

2030 Comprehensive Plan Provisions for Special Committee on Parks

Issue # 1. Multiple sections reference the FOCUS Plan as establishing criteria and priorities. Are we continuing to use that specific plan and do we agree with the criteria used to determine priorities, etc.? Attached as exhibit are sections of plan illustrating criteria.

1.2.3

The City shall accept or purchase parcels of land for park purposes that are of sufficient size, location and configuration to handle their intended purpose(s). The Recreation and Community Services Department shall maintain objective standards for considering any parcel. The standards are based on the matrix criteria of the FOCUS Plan.

1.2.7

The City shall update the Future Opportunity Continuous Upgrade Strategy (FOCUS) Plan every five years in order to prioritize capital improvements.

4.2.5

The Recreation and Community Services Department shall utilize the Future Opportunities, Continuous Upgrade Strategy (FOCUS) plan to identify land and prioritize waterfront locations for the development of boat ramps, buffer zones and/or public access to the St. Johns River and its tributaries.

9.1.4

Recreation and Community Services Department will maintain specific standards as outlined in the FOCUS plan, for determining the capital improvement ranking of all parks

Issue # 2. Goal 2 addresses the provision of additional park facilities (land and or amenities within parks) and the obligations of new residential development to provide facilities or funds to help offset the impacts of new residents. Should this obligation apply in some form to: (a) all areas of the City; (b) to all sizes of residential development; (c) to only new developments or to include re-development

Goal 2.

To establish an active/passive park system in the suburban and rural areas of the City which assist in providing identity, form and a visual framework to the City and its communities.

- Suggestion : The Goal should be modified so that from a broad perspective we are not limiting the scope to suburban and rural area. Individual solutions may apply to different areas, but the impact of new residential demand on parks and recreational facilities applies throughout the City and we need public parks in urban areas to meet the demands of residents there, too. Delete highlighted language

Issue # 3. We need to clearly define Open Space and Active Recreation Area – both terms are misused and unclear today.

2.1.2

Open space planning shall be coordinated among all City departments to include Public Works, Planning and Development, Recreation and Community Services, the Office of Economic Development (OED), and Environmental and Compliance. Open space within the downtown area shall be coordinated with the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA).

Objective 2.2 The City's Land Development Regulations, through the Subdivision Ordinances or other Ordinances, shall ensure the provision of open space by private enterprise.

Policies

2.2.1

The City shall require that all new non-residential land uses, except in the Central Business District, provide a minimum of 10% of the property in open space.

2.2.2

The City shall require that all new single family and multi-family developments (residential developments) dedicate land for public parkland (active recreation parks) or provide monetary contribution to the appropriate department.

2.2.3

A residential subdivision development of 100 lots or more shall provide at least one acre of useable uplands for every 100 lots (and any fraction thereof), or 5% of the total useable uplands area to be platted, whichever is less, to be dedicated as common area and set aside for active recreation

3.1.4

The City shall include specific open space definitions and standards in the Land Development Regulations.

Neither term is defined in the ROS Element, however Open space is defined in the FLUM as:

Open Spaces - Undeveloped lands suitable for passive recreation or conservation uses.

But it is defined in Chapter 656 of the ordinance Code as:

Open space means all areas of natural plant communities or areas replanted with vegetation after construction, such as revegetated natural areas; tree, shrub, hedge or ground cover planting areas; and lawns, and all other areas required to be provided as natural ground and landscaping pursuant to the Zoning Code of the City of Jacksonville.

Notwithstanding the comprehensive plan definition, retention ponds, parking lots, and in one recent case a gas station pump area have been considered Open Space. Land within required setbacks and buffers is considered Open Space. Further, undevelopable wetlands are clearly Open Space. The question is what were we trying to achieve by requiring the set aside of Open Space and what achieves that goal.

Active Recreation is undefined but clearly was intended to serve a different purpose- to insure opportunities for physical play and exercise. Should a required sidewalk count? Should a path around the retention pond? Should a courtyard with grills? The intent was playgrounds, ball fields, courts and the like and these require aggregated space, not pocket parks.

Issue # 4. For all new residential development, land or a contribution to park facilities should be required.

2.2.2

The City shall require that all new single family and multi-family developments (residential developments) dedicate land for public parkland (active recreation parks) or provide monetary contribution to the appropriate department

- Suggestion : Keep this policy but modify the dedication of land to provide that option ONLY if the parcel is large enough to accommodate true active recreation and with the approval of Parks Dept. Smaller dedicated parklets don't achieve the active recreation goal.

Issue # 5. Should the requirement for residential subdivisions include all subdivisions, and is the monetary contribution amount correct?

2.2.3

A residential subdivision development of **100 lots or more** shall provide at least one acre of useable uplands for every 100 lots (and any fraction thereof), or 5% of the total useable uplands area to be platted, whichever is less, to be dedicated as common area and set aside for active recreation. There may be up to two areas for each 100 lots, and the areas shall be a minimum of 0.5 acres in size, unless otherwise approved by the Planning and Development Department, or by the City Council as part of a Planned Unit Development Zoning District.

