

Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable Advisory Board



July 28, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

Chapman Room • City Hall
401 Park Ave S. • Winter Park, Florida

WORK SESSION

NO PUBLIC INPUT WILL BE TAKEN AT THIS MEETING.

1 Review Sustainability Action Plan

July 28, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

**City Hall Building, 401 South Park Avenue.
Chapman Room 200– 2nd floor**

The Keep Winter Park Beautiful and Sustainable Advisory Board will conduct a special work session to review the City of Winter Park Comprehensive Plan elements pertaining to:

1. Conservation
2. Recreation and Open Space

This work session will be led by City Planning staff and is scheduled for July 28, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the Chapman Room at City Hall.

The meeting is scheduled for 1 hour.

appeals & assistance

"If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he/she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based." (F. S. 286.0105).

"Persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk's Office (407-599-3277) at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting."

CHAPTER 5: CONSERVATION ELEMENT

CONSERVATION GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND IMPLEMENTING POLICIES. This section stipulates goals, objectives, and implementing policies for the Conservation Element pursuant to Chapter 163, FS.

GOAL 5-1: NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES. PROVIDE FOR THE PRESERVATION, CONSERVATION AND APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT OF THE CITY'S NATURAL RESOURCES SO THAT THEIR ECONOMIC, EDUCATIONAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND AESTHETIC VALUES ARE PRESERVED AND ENHANCED AND AVAILABLE TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.

OBJECTIVE 5-1: AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE. Winter Park shall participate in any ~~contribute to~~ a regional or statewide effort to attain satisfactory air quality in Central Florida at a condition equal to or better than state and federal air quality standards through the implementation of the following policies (below). ~~Winter Park should also reduce air emissions (including carbon) that contribute to global climate change.~~

Policy 5-1: Transportation Alternatives. The City shall continue to plan for transportation alternatives to gasoline-powered automobiles by planning efficient pedestrian and bicycle systems and by evaluating future feasibility for multimodal systems, including bus and passenger rail transit, and by adapting streets, and parking structures to facilitate the use of pedestrian and bicycle transportation ~~alternatively powered vehicles such as electric and hybrid cars.~~

Policy 5-2: Support Transit Service. The City shall continue to support transit service within Winter Park, including annual allocation of city funds for such service if when such services are determined to provide a ~~direct~~ benefit commensurate with the cost to Winter Park residents and businesses and meet City goals and objectives. ~~Where possible such, service should include alternatively powered vehicles.~~

Policy 5-3: Urban Form and Pattern. The City shall integrate land use patterns and transportation systems by assuring that character, design, and intensity of development is compatible with adjacent transportation infrastructure and services. The City shall continue to facilitate an urban form following planning concepts inherent to neo-traditional neighborhood planning philosophies (i.e., grid system street pattern, residential and non-residential uses within walking distance, public open spaces and plazas).

Policy 5-4: Outdoor Burning Prohibition. The City shall continue to enforce the prohibition on open burning of trash and debris.

Policy 5-5: Air Monitoring Participation. The City shall continue to assist Orange County's air quality monitoring program by maintaining the availability of the Lake Island Park air quality monitoring station.

Policy 5-6: Public Education. The City shall support LYNX (aka Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority), the METROPLAN Orlando, and Orange County efforts to educate and promote public awareness about mass transit, car-pooling, bikeways, park-n-ride lots, and other alternative transportation modes as a means to reduce automobile emission pollution.

Policy 5-7: Air Quality Standards. The City shall support enforcement of applicable standards for air quality to control significant emissions of air pollutants in order to maintain and improve the existing air quality.

Policy 5-8: Combat Erosion and Generation of Dust Particles. Construction or clearing activities that expose, destabilize, or otherwise alter soil shall be required to implement best management principles and practices for soil protection to reduce wind-related soil erosion and dust particles as air pollutant.

Policy 5-9: Promote Alternative Transportation Fuels. As part of the capital purchasing process for new motor vehicles used to transport City staff serving functions other than life/safety or maintenance operations, the City shall consider the costs and benefits of vehicles powered by alternative fuels or engine design, such as hybrid or electric vehicles.

Policy 5-10: Energy Conservation and Alternative Energy Use. Because the City of Winter Park ~~now~~ owns the electric utility serving the city, it is able to pursue policies and programs designed to conserve energy and to make use of alternative energy sources. The City shall consider: 1) Incentives and provide technical assistance for commercial and residential energy conservation, 2) Incentives for the installation of solar power generation and solar hot water heating by its residential and commercial customers, 3) The purchase of “green power” for sale to its customers.

Policy 5-11: Green Technology for Municipal Buildings. The City shall consider the feasibility of retrofit in existing municipal buildings and design new buildings to minimize the use of energy, water and other resources, to facilitate the generation of solar power and to serve as examples for others of environmental sustainability.

OBJECTIVE 5-2: SURFACE WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY - LAKES, STREAMS, AND CANALS. Pursuant to the City’s goals ~~strategic plan~~ to maintain and improve the quality of city lakes and other water bodies, the City shall conserve, appropriately use, and protect the quality and quantity of surface water sources to maintain environmental and recreational benefits through the implementation of the following policies.

Policy 5-12: Construction Impacts on Surface Water Quality. Soil and silt material disturbed by clearing and construction activities shall remain onsite and away from lake and streams through application of soil protection methods including application of the following techniques where applicable.

1. Soil erosion created by wind and stormwater runoff shall be reduced through the application of construction practices that retain soils on-site to the greatest extent practical.

2. Tree and vegetation protection standards shall prevent the clearing of land or the removal of trees, particularly within littoral zones (shoreline areas), except when authorized by the City through development or clearing permits.
3. Temporary stormwater drainage systems, such as swales and berms, shall be installed with new construction and clearing activities to capture direct surface run-off waters that may carry sand, silt, and other debris into lakes or streams.

Policy 5-13: Infrastructure Improvements. The City shall continually implement surface water quality improvement projects that minimize debris, nutrient and bacteriological contamination of the lakes to include street and sediment trap cleaning, canal wall replacement, retention systems, replanting native aquatic vegetation, and Alum Injection systems.

Policy 5-14: Stormwater Utility Fees. The City shall continue ~~the to impose a~~ stormwater utility fee ~~on development~~ as a means of generating revenue for surface water quality improvement projects.

Policy 5-15: Aquatic Plant Management. The City shall employ aquatic plant management practices that reduce the emergence of non-native, undesirable aquatic plants and improve conditions for safe recreational boating and fishing activities.

Policy 5-16: Alternative Approaches to Aquatic Plant Management. The City shall continue to investigate alternative physical, biological and chemical controls for its aquatic plant management program in order to protect water quality while also controlling undesirable and non-native aquatic plants. The City shall coordinate with the FDEP on an annual basis regarding best management practices and alternative methods to control emergence and proliferation of undesirable aquatic plants.

Policy 5-17: Septic Tank Use. The City shall require approval of the Orange County Health Department for any septic system construction or renovation.

Policy 5-18: Stormwater Design Compatibility with Natural Systems. Stormwater retention/detention areas shall be designed and landscaped to appear as a natural waterbody. Any stormwater detention or retention areas located near lakes or other water bodies within the corporate limits of the Winter Park shall be designed with shorelines that are sinuous rather than straight and that create curvilinear shorelines at the water/land interface. The City shall include design criteria and landscape requirements for stormwater retention/detention facilities.

Policy 5-19: Regional Surface Water Quality Programs and Improvements. The City shall coordinate its surface water improvement program with the SJRWMD's Surface Water Improvement and Management Plan applicable to the middle basin of the St. Johns River and the Econlockhatchee River System. The City shall also coordinate with SJRWMD regarding City surface water improvement projects that may be eligible for SJRWMD funding assistance.

OBJECTIVE 5-3: PROTECTION OF POTABLE WATER RESOURCES. The City shall conserve, appropriately use and protect the water quality and quantity of current and projected water sources through the implementation of the following policies.

Policy 5-20: East-Central Florida Water Supply Planning Initiative. The City shall continue to participate in workshops and intergovernmental coordination activities conducted as part of the SJRWMD's East-Central Florida Water Supply Planning Initiative, which strives to identify long term solutions to regional groundwater supply problems and to identify potential alternative water sources other than the Floridan aquifer.

Policy 5-21: Water Supply Evaluation. Upon the effective date of the City of Winter Park Comprehensive Plan, the City shall not approve an amendment to the Future Land Use Map, a modification of any land use designation resulting in an increase in density or intensity, or a modification to any land use designation that will changes uses and activities allowed therein, unless one of the two following criteria are met:

1. Water supply necessary to service a utility service area must be available under the allocation allowed by a consumptive use permit issued by the SJRWMD. The water supply allocation must be able to meet the water demands anticipated from the utility service area as well as the additional demands generated by development allowed by an amendment to the City of Winter Park Comprehensive Plan. Infrastructure and wells necessary to withdraw water supplies demanded by a utility service area must be in place and approved by FDEP and the SJRWMD.
2. At the time of the issuance of a building permit, the City shall verify with the Water and Wastewater Utility Department that adequate water supplies will be available to serve the new development no later than the anticipated date of issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

Policy 5-22: Consumptive Use Permit. The City shall comply, as required, with the provisions of the consumptive water use permit issued to Winter Park Utilities by the SJRWMD.

Policy 5-23: Utility Rate Structure. The City shall encourage and foster water conservation through its inverted water utility rates. The City shall periodically evaluate the utility service's water rate methods and service to determine if rate adjustments are necessary to discourage overuse.

Policy 5-24: Public Education. The City shall support public awareness of water conservation needs through informative and education material made available to residents and business through mediums such as notices included with water bills and postings on the City's web site. The City shall also cooperate with the SJRWMD to regarding its public education programs that promote water conservation.

Policy 5-25: Water Restriction Notices. The City shall utilize utility bills, the City's newsletter, or its web site to facilitate public education addressing methods to achieve compliance within any restrictions on water usage and lawn irrigation imposed by the St. Johns River Water Management District.

Policy 5-26: Wellhead Protection. Activities that may potentially threaten groundwater quality shall be located away from potable water wellheads. The City shall protect subsurface aquifer water sources and thereby conserve the source of the City's future potable water by prohibiting uses such as the storage or disposal of hazardous materials, new underground storage tanks and

new septic tanks within a 1,500 ~~500~~ foot radius surrounding wellfields. Wellhead protection standards shall be consistent with any standards imposed by the SJRWMD or the FDEP.

Policy 5-27: Wellfield Protection Areas. The City shall ensure the protection of potable water supply by prohibiting uses such as the storage or disposal of hazardous materials, new underground storage tanks and new septic tanks or have the potential to harm the water supply in accordance with Chapters 62-521 and 62-555, F.A.C. within a 1,500 ~~500~~ foot radius surrounding wellfields. The area ~~enclosed~~ within a 1,500 ~~500~~ foot radial distance surrounding the well is designated as a wellfield protection area.

Policy 5-28: Drought Tolerant Landscaping. Landscape standards shall continue to include requirements to encourage the use of low-water tolerant plant species as well as the installation of rain or moisture monitor devices for irrigation systems.

Policy 5-29: Incentives for Use of Low-Water Tolerant Landscaping. The City shall allow the elimination of a required irrigation system when a landscape plan is approved by the Parks Department that includes the use of native plants and other vegetation which will survive without irrigation, while still achieving the landscape buffering.

Policy 5-30: Water-Saving Fixtures. By 2009, the City shall require the use of water-saving plumbing fixtures for all new development. For building rehabilitation or remodeling projects, the City shall evaluate and consider adopting incentives to encourage plumbing fixture retrofits for water-saving fixtures. ~~Public fountains installed at City parks and facilities after the effective date of the City of Winter Park Comprehensive Plan shall be designed to use recirculating water.~~

Policy 5-31: Development within Area of Special Well Construction (ASWC). All new development occurring within an area designated by the SJRWMD as an “Area of Special Well Construction” must be served by a central water and sewer system.

Policy 5-32: Emergency Water Conservation. Winter Park shall cooperate with the SJRWMD to conserve water resources during water supply emergencies.

Policy 5-33: Extension of Gray Water/Re-Use Lines. The City shall encourage the extension of gray water systems and re-use lines to those developed areas of Winter Park currently not served by such systems. If such coordination efforts reveal that extension of re-use lines is not financially feasible, the City shall investigate potential grant funds administered by state or federal agencies that may be eligible to assist with the extension of such systems.

Policy 5-34: Multi-jurisdictional Planning Initiatives. Identify partnerships with surrounding utilities such as Orange County, Orlando Utilities Commission, and Seminole County on regional tradition and alternative water supply development projects to provide wholesale water to the City of Winter Park.

OBJECTIVE 5-4: MAINTENANCE OF FLOODPLAIN. The City shall protect the natural functions of the 100-year floodplain to maintain its current flood carrying and flood storage capacity and to minimize damage to property caused by flooding.

Policy 5-35: Alteration of Streams and Floodways. The City shall continue to prohibit the altering of, or construction in any stream or floodway, adding any fill, development proposing compensating storage in streams and wetland floodplain areas. The City's Floodplain Protection Ordinance shall maintain consistency with program policies of the Federal Insurance Administration.

Policy 5-36: Floodplain Protection Standards. The City shall continue to require a conditional use permit for any type of construction within the stream floodplain areas, a lakefront, canalfront and streamfront site plan review by the Planning and Zoning Commission for approval of all construction within lake, canal and stream floodplain areas, new habitable construction to locate outside all lakefront and stream floodplain areas, and require connection to sewer over septic where possible.

Policy 5-37: FEMA Construction Standards. The City shall require that construction meet or exceed the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) standards.

OBJECTIVE 5-5: PROTECT AND PRESERVE WETLANDS. Preserve, protect, restore and replace wetlands to achieve no net loss of functional wetlands after the adoption of this comprehensive plan. The City shall ensure the protection of wetlands and wetland functional values by prioritizing protective activities with avoidance of impacts as the first priority, minimization of impacts as the second priority, and mitigation for impacts as the third priority.

Policy 5-38: Wetland Definition and Delineation. The Florida Legislature preempts the authority of any water management district, state or regional agency, or local government to define wetlands or develop a delineation methodology to implement the definition and determines that the exclusive definition and delineation methodology for wetlands ~~shall be that established pursuant to s. 373.019(22) and s. 373.421, F.S.~~ The use of the term wetlands in the Goals, Objectives and Policies of this Comprehensive Plan shall be pursuant to this definition and delineation.

Policy 5-39: Dedication of Conservation Areas. Conservation future land use designation ~~easements~~ shall be placed on all wetlands or other adjacent environmentally sensitive lands ~~within fifty (50) feet of wetlands~~ as a condition or requirement of a development approval for all properties containing any designated wetland.

Policy 5-40: Preservation of Wetlands. The City's preservation of all wetlands within the City shall be to prohibit any fill, disturbance, or development within any designated wetland. No development of any kind shall be permitted within any designated wetland area except for an elevated boardwalk or gazebo that may be permitted by the City Commission ~~and require a supermajority (four votes) for approval~~ only within wetlands that are part of the City's park and recreation system. ~~This shall apply to all classifications of wetlands pursuant to the requirements of Rule 9J-5.013(3)(a) F.A.C.~~

Policy 5-41: Protection of Wetlands. The City's protection of all wetlands in the City including adjacent environmentally sensitive lands shall be to prohibit any development within fifty (50) feet of all designated wetlands. No fill disturbance or development may occur within this fifty (50) foot buffer protection zone. ~~This shall apply to all classifications of wetlands pursuant to the requirements of Rule 9J-5.013(3)(a) F.A.C.~~

Policy 5-42: Protection of Environmentally Sensitive Lands. The City's protection of environmentally sensitive lands shall be to prohibit all development within fifty (50) feet of all designated wetlands, any stream, canal, or lake and within fifty (50) feet of any wildlife habitat containing endangered or threatened species as detailed on Map 5-5 in this element.

Policy 5-43: Conservation Designation. The Future Land Use Element and Map shall require a conservation designation to be placed upon all wetlands, floodways and stream floodplain areas designated by the FEMA floodplain maps along all stream front areas in the city specifically to protect these areas from development impacts and potential encroachment. The Future Land Use Map shall place a Conservation Designation upon such wetlands along Howell Branch Creek northeast of Lake Maitland as well as the Howell Branch Creek wetlands located between Lakes Sue and Virginia.

Policy 5-44: Wetland Mitigation. Disturbance or destruction of wetlands shall be avoided on lands designated conservation. Where the SJRWMD has approved the removal, alteration, or destruction of wetlands, mitigation shall occur consistent with ~~Section 62-312~~, Florida Administrative Code. Prior to issuance of any land clearing or construction permit from the City, an applicant must receive and adhere to all environmental permits that are required by the State of Florida.

Policy 5-45: Wetland Mitigation Sites. Where wetland mitigation is required by the SJRWMD, the mitigation site must occur within or adjacent to the City of Winter Park except when a site cannot be found that meets the approval of the SJRWMD and the City. The City will encourage the protection and preservation of wetlands within the City limits instead of off-site locations.

Policy 5-46: Wetland Regulations Shall Avoid Duplication. Wetland regulations adopted by the City shall avoid duplication of wetland regulation by maintaining consistency with the regulations of FDEP and SJRWMD.

- A. The City shall regulate activities which will result in the destruction and/or degradation of functional wetlands that have been permitted by FDEP or SJRWMD based on FDEP and SJRWMD professional staff application of criteria, evaluation and conditions of approval.
- B. Any permitted wetland degradation or destruction shall provide for mitigation as designated in the Conservation Element.

OBJECTIVE 5-6: PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES. The City shall conserve and protect the remaining natural systems through appropriate land use designations. All future development or redevelopment of land affecting natural resources shall be consistent with the City of Winter Park Comprehensive Plan.

Policy 5-47: Protect Conservation Areas. The City shall protect conservation areas, parks and open space lands from activities that would significantly damage the natural integrity, character or environmental balance of said areas.

Policy 5-48: Designation of Conservation Land Resources. The Future Land Use Map series delineates Conservation Future Land Use for wetlands whose value warrants long-term preservation. Such areas include ~~shoreline areas~~, wetlands, floodways and floodplains ~~as well as adjacent uplands such wetlands~~ along Howell Branch Creek northeast of Lake Maitland as well as along the Howell Branch Creek wetlands located between Lakes Sue and Virginia. All conservation land resources shall either remain undeveloped or shall undergo "restricted development." "Restricted development" shall be defined as the development options allowed by the development rights and restrictions stipulated in the Future Land Use Element. Passive recreation shall be a use that is allowed within the Conservation future land use designation.

Policy 5-49: Use of Conservation, Open Space and Recreation Areas. Those areas designated on the Future Land Use Map for conservation, open space and recreation shall not be developed except in furtherance of those purposes and as allowed by City of Winter Park's Comprehensive Plan. Remaining areas of important natural habitat shall not be altered or converted to active recreational facilities.

Policy 5-50: Intergovernmental Coordination and Natural Resource Management. The City shall coordinate with the FDEP, SJRWMD, East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and Orange County regarding management or protection of natural resources. Such intergovernmental coordinating activities shall protect the values and functions of natural systems. The methods for coordinating with other local governments, state, federal, and private plans/programs for conservation of natural resources shall be incorporated into the City's planning process.

Policy 5-51: Enforcement Activities. The City shall protect and conserve the natural functions of existing vegetative communities, fauna, flora, soils, lakes, floodplains, and other identified natural resources.

Policy 5-52: Evaluate Opportunities for Land Acquisition. The City shall annually consider the usefulness and availability of state and federal grant programs for the acquisition lands for conservation areas or passive recreation.

OBJECTIVE 5-7: PROTECT NATIVE VEGETATION AND AQUATIC HABITATS. The City shall protect and retain major vegetative communities, aquatic habitats, and endangered and threatened plant species through implementation of the following policies.

