

City of Cooper City Comprehensive Plan

Chapter 6 Recreation and Open Space Element

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City Commission of Cooper City
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RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

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CHAPTER 6

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

Recreation and leisure greatly contribute to an individual's concept of well-being. South Florida's temperate climate provides many opportunities for year round outdoor recreation. There is, today, a greater demand for outdoor hobbies and recreational activities as people find they have more leisure time and financial resources available to them.

This element examines the community's existing local park and recreation system. It also evaluates the current and future demands for land and facilities in comparison to the supply. Lastly, it assesses future demand compared to projected programs and facilities.

II. EXISTING CONDITIONS

Cooper City has an extensive system of parks and recreation facilities located throughout the community. Exhibit 6-1 identifies the location of existing park sites. Exhibit 6-2 shows the service radius to each park depending upon its classification. The City utilizes the County's system of classification:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>SERVICE RADIUS</u>
Mini	0 – 5	0.25 mile
Neighborhood	5 – 10	0.5 mile
Community	10 - 40	2.5 mile

Mini parks are small areas less than 5 acres in size, which serve as pockets of greenery and open space, having limited recreation facilities. Neighborhood parks serve the needs of residential developments with access usually by foot and bicycle. Community parks serve several adjoining neighborhoods and offer a wider range of facilities than neighborhood parks. Larger parks, such as regional parks, are provided by the County.

The Cooper Colony golf course is currently shown on Exhibit 6-1 as a private facility. However, the County is currently negotiating with the owner to purchase the golf course and add it to the City's inventory of public recreation lands. Exhibit 6-1 will be updated accordingly if the purchase is finalized. Cooper Colony is an 18 hole executive-style golf course with a clubhouse, storage building for carts and golf bags, a main entrance building, driving range, teaching facility, practicing

areas and parking. The City plans improvements to the course with significant areas for passive recreation and open space. These passive recreation areas could be improved with wetland and upland habitats and additional native plantings.

Table 6-1, Existing Recreational Facilities, gives details of each park including its size, type and facilities provided. The location index corresponds to the park location on Exhibit 6-1. Park management may take any of three forms in the City - public, private and leased. Publicly managed parks are the responsibility of the City or the County and are open to the public. Private parks are maintained by a private entity, usually a homeowner's association and access is generally restricted to a particular residential development. The third category, "leased", refers to sites for which the City has a cooperative agreement with the Broward County School Board to lease school facilities for public recreation uses which are provided and maintained by the City during non-school hours. Parks can be classified by the type of recreation they offer, active or passive. Active recreation includes such things as baseball games, golf or tennis, whereas passive recreation might be such activities as nature walks, fishing or picnicking. The two types are not mutually exclusive.

While the parks in the City do provide open space and the opportunity to indulge in passive recreational pursuits, nearly all the parks would be generally referred to as active parks. The next part of the table delineates the services and facilities provided at each park. A star is used to indicate a facility is at a particular site. Facilities that are counted to meet the city's adopted recreation standards are shown numerically. The condition and age group served by each park is also indicated. The only park acreage acquisition scheduled at this time is the possible purchase of Cooper Colony golf course by Broward County. This facility is currently exhibited in Exhibit 6-1 and Table 6-1 as a private facility until the acquisition is finalized.

Another classification system used to distinguish kinds of parks is those that are resource based and those that are activity based. Resource based parks center around a particular natural resource - water body, wetlands area, and are generally associated with passive recreation. Activity based recreation sites are developed for particular activities such as basketball or football. Cooper City's parks are primarily activity based.

