



**2025  
Comprehensive Plan for the  
City of Temple Terrace  
Florida**

**Recreation and  
Open Space**

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Hillsborough County  
City-County  
Planning  
Commission

**THE  
PLANNING  
COMMISSION**

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# City of Temple Terrace Recreation and Open Space

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
INTRODUCTION.....	1
INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS.....	3
LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS .....	11
EXISTING AND FUTURE NEEDS.....	13
*GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES .....	17
*STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION.....	25
SUMMARY .....	27
CONSISTENCY WITH STATE AND REGIONAL POLICY PLANS .....	29

*\*These portions of the Element are required by Part II, Chapter 163, Florida Statute, to be adopted by the Temple Terrace City Council. The remainder of the Element contains background information.*

<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
TABLE 1. TEMPLE TERRACE – PARKS AND RECREATION COMPLEXES. ....	7 AND 8
TABLE 2. TEMPLE TERRACE STANDARDS AND NEEDS.....	15

<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
FIGURE 1. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RECREATION SITES. ....	9

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# Recreation and Open Space

## INTRODUCTION

### **“A BEAUTIFUL ENVIRONMENT EMBRACED BY DIVERSE CITIZENS”**

This phrase embodies Temple Terrace’s recognition of the beauty of its natural, manmade, and social environment, and the need to sustain, renew, and improve it.

The City’s parks, open space, trails, and recreation facilities play an important role in the physical, mental, social, and environmental health of Temple Terrace. They strengthen the body and assist in maintaining physical well-being. They provide the visual relief and relaxation that refreshes and restores the frame of mind. They create opportunities for personal interaction and provide alternatives to crime. They improve air quality, reduce urban runoff, and decrease the effects of urban heat islands.

*Parks and Open Space are part of the City’s Timeless Assets.* They combine with the Hillsborough River, Oak tree canopy and the meandering golf course assets to give the City its unique identity and must be built upon in all forms of decision-making. Each asset contributes to the City’s distinct character, but no one fully describes what the City is. Only when all are factored into decisions, and taken into account when acting, can the City and its citizens be assured that the best interests of the City are being appropriately addressed, and its distinguishing features preserved and projected into the future.

The purpose of the **Recreation and Open Space Element** is to provide the City with opportunities to enhance recreation and open space areas while designating adequate and appropriately located recreational facilities to meet the needs of the anticipated population.

Temple Terrace needs to plan for the development of additional recreation facilities to provide the necessary recreational opportunities to keep pace with the demands generated by growth.

*The community has identified its natural, manmade, and social assets, which give value, uniqueness, and distinctiveness to the City. These must be sustained, or made sustainable, if the City is to retain them as assets into the future. Otherwise, the City will lose important components which make it and its people the special place it is. Similarly, as improvements are made, progress occurs, and a better City emerges, these changes must also be **sustained** or become lost in the future.*

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# INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

## INTRODUCTION

The City’s natural environment or its “natural assets” are essential to Temple Terrace’s identity. These assets have helped shaped the physical form of the City – the Hillsborough River, the City’s oak tree canopy, even the terraced landscape all contribute to Temple Terrace’s unique environment. The Hillsborough River provides many recreational opportunities in Temple Terrace such as canoeing, kayaking and fishing as well as presenting itself as an aesthetically pleasing natural environment. The City’s natural environment allows for citizens to actively pursue outdoor activities whether canoeing along the Hillsborough River or playing tennis.

Temple Terrace is a rapidly growing city on the western coast of Florida. From 2005 to 2025 the population of Temple Terrace is expected to increase from 22,020 to 29,400. The City’s Leisure Services Department provides many recreational facilities which serve the needs of residents and non-residents in the surrounding areas. Historically, there has been a high demand for outdoor recreational activities in this City due to the favorable year-round climate. Economic growth in this area has helped raise the standard of living for the average City resident and has thus, created more leisure time for citizens to participate in recreational activities of all kinds.

The City has invested wisely in neighborhood parks and community parks, both active and passive. In the past, the City, private developments, clubs, and volunteer service organizations have provided for the community’s smaller recreational needs by providing neighborhood, community, and district parks. Hillsborough County and various federal funds have provided the large regional parks; i.e., Lettuce Lake Park.

