

**CITY OF MACCLENNY  
2025 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

**RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE  
ELEMENT**

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**Section F**

**May 2010 Transmittal Draft**

Prepared by



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**GOALS, OBJECTIVES  
AND POLICIES**

GOAL 6	<b>PROVIDE SUFFICIENT PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF MACCLENNY'S RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.</b>														
Objective 6.01	<b>Maintain its existing recreational facilities and provide adequate facilities and parks for its future population <del>as recommended in the Recreation and Open Space Element.</del></b>														
Policies	<p>6.01.01 Continue to provide funding on an annual basis for the maintenance of existing recreational facilities and budget for future parks recreation and open space in accordance with the Capital Improvements Element.</p> <p>6.01.02 <del>The City shall maintain the following Level of Service standards for recreation; in the following table shall be adopted and included in the Land Development Regulations.</del></p> <table border="0" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Recreational Facility</u></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Level of Service Standards</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Baseball / Softball Diamonds</td> <td>1 per 4,000 <del>3,500</del> persons</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Football Field</td> <td>1 per 20,000 persons</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Basketball Courts</td> <td><del>2</del> 1 per 4,000 <del>5,000</del> persons</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Golf Course</td> <td>1 per 20,000 persons</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Community Parks</u></td> <td><u>1 per 5,000 persons</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Tennis Courts</u></td> <td><u>1 per 5,500 persons</u></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>6.01.03 <del>The City shall require that all new non-residential land uses, except in the Central business District, provide a minimum of 10% of the site in open space. In addition, multi-family developments of one hundred (100) units or more must provide 150 square feet of recreation/open space per dwelling unit.</del></p>	<u>Recreational Facility</u>	<u>Level of Service Standards</u>	Baseball / Softball Diamonds	1 per 4,000 <del>3,500</del> persons	Football Field	1 per 20,000 persons	Basketball Courts	<del>2</del> 1 per 4,000 <del>5,000</del> persons	Golf Course	1 per 20,000 persons	<u>Community Parks</u>	<u>1 per 5,000 persons</u>	<u>Tennis Courts</u>	<u>1 per 5,500 persons</u>
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<u>Tennis Courts</u>	<u>1 per 5,500 persons</u>														
Objective 6.02	<b><del>Provide a new neighborhood park by 1993 and a community park by 1998. The City shall increase its pedestrian path and trail systems and develop strategies to ensure that these systems are included in new park development.</del></b>														
Policies	<p>6.02.01 <del>Prepare master plan by 1991 for a park on a portion of the 24 acres of city property along Eighth Street. Nature walks, greenways and trails or multi-purpose pedestrian paths shall be included in each new park at least ten (10) acres in size acquired or developed by the City.</del></p> <p>6.02.02 <del>Reserve and equip 4 to 6 acres of the 24-acre parcel of city property along Eighth Street and Ohio Avenue by 1993. The City shall consider using properties acquired in the implementation of the Master Stormwater Management Plan for recreational purposes when such properties meet the criteria and standards for recreational uses.</del></p> <p>6.02.03 <del>Purchase and develop 4 acres of land in the northeast section of the City for a second neighborhood park by the year 2000.</del></p>														
Objective 6.03	<b>The City shall enter into an agreement with Baker County by 1993 to provide administration, maintenance and facilities to implement the recreation elements of the City and County Comprehensive Plans.</b>														
Policy	6.03.01 The City and County shall develop incentives for private sources to provide recreation facilities and/or parks when public funds are inadequate.														

