

CITY
-----OF-----
GAINESVILLE

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Item No. 4

TO: City Plan Board **DATE:** October 19, 2000

FROM: Planning Division Staff

SUBJECT: Petition 145CPA-00 PB. City Plan Board. Update the Recreation Element of the City of Gainesville 1991-2001 Comprehensive Plan for the proposed 2000-2010 Comprehensive Plan.

Recommendation

Planning Division staff recommends approval of Petition 145CPA-00 PB.

Explanation

This petition is part of the process of updating the entire comprehensive plan, the result of which will be a completely updated, City of Gainesville 2000-2010 Comprehensive Plan. 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 1991 comprehensive plan. The goals, objectives and policies section of the element, which is to be adopted, reflect these changes which were identified in the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) adopted in 1998. A workshop was held on March 16, 2000 before this board to discuss the element and gather any comments from the board and the public. Workshops have also been held before the Public Recreation Board on April 19, at Westside Park on July 19 and at the Northeast Liaison Center on July 26. In addition, there was a meeting before the Recreation and Cultural Affairs Committee on June 27.

Rule 9J-5 of the Florida Administrative Code will not offer any guidance on the issue of recreation because the language concerning the Recreation and Open Space element was repealed in 1996. Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, states that a Recreation element include a listing of the recreational facilities available to the public. However, a level of service standard is still required.

The proposed level of service standard reflects a "status quo" policy. Because recreational funding remains limited, it is felt that the level of service should remain as it is for the time being. However, this can change depending upon the results and recommendations of the County's Recreation Master Plan, which is intended to identify current and future recreational deficiencies and recommend economically sustainable plans to provide for the current and future recreational needs of Alachua County.

Policy 1.1.3 is amended to include the "Land Acquisition" criteria within the policy language, while Policy 1.1.4 is amended to include the criteria for "Prioritizing Improvements for the CIP". These amendments were identified during the EAR process. Policy 1.3.4 was deleted and replaced with new language added to address the issue of shared use of facilities, identified during the workshop process. Policy 1.4.3 is added to ensure that proceeds from the sale of recreation land will be used for recreation and park improvements. Objective 1.8 and policies 1.8.1, 1.8.2 and 1.8.3 are intended to address the issue of funding and the need to investigate the feasibility of various funding sources.

There has been discussion about the City taking over active recreation facilities while the County takes over passive recreation facilities. This as well as the Recreation Master Plan and finding adequate funding sources will continue to be items of discussion for the foreseeable future.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ralph Hilliard
Planning Manager

Attachments

RH:JS

**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.

<u>Program Dependency:</u>	<u>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.</u>
<u>Park Reclassification:</u>	<u>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.</u>
<u>Urban Area Deficiency:</u>	<u>Urban area facilities that are deficient are prioritized. Urban area facilities include 50-meter pools, sports-complexes, and local nature parks.</u>
<u>Recent Park Acquisition:</u>	<u>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.</u>

- 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 ~~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.

RECREATION ELEMENT

DATA AND ANALYSIS REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Over the past few decades, sociologists have predicted an increase in leisure time available to individuals. ~~Recent~~ Some studies, however, have shown that there has been a substantial decline in available leisure time (~~see Figure 1~~). Many people (particularly women) ~~are~~ seem to be working longer hours than ever before. Moreover, our highly mobile society and associated sprawling development patterns have increased the amount of time spent on daily travel.

~~(Figure 1)~~

With the *quantity* of leisure time declining, citizens can be expected to seek improvement in the *quality* of their leisure time, and access to leisure activities that are less time-consuming. As a result, there is an increased need for high-quality, easily accessible recreation at the local level. Also, improving public recreation at the local level makes recreation more affordable because it minimizes transportation costs.

Communities are beginning to realize that adequate, well-planned open space and recreational opportunities can have far-reaching implications for future growth. Such communities are:

- * Increasing the attractiveness of higher urban densities and thereby encouraging more compact and efficient urban growth patterns;
- * Providing the sorts of amenities many industries and business firms require for their employees, and thereby attracting high-quality economic development;
- * Helping to define the urban area with green spaces, while at the same time protecting environmental qualities and features.

As local, close-to-home recreation increases in importance, so too does the need for far-sighted recreation planning. The Gainesville urban area population is projected to grow relatively rapidly in the coming decades. The value of the land in developing areas will increase as land becomes scarcer and public improvements make land more attractive for development. Increased land values will increase the cost of public acquisition of land for recreation and open space purposes. To minimize the costs of growth, acquisition of public land must precede private development pressures.

Since the mid-1970's, however, City expenditures for recreational land, facilities, and programs have been extremely low relative to total City expenditures, and in comparison to similar cities. (See Figures 2 and 3 later in this Report for city comparisons.) Few improvements have been made in existing parks and very few major new facilities have been built despite continuing population growth.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

This Element recognizes both the value and the limitations of traditional, quantitative recreation facility standards (e.g., the number of tennis courts needed per 1,000 people). Standards are useful in ensuring that recreational facilities are equitably and comprehensively provided throughout the community. Total reliance on such standards, however, may lead to inflexibility, a suppression of creative approaches to recreation, and a tendency to ignore important community, neighborhood, and individual recreational needs.

To address these limitations, the Element gives some attention to how people behave when offered various types of recreational opportunities. For example, a neighborhood park or a significant environmental feature may be difficult to enjoy due to a lack of citizen awareness, barriers such as busy roads, or remoteness from population centers. By considering the importance of citizen behavior, the Element stresses *public access* as the key to improving recreational opportunities.

PUBLIC ACCESS

The Key to Improving Recreational Opportunities

Access is essential to any successful recreation program.

Improving public access includes:

- * Improving the visibility of, preservation of, and access to the environmentally significant open spaces of the urban area.
- * Efficiently providing adequate amounts of park acreage and facilities in close proximity to urbanized residential areas.
- * Increasing the amount of citizen input in order to determine neighborhood desires and devise neighborhood-based recreation plans.

PUBLIC ACCESS

To Environmentally Significant Open Space

There will be little public support for an ambitious open space acquisition program unless the public is given adequate access -- either visual or physical -- to the acquired open spaces. Typically, large and environmentally significant open spaces feature only small spurs or vistas to provide this access. Such limited access frequently leaves people feeling intimidated, bored, or alienated from the open space. Often, a more desirable alternative is to develop deeply penetrating "greenway" corridors which are as near to the attractive features of the open space as possible, yet designed to minimize potential adverse impacts.

Ideal opportunities for greenways include abandoned railroad and utility rights-of-way, flood channels, and other corridors which provide quiet, non-motorized recreation and transportation connections between important community locations. Greenways link environmentally significant open space and parks to each other and to residential areas. Both forms of linkages are necessary to maximize access. One way in which the Recreation Element encourages this type of open space access is through its call for the development of "local nature parks" and "linear corridors."

Development of Recreational Greenways

As demonstrated in Map 1, there exist numerous radial and circumscribing greenways which provide a "window of opportunity" for the development of an interconnected system of open space and trails throughout the urban area. These greenways show enormous potential for development as recreational and open space access routes, since they pass through and connect several significant open spaces and existing city, county, and state parks.

Recreational greenways, or "linear corridors", are fingers of greenspace which penetrate and crisscross the residential areas of the city. They offer convenient physical and visual access to the significant open spaces of the city. As such, they help connect people to the natural environment and thereby provide important community needs such as environmental education and appreciation. A regionally important example is the ~~soon to be developed~~ Gainesville-to-Hawthorne "Rail Trail." An inventory of significant corridors with recreational potential can be found in the "Linear Corridors and Linkages" section of this Report.

Abandoned railroad rights-of-way can provide significant recreational access ~~at little or no cost to the City~~ for residents. Presently, there are ~~at least 15~~ several abandoned railroad segments ~~in~~ throughout Alachua County. These segments can serve as non-motorized linkages to such locations as Paynes Prairie, Sweetwater Branch, Boulware Springs, the City of Hawthorne, Tumblin Creek, the University of Florida campus, Little Hatchet Creek, Northside Park, and several destinations outside of the county. Such greenways would serve as the connecting strands of an "emerald necklace."

An Emerald Necklace

Gainesville's recreation and open space lands have traditionally been fragmented. There has been no unifying theme or symbol giving the city an attractive image in comparison to other cities. An "emerald necklace" can serve that purpose (see Map 2).

The Emerald Necklace is a concept which envisions an open space system encircling the Gainesville urban area. It consists of more than 30,000 acres of natural beauty made up of interconnecting "gems." These gems contain attributes of scenic, environmental, historic, and geologic significance. Each gem is a parcel of greater than 100 acres which is either publicly owned, or privately owned and undeveloped, and in low-intensity zoning categories. The gems are traversed by, or in close proximity to greenways. As pointed out above, these greenways show great potential for the development of public trails and community delineation.

The Necklace is similar to, but in some ways different from a more traditional greenbelt configuration. Both serve to define an urban area with greenspaces and agricultural land. Both provide urban residents with easy access to significant open spaces. And both are useful in preserving the ecological, scenic, recreational, and municipal values embodied by a greenbelt network. The Emerald Necklace, though, is distinct in the sense that it is an integrated system of greenspace "islands" (or gems), rather than an unbroken swath of parks and farms surrounding the city. Despite this distinction, it should be noted that a Necklace and a greenbelt are not mutually exclusive. A Gainesville Necklace could serve as a component of the larger greenbelt system.

Why an Emerald Necklace?

The rationale for adopting the concept of the Emerald Necklace is based on several important factors:

- * **Growth Management.** Urban sprawl results in traffic congestion, and large increases in the amount of money needed for public service and infrastructure improvements such as roads, sewers, fire, and schools. Sprawl can also lead to a lack of community cohesiveness and identity, among other problems. An emerald necklace could serve as a physical and symbolic line which can help define the limits of urban development.
- * **Integration.** Currently, the parks of the Gainesville urban area suffer from a lack of "relatedness" to each other. An emerald necklace can unify many of the parks into a system of gems strung together by recreational greenways.
- * **Identity.** The urban area is somewhat limited in its ability to attract new businesses and industries, many of which seek favorable market proximity, access to materials, education, transportation, and a high quality of life. Gainesville's advantage in relation to other communities is due primarily to the presence of the university and natural amenities. Emphasizing these amenities with a unique and attractive park system could promote both economic vitality and community pride.

GAINESVILLE'S EMERALD NECKLACE

Proposed Necklace Gems

Legend

 Proposed Necklace Gems

 Significant Sites

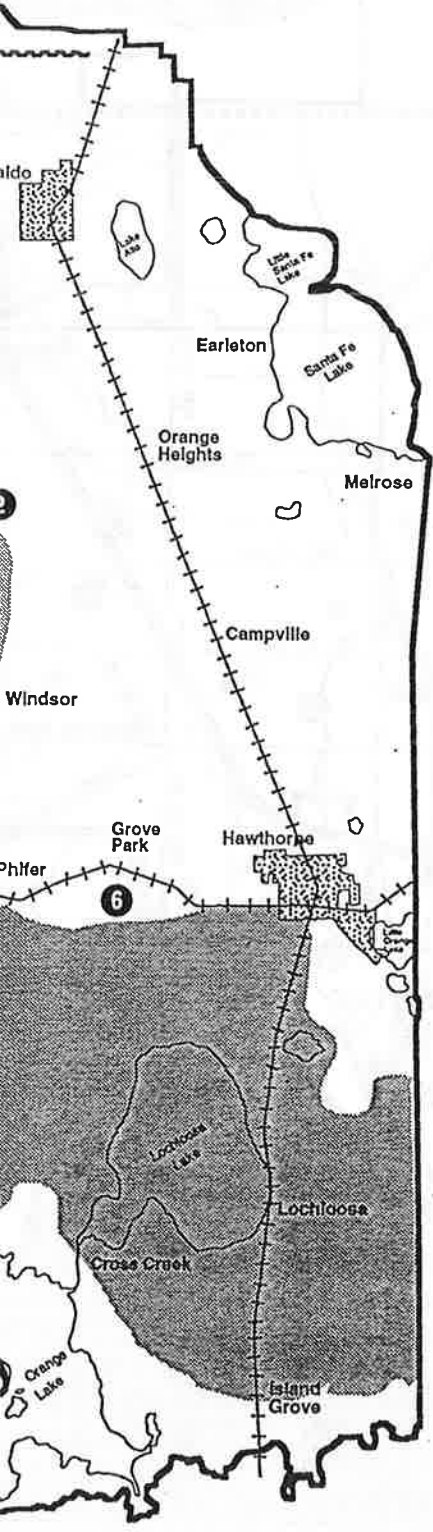
1. Austin Cary Forest
2. Gum Root Swamp
3. State and Local Farms
4. Newnans Lake
5. Prairie Creek
6. Lochloosa Forest
7. Paynes Prairie
8. Serenola Forest
9. Gainesville Country Club
10. Fred Bear Hammock
11. Kanapaha Prairie
12. Lake Kanapaha/Hogtown Prairie
13. Hickory Sink Forest
14. Meadowbrook Golf Course
15. UF Experimental Farm
16. San Felasco Hammock
17. Santa Fe Community College
18. Devils Millhopper
19. Millhopper Flatwoods
20. Potato Patch Bay
21. Buck Bay
22. Ironwood Golf Course/Water Plant
23. UF Beef Reserach Unit
24. Hatchet Creek

 Railroad Right-of-Way

 GRU Utility Right-of-Way

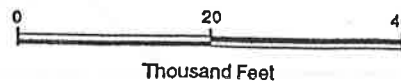
 City Boundaries

 County Boundary



City of Gainesville Gainesville, Florida

Prepared by the
Department of Community Development
March 1999



- * **Ecosystems.** As is the case in most developed and developing areas, human encroachment into, and fragmentation of, natural habitat areas are threatening the viability of critically important ecosystems. Without an interconnection and preservation of "habitat islands", these ecosystems are not likely to remain viable over the long-term.
- * **Access.** Private development, urban sprawl, and the proliferation of congested, high-speed roads reduce public access to our parks and significant open spaces. A non-motorized corridor system improves the safety and attractiveness of parks. Increased access generates an increased awareness of these sites. Increased public awareness can promote concern for the preservation of natural sites and spark interest in park development.

The Emerald Necklace is a unifying concept for the City's park and open space plan. While the vast majority of Necklace gems are outside of city limits, there are steps the City can take to implement the Necklace concept. For example, utility ~~and abandoned railroad~~ rights-of-way within the city could be improved to facilitate recreational access to gems, and the City could continue to improve abandoned railroad rights-of-way. In conjunction with such improvements, the City could acquire and develop park acreage along city greenways. These linear parcels, staging areas, and rights-of-way would then improve the connectivity of the city to Necklace gems. As shown below, the criteria governing purchases of park acreage are designed, in part, to prioritize acquisition of these linear connectors.

With the cooperation of Alachua County, the Emerald Necklace could be further enhanced through joint City-County efforts to purchase (and when appropriate, develop) gems and linear connectors. The County also possesses land regulation authority useful in protecting features of the Emerald Necklace.

Creating an Emerald Necklace

Gainesville is already largely surrounded by an Emerald Necklace outside of its city limits. Gems such as Newnans Lake, Paynes Prairie, San Felasco Hammock, and Lake Kanapaha will retain their status as publicly accessible open spaces for the foreseeable future. Newnans Lake is managed as a "Fish Management Area" by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. San Felasco Hammock and Paynes Prairie are two of ~~eight~~ 16 state preserves found in Florida. The state preserves are designated in order to maintain representative samples of the exceptional natural conditions found at the sites. Other large and environmentally significant areas such as Gum Root Swamp, Prairie Creek, Kanapaha Prairie, and Buck Bay are privately owned but not yet developed.

Land Acquisition

While it is unlikely that the City and County will be able to purchase all of the privately owned gems of the Emerald Necklace, there will be instances when tracts of land should be evaluated for public acquisition. A computerized land evaluation database ~~has been~~ was prepared for this Element. The database catalogued ~~s~~ and ranked ~~s~~ parcels of land according to a series of criteria. These criteria ~~will~~ were to be used to determine the public park value of parcels. The criteria, which were never formally adopted, are more fully explained in the Appendix, include population density, proximity to existing parks, trail access, greenbelt value,

connectivity, multiple use, rarity and diversity, ecosystem preservation, cost, development pressure, jurisdiction, and environmental degradation.

* ~~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.

The database would catalogue and ranks undeveloped or vacant parcels found ~~within~~ throughout the county. Parcels would be ~~are~~ assessed for their value in accommodating "activity-based" recreation and, in a separate ranking, for their value in conserving significant environmental resources (or accommodating "resource-based" recreation). Both rankings are used to assess the value of parcels for facilities such as neighborhood and community parks, and the value of the larger open spaces that are part of the Emerald Necklace.

In addition to land purchases, acquisition efforts should include:

- * Acquisition of conservation, scenic, trail, or recreational easements; and
- * Land dedications by private individuals.

Of the parcels that are environmentally significant according to the "resource-based" ranking, those that cannot be acquired should be evaluated to determine whether non-acquisition management incentive strategies are appropriate. For the City, these strategies can include:

- * Implementation of a "transfer of development rights" program. Under such a program, the City and County would cooperate in setting up Necklace/Greenbelt "sending" zones and urban "receiving" zones;
- * Adoption of policies encouraging compact urban development, such as incentives for higher residential densities within city limits; and
- * Adoption of more stringent land use regulations for areas designated as both environmentally significant (See COS: 9-14), and as Necklace gems in this Element.

PUBLIC ACCESS

To Recreational Facilities

In addition to providing access to environmentally significant open space, the City needs to provide access to a broad range of recreational facilities. Instead of the natural features of "passive" parks, "active" parks offer human-built facilities such as racquetball courts and ballfields.

More so than with passive parks, improving public access to active recreational facilities ~~involves~~ is linked to adopted "level-of-service" (LOS) standards. These standards call for the provision of a certain number of facilities for a certain number of people, and designing these facilities in ways that are attractive to those most likely to use them. The Recreation Element achieves this by:

Recreation Element
Data and Analysis

- * ~~Assigning facilities to either urban area or quadrant wide regions, depending on the relative attractiveness of the facility. This Element Encouraging~~ es the efficient concentration of certain "significant" (regionally attractive) facilities to improve the attractiveness of those facilities to organized leagues, and to minimize maintenance costs. Assigning other facilities to quadrants, on the other hand, assures the equitable distribution of such facilities among neighborhoods. (See the "Urban Area vs. Quadrant Facilities" section for a discussion of these planning areas);
- * Counting existing facilities only to the extent that they are publicly accessible. For the purpose of establishing levels of service, this Element generally avoids counting private facilities ~~(although significant facilities at large apartment complexes in certain parts of the urban area are counted)~~. Facilities at county schools are only partially counted. (See "Park Inventory Methodology" section for further explanation);
- * Establishing policies encouraging the development of recreational corridors; and
- * Establishing policies encouraging the development of desirable, flexible, and accessible recreation programs, particularly for youth.

Park and Facility Standards

Standards are necessary to help assess the present condition of recreation resources in a community. They also establish policy guidelines, which help a community plan and provide for future recreational opportunities in an efficient and effective way. The standards used for parks and facilities in Gainesville are generally based upon state or federal standards.¹ These standards were modified using information unique to Gainesville, such as ~~recent~~ facility use data, climate, natural and human-built resources, information from the Recreation & Parks Department and City policy-makers, age cohort characteristics, citizen input, fiscal concerns, private facilities, park users living outside of city limits, and urban development trends.

Both qualitative and quantitative forms of capital facility standards are used. The qualitative standards describe the essential and optional design requirements for each of the park types sought by the City. The quantitative standards describe how many acres of parks and how many of various types of facilities are needed for a given number of people.²

¹ Florida Department of Natural Resources. 1987. Outdoor Recreation in Florida - 1987. Tallahassee, Florida. Florida Department of Community Affairs. 1987. Recreation and Open Space Element (Model Element). Tallahassee, Florida. National Recreation and Park Association. 1983. Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines. Washington, D.C.

² Note that there is some overlap between these two forms of standards.

Park Design Standards

Planning for recreation and open space requires the use of design standards for the sites at which facilities are (or will be) located. There are ~~eight~~ seven different types of sites: (1) Mini-Park; (2) Neighborhood Park; (3) Community Park; (4) Sports Complex Park; (5) Local Nature Park; ~~(6) Regional Nature Park~~; ~~(6 7)~~ Linear Corridor; and ~~(7 8)~~ Special-Use Park. Each type of park is briefly described in ~~Table 1~~ below, with standards for size, equipment, and general design indicated.

Table 1. Park Design and Function Standards

Mini-Parks

Small recreation areas within relatively high-density residential areas. Include benches, child play areas, shade trees, and picnic facilities. Size is one-quarter acre to five acres. Service radius is 1/4 mile. Access is by local streets, with facilities for pedestrians and bicycles. An example is A.N.N.E. Roper Park, located in the 400 block of N.E. 2nd Street. There is no LOS standard for this park type.

Neighborhood Parks

Moderately-sized recreation areas located to provide convenient access (no more than 1/2 mile) from neighborhoods served. Include tennis courts, racquetball courts, shade trees, picnic facilities, child play areas, and a limited number of soccer and baseball fields. Size ranges from 5 to 20 acres, although the presence of certain types of facilities may classify certain sites less than 5 acres as neighborhood parks. (These smaller sites must provide at least two facilities of different types from the following list: basketball courts, tennis courts, racquetball courts, baseball/softball fields, gymnasium or recreation center, and soccer fields.) Service radius is 1/2 mile. Access is by local streets, with facilities for pedestrians and bicycles. An example is Woodlawn Park.

Community Parks

"Intensive-use", activity-based recreation areas which serve an entire planning geographic quadrant. Include a wide range and large concentration of facilities: lighted tennis courts, racquetball courts, soccer and baseball fields, a swimming pool, off-street parking, playgrounds, and picnic facilities. Sites 20 acres or larger are classified as "undeveloped" if the site does not contain at least two different types of these facilities. If LOS standards require community park acres, but the quadrant is not deficient in any of these facilities, the following facilities may be substituted: basketball courts, tennis courts, or racquetball courts. Size ranges from 20 to 100 acres, although certain types of facilities may classify certain sites less than 20 acres as

community parks. (Parks between 10-20 acres can be classified as a community park if at least two different types of the following facilities are provided: baseball/softball fields, swimming pool, gymnasium, recreation center, and/or soccer or football fields.) Service radius is 1 1/2 miles ~~or the planning quadrant~~. Access is by collector or arterial streets, with facilities for pedestrians, bicycles, autos, and buses. An example is Westside Park.

Sports Complex Parks

"Intensive-use" recreation areas which provide a concentration of facilities for leagues and tournaments. One or more of the following facilities are necessary but not necessarily sufficient to classify a site as a "sports complex": (1) at least four adult-size or youth-size baseball/softball fields; (2) at least six regulation-size soccer fields; (3) a professional or semi-professional sports stadium; (4) a combination of at least one gymnasium, four tennis courts, and four racquetball courts; and/or (5) a region-serving water theme park. Size ranges from 15 to 100 acres. Service radius is urban area-wide. Access is by arterial streets, with facilities for bicycles, autos, and buses. There are no examples in Gainesville as of ~~June 1990~~ May 2000, although the City had ~~recently~~ acquired acreage adjacent to Boulware Springs that was is planned to be developed as a sports complex.

Local Nature Parks

Moderately-sized, resource-based parks which offer physical or visual access to environmentally significant open spaces. Such parks include trails, benches, picnic facilities, boardwalks, and exhibits. Size is generally less than 100 acres. (All resource-based parks owned by the city or county are designated local nature parks, regardless of size.) Service radius is urban area-wide. Access is variable. Motorized vehicles are prohibited from pedestrian/bicycle corridors. Examples are Morningside and Bivens Arm Nature Parks. Public properties containing environmentally significant features that have not been developed to accommodate passive recreation are known as "conservation areas."

Regional Nature Parks

~~Regionally important natural areas which preserve, conserve, restore, and enhance large and significant natural or cultural resources, and offer important environmental education benefits to the community. Can include boardwalks, exhibits, observation decks, a nature center, and picnic/camping facilities. Size is at least 100 acres. (All nature parks owned by the state or water management district are designated regional nature parks, regardless of size.) Service radius is 30 to 45 miles or urban area wide. Access facilities for bicycles, autos, and buses. An example is Paynes Prairie State Preserve. There is no LOS standard for this park type.~~

Linear Corridors

Provide a recreational travel corridor or "greenway" for such users as bicyclists, hikers, horseback riders, canoeists, and joggers. Typically a narrow strip of land developed along a creek, or along a utility or abandoned railroad right-of-way. Often link parks, schools, commercial or residential areas, and natural features to each other. While staging areas typically provide auto parking, the corridors themselves allow only non-motorized travel. ~~An~~ Examples ~~is~~ are the proposed Gainesville-to-Hawthorne Rail Trail, and the Depot Avenue Rail Trail. Service radius is urban area-wide ~~if owned by the state, and quadrant wide if owned by the City or County.~~

Special-Use Parks

Provide unique or unusual facilities for specialized recreational users. Support facilities dependent on the primary purpose of the park. An example is the Thomas Center. There is no LOS standard for this park type.

SOURCE: City of Gainesville, Department of Community Development, June 1990, April 2000.

Service Level Standards

In addition to the use of design standards for parks and facilities, quantitative standards are necessary to describe how many parks and facilities are needed based on the existing and projected urban area population (see Table 2). According to the *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*, a publication of the National Recreation and Park Association, 1996, for the past 30 years it was standard practice to adopt uniform national land standards for facilities such as 10 acres per 1000 population. This type of standard was held to be the ideal that every community should strive for in order to have a quality park and recreation system. However, for many communities achieving this type of standard was practically impossible. A standard for parks and recreation cannot be universal since comparing cities, even when they seem to be similar to each other, is generally tricky. The national guidelines were found to reflect professional judgment, and not the specific needs of a community.

A revised approach to park and recreation standards has recently emerged, where the level of service standards are based on customer needs rather than an arbitrary standard such as number of tennis courts per 50,000 people. The methodology for determining the LOS is needs based, facilities-driven, and land measured. The LOS is stated in acres per 1000 people but it reflects the instances of use of activity areas and the facilities that are necessary to satisfy the actual demand. The spaces and facilities that are needed to meet the actual community recreation demands are identified; then the minimum amount of park land needed to accommodate the specific facilities is calculated, as well as the space needed for unprogrammed recreation activities. This reflects first-hand knowledge of the community and how residents actually use the facilities.

There are eight steps involved in determining the LOS:

1. Determine the *Park Classifications* for which the LOS will apply.
2. Determine the *Recreation Activity Menu (RAM)* for each park classification. The RAM is the list of all the facilities that go into each park classification and for which a specific amount of space will be needed. The RAM determines the facility space requirements of the LOS formula.
3. Determine *Open Space Size Standards* for each park classification for which LOS standards will apply. These are the minimum acreage's needed for facilities to support the activity menus for each park classification. The acreage should reflect not only sufficient acreage for the facilities but also sufficient acreage in passive and undeveloped open space for quality design of the park.
4. Determine the *present supply* of the recreation activity choices.
5. Determine the *expressed demand* for these recreation activity choices
6. Determine the *minimum population service requirements* for these recreation activity choices.
7. Determine the *individual LOS* for each park class.
8. Determine the *total LOS* for the entire park and recreation system.

As shown in Table 2, this Element recommends that several LOS standards be incrementally increased over the 10 year planning time horizon. This "stair stepping" of standards is designed to allow the City to incrementally attain the desired level of service over a 10 year period. By stair stepping, the City increases the feasibility of attaining the desired levels of service for recreation.

This type of analysis can be used for the entire park and recreation system or smaller areas such as neighborhoods or census statistical areas. The LOS indicates the minimum amount of park land and recreation facilities necessary to meet the recreation demand as determined by the analysis of actual demand. Although the LOS is stated in acres per 1,000 people, it is based on the idea that land does not meet demand by itself. The LOS combines the instances of actual use of recreational facilities and activity areas, the facilities needed to meet the recreation demand, and the minimum land necessary to provide those same recreation spaces and facilities.

Until such time as it is feasible to enact this type of LOS analysis, it is necessary to adopt LOS standards that are reasonably attainable by the community. Rule 9J-5 specifies that in adopting LOS standards for recreation, the City is setting legal measures that are to direct capital expenditures for land and facilities needed to maintain a certain provision of facilities. The recommended LOS standards are shown in Table 1.

Recreation Element
Data and Analysis

Table 2. Service Level Standards for Parks and Facilities¹

FACILITY	1991 LOS STD	1997 LOS STD	CURRENT LOS ²
Swim Pool (50 M)	1 per 85,000	1 per 85,000	1 per 68,767
Swim Pool (25 Yd) ³	1 per 50,000	1 per 75,000	1 per 45,671
Softball Field (adult)	1 per 14,000	1 per 10,000	1 per 13,049
Soccer Field	1 per 8,500	1 per 11,000	1 per 8,304
Trail/Linear Corridor/Greenway	1 mi per 3,500	1 mi per 4,500	1 mi per 3,305
Basketball Court	1 per 4,500	1 per 4,400	1 per 3,887
Tennis Court	1 per 6,000	1 per 6,000	1 per 4,982
Racquetball Court	1 per 12,000	1 per 7,000	1 per 9,787

PARK ⁴	1991 LOS STD	1997 LOS STD	CURRENT LOS ²
Local Nature/Conserv	5.00 ac	6.00 ac	6.11 ac
Sports Complex	0.50 ac	0.50 ac	0.76 ac
Community Park ³	2.00 ac	2.00 ac	2.62 ac
Neighborhood Park	1.50 ac	0.80 ac	1.63 ac
Total Acres Per 1000	9.00 ac	9.30 ac	11.12 ac

NOTES:

¹ Standards for local nature park, sports complex, and 50-meter pool facilities apply urban area wide. Standards for community park, 25-yard pool, softball, soccer, trail, neighborhood park, basketball, tennis, and racquetball facilities apply urban area wide in 1991, and quadrant by quadrant in 1997.

² Current LOS is based on 1989 urban area population and facilities.

³ Southwest quadrant is exempt from community park and 25-yard pool standards through 2001.

⁴ Park standards are in acres per 1,000 people.

SOURCE: City of Gainesville, Department of Community Development. December 1990.

³ Refer to "Variations in Level of Service Standards" section for more information.

Recreation Element
Data and Analysis

Table 1. Service Level Standards for Parks and Facilities

FACILITY	2000 LOS STANDARD	CURRENT LOS ¹
Swim Pool (50 M)	1 per 85,000	1 per 50,702
Swim Pool (25 Yd) ³	1 per 75,000	1 per 33,802
Softball Field (adult)	1 per 14,000	1 per 8,450
Soccer Field	1 per 11,000	1 per 7,800
Trail/Linear Corridor/Greenway	1 mi per 4,500	1 mi per 3,900
Basketball Court	1 per 4,500	1 per 4,507
Tennis Court	1 per 6,000	1 per 4,609
Racquetball Court	1 per 12,000	1 per 7,243
Equipped play area	1 per 10,000	1 per 3,900

PARK ²	2000 LOS STANDARD	CURRENT LOS
Local Nature/Conserv	6.00 ac	17.02 acres
Sports Complex	0.50 ac	1.01 acres
Community Park ³	2.00 ac	2.27 acres
Neighborhood Park	0.80 ac	1.51 acres
Total Acres Per 1000	9.30 ac	11.01 acres

NOTES:

¹ ~~Standards for local nature park, sports complex, and 50-meter pool facilities apply urban area wide. Standards for community park, 25-yard pool, softball, soccer, trail, neighborhood park, basketball, tennis, and racquetball facilities apply urban area wide in 1991, and quadrant by quadrant in 1997.~~

¹ Current LOS is based on 1999 City 1989 urban area population and facilities.

³ ~~Southwest quadrant is exempt from community park and 25-yard pool standards through 2001.~~⁴

² Park standards are in acres per 1,000 people.

SOURCE: City of Gainesville, Department of Community Development. ~~December 1990~~ May 2000.

⁴ ~~Refer to "Variations in Level of Service Standards" section for more information.~~

Existing Facilities and Determination of Deficiencies

A total of 95 Over 100 recreation sites are currently located within ~~the~~ Gainesville and the surrounding urban area (see Map 3).³ Of these, 46 are city-owned parks. Table 3 4 contains an acreage and facility inventory for each site. Table 2 13 shows currently undeveloped or underdeveloped parks.

Based on Gainesville's current and projected population and the standards discussed above, the city will require the following new facilities by 1991 and 1997:

Table 3. Summary of Recreation² Deficiencies

FACILITY	1991	1997	2001	TOTAL
Local Nature Park	0 ac	64 ac	56 ac	120 ac
Sports Complex Park	0 ac	0 ac	0 ac	0 ac
50-meter Pool	0	0	0	0
25-yd Swim Pool	0	0	1	1
Softball Field	0	6	2	8
Soccer Field	0	5	1	6
Trail/Linear Corridor	0 mi	4.5 mi	1.2 mi	5.7 mi
Community Park	0 ac	0 ac	0 ac	0 ac
Neighborhood Park	0 ac	37 ac	4 ac	41 ac
Basketball Court	0	8	2	10
Tennis Court	0	7	1	8
Racquetball Court	0	10	1	11

SOURCE: City of Gainesville, Department of Community Development. December 1990.

