

6. PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE ELEMENT GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

Goal 7-6-1: Provide adequate Well Planned Parks, Recreational Facilities, and Open Space. The City's Goal is to provide adequate well planned active and passive recreation and open space. ~~Ensure ensuring provision of a comprehensive system of public recreation parks, recreational facilities, and open space that meets the health, safety, and welfare needs of the City residents and visitors and which meets the needs of existing and projected users and which enhances the natural environment of the City.~~

Objective 7-6-1.1: System of Parks and Recreation System. The City shall undertake a comprehensive program to ensure that a the Level of Service (LOS) for parks and recreation facilities is maintained, with a an even distribution and supply of parks and recreational facilities throughout the City that meets the needs of all residents and visitors.

Policy 7-6-1.1.1: Level of Service LOS Standards for Parks and Recreation Facilities. The City hereby adopts the standards shown in Tables 6-1 7-44 and 6-2 7-42 as the Recreation and Open Space LOS Level of Service standards. The City shall maintain these adopted LOS standards to reflect the diverse character of Sebastian and the needs of the various age groups, social and economic groups, and recreational preferences of City residents. Facilities and their respective standards and service areas are defined as either neighborhood or community parks. Note, for the purpose of this Element, the definitions provided in the Data Inventory and Analysis (DIA) shall apply.

Table 6-1 7-44: Recreation Standards for Size and Location

Classification	Location	Acres/1,000 Residents	Size	Service Area
Neighborhood	Neighborhood area	2.0	1.0 to 5.0 acres	0.5 mile radius
Community	Group neighborhoods of	2.0	5.0 to 25.0 acres	0.5 mile to 3 mile radius

Table 6-2 7-42: Recreation Standards for Facilities

Facility	Standard
Baseball/Softball Fields	1 field per 5,500 residents
Basketball Courts	1 court per 5,000 residents
Boat Ramps	1 ramp per 12,500 residents
Equipped Play Areas (playground)	1 area per 7,500 residents
Football Fields	1 field per 20,000 residents
Golf Course	18 holes per 50,000 residents
Picnic Tables	1 table per 700 residents
Racquetball Courts	1 court per 10,000 residents
Recreation Center & Gym	1 center per 25,000 residents
Shuffleboard Courts	1 court per 3,000 residents
Soccer Fields	1 field per 10,000 residents
Swimming Pools	1 pool per 25,000 residents
Tennis Courts	1 court per 5,000 residents
Volleyball Courts	1 court per 8,500 residents
Bicycle Trail (paved)	1 mile per 31,250 residents
Bicycle Trail (unpaved)	1 mile per 10,750 residents
Hiking Trail	1 mile per 6,000 residents

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<u>Baseball/Softball Fields</u>	<u>1 field per 6,000 residents</u>
<u>Basketball Courts</u>	<u>1 court per 5,000 residents</u>
<u>Boat Ramps</u>	<u>1 ramp per 12,500 residents</u>
<u>Equipped Play Areas (playground)</u>	<u>1 area per 10,000 residents</u>
<u>Football Fields</u>	<u>1 field per 20,000 residents</u>
<u>Golf Course</u>	<u>18 holes per 50,000 residents</u>
<u>Recreation Center & Gym</u>	<u>1 center per 25,000 residents</u>
<u>Soccer Fields</u>	<u>1 field per 10,000 residents</u>
<u>Swimming Pools</u>	<u>1 pool per 25,000 residents</u>
<u>Tennis Courts</u>	<u>1 court per 5,000 residents</u>
<u>Volleyball Courts</u>	<u>1 court per 8,500 residents</u>
<u>Bicycle Trail (paved)</u>	<u>1 mile per 31,250 residents</u>
<u>Bicycle Trail (unpaved)</u>	<u>1 mile per 10,750 residents</u>
<u>Hiking Trail</u>	<u>1 mile per 6,000 residents</u>
<u>Pickleball</u>	<u>1 court per 5,000 residents</u>

Policy 6-1.1.2: Public Parks. The City shall use the information and analysis developed as part of the DIA to create a Parks System Master Plan. The Parks System Master Plan shall be consistent with the Open Space LOS Standard, except as may be amended per E below, and provide additional information including development of a schedule for the:

- A. Inventory of existing facilities
- B. Identification and maintenance of existing facilities
- C. Development of new facilities
- D. Criteria for the prioritization of funding for the acquisition, development and enhancement of public parks, with an emphasis on existing parks to facilitate projects to maintain adopted LOS standards for the Capital Improvements Program (CIP).
- E. Investigate potential alternative approaches to meeting LOS through the use of a park hierarchy, differential LOS, etc. that looks at not only the inventory of facilities but also the location and proximity to users.

