

GOAL 3: RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT (2030 GOAL 6)

BACKGROUND, DATA AND ANALYSIS

The City's parks, open spaces, trails, waterways and recreational facilities contribute to the physical, mental, social and environmental health of the City and its residents. Planning for parks and recreational facilities can promote active lifestyles, build healthy communities, lower health care and transportation costs and preserve natural wildlife. A report on The Health Benefits of Parks by the Trust for Public Land provides strong evidence that people exercise more when they have access to parks, and that regular physical activity provides psychological benefits, improves mental health, and alleviates symptoms of depression and anxiety for all ages.

Additionally, studies show that well planned parks and recreational systems can serve as a catalyst for economic development. Access to parks and recreational facilities and active transportation infrastructure can increase property values and foster job creation. Planning for active transportation, defined as "human powered" modes of transportation to include trails, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and shared use paths, provide opportunities for people to walk, bike and take nonmotorized transportation to safe places.

According to the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), public parks provide equal access to all citizens regardless of age, gender, socioeconomic status, ethnicity or ability. Parks and recreation facilities can foster community pride, bring people together, create destination-oriented places, and connect people to each other and nature. Small outdoor spaces, known as "pocket parks" may be created by transforming vacant lots, rooftops, or previously hardscaped areas along sidewalks and active transportation routes. Parks and open space stewardship activities conserve natural resource and wildlife habitat, protect air and water, and preserve open space for current and future generations.

Since the 1950's, a formalized parks and recreation system has been in place in Fernandina Beach. In 2014, Barth and Associates, in collaboration with Perez Planning and Design, completed the Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan for the City of Fernandina Beach in accordance with the Technical Assistance Grant from the Florida Dept. Of Economic Opportunity (DEO).

The main focus of the plan was upgrading the City's park system to the same level of quality and character as its historic downtown and connecting the system through a network of "complete streets", bikeways, trails and trolley service. The scope of the work was divided into four phases:

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existing condition analysis, needs and priorities assessment, visioning and implementation strategy.

The current purpose of the Master Plan is to establish the role of the parks, recreation and open space system within Fernandina Beach.

This plan has provided extensive statistical data relating to this goal which should be studied, analyzed and utilized by City staff when implementing the final updated Comprehensive Plan.

Other resources utilized in the preparation of the proposed Comprehensive Plan are as follows:

The current 2030 Recreation and Open Space Element contains largely inspirational language which does not address the need for specific, measurable standards of performance, both for the Parks and Recreation Dept. as a whole and for its employees. It is a critical that the Dept. hire a Director who has obtained the CPRE certification or will obtain it within two years of the hire date. The Director must hire staff who have earned the CPRP certification or will do so within two years of the hire date. The City is strongly urged to apply for NRPA's Accreditation of Park and Recreational Agencies by December 2021. This will strengthen the Dept. with respect to a sound knowledge base as well as credibility in the community.

In conclusion, the proposed Comprehensive Plan has added new and sufficient language to strengthen specific standards of performance which, if followed, will enhance accountability and more clearly define a quality Parks and Recreation program for Fernandina Beach.

UPDATED MAPS NEEDED TO SUPPORT GOAL 3

- a. Simmons Park
- b. Crane Island

SELECTED REFERENCES

2019 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

This massive policy plan evaluates the state of Florida's recreational needs and serves as a roadmap for how to meet those needs. There is excellent information pertaining to all of the counties in Florida. This document was also utilized in the formation of a "Definitions" section.

Trust for Public Land (TPL)

The organization provides a report titled "The Health Benefits of Parks" which is referenced in this proposed plan.

National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA)

The leading not for profit organization dedicated to building strong, healthy and resilient communities through the power of parks and recreation. Their mission is to advance parks, recreation and environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people.

Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA)

This is an arm of NRPA which provides the only national accreditation of park and recreation agencies. It also provides quality assurance and improvement of accredited park and recreation agencies throughout the United States by providing agencies with a management system of best practices.

OBJECTIVE 3.01. PARKS, RECREATION and OPEN SPACE MASTER PLANNING

The City, through the Parks and Recreation Dept. must plan and implement a coordinated parks and recreation system that is in compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), taking into account access to and availability of parks and recreation facilities and open space areas, the impact of parks and recreation facilities on ecological systems, as well as community education opportunities and community health.

POLICY 3.01.01.

The City must utilize its most recent Parks and Recreation Master Plan P) as a guide for decision making and planning. This plan, prepared by Barth and Associates, dated April 2015, which may be formally amended by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, is automatically incorporated by reference into the Comprehensive Plan.

<http://www.fbfl.us/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/3487?fileID=2369>

POLICY 3.01.02.

The City must implement the five key elements of the MP:

- a. First class parks; ADA compliant recreation and open space facilities and venues must be provided for residents within a ½-mile radius of their homes. Such facilities and venues must be located in areas where neighboring communities are comprised of at least 80% City residents. MP pgs. 31 - 65
- b. Improved multi modal connectivity among facilities and venues.
- c. Equitable access to facilities and venues with special focus on: visibility from a distance; ease in walking to the park safely; transit access; clarity of information and signage and adequate lighting.
- d. Improved communication regarding parks and recreation offerings with special focus on social media and coordination with area hotels, businesses and the

County's Tourist Development Council to inform visitors of recreational locations and programs.

- e. Improved Design Standards and Maintenance with special focus on purchasing equipment made of recycled material, and the use of native plantings.

POLICY 3.01.03.

The City must implement the MP for existing and future City facilities, which seeks to transform the City's major parks and recreation facilities into first class venues that serve the entire community.

POLICY 3.01.04.

The City must implement the MP's neighborhood-serving park concept, which seeks to improve access to commonly utilized recreation elements. The City must provide the following for residents within a 1/2 mile of their homes. Such facilities and venues must be located in areas where there are at least 80% City residents and include: shaded playgrounds; multi-purpose open spaces, optional walking trails, small pavilions, sport courts, and restrooms. The City, must collect data to determine whether the City is able to implement the Master Plan's 12 acres per 1000 residents Level of Service, and to maintain this level of service into the future.

