

Osceola County Comprehensive Plan

Parks & Recreational Facilities Data & Analysis

PARKS & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ELEMENT DATA & ANALYSIS



OSCEOLA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2025

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CHAPTER TEN

PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ELEMENT (Section 163.3177(6)(e), F.S.)

A. INTRODUCTION

The Parks and Recreational Facilities Element is the basis for providing for the long-term recreational needs of Osceola County residents. The County strives to provide all citizens with access to parks and recreational facilities. The County Parks and Recreation Department is the lead office in charge of designating parklands, providing public park access and recreation opportunities. In addition, this Department also works in conjunction with the Osceola County Greenways & Trails Planning Team and local municipal and state agencies in planning and funding future trail development.

The purpose of this element is to identify parks and recreational facilities, establish level of service (LOS) standards for the provision of such facilities, and analyze current and projected park and recreational needs based on population projections and the established LOS standards. The Comprehensive Plan contains specific goals, objectives, and policies to guide the provision of parks and recreational facilities through the year 2025. Parks and recreation needs as identified in this element will be funded through the Five-Year Schedule of Capital Improvements in the Capital Improvements Element.

Osceola County hired a consultant in 1998 to prepare a countywide comprehensive strategic master plan for a parks and recreational facilities system. Partners in this effort included Osceola County, the Osceola County School Board, and the Cities of Kissimmee and St. Cloud. The master plan was recently updated in November of 2005. The Parks and Recreational Facilities Element adheres to the standards and guidelines established within the Osceola County-Wide Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Section 163.3177(e), Florida Statutes (F.S.), and the East Central Florida Regional Policy Plan. The State of Florida Outdoor Recreation Program standards were also reviewed and the Parks and Recreation Department staff and Osceola County Greenways & Trails Planning Team provided resources in making recommendations to this Element.

B. INVENTORY

Parks conserve natural resources and provide recreation opportunities. Osceola County's Parks and Recreation System includes a wide variety of parks and recreational opportunities to serve its residents. In order to identify current and future needs, it is important to define the types of recreational facilities located in Osceola County. Only sites that are officially designated as public parks have been included in this section. Vacant public lands and open space normally found in medians, buffers, retention areas and the like are not included.

1. County Facilities

Parks are categorized in a number of ways, including active or passive recreation. Active recreation parks provide recreation facilities designed for a specific purpose such as tennis, basketball, softball, or soccer, while passive recreation parks utilize the natural environment to provide activities such as picnicking, hiking, fishing, swimming, or boating. In addition to the active and passive recreational classification, parks may also be classified as regional, community, neighborhood, special use facilities, natural resource areas, greenways, and recreational pathways. These categories are defined by the size of the park, the type of facilities offered at each park, the size of the service area, and the population served (see Table 10-1). The breakdown of park acreage by type presents situations in which some parks may fall under more than one category, as is the case of Ralph Chisholm Regional Park, which offers a variety of active recreational facilities such as playgrounds, fields, and courts, but also provides passive recreation activities such as boating, hiking, and picnic facilities.

a. Regional Parks

Regional parks are large, resource-based parks serving more than two communities and often consisting of an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as picnicking, trails, boating, fishing, swimming and camping. They are usually located no more than a 30-minute driving distance of the residents they serve. The park should serve a population of more than 100,000 and should range in size from a minimum of 75 acres to several thousand acres. County Regional Parks include Austin Tindall Regional Park and Ralph V. Chisholm Regional Park.

b. Community Parks

Community parks are defined as “ride to” parks that should be located near major streets or arterials. Typical size for a Community Park can be anywhere from 15 to 75 acres. Community parks are designed to serve the needs of two or more neighborhoods that have residents within a radius of up to three miles. Typical facilities found in community parks are designed to serve the entire family and include both passive and active recreation opportunities such as playground areas, open or free play areas, sports fields, courts, fitness trails, swimming pools, and landscaping. Community parks within the County include Archie Gordon Memorial Park, Buenaventura Community Park, Deerwood Park, Kenansville Community Park, King’s Highway Park, Narcoossee Community Park, Oren Brown Community Park, and Yeehaw Junction Community Park.

c. Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood Parks are “walk to” parks that are generally located along streets where people may walk or bicycle without encountering heavy traffic. A neighborhood park size usually ranges from two (2) to ten (10) acres, with an optimal size being a minimum of five acres. Typical facilities provided include playgrounds; open or free play areas, and landscaping. Partin Triangle Park located on Neptune Road is an example of a Neighborhood Park in Osceola County.

d. Mini-Parks (Tot –Lots)

Mini-Parks are small facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population, as well as specific groups such as toddlers. Mini-Parks, which include tot-lots, are designed to serve the needs of a neighborhood. The recommended size for each stand-alone park ranges from 2,500 square feet to an acre. However, they may be incorporated into larger parks, such as neighborhood or community parks. Mini-parks primarily offer passive recreation and typical facilities provided include playground areas, benches, open space, picnic tables, and landscaping. To maintain consistency with the Osceola County-Wide Parks and Recreation Master Plan, neighborhood and mini-parks were combined in the inventory section of the Data and Analysis portion of this element (see Table 10-1).

The Osceola County Parks and Recreation Department has made a conscious effort in the update of the 2005 Master Plan to exclude mini and neighborhood parks from its level of service with regards to development and maintenance. While these parks are essential for quality community sustainability, it is recommended that smaller parks are developed and maintained by municipalities or developer/homeowner associations.

e. Special Use Facilities

Special use facilities are designed to serve the unique recreational needs of certain population groups, and for practical purposes, may be classified as community parks. In Osceola County, there are thirteen (13) special use facilities, including the C-Gate Canal and various boat ramps and fish camps.

