



**RECREATION AND
OPEN SPACE ELEMENT**

Last amended August 19, 2008

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**City of Boynton Beach
Recreation & Open Space Element
Goals, Objectives and Policies**

Goal 5 *To create and maintain an interconnected system of aesthetically pleasing, functional, and well-maintained parks, pedestrian/ bikeways, greenways, blueways and natural areas that will adequately serve the needs of the current and future residents of the City of Boynton Beach, including seasonal visitors, and special groups such as the elderly and handicapped.*

The City shall also continue to provide a variety of high quality parks and recreation related programs for all residents.

Objective 5.1 **The City shall provide a system of park sites with a variety of both user-oriented and resource based facilities and recreational programs to serve the needs of current and future City residents consistent with the Strategic Plan, dated April 2007 as defined in the Technical Support Documentation.**

Elements of the system shall include:

- **Urban Open / Civic Spaces**
- **Neighborhood Parks**
- **Community Parks**
- **Special Use Facilities**
- **Water / Beach Access**
- **Greenways / Bikeways / Trails**
- **Conservation Lands**
- **Regional Parks**
- **Schools / School Parks**
- **Private Recreational Facilities**
- **Art in Parks and other Public Spaces**

Measurability: *Number of facilities developed consistent with the objective*

Policy 5.1.1 **The City shall continue to assess park adequacy, future facility needs, and user preferences and willingness to pay through, at a minimum, the following methods:**

- A. Input from the City’s Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, special interest groups, and public meetings, solicited biannually; and,
- B. Park surveys conducted on a five-year basis, beginning in February 2007.

Policy 5.1.2 The City shall continue to provide a variety of parks and recreation programs for its residents, including the City’s baseball, softball, and soccer programs, and other programs for tennis, racquetball, and other activities as needed.

Policy 5.1.3 The City shall endeavor to incorporate art in all parks and public spaces throughout the City as an implementation strategy of the Art in Public Spaces program.

Objective 5.2 The City shall ensure adequate and safe public access to all existing and future City parks, recreational facilities, and local waterways. This effort shall include vehicular, pedestrian, trail, bicycle, and handicapped access and shall continue to improve and increase access to parks and recreational facilities, where available space exists, by providing adequate automobile parking, bike rack facilities, and handicap access to all existing and planned, neighborhood and community parks operated by the City by the year 2013.

Measurability: The number of improved accesses consistent with the objective.

Policy 5.2.1 The City shall continue to provide bike rack facilities within all parks developed after the adoption of this Plan.

Policy 5.2.2 By 2013, the City shall provide bike rack facilities within all existing neighborhood and community parks. Facilities shall be monitored as part of the on-going maintenance effort and deficiencies corrected within 18 months of the monitoring report. Private sponsorship of bike racks will be explored if City funding is inadequate.

Policy 5.2.3 The City shall continue to examine the extent of barrier-free access within neighborhood and district parks, and deficiencies will be addressed in a Strategic Plan that sets the phasing and funding.

Policy 5.2.4 The City shall adopt the land development regulations to require that all future parks, and applicable facilities, include barrier-free

design for the handicapped to be retrofitted, if funds are available, at a rate of three parks per year.

Policy 5.2.5 The City shall continue to provide, contingent upon assistance or support from County and/or the Community Redevelopment Agency, a shuttle service for patrons of beach front parks.

Policy 5.2.7 The City shall ensure that future park sites and facility improvements provide for accessibility of park sites and recreational facilities to handicapped users and shall ensure the adequate provision of vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian access ways.

Policy 5.2.8 Through the development of the City Greenway and Bikeway Master Plan, approved in August 2004, the City shall promote safe, interconnected pedestrian linkages for its parks and recreation network through provision of greenways, trails, sidewalks, bike paths and bike lanes, where appropriate, to connect each of the City's individual parks and facilities with schools, where feasible, to provide residents with access to the City's parks and schools systems.

