

X. RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

Parks and natural open space areas can be used for many different activities: recreation, wetlands and forest which aid in stormwater drainage and provide habitat for wildlife, a relief from urban congestion and development, and aesthetic benefits to surrounding residents and visitors.¹

Benefits of exposure to plants, landscapes and wilderness experiences on physical and mental health have been well-documented.² Studies have shown that residents located near parks and open spaces exercise more. Regular physical activity has been shown to increase health and reduce the risk of numerous diseases, including heart disease, hypertension, colon cancer, and diabetes.³ Psychological health is also influenced by exposure to parks and open spaces. Evidence shows that exposure to parks and open space reduces the effects of depression and anxiety, can improve mood and enhance psychological well-being. Parks and open space in urban settings provide recreational opportunities for at-risk youth, low-income children and families, and provide a sense of community.

In addition to the health benefits, parks and open space provide numerous environmental benefits. Trees provide a more effective and less expensive way to manage storm water runoff than building systems of concrete sewers and drainage ditches.⁴ In addition to reducing noise pollution, trees improve air quality by reducing air and water pollution, trees provide shade which reduces heat island effects, and provide habitat for wildlife, which in turn can reduce pest insects.

Studies have shown that parks and open space increase the value of neighboring or nearby residential properties (and there is some evidence that this does so for non-residential properties as well).⁵ Corporations place value on quality-of-life factors when determining where to locate facilities, as do individuals choosing a place to live. The availability of parks and open space is an important quality-of-life factor in these decision-making processes. Parks even become tourism draws, which contribute directly to local businesses.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this element⁶ is to establish the role of the recreation and open space system of New Smyrna Beach in satisfying the recreational needs of the residents, thus preserving valuable open space and using the system to enhance the visual image of the City. Parks play a very important role in establishing the City's self-image; therefore, the recommendations of this element are intended to provide for continued maintenance of adequate recreation facilities and for beautification of existing parks in order to beautify the City. Inventories of existing conditions and evaluations of appropriate potential park sites, recreation areas, facilities and open space systems are also provided.

OVERVIEW

Generally, park areas serve dual purposes: (1) they conserve open space and natural resources, and (2) they provide outdoor recreation opportunities. Florida is still rich in open space resources such as

¹ McConnell, Virginia and Margaret Walls. 2005. "the Value of Open Space: Evidence from Studies of Nonmarket Benefits." *Resources for the Future*.

² Frumkin, Howard, MD, PhD, DrPH, FACP, FACOEM. 2001. "Beyond Toxicity: Human Health and the Natural Environment". *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*. 20(3): 234-240.

³ Sherer, Paul. 2003. "Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space." Trust for Public Lands.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Crompton, John L. 2000. *The Impact of Parks and Open Space on Property Values and the Property Tax Base*. Ashburn, Va.: National Recreation and Park Association.

⁶ This Element satisfies the requirements of Section 163.3177(6)(e), Florida Statutes for contents in the Comprehensive Plan.

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forestlands, grasslands, wetlands, lakes, and beaches, although the supply is steadily dwindling. Conservation of open space through the acquisition of land is one means of maintaining examples of Florida's original natural character. Demand for outdoor recreation opportunities can be met by providing parks for such passive, resource-based pursuits as picnicking and nature study, and parks for active user-oriented pursuits such as tennis, shuffleboard, and softball.

Parks that conserve open space and fulfill outdoor recreation demand can be subdivided into several types, depending primarily on the size of the area they serve: Beach access, Urban Open Space, Equipped Playgrounds and Tot Lots, Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, Regional Parks, Urban District Parks and Sports Complexes. These types of parks are described below, with specific criteria summarized in Table X-1.

The standards adopted by New Smyrna Beach are based on the standards being used by the State of Florida. The intent of the City is that this level-of-service will be maintained by using these standards to expand existing facilities and provide new facilities as the community grows.

TYPES OF OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Outdoor recreation, broadly defined, is any leisure time activity conducted outdoors. However, for planning purposes, the wide range of outdoor recreation activities is generally subdivided into "user-oriented" and "resource-based" recreation.

USER-ORIENTED ACTIVITY STANDARDS

User-oriented types of outdoor recreation are those that can be provided almost anywhere for the convenience of the user. Examples include golf, tennis, baseball, basketball, shuffleboard, volleyball, soccer, pool swimming, archery, skeet and trap shooting, and playground activities.

RESOURCE BASED ACTIVITY STANDARDS

Resource-based outdoor recreation differs from user-oriented recreation in that it cannot be provided just anywhere. It is dependent upon some element or combination of elements in the natural or cultural environments that cannot be easily duplicated by man. It may be either active or passive in nature. Examples include hunting, fishing, camping, backpacking, boating, water skiing, surfing, and nature study. Visiting historical and archaeological sites is also included because such sites, while not strictly natural resources, share the limitations of being fixed in both quantity and location. The City's standards are based on those presented in the "Outdoor Recreation in Florida - 2000" created by the Division of Recreation and Parks under the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

STANDARDS

The planning of individual parks, and of a whole system of parks, cannot be done in an orderly manner without assigning to each park a function, size limitation, , and general listing of facilities. A good system of classification and standards enables parks to be planned in a balanced manner for uniform and all-inclusive recreation service. All areas of the City can then be properly served, and all age groups and segments of population provided for, on an impartial basis.

The State of Florida Division of Recreation and Parks, in the publication *Outdoor Recreation in Florida-2000*, established a set of reference standards, which provide a suitable basis for planning. The standards were developed based on preferences among tourists and Florida residents. The standards used by New Smyrna Beach are based on these state standards, in part, and on their own community standards, needs, and preferences.

