

## **8.0 RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE**

### **8.1 INTRODUCTION**

The RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE element is required to be included within the Comprehensive Plan per requirements of State planning law and rule criteria. Specifically, Chapter 163.3177(6)(e), Florida Statutes establishes the recreation and open space element requirements and Chapter 9J5.014, Florida Administrative Code establishes minimum rule criteria to guide its preparation.

This element contains a summary of the data, analyses and support documentation necessary to form the basis for recreation and open space Goals, Objectives and Policies.

In keeping with the requirements of Chapter 9J5.005 and 9J5.014, Florida Administrative Code, the RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE element is structured according to the following format:

- Existing recreational and open space sites and facilities;
- Recreation and open space analysis; and
- ~~— Recreation and open space Goal, Objectives and Policies~~

### **8.2 EXISTING RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE DATA SUMMARY**

The City of South Bay owns, operates and maintains ~~two~~ three (3) park/recreation facilities. These facilities, located in FIGURE 8-1, include Tanner Park, ~~and~~ Cox Park ~~and the South Bay Nature Park, both~~ all small “neighborhood” facilities. In addition, the City operates a boat ramp on property owned by the U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers on Lake Okeechobee. Further, ~~during the 1989-1995 planning period,~~ the County ~~purchased~~ maintains and operates a 35 acre parcel of land located on U.S. Highway No. 27 ~~and which is~~ developed a recreational vehicle park to accommodate 225 sites. The cost of developing the site was financed with County Park Development Bond revenues. Palm Beach County operates and maintains two recreational facilities- Glades Regional Park and John Stretch Park (FIGURE 8-2)- in the immediate vicinity of South Bay. John Stretch Park is a fifty six (56) acre “community” park located north of the City on U.S. Highway 27 while Glades Regional Park is a 265 acre “regional” park facility. These parks, the facilities and activities they offer are identified in TABLE 8-1.

**RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES**

**(To Be Inserted)**

**FIGURE 8-1**

**PALM BEACH COUNTY RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES**

**(To Be Inserted)**

FIGURE 8-2

TABLE 8-1

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES

Park	Acreage	Jurisdiction	Facilities/Activities
Cox Park	1.2	City of South Bay (Neighborhood)	Two basketball courts; one tot lot w/playground apparatus; restroom facilities
Tanner Park	2.3	City of South Bay (Neighborhood)	Two lighted handball/racquetball courts; one lighted basketball court; one lighted tennis court; one tot lot; office and community center; restroom facilities
South Bay Nature Park	19.35	City of South Bay (Neighborhood)	Nature trails; passive activities
John Stretch Park	56.2	Palm Beach County (Community)	One Little League ball-field; 21 group picnic shelters; 47 family picnic tables; one tot lot; one multi-purpose court; one recreation building; one nature trail; two boat launch ramps; freshwater fishing areas; restroom facilities
Glades Regional Park (partially developed)	264.7	Palm Beach County (Regional)	Four basketball courts; two tennis courts; one softball field; two racquetball courts; Little League field; two tot lots; two football/soccer fields; 11 picnic shelters; bike path; concession stand

In general, County and municipal recreation areas and the facilities they provide are classified as either “neighborhood” or “community” facilities and as “active” or “passive” type activities. Neighborhood type facilities are located within or near residential areas and are designed primarily to serve City residents. Community type facilities are designed to serve the general community, both City and non-resident populations.

“Active” recreation facilities represent an array of special activity facilities that can be provided in close proximity to population centers. They often require specially constructed fields, courts or other apparatus which lend themselves to a particular user-oriented activity. Since active recreation facilities are more easily accommodated in large open spaces, they do not normally require a significant natural resource base as do most passive activities. “Passive” recreation facilities require a resource base, either natural or man-made, with which the user interacts. Oceans, lakes, woodlands and other natural areas offer a variety of passive recreational experiences. Generally, large resource-based areas provide the best setting for passive recreation. However, smaller areas may serve a special need.

