Recreation & Open Space
GOAL 6-1: PROVIDE ADEQUATE RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

By preserving, maintaining and enhancing a quality system of parks, open space and recreational facilities which satisfy the needs of the current and future residents of Winter Park.

OBJECTIVE 6-1.1: Provision of Public Park Land
The City of Winter Park shall assure that appropriate amounts of park land and open space will be within the public domain so as to meet the standards of this plan.

Policy 6-1.1.1: Provide Minimum Level of Service of 10 Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents
Except within Ravaudage, the City shall provide a minimum of ten (10) acres of publicly owned parkland and conservation lands for each one thousand (1,000) residents. For the purpose of calculating this level of service, 'open space' shall be defined as publicly-owned passive or active recreational land and land left in its natural state for conservation purposes. Specifically excluded are the water area of city lakes, except for Lakes Chelton, Knowles, Midget, Wilbar, and Mendsen within Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, private garden areas or plazas in high-density or mixed-use developments and roadway landscaped median areas except those within the far Kings Way and Reading Way median rights of way, Park Grove triangle, AJ Hanna Park, Sunset/Chestnut triangle, Golfview median, Lasbury/Maiden triangle, and Pulsifer Park triangle.

Policy 6-1.1.2: Commitment to Public Park Land
The City shall meet and maintain the park land acreage level of service standards set in this plan.

Policy 6-1.1.3: Potential Park Funding Mechanisms
Methods such as park dedications, impact fees, developer contribution, density transfers, homeowner's association provisions, and general fund allocations, where appropriate, shall be used to assist the City in acquiring park land and developing recreational facilities. This includes bonds, grants and loans.
**Policy 6-1.1.4: Ravaudage Planned Development**  The Ravaudage Planned Development shall utilize a level of service standard of two and one-half (2½) acres of public or private parkland and recreation amenity space per one thousand (1,000 residents) based on Orange County’s park land level of service standard as approved in the Annexation Agreement with the City of Winter Park. The resident population within Ravaudage shall be separate and not counted toward the overall City park level of service standard. Any expansion of the Ravaudage Planned Development shall comply with the Winter Park LOS for park space.

**Policy 6-1.1.5: Park & Recreation Trust Fund**  The City shall maintain a park and recreation trust fund to facilitate contributions and to provide for an accounting of funds obtained for those purposes. At the end of each fiscal year, ten (10%) percent of the growth of the general fund balance shall be allocated to the park and recreation trust fund for park acquisition.

**Policy 6-1.1.6: Recreation for New Single Family Subdivisions**  New residential units within multifamily housing and mixed use development, as well as single family homes shall include park and open space areas in the form of neighborhood parks for its residents. Where the number of units is insufficient to support an on-site park within the residential development, recreation impact fees shall be paid to the City to accommodate a fair-share impact that new residents will place on park land and park facilities.

**Policy 6-1.1.7: Neighborhood Park**  The City shall provide park space within each designated service area in the City of Winter Park.

**Policy 6-1.1.8: Improvements to Howell Branch Preserve & Potential Joint Community Park with City of Maitland**  The City will continue to coordinate with the City of Maitland regarding the potential for joint participation in the development of a community park at the Winter Park Howell Branch Preserve that abuts open space in Maitland that could be accessed by citizens from both communities. In addition the City shall improve recreational access and opportunities in the open space along Howell Creek.

**Policy 6-1.1.9: Lands Proposed for Annexation**  As part of the study to be performed in consideration of an annexation, the City shall analyze: (i) how the level of service for Public Park Land and Public Open Space would be impacted upon annexation; (ii) whether there are opportunities in an annexation for increasing the amount of land devoted to Public Land and Public Open Space; (iii) the gross additional cost to the City in terms of the impact of the annexation on the Recreational Facilities of the City; (iv) the additional revenues, if any, that might be available to the City as a result of the annexation, that could be utilized for park land and park facilities.
**Policy 6-1.1.10: Parks Master Plan** The City shall periodically update the overall Parks Master Plan and implement that improvement program as may be adopted by the City Commission.

