

Summary:

Lee County Parks & Recreation Department Requests that the Lee Plan Map 11 Generalized Service Area Boundaries be removed from the Lee Plan.

Staff Recommends that the Map 11 be removed from the Lee Plan on the basis that:

- A. IT IS OUTDATED.**
- B. CONFLICTS WITH LEE PLAN POLICIES & GOALS FOR PARK & CIP ELEMENTS.**
- C. CONFLICTS WITH CONCURRENCY REPORTING FOR PARKS.**
- D. CONFLICTS WITH IMPACT FEE COLLECTION SYSTEM FOR PARKS.**
- E. DOES NOT PROPERLY INCORPORATE OR CONVEY PUBLIC NEED FOR PARK FACILITIES.**

- 1. Map 11 is outdated.**
 - a. Map 11 Generalized Service Area Boundaries map was created in December of 2000 and Generated in October of 2003**
 - b. New facilities are not reflected in map**

OBJECTIVE 76.2: The county will maintain inventories, surveys, and records essential to the park planning process, and will periodically update park planning documents and inventories. (Amended by Ordinance No. 94-30, 00-22)

- 2. Map 11 conflicts with Lee Plan Definition of Regional Park by defining service areas for Regional Parks which differentiate from Lee Plan definition.**

POLICY 76.1.2: Due to the nature of regional parks and the limit on the availability of appropriate sites, regional park facilities will be distributed throughout the entire county. (Amended by Ordinance No. 94-30, 00-22)

GOAL 84: REGIONAL PARKS. To preserve a portion of the county's natural environment to augment that which is set aside by the state of Florida and the federal government, in order to preserve natural habitats, protect the water supply, and preserve the natural heritage; and to make these natural resources available to the general public for resource-based recreational activities, enjoyment of nature, and educational enrichment.

- 3. Map 11 conflicts with Concurrency Calculation of Regional Park by defining service areas for Regional Parks which differentiate from Lee Plan definition.**

OBJECTIVE 84.1: Lee County must provide 6 acres per 1,000 population (minimum acceptable level of service, see Policy 95.1.3). By 1998 this standard will be increased to 8 acres per 1,000

population (non-regulatory, desired future level of service, see Policy 95.1.4). The population used for calculating this standard is the total seasonal population for all of Lee County. The acres used in calculating this standard are improved Regional Park acres that are open for public use. Federal and state facilities in Lee County are to be counted in meeting this standard. (Amended by Ordinance No. 94-30, 98-09, 00-22)

4. Map 11 conflicts with Regional Park Impact Fee collection and Rational Nexus by defining generalized service areas for Regional Parks which are lesser than the area of the Regional Park Impact Fee Benefit Collection District.
5. Map 11 conflicts with Community Park Impact Fee collection and Rational Nexus by defining generalized service areas for Community Parks which differ from the area of the Community Park Impact Fee Benefit Districts.

POLICY 76.1.1: Based on community needs and interests, the county will equitably distribute community park facilities within impact fee districts in unincorporated Lee County. (Amended by Ordinance No. 94-30, 00-22)

6. Map 11 generalized service area boundaries conflict with the Capital Planning Process as prescribed in Lee Plan policy 87.1.1

POLICY 87.1.1: The adopted Capital Improvements Program reflects the distribution of park facilities throughout the unincorporated county. The use of community park impact fee districts provides a mechanism to distribute facilities based on population, travel patterns, and existing facilities. (Amended by Ordinance No. 94-30)

7. Map 11 generalized service area boundaries does not include Lee Plan stipulations for the distribution of facilities based on policies 76.1.3, 76.3, 76.3.1, 76.3.2.

POLICY 76.1.3: By using the experience and knowledge of community groups and professionals and by using data garnered from surveys and public hearings, the county will distribute facilities based on interest and need. (Amended by Ordinance No. 94-30, 00-22)

OBJECTIVE 76.3: The county will continue to maintain a systematic approach to survey users of park facilities and residents of Lee County as to their needs, desires, preferences, and evaluations of park and recreation facilities and programs. (Amended by Ordinance No. 94-30, 00-22, 07-12)

POLICY 76.3.1: Park users and residents will be surveyed in order to establish a reliable data base for future planning and decision-making.

POLICY 76.3.2: The results of user and resident surveys are an integral part of the planning

process for park and recreation facilities and programs. (Amended by Ordinance No. 94-30, 07-12)

Staff Recommends that the Lee Plan define the Boat Ramp Standard Level of Service in order to accurately report, track and plan based on an updated Lee Plan defined classification for level of service of boat ramps.

Existing Language:

POLICY 79.1.1: Lee County will maintain a classification system for boat ramps which addresses location guidelines, types of boat ramp facilities for different areas, and needs and standards for parking for the different types of facilities. (Amended by Ordinance No. 94-30, 00-22)

Proposed Language:

Define Boat Ramp classification for Non-Regulatory Standard 95.1.3 8(b): The calculation of the Non-Regulatory Minimum Acceptable Level of Service for Boat Ramps will include public boat ramp lanes of federal, state, municipal, and county boat ramps in Lee County which are open to the public and have adequate on-site parking for vehicles with boat ramp trailers.