2.2.4

A residential subdivision development of **25 lots to 99** lots shall pay a recreation and open space fee of two-hundred-fifty (\$250) dollars per lot, or provide at least four hundred thirty-five (435) square feet of useable uplands for each lot (and any fraction thereof), to be dedicated as common area and set aside for active recreation. The City shall use recreation and open space fees collected pursuant to this subsection to improve, enhance, expand, or acquire recreation areas within the same Planning District in which the fees are paid.

- **Suggestion: Require all new single family subdivisions (a subdivision is three lots) to set aside land or pay a contribution. If a subdivision already has been platted and developed in the past, but is now being redeveloped it would not be required to contribute. Make applicable to all new subdivisions (less than 25 lots)**
- **Suggestion: Re-evaluate fee and increase based on current cost to develop and maintain park facilities.**
- **Suggestion: Perhaps in Urban, Urban Priority and CBD only fee option should be available because there is existing parkland, but it is underdeveloped or not adequately maintained; and new parks should be centralized to serve multiple developments**

Issue # 6. Develop different policies for Multi-family in Urban/Urban Priority areas and CBD than in Suburban and Rural; Require all multi-family to contribute or provide active recreation space

2.2.5

All multiple-family developments of **100 units or more** shall provide 150 square feet of active recreation area per dwelling unit. There may be one area for each 100 units, or the areas may be combined, subject to approval by the Planning and Development.

6.1.4

The Recreation and Community Services Department shall plan recreational development in such areas as the Urban Core where open space is limited and where recreation

development may be used to encourage the redevelopment of deteriorated or blighted areas

- **Suggestion: In CBD and possibly Urban area, there must be an in lieu contribution option and City parks should be developed to serve the needs of residents in these areas where land is limited**
- **Suggestion: All multi-family should participate consistent with 2.2.2. Remove the 100 units or more language.**

Issue # 7. Are this Goal and Objective 9.1 and the associated policies being implemented? Clearly there was an intention to prioritize maintenance. Is the current language still desirable?

GOAL 9

The Recreation and Community Services Department shall establish minimum standards for park maintenance and equipment repair and bring all parks up to this standard within five years.

Objective 9.1 The Recreation and Community Services Department shall consider for the future the allocation of funding maintenance and equipment repair equally with capital outlay for existing and new facility developments.

Policies

9.1.1

The Recreation and Community Services Department shall maintain a procedure for the rating of park facilities using a four-level semantic differential scale (excellent, good, fair, and poor) as outlined in the Master Recreation Improvement Plan (MRIP) plan.

9.1.2

The Recreation and Community Services Department shall rate all of its parks every five years. Each park will be identified by the type of rating received.

9.1.3

All parks receiving the lowest rating will be improved by the Recreation and Community Services Department to at least the next higher rating level within five years of the last rating.

The Master Recreation Improvement Plan - A professionally developed document encompassing the identification of the recreational needs of the community. The document includes specific demographic and inventory data appropriate to identify and track these needs. It establishes criteria and standards for park maintenance and new park development, discussions of program and service issues, priority needs issues, management issues, and implementation strategies.

- **Suggestion: Leave the language as is but address implantation.**
simple minutes

POLICY MEMORANDUM
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
Effective: XX/XX/2018

TITLE: Officer in the Park – Duties

1. **PURPOSE** To establish standard operating procedures for duties and conduct of an officer participating in the Officer in the Park Program.
 2. **CANCELLATION** All previous memorandums on this subject are cancelled and/or superseded by the policies and procedures contained herein.
 3. **AUTHORITY** Director, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department
-

BACKGROUND

To ensure the health, safety and welfare of citizens visiting City parks, the Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Department has operated an Officer in the Park Program (see 2003-980-A). The program provides residency to deputized Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Officers in exchange for security services. In response to the work of the Special Committee on Parks 2018, the PRCS Department Director desires to update standard operating procedures for this program.

DUTIES

1. The Officer in the Park Program is established to provide security and create a law enforcement presence during and after park hours of operation. The Officer shall keep a watchful eye on the park grounds and facilities.
2. The Officer shall respond to calls for police services such as alarm activations, vandalism, noise, after hour activities, alcohol consumption, suspected criminal activity and violation of park rules.
3. The Officer shall provide a minimum of five hours dedicated service to the park each week including opening and unlocking gates (if applicable) when the park is open and closing and locking gates (if applicable) when the park is closed.
4. If facilities are present, the Officer shall conduct security checks to verify proper opening, closing and locking of facility exterior doors and windows.
5. The Officer shall submit a Park Security Check report and Activity Log reports on the 15th of each month.
6. The officer shall perform other duties included in his or her License Agreement and any duties requested by the PRCS Department Director or the PRCS Office who oversees the Officer in the Park Program.
7. The Officer shall be visible to patrons of the park.
8. The Officer shall keep the grounds around his or her residence well maintained, neat of trash and generally maintain the park's pleasing environment.