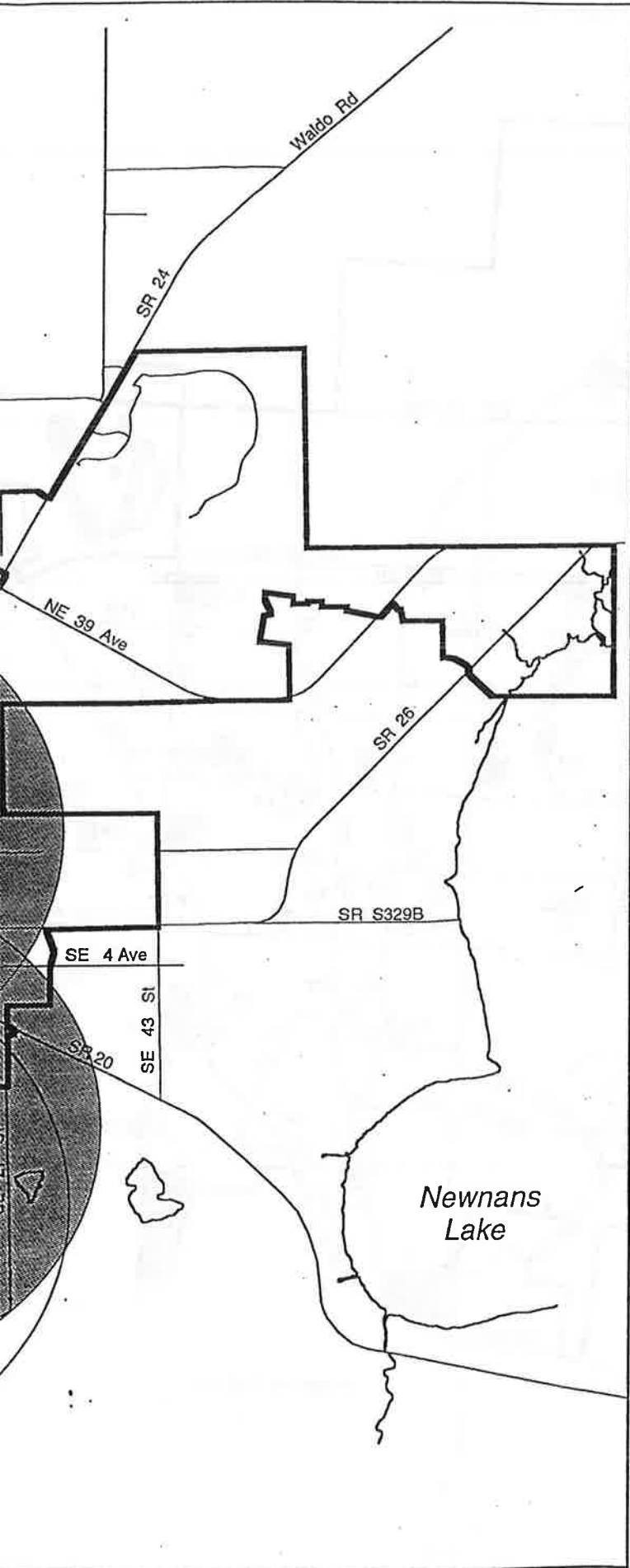
When considering facility deficiencies, note that this Element offers some flexibility in meeting identified deficiencies. Refer to the "Facility Substitution" section for more information.

Proposed Locations of New Community Parks

The locations and service areas for community parks are shown in Map 4. The following criteria ~~were~~ can be used to determine the need for new community parks:

- * A new park is necessary for every 30 to 100 acres of community park deficiency for the year 2001-2010;




³ Refer to "Inventory of Private Recreational Facilities" section for an inventory of private recreational facilities.



COMMUNITY PARKS

Location and Service Radii

Legend

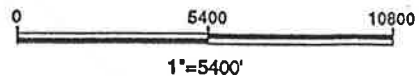
-  Existing Community Park
-  Undeveloped, or primarily undeveloped, Community Park
-  1.5 mile service radius

- 1 Boulware Springs
- 2 Citizens Park
- 3 Forest Park (county)
- 4 Green Tree Park
- 5 Northeast Park
- 6 Northside Park
- 7 Possum Creek Park
- 8 Squirrel Ridge Park
- 9 T. B. McPherson Park
- 10 Westside Park

 Gainesville City Limits

City of Gainesville Gainesville, Florida

Prepared by the
Department of Community Development
February 1999



Recreation Element
Data and Analysis

- * The proposed locations seek to minimize overlap with the service radii of existing community parks; and
- * The proposed locations seek to maximize service area coverage to existing residential developments which are not currently served by a community park.

~~These criteria indicate there is no need for a new community park within city limits over the 10-year planning time horizon.~~

Proposed Locations of New Neighborhood Parks

The locations and service areas for ~~proposed and~~ existing neighborhood parks are shown in Map 5. The following criteria ~~were~~ can be used to select ~~the~~ proposed locations for neighborhood parks:

- * A new park is necessary for every 5 to 20 acres of neighborhood park deficiency for the year ~~2004~~ 2010;
- * The proposed locations seek to minimize overlap with the service radii of existing neighborhood parks; and
- * The proposed locations seek to maximize service area coverage to existing residential developments which are not currently served by a neighborhood park.

As with other parks, actual neighborhood park locations will depend on availability and the cost of land, access, compatibility with surrounding land uses, and other relevant factors.

Recreation Programs

Recreational programs cannot be implemented without the appropriate facilities. As a consequence, available facilities will largely determine programs offered. Of the two, facilities are usually the subject of long-range planning because they represent capital expenditures as well as fixed physical resources. Long-range planning for programs is seldom attempted because recreational preferences often change and programming should remain responsive to trends in recreational demand and usage. Provided that facilities, funding and interest are present, programs can change from year to year. Nevertheless, it is clear that planning for facilities involves assumptions about programs. If softball fields are built rather than basketball courts, programming will have to emphasize softball. This situation highlights the importance of making facilities as flexible as possible (as discussed elsewhere in this Element).

In spite of the need to be responsive to changing preferences, programming should be guided by general principles that will guarantee a basic level of service is provided to all citizens and, insofar as possible, the special needs of certain groups are met. These principles include:

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Location and Service Radii

Legend



Existing Neighborhood Park
(Publicly Accessible)



Existing Neighborhood Park
(Limited Access)



1/2 mile service radius



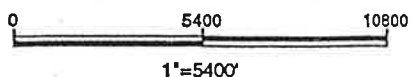
Undeveloped

- 1 Cone Park
- 2 Copeland Settlement (County)
- 3 Green Acres Park
- 4 N.E. Liaison Center
- 5 N.E. 31st Avenue
- 6 Springtree
- 7 Rosa B. Williams-Union Academy Recreation Center
- 8 Wilhemina Johnson
- 9 Smokey Bear
- 10 Thelma Boltin Center
- 11 Tumblyn Creek
- 12 Woodlawn
- 13 A. Q. Jones Center
- 14 Howard Bishop Middle School
- 15 Buchholz High School
- 16 Duval Elementary School
- 17 Eastside High School
- 18 J. J. Finley Elementary School
- 19 Gainesville High School
- 20 Glen Springs Elementary
- 21 Idylwild Elementary
- 22 Kirby Smith
- 23 Lake Forest Elementary
- 24 Lincoln Middle School
- 25 Littlewood Elementary
- 26 Metcalfe Elementary
- 27 Norton Elementary
- 28 Prairie View Elementary
- 29 Rawlings Elementary
- 30 Sidney Lanier Center
- 31 Stephen Foster Elementary
- 32 Talbot Elementary
- 33 Terwilliger Elementary
- 34 Westwood Middle School
- 35 Wiles Elementary
- 36 Williams Elementary
- 37 P.K. Yonge (State)
- 38 Boys Club NW
- 39 Boys Club SE
- 40 Kanapaha Middle School
- 41 Fort Clarke Middle School
- 42 Hidden Oak Elementary
- Gainesville City Limits

NOTE: SBAC schools are not officially considered public parks. Such schools provide only limited public access for recreation. This access is typically during evenings and weekends, and only when not in use for SBAC programs. They are inventoried solely for the purpose of determining neighborhood-level recreational levels-of-service.

City of Gainesville Gainesville, Florida

Prepared by the
Department of Community Development
February 1999



Recreation Element
Data and Analysis

- * Meeting the needs of all age groups, skill levels, and income levels, while attempting to serve the largest possible number of city residents. In particular, the development of programs for city youth shall be given the highest priority.
- * Designing, administering and pricing programs so as to give preference to the needs of city residents over non-city residents.
- * Not funding the programs or facilities of other agencies and groups to the detriment of the city's own recreation and open space programs or facilities.
- * Enhancing environmentally significant open space access and appreciation, transportation access (especially non-motorized), and maintenance of parks.
- * Expanding volunteer assistance, where appropriate, in the area of programs.

PUBLIC ACCESS

To The Decision-Making Process Through Neighborhood-Based Recreation Plans

Applying identical facility standards to all parts of a community may lead to inappropriate assessments of needs for certain neighborhoods. Age and socioeconomic differences among neighborhoods often result in differences in facility preferences. For example, a neighborhood may prefer 4 tennis courts rather than 2 tennis courts and 2 basketball courts. Ideally, local standards should be tailored to the desires of specific neighborhoods through the use of surveys or questionnaires. Such tailoring, however, is often costly and short-lived due to changing desires. Instead, this Element recommends that a multi-pronged citizen input framework be used to assess differences in needs. This framework includes:

- * Holding public hearings on the plans for developing parks to seek input from citizens on facilities needed in their neighborhoods;
- * Undertaking mail-outs of recreational questionnaires to neighborhood leaders; and
- * Establishing a Planning Division liaison to incorporate suggestions from the Recreation and Neighborhood Advisory Boards into the recreational needs assessment process.

As suggested above, it is important that neighborhoods be given the opportunity to request recreational facilities that differ from those called for by level-of-service standards. A problem associated with this type of flexibility, however, is that residents of some neighborhoods may select facilities that are significantly more (or significantly less) costly than those provided to other neighborhoods. To guard against a disproportionate allocation of facilities, residents of a neighborhood should be given the opportunity to select facilities and parks that differ from those provided citywide as long as those facilities are similar in cost and character to those provided to other neighborhoods in the city.

Park and Facility Substitution

To better accommodate neighborhood preferences, this Element allows substitution between different types of parks and facilities.⁴ Instead of a neighborhood park, a neighborhood can request one of the following:

- * Nature Center/Park
- * Botanical or Vegetable Garden
- * Recreation/Cultural Center
- * Mini-Park

Substitution is also allowed between the following facilities:⁵

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| * Basketball Courts | * Volleyball Courts |
| * Tennis Courts | * Recreation Center |
| * Racquetball Courts | * Boardwalk Trail (1/2 mile) |
| * Interpretive Pavilion | * Mulched Trail (1 mile) |
| * Picnic Area | * Picnic/Pavilion/Playground |

As indicated above, one possible approach to resolving or avoiding the problem of neighborhood-facility mismatches would be to hold neighborhood public meetings to determine the most appropriate "mix" of recreational facilities -- in particular, a mix from the "interchangeable" facilities listed above. At these meetings, neighborhoods would work with City staff to devise individualized neighborhood or city quadrant plans.

Another area in which citizen input is important is in the development of recreation programs. Programs, by their nature, are flexible enough to be quickly modified as a result of ongoing citizen input. The following general principles should be adhered to:

- * The City shall consider the specific needs and desires of particular neighborhoods.
- * Programming shall be planned so as to allow enough flexibility to respond rapidly to changing recreational needs.
- * Increased attention shall be devoted to two-way communication of recreational information through the use of surveys and a "hot line."
- * Programs shall be monitored in order to evaluate their usefulness and popularity.
- * The City shall consider the typical work schedules of parents in designing programs to meet the year-round recreational needs of pre-school and school-age children.

⁴ Refer to "Park and Facility Substitution" section for more information about substitutions.

⁵ Ibid.

Monitoring, Reevaluation, and Public Input

Monitoring and periodic reevaluation of the Recreation Element are necessary to maintain the timeliness, relevance and accuracy of the Element as the community's desires, resources and population change. Public input is crucial in these activities. ~~as well as during initial preparation and adoption of the Element. In addition to public hearings and workshops, the City will use other means such as mobile displays, presentations to interested groups, and newsletters to provide information and receive public input.~~

State statutes mandate an annual update of the Capital Improvements Element and reevaluation of the entire Comprehensive Plan every five years. The City should use the following procedures in completing the mandated updates:

- * Prior to consideration of the annual Capital Improvements Program (CIP), an update of the inventory and "facility condition" assessment of recreation and open space facilities and programs shall be completed. This update should include surveys of park users, and be coordinated by the Recreation & Parks Department. An annual report on progress made in plan implementation shall be submitted by the Public Recreation Advisory Board (with staff assistance rendered by the Recreation & Parks Department) to the City Commission for consideration in conjunction with the annual CIP.
- * The five-year update will require a thorough review of the entire Recreation Element, and should include a survey or other means to assess user patterns and preferences. While the annual review will be the responsibility of the Recreation & Parks Department and the Public Recreation Advisory Board, Planning Division staff and the Plan Board will oversee the five-year update, with assistance and input from the Recreation & Parks Department and other interested parties.

DATA

INVENTORY OF PARKS AND FACILITIES

Inventory Table for Public Parks and Facilities Within the Urban Area

An inventory of recreational parks, sites, and facilities is shown in Table 2 4 and Map 3. Refer to "Park Inventory Methodology" section for further information regarding inventory methodology.

EXPLANATION OF COLUMN HEADINGS FOR PARK INVENTORY

~~MAP #:~~ locator number for the park. Refer to the official map of urban area recreation sites.

GEN. TYPE: general type of park. The park can be resource- or activity-based. See Definitions for explanation.

SPECIFIC TYPE: one of seven specific park classifications. "Community-U" designates "Community-Undeveloped" sites and indicates that parks do not meet the minimum thresholds of facilities specified in the park design standards. "Conservation" indicates that the site is a potential local nature park but is not developed to accommodate passive recreation.

OWNERSHIP: owner or operator of the park. "SBAC" designates School Board of Alachua County schools. "SBAC-P" designates parks for which there is a cooperative use agreement between the SBAC and the City or County. "WMD" designates water management district.

SIZE: total acreage of the park. For SBAC schools, this includes only acreage designated as "Open Space" on the Gainesville 1980-2000 Comprehensive Plan Land Use map or areas containing recreational facilities, or both, as shown on aerial maps.

ACTIVE: total "active" acreage at the park. See Recreation Element Data Collection and Analysis Report for definition of "active acreage."

PASSIVE: total "passive" acreage at the park. See Recreation Element Data Collection and Analysis Report for definition of "passive acreage."

LAND: land area of park in acres. Does not include submerged acreage. Can include areas within 10-year flood channel or 100-year floodplain.

WATER: acreage of the park submerged for at least nine months out of the year.

~~BKTBALL~~**BASKETBALL HOOPS**: number of basketball hoops at the park. Also known as "multi-purpose courts." Indoor basketball facilities operated by the SBAC are not counted unless there is a cooperative use agreement with the City or County. In some instances, basketball and tennis courts may overlap each other. When overlap occurs, the inventory counts the court for both basketball and tennis.

~~R-BALL~~ **RACQUETBALL**: number of racquetball courts at the park (includes all outdoor, three- or four-walled courts).

HARDBALL: number of youth baseball fields at the park. Youth fields feature outfield fences that are no more than 275 feet from home plate.

SOFTBALL: number of adult baseball/softball fields at the park. Adult fields feature outdoor fences that are no less than 275 feet from home plate. In some instances, softball and soccer fields may overlap each other. When overlay occurs, the inventory counts the field for both softball and soccer.

SOCCER: number of soccer fields at the park. Also known as "multi-purpose" fields. Football, rugby, and lacrosse fields are also counted as soccer fields. In some instances, softball and soccer fields may overlap each other. When overlap occurs, the inventory counts the field for both softball and soccer.

POOL: length of swimming pool, in meters.

PLAYGROUND: number of playgrounds at the park.

PICNIC TABLES: total number of picnic tables at the park.

TRAILS MILES: length of trail (walking, jogging, hiking, etc.) in miles. This classification does not include running tracks at SBAC schools or sidewalks which run contiguously and parallel to roads. Trail must be designed predominantly for recreation in order to qualify as an inventoried recreational trail.

RESTROOMS: are there restrooms at the park? (Yes/No). This classification does not include SBAC restrooms.

REC CENTER: is there a recreation center at the park? (Yes/No).

LIGHTED: is the park, or facilities at the park, lighted? (Yes/No).

INVENTORY: ~~date of the most recent inventory of the park. This includes only inventories which survey all facilities found at the park.~~

Table 2. Gainesville Area Parks

Park	Address	Type of Park	Owner	Acres	Active	Passive	Land	Water	Basketball Hoops	Tennis	Racquetball	Hardball	Softball	Soccer	Pool	Gym	Playground	Picnic Tables	Trail Miles	Restrooms	Rec Center
Boulware Springs	3500 Blk SE 15th St.	Community-U	City	103.3	67.30	36.00	103.30	0.00										4			
Citizen Forest Park	1400 NE 8th Ave SW 20th Ave & SW 43rd St.	Community Community-U	City County	31.0 24.7	31.00 24.70	0.00 0.00	31.00 24.70	0.00 0.00						3	50M			3			
Greentree	1900 NW 39th Ave.	Community-U	City	21.0	21.00	0.00	21.00	0.00	2			1	1					5			
Kanapaha Park	4000 blk SW 75th St	Community-U	County	23.0	23.00	0.00	23.00	0.00	1			1	2						0.75		
Northeast	501 NE 16th Ave.	Community	City	23.2	23.20	0.00	23.20	0.00		4	4	2	1	1				8	2.5		
Northeast	NW 34th St. & US 441	Community-U	City	34.5	34.50	0.00	34.50	0.00		4	4							3			
Possum Creek	4000 blk NW 53 Ave	Community-U	City	80.0	40.00	40.00	80.00	0.00													
Squirrel Ridge	Williston Rd & SW 17th Te	Community-U	County	16.8	16.80	0.00	16.80	0.00					1								
T.B. McPherson	1717 SE 15th St.	Community	City	15.0	15.00	0.00	15.00	0.00	4	4	2		2		25 yd			15			
Westside	1001 NW 34 St	Community	City	26.3	26.30	0.00	26.30	0.00	4	8	4	1	2		50M			16	1.5		
Audubon Colclough	Williston Rd. Annex	Local Nature	Private	38.0	0.00	38.00	26.40	11.60											1		
Bivens Arm Nature	3650 S. Main St.	Local Nature	City	56.0	0.00	56.00	14.00	42.00										4	1		
Kanapaha Botanical	4625 SW 63rd Blvd.	Local Nature	County	62.0	0.00	62.00	62.00	0.00										4	3		
Lake Alice	Museum Rd. - U of F	Local Nature	State	120.0	0.00	120.00	10.00	110.00										3	0.5		
Loblolly Env Educ Fac	3300 blk NW 5th Ave	Local Nature	City	108.0	0.00	108.00	108.00	0.00										1			
Morningside Nature	3540 E. University Ave.	Local Nature	City	277.6	0.00	277.59	277.59	0.00										23	7		
Ring Park	2000 NW 16 Ave	Local Nature	City	19.3	0.00	19.26	19.26	0.00										12	1		
San Felasco County Park	NW 43rd St, N. of 53rd Av	Local Nature	County	194.0	0.00	194.00	194.00	0.00													
Colclough Nature Park	2600 S. Main Street	Conservation	City	5.0	0.00	4.96	3.46	1.50													
Gum Root Swamp	6000 blk NE 39th Ave	Conservation	City	74.10	0.00	74.10	631.00	110.00											1		
HG #1	2400 NW 8th Ave	Conservation	City	113.7	0.00	113.69	113.69	0.00													
HG #2	2219 NW 34th St	Conservation	City	11.2	0.00	11.21	11.21	0.00													
HG #3	5200 NW 2nd Ave	Conservation	City	16.3	0.00	16.31	16.31	0.00													
HG #4 (Driggers)	N.W. 29th Rd (1500-bk)	Conservation	City	6.0	0.00	6.00	6.00	0.00													
Hatchet Creek	SR 24 S of NE 49th Rd.	Conservation	City	6.0	0.00	6.00	6.00	0.00													
Kanap. Addition (Davis et al)	East of Kanap. Gardens	Conservation	City	20.5	0.00	20.50	20.50	0.00													
Lake Kanapaha	4625 SW 63 Blvd	Conservation	County	453.4	0.00	453.37	150.00	303.37													
Palm Point	Newman's Lake	Conservation	City	16.1	0.00	4.59	4.59	11.51													
Sugarfoot Hammock	S.W. 20th Ave (6200-bk)	Conservation	City	333.0	0.00	333.00	333.00	0.00													
Terwilliger Pond	400 SW 62nd St.	Conservation	City	24.0	0.00	24.00	20.00	4.00													
Sweetwater/Matheson G-way	NE Boulevard	Linear	City	1 m	1 m	0.00	1 m	0.00											1		
G-ville-Hawthorne Rail Trail	Boulware Spgs/Paynes Pr	Linear	State	17 m	17 m	0.00	17 m	0.00											17		
Waldo Rail Trail	Waldo Road	Linear	State	8 m	8 m	0.00	8 m	0.00											8		
A.N.N.E.	6244 N.W. 28th Terr.	Mini	City	0.9	0.91	0.00	0.91	0.00	2												
Grandmother's	405 SW 6th Ave	Mini	City	0.3	0.30	0.00	0.30	0.00													3

SOURCE: City of Gainesville, Department of Community Development

Table 2. Gainesville Area Parks

Park	Address	Type of Park	Owner	Acres	Active	Passive	Land	Water	Basketball Hoops	Tennis	Racquetball	Hardball	Softball	Soccer	Pool	Gym	Playground	Picnic Tables	Trail Miles	Restrooms	Rec Center
Kiwanis	NW 8th St & 8th Ave	Mini	City	2.3	2.30	0.00	2.30	0.00										12			
Lynch	450 S. Main St	Mini	City	1.4	1.40	0.00	1.40	0.00										3			
Mini Park #01	NE 15th St. & 4th Ave.	Mini	City	1.0	1.02	0.00	1.02	0.00	2									1			
Mini Park #02	SE 9th St. & 8th Ave.	Mini	City	0.5	0.50	0.00	0.50	0.00										3			
Mini Park #03	510 NW 2nd St.	Mini	City	1.0	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00										3			
Mini Park #04	424 NW 6th Ave	Mini	City	0.2	0.18	0.00	0.18	0.00													
Mini Park #05	1352 SE 2nd St	Mini	City	0.6	0.60	0.00	0.60	0.00													
Mini Park #06	NW 31st Pl & 20th St.	Mini	City	0.4	0.40	0.00	0.40	0.00	2									1			
Mini Park #07	318 SW 7th Pl.	Mini	City	0.2	0.20	0.00	0.20	0.00													
Mini Park #08	NE 8th Ave. & 15th Terr.	Mini	Private	0.2	0.15	0.00	0.15	0.00													
Mini Park #09	820 NW 4th Ave	Mini	City	0.1	0.13	0.00	0.13	0.00													
Mini Park #10	4140 NE 26th St.	Mini	City	0.3	0.25	0.00	0.25	0.00	3												
Mini Park #11	4144 NE 24 St/ Cdr Grove	Mini	City	1.3	0.00	0.00	1.30	0.00													
Mini Park #12	2445 NE 12 Ave	Mini	City	0.5	0.50	0.00	0.50	0.00													
Oak Hill	NW 9th St. & NW 42nd Av	Mini	City	0.3	0.27	0.00	0.27	0.00													
Roper Park	NE 2nd St. & NE 4th Ave.	Mini	City	1.5	1.50	0.00	1.50	0.00										4			
S. Foster Mini Park	3336 NW 12th St	Mini	Private	1.4	1.41	0.00	1.41	0.00										3	0.21		
Cone	2601 E. University Ave.	Neigh'd	City	90.0	28.00	62.00	90.00	0.00	4			1						4			
Copeland Settlement	NE 27th Ave & 70th St	Neigh'd	County	5.0	5.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	1			1						14			
Green Acres	SW 8th Pl. & 40th St.	Neigh'd	City	37.0	20.03	17.00	37.03	0.00													
NE Liaison Center	1701 NE 8th Ave.	Neigh'd	City	0.5	0.53	0.00	0.53	0.00	2												
NE 31st Avenue	NE 31st Ave. & 17th Terr.	Neigh'd	City	1.4	1.40	0.00	1.40	0.00	4	2											
NW #1	2730 NW 30th Ave	Neigh'd	City	42.0	42.00	0.00	42.00	0.00													
Rosa Williams	524 NW 1st St. & 6th Ave.	Neigh'd	City	0.9	0.90	0.00	0.90	0.00	4												
Sharmie Far / W. Johnson C	321 NW 10th Street	Neigh'd	City	0.7	0.73	0.00	0.73	0.00	1									4			
Smokey Bear	2600 NE 15th St.	Neigh'd	City	4.5	4.50	0.00	4.50	0.00										6			
Springfree	2800 NW 39th Ave	Neigh'd	City	12.0	12.00	0.00	12.00	0.00													
Theima Boltin Center	516 NE 2nd Ave.	Neigh'd	City	1.0	1.02	0.00	1.02	0.00										4			
Tumblin Creek	SW 6th St. & Depot Ave.	Neigh'd	City	4.2	4.18	0.00	4.18	0.00	4									8	1.5		
WA #1	900 blk SE 5th Ave	Neigh'd	City	3.8	3.00	0.80	3.80	0.00													
Woodland	1900 SE 4th St.	Neigh'd	City	5.3	5.31	0.00	5.31	0.00	4			1		1				4			
AQ Jones Center	1108 NW 7th Ave.	Neigh'd	SBAC	4.4	4.41	0.00	4.41	0.00	4												
Bishop Middle Sch	1901 NE 9th St.	Neigh'd	SBAC	8.0	8.00	0.00	8.00	0.00	4												
Buchholz High	5510 NW 27th Ave.	Neigh'd	SBAC	17.6	17.60	0.00	17.60	0.00	4												
Duval Elementary	2106 NE 8th Ave.	Neigh'd	SBAC	8.2	8.20	0.00	8.20	0.00	4												
East Side High	1201 SE 45th Terr.	Neigh'd	SBAC	29.0	29.00	0.00	29.00	0.00	4	2											
Finley Elementary	1912 NW 5th Ave.	Neigh'd	SBAC	17.0	17.00	0.00	17.00	0.00	4												
Ft. Clarke Middle Sch	9301 NW 23rd Ave.	Neigh'd	SBAC	14.1	14.11	0.00	14.11	0.00	2	2											

SOURCE: City of Gainesville, Department of Community Development

Table 2. Gainesville Area Parks

Park	Address	Type of Park	Owner	Acres	Active	Passive	Land	Water	Basketball Hoops	Tennis	Racquetball	Hardball	Softball	Soccer	Pool	Gym	Playground	Picnic Tables	Trail Miles	Restrooms	Rec Center
Gainesville High	1900 NW 13th St.	Neigh'd	SBAC	8.1	8.06	0.00	8.06	0.00				2		1		•					
Glen Springs Elementary	2826 NW 31st Ave	Neigh'd	SBAC	8.8	8.80	0.00	8.80	0.00	1			1				•					
Hidden Oak Elementary	9205 NW 23rd Ave	Neigh'd	SBAC	7.0	5.00	2.00	7.00	0.00	4							•		12			
Idylwild Elementary	4601 SW 20th Terr.	Neigh'd	SBAC	11.7	11.69	0.00	11.69	0.00	1	1						•					
Kanapaha Middle Sch	5005 SW 75th St.	Neigh'd	SBAC	4.0	4.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	2				1	2		•					
Kirby Smith	619 E. University Ave.	Neigh'd	SBAC	11.8	11.80	0.00	11.80	0.00	1	?	?	1	1	8		•		3			
Lake Forest Elementary	427 SE 43rd St.	Neigh'd	SBAC	28.7	28.70	0.00	28.70	0.00	1			1				•					
Lincoln/Williams	1001 SE 12th St.	Neigh'd	SBAC-P	9.7	9.70	0.00	9.70	0.00	4					1		•					
Littlewood Elementary	812 NW 34th St.	Neigh'd	SBAC	7.0	7.00	0.00	7.00	0.00	2					1		•					
Metcalfe Elementary	1905 NE 12th St.	Neigh'd	SBAC	4.5	4.50	0.00	4.50	0.00	2					1		•					
Norton Elementary	2200 NW 45th Ave	Neigh'd	SBAC	11.0	11.00	0.00	11.00	0.00	2					1		•					
Prairie View Elem.	1801 SE 32nd Place	Neigh'd	SBAC	18.0	18.00	0.00	18.00	0.00	2	1						•					
Rawlings Elementary	3500 NE 16th St.	Neigh'd	SBAC	7.3	7.30	0.00	7.30	0.00	2							•					
Sidney Lanier Center	312 NW 16th Ave.	Neigh'd	SBAC	9.8	9.80	0.00	9.80	0.00	2	1				1		•					
Stephen Foster Elementary	3800 NW 6th St.	Neigh'd	SBAC	6.6	6.57	0.00	6.57	0.00	2					1		•					
Talbot Elementary	5701 NW 43rd St.	Neigh'd	SBAC	7.7	7.73	0.00	7.73	0.00	2					1		•					
Terwilliger Elementary	301 NW 62nd St.	Neigh'd	SBAC	8.0	8.00	0.00	8.00	0.00	4			2				•					
Westwood Middle School	3215 NW 15th Ave.	Neigh'd	SBAC	6.9	6.92	0.00	6.92	0.00	4					1		•					
Wiles Elementary	4601 SW 75th St.	Neigh'd	SBAC	3.8	3.80	0.00	3.80	0.00	4					1		•					
Williams Elementary	1245 SE 7th Ave.	Neigh'd	SBAC	12.7	12.70	0.00	12.70	0.00	4							•					
Yonge (P.K.)	1080 SW 11th Ave.	Neigh'd	State	15.0	15.00	0.00	15.00	0.00	2	2				1		•					
Boys Club NW	2700 NW 51st St.	Neigh'd	Private	6.2	6.26	0.00	6.26	0.00	5	2			3			•		3	0.75	•	
Boys Club SE	1100 SE 17th Drive	Neigh'd	Private	5.2	5.20	0.00	5.20	0.00	6					1		•					
Girls Club	2101 NW 39th Ave.	Neigh'd	Private	259.0	0.00	259.00	259.00	0.00					1	1		•		8		•	•
Devil's Millhopper	4732 NW 53rd Ave.	Regional	State	19728.2	0.00	19728.20	19353.61	374.56								•		6	0.5	•	
Paynes Prairie	US 441 & SR 121	Regional	State	202.5	0.00	202.50	202.50	0.00								•		23	15	•	
Prairie Creek Park	7200 SE Hawthorne Rd	Regional	WMD	6010.5	0.00	6010.46	6010.46	0.00								•					
San Felasco Hammock	clo Devil's Millhopper	Regional	State	100.0	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00								•		1			
Archer Range	Off State Rd. 24 - Airport	Special	City	1.2	1.21	0.00	1.21	0.00								•					
Community Plaza	101 E. University Ave.	Special	City	140.0	140.00	0.00	140.00	0.00		2						•					
Gainesville Golf	7300 SW 35th Way	Special	Private	122.0	122.00	0.00	122.00	0.00								•					
Ironwood Golf Club	2100 NE 39th Ave.	Special	County	6339.7	6339.68	0.00	11.68	6328.00								•		16		•	•
Newman's Lake	SR 20-Boat Launch	Special	County	20.0	20.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	1	8	8	1	2	1		•			4	•	•
Santa Fe C.C.	3000 NW 85rd St.	Special	City	6.2	6.20	0.00	6.20	0.00								•					
Thomas Center Gardens	306 NE 6th Ave	Special	City	238.0	238.00	0.00	238.00	0.00	5	40	32	30	15	44.4	46 B	•		?	2.5	•	•
University of Florida	University of Florida	Special	State													•					

NOTE: SBAC schools are not officially considered public parks. Such schools provide only limited public access for recreation. This access is typically during evenings and weekends, and only when not in use for SBAC programs. They are inventoried solely for the purpose of determining neighborhood-level recreational levels-of-service.

Linear Corridors and Linkages, Recreational Greenways

Linear corridors are non-motorized recreational travel routes, which generally follow utility or abandoned railroad rights-of-way. The utility corridors fall into two categories: (1) those that are utility easements granted to Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) or a private utility company, and (2) those that are rights-of-way owned in fee by GRU (see Map 1). In order to permit recreational use, an additional trail easement would need to be obtained from property owners in the case of utility easements. Rights-of-way, on the other hand, would require that the City Commission grant an additional trail dedication that would allow recreational trail use. In either case, an evaluation of the physical constraints of the corridor and possible concerns by nearby property owners would need to be conducted prior to such recreational development.

Another potentially significant category of recreational corridors is dedicated (but undeveloped) road rights-of-way. There are several of these publicly owned "paper street" segments throughout the city, and their locations often offer exciting opportunities for new recreational trails. The City has should conducted an inventory of these segments and could prepare a feasibility study describing the potential recreational use of each segment.

Two of the ten corridor segments described below are abandoned railroad rights-of-way. Both have been acquired and developed for public trail use. In addition to these two segments, there are numerous railroad corridors in Alachua County that are either actively being used as railroads, have been sold to private interests, or are abandoned. When abandoned railroad segments are sold to private interests, they become either difficult or impossible to reconstruct for recreational use. Because of this, the City needs to be in a position to negotiate quickly to acquire segments that are abandoned or may be abandoned in the future. There are three primary methods, which can help the City ensure that desirable abandonments are acquired by the public:

- * The City should maintain a rail segment inventory which describes the attributes and status of each segment, and therefore enables the City to maintain an on-going assessment of segments.
- * In conjunction with the inventory above, the City should be familiar with and follow procedures necessary to invoke the federal "Public Use Condition" regulation in instances where a rail segment may be abandoned. This regulation requires the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) to give public agencies exclusive negotiating privileges before a rail segment can be sold on the open market.
- * The City should support federal legislation, which would have the ICC require that railroad abandonments be "railbanked." Railbanking would hold abandoned corridors for future rail needs, and allow them to be used as recreational trails in the interim.

