

TEXT AMENDMENT #: PCT100211

APPLICANTS:

**CITY OF TALLAHASSEE PARKS, RECREATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD AFFAIRS DEPT.
LEON COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION
TALLAHASSEE – LEON COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

TEXT/POLICY I.D. #:

**POLICIES THROUGHOUT THE PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT
CAPITAL IMPROVMENTS ELEMENT**

CITY X COUNTY X

DATE: January 12, 2010, Updated on May 10, 2010

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt PCT100211 (B.W.)

A. SUMMARY:

The proposed amendments are the result of a staff review of the Parks and Recreation Element that focused on addressing issues identified in the 2007 Evaluation and Appraisal Report and updating policies prior to the November 2010 referendum on the Hometown Democracy amendment (Amendment #4). If approved by voters, the Hometown Democracy amendment may require a referendum to amend Comprehensive Plan text. A summary matrix of the proposed changes is included as Attachment #1.

B. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL:

1. The proposed amendments address issues identified in the 2007 Evaluation and Appraisal Report.
2. The proposed amendments update and clarify text in the Parks and Recreation Element.

C. EXISTING TEXT/POLICIES:

See Attachment #2.

D. PROPOSED TEXT/POLICIES:

Attachment #2 includes all proposed amendments in legislative format. The analysis for each proposed change is also included under each policy.

E. APPLICANT’S REASON FOR THE AMENDMENT:

The goal of the amendment is to address recommendations included in the jointly adopted 2007 Evaluation and Appraisal Report and to update or remove outdated policies.

F. STAFF ANALYSIS

May 10, 2010 Update

Upon further review of the amendments staff is recommending minor changes to Policies 1.2.2; 1.2.3; 1.3.5; and 1.5.1. Leon County Public Works, City of Tallahassee Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Affairs Department, The Tallahassee Museum, and the Planning Department have all reviewed and accepted these changes. The changes are indicated with double blue underline and double red strikethrough text in Attachment #2.

Policy specific analysis and review is included in Attachment #2 under each amended policy. Additional analysis regarding proposed changes to the Level of Service standards (Policy 1.1.1 [R]) is included in the second section below.

1. Background Information

The proposed amendments are based on a review by staff from the City of Tallahassee Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Affairs Department, the Leon County Public Works, Parks and Recreation Division, and the Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department. The staff review focused on the goals provided below.

Goals of Staff Review:

1. Address recommendations from the Adopted 2007 Evaluation and Appraisal Report (provided below).
2. Update the element prior to the November 2010 referendum on the Hometown Democracy Amendment (Amendment #4) that, if approved, may require a referendum to amend Comprehensive Plan text.
 - a. Update outdated text (old agency names and department names)
 - b. Update overdue implementation dates to establish new implementation dates for incomplete projects or change to “maintain” for activities/projects that have been achieved but need to be maintained into the future.
 - c. Consider eliminating project specific policies that have been achieved or that have not been achieved for a considerable period of time and do not benefit from inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan.

2007 Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) Recommendations:

The following amendments should be undertaken in response to the 2007 EAR:

1. Identify the text amendments needed to recognize the existence of a County Parks and Recreation Division.
2. Develop new level of service indicators to more accurately measure the services citizens require, to ensure that new developments do not overwhelm the capacity of existing facilities and programs, and to improve their utility as a planning tool.
3. Review policies under objective 1.4 (cultural activities and facilities) and amended them to set new benchmarks or remove them.

Formulation of the proposed policy amendments also included coordination with the City Parks and Recreation Citizen Advisory Board, Tallahassee Museum, Council on Culture and

the Arts, Leon County Library System, Leon County Growth and Environmental Management Department, and the City of Tallahassee Growth Management Department.

2. Level of Service Standards (Policy 1.1.1 [R])

The proposed change to the parks and recreation Level of Service standards includes park category definitions to increase clarity, a new park category to specifically address the National Forest, and an increase in the numeric Level of Service standard. The proposed changes are provided in Attachment #2 under Policy 1.1.1 [R].

The proposed park category definitions are intended to help provide clarity when determining the appropriate categories for existing and future parks. The definitions also provide guidance as to the type of facilities that may be needed if a particular Level of Service is not being achieved. The definitions are based on examples in the Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2008), modified to meet our local needs.

“Resource Management Area” is a new park category proposed for inclusion in the Level of Service system. The new category is a recommended level only and would not be part of the concurrency management system. The category was created to address the very large acreage of land in the Apalachicola National Forest, Lake Talquin State Forest, and Edwards Wildlife Area. These areas are a great resource to the citizens of Leon County. However, their function is primarily focused on resource management and the recreational opportunities are narrower. Counting these large land holdings as part of the Tallahassee-Leon County Regional Park system would dramatically increase the acres of land per population but would not be an accurate reflection of a broad range of recreational opportunities. Staff recommends adoption of this new category to avoid future misunderstandings regarding the use of acres from these large state and federal lands in the local concurrency management system.

The proposed increase in the numeric Level of Service standard was developed to address the 2007 EAR recommendation for a new level of service to ensure that new developments do not overwhelm the capacity of existing facilities. The proposed standards are based on acres per 1,000 population, just as the existing standards are. For reference the existing standards are included in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Existing Parks and Recreation Level of Service (Acres /1,000 Population)

Responsible Government	Type of Park		
	Countywide	Area	Local (Recommended)
City	1.22	2.00	2.00
County	0.18	N/A	N/A
Fed./State	3.60	N/A	N/A
Total	5.00	2.00	2.00

To determine the current service level based on the proposed park categories all park properties were sorted into the proposed categories based on the proposed definitions. Tables of the sorted parks and acreage are included in Attachment #3. Table 2 provides the current figures in the proposed categories.

