

## RECREATION & OPEN SPACE DATA, INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS



CHERISH AND SUSTAIN WINTER PARK'S EXTRAORDINARY QUALITY OF LIFE

PLAN OUR GROWTH THROUGH A COLLABORATIVE PROCESS THAT PROTECTS OUR CITY'S TIMELESS SCALE AND CHARACTER

ENHANCE THE WINTER PARK BRAND THROUGH A FLOURISHING COMMUNITY OF ARTS AND CULTURE

BUILD AND EMBRACE OUR LOCAL INSTITUTIONS FOR LIFELONG LEARNING AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

This element provides the data inventory and analysis of recreation and open space facilities, pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes.

### Introduction

The availability of parks, open space and recreational facilities play a key role in establishing the quality of life for a community. The purpose of this element is to plan for a comprehensive system of public parks, open space, and recreational facilities that satisfy the current and future needs of the City's residents and visitors. It is the intent that this plan element set forth a comprehensive framework for guiding decisions on public policy and capital improvements for park and open space lands, and recreation facilities and programs that are consistent with the City's goals and objectives.

This element inventories city, county and state parks and recreation facilities available to Winter Park's residents and its visitors. Analysis of recreation space and facilities has been conducted to determine if existing facilities adequately meet the desired level of service standards determined by the City.

**Historical Perspective** The adequacy of dedicated parklands for the enjoyment of residents and visitors has been of prime importance since the inception of Winter Park in 1882. The original plats of the Town of Winter Park set forth in the 1880's contained the provisions for perpetual park and open space areas. Central Park was reserved at that time with the foresight that an attractive entrance to the City (at the railroad station) was essential to realize a quality character for the city center. It remains the principal reason for Winter Park's premier Central Business District.

In the rural Florida of the 1880's, the pine forest, marshlands and farms were the ever-present open space that beckoned development and not preservation. However, the founders of Winter Park recognized the quality and character common in traditional northern towns that used village squares, parks and other scenic places in town planning and land pattern. Through the years, the foresight and generosity of Winter Park citizens and City administrations have led to the acquisitions of major park and recreation facilities.

**Recreation Program Management** Today, the City's Parks and Recreation Department (hereafter Parks Department) administers the City's recreation programs and maintains the City's park and open space system. While the Parks Department maintains all City parks, recreation facilities, and most open space areas, many recreation programs are conducted by non-profit organizations or recreation businesses that have entered into agreements or contracts with the City for the use of its parks and facilities.

The Parks and Recreation Department was nationally accredited in 2010 by meeting or exceeding over 150 standards for the management and maintenance of a parks and recreation department. The accreditation is formally reviewed every five years and the department was re-accredited recently in 2022. It is the goal of the department to remain an accredited agency sanctioned by the National Recreation and Parks Association Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies.

**Service Area** Winter Park provides parks and recreation facilities to enhance the quality of life for its residents. Although designed to serve City residents, park sites and recreation facilities and programs are frequently used by people and families residing in nearby areas of unincorporated Orange County or Seminole County, or in the nearby cities of Maitland, Orlando, and Eatonville.

The City has no residency requirement for entry into its parks. Many recreation programs conducted in the City's parks are managed by non-profit organizations (such as Winter Park Youth Baseball) or recreation businesses. These organizations or businesses arrange agreements with the City to use its park facilities. The City does not place residency requirements into its facility agreements, thus allowing recreation programs to serve city and non-city residents alike.

## Recreation Classification System

Parks are designed and located to meet recreational demands unique to each community. Some parks, including the recreation facilities placed within them, are designed to serve residents within a surrounding neighborhood. Other parks may be designed to include recreation facilities that will be used by residents throughout the community or the regional area. The type and number of recreation facilities located within a park also determine if its function is to service a small population within adjacent neighborhoods or a larger population spread throughout the community or region.

To describe and inventory the type of parks offered by Winter Park, a classification system has been developed to categorize parks according to service area characteristics and recreation facilities. Park classification systems have been developed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and other national recreation organizations and agencies. These standard classification systems provide general utilitarian definition of park types but they do not acknowledge the recreation needs unique to Winter Park. The park classifications system described below modifies standard park classifications to recognize recreation service characteristics unique to the City of Winter Park's open space and park system.

The park classification system organizes parks according to five general categories: special purpose facilities, community parks, neighborhood parks, Mini Parks, and linear parks. Community parks are further classified into three sub-categories: recreation, gathering place, or lake access. The classification system also organizes open space into the four categories described below. District and regional parks are not inventoried because none occur within the City of Winter Park.

**A. Special Purpose Facility** A special purpose facility is a park or recreational facility that typically provides a single or predominant recreation facility or has a very limited number of recreation facilities that serve a specific recreational purpose for the entire community. Examples of special purpose facilities include golf facilities, tennis-only facilities, football stadiums, or track and soccer or lacrosse facilities. Winter Park's special purpose facilities have a service area that covers the entire City and adjacent areas. Winter Park Golf Course and Showalter Field are local examples of special purpose facilities. The minimum number of acres necessary to accommodate a special purpose facility varies based on the activity's space needs. Road access to a special purpose facility depends on the size and use of the park, traffic generated by the park, and size of the population served. Adjacent road access, then, could occur from a community or a neighborhood street, depending on the park conditions described in the previous sentence.

**B. Community Park** A community park typically provides a diverse range of recreational and leisure activities, or may contain useable areas where residents of Winter Park can gather to share community events or activities in an aesthetic, natural environment. Community parks in Winter Park serve residents from the entire City's jurisdictional area as well as residents from nearby areas outside the City. Park patrons primarily travel to community parks in automobiles, although people residing near them may choose to walk or ride bicycles. Park access should ideally occur from a community street.

The minimum number of acres necessary to accommodate a community park varies based on the acreage required for the type and number of recreation facilities located within the park. However, the desirable minimum acreage for a community park ranges from 5 to 25 acres, depending on the number and type of recreation facilities as well as site conditions. Community parks in Winter Park serve a population ranging from 25,000 to 35,000. Community parks are designed to meet the recreation needs of the entire community; therefore, the combination of community parks in Winter Park contains a range of recreational facilities.

Facilities and activities at community parks may include, but are not limited to, athletic fields, swimming pools, gymnasiums, performing and designing art centers, crafts buildings, large, open areas for community events, and any facilities associated with neighborhood or Mini Park recreation areas. The land area and facilities at community parks are usually designed to accommodate group recreation activities (i.e., leagues and instruction) sponsored by organized recreation programs. Unlike special purpose facilities, community parks offer more than one recreation facility or leisure activity, and in most cases offer several.

Over the City's history, the design of community parks has been oriented toward serving one of three principal functions—for recreation, as a gathering place, or for lake access.

Each of these three principal park functions is defined below. While each community park may emphasize one of these functions, each may also include facilities typically found at neighborhood parks. Although each of the City's community parks serves one of these three functions, one common trait shared by all is the service area. All community parks in Winter Park have a service area that covers the entire City. For example, if a resident wants to boat on the Chain of Lakes, Dinky Dock Park on Lake Virginia provides the only public access within Winter Park.