<b>Objective 6.04</b>	<b>The City shall maintain adequate open space for its residents.</b>	
Policies	6.04.01	Ensure the conservation of open space provided by wetlands, wildlife habitats and native vegetative communities by requiring all future development to have obtained all necessary permits from relevant state, federal and regional agencies.
	6.04.02	Preserve open space in its 24-acre community park. Such open space shall allow for walking and nature trails but no structures or active recreation will be allowed.
	6.04.03	Open space shall be identified as undeveloped lands suitable for passive recreation or conservation areas.
	6.04.04	The areas designated as Conservation on the Future Land Use Map shall be maintained as natural open space areas in the City.
	6.04.05	The City shall assist in the identification, acquisition and protection of open space as outlined in Objective 5.05 and its implementing policies of the Conservation Element.
	6.04.06	The City will coordinate with Baker County in preserving areas of continuous and contiguous vegetative communities to ensure natural open space and wildlife corridors are protected from encroachment.
<b>Objective 6.05</b>	<b>Ensure access to all parks and recreational facilities to accommodate all age groups and the handicapped.</b>	
Policies	6.05.01	Provide shelters, ramps for wheelchairs, handrails, handicapped-equipped restrooms and handicapped parking for all recreation facilities.
	6.05.02	Land Development Regulations shall be adopted by August 1, 1994 to include the provisions for elderly and handicapped access for all recreation facilities.
	6.05.03	<u>All new recreation construction undertaken by the City shall conform to applicable federal guidelines for access by the disabled, through Land Development Regulations adopted and implemented consistent with Sec. 163.3202(1), F.S.</u>

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**DATA  
AND ANALYSIS**

The *Recreation and Open Space Element* provides a process for determining the recreation and open space needs of the community based on analysis of existing recreational facilities servicing the community and establishing goals, policies and objectives to meet future community demands.

**F.1 Existing Facilities**

The City does not operate outdoor parks and recreation facilities, but does provide some free municipal services to Baker County facilities within the city limits. These services include free water, sewer and refuse collection services, as well as lighting for one of the ball diamonds.

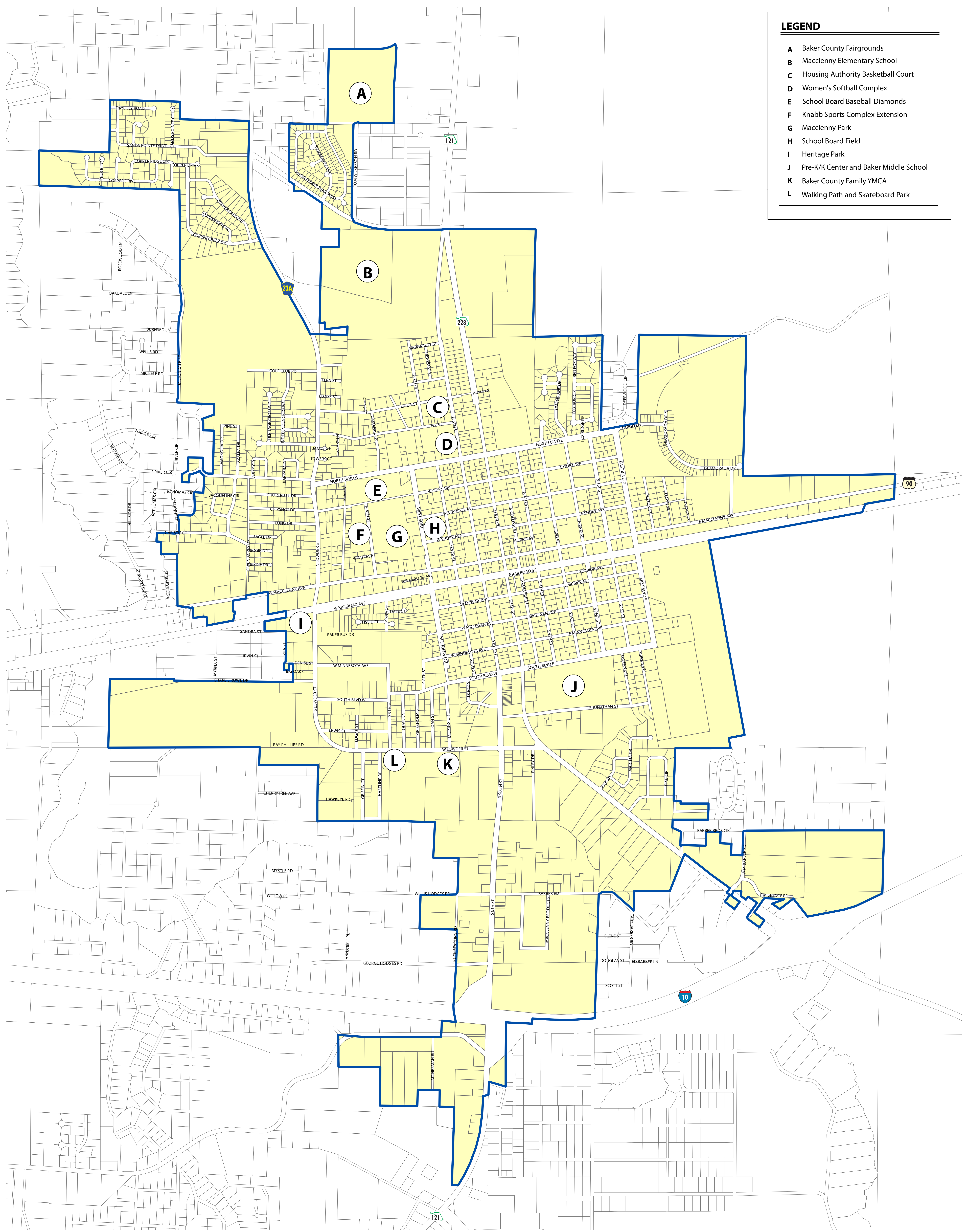
Providing recreational facilities and services must be done within the constraints of a fixed amount of land, and water. These recreational facilities and services offer an unusually wide array of cultural and leisure time activities available to residents of the City. Parks and recreation services transcend the limits of the City. Even though a park or recreation facility may be located inside the City, people who reside outside Macclenny may travel to visit and use the facility. The reverse is also true. Some facilities located outside of the City serve regional areas. There are some recreation facilities which could be duplicated within the City, but until there is adequate evidence that demand would make the facility cost effective for the provider, be it the public or private sector, such facilities will not be provided.

