

Exhibit A: RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND CULTURAL ARTS ELEMENT

GOAL: Provide, preserve, revitalize and enhance all park, trail, recreation, open space and cultural art resources to meet the needs of the current and projected population.

OBJECTIVE 1: The City shall continue to plan for the recreational, open space, and park facility needs of current and future members of the community.

Policy 1.1: The City shall consider the 2010 Recreation and Parks Master Plan in providing recreational site and facilities.

Policy 1.2: The City shall review the Recreation and Parks Master Plan every five (5) years to determine if revisions are necessary to maintain adopted Level of Service (LOS) standards and promote community walkability and recreational objectives.

OBJECTIVE 2: The City shall provide recreation sites and facilities to meet current and future parks, recreation, open space, cultural arts and conservation needs, according to the LOS standards identified within this element.

Policy 2.1: The City hereby adopts the following park acreage LOS standards which shall be implemented as follows:

1. Neighborhood and Community Parks – The LOS Standard for Neighborhood and Community Parks shall be 4.6 acres per 1000 residents (.0046 acre per person), as described in the 2010 Recreation and Parks Master Plan.
2. The Neighborhood and Community Parks LOS shall be maintained within each of the five regional parks service areas (RPSA) as illustrated in the Recreation and Parks Master Plan.
3. Where a RPSA does not meet the required LOS, and suitable sites as described in Policy 2.2 are not available for Neighborhood or Community Parks, alternative sites in adjacent service areas shall be identified and developed and credited toward the LOS requirement for the LOS deficient service area, to the extent the adjacent service areas exceed their required LOS acreage and to the extent that the site in the adjacent service area can justifiably be expected to serve the deficient RPSA.
4. City owned and operated Neighborhood and Community Parks shall be credited toward LOS.
5. Privately owned and operated Neighborhood and Community Parks within the city limits shall be credited toward LOS only as provided in Policy 2.6 of this element.
6. Community Parks which are operated by another public agency (i.e. Federal, State, and County) and which are located within the City, or which are no more than two miles from the City's incorporated limits and which could reasonably be expected to serve City residents, shall be counted toward LOS.
7. For planning purposes only, the design size of a Neighborhood Park is 0.50 to 10.0 acres, while the typical size of a Community Park is greater than 10.0 acres.

Policy 2.2: The following thresholds shall be used to schedule the funding and construction of new Community and Neighborhood parks:

1. A park project shall be added to the Capital Improvement Program and Capital Improvement Element for the fiscal year in which the projected LOS deficiency in a service area reaches five (5) acres.
2. A park project shall be scheduled for funding within three (3) years of the Capital Improvement Program and Capital Improvement Element for the fiscal year in which the confirmed LOS deficiency in a service area reaches five (5) acres. The park site shall be acquired and the park construction complete within three (3) years of the date that the LOS deficiency was confirmed.
3. The Recreation and Parks Department shall use the Existing Parks Inventory and Analysis of the 2010 Recreation and Parks Master Plan as amended and updated in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan goals, objectives and policies to monitor projected level of service deficiencies on an annual basis.

Policy 2.3: By 2014, the Recreation and Parks Department in cooperation with the Planning Department and other City staff shall survey, inventory and rank private and publicly owned land for possible future acquisition for parks and open space to meet level of service requirements and shall maintain a schedule of same.

Policy 2.4: The criteria for evaluating appropriate, viable, and suitable sites for dedication, acquisition and development of future Community or Neighborhood Parks shall include the following:

1. The site is located in a Regional Park Service Area with a current or projected LOS deficiency.
2. The site is or will be accessible from a public right of way.
3. The site is or will be visible from a public street.
4. If a Neighborhood Park, the site is or will be located within or adjacent to a residential neighborhood.
5. The site edge is or will be strategically spaced from existing or proposed parks by not more than 1½ miles nor less than ½ mile (creating a walking radius of ¼ to ¾ miles); and, except that where two or more existing parks are more than three miles apart, it shall be located somewhere near the midpoint between the two.
6. The site is or will be free of any environmental constraints.
7. The site has special historical, archeological or ecological considerations that require special attention for preservation purposes.
8. The site provides linkage to other recreation and parks systems or trails.
9. The site is more than ¼ mile from heavy industrial uses.