POLICY MEMORANDUM

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Effective: XX/XX/2018

TITLE: Officer in the Park Program – Request for Security Assistance

1. **PURPOSE** To establish standard operating procedures to request assistance of an officer Participating in the Officer in the Park Program.
 2. **CANCELLATION** All previous memorandums on this subject are cancelled and/or superseded by the policies and procedures contained herein.
 3. **AUTHORITY** Director, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department
-

BACKGROUND

To ensure the health, safety and welfare of citizens visiting City parks, the Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Department has operated an Officer in the Park Program (see 2003-980-A). The program provides residency to deputized Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Officers in exchange for security services. In response to the work of the Special Committee on Parks 2018, the PRCS Department Director desires to update standard operating procedures for this program.

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

1. In each park where there is an Officer in the Park program underway, PRCS Department shall post a sign near the Officer's residence advising the general public about request for security assistance.
2. Each sign will say "For emergencies, call 911. For non-emergency security issues, call 904-630-0500."
3. Parks Department shall coordinate with JSO non-emergency operators and provide contact information for each Officer participating in the Officer in the Park Program.

Park Security Check Report
Name of Park: 103rd St Sports Complex

Date	Daily Check Made		Incident and Activity Log Report and Comments
	A.M.	P.M.	
04-01-18	0800	2100	Rounds made, A.M. and P.M. No issues to report. Opened track gates in morning and closed them in evening.
04-02-18	0530	2130	AM rounds and PM rounds made. No issues to report. Opened track gates in morning and closed them in evening.
04-03-18	0530	2330	Morning & afternoon park rounds made. No problems found. Track gates opened in morning and closed in evening.
04-04-18	0530	0030	Made AM and PM rounds. No issues or problems to report. Track gate opened (AM) and closed (PM).
04-05-18	0800	2330	Made AM and PM rounds. No issues or problems found. Track gates opened (AM) and closed (PM).
04-06-18	0830	0000	A.M. and P.M. rounds made. No problems or issues found, park secure. Track gate opened (AM) and closed (PM).
04-07-18	0800	2100	Park rounds made both morning and night. No problems found. Gates opened (morning) and closed (evening).
04-08-18	0700	2130	Rounds made, AM and PM. No issues to report. Opened track gates in the morning and closed them at night.
04-09-18	0530	2100	Park rounds made both morning and night. No problems or issues found, park secure. Track gates opened (AM) and closed (PM).
04-10-18	0530	2300	Morning and afternoon park rounds made. No problems encountered. Track gates opened (AM) and closed (PM).
04-11-18	0530	2300	Rounds made in morning and evening. Park secure. Gates opened (morning) and closed (evening).
04-12-18	0530	2100	AM and PM rounds made. Park secure, no issues or problems. Gate opened (morning) and closed (night).
04-13-18	0800	2130	Morning & afternoon park rounds made. No problems found to report, park is secure. Track gates opened in morning, and closed at night.
04-14-18	0800	2300	AM rounds and PM rounds made. No problems, park is secure. Opened track gates in the morning and closed them at night.
04-15-18	0600	2100	Park rounds made both morning and night. No issues observed. Gate opened (A.M.) and closed (P.M.).

Certified By: DM Brown 5230

throughout the city in a wide variety of locations providing the citizens of Jacksonville numerous recreational opportunities ranging from bike trails to ocean front parks to athletic complexes.

Requirements Analysis

Criteria for Determining Need

There are several methods for determining recreational needs in a community. The city of Jacksonville uses three methods to determine need. They are:

1. Level of Service Standards
2. Community meetings
3. Spatial criteria (Service Radius)

1. Level of Service Standards

Level of service (LOS) standard is a guideline that is expressed as a ratio of facilities or acres for a determined population. This method of needs analysis for recreational facilities is outlined in the city's 2010 Comprehensive Plan in the Open Space and Recreation Element. Levels of service standards have been established for acreage needs, park type (active, passive/active, and regional parks) and designated facilities-courts, trails, ball fields and pools. The existing LOS for recreational facilities is shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4-Existing City of Jacksonville Levels Of Service Standards

Park Acreage Requirements	2000	2005	2010
Active/Passive Parks*	1.60 acres/1000 population	1.73 acres/1000 population	1.95 acres/1000 population
Regional Parks **	2.08 acres/1000 population	2.08 acres/1000 population	2.50 acres/1000 population
Park Facility Requirements	2000	2005	2010
Swimming Pools**	1week/70,000 population	1week /70,000 population	1 week/70,000 population
Athletic Fields**	1/2400 population	1/2000/population	1/2000/population
Basketball/Tennis Courts**	1/2430/population	1/2430/population	1/2400/population
Trails**	1 mile/50,000 population	1 mile/50,000 population	1 mile/50,000 population

Source: City of Jacksonville 2010 Comprehensive Plan August 2002

* Requirement by Planning District ** Requirement City-Wide

The city's Planning and Development Department has a policy of requiring developers of residential subdivisions to provide 1 acre of park/open space per 100 lots as an integral part of the neighborhood. These parks serve as neighborhood parks for new residential development.

