

2025 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

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RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

GOAL REC 1: ENSURE PROVISION OF OUTSTANDING PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES DESIGNED TO SATISFY THE ACTIVE AND PASSIVE RECREATIONAL NEEDS OF ALL OF THE COUNTY'S EXISTING AND FUTURE CITIZENS, AND PROMOTE THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

OBJECTIVE REC 1.1: LEVEL OF SERVICE AND CONCURRENCY

Achieve and maintain the Level of Service standards for recreation and open space to meet the demands of the existing and future population of Pasco County.

POLICY REC 1.1.1: ADOPTED LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS FOR COMMUNITY AND DISTRICT PARKS

Pasco County shall continue to implement adopted Level of Service standards for community and district parks.

- a. Construction of new and expansion of existing community and district parks, as necessary, shall resolve future deficiencies relative to the adopted Level of Service standard for these types of parks.
- b. Future construction and expansion of community and district parks shall be in areas where the population is not currently served by existing parks.

POLICY REC 1.1.2: ADOPTED LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARD FOR REGIONAL PARKS

Pasco County shall continue to implement the adopted Level of Service standard for regional parks.

POLICY REC 1.1.3: RESOLUTION OF FUTURE DEFICIENCIES IN RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Pasco County shall resolve, subject to the availability of appropriate revenues, future deficiencies in recreational facilities.

POLICY REC 1.1.4: ADOPTED LEVEL OF SERVICE

Pasco County's adopted 2010 Level of Service standards for recreation and open space are shown in Table 5-1. Table 5-1 standards are regulatory in application and comprise the recreation and open space component of Pasco County's

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concurrency system, providing a Level of Service that Pasco County desires to achieve for parks and recreation consistent with the Pasco County Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

TABLE 5-1

Park Acreage Level of Service Standards

Park Type	Population Per Park
Community (20-40 acres)	25,000
District (80 acres)	50,000
Regional (100 acres or greater)	100,000

POLICY REC 1.1.5: PROVISION OF NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks shall be addressed through County coordination with the municipalities, District School Board of Pasco County, the County's Neighborhood Park Ordinance, and through consideration of implementation of municipal service taxing units or community development districts for neighborhood park development and maintenance.

POLICY REC 1.1.6: SPECIAL USE FACILITIES

By 2010, Pasco County shall evaluate the need for new or expanded special use, recreational facilities. These special use, recreational facilities may include, but are not limited to, handicapped recreational facilities, dog parks, skate parks, and senior and youth centers.

POLICY REC 1.1.7: MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Parks and recreation facilities shall continue to be maintained in a safe and aesthetically pleasing manner.

OBJECTIVE REC 1.2: COORDINATION

Communicate with municipalities, the District School Board of Pasco County, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, community development districts, and County residents to prevent overlapping of recreational programs and facilities in adjacent areas and to maximize efficient use of facilities.

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POLICY REC 1.2.1: COORDINATION OF PARK FACILITIES AND RECREATIONAL SERVICES

Pasco County shall pursue coordination of park facilities and services with municipalities, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and others providing similar services.

POLICY REC 1.2.2: COORDINATION OF PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WITH SCHOOLS

Pasco County shall pursue coordination with the District School Board of Pasco County for the collocation and joint use of parks, libraries, and schools.

POLICY REC 1.2.3: PARKS AND RECREATION COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Pasco County shall consider the establishment of a coordination committee through the reactivation of the former Pasco County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board or establishment of a similar committee. The committee should include representatives from the County, municipalities, the District School Board of Pasco County, and other recreational providers. The purpose of the committee is to coordinate the various park and recreational plans and activities within Pasco County.

POLICY REC 1.2.4: MARKETING OF PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM

Pasco County shall market the parks and recreation system through the County's Public Communication Manager using the internet, radio, television, signage, and literature to enhance public awareness of the County's diverse parks and recreation system.

OBJECTIVE REC 1.3: FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Provide funding for the park and recreation infrastructure needed to support existing and new residential development in a manner that is comprehensive, economical, and efficient.

POLICY REC 1.3.1: IMPACT FEE FOR PARKS AND RECREATION

The Pasco County Parks and Recreation Impact Fee shall continue to be collected for the acquisition, design, and development of new parks and recreation facilities to meet the demands of future residential development.

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POLICY REC 1.3.2: PARK AND RECREATION EXPENDITURE PRIORITIES

In the allocation of the County's general funds for parks and recreation, Pasco County shall prioritize expenditures as follows:

Priority 1: Operation, maintenance, and renovation to existing County parks and recreation facilities.