Table 2. Current Park Acres Sorted into the Proposed Park Categories (Acres /1,000 Population)

Responsible Government	Type of Park			
	Resource Management Area (Recommended)	Regional Park (Required)	Area Park (Required)	Neighborhood Park (Recommended)
City	N/A	7.20	1.35	1.35
County	N/A	6.78	1.20	N/A
Fed/State	425	5.37	N/A	N/A
Total	425	19.35	2.55	1.35

The City Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs Department also provided data on parklands that have been acquired but have not been developed or opened to the public. To capture the impact of these future park acres on the long-range Level of Service, they were also sorted and added to the existing acres in each category. The results of this exercise are included in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Current and Future Park Acres Sorted into the Proposed Park Categories (Acres /1,000 Population)

Responsible Government	Type of Park			
	Resource Management Area (Recommended)	Regional Park (Required)	Area Park (Required)	Neighborhood Park (Recommended)
City	N/A	7.96	2.23	2.40
County	N/A	10.92	1.20	N/A
Fed/State	425	5.37	N/A	N/A
Total	425	24.25	3.43	2.40

The existing service level was then used to scale the proposed Level of Service standards provided in Table 4 below.

Table 4. Proposed Level of Service Standards (Acres /1,000 Population)

Responsible Government	Type of Park			
	Resource Management Area (Recommended)	Regional Park (Required)	Area Park (Required)	Neighborhood Park (Recommended)
City	N/A	4	1	2
County	N/A	8	1	N/A
Fed/State	20	4	N/A	N/A
Total	20	16	2	2

A Level of Service standard of 20 acres per 1,000 population was selected for the Resource Management Areas based on the Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan recommendation for 20 acres per 1,000 population for large resource-based areas that serve two or more communities. While this number is many times lower than what is currently being achieved in Leon County, due to the Apalachicola National Forest, it is included as an indicator of the recommended statewide standard. Inclusion of the Resource Management Area category is intended to recognize this resource and to avoid future misunderstandings regarding the use of acres from these large state and federal lands in the local concurrency management system.

A Level of Service standard of 16 acres per 1,000 population was selected for Regional Parks based on increasing the standard from the existing level of 5 acres and selecting for a standard that would not be overrun in the near future. The Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan recommends 5 acres per 1,000 population for parks designed to serve the recreation needs of an entire city or county.

The Area Park and Neighborhood Park Levels of Service both remain at 2 acres per 1,000 population. While these standards are not proposed to increase, by providing more detailed definitions for each park type and by clarifying the direction provided in Policy 1.2.5 [R] the calculation of available service capacity will be more stringent.

To determine the potential impact of the proposed Level of Service changes, projected population data was utilized to evaluate the service levels achieved through the year 2035. These calculations were done assuming that no additional parkland is acquired through the year 2035. The results are included in Table 5 below.

Table 5. Projected Service Levels Through the Year 2035 (Acres /1,000 Population)

<i>Service Levels Achieved based on Existing Acres and Projected Population</i>										
Year	City Projected Population	County Projected Population	City Neighborhood Parks	Total Area Parks	City Area Parks	County Area Parks	Total Regional Parks	City Regional Parks	County Regional Parks	State Regional Parks
2015	187,100	287,500	2.30	3.27	2.13	1.14	23.19	7.61	10.44	5.14
2020	197,300	301,500	2.18	3.12	2.03	1.09	22.11	7.26	9.96	4.90
2025	207,100	314,900	2.08	2.99	1.94	1.05	21.17	6.95	9.53	4.69
2030	216,200	327,300	1.99	2.88	1.87	1.01	20.37	6.68	9.17	4.51
2035	224,600	338,800	1.92	2.78	1.81	0.97	19.68	6.46	8.86	4.36

Based on this analysis neither of the required Levels of Service (Area Parks and Regional Parks) will overrun the proposed total service levels through the year 2035. County Area Parks are projected to fall just below the Level of Service in 2035. The recommended service level for Neighborhood Parks is also projected to slip slightly below the standard around 2030. This analysis utilizes existing acres and projected populations. Any removal of acres from the parks system or significant changes in the population projections will alter

the results. Resource Management Areas were omitted from the analysis due the large margin between the existing and proposed Level of Service.

G. CONCLUSIONS:

Based on the above and attached data and analysis, the Planning Department recommends approval of the amendment request for the following reasons:

1. The proposed amendments address issues identified in the 2007 Evaluation and Appraisal Report.
2. The proposed amendments update and clarify text in the Parks and Recreation Element.

H. ATTCHMENTS:

Attachment #1: Summary Matrix of Changes

Attachment #2: Proposed Amendments and Analysis

Attachment #3: All Parks Sorted by Category

Amendment PCT100211: Parks and Recreation Element and Capital Improvements Element