2. Community Workshops

DPRE conducts community workshops to determine recreation needs. DPRE coordinates with district city council representatives, neighborhood groups and representatives, and athletic associations on a routine basis to determine needs. The DPRE has conducted numerous public workshops to discuss park needs and recreational issues in the last five years. As part of this Recreation Master Plan, public workshops were held in each of the

city's planning districts. A summary of the outcome of those meetings is detailed in Appendix 5 of this report.

3. Spatial Criteria (Service Radius)

The DPRE utilizes a third set of guidelines for determining the recreational needs of the community. The Department has set forth general guidelines for park service to citizens based on park type and a service radius. These are general guidelines that help the Department to locate parks throughout the community to balance the accessibility of parks for all of Jacksonville's residents.

Neighborhood Parks – 1-mile radius

Community Parks-3 mile radius

Regional Parks – 10-mile radius

The maps contained in Appendix 2 depict the service radius for neighborhood and community parks by planning district. While there is no mandate to provide a park within a designated radius from every residence in the county, the maps serve as a planning tool for determining areas of potential recreation needs.

Other Standards for Determining Recreational Needs

Additional resources that are available to determine the need for recreational facilities include the document prepared by the state of Florida- "Outdoor Recreation In Florida 2000" and "Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines", a publication developed by the National Recreation and Parks Association. The guidelines published in the "Outdoor Recreation in Florida 2000" report are very similar to the standards followed by the DPRE as identified in Figure 5.

Figure 5-State of Florida Guidelines for Recreational Facilities

State of Florida Guidelines for Recreational Facilities			
Park Type	Spatial Criteria	Service population	Facilities
Neighborhood Park	.5 miles radius, 5 acres	5000 population	Walk to park with play structures, courts, picnic areas,
Community Park	3 mile radius, 20-50 acres	5000 population	Pools, ball fields, courts, picnic, recreation buildings,
Regional Park	250 acres and larger	> 100,000 population	Camping, nature, resource-based activities

Source: Outdoor Recreation in Florida, 2002

State of Florida Guidelines for Park Facility Needs	Based on Median LOS
Swimming Pools	1/25,000 population
Athletic Fields- Football/Soccer	1/6000 population
Athletic Fields – Baseball/softball	1/5000
Tennis courts	1/2000/population
Basketball	1/5000
Trails	No standard for population

Source: Outdoor Recreation in Florida, 2002

Population Projections

Growth in the City of Jacksonville

The city of Jacksonville has experienced tremendous growth in the last decade. From 1980-1990 the city of Jacksonville's population increased by 101,968 or 17.86%. From 1990-1995, population increased by 59,063 or 8.78% compared to the Florida statewide average rate of growth of 8.95% and the national average of 5.41%. In this five-year period, the growth rate was high as compared to the national average and moderate in comparison to other Florida counties and high growth states. From 1995 to 2000 the population of Duval County grew to 778,879, a 6.4% increase. The city of Jacksonville's Planning and Development Department prepared population projections for the years 2000-2025. Appendix 3 contains the population projections for the City of Jacksonville.

Figure 6-Population Projections by Planning District, Duval County Florida 2000-2025

Planning District	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
1. Urban Core	42,635	45,023	45,913	46,266	47,913	48,776
2. Arlington	186,072	201,578	207,629	212,761	217,913	223,748
3. Southeast	195,721	214,407	228,614	244,070	260,127	276,613
4. Southwest	133,867	145,839	154,864	163,354	173,700	183,887
5. Northwest	128,848	135,239	141,797	146,303	150,916	154,206
6. North	48,474	56,772	54,506	71,968	79,628	84,179
7. Baldwin/Beaches	43,262	45,309	46,302	46,760	48,312	49,514
Total Population	778,879	844,167	889,635	931,481	978,510	1,020,924

Source – City of Jacksonville, Planning and Development Department, November 2002

Overall, the population is estimated to increase by 31% in Duval County over the next 22 years. Population growth to the year 2025 by planning districts is listed below:

	Percent Increase From 2000-2025	2025 Projected Population
Planning District 1	14%	6,141 people
Planning District 2	20%	37,676 people
Planning District 3	41%	80,892 people
Planning District 4	37%	50,020 people
Planning District 5	20%	25,358 people
Planning District 6	73%	35,705 people
Planning District 7	14%	6,252 people

Existing Levels of Service

Level of Service Analysis

The city of Jacksonville uses level of service analysis to determine satisfaction of recreation needs in the city. The Recreation Master Plan provides an analysis of the levels of service for the years 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2020. The level of service requirement is broken into two categories – park acreage and park facilities.

