

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

7

CHARTING
PORT ST. LUCIE

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & POLICIES

September 28, 2026

GOAL 7.1. RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

The City shall provide quality recreation and open space facilities offering a broad range of activities, convenient access, appropriate improvements, and sound management to provide all citizens of Port St. Lucie with active and passive recreation opportunities in the interests of personal health, entertainment, and constructive use of leisure time.

OBJECTIVE 7.1.1. RECREATION FACILITIES

The City shall establish mechanisms to provide active and passive recreation facilities and areas to serve current and future residents of Port St. Lucie, as determined by the Parks and Recreation Master Plan so as to comply with the level of service standards set forth by this element and to maintain such compliance in subsequent years.

Policy 7.1.1.1. The City shall maintain the parks LOS standard by utilizing parks impact fees, grant funds, or other public funding sources, as well as gifts, dedications, or contributions, for the purchase and/or development of park sites.

Policy 7.1.1.2. The City shall maintain concurrency management regulations in accordance with adopted LOS standard and definitions related to the provision of recreation and open space.

Policy 7.1.1.3. The level-of-service standard for parks and recreation shall be as follows.

Developed Public Park or Recreation Facilities = 5.0 acres per 1,000 population.

Policy 7.1.1.4. Based on the adopted LOS standards, the City shall document future needs for recreation facilities and correct or improve deficiencies in the City's Capital Improvements Element and capital improvements programs.

OBJECTIVE 7.1.2. FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIPS

Through the use of public funds, gifts and contributions, mandatory fees and/or dedications, and other means the City shall coordinate with other governmental agencies and the private sector to meet the recreation and open space needs of the residents.

Policy 7.1.2.1. The City shall supplement recreation land acquisition and development needs through interlocal agreements and coordination, developer agreements, operational practices, user and impact fees, incentives, and public/private cooperative efforts.

Policy 7.1.2.2. The City shall maintain a detailed inventory of developed public parks and recreation facilities indicating the general location of existing and potential sites and facilities.

Policy 7.1.2.3. RESERVED

Policy 7.1.2.4. Conservation Trust Funds shall only be used for the acquisition and management of upland preserves and the development of passive recreation facilities.

Policy 7.1.2.5. The City shall define open space and enforce preservation and open space design standards through the City's land development code.

Policy 7.1.2.6. RESERVED

Policy 7.1.2.7. The City may preserve existing open space and recreation land by restricting its conversion to other uses and limiting encroachment from other uses.

Policy 7.1.2.8. Encourage development of new parks to ensure all Port St. Lucie residents have access to park and recreational facilities within a maximum three-mile radius.

Policy 7.1.2.9. The City shall encourage passive recreational activities and eco-tourism of natural areas.

Policy 7.1.2.10. The City shall promote partnerships with local arts, cultural, sports, and other nonprofit organizations promote recreational tourism opportunities within the City of Port St. Lucie.

Policy 7.1.2.11. The City shall consider applying for county, state, and federal grants, including but not limited to the St. Lucie County Environmentally Significant Lands (ESL) Program, the Florida Communities' Trust, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program, for conservation land acquisitions.

OBJECTIVE 7.1.3.	**ACCESSIBILITY** The City shall ensure that parks and recreation facilities are reasonably accessible to all users, including people with disabilities, older adults, and those with limited financial means.

Policy 7.1.3.1. Through the site plan review process, the City shall require development to provide access easements or rights-of-way as needed to provide adequate access ways, including beach access where applicable. Such access shall be compatible with the character and needs of the facility, and be harmonious with surrounding development patterns.

Policy 7.1.3.2. The City shall coordinate with St. Lucie County's Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department to negotiate public access to Atlantic Ocean beaches.

Policy 7.1.3.3. The City shall continue to apply inclusive accessibility design standards in the development of new recreation facilities.

Policy 7.1.3.4. The City shall, in cooperation with St. Lucie County and other appropriate transportation providers, work to enhance physical access to park and recreation areas by automobile, bicycle, pedestrian, and public transportation.

Policy 7.1.3.5. The City shall ensure that all recreation facilities are accessible to people with disabilities and older adults through proper design and continued maintenance.

Policy 7.1.3.6. The City may implement consistent wayfinding and educational signage to improve navigation, accessibility, and public awareness of natural, historical, and recreational features in parks and open space.

OBJECTIVE 7.1.4.	COORDINATE WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR To implement park acquisition, construction, maintenance, and preservation plans.

Policy 7.1.4.1. The City will coordinate with the State of Florida to open State-owned lands along the North Fork of the St. Lucie River and the Savannas Preserve State Park. for public access.

Policy 7.1.4.2. The City shall continue to work with the St. Lucie County School Board to provide recreation facilities and programs at schools located in the City through mutual use agreements.

Policy 7.1.4.3. The City shall seek intergovernmental agreements when necessary for joint projects with St. Lucie County in a cooperative effort to provide recreation facilities in the City.

Policy 7.1.4.4. The City shall develop and enhance the City's recreational trail system to tie into St. Lucie County's Greenways and Trails system, the trail system contained in the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan, and the trail system contained in the St. Lucie County TPO SmartMoves 2045 plan.