

Letter of Transmittal

October 25, 2006

Mr. Bill Ward
Parks and Recreation Manager
City of North Port
4970 City Hall Blvd
North Port, FL 34286

Re: Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Dear Bill,

I'm pleased to submit this Summary Report for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Over 300 residents participated in the interviews, workshops and surveys, and I believe that we have an accurate view of the City's top priority recreation needs.

The Summary Report is divided as follows:

Executive Summary describes the key findings of the Report. In the final version, an illustrative poster will be included;

Introduction provides an overview of the North Port community;

Needs and Priorities Assessment Summary describes the techniques used to assess community needs and the study's findings. This section also includes a Level of Service Analysis (LOS), benchmarking, and Service Area analysis;

Future Parks System—The Vision defines park and open space typologies and identifies the opportunities specific to North Port;

Conceptual Parks and Open Space System Map graphically represents the system-wide design based on our findings;

Typical Park Sketches illustrate samples of what park types may look like;

Conceptual Opinion of Probably Costs and Implementation Program outlines estimated total costs and expected City contributions. This section also includes a suggest 5-year Capital Improvements Program.

Appendices includes maps and figures, power point presentations, the telephone survey, and the existing Comprehensive Plan Recreation and Open Space Element.

We have enjoyed working with you on this important assignment, and hope that the results will help guide the expansion and transformation of the City's Parks System. Please let me know if you have any questions, or if we can assist you in any other way.

Sincerely,

Joseph Webb
Project Manager

Joseph Webb

City of Seattle

Department of Parks and Recreation

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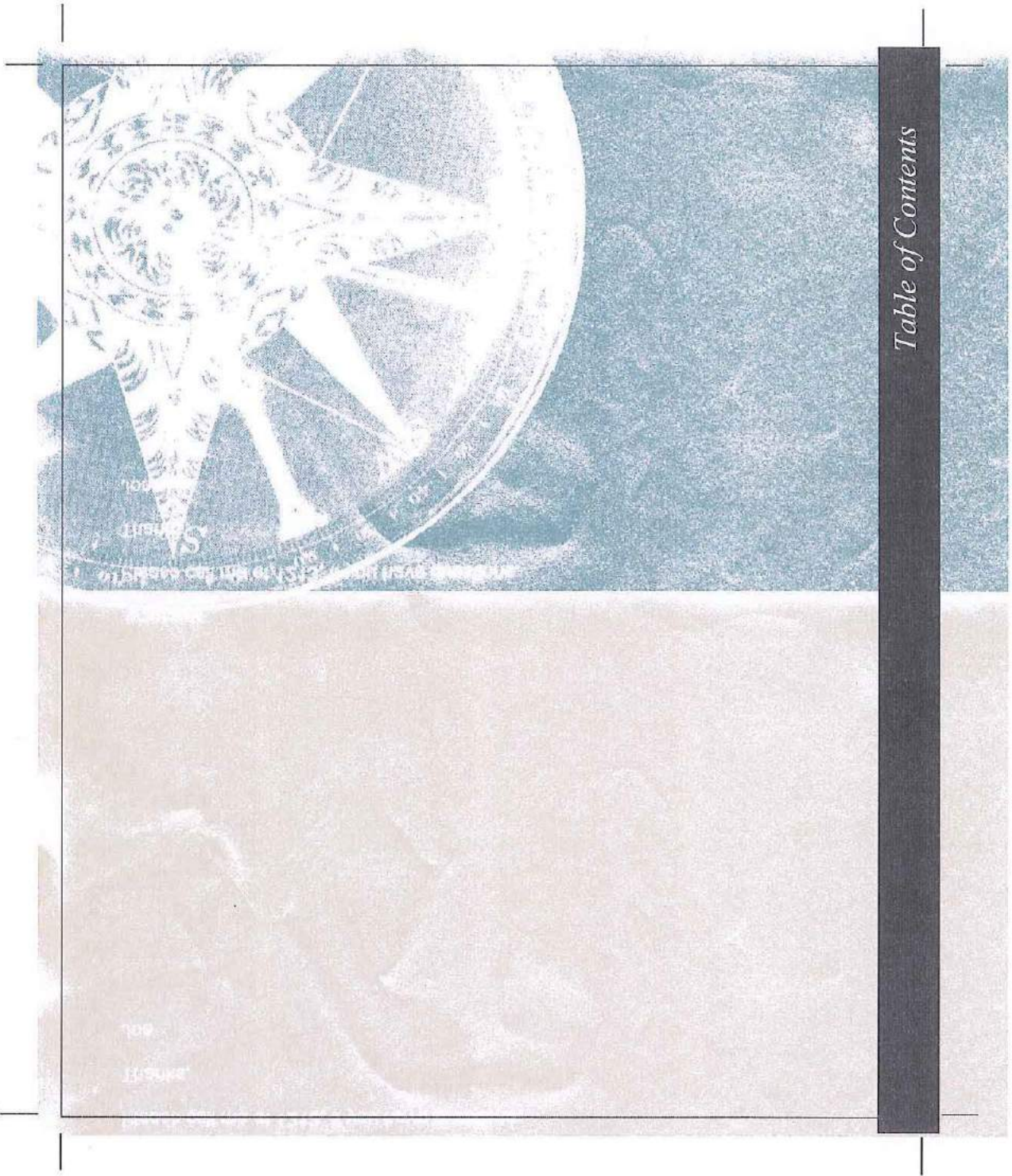


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PARKS AND RECREATION
MASTER PLAN**

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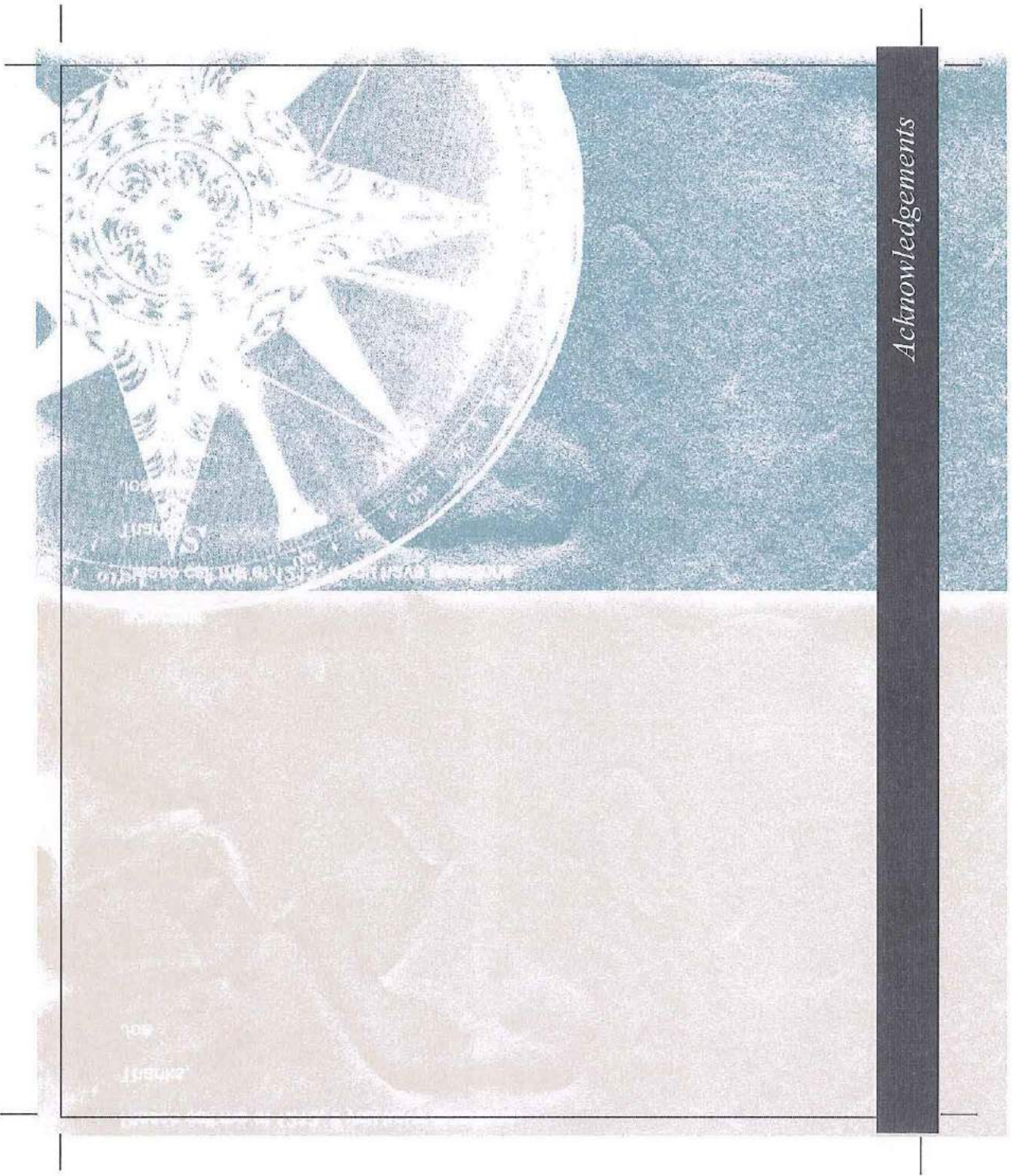
NEEDS ASSESSMENT POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

COMMISSION REVIEW POWER POINT PRESENTATION

TELEPHONE SURVEY

EXISTING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT





Acknowledgements



City Commission

Rue S. Berryman
Barbara L. Gross
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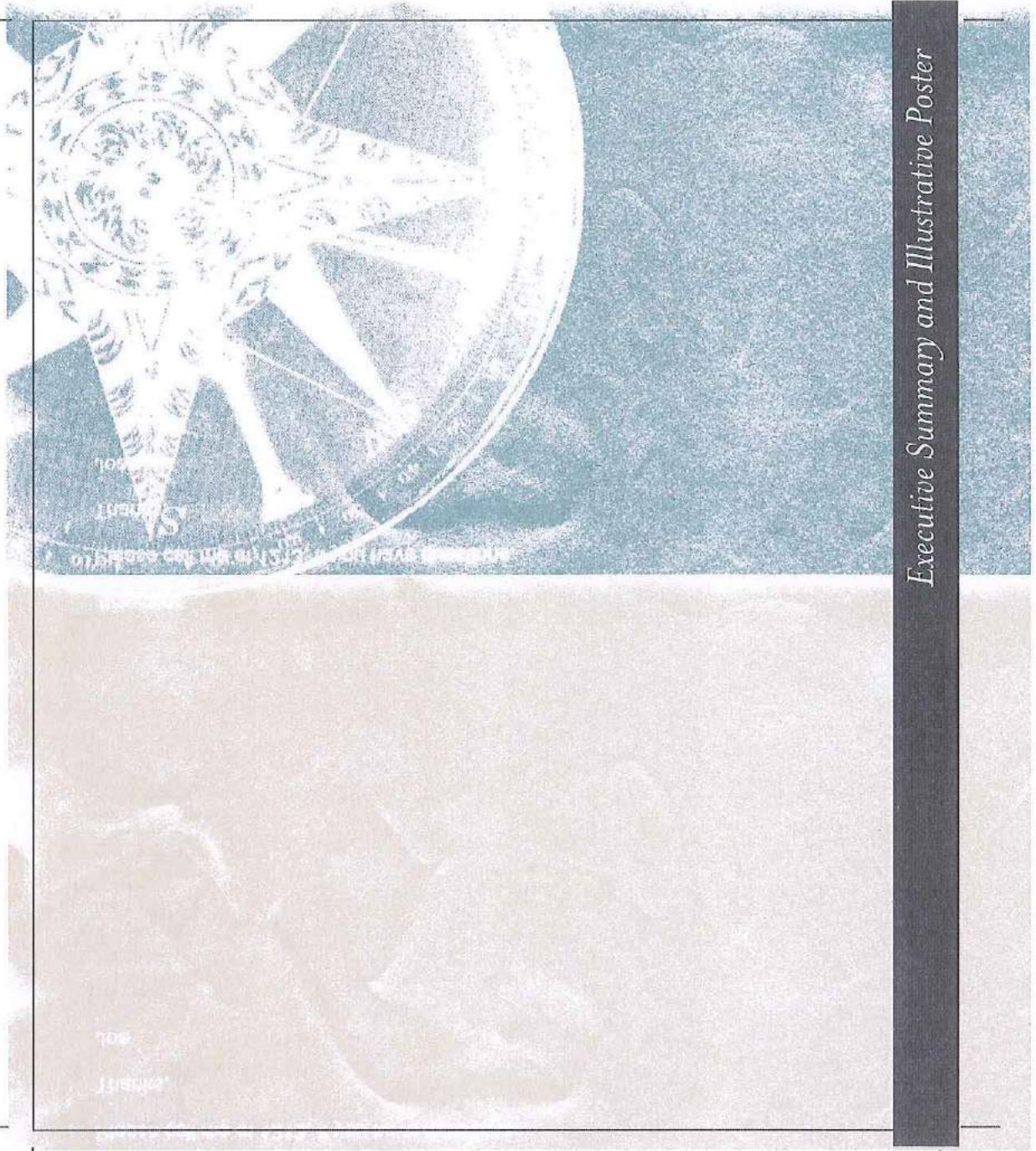
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Bill Ward	Parks & Recreation Manager
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Executive Summary and Illustrative Poster

City of

NORTH PORT

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

November 2006



THE MASTER PLAN PROCESS

The City of North Port is a community in transition. The City—once envisioned and promoted as a retirement haven—is now at the crossroads of becoming a major city with an estimated population in 2025 of almost one hundred thousand people. The City's "Public Realm" (including its system of roads, parks, natural areas, recreation facilities, trails and greenways) was never designed to handle the demands of a 21st century, urban population and is already struggling to meet residents' needs.

The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was to determine the scope of recreational needs in the City, and to develop a master plan for the future as well as to identify a strategy for implementation. Following is a summary of the processes used and recommendations for the future.



GLATTING
JACKSON
KERCHER
ANGLIN
LOPEZ
RINEHART

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NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

The City of North Port Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment incorporated three types of the needs assessment techniques including:

Anecdotal:

- ▣ Site Visits and Existing Conditions Analysis

Qualitative:

- ▣ Interviews with the Mayor and Council
- ▣ Interviews with Senior Staff
- ▣ Focus Group Meetings
- ▣ Benchmarking
- ▣ Public Workshop

Quantitative:

- ▣ Level of Service (LOS) Analysis – Acreage
- ▣ Level of Service (LOS) Analysis – Facilities
- ▣ Benchmarking – Acreage
- ▣ Service Area Analysis
- ▣ Telephone Survey

SUMMARY OF TOP PRIORITY NEEDS

All of the assessment techniques outlined above indicate a need for a wide variety of parks and recreation facilities, as well as expanded programs and improved maintenance.

While the City is lacking in all types of park lands and facilities, the top ten priorities appear to include (in approximate order of priority):

- *Additional Park Land*
- *Youth Athletic Fields and Courts – baseball, football, soccer, basketball, multiple-use*
- *Youth/ Teen Center and Gymnasium*
- *Improved Streets, Bike Paths, Trails and Shaded Sidewalks*
- *Dog Park*
- *Nature/ Environmental Facilities/ Trails*
- *Canoeing or Kayaking Launches or Trails*
- *Playgrounds/ Tot Lots*
- *Swimming Pool/ Aquatics Center*
- *Special Events Area/ Outdoor Amphitheater*

Policy Initiatives:

- Revise the City's Comprehensive Plan to integrate the concept of open space as an integral part of neighborhoods with the following specifications:
 - Service area boundaries consistent with the master plan
 - ½ mile service area
 - Facility standards consistent with the system criteria
 - Aesthetically pleasing and safe.
- Revise the City's Comprehensive Plan to adopt the community park service areas proposed in the master plan with the following specifications:
 - 2-3 mile service area
 - Facility standards consistent with the system criteria
 - Aesthetically pleasing and safe.
- Revise the City's Comprehensive Plan to integrate linear greenways into policy for conservation areas.
- Revise the City's Land Development Regulations to require the development of neighborhood and community parks in new developments in accordance with the master plan.
- Revise the City's roadway design standards to incorporate sidewalks, bike lanes and street trees on major arterial and collector roads
- Institute a formalized joint planning process with the County and School Board for the acquisition and development of parks and open space.

IMPLEMENTATION

Based on the results and findings of the needs assessment and the visioning process an order of magnitude implementation program has been developed. This program is summarized into three categories:

- ▣ Order of Magnitude Opinion of Cost and Funding
- ▣ Proposed Capital Improvements Program
- ▣ Recurring Annual Costs for Operating Facilities

The total cost to develop all of the facilities identified in the Conceptual Master Plan is \$118,000,000. The City's portion of this cost is estimated at approximately \$74,000,000, with other funding sources contributing the remainder. This amount does not include potential partnerships with the County or the School Board. Through shared responsibilities and joint planning the City's obligation could be reduced. A proposed Capital Improvements Program is as follows:

YEAR	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
2007	\$2,000,000	Land Acquisition (<i>Phase 1</i>)
2008	\$2,000,000	Butler Park Renovation & Dog Park Development
2009	\$1,500,000	Teen Center Development
2010	\$1,000,000	Dallas White Park Renovation
2011	\$1,050,000	Greenways and Trails Development (<i>Phase 1</i>)

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The summary of recommendations is categorized in two areas: the physical responses to identified needs and policy initiatives needed to advance the overall quality of the parks, recreation and open space needs of the community.

Physical Responses:

Neighborhood Parks

- Renovate existing neighborhood parks up to a consistent standard
- Develop 17 neighborhood park areas on existing publicly owned land
- Acquire and develop approximately 61 new neighborhood park sites

Community Parks

- Renovate existing community parks up to a consistent standard
- Develop 3 community park areas on existing publicly owned land
- Acquire and develop 7 new community park sites

Regional Park

- Encourage Sarasota County to acquire and develop a regional park in the northeast quadrant of the city.

Special Use Facilities

- Develop a dog park at Highland Ridge Park

Civic Gathering Space

- Develop the North Port Municipal Complex consistent with the area master plan to include space for major civic events and community activities

Bicycle Paths, Trails, Sidewalks and Greenways:

- Develop a City-wide Bikeways, Trails, Sidewalks and Greenways Plan
- Incorporate bike lanes, wide sidewalks and street trees in all street and utility projects



PARKS AND RECREATION VISION

Based on the findings of the Needs Assessment, a visioning session was conducted with staff and the Recreation Advisory Board. The purpose of this step was to identify the potential sizes and locations of identified facility needs and to outline graphical prototypes for future parks development. A draft plan was presented to the City Commission on May 31, 2006. The master plan map and prototype drawings serve as graphical representations of North Port's future vision for parks and open space.



The Master Plan Process

The City of North Port is a community in transition. The City—once envisioned and promoted as a retirement haven—is now at the crossroads of becoming a major city with an estimated population in 2025 of almost one hundred thousand people. The City’s “Public Realm” (including its system of roads, parks, natural areas, recreation facilities, trails and greenways) was never designed to handle the demands of a 21st century, urban population and is already struggling to meet residents’ needs.

The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was to determine the scope of recreational needs in the City, and to develop a master plan for the future as well as to identify a strategy for implementation. Following is a summary of the processes used and recommendations for the future.

Needs Assessment

The City of North Port Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment incorporated three types of the needs assessment techniques including:

Anecdotal:

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Summary of Top Priority Needs

All of the assessment techniques outlined above indicate a need for a wide variety of parks and recreation facilities, as well as expanded programs and improved maintenance. Like many General Development Corporation (GDC) communities, North Port was not designed to become a city, and is lacking many of the facilities and amenities typically associated with a good urban parks system.

While the City is lacking in all types of park lands and facilities, the top ten priorities appear to include (in approximate order of priority):

- *Additional Park Land*
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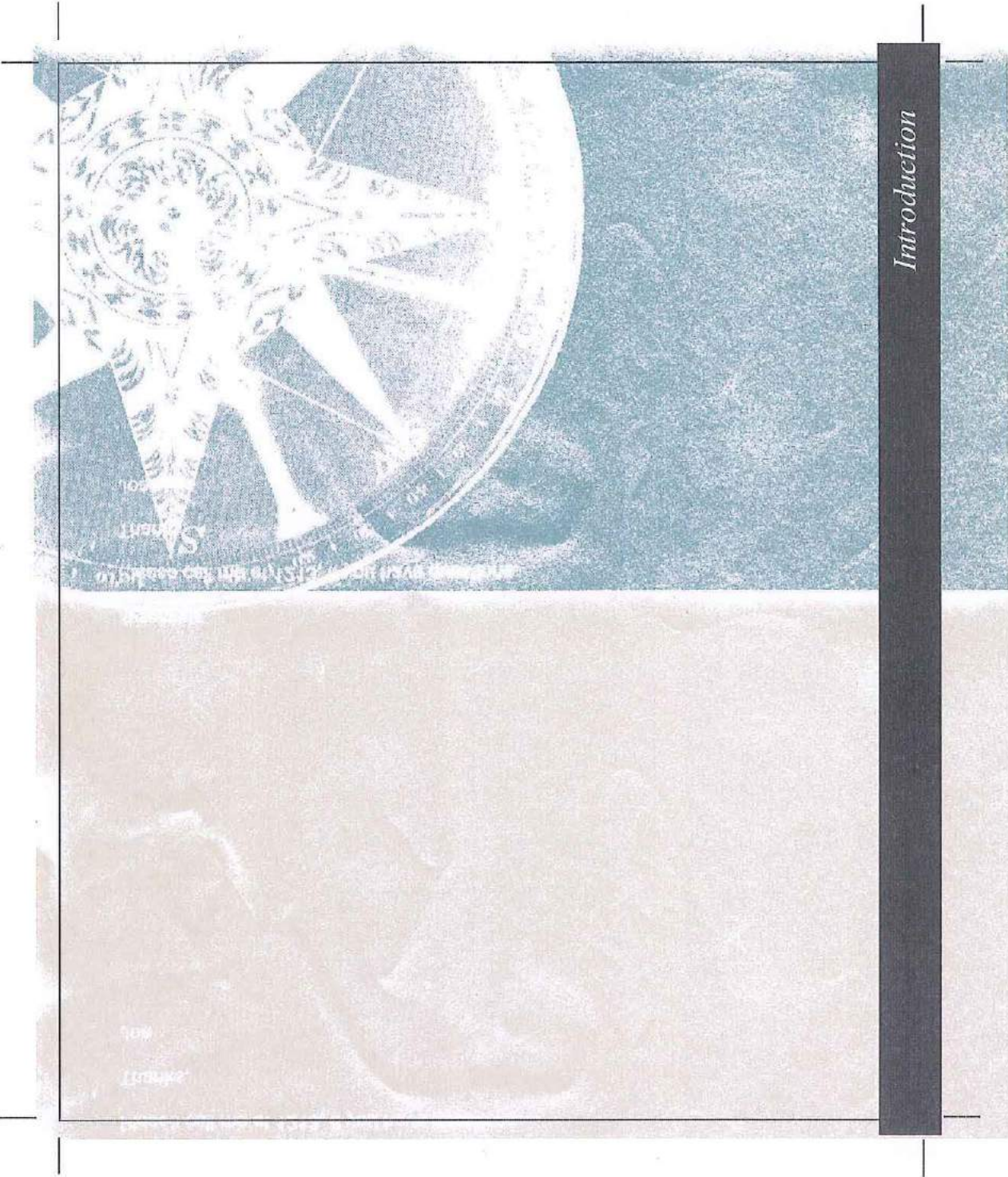
Implementation

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Introduction

Community Overview

The City of North Port is the southern-most city in Sarasota County, and one of the largest cities in the state of Florida in terms of land area. Originally founded in 1959 by the now-defunct General Development Corporation (GDC), the company platted some 80,000 residential lots within the City's original 80+ square miles. To accompany these large tracts of residences, GDC also built an extensive road and storm drainage network. During its first 30 years, the City grew slowly with the gradual influx of retirees from the north. When growth began to gather speed in the late 1980s local voters approved the change from a Mayor/Commission to a Commission/City Manager form of government.

