

Exhibit A

Text proposed for deletion is shown ~~stricken~~ and text proposed for addition is shown underlined.

Supplement 55 provided by MuniCode is the base document for the EAR based changes shown.

Chapter 7 RECREATION ELEMENT

Adopted:	July 9, 1991	By Ordinance No. 400
Amended:	October 27, 1992	By Ordinance No. 419
Amended:	October 26, 1993	By Ordinance No. 430
Amended:	September 13, 1994	By Ordinance No. 448
Amended:	December 15, 1998	By Ordinance No. 537
Amended:	September 28, 1999	By Ordinance No. 555
Amended:	December 16, 2009	By Ordinance No. 848
Amended:	February 27, 2018	By Ordinance No. 1053
Amended:		

Section 7.1. Background

7.1A. *Purpose and intent.* The purpose of this element is to provide an outline for the recreational resources Martin County is committed to providing, to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of County recreation planning, and to provide a general framework for sound recreation planning. This element sets standards for recreation as well as standards to guide the County's spending on recreation and the spending required of developers.

Martin County meets level of service for parks as established in Chapter 14, Capital Improvements Element. The County addresses level of service and the provision of parks services through the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). The CIP provides a level of service analysis, parks project expenditure budget, and a capital improvement schedule for the 10-year timeframe. The CIP demonstrates that Martin County meets established level of service for parks for the short and long-term planning timeframes.

The County's parks standards are identified in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the Parks Quality Maintenance Standards and in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The parks and recreation standards defined in SCORP, which provides maximum, minimum and median levels of service for park amenities, are to be the reference for Martin County. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan includes an inventory of the County's current recreation holdings and other (non-County) public recreation holdings. The Master Plan analyzes recreation levels of service and the County's role in providing for current and future needs for recreation facilities. The Parks Quality Maintenance Standards define the County's maintenance standards.

The intent of this element is to ensure that Martin County parks operate at the designed level of service, are used efficiently and can be maintained and serviced to provide their intended functions. Other recreation resources the County may provide include land, facilities and/or programs; creation of advisory groups; and studies or other means to encourage action by other parties.

Section 7.2. Existing Conditions

7.2A. *County recreation resources.* Recreation resources available in Martin County can be summarized as follows:

1. The County has the following state parks: Jonathan Dickinson State Park, St. Lucie Inlet Preserve State Park, Savannas Preserve State Park, Seabranck Preserve State Park, John C. and Mariana

Jones/Hungryland Wildlife and Environmental Area, DuPuis Preserve, Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge, Atlantic Ridge State Park, and the Allapattah Flats Wildlife Management Area.

2. The County's community parks are closest to the state definition of a community park: a managed recreation site that provides a range of fields, courts and picnic areas.
3. The County provides limited smaller activity-based parks that could qualify as neighborhood parks, mini-parks, tot lots, etc., but the County has not assumed the role of consistently providing these levels of facilities. Some school facilities that are accessible after school hours tend to meet neighborhood park needs.
4. The County provides isolated special facilities, such as limited fishing access, boat ramps and canoe launch sites, that depend on a particular natural resource such as waterfront access or a good canoeing area.
5. The County provides beachfront access for all.

7.2.B. *Community parks.* Community parks provide local citizens with managed facilities, including ball fields and courts, for active recreation. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan contains a current inventory of community parks.

7.2.C. *Beach parks.* Martin County manages over 12,000 linear feet of Atlantic Ocean beachfront. All parcels but one are located on Hutchinson Island. The land is owned either jointly by the County and the State through the Save Our Coasts program, or by one entity or the other. An inventory of beaches with public access is in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The County manages these beach parcels at three levels of service: full-service beach parks, beach access areas and undeveloped beaches. Each level of service offers a different experience, a goal consciously pursued by the County.

1. Full-service beach parks: Generally have most or all of the following amenities: lifeguards, restrooms, showers, some athletic facilities, picnic area, concessions, parking, dune crossovers and boardwalks. They are maintained by County crews.
2. Public beach access areas: Generally have limited parking, public beach access and showers. These beaches are designed to offer a more passive, nature-oriented beach experience. They are maintained by County crews.
3. Undeveloped public beaches: Provide public access to the beach but no other services. Most undeveloped beaches are slated for future development into beach parks or beach access areas.

Section 7.3. Future Needs

The recreation standards the County adopted in the 1982 Comprehensive Plan were meant as guidelines, not as a commitment to provide specific facilities. In 1985 growth management legislation required that level of service standards be adopted and treated as legal requirements. The Recreation Element is mandatory under this legislation and affects issuance of development permits. Section 163.3177 of the Florida Statutes requires the County to adopt a recreation element that provides for a comprehensive system of public and private sites for recreation. These are to include natural reservations, parks/playgrounds, parkways, beaches (including public access), open spaces, waterways and other recreational facilities.

