

## RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

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### RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

#### RECREATION GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

**Goal 1.1.0:** To provide a system of recreational facilities, open spaces and activities that are varied and dispersed throughout the City.

**Objective 1.1.0:** To maintain a level of service for public parks of at least four (4) acres (of developed park land) per 1,000 population within the City.

Measure: To maintain annual population estimates in conjunction with the acreage shown on the "City of Coral Springs Recreation and Open Space" map.

**Policy 1.1.1:** The City shall maintain this level of service by preserving the existing Recreation and Open Space acreage.

**Policy 1.1.2:** Neighborhood parks serve the population of a neighborhood and are generally accessible by bicycle or pedestrian ways. The parks are designed to provide opportunities for residents in the immediate area, to partake in recreational activities and may include but not be limited to facilities such as tennis courts, basketball courts, picnic areas, bike paths, shuffleboard, nature study areas, jog/walk trails, fishing docks, racquetball courts, open play areas, ball fields, and tot lots.

**Policy 1.1.3:** Community parks are located near major roadways and designated to serve the needs of more than one neighborhood. They will be primarily designed to provide opportunities for people to partake in structured, organized activities and may include but not be limited to facilities such as formal baseball/softball fields, soccer/football fields, swimming pool/areas, basketball courts, community centers, tennis courts, picnic areas, jog/walk trails, nature study areas, and tot lots. A secondary function of a community park can be to provide additional neighborhood activities or passive conservation areas.

**Policy 1.1.4:** The City's regional park shall serve all residents of Broward County. A variety of major facilities such as baseball, basketball, soccer/football and tennis complex, stadium, aquatic center, nature center, and other are anticipated as well as complementary picnic type facilities to provide a diversity of recreational opportunities.

**Policy 1.1.5:** A map entitled "City of Coral Springs Recreation and

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Open Space" shall be made a part of the Plan to reflect parks and open space locations (public and privately owned). The map shall be maintained by the Community Development Division and generally identify existing and future park site locations along with parks that may be developed with high intensity lighting.

**Policy 1.1.6:** The City Land Development Code shall address standards for park development and improvements. Standards shall include permitted uses, buffering, landscaping, parking, lighting, and the park acreage.

**Policy 1.1.7:** The City will continue to provide organized leisure programs and facilities that consider the needs of all Coral Springs residents.

**Policy 1.1.8:** During the process of neighborhood park planning for redevelopment, the City will continue to provide appropriate notification to the public that plan should be considered. During the process of further neighborhood park planning, the City will provide an opportunity for public comment prior to approval.

**Policy 1.1.9:** During the site plan review process, the City's staff shall ensure provision of adequate open space and buffers are created to protect the compatibility of adjacent natural resources or outdoor recreational activities and facilities from adverse impacts that may result from uses or activities occurring on adjacent lands. Protection techniques shall include but not be limited to dense landscaping, walls, setbacks, shading, berms or restricting the proximity of incompatible uses [as defined in Chapter 163, Florida Statutes].

**Policy 1.1.10:** Recognizing that the City is residentially "built out", the City of Coral Springs municipal boundaries shall serve as its urban service area boundaries for the purpose of providing outdoor recreation within the urban service area.

**Policy 1.1.11:** The City shall implement its Public Art Master Plan by providing public art and cultural activities throughout the City.

**Goal 2.0.0:** The City shall assure that appropriate recreational facilities are available and usable by all Coral Springs residents.

**Objective 2.1.0:** All lands dedicated to the City for recreational purposes, shall be accessible to all Coral Springs residents by public rights-of-way or dedicated easement.

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Measure: Number of acres and facilities added to Recreation and Open Space Map with public access.

**Policy 2.1.1:** The City's publicly owned natural areas, environmental preserves, parks and recreational facilities shall be accessible by all motorized and non-motorized means of transportation and provide access for all residents in accordance with the ADA and the Florida Building Code applicable accessibility standards.

**Policy 2.1.2:** The City shall link all public parks, community centers, schools, and outdoor recreation facilities with separate bikeway corridors.

**Objective 2.2.0:** The City will continue implementing a safe and enjoyable bikeway/walkway system in accordance with the City's Master Bikeway/Walkway Plan.

Measure: Linear feet of constructed bikeway/walkway as conducted with the Capitol Improvement Plan.

