



MEMORANDUM

Office of the City Attorney

Phone: 334-5011/Fax 334-2229
Box 46 000514

TO: Mayor and City Commission

DATE: January 22, 2001
First Reading

FROM: City Attorney

SUBJECT: Ordinance No. 0-01-02; Petition No. 145CPA-00PB

An ordinance of the City of Gainesville, Florida, amending the Recreation Element of the City of Gainesville 1991-2001 Comprehensive Plan; adding criteria for land acquisition; adding criteria for prioritizing improvements; adding a policy concerning use of proceeds from the sale of recreation land; adding a policy concerning joint use of recreation facilities with other public providers; adding an objective and related policies concerning funding; making minor modifications throughout; providing directions to the city manager; stating intent to adopt the amended element as part of the City of Gainesville 2000-2010 Comprehensive Plan; providing a severability clause; providing a repealing clause; and providing an effective date.

Recommendation: The City Commission adopt the proposed ordinance.

STAFF REPORT

An update of the Recreation Element has been prepared. The proposed, revised Recreation Element includes a data and analysis section that has been updated to reflect changes in conditions and in pertinent Florida statutes and administrative rules since adoption of the current comprehensive plan in 1991. The updated Goals, Objectives and Policies, which are proposed for transmittal (and subsequent adoption) to the state planning agency, reflect recommendations from the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) adopted in 1998, and considerable public input over the past year.

Workshops on the proposed updated Recreation Element were held by the City Plan Board on March 16, 2000 and the Public Recreation Board on April 19th, at Westside Park on July 19th, and at the Northeast Liaison Center on July 26, 2000. The proposed updated element was discussed by the Recreation and Cultural Affairs Committee on June 27th, and was the subject of a public hearing by the City Plan Board on October 19, 2000, at which time the Plan Board recommended approval, with changes, by a vote of 5-0. The City Commission heard a workshop presentation from staff on this proposed, updated comprehensive plan element on December 11, 2000. In response to a concern expressed at the December 11th workshop, staff has verified that the proposed Goals, Objectives and Policies include language that was added several years ago in order to strengthen future Florida Communities Trust applications of the City.

The proposed level of service for recreation reflects a "status quo" policy. Because recreational funding remains limited, no substantive changes to the existing adopted level of service are proposed. This subject may merit re-consideration based upon the results and recommendations of the County's Recreation Master Plan. Proposed Objective 1.8 and Policies 1.8.2 and 1.8.3 pertain to funding.

Proposed Policy 1.3.4 calls for the City to seek joint use of recreational facilities with other providers (e.g., School Board of Alachua County) wherever possible, in order to minimize public investments needed to provide such facilities.

Fiscal Note
None


CITY ATTORNEY MEMORANDUM

The above-referenced ordinance has been prepared pursuant to City Commission action requesting the City Attorney's Office to prepare the appropriate ordinance amending the City of Gainesville 1991-2001 Comprehensive Plan.

Florida Statutes set forth the procedure for adoption of an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan. The second hearing will be held at the adoption stage of the ordinance and must be advertised approximately five (5) days after the day that the second advertisement is published.

The Plan amendment will not become effective until the State Department of Community Affairs issues a final order determining the adopted amendment to be in compliance in accordance with the Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act, or until the Administration Commission (Governor and Cabinet) issues a final order determining the adopted amendment to be in compliance.

Prepared by: 
Patricia M. Carter,
Sr. Assistant City Attorney

Prepared and
Submitted by: 
Marion J. Radson, City Attorney

ORDINANCE NO. _____
0-01-02

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An ordinance of the City of Gainesville, Florida, amending the Recreation Element of the City of Gainesville 1991-2001 Comprehensive Plan; adding criteria for land acquisition; adding criteria for prioritizing improvements; adding a policy concerning use of proceeds from the sale of recreation land; adding a policy concerning joint use of recreation facilities with other public providers; adding an objective and related policies concerning funding; making minor modifications throughout; providing directions to the city manager; stating intent to adopt the amended element as part of the City of Gainesville 2000-2010 Comprehensive Plan; providing a severability clause; providing a repealing clause; and providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, the City Plan Board authorized the publication of notice of a Public Hearing that the text of the City of Gainesville 1991-2001 Comprehensive Plan be amended; and

WHEREAS, notice was given and publication made as required by law and a Public Hearing was then held by the City Plan Board on October 19, 2000; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to law, an advertisement no less than two columns wide by 10 inches long was placed in a newspaper of general circulation notifying the public of this proposed ordinance and of the Public Hearing to be held at the transmittal stage, in the City Commission Auditorium, City Hall, City of Gainesville, at least 7 days after the day the first advertisement was published; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to law, after the public hearing at the transmittal stage the City of Gainesville transmitted copies of this proposed change to the State Land Planning Agency; and

WHEREAS, a second advertisement no less than two columns wide by 10 inches long was placed in the aforesaid newspaper notifying the public of the second Public

D R A F T

1-8-01

1 Hearing to be held at least 5 days after the day the second advertisement was published;
2 and

3 **WHEREAS**, the two Public Hearings were held pursuant to the published notices
4 described at which hearings the parties in interest and all others had an opportunity to be
5 and were, in fact, heard; and

6 **WHEREAS**, prior to adoption of this ordinance, the City Commission has
7 considered the comments, recommendation and objections, if any, of the State Land
8 Planning Agency;

9 **NOW, THEREFORE**, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF
10 THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA:

11 **Section 1.** The Recreation Element of the City of Gainesville 1991-2001 Comprehensive
12 Plan is amended as shown in Attachment A:

13 **Section 2.** The City Manager is authorized and directed to make the necessary changes in
14 maps and other data in the City of Gainesville 1991-2001 Comprehensive Plan, or
15 element, or portion thereof in order to fully implement this ordinance.