Policy Number/ Keyword Description	Type of Amendment ¹	Jurisdiction		Mandated In 9J-5 F.A.C.	Estimated Budget Impact ²		Comments
		City	County		City	County	
Goal 1 (Provide Parks)	Minor Modification	X	X	No	No Change	No Change	Adding physical and mental health
Objective 1.1 (Responsibility)	Minor Modification	X	X	No	No Change	No Change	Recognizing Leon Parks Division
Policy 1.1.1 (Level of Service)	Major Modification	X	X	Yes	No Change	No Change	Updating Parks Level of Service
Policy 1.1.3 (Budgeting)	Minor Modification	X	X	No	No Change	No Change	Removing Department names
Policy 1.1.4 (Acquisition)	Minor Modification	X	X	No	No Change	No Change	Clarifying passive parks policies
Policy 1.1.5 (Playgrounds)	Minor Modification	X	X	No	No Change	No Change	Adding flexibility
Policy 1.1.6 (Active Rec. Needs)	New Policy	X	X	No	Minimal Increase	Minimal Increase	Requiring review of active recreation needs
Objective 1.2 (Accessibility)	Minor Modification	X	X	No	No Change	No Change	Updating language
Policy 1.2.1 (Acquisition Criteria)	Policy Removed	X	X	No	No Change	No Change	Policy did not provide usable criteria
Policy 1.2.2 (Bike/Ped. Access)	Major Modification	X		No	No Change	No Change	Removing roadway focus and bike/ped date
Policy 1.2.3 (Boat Ramps)	Major Modification		X	No	No Change	No Change	Removing road access, adding boat ramps
Policy 1.2.4 (Mass Transit)	Policy Removed	X	X	No	No Change	No Change	Removing mass transit requirement
Policy 1.2.5 (Neighborhood Parks)	Minor Modification	X	X	No	No Change	No Change	Clarifying policy direction
Objective 1.3 (Coordination)	Minor Modification	X	X	No	No Change	No Change	Cleaning up text
Policy 1.3.1 (Citizen Advisory)	Major Modification		X	No	No Change	No Change	Removing County citizen advisory board
Policy 1.3.2 (Land Donation)	Policy Removed	X	X	No	No Change	No Change	Removing unimplemented policy
Policy 1.3.3 (Revenue Sources)	Policy Removed	X	X	No	No Change	No Change	Removing unnecessary policy
Policy 1.3.4 (School Agreement)	Change of Date	X	X	No	No Change	No Change	Changing old date to “maintain”
Policy 1.3.5 (Tallahassee Museum)	Minor Modification	X	X	No	No Change	No Change	Updating language
Policy 1.4.1 (COCA)	Major Modification	X	X	No	No Change	No Change	Recognizing the existing cultural plan
Policy 1.4.2 (Walking Tour)	Policy Removed	X		No	No Change	No Change	Shifting emphasis to existing cultural plan
Policy 1.4.4 (Arts Complex)	Policy Removed	X		No	No Change	No Change	Shifting emphasis to existing cultural plan
Policy 1.4.5 (Amphitheater)	Policy Removed	X		No	No Change	No Change	Shifting emphasis to existing cultural plan
Policy 1.4.7 (Art in Public)	Policy Removed	X	X	No	No Change	No Change	Shifting emphasis to existing cultural plan
Policy 1.4.8 (Branch Libraries)	Policy Removed		X	No	No Change	No Change	Removing branch library expansion policy
Objective 1.5 (Protect Open Space)	Major Modification	X	X	No	No Change	No Change	Removing Open Space protection time limit
Policy 1.5.1 (Open Space in LDR)	Minor Modification	X	X	No	No Change	No Change	Changing old date to “maintain”
Policy 1.5.3 (Greenways)	New Policy		X	No	Significant Increase	Significant Increase	New Greenways Trail policy
Facilities Maps	Removed	X	X	No	No Change	No Change	Removing old maps from the Plan
Policy 1.1.3 Capital Improvements	Major Modification	X	X	Yes	No Change	No Change	Updating Parks Level of Service

¹ Change of Date, Change of Order, Major or Minor Modification, New Policy, or Policy Removed.

² No Change, Minimal Increase, Significant Increase.

**PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT
GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

Goal 1: *(Effective 7/16/90)*

Provide, manage and fund adequate recreational and cultural facilities ~~and opportunities to~~ encourage a physically and mentally healthy lifestyle for all citizens of Tallahassee-Leon County.

Mayor Marks, during the October 28, 2009 Long Range Target Issues meeting, recommended including the concept of encouraging physical and mental health as part of our goal statement for parks and recreation.

LEVEL OF SERVICE/FUNDING

Objective 1.1: **[R]** *(Rev. Effective 12/23/96)*

The City of Tallahassee and Leon County shall share responsibility for the provision of public parks and recreation facilities and programs. The City will have primary responsibility within the city limits and Leon County will have primary responsibility in the unincorporated county. Special funding and maintenance agreements between the City and County responsibilities relating to parks and recreation shall be established through a joint contract agreement, as needed to improve or maintain park and recreation facilities and programs.

The changes above were developed during the original staff review for the 2007 Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) to update the policy and recognize that Leon County now has a Parks and Recreation Division.

Policy 1.1.1: **[R]** *(Effective 7/16/90)*

A system of ~~countywide~~ Resource Management Areas, Regional Parks, Area Parks, and ~~local~~ Neighborhood Parks shall continue to be maintained in accordance with the following minimum level of service acreage standards (measured in acres per 1,000 population):

Responsible Government	Type of Park		
	<u>Countywide</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Local (Recommended)</u>
City	1.22	2.00	2.00
County	0.18	N/A	N/A
Fed./State	3.60	N/A	N/A
Total	5.00	2.00	2.00

<u>Responsible Government</u>	<u>Type of Park</u>			
	<u>Resource Management Area (Recommended)</u>	<u>Regional Park (Required)</u>	<u>Area Park (Required)</u>	<u>Neighborhood Park (Recommended)</u>
<u>City</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>County</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Fed/State*</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

* *Recommended only*

Park Type Descriptions:

Neighborhood Parks

The neighborhood park is a "walk-to" park in the City, generally located along streets where people can walk or bicycle without encountering heavy traffic. Neighborhood parks serve people in a radius of approximately one-half mile. A system wide average of 2 acres of such parks for each 1,000 population (City population only) is recommended, but not required for proposes of concurrency. Typical facilities developed in the neighborhood park may include play apparatus, multipurpose courts, sports fields, picnic areas, and free play areas.

Area Parks

An area park is a "ride to" park, located near major streets. It is designed to serve the needs of multiple neighborhoods. It generally serves people with a radius of approximately 3 miles. A system wide average of at least 2 acres of such parks for each 1,000 population (countywide population) is required for concurrency. Typical facilities at an area park may include smaller swimming facilities, ball fields, tennis courts, play areas, picnic areas, multipurpose courts, and small community centers.

Regional Parks

A regional park is designed to serve the recreation needs of a large portion of the County population. Regional parks serve an area with a radius of approximately 20 miles. A system wide average of at least 16 acres of such parks for each 1,000 population (countywide population) is required for concurrency. Typical areas and facilities include large swimming facilities, gymnastics facilities, natural areas, trails, boating facilities, zoos, golf courses, botanical gardens, and large community centers.