Priority 2: Acquisition and development of new parks and recreation facilities and expansion of existing park facilities.

POLICY REC 1.3.3: PARK AND RECREATION GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

The County shall continue to aggressively pursue State and Federal grants and cooperative agreements with other governmental, quasi-governmental, nonprofit, and civic organizations for parks and recreation facilities.

POLICY REC 1.3.4: BONDING AND MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNITS

Pasco County should consider the use of bonding and municipal service taxing units to provide for the funding of capital and maintenance improvements and expansion of parks and recreation facilities.

POLICY REC 1.3.5: USER FEES

By 2010, parks and recreation user fees shall be evaluated to determine if they are appropriate to recover a portion or all of the cost of programs associated with the fee.

POLICY REC 1.3.6: AFFORDABLE PARKS AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The County shall continue to offer, and support partners in offering, affordable parks and recreational programs reaching all income and socioeconomic populations.

POLICY REC 1.3.7: SPONSORSHIPS AND CORPORATE/BUSINESS AGREEMENTS

Pasco County shall explore opportunities with corporations and businesses to assist in the financing of the operation, maintenance, development, and programs of the Pasco County parks and recreation system.

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POLICY REC 1.3.8: ALTERNATIVE FINANCING OPTIONS

Pasco County shall explore alternatives to ad valorem revenue to assist with the financing of the operation, maintenance, development, and programs of the Pasco County parks and recreation system, including financing by special districts.

POLICY REC 1.3.9: ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Pasco County shall pursue additional financial resources, as necessary and where available, consistent with this Objective.

OBJECTIVE REC 1.4: PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT

Maximize private development assistance in providing parks and recreational opportunities to meet current and future parks and recreational demands.

POLICY REC 1.4.1: REQUIREMENTS FOR ADEQUATE LAND FOR PARKS

Pasco County shall continue to implement Land Development Regulations that require private developers to provide land, construct, and maintain neighborhood parks as part of new developments or redevelopment activities that contain twenty-five (25) dwelling units or more. In addition, the County shall consider expanding the requirement to include community parks.

POLICY REC 1.4.2: INCENTIVES FOR PROVISION OF ADEQUATE LAND AND IMPROVEMENTS FOR PARKLAND

Pasco County shall consider the adoption of additional incentives for private developers to provide adequate land and improvements for any useable upland dedicated to Pasco County for parks. These incentives may include, but are not limited to, density bonuses or transfer of development rights.

POLICY REC 1.4.3: PROVISIONS OF IMPACT FEE OFFSETS AND CREDITS FOR PRIVATE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Pasco County shall continue to implement the Parks and Recreation Impact Fee Ordinance and its requirements and standards for impact fee offsets and credits for private parkland donation and development.

OBJECTIVE REC 1.5: SALTWATER AND FRESHWATER ACCESS

Provide public access to all existing and future saltwater and freshwater beaches and shores.

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POLICY REC 1.5.1: PUBLIC BEACH AND COASTAL/SHORELINE ACCESS

Pasco County shall maintain and, as funding permits, increase the quantity and quality of public beach and coastal/shoreline access.

POLICY REC 1.5.2: PUBLIC BEACH AND COASTAL/SHORELINE ACCESS POINTS

Pasco County shall continue coordination with the State to ensure that all existing public beach access points owned/operated by the State are maintained or improved. The County shall continue coordination with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Southwest Florida Water Management District for the acquisition of additional coastal lands for conservation and appropriate recreation.

POLICY REC 1.5.3: MAINTENANCE OF BOATING ACCESS POINTS

Pasco County shall maintain and, as funding permits, increase the quantity and quality of public boating access points.

POLICY REC 1.5.4: ACCESS TO ANCLOTE KEY STATE PRESERVE

The feasibility of providing enhanced public access via a ferry or other means to the Anclote Key State Preserve shall be coordinated with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

OBJECTIVE REC 1.6: ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY OF PARKS AND TRAILS

Provide public access and connectivity for all existing and future trails, public parks, and recreational facilities through the Year 2025.

POLICY REC 1.6.1: GENERAL CONNECTIVITY

Pasco County shall promote the linkage and connectivity of parks and recreation, neighborhoods, schools, and libraries by requiring that the design for the development of new or redevelopment of existing parks, schools, libraries, and neighborhoods includes the consideration of trails, bicycle paths, and mass transit linkages.

POLICY REC 1.6.2: DESIGN STANDARDS FOR CONNECTIVITY

By 2010, Pasco County shall establish design standards for connection to the County's trail network. Until the design standards are established, design considerations for connection to the trail network shall be determined in cooperation with County staff and the developer.

