

9J-5.014 RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

**WASHINGTON COUNTY, CARYVILLE, EBRO VERNON, AND WAUSAU
2010 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

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2010 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
Washington County, Florida**

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RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

WASHINGTON COUNTY, CARYVILLE, EBRO VERNON, AND WAUSAU

Section F

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Recreation and Open Space Element is to plan for a comprehensive system of public and private recreation and open space sites, which are available to the public.

II. INTRODUCTION

Many of Washington County's recreational facilities are located on the rivers and lakes within state parks, and Wildlife Management Areas. The municipalities and County have more active-type recreational facilities, such as ballparks, playgrounds, etc., which is understandable given existing land use patterns and established population densities. The planned development of Sunny Hills also offers numerous recreational opportunities.

The rivers, forests, state parks, and wetlands provide recreation and a beautiful natural environment, Washington County's role is to ensure the protection and proper use of thousands of acres of valuable open space for the years to come. Since open space lands may be either privately or publicly owned and range in character from vacant urban lands to forestland, methods of protecting these lands are often varied and complex.

III. INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

A. Existing Recreation

Recreational sites are classified as resource-based or activity-based. Resource-based sites and facilities are located on particular natural resources, providing opportunities for picnicking, hiking, hunting, water sports, fishing, or simple enjoyment of nature. Activity-based recreational sites and facilities are for the enjoyment of particular activities such as basketball, baseball, or football, or recreational programs such as aerobics and painting, senior citizen activities, and spectator sports. The distinction between these two types is not clear-cut since many resource-based recreation sites often contain activity-based facilities. The different recreation facilities and parks in Washington County provide recreation users with both active and passive recreational opportunities. Both public and private facilities are located in adjacent counties, providing a variety of recreational opportunities for the residents of the County and located within a short drive of any point in the County.

Table F-5 lists recreation sites and facilities in unincorporated Washington County and the municipalities (including Chipley).

1. Active Recreation. There are a variety of activity-based recreation opportunities within Washington County, most of which are located in the municipalities of Caryville, Chipley, Ebro, Vernon, and Wausau, as well as in private clubs and residential developments. Active recreation opportunities involve the user in a form of direct participation whether it is little league baseball, golf, or aerobic dancing. Spectator sports are another aspect of recreation in Washington County. Chipley and Vernon High Schools field teams attract fans from the area to watch football and basketball games. T-ball, little league (Dixie Youth and Boys), as well as Men's and Women's softball teams. Washington County also contains a substantial number of boat landings (See Table F-1.

Name	Approximate Size
Blue Pond	3.0 acres
Bream & Gin	1.5 acres
Bruce Homestead Ponds	42.6 acres
Blue Homestead Ponds	8.2 acres
Black Double Pond	1.0 acres
White Double Pond	1.0 acres
Smoothing Iron Pond	1.4 acres
Little River Pond	2.0 acres
Gap Pond	2.1 acres
Lightered Log Pond	1.0 acres
Billy Lee Pond	4.8 acres
Crystal Pond	0.5 acres
Lucas Pond	0.5 acres
Wages Pond	0.5 acres
NWFWMD Rosewood Property	16,09 1.0 acres
Hicks Pond	0.5 acres
Stewart Pond	0.5 acres
Daniels Lake	0.5 acres
Little Spring Pond	0.5 acres
Gully Pond	0.5 acres
Hammock Pond	0.5 acres
Hamlin Pond	0.5 acres
Fox Pond	0.5 acres
Rattlesnake Pond	0.5 acres
Swindle Pond	0.5 acres
Whitewater Lake	0.5 acres
Porter Pond	0.5 acres
Econfina Creek	0.5 acres
Cedar Tree Landing	1.0 acres
Bronson Landing	1.0 acres
Caryville Landing	0.5 acres
Shell Landing	0.5 acres

Vernon Park		0.5 acres
Boynton Cutoff		5.5 acres
Live Oak		6.5 acres
Hightower Springs		7.6 acres
Holmes Creek Public Landing	2.0 acres	2.0 acres
Pate Pond Landing		9.6 acres

2. Passive Recreation. Washington County has several large resource-based parks and forests, and wildlife management areas. Among these are Falling Waters State Recreation Area, Pine Log State Forest, the NFWFMD Management Areas, the Choctawhatchee River Water Management Area, and two state canoe Trails. Passive recreation activities are at a more leisurely fashion and may take the form of nature walks, bird watching, fishing, or picnicking. Some activities, such as hiking, bicycling, may be either active or passive, depending upon the effort expended.

3. Recreation Provided by the Private Sector. While the County and municipalities provide residents with abundant recreational opportunities, the private sector also provides several recreational opportunities. Major timber companies have reserved thousands of acres of forests, lakes, and streams for recreational opportunities for employees and the public. Sunny Hills Country Club, a privately owned entity, provides an 18-hole course along with amenities to the public.