In addition, special use facilities also include sports fields or any facility that lends itself to a specific activity. Sports Complexes consolidate heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the Community. Sports Complexes are usually a minimum of 25 acres, with 40 to 80 acres being optimal. The Austin Tindall Soccer Complex, Osceola County Softball Complex, Osceola County Stadium and Hickory Tree Sport Fields are four (4) Sports Complexes in the County.

Finally, joint school and park may also be classified as Special Use Facilities. The Osceola County School Board is committed to joint use of elementary and middle school facilities for recreational purposes and maintains an interlocal agreement with the County. The goal of this agreement is to ensure the protection of and preservation of public property while providing the students of Osceola County and the general public adequate recreational facilities.

f. Natural Resource Areas

Natural Resource Areas are lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics or buffering. The Natural Resource Areas may be any size. However, there must be availability and access for passive recreation. Typical recreation amenities in Natural Resource Areas are limited, but may include nature trails, horse trails, picnic sites, and camping. There are currently four Natural Resource Areas within the County: Lake Lizzie Preserve, Shingle Creek Preserve, Linfield Wetland, Makinson Island, and Hamilton's Reserve. These sites are largely undeveloped and require funding to implement management plans.

g. Greenways and Recreational Pathways

Greenways are linear open spaces that are protected and managed as part of a linked system of conservation lands or recreational opportunities. Greenways typically follow natural landscape features such as rivers; streams; shorelines; man-made corridors, such as abandoned railroad lines; or any area defined in Section 260.13, F.S. Greenways, as mentioned in the Parks and Recreational Facilities Element, are linked systems that effectively connect park components together to form a continuous park environment. Shingle Creek Preserve is Osceola County's only greenway recreational facility to date. Shingle Creek Preserve is a 1,000-acre linear park that is located in a highly developed area of the County.

Osceola County has two paved Recreational Pathways excluding the Cities of Kissimmee and St. Cloud inventory. These are linear pathways or trails that may be used as alternate transportation links. Some uses that these pathways accommodate are bicycling, walking and skating. Neptune Recreation Pathway and Pleasant Hill Recreation Pathways both run linear to their respective roadways.

h. Facilities Owned and Operated by Other Agencies

In an attempt to preserve and protect the County's delicate ecosystems, several sites have been set aside as nature preserves and managed wildlife areas. These managed natural areas include Bull Creek Wildlife Management Area, which is 23,504-acre area managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the St. Johns River Water Management District. Other natural areas include Three Lakes

Wildlife Management Area, Disney Wilderness Preserve, Prairie Lakes State Preserve, Lake Lizzie Nature Preserve, Shingle Creek Preserve, Split Oak Forest Mitigation Park; and Triple N Ranch Wildlife Management Area, which is an 8,893-acre site owned by the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. As can be found in the Data & Analysis portion of the Conservation Element, Osceola County has many unique resource based recreational opportunities.

i. Trails

The Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST) is a footpath that explores many of Florida's most significant natural areas as it meanders from Gulf Islands National Seashore in Florida's western panhandle to Big Cypress National Preserve in South Florida. The trail is one of only eight congressionally designated national scenic trails and will one day extend the length of the state, some 1,300 miles. Approximately 700 miles of trail is open to the public. Chapter 260.012(6), F.S., designates the FNST as Florida's official statewide trail. According to Chapter 260.12(6), F.S., the Florida Legislature is to "encourage all state, regional, and local agencies who acquire lands to include in their land-buying efforts the acquisition of sufficient legal interest in the lands over which the trail passes to ensure its continued existence in a permanent location.

Osceola County is home to more miles of the FNST than any other county in the state. In Osceola County, the FNST is divided into two segments traversing north and south through western and eastern Osceola County. The eastern segment extends some 50 miles from State Road 60 at the Kissimmee River Bridge to the County line and Tosohatchee State Preserve. Approximately 32.2 miles of the eastern segment of the FNST is open to the public in Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area and Bull Creek Wildlife Management Area. The western segment of the FNST has yet to be developed. The western proposed route extends approximately 60 miles from Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area to the northwestern corner of the County.

j. Lakes

Osceola County lakes are nationally known for game fishing (see Table 10-4). These lakes play a significant role in providing recreational opportunities for both residents and visitors. Provisions for trails, parks, recreational amenities and conservation efforts should continue to be a priority in preserving the water quality and wildlife habitat of lakefronts.

C. ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Assessing demands for parks and recreational facilities in the future requires the County to analyze the demographic profile of a community and the needs of a community. Parks and recreational facility needs may change over time as the demographics in a community change. Additionally,

Osceola County must consider the existing population and future residents. To provide quality parks and recreational facilities for all residents, the County uses a LOS standard to establish how it will provide public parks and recreational facilities and how it will monitor the County's progress in providing public parks and recreational facilities.

1. Level of Service Standards

LOS standards are used to gauge the overall performance of the County in providing public parks and recreation facilities. LOS standards are a measure for determining the specific types and amounts of parks and recreational facilities necessary to accommodate the recreational needs of the community. The criteria may be used to define the acreage, facility type, and service area requirements for various types of recreation sites and areas.

According to *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines* (Mertes and Hall, 1996), which is a universal guide to park and recreation planning, community needs and future demand are two other areas that must be included in LOS calculations. To accurately define LOS standards, a needs assessment should be completed every two to five years to determine the expressed need for facilities and recreational programming. Furthermore, a public agency must consider available revenue and the presence of infrastructure when planning for future facilities. Due to the County's focus on sustainability, parks and recreational facilities will be a significant element of the County's future development pattern. One strategy to assist the County in increasing the numbers of parks and recreational facilities is to revise its adopted LOS standards. Although the County has an abundance of natural areas, and a number of parks available to residents and visitors, the County must increase the number of parks within its jurisdiction to meet the demands of existing and future populations. Based on the analysis of existing needs and the future population projections included in the Future Land Use Element, the County must increase the number of parks, redevelop existing parks, continue to acquire acreage for public use, and provide access through an active planning and development program to public lands that are not accessible to the public.