Fueled by low housing costs, the City entered an accelerated period of growth in the early 1990s. Population growth rates have since hovered around 10% annually for several years, and today the City is estimated to have around 42,000 residents. According to the 2005 U.S. Census Bureau population estimates, the City is the fastest-growing among Florida municipalities with populations exceeding 20,000 people. Due to a series of annexations in the late 1990s, the total land area is currently about 104 square miles.

For a city that began life as a blue-collar "bedroom" community nearly 50 years ago, North Port has grown beyond the expectations of its founders. Certainly residential development remains the mainstay of the local economy but the City's population growth has not escaped the notice of the business community, including "big box" chains who are contributing to the City's current commercial building boom. This rapid development must be offset by proactive planning efforts to ensure that the City maintains a high quality of life. One major piece of this puzzle is to invest in parks and open spaces now before it is too late.

Changing Demographics

The City's demographics have changed as it has evolved from an inexpensive place for senior citizens to retire to more of a year-round community suitable for families. The median age has shifted from the high 60s to the low 40s, reflecting this transition. The area is making an effort to satisfy the educational needs of its newer residents and to accommodate additional economic development.

For example, North Port's school-age population is the fastest-growing in the Sarasota County School District. Currently, North Port has one high school, one middle school, and three elementary schools with a fourth to open in 2006. The \$55 million high school was completed in 2001, the first in the County in 45 years. This is only the beginning of a long-term invest in education in the City: Sarasota County School Board plans to construct a new school in North Port approximately every two years for the next decade.

In total, the City of North Port's population has increased by over 120% in the last 25 years, and it continues to be among the fastest growing communities in Florida. Although the current population is estimated at approximately 42,000, some forecasts predict that North Port's population could swell to over 100,000 by 2025. Racial and cultural diversity have been on the increase and the City has an especially large and growing population of citizens of eastern European descent.

Environmental Considerations

There are over 144 miles of waterways in North Port including over 95 miles of freshwater canals and creeks. While the City is not located on the Gulf of Mexico, its climate is influenced by this body of water via The Myakka River connection to Charlotte Harbor. One particularly prominent feature is the Myakkahatchee Creek which stretches nine miles through the City. The City presently has the Myakkahatchee Creek Environmental Park in the northern most portion of the City and is in the process of developing a Master Plan for the entire corridor. If developed, this corridor could serve as the backbone of a City-wide greenways and trails system.

The idyllic landscapes and waterscapes found in the reserves, preserves, and forests to the City's west should easily accessible to City residents. An interconnected parks, open space, greenway, and blueway system should be further developed and marketed as one of North Port's unique and distinguishing features.

Public Open Space and Sustainability

A community's public open space system provides opportunities to build great cities because it touches so many people's lives on a daily basis: the commute to work; a family bicycle ride; Little League practice; art shows; a nature hike; an evening walk; a company picnic; a family reunion; an outdoor concert; lunch at an outdoor café; feeding pigeons in the plaza; people-watching; sitting in the sun; wellness and fitness programs; and many other activities of daily life take place in the Public Realm. For years the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has promoted the benefits of a well-designed system of public spaces, including:

Physical Sustainability

- Environmental health
- Environmental protection and rehabilitation
- Increased property values

Social Sustainability

- Strong communities
- Reduction of alienation, loneliness and anti-social behavior
- Promotion of ethnic and cultural harmony
- Strong families

- Opportunity for community involvement, shared management and ownership of resources
- Foundation for community pride
- Positive, character-building activities

Economic Sustainability

- Preventive health service
- Productive work force
- Increased property values
- Business attraction and retention
- Reduction in cost of vandalism and criminal activity
- Catalyst for tourism (Mertes and Hall, p. 3)

By implementing sound planning principles and safeguarding land for conservation and public use, North Port can implement a parks and recreation master plan that considers more than just good parks. It can promote and create economic, social, communal, environmental, and aesthetic appeal. Well-planned open space can encourage community investment, educate citizens about the environment, contribute to North Port's unique character, and link surrounding buildings and neighborhoods to create a sense of place – a place that citizens will be proud to call “home.” Parks and open space are often the primary organizing elements that shape development, create livability, and preserve property values. By investing in parks and open space, municipalities, such as North Port, can attract private investment and secure the value of existing investment.

Sustainability and Parks in North Port

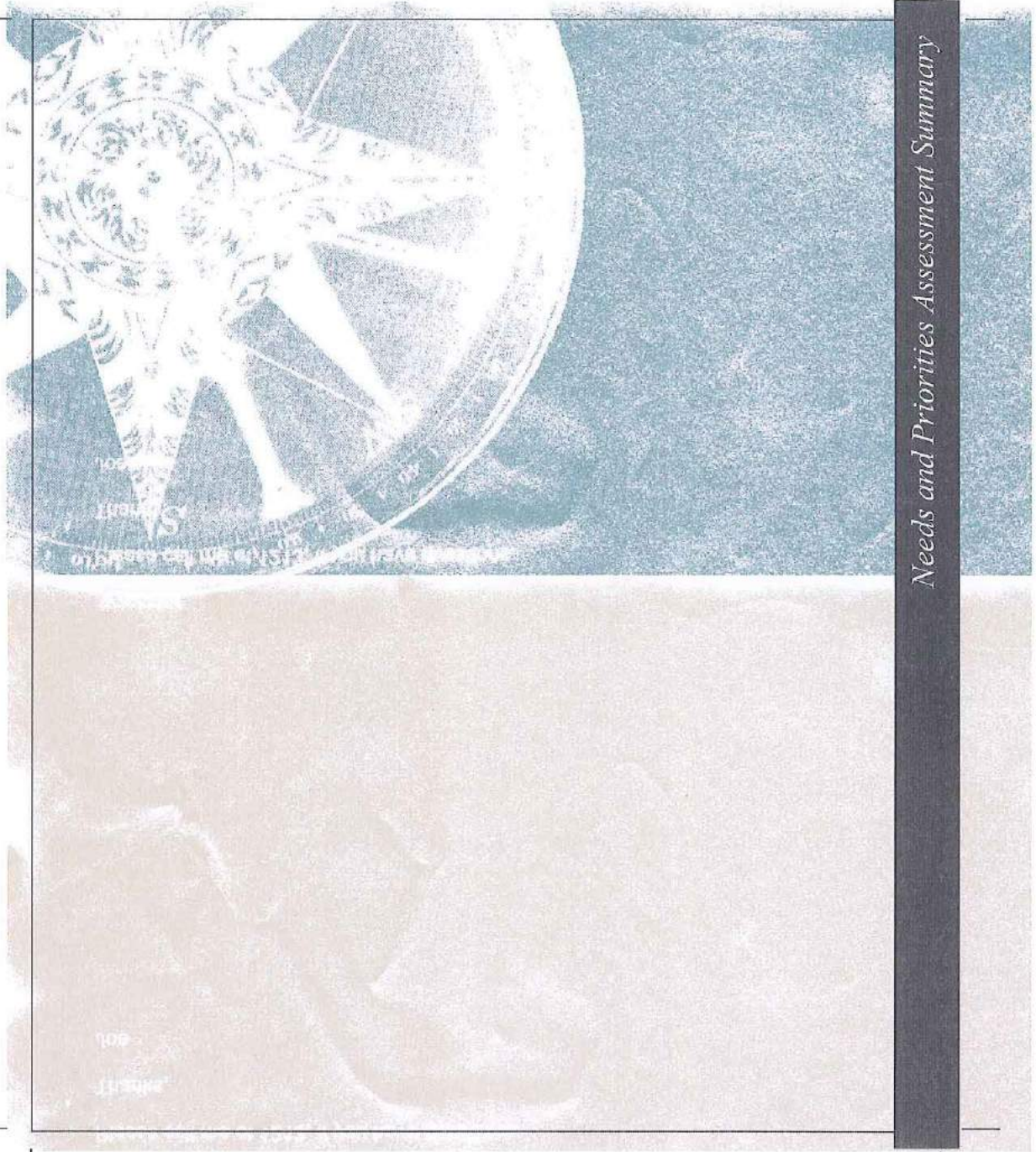
North Port's subdivisions were designed with the automobile in mind more so than the health and safety of residents, particularly children. Many of these subdivisions lack sidewalks and are isolated from other activities and facilities such as schools, libraries, shops, and recreational centers. As result, children become captives of their cul de sacs and cars because neighborhood designs discourage getting around by foot, bicycle, skate board, or roller blades. Leaving the neighborhood puts individuals at risk crossing heavily trafficked intersections, once again designed more for cars than for people. By designing and developing a network of sidewalks, paths, and trails that connect to neighborhood and community parks and neighborhood and community schools, North Port has the opportunity to offer a healthier environment for its existing and future residents.

North Port has an extensive network of streets, drives, and boulevards lined with residences and commercial buildings but there are significant areas within the incorporated city limits that have not been fully built out. These areas are in the northeast and southwest corners of the City. By incorporating neighborhood parks, community parks, trails, and greenways into the master plans for these areas, desirable residential areas can be developed and added to the City's tax base.

Neighborhood and community parks can be situated around existing water features and can be connected by a series of trails. The trails will ensure more pedestrian and bicycle friendly environments. Sound planning principles recommend street and trail connectivity

and make it possible for people to walk or cycle safely and comfortably from housing to businesses, offices, parks, schools, and other destinations. Designing streets to create pedestrian oriented environments requires addressing features such as proper lighting, street widths, signage, maintaining sidewalks, providing protection from the elements, benches, trees, intersections to help reduce the likelihood of traffic accidents and increase the likelihood that people will opt for using their own energy to get them from place to place rather than an automobile. Throughout the focus group sessions, public meetings, and phone interviews, residents expressed a need for more street trees, protection from the elements and a larger variety of parks, open space and special use recreational facilities. By recognizing that public spaces comprise an interconnected system, rather than just an isolated collection of facilities and spaces, communities can create a comprehensive Public Space System framework that delivers many of these benefits to their residents and visitors. The next chapter proposes a new model to serve as a template for such a system.





Needs and Priorities Assessment Summary

Needs Assessment Summary

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Needs Assessments are used to determine community needs or “gaps” between existing and ideal conditions, including parks, recreation facilities, programs, operations and maintenance. There is no standard methodology or single, authoritative source regarding how to properly conduct a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Needs Assessment, and most of the related research has been in the fields of Social Science and Organizational Management. In *Needs Assessment, A Creative and Practical Guide for Social Scientists*, the authors define a Needs Assessment as “a systematic and on-going process of providing useable and useful information about the needs of the target population – to those who can and will use it to make judgments about policies and programs” (Reviere, 1996, p. 6).

Inherent in this definition is the importance of using the results of the Needs Assessment to implement some type of change. Needs Assessments are not ends unto themselves, but are conducted to form the basis for decisions regarding the location and size of needed parks and open spaces; the types of recreation facilities and programs that should be provided; phasing priorities; and funding/implementation strategies. Specifically, planners, urban designers, park designers and other planning professionals most commonly use the findings from a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Needs Assessment to:

- Determine residents’ level of satisfaction with existing facilities, programs and services;
- Determine community needs, priorities and preferences for various types of parks, facilities and/or programs;
- Determine residents’ willingness and/or preferences to fund needed improvements, facilities and/or programs.

Elected officials also use Needs Assessments to get a sense of voter concerns, needs and priorities to help make better policy decisions. Planners use them as a basis for long range community comprehensive plans (goals, objectives and policies), land use plans, zoning codes and land development ordinances. Parks and Recreation Professionals often use Needs Assessments to determine any changes needed in policies, programs and/or staffing, and as the basis for Capital Improvement Programs (CIPs) and grant applications. Administrators/ Finance staff also use the results as the basis for funding initiatives such as bonds and taxes.

Types of Techniques

A variety of techniques are commonly used in Parks, Recreation and Open Space Needs Assessments. One concept that’s particularly useful is the idea of “Triangulation,” or approaching needs from at least three different vantage points. An assessment conducted solely from the vantage point of organized sports leagues, for example, may indicate that

additional sports fields are the highest priority in a community. Yet the reality may be (and often is) that safe bikeways and quiet sitting areas are more important than sports fields to most residents. Thus the practice of triangulation helps insure a more accurate assessment of community needs.

Anecdotal techniques are sometimes the most valid assessment tools, but probably the least scientific. Site visits and photographs, phone calls and/or conversations with facility and/or program participants, personal observations, discussions with parks and recreation staff and other types of similar discussions and observations can form the “first tier” of a needs assessment if properly recorded and documented.

Qualitative techniques involve talking with a wide cross section of community residents and stakeholders in order to identify common themes, needs and interests. While not as scientific and objective as quantitative techniques, qualitative techniques can provide some real insights into community issues, “hidden agendas” and emotions. Planners should first identify the community leaders, activists and providers who should be included in the process, and then select the appropriate technique(s) for each. One parks planner, for example, advocates identifying “the top 100 hundred community leaders” to interview. Alternative qualitative forums and techniques include:

- Staff interviews/ workshops
- Interviews with elected officials and/or community leaders
- Interviews with representatives of public school boards, non-profit organizations and other parks and recreation providers
- Focus group meetings with teens, adults, seniors, youth sports leagues, adult leagues and/or other special interest groups
- Workshops with elected officials, staff, advisory groups, neighborhood residents, steering committees and/or other community representatives

Quantitative techniques often have the greatest credibility, because most people have faith in numbers and formulas. However numbers can be manipulated to support various positions, so quantitative techniques should never be used alone to determine community needs and priorities. Typical quantitative techniques include:

- Measuring acreage level of service (acres per thousand population)
- Measuring facilities level of service (# of facilities per 1000 population)
- Mapping park and recreation facility service areas (geographic distance served by various facilities, e.g. ½ mile for a neighborhood park)
- Benchmarking against other communities of a similar size and demographic, including acreage, facilities, staff, budget, etc
- Measuring existing capacity vs. demand for various facilities and programs
- Measuring per capita investment (replacement value) in parks by planning or political district
- Conducting a telephone or mail survey

Most of these quantitative techniques are *comparison exercises*, designed to reveal any gaps between existing and ideal circumstances. Of all of the quantitative techniques, the

telephone survey is the most accurate and reliable. If conducted correctly, using a qualified statistician/professional researcher who can determine the appropriate sample size and design the most effective survey tool, the telephone survey can yield results that most closely reflect the opinions and feelings of community residents.

According to Dr. Robert Hays Ph.D. of Haysmar Incorporated, a behavioral research firm in Jupiter, Florida, benefits of a telephone survey include:

- Assurance of even coverage by geographic area or other selected demographic identifier;
- Assurance that the person being interviewed meets the necessary respondent qualifications;
- A quicker time to completion than other feasible methods;
- Usable data immediately following the completion of the interview; and
- Protection against manipulation of the results by special interest groups.

City of North Port Needs Assessment

The City of North Port Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment incorporated all three (3) of the needs assessment techniques outlined above, including:

Anecdotal:

- Site Visits and Existing Conditions Analysis

Qualitative:

- Interviews with Commissioners
- Steering Committee Workshop
- Stakeholder/ Focus Group Meetings
- Neighborhood Workshops

Quantitative:

- Level of Service (LOS) Analysis – Facilities
- Level of Service (LOS) Analysis – Acreage
- Level of Service (LOS) Analysis – Service Areas
- Telephone Survey
- Benchmarking – Acreage, Capital Improvements and O&M

Following is a discussion of the findings from each technique. Meeting minutes and notes can be found in the Appendices.

1. Site Visits and Existing Conditions Analysis

As discussed in the “Existing Conditions Memorandum” in the previous section, Glatting Jackson visited all 17 of the City’s existing parks and recorded the following general

observations:

- Many of the City's existing parks need to be updated to meet current recreational needs and to improve aesthetics.
- Adequate safety lighting needs to be incorporated into all the parks.
- Bicycle, pedestrian and vehicular access need to be improved to many parks.
- Site furnishings and signs need to be upgraded or replaced.
- Park facilities, courts and fields need to be upgraded.
- Additional landscaping is needed at most of the parks.
- Many parks need to be redesigned to increase opportunities for multiple-use, new and expanded programs, revenues and/or partnerships. Maintenance and design standards should also be developed and implemented to maintain the quality of the parks once they're upgraded.

Finding: There is a need to upgrade and enhance existing City parks to make them more attractive, functional and inviting for City residents. There also appears to be a need to expand the existing parks and/or purchase land for new parks to provide more multi-purpose open space for a variety of recreational facilities and activities.

2. Interviews with Commissioners

Glattig Jackson conducted interviews with the five (5) City Commissioners on September 22 and September 29, 2005. Following are the key questions asked during each interview, as well as a summary of the responses:

Question 1: We think of the ideal parks system as having all of the following components (as shown on the attached model):

- Urban Parks and Civic Gathering Spaces
- Small Neighborhood Green Spaces
- Small Neighborhood Parks
- Large Community Parks
- Large Regional Parks
- Community Centers
- Cultural and Historical Facilities
- Special Use Facilities
- Beach/ Water Access
- Greenways, Bikeways and Trails
- Public Transit
- Shaded Streets, Avenues, and Parkways w/ Sidewalks

Is this consistent with your own ideas?

Response: All five Commissioners agreed that an ideal parks system includes each of the components outlined above.

Question 2: Attached is a survey that we use to determine community needs and priorities. Of the facilities listed, which do you believe are needed most in your community?

Response (numbers in parentheses note that the number of times the same comment was recorded):

- Youth athletic fields and courts – baseball, football, soccer, basketball (5)
- BMX track (4)
- Improve streets – repaving, street lights, sidewalks, drainage, shade trees – a sidewalk within 2 miles of every school (4)
- Youth/ teen centers (3)
- Repair and replacement of capital improvements, existing parks (2)
- Bike paths, walking and jogging trails, development of Myakkahatchee Creek Greenway) (2)
- Water, sewer, infrastructure (1)
- Hospital (1)
- Trash pick-up, etc (1)
- Dog parks (1)
- Incorporate improvement of storm drainage in street/ park improvements (1)
- 2nd Aquatics Center (1)
- 2nd Community Center (1)
- Picnic areas (1)
- Outdoor amphitheater (future) (1)
- Active as well as passive parks needed (1)

Question 3: Typically we find that most communities need millions of dollars to meet both current and future parks, recreation, open space and cultural needs. Significant funding sources are shown on the following chart. Which of these would you support?

Response (numbers in parentheses note that the number of times the same comment was recorded):

- Bonds (5) (if voters approve)
- Impact Fees (4) (need to increase – doing study)
- Grants (2)
- Existing 1 cent sales tax (2)
- User fees (2)
- Sarasota County (1)
- Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice (1)
- Property Taxes (1)
- Use Tax (1)
- Tax Increment Financing (1)
- Business Improvement Districts (1)
- Benefits Assessment District (1)
- Reserves (1)
- Municipal Service Taxing Unit (1)

Question 4: Most communities can't do everything themselves; what partnerships do you think would be most beneficial to pursue?

Response (numbers in parentheses note that the number of times the same comment was

recorded):

- *County should continue to maintain parks, including existing parks, if level of maintenance is up to City standards (3)*
- *City should build, repair facilities; County to maintain (2)*
- *Need to resolve capital improvements responsibilities in inter-local agreement; currently negotiating (2); the County believes that the maintenance of new parks, repair and replacement of facilities (capital improvements) is not part of their responsibility. Develop an effective inter-local agreement that fairly apportions the responsibilities of the City and the County, including maintenance of new parks, maintenance standards, fixed asset replacement budget, repair and replacement schedule and responsibilities*

- *City should do youth/teen programming, partnering with YMCA, others (2)*
- *Have agreement w/ School Board; City working w/ schools to install soccer fields on schools sites (2)*
- *Convert old City Hall to youth complex?*
- *Aggregate, swap lots? 2200 lots that are being put up for sale; City will get 55%*
- *Need to make "formal complaint" to County re: lack of maintenance*
- *Starting up a new Parks and Recreation Department would be expensive*
- *In favor of regional approach, w/ "in front of the curtain/ behind the curtain" model; County operations, w/ supervisor in Northport*
- *City needs to take back control of the parks*
- *Need to correct the "dual taxation" of North Port Residents*

Findings: All five Commissioners agreed that an ideal parks system includes each of the components outlined above, while top priorities (those mentioned by 50% or more) for the City currently include:

- *Youth athletic fields and courts – baseball, football, soccer, basketball*
- *BMX track*
- *Improve streets – repaving, street lights, sidewalks, drainage, shade trees – a sidewalk within 2 miles of every school*
- *Youth/ teen centers*

Preferred funding mechanisms for these improvements include bonds and impact fees. Key partners include the County, the YMCA and the School District. Since the initial interviews with the Commissioners, the City and County have developed an effective inter-local agreement that fairly apportions the responsibilities of the City and the County. This agreement is an essential cornerstone to the City's partnership program.

3. Steering Committee Workshop

Glattig Jackson facilitated a workshop with the City's Steering Committee on September 22, 2005; five (5) members participated. General comments from the committee included:

- North Port demographic data is not very accurate

- Use previous Sarasota County survey as needs assessment technique
- City/County have discussed partnership for sports complex
- Mayakkahatchee Creek greenways is 7.5 miles long
- Download, incorporate Sarasota County needs assessment

Committee members were asked to complete the needs assessment survey being used for the telephone survey. Their top priority needs included:

- Baseball/ Softball fields (3 “votes”)
- Gymnasium/ Recreation Center (3)
- Soccer/ Football Fields (2)
- Special Events Area/ Outdoor Amphitheater (2)
- Bicycle Paths/ Trails (1)
- Camp Sites (1)
- Nature or Environmental Facilities/ Trails (1)
- Playgrounds/ Tot Lots (1)
- Youth/ Teen Centers (1)

Findings: Top priority needs (those indicated by 50% or more participants) include:

- *Baseball/Softball fields*
- *Gymnasium/ Recreation Center*

4. Focus Group Meetings

Glattig Jackson conducted three (3) focus group workshops on November 10, 2005, including the following groups:

- Youth Opportunities Advisory Board
- People for Trees and Little Salt Springs Archaeological Society
- Youth Soccer League

A total of eight (8) participants attended the meetings.

Notes from the meetings are included in the Appendices. Priority needs include:

- Teen Center, Programs
- Gymnasium
- ATV (Off-road vehicles) Site
- Family Aquatics Center/ Water Park
- Additional Parks with “Something Different”
- Multi-use Fields
- Paintball Park
- Commercial Entertainment
- Walkable Destinations
- Camp Sites Along Greenway
- Passive Park in Salt Springs
- Development of Myakkahatchee Creek Park as Passive Park/ Trailhead
- Protection of Little Salt Springs

- Survey, Protection of Other Archaeological Sites, including Nona, 19 Owners Sites
- 6 – 8 Additional Practice Soccer Fields, Lighted
- Increased Access to School Facilities through Better Inter-local Agreements

Findings: The focus groups indicated a need for a wide variety of parks and facilities for both active and passive recreation.

5. Public Workshop

Glatting Jackson facilitated a public workshop on November 9, 2005, attended by approximately forty (40) residents (see sign-in sheet in Appendices). Glatting Jackson presented an overview of the basic elements of a Parks and Recreation System; asked participants to fill out a Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment survey questionnaire; and then asked them to “vote” on top priorities.