4. Recreation for Visitors. The State Parks and Forests provide visitors with camping and picnicking facilities, and the Wildlife and Water Management Areas attract hunters. These visitors are attracted by the natural environment of these areas as well as by the freshwater fishing opportunities.

5. Other Leisure Activities. Besides the conventional forms of recreation, there are other leisure activities, which enhance the quality of life. During the planning period, the City of Vernon acquired the Vernon High School site located within the city itself. The building not only houses the city hall, but conference rooms, and a community center with kitchen facilities. Many of the classrooms now accommodate various quasi government agencies. The Vernon Historical Society has an established museum within the facility also. The Washington County Public Library branches in Vernon and Wausau serves residents with reading materials for enjoyment and education. There are two extensions of the library, one in Vernon and the other in Wausau. The Council on Aging offers a variety of programs geared toward senior citizens. Several festivals mark the calendar: The Panhandle Watermelon Festival (late June), Wausau Fun Day, and Possum Festival (1st Saturday in August), Vernon's Firecracker Day (July 4), and Caryville's Worm Fiddling Contest.

B. Existing Open Space

The concept of open space incorporates a whole range of resources, some of which are included in the more traditional definition. Open space is defined as "undeveloped land suitable for passive recreation and/or conservation uses."

Open space is defined by the function with some areas serving more than one use. Table F-2 lists existing open space by functional classification and ownership. A code is used to designate each type of open space use corresponding to the primary functions of each site -- either an "R" for recreation or "C" for conservation. Washington County is fortunate to have many large tracts of open space and the list is limited to the largest of these.

1. Pastoral Open Space. Pastoral lands are the most familiar type of open space. The primary role of these lands is to provide resource-based as well as normally some user-oriented recreation. These include Federal, State, and regional parks, forests, historic sites, and other areas established for the protection of the site's natural resources or its aesthetic beauty. Private clubs and recreation areas are included in this classification as well. Major tracts of pastoral land include the NFWMD/Rosewood Resources Wildlife Management Area (20,000 acres) formerly referred to as Rosewood Timber Properties is located in the southeast section of the County. The area offers hunting, freshwater fishing, bird watching, and hiking.

Other pastoral lands include Falling Waters State Recreation Area (156.05 acres), and Pine Log State Forest (2,163 acres), both state-owned.

Many of the open spaces and large parks in Washington County are especially attractive due to the presence of water resources such as springs, streams, rivers and lakes. These hydrologic features often afford recreational opportunities such as swimming, boating, canoeing and fishing. The water resources also serve a more utilitarian function, including floodplain management and the provision of visually appealing aesthetic amenities. It is important to protect the parks and open spaces resources of the County to ensure recreational facilities are available for future recreation development.

Not all pastoral lands are government-provided. El Rancho Hunting and Fishing Preserve (320 acres), and Sunny Hills Country Club (6,630 acres), are private but opened to the public.

2. Utilitarian/Environmental Open Space. Lands not suitable for intense development and/or requiring special provisions for development due to the existence of hazardous conditions is designated utilitarian open spaces. These areas include wetlands, lakes, rivers, floodplains, drainage ditches, sinkholes, and air flight paths. Areas that are reserved for future resource development are classified as utilitarian open spaces.
3. Corridor Open Space. This open space type constitutes areas separating development from transportation corridors, areas preserved for proposed transportation routes, and areas used to improve aesthetic character of a transportation corridor. Such areas include open areas adjacent to roadways and bicycle/pedestrian/equestrian paths, reserved rights-of-way for future transportation corridors, and abandoned railroad rights-of-way. Examples of these lands are the I-10, and U.S. Route 90 rights-of-way.

Table F-2. Inventory of Open Space in Washington County – 2008

KEY				
C = Conservation		R = Recreation Use		
C1 = Ecological/Environmental/Aesthetic		R1 = Nature Appreciation		
C2 = Public Health & Safety		R2 = Camping		
C3 = Resource Lands		R3 = Hiking		
C4 = Flood Control/Water Recharge		R4 = Water Related Uses		
		R5 = User Oriented Such As Picnicking, Etc.		
Name	Location	Acreage	Functions	Ownership
Pastoral				
NWFWMD/Rosewood Resources Wildlife Management Area	Southeast Section of County	19,919	C1,C3,R, R1,R3	NWFWMD
Falling Waters State Recreation Area	South of Chipley near SR 77A	156	C,R,R1,R2, R3, R4, R5	State
Pine Log State Forest	SR 79 on Pine Log Creek, Ebro	2,163	C,R,R1,R2, R3, R4, R5	State
El Rancho Hunting and Fishing Preserve	SR 277A El Rancho Lake	320	C3,R	Private
Sunny Hills Recreation Center	Sunny Hills Blvd. on Boat Lake	6,630	C1,C3,R, R1,R4,R5	Private
Utilitarian				
100- Year Floodplain Area	Scattered	88,170	C1.C2.C3, C4,R1,R4	Various
Choctawhatchee River Water Management Area and Econfina Creek Water Management	River and Creek Floodplains	21,981	C1,C2,C3, C4,R1,R4	NWFWMD & State
Corridor				
Holmes Creek Canoe Trail	Holmes Creek SR 79 to SR 284	16 miles	C1.R1.R4	State
Econfina Canoe Trail	Econfina Creek Scott Road off US 231 to SR 84 (partly in Bay Co.)	7 miles	C1.R1.R4	State
I- 10 Row	Along Interstate 10	-	C2	Federal
U.S. 90	Along U. S. 90	-	C2	Federal
Source: FDEP, Recreation and Parks Management Information System, 2009;, Washington County Recreation Department, and Washington County Planning Department, 2008				