- **Recreation** Outdoor recreation and athletic activities are the primary function incorporated into the design of a community park. Recreation-oriented community parks typically offer a variety of outdoor or indoor athletic fields or facilities. Examples of recreation-based facilities include baseball fields, tennis courts, exercise trails, basketball courts, soccer or lacrosse fields, pickleball courts or multi-purpose fields. A specific example of a recreation-based community park in Winter Park is Ward Park/Cady Way Park/Showalter Field.
- **Gathering Place** Winter Park is a community where people enjoy special events that bring the community together to share experiences in visual and performing arts, to honor and recognize national and local historical subjects, to celebrate special occasions and holidays, or to gather for social activity and enjoyment. Typical facilities found at a community gathering place include botanical gardens, fountains, outdoor art, atriums, natural areas, outdoor theatres, public plazas, grassy open areas for special events, picnic areas, and leisure activity areas (such as outdoor chess tables or other similar game activities). Specific examples of community gathering places in Winter Park are Central Park, Mead Botanical Garden, and the Winter Park Farmers' Market.
- **Lake Access** The primary function of some community parks is providing public access to freshwater lakes. Recreation facilities and services typically found at lake access parks include boat launch ramps, swimming beaches, littoral conservation areas, fishing docks, and shoreline boardwalks. Examples of lake access community parks in Winter Park are Dinky Dock Park and Lake Baldwin Park.

**C. Neighborhood Park** A neighborhood park serves the population of a residential neighborhood. Typically, a neighborhood park is located within a half mile—walking distance—of its patrons. These parks usually serve a population of up to 5,000. Neighborhood parks may contain recreational facilities, sized for those needs, or be passive in character. Examples of typical recreation facilities located at a neighborhood park are playgrounds, picnic areas, tennis courts, basketball courts, and open play areas or small multi-purpose fields, and landscaping. As the land area and recreation facilities are designed to serve the adjacent neighborhood, facilities are seldom used by organized recreation programs. Community parks within walking distance of residential neighborhoods can also serve as neighborhood parks. To serve a dual role, a community park would provide facilities typically associated with a neighborhood park in addition to those associated with a community park.

**D. Mini Park** A Mini Park has a service area smaller than a neighborhood and often serves one or two residential subdivisions within a neighborhood. Similar to but smaller than

neighborhood parks, Mini Parks are also located within walking distance to the residential areas they serve. Mini Parks are often referred to as tot lots. Typically containing open lawns and play areas, Mini Parks may also provide play apparatuses for small children, half- or full-size basketball courts, one or two tennis courts, picnic areas, landscaping, or natural areas. However, the small land area occupied by a Mini Park usually restricts the number of recreation facilities to no more than three or four. A Mini Park usually does not provide automobile parking.

**a. Enhanced Streetscapes** Small greenspaces such as medians are now referred to as enhanced streetscapes.

**b. Small Public Work and Utility Access Points** Small public work and utility lake access points are now referred to as such.

**E. Linear Recreation Area** Bicycling, hiking, jogging, roller skating, or similar recreational activities require a long linear corridor for the activity to function. Bicycle paths or multi-purpose trails are used to accommodate these activities.

**F. Open Space** Open space is undeveloped land suitable for outdoor passive recreation, leisure, or conservation uses. As Winter Park formed its charter in 1887, three types of open space areas have emerged within the City—nature reserve areas, undeveloped recreational lands, and corridor beautification, although this Comprehensive Plan does not count the acres of corridor beautification in its open space acreage.

- **Nature Preserve** The City has designated environmentally sensitive areas and wetlands as conservation areas, protecting them from any future encroachment by development. Conservation areas serve as habitat for wildlife and as natural filters that remove sediment and pollution from surface waters flowing to lakes. Conservation areas are predominantly undisturbed and remain in natural vegetation. These areas are described in the Conservation Element. The areas that may accommodate facilities associated with environmental education, wildlife observation, and environmental monitoring are nature preserves. Examples of such facilities include observation towers, boardwalks, environmental education structures, and picnic facilities. An example of a nature preserve in Winter Park is the Howell Branch Preserve and Park.
- **Undeveloped Recreational Land** In some cases the City owns undeveloped property, such as the Tree Farm, which currently serves as open space but has the potential to be developed into a park. Most undeveloped recreation lands are covered with natural vegetation but some may occur as vacant lots or parcels. A number of other undeveloped open space lands occur as undeveloped rights-of-way that terminate at a lake although this Comprehensive Plan does not count the acres of rights-of-way in its park and open space acreage.
- **Corridor Beautification** To enhance the aesthetic appearance of public streets within Winter Park and to promote public safety, many roads have been designed with landscaped medians. In addition, the City has planted canopy shade trees within the right-of-way adjacent to paved roads. As many of these street trees were planted decades ago, mature oaks now shade most public roads within Winter Park. Landscaping has also been placed within areas of right-of-way adjacent to the street

edge. Open space related to corridor beautification and rights-of-way is not inventoried and analyzed within this element on a site by site basis as the areas are relatively small and are not counted in the City's open space acreage. Most corridor beautification open spaces are not designed to be accessible to or used by the public for recreation purposes but are designed to create visual green areas and to support public welfare and health through vegetated open space. However, park benches and walking paths may be located within these open space areas where median or roadside landscaped areas contain sufficient width or area.

**G. District or Regional Park** District or regional parks are large facilities that serve the population of several cities, a county or a metropolitan area. While some parks in Winter Park occasionally serve this role by providing facilities that are used in a regional context (i.e., Showalter Field), the primary function of the City's parks and recreational areas is to serve the needs of the Winter Park residents. No district or regional parks are located within or adjacent to Winter Park.

## Recreation Space Functions

In addition to the recreation area classification system, recreation areas can be classified into two broad categories: active-based and passive-based recreation activities. The type of recreational facilities and site design determine the function of a park. Active-based and passive-based recreation activities are defined as follows:

**A. Passive-Based Recreation Activities** Passive-based recreation involves activities that do not necessarily raise the heart rate significantly above the resting level, but rather provide refreshment through furnishing a visual and/or psychological release from the pressure of everyday life. In passive-based recreation facilities, emphasis is placed on enjoyment of a natural resource or an activity and not on participation. Examples of passive-based recreation facilities include picnic tables, park benches, observation areas, botanical gardens, and historical or archaeological sites. Passive recreation activities include sunbathing at a beach, walking through a scenic area, or visiting an historic site. Passive-based recreation areas typically serve as open spaces and often occur as fields, walking trails, scenic view points, gathering places for pedestrians, landscaped areas or gardens, greenbelts, and conservation areas. Generally, open space areas have minimal facilities. Open space areas can also be used to enhance urban areas by providing relief from expansive impervious surfaces such as parking lots and shopping centers.