Needs identified by 20 or more (50%+) of the participants who filled out surveys included (in order of priority):

- Dog Parks (33)
- Bicycle Paths/ Trails (31)
- Walking/ Jogging Trails (30)
- Swimming Pools (29)
- Shade Trees on Sidewalks (29)
- Aquatic Center/ Water Play (25)
- Picnic Areas (23)
- Gymnasium/ Recreation/ Community Center (22)
- Nature/ Environmental Facilities, Trails (22)
- Youth/ Teen centers (22)
- Canoeing/ Kayaking Launches, Trails (21)
- Playgrounds/ Tot Lots (21)
- Special Events Area/ Outdoor Amphitheater (21)
- Soccer/ Football Fields (20)
- Basketball Courts (20)
- Boat Ramps/ Docks (20)
- Cultural Centers/ Museums (20)
- Fishing Piers/ Sites (20)
- Open Play Areas (20)

After completing the surveys, participants voted on top priorities. The top five (5) priorities included:

- Dog Parks (34)
- Walking/ Jogging Trails (17)
- Shade Trees on Sidewalks (14)
- Canoeing or Kayaking Launches or Trails (10)
- Playgrounds/ Tot Lots (7)

Findings: The top three (3) priority needs identified by the public include (in order of priority):

- *Dog Parks*
- *Walking / Jogging Trails*
- *Shade Trees on Sidewalks*

6. Level of Service (LOS) Analysis – Acreage

While it is tempting to rely on state or federal standards or guidelines to determine community needs, it is unrealistic to expect standards to apply equally to all communities. Florida's State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), for example, contains population guidelines for various types of active and passive recreation facilities, but states that these guidelines "are intended for broad, statewide application, and make no allowances for localized differences in communities or in specific outdoor recreation environments...Local jurisdictions particularly are encouraged to develop their own guidelines to more adequately reflect local conditions in determining recreation needs" (Spencer, 2002, p. 4-1).

Similarly, the National Recreation and Parks Association's (NRPA) *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines* provides a framework for park system planning, and an approach to developing a Level of Service (LOS) Standard for local communities, but advises that "no single type of resource and facility guideline can adequately meet all outdoor recreation planning needs simultaneously. Each outdoor recreation provider should, therefore, select the guidelines that best serve its specific planning needs" (Mertes, p. 61).

That being said, the City of North Port Comprehensive Plan (Recreation and Open Space Element) establishes a minimum Level of Service (LOS) Standard of "10 acres of recreation and open space area per one thousand (1000) population, to be allocated among three (3) park classifications:

- 1.5 acres of Community Park
- 1.5 acres of Open Space
- 7.0 acres of Conservation."

The Community Park requirement is significantly lower than the SCORP Guidelines for park lands of 24 acres/ 1,000 population, including:

- 2 acres of Neighborhood Parks
- 2 acres of Community Parks
- 20 acres of Regional Parks

The following chart shows that the City currently maintains an inventory of approximately 23 acres of Neighborhood Parks; 79 acres of Community Parks; and 160 acres of Regional Parks. Using the 2005 population of 42,000 residents, this equates to a Level of Service of:

- 0.5 acres of neighborhood park land per 1,000 residents
- 1.8 acres of community park land per 1,000 residents

- 3.8 acres of regional park land per 1,000 residents



**CITY OF NORTH PORT
PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE
ACREAGE LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS**

COMPARISON TO STATE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN STANDARDS

TOTAL CITY POPULATION 2005 =	42,000
TOTAL PROJECTED CITY POPULATION 2025 =	150,000

PARK TYPE	ACRES PER 1000 POPULATION SERVED	CITY OF NORTH PORT	SARASOTA COUNTY	PRIVATE FACILITIES	TOTAL	CURRENT NEED	CURRENT SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)	FUTURE NEED	FUTURE SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)
NEIGHBORHOOD	2	23	0	0	23	84	(61)	300	(277)
COMMUNITY	2	79	0	0	79	84	(5)	300	(221)
REGIONAL	20	160	0	0	160	840	(680)	3,000	(2840)

* POPULATION FIGURES FROM THE CITY OF NORTH PORT

Assuming that Sarasota County is responsible for meeting Regional Park needs, the City needs to acquire 66 acres of additional Neighborhood and Community Park lands to meet SCORP guidelines, based on current population. This number increases to 498 acres of Neighborhood and Community Park land to meet the needs of the anticipated 2025 population of 150,000 residents

Findings: The City needs to acquire a minimum of 498 acres of Neighborhood and Community Park lands to meet SCORP guidelines for the anticipated 2025 population.

7. Level of Service (LOS) Analysis – Facilities

Florida’s SCORP also contains facility standards showing the number of residents served by various types of recreation facilities, e.g. 1 tennis court /2,000 residents, based on surveys of other communities around the State. While these standards do not apply equally to all communities, it is a useful exercise for evaluating an existing parks system. The following chart shows that, according to the SCORP standards, the City is currently “deficient” in the following recreation facilities based on the existing population and inventory of facilities:

- Bicycle Trails
- Camp Sites
- Boat Ramps



- Fishing Piers
- Hiking Trails
- Horseback Riding Trails
- Baseball/ Softball Fields
- Basketball Courts
- Football/ Soccer Fields
- Racquetball/ Handball Courts
- Tennis Courts
- Volleyball Courts



**CITY OF NORTH PORT
PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE
FACILITY LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS**

COMPARISON TO STATE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN STANDARDS

TOTAL COUNTY POPULATION 2005 =	42,000
TOTAL PROJECTED CITY POPULATION 2025 =	150,000

ACTIVITY	POPULATION SERVED	CITY OF NORTH PORT	SARASOTA COUNTY	PRIVATE FACILITIES	TOTAL	CURRENT NEED	CURRENT SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)	FUTURE NEED	FUTURE SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)
BICYCLING (MILES)	5,000	0	0	0	0	8	(8)	30	(30)
CAMPING (ACRES)	5,750	0	0	0	0	6	(6)	22	(22)
BOAT RAMPS (LANES)	5,000	1	0	0	1	8	(7)	30	(29)
FISHING (80' OF PIER)	5,500	0	0	0	0	8	(8)	27	(27)
HIKING (MILES)	5,750	0	0	3	3	6	(3)	22	(19)
HORSEBACK RIDING (MILES)	5,000	0	0	0	0	8	(8)	30	(30)
PICNICKING	6,000	13	0	0	13	7	6	25	(12)
BASEBALL/SOFTBALL	5,000	4	0	0	4	8	(4)	30	(26)
BASKETBALL	5,000	5	0	0	5	7	(2)	30	(25)
FOOTBALL/SOCCER/RUGBY	6,000	4	0	0	4	7	(3)	25	(21)
GENERAL PLAY	10,000	9	0	0	9	4	5	15	(6)
GOLF (18 HOLES)	50,000	0	0	3	3	1	2	3	0
RACQUETBALL/HANDBALL	10,000	2	0	0	2	4	(2)	15	(13)
SHUFFLEBOARD	6,000	12	0	0	12	7	5	25	(13)
SWIMMING POOL	25,000	1	0	3	4	2	2	6	(2)
TENNIS	2,000	5	0	8	13	21	(8)	75	(62)
VOLLEYBALL	6,000	2	0	0	2	7	(5)	25	(23)

* POPULATION FIGURES FROM THE CITY OF NORTH PORT

The chart shows that the deficiencies of these facilities obviously increases as the population grows, and that the following additional facilities will also become deficient based on the projected 2025 population of 150,000 residents:

- Picnic Areas
- General Play Areas
- Shuffleboard Courts
- Swimming Pools

Findings: The City is potentially deficient in a wide variety of recreation facilities, which is consistent with the shortage of park lands. Many facilities will need to be developed by the year 2025.

8. Benchmarking

According to the 2000 publication *Inside City Parks*, actual Levels of Service in major cities in the U.S. range from a low of 3.6 acres of parkland/ 1,000 residents (Miami) to a high of 30.8 acres/ 1,000 (San Diego).

Glattig Jackson compared the City of North Port's Parks System acreage to other similarly developed GDC communities in Florida, including:

- City of Palm Coast
- City of Palm Bay
- City of Cape Coral

These comparable communities are all quickly urbanizing cities ranging in size from 62 square miles to 144 square miles and populations between 42,000 and 144,755 residents.



**CITY OF NORTH PORT
PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE
BENCHMARKING
COMPARABLE CITY PARK SYSTEMS**

City	CITY OF NORTH PORT	CITY OF PALM COAST	CITY OF PALM BAY	CITY OF CAPE CORAL
Current Population	42,000	65,018	90,300	144,755
City Size (Sq. Miles)	103	62	65	144
City Size (Acres)	65,920	39,680	41,800	92,160
Total Park System Acreage (Developed and Undeveloped Lands)	277	478	830	1297
Parkland as Percent of City Area	0.4%	1.2%	2.0%	1.4%
Comprehensive Plan LOS	4 acres/ 1000	8 acres/ 1000	5 acres/ 1000	4 acres/ 1000
Total Actual LOS *	6.3 acres/ 1000	3 acres/ 1000	3 acres/ 1000	2.4 acres/ 1000
Number of Employees:				
Full-Time	4	17	47	88
Part-Time	4	24	18	24
Contracted Employees	n/a	18	41	n/a
Volunteers	20	3	5	n/a
Annual Budget:	\$768,908	\$2,189,199	\$3,353,200	\$5,586,561
Administration/ Personal	\$220,908	\$442,886	\$2,093,600	\$4,232,050
Maintenance	\$500,000*	\$747,538	\$1,259,400	\$1,139,852
Programming	\$48,000	\$998,775	n/a	\$214,659
Capital Construction	\$2,925,210	\$5,153,185	\$37,600	\$2,106,800
Budget per Capita	\$18.31	\$33.67	\$37.13	\$38.59

* Money paid to Sarasota County for Park Maintenance

- Of the four communities, North Port has the lowest required Level of Service (4 acres/ 1,000 population vs. 8 acres/ 1,000 population for Palm Coast, for example)
- Of the four communities, North Port has the lowest percentage of park land per city area (0.4% acres vs. 2.0% acres 1,000 population vs. 10 acres/ 1,000 population for the City of Palm Bay, for example)
- Of the four communities, North Port spends the least on parks administration/ programming (\$18.31 per capita vs. \$38.59 per capita for the City of Cape Coral.

Findings: When compared to other comparable cities in Florida, the City of North Port is deficient in park land and park funding.

9. Service Area Analysis

The Service Area Analysis is one of the most useful quantitative tools for assessing parks and recreation needs. The purpose of the analysis is to determine how far residents must walk, bike or drive to get to a park. The Service Area Analysis for North Port assumes a desirable walking distance of ½ mile (“Service Area”) for every resident to get to a Neighborhood Park, and a 2 mile Service Area for every resident to access a larger Community Park. These Service Areas are consistent with the classifications established in NRPA’s *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*, but are subject to change based on local preferences.

The Neighborhood Parks Service Area Analysis Map (*Graphic 1-see appendices*) shows that very few North Port residents have access to a neighborhood park within ½ mile walk of their homes; the City’s neighborhood Parks are all clustered in the center of the City around North Port Boulevard.

The Community Parks Service Area Analysis Map (*Graphic 2-see appendices*) shows that more residents have access to a Community Park within a 2 mile drive or bike ride from their homes, but those residents are also clustered around North Port Boulevard. Areas to the east and west have no Neighborhood or Community Parks

Findings: Consistent with the LOS Analysis for park land and facilities, the City needs to acquire and develop more Neighborhood and Community Parks throughout the City. The City should also update its Land Development Codes and/or Impact Fees to require new development to provide or fund new parks concurrent with the growth of the City.

11. Telephone Survey

Haysmar, Inc, a Research and Analysis firm hired by Glatting Jackson, conducted a telephone survey of City residents to determine their attitudes and opinions regarding the City’s Parks and Recreation System. The survey had five objectives:

1. To determine the types of recreational activities that residents currently enjoy;
2. To measure the residents’ frequency of use of City recreation facilities and parks and to determine which facilities are most used;
3. To determine the residents’ levels of interest in 36 types of recreation facilities ranging from an Aquatic Center to Walking and Jogging Trails;
4. To gauge residents’ opinions regarding user fees and taxes to support recreation facilities; and,
5. To determine if residents perceive differences in the maintenance of facilities that are maintained by the City and those that are maintained by a different entity.

The survey was conducted by telephone. Citizens who live in the City of North Port were selected at random, called on the telephone, and asked to participate in the survey. The calls were made between November 10th and November 17th, 2005 in the afternoons

and evenings on weekdays and during the day on Saturdays. Two-hundred-seventy (270) interviews were completed. The overall findings have a confidence interval of $\pm 6\%$ at the 95% confidence level. The full survey report is included in the Appendices.

One question in the survey asked residents for their opinion regarding the need for additional recreation facilities. Those facilities “needed” by 50% of more respondents included (in order of need):

- Youth/ Teen Centers (73.3%)
- Bicycle Paths/ Trails (73%)
- Walking/Jogging Trails (69.6%)
- Nature/Environmental Facilities/ Trails (64.8%)
- Shade Trees on Sidewalks (63.7%)
- Outdoor Amphitheater (63.3%)
- Cultural Center/ Museums (62.6%)
- Picnic Areas (62.2%)
- Playgrounds/ tot lots (61.5%)
- Aquatics Centers/ Water Play (61.1%)
- Dog Parks (57.4%)
- Gymnasium/ Recreation/ Community Center (56.7%)
- Swimming Pools (55.9%)
- Open Play Areas (54.4%)
- Therapeutic Facilities (53.3%)
- Basketball Courts (53.0%)
- Baseball/ Softball Fields (52.6%)
- Soccer/ Football Fields (51.9%)
- Canoeing/ Kayaking Facilities (50.7%)
- Senior Citizen Centers (50.7%)

Finding: Consistent with the findings from the other needs assessment techniques, residents need a wide variety of parks and recreation facilities. Top priorities are also consistent with the other techniques, including:

- *Youth/ Teen Centers*
- *Bicycle Paths/ Trails*
- *Walking/ Jogging Trails*

SUMMARY/ RECOMMENDATIONS

All of the Needs Assessment techniques outlined above indicate a need for a wide variety of parks and recreation facilities, as well as expanded programs and improved maintenance.

While the City is lacking in all types of park lands and facilities, the top ten priorities appear to include (in approximate order of priority):

- *Additional Park Land*

- *Youth Athletic Fields and Courts – baseball, football, soccer, basketball, multiple-use*
- *Youth/ Teen Center and Gymnasium*
- *Improved Streets, Bike Paths, Trails and Shaded Sidewalks*
- *Dog Park*
- *Nature/ Environmental Facilities/ Trails*
- *Canoeing or Kayaking Launches or Trails*
- *Playgrounds/ Tot Lots*
- *Swimming Pool/ Aquatics Center*
- *Special Events Area/ Outdoor Amphitheater*

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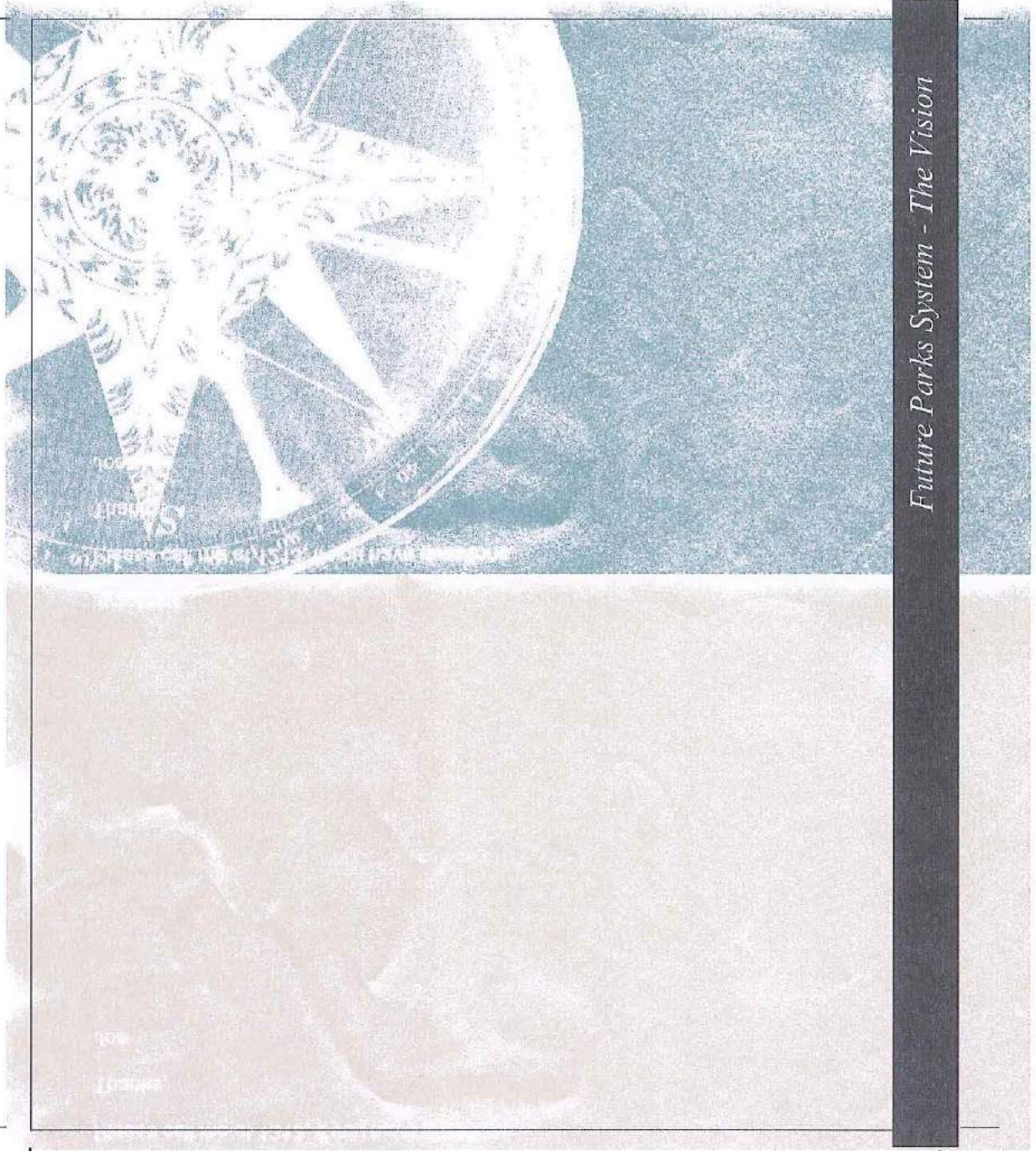
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Department of Environmental Protection.



Future Parks System - The Vision

Nomenclature and Criteria

The first step in developing a long range Parks and Recreation System Vision for a great city is to establish the preferred nomenclature and criteria for various elements of the System. To this end, Glatting Jackson recommends using the nomenclature and criteria shown on the following *Parks System Criteria* chart:

 CITY OF NORTH PORT PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM CRITERIA				
HIERARCHY OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE				
PARK TYPE	TYPICAL SIZE	SERVICE AREA	CRITERIA	TYPICAL FEATURES
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	3-5 ACRES	1/4 MILE	WALK TO FACILITY FOR NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS, WITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IF POSSIBLE	INFORMAL BALL FIELD, OPEN PLAY, PLAYGROUND, BASKETBALL PICNIC AREA
COMMUNITY PARKS	20 ACRES	2 MILES	BIKE OR DRIVE TO FACILITY FOR COMMUNITY RESIDENTS, 50% OPEN SPACE, WITH MIDDLE SCHOOLS IF POSSIBLE	COMMUNITY CENTER, BASEBALL, SOFTBALL, SOCCER, TENNIS, BASKETBALL, PLAYGROUND, PICNIC SHELTERS, 100 CAR PARKING
REGIONAL PARKS	100 ACRES	5 MILES	DRIVE TO FACILITY FOR ORGANIZED RECREATION, WITH HIGH SCHOOLS IF POSSIBLE	COMPLEXES OF SPORTS FACILITIES FOR LEAGUE AND TOURNAMENT PLAY, 200+ PARKING
SPECIAL USE FACILITIES	VARIES	CITY WIDE	LOCATED ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AND MULTI-MODAL NODES	PERFORMING ARTS, AQUATICS, SENIOR CENTER, TEEN CENTERS, SKATE PARKS, MOTOR SPORTS
CIVIC GATHERING SPACE	100 ACRES	CITY WIDE	CITY CENTER	CENTRALIZED GATHERING SPACE FOR MAJOR CIVIC EVENTS
CONSERVATION AREAS	VARIES	VARIES	PASSIVE, NATURAL AREAS WITH MINIMAL IMPROVEMENTS	TREES AND NATURAL GROUND COVER, TRAILS, MINIMAL MAINTENANCE
TRAILS, GREENWAYS AND BLUEWAYS	12' WIDE	CITY WIDE	INTERCONNECTED SYSTEM	DEVELOPED IN CONJUNCTION WITH SIDEWALKS AND BIKEWAYS TO PROVIDE A NETWORK OF RECREATIONAL AND TRANSPORTATION OPPORTUNITIES
SIDEWALKS AND BIKEWAYS	4-6' WIDE	CITY WIDE	INTERCONNECTED SYSTEM	TREE LINED, 4-6' WIDE FOR NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION THROUGHOUT THE CITY

Neighborhood Parks

The purpose of Neighborhood Parks and playgrounds is to provide close-to-home social and recreational opportunities within walking or bicycling distance of residents' homes. According to the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), the Neighborhood Park is "the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood," with the optimal size being between 3-5 acres, and the "focus on informal active and passive recreation" (Mertes & Hall, 1996). Neighborhood parks are the focal point of a neighborhood and serve as the first order of social interaction for local residents and provide recreation for the young children. North Port's Blue Ridge Park is

an example of a Neighborhood Park. Figure 1(*see appendices*) graphically depicts an example of a neighborhood park.

Typical features included in a 3-5 acre neighborhood park are:

- Located within neighborhoods
- ¼ to ½ mile walk (4-6 city blocks) for all residents within neighborhood
- Open play space
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Shade Trees
- Limited Parking
- Restrooms
- Playground
- Walking Paths
- Water Fountain
- Picnic Pavillion/Shade Structure

North Port Neighborhoods Defined

The planning process for an ideal park system for the City of North Port began with neighborhood parks as the “basic unit” and an integral element of strong neighborhoods. To that end, the first effort was to define logical boundaries for neighborhoods. The City of North Port’s existing system of defined neighborhoods, disconnected residential streets, large collector roads, and interconnected canal system provided logical boundaries. Additionally, there is a pattern of publicly owned properties throughout the City that have been reserved for possible park development. The Existing neighborhood parks in the City of North Port are:

- Blue Ridge Park
- Highland Ridge Park
- Mt Hope ark
- Irk Park
- LaBrea Par
- Marina Park
- McKibben Park
- Pine Park

Working within those logical boundaries, while attempting to work within defined neighborhood boundaries and use already publicly owned properties, a pattern of proposed neighborhoods was plotted throughout the residential areas of the City. This process resulted in the definition of 88 neighborhoods. The City’s existing 13 neighborhood parks serve 10 neighborhoods. Two additional neighborhoods could be accommodated in existing community parks. This means that some neighborhoods are served by more than one neighborhood or Community Park and over 60 neighborhood

areas are not served by neighborhood parks. Some of these 60 areas could be served by developing parks on presently owned City property; however, in many areas the City has relinquished its ownership of parcels that would have been suitable for neighborhood parks. The Vision Map shows that 40 sites will need to be acquired and developed to complete the neighborhood park vision. Maps 1-3 (*see appendices*) illustrate the location and service areas of existing neighborhood parks, proposed neighborhood parks to be developed on existing City owned land and new neighborhood parks that will require both land acquisition and development.