POLICY 3.01.05.

The City must update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan every five years to track the progress of the five key elements referenced in 6.01.02 and ensure that the parks, recreation and open spaces system is responsive to community needs.

OBJECTIVE 3.02. AVAILABILITY OF PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES and OPEN SPACE

The National Recreation and Park Association finds that availability of parks and recreation services is often used to determine how livable communities are, and contribute to the perception of a community having a good quality of life. The City must ensure the availability of parks, recreation facilities and open space for all residents of Fernandina Beach as well as for tourists and visitors. In addition to facilities, the Parks and Recreation Department must continue to offer youth services, senior services and special activities outlined on pgs. 24-25 of the City's MP.

The Dept. must also develop a strategy to provide additional parkland and recreational facilities in underserved areas of the City as described in the MP on pg. 3.

POLICY 3.02.01.

The City Parks and Recreation Dept. has sixteen user-based recreational facilities and six resource-based recreational areas, not including the beach access points.

- a. The City must maintain an active annual inventory of parks, recreation facilities and open space to include the identification of recreational facilities available in each park, the size of the facility and the primary agency responsible for the facility.
- b. The City Parks and Recreation Dept. must utilize the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan's (SCORP's) seven classifications for user-based recreation facilities, and the eight classifications for resource facilities found on pages 16-17 of the MP. Refer to the Definitions section for definitions of these classifications.

POLICY 3.02.02.

The City must require applicants for development approvals, including but not limited to PUD developments, to provide recreational facilities and/or open space beyond the minimum standards by providing incentives in the Land Development Code. Such minimum standards may include level of service, open space percentage or acreage requirements. The City must require that new development pay for the acquisition of additional parkland, the construction of new facilities and/or the improvement of access necessary to maintain the current levels of service.

POLICY 3.02.03.

The City must add proposed parks, recreation and open space projects to the City's Capital Improvement Plan.

POLICY 3.02.04.

The City must prioritize proposed improvements and explore funding for each of the top priorities. The City, specifically the Parks and Recreation Dept. and City Grants Administrator, must pursue available grant resources on an annual basis for the acquisition and development of park and recreational areas, including but not limited to, federal and state funding resources. Private-public and public-non-profit partnerships should also be pursued as funding sources. Potential funding sources include, but are not limited to: Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program; Florida Forever; Florida Communities Trust; Land and Water Conservation Fund; Urban Parks and Recreation Fund; Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Grants.

POLICY 3.02.05.

The City, on an annual basis, must evaluate and maintain existing parks and recreation facilities in order to ensure they meet the needs of the areas served. The Parks and Recreation Dept. must

ensure that park acreage and facilities are equitably distributed throughout the City. The specific standards and ranking system in the MP must be used as a basis for evaluation. The five general categories for evaluation are: proximity, access and linkages; Comfort: comfort and image; Use: uses, activities, and sociability; Environmental Sustainability; and Buildings: buildings and architecture.

POLICY 3.02.06.

The SCORP must be used as a benchmark, and guidance for, evaluating existing and future facilities and venues, but must not be interpreted as level of service standards.

OBJECTIVE 3.03. PARKS and RECREATION FACILITY MANAGEMENT

The City must maintain and support a Parks and Recreation Dept. for City recreation planning and management. The Director of Parks and Recreation Dept. must develop a facility manual unique to each individual park or facility which will be used to train and assist employees in performing their specific job duties. This manual must be completed by December 2021.

POLICY 3.03.01.

The City Parks and Recreation Dept. must maintain, update and improve their existing park and recreation facilities inventory lists on an annual basis, including the Egans Creek Greenway. A current maintenance schedule for each facility must be developed, maintained and updated annually.

POLICY 3.03.02.

The City Parks and Recreation Dept. must, on an annual basis, review existing parks, recreation facilities and open spaces; establish a schedule and specific measurable procedures for improving any deficiencies, including but not limited to ongoing renovations of existing facilities or the construction of new ones.

POLICY 3.03.03.

The parks and recreation long range vision as described in the MP on pg. 58 includes the development of design and maintenance standards to ensure that the City's public realm is designed, constructed and maintained to reflect the values, brand and desired image of the City of Fernandina Beach. Maintenance of City parks must be improved to the level of the historic district and residential homes. Maintenance priorities for each park facility must be established on an annual basis. ○

POLICY 3.03.04.

The City must have a no net loss policy for recreational facilities.

POLICY 3.03.05.

The City must not convert, abandon, trade or sell any park or open space, or portion of any park or open space, in addition to the limitations established in the City Charter for transfer, sale or lease of recreational facilities. Open space may be converted to a park, in accordance with Policy 3.05.02, and only if open space levels of service as established in the MP are met.

POLICY 3.03.06.

New parks and recreational facilities, as well as major renovations of existing facilities must be constructed in accordance with Florida state statutes requiring that municipal buildings be constructed to meet the minimum requirements of a green rating system. Native vegetation, plantings and soils should be used to increase the capacity of permeable surfaces to naturally filter water and mitigate the effects of stormwater runoff and flooding caused by impermeable surfaces.

POLICY 3.03.07.

The Parks and Recreation Dept. must utilize native plant species and xeriscaping techniques when landscaping is added or updated in parks, recreation facilities and open spaces. The Nassau County Agricultural Extension Service is a valuable information resource. The removal of exotic and invasive plant species should be performed in order to maintain a healthy native environment.

POLICY 3.03.08.

The Parks and Recreation Dept. must utilize low impact development strategies to reduce stormwater runoff from parks and recreation facilities, and also employ the strategic use and acquisition for park land to help capture and treat stormwater before it is discharged into the Amelia River, Egans Creek and other water bodies. This strategic use would enable the City to leverage SJWMO funding earmarked for stormwater quality projects.