Parks are gathering places and help to promote social interaction and establish social bonds helping to achieve connections throughout the City. As the population of the City grows, so does the demand for additional recreation facilities. Identifying the impact generated by these new residents is important in assessing the needs which the Leisure Services Department will be expected to meet in the future. In determining when and where to improve or add to current or proposed recreation facilities, the Leisure Services Department takes into consideration public demand, population growth through developments and annexation, and attendance and use of these facilities by the public. Surveys are taken of local residents before major changes are made.

The City of Temple Terrace has no beaches within its jurisdiction; therefore, the Chapter 9J-5 data, analysis, and policy requirements for beach access were determined not to be applicable. Access to the Hillsborough River has been addressed through policies in the **Conservation Element, Hillsborough River subelement.**

## **PARK CLASSIFICATIONS**

For the purpose of this Plan, park classifications are used to help inventory the existing supply of parks and recreation facilities in the City. The park classifications used herein are based on State of Florida guidelines as well as national standards. The following synopsis examines park classes in order of size and relative recreational opportunity.

**Neighborhood Parks** - Small park areas usually under 5 acres that serve neighborhood recreational needs. These parks generally provide playgrounds, small courts, and open space for use by all age groups. Small passive parks with walkways, benches, and landscaping are also represented in this class. Currently, in the City there are 15 neighborhood parks covering a total of 20.3 acres.

**Community Parks** - These are primarily active recreational areas usually over 15 acres in size that serve multi-neighborhood recreational needs. These parks are user-oriented with facilities such as playgrounds, lighted multi-purpose courts and ball fields, recreation centers, and, if size permits, picnic and passive areas. At present, there are six community parks with a total of 119.91 acres citywide. Examples are Riverhills Park, Omar K. Lightfoot Center and Park, and the Family Recreation Complex.

(For the purpose of establishing level of service standards and projecting future needs, Neighborhood and Community Parks have been combined into a single category, serving residents within a 1/2 mile radius. Neighborhood/Community Parks serve the same recreational needs within Temple Terrace due to the nature and size of the community.)

**District Parks** - Generally resource-oriented areas over 100 acres in size that serve an urban area of up to 50,000 persons and are destination or “drive to” parks. While active uses such as ball fields and courts are a major focus, picnicking, boating, nature trails, and bicycling are also commonly provided. District Parks primarily serve residents within a 5-mile radius or an area the size of an entire municipality. There are currently three parks in this classification; a golf course, owned by the City but privately run covering 165 acres, a youth sports complex used for league play at just over 27 acres and a mostly passive 108 acre riverfront nature preserve.

**Regional Parks** - Major parks, usually over 500 acres in size that may attract users from all areas of Hillsborough County. A large natural resource base is generally required for non-intensive passive uses such as camping, nature study, picnicking, boating, fishing, etc. Sports areas and special facilities may be included where the needs are justified and no significant impact on the natural resource base will occur. These parks are also destination-oriented and primarily serve residents within a 10-mile radius. Currently, there is one regional park near Temple Terrace — Lettuce Lake totaling 121.8 acres and under the jurisdiction of the Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation Department.

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**TABLE 1  
TEMPLE TERRACE – PARKS AND RECREATION COMPLEXES.**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>ACREAGE</b>	<b>AMENITIES</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
Golf Course	Glen Avenue	132.69	Golf course	District Park
Riverfront Preserve	Temple Terrace HWY	108.00	Nature Preserve	District Park
Youth Sports Complex	US 301	27.71	5 baseball, 4 soccer fields	District Park
Billy Graham Gardens	N. Riverhills Drive	0.20	Historical Marker	Neighborhood Community
Biltmore Park	Biltmore Avenue	2.10	Oldest City Park	Neighborhood Community
Bonnie Brae Park	Bonnie Brae Blvd	2.50	Fitness Course	Neighborhood Community
Broadway Outfall Park	Broadway Avenue	2.80	Interpretive Exhibits	Neighborhood Community
Bullard Pond	Sunnyside Road	0.51	Fountain	Neighborhood Community
Fairmont Circle	Fairmont Circle	0.61	-	Neighborhood Community
Family Recreation Complex	6610 Whiteway Drive	31.75	Multi-Field, Multi-sport Complex	Neighborhood Community
Gail Park	Gail Drive	1.00	River View	Neighborhood Community
Lynwood Park	E. 113 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	1.01	Fitness Course	Neighborhood Community
Omar K Lightfoot Senior Center	10901 N. 56 <sup>th</sup> Street	6.50	Senior Center, Hand Ball Courts	Neighborhood Community

