PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT
GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

Goal 1: [R] (EFF. 7/16/90; REV. EFF. 12/24/10)

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

LEVEL OF SERVICE/FUNDING
Objective 1.1: [R] (REV. EFF. 12/23/96; REV. EFF. 12/24/10)

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

Policy 1.1.1: [R] (EFF. 7/16/90; REV. EFF. 12/24/10)

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

Table 7: Parks level of service acreage standards

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

* Recommended only

PARK TYPE DESCRIPTIONS:

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

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

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

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

These facilities will be provided in the following manner:

a. Leon County shall annually budget appropriate funds, per the signed inter-local agreement, to be used by the City of Tallahassee Parks and Recreation Department in providing recreational services to the citizens of Leon County.
b. Level of Service for Area and Regional Parks shall be adopted for purposes of concurrency.
c. Level of Service for Neighborhood Parks is a recommended level, which primarily shall be used as a guideline for the provision of this type park in relation to new developments, per Policy 2.1.6 of the Land Use Element.
d. Level of Service for Resource Management Areas is a recommended level, included to recognize the significant passive recreation opportunities provided by these Federal and State owned lands.

Policy 1.1.2: [R] (EFF. 7/16/90)

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

Policy 1.1.3: [R] (REV. EFF. 1/27/94; REV. EFF. 12/24/10)

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

Policy 1.1.4: [R] (REV. EFF. 1/27/94; REV. EFF. 12/24/10)

In the acquisition and development of future park facilities, priority shall be given to the preservation of natural vegetation and land features, consistent with the functional purpose of the individual park. As a minimum, a system-wide average of 50% of the natural features will remain undeveloped except for inclusion of passive recreational facilities, such as trail systems, ancillary

parking, and picnicking facilities. This system-wide policy is based on the recognition that some types of facilities (such as golf courses and ball fields), due to their design requirements and functions, will require greater disturbance of natural features than would other types of park facilities. This standard shall be based on all lands included in the level of service system provided in Policy 1.1.1 [R] above, not on the land holdings of an individual government.

Policy 1.1.5: [R] (EFF. 7/16/90; REV. EFF. 12/24/10)

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

Policy 1.1.6: [R] (EFF. 12/24/10)

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

ACCESSIBILITY TO RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Objective 1.2: [R] (EFF. 7/16/90; REV. EFF. 12/24/10)

All public park and recreation facilities shall be identifiable by and accessible to Leon County residents and to visitors and include reasonable accessibility for the physically challenged.

Policy 1.2.1: [R] (EFF. 7/16/90; DEL. EFF. 12/24/10)

Reserved

Policy 1.2.2: [R] (EFF. 7/16/90; REV. EFF. 12/24/10)

Neighborhood Parks are recognized primarily as "walk-to" facilities; as such, providing safe pedestrian/bicycle accessways shall be provided whenever feasible.

Policy 1.2.3: [R] (EFF. 7/16/90; REV. EFF. 12/24/10)

The County shall provide public boat ramps at public water bodies.

Policy 1.2.4: [R] (REV. EFF. 12/20/91; DEL. EFF. 12/24/10)

Reserved

Policy 1.2.5: [R] (REV. EFF. 7/2/99; REV. EFF. 12/24/10)

Area and Regional Parks should include Neighborhood Park amenities wherever the need for Neighborhood Parks, based on established LOS, is not being met. Such amenities should be located as to be readily accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists and should supply the same park and recreational amenities as a standalone Neighborhood Park whenever feasible.

PUBLIC/PRIVATE COORDINATION

Objective 1.3: [R] (EFF. 7/16/90; REV. EFF. 12/24/10)

The City and the County shall implement actions to improve coordination between the public and private sectors in matters relating to the provision of recreational opportunities.

Policy 1.3.1: [R] (EFF. 7/16/90; DEL. EFF. 12/24/10)

The City shall maintain an advisory mechanism for securing citizen involvement regarding public park and recreation decisions, including park acquisition.

Policy 1.3.2: [R] (EFF. 7/16/90; DEL. EFF. 12/24/10)

Reserved

Policy 1.3.3: [R] (EFF. 7/16/90; DEL. EFF. 12/24/10)

Reserved

Policy 1.3.4: [R] (EFF. 7/16/90; REV. EFF. 12/24/10)

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

Policy 1.3.5: [R] (EFF. 7/16/90; REV. EFF. 12/24/10)

The City and the County will support the Tallahassee Museum's efforts to preserve and interpret our region's natural and cultural heritage.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

Objective 1.4: [R] (EFF. 7/16/90)

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

Policy 1.4.1: [R] (EFF. 7/16/90; REV. EFF. 12/24/10)

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

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

OPEN SPACE

Objective 1.5: [R] (EFF. 7/16/90; REV. EFF. 4/10/09; REV. EFF. 12/24/10)

Lands designated as open space will be protected from incompatible land uses and will remain functionally intact.

Policy 1.5.1: [R] (EFF. 7/16/90; REV. EFF. 12/24/10)

Maintain land development regulations which include specific open space definitions and standards.

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

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

Policy 1.5.3: [R] (County only) (EFF. 12/24/10)

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