Communities throughout Florida use a variety of LOS standards for parks and recreation facilities. To assist Osceola County in determining an adequate LOS standard for parks that will ensure that existing and future residents may enjoy active and passive recreational opportunities, staff compared LOS standards used by other counties in Florida (See Table 10-5). From this analysis, LOS standards appear to be unique to a community and may vary depending on a community's assets, which include existing natural resources, the current number of recreational facilities that serve the public, and the population of a County.

Although most of the local governments considered in the LOS analysis have larger populations than Osceola County, most of the counties have similar characteristics. The counties used for this LOS comparison have large land areas, include thousands of undeveloped vacant acres, and feature expansive agricultural areas. Some of the communities support economies, which include tourism.

Providing parks and recreational facilities is a countywide effort, which requires the County to look beyond municipal boundaries. The County uses its countywide population projections to identify future parks and recreational facilities needs, which requires residents of City of Kissimmee and City of St. Cloud to be counted toward the total population numbers. Additionally, the cities may have level of service standards (both are five acres/1,000 people) and facilities within city boundaries. However, city residents are part of the countywide population and are customers of County parks and recreational facilities.

Therefore, based on the analysis of other Florida Counties, the existing recreation facilities within the County and the future population projections to 2025, Osceola County has adopted LOS standards for two planning periods. The first LOS standards are applicable through the year 2010 and recognize the County's immediate recreational needs. However, the LOS standards for the planning period of 2010 – 2025 have been increased to reflect the higher population and service demands. These LOS standards are listed below:

2005 – 2010 Level of Service Standards

- Regional Parks: 5 acres per 1,000 total population
- Community Parks: 2 acres per 1,000 total population
- Recreational Trails: 1 mile per 1,500 total population

2010 – 2025 Level of Service Standards

- Regional Parks: 6 acres per 1,000 total population
- Community Parks: 4 acres per 1,000 total population
- Recreational Trails: 1 mile per 1,500 total population

With the LOS standards adopted in the Comprehensive Plan, the County must ensure that adequate parks and recreational facilities are provided to future County residents. Table 10-6 indicates the amount of parks and recreational facilities that must be provided to serve the projected population. This needs assessment was based upon the adopted LOS standards listed above.

2. Current Needs

During the preparation of the Osceola County-Wide Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 1998-1999, the consultants used six different techniques to determine recreational needs of County residents. The techniques included workshops with staff, workshops with the public, a telephone survey, review of state standards, review of service areas, and workshops with elected officials and the Osceola County RecTech Committee. A telephone survey was conducted in 1998. Between May 5, 1998 and May 19, 1998 Schlesinger Associates South, Inc., conducted a computer assisted telephone interview (CATI) with 300 residents based on a random sample of listed households in the study area. The purpose of the survey was to collect their thoughts and opinions about the County's Parks and Recreation System. The overall results of the survey indicated that the majority of those surveyed felt there was an extreme need for trails (walking, skating, biking), special needs programs, youth programs,

and computer/educational classes. A large percentage of those surveyed indicated that there was a need for playgrounds, wildlife areas, aquatic programs/swimming lessons, and senior programs. A complete analysis of the survey results may be found in Osceola County's Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

In 2005, an update to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was completed with the City of Kissimmee and the Osceola County School District. The City of St. Cloud opted to complete a more extensive Master Plan process and did not financially participate in the Countywide Plan, but did provide data and information to update the facility inventory.

3. Planned Parks and Recreational Facilities and Redevelopment Projects

According to the County's Capital Improvements Project budget, approved by the County in FY 2005-2006, the County indicates a strong commitment to developing new parks and improving existing parks and recreational facilities. Currently, the County is improving five parks within Buenaventura Lakes; developing a recreational pathway in Chisholm Park; constructing a recreational pathway along Clay Street and Pleasant Hill Road; building new boat ramp facilities; improving Hickory Tree Sports Fields, Oren Brown Park, Chisholm Park, and Archie Gordon Park; and improving bridges along the Neptune Road Recreation Path. In addition, the County is developing park amenities at the Lake Lizzie Preserve and Park and is developing three new parks: Holopaw Community Park, Kings Highway Park, and completed the construction of Deerwood Park in Poinciana. A master plan is scheduled for Mac Overstreet Park, which will be a future regional park. Furthermore, the County has set aside several million dollars for future greenways and trails development and is ensuring that park restrooms and boat ramps are ADA accessible.

4. Greenways and Trails

The County recognizes its current need for parks and recreation opportunities and has recently established the Osceola County Greenways & Trails Planning Team as a supplement to the Parks and Recreation Department. The Greenways & Trails Planning Team is composed of staff and community volunteers who meet monthly to identify existing parks and trails, while working to develop a master plan and funding for future development. However, County staff and citizens involved in the planning of recreational trails within the County envision that an advisory committee for greenways and trails will be established in the future by the Osceola County Board of County Commissioners. As a recognized group sanctioned by the Osceola County Board of County Commissioners, a greenways and trails committee may be able to recommend future greenways and trails for purchase and plan for future recreational trails.

5. Land Acquisition

As Osceola County continues to grow, both opportunities and challenges will present themselves. As the County grows, available land for parks and recreation will decrease. The County should "land bank" property now in areas where growth is anticipated or desired.

