



## E. RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

The City of Atlantic Beach has 18 parks and preserves, each with a unique identity and function. The City's parks and preserves range in size from the 350 acre River Branch Preserve to small pocket parks such as Eleanor and Garnett Ashby Memorial Park (formerly known as Marvin's Garden) and Fairway Villas Park. Similarly, some function as active parks with playgrounds and ball fields while others are passive and largely remain in their natural state.

| <b>City of Atlantic Beach Parks and Preserves Inventory</b>                 |                            |                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| <u>Park/Preserve</u>                                                        | <u>Park Classification</u> | <u>Acreage</u> |
| Atlantic Beach Dog Park                                                     | Active                     | 2.15           |
| Bull Memorial Park                                                          | Active                     | 1.44           |
| Donner Park                                                                 | Active                     | 5              |
| Dutton Island Preserve                                                      | Passive                    | 31.86          |
| Fairway Villas Park                                                         | Passive                    | 0.18           |
| Frazier Park                                                                | Passive                    | 0.6            |
| Howell Park                                                                 | Passive                    | 9.64           |
| Jack Russell Park                                                           | Active                     | 12.79          |
| Johansen Park                                                               | Passive                    | 13.83          |
| Jordan Park                                                                 | Active                     | 2.22           |
| Eleanor and Garnett Ashby Memorial Park (formerly known as Marvin's Garden) | Passive                    | 0.12           |
| River Branch Preserve                                                       | Passive                    | 350            |
| Rose Park                                                                   | Active                     | 0.98           |
| Rose Dog Park                                                               | Active                     | 0.18           |
| Selva Preserve                                                              | Passive                    | 3.52           |
| Tide Views Preserve                                                         | Passive                    | 10.5           |
| Veterans Park                                                               | Active                     | 1.5            |
| Waters Park                                                                 | Passive                    | 0.25           |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                |                            | <b>446.76</b>  |

## **E. Recreation and Open Space Element Goals, Objectives, and Policies**

All provision for management of lands for Recreation and Open Space within the City of Atlantic Beach shall be in accordance with the following Goals, Objectives, and Policies.

### **Goal E.1**

**The City shall maintain sufficient parks, recreation facilities and open space so as to provide the citizens with a wide variety of leisure time activities in order that the City continues to be a healthy, desirable and attractive community in which to live.**

#### **Objective E.1.1**

##### **Adequate Recreation Facilities**

The City shall inventory at least once every five years, public and private recreation resources to identify service inadequacies and opportunities for sharing of facilities and programs so as to provide safe,

convenient access for all residents to beaches, parks and other recreation facilities in accordance with Level of Service standards set forth within this Plan amendment.

**Policy E.1.1.1** If determined to be necessary to maintain the adopted Level of Service standards as set forth herein, the City may utilize a system of user fees to support the development recreation programs and the maintenance of facilities.

**Policy E.1.1.2** The City shall continue to encourage volunteerism and participant involvement in planning and operating of recreation programs so as to supplement available City resources.

**Policy E.1.1.3** The City shall continue to encourage equitable inter-community sharing of recreation and open space facilities.

**Policy E.1.1.4** The City shall continue to support efforts of other government agencies and shall offer cooperation to achieve level of service standards for regional recreation and open space facilities as set forth within this Plan amendment.

**Policy E.1.1.5** The City shall maintain the existing recreation facilities, as identified within Table E-2, or similar facilities so as to continue to meet or exceed the Level of Service standards as set forth within this Plan.

**Policy E.1.1.6** The City shall maintain all existing beach access ways as described within the Conservation and Coastal Management Element and shall continue to make improvements to prevent erosion caused by pedestrian traffic.

**Policy E.1.1.7** The City shall maintain all existing accessible beach accesses, and shall seek opportunities, where feasible, to provide additional access to all natural and constructed recreation and park facilities. New facilities shall be developed and constructed in compliance with applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities (ADAAG).

**Policy E.1.1.8** The City shall continue to allow parking along public rights-of-way for the purpose of providing parking for beach access, provided such parking does not interfere with pedestrian or vehicular safety and does not excessively result in damage to public or private property.

**Policy E.1.1.9** The City shall not permit parks and designated open space to be diverted to any other use unless mitigated by equal replacement in size and quality of the resource.

**Policy E.1.1.10** The adopted Level of Service standards, as set forth within Table E-1, shall be maintained as minimum standards.