Policy 6-1.1.3 7-1.1.2: Capital Planning. ~~On an annual basis prior to adoption of the annual capital budget,~~ Consistent with Policy 6-1.1.2, the City shall review on an annual basis the need for new recreation sites and facilities as well as the need for repair and renovation of existing facilities. These identified needs shall be incorporated into the capital improvement plan. ~~The review shall be predicated on data, standards, and policies contained in the Comprehensive Plan.~~ The analysis shall be directed towards maintaining a system of recreational sites and facilities which is responsive to user needs.

Policy 6-1.1.4 7-1.1.3: Monitor and Update Recreation Demand and Supply Analysis. When a park activity threshold listed in Table ~~6-2~~ 7-12 is reached, the City shall investigate the applicability of providing such activity or facility. The investigation shall include public input and may utilize hearings and user surveys to encourage input. Periodically, the continued relevance of the facility standards to current resident needs and desires shall also be investigated in a similar manner.

Policy ~~6-1.1.5~~ 7-1.1.4: Population Projections. ~~In order to allow adequate time to plan for future park demands, The City, as part of the Comprehensive Plan update, every five years the City shall update the population projections in Table 7-8 for the following five and ten year planning horizons and apply these projections into Tables 7-9 and 7-10 to determine projected future demand. The City will strive to review and update the population projections on a five-year basis.~~

Policy ~~6-1.1.6~~ 7-1.1.5: Projected Unmet Park Acreage Demand. ~~By January 1, 2023 The City shall execute a strategy, such as those described in the "Recreation Plan" section above, to address the projected future projected deficit in Community Park space.~~

Policy ~~6-1.1.6~~ 7-1.1.6: Current and Projected Unmet Park Facility Demand. ~~By October 1, 2018 Consistent with Policy 6-1.1.10, the City shall adopt and maintain a multi-year schedule of capital construction projects beginning in the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year to address the current future projected deficit in park facilities as identified in the DIA. As part of the recommended Parks Master Plan and population projections, the City shall analyze future projected (potential) deficit in Community Park space. Projected deficits in future years shall be scheduled to be addressed prior to their projected occurrence.~~

Policy ~~6-1.1.7~~ 7-1.1.7: Mandatory Land Dedication or Fees in Lieu Thereof. The City shall enforce provisions for the mandatory dedication of land for parks and recreation or fees in lieu thereof ~~contained in Sections 54-3-9.7 and 54-4-19.11 of the Sebastian Land Development Code~~ for all development with new dwelling units. These regulations are intended to ensure that new development provides for the necessary recreation lands, facilities, and/or fees in lieu in order to accommodate the additional demands generated by residents of the new development.

Policy ~~6-1.1.8~~ 7-1.1.8: Land Dedication Enhancement. ~~Prior to January 1, 2019 The City shall update and maintain amend Sections 54-3-9.7 and 54-4-19.11 of the Land Development Code (LDC) to match the Level of Service LOS standards, of Table 7-11 above, enhance the applicability of the dedication or fee in lieu provisions, add objective criteria for determining private recreation credits, and eliminate the ability for private recreation credits to satisfy all public recreation land dedication requirements.~~

Policy ~~6-1.1.9~~ 7-1.1.9: Coordination with Capital Improvements Governance & Implementation Element. ~~If in the future the City identifies recreation improvements for which public funds are needed, as opposed to developer financed improvements, The City shall schedule and incorporate such projects costing \$25,000 or more into the Capital Improvement Governance & Implementation Element.~~

Policy ~~6-1.1.10~~ 7-1.1.10: Maintenance of Existing Recreation Land and Facilities. The City shall maintain existing recreation land and facilities through the use of proper management and funding techniques. The City shall ensure that recreation facilities are well managed, well maintained, and that high quality recreation programs are available to all residents.

Policy ~~6-1.1.11~~ 7-1.1.11: Utilize Creative Concepts of Urban Design and Conservation of Environmentally Sensitive Open Space. All plans for development or redevelopment of park land resources involving or adjacent to environmentally sensitive lands shall incorporate creative concepts of urban design (stormwater/low impact development) and landscape. The plans shall be designed to enhance controlled access along the shoreline of the lagoon and estuary wetland systems. Active and passive recreation areas shall be planned in a manner compatible with unique natural features of the site. Where provided, the design shall provide a circulation system to minimize conflict between pedestrians and vehicles and shall seek to use necessary stormwater management areas as a beneficial feature of the design. Adequate landscape and screening shall be integrated into park development plans to minimize land use conflicts, protect stability of established residential areas, and enhance community appearance.