Policy 2.5: In addition to the adopted Neighborhood and Community Park LOS Acreage Standards, the City shall plan amenity and facility needs in accordance with state recommendations outlined in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). While not used for concurrency management purposes, these guidelines shall be used to

conscientiously guide park acquisition and recreation facility development throughout the planning period.

Policy 2.6: By 2013, the City shall inventory all private recreation resources in the City in order to evaluate how those sites contribute to current and future Recreation and Parks LOS. To the extent that these private facilities serve a minimally proportionate number of people, they shall contribute to and offset LOS acreage requirements for the region in which they lie. The following formula shall be used to determine if a private facility serves the required minimally proportionate number of people:

Park Acreage divided by the number of residents in the neighborhood is greater than or equal to .0046 (equivalent to the 4.6 acres per 1,000 persons level of service requirement).

(For purposes of this calculation only, the number of residents shall be calculated by multiplying the number of houses by 2.30.)¹

Policy 2.7: By 2013, the Recreation and Parks Department, with the assistance of the Planning Department, shall develop for City Council's consideration, land development regulations that will require new subdivisions with 37 homes or more to provide land for parks in compliance with the adopted LOS for parks. The required total acreage shall be calculated using the formula provided below:

of Houses X 2.30 X .0046 = Total Acreage

To the extent that the total required acreage exceeds ten (10) acres, the acreage shall be divided into smaller parcels and disbursed through the subdivision in keeping with the goal of walkability. The land development regulations shall specify circumstances under which the required facilities shall be publicly or privately maintained dependent upon public access limitations and other factors as determined by the City. Other criteria related to the provision of minimal amenities to designate the park as a Neighborhood Park (as opposed to urban open space, which does not qualify as LOS acreage) shall be incorporated.

Policy 2.8: By 2013, the Recreation and Parks Department will make a report to the Ocala City Council; outlining acreage needs to meet LOS and facility needs based on current and future population and after factoring in other LOS criteria provided in this element.

Policy 2.9: The City Recreation and Parks Department will coordinate with the Public Works Department to evaluate City-owned stormwater facilities that could be effectively transitioned into neighborhood park facilities. The Recreation and Parks Department shall cooperate with the Public Works Department to determine responsibility and provide the appropriate level of maintenance for dual use facilities. This re-purposing or dual use of land

¹ The City has an average household size of 2.30 persons per household (2010 US Census, US Census Bureau). This number will be adjusted as needed to reflect the current US Census Bureau data for household size.

owned by the City may be included when calculating acreage needs for current and future park acreage LOS.

Policy 2.10: Throughout the planning period, the Recreation and Parks Department shall maintain a database of parks, facilities and equipment which have met criteria stated herein and which have been determined to contribute to the City's LOS land requirements or facilities standards. This database shall include those that are City owned or operated, as well as those that are owned/operated by other public, non-profit or private agencies.

OBJECTIVE 3: The City shall administer public and private recreation and parks resources including funding, maintaining and operating City facilities and programs in order to accommodate current and projected recreation and parks needs as outlined in the Recreation and Parks Master Plan.

Policy 3.1: By 2013, the City shall amend the Chapter 46 of the City Code, to be consistent with these Comprehensive Plan policies and recommendations of the Recreation and Parks Master Plan.

Policy 3.2: By 2014, the Recreation and Parks Department shall develop and maintain a list of funding alternatives that could potentially be used to upgrade existing facilities and help finance new facilities.

Policy 3.3: By 2013, the Recreation and Parks Department shall develop a Fee Policy which shall provide for fair and equitable distribution of direct program costs to participants; and provide for the continued collection of user fees at certain identified specialized recreation facilities to help defray the cost of maintaining and operating these facilities.

