

Recreation and Open Space Element

GOAL I: THE CITY SHALL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE RECREATIONAL AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FREEPORT AS WELL AS FOR VISITORS.

Objective I.A The City shall maintain and upgrade its park system which adequately meets the needs of the city residents and visitors.

Policy I.A.1 Level of service for the City of Freeport shall be a minimum of 6.25 acres of recreation and open space per 1000 population.

Policy I.A.2 The City of Freeport will adopt the following definitions and standards for open space, as follows:

Open Space: undeveloped land suitable for recreation or conservation uses. Subcategories shall include:

Corridor Open Space: land preserved as open space that runs along a right-of way or any long linear open space through which people travel.

Pastoral Open Space: open space land preserved for the management, protection and prudent use of natural resources present on that land. Resource-based recreation maybe allowed if compatible with the site.

Utilitarian Open Space: open space land reserved for intense development due primarily to public safety constraints such as being prone to flooding, or sinkhole formation or having contaminated soil.

These definitions and standards shall apply to all development, existing and future, including redevelopment. These definitions and standards are also included in the adopted Land Development Code.

Policy I.A.3 Through the development approval process, the city shall require that new development provide for the recreational needs created by that development.

GOAL II: TO PROVIDE ACCESSIBILITY TO ALL FACILITIES FOR ALL SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION.

Objective II.A: All recreational facilities shall have operational automobile, bicycle, and pedestrian access facilities as appropriate.

Policy II.A.1 The city shall acquire needed rights-of-ways for access to all recreation facilities.

Objective II.B To provide recreational facilities which are accessible to the elderly and the handicapped.

Policy II.B.1 The city shall provide handicapped parking spaces and barrier free access to all public recreational facilities.

GOAL III: TO PROVIDE FOR THE SAFETY OF THE USERS OF THE PUBLIC FACILITIES.

Objective III.A Public parks and recreation facilities shall be maintained in as safe a condition as possible to reduce the number of accidents and to reduce the City's liabilities.

Policy III.A.1 The city shall install signs, lighting, fences, and rails at all public facilities as needed.

Policy III.A.2 All children's play areas shall be at least 100 feet from vehicular paths and shall be separated by a barrier or fence.

GOAL IV TO COORDINATE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR EFFORTS TO PROVIDE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

Objective IV.A Improve efforts of local government with the public and private sectors to develop recreational opportunities for the community.

Policy IV.A.1 The city council shall appoint a committee consisting of members of the public and private sectors to coordinate efforts to provide for recreational opportunities.

GOAL V TO ENSURE THE PROVISION OF OPEN SPACE BY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISES.

Objective V.A To provide open space and protect such from incompatible land uses.

Policy V.A.1 The city shall adopt land use regulations which provide requirements for the provision of space for new developments.

Goal VI: To provide recreation opportunities for the citizens of Freeport and Walton County within the Four Mile Creek Working Waterfront Planning Area.

Objective VI.A; To improve public access to the recreational facilities within the Four Mile Creek Working Waterfront Planning Area

Policy VI.A.1: The City of Freeport and Walton County, as partners in the Four Mile Creek Working Waterfront Planning Area, will cooperate to plan for additional public parking for the public recreational facilities within the Four Mile Creek Planning Area.

Policy VI.A.2: The City of Freeport and Walton County, as partners in the Four Mile Creek Working Waterfront Planning Area, will cooperate to plan for additional permanent moorings/mooring fields for short term docking; for commercial and recreational vessels.

Objective VI.B: To expand current recreational facilities within the Four Mile Creek Working Waterfront Planning Area to attract the non-watercraft user.

Policy VI.B.1: The City of Freeport will continue to research opportunities to expand the public recreational facilities within the Four Mile Creek Planning Area to provide additional recreational facilities for the day visitor without watercraft; i.e. walking trails, boardwalks, bird watching platforms, additional picnicking facilities, way-finding signage, historical markers, children's playground equipment, etc.