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POLICY REC 1.6.3: CONNECTIVITY OF NEW DEVELOPMENT

Pasco County shall require new development to provide for access and connectivity to the County trail system as shown in the Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization's 2025 Long-Range Transportation Plan trail network, Map 5-1. At such time when the County adopts a trails/blueways master plan, the trails/blueways master plan shall be used as the reference for connectivity and access for trails in place of the Metropolitan Planning Organization's 2025 Long-Range Transportation Plan.

POLICY REC 1.6.4: ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE HANDICAPPED AND ELDERLY

All public recreational facilities shall be developed and improved, as necessary, to ensure that such facilities are accessible to the handicapped and elderly and, at a minimum, meet the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. Handicapped parking and barrier-free access to public recreational facilities shall be provided.

POLICY REC 1.6.5: PROVISION OF ALTERNATE FORMS OF TRANSPORTATION TO PUBLIC RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The use of alternate forms of transportation to public recreational facilities shall be encouraged. The development of separate bicycle and pedestrian accesses and bicycle racks for parks shall be considered.

POLICY REC 1.6.6: TRAILS/GREENWAYS/BUEWAYS

Pasco County recognizes that trails, greenways, and blueways are a component of the overall parks and recreation system of Pasco County. The planning and development of parks will consider the opportunity for connectivity to the overall trail/greenway/blueway system within Pasco County and the adjacent counties.

POLICY REC 1.6.7: TRAILS/BUEWAYS MASTER PLAN

By 2010, Pasco County shall prepare a trails/blueways master plan in coordination with the Parks and Recreation Department, the Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization, and a citizens' trails/blueways master plan committee. The Metropolitan Planning Organization's 2025 Long-Range Transportation Plan trails component shall be used as an interim master plan for trails/blueways until such time as the trails/blueways master plan is complete. Map 5-1 is the Metropolitan Planning Organization's 2025 Long-Range Transportation Plan trail network, and shall be used as the interim guiding reference for trail/blueways connectivity and access.

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POLICY REC 1.6.8: GREENWAYS MASTER PLAN

By 2010, Pasco County shall prepare a greenways master plan in coordination with the Parks and Recreation Department and the Environmental Lands Acquisition and Management Program.

POLICY REC 1.6.9: WAYFINDING PROGRAM

As new parks are developed, Pasco County shall implement a "wayfinding" signage program for regional and district parks and recreation facilities throughout the County.

OBJECTIVE REC 1.7: CORRIDOR DESIGN STANDARDS

Enhance the visual quality and provide a framework of ideal standards and classifications for roadways to promote interconnectivity of the parks system.

POLICY REC 1.7.1: RECREATIONAL PURPOSE OF PUBLIC ROADWAYS

In recognition that public roadways serve a recreational purpose (also referred to as a linear park), the County shall evaluate the development of design standards to establish a vision for the roadway network.

POLICY REC 1.7.2: IDEAL PARK SYSTEM STREETSCAPES

The County shall consider the development of a classification system for the roadway network that incorporates corridor design standards for each type of roadway that include, at a minimum:

- Right-of-way width.
- Maximum design speed.
- Sidewalk width and location.
- Bicycle-lane requirements.
- Curb requirements.
- Travel-lane width.
- Number of lanes required.
- Median requirements.
- Landscaping requirements.
- Parking requirements.

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POLICY REC 1.7.3: SCENIC ROADWAYS

The County shall preserve the visual quality of scenic roadways by developing standards for future development along designated scenic roadways, which include at a minimum:

- Building setbacks and heights.
- Signage, lighting, and outdoor advertising.
- Curb cuts and utilities in the right-of-way.
- Fences and walls and other structures within the setback.
- Minimum tree size, arbor, and supplemental landscaping requirements.

POLICY REC 1.7.4: JOINT PROJECTS

The County shall pursue interlocal agreements and joint projects with municipalities, private agencies, and the Florida Department of Transportation for the implementation and funding of roadway programs for greenways, scenic roadways, and/or other enhancements where appropriate.

OBJECTIVE REC 1.8: GOLF COURSE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Golf course development and maintenance shall minimize its impact on the natural environment.

POLICY REC 1.8.1: GOLF COURSE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Golf courses within Pasco County shall utilize Best Management Practices in the maintenance of the courses in order to minimize, to the greatest extent possible, adverse impacts on the surrounding environment. The document titled *Best Management Practices for Golf Course Maintenance Departments*, published by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in May 1995, shall be used as the guide for defining the minimum level of Best Management Practices.