Policy 3.4: Understanding that the City taxpayer should not shoulder the burden of non-resident use of City facilities and participation in City provided programs, the City will determine the demand of County residents on City parks and facilities and the appropriateness of incorporating surcharges on County resident utilization of those facilities and programs by 2014. This evaluation shall also factor in the extent to which the County provides or funds programs and facilities provided within the incorporated City. Non-resident surcharge recommendations shall be incorporated into the adopted fee policy.

Policy 3.5: By 2013, the City shall identify older parks in need of redevelopment or facility replacement and assign each a priority for improvement to better meet the current and future needs of existing residents. Improvement of these parks shall take priority over development of new parks, with regard to expenditure of public funds.

Policy 3.6: By 2015, the Recreation and Parks Department and Growth Management Department shall develop park (natural, cultural, facility and educational) master/management plans for all City Community Parks. These plans shall be used to prioritize operating and maintenance decisions for the specific park.

Policy 3.7: By 2013, the Recreation and Parks Department shall prepare a Facilities Maintenance and Replacement Plan, based upon industry standards, that requires adequate planning and funding to keep existing amenities maintained and operating at a level of service acceptable to the community. Funding for this plan shall be incorporated into the Capital Improvement Element and Capital Improvement Plan as appropriate.

Policy 3.8: By 2013, the City will initiate programs to enlist the help of groups and individuals in maintaining and beautifying parks and recreation facilities; recruit volunteers to monitor parks and facilities for potential hazards, vandalism and general park mistreatment; and to emphasize good stewardship principles in our younger generations.

Policy 3.9: By 2014, the City will initiate a City Park Benefactor Program that encourages private commercial businesses and other philanthropic organizations to donate financially to park and trails improvements in the City.

Policy 3.10: Throughout the planning period, the City shall continue the pursuit of grants and outside funding sources for parks expansion and development of new parks facilities. The City Recreation and Parks Department will pursue outside funding from FDOT, the St. Johns Water Management District, Florida Trails Association, Florida Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Federal grant and loan programs and not for profit grant foundations.

Policy 3.11: The Recreation and Parks Department will coordinate with the Tourist Development Council and Visitors and Convention Bureau to provide them with information needed to market Ocala as a quality event and sports venue; to identify tournaments and events which could provide local economic impact; to identify facility expansions needed to attract quality tournaments and events; and for funding assistance needed to support the solicitation and operation of these events on City property.

OBJECTIVE 4: The City, through its recreation and parks facilities and programs and through related design standards, shall provide a community environment that fosters walkability, healthful alternatives for use of leisure time, safe and open access for persons of all ages and abilities, and encourages citizens to participate to the maximum extent of their ability according to their varied individual interests.

Policy 4.1: The City shall provide a variety of active and passive outdoor recreational facilities in its parks. In addition to traditional facilities such as play equipment, athletic fields/courts, etc. this variety shall include nature trails or boardwalks, interpretive displays, educational programs, wildlife observational areas, historic or archeological preservation areas and other non-traditional facilities such as splash parks and skate parks to provide recreational usage for a wide range and age of park user. The City will consider ways to balance the traditional recreational programs and facilities with “out of the box” programs and facilities.

Policy 4.2: By 2013, the Recreation and Parks Department shall inventory the availability of bicycle parking racks at all community and neighborhood parks and shall develop a plan to address deficiencies and provide adequate bicycle parking racks for all Community and Neighborhood Parks by 2015.

Policy 4.3: Parks shall be located, designed and developed to serve as a primary organizing and focal point for City neighborhoods, reinforcing neighborhood identity and sense of community.

Policy 4.4: To serve as a catalyst for a healthy, walkable Ocala, by 2015, the Recreation and Parks Department shall develop a Neighborhood Walking Trails Plan that provides a program that is readily identifiable throughout the City and which provides ready access to walking trails in all park regions. The plan shall include an inventory of existing facilities including any improvements or upgrades needed to same; proposed facilities to augment what exists; a plan for connectivity to other City trails and greenways; costs and timeline for implementation; and funding alternatives.