Policy 5-53: Implementing Protection of Vegetative Communities and Lake Habitats. The City shall require that development protect trees ~~and vegetation~~ by minimizing the removal of protected trees and requiring compensation and replanting for the loss of protected trees based on the diameter of tree. ~~The City shall review development plans and shall require minimal lot clearance to preserve vegetation.~~ Plans for lakeshore development shall be reviewed to prevent shoreline erosion, degradation of water quality, and harmful impacts on lake habitat.

Policy 5-54: Preservation of Native Plant Communities. Tree protection and land clearing standards within the Land Development Code shall continue to mandate that new development preserve shoreline vegetation, wetlands, and vegetative habits known to serve as nesting areas or habitat for endangered or threatened species, or that mitigate the impacts of runoff on lakes and wetlands.

Policy 5-55: Removal of Undesirable Exotic Vegetation. All nuisance and invasive exotic plant species shall be removed from development sites by a property owner/developer prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

Policy 5-56: Location of Park and Open Space Dedications. Where park and open space dedications required of new development are placed on-site, they shall be placed in areas that provide the greatest protection to and preserve the most environmentally important and sensitive.

Policy 5-57: Use of Native Plants for Landscaping. Landscape plans and plant materials required of new development shall promote the use of native plant species and avoid the planting of exotic plants known to create nuisances.

Policy 5-58: Restoration of Buffer Strips Along Shorelines. Shoreline landowners shall be encouraged to replace shorelines landscaped in turf grass with buffer strips of native vegetation at least ten feet in width.

OBJECTIVE 5-8: TREES AND TREESCAPE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION. The City shall maintain, conserve, and foster the extensive tree inventory and tree canopy within the City.

Policy 5-59: Tree Planting Program. The City shall maintain, conserve and foster the extensive tree inventory and canopy within Winter Park by continuing an urban forestry program that includes tree planting, and tree maintenance along City right-of-ways and on City owned property, develop and implement educational programs to assist homeowners with the maintenance and care of trees, and the administration of a tree inventory, keeping record of the location and status of trees within public lands and along public right-of-ways. A comprehensive approach to the management of streetscape trees shall include the following:

1. Establish an accurate information database on the existing street tree inventory on a block-by-block basis;
2. Project the useful life expectancy of street trees in order to assess the replacement cost and other implementation requirements. The objective of the data is to assess the likely impact on individual streets when existing street trees die as well as to assess and quantify the requirements for replacement on a block-by-block basis for each fiscal year;
3. As a result of developing accurate forecasts and the costs of the replanting requirements, the City shall develop a funding plan to implement a streetscape tree protection and reforestation program.

Policy 5-60: Tree Protection from Development Activities. The City shall protect and conserve specimen and other significant trees from destruction by development activities in a manner consistent with the Land Development Code regulations.

Policy 5-61: Tree City USA Program. The City shall continue to participate in the Tree City USA program and sponsor related arbor celebration events.

Policy 5-62: Establish and Implement a Reforestation Plan. Pursuant to the City's strategic plan, The City shall develop and implement a reforestation plan to maintain and enhance the city's tree canopy.

OBJECTIVE 5-9: PROTECT FISHERIES, WILDLIFE, AND WILDLIFE HABITATS. The City shall conserve habitat for fish, wildlife, and aquatic species including species that are threatened and endangered.

Policy 5-63: Conduct an Inventory of Natural Habitats. The City shall work cooperatively with others environmental interest groups and agencies having jurisdiction to conduct an inventories of natural habitat remaining within its boundaries.

Policy 5-64 Protect and Restore Areas of Existing Wildlife Habitat. The City shall protect areas of important wildlife habitat through appropriate restoration and management of City owned land, through acquisition of remaining open space, and through application of measures to prevent the filling and development of wetlands. Important areas to be so conserved include:

- The cypress grove in Kraft Azalea Gardens
- Mead Garden
- The remaining undeveloped portion of the Genius Property adjacent to Lake Virginia and Lake Mizell
- The wetland area of Howell Branch Creek between Lake Sue and Lake Virginia and north of Lake Maitland.

Policy 5-65 Protect Shoreline Ecosystems. The City shall continue to conserve and protect ecosystems occurring within the littoral zone of lakes by enforcing the City's shoreline protection ordinance.

Policy 5-66: Protect Listed Species. The City shall maintain, to the best of its abilities, the populations of species listed as threatened, endangered and species of special concern, and shall restrict activities as reasonably possible known to adversely affect the survival of these species.

Policy 5-67: Coordination with Environmental Agencies. If development activity is proposed on or near property where listed species (endangered, threatened, or species of special concern), the City shall coordinate with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in determining whether a development permit can be issued.

Policy 5-68: Lake Management Programs. The City shall maintain and enforce its Lake Management Program that prioritizes actions designed to protect, conserve and enhance natural shoreline habitat, aquatic and wildlife habitat and the preservation of threatened or endangered species that use surface waters for habitat.

Policy 5-69: Open Space in New Development. Where natural habitat exists in areas of new development or where open space is required as part of new development, maintaining or restoring natural habitat should be an option for providing open space that may be required by the City.

OBJECTIVE 5-10: SOIL AND SHORELINE PROTECTION. The City shall continually conserve and protect soils through the prevention of soil erosion.

Policy 5-70: Soil Erosion Prevention through Construction Activities. The City shall protect and conserve the natural functions of existing soil resources by requiring construction activities to apply soil erosion prevention techniques to prevent soils from eroding onto adjacent properties, right-of-ways, lakes and streams.

Policy 5-61: Turf Grass and Landscaping Maintenance. Ground plants, trees and turf grass shall be maintained consistent with landscape plans approved by the City. The City shall assure that site vegetation is maintained and complies with the approved landscape plan.

Policy 5-62: Lake Management Program. The City shall continue to fund and operate tree and vegetation planting programs for lakefront areas and littoral zones. The City shall continue to manage the operation of boat docks and accessory structures that may occur along shoreline areas to prevent environmental degradation and ensure public safety.

Policy 5-63: Protection of Littoral Zone Vegetation. The City shall enforce the shoreline protection regulations that provide controls that protect, conserve and enhance significant native vegetative species from destruction by development activities.

Policy 5-64: Construction Activities Consistent with Soil Types. Where soil conditions do not appear to be consistent with proposed construction, the City shall require soil testing and evaluation as a prerequisite to building permits. The City shall limit land uses or construction techniques to best management principles and practices compatible with soil conditions specific to the site.

OBJECTIVE 5-11: MANAGING DISPOSAL OF WASTES. The City shall assure that generation, storage, transport, and disposal of wastes in Winter Park are managed with the best available technology to protect environmental quality.

Policy 5-65: Collection of Residential Hazardous Wastes. The City shall continue to operate the Special Collection Facility for household hazardous wastes and shall cooperate with the Orange County Environmental Protection Division to ensure the proper use, storage, disposal and recycling of hazardous materials.

Policy 5-66: Intergovernmental Coordination for Solid and Hazardous Waste. The City shall continue to coordinate with the Orange County regarding countywide hazardous waste disposal and monitoring programs.

Policy 5-67: Managing Hazardous Waste. The City shall ensure the appropriate locations for the use, handling or storage of hazardous wastes, including their proximity to public water system wellheads and surface water resources. The City shall protect subsurface aquifer water sources by restricting uses within a 1,500 500 foot radius surrounding wellfields to those that do not include hazardous materials of any type. Wellhead protection standards shall be consistent with any standards imposed by the SJRWMD or the FDEP.

Policy 5-68: Identification of Hazardous Waste. The City shall continue its practice to require the identification of any and all hazardous wastes or materials used or stored by any licensed business within the City. This practice shall continue to be implemented through the review of a business licenses for information regarding hazardous materials to be use or stored on-site.

Policy 5-69: Monitor Small Quantity Generators. The City shall utilize the Fire Department's business inspection program to monitor the businesses using hazardous materials, shall report all potential problems, and shall respond to any resultant problems.

Policy 5-70: Hazardous Waste Mismanagement. The City shall utilize the Fire Department's Inspection Program, Public Works Department Inspection Program and the Code Enforcement Division Inspection Program to seek out, report and mandate corrections to any misuse of hazardous wastes to ensure the public safety and to avoid degradation to natural resources, including water quality.

OBJECTIVE 5-12: PROTECTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES.

Land development and clearing activities shall incorporate appropriate measures to prevent damage to archaeologically and historically significant resources of local, regional, state, and federal significance.

Policy 5-71: Coordinate Archaeological and Historic Preservation Activities. The City shall continue coordination with the Florida Department of State and the federal government to implement City, State, and federal policies for identifying, preserving, and enhancing sites of historical and archaeological significance within Winter Park.

Policy 5-72: Preventing Adverse Impact of Development on Historic or Archaeological Sites. The City shall continue programs to identify and preserve historic places and prevent development impacts from adversely disturbing archaeological sites that are identified during or before construction activity.

Policy 5-73: Protection of Designated Historic Sites. The City shall continue to preserve historic and archaeological resources and protect these resources from adverse impacts of development in a manner consistent with the Land Development Code.

OBJECTIVE 5-13: EVALUATION OF THE CONSERVATION ELEMENT EFFECTIVENESS.

The City shall enforce the following policies to ensure that the Conservation Element protects the natural resources within the City of Winter Park.

Policy 5-74: Review the Impact of Changing Conditions on Conservation Policy. The City shall monitor and evaluate significant changes in the characteristics of natural resources within Winter Park Policy implications of such changes shall be examined and corrective measures shall be pursued. Conservation policies shall be refined as needed in order to remain responsive to evolving problems and issues.

Policy 5-75: Schedule, Budget, and Implement Programmed Activities. The timely scheduling, programming, budgeting and implementation of programmed conservation activities identified in this Element shall be evidence of the City's effectiveness in carrying out a systematic program for implementing conservation goals, objectives, and policies.

Policy 5-76: Coordinate with Public and Private Sectors. While continually implementing and evaluating the Conservation Element, the City shall maintain a process of intergovernmental coordination as well as coordination with private sector groups interested in conservation policy and programs. The effectiveness of this approach shall be evaluated by the success of coordination mechanisms in resolving conservation problems and issues.

Policy 5-77: Achieve Effective Resolution of Conservation Goals, Objectives, and Policies. The effectiveness of the Conservation Element shall be measured by the City's success in achieving conservation goals, objectives, and policies. The Conservation Element incorporates a systematic planning process for identifying conservation problems and issues and implementing corrective measures.

OBJECTIVE 5-14: PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF GROUND WATER QUANTITY AND QUALITY. The City of Winter Park shall protect and conserve groundwater quantity and quality so that future development activities are conducted in a manner that, at a minimum, meets state water quality standards.

Policy 5-78: Continue Monitoring Water Quality Near Wellfields. Winter Park shall continue a monitoring program and procedures to monitor the water quality in the vicinity of the City's wellfields.

Policy 5-79: Mitigation of Impacts From Private Business. The City shall work with the appropriate regulatory agency to mitigate adverse impacts, if detected, of private businesses which use, generate or produce any material characterized or listed on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act's or the Environmental Protection Agency's hazardous waste lists.

Policy 5-80: Cooperation with St. Johns River Water Management District for Emergency Water Shortage Plan. Winter Park shall cooperate with the St. Johns River Water Management District in the enforcement of the provisions of their emergency water shortage plans.

Policy 5-81: City to Take Action to Combat Sources of Pollution. Winter Park shall, when identified, take action to combat sources of pollution that could threaten groundwater quality such as malfunctioning drain wells, improperly installed septic tanks, and improper disposal of hazardous waste areas.