Overlook Park	Overlook Drive	0.16	-	Neighborhood Community
Railway Park	N Riverhills Drive	1.17	River View	Neighborhood Community
Ridgedale Sports Complex	9715 N 56 <sup>th</sup> Street	21.00	5 Baseball Fields	Neighborhood Community
Riverhills Park	S. Riverhills Drive	10.93	River Access	Neighborhood Community
Scout Park	Belle Meade Avenue	30.49	Scout Camp Site	Neighborhood Community
Rotary Park	8000 E. Fowler Avenue	3.92	River Access	Neighborhood Community
Serena Park	Serena Drive	0.97	Native Species Exhibit	Neighborhood Community
University Townhomes Park	N 53 <sup>rd</sup> Street	0.50	-	Neighborhood Community
West River Preserve	West River Drive	12.24	Canoe Launch	Neighborhood Community
Woodmont Building	Woodmont Avenue	0.25	Historic School	Neighborhood Community
Woodmont Park	Woodmont Avenue	1.90	Gardens	Neighborhood Community
Dog Park	Harney Road	2.50	<i>(future development)</i>	
North Riverhills Park	N Riverhills Drive	3.30	<i>(future development)</i>	
Pleasant Terrace Park	5309 E 122 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue	0.30	<i>(future development)</i>	
Riverside Park Phase 1	201 S Riverhills Drive	5.90	<i>(future development)</i>	



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## LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

The following proposed Level of Service standards were provided by the City of Temple Terrace Leisure Services Department and are based upon previous and forecasted facility usage within the City.

Neighborhood/ Community Parks	4.5 Acres per 1000 population.
District Parks	5 Acres per 1000 population.
Golf	One 18-hole golf course per 50,000 population.
Swimming (pool)	One swimming pool per 25,000 population.
Tennis	One tennis court per 3,000 population.
Basketball	One basketball court per 5,000 population.
Baseball	One baseball field per 3,500 population.
Softball	One softball field per 7,000 population.
Football/Soccer	One football/soccer field per 4,000 population.
Handball/racquetball	One handball/racquetball court per 5,000 population.
Gymnasium	One gym per 15,000 population.
Volleyball	One volleyball court per 6,000 population.
Multi-purpose court	One multi-purpose court per 10,000 population.
Hiking/Nature Study	One linear mile of trail per 7,500 population.
Bicycling	One linear mile of bicycle trail per 7,500 population.
Playgrounds	One playground per 3,000 population.

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## EXISTING AND FUTURE NEEDS

### RATIONALE AND METHODOLOGY

The methodology used to identify and analyze the existing and future needs in this Element is based on the proposed Level of Service standards for Parks and Recreation facilities in Temple Terrace. The proposed standards use two variables — acreage and population. The existing park acreages were supplied by the Leisure Services Department. Two types of parks - neighborhood/community and district - were analyzed based on the proposed standards.

To identify existing park deficiencies, 2005 population estimates were applied to the standards by using the following formulae:

$(2005 \text{ Temple Terrace pop. estimate} / 1,000) * 4 = \text{acres needed to meet the standard for neighborhood/community parks in 2005.}$

$(2005 \text{ Temple Terrace pop. estimate} / 1,000) * 4.5 = \text{acres needed to meet standard for district parks in 2005.}$

The result was an acreage figure that was compared with the existing parkland for each park category to identify existing acreage deficiencies or surplus. Population figures for 2005 were calculated by The Planning Commission.

The projection of future needs was also based on the proposed Temple Terrace park standards. Park and recreation needs were projected for the planning horizon: 2005 to 2025.

$(2025 \text{ Temple Terrace pop. projection} / 1,000) * 4.5 = \text{acres needed to meet the standard for neighborhood/community parks in 2025.}$

$(2025 \text{ Temple Terrace pop. projection} / 1,000) * 5 = \text{acres needed to meet the standard for district parks in 2025.}$

### EXISTING NEEDS

The City of Temple Terrace currently (2005 population) meets all level of service standards for park acreage. The City has 6.56 acres of neighborhood / community designated park lands per 1,000 residents and 12.19 acres of district designated park lands per 1,000 residents.

