# RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

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# RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT
## Goal, Objectives and Policies

## City of Auburndale Comprehensive Plan

**GOAL 1: To provide a balanced system of recreation facilities and open space which will satisfy the needs of the present and projected future residents of the City and will emphasize use of Auburndale's natural resources.**

### Objective 1: Ensure Public Accessibility to Recreation Facilities

The City of Auburndale shall provide and improve public access to recreation sites and facilities including water bodies within Auburndale through ongoing maintenance of current facilities and access points.

*Measurable Targets*: Survey for opinions of users as to the level of accessibility. Percent increase in signage for parks. Any improvement in accessibility during the planning period.

Policy 1.1: The City will provide bicycle racks at all City parks.

Policy 1.2: The City will ensure that crosswalks and pedestrian signals are placed at arterial streets that lead to parks and recreation facilities.

Policy 1.3: The City Parks and Recreation Department shall maintain designated safe walking routes to City parks and recreation areas.

Policy 1.4: The City will provide appropriate signage clearly indicating the location of City owned and maintained recreation sites.

Policy 1.5: The City shall maintain public access currently available to the City's lakes.

### Objective 2: Coordination of Public and Private Resources to Meet Recreation Demands

The City of Auburndale shall improve recreation opportunities for the citizens of Auburndale consistent with the adopted level of service standard.

*Measurable Targets*: Number of facilities with inter-local agreements in place. Increase in number of user days during the planning period.

Policy 2.1: The City shall attend and participate in meetings with the Polk Leisure Services Association (LSA) to develop a comprehensive Parks and Open Space Master Plan. The City will coordinate recreation programs and the use of facilities with surrounding municipalities and the County in order to maximize the recreation opportunities available to Auburndale residents. This shall be accomplished through discussions with the County and nearby municipalities. The City shall also suggest that the use and provision of

recreation facilities in the County annually be an agenda item at the monthly Polk County City Managers meetings.

Policy 2.2: The City will work with Polk County Parks and Recreation Division to coordinate the location and development of future county community and regional parks.

Policy 2.3: The City shall support continued public access to recreation facilities owned or maintained by the School Board.

Policy 2.4: The City will continue the established program for soliciting monies from Civic Clubs, individuals and businesses to provide additional equipment and facilities in the parks.

Policy 2.5: The City will continue the established program for soliciting monies from Civic Clubs, individuals and businesses to provide additional park sites or expansion of present parks.

## Objective 3: Ensure Adequate Provision of Recreation Facilities

The City shall ensure consistency with the adopted level of service standards for the provision of future recreation facilities.

*Measurable Targets*: Number of acres of recreation land increase and any other levels of service established for facilities.

Policy 3.1: The City of Auburndale establishes a level of service standard for recreation land of 5.5 acres per 1,000 residents.

Policy 3.2: The City shall enforce land development regulations that ensure that future development provides its fair share of recreation facilities and/or impact fees for such facilities, based on the established level of service standard.

Policy 3.3: The City's Department of Parks and Recreation shall periodically conduct surveys to determine the accessibility of existing recreation sites and facilities and types of additional facilities that may be needed.

Policy 3.4: The location of new recreation sites or facilities shall be prioritized, based on results of the Recreation Survey, and the location and extent of new residential development.

Policy 3.5: The City will maintain/replace existing recreation equipment at sites, based on equipment maintenance needs, age of equipment, etc., and these needs shall be programmed into the Five Year Schedule of Capital Improvements.

Policy 3.6: The City will add recreation equipment to sites that need additional recreation facilities, based on service area needs, age of equipment, etc., and these needs shall be programmed into the Five Year Schedule of Capital Improvements.

## Objective 4: Provision of Open Space

The City of Auburndale shall ensure the provision of adequate open space.

*Measurable Targets*: Any addition to base year acres of 204 permanently classified as Conservation or Open Space.

Policy 4.1: The City shall promote the use of open space for protection of natural vegetation and for landscaping, buffering or greenbelts.

Policy 4.2: Passive recreation sites shall be designated as open space areas, and indicated as Recreation on the City of Auburndale Future Land Use Map.

Policy 4.3: The City shall work with Polk County, the Regional Planning County, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and Southwest Florida Water Management District to implement and extend the Integrated Habitat Network, the Greenways System, Rails to Trails and the Green Swamp Area of Critical Concern.

Policy 4.4: The City shall enforce land development regulations that set standards for set-backs for all building and development from water bodies.