

## VI

### RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

#### INTRODUCTION

Recreation is the pursuit of leisure time activities in an outdoor or indoor setting. The proper relationship in size, number, type and location of different park and recreation areas is the primary objective for achieving a well balance recreation system. The policies included within this plan element for resource based and user oriented recreational facilities are based upon the information contained within the County's Data and Analysis document.

The data collected for this plan element and analysis of this data, contained in the County's Data and Analysis document, are not part of this plan element, but serve to provide a foundation and basis for the formulation of this portion of the Comprehensive Plan.

The following goal, objectives and policies for resource based and activity based recreation facilities within the County establish guidelines for the proper relationship of size, number, type and location of the different park and recreation needs for the County. The level of service standards established within the policies provide guidelines for determining the acceptable quantities of recreational resources and facilities for the County's population.

Within these level of service standard policies, persons to be served is the population of the County or the actual population demand upon the facility, whichever is greater; access points are any public or privately owned access which is available to the public at large; and the resource and user based facilities which are not listed are considered to be exceeding an appropriate level of service for such activity based upon the limited demand for the activity within the County.

#### GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

**GOAL VI - ENSURE THE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE OF ADEQUATE RECREATION FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE FOR CITIZENS AND VISITORS, AND ACCESS TO THESE FACILITIES FOR ALL PERSONS, REGARDLESS OF SPECIAL NEED OR CONDITION.**

**OBJECTIVE VI.1** The County shall continue to provide vehicular and pedestrian access to County owned activity and resource based recreation facilities, as appropriate.

**Policy VI.1.1** The County shall maintain the number of access points to water oriented recreational resources for the County which will meet or

exceed the level of service standards contained herein for resource based water related activities.

OBJECTIVE VI.2 The County shall continue to maintain accurate recreation activity/facility inventories so that accurate levels of service can be determined, based upon the total public and private recreation resources available to the County.

Policy VI.2.1 The County shall maintain cooperative policies with other units of government, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Water Management District, the School Board and community organizations and local industry and private developments to meet recreation demands.

OBJECTIVE VI.3 The County shall continue to require new subdivisions or re-subdivisions which make major revisions to existing plats to allocate land for parks and recreation facilities, so that the County's adopted level of service standards for recreation facilities and open space are maintained.

POLICY VI.3.1 The County hereby establishes the following level of service standards for resource based recreation facilities.

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARD</u>
<b><u>Parks with Facilities</u></b>	<b><u>5 Acres per 5,000 residents</u></b>

**The following criteria will be used as general park design guidelines**

Swimming(non pool)	1 access point at a beach, spring, river, lake or pond for every 25,000 persons to be served.
Fishing (non-boat)	1 access point for every 10,000 persons to be served.
Fishing (boat)	1 boat ramp for every 5,000 persons to be served.
Camping (Recreation Vehicle and/or Tent)	1 acre of campground within a 25 mile radius of the County boundaries for every 25,000 persons to be served.
Picnicking	1 picnic table for every 500 persons to be served.

Hiking	1 mile of available hiking trail within a 25 mile radius of the County boundaries for every 10,000 persons to be served.
Nature Study	7 acres of managed conservation area within 25 mile of the County boundaries for every 10,000 persons to be served.

Policy VI.3.2 The County hereby establishes the following level of service standards for user based recreation facilities.

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARD</u>
<b><u>Parks with Facilities</u></b>	<b><u>5 Acres per 5,000 residents</u></b>

**The following criteria will be used as general park design guidelines**

Football/Soccer	1 multi-purpose playing field for every 15,000 persons to be served.
Baseball/Softball	1 baseball/softball field for every 6,000 persons to be served.
Tennis	1 tennis court for every 7,500 persons to be served.

Policy VI.3.3 The County, through the annual capital improvements budgeting process, shall identify priorities and allocate funding to correct or improve existing deficiencies in County-owned parks and recreation facilities in accordance with the level of service standards contained herein.

OBJECTIVE VI.4 The County shall continue to require open space to be provided for new development and re-development.

Policy VI.4.1 The County shall continue to include specific standards for the provision of open space for new development or re-development, which involves a Planned Unit Development, or where residential development abuts commercial or industrial land uses.

Policy VI.4.2 The County, as part of the procedure for monitoring and evaluation of the Comprehensive Plan, shall recommend as it considers appropriate, the purchase of lands for open spaces by public agencies and subsequent to such land purchase, to support and

assist in the management of such lands where management agreements have been negotiated prior to the purchase of the lands.