

CITY OF WINTER SPRINGS

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT



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Chapter VI | Recreation and Open Space Element

PREPARED BY
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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: Continue the 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 neighborhood park 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.
- Policy 1.1.15:** Periodically update and take action to implement the recommendations of the City of Winter Springs Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Objective 1.2: *Trails.* Pursue the expansion of 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:** The City may follow Seminole County Trail development and maintenance guidelines.
- Policy 1.2.4:** Work with utility providers 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: Conduct the 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, disabled 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: Explore funding sources to provide assistance to low-income families to obtain scholarship opportunities to participate in recreation programs.

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)

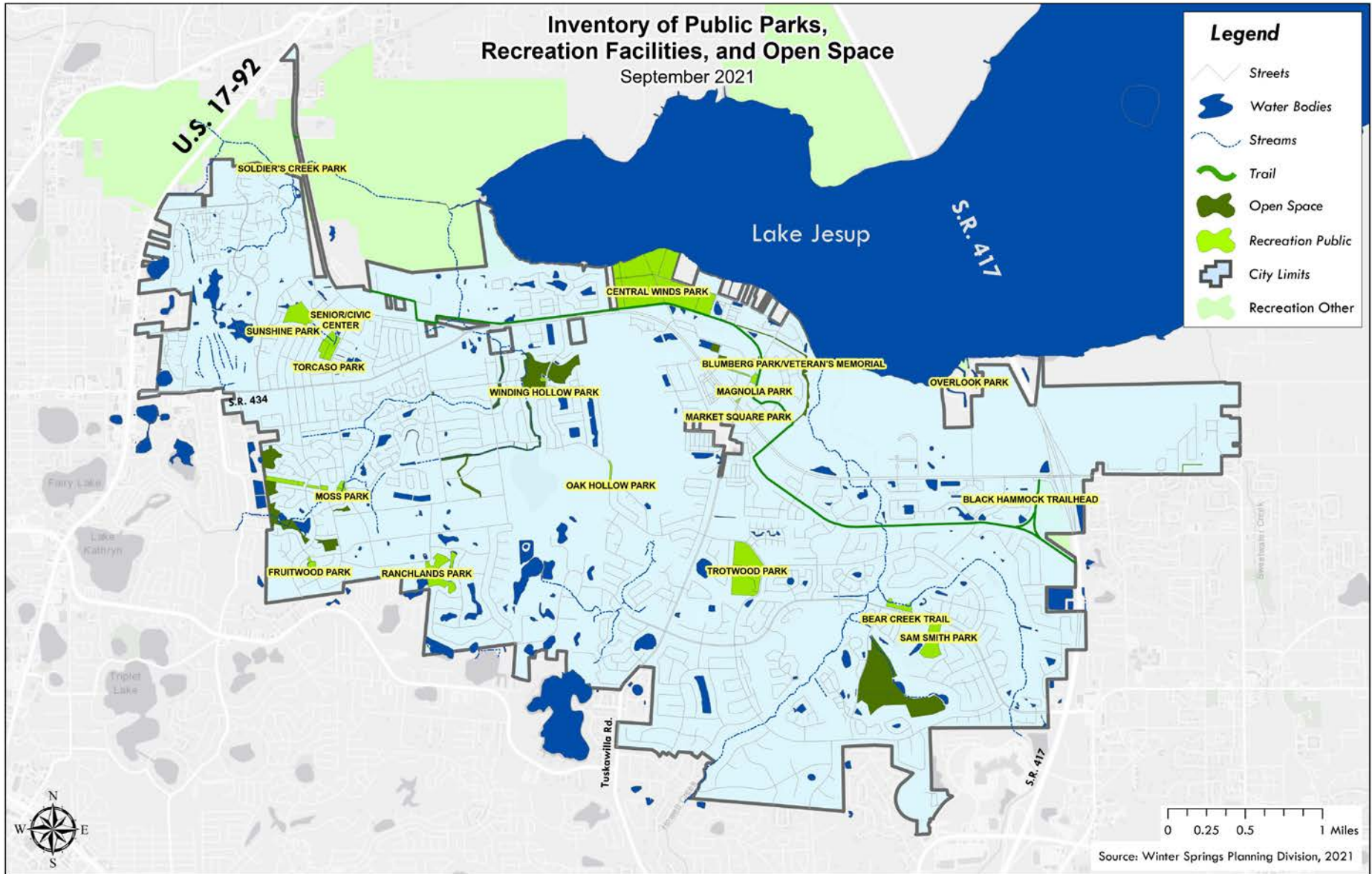
Table VI - 1: Park and Open Space Acreage, Based on Level of Service Standards

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	Required	Surplus/(Deficit)
2017	35,050	402	280.40	121.60	169.91	140.20	29.71
2021	37,773	410.88	302.18	108.70	175.43	151.09	24.34
2025	39,551	410.88	316.41	94.47	175.43	158.20	17.23
2030	41,119	410.88	328.95	81.93	175.43	164.48	10.95
2035	42,994	410.88	343.95	66.93	175.43	171.98	3.45
2040	44,572	410.88	356.58	54.30	175.43	178.29	-2.86

Source: American Community Survey 2015-2019; Projections by Shimberg Center for Housing Studies, based on 2010 and 2020 U.S. Census data and population projections by the Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida. 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.

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 - 2040 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 - 2040 as "Conservation". Conservation lands owned by the St. John's River Water Management District are not included. The addition of the continued expansion of Central Winds Park (7.66 acres) will eliminate the 2040 deficit of 2.86 acres.

