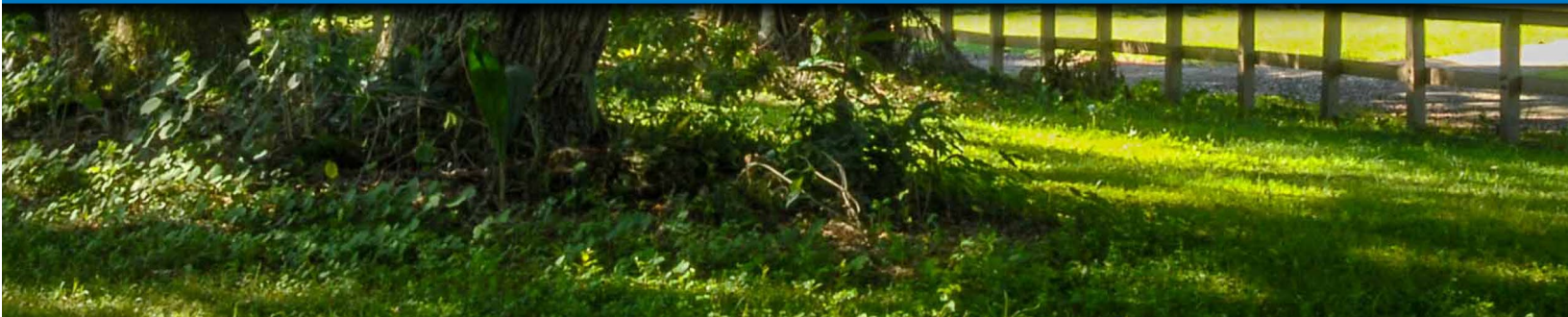




# Recreation and Open Space Element



# Post-Adoption Amendments

The BrowardNEXT2.0 Comprehensive Plan was adopted on March 28, 2019 (Ordinance No. 2019-11).

Post-adoption amendments are listed below:

- Ordinance No. 2022-02, Adopted January 25, 2022:
  - Adds text to POLICY R 4.3 and 4.5, regarding the peril of flood requirements of Section 163.3178(2)(f), Florida Statutes.

# Table of Contents

Recreation and Open Space Element.....	3
Policy History.....	4
Focus Areas.....	5
Legal Authority.....	5
Goals, Objectives & Policies.....	6
<b>GOAL RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE.....</b>	<b>6</b>
OBJECTIVE R1 – Provide Access to Parks and Recreation.....	6
OBJECTIVE R2 – Resource Coordination.....	7
OBJECTIVE R3 – Level of Service Requirements.....	8
OBJECTIVE R4 – Sustainable Future.....	9

# Recreation and Open Space Element

Recreation and open spaces play a vital role in the social, economic, environmental, and physical well-being of Broward County and its residents. As the population grows and open spaces are developed, the pressures on the existing parks system to meet the needs of Broward County population increases. Therefore, it is vital for Broward County to maintain and further develop an interconnected system of local and regional parks, recreation areas, greenways, blueways, plazas, and waterfronts.



**Markham Park:** 666-acre park featuring 11 miles of bike trails, model airplane field, lakes for jet skiing, camping ground, boat ramps, picnic areas and a target range comprising four unique venues.

Economically, parks and open spaces are integral parts of livable cities and a competitive marketplace, as they play a key role in providing the amenities that attract the highly skilled workforce needed for a diverse economic base. They can also help to maintain property values, reduce storm water infrastructure costs, reduce flooding, add to the Community Rating System (CRS) credits, and promote tourism by providing sites for events, festivals, and tournaments. Parks and recreation areas also help offset concerns of higher density redevelopment by providing access to greenspace.

From a public health standpoint, they provide places to enjoy the outdoors and the recreational facilities for heart healthy, stress lowering activities. They also offer a place to connect and interact, thus fostering community engagement, a sense of identity, well-being, and overall quality of life. Parks also provide children the opportunity to develop self-identity and belonging through shared learning experiences.