POLICY 3.03.09.

The Parks and Recreation Dept. must eliminate the use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizer when maintaining parks, recreation and open spaces.

POLICY 3.03.10.

The Parks and Recreation Dept. fleet must drive energy efficient vehicles.

POLICY 3.03.11.

Parks and Recreation Facilities and equipment placement must comply with all City flood ordinances.

POLICY 3.03.12.

As part of routine maintenance, The City must assess all parks and recreation facility locations for sea level rise and storm surge on a scheduled, recorded basis.

POLICY 3.03.13.

The City must utilize The City’s Land Development Code (LDC), (as amended), adopted May 5, 2020, Section 4.05.00 Landscaping, Buffers and Tree Protection, as the guide for decision making and planning. Specifically, 4.05.10, 4.05.12, 4.05.14 and 4.05.15 must be strictly adhered to with supervision by the City arborist. The City must acquire and retain a water truck or water buffalo at all times for use in watering new trees and other plants.

OBJECTIVE 3.04. ACCESS TO RECREATIONAL AREAS

The City Parks and Recreation Dept. must ensure the availability of vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle access to all public recreational areas.

POLICY 3.04.01.

The Dept. must establish service areas which measure the distance that residents need to travel to access specific facilities. The Dept. must maintain updates maps showing the access level of service for all city parks, trails, playgrounds, sports courts, and multi-purpose open spaces, all using ½ mile radius as the standard distance for access. See pgs. 30-38 of the MP for specific guidelines.

POLICY 3.04.02.

The City will provide sufficient vehicle parking, ADA compliant parking, bicycle racks and pedestrian friendly barrier free access at City parks and recreational facilities, as is appropriate. The City must reduce and reconfigure the lots to remove parking from close proximity to the shoreline.

POLICY 3.04.03.

New residential developments and re-developments must be required to provide sidewalks, crosswalks, bicycle paths, and multipurpose trails in order to provide safe access to parks, recreational facilities, open space, waterways and shorelines.

POLICY 3.04.04.

The City Parks and Recreation Dept. must ensure sidewalk, crosswalks, bicycle paths and /or multipurpose trails access throughout the City to the most utilized and venue based recreational facilities. The Dept. must maintain an updated list of these locations.

POLICY 3.04.05.

All future City owned parks and recreational facilities, including beaches and waterways must have direct access to a public street, right of way or easement.

POLICY 3.04.06.

The City must not vacate necessary existing right of way, easements, walkways and other properties available for public access to parks and recreational facilities or open space.

POLICY 3.04.07.

The City Parks and Recreation Dept must actively seek assistance for volunteers in the City to assist in efforts to promote and maintain City recreational facilities and open space. A list of volunteers and contact information must be maintained by the Dept.

POLICY 3.04.08.

Capital improvement planning in the City must prioritize the placement of neighborhood serving parks into areas that have been underserved by recreational facilities. Adding additional park improvements to existing facilities must be approved after the needs of underserved areas have been addressed.

OBJECTIVE 3.05. OPEN SPACE

Open spaces must be protected within urbanized areas for their aesthetic, health, environmental and economic benefits. Land designated as open space (see definitions section) must be protected from development. The definition of open space in the MP must be adopted into the Land Development Code. The Parks and Recreation Dept. must follow City land development codes relating to the acquisition and ongoing maintenance of designated open space both in private developments and publicly owned lands.

POLICY 3.05.01.

The City must continue to identify conservation land on the FLUM.

POLICY 3.05.02.

When evaluating the potential use for open space, The City must first evaluate the presence of environmentally sensitive land (see definition section). If it is determined that an open space has such land, The City must limit any use of the open land to passive recreation after it is determined that such activities will not endanger the public health, safety, welfare or environment.

POLICY 3.05.03.

Privately owned open space in subdivisions or planned unit developments (PUD) which is designated as conservation land on the FLUM, or has environmentally sensitive land, must be protected by the City via the establishment of conservation easements.

POLICY 3.05.04.

In order to protect environmentally sensitive coastal dunes, The City must limit additional areas or expansion of existing areas for parking or driving on the beach.

OBJECTIVE 3.06. LAND ACQUISITION

Based on clear acquisition standards, The City must continually evaluate the potential purchase of land for parks, recreation, conservation and open space needs. Such properties must be classified as active recreation, passive recreation, conservation or open space.

POLICY 3.06.01.

The City may use City owned floodplains, conservation or environmentally sensitive lands for passive recreational purposes only, provided the City determines that such use would not endanger the public health, safety, welfare, the environment or the environmental sustainability or resiliency of the island.

POLICY 3.06.02.

The City must give high priority to the acquisition of lands in the Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA), and in or adjacent to jurisdictional wetlands, for passive recreational purposes only. It must be determined by the City that this use would not endanger public safety and welfare, nor the environment.

POLICY 3.06.03.

The City must give priority to the acquisition of land that provides wildlife corridors.

POLICY 3.06.04.

Whenever possible, active recreational sites should include both active and passive uses in order to provide both recreational facilities as well as ensuring the preservation of environmentally sensitive lands.

POLICY 3.06.05.

The City must add proposed land acquisition projects as outlined in the

MP into the City's Capital Improvement Plan. These projects must be ranked with relative priority being determined by: Public safety; Protection of the City's investments; Upgrading and replacement of existing sites; and Need for new facilities and expansion.

POLICY 3.06.06.

The City must seek both public and private support for the acquisition, development, operation and maintenance of parks, recreation facilities and open space areas. Partnering with land trust organizations and Nassau County is recommended.

POLICY 3.06.07.

