

City of St. Augustine Comprehensive Plan 2040

Recreation & Open Space Element

Goals, Objectives and Policies

Note: Unless indicated proposed Goals, Objectives and Policies replace previously adopted.

July 2020

Recreation and Open Space Element

Goals, Objectives and Policies

Chapter 163.3177(6)(e) F.S.

Summary

Providing recreational opportunities and open space is a foundation of strong neighborhoods, communities, and regions. The Recreation and Open Space Element identifies the recreation sites within the City that are available to the public and discusses private resources as well. The City of St. Augustine currently includes approximately 838 acres of parkland. In addition, St. Augustine is fortunate to have significant riverine and marsh environments associated with the Tolomato, San Sebastian and Matanzas rivers, Salt Run and Anastasia State Park. These areas border the uplands of the City and contribute to the unique character of the city. The surrounding area including the city also provides recreational and economic opportunities for tourism, fishing, sailing, boating and enjoying the outdoors.

As a tourist destination the city is unique in its appeal to visitors, regional and county residents, and its own citizen quality of life.

The Recreation and Open Space Element is a required comprehensive plan element under Florida's Local Government Community Planning Act (Chapter 163, Florida Statutes). The Recreation and Open Space Element must indicate a comprehensive system of public and private sites for recreation. This may include natural reservations, parks, playgrounds, parkways, open spaces, waterways, and other recreational facilities. The Recreation and Open Space Element must also include level of service standards for the amount of recreation available as development occurs. The Recreation and Open Space Element serves as a guide for the development and use of public land within the City of St. Augustine and recognizes private resources. This includes creating an efficient pattern and location of recreational opportunities designed to serve all sectors of the population. The Recreation and Open Space Element contains goals, objectives and policies to maintain and expand the existing recreation network.

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Recreation & Open Space Element

Goals, Objectives and Policies

Chapter 163.3177(6)(e) F.S.

ROS Overall Goal

To provide open space, recreation sites and recreation facilities which meet the needs of residents and visitors, support City conservation efforts and provide a healthy and aesthetically pleasing environment. (Adopted June 2011, Ord. #2011-02)

Level of Service Standards for Parks

ROS Objective 1.1

Coordinate private and public resources to adequately provide recreation sites and facilities at the adopted level of service standards. (Adopted June 2011, Ord. #2011-02)

ROS Policy 1.1.1

To ensure that park facilities keep pace with the impacts of sustained growth and to plan for future parks and open space facilities, the City adopts the following level of service standards (LOS):

- Neighborhood Parks: LOS standard 0.80 acres per 1,000 people
- Community Parks: LOS standard 1 acre per 1,000 people
- Regional Parks: LOS standard of 5 acres per 1,000 people

ROS Policy 1.1.2

The City shall make an effort to incorporate documented historic and archaeological sites into park areas whenever possible to address both recreation and preservation needs. (Adopted June 2011, Ord. #2011-02)

ROS Policy 1.1.3

The City will coordinate the development of the projects which are listed in the Capital Improvements Element as projects secured with private funding. (Adopted June 2011, Ord. #2011-02)

ROS Objective 1.2

The City shall ensure safe public access to the recreation sites and facilities. The measurable target for this objective is public access to the identified recreation sites and facilities. (Adopted June 2011, Ord. #2011-02)

ROS Policy 1.2.1

Although the only beaches in the City are in the Anastasia State Recreation Area and are therefore not subject to the City's development regulations, the City shall continue to support the policy of the State Division of Parks and Recreation in permitting public access to those beaches. The City shall continue to provide access to shores and waterways depicted on the Future Land Use Map by: (1) continuing to enforce the Future Land Use Plan which allows water-dependent or water related uses as permitted uses in every land use classification; and (2) continuing to operate the municipal marina. (Adopted June 2011, Ord. #2011-02)

ROS Policy 1.2.2

The City shall correct park and recreation facility deficiencies and provide future parks and recreation facilities according to the following priorities:

1. maintenance, repair and replacement of existing facilities located on existing recreation sites.
2. development of new facilities, located on existing recreation sites, to correct existing deficiencies.
3. acquisition of new recreation sites to correct existing deficiencies.
4. development of new facilities, to be located on new recreation sites, to correct existing deficiencies.
5. development of new facilities, located on existing recreation sites, to provide for future needs.
6. acquisition of new recreation sites to provide for future needs.
7. development of new facilities, located on new recreation sites, to provide for future needs.

(Adopted June 2011, Ord. #2011-02)

ROS Policy 1.2.3

The City of St. Augustine shall utilize the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) guidelines outlined in the Data and Analysis to determine the type and location of parklands.

ROS Policy 1.2.4

The Land Development Code shall address standards for park development and improvements, which shall include buffering, landscaping, parking and siting facilities.

ROS Policy 1.2.5

The City shall refer to the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) as a guideline to assist in the evaluation of facilities and siting new parks and improvements.