The city's Comprehensive Plan sets acreage standards for recreational lands. The standard is divided into two categories- regional parks and active/passive parks. The level of service standard for regional park acreage is 2.08 acres per 1000 population for the year 2000. This

standard increases to 2.5-acres/1000 population by the year 2010. The level of service standard for active/passive park acreage is 1.6-acres/1000 population for the year 2000 and increases to 1.92 acres/1000 population by the year 2010.

Currently the existing regional parks in the city total 2893 acres or 3.9 acres per 1000 population, well above the level of service standard of 2.08-acres/1000 population. The acreage requirement for active/passive parks is also above the 1.6 acres/1000 population requirement. The city currently has 3564 acres of active /passive park acreage, or 4.8 acres /1000 population.

Acreage Requirements Analysis

The city's level of service standard for recreation acreage is exceeded in both categories: regional parks and active/ passive parks. The following charts outline by planning district the total amount of acreage needed and the total amount existing as of January 2003. The figure assumes that no new park acreage is added through 2020.

Figure 7-LOS Recreational Acreage Requirements City Wide

Year	Population	Active/Passive Parks		Regional Parks	
		Existing Acreage***	Required Acreage*	Existing Acreage	Required Acreage
2000	735,617**	3564 (4.8ac/1000 population)	1177 (1.6ac/1000 population)	2893 (3.9ac/1000 population)	1530 (2.08 ac/1000 population)
2005	798,858**	3564 (4.8ac/1000 population)	1382 (1.73 ac/1000 population)	2893 (3.9ac/1000 population)	1661 (2.08 ac/1000 population)
2010	843,323**	3564 (4.8ac/1000 population)	1628 (1.93 ac/1000 population)	2893 (3.9ac/1000 population)	2108 (2.50 ac/1000 population)

*Citywide average for active passive. See Figure 9 for a breakdown by Planning District.

** Population is for city of Jacksonville, excludes Beaches and Baldwin population projections, as they are not calculated in the city's level of service standards. August 2002

*** Active/Passive Park Acreage derived from the following formula: Total DPRE Acreage minus undeveloped and regional parkland

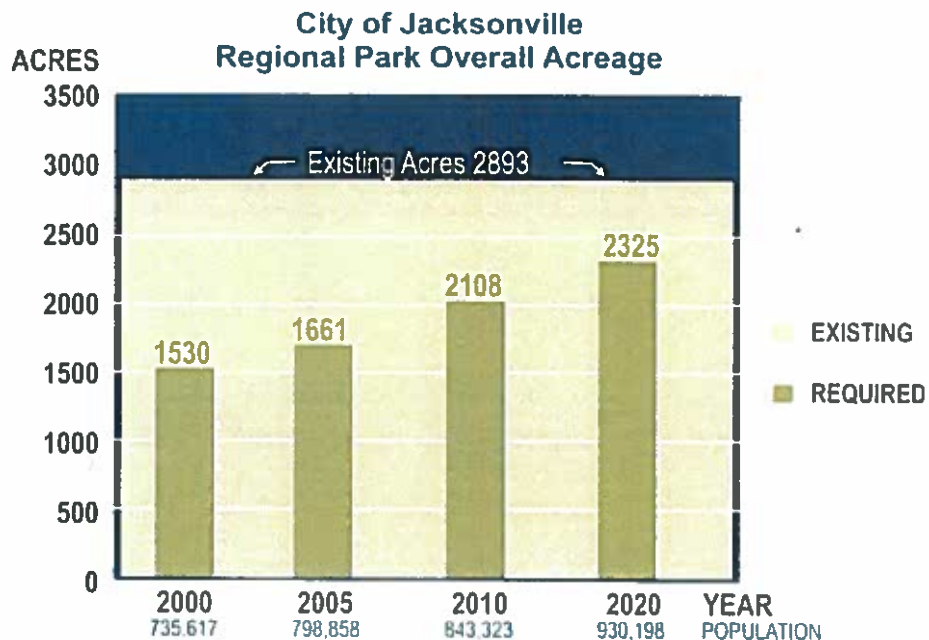
Source: HDR, March 2003

Regional Parks

The city has added significant acreage to its regional park inventory over the last ten years. Figure 8 illustrates that based on existing and projected population the regional park acreage exceeds the requirements set forth in the Comprehensive Plan.

A complete listing of the city's regional parks is found in Appendix 1-Table 3; a map of the regional park locations is located in Appendix 2.

Figure 8-Regional Park Acreage



Source: HDR, 2003

Note: Population figures in Figure 8 are calculated for the city of Jacksonville and do not include the beaches and Baldwin, as they are not calculated in determination of level of service standards for the city.

Regional parks are defined by DPRE as parks that are generally over 50 acres in size and designed to serve a population with a 25-minute drive time or 10-mile radius. These parks provide active, passive/resource based recreational opportunities as well as lighted athletic fields, parking, indoor/outdoor courts and pools.