Presently, there are ten corridors within the urban area which potentially qualify as recreational corridors, although ~~none~~ only two have ~~yet~~ been developed for recreation:

1. Hawthorne Rail Trail
2. Waldo Rail Trail

Recreation Element
Data and Analysis

3. Duckpond
4. Hogtown
5. Alachua (N.W. 6th Street) Rail
6. East Gainesville Utility
7. West Gainesville Utility
8. Parker Road Utility
9. Hogtown Utility
10. North Gainesville Utility

There are three types of linkages provided by these corridors. A DIRECT LINK is one where the right-of-way either traverses, runs adjacent to, or terminates at a location of interest. A BICYCLE LINK is one where the right-of-way passes within 3,000 feet of a location of interest and currently provides on-road or off-road bicycle access meeting state standards. A PEDESTRIAN LINK is one where the right-of-way passes within 1,000 feet of a location of interest and currently provides sidewalk access which does not cross a major roadway. A POTENTIAL LINK is one where the right-of-way passes within 3,000 feet of a location of interest but does not currently provide bicycle or pedestrian facilities as specified above. This category also includes active rail lines or abandoned rail lines which have been sold to private interests.

The following is an inventory of the "locations of interest" that can be linked if the corridors are developed for public trail use:

SOUTHEAST QUADRANT

The Hawthorne Rail Trail provides the following linkages:

DIRECT LINK:

- * Boulware Springs
- * Paynes Prairie, Alachua Sink, and Persimmon Point
- * Prairie Creek
- * Sweetwater Branch
- * The cities of Rochelle, Grove City, and Hawthorne
- * Destinations to the northeast, southwest, and northwest portions of Alachua County and North Central Florida.

BICYCLE (B) OR PEDESTRIAN (P) LINK

- * Woodland Park (P)

Recreation Element
Data and Analysis

POTENTIAL LINK:

- * Newnans Lake
- * T.B. McPherson Park
- * Mini-Park #5
- * Prairie View Elementary School
- * Audubon Colclough Park
- * Calf Pond Creek
- * Lochloosa Wildlife Management Area
- * The cities of Micanopy and Lowell
- * River Styx and Orange Lake
- * Lake Wauburg
- * Tusawilla Lake
- * Waldo Rail Trail

The East Gainesville Utility Corridor provides the following linkages:

DIRECT LINK

- * Paynes Prairie
- * Sweetwater Branch
- * Calf Pond Creek
- * Lincoln/Williams School
- * Young American Park
- * Morningside Nature Center
- * Rawlings School
- * Williams School

BICYCLE (B) OR PEDESTRIAN (P) LINK:

None

POTENTIAL LINK:

- * County Fairgrounds
- * Gainesville Housing Authority

SOUTHWEST QUADRANT

The Hogtown/Parker Road Utility Corridors provide the following linkages:

DIRECT LINK:

- * Tumblin Creek
- * P.K. Yonge School
- * University of Florida campus
- * Forest Park
- * Lake Kanapaha

BICYCLE (B) OR PEDESTRIAN (P) LINK:

None

POTENTIAL LINK:

- * Lake Alice
- * Wiles, Kimball Elementary School
- * Idylwild School

NORTHEAST QUADRANT

The Waldo Rail Trail provides the following linkages:

DIRECT LINK:

- * County Fairgrounds
- * Little Hatchet Creek and Hatchet Creek Park
- * University of Florida campus
- * The cities of Waldo and Fairbanks

BICYCLE (B) OR PEDESTRIAN (P) LINK:

- * Archery Range (B)

POTENTIAL LINK:

- * Lynch Memorial Gardens
- * Mini-Park #1, 2, and 8
- * The Liaison Center
- * Citizen's Park
- * The Municipal Airport
- * Tumblin Creek Park
- * Hawthorne Rail Trail

The Duckpond Corridor provides the following linkages:

DIRECT LINK:

- * Duckpond
- * Kirby Smith
- * Thelma Boltin Recreation Center
- * Matheson Historical Center and Botanical Gardens
- * Public Library
- * ~~Main~~ Downtown Post Office

BICYCLE (B) OR PEDESTRIAN (P) LINK:

- * Northeast Park (B)
- * Thomas Center (P)
- * Roper Park (P)
- * City Hall (P)
- * Sun Center, Hippodrome, and Downtown Gainesville (P)

POTENTIAL LINK:

- * Lynch Memorial Gardens
- * Hawthorne Rail Trail

NORTHWEST QUADRANT

The Hogtown Trail provides the following linkages:

DIRECT LINK:

- * Hogtown Creek System
- Possum Creek Park

Recreation Element
Data and Analysis

- * Westside Park
- * Loblolly Environmental Education Center
- * Ring Park
- * Green Acre Park
- * Hogtown/Sugarfoot Prairie
- * Lake Kanapaha & Botanical Gardens
- * Forest Park
- * Terwilliger Pond

BICYCLE (B) OR PEDESTRIAN (P) LINK:

- * Gainesville High School (P)
- * Westwood School (P)
- * Littlewood School (P)

POTENTIAL LINK:

- * Waldo Rail Trail
- * Hawthorne Rail Trail

The Alachua (N.W. 6th Street) Trail provides the following linkages:

DIRECT LINK:

- * Springstead Creek
- * Hogtown Creek
- * Potato Patch Bay
- * The cities of Alachua, Jacksonville, Bell, High Springs, Starke, and LaCrosse
- * Santa Fe Community College, Downtown Center

BICYCLE (B) OR PEDESTRIAN (P) LINK:

- * Mini-Park #4 (P)
- * Sidney Lanier School (P)

POTENTIAL LINK:

- * Northside Park
- * Mini-Park #9
- * Sharmie Ffar Park
- * Rosa Williams
- * A. Quinn Jones School
- * Kiwanis Park
- * Northeast Park
- * Stephen Foster School
- * A.N.N.E. Park
- * Oak Hill Park
- * O'leno State Park, Poe Springs, and the Santa Fe River

The Parker Road/North Gainesville Utility Corridors provide the following linkages:

DIRECT LINK:

None

BICYCLE (B) OR PEDESTRIAN (P) LINK:

None

POTENTIAL LINK:

- * Possum Creek Park
- * Northside Park

Recreation Element
Data and Analysis

Segments that have already been sold to private interests include:

- * Gainesville to Cedar Key
- * Buda to Burnetts Lake
- * Rochelle to Micanopy
- * High Springs to Burnetts Lake
- * Mattox to Burnetts Lake

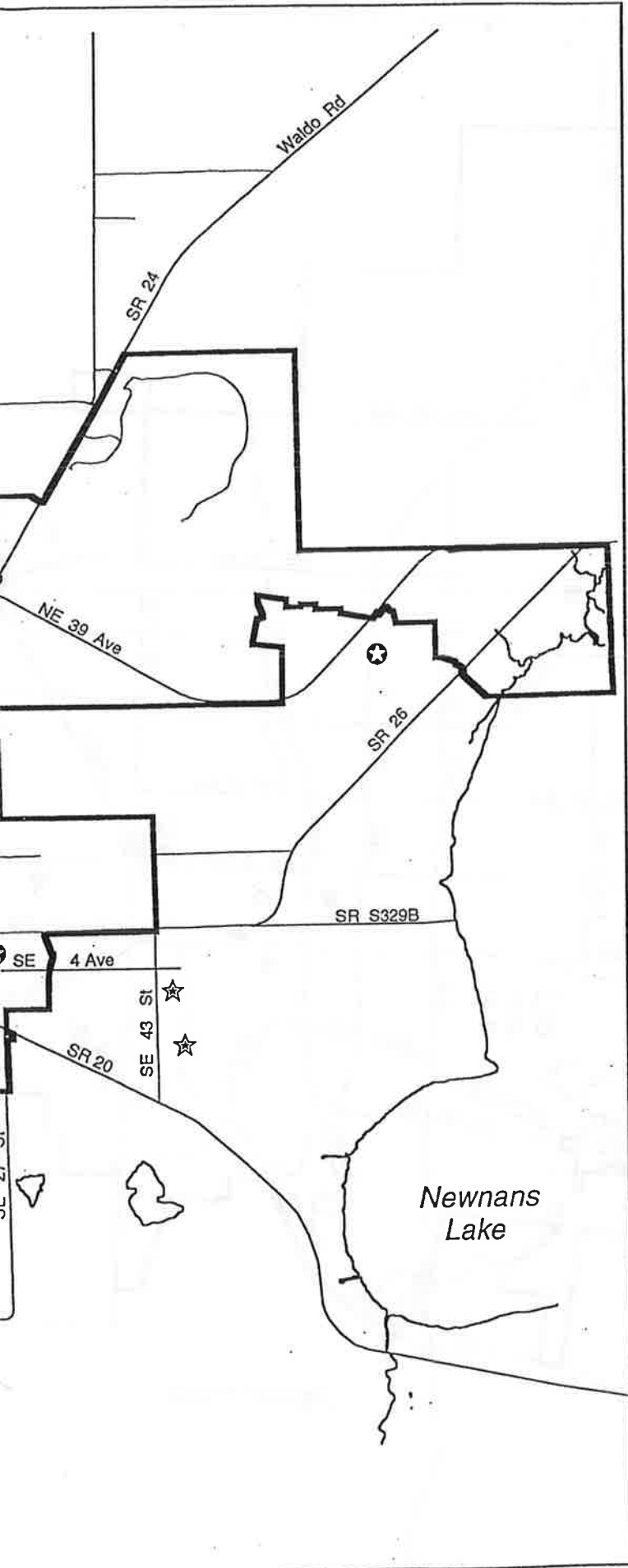
Facility Locations and Service Radii

Maps 6-12 show the location and service radii for each of the facilities found at the various parks. In addition to showing the location of existing facilities, these maps are used to determine where new facilities should be located. (In general, new facilities should be located so as to minimize overlap with the service radius of existing facilities of that type.)

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELDS

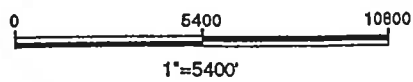
Legend

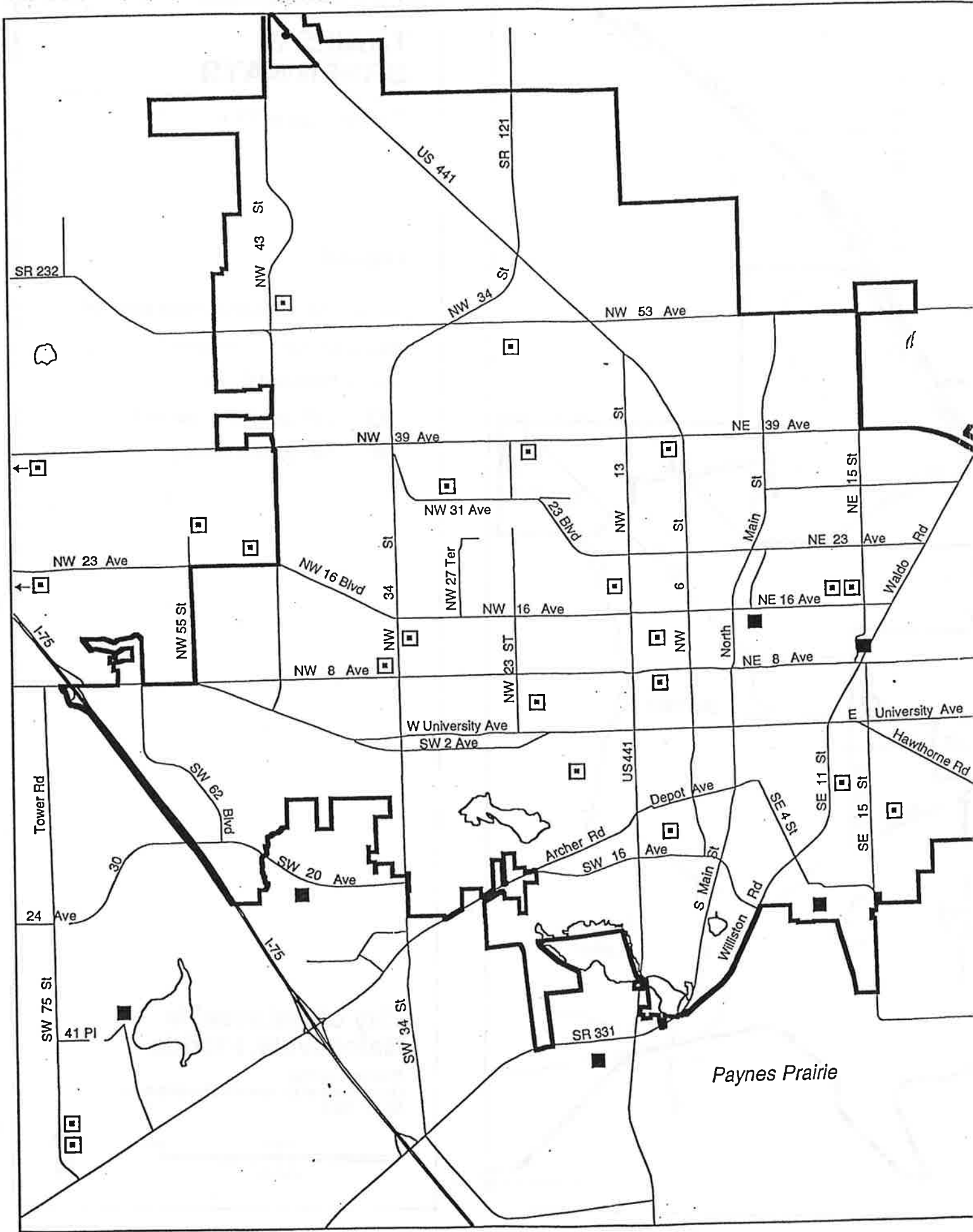
- ⊛ Baseball/Softball Facility (publicly accessible)
- ☆ Baseball/Softball Facility (limited access)



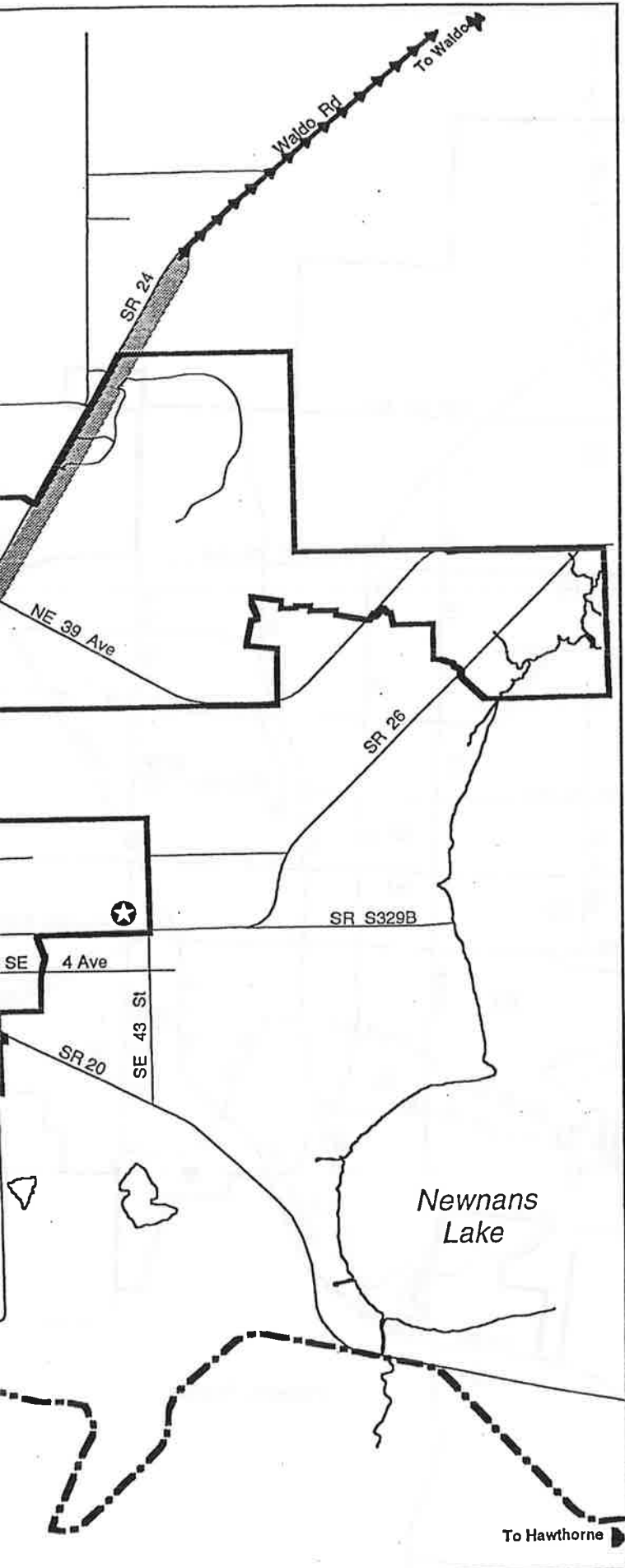
**City of Gainesville
Gainesville, Florida**

Prepared by the
Department of Community Development
March 1999










Paynes Prairie



TRAILS & GREENWAYS

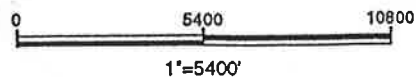
Designated & Proposed

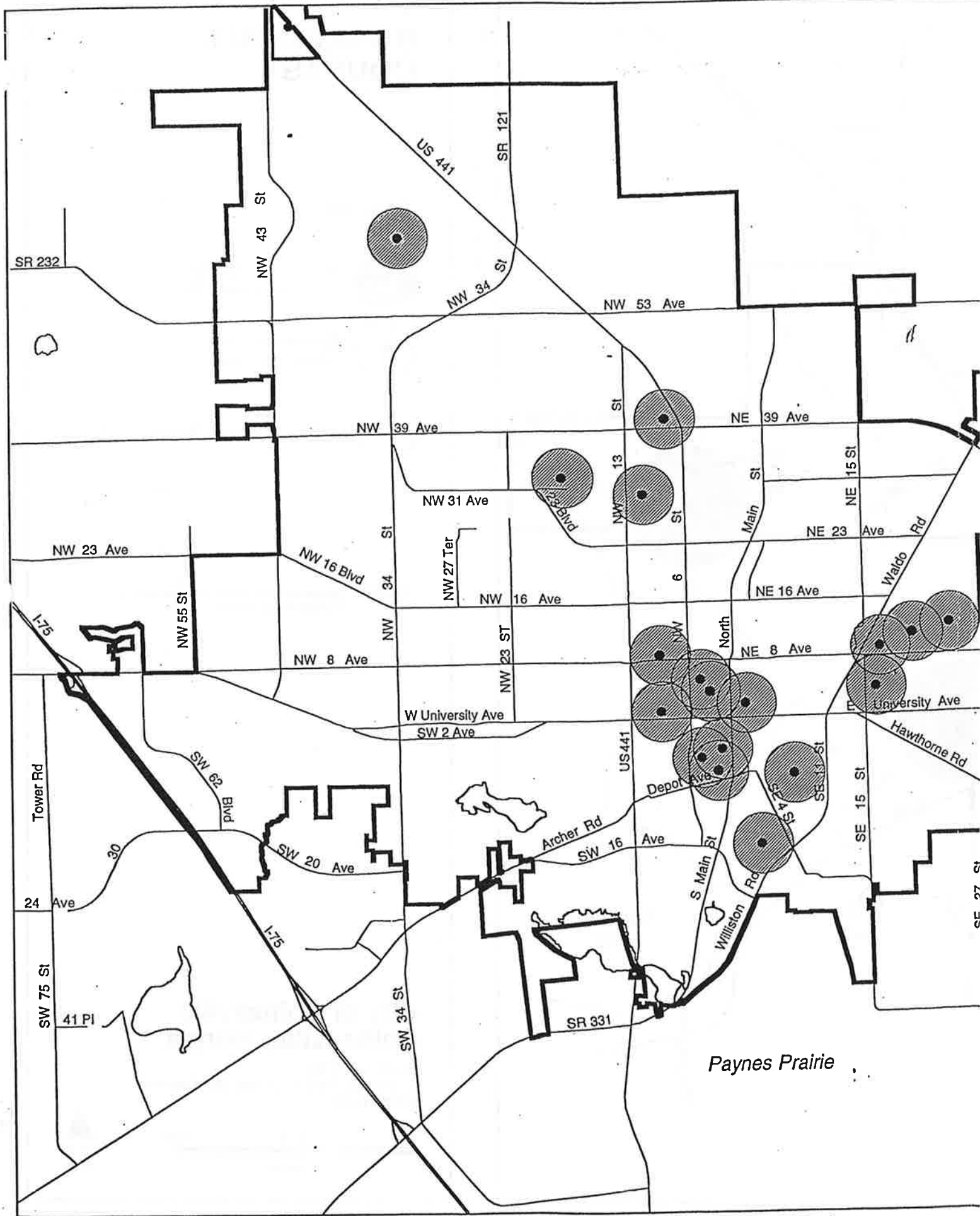
Legend

-  Designated Greenway (with trail)
-  Designated Greenway (no trail)
-  Proposed Greenway
-  Trail (publicly accessible)
-  Trail (limited access)

City of Gainesville Gainesville, Florida




Prepared by the
Department of Community Development
March 1999



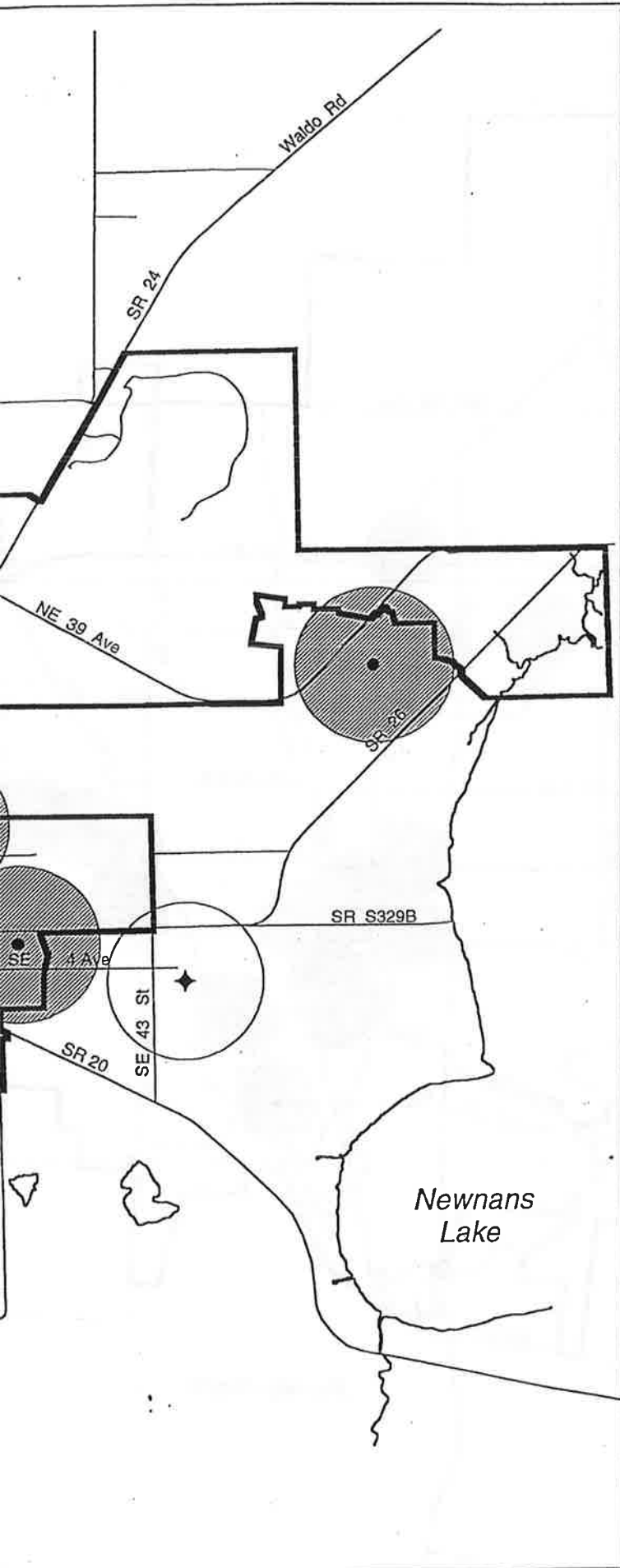


BASKETBALL COURTS

Legend

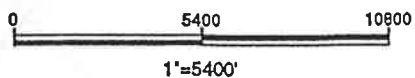
-  Basketball Courts (publicly accessible)
-  Basketball Courts (limited access)
-  1/2 Mile Service Radius

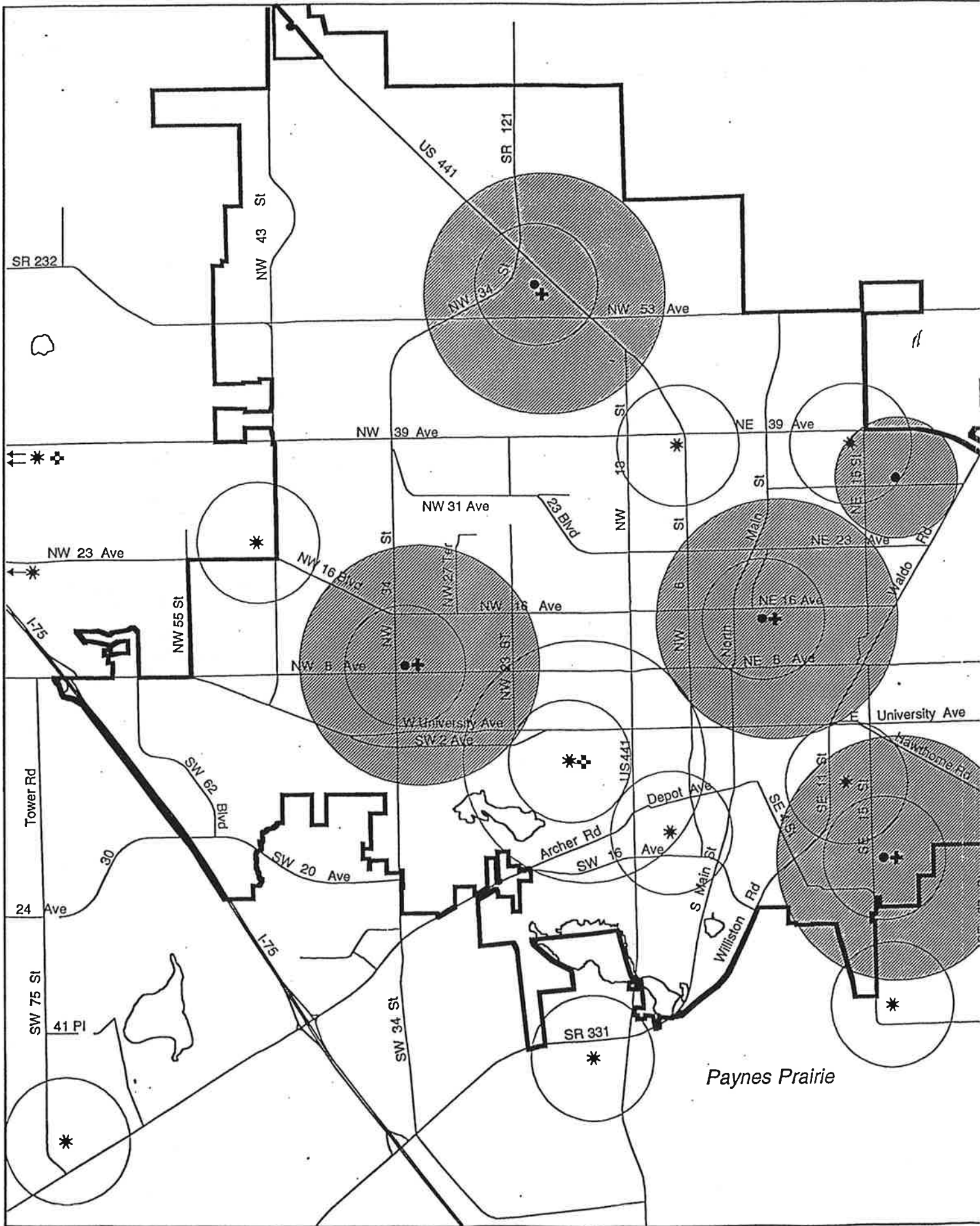
Notes: Basketball courts are also known as multi-purpose courts.



City of Gainesville Gainesville, Florida

Prepared by the
Department of Community Development
March 1999





Inventory of Private Recreational Facilities

Private parks and facilities are privately owned and restrict public access through use of seasonal or yearly membership fees or residence requirements. Table 3.5 provides a list of privately owned recreational facilities in the Gainesville urban area.

Table 3. Private Recreational Facilities in the Gainesville Urban Area

<u>Establishment</u>	<u>Facilities</u>
Gainesville Golf & Country Club 7300 SW 35th Way.	Golf, <u>Tennis</u>
Meadowbrook Golf Club 3096 NW 105th Blvd. 3200 NW 98th St	Golf
<u>Haile Plantation Golf & Country Club</u> 9905 SW 44th Ave.	<u>Golf</u>
Ironwood Golf Course 2100 NE 39th Ave.	Golf
West End Golf Course SR 26 & NW 127th St.	Golf
<u>Putt-Putt Golf & Games</u> 3535 SW 34th St.	<u>Miniature Golf</u>
Alley Katz Corner 3705 SW 42nd Ave.	Bowling, <u>Miniature Golf</u>
Palm Lanes 2606 NE Waldo Rd.	Bowling
Woodside D B Racquet Club 5100 NW 53rd Ave.	Tennis, Swimming, Racquetball
Three Hundred Club 3715 NW 12th Ave.	Tennis, Swimming
Gator Bumper Ball, Inc. 238 W. University Ave	Bumper Cars
<u>Skate Station</u> 751 NE 34th Place	<u>Skating Rink</u>
Kate's Restaurant And Fish Camp 6518 SE Hawthorne Rd.	Fishing, Canoeing
McGilvary Fish Camp 7406 SE 2nd Ave.	Fishing, Canoeing

Recreation Element
Data and Analysis

Downtown Executive Health Athletic Club 101 SE 2nd Pl.	Health Club
Fittin' In 810 E. University Ave.	Health Club
<u>Fit For Life Fitness Center</u> 618 NW 60th St.	<u>Health Club</u>
Florida Karate Center SW 2nd Ave.	Health Club
Gainesville Gym 203 NW 6th St.	Health Club
G-ville Health & Fitness Center <u>Fitness Connection For Women</u> 2441 NW 43rd Ave.	Health Club
G-ville Health & Fitness Center 3441 W. University Ave <u>4820 Newberry Rd.</u>	Health Club
<u>Gainesville Shim Shin-Do Institute of Self Defense Inc.</u> 602 NW 75th St	<u>Health Club</u>
G-ville Karate Tae Kwon Do 2807 NW 6th St.	Martial Arts
<u>Gold's Gym Aerobics & Fitness</u> 7230 W. University Ave.	<u>Health Club</u>
<u>Jazzercise Fitness Center</u> 3723 Newberry Rd.	<u>Health Club</u>
Let's Get Physical, Inc. 2100 SW 34th St.	Aerobics
<u>Orion Fitness</u> 3441 W. University Ave.	<u>Health Club</u>
Pete's University Gym 536 SW 2nd Ave.	Health Club
Power Plant 7230 W. University Ave.	Health Club
Knights of Columbus 1303 NE 23rd Ave.	Swimming
YMCA of Gainesville 5201 NW 34th St.	Swimming, Playgrounds, Ballfields, Picnic, Gym, Rec Center
Boys Club NW 2700 NW 51st St.	Ballfields, Basketball, Tennis, Swimming , Gym
Boys Club SE 1100 SE 17th Dr.	Ballfields, Basketball, Gym
<u>Diamond Sports</u> 4000 SW 122nd St.	<u>Ballfields</u>

Recreation Element
Data and Analysis

Girls Club 2101 NW 39th Ave.	Ballfields, Gym, Rec Center
Glidewell Stables 8301 NE Waldo Rd.	Horse Riding
Greathouse Farm/Equestrian Center 11004 SW 67th St.	Horse Riding
<u>Moon Lake Stud</u> <u>3005 NW 63rd St.</u>	<u>Horse Riding</u>
<u>Rockin' L Farms</u> <u>7410 NW 131st St.</u>	<u>Horse Riding</u>
Williamson Farm 1900 NW 98th St.	Horse Riding
Greenbriar Stable & Riding Academy 1801 1/2 NW 35th St.	Horse Riding

SOURCE: City of Gainesville, Department of Community Development, ~~September 1990~~ March 1999.

~~**Inventory of Private Recreational Facilities at Residential Complexes Outside of City Limits**~~

~~Table 6 provides a list of privately owned recreational facilities at residential complexes within the unincorporated Gainesville urban area.~~

ANALYSIS

ANALYSIS

~~CALCULATION OF PARK AND FACILITY DEFICIENCIES AND SURPLUSES~~

Planning Areas

Recreational facilities are assigned to one of two planning areas:

- * **Gainesville Urban Area**
- * **Quadrant**

"Urban Area" facilities and parks are those which, because they are few and so popular, are able to attract users from throughout the urban area. "Quadrant" facilities and parks are more widely dispersed, but tend to attract users from only a relatively small service radius (e.g., one or several neighborhoods).

Both of these geographic areas constitute service radii. Each radius is then used to calculate facility and park deficiencies. The more traditional service radius concept, which plots a circular radius around facilities, is retained as a device to determine the appropriate location of new facilities.