**B. Active-Based Recreation Activities** Most active-based recreation activities involve physical exertion that raises the heart rate to a level significantly above the resting level. This benefit may be achieved through a variety of aerobic activities such as baseball, football, lacrosse, jogging, bicycling, hiking, swimming, tennis or playground activity. The main benefits of such recreation are increased cardiovascular fitness and improved mental health through release of energy and/or tensions. Some active-based recreation may not raise the heart rate significantly above the resting level but involve individual or group competition requiring some level of physical exertion. Examples of such activities include shuffleboard or horseshoes.

Active-based recreation activities rely on the presence of recreational facilities that enable certain activities to function. Without the provision of such facilities, the activity would either be limited in quality or eliminated altogether. Active-based recreation areas may include open space areas, especially when such areas are unsuitable for development and/or protect the existing natural resources. Active-based recreation facilities promote participation in an activity.

## **PARK & CONSERVATION LAND INVENTORY AND LEVEL OF SERVICE**

Winter Park has 442.06 acres of public parks; public open space and public conservation lands. Table 6-1 illustrates the percentage of total park acreage represented by each park category.

Since the adoption of the 2009 Comprehensive Plan, the City's public parks; open spaces and conservation lands have been more precisely measured using the City's geographical information system (GIS). Any differences of land area for the city's assets either greater or smaller are based the refinement of the land area calculations from the GIS measurements. There also have been new park and conservation land acquisitions that have added new park and conservation lands to the City's inventory. A summary of park acreage by classification is provided in Table 6-2. Map RE-6-01 shows the locations of the major parks and recreation resources described in Table 6-1.

Based on the 442.06 acres of publicly-owned park, open space and conservation lands and a 2023 population of 29,816, the City is meeting its level of service standard of 10 acres per 1,000 residents. Population growth up to a total resident population of 34,616 would be consistent with the adopted level of service standard.



**Table 6-1a: Inventory by Classification of Parks & Recreation/Open Space Areas and Conservation Lands in the City of Winter Park**

COMMUNITY PARKS					
NAME	FACILITIES	CLASSIFICATION	ACCESS <sup>1</sup>	FUNCTION	ACRES
Central Park Park Avenue	Rose Garden, landscaping, walking paths, 2 stages, park benches, fountains, pergola	Community Park Gathering Place	Yes	Passive	7.98
Community Center & Shady Park 721 W. New England Ave.	Recreation center with gymnasium, pool, park benches, playground, children's spray ground	Community Park Recreation	Yes	Active	4.74
Dinky Dock Park Ollie Avenue	Beach, 2 docks, 2 boat ramps, grills, park benches, picnic tables, restrooms	Community Park Lake Access	Yes	Active & Passive	1.56
Winter Park Farmers' Market 200 W. New England Ave.	Historical museum, farmers market and recreation center, patio, gazebo, park benches	Community Rec. Gathering Place	Yes	Active	0.85
Lake Baldwin Park 2000 S. Lakemont Ave.	Dog park, boat ramp, fishing dock, pavilions, picnic tables, park benches, restroom/concession building	Community Park Lake Access		Active & Passive	23.63
Martin Luther King, Jr. Park 1050 W. Morse Blvd.	Lake, pavilions, recreation center, civic center, baseball/softball stadium, multi-purpose football, soccer, lacrosse fields, basketball goals, playground, picnic tables, park benches, restrooms, maintenance facility	Community Park Recreation	Yes	Active & Passive	28.27
Mead Botanical Garden 1300 S. Denning Drive	Recreation center, environmental center, gardens, amphitheater, dressing room, pavilions, picnic tables, boardwalk, restroom buildings, community garden	Community Park Gathering Place	Yes	Passive	47.61
Ward Park/Cady Way Park/ Showalter Field 2525 Cady Way	Tennis courts, racquetball courts, basketball goals, football/soccer/lacrosse fields, baseball/softball fields, Olympic swimming pool, playgrounds, pavilions, picnic tables, 5,000-seat sports stadium, field with 1¼-mile track, concession buildings, restroom buildings, pickleball courts	Community Park Recreation	Yes	Active & Passive	67.25
Seven Oaks Park	Construction has not yet commenced.	Community Park Gathering Place	Yes	Passive	2.8
<b>COMMUNITY PARKS TOTAL ACRES</b>					<b>184.69</b>

**Table 6-1b: Inventory by Classification of Parks & Recreation/Open Space Areas and Conservation Lands in the City of Winter Park**

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS					
NAME	FACILITIES	CLASSIFICATION	ACCESS <sup>1</sup>	FUNCTION	ACRES
Kraft Azalea Garden 1365 Alabama Drive	Fishing dock, park benches, footpaths, Exedra monument	Neighborhood Park	Yes	Passive	5.26
Orwin Manor Park 1701 N. Orange Ave.	Footpath, park benches, playground, picnic table	Neighborhood Park	Yes	Active	0.85
Phelps Park 1206 N. Phelps Ave.	Tennis courts, basketball goals, playground, multipurpose field, soccer/lacrosse field, park benches, pavilions, picnic tables, restrooms, pickleball courts	Neighborhood Park	Yes	Active	5.99
Trismen Park 231 Brewer Ave.	Landscaped grass lawn area, park benches, picnic tables	Neighborhood Park	Yes	Passive	1.40
Villa View Park 1709 N. Park Ave.	Brick landscaped plaza, park benches	Neighborhood Park	Yes	Passive	0.29
Harland Park (Knowles Place) Timberlane Drive	Play field, park benches	Neighborhood Park	Yes	Passive	2.71
Howell Branch Preserve 1205 Howell Branch Road	Hiking trails, educational displays	Community Park & Conservation Land	Yes	Active & Passive	10.69
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS TOTAL ACRES</b>					<b>27.19</b>
SPECIAL PURPOSE PARKS & FACILITIES					
Winter Park Golf Course 761 Old England Ave.	9-hole golf course, clubhouse, pro shop, maintenance building, restroom, pavilion	Special Purpose Park	Yes	Active	40.79
Winter Park Tennis Center 1045 Azalea Lane	16 tennis courts, playground, park benches, recreation center, picnic tables	Special Purpose Park	Yes	Active	6.24
Winter Park Pines 950 S. Ranger Blvd.	18-hole golf course, pro shop, restaurant, maintenance buildings, restroom, driving range	Special Purpose Park	Yes	Active	93.10
<b>SPECIAL PURPOSE PARKS &amp; FACILITIES TOTAL ACRES</b>					<b>140.13</b>
LINEAR RECREATION					
Cady Way Trail	Bicycle trail	Linear Park	Yes	Active	3.72
<b>LINEAR RECREATION TOTAL ACRES</b>					<b>3.72</b>

**Table 6-1c: Inventory by Classification of Parks & Recreation/Open Space Areas and Conservation Lands in the City of Winter Park**

