

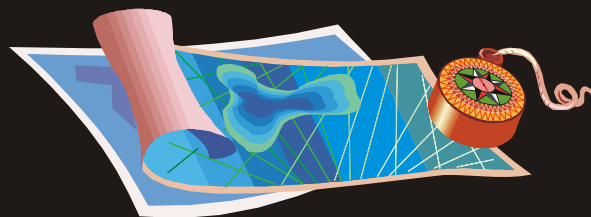
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

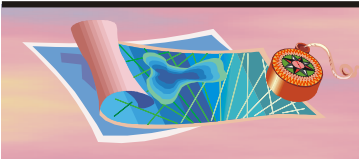
- Introduction
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- Goals, Objectives and Policies
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RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

VISION 2020





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RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT INTRODUCTION

Seminole County officially began its parks system in 1969 with the passage of a \$1.6 million bond issue resulting in the acquisition of four major park sites: Lake Mills, Sylvan Lake, Red Bug Lake and Sanlando. Prior to this time, the County had special facilities, which met a specific need such as boat ramps, but no developed park sites. In the early 1970's the Parks and Recreation Division was formed to provide for the development and maintenance of both existing and new facilities. Further, a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was established to provide feedback to assist the Parks and Recreation Division in developing the County Parks System.

Throughout Seminole County a variety of park types and recreational facilities exist ranging in size from less than one acre to 1,877 acres. The types of parks available include community, neighborhood, mini-parks, special use parks and facilities, linear parks (recreational trails), and passive resource parks (natural lands). These parks and facilities are operated and maintained by State, County, municipal, school and private agencies. Additionally, the County has acquired several thousand acres of property in Northeast Seminole County which may be put to certain recreational uses although the primary purpose of the acquisition was to provide property for the buffering and expansion of the Seminole County Landfill. Also, in November 1990, the voters of Seminole County approved an ad valorem tax to fund over \$20,000,000.00 in bonds in the purchase of environmentally sensitive lands, which may be used for passive recreational purposes.

Seminole County currently maintains approximately 1,582 acres of existing parks and facilities providing both active and passive recreational opportunities to all Seminole County residents. Additionally, 5 acres of new parks and 110 miles of new trails are programmed for acquisition or lease to Seminole County. These acres are comprised primarily of five existing urban community parks ranging in size from 50 acres to approximately 775 acres with four neighborhood and seven special parks also maintained by the County. Having opened in 1992, the softball complex will provide an additional urban community park.

To assess the current park system and identify user preferences, a survey of County residents and park users was conducted in August, 1987, and again in 1999. As a result of the survey, the County has implemented ongoing master planning for development of the County's Primary Park system. This planning has led to the development of a prototypical park to guide the type of facilities which may be built at County parks.

The County's long range parks program was previously based on the development of a system of urban community parks, which provide both active and passive facilities and serve residents Countywide. In the new horizon, the focus will shift to providing community parks, but also providing neighborhood parks for infill in areas where community parks obviously cannot be placed. This will maintain the established level of service of 3.6 acres of total park land and 1.8 acres of developed facilities per 1,000 population. Based upon these levels of service and programmed improvements, the County's recreational needs will be met through the six-year planning period. The County should continue to evaluate options for the provision of future active recreational facility needs adding a service area analysis component that will allow for more accurate assessment of need based not only on population growth, but drive times as well.



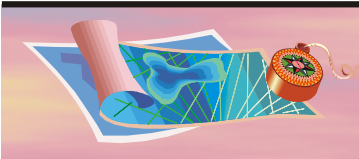
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Primary sources of information used to produce this element include the following:

- 1987 Parks Survey Report
- 1998 Parks Survey Report
- 1999 Recreation and Open Space Master Plan
- Parks Master Plans
- Spring Hammock Management Plan
- Seminole County Library and Leisure Services Department
- Seminole County Greenways and Trails Master Plan





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RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT ISSUES AND CONCERNS

RECREATION

Issue REC 1

Site and Facility Availability-Level of Service

The number of park sites and available acreage must be sufficient to serve existing and projected populations of unincorporated residents providing both passive resource areas and active uses. Existing parks are depicted in *Exhibit REC: County Parks and Facilities*.