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 2040.

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, 2020).

1. Public Parks and Open Space

The public park system within Winter Springs includes approximately 410.88 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 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 (2019)* published by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. 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	9,504
23 miles	Rock Springs Run State Reserve	14,165
23 miles	Lower Wekiva River Preserve State Park	17,375
23 miles	Lake Lotus Park	120

*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	6,220
11.7 miles	Little-Big Econ State Forest	10,279
25 miles	Buck Lake Conservation Area	9,606
25 miles	Seminole Ranch Conservation Area	6,000

*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)	1,500
6.9 miles	Black Hammock Wilderness Area	700
8.5 miles	Lake Jesup Wilderness Area	490
10.5 miles	Black Bear Wilderness Area	1,650
10.6 miles	Econ River Wilderness Area	240
10.8 miles	Geneva Wilderness Area (Includes Ed Yarborough Nature	180
13.6 miles	Lake Procter Wilderness Area	475

*driving mileage taken from Winter Springs Town Center

Source: FDEP Division of Recreation and Parks, September 2019; Greenways Natural Lands Seminole County, September 2019; St. Johns River Water Management District September 2019.

Trails (in or near Winter Springs):

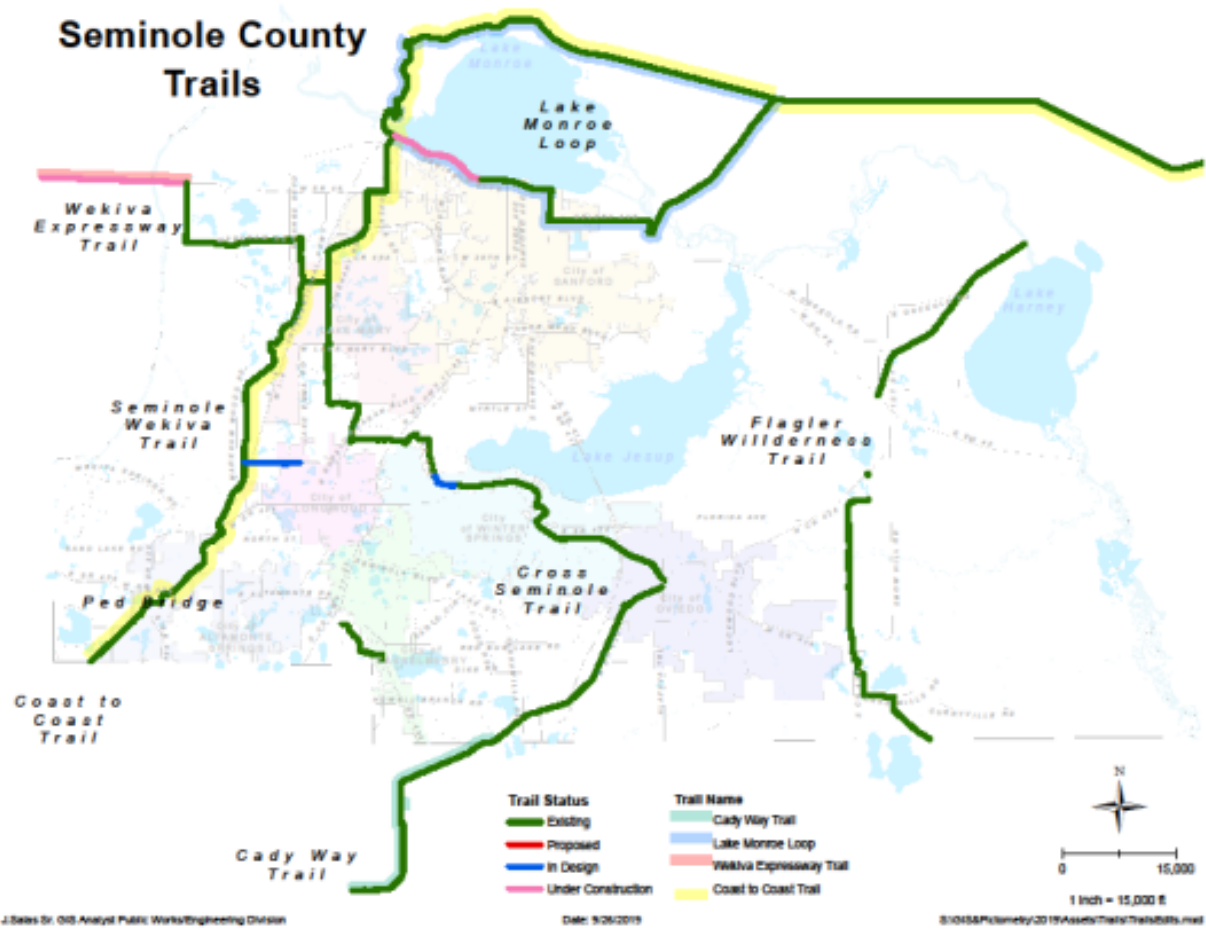
A network of trails provides a range of economic, aesthetic, environmental and recreation benefits to citizens of a community, beyond the benefits that accrue to private landowners. A trails network can increase residential and commercial property values, encourage the revitalization of declining area, 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 Cross Seminole Trail begins at its connection to the Cady Way Trail just south of Aloma and Howell Branch in Winter Park. It heads north for 23 miles where it connects to the Seminole Wekiva Trail at the pedestrian bridge over Interstate 4 in Lake Mary. The trail near and through Winter Springs currently runs through downtown Oviedo to Layer Elementary in Winter Springs, where a small gap exists. 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 connects seven schools: Layer Elementary, Winter Springs High School, Indian Trails Middle School, Keeth Elementary, Trinity Preparatory School, Oviedo High School, Lawton Elementary, and Choices in Learning Charter School. New segments of the Cross Seminole Trail include segments from the Oviedo Mall to State Road 434, Mikler Road to Red Bug Lake Road, including a pedestrian overpass over Red Bug Lake Road with a connection to State Road 426 near the Oviedo Mall. The trail was also realigned by the FDOT State Road 426 widening project and crosses at the signalized intersection of Marketplace Boulevard & State Road 426, which connects 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. (Blumberg Park) and Veteran’s Memorial in the Town Center and the Black Hammock Trailhead.

