8.0 RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

8.1 Introduction

The Master Plan for Florida Gulf Coast University has been prepared with the intent of preserving as much of the existing high quality natural environment of the site as possible. The areas to be retained and restored as natural open space are identified specifically in the Conservation Element of this Master Plan. The Plan also accommodates lands for development of on-campus recreation and athletic facilities that are required by the State University System. The development of the on-campus recreation and athletic facilities should be coordinated with the growth of the University’s enrollment.

8.2 Goals, Objectives and Policies

GOAL 801
Provide recreation and athletic facilities adequate to meet the projected needs of students, faculty and staff of the University while maintaining the ecological function of the campus ecosystem.

Objective 801.1 – Coordinate Public and Private Resources
Ensure that the athletic and recreation facilities to be developed on and off-campus are coordinated to provide maximum benefit to the University and local community.

Policy 801.1.1
Coordinate with Lee County and developers of private property in the vicinity of the University the provision of public and privately-funded recreation facilities and open space in the University community area.

Policy 801.1.2
The University shall pursue interlocal agreements and memoranda of understanding as needed to provide for the joint use of identified sites, facilities, and programs.

Policy 801.1.3
The development of the FGCU campus will not degrade the operating conditions for off-campus open space and recreational facilities below the level of service (LOS) standards adopted by Lee County.

Objective 801.2 – Provision of Facilities
Ensure that athletic and recreational facilities and open space amenities are adequately and efficiently provided to serve projected student enrollment (See Figure 8-1 Future Recreation and Open Space).

Policy 801.2.1
The University shall provide future recreation facilities and open spaces as identified on Figure 8-1: Future Recreation and Open Space. The timing and phasing requirements and priorities for these improvements are established in the Capital Improvements Element.

Policy 801.2.2
The University shall establish and maintain densities and intensities of land uses for the development of the campus that maximize the retention of on-campus open space.

Policy 801.2.3
Provide on-campus athletic and recreational facilities appropriate to the projected enrollment levels by:

a) Continuing to implement the Athletics and Recreation Facilities Master Plan.

b) Carefully evaluating current and planned athletic programs and future needs and explore the possibility of entering into agreements for joint use with suitable candidates.
c) Investigating options and opportunities to provide future athletic facilities in nearby, off-campus locations, as may be required by changes in enrollment levels and correlated increases in recreational needs.

d) Creating facilities on campus for intramural and recreational use, consistent with guidelines established by the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA), that are separate from facilities for intercollegiate athletics, so that conflicts in scheduling facilities can be better managed as the campus population grows.

**Policy 801.2.4**
Provide indoor and outdoor recreation facilities in conjunction with future on-campus housing. To that end, develop the following facilities in the southeast district of campus:

a) Dedicated outdoor play fields for recreational and intramural use that are lighted for night-time play.

b) As the campus population (and especially the resident population of the southeast district) grows, develop a student recreation and fitness center in two phases in the southeast housing area, and locate the facility for convenient use by all campus constituents.

c) Create well-defined green spaces adjacent to future student housing buildings to promote informal recreational activities.

**Policy 801.2.5**
Provide appropriate options and opportunities for recreational use of the lakes abutting the northern campus boundary.

**Policy 801.2.6**
The Campus Master Plan for the location of academic and other University facilities and infrastructure has been prepared with the intent to create a compact arrangement of buildings, thereby allowing as much as possible of the jurisdictional wetlands on-campus and upland vegetation areas to be retained. Deviations from the layout of facilities shown in the Capital Improvement Element should be reported in annual C.I.P. submissions for approval by the University Board of Trustees and incorporated in Master Plan amendments as required per Sec. 1013.30 F.S.

**Policy 801.2.7**
Identify ways in which the natural preserve parcel set aside for University use to the east of the campus will be integrated into the academic program. In addition, the University will coordinate the educational use of this property with other institutional entities within the region to maximize the educational use of this property.

**Policy 801.2.8**
On an annual basis, review with the Lee County Planning Department, the status of existing planned and proposed recreational facilities on the University campus and adjacent context area. Based on this review, modify University plans and policies for recreational facilities to ensure the efficient and timely provision of these facilities.

**Policy 801.2.9**
The University shall seek to maximize the retention of campus open space by instructing architects and engineers designing campus facilities to identify ways in which facility layouts or site plans can be modified to provide additional open space.

**Policy 801.2.10**
Develop “man-made” campus landscape amenities within the sequence of malls, courtyards, plazas, and quadrangles established in the Landscape Architectural Design Guidelines Element and the Capital Improvements Element.

**Policy 801.2.11**

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All campus landscapes shall be developed so that they become an integral part of the overall concept plan, therefore protecting and enhancing natural open space resources and amenities.

**Policy 801.2.12**
The University shall continue to survey campus parks, passive recreational facilities, and open spaces to identify deficiencies. The adopted Campus Master Plan shall be modified as needed to incorporate the results and recommendations contained in this survey.

**Policy 801.2.13**
After accomplishing the survey above, if any deficiencies are found, the University will set a timetable to remedy the deficiencies including impacts on the preservation of campus wildlife. The adopted Campus Master Plan will be modified as needed to incorporate the timetable and results of the survey.