

SECTION 6
Parks and Recreation
GOALS, OBJECTIVES, and POLICIES

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INTRODUCTION

Deltona has a variety of parks, public spaces, and recreational facilities which support the City's strong quality of life. The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Element is to establish planning directives for the development, use, and accessibility of these resources in both private and publicly owned areas. These planning directives will ensure that Deltona's built environment is supported and enhanced by its parks and public spaces. As a result the element helps ensure that Deltona's vision of being a City which "*provides a high quality of life where the people live, work and play in a safe and secure environment*" becomes a reality.

The Parks and Recreation Element achieves this vision by establishing goals, objectives, and policies that support the City's economic development efforts, sense of community place, and quality of life. As a result, the element ensures that Deltona's land use practices and development efforts accomplish the following objectives:

- Establish a set of City level of service standards that provide minimum requirements for park and recreational services for the Deltona community through the year 2020.
- Improve and maintain the level of service and quality of City parks as financially feasible to enable Deltona residents to achieve a level of service for parks and recreation.
- Identify and obtain the necessary financial resources to achieve the established Comprehensive Plan's parks and recreation service level standards.
- Increase multi-modal transportation links to recreational facilities.

GOAL PR1

The development of a park and recreation system which provides for a myriad of recreational opportunities that is cost effective and efficient to develop; preserve and maintain the natural environment and makes the best use of the land; incorporates aesthetics as an essential component of park and facility design; and produces a sense of place and community for its users and nearby neighborhoods.

OBJECTIVE PR1-1

Maintain the City level of service standards for suitable park, recreation and open space land acreage, developed park and recreation land acreage, and major park and recreation facilities that provide minimum requirements for park and recreational services when used in conjunction with the natural and man-made features associated with individual park sites-for the Deltona community through the year 2025.

Policy PR1-1.1

Total Available Park and Recreation Lands

Through the year 2025, the City of Deltona shall maintain a minimum of four (4) acres of suitable developed and undeveloped park, recreation and open space land per 1000 residents. This minimum level of service standard may be exceeded by decision of the City Commission, through approval of an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan, in order to protect or enhance public health and welfare, to provide additional lands for the provision of needed park, recreation or open space facilities and to provide for specialized natural resource based park, recreation or open space facilities and lands. The City Commission shall be the final authority to determine which park lands and sites are suitable for public recreational purposes.

Policy PR1-1.2

Total Developed Park and Recreation Lands

The City of Deltona establishes the following minimum, incremental level of service standard for developed park and recreation lands within the City:

<u>Planning Period</u>	<u>Level of Service Standard</u>	<u>Incremental Increase</u>
	<u>Developed Acres per 1000 Residents</u>	<u>Additional Needed Developed Park Land</u>
Through Year 2000	1.72	0 acres
By Year 2005	2.10	62.89 acres (2000-2005)
By Year 2010	2.60	69.63 acres (2005-2010)
By Year 2015	3.00	72.09 + buy 7.61 acres (2010-2015)
By Year 2025	3.50	93.84 acres buy & dev. (2015-2025)

Within the Planning Period, the City Commission shall maintain this minimum level of service standard for developed park and recreation lands in the City based upon the availability of City

resources to achieve compliance with the standard. However, the overall objective is to increase the amount and quality of developed City park and recreational lands, to provide adequate recreational services to Deltona residents.

The term-“developed park and recreation land” shall mean that typically 50% of total project site is useable for passive, or active recreational purposes. For individual park or open space sites the amount of developed land will vary due to the purpose of the park site, or environmental, site and social conditions.

Developed park and recreation acres shall be the critical long-term measurement in terms of service level-standards for land or acreage by the year 2025. This new land service level standard shall be 3.5 acres of developed land per 1,000 residents, by the year 2025.

Policy PR1-1.3

Park and Recreation Facility Classifications

The following types of facilities should be provided for the residents of Deltona:

1. Passive recreational facilities including, but not limited to, multi-use trails, boardwalks, docks, fishing piers, etc.
2. Active recreational facilities including, but not limited to, sports fields and courts, playgrounds, community swimming pool(s), etc.
3. Indoor recreational facilities such as clubhouses, games, dancing, youth activities, etc.
4. Park, recreation, and open space facilities that are utilized and equally accessible by elderly or handicapped persons.
5. Community parks and neighborhood parks, both active and passive.
6. Open space and natural resource based lands and areas, used for relaxation, educational, conservation or passive recreational purposes.