Resource Management Areas

Resource management areas are large, resource-based areas that serve two or more communities or counties. These areas are large Federal or State owned lands outside of the management of local government, such as the Apalachicola National Forest. A space allowance of 20 acres for each 1,000 population (countywide population) is recommended, but not required for proposes of concurrency. While these areas are outside of local government management, they are recognized for their significant contribution to local outdoor recreation. Typical facilities

provided at a resource management area include water-based recreation, camping areas, nature trails, and other facilities not requiring intensive development.

These facilities will be provided in the following manner:

- ~~a. City of Tallahassee area parks provision will be based on the urban service area population, and shall be located within the city limits so as to equitably serve the urban service area population.~~
- ~~b. County government will continue to be responsible for the operation and maintenance of boat landings and water related parks at a standard of 0.18 acres/1,000 population.~~
- ~~ea. Leon County shall annually budget appropriate funds, per the signed inter-local agreement, to be used by the City of Tallahassee Parks and Recreation Department in providing recreational services to the citizens of Leon County.~~
- ~~db. Level of Service for Areawide and Countywide Regional pParks shall be adopted for purposes of concurrency.~~
- ~~c. LOS Level of Service for local Neighborhood pParks is a recommended level, which primarily shall be used as a guideline for the provision of this type park in relation to new developments, per Policy 2.1.6 of the Land Use Element.~~
- d. Level of Service for Resource Management Areas is a recommended level, included to recognize the significant passive recreation opportunities provided by these Federal and State owned lands.

The proposed amendment to the Level of Service system is based on direction provided in the 2007 EAR to “Develop new level of service indicators to more accurately measure the services citizens require, to ensure that new developments do not overwhelm the capacity of existing facilities and programs, and to improve their utility as a planning tool.” The proposed amendment provides clarity regarding the different park types, creates a new park type to address large state and federal resources, and increases the required Level of Service to act as a safeguard to ensure adequate parklands are available in the future. A more detailed analysis of the Level of Service changes is provided in the body of the Staff Report. All Level of Service changes are also reflected in the Capital Improvements Element (included at the end of this document).

The County Parks and Recreation Division recommended removing all boat landing specific Levels of Service. The Division favored the use of general area Levels of Service as provided above. Policy 1.2.3 [R] has been modified to indicate that the County will continue to maintain boat ramps at public water bodies.

Policy 1.1.2: [R] *(Effective 7/16/90)*

Local government shall maintain a land acquisition program adequate to maintain the level of service standards consistent with the Capital Improvements Element. This acquisition program is intended to serve multiple uses such as protection of flood plains or natural habitat areas, or solve flooding problems. This acquisition program can include requirements and incentives for private land donation.

Policy 1.1.3: [R] *(Rev. Effective 1/27/94)*

As part of their budget processes, the City and the County shall each annually review costs necessary to operate, maintain, and improve park facilities consistent with the adopted levels of service as included in this plan. The City ~~Parks and Recreation Department~~ and the County ~~Department of Public Works~~ shall prepare budget requests to implement this policy.

The Planning Department recommends limiting the use of specific department or division names in the Comprehensive Plan; as such names are subject to change.

Policy 1.1.4: [R] *(Rev. Effective 1/27/94)*

In the acquisition and development of future park facilities, priority shall be given to the preservation of natural vegetation and land features, consistent with the functional purpose of the individual park. As a minimum, a system-wide average of 50% of the natural features will remain undeveloped except for inclusion of passive recreational facilities, such as ~~hiking~~ trails systems, ancillary parking, and picnicking facilities. This system-wide policy is based on the recognition that some types of facilities (such as golf courses and ball fields), due to their design requirements and functions, will require greater disturbance of natural features than would other types of park facilities. This standard shall be based on all lands included in the level of service system provided in Policy 1.1.1 [R] above, not on the land holdings of an individual government.

The County Parks and Recreation Division recommended removal of the word “hiking” as a modifier for “trails.” The Division currently includes multi-use trails in some natural areas (hiking, running, biking, and horseback riding). The Division also recommended including “parking” as an accepted feature for passive recreation facilities as recognition that these tend to be “drive to” facilities.

The Planning Department recommends inclusion of the final sentence to clarify policy direction related to maintaining a system-wide average of 50% natural features.

Policy 1.1.5: [R] *(Effective 7/16/90)*

Design and construction of all future activity based parks and any future redesign of existing activity based parks will include equipped children's playground areas whenever feasible.

The City Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs Department recommended the above change to add flexibility to the policy. Staff considered removal of the policy, as it is not state mandated. However, The County Parks and Recreation Division has utilized the policy direction to support grant applications for children’s playground equipment.

The recommended change retains the policy direction while providing some flexibility. For example, it is possible that including a children’s playground area outside a future activity based parks (such as an aquatics or gymnastics facility) would not be desirable due to site-specific limitations.

Policy 1.1.6: [R]

As part of the Capital Budget processes the City and County shall each annually review the active recreation facilities needs. Whenever possible these agencies shall pursue grant funding to help provide needed facilities.

New Policy 1.1.6 was recommended for inclusion by the County Parks and Recreation Division to help provide policy direction regarding grant funding for active recreation facilities.

ACCESSIBILITY TO RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Objective 1.2: [R] *(Effective 7/16/90)*

~~By 1995, a~~ All public park and recreation facilities shall be identifiable by and accessible to Leon County residents and to visitors, including the handicapped. and include reasonable accessibility for the physically challenged.

The changes above were developed during the original staff review for the 2007 EAR to update the policy and remove potentially objectionable language.

Policy 1.2.1: [R] *(Effective 7/16/90)*

The following locational criteria shall ~~apply as one factor to be considered in the acquisition of additional park facilities:~~

<u>Park Category</u>	<u>Locational Criteria</u>
Countywide	"Build-out" population of 100,000 within 30 minutes driving radius
Area	"Build-out" population of 25,000 within a three mile radius
Local	"Build-out" population of 5,000 within a one half mile radius

~~"Build out population" refers to the projected population within the service radius of the park once the area is developed. When new parks are being considered for acquisition, this policy shall be applied as one measure to determine appropriate park location.~~

City Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs staff noted that the above policy has not been a successful planning tool and that numerous other factors are considered when acquiring a new park. The general service radius concept has been incorporated into the park type definitions under Policy 1.1.1. County Parks and Recreation staff supports this change.

