

# **OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

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# **OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

## ***OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN***

### ***CITY OF DELRAY BEACH***

## ***BACKGROUND***

The text of the Element is a summary of the complete inventory, analysis, and recommendations which are contained in the following source documents:

- Delray Beach Open Space & Recreation Element (Strategic Planning Group, Inc., 1989)
- 1996 Evaluation and Appraisal Report (City of Delray Beach, 1996)
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Glatting Jackson, 2002)
- 2006 Evaluation and Appraisal Report (City of Delray Beach, 2006)

The source documents, and other documents which are cited in the Element, are available for public review at the Planning and Zoning Department offices located at 100 N.W. 1st Avenue, Delray Beach, Florida.

## ***INVENTORY***

The following summary is prepared to facilitate review with the requirements of Administrative Rule 9J-5. As a summary, only significant items are highlighted. The source documents should be referred to for more information.

### **PARK AND RECREATION LANDS INVENTORY**

Recreation areas can be classified as either “resource based” or “activity based”. Resource based facilities exist around natural resources such as beaches and lakes, and are generally used for hiking, swimming, boating, picnicking, and other activities adaptable to the resource. Activity based facilities are built for a particular activity, such as tennis or baseball. Recreation facilities can also be classified as active or passive. The City’s Parks and Recreation Department seeks to provide sufficient facilities in all these categories to meet the needs of its citizens and visitors.

The City provides 146 acres of activity based recreation facilities, excluding golf courses. An additional 252 acres are considered resource based, including the beaches, Lake Ida, conservation parcels, and the golf courses. Not counted in these totals, but contributing to the recreation and open space inventory of the City, are specialty facilities such as nature centers and museums, schools whose recreation facilities are available to the community under joint use agreements, and urban district parks under the jurisdiction of Palm Beach County.

**RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY BY CATEGORY**

**Activity Based Recreation Facilities**

Community Center/Tennis Center	9.7 acres
Veterans Park	7.0 acres
Pompey Park	20.0 acres
Orchard View Park	6.0 acres
Barwick Park	9.5 acres
Currie Commons	2.0 acres
Miller Park	29.0 acres
Merritt Park	3.0 acres
Mike Machek Boy Scout Park	5.0 acres
Catherine Strong Center (Splash Park and Boys & Girls Club)	10.0 acres
Oakmont Park	1.5 acres
I-95 Mini Parks	1.4 acres
Worthing Park	1.0 acres
Pine Grove Park	6.0 acres
Bexley Trail Community Park	11.1 acres
Cornell Park	3.4 acres
Eagle Park	4.2 acres
505 Teen Center and Skate Park	1.6 acres
Delray Swim and Tennis Club	5.6 acres
Atlantic Soccer Complex (under construction)	8.6 acres
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>145.6 acres</b>

## **Resource Based Recreation Facilities**

Lakeview Park	3.5 acres
Knowles Park	3.0 acres
City Marina	0.9 acres
Municipal Beach/Atlantic Dunes Park	22.5 acres
Leon Weekes Environmental Preservation Area	12.0 acres
Delray Oaks (County)	24.6 acres
Donnelly Tract Preservation Area	1.7 acres
Municipal Golf Course	137.0 acres
Lakeview Golf Course	42.0 acres
Mangrove Park (under construction)	4.5 acres
TOTAL	251.7 acres

## **Special Facilities**

Beach Parking Facilities  
Sarah Gleason Park  
Old School Square  
Cason Cottage  
Monterey House Historic Structure  
Spady House Historic Structure  
Sandoway House Nature Center

## **Schools With Joint Use Agreements**

Atlantic High School  
Carver Middle School  
Plumosa Elementary  
Pine Grove Elementary  
Orchard View Elementary  
Spady Elementary  
Banyan Creek Elementary  
Village Academy

## **County Urban District Parks**

Caloosa Park  
Lake Ida Park  
Morikami Park

## **RECREATION FACILITIES**

Within recreation areas, amenities and facilities are provided to meet the demand for leisure opportunities for all segments of the community. Besides facilities provided by the City and County (Table OS-1), numerous recreational amenities are provided by local schools (Table OS-2) and by private developments (Table OS-3).

## ***ANALYSIS***

The provision of open space and recreation in a community, relative to broad standards, existing natural features, and its demographic demands, is an important factor in the quality of life of the community, and its ability to attract and retain businesses which fuel its economy.

Delray Beach has been a mature, and nearly built-out City for some time, even before the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan in 1989. With much of its residential growth occurring in the 1970's through the 1980's, a large part of the newer development pattern consists of planned communities which provide some or all of the recreational needs of their residents. Swimming pools, tennis courts, shuffleboard courts, and golf courses are common. Like many such communities, the City has already met the national and state standards for parks and open space.