16 **Section 3.** It is the intent of the City Commission that this amended element will become
17 part of the City of Gainesville 2000-2010 Comprehensive Plan upon adoption of a
18 resolution.

19 **Section 4.** If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is held to be invalid
20 or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no
21 way affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

22 **Section 5.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are to the extent of
23 such conflict hereby repealed.

D R A F T

1-8-01

1 **Section 6.** This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon final adoption;
 2 however, the amendment to the 1991-2001 Comprehensive Plan shall not become
 3 effective until the state land planning agency issues a final order determining the adopted
 4 amendment to be in compliance in accordance with section 163.3184(9), or until the
 5 Administration Commission issues a final order determining the adopted amendment to
 6 be in compliance in accordance with section 163.3184(10).

7
 8
 9 **PASSED AND ADOPTED** this _____ day of _____, 2001.

10
 11
 12 _____
 13 PAULA M. DeLANEY
 14 MAYOR

15
 16 ATTEST:

Approved as to form and legality

17
 18
 19 _____
 20 KURT M. LANNON
 21 CLERK OF THE COMMISSION

 MARION J. RADSON
 CITY ATTORNEY

22 This Ordinance passed on first reading this _____ day of _____, 2001.

23 This Ordinance passed on second reading this _____ day of _____, 2001.

24
 25 carter:ordinances:145CPA-00PB

ATTACHMENT A
RECREATION ELEMENT
GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

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Goal 1: Provide sufficient park acreage, facilities, and recreation programs efficiently and in close proximity to urbanized residential areas.

Objective 1.1

The City shall maintain the minimum level of service (LOS) standards, park design standards and the Park and Facility Substitution Standards throughout the planning time frame.

Policies

1.1.1 The City shall maintain LOS standards adopted in Tables 1, ~~and 2~~ the park design standards described in the Recreation Element and the Park and Facility Substitution Standards, Pages G8-G12, of the Recreation Element.

1.1.2 The City shall maintain a computer inventory of all recreation and open space sites with actual or potential public access. This inventory shall include site acreages, facilities, and condition of facilities, surveys of actual usage and the most recent inventory dates.

1.1.3 ~~By June 1992, the~~ The City shall adopt ~~continue to use~~ the criteria described by the "Land Acquisition" portion of the Recreation Element and use such criteria for prioritizing land acquisitions for parks. These criteria include:

- * POPULATION DENSITY
Parcels near high population densities;
- * PROXIMITY TO EXISTING PARKS
Parcels that are remote from existing parks;
- * ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT OPEN SPACE
Parcels that improve public access to environmentally significant open space;
- * TRAIL ACCESS
Parcels that are served by an existing or potential recreational trail;
- * GREENBELT VALUE
Parcels that would serve as a component in a greenbelt system;

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- * **CONNECTIVITY**
Parcels useful in connecting or extending the size of existing parks or open spaces;
- * **MULTIPLE USE**
Parcels able to provide active and passive forms of recreation, as well as conservation of natural resources;
- * **RARITY AND DIVERSITY**
Parcels that contain rare or diverse forms of environmental or historical features, or a combination of these features;
- * **ECOSYSTEM PRESERVATION**
Parcels necessary for preserving the integrity of an important ecosystem;
- * **COST**
Parcels that are relatively low in acquisition and maintenance cost;
- * **WILLINGNESS TO SELL**
Parcels with an owner willing to sell all or part of the rights to the parcel;
- * **DEVELOPMENT PRESSURE**
Parcels that are likely to be developed in the near future;
- * **JURISDICTION**
Parcels within or near the boundaries of the City; and
- * **ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION**
Parcels able to accommodate recreation without degrading environmentally significant features

1.1.4 By June 1992, the ~~The~~ City shall ~~adopt~~ continue to use the following criteria described by the "Prioritizing Improvements for the CIP" portion of the Recreation Element, and use ~~these~~ criteria to rank recreation capital improvements within the Capital Improvements Element.

- Degree of Deficiency:**
- (A) Largest Absolute Deficiency. Those ~~planning~~ areas with the highest acreage or facility deficiency are prioritized.
 - (B) Lowest Current Level of Service. Those ~~planning~~ areas with the lowest current level of service are prioritized. Implicit in both "A" and "B" is the need to prioritize urban area facilities before quadrant facilities.
- Proximity to Similar Facilities:**
- Those dysfunctional or deficient facilities which are at least one mile from the same type facilities are prioritized. This distance can include hazard-oriented barriers such as major roadways, as well as geographical distance.