Conservation Map Series

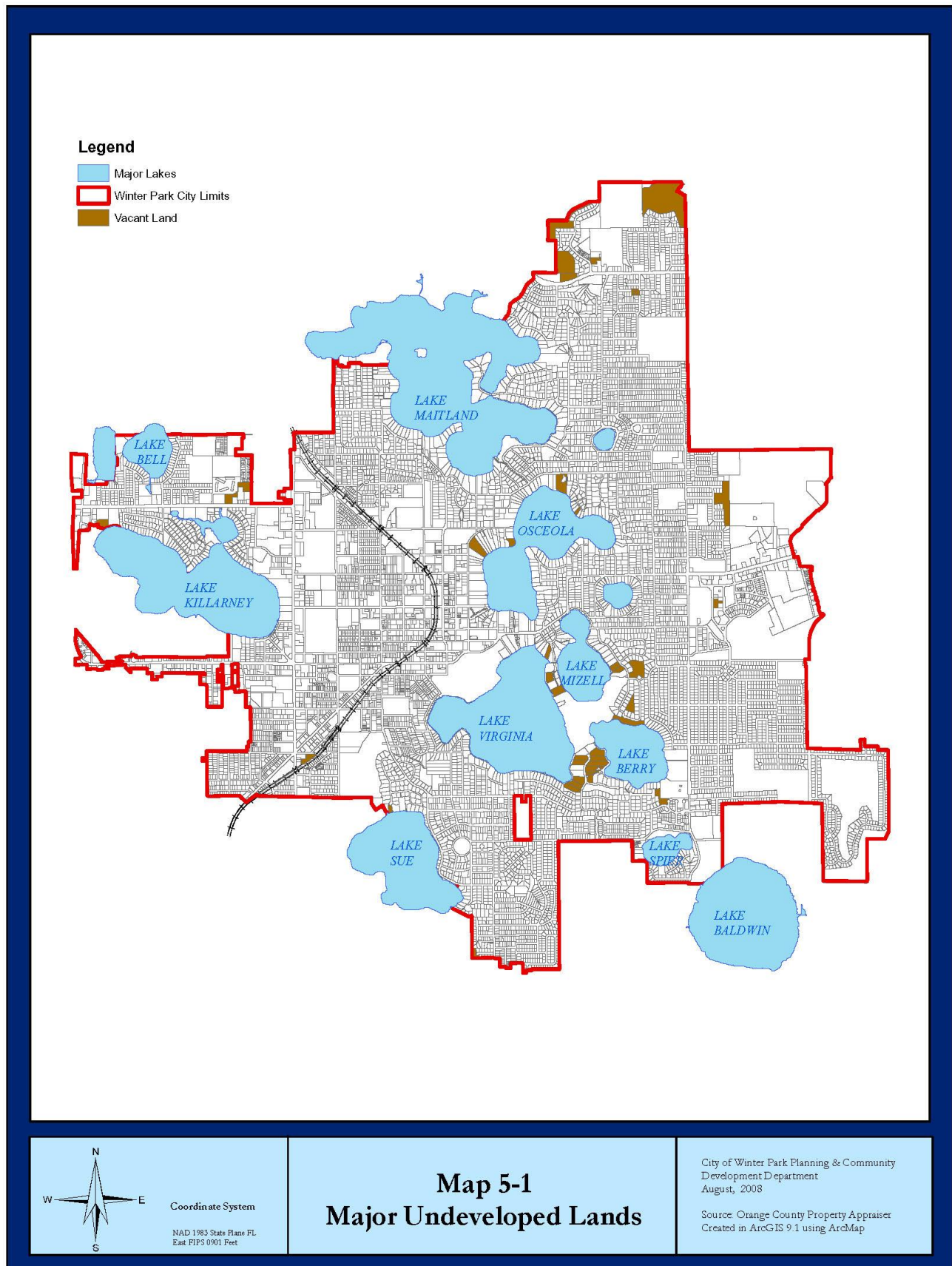
Map 5-1: Major Undeveloped Lands

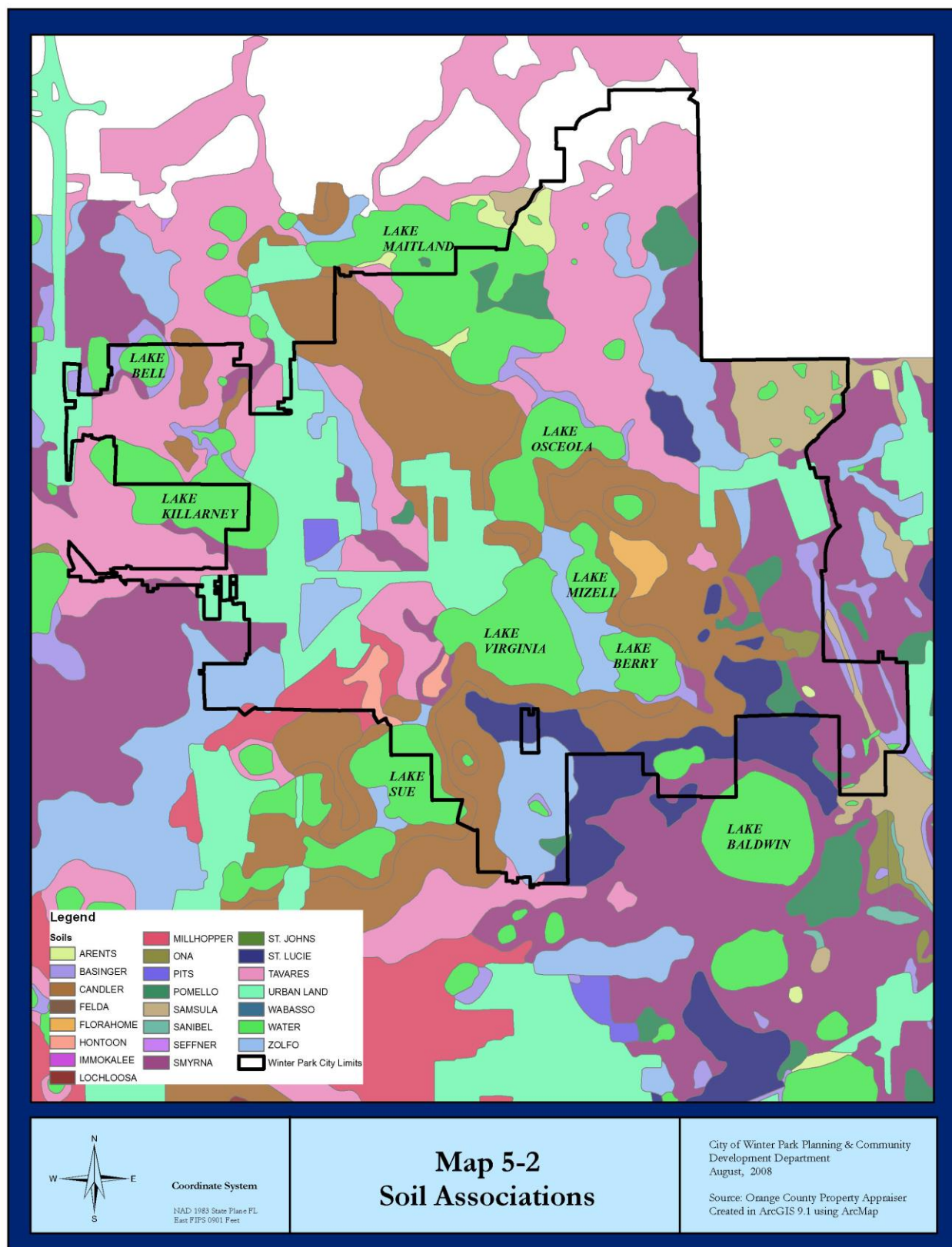
Map 5-2: Soil Associations

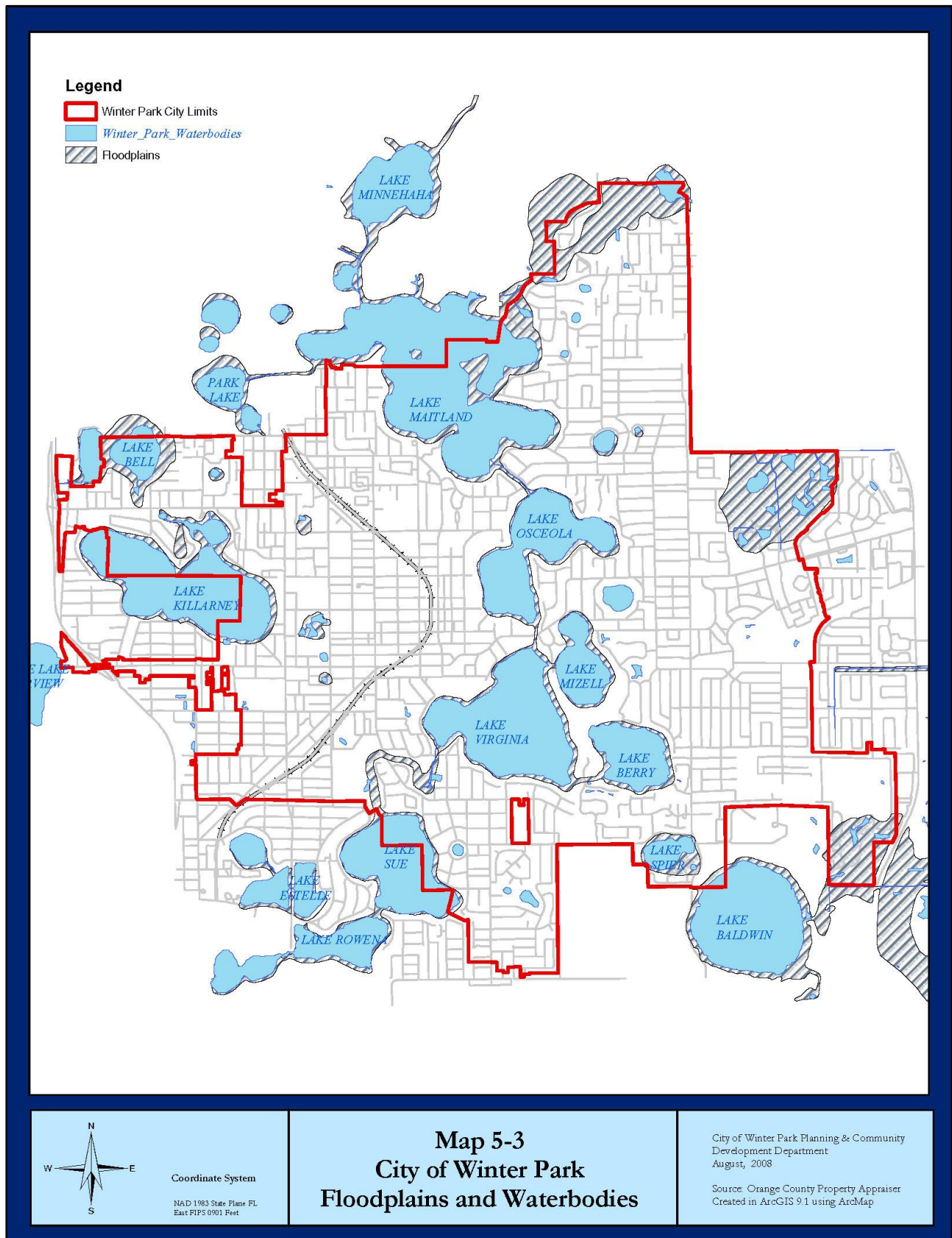
Map 5-3: Floodplains and Water Bodies

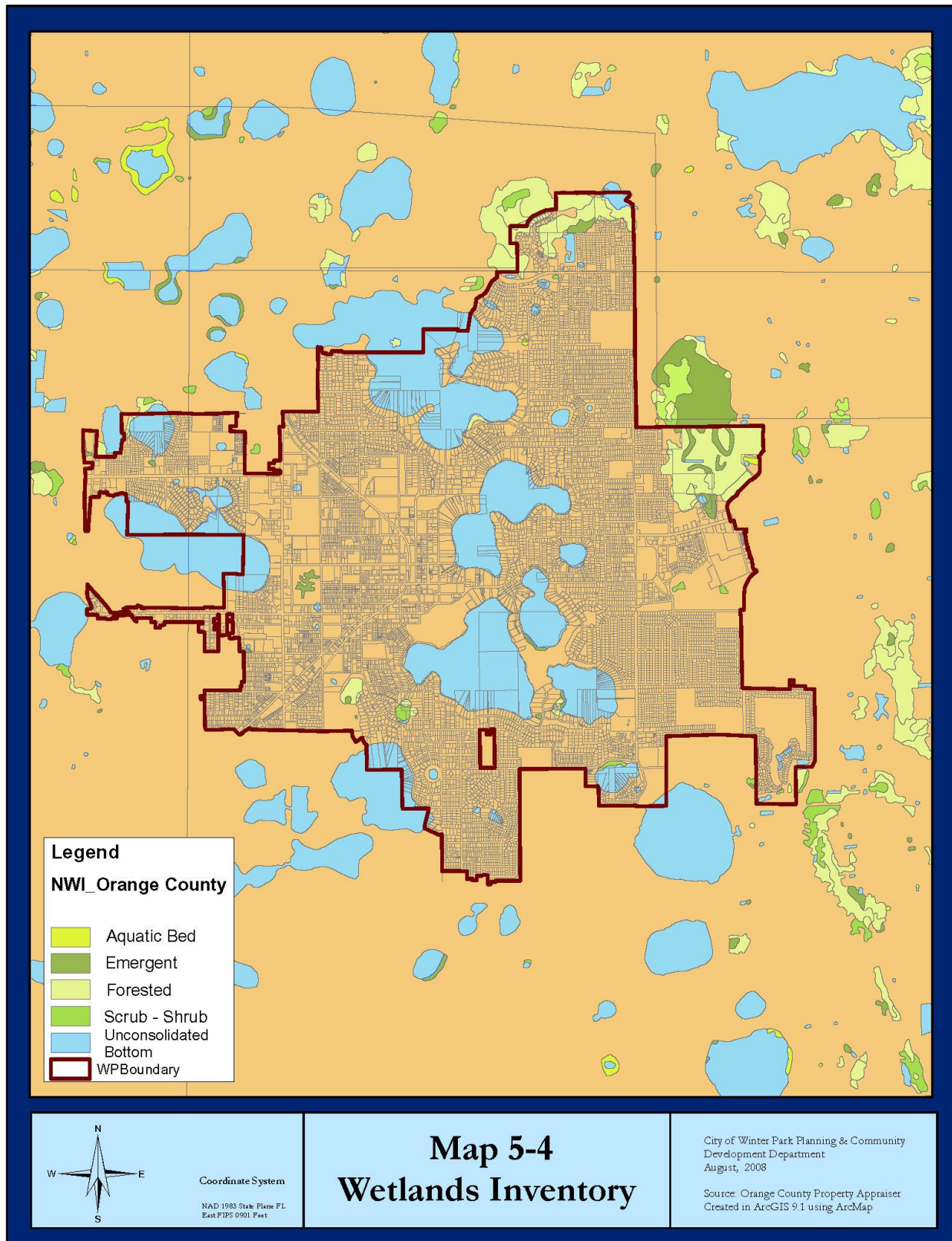
Map 5-4: Wetlands Inventory

Map 5-5: Potential Wildlife Habitat and Listed Species Observations Identified by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory

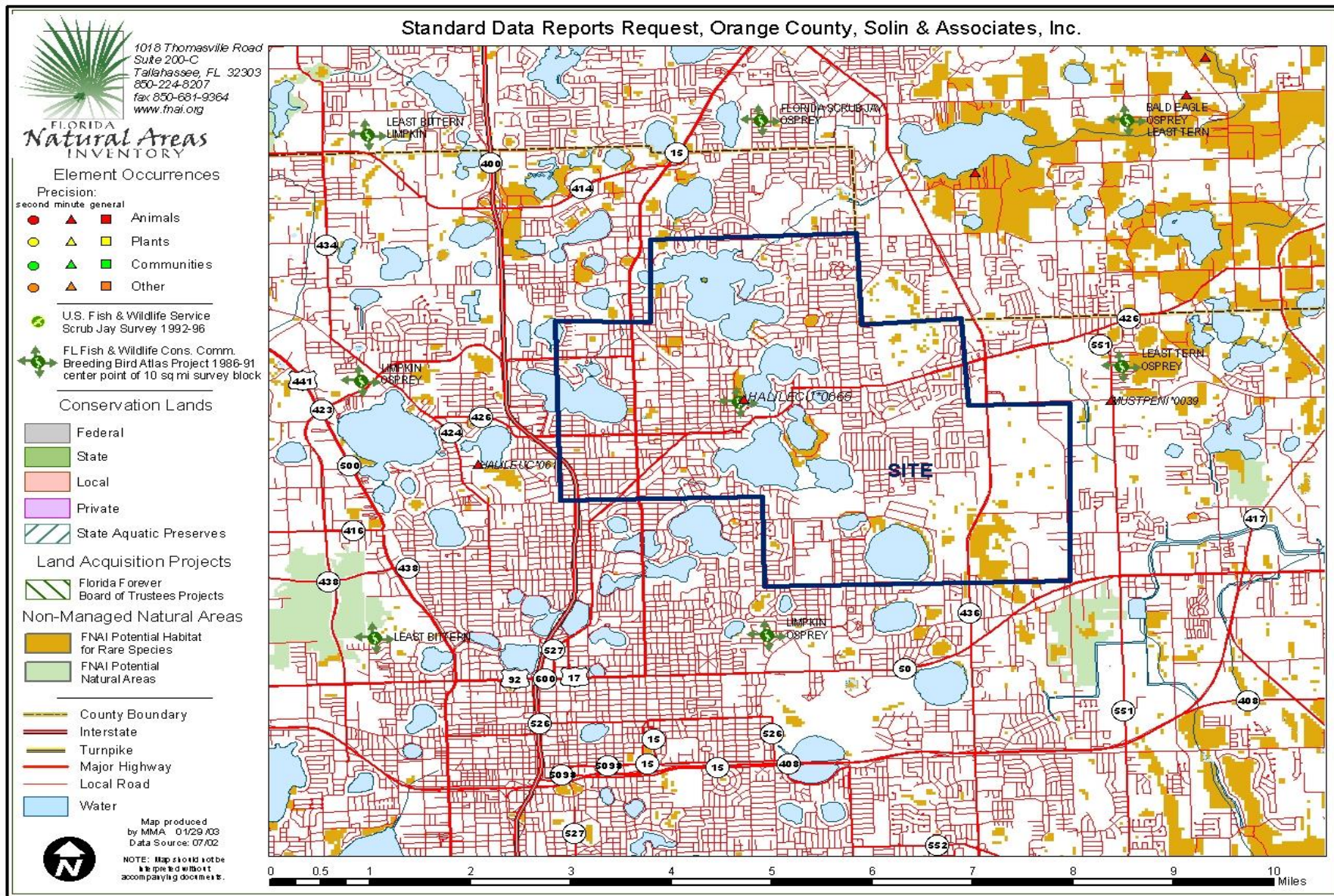








Map 5-5: Potential Wildlife Habitat and Listed Specie Observations Identified by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory



CONSERVATION ELEMENT DATA INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

This section addresses the data inventory requirements of Chapter 163, supportive to the development of goals, objectives, policies, and implementation programs for the Conservation Element.

Introduction. The purpose of the Conservation Element is to provide a plan and policy direction for the preservation, conservation and management of natural resources occurring in the City of Winter Park. The element will identify and analyze our existing air, land, water and living resources, and will be used to establish objectives and policies for the protection and enhancement of these resources.

INVENTORY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

This section identifies and inventories air and water quality, floodplains, wetlands, soil conditions, valuable mineral deposits, vegetative communities, and endangered species. The physical natural resources are presented first and followed by the biological natural resources.

Inventory and Analysis of Physical Natural Resources. Physical natural resources discussed within this subsection include air, water, floodplains, wetlands, soils, and minerals. Map 5-3 illustrates the location of identifiable natural resources in Winter Park such as wetlands and conservation areas.

A. **Air Quality.** The U.S. Clean Air Act requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to establish and enforce national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for pollutants identified as harmful to public health or the environment. As required by the U.S. EPA, the FDEP administers an air quality monitoring program to measure outdoor concentration of those pollutants for which ambient air quality standards have been established. Under the provisions of the FEPA 150 grant program, the Orange County Department of Community and Environmental Resources performs air quality monitoring for the five major air contaminants -- carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, particulates, and sulfur dioxide.¹

Pollution levels are monitored at six sites within Orange County. The primary station is located in Winter Park at Morse and Denning Avenues, is in a stable and developed area, which means the data collected at this station is most reliable for monitoring air quality trends. The City of Winter Park participates in the air monitoring program by providing space for the Lake Island Estates monitoring station.

FDEP has adopted air quality standards consistent with national standards. The U.S. EPA uses an air quality index (AQI) to summarize conditions on a regional basis. Based on measured levels of five pollutants, the AQI grades air quality as good, moderate, unhealthy for sensitive groups, and unhealthy according to a numerical indicators. Five pollutants -- carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, particulates, and sulfur dioxide -- are evaluated by the U.S. EPA and the FDEP for concentration levels in Central Florida. Using the FDEP Air Quality Index, air quality generally ranges from good to moderate in central Florida.

¹ Orange County Department of Community and Environmental Resources.

Winter Park should continue to promote development and land use patterns that promotes the use of bicycles and walking rather than reliance on the automobile. The City should also consider promoting construction and landscaping techniques that reduce electricity consumption used to accommodate indoor heating and cooling systems. Construction techniques should also accommodate application of solar energy technology.

- B. **Regional Surface Water Hydrology.** The City's entire geographical area lies within the Middle St. Johns River basin. All but the eastern edge of the City lies within the Lake Jesup subbasin. The eastern City edge, generally defined as that area east of Phelps Avenue, lies within the Econlockhatchee River subbasin. Surface water within all but the eastern edge of the City drains north-northeastward to Lake Jesup, which is located approximately ten miles north-northeast of the City in Seminole County. Surface water within the area bordering the eastern edge of the city migrates eastward toward the Econlockhatchee River, approximately six miles away. Surface water within both subbasins ultimately reaches the St. Johns River. The Econlockhatchee River is one of several rivers throughout Florida designated by the State of Florida as an Outstanding Florida Water.
- C. **Floodplains.** The floodplains in Winter Park consist of lowlands adjacent to lakes or next to streams connecting the local lake system. The National Flood Insurance Program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency has determined that most areas along lake shorelines within Winter Park are within the 100-year flood zone. Map 1-8 illustrates the boundaries of the 100-year flood zone.

Winter Park lies completely within the Howell Creek Drainage Basin and Orange County's Primary Drainage System. Floodwaters and surface waters draining into Lake Virginia, Lake Osceola, and Lake Maitland are headwaters for surface waters flowing northeastward to Lake Jesup, located in northern Seminole County. Surface waters draining into Lake Maitland from connecting lakes flows into Howell Branch Creek, moves into Lake Howell, and ultimately drains into Lake Jesup.

Floods usually result from prolonged heavy rainfall that is compounded by previous rainfall, which has saturated the ground, thereby reducing infiltration significantly. Under these conditions the lakes and streams can overflow their banks causing property damage. Floods can occur in Winter Park at any time during a year, but are more likely to occur during the June to October rain and hurricane seasons.

1. **Flood Protection Infrastructure.** Winter Park has several flood protection devices installed to limit the degree to which severe flooding can occur. Foremost is the weir at the dam for Lake Maitland, located at Horatio Avenue, which controls the level of water throughout the Chain of Lakes. The City also has seven drainage wells that in times of flooding can divert storm water directly into subsurface aquifers.
2. **Floodplain Regulations and Programs.** Winter Park is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program that provides flood insurance to homeowners and businesses. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has prepared 100-year floodplain elevations to determine locations susceptible to flooding associated with a 100-year storm event. Winter Park has adopted general regulations discouraging development within floodplains and has established specific regulations for limited development activities within floodplains associated with streams connecting the Chain of Lakes.

The general floodplain regulations require that new construction have the lowest floor above the 100-year flood elevation, and places restrictions on the materials and types of construction permitted. In addition to floodplain regulation, the City also has a minimum fifty-foot lakefront setback and site plan review for all lakefront construction.

The City's stream floodplain regulations address surface water management along streams connecting lakes as well as Howell Branch Creek north of Lake Maitland. The regulations prohibit destruction of wetlands with fill material, and require a conditional use approval subject to satisfactory addressing established criteria. A conditional use must be approved by the City Commission. The criteria used to evaluate conditional use applications include the effects development will place on flood storage capacity, environmental impacts on wetlands, and the loss of environmentally sensitive areas. In addition, no encroachment, fill or other new development is allowed in the floodway areas directly adjacent to the streams.

Floodplains and wetlands offer a variety of benefits, which include floodwater storage, aquifer recharge, preservation of wildlife habitat, open and recreational space, and maintenance of water quality. The City's regulations are meant to protect flood prone areas, to protect the safety of citizens, and to minimize public and private loss from flood conditions. Winter Park is fortunate to have minimal amount of land area within flood hazard areas (i.e., 100-year floodplain). The regulations currently in effect are sufficient to provide for both environmental and property value protections.

- D. Lake Resources and Water Quality.** Nineteen lakes, amounting to 947.1 acres of surface water, are located within the City limits. These waters are shallow, natural lakes that vary in depth from thirty feet to just a few feet in some of the smaller lakes. Navigable canals link Lakes Mizell, Virginia, Osceola and Maitland in Winter Park, and Lakes Nina and Minnehaha in Maitland; thus creating the "Chain of Lakes". These lakes are all within the Howell Creek drainage basin, which is part of the Lake Jesup subbasin. A description of Winter Park's lakes and canals is presented in Tables 5-1 and 5-2.

The lakes of Winter Park are among the greatest assets of the City. The preservation and conservation of these water resources is of paramount concern to residents of Winter Park. As a result, the City of Winter Park is involved in a pro-active lakes management program. The components of this program are aquatic plant management, shoreline protection, and water quality management. To implement the City's lake management program, the City Commission has established the Lakes Division of the Public Works Department and the Lakes and Waterways Board.

Table 5-1: Dimensions of Winter Park's Lakes

Lake	Surface Area (acres)	Ordinary High Water Elevation 88 datum (feet)	100-Year Flood Elevation 88 datum (feet)
Lake Maitland	274.8*	65.7	68.0
Lake Virginia	235.6	65.7	68.9
Lake Osceola	163.9	65.7	68.8
Lake Berry	79.4	69.4	70.3
Lake Mizell	66.5	65.7	68.9
Lake Sue	42.9*	70.7	75.7
Lake Killarney	35.6*	82.0	84.4

Lake Sylvan	16.3	71.2	73.7
Lake Knowles	8.0	77.3	79.7
Lake Baldwin	5.6*	90.7	93.2
Lake Chelton	4.7	80.3	83.3
Lake Forrest	3.9	N/A	N/A
Lake Rose	2.3	N/A	N/A
Lake Spier	2.0	89.7	94.3
Lake Temple	1.2	66.6	67.7
Lake Francis	1.2	85.2	87.6
Lake Mendsen	1.2	82.2	83.6
Lake Wilbar	1.1	83.7	85.1
Lake Midget	0.9	85.8	87.7
TOTAL	947.1		

*Includes water area within the City limits only.

Sources: Winter Park Engineering Dept.(lake area calculations); Winter Parks Lake Division (average high water elevations; Federal Insurance Administration (100-year flood elevations)

Table 5-3: Dimensions of Winter Park's Canals in Feet

Canal Name	Lake Connections	Length	Depth	Width	Bridge Clearance
Genius Canal	Mizell-Virginia	160	2-3	7-8	3
Fern Canal	Virginia-Osceola	680	2-4	7-8	4
Venetian Canal	Osceola-Maitland	1,550	2-4	7-8	8

Source: Winter Park Lakes Division.