Policy ~~6-1.1.12~~ 7-1.1.12: Promote Environmental Education Concern as Part of Recreation Programs. The City shall promote environmental education and management as an integral part of park

and recreation policies and programs. Support for cooperative programming between resource agencies and local educational advisors will provide park and recreation resources as an instrument for environmental teaching, and as a means for accomplishing the City's Goals and Objectives. The City shall promote the development and maintenance of the nature trails at Schumann Drive Kildaire Park and Blossom Street Park. The City shall also provide receptacles for recycling at all City parks.

Policy 6-1.1.13: Promote Health Education. The City shall continue to offer community events and provide educational programming that highlights the importance of health and fitness.

Policy 6-1.1.14: Promote Sustainable Development Concepts as Part of Park Design. The City shall utilize native plants and Florida Friendly Landscape techniques when landscaping is added or updated in parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces. The City shall utilize low-impact development strategies to reduce stormwater runoff from parks and recreation facilities. The City shall utilize the 2020 Parks Integrated Pest Management Plan in maintaining parks, recreation, and open space landscapes.

Policy 6-1.1.15 7-1.1.13: Waterfront Redevelopment. As part of the annual review called for in Policy 7-1.1.2, Consistent with Policy 6-1.1.3, the City shall consider waterfront redevelopment needs, particularly the potential for new access points to the Indian River, including areas to support parking demands generated by shoreline access improvements. As such land, facility, and improvement needs are identified; the City shall investigate the potential of addressing such needs through the use of public or private not-for-profit agency resources.

Policy 6-1.1.16: Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). The City shall incorporate cost-efficient CPTED principles and practices into the design, construction, and operations of new park and facility construction. The City shall also begin to incorporate CPTED principles in existing properties as it becomes fiscally possible or when renovations take place.

Policy 6-1.1.17: Outings. The City shall continue to offer youth, adult, and senior recreational opportunities and outings.

Objective 6-1.2: Land Acquisition. The City shall maintain a program to continually evaluate the potential purchase of land for parks, recreation, conservation, and open space needs.

Policy 6-1.2.1 Acquisition: The City shall identify and prepare a list of possible acquisition lands for recreation or open space to meet the current and future needs of City residents, as measured by the adopted City LOS standards through 2040. The City shall add proposed land acquisition projects to the City's CIP.

Policy 6-1.2.2: Access. The City shall give priority to acquisition of lands that provide access to parks, recreation or open space areas.

Policy 6-1.2.3: Priority. The City shall give high priority to acquisition of lands in the Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA) and in or adjacent to jurisdictional wetlands for passive recreational purposes, provided that that the City determines that recreational use of these sites would not endanger the public health, safety, welfare or environment.

Objective 6-1.3 7-1.2: Protect Natural and Open Space. The City shall maintain a comprehensive land development regulations LDC which includes performance criteria designed to protect lands designated as natural reserves or open space including the Indian River Lagoon, the St. Sebastian River, and their tributaries from incompatible land uses and to ensure such lands shall remain functionally intact.

Policy 6-1.3.1 ~~7-1.2.1~~: Implementing the LDC Land Development Code. In addition to the mandatory park and recreation land and facilities regulations, the City shall enforce the LDC land development regulations which includes specific open space definitions and standards addressing protection of open space, natural vegetation, landscape, and signage. Regulations Standards shall include stipulations governing the provision and use of open space for buffering, protection of natural corridors, including drainageways, as well as other commonly accepted uses. The City shall also maintain standards which include performance criteria designed to preserve public access to the Indian River Lagoon, St. Sebastian River, and their tributaries.

Policy 6-1.3.2 ~~7-1.2.2~~: Standards for Review and Maintenance. The City shall maintain criteria which shall be used to review all proposals for development in existing and proposed areas designated as open space on the master drainage plan map(s) and/or the Future Land Use Map.

Policy 6-1.3.3 ~~7-1.2.3~~: Preservation of Potential Sites. All sites listed in the DIA as in Table 7-5 (Unimproved Future Park Sites) ~~above~~ shall be retained by the City for use as parks, recreation facilities, or nature reserves.

Policy 6-1.3.4: Incorporation of Green Infrastructure Plan. The City shall strive to incorporate a natural system of connectivity within the park and open space system. The Green Infrastructure will aid in transport of natural ecosystems, reduced flooding of developed area, and increased treatment of stormwater runoff.