Map 13 shows the boundaries of the Gainesville ~~urban area and~~ city limits. The map also shows the four quadrants. ~~Quadrants contain the following city and county planning districts:~~

- * Southeast Quadrant = ~~PD 13, and county PD 13co.~~
- * Northeast Quadrant = ~~PDs 10, 11, 12, and county PDs 12co and 20co.~~
- * Northwest Quadrant = ~~PDs 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16a, 17a, 18, 19a, and county PDs 16co, 17co, 18co, and 19co.~~
- * Southwest Quadrant = ~~PDs 2, 14, 15, and county PDs 14co and 15co.~~

~~Map 14 shows the planning district boundaries of the Gainesville urban area.~~

~~For the purposes of calculating deficiencies and surpluses, all parks and facilities that allow public access and are found within the Gainesville urban area were inventoried. These parks and facilities were then applied to adopted level of service standards and the projected urban area wide and quadrant populations to determine deficiencies and surpluses.~~

~~PD 1 and PD 15~~ The Central City District (CCD) and the University of Florida receive somewhat different treatment within the Element. The CCD PD 1 population, because of its central location, is not incorporated in "quadrant-level" recreation analysis, as it is assumed that the small number of residents have equal and adequate access to all quadrants. However, facilities and parks within the CCD PD 1 are assigned to appropriate quadrants based on street address.

The area ~~PD 15 population~~, made up entirely of the campus of the University of Florida, will be treated in a manner similar to the CCD PD 1. Individuals living on campus (~~i.e., living in PD 15~~) shall not be counted in quadrant or urban area-wide population totals. This treatment is based upon the following assumptions:

- * The University is not amenable to City or County recreation/open space planning.
- * The University offers a wide range of recreation/open space amenities which often exceed the quantity, quality and diversity enjoyed by non-student residents and residents not employed by the University.
- * The University adequately provides for the recreation/open space needs of on-campus residents.
- * A large percentage of on-campus residents do not have sufficient transportation access to freely utilize many urban area facilities such as local nature parks, regional nature parks, sports complexes, and quadrant-level facilities.

However, Lake Alice on the University of Florida campus is considered a publicly accessible local nature park. (This facility would be classified as a regional nature park if there was more adequate public access.) The acreage of the Lake Alice site is therefore included in quadrant and urban area-wide park acreage calculations.

Level of Service Standards for Recreation

~~Each publicly accessible park and facility is inventoried for urban area wide and quadrant deficiency analysis. For the "urban area wide" analysis, deficiencies and surpluses are calculated for:~~

- ~~* 50 Meter Swimming Pools~~
- ~~* Sports Complex Parks~~
- ~~* Local Nature Parks~~

Recreation Element
Data and Analysis

For the "quadrant" analysis, ~~deficiencies and surpluses are calculated for:~~

* Community Parks	* 25 Yard Swimming Pools
* Softball Fields	* Trails/Linear Corridors/Greenways
* Soccer Fields	* Neighborhood Parks
* Basketball Courts	* Tennis Courts
* Racquetball Courts	

Note, however, that "quadrant" facilities are analyzed as "urban area wide" facilities until 1997.

Note also that, In addition to the level-of-service standards used to calculate deficiencies and surpluses, the following policies should be adhered to:

- * Both the sports-complex park and local nature park can be overlays to other park types.
- * All baseball fields, soccer fields, basketball courts, and tennis courts should be lighted when appropriate.
- * Existing facilities should be in no worse than "poor" condition.
- * Regionally significant rail-trails (at least 5 miles in length) and quadrant facilities built at a sports-complex can be used to satisfy deficiencies for any of the four quadrants, regardless of the quadrant within which the complex or trail is built.
- ~~* The southwest quadrant is exempt from the community park and 25 yard swimming pool standards.~~

The following assumptions were made in developing level-of-service standards for facilities and parks:

- ~~* Acquisition and development of public parks within the unincorporated urban area has lagged behind the residential development which has occurred in that area. Because very little park acquisition and development has occurred in the unincorporated urban area, residents living in this area are obligated to use parks within city limits. It is therefore assumed that unless or until such non-city residents are prohibited from using city parks, the recreation levels of service calculated in this Element should include both the unincorporated urban area population and recreational facilities.~~
- ~~* In instances where local levels of demand information exists such data shall be used to adjust the standards used. This shall be especially true in the years following the adoption of the Element.~~
- * The adopted standards are considered minimum standards, rather than ideal standards.

Variations in Level of Service Standards

The level of service (LOS) standards in the Recreation Element are in some instances not applicable to all city planning areas. Due to unique circumstances, the LOS standards proposed for certain planning areas differ from service levels that apply to the remainder of the city:

Planning Area:	Southwest Quadrant
Facility:	25 Yard Swimming Pool
Urban Area Standard:	1 pool per 50,000 people (1991)
Variation For This Area:	Exempt through 2001.

Justification

The southwest quadrant contains the University of Florida campus and a relatively large number of student apartment complexes. Both the campus and several complexes contain various outdoor recreational facilities used by on-campus students and residents of the off-campus complexes. These facilities often include swimming pools.

A 1986 Department of Community Development study examined 51 student apartment complexes in the southwest quadrant and found that 60 percent provided an on-site swimming pool. Another study conducted by Alachua County in 1990 (see Table 6) found 41 swimming pools provided by apartment complexes in the unincorporated urban area of southwest Gainesville. For these reasons, it can be assumed that the swimming pool needs of quadrant residents will be met for the foreseeable future.

However, while it can be assumed that the 25 yard pool needs of the three planning districts within the quadrant (one of which is the campus) are adequately met, consideration must be given to adopting a 25 yard pool LOS standard for the southwest in the event of an annexation of unincorporated areas near Lake Kanapaha. Such a consideration arises because further annexation to the southwest will include a relatively high proportion of non-students, and locations relatively remote from the campus.

Planning Area:	Southwest Quadrant
Facility:	Community Park
Urban Area Standard:	2 acres per 1,000 people
Variation For This Area:	Exempt through 2001 <u>2010</u> .

Justification

The southwest quadrant contains the University of Florida campus, which, because of its recreational facilities and large greenspaces, provides students and some residents of the southwest many of the amenities found at a community park. The campus contains a 100+ acre local nature park (Lake Alice), 5 basketball courts, 40 32 tennis courts, 30 15 racquetball courts, fourteen softball fields, 16 8 soccer

fields, an outdoor swimming pool, and several picnic and trail facilities. For these reasons, it can be assumed that the community park needs of quadrant residents will be met for the foreseeable future.

However, while it can be assumed that the community park needs of the three planning districts within the quadrant (one of which is the campus) are adequately met by the campus, consideration must be given to adopting a community park LOS standard for the southwest in the event of an annexation of unincorporated areas near Lake Kanapaha. Such a consideration arises because further annexation to the southwest will include a relatively high proportion of non-students, and locations relatively remote from the campus.

Calculated Deficiencies and Surpluses for Planning Areas

As noted above, calculations of deficiencies and surpluses include both the city and unincorporated urban area population.

Urban Area Deficiencies and Surpluses

Deficiencies and surpluses are calculated for two types of "urban area" parks (i.e., local nature and sports complex parks), and one type of facility (50 meter swimming pools). Until 1997, urban area needs were also calculated for community parks, neighborhood parks, softball and soccer fields, 25-yard pools, trails, basketball courts, tennis courts, and racquetball courts. Existing supply, and projected deficiencies and surpluses for urban area park acres and facilities are presented in Table 7.

Active Urban Area Parks and Facilities

There is no existing and developed sports-complex park in the urban area. The recent acquisition of 72 67.3 active acres at near Boulware Springs, however, is assumed to be suitable for the development of a sports-complex.

Table 7

Urban Area Passive Parks and the Emerald Necklace

There is a substantial amount of regional park acreage in the Gainesville urban area. Much of this acreage is either not developed for public use or provides only limited access. One of the principal functions of the "Emerald Necklace" would be to provide better access between these large regional parks (or "gems") and other areas.

There was no local nature park classification in the 1980 Comprehensive Plan. The local nature park is primarily designed to provide and improve public access to environmentally significant open space. Presently, there are ~~six~~ seven publicly-accessible sites which, because they are developed to accommodate passive recreation, qualify for this classification. Those that are not developed for recreation are designated as public conservation areas. ~~The 1997 deficiency for local nature parks (conservation areas) is 64 acres. If no such acreage is acquired by 2001, this deficiency will grow to 120 acres.~~

Quadrant Deficiencies and Surpluses

~~In 1997, level of service standards are to be revised to analyze deficiencies and surpluses (for quadrant facilities) on a quadrant by quadrant basis. Community parks and neighborhood parks will be quadrant-level parks. Quadrant facilities will include 25 yard swimming pools, baseball/softball fields, soccer/football fields, trails, basketball courts, tennis courts, and racquetball courts. Note from the above, however, that some of these facilities are analyzed as "urban area" facilities until 1997.~~

"Linear corridors," which are a special type of trail, can be considered the connecting strands of the Emerald Necklace since they often link the gems of the Necklace. Many radiate like "spokes" from the interior of the city (see Map 1). The corridors can provide transportation and recreational opportunities for non-motorized transportation modes such as walking, jogging, and bicycling. They can also provide for some degree of wildlife corridor access, where feasible. Through the use of features such as abandoned railroad rights-of-way, utility rights-of-way, and creek beds, corridors can link several active and passive parks. As a long-range objective, corridors should be developed to provide connections between residential, commercial, and industrial locations in a manner similar to the city's road network.

Southeast Quadrant

The southeast quadrant is the smallest of the four quadrants, ~~containing only planning districts 13 and 13e.~~ Because of the relatively low population, and the presence of T.B. McPherson Park and Lincoln/Williams school, there are adequate recreational facilities available ~~surpluses indicated for all quadrant facilities except racquetball courts.~~ However, many facilities need repair, and the facilities are probably too widely dispersed. This is of particular concern since socioeconomically depressed areas such as the southeast quadrant experience public facility inadequacies much more acutely than more affluent areas, where residents may have better access to private and semi-private recreational opportunities and non-local facilities.

In addition to repair and replacement of facilities, efforts to meet recreational needs within this quadrant should include an increase in staffing for facilities in combination with initiatives designed to encourage participation in recreational activities. Again, such measures are important as a result of the unique socioeconomic status of the quadrant. Table 4 & inventories recreational facilities in the southeast quadrant, and shows projected deficiencies and surpluses.

Southwest Quadrant

The southwest quadrant is unique among the four quadrants in that it contains both the University of Florida campus and a large concentration of student apartment complexes. These complexes typically provide various types of on-site recreational facilities for use by apartment residents. ~~As a result of access to campus and complex facilities, the southwest quadrant is exempt from the community park and 25-yard swimming pool level of service standards through 2001. (See also the "Variations in Level of Service Standards" section.)~~

There are no community parks within the city portion of this quadrant, and there is only one ~~recently acquired and undeveloped~~ community park (Forest Park) in the unincorporated area. Table 5 9 inventories recreational facilities in the southwest quadrant, and shows projected deficiencies and surpluses. ~~As the table indicates, there is a need for neighborhood park acres, softball fields, trails, basketball courts, tennis courts, and racquetball courts by 1997.~~

The southwest quadrant contains the University of Florida campus and a relatively large number of student apartment complexes. Both the campus and several complexes contain various outdoor recreational facilities used by on-campus students and residents of the off-campus complexes. These facilities often include swimming pools.

A 1986 Department of Community Development study examined 51 student apartment complexes in the southwest quadrant and found that 60 percent provided an on-site swimming pool. Another study conducted by Alachua County in 1990 found 41 swimming pools provided by apartment complexes in the unincorporated urban area of southwest Gainesville. Current apartment developments in the area indicate that pools continue to be a featured amenity. For these reasons, it can be assumed that the swimming pool needs of quadrant residents will be met for the foreseeable future.

The University, because of its recreational facilities and large greenspaces, provides students and some residents of the southwest many of the amenities found at a community park. The campus contains a 100+-acre local nature park (Lake Alice), 5 basketball courts, 40 32 tennis courts, 30 15 racquetball courts, fourteen softball fields, 16 8 soccer fields, an outdoor swimming pool, and several picnic and trail facilities. For these reasons, it can be assumed that the community park needs of quadrant residents will be met for the foreseeable future.

Table 4. Southeast Quadrant - Inventory

Park	Type	Owner	Acres	Active	Passive	Land	Water	Baseball/ Softball	Soccer	25yd Pool	Trails	Bkball Hoops	Tennis	R-ball
------	------	-------	-------	--------	---------	------	-------	-----------------------	--------	-----------	--------	-----------------	--------	--------

CITY LOCATION

Boulevard Springs	Community-U	City	103.30	67.30	36.00	103.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Community Plaza	Special	City	1.21	1.21	0.00	1.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hawthorne Rail Trail	Linear	State	17 mi	17 mi	0.00	17 mi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.70	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lincoln/Williams	Neigh'd	SBAC-P	28.70	28.70	0.00	28.70	0.00	2.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
Lynch	Mini	City	1.40	1.40	0.00	1.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mini Park #02	Mini	City	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mini Park #05	Mini	City	0.60	0.60	0.00	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
WA #1	Neigh'd	City	3.80	3.00	0.80	3.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
T.B. McPherson	Community	City	15.00	15.00	0.00	15.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	2.00
Williams Elementary	Neigh'd	SBAC	3.80	3.80	0.00	3.80	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
Woodland	Neigh'd	City	5.31	5.31	0.00	5.31	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00

COUNTY LOCATION

Paynes Prairie	Regional	State	19728.20	0.00	19728.20	19353.61	374.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Prairie Creek Park	Regional	WMD	202.50	0.00	202.50	202.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Prairie View Elem.	Neigh'd	SBAC	5.50	5.50	0.00	5.50	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00

TOTALS:

20099.82	132.32	19967.50	19725.23	374.56	7.00	9.00	1.00	3.70	13.00	6.00	2.00
----------	--------	----------	----------	--------	------	------	------	------	-------	------	------

Community Park Total	82.30
Neighborhood Park Total	46.31

* SBAC schools are not officially considered public parks. Such schools provide only limited public access for recreation. This access is typically during evenings & weekends, and only when not in use for SBAC programs. They are inventoried solely for the purpose of determining neighborhood-level recreational levels-of-service.

Table 5. Southwest Quadrant - Inventory

Park	Type	Owner	Acres	Active	Passive	Land	Water	Baseball/ Softball	Soccer	25yd Pool	Trails	Bkball Hoops	Tennis	R-ball
CITY LOCATION														
Audubon Goldclough	L. Nature	Private	38.00	0.00	38.00	26.40	11.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bivens Arm Nature	L. Nature	City	56.00	0.00	56.00	14.00	42.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Coldough Nature Park	Conservation	City	4.96	0.00	4.96	3.46	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Green Acres	Neigh'd	City	37.03	20.03	17.00	37.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lake Alice	L. Nature	State	120.00	0.00	120.00	10.00	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mini Park #07	Mini	City	0.20	0.20	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tumblin Creek	Neigh'd	City	4.18	4.18	0.00	4.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.50	4.00	0.00	0.00
University of Florida	Special	State	355.70	282.30	73.40	355.70	0.00	4.00	8.00	0.00	2.50	5.00	32.00	15.00
Yonge (P.K.)	Neigh'd	State	12.70	12.70	0.00	12.70	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	0.00
COUNTY LOCATION														
Forest Park	Community-U	County	24.70	24.70	0.00	24.70	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gainesville Golf	Special	Private	140.00	140.00	0.00	140.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00
Idylwild Elementary	Neigh'd	SBAC	11.70	11.70	0.00	11.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
Kanap. Addition (Davis et al)	Conservation	City	20.50	0.00	20.50	20.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kanapaha Botanical	L. Nature	County	62.00	0.00	62.00	62.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kanapaha Park	Community-U	County	23.00	23.00	0.00	23.00	0.00	1.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
Lake Kanapaha	Conservation	County	453.37	0.00	453.37	150.00	303.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Squirrel Ridge	Community	County	16.80	16.80	0.00	16.80	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sugarfoot Hammock	Conservation	City	333.00	0.00	333.00	333.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Wiles Elementary	Neigh'd	SBAC	6.92	6.92	0.00	6.92	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS:			1720.76	542.53	1178.23	1252.29	488.47	6.00	15.00	0.00	9.50	17.00	37.00	15.00
Community Park			64.50											
Neighborhood Park			72.53											

* SBAC schools are not officially considered public parks. Such schools provide only limited public access for recreation. This access is typically during evenings & weekends, and only when not in use for SBAC programs. They are inventoried solely for the purpose of determining neighborhood-level recreational levels-of-service.

Northwest Quadrant

The northwest quadrant is the most affluent of the four quadrants, and contains the largest residential population and acreage. Table 6 inventories recreational facilities in the northwest quadrant. and will see the largest absolute increase in residential population (approximately 12,000 additional people) between 1991 and 2001.

By 1997, the quadrant will be deficient in soccer fields, baseball/softball fields, trails, neighborhood parks, basketball courts, and racquetball courts (see Table 10). In addition, a 25 yard swimming pool will be needed by 2001.

The quadrant contains the "ecological backbone" of the community; namely, the Hogtown Creek system. Recently, there has been a significant increase in Public access along this creek corridor has increased due to as a result of the acquisition and development of Ring Park. When combined with the possible public acquisition of Glen Springs and efforts to protect or acquire properties throughout the Hogtown and other creek systems, the City is well on its way to developing an interconnected greenway trail network for public access and ecological enhancement in this quadrant and others.

On March 17, 1998, a charter amendment was approved by City voters that would not allow paving of the Hogtown Creek Greenway. Because of confusion concerning the language in the amendment, it has been suggested that the proposal could actually prevent the City from doing any paving in the Hogtown Creek Watershed, including roads, sidewalks, tennis courts or basketball courts. The Hogtown Creek Watershed generally includes the entire western half of Gainesville, including the currently vacant Possum Creek Park. This increases the difficulty in improving recreation levels of service, particularly in the northwest quadrant.

Because most of the growth in the community is occurring in the western half of the City, there is more pressure on the recreation facilities that currently exist in the area, such as Westside Park. The ability to develop Possum Creek Park would ease some of the pressure and improve levels of service in the area.

Table 6. Northwest Quadrant - Inventory

Park	Type	Owner	Acres	Active	Passive	Land	Water	Baseball/ Softball	Soccer	25yd Pool	Trails	Bkball Hoops	Tennis	R-ball
CITY LOCATION														
A.N.N.E.	Mini	City	0.91	0.91	0.00	0.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
AQ Jones Sch	Neigh'd	SBAC	4.41	4.41	0.00	4.41	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
Finley Elementary	Neigh'd	SBAC	17.00	17.00	0.00	17.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
Gainesville High	Neigh'd	SBAC	8.10	8.10	0.00	8.10	0.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Glen Springs Elementary	Neigh'd	SBAC	8.80	8.80	0.00	8.80	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
Green Tree	Community-U	City	21.00	21.00	0.00	21.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
HG#2	Conservation	City	11.21	0.00	11.21	11.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hogtown Creek Greenway	Conservation	City	484.00	0.00	484.00	484.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kiwanis	Mini	City	2.30	2.30	0.00	2.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Littlewood Elementary	Neigh'd	SBAC	7.00	7.00	0.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
Loblolly Env Educ Fac	Local Nature	City	108.00	0.00	108.00	108.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mini Park #03	Mini	City	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mini Park #04	Mini	City	0.18	0.18	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mini Park #06	Mini	City	0.40	0.40	0.00	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
Mini Park #09	Mini	City	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
NW-#1 Springtree	Neigh'd	City	4.00	4.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Northside	Community-U	City	34.50	34.50	0.00	34.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	4.00
Norton Elementary	Neigh'd	SBAC	4.50	4.50	0.00	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
Oak Hill	Mini	City	0.27	0.27	0.00	0.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Possum Creek	Community-U	City	80.00	40.00	40.00	80.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ring Park	L. Nature	City	19.26	0.00	19.26	19.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rosa Williams	Neigh'd	City	0.90	0.90	0.00	0.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
Sharmie Ffar Park	Neigh'd	City	0.73	0.73	0.00	0.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
Sidney Lanier Center	Neigh'd	SBAC	7.30	7.30	0.00	7.30	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
Stephen Foster Elementary	Neigh'd	SBAC	9.80	9.80	0.00	9.80	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.00	0.00
Stephen Foster Mini	Mini	Private	1.41	1.41	0.00	1.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
Terwilliger Elementary	Neigh'd	SBAC	7.70	7.70	0.00	7.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
Terwilliger Pond	Conservation	County	24.00	0.00	24.00	20.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Westside	Community	City	26.30	26.30	0.00	26.30	0.00	3.00	0.00	1.00	1.50	4.00	8.00	4.00
Westwood Middle Sch	Neigh'd	SBAC	8.00	8.00	0.00	8.00	0.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00

Table 6. Northwest Quadrant - Inventory

Park	Type	Owner	Acres	Active	Passive	Land	Water	Baseball/ Softball	Soccer	25yd Pool	Trails	Bkball Hoops	Tennis	R-ball
COUNTY LOCATION														
Buchholz High	Neigh'd	SBAC	17.60	17.60	0.00	17.60	0.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Devil's Millhopper	Regional	State	259.00	0.00	259.00	259.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ft. Clarke Middle Sch	Neigh'd	SBAC	14.10	14.10	0.00	14.10	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
Hiddén Oak Elementary	Neigh'd	SBAC	7.00	7.00	0.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
San Felasco Hammock	Regional	State	6010.46	0.00	6010.46	6010.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
Santa Fe CC	Special	State	20.00	20.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	4.00	1.00	8.00	8.00
Talbot Elementary	Neigh'd	SBAC	6.60	6.60	0.00	6.60	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS:			7237.67	281.94	6955.93	7233.87	4.00	19.00	9.00	1.00	8.75	49.00	23.00	16.00
	Community Park					121.80								
	Neighborhood Park					133.54								

* SBAC schools are not officially considered public parks. Such schools provide only limited public access for recreation. This access is typically during evenings & weekends, and only when not in use for SBAC programs. They are inventoried solely for the purpose of determining neighborhood-level recreational levels-of-service.

Northeast Quadrant

Because of the existence of several schools, as well as the Young American, Northeast, Morningside, and Copeland Settlement parks, there is a surplus of several quadrant facilities. ~~By 1997, however, this quadrant will need additional softball fields (see Table 7-11).~~

Allocating Deficiencies to Planning Areas

After raw park and facility deficiencies are calculated for each planning area, such deficiencies must be allocated to projects. Projects include: (a) generalized areas where new park acreage must be acquired to correct acreage deficiencies (and in most cases, deficient facilities that are to be built at the new park site); and (b) existing parks with excess acreage available and suitable for the building of deficient facilities.

Table 7. Northeast Quadrant - Inventory

Park	Type	Owner	Acres	Active	Passive	Land	Water	Baseball/ Softball	Soccer	Trails	Bkball Hoops	Tennis	R-ball
CITY LOCATION													
Archery Range	Special	City	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bishop Middle Sch	Neigh'd	SBAC	8.00	8.00	0.00	8.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
Citizen	Community	City	31.00	31.00	0.00	31.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cone	Neigh'd	City	90.00	28.00	62.00	90.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
Duval Elementary	Neigh'd	SBAC	8.20	8.20	0.00	8.20	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
Gum Root Swamp	Conservation	City	741.00	0.00	741.00	631.00	110.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hatchet Creek	Conservation	City	6.00	0.00	6.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kirby Smith	Neigh'd	SBAC	4.00	4.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Metcalfe Elementary	Neigh'd	SBAC	9.70	9.70	0.00	9.70	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
Mini Park #01	Mini	City	1.02	1.02	0.00	1.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
Mini Park #08	Mini	Private	0.15	0.15	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mini Park #10	Mini	City	0.25	0.25	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mini Park #11 Cedar Grove	Mini	City	1.10	1.10	0.00	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mini Park #12	Mini	City	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Morningside Nature	Local Nature	City	277.59	0.00	277.59	277.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
NE Liason Center	Neigh'd	City	0.53	0.53	0.00	0.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
NE 31st Avenue	Neigh'd	City	1.40	1.40	0.00	1.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	2.00	0.00
Northeast	Community	City	23.20	23.20	0.00	23.20	0.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Palm Point	Conservation	City	16.10	0.00	16.10	4.59	11.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rawlings Elementary	Neigh'd	SBAC	18.00	18.00	0.00	18.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Roper Open Space	Mini	City	1.50	1.50	0.00	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smokey Bear	Neigh'd	City	4.50	4.50	0.00	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sweetwater/Math Gway	Linear	City	1 mi	1 mi	0.00	1 mi	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Thelma Boltin Center	Neigh'd	City	1.02	1.02	0.00	1.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Thomas Center Gardens	Special	City	6.20	6.20	0.00	6.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Waldo Rail Trail	Linear	State	8 mi	8 mi	0.00	8 mi	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Rec.xls4(NEQUAD)

SOURCE: City of Gainesville, Department of Community Development, September 2000.

Revised: 10/5/00

Table 7. Northeast Quadrant - Inventory

Park	Type	Owner	Acres	Active	Passive	Land	Water	Baseball/ Softball	Soccer	25yd Pool	Trails	Bkball Hoops	Tennis	R-ball
COUNTY LOCATION														
Copeland Settlement	Neigh'd	County	5.00	5.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
East Side High	Neigh'd	SBAC	29.00	29.00	0.00	29.00	0.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00
Ironwood Golf Club	Special	City	122.00	122.00	0.00	122.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lake Forest Elementary	Neigh'd	SBAC	11.80	11.80	0.00	11.80	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
Newman's Lake	Special	County	6339.68	6339.68	0.00	11.68	6328.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS:			7858.44	6755.75	1102.69	1408.93	6449.51	11.00	7.00	1.00	19.50	30.00	9.00	4.00
Community Park						54.20								
Neighborhood Park						129.15								

NOTES:

* SBAC schools are not officially considered public parks. Such schools provide only limited public access for recreation. This access is typically during evenings & weekends, and only when not in use for SBAC programs. They are inventoried solely for the purpose of determining neighborhood-level recreational levels-of-service.

When allocating deficiencies to projects, it is important to minimize service radius overlap from existing parks and facilities. Also, allocations should: (a) avoid locating parks and facilities on land not suitable for particular types of parks or facilities; (b) avoid locating parks and facilities in locations that are separated from neighborhoods by barriers such as major roads; and (c) avoid locating parks and facilities without the prior consent of adjacent residents and landowners. See also the "Supplemental Park and Facility Design Considerations" section.

Prioritizing Improvements for the CIP

After deficiencies of parks, facilities, and programs are calculated, a plan should be is proposed to correct those deficiencies. Since the City is generally not able to finance all deficiencies in the upcoming fiscal budget cycle, a prioritized capital improvements program (CIP) is needed to phase in recreation improvements over a longer period of time (usually 5-6 years). The following criteria are used to prioritize park and facility deficiencies:

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.

SCORING

<u>Criterion</u>	<u>Points</u>
1. Degree of Deficiency	
* Largest Absolute Deficiency.....	1
* Lowest Current Level of Service	1
2. Proximity to Similar Facilities	1
3. Program Dependency	2
4. Park Reclassification.....	1
5. Urban Area Deficiency	4
6. Recent Park Acquisition	-5

Each facility deficiency is assigned to a project (either an existing park or a to-be-acquired park). Each park and facility deficiency is then scored using the criteria and scoring system described above. Projects, which contain facilities with high scores, are given a higher priority than those with lower scores. For projects in which the highest scoring facility receive the same score, that project with the highest sum total score for all deficient facilities is given the higher priority. If projects remain tied in score after such summation, the following criteria shall be used to prioritize (in decreasing order of importance):

- * AREAS WHERE THE CITY ENCOURAGES REDEVELOPMENT
- * HIGH RESIDENTIAL DENSITY
- * LONG-STANDING DEFICIENCY
- * REVENUE-GENERATING POTENTIAL FOR THE CITY
- * PROXIMITY TO ACTIVITY CENTER
- * HIGH RECREATIONAL MULTIPLE-USE POTENTIAL

Those projects, which are ranked most highly by the criteria, are phased in over the first few years of the CIP.

Example

Project #1

<u>Deficient Facility</u>	<u>Points</u>
Soccer Field	9
Tennis Court.....	2
TOTAL	11

Project #2

<u>Deficient Facility</u>	<u>Points</u>
Swimming Pool.....	7
Softball Field.....	6
TOTAL	13

Project #3

<u>Deficient Facility</u>	<u>Points</u>
Soccer Field	7
Basketball Court.....	5
TOTAL	12

Of the three projects in the above example, Project #1 is given the highest priority even though the other two projects receive more total points. Such a ranking is due to the soccer field, which is the facility with the highest score of any of the facilities listed for the three projects. Project #2 is given a higher priority than Project #3, even though the highest scoring facility for each project has received the same score (7 points). Such a ranking is due to the higher total score received by Project #2 (13 points) than by Project #3 (12 points).

Park and Facility Substitution

It is possible that a LOS standard for a recreational facility will result in facility deficiencies in certain planning areas, which do not have vacant land sufficient to accommodate such a facility. For example, a quadrant may need 15 acres of neighborhood park, 3 tennis courts and 2 racquetball courts. However, this hypothetical quadrant may contain an insufficient amount of vacant land to accommodate a new neighborhood park.

In addition, socioeconomic and age differences between ~~neighborhoods~~ ~~planning areas~~ often mean differences in recreational facility preferences between ~~neighborhoods~~ ~~planning areas~~. For example, a neighborhood may prefer 4 tennis courts, rather than the 2 tennis courts and 2 basketball courts called for by the LOS standards (or they may prefer a passive park rather than an active park).

Both of the above problems indicate a need for a mechanism to increase the flexibility of LOS standards without abandoning the benefits of such quantitative standards. There are two broad areas of flexibility:

PARK SUBSTITUTION

Used when needed park land is unavailable in a ~~quadrant~~ neighborhood, or when residents prefer a type of park other than a neighborhood park.

FACILITY SUBSTITUTION

Used when a determination is made that residents of one or several neighborhoods prefer recreational facility improvements that differ from what is called for by LOS standards.

Park Substitution

In certain ~~quadrants~~ neighborhoods, a determination may be made that the area does not contain acreage suitable and available for a new neighborhood park.

In the event that a ~~quadrant~~ neighborhood does not contain suitable and available land for a new neighborhood park, or when residents desire another park type, the following alternatives are considered sufficient to meet neighborhood park acreage needs within a ~~quadrant~~ the area:

- * **Nature Center**
One center for every 10 acres of neighborhood park.
- * **Recreation (or Cultural) Center**
One center for every 10 acres of neighborhood park and 16 facility units (see below for discussion of units).
- * **Mini-Park**
1.5 acres of mini-park for every acre of neighborhood park.
- * **Botanical (or Vegetable) Garden**
1.5 acres of garden for every acre of neighborhood park deficiency.
- * **Local Nature Park**
One acre of nature park for every acre of neighborhood park deficiency. However, nature park must contain at least one acre of land outside of floodprone areas and suitable for development as determined by the City Manager or designee.

Facility Substitution

There are instances where LOS standards will indicate a deficiency for certain recreational facilities, yet the quadrant may not have the acreage or desire by its population to accommodate the new facilities. These are instances where:

- * The quadrant neighborhood does not have enough unused space at existing parks to accommodate facility deficiencies, yet meets park acreage standards;
- * The quadrant neighborhood does not have suitable and available vacant acreage to acquire for siting the new facilities; or
- * One or several neighborhoods to be served by a new neighborhood park express a desire to be served by facilities other than those called for by the Recreation Element.

The following alternatives are considered sufficient to meet facility deficiencies within a quadrant:

- * The construction of the needed facility at an SBAC school within the deficient quadrant, and appropriate joint-use agreements secured by the City from SBAC;
- * Developing a joint agreement between the City and SBAC for increased public access to existing school facilities within the deficient quadrant; or
- * Basketball, tennis and racquetball court deficiencies exchanged for different facilities (for example, two volleyball courts may be preferred over 2 tennis courts). Neighborhoods can also request a different mix of these three facilities. (For example, 2 tennis courts and 2 racquetball courts may be preferred over 4 basketball courts.)

For neighborhoods seeking different types or mixes of facilities not called for by the Recreation Element, the list of facilities below can be substituted. Each facility is assigned a "substitution unit" based on the relative cost to build the facility. (One unit is worth approximately \$25,000.)

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Substitution Units</u>
Basketball Court.....	0.5
Tennis Court.....	1.0
Racquetball Court	1.0
Volleyball Court.....	0.2
Picnic/Pavilion/Playground	0.8
Mulched Trail (1 mile).....	0.2
Interpretive Pavilion.....	1.0
Recreation Center.....	20.0
Boardwalk Trail (1/2 mile)	4.8
Picnic Area.....	0.4

Condition of City Recreation Facilities

The City of Gainesville uses six classifications to define the condition of facilities:

- "E" Excellent. New or original. ~~cannot be improved upon.~~
- "G" Good. May show signs of use; otherwise close to excellent.
- "F" Fair. Shows definite signs of use, but no repairs are needed.
- "P" Poor. In use, but minor repairs will make item more useable; or not in use, but needs minor repair.
- "M" Major Repair. Major repairs are needed. It is not now usable, but is repairable.
- "N" Not Repairable. Disposal is recommended for facilities in this condition.

These classifications are part of the City recreational facility inventory, and are used to determine when facilities require repair. The Gainesville Recreation Element requires that City facilities be maintained in at least "poor" condition. An annual assessment of facility conditions is required prior to adoption of the annual CIP.

