

**Determining the Level of Service and Facility Development
on Open Space Properties
as Part of the Management Planning Process**

Purpose: To determine the level of services regarding facility and infrastructure development on open spaces with the intent to: 1. Effectively respond to and manage public expectations based on the overall property vision and budget; and 2. Improve projections of both development and long-term management costs. Currently adopted management plans include a vision statement that defines the property's overarching management philosophy. In future management plan documents and planning processes, it is proposed that this section will be expanded to clarify level of facility development, infrastructure and services that match the management vision.

Management Planning Process

Step 1: Project Guiding Vision and Values. This step of the Management Planning Process for Open Lands, Parks, and Trails occurs when a property is acquired or management plan is updated (5-10 year basis). At this step, the overarching reasons for acquiring the property are identified and the vision developed that guides how the property will be developed and managed, including level of service and facility development. Criteria proposed to be used to help determine the level of facility and infrastructure development/services may include:

- Legal or required improvements (county regulation, application to historic structures).
- Partnerships (part of the acquisition agreement, a conservation easement, IGA or other agreement).
- Location of the property (proximity to city limits or GMA's, remoteness)
- Existing infrastructure and site capability
- Proximity to other open spaces/natural areas/parks/regional trail facilities
- Projected use levels
- Diversity of experiences and area identity provided for in the Department's portfolio (rustic to developed)

STEP 1. PROJECT GUIDING VISION AND VALUES

Board of County Commissioners

Open Lands Advisory Board

Department Staff

- Develop preliminary vision for area during evaluation and acquisition process.
- Communicate preliminary vision with key adjacent landowners for both the acquisition process and the management planning process.
- Acquire pertinent existing conditions information as part of the project evaluation for the acquisition process.

Suggested Addition:

- Expand evaluation sheet to include information on infrastructure such as (proximity to water, sewer, power, etc.) and projected development costs.
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Question: Does this step (along with the suggested addition) adequately address the level of facility development or does it need to be more specific?

Step 2: Information Needs Identification and Accumulation. This step further tests the validity of the vision with stakeholders (partners, user groups, etc.), subject experts (CNHP, DOW, historian, etc.) and staff input. During this step, stakeholders are asked questions related to the vision, facilities proposed and overall management such as: What are we not accounting for?; What needs are not being met?; What is appropriate?; and, What opportunities exist given the natural, cultural and other resource values on site?

STEP 2. INFORMATION NEEDS IDENTIFICATION AND ACCUMULATION

*Department Staff/Coordinator
Stakeholders*

- Identify pertinent existing conditions information.
- Identify appropriate technical advisory team members (resource experts, user groups, others)
- Accumulate information from advisory team and other sources (field trips, interviews, etc).

Suggested Addition:

- More specifically test questions of level of service and facility and infrastructure development.
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Question: Does this step adequately address refinement of the level of facility and infrastructure development and services with subject expert and stakeholder input?