



## **RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT**

GOAL, OBJECTIVES & POLICIES

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### GOAL RO: RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES.

It is the goal of the City of Casselberry to provide, maintain, protect and plan for environmentally-sound public recreation and open space facilities in a timely, orderly and efficient manner. The City establishes the objectives and policies below towards the accomplishment of this goal.

**OBJECTIVE RO 1. PUBLIC ACCESS TO IDENTIFIED RECREATION SITES.** It is the City of Casselberry's objective to take specific action during the planning period (2009-2019) to ensure that the public has access to identified recreation sites. The City establishes the numbered policies below towards the accomplishment of this objective.

**Policy RO 1.1 Access for the Elderly and Disabled.** The City shall upgrade all existing recreation sites to meet the Florida Accessibility Code (FAC) by 2019. All new recreation sites shall meet FAC standards. Costs of required adaptations for disabled access shall be included in the City's five year capital improvement plan.

**Policy RO 1.2 Economically Disadvantaged Access.** The City shall provide recreation sites, facilities and programs on both a fee and a non-fee user basis, so that the economically disadvantaged have recreational opportunities available to them.

**Policy RO 1.3 Lake Access.** The City shall provide and maintain public access to all public lakes for either shore or water surface use, and incorporate these passive activity sites into the recreation and open space program, if possible. Priority shall be given to development of park property adjacent to lakes relative to new development or redevelopment.

**Policy RO 1.4 Scenic Waterways.** The City shall include scenic waterways as a component of its Parks and Recreation Planning.

**OBJECTIVE RO 2. ADEQUATE AND EFFICIENT PROVISION OF OPEN SPACE, PARKS, RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS.** It is the City of Casselberry's objective to take specific action during the planning period (2009-2019), to adequately and efficiently provide public open space and recreation facilities and to expand those opportunities for the residents of Casselberry. The City establishes the numbered policies below towards the accomplishment of this objective.

**Policy RO 2.1 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.** By year end, 2011, the City of Casselberry Parks and Recreation Divisions shall complete a Parks Master Plan. Recommendations from the Master Plan shall be used to update the Recreation and Open Space Element of the Comprehensive Plan. The Master Plan shall address, among other things, the identification and description of all City owned recreation sites, open space sites and recreation facilities; address the definition of parks, recreation and open space; establish and maintain a five year recreation facilities capital improvement program; evaluate recreation site service areas and need; project future park needs; evaluate adequate dispersal of parks throughout the City; evaluate parcels of land for acquisition for recreation, including greenways and trails, and parks; and develop priorities for the selection of park and recreation sites based on location and service area considerations.

**Policy RO 2.2**      **Recreation Facilities Prioritized Schedule.** The City of Casselberry Parks and Recreation Divisions, following the completion of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 2011, shall develop a target list of priority recreation and open space sites for future development and/or acquisition. The priority list will allow for a redefining of recreational opportunities such as active and passive recreation sites and the development of location criteria standards for future parks. The Capital Improvements Element will support future projects based on the availability of funding in the annually adopted Capital Improvements Schedule. Projects will be prioritized for maximum efficiency and cost effectiveness.

**Policy RO 2.3**      **Coordination with other Comprehensive Plan Elements.** The City of Casselberry Parks and Recreation Divisions shall, throughout the planning period (2009-2019) consider public health requirements, economic impacts, impact on natural systems, and aesthetic impacts as included in the appropriate Elements of the Comprehensive Plan, when selecting park areas, recreation facilities and methods of development.

**Policy RO 2.4**      **Parks Impact Fee.** All new, residential development and applicable redevelopment shall provide an equitable fee for public park purposes for each dwelling unit based on the most current rate adopted by the City Commission, and shall comply with the City's concurrency management provisions. The City shall include detailed impact fee standards and requirements in the ULDR.

**Policy RO 2.5**      **Site Plan Reviews and Comprehensive Plan Consistency.** Throughout the planning period (2009-2019) public recreation facilities and services intended to serve future development shall be consistent with the City of Casselberry Comprehensive Plan. Site plans will be reviewed for their impacts on existing recreation and open space public facilities and any present deficiencies to include (1) existing capacity, (2) existing level of service, (3) desirable level of service, (4) amount of deficiency, if applicable, (5) alternatives to resolve the deficiency, and (6) recommended option to overcome the deficiency.

**Policy RO 2.6**      **Interlocal Coordination.** Casselberry shall continue throughout the planning period (2009-2019) to have both informal and formal contact with adjacent municipalities and other agencies in order to encourage cost effective service and avoid unnecessary duplication in the provision of outdoor recreation services. Contact shall include meetings, telephone exchanges, letters and other written communication, and other forms of coordination up to and including the establishment of interlocal agreements.

**OBJECTIVE RO 3. PROVISION OF RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE BY PUBLIC AGENCIES AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.** It is the City of Casselberry's objective to take specific action during the planning period (2009-2019) to encourage appropriate recreational development by public agencies and private enterprise. The City establishes the numbered policies below, identified by the precedent "RO", towards the accomplishment of this objective. The City will attempt to be inclusive in seeking recreational opportunities that further quality of life enhancement issues.

**Policy RO 3.1**      **Open Space and Recreation Area Definitions.** The City of Casselberry adopts the following definition of open space: **Open space** is "Any undeveloped land suitable for passive recreation or conservation uses." [From Florida Statute 9J-5.003 (59)].

An **urban open space** is a landscaped or natural open land area, located within built-up sites. The principal function is to intersperse congested urban environments with aesthetically pleasing buffer areas. Such areas may vary in size from 1/10-acre to several acres depending on their intended use. Some serve as linear, vest pocket or traffic circle parks, while others are parkways, boulevard medians, plazas, malls, courthouse squares, and promenades.