Policy 4.5: To promote knowledge about community health, risk factors for chronic disease, and available fitness programs, the Recreation and Parks Department shall participate in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Healthy Communities Program.

Policy 4.6: Throughout the planning period, the Recreation and Parks Department shall require that all new play ground equipment be protected from car traffic or other readily identifiable hazards by locating the play area at least 50 feet from the street or potential hazard or by providing a fence (or other suitable barrier). Additionally the Department shall evaluate existing facilities against this standard and develop a plan to bring those facilities into compliance by September 2015.

Policy 4.7: By March 2013, the Recreation and Parks Department shall conduct a detailed Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance study to verify accessibility deficiencies within City parks and develop a compliance mitigation strategy and schedule in the form of the required ADA Transition Plan. Moving forward, the City shall require that all new facilities are constructed in compliance with Federal ADA Regulations or state building regulations (whichever is more stringent).

Policy 4.8: Throughout the planning period, the City shall require that all new playgrounds and equipment in Neighborhood Parks are in compliance with federal ADA Regulations and that all new playgrounds and equipment in Community Parks meet ADA and industry recognized universal accessibility guidelines.

Policy 4.9: By 2014, the City shall prepare a Public Space Plan for the downtown area. The Public Space Plan should identify areas for development of pedestrian oriented streetscapes/corridors, bicycle/pedestrian trail connections to and through the downtown area, the possible expansion of existing parks, or other space utilization that will encourage pedestrian usage, redevelopment and infill activities, and residential development in the downtown area.

Policy 4.10: The Recreation and Parks Department shall require that City park facility design standards and department operating policies consider other public safety concerns such as shade for play structures and spectator seating areas; no smoking in areas where children would be expected to play or congregate; and control of, caring for and restricting areas of access for dogs in parks.

Policy 4.11: By 2015, the Recreation and Parks Department and the Growth Management Department shall develop a Greenways and Bicycle/Pedestrian Trails Master Plan to establish general trails routing, identification of trail rights-of-ways, the design of various trail sections, linkage to and integration with on-street bicycle lanes and the development of budgetary projections for acquisition, construction and maintenance of the trail system.

Policy 4.12: By 2016, The City shall begin creation of a greenways system, consistent with the Greenways and Bicycle/Pedestrian Trails Master Plan that connects parks and recreation facilities through the use of pedestrian sidewalks, bike paths or bike lanes. These pedestrian and bicycle linkages shall be designed to follow designated canopy roads, where possible. The opportunity to link City parks and recreation facilities to the greenways system shall be one of the criteria used in future park site acceptance or acquisition.

Policy 4.13: By 2013, the City will develop and implement a City-wide WayFinding Program to direct visitors and citizens to community landmarks, and points of interest, including the City's public parks.

OBJECTIVE 5: The City shall develop, preserve and protect significant natural, historic and cultural resources at all existing parks and park lands, recreational and open space sites and facilities.

Policy 5.1: To promote the preservation of the City's historical and archeological resources and the Fort King National Historic Landmark and to encourage public education opportunities regarding Ocala's heritage, the City shall support public/private partnerships to develop and operate the Fort King site. The City shall review all development and operation activities for compliance with the State approved Fort King Park Management Plan.

Policy 5.2: To promote protection of unique geological features at Scott Springs Park and to provide for water quality assurance, the City shall continue to regulate stormwater discharge to the sink. The Recreation and Parks Department shall provide opportunities for citizens to observe and understand the unique geological features while ensuring safety.

The City shall review all development and operation activities at Scott Springs for compliance with the State approved Scott Springs Management Plan.

