



OPEN SPACE, PARKS, AND RECREATION

LIVE

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

GOAL OPR 1 Excellent Open Spaces, Parks, and Recreational Opportunities

GOAL OPR 2 Park Safety and Access

GOAL OPR 3 Open Space Preservation and Enhancement

GOAL OPR 4 Public-Private Partnerships

WORK

PLAY

GROW



OPEN SPACE, PARKS, AND RECREATION

WHAT IS THE OPEN SPACE, PARKS, AND RECREATION ELEMENT?

The Open Space, Parks and Recreation Element is the City of Delray Beach's plan for providing a high quality system of parks, open space, recreational facilities and programs now and to meet future projected demands and recreation trends.

Open space, parks, and recreation are interconnected to other elements of the Comprehensive Plan. Beyond the provision of leisure and recreational activities, quality parks and recreation programs foster economic benefits by promoting tourism, and revitalizing communities by creating safer, more desirable neighborhoods. Community open spaces expand cultural ties through the provision of public art and the celebration of historic venues by providing a unique sense of place for the community. All of which promotes civic pride and engagement. Parks and open space support sustainability efforts through the protection and preservation of natural resources. Recreational opportunities promote healthier lifestyles and improve the mental and physical wellbeing of the residents and visitors.

Delray Beach is a diverse community whose fabric is a rich blend of cultures, ages, and both seasonal and year-round residents and visitors. While the diverse needs, interests, and experiences of Delray Beach residents enrich the City, it also provides challenges on how to best to serve the varied needs and desires of all residents. To ensure that a priority for a high quality of life remains for current and future generations, it is necessary that the parks, recreation, and open spaces system continually addresses the growing population and demographic changes, and changes in cultural trends and interests.

OPEN SPACE, PARKS, AND RECREATION GOALS

GOAL OPR 1	EXCELLENT OPEN SPACES, PARKS, AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDE EXEMPLARY OPEN SPACES PARKS, AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WHICH ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE, PROVIDE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, ENRICH INTERACTION WITH OTHERS, AND PROMOTE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELLBEING FOR THE RESIDENTS AND VISITORS OF THE CITY.
GOAL OPR 2	PARK SAFETY AND ACCESS IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY AND INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY TO PARKS, OPEN SPACES, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, INCLUDING BEACHES AND SHORES.
GOAL OPR 3	OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROVIDE FOR THE PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS.
GOAL OPR 4	PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS PROMOTE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS TO ACQUIRE, MAINTAIN, AND ENHANCE PARKS, OPEN SPACES, AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.



OPR 1 EXCELLENT OPEN SPACES, PARKS, AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

PROVIDE EXEMPLARY OPEN SPACES, PARKS, AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WHICH ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE, PROVIDE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, ENRICH INTERACTION WITH OTHERS, AND PROMOTE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELLBEING FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS OF THE CITY.

Performance Measures: Success in addressing Objectives and Policies of **Goal OPR 1** shall be measured utilizing the following performance indicators:

- Implementation of and adherence to the adopted Local Level of Service Guideline criteria.
- Amount of land acquired and/or retained for parks and open space.
- Improved and increased provision of facilities and programs which meet community needs.
- Provision of parks and recreational facilities by private development.

Objective OPR 1.1 Level of Service

Initiate a study to establish and adopt a Local Level of Service Guideline criteria for the calculation of the amount and types of parks, open space, and recreation facilities to serve the community.

Policy OPR 1.1.1

Explore criteria other than per capita measurements in the development of the Local Level of Service Standard Guideline criteria that more effectively measure the provision of park and recreation services to residents in all areas.

Policy OPR 1.1.2

Complete the Local Level of Service Guideline criteria within 3-5 years.

Policy OPR 1.1.3

Provide and maintain a variety of parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities that serve the city's current and future population based on the adopted Local Level of Service Guideline criteria.

Policy OPR 1.1.4

Establish a criteria that requires a minimum 5.7% of the City's Planning Area to be dedicated to open space, parks, and recreational facilities; when increased, this minimum percentage will adjust accordingly.



Objective OPR 1.2 Open Space Acquisition and Retention

Employ multiple strategies for the acquisition and retention of parkland, and environmentally sensitive open spaces.

Policy OPR 1.2.1

Study the feasibility of creating a Transfer of Development Rights program to aid in open space land acquisition.

Policy OPR 1.2.2

Establish a land trust for park land by inventorying and mapping all City-owned vacant lots; engaging communities in key park-deficient areas and conducting vacant lot assessments; and, engaging the private sector.