Regional parks in the city of Jacksonville include:

- Blue Cypress Park
- Cecil Field
- Cedar Point
- District Two Regional Park
- Huguenot Memorial Park
- Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park
- Lonnie Miller Park
- Metropolitan Park
- Pope Duval Park
- Ringhaver Park
- Westside Regional Park

Future regional parks that are planned are Baymeadows/9A Regional Park, William F. Sheffield Regional Park, Losco Regional Park and Julington Creek Regional Park. These parks will be added to the inventory of regional parks when open to the public.

Active/Passive Parks

The city's Comprehensive Plan sets forth an acreage guideline for active/passive park acreage distribution among the city's planning districts. The figure below illustrates that the city of Jacksonville is meeting the levels of service standards set forth in the comprehensive plan for active/passive parks. The acreage requirement will be satisfied through 2010 and

beyond. The charts illustrate acreage requirements through the year 2010 as prescribed in the Comprehensive Plan.

Total DPRE Acreage	7919 acres
Regional Park Acreage	-2893 acres
Undeveloped Park Land	<u>-1462 acres</u>
Active/Passive Park Acreage	3564 acres city wide

Figure 9-LOS Active/Passive Acreage Requirement by Planning District

Planning District	2000		2005		2010	
	Required Acreage*	Current Acreage**	Required Acreage	Current Acreage	Required Acreage	Current Acreage
1	68	185	77	185	88	185
2	298	524	348	524	398	524
3	313	537	370	537	438	537
4	214	957	252	957	243	957
5	206	487	233	487	272	487
6	77	733	98	733	123	733
7	69	141	78	141	88	141

Source: HDR, 2003

Chart does not include acreages that will be provided by the Preservation Project

*Required acreage is determined by the 2010 Comp. Plan, August 2002

**Existing acreage figures are as of August 2003 Undeveloped Lands are not included in analysis

Facility Requirements Analysis

The Recreation and Open Space Element of the city's 2010 Comprehensive Plan sets forth requirements for recreational facilities citywide. The facility requirements are illustrated in the chart below.

Figure 10-LOS Recreational Facility Requirements –City Wide

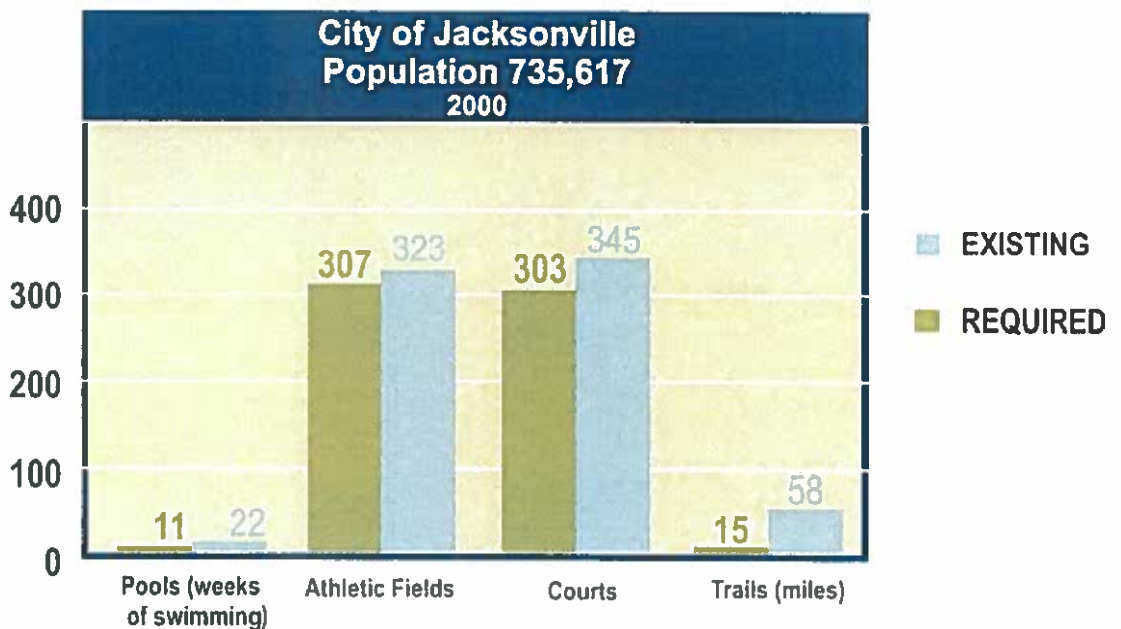
Park Facility Requirements	2000	2005	2010
Swimming Pools	1week/70,000 population	1week /70,000 population	1 week/70,000 population
Athletic Fields	1/2400 population	1/2000/population	1/2000/population
Basketball/Tennis courts	1/2430/population	1/2430/population	1/2400/population
Trails	1 mile/50,000 population	1 mile/50,000 population	1 mile/50,000 population

Source: 2010 Recreation and Open Space Element, Comprehensive Plan

In the summer of 2002, a total inventory of the DPRE park sites was undertaken. A facilities management system was developed to provide a method of tracking facilities, park properties and the inventory of recreational facilities on each site. A detailed summary of the city’s recreational inventory is located in Appendix 1 of this report. The inventory of the facilities was summarized and used to develop the requirements analysis.

