

lists development standards associated with these facilities, including requirements for setbacks, minimum buffers, lighting, and minimum land area required (two acres).

- Public lands earmarked for parks among residential development (subdivisions) are identified in the Comprehensive Plan, and are dedicated or reserved by the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners.
- Conservation Subdivisions have been established to provide for flexibility of design in order to promote environmentally sensitive and efficient uses of the land. A primary purpose of their creation is to help preserve open space in environmentally sensitive areas, provide for open space connectivity, and provide for wildlife habitat and corridors within the region and preserve unique or sensitive natural and/or historic resources. These subdivisions are applied to land in the E-A and R-A zoning districts. At least 75% of open space in these areas must be contiguous, and it should adjoin any neighboring areas of protected open space, other protected areas, and non-protected natural areas that would be candidates for inclusion as part of a future area of protected open space. Open space shall be directly accessible to the majority of lots within the subdivision. Non-adjoining lots shall be provided with safe, convenient access to the open space. Primary conservation areas required to be included within the open space are the 100-year floodplain; watershed protection areas; groundwater protection areas; river corridor protection areas; wetlands; populations of/habitat for endangered or threatened species; and archaeological sites, cemeteries, and burial grounds. Permitted uses of open space include conservation areas, unpaved walking or bicycle trails, passive recreation areas, or active recreation, with some limitations. Golf courses are not a permitted use of open space.

3. Valdosta-Lowndes County Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan (2013)

The previous Parks and Recreation Master Plan, prepared for the VLRPA by Lose & Associates, Inc., serves as both a strategic plan and an action plan, providing the community with guidelines for future program planning efforts and capital improvement projects from 2012-2021. Below are major findings from the study.

Public Input

Public input was sought via interviews, workshops, and surveys. Recurring themes from the public were:

- Need for more communication about VLPRPA programs and activities;
- Desire for parks closer to residents;
- Desire for passive recreation areas such as, greenways, sidewalks and bike lanes;
- Need to build more facilities that generate revenue and find ways to increase revenue; continue and add events for families such as the fireworks on 4th of July;
- Demand for indoor and outdoor aquatics;
- Need for more adult sports and communication about these opportunities; and
- Improve facilities and maximize the programs and activities.

Operations & Staffing

- Create new organizational structure with a Director, Assistant Director and three divisions;
- Develop in-house Human Resource staff positions;
- Locate superintendents at main administrative offices;