Policy 6-1.3.5: Environmentally Sensitive Lands. Whenever possible, recreational sites should be established with active and passive uses to provide a range of recreational facilities and opportunities, and to ensure preservation or conservation of environmentally sensitive lands. The City shall identify those recreational sites containing environmentally sensitive lands and limit those portions to passive use recreation only; where it is determined that passive recreational use of these lands would not endanger the public health, safety, welfare, or environment.

Policy 6-1.3.6: Passive Recreation. The City may use City-owned floodplains, conservation lands or environmentally sensitive lands, and other similar areas for passive recreational land, provided that the City determines that passive recreational use of these sites would not endanger the public health, safety, welfare, or environment.

Objective 6-1.4 ~~7-1.3~~: Public Access. ~~Automobile, bicycle, and pedestrian access~~ Multi-modal access (i.e. pedestrian, bike, vehicular) shall be provided to all public recreation sites, with pedestrian access to all facilities at such sites. As park sites are acquired, developed, or redeveloped, all modes of access shall be considered.

Policy 6-1.4.1: Access. All future City owned parks and recreational facilities shall have direct access on a public street, right of way, or easement. The City shall not vacate necessary existing rights-of-way, easements, walkways, and other properties available for public access to parks and recreation facilities or open space.

Policy 6-1.4.2: Park and Public Space Connectivity. The City shall connect parks and public spaces through pedestrian/bike access ways including linear parks, sidewalks, bicycle lanes, trails, blueways (such as kayak trails), and greenways.

Policy 6-1.4.3 ~~7-1.3.1~~: Automobile Access. The City shall ensure an appropriately scaled level of automobile access. Parks with facilities designed to appeal to a wider audience than the immediate adjacent area shall have adequate parking for the anticipated number of users. Parking areas where coverage of sod cannot be maintained due to the level of use shall have paved parking installed.

Compatibility with the character of the park and surroundings shall be taken into account in designing automobile access.

Policy ~~6-1.4.4~~ ~~7-1.3.2~~: Bicycle and Pedestrian Access. The City shall ensure bicycle and pedestrian access to all sites and internal pedestrian access to all recreation facilities. Whenever possible, site access shall be connected to existing sidewalks and pathways providing access to the community at large. Bicycle racks shall be provided at all parks, special facilities, and nature reserve areas.

Policy ~~6-1.4.5~~ ~~7-1.3.3~~: Accessible Facilities for the Handicapped. Recreation sites shall be connected to external accessible routes when present and shall include internal accessible routes to all facilities whenever feasible. All types of amenities shall be provided with ~~handicapped~~ barrier-free access in a representative quantity. ~~By October 1, 2018~~ The City shall identify and schedule any readily ~~constructable~~ constructible ~~handicapped~~ barrier-free access improvements and evaluate other improvements for inclusion in the capital improvement plan. The City will provide vehicle parking, ADA-compliant parking, bicycle racks, and barrier-free access at City-owned parks and recreational facilities.

Policy ~~6-1.4.6~~ ~~7-1.3.4~~: Restrooms. ~~By October 1, 2018~~ Parks with existing restrooms shall be evaluated for the condition of the restrooms and the level of accessibility provided. Deteriorated facilities shall be scheduled for renovation, with feasible ~~handicapped access~~ accessibility improvements included in the scope of work.

Policy ~~6-1.4.7~~ ~~7-1.3.5~~: Opportunity. Each park amenity replacement, improvement, or addition shall be recognized as an opportunity to improve access for all users, including those with special needs, ~~the handicapped~~, through universal design.

Policy ~~6-1.4.8~~ ~~7-1.3.6~~: Bicycle and Hiking Trails. The City shall pursue the expansion of the existing network of trails so that a comprehensive, connected system is created which includes integration with State and County networks.

Policy ~~6-1.4.9~~: Wayfinding and Voluntary Compliance. The City shall add wayfinding and similar signage, using consistent design themes and language, to all parks that are currently not marked and shall install park system maps at all parks as may be necessary. To improve user understanding and compliance, and facilitate enforcement, the City shall install a park rules sign of consistent appearance at each site.