1. **Aquatic Plant Management.** Aquatic plants of the proper type and number are essential to the environmental health of Winter Park's lakes. In proper balance, aquatic plants provide a variety of environmental benefits. They provide food and habitat for fish and waterfowl, and control shoreline erosion and loss of property. Water quality is enhanced by the plants, which use up excess nutrients that are dissolved in lake water, limiting the degree and severity of algae blooms, and filter debris at the lake's edge, which reduces the amount of sediment in the water.
2. **Shoreline Protection and Enhancement.** Lake shorelines serve as important natural resources that Winter Park desires to preserve. Vegetation along shorelines protects them from erosion, reduces fluvial sediment and silt from entering lake waters, and promotes a natural aesthetic character along shoreline areas by protecting desired littoral vegetation. The City administers two programs to promote the protection of lake shoreline areas – the shoreline protection program and the shoreline enhancement program.
3. **Surface Water Quality Management.** Maintaining acceptable water quality within the Chain of Lakes and all the other lakes in Winter Park is a primary objective for the City. Lakes are an important natural resource for Winter Park, providing ample opportunities for aquatic recreation and fishing as well as contributing to the City's natural aesthetics and general open space. Maintaining and improving water quality will be a continuing challenge for the future but a priority for public response.

Maintaining acceptable surface water quality within Winter Park's lakes is also a regional issue. Except for properties generally located east of Phelps Avenue, all of Winter Park's jurisdictional area lies within the Lake Jesup subbasin of the middle basin of the St. Johns River. Surface and ground waters received by the Chain of Lakes collects in Lake Maitland and flows northeast through Howell Branch Creek, into Lake Howell, and finally flowing into Lake Jesup. Surface water quality emerging in Winter Park contributes to surface water quality within the Lake Jesup subbasin.

Winter Park's lakes do not have significant water pollution in the classic sense of water polluted with chemicals, toxic agents, oil, sewage, etceteras that are dumped by industrial, manufacturing or sewage treatment plants. Within the lakes of Winter Park the various ecological communities of fish, reptiles and birds are flourishing.

The water quality issues with the City's lakes are algae blooms that turn the water clarity to a green or brown color and periods of hydrilla growth. These two problems occur concurrently and are not unique to Winter Park's lakes. What is unique is that the City of Winter Park decided to remedy these common conditions because they are too frequent and far too long in duration for the City and its citizens to accept.

- E. **Current Water Quality Monitoring Activities.** Several government agencies monitor surface water quality conditions within Winter Park's lakes. Agencies that regularly conduct water quality monitoring include the LAKEWATCH program sponsored by the State of Florida and administered by the University of Florida, and the City's Lake Division. Water quality monitoring may also be conducted on City lakes by the SJRWMD and FDEP in conjunction with special environmental studies.
- F. **Past Water Quality Evaluation and History.** The history of surface water quality management in Winter Park was originally focused on aquatic plant control. In the mid 80's, the City increased its water quality management efforts. The Save Our Lakes Program, at that time, was established by the State of Florida and provided a funding source dedicated to water quality improvement projects. Studies of the lakes have conducted to analyze biological, bacteriological and water quality parameters, storm sewer inflow, bottom sediments and the impact of septic tanks. The Lakes Division of the Public Works Department administers a monitoring program to record water quality conditions within lakes and ponds within the City.

Major conclusions documented in water quality studies or identified from the City's monitoring program are as follows:

- Storm drain flow is a primary cause of water quality problems. Other causes are internal loading (levels of pollutants historically present), rainfall, groundwater, and boaters.
- Cross-connected sewer pipes were located and corrected. This action has reduced the bacteria concentrations in the lakes that sometimes would reach levels requiring bans on swimming or fishing.
- There are a few isolated septic tanks still servicing single family lakefront homes. The degree of septic tank leachate pollution is insignificant to the overall conditions.

- The sand bottom of the lakes have been covered with muck, which comes from stormwater and internal loading to include dead hydrilla and algae that settle to the bottom and decompose. The rate of eutrophication or the rate of build up of the muck layer is extremely modest and does not represent a threat to the lakes.
- Water flow from the upstream Lakes Sue, Rowena, Formosa, and others contributes approximately one-quarter off the nutrient pollutants received by the City's lakes.

G. **City Surface Water Quality Improvement Projects and Programs.** Information gathered from water quality studies has been used to determine priorities for City water improvement projects. As stormwater runoff contains leaves, dirt, debris, and dissolved nitrogen, phosphorous and bacteria at higher levels than lake water, projects to correct the direct flow of stormwater into lakes have been a major priority. These projects include retention and detention areas to collect and filter stormwater before it enters the lakes.

- 1) **Stormwater Utility Fee.** In 1989, the Stormwater Utility Fee was imposed and became the primary funding source for stormwater capital improvement projects. From 1993 to current times, the City of Winter Park uses storm water utility fee revenue to build storm water management systems to address the most critical pollutant sources. The City of Winter Park bases its five-year Storm Water Capital Improvements program to address problems and is updated annually.
- 2) **Reduction of Debris and Sediments.** A major component of the stormwater management plan is a proactive program that removes fallen leaves and debris before entering the lakes. This is accomplished through street cleaning, storm drain inlet cleaning, sediment trap cleaning and public awareness.

An aggressive street-sweeping program is used to reduce the amount of leaves and debris entering the storm drain system and the lakes. The City currently owns vacuum street sweepers and a leaf packer. The leaf packer reduces the amount of downtime spent traveling to the dump. This gain in man-hours plus the equipment allow for a weekly cleaning of city streets and extra concentration on the downtown business streets.

The City is also concentrating on the regular cleaning of storm drain inlets to reduce the conditions of stagnant water and debris that lead to bacteriological contamination. The City has one Vactor truck that is dedicated to storm inlet and line cleaning.

Sediment traps have been constructed at many storm drain outflow pipes. The City currently has over a hundred traps that collect leaves and debris. These traps are constantly monitored and cleaned. The City has a floating excavator to assist in construction and cleaning of the traps in addition to other lake maintenance. Some of the initially built traps have been removed because the velocity of stormwater in the larger pipes breaks through the traps.

- 3) **Environmental Awareness Programs.** Public awareness is an important final piece of this program. The City has programs to inform residents about the water quality management programs and how they can support them, such as keeping leaves and other debris out of the storm drains. The City has also identified storm drains that drain directly to lakes with small

signs placed at the opening. Public understanding of these projects and why they are pursued make the water quality a community issue and not just a misunderstood City expenditure.

- 4) **Storm Water Best Management Practices/Innovative Technologies.** Innovative technologies developed for surface water or storm water management are periodically tested to determine their potential for routine use in Winter Park. A periphyton filter, and a bio-remediation process using natural enzymes have been tested, but are not currently in routine use. A combination of aeration/low dose alum pilot project is currently underway in Lake Sylvan and Lake Mizell and custom designed baffle boxes with leaf screens are currently under construction for installation in the Lake Chelton basin.
- 5) **City Stormwater Utility Ordinance.** Funding for the Save Our Lakes Program was originally provided each year as a general fund set aside that competed with the other capital improvement needs of the City in its annual budget process. The City recognized in 1989 that a long term funding method was needed that would guarantee funding for this program. Funding was needed for new stormwater improvements projects, capital equipment purchases, repairs and replacements. Funding was also needed for the manpower to sweep the streets, clean the inlets, clean the traps, and repair the stormwater system.

The quest for a permanent committed source of annual funding for Water Quality Management was realized in 1989 with the adoption of the stormwater utility ordinance. This ordinance created funding for the stormwater and drainage improvement projects, maintenance projects, personnel costs and related expenses much like that conducted for a water, sewer or electric utility. The ordinance established monthly utility bill charges for all developed properties within the City of Winter Park. These monthly charges are based on the amount of impervious surface on a property and thus, its contribution to the stormwater drainage system. The adoption of this stormwater utility has placed Winter Park in a leadership role in responding to the need for drainage and stormwater improvements.

- 6) **Stormwater Management Ordinance.** The water quality management program of the City of Winter Park was also enhanced in 1989 by the adoption of a revised comprehensive stormwater management ordinance. These regulations establish stormwater retention performance requirements, technical standards, and such that are similar to those enforced by other jurisdictions in Orange County and by the St. Johns Water Management District.

In many ways, however, Winter Park's stormwater management ordinance is state-of-the-art. The ordinance, like most, is triggered by construction projects, but the City's ordinance applies to renovations and redevelopment, in addition to new construction. It does not grandfather in existing impervious surfaces. It requires that properties undergoing redevelopment or renovation must retrofit their sites to accomplish stormwater retention. The ordinance contains stormwater retention requirements for all development including single family residential. Thus, the application of stormwater management is far broader and more comprehensive than in most jurisdictions.

Winter Park's storm water regulations also permit underground storm water retention and infiltration systems but subject to recorded maintenance agreements. As dirt and debris is carried underground it tends to clog the infiltration system and reduce its effectiveness. When

the underground system does not drain, it does not accomplish the retention or recharge that is intended. Thus, regular maintenance is required.

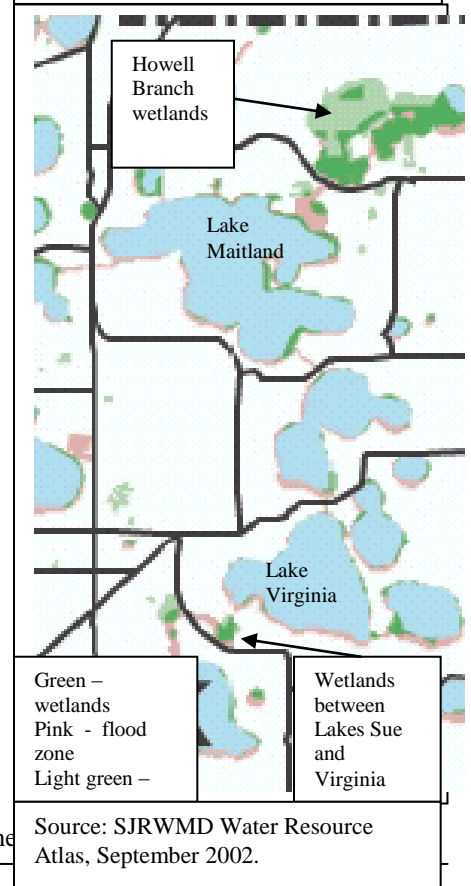
The City of Winter Park's regulations recognize that situations will arise where the retrofit for stormwater retention is physically or practically impossible. For example, many properties in the Central Business District are completely covered by buildings. In other instances, the only option would be to sacrifice required parking or mature landscaping. For these situations involving non-economic hardships, the City may permit a variance from the requirement for stormwater retention contingent upon the payment of a fee-in-lieu of stormwater management. The fee-in-lieu is a financial compensation paid to the City that is roughly equivalent to the cost of the land and the facilities that would be required to meet the code. This fee is another technique of generating revenue for the City's water quality management improvement projects. In this case, fees-in-lieu must be used for stormwater retention and treatment projects off-site that meet the one-inch retention and treatment standards set forth in the State Statutes and administrative code provisions referenced previously.

- 7) **Regional Surface Water Quality Management Activities.** Surface water quality within the City's lakes impacts water quality within the middle basin of the St. Johns River, particularly the Lake Jesup subbasin. Before 1983, streams and lakes in the middle basin received significant effluent discharges from wastewater treatment plants. Water quality has improved once the discharges were given advanced waste treatment. Water quality within the middle basin is still affected by stormwater runoff. Lake Jesup, which is connected to Howell Creek, receives stormwater runoff and wastewater discharges from Orlando, Winter Park, Casselberry and Maitland, as well as agricultural runoff from adjacent farms.

To improve water quality received from water sources flowing into Lake Jesup, the SJRWMD has adopted a Surface Water Improvement and Management plan for the middle basin. This plan gives priority to water bodies in the basin needing restoration or preservation. Current SJRWMD activities for the middle basin that affect Winter Park include the St. Johns Retrofits project and the Pollution Load Reduction Goal (PLRG) projects. The City is listed as a project partner by the SJRWMD for both initiatives.¹

- H. **Wetlands.** Only two significant wetland areas remain within the City. One of these two wetlands exists adjacent to the Howell Branch Creek north of Lake Maitland. The other exists in the stream area between Lakes Sue and Virginia. Other small wetlands or wetland vegetation occur within narrow littoral zones along lake shorelines. The total combined area of these two wetlands is estimated at approximately 40.6 acres. Smaller clusters of wetlands occur within the littoral zones of lakes.

Map 5-1: Location of Remaining Significant Wetlands in Winter Park



¹ SJRWMD, Middle St. Johns River Initiative Report Fiscal Year 2003-2004; published

Wetlands within the City of Winter Park are delineated on Map 5-1.

1. **Wetland Classification.** Winter Park's wetlands function primarily as hydric hammock wetland areas. They are only occasionally inundated by floodwaters, but have saturated soils during most of the year. The City's wetlands, from a qualitative or functional perspective, are very capable of performing their natural functions. These functions include providing wetland habitat and location for propagation and flood storage. As the land uses surrounding these wetland areas are predominantly single family residential, and as public access to these areas is limited to residents of homes on adjacent parcels, these wetlands tend to function as secure and safe habitats and qualify as preservation areas for native species including plants, birds and animals.
2. **Wetland Protection.** Currently, both of these wetland conservation areas are approximately half in public ownership and half in private ownership. All of the wetlands that exist in the City are included in the conservation areas and identified on the Future Land Use Map in the Comprehensive Plan. These wetland areas are flood prone areas and subject to those regulations of the Land Development Code. In addition, development is prohibited within a 50 foot buffer zone from any wetland area. The only construction permitted within the City's wetlands are recreational gazebos or boardwalks.

Filling of wetlands within the City of Winter Park is prohibited by the wetland protection regulations within the City's Land Development Code. The City has successfully pursued state grant funds to purchase remaining lands within these conservation areas and that process is underway.

3. **Protection of Environmentally Sensitive Lands.** The City's protection of environmentally sensitive lands shall be to prohibit all development within fifty (50) feet of all designated wetlands, any stream, canal, or lake and within fifty (50) feet of any wildlife habitat containing endangered or threatened species as detailed on Map 5-5.
- I. **Commercially Valuable Mineral Deposits.** The City has very little vacant land and nearly all of the City's area is built-out. As an existing, developed urban oriented city, the mining of commercially valuable minerals does not exist in Winter Park. Even in the early years of Winter Park when farming was the principal economy and occupation, there were no reported mining or mineral extraction ventures. Based on this condition, this element does not contain goals, objectives and policies for mineral extraction and its effect on the environment.
 - K. **Soil Erosion and Preservation.** Soils indigenous to Winter Park are a natural resource that has been an important factor in the development of the City. In earlier times, when agriculture was a major occupation, soil properties were a crucial determinant of the success of a farm or grove. Other development occurred, given the right location, on soils having the least limitations and requiring the least amount of corrective measures. Under the economics of land development today, the choice of land for a specified use is more often determined by factors such as location rather than the kind of soil. However, knowledge of the types of soil present in Winter Park is still important in assessing the limitations or reclamation that must be done to develop a site.

The Orange County Soil Survey prepared by the Soil Conservation Service and revised in May 1985 gives details of the twelve different soil types that exist in Winter Park. The soil classifications are made based upon the water table, slope, erosion potential, permeability, subsidence and organic (muck/peat) content. The soils are also rated as to their potential for development based upon those limiting properties.

Generally, the soils in Winter Park are predominately those that are categorized as offering a high and medium potential for development. These are the Candler Fine Sand, St. Lucie Fine Sand, Tavares Fine Sand, Orlando Fine Sand, Ona Fine Sand, Pomello Fine Sand, Zolfo Fine Sand, and Millhopper Fine Sand. Winter Park also contains isolated areas of soils that are not suitable for development and place major constraints on development. These soils include the Symrna, Samsula, Hontoon, Basinger, and Arents varieties. Based on the Soil Survey of Orange County (U.S. Soil Conservation Service), these soils, as well as Pomello fine sand, have severe limitation for use as septic absorption fields. Development occurring on parcels with this soil type should connect to central sewer systems. Soil types covering the City are illustrated in Map 5-4.

Inventory and Analysis of Biological Natural Resources¹. Biological natural resources within Winter Park include vegetative communities, dominant species, and endangered species.

L. Vegetative Communities. Undisturbed vegetative communities other than in City parks or the Genius Preserve occur in small pockets within littoral zones adjacent to lakes, particularly where City right-of-way terminates near the shoreline; at wetlands along Howell Branch Creek and between Lakes Sue and Virginia; and at City some City parks, including Mead Garden.

- 1. Natural History of Winter Park.** When the earliest residents came to Winter Park in the 1870's and 1880's, they found an area of sandy soil which supported the native vegetative communities that were dominated by Longleaf Pine, Saw Palmetto, Turkey Oak and Live Oak trees. Near the lakes, streams, and wet lowlands, they found organic mucky soils, which supported Cypress trees and other freshwater marsh vegetation. The subsequent development of the upland areas of Winter Park changed the vegetative communities in several ways. Farming and citrus production were some of the dominant occupations in the early years. Much of Winter Park was cleared for farm and citrus production.

Another major change came with the introduction and continual annual plantings of Laurel Oak trees. If new residents from northern states were to be enticed to purchase lots and move to Winter Park, then the look and feel of the northern oaks was needed, in addition to the valuable shade. Citrus trees were an attraction and a means of some income, but the current extensive oak tree canopy of Winter Park was introduced and fostered to set the City apart from most of Florida, which is dominated by pine and palmetto trees.

- 2. City Arbor Program.** The City is proud of its successful history preserving and planting trees within the community. Nearly all streets within the City are lined with canopy trees. Dedicated to protecting its historic trees and promoting tree canopy along roadways throughout Winter Park, the City has been a member of Tree City USA since 1980.

¹ Sources used for this subsection include: Florida Natural Areas Inventory; Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; and Soil Survey of Orange County, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

To maintain and protect its canopy trees, the City established the Urban Forestry Division. The Urban Forestry Division is responsible for maintaining existing trees within street right-of-ways and City owned-property. It also manages the tree planting program. Management of the City's arbor program includes a tree inventory, which maintains records on status and condition of existing trees in the right-of-way, pruning and maintenance of trees, raising new trees to replace existing trees in City property and right-of-way that must be removed.

The City's arbor program is further supported by a tree protection ordinance that establishes procedures and criteria for tree removal, and that also requires application of tree protection techniques for trees exposed to potential harm from construction activity.

4. **Conservation Areas.** The three primary conservation areas within the City are the two significant Howell Creek wetlands and Mead Garden. The City has established conservation areas over the combined acres, not in city ownership.

Mead Garden covers 47.60 acres in native vegetation and trees. As part of the City's park system, Mead Garden contains walking paths and a community building. Vegetative communities primarily represent live oak hammock with a transition to wetland hammock near Lake Sue. The two Howell Creek conservation areas occur on the north side of the City along Howell Branch Creek, and along Howell Creek between Lakes Sue and Virginia in the vicinity of northeast of Pennsylvania Avenue and south of Sterling Avenue. While both areas contain wetland vegetative communities, Howell Branch Conservation Area is the larger of the two areas with 32.5 acres compared to 8.1 acres at the Lake Sue/Virginia Conservation Area. Land comprising the Lake Sue/Virginia Conservation Area is located within private property while the area comprising Howell Branch Conservation Area is comprised of public and private owned property.

- M. **Wildlife and Listed Species.** Most wildlife species indigenous to Winter Park are those commonly appearing in developed urban and suburban areas in central Florida. Typical species occurring in Winter Park include raccoons, opossums, squirrels, skunks, alligators, snakes, rats and mice. In or near the City's lakes and streams, typical species include water snakes, cottonmouth moccasins, frogs, large mouth bass, catfish, sunfish, gar and shiners. The sunshine bass was introduced and also occurs here.