APPLICATION OF STANDARDS TO THE CITY

The application of standards to the park system in New Smyrna Beach does not fully consider or measure

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quality. Also, the standards do not account for differences in the character of residential facilities; for differences in the age composition of the population, which in turn affects the type and quantity of parks required; or for differences in habits and customs among ethnic groups, which are decisive in determining the extent to which park facilities are actually used. In this planning element, the standards are used to identify general park and recreation facility deficiencies within the City, and to guide the assignment of planning priorities.

Private recreation facilities are plentiful in the City of New Smyrna Beach and Volusia County. While these private facilities serve much of the recreation demand in the area, the City has prepared its plan and adopted its standards strictly for the purposes of providing public parks and recreation facilities/programs. The availability of private facilities has not been relied upon by the City to meet its standards, and the City is not actively seeking to increase the number of private facilities. The City will continue to provide public parks and recreation facilities/programs, and it will require developers to contribute their fair share toward providing public recreation facilities and open spaces.

School facilities also serve as resources to meet much of the recreation demand in the area. The City has a good relationship with the Volusia County School Board and several of the schools located within the City. While this resource is extensive, school facilities and programs have not been relied upon when measuring public facilities by the City's standards.

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS

Table X-1 Site Guidelines for Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities, 2000

Park Facility	Location	Service Area	Area Per 1,000 Population	Minimum Park Size (Acres)	Population Served
Beach Access / Dune Walkovers	within 0.25 mile of urban coastal beach or on its periphery	1 access/0.5 mile of shoreline	N/A	N/A	N/A
Beach Access Parks with Parking	N/A		0.25 acre	1	N/A
Urban Open Space	Resource-based Recreation Areas	0.25-0.5 miles	0.1 acres	0.1	N/A
Equipped Play and Tot Lot	Residential setting or adjacent to a school	up to 0.25 mile	0.2 acre	0.25	Up to 5,000
Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood area, adjacent to elementary school when feasible	up to 1/2 mile	0.4 acres	1.9	Up to 5,000
Community Park	Designed to serve residents of a group of neighborhoods. Should be located adjacent to Jr. or Sr. High School when feasible.	up to 3 miles	1 acres	20	Up to 5,000
Regional Park	On the periphery of an urban area	30 minutes to 1 hour driving time	20 acres	250	Over 100,000
Urban District Park	In a large urban area or on its periphery	30 to 40 minutes driving time	5 acres	50	50,000
Sports Complex	strategically-located community-wide facilities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Source: Outdoor Recreation in Florida - 2000, Florida's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

BEACH ACCESS SITES

Access points and parking areas are primarily support facilities for public-owned beaches. In many areas beach access is limited to pedestrian paths and raised wooden walkways which extend to the public-owned portion of the beach (that part lying seaward of the mean high water line). Public parking may or may not be provided. Sites may range from 10 to more than 100 feet in width; parking areas may range from less than to more than an acre. A distance of one-half mile between access sites has been developed as a guideline for the spacing of public access sites at state-financed beach restoration projects as required by Chapter 16B-36, Florida Administrative Code. Additionally, Beach access should be provided in 1.0 acre increments when the deficiency equals 0.5 acres.

EQUIPPED PLAY AREA AND TOT LOT

Equipped play areas, or "tot lots" as they are often called, are open areas with play apparatus for preschool and school age children. It is recommended that an equipped play area serve neighborhoods of between 500 and 5,000 people at a minimum of 1/4-acre at a site adjoining an existing recreation facility or elementary school. Elsewhere, 1 acre is suggested. Recommended facilities include play apparatus, landscaping, benches and open space. Depending on local recreation needs, picnic tables may be included. The level of service standard for these facilities is 0.2 acres per 1000 residents. Because Tot Lots are most commonly associated with adjacent parks and open space, these facilities should be provided in 0.25 acre increments when the deficiency equals 0.2 acres.

URBAN OPEN SPACE

Urban open space sites are landscaped or natural open areas, located within built-up areas. Depending on their location, open space sites may serve populated areas ranging in size from a single neighborhood to an entire city. Their principal function is to intersperse congested urban environments with aesthetically pleasing buffer areas. Urban open space areas may vary in size from 1/10-acre to several acres depending on their intended use. Some serve as linear, vest pocket or traffic circle parks, while others are parkways, boulevard medians, plazas, malls, courthouse squares, and promenades. Benches, commemorative structures, trails and paths are optional depending on local needs and the size and location of individual sites. Urban Open Space should be provided in 0.1 acre increments when the deficiency equals 0.05 acres.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

The neighborhood park is a "walk-to" park, generally located along streets where people can walk or bicycle without encountering heavy traffic. It serves the population of a neighborhood in a radius of up to one-half mile, and should have at least 0.4 acres for each 1,000 population. These parks should be provided in 1.9 acre increments when the deficiency equals 1.0 acre.

Because the service areas of a neighborhood park and an elementary school often coincide, it is desirable for the neighborhood park to physically join the elementary school, when feasible. Both park and school serve the same basic population, share compatible land uses, and contain recreation facilities that are of mutual benefit. Because recreation needs vary from one neighborhood to another, site design for this type of park should be flexible in order to meet the particular recreation needs of each neighborhood.

Site design should also reflect the character of the neighborhood and incorporate compatible elements of both passive and active types of recreation. Typical facilities developed in the neighborhood park may include play apparatus, recreation buildings, multipurpose courts, sports fields, picnic areas and free play areas. Additional facilities may be added, depending on the recreation demands of the neighborhood.

COMMUNITY PARKS

A community park is a "ride to" park, located near major streets. It is designed to serve the needs of 4 to 6 neighborhoods. It serves an area with a radius of up to 3 miles, or a service population of up to 25,000. A minimum of 20 acres for each community park is recommended, with acreage needs based on a standard of 1 acre per 1,000 population. Where a community park can be located adjacent to a junior or senior high school, a minimum of 5 acres is recommended. The community park offers a wide range of program and facility opportunities for all individuals and families. Just as the neighborhood park fulfills the recreation needs of the neighborhood, the community park is designed to meet the recreation needs of

the entire community. These parks should be provided in 20.0 acre increments when the deficiency equals 10.0 acres.

