

2024-410B

City of
Gainesville

LD24-000051

Outdoor Lighting Requirements in Nature Parks
Land Development Code Text Amendment

Department of Sustainable Development
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05/23/2024



Proposed Text Amendment Land Development Code:

- Sec. 30-6.12 – Outdoor Lighting
- City-initiated

Summary of Request:

- Amend LDC Sec. 30-6.12(E) – Specific Illumination Requirements
- Add new subsection 30-6.12(E)(3) – City parks
- Exempt city nature parks, centers and conservation areas from minimum and average horizontal illuminances within 30-6.12(E)

Land Development Code - Proposed Amendment

30-6.12(E) Specific Illumination Requirements

3. City parks. Within park facilities listed under Section 18-18, the following shall apply:
 - a) Nature parks, centers and conservation areas listed in Sec. 18-18(b) shall be exempted from minimum horizontal illuminance and average horizontal illuminance requirements specified within subsection 30-6.12(E).
 - b) Nature parks, centers and conservation areas shall comply with applicable requirements of this subsection specifying average uniformity ratios and maximum uniformity ratios.
 - c) The City Manager or designee may determine, upon review of development plans for facilities listed under Section 18-18(a) or 18-18(c), that proposed outdoor lighting meets the general requirements of 30-6.12(D), and may apply the exemptions of this subsection to those facilities.

Affected Park Facilities Sec 18-18(b)

(b) *Nature parks, centers and conservation areas:*

- (1) 29th Road Nature Park.
- (2) Alfred A. Ring Park.
- (3) Bivens Arm Nature Park.
- (4) Boulware Springs Nature Park.
- (5) Broken Arrow Bluff Nature Park.
- (6) Clear Lake Nature Park.
- (7) Cofrin Nature Park.
- (8) Colclough Pond Nature Park.
- (9) Cone Park Conservation Area.
- (10) Duval Park.
- (11) Flatwoods Conservation Area.
- (12) Forest Park Conservation Area.
- (13) Gum Root Park.
- (14) Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park.
- (15) Hull Road Conservation Area.
- (16) John Mahon Nature Park.
- (17) Loblolly Woods Nature Park.
- (18) Morningside Nature Center.
- (19) NW 34th Street Conservation Area.
- (20) Palm Point Nature Park.
- (21) Pinkoson Property.
- (22) San Felasco Park.
- (23) Split Rock Conservation Area.
- (24) Springtree Park.
- (25) Sweetwater Wetlands Park.
- (26) Sugarfoot Prairie Conservation Area.
- (27) Terwilliger Pond Conservation Area.

Affected Park Facilities Sec 18-18(a), 18-18(c)

(a) *Active/recreational etc.:*

- (1) Albert "Ray" Massey Park.
- (2) A.N.N.E. Park.
- (3) Barbara Higgins Park.
- (4) Cedar Grove Park.
- (5) C.F. Franklin Memorial Park.
- (6) Citizen's Park/Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Complex.
- (7) Clarence R. Kelly Community Center and Park.
- (8) Cora P. Roberson Park.
- (9) Depot Park.
- (10) Dolliree Bowens Tot Lot.
- (11) Forest Park.
- (12) Fred Cone Park/Eastside Recreation Center.
- (13) Green Acres Park.
- (14) Greentree Park.
- (15) Haisley Lynch Park.
- (16) Hibiscus Park.
- (17) Hidden Gem Park.
- (18) Carolyn Beatrice Parker Park.
- (19) Kiwanis Challenge Park.
- (20) Lincoln Park.
- (21) Mother Lucille Perkins Tot Lot.
- (22) Northside Park.
- (23) Oak Hill Park.
- (24) Oakview Park.
- (25) Phoenix Neighborhood Playground.
- (26) Pine Ridge Tot Lot.
- (27) Pleasant Park.
- (28) Porters Community Center.
- (29) Possum Creek Park.
- (30) Reserve Park.
- (31) Roper Park.
- (32) Rosa B. Williams Center.
- (33) SE 8th and 9th Tot Lot.
- (34) Seminary Tot Lot.
- (35) Smokey Bear Park.
- (36) Springhill Park.
- (37) SR 26A Park.
- (38) Sweetwater Branch Park.
- (39) T.B. McPherson Recreation Complex.
- (40) Tom Petty Park.
- (41) Tot Lot No. 4 (500 block of NW 6th Avenue).
- (42) Unity Park.