Winter Park is the occasional seasonal home to a large number of migratory bird species as well as numerous permanent species. Depending upon the species, they are attracted to the natural lakes, streams and wetland environment or they co-exist in the urban and suburban environment. Listed species refer to those living creatures and plants that are classified by the State or Federal government as endangered, threatened, or another special protection classification. The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI), a non-profit research company affiliated with Florida State University through the Florida Resources and Environmental Analysis Center, maintains records on observed habitat and nesting locations of rare species in Florida.

Based on records of the FNAI, a pair of American bald eagles nested and raised young at the southwest corner of Lake Osceola, at or near Alexander Place Park, up until 1995. Map 5-3 illustrates the location of the bald eagle nest.

FNAI also identifies sites that could serve as habitat for rare species. Map 5-3 delineates areas within Winter Park that have the potential to serve as habitat for endangered and threatened species.

Throughout Florida the population of certain plant and animal species has been adversely impacted by the reduction of habitat, food sources, pollution, or other changes to their natural environment. As populations of certain species have declined to levels that threaten their existence, the State of Florida and the federal government have established laws and programs to protect them and improve survival capabilities. As delegated by Florida law, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) have responsibility for designating the survival status of fauna species (mammals, birds, reptiles, fish, amphibians, insects, crustaceans, corals, and mollusks). Species warranting protection are classified by the FFWCC according to one of three categories – endangered, threatened or species of special concern. A definition for each classification appears below as defined in Section 68A-1.004, F.S.

- **Endangered species** – As designated by the FFWCC, a species, subspecies, or isolated population of a species or subspecies which is so few or depleted in number or so restricted in range or habitat due to any man-made or natural factors that it is in imminent danger of extinction (Section 68A-1.004 (26), F.S.). The FFWCC has established criteria under Florida Statutes to determine if a species may be in imminent danger of extinction.
- **Threatened species** – As designated by the Commission, a species, subspecies, or isolated population of a species or subspecies which is facing a very high risk of extinction in the future (Section 68A-1.004 (77), F.S.). The FFWCC has established criteria under Florida Statutes to determine if a species is exposed to a very high risk of extinction in the future.
- **Species of special concern** – As designated by the Commission, a species, subspecies, or isolated population of a species or subspecies which is facing a moderate risk of extinction in the future (Section 68A-1.004 (73), F.S.). The FFWCC has established criteria under Florida Statutes to determine conditions when a species may be at a moderate risk of extinction in the future.

Protected fauna species that may appear in Winter Park -- as identified in Orange County's Comprehensive Plan or by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory – are listed in Table 5-4. The FNAI database does not contain records of all listed species that may occur in a given area. Therefore, an absence of occurrences in the FNAI database does not indicate that species of significance do not occur in the area.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) is responsible for the protection of Florida's vast plant industries and native plant life. Among its responsibilities include the designation of the status of native plant flora species that are in risk of extinction and the eradication and control of injurious plant pests and disease. Native plants at potential threat for extinction are classified by FDACS as threatened, endangered or commercially exploited.

Table 5-4: Protected Species Known to Occur in Winter Park Vicinity

Common Name	Scientific Name	Frequency of Occurrence ¹	Species	Status		ID Source
				GFC	FWC	
Fauna (Animals/Reptiles)						
American Alligator	Alligator Mississippiensis	Existing Regularly ¹	reptile	SSC	T(S/A)	
Limpkin	Aramus Guarauna	Existing Regularly ¹	bird	SSC	nc	Orange County
Eastern Indigo Snake	Drymarchan Corais Couperi	Existing Regularly ¹	reptile	T	T	Orange County
Little Blue Heron	Egretta Caerulea	Existing Regularly ¹	bird	SSC	nc	Orange County
White Ibis	Eudocimus Albus	Existing Occasionally ¹	bird	SSC	nc	Orange County
Southeastern American Kestrel	Falco Sparverius Paulus	Existing Occasionally ¹	bird	T	nc	Orange County
Gopher Tortoise	Gopherus Polyphemus	Existing Regularly ¹	reptile	SSC	nc	Orange County
Florida Sandhill Crane	Grus Canadensis Pratensis	Existing Occasionally ¹	bird	T	nc	Orange County
American Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus Leucocephalus	Existing Regularly ¹	bird	T	T	FNAI and Orange County
Wood Stork	Mycteria Americana	Existing Occasionally ¹	bird	E	E	Orange County
Florida Pine Snake	Pituophis Melanoleucus Mugitus	Existing Occasionally ¹	reptile	SSC	nc	Orange County
Sherman's Fox Squirrel	Sciuris Niger Shermanii	Existing Occasionally ¹	mammal	SSC	nc	Orange County
Fauna (Plants)				FDA	FWC	
Needle Palm	Rhapidophyllum Hystrix	Existing Occasionally ¹		C	nc	Orange County

Source: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Natural Areas Inventory and Orange County Comprehensive Plan, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs.

¹ Frequency of occurrence determined by Natural Analysts, Inc., within Winter Park.

State= Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (formerly Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission)

Federal= United States Fish and Wildlife Service

E= Endangered Species

SSC= Species of Special Concern

T= Threatened Species

T(S/A)= Threatened/Similarity of Appearance

IMPACTS AFFECTING NATURAL RESOURCES

This section provides a description of existing commercial, recreational and conservation uses for the physical and biological natural resources endemic to Winter Park. Known pollution problems and local hazardous waste management practices are also reviewed as well as the potential for preservation, conservation, and utilization of available lands within the City.

Existing Commercial and Recreational Uses. The only commercial use of natural resources within Winter Park is a scenic boat tour of the Chain of Lakes. Located at the east end of Morse Boulevard on Lake Osceola, the boat tour operates seasonally and is open to the public. The boat tour company operates from a city-owned dock.

The larger lakes within or adjacent to the City are used for recreation activities, primarily boating, water skiing, swimming and fishing. Public access to lakes is limited to City lakefront parks and public boat ramps. A public boat launching facility at Dinky Dock Park on Lake Sue allows recreational boaters and anglers access to the Chain of Lakes.

Natural vegetative communities are conserved at several of the City's parks and opens space sites along lakes. Native vegetative communities are preserved in Mead Garden, which contains 55 acres of trees and plants, including wetlands along Lake Sue. More detailed description of Mead Garden as well as city-owned open space left in their natural state can be found in the Recreation and Open Space Element.

Wetlands and floodplains primarily occur adjacent to lakes. No substantial development, then, is located within wetland and floodplains. The only structures that occur within floodplains are water-related facilities such as boat docks and shoreline walls.

Groundwater. The primary source for potable water in Central Florida, including Winter Park, is the Floridan Aquifer. Rapid growth and development in central Florida has forced greater demand on available groundwater supplies, creating a situation where future potable water demands cannot be met solely through groundwater supplies. Growth and development in Central Florida has reached a point where groundwater supplies are becoming seriously limited to meet additional withdrawal demands. For this reason, the SJRWMD has designated areas of Central Florida as a Priority Water Resource Caution Area, meaning that all future water supply needs may not be able to be met from current and anticipated sources without causing unacceptable impacts to water resources and related natural systems. As reported by SJRWMD, a serious shortfall of groundwater may occur based on estimated future water demand in the east-central Florida region. Current water supply conditions have led the SJRWMD to implement East-Central Florida Water Supply Planning Initiative (WSPI). As cited in the WSPI Fact Sheet report, "the Floridan aquifer provides almost all of the region's existing public water supply and a large part of the agricultural water supply. This source will likely not be able to meet all future needs without unacceptable impacts to wetlands, lake levels, spring flows and groundwater quality."

Known Pollution Problems. Air quality within Winter Park has not experienced any problems based on data presented in this element. Surface water quality from nutrient loading within lakes and streams has been an issues that necessitates regular monitoring and corrective actions by the City.

- A. **Point Source Pollution.** No major industry is located within Winter Park that produces substantial emission levels or hazardous waste. Based on records maintained by the U.S. EPA, no large quantity generators of hazardous waste are located within the City. However, a number of small businesses or industrial uses are listed with the FDEP and the U.S. EPA as small quantity generators or users of hazardous waste or materials. The number of these businesses and the type of waste they produced changes from time-to-time as new businesses locate in the City and former businesses relocate outside Winter Park. The type of businesses or industries range from light industrial activities, dry cleaners, gasoline storage, or vehicle maintenance facilities. The Florida Department of Environment Protection and the U.S. EPA each maintain a list of businesses qualifying as small quantity generators of hazardous waste, toxic release or other pollution generators.
- B. **Non-Point Source Pollution.** Vehicle emission is the most common non-point source for air pollution generation. However, air quality in Winter Park has attained acceptable status with FDEP. Non-point pollution sources have the greatest adverse impact to water quality within Winter Park and Central Florida. The primary source of pollution entering surface waters is stormwater run-off. The City has an actively managed stormwater management program to collect run-off volumes and reduce pollutants entering surface and groundwater.
- C. **Hazardous Waste Management.** The Orange County Environmental Protection Division is the local environmental regulatory agency responsible for monitoring the use and disposal of hazardous materials. This department also implements applicable Federal and State legislation providing for the use and proper disposal of hazardous materials. Through its Environmental Protection Division (EPD), Orange County administers a hazardous waste management program, which includes monitoring and inspecting small quantity generators of hazardous waste. Small quantity generators are businesses that may generate 220 to 2,200 pounds of hazardous waste per month. Within Winter Park, businesses qualifying as SQG are concentrated in areas zoned for commercial or light industrial uses. Based on FDEP and U.S. EPA records, the greatest concentration of SQG business is along U.S. 17/92.

The City of Winter Park constructed the Special Collection Facility (SCF) that receives household hazardous waste such as paint, pesticides, fertilizers, lead acid batteries, gasoline, lead, tires, motor oils, pool chemicals, solvents and thinners. This facility is free to residents who in the past had to take household hazardous waste to the Orange County landfill or wait for a mobile collection site to be announced. The SCF is located at the Central Utilities Complex and is open periodically throughout the year on a quarterly basis.

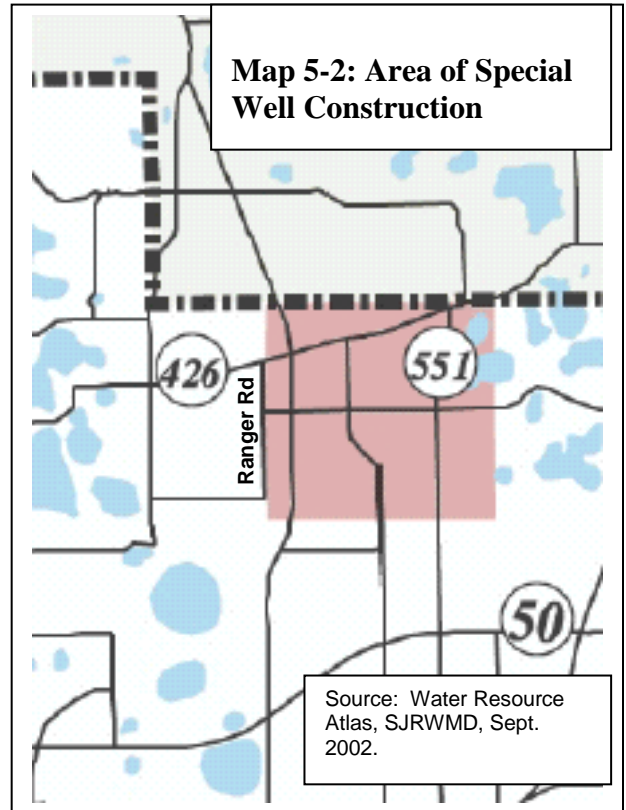
There are some businesses located within the city limits, which generate and use small quantities of materials hazardous to the environment. These businesses include dry cleaners, auto body and repair shops, photo labs, print shops and other commercial and industrial businesses. Potential environmental pollution problems can occur when these and household hazardous materials are improperly handled and disposed. The business hazardous waste is collected and stored at the Orange County Landfill. Location of businesses and enterprises classified as small quantity generators of hazardous waste are identified via listing with Orange County EPD.

Hazardous materials are also a concern beyond the environmental implications, because many can increase fire hazards. State regulations require businesses to notify the local fire department of any hazardous materials they use.

Improved public education, more accessible disposal sites for businesses, and stricter enforcement are the recommended actions that would increase the proper disposal of hazardous materials. The City provides the public with current information regarding the SCF and keeps them informed on the importance of proper hazardous waste disposal through newsletters and on the City's website.

1. Ground Water Contamination Sites.

Bordering the eastern edge of the City is an area designated by the SJRWMD as an Area of Special Well Construction (ASWC), as delineated in Map 5-2. The southwest corner of the ASWC, based on this map, appears to extend into the Winter Pines community. Lands receiving such designation are areas containing ground water contamination. Contamination is defined as the presence of one or more substances in quantities exceeding primary drinking water standards or presenting an imminent hazard. SJRWMD has delineated areas with groundwater contamination to prevent pollution of potable water wells and groundwater by applying special well location and construction criteria.²



- 2. Large Quantity Generators and Contamination Sites.** The federal Resource, Conservation, and Recovery Act requires that generators, transporters, treaters, storers, and disposers of hazardous waste provide information concerning their activities to state environmental agencies, which is the FDEP. Based on the U.S. EPA records provided at their website, no large quantity generators of hazardous waste are located within the City of Winter Park.² Large quantity generators produce or use 2,200 pounds or more of hazardous waste per month or 2.2 pounds or more of acute hazardous waste per month.³

Based on the records maintained by the Bureau of Waste Cleanup at FDEP, no properties within the City are known to be contaminated with hazardous wastes or toxic releases.¹

² Source: Water Resource Atlas, St. Johns River Water Management District.

² Source: U.S. EPA.

³ Source: Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

¹ Source: Bureau of Waste Cleanup, FDEP, phone conversation with Tammy Sterling, FDEP.

Potential for Preservation, Conservation and Utilization of Natural Resources.

- A. **Potential for Preservation.** Preservation areas have been defined by the FDEP as those areas within a municipality having major ecological, hydrological, physiological, historical or socio-economic importance to the public at large. These areas are already subject to various State regulatory programs. Areas within Winter Park included in this classification are historical and archaeological sites, lakes, wetlands, and City botanical gardens.
- B. **Potential for Conservation.** Conservation areas have been defined by the FDEP as land and waters of the municipality having certain natural or institutional use limitations requiring special precautions prior to conversion to development. Such precautions could entail extensive design and construction measures required in order to adapt such land for urban development.

New development is subject to the City regulations addressing stormwater management, minimum open space, landscaping, tree protection and planting, shoreline (littoral zone) vegetation protection and lake access, and floodplain protection. Regulations are currently in place and enforced to conserve resources important to the City and the State of Florida.

Potential for conservation of natural resources can be enhanced through the following activities:

1. Water Conservation

- Actively participate in the SJRWMD's East-Central Florida Water Supply Planning Initiative
- Review and evaluate construction, landscaping, irrigation, site design and land development standards for means to reduce water demand;
- Evaluate long-term water demand within the City's service area and identify water source, including evaluation of sources other than the Floridan aquifer.
- Regularly evaluate utility water pricing methods to determine need to modify rate schedule to discourage overuse.

2. Surface Water Quality

- Continue implementation of current storm water improvement program.
- Review construction standards and Land Development Code for modifications that reduce volume of pollutants and nutrients in stormwater runoff entering lakes.
- Coordinate with the cities of Maitland and Orlando regarding potential for joint surface water quality monitoring and improvement projects.
- Continue protection of floodplain areas and use of land development regulations to discourage encroachment into such areas.
- Continue management of access points to lakes through boat dock and ramp standards and regulations.
- Coordinate with adjacent local governments, SJRWMD, FDEP, and LAKEWATCH regarding exchange of water quality data and potential to eliminate duplication of water quality monitoring conducted by several government programs.

3. Wildlife and Habitat

- Review and evaluate the City's Land Development Code for sufficient standards addressing protection or relocation of endangered and threatened species.
- As redevelopment of neighborhoods and large tracts of land occur, vegetative open space and parks can be designed into development plans for surface water percolation and habitat for wildlife typically found in urban settings.
- Design of stormwater facilities should incorporate long-term ability to support fish species.
- Continue to preserve native vegetative habitats as preservation areas or passive recreation areas at Mead Garden, Lake Sue/Virginia Conservation Area, and Howell Branch Conservation Area.
- Pursue state and federal grants to acquire land within redevelopment projects for parks and vegetative open space.
- Continue protection of existing remaining wetlands.

C. **Potential for Preservation.** The City should evaluate any remaining vacant lands for potential purchase as open space or recreation areas. Environmentally sensitive lands within the City primarily represent wetlands and floodplains, most of which are located adjacent to lakes. City codes and ordinances together with SJRWMD regulations limit any adverse future impacts to such areas.

D. **Citizen Involvement.** Conservation and preservation of natural resources are important to Winter Park and its citizens. In order to facilitate citizen involvement on issues regarding conservation and natural resources, the City has established three permanent advisory boards to review and recommend ordinances and programs concerning the environment. The boards are as follows:

- The Lakes and Waterways Board is a seven member board that specifically advises the City Commission on matters involving the lakes of Winter Park, the aquatic plant management program, the Save Our Lakes Program, the stormwater management program and boating safety.
- The Parks and Recreation Board is a seven member board that advises the City Commission on matters related to the City's parks and open spaces.
- The Sustainability Review Board is a seven-member board that provides an overall perspective and advises on all types of environmental issues and programs.

These three advisory boards assist the City Commission and the administrative staff to be responsive and effectual on matters concerning conservation of the City's natural environment. These boards also provide important positions for citizens interested in being involved.

CURRENT AND PROJECTED WATER NEEDS

Water Supply Sources. The Public Facilities Element shows the projected water supply demand for the City and permitted withdrawals. The City of Winter Park has two existing water sources. The first is the lower Floridian Aquifer utilized for potable water purposes. The second is the Winter Park Estates Water Reclamation Facility which provides up to 0.615 mgd of reuse to the Cady Way athletic fields, Interlachen Country Club, Winter Pines Golf Course, and Glen Haven Cemetery.

No additional sources of water including alternative water supply projects are required to serve existing or new development for the planning period of this work plan. The City has identified the following source of water produced by traditional and alternative water supply development projects:

1. Withdrawals from the Floridan Aquifer as permitted by the SRJWMD.
2. The Winter Park Estates Water Reclamation Facility of up to .615 mgd of reuse water.
3. The potential to expand and/or re-rate existing Winter Park Estates Water Reclamation Facility to produce an additional .35 mgd of reclaimed water to be used in the City of Winter Park to reduce potable water demand.
4. Continuation of the automatic meter reader system (AMR) which allows for the red flagging of customers that use large amounts of water or who may have a new water leak.
5. Investigate a Park Irrigation Efficiency System (PIES) program. Under this program, potable water that is used for irrigation in the City's parks will be replaced by surface water, storm water, lower quality stormwater, or reclaimed water. This program could be expected to save 0.7 mgd.
6. Continue to participate in regional water supply development projects planning and evaluation.

Existing and Projected Agricultural Water Demands. Winter Park has no agricultural uses within the City.