Policy PR1-1.4

The City shall maintain specific, revised recreational facilities guidelines, including specific level of service standards for use within the Comprehensive Plan, for different types of recreational facilities (i.e. diamond sports fields, soccer, recreational trails, football fields, boat and fishing docks, and swimming facilities) to be provided in the City’s park system.

Policy PR1-1.5

The following facilities shall be counted and included in the City’s park and recreation facility inventory for the purposes of meeting the City’s service level guidelines for both land and recreation facilities (including land and facilities owned, operated, leased or utilized through valid joint public use agreements by the City of Deltona):

- Land and facilities from the Deltona parks system.
- Specific recreation facilities of the Volusia County School District located within the City boundaries and covered in a valid current "Joint Use Agreement”

arraignments approved or authorized by both the School District Board and the City Commission. With the exception of swimming pool(s) and gyms, useable school - recreational facilities shall not exceed 25% of the total number or acres of required City recreational facilities—used to calculate level of service.

- Specific recreation facilities located within the City boundaries where the City of Deltona is a party to a written multi-year use agreement with either a private non-profit or private for profit entity for the provision of public recreation facilities and/or services.
- Specific recreation facilities located outside the City boundaries but within three (3) miles from the City boundaries where the facilities are determined or estimated by the City to provide recreational services to City residents. For such facilities to count against level of service requirements, the City of Deltona shall be a party to a written, current and valid multi-year agreement with another government agency, public school agency, private non-profit or private for profit entity that provides recreation facilities and/or services to the citizens of Southwest Volusia, and the City of Deltona. This provision is not applicable to local or neighborhood parks located within a three mile radius, outside of the City of Deltona boundaries.

Policy PR1-1.6

Neighborhood Parks

The neighborhood park is the base of the City’s parks system. The major purpose of the neighborhood park is to provide an enjoyable space for informal recreation activities within walking distance. Neighborhood parks, where appropriate, may provide organized activities to serve recreation activities of Deltona residents.

A. Basic facility guidelines for the neighborhood park may consist of the following:

- playground apparatus
- ADA compliance
- an open play area
- a paved hard court facility
- small family picnic area (1-5 bench table combination)
- security lighting
- landscaping
- limited parking area or pervious parking area
- water fountains
- bike rack
- restrooms
- entrance facilities (gate and sign)
- storm water management facilities as required

- typical development guidelines - 50% of total project site, or lower if constrained by environmental, site and social conditions
 - connection to pedestrian or related facilities
- B. The following are some typical service level/facility enhancements for the neighborhood park that may be considered over and above the basic facility requirements:
- an additional open play area with a backstop for additional pick-up games for baseball or softball or for football or soccer goals as space permits, plus for limited practice for leagues
 - trail facilities for walking, jogging/exercising
 - facility lighting, if determined to be essential
 - any other facility that the community may request, compatible with the basic park purpose and the adjacent/nearby residential neighborhood
- C. Recommended size and service radius area ranges for the neighborhood park (Neighborhood Park) category shall include the following:
- Recommended size range: 3-9.99 acres
 - Typical service area radius range: ½-1- mile

Policy PR1-1.7

Community Parks

The Community Park is the second level in the Deltona park system. The higher intensity Community Park should serve City residents. Its major market focus should consist of all demographic groups including a broad range of age groups with various recreation facilities, activities and needs. These activities include a mix of formal, organized and supervised activities and programs as well as informal enterprises.

A major purpose of this park is to provide a variety of recreation activities. In addition, the Community Park may provide regulation or game fields for teams or leagues which have traditionally used such parks in the past.

- A. Basic facility guidelines for the Community Park could consist of the following:
- multi-purpose ball fields - fields suitable for team practice, and for league games
 - tennis courts, if compatible with surrounding residences and land uses, and subject to site constraints

- other hard court facilities (either basketball, shuffleboard, handball or racquetball), if compatible with surrounding residences and land uses
- playground apparatus area
- covered picnic area (pavilion or shelter) with grills for small group outings
- scattered picnic tables/benches for individuals, families and very small groups
- lighting for fields and courts as necessary
- comfort stations (restrooms for males and females) located near field facilities
- water fountains, located near field facilities
- trails for either walking, jogging or exercising
- parking area
- Served by VOTRAN or other mass transit providers
- bike racks
- security lighting
- landscaping
- gates, fencing, entrance sign
- storm water management as required
- typical development-50% of total project site, or lower if constrained by environmental, site and social conditions

