

## **LWV JEFFCO LAND USE POSITIONS - Related to Open Space (Adopted 1964 and 1977)**

**Governmental units should provide for the acquisition, administration and maintenance of public lands including parks, open space, and schools. To ensure availability of lands for public use, governmental units could use the following methods: special zoning, tax relief, purchasing open land with tax funds, and/or requiring developers to dedicate land or money.**

**The following purposes and functions of Open Space Parklands are supported:**

- To preserve natural areas which are characterized by unusual terrain or geological formations, unusual or native flora or fauna, scenic areas or vistas, wildlife habitats, fragile ecosystems, or water resources.
- To preserve open space for passive recreational uses such as walking, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, nature studies and fishing (if so designated).
- To preserve areas for agricultural uses.
- To preserve open space lands for future recreational needs.
- To utilize open space lands for shaping the development of cities, limiting urban sprawl, and disciplining growth.
- To prevent encroachment on hazardous areas such as flood plains, swelling clay, fire chutes, landslides, etc.
- To retain the aesthetic value of open land.
- To obtain balance and harmony between open space and development for the use and benefit of the public.
- To preserve historic monuments.

**⑩ The following purposes and function of developed parkland and recreational facilities are supported:**

- To preserve parklands for recreational uses.
- To provide recreational opportunities for a wide range of age and interest groups.
- To provide neighborhood recreational areas and community gathering places.
- To foster innovative community design which enhances the urban landscape.

## **LWV JEFFCO OPEN SPACE POSITION (adopted 1977 and 1984)**

### **POSITION IN BRIEF**

**Support for a county-wide Open Space Program funded by a sales tax. Support of procedures and criteria for the use of Open Space funds for development.**

### **STANDARDS**

- The first priority for the use of open space funds should be the acquisition of open space land: greenbelt, water resources including drainage areas, the mountain front, small plots in urban areas and mountain areas. Specific examples include: North and South Table Mountains, the Hogback, Green Mountain and the Crown Hill area. Maintenance is the second priority, followed by development and then the establishment of a Reserve Fund.
- The allocation formula should be based on the concept of a county-wide program which allows for flexibility in meeting urgent demands and acquisition needs in any area of the county, and reflects the fact that most of the land available is in the unincorporated area. The 1972 Resolution meets this standard.
- The originally adopted role of park and recreation districts within the open space program should be continued.
- There should be a mechanism for periodic review of the open space resolution every two to six years (e.g., public hearings, review by the County Commissioners, Jefferson County Open Space Advisory Committee or an ad hoc committee).

- Unincorporated Jefferson County Open Space fund expenditures for the development and maintenance of capital recreational improvements should be reviewed by the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) or a subcommittee of OSAC. The review procedures should meet League's standards (see Boards and Commissions position).

Development should be compatible with the concept of open space and meet adopted criteria.

- Open Space funds may be used for: protective development as permitted in the 1972 resolution; native plantings; trails; camping; sodded playgrounds; fields for soccer and softball; courts for games such as tennis; water-related developments for fishing, boating and beaches; nature centers; cross-country skiing, amphitheaters, outdoor ice skating areas and horse arenas such as at Crown Hill.
- Open Space funds should not be used for developments, which include: athletic complexes, zoos, cultural centers, swimming pools, museums, bowling alleys, libraries, fairgrounds, motorcycle parks, gun ranges and lights for courts and fields. Other sources of funding are available and should be used for these developments.

The following criteria should be used in allocating open space funds for the development and maintenance of park and recreational capital improvements:

#### **Of Primary Importance**

- An appropriate agency should review the request and make recommendations.
- Acquisition needs for the area's population should be met.
- Development should be appropriate for the site.
- Future maintenance costs to the Open Space Program should be considered and minimized, with the appropriate entities assuming these costs.
- Funding alternatives should be considered.
- Citizen input on the type and scope of development should be ensured.
- The impact of the development on the overall program should be considered (e.g., effects on acquisition, maintenance, trail development, joint ventures).
- The project should be part of a long-range development plan.
- Development should be balanced by natural open space land in the local area.

#### **Of Secondary Importance**

- The amount already spent in the area for acquisition and development should be considered.
- Facility development standards should be considered.