The natural features of the area include the Atlantic Ocean and Intracoastal Waterway, coupled with a climate perfect for the enjoyment of outdoor activities, especially water related activities. The City has made good use of these features, with one and one-half miles of public beach, boat ramps and other access to the Intracoastal Waterway, and an extensive park system.

Demographically, the City poses an interesting mix for recreation planners. A significant segment of the population is older adults, providing a high demand for certain leisure activities such as beach recreation, golf, tennis, shuffleboard and arts and crafts. While much of this demand is satisfied by the amenity packages within residential developments, the City provides opportunities for older residents without ready access to on-site facilities. At the same time, the City provides opportunities for children and young adults, family activities, and team sports. Programs and facilities are provided for all economic segments of the community, and all geographic areas.

As will be seen throughout this analysis, Delray Beach has moved past the provision of basic open space and recreation facilities, to strive to satisfy the entire community's demand for leisure opportunities at the highest level of quality.

There are three guidelines that apply to the provision of open space and recreation in Delray Beach. The first is an overall measure of open space, set forth in the 1986 Citizen's Policy Guide to the Future Land Use Element, of three acres per 1,000 residents. The amount of land currently provided in activity based recreation facilities, the municipal beaches, and the two public golf courses, represented a level of service of 6.2 acres per 1,000 residents in 2007, far exceeding the general guideline.

**TABLE OS-1  
INVENTORY OF PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES**

<b>FACILITIES</b>	<b>SWIMMING</b>	<b>GOLF COURSE</b>	<b>FISHING AREA</b>	<b>BOAT RAMP</b>	<b>TRAILS</b>	<b>PICNIC SHELTER</b>	<b>PICNIC AREA</b>	<b>RESTROOMS</b>	<b>SWIMMING POOL (LARGE)</b>	<b>SWIMMING POOL (SMALL)</b>	<b>CLUBHOUSE / RECREATION CENTER / GYM</b>	<b>SHUFFLEBOARD</b>	<b>TENNIS (UL)</b>	<b>TENNIS (L)</b>	<b>RACQUETBALL / HANDBALL</b>	<b>BASKETBALL</b>	<b>FOOTBALL / SOCCER (UL)</b>	<b>FOOTBALL / SOCCER (L)</b>	<b>BASEBALL FIELD (UL)</b>	<b>BASEBALL FIELD (L)</b>	<b>SOFTBALL FIELD (UL)</b>	<b>SOFTBALL FIELD (L)</b>	<b>LITTLE LEAGUE (UL)</b>	<b>LITTLE LEAGUE (L)</b>	<b>PLAYGROUND</b>	<b>VOLLEYBALL</b>
Atlantic Ocean Beaches	2		2		1	1	2	3																		5
Pompey						2	1	3	1		1			2	2	3					1			2	1	1
Community/Tennis Center								2			2		2	17	1											1
Catherine Strong					1	5		1			1			2		2	1	1								1
Merritt								1										1			2					1
Currie Commons								1									1							1		1
Barwick					1	1	1	1																		1
I-95 Mini Parks																										1
Oakmont							1																			1
Veterans			1			1	1	1			1	16														1
Knowles			1	2			1	1																		1
Marina (24 slips)								1																		
Worthing							1																			
Miller						1		3										2		2		1		3		1
Municipal Golf Course		1					1				1															
Lake Ida View				1		3	1	1																		1
Lakeview Golf Course		1						1			1															
Boy Scott Park Hut											1													1		
Full Service Center																										
Orchard View					1	6		1																		1
Pine Grove							1																	1		1
Bexley Trail					1	4		1																		1
Cornell					1																					1
Eagle					1	1																				1
505 Teen Center											1				1											
Delray Swim & Tennis Club										1	1		14													
Mangrove Park				2				1																		
Boys and Girls Club										1																
Atlantic Soccer Complex								1										3								
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>

Source: City of Delray Beach 2008

**TABLE 0S-2  
INVENTORY OF SCHOOL RECREATION FACILITIES**

<b>FACILITIES</b>	<b>SWIMMING</b>	<b>GOLF COURSE</b>	<b>FISHING AREA</b>	<b>BOAT RAMP</b>	<b>TRAILS</b>	<b>PICNIC SHELTER</b>	<b>PICNIC AREA</b>	<b>RESTROOMS</b>	<b>SWIMMING POOL (LARGE)</b>	<b>SWIMMING POOL (SMALL)</b>	<b>CLUBHOUSE / RECREATION CENTER / GYM</b>	<b>SHUFFLEBOARD</b>	<b>TENNIS (UL)</b>	<b>TENNIS (L)</b>	<b>RACQUETBALL / HANDBALL</b>	<b>BASKETBALL</b>	<b>FOOTBALL / SOCCER (UL)</b>	<b>FOOTBALL / SOCCER (L)</b>	<b>BASEBALL FIELD (UL)</b>	<b>BASEBALL FIELD (L)</b>	<b>SOFTBALL FIELD (UL)</b>	<b>SOFTBALL FIELD (L)</b>	<b>LITTLE LEAGUE (UL)</b>	<b>LITTLE LEAGUE (L)</b>	<b>PLAYGROUND</b>	<b>VOLLEYBALL</b>
<i>Atlantic High</i>								1	1				4		2		1			1	1					3
<i>Carver Middle</i>					1						1		4	4	4	1			1		1					1
<i>Pine Grove</i>																									1	
<i>Plumosa</i>					1											1			1		2				1	
<i>Spady</i>																									1	
<i>Banyan Creek</i>								1											2						1	
<i>Orchard View</i>															1										1	
<i>Village Academy</i>															1										1	
<b>TOTAL</b>					2			2	1		1		8	4	8	2	1		4	1	4				6	4



