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GOALS

TO ACQUIRE AND DEVELOP PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES TO MEET THE ESTABLISHED LEVELS OF SERVICE DETERMINED BY THE CITY'S PRESENT AND FUTURE POPULATIONS, AND INCORPORATING DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS RELATED TO ACCESSIBILITY, ELEMENTS OF QUALITY, DESIGN, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AND COST EFFECTIVENESS.

TO DEVELOP AND PROVIDE RESPONSIVE RECREATION PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF ALL SEGMENTS OF THE CITY'S POPULATION.

OBJECTIVE

TO MAINTAIN THE PLAN AS AN EFFECTIVE POLICY IN THE PROVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES, PROGRAMS, AND FACILITIES.

Policies

1. The city shall develop a five-year process for periodic review of the plan involving changing demographics, growth patterns, and user needs.
2. The following organizations shall be involved in maintaining the Plan: Board of Commissioners; **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**; Planning Commission; Department of Education; and community organizations and individual user groups.
3. The Plan shall be consistent with other elements of the city's General Plan.
4. Facilities and programs shall be provided in the most cost effective manner.

OBJECTIVE

TO PROVIDE RECREATION FACILITIES THAT WILL MEET THE NEEDS OF THE CITY'S RESIDENTS.

Policies

1. **The city shall strive to achieve accreditation by the National Recreation and Park Association.**
2. A level of service of 10 acres per 1,000 residents shall be established to guide the city in the provision of adequate parkland for recreational use.

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3. Recreation areas shall be provided to serve neighborhood, community, and citywide needs.
4. In the acquisition and development of new facilities and the expansion/renovation of existing facilities, the city shall actively solicit citizen comment on user needs and expectations.
5. Facilities shall be designed and developed to serve the specific recognized needs of the intended service area.
6. The city shall provide a system of recreation facilities that is available to city residents through the use of an interconnected system of walkways, bikeways, greenways, and safe streets.
7. Capitalize on existing assets, such as Buffalo Mtn., Winged Deer, and Boone Lake, where goals to leverage and develop opportunities for Outdoor Recreation will align with economic development strategies lead by NETREP and its partners.
8. In the development of recreational facilities, the City shall prioritize the protection of ridgelines and creeks.
9. The city shall encourage continual citizen involvement and innovation in the provision of high quality parks and recreation services.
10. The city shall provide parks and recreation opportunities for all residents regardless of socio-economic background, age, location of residence, or disabilities.

OBJECTIVE

TO IMPROVE THE CITY OF JOHNSON CITY'S PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTION OR ACQUISITION OF NEW FACILITIES AT APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS.

Policies

1. In areas experiencing rapid growth, priority shall be given to the acquisition of land for future park development.
2. In developed areas, neighborhood parks shall be considered appropriate where service areas contain a minimum population density of 2,500 persons per square mile. Continue to re-evaluate this policy to provide a more fine-tuned formula for evaluating park service areas.
3. The City shall look to expand and complement the existing parks and recreation system with decentralized, neighborhood-scale parks in underserved areas of the city.

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4. The city shall preserve the area's natural and historic resources through integration of these resources into the overall framework of parks and recreation facility development.

5. **SITE SELECTION**

The following policies shall be used by the city in the selection of sites for future park facilities:

Neighborhood Park

- a. Site acreage shall be based on a minimum level of service of 2.5 acres per 1,000 population served with a minimum park size of 1 acre with 5 to 15 acres as desirable.
- b. Neighborhood parks shall be located on local streets or low volume collector streets.
- c. Parks shall be centrally located and within walking distance of the intended service area. A location adjacent to an elementary school shall be encouraged where land is available.
- d. The user population shall consist of pre-school and school-age children; however, activities and amenities for adults shall be included.

Community Park

- a. Site acreage shall be based on a minimum level of service of 2.5 acres per 1,000 population served with a minimum park size of 30 to 50 acres.
- b. Community parks shall be located on collector streets or in certain instances arterial streets in order to provide ease of access to community residents.
- c. Parks shall be designed primarily as drive-to-facilities and shall be located central to the intended service area.
- d. The user population shall consist of all age groups with a balance of active and passive facilities.

