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## RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

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### DATA INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of the Recreation and Open Space Element as set forth in Section 163.3177(6)(e), Florida Statutes (F.S.), is to plan for a comprehensive system of public and private sites for recreation, including, but not limited to, natural reservations, parks and playgrounds, parkways, beaches and public access to beaches, open spaces, waterways, and other recreational facilities.

An assessment of current and projected levels of service and recreation needs provides a basis for standards defining the level of services desired by the Town. Statements of a goal, objectives, and policies for guiding the Town's implementation actions conclude the element. These statements provide direction for the municipal recreation programs and maintenance of parks, open space, and recreation facilities to assure that the needs of Surfside residents will be met in the future.

#### EXISTING FACILITIES

As shown in Map 7-1, the Town is served by five Town-owned recreation facilities. These include (1) Hawthorne Park Tot Lot on Hawthorne Avenue and 90<sup>th</sup> Street, (2) Veterans Park/Surfside Tennis Center on 87<sup>th</sup> Terrace between Collins and Harding Avenues, (3) 96<sup>th</sup> Street Park on Bay Drive and 96<sup>th</sup> Street, and (4) the Surfside Community Center on the ocean at 93<sup>rd</sup> Street, and (5) Paws Up Dog Park on 93<sup>rd</sup> Street and Byron Avenue. A description of these facilities is provided below.

*Hawthorne Park Tot Lot:* This facility serves as a neighborhood tot lot. In addition, the park has one playground, three picnic tables, and four benches.

*Veterans Park/Surfside Tennis Center:* This park includes three tennis courts (with six court lights), six benches, Veterans memorial, three flag poles, an office, a restroom, and a WWII cannon.

*96<sup>th</sup> Street Park:* Facilities provided at this site include a ball field (with six field lights), two basketball courts, two raquetball courts, a tot lot, a playground, restrooms, six benches, an office, and an irrigation system. The 5-Year Parks Improvement Plan is proposing improvements to 96<sup>th</sup> Street Park over the next several years.

*Surfside Community Center:* In 1962, the Town of Surfside built a community center on the ocean at 93<sup>rd</sup> Street. In 2008, that building was demolished due to building and safety concerns. The current Community Center was completed in 2011 and houses the Aquatic Facility which includes a recreation pool with lap lanes, plunge pool and slide, children's activity pool, and a jacuzzi pool. Additional amenities include two multipurpose rooms which can host a variety of activities and programs for all ages. The Community Center also includes locker room facilities, restrooms, administrative offices, an outdoor green area, and a snack bar and grill.

*Paws Up Dog Park:* This facility is a fenced in area for residents' pets to enjoy active play time. Several benches are also included.

*Other Recreation Facilities:* In addition to these facilities, other public recreation and open space lands in Surfside include the State-owned beachfront which comprises approximately 38 acres and stretches for just over a mile along the Atlantic Ocean, a community garden at 89<sup>th</sup> Street and Dickens Avenue, and several existing street ends and associated rights-of-way allowing for beach access. Private recreation facilities include the Surf Club on Collins Avenue between 90<sup>th</sup> and 92<sup>nd</sup> Streets, and beachfront property west of the erosion control line, paralleling the State owned beach. Moreover, additional public recreational opportunities can be found within a three mile radius of the Town including Haulover Beach Park and Oleta River State Park.

**ANALYSIS OF THE NEED FOR FACILITIES**

The Surfside Parks and Recreation Department operates a number of Town facilities and a wide range of community programs. Facilities include the aforementioned Hawthorne Park Tot Lot, 96<sup>th</sup> Street Park, Veterans Park/Surfside Tennis Center, Paws Up Dog Park, Community Center with Aquatic facilities , as well as the Administrative Offices and 93<sup>rd</sup> Street Beach Lifeguard Stand. The Parks and Recreation Department sponsors adult education classes, holiday celebrations, youth programs and sports, and special events designed to provide entertainment, education, and recreation for all Town residents and visitors.

The Town, recognizes that parks and recreation are vital components of the overall community. Following is an acreage inventory of Surfside’s public recreation facilities.

**Table 7-1  
Parks and Recreation Inventory**

<b>FACILITY</b>	<b>ACREAGE</b>
Hawthorne Park Tot Lot	0.22
Veterans Park/Surfside Tennis Center	0.99
96 <sup>th</sup> Street Park	0.99
Surfside Community Center	1.27
Paws Up Dog Park	0.10
public beach	34.76
pocket parks and r-o-w dead ends	1.44
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>39.77</b>

Source: Calvin, Giordano & Associates, Inc. 2017

While the public beach does not generally offer Parks and Recreation Department programming, this acreage will be included for the level of service (LOS) analysis because it is an integral part of the Town. Using the 39.77 acres of public recreation, along with population projections, Surfside’s LOS for recreation can be projected through 2035. The LOS standard for publicly-owned recreation lands in Surfside is six (6) acres per one thousand (1,000) permanent population. As the following table shows, this standard will be met through 2035.

