



**CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS**

**COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN**

**RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE  
ELEMENT**

**GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

**JULY 2006**

*Prepared By:*  
The City of Miami Gardens  
Planning and Zoning Department  
1515 NW 167<sup>th</sup> Street, Building 5, Suite 200  
Miami Gardens, Florida 33169

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>GOAL 1:</b>	<b>OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION NEEDS .....</b>	<b>1</b>
OBJECTIVE 1.1:	PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN .....	1
OBJECTIVE 1.2:	COORDINATION WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES .....	2
OBJECTIVE 1.3:	PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION.....	3
OBJECTIVE 1.4:	ACCESS .....	3
OBJECTIVE 1.5:	RECREATIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM.....	4

## CHAPTER V - RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

### GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

In 2003, upon its incorporation, the City of Miami Gardens inherited an essentially existing community with a relatively defined amount of open space and recreation lands and facilities. Included in that system are sixteen parks and four pools that encompass approximately 170 acres. These City parks are supplemented by two small County parks in the City. These parks form the backbone of the City's park and recreation facilities. Several open space opportunities include areas such as canal rights-of-way. The Recreation and Open Space Element is intended to provide direction for the development and redevelopment of the city's parks as well as methods for insuring meaningful open space and parks for new development and redevelopment.

#### **GOAL 1: OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION NEEDS**

Provide citizens of all ages residing in City of Miami Gardens a system of open space and recreation facilities to meet their future active and passive recreation needs.

#### **Objective 1.1: Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

In recognition that the City is essentially developed and that the City has inherited a collection of existing parklands and facilities, the City shall develop a parks and recreation master plan (master plan) to maximize the potential of existing resources and explore the feasibility of creating new ones.

*Monitoring Measures: Adoption of a master plan that includes a plan for improvements to existing facilities and potentially proposes new sites for recreational facilities.*

**Policy 1.1.1:** The master planning process shall include an inventory of all existing park and recreational facilities, as well as public open space resources in the City.

**Policy 1.1.2:** The master plan shall establish definitions for the following terms:

- Open Space
- Park Facility (tot-lot; neighborhood; community; regional)
- Recreational Facility

**Policy 1.1.3:** The City shall adopt the following level of service standard the open space and recreation:

**1.0 Acre of public park per 1,000 residents**

**Policy 1.1.4:** As part of developing the City's land development regulations determine the minimum open space that should be dedicated by private developments to promote the City's "garden" concept. These dedications would be designed to ensure that new projects enhance existing amenities

and increase aesthetic values to create livable communities within the City.

**Policy 1.1.5:** As part of developing the parks planning process the City shall determine, based on the adopted levels of service and recommended guidelines, the current and projected parks and recreational facilities deficiencies in the City.

**Policy 1.1.6:** The master planning process shall provide master site planning for each existing park and shall prioritize park improvements in terms of their development, infrastructure, and amenities.

**Policy 1.1.7:** Due to the lack of availability of large open space parcels for future parks, the master planning process should look into the idea of developing “pocket” parks on vacant lots throughout the City.

**Policy 1.1.8:** As part of the master planning process, the City shall consider conducting a survey to determine the public’s priorities and preferences when it comes to recreation.

**Policy 1.1.9:** The parks and recreation master planning process shall be inclusive of citizens with a public involvement component that includes advertisements, notices, public meetings and similar techniques to ensure community participation.

**Policy 1.1.10:** The parks planning process shall consider potential grants and other outside funding sources available to develop and redevelop the City’s park facilities.

**Policy 1.1.11:** City’s parks planning shall include an evaluation mechanism to review standards, improvements, and available capacity on a regular basis.

**Policy 1.1.12:** As part parks planning, the City shall develop a feasibility study to identify a regional park facility of approximately 100 acres.

**Objective 1.2: Coordination with Public and Private Agencies**

The City shall coordinate its planning efforts with other public and private agencies in order to meet current and future demand for recreation.