The City must continue to use ad valorem taxes and impact fees to fund the acquisition of parks and recreational facilities. Impact fees must be re-evaluated based on implementation of the MP recommendations, including any amendments to the Plan. Use of other funding sources must be utilized where feasible, such as the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program. Potential funding sources include, but are not limited to: Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program; Florida Forever; Florida Communities Trust; Land and Water Conservation Fund; Urban Parks and Recreation Fund; Urban parks and Recreation Recovery Grants.

POLICY 3.06.08.

The acquisition of additional parkland, construction of new facilities, and/or the improvement of access to parks, recreation, and open space areas which directly serve new developments must be funded by the developer in order to maintain appropriate level of service standards.

OBJECTIVE 3.07. BOATING AND WATERWAYS

The City must include boating and waterways in parks and recreation planning in conjunction with the MP. Deficiencies were identified at freshwater non-boat fishing (piers), and freshwater boat ramps and determined to be either not feasible to address, or not appropriate for a small island community as the City's location precludes freshwater resources from being accessible. (MP pg. 41)

POLICY 3.07.01.

The City Parks and Recreation Department must identify, inventory and characterize all existing publicly accessible recreational and commercial working waterfront properties on a parcel-by-parcel basis, including but not limited to, public lodging establishments, docks, wharfs, lifts, wet and dry marinas, boat ramps, boat hauling and repair facilities, commercial fishing facilities, boat construction facilities, and other support structures over the water.

POLICY 3.07.02.

The City must conduct an inventory and assessment of waterways networks, including boating, kayak and canoe trail ways, and other water transportation options.

POLICY 3.07.03.

The City must conduct an assessment/inventory of existing boating and fishing facilities, including boat ramps, boat repair, fishing piers, and kayak and canoe launches to determine condition and safety.

POLICY 3.07.04.

The City must conduct a boating needs assessment including motorized and non-motorized boating needs, including access points, parking, and other related facilities.

POLICY 3.07.05.

The City must adopt level of service standards for boating and fishing facilities, such as boat ramps, kayak and canoe launches, fishing piers and public access points.

POLICY 3.07.06.

The City must have a no net loss POLICY for public access to waterways and shorelines, whereby one type of access point is not removed without providing for replacement of that type of access point.

POLICY 3.07.07.

The City must not vacate, diminish, or otherwise impair publicly-owned pathways, sidewalks, roads, parking areas, docks, or boat launching facilities and other access points that are currently used, or susceptible to use, by the public to access shorelines.

OBJECTIVE 3.08. PARKS and RECREATION COMMUNITY SERVICES

The City must continue to provide community services through the Parks and Recreation Dept. that are tailored to the needs and interests of the community, and are also responsive to changes in the demographic profile of the community. The City must maintain, update and make available to the community a listing of services that are provided by the City.

POLICY 3.08.01.

The City must continue to offer youth recreational opportunities throughout the school year and during the summer. Such programs may include the Teen Center, Camp Amelia, Amelia Preschool, Kids night out, after school tutoring, Scuba camp and Aquatic camp.

POLICY 3.08.02.

The City must continue to offer adult recreational opportunities including classes, leagues, tournaments and special events. The City must also allow community sports leagues to utilize City recreation facilities.

POLICY 3.08.03.

The City must continue to offer senior services, including recreational opportunities and outings. Such service may include bridge, open card nights, senior meet and greets and senior trips.

POLICY 3.08.04.

The City must continue to offer a variety of community events and provide educational programming that highlights the importance of health and fitness.

OBJECTIVE 3.09. EGANS CREEK GREENWAY

The Egans Creek Greenway, established in 2000, is a 300-acre undeveloped park open during daylight hours for passive recreational activities such as walking, jogging, bird watching and bicycling. The Greenway has other amenities such as benches, a pavilion, two bridges and a boardwalk. The Greenway is zoned as conservation land and is also designated as conservation in the FLUM. The City Parks and Recreation Dept. operates and maintains the Greenway, which was funded by a general obligation bond and the Florida Communities Trust Program. The City must protect Egans Creek Greenway for its value as a recreational asset, for its significance as an outstanding natural resource, and for its role in protecting wildlife habitat.

It has been established by prior research by FDEP, SJRWMD and McGlynn Labs (See McGlynn Labs report in Attachment) that Egans Creek and the marsh known as Escambia Slough (the marsh east of the port and south of WestRock) are polluted by E.Coli, pesticides, herbicides and other substances. Residents and tourist fish in these waters, and in a storm event, these pollutants could be spread through nearby neighborhoods and beaches as a result of storm surge and flooding. FDEP has established a water body identification (WBID) for these sites and testing will be conducted by the State. The City and County must explore State and federal support and develop a pollution cleanup plan.

POLICY 3.09.01.

The Parks and Recreation Dept. must ensure that the management plan that has been created as part of the grant funding requirements be updated by December 2021. The plan must be addressed separately in the Parks and Recreation master planning process.

POLICY 3.09.02.

The City must continue to designate the Greenway as conservation land in the zoning and FLUM series maps.

POLICY 3.09.03.

The City must continue to coordinate with the Florida Dept. of Transportation (FDOT) on the plan to restore the marshland between Atlantic Ave. and Jasmine Street, Area 1. The City must coordinate with FDOT regarding any impacts of this project on the hydrology south of Jasmine St., Area 2, and evaluate the necessity of any restoration plan needs in that area.

POLICY 3.09.04.

The City must continue to encourage the use of the Greenway for walking, biking, jogging and birdwatching through ongoing public information efforts and the City website.

POLICY 3.09.05.

The City must continue to encourage the use of the Greenway as part of the Great Florida Birding Trail through ongoing public information efforts, and also seek inclusion in the Greenway and Trails network. Informational brochures and maps must be kept in adequate supply at each Greenway entrance and brochures containing self-guided walking tours must be kept available at the Administrative Office on Atlantic Ave.

POLICY 3.09.06.

The City must continue to conduct plant and animal surveys annually in order to determine if there are any significant changes in those communities that need evaluation. A report must be submitted describing the survey findings.