CITY OF COOPER CITY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

**TABLE 6-1
EXISTING AND FUTURE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
JULY, 2002
5.014(1)**

LOCATION INDEX	PARK	GROSS ACRES	MANAGEMENT	TYPE	GENERAL SERVICES & FACILITIES PROVIDED	Bicycle Access	Parking	Restrooms	Food Service	Picnic Tables	Grills	Tot Lot	ACTIVITY BASED REC.	Comm. Pool	Comm. Activity Center	Exercise Trail	Golf Course	Track & Field	Football/Soccer	Softball/Baseball	Basketball	Hand/Racquetball	Tennis Court	Volleyball	CONDITION	AGE GROUP SERVED			
1	Chase	0.86	Public	Active		*	*			*		*													G	1			
2	City Hall Park	2.80	Public	Active																						G	1		
3	Colony Park	0.30	Public	Active		*	*					*														G	1		
4	Community Center	4.00	Public	Active		*	*	*	*																	G	1		
5	Community Facilities Site Ph I	36.40	Public	Active																						G	1		
6	Cooper City Pool & Tennis Center	5.54	Public	Active								*		1	*						2		8	2		G	1		
7	Cooper Colony Golf Course	68.70	Private	Active																						G	1		
8	Cooper's Pointe	0.37	Public	Active								*														G	1		
9	Country Address Park	1.26	Public	Active		*	*			*		*															G	1	
10	Country Glen	5.00	Private	Active								*															G	1	
11	Dawn Park	1.50	Public	Active								*															G	1	
12	Diamond Head	2.09	Public	Active								*									1						G	1	
13	Embassy Creek Elem.	5.00	Leased	Active								*															G	1	
14	Encore Park	0.75	Public	Active								*															G	1	
15	Ted Ferone Park	6.00	Public	Active		*	*			*		*				*				1		4	2				G	1	
16	Flamingo Park	4.00	Public	Active								*												2			G	1	
17	Forest Lake Park	7.50	Public	Active		*	*	*		*	*	*				*				1	1	4	2				G	1	
18	Bill Lips Sports Complex	11.90	Public	Active		*	*	*	*			*	*						4	5							G	1	
19	Pine Lake Park	1.66	Public	Active		*	*					*															G	1	
20	Poinciana Park	1.21	Public	Active		*	*					*				*											G	1	
21	Rustlewood	0.80	Private	Active		*						*															G	1	
22	Christie Schafale Park	6.33	Public	Active						*		*				*								2			G	1	
23	SW 122 Ave Open Space Buffer	26.74	Public	Passive																							G	1	
24	Tamarind Park	6.00	Public	Active		*	*					*				*					1		4	2			G	1	
25	Trellises at Rock Creek	0.02	Private	Active																							G	1	
26	Brian Piccolo Regional Park	180.00	Public	Active												*			4	4	2	6	12				G	1	
27	Cooper City High	11.90	Leased	Active		*	*	*						1				*	3	2	4	4	6				G	1	
28	Pioneer Middle	9.40	Leased	Active		*	*	*									*		4	2	2	4	4				G	1	
29	Cooper City Elem.	5.10	Leased	Active		*	*	*		*	*	*							1	1	1						G	1	
30	Griffin Elem.	4.97	Leased	Active		*	*	*		*		*							1	2	1						G	1	
	Embassy Lakes:																											G	1

III. ANALYSIS

Table 6-2 summarizes the status of the community's recreational needs for acreage and facilities for the years 2001, 2006 and 2015. The City's existing population determines the current 2001 "required" facilities; "required" facilities for 2015 are based on Broward County population projections and the 2006 "required" facilities are based on population projections using a straight-line extrapolation. A review of the figures indicates that the City, at present and in the projected future, currently meets all the standards and exceeds them. The facility standards are from the Florida Department of Natural Resources, Guidelines for Outdoor Recreation in Florida, 1994.

The criteria of six acres per 1,000 residents are the adopted City standard, which is greater than the Broward County standard of three acres per 1,000 people. Cooper City is a "youthful" City, with a large proportion of residents under 20 years of age. The City chosen the higher park acreage requirement to more adequately provide for the young population and improve the quality of life for all residents. The City requirement of six acres per 1,000 population can be dedicated as part of the platting process. At the City's discretion, money may be substituted in lieu of land. This process ensures the provision of adequate sites and facilities for future mini parks and other recreational services as the City's population increases.

Cooper City's park system is a function of the City's demographics, character and neighborhood subdivision design. According to the 2000 Census, Cooper City had 34% of its population under 20 years of age and less than 15% was over 54. This compares to the County figures of 25% under 20, and 24% over 64. Therefore, to reflect the City's population, many of the current programs emphasize sporting activities. These programs include softball, baseball, soccer and football leagues. League sports are offered year round. The recreation department also sponsors a summer camp which is open to elementary and middle school residents. The camp operates for 10 weeks during the summer and each session is 2 weeks long. Currently the camp accommodates approximately 160 elementary students and 65 middle students. Numerous classes are also offered for all age groups, such as aerobics, dance or crafts. In this way, the City's Recreation Advisory Board assures that all segments of the community are served by the recreation activities and programs. The Board, in conjunction with the City, sponsors the Senior Citizen Program.

The Senior Citizen Program has a full time coordinator, organizing all recreational activities such as lectures, field trips, and classes offered to seniors. The program also addresses the accessibility and nutritional needs of senior citizens. The recreation department provides a bus and driver to transport seniors to food stores and medical appointments. The department also dispenses lunches and nutritional information from the Area Agency on Aging to senior residents.

Handicapped residents confined to wheelchairs can utilize paved walkways and designated handicapped parking spaces provided at all City parks.

