

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

GOAL

To provide for adequate public and private recreation facilities to meet the needs of Dunnellon residents.

Objective 1:

~~Coordinate public and private resources in order to provide~~ Provide land, recreational facilities and parks to meet adopted level of service standards.

Policy 1.1:

The City shall maintain a level of service standard of 2 acres per 1,000 population for its neighborhood parks, defined as fewer than five (5) acres.

Policy 1.2:

The City shall maintain a level of service standard of 2 acres per 1,000 ~~persons~~ population for its community parks, defined as five (5) acres or more.

Policy 1.3:

New residential developments, ~~except single family homes on existing platted lots, shall be required to provide land to meet the recreation and park needs of the residents~~ shall comply with the City's concurrency management requirements.

Policy 1.4:

~~The City may accept land dedication; elect to require payment of a fee in lieu of dedication, or a combination of both land and fee. The fee shall be based upon the fair market value of the land which would have been dedicated to the City for park and recreation purposes. Fees in lieu of dedication shall be used for public recreation purposes.~~
The City will evaluate whether to adopt a Recreation/Parks impact fee.

Policy 1.5:

The City will research the feasibility of acquiring right-of-ways for recreational facilities such as hiking trails, greenways, and on-road biking facilities as shown on the City of Dunnellon Draft Recreational Trail Map and the Proposed Trails and Greenways Map.

Objective 2:

Ensure that existing public recreation facilities are available to all residents.

Policy 2.1:

Allocate sufficient funding in the Capital Improvements Element and annual capital and operating budget to adequately maintain existing park and recreation facilities.

Policy 2.2:

The City shall research various forms of funding to support land acquisition and facilities for parking, beach improvements, and provision of children’s play apparatus, including: acquisition of adjacent properties and facilities through private and public donations, fund raisers and matching grant programs.

Policy 2.3:

The City shall coordinate with the State and Marion County on funding for initial capital improvements, and maintaining and operating Little League Park year-round.

Policy 2.4:

The City shall assess the feasibility of developing improved recreational facilities at Datesman Park and Rainbow Acres Park.

Objective 3:

Ensure recreation sites and facilities, including freshwater beaches and shores, are accessible to all of Dunnellon’s residents.

Policy 3.1:

Bicycle facilities, including connections to parks and schools, shall be required of new development where the development is adjacent to or includes lands on which future bicycle facilities have been identified on the Proposed Trails and Greenways Map and Draft Recreational Trails Map.

Policy 3.2:

Design criteria in the land development regulations shall ensure accessibility to recreation facilities for all residents, including elderly, handicapped, and young children.

Policy 3.3:

Road improvement programs shall include sidewalks and bicycle facilities in order to provide access to recreation sites and facilities.

Policy 3.4:

Coordinate with DEP Office of Greenways and Trails to facilitate recreational access and trail connectivity.

Policy 3.5:

Bicycle parking facilities shall be included at all new public and private parks as part of their initial development, and at all existing parks.

Policy 3.6:

Continue coordination mechanisms with the Marion County Sheriff’s Department, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and other agencies to ensure enforcement of laws and regulations governing the use of the Rainbow and Withlacoochee rivers.

Objective 4:

The City shall regulate conservation areas identified on the Future Land Use Map and ensure the provision of open space by both public agencies and private enterprises.

Policy 4.1:

The City shall promote the designation of open space and natural areas through adoption of land development regulations, which require that all new multi-family and non-residential development and all new subdivisions provide a minimum of 30 percent quality, usable open space or green area, except the historical district.

Policy 4.2:

The City shall protect the following areas as open space amenities:

- A. The Withlacoochee and Rainbow Rivers, conservation lands, and wetlands.
- B. Areas within the wellfield protection radius of existing and future ~~well fields~~[wellfields](#).
- C. Areas owned by the State of Florida, including the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway Corridor, which may be leased or acquired in the future for recreation.
- D. Areas that will protect the quality of natural springs.

Objective 5:

The City shall coordinate with other governments and organizations and the public to plan for recreation.

Policy 5.1:

The City will coordinate with Marion County to provide regional recreation facilities that will serve City residents.

Policy 5.2:

The City shall coordinate with Marion County Recreation Department, the Little League, schools, and other governments and organizations to provide recreation programs for children and adults in the City.

Policy 5.3:

The City shall coordinate with Marion County School Board and public schools in the City to allow public school facilities to be safely utilized after school hours for recreation programs and informal recreation.

Objective 6:

Parks and recreation facilities in the City will be developed and used in a sustainable manner.

Policy 6.1:

Tubing access along the Rainbow River shall be limited and monitored in order to protect wildlife, wildlife habitats, and water quality. Monitoring and limiting access shall be a cooperative effort between the City, Marion County, and DEP.

Policy 6.2:

Recreational access along the Rainbow River shall be limited and monitored in order to protect wildlife, wildlife habitats, and water quality. Monitoring and limiting access shall be a cooperative effort between the City, Marion County, and DEP.

Policy 6.3:

The City shall encourage and participate in recreational impact studies, such as carrying capacity studies, river use studies, or recreational use studies, for the Rainbow River and Withlacoochee River.

Policy 6.4:

If future park sites include natural resources, the parks shall be designed to ensure the protection of those resources.