Policy 1.2.2: [R] *(Effective 7/16/90)*

~~At the time of plan adoption, all countywide and area park facilities, including freshwater beaches and shores, have roadway access. Any new area and countywide parks will also have roadway access. In addition, nNeighborhood pParks are recognized primarily as "walk-to" facilities; as such, -and will be provided with safe pedestrian/bicycle accessways by 1995 shall be a priority provided whenever feasible.~~

City Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs staff recommended amending this policy during the 2007 EAR process to remove the unnecessary focus on roadway access. The remaining proposed amendment removes the old date and establishes bike and pedestrian facilities as a priority while recognizing financial limitations. The County Parks and Recreation Division does not have responsibility for Neighborhood Parks.

Policy 1.2.3: [R] *(Effective 7/16/90)*

~~Shores of public lakes shall have public roadway access. The County shall maintain provide public boat ramps at public water bodies.~~

City Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs staff indicated that building roads near our sensitive lake systems should not be a requirement in the Comprehensive Plan. County Parks and Recreation staff agreed and recommended inclusion of the new text as a replacement for removing the boat ramp Level of Service in Policy 1.1.1.

Policy 1.2.4: [R] *(Rev. Effective 12/10/91)*

~~In order to make parks accessible to youth and other transportation disadvantaged, mass transit routes shall be provided to within walking distance of those facilities. This policy does not apply to boat landing facilities or other rural recreation facilities, nor to neighborhood park facilities.~~

City Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs and the County Parks and Recreation Division recommended removal of the policy above. StarMetro staff expressed concern that requiring mass transit service to all existing and future parks would limit their ability to redesign routes to attract a growing population.

Policy 1.2.5: [R] *(Rev. Effective 7/2/99)*

~~Local (neighborhood) park facilities should be included in the larger “area” and “county wide” parks. Area and Regional Parks should include Neighborhood Park amenities wherever the need for local Neighborhood Parks, based on established LOS, is not being met. Such facilities amenities should be located as to be readily accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists and should supply the same park and recreational facilities and amenities as a stand alone “local” Neighborhood Park whenever feasible. They must also serve a built-out population of 5,000 within a ½ mile radius of the park.~~

Based on a review of the staff report for the amendment (99-1-026) that revised this policy, the intent was not to simply count “local/neighborhood parks” as “area” or “county wide” parks in the LOS system. The intent of the amendment was to “encourage the inclusion of local park facilities within larger park or greenway acquisitions whenever levels of service for local parks are not being met.” The Planning Department recommends the change above to clarify the original intent and create internal consistency regarding the park types proposed in Policy 1.1.1: [R].

PUBLIC/PRIVATE COORDINATION**Objective 1.3: [R]** *(Effective 7/16/90)*

The City Commission and the County Commission shall implement actions to improve coordination between the public and private sectors in matters relating to the provision of recreational opportunities. ~~These actions shall include those outlined in Policies 1.3.1 and 1.3.5.~~

The Planning Department recommends the above changes to improve consistency with regard to how the Plan names each local government and to remove an unnecessary reference.

Policy 1.3.1: [R] *(Effective 7/16/90)*

~~By 1992, the City and County Commissions shall develop maintain an advisory mechanism for securing citizen involvement, on a countywide basis, regarding public park and recreation decisions, including park acquisition. This mechanism shall be consistent with citizen involvement procedures developed in accordance with Policies 1.5.1 and 1.5.2 of the Intergovernmental Coordination Element.~~

On June 26, 2007 the Board of County Commissioners dissolved the County Parks and Recreation Advisory Team. The above changes reflect this action by the Board. The Planning Department recommends removal of the unnecessary reference to the Intergovernmental Coordination Element.

Policy 1.3.2: [R] (~~Effective 7/16/90~~)

~~By 1992, adopt incentives for private landowners and developments which donate or set aside land for recreational and cultural purposes.~~

Based on a review of the City and County Land Development Regulations and coordination with the implementing Departments, there appears to be no policies or programs that provide incentives for donating or setting aside land specifically for recreational or cultural purposes.

The Planning Department recommends removing the policy from the Comprehensive Plan as there is no state requirement for the policy and the policy has gone unimplemented for nearly 18 years. The Level of Service is designed to ensure that a minimum acreage of parks land per capita is maintained.

If the Commissions are interested in pursuing implementation of the policy, it could be retained with a new target implementation date.

Policy 1.3.3: [R] (~~Effective 7/16/90~~)

~~The City Parks and Recreation Department and the County Public Works Department will continue to monitor public and private revenue sources that are available for recreational and cultural facilities and activities. Regardless of revenue source, level of service standards will be maintained at least to the levels adopted in this plan.~~

City and County Park and Recreation staff, and the Planning Department, identified the above policy as unnecessary and recommend removal. Comprehensive Plan direction is not needed to encourage the use of grants and other funding sources. Additionally, Policy 1.1.2 [R] provides direction for funding to maintain the adopted Level of Service standards.

Policy 1.3.4: [R] (~~Effective 7/16/90~~)

~~By 1992, formalize Maintain working agreements with the Leon County School System for the shared use of school facilities for recreation and/or leisure purposes.~~

A working agreement is currently in effect with the Leon County School System regarding shared use facilities. City and County Parks and Recreation staff support maintaining this policy.

~~Policy 1.3.5: [R] (City of Tallahassee) (~~Effective 7/16/90~~)~~

~~Continue financial support of the Tallahassee Museum's efforts to preserve and interpret our regional and cultural heritage.~~

The amendment above ~~is~~ was originally recommended by Russell Daws, Executive Director of the Tallahassee Museum, to update the name and mission of the Museum. The Planning Department recommends formation of a joint policy that does not include a financial obligation but supports the Museum's efforts (see the following version of Policy 1.3.5).