As indicated below, 230 acres of recreation and open space are required to serve the City's buildout population at the adopted level of service of 6 acres per 1,000 population. Table 6-2 indicates that there is currently over 400 acres of recreation and open space available within the City including Brian Piccolo Park and a number of private recreation areas. The Broward County Planning Council's criteria does not allow credit for all of the recreation and open space areas toward the community park requirements of the County land use plan. Of the total acreage in Table 6-2, 218 acres meet the Broward County Planning Council definition for community parks. Therefore, the City would have a deficit of 12 acres of recreation and open space areas. However, the deficit does not occur in the immediate 5-year time frame. The City has acquired the 27-acre Flamingo Road park property which results in a surplus.

At this time no major capital improvements are required to maintain the City's adopted level of service standard of 6 acres per 1,000 population. However, the City has programmed expenditures to improve the quality of recreation services provided throughout the city. These improvements include annual maintenance and repair of existing recreation facilities. The City is also negotiating to purchase the Cooper Colony golf course and make it a public course available to all city residents. Additional lighted basketball courts are also programmed. Finally, an 8,000 square foot addition to the pool and tennis center is planned. All of these improvements will enhance the excellent park and recreation services provided by the City.

**TABLE 6-2
ANALYSIS OF RECREATIONAL NEEDS
CITY OF COOPER CITY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
5.014 (2a, 2b)**

Source: (1) Outdoor Recreation in Florida - 1994

State of Florida Dept. Natural Resources

* Inconformance with Broward County planning Council Standars

** Cooper City LOS

Assumptions:	2001 Population	28,134
	2006 Population	29,649
	2015 Population	38,368

TABLE 6-3

PRESENT AND FUTURE REQUIRED PARK ACREAGE

	<u>2001</u> ⁽¹⁾	<u>2006</u> ⁽²⁾	<u>2015 (Buildout)</u> ⁽³⁾
Population	28,134	29,649	38,368
Broward County LOS*			
(acres)	84	89	115
Cooper City LOS **			
(acres)	169	178	230

* Broward County Park standard requires three (3) acres per thousand population.

** Cooper City Park standard requires six (6) per thousand population.

(1) University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research

(2) Leigh Robinson Kerr & Associates, Inc.

(3) Broward County Department of Planning and Environmental Protection

IV. CONCLUSION

The City's needs are well served by its present system of parks and recreation programs and projections indicate that these situations will continue in the future.

V. GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (ADOPTED SECTION)

GOAL: Ensure the provision of adequate parks, recreational facilities, and open space that meet the needs and interests of Cooper City's residents.

OBJECTIVE 6.1

All City recreational facilities shall continue to be accessible by motorized and nonmotorized means.

Policy 6.1.1

For all public recreational facilities the City will provide vehicular access adjacent to public right-of-way and sidewalks for all pedestrians.

Policy 6.1.2

All public recreational facilities will be accessible to the handicapped in accordance with federal and state standards such as parking, ramps, railings, bathrooms, etc.

OBJECTIVE 6.2

Cooper City shall establish an extensive system of public and private open space areas including natural reservations, parks, beaches, scenic vistas, and waterways compatible with the tropical and resort character of Broward County. (BCO 5.04.00)

Policy 6.2.1

Cooper City shall continue its policy to encourage future developments to be zoned PRD/PUD in order to assure the provision that open space is provided over and above the park requirements.

Policy 6.2.2

Cooper City shall pursue grants allocation of capital improvement funds and require land dedications to ensure the provision of and access to open space areas consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan and the Broward County Land Use Plan. (BCP 5.04.01)

OBJECTIVE 6.3

To establish community parks necessary to meet adopted minimum level of service standards and to provide Cooper City's present and future population with a diversified and balanced parks and recreation system as growth occurs. (BCD 5.02.00)

Policy 6.3.1

Cooper City shall require as a standard for recreation six (6) acres per 1,000 population.

Policy 6.3.2

Cooper City shall provide for a minimum of six (6) acres of community level parks for every 1,000 existing and projected permanent residents. The acreage that may be used to meet this requirement is listed in the "Community and Regional Parks" subsection of the Plan Implementation Requirements section of the Broward County Land Use Plan.(BCP 5.02.01)