An inventory of the condition of city-owned facilities is shown in Table 8 12. ~~Currently, only the restrooms at the Archery Range are in worse than "poor" condition.~~

Table 8. Condition of City Recreation Facilities

Park	Address	Type of Park	Bsktball	Cdn	Tennis	Cdn	R-ball	Cdn	Hardball	Cdn	Softball	Cdn	Soccer	Cdn	Pool	Cdn	Playgrd	Cdn	Picnic	Cdn	Trail	Cdn	Restrm	Cdn	Rec	Cdn	Lighted	Cdn	Inventory
Boulevard Springs	3500 Blk. SE 15th St.	Community-U	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	E	0	Y	E	0	0	Y	G	10/29/90	
Citizen	1400 NE 8th Ave	Community	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	F	50	F	0	0	3	F	0	Y	G	0	0	Y	G	9/3/86	
Green Tree	1900 NW 39th Ave.	Community-U	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	G	0	0	0	0	1	F	5	F	0	Y	F	0	0	Y	G	9/24/86	
Northeast	400 NE 16th Ave.	Community	0	4	E	4	F	2	F	1	F	1	F	0	0	0	1	F	8	G	2.5	G	Y	G	0	Y	G	9/3/86	
Northside	NW 34th St & US 441	Community-U	0	4	?	4	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	Y	?	?	?	Y	?	10/29/90	
Possam Creek	4000 blk NW 53 Ave	Community-U	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	N	0	0	N		11/4/87	
T.B. McPherson	1717 SE 15th St	Community	4	F	4	F	0	0	2	F	0	2	F	0	25	E	1	E	15	E	0	Y	F	1	E	Y	G	10/29/90	
Westside	1001 NW 34 St	Community	1	G	8	F	4	F	1	G	2	F	0	50	G	1	F	16	G	1.5	F	Y	F	1	E	Y	G	9/15/86	
Bivens Arm Nature	3650 S. Main St.	Local Nature	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	E	1.5	E	Y	E	0	Y	G	9/8/86	
Lobolly Env Educ Facility	3300 blk NW 5th Ave	Local Nature	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	?	?	Y	?	?	1	N			
Morningside Nature	3540 E. University Ave.	Local Nature	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	E	8	E	Y	G	0	N		9/5/86	
Ring Park	2000 NW 16th Ave	Local Nature	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	E	0.5	E	N	0	0	N		10/29/90	
Coldough Nature Park	2600 S. Main Street	Conservation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	N	0	0	N		10/2/90	
Gum Root Swamp	1300 Block	Conservation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	N	0	0	N		9/5/86	
HG #1	2400 NW 8th Ave	Conservation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	N	0	0	N		12/22/87	
HG #2	2219 NW 34th St	Conservation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	N	0	0	N		6/13/88	
HG #3	5200 NW 2nd Ave	Conservation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	N	0	0	N		9/26/86	
Hatchet Creek	SR 24 S of NE 49th Rd.	Conservation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	N	0	0	N		9/22/86	
Palm Point	Newnan's Lake	Conservation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	N	0	0	N		9/30/86	
Sweetwater/Math Gway	NE Boulevard	Greenway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	N.A.	N	0	0	N		8/23/90	
Hogtown Creek	Hogtown Creek	Greenway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	N	0	0	N		2/17/95	
Depot Rail-Trail	Depot Ave	Greenway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	E/N.A.	N	0	0	N		2/17/95	
Waldo Rail-Trail	Waldo Road	Greenway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	E	N	0	0	N		2/17/95	
A.N.N.E.	6244 N.W. 28th Terr.	Mini	1	G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	G	3	G	0	N	N	0	0	N		8/3/86	
Grandmother's	405 SW 5th Ave	Mini	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	N	0	0	N			
Kiwanis	NW 8th St & 8th Ave	Mini	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	F	12	F	0	N	N	0	0	N		9/3/86	
Lynch Mem Garden	450 S. Main St	Mini	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	G	0	N	N	0	0	N		9/3/86	
Mini Park #01	NE 15th St & 4th Ave.	Mini	2	G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	P	0	0	0	N	N	0	0	N		9/5/86	
Mini Park #02	SE 9th St & 8th Ave.	Mini	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	P	3	P	0	N	N	0	0	N		7/15/86	
Mini Park #03	510 NW 2nd St.	Mini	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	F	3	F	0	N	N	0	0	N		9/3/86	
Mini Park #04	424 NW 6th Ave	Mini	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	F	0	0	0	N	N	0	0	N		9/3/86	
Mini Park #05	1352 SE 2nd St	Mini	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	F	0	0	0	N	N	0	0	N		9/3/86	
Mini Park #06	NW 31st Pl & 20th St.	Mini	1	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	F	1	P	0	N	N	0	0	N		7/15/86	
Mini Park #07	320 SW 7th Pl.	Mini	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	F	0	0	0	N	N	0	0	N		9/24/86	
Mini Park #09	820 NW 4th Ave	Mini	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	F	0	0	0	N	N	0	0	N		9/3/86	
Mini Park #10	1110 NE 25th St.	Mini	2	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	N	0	0	N		9/3/86	
Mini Park #11	1151 NE 21 St	Mini	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	N	0	0	N		9/5/86	
Mini Park #12	2445 NE 12 Ave	Mini	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	N	0	0	N		7/20/88	
																													10/25/89

Table 8. Condition of City Recreation Facilities

Park	Address	Type of Park	Bsktball	Cdn	Tennis	Cdn	R-ball	Cdn	Hardball	Cdn	Softball	Cdn	Soccer	Cdn	Pool	Cdn	Playgrd	Cdn	Picnic	Cdn	Trail	Cdn	Restrm	Cdn	Rec	Cdn	Lighted	Cdn	Inventory
Oak Hill	NW 9th St. & NW 42nd Ave	Mini	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N		9/24/86	
Roper Open Space	NE 2nd St. & NE 4th Ave.	Mini	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	G	0	0	0	0	0	N		9/3/86	
Green Acres	SW 6th Pl. & 40th St.	Neigh'd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N		10/29/90	
NE Liaison Center	1701 NE 8th Ave.	Neigh'd	2	G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Y	G	1	G	N		10/29/90
NE 31st Avenue	NE 31st Ave. & 17th Terr.	Neigh'd	2	F	2	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N		9/3/86	
NW #1	2730 NW 39th Ave	Neigh'd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N		7/20/88	
Rosa Williams	524 NW 1st St. & 6th Ave.	Neigh'd	4	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	F	0	0	0	0	0	1	E	Y	E	10/29/90	
Sharmie Ffar Park	321 NW 10th Street	Neigh'd	1	G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	G	4	G	0	0	Y	G	1	G	N		10/29/90
Smokey Bear	2600 NE 15th St.	Neigh'd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	F	6	F	0	0	0	0	0	N		9/3/86	
Thelma Bollin Center	516 NE 2nd Ave.	Neigh'd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	G	0	0	Y	F	1	G	N		9/3/86
Tumblin Creek	SW 6th St. & Depot Ave.	Neigh'd	4	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	G	8	G	1.5	G	0	0	0	Y	G		9/3/86
WA #1	900 blk SE 5th Ave	Neigh'd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N			
Woodlawn	1900 SE 4th St.	Neigh'd	4	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	P	0	1	P	0	1	P	4	G	0	0	0	0	0	0	Y	G	7/15/86
Cone	2601 E. University Ave.	Neigh'd	4	P	0	0	0	0	1	G	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	P	7	P	0	0	0	0	0	Y	G		9/5/86
Archery Range	Off State Rd. 24 - Airport	Special	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	F	0	0	Y	M	0	N		9/3/86	
Community Plaza	101 E. University Ave.	Special	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Y	G	0	Y	G		9/3/86
Thomas Center Cultrl	306 NE 6 th Ave	Special	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Y	G	0	Y	G		9/3/86

Key:

- "E" = Excellent. New or original; cannot be improved upon.
- "G" = Good. May show signs of use; otherwise close to excellent.
- "F" = Fair. Shows definite signs of use, but no repairs are needed.
- "P" = Poor. In use, but minor repairs will make item more useable; or not in use, but needs minor repair.
- "M" = Major Repair. Major repairs are needed. It is not now usable, but is repairable.
- "N" = Not Repairable. Disposal is recommended for facilities in this condition.

Undeveloped Parks

There are several city-, county-, or state-owned park properties within the Gainesville urban area that are largely or wholly undeveloped. For many of these properties, there are no plans for recreational improvements. This list shows the current status of undeveloped city park properties.

Table 9. Undeveloped/Underdeveloped City Parks

PARK	PARK TYPE	OWNER	STATUS
<u>1. Palm Point</u>	Local Nature**	City	<u>City Plan</u>
<u>2. Hatchet Creek</u>	Local Nature**	City	<u>None</u>
<u>3. Possum Creek</u>	Community	City	<u>None</u>
<u>4. Clear Lake</u>	Local Nature**	City	<u>None</u>
<u>5. Young American Expansion</u>	Local Nature**	City	<u>None</u>
<u>6. Boulware Springs</u>	Community/Special	City	<u>Under Construction Complete</u>
<u>7. Waldo Road Rail</u>	Linear Corridor	State	<u>None Complete</u>
<u>8. Greentree</u>	Community	City	<u>None</u>
<u>9. Conant (Colclough Pond)</u>	Local Nature**	City	<u>None</u>
<u>10. Green Acre</u>	Neighborhood	City	<u>None</u>
<u>11. Hogtown Greenway (8th Ave)</u>	Local Nature**	City	<u>None</u>
<u>12. Lake Kanapaha</u>	Community/Regional	City County	<u>None</u>
<u>13. Hawthorne Rail</u>	Linear Corridor	State	<u>State Plan Complete</u>
<u>14. San Felasco Villas County</u>	Regional	County	<u>None</u>
<u>15. N.W. 34th St. Floodplain</u>	Local Nature**	City	<u>None</u>
<u>16. Springtree</u>	Neighborhood	City	<u>None</u>

** These properties are classified as public "conservation areas" unless or until they are developed to accommodate passive recreation, in which case they will be classified as "local nature parks".

SOURCE: City of Gainesville, Department of Community Development. ~~June 1990~~ March 1999.

FUNDING AND DESIGNING THE PROJECTS IDENTIFIED BY THE ELEMENT

Introduction

From ~~1980~~ 1990 through ~~1989~~ 1998, the Alachua County and /Gainesville metropolitan statistical area has ~~ve~~ experienced ~~23 percent and 5~~ a growth rate of 16.4 percent ~~growth respectively~~. As this growth continues, revenues in excess of what has been allocated for recreation capital improvements over the past several years will be required to meet the recreational needs identified in this Element.

~~In 1992, state law will preclude the issuance of development permits within the city which result in a lowering of the levels of service below adopted recreation standards. Therefore, any needs generated by a proposed residential development that are not met through existing excess capacity must be met either by the developer or the City.~~

In order for the City to build new facilities, existing and creative financing mechanisms will have to be used more effectively. ~~Some of the newer or more appropriate tools~~ Mechanisms (existing or potential) include general fund allocations, impact fees, user fees, and taxes earmarked for recreation and trusts. General fund and private expenditure are discussed below.

General Funding of Facilities by the Public Sector

~~Over the past 15~~ In recent ~~fiscal~~ years, the Recreation & Parks Department has relied almost entirely upon general fund expenditures to cover its capital and operating expenses. This has resulted in severe constraints on the City's ability to build new facilities, and to operate and maintain existing facilities. Not surprisingly, Figures ~~2~~ 1 and ~~3~~ 2 reveal that Gainesville's recreation expenditures are lower than those of comparable cities, according to a study completed by Florida State University and the state Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Parks and Recreation, 1997.

Recreational opportunities are critical to the quality of life of urban residents. Expanding general fund appropriations for recreation is one important way to improve the quality of life. This expansion should be based on appropriations found in comparable cities.

There are three broad categories of expenditures for implementation of the Recreation Element:

- * ~~Administration, Programs, and Maintenance, and Administration~~
- * Development of New Facilities
- * Acquisition of Recreation and Open Space Land

Revising the apportionment of expenditures among the three categories presents a dilemma. Communities such as Gainesville, which are experiencing pressure to develop land for private use, are acting prudently if land acquisition is emphasized to the extent possible. This is because it is much less expensive for a community to acquire recreation and open space early in its development -- before urban fringe and infill development significantly increases the cost of such acquisition.

~~However, Gainesville's expenditures for facilities have been extremely limited over the past 15-25 years. Thus, while it is usually more important to acquire recreation and open space rather than develop facilities at existing parks, it may also be true that a community that lacks facilities over a long period of time will also lack the enthusiasm to acquire additional recreation land.~~

Although the acquisition of recreation and open space lands is very important, the development of facilities at existing parks is also important. Continued underdevelopment of existing facilities could dampen public enthusiasm for acquisition of additional recreation and open space lands.

Figure 1. Operating Budget (FY 96-97)

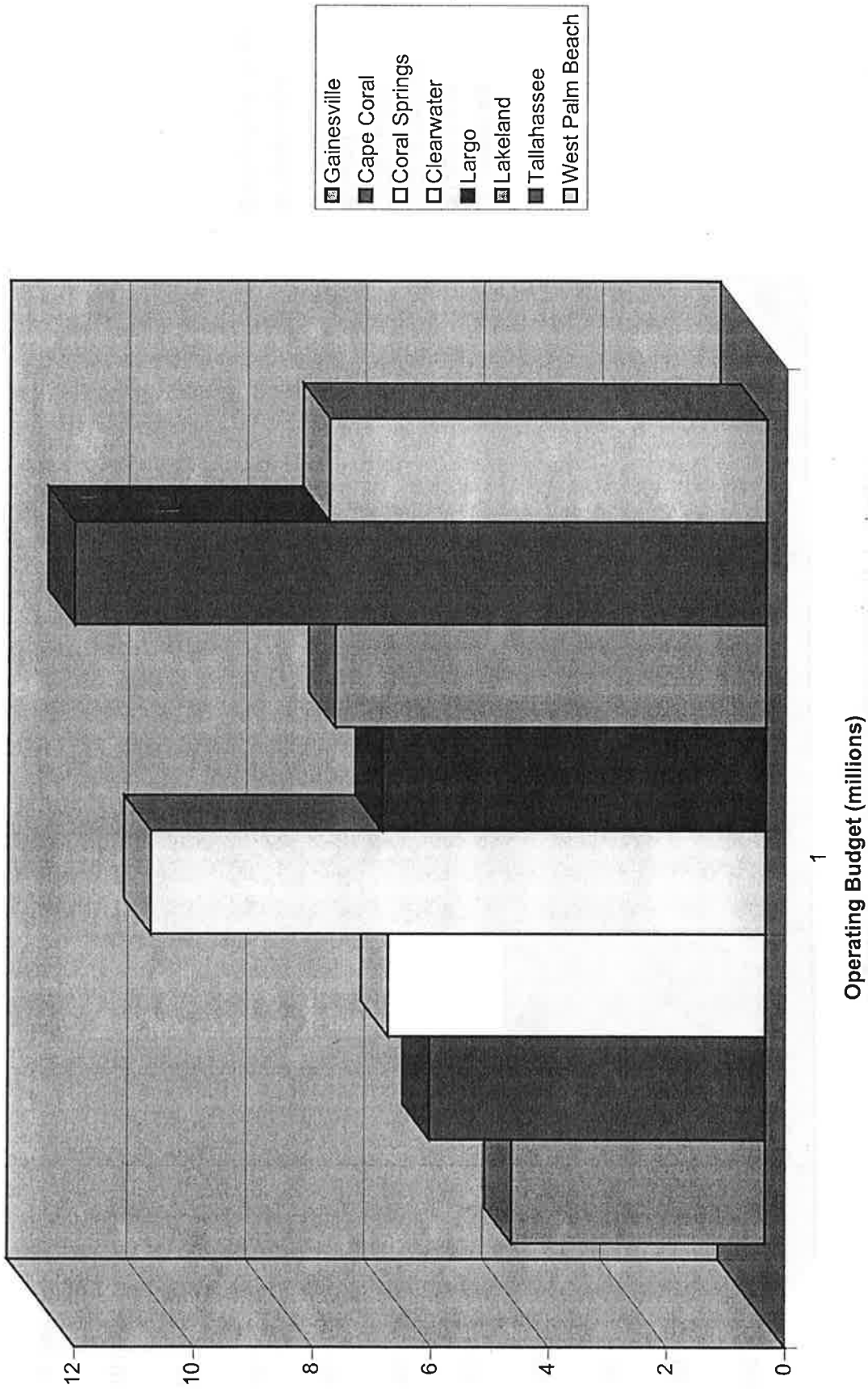
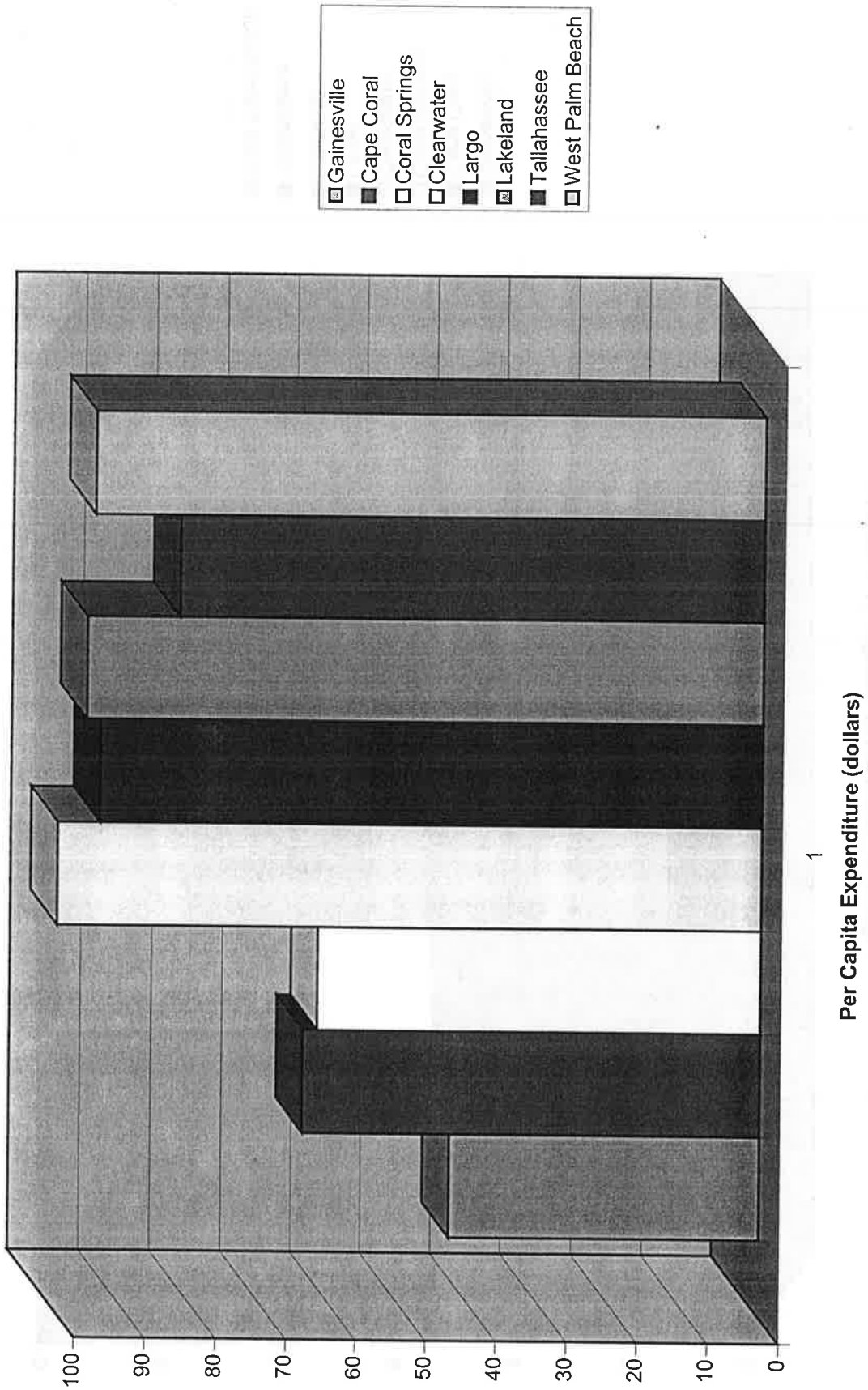


Figure 2. Per Capita Expenditure (FY 96-97)



The question of facilities versus park acquisition was highlighted in a 1985 survey of city residents which found that:

- * "purchasing land for the protection of environmentally sensitive areas" or "recreation facilities"; and
- * the city "recreation facilities are inadequate"

were two of the most important areas of citizen concern. There was an unusually high level of agreement among residents on these two issues. The survey also found a significant increase from 1981 to 1985 in the number of residents who felt recreational facilities were inadequate.¹

~~In order to increase the feasibility of funding needed improvements, this Element recommends that level of service standards be incrementally increased over the 10 year planning time horizon. This "stair stepping" of standards is designed to allow the City to incrementally attain the desired level of service over a 10 year period. By stair stepping, the City is able to avoid a situation where development permits must be denied due to an inability to finance recreation improvements.~~

Minimum Facility Design Standards

The purpose of minimum requirements for recreational facilities is twofold: First, the requirements ensure residents that the new facilities proposed for construction will meet minimum requirements for such factors as facility size and quality. In addition, such requirements ensure that in instances where a private developer is required to build new recreational facilities (or voluntarily chooses to build such facilities), the new facilities will be designed and built in accordance with city recreational objectives.

Table 10 14 contains the minimum design standards for recreational facilities called for by the Recreation Element. Note that "LOS Facility" refers to those facilities that are mandated through the Recreation Element by LOS standards, and that "Substitute Facility" refers to those facilities that can substitute for neighborhood park, basketball court, tennis court, or racquetball court deficiencies (see "Park and Facility Substitution" section for more information). Note also that these are minimum requirements, rather than ideal requirements. In many instances, the quality of facility design and construction will exceed these proposed requirements.

Supplemental Park and Facility Design Considerations

The following are additional considerations when designing and constructing a park or recreational facility in Gainesville. These considerations are recommended, but are not mandatory:

Adaptive Reuse

Facilities should be designed to permit a change in use of the facility if the activity that the facility accommodates declines in popularity.

¹ ~~See "Gainesville Public Opinion Surveys" section for more information.~~

TABLE 10. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR RECREATION FACILITIES

LOS FACILITY	MINIMUM DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED MATERIALS	FLEXIBILITY	COMMENTS
Softball Field	Outfield fences at least 275' from home plate. Backstop 25' from home plate.	Fencing should be galvanized steel chain link.	Should also accommodate youth baseball, women's softball.	Infield should be skinned. Consider accommodating football, rugby, lacrosse.
Soccer Field	150' x 300' play area. 195' x 330' total area.	Frames for goals. (mobile aluminum)	Should accommodate football, rugby, lacrosse.	Must be graded for level surface and storm runoff. Consider accommodating softball.
Swimming Pool (25M & 50M)	27 sq. ft. of water surface area per swimmer. Ratio of 2:1 deck vs. water.	Concrete and granite.	Should accommodate water slide, handicapped swimmers.	Consider accommodating diving boards.
Basketball Court	62' x 37' play surface per half court. 3' clearance on all sides.	Concrete or asphalt surface.	Should accommodate volleyball, badminton, roller-skating.	Consider accommodating tennis, shuffleboard.
Tennis Court	27' x 78' single & 36' x 78' double. 12' clearance on sides. 21' clearance on ends.	Concrete or asphalt surface.	N/A	Consider accommodating basketball, racquetball, shuffleboard, volleyball.
Racquetball Court	20' x 34' play area. 70' overhead clearance. At least 3 walls.	Concrete surface.	Should accommodate handball.	Consider observation platform for 4-wall courts.
Trail	3' width for walking trail. 8' width for bicycle trail.	Variable. Depends on activity to be accommodated. Typically permeable or semi-permeable surfaces such as mulch or limestone.	Should accommodate strollers and wheelchairs.	Consider accommodating walking, jogging, bicycling, horseback riding. Provide access for long-term repairs.
Gymnasium	Basketball Courts 94' x 50' with 10' unobstructed area around court.	Concrete block wall.	Should accommodate aerobicics, dance, jogging, bleachers, basketball, gymnastics, badminton, volleyball.	Consider accommodating weight training, offices. Should contain restrooms, game room for pool and table tennis, concessions, spectator seating. Floor should be suitable for dancing.

LOS FACILITY	MINIMUM DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED MATERIALS	FLEXIBILITY	COMMENTS
Botanical/Vegetable Garden (substitute facility)	One-quarter acre of arable land.	Irrigation equipment for continuous watering.	N/A	Should contain soil suitable for a wide range of plants & located for large amounts of sunlight. Consider storage facility for tools, equipment, and greenhouse facilities for germination or severe weather conditions.
Nature Center (substitute facility)	1500 sq. ft. of floor area with office, storage and restroom space.	Rough-cut wood interior or natural materials.	Wall space for exhibits, cases, displays.	Interpretive information concerning natural environment. Information about immediate vicinity preferred.
Recreation Center (substitute facility)	Enclosed building with 3000 sq. ft. of floor area.	Concrete/brick block.	Should accommodate meetings, dance, aerobics, table games, small concerts, arts and crafts, kitchen.	Consider providing restrooms.
Volleyball (substitute facility)	30' x 60' & 6' clearance on all sides.	Sand, wood chips, asphalt, concrete, natural soil, sand-clay, clay-gravel.	Should accommodate badminton.	Soft surface preferred.
Picnic/Pavilion/Playground (substitute facility)	4000 sq. ft. playlot, 4 picnic tables, 1 pavilion large enough for 1 table. 1/2 acre picnic area.	Concrete or PT wood for tables.	Should accommodate retrofitting by new playground equipment.	Consider using sand or wood chip surface. Incorporate passive/natural design techniques if possible.
Picnic Area	20' x 36' Pavilion, 6 tables, 2 grills	Concrete Pad. Concrete or PT wood for tables.		Consider using sand or wood chip surface. Incorporate passive/natural design techniques if possible.
Interpretive Pavilion (substitute facility)	500 sq. ft. of floor area.	Rough-cut wood interior or natural materials.	Wall space for exhibits, cases, displays.	Interpretive information concerning natural environment. Information about immediate vicinity preferred.

Source: City of Gainesville, Department of Community Development, October, 1990.
File: "CIP Proj". FW2

Flexibility

When feasible, facilities should allow multiple activities. For example, softball fields should be able to accommodate soccer fields, and tennis courts should be able to accommodate basketball courts, when appropriate.

Safety

Sites should be designed so as to minimize or eliminate the need for pedestrians or bicyclists to cross major roads. ~~Be wary of facilities which may represent an excessive liability risk, such as skateboard facilities (see "Recreation Liability Management" section for more information).~~

Access

Sites should be designed so that non-auto access is both safe and convenient. Modes to consider: pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian, bus, para-transit, mopeds, elderly, and handicapped.

Free-Form

Consider the development of "free-form" activity areas which feature minimal facilities, and play areas and meeting places at the human scale.. Such facilities encourage creativity.

Maintenance

Maximize the use of highly durable, easy-to-maintain facilities, which do not require large amounts of energy or maintenance for operation.

Vegetation

Maintain vegetation (especially tree cover) whenever possible. Dusty, excessively paved, or shade-less parks are not inviting, especially on hot summer days. The site should, to the extent possible, be designed so as to minimize disturbance of the natural environment. Native vegetation is encouraged, as is xeriscaping.

Drainage

Minimize the use of impervious surfaces. When feasible, use pervious surface alternatives.

Noise and Visual Quality

Noise and visual intrusions should be minimized or mitigated when designing passive recreation areas.

Awareness

Maximize visual and physical access to important natural, historic, and cultural features of a site when such access will not significantly degrade the features. Consider using the feature(s) to give the park its own unique identity.

Linkages

Consider linking the site to other recreation sites and residential areas through the use of linear corridors and other non-auto connectors. It is especially important to investigate linkages to "rail trails" and other regionally significant corridors.

Signs

Park entrance signs should be designed both to maximize visibility to those passing by the site, and to be in harmony with the natural surroundings.

Age Flexibility

Parks should be designed to accommodate activities for all age groups.

Lighting

To maximize use of facilities and improve safety, lighting for facilities should be provided where appropriate. Nearby residential areas should be protected from spillover (nuisance) lighting.

Public Information

Consider using information centers, such as kiosks, which are designed for both public information and public input. Also, consider public hearings to give neighborhoods a chance to offer park design suggestions.

Special Facilities

Consider developing facilities, such as boardwalks or pavilions, which are not required by the level-of-service standards.

Service Radius

Before selecting facilities for a site, check the service radius maps of the Recreation Element to avoid providing a facility that the residential area may already have access to.

Passive Acreage

As a rule of thumb, landscaped or natural acreage for passive activity is recommended at a ratio of roughly one acre for passive use to two acres for active use to maintain a "park-like" atmosphere at activity-based parks.

Critical Mass

There is a "critical mass" of facilities at which attractiveness to league play, attractiveness to remote users, and ability to charge a fee is reached. This clustering of the same facility at one park (i.e. four tennis courts at a park, rather than one) is most important for such facilities as tennis courts, racquetball courts, softball or baseball fields, soccer fields, and basketball courts. In general, the critical mass would be a cluster of four or more of these facilities at a park site.

How Recreation is Provided Provision of Facilities by the Private Sector

If a proposed development will lower the level of service for recreational facilities and the City was unable to construct facilities to prevent this lowering of service, the Recreation Element permits the private developer to provide facilities or fees as a condition for the issuance of a development permit. The Element ~~is~~ was structured so that by 1997 a proposed development need only concern itself with recreational deficiencies within its own planning area. For example, a proposal in northeast Gainesville would need to avoid lowering levels of service in two areas:

- * Urban Area
- * Northeast Quadrant.

Any existing deficiencies in the other quadrants would not be relevant to the proposal.

The following alternatives are available to a developer who would lower existing levels of service for recreation:

- * A per-dwelling-unit impact fee paid by the developer to fully or partially finance the cost of providing recreational facilities sufficient to avoid lowering levels of service;
- * On-site or off-site provision of recreational acreage and facilities by the developer. The developer is credited for all or part of the acreage and facilities provided, depending on the degree of public access and City approval of facility quality and design.

In addition, the Recreation Element should call for the use of mandatory subdivision exactions or dedications for neighborhood park land or trails. Such an exaction or dedication would obligate the City to establish land development regulations, which require land or fees as a condition for final plat approval.

Countywide Recreation Master Plan

Alachua County is in the process of hiring a consultant to develop a recreation master plan. It will identify existing active and passive recreational facilities and programs throughout Alachua County, determine what the current and future recreational deficiencies are and recommend economically sustainable plans to meet the identified current and future recreational needs. The plan will include all recreation providers in the County including the municipalities, the state, and commercial, private, not-for-profit and other organizations.

RECREATION LIABILITY MANAGEMENT

~~In recent years,~~ During the past decade, the United States has experienced a ~~rapidly escalating~~ continuing liability insurance crisis that has had a profound impact on how products and services are offered. Not surprisingly, many cities have responded to this crisis by becoming much more conservative in the range of recreational services that they provide to their residents. Park hours have been shortened, the freedom of park users to partake in various activities has been curtailed, and the range of facilities offered has declined -- all in an effort to reduce the liability (risk) that the city carries in the area of recreational opportunities.

Unfortunately, public demand for various recreational activities is, at most, only moderately related to the risk of participating in such activities. As a result, cities are often unable to afford to provide for highly popular activities (such as skateboarding) even though the capital outlay is minimal. Those wishing to pursue such activities are forced to either provide their own facilities, hope that a private firm will provide for them, or recreate illegally.

Court cases involving liability suits indicate that service provider responsibilities are much stricter than ~~†~~ they once were. Some of the multi-million dollar awards have been based upon the failure of government employees to warn adequately or to instruct properly. It is the responsibility of the local government to provide the proper instruction and warning for staff and recreational users. It is absolutely essential that participants: (1) receive full information regarding the proper manner in which to engage in activities; (2) understand how to participate safely within their individual physical and emotional capabilities and skill level; and (3) be told of the likelihood of accidents resulting in injury or even death. Inadequate instructions have been alleged in suits for injuries resulting from a basketball drill, a speed test in a gymnasium, and gymnastics.

Some service providers have tried to reduce their liability by using waivers and releases, but in most cases these forms are of no value in a court of law. One problem is that minors cannot sign contracts, and therefore cannot execute valid waivers. When properly written for certain adventurous activities such as white-water rafting, however, waivers have been held valid.

The courts have traditionally recognized four basic defenses against liability suits involving accidents in park and recreation areas: (1) immunity from suit; (2) assumption of risk; (3) contributory negligence; and (4) due care. The first three defenses have not held up in the courts in most cases. The fourth -- due care -- is the most effective preventive strategy and the strongest defense against charges of negligence. The phrase "due care" implies a professional standard of care. This standard of care, though, cannot be defined in an itemized list of steps to follow in planning, developing and operating a park.

If an accident leads to a liability suit, however, there are several management practices that courts typically examine to determine whether proper consideration was given to the safety of recreational facility users. Many of these are cited as policies in the "Goals, Objectives and Policies" section of this Element. These practices are discussed below:

Liability Management

Abating Inherent Hazards

An inherent hazard is a natural feature of the environment that is potentially dangerous (deep pools of water, rockslides, dead trees, poisonous snakes or other dangerous wildlife). Municipalities can in this case choose to (a) remove the hazard; (b) limit public access, set up safety barriers, or use lifeguards and guides; or (c) provide clear and adequate warning to park visitors.

The City should inventory all natural features of its passive parks, and determine both the potential for injury and steps necessary to minimize or eliminate the possibility of such injury.

Conforming with Standards Set by a Sports League or Competition-Sanctioning Organization

It is generally advised that official layout and development criteria for each sport facility be carefully followed.

The City should review any existing guidelines used for designing facilities such as softball fields, and determine whether such guidelines are up-to-date and approved by regional or national organizations.

