



## RECREATION & OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

- GOAL: 8.1 **Sufficient Parks And Recreational Facilities to Satisfy the Recreational Needs Of Manatee County Residents For All Types Of Recreational Activities.**
- Objective: 8.1.1 **Level of Service:** Maintain a park and recreation system consistent with the following level of service standards and with the performance measures contained in Table 8-1 (located at the end of this element).
- Policy: 8.1.1.1 Provide for parks according to the following park facilities infrastructure standard:
- One local park per 5,000 residents
  - One district park per 300,000 residents
  - One regional park per 500,000 residents where residents are calculated for unincorporated Manatee County.
- Policy: 8.1.1.2 Locate new local parks where they are needed.
- Implementation Mechanism:
- a) New local parks shall be located in deficient impact fee areas as identified on Map 8-A (located at the end of this element) and spaced three (3) miles, whenever possible, from existing parks.
- Policy: 8.1.1.3 Provide new, renewal, and replacement recreational facilities to meet or maintain adopted performance measures as funding becomes available (see also Policies 5.4.1.2 and 5.4.2.2).

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Implementation Mechanism(s):

- a) Parks and Recreation Department priority consideration of deficient public recreation facilities, and require renewal or replacement when upgrading existing parks or developing new parks, based on Table 8-1.
- b) Parks and Recreation Department application, where appropriate, for any grants or other revenues to assist in achieving or maintaining adopted performance measures.

Objective: 8.1.2

**Provision of Public Parks:** Ensure funding and coordination with appropriate agencies for adequate parks provision to ensure that parks are provided which serve area users in the most economical way.

Policy: 8.1.2.1

Commit financial resources, as necessary, to fund the development and maintenance of recreational facilities.

Implementation Mechanism(s):

- a) Commit local government financial resources to provide additional revenues (i.e., those not provided by impact fees) necessary to fund the development and maintenance of recreational facilities needed to meet the parks level of service standards contained within this objective.
- b) Parks and Recreation Department identify and utilize grants from state and federal sources to help fund parks and parks equipment to meet adopted level of service standards.
- c) Manatee County partner with municipalities as appropriate to provide, maintain, and upgrade County-maintained recreational facilities inside or serving municipalities.

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Policy: 8.1.2.2 Continue coordination with the Manatee County School Board regarding joint use of facilities, maintenance, and site acquisition/facilities planning for development and improvement of parks in Manatee County.

Implementation Mechanism(s):

- a) Continued coordination of facility planning activities between the Planning Department and the Manatee County School Board to utilize existing and future school sites for parks.
- b) Coordination between the Planning Department and the Manatee County School Board to identify existing school sites which have the potential to be improved to local or district park status. The Parks and Recreation Department will work towards upgrading such sites to meet local neighborhood needs. (See also policies and objectives under Goal 2.13.)
- c) Use of the adopted Park Conceptual Site Plans to guide land acquisition decisions and park development.

Policy: 8.1.2.3 Conduct a needs assessment study by 2008 to determine what facilities and programs are needed to meet the changing recreational needs of residents of the County and to determine if the current level of service standards and performance measures adequately reflect the recreational needs of County residents. Funding needs and methods shall be included as part of the study.

Policy: 8.1.2.4 Adopt, as feasible, any recommendations from the needs assessment study which may require amendments to the existing Level of Service Standards, Performance Measures, or the Impact Fee Ordinance.

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Policy: 8.1.2.5 Consider existing and planned park facilities and the need for recreational facilities when planning for greenway corridors.

Objective: 8.1.3 **New Development:** Ensure sufficient park facilities are available to support new residential development to ensure that new development does not negatively impact quality of life.

Policy: 8.1.3.1 Require the issuance of a Certificate of Level of Service Compliance for all new residential development.

Implementation Mechanism:

- a) All new residential development shall be reviewed against parks Level of Service Standards contained in Objective 8.1.1 to ensure that parks are available concurrent with the impacts of such residential development.

