

Recreation and Open Space Element



Comprehensive Plan

2009 Update

EAR-Based Amendments, Sept. 2009

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CHAPTER VI
RECREATION & OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

A. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

GOAL 1: To provide adequate open space, parks, and recreation facilities to enable high quality participation for all residents and visitors.

Objective 1.1: *Level of Service Standards for Parks.* To ensure that the City has an adequate acreage of park lands and open space, the City shall utilize Level of Service (LOS) standards.

Policy 1.1.1: Utilize the following LOS standards:

Total Overall Public Park and Recreation Land Acreage (including Open Space): Eight (8) acres per 1,000 residents. For purposes of implementing this policy, the City may utilize State and County park lands and trails that are located within the City's jurisdictional boundaries. This standard includes land with passive and active uses.

City Owned Open Space: Four (4) acres per 1,000 residents. Open space is defined as "undeveloped lands suitable for passive recreation or conservation".

Policy 1.1.2: Establish a Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee made up of residents who will work together to review parks and recreation facilities and programs and make appropriate recommendations to the City Commission.

Policy 1.1.3: Maintain an inventory of the location, size, condition and amenities available at each public park, recreation area and open space. This inventory shall be updated every year.

Policy 1.1.4: Implement and periodically update recreation guidelines and criteria for park sites and facilities based on industry standards and comparison with those of neighboring and comparable jurisdictions.

Policy 1.1.5: Rely upon the State of Florida and Seminole County park facilities and wilderness areas located within a 30-mile driving distance of the City for their value as regional resource-oriented facilities. These areas generally serve a population of over 100,000 and feature outdoor recreation resources and facilities that capitalize on and promote appreciation of the natural environment.

Policy 1.1.6: Rely upon private development to provide and maintain neighborhood parks in areas of new development. A neighborhood park is a facility that serves an entire neighborhood and which is located no more than

one-half (1/2) mile from the residents served. In cases where a greater distance cannot be avoided, a paved parking area shall also be provided. The size of a neighborhood park shall be dependent on the number of units served as described in the land development code, but shall not be less than one-half acre. Infill development of 20 units or less shall be exempt from this provision. Typical facilities provided in a neighborhood park often include a swimming pool, cabana or clubhouse with restrooms, playground area, paved multi-purpose court, picnic area., fitness trail, and/or open free play area. Open space may also be one component of the dedicated area.

- Policy 1.1.7:** Protect and enhance open space areas and natural features within existing City parks, and do not allow active recreational uses to unnecessarily encroach upon them.
- Policy 1.1.8:** Require preservation of ecologically sensitive open spaces in the Greenway Interchange District and promote connectivity of these natural features for habitat continuity and sustainability. Additionally, require a network of public plazas with interconnected sidewalks to promote an urban pedestrian environment.
- Policy 1.1.9:** Pursue additional sites for active public recreational opportunities for current and future residents through land acquisition and/or public/private partnerships.
- Policy 1.1.10:** Acquire park land and develop appropriate facilities by utilizing a variety of funding sources as available, such as the general fund, grants, developer contributions, impact fees, and user fees, as well as creative funding solutions, such as special taxing districts, foundations, private donations, endowments, partnerships, and bond referendums.
- Policy 1.1.11:** Explore opportunities to provide public recreation access to Lake Jesup.
- Policy 1.1.12:** Perpetually hold in public ownership, for recreation and open space purposes, those lands owned by the City which are identified in this element on Map VI-1 and Table VI-2.
- Policy 1.1.13:** Prior to the disposal of nonrecreational City-owned land or facilities, evaluate the potential use of such land or facilities for recreation, and whether such land or facilities are needed to maintain or enhance the City's recreation program.
- Policy 1.1.14:** Prior to the vacation of any right-of-way, evaluate the potential of the right-of-way for use as part of a future trail corridor or other alternative transportation linkage.

Objective 1.2: *Trails.* The City should work to expand the existing Cross Seminole Trail system to include a network of City trails, thereby improving access for pedestrians and cyclists to

schools, parks, open spaces, and businesses and for the additional public outdoor recreation opportunities trails provide.

- Policy 1.2.1:** Encourage public participation in planning and development of all phases of City's trail expansion program.
- Policy 1.2.2:** Partner with appropriate agencies to study and implement options for future coordinated provisions of a bike/trail network.
- Policy 1.2.3:** Develop standards and guidelines for trail planning, development and maintenance.
- Policy 1.2.4:** Work with Florida Power & Light (FP&L) to co-locate trail easements in utility corridors.
- Policy 1.2.5:** Encourage homeowner associations whenever possible, to incorporate existing trails into the public trail system.
- Policy 1.2.6:** Acquire property or easements that can be integrated into the City's existing recreation and proposed trail network system as illustrated on Map VI-6: Conceptual Trails Network System.
- Policy 1.2.7:** Make providing trails a priority in the new planning horizon for the connectivity they provide to schools, parks, natural lands, and businesses.

Objective 1.3: *Study of Recreation Preferences.* The City shall determine the recreational preferences and needs of City residents.

- Policy 1.3.1:** Periodically survey organized leagues and primary users of active recreation facilities to determine participation rates and demand for services and to determine adjustments to active land use programming.
- Policy 1.3.2:** Identify demographic changes in the community and incorporate adjustments in recreation provision planning accordingly.
- Policy 1.3.3:** Reflect neighborhood input in specific park recreation plans.
- Policy 1.3.4:** Utilize national and regional park planning data trends to proactively adjust programmed park facilities.
- Policy 1.3.5:** Develop and implement a City-wide recreation survey every five years. The recreational needs survey shall inquire about recreational preferences in terms of facilities and recreational/educational programs, frequency of use of parks and recreational facilities, location of most frequently used facilities, willingness to pay user fees, location and age profile of respondents, household size, and travel method to preferred/most used parks and recreational facilities.

Policy 1.3.6: Reflect the results of the community's recreation preferences and needs in prioritizing funding expenditures for maintenance and capital improvements.

Objective 1.4: *Park Maintenance.* All City parks shall be maintained and improved in a manner that is consistent with the needs of the City residents, and which maximizes the potential of the individual recreational facilities.

Policy 1.4.1: Renovate and/or upgrade the City's parks and recreational facilities as needed to provide improved recreational opportunities.

Policy 1.4.2: Continue the user fee system for City recreation programs and facilities to offset the cost of maintaining and programming facilities, when appropriate. Except in the context of a City-County cooperative agreement, fee-based recreation programs shall be designed, administered and priced so as to give preference to City residents over non-City residents.

Objective 1.5: *Accessibility.* The City shall provide and maintain appropriate, operational park and recreation access for all segments of the City population.

Policy 1.5.1: Continue to provide adequate and appropriate automobile, bicycle and pedestrian access to all public parks and facilities.

Policy 1.5.2: Design all public recreation facilities as barrier-free as possible to accommodate accessibility by the elderly, handicapped and very young.

Policy 1.5.3: Continue to provide adequate parking space, including handicapped parking, and bicycle racks at recreation sites.

Policy 1.5.4: Continue to enhance the public's awareness of park and recreational programs and events through a variety of print and electronic media formats such as the City's website, brochures newsletters, etc.

Policy 1.5.5: Work to increase public awareness of the need for and benefits of healthy and active lifestyles.

Policy 1.5.6: Continue to provide a scholarship program for low-income families.

Objective 1.6: *Private Parks and Recreation Facilities.* The City shall encourage the preservation and use of private lands for park and recreation facilities and open space.

Policy 1.6.1: Require residential developments outside of the Town Center with over 20 units, to provide and maintain neighborhood recreational facilities. Standards for these facilities shall be described in the land development code.

Policy 1.6.2: Revise open space regulations for subdivisions and other new developments in the land development code.

Policy 1.6.3: Assess park and recreation impact fees to new residential development as a pro rata share of the costs required to expand or acquire capital facilities or equipment made necessary by the new construction from which the fees are collected or for principal payments on debt instruments for these facilities and services. (Cross Reference: See Capital Improvements Element, Policy 1.4.4)

Policy 1.6.4: Encourage new developments falling within the planned trail network to provide public trail linkages either through or adjacent to their development.

Objective 1.7: *Interagency Cooperation and Joint use of Facilities.* The City shall continue coordination efforts with agencies and developers to provide quality development of recreation areas, and to avoid duplication of recreation facilities including provisions for joint use of facilities, to meet the recreation demands of the City's citizens.

Policy 1.7.1: Coordinate park and open space planning with adjacent jurisdictions.

Policy 1.7.2: Work with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation and other trail-related advocacy and support agencies for assistance in developing a local trail network with connectivity to the regional trail system.

Policy 1.7.3: Continue coordination with the Seminole County School Board, to allow the use of school board facilities by the general public. Parks and schools shall be collocated to the extent possible to optimize the shared use of facilities. (Cross Reference: See Future Land Use Element, Policy 1.11.9)

Policy 1.7.4: Review updates to the County Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and make the necessary updates to this element to achieve consistency.

