The Village of Indiantown

Draft Comprehensive Plan

Recreation and Open Space Element

Goals, Objectives and Policies
Purpose

The purpose of the Recreation and Open Space Element is to ensure adequate recreational opportunities for the citizens of The Village of Indiantown through the provision of a comprehensive system of public and private park facilities. These facilities may include, but are not limited to, natural reservations, parks and playgrounds, trails, and public access to open spaces, and waterways.

The purpose of the Recreation and Open Space Element is to plan for a comprehensive system of public and private recreation and open space sites which are available to the public (Florida Administrative Code (Section 9J5.014)). Open space shall be defined as any parcel or area of land set aside, dedicated, designated or reserved for the use and enjoyment of the property owners and/or general public. Typical uses of common open space include, but are not limited to, recreation, parks, resource protection and conservation, wetlands, storm water ponds, undeveloped land, and landscape buffers. Common open space areas may include such complementary structures and improvements as are necessary and appropriate as approved by the Village Council. In no case shall common open space include required parking areas, existing or proposed road right-of-way, drainage ditches, or plazas/hardscapes.

The Recreation and Open Space Element is the long-range plan for how the Village of Indiantown will provide a high-quality system of parks, open space, recreational facilities and programs and to meet future projected demands and recreation trends. Open space, parks, and recreation are interconnected to other elements of the Comprehensive Plan. Beyond the provision of leisure and recreational activities, quality parks and recreation programs foster economic benefits by promoting tourism, and revitalizing communities by creating safer, more desirable neighborhoods. Community open spaces expand cultural ties through the provision of public art and the celebration of historic venues by providing a unique sense of place for the community; all of which promotes civic pride and engagement and provides a benefit to the Village of Indiantown. Parks and open space support sustainability efforts.
through the protection and preservation of natural resources. Recreational opportunities promote healthier lifestyles and improve the mental and physical wellbeing of the residents and visitors.

The Village of Indiantown is a diverse community whose fabric is a rich blend of cultures, ages, and both seasonal and year-round residents and visitors. While the diverse needs, interests, and experiences of the Village of Indiantown, it also provides challenges on how to best to serve the varied needs and desires of all residents. To ensure that a priority for a high quality of life remains for current and future generations, it is necessary that the parks, recreation, and open spaces system continually addresses the growing population and demographic changes, and changes in cultural trends and interests.

DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

Open Space - any open piece of land that is undeveloped (has no buildings or other built structures) and is accessible to the public.

Park - area of natural, semi-natural or planted space set aside for human enjoyment and recreation or for the protection of wildlife or natural habitats

SCORP - (Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) - Provided by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Division of Recreation and Parks, this plan provides standards for parks in the State of Florida. The FDEP is directed by the Florida Legislature to cooperate with state and federal agencies, private organizations and commercial and industrial interests in the promotion of a statewide outdoor recreation system. Pocket Parks - Pocket parks are intended to provide children's playgrounds and passive areas within close proximity to residences. Pocket parks are intended to serve areas where there is insufficient demand to justify a neighborhood park. Specifically, they will be used to serve areas with average densities below 1,000 persons within a ½ mile radius.

Neighborhood Parks - Neighborhood parks are intended to provide activities that, overall, are used more frequently and have a shorter duration of use. They should be located close to the area
served. Neighborhood parks are typically smaller and are not highly visible from main roadways. They usually provide little to no parking and are typically used most heavily by the immediate surrounding neighborhood.

**Community Parks** - Due to the larger size, community parks can provide a larger variety of active and passive recreation opportunities, as well as, the same functions of a neighborhood park. They should be centrally located to serve the largest population within the community and should be located on an arterial or collector street. Since they accommodate more intensive recreation activities, buffering from adjacent residences should be considered. Community parks typically serve a larger community and often times will contain a community center. These parks are typically larger in size, more visible to passers-by, and are frequented by users from further away who may actually drive to use the park.

**Recreation Space** - For the purpose of Level of Service, “recreation space” means publicly owned space that is open to the public. It does not include lands such as private golf courses or marinas.

