

CLEARWATER | 2045

A bright and beautiful future.

Parks & Public Places



Recreation & Open Space Element

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
<i>PPP 1 EQUITABLE DESIGN</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>PPP 2 PARKS FACILITIES</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>PPP 3 NATURAL FEATURES PRESERVATION</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>PPP 4 IMPACT FEE</i>	<i>8</i>

LIST OF MAPS

<i>MAP PPP 1. PARKS FACILITIES</i>	<i>9</i>
--	----------

DRAFT

DRAFT





INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Parks and Public Places chapter is to ensure that the city's parks system continues to provide opportunities for all residents and visitors. The city's park system supports numerous programs, such as athletic leagues and tournaments, special events, regional tourism, and environmental education. This chapter offers guidance on maintain the current facilities while ensuring that the equity of all users is considered during any development or redevelopment of park facilities. This introduction is still a draft and will be edited with additional data before a final version is created.

This chapter is largely the existing Recreation/Open Space Element with edits to account for updated data or to rearrange the objectives and policies into a more logical order. A new goal was created for equity of users, and a new goal based upon the existing impact fee objective was also created to separate out from parks maintenance and development. The Parks and Recreation Department is currently underway with a project to update the *Parks and Recreation Master Plan*, which is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2023. It is anticipated that amendments to this chapter will occur in 2024 to address new data and findings from the master plan update.

Existing Conditions

There are currently 109 parks throughout the city that the city owns and/or operates. Of those 109 total parks, there are seven community, 28 environmental, 24 neighborhood, 23 open space, and 27 special facilities. Special facilities include baseball/softball fields, or other multi-use fields. With over 100 parks, the city has shifted focus from new park development to redevelopment and renovation of the current facilities. Some of these projects are minor in nature, replacing aging playground equipment, to complex, the redevelopment of Crest Lake Park.

The existing level of service (LOS) is 4 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons within the city, and is based upon nationwide standards which are starting to be phased out. The city currently has 1,846.42 acres of parkland which equates to 15.74 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons, well above the adopted level of service. To maintain the adopted LOS, the city would only need to maintain 468.8 acres of parkland.

Currently, the city retains a surplus of vacant land that was purchased for future neighborhood parks. The decision to develop these parks is based on numerous management conditions, including existing community preferences, available fiscal resources, and the ability to maintain landscapes concurrent with adopted citywide standards and expectations.

Into the Future

As the city navigates into the future, the focus of the Parks and Recreation Department should continue to focus efforts on reconstruction and improvement of existing park facilities. Additionally, since nationwide LOS standards are being phased out, the formal adoption of local, performance-based standards should be considered. These standards would allow for the city to account for the varying geographical, cultural, and socio-economic characteristics when determining a LOS for a facility. These standards would also allow for the department to remain responsive to shifting community priorities.

Chapter Goals

This chapter contains four goals:

GOAL PPP 1 EQUITABLE DESIGN

Promote the equitable design of trails, open spaces, and parks and recreation facilities to make it safe and easy for residents to be physically active, regardless of their age, race, ethnicity, income, ability, or disability.

GOAL PPP 2 PARKS FACILITIES

Ensure that trails, open spaces, and parks and recreation facilities are located throughout the city.

GOAL PPP 3 NATURAL FEATURES PRESERVATION

Preserve and expand natural features of the city.

GOAL PPP 4 IMPACT FEE

Utilize the parks and recreation impact fee to improve trails, open spaces, and parks and recreation facilities.

DRAFT

GOAL PPP 1

Promote the equitable design of trails, open spaces, and parks and recreation facilities to make it safe and easy for residents to be physically active, regardless of their age, race, ethnicity, income, ability, or disability.

Objective PPP 1.1

Ensure the city's system of trails, open spaces, and parks and recreation facilities equitably serves diverse community needs.

POLICIES

PPP 1.1.1

Ensure that parks and open space amenities provide equal opportunities for all users.

PPP 1.1.2

Consider a program that would assist residents with disabilities to easily access the city's trails, open spaces, and parks and recreation facilities.

PPP 1.1.3

Evaluate and update the Aging Well Master Plan as necessary.

PPP 1.1.4

Expand access to beach-friendly wheelchairs and the use of beach-accessible mats on public beaches.

PPP 1.1.5

Continue to provide accessible bicycle parking at all park and recreation facilities and consider providing accessible bicycle parking within open spaces and along trails.



Pier 60

PPP 1.1.6

Promote healthy living through the use of trails, open spaces, and parks and recreation facilities for active and passive recreation, organized sports, picnic facilities, environmental programs, youth and adult programs, and special events.