OPEN SPACE & CONSERVATION LANDS					
NAME	FACILITIES	CLASSIFICATION	ACCESS <sup>1</sup>	FUNCTION	ACRES
Winter Park Tree Farm 1938 Durham Ave.	City's tree farm; not accessible to public	Open space	No	Passive	14.17
Howell Creek/ Pennsylvania Avenue Lot 1620 S. Pennsylvania Ave.	Floodplain wetland preserve	Open Space & Conservation Land	Yes	Passive	0.82
Howell Branch Creek Wetlands 1409 Howell Branch Road & 3100 Temple Trail	Wetland preserve; not accessible to public	Conservation Land not part of the Public Works Compound or Gun Range	No	Passive	38.84
Howell Creek Basin Preserve 1121 Howell Branch Road	Wetland, storm water preserve	Open Space & Conservation Land	No	Passive	4.12
Howell Creek/ Temple Trail Wetlands 2908 Temple Trail	Floodplain wetland preserve	Open Space & Conservation Land	No	Passive	0.80
<b>OPEN SPACE TOTAL ACRES</b>					<b>58.75</b>
MINI PARKS					
Alberta Drive Mini Park		Mini Park		Passive	0.31
Alberta/Cortland Mini Park	Park benches	Mini Park		Passive	0.24
Alberta/Joalca Mini Park		Mini Park		Passive	0.04
Alexander Place Mini Park		Mini Park		Passive	0.36
Alfred J. Hanna Mini Park	Park bench	Mini Park		Passive	0.25
Bonita Drive Mini Park	Park bench	Mini Park		Passive	0.07
Bonnie Burn Mini Park		Mini Park		Passive	0.22
Canton/Interlachen Mini Park		Mini Park		Passive	0.18
Canton/New York Mini Park	Park bench	Mini Park	Yes	Passive	0.07
Cavendish/Harmon Mini Park	Park bench	Mini Park		Passive	0.03
Chelton Circle Park and lake	Park benches	Mini Park		Passive	5.13
Fairbanks/Orlando Mini Park		Mini Park	Yes	Passive	0.22
Fawcett Road Lakefront		Mini Park		Passive	0.27

**Table 6-1c: Inventory by Classification of Parks & Recreation/Open Space Areas and Conservation Lands in the City of Winter Park**

MINI PARKS (continued)					
NAME	FACILITIES	CLASSIFICATION	ACCESS <sup>1</sup>	FUNCTION	ACRES
Golfview Mini Park	Fountain, Park benches	Mini Park		Passive	0.55
Hamilton Place Mini Park		Mini Park		Passive	0.36
Harris Circle Mini Park		Mini Park		Passive	0.26
Hooper Park/Mercantile Bank	Park benches	Mini Park	Yes	Passive	0.52
Jay Blanchard Park	Fountain, Park benches	Mini Park		Passive	0.48
Kings Way median parks		Mini Park		Passive	0.79
Leith Mini Park		Mini Park		Passive	0.64
Lake Knowles Park and lake	4 park benches	Mini Park	Yes	Passive	10.34
Lake Midget Park and lake	2 benches	Mini Park		Passive	1.62
Lake Wilbar Park and lake	3 park benches	Mini Park		Passive	1.7
Lakeview Mini Park		Mini Park		Passive	0.19
Lansbury/Maiden Mini Park	3 park benches	Mini Park		Passive	0.22
Laughlin Park	2 park benches	Mini Park	Yes	Passive	0.09
Loch Lomond/ St. Andrews Mini Park		Mini Park		Passive	0.37
Morse Park	Park bench	Mini Park		Passive	0.12
Orange/Harmon Mini Park	Park bench	Mini Park	Yes	Passive	0.19
Park Grove Mini Park	Park bench	Mini Park		Passive	0.12
Pulsifer Place/ Interlachen Mini Park	Park bench	Mini Park		Passive	0.25
Reading Way median parks		Mini Park		Passive	0.79
Smiley Mini Park	Park bench	Mini Park		Passive	0.19
Sunset/Chestnut Mini Park	Park bench	Mini Park		Passive	0.10
Tyree Lane Mini Park		Mini Park		Passive	0.22
Via Bella Mini Park		Mini Park		Passive	0.08
<b>MINI PARKS TOTAL ACRES</b>					<b>27.58</b>
<b>PARKS, RECREATION &amp; OPEN SPACE TOTAL</b>					<b>442.06</b>

<sup>1</sup> Handicapped accessible

**Table 6-2: Recreation, Park & Open Space Acreage by Category, 2016**

TYPE	NUMBER OF SITES	ACRES	%
Special Purpose Parks & Facilities	3	140.13	31.70
Community Parks	9	184.69	41.78
• Gathering Places	4	(59.24)	
• Recreation	3	(100.26)	
• Lake Access	2	(25.19)	
Neighborhood Parks	7	27.19	6.15
Mini Parks	36	27.58	6.24
Linear Recreation Area	1	3.72	0.84
Open Space & Conservation Lands	5	58.75	13.29
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>442.06</b>	<b>100%</b>

**A. Community Parks** The City has 184.69 acres of land used for community parks at 8 sites. Community parks have a service area encompassing the entire city limits. While community parks share a common service area, their character differs according to three categories—gathering places, lake access, and recreation.

**1. Gathering Places** Winter Park is a community embracing a strong interest in cultural and performing arts, gardens and natural areas, and community events and gatherings. To accommodate and implement these interests, the City has created open, outdoor areas specifically designed to support these outdoor recreational and leisure activities.

- **Central Park** Located on the west side of Park Avenue in the heart of Winter Park, Central Park covers 7.98 acres of lawn, gardens, and canopy trees. On most days, Central Park serves as a place for downtown shoppers, employees, and residents to relax outdoors in a natural setting. Paved pedestrian paths and park benches are found along with beautiful fountains, landscaped planters, and a rose garden.

Central Park frequently is used for special events, public gatherings, and outdoor concerts and entertainment. The Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival, and the “Olde Fashioned 4th of July Celebration,” all held annually, bring thousands of people from throughout Florida to these events each year. Other community programs and gatherings are held at the park on a regular basis. The amphitheater is used for outdoor music concerts, theatrical performances, and movies.

An Amtrak and SunRail passenger station is located near the park’s center but is not included as part of the park’s facilities or acreage.

In December 2002, the City adopted a Master Plan for Central Park. Major facilities, improvements and landscaping currently existing or proposed at Central Park include the following:

- Parking — relocate City-owned surface parking currently in park to neighboring sites or underground, reduce parking at the train station
  - New concert stage and concert lawn
  - Park gateway features
  - Amphitheater
  - Lincoln Avenue cultural walk
  - Gardens — a rose garden, a children's garden, and The Ramble Garden
  - Several fountains
- 
- **Mead Botanical Garden** Located east of Denning Drive on the southwest section of the City, Mead Botanical Garden is a 47.60 acre passive nature preserve covered by several ecosystems ranging from wetland to upland communities. Established in the 1930's as a botanical garden attraction, the site now primarily serves as an outdoor gathering place for family and group picnics, environmental education, small outdoor community events, and walking exercise. Orange County schools regularly bring students to Mead Botanical Garden to study the diverse ecosystems spread throughout the park. Facilities at the park includes one covered picnic pavilion and tables, a large covered pavilion, an outdoor amphitheater, footpaths, and a boardwalk extending through a wetlands area. A limited amount of paved parking is located at the community building.
  - **Winter Park Farmers' Market** Located at the corner of New York Avenue and New England Avenue, this 0.85 acre property holds a historic building used on weekends as a farmers market and is also the location of the Winter Park Historical Museum. Buildings space at the Farmers' Market can also be leased for different activities including special occasions or events, art and music classes, or other recreation or leisure classes. The building has 6,500 square feet of floor area, 5,500 of which is heated. Formerly a freight warehouse, the Farmers' Market abuts the FDOT rail line used by Amtrak® and Sun Rail and has paved parking.