**Table E-1. Recreation and Open Space Level of Service Standards City of Atlantic Beach, 2045**

| TYPE OF FACILITY            | LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARD         |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Playground (with equipment) | 1 playground per 2,500 population |
| Baseball or Softball Field  | 1 field per 5,000 population      |

|                                  |                                        |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Soccer or Football Field         | 1 field per 5,000 population           |
| Basketball Court                 | 1 court per 2,500 population           |
| Tennis or Pickleball Court       | 1 court per 2,500 population           |
| Running/Hiking Trail             | 1 trail per 10,000 population          |
| Community Center                 | 1 center per 10,000 population         |
| Beach Accesses                   | 1 access per 2,500 population          |
| Passive Park/Scenic Open Space   | 5 acres per 1,000 population           |
| Golf Course* (public or private) | 1 18-hole course per 25,000 population |
| Regional Park/Open Space*        | 5 acres per 1,000 population           |

\*Regional facilities are defined as those, which may not be located within the City of Atlantic Beach, but are in such close proximity so as to directly serve the daily recreational needs of the residents of the City of Atlantic Beach, such as Kathryn Abby Hanna Park and area golf courses.

**Table E-2. Existing Public Recreation and Open Space Facilities, 2024**

| FACILITY                        | LOS Minimum | 2024 Inventory                             |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Playground                      | 6           | 7                                          |
| Baseball or Softball Field      | 3           | 4                                          |
| Soccer or Football Field        | 3           | 4                                          |
| Basketball Court                | 6           | 4 full courts & 3 half courts              |
| Racquetball/Handball Court      | N/A         | 2                                          |
| Tennis Court                    | 6           | 7                                          |
| Pickleball Court                |             | 8                                          |
| Trails                          | 2           | 5 plus 2.3 miles of 8-foot multi-use paths |
| Community Center                | 2           | 3                                          |
| Beach Access                    | 6           | 21                                         |
| Passive Park and Open Space     | 70          | 412+/- acres                               |
| Golf Course (public or private) | 1           | 1                                          |
| Regional Park and Open Space    | 70          | 450 acres- Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park        |
| Skate Park                      | N/A         | 1                                          |

## Objective E.1.2

### Diversity of Recreation Facilities and Activities

The City shall continue to provide varied and diverse recreation activities to the community, and shall coordinate with public agencies, private organizations and individuals, as well as adjacent local governments to supplement efforts and resources of the City.

**Policy E.1.2.1** The City shall seek participation from appropriate private recreation program providers in order to enhance the quality and diversity of recreational services and to improve the cost effectiveness of such services.

**Policy E.1.2.2** The City shall maintain, within its Land Development Regulations, provisions that require open space and recreation within new development.

**Policy E.1.2.3** The City shall continue to implement and construct its bicycle and pedestrian pathway system, with priority given to locations that provide links between neighborhoods, schools, parks and the beach and adjacent beach communities. Where sufficient right-of-way or land area exists, wider six (6) or eight (8) foot widths shall be the recommended standard to accommodate for the safety of multi-modal activities. The City shall also advocate the addition of pedestrian and bike facilities to State and County Roads.

**Policy E.1.2.4** The City shall support the development of skateboard facilities so as to provide safe locations for skateboarding and to discourage this activity in locations that are dangerous or where damage to public property may result.

**Policy E.1.2.5** The City shall maintain Tide Views Preserve, Dutton Island Preserve and River Branch Preserve as passive and natural recreation areas. Facilities shall be limited to those that support fishing, canoeing and kayaking, biking, hiking and exercise trails, picnicking and camping areas and other similar activities. Other public spaces and designated parks, may be reserved as passive areas, or may be developed as active parks as determined necessary to maintain Level of Service standards and as appropriate to the location and size of the area.

**Policy E.1.2.6** The City shall continue to provide funding for maintenance, staffing and development of programs, particularly those programs that serve low and moderate-income populations and the elderly, at the Gail Baker Community Center at Donner Park and the Jordan Community Center.

**Policy E.1.2.7** The City shall protect its beach as a recreational resource and shall rigorously seek funding for future beach renourishment projects.

## Objective E.1.3

### Provision of Recreation and Open Space by Private Development

The City shall ensure that recreation facilities and open space areas are provided in conjunction with development review and permitting so as to maintain or exceed the level of service standards set forth within this Plan and prior to the impacts of such development.

**Policy E.1.3.1** The City shall maintain requirements for the provision of recreation and open space as a condition of development approval and shall also limit impervious surface area and land coverage by structures and shall enforce building setbacks in accordance with the Land Development Regulations.

**Policy E.1.3.2** The City shall require all new residential developments containing five (5) dwelling units or more to provide internal sidewalks or multi-use paths, and such sidewalks or pathways shall link to other facilities and public spaces where possible. Where sufficient right-of-way exists or can be designed, sidewalks and pathways shall be constructed at a minimum width of six (6) feet.

**Policy E.1.3.3** The adopted Level of Service standards shall be maintained as a minimum standard and funding for continued management of these facilities shall be considered during the annual budget review process.

**Policy E.1.3.4** Acquisition of recreation sites and open space areas by the City shall be prioritized in accordance with expressed desires of the community and in response to availability of grant funds and other incentive programs.

**Policy E.1.3.5** Private development shall not, by any means, restrict or prohibit access or use by the public of any public recreational resource including the beach, the Intracoastal Waterway, creeks, streams, marsh and wetland areas.