Environmentally, a network of parks, open spaces, and wetlands provide wildlife corridors and protect biodiversity, as well as the areas necessary to help mitigate the impact of urban heat islands, climate change, and associated weather-related anomalies. The vegetation in parks and open spaces also clean the air by removing pollutants.

## Policy History

- 1977 The Broward County Land Use Plan includes Level of Service Requirements of 3 acres per 1,000 residents for local and regional parks.
- 1978 A seventy-three million dollar bond referendum was approved authorizing the acquisition of many larger County parks.
- 1989 Recreation and Open Space Element was adopted as part of the County's first Comprehensive Plan.
- 1989 Seventy-five million dollar Environmentally Sensitive Lands Bond approved that led to the acquisition of many large natural areas.
- 2000 Four hundred million dollar Safe Parks and Land Preservation Bond approved that led to the acquisition of more than one thousand acres of conservation lands.

## Focus Areas

- Provide public access to an interconnected system of parks, recreation areas, greenways, blueways, plazas, and waterfronts
- Coordinate resources in an effort to adequately meet the parks, open space, and recreation needs of Broward County
- Ensure local and regional park and open space demand is being met through Level of Service requirements
- Create a regional master plan for Broward County that addresses sustainability, including the impacts of climate change and funding

## Legal Authority



Chapter 163.3177 (6)(e), Florida Statutes: A recreation and open space element indicating a comprehensive system of public and private sites for recreation, including, but not limited to, natural reservations, parks and playgrounds, parkways, beaches and public access to beaches, open spaces, waterways, and other recreational facilities.

The Recreation and Open Space Element includes Goals, Objectives and Policies that support the Focus Areas. Once the policies are adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, government agencies, partners, and the community work together to advance and implement those policies.

# Goals, Objectives & Policies

## GOAL RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

Provide safe and adequate recreation sites and facilities to satisfy the current and future needs of residents, businesses, and visitors while promoting active and healthy living.

### OBJECTIVE R1 – Provide Access to Parks and Recreation

Ensure public access to local and regional parks, recreation sites and facilities, including greenways, water bodies, and Broward County’s beachfront.

**POLICY R1.1** Broward County shall continue to utilize the development review process of the Land Development Code to assure adequate local park sites are available, to assure regional parks are available Countywide, and to ensure the provision of pervious areas and greenspace by requiring developers to meet open space requirements the Broward County Land Development Code.

**POLICY R1.2** Broward County shall encourage public access to beaches at a minimum of one-half mile intervals with appropriate wayfinding signage to identify access locations.

**POLICY R1.3** Broward County shall continue efforts to maintain and retrofit its existing recreation sites and facilities while ensuring they are accessible to the elderly and persons with disabilities, consistent with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). New recreation sites and facilities shall also be designed consistent with the ADA.

**POLICY R1.4** Broward County shall enhance access to recreation sites and open spaces through interconnectivity between greenway and blueway systems, bikeways, pedestrian paths, plazas, waterfronts, equestrian trails, and local and regional parks.

**POLICY R1.5** Broward County shall expand complete streets and greenway networks as well as trailheads to improve access and connectivity to parks. This includes improvement of public infrastructure to help create safe walking routes to and from parks and trail head parking.

**POLICY R1.6** Broward County shall maintain and explore opportunities for additional parks that provide activities to support healthy living and exercise and include public awareness materials regarding the connection between physical activity and overall health benefits.

**POLICY R1.7** Broward County shall increase safe and equitable access to parks through partnerships to maximize resources, initiatives, and strategies to improve the comfort, convenience, and safety of parks, as well as implementing the Transportation Element’s greenway policies.

## OBJECTIVE R2 – Resource Coordination

Coordinate public and private resources to meet recreation and open space demands.

**POLICY R2.1** Broward County shall continue to conduct outreach efforts including the annual Public Participation Forum, newsletters (such as Highlights and Nearby Nature), brochures, and social media, to ensure that public and private entities are informed of local and regional recreation activities and available facilities.

**POLICY R2.2** Broward County shall conduct recreation and nature [programs](#) and [festivals](#) such as Nature Tots, Sea Turtles and Their Babies, Jamming in the Park, Everglades Day, and Holiday Fantasy of Lights.