**Special Use Facilities** - In many cases, recreation is a secondary function. Some of the uses that fall into this classification include resource-based parkland and schools. Multi-Use Bike/Pedestrian Trail - Trails are designed to provide walking, bicycling and other non-motorized means of linking various parts of the community. To be distinguished from unimproved paths, trails shall contain at least 6 feet width of stabilized base.

**Regional Parks** - Regional parks are large, highly visible parks. They service the County and communities outside of the County. They are typically commuted to by users from all over the County and beyond for use of their specific facilities such as baseball fields, tennis courts, RV Campground, golf course or other specific amenities. They typically offer a wide variety of activities and amenities for a large range of user types.

**Private/Public Golf Course** - a golf course which is privately owned but open to the general public.
Goals

1. Recreation
   The Village of Indiantown shall provide an exemplary system of recreational programs, sites and facilities. These facilities will be appropriately sized and designed considering their context and will be convenient to citizens of all age, social and economic groups.

2. Open Space
   The Village of Indiantown shall provide an exemplary system of green space and open spaces.

3. Healthy Living
   The Village of Indiantown shall provide opportunities for its residents to experience active and healthy lifestyles.

4. Clean Environment
   The Village of Indiantown shall increase and promote recycling in its recreation and open spaces.

5. Funding for Parks and Open Space
   The Village of Indiantown shall seek to ensure that programs and facilities for parks and open space are adequately funded.
GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

GOAL R1 Recreation
The Village of Indiantown shall provide an exemplary system of recreational programs, sites and facilities. These facilities will be appropriately sized and designed considering their context and will be convenient to citizens of all age, social and economic groups.

OBJECTIVE R1.1:
The Village of Indiantown shall meet the growing demand for recreation by providing suitable sites, facilities and programs for those who live and work in the Village of Indiantown.

POLICY R1.1.1
The Village of Indiantown shall maintain recreational and open space lands to adequately meet the needs of current and future residents which will be measured by adopted recreation level-of-service standards.

POLICY R1.1.2 Level of Service (LOS)
The Village of Indiantown shall maintain a system wide average of 5 acres of recreation space per 1,000 residents.

POLICY R1.1.3
The Village of Indiantown shall continually evaluate recreational sites and programs to identify any unmet needs. During this evaluation process, the Village of Indiantown shall provide an opportunity for public input.

POLICY R1.1.4
The Village of Indiantown shall develop a long-range plan for parks which will recommend the future location of more recreational facilities.
POLICY R1.1.5
The Village of Indiantown shall establish a citizen’s advisory committee (by 2022) to secure citizen involvement regarding public park and recreation decisions including evaluating sites to be included in the Village’s long-range plan for parks. The citizen’s advisory board shall meet on a regular basis to:

a) Evaluate the maintenance of existing sites, facilities, and programs

b) Recommend the expansion or retraction of recreational facilities and programs

c) Evaluate the capital needs required to maintain the Village’s recreational Level of Service

d) Provide input to the Village of Indiantown’s five-year Capital Improvements Plan

POLICY R1.1.6
As resources permit, the Village of Indiantown shall monitor and pursue opportunities to make more waterfront land available for public recreational use.

OBJECTIVE R1.2
The Village of Indiantown shall improve public access to recreational opportunities.

POLICY R1.2.1
The Village of Indiantown shall preserve public access to water areas by protecting public ownership of street rights-of-way.

POLICY R1.2.2
As resources permit, the Village of Indiantown shall inventory road rights-of-way that dead-end at the waterfront or other permanent barriers, or otherwise those which are not expected to be developed into streets for the purpose of installing pathways.
POLICY R1.2.3
The Village of Indiantown shall collaborate with Martin County Public Transit and the Martin Metropolitan Planning Organization to promote inclusion of the Village of Indiantown’s recreational sites on the system's bus routes thereby increasing the public’s access to recreational sites.

POLICY R1.2.4
The Village of Indiantown shall design park, recreation, and open space facilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements and equip playground areas with accessible equipment.

POLICY R1.2.5
All parks and recreational facilities shall be accessible to all citizens, regardless of their age or ability. Parks in the Village of Indiantown will be designed to meet the requirements of the American with Disabilities Act by providing accessible parking spaces and barrier-free entrances and pathways.