**2. Lake Access** Two community parks primarily function to provide access to the Chain of Lakes through Lake Virginia and to Baldwin Lake.

- **Dinky Dock Park** Located along the northern shore of Lake Virginia, Dinky Dock Park contains 1.56 acres primarily devoted to lake access facilities. The park's shoreline measures approximately 250 linear feet. Recreation facilities and amenities at Dinky Dock Park include a sand swimming beach covering approximately 150 linear feet of shoreline, a fishing dock, and a boat launching ramp. The swimming area boundaries within the lake are delineated by rope and buoy markers. Paved parking is provided for vehicles and boat trailers. The name of the park, Dinky Dock, is not associated with the size of the park or any of its facilities. A railroad known as the "Dinky Line" passed through the park decades ago. A former railroad station was located at the site of this



park, which now retains the name of its former owner and serves as a reminder of its local history.

Boat launching facilities at Dinky Dock Park provide the only access for motorized watercraft to enter the Chain of Lakes from within Winter Park. A boat access permit must be obtained from the City to use the launch facilities and access Lake Virginia. Once entering Lake Virginia, watercraft can access Lakes Mizell, Osceola, and Maitland via canals.

- **Lake Baldwin Park** Located on the northern shoreline of Lake Baldwin in the southeast section of the City, Lake Baldwin Park contains over 23.63 acres primarily designed to provide access to the lake. Lake Baldwin is isolated and does not have any connection to other water bodies.

Recreational facilities at this park include a public beach with 500 to 600 linear feet of sand shoreline, a boat launching ramp, fishing dock, off-leash dog recreation park area, covered picnic pavilions with tables, nature trails that extend through a conservation area, paved and unpaved parking, and boat trailer parking.

3. **Recreation** The primary role of community recreation parks in Winter Park is to provide opportunities for athletic activities, organized team athletic competition, and group recreation activities. While outdoor athletic fields or facilities dominate the character of the community recreation parks, indoor facilities such as gymnasiums may also be present. Winter Park operates three parks that are classified as community recreation areas — Winter Park Community Center, Ward Park/Cady Way Park/Showalter Field, and Martin Luther King Jr. Park.

- **Ward Park/Cady Way Park/Showalter Field** Adjacent to each other, Ward Park, Cady Way Park, and Showalter Field function as one large recreation complex creating the City's largest park at 67.25 acres. Located adjacent to Cady Way and Loch Lomond Drive, this park's outdoor recreation facilities and athletic fields are its predominant facilities and set the character for this site. Along with two playgrounds, athletic fields and equipment here include three football/soccer/lacrosse fields, three multi-purpose fields, an Olympic-size Cady Way pool, two tennis courts, six pickleball courts, bike paths, nine softball/baseball fields, four racquetball courts, and four basketball goals. Many of the athletic fields have outdoor lighting, allowing use during evening hours.

Athletic fields are used primarily by organized recreation programs managed by the City or organizations that lease facilities from the City such as youth soccer. Other groups that regularly have used athletic fields for organized team sports through a lease with the City include Rollins College and Orange County Public Schools.

Showalter Field is owned by the City of Winter Park. The facility is managed and scheduled by the Parks and Recreation Department. Use agreements allow for Winter Park High School and Rollins College to have priority use of the field for games and practices. Other organizations, schools and teams can rent the facilities

as the schedule allows. Showalter Field includes a 5,000-seat stadium, a 1¼-mile track, locker rooms, two concession stands, and restrooms.

Winter Park High School, located one-half mile directly south of Ward Park, uses the field for football, soccer, lacrosse and other interscholastic sports. The stadium occupies approximately six acres. Parking at Ward Park is used for events at Showalter Field, and the multi-purpose field is used for overflow parking.

- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Park** Located on the west side of the City and west of Denning Drive, Martin Luther King, Jr. Park covers over 28.27 acres, which includes nine acres of Lake Mendon and Lake Rose. The remaining park area is used for recreation activities. Outdoor recreation facilities and athletic fields include two football/soccer/lacrosse fields, a multi-purpose field, the Winter Park/Rollins College women's softball stadium, four basketball goals, and a jogging/footpath. Other facilities include a playground, six picnic tables, and park benches. Buildings on the site include a recreation building, Event Center and Library, a maintenance building, and two restroom buildings.
- **Winter Park Community Center/Shady Park** Centrally located in historic Hannibal Square, one block to the east from Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, the Winter Park Community Center and Shady Park encompasses 4.74 acres and includes a 38,000 sq. ft. recreation and community building with meeting, classroom and event space as well as fitness and media centers. The gymnasium is a large professional size basketball court that can be partitioned into six practice half court areas. The swimming pool is a zero entry spray play and teaching pool and lap area. Shady Park features park benches, picnic tables, sidewalks, the Reverend Mitchell Dawkins picnic pavilion.

**B. Neighborhood Parks** A description of the City's seven neighborhood parks is provided below.

- **Orwin Manor Park** Located in the western neighborhood of Orwin Manor and Lawndale, Orwin Manor Park is adjacent to Orange Avenue. The site provides a footpath, a playground, a water fountain, a picnic table and three park benches.
- **Kraft Azalea Garden** Bordering the southern shoreline of Lake Maitland, Kraft Gardens is accessible from Alabama Drive and provides public access to Lake Maitland. Nestled within a residential neighborhood, the park offers passive recreation facilities that include a fishing dock, eight park benches, the Exedra monument and footpaths.
- **Phelps Park** Situated along Phelps Avenue in the northeast section of the City, the park is located next to the Y.M.C.A. Facilities at this park include three tennis courts, two basketball goals, an open play or multi-purpose field, two pavilions, eighteen picnic tables, eight park benches, two playgrounds and restroom facilities. The playground is an expansive facility and is called the "Whiting Playground."
- **Trismen Park** Bordered on the east by Brewer Avenue and on the west partially by Detmar Drive, Trismen Park has two picnic tables and four park benches.



- **Villa View Park** Located at the corner of Oak Boulevard and N. Park Avenue, this small neighborhood passive park provides a brick patio and landscape area and benches.
- **Harland Park** Located between Timberlane Shores and Knowles Place phase of Windsong, this passive park provides a play field, benches and green space entrance features to both neighborhoods.
- **Howell Branch Preserve** Situated on Howell Branch Road at the terminus of Via Tuscany this park features a children's playground, footpath, exercise stations and restroom facilities.