**Table 7-2  
Projected Park LOS**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Population (Projected)</b>	<b>LOS Standard</b>	<b>Acres Needed</b>	<b>Town Park Acreage</b>	<b>Surplus Acreage</b>
<b>2010</b>	5,744*	6.0/1,000	34.46	39.77	5.31
<b>2015</b>	5,705**	6.0/1,000	34.23	39.77	5.54
<b>2020</b>	5,952**	6.0/1,000	35.71	39.77	4.06
<b>2025</b>	6,181**	6.0/1,000	37.08	39.77	2.69
<b>2030</b>	6,398**	6.0/1,000	38.39	39.77	1.38
<b>2035</b>	6,556**	6.0/1,000	39.34	39.77	0.43

Sources: \* 2010 U.S. Census; \*\* Florida Housing Data Clearinghouse (FHDC), 2016

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## Recreation and Open Space Element Goals, Objectives and Policies

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*Goal 1: Provide adequate recreation and open space facilities to serve the Town's residents.*

**Objective 1 – Access to recreation sites:** In general, ensure public access to identified recreation sites by creating a pedestrian and bicycle network that links the Town’s parks, recreational, and natural amenities into an “emerald necklace.” This objective shall be measured by implementing its supporting policies.

Policy 1.1 – The Town shall give priority to maintaining and upgrading existing public access sites, but it shall acquire new sites when resources are available. Priority shall be given to sites which offer the potential for: 1) creating natural area greenways consisting of environmentally sensitive lands or lands in which plant species characteristic of and/or compatible with environmentally sensitive lands predominate or can be cultivated; and 2) removing invasive or otherwise undesirable plant species including those listed in Conservation Element Policy 4.2.

Policy 1.2 – All beach access facilities shall be accessible from public roads. The Town shall map all road rights-of-way that dead-end at the Atlantic beach and shall provide benches, picnic tables or other improvements at these sites to create “pocket parks.”

Policy 1.3 – The Town shall continue to support the existing and explore the feasibility of enhancing each of the street-ends east of Collins Avenue to create “pocket parks” where appropriate.

Policy 1.4 – The Town shall provide barrier-free access for the handicapped to all public recreation facilities.

Policy 1.5 – The Town shall continue to support bicycle parking facilities provided at strategic beach access points and at public parks.

**Objective 2 – Public-private coordination:** In general, coordinate public and private resources to meet recreation demand. This objective shall be measured by implementing its supporting policies.

Policy 2.1 – The Town of Surfside shall work with public agencies, such as Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and private sector organizations and corporations, through the zoning process, to enhance and improve existing recreation/open space facilities in the Town.

**Objective 3 – Adequate and efficient provision of public recreation facilities and open space:** In general, ensure that parks and recreation facilities are adequately and efficiently provided. In particular, maintain a system of public park and recreation lands which provides at least 6.0 acres per 1,000 people permanent population together with an appropriate range of facilities. This standard is based on existing resources and the anticipated population.

Policy 3.1 – The Town shall reserve for recreation use all of the Town-owned land designated for recreation on the Future Land Use Map, including the following specific facilities: 1) Hawthorne Park Tot Lot, 2) Veterans Park/Surfside Tennis Center, 3) 96<sup>th</sup> Street Park, 4) Surfside

Community Center, and 5) Paws Up Dog Park. These facilities shall remain as public recreation facilities unless comparable facilities are provided to replace them.

Policy 3.2 – The Town shall continue to seek State and Federal grant funds for Town park enhancements.

Policy 3.3 – The Town shall give priority to upgrading existing public recreation lands, but it shall acquire new sites when resources are available.

Policy 3.4 – For public recreational sites, a minimum level of service standard shall be set at six (6) acres per one thousand (1,000) permanent population.

Policy 3.5- The Town shall continue to ensure high quality and safe recreational facilities for Town residents.

Policy 3.6 – The Town shall continue to implement the current 5-Year Parks Improvement Plan.

**Objective 4 – Provision of private open space:** Assure the provision of open space by private enterprise. This objective shall be measured by implementing its supporting policy.

Policy 4.1 – The Town shall maintain and improve land development code standards and incentives to achieve open space and landscaping requirements. Open space and landscaping requirements shall specify above average quantities of plant and other landscaping material and extensive use of xeriscape plant materials and design techniques for non-residential uses. Landscaping regulations shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, establishing a minimum number of trees based on lot size and/or lot frontage, establishing minimum requirements for other plant material, and establishing irrigation restrictions which minimize water loss due to evaporation. Regulations shall address site perimeters, parking lots and residential buffers.

**Objective 5 – Provision of open space:** Assure the provision and preservation of open space to aid in community resiliency to climate change. This objective shall be measured by implementing its supporting policy.

Policy 5.1 – The Town shall maintain and improve land development code standards and incentives to achieve and maintain open space. Regulations shall address site perimeters, parking lots and buffers related to open space.








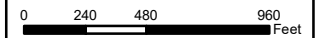
## Surfside Comprehensive Plan

Map: REC 1

Town Parks and Recreation Facilities

### Legend

-  Surfside City Limits
-  Adjacent City Limits
-  Public Beach
-  Municipal Parks
-  Water



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