POLICY R1.2.6
The Village of Indiantown shall complete an annual inventory of existing recreation facilities that are accessible to the disabled. If the inventory reveals deficiencies in the number of recreation facilities for the disabled, the Village of Indiantown shall plan appropriate improvements and funding within its capital improvements program to remedy the deficiency.

OBJECTIVE R1.3 Maintaining Existing Parks
The Village of Indiantown shall initiate a maintenance program for park facilities located within its boundaries.

POLICY R1.3.1
The Village of Indiantown shall coordinate a maintenance program for parks located in the Village of Indiantown with staff, private contracts and/or interlocal agreement(s) with Martin County.
GOAL R2 Open Space
The Village of Indiantown shall provide an exemplary system of green space and open spaces.

OBJECTIVE R2.1
The Village of Indiantown shall maximize the preservation, enjoyment, and accessibility of natural open spaces, especially those along the waterfront.

POLICY R2.1.1
The Village of Indiantown’s Land Development Regulations shall include preservation standards in order to preserve municipally owned environmentally sensitive lands. These standards will be based in part on locally determined criteria.

POLICY R2.1.2
The Village of Indiantown shall seek funding for projects that increase public access to waterfront views and fishing opportunities such as piers and/or river walks on public and private lands.

POLICY R2.1.3
The Village of Indiantown’s Land Development Regulations shall include incentives for development applications that provide public open space areas that preserve views, vistas, and/or native vegetation.

POLICY R2.1.4 Resource Management Areas
Resource management areas are large, resource-based areas that serve two or more communities or counties and are recognized for their significant contribution to local outdoor recreation. The Village of Indiantown shall have an optimal level of service (LOS) of 20 acres for each 1,000 population. This LOS shall not be required for concurrency purposes as these areas are outside of the management of local government. Resource Management Areas (depicted in the map series for this element) include critical habitats, marine sanctuaries, national parks, nature conservancy lands, national parks and wildlife refuges. Typical facilities
provided at a resource management area include water-based recreation, camping areas, nature trails, and other facilities not requiring intensive development.

**OBJECTIVE R2.2**

Preservation and increase of open space.
The Village of Indiantown shall maintain or increase the acreage of publicly accessed open space. The Village of Indiantown shall promote preservation of environmentally sensitive land.

**POLICY R2.2.1**
The Village of Indiantown shall encourage the preservation of environmentally sensitive land. The Village of Indiantown shall coordinate opportunities for public open space that will be protected and maintained in perpetuity.

**POLICY R2.2.2**
The Village of Indiantown shall require that environmentally sensitive lands acquired by the Village to be set aside for preservation will receive a Future Land Use designation of Conservation.

**POLICY R2.2.3**
The Village of Indiantown shall not divert existing park land to other non-park, non-recreational or non-cultural uses except in cases of overriding public interest.

**POLICY R2.2.4**
A super majority vote of no less than four (4) members of the Village of Indiantown Council shall be required to convert publicly owned park land to other uses. In such circumstances the Village of Indiantown shall also adopt a plan that identifies equivalent new parks or park site relocation.

**POLICY R2.2.5**
The Village of Indiantown shall maintain existing park lands through the use of proper management and funding techniques. The Village of Indiantown shall assure that park lands are well managed
and well maintained, designed to promote public safety and to discourage crime, and are accessible and convenient for park patrons.

**POLICY R2.2.6**
The Village of Indiantown shall maintain open space areas and remove invasive, and nuisance vegetation from protected native habitats and conservation areas.

**POLICY R2.2.7**
The Village of Indiantown shall evaluate the implementation of green infrastructure, including parks and native plants, to capture and retain storm water and encourage on-site retention.

**POLICY R2.2.8**
The Village of Indiantown’s Land Development Regulations shall include a requirement that new developments within the urban core will provide and maintain publicly accessible civic open space and associated features to enrich the urban environment.

**POLICY R2.2.9**
The Village of Indiantown shall explore locations for bio-swales and native plants, including their use in pocket parks as part of a flood-control management system.

**POLICY R2.2.10**
The Village of Indiantown shall prioritize the use of a reclaimed water system to all parks.

**POLICY R2.2.11**
The Village of Indiantown shall design park and open spaces to preserve stands and clusters of native trees, mature trees, and require planting of appropriate and storm-resilient species.

