

8.0 RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

The University of North Florida (UNF) offers its students a number of on-site recreational facilities. The expansion of the campus into the 150-acre northern parcel has guaranteed that the present demands of the students, faculty and general community for recreation and open space will be within this ten-year planning period. Several improvements, that will enhance the recreational facility offerings of the University, are scheduled for completion prior to the adoption of this plan.

Several types of facilities and acreage have been classified for the purposes of this element. In general, the recreational facilities at UNF are organized into two distinct classifications of use, active and passive. Active recreational uses consist of organized and informal group activities and, include facility improvements for specifically intended functions. Passive recreational uses are less formal and do not typically rely on focused, formal or informal group activities. Examples of passive activities include picnic areas, nature trails and unimproved open spaces.

Active recreation improvements are planned that will enhance recreation and open space facilities that the University already enjoys. These improvements include the recent construction of two multi-purpose fields. Acreage designated for future development is shown in the Future Land Use Map (Figure 4.1). The northern parcel, as well as the eastern ridge, will provide space needed to satisfy active recreation demands within the ten-year planning period. The following active recreation expansions are recommended.

Expansion of the Dottie Dorion Fitness Center into a Recreation SportsPlex. This new facility would offer the following amenities:

- Dedicated Group Fitness Space for aerobics, spinning, yoga and group fitness classes and club sports activities such as martial arts.
- Expanded space for the free weight machine and cardiovascular equipment such as treadmills, cross trainers and bikes.
- Dedicated indoor open space for basketball/volleyball/court activities. A second gym floor would also aid athletics as an alternative practice site when UNF graduation and campus special events close the Arena gym.
- Renovate the locker rooms and possibly add spa equipment such as sauna and hot tubs

Recommended passive recreation expansions are as follows:

- Construction of the John Golden Memorial Pavilion
- Establishment of a pedestrian trail to connect the campus core with the new golf learning center.
- Upgrade interpretive signage.
- Widen and lengthen existing campus sidewalks for bi-directional traffic.
- Provide bike lanes on campus roadways and bike racks for all new buildings.

Intercollegiate athletic facilities and physical education facilities, that by their nature constitute an active recreational use, represent the only other areas that need to be addressed within the ten-year planning period. Although these improvements have no bearing on the University's adopted level of service standards, they are critically needed enhancements to the existing athletic facilities. Those improvements tentatively planned for the ten-year planning period are phased due to the unknown variables affecting funding and due to unknown variables impacting the addition of new University supported athletic programs. The following is a list proposed athletic department needs.

- Completion of the Stadium interior
- Nine-lane, 400 meter track associated with the Soccer/Track Stadium complex
- Expansion of the Arena to alleviate space needs and scheduling conflicts arising from the joint use of the existing facility by both the Athletics and Recreation Departments.
- All unforeseen expansion due to UNF's pending Division I status.

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GOAL 1: The University of North Florida (UNF) shall continue to maintain and expand recreation and open space facilities at acceptable service standards to meet the anticipated demands created by future faculty, staff and student enrollment growth.

Objective 1.1 UNF shall ensure the availability of an adequate supply of affordable on-campus recreation and open space facilities at an adopted level of service standards for the University's faculty, staff and student enrollment growth anticipated to occur through the year 2015.

Policy 1.1.1 UNF shall maintain the following minimum level of service standards for active and passive based recreational acreage requirements through the year 2015:

Activity--Ten acres per 1,000 students.

Passive--Twenty-five acres per 1,000 students.

Policy 1.1.2 UNF shall maintain the following minimum level of service standards for recreational space facility improvements through the year 2015.

<u>Facility Improvement</u>	<u>Minimum LOS</u>
Basketball Court (1)	One per 3,000 Students
Volleyball Court (1)	One per 3,000 Students
Racquetball Court	One per 3,000 Students
Tennis Court	One per 2,000 Students
Softball/Baseball Field	One per 10,000 Students
Multi-purpose Field	One per 3,000 Students

Note:(1) These courts may be converted to accommodate the alternative facilities use. This prevents the full utilization of these facilities simultaneously.

Policy 1.1.3 UNF shall count those areas designated for Conservation Land Use (as shown in the Future Land Use Map, Figure 4.1) towards the minimum level of service standards adopted for passive based acreage ensuring that on-campus open space and natural reservation area requirements are maximized.

Policy 1.1.4 UNF shall base the criteria for setting the priority, timing and phasing of future required recreation and open space improvements on future identified deficiencies related to the adopted minimum level of service standards (reference Policy 1.1.1 and Policy 1.1.2 immediately preceding). At a minimum, this criteria shall call for an annual report to be completed by the University Recreation Department that evaluates several elements:

1. A comparison of existing facilities and adopted level of service standards.
2. A summary of recommended or needed plan revisions.
3. A summary of required or desired improvements not included in the current element.

Policy 1.1.5 UNF shall utilize properties in the Management and Storage of Surface Waters (MSSW) permit area to assist in meeting passive acreage requirements where appropriate.

Policy 1.1.6 UNF shall maintain intensities for the development of the campus which maximize the retention of on-campus open space. These intensities are provided in the 4.0 Future Land Use Element.

Policy 1.1.7 UNF shall select sites for infrastructure and academic and support facilities which are designed to maximize the retention of campus open space.

Policy 1.1.8 UNF shall locate future Intercollegiate Athletic Facilities construction and expansions in those areas north of the existing facilities adjacent to the Campus Core as depicted in the [Future Land Use Map \(Figure 4.1\)](#).

Objective 1.2

UNF shall maintain policies that support and encourage the coordination and use of public and private resources to meet the projected demands of the University faculty, staff and student enrollment and intercollegiate athletic program growth anticipated to occur through the year 2010. Consideration of fiscal resources shall include state and federal grants, user fees, gifts, foundations, required developer donations for on-campus projects and other applicable funding sources.

Policy 1.2.1 UNF shall maintain a Recreation Advisory Committee to advise on matters related to University recreation and open space needs. This advisory committee shall, at a minimum, consist of one representative from the University Recreation Department, one representative from the University Athletic Department, one representative from UNF Facilities Planning, one full-time UNF student, and two UNF faculty representatives.

Policy 1.2.2 The Recreation Advisory Committee shall revise, if necessary, the priorities established for the following recommended non-deficient recreational improvements:

- Expansion of the Dottie Dorian Fitness
- Construction of the John Golden Memorial Pavilion
- Establishment of a pedestrian trail to connect the campus core with the new golf learning center.
- Upgrade interpretive signage.
- Widen and lengthen existing campus sidewalks for bi-directional traffic.
- Provide bike lanes on campus roadways and bike racks for all new buildings.

Policy 1.2.3 The UNF Athletic Department shall annually evaluate intercollegiate facility requirements necessary to attain and maintain Division I athletic status. Such evaluations shall consider future needs for additional lands to accommodate these changing requirements.

Policy 1.2.4 UNF shall coordinate with the host community, private enterprises, and state and federal agencies to identify available funding sources for future recreation and open space facilities.

Policy 1.2.5 UNF shall coordinate with the host community on matters regarding the shared use of existing recreational facilities through the execution and adoption of a development agreement.

Policy 1.2.6 UNF shall not consider newly identified recreation and open space additions or improvements until all existing facility levels of service deficiencies have been corrected. UNF does not maintain any facility level of service deficiencies at this time.