Policy 1.3.5: [R] (~~Leon County~~) (Effective 7/16/90)

The City and the County will support ~~the efforts of the Tallahassee Junior Museum's efforts to~~ preserve and interpret our region's natural and cultural heritage ~~in its expansion as a wildlife park.~~

See comment in the text box above. The amendment above ~~is~~ was originally recommended by Russell Daws, Executive Director of the Tallahassee Museum, to update the name and mission of the Museum. Mr. Daws reported that he is comfortable with the additional change.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES**Objective 1.4: [R]** (Effective 7/16/90)

Make local government an active participant in fostering cultural activities and facilities.

Policy 1.4.1: [R] (Effective 7/16/90)

The ~~Cultural Resources Commission~~ Council on Culture and Arts shall be advisory to City and County governments. This agency, among its other responsibilities, shall be responsible for enhancing public awareness of cultural opportunities and for periodically apprising the City and County of current cultural needs of the community.

The Council on Culture and Arts shall maintain a cultural plan outlining the goals and objectives for cultural preservation and development in this community. The Council shall also coordinate implementation, periodic review and modification of the plan, and lead in advocacy and service as provided within the plan.

The Planning Department coordinated with Peggy Brady, Executive Director of the Council on Culture and the Arts, to develop the language above and remove the polices below. The cultural plan specified in the proposed text has been completed and was adopted by both the City Commission and the Board of County Commissioners in 2003.

Policy 1.4.2: [R] (Effective 7/16/90)

By 1992, Tallahassee shall, in conjunction with the ~~Downtown Improvement Authority and the Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board~~ (or its successor), establish an historic and cultural walking tour of downtown Tallahassee.

Policy 1.4.3: [R] (~~Deleted Effective 7/25/03~~)
(Reserved)**Policy 1.4.4: [R]** (~~Rev. Effective 12/10/91~~)

By 1993, as part of a cultural arts complex the City shall, with County encouragement, complete the construction of a visual arts museum. This shall occur if construction of such is determined feasible in accordance with the completed feasibility study. Additional cultural activities in the complex, such as a performing arts center, and private developments at the Civic Center site will be determined by the Civic Center Master Plan.

Policy 1.4.5: [R] *(Effective 7/16/90)*

By 1993, the City shall, with County encouragement, develop a public-private partnership to fund the construction of an amphitheater for outdoor performances and activities. This facility shall be located so as to be accessible to all citizens of the County.

Policy 1.4.6: [R] *(Deleted Effective 7/25/03)*
(Reserved)

Policy 1.4.7: [R] *(Effective 7/16/90)*

By 1992, Tallahassee and Leon County shall develop an art in public places program.

Policy 1.4.8: [R] *(Effective 7/16/90)*

By 1991, Leon County shall adopt a program for establishment of branch libraries in areas of high population concentration.

The Assistant County Administrator confirmed that removal of the above policy regarding continued expansion of the branch library system is consistent with County Administration direction to reduce non-mandatory policy in the Comprehensive Plan. The five existing branch libraries have all been established since the adoption of this policy in 1990. A sixth branch library in Woodville is currently in the design stage. Completion of the Woodville branch library will complete the Leon County Branch Library Building Program adopted in 1988.

OPEN SPACE

Objective 1.5: [R] *(Effective 7/16/90) (Rev. Effective 4/10/09)*

Lands designated as open space will be protected from incompatible land uses and will remain functionally intact through at least the year 2030.

The Planning Department recommends the above amendment. Removal of the year from the policy provides direction that Open Space lands should be protected regardless of the year. This change also eliminates the need for future Comprehensive Plan amendments to extend the year. The amended policy would continue to allow the Commissions to change the use of Open Space lands by going through the Comprehensive Plan amendment process to change the designation to another category. This process ensures significant public review and input for any proposed changes.

Policy 1.5.1: [R] (Effective 7/16/90)

By February, 1991, local government shall adopt Maintain land development regulations which include specific open space definitions and standards.

Both the City and County land development regulations currently include specific open space definitions and standards.

Policy 1.5.2: [R] (Effective 7/16/90)

Development regulations shall include provisions for incentives and/or requirements for the designation and inclusion of open space in future development.

Policy 1.5.3: [R] (County only)

The County shall help fund and develop a Greenways Trail System that provides the public opportunities to access a safe and convenient trail system ~~throughout the~~ in the unincorporated County. This system should incorporate public lands, right of way, easements on private lands, and open space designated lands to achieve this goal. The trail system will connect to the maximum extent possible existing and future residential areas to employment, education, and activity centers.

County Parks and Recreation staff recommended the inclusion of the above new policy to aid in their pursuit of future grant opportunities. City Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Affairs staff is not prepared to recommend the inclusion of additional Comprehensive Plan policy direction that calls for an additional funding burden.

*City of Tallahassee Parks and Recreation Facilities Map
Leon County Boat Landings / Parks Map*

The Planning Department recommends removal of the facilities maps. There is no state requirement to include the maps in the Comprehensive Plan. City and County websites are a much more practical tool for citizens seeking information on available park facilities.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ELEMENT
GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

Policy 1.1.3: [CI] Levels of Service Required for Infrastructure, Facilities, and Utilities
(Revised Effective 7/25/03; Rev. Effective 7/20/05)

The following standards are hereby established as the minimum levels of service for various infrastructure, facilities, utilities and services required to support new development within the City of Tallahassee and Leon County.

6. Parks and Recreation Facilities

a. Tallahassee parks and recreation facilities:

(1) ~~Countywide-Regional~~ park-land: ~~1.22~~ 4 acres per 1,000 population (excluding boat ramps provided by Leon County). Includes City operation of County-owned Tom Brown Park.

(2) Area park land: 1 acre per 1,000 population
(a) ~~Inside Urban Service Area: 2.00 acres per 1,000 population of Urban Service Area.~~
(b) ~~Outside urban service area: no area parks.~~

(3) Recreation facilities are included in the cost of park-land.

b. Leon County parks and recreation facilities:

(1) ~~Countywide-Regional~~ park-land: ~~0.18~~ 8 acres per 1,000 population (boat ramps portion only)

(2) Area Parkland: ~~2.00~~ 1 A acres per 1,000 population ~~within Urban Service Area~~
(parks to be provided by City and located within City Limits). Per Policy 1.1.1, C of Parks and Recreation Element.