POLICY REC 1.8.2: GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

Pasco County shall encourage new golf course developments to apply the *Environmental Principles for Golf Courses in the United States*, published by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. In addition, the County shall encourage golf course developments to participate in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf through the Audubon International organization.

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OBJECTIVE REC 1.9: COMMON OPEN SPACE

Protection of lands, defined as open space, from incompatible land uses, and maintenance of the function and value of such lands as resources for passive recreation.

POLICY REC 1.9.1: PRESERVATION OF OPEN SPACE

Pasco County shall continue to define and preserve as open space areas, those areas designated as CON (Conservation Lands) on the Future Land Use Map; jurisdictional wetlands, including any associated buffers which may be established; significant habitats of threatened and endangered species; and any species-management areas for species of special concern. Where appropriate, utilize such areas for passive recreation.

POLICY REC 1.9.2: ACQUISITION OF LANDS ADJACENT TO BAYS, RIVERS, LAKES, AND THE GULF OF MEXICO

Pasco County shall continue to identify and evaluate for acquisition, lands adjacent to bays, rivers, lakes, and the Gulf of Mexico for use as public areas suitable for open space.

OBJECTIVE REC 1.10: CONSERVATION AREAS

Increase utilization of public lands within conservation areas for appropriate recreation and open space activities.

POLICY REC 1.10.1: PUBLICLY OWNED LAND FOR PASSIVE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Pasco County shall encourage the use of publicly owned land within conservation areas for passive recreational opportunities, where appropriate, in settings designed to manage the natural resources on such lands.

POLICY REC 1.10.2: USE OF STATE FUNDS FOR RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

Pasco County shall coordinate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Southwest Florida Water Management District to facilitate the use of State funds to develop appropriate, recreational resources on land within Pasco County, particularly within the conservation area.

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POLICY REC 1.10.3: AGREEMENTS TO ENSURE PASSIVE RECREATIONAL AND OPEN SPACE OPPORTUNITIES

Pasco County shall continue to negotiate and enter into agreements with municipalities, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and other State and Federal agencies to make public properties available to the public for appropriate, passive recreational and open space uses.

POLICY REC 1.10.4: PROHIBITION ON USES IN CONSERVATION AREAS

Publicly and privately provided recreational opportunities within conservation areas shall be limited to passive recreational uses.

OBJECTIVE REC 1.11: MARINE FISHERY MANAGEMENT

Develop and expand the Artificial Reef Program, maximizing recreational water opportunities.

POLICY REC 1.11.1: REFURBISHMENT AND EXPANSION OF EXISTING ARTIFICIAL REEF SITES

Pasco County shall continue to refurbish and expand the three (3) existing artificial reef sites by adding environmentally accepted reef materials, depending on funding availability.

POLICY REC 1.11.2: COMPLETION OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES ON ADDITIONAL REEF SITE LOCATIONS

Pasco County shall continue to conduct environmental studies on additional reef site locations with the intention of adding a new reef site every seven (7) years, depending on funding availability. The County shall coordinate with local colleges, universities, and dive clubs to advise, monitor, and help expand the program.

POLICY REC 1.11.3: MONITORING OF EXISTING FISHERIES

Pasco County shall continue its research and analysis program on current sites to include data collection of site conditions, material placement, fish species (numbers and varieties), water quality, tide variations, and effects on existing fisheries.

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**POLICY REC 1.11.4: ADDITIONAL AND ALTERNATIVE FUNDING
 SOURCES FOR THE ARTIFICIAL REEF PROGRAM**

Pasco County shall continue to seek additional and alternative funding sources for the Artificial Reef Program.

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AMENDMENTS TO THE RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

BCC Adoption Date	Effective Date	Supplement ID	Ordinance Number	Revised Components	Type
10/23/1991	11/1/1990	Settlement Agreement	90-14	Recreation and Open Space Element	Settlement Agreement
7/16/1991	7/22/1991	91-1	91-13	Recreation and Open Space Element	Amendment
8/18/1992	8/28/1992	92-1 (DCA 92-2)	92-14	Recreation and Open Space Element	Amendment
8/12/1997	12/19/2000	97-1A (DCA 97-1ER)	97-11	Recreation and Open Space Element	Amendment
9/28/1999	12/19/2000	Compliance Agreement	99-22	Recreation and Open Space Element	Compliance Agreement
6/27/2006	9/8/2006	EAR-Based Amendments	06-18	Recreation and Open Space Element	Amendment
11/25/2008	2/9/2009	Capital Improvement Element Update and Schedule FY 2009-13	08-49	Recreation and Open Space Element	Amendment