Policy 5.2.9 The City shall continue to produce and distribute informational newsletters and periodic brochures that describe the City's park and recreation facilities and programs.

Objective 5.3 The City shall establish and enforce standards and programs to ensure the acquisition and development of park sites and recreational facilities sufficient to meet current and future demands. The City shall also ensure additional public access to recreation sites by providing parks and recreation facilities using, in part, current population data and projections, and implementing the improvements outlined in Exhibit 2, Proposed Improvements to the Parks and Recreation System, included in the Strategic Plan.

Measurability: The parks system is consistent with the level of service as defined by the objective.

Policy 5.3.1 The City shall adopt and maintain a level of service of 2.5 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents.

Policy 5.3.2

The following are advisory level of service standards for the recreation facilities:

- Baseball/Soft, Youth – 1 per 15,000 persons,
- Baseball, Reg. – 1 per 25,000 persons,
- Basketball Courts – 1 per 4,000 persons,
- Community Center (1) – 1 per 25,000 persons,
- Fitness Trail (2) – 1 per 30,000 persons,
- Football/Soccer Fields – 1 per 40,000 persons,
- Multipurpose Field – 1 per 10,000 persons,
- Racquetball Court – 1 per 10,000 persons,
- Picnic Areas – 1 per 3,000 persons,
- Playgrounds – 1 per 4,000 persons,
- Shuffleboard Court – 1 per 5,000 persons,
- Pool (3) – 1 per 40,000 persons,
- Tennis Court – 1 per 2,000 persons,
- Bocce Court – 1 per 25,000 persons,
- Volleyball Court – 1 per 15,000 persons, and
- Skate Park – 1 per 65,000 persons.

Policy 5.3.3

The City shall establish “Service Standards” to provide a framework of ideal standards and classification for its Parks and Recreation System. These standards are not part of the City’s adopted level of service and are utilized only as a guide for land acquisition and facility provision. They are established as part of the City’s goal for setting service standards for an “Ideal City Parks System” to meet residents’ parks and recreation needs. Elements of the system include:

- A. Developed Active Parks and Open Space (Measured by LOS):
 - GOAL: Neighborhood/School Parks – ½ - 1 mile from every resident
 - GOAL: Community Parks – 25 - 40 acres, 25% preserved for open space, 3 miles from every resident
 - GOAL: Community Centers – minimum of 4,000 square feet; 3 miles from every resident
 - GOAL: Special Use Facilities (dog parks, sports complexes, etc), 3 miles from every resident

- B. In addition, the City shall set the following nomenclature for undeveloped/passive parks and open space: Urban Open/Civic Spaces; Water/Beach Access;

Greenways/Bikeways/Trails; Regional Parks; Community Parks; Neighborhood Parks; Special Use Facilities; and Conservation Lands as identified on the Future Parks and Recreation System Map in the Strategic Plan.

Policy 5.3.4 For areas annexed into the City which are platted, developed, under development, or have approved development plans in Palm Beach County, the level of service at time of annexation shall be assumed to be that provided by existing park facilities serving the area.

Policy 5.3.5 The City shall pursue the development of facilities consistent with Exhibit 1, Future Parks and Recreation System Map, and Exhibit 2, Proposed Parks and Recreation System Improvements, included in the Strategic Plan which shall be updated annually.

Objective 5.4 The City shall maximize the use of public and private resources in the provision of recreational facilities to meet current and future demands.

Measurability: Percentage of increase in developed park acreage through the use of private and educational contributions

Policy 5.4.1 The City shall require the provision of recreation facilities and open space by public agencies and private developers.

Policy 5.4.2 City shall ensure that future private, as well as dedicated areas, are developed to meet identified needs of residents and address geographic deficiencies.

Policy 5.4.3 The City shall continue, through its interlocal agreement, to evaluate the opportunities for the joint use of existing public school and City recreational facilities and, as new public schools are planned, shall endeavor to coordinate with the Palm Beach County School Board on the location and design of future joint use recreational sites.