The Leisure Services Department’s existing needs for parks and recreational facilities are as follows:

- One (1) softball field.

## **FUTURE NEEDS**

The City of Temple Terrace is projected to meet its proposed level of service for park acreage during the projected planning period. The City is projected to have 4.92 acres of neighborhood / community designated park lands per 1,000 residents and 9.13 acres of district designated park lands per 1,000 residents in 2025 if no new lands are dedicated or lost.

Between 2005 and 2025, it is projected that the City's additional needs for recreational facilities will include:

- Three (3) softball fields.
- One (1) multi-purpose court.
- One (1) playground

In the future the City should strive to locate parks in underserved areas, such as east of the river and north of Fowler Avenue. Special attention to the placement of these new parks and how they will be connected is paramount. The City currently utilizes a trail system that includes 5.94 miles dedicated to bicycles and 4.5 miles dedicated to hiking in a natural environment. It is the goal of this trail system to one day link the parks system throughout the City. By doing so greatly increases the mobility options of the residents. The City will need to continue to increase its trail system through land purchases within the existing footprint of the City and careful planning when annexing new lands into the City.

While the current adopted level of service for park acreage is not expected to become adversely impacted by development pressures within the City during the planning horizon, it is of interest to note that the population is expected to grow by more than 30 percent over the next twenty years and the prevailing cost and availability of new park lands within the urbanized area is expected to increase and become fewer and further between. The City of Temple Terrace has limited opportunity for the annexation of lands suitable for large scale park and recreation activities due to the prevailing development pattern that exists within these areas. The City expects to increase density and intensity within its downtown redevelopment area, along its corridors and targeted annexation areas this will in turn result in an increase in both population and employment within the City. The City then will experience new challenges and create new opportunities that will need insightful solutions to continue to deliver an excellent parks and recreation system.

**TABLE 2  
TEMPLE TERRACE STANDARDS AND NEEDS**

<b>Population</b>		22,020	23,340	26,650	29,400					
<b>Park Class Acres</b>	<b>Proposed LOS</b>	<b>Existing</b>	<b>TOTAL DEMAND</b>			<b>TOTAL NEEDS</b>				
	<b>Standard</b>	<b>2005</b>	2010	2015	<b>2025</b>	<b>2005</b>	2010	2015	<b>2025</b>	
Neighborhood Parks / Community Parks	4.0 acres/ 1,000	6.56	6.19	5.42	4.92	0	0	0	0	
District Parks	4.5 acres/ 1,000	12.19	11.50	10.07	9.13	0	0	0	0	
<b>Recreational</b>										
Golf Courses	18 holes / 50,000	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	
Swimming Pool	1 pool / 25,000	5	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	
Tennis Cts.	1 court / 3,000	15	8	9	10	0	0	0	0	
Basketball Cts.	1 court / 5,000	6	5	6	6	0	0	0	0	
Baseball	1 field / 3,500	10	7	8	9	0	0	0	0	
Softball	1 field / 7,000	2	4	4	5	1	2	2	3	
Football/Soccer	1 field/ 4,000	8	6	7	8	0	0	0	0	
Handball/Racquetball Cts.	1 court/ 5,000	6	5	5	6	0	0	0	0	
Gymnasium	1 gym / 15,000	3	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	
Volleyball	1 court / 6,000	6	4	4	5	0	0	0	0	
Multi-Purpose Cts.	1 court / 10,000	2	2	3	3	0	0	1	1	
Hiking/Nature Trails	1 mile / 7,500	4.5	3	3	4	0	0	0	0	
Bicycling	1 mile / 7,500	5.94	3	3	4	0	0	0	0	
Playgrounds	1 area / 3,000	9	8	9	10	0	0	0	1	

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## GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

The Recreation and Open Space Element is the means for providing adequate recreational facilities and open spaces for the anticipated population. Recreational land must be acquired prior to future need to minimize long-range costs. In a rapidly urbanizing area, it is important to provide visual/aesthetic relief and a full range of recreational activities.

The City is already a distinct and unique place with a special riverside and tree-shaded natural environment, family-friendly safe and secure neighborhoods, an extensive recreational system, and a self- and group-empowered citizenry exercising positive social connections and networks and actively engaged in community affairs. These are values and assets which the community wants to ensure continue to be fostered and nurtured into the future. They recognize that these qualities and values make the City the special place it presently is, and need to be carefully factored and considered at all levels of public and private decision-making on a continuous basis if they are to be present in the future.