**GOAL 6-2: STEWARD AND ENHANCE OUR TREE CANOPY & LAKES AS THE CROWN JEWELS OF WINTER PARK’S NATURAL SYSTEM**

**OBJECTIVE 6-2.1: PUBLIC ACCESS TO LAKES** Reasonable access to lake waters and shorelines shall be afforded to Winter Park residents in a manner that protects water quality and natural habitats that maintains their recreation and open space value.

**Policy 6-2.1.1: Promote Quality of Lake Recreation Opportunities** The City shall promote quality of lake recreation opportunities through the following actions:

1. Boat traffic originating from public ramps shall be managed to promote public safety within lake waters and to protect and maintain lake water quality. Such management programs shall include but are not limited to boat access permits for use of City boat launching facilities, and the use of public funds to support law enforcement patrol of lake waters.
2. The City shall continue to promote its Lake Management Program to manage nuisance aquatic plant growth and to protect, conserve and enhance natural shoreline habitat, aquatic and wildlife habitat.

**Policy 6-2.1.2: Public Access to Lakes** The City shall continue to provide public access to lakes within Winter Park through the following activities or programs:

1. Continue to provide and maintain public beach access at Lake Baldwin and the lakes comprising the Winter Park chain-of-lakes;
2. Continue to provide and maintain at least one public boat launch facility to the chain-of-lakes.

**Policy 6-2.1.3: Undeveloped Open Space at Lakefronts** As part of any update of the City’s Park Master Plan, the City shall evaluate City-owned undeveloped open space located along lake shorelines for potential improvements that may create safe access to waterfront areas for the public.

**Policy 6-2.1.4: Maintain Lake Access** The City shall maintain the physical points of public access to the lakes of the City, and the City shall maintain the recreational facilities at these public lake shore access places including boat ramps and parking so as to insure the continued access to and enjoyment of the lakes of the City by non-lakefront property owners.
Policy 6-2.1.5: Prioritize Acquisition of Land Along Bodies of Water  The City shall prioritize the acquisition of property, whether developed or vacant, along bodies of water to include lakes, rivers, streams and creeks. This serves a two fold purpose to aid in acquiring more park land with access to bodies of water and preserve lands for conservation.

OBJECTIVE 6-2.2: Integration of Neighborhood Design With Parks & Open Space

Neighborhoods shall be planned and designed with parks and open space that provide available recreation opportunities for nearby residents.

Policy 6-2.2.1: Park Accessibility to Neighborhoods  Neighborhoods shall be planned with park lands and open spaces intermixed with residential development and accessible within walking distance to residents. Park land within neighborhoods shall be designed to foster opportunities for social interaction and shall serve as a focal point for the surrounding residential areas.

Policy 6-2.2.2: Equitable Distribution of Park Land.  The City shall emphasize future park acquisitions that equitably distribute park land throughout the City. All expenditures for parks and recreation land acquisition purposes shall be prioritized in accordance with the Parks and Recreation priority list for Community Parks (with a goal of two acres of Community Parks per 1,000 residents of the total LOS of ten acres) and Neighborhood Parks (with a goal of two acres of Neighborhood Parks per 1,000 residents of the total LOS of ten acres), as such list may be amended by the Parks and Recreation Board from time to time.

OBJECTIVE 6-2.3: Streetscape & Landscape Provisions  Streetscape and Landscape areas shall be incorporated into the site design of public and private properties according to the following policies:

Policy 6-2.3.1: Open Space along Lakefront Areas  Development shall be setback from lake fronts to create open space areas in natural vegetation along shoreline areas. At a minimum, all principal structures shall be set back at least fifty (50) feet from any lake shoreline unless special conditions and circumstances pre-exist justifying a variance. With exception to public beaches owned by the City of Winter Park, for residential land, no more than ten (10%) percent of the land area from the ordinary high water elevation to a point 50 feet landward can be impervious.

Policy 6-2.3.2: Promote Access to the City’s Water Bodies  The City shall maintain or expand the physical points of access to the water bodies in and adjacent to the City’s boundaries and maintain or expand the recreational facilities including boat ramps, parking, wildlife observation areas, at these public access points. This shall insure the continued access to, and enjoyment of, the City’s water bodies.
OBJECTIVE 6-2.4: Preservation Of Park Land & Open Space  The City of Winter Park will not divert existing park land to other non-park, non-recreational or non-cultural uses except in cases of overriding public interest.