Complying with Public Safety Codes and Regulations.

The municipality should be aware of changing standards. Standards ~~set 10 years ago have changed~~ owing in response to technological advances. In some instances, such documents as the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission manual ("General Guidelines for New and Existing Playgrounds") have been used in liability suits against municipalities.

This Element recommends that when repairing or replacing dysfunctional recreational facilities, priority should in part be given to those facilities that represent a safety hazard. In addition, the selection process for new facilities should give consideration to those facilities least likely to represent a safety hazard, either in regard to its normal operation or any hazard due to facility deterioration over time.

Providing Facilities for Emergencies

Park and recreation areas should have emergency facilities designated for circulation, communication, first aid, emergency dispatch and fire-fighting.

The City should inventory its recreation areas to determine whether adequate circulation, communication, first aid, emergency dispatch and fire-fighting capabilities exist.

In addition to these recommended risk management practices, two policies for personnel training and responsibilities are advised:

- (1) Designation of a Park Safety Officer.
- (2) Providing Safety Training for Staff.

Several states have enacted legislation which provides public agencies with limited immunity for injuries occurring while using recreational facilities. Virginia and Kansas have statutes which require a plaintiff to allege gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct, rather than mere negligence, to sustain a claim for an injury sustained while using public recreational facilities. An example of this is Section 75-6104(n) of the Kansas Tort Claims Act, which states that:

A government entity or employee acting within the scope of the employee's employment shall not be liable for damages resulting from: (n) any claim for injuries resulting from the use of any public property intended or permitted to be used as a park playground or open space area for recreational purposes, unless the government entity or employee therefore is guilty of gross and wanton negligence proximately causing such injury.

In 1999, the Florida Legislature passed a bill that limits the liability of municipalities that choose to provide facilities for skateboarding, inline skating and freestyle bicycle riding activities. Section 316.0085, Florida Statutes, expands sovereign immunity on public property for such purposes. The intent of the bill is to encourage local governments to make land available for these types of activities. Exemptions to sovereign immunity include cases where the governmental entity fails to warn of a dangerous condition of which the participant has no notice, cases of gross negligence by the governmental entity and cases where the governmental entity fails to obtain written consent of the parents of a child under age 17 and allows them to participate, unless the participation occurred in violation of posted rules governing the hours of authorized operation of the designated area. The City is currently planning to provide skateboard facilities at 5 city parks, due in some measure to the reduced liability as well as advocacy efforts of the local skateboarding community.

Additional Recommendations

Where feasible and advisable, the City should:

- (1) Follow the four recommended risk management practices related to planning and developing parks and recreation.
- (2) Follow the General Guidelines for New and Existing Playgrounds (U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission).

- ~~(3) Evaluate the feasibility of enacting an ordinance to reduce the City's liability.~~
- ~~(4) Support State legislation or start a lobby for a Recreational Immunity Statute.~~
- (35) Start a program to monitor potential safety problems through staff and citizen input.
- (46) Prioritize facility repair or enhancement when failure to do so would result in a significant liability risk to the City.
- (57) Work with the County School Board to facilitate the most efficient and effective implementation of liability policies.
- ~~(8) Consider establishing a county or regional self insurance program similar to the approach taken in Ft. Lauderdale and Orlando.~~

ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Included among the many suggestions for reducing the influence and cost of government has been a call for the "privatization" of services. Privatization can include a range of alternatives such as tax incentives, subsidies, vouchers, volunteers and contracting.

Contracting is the most common form of private service delivery. These are instances where the municipality draws up a formal agreement with a private firm to provide specified services. The municipality pays the firm and monitors the performance of the firm thereafter.

In contrast, many municipalities use "franchising", wherein a firm is granted permission to deliver a service to a particular group of municipal residents, and instead of being paid, the firm collects revenue from residents using the service. Because of this, franchising will only function when there are easily identifiable users. A current example of this in Gainesville is the "Youth Soccer, Inc." firm, which provides a program for soccer players in the city. ~~In addition~~ the past, the City Recreation Department had ~~has recently~~ been in contact with a Colorado-based firm, which develops municipal softball complexes. The firm builds the complex and then provides staff, programming, and public relations for seven-year period. After the seven years, the municipality assumes ownership of the complex, thus offering a substantial cost savings to both the municipality and softball users seeking such facilities.

Advocates of privatization point out that firms can offer capital facilities and services more cheaply than the municipality, and that smaller firms, because of their size, can change more quickly in response to service or capital needs.

On the other hand, it has been pointed out that firms are prone to seeking profits at the expense of the public good, that firms may discriminate against individuals or groups, or that the municipality may

find out after contracting with a firm that the service could have been more cheaply provided by the local government. Privatization may also result in a reduction in municipal flexibility to respond to new service needs.

To summarize, the arguments supporting privatization of services are as follows:

- * Firms may be able to reduce the cost of service delivery below the level at which the municipality could provide such service;
- * Some firms, such as the softball organization, provide some or all of the capital outlays that would ordinarily be provided by the municipality;
- * Some firms, because of their smaller size or expertise, are able to more quickly adjust or initiate programs than a municipality; and
- * Privatized recreational activities reduce the effort that the municipality needs to devote to planning and operation of such activities.

Some of the arguments against privatization of services include:

- * There are instances in which the municipality can provide the service for a lower rate than private firms, yet not realize this until citizen complaints lead to an exploration of municipal alternatives;
- * Private firms are more likely to seek increased profits at the expense of service quantity or quality;
- * Private firms are more likely to engage in illegal activities in their attempt to secure lucrative contracts and increase their profits;
- * Private firms are more likely to discriminate against certain groups or individuals;
- * Contracts reduce the flexibility that a municipality needs in instances where community service needs have changed quickly and substantially;
- * If privatization results in decreased salaries or layoffs for municipal employees, strong opposition by municipal employees may be expressed; and
- * Private organizations are generally not covered by the "Sunshine Law" and are therefore less open to public scrutiny.

This Element recommends that recreational privatization of services be limited to the more "unique" activities, such as softball or baseball complexes, park beautification, and skateboarding. The following safeguards should also be adhered to:

- * The City shall reserve the right to regulate and monitor the level and quality of services provided, and set limits on the costs charged users;
- * The City shall only seek privatization in situations where a thorough study has revealed that cost savings or other benefits will be significant;
- * Contracts shall be written to allow adequate flexibility by minimizing the length of contractual periods when appropriate, as well as other techniques which reduce the obligation of the City to remain committed to the restrictions of the contract; and
- * The City shall consider and resolve any negative effects of privatization on city employees.

~~Provision of Facilities by the Private Sector~~ Recommendation

- * The City should consider a revision of subdivision regulations in order to require dedication of land for parks or trail easements.
- * Regulations for the development of multi-family housing ~~and industrial areas~~ should include requirements for the provision of recreational facilities and programs.
- * The City should more fully study both the impact of private recreational facilities on recreational deficiencies, and what guidelines are necessary in instances where the City would be obligated to assume responsibility for previously private facilities.

COORDINATION OF CITY-COUNTY RECREATION PLANNING

There are currently two public agencies responsible for the planning and operation of recreation and open space in the Gainesville urban area. ~~The City is responsible for the 18 City planning districts while the County is responsible for the 9 unincorporated planning districts within the urban area.~~ Such a situation ~~often can~~ leads to inefficient and ineffective provision of services.

Approximately one-third of the urban area population lives within the unincorporated area outside of city limits. Recreational facility and program development has not kept pace with the growth of this population. Without an adequate recreation program, these residents are usually obligated to use city facilities. As a result, city taxpayers are subsidizing the use of recreational facilities by non-city residents.

There are four broad categories of alternatives: (1) compel the County government to devote a greater portion of its budget to recreation and open space within the unincorporated urban area; (2) significantly increase user fees for unincorporated residents using city recreational services (or prohibit such residents from using city facilities); (3) consolidate the planning and operation of recreational services under one agency by establishing a single park taxing district for the urban area; and (4) annex the entire urban area into the city. These alternatives are discussed as follows:

- (1) Compelling the County government to devote a greater portion of its budget to recreation and open space in the unincorporated area would probably be the result of political pressure from unincorporated area residents. This pressure would, however, be unlikely as long as most residents are able to conveniently and inexpensively use city recreational services. Moreover, there are few effective ways for the City to unilaterally restrict recreational service access to city residents only.
- (2) Increasing user fees for unincorporated residents using city services (or prohibiting their use by such residents) would be one way in which the City could reduce the use of city recreational services by unincorporated residents. However, it is often extremely difficult to differentiate between city and non-city residents in order to assess a higher fee to non-city residents, or prohibit use. Even when differentiation can be made, there are only a small number of recreational services for which a fee could feasibly be charged, or prohibitions on use enacted.
- (3) Consolidating the planning and operation of recreational services in the urban area through a single urban area park taxing district offers several advantages over the above two alternatives. Potential duplication of service is significantly reduced, as is the tax burden to be borne by city residents. Planning and operation is enhanced due to the more comprehensive area to be considered when devising strategies and long-range plans. In planning for recreation facilities and services, administrators would be able to take into consideration the unincorporated population currently using city facilities without being concerned about tax inequities.
- (4) Gainesville, through the Alachua County Boundary Adjustment Act, has been given increased authority to annex unincorporated urban areas outside city limits. Annexation would clearly unify the planning and development of recreation within the urban area. Annexed areas would be within the city taxing district, and thus tax inequities would be removed. While annexation is the preferred alternative, potential service provision constraints or citizen opposition to annexation may limit the extent of annexation.

COORDINATION WITH THE SCHOOL BOARD

It is recommended that cooperation between the City and the School Board of Alachua County (SBAC) be extended in the area of recreation facility agreements, and that this expanded cooperation be based upon maintenance agreements and a satisfactory resolution (through ordinance inter-local agreement or other mechanism) of the added liability that will be borne by the SBAC.

For the construction, maintenance, and use of SBAC facilities, a policy of contractual agreements should be implemented. However, a drawback to establishing contractual agreements is that such agreements are difficult to adjust in the face of frequently changing school policies or programs. Therefore, devising non-contractual agreements on a school-by-school basis for recreational programs (in contrast to agreements concerning school facilities) will provide the flexibility necessary to adjust for the variations between schools.

Use of School Board Facilities

It is clear that improved coordination between the City and the School Board is needed. In the past, the City has included school acreage and facilities in analyzing the need for parks and recreation facilities. However, school facilities are certainly not fully available for City programs and the problems of coordinating with the School Board have been complicated by liability issues. Nevertheless, school sites are used by the public for recreation purposes, and it is unlikely that the City will be able to afford to meet any adequate standards for recreation facilities and programs without including school facilities in the inventory of available community resources.

~~Rather than exclude School Board facilities from the inventory of publicly accessible facilities, an intermediate approach was taken. This approach involves the use of "conversion factors" for various types of School Board facilities (outdoor recreational facilities and indoor active recreational facilities). The conversion factor is an assessment of the perceived degree of public access to a facility. This access can vary as a result of the degree of use of the facility by the school, the existence or non-existence of use agreements with the City, policies of individual schools, and the degree of physical access barriers such as locked doors or gates.~~

MINI-PARK PROBLEMS

The City has long recognized that several of its classified mini-parks are not functioning properly. This dysfunction has been attributed to the inadequate size of some sites, inappropriate or unsafe site location, lack of sufficient population density or population of children near the site, excessive vandalism at the site, lack of funding for site maintenance, and insufficient site facilities. In response to these problems, the City Recreation Department has recommended that City maintenance of such "problem" parks be phased out. This Element recommends that the following steps be taken to address this issue:

- * Conduct an inventory of all mini-parks, which will be used to help determine whether the present mini-park locations are appropriate. If a location is inappropriate, steps should be taken to convert the site to a non-recreational public use, or passive neighborhood landscaping or open space.
- * Those mini-parks which are deemed to be of inadequate size should be assessed as to whether there is a potential for expansion. Future mini-parks would be at least 0.5 acre in size, unless the location is within an unusually dense residential or commercial area.
- * New mini-parks should not be established unless there is a clearly demonstrated need.
- * In instances where the mini-park facilities suffer from vandalism, it is recommended that a two-pronged approach be taken (unless the park is inappropriately located, in which case it should be converted to a non-recreational public use):
 - (a) The site should be assessed to determine what steps need to be taken to increase the popularity and defensibility of the site (using such measures as enhanced visibility, design, and facilities); and
 - (b) The site facilities should be replaced if a more durable substitute is available, and removed if such an option is not available.
- * In order to enhance mini-parks, park-type furniture and fixtures should be provided in such a way as to develop a focal point or park identity. This focal point would serve to promote the park as an attractive gathering place where people could sit and visit. In addition, consideration should be given to the use of certain portions of mini-parks as ornamental or vegetable gardens, where appropriate.
- * Mini-parks ~~which~~ that are not amenable to any of the above considerations should be considered for possible sale and conversion to private management. Money from such sales should be used solely for recreational purposes within the community.
- * Funding should be provided in order to establish at least one paid position which would carry the responsibility of maintaining all mini-parks which remain in public ownership.
- * Effort should be devoted toward working with the residents of neighborhoods containing mini-parks in order to determine the best possible use of the parks. This could entail the use of public workshops designed to develop a park plan aimed at meeting the needs of nearby residents.
- * Small, unused city properties should be evaluated by the ~~Department of Culture and Nature Operations~~ City for use as "satellite ecological education centers." The satellite system would educate citizens about the various urban ecological communities in Gainesville, would require low operation and maintenance costs, and ~~would enhance the ecology~~ could contribute to the ecological health of nearby neighborhoods.

The Recreation and Parks Department is currently conducting an environmental assessment of mini-parks of 2 acres or more. The land will be evaluated for biological value, environmental features and environmental sensitivity. Each parcel will be assigned values with separate pocket park criteria and environmental park criteria. Those parcels with a certain environmental value may be classified as open green space while those parcels without those environmental features may be considered suitable for the development of pocket parks.

GAINESVILLE PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS

1985 Survey

A survey of 530 city residents was conducted by the University of Florida Communication Research Center in February of 1985. The Center used a systematic random stratified sample based upon the city planning districts. The following are their findings:

Land Acquisition _____ Strongly Agree or Agree

To protect environmentally sensitive areas.....	84%
To acquire buffers protecting residential areas	72%
To purchase lands for a greenbelt	62%
To purchase lands for recreation facilities	81%
More tax dollars spent on acquisition	67%

Programs

Funding for the Thomas Center, Star Garage, Community Plaza, Morningside Park, and Bivens Arm Park

_____	<u>Percent</u>
Supported by user fees	35%
Supported by taxes	48%
Supported by both	17%

Inadequate Programs (ranked by response frequency)

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Youth programs _____ | 6. Youth rehabilitation programs |
| 2. Swim programs _____ | 7. CPR program |

Recreation Element
Data and Analysis

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 3. Elderly programs | 8. Maintenance |
| 4. Boys/Girls clubs | 9. Meeting halls |
| 5. Free Concerts | 10. Publicity campaigns |

Facilities

<u>Funding for Recreational Facilities</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Supported primarily by user fees	28%
Supported primarily by taxes	54%
Supported by both	18%

Inadequate Facilities (ranked by response frequency)

1. Number of parks
2. Racquetball courts
3. Softball, soccer, open recreation fields
4. Swimming pools
5. Tennis courts
6. Playgrounds

The survey obtained responses for a number of different city services such as fire, police, library, waste management, and general maintenance. In comparison to other city issues, residents considered recreation to be particularly significant in the following ways:

- * "Purchasing land for the protection of environmentally sensitive areas" was one of the four issues for which residents showed strongest agreement.
- * One of the three most important problems that residents cited (in regard to inadequacy) was the inadequacy of city recreational facilities.
- * From 1981 to 1985, the assessment of recreational facilities declined significantly. This included a significant increase in the number who said that youth programs are inadequate, and that the City should spend more tax money to expand existing cultural and nature programs.

1987 Survey

Planning Division staff conducted a survey which focused specifically on recreational issues. The survey was distributed at the spring 1987 Business Exposition held at the O'Connell Center. Responses were received from 26 individuals. While the survey lacks accuracy due to the small sample size and the fact that the survey was not random, the following highlights of the survey can be considered to be roughly representative of the views of certain segments of the city population:

Recreation Element
Data and Analysis

- ~~* When asked about the adequacy of various parks and recreation facilities in Gainesville, a majority indicated deficiencies in active parks, hiking/jogging/walking trails, picnic tables, and playgrounds.~~
- ~~* When asked about a private softball complex which would offer beer for sale, a slight majority indicated disapproval of such a facility.~~
- ~~* When asked about why it is difficult to use city parks, the fact that "parks are too far away" was much more frequently cited than other difficulties such as lack of free time, overcrowding, or poor lighting.~~
- ~~* A majority of respondents favor an increase in spending for recreation. Most of those favoring an increase supported an increase in local taxes.~~
- ~~* A majority favored the acquisition of important environmentally sensitive lands, even if it meant an increase in local taxes.~~
- ~~* Respondents were equally split between support for taxes versus user fees as a way to finance facilities and programs.~~
- ~~* Of those responding to the question, a clear majority support spending an equal amount of money on the acquisition of more parks versus development of existing parks.~~

1989 Survey

~~A telephone survey of 517 randomly selected city residents and college students was conducted in 1989.² These surveys found the following:~~

- ~~* 69 percent of the permanent city residents and 80 percent of the college students favored or strongly favored the City spending monies to buy green space.~~
- ~~* 67 percent of the permanent residents and 78 percent of the college students said they were very likely or somewhat likely to vote for an additional temporary one half cent sales tax to buy and develop additional recreation and park facilities.~~

² ~~Ferguson, Mary Ann; Leonard Tipton; and Art Emig. 1990. City of Gainesville Effective Municipal Services Committee: Opinion Survey. University of Florida Communication Research Center. Gainesville, Florida.~~

RESULTS OF A SURVEY ABOUT FAMILY-FRIENDLY CITIES

A survey of more than 300 local government officials and community leaders was conducted by the National League of Cities (NLC) at the Your City's Families (YCF) Conference in Los Angeles, CA in September of 1997. The question asked concerned what these officials believe are the characteristics of a family-friendly city. Education, community safety and recreation were the characteristics of a family-friendly city most often cited by survey respondents. Almost 40 percent of all respondents said that a family-friendly community would have rich and varied recreational opportunities. There would be an array of outdoor and indoor facilities including parks, open space and swimming pools. There would be a variety of programs for all ages and segments of the community, as well as activities aimed towards families. Special events such as concerts, fairs, celebrations, and festivals for families would be numerous. Entertainment opportunities and nearby outdoor recreation such as bike trails, hiking, and ball parks would also be important to many of the respondents.⁶

PARK INVENTORY METHODOLOGY

Overview of Park Access as an Inventory Criterion

All public or private land set aside for aesthetic, recreational, educational, historic, environmental or cultural use can potentially be considered a public park. In Gainesville, such parks contribute to the inventory of public recreation only if they provide some form of public access. Also, only outdoor parks and facilities are inventoried. Exceptions to this rule are facilities such as public gymnasiums or recreation centers.

Publicly-owned properties that contain environmentally significant features but are not yet developed to accommodate passive recreation are classified as "public conservation areas." These properties are considered parks (either regional or local nature parks) only if they are developed to accommodate passive recreation.

"Semi-public" and private parks, which are privately owned and allow access only on a restricted or fee basis, are generally not included in the inventory of public recreation facilities.

Inventory of School Facilities and Acreage

Another form of "semi-public" park is a School Board of Alachua County (SBAC) site. SBAC schools are frequently used by Gainesville residents, even though the school is not officially classified as a public park. However, public access is limited when school children are using facilities for school

⁶ Nation's Cities Weekly, July 13, 1998, page 9.

programs, and since the School Board is concerned about increased liability and maintenance when schools are used by non-students, SBAC schools contribute only partially to the public recreation inventory:

Table 15. CONVERSION TABLE FOR INVENTORY OF SBAC SCHOOLS*

Facility	Without Agreement*	With Agreement**
Aeres (open space only)	50%	50%
Basketball	75%	75%
Tennis	25%	50%
Raequetball	25%	50%
Ballfield	25%	50%
Gymnasium	0%	50%
Recreation Center	0%	50%
Soccer/Football Fields	25%	50%
Swimming Pool	0%	50%
Trails	50%	50%

* These conversions also apply to the University of Florida and Santa Fe Community College.

** "Agreement" indicates cooperative use agreement between the City and the School Board or facility improvements by the City/County.

SOURCE: City of Gainesville, Department of Community Development, June 1990.

The question of how to incorporate School Board facilities into the planning analysis for recreation has posed problems for decades. There has yet to emerge a clear solution to this issue. Reasons to accept inclusion are: (1) Urban areas may be constrained for land or funds available for recreation, and cooperative agreements with schools may reduce the need to build new facilities; (2) many schools provide outdoor facilities not used by the school, particularly at night or in the summer; (3) county schools are built with public monies (from several levels) that provide some justification for public recreational access and (4) almost all outdoor basketball, tennis and raequetball courts at SBAC schools were ~~funded by the~~ built with City of Gainesville monies.

Reasons to exclude school facilities are: (1) Schools may acquire additional liability with increased public accessibility; (2) programs that include school facilities for public use are often too optimistic about the degree of access, and thus underestimate facility deficiencies; and (3) many school facilities are inherently less available for public use owing to school-related use of those facilities.

This Element ~~adopts~~ takes the position that an intermediate approach ~~should be taken~~ is appropriate. This approach includes the following:

- * Private schools are completely excluded from the recreation inventory and analysis of deficiencies. This is justified primarily by the fact that such facilities cannot be planned or developed by the public sector, nor can the public sector exert much influence in the shaping of private membership or "use-of-facility" rules and regulations.
- * Schools owned by the state are also excluded, ~~except in the instances of~~ for the University of Florida, Santa Fe Community College, and P.K. Yonge, which possess such a significant range of recreational facilities that some form of use by several individuals not related to the schools is inevitable. State schools other than these three are excluded because of the minimal public access allowed by the state.

Without the cooperation of the SBAC, the City would find it much more difficult (or impossible) to meet recreational needs. Primarily, the City gains use of the gymnasiums and ballfields. There is ~~no~~ only one City-operated gymnasium (the Martin Luther King Multi-Purpose Center), and use of school gyms is either on a limited basis or too unreliable to offer the City much of an opportunity to run recreation programs. In regard to ballfields, the City gains use of about 13 SBAC ballfields for its spring baseball program, which supplements the two City-owned league fields. Reciprocally, the City offers pools, fields, tennis courts, and racquetball courts for use by the SBAC.

The following SBAC recreation facilities have been financed by the City of Gainesville:

<u>School</u>	<u>Facility</u>
Jones (A.Q.)	* Basketball Court Lights * Baseball Softball Field * Restrooms * Playground * Parking Lot & Landscaping
Duval	* Basketball Court Lights * Baseball/Softball Field Lights * Restrooms
Littlewood	* Basketball Court Lights * Baseball/Softball Field
Metcalf	* Basketball Court Lights * Baseball/Softball Field
Sidney Lanier	* Basketball Court * Baseball/Softball Field
J.J. Finley	* Basketball Court * Baseball/Softball Field

Recreation Element Data and Analysis

Stephen Foster	* Basketball Court * Baseball/Softball Field
Rawlings	* Basketball Court * Baseball/Softball Field
Lincoln/Williams	* Basketball Court * 2 Baseball/Softball Fields (one lighted) * Playground & Landscaping * Restroom
Howard Bishop	* Basketball Courts
Westwood	* Baseball/Softball Field
Kirby Smith	* Basketball Court

Inventory of State Parks

Because public access is integral to the Recreation Element, careful consideration must be given to the inventory of certain state parks. Careful consideration is necessary because certain types of state parks are more difficult to access and are less oriented toward recreation than municipal or county parks.

In the Gainesville urban area, state parks are mostly large in size and offer passive forms of recreation. The Recreation Element classifies them as regional nature parks. Only those that are wholly or predominantly inside the Gainesville urban area are inventoried. Only land designated for (or developed for) public recreation is counted toward meeting recreational needs. (~~Some~~ Substantial state park acreage is designated for conservation, which largely excludes public access.) Lake and conservation acreage is not counted.

Gainesville contains railroad abandonments (linear corridors) owned by the state. These corridors are counted as city trails up to the urban area boundary.

Active vs. Passive Acreage

Each park is classified as "active" (activity-based) or "passive" (resource-based). Active parks are those that are primarily dependent upon recreational facilities like ballfields or tennis courts for their attractiveness. Passive parks depend primarily on natural resources such as a lake, creek or forest for their attractiveness.

For recently acquired and yet to be acquired parkland, a distinction is made as to the amount of park acreage that is passive and active. Passive acreage includes areas that are inappropriate for development, such as floodprone areas or areas containing other significant environmental features.

Active acres include areas that are appropriate for development, such as non-floodprone areas or areas not containing significant environmental features.

Passive acres contained by, or adjacent to active parks are double-counted as both acreage for active parks and acreage for regional or local nature parks. Parks are to be classified as active parks if the predominant use of the site is or will be for active recreation, and if there is sufficient active acreage (i.e., at least one acre for a mini-park, 5 acres for a neighborhood, 20 acres for a community park, and 15 acres for a sports-complex park). Active facilities are swimming pools, multi-purpose fields, softball fields, multi-purpose courts, tennis courts, racquetball courts, recreation centers, and gymnasiums. If any of these facilities are found at a park, that park is classified as active.

Passive public properties are classified as either regional nature parks, local nature parks, or conservation areas, depending upon their size (local nature parks are city- or county-owned and generally less than 100 acres), ownership (state- or water management district-owned parks are classified as regional), and whether they are developed to accommodate passive recreation (undeveloped local nature parks are classified as conservation areas).

Park and Facility Inventory Updates

~~Once the Recreation Element is adopted,~~ Parks are to be inventoried at least every five years. This inventory includes: (a) an address of the park; (b) information about the type of park, the ownership and size; (c) a tabulation of all facilities that are affected by city recreation standards, including facility conditions; (d) the zoning and land use designations of the park; (e) when the park was established; and (f) when the park was last inventoried.

Special Inventory Requirements for Recreational Facilities

There are special requirements for inventorying certain recreational facilities:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Basketball Courts: | Each hoop is inventoried. Also known as a "multi-purpose" court. |
| Hardball Fields: | Also known as youth baseball fields. Fences are less than 275 feet from home plate. |
| Softball Fields: | Also known as adult/youth fields. Fences are greater than 275 feet from home plate. |
| Soccer Fields: | Also known as "multi-purpose" fields. Inventoried fields do not necessarily contain permanent goals. Fields may also accommodate activities such as football or rugby. |
| Swimming Pools: | May be either 25 yards or 50 meters in length. |

Recreation Element
Data and Analysis

Trails: May allow jogging, bicycling, hiking or similar non-motorized travel. Track facilities at schools are not included.

Sports-Complex and Local Nature Parks: Acreage may be double-counted as other park types. For example, an undeveloped 100-acre park could contain 50 acres of land suitable (and planned) for active recreation and 50 acres of passive land. Such a park will be counted in the park inventory as 100 acres of community park and 50 acres of local nature park.

DEFINITIONS

ACCESS, PUBLIC: permission, liberty, or ability to enter, approach, use, or pass to and from certain properties, which is shared by all members of the community.

ACCESS, LIMITED: private, school, or non-recreation oriented public properties which inhibit access by all or some members of the community due to: (a) concern for liability; (b) limited hours; (c) poor transportation access; (d) discrimination due to sex, race, or religion; (f) lack of student status; or (e) inability to pay.

ACTIVITY-BASED RECREATION (also known as **CAPITAL-BASED RECREATION** or **ACTIVE RECREATION**): any recreation activity that is primarily dependent on human-built facilities (e.g., a ballfield, tennis court, or swimming pool) rather than the natural environment (e.g., a prairie, forest, creek, or lake) of the recreation site. The attractiveness of activity-based parks is primarily based on the human-built recreational facilities at the site, rather than the natural environment of the site.

CONDITION OF FACILITY:

EXCELLENT: new, original; cannot be improved upon.

GOOD: may show signs of use; otherwise close to excellent.

FAIR: shows definite signs of use, but no repairs are needed.

POOR: in use, but minor repairs will make item more useable; or not in use, but needs minor repair.

MAJOR REPAIR: major repairs needed. Not now usable, but is repairable.

NOT REPAIRABLE: recommending disposal of items in this condition.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT OPEN SPACE (or FEATURES): as defined by the COS Element, consists of relatively natural creeks, lakes, wetlands; threatened and endangered species habitat; significant uplands; major groundwater recharge areas; the municipal wellfield; and adjacent land essential for the viability of such open space or features.

LEISURE: any portion of an individual's time which is pleasurable and not occupied by the pursuit of essential or compulsory activities.

OPEN SPACE: any vegetated or surface water area set aside for recreation, public gathering, aesthetics, buffering, urban definition, protection of public health and safety, preservation of ecosystem functions, or a combination of these features.

PASSIVE RECREATION: see **RESOURCE-BASED RECREATION**.

PRIVATE PARK OR FACILITY: a park or facility that is privately owned and restricts public access through such practices as imposition of relatively costly seasonal or yearly membership fees, or through requiring residence at a residential development associated with the park or facility.

PUBLIC PARK OR FACILITY: a park or facility that is publicly owned or leased on a long-term basis, or is privately owned and allows relatively unrestricted public access.

~~**QUADRANT PARK OR FACILITY:** a facility that is sufficiently attractive to draw people only from the quadrant where the facility is located.~~

RECREATION: any voluntary use of leisure time which provides entertainment or relaxation either in an outdoor setting, or in an indoor setting at a recreation site.

RECREATION SITE OR PARK: any public or private land set aside for aesthetic, recreational, educational, historic, environmental, or cultural use which allows some form of public recreational access as defined by "SEMI-PUBLIC PARK OR FACILITY" and "PUBLIC PARK OR FACILITY." For the purposes of calculating level-of-service deficiencies described in this Element, this definition does not include indoor passive recreation such as museums and art galleries, or indoor, privately owned recreation sites.

RESOURCE-BASED RECREATION (also known as **PASSIVE RECREATION**): any recreation activity, such as boating, nature study, picnicking, or hiking, that is primarily dependent on the passive enjoyment of the natural environment. The attractiveness of resource-based parks is primarily based on the natural environment of the site. Any human-built facilities at the site are designed only to enhance the enjoyment of, or otherwise promote the preservation of, the natural environment of the site.

SEMI-PUBLIC PARK OR FACILITY: a recreational park or facility that is privately owned and allows public use, but only on a relatively restricted or fee basis. Also, any public school.

SERVICE RADIUS: the distance from a park or facility which forms an outer boundary within which a majority of the users of that park or facility would be willing and able to travel to that park or facility.

URBAN AREA-WIDE PARK OR FACILITY: a facility that is sufficiently attractive to draw people from throughout the urban area.

REFERENCES

- Alachua County Conservation and Recreation Areas Task Force. 1988. "Report of the Alachua County Conservation and Recreation Areas Task Force." Gainesville, Florida.
- Alachua County Department of Planning and Development. 1990. "Data and Analysis and Goals, Objectives, and Policies for the Recreation and Open Space Element of the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan." August 31 draft. Gainesville, Florida.
- Alachua County Department of Planning and Development. 1984. "Recreation and Open Space Element of the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan." Gainesville, Florida.
- Bishop, Kirk. 1984. "Answers to Recent Inquiries." *American Planning Association PAS Memo*, September. Chicago, Illinois.
- Chapin, F. Stuart and Edward J. Kaiser. 1979. *Urban Land Use Planning*. University of Illinois Press.
- DeChiara, Joseph and Lee E. Koppelman. 1978. *Site Planning Standards*. McGraw-Hill.
- Florida Department of Community Affairs. 1987. "Recreation and Open Space (Model) Element." Tallahassee, Florida.
- Florida Department of Natural Resources. 1987. "Outdoor Recreation in Florida - 1987". Division of Recreation and Parks. Tallahassee, Florida.
- Florida Recreation and Park Association and Florida Planning and Zoning Association. 1975. "Criteria for Leisure Facilities: Florida Design Standards and Quantities for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space".
- Gainesville Department of Community Development. 1979. "Gainesville Comprehensive Plan 1980-2000." Gainesville, Florida.
- Gainesville Department of Community Development. 1968. "Community Facilities and Recreation Study". Comprehensive Plan Report. Gainesville, Florida.
- Gold, Seymour M. 1980. *Recreation Planning and Design*. Appendix G. McGraw-Hill.
- International City Management Association. 1979. *The Practice of Local Government Planning*. Chapter 10. Washington, D.C.
- Kaiser, Ronald A. and James D. Mertes. 1986. *Acquiring Parks and Recreation Facilities Through Mandatory Dedication*. Venture Publishing, Inc.

- Lancaster Roger A. (Ed.) 1983. *Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines*. National Recreation and Park Association, Alexandria, Virginia.
- Little, Charles E. 1987. "Linking Countryside and City: The Uses of "Greenways". *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*. May-June. 167-9.
- Lorenzen, Leo. 1987. "Recreation Plans." *American Planning Association PAS Memo*, February. Chicago, Illinois.
- Mertes, James D. (Ph.D.), CLP and James R. Hall, CLP. *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*. National Recreation and Park Association, Ashburn, Virginia.
- North Central Florida Regional Planning Council. 1975. "Alachua County Comprehensive Plan 1975 - 1995". For: Alachua County Department of Planning and Development. Gainesville, Florida.
- North Central Florida Regional Planning Council. 1973. "Open Space and Recreation, 1973". Gainesville, Florida.
- Sargent, Frederic O. 1976. *Rural Environmental Planning*. F.O. Sargent. South Burlington, Vermont.
- Thrall, Grant Ian; Bert Swanson; and Dominic Nozzi. 1988. "Greenspace Acquisition Ranking Program (GARP): A Computer-Assisted Decision Strategy." *Computers, Environment and Urban Systems*. 12(3):161-184.
- Zarker, Gary; James M. Bourey; Brian Pancochar; and Peter Lageruey. 1987. "Evaluation of the Burke-Gilman Trail's Effect on Property Values and Crime." Seattle, Washington.