Seminole County is committed to providing community parks as the County's primary park system with an increased emphasis on neighborhood parks. Neighborhood and community parks are currently provided through private development requirements and by municipalities. The County currently requires large residential developments and planned unit developments to provide open space and active recreational facilities. An analysis of the location of the County's urban community parks and the use patterns of residents identified that these parks serve countywide populations. A Countywide service area is feasible based on the relatively small size of Seminole County.

The existing levels of service of both total park acreage and developed park acres are hereby adopted. Based on adopting the current level of service of 3.6 acres per 1000 population the County will have sufficient total park acres to serve existing and future demands through 2010. In order to maintain the current level of developed park acres, that being 1.8 acres per 1000 population, the County will have sufficient developed park acres to serve existing and future demands through 2010. Programmed improvements to Spring Hammock, which are necessary to meet State requirements, and the addition of Kewanee Park along with the development of a Countywide recreational trails system add to a surplus of park acres. Beyond these improvements, capital projects have been identified to continue the implementation of master plans for each of the County's community parks. A preliminary review of the County's urban community parks determined that upon completion of improvements identified within the Capital Improvements Program, only Spring Hammock will have developable acreage remaining for passive facilities. The County should begin to assess options to meet future active recreation needs. Potential sites for future park areas which are currently owned by Seminole County include Yankee Lake and the Thrasher/Cameron properties as well as properties that may be acquired during the course of the environmental/natural lands acquisition program approved by the voters of Seminole County. These properties provide opportunities to meet the County's long term park acreage needs.

Issue REC 2

Facility Types

Types of recreation facilities available to County residents must meet existing demands and be flexible to meet changing recreation interests of County residents.



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A survey of County park users and residents was conducted in 1987 and again in 1998 in part to identify recreational activities and facilities most frequently demanded by residents. These survey results assist the County Parks and Recreation division in evaluating the adequacy of existing park facilities and in identifying additional facilities needed to meet the existing and changing recreational demands of residents. This survey indicated a desire to provide a variety of facilities, both passive and active, at each park site. The most popular activities in existing parks identified include tennis, softball, racquetball, soccer, playgrounds, picnic areas and nature trails.

Rather than adopt levels of service for the number and type of individual recreational facilities (example: 10 tennis courts per 1000 residents), the County has created a prototype park which identifies the types of facilities which may be developed. The prototype parks, illustrated within the Support Documents, identify the average size and facilities provided within the County's existing Community, Neighborhood, Special use, and Mini-parks. User preferences and demands on a site-specific basis will determine the type and number of facilities developed. As user demands increase, the County should evaluate options to meet the increased demands, including, but not limited to, additional facilities and extended operating hours. The use of a prototype facility allows the County to remain flexible to meet the changing user preferences for recreational facilities. An inventory of existing County facilities was conducted in the 1998 Recreation and Open Space Master Plan to determine existing facility deficiencies and additional facilities needed within park expansions and future parks to meet user preferences and is provided in the supporting documentation. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection publication, *Outdoor Recreation in Florida*- (1989) and the *National Recreation and Parks Association Standards* should be used as a guide for standard facilities provided by population. However, these standards should only be used as a guide and combined with specific user demands identified in surveys. Surveys of residents and users should continue to be conducted on a periodic basis to ensure that park facilities are adequately meeting user demands and preferences.

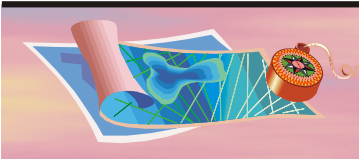
Issue REC 3

Accessibility

The County Parks and Recreation Division should endeavor to ensure that handicapped, vehicular, trail, pedestrian and bicycle access to parks and recreation facilities is adequate and safe. Further, the County should continue to keep County residents aware of the location and types of facilities available to them.

In the course of ongoing development and improvement of County Parks, the County should endeavor to ensure that park recreational, restroom and other facilities are accessible to handicapped users. An evaluation of existing parks and facilities determined that current park facilities provide barrier free access to users. If available, grant funding for the development of recreational facilities for handicapped users should be pursued.





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Existing State and Federal regulations require facility accessibility to handicapped users when grant monies are used. The County's Building Code shall ensure that all park buildings are accessible to the handicapped.