PPP 1.1.7

Ensure parks and recreation plans account for the city's diverse population and needs.

PARKS & PUBLIC PLACES

GOAL PPP 2

Ensure that trails, open spaces, and parks and recreation facilities are located throughout the city.

Objective PPP 2.1

To maintain adequate level of service (LOS) for existing and future populations.

POLICY

PPP 2.1.1

Continue to use 4 acres of parkland for every one thousand persons as the parkland LOS.

Objective PPP 2.2

Continue to increase the supply of trails, open spaces, and parks and recreation facilities in areas needing additional facilities.

POLICIES

PPP 2.2.1

Continue to acquire parkland where deficiencies are identified.

PPP 2.2.2

Continue to review service radii and primary service guidelines for recreation facilities.

PPP 2.2.3

Continue to locate new community parks adjacent to arterial streets and/or transit routes whenever possible.

PPP 2.2.4

Continue to locate new neighborhood parks near schools, local or collector roads, and transit routes if feasible.

PPP 2.2.5

Continue to provide and expand recreation and open space opportunities in the Clearwater Beach and Downtown Activity Centers.

PPP 2.2.6

Continue to develop greenways and trails as identified in *Shifting Gears-Clearwater's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan*.

PPP 2.2.7

Maintain the provisions of the city charter regarding the required referendum prior to approval of the sale of parklands to ensure adequate public recreation and open space lands within the city.



Multi-use Trail

Objective PPP 2.3

Continually evaluate and update the city's Parks and Recreation System Master Plan to guide park development throughout the city.

POLICIES

PPP 2.3.1

Continue to implement the priority, medium- and long-term actions, and continuous actions/policies as detailed in the 2013 *Parks and Recreation System Master Plan* as funds become available.

PPP 2.3.2

Complete the process of updating the *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* by the end of 2023.

PPP 2.3.3

Incorporate findings from the 2023 *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* into the Comprehensive Plan by 2025.



Playground Equipment

GOAL PPP 3

Preserve and expand natural features of the city.

Objective PPP 3.1

Preserve natural open space areas which constitute aesthetic or ecological community assets.

POLICIES

PPP 3.1.1

Provide natural open space properties which have the diversity of resources necessary for nature study and the enjoyment of natural assets in order to assure environmental understanding whenever possible.

PPP 3.1.2

Continue to administer landscape, drainage, and impervious surface regulations in the Community Development Code to maintain adequate natural open space within the city.

PPP 3.1.3

Continue to enhance and maintain existing or create new access to waterbodies.

PPP 3.1.4

Coordinate recreation planning with other plans concerning water quality, stormwater management, fish and wildlife management, and environmental education.

Objective PPP 3.2

Preserve, enhance, and maintain the city's existing and future trails, open space, and park and recreation facilities.

POLICIES

PPP 3.2.1

Preserve areas of ecological, historical, or archaeological value for open space and parklands when possible.

PPP 3.2.2

Continue to maintain environmental integrity of city-owned open spaces and parklands.

PPP 3.2.3

Continue to enhance city-owned open space and parkland areas by restoring degraded natural communities and eradicating non-native or invasive vegetation.

PPP 3.2.4

Create additional natural open space through green permeable areas in easements, traffic islands, etc., consistent with the city's Community Development Code.

PPP 3.2.5

Utilize xeriscaping techniques where suitable in an effort to conserve potable water while providing aesthetically pleasing landscape.

PPP 3.2.6

Prohibit future land use categories with potential adverse impacts from locating near open space and parkland areas.

PPP 3.2.7

Encourage developments with potential adverse impacts to provide mitigation techniques to protect open space and parkland areas.

PPP 3.2.8

Encourage the protection of existing lands designated as Preservation (P) and Recreation/Open Space (R/OS) on the Future Land Use Map.

PPP 3.2.9

Designate appropriate city-owned lands as Preservation (P) or Recreation/Open Space (R/OS) on the Future Land Use Map whenever feasible.



Outdoor Basketball Court Usage

PARKS & PUBLIC PLACES

GOAL PPP 4

Utilize the parks and recreation impact fee to improve trails, open spaces, and parks and recreation facilities.

Objective PPP 4.1

Continue administration of the parks and recreation impact fee.

POLICIES

PPP 4.1.1

Continue to enforce the adopted impact fee requirements of Chapter 54 of the city's Community Development Code.

PPP 4.1.2

Expend impact fee funds throughout the city for open space and parks and recreation facilities.