*Monitoring Measures: Number of recreation and open space related grant applications developed on an annual basis.*

*Monitoring Measures: Number of parks and recreational facilities that are constructed and/or redeveloped.*

- Policy 1.2.1:** Continue to work with government agencies and private sources for funding in the development of recreation facilities such as parks, greenways and bikeways, such as the proposed Snake Creek Bikeway.
- Policy 1.2.2:** Continue to work with Miami-Dade School Board to maximize the use of school site for public recreational activities in the future.
- Policy 1.2.3:** Coordinate with civic and private groups to provide recreation programs and events for residents within the public park sites.
- Policy 1.2.4:** The City shall continue to require that open space be provided as a part of the development process and that parks impact fees are collected.

### **Objective 1.3: Parks and Recreation Implementation**

The City's parks and recreation plans shall be implemented and monitored on an annual basis as part of the City's budget process.

*Monitoring Measures: Regular monitoring of parks and open space capacity and demand.*

*Monitoring Measures: Successful implementation of improvements/renovation.*

- Policy 1.3.1:** Pursuant to the City's development review process, the City shall incorporate the dedication of open space, parks and recreational facilities into the City's land development regulations.
- Policy 1.3.2:** Maintain and evaluate existing recreation facilities based on adopted/recommended standards, guidelines, impact fees and the available funding sources.
- Policy 1.3.3:** Address and complete City park renovations, improvements and redevelopments per the master planning process.
- Policy 1.3.4:** The master planning process shall identify deficiencies in recreation facilities and evaluate the feasibility of acquiring new land or redeveloping existing facilities to overcome such deficiencies.
- Policy 1.3.5:** Evaluate vacant property that could be suitable for future or expanded park facilities.
- Policy 1.3.6:** Pursue future strategic acquisition of lands through state/federally-funded grants and land acquisition programs.

### **Objective 1.4: Access**

The City shall ensure that adequate and appropriate access to all recreational facilities is made available to all citizens by automobile, transit, and bicycle/pedestrian facilities.

*Monitoring Measures: The appropriateness of access methods to existing and future park sites; the number of parking spaces (including handicap spaces) and bicycle racks at park sites; the accessibility to future pedestrian ways and trails.*

*Monitoring Measures: The degree of success with transportation and mobility related enhancements as they directly improve/benefit the access to parks and recreation facilities.*

- Policy 1.4.1:** Maintain and, if necessary, obtain additional public access points for recreation and open space facilities.
- Policy 1.4.2:** Ensure pedestrian and bicycle access to all park facilities upon completion of renovations and new construction.
- Policy 1.4.3:** Investigate the feasibility of developing the land along canals to provide public access, greenway trails and linear parks for public passive recreation or conservation.
- Policy 1.4.4:** Assure adequate access for handicapped and elderly residents to public and private parks and recreation facilities, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### **Objective 1.5: Recreational Trail System**

Because the City has little vacant land available to convert to parks, it is important to utilize those existing public properties to their fullest. To this end, the City should implement the recently adopted citywide Recreational Trails Master Plan (RTMP), which utilizes canal rights-of-way and other blueways, existing parks, pedestrian walkways, sidewalks and bikeways, the Library Walking Trail and private lands to create an interconnected system of trails.

*Monitoring Measures: Additional effective acreage added to the parks recreation and park system through these linear trails.*

*Monitoring Measures: The degree that the component parts of the Recreational Trail System are joined by pedestrian facilities.*

- Policy 1.5.1:** All new and renovated parks should where possible, contain a pedestrian trail or walkway accessible from public sidewalks or parking facilities.
- Policy 1.5.2:** Develop and implement citywide trail/blueway/bike path projects along canals, other blueways, road rights-of-way, and other rights-of-ways in coordination with existing parks and plans, other governmental agencies, private landowners, and the City Transportation Master Plan.
- Policy 1.5.3:** Review potential links between the various segments of the Recreational Trail System such as sidewalks and bike paths, identify missing links connecting these facilities and program their completion through the Capital Improvement Program.

**Policy 1.5.4:** Review each component trail in the City’s Recreational System for enhancements to more fully utilize these resources such as adding facilities or stations for fitness, family picnics, nature education, etc.

**Policy 1.5.5:** All components of the City’s Recreational Trail System should be ADA compliant.