Policy 6-2.4.1: Park Land Change Of Use  A majority vote of the City Commission is required to convert publicly-owned park land to other uses. In such circumstances the City shall also adopt a plan that identifies equivalent new parks or park site relocation.

Policy 6-2.4.2: Protect Park Acreage Level Of Service  Should the City enter into contractual use agreements with the School Board or other non-profit or governmental entities, such agreements shall not provide for land, not owned by the City, to be counted toward meeting the City park acreage level of service standard.

Policy 6-2.4.3: Maintenance of Existing Recreation Land & Facilities  The City shall maintain existing park lands through the use of proper management and funding techniques. The City shall assure that park lands are well managed and well maintained, designed to promote public safety and to discourage crime, and are accessible and convenient for park patrons.

Policy 6-2.4.4: Preservation of Central Park  Central Park shall be classified, designed and used as a community park gathering place that reserves the unique and passive nature of the existing park, the shady tree canopy and the fountains.

Policy 6-2.4.5: Preservation of Mead Garden  Mead Botanical Garden is a 48-acre park located in the southwest section of the City and shall be classified as a passive park.

OBJECTIVE 6-2.5: Provision Of Recreation Facilities  The City of Winter Park shall assure that appropriate recreational facilities are available and usable by the public, including disabled residents, so as to meet the standards of this plan.

Policy 6-2.5.1: Public Use of Non-city Recreation Facilities  The City shall continue to work with the Orange County School Board, Rollins College, Y.M.C.A., churches, non-profit agencies, and the private sector to provide cooperative agreements, whether formal or informal, for the availability of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities for the residents.

Policy 6-2.5.2: Recreation Programs  The City shall continue to offer recreational programs that compliment and enhance the use of the City's recreational facility assets. The City shall annually monitor recreation programs to assure that an adequate diversity of programs addresses the recreation interests of different age and ethnic groups, particularly children, teenagers, disabled, and the elderly.
**Policy 6-2.5.3: Provision of Facilities for the Disabled**  
Recreation facilities shall be provided consistent with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, including the number of facilities available for and accessible to the disabled. The City shall provide a diverse number of facilities accessible to disabled persons and shall meet or exceed the ADA diversity guidelines. The City shall complete an inventory of existing recreation facilities that are accessible to the disabled. If deficiencies exist in number or diversity of recreation facilities for the disabled, the City shall schedule appropriate improvements and funding within its capital improvements program to remedy the deficiency.

**Policy 6-2.5.4: Provide Recreation Facilities Consistent with Local Recreation Demands**  
To assure that City parks provide services desired by park patrons and City residents, the City shall update its Park Master Plan at least every five years. The update of the Park Master Plan shall include a survey of residents or an analysis of recreation demands and trends to determine the recreation programs, facilities, and events that are most desired by City residents. As part of the master plan update, the City shall develop recreation facility level of service standards consistent with local demands and interests.

**OBJECTIVE 6-2.6 Arts & Culture**  
Enhance the city’s flourishing community of arts and culture by recognizing the value of city’s many cultural venues and their connection to the Winter Park community.

**Policy 6-2.6.1: Promotion of Cultural Arts**  
The City shall continue to work with community partners to develop an integrated cultural arts plan that includes complementary improvements, innovative partnerships, coordinated marketing and events and program development.

**GOAL 6-3: INCREASE THE CONNECTION TO NATURE BY INCENTIVING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE GREEN SPACE THROUGH THE DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.**

**OBJECTIVE 6-3.1: Park & Recreation Funding**  
The City of Winter Park may develop new funding sources for the acquisition, expansion and improvement of park land and park facilities.

**Policy 6-3.1.1: Recreation Impact Fee**  
The City shall continue to implement a park and recreation impact fee that will require all new development pay its fair-share in the cost to acquire new park and park facilities and shall update that fee periodically based upon studies documenting costs for such acquisitions.