Affected Park Facilities Sec 18-18(a), 18-18(c)

(c) *Other:*

- (1) 121 Property.
- (2) A. Quinn Jones Museum & Cultural Center.
- (3) Bo Diddley Community Plaza.
- (4) Boulware Springs Historic Water Works.
- (5) City Hall Plaza.
- (6) City of Gainesville/Alachua County Senior Recreation Center.
- (7) Evergreen Cemetery.
- (8) Old Post Office Building and Federal Courthouse (The Hippodrome).
- (9) Ironwood Golf Course.
- (10) Loblolly Environmental Facility.
- (11) SW 5th Avenue Basin.
- (12) Tench Building.
- (13) Thelma A. Boltin Center.
- (14) Thomas Center and Grounds and Gardens.
- (15) Wilhelmina Johnson Center and Sharmie Ffar Complex.
- (16) Woodlawn Park.

Outdoor Lighting Code Sec. 30-6.12

A. *Purpose.* To provide regulations for outdoor lighting that will:

1. **Protect and promote the public health, safety, and welfare;**
2. Promote safety and security in vehicular use and pedestrian use areas;
3. **Protect adjacent properties, the environment and wildlife and the night sky from adverse lighting impacts such as light pollution, light trespass, glare, excessive lighting, and offensive light sources;**
4. **Promote energy and resource efficient lighting;**
5. Encourage the use of crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) fundamentals in the design of lighting installations; and
6. Promote the safety and security of pedestrians and motorists, especially at intersections, street crossings, and mid-block crossings.

Artificial Lighting at Night (ALAN) Wildlife Impacts

- ❖ Predator/prey dynamics, i.e. bats and amphibians
- ❖ Reproductive behaviors
- ❖ Impacts to biological functions, i.e. salamander tail regeneration
- ❖ Migratory birds, collisions
- ❖ Insect attraction, white LED lighting

PRCA Vision 2020 Master Plan & 2023 Update

- ❖ September 2011 - Public survey, needs assessment
- ❖ Over 20 interviews, focus group meetings and public workshops
- ❖ Top priority identified - improve and upgrade existing parks and facilities
- ❖ PRCA improvements to lighting, pedestrian areas and vehicular use areas