Typical facilities at a community park may include swimming pools, ball fields, tennis courts, play areas, picnic areas, multipurpose courts, recreation buildings, and sports fields. Additional recreation facilities may be included to meet a particular recreation demand in the community. Adequate off-street parking may be needed to contain parking overflow from the school parking areas. Two important elements of every community park are the use of landscaping and the provision of passive recreation activity areas.

REGIONAL PARKS

Regional parks are large, resource-based areas that serve two or more communities or counties and are usually located within an hour's driving distance of the residents they serve. A space allowance of 20 acres per 1,000 population is suggested. The park should serve a population of over 100,000 and should range in size from a minimum of 250 acres to as much as several thousand acres. Because regional parks are generally designed for resource-based activities, location is dependent upon the availability of high quality natural resources capable of being developed and used for outdoor recreation.

Typical facilities provided at a regional park include water-based recreation sites, camping areas, hiking and nature trails, picnic areas, and other facilities not requiring intensive development. Parking areas are necessary support facilities and should be designed to minimize adverse effects on the natural environment. The most prominent feature of a regional park is that it provides recreational opportunities that, through the design and development of outdoor recreation resources and facilities, capitalize on the natural environment and promote an atmosphere of beauty and serenity.

Regional parks should be provided via inter-local or inter-governmental agreements, given the size and the population served by such a facility, which would be greater than the population of New Smyrna Beach alone.

URBAN DISTRICT PARK

An urban-district park is designed to serve the recreation needs of several communities, a city, or a county, and usually provides some areas and facilities that are resource-based. Typical areas and facilities include natural areas, campgrounds and play apparatus. Additional facilities may include a zoo, a golf course or a botanical garden. Driving periods of up to 30 to 40 minutes may be required to reach an urban-district park, which should, when possible, be located on the periphery of a large urban area. Such parks should serve an average population of 50,000, with a desirable space allowance of 5 acres per 1,000 people. While 100 acres may meet minimum requirements, a size range of 200 acres or more is desirable.

As with Regional Parks, these facilities should be provided via inter-local or inter-governmental agreements, given the size and the population served by such a facility, which would be greater than the population of New Smyrna Beach alone.

SPORTS COMPLEX

While a specific definition for a "sports complex" is not provided by the *Florida's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*, it is listed as a Community Outdoor Recreation Resource or Facility within the plan. It is roughly described within the DEP plan as a facility that is "strategically located" to provide "community wide facilities". This type of facility is listed as containing ballfields, soccer fields, football fields, tennis courts, play structures, hard courts, volleyball, internal trails, and picnic areas. This facility should be a minimum of 25 acres, but potentially would be 40-80 acres.

No specific level of service standard is provided by the State Guidelines. The City feels the existing facilities are sufficient.

RECREATION FACILITY STANDARDS

The facilities at each park should be designed to meet the recreation needs of the people in its service area. Standards for meeting these needs are presented in Table X-2. As with the park facility standards previously described, these standards are based on FDEP guidelines.

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Table X-2 Population Guidelines for User-Oriented Outdoor Recreation Activities

User Oriented Activity	Resource / Facility	Population Served	
		Minimum	
Baseball/Softball	Field	2,000	10,000
Basketball	Court	500	20,000
Bicycle Trails	Mile of Trail	1,500	10,000
Boat Ramp	Lane	1,500	12,500
Pier/Catwalk/Jetty	800 feet	5,000	25,000
Football/Soccer	Field	4,000	25,000
Handball/Racquetball	Court	2,500	20,000
Shuffleboard	Court	1,000	12,000
Tennis	Court	1,067	10,000

Source: Outdoor Recreation in Florida - 2000, Florida's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

EXISTING CONDITIONS

BACKGROUND

The City of New Smyrna Beach has a long-standing history of offering recreation facilities and open space areas for its residents. An inventory of existing facilities and areas is presented in Table X-3 and Map X-1. Included in this list, and shown on the maps, are publically-owned facilities. It should be noted that the Atlantic Ocean Beach, Canaveral National Seashore, Smyrna Dunes Park, and the Doris Leaper Spruce Creek Preserve are included in the inventory list as parks servicing the City and its residents and visitors. However, aside from Smyrna Dunes Park, these parks are not located within the City incorporated boundaries. Due to their proximity to the City and the frequent use of the facilities by residents and visitors alike, they are considered regional amenities that serve the City's levels of service standards.

Finally, aside from Flagler Avenue Boardwalk, 27th Avenue Park and Esther Street Park (which is to be completed by 2015), beach access is primarily dune walkovers or pathways.

SITE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Analyses of how existing parks / open spaces and facility amenities meet the Level of Service Standards adopted by the City are based on population. The population is based on the projection shown in Table X-3:

Table X-3. Population Projections: 2010-2025

Year	2010	2015	2020	2025
Projected Population	25,043	28,664	32,284	34,095

Additionally, the following table (Table X-4) shows the various parks and their assigned classifications based on the categories presented in Outdoor Recreation in Florida – 2000. Some parks meet criteria to be assigned to two categories, as shown under “Primary Classification” and “Secondary Classification”. Parks with two classifications are counted towards meeting both of the classifications’ minimum level of service standards.