Land purchased in the immediate future will reduce future capital investments. A program should also be established to purchase such properties and to identify land acquisitions adjacent to school sites.

6. Ecotourism and Recreational Facility Use by Visitors

An additional issue in the continued expansion of recreational activities in Osceola County is the limited opportunities for swimming in the abundance of lakes in the County. The City of St. Cloud has a swimming area on East Lake Tohopekaliga. This is the only fresh water swimming area in the County. One of the reasons for a lack of fresh-water swimming is the health and safety factors involved in this type of activity. Other issues include the environmental impact of creating sandy beaches around lakefront swimming areas and the need for public access to lakes.

7. Bicycle Paths

As referenced in the Transportation Element, the County is continuing to explore adequate bike paths for recreational and serious bicycle riders. A \$1.3 million expansion of the Kissimmee-St. Cloud Bike Trail is currently underway. Now nine miles in length, when complete, the trail will traverse approximately 20 miles. Presently the trail begins at Chisholm Park and runs through St. Cloud, towards Neptune Road to Kissimmee, along an undefined corridor adjacent to the railroad tracks to Pleasant Hill Road, then south to Poinciana. The final three-mile portion of the trail, which will be located near downtown Kissimmee from Highway 17-92 to Pleasant Hill Road, will be completed in the next two years. A one-mile portion from Chisholm Park to Rummel Road was completed in 2002. The County has continued to move forward with the designation of a Kissimmee-St. Cloud Bike Path Plan. The County should continue to explore the shared use of easements such as electrical utility lines, gas lines, abandoned rail corridors, and water management canals for trail purposes.

8. Multi-Use Facilities and Collocation of Facilities

The County may also purchase property to function as dry retention areas for stormwater runoff. As these sites are evaluated for their drainage potential, the County should also evaluate these sites as potential recreational sites. This could provide the County with a cost-effective method to provide parks and recreational facilities.

9. Funding Mechanisms

The County may seek state grants through existing programs such as the Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) Program, the Florida Boating Improvement Program (FBIP), the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP), and the State Trails Program. In addition, the water management districts have a program called Save Our

Rivers, which seeks to protect state waters from encroachment by development activity and incompatible land uses.

The federal government also has a funding program through the National Park Service called the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON). The state of Florida receives an annual apportionment and this money is distributed through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. These monies are available to local governments for use in projects that meet the state's comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. State grants are not entitlement funds and the County must compete with other counties for funding. Several Florida counties have initiated bond programs (one county floated a bond issue for \$20 million dollars) that are used as a pool for matching funds. The state generally favors grant proposals that contain matching monies. Osceola County must follow the lead of these other counties and seek voter approval of such a program.

10. Land Development Code Revisions

In addition to expanding existing parks, the County also has the opportunity through the development review process to assure that future residents will be provided with an acceptable parks and recreation system. Subsequent to the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, the County will adopt an updated Land Development Code. Within the new code, regulations will be established to provide additional parks and recreational facilities within large residential developments. Large-scale residential projects which are at the Development of Regional Impact threshold must provide facilities at the County's LOS for community parks and make provisions for greenways, trails and wildlife corridors that provide connectivity to other developments, parks, civic spaces and schools. Projects under this threshold may be required to contribute to a recreation fund on a per unit basis. This could either be accomplished through an adopted recreation impact fee or a negotiated dollar figure. This approach will ensure that large residential developments will be designed with neighborhood park facilities for new residents.

D. CONCLUSION

The tremendous growth and the diversity of the community will affect the location and types of parks and recreational facilities the County will provide in the future. Furthermore, the financial responsibility of the County to provide other public services will further stretch the ability of the County to provide funding for new parks and recreational facilities and to renovate existing parks and recreational facilities. The County may consider using a number of innovative approaches to providing public parks and recreational facilities, including pursuing grants; locating other public facilities, such as sheriff's substations or fire and rescue units on park property; and partnering with non-governmental organizations. Additionally, cooperation between federal and state agencies will be critical when land is acquired for future parks and recreational facilities. The County may consider investigating a sole funding source for land acquisition early in the planning timeframe due to the increasing costs of land within the County. As acreage prices increase throughout the County due to development, land will become more expensive to acquire for public purposes. Land

acquisition must remain a priority, because acreage in the future may be unavailable due to development resulting from population growth.

Table 10-1: Osceola County Parks and Recreational Facilities Inventory

	Passive	Active Acreage	Community Center	Softball Field	Baseball Field	T-ball Field	Soccer Field	Football Field	Volleyball	Basketball	Tennis Court	Racquetball court	Camping	Boat ramp	Air Boats	Horse trails	Playground	Pavilion/Picnic/	Concessions	Restrooms	Locker Rooms	Undeveloped	Conservation		
REGIONAL PARKS (544 acres)																									
Austin Tindall Park (101 acres) 4100 Bogy Creek Rd. Kissimmee, FL 34744	X	X	X				9*												X	X	X	X	X	X	
Holopaw Community Park (291 acres) Reliant Road	X	X																							
Ralph V. Chisholm Park (152 Acres) 4700 Chisholm Park Tr. St. Cloud, FL 34771	X			X			X		X					X *		X	X	X		X					
COMMUNITY PARKS (115 acres)																									
Archie Gordon Memorial Park (10 acres) 420 Buenaventura Blvd. Kissimmee, FL 34743		X					3*	2*									X	X	X	X					
Buenaventura Community Park (10 acres) 419 Buenaventura Blvd. Kissimmee, FL 34743		X			3*														X						