Policy 5.4.4 The City shall continue to permit agreements and cooperate with private recreational organizations for use of City parks and facilities in order to provide a variety of recreational programs.

Policy 5.4.5 The City shall continue to make parks and recreation facilities available to private and non-profit groups for cultural programs, special events and festivals, which serve the public interest.

Objective 5.5 The City shall implement the approved Greenway and Bikeway Master Plan (August 2004) to ensure safe access to park sites and shall evaluate available opportunities for the acquisition and development of bike/trail networks which will link park sites (including pedestrian and bicycle trails).

Measurability: The increase in pedestrian and bicycle opportunities

Policy 5.5.1 The City shall consider the construction of a network of pedestrian, bicycle, recreational, and public access trails that connects to the County's trail system. The intent of the network shall be to interconnect existing parks and facilities and additional recreational facilities for pedestrian activities. The City shall coordinate with the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Florida Department of Transportation, Palm Beach County and other appropriate agencies to study and implement options for coordinated provision of an interconnected trail network.

Policy 5.5.2 The City shall apply for grants and other funds for trail development from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, other sources of government and private grants, and possibly voter-based referenda.

Policy 5.5.3 The City shall continue to evaluate and amend, if necessary, the Land Development regulations and public road design standards for bike paths and/or lanes in conjunction with roadway design and improvements.

Policy 5.5.4 The City shall coordinate with the Florida Trail Association, the Rails to Trails Conservancy, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Office of Greenways and Trails and other organizations involved in the acquisition and development of trail systems within Palm Beach County.

Objective 5.6 The City shall continue to fund the acquisition and development of parks, open space and recreational facilities through the use of a variety of funding sources such as the general fund, developer commitments, grants, bonds, user fees, and impact fees.

Measurability: The increase in the number of parks, open space and recreational facilities

Policy 5.6.1 The City shall review the City's Recreation Impact Fee regulations biannually in order to assure that new development contributes its proportional share of the cost to expand recreation facilities.

Policy 5.6.2 The City shall continue to pursue County, State and Federal Grants for the acquisition and development of recreational and open space lands and facilities.

Policy 5.6.3 The City shall continue to pursue donations of land and matching funds to secure grants for the acquisition and development of park sites and facilities.

Policy 5.6.4 The City shall continue to apply the concept of user fees to offset the cost of certain facilities where appropriate.

Policy 5.6.5 The City shall evaluate a bond issue to generate additional parkland, trails, and open space funds to meet needs, if approved by a public referendum.

Policy 5.6.6 Notwithstanding rules and regulations governing the use of lands acquired through dedication or other means, city-owned parkland or property dedicated for recreational/park use should only be sold or converted for alternative use if supported by current needs and demand analysis, is not listed for future development in the Strategic Plan or Capital Improvements Program, and if deemed necessary to further other goals or objectives as supported by current action of the City Commission.

Policy 5.6.7 Undeveloped lands designated for future park and recreation sites shall be protected from encroachment by adjacent development.

Objective 5.7 The City shall develop a system of open spaces through the preservation and/or acquisition of significant lands, native habitat, and habitat of endangered, threatened and species of special concern.

Measurability: Increase in the amount of preservation land

Policy 5.7.1 Natural areas shall be preserved to the extent possible in accordance with preservation policies in the Conservation Element and Support Document.

- Policy 5.7.2 The City shall coordinate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and all other appropriate agencies to establish and revise regulations and programs for the acquisition of natural/environmental lands.
- Policy 5.7.3 The City shall incorporate natural open space, especially wetlands and areas unsuitable for development into neighborhood and community parks, as passive recreation space.
- Policy 5.7.4 The City shall encourage the incorporation of open space into all new non-residential projects, in addition to any environmentally sensitive areas preserved.
- Policy 5.7.5 The City shall work in conjunction with the State of Florida, the South Florida Water Management District, the Nature Conservancy, the Trust for Public Lands, and other appropriate agencies involved in conservation lands to create a citywide open space system and a greenways/trails/blueways system.