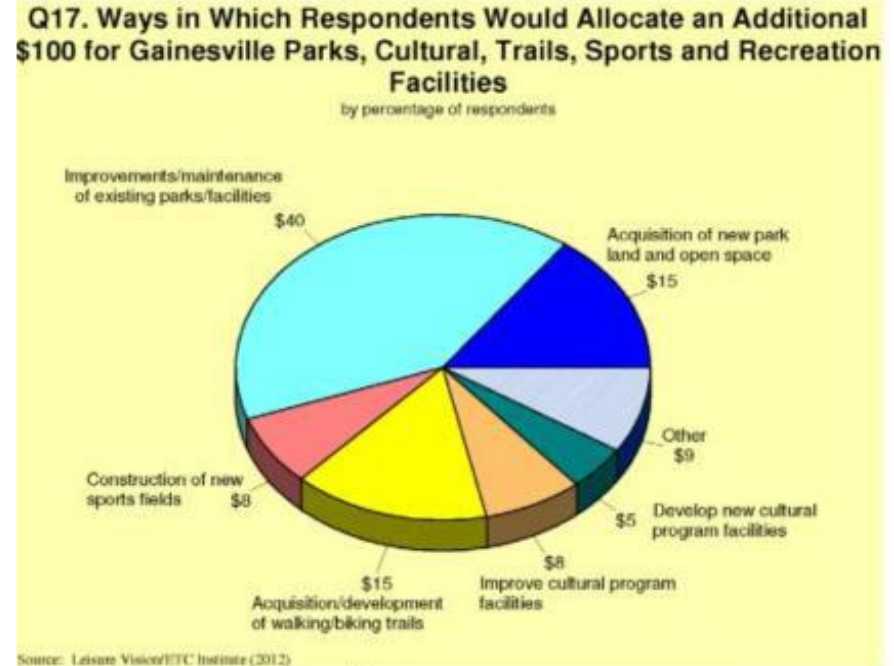
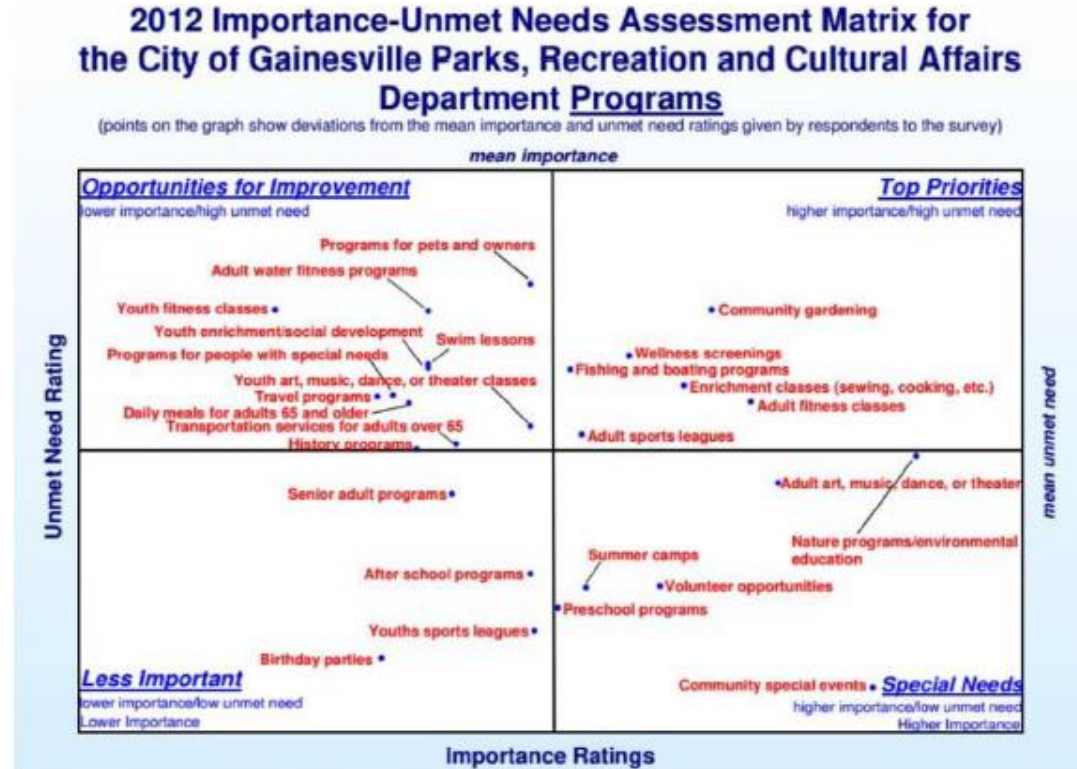