Table VI - 1: Park and Open Space Acreage, Based on Level of Service Standards

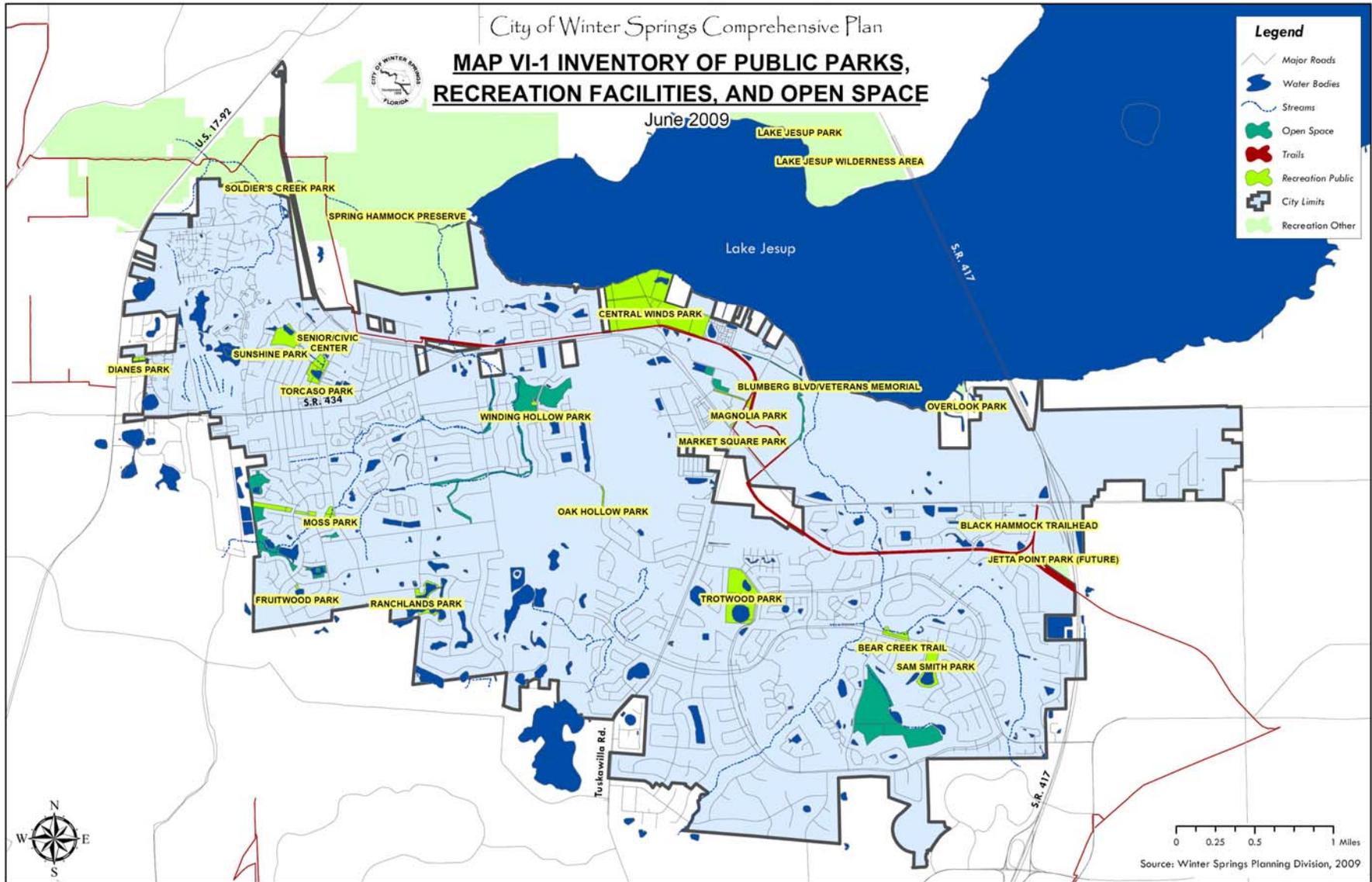
Year	Population	Total Overall Parkland (1) (8 acres per 1,000 residents)			Open Space (2) (4 acres per 1,000 residents)		
		Existing Acreage	Required	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Existing Acreage	Guideline	Surplus/ (Deficit)
2009	34,433	380.50	275.46	105.04	147.10	137.72	9.38
2010	35,857	380.50	286.88	93.62	147.10	143.44	3.65
2015	38,863	380.50	310.88	69.62	147.10	155.44	-8.34
2020	40,319	380.50	322.56	57.94	147.10	161.28	-14.18
2025	42,376	380.50	339.01	41.49	147.10	169.46	-22.36
2030	44,538	380.50	356.32	24.18	147.10	178.16	-31.06

Source: Population- U.S. Census, as adjusted for 2000; University of Florida Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR); City of Winter Springs Evaluation and Appraisal Report

(1) Includes the total of all public parks and recreational lands including any State and County facilities within the City limits. Therefore the Cross Seminole Trail is included and Jetta Point County Park will be included once developed.

(2) Includes the total of all city-owned open space. Some of this land is noted on subdivision plats as "park" but are undevelopable wetlands and are included on the Future Land Use Map - 2030 as "Recreation and Open Space". The remainder of the lands are conservation lands under the City's jurisdiction and are included on the Future Land Use Map - 2030 as "Conservation". Conservation lands owned by the St. John's River Water Management District are not included. The addition of the 40-acre wetland park in the Town Center will eliminate the deficit, once it is conveyed.

Map VI – 1: Inventory of Public Parks, Recreation Facilities and Open Space



B. INTRODUCTION

The quality of life for Winter Springs' residents is linked closely to the development and management of a well-maintained, accessible system of public parks, trails and open space. The City is well known for its award-winning Central Winds Park and the quality of recreational programs and events offered there. Such facilities play a key role in shaping both the landscape and the quality of life of Winter Springs' residents through the conservation of natural resources and provision of recreational facilities. It is the intent of the City to provide an appropriate balance of both active and passive recreation for the community. The quality of life for residents of Winter Springs is not only linked to the availability of a well-maintained system of public park and recreation facilities, but also to the quality of the natural resources they contain. Privately managed parks, open space and facilities provide additional components of the open space and recreational system serving City residents. As additional parks are developed, consideration for the balance between conservation issues and the provision of active recreation becomes an important ingredient in the park development process. The City's lead office in charge of parks and recreational programs is the Parks and Recreation Department.

The purpose of this data is to identify existing and planned open space and recreation facilities, review Level of Service (LOS) standards for these facilities, and analyze current and projected park and recreational needs which support the Recreation and Open Space Element. The Element includes specific goals, objectives, and policies to guide the provision of recreation and open space facilities through the year 2030.

C. INVENTORY OF EXISTING RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES

Parks conserve open space and natural resources and provide recreation opportunities. In general, parks are categorized as being either activity-based or resource-based. Activity-based parks provide user-oriented, recreation facilities designed for a specific purpose such as tennis, basketball, softball or soccer, while resource-based parks utilize the natural environment to provide more passive activities such as picnicking, hiking, fishing, swimming, or boating.

The City provides a wide range of recreation opportunities to its residents. The City's park inventory includes numerous parks and recreational facilities where citizens can enjoy both active and passive forms of recreation. (See Table VI-2: Inventory of Public Parks and Recreational Facilities and Open Space, 2009).

1. Public Parks and Open Space

The public park system within Winter Springs includes approximately 380.5 acres. This acreage includes City-owned parks and open space, as well as State and County-owned recreational facilities located within the City limits, such as the Cross Seminole Trail. (Jetta Point County Park is not currently included, but will be included once developed.) Map VI-1 illustrates the public park system. Also included are Seminole County facilities located near the City.

City parks have been classified in congruence with guidelines set forth in *Florida's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2007)* published by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and 9J-5, Florida Administrative Code (FAC). The categories utilized by the City include regional parks (State and County), community

parks, neighborhood parks, tot lots, urban plazas and squares, and open space. Only sites that are publicly owned have been included in this section.

As noted on Table VI-2, many City parks offer both passive and active recreation opportunities. Some examples are Central Winds Park, Ranchlands Park, and Sam Smith Park, all of which offer active recreational facilities as well as passive areas for fishing and picnicking.

a. Regional Parks

Regional Parks are large, resource-based parks serving more than two communities and featuring outdoor recreation resources and facilities that capitalize on and promote appreciation of the natural environment. Regional parks should serve a population of over 100,000 (generally located within an hour's driving distance of the park) and should range in size from a minimum of 250 acres to as much as several thousand acres. The City relies on the State and the County for the provision and maintenance of regional parks.

There are numerous regional resource-based parks and wilderness areas accessible to the City's residents (see Florida Managed Habitat Conservation Areas Map located in the Conservation Element).

Florida State Parks within 25 miles of Winter Springs include:

<i>Driving Distance*</i>	<i>Name of Recreational Area:</i>	<i>Acreage:</i>
12.5 miles	Wekiva Springs State Park	6,900 acres
23 miles	Rock Springs Run State Reserve	15,000 acres
23 miles	Lower Wekiva River Preserve State Park	17,650 acres

*driving mileage taken from Winter Springs Town Center

St John's River Water Management District Recreation Lands include:

<i>Driving Distance*:</i>	<i>Name of Recreational Area:</i>	<i>Acreage:</i>
9.2 miles	Lake Jesup Conservation Area	5257
11.7 miles	Little-Big Econ State Forest	9,563
25 miles	Buck Lake	9638
25 miles	Seminole Ranch	29

*driving mileage taken from Winter Springs Town Center

Seminole County Wilderness and Preserve Areas include:

<i>Driving Distance*</i>	<i>Name of Recreational Area:</i>	<i>Acreage:</i>
3.8 miles	Spring Hammock Preserve (includes Environmental Studies Center)	1500

6.9 miles	Black Hammock Wilderness Area	700
8.5 miles	Lake Jesup Wilderness Area	490
10.5 miles	Black Bear Wilderness Area	1650
10.6 miles	Econ River Wilderness Area	230
10.8 miles	Geneva Wilderness Area (Includes Ed Yarborough Nature Center)	180
13.6 miles	Lake Procter Wilderness Area	475
15.7 miles	Chuluota Wilderness Area	625

*driving mileage taken from Winter Springs Town Center

Trails (in or near Winter Springs):

A network of trails provides a range of economic, aesthetic, environmental and recreation benefits to citizens of a community, beyond the benefits that accrue to private landowners. A trails network can increase residential and commercial property values, encourage the revitalization of declining area, attract tourist, and provide an alternative to the use of automobiles that can help reduce traffic congestion. The City has participated in regional trail planning and development activities in recent years that have substantially increased access to trail recreational opportunities for City residents.