**Policy 6-3.1.2: Land Development Code Consistent with the Comprehensive Plan**  
The City’s Land Development Code shall with the Winter Park Comprehensive Plan require that all development include park land and park amenities consistent with concurrency management level-of-service standards.
**Policy 6-3.1.3: Coordination with State & Regional Land Acquisition Grant Program** The City shall annually coordinate with state agencies regarding the use of the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP), and Florida Forever Program, and land acquisition programs administered by the St. Johns River Water Management District regarding the availability of grant funds for open space and recreation land purchases within or adjacent to Winter Park.

**OBJECTIVE 6-3.2: Adequate Funding For Park Maintenance** The City of Winter Park shall allocate sufficient funding to assure the maintenance of park and recreational facility assets.

**Policy 6-3.2.1: Maintenance of Existing Recreation Land & Facilities** The City shall maintain existing recreation and facilities through the use of proper management and maintenance funding techniques. The City shall assure that recreation facilities and park lands are well managed and well maintained.

**Policy 6-3.2.2: Annual Maintenance Funding** The City shall maintain a continuity of annual funding for the maintenance of park and recreational facilities necessary.

**Policy 6-3.2.3: Annual Fee Review** The City shall annually review the Park and Recreation fees and revenue policy so as to adjust user fees to a level commensurate with the need and other governmental entities.

**Policy 6-3.2.4: Maintenance and Staff Needs for New Parks & Facilities** The City shall recognize that the addition of park and recreation facilities will increase the funding levels necessary for proper maintenance, including potential for additional staff or need for additional out-sourcing funds.

**OBJECTIVE 6-3.3: Allocation of Park Funds** The City of Winter Park shall have a system for the allocation of funds for park and recreational capital improvements.

**Policy 6-3.3.1: Recreation & Capital Improvement Program** The capital improvements program of the City’s park and recreation department shall be consistent with the Capital Improvement Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

**Policy 6-3.3.2: Capital Improvement Program Criteria** All acquisitions and physical improvement projects expected to cost more than $25,000 shall be included in the Capital Improvement Element.

**OBJECTIVE 6-3.4: Interconnect Park System with Recreation & Transportation Trails and Paths** The City shall provide a park and open space system to interconnect parks by pedestrian and bicycle path lanes.
**Policy 6-3.4.1: Link Parks & Public Open Space**  The City shall provide bikeways, where possible and where public safety permits, to link open space and parks both internally and regionally to Winter Park. New park location and design should take into consideration the presence or feasibility to the park with other City facilities via bicycle paths and lanes.

**Policy 6-3.4.2: Cady Way Trail**  The City shall support the interconnection of the Cady Way Trail with other regional trail systems.

**Policy 6-3.4.3: Howell Creek**  The City shall maintain and expand the number and extent of recreational trails and greenways in the City to provide public access and enjoyment especially of stream and waterfront environments.

**Policy 6-3.4.4: Integration of Park System & Bicycle Trails**  At the next update of the Park Master Plan, the bicycle trail system interconnecting parks and public places shall be included as a component of the Park Master Plan. The interconnection of parks with bicycle trails, paths, and lanes shall be addressed as part of the Park Master Plan update.

**Policy 6-3.4.5: Bicycle Parking Facilities at Parks**  All neighborhood, community, special purpose parks shall provide bicycle racks or similar parking facilities. Bicycle parking facilities shall be conveniently located within parks and placed at visible locations.

**Policy 6-3.4.6: Coordination with Transportation Element**  Bicycle and pedestrian system plans promoted in the Transportation Element shall be coordinated with the objectives and polices of the Recreation Element.

---

**GOAL 6-4: FOSTER SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC & PRIVATE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES USING STATE-OF-THE-ART PRACTICES AND TECHNIQUES.**

**OBJECTIVE 6-4.1: Management and Accreditation of the Parks & Recreation Department**  The City will strive to remain an accredited agency sanctioned by the National Recreation and Parks Association Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies.

**Policy 6-4.1.1:**  The City will maintain the accreditation of the Parks and Recreation Department by continuing to meet or exceed the standards for management and maintenance of the department as set forth by the National Recreation and Parks Association.