

CHAPTER 6
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

Goal: To provide sufficient and adequate recreation and open space opportunities enabling high quality participation for all residents and visitors of Brooksville.

Park and Recreation Facilities

Objective 1: Through the year 2015, maintain a system of parks and recreation facilities that will accommodate the existing needs and future (2015) demands of the population.

Policy 1-1: Realize the full development and high quality of existing recreation areas and facilities through the use of adequate operating budgets and proper management techniques.

Policy 1-2: To assure that its parks and recreational facilities keep pace with growth, the City shall maintain facility standards for planning future park and recreational facility needs.

Policy 1-3: The City shall implement, as part of its impact fee program, an impact fee to raise revenues to purchase land and develop a satellite system of neighborhood and vest-pocket parks to facilitate recreation opportunities for future populations, providing special emphasis for the elderly, handicapped, and very young.

Policy 1-4: The City shall review and revise current subdivision regulations, as necessary, to ensure that recreation and open space impacts of new development are mitigated so that adverse fiscal impact will not result.

Open Space

Objective 2: Through the year 2015 the City shall maintain a sufficient amount of open space to provide a harmonious balance between the requirements of continuing urbanization and spatial needs of an increasing population as identified in this element.

Policy 2-1: Consistent with the time frames delineated by Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, the City shall provide land development regulations that provide specific open space standards and definitions, and address parameters of tree protection, landscape, and signage in relationship to utilization of such open space.

Policy 2-2: The City shall develop and utilize specific open space and impervious surface ratio criteria as part of its development review process.

Policy 2-3: The City shall encourage the use of Planned Unit Development type projects to promote the use of open space as buffers between various land uses.

- Policy 2-4:** The city staff will continually investigate and utilize state and federal funding programs to enhance and expand recreation and open space facilities.
- Policy 2-5:** The City shall utilize the concept and use of open space as part of the satellite system of neighborhood and vest pocket/tot lot parks.

Access

Objective 3: The City shall maintain safe, operational park and recreation access for all segments of the city population.

- Policy 3-1:** City parks and recreation facilities shall be designed and constructed with access-ways that are compatible with the character and quality of the resources and activities contained within the site.
- Policy 3-2:** The City shall provide safe, operational automobile, bicycle and pedestrian access to all public parks and facilities as applicable.
- Policy 3-3:** All public recreation facilities shall be designed as barrier-free as possible to accommodate accessibility by the elderly and handicapped.
- Policy 3-4:** The City shall provide adequate parking space, including handicapped parking, and bicycle racks at recreation sites as applicable.
- Policy 3-5:** Acquisition and development of corridor open space as access-ways to city recreation facilities shall be researched and utilized.
- Policy 3-6:** The City shall provide specific coordination mechanisms with Hernando County to ensure safe access-ways to all local parks and facilities as applicable.

Public-Private Coordination

Objective 4: The City shall continue to improve and coordinate efforts with the public and private sectors as a means of increasing recreational opportunities in the City.

- Policy 4-1:** The City shall maintain and periodically review the appropriateness of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to assist in coordination of existing recreation programs and provision of sites for future recreation opportunities.
- Policy 4-2:** The City shall research and provide incentives for developers to provide recreation facilities for their projects such as in-lieu-of fees, and direct site transfers where applicable.