Policy: 8.1.3.2 Allow the issuance of a Certificate of Level of Service Compliance for residential development only where such development meets its own recreational needs for at least local parks, if located in an area of noncompliance with the adopted level of service standards. Noncompliance shall exist where:

- 1) A need exists for at least one more local, district or regional park than the number of parks currently available, as determined by applying the most current annual population estimate to the level of service standards contained in policy 8.1.1.1, and
- 2) No local parks are scheduled for completion in the current year or the following fiscal year, and no district or regional parks are scheduled for completion within the Capital Projects List of the Capital Improvements Element.

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Implementation Mechanism:

- a) Planning Department annual recalculation of level of service compliance or noncompliance consistent with this policy.

Policy: 8.1.3.3

Establish one or more local funding sources to be used solely for the development of additional parks as they are needed as a result of new residential development.

Implementation Mechanism(s):

- a) Adopt, as feasible, any recommendations from the needs assessment study which may require amendments to the existing County impact fee regulations.
- b) Identify and implement other funding sources as necessary to supplement impact fees.

Policy: 8.1.3.4

Continue the impact fee credit system used by the Planning Department while exploring other incentives to encourage private sector provision of park lands, facilities, and improvements.

Implementation Mechanism(s):

- a) Continue the adopted program of using minimum thresholds of development to determine eligibility for impact fee credits to ensure that privately provided parks meet, but do not exceed, need, based on adopted standards. Private parks which exceed level of service park requirements are not eligible for impact fee credits or other incentives. Any "excess" park area provided by the developer is considered to have its own benefit to the developer.
- b) Retain land development regulations which

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implement these requirements to ensure the public or private maintenance of any parks provided under this incentive policy.

GOAL: 8.2 **Multi-modal and Other Appropriate Public Access to All Recreational Facilities, Including Saltwater and Freshwater Beaches and Shores.**

Objective: 8.2.1 **Public Access:** Provide appropriate public access for residents of all ages and physical abilities and ensuring compatibility with natural resource protection to allow all residents the opportunity to enjoy these recreational resources.

Policy: 8.2.1.1 Maintain and, where feasible, increase the quantity and quality of public beach and shoreline access points in Manatee County through acquisition, interlocal agreements with public and private landowners, and through coastal shoreline land donations.

Implementation Mechanism(s):

- a) Coordination between the Manatee County Government and the State to:
  - ensure continued accessibility to existing beach access points owned/operated by the County or the State, and
  - encourage the provision of public access to any additional shoreline acquired by County, State, or by federal agencies, where such access is consistent with applicable local, state or federal objectives and requirements.
  
- b) Coordination between County Departments to consider public access facilities (e.g., boat ramps and hiking trails) during review of any development project located on a major water

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body (see Table 8-1).

- c) County Departments to work with private landowners to encourage the donation of suitable shoreline areas and/or agreements for public access.

Policy: 8.2.1.2 Coordinate with state and federal agencies to ensure waterfront access on causeways and bridges.

Implementation Mechanism:

- a) Departments of Transportation, Parks & Recreation and Planning will coordinate activities with state and federal Departments of Transportation for inclusion of Public Access areas.

Policy: 8.2.1.3 Limit vehicular access to publicly and privately owned shoreline areas to designated parking and boat launch areas except for maintenance and natural resource enhancement/restoration activities.

Implementation Mechanism:

- a) Planning Department review of development orders and management plans for shoreline areas for consistency with this policy.

Policy: 8.2.1.4 Continue to design and develop all public parks in Manatee County such that they are accessible to the handicapped and elderly, consistent with natural resource protection.

Implementation Mechanism:

- a) Provide handicapped parking and barrier-free access to all park facilities.

Policy: 8.2.1.5 Require all shoreline public access to be designed

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consistent with environmental resource protection.

Implementation Mechanism:

- a) Parks and Recreation, Planning, and Environmental Management Departments coordination to develop a management plan for all public shoreline access areas.

Objective: 8.2.2

**Multi-Modal Access:** Provide opportunities for a variety of access methods including connections to other recreational facilities, destinations, or points of interest to reduce dependence on motorized vehicles and promote non-vehicular recreational opportunities.

Policy: 8.2.2.1

Increase opportunities for Manatee County residents and visitors to use alternate forms of transportation to access public recreational facilities, especially in the WO and CSVA Overlay Districts.