C. Current Supply of and Projected Needs of Recreational Areas and Facilities

Due to the general rural nature of the County, all recreational supply and demand analysis, as well as a level of service standards (LOSS) for recreation is applicable on a countywide basis. The County contains an extensive number of recreational facilities when considering the size of the population. These supply figures for recreational areas and facilities are compared with general demand factors to arrive at a current assessment of recreation opportunities available to the citizens of Washington County. Table F-3 outlines the demand and needs over the next planning period.

The medium population projections from BEBR, University of Florida used.

In 2005, the population is estimated to be 23,097 (*BEBR Table 120, FL Statistical Data, 2008*)

In 2010, the population is projected to be 24,800 (*BEBR Table 141, FL Statistical Data, 2008*)

In 2015, the population is projected to be 26,300 (*BEBR Table 120, FL Statistical Data, 2008*)

In 2020, the population is projected to be 27,700 (*BEBR Table 120, FL Statistical Data, 2008*)

Table F-3. Recreational Projected Needs Analysis – Countywide to Include Municipalities and Private Facilities					
Population			24,800	26,300	27,700
Facility Amenities	Existing No. of Facilities	LOSS	2010 Demand/Need	2015 Demand/Need	2020 Demand/Need
Neighborhood Park/Playground	65.1 acres	352 people/ acre	63 acres/ -	67 acres/2 acres	72 acres/ 7 acres
Picnic Tables	approx 65	150 p/table	147/ 82	158/93	169/104
Basketball Courts	18	I/ 4000 p	5.6 /-	5.97-	6.47-
Tennis Courts	12	1/2200 p	10/-	10.87-	11.67-
Ball fields	16	II 3000 p	7.47-	7.97-	8.57-
Athletic Fields	2	1/30,000 p	0.77-	0.87--	0.857-
Equipped Playgrounds	8	1/3000 p	7.37-	87-	9/1
Hunting & Fishing	42,220 acres	0.59 p / acre	37,458 acres	40,339 acres	43,220 acres/ 1000 acres
Boat Ramps	30				
Canoe Trails	28 miles	590 p / mile	37.5 M/ 9.5 M	40.3M/12.3M	43M/15M
Swimming Pools	3	1/10,000 p	2.27-	2.47-	2.67-
Golf Courses	2 (27 holes total)	1/25,000 p	0.97-	0.957 -	17-
Fresh water beaches	5	1/5,000 p	4.47-	4.87-	4.27-
Community Centers	6	1/6,000 p	3.77-	47-	4.27-

Source: Washington County Parks and Recreation and Washington County Planning Department

D. Recreation and Open Space Standards

1. Recreation Standards. Standards play a major role in recreation planning. These are numerical approximations of the number of recreation sites and facilities required to meet

the needs of the population. The County feels these Levels of Service Standards are appropriate and more than adequate. The LOSS is located in Policy 3-1 of this element.

2. Provision of Open Space. Enjoying the natural amenities of the pastoral open space lands is one of the advantages of the rural atmosphere typical to most of Washington County. As the county grows and urban land uses extends out from Chipley, Caryville, Ebro, Vernon, and Wausau, urban open spaces will become equally as important as open space areas in rural settings.

Open space areas in the midst of developed urban settings help define urban form and are a basic element to good land use patterns. The provision of open space in such instances breaks up harsh "street-scope" and offers aesthetic relief to the urban resident.

When properly utilized in commercial and industrial areas, open space resources render a more appealing view, often helping to attract new customers. In general, open space in non-residential settings is a factor in the overall attractiveness of the community as a whole and often makes the difference in attracting new businesses and residents to the community.

As Washington County grows and development pressures make it more difficult to maintain an attractive low-density setting, the need to set aside open space increases. The land development regulations adopted subsequent to this plan includes standards ensuring the reservation of open space areas in future developments. Just as it is important to set aside open space in non-residential areas, it is important that residential subdivisions incorporate open space in their design features. Open space in residential settings enhances layout and design, provides buffering between conflicting uses and accents natural amenities present on the site. Open space can also help to insure privacy, provide space for trees and other landscaping to grow, and more importantly, provide children with playgrounds for opportunity to increase activity.

3. Proximity and Access to Recreation Facilities. Used by county residents, the parks in Washington County are also used by residents in adjacent counties. Hunters, during hunting season and year-round anglers come to the County, well known for both hunting and fishing. There are no residency requirements for entry or use of the parks.

