



Recreation Element Evaluation and Appraisal

Major Issues Assessment

Issue 1: Clarify Activity Center, Mixed-use, and Urban Design Requirements. (N/A)

Issue 2: Establish Policies for the Reduction of Greenhouse Gases within the City.

Analysis of Existing Objectives and Policies

The objectives and/or policies of the Recreation Element that pertain to Issue 2 are Objective 2.1 and Policies 2.1.2 and 2.1.3, as shown in the Major Issues Evaluation Matrix for this Element. See Table 1. The objective and the policies have been achieved and are ongoing; the recommendation is that they remain in place.

Issue 3: Encourage Livable Neighborhoods for People of All Ages.

Analysis of Existing Objectives and Policies

The objectives and/or policies of the Recreation Element that pertain to Issue 3 are Objective 1.6 and Policy 1.6.4, as shown in the Major Issues Evaluation Matrix for this Element. See Table 1. The objective and the policy have been achieved and are ongoing; the recommendation is that they remain in place.

Issue 4: Fund Transportation Choice. (N/A)

Issue 5: Amend Future Land Use Map as Justified by Data and Analysis. (N/A)

Issue 6: Encourage Infill and Redevelopment in Central and East Gainesville. (N/A)

Issue 7: Navigate the New Economy. (N/A)

Issue 8: Strengthen Natural Resource Protection.

Analysis of Existing Objectives and Policies

The objectives and/or policies of the Recreation Element that pertain to Issue 8 are Objective 2.2 and Policies 2.2.1, 2.2.2, and 2.2.3, as shown in the Major Issues

Evaluation Matrix for this Element. See Table 1. The objective and the policies have been achieved and are ongoing; the recommendation is that they remain in place.

Unforeseen or Unanticipated Changes

The Wild Spaces – Public Places referendum passed in November, 2008. It is a two-year, half-cent sales tax that will fund land acquisition for preservation and improvements to public recreation facilities in Alachua County and the nine municipalities. It does provide the opportunity to upgrade many recreational facilities throughout the City of Gainesville and Alachua County at a time of economic distress.

Along with the unanticipated opportunity has come the unanticipated problem of the economic recession. The \$12 million that the City will receive for park improvements, park renovations and the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands is less than the \$14.2 million that was originally expected when the referendum was put together. Because the tax will not generate as much money as originally projected, certain improvements proposed at Loblolly Woods Nature Park and Alfred A. Ring Park were removed from the list of projects that would be funded.

Recommended Changes

No changes to the objectives and policies are needed.

Table 1

Major Issues Evaluation Matrix – Recreation Element
Issue 2 – Establish Policies for the Reduction of Greenhouse Gases within the City

Objective or Policy	Measurable Target	Objective or Policy Achieved?	Recommended Changes
<p>Objective 2.1: A trail network, 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 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.</p>	<p>Implementation of Policies 2.1.2 and 2.1.3</p>	<p>Achieved and ongoing.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>2.1.2 The City shall continue to enforce Land Development Regulations that promote the establishment of the trail network described in Objective 2.1. Private developments falling within the network shall be required to promote the linear integrity of the network.</p>	<p>The enforcement of Land Development Regulations that promote the establishment of the trail network described in Objective 2.1.</p>	<p>Applies to City Planning Department.</p>	<p>None.</p>

Table 1

Major Issues Evaluation Matrix – Recreation Element
Issue 3 – Encourage Livable Neighborhoods for People of All Ages

Objective or Policy	Measurable Target	Objective or Policy Achieved?	Recommended Changes
<p>Objective 1.6: Improve access to parks for all categories of users.</p>	<p>Implementation of Policy 1.6.4.</p>	<p>Achieved and ongoing.</p>	
<p>1.6.4 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.</p>	<p>Community and neighborhood parks that are accessible to the handicapped/disabled, elderly and other individuals with physical limitations.</p>	<p>Achieved and ongoing.</p>	<p>None.</p>

Table 1

Major Issues Evaluation Matrix – Recreation Element
Issue 8 – Strengthen Natural Resource Protection

