

CHAPTER FIVE
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Jackson County is fortunate in having an abundance of resource-based recreational opportunities, in the form of State parks, a reservoir, and a wildlife management area. Activity-based recreational opportunities are found in various municipal parks and in the playgrounds and ball fields associated with the County's public schools. Using the Department of Natural Resources guidelines for park acreages, it was found that Greenwood, has a surplus of community and regional parks both for the existing population and the projected population through the year 2001.

Greenwood has recreational facilities which meet the levels of service set forth by this plan, by having access to the numerous county facilities. However, it may be necessary to increase these municipal and county areas in the future. As the need arises, avenues for increasing recreational facilities will be investigated. The use of state or federal funding will be used for development of these facilities as these funding sources become available.

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT
GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

GOAL - Provide a variety of parks, recreational facilities and programs, and open space areas available to all residents of the Town of Greenwood.

Objective 1 - To continue to coordinate public and private resources in order to meet adopted level of service standards throughout the planning period.

Policy 1.1 - The Town shall adopt the following level of service standards for park and recreation facilities:

Regional - 20 acres/1000 population

Community - 2 acres/1000 population

Policy 1.2 - Analysis shows that many of the recreational facilities in the County and municipalities are associated with public schools. By 1996, the Board of County Commissioners shall attempt to establish a formal agreement with the Jackson County School Board for the general public's use of recreational facilities at publicly financed schools. The Town shall support this effort.

Policy 1.3 - Analysis indicates that there are sufficient existing park and recreation facilities to meet the Town's long-range needs. The Town shall continue to monitor existing recreational opportunities and seek funding sources to prevent unforeseen recreational deficiencies during the planning period.

Objective 2 - Lands designated as Open Space will be protected from incompatible land uses by 1992 through the land development regulations and shall remain functionally intact throughout the planning period.

Policy 2.1 - The Town shall request program assistance from the Florida DEP to secure the purchase and planning of designated open space areas through such programs as Save Our Rivers, Rails to Trails, and Conservation and Recreation Lands, when appropriate. The local governments will designate and acquire open space, when necessary, through standards adopted as part of their land development regulations by 1992.

Policy 2.2 - Adopt land development regulations which address definitions, signaled, and landscaping for open space areas.

Policy 2.3 - By 1992, the Town shall adopt land development regulations which include specific open space definitions and standards addressing protection of open space and addressing natural vegetation, landscape and signage as well as the provision and use of open space for buffering and for greenbelts in order to preserve quality of life in the Town, maintain its character, and to help ensure the general health, safety, and welfare of its citizenry.

Policy 2.4 - The land development regulations will encourage the preservation of open space through such techniques as cluster development.

Policy 2.5 - The land development regulations will require that recreation and open space areas retained in private ownership be operated in compliance with all required standards.

ACCESS

Objective 3 - Assure, through ordinances, that residents have access to all public recreational sites and facilities.

Policy 3.1 - Address handicapped access to all municipal or County owned recreation facilities.

Policy 3.2 - Freshwater waterbodies that are not privately owned shall be considered potential public recreation sites. Access to these sites shall be ensured, when appropriate, based on standards to be developed as part of the land development regulations. Policies 3.1 and 3.3 shall also apply to public waterbodies.

Policy 3.3 - The Town shall establish a conservation easement program that gives property tax incentives to landowners who dedicate an easement for public access for conservation purposes.

Objective 4 - A system of recreation facilities meeting the needs of the population shall be in place by 1992 and shall remain in place throughout the planning period.