

# Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Land Use Goals

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**Issue:** The preservation of open space and natural features will enhance the character of the built environment, promote public health and safety, provide for outdoor recreation and provide visual enjoyment.

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## **Goal 1: Balance between Natural and Man-Made Environments**

A balance between the natural and man-made environments is needed to preserve and protect natural features while allowing new development.

### **Policy 1.1: Preserve the Floodplain and Floodway -**

Preserve as much as possible the natural attributes of both the floodplain and floodway to avoid loss of life and property while providing open space.

### **Policy 1.2: Provide Nonrecreational Open Space Areas -**

Encourage the preservation of significant stands of trees, natural vegetation, wetlands, stream corridors, and environmentally sensitive areas as part of a passive use open space system and permit other uses as allowed by the stream corridor and floodplain ordinances.

### **Policy 1.3: Maintain Close Relationship between Open Space and Development -**

Maintain a close relationship between the natural environment and developed areas through an extensive parks, recreation, and open space system connecting developed areas.

### **Policy 1.4: Preserve Natural Areas -**

Preserve stream corridors and other riparian areas to ensure habitat preservation, protection of water quality, stream bank stability and open space opportunities.

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**Issue:** Guidelines are needed to allow for and encourage the retention and expansion of the parks, recreation, and open space system throughout the community.

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## **Goal 2: Protect and Expand the System of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space**

### **Policy 2.1: Protect Parkland -**

Existing parklands should be dedicated for park purposes and be protected against conversion to nonrecreational uses.

### **Policy 2.2: Preserve Park, Recreation, and Open Space Sites -**

Acquire or otherwise preserve future park, recreation, and open space sites within growth areas prior to extensive new development in order to ensure adequate land is available and to avoid prohibitive acquisition costs.

### **Policy 2.3: Encourage Private Developer Participation -**

Encourage private developers to actively contribute to the City's park, recreation, and open space system and encourage the development of private recreational facilities to supplement those provided by the City.

### **Policy 2.4: Encourage Private/Public Partnerships -**

Encourage the use of easements across private property for bike/hike trails and landscaped open spaces.

### **Policy 2.5: Preserve Trees -**

Encourage the protection and preservation of significant stands of existing trees and the planting of new trees throughout the community.

### **Policy 2.6: Continue Planting Programs -**

Continue and expand planting programs on public property and along roadways.

**Policy 2.7: Avoid Duplication of Recreation Services and Facilities -**  
Continue close cooperation between the City, school districts, and other public agencies to avoid a duplication of recreational services and facilities.

**Policy 2.8: Develop Regional Facilities -**  
Encourage the development and expansion of both public and private park, recreation, and open space facilities that are regional in scope and tied to one another and to other public and private facilities through a system of bike/hike trails and greenway linkages.

**Policy 2.9: Provide Continuous Pedestrian Networks -**  
Provide for safe, continuous pedestrian networks to promote direct pedestrian access to neighboring residential, non-residential, and public uses.

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**Issue:** The linkage of many park areas within the City by way of the floodplain and public rights-of-way has, and will continue to be, a major asset of the community.

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### **Goal 3: Expand Greenway Linkage System**

Expand the bike/hike trail system utilizing floodplain land, easements, and parklands into areas not currently served including both developing and established areas of the City.

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**Issue:** Guidelines are needed to provide direction on where parks and open space should be located.

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### **Goal 4: Criteria for the Location of Parks and Open Space**

Create a park, recreation, and open space system that is sensitive to both the recreational needs and the environmental/ecological needs of the City.

### **Policy 4.1: Focus on the Future Parks Plan Map -**

Encourage development of parks, recreation, and open space as shown on the Future Parks Plan Map.

**Policy 4.2: Preserve Special Landscapes -**

Preserve and protect special landscapes such as areas with sensitive slopes or dramatic topographic changes, waterways, floodplains, stream corridors, areas of dense natural vegetation, and sites of particular aesthetic or historic value.

**Policy 4.3: Ensure Adequate Access -**

Locate new park and recreation areas so that they are readily accessible and can be reached through safe and convenient approaches.

**a. Neighborhood Park**

- (1) Locate close to the center of a residential area and within walking distance of a majority of the residents.
- (2) Locate adjacent to elementary schools wherever possible.
- (3) Locate adjacent to greenway linkages wherever possible.
- (4) Vehicular access and parking is not essential but park should be readily accessible by pedestrians and bicyclist.

**b. Community Park**

- (1) Locate on collector or thoroughfare to accommodate automobile access and parking.
- (2) Locate adjacent to greenway linkages wherever possible.
- (3) Provide a buffer between a community park and adjacent residential areas to prevent traffic and noise intrusion.

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**Issue:** Guidelines are needed to allow for a compatible transition from parks, recreation, and open space land uses to residential land uses. These guidelines are needed for application throughout the City including in both established areas and those currently developing.

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## **Goal 5: Compatible Transition from Recreation Facilities to Residential Land Uses**

Ensure compatible transition from recreational facilities whether public or private to residential land uses.

### **Policy 5.1: Use Appropriate Transitional Methods -**

Appropriate transitional methods should be considered at all locations where the development or expansion of parks, recreation, and open space land uses abut residential property (either built or zoned). In general, transitions between different types of intensities of land use should be made gradually, particularly where natural or man-made buffers are not available. The City strives to meet the following additional objectives when compatible transition is necessary:

#### **a. Land Features:**

- (1) Promote the retention of stands of trees, natural vegetation, wetlands, stream corridors, and environmentally sensitive areas whenever possible to separate residential developments from recreational facilities such as ball fields, golf driving ranges, swimming pools, tennis courts, and associated parking lots.
- (2) Where possible, use existing differences in topography to naturally separate residential developments from active recreation areas.

#### **b. Buffering and Landscaping:**

- (1) Encourage the creative and extensive use of landscaping and berming techniques for effective buffering of residential uses.

- (2) Avoid the use of fences as a sole means of providing screening and buffering.
- (3) Promote the use of existing land features, vegetation such as stands of trees and hedgerows, and stream corridors as natural buffers.
- (4) Encourage the use of high quality materials in the construction of fencing and landscaping to decrease long-term maintenance costs and to make it less likely that neglected, unsightly areas will occur.

**c. Lighting:**

- (1) Control light spill-over onto adjacent property through fixture type, height, and location.
- (2) Limit the height of outdoor lighting at recreation facilities adjacent to residential areas and direct the beam such that light will not glare upon adjacent property or public streets.

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**Issue:** A need is recognized that parks, recreation, and open space development should comply with other pertinent City land use policy guidelines.

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**Goal 6: Compliance with Other City Land Use Policy Documents**

Ensure that parks, recreation, and open space developments comply with the guidelines of other pertinent City land use policy documents such as City Council and Planning Commission Resolutions, special area plans, and the Greenway Linkages Guidelines and Plans.