B. The following are some typical service level/facility enhancements for the Community Park that may be considered over and above the basic facility requirements:

- additional multi-purpose fields, subject to site constraints
- specialized fields for a specific sport or league, if compatible with surrounding residences and land uses, subject to site constraints
- additional game fields, if compatible with surrounding residences and land uses, subject to site constraints
- additional lighted fields, if compatible with surrounding residences and land uses
- additional tennis courts, subject to site constraints
- additional hard court facilities, subject to site constraints
- additional lighted court facilities, if compatible with surrounding residences and land uses
- additional play apparatus areas
- an additional comfort station
- gymnasium/recreation center/activity building
- additional water fountains
- additional picnic pavilions/shelters
- specialized recreation facilities (compatible with this park's purpose and the surrounding residences and land uses)

- any other facility that the community may request, compatible with the basic park purpose and the adjacent/nearby residential neighborhood and land uses
- C. Recommended size and service radius area ranges for the community park category shall include the following:
- recommended size range: 12-39.99 acres
 - Typical service area radius range: 1-3 miles

Policy PR1-1.8

Open Space

Open space, trails, green ways, natural resource based lands, conservation areas and specialized (i.e. nature walk area) recreational facilities are the third level of the Deltona parks system. This category includes a wide variety of special lands, open space areas, scenic view sheds, and specialized recreational facilities that meet special open space, environmental conservation, and passive recreational needs or appropriately utilize environmentally sensitive lands, consistent with the Conservation element of the Comprehensive Plan. These lands and facilities provide relief from pressures of urban life by taking advantage of their environmental assets or location. Development of these lands shall be done in recognition of each site’s intended purpose, site constraints and the requirement to balance both conservation and recreational that may be associated with each individual site. These open space/conservation/ specialized lands if developed, shall be developed, consistent with the Conservation element of the Comprehensive Plan, with due respect to individual site and environmental features and assets. Open space, conservation and specialized lands are not required to be counted in the City’s inventory or level of service calculations for developed parks.

- A. Recommended size and service radius area ranges for the open space/ resource based category shall include the following:
- Recommended size range: minimum of 0.10 acre.
 - Typical service area radius range: Open space, ¼ to one-half mile; other lands and facilities, variable depending on resource availability.

Policy PR1-1.9

Neighborhood Parks Service Area Standard

By, 2025 the City of Deltona shall provide all neighborhoods with leisure time opportunities at neighborhood parks within a service area radius of between one half (1/2) and two (2) miles.

Policy PR1-1.10

Park Service Area Development Priority

Existing neighborhoods within the City boundaries which are not served by a neighborhood park or community park (service area voids) using the stated service area radius ranges shall have

priority for new park development as revenues and logistics permit. The development of community parks shall be the preferred format to fills service area or park facility voids

Policy PR1-1.11

Master Park Site Inventory for Existing and Future Facilities

The City shall maintain an inventory of existing and potential park sites, including natural resource areas as part of the City Parks Master Plan. The Plan will be continuously updated and include recommendations for possible disposal or reuse of existing unsuitable City owned park lands. The Plan shall recommended new community, and neighborhood parks and possible open space/natural resource based areas. The Master Plan inventory shall be created to be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the directives of the City Commission.

Policy PR1-1.12

Surplus Park Land

The City shall evaluate uses for park land deemed to be surplus. Potential uses include sites for affordable housing, public utilities, etc.

Policy PR1-1.13

Recreation Facility Development Standards

Field and court facilities designated for league play and other recreation facilities should be planned and developed to meet the recommended space, size and dimension standards as advocated by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), and/or similar standards from the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, or local leagues whenever practical and as funds permit.

Policy PR1-1.14

Periodic Review of Level of Service Guidelines and Standards

Suitable open spaces shall be minimally developed and supplied with furnishings (i.e., benches, picnic tables, shaded areas, etc.) to allow public use and enjoyment where appropriate.

OBJECTIVE PR1-2

The City shall improve and maintain the level of service and quality of City parks, as financially feasible, to enable Deltona residents to enjoy parks and recreation amenities which fits local needs and are comparable with any similar sized urban community.

