
Recreation and Open Space Element

1 **RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT**

2
3 **GOAL 1:** To achieve and maintain a publicly-accessible recreation and open space
4 system in Hendry County for the benefit of all residents and visitors.
5

6 **OBJECTIVE 1.1: LEVEL OF SERVICE**

7
8 The County will maintain Recreation and Open Space level of service standards that are
9 consistent with and further the standards of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
10

11 **Policy 1.1.1:** The adopted recreation and open space standards are adopted within the
12 Concurrency Management Element
13

14 **OBJECTIVE 1.2: PUBLIC ACCESS**

15
16 Ensure public access to all recreation sites in Hendry County. Parking for disabled persons will
17 comply with Section 553.5041, F.S., “Parking spaces for persons who have disabilities”, and the
18 requirements in the “Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines” (ADAAG’s 4.1).
19 Bicycle and pedestrian facilities will meet the FDOT design standards for bicycle and pedestrian
20 pathways and bicycle parking as provided in the FDOT “Florida Bicycle Facilities Planning and
21 Design Handbook,” in the FDOT “Florida Pedestrian Facilities Planning and Design Handbook,
22 and in the County Comprehensive Pathways Plan.
23

24 **Policy 1.2.1:** All parks and recreation sites owned by the Hendry County government will
25 be open to the public.
26

27 **Policy 1.2.2:** The County shall continue to require in its Land Development Code that at
28 least a portion of new recreation developments and recreation sites in other
29 new developments, be open to the public.
30

31 **Policy 1.2.3:** The County will maintain existing public access to the Caloosahatchee
32 River and Lake Okeechobee, and encourage additional public access to the
33 Caloosahatchee River for the purpose of fishing and other recreation. Public
34 access issues should be coordinated with the RPC Marine Advisory Council
35 and the SFWMD.
36

37 **OBJECTIVE 1.3: FACILITIES IN RECREATION AREAS**

38
39 The County will ensure that adequate facilities are provided in all publicly-owned parks and
40 recreation areas. This will be accomplished by undertaking the activities described in the Policies
41 below.
42

43 **Policy 1.3.1:** Each new park and recreation area developed as part of a residential or
44 mixed-use development will shall at least have playground equipment at

45 some location on its site. The exact types of recreational facilities shall be
46 determined in consultation with County staff prior to the issuance of a
47 development order.
48

49 **OBJECTIVE 1.4: OPEN SPACE**
50

51 The County shall ensure the provision of open space in developments in Hendry County. This
52 shall be accomplished by undertaking the activities described in the Policies below.
53

54 **Policy 1.4.1:** Require all new residential subdivisions of 50 acres or more provide an
55 analysis of the recreation and open space needs of their projected
56 community and indicate how they intend to provide these recreational and
57 open space facilities.
58

59 **Policy 1.4.2:** Require that each new commercial or public use development of more than
60 ten acres provide open space equivalent to five percent of the gross area of
61 the development. The County may consider a “fee-in-lieu-of” providing
62 five percent open space onsite as required by this section as part of a
63 Planned Unit Development rezoning. Onsite open space is preferred and
64 providing a fee-in-lieu-of meeting this standard will be reviewed on a case-
65 by-case basis. Consideration will be given for projects such as mixed-use
66 clustered development with common open space areas;; projects located
67 adjacent to conservation and recreational facilities; or projects within the
68 Florida Forever Program;; and LEED, Audubon or State green certified
69 projects. Fees collected as part of the parks and open space fee-in-lieu-of
70 program will be used to purchase future recreation and open space lands or
71 used to maintain or improve existing recreational facilities.
72

73 **Policy 1.4.3:** Open space for the purposes of Policy 1.4.1 and Policy 1.4.2 will be defined
74 as areas of the site not covered with buildings and including at least
75 intermittent landscaping. Preference for quality open space that includes
76 environmentally-sensitive areas as well as areas reserved or dedicated for
77 public recreation purposes will be considered as part of the Planned Unit
78 Development and development order review processes.
79

80 **OBJECTIVE 1.5: ADDITIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS**
81

82 Because a large percentage of Hendry County population resides in the “urban” areas, coordinate
83 public and private resources to meet recreation demands and to provide joint recreation areas
84 shared by City and County residents. This will be accomplished by undertaking the activities
85 described in the Policies below.
86

87 **Policy 1.5.1:** The County will encourage the development and/or reservation of land for
88 neighborhood parks during the applicable land development review process.

89 **OBJECTIVE 1.6: OPEN SPACE OR NATURAL RESERVATIONS**

90

91 Hendry County presently does not have publicly accessible reserved areas for open space or
92 natural features, as well as, access to freshwater beaches and shores. The desire is that such areas
93 be available for the residents and visitors of Hendry County. This will be accomplished by
94 undertaking the activities described in the Policies below.

95

96 **Policy 1.6.1:** Reserved.

97

98 **Policy 1.6.2:** By the end of 2012, coordinate with the South Florida Water Management
99 District concerning land owned by the District that could be made available
100 as open space or natural reservation. Coordination may include, but is not
101 limited to, review of SFWMD land holdings to determine which are
102 potentially appropriate for open space preservation.

103

104 **Policy 1.6.3:** The County will work with the South Florida Water Management District
105 concerning the availability and development of a fishing and passive
106 recreation area along the L-1, L-2, and L-3 levee and canal areas in eastern
107 Hendry County and C-43 Reservoir in western Hendry County.