Policy 5.3: The City shall require in the Land Development Regulations that all new parks and recreation facilities be appropriately buffered from adjacent land uses to minimize adverse impacts. Proposed buffer design shall provide for safety and visibility by park users, consistent with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles. For buffer purposes, parks and recreation facilities will be treated as residential uses. In cases where the development of adjacent lands precedes acquisition of the park land, buffers between new recreational sites and adjacent properties shall be on the park property and shall be sufficient to minimize adverse impacts from or to adjacent lands. When the adjacent property is commercial, the park shall include a buffer of a minimum of twenty-five (25) feet in depth, or as otherwise deemed appropriate for site conditions and CPTED principles. In cases where development of commercial adjacent lands comes after the park acquisition, the same buffers shall be required, except that they shall be provided on the commercial property.

Policy 5.4: To aid in the protection of habitat for native wildlife and with special consideration for wildlife that has been listed as imperiled or endangered, the City shall annually review its Exotic, Feral, and Nuisance Animal Policy and operating practices and update same as required to stay in compliance with Federal, State and Local regulations regarding the control of nuisance, invasive, feral domestic animals and wildlife.

Policy 5.5: To aid in the protection of native wildlife and vegetative communities, the Recreation and Parks Department shall continue monitoring of same on a regular basis on designated park properties; shall report the finding of imperiled or endangered species to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory; and shall support the ongoing protection of those wildlife species and vegetative communities through appropriate control of invasive exotics, and through design, construction and management activities.

Policy 5.6: By 2015, the City will identify creative and sustainable “green” park design standards to guide planning and engineering design practices that will minimize site impacts, reduce total operational and maintenance costs, reduce power consumption, reduce stormwater runoff and capture available water for on-site usage.

OBJECTIVE 6: The City shall coordinate with Marion County Parks and Recreation, and Marion County Public Schools to provide shared development and operation of park and recreational facilities to provide cost-effective park, open space and recreational services to the residents of Ocala and Marion County.

Policy 6.1: City staff shall continue to coordinate with Marion County Parks and Recreation and Marion County Public Schools to facilitate public access to school recreational facilities during off-school hours (i.e. athletic facilities, playgrounds, etc.) Understanding that this use does not contribute to the satisfaction of City LOS requirements, it does further neighborhood recreational needs and community walkability objectives.

Policy 6.2: The City will coordinate with Marion County Parks and Recreation and Marion County Public Schools to develop appropriate cost sharing initiatives and standards regarding the provision of all recreational and athletic facilities that serve public and school related athletic and recreational needs to maximize the benefit to the public from tax funded facilities.

Policy 6.3: Understanding that City residents are also County residents, the Recreation and Parks Department will continue to coordinate with Marion County Parks and Recreation Department to provide an equitable proportion of County funded facilities within the incorporated limits of the City and in accordance with Marion County's county-wide adopted LOS standards. .

Policy 6.4: To reduce redundancy between City and County programming and operations and meet the needs of all County residents on an equitable, cost effective basis, the Recreation and Parks Department shall continue to coordinate with Marion County Parks and Recreation to provide programming that is complementary one to the other; provide joint marketing/promotion endeavors; and to promote interagency cooperation in the provision of programs that have a County-wide impact.

OBJECTIVE 7: The City will continue to improve communications, coordination, and cooperation among community stakeholders in regard to parks, recreation, and conservation opportunities.

Policy 7.1: The Recreation and Parks Department shall continue to engage citizens serving on the Recreation Commission, the Ocala Municipal Arts Commission and any advisory boards to serve as active advocates for Recreation and Parks in the City and surrounding areas and to assist with implementation of the Recreation and Parks Master Plan.

Policy 7.2: The City Recreation and Parks Department shall, at least annually, conduct citizen surveys to measure satisfaction with Recreation and Parks Department services and to identify community desires for future facilities and services.

Policy 7.3: The City will keep the general public advised on the Recreation and Open Space and Cultural Arts Element, the Recreation and Parks Master Plan and department services and facilities through workshops and meetings with civic and community groups.

Policy 7.4: The Recreation and Parks Department in cooperation with the Recreation Commission shall conduct at least one community meeting to receive public input on all community park master/management plans before presentation of same for adoption by City Council.