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
Recreation Classes
Senior Field Trips

Exercise, Yoga & Tai Chi
Billiards

The young are afforded the Civic Center Complex, a 4,000 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 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 “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 Tuskawilla 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. (Blumberg Park), Veteran’s Memorial, and the recently acquired pocket park along Michael Blake Blvd.), 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, 2020

Parks	Active Acres	Passive Acres (1)	Total Acres	Resources and Facilities
Trails				
Bear Creek Nature Trail	0.0	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	0.0	0.0	Natural Resources: None Recreational Facilities: Cross Seminole Trail Other: Paved Parking and Restrooms
Florida National Scenic Trail **	0.0	4.4	4.4	Natural Resources: Wetlands Recreational Facilities: None Other: Undeveloped
Cross Seminole Trail **	0.0	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 Park Blumberg Blvd. ** & Veteran's Memorial **	0.0	4.26	4.26	Natural Resources: None Recreational Facilities: Adjacent to Cross Seminole Trail Other: Fountains, pergolas, walkways, seating, manicured landscaping. Veteran's memorial with sculpture.

Central Winds Park	78.6	21.44	100.04	<p>Natural Resources: Nature/Environmentally sensitive area. Recreational Facilities: 4 baseball fields, 4 softball fields, 8 multipurpose fields (soccer/frisbee/football/lacrosse) 1 half basketball court, 2 volleyball courts, 2 playgrounds. Other: Dog park (small dog, large dog and training areas), fishing area, grass amphitheater & event space w/ power and stage platform, nature trail, cooking grills, 2 picnic pavilions, parks & recreation office, concession stand, restrooms</p>
Sunshine Park (a)	6.7	3.5	10.2	<p>Natural Resources: Lake (1.5-acres) Recreational Facilities: 3 softball fields, 1 full basketball court, 1 pickleball court, 1 horse shoe pit, 1 shuffle board court Other: Civic Center, Senior Center with indoor therapy pool, fishing area, , 1 picnic pavilion, restrooms</p>
Torcaso Park	4.8	3.19	7.99	<p>Natural Resources: Pond (1.9-acres) Recreational Facilities: 2 full sized basketballs with lighting, 1 multipurpose field, exercise course, 1 playground Other: Fishing area, splash pad , restrooms</p>
Trotwood Park	23.0	5.0	28.0	<p>Natural Resources: Lake Tuskawilla (6.4-acres) and smaller lake (1.6- acres) Recreational Facilities: 3 softball fields, 4 multipurpose fields, 2 full basketball courts, 2 tennis courts, 4 pickleball courts, adult fitness area, 1 playground, 1 splash playground. Other: Fishing pier, 3 medium pavilions, 1 4,000 sq. ft. pavilion restrooms</p>

Unnamed Pocket Park (0621315080P100000)	0.0	0.36	0.36	Proposed Pocket Park
Neighborhood Parks				
Moss Park	2.0	0.3	2.3	Natural Resources: Creek Recreational Facilities: 1 full basketball court, , 1 playground. Other: 1 picnic pavilions, restrooms
Ranchlands Park	0.5	0.5	1.0	Natural Resources: Lake (11.5- acres) Recreational Facilities: 2 cornhole courts, 1 outdoor table tennis, 1 BBQ grill Other: Fishing area, 1 picnic pavilion
Sam Smith Park	0.0	8.3	8.3	Natural Resources: Lake (4.6- acres), nature area Recreational Facilities: 1 playground. Other: Fishing area, , 2 picnic pavilions, restroom
Mini Parks				
Fruitwood Park	0.30	0.0	0.3	Natural Resources: Lake (2.1-acres) Recreational Facilities: 1 playground Other: None
Magnolia Square	0.0	0.3	0.3	Natural Resources: None. Recreational Facilities:: Adjacent to Cross Seminole Trail Other: Fountain and seating
Oak Hollow Park (linear park)	0.0	1.0	1.0	Natural Resources: None Recreational Facilities: 2 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 Recreational Facilities: 1 playground Other: 1 Picnic pavilion
Open Space				
Alton Creek	0.0	0.2	0.2	Natural Resources: Creek Recreational Facilities: None Other: Conservation
Foxmoor Park Unit 1	0.0	1.9	1.9	Natural Resources: Wetlands Recreational Facilities: None Other: None
Foxmoor Unit 2	0.0	1.6	1.6	Natural Resources: Lake (2.1-acres); Wetlands Recreational Facilities: None Other: None
Foxmoor Unit 3	0.0	4.89	4.89	Natural Resources: Lake (1.0-acres); Wetlands Recreational Facilities: None Other: None
Hickory Grove Park ** (Town Center)	0.0	4.5	4.5	Natural Resources: Native hickory trees Recreational Facilities: None
North Orlando Ranches Sec. 5	0.0	6.7	6.7	Natural Resources: Wetlands Recreational Facilities: None Other: Conservation
North Orlando Ranches Sec. 9	0.0	6.5	6.5	Natural Resources: Wetlands Recreational Facilities: None Other: Conservation
North Orlando Ranches Sec. 10	0.0	5.1	5.1	Natural Resources: Wetlands Recreational Facilities: None Other: Conservation

