

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

Goals, Objectives and Policies

GOAL 7.1.: PROVIDE ADEQUATE SUSTAINABLE PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES AND AREAS OFFERING A BROAD RANGE OF ACTIVITIES, CONVENIENT ACCESS, APPROPRIATE IMPROVEMENTS, AND SOUND MANAGEMENT TO ALL CURRENT AND FUTURE CITIZENS OF PALM BEACH GARDENS WITH ACTIVE AND PASSIVE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF PERSONAL HEALTH, ENTERTAINMENT, AND CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF LEISURE TIME.

Objective 7.1.1.: Provide open space areas, and active and passive recreation facilities and areas for residents of Palm Beach Gardens in a timely manner so as to comply with the Level of Service (LOS) standards set forth by this element and to maintain such compliance in subsequent years.

Policy 7.1.1.1.: The City shall adopt a LOS standard of 5.0 acres of improved neighborhood and community parks and other recreation and open space facilities for each 1,000 permanent City residents. The LOS standards, which shall be adopted in the Land Development Regulations shall consider access and specific parks and recreational facilities. Parks and Recreation facilities shall be located to serve the entire City population.

Policy 7.1.1.2.: The City shall achieve the LOS standard set forth in this element through an equitable and systematic land acquisition program and impact fee program.

Policy 7.1.1.3.: The City shall continue to offer recreational programs that complement and enhance the use of the City's recreational facility assets. The City shall annually monitor recreation programs to assure that an adequate diversity of programs addresses the recreation interests of different age groups, particularly children, teenagers, and the elderly. Additionally, the City shall assure that residents with special needs are adequately accommodated.

Policy 7.1.1.4.: The City shall adopt service area standards in the Land Development Regulations for Planned Unit Development and Planned Community Developments and redevelopment within PUDs and PCDs to provide recreation and open space facilities within a walkable distance of homes and employment centers.

Policy 7.1.1.5.: The City shall continue to provide land development regulations which contain recreation and open space definitions and LOS standards.

Objective 7.1.2.: Meet the recreation and open space needs (defined by the LOS standards above) of Palm Beach Gardens through the use of public funds, gifts and contributions, mandatory fees and/or dedications, and other means.

Policy 7.1.2.1.: The City shall continue a fully operational impact fee program and shall supplement recreation and open space needs through interlocal agreements, operational practices, user fees, incentives, and public/private cooperative efforts. The City shall also develop a comprehensive implementation program with priorities, responsibilities, and schedules based on the adopted level of service standards (improved park land) and the ideal recreation facilities standards.

Policy 7.1.2.2.: The City shall maintain a detailed recreation and open space inventory which indicates the general location of existing and proposed sites and facilities as well as functional classifications, nature of improvements, and usage, size, priority, and other appropriate considerations.

Policy 7.1.2.3.: The City shall periodically review the impact fee program and shall explore alternative methods of capturing direct and indirect impact fees for recreation and open space.

Objective 7.1.3.: Provide vehicular and pedestrian access to all public, active, recreation facilities, including barrier-free design features at entrance points to the facility such as buildings used for group assembly, spectator seating areas, and restrooms.

Policy 7.1.3.1.: The City shall acquire and develop access easements or rights-of-way as required to provide adequate access for public recreation facilities, and construct access ways which are compatible with the character and needs of the facility, as well as being harmonious with surrounding development patterns.

Policy 7.1.3.2.: The City shall continue to coordinate with Palm Beach County and surrounding municipalities to achieve public access to Atlantic Ocean beaches.

Policy 7.1.3.3.: Encourage the linkage of parks and open spaces to bicycle and pedestrian trails of in coordination with the transportation element.

Policy 7.1.3.4.: Recreation facilities shall be provided consistent with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, including the number of facilities available for and accessible to persons with special needs. The City shall provide a diverse number of facilities accessible to person with special needs and shall meet or exceed the ADA diversity guidelines.

Objective 7.1.4.: Improve and coordinate efforts with all levels of government and the private sector to provide recreational opportunities.

Policy 7.1.4.1.: The City shall continue interagency agreements with the School Board for the joint use of school recreation facilities located in the City.

Policy 7.1.4.2.: The City shall enforce the dedication of park and recreation area through the land development regulations' development approval process. As a minimum, residential projects shall set aside 600 square feet per dwelling unit for public parks and recreation purpose. Non-residential projects shall set aside a percentage of the gross project area as established pursuant to Policy 7.1.4.4. Money in lieu of land dedication, subject to City Council approval, shall serve as an alternative where suitable land is not available within development or redevelopment projects for public park purposes; minimum park thresholds, as defined in Policy. 7.1.1.5., cannot be achieved; or off-site land is not appropriate to serve the recreation and open space needs of the subject development.

Policy 7.1.4.3.: The City shall seek land donations from property owners and financial contributions from the private sector for the development of recreational opportunities.

Policy 7.1.4.4.: The City shall conduct a user survey of park and recreation facilities every 3 years. The data from the survey shall be used to determine the percentage of land non-residential projects shall contribute as recreation dedication requirements. At a minimum, the survey shall document use of city parks and recreation facilities by residents and nonresidents, and the origin and destination of each user before and after the park/recreation facility use.

Policy 7.1.4.5.: The City shall maintain the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The City shall continue to assess the Master Plan in relation to the most current user survey.

Policy 7.1.4.6.: The City shall review updates of the Countywide Parks and Recreation Master Plan, as they are completed, and make the appropriate updates to this element to reflect changes to the countywide plan.

Policy 7.1.4.7.: The City shall continue to coordinate with developers and other entities to avoid duplication of recreation facilities, including provisions for joint use of recreation facilities with private and public entities, such as the school board, to meet the recreation demands of the City's citizens.

Policy 7.1.4.8.: The City shall continue to encourage co-sponsorship of recreational and cultural events, such as races, greenmarkets, festivals and athletic events, using City facilities as a location for these events.

Policy 7.1.4.9.: The City shall coordinate ways and means for private developers to provide public recreation facilities within their developments.

Policy 7.1.4.10.: The City shall continue coordination with the Palm Beach County School Board, to allow the use of school facilities for recreational purposes by the general public.