Cross Seminole Trail

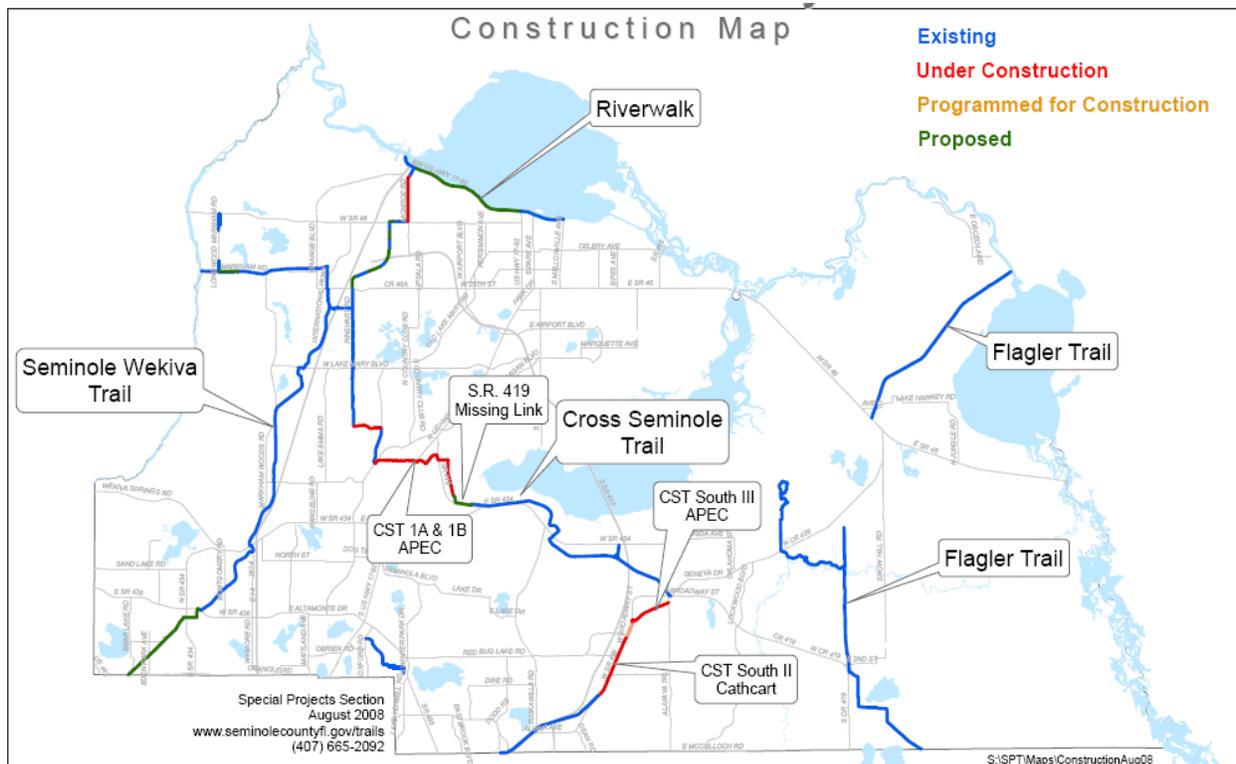
The Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Office of Greenways and Trails owns, and has sub-leased to Seminole County, the Cross Seminole Trail, a portion of which is located in Winter Springs. The Seminole County Parks and Recreation Department is in charge of maintaining the trail. An interlocal agreement exists between the City and Seminole County regarding use and maintenance of the Cross Seminole Trail. The City’s Parks and Recreation Department assisted with the design of the restroom facility located at the Black Hammock Trailhead (State Road 434 at State Road 417 (Seminole Expressway), and is responsible for the maintenance and cleaning of the restroom facility.

The trail currently runs six (6) miles from Layer Elementary School in Winter Springs to the intersection of State Road 434 and State Road 426 in downtown Oviedo. Other built sections of the trail include from CR 46A south to Green Way Boulevard in Lake Mary and from Mikler Road to the Orange County Line. The Cross Seminole Trail connects with the Seminole Wekiva Trail via the I-4 Pedestrian Bridge in Lake Mary. Upon completion, the Cross Seminole Trail will be a 34.5 mile long continuous trail connecting Altamonte Springs, Longwood, Lake Mary, Winter Springs, and Oviedo and connecting to the Cady Way Trail and the Orange County Trail System. The trail will run from Spring Hammock Preserve in Winter Springs to Howell Branch Road at the Orange County Line and will connect several parks including: Central Winds Park, Soldier’s Creek Park, Big Tree Park, Greenwood Lakes Park, Sweetwater Creek Park, Lawton House Park, and Spring

Hammock. The trail will also connect seven schools: Layer Elementary, Winter Springs High School, Indian Trails Middle School, Keeth Elementary, Trinity Preparatory School, Oviedo High School, and Lawton Elementary.

The Cross Seminole Trail is currently under construction from the Oviedo Mall to State Road 434. Design is complete on the segment from Mikler to Red Bug Lake Road and construction is scheduled to begin in late 2008. A pedestrian overpass is programmed to be constructed over Red Bug Lake Road beginning in the fall 2008, with a connection to State Road 426 near the Oviedo Mall. The trail will also be realigned by the FDOT State Road 426 widening project. The trail will cross at the signalized intersection of Marketplace Blvd & State Road 426 and connect with the trail corridor along Aulin Avenue. Map VI- 2 depicts existing and future portions of the Cross Seminole Trail.

Map VI - 2: Seminole County Trails Construction Map



Florida National Scenic Trail

The Florida National Scenic Trail was congressionally established in 1983 and is a hiking trail network that provides access to scenic wilderness areas. A portion of the Cross Seminole Trail coincides with the Florida National Scenic Trail.

The Great Florida Birding Trail

The Great Florida Birding Trail is a program of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, supported in part by the Florida Department of

Transportation and the Wildlife Foundation of Florida. In Seminole County, self-guided designated trails are included at the Little-Big Econ State Forest, the Lake Procter Wilderness Area, and the Geneva Wilderness Area.

Econlockhatchee River Paddling Trail

The Econlockhatchee River Paddling Trail is officially designated as part of Florida's Statewide System of Greenways and Trails. Access to this scenic wilderness river is provided via a canoe launch site beginning 2.5 miles northwest of Chuluota on State Road 419 (only 11 miles driving distance from Winter Springs). The trail winds eastward through 18-miles of forested flatlands, swamps, and pasture, and eventually feeds into the St. John's River. This river flows northeasterly to its junction with the St. Johns River where the trail ends 1.5 miles downstream (north) of the confluence.

Bear Creek Nature Trail

Bear Creek Nature Trail, owned and maintained by the City, provides a passive area with a .5 mile nature trail paralleling Bear Creek.

b. Community Parks

Community parks are defined as "ride to" parks that should be located near major streets or arterials. Community parks are designed to serve the needs of four to six neighborhoods that have residents within a radius of up to three (3) miles. Typical facilities found in community parks are designed to serve all ages and may include both passive and active recreation opportunities such as playground areas, recreation buildings, sports fields, paved multipurpose courts, picnic areas, open or free play areas, swimming pools, and landscaping. Community parks include: Central Winds Park, Sunshine Park, Torcaso Park, Trotwood Park, Blumberg Blvd. and Veteran's Memorial in the Town Center, the Black Hammock Trailhead, and the future Jetta Point County Park.

Some parks may fall under more than one category. Most County parks are considered community parks, but those that host national competitions and tournaments can easily be classified as regional parks. Central Winds Park, located on Lake Jesup, for instance, has been classified as a community park, due to its geographic area and the type of recreational facilities and activities offered. However, numerous civic festivals and special events are held in the park, drawing citizens from all over Seminole County and the Central Florida area. For this reason, Central Winds Park has been locally considered a regional park. This park offers competition quality baseball, softball, and soccer fields, which are reserved for league-play only, as well as basketball courts, volleyball courts, horseshoes, playground, concession stand, the City's Parks & Recreation Office, and restrooms. Additionally, a passive area located on the west side includes a fishing area, pavilions, picnic grills, and an amphitheatre. A recent expansion to the park added additional baseball, softball, and soccer/football fields, as well as lacrosse fields and a dog park with large dog, small dog and training areas. Together, the Central Winds Park and the expansion total 98.5 acres.

c. Special Use Facilities

Special use facilities are designed to serve the unique recreational needs of certain population groups. The elderly are afforded the Senior Center Complex, a 13,500 square foot facility, located at Sunshine Park. The complex was expanded in 2007 and includes a new indoor therapy pool, a large multi-purpose room, billiard/game room, kitchen, restrooms, arts and crafts room, conference room, lounge area, and two offices. The therapy pool is one of only two public facilities in the County. The center is operated by City staff and a senior organization. Membership can be obtained for a reasonable fee. Members can utilize the Senior Center to enjoy the following activities:

Arts & Crafts	Dance Classes
Bingo/ Card Playing	Lunch on Wednesdays
Charity Benefits	Movies
Social Functions	Medical Examinations
Computer Classes	Exercise, Yoga & Tai Chi

The young are afforded the Civic Center Complex, a 4000 square foot facility, also located at Sunshine Park and connected to the Senior Center by a covered breezeway. This facility includes a commercial type kitchen, restrooms, stage, and dance floor. The Civic Center offers many recreational opportunities for the young, including the Winter Springs Summer Youth Program. During the program, children have the opportunity to participate in activities such as trips and tours, swimming, arts and crafts, and outdoor games. Additionally, the Civic Center offers meeting space for Boy/Girl Scouts, civic, religious and private organizations, charity benefits, City meetings/training/parties, homeowners associations, etc. The Civic Center Complex also offers rental of the facility for weddings, receptions and parties.