POLICY 3.09.07.

The City must monitor and control invasive and exotic flora and fauna in the Greenway on a quarterly basis. A report must be submitted describing the results of this requirement.

POLICY 3.09.08.

The City must continue to provide community-based education regarding the values of natural spaces, wetlands, endangered, threatened and invasive species, as well as educating the public about human impacts on ecosystems. Educational tools available are graphics, tours, online information and information at the Nature Center.

OBJECTIVE 3.10. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

The City must increase intergovernmental coordination with the County regarding parks, recreation and open space.

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POLICY 3.10.02.

The City must continue to work with the Nassau County School Board to ensure that new public school buildings, whenever possible, are co-located adjacent to existing or proposed parks, recreation facilities, open space, and any trail or path system that will connect such facilities to other services such as the library or other community centers.

POLICY 3.10.03.

The City will maximize the potential for the collocation and joint uses of public facilities, including the use of public school facilities for educational, recreational, cultural and civic purposes in accordance with the policies in this element.

POLICY 3.10.04.

The City must meet with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on a scheduled basis to monitor water quality issues in the City's waterways.

OBJECTIVE 3.11. INTEGRATED STORMWATER AND GREENSPACE STRATEGY

The City and St. John's River Water Management District (SJWMD) are facing water quality issues, (Fig. 4.11, MP pg. 59) that can be addressed through greenspace strategies including strategic use and acquisition for park land to help capture and treat stormwater before it is discharged into the Amelia River, Egans Creek, and Jackson Creek. (Fig. 4.13, MP pg.61)

Coastal planning for sea rise, flooding and resiliency is required. With shifting sands, the shape and size of barrier islands are constantly changing. Evidence of rising sea-levels and tidal flooding requires coastal communities to prepare for the protection and resiliency of resources.

POLICY 3.11.01.

The City must leverage SJWMD funding earmarked for stormwater quality projects. The parks must be strategically designed to address water quality as well as provide desired recreational, social, and cultural community needs.

POLICY 3.11.02.

The City must use green infrastructure, whereby vegetation, plantings and soils are used to increase the capacity of permeable surfaces to naturally filter water and mitigate the effects caused by impermeable surfaces to manage stormwater runoff and reduce flooding. (NRPA)

POLICY 3.11.03.

The City must assess all Parks and Recreation facility locations for sea level rise and storm surge impact bi-annually and after each high impact storm.

POLICY 3.11.04.

The City must create a sea level rise adaptation plan by December 2021 incorporating a resiliency strategy to ensure community infrastructure, parks and historic sites are prepared for the impacts of sea level rise. (Florida Adaptation Planning Guide Book:

https://floridadep.gov/sites/default/files/Adaptation_Planning_Guidebook_0.pdf)

OBJECTIVE 3.12. CERTIFICATION

As a small barrier island that has unique sustainability issues, the City has a responsibility to ensure that the personnel of the Parks and Recreation department possess expertise in implementing best practices for managerial, administrative and executive parks and recreation professionals.

POLICY 3.12.01.

The City must hire a Parks and Recreation Director who has obtained the Certified Park and Recreation Executive (CPRE) certification through the National Recreation and Parks Association or will earn the executive certification within two years of hire date.

POLICY 3.12.02.

The Parks and Recreation Director must hire staff who earned Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) certification or will complete the certification within two years of the hire date.

POLICY 3.12.03.

The City must apply for NRPA's Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) by December 2021. City certification helps secure external financial support and reduces costs for the community. Additionally, agency certification shows decision makers, stakeholders and the public that the City operates with the best practices of the profession, and creates an environment for regular review of operations, policies and procedures, and promotes continual improvement.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEFINITIONS

1. Park

An area, in a natural or semi natural state, set aside for recreation. Parks may include active and/or passive recreational opportunities, and may include open space.

2. Active Recreation

Active recreation refers to mix of uses that may include the following facilities or facility types: athletic fields, buildings or structures for recreational activities, concession, community garden, courses or courts, children's play area or a bike path.

3. Passive Recreation

Passive recreation means those recreational opportunities afforded by such natural resources as the native flora, fauna, and aesthetic appeal of a natural setting and requiring minimum development to utilize and enjoy such resources, including nature study, hiking, canoeing, picnicking, birding, fishing and other activities which do not involve active disturbance of the environment or excessive clearing and re-contouring of the land. In beach areas, activities such as shelling, sunbathing, scuba diving and snorkeling are considered passive recreation.

4. Open Space

A parcel of land in a primarily open and/or undeveloped condition that may be suitable for any of the following: natural areas; wildlife and native plant habitat; important wetlands or watershed lands; wetland transition areas; stream or creek corridors; passive or low- impact activities; areas of little or no disturbance; and or trails for non-motorized activities.

5. Environmentally sensitive land

Any land area and /or water resources that may be determined to contain naturally occurring and relatively unaltered flora, fauna, or geological conditions. Environmentally sensitive lands may include historical and archeological resources, wetlands, wetland transition areas, estuarine shoreline areas; 100-year floodplains, open space, dune systems, wildlife habitat, and aquifer recharge areas.

6. Greenway

A greenway is a corridor of undeveloped land preserved for recreational use or environmental protection. It is a permanent, passive open space that serves to benefit adjacent neighborhoods and the general public.

Note: Florida Ecological Greenways Network seeks to provide a system of native landscapes and ecosystems that support native plant and animal species, sustain clean air, water and fisheries and other natural resources and maintains the scenic beauty that draws people to visit and settle in Florida.

7. Level of Service

An allocation mechanism for the delivery of park land and basic recreation facilities throughout the community. By adoption of such a standard, a community in essence says that all citizens, regardless of the taxes they pay or the use they will make of the services provided, will have an equal opportunity to share in the basic menu of services implicit in the standard and accompanying spatial distribution and allocation policies. Level of service shall indicate the capacity per unit of demand for each public facility.

