

CHAPTER 6
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

Goal.6.A. Pursue, manage, and/or fund adequate recreational facilities, open space areas, or resource-based conservation areas that encourage physical activity and mentally healthy lifestyles for all citizens of Niceville regardless of age or physical ability.

Objective 6.A.1. Ensure adequate open space and resource-based conservation areas through the City's development related requirements and other funding mechanisms.

Policy 6.A.1.1. The City shall continue to require the provision of open space in any private sector development pursuant to regulations contained within the LDC.

Policy 6.A.1.2. Lands designated as Conservation on the Future Land Use that are designated open space will be protected from incompatible land uses and will remain functionally intact.

Objective 6.A.2. Ensure the public's access to active and passive recreational sites, including Niceville's waterfront.

Policy 6.A.2.1. The City of Niceville and Okaloosa County shall share responsibility for the provision of public parks and recreation facilities and programs. The City will have primary responsibility within the City limits and Okaloosa County will have primary responsibility in the unincorporated county. Special cooperative funding and maintenance agreements/programs between the City and County shall be established as needed to improve or maintain park and recreation facilities and programs.

Policy 6.A.2.2. The City shall continue to aggressively seek additional grants, as available, from various State, Federal, and private sources to construct a trail network that connects residential land uses with non-residential uses and recreational uses.

Policy 6.A.2.3. The City shall continue to maintain and improve the public parks and recreation sites within the City and the shoreline access sites maintained by the City.

Policy 6.A.2.4. As part of the Capital Budget processes the City shall annually review the active and passive recreation facility needs. Whenever possible the City shall pursue grant funding, as available from various State, Federal and private sources, to help provide needed facilities.

Policy 6.A.2.5. 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 6.A.2.6. The City shall continue its cooperative efforts with the City of Valparaiso, the private sector and non-profit organizations (i.e YMCA, and/or the Niceville-Valparaiso Chamber

of Commerce), the Okaloosa County School Board, and other civic and environmental organizations in the provision of recreational facilities and open space areas.

Policy 6.A.2.7. The City will cooperate with other local governments in the TPO area to implement the recommendations found within the Okaloosa-Walton TPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan.

Policy 6.A.2.8. The City shall coordinate with State and regional entities such as the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Emerald Coast Regional Planning Council for the provision of recreational facilities and open space areas as opportunities or projects arise.

Policy 6.A.2.9. 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 citizens; and (2) the natural function of open space, wetlands, and other sensitive lands within the City.

Policy 6.A.2.10. The City shall incentivize or require the provision of recreational facilities in any private sector development pursuant to provisions contained within the LDC.

Policy 6.A.2.11. All public park and recreation facilities shall be identifiable by and accessible to Niceville citizens and visitors.

Policy 6.A.2.12. The City shall include accessibility features in new parks and existing parks to the greatest extent possible and in accordance with the Florida Building Code.