**POLICY R2.2.12**
The Village of Indiantown shall coordinate with local, state and federal agencies to develop a Greenways Trail System that provides
the public opportunities to access a safe and convenient trail system in the Village of Indiantown. This system should incorporate public lands, right of way, easements on private lands, and open space designated lands to achieve this goal. The trail system will connect to the maximum extent possible existing and future residential areas to employment, education, and activity centers.

**OBJECTIVE R2.3 History and Culture**
The Village of Indiantown shall support natural, historical and cultural resource management to seek to ensure high quality outdoor recreation experiences for the Village’s residents and visitors.

**POLICY R2.3.1**
The Village of Indiantown’s Land Development Regulations shall include best practices that seek to ensure sustainable use of recreational and open space land.

**POLICY R2.3.2**
The Village of Indiantown shall promote restoration and rehabilitation efforts for all water bodies by highlighting the importance of clean water to outdoor recreation and tourism in the Village.

**POLICY R2.3.3**
The Village of Indiantown shall encourage the protection of all properties that are listed on the local and National historic registers.

**POLICY R2.3.4**
The Village of Indiantown shall encourage the preservation of all historic properties.

**GOAL R3 Healthy Living**
The Village of Indiantown shall provide opportunities for its residents to experience active and healthy lifestyles.
OBJECTIVE R3.1
The Village of Indiantown shall develop and maintain ongoing programs and infrastructure designed to support sustainable community health.

POLICY R3.1.1
The Village of Indiantown shall promote a healthy community by encouraging and supporting access to recreation and physical activity through a network of activity-based parks and access to resource-based recreation facilities.

POLICY R3.1.2
The Village of Indiantown shall seek to increase the number of outdoor programs and opportunities for its citizens.

POLICY R3.1.3
The Village of Indiantown shall promote a healthy community by planning for and implementing a connected system of walkways and bikeways which will provide alternative modes of transportation while also encouraging recreation, physical activity and exposure to the natural environment. The Village of Indiantown shall provide multimodal connections and accessibility to parks and open space areas that is safe for all users.

POLICY R3.1.4
The Village of Indiantown shall develop and encourage volunteer opportunities in community projects that promote community health. Examples of such programs include neighborhood clean-ups, walk-to-school groups, and helpers for the elderly or citizens with special needs.

POLICY R3.1.5
The Village of Indiantown shall collaborate with appropriate local, county and state agencies to develop effective parks and recreation programs that educate the community on the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

POLICY R3.1.6
The Village of Indiantown shall coordinate with Florida Community Health, the Martin County Health Department and other healthcare providers to develop an educational campaign regarding the benefits of healthy foods and beverages.

**POLICY R3.1.7**
The Village of Indiantown shall collaborate with community partners to identify suitable locations for community gardens and urban farms.

**POLICY R3.1.8**
The Village of Indiantown shall support creative approaches to managing community gardens, such as support by educational institutions or volunteer management by community organizations.

**POLICY R3.1.9**
The Village of Indiantown shall collaborate with community partners to reduce any barriers that prevent citizens from accessing physical and mental healthcare.

**POLICY R3.1.10**
The Village of Indiantown shall collaborate with Florida Community Health, the Martin County Health Department and other healthcare providers to develop programs that seek to decrease chronic illness and obesity rates in its citizens.

**POLICY R3.1.11**
The Village of Indiantown shall collaborate with Florida Community Health, the Martin County Health Department and other healthcare providers to increase mental health through promoting early intervention measures.

**POLICY R3.1.12**
The Village of Indiantown shall coordinate with private and not for profit organizations to facilitate a green market for residents to buy, sell, and/or trade produce or other locally sourced items.

**POLICY R3.1.13**
The Village of Indiantown shall annually monitor its recreation programs to assure that an adequate diversity of programs addresses
the recreation interests of different age and ethnic groups, particularly children, teenagers, disabled, and the elderly.

**POLICY R3.1.14**
The Village of Indiantown shall facilitate park programs that educate youth on the natural environment and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation.

