



Comprehensive Plan 2009



2.11 RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

Goal: Provide recreation and open space lands and activities for public use.

Objective 1 *The County will identify, ensure preservation of, and provide for the public's access to recreation sites, open spaces, beaches and shores.*

Policy 1.1 The County will maintain or improve existing levels of beach and shore access including access to waterways.

Policy 1.2 The County will maintain public access areas on Okaloosa Island and will pursue acquisition of additional areas where feasible.

Policy 1.3 The County will continue to maintain and improve, as grant funds become available, the county boat launching ramps.

Policy 1.4 The County will continue to install signage identifying public areas and beach access.

Policy 1.5 The County will encourage the establishing of recreation trails to increase, where feasible, opportunities for biking, walking and other forms of outdoor recreation.

Objective 2 *Review, at least annually, the cooperative efforts between the public and private sectors in the provision of recreational opportunities and ensure that such efforts are coordinated.*

Policy 2.1 The County will cooperate with the Tourist Development Council to provide services such as beach cleaning, lifeguards, and recreation programs and events.

Policy 2.2 Entrance fees charged at county parks on Okaloosa Island will be periodically evaluated and modified if necessary to reflect current conditions.

Policy 2.3 The County will continue to cooperate with the FDOT in acquiring the abandoned railroad right-of-way from Crestview to Alabama, to the extent it has not already been acquired, and, upon acquisition of all or part thereof, support the

implementation of improvements needed to four lane Highway 85, develop a multipurpose recreation trail and provide land for future utilities.

Policy 2.4 The Concurrency Review Committee appointed pursuant to Capital Improvements Policy 3.7 shall include within its review efforts an analysis of the cooperation and coordination between the public and private sectors in the provision of recreational opportunities.

Objective 3 *Ensure that parks and recreation facilities and open spaces are adequately and efficiently provided by public agencies and private enterprise to maintain the adopted level of service for recreation.*

Policy 3.1 The level of service standard for recreation for the unincorporated areas of Okaloosa County shall be 0.6 acres of parks per 1000 population.

Policy 3.2 Correct or improve existing deficiencies in parks and recreation facilities. The County shall continue to acquire (through lease, acquisition, or dedication) open space and natural areas so as to maintain and improve:

- a. Recreational opportunities for all residents; and
- b. The natural function of open space, wetlands and other sensitive lands within the County.

Policy 3.3 The following areas are designated as natural reservations to provide open space and recreational uses of all types.

- a. Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park;
- b. Blackwater River State Forest;
- c. Rocky Bayou Aquatic Preserve;
- d. Gulf Island National Seashore;
- e. Portions of Eglin Air Force Base and Hurlburt Field;
- f. Newman Brackin Wayside Park;
- g. John Beasley Park;
- h. Marler Park;
- i. Wayside Park II; and
- j. Okaloosa Island 100' Freeways

Policy 3.4 In addition to open space provided through natural reservations, protected environmental lands, and stormwater management areas, the County shall ensure open space through regulations in the Land Development Code which shall contain requirements for open space in developments by use of landscape and setback regulations.

Policy 3.5 The County shall continue to preserve and protect the beaches and shores of Okaloosa County. This shall be done in part through regulations contained within the Land Development Code.

Policy 3.6 The LDC shall include definitions of open space, parks and recreation facilities.

Policy 3.7 The County will provide within its recreation areas a diverse range of recreational facilities, both active and passive, and educational programs to meet the demands of resident and tourists.