Policy PR1-2.1

Phased Park Development

The City shall primarily develop and maintain basic park and recreation facilities in multiple phases over several years. Park development and maintenance improvements shall be implemented based on overall City park system needs, with due consideration of the desires of local residents and the characteristics of the park site and surrounding area.

Policy PR1-2.2**Basis for Park Classifications**

The parks in the City system shall continue to be classified and differentiated based on size, location, site characteristics, facilities, activities, need for facility lighting, and use.

Policy PR1-2.3**Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance**

The City shall continue to make City park facilities and services equally accessible to physically impaired persons, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The City shall utilize funds such as Community Development Block Grant funds; to help off set required park services improvements.

Policy PR1-2.4**Desired effort to Provide Additional Game fields**

The City should implement the Parks Master Plan recommendations regarding the need for additional sport/game fields. In addition, the City should perform an assessment plan to determine the need for additional sport / game fields.

Policy PR1-2.5**Intergovernmental Coordination**

The City shall continue to strengthen the working relationship between the City of Deltona, Volusia County, Volusia County School Board and other recreational type organizations, to improve planning, and delivery of recreational services in the Deltona area.

Policy PR1-2.6**Public Participation Efforts**

The City shall actively and continuously solicit specific ideas from the public to improve recreation services, programs and activities.

Policy PR1-2.7**Encouragement of Multiple Uses and Activities at City Parks**

New City parks shall primarily be designed and developed to provide for multiple uses and recreational activities, suitable for the park site and its intended users. The City shall also improve existing suitable parks to expand the types of recreational facilities or opportunities available at each suitable park site.

Policy PR1-2.8

The City, in cooperation with Volusia County, adjacent cities, the MPO and other interested organizations, shall complete design of an open space master plan which addresses issues regarding master trails and pedestrian facilities, greenways, and environmentally important open spaces. The City shall coordinate creation of the master trails plan to take advantage of and provide linkages to other existing and proposed trails and pedestrian facilities in the Deltona

area. Additionally, the plan shall be used to increase the supply and quality of such lands and facilities available to Deltona area residents, consistent with this Comprehensive Plan, available City financial resources and the directives of the City Commission.

Policy PR1-2.9

Recreational Planning for Improved Views and Use of Suitable Lakes in City

The City shall identify suitable park sites and proposed improvements to existing City parks to enable improved public views, access and use of suitable lakes in the City. Construction of such potential facilities as fishing docks, freshwater beaches, boardwalks, catwalks, nature trails, sidewalks, pedestrian trails and boat docks shall be considered in the City's park and recreational planning efforts.

Policy PR1-2.10

Creation of Inventory of new Resource based Park Sites

The City in cooperation with Volusia County shall continue to identify new suitable resource based park sites in the Deltona area. These park sites shall emphasize passive recreational activities that are based on and conserve the natural resources of the park site, and/or the adjacent environmentally sensitive lands.

Policy PR1-2.11

- (1) All parks shall have adequate and safe vehicular and bicycle access, and safe pedestrian access when located in a built-up area.
- (2) Additional public access points and boat/canoe launching facilities should be provided along those lakes that abut publicly owned parks and recreational areas, when compatible with surrounding land uses and existing lake usage.
- (3) The City shall provide barrier-free access to all user oriented public recreation facilities.

Policy PR1-2.12

Natural Area Green Ways and Wildlife Corridors

The City shall coordinate with pertinent state wildlife agencies and regional planning entities to identify natural area greenways and wildlife corridors to link existing public parks, preserve areas and similar areas for conservation and habitat preservation purposes.

OBJECTIVE PR1-3

The City should identify and obtain the necessary financial resources to achieve the established Comprehensive Plan's parks and recreation level of service standards. Compliance with these standards assists the City of Deltona to maintain a full service parks and recreation system. The City shall strive to secure the necessary resources including contractual and volunteer assets to meet the challenges of expanding and maintaining a City parks and recreation system.

