



CITY OF NAPLES
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

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INTRODUCTION:

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element supports the goals, objectives and policies contained in several the other comprehensive plan elements including the five (5) Vision Goals:

1. Preserve the Town's distinctive character and culture
2. Make Naples the Green Jewel of Southwest Florida
3. Maintain an extraordinary quality of life for residents
4. Strengthen the economic health and vitality of the City
5. Maintain and enhance governance capacity for public service and leadership

The intent of this section is to establish goals and objectives to ensure parks, recreation and open space land and facilities are developed and managed to meet the needs of Naples residents. Existing public recreation facilities include:

Community Parks	Conservation Areas	Neighborhood Parks
Cambier Park Fleischmann Park Landings Park Lowdermilk Park Naples Dog Park	Baker Park (Future) Gordon River Parcel Riverside Circle Parcel	Anthony Park River Park Sea Gate Park
Mini-Parks		Linear Parks
Betsy Jones Park Bow Line Park Cambridge Perry Park Coconut Point Park Menefee Park Merrihue Park Rodgers Park Selfon Park		Goodlette-Frank Linear Park Orchid Linear Park Sea Gate Linear Park

The City also provides the Naples Pier, which is a popular landmark on the Gulf of Mexico, boat docking facilities and access to the Gordon River at the Naples City Dock and maintains approximately 9.1 miles of Gulf Coast beaches.

Future park land and facilities will be provided based upon the established level of service standards in this element. The City will adopt a Comprehensive Parks Master Plan in 2017. The recommendations in the plan will be based upon existing site inventories and analysis, community needs survey and public engagement. The plan will guide City investment in park and recreation facilities through the Capital Improvements Plan based upon the priorities established by City Council.

GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

The following goal, objectives and policies outline the short- and long-term strategies for providing quality parks and recreation facilities and the preservation of publicly owned open space in the City of Naples.

The goal, objectives, and policies contained in this element supplement the Vision 2007 Work Plan and will be coordinated with those efforts.

GOAL: To plan and develop park, recreation and open space facilities (facilities) and right-of-way landscape treatments (landscaping) that serve to preserve the Naples distinctive character. The objectives and policies contained in this element serve to support the Vision 2007 work plan.

Objective 1: **Planning:** Maintain Naples as the “Green Jewel” of Southwest Florida and provides an extraordinary quality of life for residents through well planned parks, recreation facilities, open spaces and right-of-way landscaping.

Policy 1-1: Adopt a comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 2017 and update the plan every 5-years. Review annually for CIP and Operating Budget recommendations and to accommodate community growth and/or changing demographics. Ensure that Naples has a well-balanced park system and consider the ongoing cost of maintenance for specific park or recreation facilities during planning process. Overseen by the Community Services Advisory Board.

Policy 1-2: Engage residents through a formal needs survey to assess the condition of facilities and landscaping and to inform planning initiatives about emerging recreational trends and changing needs. Complete a statistically valid needs survey with residents every 5-years. The needs survey shall be conducted in advance of updates to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Policy 1-3: Plan for improvements to beach access areas and beach parks to meet the needs of residents including, ADA accessibility, parking facilities and shower facilities.

Policy 1-4: Plan for improvements that enhance the walking and biking experience in the City and promote these as alternatives to automobile use in the City.

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- Policy 1-5:** Connect to the Gordon River Greenway through neighborhood bike and pedestrian improvement projects and through park facilities where feasible.
- Policy 1-6:** Plan improvements at neighborhood parks toward the needs of the specific neighborhoods they are intended to serve in collaboration with residents.
- Policy 1-7:** Seek opportunities with the Collier County School Board for use of school facilities to meet the park and recreation needs of both the students and the residents near such facilities.
- Policy 1-8:** Through the development review process, require developers of office complexes and commercial centers to include open spaces, in the form of plaza areas, mini-parks, or other landscaped open space areas, within their developments.
- Policy 1-9:** Complete plans for Baker Park and develop the park as funding is available.
- Objective 2:** **Environmental:** Protect beaches and key waters. Promote community sustainability and environmental conservation through parks, recreation facilities, open space areas and right-of-way landscaping.
- Policy 2-1:** Seek opportunities to improve resident experiences at City beach areas by collaborating with Collier County on beach renourishment projects, improving beach parking areas and mitigating man made contributions to red tide algal blooms.
- Policy 2-2:** Evaluate options to use materials and equipment that are environmentally friendly and sustainable including consideration of products and equipment manufactured from recycled goods and materials, when planning facility improvements.
- Policy 2-3:** Evaluate options for renewable and sustainable energy sources, including solar power options, when planning facility improvements.