Additionally, the survey of County park users and residents, conducted in 1987, revealed that the public's knowledge was limited regarding County parks and recreational facilities available to them. As a result, the County developed and distributes a brochure of County parks and facilities to increase public awareness. Further, a newsletter discussing available County recreation facilities is distributed to all residents and published in the local newspaper. The County should continue periodic surveys and public awareness activities.

Issue REC 4

Trail Provision

There exists a growing demand to provide trails, which ensure the safety of both pedestrians and cyclists. A Countywide survey (see Support Documents) conducted in 1987 identified bicycling as the most popular recreational activity of County residents and as the most needed additional recreational facility to be provided within the County. The Countywide Survey (see Support Documents) conducted in 1998 identified that trails should be a top priority for the County Park System. Since then, a plan was developed for three signature trails for the County trail network, and construction has begun on the Cross-Seminole Trail and the Seminole Wekiva Trail. Potential alternatives which should be considered by the County include, at a minimum, abandoned railroads, other rights-of-way and future roadway expansion design criteria. The Countywide Greenways and Trails Master Plan (*Exhibit REC: Greenways and Trails Master Plan*) should be used to guide priorities for new trail projects.

Existing and new park sites should be accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists. To ensure adequate access is provided, criteria should be adopted by the County that require sidewalk connectors and an additional two feet of shoulder pavement to be installed with new development and the expansion of public roadways.

The use of abandoned railroad rights-of-way for recreational and other transportation uses is becoming a viable option for local and State agencies to meet the increasing demands including trail, bike and pedestrian systems. The continued use of abandoned railbeds for public use is supported by State and Federal regulations which permit local governments the opportunity to acquire or use on an interim basis the right-of-way for public recreational/transportational uses.

The National Rails to Trails Conservancy, which has state and local chapters, provides assistance to local governments and agencies for the acquisition and development of abandoned railbeds for recreational uses. Additionally, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has established a grant program to acquire high priority rail lines and to assist local governments in their recreational development.



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The County has undertaken a study to identify alternatives and the feasibility of implementing programs to develop for recreational use the existing property owned by Seminole County, (specifically, the abandoned rail bed known as "Old S.R. 13" (known as the Flagler Trail, a showcase trail in the Greenways and Trails Master Plan) and the Altamonte to Sanford CSX rail line) and to acquire the necessary right-of-way. Specifically, the Altamonte-to-Sanford CSX line (stretching from S.R. 436 in Altamonte Springs to Sanford) has become a part of the Seminole-Wekiva Trail, one of the "showcase" trails identified in the Countywide Greenways and Trails Master Plan, and will eventually connect four park sites and the existing Seminole County softball complex. These showcase trails are shown on *Exhibit FLU: Conservation and Trails Corridors*. Finally, as other railroad lines become available for acquisition, the County should evaluate the opportunity to acquire them for public uses.

This effort should include, at a minimum, the pursuit of available Florida grants and coordination with the Rails to Trails Conservancy, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Trail Association and other appropriate organizations and agencies.

Finally, there are a number of potential uses for the abandoned S.R. 13 railbed, including, recreation, property access and roadway uses. The Florida Trail Association currently uses the abandoned railroad. This abandoned railbed also passes through the Econlockhatchee Acquisition Area, which is proposed for purchase under the Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) Program. Seminole County is currently developing a conceptual use plan for the recently acquired property along the Econlockhatchee River and S.R. 13. Seminole County should address these issues and a plan should be completed which identifies options and the feasibility of potential uses, which may be integrated into the County's overall recreational facilities plan. Finally, Seminole County should continue to permit the use of the S.R. 13 property by the Florida Trail Association and promote the expansion of the Trail within Seminole County.

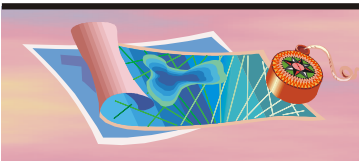
Many other trail corridors have been identified recent to this Comprehensive Plan update as part of the 2000 Greenways and Trails Master Plan. Seminole County should continue to acquire these corridors and should make providing trails a priority in the new planning horizon for the connectivity they provide to schools, parks, natural lands, and businesses.