Neighborhood Parks Justification & Recommendation

Neighborhood parks provide facilities, amenities, and places for social interaction that are generally not available in neighborhoods with block after block of platted lots. While back and front yards provide safe places for children to play, they often do not provide enough space for them to recreate. Rather than have each family install swing sets, sand boxes, playgrounds, and picnic tables in their back yards, it is more economic and socially desirable to have these amenities incorporated into neighborhood parks that are within a comfortable and safe walking and biking distance. Well planned parks are often used frequently enough by neighborhood residents that familiar faces can be distinguished from outsiders and neighbors not only show “pride of ownership” but also help to self police the park.

There are many neighborhoods in North Port that have yet to be developed. Whether the lots are developed parcel by parcel by individual developers and owners or developed as subdivisions, a provision for the development of a neighborhood park should be included. This precept was accomplished in the early development of North Port, but was absent from the 1997 Comprehensive Plan. We recommend that neighborhood parks and the attendant infrastructure of sidewalks and bike paths leading to them, be provided for as neighborhoods and subdivisions are planned and proposed. City owned land should be earmarked and set aside for parks when possible. In neighborhoods that are developed but do not have neighborhood parks, we recommend that escheated properties be considered for redevelopment as neighborhood parks or the City set aside funds to purchase land for future neighborhood parks.

Community Parks

Community Parks are where residents go to socialize and recreate with the larger community, whether it's to play ball, have a picnic, take a class, swim in the pool or enjoy a concert or art show. The NRPA states that a community park serves a “broader purpose” than a neighborhood park, and it's “focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces” (Mertes & Hall, 1996). North Port's Butler Park is an example of a Community Park. Figure 2(*see appendices*) graphically depicts an example of a community park.



Typical 20- to 50-acre community parks include the following features:

- Located within neighborhoods
- No further than a 2 to 3 mile (14-20 blocks) walk, bike ride, or drive for all residents served
- Serve several neighborhoods
- Located on collector streets
- Basic elements of Neighborhood Park plus
- Multiple Recreation Fields
- Sports Courts

There are usually multiple activities and games taking place at the same time at a Community Park. By locating them on collector streets the City can maximize access and to minimize disruption from lights, noise and traffic. The mix of recreational facilities may change slightly over time to meet the needs of changing demographics.

As land values increase and highly organized sports groups demand more specialized facilities, there has been a trend to fill up all of the available space within Community Parks with sports facilities such as ball fields and skateboard parks. However, in surveys throughout the country, residents are stating that their greatest needs are for passive open space and natural areas – the very areas that are being given up for sports facilities. The City of North Port is fortunate that as of yet its community parks are not completely filled with sports facilities.

The City of North Port currently has five community parks. Some of these parks are clustered geographically in such a way that in certain areas of the City residents have access to multiple community and neighborhood parks within their service area whereas the vast majority of the City is not served by community parks located within prescribed distance. The planning process for community parks in the City was similar to that for neighborhood parks. The largest canals and arterial roads were set as boundaries and available public lands were identified within those areas. The Existing community parks in the City of North Port are:

- Butler Park
- Dallas White Park
- George Mullen Activity Center
- Narramore Sports Complex
- North Port High School / Park
- New Community Park (Unnamed)

We recommend that discussions be conducted with the County Parks & Recreation Department and the School Board, not only to renegotiate the interlocal agreements for maintaining and managing facilities, but consideration should be given to incorporating the creation of community parks adjacent to or on school grounds. School properties with available land and the potential to expand were considered viable sites for community parks. The mutual benefit and cost savings of joint use facilities was

assumed to be not only prudent but also beneficial. The predominant users of community parks are the same as the schools, local elementary and middle school age children and their families. This should allow for cooperative programming of facilities. The mutual cost savings and benefits of increased facilities should be enhanced through expanded joint use agreements and cooperative management practices.

With the assumed use of some school properties, the community park analysis resulted in the definition of 15 community areas within the incorporated area of the City. Of those, 4 are being served by the 6 existing community parks. This leaves 11 community areas unserved by community parks. Three if not more, of those 11 areas could be served by developing parks on presently owned City land or by the joint use of school properties. The Vision Map identifies 7 community park areas that will need to be acquired and developed for the Community Park Vision. Maps 4-7 (*see appendices*) illustrate the location and service areas of existing community parks, proposed community parks to be developed on existing City and School Board owned land and new community parks that will require both land acquisition and development.

Regional Parks

The vision for the Regional Park and its place in the hierarchy of parks facilities for the City of North Port is to provide for large athletic demands and organized sports. These sports activities tend to attract users from the larger southern Sarasota County area and therefore should be provided by the broader population base of the County. This facility should help to alleviate the pressure for the development of sports facilities in community parks. Additionally, the regional park should strive to maintain a minimum of 25% passive open space to accommodate informal activities.

The Englewood Sports Complex, located at 1300 South River Road in Englewood, Florida, is situated to the southwest of North Port's City limits, to the west of the Myakka State Forest. While this facility is accessible to North Port residents living south of US 41 and west of South River Road, it is a considerable distance to those living in other areas of the City, particularly those in the Northeast quadrant. Given the future buildout of the City, we recommend that a Regional Park be sited in the northeast quadrant of the City to the north and east of I 75. Not only will residents have access from I 75 and other major collectors, but parks and open space will be better apportioned geographically if a regional facility is located in the area. Figure 3 (*see appendices*) – provides an example of a Regional Park/Sports Complex

Special Use Facilities

Special use facilities are exactly what the name implies: facilities designed for a special purpose or constituency group. Generally they include softball, baseball and/or soccer complexes; dog parks; BMX tracks; model airplane fields; skateboard parks; aquatics centers; gymnastics centers; ice hockey rinks; equestrian centers; and other single-

purpose, often competition-quality, facilities. The Recreation Needs Assessment identified the need for the following special use facilities:

- Performing Arts Center
- Family Aquatics Center
- Community / Recreation Center
- Gymnasium
- Senior Center
- Teen Center
- Skate Park
- Remote Control Cars, Boats and Airplane Site
- Off Highway Vehicle Site (OHV)

Through the visioning and implementation processes conducted by Glatting Jackson with City staff, all types of recreational facilities were desired, but no matter what the age of the participants and respondents, there was an overwhelming response that the youth and teens of the City did not have adequate facilities to serve their needs. While in some cities these needs are inadvertently met by malls, shopping centers, and downtowns, this is not the case in North Port. Teen centers, YMCA's and similar facilities are lacking. Teen centers and a gymnasium, community / recreation center, senior center and a dog park are proposed as facilities that should be provided by the City Parks and Recreation Department.

Figure 4-(see *appendices*) provides a graphic example of how some of these facilities could be developed on identified sites throughout the City. An example of how Highland Ridge Park could be transformed to include a dog park is provided. Map 8 (see *appendices*) identifies sites that could be the future locations for proposed special use facilities such as an aquatics center, a BMX park, a dog park, and a teen center. Some of the special use facilities could be developed jointly with the county. For instance, some communities choose to locate performing arts centers on the same campus as newly developed high schools.

While some of the special-use facilities are located inside Community Parks, it is important to acknowledge that they serve a much different purpose, and should not dominate a Community Park; ideally they should be located at the edge of Community Parks or in other locations where heavy traffic, noise and/or lights will not negatively impact the surrounding park or neighborhood.

Civic Gathering Space

The Civic Gathering Space category was developed in response to the identified need for an area for special civic events such as concerts, rodeos, art shows, festivals and other citywide activities. At present the City of North Port has no dedicated space for special events, although as the new town center surrounding the municipal complex develops, it will become the central gathering place. A clearly defined Civic Gathering Space serves

as a locus for a city and helps to create a sense of identity for a community. This area should be integrated with commercial and residential development and multi-modal transportation. Figure 4 (*see appendices*) is a conceptual plan for how this area could be developed.

The site plan in Figure 5 (*see appendices*) is indicative of North Port's Municipal Complex upon its future completion. North Port is like many communities that were conceived in the later half of the 20th century, it has no clearly defined civic gathering space. The City has a series of disjointed strip centers along its main corridors. The North Port Municipal Complex could become the focal point of the area by developing a mix of uses and incorporating public open space and civic gathering space.

Park maintenance can be handled in many ways. At Mizner Park, in Boca Raton Florida, the landscaping and open space maintenance is paid for through common area charges and fees charged for organizations to host events in the public open space. In New York's Bryant Park, real estate taxes to support the local business improvement district finance part of the park's operating budget, the City's Parks Department continues to pay a portion of the operating budget, and the rest comes from concession revenues, sales, grants, and park rentals. Parks have contributed to the attractiveness of highly developed and commercialized areas. The funding responsibility for these amenities can be shared among numerous stakeholders rather than be the sole burden of the municipality.

Map 8 (*see appendices*) shows the proposed location of the Civic Gathering space for the City of North Port. This area should be integrated with commercial and residential development and multi-modal transportation.

Conservation Areas

Conservation areas and passive open spaces surround and thrive within the City of North Port. Nature-lovers can appreciate the area's biodiversity by visiting one or all of the local conservation areas, nature reserves, historic/archeological areas, parks, or land reclamation areas including:

- The confluence of the Peace Rivers and the Myakka Rivers near Port Charlotte
- The Myakka State Forest
- Deer Prairie Creek
- Schewe Ranch
- Carlton Reserve
- Myakka Prairie Tract
- RV Griffin Reserve
- Deep Creek
- Little Salt Springs Park

In most cases if a tract of land is considered a conservation area, it has been awarded protected status in order to ensure that natural features or biota are safeguarded. One of the most famous conservation areas in North Port is Little Salt Springs, a 240-foot deep, hourglass-shaped spring fed from an underground source that has no dissolved oxygen in the water (*Figure 6-see appendices*). Consequently, bacteria cannot grow and decompose wood and other organic materials, offering unique artifact preservation. Little Salt Springs was gifted to the University of Miami in 1982 and archeological explorations have been taking place since 1992. Some of the artifacts found date back over 9,000 years. Because 95 percent of the sinkhole remains unexplored, many believe the most revealing lessons in history await discovery. The great abundance of artifacts and vertebrate, invertebrate, and plant fossils afford a unique opportunity to reconstruct the natural and cultural environment of southwest Florida. The installation of boardwalks and pavilions makes it easier for more people to appreciate the site's natural beauty and its educational value.

Bikeways and Trails

The Vision for the City of North Port's Bikeways and Trails identifies the use of existing the major canal right-of-ways, conservation areas and collector roads as the backbone of a multi-modal trail system. This system is integrated with a connected network of on-street bike lanes and sidewalks to provide a "greenway" system throughout the City. The goals of the City of North Port Bikeways and Trails system are to:

- 1) Help preserve remaining natural areas in a community, such as stream corridors and wetlands.
- 2) Provide alternative transportation and recreation opportunities for bicyclists, walkers, skaters and equestrians within 2 miles of every resident in the community.

Figures 7 and 8 (*see appendices*) depict typical cross sections for trails and bikeways envisioned for the City of North Port. Map 10 (*see appendices*) shows how the location of those two systems is integrated into a citywide greenways system. This greenways system is intended to strengthen and enhance the existing City sidewalks master plan program.

While these sections do not resemble any of the existing boulevards in North Port, the right-of-way width is the same. The section allows for reasonably sized side walks on both sides of the right-of-way, a planting strip to separate pedestrian traffic from vehicular traffic, bike lanes in each direction, two lanes of automobile traffic, and a well landscaped center median. Shade trees, street trees, lighting, and way finding enhance the scenery and make the walkways and bike paths more inviting and user friendly than uninterrupted roadways that are designed solely for fast moving vehicular traffic.

The final aspect of the pre-platted communities in general, and in the City of North Port in particular, is a lack of connectivity within the community. The original platting principles were to discourage through traffic, however they ultimately resulted in

fractionalized neighborhoods and communities. One of the biggest opportunities for the City to correct this disjoint growth pattern will be through the provision of connector trails. These connectors may require bridges over canals or the purchase of individual lots. The resulting connectivity provided by a web of roadways with adjacent bike paths and sidewalks, canal systems, and conservation areas will serve to provide the adjacent residents with accessibility to the City parks and ultimately the greater good of the community. With the proper provision of walkways, trails, bridges, bike paths, and traffic signals, visitors and residents could safely navigate through the City without feeling as if they were completely at the mercy of vehicular traffic.

Many lessons about trail development and the resulting environmental, economic, and social impacts can be learned by looking north to the Pinellas Trail, a 35-mile greenway stretching from Tarpon Springs to St. Petersburg. After a 17-year old bicyclist was hit by a car and killed, his father's mission became the creation of bike trails throughout the county. The Western Rail Line track was abandoned by CSX at about the same time. Multiple funding sources were used to acquire, develop, endow, and expand the trail. The trail is used by school children and retirees alike. Retailers and communities along the trail have embraced it. Some communities sponsor fund raising events specifically to sponsor the trail. In some areas, retailers such as McDonalds and Publix have located close to the trail or created special connections to it. Real estate advertisements mention proximity to the Trail, demonstrating that it is perceived as an amenity.

Perhaps the most significant and lasting change that has occurred as a result of the Pinellas Trail is the creation of additional greenspace that it is fostering. Governments have not only linked existing parks near and along the Trail to it, they have planned new parks and trails to complement it. Where possible, flyovers have been created to promote trail continuity and to increase the number of safe crossings and intersections. While the installation of roadways seems to promote more suburban sprawl and additional roads, the creation of a greenway has spawned additional parks and open spaces and changed more than just the recreational amenities available in a community.

Blueways, Creeks, and Access Canals

Among the most appealing public open spaces are those on the waterfront. Many governments have recaptured this open space and made it attractive and accessible to the public. Waterfronts are often easy to retrofit for public use. Some, such as San Antonio's, become tourist attractions, others become active public parks. In abandoned and underutilized areas of cities, park projects can bring new life and generate real estate tax payments to cover both park operating costs and debt service on park development.

Two natural waterways dominate the western side of the City's landscape. They are the Myakka River and the Myakkahatchee Creek. These systems flow through reserves, preserves, and a state forest and provide a wonderful opportunity for people in canoes, row boats, and kayaks to use unaffected waterways to see native plants, animals, waterfowl, fish, and reptiles. The City is presently working on an initiative for a

Myakkahatchee creek linear park. This initiative is critical to the greenways, blueways and trails initiatives identified in this plan as well as vitally important to protecting the native flora and fauna of the area.

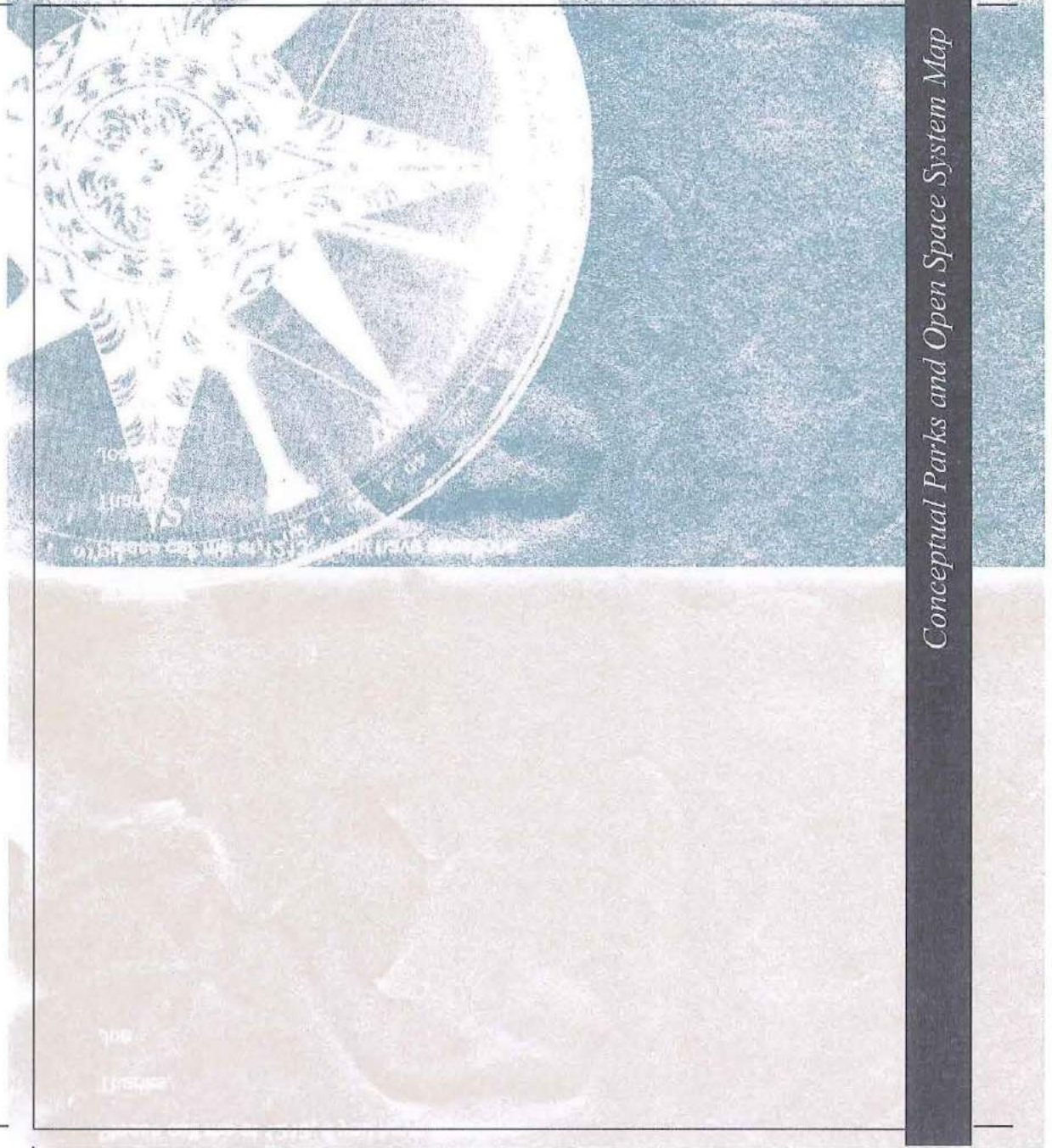
Connecting to these systems are the Big Slough Creek and the Cocoplum Waterway. One of these east-west running drainage basins parallels a major artery and the other bisects the City. Running in a northeast-southwest direction are several access canals that lead into the Big Slough Creek and the Cocoplum Waterway. Although there are control dams and dikes, consideration should be given to acquiring land to allow non-motorized vehicle operators to portage their boats from one section to another so that they could circumnavigate the City. Drop in and take out points could be located in some of the City's existing and future parks. Similarly, amphitheaters and environmental education kiosks and stations could be located at some of the City's waterfront parks to foster interactive environmental educational opportunities.

Summary

The composite Conceptual Parks and Open Space System Map (*see following section*) illustrates a long-range vision to guide the development of North Port into a great City. Many of the parks can be developed on sites and corridors already owned by the City or other public agencies, while approximately 498 acres needs to be acquired by the City for additional parks and trails through dedication, partnerships, or purchase.

Implementation of the Vision Plan will meet residents' needs identified in the Needs Assessment. It will also ensure that North Port can accommodate its population growth not only through the development of additional residential, commercial and civic buildings, but to thoughtfully include new parks and open space and to enhance and manage existing ones.

While \$118 million may seem like a large number, remember an argument that was used over a century ago by the Minneapolis Board of Trade in justifying increased spending on park development, parkland "when secured and located as (it) can now be at comparatively small expense, will in the near future add many millions to the real estate value of (the) City." Whether it's through bond financing, allocating a portion of the City's real estate tax revenue, allocating a portion of sales taxes collected, creating local improvement districts, or creating partnerships with the School Board, County, State and private developers, North Port should consider all of the future benefits that will accrue to it by creating an attractive parks and open space system.



Conceptual Parks and Open Space System Map



- Legend**
- City of North Port Boundary
 - Existing Park
 - Proposed Park
 - Proposed Civic Gathering Site
 - Existing Neighborhood Park Site and Service Area Boundary
 - Proposed Neighborhood Park Site and Service Area
 - Area Needing Neighborhood Park Site
 - Existing Community Park Site and Service Area Boundary
 - Proposed Community Park Site and Service Area Boundary
 - Area Needing Community Park Site
 - Proposed Regional Park
 - Existing Special Use Facilities
 - Proposed Aquatics Center
 - Proposed BMX Park
 - Proposed Dog Park
 - Proposed Teen Center
 - Conservation Areas
 - South West Water Management District Lands
- Sidewalks and Bikeways**
- Arterial
 - Boulevard
 - Avenue
 - Proposed Greenways
 - Blueways
 - Proposed Trails
- Neighborhood Parks**
- 1 Blue Ridge Park
 - 2 Cranberry Elementary School/Park
 - 3 Glenallen Elementary School/Park
 - 4 Heron Creek Middle School/Park
 - 5 Highland Ridge Park
 - 6 Mr. Hope Park
 - 7 Kirk Park
 - 8 LaBrea Park
 - 9 Marina Park
 - 10 McKibben Park
 - 11 Pine Park
 - 12 Oaks Park
 - 13 Toledo Blade Elementary School Park
- Community Parks**
- 1 Butler Park
 - 2 Dallas White Park
 - 3 George Mullen Activity Center
 - 4 Narramore Sports Complex
 - 5 North Port High School/Community Park
 - 6 Community Park
- Special Use Facilities**
- 1 Garden of the Five Senses
 - 2 Marina Boat Ramp
 - 3 North Port Pool
 - 4 North Port Skate Park
 - 5 Veterans Park
- Conservation Areas**
- 1 Myakkahatchee Creek Park
 - 2 Little Salt Springs
 - 3 Little Salt Springs Park

