
Recreation and Open Space Element Goals, Objectives and Policies

Goal 1: Provide adequate recreation and open space facilities to serve the Town's residents.

Objective 1 – Access to recreation sites: In general, ensure public access to identified recreation sites by creating a pedestrian and bicycle network that links the Town’s parks, recreational, and natural amenities into an “emerald necklace.” This objective shall be measured by implementing its supporting policies.

Policy 1.1 – The Town shall give priority to maintaining and upgrading existing public access sites, but it shall acquire new sites when resources are available. Priority shall be given to sites which offer the potential for: 1) creating natural area greenways consisting of environmentally sensitive lands or lands in which plant species characteristic of and/or compatible with environmentally sensitive lands predominate or can be cultivated; and 2) removing invasive or otherwise undesirable plant species including those listed in Conservation Element Policy 4.2.

Policy 1.2 – All beach access facilities shall be accessible from public roads. The Town shall map all road rights-of-way that dead-end at the Atlantic beach and shall provide benches, picnic tables or other improvements at these sites to create “pocket parks.”

Policy 1.3 – The Town shall explore the feasibility of enhancing each of the street-ends east of Collins Avenue to create “pocket parks” where appropriate.

Policy 1.4 – The Town shall provide barrier-free access for the handicapped to all public recreation facilities.

Policy 1.5 – By December 2010, bicycle parking facilities shall be provided at strategic beach access points and at public parks.

Objective 2 – Public-private coordination: In general, coordinate public and private resources to meet recreation demand. This objective shall be measured by implementing its supporting policies.

Policy 2.1 – The Town of Surfside shall work with public agencies, such as Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and private sector organizations and corporations, through the zoning process, to enhance and improve existing recreation/open space facilities in the Town.

Policy 2.2 – The Town shall explore the financial feasibility of a Beachwalk Master Plan, including the associated sustainable landscaping

Policy 2.3 – By December 2010, the Town shall consider and evaluate the establishment of a cooperative interlocal agreement with Indian Creek Village to convert the empty lot at the 91st Street bridge into a park for general use by both communities, providing additional recreational opportunities along the bay.

Objective 3 – Adequate and efficient provision of public recreation facilities and open space: In general, ensure that parks and recreation facilities are adequately and efficiently provided. In particular, maintain a system of public park and recreation lands which provides at least 6.0 acres per 1,000 people permanent population together with an appropriate range of facilities. This standard is based on existing resources and the anticipated population.

Policy 3.1 – The Town shall reserve for recreation use all of the Town-owned land designated for recreation on the Future Land Use Map, including the following specific facilities: 1) Hawthorne Park Tot Lot, 2) Veterans Park/Surfside Tennis Center, 3) 96th Street Park, and 4) Surfside Community Center. These facilities shall remain as public recreation facilities unless comparable facilities are provided to replace them.

Policy 3.2 – The Town shall continue to seek State and Federal grant funds for Town park enhancements.

Policy 3.3 – The Town shall give priority to upgrading existing public recreation lands, but it shall acquire new sites when resources are available.

Policy 3.4 – For public recreational sites, a minimum level of service standard shall be set at six (6) acres per one thousand (1,000) permanent population.

Policy 3.5- The Town shall continue to ensure high quality and safe recreational facilities for Town residents.

Policy 3.6 – By December 2011 the Town shall consider the financial feasibility of a “Park Enhancement Study” to evaluate the development of under-utilized park land and Town-owned land including street-end parks, as identified in the November 2006 Charrette.

Objective 4 – Provision of private open space: Assure the provision of open space by private enterprise. This objective shall be measured by implementing its supporting policy.

Policy 4.1 – The Town shall maintain and improve land development code standards and incentives to achieve open space and landscaping requirements. Open space and landscaping requirements shall specify above average quantities of plant and other landscaping material and extensive use of xeriscape plant materials and design techniques for non-residential uses. Landscaping regulations shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, establishing a minimum number of trees based on lot size and/or lot frontage, establishing minimum requirements for other plant material, and establishing irrigation restrictions which minimize water loss due to evaporation. Regulations shall address site perimeters, parking lots and residential buffers.