

## **RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT:**

## *Goals, Objectives and Policies*

***Goal 1: Capital Facilities: Provide a system of parks, open space and recreation sites and facilities of appropriate size and design and convenient to the use of participants; that meet adopted Town level-of-service standards; and that benefit each age group, social and economic group, and recreational preference of Town residents.***

**Objective 1.1. Ensure that enough land and facilities are available to meet the current and future recreational needs of Town residents through 2035, as measured by adopted Town standards.**

**Policy 1.1.1** Maintain a reserve of land adequate to meet the community park needs of current and future residents through 2035, as measured by adopted recreation level-of-service (LOS) standards. This shall include acquisitions of new land when necessary.

**Policy 1.1.2** The Town's Engineering Department shall maintain a plan for identifying and correcting deficits in the neighborhood park system. This plan shall: document existing deficits in neighborhood recreational facilities, according to adopted Town recreation standards; outline a joint public/private approach to providing the facilities and sites needed to meet the identified need by the year 2035; identify financing sources necessary to implement the plan; include an implementation plan.

**Policy 1.1.3** The Town shall update and maintain its bicycle and pedestrian plan.

**Policy 1.1.4** The Town shall update and maintain the map for all road right-of-ways that dead-end at the waterfront or other permanent barrier, or that otherwise are not

expected to be developed into streets; and shall provide benches, picnic tables, or other improvements at these sites to create small pocket parks and rest areas along creeks, bikepaths and thoroughfares.

**Policy 1.1.5** The Town shall designate continue to pursue public access to waterfront and fishing opportunities by developing and purchasing, waterfront parks and open space that will include boat ramps, riverwalks (consistent with Future Land Use Element Policy 1.10.9) and/or fishing piers on public and private lands, as feasible and as funding becomes available: along the Loxahatchee River and its tributaries; along the Atlantic Ocean; along creeks such as Jones and Sims Creeks; along the Intracoastal Waterway, C-18, and the Jupiter River.

**Policy 1.1.6** Fishing areas should be separated from vehicular traffic, to protect the safety of both parties.

**Policy 1.1.7** Permit boat ramps preferably in locations that are quiet, protected areas, or are in areas already designated as Slow Zones for Manatee protection, and where adequate upland land exists to provide sufficient acreage for boat trailer parking.

**Policy 1.1.8** Consider Town-owned lands that are idle or minimally used, and likely to be phased out of its present functions, for their recreational potential or dual use potential as a debris removal site following a natural disaster.

**Policy 1.1.9** Recreation impacts of development shall be measured by adopted

Town LOS standards for recreation and parks as follows:

Recreation Facility Adopted LOS Standards	
Activity	Facility per Population
Tennis	1 court per 4,000
Baseball	1 field per 6,000
Softball	1 field per 12,000
Football	1 field per 12,000
Soccer	1 field per 5,000
Basketball	1 court per 4,000
Racquetball/Handball	1 court per 7,500
Resource-based Park	1 park per 30,000
Exercise Trail	1 trail per 15,000
Swimming Pool	1 pool per 65,000
Community Center *	1.5 square foot per person
Lacrosse	1 field per 12,000
Volleyball	1 field per 8,000
Skate Parks	1 park per 60,000
Roller Hockey	1 rink per 30,000
* expansion or addition is planned in increments of 30,000 sq. ft.	

**Policy 1.1.10** The Town shall maintain adopted LOS standards for recreation and parks which reflect the diverse character of Jupiter. The adopted LOS standards should also be cognizant of the growing needs of the Town's senior population.

**Policy 1.1.11** The Town's adopted LOS standards for recreation and parks shall provide for facilities that benefit each age, social and economic group, and recreational preference of Town residents. The annual recreation program preference survey will continue to be distributed to both current users and non-users.

**Policy 1.1.12** Continue to cooperate with the Palm Beach County School Board and private schools within the Town for multi-purpose use of school and Town facilities.

**Policy 1.1.13** Impacts from County-operated parks shall not unduly burden the Town of Jupiter's public services or financial resources. The County in cooperation with the Town shall enter into a mutually acceptable interlocal agreement regarding the provision of services.

**Policy 1.1.14** The Town shall continue an impact fee program and shall supplement recreation and open space needs through interlocal agreements, operational practices, user fees, incentives, and public/private cooperative efforts as a means of maintaining its adopted level of service for recreational capital facilities.

**Policy 1.1.15** Developers shall be given up to 50 percent credit against required recreation impact fees if they provide all or part of the identified community or neighborhood recreation lands and facilities adopted by the Town in its Capital Improvements Plan for Recreation and Parks.

**Policy 1.1.16** The Town shall continue to maximize the use of state funds, other governmental funds and private funds (such as State and FEMA grant funding) to purchase and develop parks, open space and recreational sites and facilities, including purchase or designation of a dual use debris removal site that will maintain or exceed the Town's adopted LOS standards.