(3) Recreation facilities are included in the cost of park land.

The changes above reflect the proposed amendment to Policy 1.1.1 [R]

Current Neighborhood Parks

Park Name	Manager	Acres	LOS Park Type
Adams & Jefferson Street Commons	City	0.78	Neighborhood Park
Betton Nature Center	City	5.96	Neighborhood Park
Blair Stone Forest Nature Preserve	City	4.35	Neighborhood Park
Boulevard Park	City	0.74	Neighborhood Park
Brevard/Sail High School	City	3.64	Neighborhood Park
Brinkley-Glenn Park	City	8.18	Neighborhood Park
Buck Lake School	City	2.00	Neighborhood Park
Carter - Howell - Strong Park	City	11.41	Neighborhood Park
Chapman Pond	City	5.53	Neighborhood Park
Chittenden Park	City	1.54	Neighborhood Park
Coal Chute Park	City	1.32	Neighborhood Park
Cobb School	City	2.41	Neighborhood Park
Conely Elementary School	City	1.00	Neighborhood Park
Cordell Park	City	1.06	Neighborhood Park
Doug Burnette Park	City	0.73	Neighborhood Park
Evelyn W Randolph Park	City	2.66	Neighborhood Park
Fairview School	City	1.97	Neighborhood Park
Gilchrist School	City	9.50	Neighborhood Park
Glendale Playground	City	0.42	Neighborhood Park
Guyte P. McCord Park	City	19.37	Neighborhood Park
Harriman Circle	City	7.95	Neighborhood Park
Hawk's Rise School Fields	City	2.49	Neighborhood Park
Indianhead Acres Park	City	28.05	Neighborhood Park
John G. Riley Park	City	4.78	Neighborhood Park
Kate Sullivan School	City	1.13	Neighborhood Park
Koucky Park	City	2.70	Neighborhood Park
Los Robles Park	City	1.74	Neighborhood Park
Mabry Manor Park (Villamore Street)	City	2.10	Neighborhood Park
Macon Community Park	City	13.15	Neighborhood Park
Montford & Roberts Schools Fields	City	0.62	Neighborhood Park
Nims School	City	3.95	Neighborhood Park
Ninth & Terrace Park	City	1.89	Neighborhood Park
Old Fort Park	City	1.10	Neighborhood Park
Optimist Park	City	4.26	Neighborhood Park
Park Avenue (Bloxxham)	City	0.47	Neighborhood Park
Park Avenue (Cherokee)	City	0.62	Neighborhood Park
Park Avenue (E. Peck Greene)	City	0.63	Neighborhood Park
Park Avenue (Genevieve Randolph)	City	0.61	Neighborhood Park
Park Avenue (Lewis)	City	0.61	Neighborhood Park
Park Avenue (McCarty)	City	0.48	Neighborhood Park
Park Avenue (Ponce de Leon)	City	0.59	Neighborhood Park
Pearlie Mae Butler Playground (Liberty Park)	City	0.48	Neighborhood Park
Pecan and Trimble Rd	City	5.86	Neighborhood Park
Ruthenia Park	City	3.05	Neighborhood Park
Silver Lake Park	City	19.29	Neighborhood Park
Speed, Spencer, Stephens Park	City	2.39	Neighborhood Park
Sweetbay Swamp Nature Preserve	City	6.92	Neighborhood Park
Swift Creek School Fields	City	4.90	Neighborhood Park
Walker - Ford Center & Pool	City	12.44	Neighborhood Park
Waverly Pond	City	7.44	Neighborhood Park
Winthrop Park	City	13.29	Neighborhood Park

TOTAL 240.55**City of Tallahassee Population (2009) 177,879****Acres per 1,000 Population 1.35**

Future Neighborhood Parks (not yet open)

Park Name	Manager	Acres	LOS Park Type
Barnette W Allen Nature Preserve (Magnolia Ravine off	City	8.86	Future
Bellaire Wetland Preserve	City	20.29	Future
Doomar Rd Nature Preserve	City	12.88	Future
Four Points Park & Bike Path Staging Area	City	30.17	Future
Golden Aster Nature Preserve	City	32.80	Future
Ox Bottom Park - AKA Ox Bottom Manor Park A. J.	City	85.54	Future

190.54

New Total

431.09

New Acres per 1,000 Population

2.4235

Area Parks

Park Name	Manager	Acres	LOS Park Type
A. J. Henry Park	City	74.58	Area Park
Brokaw McDougall House	City	2.15	Area Park
Campbell Pond	City	25.84	Area Park
Capital Park (County owned land)	City	19.78	Area Park
Country Club Park	City	4.10	Area Park
Dorothy B. Oven Park	City	7.49	Area Park
Lafayette Park & Center	City	20.77	Area Park
Lake Elberta	City	35.03	Area Park
Lake Ella Park (Fred O. Drake Park at Lake Ella)	City	19.05	Area Park
Lawrence Gregory Community Center / Robinson-	City	3.60	Area Park
Lee Park (Owned by the School Board)	City	4.82	Area Park
LeVerne Payne (Fourth Avenue) Center / Tennis Courts	City	3.50	Area Park
Levy Park & Pool	City	8.61	Area Park
Lincoln Neighborhood Service Center	City	3.76	Area Park
Myers Park	City	32.39	Area Park
San Luis Misson Park	City	69.08	Area Park
Springsax Park	City	35.41	Area Park
Wade Wehunt Pool (see Myers)	City	0.00	Area Park
Bradfordville Community Center	County	7.51	Area Park
Brent Drive Park	County	0.96	Area Park
Canopy Oaks Community Park	County	10.69	Area Park
Daniel B. Chaires Community Park	County	125.00	Area Park
Dorothy Cooper Spence Community Center (Chaires)	County	1.57	Area Park
Flagg Street Park	County	0.34	Area Park
Fort Braden Community Center	County	4.91	Area Park
Fort Braden Community Park	County	8.15	Area Park
J. Lee Vause Park	County	25.95	Area Park
J. Lewis Hall Sr. (Woodville) Park	County	27.38	Area Park
Jackson View Park	County	44.51	Area Park
Kate Ireland Park	County	6.47	Area Park
Miccosukee Community Center	County	1.04	Area Park
Miccosukee Community Park	County	17.12	Area Park
Pedrick Pond	County	26.03	Area Park
Stoneler Road Park	County	11.40	Area Park
Tower Road Park	County	4.56	Area Park
Woodville Community Center	County	5.54	Area Park

