



AUBURNDALE 2050

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE



E

Recreation & Open Space

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

Adopted April 20, 2026

RECREATION & OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

Goal, Objectives and Policies

Goal E. To provide a balanced system of recreation facilities and open space which will satisfy the needs of the present and projected future residents of the City and will emphasize use of Auburndale's natural resources.

Objective E-1. Ensure Public Accessibility to Recreation Facilities. The City of Auburndale shall provide and improve public access to recreation sites and facilities including water bodies within Auburndale.

Policy E-1.1. The City will consider tools for measuring success such as a survey for opinions of users as to the level of accessibility, percent increase in signage for parks, increase in number of user days during the planning period.

Policy E-1.2. The City will provide bicycle racks at all City parks.

Policy E-1.3. The City will ensure that crosswalks and pedestrian signals are placed or maintained at arterial streets that lead to parks and recreation facilities.

Policy E-1.4. The City Parks and Recreation Department shall maintain designated safe walking routes to City parks and recreation areas.

Policy E-1.5. The City will maintain, expand, and improve safe bike routes to City parks and recreation areas.

Policy E-1.6. The City will provide appropriate signage clearly indicating the location of City owned and maintained recreation sites.

Policy E-1.7. The City shall maintain public access currently available to the City's lakes, and continue to consider upgrades to park facilities that improve access to the lake or lake shore.

Policy E-1.8. The City's Department of Parks and Recreation shall periodically conduct surveys to determine the accessibility of existing recreation sites and facilities and types of additional facilities that may be needed

Policy E-1.9. The City's Department of Parks and Recreation shall consider implementing a Recreation Survey, and make results publicly available.

Objective E-2. Coordination of Public and Private Resources to Meet Recreation Demands. The City of Auburndale shall improve recreation opportunities for the citizens of Auburndale consistent with the adopted level of service standard through partnerships between public agencies, private entities, and nonprofit organizations.

Policy E-2.1. The City will consider measuring progress through the number of facilities with inter-local agreements in place.

Policy E-2.2. The City shall attend and participate in meetings with the Polk Leisure Services Association (LSA) to develop a comprehensive Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

Policy E-2.3. The City will coordinate recreation programs and the use of facilities with surrounding municipalities and the County in order to maximize the recreation opportunities available to Auburndale residents. This shall be accomplished through discussions with the County and nearby municipalities.

Policy E-2.4. The City shall suggest that the use and provision of recreation facilities in the County annually be an agenda item at the monthly Polk County City Managers meetings.

Policy E-2.5. The City will work with Polk County Parks and Recreation Division to coordinate the location and development of future county community and regional parks.

Policy E-2.6. The City shall support continued public access to recreation facilities owned or maintained by the School Board.

Policy E-2.7. The City will continue the established program for soliciting monies from Civic Clubs, individuals, and businesses to provide additional equipment and facilities in the parks.

Objective E-3. Ensure Adequate Provision of Recreation Facilities. The City shall ensure consistency with the adopted level of service standards for the provision of future recreation facilities.

- Policy E-3.1. The City will consider measuring progress through the number of acres of recreation land increase and any other levels of service established for facilities.*
- Policy E-3.2. The City of Auburndale shall establish and maintain a level of service standard for active and passive recreation service land of 5.5 acres per 1,000 residents.*
- Policy E-3.3. The City shall enforce land development regulations that ensure that future development provides its fair share of recreation facilities and/or impact fees for such facilities, based on the established level of service standard.*
- Policy E-3.4. The location of new recreation sites or facilities shall be prioritized, based on results of the Recreation Survey, and the location and extent of new residential development.*
- Policy E-3.5. The City will maintain/replace existing recreation equipment at sites, based on equipment maintenance needs, age of equipment, etc., and these needs shall be programmed into the Five Year Schedule of Capital Improvements.*
- Policy E-3.6. The City will add recreation equipment to sites that need additional recreation facilities, based on the service area needs, age of equipment, etc., and these needs shall be programmed into the Five Year Schedule of Capital Improvements.*

Objective E-4. Provision of Open Space. The City of Auburndale shall ensure the provision of adequate open space.

- Policy E-4.1. The City will consider measuring progress through additions to the base year acres of 204 permanently classified as Conservation or Open Space.*
- Policy E-4.2. The City shall promote the use of open space for protection of natural vegetation and for landscaping, buffering or greenbelts.*
- Policy E-4.3. Passive recreation sites shall be designated as open space areas and indicated as Recreation on the City of Auburndale Future Land Use Map.*

- Policy E-4.4. The City shall work with Polk County, the Regional Planning County, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and Southwest Florida Water Management District to implement and extend the Integrated Habitat Network, the Greenways System, Rails to Trails, and the Green Swamp Area of Critical Concern.*
- Policy E-4.5. The City shall enforce land development regulations that set standards for set-backs for all building and development from water bodies.*
- Policy E-4.6. The City shall maintain open space criteria in appropriate zoning districts of its Land Development Code to further protect and support the provision of open space.*