Basis for new language:

- 1. Consistency with the Lee Plan Goal for Boat Ramps in which Lee County provides a “share” of the boat ramp needs in Lee County.**

GOAL 79: BOAT RAMPS. To provide a share of the boat ramps needed to allow county residents and visitors inexpensive access to public waterways.

- 2. Consistency with the Lee Plan Policy 79.1.1 which states that a classification system for boat ramps will be tracked and implemented. The Lee Plan currently does not define the boat ramp classification system. The above proposed language defines that classification system which is essential for accurate level of service tracking, reporting, and planning for boat ramp facility needs in Lee County.**

POLICY 79.1.1: Lee County will maintain a classification system for boat ramps which addresses location guidelines, types of boat ramp facilities for different areas, and needs and

standards for parking for the different types of facilities. (Amended by Ordinance No. 94-30, 00-22)

Staff Recommends that in the Non-Regulatory Level of Service for Boat Ramps be updated to reflect an accepted standard level of service for boat ramps, specifically the minimum level of acceptable service according to the Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for boat ramp facilities.

Existing Language :

OBJECTIVE 79.1: Lee County will provide one boat ramp lane with adequate parking per 35,000 population of the entire county ("non-regulatory" minimum acceptable level of service, see Policy 95.1.3). (Amended by Ordinance No. 00-22)

Proposed Language:

Objective 79.1: One boat ramp lane per 12,500 of the total Lee County Population (Non-Regulatory Minimum Acceptable Level of Service).

Narrative:

State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The purpose of the SCORP is to serve as an information resource and establishes a framework and planning process to guide these various recreation providers toward the goal of an integrated, sustainable, outdoor recreation lands system. It identifies state and national outdoor recreation trends and initiatives, and examines existing outdoor recreation programs. It analyzes outdoor recreation facility and resource needs and establishes goals and strategies to guide a statewide planning process.

Both federal and state legislative requirements guided the creation of the plan and shaped its final content.

The statute also states that the SCORP should document recreational supply and demand, provide a description of current recreational opportunities, estimate the need for additional opportunities, and propose a solution for meeting future needs. This plan was developed in conjunction with other state agencies providing public access to state lands.

The plan is also to be consistent with the federal Land and Water Conservation Act of 1965 and is reviewed by the National Park Service. The purpose of the act is to make adequate levels of the nation's high quality lands and water resources available for public enjoyment. By passing review of the National Park Service the state retains its eligibility to participate in and receive funding from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

The SCORP also provides the state’s guidelines for the number of people a boat ramp can accommodate. The SCORP methodology calculations for boat ramps is used by DEP to determine the state guideline. This methodology is based on information obtained from the National Marine Manufacturers Association.

“While the state's primary thrust in its outdoor recreation efforts is directed toward resource-based outdoor recreation, a substantial effort is made to assist local governments with financial support and technical assistance for meeting their needs for user oriented types of outdoor recreation. Three primary programs — the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program, the Florida Communities Trust program and the Florida Recreational Trails Program — provide local governments substantial funds in the form of matching grants for acquiring and developing recreational lands and facilities. The demonstrated priorities and needs of local governments are given full consideration in the allocation of available funds from these programs.

Toward this end, Florida’s outdoor recreation program emphasizes interagency cooperation and collaborative partnerships with private interests and non-governmental organizations, and supports efforts to better coordinate local, state and federal land acquisition, resource management and recreational facility development” (SCORP 2008).

Basis for new language:

1. The proposed new LOS standard will align the Lee Plan Boat Ramp standard with the Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan measures for boat ramp facilities.
 - a. The proposed new LOS standard is the lowest recommend level of service for boat ramps according to SCORP.
 - b. SCORP has an established and calculated the use of boat ramp facilities (108 persons per day per boat ramp lane).
 - c. SCORP standard will allow Lee County to align, plan, request funding, facilities, and capital improvement projects in all of Lee County in an interagency coordinated approach with partner agencies.

2. Level of Service Standards comparison.

a. Current LOS

Lee County Parks and Recreation desired non-regulatory level of service is 1 boat ramp lane with adequate parking per 35,000 population of the entire county. Lee County currently provides 7 boat ramps with 13 boat ramp lanes with adequate parking as well as two additional small watercraft launches without trailer parking not included in calculation.

b. Proposed LOS

Lee County (9 Ramps 13 Lanes), Federal (2 Ramps 3 Lanes), State (3 Ramps 5 Lanes) & Municipal (8 Ramps 13 Lanes), equates to 22 Ramps and 34 lanes.

c. Proposed LOS

The use guidelines from SCORP for boat ramp facilities (108 persons per day per boat ramp lane) estimates that 3,672 persons per day and 1,340,280 persons per year can utilize the existing public boat ramp facilities in Lee County each year.

Staff Recommends an update to the Water (Beach) non-regulatory level of service standard.

The current LOS Objective 82.2 “Lee County will retain the current inventory of water accesses and develop or redevelop at least 3 water accesses per year.”