**Policy 2.2.1:** Bikeways/walkways should be designed to link parks recreational facilities and other public facilities with nearby residential areas.

**Policy 2.2.2:** Ample and secure bicycle parking shall be provided for all City-owned public facilities.

**Policy 2.2.3:** Ample and secure bicycle parking will be encouraged at schools, libraries, and recreational and other non-residential areas.

**Policy 2.2.4:** Pedestrian walkways and movements between land uses, shall include methods to protect pedestrians from sun and rain as feasible, and shall be designed and constructed so as to be a pleasant and enticing place to sit, socialize and walk.

**Policy 2.2.5:** The City shall coordinate the provision of continuous pedestrian sidewalks throughout the Downtown sidewalk network including the Downtown Pathway.

**Policy 2.2.6:** Consistent with the desired pedestrian-oriented environment in the Downtown, the City shall encourage additional bicycle facilities to accommodate the use of bicycles as an important means of transportation in the Downtown area.

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**Objective 2.3.0:** The City shall preserve and maintain historically significant buildings and landmarks as determined by the City Commission.

Measure: Number of buildings and landmarks preserved.

**Policy 2.3.1:** The City's Historical Committee shall provide input on any selection of historic sites, along with other public input. The results of the selection process shall be provided to the City Commission for final approval.

**Policy 2.3.2:** Historically significant buildings and landmarks within the City shall be preserved and maintained when practical and economically feasible as determined by the City Commission.

**Policy 2.3.3:** The City shall research grant possibilities, which are designed for preservation and/or renovation of historical landmarks.

**Objective 2.4.0:** The City shall address the need for additional park acreage to meet the LOS when redevelopment is considered.

Measure: Number of facilities and acreage added to the recreation and open space inventory to accomplish the adopted LOS (4 acres per 1,000 population of developed park land.)

**Policy 2.4.1:** The City shall preserve and maintain three acres of open space within the designated Community Redevelopment Area.

**Policy 2.4.2:** Amendments to the Recreation and Open Space Map which would result in the loss of public or quasi-public recreation or open space shall be strongly discouraged and be required to address how open space and recreation needs of the existing and project residents of the community will be met, including how the negative impacts of the loss of public and quasi-public recreation and open space on the surrounding neighborhoods will be minimized or mitigated.

**Policy 2.4.3:** Amendments to the Recreation and Open Space Map pertaining to golf courses, including closed golf courses, shall address the following:

1. The impact of the loss of public and quasi-public recreation and open space on the surrounding residential areas. The loss of recreation and open space must be mitigated through

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- the provision of parks and open space to serve the surrounding community.
2. Management of storm water taking into account the extent to which the golf course provided storm water retention for the surrounding development and how this will be mitigated, along with any additional storm water impacts created by the new development.
  3. Minimization of the impact on natural resources including wetlands, lakes, aquifer recharge areas and the tree canopy.
  4. Mitigation of environmental contamination. The level of environmental contamination must be determined by conducting a Phase 1 and Phase 2 environmental assessment.
  5. Integration of the proposed development with the surrounding areas including how the development will tie into the existing neighborhoods through roads, sidewalks, parks, open space and greenways.

**Goal 3.0.0:** The City will continue to provide safe and adequate open space and recreation facilities for all Coral Springs residents.

**Objective 3.1.0:** All park sites within designated local areas of particular concern and urban wilderness area shall continue to be a controlled recreational use.

Measure: Number of supervised visitors to controlled park sites.

**Policy 3.1.1:** All environmental impact report conditions of Federal, State and County approval shall be incorporated into the evaluation of the potential for controlled recreational use of the areas.

**Policy 3.1.2:** Recreational uses within these areas shall be maintained so as to prevent disruption of the ecological systems within those areas.

**Policy 3.1.3:** Access to recreational areas within sensitive lands will be controlled by security fencing limited hours of operation and supervised activities.

**Policy 3.1.4:** The City will continue to ensure that local areas of particular concern and urban wilderness areas remain so designated. (See Map 8-1 Natural Resources)

**Policy 3.1.5:** The City's publicly-owned natural areas, environmental preserves, parks and recreational facilities shall be accessible by all motorized and non-motorized means of

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transportation and provide access to handicapped residents in accordance with the applicable accessibility standards.

**Objective 3.2.0:** The City shall pursue public, private and other financial resources to be used for the development of recreational opportunities at the local level.