Objective or Policy	Measurable Target	Objective or Policy Achieved?	Recommended Changes
<p>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.</p>	<p>Implementation of policies 2.2.1 through 2.2.3.</p>	<p>Achieved and ongoing.</p>	
<p>2.2.1 The City shall continue to use the park acquisition criteria described in Policy 1.1.3 in order to place a high priority on restoring and preserving significant natural features.</p>	<p>The continued use of the criteria in land acquisition decisions for parks that place a high priority on restoring and preserving significant natural features.</p>	<p>Achieved and ongoing.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>2.2.2 The City shall continue to use 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.</p>	<p>The continued use of policies based on the “Environmental Management of Public Parks & Open Spaces” portion of the Conservation Element, to preserve natural features in City parks.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Nature Operations Division is currently in the process of updating City code to accommodate additional natural features that have been previously overlooked.</p>	<p>None.</p>

Table 1

Major Issues Evaluation Matrix – Recreation Element
Issue 8 – Strengthen Natural Resource Protection

Objective or Policy	Measurable Target	Objective or Policy Achieved?	Recommended Changes
<p>2.2.3 The City shall continue to use 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.</p>	<p>The continued use of Land Development Regulations based on the “Environmental Management of Public Parks & Open Spaces” portion of the Conservation Element to protect parks from undesirable encroachments such as incompatible land uses, visual disamenities, and noise.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Nature Operations Division is currently in the process of updating City code to accommodate additional natural features that have been previously overlooked.</p>	<p>None.</p>

Recreation Element Evaluation and Appraisal

Element Assessment

Key findings for the Recreation Element

1. The City of Gainesville has substantially met the goals, objectives, and policies of the Recreation Element.
2. On November 4, 2008, the Wild Spaces - Public Places (WSPP) referendum was approved by Alachua County voters. It is a two-year, half-cent sales tax that will fund land acquisition for preservation and improvements to public recreation facilities in Alachua County and the nine municipalities. The City of Gainesville will receive about \$12 million for park improvements, park renovations and the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands. The City expects to use approximately \$2.5 million of the WSPP funds, along with existing funding of \$850,000 in green space acquisition funds to purchase environmentally sensitive lands. Twenty capital facilities and park improvement projects were approved for partial or total funding by the City Commission in September, 2009. Some improvements have been completed while others are just beginning to get underway or are in the design phase of the project.
3. The major city project that is to be funded with Wild Spaces - Public Places funding is the Senior Center at Northside Park. The City of Gainesville is planning to establish a senior recreation center at the park. The park is centrally located in the most densely populated area of Alachua County and there is land available on the property to build the proposed facility. The senior recreation center would serve the growing population of seniors in Alachua County, as well as the public at large for certain recreation events when the center is available. Both the City and Alachua County have dedicated \$1.5 million towards the project. In addition, there is a grant from the State of Florida for \$2 million, for a total of \$5 million for this facility. This project is currently in the early design phase.
4. After the sales tax ends on December 31, 2010 for Wild Spaces - Public Places, the City must continue to look for funding to support the existing recreation programs, maintain existing facilities, acquire additional properties and add facilities to existing parks. In accordance with Objective 1.8, the City will look to partnerships, grants, fees and various other funding sources to maintain or exceed minimum level of service standards.

5. Annexation has had an impact on the existing level of service standards for recreation. The City has annexed approximately 8,347 acres since 2000. The population has increased from approximately 95,000 in 2000 to as estimated 125,904 in April 2009, based on growth within the City and annexation. Included within these annexations are active and natural park areas, including Forest Park in the southwest and Split Rock Conservation Area located west of Interstate 75. Split Rock is a 241-acre conservation area that is intended to protect forest and wetland areas and adds to the level of service for nature parks. Forest Park has both a conservation area and an active recreational area with soccer fields, basketball goals, and a dog run. The addition of this community park acreage will help the city maintain its level of service for community parks. (See level of service standards for Parks and Facilities in Exhibit 1).
6. A major focus of the Recreation Element continues to be the provision of public access to recreation. A major component of this effort is the long-term development of a greenway system including development of public access trails or boardwalks along Hogtown Creek. The idea is to form an interconnected system of open space and trails throughout the urban area. These "linear corridors" pass through and connect several significant open spaces and existing parks. They also connect these natural areas with residential areas, which help to maximize access to the open space. This is all part of the "emerald necklace" concept (from the element's data and analysis), which envisions an open space system surrounding the Gainesville urban area, interconnected by the greenway system. Plans are underway to construct the West 6th Street Corridor Rail-Trail, an extension of the Gainesville-Hawthorne Rail Trail, from the current northern terminus west of S.E. 4th Street to N.W. 16th Avenue along the existing CSX abandoned railroad right-of-way. It is 2.1 miles in length, to be added to the approximately 16-mile asphalt trail used by bicyclists and pedestrians that runs from the city of Hawthorne to Boulware Springs in Gainesville. It is planned to continue northward into downtown Gainesville in the future, where it can eventually connect with the Depot Avenue trail and be part of a bike loop around the City.