Both the Senior Center and the Civic Center are wheelchair accessible.

d. Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood Parks are “walk to” parks that are generally located along streets where people can walk or bicycle without encountering heavy traffic. They serve the population of a neighborhood in a radius of up to one-half (1/2) of a mile. A neighborhood park size usually ranges from 2 to 10 acres. Typical facilities provided include playground areas, recreation buildings, sports fields, paved multi-purpose courts, picnic areas, open or free play areas, and landscaping.

Neighborhood parks include Moss Park, Sam Smith Park, Ranchlands Park, and Bear Creek Nature Trail.

e. Mini-Parks and Tot-Lots

Mini-parks are small facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population, as well as specific groups such as toddlers. Mini-parks include tot-lots and are designed to serve the needs of a neighborhood within a radius of up to six (6) blocks. A minimum of one half (1/2) acre for each stand-alone park is recommended. Mini-parks primarily offer passive recreation and typical facilities

provided include playground areas, benches, open space, picnic tables, and landscaping. Mini-parks include Diane's Park, Fruitwood Park, Winding Hollow, Oak Hollow, Market Square and Magnolia Square.

Most of the neighborhood and community parks offer the facilities typically found in tot-lots and mini-parks. Many homeowner associations include private recreational facilities within their developments. In many cases, these serve as private mini-parks to those residents.

f. Open Space

The term "open space" is widely used with a variety of meanings. However, its meaning herein (and throughout the Comprehensive Plan) is taken from Rule 9J-5 Florida Administrative Code and simply means, "undeveloped lands suitable for passive recreation or conservation." Open space does not refer to land found in medians, buffers, or retention areas.

In Winter Springs, most of the publicly-owned open space was conveyed to the City at the time of subdivision platting, as "parks" or "parkland". However, most of these areas are composed of undevelopable wetlands, such as the 69.5-acre Tusawilla Open Space donation. Winding Hollow subdivision also includes a large 55-acre open space with only .5-acre in addition, available for active recreation. Not all open space or conservation areas within Winter Springs are owned by the City. Many are privately owned. However, only City-owned open space is inventoried within this Element and included on Table VI-2 (with one exception- the Hickory Grove Park in the Town Center is included, but it is owned by the State Office of Greenways and Trails).

g. Urban Plazas and Squares

"Urban plazas" or "squares" are small urban pocket parks which vary in size from 1/10-acre to several acres depending on their intended use. Their primary function is to intersperse congested urban environments with aesthetically pleasing areas for people to gather as groups or to sit individually. These plazas and squares may contain benches and tables, commemorative structures, fountains, and landscaping. Within the Town Center, numerous urban plazas and squares are planned. Several have been completed and include: Blumberg Blvd., Market Square, and a portion of Magnolia Square. Blumberg Blvd. also includes the recently completed Veteran's Memorial, located at Tuskawilla Rd. and Blumberg Blvd. Most of these urban plazas and squares will serve as mini-parks. However, in some cases (such as Blumberg Blvd. and the Veteran's Memorial), these facilities serve as community parks because of the activities offered there and the significance of the facilities.

Table VI-2 shows an inventory of public parks and recreational facilities and open space within Winter Springs.

Table VI - 2: Inventory of Public Parks and Recreational Facilities and Open Space, 2009

Parks	Active Acres	Passive Acres (1)	Total Acres (2)	Resources & Facilities
TRAILS				
Bear Creek Nature Trail	0	8.7	8.7	Natural Resources: Creek, environmentally sensitive area Recreational Facilities: None Other: 1/2-mile nature trail
Black Hammock Trailhead ** (acreage included in Cross Seminole Trail)	0	0	0	Natural Resources: None Recreational Facilities: Cross Seminole Trail Other: Paved parking and restrooms
Florida National Scenic Trail **	0	4.4	4.4	Natural Resources: Wetlands Recreational Facilities: None Other: Undeveloped
Cross Seminole Trail **	0	59.4	59.4	Natural Resources: Creek, natural vegetation Recreational Facilities: Paved trail Other: 6-miles in the City connecting with regional trail system
COMMUNITY PARKS				
Blumberg Blvd. ** & Veteran's Memorial **	0	1.4	1.4	Natural Resources: None. Rec. Facilities: Adjacent to Cross Seminole Trail Other: Fountains, pergolas, walkways, seating, manicured landscaping. Veteran's memorial with sculpture.
Central Winds Park	78.1	20.4	98.5	Natural Resources: Nature/Environmentally sensitive area. Recreational Facilities: 4 baseball fields, 4 softball fields, 7 soccer, 1 football field, 2 multi-purpose fields (football/lacrosse) 1 half basketball court, 2 volleyball courts, 2 youth playgrounds. Other: Dog park (small dog, large dog and training areas), fishing area, nature trail, cooking grills, 2 picnic pavilions, parks & recreation office, concession stand, restrooms

Parks	Active Acres	Passive Acres (1)	Total Acres (2)	Resources & Facilities
Sunshine Park (a)	6.7	3.5	10.2	<p>Natural Resources: Lake (1.5-acres) Rec. Facilities: 2 baseball fields, 1 softball field, 1 full basketball court, 1 volleyball court, 1 tot playground, 1 youth playground. Other: Civic Center, Senior Center with indoor therapy pool, fishing area, cooking grills, 2 picnic pavilions, restrooms</p>
Torcaso Park	4.8	3.0	7.8	<p>Natural Resources: Pond (1.9-acres) Recreational Facilities: 4 basketball shooting baskets, 1 volleyball court, 1 soccer/football field, exercise course, 1 tot playground, 1 youth playground Other: Fishing area, splash water fountain, picnic pavilion, cooking grills, restrooms</p>
Trotwood Park	23.0	5.0	28.0	<p>Natural Resources: Lake Tuskawilla (6.4-acres) and smaller lake (1.6-acres) Rec. Facilities: 2 baseball fields, 1 softball field, 4 soccer fields, 2 full basketball courts, 2 tennis courts, 2 racquet ball courts, 1 volleyball court, 1 tot playground, 1 youth playground, 1 splash playground. Other: Fishing pier, cooking grills, 4 picnic pavilions, restrooms</p>
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS				
Moss Park	2.0	0.3	2.3	<p>Natural Resources: None. Rec. Facilities: 1 full and 1 half basketball courts, 1 multi-purpose field, 1 youth playground, 1 tot playground. Other: Cooking grills, 2 picnic pavilions, restrooms</p>
Ranchlands Park	0.5	0.5	1.0	<p>Natural Resources: Lake (11.5-acres) Rec. Facilities: 1 volleyball court Other: Fishing area, cooking grills, picnic pavilion</p>
Sam Smith Park	0.0	8.3	8.3	<p>Natural Resources: Lake (4.6-acres), nature area Rec. Facilities: 1 tot playground, 1 youth playground. Other: Fishing area, cooking grills, 2 picnic pavilions</p>

Parks	Active Acres	Passive Acres (1)	Total Acres (2)	Resources & Facilities
MINI-PARKS				
Dianes Park	0.0	1.0	1.0	Natural Resources: None. Recreational Facilities: None. Other: Picnic table, cooking grill.
Fruitwood Park	0.3	0	0.3	Natural Resources: Lake (2.1-acres) Recreational Facilities: 1 youth playground Other: None
Magnolia Square	0.0	0.3	0.3	Natural Resources: None. Rec. Facilities: Adjacent to Cross Seminole Trail Other: Fountain and seating
Market Square	0.0	0.3	0.2	Natural Resources: None Recreational Facilities: None Other: Fountain and seating
Oak Hollow Park (linear park)	0.0	1.0	1.0	Natural Resources: None Recreational Facilities: 2 youth playgrounds Other: Paved walking trail (0.1 miles)
Winding Hollow Park (b)	0.5	0.0	0.5	Natural Resources: Adjacent to natural open space Rec. Facilities: 1 tot playground, 1 youth playground Other: Picnic pavilions, cooking grills
OPEN SPACE				
Alton Creek	0.0	0.2	0.2	Natural Resources: Creek Rec. Facilities: None Other: Conservation
Foxmoor Park Unit 1	0.0	1.9	1.9	Natural Resources: Wetlands Rec. Facilities: None Other:
Foxmoor Unit 2	0.0	1.6	1.6	Natural Resources: Lake (2.1-acres); Wetlands Rec. Facilities: None Other:
Foxmoor Unit 3	0.0	4.89	4.89	Natural Resources: Lake (1.0-acres); Wetlands Rec. Facilities: None Other:

Parks	Active Acres	Passive Acres (1)	Total Acres (2)	Resources & Facilities
Hickory Grove Park ** (Town Center)	0.0	4.5	4.5	Natural Resources: Native hickory trees Rec. Facilities: None Other: Conservation
North Orlando Ranches Sec. 5	0.0	6.7	6.7	Natural Resources: Wetlands Rec. Facilities: None Other: Conservation
North Orlando Ranches Sec. 9	0.0	6.5	6.5	Natural Resources: Wetlands Rec. Facilities: None Other: Conservation
North Orlando Ranches Sec. 10	0.0	5.1	5.1	Natural Resources: Wetlands Rec. Facilities: None Other: Conservation
North Orlando Terrace Sec. 5	0.0	7.2	7.2	Natural Resources: Wetlands Rec. Facilities: None Other: Conservation
North Orlando Terrace Sec. 9	0.0	7.4	7.4	Natural Resources: Wetlands Rec. Facilities: None Other: Conservation
Tusawilla Open Space	0.0	69.5	69.5	Natural Resources: Wetlands Rec. Facilities: None Other: Conservation
Winding Hollow Park (b)	0.0	31.6	31.6	Natural Resources: Wetlands Rec. Facilities: None Other: Conservation
TOTAL OPEN SPACE	0	147.1	147.1	
TOTAL OVERALL PARKLAND	115.9	264.6	380.5	

Note- Lacrosse is growing in popularity and can be played on soccer, football and multi-use fields.

(1) Passive includes both developed areas as well as undeveloped open space acreage. Lake acreage is not included.

(2) Acreage is from the City's Geographic Information System mapping. Lake acreage is not included.

(a) Park is a Special Use Facility

(b) One-half acre of this park is developed for active recreational use. 55.5 acres are conservation land.

* Seminole County-owned

** State-owned (Greenways and Trails)

Source: City of Winter Springs Planning Division, January 2009

h. Nearby County Facilities

Seminole County operates and maintains several park and open space facilities that are available to the citizens of Winter Springs. Some of the County parks closest to Winter Springs, in addition to the Cross Seminole Trail, are Overlook Park, Red Bug Lake Park, Soldier's Creek Park, and Spring Hammock Preserve. Overlook Park is a 3-acre facility located on Spring Avenue off State Road 434, west of State Road 417 (Seminole Expressway / Greeneway). The park is located on the southern shores of Lake Jesup and includes a designated State Historic Site (White's Wharf) and Clifton Springs- a natural springs area. Amenities include a small pavilion, fishing pier and a mooring dock. Red Bug Lake Park is a 60-acre community park adjacent to the 28-acre Red Bug Lake. This park is located 2 miles east of State Road 436 on Red Bug Lake Road and offers picnicking, playgrounds, fishing, boating, tennis, racquetball, basketball, sand volleyball, softball, flag football, soccer, exercise trail, pavilions, and restrooms. Soldier's Creek Park is a 315-acre park adjacent to the Spring Hammock Preserve, 1 mile east of U.S. 17-92 on State Road 419. The park offers soccer fields and ball fields, which are used by community groups for youth baseball and softball. Spring Hammock Preserve offers visitors access to more than 1,500 acres of wilderness on the western border of Lake Jesup. Highlights of opportunities offered within the Spring Hammock Preserve are the Environmental Studies Center (located on the east side of State Road 419), nature trails, boardwalks, fishing at Soldier's Creek, and "The Senator," a 3,500 year-old Cypress tree located at Big Tree County Park.

Seminole County plans to construct Jetta Point Park on a 43-acre site within Winter Springs, south of State Road 434 just west of its intersection with State Road 417 (Seminole Expressway / Greeneway). The new Jetta Point County Park will serve as an intensive-use sports complex with a concentration of facilities for leagues and tournaments. It is expected to host national softball competitions as well as soccer/lacrosse and will also include youth playground, tot playground, a boardwalk, picnic pavilion and restrooms. The new park will be adjacent to the existing Black Hammock Trailhead of the Cross Seminole Trail. Upon completion of Jetta Point Park, Soldier's Creek County Park will be converted to baseball facilities for leagues and tournaments.

Facilities provided within the Seminole County Park System include:

Lakes and Rivers with:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| • boat ramps | • overlook piers |
| • canoe launch | • support facilities (including restrooms and paved parking) |
| • mooring dock | • wildlife |
| • fishing piers | |

Natural Vegetation and Marsh Lands with:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • 3,500 year-old Cypress tree | • environmental learning center |
| • boardwalks | • wildlife |

Wilderness Areas with:

- campgrounds and primitive camping
- horseback riding trails
- hiking/biking trails
- wildlife

Sports and Recreation Facilities:

- amphitheatre
- jogging trails/exercise stations
- basketball courts
- kids' playgrounds
- tennis courts
- picnic pavilions
- racquetball courts
- support facilities (including restrooms, paved parking, and lighting)
- roller hockey rink
- dog parks and
- sand volleyball courts
- historically significant sites
- soccer/football fields
- softball/baseball fields

Seminole County Parks include:

Driving Distance*	Name of Recreational Area:	Acreage**:
2.7 miles	Overlook Park	3
3.8 miles	Soldier's Creek Park	315
4.2 miles	Big Tree Park- Longwood	11
5.9 miles	Pawmosa Dog Park- Casselberry	1
6.4 miles	Sunland Park- Sanford	15
6.7 miles	Lake Dot Park- Sanford	15
7.4 miles	Red Bug Lake Park- Casselberry	60
7.6 miles	Winwood Park- Altamonte Springs	4
7.7 miles	Jamestown Park	1
8.0 miles	Kewannee Park- Casselberry	6
8.5 miles	Lake Jesup Park- Sanford	6
8.7 miles	Greenwood Lakes Park- Lake Mary	14
8.9 miles	Seminole Co. Softball Complex	38
9.4 miles	Sanlando Park- Altamonte Springs	40
10.3 miles	Paw Park- Sanford	1
10.4 miles	Little Big Econ Park (Canoe Launch)	1
11. 8 miles	Lake Mills Park- Chuluota	50
12.7 miles	Roseland Park- Sanford	1
12.8 miles	Midway Park- Sanford	2
13. 9 miles	Lake Monroe Wayside Park- Sanford	3.5
15.3 miles	Cameron Wight Park- Sanford	3
17.3miles	Bookertown Park	4
17.6 miles	C.S. Lee Park- Geneva	3

19.3 miles	Mullet Lake Park- Geneva	151
20.0 miles	Sylvan Lake Park- Sanford	126
21.2 miles	Wilson's Landing Park- Sanford	19

*driving mileage taken from Winter Springs Town Center

** acreage does not include lakes

i. School Facilities

The City maintains an Interlocal Agreement with the School Board of Seminole County related to recreational use of educational facilities. The agreement states that the two parties concur to collectively utilize the recreational and educational facilities of Winter Springs High School. Through this agreement Parks and Recreation conducts youth basketball leagues and camps, youth football games, and all sports training programs at Winter Springs High School. Additionally, youth basketball leagues and programs, as well as special City events, including the annual Halloween Dance, are held at Indian Trails Middle School. In addition, the City has a cooperative arrangement with several of the local school principals for co-use of their facilities.

2. Private Facilities

Some recreational facilities and services such as golf courses, dance studios, fitness clubs, movie theatres, etc. are provided by the private sector, and are available to the public through a membership or a fee. The provision this type of recreational resources is normally based on market studies. Therefore, it can be assumed that the quantity of such resources will increase as the city's population increases.

Some of the Private Recreational Facilities in or near Winter Springs

- Tusawilla Country Club & Golf Course 1500 Winter Springs Blvd.
- Florida Airboat Association, Inc. 200 N. Cortez Ave.
- Lifestyle Fitness 5852 Red Bug Lake Rd.
- Pro Flight Archery 280 E. State Road 434
- Sadkane School for Dance & Aikido 1196 Tree Swallow Dr
- Studio 5D Dance Studio 1303 - 1323 Winter Springs Blvd
- Russian Academy of Ballet 1425 Tuskawilla Rd
(formerly Orlando City Ballet)
- Bounce and Fun 135 E Bahama Rd
- O'Mei Wshu USA 113 E State Road 434
- United Theatres of Florida, Inc. I-4 & HW 436, Altamonte Springs
- AMC Interstate Theatres 473 Cardinal Oaks Ct., Lake Mary
- Regal Cinema Oviedo Crossing 22 1500 Oviedo Mktpl. Blvd, Oviedo
- Central Batting Cages 1271 Belle Avenue
- YMCA 7900 Red Bug Lake Rd

Other private recreational facilities are found in residential developments within Winter Springs. The facilities provided typically include community/exercise rooms, swimming pools, tennis courts, etc. Some of the developments providing this type of recreation are listed in Table VI - 3: Inventory of Private Recreational Facilities, 2008 [Note: some data still being gathered.].

Table VI - 3: Inventory of Private Recreational Facilities, 2008

Development/Facility Name	Pool	Club house	Golf Course	Shuffle board	Basket ball	Tennis	Play ground	Volley ball	Other
Highlands PUD	3	1			1	5	5	1	Trail
Wildwood PUD	1					2	1		Trail
Seminole Pines	1	1		1	1				
Tusawilla Country Club & Golf Course	1	1	1-18 hole			8			
Hacienda Village	2	2		1					
Howell Creek / Eagles Watch	1						1		
Wedgewood	1	1							

NOTE: This inventory does not include all the private recreational facilities in the City, but accounts for many of those within residential subdivisions which have one or more acres of activity-based recreational opportunities.