Neighborhood Park

Community Park

High School / Middle School / Community Park

Regional Park

Conservation Area

Civic Gathering Space

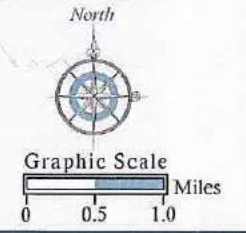
Typical Greenway Section

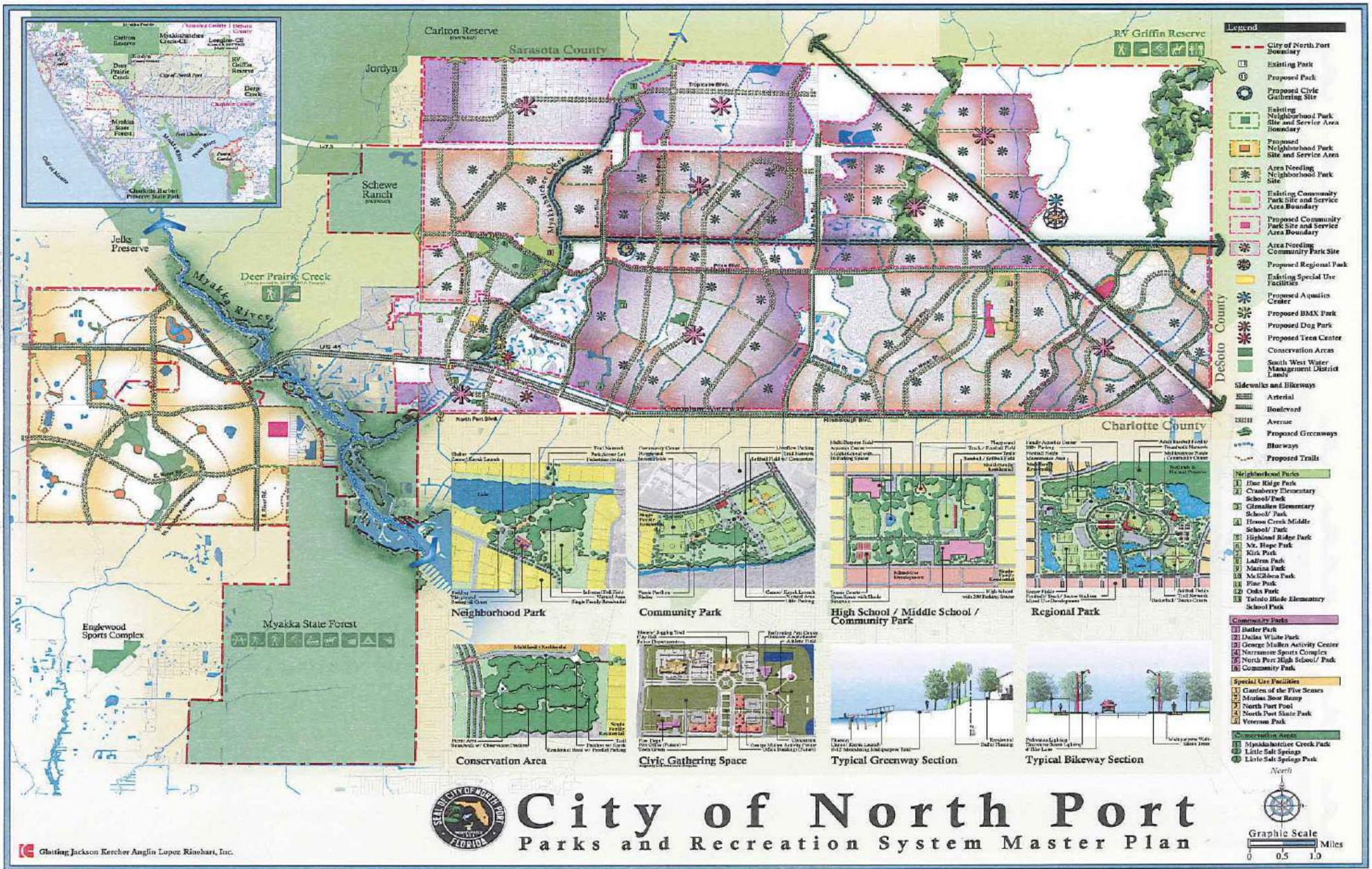
Typical Bikeway Section



City of North Port

Parks and Recreation System Master Plan



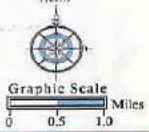


- Legend**
- City of North Port Boundary
 - Existing Park
 - Proposed Park
 - Proposed Civic Gathering Site
 - Existing Neighborhood Park Site and Service Area Boundary
 - Proposed Neighborhood Park Site and Service Area Boundary
 - Area Needing Neighborhood Park Site
 - Existing Community Park Site and Service Area Boundary
 - Proposed Community Park Site and Service Area Boundary
 - Area Needing Community Park Site
 - Proposed Regional Park
 - Existing Special Use Facilities
 - Proposed Aquatics Center
 - Proposed BMX Park
 - Proposed Dog Park
 - Proposed Teen Center
 - Conservation Arcs
 - South West Water Management District Land
 - Sidewalks and Bikeways
 - Arterial
 - Boulevard
 - Avenue
 - Proposed Greenways
 - Blueways
 - Proposed Trails
- Neighborhood Parks**
- 1 Blue Ridge Park
 - 2 Cranberry Elementary School / Park
 - 3 Glenallen Elementary School / Park
 - 4 Hovos Creek Middle School / Park
 - 5 Highland Ridge Park
 - 6 Mt. Hope Park
 - 7 Kirk Park
 - 8 LaBrea Park
 - 9 MacElroy Park
 - 10 Fine Park
 - 11 Oaks Park
 - 12 Tatum Blade Elementary School Park
- Community Parks**
- 13 Butler Park
 - 14 Dallas White Park
 - 15 George Stalder Activity Center
 - 16 Narramore Sports Complex
 - 17 North Port High School / Park
 - 18 Community Park
- Special Use Facilities**
- 19 Castles of the Five Senses
 - 20 Madison Stone Barn
 - 21 North Port Pool
 - 22 North Port Skate Park
 - 23 Veterans Park
- Conservation Arcs**
- 24 Manatee-Hottel-Creek Park
 - 25 Little Salt Springs
 - 26 Little Salt Springs Park



City of North Port

Parks and Recreation System Master Plan



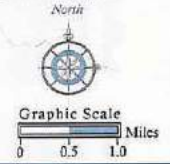


- Legend**
- City of North Port Boundary
 - ⊕ Existing Park
 - ⊕ Proposed Park
 - ⊕ Proposed Civic Gathering Site
 - ⊕ Existing Neighborhood Park Site and Service Area Boundary
 - ⊕ Proposed Neighborhood Park Site and Service Area Boundary
 - ⊕ Area Needing Neighborhood Park Site
 - ⊕ Existing Community Park Site and Service Area Boundary
 - ⊕ Proposed Community Park Site and Service Area Boundary
 - ⊕ Area Needing Community Park Site
 - ⊕ Proposed Regional Park
 - ⊕ Existing Special Use Facilities
 - ⊕ Proposed Aquatics Center
 - ⊕ Proposed BMX Park
 - ⊕ Proposed Dog Park
 - ⊕ Proposed Teen Center
 - ⊕ Conservation Areas
 - ⊕ South West Water Management District Lands
- Sidewalks and Bikeways**
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 - Boulevard
 - Avenue
 - Proposed Greenways
 - Blueways
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- Neighborhood Parks**
- 1 Blue Ridge Park
 - 2 Cranberry Elementary School / Park
 - 3 Glenallen Elementary School / Park
 - 4 Heron Creek Middle School / Park
 - 5 Highland Ridge Park
 - 6 Mt. Hope Park
 - 7 Kirk Park
 - 8 LaBrea Park
 - 9 Martins Park
 - 10 McElhenny Park
 - 11 Pine Park
 - 12 Oaks Park
 - 13 Toledo Blade Elementary School Park
- Community Parks**
- 14 Butler Park
 - 15 Dallas White Park
 - 16 George Madison Activity Center
 - 17 Narbonne Sports Complex
 - 18 North Port High School / Park
 - 19 Community Park
- Special Use Facilities**
- 1 Garden of the Five Senses
 - 2 Marion Boat Ramp
 - 3 North Port Pool
 - 4 North Port Skate Park
 - 5 Veterans Park
- Conservation Areas**
- 1 Myakka/Interoceanic Creek Park
 - 2 Little Salt Springs
 - 3 Little Salt Springs Park



City of North Port

Parks and Recreation System Master Plan



Neighborhood Park

Community Park

High School / Middle School / Community Park

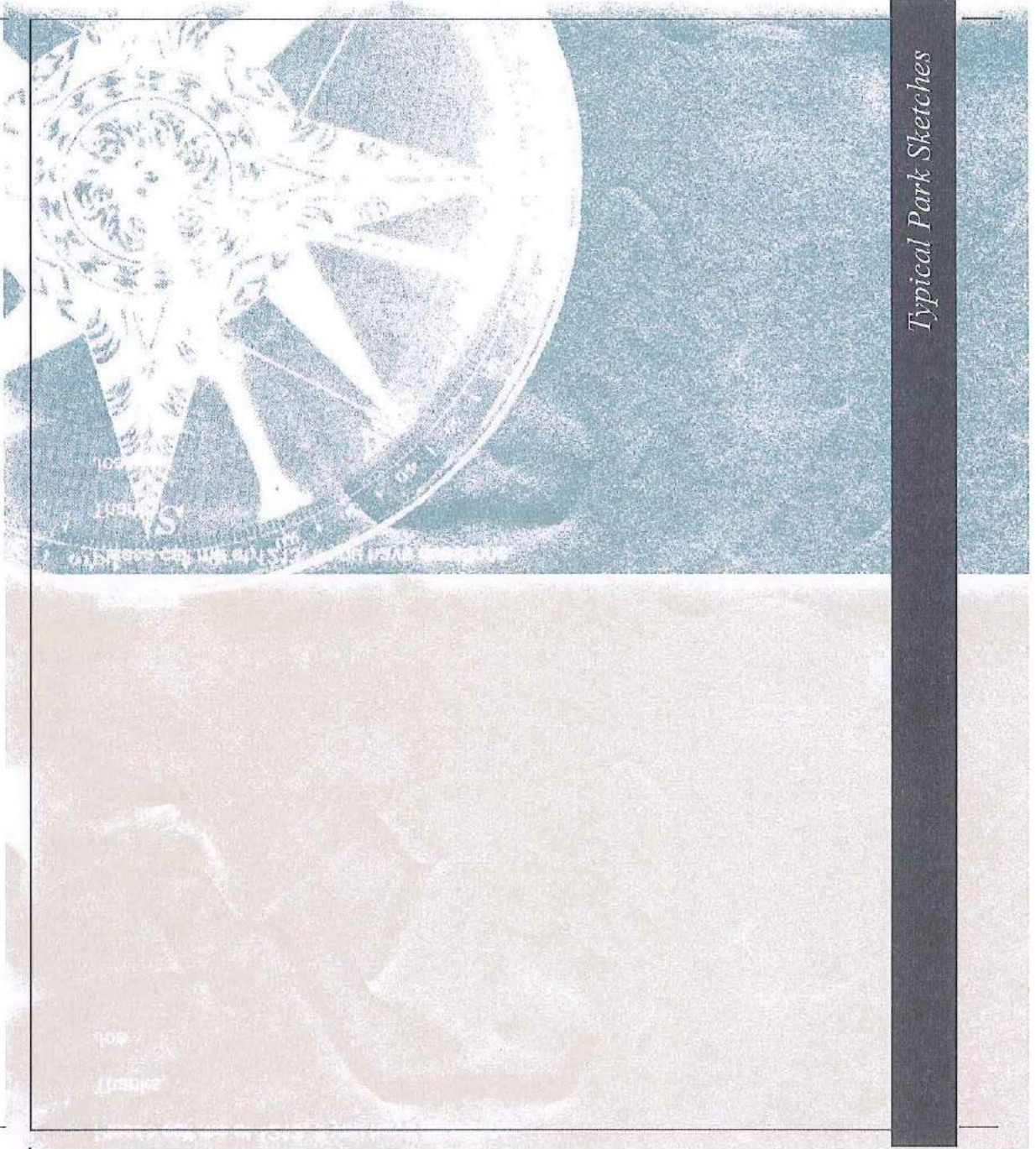
Regional Park

Conservation Area

Civic Gathering Space

Typical Greenway Section

Typical Bikeway Section



Typical Park Sketches



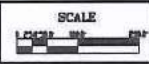
Neighborhood Park Criteria

- Typical Size: 3-5 Acres
- Service Area: 1/2 Mile
- Criteria:
 - Walk to facility for neighborhood residents, with elementary school if possible.
- Typical Features:
 - Informal ballfield
 - Open play area
 - Playground
 - Picnic Shelter



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NEIGHBORHOOD PARK LAYOUT
BLUE RIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK



SCALE
DATE DRAWN:
APRIL 2000
LAST REVISION:
APRIL 2000

PAGE 1 OF 1
NP Neighborhood Park



Community Park Criteria

- Typical Size: 20 Acres
- Service Area: 2 Miles
- Criteria:
 - Bike or drive to facility for community residents.
 - 50% open space
 - Developed adjacent to middle school if possible
- Typical Features:
 - Community center
 - Baseball
 - Softball
 - Soccer
 - Tennis
 - Basketball
 - Playground
 - Picnic shelter
 - 100 car parking



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COMMUNITY PARK
BUTLER COMMUNITY PARK



SCALE
1" = 200'

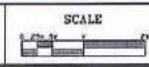
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PAGE 1 OF 1
NP Community Park



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PROTOTYPE PARK LAYOUT
 HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL & COMMUNITY PARK



DATE DRAWN:
 MONTH 200X
 LAST REVISION:
 MONTH 200X

PAGE 1 OF 1
 NP High School / Middle
 School & Community Park



Regional Park

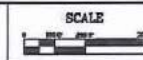
- Typical Size: 100 - 200 Cars
- Service Area: 5 Miles
- Criteria:
 - Drive to facility for organized recreation with high school if possible
- Typical Features:
 - Complexes of sports facilities for league and tournament play
 - 200+ parking

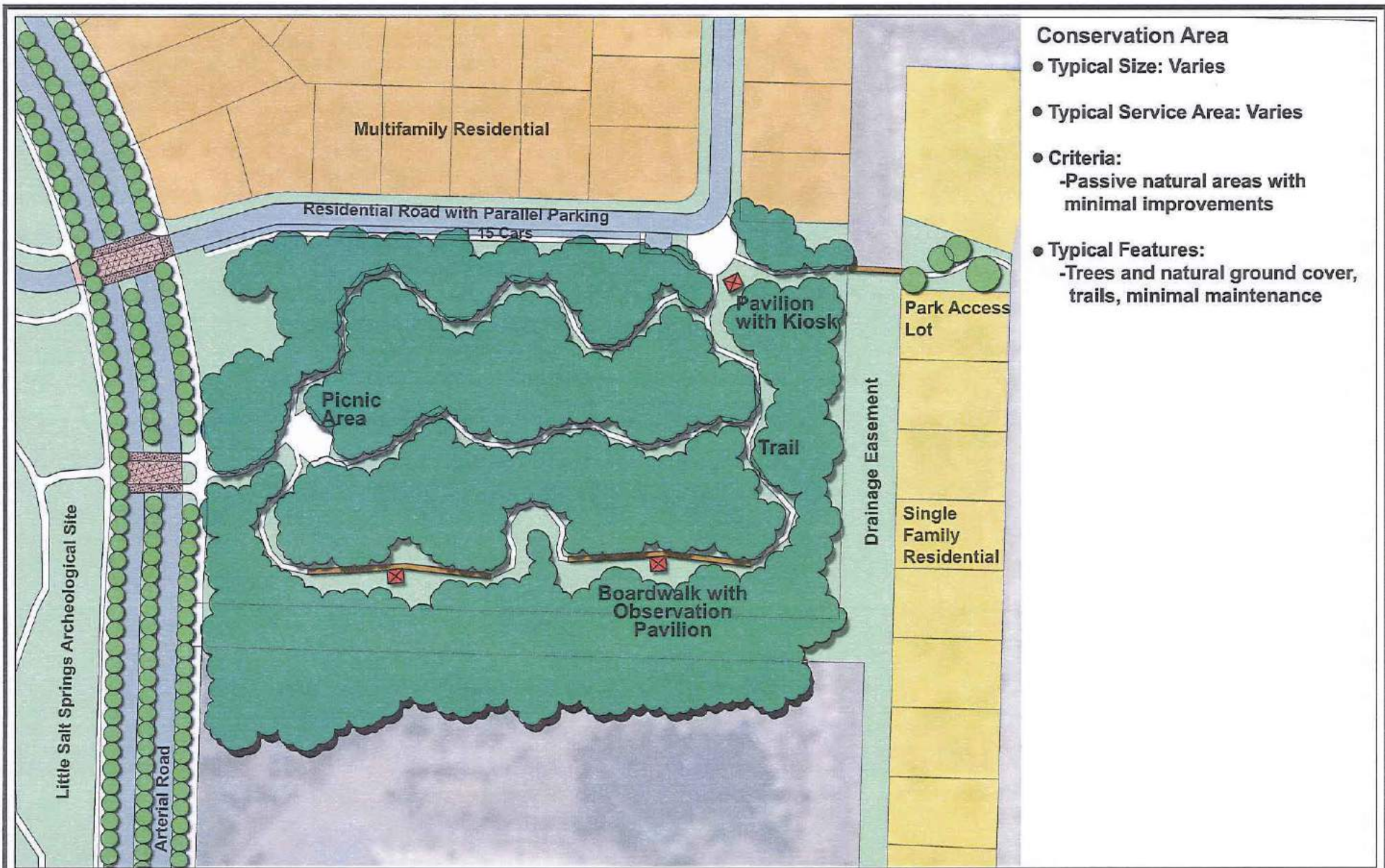
Civic Gathering Space

- Typical Size: 100 Acres
- Service Area: City Wide
- Criteria:
 - City Center
- Typical Features:
 - Centralized gathering space for major civic events



Note: Plan developed by 5TH Architectural Group Inc.





Conservation Area

- Typical Size: Varies
- Typical Service Area: Varies
- Criteria:
 - Passive natural areas with minimal improvements
- Typical Features:
 - Trees and natural ground cover, trails, minimal maintenance



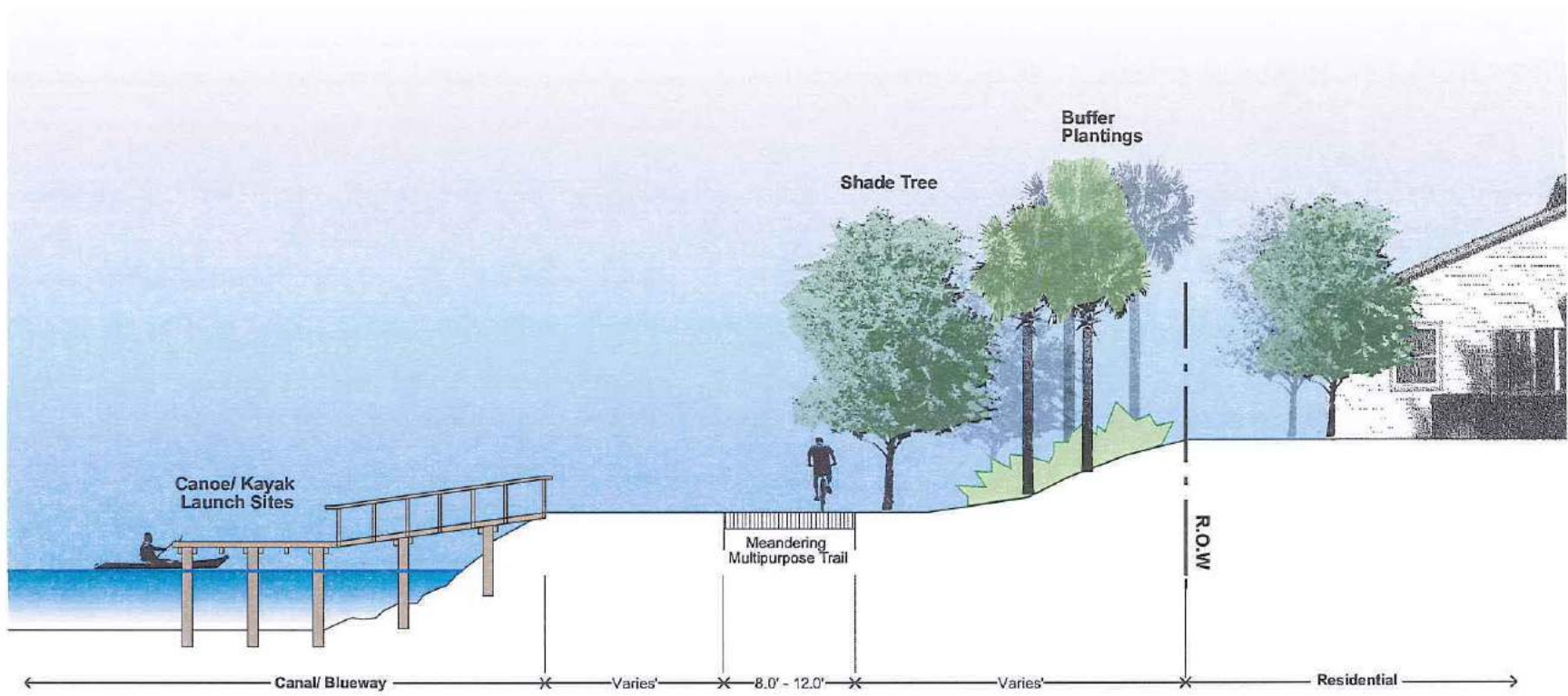
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CONSERVATION AREA
LITTLE SALT SPRINGS CONSERVATION AREA



DATE DRAWN:
APRIL 2008
LAST REVISION:
APRIL 2008

PAGE 1 OF 1
NP Conservation Area



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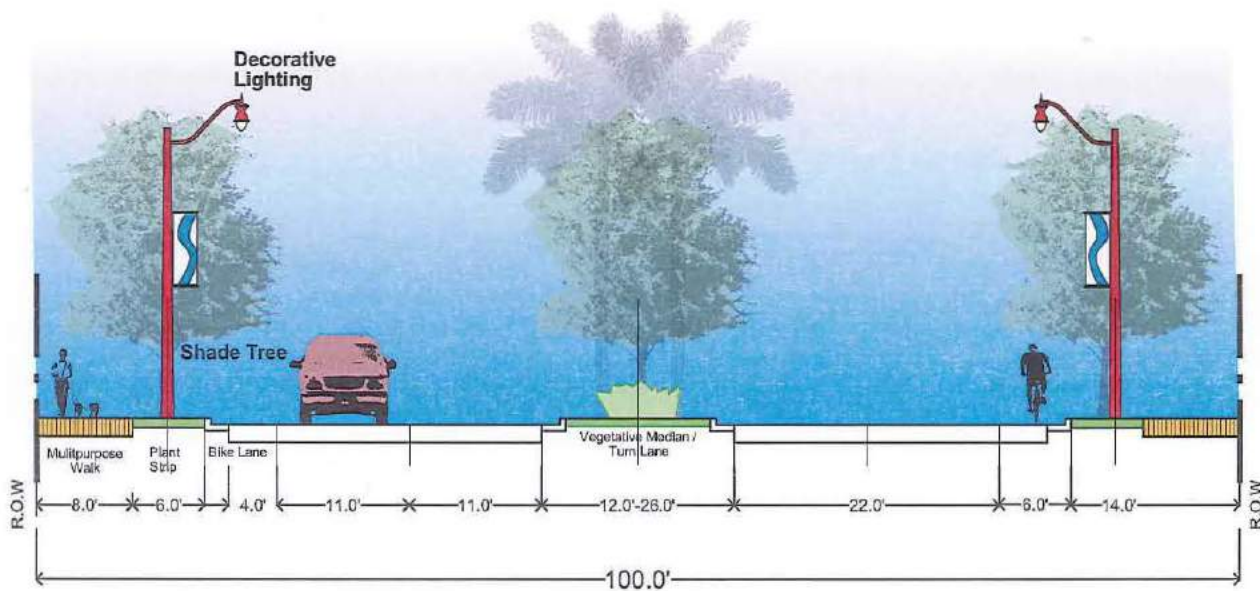
PROTOTYPE TRAIL, GREENWAY, BLUEWAY



Not to Scale

DATE DRAWN:
 ABRIL 2006
 LAST REVISION:
 ABRIL 2006

PAGE 1 OF 1
 NP Greenway



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PROTOTYPE ROADWAY
 BOULEVARD