Successes

1. As previously stated, the Wild Spaces - Public Places referendum was approved by Alachua County voters. The money raised by this half-cent, two-year sales tax will fund and supplement existing funding of recreation projects. These improvements will enhance the recreational experience for citizens and improve the city's overall recreation level of service.

2. The City of Gainesville is planning to establish a senior recreation center at Northside Park, using Wild Spaces - Public Places funding. The City is partnering with Alachua County on funding for the facility and the project has received a grant from the State of Florida.
3. The City is currently in the process of establishing the Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park. The City of Gainesville purchased the approximately 70 acre property in 2008 with the help of the Florida Communities Trust, a division of the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA). In accordance with the grant award agreement between the City and the DCA, the City has agreed to develop the overall property as the Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park, a public nature park that will also include some active recreational and educational amenities.
4. The Depot Park Project is an effort to clean up and restore brownfield properties in the area of Depot Avenue and South Main Street. The City of Gainesville through Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) will clean up the environmental contamination, which was caused by a coal gasification plant that once operated on Depot Avenue across from the historic Depot building. The City will develop the site as a stormwater treatment facility to serve the downtown area, and as a public park to provide green space and recreation activities and that will provide an economic boost to this area of the community. The park is centrally located near the historic center of the community. The restoration and redevelopment of the area will provide more opportunities for economic development in the area.
5. The City established the Cofrin Nature Park in 2005, a 30-acre former horse farm on N.W. 8th Avenue, north of the Corporate Park special area zoning district in the middle of an urbanized area of west Gainesville. The City purchased the property in 2003 with the help of the Florida Communities Trust, Alachua County Forever, a voter-approved program to acquire, improve and manage environmentally significant lands, and a donation from Mrs. Gladys Cofrin. Beville Heights Creek runs through the property, which includes a half-mile long hiking trail among the forest and wetland areas. The John Mahon Nature Park, just south of Newberry Road east of N.W. 44th Street, was also established in 2005, as a memorial to Dr. John Mahon, a University of Florida history professor and environmentalist. The 10-acre site features a loop trail through an upland forest and hydric hammock. As mentioned earlier, Split Rock Conservation Area protects acres of forest and wetland areas on an undeveloped tract of land annexed into the City of Gainesville in 2001.
6. The Eastside Recreation Center at Cone Park on East University Avenue was funded through an EDI-Special Project Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and funding from the Gainesville City Commission, the Alachua County Board of County

Commission and the Greater Gainesville Park and Development Group, Inc. This facility was dedicated in 2004 and provides a place for organized sports, a venue for the arts, and a safe place for kids to go after school to do homework, work with computers and watch movies.

Shortcomings

1. Along with the unanticipated opportunity of the Wild Spaces - Public Places initiative is the unanticipated problem of the economic recession. The \$12 million that the City will receive for park improvements, park renovations and the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands is less than the \$14.2 million that was originally expected when the referendum was put together. Because the tax will not generate as much money as originally projected, certain improvements proposed at Loblolly Woods Nature Park and Alfred A. Ring Park were removed from the list of projects that would be funded.
2. The fact that a major tax initiative was needed to provide adequate recreational facilities in the community is the major shortcoming concerning the Recreation Element. After the two-year period ends for the Wild Spaces – Public Places sales tax initiative, the issue will remain concerning where to find adequate funding to provide and maintain recreational facilities and programs. Although the current level of service standard meets the adopted recreation level of service, continued population growth will generate additional demand for recreational services. Funds will be needed to provide the additional facilities necessary to maintain adequate levels of service.