Policy OPR 1.2.3

Develop a policy to promote land-swaps to protect environmentally sensitive land.

Policy OPR 1.2.4

Pursue funds from various sources including Federal, State, and County agencies and private providers for the acquisition, preservation, and maintenance of open space and recreation facilities.

Policy OPR 1.2.5

Work with the Community Redevelopment Agency to identify properties that would be suitable for park development within the CRA boundaries.



OPR 1 EXCELLENT OPEN SPACES, PARKS, AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Policy OPR 1.2.6

Solicit endowments and donations for open space and recreation facilities.

Policy OPR 1.2.7

Expand parkland area and ensure that no parkland is diverted to other uses, except in instances of overriding public interest, in which case it shall be effectively replaced so that no net loss in acreage results.

Policy OPR 1.2.8

Due to limited number of public open space, parks, and recreational facilities located west of Interstate 95, the City will not offer for sale the City's golf courses. If it is determined that a golf course cannot be maintained, the City will engage the public and conduct a study to identify new parks and recreational facilities to best meet community needs and desires.

Policy OPR 1.2.9

Evaluate the need for, and feasibility of, the expansion or repurposing of the Delray Beach Tennis Center. [Completed by 2021]



Objective OPR 1.3: Park and Recreation Facilities and Programming

The City shall provide and maintain diverse parks, high quality recreation facilities and programming that is tailored to the needs of the community.

Policy OPR 1.3.1

Continue to provide a variety of recreational facilities and services that contribute to the health and wellbeing of all residents.

Policy OPR 1.3.2

Develop a platform for residents to identify recreational needs and interests.

Policy OPR 1.3.3

Annually review trends in park and recreation facility use and adapt plans and investments to respond to changing community needs.

Policy OPR 1.3.4

Incorporate, to the fullest extent feasible, the varied cultural and demographic needs of the community in park and recreational facility design and promote public involvement in all aspects of park and recreation planning.

Policy OPR 1.3.5

Target public park facilities and activities toward a variety of age ranges.

Policy OPR 1.3.6

Evaluate parks in terms of age-friendly features such as connectivity, adequate shade, drinking fountains, and sufficient seating.

Policy OPR 1.3.7

Design park, recreation, and open space facilities with handicapped accessibility in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements and equip playground areas with accessible equipment.

Policy OPR 1.3.8

Incorporate fitness stations into parks and trails.

Policy OPR 1.3.9

Continue to support and expand programs for youth activities such as those provided at the 505 Teen Center.

Policy OPR 1.3.10

Provide "Little Free Libraries" in City parks to promote and increase access to reading materials for all ages.

Policy OPR 1.3.11

Provide multi-functional use of recreation and open spaces to efficiently meet community needs.

Policy OPR 1.3.12

Provide additional park, recreation, and open space facilities through enhancement of existing facilities, major capital improvements, and the provision of new services to geographic areas which do not have facilities readily available to them. Policy carried forward



OPR 1 EXCELLENT OPEN SPACES, PARKS, AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Policy OPR 1.3.13

Establish a district park that provides unique recreation opportunities for the western area of the City on the Family Recreation and Fitness Center Playground.

Policy OPR 1.3.14

Provide facilities for activities which serve all residents of the community and which can be achieved through redevelopment of existing park areas, enhancing existing facilities, and adding specialized items such as playgrounds to existing facilities. **Policy carried forward**

Policy OPR 1.4.5

Updating the inventory of private recreation facilities including provided amenities will be conducted by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Policy OPR 1.4.6

Provide and maintain publicly accessible civic space and associated features within new developments located in the downtown area to enrich the urban environment.



Objective OPR 1.4 Private Development Requirements

Private development, particularly residential, shall provide sufficient and appropriate park and recreational facilities to supplement the City's provision of recreation facilities and programs for the well-being of the future residents of the development. **Objective carried forward**

Policy OPR 1.4.1

Require residential developments to include tot lots and recreational areas, serving children from toddlers to teens, within all new housing developments consisting of more than 12 units or located outside the downtown area. **Policy carried forward, reworded**

Policy OPR 1.4.2

Evaluate the need and implementation of a park or "art in public spaces" impact fee for new non-residential developments to sufficiently address the recreational needs of residents, visitors and commuters into the city.

Policy OPR 1.4.3

Direct the siting of appropriate private recreational facilities within the City through the development review process. **Policy carried forward**

Policy OPR 1.4.4

Maximize public accessibility to open space, parks, and recreational facilities provided by requiring them to be strategically planned and located within new development.