North Orlando Terrace Sec. 5	0.0	7.2	7.2	Natural Resources: Wetlands Recreational Facilities: None Other: Conservation
North Orlando Terrace Sec. 9	0.0	7.4	7.4	Natural Resources: Wetlands Recreational Facilities: None Other: Conservation
Tuscawilla Open Space	0.0	69.5	69.5	Natural Resources: Wetlands Recreational Facilities: None Other: Conservation
Unnamed Park (2620305AR0A00007N)	0.00	3.82	3.82	Natural Resources: Wetlands
Wetland Park (3120315TC000000B0)	0.0	22.92	22.92	Natural Resources: Wetlands Other: Conservation
Winding Hollow Park (b)	0.0	31.6	31.6	Natural Resources: Wetlands Recreational Facilities: None Other: Conservation
Total Open Space	0	175.43	175.43	
Total Overall Park Lands	116.40	294.48	410.88	

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

(1) Passive Acres 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 Parks and Recreation Department, 2021

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 / Greenway). 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 and fishing at Soldier's Creek.

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	
Environmental Learning Center	Boardwalks
	Wildlife
Wilderness Areas with	
Wildlife	Campgrounds And Primitive Camping
Hiking/Biking Trails	Horseback Riding Trails
Sports And Recreation Facilities	
Basketball Courts	Kids Playgrounds
Tennis Courts	Picnic Pavilions
Racquetball Courts	Support Facilities (Including Restrooms, Paved Parking, and Lighting)
Roller Hockey Rink	Dog Parks
Sand Volleyball Courts	Historically Significate Sites
Soccer/Football Fields	Jogging Trails/Exercise Stations
Softball/Baseball Fields	

Seminole County Parks include:

Driving Distance*	Name of Recreational Area:	Acreage**:
2.7 miles	Overlook Park	4
3.8 miles	Soldier's Creek Park	25
4.2 miles	Big Tree Park - Longwood	11
5.9 miles	Pawmosa Dog Park - Casselberry	1
6.4 miles	Sunland Park - Sanford	6
6.7 miles	Lake Dot Park - Sanford	5
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)	3
11.4 miles	Seminole County Sports Complex	22
11. 8 miles	Lake Mills Park - Chuluota	40
12.7 miles	Roseland Park - Sanford	2
12.8 miles	Midway Park - Sanford	2
13. 9 miles	Lake Monroe Wayside Park - Sanford	4
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, as well as youth basketball leagues and programs and special City events.. 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 for 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

- Tuscawilla Country Club & Golf Course 1500 Winter Springs Blvd., Winter Springs
- Sadkane School for Dance & Aikido 1013 W. SR 434, Casselberry
- Regal Cinema Oviedo Crossing 22 1500 Oviedo Mktp. Blvd., Oviedo
- Sports Heaven Batting Cages 1271 Belle Ave., Winter Springs
- YMCA 7900 Red Bug Lake Rd., Oviedo
- Planet Obstacle 1150 Emma Oaks Trail, Lake Mary
- Boing 532 S. Econ Circle, Oviedo

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, 2020.

Table VI - 3: Inventory of Private Recreational Facilities, 2020

Development/Facility Name	Pool	Club house	Golf Course	Shuffle Board	Basketball	Tennis	Playground	Volleyball	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			1-18 hole			8			
Hacienda Village	2	2		1					
Howell Creek/Eagles Watch	1	1			1		1		
<u>Integra 360</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>							<u>Trail</u>
<u>The Blake</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>							
<u>The Rize</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>							
Southern Oaks							1		
Tuskawilla Crossings	1	1					1		Trail
Wedgewood	1	1							
Winter Springs Village	2	2					1		Trail

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, December 2020.

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 anticipated to increase by over 7,000 residents by 2040. According to the U.S. Census, the median age increased from 34 to 37 from 1990 to 2000 to 42 in 2010 and is estimated at 43 in 2017. The percentage of persons aged 65 or older increased from 9.2% to 10.8% from 1990 to 2000 and continued to increase to 17.4% of the population according to the 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) estimates. 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.

During the Winter Springs 2030 and Beyond survey in 2019, a number of questions focused on parks and recreation and open space. Purchase of green space (i.e. natural lands) was a top priority for residents. Comments strongly suggested including arts, culture and theatre into recreation programming. Other comments included natural resource activities such as fishing and biking, a community pool and providing for more facilities/fields for a variety of sports. Willingness to fund facilities through increased taxes scored below a neutral rating at 2.95. Comments made it evident that a tax increase was not truly the way to go. Suggestions included looking in the budget for reallocation, user and event fees, partnership with the high school, or finding other sources of funding. Proponents in support of using tax dollars to pay for recreation facilities provided comments that if there was an increase it should be for specific projects vetted by the public and be primarily uses for natural areas, arts/culture or an aquatic center. Not only did the option of “Funding for a Sporting Complex” rate unfavorably (2.11), the comments provided were very clear that there are already existing larger facilities throughout Seminole County and there are plenty of existing facilities in the City. There were concerns about traffic, costs, and the large amount of greenspace that would be lost. Additional comments also focused on the need for arts and culture facilities. When asked about priorities for the City, the City-Wide Interconnected Trail System ranked highest (35%), followed by the Lake Jesup Boardwalk (26%). The Aquatic Center ranked next (20%), followed by the Library (12%). Indoor Recreation was the lowest ranking option (8%). In addition, during the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2020, a recreational survey was administered to the residents.

