

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

Goal: To ensure the provision and maintenance of parks, recreational areas and open space to meet the needs of the existing and future residents of Wakulla County.

Objective 1: Implement and maintain a system of parks and recreation program that meets the needs of the County's population by maintaining a level of service (LOS) standard of five (5) acres of developed recreation per thousand (1000) population (or fraction thereof).

Policy 1.1: The County shall establish and collect impact fees to raise revenues to purchase land and develop or improve parks.

Policy 1.2: The County shall preserve and maintain existing parks and recreation facilities through the use of adequate operating budgets and proper management techniques.

Policy 1.3: Developed recreation land, for purposes of meeting the LOS standard, shall include any land containing playgrounds, playfields, fields for organized sports, recreation halls, tennis courts, swimming pools, and similar facilities, boat ramps, multiuse bike trails and necessary parking and service uses and surrounding passive open space.

Policy 1.4: By 2015, the County shall complete a bicycle, pedestrian and recreation open space master plan for the unincorporated areas of the County to adequately plan for future recreational needs and to facilitate the acquisition of funding from non-County sources.

Comment [aw1]: ORC- Milestone added to address ORC item#18.

Objective 2: Ensure that adequate open spaces are provided.

Policy 2.1: The County shall adopt Land Development Codes which include recreation areas and specific open space definitions and standards.

Policy 2.2: The County shall, at least annually in connection with the preparation of the annual budget, review the availability of land which can be acquired to increase open space. The review of land development proposals shall include the evaluation of open space areas which exhibit unique natural character and which can be acquired through dedication.

Policy 2.3: The County shall revise its Land Development Codes to require that the land uses and activities involved in areas adjacent to beaches and water bodies shown on the Future Land Use Map be arranged so as to facilitate access by the public to such beaches and waterbodies. Where private development occurs, public access or preservation of access to such beaches or waterbodies shall be dedicated to a private organization established for the purpose of maintaining the access.

Objective 3: All public recreation facilities will have automobile, bicycle and pedestrian facilities access and will provide access for the elderly and for individuals with disabilities.

Policy 3.1: The County shall revise its land development codes to require the addition of designated bicycle lanes or paved shoulders to new or newly-paved private roads in subdivisions where such roads provide access to parks and/or open space.

Policy 3.2: The County shall provide accessible parking spaces for individuals with disabilities and barrier-free access for all County operated recreation facilities.

Policy 3.3: Wheelchair accessible areas will be provided at all County spectator seating areas.

Objective 4: Adequately maintain public parks and recreation facilities in Wakulla County to prevent and/or reduce accidents or the need for repairs or replacements.

Policy 4.1: Parks and recreation facilities shall be designed so that children's play areas are at least one hundred (100) feet away from vehicular access points or are separated by a fence or appropriate barrier.

Policy 4.2: Funding to correct existing or potential safety hazards or to retrofit facilities to meet guidelines detailed in the ADA Standards for Accessible Design will have priority over all other recreation projects.

Policy 4.3: The County shall develop and implement a system for recording the number and type of accidents and injuries that occur at County provided and maintained recreational areas or open spaces.

Objective 5: To improve and coordinate efforts with all levels of government and with the private sector to provide recreational opportunities by undertaking the following program of activities.

Policy 5.1: The County should maintain a joint agreement between the Wakulla County Recreation Department and the Wakulla County School Board concerning the joint use of parks and recreational Facilities.

Objective 6: Ensure that adequate recreational facilities are provided.

Policy 6.1: The County should strive to meet the following targets for user-oriented and resource-based facilities.

Recreation Standards for User-Oriented Facilities

Facility	Unit of Measure
Basketball Courts	1 court per 6,000 persons
Tennis Courts	1 court per 6,000 persons
Ball Fields	1 field per 4,800 persons
Multipurpose Fields	1 field per 8,000 persons

<u>Track Fields</u>	<u>1 field per 30,000 persons</u>
<u>Swimming Pools</u>	<u>1 pool per 30,000 persons</u>
<u>Exercise Trail</u>	<u>1 mile trail per 20,000 persons</u>
<u>Golf Course (18 Hole)</u>	<u>1 course per 40,000 persons</u>

Source: Wakulla County Planning Division
 Presumes coordinated use of school board facilities.

Recreation Standards for Resource-Based Facilities

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Unit of Measure</u>
<u>Swimming Beaches</u>	<u>1/2 mile per 40,000 persons</u>
<u>Hiking/Nature Trails</u>	<u>1 mile per 20,000 persons</u>
<u>Bicycle Trails</u>	<u>1 mile per 5,000 persons</u>
<u>Hunting Lands</u>	<u>8.6 sq. miles per 10,000 persons</u>
<u>Boat Ramps</u>	<u>1 ramp per 5,000 persons</u>
<u>Picnic Tables</u>	<u>1 table per 500 persons</u>

Source: Wakulla County Planning Division

Comment [aw2]: ORC – Moved from CIE to ROS to reduce confusion with LOS standards and to address ORC comment #19