

X - RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT



Serving the Community

GOAL 10.1: Recreational Provisions. To ensure that Cocoa residents have access to a full range of recreational opportunities.

Objective 10.1.1: The City will coordinate resources with Brevard County Parks and Recreation, the Brevard County School Board, and private resources, to meet the projected demand for parks, recreational facility and open space needs for the residents of Cocoa.

Policy 10.1.1.1: Continue the inter-governmental coordination involved in the established Brevard County Parks and Recreation District 4.

Policy 10.1.1.2: Continue to work with the School Board through the District 4 Parks and Recreation Office to expand the use and availability of School facilities to the citizens of Cocoa.

Policy 10.1.1.3: The City shall adopt the following Level of Service (LOS) for recreation needs:

Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, and Urban District Parks	1.25 acres per 1000 population
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Policy 10.1.1.4: The City shall periodically update its inventory of all recreational facilities in order to compare the level of maintenance and quality of those facilities with surrounding communities.

Policy 10.1.1.5: The City shall ensure the provision of a range of different types of facilities for passive outdoor recreational activities including nature trails or boardwalks, waterway trails, interpretive displays, educational programs, and/or wildlife observation areas.

Policy 10.1.1.6: The City will continue to coordinate with local service organizations annually to encourage participation in landscaping, supporting, and establishing recreational facility development.

Policy 10.1.1.7: The City will continue to work with Brevard County Parks and Recreation District 4 to achieve multiple community benefits during the development of parks and recreational areas.

Policy 10.1.1.8: The City will ensure that all recreational facilities are well maintained and redeveloped as needed.

Policy 10.1.1.9: The City will consider the creation of a Recreation Zoning District in the land development code.

Objective 10.1.2: The City shall provide accessibility to the recreational facilities and natural resources of the City for the enjoyment of all users.

Policy 10.1.2.1: The City will continue to work with the Brevard County Parks and Recreation District 4 to ensure the accessibility of recreational facilities for the handicapped, elderly and economically disadvantaged.

Policy 10.1.2.2: All new development of recreational facilities in the City shall be required to meet the Florida Accessibility Code.

Policy 10.1.2.3: The City will continue to work with the Brevard County Parks and Recreation Department to bring all existing recreation facilities into compliance with the Florida Accessibility Code.

Policy 10.1.2.4: The City will consider the siting of future Neighborhood Parks based on a walkable distance from residential dwellings to ensure an adequate dispersal of parks throughout the City.

Objective 10.1.3: The City shall provide interconnectivity between recreational facilities and the surrounding community.

Policy 10.1.3.1: New residential development providing recreational facilities shall be required to provide bicycle and pedestrian connections (such as sidewalks and bike paths), between all forms of recreation and the surrounding community.

Policy 10.1.3.2: Bicycle parking facilities shall be required at all new parks.

Policy 10.1.3.3: The City will work with the Brevard County Parks and Recreation Department to ensure that bicycle parking facilities are provided at all existing recreation facilities.

Policy 10.1.3.4: The City will follow the adopted WaterFront Master Plan as a supplemental plan which supports the connectivity objectives of the Comprehensive Plan.

Policy 10.1.3.5: The City will work to incorporate connectivity wherever feasible between recreational facilities in the City and the existing Brevard County Greenways and Trails Master Plan system.

Policy 10.1.3.6: The City will consider developing and adopting its own Parks and Recreation Master Plan, as well as a Pedestrian Routes and Bike Trails Master Plan.

GOAL 10.2: Open Space Provisions. Ensure the conservation of open space areas in the city to provide aesthetically pleasing buffer areas and visual open space, to serve as wildlife habitats, to act as groundwater recharge areas, to give definition to the urban area, and to enhance and preserve natural resources.

Objective 10.2.1: The land development regulations will include provisions for addressing the open space needs of the City.

Policy 10.2.1.1: The City will develop an ordinance which will define open space and set standards for open space preservation in local land development regulations.

- Policy 10.2.1.2:** The City will approve locating environmentally sound public access to conservation areas, nature trails, parks and passive recreational uses within dedicated upland buffers to wetlands in accordance with the policies in the Conservation Element, and only when the City determines that such uses will not adversely affect the buffers' primary functions of wetland buffering, provision of transition zone wildlife habitat, noise buffering, filtration/storage of overland stormwater runoff, visual screening and other applicable benefits. The City will not approve other uses for the buffer zone.
- Policy 10.2.1.3:** The City will coordinate with pertinent state and wildlife agencies and other agencies necessary to identify natural area greenways and wildlife corridors and to link existing public parks, and provide similar areas for conservation purposes.
- Policy 10.2.1.4:** The City shall provide efforts to coordinate the resources of other public and private natural resource preservation agencies, and will enhance efforts to fiscally support and encourage a program of public land acquisition in conjunction with current land use planning and development regulations and to create a system of natural area greenways and wildlife corridors.
- Policy 10.2.1.5:** The City will pursue acquisition of appropriate parcels of land through the Florida Forever Program or other appropriate City/State partnerships for the protection of environmentally sensitive lands, which protect unique, rare and/or endangered habitat, assure survival of listed wildlife species, protect scenic highway and water corridors and their shoreline ecosystems and provide public access and open space.
- Policy 10.2.1.6:** Uses allowed in open space and conservation areas within the City shall be limited to those compatible with and which preserve the natural character of the area, such as passive recreation, observation areas, hiking/biking and nature trails, canoeing/kayaking, primitive camping and environmental education facilities.
- Policy 10.2.1.7:** The City of Cocoa shall pursue a program to identify, ensure preservation of, and provide appropriate public access to areas of natural beauty and scenic importance.
- Policy 10.2.1.8:** The City will consider adopting the Department of Environmental Protection's definitions for "Conservation Open Space" and "Urban Open Space" as separate uses from recreation, which will be used to conserve potentially environmentally sensitive lands as well as wetlands and floodways; and will establish appropriate safeguards to ensure the future preservation of such lands in a natural state with minimal man-made impact.