

CHAPTER 12

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

Section 12.01 Purpose: The purpose of this Chapter (element) is to plan for a comprehensive system of public and private recreation and open space sites and facilities which are available to the public.

Section 12.02 Data and Analysis: This element is based upon data and analysis requirements pursuant to subsection 9J-5.005(2), F.A.C. and 9J-5.014(1)(2), F.A.C. (reference sections 5.03, 5.06 and 5.07 of this ordinance and Chapter 9 of the Foundation Documents).

Section 12.03 Goals, Objectives and Policies: The Goals, Objectives and Policies of this element are as follows:

Goal 12.A - Provide an adequate, environmentally sound and cost effective recreation and open space system for all residents of the City.

Objective 12.A.1 - Insure the public's access to recreation sites, open spaces and the shoreline by including regulations within the LDC (reference Policy 7.A.1.1) to implement Policies 12.A.1.1. through 12.A.1.5, among others.

Policy 12.A.1.1 - The City shall continue to enforce the open space requirements within its Zoning Ordinance (or any amendments or successor ordinances which may be adopted by the City) and such requirements shall be included within the LDC.

Policy 12.A.1.2 - The City shall continue to require the provision of open space by private development when such development is a planned unit development, a multifamily development, a mixed-use commercial area or other similar types of developments where relatively large land areas are involved. The requirements shall be contained within the LDC.

Policy 12.A.1.3 - The City shall continue to protect and provide access to open spaces and the shoreline by including appropriate regulations within the LDC to implement Policies 11.A.1.3, 11.A.9.1, 11.A.9.2, 11.A.9.3, 11.A.9.4, 11.A.9.5, 11.B.2.4, and 14.A.2.1 among others.

Policy 12.A.1.4 - The City shall continue to aggressively seek additional grants from the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program, Department of Environmental Protection to construct a recreation trail that will encircle much of Niceville and provide opportunity for new parks and playgrounds.

Policy 12.A.1.5 - The City shall continue to maintain and improve the public parks and recrea-

tion sites within the City and the shoreline access sites maintained by the City.

Objective 12.A.2 - Review, at least annually, the cooperative efforts between the public and private sectors in the provision of recreational opportunities and assure that such efforts are coordinated.

Policy 12.A.2.1 - The committee appointed pursuant to Policy 14.A.3.6 shall include within its review efforts (pursuant to Section 14.06) an analysis of the cooperation and coordination between the public and private sectors in the provision of recreational opportunities.

Policy 12.A.2.2 - The City shall continue its cooperative efforts with the City of Valparaiso and with the private sector and non-profit organizations (i.e., YMCA) and the Okaloosa County School Board in the provision of recreational facilities and open space areas.

Policy 12.A.2.3 - The City will cooperate with other local governments in the TPO area to implement the bikeway recommendations found within the Okaloosa-Walton TPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan.

Policy 12.A.2.4 - The City shall continue to review the efforts of the Niceville/Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce to assure that such efforts are consistent with this Ordinance.

Objective 12.A.3 - Insure that parks and recreation facilities and open space are adequately and efficiently provided by public agencies and private enterprise by implementing Policies 12.A.3.1 through 12.A.3.6 upon adoption of the LDC (ref: Policy 7.A.1.1).

Policy 12.A.3.1 - The LDC shall include specific definitions for open space, parks and recreation facilities.

Policy 12.A.3.2 - The level of service standard for recreation, parks and open space for the City shall be 1 acre per 1000 population. Note: There are no identified deficiencies in the provision of recreational and open space facilities during the planning period.

Policy 12.A.3.3 - The City shall continue to acquire (through lease, acquisition, or dedication) open space and natural areas so as to maintain and improve: (1) recreational opportunities for all residents; and (2) the natural function of open space, wetlands and other sensitive lands within the City.

Policy 12.A.3.4 - The City will continue to apply for all available state and federal funds to implement recreation programs and provisions of this element (reference Policy 12.A.1.4).

Policy 12.A.3.5 - The City shall continue to require the provision of recreational facilities and

open space in any private sector development pursuant to regulations contained within the LDC.

Policy 12.A.3.6 - The City shall continue to preserve and protect the shoreline through regulations contained within the LDC (reference Policies 7.A.1.2, 10.C.1.3 and Chapter 11 of this Ordinance).