Implementation Mechanism(s):

- a) Consider separate bicycle and pedestrian accessways for local parks, where feasible, multi-use trail connections between district and regional parks, and bicycle racks at recreation sites as determined by the Conservation Lands Management and the Parks and Recreation Department.
- b) Coordination between the Parks and Recreation and Planning Departments to consider the location of public recreational facilities along current or planned mass transit routes to increase the recreation opportunities of the transportation disadvantaged.

Policy: 8.2.2.2

Utilize recreational facilities as trailheads as appropriate, or provide access to, multi-use trail corridors. [See policies under Objective 3.3.3]

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Implementation Mechanism:

- a) Coordination between the County Departments, State and Federal Agencies, and private development to include trailheads where the multi-use trail network, as identified in the Manatee County Greenways and Trails Master Plan, as amended, to access the trail network.

GOAL: 8.3 **Available Natural Resource Areas to Meet the Need for Quiet Passive Enjoyment of Natural Resources, Hunting, Relaxation and Enjoyment of Tranquil, Open Green Spaces.**

Objective: 8.3.1 **Conservation and Open Space:** Protect Conservation and open space lands from incompatible uses to maintain the function and value of open space lands as habitat for wildlife, promote unique communities, and for passive recreation.

Policy: 8.3.1.1 Preserve the following areas as common open space and encourage use of these areas for passive recreation, where such recreation is compatible and feasible:

- conservation easements within private development;
- significant habitat of threatened and endangered species;
- jurisdictional wetland areas and any associated setbacks; and
- species management areas for Species of Special Concern.

Implementation Mechanism:

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- a) Planning Department review of public and private development to identify common open space areas and encourage passive recreation.

Policy: 8.3.1.2

Identify and evaluate the following undeveloped lands for acquisition for use as public areas suitable for passive recreation consistent with public access and natural resource protection:

- areas adjacent to bays, rivers, lakes, the Gulf of Mexico, and
- representative areas of upland or coastal habitat.

Implementation Mechanism:

- a) See Implementation Mechanism listed under policy 8.2.1.1.
  - 1) Utilization of Environmental Lands Management and Acquisition Committee (ELMAC).

Policy: 8.3.1.3

Consider ranked properties and criteria developed by the Environmental Lands Management and Acquisition Committee (ELMAC), during the acquisition or improvement of shoreline property by Manatee County and other state and federal agencies.

Objective: 8.3.2

**Recreational Use of Public Lands:** Increase the utilization of public lands within the WO and CSVA districts and in other areas for compatible recreation, education, and open space activities to maintain pervious area and natural vegetative areas that aid in filtration of pollutants.

Policy: 8.3.2.1

Encourage the use of publicly owned land for passive recreational opportunities and multi-use trails while

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managing the natural resources on such lands.

Implementation Mechanism(s):

- a) Coordination with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and other state and regional agencies to facilitate the use of state or other available funds to develop appropriate recreational resources on land used by Manatee County, particularly within the WO and CSVA overlay districts.
- b) Coordination between the Utilities Operations Department, Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Conservation Lands Management, and the Parks and Recreation Department, as appropriate, to provide for the recreational use of public lands, particularly within the WO and CSVA overlays.

Policy: 8.3.2.2

Limit recreational uses on public lands located within the WO overlay district to passive and low-intensity recreational uses, and outdoor firing and archery ranges. (See also Obj. 2.3.4.)

Implementation Mechanism:

- a) Conditional uses within the WO shall be subject to criteria/standards for mitigating impacts as defined in the Manatee County Land Development Regulations.

Policy: 8.3.2.3

Propagate and manage appropriate game and non-game species on suitable public lands for the purpose of managed recreational opportunities. Management and recreation shall be accomplished to ensure continued viability of these species.

- a) Conservation Lands Management and Parks

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and Recreation Departments' development of management plans for public lands with input from the Environmental Lands Management and Acquisition Committee.

- b) Coordination between the Manatee County Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Environmental Management, Conservation Lands Management, and Parks and Recreation, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Florida State Division of Forestry to achieve policy compliance.

