

CHAPTER 6

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

The purpose of this planning element is to indicate a comprehensive system of public and private sites for recreation in Levy County. To accomplish this, historic and projected County populations are discussed, a community park recreation service area policy is developed, existing facilities and funding levels are analyzed. Based upon these analysis, needs are identified, and goals, objectives and actions to be taken are presented. The element concludes with an estimate of the capital costs which will occur through implementation of the plan.

**Historic And Projected Population**

Table 6-1 presents historic and projected population estimates for Levy County the unincorporated area and County-wide.

TABLE 6-1

HISTORIC AND PROJECTED POPULATION IN LEVY COUNTY

Place	1990	YEAR	
		1995	2020
Levy County (County-wide)	25,923	28,943	41,275

- Source:
1. Florida Estimates of Population. University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, July 1, 1987.
  2. Bulletin Number 83, January, 1988, Projections Of Florida Population By County.

The growth rate in the unincorporated areas of Levy County exceeded the growth rate in the municipalities during the last one-half [½] of 1986. If this trend continues, unincorporated Levy County will continually increase its share of the total County population. In 1990, the cities contained only thirty-one percent [31%] of the total County population.

The highest concentrations of population will continue to be located in and around the municipalities. This is a compelling reason for intergovernmental coordination in the provision of recreation opportunities.

**Recreation Plans Of Cities In Levy County**

All of the municipalities in Levy County have comprehensive plans, and each plan contains a Recreation Element. None of these municipalities contain, at this time, parks adequate in size to meet "community park" acreage standards [refer to section on standards].

**Recreation Service Areas**

Levy County is a large County with a highly dispersed, low density population. Numerous small municipalities contain concentrations of population, and are the logical locations for readily accessible community parks.

Given the large size of Levy County, it would not be cost efficient to locate a community park within three [3] to five [5] miles of every resident of the County, as this would necessitate land acquisition and development costs in some areas with extremely low population densities. Based upon this rationale, the Levy County Planning and Zoning Board [the County Local Planning Agency or L.P.A.] has developed a policy to be adopted as a part of this Comprehensive Plan, that:

"Community park facilities should be developed as close as possible to, and in cooperation with, the municipalities in Levy County."

This policy, when implemented, will ultimately result in five community park recreation service areas, as shown on Map 6-1. These five areas include Cedar Key, Chiefland, Bronson, Williston and Inglis-Yankeetown.

This map indicates that the Chiefland and Williston areas are virtually identical in terms of residential growth and total population. The Williston area is smaller in size, however, population density is somewhat higher. The Cedar Key area is smallest in terms of both growth rate and total population.

**Standards**

The L.P.A. has reviewed user standards for recreation facilities, and has selected standards for Levy County which are proposed to be adopted as a part of this plan. These standards are presented in Table 6-2. It should be noted that these standards are to be utilized for general planning purposes only, they will be utilized to assess general needs [present and future], and as a means of developing short-range and long-range recreation plans.

MAP 6-1

RECREATION SERVICE AREAS

**TABLE 6-2**  
**GENERAL USER STANDARDS FOR RECREATION FACILITIES**  
**IN LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA**

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Size Or Number</u>	<u>Per Population</u>
Neighborhood Park Minimum Size	2 Acres 5 Acres	1,000
Community Park Minimum Size	3 Acres 25 Acres	1,000
Tennis Courts	1	2,000
Basketball Courts	1	5,000
Baseball	1	15,000
Softball (lighted)	1	3,000
Softball (unlighted)	1	5,000
Shuffleboard	6	5,000
Three-wall Court		10,000

Source: Levy County Local Planning Agency and the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council, 1978. Central Florida Planning and Development, a division of Forestry and Environmental Services, Inc., Levy county Comprehensive Plan Update, July, 1987.

**Existing And Proposed Facilities**

The Henry Beck Park on the Wekiva River is a community park with fifty-two [52] developed acres. So too, is Blue Springs Park, on a thirty [30] acre site. Facilities for activity-based recreation are limited to municipal "neighborhood parks" and school properties. There are numerous resource-based recreation facilities either in existence, under development, or currently proposed. Both activity-based and resource-based facilities are described in this section by recreation service area.