Natural Areas and Open Space

ROS Objective 2.1

Public agencies and private developments shall provide open space as defined in this element.
(Adopted June 2011, Ord. #2011-02)

ROS Policy 2.1.1

The City shall continue to enforce the Future Land Use Plan and the development regulations contained in the City Code to preserve open space. (Adopted June 2011, Ord. #2011-02)

ROS Policy 2.1.2

The Recreation and Open Space classification is intended to designate parks, natural reservations and active recreation sites. (Adopted June 2011, Ord. #2011-02)

ROS Policy 2.1.3

The newly created Open Land (Conservation) classification is intended to designate open space. Additionally, open space is determined on a site specific basis during site plan review and through the conservation overlay zone development process. Open space so determined is defined as being marshland, swamp, natural or manmade bodies of water, and environmentally sensitive lands where local, state or federal regulations prohibit development including land under conservation easement, conservatorship or other permanent protection.

ROS Policy 2.1.4

The City shall continue to investigate and utilize local, state and federal funding programs to enhance, acquire and expand recreation and open space facilities and natural reservations.

ROS Policy 2.1.5

The City Code shall continue to contain and implement open space definitions and standards established in the Future Land Use Plan and in the Conservation Overlay Zone Development section of the Conservation and Coastal Management Element, which includes the definition of “undeveloped conservation parklands”.

ROS Policy 2.1.6

The City shall coordinate with the county and adjacent jurisdictions to acquire lands to be used as conservation and open space for the purpose of creating a system of resource based recreational trails, greenways, and greenway corridors. To enhance such a trail system, priority shall be given to lands that are adjacent to or by some other means are connected to other lands dedicated for such purposes, especially where such acquisitions create new or enhanced access to water bodies and shorelines, which may encourage paddling, kayaking and fishing.

ROS Policy 2.1.7

The City shall encourage greenways and a recreational trail system that provide extensions or connections to existing adjacent municipality, county and state trails. This can include paddling, kayaking, biking, walking, running and hiking.

Natural Areas, Open Space and Sustainability

ROS Objective 3.1

As indicated in the Infrastructure Element the City shall encourage the use of sustainable, low impact development (LID) strategies to address stormwater management including the use of recreation or open spaces.

ROS Policy 3.1.1

The City shall coordinate with local, regional, state and federal agencies to provide educational materials and forums to the public and the community on the value and benefits of sensitive sustainable stormwater management facilities design.

ROS Policy 3.3.2

For new construction or redevelopment of City buildings and facilities including parks, recreation and open spaces, the City shall utilize LID principles to the extent practicable to address stormwater management needs and to model innovative techniques:

- Manage stormwater as close to its origin as possible by using many small-scale LID techniques.
- Create a site design that slows surface flows and increases the amount of time stormwater flows over the site.
- Increase the reliability of the stormwater system by using multiple, redundant stormwater controls.
- Integrate stormwater controls into the design of the site and use the controls as site amenities.
- Reduce the reliance on traditional collection and conveyance stormwater practices.

Park Maintenance and Joint Use of Facilities

ROS Objective 4.1

The City shall maintain and improve all City parks in a manner that is consistent with the recreation needs of City residents and shall maximize the potential of the individual facilities.

ROS Policy 4.1.1

The City's parks and recreational facilities shall be renovated and/or upgraded consistent with the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) to provide improved recreational opportunities.

ROS Policy 4.1.2

The City shall maintain an inventory of the location, size, condition, and amenities available at each public park.

ROS Objective 4.2

The City shall continue to coordinate with the public and private sector to avoid duplication of recreation facilities. This shall include provisions for joint use of school board or other public agencies' recreation facilities to meet the recreation demands of the City's citizens.

ROS Policy 4.2.1

The City shall coordinate with private developers to provide public recreation facilities within their development.

ROS Policy 4.2.2

The City shall utilize the LOS standards to recommend recreation improvements located within private developments.

Accessibility

ROS Objective 5.1

Within the planning timeframe, all recreation and open space areas shall be evaluated as to their accessibility to all St. Augustine residents regardless of physical condition, age or economic condition as outlined in the uniform federal accessibility standards.

ROS Policy 5.1.1

All City parks and open space shall provide unobstructed access, when reasonably possible, through the following procedures:

- Existing facilities shall be evaluated and improved, if necessary, within the planning timeframe.
- Any new roadway or sidewalk construction required to access future sites shall be improved to engineering standards established in the Land Development Code.
- Appropriate safety improvements for the safe ingress and egress to and from recreational sites shall be considered.

ROS Policy 5.1.2

Any park undergoing renovation shall incorporate wheelchair access and bicycle parking.

ROS Policy 5.1.3

Within the planning timeframe, bicycle racks and park benches shall be provided at all recreational sites.

Historic Preservation and Tourism

ROS Objective 6.1

Based on the City's tourist economy consider protecting historic or cultural structures and/or sites that are used for private recreation and tourist uses.

ROS Policy 6.1.1

Encourage public and private property owners of historic sites to provide access to these sites so that the public can appreciate the historic nature and background of these sites.

ROS Policy 6.1.2

Access to cultural and historic sites provides a valuable resource for locals and tourists to appreciate and learn about history and other cultures, including the value in protecting these resources for future generations.