Impact of Rule Changes on the Recreation Element

1. Chapter 163.3177(6) (e), Florida Statutes, added waterways to the system of sites addressed by the recreation and open space element. All local governments must include waterways in the recreation and open space element of their comprehensive system of public and private sites for recreation. This provision is aimed at the preservation of recreational and commercial working waterfronts. This rule change has minimal impact on the City's recreation element. The City's creeks and lakes are mapped within the recreation element. The City's Palm Point Park on Newnans Lake is noted for bird watching and provides the public direct access to the water.

2. There are no changes to Chapter 163 Florida Statutes, Rule 9J-5, F.A.C., the State Comprehensive Plan, or the Strategic Regional Policy Plan that would require amendments to the Recreation Element of the City's comprehensive plan.

Recommended Changes

The recommended changes that are needed to update the Recreation Element and that are unrelated to Major Issues are:

- Policy 1.2.2 needs a new target date.
- Policy 1.3.1 needs revised language to say the City and Alachua County will continue to coordinate recreation planning and management services for the urban area.
- Policy 1.3.2 needs to be deleted.
- Policy 1.3.3 needs a new target date or acknowledgement of individual agreements with specific school sites.
- Policy 1.6.1 needs revised language to say that the City will continue to implement the policy.
- Consider adding language to Policy 2.1.2 to note that comprehensive plan policies also promote the establishment of the trail network described in Objective 2.1.
- Policy 3.1.2 should be amended to change the reference from the Public Recreation Board and the Nature Centers Commission being responsible for updates to City staff being responsible for updates.
- Review the level of service standards to consider amending them (adding and/or deleting facilities or switching to an acreage based standard).
- Consider adding a policy to address the need for better marketing and public knowledge of the programs.
- Consider adding language to Policy 1.8.3 indicating the City will continue to look at alternative means of funding, including: donation boxes at parks to collect funds to help with tasks such as maintenance and clean-up; provision of opportunities for sponsorships of parks; and a recreation fee on multiple-family developments to be used for maintenance and expansion of recreation facilities. The fee would be based on projected demand created by the new residents of the development.

Table 2

Evaluation Matrix – Recreation Element

Objective or Policy	Measurable Target	Objective or Policy Achieved?	Recommended Changes
<p>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.</p>	<p>Implementation of policies 1.1.1 through 1.1.5.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	
<p>1.1.1 The City shall maintain LOS standards adopted in Table 1, the park design standards described in the Recreation Element and the Park and Facility Substitution Standards of the Recreation Element.</p>	<p>The maintenance of the adopted LOS standards.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	<p>Review the level of service standards (Exhibit 1) to consider amending them by adding and/or deleting facilities or switch to an acreage based standard.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>A computer inventory of all recreation and open space sites including condition of facilities and the most recent inventory dates.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	

Table 2

Evaluation Matrix – Recreation Element

Objective or Policy	Measurable Target	Objective or Policy Achieved?	Recommended Changes
<p>1.1.3</p> <p>The City shall 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; 	<p>The continued use of the criteria in land acquisition decisions for parks.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	

Table 2
Evaluation Matrix – Recreation Element

Objective or Policy	Measurable Target	Objective or Policy Achieved?	Recommended Changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • 			

Table 2

Evaluation Matrix – Recreation Element

Objective or Policy	Measurable Target	Objective or Policy Achieved?	Recommended Changes
<p>Environmental Degradation</p> <p>Parcels able to accommodate recreation without degrading environmentally significant features</p>			
<p>1.1.4 The City shall continue to use the following criteria to rank recreation capital improvements within the Capital Improvements Element.</p> <p>Degree of Deficiency</p> <p>A. <i>Largest Absolute Deficiency.</i> Those areas with the highest acreage or facility deficiency are prioritized</p> <p>B. <i>Lowest Current Level of Service.</i> Those 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.</p> <p>Proximity to Similar Facilities</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The continued use of the criteria to rank recreation capital improvements.</p>	<p>Partially achieved. This will be addressed in an upcoming Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Master Planning Process.</p>	