**Cedar Key Area**

**Resource-based Facilities.** This area includes the Cedar Key County Pier, boat launching ramps at Cedar Key and Shell Mound, and a four hundred seventy-seven [477] acre park in Gulf Hammock which is currently undeveloped. This area also contains the Cedar Key Marina, the lower Suwannee NWR, state owned land and a state museum.

**Activity-based Facilities.** The Board of Education maintains a ballfield and a former basketball court which now serves as a tennis court located at the school. This area also has the Cedar Key County Airport.

**Chiefland Area**

**Resource-based Facilities.** This area includes Manatee Springs State park, Suwannee River State Park, numerous boat ramps at the above parks and at New Clay Landing, Camp Azalea and Fowlers Bluff. The Suwannee River State Park is located in Suwannee and Hamilton Counties. There are at present one thousand five hundred forty-four [1,544] acres of riverfront lands in the Chiefland area purchased by the Suwannee River Water Management District under the Save Our Rivers program open for certain resource based recreational activities. The primary function of these lands is conservation.

**Activity-based Facilities.** The City of Chiefland owns two [2] lighted tennis courts, one [1] handball court, two [2] basketball courts, and several ball fields. The Board of Education maintains three [3] volleyball courts and one [1] lighted baseball field.

### **Bronson Area**

**Resource-based Facilities.** The Blue Springs County Park, located three [3] miles west of the City of Bronson, occupies a thirty [30] acre site. This park is primarily utilized for swimming and picnics.

**Activity-based Facilities.** County owned facilities in Bronson include a new, activity-based park covering eighteen [18] acres, including a ballfield, fencing, restrooms and a concession shelter. Also, the City owns a new, state-funded activity-based park covering ten [10] acres, also including a ballfield, fencing, restrooms and concessions stand.

### **Williston Area**

**Resource-based Facilities.** There are no resource-based recreation facilities in the Williston area.

**Activity-based Facilities.** The City of Williston has numerous facilities, including three [3] baseball fields [two (2) lighted], one [1] lighted softball field, three [3] tennis courts [two (2) lighted], one [1] basketball court, and several shuffleboard courts. The Board of Education maintains a multipurpose court, used for tennis or basketball.

### **Inglis-Yankeetown Area**

**Resource-based Facilities.** This area includes the Henry Beck County Park which covers one hundred thirty [130] acres, of which fifty-two [52] acres are developed, Bird Creek Park in Yankeetown, the Gulf Hammock Wildlife Management Area, and boat ramps at the Withlacoochee Backwaters, Inglis, Yankeetown, Vassey Creek and Williams Landing.

**Activity-based Facilities.** The Allen Community Center, located in Inglis, provides some activity-based recreation for the area. Also, a ballfield and basketball court are maintained by the Board of Education.

The existing public and private boat ramps, parks and recreation areas in Levy County, excluding municipal and school board sites, are summarized in Tables 6-3 and 6-4. This information is graphically illustrated on a location map, Map 6-2.

### **Present Funding**

The 1984-1985 County budget for parks and recreation was Twenty-three Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Dollars [\$23,270.00]. This is close to One Dollar [\$1.00] per capita. The 1977-1978 budget for parks and recreation, less revenue received from the Blue Springs and Yankeetown parks, was Nineteen Thousand One Hundred Eighty-Four Dollars [\$19,184.00]. This compares with a 1966-1977 operating expenditure of Fourteen Thousand One Hundred Fifteen [\$14,115.00], or Eighty-nine Cents [\$0.89] per capita.

### **Needs**

Utilizing the general standards as presented in the preceding sections, it is possible to estimate needs in the future. This is accomplished for community recreation facilities, neighborhood parks, and resource-based recreation in the following section. [The gross need, less existing acreage or facilities, yields the net increase needed.]

**Community Parks Needs**

Table 6-5 presents an analysis of community recreation and activity-based recreation needs through 1995 in Levy County.

This table shows clearly that if current population trends continue, the Chiefland and Williston community park service areas will each, by 1995, need approximately thirty [30] acres of community parks. This is close to the recommended minimum standard of twenty-five [25] acres per park; therefore, plans need to be made now to provide the necessary acreages and facilities.