Proposed new LOS 82.2: Lee County will retain the current inventory of water accesses and will develop or redevelop public water accesses to achieve the goal of an equitable distribution of water accesses in Lee County where feasible. (Non-Regulatory Desired Future Level of Service)

Background:

One of the clearest messages received at the public workshops is that Florida must do more to preserve opportunities for public

recreational access to the state's waters.

While the regional demand and need estimates in this plan are not capable of identifying local needs, there is an obvious need to fund the development of additional boat ramps, canoe launches, docks, catwalks and piers, as well as support facilities such as parking and restrooms. The following recommendations are made for protecting water resources and improving public access to Florida's public waters...

7. Local governments should maximize the use of local comprehensive planning processes to increase public access to Florida's waters by preserving recreational and commercial working waterfronts and identifying sites for public and private recreation.

8. Public recreation providers should identify water areas under their jurisdictions where inadequate recreational access exists or where existing water access can be improved, and give priority to making the needed improvements.

*SCORP 2008

Basis for new language:

Objective 82.2 “Lee County will retain the current inventory of water accesses and develop or redevelop at least 3 water accesses per year.”

The current LOS standard definition of “develop or re-develop” is vague, arbitrary and undefined.

The updated LOS will continue to provide retention and protection of our water accesses while not requiring an arbitrary computational component for development or re-development on a reoccurring annual basis. This will allow Lee County to follow the recommendations of the Lee Plan, our citizen inputs and that of SCORP by identifying areas where inadequate recreational access exists or can be improved.

POLICY 76.1.3: By using the experience and knowledge of community groups and professionals and by using data garnered from surveys and public hearings, the county will distribute facilities based on interest and need. (Amended by Ordinance No. 94-30, 00-22)

OBJECTIVE 76.3: The county will continue to maintain a systematic approach to survey users of park facilities and residents of Lee County as to their needs, desires, preferences, and evaluations of park and recreation facilities and programs. (Amended by Ordinance No. 94-30, 00-22, 07-12)

POLICY 76.3.1: Park users and residents will be surveyed in order to establish a reliable data base for future planning and decision-making.

POLICY 76.3.2: The results of user and resident surveys are an integral part of the planning process for park and recreation facilities and programs. (Amended by Ordinance No. 94-30, 07-12)

Need & Impact:

The proposed LOS will allow Lee County to focus retention, develop or re-develop of accesses without having to meet an arbitrary computational component of 3 per year in order to meet the needs of the community, residents, and visitors of Lee County. The proposed LOS can help alleviate prohibitively expensive or unnecessary re-development or development of accesses each year in order to reach the arbitrary requirement of “3 per year”. This will allow Lee County to plan comprehensively to achieve the priorities of water access in Lee County this will align Lee County comprehensive planning with the recommendations of SCORP.

Staff Recommends an updated as well as a new non-regulatory Recreation & Community Center Level of Service Standard

Existing Language:

OBJECTIVE 83.2: COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER STANDARD. Lee County will provide 250 square feet of community recreation center per 1,000 population of unincorporated Lee

County ("non-regulatory" minimum acceptable level of service, see Policy 95.1.3). (Amended by Ordinance No. 00-22)

Proposed new language:

Proposed Non-Regulatory Level of Service:

Non-Regulatory Future Level of Service for Recreation Centers:

Lee County will provide strategically located Recreation Centers of 25,000 square feet or more to provide for the need of unincorporated Lee County Residents.

Non-Regulatory Level of Service Community Center Standard:

Lee County will continue to provide community center space to meet the needs of Lee County residents in each of the Lee County unincorporated Park Impact Fee Districts.

Narrative:

There is a distinction between the area (sq ft) necessary and acceptable for recreation center space which will appropriately meet the needs of active recreation such as: basketball, volleyball, fitness centers, tournaments, leagues and that of a more specific community need which many times is a smaller and more traditional community center space that meets the needs of meeting spaces, programming, gathering rooms, and other special public and private event opportunities.

The standard for development of community recreation facilities call for one center of 25,000 net square feet for every population unit of 30,000 people (National Recreation and Parks Association & American Alliance for Health, Physical Education and Recreation).

Community Center: A place where people from a particular community can meet for social, educational, or recreational activities

Recreation Center: a building which is open to the public where meetings are held, sports are played and there are activities available for young and old people alike.

Background:

The current Community Recreation Center of Service is calculated based on the entire unincorporated community & recreational facility square footage and the entire unincorporated Lee County population. This existing LOS computation does not reflect the need for varied, connected, and unique community facilities. The existing LOS does not provide clear direction on future development of recreational & community center space.

Need & Impact:

The proposed language will allow Lee County to provide unique and special community center space in each Lee County unincorporated park impact fee district. The proposed language will focus Lee County on enhancing the quality of life, connect people to recreation centers within reach of their community and provide clear informed direction on future community and recreational center needs within unincorporated Lee County. Together these LOS will allow an array of resources and opportunities connecting people, providing clear direction on future development, and will preserve the unique identity and needs of our communities.