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Table X-4. List of Park Facilities Serving the Population of New Smyrna Beach, with Primary and Secondary Classifications, and Size in Acres indicated

NAME	Primary Classification	Secondary Classification	ACRES
Atlantic Coast and Inlet Beach	Regional Park	Urban District Park	314.470
Babe James Youth Center	Recreation Center	Neighborhood Park	2.597
Brannon Community Center	Recreation Center		2.471
Buena Vista Park	Neighborhood Park	Equipped Play and Tot Lot	1.987
Callalisa Park	Urban Open Space		0.980
Canaveral National Seashore	Regional Park		58000
Christmas Park	Urban Open Space		0.140
City Gym	Recreation Center	Neighborhood Park	2.521
Coronado Civic Center	Recreation Center		0.690
Detwiler Park	Neighborhood Park	Equipped Play and Tot Lot	1.950
Dog Park	Urban Open Space		0.755
Doris Leeper - Spruce Creek Preserve	Regional Park		2000
Emory L. Bennett Park	Urban Open Space		0.317
Esther Street Park	Beach Access	Urban Open Space	1.827
Flagler Avenue Boardwalk	Beach Access	Urban Open Space	1.849
Glenwood Av Park	Urban Open Space		1.282
Indian River Lagoon Park	Urban District Park		115.084
Inlet Shores Park	Equipped Play and Tot Lot		0.506
Mainland Shuffleboard Club	Urban Open Space		0.593
Manatee All Children's Playground	Equipped Play and Tot Lot	Urban Open Space	0.352
Mary Avenue Park	Urban Open Space	Equipped Play and Tot Lot	0.769
Municipal GOLF Course	Urban District Park		132.609
Myrtle Avenue Park	Urban Open Space	Equipped Play and Tot Lot	1.158
North Beach Park	Urban Open Space	Beach Access	12.309
North Causeway Boat Ramp	Urban Open Space		6.006
Old Fort Park	Urban Open Space		2.842
Pettis Park	Neighborhood Park	Equipped Play and Tot Lot	4.652
Riverside Park	Neighborhood Park		6.963
Rocco Park	Neighborhood Park		3.298
Scout Hut	Urban Open Space	Recreation Center	1.988
Skate Park	Neighborhood Park		2.530
Smyrna Dunes Park	Urban District Park	Beach Access	208.543
Sports Complex	Community Park		75.664
Turnbull Street Park	Equipped Play and Tot Lot		1.129
Twenty-seventh Ave Park	Neighborhood Park	Beach Access	2.658

BEACH ACCESS SITES

The City currently has 46 dune walkovers, ramps and beach paths providing public access to the beach within the City Limits. These are located between Smyrna Dunes Park at the north end of the barrier island (commonly called "Beachside") and near Seawoods Boulevard near the southern end of the City limits. The average is one dune walkover, path or ramp approximately every 570 feet, which greatly exceeds the State guidelines for suggested beach access at a rate of one for every 0.5 miles of coastline.

The City also manages the Flagler Avenue Boardwalk, which is an approximately 295 foot long boardwalk and brick paver walkway constructed as a linear pavilion and is located on the beach. This facility also provides restrooms and showers as well as a number of parking spaces for beach access. The 27th Avenue Park provides a tot lot play area, racquetball courts, a picnic pavilion and a number of parking spaces for beach access. Esther Street Park will be developed with 40-plus parking spaces as well as a number of other park amenities, to include a nature trail, restrooms, volleyball courts, a picnic pavilion and a playground.

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The Level of Service (LOS) standard for Beach Access is 0.25 acres per 1,000 residents to be provided in 1.0 acre increments. Not counting the actual area each dune walkover or beach path or ramp occupies, the City operates and residents have access to 227.19 acres of Beach Access lands (Smyrna Dunes Park, North Beach Community Park, Flagler Avenue Boardwalk, 27th Avenue Park), which equals 9.072 acres per 1000 residents. No deficiency in this type of park is expected through 2025.

EQUIPPED PLAY AREA AND TOT LOT

The City has 9 Equipped Play Area / Tot Lots. These are located at the following facilities: Manatee All Children's Playground, Inlet Shores Park, Turnbull Street Park, Mary Avenue Park, Myrtle Avenue Park, Detwiler Park, Buena Vista Park, and Pettis Park. These parks total 12.503 acres. The LOS for this type of facility is 0.2 acres per 1000 population to be provided in 0.25 acre increments. The City currently has 0.499 acres/1000 population. No deficiency is expected through 2025.

URBAN OPEN SPACE

The City currently operates 15 park facilities classified as Urban Open Space. These parks total 33.167 acres and range from traditional park settings within neighborhoods, such as Myrtle Avenue Park which provides a playground and picnic tables, to the Mainland Shuffleboard Court, to pocket parks such as Christmas Park on Canal Street and Emory L. Bennett Park on Sams Avenue, to Dog Park located on Glenwood Avenue. At a rate of 0.1 acres per 1,000 residents, the City currently has 2.50 acres per 1,000 residents provided in 0.1 acre increments. No deficiency is expected through 2020. Until the LOS deficiency equals 0.05 acres, development of additional Urban Open Space will not be required. However, as urban land is bought up for infill and redevelopment, the City should keep in mind opportunities to purchase and develop such types of facilities within the urban setting.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

As shown in the inventory on Table X-4, there are nine (9) neighborhood park owned and operated by the City of New Smyrna Beach. These are: Babe James Youth Center, the City Gym, Pettis Park, Riverside Park, Rocco Park, the New Smyrna Beach Skate Park, Buena Vista Park, Detweiler Park, and Twenty-Seventh Avenue Park, totaling 29.156 acres. The standard adopted by the City establishes a level of service of 0.4 acres of Neighborhood Park land per 1,000 residents, provided in 1.9-acre increments when the deficiency equals 1.0 acres. Based on the current (2010) estimated population of 25,403 and the 29.156 acres of existing neighborhood parks, there is about 1.164 acres per 1,000 residents, which exceeds the City's adopted LOS standard.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Based on the definition of a "Community Park" being a minimum of 20 acres in size and providing such amenities as "informal ballfields, swimming pool, archery ranges, disc golf areas, ornamental gardens, open space and facilities for cultural activities", the City has one facility that meets this standard - the Municipal Sports Complex located adjacent to the Municipal Airport. This facility is 75.664 acres. Based on the 2010 population of 25,043 residents the City is providing the Community Park at a rate of 3.021 acres per 1000 residents. The LOS standard of 1 acre per resident is thus well-exceeded by this facility through 2025. The City will provide Community Parks in 20 acre increments when the demand equals 10 acres.