Policy PR1-3.1

Capital Improvements Priorities for Parks

City parks and recreation system capital improvements and capital outlay priorities shall include the following:

- The City should continue to provide more, and increase the variety of playground apparatus in existing developed and developing parks.
- The City should continue to replace older and worn-out playground apparatus in existing developed parks with modern and ADA compliant play pieces.
- The City should continue to add more picnic facilities in existing parks. Emphasis shall be placed on providing and repairing covered picnic facilities such as pavilions and shelters instead of scattered and unprotected benches and tables.
- Major repair or replacement of existing park facilities showing deterioration shall also be a high priority.
- The City should continue installation of needed security lighting at most parks and fencing at selected parks. Exterior lighting shall be installed in a manner to prevent the creation of lighting glare on adjacent properties and to reduce crime/vandalism opportunities.
- The City should maximize the potential of Deltona's most developed parks by utilizing capital improvements to improve existing facilities.
- The City should complete major capital projects currently in their initial phase.
- The City shall develop new parks and recreation facilities, especially new community parks to meet increasing demand for these facilities and to provide relief for those existing parks, which are inadequate or have been over utilized for some time. New community park development and feasible facility expansions of existing large neighborhood parks shall be a high priority.
- The City shall encourage pedestrian, transit and bike interconnectivity between parks, neighborhoods, community commercial areas, and other suitable land uses.

Policy PR1-3.2

Creation of Park Site Inventory

The City shall by 2012 identify the existing undeveloped and less desirable park sites as candidates for alternate uses or possible sale (pending legal research). The City Commission shall determine which properties are unsuitable to be used for current or future recreational, open space or conservation purposes. The City shall utilize profits of any such sales for park development/enhancement.

Policy PR1-3.3

Capital Resources

The City shall use a variety of funding sources including, but not limited to, the Local Park Impact Fee (for growth related capital improvements) and Community Development Block Grant revenues to finance capital improvements, capital outlay items, and growth related park enhancements.

Policy PR1-3.4

Required Use of Year 2025 Level of Service Standards for the Collection of Parks Impact Fees

The City shall review and if necessary revise the Park and recreation impact fee ordinance, to assist with implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. For the purpose of capital facilities planning and impact fee collection, the City shall use and enforce 2025 year level of service standards.

Policy PR1-3.5

Review of City Park Facility User Fees

The City shall continue to evaluate its user fee structure to determine if park user fees should continue or be modified. User fee rates should be reevaluated in light of the community's anticipated growing demand for additional recreation programs. Operating expenses may be an evaluation factor in this review of existing fees.

Policy PR1-3.6

Public Swimming Pool Construction Feasibility Study and Joint Venture

The City should explore the feasibility of using a joint venture with other public or private non-profit organizations to construct one school/community pool at a high school within Deltona for student and public use.

Policy PR1-3.7

Use of Non City Contractual and Volunteer Services for Park Maintenance

The City should investigate the possible use of other contractual services as necessary, including private-for-profit, private non-profit and volunteer services to supplement only the function of the City's Park and Recreation maintenance staff. The possible use of such services assumes the required staff cannot be added to satisfactorily maintain the City's park and recreation facilities.

Policy PR1-3.8**Joint Ventures Encouraged for Specialized Facilities**

Joint venture public/private partnerships with either private non-profit entities and/or private for profit recreation contractors should be strongly considered in developing unusual or highly specialized recreation facilities and programs.

Policy PR1-3.9**Adopt A Park Efforts**

The City shall encourage parks to be "adopted" by various sports, neighborhood, civic or business organizations to provide active assistance in their adopted park's maintenance or adopted field/court.

Policy PR1-3.10**Grant Applications for Desirable Park Improvements**

The City shall secure available foundation and corporate grants as well as the more traditional regional, state and federal grants as potential supplementary revenue sources for desirable parks, recreation facility developments, programs and conservation of open space purposes.

Policy PR1-3.11**Funding Capacity Building**

The City should increase its capacity for private fund raising for parks, recreation, and conservation of environmentally sensitive lands activities through workshops, grants, seminars and other means.

Policy PR1-3.12**City Commission may Adjust Scheduled Park Improvements to meet Available Resources**

The City Commission may make, adjustments to the scheduling of capital improvements projects (i.e., by postponing them to later years) if available revenues cannot finance such improvements. Service level standards may also have to be revised if necessary to reflect future possible financial difficulties.

Policy PR1-3.13

The City will pursue acquisition of appropriate parcels of land through the Florida Communities Trust Program or other appropriate City/State/County partnerships for the protection of environmentally sensitive lands, which protect unique, rare and or endangered habitat, assure survival of listed wildlife species, protect scenic water corridors and their shoreline ecosystems and provide public access and open space.