Issue REC 5

Passive and Active Use Compatibility

Because much of County park acreage is resource based, the County needs to ensure that development of both active and passive recreational facilities is compatible with the preservation of natural resources.





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The County is using a system of community and neighborhood parks to accommodate both resource and activity based recreational needs. With both passive and active uses located within the same park site, it is important to ensure that the quality of resource areas continues to be maintained and that active recreational uses do not encroach upon resource area boundaries. Through the development of master plans for individual park sites, environmentally sensitive areas and preservation areas should continue to be identified by the County. Guidelines for development of active uses adjacent to these areas should include, at a minimum, sufficient buffers, lighting requirements and setback requirements. Further, public access to preserve areas should be limited to designated trails, boardwalks and campground areas.

OPEN SPACE/SIGNIFICANT RESOURCE AREAS

Issue REC 6

Significant Countywide Open Space Areas

Throughout Seminole County and the regional area, an inter-connected system of significant riverine and surface water bodies creates a natural corridor system connecting prominent natural resources, open spaces and wildlife habitat areas. A program should be developed to ensure the preservation and expansion of this existing corridor system for future open spaces, recreation, habitat and educational uses.

The population and employment of Seminole County are projected to increase by 71% and 106% by the year 2010, respectively. In addition to continued urban expansion, Seminole County also enjoys an abundance of significant natural resources. These natural resource features include wetland areas, which cover approximately 35% of the County, Spring Hammock, three major riverine systems (the Wekiva, St. Johns and Econlockhatchee Rivers), and an abundance of lakes.

Many of these natural resources, in their natural state, provide a critical buffer to urbanized areas, thus protecting the quality and quantity of the waters and associated habitats, which they border. Not only are the open space and corridor resources significant locally, they provide important links to significant regional resources and park systems. Currently, open space areas and a substantial number of acres within the identified corridors are under ownership and/or maintenance by local, regional and state agencies.

The County currently requires use of conservation easements to preserve wetland and floodplain areas. Where wetlands are associated with a significant resource, dedication to the County is required. In addition to preservation of small open space areas through the development review process, the County should pursue the designation and preservation of large open space areas through the Natural Lands Program.

This can be accomplished through coordination with various public and private agencies to develop a land acquisition/preservation program. This program should include an inventory of remaining significant natural resource areas, establishment of priorities, and development of strategies for preservation and acquisition. The significant resource areas identified within the support document should be used as a base. Preservation methods to be evaluated should include State CARL Programs, land banking, public and/or private land trusts, use of document stamp tax, mitigation and a public referendum. Guidelines and standards for use in the development approval process for developments adjacent or within these areas should also be established. The development of these standards should



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consider, at a minimum, the use of cluster developments, transfer of development rights, conservation easements, and dedication of preservation corridors.

Issue REC 7

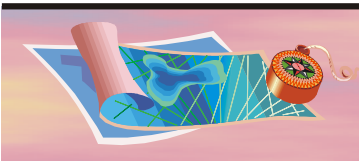
Expanding Public Use of Significant Open Space Areas

A significant amount of acres of open space and natural resource areas within Seminole County is under State and local ownership. Expanded public access to such areas provides the opportunity to substantially increase the resource based recreational facilities to County residents.

Within and adjacent to Seminole County a significant amount of resource based open space has been acquired by State and local agencies and is shown on *Exhibit FLU: Conservation and Trails Corridors*. A number of resource based parks are accessible for public use including, the Wekiva River State Park and Blue Springs State Park which offer a variety of passive recreational facilities. The Lower Wekiva State Reserve encompasses a total of 1877 acres within Seminole County. The Reserve has limited public access with a hiking/equestrian trails open to use. Additionally, Seminole County has acquired over 4000 acres of natural lands since passing a referendum in 1990 and has five wilderness areas open to the public which offer the potential for passive recreational uses including, equestrian/hiking trails. Finally, the State and St. Johns River Water Management District recently purchased 2100 acres within the Econlockhatchee River Acquisition Area. With the rapid growth of Seminole County and the Central Florida area, increasing demands for resource based recreational facilities are being placed on existing resources. Not only does this increased demand cause overcrowding, negative impacts to these regional resource areas may occur as a result. In order to accommodate increasing demands and ensure resource protection, expansion of existing facilities and development within new areas should be considered. The County should coordinate with the Department of Environmental Protection to review the management plans for the Lower Wekiva State Reserve, the Wekiva Geopark, and the Seminole County Natural Lands and evaluate management issues, user impacts, and the availability of the existing equestrian/hiking trail to public access. In addition to expansion of facilities, there is a need for programs to increase public awareness of the location and types of facilities available.