### **AIMING FOR SUCCESS – RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE**

#### *The Temple Terrace Asset*

The City's roots are in a resort community begun in the 1920s as a well laid-out town built around a golf course, with a Mediterranean revival architectural theme, on the banks of the Hillsborough River. The City's heritage is based on recreation and its natural setting. The City's parks, recreation and open space is closely tied into and related to the natural environment, and you can't speak about one without the other.

There is great respect among the community's citizenry for the City's natural environment, especially the Hillsborough River and its flora and fauna, as well as the oak tree canopy in many of the City's neighborhoods. This respect also extends to manmade natural features, such as the City's parks and playgrounds and the unique way the local golf course meanders through the City in a way that the edges of its fairways are accessible to the public for passive and active use beyond just golfing.

Temple Terrace's parks, recreation areas and its manicured and wild open spaces is a part of the public realm where the beauty of nature and humanity come together. The seamless interface of the two is striking. The peaceful and easy co-existence of man and nature are a strong part of the City's identity.

*Building Our Assets for the Competitive Edge- Underlying Ethics of Success Link Natural and Man-made* – It was the strong appeal of nature and recreation that defined the original character of Temple Terrace. It's only a natural (pun

intended) that these two assets should be linked in as many ways as possible with existing and future facilities.

Quality Matters – The Temple Terrace parks, recreation and open space experience is very diversified and multi-dimensional. In one day, it is possible to canoe a wild stretch of the river, play baseball in a well-kept facility, participate in programs at a recreation center, enjoy a walk along the golf course, have a picnic in a riverfront park or enjoy scenic vistas and views throughout the city. It goes without saying that well kept facilities are important, but what isn't readily acknowledged is the continuing need to diversify these activities for all age groups and to make every one of them as complete a sensory experience as possible. Increase the existing value by enhancing the experiences.

Carrying the Temple Terrace Message – Temple Terrace is friendly, welcoming, beautiful, clean and safe. That message must be carried into parks, recreation and the public realm open spaces. This can be done through environmental design and programming. Looking at your existing facilities and ask citizens if that message is coming through.

Universal Accessibility – Three levels of accessibility. One, make it easy to connect from all parts of the city, especially with walking and biking. Two, make them handicapped accessible to the best possible level given resources. Three, acknowledge increasing cultural and ethnic diversity and how parks, recreation and open space needs may need to change.

By using the above **Aiming for Success**, understood through Interconnectedness, the City can assess and tell its “story” as it grows, thereby creating the future it wants to be in 2025 and beyond. That story is one that recognizes the City as a complex and rich set of interrelated subsystems of the larger urban system, with assets unique and distinctive to Temple Terrace; the following recognizes the importance of sustainability, regeneration, and interconnectedness in improving and projecting forward those subsystems within the City.

## **THE LAND**

**GOAL 1:** Provide adequate and appropriately located recreational facilities and open spaces to all residents concurrent with demand to preserve and enhance the “vision” and character of Temple Terrace.

**Objective 1.1:** The City shall continue to acquire and maintain parkland and open space to meet or exceed the adopted level of service standard of the Comprehensive Plan.

### **Policy 1.1.1:**

The City shall maintain the adopted level of service standard of 4 acres of neighborhood/community parkland for each 1,000 residents.

**Policy 1.1.2:**

The City shall maintain the adopted level of service standard of 4.5 acres of district park land for each 1,000 residents.

**Policy 1.1.3:**

No parkland shall be diverted to other uses except in cases of overriding public interest, in which case it will be effectively replaced.

**Policy 1.1.4:**

Methods such as tax incentives, density transfers, impact fees, homeowner associations, park dedication, and fund allocations shall be researched, and, where appropriate, implemented to assist the City in acquiring and developing recreational facilities.

**Policy 1.1.5:**

The City will ensure that new residential and mixed-use development will be required to mitigate their impacts through mechanisms such as meeting the requirements of its concurrency management ordinance and similar regulations to make certain that an adequate inventory of recreational lands and facilities are maintained to serve the residents of Temple Terrace.