Policy: 8.3.2.4

Promote sensitive recreational use of the resources of Sarasota and Tampa Bays through increased public and user awareness of these unique resources.

Implementation Mechanism(s):

- a) Environmental Management and Planning Departments shall continue to provide educational programs regarding natural resource protection.
- b) Planning Department review and comment on development proposals to ensure compatible recreational use in compliance with this policy.
- c) Coordinate with the West Coast Inland Navigation District.
- d) Coordinate with the Tampa Bay Buffer Preserve and Aquatic Buffer Preserve projects managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
- e) County continue Paddle Manatee blueway efforts.

GOAL: 8.4

**Implementation of the Greenways and Trails Master Plan, as Amended, to Provide for the Alternative Transportation and Recreational Needs of the**

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**Community in a Sensitive Manner, Which Is Safe, Efficient, Economical and Environmentally Sound.**

Objective: 8.4.1      **Greenways Map:** Maintain a Greenways Map in the Greenways and Trails Master Plan, as amended, as the guiding document for development of a multi-use trails network.

Policy: 8.4.1.1      Develop a framework of multi-use trails that connect activity centers, major employment centers and residential areas throughout Manatee County.

Implementation Mechanism(s):

- a) Update as needed, by the Conservation Lands Management and the Planning Departments, of the Greenways Map consistent with this policy.

Policy: 8.4.1.2      Develop a framework of multi-use trails that facilitate inter-neighborhood movement, connections to schools and reduce circuitous travel and congestion.

Implementation Mechanism(s):

- a) Update as needed, by the Conservation Lands Management and the Planning Departments of the Greenways Map consistent with this policy.

Policy: 8.4.1.3      Develop a framework of multi-use trails that provide connections to conservation lands, public and private parks, and historic and cultural sites, and other uses, as determined by Manatee County.

Implementation Mechanism:

- a) Update as needed, by the Conservation Lands Management and the Planning Departments of the Greenways Map consistent with this policy.

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Objective: 8.4.2      **Multi-Use Trails Performance Standards:** Utilize design standards in Greenways Master Plan or other recognized acceptable standard to ensure the proper functioning of the trail system.

Policy: 8.4.2.1      Private residential and nonresidential development shall be encouraged to provide access to the trails system.

Policy: 8.4.2.2      Private development adjacent to proposed trails identified in the Greenways Master Plan are encouraged to integrate the trail into the development plan.

Policy: 8.4.2.3      Locate and design multi-use trails and associated improvements therein, to minimize impacts on environmental assets.

Implementation Mechanism:

- a) County Departments review of proposed multi-use trail projects for compliance with this policy, and coordination with state and federal jurisdictional agencies as necessary.

Table 8-1

**Recreation Facilities Performance Measures**

<b>Resource/Facility</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Adopted Measure (1) (Units/Resident Pop.)</b>
Bicycle Trail	Miles	1/10,000
Accessible Hiking Trail	Miles	1/10,000
Fitness Trail with Parcourse Stations	Miles	1/50,000 <sup>(2)</sup>
Fishing Piers	Feet	800'/10,000
Boat Ramps	Lanes	1/7,500 <sup>(3)</sup>
Swimming Pools	Pools	1/50,000
Basketball Goals	Goals	1/5,000 <sup>(3)</sup>
Handball/Racquetball Courts	Courts	1/20,000
Shuffleboard Courts	Courts	1/10,000
Tennis Courts	Courts	1/3,000 <sup>(3)</sup>
Baseball/Softball Field	Fields	1/6,000
Football/Soccer Fields	Fields	1/15,000
Gun/Archery Range	Stations	1/6,000 <sup>(4)</sup>
Golf Course	Holes	9/25,000
Beaches	—	Subject to Natural Constraints

Footnotes:

- (1) Performance measures were generally derived from state standards. However, some measures were modified by Manatee County Parks and Recreation Department to reflect local recreation needs.
- (2) Source: Manatee County Parks and Recreation Department.
- (3) Source: Manatee County Parks and Recreation.
- (4) Source: National Recreation and Park Association.