



**CITY OF MELBOURNE**

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**  
**CHAPTER VIII**  
**RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT**

**Goals, Objectives and Policies**

**May 2009**

**DRAFT**

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## CHAPTER VIII

### RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

#### ~~E. GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES.~~

**GOAL 1.** To provide and maintain an outstanding system of recreation facilities, programs and open space areas which will meet the present and future needs of the City of Melbourne.

*Objectives and policies:*

**Objective 1.1.** The City shall ensure that parks, open space and recreation facilities are efficiently and adequately provided and effectively maintained for all segments of the population according to established level of service standards.

*Policies:*

Policy 1.1.1. The City shall provide a minimum of three (3) acres of publicly owned parkland for each 1,000 residents.

Policy 1.1.2. The City shall meet and maintain the park land acreage level of service standard established in this plan. Existing facilities and open space will be adequately maintained by the Leisure Services Department.

**Objective 1.2.** To preserve, maintain and enhance on an ongoing basis the aesthetic and recreational qualities of open space within and surrounding the City of Melbourne through passive parks, passive areas in active parks and scenic corridors.

*Policies:*

~~a.~~Policy-1.2.1. The appropriate use of the land in flood plain and waterfront areas will be encouraged and the protection of natural areas will be promoted through development regulations.

~~b.~~Policy 1.2.2. Open space and landscaping requirements for future development will be enforced as part of the development approval process.

~~c.~~Policy 1.2.3. Enhancement of existing open spaces and scenic areas within active parks will be encouraged by the city through the annual budget and work program.

~~d.~~Policy 1.2.4. Scenic corridors will continue to be identified and protected by the City's sign regulations, eliminating billboards, controlling on-premises signs through a sign control ordinance, and New development will provide additional streetlights or replace existing ones on an as needed basis. coordinated street lights which will be specified by the city for new development and for replacement of old lights as needed.

~~e~~Policy 1.2.5. The scenic corridors are:

- U.S. 1.
- Eau Gallie Boulevard from I-95 to the Atlantic Ocean. (SR 518)
- U.S. 192.
- SR A1A.
- Wickham Road.
- NASA Boulevard.
- Airport Boulevard
- Dairy Road
- Apollo Boulevard
- Lake Washington Road

~~f~~Policy 1.2.6. The city's open space system will be used to enhance the visual image of the city by landscape design and improvements.

~~g~~Policy 1.2.7. Develop enhanced landscaped entryways at city boundaries including signs, lighting, etc.

Policy 1.2.8. Develop a parks master plan, that among other things could identify gateways and open space areas where improvements are needed.

Policy 1.2.9. Connect scenic corridors to the greenways and trails system.

Objective 1.3. To develop and maintain active parks that continue to meet the recreation needs of Melbourne's residents, according to level-of-service standards identified in this element and in the Capital Improvements Element.

*Policies:*

~~a~~Policy 1.3.1. The city will continue to develop its recreation and open space system through the annual budget and work program to include:

- Special Use Facilities.  
Auditorium and community buildings.  
Boat ramps  
Piers and docks  
Town Squares  
Gazebos
- Downtown park systems.
- Golf courses.
- Passive parks/Urban Open Spaces.
- Community parks.
- Neighborhood parks/Urban Open Space/Equipped Playgrounds and

Tot Lots.

- Scenic corridors.
- Pedestrian facilities/bikeways
- Linear Trails/Greenways
- Waterfront parks and trails

~~b.~~Policy 1.3.2. New property obtained for the city recreation and open space system will be in locations and sizes (~~preferably up to five acres or larger~~) that serve the needs of existing and future residents according to city standards. Sites will be obtained via development regulations for new developments.

~~e.~~Policy 1.3.3. Property already acquired for the city's system has been classified according to the parks classification system ~~contained herein~~ and developed to meet the site and facility standards of the city. Development will be part of the annual work program as needs are identified.

Policy 1.3.4. The City shall evaluate the need for and prioritize the replacement, upgrading or repairing of existing recreational facilities based on the following criteria: age, condition, annual maintenance requirements and the projected service life remaining for the facilities. Demographic information taken from the Census Tracts (e.g., age, population, size, etc.), direct community feedback and/or survey shall also be considered in this process. Capital projects will be included in the Capital Improvements Element (Schedule of Improvements).

~~d.~~Policy 1.3.5. Active neighborhood parks will typically be developed with the following physical improvements on an on-going basis as new needs are identified:

- Playgrounds.
- Picnic areas with benches and tables and pavilions.
- Open areas for free play or small courts (tennis, basketball, etc.)
- Landscaping.

~~e.~~Policy 1.3.6. Community parks will be developed with the following physical improvements on an on-going basis as new needs are identified. the highest priority park classification in the city in terms of funding; and they typically will be developed, over a period of time as new needs are identified, with the following physical improvements:

- Community buildings.
- Multi-use fields (football/soccer/baseball/softball).
- Basketball Courts.