Not only is it important to provide recreation facilities, it is also important to provide easy access to those facilities. The County has a good road system that provides easy access to all recreational areas. All the County's municipalities are also on major thoroughfares and easily accessible. None of the municipalities has any residency requirements for use of their recreational sites.

Planning for future recreation facilities and parks should take into account the special barrier-free accessibility needs of the handicapped and of the elderly. Accessibility requirements include the installation of ramps instead of stairs; railings for senior citizens, the handicapped, and the young to grasp; restroom facilities designed to provide access to the handicapped and other facilities constructed to allow safe use by all.

4. Recreational Master Plan. In order to ensure proximity to recreational areas and facilities, the County has undertaken a countywide recreational survey/study during the current planning period. The study resulted in the County being divided into five recreational districts that coincide with the commissioner districts. Due to the rural nature of the the County, the LOSS is applied to the individual districts rather than countywide. The enables County to better serve its residents.

Although there is no comprehensive master plan for the provision of parks/open space/ recreation, the County continues to evolve and change in a positive manner. As the County experiences growth, such a plan becomes an important tool to support the strategic planning efforts for existing parks and recreation assets. This plan will document existing parks, recreational facilities, and the programs offered by the County and its municipalities. Not only would the plan define a mission statement, but also the master plan would identify future needs and general recommendations for locating new facilities as needed, formulating an outline an action plan. Criteria for signage, landscaping, and alternative funding sources to assure adequate support for the operation, maintenance, acquisition, and construction of park and recreation facilities would be established through the master plan. The plan would also address the creation of facilities that would meet the future needs of the County through 2030 in an effective and feasible manner. This plan will be compiled and supported by Parks and Recreation Committee, the Parks and Recreation Department, county residents, and interested citizens.

5. Parks Management. The Washington County Parks and Recreation Department administers the County's recreational facilities and maintains the County's open space system where owned by the County. The County does not offer any recreational programs with most recreational programs sponsored by non-profit organizations who arrange with the County to use the parks systems as required. Each municipality also maintains and controls the use of their recreational facilities.
6. The Parks and Recreation Committee. The requirement for this committee is included in the Comprehensive Plan with the makeup of the committee established in County Ordinance 2007-3. Five members serve with one member coming from each County Commissioner District; the committee meets as required. The committee serves in an advisory capacity making recommendations to the County Commissioners in regards to the use and operation of all County parks and recreational areas. A County ordinance provides for enforcement of all rules and regulations for parks and open space.
7. Users' Fees. Overall, the use of the parks and related activities are usually free to the public. The users' fee pay the cost involved in providing utilities and maintenance for the certain facilities. Fees are charged for primitive camping sites and use of community centers that serve the private needs of the public (i.e., wedding receptions, reunions, etc.). User's fees are charged for the use of the following facilities:

- Blue Lake Community Center
- Hinson Crossroads Community Center
- Five Point Recreation Community Center
- Orange Hill Community Center
- Washington County Equestrian Center
- Wilder Parks Pavilion (for private functions, reunions, etc.)
- Equestrian Horse Arena and Recreation Center

E. Future Recreation Supply/Demand Summary

The County and municipalities generally have sufficient recreational areas and facilities to carry them through the year 2020. The improvements presently needed are to further equip the recreation areas in Wausau, Vernon, Ebro, and Caryville, with playground equipment as funds become available (i.e., through operating surpluses and/or through grant funds). When completed, a new equestrian center will provide with 1.5 miles of riding and walking trails. NFWFMD is reserving and developing riding trails within their management areas.

Table F-4 lists the projects that appear on the 5-Year Capital Improvement Schedule:

Table F-4. Future Recreation Projects of Unincorporated County and Municipalities of Caryville, Ebro, Vernon, and Wausau Scheduled Improvements, 2008			
Jurisdiction	Project	Location	Projected Cost
Unincorporated County	Five Point Recreation Center Phase II	CR 279, North of Vernon	\$65,000
	Equestrian Recreation Arena	Daniels Lake, SR 77 and CR 279	\$180,000
	Hinson Crossroads Community Center Improvement Project	Miller's Ferry Road at Hinson's Crossroads Community	\$75,000
	Equestrian Recreation Arena Play Park and Restrooms	Daniels Lake, SR 77 and CR 279	\$150,000
	White Double Pond	Boat Ramp	\$150,000
Caryville	Town Park Improvements	General Improvements	\$100,00
Ebro	Town Park Improvements – Phases I, II, III	General Improvements	\$600,000
Vernon	Shady Grove Ballpark	Ball field Improvements	\$200,000
	Sportsplex Ballpark	Ball field Improvements	\$200,000
Wausau	Rogers Recreational Park - Phases I, II, III	General Improvements	\$600,000
	Poosum Palace Community Center	Upgrade of Entire Facility	\$100,000
Source: Washington County Capital Improvements Schedule, October 2008			

IV. CONSIDERATION AND REVIEW OF OTHER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ELEMENTS

A. Background and Overview

State rules require that all elements of the Comprehensive Plan be consistent. Therefore, the goals, objectives, and policies adopted in the Recreation and Open Space Element should be consistent with plan elements that address related issues. The Housing, Transportation, Capital Improvements, Conservation, Recreation and Open Space and Economic elements will all be impacted by, and must be consistent with the Land Use Element.

