



PUTNAM COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

EXHIBIT FF

RECREATION & OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

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F. Recreation and Open Space Element Goals, Objectives and Policies

GOAL F.1: Putnam County, through meeting established levels of service, shall ensure the provision of sufficient parks and recreational facilities to meet the needs of the County's citizens and visitors.

Objective F.1.1: The County shall improve public access to all County recreational facilities listed on Table F-1 through implementing the following policies.

Policy F.1.1.1: The County shall implement a program to acquire and develop rights-of-way for access to public parks and facilities where it is shown that deficiencies exist. The County Commission shall assign the Recreation Department the responsibility to identify access deficiencies to public parks and facilities. Upon the identification of access needs, the Recreation Department shall determine ownership of property and property values for land needed to improve existing access.

Policy F.1.1.2: The County shall review the availability of parking at parks and recreation facilities within the County, including public boat ramps and other recreational facilities within the County. The County will then establish a strategy to correct existing deficiencies and work with responsible agencies to establish parking levels of service for various recreational facilities/sites based upon the average daily use of each facility.

Policy F.1.1.3: The County shall ensure that the County recreational facilities shall be accessible to the handicapped and the elderly through proper design and continued maintenance.

Policy F.1.1.4: The County will continue to coordinate with the Putnam County School District to establish interlocal agreements to address public use of school recreational facilities after school hours and the co-location of schools and County - owned and maintained recreational facilities.

Policy F.1.1.5: The County shall work with state and federal agencies to identify and correct access deficiencies and promote awareness of resource-based recreational facilities.

Policy F.1.1.6: The County will ensure public access to public recreation sites and public water bodies through acquisition of land and the provision of facilities such as parking, boat ramps, canoe launches, docks, walkways and bicycle and pedestrian ways.

Objective F.1.2: The County shall coordinate with other public agencies and private organizations, corporations, and individuals to use all available and potential land resources to meet recreational needs.

Policy F.1.2.1: The County shall implement the directives of this Comprehensive Plan that provides incentives for new development to provide recreational facilities and open space to satisfy the demand created by new development. Guidelines and incentives for the provision of additional recreation and open space facilities are included in Future Land Use Element. Concurrency requirements of the Land Development Regulations will be utilized for the provision of additional recreation and open space components.

Policy F.1.2.2: The County shall continue to work with local civic groups in sponsoring recreational activities for the county's youth and elderly citizens.

Policy F.1.2.3: Wherever possible, the County shall coordinate its recreational plans with local private/civic groups to ensure that the greatest benefit is derived from County recreational funding.

Policy F.1.2.4: The County will work with state and federal agencies and other groups to explore the possibility of grants, matching funds, contributions, joint-use agreements, sharing of facilities, leasing of land, and volunteer labor which will further the goal of providing a comprehensive park system that properly meets the needs of the County.

Policy F.1.2.5: The County will enter into interlocal agreements or other such cooperative efforts with the School District, the municipalities, regional agencies, and the state and federal governments to enhance park and recreational facilities, trail networks and programs.

Policy F.1.2.6: The County shall coordinate with federal, state and other agencies and nonprofit organizations to further the completion of the Florida National Scenic Trail.

Policy F.1.2.7: The County will expand and diversify the types and amount of recreational programs and activities.

Objective F.1.3.1: The County shall continue to ensure that parks and recreational facilities are adequately and efficiently provided.

Policy F.1.3.1: The County shall ensure that there are sufficient park lands to meet adopted levels of service in accordance with its Concurrency Management System.

Policy F.1.3.2 The County shall adopt an overall parkland (Community, Neighborhood, Mini-Park, and Special-Use Facilities combined) level of service of 1 acre per 500 persons. The County will consider the following **guidelines** for the provision of recreational facilities:

-Boat Ramps:	One lane per 3,700 persons
-Baseball/softball fields:	One field per 3,500 persons
-Football/soccer fields:	One field per 8,500 persons
-Basketball goals:	One goal per 3,800 persons
-Tennis Courts:	One court per 7,000 persons
-Equipped play area:	One area per 8,500 persons
-Picnic Areas:	One table per 6,000 persons
-Swimming Pool:	One pool per 50,000 persons
-Community Center:	One building per 60,000 persons
-Bicycling Trails:	One mile of trail per 5,000 persons
-Hiking Trails:	One mile of trail per 5,000 persons

Policy F.1.3.3: The County shall improve any existing deficiencies in parks and recreation facilities through budgeting for such improvements in its 5-year Schedule of Capital Improvements.