URBAN DISTRICT PARKS

The City currently has four (4) parks that are classified as "Urban District Parks": Indian River Lagoon Preserve, Municipal Golf Course, Smyrna Dunes Park, and the Atlantic Coast and Inlet Beaches. While Smyrna Dunes Park and the Atlantic Coast and Inlet Beaches are owned and managed by Volusia County, it is within the incorporated City Limits and serves the residents of New Smyrna Beach to fulfill the LOS standard for this park type. These four (4) parks total 770.706 acres of park land, and are spatially well-distributed and are within 40 minutes from anywhere within the City. The LOS standard for this type of park facility is 5.0 acres per 1,000 residents. The City currently operates at a LOS of 30.775 acres per 1,000 residents, which well-exceeds the minimum LOS standard.

REGIONAL PARKS

While the City does not own or manage a regional park within its incorporated boundaries, there are two such facilities that serve the area: the adjacent Atlantic Coast Beach and Inlet Beach (managed by Volusia County), which consists of 314.47 acres, and Canaveral National Seashore, located at the southern end of the Beachside barrier island, which, is approximately 58,000 acres in size – both well over the minimum size of 250 acres for this type of park, and both within 60 minutes driving time from any point within the City boundaries. Therefore, this public facility serves to fulfill the State guidelines for Regional Parks. Additionally, to the north of the City on US1 is the Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve. This park is more than 2000 acres in size and is within 60 minutes from anywhere in the City. It is a public park owned and operated by Volusia County. Therefore, while the City does not own or maintain these parks, they are publically owned lands that service the City and are considered when analyzing the LOS for Regional Parks.

SPORTS COMPLEX

Outdoor Recreation in Florida – 2000 does not provide a LOS standard for “Sports Complexes”. However, the City owns and maintains a 75+ acre sports complex, which provides soccer, football, baseball and softball fields as well as a football stadium, trails, and restrooms. The Sports Complex provides 3.021 acres of this type of park facility per 1000 residents.



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**CITY PARKS MAP X-1
PLANNING HORIZON
2010-2025**

Legend

- Beach Path, Ramp, and Walkover
- Beach Access
- Equipped Play Area/Tot Lot
- Urban Open Space
- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Urban District Park
- Regional Park
- City Boundary
- Local Street
- Railroad

April 24, 2015

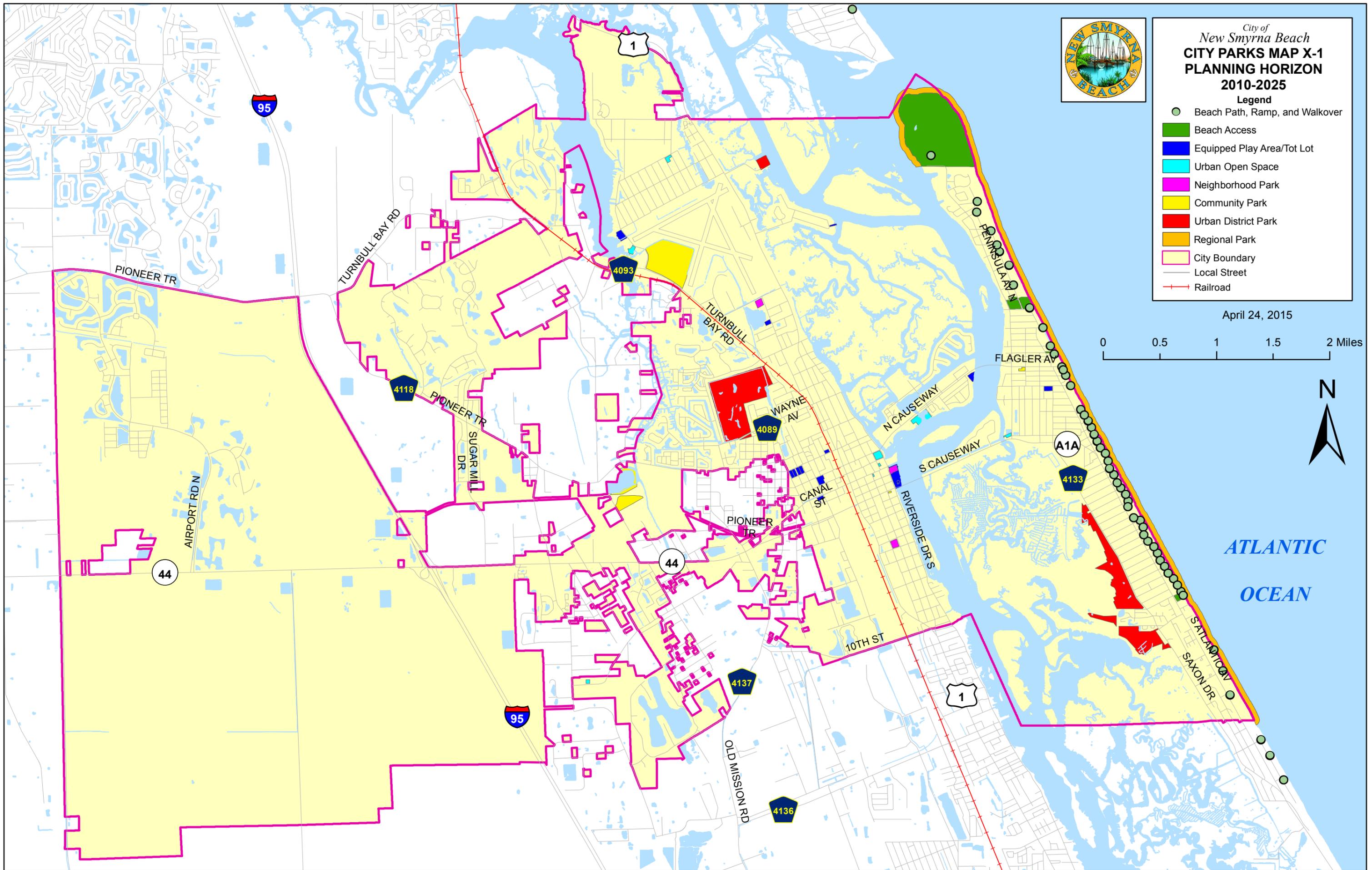
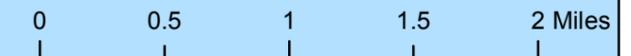