Rule 9J-5.003(83), F.A.C. defines open space as undeveloped lands suitable for passive recreation and conservation uses. There is also open space found in urban settings, such as outdoor plazas and courtyards constructed in conjunction with office buildings and hotels which often have landscaping, artwork and areas for sitting. Areas of open space, particularly urban open space, are frequently used by people as a passive recreation area. Table F.1 below lists the recreation facilities within the City. All of these facilities' locations are illustrated on Illustration F.1 (following page).

<b>Table F.1 Recreational Facilities</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Facilities</b>
Baker County Fairgrounds	44	5567 Lauramore Road	Fairgrounds, Horseback Riding
Macclenny Elementary	0.5	1 Wildkitten Drive	Playground
Heritage Park	4	SW corner of Lowder St. and Railroad St.	Passive Recreation, Historical Fixtures
Pre-K & K Center / Baker Middle	7	211 E. Jonathan Street	Playground, Basketball and Tennis Courts, Track
Baker County Family YMCA	5	98 W. Lowder Street	Swimming Pool, Health & Fitness, Camping
Health Department	0.75	480 W. Lowder Street	Walking Path and Skateboard Park
School Board Baseball	10	490 W. North Boulevard	Baseball Diamonds
School Board Field	4	NE corner of Shuey Ave. and West Blvd.	Multi-purpose field (football, soccer)
Women's Softball Complex	5	NE corner of North Blvd and 6 <sup>th</sup> Street	Softball Diamonds
Macclenny Park	17	160 N. West Blvd	Passive Recreation, Lake, Ballfield
Knabb Sports Complex Ext.	6.5	SW corner of W. Ohio Ave. and N. 8 <sup>th</sup> St.	Baseball Diamonds, Playground
Macclenny Housing Authority	0.25	S side of Linda St. between 7 <sup>th</sup> St. and 6 <sup>th</sup> St.	Basketball Court
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>104</b>		

