

Service Standard for Parks

The city of Gainesville, Florida uses a Level of Service (LOS) standard for providing recreation facilities. Rather than adhering to strict requirements for providing a fixed number of acres per population, the LOS standards provide flexibility by focusing on the facility needs of the area being served. The standards reflect the instance of use for activity areas and the facilities necessary to satisfy the actual demand. Using this type of standard results in parks and facilities that are designed and developed based on local needs and demands. As a result park acreage and the types of recreation facilities will vary from community-to-community. The following tables compare revised (Current LOS) and previous standards used by the City of Gainesville.

FACILITY	200 LOS STANDARD	CURRENT LOS
Basketball Court	1 per 4,500	1 per 4,507
Play area- Equipped	1 per 10,000	1 per 3,900
Racquetball Court	1 per 12,000	1 per 7,243
Soccer Field	1 per 11,000	1 per 7,800
Softball Field (adult)	1 per 14,000	1 per 8,450
Swimming Pool (25 YD)	1 per 75,000	1 per 33,802
Swimming Pool (50M)	1 per 85,000	1 per 50,702
Tennis Court	1 per 6,000	1 per 4,609
Trail/Greenway/Linear Corridor	1 mi. per 4,500	1 mi. per 3,900

PARK	2000 STANDARD	CURRENT LOS
Community Park	2.00 ac	2.72 ac
Local Nature/Conservation	6.00 ac	17.02 ac
Neighborhood Park	.80 ac	1.51 ac
Sports Complex	.50 ac	1.01 ac

To determine the LOS of a community would require the following generalized steps:

- Community demand for specific facilities is evaluated;
- Acreage and facilities needed to meet the demand are identified;
- Acreage for un-programmed recreation activities for the specific park classification (neighborhood or community) are identified; and
- Acreage required to meet community demand is combined with the un-programmed acreage to determine the minimum park acreage needed to meet community demand.