Policy 7.5: The City’s 2010 Recreation and Parks Master Plan shall be evaluated and updated every five years. Evaluation should include, at a minimum, LOS analysis based on the current status at the time of the update; adjusted recommendations for facilities improvements and budgetary projection updates based on any parks or facilities expansions needed to meet land acreage level of service standards or facilities guidelines; and a citizen survey/community meeting process designed to garner public input on the update.

Policy 7.6: Recreation and Parks related policies and code revisions which require City Council approval shall first be reviewed by the Ocala 2035 Vision Leadership Group and Recreation Commission in advance of presentation to City Council.

OBJECTIVE 8: Provide leadership to support cultural arts to enhance the quality of life for the community as a whole, and recommend programs and policies that are a driver for economic development.

Policy 8.1: The City will continue its support of and expand the Ocala Municipal Arts Commission (OMAC) which is to be comprised of individuals representing the fields of fine arts and performing arts, nonprofit and arts administration, local business leaders and the community at large. The mission of this Commission is to provide leadership for city government in supporting cultural arts, and to recommend programs and policies that develop, sustain and promote artistic excellence in the community.

Policy 8.2: By 2014, the Recreation and Parks Department in cooperation with the Ocala Municipal Arts Commission will develop a Community Cultural Arts Plan that identifies and addresses the need for visual and performing art programming in parks and community centers that compliments (not duplicate) cultural arts programs already provided by other public, private and non-profit organizations. The Community Cultural Arts Plan will incorporate by reference the existing Tuscawilla Park Cultural Arts Plan.

Policy 8.3: The City will direct the Ocala Municipal Arts Commission to evaluate the establishment of an “Art in Public Places” program to create sites of community significance, encourage private and public awareness of and interest in the visual arts, increase employment opportunities in the arts, and encourage art as an integral part of local architecture. The City shall evaluate funding mechanisms for the program.

Policy 8.4: The City shall enhance and expand cultural art programs in the Central Core and Medium Intensity Areas, as identified on the Future Land Use Map, to foster reinvestment in these areas. The City shall evaluate the appropriateness of cultural art programs and projects to be included in Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) Master Plans.

Policy 8.4.1: The City shall continue efforts to enhance facilities in the Central Core to allow expanded possibilities for performing arts (i.e.: Citizens’ Circle in 2012; Downtown Square enhancements by 2014; and Tuscawilla Park enhancement by 2016).

Policy 8.4.2: The City shall evaluate new performing art venues, exhibit areas, and the display of public art as a critical design element of the Central Core.

Policy 8:5: The City shall evaluate the appropriateness of facilitating and encouraging partnerships in economic development efforts to strengthen designated arts and cultural sectors of the City with emphasis on the Central Core, Mixed Use districts and Gateways to the City.

Policy 8:6: The City shall evaluate enhanced incentive packages to encourage early collaboration among artists, architects, engineers, and owners in the design of public and private facilities and spaces.

Policy 8:7: The Ocala Municipal Arts Commission will maintain a consistent dialog with the city's economic development staff, assisting with implementation of the economic development plan.

Policy 8:8: The City shall complete an inventory compiled by City staff, the Ocala Municipal Arts Commission, and consultants identifying existing cultural arts organizations including their missions and leadership roles, and pieces of public art and their artists/creators, locations, dimensions, art media, funding sources, and ownership. It is envisioned this initial inventory will be expanded in the future, to incorporate in the database newly acquired artworks and to provide additional information about existing public art.

Policy 8:9: The City shall encourage the establishment of a community artist and community art organizations database. Annual updating of this artist database should occur with a focus on including more artists from all disciplines as well as email and web site information in order to streamline communications with artists. City shall consult with other existing artist databases in this effort.

Policy 8.10: Arts and Cultural related policies and code revisions which require City Council approval shall first be reviewed by the Ocala 2035 Vision Leadership Group and the Ocala Municipal Arts Commission in advance of presentation to City Council.