- Tennis courts.
- Swimming pools.
- Multi-use pedways for bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Handball/Racquetball Courts.
- Restrooms.
- Lighting, when appropriate.
- Landscaping.
- Signage.
- Parking and drainage.
- Energy-efficient equipment and construction.
- Maintenance-efficient equipment and construction.
- Ramps and other considerations for physically handicapped users.
- On-site staffing.
- Pavilions.
- Skate Parks
- Playgrounds
- Spray Parks

f.Policy 1.3.7. Recreation programs will be provided on an on-going basis by the city, county and/or nonprofit private organizations in city facilities, as follows:

- Programs will be provided to meet the needs of the general population.
- Special programs will be provided for elderly residents.
- Special programs will be provided for physically handicapped residents by the city/county.

g.Policy 1.3.8. The city will continue to enter into formal and informal agreements to share facility and program resources with the county, the School Board, Brevard Community College, the State of Florida, the U.S. Government, including grants from the National Park Service Urban Planning and Recreation Recovery Program, private nonprofit organizations and others.

h.Policy 1.3.9. The city will encourage the use of countywide or regional revenues to improve the Melbourne Auditorium and to develop sports facilities for South Brevard.

i.Policy 1.3.10. The city will continue to coordinate with the county regarding the development and operation of Wickham Park and will encourage public acquisition of out-parcels and private parcels within the park on a schedule to be established by the county.

- ~~j.~~ The LOS standards for recreation and open space are identified in Tables R-1 and R-2 and are restated in the CIE; they are adopted as part of this plan.
- ~~k.~~ Develop and enhance existing parks consistent with the Melbourne Recovery Action Plan, 1994.
- Policy 1.3.11. City will consider replacing the Melbourne Recovery Action Plan with a more current document that addresses local preferences for parks and incorporates the Greenways and Trails Master Plan.
- Policy 1.3.12. The City will give particular attention to the examination of linkages between recreational systems, the potential for waterfront parks and trails, parkland improvements, and the development of waterfront activities in the Community Redevelopment Areas.

**3.Objective 1.4.** To provide full funding of recreation and open space improvements and programs on an on-going basis through implementation of the following policies.

*Policies:*

- ~~a.~~Policy 1.4.1. The city will use funding sources that include:
- City general fund tax revenues.
  - ~~Recreation Trust Fund Revenues~~
  - User fees.
  - Development impact fees and/or dedications of land or facilities.
  - State grant funds.
  - Federal grant funds. (i.e., Recreation Grants, CDBG)
  - Donations of time and/or funds from volunteer organizations.
  - Donations of time and/or funds from private nonprofit organizations.
- ~~b.~~Policy 1.4.2. The city will use general fund tax revenues and impact fees ~~Recreation Trust Fund revenues~~ to acquire and develop ~~and maintain~~ recreation and open space facilities and areas.
- ~~e.~~Policy 1.4.3. The city will collect user fees to fund recreation programs, classes, lighting, league costs and other activities directly related to specific users.
- ~~d.~~Policy 1.4.4. Development impact fees and/or dedication of land and/or facilities as required by the city Code will include:
- ~~P~~rovision of on-site recreation facilities, land, or fees in lieu of land and facilities in residential developments, ~~mixed-residential developments (Planned Unit Developments) for neighborhood and community parks.~~

- ~~• Provision of on-site recreation facilities and land or fees in lieu of land and facilities in multifamily developments for neighborhood and community parks.~~
- ~~• Provision of on-site recreation facilities and land or fees in lieu of land and/or facilities in single-family subdivisions for neighborhood or community parks.~~

~~e.~~Policy 1.4.5. The city will continue to pursue and use state, federal and other funds to improve its recreation and open-space system.

~~f.~~Policy 1.4.6. The city will continue to obtain funds from the county for development of city parks to accommodate the use of city facilities by non-city residents.

~~g.~~Policy 1.4.7. The city will continue to encourage volunteer and private nonprofit organizations to use its facilities to provide programs to the city's residents based on agreements related to costs, fees, hours of use, insurance and other city policies.

~~h.~~Policy 1.4.8. Formal and informal joint use and development agreements with individual schools will continue to be used to assist in meeting the recreation and open space needs of the city's residents.

~~i.~~Policy 1.4.9. Public and private resources will be coordinated to meet recreation demands and reduce public costs through the provision of recreation facilities within new developments. Land development regulations will be utilized and periodically updated to maintain LOS Standards.

~~j.~~Policy 1.4.10. Provide aesthetic landscaping with emphasis on xeriscape plant materials and the priority use/extension of reuse waterlines for park/open space irrigation.

Policy 1.4.11. The City will continue to enter into and pursue agreements with non-profits for joint use of park facilities.

**4.Objective 1.5.** To continue to monitor the open space and recreation needs and demands of the residents and to update plans accordingly.

*Policies:*

~~a.~~Policy 1.5.1. The city will review the appropriateness and priority of proposed recreation and open space facilities and programs each year as it prepares and adopts the annual budget.

