Element VI - RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT Goals, Objectives, and Policies City of Stuart, Florida Effective April 2002

GOAL STATEMENT A. RECREATION

Provide a system of recreational programs, sites and facilities of appropriate size and design and convenient to the use of participants and that benefit each age group, social and economic group of those who live and work in the City.

Objective A1. - Meeting growing demand—Adequate sites, facilities and programs.

Ensure adequate land, facilities, and programs are available to meet the current and future recreational needs of each age, social and economic group in the City through 2015.

The following policies support this objective:

Policy A1.1. The City shall continually monitor its Community Services Department to determine what programs, facilities and sites should be included in the City's recreational offerings. This ongoing monitoring shall include:

a. Maintenance of an inventory of existing sites, facilities, programs, and program users by age and place of residency or business ownership, as well as user preferences by user type.
b. A determination of whether recreational facilities and programs should be expanded or scaled back.
c. An analysis of capital needs required to maintain the City's recreational LOS, as well as annual updates to the City's five-year Capital Improvements Plan.
d. A determination of non-resident impacts on City recreational facilities and programs and the ways in which these impacts will be off-set by user fees, intergovernmental cost sharing, facilities consolidation, program adjustments, or other means.

Policy A1.2. Maintain lands adequate to meet the community park needs of current and future residents through as measured by adopted recreation level-of-service standards.

Policy A1.3. Continue to implement recreation impact fees as a means to provide adequate recreational capital facilities.

Policy A1.4. A developer who donates community recreation land or builds a needed community recreational facility within the subject development, as defined in the data inventory and analysis portion of this plan, may be given up to 50 percent credit, subject to City Commission approval and consistent with Section 62-70 of the City's Code of Ordinances, against required recreation impact fees if the facility can be used by the general public, provided it meets the needs of the public. This land or facility may be added to the City's inventory of community parks for the purpose of maintaining LOS. A developer's on-site recreational facilities may not be used to offset the impact fee.

Policy A1.5. Recreation impacts of development shall be measured by adopted City level-of-service standards for recreation and parks.

Policy A1.6. Maximize use of State and other governmental funds and private funds to purchase and develop parks and recreational sites and facilities that will maintain or exceed the City's adopted level-of-service standards and/or will increase public access to the waterfront. These shall include:

- Florida Inland Navigational District funds and lands.
- Martin County boating license fees (i.e., for boat ramps).
- Florida Recreation and Development Assistance Program.

Policy A1.7. Cooperate with the Martin County School Board to promote the availability of school recreational facilities outside school hours for general public use.

Policy A1.8. When feasible, fishing areas should be separated from vehicular traffic to protect the safety of both parties.

Policy A1.9. As resources permit, the City shall continue to monitor and pursue opportunities to make more waterfront land available for public recreational use.

Policy A1.10. The recreation level of service standard shall be three acres of developed park land per 1,000 residents. Developed park land includes, but [is] not limited to, improvements such as picnic facilities, restrooms, play courts (e.g., basketball, tennis, volleyball), ball fields (e.g., softball, baseball, football), vest pocket parks, neighborhood parks and ecological parks.

Policy A1.11. The City should investigate the future location of more recreational facilities north of the Roosevelt Bridge.

Policy A1.12. The City should investigate the feasibility of utilizing stormwater utility sites as passive xeriscape parks with limited maintenance.

Policy A1.13. The City shall continue to apply recreation impact fees, which shall be periodically updated as required by ordinance.

Policy A1.14. The City should help in the implementation of the new library and examine alternatives for the reuse of the old library.

(Ord. No. 2205-2010, § 1(Exh. I), 9-27-2010)

Policy A1.20. The City should develop a plan for Flagler Park, Youth Center Park and the redevelopment of the Recreation Center.

Objective A2. - Public access.

Recreational opportunities shall be increased for City residents.

The following policies support this:

Policy A2.1. Preserve public access to water areas by protecting public ownership of street rights-of-way which dead-end at the St. Lucie River. (Accomplished by the City Charter.) *Policy A2.2.* As resources permit, inventory road rights-of-way that dead-end at the waterfront or other permanent barriers, or otherwise those which are not expected to be developed into streets for the purpose of installing pathways.

Policy A2.3. The City will continue to maintain and enhance Riverwalk Project, which provide access to waterfront views and limited fishing opportunities. The following areas shall receive top priority:

1. Along the St. Lucie River from St. Lucie Avenue west to the Florida East Coast Railway property east of the Roosevelt Bridge;
2. From Shepard Park north to the Roosevelt Bridge;
3. A connecting walkway under the proposed Roosevelt Bridge to link the Shepard Park riverwalk to the City Hall riverwalk; and
4. Along creeks, including Poppleton, Frazier, and Kreuger, and drainage areas including the Seventh Street Pond.

Policy A2.4. In the event that a mass transportation system is developed in Martin County,

the City shall promote inclusion of City recreational sites on the system's routes.

Policy A2.5. Encourage mass or public transit alternatives, including the Martin County Council on Aging's transportation-disadvantaged program, that increase the public's access to City recreational facilities.

Policy A2.6. All City parks and recreational facilities shall be accessible to the handicapped and the elderly and shall have handicapped parking spaces and barrier-free entrances and pathways.

(Ord. No. 2205-2010, § 1(Exh. I), 9-27-2010)

Objective A3. - Maintaining existing parks.

The City Recreation and Parks Department will initiate a maintenance program for its facilities.

The following policies support this objective:

Policy A3.1. The City shall amend its adopted recreation level-of-service standards for park land in accordance with Policy A1.1 of this element.

Policy A3.2. Use adequate operating budgets and proper management techniques to preserve and maintain existing parks and recreation facilities.

GOAL STATEMENT B. OPEN SPACE

To maximize the preservation, enjoyment, and accessibility of natural open spaces, especially those along the waterfront.

(Ord. No. 2205-2010, § 1(Exh. I), 9-27-2010)

Objective B1. - [Preservation and increase of open space.]

Maintain or increase the level of publicly owned open space and promote preservation and increase in the level of privately owned open space.

The following policies support this objective:

Policy B1.1. The City's land development regulations will incorporate preservation standards in order to preserve City-owned environmentally sensitive lands. These standards will be based in part on locally determined criteria.

Policy B1.2. (Same as Policy A2.3.) Increase public access to waterfront views and fishing opportunities by developing riverwalks on public and private lands as feasible and as funding becomes available. (Priorities listed in Policy A2.3.)

Policy B1.3. As part of the City's land development regulations, adopt incentives to encourage the provision of open space areas within future developments to preserve views, vistas, and native vegetation (e.g., allowing part of required parking areas to be unpaved, flexibility in site design).