APPENDIX

DRAFT

A Ranking System for Recreational and Conservation Land Parcels

The procedure followed by local governments to purchase vacant parcels for recreational or environmental purposes has traditionally suffered from insufficient analysis. The process typically begins when parcels are offered to the government by developers, realtors, environmentalists, elected officials, or neighborhood organizations. Usually, these parcels are then evaluated by considering the development constraints, location or environmental values of the parcel. Unfortunately, this procedure can overlook several important factors which play a role in assessing the value of a parcel. For example, does the parcel fit into a community scheme for recreation and open space? More importantly, are there other available parcels that are more valuable as parks or open space?

To better answer these questions, and therefore improve the procedure for acquiring new park sites, a computerized land ranking system can be used to evaluate vacant parcels. This system, developed by Gainesville Planning Staff, citizens, and University of Florida academicians, catalogues vacant parcels and evaluates them with a series of 15 criteria. The criteria are designed and weighted to evaluate a parcel in two ways:

1. For the value of the parcel in comparison to other parcels; and
2. For the value of the parcel in supporting "active" recreation and "passive" recreation.

By using the same criteria for each parcel assessment, and awarding points based upon how well the parcels satisfy the criteria, the system is able to compare the value of a parcel to previously evaluated parcels.

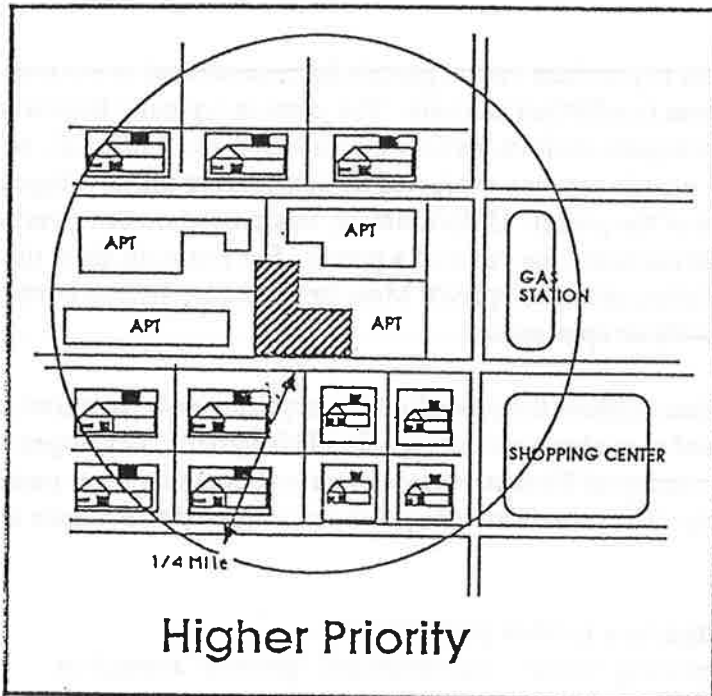
In addition, since there is no clear consensus about whether a community should acquire land based on recreational or environmental values, the system ranks parcels for BOTH categories (the active and the passive rankings). It is then up to the decision-makers to determine whether recreational or environmental values should take precedence.

PARCEL RANKING SYSTEM

The Criteria

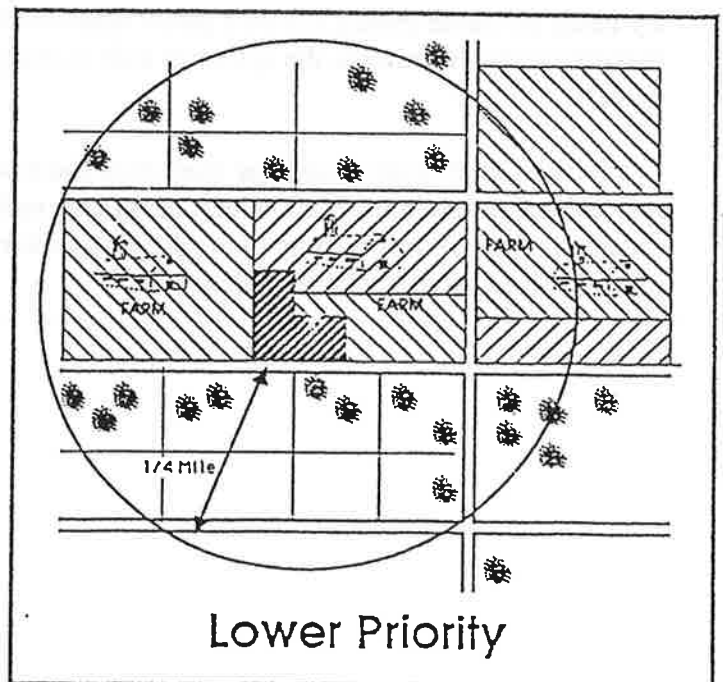
1. Density

"What is the current and expected population or development density of the area where the site is located?"



Justification

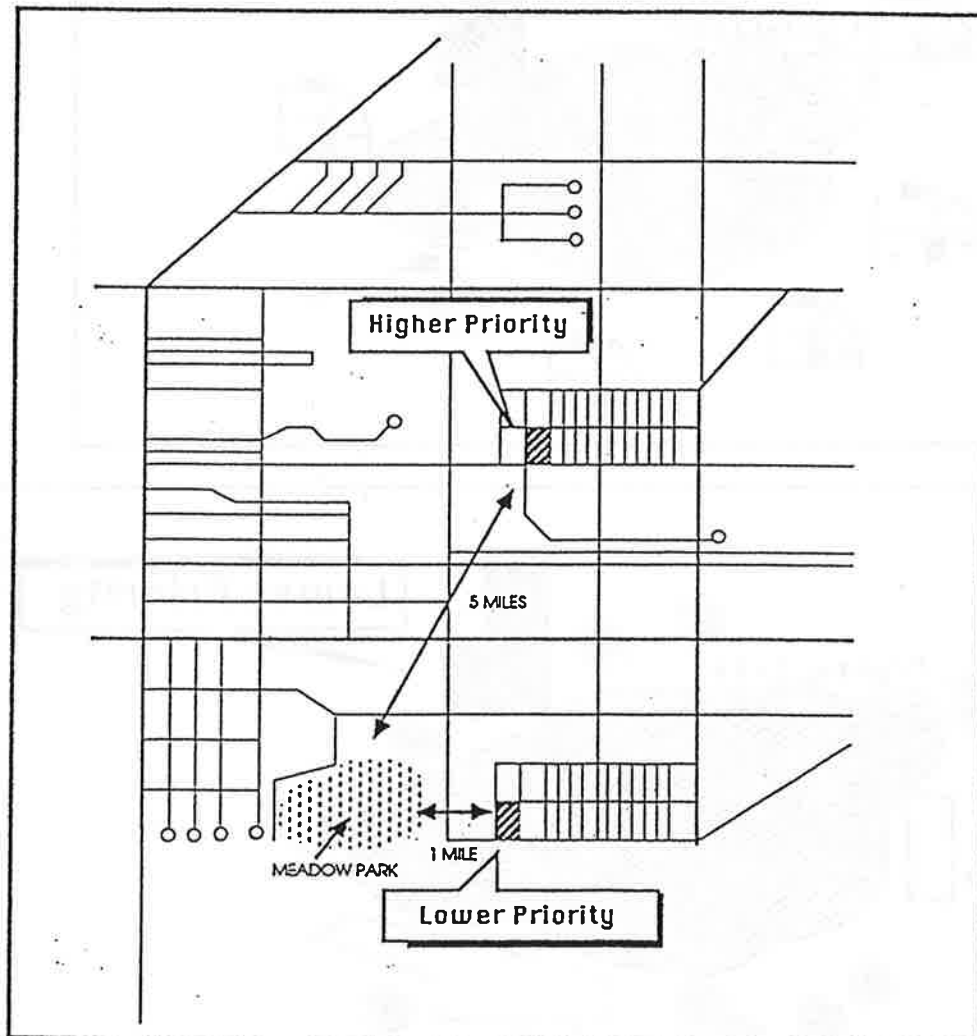
A site in close proximity to high-density commercial or residential areas provides more convenient access to a larger number of park users, and increases the visibility of the site.



PARCEL RANKING SYSTEM

2. Proximity

"What is the proximity of the site to other public parks and open spaces?"



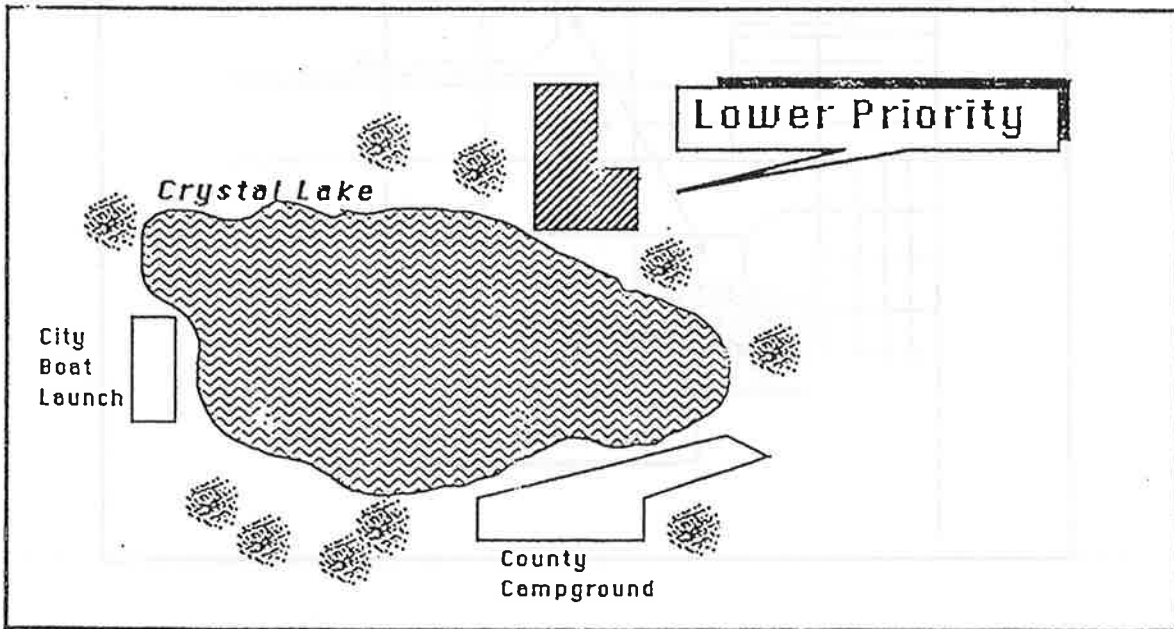
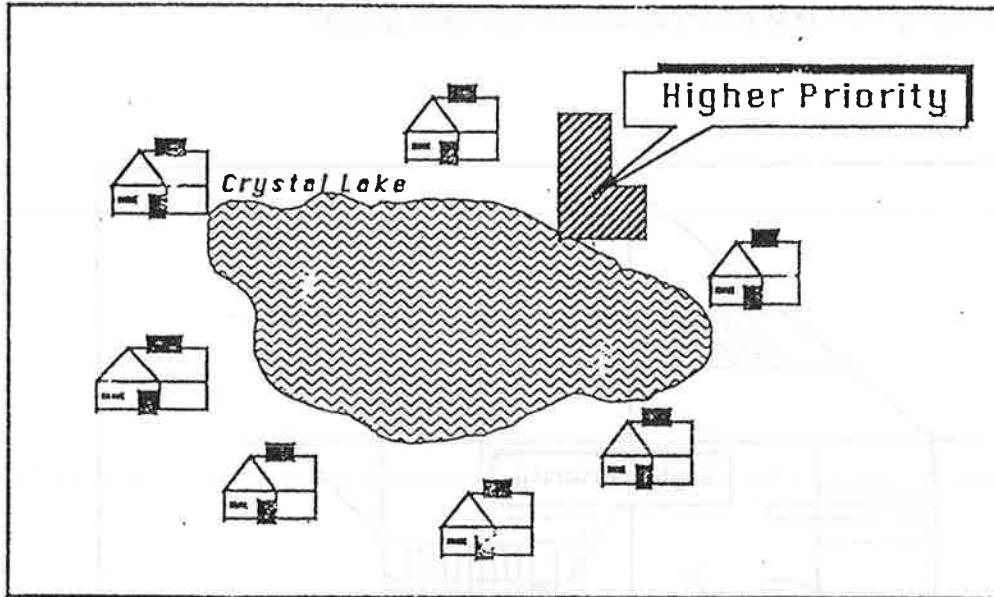
Justification

Sites that are relatively remote from existing parks enhance the dispersal (and therefore accessibility) of parks. "Active" parks that are too closely spaced may suffer from underuse. "Passive" sites are weighted neutrally for this criterion, since proximity to existing passive parks is often preferable.

PARCEL RANKING SYSTEM

3. Resource Access

"Does the site provide access to a natural resource with limited public access?"



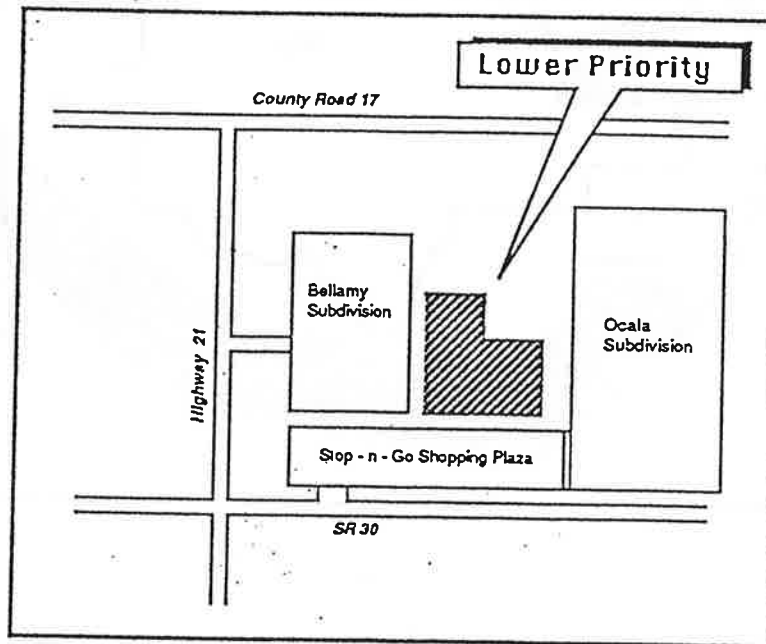
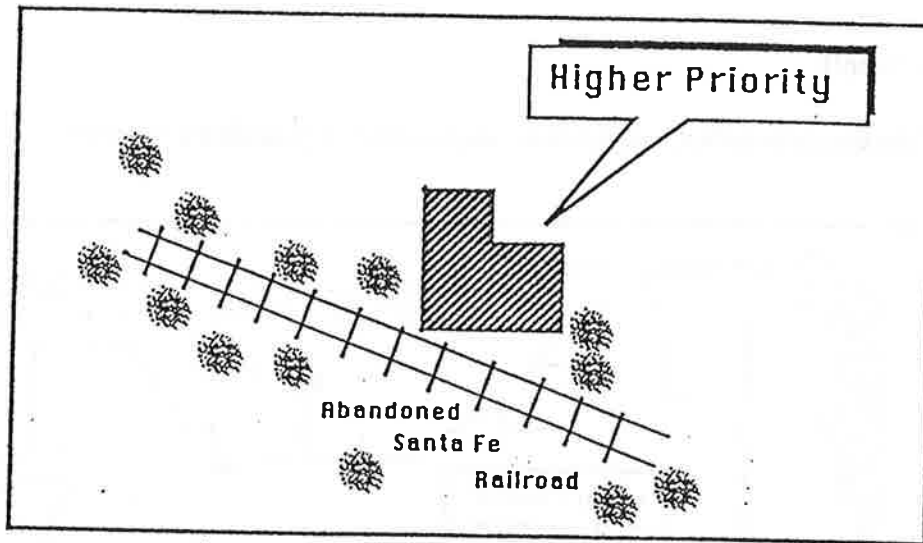
Justification

Many environmentally significant resources are not accessible or visible to citizens. As a result, it is likely that many citizens will be unaware of such resources, become apathetic about such resources, become frustrated by their inability to visit such resources, and possibly be less able to understand the value of such resources. Therefore, those sites which contain (or are near) resources that offer limited public access are more valuable.

PARCEL RANKING SYSTEM

4. Trail Access

"Is the site serviced by an existing or potential abandoned railroad or utility easement right-of-way corridor, or existing recreational trail?"



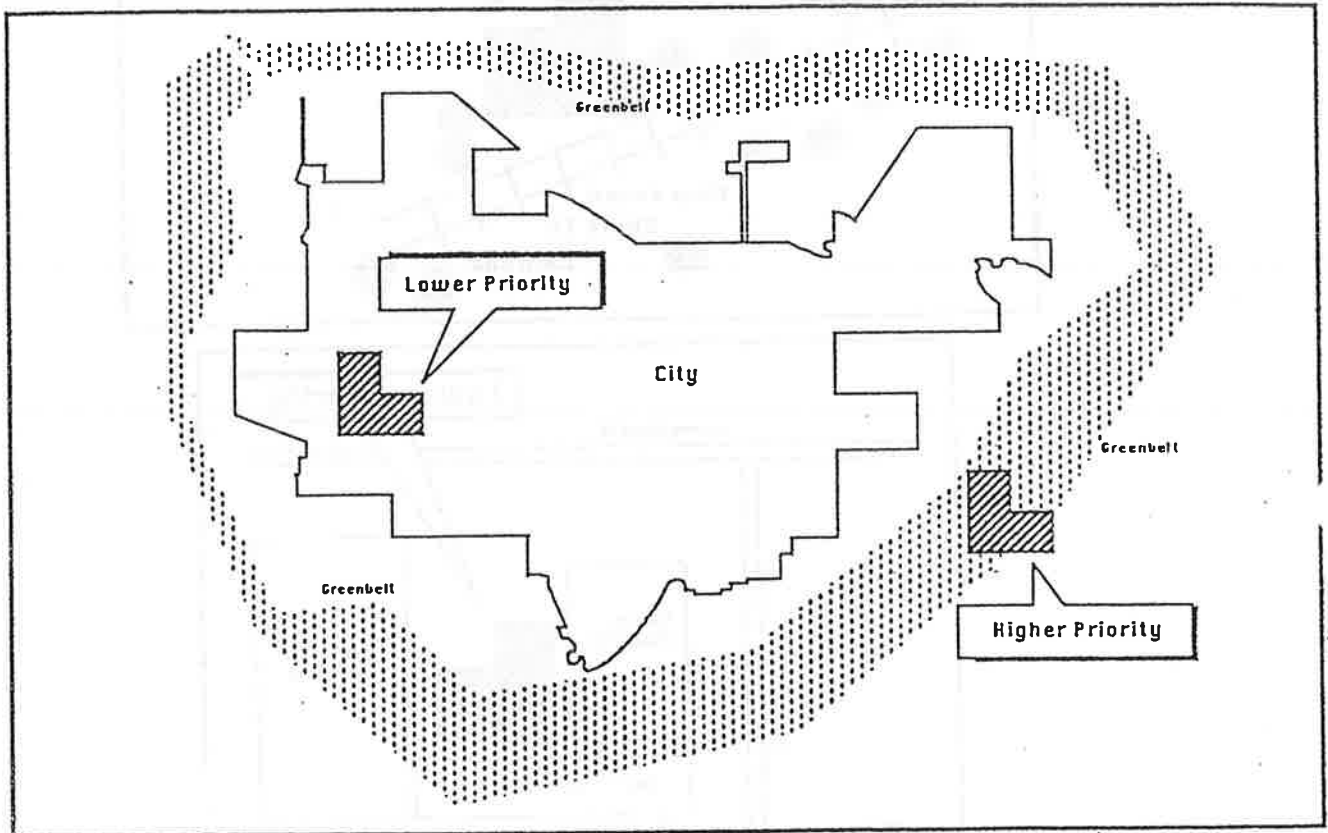
Justification

Alachua County contains several rail and utility right-of-way easements which are generally wide enough to accommodate some forms of recreational travel (bicycling, hiking, jogging), as well as provide a limited form of wildlife corridor capability. Because several rail rights-of-way are now abandoned and being purchased by the public, their potential usefulness as public travel corridors is significant. Such corridors are capable of providing pleasurable, safe, and non-motorized transportation to locations that are now only accessible by auto, if at all. Sites near these corridors would then be valuable "staging" areas, rest areas, or scenic vistas for trail users.

PARCEL RANKING SYSTEM

5. Greenbelt

"Would the site be relatively useful as a component in a greenbelt network?"



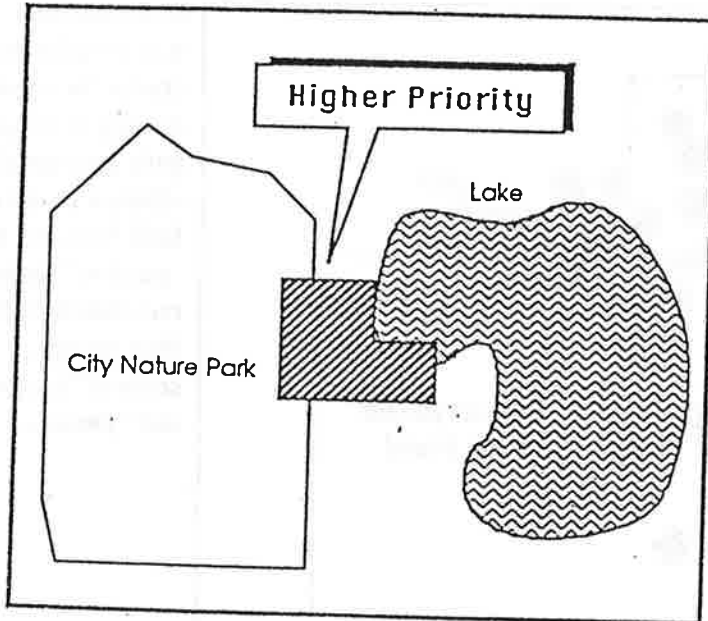
Justification

Sites that "fill in the gaps" of an urban-defining greenbelt are more valuable than those unable to serve this purpose. Greenbelts are useful in (1) controlling urban sprawl; (2) Integrating city parks into a network (such as an "emerald necklace"); (3) improving community image; (4) improving the viability of wildlife areas; and (5) improving access to the large "islands" of recreation and conservation lands surrounding the community.

PARCEL RANKING SYSTEM

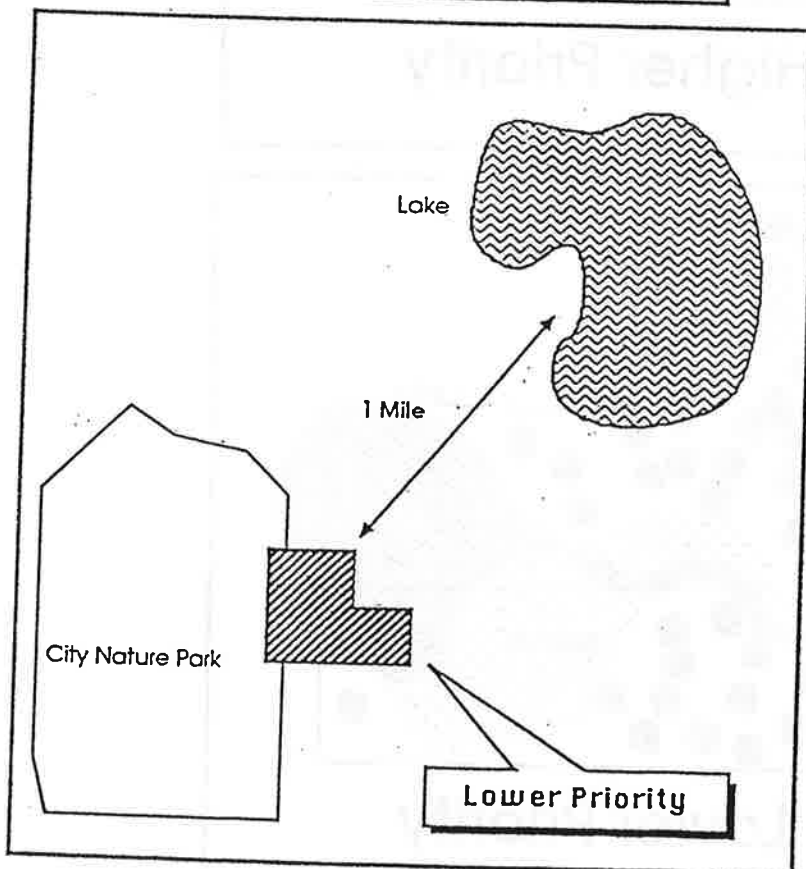
6. Connectivity

"Does the site provide a physical linkage between two or more existing public parks or open spaces, or extend the size of such parks?"



Justification

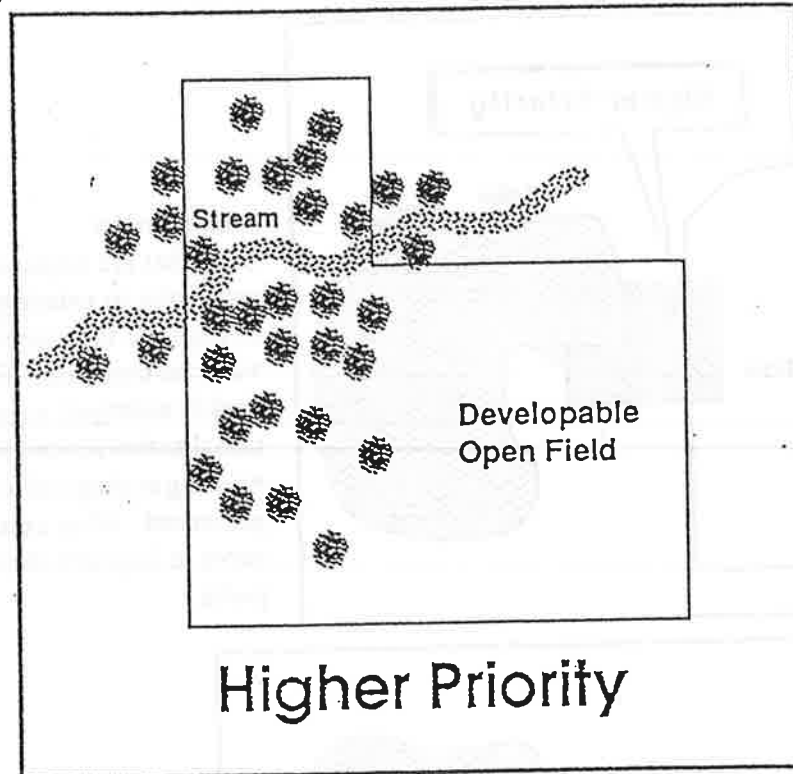
Sites that are adjacent to, or are in close proximity to existing parks act synergistically to improve the recreational and ecological value of both sites. For example, if an existing park is enlarged, a greater range of recreational activities can be accommodated, and existing ecological attributes are more easily preserved. Also, connections between parks serve to improve the accessibility to such parks.



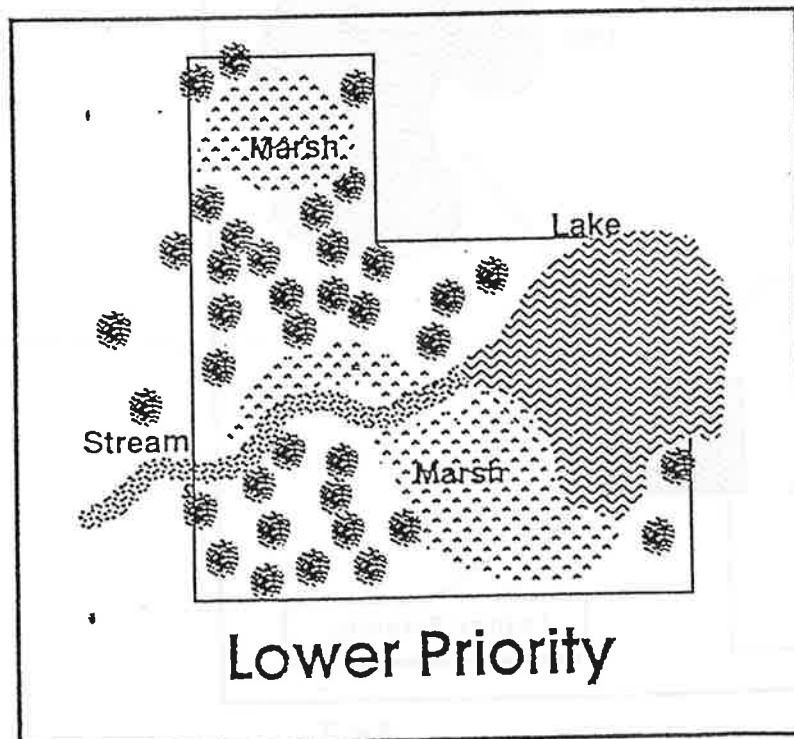
PARCEL RANKING SYSTEM

7. Multi-Uses

"Is the site suitable for both resource-based and capital-based recreation?"



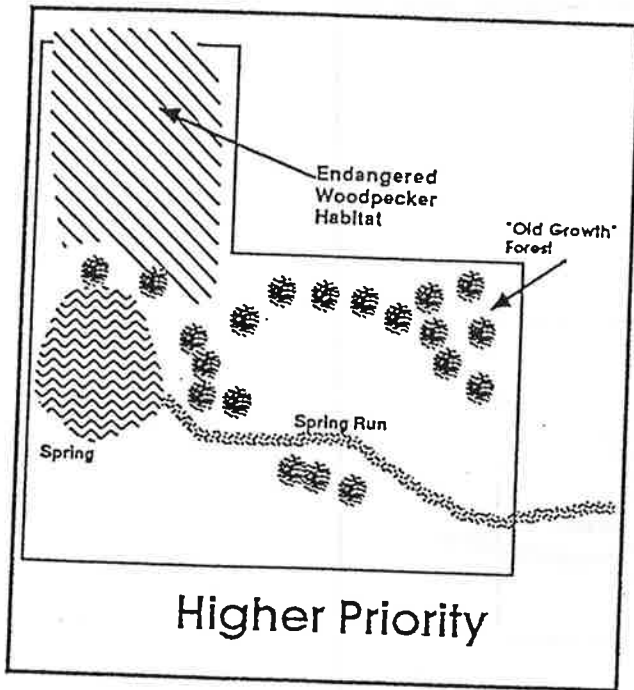
Justification
It is usually less costly for a community to acquire park acreage that offers a range of both "active" and "passive" forms of recreation, rather than buying several "single-use" parcels.



PARCEL RANKING SYSTEM

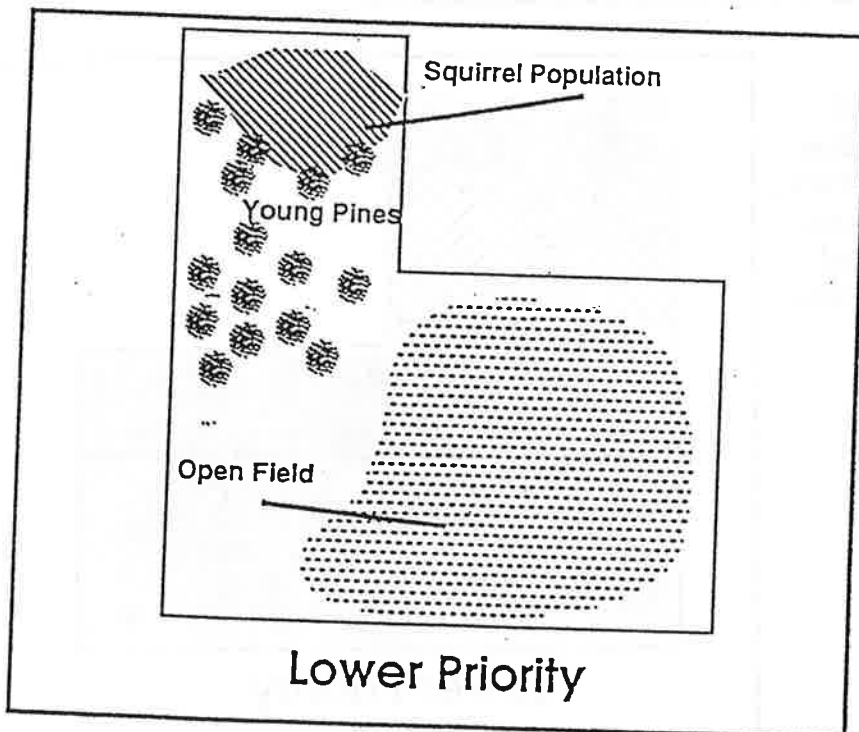
8. Rarity

"How unique is/are the natural attributes of the site?"



