

Nassau County 2030 Comprehensive Plan Recreation and Open Space Element (ROS) Goals, Objectives and Policies

Goal 7.0

~~The County shall~~ Provide and maintain sufficient ~~private and~~ public parks, recreation facilities, and open space to meet the ~~health, safety, and welfare~~ recreational needs of ~~the~~ County residents ~~citizens~~ and visitors.

OBJECTIVE ~~7.01~~ ROS.01

~~Upon plan adoption, t~~ The County shall ~~continue to adequately and efficiently~~ acquire, develop and efficiently maintain ~~the adequate neighborhood and~~ community and regional recreation facilities ~~listed in the plan~~ to achieve and maintain the adopted Level of Service (LOS) in order to meet projected recreational needs through the year 2010 2030.

Policy ~~7.01.01~~

~~The County shall develop and maintain an inventory of county owned or operated parks and those available to county residents through interlocal agreements, by function of park (community, or regional) and a general inventory of recreation facilities. The County shall use this inventory as part of a detailed assessment of recreation needs. The methodology for this assessment is described in the Recreation Element Data and Analysis. The assessment shall be completed within two years of adoption of the EAR based plan amendment and shall be used as the basis for developing revised LOS for recreation and open space.~~

Policy ROS.01.01

The County shall prepare a Parks & Recreation Master Plan in cooperation with appropriate agencies to guide the development and maintenance of County parks and recreation facilities. The Plan should accomplish the following:

- A) Inventory the County parks system;
- B) Recommend guidelines for the size, timing and phasing of parks in the County by using population trends and projections;
- C) Establish criteria for, and priority ranking of, lands for acquisition and development;
- D) Consider existing and potential funding sources as well as programs for implementation and a long-range capital improvements plan for future parks and recreation facilities.
- E) This Plan should be completed no later than January 1, 2013.

Note: **HIGHLIGHTED TEXT** indicates changes made from Transmittal Draft of 5/10/2010 based upon the Objections, Recommendations, and Comments (ORC) Report issued by the Florida Dept. of Community Affairs (DCA) 7/13/2010

Policy ROS.01.02

The County should select and assemble an advisory committee representing both the public and private sector to guide the development of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. Extensive public involvement including surveys, public workshops, and extensive discussions with community organizations should be required in order to develop a plan that reflects the needs and values of the County.

Policy ~~7.01.02~~ ROS.01.03

The County shall adopt the following Level of Service (LOS) standards for ~~Regional and Community~~ community, and regional parks. These ~~interim~~ standards ~~shall~~ may be ~~revised, supplemented as necessary, by additional location or design criteria~~ based on the ~~recommendations of the recreation assessment~~ recommendations of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan described in Policy 7.01.01.

Type	Service Radius	Minimum Size	Area /1000 Residents	Site Characteristics and Facilities
<u>Community Parks</u>	<u>1-2 miles</u>	<u>10 Acres</u>	<u>3.35 Acres</u>	<u>May include areas suited for intense recreation facilities such as athletic complexes and large swimming pools. Easily accessible to nearby neighborhoods and other neighborhoods</u>
<u>Regional Parks- General</u>	<u>County-wide: 30 miles/1 hour drive</u>	<u>30 Acres</u>	<u>10 Acres</u>	<u>Size and location may vary with the primary purpose of the park. May include areas suited for camping, nature and bridle paths, picnicking, fishing, and other resource based facilities.</u>
<u>Regional Parks- Beach Access</u>	<u>County-wide</u>	<u>Variable</u>	<u>.25 Acre</u>	<u>At .5 mile linear increments with adequate space for parking</u>
<u>Regional Parks- Boat Facility</u>	<u>County-wide</u>	<u>Variable</u>	<u>.40 Acre</u>	<u>1 ramp lane per 5,000 population</u>

Policy ROS.01.04

In general, the County shall not seek to acquire neighborhood park facilities. Land and improvements for neighborhood parks shall be provided by new development through the site plan review process. Criteria for the location and design of such facilities shall be included in the Land Development Code (LDC), Planned Unit Development (PUD) or Development of Regional Impact (DRI) development order.

Policy ROS.01.05

The County shall acquire, maintain, or manage through agreement, community and regional park facilities to achieve and maintain the adopted level of service (LOS).

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Policy ROS.01.06

In order to address existing deficiencies and future needs in a fiscally responsible manner, the County should consider the development of a 10 year + long range capital improvements plan for parks and recreation facilities to achieve and maintain the adopted level of service (LOS).

Policy 7.01.02A

~~A regional park is a tract of land designated and used by the public for active and passive recreation. A regional park draws users from a larger area than a community park, frequently from the entire County and beyond, by providing access to especially attractive natural resources, amenities and specialized activities.~~

Policy 7.01.02B

~~A community park is designated to serve the community in which the park is located. A Community Park draws users from the general area in which the potential users reside and serve a smaller population than regional parks.~~

Policy 7.01.03 ROS.01.07

The County shall ~~project and generally locate~~ plan recreation facilities based on the following planning ~~standards~~ guidelines from the State Comprehensive Recreation Program (2000). These ~~standards~~ guidelines are for planning purposes only and ~~shall~~ may be used to help determine ~~when and where~~ how grant funds and county funds could be used to improve county recreation facilities. Upon adoption of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan as described in Policy 7.01.01, these guidelines may be updated to reflect the needs of county residents.