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* (2019). 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.

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, 2019

Activity	Resource/Facility	Guideline
Baseball/Softball	Basketball/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
Physical exercise (urban jogging and hiking)	Linear mile of exercise/parcourse trails	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 (2019)*.

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-4 identifies population and use 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 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.

Table VI - 5: Population and Use Guidelines for User-Oriented Recreation Activities, 2020

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	1/3,182
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) Sunshine Park (1 full) Torcaso Park (4 shooting baskets) Trotwood Park (2 full)	9 public 2 private	1/500 1/5,000 1/20,000	1/4,052
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/3,180
Football Fields*	Central Winds Park (1)	1 fields	1/4,000 1/6,000 1/25,000	1/3,428
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	1/2,286

Facility	Location	Existing Number	Population Guideline (Min/Med/Max)	Actual
Equipped Play Area	Central Winds Park (2) Sunshine Park (1) Torcaso Park (1) Trotwood Park (1) Moss Park (1) Sam Smith (1) Winding Hollow (1) Oak Hollow (1) Fruitwood (1)	10 public 6 private	1/500 1/10,000 1/15,000	1/2,786
Multipurpose Fields	Central Winds Park (2)** Moss Park (1)	3 public	1/500 1/3,750 1/10,000	1/14,857
Tennis Courts/Pickle ball Courts	Trotwood Park (2 TC and 2 portable PC))	4 public 15 private	1/1,067 1/2,000 1/10,000	1/2,346
Volleyball Courts	Central Winds Park (2) Sunshine Park (1) Trotwood Park (1)	4 public 1 private	1/4,000 1/6,000 1/12,000	1/11,143
Swimming Pools	Senior Center Therapy Pool, Sunshine Park (1)	1 public 15 private	1/1,000 1/25,000 1/50,000	1/44,572 (public) 1/2,786 (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 (2019) and City of Winter Springs, September, 2020.