B. Consistency Review

The following presents an analysis of the consistency of the other elements of the Washington County Comprehensive Plan with the impacts created by the Economic Element.

1. Future Land Use Element. The Recreation and Open Space Element must be coordinated with the Future Land Use Element in order to meet recreational open space requirements. The Future Land Use Element contains an overall blueprint for managing the direction and intensity of future growth and development in Washington County, and proposes a platted lands strategy, which could provide additional open space for future use.
2. Transportation Element. The Recreation and Open Space Element is coordinated with the Transportation Element and considers not only the safe and efficient flow of traffic, but also the future of important recreational activities for pedestrian and bicyclists use.
3. Conservation Element. Placement of new parks and open space within the County must be coordinated with the Conservation Element to protect natural and man-made resources, and ensure the protection of key ecosystems. Consistency will serve to place future recreational facilities areas where there will be little or no negative impact on environmentally sensitive areas.
4. Capital Improvements Element. The Capital Improvements Element is consistent with the Recreational and Open Space Element as it proposes the ways and means of long-term funding for parks and open space acquisition and development.

IV GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES OF THE RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Pursuant to Section 163.3177(e), FS, and Sections 9J-5.014 (3)(b) and (c), F.A.C, the following represents the Recreation and Open Space Goals, Objectives, and Policies of Washington County and the municipalities of Caryville, Ebro, Vernon, and Wausau. In addition to statutory requirements, the Goals, Objectives, and Policies were developed in keeping with the character, conditions, both environmental and social, and desires of the community. These Goals, Objectives, and Policies are intended to address the establishment of a long-term end towards which the Recreation and Open Space programs and activities of the community are ultimately directed.

GOAL 1: Provide adequate recreation facilities, active and passive, and open space to meet the needs of the present and future population of the County and the municipalities of Caryville, Ebro, Vernon, and Wausau.

Objective 1: Throughout the planning period, provide public access to all existing and future recreation facilities within the County and the municipalities (including fresh water beaches and shores.

Policy 1-1: The County and the municipalities will continue to provide parking areas and bicycle racks for all user-based recreation sites as determined to be appropriate by the Planning Commission.

Policy 1-2: Within the municipalities, bike paths and pedestrian walkways to provide access to recreation areas shall be built when determined necessary by the Planning Commission.

Policy 1-3: All Planned Unit Developments (PUD) shall be required to provide sufficient on-site recreational areas and facilities as well as bicycle and pedestrian access.

Policy 1-4: Through the subdivision approval process, the County and municipalities shall be afforded the opportunity to secure public access to all natural water bodies of 20 acres or more in size.

Policy 1-5: Public parks and facilities shall be designed and constructed ~~with access ways~~with ingress/egress, which are compatible with the character and quality of natural resources found on-site.

Policy 1-6: The County will continue to identify invasive and exotic plants within the developed open space and parks. These plants will be removed and destroyed in a manner that will prevent any further propagation.

Objective 2: Throughout the planning period, the County and the municipalities shall coordinate with each other, other local governments, and the private sector and coordinated through the Parks and Recreation Committee to ensure that future recreation needs of the County are met.

Policy 2-1: The County will seek formal or informal agreements with the Washington County School Board for use of and collocation of school playgrounds and facilities. These agreements should specifically address the provision of areas/facilities suitable for walking and jogging.

Policy 2-2: Continue to require of developers and subdividers the dedication of land for recreation, or a fee in lieu of land dedication for future residential developments in accordance with the following standards.

- a. All residential subdivisions of 20 parcels or more shall dedicate land for parks and/or open space equal to 5% of the total land area of the subdivision with a minimum area of 1.0 acre required.
- b. The fee paid in lieu of land dedication shall be equal to the fair market value of the required land area dedication prior to subdividing.
- c. The option to require dedication of land or payment of the fee in lieu of dedication shall rest with the county with the Planning Commission making a recommendation for approval or disapproval.

Policy 2-3: The County shall continue to provide funds for recreational purposes to each of the municipalities located in the County.

Objective 3: Ensure the recreation needs for the projected population as determined in this Element's analysis continues to be affordable and efficiently met throughout the planning period.