Table X-5 Inventory of Public Park and Open Space Lands by Park Classification and Total Acres, 2010

Total for Each Park and Open Space Category in Acres	
Beach Access	227.19
Equipped Play Areas/Tot Lots	12.503
Urban Open Space	33.167
Neighborhood Parks	29.156
Community Parks	75.664
Urban District Parks	770.706
Regional Parks	60314.470
Sports Complex	75.664

Table X-6. Park Level of Service Standards by Classification and Population Projections

Park Classification	Level of Standard	Minimum Park Size in Acres	2010 Level of Service / 1000 Population	2010 Overage or Deficiency	Projected 2015 Level of Service / 1000 Population	2015 Overage / Deficiency	Projected 2020 Level of Service / 1000 Population	2020 Overage / Deficiency	Projected 2025 Level of Service / 1000 Population	2025 Overage / Deficiency
Beach Access	0.25 acre / 1000	1.0	9.072	8.822	7.926	7.676	7.037	6.787	6.663	6.413
Equipped Play Areas / Tot Lots	0.2 acres / 1000	0.25	0.499	0.299	0.436	0.236	0.387	0.112	0.367	0.132
Urban Open Space	0.1 acres / 1000	0.1	1.324	1.224	1.157	1.057	1.027	0.927	0.973	0.873
Neighborhood Parks	0.4 acres / 1000	1.9	1.164	0.764	1.017	0.617	0.903	0.261	0.855	0.309
Community Parks	1 acres / 1000	20.0	3.021	2.021	2.640	0.381	2.344	0.677	2.219	0.802
Urban District Parks	5.0 acres / 1000	50.0	30.775	25.775	26.888	21.888	23.873	18.873	22.605	17.605
Regional Parks	20 acres / 1000	250.0	2408.436	2388.436	2104.189	2084.189	1868.246	1848.246	1769.012	1749.012
Sports Complex	n/a	n/a	3.021	n/a	2.640	n/a	2.344	n/a	2.219	n/a

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES GUIDELINE COMPARISON

As previously described, New Smyrna Beach provides numerous recreation facilities and programs administered by City staff. In addition to the general public, City recreation facilities are used by volunteers and private nonprofit organizations for programs and activities. Existing facilities which support the City's recreation programs and more than 25,000 residents are described below, and are compared with the requirements shown in the guidelines on Table X-2.

Table X-7. Recreational Facilities Level of Service Standards – Minimum Adopted with Existing and Projected Levels

User Oriented Activity	Minimum Level of Service Standard	Provided Amenity	Existing Level of Service Provided (2010)	Projected Level of Service - 2015	Projected Level of Service - 2020	Projected Level of Service - 2025
Baseball/Softball	1 field/10,000 residents	9 fields	3.59 fields / 10,000 residents	3.14	2.79	2.64
Basketball	1 court / 20,000 residents	10 courts	7.99 courts / 20,000 residents	6.98	6.20	5.87
Bicycle Trails	1 mile of trail / 10,000 residents	46.584 miles	18.6 miles / 10,000 residents	16.25	14.43	13.66
Boat Ramps	1 lane / 12,500 residents	8 lanes	3.99 lanes / 12,500 residents	3.49	3.10	2.93
Pier/Catwalk/Jetty	800 feet / 25,000 residents	4,074 feet	4,067 feet / 25,000 residents	3,553.24	3,154.81	2,987.24
Football/Soccer	1 field / 25,000 residents	7 fields	5.59 fields / 25,000 residents	6.11	5.42	5.13
Handball/Racquetball	1 court / 20,000 residents	5 courts	3.99 courts / 20,000 residents	3.49	3.10	2.93
Shuffleboard	1 court / 12,000 residents	37 courts	17.73 courts / 12,000 residents	15.49	13.75	13.02
Tennis	1 court / 10,000 residents	9 courts	3.59 courts / 10,000 residents	3.14	2.79	2.64

As can be seen in Table X-7, there will be no deficiencies through the end of the planning period for any of the recreational facilities provided by the City based on adopted level of service standards.

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EXISTING FUNDING SYSTEM

The City funds its recreation and open space system from several sources. These include general fund tax monies, impact fees from new development, nonresident user fees, registration fees, sponsor fees, private donations, and grants from county, state and federal agencies. The revenues are programmed for expenditure through the City's annual budget.

CONCLUSION

New Smyrna Beach has been continually developing its Parks and Recreation Program over many years. The size and number of recreation facilities has kept sufficient pace with the City's growth. Facilities owned by Volusia County and other public entities help to improve the situation. The deficiencies previously noted have been identified by the Parks and Recreation Department, and are addressed further in the "Future Needs" section of this Element.