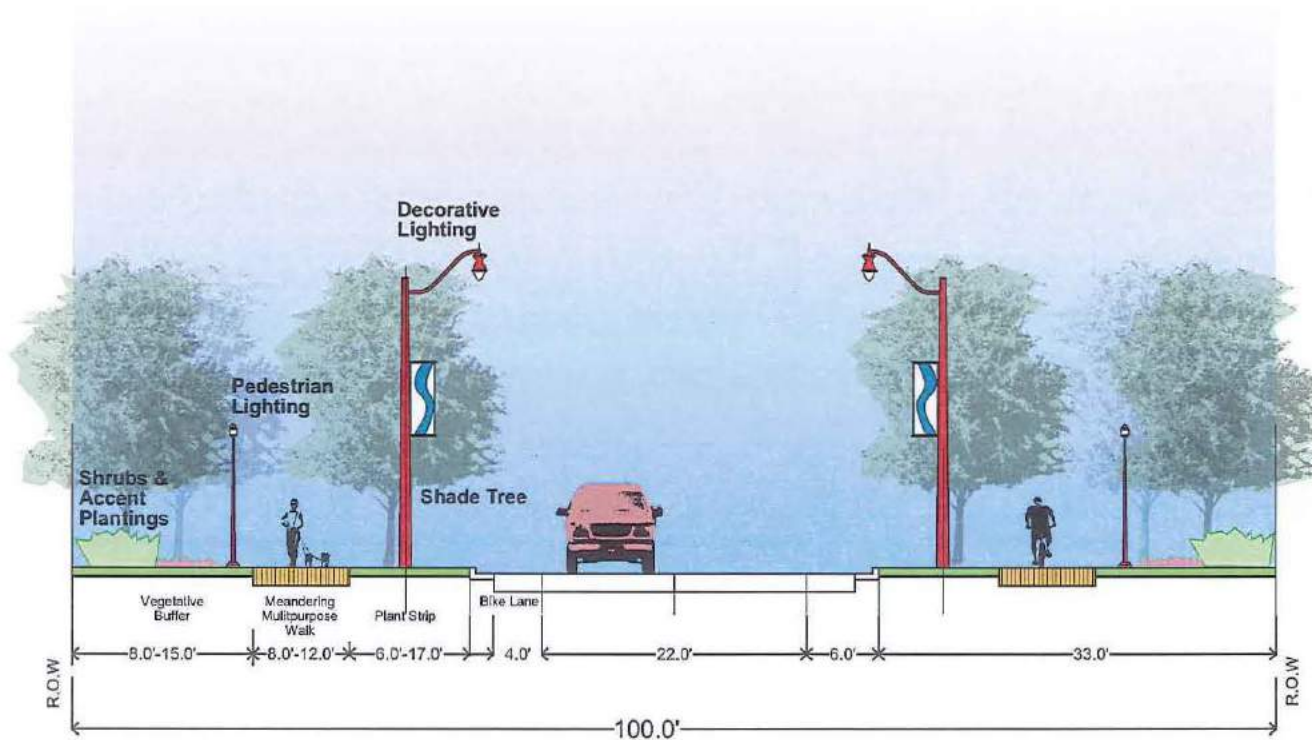


NORTH

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 LAST REVISION:
 APRIL 2008

PAGE 1 OF 1
 NP Boulevard



GLATTING JACKSON
 ANGLIN, KERCHER, LOPEZ, RINEHART

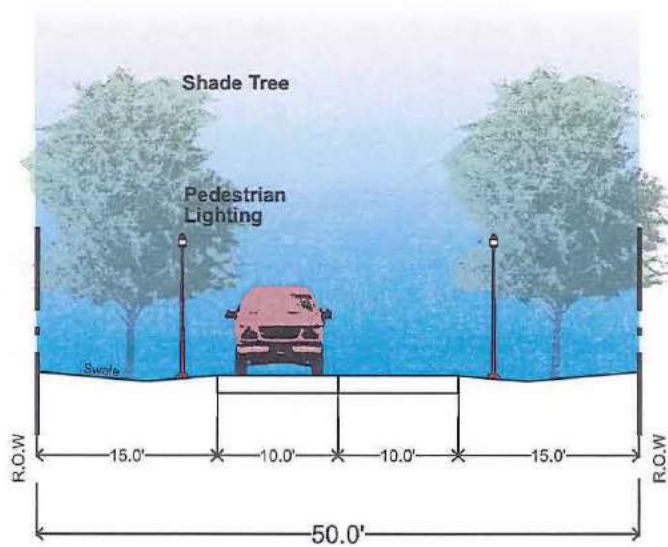
PROTOTYPE ROADWAY
 AVENUE



Not to Scale

DATE DRAWN:
 APRIL 2008
 LAST REVISION:
 APRIL 2008

PAGE 1 OF 1
 NP Avenue



GLATTING JACKSON
 ANGLIN, KERCHER, LOPEZ, RINEHART

PROTOTYPE ROADWAY
 NEIGHBORHOOD ROAD

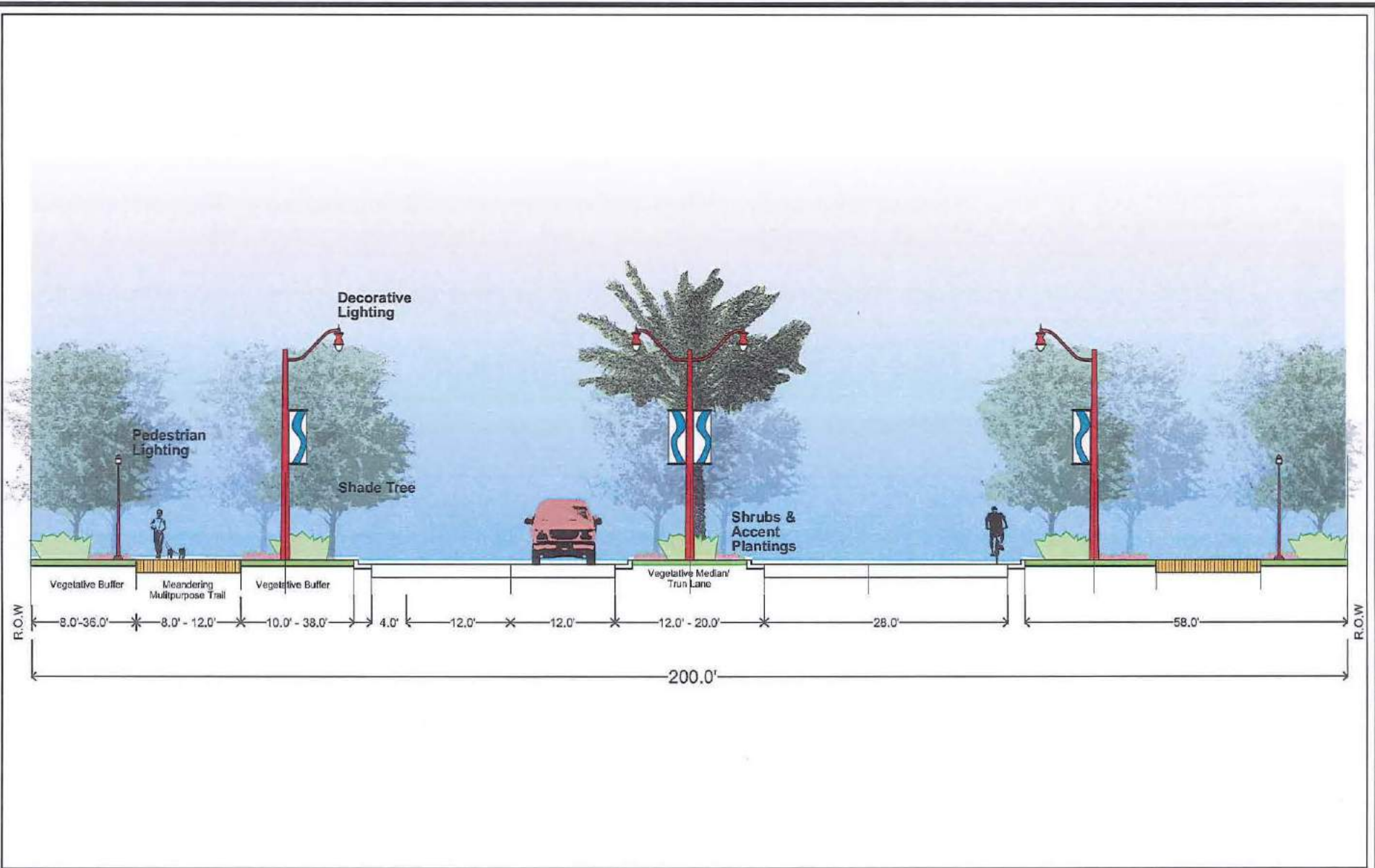


NORTH

Not to Scale

DATE DRAWN:
 APRIL 2006
 LAST REVISION:
 APRIL 2006

PAGE 1 OF 1
 NP Residential Road



GLATTING JACKSON
ANGLIN, KERCHER, LOPEZ, RINEHART

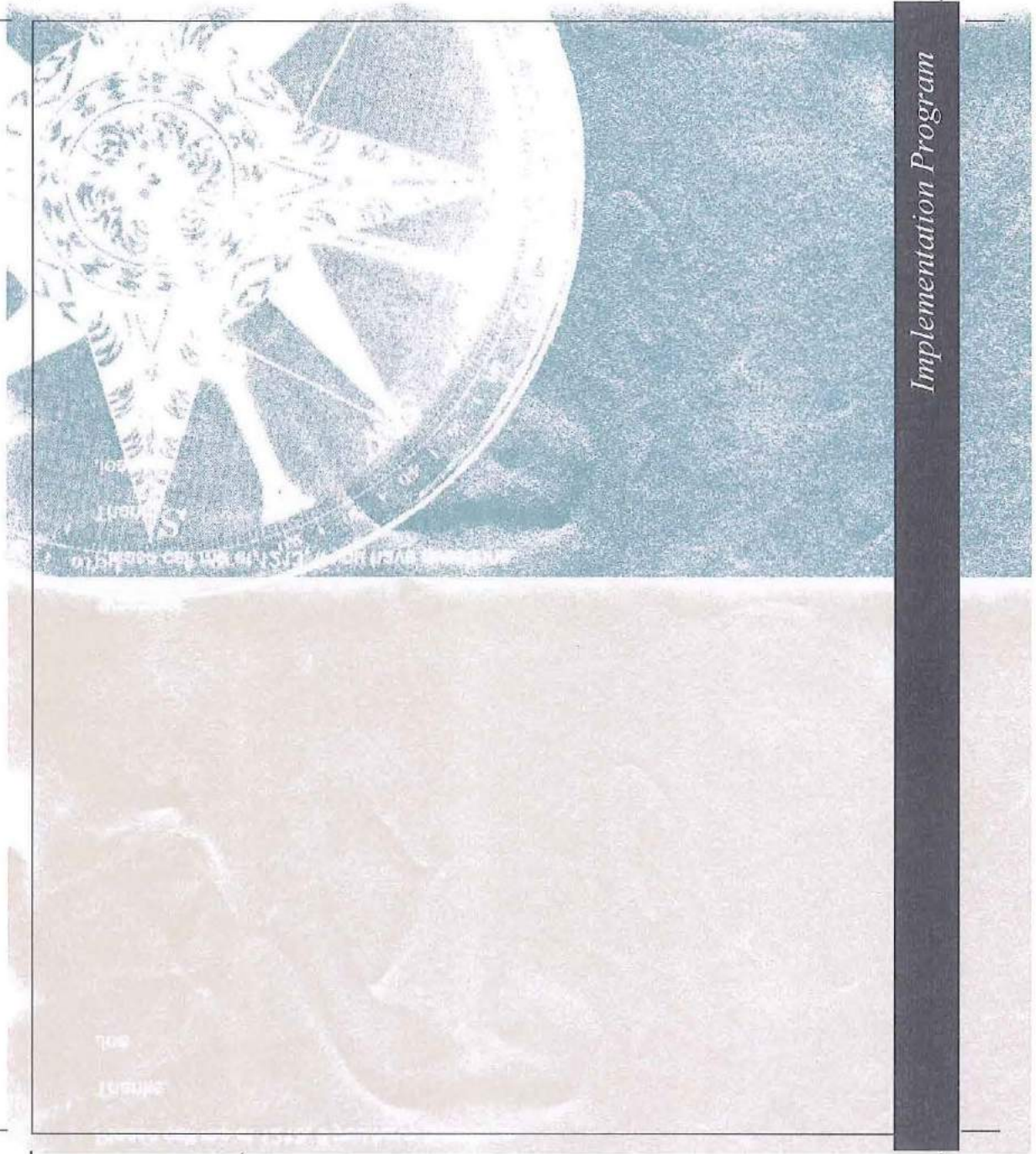
PROTOTYPE ROADWAY
 ARTERIAL ROADWAY



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DATE DRAWN:
 MONTH 200X
 LAST REVISION:
 MONTH 200X

PAGE 1 OF 1
 NP Arterial



Implementation Program

TOP
BOTTOM

Implementation

“No matter how quality of life is defined, park and recreational opportunities are likely to be a part of it. There are no great cities in North America or elsewhere in the world that do not have great park, recreation and cultural amenities.” - John Crompton

John Crompton is a distinguished professor of Recreation, Park & Tourism Science at Texas A&M University. He is one of the foremost authorities on marketing, valuing, and planning natural resource and recreational amenities. His studies and writings have focused on evaluating the role of natural resource areas in stimulating economic development through the attraction of tourism visitors; the attraction of "footloose" businesses; the attraction of wealthy retirees; the rejuvenation of deteriorated urban areas; and the enhancement of the tax base through raising property values. Many of the research and evaluation techniques employed by Glattig Jackson and the Parks and Recreation Department staff are supported by Crompton's works in this growing field.

Parks and Open Space – Proximity Principle

Frederick Law Olmstead, in justifying the development of one of the greatest parks in the world, New York's Central Park, used the theory of the proximity principle. This principle suggests that there is a premium associated with properties situated close to open space. Olmstead's theory proved correct. Property values in Manhattan doubled during the 15 years after the park development began. In the three wards surrounding Central Park, 2.5 miles north of most of the City's developed real estate, values increased nine times. The example set by Central Park initiated more than a century of government land acquisition and park development. While traditional urban parks have historically attracted the most attention in terms of their influence on property values, recent studies have also looked at proximity to public parks, greenways, and golf courses in a number of cities throughout the United States.

A report published in 2000 in which the Portland, Oregon park system was studied, suggested that between one and three percent of a residence's value could be attributed to being within a straight-line distance of 1,500 feet of the City's 193 parks, which range in size from 0.2 to 567.8 acres. Another later study found that park size correlated directly with the premium for being proximate to the park. One study conducted in 2001 found that homes that faced on the City's 14 parks commanded a 22% value premium to homes more than one half mile away from the parks. The Dallas study further suggested that approximately 85 percent of an urban park's positive property value impact occurs within 800 feet of its edge.

The preliminary estimate for implementing the parks and open space vision plan proposed is approximately \$118 million. This will provide neighborhood, community, regional, special use, and greenway and blueway trail facilities, to satisfy the needs of the City's growing population through 2025.

Costs

Based on the results and findings of the needs assessment and the visioning process an order of magnitude implementation program has been developed. This program is summarized into three categories:

- Order of Magnitude Opinion of Cost and Funding
- Proposed Capital Improvements Program
- Recurring Annual Costs for Operating Facilities

The total cost to develop all of the facilities identified in the Conceptual Master Plan is \$117,000,000. The City’s portion of this cost is estimated at approximately \$73,000,000, with other funding sources contributing the remainder. The following section summarizes the total project costs by category.

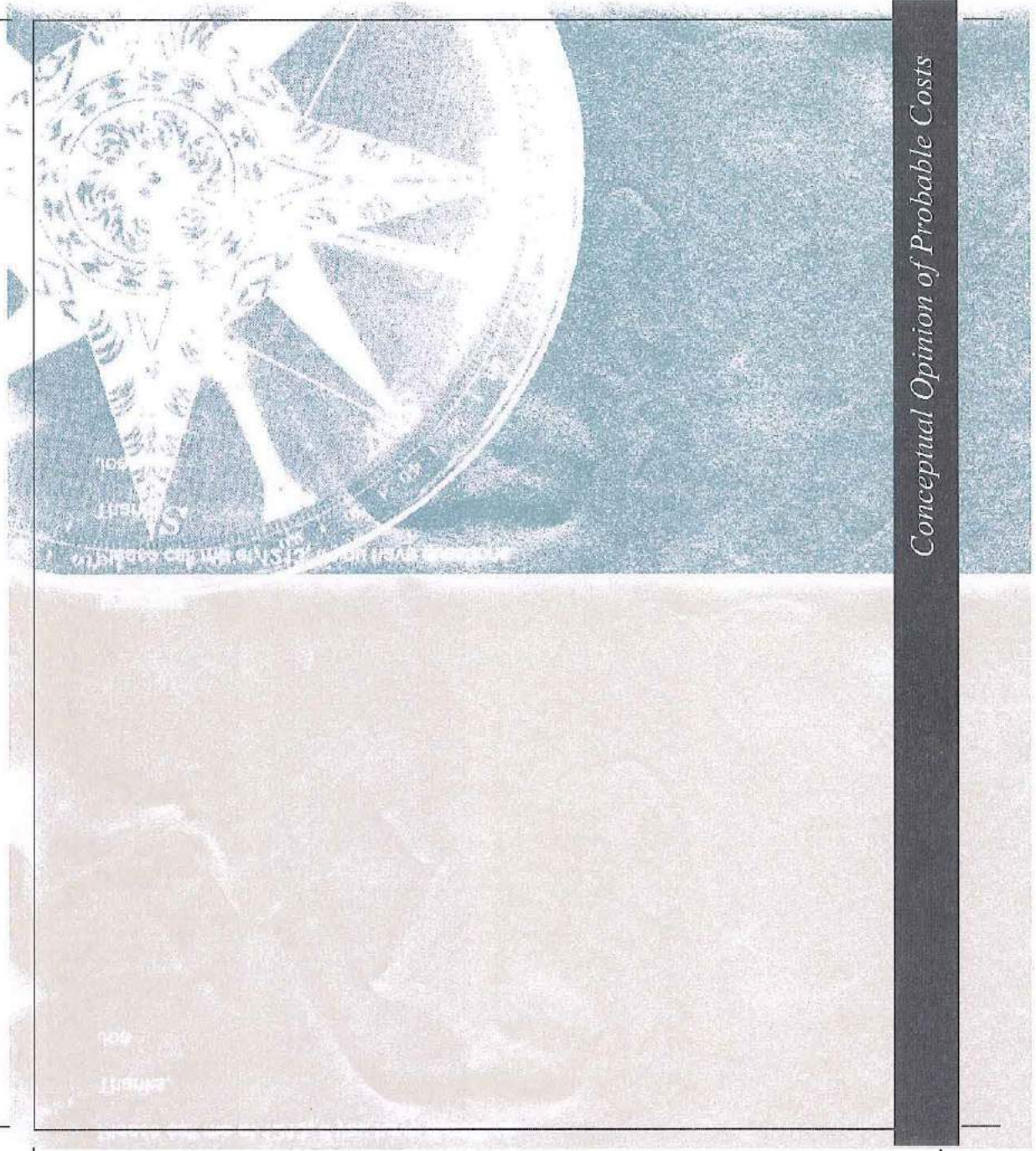
This amount does not include potential partnerships with the County or the School Board. Through shared responsibilities and joint planning the City’s obligation could be reduced. A proposed Capital Improvements Program is as follows:

Year	Amount	Description
2007	\$2,000,000	Land Acquisition (Phase 1)
2008	\$2,000,000	Butler Park Renovation & Dog Park Development
2009	\$1,500,000	Teen Center Development
2010	\$1,000,000	Dallas White Park Renovation
2011	\$1,050,000	Greenways and Trails Development (Phase 1)

Policy Initiatives

1. Revise the City’s Comprehensive Plan to adopt the community park service areas proposed in the master plan:
 - 2-3 mile service area
 - Facility standards consistent with the system criteria
 - Aesthetically pleasing and safe
2. Revise the City’s Comprehensive Plan to integrate the concept of open space as an integral part of neighborhoods:
 - Service area boundaries consistent with the master plan
 - ½ mile service area
 - Facility standards consistent with the system criteria
 - Aesthetically pleasing and safe

3. Revise the City's Comprehensive Plan to integrate linear greenways into policy for conservation areas.
4. Revise the City's Land Development Regulations to require the development of neighborhood and community parks in new developments in accordance with the master plan.
5. Revise the City's roadway design standards to incorporate sidewalks, bike lanes and street trees on major arterial and collector roads.
6. Institute a formalized joint planning process with the County and School Board for the acquisition and development of parks and open spaces.



Conceptual Opinion of Probable Costs



City of North Port Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Order of Magnitude Opinion of Probable Cost
System Total to 25 Year Build Out
June 21, 2006