~~The City purchased a 19.35 acre parcel of land which is intended to be used for a passive recreation area in the near future (Rico Property). Acquisition funds of \$90,000.00 are being provided by a Florida Communities Trust Grant and additional funds are being provided by a SFWMD grant in the amount of \$100,000.00 for improvements such as drainage and landscaping.~~

~~Currently, a joint use agreement with the Palm Beach County School Board is being pursued to develop the western 10+/- acres at the Rosenwald Elementary School for a park. In 1996, the City completed a design of a proposed site plan for the park, and cost estimates for the project have been prepared. As of 1997, a funding source for the proposed improvements has not yet been identified.~~

In addition to the facilities identified in TABLE 8-1, Lake Okeechobee, the second largest freshwater lake in the United States, is located directly north of the City. The Lake offers a variety of water-related recreational opportunities including boating, fishing, hunting, sailing and swimming. Similarly, the Miami Canal and North New River Canal offer boating and fishing opportunities for the City residents.

### **8.3 RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ANALYSIS**

Overall population, based on U.S. Bureau of Census figures, University of Florida estimates and projections by mathematical extrapolations, are used to measure the potential recreational demands created by the City’s population growth. Population projections ~~to the year 1999~~ for the 5 and 10 year planning periods are used for calculating demand and ultimately the need for future parks and recreational facilities.

Guidelines and standards for park classes, beaches, special uses (i.e. marinas, boat ramps, golf courses),-active and passive recreation facilities are presented in order to calculate need based on estimated demand and availability of existing recreation sites and facilities.

### **8.3.1 Guidelines and Standards**

Park Classification	Standard	Service Area	Site Size	Population Served
Neighborhood	2.5 acres/1000	under 0.5 mi.	under 10 acres	up to 5000
Community	2.5 acres/1000	0.5 – 3.0 mi.	5 – 60 acres	up to 25,000

SOURCE: Needs Assessment Study, 1985  
Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department

Recreation Area	Standard (unit/pop)	User/Guideline	Turnover/Day
Beaches	1 mi./25,000	4224/day	2
Marinas	1 slip/2000	4/day	1
Boating	1 ramp/5000	160/day	40
Golf Course	9 holes/ 25,000	240/day	60

SOURCE: Needs Assessment Study, 1985  
Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department.

Recreation Activity	Standard* (Unit/Pop.)	Guideline	Turnover/Day
Swimming	1 pool/25,000	389/day	2
Tennis	1 court/2000	24/day	8
Basketball	1 court/2000	72/day	6
Shuffleboard	1 court/5000	22/day	8
L.L. Baseball	1 field/3000	100/day	5
Sr. Baseball	1 field/6000	100/day	5
Adult Softball	1 field/6000	100/day	5
Football/Soccer	1 field/4000	140/day	5
Exercise Trail	10 station/10,000	200/day	20
Handball and Racquetball	1 court/5000	32/day	12
Playground	1 area/3000	160/day	8
Volleyball	1 court	144/day	8

SOURCE: “Regional Comprehensive Development Plan” APB 1976  
“Outdoor Recreation in Florida, 1981”

### **8.3.2 Projection of Park and Recreation Needs (Continue)**

In order to establish current and future needs for recreation sites, open space and recreation facilities, the existing supply must be analyzed in terms of the demand created by the present and future population base. By utilizing data presented in TABLE 8-1, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES, demand may be projected by comparing existing and projected population figures to the established park and recreation standards. Needs, on the other hand, may be measured in terms of the amount by which the demand exceeds the existing supply for a given park class or facility. The methodology utilized is as follows: The existing or projected population figures are multiplied by the appropriate standard to determine total demand. The existing supply is then compared to the result in order to arrive at the respective need.