PPP 4.1.3

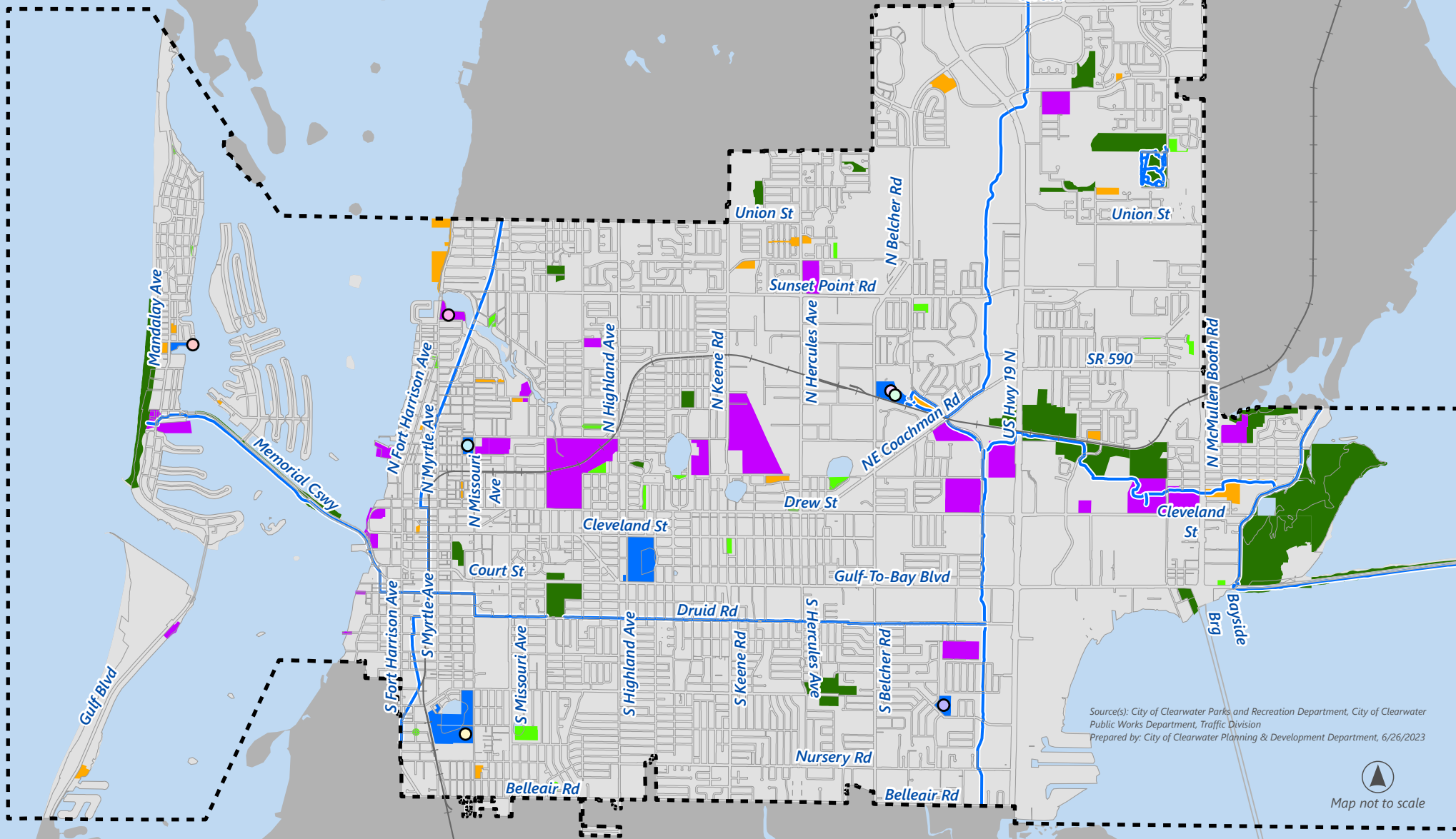
Provide a reduced impact fee to incentivize the development of affordable housing.



Bicyclist on Trail

PPP 1. Parks Facilities

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
|  Trail |  Clearwater Beach Recreation Center |  The Long Center |
|  Community Park |  Countryside Recreation Center |  Planning Area |
|  Environmental Park |  Morningside Recreation Complex | |
|  Neighborhood Park |  North Greenwood Recreation Center | |
|  Open Space Park |  Ross Norton Recreation Center | |
|  Special Facilities |  Shuffleboard and Lawn Bowls Complex | |
| |  The Aging Well Center | |



Source(s): City of Clearwater Parks and Recreation Department, City of Clearwater Public Works Department, Traffic Division
 Prepared by: City of Clearwater Planning & Development Department, 6/26/2023