None of the other community park service areas in Levy County are expected to have enough population increase by 1995 to justify a community park. Therefore, the County needs to concentrate upon placing any activity-based facilities for these areas in neighborhood parks, or in the two [2] existing community parks.

**Facilities Needs**

Gross facilities needs for each recreation service area are provided in Table 6-5 as previously referenced.

It is noteworthy that the 1978 Comprehensive Plan utilized a population projection of seventeen thousand [17,000] persons for 1980 ... the actual population from the Census was nineteen thousand eight hundred seventy [19,870]. For this reason, the 1995 projections are now higher than they were previously; thus, the recreation needs in Table 6-5 are now higher than those which were originally presented in the 1978 plan.

**Cedar Key Area.** A major need is for additional acreage in neighborhood parks. A lighted softball field is needed, and the existing tennis courts need to be refurbished or replaced by 1995. This is the only service area in the County which will not require a community park by 1995.

**Chiefland Area.** Some additional acreage is needed in this area. Five [5] tennis courts, three [3] lighted softball fields, and eleven [11] shuffleboard courts will be needed by 1995. The City of Chiefland already owns or operates two [2] neighborhood parks totaling twenty [20] acres; therefore, a potential role for the County is to provide additional acreage.

**Bronson Area.** No additional acres are needed, as the existing park is more than adequate. However, the existing facilities are in dire need of rehabilitation, and more facilities are needed.

**Williston Area.** With over twenty-six [26] acres of parks in this area, a minor amount of additional land will be needed. Five [5] ballfields for softball, eleven [11] shuffleboard courts, and five [5] tennis courts will be needed by 1995.

**MAP 6-2**

**RECREATION FACILITIES**

TABLE 6-3

EXISTING PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE IN LEVY COUNTY

Name	Activity Based	Resource Based	Boat Launching	Boat Rental	Gas & Oil	Bait	Tackle	Food Snacks	Cottages	Camping	Fishing	Picnic Tables	Licenses	Guides	Restaurant	Swimming	Overnight Trailers	Permit Pets	Other
1. Backwater Boat Ramp		X	X								X								
2. Bird Creek Park		X								X	X	X				X		X	
3. Blue Springs Park		X						X				X				X		X	Tube Rental
4. Camp Azalea Boat Ramp		X	X								X								
5. Cedar Key County Pier		X	X		X	X	X	X			X							X	
6. Cedar Key Marina		X	X			X	X				X			X					
7. Cedar Key State Museum		X																X	
8. Fowlers Bluff		X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X						X	
9. Gulf Hammock Wildlife Management Area		X								X	X								Hunting
10. Inglis Boat Ramp		X	X								X								
11. Manatee Springs State Park		X	X					X		X	X	X				X	X	X	Boat & Bicycle Rental, Skin & Scuba Diving, Sanitary Dump, Nature Trail.
12. New Clay Landing		X	X								X	X							
13. No. 4 Bridge Boat Ramp		X	X								X								
14. Shell Mound		X	X							X	X								
15. State Wayside Park and Boat Ramp (Cedar Key)		X	X								X	X				X		X	
16. Suwannee River State Park		X									X	X						X	
17. Williams Landing		X	X								X	X						X	
18. Cedar Key City Airport		X																	Public Phone, 2 Lt Planes
19. Vassey Creek		X	X																
20. Henry Beck Park		X	X									X						X	Hiking
21. Allen Community Center		X										X						X	Equipped Play Areas, Recreation Center

Source: Central Florida Planning and Development Corporation, Levy County Comprehensive Plan Update, June 1987.

