

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

Goal 3.1: Ensure sufficient parks, recreation facilities, and open space areas to satisfy the recreational needs of the existing and future citizens and visitors of the City of Inverness.

Level of Service

Objective 3.1.1: Achieve and maintain the level of service standards for parkland and recreational facilities.

Policy 3.1.1.1: The City shall construct new parks as necessary to resolve future deficiencies relative to the adopted level of service standards for parks and recreational facilities.

Policy 3.1.1.2: The City shall adopt and annually update a survey to determine age, place of residence, and recreational facility preferences of potential users to help determine recreational need by areas of the City.

Coordination

Objective 3.1.2: Coordinate with governmental agencies for the efficient provision of parks and recreational facilities.

Policy 3.1.2.1: The City shall coordinate with federal, state, and county agencies in the development of management plans for open space, preserves, and reserves for Conservation and Recreation Land programs to serve the residents of Inverness.

Maintenance

Objective 3.1.3: Provide for the long term maintenance of the City's parks and recreational facilities.

Policy 3.1.3.1: The City will establish and maintain accurate inspection records of existing conditions of park areas within the City.

Policy 3.1.3.2: The City shall establish an annual budget for maintenance of park areas based on a priority scheduling.

Policy 3.1.3.3: The City shall prepare plans for parks and recreational facilities that meet the needs of all age groups within the city limits.

Policy 3.1.3.4: The City Council shall appoint an advisory committee to assist in the evaluation and coordination of existing recreation programs and make recommendations for sites for future recreational opportunities.

Access

Objective 3.1.4: Provide public access to all existing and future public recreation facilities, including freshwater beaches and shores, through the end of the planning period.

Policy 3.1.4.1: The City shall maintain the current level of recreational services offered to the elderly (including shuffleboard courts, and arts and crafts as presently offered at Whispering Pines Park Recreation Building).

Policy 3.1.4.2: The City of Inverness Parks and Recreation Department will promote and continue to manage a regular recreation schedule aimed at the needs of the elderly.

Public Information

Objective 3.1.5: Inform City residents of the recreational opportunities available in the City.

Policy 3.1.5.1: Through educational programs and publications, the City of Inverness Parks and Recreation Department shall inform the public of all available park areas, their locations, and services offered.

Policy 3.1.5.2: The City of Inverness Parks and Recreation Department shall provide information and scheduling on upcoming recreational events to local newspaper agencies for public information as a service to the community.

Policy 3.1.5.3: The City of Inverness Parks and Recreation Department shall provide local schools with information on recreational activities offered by the City.

Policy 3.1.5.4: The City shall coordinate with the Citrus County School Board to utilize the existing athletic facilities.

Funding

Objective 3.1.6: Provide funding for development and long term maintenance of the City's parks and recreational facilities.

Policy 3.1.6.1: With increased usage of the City's parks and recreation facilities by the Citrus County School Board, agreements between the two entities shall be made to provide financial assistance to the City of Inverness Parks and Recreation Department budget.

Policy 3.1.6.2: The City will seek financial assistance for recreation facilities through grants and the general fund.

Policy 3.1.6.3: The City shall annually review the Parks and Recreation Department's expenditures and revenues to determine financial need.

Policy 3.1.6.4: The City shall continue to improve public access to fresh water fishing areas as a means of increasing revenue based recreation facilities.

Policy 3.1.6.5: The City shall provide an on-going maintenance program for its park system.

Policy 3.1.6.6: The City shall raise revenues for the maintenance program for its park system.

Open Space

Objective 3.1.7: Protection of lands identified as open space from incompatible land uses and maintenance of the function and value of such lands as resources for passive recreation.

Policy 3.1.7.1: The subdivision regulations within the Inverness Land Development Regulations will ensure that new development is mitigated around open space areas so that adverse fiscal impact will not result.

Policy 3.1.7.2: The City staff will continually investigate and utilize state and federal funding programs to enhance and acquire additional open space and recreational land areas.

Policy 3.1.7.3: The City shall continue to implement regulations in the Inverness Land Development Regulations which restricts private development within the Open Space land use category on the Future Land Use Map.

Policy 3.1.7.4: The City shall maintain specific open space definitions and standards addressing protection of open space and waterways in the Inverness Land Development Regulations.

Policy 3.1.7.5: Uses permitted in the Open Space/Recreational land use category on the Future Land Use Map shall not exceed an impervious surface ratio of 0.70 for active recreation sites. Areas designated as Open Space shall be protected from incompatible land uses and shall be used for passive recreation or conservation purposes so as to achieve Recreation and Open Space Element Objective 3.1.7.