**TABLE OS-3  
INVENTORY OF PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES**

<b>FACILITIES</b>	<b>SWIMMING</b>	<b>GOLF COURSE</b>	<b>FISHING AREA</b>	<b>BOAT RAMP</b>	<b>TRAILS</b>	<b>PICNIC SHELTER</b>	<b>PICNIC AREA</b>	<b>RESTROOMS</b>	<b>SWIMMING POOL (LARGE)</b>	<b>SWIMMING POOL (SMALL)</b>	<b>CLUBHOUSE / RECREATION CENTER</b>	<b>SHUFFLEBOARD</b>	<b>TENNIS (UL)</b>	<b>TENNIS (L)</b>	<b>RACQUETBALL / HANDBALL</b>	<b>BASKETBALL</b>	<b>FOOTBALL / XOCCKER (UL)</b>	<b>FOOTBALL / SOCCER (L)</b>	<b>BASEBALL FIELD (UL)</b>	<b>BASEBALL FIELD (L)</b>	<b>SOFTBALL FIELD (UL)</b>	<b>SOFTBALL FIELD (L)</b>	<b>PLAYGROUND</b>
<i>Abbey Delray</i>								1	1	1													
<i>Pines of Delray West</i>								2	2	4	3												
<i>Spanish Wells</i>								1	1		1												
<i>Fox Chase</i>											1												
<i>Highlands</i>								1	1														
<i>Crosswinds</i>								1	1		2												
<i>Fairways On The Green</i>								1	1	4													
<i>Sabel Pines</i>								4	4	2	5	4											
<i>Andover</i>											1												
<i>Delray Oaks</i>								1	1	1	2												
<i>DeAire</i>		1						1	1	1	8												
<i>Laver's Racquet Club</i>								4	4	1	4	44											1
<i>Palms</i>								1	1	1													
<i>Lake Delray</i>								2	2	1													
<i>Tropic Bay</i>			1	1		1	3	3	3	1													
<i>Pelican Harbour</i>			1	1			2	2	2	1	3												1
<i>Tropic Harbour</i>				1			1	1	1	1													
<i>Pines of Delray</i>						1	1	1	1	1	2	2											1
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>		1	2	3		2	27	1	26	11	24	68											3

**TABLE OS-3  
INVENTORY OF PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES**

<b>FACILITIES</b>	<b>SWIMMING</b>	<b>GOLF COURSE</b>	<b>FISHING AREA</b>	<b>BOAT RAMP</b>	<b>TRAILS</b>	<b>PICNIC SHELTER</b>	<b>PICNIC AREA</b>	<b>RESTROOMS</b>	<b>SWIMMING POOL (LARGE)</b>	<b>SWIMMING POOL (SMALL)</b>	<b>CLUBHOUSE / RECREATION CENTER</b>	<b>SHUFFLEBOARD</b>	<b>TENNIS (UL)</b>	<b>TENNIS (L)</b>	<b>RACQUETBALL / HANDBALL</b>	<b>BASKETBALL</b>	<b>FOOTBALL / SOCCER (UL)</b>	<b>FOOTBALL / SOCCER (L)</b>	<b>BASEBALL FIELD (UL)</b>	<b>BASEBALL FIELD (L)</b>	<b>SOFTBALL FIELD (UL)</b>	<b>SOFTBALL FIELD (L)</b>	<b>PLAYGROUND</b>
<i>Villa Delray</i>								1	1														
<i>Delray West</i>								4	4		4	2	2										1
<i>Country Woods</i>						2	9	9	1	24													
<i>Rainberry Woods</i>							1	1	1						2	1					1		1
<i>Rainberry Bay</i>					2	1	5	5	2	4	12		2		2								2
<i>Pines North</i>							2	2	2	4	4		2										
<i>High Point</i>						1	7	7	5	42	4												2
<i>Highland Trailer Park</i>							1	1		4													
<i>Hanover Square</i>							1	1			2												
<i>Sherwood</i>		1					3	3	1	9	3												
<i>The Hamlet</i>		1					1	1	2	9													
<i>Lago Del Ray</i>							2	2	1	4	4												
<i>Shady Woods</i>							1	1		2	2												1
<i>Lakeview</i>							1	1			2												
<i>Imperial Villas</i>							1	1	1	3													
<i>Palm Villas</i>							2	2		1													
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>			<b>2</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>						<b>1</b>		<b>7</b>	