Table 6-4

EXISTING PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE IN LEVY COUNTY

Name	Activity Based	Resource Based	Boat Launching	Boat Rental	Gas & Oil	Bait	Tackle	Food Snacks	Cottages	Camping	Fishing	Picnic Tables	Licenses	Guides	Restaurant	Swimming	Overnight Trailers	Permit Pets	Other
1. Bon Air Cottages		X							8		X	X	X	X					X
2. Buddy's Fish Camp		X	X	X	X		X		10	X	X		X	X			X		X
3. The Cedars		X									X	X		X					Private Hunting Preserves and Airstrip, Hunting Open on Fee Basis.
4. Cedar Inn		X							12		X			X					
5. Fin and Feather		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	6	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	Beer, groceries, pool table
6. Chiefland Golf and Country Club	X							X											9 hole golf course open to public. Lounge and Bar for members.
7. Island Hotel		X						X	12		X			X	X				Bar, package store, lounge
8. Izaak Walton Lodge		X		X			X	X	2		X			X	X	X		X	10 rooms, 1 suite, 2 bedroom apartments.
9. Shady Oaks Fish Camp		X	X	X		X		X	6	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	A/C rec room with pool, dance floor, outdoor shower chess & checkers
10. Sunset Isle Park Treasure Camp		X	X						4	X	X	X				X	X	X	
11. Trading Post		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4		X	X	X	X					Beer, groceries
12. Waccasassa Marina and Camp		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4	X	X	X		X			X	X	
13. Williston Highlands Golf and Country Club	X						X									X			18 hole golf course open to public. Shuffleboard, pool, lounge for members.

Source: Central Florida Planning and Development Corporation, Levy County Comprehensive Plan Update, June 1987.

Table 6-5

GROSS COMMUNITY RECREATION AND ACTIVITY-BASED RECREATION NEEDS IN LEVY COUNTY THROUGH 1995

	Recreation Service Areas					
	County-wide	Cedar Key	Chiefland	Bronson	Williston	Inglis-Yankeetown
		9%	33%	11%	33%	14%
1980-Population Estimate	19,870	1,788	6,557	2,186	6,557	2,782
1995-Population Estimate	27,200 - 1/	2,448	8,976	2,992	8,976	3,808
1995-Community Parks Acreage Needed	81	7	27	9	27	11
1995- Neighborhood Park Acreage Needed	54	5	18	6	18	8
1995- Number of Tennis Courts	14	0	5	2	5	2
1995-Number of Basketball Courts	6	1	2	1	2	1
1995-Number of Baseball Fields	2	0	1	0	1	0
1995-Number of Lighted Softball Fields	9	1	3	1	3	1
1995-Number of Unlighted Softball Fields	5	0	2	0	2	1
1995-Number of Shuffleboard Courts	33	3	11	4	11	5
1995-Number of 3-wall Courts	3	0	1	0	1	1

Source: Levy County Development Department, 1985. Central Florida Planning & Development Corporation, 1987 Update.

1/ Note that the medium-range projection [University of Florida, Table 3-22 in this plan] for 1995 is 27,200. With reference back to Table 3-22, this is the lowest estimate of projection, and the needs analysis above will have to be adjusted when census data result in reviewed University projections.

**Inglis-Yankeetown Area.** This area, because it has no existing acreage in neighborhood parks, will require nine [9] acres by 1995. Also needed are two [2] tennis courts, two [2] ballfields and six [6] shuffleboard courts.

### **Resource Needs**

It is difficult to place specific numbers upon what is needed in the manner of resource-based recreation facilities. This is especially true in Levy County, as no community attitudes surveys are available as a gauge of public opinion. The following discussions attempt in qualitative and quantitative terms to describe needs for resource-based recreation in Levy County.

**Natural Areas.** A large portion of the Levy County coastal zone is in the Waccasassa Preserve, contiguous to the Gulf Hammock Wildlife Management Area. Large acreage is already preserved in a natural state and the Board of County Commissioners are concerned about the loss of tax revenue to the County if more land is taken out of private ownership. There is a need, however, to preserve in a natural state as much of the environmentally sensitive portions of the County as is possible. Environmentally sensitive lands acquired to preserve natural functions are currently appraised at relatively low values and have agricultural exemptions, and likely represent a minute fraction of the County's tax base. In addition, the recreational uses of these lands may bring additional revenues to businesses within the County that were previously non-existent with private land holdings, but only to the extent that public ownership does not preclude or reduce the amount of commercial development which would have occurred in the absence of the public ownership.

There is a need, however, to preserve in a natural state as much of the environmentally sensitive portion of the coastal zone as is possible.

