

Comprehensive Plan

PARKS and RECREATION ELEMENT

Prepared for
The City of Deltona

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OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Recreation and Open Space Element is to identify a comprehensive recreation and open space plan and program for the City of Deltona. This Element inventoried existing conditions and evaluated appropriate park sites, recreation areas, facilities, and open space systems. The existing system of parks includes both public and private sites for a wide range of recreation activities. This Element presents appropriate strategies to develop a comprehensive outdoor parks and recreation system.

This Element offers standards to improve existing recreation areas and identify deficiencies in open space and recreational facilities. These standards are intended to establish and meet future needs and improve the quality of life for the residents of the City of Deltona. The Recreation and Open Space Element also identifies outdoor recreation and open space areas for acquisition and development.

The overall goal of this Element is to develop a system of local community parks. Local parks are intended to be located and developed within urbanizing areas to encourage pedestrian access and to minimize vehicular trips. The development of these outdoor recreation areas will result from the implementation strategy of coordinating public and private resources to ensure that available resources and programs are utilized to their full potential. District parks are intended to provide activities and opportunities that rely on the natural resources that exist along the lakes, conservation areas or land-based outdoor areas that provide active or resource-based activities.

The open space system includes resources that can be defined as undeveloped land suitable for passive recreation and/or conservation uses. Variations in open space are classified by function and should be integrated with the Future Land Use Map and Conservation Element.

Park Land Inventory

Virtually all parks within the City of Deltona had been provided and maintained by Volusia County. The City now has ownership and maintenance responsibilities.

Presently, there are approximately 300 acres of park land in the City. Approximately 113 acres are developed, primarily as neighborhood parks. In addition to these recreation facilities, the City and the School Board also have an interlocal agreements to use school recreation facilities during non-school hours. There are presently ten (10) public schools in Deltona with over 300 recreation acres. The County maintains approximately 200 acres of Scrub Jay management habitat in an area known as "Section 16." This scrub jay management habitat is used as mitigation for County projects that impact other scrub jay habitat. There are several hiking trails in and through the management area. City, school and "Section 16" acreage combine for over 800 acres and open space and recreation.

Tables 6-1 and 6-2 inventory of the local recreational opportunities. Parks and Recreation Map 6-1, graphically displays the county parks and school site locations.

The 1995 City population, 56,404 and the 113 acres of developed park land equates to 2 acres per 1,000 persons. When school board property is factored in, the level of service for parks is 7.5 acres per 1,000 population.

Parks are a high priority of the residents. This was evident as part of the vision process plan and earlier planning efforts where local residents participated in a public survey. In 1992, the County worked with local residents to identify needs and set goals for the community's park system. Based upon these meetings and other identified needs, the goals, objectives, and policies of this element address the following issues:

- Public access;
- Coordination of public/private resources;
- Provision of park facilities;
- Designating and acquiring open space;
- Levels of service standards for recreation; and
- Identify and resolve deficiencies (if any).

SPECIAL DELTONA PARKS PLAN

Deltona Community goals process, a key historic planning project for local recreation facilities was the "Deltona Community Goals Process, Final Task Force Reports" in May, 1992. This report was accepted by both the Deltona Municipal Services (MSD Advisory Committee) Board and the Volusia County Council in 1992. The goals included seven specific recommendations on the subject of recreation. These recommendations addressed the following issues:

- Opening separate community centers, one for adults/seniors and one for teens/youth.
- Distributing more information on this subject to Deltona residents.
- Survey Deltona residents about current and future recreation needs.
- Scheduling of activities for ball fields and providing open land for "sand-lot" fields.
- Temporarily modify County regulatory standards to facilitate the accelerated development of recreation facilities.
- Sponsoring community-wide programs.
- Promoting greater accessibility and joint use of all recreation facilities: public and private.

The purpose of this planning effort was to address the recommendations contained in the goals document which related directly or indirectly to parks and recreation in Deltona. Special emphasis was given to addressing the issue of an urbanized level of service for parks and recreation. The overall purpose of this document is to help move the community of Deltona forward with achieving their long-term desire to have urbanized service levels for parks and recreation. This long-term desire and vision must be balanced with the community's reluctance to raise property taxes at this time to achieve such a goal. Therefore, this section emphasizes in

several places including its long-term vision statement that achieving this ultimate vision will be a slow and deliberate process that may take many years.

It was the County's intention to support the Deltona (at the time) Municipal Service District (MSD) to achieve these guidelines. The guidelines themselves were to have no bearing on the County's Local Park Impact Fee Ordinance or in its concurrency management system until a County-wide review is scheduled.