Figure 11 illustrates the city’s existing inventory (Sept. 2003) of fields, courts, swimming pool capacity and trails. The table outlines the needs based on the population for the year 2000. This analysis is not intended to be a measure of concurrency standards; rather it is a planning tool to illustrate the current state of supply and demand for facilities. The chart illustrates that the city currently has an inventory of 323 athletic fields, 345 courts, 58 miles of trails and capacity for 22 weeks of swimming. The existing inventory exceeded the requirement for the year 2000 based on the 2000 census data.

Figure 11- 2000 LOS Facility Requirements City Wide



Source: HDR, August 2003
(The chart illustrates facilities under DPRE management as of September 2003)

An analysis of future facility requirements was developed using the population projections prepared by the city's Planning Department. This analysis is intended to help develop goals for future recreational facilities that will be needed to meet the requirements of a growing population. The analysis was undertaken for the facility requirements outlined in the Comprehensive Plan (weeks of swimming, total fields, total courts, total miles of trails). Fields include soccer, football, baseball, softball and multiuse fields. Courts include tennis, racquetball, volleyball and shuffleboard facilities. The analysis illustrates that the facilities projected to be in the highest demand over the coming years are fields and courts.

Figure 12 provides an outlook to the future needs of the city in terms of fields and courts. The chart outlines the population projections for the coming years and provides a projection of requirements based on the level of service guidelines in the comprehensive plan. The chart outlines a projected deficit for fields in the year 2005. DPRE should expand joint use agreements with the Duval County School Board in order to provide additional fields for public use. Additionally, the city should investigate future property acquisitions or development of existing city-owned property to ensure adequate lands for future recreational development.

Figure 12 City Wide Projected Need for Fields and Courts

		2000	2005	2010	2020
Population***		735617	798858	843323	930198
Fields	Required**	307	399	422	465
	Existing	323	323	381	435
	Planned Fields*	0	38	54	?
	Additional Fields through School Board Joint Use Expansion****		20		
	Total Fields		381	435	435
	Projected Field Deficit	0	-18	0	-29
Courts	Required**	303	328	352	388
	Existing	345	345	398	447
	Planned Courts*	0	7	49	
	Additional Courts through School Board Joint Use Expansion****		46		
	Total Courts	345	398	447	447
	Projected Court Deficit	0	0	0	0

Source: HDR, August 2003

*Planned fields and courts see Figure 14

**Required per LOS in comprehensive plan

***Population projections are derived from the Planning and Development Department, City of Jacksonville and do not include Beaches and Baldwin

**** Fields and Courts that can be added to DPRE inventory through expansion of existing joint use agreements at various schools, see Table 13 in Appendix 1 for a listing of these school sites

Note – The chart above is not to be used as an official determination for Concurrency Analysis and Level of Service for the city of Jacksonville.

Evaluation of DPRE Park Sites

Park Rating Methodology

During the process of site evaluations in the summer of 2002, the overall condition of each city park was reviewed. The city's Comprehensive Plan sets forth the rating system for the parks. The rating classifications are:

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

Evaluation of the existing conditions of the city's park inventory was both a quantitative and qualitative process. The park system in the city of Jacksonville is extremely broad in park function, size and intensity of use. During the process of conducting the overall park rating, the evaluators considered the level of intensity of use and park function as a contributing factor.

Parks that serve a large number of users with active recreation functions were determined to require a higher level of site improvements such as parking, pedestrian paths and site furniture. Parks of this nature include sports complexes with facilities that serve a large number of people for active use such as baseball, soccer, football, and tennis. These types of parks receive heavy pedestrian and vehicular traffic on a regular basis.

Parks that primarily serve a passive use such as grassed open areas, rural parks or those more rustic in nature where the natural environment is the primary function of the park were determined to require a lesser extent of site improvements. These types of parks generally serve a smaller number of people on a more occasional basis and the park's infrastructure is not intensely used.

The park evaluators used the following criteria to determine the overall rating.

- Excellent** - 75% or greater of the parks facilities meet current design standards and are in good condition
- Good** - 50% - 75% of the facilities in the park meet current design standards and are in good condition
- Fair** - 25% - 50% of the park facilities meet current design standards and are in good condition
- Poor** - 25% or less of the facilities meet current design standards and are in good condition

Current Design Standards

The city of Jacksonville has a development review process that evaluates new construction or rehabilitation of all development. Additionally, the DPRE developed Recreation Design Standards in 1999 that sets forth, in general terms, design standards for parks. These standards were used in the park evaluation.