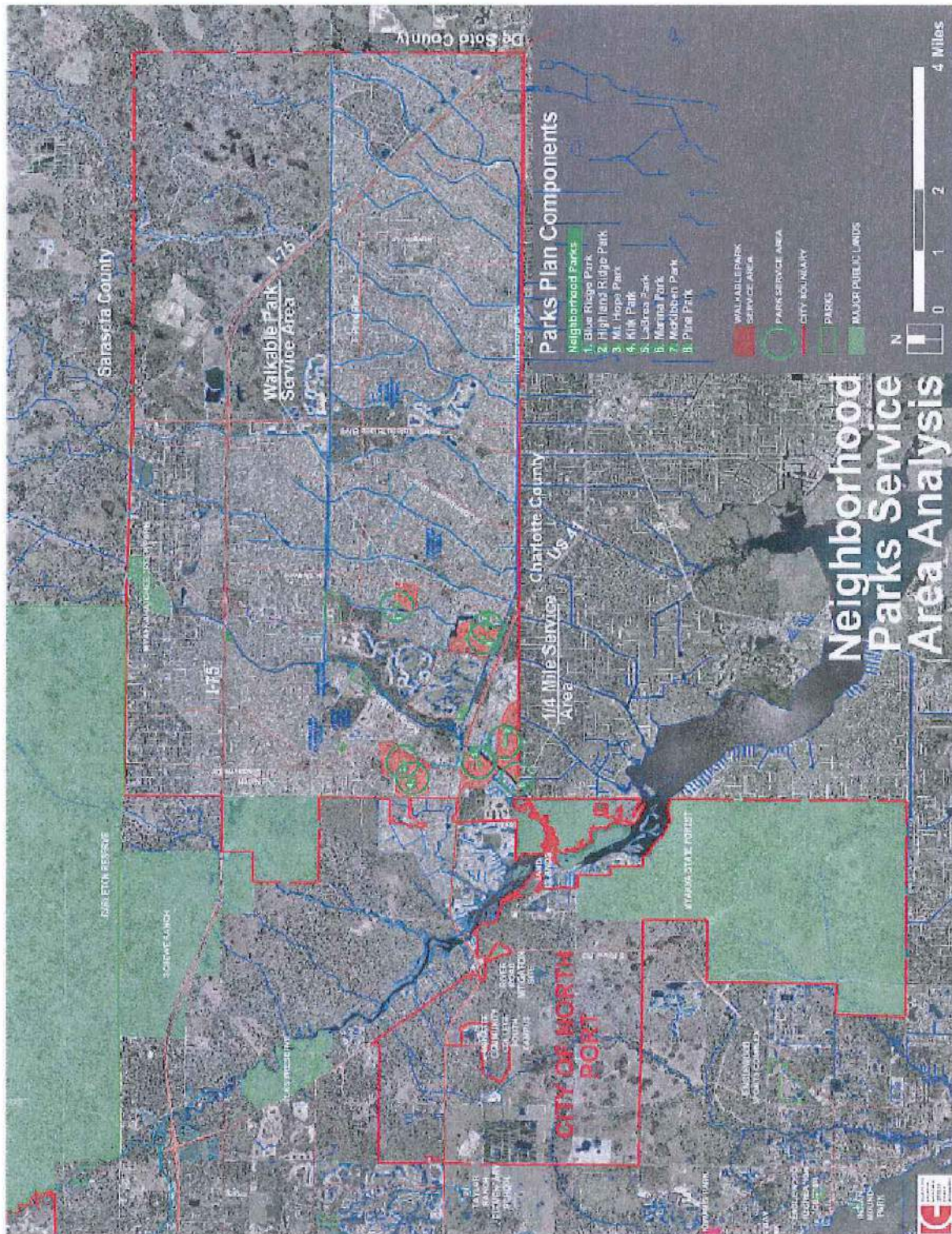
INITIAL COSTS - DESIGN, PERMITTING AND CONSTRUCTION							PROPOSED FUNDING								
Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Total Price	Description	County		School Board		Grants		Donations		City	
						Percent	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
A) Neighborhood Parks															
1. Land Acquisition															
New Neighborhood Park Sites	75	EA	\$500,000	\$37,500,000	5 Acres at \$100,000/Acre	0	\$0	0	\$0	50	\$18,750,000	0	\$0	50	\$18,750,000
2. Park/Facility Development															
Neighborhood Park Development	82	EA	\$250,000	\$20,500,000	Informal Ball Field, Open Play, Playground, Basketball, Picnic Area	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	100	\$20,500,000
3. Park/Facility Renovation															
Neighborhood Park Renovation	2.5	%	\$0	\$512,500	50% Renovation at 20 Year Life Cycle	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	100	\$512,500
Neighborhood Parks Total				\$58,512,500											
B) Community Parks															
1. Land Acquisition															
New Community Park Sites	8	EA	\$2,000,000	\$16,000,000	20 Acres at \$100,000/Acre	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	50	\$8,000,000	50	\$8,000,000
2. Park/Facility Development															
Community Parks	9	EA	\$3,500,000	\$31,500,000	10 acres Developed with Community Center, Baseball, Softball, Soccer, Tennis, Basketball, Playground, Picnic Shelters, 100 Car Parking, 10 Acres Passive Use	0	\$0	0	\$0	50	\$15,750,000	0	\$0	50	\$15,750,000
3. Park/Facility Renovation															
Butler Community Park Renovation	1	EA	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	50% Renovation at 20 Year Life Cycle	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	100	\$1,500,000
Dallas White Community Park Renovation	1	EA	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	50% Renovation at 20 Year Life Cycle	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	100	\$1,500,000
Community Parks Total				\$49,000,000											
C) Regional Park (by Sarasota County)															
1. Land Acquisition															
New Regional Park Sites	1	EA	\$10,000,000	\$0	100 Acres at \$100,000/Acre by County	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
2. Park/Facility Development															
Regional Parks	1	EA	\$12,000,000	\$0	100 Acre Site Being Developed by County	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
3. Park/Facility Renovation															
Regional Park Renovation	1	EA	\$1,000,000	\$0	By Sarasota County	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Regional Parks Total				\$0											
D) Special Use Facilities															
1. Land Acquisition															
New Special Use Park Sites	0	EA	\$2,000,000	\$0	20 Acres at \$100,000/Acre	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
2. Park/Facility Development															
Special Use Park Development	1	EA	\$500,000	\$500,000	Segregated Large and Small Dog Areas, Play Features, Water and Shade	0	\$0	0	\$0	50	\$250,000	0	\$0	50	\$250,000
3. Park/Facility Renovation															
Special Use Park Renovation	2.5	%	\$0	\$0	50% Renovation at 20 Year Life Cycle	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Special Use Parks Total				\$500,000											
E) Civic Gathering Spaces															
1. Land Acquisition															
New Civic Gathering Space Site	0	EA	\$10,000,000	\$0	To Be Developed at the New City Hall Site	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
2. Park/Facility Development															
Civic Gathering Space	1	EA	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	Stages, Restrooms and Support Amenities for Major Civic Events	0	\$0	0	\$0	50	\$2,500,000	0	\$0	50	\$2,500,000
3. Park/Facility Renovation															
Civic Gathering Space Renovation	2.5	%	\$0	\$125,000	50% Renovation at 20 Year Life Cycle	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	100	\$125,000
Civic Gathering Space Total				\$5,125,000											
F) Conservation Areas															
1. Land Acquisition															
New Conservation Sites	0	EA	\$0	\$0		0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
2. Park/Facility Development															
Conservation Area Development	14	EA	\$100,000	\$1,400,000	Exotic Vegetation Removal, Trails, Landscaping	0	\$0	0	\$0	50	\$700,000	0	\$0	50	\$700,000
3. Park/Facility Renovation															
Conservation Area Renovation	2.5	%	\$0	\$35,000	50% Renovation at 20 Year Life Cycle	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	100	\$35,000
Conservation Areas Total				\$1,435,000											
G) Trails, Greenways and Blueways															
1. Land Acquisition															
Trails Right of Way	100	AC	\$100,000	\$0	100 Acres at \$100,000/Acre, By Other City Departments	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Park Connections	20	EA	\$100,000	\$0	Residential Lots for Access to Parks, By Other City Departments	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
2. Park/Facility Development															
Trails and Greenways Development	10	MI	\$350,000	\$3,500,000	Trails, Bridges, Benches, Shade Structures, Drinking Fountains	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	100	\$3,500,000
3. Park/Facility Renovation															
Trails and Greenways Renovation	2.5	EA	\$100,000	\$0	By Other City Departments	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Trails and Bikeways Total				\$3,500,000											
H) Sidewalks and Bikeways															
1. Land Acquisition															
Trails Right of Way	100	AC	\$100,000	\$0	100 Acres at \$100,000/Acre, By Other City Departments	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Park Connections	40	EA	\$100,000	\$0	Residential Lots for Access to Parks, By Other City Departments	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
2. Park/Facility Development															
Sidewalks and Bikeways Development	110	MI	\$350,000	\$0	Benches, Shade Structures, Drinking Fountains, By Other City Departments	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
3. Park/Facility Renovation															
Trails and Bikeways Renovation	2.5	EA	\$100,000	\$0	By Other City Departments	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Trails and Bikeways Total				\$0											
Initial Cost Total				\$118,072,500			\$0	\$0	\$37,950,000	\$8,000,000	\$73,622,500				



**City of North Port Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Order of Magnitude Opinion of Probable Cost
System Total to 25 Year Build Out
June 21, 2006**

RECURRING COSTS - ANNUAL COSTS TO OPERATE FACILITIES						
Recurring Programming/ Staffing Costs (Annual)						
A.	Neighborhood Parks	0	%	\$20,500,000	\$0	Percentage of Development Cost
B.	Community Parks	3	%	\$31,500,000	\$945,000	Percentage of Development Cost
C.	Regional Parks	3	%	\$12,000,000	\$0	To Be Maintained by Sarasota County
D.	Special Use Facilities	5	%	\$500,000	\$25,000	Percentage of Development Cost
E.	Civic Gathering Spaces	2	%	\$5,000,000	\$100,000	Percentage of Development Cost
F.	Conservation Areas	0	%	\$0	\$0	Percentage of Development Cost
G.	Trails Greenways and Blueways	0	%	\$1,400,000	\$0	Percentage of Development Cost
H.	Sidewalks and Bikeways	0	%	\$0	\$0	Percentage of Development Cost
Recurring Programs and Staffing Total					\$1,070,000	
Recurring Operation and Maintenance Costs (Annual)						
A.	Neighborhood Parks	3	%	\$20,500,000	\$615,000	Percentage of Development Cost
B.	Community Parks	5	%	\$31,500,000	\$1,575,000	Percentage of Development Cost
C.	Regional Parks	5	%	\$0	\$0	To Be Maintained by Sarasota County
D.	Special Use Facilities	8	%	\$500,000	\$40,000	Percentage of Development Cost
E.	Civic Gathering Spaces	4	%	\$5,000,000	\$200,000	Percentage of Development Cost
F.	Conservation Areas	2	%	\$0	\$0	Percentage of Development Cost
G.	Trails Greenways and Blueways	2	%	\$1,400,000	\$28,000	Percentage of Development Cost
H.	Sidewalks and Bikeways	2	%	\$0	\$0	To be Maintained by Others
Recurring Operations and Maintenance Total					\$2,458,000	
Recurring Cost Total					\$3,528,000	





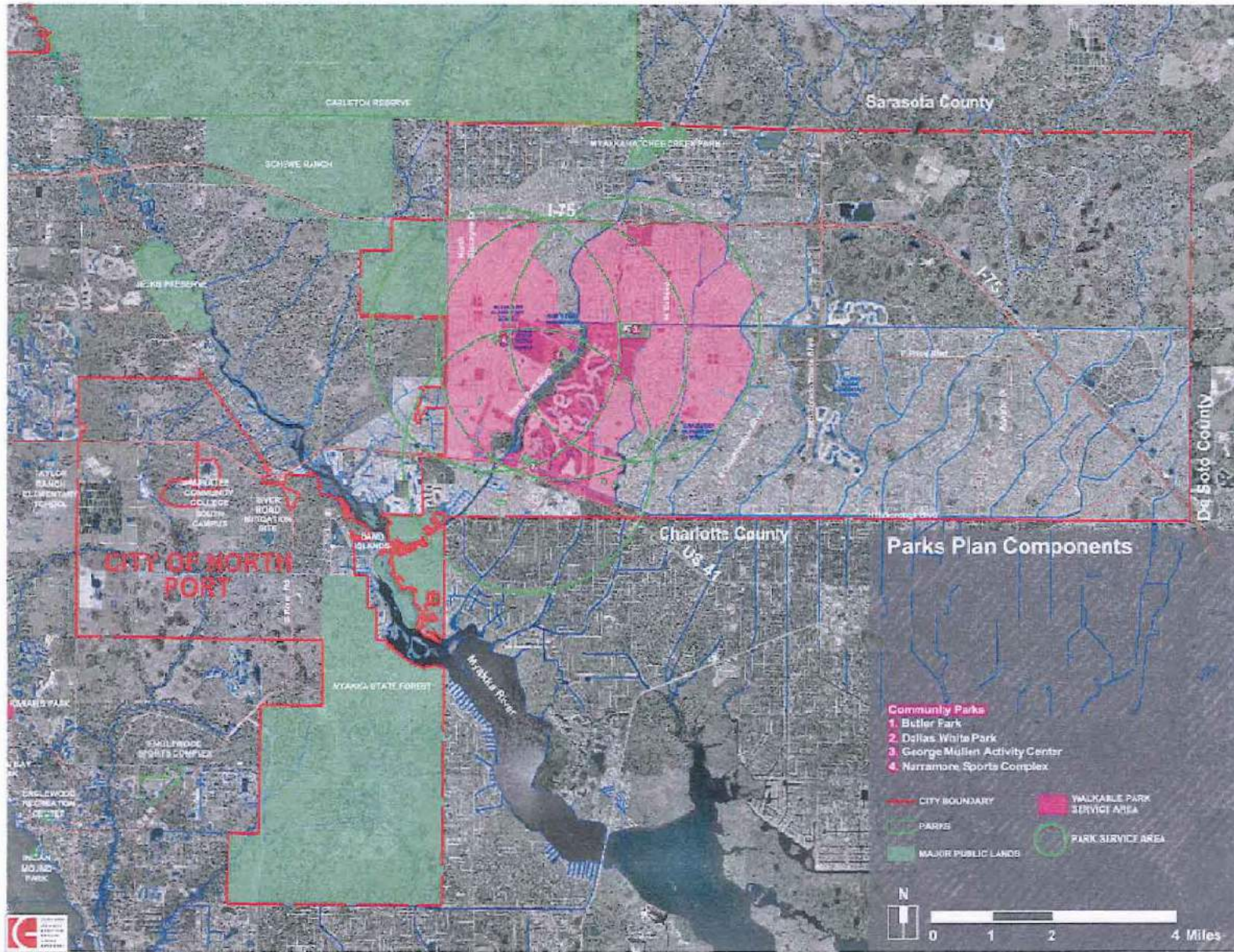
Neighborhood Parks Service Area Analysis

Parks Plan Components

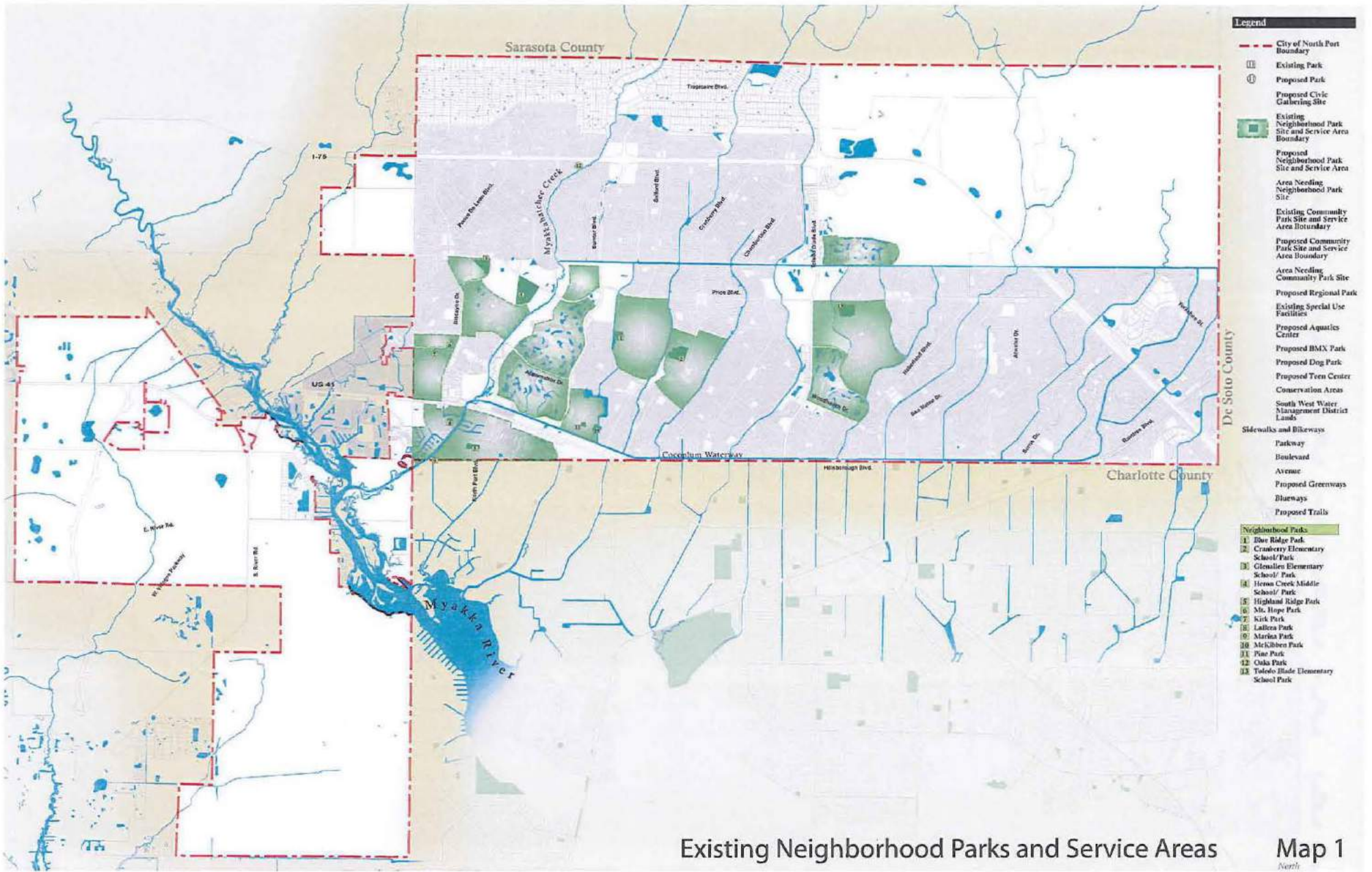
- Neighborhood Parks**
1. Blue Ridge Park
 2. Highland Ridge Park
 3. Mt. Hope Park
 4. Mt. Park
 5. Lashley Park
 6. Marina Park
 7. Weddibben Park
 8. Pine Park
- WALKABLE PARK SERVICE AREA**
- PARK SERVICE AREA**
- CITY BOUNDARY**
- PARKS**
- MAJOR PUBLIC LANDS**