**Policy 1.1.17** The Town shall pursue Florida Inland Navigational District funds and other funding sources to acquire and develop waterfront parks access points.

**Policy 1.1.18** In order to meet the adopted LOS standard for Community Center space, the Town may consider other buildings and space that serves community center needs,

in addition to the existing 65,000 s.f. facility.

**Objective 1.2.** All public recreation facilities shall be accessible to Town residents and where certain program participation is limited, preference will be given to Town residents when those programs are held on Town-owned facilities.

**Policy 1.2.1** The Town will continue to locate new parks central to the population it will serve.

**Policy 1.2.2** Public parks and facilities shall be designed and constructed with access ways which are compatible with the character and quality of natural resources found on-site.

**Policy 1.2.3** The Town will continue to encourage the development and expansion of mass transit alternatives that increase the public's access to recreational facilities.

**Policy 1.2.4** All Town parks and recreational facilities shall be accessible to the handicapped and the elderly, and shall have handicapped parking spaces and barrier-free entrances and pathways.

**Policy 1.2.5** Where possible, all Town public recreation facilities shall be accessible to the handicapped, elderly and transportation disadvantaged.

**Policy 1.2.6** The Town shall encourage the construction of bike and pedestrian paths that increase accessibility to parks in the Town.

**Policy 1.2.7** The Town shall continue to support traditional uses, e.g., swimming, surfing, sunbathing, fishing, picnicking, volleyball, frisbee, walking of dogs, on the

beaches in the Town, and maintain the policy of no paid parking.

**Goal 2: Recreation Programs:** *Work to see that a wide range of leisure activities of interest and benefit to each age group, social and economic group, and recreational preference is provided.*

**Objective 2.1** The Town shall maintain adopted LOS standards which reflect the needs of the various age groups, social and economic groups, and recreational preferences of Town residents.

**Policy 2.1.1** The Town will continue to maintain adopted LOS standards for recreation and parks which reflect the diverse character of Jupiter, yet are cognizant of the growing needs of the Town's senior population.

**Policy 2.1.2** The Town shall continue to support the efforts of, and work closely with volunteer organizations that already provide a wide range of recreation programs.

**Policy 2.1.3** Town administered recreation programs should be oriented toward those program areas that have a demand but are not being served by an existing program. In addition, Town efforts will assist in augmenting existing volunteer recreational programs.

**Policy 2.1.4** The Town shall maintain the comprehensive recreation program that was developed through a broad-based citizen participation process.

**Policy 2.1.5** The Town's Parks and Recreation Department will continue to work closely with local volunteer organizations, the Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department, and surrounding local parks and recreation

departments in an effort to assist in the coordination and provision of providing recreation facilities for residents of unincorporated areas and other municipalities adjacent to the Town.

***Goal 3: Open Space: To maximize the preservation, enjoyment, and accessibility of natural open spaces, especially those along the waterfront.***

**Objective 3.1. The Town shall maintain and strive to increase the acreage of publicly and privately-owned open space.**

**Policy 3.1.1** Land that is environmentally sensitive shall be preserved for the purposes of open space, passive recreation uses, traffic mitigation, flood protection and environmental enhancement. This shall include those resources identified in the Conservation Element as Environmentally Sensitive.

**Policy 3.1.2** Jupiter shall participate, subject to budgetary constraints, in the development and funding of the multi-jurisdictional Loxahatchee Trail nature and recreational system. The Trail will provide canoe and hiking areas and recreational system. The Trail will provide canoe and hiking access within the corridor, creating a major nature-oriented recreational area in Palm Beach County.

**Policy 3.1.3** The Town shall review and maintain the existing land development regulations to include specific open space definitions and standards addressing protection of open space and addressing

natural vegetation, landscaping, and signage, as well as the provision of open space for buffering.

**Policy 3.1.4** The Town shall maintain land development regulations, that adopt incentives to encourage the provision of open space areas within future developments to preserve views, vistas, and native vegetation (e.g., allowing part of required parking areas to be unpaved, flexibility in site design.)

**Policy 3.1.6** Link recreation areas together with their counterpart residential neighborhoods by utilizing greenway (open space) or blueway (water corridors used for conservation or recreation) corridors whenever possible.

**Policy 3.1.7** Through the Town's Bicycle Transportation Master Plan, which is adopted by reference in the Town's Comprehensive Plan, land acquisition efforts for recreation and open space will focus on linking and enhancing existing pathways, greenways, blueways, and recreational trail systems, including the acquisition of areas for destination spots, trail heads and parking.

**Policy 3.1.8** The Town shall utilize the following strategies to increase the amount of property preserved through Open Space Land Acquisition Program:

- a) Leverage state and federal grant funding;
- b) Pursue other sources of monies (non-profit organizations, foundations, etc.);
- c) Partner with Palm Beach County to purchase suitable lands.