**Objective 1.2:** The City shall continue to coordinate with all levels of government, non-profit providers, and private sector landholders to provide increased available public recreational lands.

**Policy 1.2.1:**

The City shall maintain current inventory of public, non-profit, and private recreational lands.

**Policy 1.2.2:**

The City shall consider the use of subdivision reviews, planned unit developments, developments of regional impact (DRIs), and other mechanisms to provide recreation space.

**Policy 1.2.3:**

Based on an inventory and analysis, the City shall consider strategies that enhance multiple use opportunities on City owned lands.

**OPEN SPACE AND AESTHETICS**

**GOAL 2:** Establish and preserve an appropriate open space system to protect public health, safety, and welfare and assure retention of aesthetic and environmental amenities.

**Objective 2.1:** The City’s provision of public open spaces shall be consistent with the Goals, Objectives, and Policies of related Elements of the *2025 Comprehensive Plan for the City of Temple Terrace*.

**Policy 2.1.1:**

The City shall consider extending public facilities into undeveloped areas when “open space” in overall development has been clearly described.

**Policy 2.1.2:**

The City will not allow development within or adjacent to unique natural areas where such activity will have significant detrimental effects.

**Objective 2.2:** The City will enhance activities intended to preserve the community’s supply of trees and other plant material.

**Policy 2.2.1:**

The City shall periodically update and continue to abide by local tree and landscape ordinances.

**Policy 2.2.2:**

The City shall utilize native plant materials and promote the use of xeriscape practices where appropriate in development of new parks, redevelopment of existing sites, and at other public locations to derive the benefits associated with the use of such materials and practices.

**Objective 2.3:** In the City’s review of its Land Development Code, appropriate amendments will be incorporated regarding public and private open spaces to achieve urban park-like settings.

**Policy 2.3.1:**

The City will amend its land development regulations to include a definition of open space and standards for development. Such definition shall be consistent with the Recreation and Open Space Element and related Elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

**Objective 2.4:** The City shall pursue multiple uses of open spaces whenever compatible throughout the life of the Plan.

**Policy 2.4.1:**

Suitable open spaces shall be developed and supplied with furnishings (benches, picnic tables, shaded areas, etc.) to allow public use and enjoyment where appropriate.

**Policy 2.4.2:**

Open spaces demonstrating unique natural features; scenic vistas; and/or cultural; historic, and archaeological resources shall be publicly accessible where such access does not detract from or diminish the resource.

**Policy 2.4.3:**

Development of leisure facilities in environmentally sensitive open spaces shall be compatible and be allowed only if environmental quality is maintained or enhanced.

**FACILITIES AND PROGRAMING**

**GOAL 3:** Provide and maintain diverse parks, recreation facilities, and activities of high quality for all residents.

**Objective 3.1:** The City shall meet or exceed the adopted level of service standards set in this Plan by providing park and recreational facilities equitably and geographically distributed for the present and projected population in Temple Terrace concurrent with the impacts of development.

**Policy 3.1.1:**

The City shall continue the use of cooperative agreements with public and private schools, non-profit agencies, other jurisdictions and agencies, churches, and the private sector to assure facilities for active indoor and outdoor opportunities year-round.

**Policy 3.1.2:**

The City shall continue to strive to meet and maintain the non-adopted level of service standards for recreational facilities proposed in this Plan concurrent with the impact of development.

**Policy 3.1.3:**

The City shall continue to work toward correcting existing non-adopted deficiencies for recreational facilities.

**Objective 3.2:** The City shall optimize the usefulness of all existing and future recreation sites and facilities to assure efficient and effective service delivery.

**Policy 3.2.1:**

The City shall maintain current master plans for its existing recreation sites.

**Policy 3.2.2:**

The City shall continue to review and modify its ordinances, rules, and regulations for recreation and open space areas.

**Policy 3.2.3:**

The City shall annually review existing recreation and open space ordinances and modify as necessary.

**Policy 3.2.4:**

The City shall offer activities such as athletic programs, aquatic programs, special interest classes, and special events to the general public.

**Policy 3.2.5:**

The City shall assess the ability of existing sites and facilities to meet the changing needs of the population to be served at least every five years.

**Objective 3.3** The City shall continue to strive to provide accessible existing and future recreation sites through park renovations, when feasible, and adequate planning for new sites.

**Policy 3.3.1:**

The City shall centrally locate new park and recreation facilities in the area to be served whenever reasonable.