Source: Winter Springs Planning Division, February 2009.

D. EXISTING AND FUTURE PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS

Recreational demands do not remain constant over time, but grow with population increases and change as population demographics change. Attitudes and opinions can be drastically altered from a shift in the demographic makeup of a community. Therefore, it is necessary to assess recreational needs and future demands for facilities in order to plan for the future.

1. Population Trends and User Needs

The City’s population is projected to increase by over 10,000 residents by 2030. According to the U.S. Census, the median age increased from 34 to 37 from 1990 to 2000, and the percentage of persons aged 65 or older increased from 9.2% to 10.8% over the same time period. The projected median age (US Census) increased to 40 by 2007. This trend is expected to continue through the long-term planning period.

The City is well prepared to serve an aging population. During 2007, the City completed a 9,200 square foot expansion of the Senior Center which added a new therapy pool along with a large multi-purpose room. However, the City should continue to add recreational facilities and programs which address the changing demographics of the City, while continuing to support a wide variety of programs to serve all of its residents.

To accurately reflect changes in public demand, tools are needed to identify them. One method is to survey the citizens for their input. The City has conducted several informal surveys, many of which have not been documented. A City-wide survey was conducted in 1990. It questioned residents about the recreational activities they practiced on a regular basis. The results showed that, at that time, residents wanted more playgrounds, baseball fields, swimming pools, bike paths, and tennis courts. Since that time, the City has added numerous playgrounds and baseball fields, and the State has added the Cross Seminole Trail. This type of survey should be conducted regularly on a five-year basis to maintain consistency and to monitor progress and changing demands. An opinion survey of registered voters was completed in 2004, to explore interest and support for a multi-purpose athletic facility and an aquatic center. The support was greatest for the multi-purpose athletic center with 44 percent of those surveyed in support of such a facility even if it increased property taxes, 21 percent opposed and 35 percent requiring more information. Support dropped slightly (40 percent) and opposition increased (32 percent) for an aquatic center. Support fell further (36 percent) to a level nearly equal with opposition (35 percent) when respondents were asked if they would support both facilities with a combined tax increase necessary to support both facilities.

2. Outdoor Recreation Planning Guidelines

Three types of guidelines are commonly used in outdoor recreation planning according to Florida’s *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2007)*. The first type, *use guidelines*, are employed as a means of stating the amount of use a resource or facility can accommodate under certain conditions. The second type- *population guidelines*, are used in determining the amount of resources and facilities that are required to serve a given population. The third type- *site guidelines*, are used primarily for estimating acreage needs for local parks and recreation areas and open space.

Many variations exist in outdoor recreation environments. Therefore, each jurisdiction must determine for its planning purposes how these guidelines will best serve their interests and in most cases develop their own guidelines.

The use guidelines for user-oriented outdoor recreation activities included herein were derived from the 1989 *Recreation Standards for Comprehensive Planning in Florida*. The study examined what was considered the minimum, moderate and maximum levels of use that facilities could sustain under various conditions according to over 100 local recreation providers. Table VI-4 identifies the median value of the survey results for nine user-oriented facilities for which information on use was collected.

Table VI - 4: Use Guidelines for User-Oriented Recreation Activities, 2007

Activity	Resource/Facility	Guideline
Baseball/Softball	Baseball/Softball Field	120 users per field per day
Basketball	Basketball Court	90 users per court per day
Football/Soccer/Rugby	Football/Soccer Field	175 users per field per day
Golf	Golf Course (9-hole)	200 users per 9-hole course per day

Activity	Resource/Facility	Guideline
Physical exercise (urban jogging and hiking)	Linear mile of exercise/parcours trail	100 users per mile of trail per day
Racquetball/Handball	Racquetball/Handball Court	40 users per court per day
Shuffleboard	Shuffleboard Court	20 users per court per day
Swimming	Swimming Pool (1)	256 users per pool per day
Tennis	Tennis Court	30 users per court per day

Source: *Florida’s Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2007)*.

Population guidelines are hypothetical estimates of the amounts of outdoor recreation resources and facilities that are required to support a given population. Generally, population guidelines make no distinction between the varying requirements of different segments of the population, but are used to assess community recreational needs by determining the minimum number of resources and facilities required to serve the local population. When used in concert with facility use guidelines and park/open space site guidelines, population guidelines can prove a useful tool in outdoor recreation planning. Table VI-5 identifies population guidelines for user-oriented recreational activities.

Site guidelines are a set of general criteria for determining the specific types and amounts of park lands necessary to accommodate the recreational needs of local communities. The criteria define the acreage, facility type and service area requirements for various types of community recreation sites and areas. They are most commonly used as a means of expressing outdoor recreation needs, based on population guidelines. The site guidelines described in Table VI-6 are graphically applied to the City and depicted on Map VI-5. The areas not served by existing parks primarily are parts of the City having larger lot sizes in some cases, are areas still to be developed, such as the Greenway Interchange District. Levels of Service (LOS) Standards

Level of Service (LOS) standards are a measure for determining the specific types and amounts or acreage of parkland necessary to accommodate the recreational needs of a local jurisdiction. Winter Springs has historically defined its LOS based on acreage per 1000 residents.

To better reflect the growing needs of the City for parkland, and in support of the desire for increased greenspace as further discussed under the major issue of “Population, Density and Greenspace” (2008 Evaluation and Appraisal Report), Winter Springs will increase the Overall Parkland LOS acreage from 5 acres per 1,000 residents to 8 acres per 1,000 residents.

Additionally, a LOS for Open Space has been implemented. This LOS has been set at 4 acres per 1,000 residents to encourage the provision of public open space in Winter Springs. Table VI-1 illustrates the existing park and open space acreage through 2030, based on LOS standards.

Table VI - 5: Population Guidelines for User-Oriented Recreation Activities, 2008

Facility	Location	Existing Number	Population Guideline (Min/Med/Max)	Actual
Baseball Fields*	Central Winds Park (4) Sunshine Park (2) Trotwood Park (2)	8 fields	1/2,000 1/5,000 1/10,000	1/2,152
Softball Fields*	Central Winds Park (4) Sunshine Park (1) Trotwood Park (1)	6 fields		
Basketball Court	Central Winds Park (1 half) Moss Park (1 full, 1 half) Sunshine Park (1 full) Torcaso Park (4 shooting baskets) Trotwood Park (2 full)	10 public 2 private	1/500 1/5,000 1/20,000	1/3,443
Bicycle ways	Cross Seminole Trail	14 miles (6 miles in the City)	1 mi/1,500 1 mi/5,000 1 mi/10,000	1 mi/2,460
Football Fields*	Central Winds Park (1)	1 fields	1/4,000 1/6,000 1/25,000	1/4,304
Lacrosse Fields*	Can be played on any soccer, football and/or multi-use fields.	No dedicated fields		
Soccer Fields*	Central Winds Park (7) Trotwood Park (4) Torcaso Park (1)	12 fields		
Racquetball/ Handball	Trotwood Park (2)	2 courts	1/2,500 1/10,000 1/20,000	1/17,217

Facility	Location	Existing Number	Population Guideline (Min/Med/Max)	Actual
Equipped Play Area	Central Winds Park (2 youth) Sunshine Park (1 tot, 1 youth) Torcaso Park (1 tot, 1 youth) Trotwood Park (1 tot, 1 youth) Moss Park (1 tot, 1 youth) Sam Smith (1 tot, 1 youth) Winding Hollow (1 tot, 1 youth) Oak Hollow (2 youth) Fruitwood (1 youth)	17 public 6 private	1/500 1/10,000 1/15,000	1/1,497
Multipurpose Fields	Central Winds Park (2)** Moss Park (1)	3 public	1/500 1/3,750 1/10,000	1/11,478
Tennis Courts	Trotwood Park (2)	2 public 15 private	1/1,067 1/2,000 1/10,000	1/1,913
Volleyball Courts	Central Winds Park (2) Ranchlands Park (1) Sunshine Park (1) Torcaso Park (1) Trotwood Park (1)	6 public 1 private	1/4,000 1/6,000 1/12,000	1/4,919
Swimming Pools	Senior Center Therapy Pool, Sunshine Park (1)	1 public 15 private	1/1000 1/25,000 1/50,000	1/34,433 (public) 1/2,152 (incl. private)