While current and future needs of recreational and open space facilities are based on demand generated by the population base of the City of South Bay, it is apparent that this demand is being met by City-owned and County-owned ~~and privately-owned~~ facilities and open space areas within, or in close proximity to, the City limits. The Level of Service (LOS) standards adopted in the Recreation and Open Space element of the Comprehensive Plan are being met today. The adopted standard is 2.5 acres per 1000 population. With an estimated 2008 resident population of 4702, 11.75 acres minimum would be required to meet the population's needs. Since there are currently 25.71 acres of parks and natural areas in South Bay, the City's recreation/open space LOS standard is being met.

### **8.3.3 Present and Future Population Base (Continue)**

The following population data, as presented in the current FUTURE LAND USE element (~~Section 3.3.4~~) are used to calculate demand of recreational and open space facilities within the City.

	<u>1995</u> <u>2008</u>	<u>2000</u> <u>2013</u>	<u>2005</u> <u>2018</u>
Resident	4119 <u>4702</u>	4650 <u>4892</u>	4916 <u>5402</u>
Seasonal	<del>288</del> 470	<del>300</del> 489	<del>300</del> 540
Total	4407 <u>5170</u>	4950 <u>5381</u>	5216 <u>5942</u>

(Note: ~~1995-2008~~ represents the current population; ~~2000-2013~~, the build-out year and ~~2005-2018~~, the 10-year projection.

### **8.3.4 Summary of Current and Future Recreation and Open Space Needs**

TABLE 8-2 identifies the park classifications, recreation areas and activities within the City and analyzes each in terms of current and future demand. The analysis presented in this TABLE identifies areas of current and future needs. Future recreational uses (I.e. those identified under the current and future needs assessments) are to be included in the Future Land Use Map.

### 8.3.5 Analysis

The City of South Bay has a present resident population of ~~approximately 4119~~ 4702. According to guidelines and standards established by State and local agencies, the City of South Bay no longer lacks ~~some~~ recreation and open space areas and facilities, particularly in terms of neighborhood and community parks. With the addition of the 19.35 acre South Bay Nature Park, the neighborhood park standard is now being met. ~~However,~~ for the purposes of this analysis, it is concluded that County parks are meeting the need for community park facilities. TABLE 8-2 identifies existing supply and current demand of recreation areas.

Assuming an ultimate population of ~~5216~~ 5942 and using Palm Beach County standards for park facilities, the existing in-town facilities ~~appear to meet most of the needs of the residents.~~ with the exception of neighborhood Parks.

The total of all existing public recreation and open space in the City is ~~5.76~~ 22.85 acres. Two large recreation areas owned and maintained by Palm Beach County in the immediate vicinity of South Bay are currently meeting community park needs of the City; and, the level of service standards ~~However, the need for in-town neighborhood facilities is evident~~ are also being met.

South Bay Boat Ramp is located north of U.S. 27/SR 80 just west of the Palm Beach County RV Park on the west side of the Lake Okeechobee Dike and south of Torey Island. During the 1989-1995 planning period, approximately \$408,000 in Boater Improvement funds were spent on improvements including dock replacement, grading, paving, stormwater retention and the construction of a picnic area.

TABLE 8-2 identifies the current and future needs for recreation and open space facilities in the City of South Bay. Most of the standards for facilities and recreation activities are based on a minimum population of 4000 or more. For example, the standard for football/soccer fields is one per 4000 people. Similarly, golf courses, swimming pools, marinas and ballfields are not generally warranted by a resident population of 4000. Some of these facilities are available at the County maintained facilities referenced in the element. ~~However, a program for increasing the inventory of neighborhood parks is needed. As an attempt to meet neighborhood parks needs, the City contacted and is currently pursuing an agreement with the Palm Beach County School Board in an effort to implement a joint use agreement for the purpose of developing neighborhood park facilities on the Rosenwald Elementary School site. Also, the City intends on purchasing a 19+ acre parcel (Rico property) to be used as a passive park. Upon implementation of the joint use agreement and purchase and creation of the 19 acre passive park, it is anticipated that the City will have adequate parks and recreation acreage to meet both the current and projected future needs.~~



**TABLE 8-2**

**RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ANALYSIS**

**(Insert from Craig Smith EAR-Amendment, 1998)**