		Passive Acreage	Active Acreage	Community Center	Softball Field	Baseball Field	T-ball Field	Soccer Field	Football Field	Volleyball	Basketball	Tennis Court	Racquetball court	Camping	Boat ramp	Air Boats	Horse trails	Playground	Pavilion/Picnic/	Concessions	Restrooms	Locker Rooms	Undeveloped	Conservation	
COMMUNITY PARKS (cont.)																									
Kenansville Community Park (4 acres) 1176 S. Canoe Creek Rd. Kenansville, FL 34739		X			X						X							X	X						
Kings Highway Park (11 acres) Kissimmee			X																				X		
Oren Brown Community Park (32 acres) 3511 Baker Dr. Kissimmee			X		3*		3											X	X	X	X				
Yeehaw Community Park (3 acres) 3660 Maple Lane Yeehaw Junction		X									X *							X *	X *	X *					
Narcoossee Community Park (10 acres) 5354 Rambling Rd. St. Cloud, FL 34771		X		X														X *	X						
Deerwood Park (35 acres) Poinciana			X			3*		2*										X	X	X	X				

	Passive Acreage	Active Acreage	Community	Softball Field	Baseball Field	T-ball Field	Soccer Field	Football Field	Volleyball	Basketball	Tennis Court	Racquetball court	Camping	Boat ramp	Air Boats	Horse trails	Playground	Pavilion/Picnic/	Concessions	Restrooms	Locker Rooms	Undeveloped	Conservation	
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS & MINI PARKS (8.6 acres)																								
Marydia Neighborhood Park (0.6 acres) 2942 Tampa Ave. Kissimmee FL 34744		X								X							X *	X						
Hickory Tree Neighborhood Park (2 acres) 3875 Hickory Tree Rd. St. Cloud, FL 34772	X									X							X	X						
Partin Triangle Park (5 acres) 2830 Neptune Rd. Kissimmee		X									2* 4*	4*		X			X	X		X				
Tropical Neighborhood Park (1 acre) 994 W. Tropicana Court Kissimmee, FL 34758	X																	X						
SPECIAL USE FACILITIES (48.75 acres)																								
C-Gate Canal 33 (5 acres) 4385 Hickory Tree Road St. Cloud	X													X				X						
Granada Boat Ramp (1 acre) 2605 Ridgeway Drive Kissimmee	X													X *										

	Passive Acreage	Active Acreage	Community	Softball Field	Baseball Field	T-ball Field	Soccer Field	Football Field	Volleyball	Basketball	Tennis Court	Racquetball court	Camping	Boat ramp	Air Boats	Horse trails	Playground	Pavilion/Picnic/	Concessions	Restrooms	Locker Rooms	Undeveloped	Conservation
SPECIAL USE FACILITIES (cont.)																							
Joe Overstreet Boat Ramp (2 acres) 4900 Joe Overstreet Road Kenansville	X												X	* X				X	X				
Lake Cypress Boat Ramp (2 acres) 3301 Lake Cypress Road St. Cloud	X													* X									
Lake Gentry Boat Ramp (0.05 acres) Lake Gentry Road	X													X									
Lake Marion Boat Ramp Fred's Fish Camp (2 acres) 700 Lakeside Blvd. Kenansville, FL 34739	X												X	* X						X			
Whaley's Boat Ramp (2 acres) 3759 Lake Tohopekaliga Road St. Cloud	X													* X									

	Passive Acreage	Active Acreage	Community Center	Softball Field	Baseball Field	T-ball Field	Soccer Field	Football Field	Volleyball	Basketball	Tennis Court	Racquetball court	Camping	Boat ramp	Air Boats	Horse trails	Playground	Pavilion/Picnic/ Cookout	Concessions	Restrooms	Locker Rooms	Undeveloped	Conservation	
SPECIAL USE FACILITIES (cont.)																								
Sexton Boat Ramp (1 acre) 2590 E. Irlo Bronson Highway Kissimmee, FL 34744	X													X										
Shelby Cox Memorial Park (1 acres) 5618 Old Tampa Highway Intercession City		X								X *							X *							
Southport Park (32 acres) 2001 Southport Road Kissimmee, FL 34758	X												X	X					X					
Trout Landing (0.7 acres) 6919 Bass Highway St. Cloud, FL 34771	X													X										

	Passive Acreage	Active Acreage	Community Center	Softball Field	Baseball Field	T-ball Field	Soccer Field	Football Field	Volleyball	Basketball	Tennis Court	Racquetball court	Camping	Boat ramp	Air Boats	Horse trails	Playground	Pavilion/Picnic/	Concessions	Restrooms	Locker Rooms	Undeveloped	Conservation
NATURAL LANDS (2,235 acres)																							
Lake Lizzie Preserve (984 acres) St. Cloud	X															X						X	X
Makinson Island (132 acres) Lake Tohopekaliga	X													X				X				X	X
Oak Island Road Mitigation Site (40 acres)	X																						
Overstreet Park Mitigation Sites (100 acres)	X																						
Poinciana Scrub Island Preserve (277 acres)	X																						
Reedy Creek Bridge Mitigation Site #1 (35 acres)	X																						
Reedy Creek Mitigation Site #2 (24 acres)	X																						
Reedy Creek Mitigation Site #3 (3 acres)	X																						
Split Oak Forest Wildlife Mitigation Park (640 acres)	X																						
GREENWAYS (456 acres)																							
Shingle Creek Preserve (456 acres) Kissimmee	X																					X	X