**TABLE 0S-3  
INVENTORY OF PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES**

<b>FACILITIES</b>	<b>SWIMMING</b>	<b>GOLF COURSE</b>	<b>FISHING AREA</b>	<b>BOAT RAMP</b>	<b>TRAILS</b>	<b>PICNIC SHELTER</b>	<b>PICNIC AREA</b>	<b>RESTROOMS</b>	<b>SWIMMING POOL (LARGE)</b>	<b>SWIMMING POOL (SMALL)</b>	<b>CLUBHOUSE / RECREATION CENTER</b>	<b>SHUFFLEBOARD</b>	<b>TENNIS (UL)</b>	<b>TENNIS (L)</b>	<b>RACQUETBALL / HANDBALL</b>	<b>BASKETBALL</b>	<b>FOOTBALL / SOCCER (UL)</b>	<b>FOOTBALL / SOCCER (L)</b>	<b>BASEBALL FIELD (UL)</b>	<b>BASEBALL FIELD (L)</b>	<b>SOFTBALL FIELD (UL)</b>	<b>SOFTBALL FIELD (L)</b>	<b>PLAYGROUND</b>	
<i>Kokomo Key</i>								1		1	1												1	
<i>La Sedona</i>							1	1		1	1			1										1
<i>Gleason Street</i>								1		1														
<i>Casa La Brisa</i>								1		1														
<i>Garden Courts</i>								1		1														
<i>Chatham Court</i>								1		1														
<i>Casa Playa</i>								1		1														1
<i>Villa D'este</i>							1	1		1	1			1										1
<i>Water's Edge</i>							1	1		1	1			1										1
<i>Coral Trace</i>							1	1		1	1			1										1
<i>Waterford Park</i>							1	2		1	1			2		1								1
<i>Colony Club</i>										1	1													1
<i>Enclave</i>							1	2		1	1			1										1
<i>Estuary</i>			1				1	2		1	1			1										1
<i>Courtyards at Delray</i>								1		1														
<i>Coral Trace</i>							1	2		1	1			2										1
<i>Marina Bay</i>										1	1													
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>			1				8	19		17	11			10		1								11

**TABLE 0S-3  
INVENTORY OF PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES**

<b>FACILITIES</b>	<b>SWIMMING</b>	<b>GOLF COURSE</b>	<b>FISHING AREA</b>	<b>BOAT RAMP</b>	<b>TRAILS</b>	<b>PICNIC SHELTER</b>	<b>PICNIC AREA</b>	<b>RESTROOMS</b>	<b>SWIMMING POOL (LARGE)</b>	<b>SWIMMING POOL (SMALL)</b>	<b>CLUBHOUSE / RECREATION CENTER</b>	<b>SHUFFLEBOARD</b>	<b>TENNIS (UL)</b>	<b>TENNIS (L)</b>	<b>RACQUETBALL / HANDBALL</b>	<b>BASKETBALL</b>	<b>FOOTBALL / SOCCER (UL)</b>	<b>FOOTBALL / SOCCER (L)</b>	<b>BASEBALL FIELD (UL)</b>	<b>BASEBALL FIELD (L)</b>	<b>SOFTBALL FIELD (UL)</b>	<b>SOFTBALL FIELD (L)</b>	<b>PLAYGROUND</b>
Coconut Key								1	1	1													1
Renaissance Village								1	1														
Town Place at Delray								1	1														
Mallory Square						1		1	1														
San Sebastian								1	1														
Pineapple Grove Village								1	1	1													
Palms of Delray																							1
Duval Place						1		1	1														
Park Place Townhomes								1	1														1
Ocean City Lofts						1		1	1														
Porta al Mare									1														
City Walk								1	1														
The Meridian								1	1														
Village in the Grove - Astor								1	1														
Lindel Square							1	1	1	1													1
Gramercy						1	1	1	1	1													1
Village at Swinton Square						1	1	1	1	1													1
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>						<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>													<b>6</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>				<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>27</b>

The City has adopted the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Recreation Guidelines, and National Park, Recreation and Open Space Standards as the desired level of service (LOS) standard for its park system. This LOS is found in Objective A-1 of the Open Space and Recreation Element. In applying the guidelines, it is appropriate to include the facilities provided by the City, County, School Board, and private developments to achieve a complete picture of the service provided. The guidelines address two factors of park and recreation facilities: the number of parks available in specific categories, and the recreation facilities within those parks.