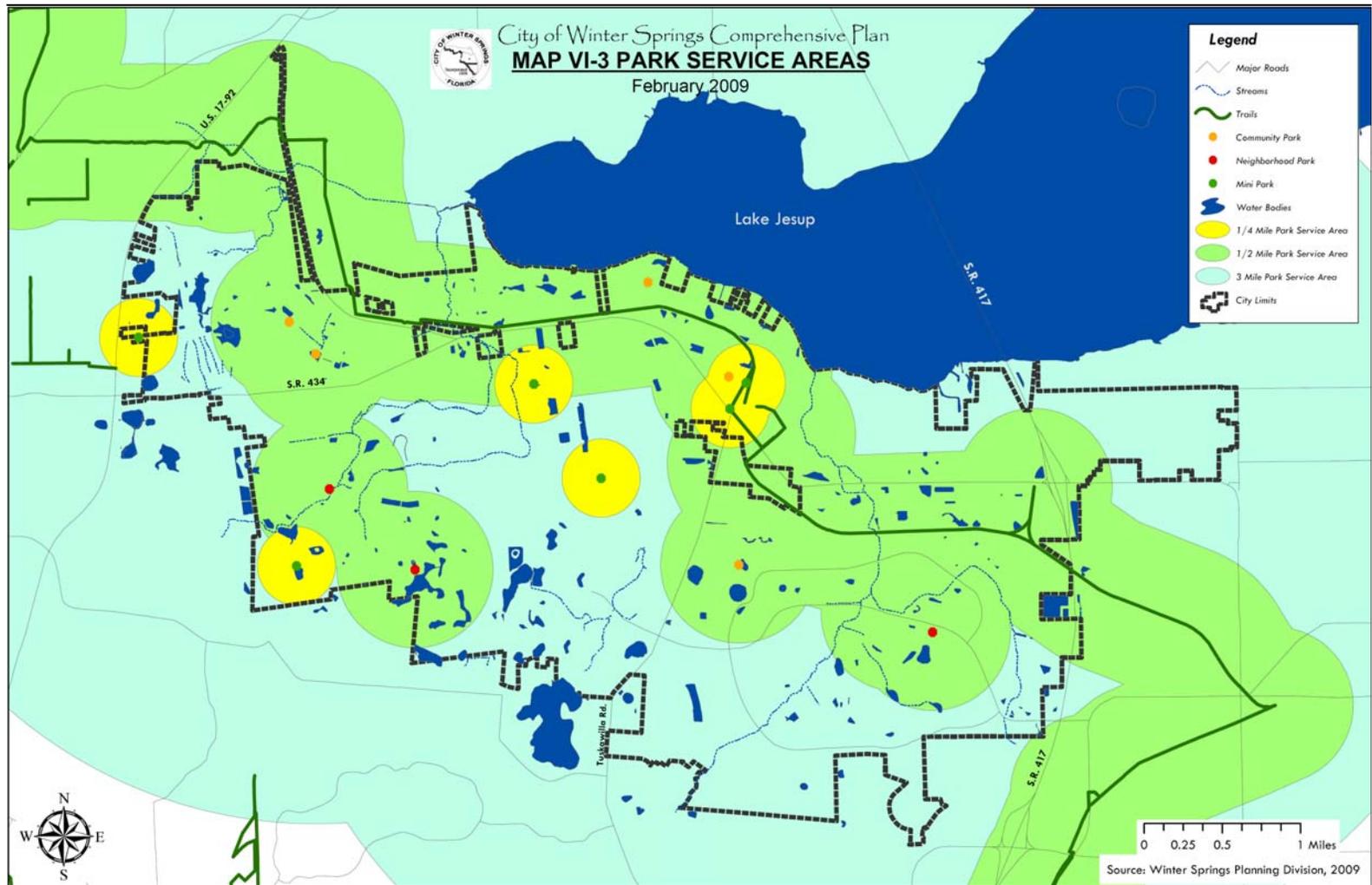
Note- Lacrosse is growing in popularity and can be played on any soccer, football and multi-use fields.

*DEP combines baseball and softball, and soccer and football.

** Includes the amphitheater

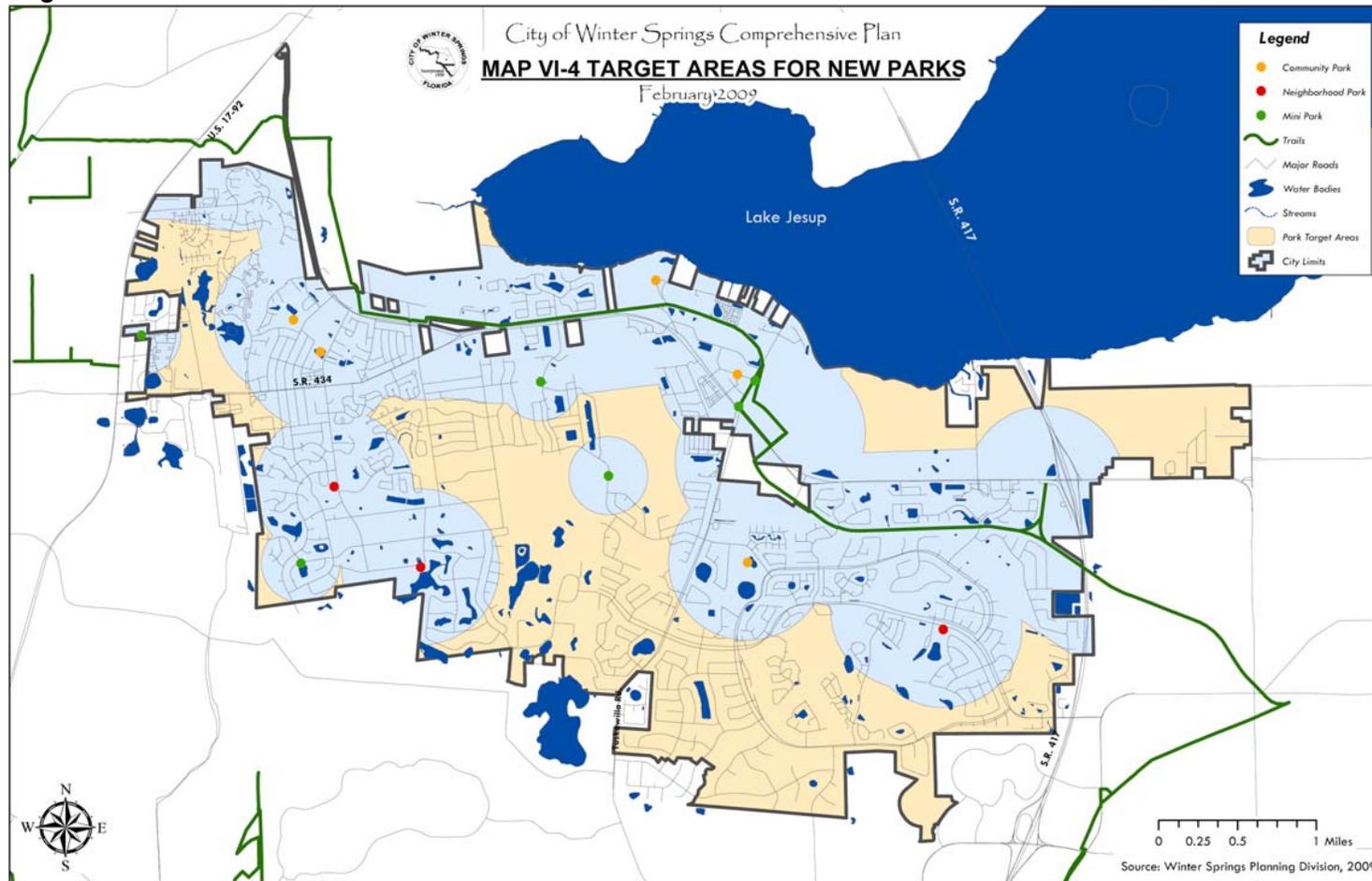
Source: Florida's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2007) and City of Winter Springs, September, 2008.

Map VI – 3: Park Service Areas



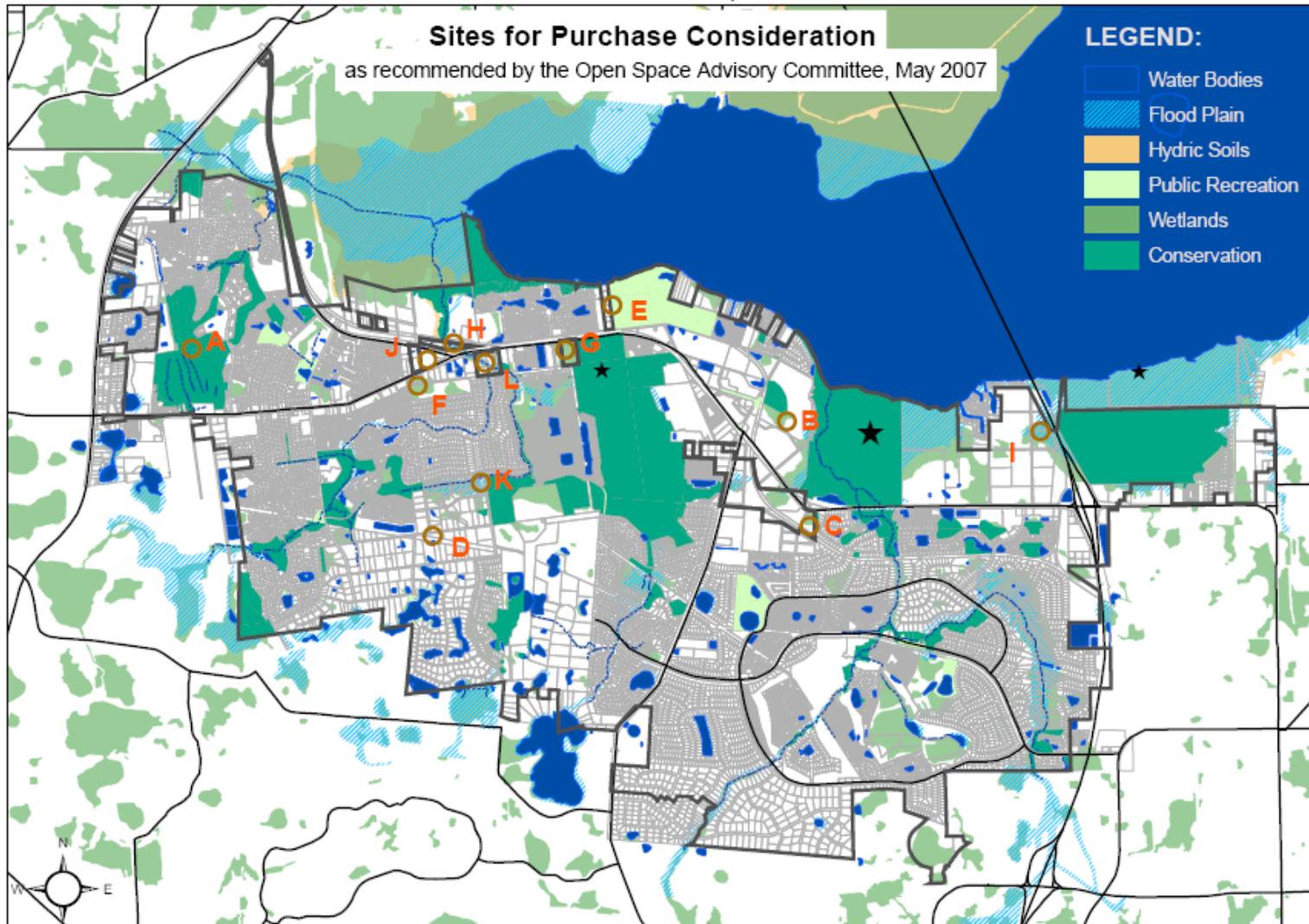
Note: This Map is intended as a planning resource to illustrate distance from existing public recreation areas within the City. It is a tool to be utilized during review of Future Land Use Map - 2030 change requests and during the development review process to help ensure the continued provision of accessible recreation areas within the City.