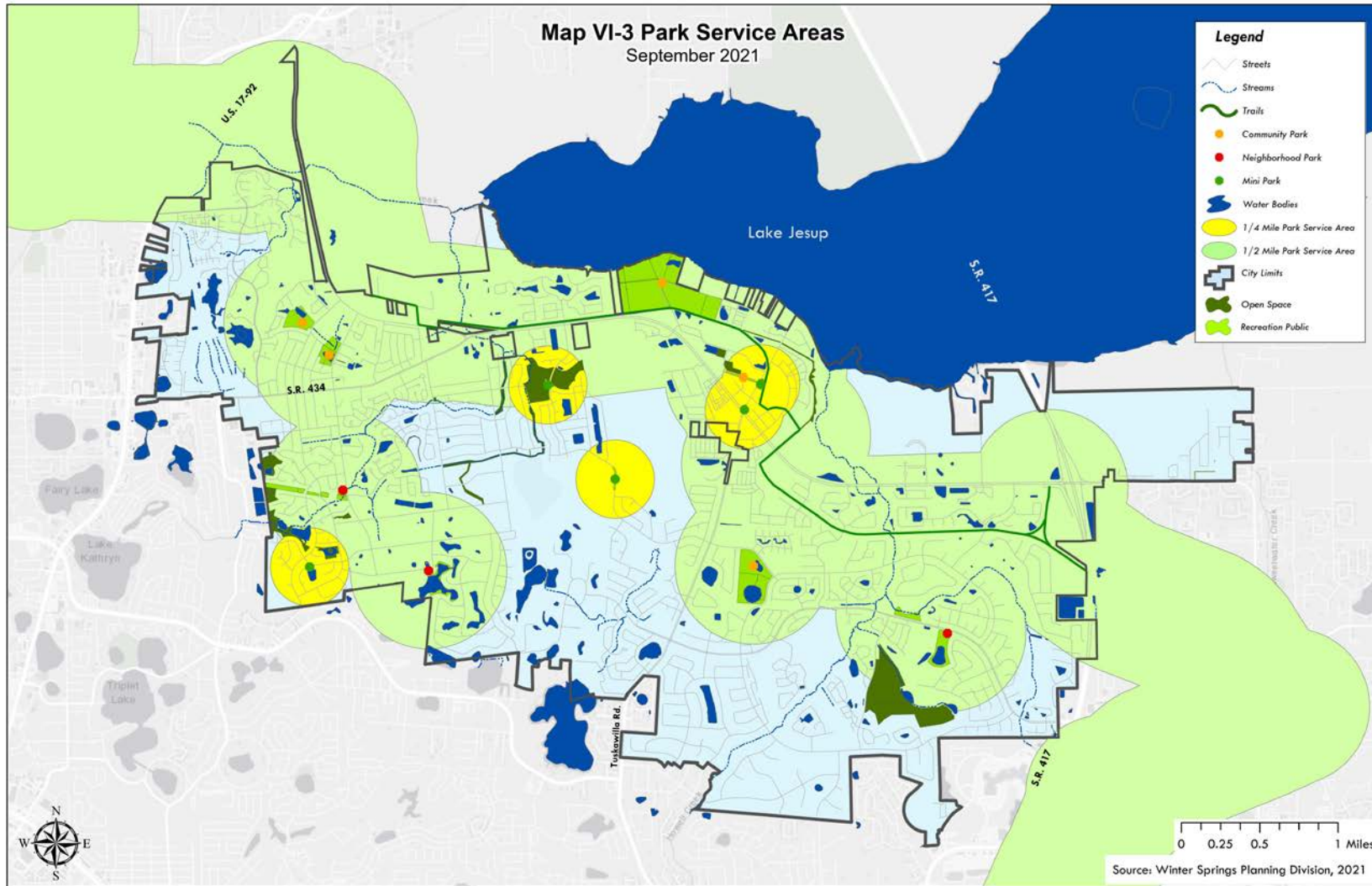
Levels of Service (LOS) Standards

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 1,000 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 increased the Overall Parkland LOS acreage from 5 acres per 1,000 residents to 8 acres per 1,000 residents.

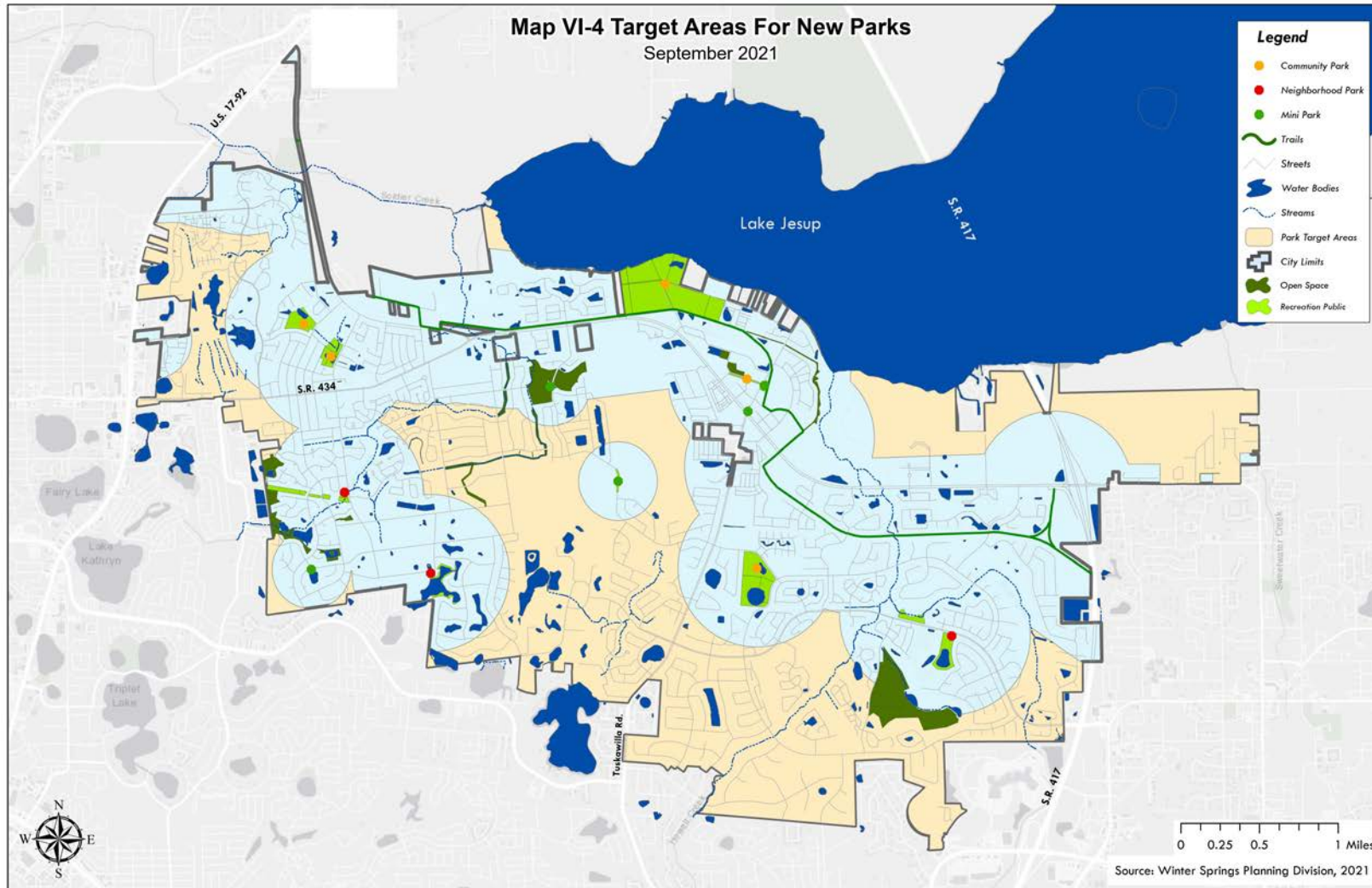
Additionally, a LOS for Open Space has been implemented. This LOS has been set at 4 acres per 1,000 residents to encourage the provision of public open space in Winter Springs. Table VI-1 illustrates the existing park and open space acreage through 2040, based on LOS standards.