### **LAND FOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE**

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection guidelines are the City's standard of comparison for the provision of land area for open space and recreation. In order to compare the City's parks to the guidelines, the service population is used to calculate the number of facilities needed in each category, both for the estimated 2007 permanent population of 64,360 and for the estimated 2025 population of 78,143. In addition, the existing parks were categorized (neighborhood park, community park, etc.) based on the existing facilities, providing a functional classification system. It should be noted that this classification method is not always clear cut, as community parks include all the facilities of a neighborhood park, but are larger. In addition, some of the City's parks in a particular category are either smaller or larger than the guideline, based on the the population served. When viewed from a functional perspective, though, these inconsistencies are eliminated.

The term "playground" was used to refer to the categories of equipped play area and tot lot. Many of the playgrounds are located within other parks, so no specific acreage was assigned to them. Parks were assigned to the other three applicable functional classifications as follows:

#### **Neighborhood Parks**

Merritt - 3 acres	Currie Commons - 2 acres
Barwick - 9.5 acres	Orchard View Park - 6 acres
Knowles - 3 acres	Lakeview Park - 3.5 acres
Veterans - 7 acres	Mike Machek Boy Scout Park - 5 acres
Catherine Strong - 10 acres	Bexley Trail - 11.1 acres
Pine Grove - 6 acres	Eagle Park - 4.2 acres
Cornell - 3.4 acres	Delray Swim and Tennis Club - 5.6 acres
505 Teen Center - 1.6 acres	Atlantic Soccer Complex - 8.6 acres

Plumosa Elementary School  
Atlantic High School  
Carver Middle School  
Pine Grove Elementary  
Banyan Creek Elementary

Orchard View Elementary  
Village Academy

**Community Parks**

Community Center/Tennis Center - 9.7 acres  
Pompey - 20 acres  
Miller Park - 29 acres

**Urban District Parks**

Atlantic Beaches 22.5 acres  
Caloosa (County) 64.5 acres  
Lake Ida (County) 209.0 acres  
Morikami (County) 207.0 acres

**TABLE 0S - 4  
STATE GUIDELINES COMPARISON FOR PARK LANDS (2007)**

FACILITY	GUIDE-LINES	CITY	SCHOOLS	COUNTY	PRIVATE	TOTAL	ABOVE / BELOW GUIDELINE
Playground	26	15	6	2	27	50	+ 24
Neighborhood	13	16	7	--	--	23	+ 10
Community	3	3	--	--	--	3	--
Urban District	1	1	--	3	--	4	+ 3

Source: *Outdoor Recreation In Florida, 2000, State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Recreation. City of Delray Beach, 2008.*

**TABLE 0S - 5  
STATE GUIDELINES COMPARISON FOR PARK LANDS  
(2025)**

FACILITY	GUIDELINES	TOTAL PROVIDED	ABOVE / BELOW GUIDELINE
Playground	31	50	+ 19
Neighborhood	16	23	+ 7
Community	3	3	---
Urban District	2	4	+ 2

Source: *Outdoor Recreation In Florida, 2000, State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Recreation. City of Delray Beach, 2008.*

The City fares quite well in a comparison to accepted standards for the provision of parks. The City meets or exceeds the standards in all categories for the existing 2007 population as well as for the 2025 population of 78,143.

## **RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES**

The City has adopted both the State and National standards for park facilities. This leads to some inconsistencies in application, since the standards do not correspond in all cases. In addition, the State guidelines list a minimum, maximum, and median category for provision of facilities. For the purposes of this analysis, the median State guideline was used for each facility. Further, comparisons were made to the strictest of the two standards (State or National).

Assessing recreation facilities relative to the strictest of the two applicable guidelines reveals a current deficiency only in the category of boat ramps. In 2025, deficiencies appear in beach area and again in boat ramps (6). There is no way to increase the amount of beach area in the City to eliminate the deficiency, and there may be no way to eliminate the deficiency in boat ramps either, since future development of boat ramps is constrained by State restrictions on boating facilities for manatee protection. Further, the deficiencies themselves are questionable. The State guideline for beach area is more than eight times the National Standard (16,504 feet vs. 1,943 feet) and the State guideline for boat ramps is three times the National standard (16 vs. 5). These disparities lead one to question the applicability of the State guidelines in these two areas. For the purpose of this analysis, the City must acknowledge that the State guidelines for beach area and boat ramps are unlikely to be met, but that by meeting the National Standard, the existing facilities will provide an acceptable level of service for the community.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The City will have sufficient recreation facilities in 2025 to meet the adopted standards. There will be an on-going need to assure that facilities are provided in a timely manner.

While the City has sufficient park lands to meet standards, the distribution of land at the neighborhood level could be improved. Surplus public land could be converted into mini-parks, designed and supported by the neighborhood residents. These mini-parks could enhance the beauty and quality of neighborhoods and provide a “common” for community interaction.