Broward County nature centers offer exceptional program development and presentations. Two of the most successful programs are [Nature Tots](#) and [Sea Turtles and Their Babies](#).

**POLICY R2.3** Broward County shall maintain and update the Broward County inventory of community cultural facilities and organizations. Monitor the use of facilities in order to determine if they meet the needs of the user and are accessible (located within 25-minute drive).

**POLICY R2.4** Broward County shall work with private and public organizations to encourage the availability of adequate public space in development plans for cultural and recreational purposes, such as exhibits, community gardens, festivals, and artist studios. Support special events such as street festivals (open streets).

**POLICY R2.5** Broward County shall work with private and public organizations to encourage strong community support and involvement in greenway and blueway efforts.

**POLICY R2.6** Broward County shall coordinate with other governmental and/or non-governmental organizations to ensure the protection and enhancement of natural and outdoor recreation areas and to encourage partnerships that leverage the sharing of facilities, such as school districts and municipal and county park agencies.



**POLICY R2.7** Broward County shall continue to support and participate in Bicycle Month (March) activities, led by the Parks and Recreation Division, including safety-oriented training, promoting healthy living, and providing enhanced awareness of bicyclists.



Broward County Markham Park Mountain Bike Trail offers roughly 14 miles of trails. Trails are available for the novice, intermediate, expert/pro rider, and the adaptive bike rider.

### OBJECTIVE R3 – Level of Service Requirements

Ensure that parks meet the local and regional parks level-of-service standards of three acres per thousand population.

**POLICY R3.1** Broward County shall complete the development plans for regional parks and local parks in the Broward Municipal Service District (BMSD) Area as identified in the Capital Improvements Element.

**Did you know Broward County Planning Council maintains a Municipal Certified Open Space Inventory?** [Municipality Park Inventories](#)

**POLICY R3.2** Broward County shall continue to utilize the level of service (LOS) standard in Table R-1, which was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners to assess adequacy of service and concurrency, for the County's local and regional parks and recreation facilities.

**Table R-1:** Level of Service Standard for Local Parks in the BMSD and Regional Parks

Facility Type	Level of Service Standard
Local Parks in BMSD only	Three (3) acres per 1,000 persons (minimum)
Regional Parks	Three (3) acres per 1,000 persons (minimum)

## OBJECTIVE R4 – Sustainable Future

Broward County shall continue to advance recreation and open space policies that respond to the changing conditions and character of the County and that enhance the value and sustainability of recreation and open space areas.

**POLICY R4.1** Broward County Parks and Recreation Division shall study successful recreation and open space plans, programs, and benchmarks to establish a set of best practices.

**POLICY R4.2** Broward County Parks and Recreation Division shall establish an extensive team of subject matter experts, including municipal and County staff, to assist with the development of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Broward County. The master plan will have robust measurements, consider types of facilities for different ages and abilities, evaluate demand and spacing, incorporate best practices from other plans and programs, and garner widespread support and acceptance throughout Broward County.

**POLICY R4.3** Broward County Parks and Recreation Division, Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division, and Highway Construction and Engineering Division shall study climate change, intensifying sea level rise, and potential flooding impacts on recreation and open space areas and facilities, including the cost impacts on net acreage, and include strategies and recommendations to address these impacts.

**POLICY R4.4** Broward County shall support the designation efforts for the Adaptation Action Areas (AAAs) and look for synergistic opportunities and strategies to enhance recreation and open space areas within the AAAs.

**POLICY R4.5** Broward County shall support funding for sustainability of parks and recreation areas, including the possible costs of climate change, intensifying sea level rise, and potential flooding adaptation, by evaluating the current level of impact fees. Recommendations provided will be based on future needs and best practice examples.

**POLICY R4.6** Broward County shall continue the installation of green infrastructure in recreation sites and facilities. Retrofit and install green infrastructure and water reuse in new Broward County recreation facilities where possible (solar and wind power, etc.).



**Miramar Pineland Park:** A regional park and nature center spanning wetlands, flatwoods and prairie land with a boardwalk and trails.