	Passive Acreage	Active Acreage	Community Center	Softball Field	Baseball Field	T-ball Field	Soccer Field	Football Field	Volleyball	Basketball	Tennis Court	Racquetball court	Camping	Boat ramp	Air Boats	Horse trails	Playground	Pavilion/Picnic/	Concessions	Restrooms	Locker Rooms	Undeveloped	Conservation	
SPORTS COMPLEXES (148 acres)																								
Osceola County Softball Complex (35 acres) 300 N. John Young Parkway Kissimmee, FL 34741		X		5*													X	X	X	X	X			
Osceola County Stadium (86 acres) 1000 Bill Beck Blvd. Kissimmee, FL 34744		X		5*													X		X	X	X	X	X	
Hickory Tree Sport Fields (27 acres) 2355 Old Hickory Tree Rd. St. Cloud, FL 34769		X						X									X	X	X					
RECREATIONAL PATHWAYS																								
Kissimmee-St. Cloud Bike Trail																								
Neptune Recreational Pathway*																		3						
Pleasant Hill Recreational Pathway* (11 miles)	X																							

*Denotes Lighted Facilities are available

Source: Osceola County Parks and Recreation Department

Table 10-2: 2003 City of Kissimmee Parks & Recreation Facilities

FACILITY	PARK TYPE	ACREAGE
Aquatic Center	Active Recreation/Community Park	10.35
Beauchamp Park	Urban Open Space/Neighborhood Park	.27
Brinson Park	Urban Open Space/Large Urban Park	3.10
Central Elementary	Active Recreation/Neighborhood Park	4.21
Chambers Park	Active Recreation/Neighborhood Park	3.20
Civic Center	Active Recreation/Special Use Facility	4.09
Denn John Fields	Active Recreation/Community Park	6.01
Fortune Road Athletic Complex	Active Recreation/Special Use Park	37.50
K.U.A. Soccer Fields	Active Recreation/Special Use Park	5.00
Ladue Park	Urban Open Space/Neighborhood Park	1.20
Lakefront Park	Active Recreation/Large Urban Park	14.98
Lakeside Community Park	Active Recreation/Community Park	5.18
Lancaster Ranch	Large Urban/Undeveloped	112.00
Mill Run Park	Active Recreation/Neighborhood Park	2.40
Mill Slough Park	Urban Open Space/Neighborhood Park	6.33
Oak Street Park	Active Recreation/Community Park	14.50
Osceola High School	Active Recreation/Neighborhood Park	6.30
Osceola Park	Urban Open Space/Special Use Park	13.63
Quail Hollow Park	Active Recreation/Neighborhood	2.90
Rainbow Park	Active Recreation/Community Park	2.50
Stainback Field	Active Recreation/Special Use Park	5.00
Thacker Fields	Active Recreation/Special Use Park	11.50
Tropical Isle Property	Urban Open Space/Large Urban Park	20.40
TOTAL		292.55

Source: City of Kissimmee Parks and Recreation Department

Table 10-3: 2003 City of St. Cloud Parks & Recreation Facilities

FACILITY	PARK TYPE	ACREAGE
Godwin Park	Neighborhood	3.5
Hopkins Park	Neighborhood	3.9
Lakefront Park	Community	38
O.P. Johnson Park	Neighborhood	3.5
Peghorn Nature Park	Regional	250
Shuffleboard Courts & Senior Citizens Center	Neighborhood	2
Stephanie Leigh Rothstein Memorial Park	Large Urban	55
Ted Broda Memorial Park	Neighborhood	3.1
Veteran's Park	Mini	1.7
Water Tower Park	Neighborhood	3.0
TOTAL		363.7

Source: City of St. Cloud Parks and Recreation Department, 2003

Table 10-4: Inventory of Major Lakes in Osceola County

LAKE	AREA IN ACRES	ACCESS
Lake Kissimmee	34,948	Public
Lake Tohopekaliga	18,810	Public
East Lake Tohopekaliga	11,968	Public
Lake Hatchineha	6,665	Public
Lake Marian	5,739	Public
Cypress Lake	4,097	Public
Alligator Lake	3,406	Public
Cat Lake	2,080	Public
Lake Gentry	1,791	Public
Lake Jackson	1,020	Public
Lake Lizzie	792	Public
Lake Russell	732	Public
Lake Preston	690	Public
Brick Lake	616	Public
Lake Myrtle	543	Public
Lake Center	410	Public
Lake Runnymede	390	Public
Buck Lake	378	Public
Live Oak Lake	375	Public
Trout Lake	273	Public
Fish Lake	221	Public
Lake Joel	217	Public
Hinden Lake	156	Public
Coon Lake (Lost Lake)	148	Public
Lake Ajay	145	Public
Sardine Lake	98	Public
Total	96,708 acres	

Source: University of Florida. Water Resources Research Center, 1986. Publication No. 96 Gazetteer of Florida Lakes by Mark D. Shafer, Robert E. Dickinson, James P. Heaney and Wayne C. Huber

Table 10-5: Park Level of Service Standards Comparison

Local Government	Population*	Level of Service Standard
Bay County	148,217	Regional Parks: 20 acres/1,000 residents Local Parks: 5 acres/1,000 residents
Brevard County	476,230	3 acres/1,000 residents (for all County owned or leased facilities)
Indian River County	112,947	4 acres/1,000 for all parks
Lake County	210,527	0.92 acre/1,000 residents (activity based recreation space)
Palm Beach County	1,131,191	Regional Parks: Total Acres--3.39 acres/1,000 residents Developed Acres--2.62 acres/1,000 residents
Polk County	483,924	6.95 acres/1,000 residents (passive and active recreation land)
Okaloosa County	170,498	Recreation: .6 acres/1,000 population
Orange County	896,344	All park types: 2.5 acres/1,000 residents
Sarasota County	325,957	All park types: 7 acres/1,000 year round (resident), unincorporated Sarasota County population, (of which 0.3 acres of Neighborhood park facilities; 0.4 acres of Community park facilities; 0.9 acres of Metropolitan park facilities; 1.8 acres of Highly Specialized park facilities; and 3.6 acres of "Other" park acreage, including, but not limited to parks designated as Future Capacity, Conservation Lands and Water Access.)
Seminole County	365,199	Urban Community: Total Acreage: 3.6 acres/1,000 residents Developed Acreage: 1.8 acres/1,000 residents
Volusia County	443,343	Local Parks: 2 acres/1,000 residents District Parks: 5 acres/1,000 residents

Sources: Population numbers from Florida Statistical Abstract 2002; Level of service standards taken from comprehensive plans.