FUTURE NEEDS

The Parks and Recreation Department recognizes deficiencies in its existing recreation facilities, which should be corrected in the near future. Other future needs are oriented toward expanding and enhancing the recreation program to accommodate growth.

BEACH ACCESS

Based on the lineal feet of shoreline and current provisions of beach access, no additional facilities will be needed through 2025.

EQUIPPED PLAY AREAS / TOT LOTS

Based on the LOS of 0.2 acres per 1,000 population, no additional facilities will be needed through 2025.

URBAN OPEN SPACE

Based on population projections, this should be sufficient to meet minimum level of service standards up to 2020. It is projected that around 2020 the LOS provided will become deficient and additional Urban Open Space will have to be provided. However, as stated above, until the deficiency equals the minimum park size, in this case being 0.1 acres, it is not mandatory that an additional park facility be developed.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Based on the LOS of 0.4 acres per 1,000 population, no additional facilities will be needed through 2025.

COMMUNITY PARKS

The standard for community park access will be applied in twenty (20) acre increments to be provided when demand equals 10 acres. It is not expected for the next needed increment to occur prior to 2025.

REGIONAL PARKS

There is a significant surplus of regional park facilities in the general vicinity of New Smyrna Beach. In fact, with a LOS standard of 20 acres per 1000 population, there is a surplus of 1749.012 acres through 2025. No additional facilities of this type will be needed through the planning period.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The existing facility inventory shows no deficiencies.

GOAL, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

GOAL:

To provide and maintain an outstanding system of recreation and open space areas that will meet the present and future needs of New Smyrna Beach. This goal will be met by initiating the objectives and policies stated herein, which will be more specifically defined in future *Comprehensive Plan* updates as local needs, and the City's ability to meet those needs, become better established.

OBJECTIVE:

1. To develop and maintain community and neighborhood parks that continue to meet the recreation needs of New Smyrna Beach residents, according to level-of-service standards identified in this element.

POLICIES:

- a. The City will continue to follow established level-of-service standards identified in this element. The following demand standards shall be used:
 - Beach Access will be provided in 1.0 acre increments when demand equals 0.25 acres; the Level of Service standard is 0.25 acres per 1,000 residents.
 - Urban Open Space will be provided in 0.1 acre increments when the demand equals 0.05 acres; the Level of Service standard is 1.0 acre per 1,000 residents
 - Equipped Play Areas / Tot Lots Acres will be provided in 0.25 acre increments when demand equals 0.2 acres; the Level of Service standard is 0.2 acres per 1,000 residents
 - Neighborhood Parks will be provided in 1.9 acre increments when demand equals 1.9 acres; the Level of Service standard is 0.4 acres per 1,000 residents
 - Community Parks will be provided in 20 acre increments when the demand equals 10 acres; the Level of Service standard is 1 acre per 1,000 residents
 - Regional Parks will be provided in 250 acre increments when the demand equals 200 acres; the Level of Service standard is 20 acres per 1,000 residents.
 - Urban District Parks will be provided in 50-acre increments when demand equals 40 acres; the Level of Service standard is 5.0 acres per 1,000 residents
 - Baseball / Softball Fields will be provided in 1-field increments when demand equals 1 field; the Level of Service standard is 1 field per 10,000 residents.
 - Basketball Courts will be provided in 1-court increments when demand equals one (1) court; the Level of Service standard is 1 court per 20,000 residents
 - Bicycle Trails will be provided in 1-mile increments when demand equals 0.5 miles; the Level of Service standard is 1 mile of trail per 10,000 residents
 - Boat Ramps will be provided in 1-lane increments when demand equals one (1) lane; the Level of Service standard is 1 lane per 12,500 residents
 - Piers/Catwalks/Jetties will be provided in 800-foot increments when demand equals 800 feet; the Level of Service standard is 800 lineal feet of pier/catwalk/jetty per 25,000 residents
 - Football / Soccer fields will be provided in 1-field increments when demand equals one (1) field; the Level of Service standard is 1 field per 25,000 residents
 - Handball/Racquetball Courts will be provided in 1-court increments when demand equals one (1) court; the Level of Service standard is 1 court per 20,000 residents
 - Shuffleboard Courts will be provided in 1-court increments when demand equals

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one (1) court. The Level of Service standard is 1 court per 12,000 residents

- Tennis Courts will be provided in 1-court increments when demand equals one (1) court; the Level of Service standard is 1 court per 10,000 residents

The standard for neighborhood park acres will be applied in 1.9 acre increments to be provided when demand equals one (1.0) acres. The standard for community park acres will be applied in 20 acre increments, to be provided when demand equals 10.0 acres. The standard for tennis courts, softball/baseball fields, and boat ramps will be applied in a 1.0 facility increment to be provided when demand equals 1.0 facility. The standard for handball/racquetball courts will be applied in 2.0 court increments, to be provided when demand equals 1.0 court.

- b. The City will continue to develop its recreation and open space system through the annual budget and work program to include:
 - i. Boat ramps
 - ii. Bicycle path system
 - iii. Beach access with parking
 - iv. Equipped play areas and tot lots
 - v. Urban open space
 - vi. Community parks
 - vii. Neighborhood parks
- c. New property obtained for the City recreation and open space system will be in locations and sizes (preferably five [5] acres or larger) that serve the needs of existing and future residents in accordance with City standards. Sites will be obtained via development regulations for new developments.
- d. Neighborhood parks will be developed with the following physical improvements on an ongoing basis, as new needs are identified:
 - i. Playgrounds
 - ii. Picnic areas with benches and tables
 - iii. Open areas for free play
 - iv. Landscaping
- e. Neighborhood parks will be the highest priority park classification in the City in terms of funding. A new neighborhood park of at least 1.9 acres in size will be built by 2020.
- f. The following physical improvements will be made to existing parks throughout the planning period:
 - i. Community buildings
 - ii. Regulation football/soccer fields
 - iii. Tennis courts
 - iv. Racquetball courts
 - v. Restrooms, when appropriate
 - vi. Lighting, when appropriate
 - vii. Landscaping
 - viii. Signage
 - ix. Parking and drainage
 - x. Energy efficient equipment and construction
 - xi. Maintenance efficient equipment and construction
 - xii. Ramps and other considerations for physically handicapped users

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- g. Recreation programs will be provided on an ongoing basis by the City and/or nonprofit organizations, as follows:
 - i. Programs will be provided to meet the needs of the general population.
 - ii. Special programs will be provided for elderly residents.
 - iii. Special programs will be provided for physically handicapped residents.
 - iv. Special programs will be provided for school-age residents
- h. The City will reevaluate the established level-of-service standards identified in this element by 2015 to determine how they relate to recreation demands.