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Program Dependency: Those dysfunctional or deficient facilities which are necessary for the provision of the largest number of needed recreation programs are prioritized. Includes pools, basketball courts and all parks.

Park Reclassification: Those dysfunctional or deficient facilities which enable the park to be reclassified to the next higher park type, in an instance where the higher park type is needed by the planning area, are prioritized.

Urban Area Deficiency: Urban area facilities that are deficient are prioritized. Urban area facilities include 50-meter pools, sports-complexes, and local nature parks.

Recent Park Acquisition: A new project at a park may be within the same planning area as another park of the same type. If this other park was acquired over the past three years, the new project is de-prioritized.

1.1.5 In instances where the City or new residential developments are unable to comply with Objective 1.1, compliance with the substitution system described by the "Park and Facility Substitution" portion of the Recreation Element shall be required. ~~New residential developments may also pay a fee in lieu for the impact on, or demand created for, recreation facilities called for by Objective 1.1.~~

Objective 1.2

Establish mechanisms for the efficient design and maintenance of city-owned community, neighborhood, mini, sports-complex, and nature parks to maximize the enjoyment of such parks by park users.

Policies

1.2.1 ~~By 1996,~~ Site plans shall be developed for ~~existing and~~ proposed city-owned community, neighborhood, mini, sports-complex, and nature parks, in accordance with the park design standards described in ~~Table 1 of~~ the Recreation Element. ~~These parks and their site plans shall be evaluated at least every five years thereafter.~~ Review criteria shall include safety, traffic circulation, emergency communication and service, conservation or restoration of natural features, desires expressed by park users and nearby property owners, minimization of operation and maintenance costs, facility hazard or obsolescence, durability, minimization of liability due to accident, and multiple-use potential. The review shall be in accordance with adopted procedures for public review and suggestions. The review shall result in the filing of a report to the City Commission describing the improvements called for by the review and the estimated cost of the improvements. The City shall incorporate any approved capital improvements into the Capital Improvements Element for implementation.

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1.2.2 ~~By June 1992,~~ The City shall continue to maintain all City recreation facilities shall be maintained in at least "poor" condition as defined in the "Condition of City Recreation Facilities" portion of the Recreation Element. The City shall incorporate the capital improvements necessary to attain this standard into the Capital Improvements Element for implementation.

1.2.3 ~~By June 1992,~~ New recreational facilities shall be constructed in accordance with standards described by the "Minimum Facility Design Standards" portion of the Recreation Element.

Objective 1.3

Eliminate conflicts and maximize coordination among service providers in the planning and management of recreation and open space within the urban area to maximize efficiency and equity in the provision and funding of recreation services.

Policies

1.3.1 ~~By 1994-2004,~~ the City shall prepare a report describing the feasibility of coordinating City and County recreation planning and management services for the urban area. If deemed feasible, such a coordination shall be implemented ~~by 1995.~~ The report shall be and arranged ~~coordinated~~ with Alachua County.

1.3.2 ~~By June 1992~~ 2004, the City shall adopt and use criteria to evaluate requests for funding by outside agencies engaged in providing recreation services. The criteria shall include (1) assurance that such services do not duplicate services available elsewhere and (2) assurance that such services do not detract from the City's own recreation program. The City Commission shall refer all such requests to the Public Recreation Advisory ~~Advisory~~ Board for a recommendation prior to taking action on the funding request.

1.3.3 ~~By 1996~~ 2004, the City shall reach an inter-local agreement with SBAC ~~to adopt efficient and effective liability policies for regarding public use of school facilities for recreational facilities purposes.~~ The City Risk Management Department shall re-evaluate the agreement on an annual basis thereafter. Re-evaluation criteria shall include effect of new programs, facilities and recreational use characteristics on liability.

1.3.4 ~~By 1993,~~ the City shall prepare a report describing the opportunities for, and benefits of, membership in a county or region wide self insurance program. ~~By 1994, such membership shall be established if deemed feasible.~~

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1.3.4 The City shall seek the joint use of recreation facilities with other public providers such as the SBAC, Alachua County and the State of Florida, wherever possible, in order to minimize public investments needed to provide needed recreational facilities.

1.3.5 The City shall prepare contracts and cooperative agreements with semi-private and private entities to provide recreation facilities, maintenance and programs, particularly programs designed to meet the recreational needs of youth. Such agreements shall include private sponsorships, community service projects and establishment of a civilian conservation corps.

Objective 1.4

Disposal or sale of city-owned land or facilities shall not be detrimental to important recreational needs.

Policies

1.4.1 ~~By 1994,~~ Prior to the disposal of non-recreational city-owned land or facilities, the City shall prepare a report that evaluates the potential use of such land or facilities for recreation, and whether such land or facilities are needed to maintain or enhance the standards described in Objective 1.1.

1.4.2 ~~By 1994,~~ The City shall prepare a report for the City Manager recommending the disposal of, or adaptive reuse of recreation facilities or properties that are no longer serving recreational needs. Such a report shall be prepared ~~by these departments at least every five years thereafter~~ on a case by case basis.