OPR 2 PARK SAFETY AND ACCESS

IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY AND INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY TO OPEN SPACES, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, BEACHES, AND SHORES.

Performance Measures: Success in addressing Objectives and Policies of **Goal OPR 2** shall be measured utilizing the following performance indicators:

- Decrease in safety issues and concerns within City parks and facilities as a result of completed improvements.
- Improved accessibility to parks and recreational facilities as a result of completed improvements.
- Public access to the beach enhanced without impact to natural environment.

Objective OPR 2.1 Park Safety

The City will address the safety of park patrons through appropriate physical designs and infrastructure improvements.

Policy OPR 2.1.1 Employ Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles that promote natural surveillance and open visibility at its parks and recreation facilities.

- The Police Department shall review all park designs to employ CPTED principles.
- Conduct a safety analysis and CPTED review of all existing park facilities and identify strategies to increase real and perceived safety.

Policy OPR 2.1.2

Evaluate the need for additional lighting in public open spaces and recreation paths, using CPTED principles.

Policy OPR 2.1.3

Provide for adequate fencing of public park facilities to protect patrons, while avoiding barriers to natural surveillance.

Policy OPR 2.1.4

Evaluate the need for, and feasibility of, security cameras and surveillance technology in public open spaces.

Policy OPR 2.1.5

Provide patrol of parks by the City's Police Department during operating hours.

Policy OPR 2.1.6

Provide permanent canopies, pavilions, or other open-air structures to be used as shelters from inclement weather within all parks.



Objective OPR 2.2 Park Accessibility and Connectivity

Improve multimodal connections and accessibility to parks and open space and recreation facilities to facilitate safe access for all users.

Policy OPR 2.2.1

Support expansions of multimodal transportation systems and networks operated by the City and County, to link residential neighborhoods with parks, open spaces and recreation facilities. Improvements within ¼ mile of parks, open spaces, and recreational area shall be prioritized.

Policy OPR 2.2.2

Develop a scenic recreational network plan for pedestrians and bicyclists. This network will make use of existing resources where possible, such as canal rights-of-way.

Policy OPR 2.2.3

Assess multimodal systems/networks city-wide to determine areas of missing links and inadequate infrastructure.

Policy OPR 2.2.4

Improve recreation opportunities west of I-95 by providing bicycle and pedestrian connectivity between amenities.

Policy OPR 2.2.5

Plan interconnected greenway corridors (trails) that links parks, golf courses, canals, and natural areas throughout the City.



OPR 2 PARK SAFETY AND ACCESS

Policy OPR 2.2.6

Continue to expand access to public waterways through multimodal networks.

Prohibit the abandonment of existing public rights-of-way along the Intracoastal Waterway to maintain public access to this waterway for current and future generations.

Policy OPR 2.2.7

Standardize identification signs for its park facilities and improve the wayfinding system by developing a standardized system for directing drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians to parks and other points of interest.

Policy OPR 2.2.8

Continue to support and expand bike safety education programs offered by the Palm Beach County Schools, Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency, and other agencies for both children and adults.



Objective OPR 2.3 Beach, Waterways, and Natural Areas Access

Public access to beach areas and the Intracoastal Waterway shall be retained and enhanced, while protecting the natural environment. Policy carried forward

Policy OPR 2.3.1

Existing public access points and pathways to the beach shall be enhanced, particularly as a part of the Beach Nourishment Program.

Policy OPR 2.3.2.

Maintain the high quality of the Municipal Beach by limiting beach concessions to those under contract with the City to provide recreational amenities for beach visitors, limited to rental of chairs, umbrellas, cabanas, and boogie boards. All other concessions are prohibited. Cooking, smoking, and pets are prohibited on the beach.



Policy CME 2.1.4

Policy OPR 2.3.3

Provide public access (i.e. trails, wildlife observation areas, etc.) to publicly-owned natural areas for the public use and enjoyment of the site. Policy carried forward

Policy OPR 2.3.4



OPR 3 OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT

PROVIDE FOR THE PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS

Performance Measures: Success in addressing Objectives and Policies of **Goal OPR 3** shall be measured utilizing the following performance indicators:

- Continued protection of naturally and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Number of completed projects to enhance or create vistas and streetscapes.
- Completion of downtown open space analysis, and implementation of recommendations.
- Inclusion of sustainable and green improvements within City parks and recreational facilities.
- Increased tree canopy within the city.

Objective OPR 3.1 Conservation and Natural Areas Protect and Preserve natural and environmentally sensitive areas.