**LEGEND**

- A** Baker County Fairgrounds
- B** Macclenny Elementary School
- C** Housing Authority Basketball Court
- D** Women's Softball Complex
- E** School Board Baseball Diamonds
- F** Knabb Sports Complex Extension
- G** Macclenny Park
- H** School Board Field
- I** Heritage Park
- J** Pre-K/K Center and Baker Middle School
- K** Baker County Family YMCA
- L** Walking Path and Skateboard Park



0 600 1,200  
Feet

April 13, 2010



**Illustration F.1 Recreation Facilities Map**



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In northwest Macclenny, there are five baseball diamonds (one of which is also designed for softball). Three of the baseball diamonds are County-owned and two are City-owned. The County school system’s football stadium is located on West Boulevard and Shuey Avenue. During the 2010 planning period the City’s only golf course was closed and is being developed as a single-family residential community known as Barber Plantation.

The County recreational programs include Little League baseball and adult basketball, softball and flag football. Some additional facilities and programs are available through the Baker County School District such as tennis and basketball courts, softball fields, playground equipment and a track. Although these facilities can be considered recreational resources for the population, they are primarily intended to serve the requirements of the school system.

Macclenny Park has frontage on North Boulevard just opposite the football stadium. Except for baseball fields on each side of Eighth Street at Ohio Avenue, the property has not been improved. A one-acre pond is located at the southern end of the property and a major drainage canal cuts through the northeast section.

The rural character of Baker County surrounding Macclenny provides an abundance of natural open space for hunting, fishing and all outdoor activities. Baker County is home to the John M. Bethea State Forest and portions of the Osceola National Forest and the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge Area. While not within the city limits, these regional resources nevertheless provide additional recreational opportunities for the residents of Macclenny. These wonderful resources provide the public with areas for hunting, hiking, riding ATV, fishing, boating, camping, swimming, horseback riding, picnicking, as well as for leisurely passive recreation opportunities.

**F.2 Level of Service**

The City has an abundance of activity-based recreational facilities for a population of just under 6,000. Activity-based sites and facilities are those that provide opportunities for particular activities including softball, baseball, football, golf, etc., while resource-based open space which provides opportunities for walking nature trails, camping, picnicking, fishing and hunting, etc. As the City’s population is expected to increase during the planning period, the recreation levels-of-service (LOS) have been revised for the 2025 planning period. As depicted in Table F.2 below, the City has updated their LOS from being based on Urban Land Institute standards (found in the 2010 Plan) to levels resembling those adopted by Baker County in their Recreation Master Plan.

<b>Table F.2 Recreational Levels-of-Service</b>		
<b>Facility</b>	<b>2010 Comprehensive Plan</b>	<b>2025 Comprehensive Plan</b>
Baseball / Softball Diamonds	1 per 1,000 persons	1 per 3,500 persons
Football Field	1 per 20,000 persons	1 per 20,000 persons
Basketball Courts	1 per 2,000 persons	1 per 5,000 persons
Golf Course	1 per 20,000 persons	1 per 25,000 persons
Community Parks	Not Listed	1 per 5,000 persons
Tennis Courts	Not Listed	1 per 5,500 persons

### **F.3 Demand and Need**

A neighborhood park is defined as a “walk to” park generally located along streets where people can walk or bike to without encountering heavy traffic. It serves the population of a neighborhood in a radius of up to one-half mile and should have at least two acres per 1,000 population. Its size ranges from five to ten acres and it serves a population of up to 5,000.

The northeast section of the City does not have a park within reasonable walking distance for a significant portion of its residents. The City should seek opportunities to acquire and/or equip a neighborhood park in the northeast section of the City.

The northwest portion of the City has the five baseball diamonds, and the potential of a 24-acre community/neighborhood park to serve these residents.

The southwest section of the City has Heritage Park, the playground of the middle school, and the YMCA to serve some of the neighborhood park needs.

The City does not have a recreation department, however, it should work closely with the Baker County Recreation Department in determining needs and optimal locations for new or improved recreation activities and facilities.