Beyond meeting guidelines and standards, the City has identified a number of programs and activities to improve the scope, quality, and delivery of leisure services to all segments of the community. These items include the following:

- Development of a scenic recreation pathway network for pedestrians and bicyclists. This network would make use of existing resources where possible, such as canal

rights-of-way. The network could be a strolling and biking destination, separate from the street system, which could take advantage of natural areas and views.

- ❑ A need identified in the originally Visions 2005 Assembly is to develop incentives to attract privately owned and operated recreation facilities, particularly those providing services to young people. As a beginning, the Land Development Regulations should be analyzed to identify unnecessary barriers and disincentives related to the establishment of private recreational facilities.
- ❑ The potential for further improvement was seen in the scope of recreational services provided, and the range of participants served. To achieve significant results, the City will need to act as a catalyst and clearinghouse for other public and private community partners. For example, the City could offer encouragement to other partners, such as religious and social organizations, to sponsor and produce leisure programs for the community as a whole.



TABLE OS - 6

COMPARISON WITH FACILITIES STANDARDS (2007)

FACILITY	STATE GUIDELINES	NATIONAL GUIDELINES	CITY	SCHOOL	COUNTY	PRIVATE	TOTAL	+ / - <sup>(1)</sup>
Playground	6	13	15	6	2	27	50	+ 37
Baseball/Softball	13	13	17	9	4	2	32	+ 19
Football/Soccer	11	6	9	3	4	--	16	+ 5
Tennis	32	32	37	8	4	124	173	+ 141
Golf Course (18 holes)	2	2	2	--	--	3	5	+ 3
Basketball	13	13	7	8	4	2	21	+ 8
Handball/Racquetball	6	6	2	4	16	6	28	+ 22
Shuffleboard	11	32	16	--	--	125	141	+ 109
Swimming Pool (large)	3	3	1	1	--	1	3	---
Swimming Pool (small)	--	32	1	--	--	101	102	+ 70
Boat Ramps	13	4	5	--	2	3	10	- 3
Beach (feet)	13,592	1,609	15,840	--	--	--	15,840	+ 2,248
Volleyball	11	13	8	4	1	--	13	---
Exercise Trails	4	--	7	2	1	2	12	+ 8
Boating (acres)	--	16.1					250 <sup>(2)</sup>	+ 233.9

Source: City of Delray Beach, 2008.

(1) Deviation from the strictest of State or National guidelines

(2) Approximate area of Intracoastal Waterway and Lake Ida within Delray Beach

**TABLE 0S - 7**  
**COMPARISON WITH FACILITIES STANDARDS**  
**(2025) <sup>(1)</sup>**

FACILITY	STATE GUIDELINES	NATIONAL GUIDELINES	TOTAL EXISTING	PLANNED	+ / - <sup>(2)</sup>
Playground	8	16	50		+ 34
Baseball/Softball	16	16	32		+ 16
Football/Soccer	13	8	16		+ 3
Tennis	39	39	173		+ 34
Golf Course (18 holes)	2	3	5		+ 2
Basketball	16	16	21		+ 5
Handball/Racquetball	8	8	28		+ 20
Shuffleboard	13	39	141		+ 102
Swimming Pool (large)	3	3	3		--
Swimming Pool (small)	--	39	102		+ 63
Boat Ramps	16	5	10		- 6
Beach (feet)	16,504	1,943	15,840		- 664
Volleyball	13	--	13		--
Exercise Trails	5	--	12		+ 7
Boating (Ac)	--	19.5	250 <sup>(3)</sup>		+ 230.5

Source: City of Delray Beach, 2008.

(1) Guidelines quantities expressed are calculated for the estimated 2025 population of **78,143**

(2) Deviation from the strictest of State or National guidelines

(3) Approximate area of Intracoastal Waterway and Lake Ida within Delray Beach

## ***NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS***

Summarizing from the above and drawing upon additional information from the source documents, the following needs and recommendations are put forth from the Open Space and Recreation Element:

- Opportunities may exist for providing additional access to the Intracoastal Waterway, preserving natural areas, and providing public park areas through additions to the boat ramps at Knowles Park, and enhancement of existing street ends at the Intracoastal Waterway.
- Develop a scenic recreation network for bicycles and pedestrians.
- Encourage siting of appropriate private recreational facilities within the City.
- Encourage other community partners, including religious and social organizations, to join in the effort to provide leisure programs and activities for the community as a whole.
- Develop a program to establish small parks in neighborhoods. The program would include identification of vacant or surplus parcels, and strategies to assure that the neighborhood determines that parameters of the park and is responsible for construction and operating costs. Such strategies should rely heavily on existing neighborhood associations as the originating, motivating and organizing forces.
- Expansion of the Old School Square complex to accommodate an urban park.
- Development of a Community Center west of I-95.