~~b.~~Policy 1.5.2. The city will make amendments to the Recreation and Open Space Element of the Comprehensive Plan as needed. ~~Updates will be completed no less frequently than required by state law.~~

- ~~e.~~Policy 1.5.3. Operational aspects of the recreation and open-space system will be monitored at least annually and may include:
- Maintenance procedures.
  - Energy-efficiency factors.
  - Leases, especially with private nonprofit organizations.
  - Service agreements.
  - User fees.
  - Accessibility/Mobility improvements.
  - Other policies and programs related to planning, developing, operating and maintaining the park system.
- ~~d.~~Policy 1.5.4. The city, through the annual work program, will plan and develop facilities that will result in improvements which reduce maintenance requirements (i.e., provision of paved parking areas to replace unpaved areas, replacement of obsolete equipment with standardized facilities, provision of automatic sprinkler systems, and provision of curbing and walkways).
- ~~e.~~Policy 1.5.5. Access to and within recreation areas will be coordinated with proposed transportation improvements.
- ~~f.~~ ~~The city will encourage and seek to actively participate in proposed greenway and blueway programs to preserve and conserve open space and natural waterways and provide connectivity between parks and natural areas.~~

**5.Objective 1.6.** To continue to increase the amount of public access to the beach or shoreline consistent with estimated public need and to promote scenic views.

*Policies:*

- ~~a.~~Policy 1.6.1. The purchase of riverfront and oceanfront areas will be considered, as needed in the annual budget, to ensure adequate public access.
- ~~b.~~Policy 1.6.2. County, state, and federal programs will continue to be supported and pursued to provide funding for purchase of coastal lands.
- ~~e.~~Policy 1.6.3. Height, width and site coverage standards will be enforced via the development review process for new structures, to preserve and improve scenic views; clustering of units is encouraged to open broader spaces.
- ~~d.~~Policy 1.6.4. Programs directed toward beach restoration or re-nourishment shall also be considered and provide for public access, as feasible. Boardwalks should be connected to the greenways and trails networks.

- Policy 1.6.5. Continue to prohibit dense development along the coastal areas and reserve areas for recreational purposes to preserve the integrity of the natural area and increases linkage to the waterways.
- ~~e.~~ ~~The city will coordinate through establishment of a task force with other coastal cities and Brevard County to investigate and implement equitable measures to promote funding construction of public access ways to the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian River by new development. Such programs will include provision of adequate parking.~~
- ~~f.~~Policy 1.6.6. The city will encourage via the development review and approval process the voluntary dedication of access to public waterways, including designated scenic areas and especially along SRA1A and US1 along the Indian River Lagoon.
- ~~g.~~Policy 1.6.7. The city will encourage Brevard County to utilize beach and riverfront access funds, Florida Forever ~~Carl~~ Funds, and the EELS program funds to acquire undeveloped property along coastal rivers and streams, including encouraging the development of greenways and blueways.
- Policy 1.6.8. City will continue utilizing the Marine Resource Council as a task force to develop accessways to the Atlantic and Indian River.
- Policy 1.6.9. The city will require pedestrian and open space connections to the waterways within the CRA's.
- Policy 1.6.10. Pedestrian connections between the mainland and barrier island should be strengthened as part of a parks and trails master plan. A loop will be considered running along the shores of the Indian River Lagoon and connecting the mainland to the peninsula along existing bridges.

**Objective 1.7.** The City will endeavor to provide a system of pedestrian and bicycle paths to interconnect parks, open space areas, and other public places.

- Policy 1.7.1. The City adopted a Greenways, Blueways, and Trails Plan in March 2007. This plan provides the blueprint for an interconnected system of pedestrian and bicycle facilities to link open space and parks. Coordination with the Brevard County's Greenways and Trails Master Plan, to identify appropriate links between facilities outside of the City, should continue to be an integral part of the development process for the City's Plan.
- Policy 1.7.2. The City will coordinate with Brevard County and incorporate applicable updates to the Brevard County Greenways and Trails Master Plan into the City's Greenways, Blueways, and Trails Plan.

- Policy 1.7.3. All neighborhood, community, and special use parks shall provide bicycle racks or similar storage facilities. Bicycle parking facilities shall be conveniently located within parks and placed at visible locations.
- Policy 1.7.4. Require all new recreation facilities within private subdivisions to be connected to the greenways and trails system, when feasible.
- Policy 1.7.5. The City will study the possibility of establishing greenways and trails within existing utility and drainage easements throughout the City.
- Policy 1.7.6. Bicycle and pedestrian system plans promoted in the Transportation Element shall be coordinated with the objectives and policies of the Recreation Element.

**Objective 1.8.** To focus on the renovation and redevelopment needs of recreational facilities.

- Policy 1.8.1. Renovate existing parks as identified in the CIE, to ensure all residents have updated facilities.
- Policy 1.8.2. Respond to changing demographics and user needs with appropriate improvements.
- Policy 1.8.3. Coordinate park development projects with the CRA's.
- Policy 1.8.4. Promote street landscaping, landscaped areas and useable retention facilities.
- Policy 1.8.5. Utilize trend analysis and user needs assessments to identify and program necessary renovation of facilities to meet changing demographics, interest and needs.
- Policy 1.8.6. Retrofit existing facilities where shading needs are identified, including shading of playground structures for playground equipment and parks users.