Seminole County should evaluate the holding capacity of its own park system to accommodate future resource based activities. Additionally, the County is in the process of creating a plan for management and potential passive recreational uses within recently acquired properties. A conceptual plan for the use and management of the each property (wilderness area) is also being developed that includes, at a minimum, the management techniques (such as prescribed fire), monitoring plans, and user impact plans. Coordination with agencies involved with the development and management of resource areas should be an integral part of the plan development.





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RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

GOAL

The County shall provide a high quality recreation and open space system that provides lands, facilities and programs to adequately serve the needs of the current and future residents of Seminole County.

The County shall establish and maintain a system of open spaces, which preserves significant environmental lands, provides wildlife habitat corridors, and provides passive recreational opportunities.

OBJECTIVE REC 1 PARK SITE AND FACILITY PROVISION

The County shall provide a system of park sites with a variety of both user-oriented and resource based facilities and recreational programs to serve the needs of current and future County residents.

Policy REC 1.1 Community Parks

The County shall continue to provide, through implementation of the Capital Improvements Element, a system of community parks that includes a community park within a 10-20 minute drive of every County resident, and provides that 30-40% of every community park should remain in open space (not developed for facilities) for passive recreation, wildlife habitat, aesthetics, etc.

Policy REC 1.2 Regional Parks

The County shall continue to rely on the State of Florida to provide regional park facilities such as the Wekiva Geopark and the Lower Wekiva River Preserve.

Policy REC 1.3 Neighborhood Parks

The County shall continue to provide neighborhood parks as a means of filling in gaps identified in the 1998 Recreation and Open Space Master Plan and rely on municipalities and private developments to assist with provision and maintenance of neighborhood parks.

Policy REC 1.4 Large Development Recreation Requirements

The County shall continue to enforce existing County Land Development Code recreation and open space requirements for planned developments and large residential developments.

Policy REC 1.5 Park Adequacy

The County shall continue to assess park adequacy, future facility needs and user preferences and willingness to pay through, at a minimum, the following methods:

- A Input from the Parks Advisory Board, special interest groups and public meetings;
- B Park surveys conducted on a five year basis; and
- C The prototype park site developed in the Recreation Element Support Document.

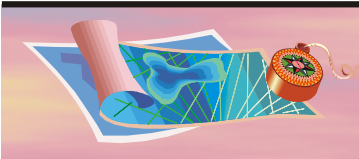


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- Policy REC 1.6** **Park Facility Inventory**
The County shall update the inventory of existing park facilities and shall, by 2010, identify additional and/or new facilities needed within future park site development to meet user preferences identified in the most recent recreation survey.
- Policy REC 1.7** **Park Availability**
The County shall continue to expand operating hours by lighting facilities and assess other alternatives to increase the availability of recreational facilities at peak evening recreation hours.
- Policy REC 1.8** **Park Master Plans**
The County shall continue to develop master plans for future park sites to endeavor to ensure that user demands are met and to identify and preserve environmentally sensitive areas. Guidelines for active uses adjacent to environmentally sensitive areas shall include, at a minimum, provisions for buffers, lighting, setbacks, and landscaping.
- Policy REC 1.9** **Expanded Path Access**
The County shall coordinate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to evaluate alternatives and the feasibility of expanding passive recreational uses within the Lower Wekiva State Preserve.
- Policy REC 1.10** **Spring Hammock Preserve**
The County shall establish a long-range program through the Capital Improvements Element to develop passive recreational uses and management programs identified within the Spring Hammock Management Plan.
- Policy REC 1.11** **Spring Hammock**
The County shall identify a long-range program to implement the Spring Hammock Management Plan, which includes joint projects with the School Board, the Florida Division of Forestry of the Department of Agriculture, other educational institutes and interested environmental agencies.
- Policy REC 1.12** **Historical Sites**
The County shall endeavor to ensure the preservation of and, where appropriate, provide accessibility to, significant historical sites on County owned and managed land through conservation and parkland master plans.