8. Service Area

Service areas measure the distance that residents need to travel (on foot, by bike, by auto or transit) to access particular facilities. They can also be considered an access level of service.

9. Equipped play area and tot lot

Open areas with play apparatus for preschool and school age children.

10. Neighborhood park

“Walk to” park, generally located along streets where people can walk or bicycle without encountering heavy traffic. These serve the population of a neighborhood in a radius of up to ½ mile, and should be at least two acres for each 1,000 population. The size usually ranges from 5 to 10 acres, and serves a population of up to 5,000.

11. Community Park

“Ride to” park, located near major streets. These parks are designed to serve the need of 4-6 neighborhoods, and serve an area with a radius of up to three miles, or a service population of up to 25,000. A minimum of 25 acres for each community park is recommended, with two acres per 1,000 population. A minimum of five acres is recommended.

12. Urban open space

Landscaped or natural open areas located within built-up areas. These sites may serve populated areas ranging in size from a single neighborhood to an entire city. Urban spaces may vary from 1/10 of an acre to several acres depending on intended use.

13. Urban district park

Designed to serve the recreation needs of several communities, a city, or county, and usually provides resource-based areas and facilities. Examples are a zoo, golf course, or botanical garden.

14. Beach access site

Support facilities for publicly owned beaches. Site may range from 10 to more than 100 ft. in width, and parking may or may not be available.

City of Fernandina Beach 2045 Comprehensive Plan Draft
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3.1 Access LOS for All City Parks using 1/2 mile radius

