

Recreation Element (Draft)
Goals, Objectives and Policies
January 22, 2001

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

This should be attached to the END of Ord. 000514 adopted on 3/4. It was on my copy. Questions, please call. Subm

NOTES:

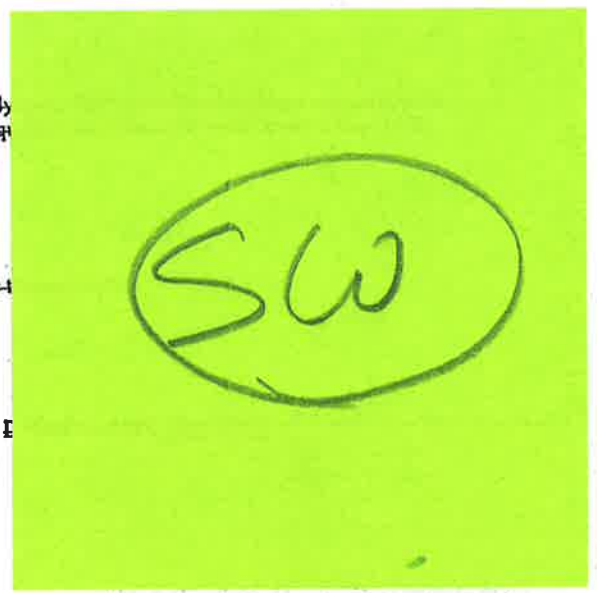
⁴ Standards for local nature park, sports complex, and 50-meter pool facilities apply 25-yard pool, softball, soccer, trail, neighborhood park, basketball, tennis, and racquetball and quadrant-by-quadrant in 1997.

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.

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

SOURCE: City of Gainesville, Department of Community Development. E



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

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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 Woodland 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 ~~of the planning quadrant~~. Access is by collector or arterial streets, with facilities for pedestrians, bicycles, autos, and buses. An example is Westside Park.

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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 ~~s~~ 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.~~

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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.

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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).

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- * **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.)

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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