

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES:

GOAL 1: Recreational and Open Space areas will be improved and existing facilities upgraded.

OBJECTIVE 1.1: The City will continue to improve existing facilities and plan for new recreational facilities to accommodate increases in population in order to maintain the present Level of Service (L.O.S.) standards. (.005 acres per person). This L.O.S. is the same as used by the County.

Policy 1.1.1: New park land, if and when it should be needed, will be located in close proximity to the population it will serve.

Policy 1.1.2: New park land should be easily accessible by foot, bicycle and by automobile. Accessibility to the handicapped will also be provided.

Policy 1.1.3: The City will coordinate with the County and the School Board through interlocal agreements to locate future schools with other public facilities such as parks, libraries and community centers to the greatest extent practicable.

OBJECTIVE 1.2: The City will continue to upgrade existing parks.

Policy 1.2.1: The City will improve outdoor based facilities by increasing maintenance, resurfacing and restriping, as well as improving the overall general appearance of the facilities.

Policy 1.2.2: The City will improve the availability of playground areas by developing a small playground within North Port St. Joe Park.

Policy 1.2.3: Senior citizens and special group oriented activities will be encouraged by improving the availability of facilities for these activities. Forest Park's Community Center and other City facilities will be made available.

OBJECTIVE 1.3: The City will strive to develop passive recreational activities on open space lands (pine flatwoods that are owned by the City) for hiking trails, nature walks, jogging paths, etc.

Policy 1.3.1: Maximize the utilization of existing parks and facilities. Lands acquired through purchase or easement for public works projects shall be used to fulfill recreation and open space needs if site conditions and public safety considerations allow for such use.

Policy 1.3.2: The City has adopted a level of service of .005 acres per person (same as the county).

Policy 1.3.3: The City shall coordinate with public utilities such as electrical, gas, telephone and state agencies such as F.D.O.T., F.D.E.P., and N.W.F.W.M.D. on use of properties or easements for open space and recreation purposes.

OBJECTIVE 1.4: The City will formally request the Florida Department of State to establish periodical events to commemorate the first Constitutional Convention which was held in Port St. Joe and which established the State of Florida.

Policy 1.4.1: Continue to encourage the local historical society and the State to sponsor activities at Constitution Park.

Policy 1.4.2: Increase City sponsored activities at the City owned Centennial Park.

OBJECTIVE 1.5: The City will provide and ensure protection of public access to beaches and shores by continuing to maintain or improve existing levels of beach and shore access including those identified in the Coastal Management Element, Conservation and Future Land Use Elements.

Policy 1.5.1: The City's development regulations will contain provisions for review of proposed developments which may impact public access and the preservation of scenic vistas in regard to recreation and open space areas.

OBJECTIVE 1.6: Upon adoption of this plan, provide for a functional mix of both public and private recreation sites and facilities to accommodate recreation demand.

Policy 1.6.1: The City shall accept donations, contributions, volunteer assistance or other forms of fiscal or physical private assistance in meeting recreational needs.

OBJECTIVE 1.7: The City shall support the Waterfronts Florida Partnership Committee in its efforts to develop the waterfront area balancing economic growth, ecological, historical, cultural and recreational needs in the community.

Policy 1.7.1: The City shall support efforts to develop a strategy to tie the business district town center and waterfront together enhancing public access and connections to the waterfront area in order to attract residents and visitors.

Policy 1.7.2: The City shall consider the recommendations from the Waterfronts Florida Partnership Committee and seek state parks and recreational grants as well as other types of grants to implement such recommendations.

Policy 1.7.3: With the inclusion of the Windmark Beach DRI, the City will investigate and plan for an integrated system of sidewalks, trails and/or bicycle paths from Windmark Beach to the existing downtown and waterfront areas.

Policy 1.7.4: The City will explore and pursue funding for recreational opportunities through the yearly involvement in grant funding programs available from the office of Greenways and Trails, FDOT, Florida Communities Trust and Florida Recreational Development Assistance program (FRDAP).