<u>Resource/Facility</u>	<u>Population per Unit (Median)</u>
<u>Baseball/Softball field</u>	<u>2500</u>
<u>Basketball Court</u>	<u>5,000</u>
<u>Football/Soccer Field</u>	<u>6,000</u>
<u>Equipped play area</u>	<u>10,000</u>
<u>Exercise/Parcours Trails</u>	<u>15,000</u>
<u>Aquatic Center</u>	<u>25,000</u>
<u>Tennis Court</u>	<u>5000</u>

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Units Per Number of Persons</u>
<u>Picnic Tables/Shelters</u>	<u>1: 1500</u>
<u>Tennis</u>	<u>1: 4000</u>
<u>Football/Soccer</u>	<u>1: 3000</u>
<u>Basketball/Multi-Use</u>	<u>1: 2500</u>
<u>Ball Diamonds</u>	<u>1: 2000</u>

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Swimming Pool	1:12500
Play Apparatus	1:2500
Boat Ramps	1:5000
<u>Recreation and Open Space</u>	<u>Acres Per 1000 Population</u>
Play Area /Tot Lot	0.5 Ac/1000
Community Park	2.0 Ac/1000
Community Passive Space	1.0 Ac/1000
Regional/State Parks	20.0 Ac/1000
Beach Access w/ Parking	0.5 Ac/1000
TOTAL	14.0 Ac/1000

Policy ~~7.01.04~~ ROS.01.08

Recreation impact ~~and/or-subdivision~~ fees may be implemented and updated as necessary as a funding source for new parks and recreation facilities.

Policy ROS.01.09

The County should investigate flexible administration of impact fees and land dedication to help accomplish the County's parks and recreation goals. This may include payment in lieu of land or purchase of credits from the County.

Policy ~~7.01.05~~ ROS.01.10

The County shall ~~continue to assist in funding~~ seek interlocal agreements for the collection and disbursement of recreation impact fees with the municipalities within the County. ~~improvement of recreation facilities located in Callahan, Fernandina Beach, and Hilliard since these facilities have a regional function serving County residents through interlocal agreements.~~

Policy ROS.01.11

The County shall cooperate with public agencies and private landowners to continue to provide public access for hunting and fishing.

Policy ~~7.01.06~~ ROS.01.12

The County shall ~~continue to~~ encourage and create incentives such as cluster development standards, density bonuses, mixed use development etc., for the dedication of recreational land.

Policy ~~7.01.07~~ ROS.01.13

The County shall pursue available grant sources for the acquisition and development of park and recreation areas, including but not limited to ~~Department of Defense~~, Federal and State funding.

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Policy ~~7.01.08~~ ROS.01.14

The County shall maintain and develop existing parks to their optimal level with consideration given to the ~~area's~~ needs of the community served and the functional capacity of the parks.

Policy ~~7.01.09~~ ROS.01.15

The County shall ~~continue to~~ maintain and support a recreation department for County-wide park and recreation planning and management.

Policy ~~7.01.10~~ ROS.01.16

The County shall review ~~large-scale~~ each new developments as to the need for public parks and recreation facilities, ~~including neighborhood and community parks, that are necessary to maintain adopted levels of service and require the dedication (or fee in lieu of) at the rate of 2.5 acres per 100 homes.~~ Required park land should be identified for dedication during the review process for a subdivision, Planned Unit Development (PUD), or Development of Regional Impact (DRI) and a schedule should be established for construction of facilities. The County may consider funds to be donated in lieu of land in cases where the required aggregate land dedication is less than the minimum standard of useable acres established in Policy ROS.01.03.

Policy ~~7.01.11~~ ROS.01.17

To increase efficiency and convenience in the recreation system, the County will coordinate through interlocal agreements with other public agencies which have recreation areas in the County.

Policy ~~7.01.12~~

~~The County shall consider the use of closed land fills, floodplains, conservation areas and other similar areas for recreational land provided the use of these sites has been determined to not endanger the public health, safety, or welfare nor to create damage to environmentally sensitive lands.~~

Policy ~~7.01.13~~

~~Existing County-owned land, such as easements and small parcels, and/or easements granted to the County shall be used and/or upgraded, where feasible, to meet recreation and open space needs and especially to meet small passive type park needs where feasible.~~

Policy ~~7.01.14~~ ROS.01.18

Whenever possible, recreation sites should be established with multi-use purposes to provide both recreation facilities and to ensure preservation or conservation of environmentally sensitive lands.