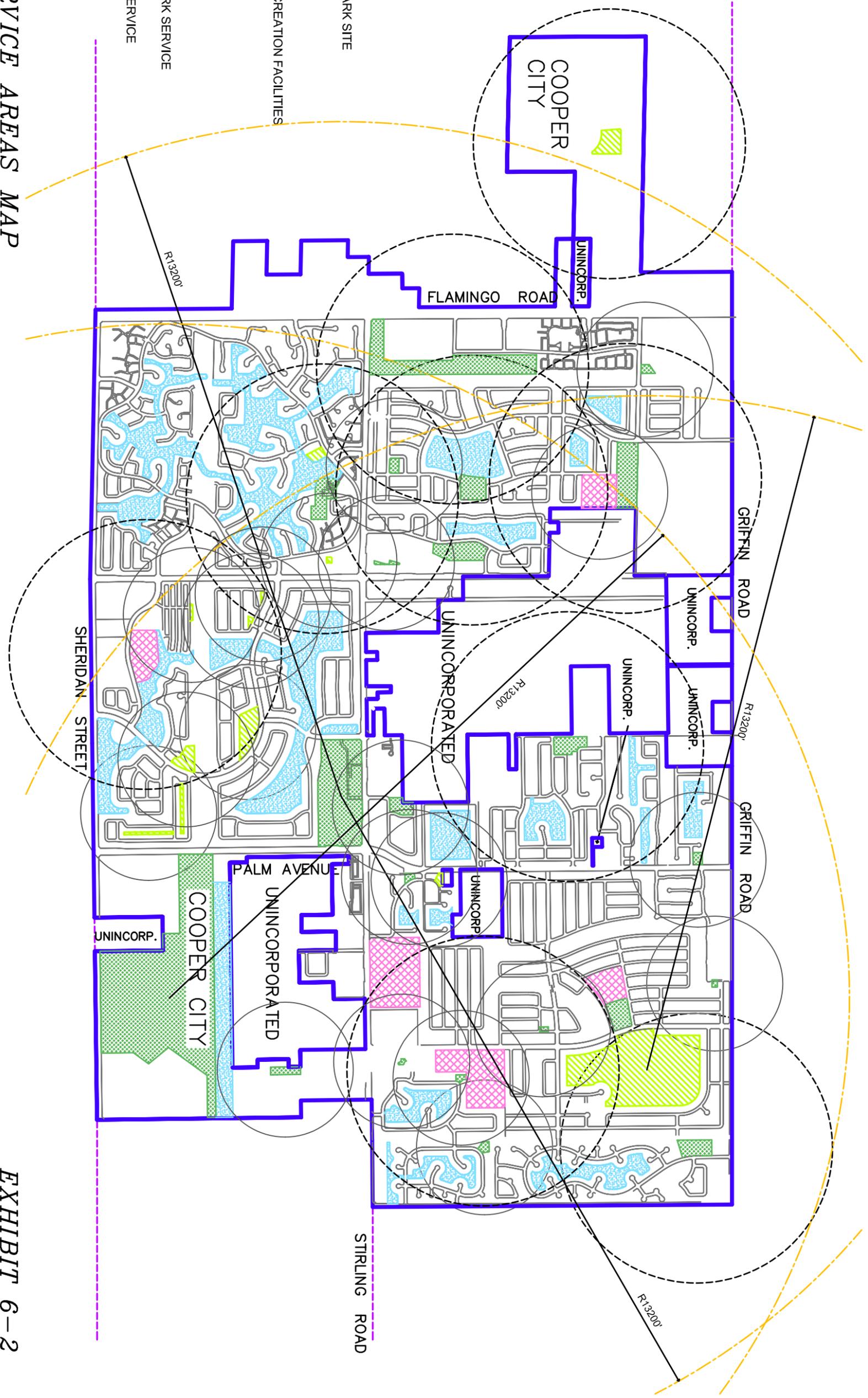
Policy 6.3.3

Cooper City shall continue to require residential developments to dedicate six (6) acres of land per 1,000 populations for community level parks and recreation facilities in order to meet or exceed the minimum parks and open space standards contained within the Broward County Land Use Plan and the Cooper City Comprehensive Plan. (BCP 5.02.03)

Policy 6.3.4

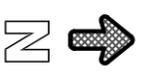
Cooper City shall continue to protect and provide access to existing and designated parks and open space through deed restriction and city ownership or zoning, to ensure such lands are protected from future development. (BCP 5.02.03)

- LEGEND**
-  EXISTING LEASED PARK SITE
 -  EXISTING PARK
 -  SCHOOL BOARD RECREATION FACILITIES
 -  WATER
 -  MINI PARK SERVICE RADIUS .25 MILE
 -  NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SERVICE RADIUS .50 MILE
 -  COMMUNITY PARK SERVICE RADIUS 2.5 MILE



PARK SERVICE AREAS MAP

**COOPER CITY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT**



SCALE: 1" = 2000'
DATE: AUGUST 1, 2002

EXHIBIT 6-2

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