Map VI – 3: Park Service Areas



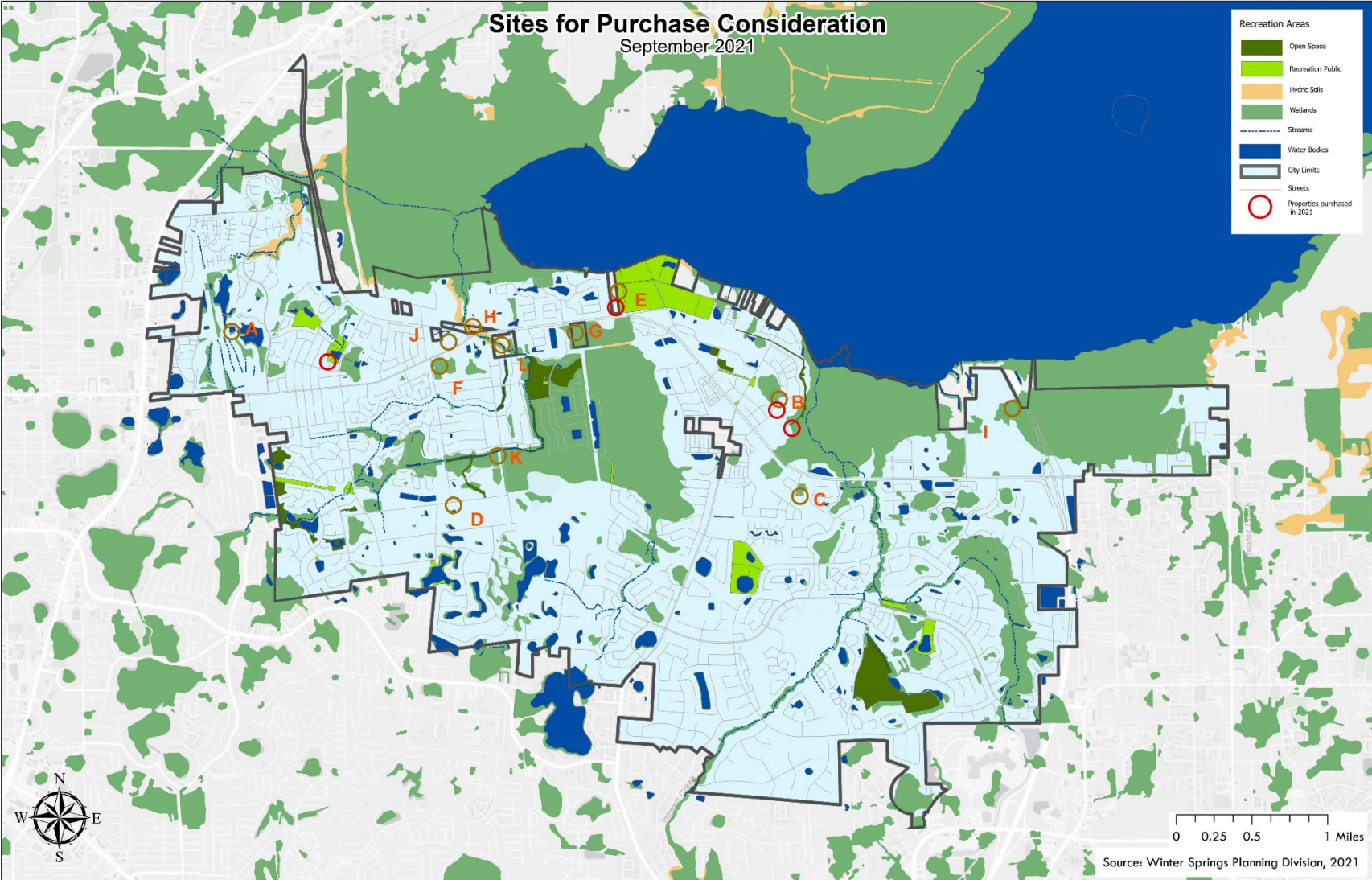
Note: This Map is intended as a planning resource to illustrate distance from existing public recreation areas within the City. It is a tool to be utilized during review of Future Land Use Map - 2040 change requests and during the development review process to help ensure the continued provision of accessible recreation areas within the City.

Map VI – 4: Target Areas for New Parks



Note: The light tan 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 - 2040 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 or renovations.

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act (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