Martin County will concentrate its resources in the provision of parks for existing and future residents in accordance with the strategies specified in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The County will encourage ~~developments of regional impact (DRI) and~~ planned unit developments (PUD) to provide active parkland based on current level of service. ~~land for community parks with a minimum optimum size of 30 developable acres.~~ When possible, Martin County will negotiate formal agreements with the School Board and other public and private recreation providers to ensure provision of recreational facilities. ~~Future recreational opportunities the County~~

~~may consider include: an aquatics center that could also be used as an attractor for major sporting events, sports tourism, a public gun and shooting range, and an off-road vehicle park.~~

Section 7.4. Goal, Objectives, and Policies

Goal 7.1To provide ample high quality and diverse recreational opportunities for the citizens of Martin County and its visitors in a cost-efficient manner.

Objective 7.1A. To provide recreation facilities at levels of service that ensure upgrading and expanding of facilities to meet demands of new growth.

Policy 7.1A.1. Level of Service. The parks level of service shall be as established in Policy 14.1A.2, CGMP.

Policy 7.1A.2. Use of non-County recreational facilities. Non-County recreational facilities (school fields, private golf courses, etc.) may be used to meet the mandatory level of service standards if there is a signed, written agreement between the County and the facility owner that guarantees general public access.

Policy 7.1A.3. Ongoing recreation planning. The County shall conduct an ongoing program of recreation planning to ensure that mandatory levels of service are met and maintained; to encourage meeting and maintaining level of service guidelines; to provide for timely updating of inventory and population data; to ensure that new parks and facilities become available as needed; and to achieve effective use of recreation facilities.

Policy 7.1A.4. Recreation database for planning. To ensure effective recreation planning, the County shall assign personnel to:

- (1) Maintain an accurate and up-to-date inventory of all County-owned and County-maintained recreation facilities and sites necessary for concurrency management. The inventory shall provide for a system of calculating acreage of neighborhood, community and regional parks. The current inventory shall be referenced in the Capital Improvement Plan and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan;
- (2) Act as a clearinghouse for public information about recreational opportunities in or provided by the County;
- (3) Coordinate scheduling at County recreational facilities;
- (4) Update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan every five-ten years to ensure a reliable database of needs and inventories of the County's parks and recreation system;
- (5) Coordinate with organized sports groups, concerned citizens and others in evaluating the County's need for recreational facilities and resources, and maintain the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board as a continuous link to the community;
- (6) Identify available land parcels that could be acquired to meet identified current or future recreational needs;
- (7) Identify and seek funding sources to develop and expand County recreation facilities;
- (8) Carry out other duties as necessary to implement and enforce this element of the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan.

Policy 7.1A.5. Maintenance standards. The Parks Quality Maintenance Standards shall be updated periodically to ensure the parks and recreation system is safe, clean and high-quality.

Policy 7.1A.6. Funding of maintenance standards. The County shall incorporate into the annual budget the necessary funding to meet the maintenance standards adopted in the Parks Quality Maintenance Standards.

Policy 7.1A.7. Recreation Lands Acquisition Program. The County shall continue to support the Public Lands Acquisition Program to facilitate the acquisition of active, passive and conservation land to maintain the levels of service for recreation.

The Land Acquisition Selection Committee has been appointed to facilitate the application of specific standards, policies and procedures in accordance with the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan to identify and acquire land for recreational facilities. In addition, the Public Lands Acquisition Program shall continue to provide or establish, at a minimum:

- (1) A bonding program or other funding mechanism for advance acquisition of land to be used for community parks and beaches. This funding mechanism will allow the County to buy large parcels of land and earmark them for future recreational development to serve the growing population;
- (2) Procedures and policies for advance acquisition of sites needed to meet future recreational needs consistent with adopted level of service standards;
- (3) Evaluation and revision of policies for evaluating land donation offers, in light of identified recreational needs and County resources for operation and maintenance. These policies shall ensure that the County accepts only those land donations that it can responsibly manage and maintain to the benefit of County citizens, as identified in recreation studies.

Policy 7.1A.8. Developable land. The County shall reevaluate all community parks in the inventory to ensure that only developable and usable land is included in the acreages listed for each park.

Policy 7.1A.9. Coordination of land acquisition. The acquisition of recreational lands shall be coordinated with the development of the Open Space Plan in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Policy 7.1A.10. No sale of beachfront property. The County shall not sell public beachfront property.