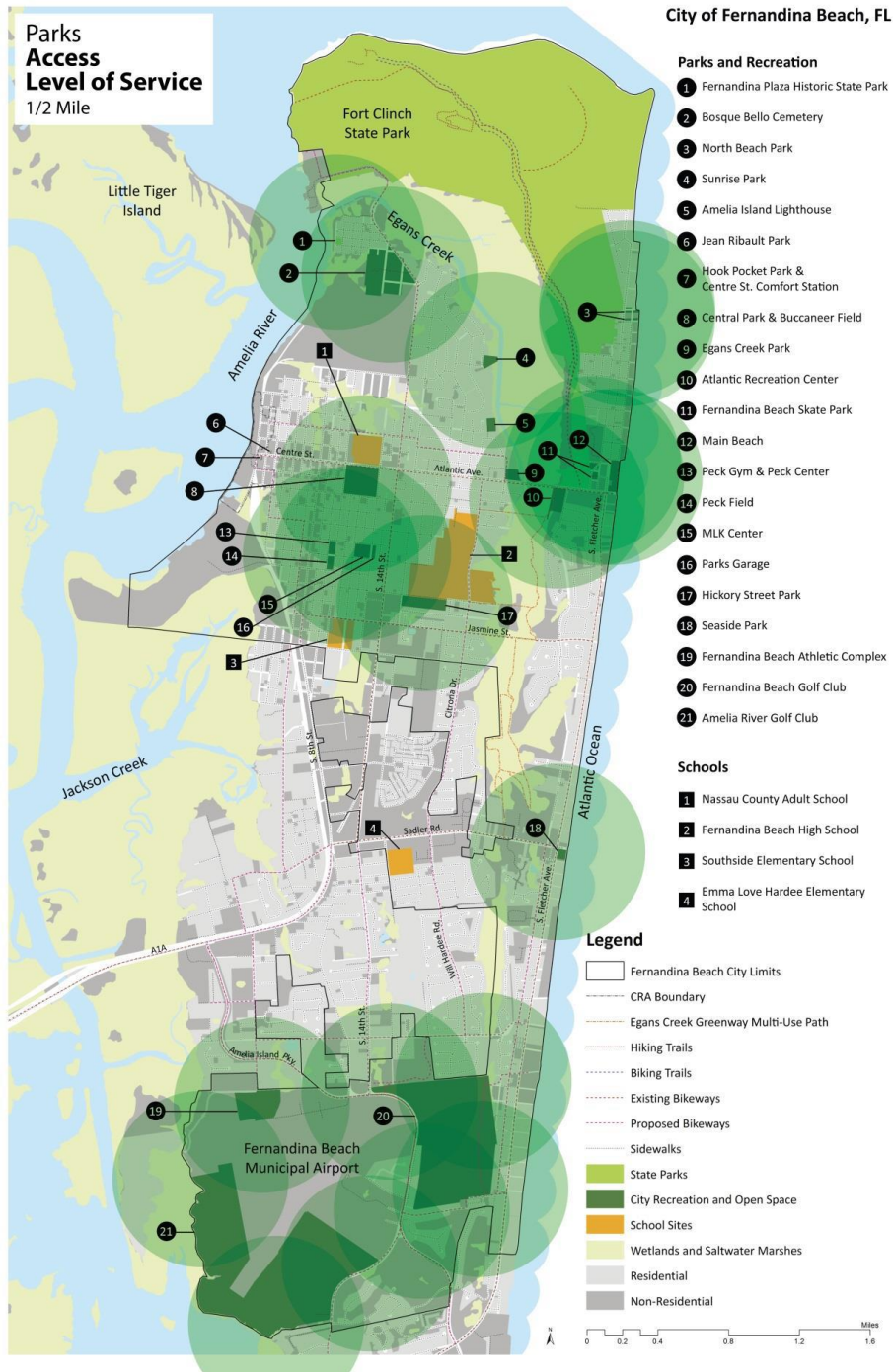
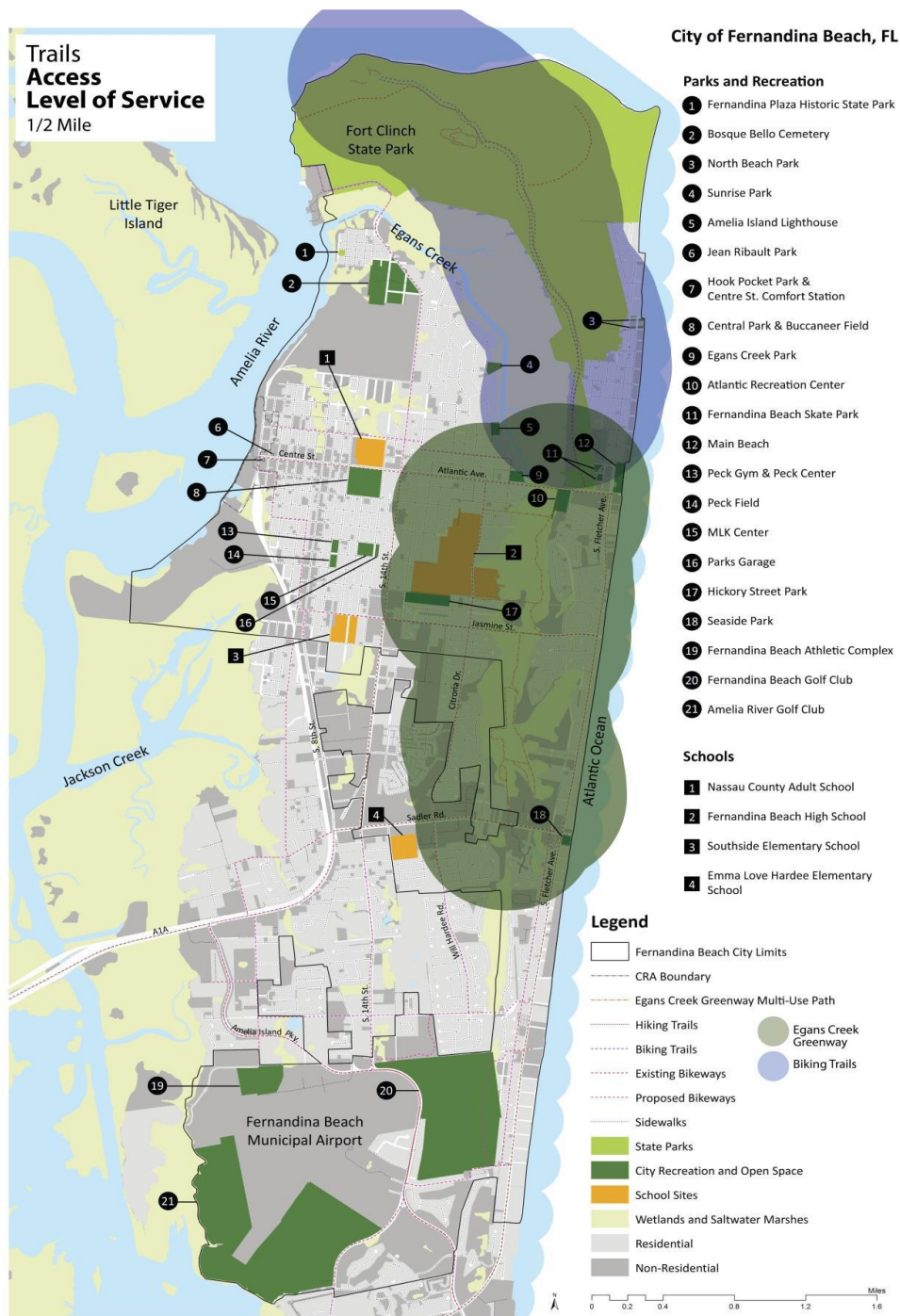
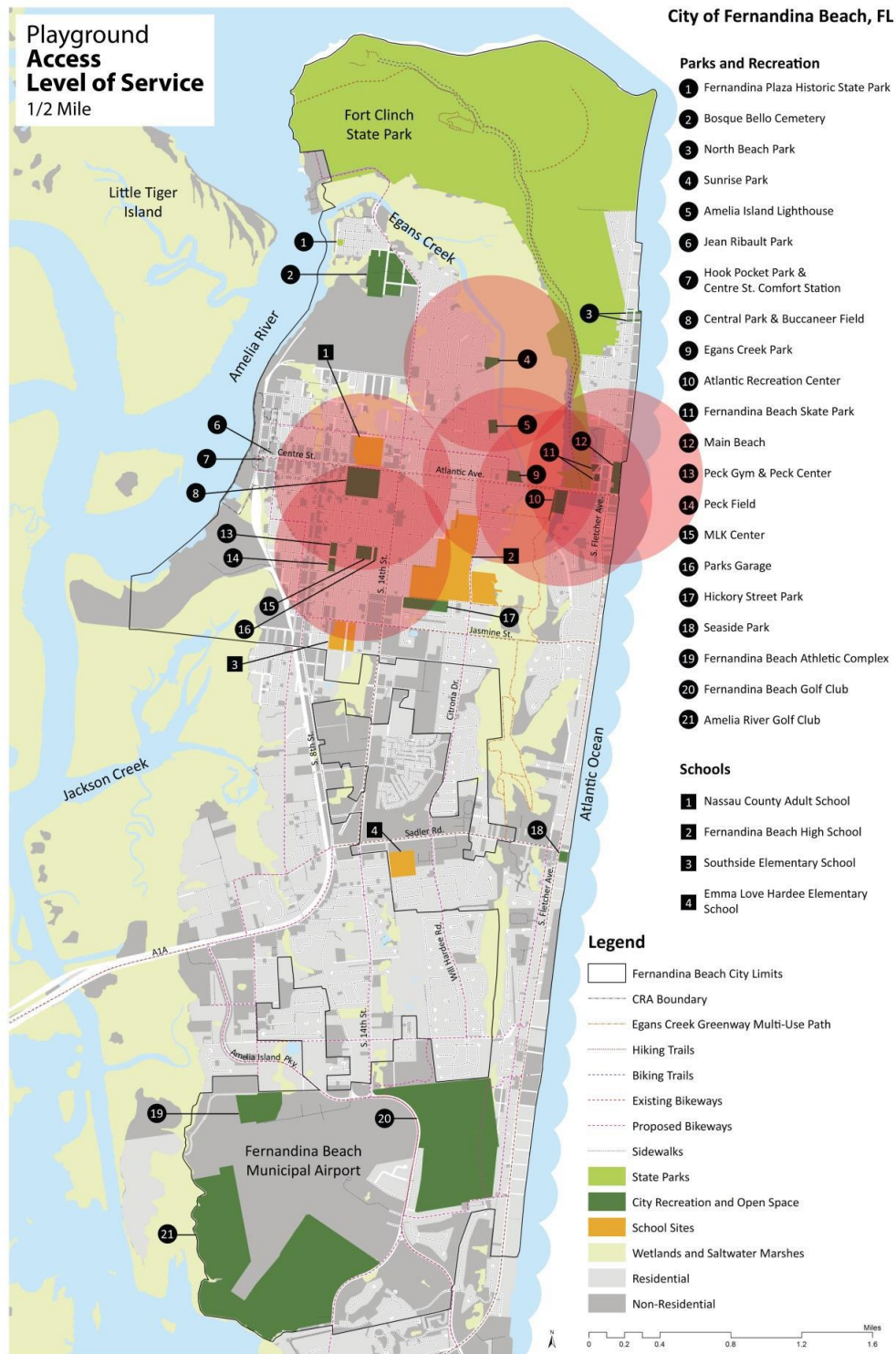