Policy 3-1: The County and the municipalities hereby adopt the recreation levels of service as shown below

Washington County Receptions Areas Levels of Service Standards (LOSS)	
Category	Level of Service Standards
User-Based	
<u>Neighborhood Parks, Playlots, Pocket Parks</u>	
Persons per Facility	2,000
Persons per Acre	352
Resource-Based	
<u>Hunting & Fishing</u>	
Persons per Facility	6,500 0.59

Persons per Acre	
Canoe Trails	
Persons per Facility	6,500
Persons per Mile	590
Dual Purpose	
Persons per Facility	5,000
Persons per Acre	8.2

Washington County Recreation Facilities Levels of Service Standards (LOSS) (in people served per facility)	
Category	LOSS
Baseball, Softball and Youth Diamonds	3,000
Tennis Courts	2,200
Basketball Courts	4,000
Swimming Pools	10,000
Neighborhood and Community Centers	6,000
Golf Courses	25,000
Athletic Fields (Track, Football, Soccer)	30,000
Picnic Tables	150
Beach Areas Freshwater	5,000
Equipped Playgrounds	3,000
Hiking Trails (Persons per trail mile)	2,000

Policy 3-2: The County and the municipalities shall ensure that the adequate number of acres of land for new park and recreational facilities is maintained throughout the planning period. If the established LOSS for recreational land area cannot be maintained through voluntary dedication by developers and subdividers and by acquisition of land by other governmental entities, then the County shall acquire the required additional acreage necessary to meet or surpass such standards.

Policy 3-7: The County and the municipalities shall preserve and maintain existing parks and recreation facilities through adequate operating budgets and proper management techniques.

Policy 3-8: Priority for neighborhood parks/playgrounds and equipped play areas will be in the areas of under-served areas, especially in the southwestern portion of the County.

Policy 3-9: The County will pursue extending the Holmes Creek Canoe Trail designation, through DEP's Office of Greenways and Trails, to end at the Holmes Creek Campsites Preservation 2000 acquisition project site.

~~Policy 3-10: As part of the district-based recreational survey, the County will add a level of service standard for horseback riding trails, by 2005. Recreational districts coincide with Commissioner Districts.~~ As part of the district-based recreational survey, the County will add a level of service standard for horseback riding trails, by 2010. Recreational districts will coincide with Fire, EMS, and Transportation districts as established in the Impact Fee Ordinance.

Policy 3-11: Users' fees for use of any of the recreational facilities will be determined as set forth by resolution by the Board of County Commissioners.

Objective 4: Throughout the planning period, the County and the municipalities, state and federal agencies, and the private sector shall coordinate in a continuing and professional effort to provide adequate open space within the County.

Policy 4-1: The County and the municipalities shall include a definition of open space in its Land Development Code and shall include recommendations concerning natural vegetation, including requiring green areas and appropriate buffer zones and regulating signage. Open space in this plan is defined as "undeveloped land suitable for passive recreation and/or conservation uses." The definition included in the Land Development Code shall include land uses, which may be defined as Open Space (i.e., Silviculture land, land in its natural vegetative state, etc.) and shall continue minimum open space standards for specific land use.

Policy 4-2: The County and the municipalities shall include in the adopted Land Development Code's buffering provisions to ensure adequate protection of the major managed areas located throughout the County.

Objective 5: The County shall better serve the recreational needs of its citizens by basing level of service standards on individual districts instead of a countywide basis. Recreational districts coincide with Commissioner Districts.

Policy 5-1: The County shall apply the adopted level of service standards to each district.

Policy 5-2: The County shall draft a district-based recreational survey and master plan by 2015 to ensure that the adopted level of service standards are being met in each planning district.

Objective 6: By the year 2020, the County parks and recreational facilities will be as safe, or safer than they currently are. The number of accidents occurring in the County parks and other recreational facilities will be targeted to be reduced, or at minimal, remain constant.

Policy 6-1: The County will promote safety at public parks and recreational facilities through regular risk assessment and safety inspections. The frequency of the inspections for facilities will occur no less than twice in a calendar year with the schedule established by the County risk manager.

Policy 6-2: The County will promote safety at public parks and recreation facilities with information signage, lighting, rails, fences, and other appropriate measures.

Policy 6-3: The County will promote playground safety with impact-absorbing ground materials, by separating playgrounds from vehicular traffic, and by selecting safe play equipment.

Objective 6-4: The County will continue to provide adequate levels of funding to properly and efficiently maintain park and recreation facilities within Washington County.

Policy 6-5: The County will continue to utilize the Florida Boating Improvement Plan (FBIMP) for funding available for boat ramp improvements.

Policy 6-6: The County will establish a maintenance program for each park and recreational facility and will prepare a schedule of expenditures required to maintain each park and recreation facility.

Policy 6-7: To the extent possible, as allowed by funding, the County will provide and improve recreation facilities' safety deficiencies within one year of the date for which the deficiency was first identified.

Policy 6-8: The County will aggressively pursue an increase in private and public funds for the acquisition, development, maintenance, and operation of parks and recreational facilities.

Policy 6-9: The County will, when possible, offer park concessions to private vendors and community-based not-for-profit organizations. Such arrangements will be negotiated with formal agreements as to the sharing of income between the vendor and the County's Park and Recreation Department.

