

1.5 A BRIEF ASSESSMENT OF SUCCESSES AND SHORTCOMINGS RELATED TO EACH ELEMENT [163.3191(2)(H)]

CHAPTER THIRTEEN - RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Recreation and Open Space Element has 2 Goals:

Goal 13.1 Volusia County shall establish a comprehensive parks and recreation system that provides sufficient land, facilities and programs to meet the existing and future recreational needs of the residents of the County.

This Goal has been, and continues to be, successfully implemented as the County annually adds new parks. Volusia County Leisure Services recreation programs and facilities incorporate a theme that embraces Environmental, Cultural, Heritage, and Outdoor (ECHO) activities and sites.

Goal 13.2 Expand and improve an open space system which utilizes unique natural resources and amenities of botanical, ecological, cultural, and historic significance and which provides recreational opportunities.

This Goal is successfully implemented through the County's Volusia Forever program. Since the Volusia Forever program came into existence in November 2000 (October 2001 was when the program actually had money to spend) through December 2004, approximately 29,028 acres of conservation lands have been acquired and added to the open space system. This includes outright purchase (fee simple) as well as conservation easements.

The EAR-based amendments will result in no changes to these Goals; however, there is a proposed change to the Level of Service (LOS) standards for parks described in the following Objective Analysis.

OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS

Objective 13.1.1

Volusia County shall strive to improve public accessibility to existing parks and recreation facilities with the construction of mandatory vehicular access facilities and/or optional bicycle and pedestrian access-ways.

Objective Achievement Analysis

The Objective will remain as currently worded. The County has been successful in improving public accessibility to our new parks as well as our existing parks. All facilities are designed to provide access for all users regardless of physical ability, and bicycle and pedestrian access-ways have also been a priority.

Policy Relevance

The Objective contains 15 Policies that will remain as currently worded.

Objective 13.1.2

Volusia County shall maintain and continue to improve public access to the coastal beach area through the provision of coastal beach access facilities as provided in the Coastal Management Element, as well as the Beach Management Plan.

Objective Achievement Analysis

The Objective will remain as currently worded. The County has successfully maintained coastal beach access according to the subject Objective. In addition, the Beach Management Plan was recently updated and approved by County Council in September 2005. The County has successfully implemented the Policies regarding beach access.

Policy Relevance

The Objective contains 5 Policies that will remain as currently worded.

Objective 13.1.3

Public access facilities for the inland waterways shall be maintained and improved to meet the needs of the population. Inland waterways shall include, but are not limited to, the Halifax River, North Indian River, St. Johns River and Tomoka River, Spruce Creek, Lake George, Lake Monroe, Lake Ashby, Lake Dias, and Lake Beresford, which can support public access facilities.

Objective Achievement Analysis

The Objective will remain as currently worded. This Objective has been successful in maintaining access to the inland waterways. Several projects are currently underway that will open up new access to Lake Beresford and Spruce Creek.

Policy Relevance

The Objective contains 9 Policies that will remain as currently worded. The Policies have been implemented with two new fishing piers under design and additional parking being provided at Riverbreeze Park. There will be minor modifications to Policies 13.1.3.6 and 13.1.3.7 to update agency names, dates and syntax through an EAR-based amendment.

Objective 13.1.4

Volusia County shall maintain current cooperative agreements for public recreation opportunities and shall coordinate and develop a monitoring system and new inter-local agreements with the local public suppliers to ensure park and recreation facilities meet local recreation demands. Coordination with private suppliers of recreational opportunities shall be accomplished through residential land development review

process, analysis of impact on level of services and amendment to the Land Development Code to include District and Local Parks impact fees in the unincorporated area for the purpose of providing new parks necessitated by such development.

Objective Achievement Analysis

This Objective should be revised through an EAR-based amendment to reflect proposed change to one standard County Park classification, LOS standard and subsequent impact fee.

Policy Relevance

The Objective contains 17 Policies that will remain as currently worded with a minor change through an EAR-based amendment to Policy 13.1.4.9 to reflect the proposed change to one standard County Park classification.