Policy F.1.3.4: Where of mutual benefit, as determined by the participating jurisdictions, the County shall enter into interlocal agreements with local municipalities and adjacent counties to meet the recreational needs of Putnam County residents.

Policy F.1.3.5: Designated public open space/recreational lands shall be identified in the Future Land Use Element and on the Future Land Use Map or map series. These lands shall be protected from adjacent incompatible land uses and development through the adoption and implementation of land development regulations that control land use and density as outlined in the Future Land Use Element.

Policy F.1.3.6: Waterways, including the St. Johns River, are included in the County's inventory of public and private recreational sites.

Objective F.1.4: The County shall assist in the provision of open space by public agencies and private enterprise.

Policy F.1.4.1: The County shall continue to require open space through minimum setback and maximum lot coverage criteria and through incentives for additional open space in its Land Development Code as a prerequisite of development approval.

Policy F.1.4.2: When deemed appropriate by the Board of County Commissioners, the County shall consider the implementation of "Fair Share" exactions as a means of raising revenue to purchase land, construct recreational facilities and/or reserve open space.

Policy F.1.4.3: The County shall support the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce's efforts to encourage cooperation with the private sector in meeting recreational/open space needs of County residents; particularly, those needs that cannot efficiently be provided by the public sector, such as movie theaters, bowling alleys, golf courses and other recreational opportunities.

Objective F.1.5: By 2015, the County will prepare a Parks and Recreation Master Plan that will serve as the long-range policy plan for the County park system.

Policy F.1.5.1: The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will provide an inventory and evaluation of the County's park acreage, type and amount of facilities and general condition of facilities.

Policy F.1.5.2: The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will establish a systematic approach to surveying users of park facilities and other residents of Putnam County as to their needs, desires, preferences and evaluations of park sites, facilities and programs. The results of the user and resident surveys will become an integral part of the parks planning and decision-making process for park sites, facilities and programs.

Policy F.1.5.3: The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will include a management plan component that protects the County's investment in park facilities by recommending a process for proper maintenance and maximizing programs utilizing the park sites and facilities. The management plan component shall also include criteria for prioritizing recreation site and facility improvements after due public notice.

Policy F.1.5.4: The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will include policy regarding the conversion of parklands, access easements and open space to other uses. Such conversions shall be considered only after due public notice and approval granted only for an overriding public benefit and consistency with this plan.

Policy F.1.5.5: The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will include a prioritization of capital improvements that will be coordinated with and included in the County's Five Year Schedule of Capital Improvements.

Objective F.1.6: Level of Service Updates. The County shall review and, if necessary, update the Parks level of service standards annually.

Policy F.1.6.1: Putnam County, as part of its capital improvements planning process, will evaluate the level of service standards for parks and recreation facilities.

Policy F.1.6.2: The County shall conduct a citizen survey every five (5) years to assess use of existing facilities and recreation preferences.

Policy F.1.6.3: Minimum land requirements needed to comply with the above LOS standard shall be monitored and evaluated at least once a year through the County's Concurrency Management System. Procedures for monitoring the LOS shall be included within this system.

Objective F.1.7: Park Maintenance. The County shall maintain and improve all County parks in a manner that is consistent with the recreation needs of the County residents, and maximizing the potential of individual features.

Policy F.1.7.1: The County's parks and recreational facilities shall be renovated and/ or upgraded as needed to provide improved recreational opportunities.

Policy 1.7.2: The County shall continue to maintain existing lights for evening recreation activities.

Policy F.1.7.3: The County shall maintain an inventory of the location, size, condition and amenities available at each public park. This inventory shall be upgraded every year.