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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. Although Section 163.3177, F.S., lists the Recreation and Open Space Element as a required element within comprehensive plans, the data and analysis requirements have been deleted from Chapter 9J-5, Florida Administrative Code.

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 four 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. 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, two picnic tables, and two 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. Through a grant, the Town is slated to purchase the home immediately south of the park. In addition to a swimming pool, this acquisition may also provide for the addition of a boat launch for kayaks and other non-motorized boats. The property may ultimately serve as a possible nature center or Surfside historic museum.

*Surfside Community Center:* In 1962, Surfside built the Community Center, on the ocean at 93<sup>rd</sup> Street. For years this unique multi-purpose facility housed the Surf-Bal-Bay Library, the Tourist Bureau and Recreation Department, an Olympic size swimming pool, a toddlers' pool, public beach access, a snack bar, meeting rooms and an auditorium for shows, special events and receptions.

In 2008 due to growing safety concerns regarding a number of elements of the structure, the complex was demolished. The Town is currently evaluating financing for the new Community Center, which will be built on the same site, along with an additional parcel just south of the former complex. In the interim, the site will continue to offer limited recreational opportunities.

*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 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, temporary Modular Community Center 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	0.75
96 <sup>th</sup> Street Park	0.92
Surfside Community Center	1.26
public beach	38.17
pocket parks and r-o-w dead ends	0.45
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>41.77</b>

Source: Calvin, Giordano & Associates, Inc. 2009

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 41.77 acres of public recreation, along with the Miami-Dade Planning and Zoning’s population projections, Surfside’s LOS for recreation can be projected through 2030. 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 2030.

**Table 7-2  
Projected Park LOS**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2014 (short term planning timeframe)</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2030 (long term planning timeframe)</b>
Projected population	5,159	5,280	5,442	5,483	5,680	5,680	5,680
Total park acreage	41.8	41.8	41.8	41.8	41.8	41.8	41.8
Park acreage needed to maintain LOS	31.0	31.7	32.7	32.9	34.1	34.1	34.1
Surplus/deficit acreage	+ 10.8	+ 10.1	+ 9.1	+ 8.9	+ 7.7	+ 7.7	+ 7.7

Source: Calvin, Giordano & Associates, Inc. 2009