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OBJECTIVE REC 2 ACCESSIBILITY

The County shall ensure adequate and safe public access to all existing, and future County parks and recreational facilities. This effort shall include vehicular, pedestrian, trail, bicycle and handicapped access.

Policy REC 2.1 Park Access

The County shall ensure that future park sites and facility improvements provide for accessibility of park sites and recreational facilities to handicapped users and shall ensure the adequate provision of vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian accessways, including the implementation of the Countywide Greenways and Trails Master Plan.

Policy REC 2.2 Park Access

The County shall continue to evaluate its criteria to require sidewalk connectors to public park sites and to require additional pavement width to be installed with new development and the expansion of public roadways.

Policy REC 2.3 Access Requirements

The County shall continue to review and amend Land Development Code requirements for development of open space and recreational facility level of service requirements for planned unit developments and residential developments to ensure adequate vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle access is provided to on-site and, adjacent park sites and where applicable, connections to the County's greenways and trails.

Policy REC 2.4 Transit Access

The County shall coordinate with Lynx and other appropriate transportation providers to evaluate and expand, if necessary, transportation routes to parks and recreational facilities to provide access for special groups including the handicapped, lower income residents, the elderly and the general public.

Policy REC 2.5 Recreation Newsletter/Brochure

The County shall continue to publish an annual newsletter and periodic brochures which describe Seminole County's park and recreation facilities.

Policy REC 2.6 Waterway Access

The County shall continue to ensure access to waterways associated with the County's Parks and Facilities; provided, however, that the County may regulate no wake zones and speed zones in accordance with law including, but not limited to, the rules of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.



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OBJECTIVE REC 3 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RESOURCE COORDINATION

The County shall maximize the use of public and private resources in the provision of recreational facilities to meet current and future demands.

Policy REC 3.1 Neighborhood Park Provision

The County shall continue to require planned developments and large residential developments to provide and maintain neighborhood recreational facilities and open space as a part of the development review process.

Policy REC 3.2 School Facility Joint-Use

The County shall continue, through its interlocal agreement, to evaluate the opportunities for the joint use of existing school and County recreational facilities and shall pursue the location and design of future recreational sites.

Policy REC 3.3 Private Facility Use

The County shall continue to permit agreements and cooperate with private recreational organizations for use of County parks and facilities in order to provide a variety of recreational programs.

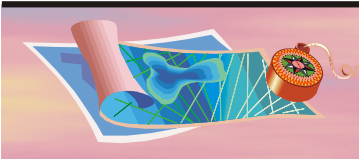
Policy REC 3.4 Private/Non-Profit Facility Use

The County shall continue to make parks and recreation facilities available to private and non-profit groups for cultural programs, special events and festivals, which serve the public interest.

Policy REC 3.5 School Board Environmental Study Center

The County shall continue to support the School Board Outdoor Education Program at Spring Hammock Preserve to promote natural studies and environmental and historical awareness, including proposals for expanding existing programs.





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OBJECTIVE REC 4 LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

The County shall establish and enforce standards and programs to ensure the acquisition and development of urban community park sites and recreational facilities sufficient to meet current and future demands.

Policy REC 4.1 Levels of Service

The County shall adopt and maintain the following levels of service through the implementation of the Capital Improvements Element, the development approval process and ongoing operations of the Parks and Recreation Division of the County Environmental Services Department:

- A Total Park Acreage: Seminole County shall ensure that sufficient park acres are available to meet future growth demands by maintaining the current level of service of 3.6 acres per 1000 residents Countywide within urban community park sites.
- B Developed Acreage: To ensure that adequate park facilities are provided to accommodate growth demands, Seminole County shall continue to maintain the current level of service of 1.8 developed park acres per 1000 residents for total park acreage needs. This standard includes both active and passive recreational facilities.

Policy REC 4.2 Service Area Park Facilities

The adopted service area for park facilities are countywide as depicted in *Exhibit REC: County Parks and Facilities*.