**Policy 3.3.2:**

The City shall coordinate present and future recreation sites with existing and planned transportation systems.

**Policy 3.3.3:**

The City shall provide for bicycle and pedestrian access to parks and recreation facilities where feasible, especially in the case of neighborhood serving sites.

**Policy 3.3.4:**

The City shall consider including bicycle lanes on arterial roads in future roadway plans.

**Policy 3.3.5:**

The City's design criteria for new facilities shall include accessibility for elderly, handicapped, and those with special mobility needs. The City shall "retrofit" all existing sites, where reasonably possible, as the opportunity occurs and funding is available.

**Objective 3.4:** The City shall continue and expand efforts to assure public awareness of park and recreational programs and facilities throughout the life of the Plan.

**Policy 3.4.1:**

The City shall continue to inform the public about recreation facilities through such items as newspaper articles, signs, cable TV ads, seasonal printed programs, and flyers.

**Policy 3.4.2:**

The City shall continue to conduct a regular "User Preference and Assessment Survey" to obtain feedback on its programs and identify unmet demand.

## **FUNDING**

**GOAL 4:** Develop new funding sources for expansion of parks and recreation facilities and make use of available funding sources in the provision of quality recreation and open space opportunities.

**Objective 4.1:** The City shall actively seek outside funding sources, including fees and charges, to augment existing general fund sources.

### **Policy 4.1.1:**

The City shall use the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP), Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Hillsborough County’s Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program (ELAPP), and all potential funding sources.

### **Policy 4.1.2:**

The City will continue to use its Fee and Revenue Policy to guide future decision-making on what services will and will not be subject to user fees.

**Objective 4.2:** The City shall utilize appropriate, innovative techniques to enhance leisure service delivery.

### **Policy 4.2.1:**

The City shall encourage public/private partnerships by appropriate methods to allow private sector participation in public leisure service delivery.

**Objective 4.3:** The City shall have a system to allocate funds through its Capital Improvement Program for acquiring and/or developing recreational facilities.

### **Policy 4.3.1:**

The five-year Capital Improvement Program shall be consistent with the **Capital Improvement Element** of the City’s Comprehensive Plan.

### **Policy 4.3.2:**

All acquisitions of and physical improvements to park and recreational facilities expected to cost more than \$5,000 shall be included in the 5-year **Capital Improvement Element**.

### **Policy 4.3.3:**

Projects included in the Capital Improvement Program shall be arrayed in rank order with relative priority being determined by a multi-faceted set of criteria including, but not limited to:

- a. quantity and quality of existing recreation facilities and open space in the area to be served; e.g., safety concerns, maintaining existing resources and investments, etc.
- b. population density.
- c. key socio-economic indicators.
- d. access to private recreational lands and facilities.
- e. natural, historic and cultural resource opportunities.
- f. citizen input.
- g. needs of special populations.

**Policy 4.3.4:**

The Capital Improvement Program will be updated annually.

**Policy 4.3.5:**

A separate list of unranked leisure project needs shall be maintained by the City to supplement the Capital Improvement Program and to take advantage of unexpected or specialized funding opportunities.

**Objective 4.4:** The City shall recognize the significant role leisure provision plays in economic prosperity of the community.

**Policy 4.4.1:**

The City will actively promote specific recreation opportunities for residents and visitors.

## STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation means carrying a plan to action by programs, activities, incentives, and regulations identified in the Goals, Objectives, and Policies section. The strategy to implement the **Recreation and Open Space Element** focuses on four main areas: the land; open space and aesthetics; facilities and programming; and funding.

**The first goal** -- ***The Land*** -- provides adequate, appropriately located recreational facilities and open spaces by developing and supporting tax incentives, density transfers, impact fees, land dedication, and funding allocations to assist in acquiring land to be used for open space, park, and recreation facilities.

**The second goal** -- ***Open Space and Aesthetics*** -- establishes and preserves the system to protect public health, safety, and welfare and assure retention of aesthetic and environmental amenities by initiating studies and implementing policy for the protection of the natural environment.

**The third goal** -- ***Facilities and Programming*** -- maintains an inventory of existing park and recreation conditions. The most important aspect of this area is developing guidelines to improve park management and disseminating information. These improvements will be accomplished by condition surveys, user surveys, and marketing techniques to increase awareness of existing park and recreational facilities and programs. Marketing techniques can also be used as an educational tool to increase awareness of the unlimited value of the City's natural resources.