OBJECTIVE:

- 2. To preserve, maintain, and enhance, on an ongoing basis, the aesthetic and recreational qualities of open space within and surrounding New Smyrna Beach through development of passive parks, passive areas in active parks; and to require future development to provide open space to comply with landscape regulations.

POLICIES:

- a. The *Land Development Regulations* will be used to encourage appropriate use of land in floodplain and waterfront areas, and to promote the protection of natural areas.
- b. Open space and landscaping requirements for future development are defined in the *Land Development Regulations*, and will be enforced as part of the development approval process.
- c. Enhancement of existing open spaces and scenic areas within active parks will be encouraged by the City through the annual budget and work program.
- d. Scenic corridors will be identified and protected by the control of signage, lighting, and landscaping.
- e. Landscape design of, and improvements to, the City's open space system will be used to enhance the visual image of the City.

OBJECTIVE:

- 3. To provide full funding of recreation and open space improvements and programs in the City.

POLICIES:

- a. The City will use funding sources that include:
 - i. User fees (resident and nonresident)
 - ii. General fund
 - iii. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission fund
 - iv. Florida Inland Navigation District fund
 - v. Florida Forever Fund
 - vi. Volusia County Environmental, Cultural, Historic and Outdoor Recreation (ECHO) Fund
 - vii. Volusia County joint participation fund
 - viii. Registration fees
 - ix. Sponsor fees
 - x. New development impact fees
- b. The City will use general fund tax revenues to develop and maintain recreation and

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open space facilities and areas.

- c. The City will collect user fees to fund recreation programs, classes, lighting, league costs, and other activities directly related to specific users.
- d. The City will continue to pursue and use county, state, federal, and other funds to improve its recreation and open space system.
- e. The City will continue to encourage volunteer and private nonprofit organizations to use its facilities, and will continue to provide programs to the City's residents, based on agreements related to costs, fees, hours of use, insurance, and other City policies.

OBJECTIVE:

4. To continue to monitor the open space and recreation needs and demands of the residents, and to update plans on an annual basis.

POLICIES:

- a. The City will review the appropriateness and priority of proposed recreation and open space facilities and programs each year as it prepares and adopts the annual budget.
- b. The City will make amendments to the Recreation and Open Space Element of the *Comprehensive Plan* as needed. Updates will be completed no less frequently than required by state law.
- c. Operational aspects of the recreation and open space system will be monitored at least annually, and may include:
 - Leases
 - User fees
 - Policies and programs related to planning, developing, operating, and maintaining the park system.

OBJECTIVE:

5. The City will maintain existing agreements and negotiate new formal and informal agreements to share facilities with other public and private entities to meet recreation demands.

POLICIES:

- a. The City will continue formal and informal agreements to share facility and program resources with Volusia County, the Volusia County School Board, the State of Florida, the US Government, private nonprofit organizations, and others.
- b. The City will continue to work with the Volusia County School Board to ensure that new public school buildings, whenever possible, are collocated adjacent to existing or proposed public facilities such as parks, libraries, and community centers.
- c. The City will encourage development of new golf courses independently, or through joint programs with private development, as new needs are identified.

OBJECTIVE:

6. To continue to increase the amount of public access to the Indian River and other designated public areas.

POLICIES:

- a. The purchase of oceanfront and riverfront areas will be considered in the annual budget, as needed, to ensure adequate public access to the beach, the Indian River and other designated public areas.

- b. County, state, and federal programs will continue to be pursued for funding the purchase of coastal lands.
- c. The City will encourage, via the development review and approval process, the voluntary dedication of land and property to provide access to public waterways and designated scenic areas.

PROGRAMMED IMPROVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

BACKGROUND

Actions to be taken by the City over the next five (5) years regarding new and expanded facilities fall into two (2) categories, planning and construction.

CONSTRUCTION

The City's construction activities are described in the *Capital Improvements Plan*.

PLANNING

The planning activities include:

- Prepare a Citywide Parks Master Plan
- Preparing an atlas of all City owned parklands, including boundary, topographic and existing facility information.
- Preparing and maintaining conceptual plans for land and facilities, outlining the types of improvements needed at each facility.
- Preparing design standards, budgets, and schedules for beautifying the City's parks.
- Preparing plans for expanding an existing park to meet community park standards.
- Preparing a scenic corridor plan for maintaining existing corridors and identifying new ones.
- Developing a riverfront boating/park facility.
- Planning to develop a five (5) acre South Beach Park.
- Developing plans to expand the Municipal Ballpark facility.
- Continuing to develop a citywide bicycle path system.
- Developing a joint use facilities agreement with the Volusia County School Board.
- Continue to work with the Volusia County School Board to ensure that new public schools are collocated, when possible, with existing or proposed public facilities such as parks, libraries, and community centers.
- Consolidating future park planning to "centralize" facilities.
- Develop a five (5) acre (minimum) park west of I-95.

Planning efforts for individual facilities will be conducted within an overall framework for creating functional, attractive, and well located parks.