The type of park-neighborhood, community, regional or specialty - was a contributing factor in weighing the overall evaluations. The site design standards reviewed in the field by the evaluators were:

Site access - Pedestrian access is required for all parks

Parking - Neighborhood parks do not require paved parking as a general rule. Community and regional parks require paved parking

Handicap Access - All parks require handicap accessibility. If a park was determined to be in good condition, the lack of handicap accessibility did not downgrade the park's rating. However, accessibility issues were noted in the inventory of the park

Playgrounds - The city has adopted a standard for new playground equipment, if the park's facilities did not meet the standard for new playground installation it was noted in the inventory. If the playground equipment was in acceptable condition but did not meet the new design standards, the evaluator provided a note in the evaluation, but did not downgrade the park's overall evaluation. All playgrounds must be handicap accessible. The standard for new playgrounds is a 12" thick resilient surfacing of handicap accessible wood carpet.

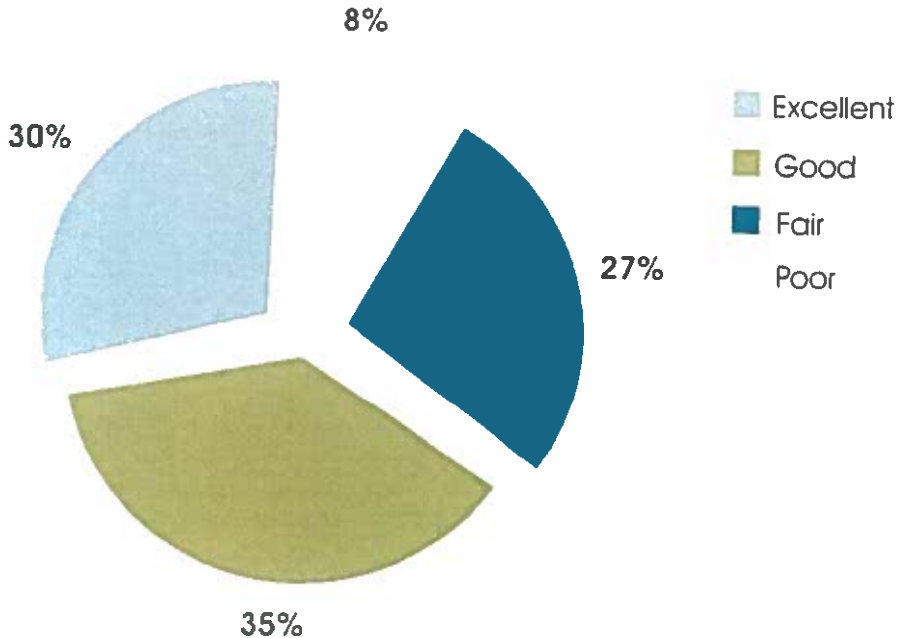
Site Furniture - The recreation design standards provide for general guidelines for new site furniture, which is metal with a powder-coated finish. The use of wood benches, trashcans and picnic tables is being phased out over time. If the site had furnishings that did not meet the new standards, the evaluators provided that information in the evaluation, but that did not lower the rating of the park if the furniture was in good repair.

Buildings - The scope of the site evaluations did not include architectural and or structural analysis of park buildings. Evaluators noted general conditions of structures. If buildings were clearly in a state of disrepair it was noted and contributed to a lower rating for the park as a whole.

Recreational Facilities - Evaluators noted the general condition of facilities including courts and fields.

Figure 15 provides a breakdown of the overall rating of the total DIPRE park inventory by total percentage of the park inventory.

Figure 15-Park Ratings



Source: HDR, March 2003

Figure 16 lists the parks that were rated in poor condition during the summer of 2002. Of the total parks that are rated in poor condition, 16 have improvements projects identified to address the deficiencies, which will upgrade the park rating and remove it from the “poor” park listing. The remaining 10 parks do not have an improvement project developed as of August 2003.

Figure 16-Parks with Poor Ratings

Parks with Improvement Projects as of August, 2003**	Parks with No Improvement Projects as of August, 2003
Arlingwood Park	Warren Schell Park
Buck Park	Holiday Hill Playground
Carvill Park and Pool	Wesconnett Elementary
Criswell Park	John Liverman
Dinsmore Center and Park	Murry Hill Playground
Fletcher Morgan	James Field Park
Forestview Park	Arques/Normandy Elementary*
Garden City Park	Wesconnett Park*
Jax Heights Elementary	Myrtle Avenue
Jefferson Street Park	Norman Studios
Panama Park	
Robert F. Kennedy	
Stinson Park	
Stockton Park	
Whitehouse Park	
Wigmore Park	
16	10

Source HDR, August 2003

Parks in red are property of the Duval County School Board.

* Parks that were rated poor in 1992 Master Recreation Plan that have not been improved

**Improvement projects at these parks will upgrade the overall rating

The park sites listed above are the highest priority for capital improvements over the next 5 years. The parks that do not have a current improvement project identified should be evaluated for their level of use and future development needs. A list of preliminary recommendations for improvements to parks rated poor and fair is outlined on Table 7 in Appendix 1.