**POLICY R3.1.15**
The Village of Indiantown shall collaborate with the public library and local volunteers to provide a “sharing library” in parks to promote literacy and increase access to reading materials for all ages.

**POLICY R3.1.16**
The Village of Indiantown shall support bike safety education programs offered by the Martin County Sheriff, the Martin Metropolitan Planning Organization and other agencies for both children and adults.

**POLICY R3.1.17**
The Village of Indiantown will seek to facilitate recreation programs in Spanish as funding allows.

**OBJECTIVE R3.2**
The Village of Indiantown shall promote the economic benefits of outdoor recreation and eco-tourism.

**POLICY R3.2.1**
The Village of Indiantown shall promote findings of economic impact studies that highlight the importance of outdoor recreation and tourism to economy.

**POLICY R3.2.2**
The Village of Indiantown shall identify and reduce the number of cultural and architectural barriers in existing facilities.
GOAL R4 Clean Environment
The Village of Indiantown shall increase and promote recycling in its recreation and open spaces.

OBJECTIVE R4.1
The Village of Indiantown shall coordinate with appropriate local, county, regional and state agencies to develop or adopt a sustainable recycling program to encourage private businesses, institutions, schools, public organizations and citizens to increase recycling in order to reach Florida’s recycling goal of 75 percent by 2020 (FSS 403.7032)

POLICY R4.1.1
The Village of Indiantown’s Land Development Regulations shall include guidelines that address sea level rise for the protection of natural, historic and cultural resources.

POLICY R4.1.2
The Village of Indiantown shall promote the utilization of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Business Recycling Tracking Tool (Re-TRAC) for organizations to track, compare and report their recycling efforts. Through the website, which includes free registration, organizations can track different types of recycling efforts and produce reports on how those efforts are helping to shrink their carbon footprint.

POLICY R4.1.3
The Village of Indiantown shall provide educational material on proper recycling techniques, ways to reduce contaminating recycling, and the importance of recycling for the future generations.
GOAL R5: Funding for Parks and Open Space
The Village of Indiantown shall seek to ensure that programs and facilities for parks and open space are adequately funded.

Objective R5.1
The Village of Indiantown shall leverage local tax dollars by pursuing other funding mechanisms that can be used to expand and/or improve its parks and open space programs.

POLICY R5.1.1.
The Village of Indiantown shall fund operating budgets and proper management techniques to preserve and maintain existing parks and recreation facilities.

Policy R5.1.2
As part of the Capital Budget processes, the Village of Indiantown shall conduct an annual review of the active recreation facilities’ needs.

POLICY R5.1.3
The Village of Indiantown shall develop a policy for joint use or license agreements with private sector and non-profit organizations to expand programming at private amenity locations.

Policy R5.1.4
The Village of Indiantown shall implement actions to improve coordination between the public and private sectors in matters relating to the provision of recreational opportunities in efforts to avoid duplication of efforts.

POLICY R5.1.5
The Village of Indiantown shall partner with other community organizations, including religious and social organizations, to
join in the effort to provide leisure programs and activities for the community.

**POLICY R5.1.6**
The Village of Indiantown shall encourage programs such as “adopt-a-street” and “adopt-a-park” to help maintain and beautify its parks.

**POLICY R5.1.7**
The Village of Indiantown shall explore grant funding opportunities offered by state and federal agencies such as the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP), Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND), Federal Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCP) and other grant funding sources to expand its park system.

**POLICY R5.1.8**
The Village of Indiantown shall conduct an impact fee study by 2025 to explore the feasibility of implementing a Parks Impact Fee as a means to provide adequate recreational capital facilities.

**POLICY R5.1.9**
The Village of Indiantown shall develop a policy to promote land swaps to protect environmentally sensitive land.

**POLICY R5.1.10**
The Village of Indiantown shall seek funding to provide and maintain public use outdoor exercise equipment.

**POLICY R5.1.11**
The Village of Indiantown shall prioritize funding resources to enable the promotion and development of eco-tourism.

**Policy R5.1.12**
The Village of Indiantown shall support creative approaches to managing community gardens, such as support by educational institutions or volunteer management by community organizations.
POLICY R5.1.13
The Village of Indiantown shall seek funding sources for materials, containers and resources needed to implement the recycling objective.