**Water Access.** There is a need in Levy County to provide additional boat ramps, docks and support facilities.

**Fishing Piers.** With the successful installation and growing population of the Cedar Key Fishing Pier, and the limited access to the Levy County coastline, the need exists for an additional fishing pier. It is also anticipated that the Cedar Key fishing pier will require additional improvement and expansion before 1992.

**Canoe And Nature Trails.** The Wacasassa River is presently utilized for an increasing amount of canoeing activity. It needs to be developed and promoted as a canoe trail. Similarly, the Wacasassa State Preserve offers the potential for development of boardwalks, observation points and nature trails along the coastal marsh areas. In both of these instances, what is needed is an initiative by Levy County.

**Beaches And Swimming Areas.** With limited potential for new saltwater swimming areas, Levy County needs to improve the existing beaches at Cedar Key and Yankeetown; and, to develop new beaches on freshwater springs, rivers and lakes. This is consistent with the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

### **Capital Costs**

The total capital cost estimate for implementing the plan for activity-based recreation facilities is presented in Table 6-6. It will cost approximately Twenty-three Thousand Dollars [\$23,000.00] annually to implement the land acquisition proposed in this part of the plan. Facilities costs are estimated at Sixty-two Thousand Dollars [\$62,000.00] per year.

What this plan will cost Levy County will depend primarily upon the participation of the municipalities, and the effectiveness of the intergovernmental agreements developed on an individual basis. The update costs are substantially greater than those projected in the 1978 plan. Long range projections of activity-based recreation needs and costs are available on Tables 6-8 and 6-9.]

It is more difficult to estimate the costs that may be involved in implementing the resource-based portion of this plan. Table 6-7 presents estimated capital costs for resource-based recreation through 1995.

The Henry Beck County Park on the Wekiva River has already been developed utilizing Fifty Thousand Dollars [\$50,000.00] in state monies and Forty-six Thousand Dollars [\$46,000.00] in County monies.

An application to the Coastal Plains Regional Commission in 1978, which would have resulted in the construction of a boat dock in Yankeetown, was denied. The application was for Thirty-five Thousand Dollars [\$35,000.00].

**TABLE 6-6**

**ESTIMATED CAPITAL COSTS FOR MEETING ACTIVITY-BASED RECREATION NEEDS IN LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA 1990 THROUGH 1995**

<u>Area</u>	<u>Facilities Costs</u>	<u>Land Costs</u>	<u>Total Costs</u>
Cedar Key	\$ 30,000	-0-	\$ 30,000
Chiefland	\$100,000	\$ 36,000	\$136,000
Bronson	-0-	-0-	-0-
Williston	\$100,000	\$ 36,000	\$136,000
Inglis And Yankeetown	<u>\$ 82,000</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
Total	\$312,000	\$ 72,000	\$384,000
Annual Cost	\$ 62,000	\$ 14,400	\$ 76,400

Methodology: Assumes facilities cost at: tennis courts [\$14,000.00]; basketball courts [\$5,000.00]; baseball field [\$5,000.00]; lighted softball field [\$25,000.00]; unlighted softball field [\$7,000.00]; shuffleboard court [\$600.00]; three-wall court [\$5,000.00]; and, land at [\$3,000.00] per acre.

The remaining resource-based recreation facilities which are proposed do not yet have cost estimates attached to them. Some cost estimates will become available as a result of implementing this plan, and periodic updates of the plan will incorporate new cost estimates as they become available.

With specific reference to boat ramps, Levy County receives about Three Thousand Three Hundred Dollars [\$3,300.00] annually from the Florida Boating Improvement Fund. Whether or not this amount will be sufficient will be determined through implementing this plan, and it is possible that supplemental County financial assistance will be necessary.

**TABLE 6-7**

**ESTIMATED CAPITAL COSTS FOR MEETING RESOURCE-BASED RECREATION NEEDS IN LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, 1987 THROUGH 1995**

<u>Name Or Type Of Facility</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Henry Beck County Park	Already Developed
Yankeetown Boat Dock [Withlacochee Landing]	\$ 35,000.00
Yankeetown Park	Unknown
Fishing Pier [Yankeetown, Wacasassa or Suwannee]	\$ 70,000.00
New Swimming Areas	Unknown
Boat Ramps	Unknown
Canoe Trail	Unknown

Source: Levy County Development Department.

