
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT GOAL, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

PURPOSE

Pursuant to Chapter 163.3177(6)(e) F.S. the purpose of the Recreation and Open Space Element is to plan for a system of public and private sites for passive and active recreation and open space.

GOAL 8-1 PROVIDE SAFE AND ADEQUATE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FACILITIES

It is the goal of the City to provide safe and adequate open space and recreation facilities that are accessible to all Marathon residents. §163.3177(6)(e) F.S.

Objective 8-1.1 Plan for Recreational Trails and Open Space

The City shall comprehensively plan for creating new or enhanced recreational trail systems and open space facilities, based upon data, standards, and policies contained in the Plan, and shall adequately maintain the provided sites and facilities. Through the Capital Improvements Plan, the City shall ensure that sufficient acreage is maintained and acquired and sufficient facilities are maintained and developed to meet these needs. §163.3177(6)(e) F.S.

Policy 8-1.1.1 Adopt a Minimum Level of Service Standard

The City shall adopt a minimum level of service standard for City-managed public recreation sites of 4.42 acres per 1,000 permanent residents and seasonal visitors. The specific number, size, type, and location of facilities shall be determined through the development of a Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan as required by Policy 8-1.1.2.

Policy 8-1.1.2 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

The City shall fully examine the existing recreation and open space areas and prepare a master plan. The master plan shall make recommendations, as needed, to enhance equitable access, distribution, and availability to recreational facilities or open space.

Policy 8-1.1.3 Monitor and Update Recreation Demand and Supply

The City shall periodically prepare a report, as established by the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, updating the recreational land and facility demand and supply analysis contained in the Recreation and Open Space Data Inventory and Analysis of this Plan. If the analysis identifies any deficiencies, the City shall identify and enact a method for meeting the deficiency.

Policy 8-1.1.4 Program Park Improvements

Park improvement plans resulting from the analysis in Policy 8-1.1.3 shall be programmed in the City's Capital Improvement Program.

Policy 8-1.1.5 Maintain Existing Recreational Land and Facilities

The City shall establish a routine preventive maintenance program and shall annually review all City owned recreational and open space resources for safety standards, compliance to applicable regulations, and stormwater management.

Policy 8-1.1.6 Improve the Existing Recreational Facilities

Upon the basis of the annual review, the City shall improve the physical and aesthetic condition of the City's recreational and open space facilities by allocating funding through the Capital Improvements Program.

Policy 8-1.1.7 Ensure Accessibility

Through the annual review and development review process, the City shall ensure that all public recreational facilities be made accessible to automobiles, bicycles, and pedestrians depending on the type of facility. Lands dedicated solely for open space or conservation are exempt from this requirement.

Policy 8-1.1.8 Ensure Compliance with the Provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act

Through development review, the City shall ensure that all future parks and recreational facilities comply with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Through development review, the City shall ensure that all renovating, rehabilitating, and upgrading to parks and recreational facilities comply with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Policy 8-1.1.9 Require Mandatory Land Dedication or Fees in Lieu Thereof

The City shall continue to maintain Land Development Regulations mandating the dedication of land for parks and recreation or fees in lieu thereof for all new development, to be used for the acquisition of land for parks, conservation and open space. The formula shall be a pro rata formula based on the City's demand and supply analysis, to ensure that new developments provide necessary recreational lands, facilities and/or fees in lieu thereof in order to accommodate the additional generated demand.

Policy 8-1.1.10 Incorporate Creative Design Concepts and Conserve Environmentally Sensitive Open Space

Active and passive recreation areas shall be planned in a manner compatible with the unique natural resources found in the City. Park improvement plans shall be designed to preserve, protect, and enhance the environmental features found on each site. Where appropriate, recreational areas shall be designed to provide a circulation system that minimizes conflict between bicyclists, pedestrians, and vehicles. Adequate landscape and screening shall be integrated into park improvement plans to minimize land use conflicts, protect stability of established residential areas, and enhance community appearance.

Policy 8-1.1.11 Promote Environmental Concerns through Recreational Programs

The City shall promote environmental education and management as an integral part of park and recreation programs. Through cooperative programming with resource agencies and local educational advisors, park and recreation resources shall serve as instruments for teaching both residents and visitors about the importance of and the need for preserving the City's natural resources.

Objective 8-1.2 Coordinate Public and Private Resources

The City shall establish and employ effective methods to coordinate public and private resources to meet public demands. §163.3177(6)(e) F.S.

Policy 8-1.2.1 Maintain Programs

The City shall establish and maintain a list of agencies, groups, individuals, and organizations currently providing recreation or leisure programs to the residents. The City shall strive to establish a cooperative relationship with these entities.

Policy 8-1.2.2 Expand Programs

The City shall strive to enlist new agencies, groups, individuals, and organizations to expand the current programs available to residents.

Policy 8-1.2.3 Pursue Public and Private Support Sources

The City shall strive to pursue appropriate joint public and private ventures to obtain lands and/or financing necessary to support and increase recreational areas, facilities, and programs.

Policy 8-1.2.4 Develop Partnership Programs

The City shall strive to identify and develop partnership programs with public or private organizations to provide land or facilities compatible to public recreation.

Policy 8-1.2.5 Coordinate with Existing School Sites

The City shall work with the Monroe County School Board to promote the implementation of joint use of school sites for both educational and recreational purposes. The City may attempt to maximize joint use of school sites for both school and recreational activities. This concept promotes economy and efficient use of potential park and recreation resources centrally located to potential user groups.

Policy 8-1.2.6 Obtain Grants and Other Funding Sources

The City shall establish and maintain a list of and continue to work with various organizations and public agencies to obtain grants and other sources of financing that are available for the acquisition, planning, design, and development of recreational facilities and open spaces.

Policy 8-1.2.7 Coordinate with the Land Authority

The City's Land Acquisition and Conservation Advisory Committee shall coordinate with the Monroe County Land Authority to establish a fair share of the bed tax, which shall be allocated

to the City for possible use as a match for the Florida Communities Trust Grant applications, for recreation and conservation purposes.

Objective 8-1.3 Expand Land and Water Based Recreational Systems

*The City shall expand land and water based trail systems and associated facilities.
§163.3177(6)(e) F.S.*

Policy 8-1.3.1 Create New or Enhance Land Recreational Trails Systems

The City shall create new or enhanced land based recreational trail systems, directly and in coordination with other agencies and organizations that include trail head and trail side facilities.

Policy 8-1.3.2 Create New or Enhanced Water Based Trail Systems

The City shall create new or enhanced water based trail systems, directly and in coordination with other agencies and organizations that include trail head and trail side facilities.