**The fourth goal** -- ***Funding*** -- includes developing innovative financing techniques and methods to meet existing and future needs. Although extensive research is needed to develop the methods, alternative financing sources such as the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP), Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Conservation and Recreation Land (CARL), Save Our Lands (SOL), and Save Our Rivers (SOR) can be employed.

Based on the **Goals, Objectives, and Policies**, implementing studies, financing techniques, reports, or educational programs will be produced. Research will determine financing mechanisms and revenue sources.

The City will appoint appropriate agencies for the tasks of the Plan implementation. Although the Leisure Services Department is the "action" agency, other agencies can be actively involved and responsible in the Plan's implementation, e.g., the Planning Commission can continue to assist in updating the acreage inventory.

Measuring objectives will facilitate the monitoring and evaluation process for the first five years of the Plan and for the long-term period. This process will evaluate the accomplishments in the first five-year period and the degree to which Goals, Objectives, and Policies have been attained. This process will reveal obstacles or problems from under-achievement of Goals, Objectives, or Policies and required additions or modifications to correct identified problems. Additionally, the process will ensure the Plan’s continuous monitoring and evaluation during the five-year period.

## SUMMARY

The role of the **Recreation and Open Space Element** in comprehensive planning and growth management is to ensure adequate and appropriately located land and facilities to meet the needs of the anticipated population. Within Temple Terrace the population is expected to increase by 7,000 new residents over the next twenty years. This will put a burden on the financial resources of the municipality to supply adequate recreation and open space facilities for public use. This Plan serves the interest of the public by implementing procedures that will protect, preserve, and acquire additional lands for Recreation and Open space uses in the City of Temple Terrace.

It has been the intent of this Element to identify the City's existing and future park and open space needs. Further studies in several areas are necessary to provide a sound program to meet the growing demands for parks and recreation facilities in the community.

Goals and Objectives identify the ends and means through which future acquisition, development, and operational needs will be accomplished. Also, a methodology should be established by which future park sites may be identified and included in future updates to the *2025 Future Land Use Map*. The siting of additional recreational facilities based upon area needs, demographic analysis, and user surveys will assist and increase the effectiveness of all recreation facilities.

The methods of implementation by which programs designed to meet Temple Terrace's Park and Open Space needs are of an utmost concern to all City residents since they will carry much of the cost. A careful analysis of the financing for acquisitions, development, maintenance, and programming will be needed to determine the most equitable and economical ways of implementing the programs. Additional sources of park revenues will need to be identified and user fees may become necessary to help soften the tax burden.

As many funding options as possible should be considered for meeting the City's Leisure Services Department's needs because the facilities will provide service to all City residents. Ad valorem taxes, state and federal grants, user fees, and lessor fees are all current methods used to finance the Temple Terrace Leisure Services Department's existing facilities. Joint ventures between the City, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Hillsborough County, the School District, and the private sector represent additional methods where creative financing may be possible. Impact fees may be necessary for new residential developments to help mitigate the effects to new demands created by additional residents. The failure to recognize the impact of the growing needs for parks and recreation facilities will cause a

serious degradation of existing and future facilities. If the existing and future needs for parks and open space facilities will be met, rigorous programs will have to be developed, adopted, and implemented.

## CONSISTENCY WITH STATE AND REGIONAL POLICY PLANS

The **Recreation and Open Space Element** is one of nine (9) Elements comprising the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Temple Terrace. This Element corresponds with the **Future Land Use, Conservation**, and the **Public Facilities Elements**. Each Element is internally consistent as a set format and the same population projections were used for all Elements. It is important to coordinate the **Recreation and Open Space Element** with the adjacent jurisdictions of Tampa and Hillsborough County because countywide efforts can be undertaken jointly to address existing and future recreational needs.

Chapter 9J-5, FAC, requires the Comprehensive Plan's Goals, Objectives, and Policies to be compatible with and further the State Comprehensive Plan and the Tampa Bay Comprehensive Regional Policy Plan. Each local government Comprehensive Plan is also required to identify the State Plan Goals and Policies that are relevant to the local planning effort and identify where in the Comprehensive Plan these have been considered and addressed.

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