Table 2
Evaluation Matrix – Recreation Element

Objective or Policy	Measurable Target	Objective or Policy Achieved?	Recommended Changes
<p>Program Dependency</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Park Reclassification</p> <p>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 area, are prioritized.</p> <p>Urban Area Deficiency</p> <p>Urban area facilities that are deficient are prioritized. Urban area facilities include 50-meter pools, sports-complexes, and local nature parks.</p> <p>Recent Park Acquisition</p> <p>A new project at a park may be within the same 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.</p>			
<p>1.1.5</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Compliance with the substitution system described by the "Park and Facility Substitution" portion of the Recreation Element.</p>	<p>Partially achieved. This will be addressed in an upcoming Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Master Planning Process.</p>	

Table 2

Evaluation Matrix – Recreation Element

Objective or Policy	Measurable Target	Objective or Policy Achieved?	Recommended Changes
<p>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.</p>	<p>Implementation of policies 1.2.1 through 1.2.3.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	
<p>1.2.1 Site plans shall be developed for proposed city-owned community, neighborhood, mini, sports-complex, and nature parks, in accordance with the park design standards described in the Recreation Element 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.</p>	<p>Site plans for proposed city-owned parks.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	

Table 2

Evaluation Matrix – Recreation Element

Objective or Policy	Measurable Target	Objective or Policy Achieved?	Recommended Changes
<p>1.2.2 By 2006, the City shall seek to maintain all recreational facilities in at least "good" 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.</p>	<p>The maintenance of City recreation facilities in at least "good" condition.</p>	<p>The Department has a site inspection program to insure that facilities are in "good" condition.</p>	<p>Policy 1.2.2 needs a new target date.</p>
<p>1.2.3 New recreational facilities shall be constructed in accordance with standards described by the "Minimum Facility Design Standards" portion of the Recreation Element.</p>	<p>New recreational facilities constructed in accordance with standards described by the "Minimum Facility Design Standards" portion of the Recreation Element.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>Implementation of policies 1.3.1 through 1.3.5.</p>		

Table 2
Evaluation Matrix – Recreation Element

Objective or Policy	Measurable Target	Objective or Policy Achieved?	Recommended Changes
<p>1.3.1</p> <p>By 2004, the City shall prepare a report describing the feasibility of coordinating City and County recreation planning and management services for the urban area. If deemed feasible, such coordination shall be implemented and arranged with Alachua County.</p>	<p>The preparation of a report describing the feasibility of coordinating City and County recreation planning and management.</p>	<p>Yes. The report was implemented in 2005.</p>	<p>Policy 1.3.1 needs revised language to indicate that the City and County will continue to coordinate recreation planning and management services for the urban area.</p>
<p>1.3.2</p> <p>By June 2004, the City shall adopt and use criteria to evaluate requests for funding by outside agencies engaged in providing recreation services. The criteria shall include (1) assurance that such services do not duplicate services available elsewhere and (2) assurance that such services do not detract from the City's own recreation program. The City Commission shall refer all such requests to the Public Recreation Board for a recommendation prior to taking action on the funding request.</p>	<p>The adoption and use of criteria to evaluate requests for funding by outside agencies engaged in providing recreation services.</p>	<p>No. The City does not provide funding to outside agencies that provide recreation services.</p>	<p>Delete the policy.</p>

Table 2

Evaluation Matrix – Recreation Element

Objective or Policy	Measurable Target	Objective or Policy Achieved?	Recommended Changes
<p>1.3.3 By 2004, the City shall reach an interlocal agreement with SBAC regarding public use of school facilities for recreational purposes.</p>	<p>An interlocal agreement with SBAC regarding public use of school facilities for recreational purposes.</p>	<p>Individual agreements with specific school sites have been developed and will continue to be site specific.</p>	<p>Revise for either a new target date or acknowledge agreements with individual schools.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Actions taken to seek the joint use of recreation facilities with other public providers such as the SBAC, Alachua County and the State of Florida.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>The preparation of contracts and cooperative agreements with these entities.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	