Policy OPR 3.1.1

Identify the following areas as "conservation" on the Neighborhood, Districts and Corridors Map:

Policy carried forward

- The FIND parcels 645, and 650 along the Intracoastal;
- The Leon Weekes Environmental Preserve;
- Delray Oaks; and
- The Donnelley Tract on Palm Trail.
- The Public Beach Dunes
- Bexley Park Preserve

Policy OPR 3.1.2

Apply the Open Space and Open Space and Recreation Zoning Districts of the Land Development Regulations to "Recreation", "Open Space" and "Conservation" designated parcels. The Open Space Zones shall provide for distinct standards applicable to open space lands and to conservation lands. **Policy carried forward**

Policy OPR 3.1.3

Continue to preserve, protect and maintain naturally occurring habitats such as beaches, dunes, and coastal vegetation.

Policy OPR 3.1.4:

Design open spaces and recreation facilities to minimize the impact of human activities on natural systems.

Policy OPR 3.1.5

Explore providing certain development incentives in the Land Development Regulations, in exchange for the provision and maintenance of open spaces, recreation facilities, naturally occurring habitats and environmentally sensitive land.

Policy OPR 3.1.6

Remove invasive, and nuisance vegetation from protected native habitats, preservation and conservation areas and the public beach dunes.



Objective OPR 3.2 Vistas and Streetscapes

Enhance the aesthetics of the City by retaining and creating vistas and streetscapes as both comprise a significant portion of the public realm and are enhanced by streetscape beautification programs, landscape enhancements, and related capital improvement projects.

Policy OPR 3.2.1

Provide view corridors for the public when providing open spaces within a private development or subdivision by locating common areas contiguous to the external street system.

Policy carried forward

Policy OPR 3.2.2

Continue on-going street beautification efforts, including programs such as Adopt-A-Tree, landscaping upgrades as part of street construction projects, and an emphasis on providing sufficient funds to maintain existing landscaping at a high level. **Policy carried forward**



OPR 3 OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT

Policy OPR 3.2.3

Require that new developments provide central focal points at entries and landscape buffers along the external (arterial, collector) streets which service them. Back-lotting of individual homes along such streets should be allowed only when special landscape buffers are provided between the rear yard walls or fences and the right-of-way.

Policy carried forward

Policy OPR 3.2.4

Maintain public rights-of-way that provide view corridor or vistas to water bodies and, whenever possible, provide features such as benches, landscaping, and trash receptacles to enhance the areas as pocket parks.

Policy OPR 3.2.5

Provide consistent wall and fence treatments for all new developments when the rear of lots faces the right-of-way without any separating green space.



Objective OPR 3.3 Urban Civic and Open Spaces

Determine downtown areas in need of public civic and open space, and methods to provide civic and open space at a scale that is consistent with the scale and character of downtown.

Policy OPR 3.3.1,

Determine if there is a need for open space within the downtown area. [Complete by 2025]

Policy OPR 3.3.2

Direct a range of civic open spaces throughout the downtown through the development review process.

Policy OPR 3.3.3

Create a strategy and the necessary partnerships to, on a temporary basis, convert vacant lots within the downtown to useable open space, which may include temporary installations.

Policy OPR 3.3.4

Adopt a policy addressing parklets, which are areas converted from on-street parking spaces to small, useable parks. [Complete by 2021]

Policy OPR 3.3.5

New developments within the downtown area shall provide and maintain publicly accessible civic open space and associated features to enrich the urban environment.

Policy OPR 3.3.6

Evaluate development bonuses within the downtown area for dedicating a meaningful portion of a site as public open space, exceeding the minimum civic open space requirements, and designing the area as a park or plaza.



Objective OPR 3.4 Sustainability

Evaluate creative methods to incorporate and implement sustainable practices and green infrastructure within the City's park.

Policy OPR 3.4.1

Explore and identify suitable locations for urban agriculture and community gardens within parks and on appropriate public lands.

Policy OPR 3.4.2

Support creative approaches to managing gardens, such as support by educational institutions or volunteer management by community organizations.

Policy OPR 3.4.3

Evaluate the implementation of green infrastructure, including parks, to capture and retain storm water and encourage on-site retention.

Policy OPR 3.4.4

Explore locations for bio-swales, including their use in pocket parks as part of a flood-control management system.

Policy OPR 3.4.5

Evaluate the role of the alleyway systems and their potential as a part of bike trails, recreation and open space, and sustainable systems.



OPR 3 OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT

Policy OPR 3.4.6

Prioritize expansion of the reclaimed water system to all parks.



