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3 **CHAPTER 7**
4 **RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT**
5 **GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES**
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8 **GOAL STATEMENT: MANAGE THE RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF**
9 **LAKE HELEN IN A MANNER THAT PROVIDES ADEQUATE PARKS, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES,**
10 **AND OPEN SPACE AREAS TO SATISFY THE NEEDS AND DEMANDS OF BOTH RESIDENTS AND**
11 **VISITORS TO THE CITY IN AN EFFICIENT AND COST EFFECTIVE MANNER.**
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14 **OBJECTIVE VII-1. *Provision of Adequate Sites and Facilities.*** *To ensure adequate lands are*
15 *provided for public and/or public access parks, the City may utilize criteria specific to population,*
16 *park size and location. The City may utilize parklands under the jurisdiction of private*
17 *development, the City, County, State or Federal government in order to meet this objective.*

18 **Policy VII.1.1. Recreation Facility Guidelines.** The City may use as a guideline, the activity
19 standards and park guidelines suggested in the “Florida’s Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor
20 Recreation Plan – 2008” and any future amendments to the plan.
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23 **Policy VII.1.2: Mandatory Dedication of Land.** The City shall continue to enforce provisions
24 within its Land Development Code which require new residential development to provide land
25 required for open space.
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27 **Policy VII.1.3: Fee in Lieu of Land.** The City shall allow payment in lieu of providing open
28 space lands to meet the land development code requirements. The payment shall be based on
29 a fair share fee as established by the City Commission by Resolution. All such fees collected
30 shall be allocated and appropriated to the City’s recreation budget to be expended to enhance
31 the City’s community park system.
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34 **Policy VII.1.4. Funding Thresholds.** The following thresholds shall be used to schedule the
35 funding and construction of new parks:
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- 37 a. A park project shall be added to the Capital Improvement Program and
38 Capital Improvement Element when the level of service deficiency reaches
39 50%.
40 b. A park project shall be scheduled for funding in the first year of the Capital
41 Improvement Program when the level of service deficiency reaches 70%.
42 c. A park project shall be constructed when the level of service deficiency
43 reaches 90%.

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Policy VII.1.5: **Open Space.** For the purpose of land use regulations the term "open space" is defined as undeveloped land areas that are suitable for passive recreational or conservation uses. Open space may be included in any land use area within the city regardless of the land use designation as a whole.

Policy VII.1.6: **Natural Reservations.** Should natural reservations become a land use consideration within the city such areas will be assigned a land use designation that approximates the intended use of the natural reservation.

OBJECTIVE VII-2. **Maximize Resources.** *The City shall maximize the use of public and private resources in the provision of park and recreational facilities to meet the current and future demands.*

Policy VII.2.1: **Coordination with Organizations.** The City shall continue to provide interlocal agreements and cooperate with private and not for profit organizations for use of City parks and facilities in order to provide a variety of recreational programs.

OBJECTIVE VII-3. **Accessibility.** *The City shall ensure adequate and safe access to all public parks and recreational facilities.*

Policy VII.3.1: **Multi-modal Access.** All City owned facilities shall be accessible to automobiles, bicycles, and pedestrians, where appropriate.

Policy VII.3.2: **Connectivity.** Sidewalks, bikeways, and trails should be provided to link residential areas, community facilities, schools, and other park sites where physically and fiscally feasible.

Policy VII.3.3: **Adequate Parking.** Parking areas including disabled parking spaces, and bicycle racks, where appropriate, will be provided at recreation sites.

OBJECTIVE VII-4. **Funding.** *The City shall continue to fund the acquisition and development of parks, open space and recreational facilities through the use of a variety of funding sources, as available, including the general fund, grants, partnerships with Volusia County, and developer contributions and user fees.*

Policy VII.4.1: **Funding Sources.** The City shall explore other sources of funds for acquisition and development of recreational lands in addition to the General Fund. Sources may include developer commitments, grants, partnerships with Volusia County, user fees and impact fees to supplement the General Fund allocations for the acquisition and development of parks, trails, and open space.

Policy VII.4.2: **Grants.** The City shall continue to pursue State and Federal grants for the acquisition and development of recreational and open space lands and facilities.

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88 Policy VII.4.3: **Maintenance of Facilities.** New park and trail development shall address the
89 cost to maintain each facility prior to implementation. Design/maintenance techniques,
90 materials, and procurement methods should be used that provide the most cost effective
91 measures to develop, as well as maintain the park and trail facilities.

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93 Policy VII.4.4: **Revenue Generating Opportunities.** Design of new facilities and
94 redevelopment of existing facilities should consider revenue-generating opportunities (i.e.
95 concessions, rentals, etc) that could offset operational costs or enhance the recreational
96 experience of participants as appropriate.

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98 OBJECTIVE VII-5.. **Capital Improvements.** *On an annual basis, the City shall assess needs and*
99 *propose capital improvements to provide adequate park and recreational facilities and land to*
100 *meet the demands of future growth.*

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102 Policy VII.5.1. **Annual Review.** The City shall review park and recreation facilities on an annual
103 basis, in order to maintain adequate facilities.

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105 Policy VII.5.2. . **Annexation.** The City shall evaluate recreational need for newly annexed
106 areas.

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108 *Objective VII-6: **Bicycle & Pedestrian Accessibility.** The City shall foster development of a*
109 *comprehensive greenway, trails, equestrian and bikeway system that provides for the*
110 *protection of natural recourse, scenic value, eco-tourism, and resource-oriented recreation.*

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112 Policy VII-6.1.1: **Trail Planning & Coordination.** The City shall coordinate with Volusia County,
113 River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization, the Florida Trail Association, the Rails to
114 Trails Conservancy, the Department of Environmental Protection and other organizations
115 involved in the acquisition and development of trail systems.

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117 Policy 6-6.1.2: **Trail Network.** The City shall strive to interconnect existing and future dedicated
118 open space areas, pedestrian and bicycle trails, hiking trails, equestrian trails, and where
119 appropriate, abandoned railroad right of way and utility corridors, into the trail network.

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121 Policy 6-6.1.3: **Trail Guidelines.** The City shall consider the following guidelines and standards
122 in the planning and development of trails: the Florida Bicycle Facilities Planning and Design
123 Handbook by the Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Office of Greenways
124 and Trails Reference and Resource Guide.

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126 Policy 6-6.1.4: **Roadway Design.** The City shall evaluate the need and amend, if necessary, the
127 Land Development Code regulations and public road design standards for bicycle travel and
128 pedestrian needs in conjunction with roadway design and improvements.

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