1.4.3 Proceeds from the disposal or sale of any city-owned recreation and park properties shall be used for recreation and park infrastructure enhancements and improvements.

Objective 1.5

~~By 1994, adopt~~ **The City shall continue to use a user fee system for City recreation programs and facilities that shall favor City residents ~~those within the City recreation taxing district,~~ and that shall not be an obstacle to low-income City residents.**

Policies

1 1.5.1 Except in the context of a City-County cooperative agreement, softball,
2 swimming, and other fee-based recreation and nature park programs shall be
3 designed, administered and priced so as to give preference to City residents over
4 non-city residents.

5
6 1.5.2 Certain specialized recreation facilities and programs used by a relatively small
7 proportion of recreation users, such as golf courses and water theme parks, shall
8 be provided and generally offered on a fee-for-service basis aimed at financial
9 self-sufficiency.

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11 1.5.3 The City shall establish fee waiver reductions to ensure that lower income City
12 residents/youth are not deprived of recreation services because of financial
13 limitations.

14
15 ~~1.5.4 The City shall provide recreational facilities that go beyond adopted LOS~~
16 ~~standards, but only if such opportunities will not detract from the attainment of~~
17 ~~Objective 1.1.~~

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20 **Objective 1.6**

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22 **Improve access to parks for all categories of users.**

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24 **Policies**

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26 1.6.1 ~~By 1994-2002,~~ all City community parks shall provide bicycle and pedestrian
27 access meeting Traffic Engineering standards ~~for at least a one-mile distance~~
28 along all arterials that serve the parks, except where right-of-way does not exist
29 along such arterials. When justified by transit demand estimates, each community
30 park shall also be regularly served by the City bus system.

31
32 1.6.2 ~~By 1993, pedestrian and bicycle transportation corridors remote or separate from~~
33 ~~roads shall be provided by both the City and private developers to maximize~~
34 ~~transportation connections between parks, schools, major work and shopping~~
35 ~~locations, and residential areas. This shall include adoption of The City shall~~
36 ~~continue to utilize Land Development Regulations requiring the provision of~~
37 ~~public trails that pass through or are adjacent to new developments. In addition, by~~
38 ~~1992 the City shall complete an inventory of publicly owned (but undeveloped)~~
39 ~~dedicated road rights-of-way. By 1995, the City shall complete a feasibility study~~
40 ~~regarding the recreational use of such rights-of-way continue to study the~~
41 ~~feasibility of using publicly owned (but undeveloped) dedicated road rights-of-~~
42 ~~way for recreational use.~~

1 1.6.3 Safe access to parks shall be incorporated into park construction and road
2 improvement projects through City Land Development Regulations that minimize
3 the need to use or cross major roads at grade.
4

5 1.6.4 ~~By 1995,~~ All community and neighborhood parks shall continue to be designed to
6 provide recreational facilities, programs, and access to the handicapped/disabled,
7 elderly and other individuals with physical limitations.
8

9 **Objective 1.7**

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11 **The development of recreation programs for youth is the most important**
12 **recreational priority. Given this, the City shall establish youth recreation programs**
13 **sufficient to meet the unmet needs for such programs by city youth.**
14

15 Policies

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17 1.7.1 ~~By June 1995,~~ The City shall continue to, ~~in coordination~~ with the University of
18 Florida and SBAC, ~~shall develop~~ a recreational tutorial after-school program for
19 elementary and middle school-aged city youth.
20

21 1.7.2 The City shall establish contracts and cooperative agreements, as described in
22 Policy 1.3.5, for the improvement of youth recreation programs.
23

24 1.7.3 To meet the needs of pre-school and school-aged children, the City shall design
25 programs that are designed to accommodate the typical work schedules of parents.
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28 **Objective 1.8**

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30 **The City shall strive to provide funding to maintain or exceed the minimum level of**
31 **service standards and create a sustainable economic base for recreation by the year**
32 **2010.**
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34 Policies

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36 1.8.1. The City shall continue to coordinate with Alachua County in implementing the
37 Countywide Recreation Master Plan.
38

39 1.8.2 The City shall continue to seek monies from a wide variety of funding sources
40 including grants and joint public-private partnerships.
41

42 1.8.3 The City shall seek various funding sources including, but not limited to, general
43 bond issues, recreation impact fees, utility fee transfers and recreation park tax
44 districts.
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1 **Goal 2: Establish a park and open space system which ensures the**
2 **visibility of, preservation of, and access to environmentally**
3 **significant open spaces of the urban area.**

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6 **Objective 2.1**

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8 **A trail greenway network, as described by the “Development of Recreational**
9 **Greenways” portion of the Recreation Element, shall be established by the**
10 **acquisition and development of proposed and existing parks in a manner that**
11 **promotes the establishment of such a network. The trail greenway network should**
12 **include paved and unpaved trails along water bodies, utility corridors, and rail**
13 **corridors that link environmentally significant natural areas, parks, neighborhoods,**
14 **schools, shopping areas, cultural centers and job centers to each other and which**
15 **provide safe and pleasant public access for all citizens, including seniors, children,**
16 **and the disabled.**

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18 **Policies**

19
20 2.1.1 ~~By June 1992, in acquiring parks,~~ The City shall continue to use the criteria
21 described in Policy 1.1.3 to prioritize sites that can be integrated into the trail
22 greenway network identified in Objective 2.1.