Conservation Map Series

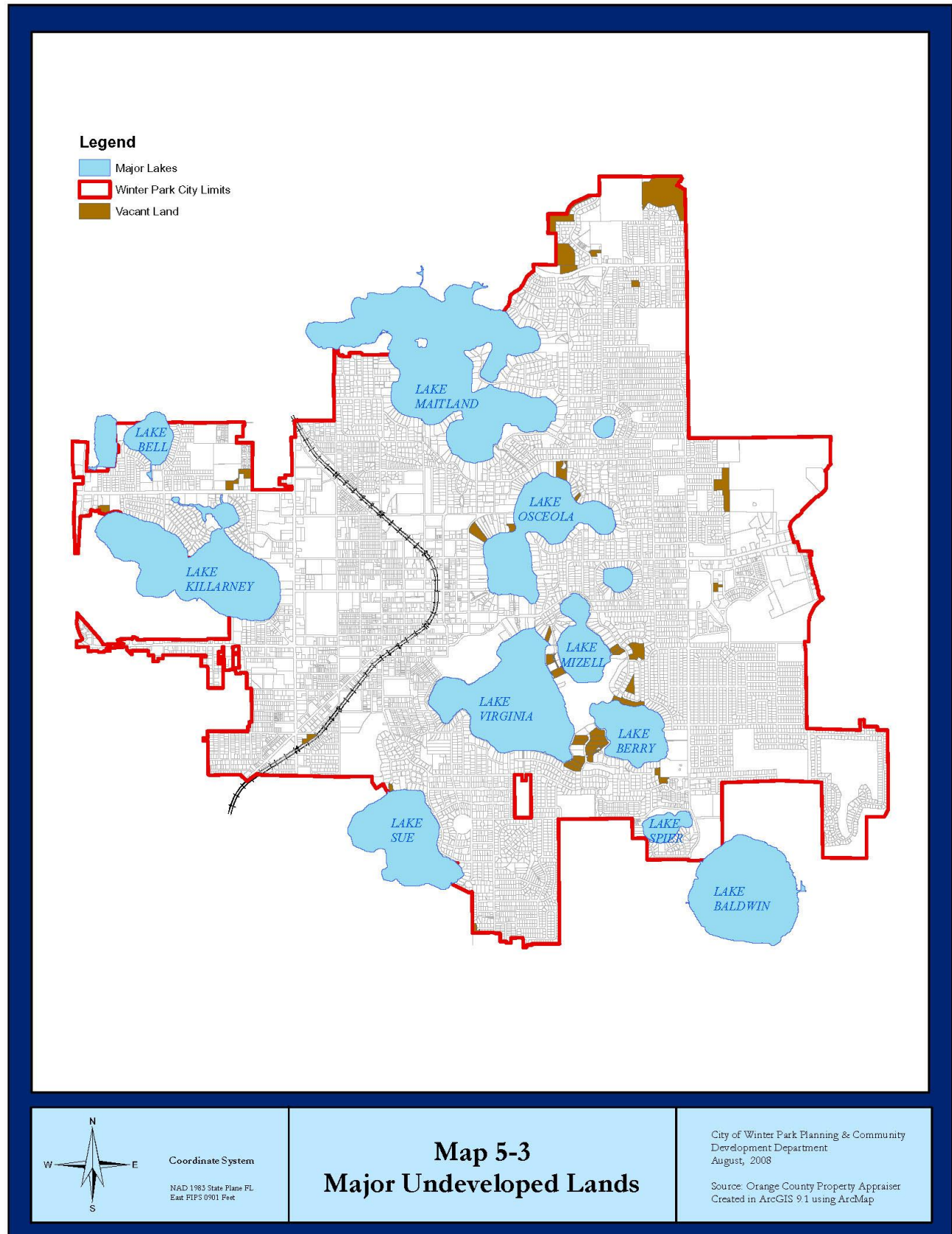
Map 5-3: Major Undeveloped Lands

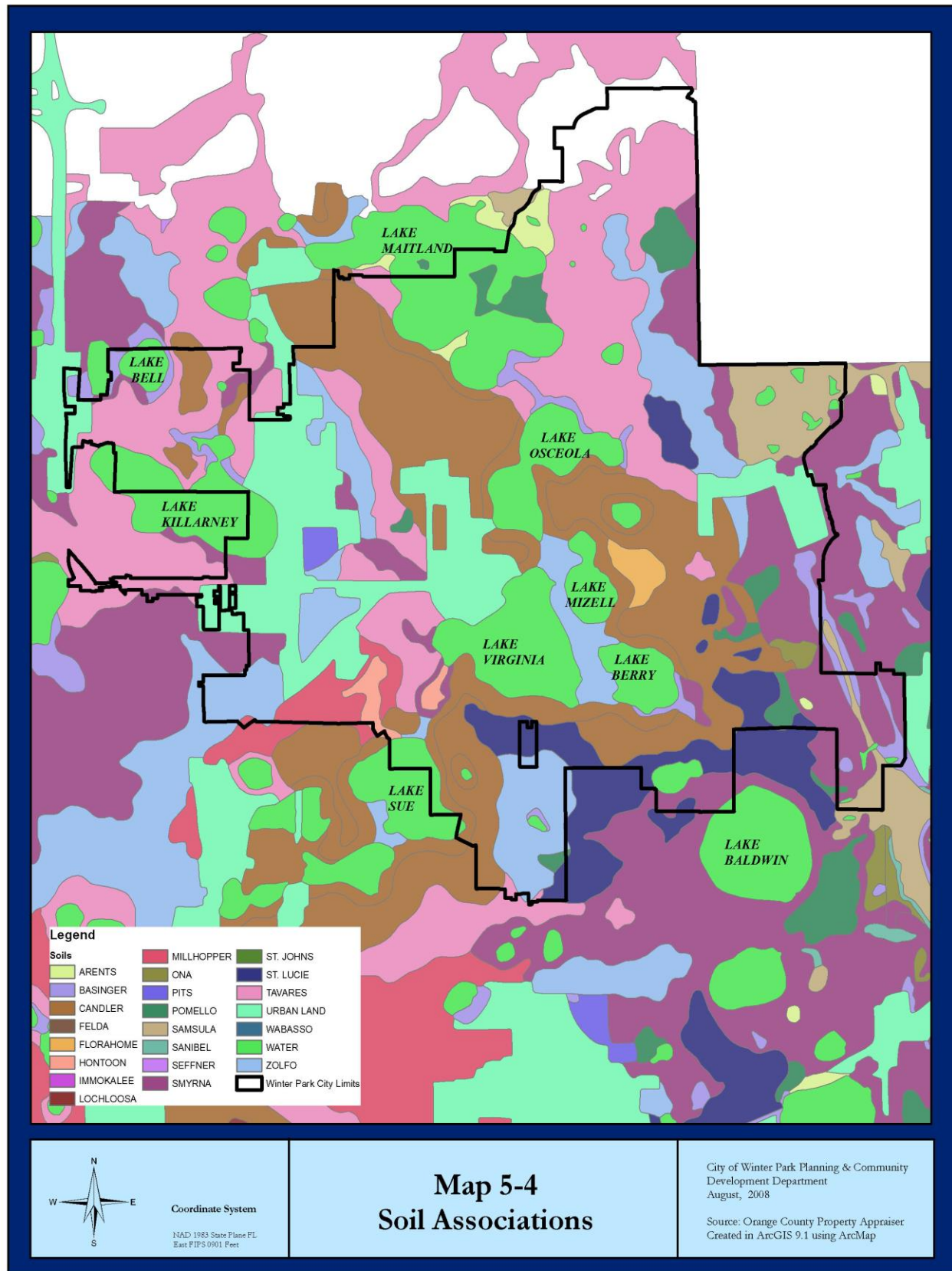
Map 5-4: Soil Associations

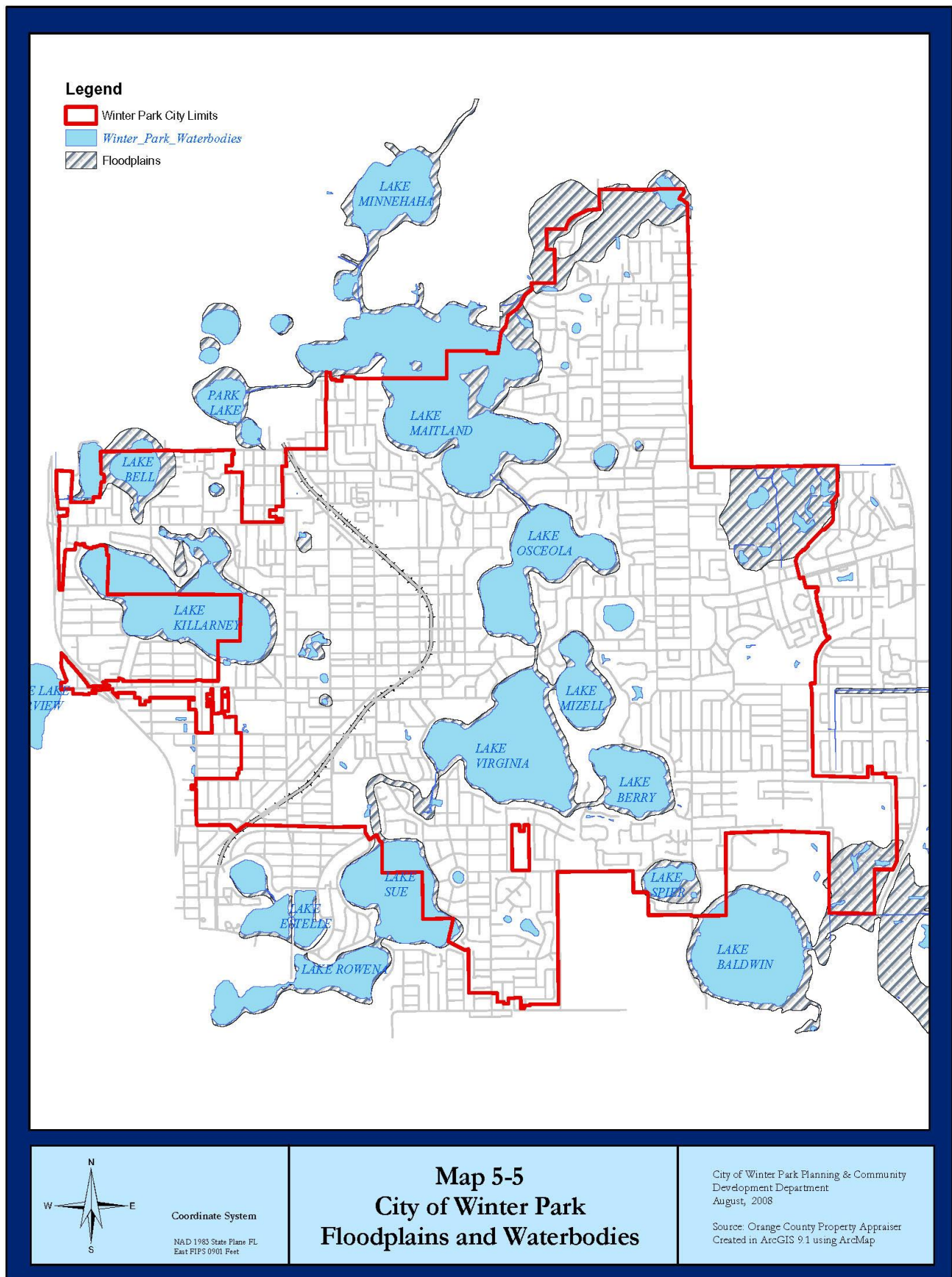
Map 5-5: Floodplains and Water Bodies

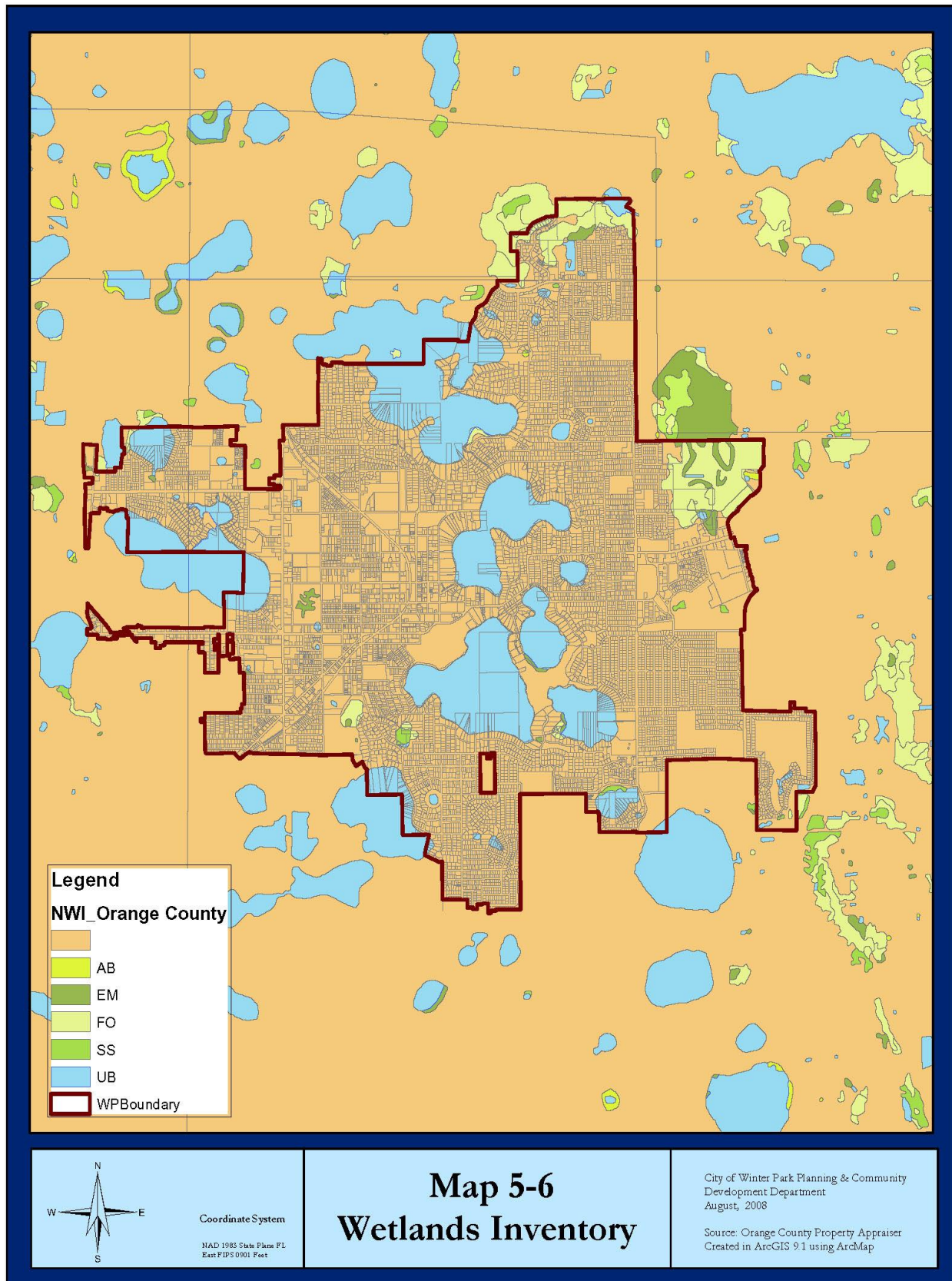
Map 5-6: Wetlands Inventory

Map 5-7: Potential Wildlife Habitat and Listed Species Observations Identified by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory

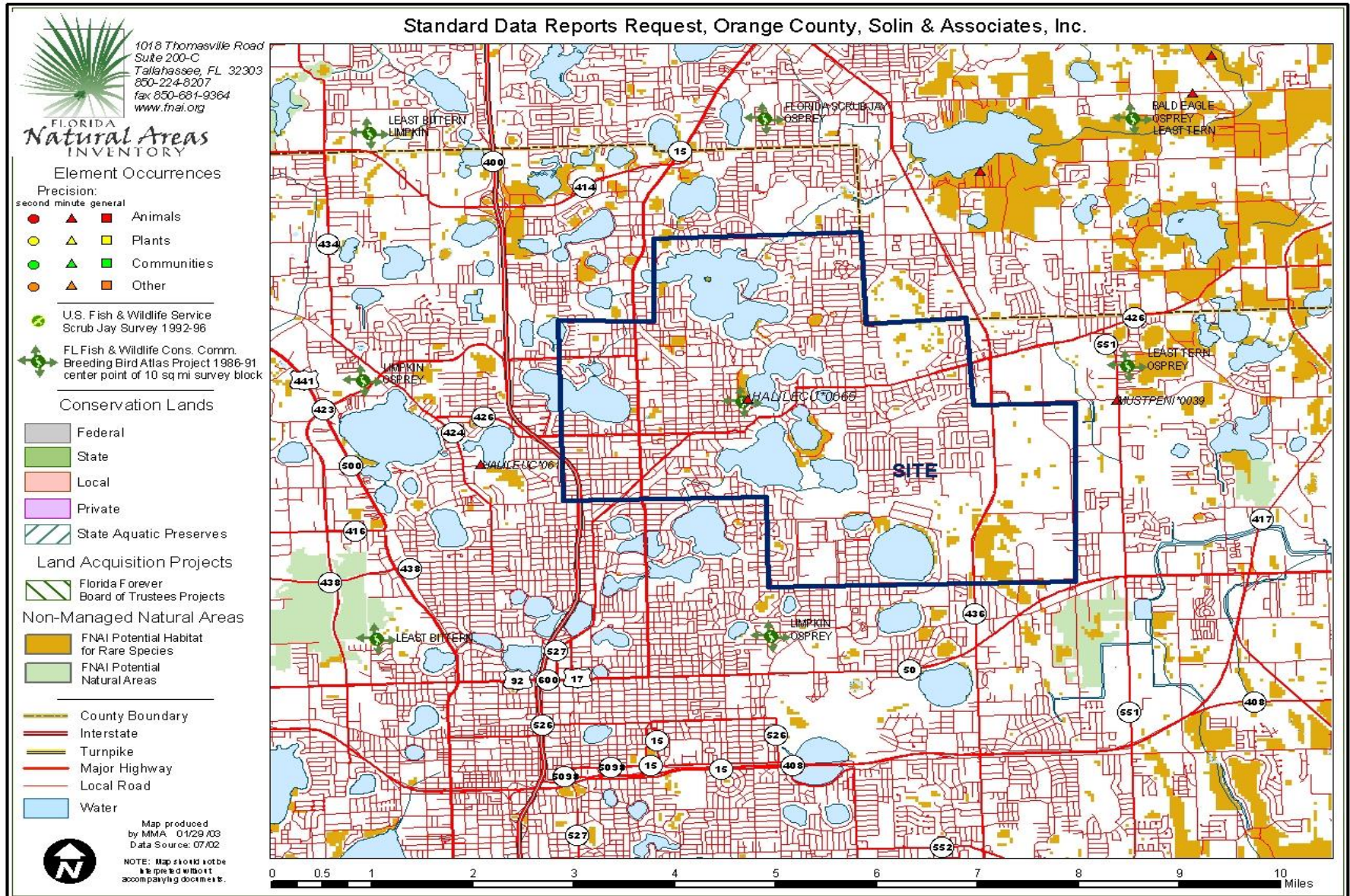








Map 5-7 Potential Wildlife Habitat and Listed Specie Observations Identified by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory



RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE DATA INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

§9J-5.014, FAC

This element provides the data inventory and analysis of recreation and open space facilities, pursuant to the requirements of §163.3177(6)(e), FS, and ~~§9J-5.014, FAC~~.

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 lead 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 reaccredited in 2015. 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, 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.
- 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. ~~However, built and impervious areas should not cover more than 10% of the site's land area.~~ 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 a small undeveloped property lot, such as the Tree Farm, Howell Creek wetlands and the Howell Creek floodplain lot on Pennsylvania Avenue Lot,~~ which currently serves as open space but has the potential to be developed into a ~~mini~~-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 AND CONSERVATION LAND INVENTORY AND LEVEL OF SERVICE

Winter Park has ~~346.16~~ 296.45 acres of public parks; public open space and public conservation lands. ~~For the three primary park categories, Winter Park has 177.75 acres in community parks, 16.1 acres in neighborhood parks, and 46.97 acres in special purpose parks/facilities.~~ 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. Winter Park's recreation and open space resources are summarized in Table 6-1 according to park classification. A summary of park acreage by classification is provided in Table 6-2. Map 6-1 shows the locations of the major parks and recreation resources described in Table 6-1.