Table 10-6: Total Community Park Resources Required by Planning Periods

YEAR	PROJECTED POPULATION	ACREAGE NEEDED 2005 - 2010 (2 acres per 1,000 total population)	ACREAGE NEEDED 2010 - 2025 (4 acres per 1,000 total population)	EXISTING PARK ACREAGE*	ACREAGE NEEDED - EXISTING ACREAGE +/- (without Municipal Park Acreage)
2005	240,700	481	n/a	115	-366
2010	304,400	609	n/a	115	-494
2015	372,900	n/a	1,491	115	-1,376
2020	446,800	n/a	1,787	115	-1,672
2025	525,100	n/a	2,100	115	-1,985

*Does not include greenways (732 acres) or natural resource areas (1,221 acres)
Source: Osceola County Planning Department, 2003

Table 10-7: Total Regional Park Resources Required by Planning Periods

YEAR	PROJECTED POPULATION	ACREAGE NEEDED 2005 - 2010 (5 acres per 1,000 total population)	ACREAGE NEEDED 2010 - 2025 (6 acres per 1,000 total population)	EXISTING PARK ACREAGE*	ACREAGE NEEDED - EXISTING ACREAGE +/- (without Municipal Park Acreage)
2005	240,700	1,204	n/a	544	-660
2010	304,400	1,522	n/a	544	-978
2015	372,900	n/a	2,237	544	-1,693
2020	446,800	n/a	2,681	544	-2,137
2025	525,100	n/a	3,151	544	-2,607

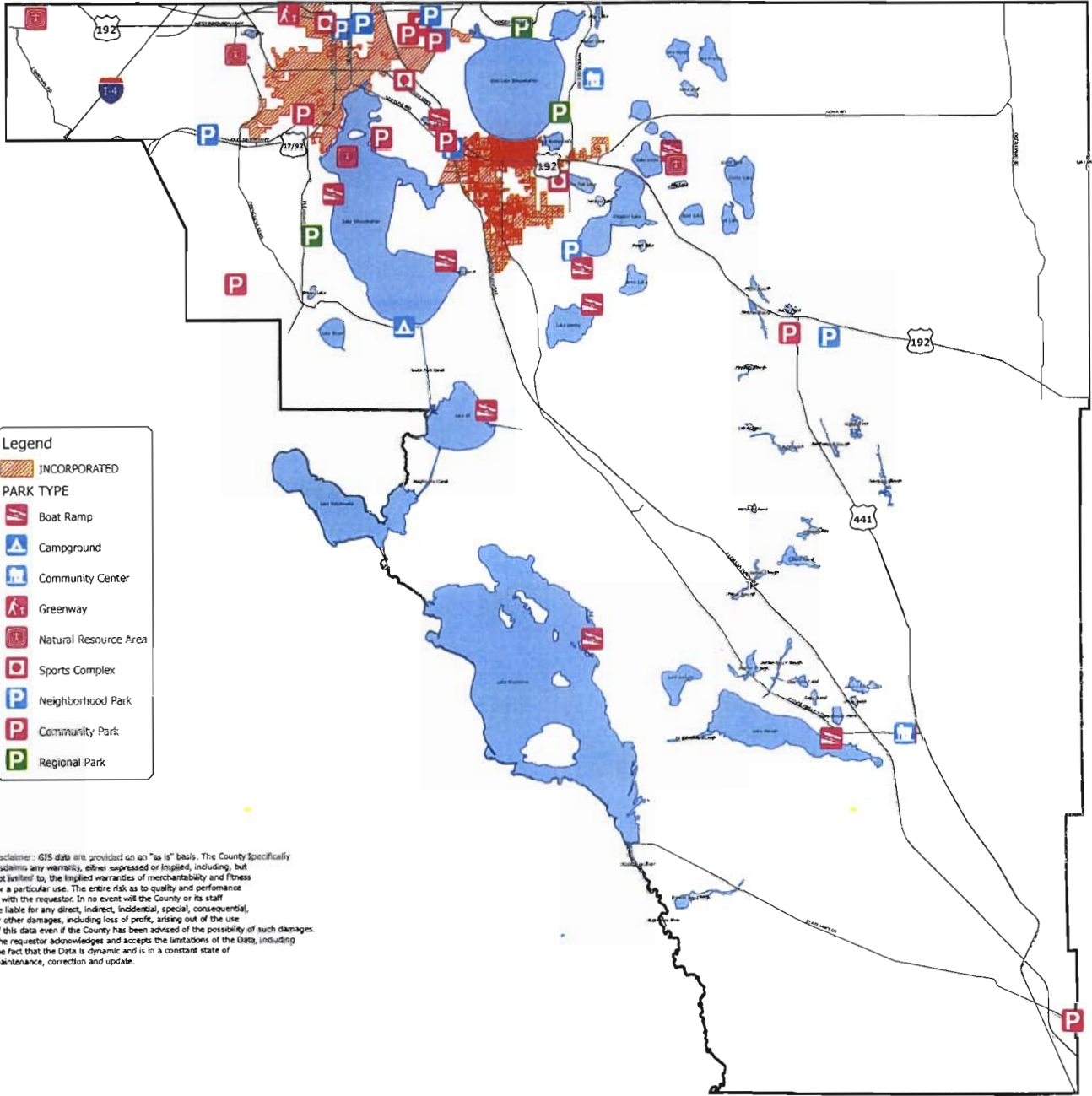
*Does not include greenways (732 acres) or natural resource areas (1,221 acres)
Source: Osceola County Planning Department, 2003

