

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

GOAL 1

The Town will ensure the provision of appropriate recreational facilities and open space areas to satisfy the health, safety, and welfare of the Town.

OBJECTIVE 1.1

The Town will adopt a level of service (LOS) and coordinate efforts with the private sector to assure the continued provision of appropriate recreational opportunities.

Policy 1.1.1

The Town has adopted a town-wide recreation and open space level of service (LOS) of twelve (12) acres of public open space and recreation area per 1,000 peak seasonal functional population (LOS 12/1000).

Policy 1.1.2

The Town will coordinate efforts to provide and maintain recreational opportunities through public purchases and private cooperation.

Policy 1.1.3

The Town will consider both public and private opportunities to improve and enhance cultural, educational, and recreational amenities for Town residents.

Policy 1.1.4

In conjunction with the adopted town-wide LOS, the Town has adopted the recreational standards shown in Table 1 as a facility guide, which considers both public facilities and private facilities.

**TABLE 1
Recreational Facilities Standards Guide**

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Population Served</u>
Tennis Courts (privately supplied)	One court per 5,000 persons
Tennis Courts (publicly supplied)	One per 8,000 persons
Multipurpose fields	One per 25,000 persons
Basketball court	One per 12,500 persons
Multipurpose pathway	1 linear mile per 2,500 persons
Swimming (nonpool)	1 linear mile of beach per 25,000 persons
Saltwater fishing (nonboat)	800 linear feet of pier, shoreline, catwalk, jetty per 5,000 persons
Boat ramp	One ramp per 12,500 persons

Policy 1.1.5

The Town will require the provision of recreational and open space opportunities within future private developments.

Policy 1.1.6

The Town will solicit public input, through the public hearing process, on issues of Town recreation and open space needs.

Policy 1.1.7

The Town will support the activities and services of the Bayfront Park Recreation Center, the focus of which is for public recreation.

Policy 1.1.8

The Town will encourage private sector support to expand recreation facilities commensurate with needs and community desire.

Policy 1.1.9

Increase the Town's financial commitment to recreation, through both public and private sector support, as an expression of its important role in Town life.

Policy 1.1.10

The Town will implement its parks and land acquisition regulations, as adopted in the Zoning Code, to require private land dedication or equivalent monetary value be deeded or paid to the Town for park and open space purposes.

Policy 1.1.11

The Town will support the appropriate improvement of Town-owned and controlled recreation and open space lands with facilities that expand public enjoyment of those lands while balancing the needs of the environment and neighborhood compatibility.

OBJECTIVE 1.2

To protect lands designated as open space on the adopted Future Land Use Map from incompatible land uses and to ensure that open space lands remain functionally intact.

Policy 1.2.1

The Town will improve and maintain, as appropriate, existing publicly-owned or controlled open space and recreation areas.

Policy 1.2.2

The Town adopts the following as criteria to guide open space land acquisition: 1) implementation of the policies that minimize risk in the Coastal High Hazard Area; 2) continuing to preserve natural landscape, native vegetation and significant wildlife species and their habitats as adopted in the Zoning Code; 3) consideration of the inventory of existing parks and open space property; 4) located adjacent to existing publicly-owned or controlled lands; 5) the provisions of the reserve account in trust as established pursuant to Town Ordinances; and, 6) properties that serve the public interest.

Policy 1.2.3

The Town will strongly encourage the preservation and expansion of open space through both public purchase and private cooperation.

Policy 1.2.4

Acquisition of land and capital improvements of existing land will be funded by the Town's Parks and Open Space Land Acquisition Fund and other sources.

Policy 1.2.5

The Town will enforce its open space preservation regulations, as adopted in the Zoning Code to require all residential developments to preserve a minimum of fifty (50) percent of the gross land area as open space.

OBJECTIVE 1.3

To ensure that all public Gulf of Mexico access facilities have appropriate bicycle and pedestrian access facilities.

Policy 1.3.1

The Town will maintain each of the 15 Gulf of Mexico access points, by providing pedestrian access facilities and bicycle storage areas.

OBJECTIVE 1.4

The Town will preserve the number of Bay access points through the most economically feasible methods available.

Policy 1.4.1

In conjunction with providing cost-effective access, existing Bay access points will be maintained in a manner as to not disturb the natural environment around the access point.

OBJECTIVE 1.5

To maintain accessibility to all public recreation facilities based on the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Florida Accessibility Code.

Policy 1.5.1

The Town will provide handicapped parking spaces and barrier-free access to all public recreation facilities.

OBJECTIVE 1.6

To encourage improved circulation and safety conditions for recreational pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

Policy 1.6.1

Information signage will be encouraged at all public access areas and along the public multipurpose pathway as needed.