Measure: Amount of funds secured for recreation programs and or facilities.

**Policy 3.2.1:** The City shall promote the "Adopt-a-Park" program with civic groups, homeowners associations, private citizens and corporations.

**Policy 3.2.2:** The City shall continue utilizing the Sports Coalition for active involvement of individuals, and organizations in park scheduling, funding, and maintenance.

**Policy 3.2.3:** The City will continue to pursue cooperative long-term agreements with the Broward County School Board to lease school facilities for public recreation purposes as applicable.

**Policy 3.2.4:** Establish and maintain standards for delivery of public recreation services and products by private entities on parks.

**Policy 3.2.5:** The City shall continue to research and apply for County, State and Federal grants and private foundations to fund facility development.

**Objective 3.3.0:** The Sportsplex Regional Park shall continue to be operated and maintained according to the Master Park Plan Agreement.

Measure: Continued Operation of the Sportsplex Regional Park.

**Policy 3.3.1:** The City shall be the owner of the Sportsplex Regional Park and will be responsible for all maintenance and upkeep related to the continued operation of the Sportsplex Regional Park.

**Policy 3.3.2:** The nature of the Park will be that of a Regional Park, and will be open for use by all residents of Broward County on an equal basis.

**Objective 3.4.0:** Efficient use of City revenues to provide recreation and open space facilities and services will be annually assessed.

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Measure: The City budget and positive residential survey results.

**Policy 3.4.1:** Park dedication requirements for residential redevelopment, whether in the form of land or cash in lieu of land, shall be addressed by the City at time of the platting review process as provided for in the Municipal or Land Development Code.

**Policy 3.4.2:** For office, commercial and mixed-use development which have 10 residential units or greater, park dedication requirements shall be addressed by the City at the time of the platting review process as provided for in the Municipal or Land Development Code.

**Policy 3.4.3:** The City shall continue to pursue grants, matching funds, and other available financing mechanisms, as may be appropriate and cost-effective, to provide recreation and open space at acceptable levels of service. The primary purposes for conserving and acquiring open spaces shall include but not be limited to:

1. Preserve, protect and enhance natural areas and functions.
2. Rectify land use conflicts associated with antiquated subdivisions.
3. Correct vested land uses on private property that became non-conforming as a result of adoption or readoption of either the City's or County's Comprehensive Plans or Land Development Regulations.
4. Ensure the preservation of unique geological or historical sites.
5. Ensure the preservation of rare or threatened vegetative communities.
6. Ensure the protection of listed endangered and threatened aquatic or animal species or significant habitats of listed species.
7. Ensure the protection and enhancement of natural ecosystems located along wetland, lake or canal shorelines.
8. Provide greater outdoor recreational open space opportunities and enjoyment for the City's residents such as nature trails, playgrounds, waterway trails and interpretive displays.
9. Restore or enhance degraded natural areas included but not limited to removal of non-native vegetation, reforestation or creation of aquatic grass beds, weed control and restoration of natural hydrology and indigenous vegetation.
10. Ensure the protection or enhancement of surface and groundwater quality.

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11. Provide natural greenway corridors within or adjacent to environmentally sensitive lands, waterways or other parcels of land to allow for public access for vehicles, pedestrians, emergency equipment and bicyclists into all publicly owned recreational areas.
12. Assist in meeting, maintaining or improving the City's adopted recreation level of service standards.
13. Provide greater consistency with and implement existing resource protection plans such as the South Florida Water Management District's existing resource planning and management plans.

**Policy 3.4.4:** The City shall utilize a five-year Capital Improvements Plan. The Capital Improvements Plan shall be consistent with regional and local plans.

**Policy 3.4.5:** The City shall prepare an annual Capital Improvements Program, which outlines capital improvements expected over the ensuing year. The Local Planning Agency shall review the program and judge its consistency with the Comprehensive Plan and the five-year Capital Improvements Plan.

**Policy 3.4.6:** The City shall ensure that any expansion or extension of services is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

**Policy 3.4.7:** Coral Springs will maintain a concurrency management system to ascertain whether necessary facilities identified within the Capital Improvements Element are being constructed in accordance with the schedule.

**Policy 3.4.8:** The City will promote safety at public parks and recreation facilities through the use of fences, lighting, signage, cameras and other appropriate measures.