# **GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES**

## **GOAL AREA "A" RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND FACILITIES**

### **Objective A-1 Level of Service Adopted**

Policy A-1.1 Maintenance of L.O.S.

### **Objective A-2 Provision of Recreation Facilities**

- Policy A-2.1 Additional Services to be Provided
- Policy A-2.2 Methods of Providing Additional Service
- Policy A-2.3 Annual Allocation Required
- Policy A-2.4 Scenic Recreation Network
- Policy A-2.5 Bicycle Safety Education
- Policy A-2.6 Neighborhood Mini-Parks
- Policy A-2.7 Criteria for Increasing CIP Priority
- Policy A-2.8 Criteria for Increasing CIP Priority
- Policy A-2.9 Criteria for Increasing CIP Priority
- Policy A-2.10 Master Plan
- Policy A-2.11 Old School Square Urban Park
- Policy A-2.12 Western Community Center

### **Objective A-3 Public - Private Partnerships**

- Policy A-3.1 Tots Lots and Recreation Areas Required in New Residential Developments
- Policy A-3.2 Public Role in the Arts and Culture
- Policy A-3.3 Youth Activities
- Policy A-3.4 Joint Use Programs with the School District
- Policy A-3.5 Provision of Leisure Programs and Activities

### **Objective A-4 Private Recreational Facilities**

Policy A-4.1 LDR Analysis Re: Private Recreational Facilities

## **GOAL AREA "B" OPEN SPACE**

### **Objective B-1 Retention of Open Space**

- Policy B-1.1 View Corridors
- Policy B-1.2 Street Beautification Programs
- Policy B-1.3 Entry Features and Landscape Buffers

### **Objective B-2 Preservation of Natural Areas**

- Policy B-2.1 Preservation of "Conservation Areas"
- Policy B-2.2 Zoning Requirements
- Policy B-2.3 Beach Pedestrian Access

Objective B-3 **Accessibility**

- Policy B-3.1 Access to the Intracoastal Waterway
- Policy B-3.2 Beach Access

Objective B-4 **Passive Area Public Access and Facilities**

**GOAL AREA "A" RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES OPEN SPACES AND FACILITIES WHICH ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE, PROVIDE FOR RECREATION AND INTERACTION WITH OTHERS, AND PROMOTE THE SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY SHALL RECEIVE HIGH PRIORITY IN THE INVESTMENT OF THE CAPITAL RESOURCES OF THE CITY.**

**Objective A-1**

The City hereby adopts the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Recreation guidelines and the National Park and Recreation and Open Space Standards, as shown in this Element as measures for "level of service" applicable to parks, recreation, and open space in Delray Beach.

**Policy A-1.1** The City shall maintain the adopted level of service for all recreational facilities.

**Objective A-2**

Park and recreation facilities shall be adequately and efficiently provided with adequate parking and public access and shall be compatible with surrounding existing properties and new development through implementation of the following policies:

**Policy A-2.1** The City shall 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 A-2.2** The City, through the Parks and Recreation Department, shall place its first recreation priority on the provision of facilities for activities which serve all residents of the community and which can be achieved through completing the development of existing park areas, enhancing existing facilities, and adding specialized items such as playgrounds to existing facilities.

**Policy A-2.3** Funds shall be allocated, on an annual basis, for the purpose of achieving Policy A-2.2. This mechanism shall only be one of the funding sources which are applied to meeting that policy.

**Policy A-2.4** The City shall strive to develop a scenic recreational network for pedestrians and bicyclists. This network should make use of existing resources where possible, such as canal rights-of-way. In this way the scenic network would be similar to the rails-to-trails concept. Development of the network is not seen as a high priority work item, but every opportunity to advance such a network should be taken.

**Policy A-2.5** The City shall continue to support and expand bicycle safety education programs for both children and adults.

**Policy A-2.6** As part of the preparation of Strategic Task Team Neighborhood Action Plans, the City shall evaluate the possibility of establishing neighborhood or “pocket parks” in the area for which the plan is being prepared. The evaluation should include identification of vacant or surplus parcels, and strategies to assure that the neighborhood determines the parameters of the park and is responsible for construction and operating costs. Such strategies should rely heavily on existing neighborhood associations as the originating, motivating and organizing forces.

**Policy A-2.7** Whenever the accomplishment of one or more of the activities cited can be achieved through major investment in an existing facility, such a situation shall be a justification for raising the priority of the major capital improvement on the capital improvement list.

**Policy A-2.8** The priority of a specific project may move up if it is funded from a dedicated revenue source and that funding is sufficient to accommodate the improvement (e.g. golf course improvement funded by a golf cart surcharge).

**Policy A-2.9** The priority of a specific project may move up if there is a contribution from the private sector, or other sources, or area development/redevelopment can be coordinated with its construction.

