of facility design and attendance.

The measurement for Objectives 2.1 and 2.2 shall be the creation of the pathway network and its interrelationship with existing attractors.

The performance measure for Objectives 3.1 and 3.2 shall be a function of ongoing monitoring efforts that ascertain the location and ensure the maintenance and enhancement of existing facilities and habitats.

The performance measure for Objective 3.3 is water consumption as monitored by the Town’s Utilities Department.

The performance measure for Objective 3.4 is air quality, as monitored and reported by Broward County.