23
24 2.1.2 ~~By June 1992,~~ The City shall ~~adopt~~ continue to enforce Land Development
25 Regulations that promote the establishment of the trail greenway network
26 described in Objective 2.1. Private developments falling within the network shall
27 be required to promote the linear integrity of the network.

28
29 2.1.3 ~~By 1996,~~ The City shall continue to develop public access trails or boardwalks
30 along publicly owned segments of Hogtown Creek.

31
32 2.1.4 Where possible, provide barrier-free public access to all recreation and nature
33 sites through the provision of handicapped parking and access.

34
35 2.1.5 Trailheads and associated facilities such as automobile and bicycle parking,
36 comfort stations and handicapped facilities should be provided at strategic
37 conjunctions of two or more greenways.

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39 2.1.6 When acquiring lands for trails greenways, priority shall be given to parcels,
40 which facilitate the connection of two or more trails.

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44 **Objective 2.2**

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Acquire, design and manage parks to preserve existing natural features and their functions as described by the “Environmental Management of Public Parks & Open Spaces” portion of the Conservation, Open Space and Groundwater Recharge Element.

Policies

2.2.1 ~~By June 1992,~~ The City shall continue to use ~~adopt~~ the park acquisition criteria described in Policy 1.1.3 in order to place a high priority on restoring and preserving significant natural features.

2.2.2 ~~By 1994,~~ The City shall continue to use ~~adopt~~ policies based on the “Environmental Management of Public Parks & Open Spaces” portion of the Conservation, Open Space, and Groundwater Recharge Element in order to preserve the natural features of existing City parks.

2.2.3 ~~By June 1992,~~ The City shall continue to use ~~adopt~~ Land Development Regulations based on the “Environmental Management of Public Parks & Open Spaces” portion of the Conservation, Open Space and Groundwater Recharge Element to maintain the integrity of parks by protecting existing parks from undesirable encroachments such as incompatible land uses, visual disamenities, and noise.

Goal 3: Provide for citizen input in order to determine community desires and devise specific neighborhood-oriented plans for recreation.

Objective 3.1

Develop programs that increase citizen awareness of urban area natural features and parks and that obtain citizen input on current and future recreational needs.

Policies

3.1.1 ~~By June 1992,~~ The City shall continue to conduct ongoing communication of recreation information to the community through publications, presentations, workshops and media exposure.

1 3.1.2 By June ~~1992~~ 2002, the Public Recreation Advisory Board and the Nature Centers
 2 Commission shall submit an annual report to the City Commission prior to the
 3 annual update of the capital improvements program ~~and as described by the~~
 4 ~~“Monitoring, Reevaluation, and Public Input”~~ portion of the Recreation Element.
 5 The report shall assess progress toward implementation of this Element and make
 6 recommendations for the coming fiscal year.

7
 8 ~~3.1.3 By June 1992, the Recreation and Parks Department shall establish a monitoring~~
 9 ~~system for individual parks, as described by the “Monitoring, Reevaluation, and~~
 10 ~~Public Input” portion of the Recreation Element, to assess facility and program~~
 11 ~~support by park users.~~

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14 **Objective 3.2**

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16 **Develop recreation plans consistent with neighborhood desires for each City**
17 **quadrant.**

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19 **Policies**

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 21 3.2.1 Minimum LOS standards described in Objective 1.1 shall be adapted to meet the
 22 needs and desires of the residents of affected neighborhoods. This shall be
 23 attained, in part, by using the facility substitution criteria as described by the
 24 “Facility Substitution” portion of the Recreation Element.

25
 26 3.2.2 ~~By June 1992, The Recreation and Parks Department, in coordination with the~~
 27 ~~Department of Cultural and Nature Operations, shall continue to use two-way~~
 28 communication tools including park user surveys, ~~“hot lines,”~~ design charrettes
 29 and public hearings to design parks and programs meeting the needs of park users.
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**RECREATION ELEMENT
GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

Goal 1: Provide sufficient park acreage, facilities, and recreation programs efficiently and in close proximity to urbanized residential areas.

Objective 1.1

The City shall maintain the minimum level of service (LOS) standards, park design standards and the Park and Facility Substitution Standards throughout the planning time frame.