Table 2
Evaluation Matrix – Recreation Element

Objective or Policy	Measurable Target	Objective or Policy Achieved?	Recommended Changes
<p>Objective 1.4: Disposal or sale of city-owned land or facilities shall not be detrimental to important recreational needs.</p>	<p>Implementation of policies 1.4.1 through 1.4.3.</p>		
<p>1.4.1 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.</p>	<p>The preparation of a report and evaluation of non-recreational city-owned land or facilities.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	
<p>1.4.2 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 on a case by case basis.</p>	<p>The preparation of a report on a case by case basis.</p>	<p>Yes, and the reports will be prepared as needed.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>Proceeds from the disposal or sale of park properties for recreation and park infrastructure enhancements and improvements.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	

Table 2

Evaluation Matrix – Recreation Element

Objective or Policy	Measurable Target	Objective or Policy Achieved?	Recommended Changes
<p>Objective 1.5: The City shall continue to use a user fee system for City recreation programs and facilities that shall favor City residents and that shall not be an obstacle to low-income City residents.</p>	<p>Implementation of policies 1.5.1 through 1.5.3.</p>		
<p>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.</p>	<p>A fee-based recreation and nature park program administered and priced so as to give preference to City residents over non-city residents.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>A fee-for-service at specialized recreation facilities and programs, used by a relatively small proportion of recreation users.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	

Table 2

Evaluation Matrix – Recreation Element

Objective or Policy	Measurable Target	Objective or Policy Achieved?	Recommended Changes
<p>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.</p>	<p>The establishment of fee waiver reductions.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	
<p>Objective 1.6: Improve access to parks for all categories of users</p>	<p>Implementation of policies 1.6.1 through 1.6.4.</p>		
<p>1.6.1 By 2002, all City community parks shall provide bicycle and pedestrian access meeting Traffic Engineering standards 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.</p>	<p>Bicycle and pedestrian access meeting Traffic Engineering standards along all arterials that serve the parks.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	<p>Policy 1.6.1 needs revised language to say the City will continue to implement the policy.</p>

Table 2

Evaluation Matrix – Recreation Element

Objective or Policy	Measurable Target	Objective or Policy Achieved?	Recommended Changes
<p>1.6.2 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, the City shall continue to study the feasibility of using publicly owned (but undeveloped) dedicated road rights-of-way for recreational use.</p>	<p>The utilization of land development regulations requiring the provision of public trails that pass through or are adjacent to new developments and a study showing the feasibility of using publicly owned (but undeveloped) dedicated road rights-of-way for recreational use.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing. Staff recommends connection to sidewalks and trails that pass through or are adjacent to new developments during development plan review, in accordance with policies that promote walkability and connectivity.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>City Land Development Regulations that minimize the need to use or cross major roads at grade.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	
<p>1.6.4 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.</p>	<p>Parks that are accessible to the handicapped/disabled, elderly and other individuals with physical limitations.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	

Table 2
Evaluation Matrix – Recreation Element

Objective or Policy	Measurable Target	Objective or Policy Achieved?	Recommended Changes
<p>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.</p>	<p>Implementation of policies 1.7.1 through 1.7.3.</p>		
<p>1.7.1 The City shall continue to coordinate with the University of Florida and SBAC, a recreational tutorial after-school program for elementary and middle school-aged city youth.</p>	<p>A recreational tutorial after-school program for elementary and middle school-aged city youth.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>The establishment of contracts and cooperative agreements.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>Implementation of policies 1.8.1 through 1.8.3.</p>		

Table 2
Evaluation Matrix – Recreation Element

Objective or Policy	Measurable Target	Objective or Policy Achieved?	Recommended Changes
<p>1.8.1 The City shall continue to coordinate with Alachua County in implementing the Countywide Recreation Master Plan.</p>	<p>Coordination with Alachua County in the implementation of the Countywide Recreation Master Plan.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	
<p>1.8.2 The City shall continue to seek monies from a wide variety of funding sources including grants and joint public-private partnerships.</p>	<p>The acquisition of monies from a wide variety of funding sources including grants and joint public-private partnerships.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>The acquisition of funds through various funding sources including, but not limited to, general bond issues, recreation impact fees, utility fee transfers and recreation park tax districts.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	