**C. Special Purpose Facilities.** A description of the City's two special purpose parks is provided below.

- **Winter Park Golf Course 9 hole** Located just north of Downtown Winter Park, this golf course was privately owned and operated until the City purchased it in 1998. The golf course offers nine standard fairways, a clubhouse and a building housing a small pro shop. The club house is frequently rented for special occasions. Other facilities at the golf course include a practice putting and chipping green, a croquet court, a maintenance building, pavilion, restrooms and six park benches.
- **Winter Park Pines Golf Club 18 hole** Located in the Southeast corridor of the city, this golf course was privately owned and operated until the City purchased it in 2022. The golf course offers 18 standard fairways, a restaurant, driving range, putting green, chipping area, pro shop, restrooms, and maintenance buildings.
- **Winter Park Tennis Center** Located in the southwest section of the City, this facility is specifically designed as a tennis complex. The Center provides 16 tennis courts (8 soft & 8 hard), one pickleball court, a locker room with showers, and a recreation center. A playground is located at the site along with picnic tables and park benches. All courts have LED outdoor lighting.

**D. Conservation Land, Open Space and Mini Parks.** The City has 58.75 acres of conservation lands and open space. The City also has 36 Mini Parks comprising 27.58 acres.

## Public Recreation Facilities Inventory

Winter Park provides a wide variety of recreation and leisure facilities to accommodate diverse age groups and special needs. An inventory of the City's recreation facilities is summarized in Table 6-3. In addition to these facilities, the City also has in place several buildings that are used for recreation programs and activities. These buildings include the Civic Center, a Recreation Building with a small meeting room at Martin Luther King Jr. Park; the Winter Park Country Club clubhouse; the Winter Park Community Center, and the amphitheater and community building at Mead Garden.

**A. Public Recreation Facilities** A summary of recreation facilities located within parks operated by the City appears with Table 6-3.

**Table 6-3: Inventory of Recreation Facilities within City Parks**

NAME OF PARK	Baseball/Softball Field	Lake Swimming Beach	Public Swimming Pool	Sports Stadium	Multi-Purpose Field	Football/Soccer/Lacrosse Field	Tennis Court	Pickleball Court	Basketball Goal	Playground	Racquet Ball Court	Outdoor Stage	Golf Course Holes	Fishing Dock	Boat Ramp	Off-leash Recreation
Winter Park Golf Course													9			
Winter Park Pines Golf Course													18			
Winter Park Tennis Center							16	1		1						
Dinky Dock Park		1												1	1	
Ward Park/Cady Way Park/Showalter Field	10		1	1		6	2	6	4	2						
Central Park												1				
Lake Baldwin Park		1								1				1	1	1
Martin Luther King, Jr. Park					1	2			4	1						
Mead Botanical Garden												2				
Kraft Azalea Garden														1		
Phelps Park					1		3	2	2	1						
Winter Park Community Center/Shady Park			1						6	1		1				

Howell Branch Preserve										1						
Orwin Manor Park										1						
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

- B. Handicapped Accessible Facilities** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), enacted on July 26, 1990, provides comprehensive civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities in the areas of employment, public accommodations, State and local government services, and telecommunications. Title II of the ADA applies to State and local governments. Many recreation facilities are accessible to the disabled and do not require special facilities or design for the disabled to use them. For example, tennis courts and basketball courts can be entered without the use of special equipment or equipment design.
- C. Availability** Use of recreation facilities is often limited by lighting conditions (i.e., sunlight) and inclement weather conditions. Darkness in evening hours prevents the use of outdoor recreation facilities, often limiting use between dawn and dusk. Rain and wind can prevent use or reduce desirable conditions for recreation activity. Outdoor lighting and indoor recreation facilities extend available time that recreation facilities can be used by the public.

## RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ANALYSIS

This subsection presents an analysis of existing and future recreational needs.

### SUMMARY OF RECREATION INVENTORY

The recreation and open space inventory indicates that no County or State parks are located within or adjacent to the City of Winter Park but that the City itself contains over 442 acres in parks and open space. These numbers, however, do not include parks and recreation resources that are privately owned and operated but may be available to certain residents of Winter Park.

The quality of recreation cannot be evaluated solely upon the available land area dedicated to and developed for recreational uses. Analysis must consider facilities available to the public. In general, facilities located in public parks enable residents to participate in both active and passive recreation activities. A variety of facilities are available to serve the recreation demands for a diverse range of interests and age groups, including disabled residents.

### Methodology Used to Determine Current & Future Recreation Demands and Needs

Current and future demands for recreation space and facilities were determined by applying recreational facility and space standards to population estimates and projections for the City of Winter Park. Before this could be accomplished, standards were determined by utilizing recommended guidelines established by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) found in their publication "Outdoor Recreation in Florida". The guidelines are applied for general planning purposes.

To distinguish definitions of the terms, "demand" and "need," the terms shall be defined as follows:

- **Recreation Demand** shall mean the number of recreation facilities and/or acreage desired by either the population of Winter Park or a specific component thereof.
- **Recreation Need** shall mean the number of recreation facilities and/or acreage necessary to meet recreation demand. Recreation need is determined by subtracting number of existing recreation facilities and/or acreage from the recreation demand for recreation facilities and/or acreage.

A common method used to analyze a community's recreation needs compares recreation guidelines published by state or national recreation organizations with a community's inventory of parks and recreation facilities. National or state guidelines are often based on surveys and evaluations collected from a broad sample of recreation facilities and parks provided by many communities, surveys that identify recreation interests of recreation users and park patrons, or the collective experience of recreation management professionals. To compare availability of parkland and recreation facilities for Winter Park residents, the City's current inventory of parkland and recreation facilities was compared with FDEP guidelines.

**Non-Resident Park Users** The evaluation of recreation space and facilities is the best available method to determine future land and facility needs. It relies on a comparison of the City's current and future population with the recreation guidelines. This methodology, however, does not take into consideration that residents from other cities in Orange and Seminole Counties also frequently visit the City's parks as well as participate in organized recreation programs that use the City's recreation facilities. No survey or study is available to evaluate the impact that non-Winter Park residents place on the City's recreation land and space needs. Without a detailed recreation survey and analysis that focuses on recreation facility users or patrons rather than the City's jurisdictional area, the Recreation Element employs the best available methodology.

Guidelines are used within this element for comparison and planning purposes. They serve as a resource to help the City develop recreation facilities and space standards unique to its needs.

**Recreation Facilities Guidelines** Table 6-4 summarizes recreation facilities guidelines prepared by FDEP. Based on a review of these standards and an analysis of existing recreation facilities within the City, Table 6-4 lists the recreation guidelines applied to Winter Park.