Policy 7.1A.11. Acquisition above minimum level of service. Because of the unique importance of beachfront and water access parks to the quality and style of life in Martin County, the County shall continue to seek acquisition of such properties above the minimum level of service standard.

Objective 7.1B. To provide active and passive recreation facilities at the parks and other facilities inventoried in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Policy 7.1B.1. Provision for future needs. The County shall provide for future County parks and recreation areas consistent with the needs demonstrated through findings in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Policy 7.1B.2. Recreation facilities feasibility study. The County shall update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan every five-ten years, which will require an update of the feasibility study conducted in 2003 as part of the development of the Master Plan.

Policy 7.1B.3. Creative park design. The County shall employ creative, innovative design concepts in its parks planning, including use of natural materials, sustainable and green building concepts, and conservation of environmentally sensitive open space.

Policy 7.1B.4. Green building standards. Martin County shall incorporate green building concepts in the design and building of its park facilities in compliance with Florida Statutes section 255.2575.

Policy 7.1B.5. Environmental education and management. Environmental education and management shall be an integral part of park and recreation policies and programs, including identification of species and environmental conditions at sites. Parks shall incorporate environmentally sensitive areas, which shall be used for environmental education programs. When appropriate, environmental art shall be used to bring together science and the arts through exhibits, talks, tours, films and fairs to emphasize a sustainable future. Facilities shall be provided in resource-based parks to implement these programs.

Policy 7.1B.6. Design review process for recreation facilities. The County shall employ a design review process for parks and recreation facilities that involves pertinent County departments for parking, roads and preservation of native tree and plant communities to conserve water, energy and natural resources. When possible, the County shall solicit public involvement to help maintain the parks system as an environmentally friendly resource.

Policy 7.1B.7. Improvements to beach access. County policies for providing and improving beach access are:

- (1) The County shall identify funding available for buying more beachfront for public access and conservation, should land become available;
- (2) Every ~~five~~ years, county staff shall ~~reevaluate its ability to maintain~~ update and review its beach access level of service standards in light of additional available beachfront and actual versus projected population growth;
- (3) ~~Every five years county staff shall undertake an internal study to identify beach users by place of origin and the impacts of recent and future development on the availability of public beach access;~~
- (4) To ensure conservation, and safety and maintenance of beaches for future enjoyment, the County shall balance the environmental needs and constraints of each beach property against the need for public access;
- (5) The County shall, when resources become available, continue to increase bicycle paths between existing and planned public parks; and
- (6) The County shall continue the ongoing program of acquiring and developing water recreation sites with public access through the Martin County Land Acquisition Selection Program in conjunction with other federal, state and regional agencies. These are the Bureau of Land Management's Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants (federal); the South Florida Water Management District's State Land Acquisition Program (state); and the Florida Inland Navigation District (regional).

Policy 7.1B.8. Fishing access coordination with the State. The Board of County Commissioners shall coordinate with the Florida Department of Transportation regarding fishing access from state and federal bridges to maximize opportunities for providing public fishing access.

Policy 7.1B.9. Water safety programs. Martin County shall continue to promote and seek grants to subsidize ~~underwrite~~ water safety programs, ~~especially for children.~~

Objective 7.1C. To coordinate public and private entities to meet recreation demands.

Policy 7.1C.1. Joint use of recreation facilities. Martin County shall coordinate with the School Board to provide for after-hours use of school parks, playgrounds and gymnasiums. In providing for mandatory levels of service, the County shall require joint use of recreation facilities with other public providers wherever possible to minimize public investments. Other public providers shall include the School Board, City of Stuart, Village of Indiantown and State of Florida. Joint use agreements shall be formalized through ongoing planning and written interlocal agreements that set the times and conditions for general public use and that address liability, insurance and maintenance responsibilities of each party.

Policy 7.1C.2. Credits for beaches. There shall be no credits against beach recreation impact fees.

Policy 7.1C.3. Intergovernmental cooperation for recreational land purchase. Martin County shall encourage the purchase and improvement of state and federal recreational lands within the County through cooperation with other government agencies and, where feasible, through matching land and financial donations, if necessary.

Policy 7.1C.4. Public participation. Martin County shall encourage public-private partnerships for the maintenance and management of parks for such things as exotics removal, landscape planting, trail building, and site restoration.

Objective 7.1D. To continue to provide public right-of-way access to recreation sites, beaches and shores.

Policy 7.1D.1. Maintenance of recreation sites. All existing public recreation sites in Martin County shall be continually maintained to assure public access.

Policy 7.1D.2. Evaluation of accessibility. To assure the usefulness of parcels being solicited or offered for public recreation use, all parcels shall be evaluated by the County to determine their accessibility to public roads and other facilities.