Figure 22: Responses to public opinion survey question # 17

PRCA Vision 2020 Master Plan & 2023 Update

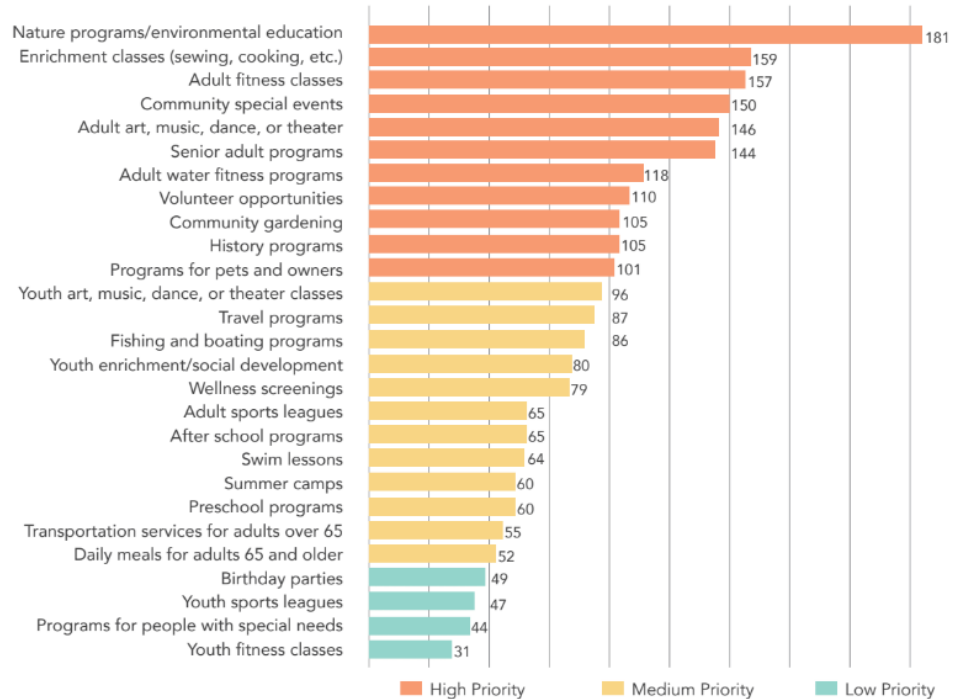
- ❖ Desired park programming improvements identified
- ❖ Need for additional nature programs, environmental education, youth enrichment programs
- ❖ Reduced light pollution provides greater opportunity for dark sky education
- ❖ Example: Sweetwater Wetlands Park Night Walks



PRCA Vision 2020 Master Plan & 2023 Update

- ❖ 2023 Master Plan update affirmed continued support for additional funding toward park improvements and maintenance
- ❖ ETC Institute Priority Investment Rating equally weights importance specified by respondents and number of residents with needs unmet
- ❖ Nature programming and environmental education again a top priority

The chart below shows the Priority Investment Rating for each of the 27 programs assessed.



Comprehensive Plan - Relevant Sections

- ❖ **Conservation, Open Space & Groundwater Recharge Element Objective 2.4:** The City shall amend its land development regulations as necessary to conserve...**listed species of plants and animals**; significant natural communities, and other **significant natural and archaeological resource areas**...
- ❖ **Recreation Element Objective 2.2:** Acquire, design and manage parks to preserve **existing natural features** and their functions as described by the “Environmental Management of Public Parks & Open Spaces” portion of the Conservation, Open Space, and Groundwater Recharge Element.
- ❖ **Recreation Element Objective 3.1:** Develop programs that increase citizen awareness of urban area natural features and parks that obtain citizen input on current and future recreational needs.
- ❖ **Future Land Use Element Goal 3:** Achieve the highest long-term quality of life for all Gainesville residents consistent with sound social, economic, and environmental principles through land development practices **that minimize detrimental impacts** to the land, natural resources, and urban infrastructure.

Comprehensive Plan - Relevant Sections

- ❖ **Future Land Use Element Goal 4:** The future land use element shall foster the unique character of the city by directing growth and redevelopment in a manner that: uses neighborhood centers to provide goods and services to city residents; protects neighborhoods; distributes growth and economic activity throughout the city in keeping with the direction of this element; **preserves quality open space**; and preserves the tree canopy of the city. The future land use element shall promote statewide goals for compact development and efficient use of infrastructure.
- ❖ **Future Land Use Element Objective 4.2:** The City shall implement regulations that will protect low-intensity uses from the negative impacts of high-intensity uses and provide for the **healthy coexistence and integration of various land uses**.

Thank You!

**Staff Recommendation:
APPROVE LD24-000051**