Based on the ~~346.16~~ 296.45 acres of publicly-owned park, open space and conservation lands and a ~~2015~~ 2007 population of ~~28,967~~ 28,486, the City is meeting its level of service standard goal 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 6-1: Inventory by Classification of Parks and Recreation/Open Space Areas and Conservation Lands in the City of Winter Park

Name	Facilities	Classification	Access ¹	Function	Acres
COMMUNITY PARKS					
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 421 New England Avenue	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
Farmers' Market 200 West New England Avenue	Historical museum, farmers market and recreation center, patio, gazebo, park benches	Community Rec. Gathering Place	Yes	Active	0.85
Lake Baldwin Park 2000 South Lakemont Avenue	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 Boulevard	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 Avenue	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	Community Park Recreation	Yes	Active & Passive	67.25
COMMUNITY PARKS TOTAL ACRES:					181.89

Table 6-1: Inventory by Classification of Parks and Recreation/Open Space Areas and Conservation Lands in the City of Winter Park					
Name	Facilities	Classification	Access¹	Function	Acres
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS					
Kraft Azalea Gardens Park 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 Avenue	Tennis courts, basketball goals, playground, multipurpose field, soccer/lacrosse field, park benches, pavilions, picnic tables, restrooms	Neighborhood Park	Yes	Active	5.99
Trismen Park 231 Brewer Avenue	Landscaped grass lawn area, park benches, picnic tables	Neighborhood Park	Yes	Passive	1.40
Villa View Park 1709 N. Park Avenue	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 Park & Nature Preserve 1205 Howell Branch Road	Hiking trails, educational displays	Community Park & Conservation Land	Yes	Active & Passive	10.69
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS TOTAL ACRES:					27.19
SPECIAL PURPOSE PARKS & FACILITIES					
Winter Park Country Club Golf Course 761 Old England Avenue	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
SPECIAL PURPOSE PARKS & FACILITIES TOTAL ACRES:					47.03
LINEAR RECREATION					
Cady Way Trail	Bicycle trail	Linear Park	Yes	Active	3.72
LINEAR RECREATION TOTAL ACRES:					3.72
OPEN SPACE & CONSERVATION LANDS					
Winter Park Tree Farm 1938 Durham Avenue	City's tree farm; not accessible to public	Open space	No	Passive	14.17

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

Name	Facilities	Classification	Access ¹	Function	Acres
Howell Creek/Pennsylvania Avenue Lot 1620 S. Pennsylvania Avenue	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 complex 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
OPEN SPACE TOTAL ACRES:					58.75
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
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

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

Name	Facilities	Classification	Access ¹	Function	Acres
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
MINI-PARKS TOTAL ACRES:					27.58
PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE TOTAL					346.16

¹ Handicapped accessible

Source: Winter Park GIS System and Parks and Recreation Department, 2016

Table 6-2: Recreation, Park and Open Space Acreage by Category - 2016			
Type	Number of Sites	Acres	%
Special Purpose Parks & Facilities	2	47.03	13.6
Community Parks	8	181.89	52.5
• Gathering Places	3	(56.44)	
• Recreation	3	(100.26)	
• Lake Access	2	(25.19)	
Neighborhood Parks	7	27.19	7.9
Mini-Parks	36	27.58	7.9
Linear Recreation Area	1	3.72	1.1
Open Space & Conservation Lands	5	58.75	17.0
Totals:	49	346.16	100%

A. Community Parks. The City has 181.89 ~~177.75~~ 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
 - Concert stage and concert lawn
 - Historic bandstand
 - Park gateway features
 - Amphitheater
 - Lincoln Avenue cultural walk
 - Gardens—a rose garden, a Children’s garden, and The Ramble Garden
 - Pavilions
 - 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 the City of Winter Park owns 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 CSX 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, two multi-purpose fields, an Olympic-size Cady Way pool, four tennis courts, bike paths, ten 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. ~~but leased to the Orange County School Board for high school athletic events for Winter Park High School. The lease agreement requires the City to obtain approval from the School Board for activities other than those associated with Winter Park High.~~ 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 Filed 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, a civic center, 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 20,000 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 as well as an interactive spray fountain.

B. **Neighborhood Parks.** A description of the City's seven ~~four~~ 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 Gardens Park.** 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 are 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 Park and Nature 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 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, a locker room with showers, and a recreation center. A playground is located at the site along with picnic tables and park benches. Eight of the fourteen tennis courts have outdoor lighting.
- **Winter Park Golf Course.** 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.

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. ~~Three types of open space occur within the City—Nature Preserve/Conservation, Undeveloped Recreational Land, and Corridor Beautification. The acres of Corridor Beautification are not counted toward the City’s level of service standard. Among the open space sites, seven border lakes and one borders Howell Branch Creek. Undeveloped open space areas located along lakefronts contain natural vegetation and trees. Most open space sites are greater than a quarter acre with the largest containing over two acres. Potential exists to convert undeveloped open space areas into more mini-parks.~~

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 a community building with meeting rooms at Winter Park Community Center, and the amphitheater and community building at Mead Garden.~~a recreation administration building that houses the City's Parks and Recreation Department.~~

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	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 Tennis Center							16		1						
Dinky Dock Park		1											1	1	
Ward Park/Cady Way Park/Showalter Field	10		1	1		6	4	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 Gardens Park													1		
Phelps Park					1		3	2	2						
Winter Park Community Center/Shady Park			1					6	1		1				
Howell Branch Park									1						
Orwin Manor Park									1						
TOTALS	10	2	2	1	2	8	23	16	11		4	9	3	2	1

- 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 ~~280~~ 346 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 and 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.

~~**Methodology for Analyzing Neighborhood Parks Land Needs.** Three basic types of recreation areas are provided and maintained by the City—community parks, neighborhood parks, and special purpose facilities. Community parks provide a diverse range of facilities to accommodate outdoor sports, athletic activities, gatherings, children's play, and other similar facilities. FDEP recommends a minimum of 20 acres for each community park, with acreage needs based on 2 acres per 1,000 people. Many community parks include facilities common to neighborhood parks, such as playground and picnic facilities. When providing neighborhood park facilities, some community parks may also function as neighborhood parks for the surrounding neighborhoods, particularly for residents living within walking distance of the community park. A portion or all of the acreage for community parks, as listed in Table 6-1, also qualify as acreage for neighborhood parks.~~

~~Analysis of neighborhood parks takes into consideration that most community parks also function as neighborhood parks. A desired land area to accommodate a neighborhood park is 5 acres. To evaluate the need for neighborhood park acreage, each community park qualifying as a neighborhood park will be assigned 5 acres as a neighborhood park. If a community park is classified as a neighborhood park but has less than five acres, then the total acreage of that park will be counted toward neighborhood parks. Community park acreage counted as neighborhood parks is listed in Table 6-4.~~

Table 6-4: Community Parks Also Functioning as Neighborhood Parks	
Community Park	Acreage as Neighborhood Park
Mead Botanical Garden	5.00
Central Park	5.00
Dinky Dock Park	1.56
Lake Baldwin Park	5.00
Ward Park/Cady Way Park	5.00
M. Luther King, Jr. Park	5.00
WP Comm. Center/Shady Park	3.28
WP Farmers Market	0.71
TOTAL	30.55

~~Methodology for Analyzing Community Park Land Needs. Community parks and special purpose recreation areas both have service areas that cover most or the all of the City. In most cases, these park types are also frequented by non-residents residing in adjacent communities. As these two park types have similar service areas, land needs will be evaluated by grouping acreage for both park types under the community park classification. However, the community park evaluation also analyzes the level of service with only community park acreage, leaving out special purpose parks.~~

~~A portion of some community parks also function as neighborhood parks, as explained in previous sections above. To avoid double-counting acreage, land need analysis for community parks reduces total community park acreage by the portion of its acreage qualifying as neighborhood park, as shown in Table 6-4. For analysis of community parks, the 30.55 acres of neighborhood park acreage is subtracted from community park acreage.~~

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	
Facility	FDEP Median Guidelines¹
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/Handball Court	1 per 10,000 people
Multi-Purpose Field	1 per 3,750 people
Tennis Court	1 per 2,000 people

¹ 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			
Park Facility	Number of People or Radius Served	Area Per 1,000 People	Minimum Size of Park
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
Total FDEP Park Land LOS:		5 acres	

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 a 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 on the next page.

Table 6-6: Accessibility Guidelines for Ground Level Play Components		
Number of Elevated Components Provided	Ground Level Components Required	Minimum Variety of Components Required
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 and 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.

~~Scarce developable vacant land occurs within or adjacent to Winter Park. Opportunities to acquire vacant undeveloped land for new parks or to expand existing parks will be limited. Small pockets of land may become available at the time redevelopment occurs, particularly for large scale projects. Development sites could be acquired and converted into recreation lands. This alternative will be costly and, if implemented, will occur in areas where a public park type is compatible with the surrounding land uses.~~

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 and Needs. Evaluation of current recreation acreage demands and needs is based on the City's population of ~~28,620~~ 28,967 residents in ~~2006~~ 2015. 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.

~~For neighborhood and mini parks, 58.8 acres are available to residents at a LOS of 2.1 acres per 1,000 residents. Please note that acreage for neighborhood parks includes a portion of the acreage from community parks (30.55 acres) and mini parks acreage (14.9 acres); see Table 6-5. For community parks, special purpose facilities and the linear recreation park combined, 187.47 acres (does not include the 30.55 acres above included with neighborhood parks) are available to residents at a current LOS of 6.73 acres per 1,000 residents.~~

Recreational Facility Demands and 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 ~~2006~~ 2015 population of ~~28,620~~ 28,967 and FDEP guidelines, the City has a surplus in most recreation facilities.

Table 6-7: Current Recreation Facility Needs

Facility	FDEP Median Guidelines ¹	2015 Facility Demand ²	Facilities Available	Need ³ Surplus + Deficit -
Baseball/Softball Field	1 per 5,000 residents	6	10	+4
Basketball Court	1 per 5,000 residents	6	7	+1
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, 9-hole	1 per 25,000 residents	1	1	
Racquetball/Handball Court	1 per 10,000 residents	3	4	+1
Equipped Playground	1 per 10,000 residents	3	8	+5
Tennis Court	1 per 2,000 residents	14	25	+11

¹ Based on a 2015 population of 28,967 found in Table 6-8.

² Facility demand applies population from Table 6-8 for year 2015 to the FDEP recreation guidelines.

³ 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.

~~The City should consider installation of lights for recreation facilities that presently do not have them. Installation of outdoor lighting should take into consideration compatibility with any adjacent residential areas. Outdoor lighting will expand the accessibility of recreation space and facilities for the Winter Park public.~~

Recreation Needs for Special Groups: Seniors, Children, and the Handicapped. 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. ~~On September 30, 2004, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) issued an advance notice on its intent to update its ADA standards based on new guidelines the Board issued in July 2004. The supplementary guidelines ADA put forward for play areas in 2000, and for recreation facilities in 2002, have not yet been adopted by the DOJ as enforceable standards under the ADA.~~

~~Winter Park's population profile does not deviate substantially from that experienced by the State of Florida in 2000, based on the 2000 U.S. Census. While 22% of the City's 2000 population was age 19 years or younger, the percentage for this age group in the State was 25.3%. The age group represented by residents 65 years or older accounted for 22.2% of the City's population; for the State, this same age group accounted for only 17.6%. The median age for City and the State were 42.8 and 38.7 years, respectively. Based on the 2000 U.S. Census, the City experiences a slightly older population than that experienced statewide. The City, then, may experience slightly higher demand for recreation programs and activities by senior citizens. For the younger age group (i.e., 19 year or younger), the City may experience a slightly lower demand for recreation facilities than the demand experienced at the State level.~~

- ~~Handicapped. Recreation facilities and parks will need to comply with the ADA standards, when they become effective. The City's Parks Department should monitor the status of federal ADA requirements and DOJ's progress towards adoption. 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. compliance with the ADA standards by the time they become enforceable.~~

- **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.

~~To identify the specific recreation interests for senior residents, a survey or interviews involving seniors should be conducted to identify their recreation interests.~~

- **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 and spray park allow 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. Eleven playgrounds are located among eight parks. Eight baseball fields are designed to accommodate youth baseball.

Future Recreational Space and Facility Demands and Needs

The City's population is anticipated to increase by ~~10,410~~ 3,533 residents between ~~2000~~ 2015 and ~~2028~~ 2030. ~~As population increases, so too will the demand for parks and recreation facilities. Table 6-11 lists population projections to year 2021. Recreation space and facility guidelines previously presented in Tables 6-6 and 6-7 are applied to future population to assess whether or not additional land and facilities will be needed to meet and maintain the level of service guidelines.~~

Table 6-8: Winter Park Population Estimates						
Year	2000 ¹	2005 ¹	2010 ¹	2015 ¹	2020 ²	2030
Total Permanent Population	24,090	26,782	28,434	28,967	30,000	32,500

¹ U.S. Census and Florida BEBR Population estimates

² City of Winter Park, 2016

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. Demand for community parks will increase from 48.2 acres to 70 acres by 2021. As neighborhood parks and community parks share the same level of service guideline of two acres per 1,000 residents, the demand for neighborhood parks will equal that for community parks. By 2021, Winter Park's population will demand 70 acres for neighborhood parks.

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 2021 2030. An evaluation of community park land needs indicates that in 2021, the City will provide 5.6 acres in community parks per 1,000 residents, a level well above the guideline of two acres per 1,000 residents. The evaluation of community park space needs combines park acreage of special purpose facilities, linear recreation and community parks. Table 6-10 describes the methodology used to evaluate community park acreage needs for Winter Park's future population. The evaluation of community park acreage indicates that sufficient acreage in community parks will be available through 2021 at a level greater than the level of service guideline of two acres per 1,000 residents.

Table 6-10: Projected Park Acreage Demands & Needs Based on Population Projections for Community Park, Linear Recreation & Special Facility Acreage						
Year	Population	Proposed LOS (acres per 1,000 residents)	Existing Acre¹	Demand (in acres)	Acreage Needs (+ Surplus/ - Need)	Projected LOS (acres per 1,000 residents)
2000	24,090	2.0	-197.5	48.2	+149.3	8.2 ²
2006	28,620	2.0	197.5	57.2	+140.3	6.9 ²
2011	30,000	2.0	197.5	60.0	+137.5	6.5
2016	32,500	2.0	197.5	65.0	+132.5	6.1
2021	35,000	2.0	197.5	70.0	+127.5	5.6

¹177.75 acres less 30.55 acres (counted as Neighborhood Parks)=147.77 + Linear Rec. 3.30 + Special Facilities 46.97 = 197.47

²Actual LOS

Future Neighborhood Park Needs. Based on an evaluation of neighborhood parks and acreage analysis, additional neighborhood parks will be needed to accommodate future recreation demands of City residents. Based on the current park acreage in Winter Park, the City has sufficient acres in neighborhood parks to meet recreation demands through 2011. As population increases through 2021, recreation demands for neighborhood parks will also increase, creating a need for more neighborhood parks. An evaluation of neighborhood parkland needs through 2021 is presented in Table 6-13. By 2021, the City is anticipated to need an additional 11.2 acres above the current acreage in neighborhood parks. The City should plan to develop new sites for neighborhood parks or require new residential development to provide recreation space and facilities.

Locating available vacant land for new neighborhood parks currently is a challenge for the City. 227 acres of vacant land exists in the City as of 2006. A neighborhood park should be located within walking distance of its patrons. Limited vacant land likely means that new recreation areas should be planned as part of redevelopment projects or on property currently occupied by existing homes or structures. When the City prepares redevelopment, neighborhood plans, or small area plans, recreation and open space needs should be included as part of the planning process. Where such planning activities provide opportunities for new parks or open space, consideration for neighborhood parks should be included as part of the planning activity, particularly if residential uses are proposed. If sufficient land cannot be incorporated into these plans for a neighborhood park, then corridor open space should be considered.

Table 6-11: Projected Park Acreage Demands and Needs Based on Population Projections for Neighborhood & Mini-Park Acreage						
Year	Population	Proposed LOS (acres-per 1,000 residents)	Existing Acreage¹	Demand (in acres)	Acreage Needs (+ Surplus/- Need)	Projected LOS (acres-per 1,000 residents)
2000	24,090	2.0	58.8	48.2	+10.6	2.4 ²
2006	28,620	2.0	58.8	57.2	+1.6	2.1 ²
2011	30,000	2.0	58.8	60.0	-1.2	2.0
2016	32,500	2.0	58.8	65.0	-6.2	1.8
2021	35,000	2.0	58.8	70.0	-11.2	1.7

¹Neighborhood Parks = 13.35 acres + 30.9 acres (portion of Community Parks) + Mini-Parks 14.9 = 58.8 acres

²Actual LOS

Future Recreational Facilities Demand and Needs. Winter Park's population will increase from its 2006 2015 size of 28,620 to 35,000 32,500 by 2021 2030. As population increases, demand for recreation facilities rises. Recreation facility demands and needs are estimated for years 2011 2020 and 2021 2030 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 2011 2020 and 2021 2030 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 2021 2030.

Table 6-9: Projected Demands and Needs for Recreational Facilities for Year 2030						
Facility	FDEP Guidelines²	Existing Facilities	2020 Population 30,000¹		2030 Population 32,500¹	
			Facility Demands	Facility Needs (+ Surplus/-Need)	Facility Demands	Facility Needs (+ Surplus/Need)
Baseball/Softball Field	1 per 5,000 people	10	6	+4	7	+3
Basketball Court	1 per 5,000 people	7	6	+1	7	Sufficient
Equipped Playground	1 per 10,000 people	8	3	+5	3	+3
Community Swimming Pool	1 per 25,000 people	2	1	+1	+1	+1
Football/Soccer/ Lacrosse/Rugby Field	1 per 6,000 people	6	5	+1	6	Sufficient
Golf Course (9-hole)	1 per 25,000 people	1	1	Sufficient	1	Sufficient
Racquetball/Handball Court	1 per 10,000 people	3	3	Sufficient	3	Sufficient
Tennis Court	1 per 2,000 people	25	15	+10	16	+9

¹ See Table 6-9

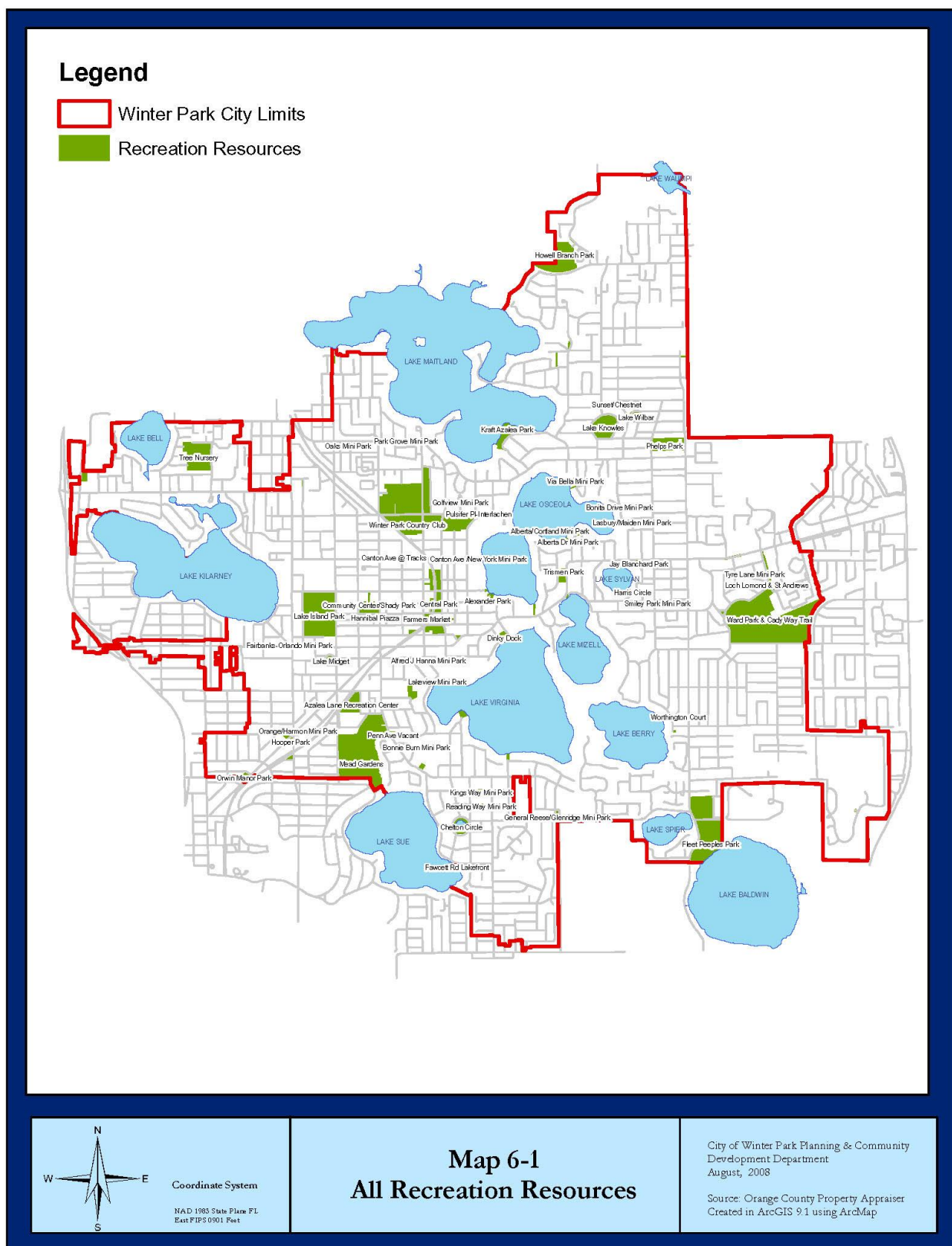
² FDEP, "Outdoor Recreation in Florida-2000"

Community Involvement with Parks and Recreation

Volunteerism and 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 has 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 spray park at Shady Park, next to 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.