**Table 6-4: Planning Guidelines for Recreational Facilities**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>FDEP Median Guidelines<sup>1</sup></b>
Baseball/Softball Field	1 per 5,000 people
Basketball Court	1 per 5,000 people
Equipped Playground	1 per 10,000 people
Community Swimming Pool	1 per 25,000 people
Football/Soccer/Lacrosse/Rugby Field	1 per 6,000 people
Golf Course (9-hole)	1 per 25,000 people
Racquetball/Pickleball/Handball Court	1 per 10,000 people
Multi-Purpose Field	1 per 3,750 people
Tennis Court	1 per 2,000 people

<sup>1</sup> Source: "Outdoor Recreation in Florida", Florida Department of Environmental Protection

**Recreation Space Guidelines** As a guide to assess the adequacy of park land for cities and counties in Florida, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks, has published guidelines in their report, "Outdoor Recreation in Florida". Those FDEP guidelines applicable to Winter Park are shown in Table 6-5.

**Table 6-5: Recreation Space Level of Service Guidelines**

<b>PARK FACILITY</b>	<b>NUMBER OF PEOPLE OR RADIUS SERVED</b>	<b>AREA PER 1,000 PEOPLE</b>	<b>MINIMUM SIZE OF PARK</b>
Neighborhood & Mini Park Land	Up to 5,000	2 acres	2.0 acres
Community Park, Linear Recreation & Special Purpose Facility Land	Up to 5,000	2 acres	20.0 acres
Urban Open Space	0.25-0.50 mile	1 acre	0.1 acre
<b>TOTAL FDEP PARK LAND LOS</b>		<b>5 acres</b>	

Source: FDEP, "Outdoor Recreation in Florida"

**Handicapped Accessibility Guidelines for Recreation Facilities** The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board), the federal agency responsible for implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), issued the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) in 1991. Recreation facility guidelines were not included as part of the initial ADAAG in 1991, close to the time when the City's 1991 Comprehensive Plan was adopted according to requirements of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes. Accessibility guidelines for certain recreation facilities were eventually prepared by the Access Board, and published in the *Federal Register* July 23, 2004 and amended August 5, 2005.

For purposes for this Recreation Element, accessibility guidelines are used to evaluate availability of recreation facilities for the disabled. Guidelines also serve to compare the existing facility

inventory with future needs. From this analysis, recreation improvement needs can be identified. The guidelines below are for analysis purposes only.

**Playground Play Components** Playground equipment is categorized as either ground level or elevated.

- 1. Ground Level Play Components** ADA establishes two criteria for ground level play components that must be met and the same accessible components can be used to satisfy both. First, access is required to at least one of each type of play component provided. Second, the minimum number and variety of accessible play components are based on criteria set forth in Table 6-6.

<b>Table 6-6: Accessibility Guidelines for Ground Level Play Components</b>		
<b>Number of Elevated Components Provided</b>	<b>Ground Level Components Required</b>	<b>Minimum Variety of Components Required</b>
2–4	1	n/a
5–7	2	2
8–10	3	3
11–13	4	3
14–16	5	3
17–19	6	3
20–22	7	4
23–25	8	4
Over 25	8 plus 1 per additional 3 components over 25	5

Source: ADA Accessibility Guidelines

- 2. Elevated Play Components** At least half the number of elevated play components provided should be accessible by either ramp or transfer platform.
- 3. Boat Launch Ramps** One accessible launch ramp should be provided for each boat launch facility.
- 4. Swimming Pools** Each public swimming pool should be handicapped accessible.

**Recreation Issues Affecting Analysis** Recreation interests vary from community to community. The recreation interests and urban character within Winter Park are unique to the City and differ from those of other communities.

**Performing & Visual Arts** In addition to interests in athletic and other active-based recreation activities, residents in Winter Park also enjoy the arts and nature. The City desires to provide areas not only where active-based recreation activities can be enjoyed, but also park settings where performing and visual arts can be experienced. Outdoor community events and festivals are a tradition within Winter Park. Large open areas are needed to accommodate events that attract several hundreds to thousands of residents as well as visitors from other communities.

Current Recreation Needs

Recreation is required to maintain a healthy balance in life. What people do in their leisure time is in response to their internal needs and desires. The quality and quantity of recreational opportunities available to a community has a direct effect on that community's general quality of life. To best satisfy the recreational needs and wishes of an entire community, several variables must be considered. It is important to realize that the recreational opportunities will serve a variety of different interests.

Special groups such as young children, the elderly, and the handicapped have demands for a variety of recreation resources. In considering different recreation interests, recreation facility needs are evaluated according to resident population space demands and needs as well as the demand and needs generated by special groups and ages. The recreation analysis addresses acreage demands and needs for neighborhood parks, community parks, and public open space acreage. Facilities are located at these parks to accommodate desired recreation and athletic activities. Demand and needs for these facilities are also analyzed. For beach access points, analysis addresses their distribution, number and proximity to residential areas. Open space is evaluated to determine if sufficient undeveloped areas are available to promote public welfare and desired quality of life.

**Summary of Recreational Acreage Demands & Needs** Evaluation of current recreation acreage demands and needs is based on the City's population of 29,816 residents in 2023. Based on level of service (LOS) guidelines appearing in Table 6-6, the City should provide two acres in community parks for every 1,000 residents, two acres in neighborhood parks for every 1,000 residents, and one acre in open space for every 1,000 residents. These LOS guidelines do not include recreation program and park non-resident patrons. Application of these LOS guidelines to existing park and open space acreage indicates that the City has more than adequate land to meet demands.

**Recreational Facility Demands & Needs** Resident population demands for recreation facilities were determined by utilizing recommended population guidelines for recreation activities from the FDEP. These guidelines, as previously noted, were extrapolated from FDEP's publication "Outdoor Recreation in Florida–2000." Proposed recreational facility standards for common recreational activities are denoted in Table 6-4. An analysis of current recreation facility demands and needs is presented in Table 6-7. Based on the 2023 population of 29,816 and FDEP guidelines, the City has a surplus in most recreation facilities.

Table 6-7: Current Recreation Facility Needs				
FACILITY	FDEP MEDIAN GUIDELINES <sup>1</sup>	2023 FACILITY DEMAND <sup>2</sup>	FACILITIES AVAILABLE	NEED <sup>3</sup> SURPLUS + DEFICIT -
Baseball/Softball Field	1 per 5,000 residents	6	10	+4
Basketball Court	1 per 5,000 residents	6	8	+2



Football/Soccer/Lacrosse Field	1 per 6,000 residents	5	6	+1
Community Swimming Pool	1 per 25,000 residents	1	2	+1
Golf Course	1 per 25,000 residents	1	2	+1
Racquetball/Handball/Pickleball Courts	1 per 10,000 residents	3	9	+6
Equipped Playground	1 per 10,000 residents	3	8	+5
Tennis Court	1 per 2,000 residents	14	21	+7

<sup>1</sup> Based on a 2023 population of 29,816 found in Table 6-8.

<sup>2</sup> Facility demand applies population from Table 6-8 for year 2023 to the FDEP recreation guidelines.

<sup>3</sup> Note: Recreation Facility Need is the same as surplus/deficit. A positive number indicates a surplus and a negative number indicates a need.