District Park

- a. Site acreage should be based on a minimum level of service of 5.0 acres per 1,000 population served with a minimum park size of 50 acres.
- b. District parks shall be located on arterial streets in order to provide access to the entire city and to minimize the impact on residential areas.
- c. Facility development shall maximize the use of natural features and amenities and provide for a balance between active and passive recreation.

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Natural Resource Areas

Shall conserve and effectively utilize the area's natural resources with attention to:

- a. Creation of an extensive public open space system of local and regional significance that includes greenways, parks, natural preserves, and other related areas.
- b. Assuring the long-term protection and enhancement of natural resource areas through proper planning and the designation of compatible adjacent land uses.

Special Use Parks

Shall protect and adaptively reuse areas of historic significance, underutilized urban spaces, and other such areas deserving of special interest and focus.

Sports Complex/Field

The city shall promote the development of sports complexes/fields involving the consolidation of athletic facilities in community and district parks throughout the city with particular attention to residential compatibility, existing and future needs, and user group.

Linear Parks

The city shall develop a system of bikeways and greenways in accordance with the Johnson City Bikeways and Greenway Plan.

OBJECTIVE

TO IDENTIFY NEEDS FOR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE, REHABILITATION, AND RENOVATION OF EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES.

Policies

1. The city shall provide adequate maintenance to existing facilities through the annual operating budget of the Parks and Recreation Department and through a capital replacement program.
2. The city shall provide a continuing program of structural and infrastructure improvements to all parks and recreation facilities.
3. [The city shall adopt an appropriate variation of the Park Maintenance Standards of the National Recreation and Park Association as a guide in its maintenance program of facilities.](#)

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4. Recommended improvements shall be designed to bring existing facilities into compliance with city codes and other requirements regulating safety and construction.
5. The city shall incorporate a standard of design and quality through increased emphasis on architectural and site design, maintenance, landscaping, and park amenities (benches, lighting, water fountains, trash receptacles, playground equipment, picnic facilities, etc.) for renovation of existing facilities to assure long-term low maintenance facilities.

OBJECTIVE

TO DEVELOP AND PROVIDE RECREATION PROGRAMS WHICH WILL MEET THE NEEDS OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

Policies

1. The city shall institute a program evaluation process to ensure that programs are properly managed and meet the needs and expectations of program participants.
2. The use of user fees shall be encouraged where possible to offset program costs.
3. A variety of programs shall be made available and coordinated with other providers to ensure all segments of the population are provided with opportunities for participation including the elderly and handicapped.
4. Program facilities shall be continually evaluated to ensure program requirements can be met.
5. Program offerings shall be family-oriented to the extent possible.
6. The Parks and Recreation Department shall maintain an organizational structure that is efficient and responsive to the provision of programs and facilities for all segments of the city's population.

OBJECTIVE

TO PROVIDE A SAFE PARK ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL PARK USERS.

Policies

1. The city shall strive to eliminate opportunities for violence, vandalism, and other unsafe conditions or unlawful behavior through a structured program of security and citizen awareness and involvement.
2. The design of facilities (i.e. increased/improved lighting) shall be directed to reducing unsafe conditions, unlawful actions, and vandalism.

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OBJECTIVE

TO PROVIDE A SYSTEM OF PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES THAT ADDRESSES THE CHANGING POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS AND LIFESTYLES OF JOHNSON CITY AND ITS NEIGHBORHOODS.

Policies

1. The city shall develop a system of monitoring and evaluating the needs of city neighborhoods as they pertain to recreation demand and needs.
2. Changing population characteristics, lifestyles, and user demands shall be essential components of the ongoing recreation planning process.
3. The acquisition and disposal of property for the purpose of providing park and recreational facilities is strictly at the sole discretion of the Johnson City Board of Commissioners. However, the Park and Recreation Advisory Board and the city staff shall provide a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners prior to a final decision by the Board of Commissioners. **The proceeds from any sale of existing park property shall be reinvested in the acquisition and/or development of park and recreation facilities in accordance with the adopted Recreation Element of the city's General Plan.**

OBJECTIVE

TO PROMOTE A COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PUBLIC, PRIVATE, AND COMMERCIAL RECREATION PROVIDERS.

Policies

1. The Parks and Recreation Department and Department of Education shall develop programs for joint acquisition, development, and use of facilities.
2. The city shall actively pursue the utilization of partnerships with civic clubs and organizations, the private sector, quasi-public organizations, and government entities in the development of recreation facilities and programs.