Policy 6-10: All newly constructed recreation areas shall comply with the Florida Accessibility Code, with the understanding that the nature of some areas may not allow compliance to the Code.

Table F-5. Inventory of Parks and Recreational Facilities Located in Washington County

Acres	Name	Address	Park Activities
COUNTY OWNED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND PARKS			
1	Billy Lee Park (Douglas Ferry Landing)	6049 Douglas Ferry Rd Caryville FL 32427	Picnic Areas, Pavilion Boat Ramp s(2)
1	Black Double	1326 Washington Blvd Chipley FL 32428	
2.75	<u>Blue Lake Park* (Earl Gilbert Landing)</u>	1865 Highway 77 Chipley FL 32428	Covered picnic tables, restrooms, grills fishing pier, boardwalk, playground beach area, horseshoes, lighting
	Blue Lake Community Center	1865 Highway 77 Chipley FL 32428	Adjacent to Blue Lake Park
85	Boat Lake	Galiano Court Sunny Hills FL {Leased from Sunny Hills Civic Association} Call (850) 239-0032 for reservations	Picnic facilities, restrooms swimming, large picnic pavilion
	<u>Brunson Landing (Holmes Creek)</u>	3112 Brunson Landing Vernon FL 32462	Picnic areas, boat ramp
0.68	Wages Lake (Buster Rogers Landing)	4476 Ada Dr Chipley FL 32428	Boat ramp and canoeing
6	Campbell Park	4112 Jackson Community Rd. Vernon FL 32462	Playground, pavilion picnic area
0.5	Caryville Boat Ramp on the Choctawhatchee River	4664 Boat Ramp Road Caryville FL 32427	Picnic areas and boat ramp
1	Cedar Tree Land on the Choctawhatchee River	4985 Cedar Tree Landing Road Ebro FL 32437	Picnic areas and boat ramp
0.5	Crystal Lake Park	3287 Crystal Lake Drive Chipley FL 32428	Boat ramp
1	Daniel's Lake (John Elmer Carter Landing)	2610 Daniels Lake road Chipley FL 32428	Covered pavilions, boat ramp, playground
1	Dave Tavior Landing (Gin Lake)	1366 Gin Lake Dr. Chipley FL 32428	Boat ramp
1	Douglas Ferry Boat Ramp	6049 Douglas Ferry Rd Caryville FL 32427	Covered picnic tables, boat ramp area
120	Equestrian Arena Center	2576 Daniels Lake Dr. Chipley FL 32428	picnic areas, swing pavilion gazebo
2.0	Fanning Branch Park at Two Creek	3700 Keenkutter Rd. Vernon FL 32462	Picnic pavilion, passive recreation

6.12	Five Point Recreation Center (V.J. Collins Recreation Center)	Pate Pond Road Caryville FL 32427	Community center / kitchen, restrooms; Picnic areas, basketball, playground, softball fields, and tennis courts
2.1	Gap Lake	3953 Harbor PI Chipley FL 32428	Boat ramp, covered picnic areas, bathrooms
1	Gin and Bream Lake	1365 Gin Lake Dr. Chipley FL 32428	Picnic area and boat ramp
.31	Griffin Landing (Gap Lake)	3884 Cavalier Dr. Chipley FL 32428	Picnic area and boat ramp
9.5	Hicks Lake (Brock Landing)	3772 Brock Landing Dr. Vernon FL 32462	Picnic areas and boat ramp
2	Hinson Crossroads Community Center	Hinson's' Crossroads Community Caryville FL	Community center with kitchen, restrooms
2.13	Holmes Creek Boat Ramp (Culpepper Landing)	3081 Culpepper Lane Vernon FL 32462	Picnic facilities and boat ramp
1	Hunter Park	3193 Moss Hill Road Vernon FL 32462	Playground, basketball court, covered pavilion, and soccer field
1.44	Jenkins Landing*	5396 Choctaw Rd Vernon FL 32462	Covered picnic table and boat ramp
1	<u>Litard Log Boat Ramp* (William Dallas Finch Landing)</u>	1844 Litard Log Rd. Chipley FL 32428	Picnic areas, boat ramp and restrooms
1	Little River Lake	39 15 Little River Rd. Chipley FL 32428	Picnic areas and boat ramp
1	<u>Live Oak Landing (Holmes Creek)</u>	4830 Live Oak Landing Rd. Vernon FL 32462	Covered picnic areas and boat ramp
1	Lucas Lake (Sand Landing)	3474 Lucas Lake Rd. Chipley FL 32428	Covered picnic area and boat ramp
1	Orange Hill Community Center	Ryan Road Chipley FL 32428	Community building with kitchen facilities, restrooms
1	Orange Hill Community Park	Ryan Road Chipley FL 32428	Playground, pavilion, and tennis court
1	Pate Lake (Tobe Russ Dock)	3093B Pate Pond Rd. Caryville FL 32427	Boat ramp
2.25	Porter Lake Retreat II	3516 Lakeside Dr. Chipley FL 32428	Picnic areas and boat ramp
1	Potter Springs (Holmes Creek)		Picnic area and boat ramp
3	<u>St. Joseph Park</u>	1350 Monroe Sheffield Rd. Chipley FL 32428	Picnic areas with covered pavilions, basketball court, playgrounds, football, soccer, and baseball fields, walking trail, lighting, and restrooms