**Quality of Recreational Facilities** The service that recreational facilities provide should be measured not only by the quantity available but also by the quality of the facility. Facilities that are in disrepair should be repaired as soon as possible. Recreation facilities that are in disrepair or that are not maintained in good operational condition discourage participation. Recreation facilities in poor condition can reduce the level of service provided by the City.

The City's Parks Department maintains and inventories recreation facilities. Improvements and maintenance are programmed into the Parks Department's annual operating and capital budgets. Because the City maintains an annual operating budget to address maintenance, repair and replacement, an inventory identifying quality or condition of recreation facilities and equipment is not necessary. This is conducted on a regular to annual basis by the Parks Department. The City should continue to annually inventory all facilities in order to evaluate their performance conditions and safety.

Outdoor lighting increases opportunities to use recreational facilities. Recreation facilities can become more accessible if outdoor lighting allows activity time during evening hours. Outdoor lighting increases the level of service provided to its users and many of the City's recreation facilities have outdoor lighting.

**Recreation Needs for Special Groups: Seniors, Children & the Disabled** The provision of recreational facilities should consider the needs of special groups such as the elderly, the disabled or handicapped, and children. The recreation guidelines established by FDEP do not specifically address the recreation demands and needs of these special groups.

- **Disabled** Recreation facilities and parks will comply with the ADA standards. However the City's Parks Master Plan should be modified to inventory and evaluate parks and recreation facilities for other opportunities to enhance handicapped accessibility.
- **Senior Citizens** Special activities and programs for senior residents are offered at the Winter Park Community Center. When planning for recreational opportunities for the elderly, passive activities are typically preferred. An important consideration for senior citizen recreational facilities is accessibility. Handrails, ramps, and signs with

large letters must be included in facilities where activities are planned for the elderly to encourage their participation.

Recreational interests of senior citizens and children vary from those of age groups that are more active. Some senior citizens, particularly those in their later years, may prefer less energetic activities such as walking, fishing, and picnicking than more demanding activities such as baseball, volleyball, or soccer. However, many seniors continue to participate in active recreation activities, and their needs can be met through planning for all age groups.

- **Children** Young children lack the physical size and strength to actively participate in certain recreational activities, but can do so where special facilities are provided. For example, the zero depth entry pool allows children to safely enjoy water activities. Playgrounds that offer recreational equipment designed for various age groups are located in the parks. The City’s parks include tot lots and other facilities for very young children. Ten playgrounds are located among eight parks. Eight baseball fields are designed to accommodate youth baseball.

Future Recreational Space & Facility Demands and Needs

The City’s population is anticipated to increase by 910 residents between 2023 and 2033.

Table 6-8: Winter Park Population Estimates					
YEAR	2010	2020	2023	2030	2033
TOTAL PERMANENT POPULATION	27,852	29,795	29,816	30,453	30,726

Source: City of Winter Park, 2023

The City staff took a two-fold approach to estimating the population. Staff looked at existing population in the future Annexation Reserve Areas (ARA) to determine the potential timing and population that could be added to the City. The second examination was of building permit data for the past 15 years for net new home construction. Staff determined from that data, the estimate of net new infill single family homes and net new infill multi-family development projected.

**Future Park Demand** The demand for future parkland is based upon two factors, the future population, and the proposed LOS for each park type.

**Future Community Park Needs.** Based on the current park acreage in Winter Park, the City has sufficient acres in community parks to meet recreation demands through 2030.

**Future Recreational Facilities Demand and Needs.** Winter Park’s population will increase from its 2023 size of 29,816 to 30,726 by 2033. As population increases, demand for recreation facilities rises. Recreation facility demands and needs are estimated for years 2030 and 2033 by applying population projections to the recreation facility guidelines presented in Table 6-4

and the recreation facility inventory presented in Table 6-3. The demands and needs for recreational facilities for years 2030 and 2033 populations are presented in Table 6-9.

Based on the evaluation of recreation facility needs, the City's existing recreational facilities will be sufficient to meet population needs through 2033.

**Table 6-9: Projected Demands & Needs for Recreational Facilities for Years 2030 and 2033**

FACILITY	FDEP GUIDE LINES <sup>2</sup>	EXISTING FACILITIES	2030 POPULATION 30,453 <sup>1</sup>		2033 POPULATION 30,726 <sup>1</sup>	
			FACILITY DEMANDS	FACILITY NEEDS (+ SURPLUS/-NEED)	FACILITY DEMANDS	FACILITY NEEDS (+ SURPLUS /NEED)
Baseball/ Softball Field	1 per 5,000 people	10	6	+4	6	+4
Basketball Court	1 per 5,000 people	8	6	+2	6	+2
Equipped Playground	1 per 10,000 people	10	3	+8	3	+8
Community Swimming Pool	1 per 25,000 people	2	1	+1	1	+1
Football/ Soccer/ Lacrosse/ Rugby Field	1 per 6,000 people	8	5	+3	5	+3
Golf Course	1 per 25,000 people	2	1	+1	1	+1
Racquetball/ Handball/ Pickleball Court	1 per 10,000 people	9	3	+6	3	+6
Tennis Court	1 per 2,000 people	21	15	+6	15	+6

<sup>1</sup> See Table 6-9

<sup>2</sup> FDEP, "Outdoor Recreation in Florida-2000"

## Community Involvement with Parks & Recreation

**Volunteerism & Donations** Historically, volunteerism and donations have played a predominant role in the growth of the City's park and recreational assets. Throughout the years, Winter Park has received the donation and dedication of the majority of the parklands that exist in the City. Those contributions are often overlooked and forgotten, but the premier position that Winter Park holds today in the number and extent of its park system is predominantly the result of voluntary donations and dedications. Every donation and gift have been important. However, it is hard to imagine the character of Winter Park without such gifts as Central Park, Kraft Azalea Gardens Park, Mead Botanical Garden, and Ward Park.

In the same spirit, volunteer projects and contributions have added greatly to the recreational facilities of the City. Within the past several years volunteer contributions of time, talent and funding has allowed the City to construct playgrounds at Phelps Park, Azalea Lane Recreation Center, Cady Way Park and Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and a the Winter Park Community

Center. A similar example is the Mead Botanical Garden Inc. that has worked hard to improve the parks standing through their volunteer hours and committed attention. The City of Winter Parks continued success in providing recreation and open space areas is due to the contributions and volunteerism of our citizens. In the past and in the future, it is the volunteer efforts of Winter Park citizens that have been and will be responsible for the success of Winter Park's park and recreational system.

**Citizen Involvement** In order to facilitate citizen involvement on issues involving park and recreation facilities, the City has established a permanent advisory board for that purpose. The Parks and Recreation Board is a seven-member advisory board that advises and recommends to the City Commission policies and actions regarding the promotion, planning, design, construction and utilization of City parks and recreation programs. This advisory board is consulted prior to any major City Commission decision affecting the use of park or recreational facilities. In this manner, decisions affecting these facilities can be done with additional citizen input and reaction.