**TABLE 6-8**

**NET NUMBER OF FACILITIES NEEDED, BY TYPE, TO MEET PROJECTED  
ACTIVITY-BASED RECREATION NEEDS IN LEVY COUNTY [1997 THROUGH 2020]**

	Need By Year				
	1,995	2,000	2,005	2,010	2,020
Population	27,200	29,000	30,700	32,200	35,700
Tennis	3	3	3	4	4
Basketball	1	1	1	2	2
Baseball/Softball	1	1	1	2	2
Shuffleboard	2	2	2	7	7
3 - Wall Court	1	1	1	1	1

Source: Central Florida Planning & Development Corporation, Levy County Comprehensive Plan Update, 1987.

**TABLE 6-9**

**1992 UPDATED ESTIMATE OF CAPITAL COSTS FOR  
MEETING ACTIVITY-BASED RECREATION NEEDS IN LEVY COUNTY**

Facility	Costs By Year				
	1995	2000	2005	2010	2020
Tennis	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$84,000	\$84,000	\$84,000
Basketball	5,000	5,000	5,000	15,000	15,000
Baseball/Softball	5,000	5,000	5,000	20,000	20,000
Shuffleboard	12,000	12,000	12,000	66,000	72,000
3-Wall Court	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Total	69,000	69,000	111,000	190,000	196,000
Annual Cost	13,800	6,900	22,200	19,000	19,600

Methodology: Assumes facilities at: Tennis Court [\$14,000]; Basketball Court [\$5,000]; Baseball/Softball Field [\$5,000]; Shuffleboard Court [\$6,000]; 3-Wall Court [\$5,000];

Source: Central Florida Planning & Development Corporation, Levy County Comprehensive Plan Update, 1987.

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**Summary of Recreation and Open Space at the Time of EAR**

Data


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Identification of Existing Public/Private Recreation and Open Space Areas/Sites

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Recreation Service Areas

It was the policy of the County that “community park facilities should be developed as close as possible to, and in cooperation with, the municipalities in Levy County” (LCCP: 6-2). This policy, when implemented would ultimately result in five community park recreation service areas consisting of Cedar Key; Chiefland; Bronson; Williston; and Inglis-Yankeetown.

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Existing Public Recreation Facilities in 1996

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Cedar Key Service Area

A pier at Cedar Key was reconstructed after the “Storm of the Century” of March, 1993. A boat ramp at Cedar Key may be lost due to the construction of a state marine science lab.

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Chiefland Service Area

**Resource-based facilities:** Manatee Springs State Park, Suwannee River State Park; numerous boat ramps at the above parks and at New Clay Landing, Camp Azalea and Fowlers Bluff. Also, 1544 acres of river-front lands owned by the Suwannee River Water Management District under the Save Our Rivers program open for certain resources-based recreational activities, although the primary function of these lands is conservation (LCCP: 6-5).

**Activity-based facilities:** The City of Chiefland owned two lighted tennis courts and several ball fields. The School Board maintained three volleyball courts and one lighted baseball field (LCCP: 6-5).

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Bronson Service Area

**Resource-based facilities:** Blue Springs State Park occupied a 30 acre site (LCCP: 6-5).

**Activity-based facilities:** An 18 acre park including a ballfield, fencing, restrooms and concession shelter. The Town of Bronson owned a state-funded activity-based park covering 10 acres that included a ballfield, fencing, restrooms and concession stand (LCCP: 6-5).

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Williston Service Area

**Resource-based facilities:** There were no resource-based facilities in Williston Service Area (LCCP: 6-5).

**Activity-based facilities:** The City of Williston had numerous facilities including three baseball fields (two lighted), one lighted softball field, three tennis courts (two

lighted), one basketball court, and several shuffleboard courts. The School Board maintained a multi-purposed court used for tennis or basketball (LCCP: 6-5).