Justification

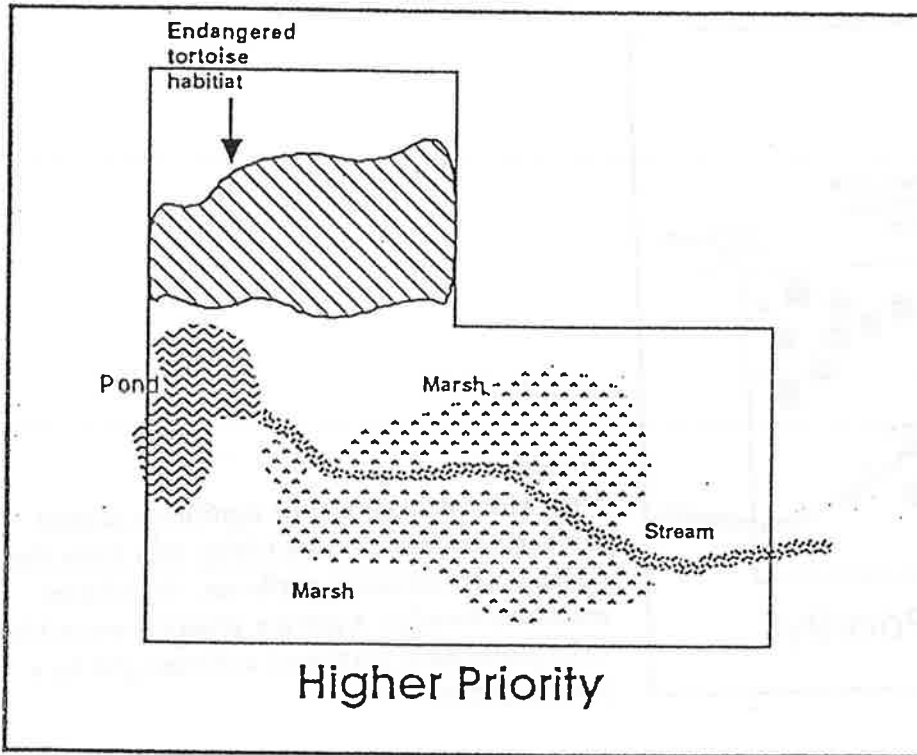
Sites which contain rare or significant natural attributes are valued more highly than those that contain more common attributes. Significant resources found on a site are generally more likely to be protected if purchased and managed by a public agency.



PARCEL RANKING SYSTEM

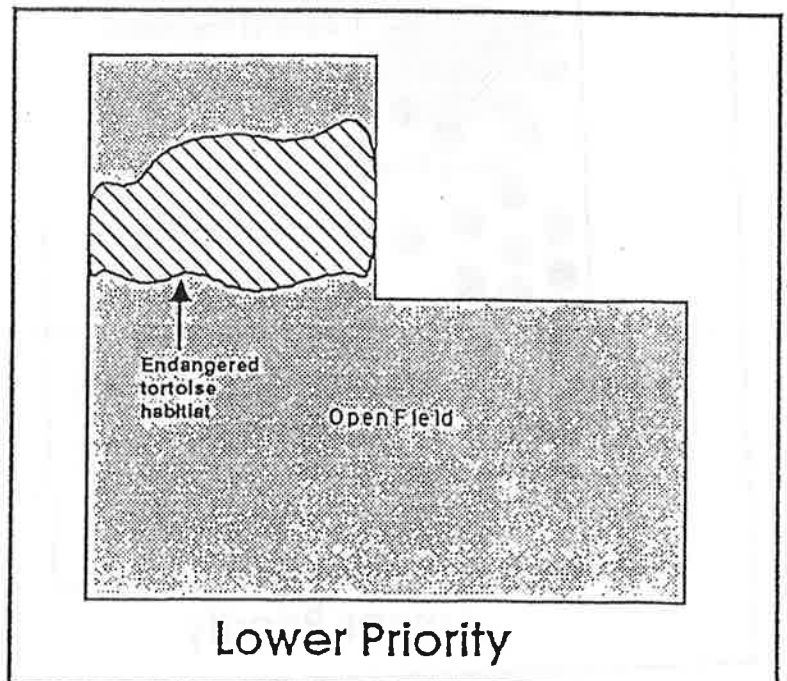
9. Diversity

"How much diversity does the site possess in regard to natural attributes?"



Justification

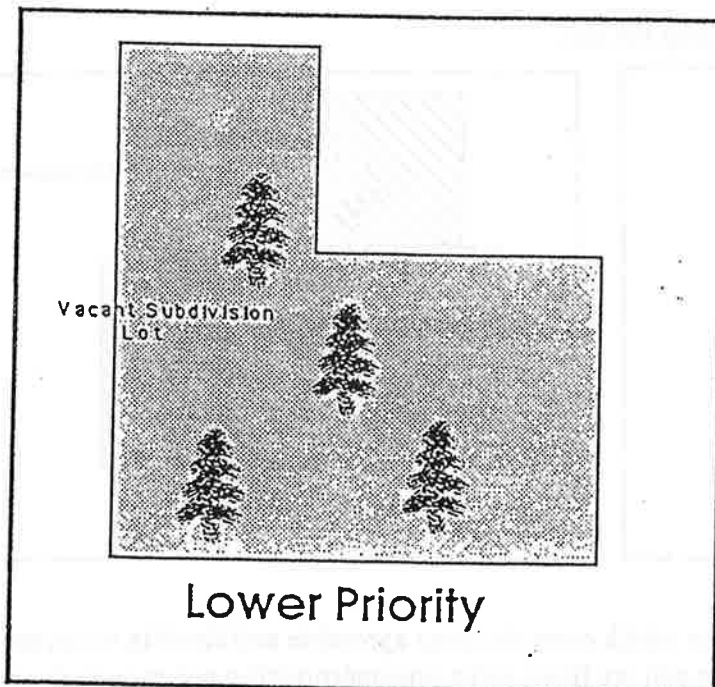
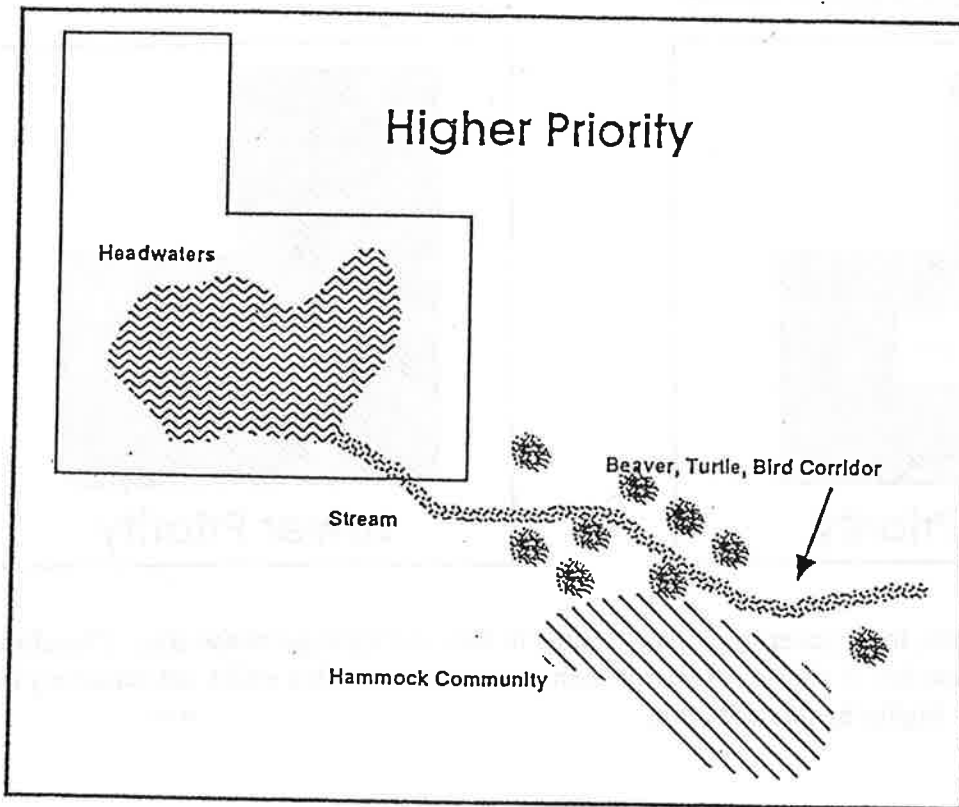
Sites with a relatively high degree of natural species diversity generally demonstrate high ecological "quality". Sites that are relatively diverse are often more interesting, aesthetically pleasing, and likely to possess ecological communities that are able to resist extinction.



PARCEL RANKING SYSTEM

10. Ecosystem

"How critical are the natural attributes of the site to the integrity of an ecosystem?"



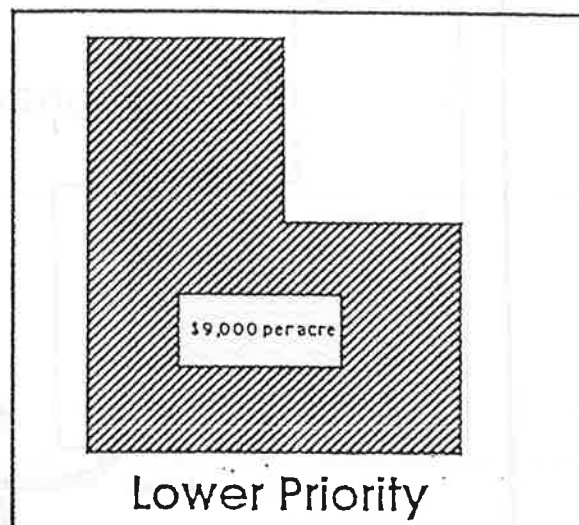
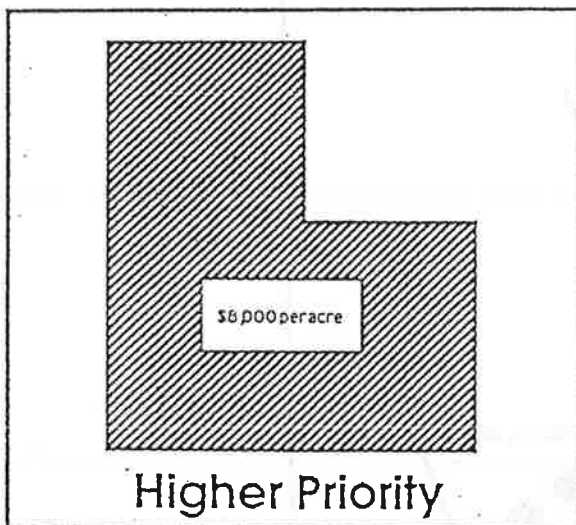
Justification

Sites which contain significant natural attributes are valued highly since public acquisition and management would improve the likelihood of these attributes being protected. The attributes identified by this criterion are, when functioning properly, able to sustain regionally significant ecosystems.

PARCEL RANKING SYSTEM

11. Cost

"What is the per acre cost to acquire the site?"

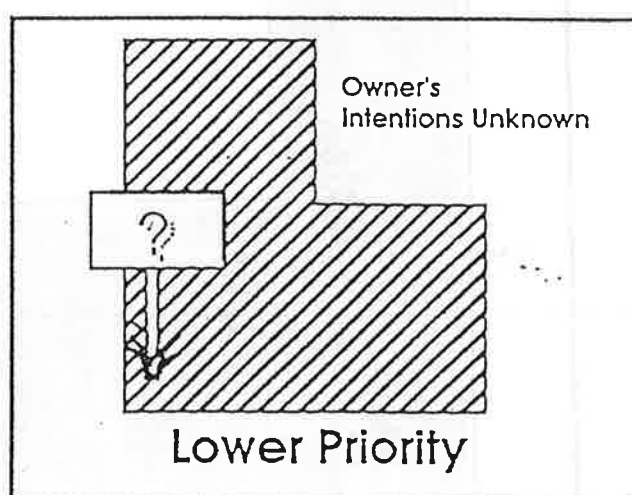
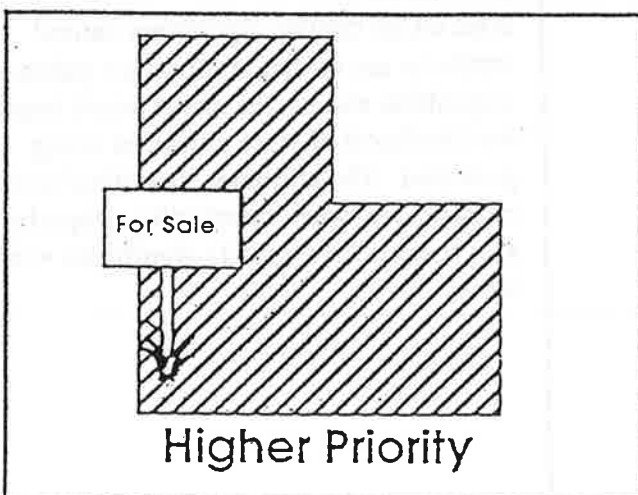


Justification

Due to budget constraints, local governments are limited in their ability to purchase sites. Therefore, in order to maximize the number of sites a community can purchase, those sites which are relatively inexpensive are valued most highly by this criterion.

12. Availability

"Is the site owner relatively interested in selling the site?"



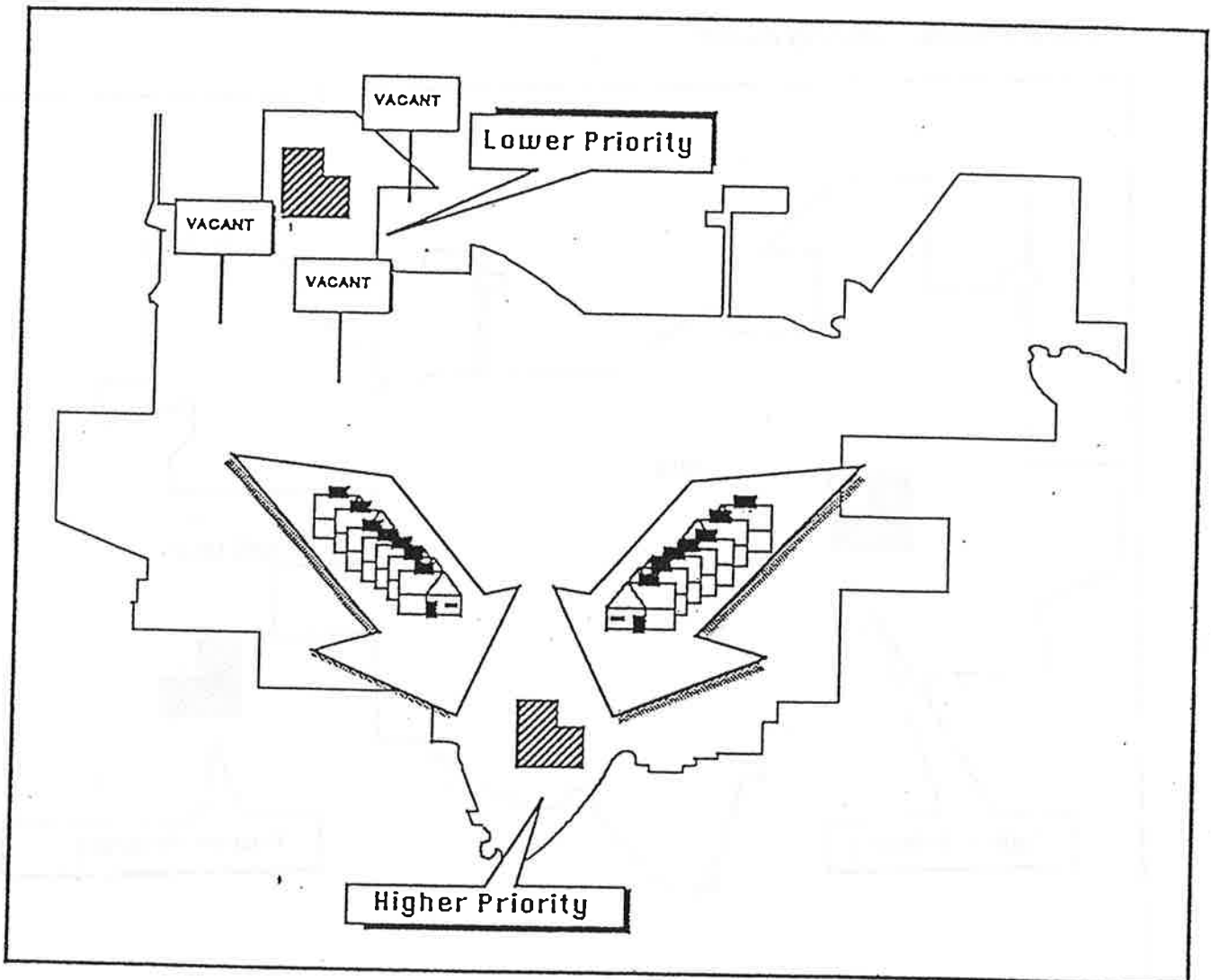
Justification

Sites that are officially for sale are often those which carry the most agreeable and flexible terms for acquisition. Conversely, owners unwilling to sell are likely to be uncompromising and may seek an unreasonably high price for the parcel.

PARCEL RANKING SYSTEM

13. Pressure

"When is the site likely to be developed?"



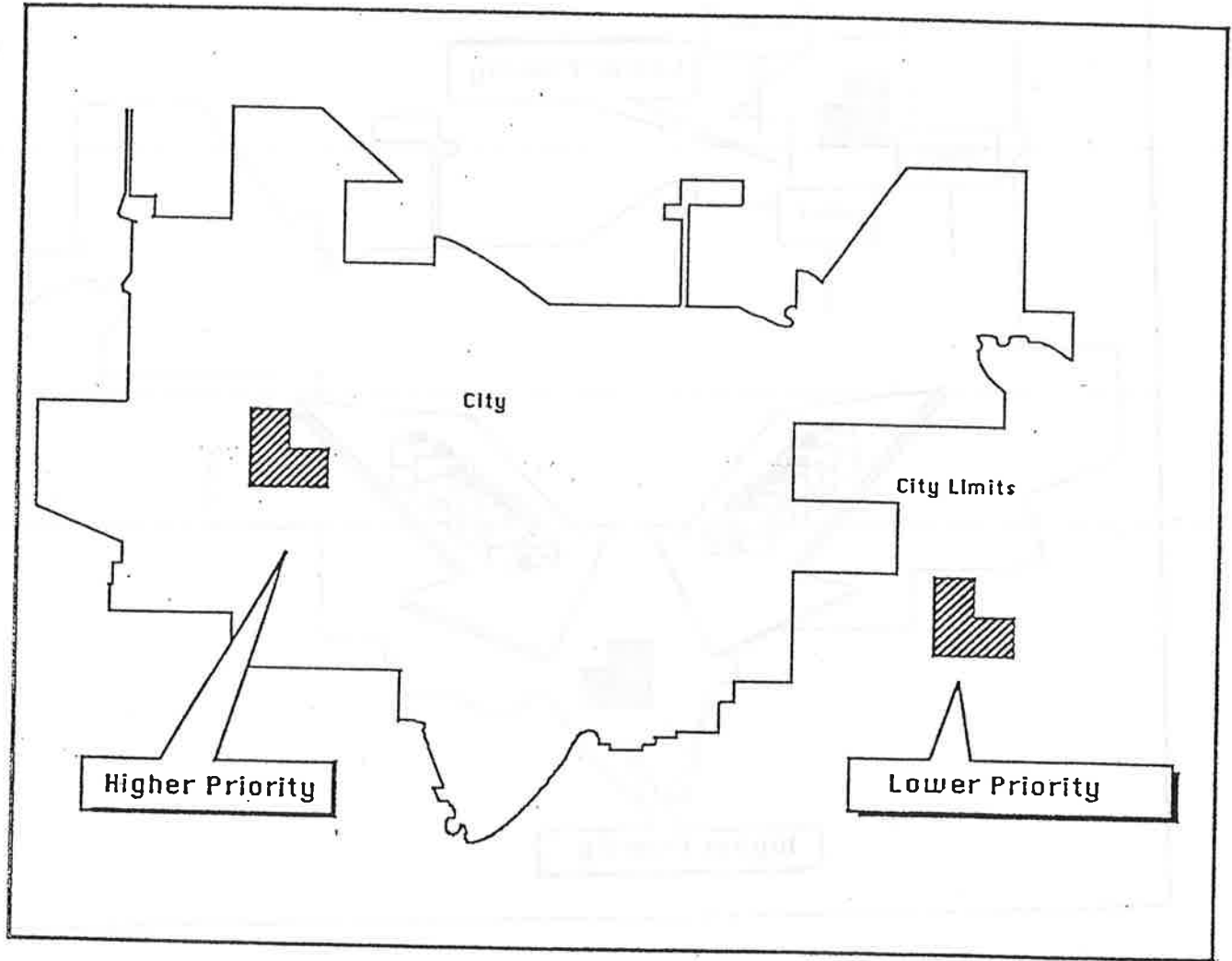
Justification

Sites that are in the path of residential, commercial, or industrial development are more likely to be developed in the near future. Sites likely to be developed in the near future must be prioritized for acquisition in order for the public to avoid losing any recreational or environmental attributes of the site.

PARCEL RANKING SYSTEM

14. Jurisdiction

"Is the site within or near city limits?"

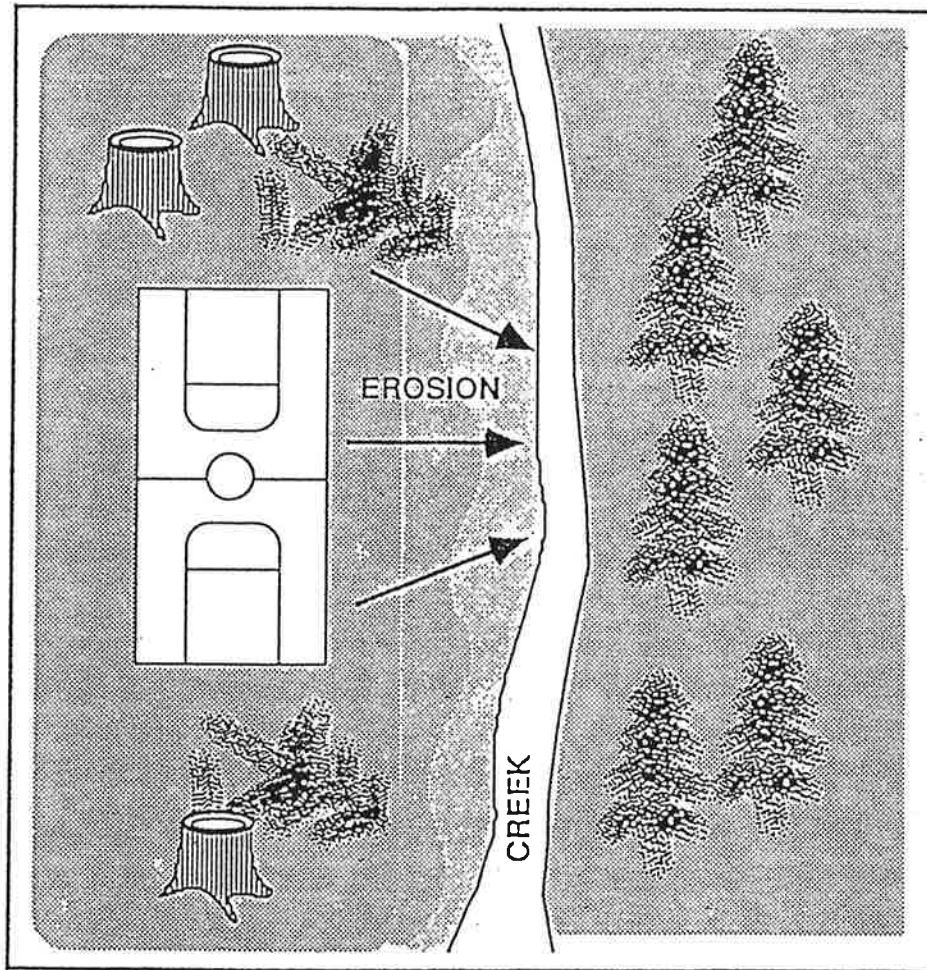


Justification

Sites that fall within the city limits offer greater management control and flexibility of use for the city, since city regulatory codes apply to lands within city limits. In addition, sites that are within or near city limits are more accessible to city residents.

15. Environmental Degradation

"Will development of the site for active recreation result in significant degradation of important environmental features?"



Justification

Certain sites contain important environmental features. However, building facilities such as tennis or basketball courts at the site can damage these features by causing erosion, removing large areas of vegetation, disturbing wildlife, and other harmful impacts. Since some sites are generally unable to accommodate active recreation without damaging natural features, it is necessary to lower the value of the site when ranking it for "active" recreation. The "passive" ranking is unaffected by this criterion.

4. **Petition 145CPA-00 PB** City Plan Board. Update the Recreation Element of the City of Gainesville 1991-2001 Comprehensive Plan for the proposed 2000-2010 Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Jason Simmons was recognized. Mr. Simmons discussed the Comprehensive Plan update process and the changes since the March 16th Recreation Workshop. He noted that other workshops had been held before the Recreation Board, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Committee, at Westside Park and the Northeast Liaison Center. He discussed the Level of Service Standards and indicated that it was basically a status quo plan with few modifications. He explained that, since recreation funding remained limited, it was felt that the Level of Service should remain as it is for the time being. He noted it could change based upon the County's Recreation Master Plan. Mr. Simmons reviewed changes made in response to public workshops. He offered to answer any questions from the board.

Ms. Myers noted that Mr. Simmons referred to skateboard parks and dog parks. She asked if they were mentioned the information provided to the board.

Mr. Simmons indicated that they were not located on a map since they were still in the planning stages.

Mr. Cliff Crawford, Recreation and Parks Director, was recognized. Mr. Crawford explained that there was no specific standard for non-traditional facilities such as skateboard and dog parks. He indicated that plans for a skateboard park were in progress. He explained that dog parks were usually a local neighborhood use. He noted that the Commission had provided funding to develop a model dog park facility at Northeast Park.

Ms. Myers noted that the documents spoke to discussions with residents on development of parks. She explained that her neighborhood was slated for a dog park and a skateboard park. She indicated that there had been no discussion of a skateboard park and it seemed that a step had been missed.

Mr. Crawford explained that all of the meetings were noticed public meetings. He noted that there was also a meeting of the Duckpond Neighborhood Association which did address the skateboard park and facilities.

Ms. Myers indicated that the Duckpond Neighborhood Association was a small group. She suggested that the City notify the citizens of meeting through individual mailings.

Mr. Crawford explained that all meetings of the Skateboard Park Committee were publicly noticed according to established notification guidelines. He noted that there were not sufficient resources to make individual notifications on every issue. He pointed out that there weren't enough resources to address the greater needs of the community.

Mr. Polshek suggested that a citizen in the community had as much of an obligation to be proactive as members of the government.

Ms. Myers suggested that a dog park or skateboard facility were major changes to recreation facilities.

Mr. Guy asked if the university students were counted in the Level of Service or if it was assumed that they were covered by university facilities.

Mr. Simmons explained that the Level of Service standards were based upon the 1999 population estimates. He indicated that those estimates included the student population.

These minutes are not a verbatim account of this meeting. Tape recordings from which the minutes were prepared are available from the Community Development Department of the City of Gainesville.

Mr. Guy asked if it was possible that recreation facilities were being underestimated because the university facilities were not counted. He pointed out that those facilities were being used by a part of the population.

Mr. Simmons indicated that only City facilities were counted and university facilities were not included as a part of the calculations for the City's Level of Service standards.

Mr. Crawford indicated that he taught at the university and his survey of students indicated that they primarily used facilities available on campus. He noted that the exception to that was the use of the trails.

Mr. Guy suggested that the Level of Service could be inaccurate because population estimates counted students and facilities estimates did not include university facilities.

Mr. Crawford discussed the Level of Service and how it interacted with the location of parks and populations. He noted that, demographically, there might be Level of Service deficiencies. He discussed funding and population growth.

Mr. Guy asked if there was some way to grid the City to determine Level of Service in smaller areas.

Mr. Crawford noted that, recently, there had been greater focus on neighborhoods. He discussed grants received for projects and future developments. He indicated that there were continuing negative impacts on already aging and overtaxed infrastructure systems, and those issues should be addressed.

Ms. Myers noted that Mr. Crawford spoke to grants. She asked how the new skateboard parks being funded when there was insufficient funds for infrastructure.

Mr. Crawford explained that the funding for skateboard parks was allotted when the City refinanced bonds.

Mr. Polshek suggested that actual levels of usage should be added to the Data and Analysis. He noted that there were very few playgrounds for small children in Gainesville when compared to cities of similar size elsewhere. He suggested that a Level of Service might be maintained for such a playground.

Ms. Myers agreed with Mr. Polshek. She noted that the proposed dog park was being built at a park where the facilities were in need of repair.

Mr. Crawford indicated that Ms. Myers should call about any equipment that needed repair. He explained, however, that the dog park and regular maintenance required separate funding.

Mr. Polshek asked if data was being collected on the number of city residents using university facilities.

Mr. Crawford explained that the university was very aggressive in regulation and control of their recreation facilities. He noted that attempts to develop inter local agreements for use of facilities had not been successful.

Mr. Guy noted that universities in other cities did allow citizens to use their facilities. He asked if information on those cities could be obtained.

Mr. Crawford indicated that, although the university and the public schools were taxpayer funded, decisions on use of their facilities were made independently. He noted, however, he would continue to look for ways to open those facilities for public use.

These minutes are not a verbatim account of this meeting. Tape recordings from which the minutes were prepared are available from the Community Development Department of the City of Gainesville.

Mr. Polshek opened the floor to public comment.

Mr. Peter Rebman was recognized. Mr. Rebman suggested that the element should state that new sources of funding should be aggressively pursued.

Mr. Guy suggested that the element include a more refined Level of Service which would address the quality and local access of facilities. He also suggested that the pursuit of inter local agreements be continued and include Alachua County and the School Board. Regarding Objective 1.8.3, he suggested that the text "the City shall continue to investigate the feasibility of various funding ideas" be changed to "the City shall implement various funding ideas, including, but not limited to general bond, recreation impact fees, utility transfers and recreational park tax districts."

Mr. Hilliard pointed out that modifying the text of the Comprehensive Plan was not a guarantee that funding would be available.

Mr. Guy agreed. He indicated that the failure of the recreation tax proposal combined with language in the Recreation Element stating the City will "continue to investigate the feasibility of various funding ideas" would mean that it was not willing to stand up for the general good. He pointed out that recreation and children should be two of the highest priorities.

Mr. Hilliard reiterated that there should not be any false hope that the language would have a significant effect on the issue.

Mr. Polshek suggested the language read "shall seek various" rather than "continue to investigate the feasibility." He agreed that the language was weak.

Mr. Hilliard pointed out that the City had investigated all of the options and there had been either no public support or no financially feasible way to proceed. He indicated that the only option not explored was a recreation impact fee.

Mr. Pearce suggested that there was no need to have language that was relatively meaning less or of no consequence.

<u>Motion By:</u> Mr. Guy	<u>Seconded By:</u> Ms. Myers
<u>Moved to:</u> Approve Petition 145CPA-00 PB, modifying the text in Policy 1.8.3 to replace "shall continue to investigate the feasibility of" with "the City shall seek"; add to language in Policy 1.2.1 to state that the inventory shall include surveys of actual usage; include and develop Levels of Service standards for playgrounds in Table #1 of the Data and Analysis Report.	<u>Upon Vote:</u> Motion Carried 5-0 Yeas: Pearce, Carter, Myers, Guy, Polshek.

5 Legal Notice

**HEARING BEFORE
THE CITY COMMISSION**

The City Commission of the City of Gainesville, FL will consider the following items at the regular Public Hearing scheduled on Monday, December 11, 2000 after 6:00 P.M. in the City Hall, First Floor Auditorium, 200 E. University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida.

Petition 51CPA-00 PB. City Plan Board. Update the Housing Element of the City of Gainesville 1991-2001 Comprehensive Plan for the proposed 2000-2010 Comprehensive Plan. Legislative Matter No. 991268

Petition 145CPA-00 PB. City Plan Board. Update the Recreation Element of the City of Gainesville 1991-2001 Comprehensive Plan for the proposed 2000-2010 Comprehensive Plan. Legislative Matter No. 000514

Petition 150SVA-00 PB. Ridgeway Roof Truss Company. Pursuant to Sec. 30-192(b), Land Development Code, to vacate, abandon and close that portion of the right-of-way of Southwest 11th Place, located approximately 251 feet MOL west of South Main Street. Legislative Matter No. 000617

Petition 155PDA-00 PB. Causseaux & Ellington, Inc., agent for Kenneth R. McGurn and Oakbrook Walk Homeowner's Associated. Amend the Oakbrook Walk Planned Development to add additional land with existing residential units, provide for an on-site management office and amend the northeast corner of the property for a bike path for P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School. Zoned: PD (planned development district) and RH-1 (8-43 units/acre, residential high density). Located at 1331 SW 13th Street. Tax parcel nos. 15617-000-000 and 15631-000-000. Legislative Matter No. 000618

In order to participate in the quasi-judicial portion of the proceeding before the City Commissioner, all parties who are entitled to actual notice must file the registration form with the Board's secretary or Clerk of the City Commission. A party who is not entitled to actual written notice, but who believes that he or she has a special interest or would suffer an injury distinct in kind and degree from that shared by the public at large by the petition, may request affected party status by filing an application with the Clerk of the City Commission in writing during regular business hours, no less than seven (7) days prior to the meeting when the petition is scheduled to be heard. The application must be filed and received by the Clerk of the City Commission, First Floor, City Hall, 200 East University Avenue, during business hours. If you do not choose to participate in the quasi-judicial portion of the proceeding, you will be allowed to provide testimony and evidence during the public hearing portion of the meeting, up to 5 minutes per person.



11/21/00

If you have questions about a petition or the process, phone the Department of Community Development at 334-5022 or come to Room 156, Thomas Center B, 305 NE 6th Avenue, Gainesville, Florida, during business hours.

If any person decides to appeal a decision of this body with respect to any matter considered at the above-referenced meeting or hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purposes it may be necessary to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities who require assistance to participate in the meeting are requested to notify the Equal Opportunity Department at 334-5051 (TDD, 334-2069) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting date.

(#19335) 11:21

