

V. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

GOAL #2 – Provide a variety of parks, recreational facilities and programs, and open space areas available to all residents and visitors of Citrus County.

Park and Recreation Facilities

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| Objective 2.1 | The County shall periodically review its current facilities inventory to meet the needs of the population through the year 2040. |
| Policy 2.1.1 | <p>The County shall adopt the following level of service standards for new development for park facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks (County/City) – 3 acres per 1,000 population • Regional (Federal/State) – 10 acres per 1,000 population • Boat Ramps – 1 lane per 5,000 population |
| Policy 2.1.2 | The County shall develop individual park plans and recreational facilities suitable to the needs of residents in the impact fee districts based upon user needs and demand, population projections, and availability of existing facilities and resources. |
| Policy 2.1.3 | Prior to expansion of Fort Island Gulf Beach, appropriate state agencies shall be consulted regarding wetland and archeological concerns. |
| Policy 2.1.4 | The Parks and Recreation Section shall periodically review existing deficiencies in park and recreational facilities. |
| Policy 2.1.5 | The County shall review alternate means to find funding to meet Parks (County/City) needs. |
| Policy 2.1.6 | The County shall consider citizen input in order to assess parks and recreation community needs. |
| Policy 2.1.7 | The County shall develop and encourage civic engagement and volunteer opportunities in community projects that promote community health. |
| Policy 2.1.8 | The County shall encourage reduction in exposure to secondhand smoke by prohibiting smoking and the use of e-cigarettes (a/k/a vaping) on government property outside of specifically designated areas. |

Open Space

- Objective 2.2 The County shall provide that adequate open space areas are preserved to satisfy population growth.
- Policy 2.2.1 The County shall coordinate efforts with the appropriate governmental agencies to secure the purchase and planning of designated open space areas.
- Policy 2.2.2 The County shall coordinate with federal, state, regional, and local governments in the development of management plans of open spaces, preserves, and reserves.
- Policy 2.2.3 The County shall coordinate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the Office of Greenways and Trails in the development of plans, agreements, and the usage of Cross Florida Greenway properties for recreation sites and facilities.
- Policy 2.2.4 The County shall coordinate with the appropriate agencies for canoe trails of the Chassahowitzka River, Crystal River, Homosassa River, Coastal Estuarine, and the Tsala Apopka Chain of Lakes.

Private/Public Sector

- Objective 2.3 The County shall require, during the development planning stage, adequate park, recreational, and open space facilities to meet the needs of the particular development and to promote active living.
- Policy 2.3.1 The County will assure that all residential development dedicate or provide active recreation and open space areas with operable facilities at the point of subdivision to promote active living as important to success.
- Policy 2.3.2 The calculation of recreation and open space areas by a development shall not include drainage retention areas, buffer areas, or related utilitarian facilities that do not provide active recreation, unless otherwise approved in a Planned Unit Development, as outlined in the Future Land Use Element.
- Policy 2.3.3 The County shall require that recreation and open space areas retained in private ownership be adequately operated and maintained.
- Policy 2.3.4 The County will provide impact fee credits for park facilities in accordance with the County Impact Fee Ordinance.

Objective 2.4 The County will continue to coordinate with all levels of government and the private sector to provide and improve recreational opportunities for all residents.

Policy 2.4.1 The Citrus County Board of County Commissioners shall maintain a working agreement with the Citrus County School Board for the general public's use of recreational facilities at County schools.

Commitment to Access

Objective 2.5 The County shall provide access at public recreational sites, facilities, beaches, and shorelines for all.

Policy 2.5.1 All new public and private parks and recreational facilities shall be designed and constructed with appropriate access-ways.

Policy 2.5.2 The County shall maintain or improve public access to beaches and shores.

Policy 2.5.3 The Parks and Recreation Division will continue to update its information and awareness program and disseminate information to all segments of the County's population.

Policy 2.5.4 The Parks and Recreation Division will continue to implement a comprehensive signage design for all County operated recreation facilities.

Policy 2.5.5 The Parks and Recreation Division shall provide handicapped access and facilities at all County maintained recreation sites.

Policy 2.5.6 The County shall develop procedures to facilitate the acquisitions of properties which contain special features and/or shoreline and water-use access and establish criteria for selection and funding.

Policy 2.5.7 The County shall continue to work with the Office of Greenways and Trails to establish a regional boat ramp on the Barge Canal to provide access to the Gulf of Mexico.

Policy 2.5.8 Proceeds collected from the Park component of the Impact Fees shall be considered for the appropriation for all park facilities, including boat ramps designed as a regional recreational facility, when the projected usage extends beyond the immediate Parks Benefit District.

Commitment to Interconnected Trail System

- Objective 2.6 The County shall maintain a Trails Master Plan for all residents and tourists.
- Policy 2.6.1 Development of regional drainage areas shall include joint-use features that incorporate passive recreational, trails, and trail heads.
- Objective 2.7 The County shall, as part of its annual Capital Improvement Plan, prioritize projects that are consistent with the Trails Master Plan.
- Policy 2.7.1 The County shall coordinate with the cities of Crystal River and Inverness and with adjacent and nearby cities and counties, as well as regional, state and federal agencies, as applicable, with regard to prioritization, connectivity, cost and resource sharing, as well as promotion.
- Policy 2.7.2 Funding for projects identified in the Trails Master Plan may be secured through the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) funding prioritizing process, or such projects may be funded fully or partially through: grants, public-private partnerships; mobility fees; multi-modal and/or recreational impact fees as appropriate; or other public or private funding sources. Highest priority shall be given to projects providing connectivity to or extension of existing multi-jurisdictional trails.