Policy 7.01.15

~~At a minimum, the County shall require developments with significant frontage along navigable waterways will to provide, at a minimum, easements for, or the construction of, boat ramps and/or parking facilities for public use. Such easements may be calculated as part of the open space standards for development that are contained in the Conservation Element. Criteria for developments subject to this requirement are to be specified in the Land Development Regulations.~~

OBJECTIVE 7.02 ROS.02

~~Upon Plan adoption, The County shall assure the inclusion of appropriate vehicular, pedestrian, bicycle, boating, beach and shorefront multi-modal access to all public recreation areas maintained by the County, including beach and waterfront facilities. Recreational facilities required for new development shall be constructed to maximize appropriate multi-modal access, and water bodies under County operation or requiring development approval at the time of development or addition to existing facilities. Measure: Assure inclusion of vehicular, pedestrian, bicycle, boating, beach and shorefront access to all recreation areas and water bodies under county control or new or expanding developments.~~

Policy 7.02.01 ROS.02.01

The County will provide for adequate vehicular parking and bicycle racks at all new County recreation areas and will ensure the installation of such facilities at the time of the reconstruction or additions to existing County recreation areas.

Policy 7.02.02 ROS.02.02

Sidewalks, bicycle paths and multipurpose trails shall be provided at the time of construction or reconstruction as defined in the County ~~Subdivision Regulations~~ Land Development Code along public roads which provide access from neighborhoods to County parks.

Policy 7.02.03 ROS.02.03

The County will provide ~~handicapped~~ accessible parking and barrier-free access to all types of County recreational facilities.

Policy 7.02.04 ROS.02.04

The County shall require as a condition of site plan approval, that easements for public beach access be provided by a developer of beachfront property, at an average of one-half mile intervals, ~~in accordance with the Coastal Management Element.~~

Policy 7.02.05 ROS.02.05

As a condition of development approval, all developers constructing recreational facilities shall be required to provide adequate access of all kinds to recreational facilities and public water bodies to meet Objective 7.02.

Policy ~~7.02.06~~ ROS.02.06

The County shall provide in the Land Development Code ~~Regulations~~ a requirement that any access to public beaches and shorelines or other recreational sites required as a condition of concurrency or development approval, shall be of sufficient size to accommodate adequate vehicular parking and bicycle racks within the access easement.

Policy ROS.02.07

The County shall require developments with significant frontage along navigable waterways will provide, at a minimum, easements for, or the construction of, boat ramps and/or parking facilities for public use. Such easements may be calculated as part of the open space standards for development that are contained in the Conservation Element. Criteria for developments subject to this requirement are to be specified in the Land Development Code (LDC), Planned Unit Development (PUD) or Development of Regional Impact (DRI) development order.

Policy ~~7.02.07~~ ROS.02.08

The County shall consider greenways to link existing and proposed nature reserves, parks, cultural and historic sites with each other. ~~These g~~Greenways may ~~be extensions of the above listed facilities with~~ include pedestrian and/or bike trails.

OBJECTIVE ~~7.03~~ ROS.03

~~Upon Plan adoption, t~~ The County shall ensure the provision of open space as required in the County's ~~Future Land Use~~ Comprehensive Plan and where it is appropriate within developments to meet concurrency management.

Policy ~~7.03.01~~ ROS.03.01

The County shall adopt in the Land Development ~~Regulations~~ Code, ~~that include~~ specific ~~open space~~ definitions for open space and standards for the provision and protection of open space. Conservation areas ~~including wetlands on the FLUM~~ that are under public ownership shall be designated as open space, ~~with development permitted only to enhance the recreational capacity of the. Conversion of open space to other "active" recreational uses shall be subject to DEP and other responsible agencies' approvals for dredge and fill.~~

Policy ~~7.03.02~~ ROS.03.02

The County shall regularly review the Land Development ~~Regulations~~ Code to upgrade current definitions of open space, and to maximize the preservation of open space consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies of this element and the future recommendations of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

Policy 7.03.03

~~The Land Development Regulations shall contain incentives as a mechanism to encourage developments to provide additional open space beyond that required by LOS standards and concurrency management.~~

Policy ~~7.03.04~~ ROS.03.03

PUD, cluster and other mixed use type developments shall be encouraged to provide large areas of open space and to provide recreation facilities beyond those necessary to be concurrent with the additional community needs they create.

Policy ~~7.03.05~~ ROS.03.04

Conservation areas, including wetlands, ~~shown on the FLUM~~ shall be reviewed for inclusion in a greenway system if they would provide a link to nature reserves, parks, cultural or historic sites or extensive floodplains, wetlands, lakes or waterways. Any area designated as a greenway shall count towards the development's open space requirement.

OBJECTIVE ROS.04

The County shall support and encourage appropriate and effective participation and partnership with non-governmental organizations in meeting Level of Service for parks and recreational facilities

Policy ROS.04.01

The county shall maintain partnerships with organizations such as Florida Communities Trust, the Trust for Public Land (TPL), The Nature Conservancy, The North Florida Land Trust, and other organizations to assist in providing the necessary funds to implement a long-range, financially feasible plan for the identification and acquisition of environmental resources, including lands for parks and recreation facilities of all types.

Policy ROS.04.02

The County shall encourage the creation of appropriate public-private partnerships as a model for structuring, funding and operating certain parks and recreation facilities, when it is beneficial to the citizens of the County.