Policies

- 1.1.1 The City shall maintain LOS standards adopted in Tables 1, ~~and 2~~ the park design standards described in the Recreation Element and the Park and Facility Substitution Standards, ~~Pages G8-G12~~, of the Recreation Element.
- 1.1.2 The City shall maintain a computer inventory of all recreation and open space sites with actual or potential public access. This inventory shall include site acreages, facilities, and condition of facilities, surveys of actual usage and the most recent inventory dates.
- 1.1.3 ~~By June 1992, the~~ The City shall ~~adopt~~ continue to use the criteria described by the "Land Acquisition" portion of the Recreation Element and use such criteria for prioritizing land acquisitions for parks. These criteria include:
- * POPULATION DENSITY
Parcels near high population densities;
 - * PROXIMITY TO EXISTING PARKS
Parcels that are remote from existing parks;
 - * ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT OPEN SPACE
Parcels that improve public access to environmentally significant open space;
 - * TRAIL ACCESS
Parcels that are served by an existing or potential recreational trail;
 - * GREENBELT VALUE
Parcels that would serve as a component in a greenbelt system;
 - * CONNECTIVITY
Parcels useful in connecting or extending the size of existing parks or open spaces;

- * **MULTIPLE USE**
Parcels able to provide active and passive forms of recreation, as well as conservation of natural resources;
- * **RARITY AND DIVERSITY**
Parcels that contain rare or diverse forms of environmental or historical features, or a combination of these features;
- * **ECOSYSTEM PRESERVATION**
Parcels necessary for preserving the integrity of an important ecosystem;
- * **COST**
Parcels that are relatively low in acquisition and maintenance cost;
- * **WILLINGNESS TO SELL**
Parcels with an owner willing to sell all or part of the rights to the parcel;
- * **DEVELOPMENT PRESSURE**
Parcels that are likely to be developed in the near future;
- * **JURISDICTION**
Parcels within or near the boundaries of the City; and
- * **ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION**
Parcels able to accommodate recreation without degrading environmentally significant features

1.1.4 ~~By June 1992, the~~ The City shall adopt continue to use the following criteria described by the “Prioritizing Improvements for the CIP” portion of the Recreation Element, and use these criteria to rank recreation capital improvements within the Capital Improvements Element.

- Degree of Deficiency:** (A) Largest Absolute Deficiency. Those planning areas with the highest acreage or facility deficiency are prioritized.
- (B) Lowest Current Level of Service. Those planning areas with the lowest current level of service are prioritized. Implicit in both "A" and "B" is the need to prioritize urban area facilities before quadrant facilities.
- Proximity to Similar Facilities:** Those dysfunctional or deficient facilities which are at least one mile from the same type facilities are prioritized. This distance can include hazard-oriented barriers such as major roadways, as well as geographical distance.
- Program Dependency:** Those dysfunctional or deficient facilities which are necessary for the provision of the largest number of needed recreation programs are prioritized. Includes pools, basketball courts and all parks.
- Park Reclassification:** Those dysfunctional or deficient facilities which enable the park to be reclassified to the next higher park type, in an instance where the higher park type is needed by the planning area, are prioritized.

Urban Area Deficiency:

Urban area facilities that are deficient are prioritized. Urban area facilities include 50-meter pools, sports-complexes, and local nature parks.

Recent Park Acquisition:

A new project at a park may be within the same planning area as another park of the same type. If this other park was acquired over the past three years, the new project is de-prioritized.

- 1.1.5 In instances where the City or new residential developments are unable to comply with Objective 1.1, compliance with the substitution system described by the "Park and Facility Substitution" portion of the Recreation Element shall be required. ~~New residential developments may also pay a fee in lieu for the impact on, or demand created for, recreation facilities called for by Objective 1.1.~~

Objective 1.2

Establish mechanisms for the efficient design and maintenance of city-owned community, neighborhood, mini, sports-complex, and nature parks to maximize the enjoyment of such parks by park users.

Policies

- 1.2.1 ~~By 1996,~~ Site plans shall be developed for ~~existing and~~ proposed city-owned community, neighborhood, mini, sports-complex, and nature parks, in accordance with the park design standards described in ~~Table 1~~ of the Recreation Element. ~~These parks and their site plans shall be evaluated at least every five years thereafter.~~ Review criteria shall include safety, traffic circulation, emergency communication and service, conservation or restoration of natural features, desires expressed by park users and nearby property owners, minimization of operation and maintenance costs, facility hazard or obsolescence, durability, minimization of liability due to accident, and multiple-use potential. The review shall be in accordance with adopted procedures for public review and suggestions. The review shall result in the filing of a report to the City Commission describing the improvements called for by the review and the estimated cost of the improvements. The City shall incorporate any approved capital improvements into the Capital Improvements Element for implementation.
- 1.2.2 ~~By June 1992,~~ The City shall continue to maintain all City recreation facilities ~~shall be maintained~~ in at least "poor" condition as defined in the "Condition of City Recreation Facilities" portion of the Recreation Element. The City shall incorporate the capital improvements necessary to attain this standard into the Capital Improvements Element for implementation.
- 1.2.3 ~~By June 1992,~~ New recreational facilities shall be constructed in accordance with standards described by the "Minimum Facility Design Standards" portion of the Recreation Element.

Objective 1.3

Eliminate conflicts and maximize coordination among service providers in the planning and management of recreation and open space within the urban area to maximize efficiency and equity in the provision and funding of recreation services.