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- Policy 2-4:** Integrate drainage, aquifer recharge, and natural resource conservation as part of open space planning.
- Policy 2-5:** Protect the recreational value of the City's water resources and participate in programs to improve water quality.
- Policy 2-6:** Evaluate options for trash and recycling carry-in/carry-out policies to minimize trash collection and maintenance expenses.
- Policy 2-7:** Plan to mitigate impacts of climate change at coastal and beach areas, to the best extent possible.
- Objective 3:** **Funding:** Strengthen the economic health and vitality of the City by establishing a fiscally sound plan for parks, recreation facilities and open space.
- Policy 3-1:** Establish cost recovery policies for parks, recreation facilities and programs in 2018 and update policies every 5 years or, as necessary.
- Policy 3-2:** Actively pursue available grants, private donations and alternative funding sources to supplement programs and facility expenses.
- Policy 3-3:** Prepare data on parks, recreational facilities and open space use patterns for fair-share funding discussions with Collier County.
- Policy 3-4:** Foster working relationships with other government, non-profit and private entities to pursue initiatives and partnerships that are mutually beneficial.
- Policy 3-5:** Develop long-term and short-term funding strategies to fund necessary improvements to parks, recreational facilities, open spaces and right-of-way landscaping projects to ensure City facilities do not deteriorate or fall into a state of disrepair.
- Objective 4:** **Programming:** Develop and maintain recreational programming for residents of all ages that serve to promote community health, educational enrichment and to improve the quality of life.

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- Policy 4-1:** Investigate and promote recreational programs that encourage and promote active lifestyles and healthy practices.
- Policy 4-2:** Ensure a variety of recreational and cultural programming consistent with demand, needs and aspirations of residents and visitors.
- Policy 4-3:** Increase year-round recreational program opportunities for adults and youth as represented in the 2015 Needs Assessment and special needs residents.
- Policy 4-4:** Provide opportunities for outdoor music and special events that enrich the lives of residents and are site appropriate and well balanced with competing community needs and interests of adjoining residential neighborhoods.
- Policy 4-5:** Maximize programming at the River Park Aquatics Center to ensure community use is well balanced among lap swimmers, learn to swim programs, free swim opportunities and competitive swimming.
- Policy 4-6:** Encourage Collier County to expand its recreational programs, including special needs programming, to ease the burden placed on City facilities by Collier County residents.
- Policy 4-7:** Give City residents priority in City sponsored recreational programs when feasible.
- Objective 5:** **Implementation:** Maintain an extraordinary quality of life for residents through well maintained and sustainable parks, recreation facilities and open space.
- Policy 5-1:** Maintain the quality of the parks and recreational programs.
- Policy 5-2:** Designate in the Capital Improvements Element the facilities required to meet future demands per level of service standards.
- Policy 5-3:** Explore feasibility of adopting a Unit or Access Level of Service standard to best serve the parks, recreational

and open space needs of residents by 2020.

- Policy 5-4:** Based on established levels of service for recreation, as set forth in the chart below, and upon annual level of service reports, the City shall correct or improve any deficiencies in parks, recreation facilities or open space.
- Policy 5-5:** Review park and recreation level of service standards on an annual basis to maintain adequate facilities as based upon community needs.
- Policy 5-6:** Ensure that land used as part of the open space inventory shall be functional and accessible to the general public.
- Policy 5-7:** Maintain an annual Urban Forest Plan as required by the Code of Ordinance to ensure the lush public landscaping is well maintained and managed.
- Policy 5-8:** Utilize native plant species where and when feasible
- Policy 5-9:** The level of service for recreation is in accordance with the park land inventory, as listed in the following chart.
- Policy 5-10:** Promote parks, recreation programs, facility improvement projects, public engagement, etc. through social media platforms, online maps and educational/activity brochures.

PARK LAND

Type	Provided	Service Level	Needed
Community Parks and Conservation Areas*	106 acres	2 acres/ 1,000 population	0 acres
Neighborhood, Linear and Mini Parks**	32 acres	1 acre/ 1,000 population	0 acres
Total	138 acres		

*Cambier, Fleischmann, Lowdermilk, and Landing Parks, Riverside Circle, Gordon River, Naples Preserve, Riverside Circle east of the Community Services office

**Anthony Park, River Park, Seagate School Park

NOTE: Mini-parks and linear parks, including Rodgers, Merrihue, Menefee, Bow Line, Sea Gate Linear Park, Orchid Linear Park, Betsy Jones Park, Coconut Point Park, and Goodlette Linear Park, are not assigned a level of service but may be considered as open space.

RECREATION FACILITIES

Facility	Provided	Service Level	Needed
Basketball Courts	8	1/5,000 population	0
Baseball Fields	5	1/5,000 population	0
Beach Access Points	40	1/1,000 population	0
Boat Ramps/Docks	3	1/9,000 population	0
Bike Lanes and Routes	26 miles	1/1,500 population	0
Community Centers	3	1/9,000 population	0
Football Fields	1	1/20,000 population	0
Handball/Racquetball Courts	5	1/20,000 population	0
Picnic Areas	22	1/5,000 population	0
Play Areas	7	1/6,000 population	0
Soccer Fields	2	1/10,000 population	0
Softball Fields	3	1/5,000 population	0
Swimming Pools	1	1/20,000 population	0
Tennis Courts	15	1/2,000 population	0
Trails	5	1/region	0
Volleyball Courts	5	1/5,000 population	0

NOTE: Service Level Standards developed by the National Recreation and Park Association