

**RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE
GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

GOAL REC 1: OPEN SPACE FOR RECREATIONAL USE

Ensure adequate open space for recreational use by all citizens and conservation of natural amenities.

OBJECTIVE REC 1.1: FACILITIES

To provide recreational facilities in accordance with current and projected demand.

Policy REC 1.1.1: Recreation Level of Service Standards

The City herein adopts recreation level of service standards reflecting minimum land requirements for certain classifications of parks and recreation sites rather than standards for specific types of recreation facilities because of the variable nature of facility needs throughout the community. These level of service standards shall ensure that adequate lands are set aside for active and/or passive recreational use and protection of natural features in developed and developing areas.

Policy REC 1.1.2: Adopted Recreation Level of Service Standards

The City's adopted recreation level of service standards for certain classes of parks and recreation sites are as follows:

Table 1: Recreation Level of Service Standards

| Class | Service Area | Standard |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Neighborhood Park | Neighborhood (section of City) | 1 acre per 1,000 people |
| Community Park | Citywide | 2 acres per 1,000 people |
| *Special Use Facility (e.g., boat ramp) | Neighborhood or Citywide | No standard; location, size, and frequency will depend on presence or accessibility of natural resources. |

**Can be separate or included in a neighborhood or community park.*

Policy REC 1.1.3: Neighborhood Parks Improvements

The City shall use the level of service standards for recreation facilities summarized in Table 1 for planning and developing future parks and recreation sites. Neighborhood parks shall include one or more of the following types of improvements as determined on a case-by-case basis by neighborhood needs and the size and physical characteristics of an individual site:

- a. Shuffleboard court;
- b. Basketball court;
- c. Tennis court;
- d. Multi-purpose field;
- e. Picnic area with tables;

- f. Children's play equipment area; and
- g. Open area for passive use.

Community parks may include larger quantities of the facilities in the previous list plus the following facilities as appropriate:

- a. Community building;
- b. Baseball and softball fields;
- c. Swimming pool; and
- d. Fishing pier.

Policy REC 1.1.4: Parks and Recreation Funding Program

The City shall continue to use its long-range program developed prior to 1992 to fund development, operations, and maintenance of the public parks and recreation system.

Policy REC 1.1.5: Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

The City shall develop a City-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan by July 2011. This Master Plan will address local circulation via sidewalks, trails and bikeways to connect the City's downtown, neighborhoods, parks, and environmental features. The plan shall build on the Future Network – Bicycle and Trail Plan illustrated in Transportation Map #12, the Lake-Sumter MPO Greenways and Trail Plan, the Downtown Plan, and the East CRA Master Plan.

Policy REC 1.1.6: Private Recreation Connections

The City shall encourage private residential subdivisions to provide bicycle and pedestrian connections to the City's planned and existing trail system.

Policy REC 1.1.7: Local Recreation Preferences

The City shall make use of citizen surveys or other methods to ensure that the parks and recreation facilities provided by the City reflect the local preferences and needs for such facilities.

OBJECTIVE REC 1.2: ACCESS

To make recreational facilities and important open space resources available to and accessible by the general public, including the physically impaired and economically disadvantaged.

Policy REC 1.2.1: Acquisition of Recreation Sites

The City shall locate and invest primarily in acquiring and developing recreation sites which are accessible by a variety of means of transportation, including automobile, public transit, bicycle, and foot to the largest number of community residents. This will include sites which relate well with the adopted bicycle and sidewalk plans, as well as to major population concentrations.

Policy REC 1.2.2: Access to Recreational Facilities for the Physically Handicapped

The City shall require that new recreational facilities are designed to facilitate access by the physically handicapped.

Policy REC 1.2.3: Special Programs

The City shall continue to implement community recreational programs to serve the economically disadvantaged and physically impaired populations in the Eustis area including special programs for the elderly and school-age populations in existing community buildings and parks. Information on these programs shall be posted in key locations around the community. The City shall seek outside funding support to assist in paying for these programs.

Policy REC 1.2.4: Urban Waterfront Park

The City shall consider public access rights and development of an urban waterfront park along the Lake Eustis shoreline to serve as a catalyst for economic growth and revitalization in downtown Eustis.

Policy REC 1.2.5: Water Access Facilities Planning

The City shall cooperate with Lake County and the Lake County Water Authority in preparing an inventory of existing public water access points and shall continue to develop and improve water access facilities in the Eustis area, including boat ramps, viewing areas, and nature trails. This plan shall identify opportunities on Lake Eustis and other water bodies in the Eustis Planning Area that shall include recommended parking provisions and other access criteria.

Policy REC 1.2.6: Provision of Bicycle Racks and/or Storage Facilities

The City shall provide for bicycle racks and/or storage facilities at all recreation sites. Private recreation facilities permitted under the Land Development Regulations shall also meet this criterion.

Policy REC 1.2.7: Listing and Map of Recreational Sites and Facilities

The City's Recreation Department shall publish and distribute and/or post a listing and map of recreational sites and facilities, including conditions regarding public access and use, to better inform the local residents of recreational opportunities in the area.

OBJECTIVE REC 1.3: PUBLIC-PRIVATE COORDINATION

To provide for ongoing coordination of public and private resources to meet recreational demands of City residents.

Policy REC 1.3.1: Opportunities for Joint Public/Private Development and/or Use of Existing and Potential Recreation Facilities

The City staff shall continue to meet with private providers in the Eustis area and Lake County recreation officials on future opportunities for joint public/private development and/or use of existing and potential recreation facilities, including the nature of any operating arrangements between the

public and private sectors.

OBJECTIVE REC 1.4: OPEN SPACE

To conserve open space in the Eustis Planning Area for passive recreation use and natural beauty consistent with the Future Land Use and Conservation elements.

Policy REC 1.4.1: Required Open Space

The City shall establish minimum open space standards for each future land use designation, where applicable, through the Future Land Use Element Appendix.

Policy REC 1.4.2: Clustering of Development in Subdivisions

The City shall allow clustering of development in subdivisions or developments exceeding 5 acres in size to provide for the reservation and maintenance of common open spaces.

Policy REC 1.4.3: Open Space Maintenance

The City may accept jurisdiction for a dedicated common open space area where it finds the following:

- a. Public recreational opportunities are lacking and the site is well located to meet local needs based on adopted levels of service;
- b. The site is accessible for both public use and maintenance;
- c. Public access to and use of the site will be compatible with the proposed development and surrounding land uses; and
- d. Funding can be accommodated within normal budgeting processes and limitations and insurance liabilities are maintained within reasonable limits.

Policy REC 1.4.4: Acquisition of Open Space

The City may acquire open spaces needed to preserve and protect sensitive environmental and historical resources where it determines one or more of the following:

- a. The open space is part of a connected system of open spaces and will protect and preserve a sensitive environmental resource designated or delineated in the City or County Conservation Element;
- b. Requirements of the Land Development Regulations provide insufficient protection; and
- c. Grants are available to help defray acquisition costs.

Policy REC 1.4.5: City Protection of Environmentally Sensitive Areas

The City shall, on an ongoing basis, undertake efforts to protect all designated environmentally sensitive areas in perpetuity as common open space through conservation easements, deed restrictions, or other means.