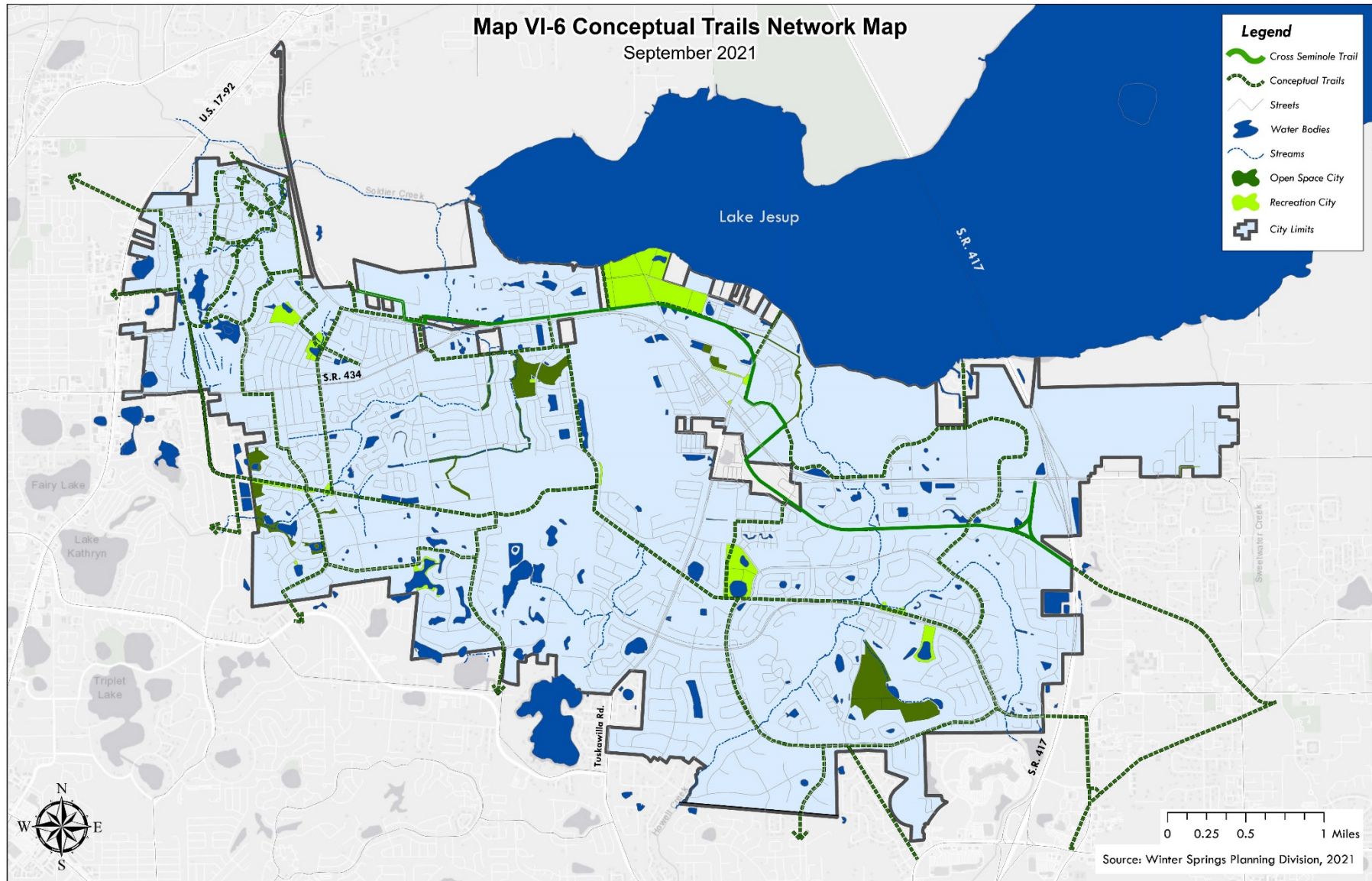
As illustrated on Table VI-1, the City does not expect to have any overall Park deficiencies through 2040.

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. The City of Winter Springs finalized the Parks and Recreation Master Plan in July 2021. 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.

During the Winter Springs 2030 and Beyond survey in 2019, a number of questions focused on parks and recreation and open space. Purchase of green space (i.e. natural lands) was a top priority for residents. Comments strongly suggested including arts, culture and theatre into recreation programming. Other comments included natural resource activities such as fishing and biking, a community pool and providing for more facilities/fields for a variety of sports.

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.

Ron DeSantis
GOVERNOR



Dane Eagle
SECRETARY

May 19, 2022

The Honorable Kevin McCann
Mayor, City of Winter Springs
City Hall
1126 East State Road 434
Winter Springs, Florida 32708

Dear Mayor McCann:

The Department of Economic Opportunity (“Department”) has completed its review of the comprehensive plan amendment for the City of Winter Springs adopted by Ordinance No. 2021-08 on March 28, 2022 (Amendment No. 21-03ER), which was received and determined complete on April 5, 2022. We have reviewed the amendment in accordance with the state coordinated review process set forth in Sections 163.3184(2) and (4), Florida Statutes (F.S.), and have determined that the adopted amendment meets the requirements of Chapter 163, Part II, F.S., for compliance, as defined in Section 163.3184(1)(b), F.S. The Department is therefore issuing a Notice of Intent to find the comprehensive plan amendment “In Compliance.” A copy of the Notice of Intent is enclosed and will be posted on the Department’s Internet website. You may access the Notice of Intent at: <http://floridajobs.force.com/orc>.

The Department’s Notice of Intent to find a plan amendment “In Compliance” is deemed to be a final order if no timely petition challenging the amendment has been filed. If this plan amendment is challenged by an affected person, the amendment will not become effective until the Department or the Administration Commission enters a final order determining the amendment to be “In Compliance.”

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity | Caldwell Building | 107 E. Madison Street | Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 245.7105 | www.FloridaJobs.org | [www.Twitter.com/FLDEO](https://twitter.com/FLDEO) | www.Facebook.com/FLDEO

An equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and service are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. All voice telephone numbers on this document may be reached by persons using TTY/TTD equipment via the Florida Relay Service at 711.

The Honorable Kevin McCann

May 19, 2022

Page 2 of 2

If you have any questions concerning this review, please contact Paul Lim, Planning Analyst, by telephone at (850) 717-8511 or by email at Paul.Lim@deo.myflorida.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Corvin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kelly D. Corvin, Regional Planning Administrator
Bureau of Community Planning and Growth

JDS/pl

Enclosure: Notice of Intent

cc: Christopher Schmidt, Economic and Community Development Director, City of Winter Springs
Tara McCue, AICP, Executive Director, East Central Florida Regional Planning Council