Policies

- 1.3.1 ~~By 1994-2002~~, the City shall prepare a report describing the feasibility of coordinating City and County recreation planning and management services for the urban area. If deemed feasible, such a coordination shall be implemented ~~by 1995~~. ~~The report shall be~~ and arranged ~~coordinated~~ with Alachua County.
- 1.3.2 By June ~~1992~~ 2002, the City shall adopt and use criteria to evaluate requests for funding by outside agencies engaged in providing recreation services. The criteria shall include (1) assurance that such services do not duplicate services available elsewhere and (2) assurance that such services do not detract from the City's own recreation program. The City Commission shall refer all such requests to the Public Recreation Advisory Board for a recommendation prior to taking action on the funding request.
- 1.3.3 By ~~1996~~ 2002, the City shall reach an inter-local agreement with SBAC ~~to adopt efficient and effective liability policies for~~ regarding public use of school ~~facilities for recreational facilities purposes~~. ~~The City Risk Management Department shall re-evaluate the agreement on an annual basis thereafter. Re-evaluation criteria shall include effect of new programs, facilities and recreational use characteristics on liability.~~
- ~~1.3.4~~ ~~By 1993, the City shall prepare a report describing the opportunities for, and benefits of, membership in a county or region-wide self-insurance program. By 1994, such membership shall be established if deemed feasible.~~
- 1.3.4 The City shall seek the joint use of recreation facilities with other public providers such as the SBAC, Alachua County and the State of Florida, wherever possible, in order to minimize public investments needed to provide needed recreational facilities.
- 1.3.5 The City shall prepare contracts and cooperative agreements with semi-private and private entities to provide recreation facilities, maintenance and programs, particularly programs designed to meet the recreational needs of youth. Such agreements shall include private sponsorships, community service projects and establishment of a civilian conservation corps.

Objective 1.4

Disposal or sale of city-owned land or facilities shall not be detrimental to important recreational needs.

Policies

- 1.4.1 ~~By 1994,~~ Prior to the disposal of non-recreational city-owned land or facilities, the City shall prepare a report that evaluates the potential use of such land or facilities for recreation, and whether such land or facilities are needed to maintain or enhance the standards described in Objective 1.1.
- 1.4.2 ~~By 1994,~~ The City shall prepare a report for the City Manager recommending the disposal of, or adaptive reuse of recreation facilities or properties that are no longer serving recreational needs. Such a report shall be prepared ~~by these departments at least every five years thereafter~~ on a case by case basis.
- 1.4.3 Proceeds from the disposal or sale of any city-owned recreation and park properties shall be used for recreation and park infrastructure enhancements and improvements.

Objective 1.5

By ~~1994~~ 2002, adopt a user fee system for City recreation programs and facilities that shall favor those within the City recreation taxing district, and that shall not be an obstacle to low-income City residents.

Policies

- 1.5.1 Except in the context of a City-County cooperative agreement, softball, swimming, and other fee-based recreation and nature park programs shall be designed, administered and priced so as to give preference to City residents over non-city residents.
- 1.5.2 Certain specialized recreation facilities and programs used by a relatively small proportion of recreation users, such as golf courses and water theme parks, shall be provided and generally offered on a fee-for-service basis aimed at financial self-sufficiency.
- 1.5.3 The City shall establish fee waiver reductions to ensure that lower income City residents/youth are not deprived of recreation services because of financial limitations.

- ~~1.5.4 The City shall provide recreational facilities that go beyond adopted LOS standards, but only if such opportunities will not detract from the attainment of Objective 1.1.~~

Objective 1.6

Improve access to parks for all categories of users.

Policies

- 1.6.1 By ~~1994-2002~~, all City community parks shall provide bicycle and pedestrian access meeting Traffic Engineering standards ~~for at least a one-mile distance~~ along all arterials that serve the parks, except where right-of-way does not exist along such arterials. When justified by transit demand estimates, each community park shall also be regularly served by the City bus system.
- 1.6.2 ~~By 1993, pedestrian and bicycle transportation corridors remote or separate from roads shall be provided by both the City and private developers to maximize transportation connections between parks, schools, major work and shopping locations, and residential areas. This shall include adoption of~~ The City shall continue to utilize Land Development Regulations requiring the provision of public trails that pass through or are adjacent to new developments. In addition, ~~by 1992 the City shall complete an inventory of publicly owned (but undeveloped) dedicated road rights-of-way. By 1995, the City shall complete a feasibility study regarding the recreational use of such rights-of-way~~ continue to study the feasibility of using publicly owned (but undeveloped) dedicated road rights-of-way for recreational use.
- 1.6.3 Safe access to parks shall be incorporated into park construction and road improvement projects through City Land Development Regulations that minimize the need to use or cross major roads at grade.
- 1.6.4 ~~By 1995,~~ All community and neighborhood parks shall continue to be designed to provide recreational facilities; programs, and access to the handicapped/disabled, elderly and other individuals with physical limitations.

Objective 1.7

The development of recreation programs for youth is the most important recreational priority. Given this, the City shall establish youth recreation programs sufficient to meet the unmet needs for such programs by city youth.

Policies

- 1.7.1 ~~By June 1995, The City shall continue to;~~ in coordination with the University of Florida and SBAC, ~~shall develop~~ a recreational tutorial after-school program for elementary and middle school-aged city youth.
- 1.7.2 The City shall establish contracts and cooperative agreements, as described in Policy 1.3.5, for the improvement of youth recreation programs.
- 1.7.3 To meet the needs of pre-school and school-aged children, the City shall design programs that are designed to accommodate the typical work schedules of parents.

