

Recreation and Open Space Element
Goals, Objectives and Policies

GOAL

To provide for adequate public and private recreation facilities and open space sites to meet the various needs of Dunnellon's residents.

Park and Recreation Facility Provision Objectives and Policies

Objective 1:

Coordinate public and private resources in order to provide land, recreational facilities and parks to meet adopted level of service standards throughout the planning time frame.

Policy 1.1: The City shall provide a level of service standard of 2 acres per 1,000 population for its neighborhood parks, consistent with the standards of the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Recreation and Parks.

Policy 1.2: The City shall provide a level of service standard of 2 acres per 1,000 persons for its community parks, consistent with standards of the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Recreation and Parks.

Policy 1.3: No existing recreational facilities or parks will be changed to other uses unless clearly in the public interest; such facilities shall be adequately replaced to ensure the level of service does not fall below adopted standards.

Policy 1.4: New residential developments which are subdivisions, multi-family developments or mobile home developments shall be required to provide land to meet the recreation and park needs of the residents. A formula will be developed in the City's land development regulations which calculates land required based upon the density of the development and the City's adopted level of service standards.

Policy 1.5: Prior to contemplated annexation of unincorporated properties, the effects of additional population will be evaluated by the party seeking annexation. If it is determined that additional population gained as a result of annexation will lower adopted level of service standards for recreation, the City will require that appropriate land within the proposed annexation area be designated for recreation as a neighborhood or community park, in accordance with Policy 1.4.

Policy 1.6: 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.

Policy 1.7: The City shall direct the Parks and Recreation Committee to research and apply for funding opportunities towards increasing recreational opportunities in the City.

Policy 1.8: The existing tuber parking site on CR 484, which is the only public site for the dropoff and pickup of tubers on the Rainbow River, is currently in private ownership and leased to Marion County. The City shall coordinate with the County and various citizen recreation committees in developing alternatives to public access if the lease were to become nonrenewable, including joint public purchase by the County and City.

Policy 1.9: By 1993 the City will research the possibility of purchasing parcels for recreational facilities such as hiking and biking trails within the abandoned CSX corporation rail corridor located adjacent to the Rainbow River by exploring state and federal grant and/or loan programs such as the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Objective 2:

Ensure that existing public and private recreation facilities are adequately and efficiently available to all residents throughout the planning time frame, at the adopted levels of service.

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: Allocate sufficient funding by FY 1995 to implement improvements to the City Beach, including beautification, design and engineering to provide additional parking and correct erosion problems.

Policy 2.3: 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, including the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program. The Parks and Recreation Committee shall be directed to research alternative funding sources; the City Newsletter shall be one vehicle to increase public and private sector awareness of the City's recreational needs.

Policy 2.4: By 1993 the City shall research the possibility of developing nature, hiking or bicycle trails at the 105 acre recreational complex. The feasibility of developing a boardwalk or nature trail on the abandoned rail corridor southwest of the elementary school shall also be researched by 1993.

Policy 2.5: Evaluate the existing sites and facilities to meet residents' recreational needs every five years, through the use of a user survey, to be developed by 1995.

Policy 2.6: New parks and recreation facilities shall be located, when possible, in neighborhood areas where the recreation survey indicates a deficiency; otherwise, they should be centrally located.

Policy 2.7: The City shall fund a feasibility study to develop the city boat ramp/mobile home park property to include a city hall complex.

Policy 2.8: The City shall research the use of private and public resources towards the acquisition of an activity center by 1993 by exploring private foundation resources as well as State and Federal grant and/or loan programs.

Objective 3:

Ensure recreation sites and facilities, including freshwater beaches and shores, are accessible to all of Dunnellon's residents through the year 2010, through adoption of land development regulations by the statutory deadline which increase public access, and through intergovernmental coordination procedures.

Policy 3.1: Bicycling trails, including connection of new development to park facilities and schools shall be required where new development fronts are or includes land for which the City has identified a need for bicycle facilities pursuant to a bicycle facilities plan. Such a plan shall be developed by 1994.

Policy 3.2: Establish design criteria in the land development regulations to ensure accessibility to recreation facilities for all residents, including elderly, handicapped and young children.

Policy 3.3: Road improvement programs shall include improvement of sidewalks with ramps; ramped sidewalks will provide access to recreation sites and facilities.

Policy 3.4: Coordinate with the Florida Barge Canal Authority, to determine the feasibility of leasing Canal Authority property for recreational river access within the city limits that is not otherwise committed.

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 by 1995.

Policy 3.6: Continue coordination mechanisms with the Marion County Sheriff's Department, US Coast Guard, Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to ensure adequate enforcement on the rivers.

Open Space Provision Objectives and Policies

Objective 4:

The City shall ensure the provision of open space by both public agencies and private enterprises, by adoption of land development regulations within the statutory deadline which define and provide minimum standards for open space.

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 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, and conservation wetlands

B. Areas within the wellfield protection radius of existing and future wellfields

C. Areas within the Florida Barge Canal Authority, including areas which may be leased or acquired in the future for spray irrigation or recreation.