Table 10-8: Total Recreational Trail Resources Required for Planning Period

YEAR	PROJECTED POPULATION	MILES NEEDED 2005 - 2025 (1 mile/1,500 total population)	EXISTING TRAIL MILEAGE*	MILES NEEDED - EXISTING MILES +/-
2005	240,700	160	70**	90
2010	304,400	203	n/a	133
2015	372,900	249	n/a	179
2020	446,800	298	n/a	228
2025	525,100	350	n/a	280

*Does not include natural resource areas (1,221 acres)
**20 miles are paved
Source: Osceola County Planning Department, 2003

Parks and Recreation Opportunities



Legend

-  INCORPORATED
- PARK TYPE**
-  Boat Ramp
-  Campground
-  Community Center
-  Greenway
-  Natural Resource Area
-  Sports Complex
-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  Regional Park

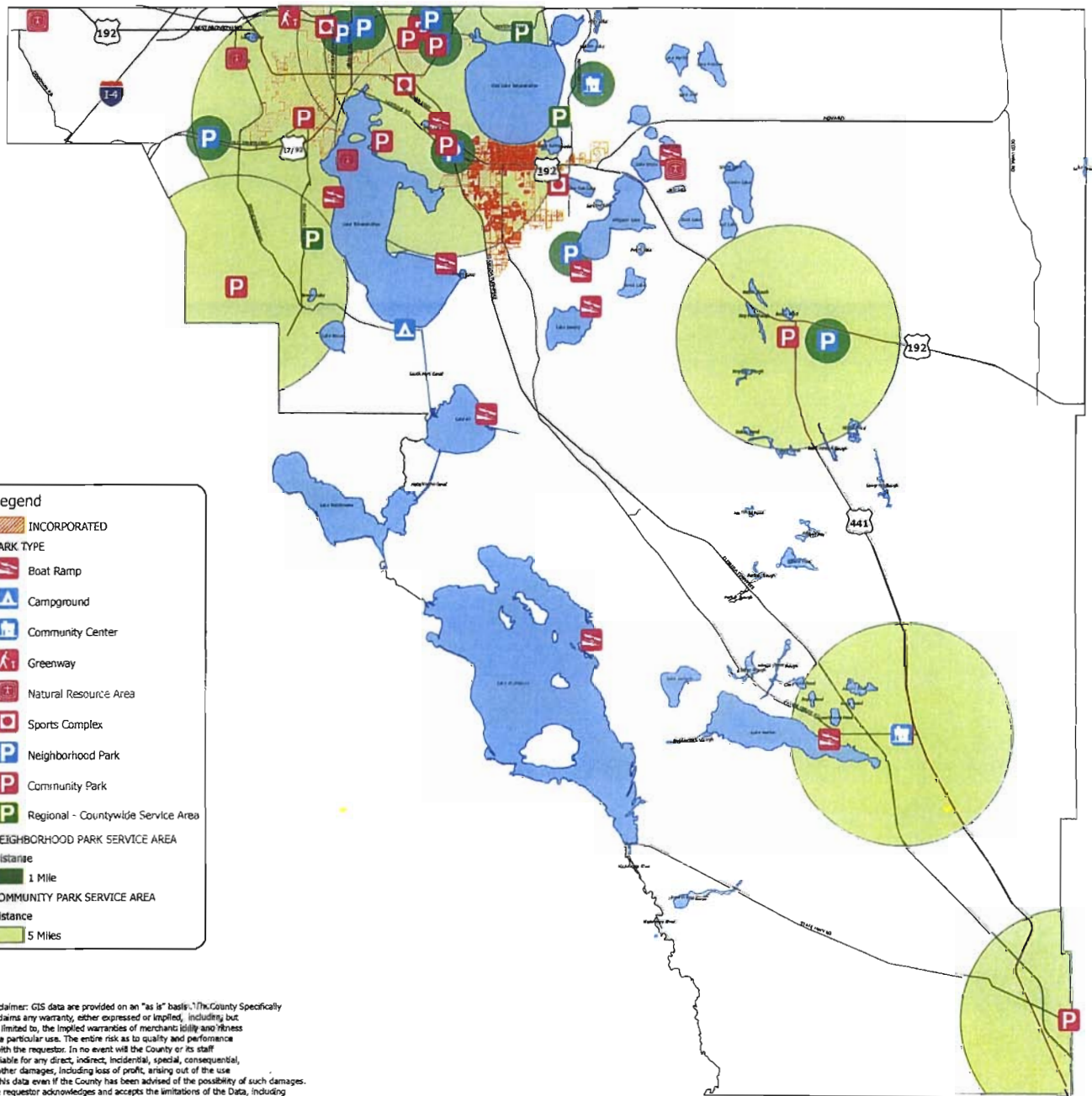
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Osceola County Planning Department
GIS Section



Park Service Areas



Legend

- INCORPORATED
- PARK TYPE**
- Boat Ramp
- Campground
- Community Center
- Greenway
- Natural Resource Area
- Sports Complex
- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Regional - Countywide Service Area
- NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SERVICE AREA**
- Distance
- 1 Mile
- COMMUNITY PARK SERVICE AREA**
- Distance
- 5 Miles

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