TOTAL 699.09**Leon County Population (2009) 274,803****Total Acres per 1,000 Population 2.54****City Acres per 1,000 City Population 1.35****County Acres per 1,000 County Population 1.20**

Future Area Parks

Park Name	Manager	Acres	LOS Park Type
Dr. Charles Billings Greenway - East	City	44.18	Future Area Park
Northwest Park	City	79.26	Future Area Park
Tallahassee Junction	City	20.56	Future Area Park
Timberlane Ravine Park Ph I (20.28 + 35.26)	City	55.54	Future Area Park
Dr. Charles Billings Greenway - West	City	19.41	Future Area Park
Tallahassee Junction Ph 2 AKA Cascade Trail Seg 4	City	4.33	Future Area Park
Timberlane Ravine Park Ph II (16.41+2.5)	City	18.91	Future Area Park

Sub Total 242.19

New Total 941.28

New Acres per 1,000 Population 3.43

City Acres per 1,000 City Population 2.23

County Acres per 1,000 County Population 1.20

Regional Parks

Park Name	Manager	Acres	LOS Park Type
E. K. Phipps Park (owned by NWMD and owned by the	City	670.00	Regional Park
Forestmeadows Park and Athletic Center	City	13.11	Regional Park
Hilaman Park Municipal Golf Course - entrance, driveway,	City	4.00	Regional Park
Jack L. McLean Jr. Park	City	54.70	Regional Park
Jake Gaither Center	City	4.04	Regional Park
James Messer Fields (North)	City	28.86	Regional Park
James Messer Fields (South)	City	24.60	Regional Park
Kleman Plaza (Capital Commons)	City	2.52	Regional Park
Lafayette Heritage Trail Park (Piney-Z)	City	797.76	Regional Park
Meadows Soccer Complex	City	37.55	Regional Park
Meridian Youth Sports Complex (includes the corner)	City	14.72	Regional Park
Mike Blankenship Skate Park	City	2.10	Regional Park
Tom Brown Park (County owned land)	City	304.88	Regional Park
Trousdell Gymnastics & Aquatics Center	City	18.99	Regional Park
Apalachee Regional Park	County	157.55	Regional Park
Ben Stoutamire Landing	County	3.51	Regional Park
Blount Landing	County	0.61	Regional Park
Bull Headley Landing	County	0.59	Regional Park
Cedar Hill Landing	County	1.44	Regional Park
Coe Landing	County	5.86	Regional Park
Crowder Landing	County	0.60	Regional Park
Cypress Landing	County	9.62	Regional Park
Elk Horn Landing	County	0.25	Regional Park
Faulk Drive Landing	County	4.67	Regional Park
Fuller Road Landing	County	0.54	Regional Park
Gardner Landing	County	0.31	Regional Park
Goose Creek	County	45.26	Regional Park
Hall Landing	County	0.64	Regional Park
J. R. Alford Greenway	County	874.24	Regional Park
Lake Henrietta Park	County	127.12	Regional Park
Lake Munson Landing	County	0.44	Regional Park
Gil Waters Preserve Park	County	67.34	Regional Park
Martha Wellman Park	County	23.78	Regional Park
Meginnis Arm Landing	County	0.66	Regional Park
Micosukee Canopy Road Greenway	County	499.40	Regional Park
Miller Landing	County	0.99	Regional Park
Ochlockonee Landing	County	1.54	Regional Park
Reeves Landing	County	0.45	Regional Park
Rhoden Cove Landing	County	2.91	Regional Park
Road to the Lakes Landing	County	6.06	Regional Park
Sunset Landing	County	1.45	Regional Park
US 27 North Landing	County	16.27	Regional Park
Van Brunt Landing	County	0.09	Regional Park
Vause Landing	County	0.90	Regional Park
Wainwright Landing	County	0.88	Regional Park
Williams Landing	County	7.70	Regional Park
Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park	State	1,210.29	Regional Park
Lake Jackson Mounds Archaeological State Park	State	201.29	Regional Park
Mission San Luis de Apalachee	State	57.62	Regional Park
Natural Bridge Battlefield Historic State Park	State	7.66	Regional Park

TOTAL 5,318.36**Leon County Population (2009) 274,803****Total Acres per 1,000 Population 19.35****City Acres per 1,000 City Population 7.20****County Acres per 1,000 County Population 6.78****State Acres per 1,000 Countywide Population 5.37**

Future Reginal Park

Park Name	Manager	Acres	LOS Park Type
Governors Park	City	209.70	Future Regional
Fallschase	County	200.00	Future Regional
Fred George Greenways	County	158.02	Future Regional
Okeeheepkee Prairie	County	26.17	Future Regional
St. Marks Headwaters Greenways	County	754.00	Future Regional

Sub Total 1347.89

New Total 6666.25**New Acres per 1,000 Population 24.26****City Acres per 1,000 City Population 7.96****County Acres per 1,000 County Population 10.92****State Acres per 1,000 Countywide Population 5.37****Resource Management Areas**

Park Name	Manage	Acres	LOS Park Type
Apalachicola National Forest	Federal	104,636.00	Resource Management Area
Edwards Wildlife Area	State	692.92	Resource Management Area
Lake Talquin State Recreation Area	State	11,664.02	Resource Management Area

TOTAL 116,992.94**Leon County Population (2009) 274,803****Acres per 1,000 Population 425.73**