**Policy A-2.10** All planning for parks and recreational facilities shall be in accordance with the adopted City of Delray Beach Parks and Recreation System Master Plan.

**Policy A-2.11** The City shall establish an Urban Park as part of the expansion of Old School Square Cultural Center. Multiple funding sources are to be pursued and Phase 1 of the development should be accomplished by FY 2008/09.

**Policy A-2.12** The City shall continue to investigate the feasibility for the development of an additional Community Center west of I-95.

### **Objective A-3**

The provision of recreation facilities and programs for the future well-being of this community is a joint responsibility of both the public and private sectors. Developers shall provide sufficient and appropriate recreational facilities for their development. That partnership shall be mandated by each body taking an appropriate role as expressed in the following policies:

**Policy A-3.1** Tot lots and recreational areas, serving children from toddlers to teens, shall be a feature of all new housing developments as part of design to accommodate households having a range of ages. This requirement may be waived or modified for residential developments located in the downtown area, and for infill projects having fewer than 25 units. The City may require a monetary contribution in-lieu of the provision of on-site facilities where appropriate.

**Policy A-3.2** The role of the Parks and Recreation Department in fulfilling community needs in culture and the arts shall continue to focus on programs. Private and quasi-public groups (e.g. Old School Square Foundation, Public Library, Atlantic Avenue Merchants Association, Historic Society, etc.) should be encouraged to provide facilities necessary to accommodate the arts (e.g. auditorium, indoor concerts, and the performing arts). The City shall provide reasonable assistance to such groups in as much as such efforts relate to the overall economic development of the community.

**Policy A-3.3** The City shall continue to develop and sponsor programs for youth activities.

**Policy A-3.4** The City, through the Parks and Recreation Department, shall continue its formal relationship and program with the school district for the joint use of school grounds for active sports such as soccer and for the creation of educational programs such as use of the nature and interpretative trails.

**Policy A-3.5** The City shall continue to encourage other community partners, including religious and social organizations, to join in the effort to provide leisure programs and activities for the community as a whole.

#### **Objective A-4**

The provision of recreational facilities by the private sector is an important factor in the quality of life in the entire community, especially for teenagers and young adults. The City shall encourage the siting of appropriate private recreational facilities within the City through the provision of informational services, and consideration of innovative, quality development proposals.

**Policy A-4.1** The City shall consider modifications to the Land Development Regulations with regard to private recreational facilities, including the number of permitted, vs. conditional, recreational uses allowed in commercial zoning districts.

**GOAL AREA "B"** *AN OPEN SPACE CREATION, RETENTION AND ENHANCEMENT SYSTEM CONSISTING OF, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, LINKS AND LOOPS THROUGHOUT THE CITY, SHALL BE PURSUED IN ORDER TO ENRICH THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN DELRAY BEACH AS WELL AS ENHANCING PROPERTY VALUE, THE COMMUNITY AESTHETIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.*

#### **Objective B-1**

The retention and creation of visual open space areas is vital to meeting the overall goals of the Comprehensive Plan. Part of the image of open space is that of vistas and



streetscapes. The maintenance of vistas, enhancement of the streetscapes, and additional open space are objectives which shall be accomplished through the following:

**Policy B-1.1** Large open space areas like golf courses and lakes, when developed within a subdivision, shall be located so that they provide a view corridor for the general public. Similarly, common areas which are a part of new developments shall be located, in some degree, contiguous to the external street system and likewise provide a view corridor.

**Policy B-1.2** The City shall continue its 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 B-1.3** New developments shall 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.

## **Objective B-2**

Natural areas shall be protected and preserved through the following policies.

**Policy B-2.1** The Land Use Map shall identify as "conservation" the following areas which shall be preserved:

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

**Policy B-2.2** The Open Space (OS) and Open Space and Recreation (OSR) Zone Districts of the Land Development Regulations shall be applied to "Recreation", "Open Space" and "Conservation" parcels. The OS Zone shall provide for distinct standards applicable to open space lands and to conservation lands.

**Policy B-2.3** As a part of the City's ongoing beach renourishment program, the existence of pedestrian accesses to the beach shall be maintained and enhanced (See Conservation Policy B-4.1).

### **Objective B-3**

Not only shall existing public access to beach areas and the Intracoastal Waterway be retained, but enhanced with special emphasis placed upon beach accessibility for residents of Delray Beach, while protecting the natural environment. This objective shall be accomplished through the following.

**Policy B-3.1** Access to the Intracoastal Waterway shall be achieved through improvements made at the time of development of Mangrove Park (MSA 650).

**Policy B-3.2** Current access points and pathways to the beach shall be enhanced through the policies which implement Objective B-4 of the Conservation Element.

### **Objective B-4**

The City shall ensure that public access and that passive resource-based facilities (i.e. trails, wildlife observation areas, etc.) are provided on publicly owned natural areas for the public use and enjoyment of the site.