CHAPTER 6: RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

RECREATION GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND IMPLEMENTING POLICIES. This section stipulates goals, objectives, and implementing policies for the Recreation Element. The purpose of this element is to provide guidance for appropriate plans and policies needed to meet identified or projected needs for park lands and open space areas.

This Chapter (element) is based upon the data and analysis presented in the supporting Data Inventory and Analysis document of The Winter Park Comprehensive Plan.

The Recreation and Open Space Element is the means for maintaining and providing adequate park, open space and recreational facilities for Winter Park's current and anticipated population. The quality of life and value of property for Winter Park residents is influenced by park and open space areas providing visual and aesthetic relief, plus the availability of a full range of recreational activities.

Park types referenced within this Chapter (i.e., neighborhood park, garden plaza, special purpose parks, etc.) shall follow the general definitions and purpose described within Chapter 6 of the Data Inventory and Analysis supporting document.

GOAL: PROVIDE ADEQUATE RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE: TO PRESERVE, MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE A QUALITY SYSTEM OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WHICH SATISFY THE NEEDS OF THE CURRENT AND FUTURE RESIDENTS OF WINTER PARK.

OBJECTIVE 6.1: PROVISION OF PUBLIC PARK LAND: The City of Winter Park shall assure that appropriate amounts of park land and open space will be within the public domain so as to meet the standards of this plan.

Policy 6-1: Provide Minimum LOS of Ten Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents. The City shall provide a minimum of ten (10) acres of publicly owned parkland and conservation lands for each one thousand (1,000) residents. For the purpose of calculating this guaranteed level of service, 'open space' shall be defined as publicly owned passive or active recreational land and land left in its natural state for conservation purposes. Specifically excluded are the water area of city lakes, except for Lakes Chelton, Knowles, Midget, Wilbar and Mendsen within MLK Jr. park, private garden areas or plazas in high density or mixed use developments and roadway landscaped median areas except those within the for Kings Way and Reading Way median right-of-ways, Park Grove triangle, AJ Hanna park, Sunset/Chestnut triangle, Golfview median, Lasbury/Maiden triangle, and the Pulsifer Park triangle.

Policy 6-2: Commitment to Public Park Land: The City shall meet and maintain the park land acreage level of service standards set in this plan.

Policy 6-3: Potential Park Funding Mechanisms: Methods such as park dedications, impact fees, developer contribution, density transfers, homeowner's association provisions, and general fund allocations, where appropriate, shall be used to assist the City in acquiring park land and developing recreational facilities. This includes bonds, grants and loans.

Policy 6-4: Ravaudage and Other Annexed Areas: The planned development of Ravaudage shall utilize the same two and one-half (2½) acres of parkland per one thousand (1,000 residents)

which is the Orange County park land level of service standard as the City of Winter Park park land level of service standard for that area and resident population, as this planned development is governed by the Orange County Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code.

~~Policy 6-4: Office, Commercial and Mixed-Use Developments and Public Gathering Places.~~ ~~For office, commercial and mixed use development which have 10 residential units or greater a dedication or provision of land is to be set aside for park and open space requirements. Such land shall be equal to a pro-rata share of 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. When not feasible in whole or in part, a proportionate fair share fee shall be paid to accomplish this policy. Such proportionate fair share and dedication of land shall be guaranteed in a development agreement.~~

Policy 6-5: Park and Recreation Trust Fund: The City shall maintain a park and recreation trust fund to facilitate contributions and to provide for an accounting of funds obtained for those purposes. At the end of each fiscal year, ten (10%) percent of the growth of the remaining end-of-year general fund balance shall be allocated to the park and recreation trust fund for park acquisition.

Policy 6-6: Recreation for New Single Family Subdivisions. New residential subdivisions shall include park and open space areas in the form of neighborhood parks for its residents. Where the number of units is insufficient to support an on-site park within the residential development, recreation impact fees shall be paid to the City to accommodate a fair-share impact that new residents will place on park land and park facilities.

Policy 6-7: Neighborhood Park. The City shall strive to provide park space within each designated service area in the City of Winter Park.

Policy 6-8: Improvements to Howell Branch Park and Potential Joint Community Park with City of Maitland. The City will continue to coordinate with the City of Maitland regarding the potential for joint participation in the development of a community park at the Winter Park Howell Branch Park that abuts open space in Maitland that could be accessed by citizens from both communities. In addition the City shall strive to improve recreational access and opportunities in the open space along Howell Creek.

Policy 6-9: Lands Proposed for Annexation. As part of the study to be performed in consideration of an annexation, the City shall analyze: (i) how the level of service for Public Park Land and Public Open Space would be impacted upon annexation; (ii) whether there are opportunities in an annexation for increasing the amount of land devoted to Public Land and Public Open Space; (iii) the gross additional cost to the City in terms of the impact of the annexation on the Recreational Facilities of the City; (iv) the additional revenues, if any, that might be available to the City as a result of the annexation, that could be utilized for park land and park facilities.

Policy 6-10: Parks Master Plan. The City shall periodically update the overall Parks Master Plan and strive to implement that improvement program as may be adopted by the City Commission.

OBJECTIVE 6.2: PUBLIC ACCESS TO LAKES. Reasonable access to lake waters and shorelines shall be afforded to Winter Park residents in a manner that protects water quality and natural habitats that maintains their recreation and open space value.

Policy 6-11: Promote Quality of Lake Recreation Opportunities. The City shall promote quality of lake recreation opportunities through the following actions:

1. Boat traffic originating from public ramps shall be managed to promote public safety within lake waters and to protect lake water quality. Such management programs shall include but are not limited to boat access permits for use of City boat launching facilities, and the use of public funds to support law enforcement patrol of lake waters.
2. The City shall continue to promote its Lake Management Program to manage nuisance aquatic plant growth and to protect, conserve and enhance natural shoreline habitat, aquatic and wildlife habitat.

Policy 6-12: Public Access to Lakes. The City shall continue to provide public access to lakes within Winter Park through the following activities or programs:

1. Continue to provide and maintain public beach access at Lake Baldwin and the lakes comprising the Winter Park chain-of-lakes;
2. Continue to provide and maintain at least one public boat launch facility to the chain-of-lakes.

Policy 6-13: Undeveloped Open Space at Lakefronts. As part of any update of the City's Park Master Plan, the City shall evaluate City-owned undeveloped open space located along lake shorelines for potential improvements that may create safe access to waterfront areas for the public.

Policy 6-14: Maintain Lake Access. The City shall maintain the physical points of public access to the lakes of the City, and the City shall maintain the recreational facilities at these public lake shore access places including boat ramps and parking so as to insure the continued access to and enjoyment of the lakes of the City by non-lakefront property owners.

Policy 6-15: Prioritize Acquisition of Land Along Bodies of Water. The City shall prioritize the acquisition of property, whether developed or vacant, along bodies of water to include lakes, rivers, streams and creeks. This serves a two fold purpose to aid in acquiring more park land with access to bodies of water and preserve lands for conservation.

OBJECTIVE 6.3: INTEGRATION OF NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGN WITH PARKS AND OPEN SPACE. Neighborhoods shall be planned and designed with parks and open space that provide available recreation opportunities for nearby residents.

Policy 6-16: Park Accessibility to Neighborhoods. Neighborhoods shall be planned with park lands and open spaces intermixed with residential development and accessible within walking distance to residents. Park land within neighborhoods shall be designed to foster opportunities for social interaction and shall serve as a focal point for the surrounding residential areas.

Policy 6-17: Equitable Distribution of Park Land. The City shall emphasize future park acquisitions that equitably distribute park land through out the City. All expenditures for parks and recreation land acquisition purposes shall be prioritized in accordance with the Parks and Recreation priority list for Community Parks (with a goal of two acres of Community Parks per 1,000 residents of the total LOS of ten acres) and Neighborhood Parks (with a goal of two acres of Neighborhood Parks per 1,000 residents of the total LOS of ten acres), as such list may be amended by the Parks and Recreation Board from time to time.

OBJECTIVE 6.4: STREETSCAPE AND LANDSCAPE PROVISIONS. Streetscape and Landscape areas shall be incorporated into the site design of public and private properties according to the following policies:

Policy 6-18: Open Space along Lakefront Areas. Development shall be setback from lake fronts to create open space areas in natural vegetation along shoreline areas. At a minimum, all principal structures shall be set back at least fifty (50) feet from any lake shoreline unless special conditions and circumstances pre-exist justifying a variance. With exception to public beaches owned by the City of Winter Park, for residential land, no more than ~~fifteen~~ ten (10%) percent of the land area from the ordinary high water elevation ~~water's edge~~ to a point 50 feet landward can be impervious. ~~The Land Development Code may require less impervious surface coverage within this area.~~

Policy 6-19: Promote Access to the City's Water Bodies. The City shall maintain or expand the physical points of access to the water bodies in and adjacent to the City's boundaries and maintain or expand the recreational facilities including boat ramps, parking, wildlife observation areas, at these public access points. This shall insure the continued access to, and enjoyment of, the City's water bodies.

OBJECTIVE 6.5: PRESERVATION OF PARK LAND AND OPEN SPACE: The City of Winter Park will not divert existing park land to other non-park, non-recreational or non-cultural uses except in cases of overriding public interest.

Policy 6-20: Park Land Change of Use: A majority ~~An extraordinary~~ vote of the City Commission is required to convert publicly-owned park land to other uses. In such circumstances the City shall strive to also adopt a ~~However, if the park land change of use is incorporated into a redevelopment plan or neighborhood plan that identifies equivalent new parks or park site relocation, the change of use can be approved by majority vote of the City Commission subject to:~~

- ~~1. Approval of the redevelopment plan or neighborhood plan by the City Commission at an advertised public hearing;~~
- ~~2. The neighborhood plan or redevelopment plan identifies a site or sites for new park land (equal or greater in area) to replace that which will be lost;~~
- ~~3. Funding has been identified and programmed for the acquisition of new property, or land will be obtained through a development agreement with property owner/development applicant sponsoring a redevelopment plan.~~

Policy 6-21: Protect Park Acreage Level of Service. ~~Should the City shall not~~ enter into contractual use agreements with the School Board, Y.M.C.A. or other non-profit or governmental entities, such agreements should not ~~that would~~ provide for land, not owned by the City, to be counted toward meeting the City park acreage level of service standard.

Policy 6-22: Maintenance of Existing Recreation Land and Facilities. The City shall maintain existing park lands through the use of proper management and funding techniques. The City shall assure that park lands are well managed and well maintained, designed to promote public safety and to discourage crime, and are accessible and convenient for park patrons.

Policy 6-23: Preservation of Central Park. Central Park shall be classified, designed and used as a community park gathering place that reserves the unique and passive nature of the existing park, the shady tree canopy and the fountains.

Policy 6-24: Preservation of Mead Garden. Mead Garden is a 48 acre park located in the southwest section of the City. It shall be classified as a passive park. Established in the 1930's as a botanical garden attraction, it contains the range of native plant species from its freshwater marsh habitat to the typical pine uplands.

OBJECTIVE 6.6: PROVISION OF RECREATION FACILITIES: The City of Winter Park shall assure that appropriate recreational facilities are available and usable by the public, including disabled residents, so as to meet the standards of this plan.

Policy 6-25: Public Use of Non-City Recreation Facilities: The City shall continue to work with the Orange County School Board, Rollins College, Y.M.C.A., churches, non-profit agencies and the private sector to provide cooperative agreements, whether formal or informal, for the availability of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities for the residents.

Policy 6-26: Recreation Programs: The City shall continue to offer recreational programs that compliment and enhance the use of the City's recreational facility assets. The City shall annually monitor recreation programs to assure that an adequate diversity of programs addresses the recreation interests of different age and ethnic groups, particularly children, teenagers, disabled, and the elderly.

Policy 6-27: Provision of Facilities for the Disabled. Recreation facilities shall be provided consistent with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, including the number of facilities available for and accessible to the disabled. The City shall provide a diverse number of facilities accessible to disabled persons and shall meet or exceed the ADA diversity guidelines. The City shall complete an inventory of existing recreation facilities that are accessible to the disabled. If deficiencies exist in number or diversity of recreation facilities for the disabled, the City shall schedule appropriate improvements and funding within its capital improvements program to remedy the deficiency.

Policy 6-28: Provide Recreation Facilities Consistent with Local Recreation Demands. To assure that City parks provide services desired by park patrons and City residents, the City shall update its Park Master Plan at least every five years. The update of the Park Master Plan shall include a survey of residents or an analysis of recreation demands and trends to determine the recreation programs, facilities, and events that are most desired by City residents. As part of the

master plan update, the City shall develop recreation facility level of service standards consistent with local demands and interests.

Policy 6-29: Promotion of Cultural Arts. Within one year of adoption of this plan, the City shall prepare a cultural arts master plan and incorporate its findings, data, and recommendations into the Winter Park Comprehensive Plan as either a separate element or as a component of the Recreation and Open Space Element. The objective of a cultural arts element or master plan is to maintain a comprehensive inventory and analysis of the community's cultural resources and amenities, and to facilitate community access to the various cultural organizations. By forming a master plan for cultural arts, the City can establish long-term funding according to goals and objectives to maintain and expand cultural arts.

OBJECTIVE 6.7: PARK AND RECREATION FUNDING. The City of Winter Park may develop new funding sources for the acquisition, expansion and improvement of park land and park facilities.

Policy 6-30: Recreation Impact Fee. The City shall continue to implement a park and recreation impact fee that will require all new development pay its fair-share in the cost to acquire new park and park facilities and shall update that fee periodically based upon studies documenting costs for such acquisitions.

Policy 6-31: Land Development Code Consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. The City's Land Development Code shall with the Winter Park Comprehensive Plan require that all development include park land and park amenities consistent with concurrency management level-of-service standards.

Policy 6-32: Coordination with State and Regional Land Acquisition Grant Program. The City shall annually coordinate with state agencies regarding the use of the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP), and Florida Forever Program, and land acquisition programs administered by the St. Johns River Water Management District regarding the availability of grant funds for open space and recreation land purchases within or adjacent to Winter Park.

OBJECTIVE 6.8: ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR PARK MAINTENANCE. The City of Winter Park shall allocate sufficient funding to assure the maintenance of park and recreational facility assets.

Policy 6-33: Maintenance of Existing Recreation Land and Facilities. The City shall maintain existing recreation and facilities through the use of proper management and maintenance funding techniques. The City shall assure that recreation facilities and park lands are well managed and well maintained.

Policy 6-34: Annual Maintenance Funding. The City shall maintain a continuity of annual funding for the maintenance of park and recreational facilities necessary.

Policy 6-35: Annual Fee Review. The City shall annually review the Park and Recreation fees and revenue policy so as to adjust user fees to a level commensurate with the need and other governmental entities.

Policy 6-36: Maintenance and Staff Needs for New Parks and Facilities. The City shall recognize that the addition of park and recreation facilities will increase the funding levels necessary for proper maintenance, including potential for additional staff or need for additional out-sourcing funds.

OBJECTIVE 6.9: ALLOCATION OF PARK FUNDS. The City of Winter Park shall have a system for the allocation of funds for park and recreational capital improvements.

Policy 6-37: Recreation and Capital Improvement Program. The capital improvements program of the City's park and recreation department shall be consistent with the Capital Improvement Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Policy 6-38: Capital Improvement Program Criteria. All acquisitions and physical improvement projects expected to cost more than \$25,000 shall be included in the Capital Improvement Element.

~~**Policy 6-1.9.3: Plan for the Conversion of the City's Tree Farm.** The City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) shall by 2008 provide funding to convert and improve the City's tree farm property to a park facility.~~

OBJECTIVE 6.10: INTERCONNECT PARK SYSTEM WITH RECREATION AND TRANSPORTATION TRAILS AND PATHS. The City will strive to provide a park and open space system to interconnect parks by pedestrian and bicycle path lanes.

Policy 6-39: Link Parks and Public Open Space. The City will strive to provide bikeways, where possible and where public safety permits, to link open space and parks both internally and regionally to Winter Park. New park location and design should take into consideration the presence or feasibility to the park with other City facilities via bicycle paths and lanes.

Policy 6-40: Cady Way Trail. The City will strive to support the interconnection of the Cady Way Trail with other regional trail systems.

~~**Policy 6-1.10.3: Lake Baldwin Trail/Path.** The City shall continue coordination with the City of Orlando regarding a public trail or path that will encircle Lake Baldwin.~~

Policy 6-41: Howell Creek. The City will strive to maintain and expand the number and extent of recreational trails and greenways in the City to provide public access and enjoyment especially of stream and waterfront environments.

Policy 6-42: Integration of Park System and Bicycle Trails. At the next update of the Park Master Plan, the bicycle trail system interconnecting parks and public places shall be included as a component of the Park Master Plan. The interconnection of parks with bicycle trails, paths, and lanes shall be addressed as part of the Park Master Plan update.

Policy 6-43: Bicycle Parking Facilities at Parks. All neighborhood, community, special purpose parks shall provide bicycle racks or similar parking facilities. Bicycle parking facilities shall be conveniently located within parks and placed at visible locations.

Policy 6-44: Coordination with Transportation Element. Bicycle and pedestrian system plans promoted in the Transportation Element shall be coordinated with the objectives and policies of the Recreation Element.

OBJECTIVE 6.11: MANAGEMENT AND ACCREDITATION OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT. 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 reaccredited in 2015. 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.

Policy 6-45: The City will strive to maintain the accreditation of the Parks and Recreation Department.