Figure 3.2 Access LOS for Trails using 1/2 mile radius



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Figure 3.3 Access LOS for Playgrounds using 1/2 mile radius



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 Goal 3 Parks and Recreation (formerly Goal 3)

Figure 3.4 Access LOS for Sports Courts using 1/2 mile radius

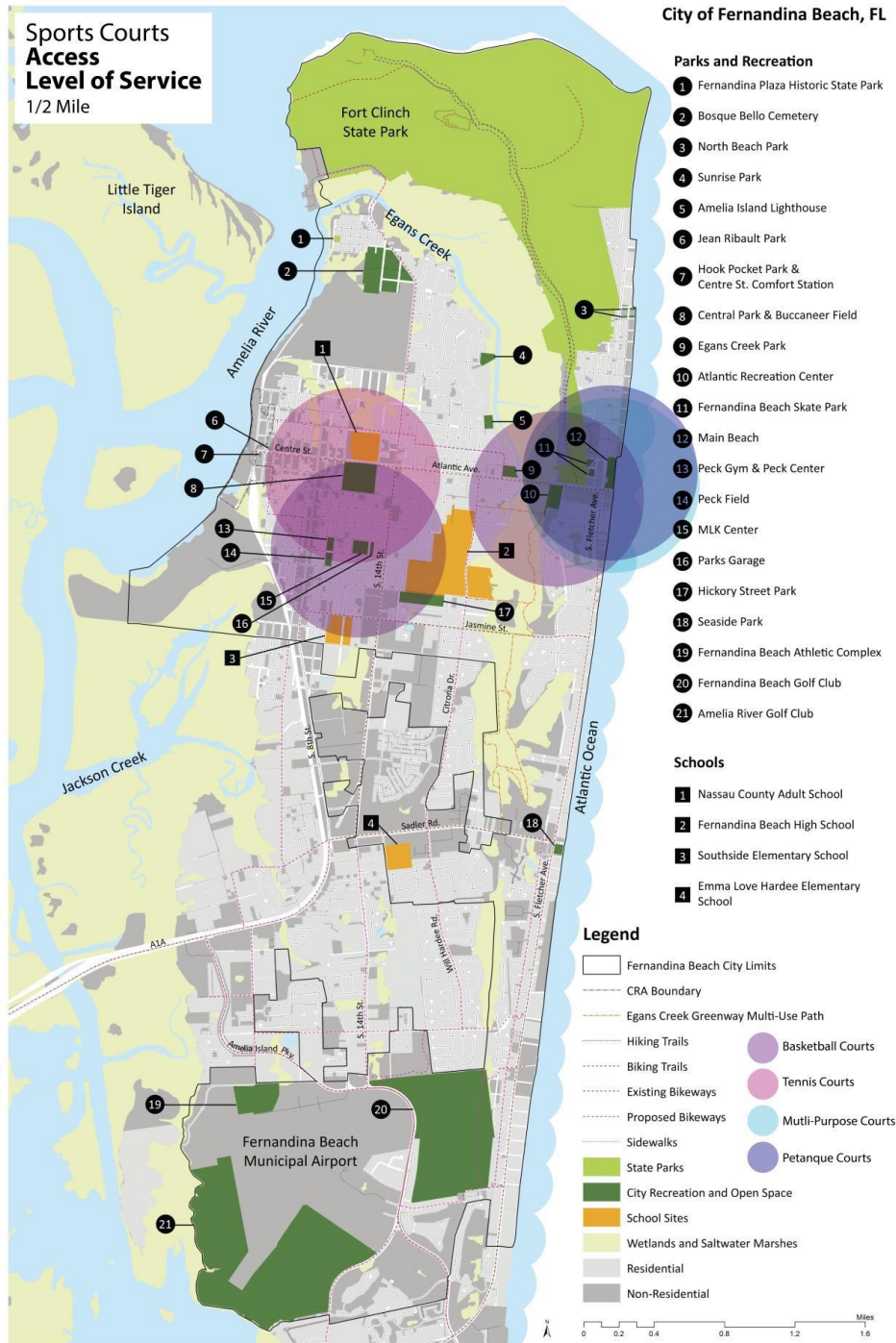


Figure 3.5 Access LOS for Multi-Purpose Open Space using 1/2 mile radius