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OBJECTIVE REC 5 TRAIL PROVISION

The County shall continue to implement its Greenways and Trails Masterplan to ensure safe access to park sites and shall evaluate available opportunities for the acquisition and development of bike/trail networks which will link park sites (including pedestrian and bicycle trails).

Policy REC 5.1 Bike/Trail Provision

The County shall coordinate with the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Florida Department Of Transportation, County municipalities and other appropriate agencies to study and implement options for coordinated provision of a bike/trail network.

Policy REC 5.2 Recreational Trail Development

The County shall continue to develop and implement the showcase trails, which include the Seminole Wekiva Trail, the Cross-Seminole Trail, and the Flagler Trail, as well as those others identified in the Countywide Greenways and Trails Masterplan. These efforts shall include, at a minimum, application for available grant funding for trail development from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, other sources of government and private grants, and voter-based referenda.

Policy REC 5.3 Abandoned Railroad Acquisition

The County shall continue to evaluate abandoned railroad rights-of-way through the Interstate Commerce Commission for potential public use benefits and pursue acquisition if appropriate and feasible.

Policy REC 5.4 Road/Bike Lane Provision

The County shall continue to evaluate and amend, if necessary, the Land Development Code regulations and public road design standards for bike paths in conjunction with roadway design and improvements.

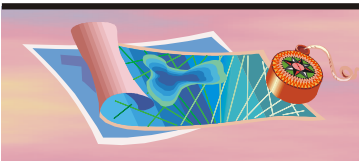
Policy REC 5.5 Florida Trail/Rails to Trails

The County shall coordinate with the Florida Trail Association, the Rails to Trails Conservancy, the DEP Office of Greenways and Trails and other organizations involved in the acquisition and development of trail systems within Seminole County.

Policy REC 5.6 State Road 13

The County shall continue to permit the use of the Old SR 13 property by the Florida Trail Association and shall encourage the expansion of the Florida Trail within Seminole County.





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OBJECTIVE REC 6 FUNDING OF THE ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF OPEN SPACE AND PARKS.

The County shall continue to fund the acquisition and development of parks, open space and recreational facilities through the use of a variety of funding sources such as the general fund, grants, developer contributions and user fees.

Policy REC 6.1 Park Funding

The County shall continue to use the General Fund as the primary source of funds for acquisition and development of park lands.

Policy REC 6.2 Recreation Grants

The County shall continue to pursue State and Federal grants for the acquisition and development of recreational and open space lands and facilities.

Policy REC 6.3 Donation/Matching Funding

The County shall continue to pursue donations of land and matching funds to secure grants for the acquisition and development of park sites and facilities.

Policy REC 6.4 Spring Hammock Acquisition

The County shall continue to pursue the complete acquisition and preservation of Spring Hammock through the Conservation and Recreational Lands Program (CARL) and other appropriate mechanisms.

Policy REC 6.5 User Fees

The County shall continue to apply the concept of user fees to offset the cost of certain facilities where appropriate.

Policy REC 6.6 St. Johns Water Management District Acquisition

The County shall coordinate with the St. Johns River Water Management District to designate priority open space areas for acquisition under the District's Five Year Land Acquisition Program.

Policy REC 6.7 Funding Alternatives

The County shall continue to consider the use of other revenue sources to supplement the General Fund allocations for the acquisition and development of parks, trails, and open space. Other revenue sources may include developer commitments, grants, user fees and impact fees.

Policy REC 6.8 Bond Referendum

The County shall evaluate a bond issue to generate additional park land, trails, and open space funds to meet needs, if approved by a public referendum.



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OBJECTIVE REC 7 OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

The County shall develop a system of open spaces through the preservation and/or acquisition of significant lands, native habitat and habitat of endangered, threatened and species of special concern.

Policy REC 7.1 Open Space Standards

The County shall evaluate and amend as necessary, every five years, the Land Development Code's open space standards, to update definitions, standards and guidelines for the provision of open spaces.

Policy REC 7.2 Conservation Land Use

The County shall preserve the Conservation land use designation through continued implementation of the Wetland (W-1) and Flood Prone (FP-1) zoning classifications as a means of preserving major open space areas in order to prevent public harms by maintaining the mosaic of high quality wetland habitat found in the Wekiva and Econ Basins, the Lake Jesup Basin, and the Rural area of the County.