Objective 13.1.5

Volusia County shall develop and maintain a system of recreation sites and facilities to meet the Level of Service standards of the County.

Objective Achievement Analysis

The Objective will remain as currently worded. However, there are proposed changes to the LOS standard for parks as stated in the corresponding Policies of the subject Objective.

Policy Relevance

The Objective contains 3 Policies that will be modified to be consistent with any recommended changes to the LOS standard for parks. The County is currently meeting the adopted level of service standard as set forth in Policy 13.1.5.1. However, there is a desire to revisit the park classifications to see if one standard "County Park" classification would better serve the community. In analyzing the current local and district park classifications, it is found that some local parks actually function as district parks and some district parks function as local parks. Also, the list of minimal facilities, as provided in Policy 13.1.5.2, is too constraining and does not leave room for building parks based on the desires of the public. This will be done in 2007 in conjunction with the proposed impact fee study being done by the Building and Zoning's Permit Activity.

Objective 13.1.6

Volusia County shall ensure that parks, recreation facilities and open space areas are economically feasible to acquire, develop, operate and maintain through the year 2010 by coordinating and implementing a County-wide park system between the public and private sectors.

Objective Achievement Analysis

The Objective will remain as currently worded with a minor update to the referenced date through an EAR-based amendment. This Objective continues to be successfully implemented as we annually apply for and receive grants from local, state and federal agencies. Maintenance of our parks system continues to be funded through the general fund. As noted above, the Local and District Parks Impact Fee Ordinance will be reviewed in 2007. We continue to work with private developers to provide recreation facilities and trails.

Policy Relevance

The Objective contains 11 Policies that will remain as currently worded with minor modifications to reflect the proposed change to one standard County Park classification and to update agency names, dates and syntax through an EAR-based amendment.

Objective 13.1.7

County staff shall periodically review park property for safety and security deficiencies and shall incorporate, where practical, those improvements in the design and operation of the County's park system.

Objective Achievement Analysis

The Objective will remain as currently worded. The County holds regularly scheduled safety meetings to successfully implement this Objective.

Policy Relevance

The Objective contains 1 Policy that will remain as currently worded.

Objective 13.2.1

Volusia County shall develop a system of open space through the preservation of significant lands as identified on the Future Land Use Map, and Potential Open Space Areas Map of the Recreation and Open Space Element support document.

Objective Achievement Analysis

The Objective will remain as currently worded. This Objective and its related Policies continue to be met through the County's Volusia Forever program.

Policy Relevance

The Objective contains 5 Policies that will remain as currently worded.

Objective 13.2.2

The County, through programs/processes such as, but not limited to, Volusia Forever and ECHO, shall increase the provision, protection and enhancement of public open

space. Provision of open space by private enterprise shall be accomplished through donation or requirements for dedication of open space as specified in the Zoning Ordinance and Land Development Code.

Objective Achievement Analysis

The Objective will remain as currently worded. This Objective and its related Policies continue to be met through the County's Volusia Forever program.

Policy Relevance

The Objective contains 4 Policies that will remain as currently worded.

Objective 13.2.3

Provide for recreational corridors to link the County-owned parks as well as other open space/conservation areas.

Objective Achievement Analysis

The Objective will remain as currently worded. This Objective is being successfully implemented as part of the County's Trails Program.

Policy Relevance

The Objective contains 10 Policies that will remain as currently worded with minor modifications to a few Policies to correct syntax and reference coordination with the Department of Environmental Protection Office of Greenways and Trails. Policy 13.2.3.10 will remain as currently worded, but will be moved to the following section under Objective 13.2.4. These changes will be made through an EAR-based amendment.

Objective 13.2.4

Provide for adequate protection of the County's open space/conservation areas.

Objective Achievement Analysis

The Objective will remain as currently worded.

Policy Relevance

The Objective contains 6 Policies that will remain as currently worded with the transfer and renumbering of current Policy 13.2.3.10, as stated above.