

- **Diversity and Distribution:** A good park mix was found (e.g. mini, neighborhood, community parks, etc.). The majority of parks were located in the City of Valdosta with a few larger community parks found in the outlying areas of the county and around the perimeter of Valdosta. Higher density neighborhoods of Valdosta were therefore very well served by parks, whereas residents living in outlying, lower density areas of the county were not. The only developed greenway was located in Valdosta, although several other parks offer walking trails.
- **Level of Service Analysis:** The planning team developed a set of community-based standards unique to VLPRA based on community input, local factors, and their experience in the parks and recreation industry, as shown in **Figure 1.2**.
- **Facility Surplus/Deficit:** In total, when counting park facilities offered by the state, incorporated cities, school system, and VLPRA, there were approximately 879 acres of parkland in the system. Using the Community-Based Desired LOS standards, there were projected deficits “in park acreage, and nearly every recreation facility” category by the year 2020 (see **Figure 1.4**).

**FIGURE 1.4 - 2013 PARKS + RECREATION MASTER PLAN SUGGESTED LOS & FORECASTED FACILITY DEFICIT/SURPLUS**

	Community-Based Desired LOS	2020 Facility Deficit/Surplus Using Desired LOS
Acreage	10.5/1,000	-814
Outdoor Basketball	1/10,000	-8
Tennis	1/4,000	-14
Volleyball (outdoor)	1/10,000	-12
Baseball/Softball	1/4,000	-20
Football	1/10,000	-11
Soccer/Multi-Use	1/4,000	-21
Swimming Pool/Aquatics	1/20,000	-5
Running Track	1/20,000	-6
Trail System	1 mile/3,000	-38
Playground	1/5,000	5
Community Center	1/50,000	2
Picnic Pavilion	1/5,000	5
Dog Park	1/50,000	-1
Community Garden	1/30,000	-4
Skate Park	1/100,000	0

Overall, the plan noted a need for:

- Shifting focus to building new, large park facilities, in addition to continued updating of existing parks;
- Purchase of additional parkland for new facilities and to repurpose some of the existing parks; and
- Unstructured green space and open space in parks for individual or informal use.

Proposed parks and their locations are mapped in Figure 6.6 of the document, and proposed greenways and blueways in Figure 6.7. Suggested design standards for new/improved facilities and signage are also provided.

Recommendations are provided for priority projects at the end of Chapter 6, and probable costs for implementation and a spending plan are provided in Chapter 7. Phasing and Funding Options are provided in Chapter 8.