0.5	Shell Landing (Holmes Creek)	451 9 Shell Landing Rd Vernon FL 32462	Boat ramp
1	Stewart Lake (Thurman Landing)	32 10 Sweet Water Tr. Chipley FL 32428	Boat ramp
1	Strickland Boat Landing	Holmes Creek Camp Sites Caryville Fl 32427	Covered picnic areas and boat ramp
0.5	Swindle Pond		Boat ramp
1	Tom Johns Landing (Porter Lake)	4909 Porter Pond Road Chipley FL 32428	Boat ramp
0.5	Vernon Park (C. E. Miller Landing)	2899 State Road 79 Vernon FL 32462	Boat ramp
1	White Double Lake (Cora Carter Long Landing)	1377 Washington Blvd Chipley FL 32428	Boat ramp
2	Wilder Park	4005 Columbia Blvd Sunny Hills FL 32428	Covered pavilion and picnic areas, basketball, tennis, and volleyball courts, playground, restrooms and skate park (Parental consent waiver required for minors to use the skate park.)
CHIPLEY OWNED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND PARKS			
16.5	Pals Park Neighborhood Park City of Chipley	Rustin Dr. and Railroad Ave. Chipley FL 32428	2 ball fields and picnic tables, lighted facilities
3.2	City of Chipley Shivers Neighborhood Park	4 th and Forest Avenue Chipley FL 32428	3 tennis courts, 3 basketball goals and picnic tables
1.4	Gilmore Park City of Chipley	Church Ave., and 8 th Street Chipley FL 32428	Picnic tables and 2 basketball courts
11.7	Chipley High School (Old) Washington County School Board	Near N. 2 nd St. & N. Railroad Ave., Chipley	2 tennis courts, 2 basketball courts, 2 ball fields, 1 football/soccer field and 1 track
3.7	Middle School Washington County School Board	McDouglad Drive Chipley FL 32428	Playing fields and 2 tennis courts
5.5	Elementary School Washington County School board	East of West Blvd. and south of Westbourne Ave. Chipley FL	Playing fields
1	Northside Park	Chipley FL	
NWFWMD AND STATE OWNED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES			
19,919	NWFWMD Former Rosewood Resources Area (Former – Rosewood Timber)	Southeast Section of County	Fishing and hunting in season with permit

156	Falling Waters State Recreation Area (FDEP)	South of Chipley near SR 77-A	Recreational vehicle sites, picnic tables and shelters, hiking trails, freshwater beach & equipped
2,163	Pine Log State Forest Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	SR 79 and Pine Log Creek, Ebro FL	R.V. Park, picnic tables and shelters, hiking trails, freshwater beach, equipped beach and play area
21,981	Choctawhatchee River & Econfina Creek Water Management Area NFWFMD**	Resource (in Washington County)	Hunting in season, passive recreation, canoeing, and swimming
16 (miles)	Holmes Creek State Canoe Trail (FDEP)	SR 79 to CR 284	Holmes Creek SR 79 to SR
PRIVATELY OWNED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND PARKS			
320	El Rancho Hunting & Fishing Preserve Private	SR 277 on El Rancho Lake on Coon Hollow Drive	Hunting in season, fishing, canoeing, passive recreation
6,630	Sunny Hills Recreation Center Private	101 Sunny Hills Blvd on Boat Lake Sunny Hills FL	18-hole golf course, picnic tables Beach, swimming, passive recreation
30	Camp Mount Pleasant	Pleasant Hill Road Bonifay FL	Camping and passive recreation, retreat, swimming pool, softball field, recreation center
558	Dogwood Acres (private)	SR 279 and Roche Road, Vernon FL	Tent sites, cabins, shelters, picnic tables; hiking trails, swimming pools, tennis court; basketball, goals; baseball/softball fields
5	Bonnet Pond Recreational Area		Basketball courts, picnic tables, basketball, and tennis courts
40	Washington County Kennel Club		Greyhound racing and card tables
CARYVILLE, EBRO, VERNON, AND WAUSAU RECREATIONAL FACILITIES			
4	Wausau Town Park		Lighted baseball/softball fields; tennis court; 1 recreation center; basketball; playground equipment, walking trail, concession stand
5.5	Shady Grove Ball Field Town of Vernon		3 ball fields, playground equipment, concession stands
0.5	C. E. Miller Park City of Vernon		Swimming, boating, covered picnic tables, canoeing, passive recreation
5.0	Neighborhood Park Town of Ebro		Ball fields and recreation center
5.0	Neighborhood Park Town of Caryville		1 ball field, gazebos, concession stand, civic center
Source: Washington County Parks and Recreation and Washington County Planning Office			