Table 2

Evaluation Matrix – Recreation Element

Objective or Policy	Measurable Target	Objective or Policy Achieved?	Recommended Changes
<p>Objective 2.1: A trail network, 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 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.</p>	<p>Implementation of policies 2.1.1.1 through 2.1.6.</p>		
<p>2.1.1 The City shall continue to use the criteria described in Policy 1.1.3 to prioritize sites that can be integrated into the trail network identified in Objective 2.1.</p>	<p>The use of the criteria to prioritize sites.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	
<p>2.1.2 The City shall continue to enforce Land Development Regulations that promote the establishment of the trail network described in Objective 2.1. Private developments falling within the network shall be required to promote the linear integrity of the network.</p>	<p>The enforcement of Land Development Regulations that promote the establishment of the trail network described in Objective 2.1.</p>	<p>Achieved and ongoing through Section 30-308 (Greenway district) and comprehensive plan policies that promote walkability and connectivity.</p>	<p>Consider adding language to note that comprehensive plan policies also promote the establishment of the trail network described in Objective 2.1.</p>

Table 2

Evaluation Matrix -- Recreation Element

Objective or Policy	Measurable Target	Objective or Policy Achieved?	Recommended Changes
<p>2.1.3 The City shall continue to develop public access trails or boardwalks along publicly owned segments of Hogtown Creek.</p>	<p>The development of public access trails or boardwalks along publicly owned segments of Hogtown Creek.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	
<p>2.1.4 Where possible, provide barrier-free public access to all recreation and nature sites through the provision of handicapped parking and access.</p>	<p>The provision of barrier-free public access to all recreation and nature sites, where possible.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>The provision of trailheads and associated facilities such as automobile and bicycle parking, comfort stations and handicapped facilities at strategic conjunctions of two or more greenways.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	
<p>2.1.6 When acquiring lands for trails priority shall be given to parcels, which facilitate the connection of two or more trails.</p>	<p>Land acquisition for trails that gave priority to parcels that facilitated the connection of two or more trails.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	

Table 2

Evaluation Matrix -- Recreation Element

Objective or Policy	Measurable Target	Objective or Policy Achieved?	Recommended Changes
<p>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.</p>	<p>Implementation of policies 2.2.1 through 2.2.3.</p>		
<p>2.2.1 The City shall continue to use the park acquisition criteria described in Policy 1.1.3 in order to place a high priority on restoring and preserving significant natural features.</p>	<p>The continued use of the criteria in land acquisition decisions for parks that place a high priority on restoring and preserving significant natural features.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	
<p>2.2.2 The City shall continue to use 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.</p>	<p>The continued use of policies based on the "Environmental Management of Public Parks & Open Spaces" portion of the Conservation Element, to preserve natural features in City parks.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing. The land development code is currently in the process of being updated to protect additional natural features.</p>	

Table 2

Evaluation Matrix -- Recreation Element

Objective or Policy	Measurable Target	Objective or Policy Achieved?	Recommended Changes
<p>2.2.3 The City shall continue to use 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.</p>	<p>The continued use of Land Development Regulations based on the "Environmental Management of Public Parks & Open Spaces" portion of the Conservation Element to protect parks from undesirable encroachments such as incompatible land uses, visual disamenities, and noise.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing. The Land Development Code is currently in the process of being updated to protect additional natural features.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>Implementation of policies 3.1.1 through 3.1.2.</p>		
<p>3.1.1 The City shall continue to conduct ongoing communication of recreation information to the community through publications, presentations, workshops and media exposure.</p>	<p>Continued communication of recreation information to the community through publications, presentations, workshops and media exposure.</p>	<p>Yes, ongoing.</p>	