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#### Inglis-Yankeetown

The beach park at Yankeetown as reconstructed after the “storm of the Century” of March, 1993. In 1994, improvements were made to the boat ramp parking area. Plans were put forward for the possible construction of a catwalk/fishing pier at the Bird Creek Bridge. Construction of a community park was begun on county land at the Inglis Bypass Channel in 1995.

#### Existing Private Facilities

Existing private recreation facilities that offered activity-based recreational opportunities in 1996 included:

#### Campgrounds

Big Oaks Campground, Inglis  
 Breezy Acres Campground, Chiefland  
 Cannon Oaks Mobile Home Park, Inglis  
 Cattail Creek RV Park, Inglis  
 Cedar Key Resort, Rosewood  
 Cypress Marina and Campground, Yankeetown  
 Devil’s Den Spring, Williston  
 Fin and Feather Fish Camp and Trailer Court, Inglis  
 McCormick RV Park, Chiefland  
 Osprey RV Hook-ups, Cedar Key  
 Rainbow Country Campground, Cedar Key  
 Sunset Isle Park, Cedar Key  
 Village Pine Campground, Inglis  
 Waccassassa Marina and RV Camp, Gulf Hammock

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#### Golf Courses

Chiefland Golf and Country Club, Chiefland  
 Williston Highland Golf and Country Club, Williston

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#### Bowling Alleys

Rainbow Alleys, Chiefland

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#### Water-based Activities

Blue Grotto, Williston  
 Devil’s Den Spring, Williston  
 Izaak Walton Lodge, Yankeetown

#### Identification of Open Space

A large portion of the Levy County coastal zone is in the Waccassassa Preserve, contiguous to the Gulf Hammock Wildlife Management Area. Large acreage was already preserved in a natural state, and the board of County Commissioners was concerned about the loss of tax revenue to the county if more land was taken out of private ownership.

Virtually all of the coastline is public open space in the hands of several public agencies. The County Commission continued to generally oppose efforts to place large acreages in public ownership without plans for public utilization.

### Analysis

#### Current Need for Recreation Sites and Facilities

The facilities in Part I, Recreation and Open Space taken from the 1990 Plan were not addressed over the past six years. Development of a system of canoe trails was not achieved. No new boat ramps were constructed between 1990 and 1996; there was the possibility that one boat ramp at Cedar Key might be lost by the development of a state marine science lab. A deficit exists between the Level of Service standards for recreation and the actual recreation facilities.

The “storm of the Century” of march 1993, caused the redirection of scarce county recreation funds to reconstruct facilities destroyed at Cedar Key and Yankeetown.

Levy County continued to provide limited recreational financial assistance on an annual basis to municipalities. However, this funding was not allocated according to the adopted ratios between the service districts. Recreation impact fees to partially offset the costs of new services for new residents were not adopted by the County Commission. However, the county has applied for recreation grants on an annual basis.

There were no interlocal agreements to coordinate County recreation programs and plans with those of the various municipalities and private recreation resource providers. Interlocal agreements to develop community parks in Chiefland and Williston did not occur.

#### General User (Level of Service) Standards

The 1990 Plan utilized the following general user standards (from Table 6-2):

Neighborhood Park: two acres per 1,000 persons. Minimum size: 5 acres  
Community Park: three acres per 1000 persons. Minimum size: 25 acres  
Tennis Courts: one court per 2000 persons  
Basketball Courts: one court per 5000 persons  
Baseball field: one field per 15000 persons  
Softball field (lighted): one field per 5000 persons  
Softball field (unlighted): one field per 5000 persons  
Shuffleboard Court: six courts per 5000 persons  
Three-wall Court: one court per 10000 persons

#### County-wide Recreation Facilities Needs

Application of the Level of Service standards to the 1995 population estimate (29,843) yields the following gross county-wide recreation acreages/facilities needed to meet the needs of the estimated 1995 population:

Community Park Acreage: 90  
Neighborhood Park Acreage: 60  
Tennis Courts: 15  
Basketball Courts: 6  
Lighted Softball Fields: 10  
Unlighted Softball Fields: 6  
Shuffleboard Courts: 36  
Three Wall Courts: 3