A **recreation area** is an area composed of one or more passive or active recreation facilities.

**Policy RO 3.2**      **Designate/Acquire Open Space.** Sufficient public open space shall be designated or acquired by the City through the annual Capital Improvements Program throughout the planning period (2009-2019) such that the adopted level of service for recreation areas is maintained and/or achieved.

**Policy RO 3.3**      **Ranked Development Criteria.** Throughout the planning period (2009-2019) the following ranked criteria shall be used by Casselberry to establish priorities for the provision of recreation and open space facilities:

- 1- Provision of recreation facilities to existing developed areas that lack recreation sites, do not have access to public recreation sites, or existing recreation facilities are unavailable to meet estimated recreation demand;
- 2- Upgrade existing sites and facilities that are deficient or inadequate to serve the target population or their intended purpose;
- 3- Provision of service to areas scheduled to be developed in the near future as identified in the City of Casselberry Comprehensive Plan and the Master Parks and Open Space Plan;
- 4- Provision of recreational areas that ensure the preservation of natural communities or listed animal species habitats.

The Parks and Recreation Divisions shall apply these priorities in the development of departmental procedures, standards and written guidelines.

**Policy RO 3.4**      **Level of Service.** The City of Casselberry shall, based on relevant analysis in the Comprehensive Plan Recreation and Open Space Element, provide recreation areas and facilities to the public at a level of service at least equal to or in excess of a level of service of 5.00 acres per 1000 population concurrent with the impacts of development. Following the conclusion and adoption of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan the City will strive to obtain locations for future public parks that maximize the ability to serve residents within optimal service area boundaries.

For purposes of calculating recreation level of service, a maximum of 20% of the City's recreation inventory shall be derived from privately owned lands or non-City-owned land that is subject to interlocal agreement. As the amount of City-owned land increases, the proportion of land subject to interlocal or other contractual agreement shall be reduced to no more than 15%, provided that it does not reduce the level of service below standard.

**Policy RO 3.5**      **Preservation of Dedicated Park and Open Space.** All land required and/or dedicated to the City for parks and open space from new and existing residential development through the ULDR standards, approved development plan or developer's agreement shall be preserved and developed as parks and open space in perpetuity according to the Codes of the City of Casselberry. Exceptions may be made by the City Commission if it can be shown that the park or open space does not serve the public, and that appropriate park and/or open space will be provided elsewhere that serves the development at the same standard or better.

**Policy RO 3.6**      **Recreation Site Connections.** The City will seek new recreational sites that are proximate to existing mass transit routes or will seek Mass Transit Routes that will provide connections to existing or planned recreational facilities.

**Policy RO 3.7**      **Greenways and Recreational Trail Systems.** The City will seek recreational opportunities that create, and/or enhance, greenways and trailways, or link into existing recreational trail systems.

**OBJECTIVE RO 4.0 PRESERVING CULTURAL ARTS.** The City shall improve the quality of life of its residents by promoting, preserving and sustaining the various cultural arts in its community.

**Policy RO 4.1**      **Public Art.** The City will seek to incorporate Public Art within a variety of its recreational facilities and other public sites when possible.

**Policy RO 4.2**      **Community Identity.** The City will develop a community identity that emphasizes the various cultural arts within the City and will expand partnerships and collaborations to enhance various cultural opportunities.

**Policy RO 4.3**      **Showcase.** The City will host art exhibits, festivals and community events that showcase the City.

**OBJECTIVE RO 5.0 INCORPORATION OF HISTORIC RESOURCES.** The City will incorporate historic resources as a component of its recreation and open space activities and programs.

**Policy RO 5.1**      **Preservation.** The City shall develop a program to protect and preserve historical resources within the City.

**Policy RO 5.2**      **Survey.** By 2012, the City shall conduct a historical survey and map for the City identifying significant historic and archeological resources.

**Policy RO 5.3**      **Identification.** The City shall identify known significant historic sites with markers, when possible.

**Policy RO 5.4**      **Educational Events.** The City shall promote and encourage educational events that explain the history of the Casselberry community.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The availability of parks, open space and recreational facilities play a key role in establishing the quality of life within a community. The public is best served by parks and recreational facilities that provide a variety of opportunities for participation so that the needs and preferences of all factions of the population are met, including the very young, the handicapped and the elderly.

Early in the history of Casselberry, there was a variety of recreational opportunities available including expansive Belgian azalea gardens, a horse racing and training track, and commercial public attractions which enhanced the value of area real estate for the City founder, Hibbard Casselberry. The abundance of open space was taken for granted until recreational amenities gradually lapsed into nonexistence. No formal structure to ensure their provision to the public existed until the establishment of a recreation commission by the City Council; land was purchased nearby Secret Lake in 1974 due to their efforts.

Casselberry now has active Parks and Recreation Divisions which have responsibility for meeting the leisure and recreational needs of its residents. Casselberry has seventeen parks located throughout the City which are both resource based and user oriented. Secret Lake Park is the largest and is a community park with a variety of facilities for people of all ages and interests. Anniversary, Dew Drop, Lake Hodge, and Wirz Parks are the four mid-sized neighborhood parks provided. Branch Tree, Lancelot, Veterans, Crystal Bowl, Cheney, Diamond, and Forest Brook Parks are smaller urban open space parks. There is additional open space which cannot be developed but serves to buffer, as green space, or as a conservation area. There are also a variety of public parks, open space and conservation areas within a reasonable driving radius (ten miles) provided by nearby jurisdictions.

Casselberry currently meets its established Level of Service (LOS) for parks, but is now targeting future parks being located to meet service radius location criteria.