~~**Objective ~~7-1.4~~: Access to Indian River Lagoon and Tributaries.** The City shall preserve access to the Indian River Lagoon, the St. Sebastian River, and their tributaries.~~

~~**Policy ~~7-1.4.1~~: Land Development Regulations.** The City shall maintain land development regulations which include performance criteria designed to preserve public access to the Indian River Lagoon, St. Sebastian River, and their tributaries.~~

Objective ~~6-1.5~~ ~~7-1.5~~: Coordination of Planning and Resources. The City shall coordinate planning for recreation improvements with each level of government including the State of Florida, Indian River County, the Indian River County School Board, non-profits, the private sector, and the public at large in order to provide and promote recreational opportunities, understand needs, and encourage environmental education activities all in a cost effective manner.

Policy ~~6-1.5.1~~ ~~7-1.5.1~~: Joint School-Park Concept. Consistent with the Public Schools Element, the City shall cooperate with the Indian River County School Board to promote joint use of schools and parks for school and public recreation activities. Efforts shall be focused on the two schools within the City limits (Pelican Island and Sebastian elementary schools), however the two schools immediately adjacent to the City may be included as well (Sebastian River Middle and Sebastian River High).

~~**Policy 7-1.5.2: Government Partners.** The City shall coordinate and partner with the State and County governments to further the Goals and Objectives of this Element. City staff shall meet periodically with County staff to share information and identify opportunities for mutually beneficial partnerships.~~

~~**Policy 6-1.5.2 7-1.5.3: Private Sector.** On a continuing basis through the site plan and subdivision approval process, the City shall coordinate with private sector developers in providing needed improvements to recreation facilities by enforcing the recreation land and facility dedication or fee in lieu provisions of the LDC. Land Development Code.~~

~~**Policy 6-1.5.3 7-1.5.4: Funding Sources.** The City shall pursue grants, foundations, and other public/private funding sources for the development, expansion, and maintenance of park and public space resources. The City shall seek out and obtain the advantages of all appropriate local and non-local sources of financial and technical assistance. Alternative funding sources and their operational and administrative impacts shall be regularly monitored so that evolving State and Federal assistance programs can be aggressively pursued in furtherance of the City's recreation goals and objectives while remaining cost effective and fiscally equitable.~~

~~**Policy 6-1.5.4 7-1.5.5: Other Human Service Planning Efforts.** The City shall create realistic plans and take responsive action to meet identified needs in a cost-effective and fiscally equitable manner by encouraging the use of local park and recreation resources for a wider range of human services delivery (i.e. health information, consumer protection, nutrition, literacy, etc.)~~

~~**Policy 6-1.5.5 7-1.5.6: Cooperative Education Programs.** Park and recreation resources shall be used by the City as an instrument for environmental education as well as other adaptive education programs. This effort shall facilitate the use of local parks as year-round community education and recreation facilities for all age groups.~~

~~**Policy 6-1.5.6 7-1.5.7: Citizen Outreach.** The City shall coordinate with local media outlets (newspaper, television, etc.) as well as use the City website and social media as appropriate to inform residents about recreation activities and events. Outreach efforts shall include targeted efforts to reach the entire community. ~~including children, the handicapped, and economically disadvantaged residents.~~~~

~~**Policy 6-1.5.7: Volunteer Organizations.** The City shall continue to support the efforts of, and work closely with volunteer organizations that provide a wide range of recreation programs.~~

~~**Policy 6-1.4.7 7-1.5.8: Wayfinding and Voluntary Compliance.** ~~The City shall add wayfinding and similar signage, using consistent design themes and language, consistent name signs to all parks that are currently not marked and shall install park system maps at all parks as may be necessary, that do not currently have them. To improve user understanding and compliance, and facilitate enforcement, the City shall install a park rules sign of consistent appearance at each site.~~~~

~~**Policy 6-1.5.8: Intergovernmental Coordination.** Specific Objectives and Policies regarding intergovernmental coordination and this Element are provided and identified in the Governance & Implementation Element.~~

~~**Objective 6-1.6 Boating And Waterways.** The City shall include blueways, waterways, and boating in parks, recreation, and open space planning including the identification of high priority facilities.~~

~~**Policy 6-1.6.1: Schedule.** The City shall develop and maintain a schedule for the assessment of high priority waterways networks, including boating, kayak and canoe trail ways, and other water~~

transportation options including but not limited to inspections, repairs, and future capital improvements projects.

Policy 6-1.6.2: LOS. The City shall adopt LOS standards for boating and fishing facilities, such as boat ramps, kayak and canoe launches, fishing piers, and public access points.

Policy 6-1.6.3: Public Access. The City shall strive to maintain a no net loss policy for public access to waterways and shorelines and will work to maintain and/or expand the publicly accessible location throughout the City.