Policy REC 7.3 Wekiva and Econlockhatchee River Protection Zone

The County shall enforce all clearing and building setbacks or protection/buffer zones and areas along the Wekiva River, and Econlockhatchee River and such other water bodies as imposed by rules of the St. Johns River Water Management District, any State agency or as may be otherwise imposed by law, provided that a minimum 200 foot clearing and building setback shall be set along the Wekiva River, as measured from the ordinary high water elevation or the landward limit of established conservation areas, to serve as a scenic and environmental buffer to maintain the status quo of the natural environment and prevent public harms.

Policy REC 7.4 Natural/Environmental Land Acquisition Programs

The County shall continue to coordinate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and all other appropriate agencies to establish and revise regulations and programs for the acquisition of natural/environmental lands.

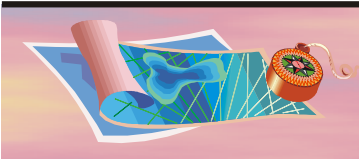
Policy REC 7.5 Agency Coordination

The County shall work in conjunction with the State of Florida, the St. Johns River Water Management District, the Nature Conservancy, the Trust for Public Lands and other appropriate agencies involved in conservation lands to create a Countywide open space system and a Greenways/Trails/Blueways system.

Policy REC 7.6 Acquisition Program-Local Assistance

The County shall support and assist in the acquisition of projects significant resource areas located within Seminole County including, but not limited to, Spring Hammock, Wekiva buffers and the Lower Econlockhatchee River Projects. This support may include joint acquisition, development of conceptual management plans and property management.





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Acquisition and assistance programs to be pursued shall include the Preservation 2000 funding programs, the Trust for Public Lands, the Nature Conservancy, the St. Johns River Water Management District and any local land trust programs.

Policy REC 7.7

Significant Open Space and Natural Lands Acquisition

The County shall use funding resulting from the November 6, 1990 Natural Lands Bond Referendum and from the November 7, 2000 Natural Lands—Completing the Connection Bond Referendum for the acquisition of significant native habitats, open space areas, and greenways. Lands to be acquired shall be designated based on criteria recommended by the Natural Lands Advisory Committee and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners and shall include, at a minimum, consideration of:

- Vulnerability to development;
- Species diversity and habitat completeness;
- The rarity and abundance of habitat types;
- Animal and plant species designated by the Florida natural areas inventory and other agencies as endangered, threatened and of special concern;
- Long term management; and
- Passive recreational use potential.

Policy REC 7.8

Preservation of Future Water Supply Options

The County shall allow both facilities and services expansion of previously existing public water-related utilities, including the addition of new water-related services, on those lands assigned a future land use designation of Recreation and which had previously been assigned a future land use designation of Public/Quasi-Public for the purpose of providing such services.

(Added: Amendment 02S.TXT3; Ordinance 2002-37, 9/10/2002)



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OBJECTIVE REC 8 SCENIC ROADWAYS

The County shall preserve the visual quality of scenic roadways in Seminole County.

Policy REC 8.1 Scenic Road Designation

The County shall designate roadway sections or entire roadways as scenic roadways based upon:

- A Amount of existing vegetation cover and development along the roadway;
- B Number of curbcuts, traffic signals and other obstructions to through traffic movement; and
- C Future land use designations assigned to properties along the roadway.

Policy REC 8.2 Scenic Roads-Development Standards

The County shall develop standards for future development along designated scenic roadways (similar to the Lake Mary Boulevard Model Gateway Concept and Ordinance) which include at a minimum:

- A Building setbacks and heights;
- B Signage, lighting and outdoor advertising;
- C Curbcuts and utilities in the right-of-way;
- D Fences and walls and other structures within the setback; and
- E Minimum tree size, arbor and supplemental landscaping requirements.

Policy REC 8.3 Joint Projects

The County shall continue to pursue interlocal agreements and joint projects with municipalities and private agencies for the designation, implementation and funding of scenic roadway programs where appropriate.

Policy REC 8.4 Joint Funding

The County shall identify and determine the feasibility of alternative revenue sources for the implementation of scenic corridor programs