Objective 1.8

The City shall strive to provide funding to maintain or exceed the minimum level of service standards and create a sustainable economic base for recreation by the year 2010.

Policies

- 1.8.1. The City shall continue to coordinate with Alachua County in implementing the Countywide Recreation Master Plan.
- 1.8.2 The City shall continue to seek monies from a wide variety of funding sources including grants and joint public-private partnerships.
- 1.8.3 The City shall seek various funding sources including, but not limited to, general bond issues, recreation impact fees, utility fee transfers and recreation park tax districts.

Goal 2: Establish a park and open space system which ensures the visibility of, preservation of, and access to environmentally significant open spaces of the urban area.

Objective 2.1

A trail greenway network, as described by the “Development of Recreational Greenways” portion of the Recreation Element, shall be established by the acquisition and development of proposed and existing parks in a manner that promotes the establishment of such a network. The trail greenway network should include paved and unpaved trails along water bodies, utility corridors, and rail

corridors that link environmentally significant natural areas, parks, neighborhoods, schools, shopping areas, cultural centers and job centers to each other and which provide safe and pleasant public access for all citizens, including seniors, children, and the disabled.

Policies

- 2.1.1 ~~By June 1992, in acquiring parks,~~ The City shall continue to use the criteria described in Policy 1.1.3 to prioritize sites that can be integrated into the trail greenway network identified in Objective 2.1.
- 2.1.2 ~~By June 1992,~~ The City shall ~~adopt~~ continue to enforce Land Development Regulations that promote the establishment of the trail greenway network described in Objective 2.1. Private developments falling within the network shall be required to promote the linear integrity of the network.
- 2.1.3 ~~By 1996,~~ The City shall continue to develop public access trails or boardwalks along publicly owned segments of Hogtown Creek.
- 2.1.4 Where possible, provide barrier-free public access to all recreation and nature sites through the provision of handicapped parking and access.
- 2.1.5 Trailheads and associated facilities such as automobile and bicycle parking, comfort stations and handicapped facilities should be provided at strategic conjunctions of two or more greenways.
- 2.1.6 When acquiring lands for trails greenways, priority shall be given to parcels, which facilitate the connection of two or more trails.

Objective 2.2

Acquire, design and manage parks to preserve existing natural features and their functions as described by the “Environmental Management of Public Parks & Open Spaces” portion of the Conservation, Open Space and Groundwater Recharge Element.

Policies

- 2.2.1 ~~By June 1992,~~ The City shall continue to use ~~adopt~~ the park acquisition criteria described in Policy 1.1.3 in order to place a high priority on restoring and preserving significant natural features.
- 2.2.2 ~~By 1994,~~ The City shall continue to use ~~adopt~~ policies based on the “Environmental Management of Public Parks & Open Spaces” portion of the Conservation, Open Space, and Groundwater Recharge Element in order to preserve the natural features of existing City parks.

- 2.2.3 ~~By June 1992,~~ The City shall ~~continue to use~~ adopt Land Development Regulations based on the "Environmental Management of Public Parks & Open Spaces" portion of the Conservation, Open Space and Groundwater Recharge Element to maintain the integrity of parks by protecting existing parks from undesirable encroachments such as incompatible land uses, visual disamenities, and noise.

Goal 3: Provide for citizen input in order to determine community desires and devise specific neighborhood-oriented plans for recreation.

Objective 3.1

Develop programs that increase citizen awareness of urban area natural features and parks and that obtain citizen input on current and future recreational needs.

Policies

- 3.1.1 ~~By June 1992,~~ The City shall ~~continue to~~ conduct ongoing communication of recreation information to the community through publications, presentations, workshops and media exposure.
- 3.1.2 ~~By June 1992~~ 2002, the Public Recreation Advisory Board and the Nature Centers Commission shall submit an annual report to the City Commission prior to the annual update of the capital improvements program ~~and as described by the "Monitoring, Reevaluation, and Public Input" portion of the Recreation Element.~~ The report shall assess progress toward implementation of this Element and make recommendations for the coming fiscal year.
- 3.1.3 ~~By June 1992,~~ the Recreation and Parks Department shall establish a monitoring system for individual parks, as described by the ~~"Monitoring, Reevaluation, and Public Input" portion of the Recreation Element,~~ to assess facility and program support by park users.

Objective 3.2

Develop recreation plans consistent with neighborhood desires for each City quadrant.

Policies

- 3.2.1 Minimum LOS standards described in Objective 1.1 shall be adapted to meet the needs and desires of the residents of affected neighborhoods. This shall be

attained, in part, by using the facility substitution criteria as described by the "Facility Substitution" portion of the Recreation Element.

- 3.2.2 ~~By June 1992, The Recreation and Parks Department, in coordination with the Department of Cultural and Nature Operations,~~ shall continue to use two-way communication tools including park user surveys, "hot lines," design charrettes and public hearings to design parks and programs meeting the needs of park users.