This planning process started in earnest when the Planning and Land Development Regulation Commission (PLDRC) recommended a work program be initiated for a Deltona Parks and Recreation plan developed by County staff. The program was supported by the Deltona MSD (advisory) Board and its Parks Advisory Committee in August of 1992. The Volusia County Council approved this work program in September, 1992, and directed staff to begin the project with the Deltona MSD Board. County staff had its first meeting with the Deltona MSD Board in October, 1992. The MSD Board delegated much of the technical participation to their Parks Advisory Committee at that initial October meeting.

County staff met with either the Committee or the MSD Board with more than a dozen meetings over a nine month period. This process emphasized intensive public participation estimated to be over 300 hundred persons through the use of screening surveys for focus groups, focus group discussions, intercept surveys, and two formal public workshops.

The implementation of the "Joint Use Agreement" with the Volusia County School Board has been an initial success as many organizations are utilizing school facilities in Deltona. The public participation process confirmed the high degree of support this program has in the community.

Parks Plan Implementation

The implementation of the parks plan is as follows:

Our long term vision for Deltona Parks and Recreation is:

- We envision a successful parks and recreation system for Deltona which provides a full service leisure time program including a comprehensive range of recreation and cultural facilities, programs, and activities for all age and demographic groups including the physically challenged; serving families and individuals in informal recreation as well as providing excellent facilities and a supportive environment for organized sports programs.

A system of excellence in parks and recreation for the Community of Deltona depends on a two part foundation. These two parts consist of:

- Full public access and continuing joint utilization of recreational facilities of the Volusia County School Board to serve the leisure time needs of Deltona during non-school hours.
- An attractive, safe, well maintained system of neighborhood and local parks that are oriented toward family, individual and informal recreation and cultural activities, and that selectively provide practice areas for team sports and are easily accessible for the residents of Deltona.

The development of a parks and recreation system of excellence should be done incrementally and accomplished as a long term goal. The incremental steps can be accomplished through a myriad of revenue sources and community volunteerism or assistance.

The development of the park system should establish short term goals or missions (5 years) for Deltona Parks and Recreation and these should be set up in five increments with the first being:

To complete currently planned projects, to maintain existing park customers and attract new park users by placing a renewed emphasis on the basics including: maintenance, safety and security, improved park appearance and beautification and continually adding enhancement facilities at each developed or developing park. Existing partially developed parks as well as those now under construction or in the design phase shall be developed to incorporate physical, environmental, and social aspects into the design before initiating construction of new parks.

DATA ANALYSIS

The projected population for Deltona is 90,589 by the year 2010 and 114,700 by the year 2020. Based on these projections using the County adopted minimum level of service 2 acres per 1,000 persons, the city would need 181 acres of developed park land by the year 2010 and 229 acres by the year 2020.

The Deltona Parks Plan establishes a goal that Deltona have 3.5 acres per 1,000 residents of developed park land by 2010. This will equate to 317 acres or an increase of 203 acres by 2010. The City would need 401.5 acres of developed park land by 2020.

The amount of park land acreage is also linked to a interlocal agreement with the School Board. The School Board acreage is also used in the level of service acreage calculation. The School Board recreation is calculated at half acreage because of the limited availability of use. Thus there is 254 acres of total School Board acreage including half of Section 16. The City will need to coordinate with the School Board to discuss continued utilization of school facilities.

This would provide a total of 367 acres of developed park land. Based on the population projections and with no further park land improvements. The recreation acreage per 1,000 residents equates to 4 acres per 1,000 persons in 2010 and 3.1 acres per 1,000 by the year 2020. These figures are still above the County minimum level of service.

However, the Deltona Parks Plan has identified acreage needs, facility requirements and specific location needs. The goals, objectives and policies from the Deltona Parks plan provide for timing, acreage needs, location needs and facility needs. The plan has provided for implementation strategies. The plan was prepared through numerous communities meetings and for this reason the Deltona Parks Plan is still considered relevant to the needs of the community. As such, the current and future needs of the City are based on the continuation of that plan. The Deltona Parks Plan is striving for a level of service acreage of 3.5 acres per 1,000 persons by 2010. This standard could be met based upon population projections and existing acreage through the year 2010. Additional park acreage is available for development to meet the level of service standard.

It should be noted that the goals, objectives and policies from the Deltona Parks Plan have been truncated. The intent of the plan, however, has not been diminished.

