

Recreation and Open Space Element – Redline Draft Update (Citrus County)

GOAL #2

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

Provide, manage, and maintain a diverse system of parks, recreation facilities, trails, and open spaces that protect Citrus County's natural heritage, enhance quality of life, and equitably serve residents and visitors through 2045 and beyond.

Park & Recreation Facilities

Objective 2.1

The County shall periodically review its current facilities inventory to meet the needs of the population through the year 2040.

Maintain and expand a countywide system of parks and recreation facilities based on evolving community needs, demographics, and demand.

- **Policy 2.1.1**

The County shall adopt the following level of service standards for new development: 3 acres/1,000; 10 acres/1,000 (regional); 1 boat ramp per 5,000.

Adopt flexible LOS standards, combining acreage-based and facility-based standards (e.g., 1 playground per 500 residents; 1 sports field per 5,000), reviewed every 5 years.

- **Policy 2.1.2**

The County shall develop individual park plans...

Develop park master plans for each impact fee district, informed by user surveys, population projections, and recreational trends.

- **Policy 2.1.3**

Coordinate with FDOT, FDEP, and FWC when siting or expanding waterfront or environmentally sensitive recreation sites.

- **Policy 2.1.4**

Maintain a Parks & Recreation Capital Improvements Program (CIP) updated annually to address deficiencies and underserved areas.

- **Policy 2.1.5**

The County shall review alternate means to find funding...

Pursue funding from grants, mobility fees, public-private partnerships, and philanthropic sources.

- **Policy 2.1.6**

Establish ongoing public engagement through surveys and workshops to identify community recreation priorities.

- **Policy 2.1.7**

The County shall develop and encourage civic engagement and volunteer opportunities...

Encourage civic engagement through volunteer programs, adopt-a-park initiatives, and nonprofit partnerships.

Open Space Preservation

Objective 2.2

The County shall provide that adequate open space areas are preserved to satisfy population growth.

Protect and enhance open spaces to conserve scenic landscapes, preserve rural/agricultural heritage, and provide passive recreation opportunities.

- **Policy 2.2.1** Collaborate with state, regional, and federal agencies to acquire and manage open space and conservation lands.

- **Policy 2.2.2** Integrate open space into PUDs and Conservation Subdivisions, ensuring connectivity to greenways.

- **Policy 2.2.3** Protect and highlight scenic byways, heritage corridors, and viewsheds.

- **Policy 2.2.4** Support eco-tourism and low-impact recreation in open spaces.

Private & Public Sector Coordination

Objective 2.3

The County shall require, during development planning stage, adequate park and open space facilities.

Ensure new development contributes to usable recreation and open space.

- **Policy 2.3.1** Require residential development to provide usable open space, excluding stormwater/drainage areas unless designed for dual-use.

- **Policy 2.3.2** Encourage mixed-use developments to integrate civic spaces and trails.

- **Policy 2.3.3** Provide impact fee credits for developer-built parks that meet county standards.

- **Policy 2.3.4** Require perpetual maintenance of privately held recreation/open space areas.

Access & Equity

Objective 2.4

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

Guarantee equitable access to recreational resources for all residents, regardless of age, income, or location.

- **Policy 2.4.1** Maintain universal design and ADA compliance for all county recreation facilities.
- **Policy 2.4.2** Expand and maintain public shoreline access to rivers, lakes, and the Gulf of Mexico.
- **Policy 2.4.3** Provide water access facilities (boat ramps, kayak launches) at a standard of 1 per 5,000 residents.
- **Policy 2.4.4** Implement countywide recreation signage and wayfinding.

Trails & Connectivity

Objective 2.5

The County shall maintain a Trails Master Plan for all residents and tourists.

Develop and maintain an interconnected system of regional trails, greenways, and blueways to support recreation, tourism, and mobility.

- **Policy 2.5.1** Maintain a Trails & Blueways Master Plan, prioritizing connections between communities, parks, schools, and state/regional networks.
- **Policy 2.5.2** Seek funding through MPO prioritization, SUN Trail program, and public-private partnerships.
- **Policy 2.5.3** Ensure multi-modal integration, including bike/pedestrian routes, equestrian trails, and canoe/kayak routes.
- **Policy 2.5.4** Prioritize trail projects that connect underserved areas and promote active living.