Objective OPR 3.5 Tree Canopy

Preserve and enhance the tree canopy to mitigate the heat island effect and provide City-wide beautification.

Policy OPR 3.5.1

Conduct a formal study of the existing tree canopy and adopt strategies to protect and enhance the canopy. The study shall evaluate canopy coverage in both public rights-of way and on private properties to determine areas with inequitable coverage. The City shall monitor the tree canopy and produce a biennial report on the condition of the tree canopy. [Complete by 2025]

Policy OPR 3.5.2

Establish a goal for tree canopy coverage within parks and open space areas and actively increase tree plantings on an annual basis to mitigate the heat island effect and provide City-wide beautification.

Policy OPR 3.5.3

Design park and open spaces to preserve stands and clusters of mature trees, and require planting of appropriate and storm-resilient species.

Policy OPR 3.5.4

Prioritize expanding the tree canopy in accordance with the right tree right place standards within the public rights-of-way in neighborhoods that are largely developed with few opportunities to establish new parks and open space.



OPR 4 PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

PROMOTE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS TO ACQUIRE, MAINTAIN, AND ENHANCE PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

Performance Measures: Success in addressing the Objectives and Policies of **Goal OPR 4** shall be measured utilizing the following performance indicators:

- Improved and/or increased parks and recreational experiences offered.
- Number of partnerships or agreements with the private sector relative to programming and maintenance of open spaces.
- Implementation of new outreach programs to increase public participation in programming of parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities.

Objective OPR 4.1 Public Partnerships

Coordinate with other public entities to expand the park and recreation experiences of all residents.

Policy OPR 4.1.1

Continue formal relationships and programs with the Palm Beach County School District for the joint use of school grounds for active sports, utilization of facilities, and for the creation of educational programs such as use of the nature and interpretative trails.

Policy OPR 4.1.2

Coordinate with the South Florida Water Management District and the Lake Worth Drainage District to develop agreements allowing greenway corridors within canal rights-of-way.

Policy OPR 4.1.3

Expand grant funding opportunities offered by the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) and other potential sources.



Objective OPR 4.2 Private Sector Participation

Work with the private sector to encourage participation in programming and maintenance of open spaces.

Policy OPR 4.2.1

Develop a policy for joint use agreements with private sector and non-profit organizations to expand programming at private amenity locations.

Policy OPR 4.2.2

Partner with other community organizations, including religious and social organizations, to join in the effort to provide leisure programs and activities for the community as a whole.

Policy OPR 4.2.3

Explore partnership opportunities with "Keep Palm Beach Beautiful" and support the organization's County-wide efforts.

Policy OPR 4.2.4

Encourage programs such as "adopt-a-street" "adopt-a-park" and "adopt-a-beach" to help maintain and beautify the City parks and beaches.

Policy OPR 4.2.5

Encourage non-profit organizations in recreation development through the provision of incubator spaces.

Policy OPR 4.2.6.

Continue to facilitate and encourage the accommodation of programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department to fulfill the community's need for arts and cultural activities with the assistance of private and quasi-public groups.

Policy OPR 4.2.7

Continue to develop and sponsor programs for youth activities through partnerships with private and non-profit organizations.

Policy OPR 4.2.8

Partner with local artists to provide more opportunities to activate public open spaces



OPR 4 PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

through permanent and temporary art installations.

Policy OPR 4.2.9

Explore the feasibility of providing pop-up parks, which may include temporary art installations on vacant lots within downtown.



Objective OPR 4.3 Resident Outreach and Events

Expand public outreach programs to the residents.

Policy OPR 4.3.1

Employ a wide range of outreach methods for the convenience and to respond to the diverse communication preferences of the residents and visitors.

Policy OPR 4.3.2

Expand the outreach and marketing of City parks, using existing and new social media platforms to increase user participation.

Policy OPR 4.3.3

Evaluate park and recreation preferences, changing needs, and emerging trends through the assessment of usage, surveys and other methods on a regular basis.

Policy OPR 4.3.4

Engage community leaders, stakeholders, and residents in the planning and design of park facilities.

Policy OPR 4.3.5

Explore opportunities to collaborate with private homeowners associations to utilize their facilities to expand recreation activities and programming to the community, especially in areas without a large number of public parks.

Policy OPR 4.3.6

Encourage residents to volunteer within the parks and recreation system by offering and coordinating opportunities to be involved in recreational and resource programming, youth athletic coaching, park clean-up efforts, habitat restoration and special event support.

Please Note: These Policies will be modified to reflect the recommendations of other Elements