The City should periodically address park needs and services by amending this plan and City policy as appropriate. The Parks Plan(s) that were completed in 1992 should be updated to incorporate the City's desire to provide and maintain parks.

COMMUNITY VISION

Deltona will develop many new parks and recreational facilities. These facilities will include planned programs for all ages, walking and bicycle paths, and public access to designated lakes, recreation complexes and natural areas.

Vision Workshop Results

Boardwalk path over wetlands

Meandering pedestrian path

Meandering path next to road

Public access to lakes

Good park system

Environment

Great recreation facilities

Natural areas

Recreational complex

**TABLE 6-1
PARK SITES IN DELTONA**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>DEVELOPED/UNDEVELOPED</u>	<u>PARK CLASSIFICATION</u>	
			<u>ACTIVE (A)</u>	<u>PASSIVE (P)</u>
Lake Gleason (Park)	1	Developed	Neighborhood	<u>A</u>
Riverfront	1	Developed	Special Use	A
Vann	24	Developed	Community	A
Deltona Firefighter Memorial	11	Developed	Neighborhood	A
Timber Ridge	4	Developed	Neighborhood	A
Dewey O. Boister	12	Developed	Neighborhood	A
Manny Rodriguez Memorial	6	Developed	Neighborhood	A
Campbell	14	Developed	Neighborhood	A
Wes Crile	14	Developed	Neighborhood	A
Harris B. Saxon	5	Developed	Neighborhood	A
Dwight Hawkins	9	Developed	Neighborhood	A
Dupont Lakes	12	Developed	Neighborhood	A
YMCA	5	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	A
Benrock	5.07	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	A
Silverdale	4.67	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	A
Firwood	3.95	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	A
Geraldine	8.41	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	A
Cooper	3.3	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	A
Belmar	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Arlee	1.94	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	A
Keysville District	14	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	A
Whitewood	1.76	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	A
Pace	11.23	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	A
Rosetta	2.76	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	A
Snook	18.7	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	A
Monument	10.8	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	A
Planter	6.7	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	A
Courtland	8	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	A
Montecito	3.54	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	A
Catalina	7	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	A
Coachman	7.9	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	A
Omaha	5.29	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	A
Elkcam	0.46	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	A
Van Allen	4.76	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	A
Amboy	5.24	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	A
Post	4.16	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	A
Tradewinds	5.62	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	A
Lake Louise	16.63	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	A
Bluefield	3.35	Undeveloped	Neighborhood	A
<u>Salerno</u>	<u>7.28</u>	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>A</u>
<u>Whipple</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>A</u>
Total	300.52			

Source: Volusia County Parks and Recreation Department

Prepared by: Ivey, Harris & Walls, Inc.

TABLE 6-2

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES THROUGH INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

<u>School Sites - Name</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Park Classification</u>
Deltona High	80	Local
Deltona Lakes Elementary	40	Local
Deltona Middle	36	Local
Discovery Elementary	19	Local
Galaxy Middle	30	Local
Pine Ridge High	83	Local
Timber Crest Elementary	20	Local
Friendship Elementary	14	Local
Sunrise Elementary	20	Local
C.C. Middle School	40	Local
Section 16- Scrub Jay Management	200	NA - (passive walking or hiking trails)
Total	<hr/> 582	

Source: Volusia County Parks and Recreation Department

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TABLE 6-3
PARK FACILITIES

PARK SITES IN DELTONA		ACREAGE	BALL FIELDS	BASKET BALL	BOAT RAMP	COMMUNITY BUILDING	TRAIL	FITNESS TRAIL	HORSE SHOES	NATURE TRAIL	PAVILION	PICNIC AREA	PLAY GROUND	RACQUET BALL	REST ROOMS	SHUFFLE BOARD	SOCCER FOOTBALL	VOLLEY BALL	
Lake Gleason (Park)	1	X	X	X							X	X	X						
Vann	24	X	X		X							X	X		X	X			
Deltona Firefighter Memorial	11			X		X						X	X						
Timber Ridge	4	X	X	X		X					X	X	X						
Dewey O. Boster	12	X	X	X			X		X		X	X	X						X
Manny Rodriguez Memorial	6										X	X	X				X		
Campbell	14				X						X	X	X			X	X		X
Wes Crile	14	X	X	X		X					X	X	X	X			X		
Harris B. Saxon	5			X			X				X	X	X			X	X		
Dwight Hawkins	9	X	X	X							X	X	X				X		
Dupont Lakes	12	X	X	X							X	X	X				X		X

Source: Volusia County Parks and Recreation Department

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