Table 2

Evaluation Matrix – Recreation Element

Objective or Policy	Measurable Target	Objective or Policy Achieved?	Recommended Changes
<p>3.1.2 By June 2002, the Public Recreation 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. The report shall assess progress toward implementation of this Element and make recommendations for the coming fiscal year.</p>	<p>Submission of an annual report to the City Commission that shall assess progress toward implementation of this Element and make recommendations for the coming fiscal year.</p>	<p>Yes, but it is City Staff that provides quarterly updates that are posted on our city web-site.</p>	<p>Change from Boards being responsible to City Staff being responsible.</p>
<p>Objective 3.2: Develop recreation plans consistent with neighborhood desires for each City quadrant.</p>	<p>Implementation of policies 3.2.1 through 3.2.2.</p>		
<p>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.</p>	<p>Adaption of the minimum LOS standards to meet the needs of specific neighborhoods.</p>	<p>Yes, the facility substitution criteria are in place to adapt to specific neighborhood needs. The Parks, Recreation, Cultural Affairs staff meets with neighborhoods to discuss what they want in a recreation facility. However, this will be further addressed in an upcoming Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Master Planning Process.</p>	<p>Subject to the results of the Master Planning Process, which is scheduled to occur over the next two years.</p>

Table 2

Evaluation Matrix – Recreation Element

Objective or Policy	Measurable Target	Objective or Policy Achieved?	Recommended Changes
<p>3.2.2 The Recreation and Parks Department shall continue to use two-way communication tools including park user surveys, design charrettes and public hearings to design parks and programs meeting the needs of park users.</p>	<p>The use of two-way communication tools to design parks and programs meeting the needs of park users.</p>	<p>Achieved and ongoing; however this will be further addressed in an upcoming Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Master Planning Process.</p>	<p>Subject to the results of the Master Planning Process, which is scheduled to occur over the next two years.</p>

EXHIBIT 1

Level of Service Standards (LOS) for Parks and Facilities

FACILITY

Swim Pool (50 m)	3 pools total; 2 are 50m in size.
Swim Pool (25 yd)	Third pool is less than 50m in size
Softball Field (adult)	12
Soccer Field	6 not including SBAC or colleges; 24 including all SBAC sites; (8 at UF, 1 at Santa Fe). We count 14; 6 plus 8 at Lincoln.
Trail/Linear Corridor/Greenway	30 miles not including any of Gainesville/Hawthorne trail
Basketball Court	56 hoops (an estimated 28 courts)
Tennis Court	22
Racquetball Court	14 (15 at UF, 8 at Santa Fe)
Equipped Play Area	28

PARK

Local Nature/CON	2,270.6 (City only, including Palm Point, not Depot Park)
Sports Complex	If Boulware Springs is counted as before, 103 acres.
Community Park	266 acres (Community park acreage minus Boulware S.)
Neighborhood Park	161.3 acres (not including SBAC)

FACILITY	Existing 2000 LOS Standard	Current LOS Standard (2010)
Swim Pool (50m)	1 per 85,000	1 per 62,952
Swim Pool (25 yd)	1 per 75,000	1 per 41,968
Softball Field (adult)	1 per 14,000	1 per 10,492
Soccer Field	1 per 11,000	1 per 20,984 without SBAC; 1 per 8,993 with SBAC
Trail/Linear Corridor/Greenway	1 mile per 4,500	1 mile per 4,197*
Basketball Court	1 per 4,500	1 per 4,497
Tennis Court	1 per 6,000	1 per 5,722
Racquetball Court	1 per 12,000	1 per 8,993
Equipped Play Area	1 per 10,000	1 per 4,497**
PARK	Existing 2000 LOS Standard	Current LOS Standard (2010)
Local Nature/Conservation	6.00 acres	18.03 acres**
Sports Complex	0.50 acres	0.82 acres
Community Park	2.00 acres	2.11 acres
Neighborhood Park	0.80 acres	1.28 acres
Total Acres Per 1000	9.30 acres	10.08 acres

* Does not include Duval Stormwater Park

** Does not include Depot Park.

NOTES:

- * The LOS is based on the April 1, 2009 estimated City of Gainesville population of 125,904
- * Park standards are in acres per 1,000 people.
- * SBAC - School Board of Alachua County
- * Shaded areas in tables represent LOS deficiencies.

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EXHIBIT 2

Map: Local & Regional Parks & Recreation