Map VI – 4: Target Areas for New Parks



Note: The light green area of this Map depicts “Park Target Areas”. The Map is intended as a planning resource to illustrate distance from existing public recreation areas within the City. It is a tool to be utilized during review of Future Land Use Map - 2030 change requests and during the development review process to help ensure the continued provision of accessible recreation areas within the City. City-owned “open space” or lands designated with a “conservation” future land use are not depicted and some of these areas may be included within the “park target areas” designation. However, it is not the intent that these areas be developed for recreational use. Rather, these areas are to be retained for the value they provide to the public under their current designation.

Map VI – 5: Sites for Purchase Consideration



Note: Sites are ranked alphabetically with “A” being the highest in priority, as determined by the committee.

3. Recreational Facilities

Access to existing parks is available to many special needs groups. All of the City parks provide parking for persons with disabilities and most provide paved paths and pavilions that are wheelchair accessible. Special considerations will need to be addressed on a site-by-site basis, for deficiencies in the special access needs of these groups. For example, while people with disabilities are provided parking areas at most of the parks, and wheelchair accessibility is provided in many, internal access to facilities is still limited in a few of the City's parks. Consideration to these access issues will need to be given at the time of new park development.

According to the ADA, an important aspect of accessibility to be considered when constructing new parks or altering existing parks, is the issue of stable ground surfacing, which allows a person with mobility impairment to negotiate with dignity. For example, a large area of loose fill such as sand or wood chips is not easily accessible. Rather, a design following ADA guidelines might use a combination of more rigid surfaces such as an engineered wood fiber, rubber surfaces along accessible routes, clear ground spaces, and maneuvering spaces, in conjunction with small areas of loose fill.

Per ADA standards, consideration should be given to the general layout of youth play areas, particularly to the integration of elements and spaces that can be accessed by children who are disabled. Specifically, in areas where elevated play components are provided, additional ground level play equipment must be provided and incorporated into the same play areas. Additionally, the ADA requires that at least 50% of elevated play components must be located on an accessible route and connected by a ramp. The inclusion of soft contained play structures would also provide recreational opportunities for children with disabilities.

The existing system of neighborhood and passive parks affords access to cyclists and pedestrians, as the parks are numerous and dispersed in residential areas throughout the City. Bicycle path facilities should continue to be designed so as to join recreational areas together with residential areas to upgrade the accessibility for all citizens to recreation areas. Access issues will be addressed specifically within the Goals, Objectives and Policies of this Element.

4. Meeting Future Recreation and Open Space Needs

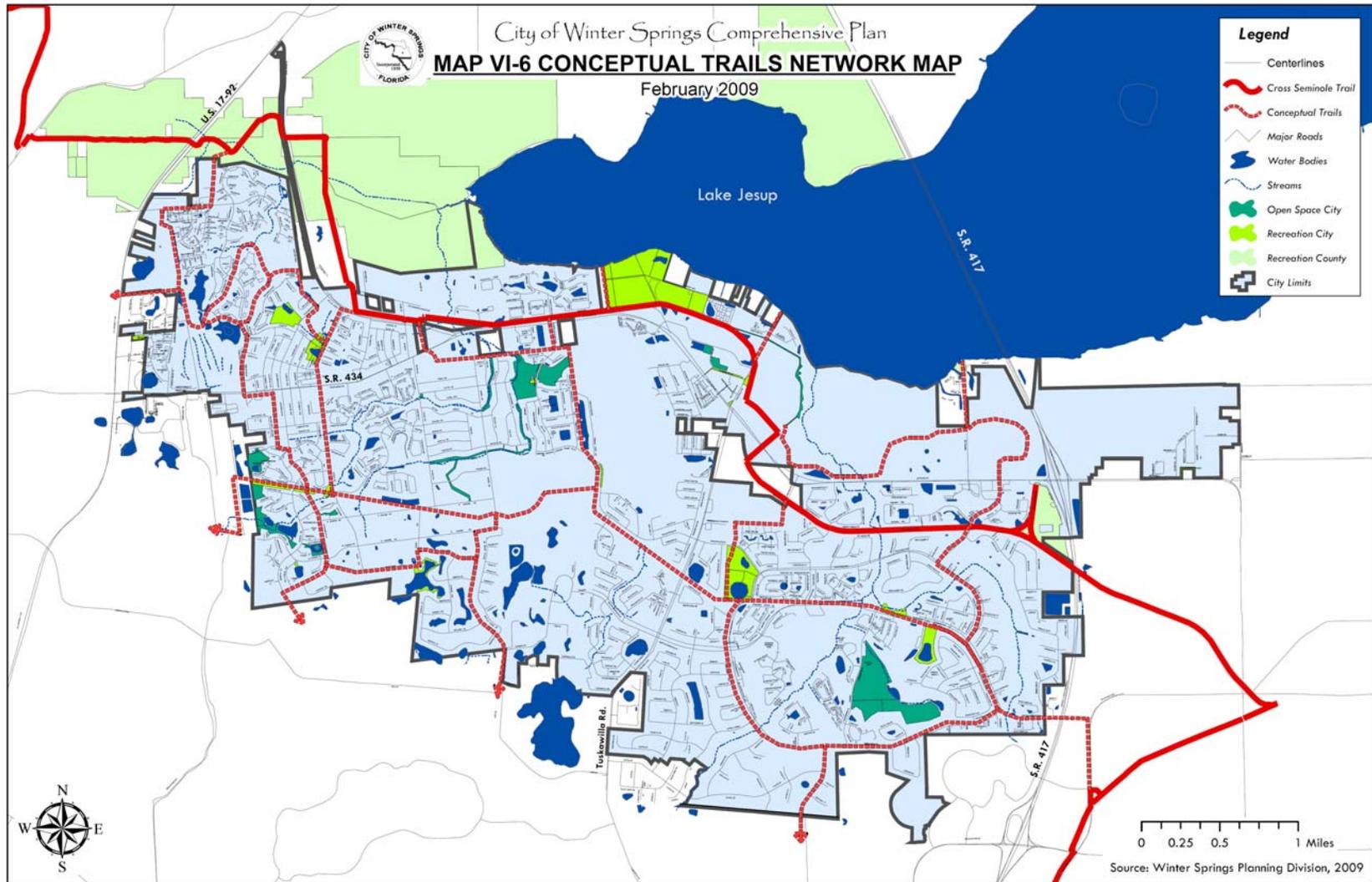
As illustrated on Table VI-1, the City does not expect to have any Overall Parkland deficiencies through 2030. The addition of Seminole County's planned Jetta Point Park (37 acres in Winter Springs) will further increase the surplus of Overall Parkland. A slight deficiency is projected in Open Space. However, with the conveyance of Wetland Park in the Town Center, this deficiency will be eliminated.

An important action needed by the City in the immediate future is the planning of a City trail system to interconnect with the Cross Seminole Trail. The City currently owns a portion of FP&L easement which could be the beginnings of this network. In order to accomplish this, several policies relating to trails have been added to the element, as well as a new objective in support of this effort.

5. Public Participation in Recreation Planning

The City has provided numerous opportunities for citizen input into the recreational planning of the City. The Parks and Recreation Department has held a number of public meetings, during which time, citizens were able to contribute their ideas and make requests for future recreational opportunities. An ad hoc advisory committee helped develop the Central Winds Expansion Master Plan. For improvements at Trotwood, neighborhoods were notified and input was requested door to door. Similar outreach has been conducted for Torcaso Park, with a Master Plan process initiated in September 2008. As noted above, the City will continue to conduct periodic surveys to identify future activity-based recreational preferences. That survey will need to identify not only preferences in terms of fields and courts, but also whether City residents would be willing to pay user fees for improved amenities, etc.

Map VI – 6: Conceptual Trails Network Map



Note: This conceptual map is intended to depict a network of multi-use trails and street rights-of way for the purpose of increasing future bicycle and pedestrian travel options within the City.