Graphic 1
 Neighborhood Parks
 Service Area
 Analysis map

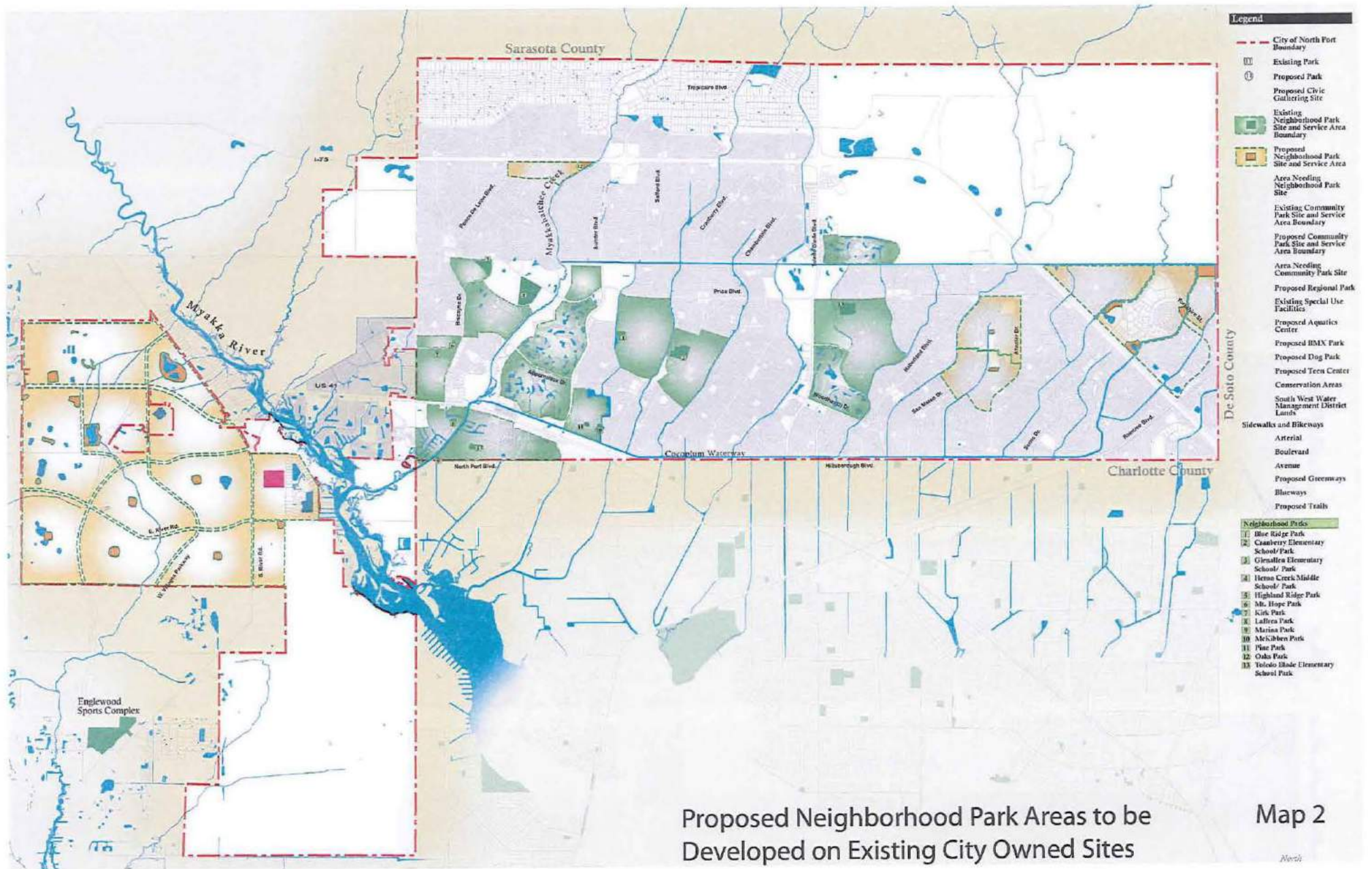


Graphic 2
Community Parks
Service Area
Analysis Map



Existing Neighborhood Parks and Service Areas

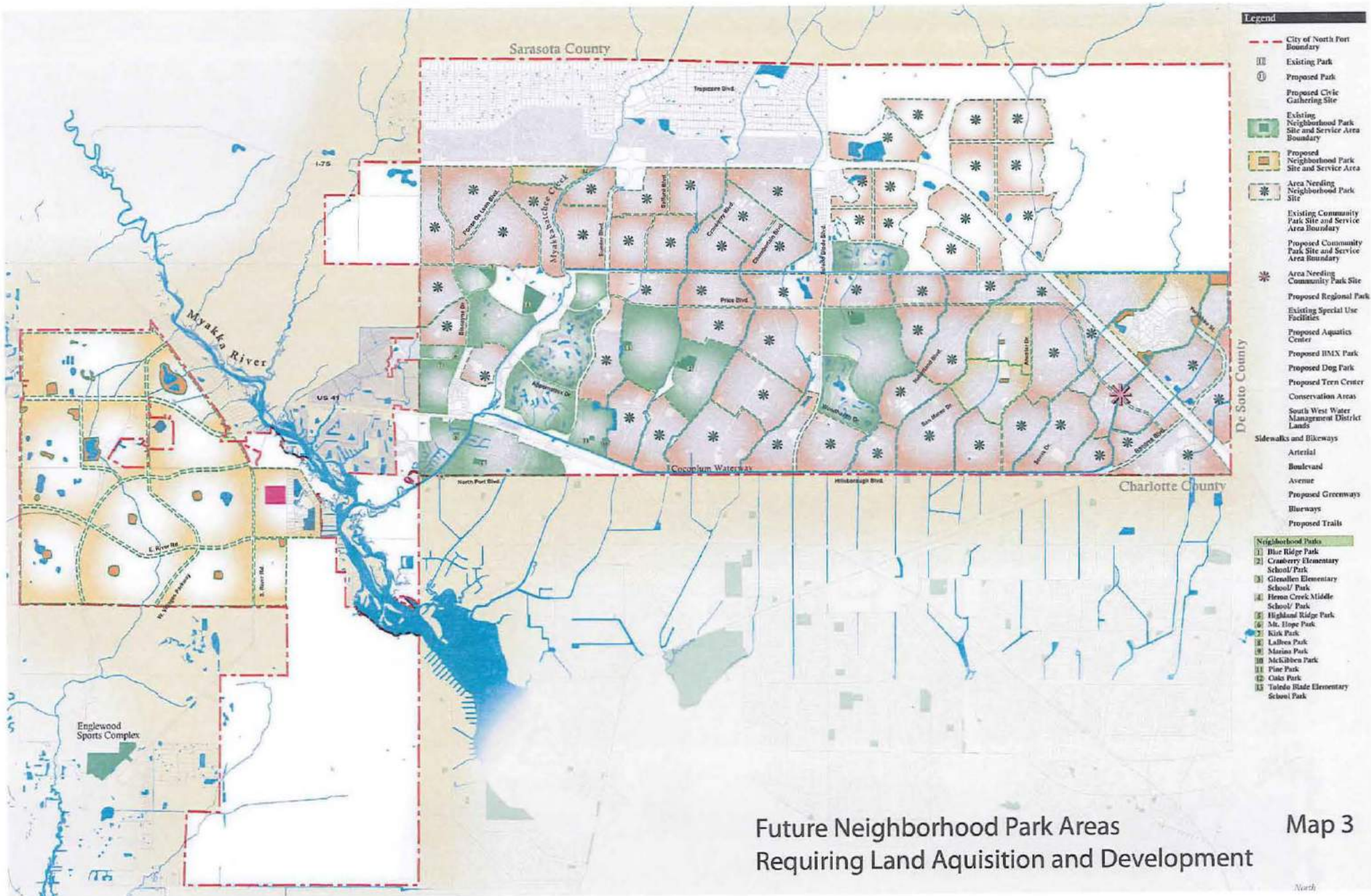
Map 1
North



Proposed Neighborhood Park Areas to be Developed on Existing City Owned Sites

Map 2

North

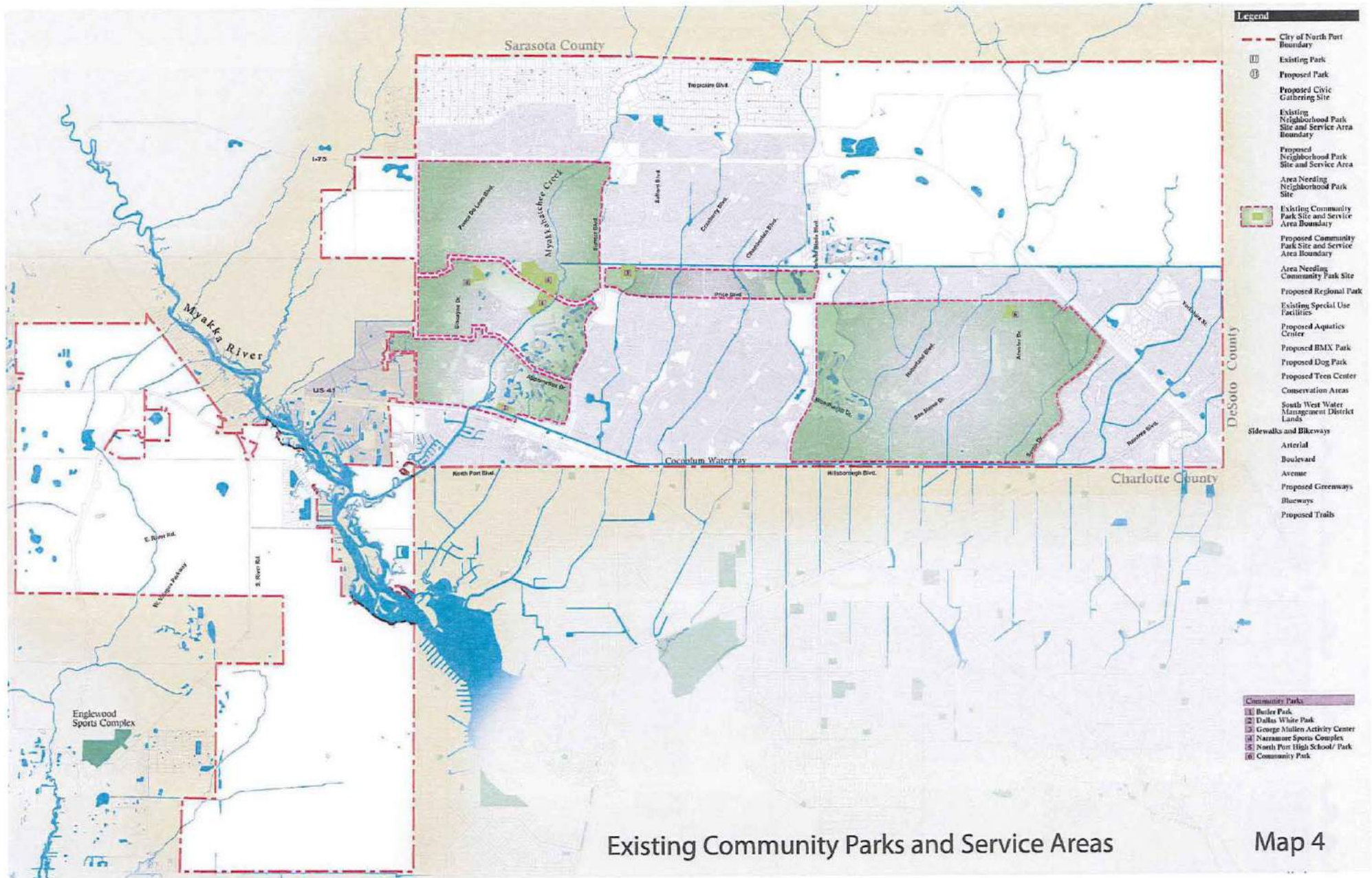


- Legend**
- - - City of North Port Boundary
 - III Existing Park
 - ⊕ Proposed Park
 - ⊕ Proposed Civic Gathering Site
 - Existing Neighborhood Park Site and Service Area Boundary
 - Proposed Neighborhood Park Site and Service Area Boundary
 - Area Needing Neighborhood Park Site
 - Existing Community Park Site and Service Area Boundary
 - Proposed Community Park Site and Service Area Boundary
 - * Area Needing Community Park Site
 - Proposed Regional Park
 - Existing Special Use Facilities
 - Proposed Aquatics Center
 - Proposed IMX Park
 - Proposed Dog Park
 - Proposed Teen Center
 - Conservation Areas
 - South West Water Management District Lands
 - Sidewalks and Bikesways
 - Arterial
 - Boulevard
 - Avenue
 - Proposed Greenways
 - Blueways
 - Proposed Trails
- Neighborhood Paths**
- 1) Blue Ridge Park
 - 2) Cranberry Elementary School/Park
 - 3) Glenallen Elementary School/ Park
 - 4) Hernon Creek Middle School/ Park
 - 5) Highland Ridge Park
 - 6) Mt. Hope Park
 - 7) Kirk Park
 - 8) LaBrea Park
 - 9) Marino Park
 - 10) McKibben Park
 - 11) Pine Park
 - 12) Cuba Park
 - 13) Toledo Blade Elementary School/ Park

Future Neighborhood Park Areas Requiring Land Acquisition and Development

Map 3

North



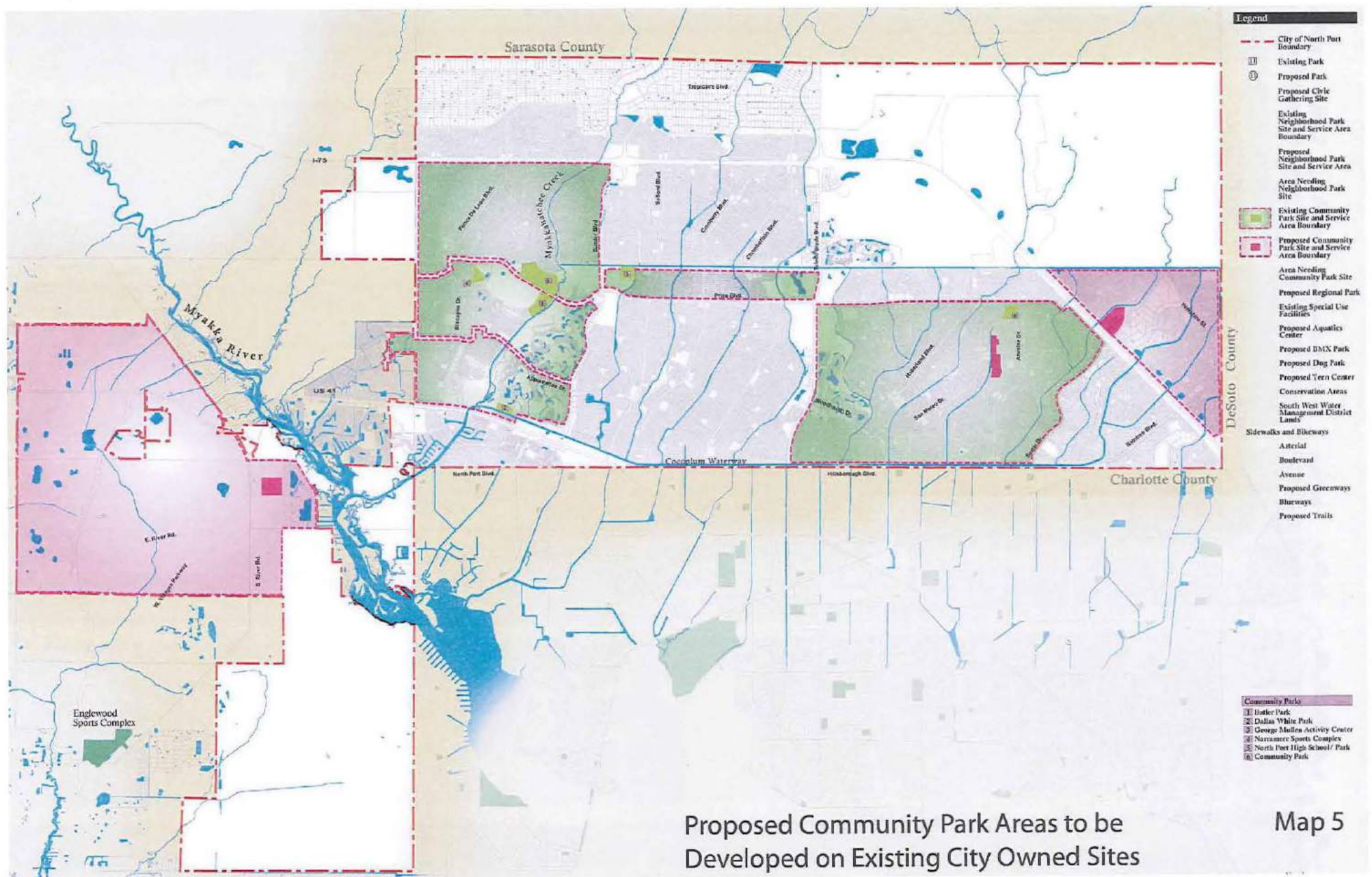
Legend

- City of North Port Boundary
- Existing Park
- Proposed Park
- Proposed Civic Gathering Site
- Existing Neighborhood Park Site and Service Area Boundary
- Proposed Neighborhood Park Site and Service Area Boundary
- Area Needing Neighborhood Park Site
- Existing Community Park Site and Service Area Boundary
- Proposed Community Park Site and Service Area Boundary
- Area Needing Community Park Site
- Proposed Regional Park
- Existing Special Use Facilities
- Proposed Aquatics Center
- Proposed BMX Park
- Proposed Dog Park
- Proposed Teen Center
- Conservation Areas
- South West Water Management District Lands
- Sidewalks and Bikeways
- Arterial
- Boulevard
- Avenue
- Proposed Greenways
- Blueways
- Proposed Trails

- Community Parks:**
- 1) Butler Park
 - 2) Dallas White Park
 - 3) George Mullen Activity Center
 - 4) Narramore Sports Complex
 - 5) North Port High School/ Park
 - 6) Community Park

Existing Community Parks and Service Areas

Map 4



Legend

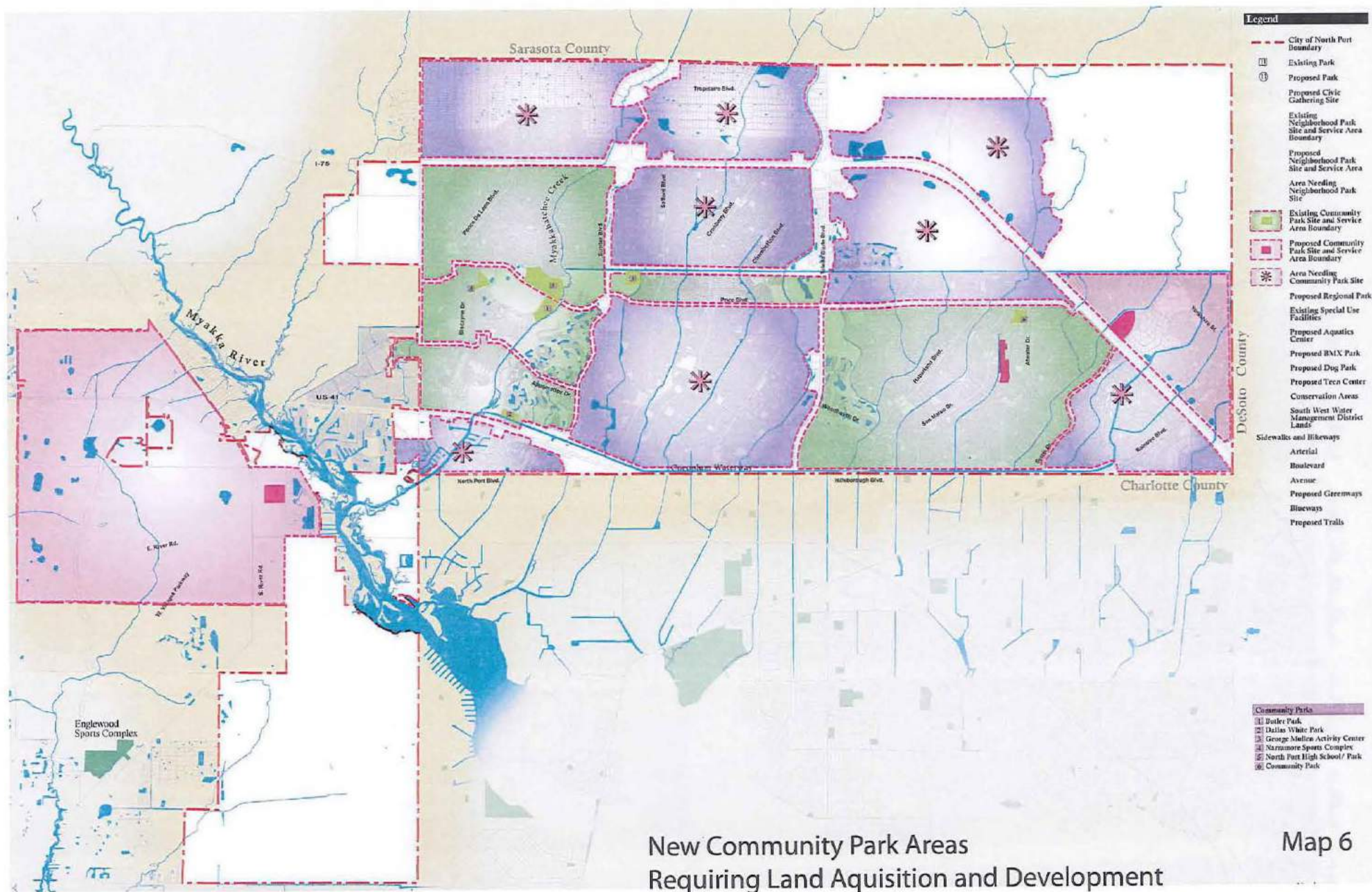
- City of North Port Boundary
- Ⓜ Existing Park
- Ⓢ Proposed Park
- Ⓡ Proposed Civic Gathering Site
- Existing Neighborhood Park Site and Service Area Boundary
- Proposed Neighborhood Park Site and Service Area Boundary
- Area Needing Neighborhood Park Site
- Existing Community Park Site and Service Area Boundary
- Proposed Community Park Site and Service Area Boundary
- Area Needing Community Park Site
- Proposed Regional Park
- Existing Special Use Facilities
- Proposed Aquatics Center
- Proposed DMX Park
- Proposed Dog Park
- Proposed Teen Center
- Conservation Areas
- South West Water Management District Lands
- Sidewalks and Bikeways
- Arterial
- Boulevard
- Avenue
- Proposed Greenways
- Blacways
- Proposed Trails

Community Parks

- 1 Butler Park
- 2 Dallas White Park
- 3 George Muller Activity Center
- 4 Naramore Sports Complex
- 5 North Port High School/ Park
- 6 Community Park

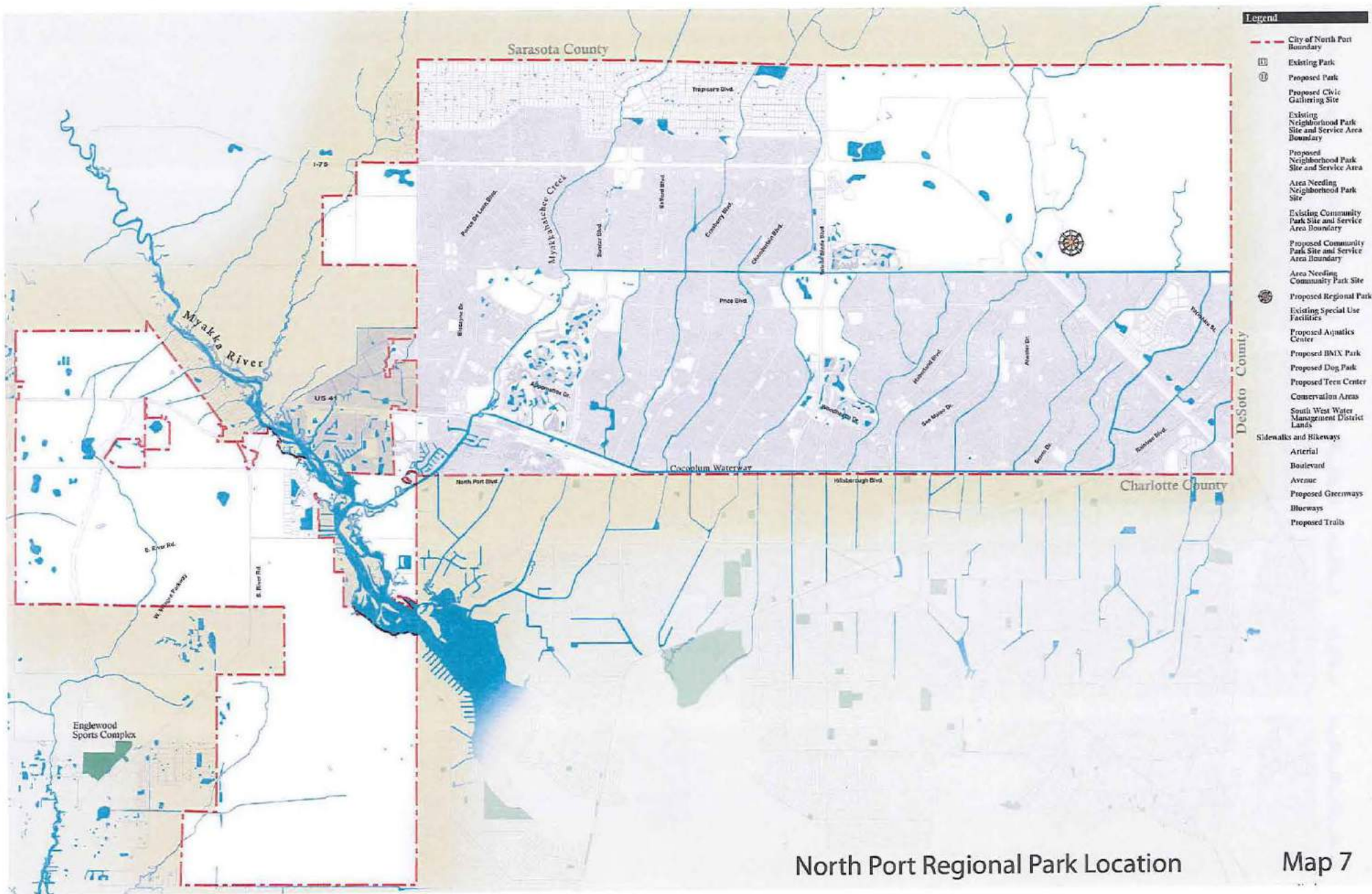
Proposed Community Park Areas to be Developed on Existing City Owned Sites

Map 5



New Community Park Areas Requiring Land Aquisition and Development

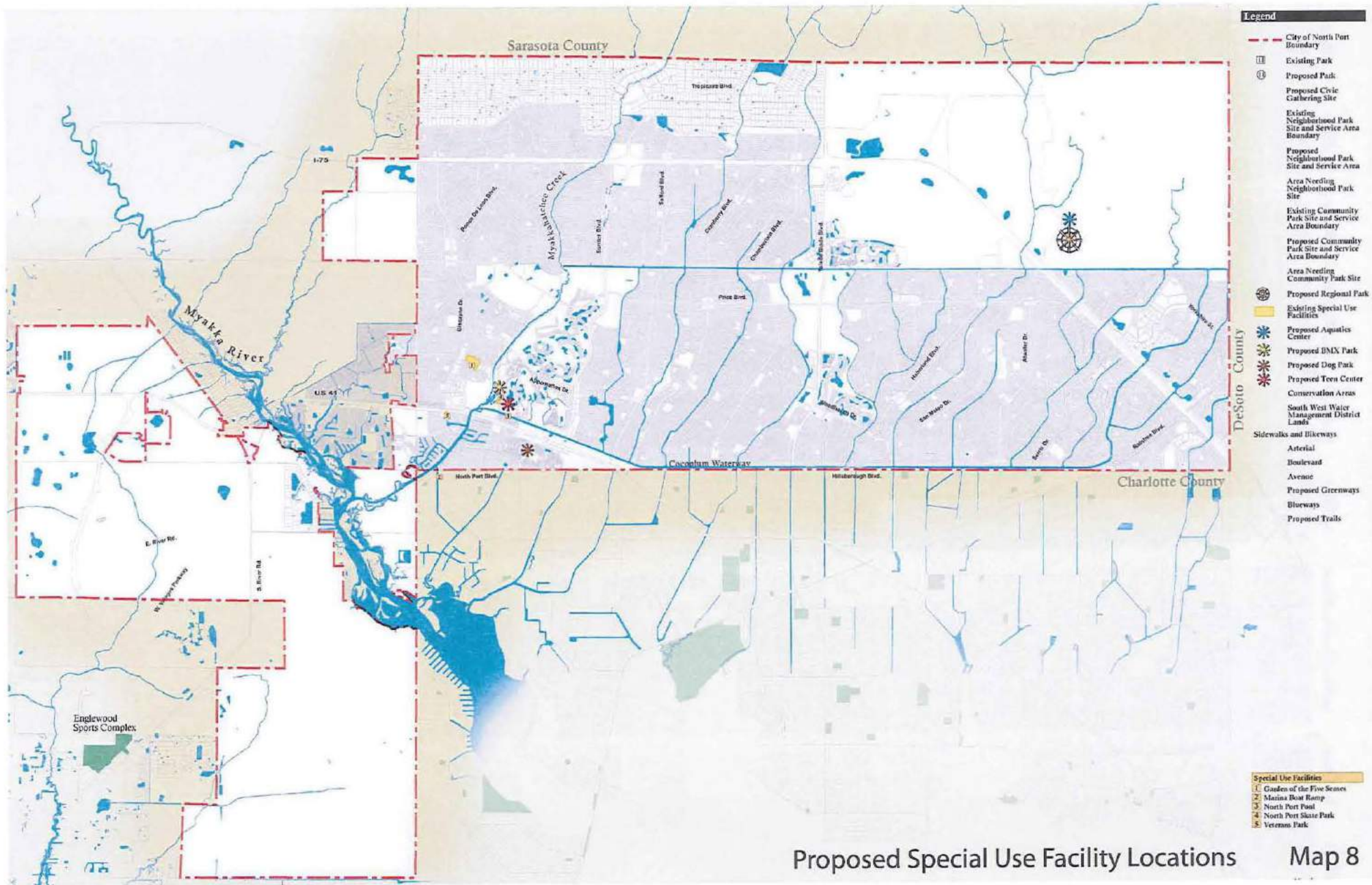
Map 6



- Legend**
- City of North Port Boundary
 - Existing Park
 - Proposed Park
 - Proposed Civic Gathering Site
 - Existing Neighborhood Park Site and Service Area Boundary
 - Proposed Neighborhood Park Site and Service Area
 - Area Needing Neighborhood Park Site
 - Existing Community Park Site and Service Area Boundary
 - Proposed Community Park Site and Service Area Boundary
 - Area Needing Community Park Site
 - Proposed Regional Park
 - Existing Special Use Facilities
 - Proposed Aquatics Center
 - Proposed BMX Park
 - Proposed Dog Park
 - Proposed Teen Center
 - Conservation Area
 - South West Water Management District Lands
 - Sidewalks and Bikeways
 - Arterial
 - Boulevard
 - Avenue
 - Proposed Greenways
 - Blueways
 - Proposed Trails

North Port Regional Park Location

Map 7

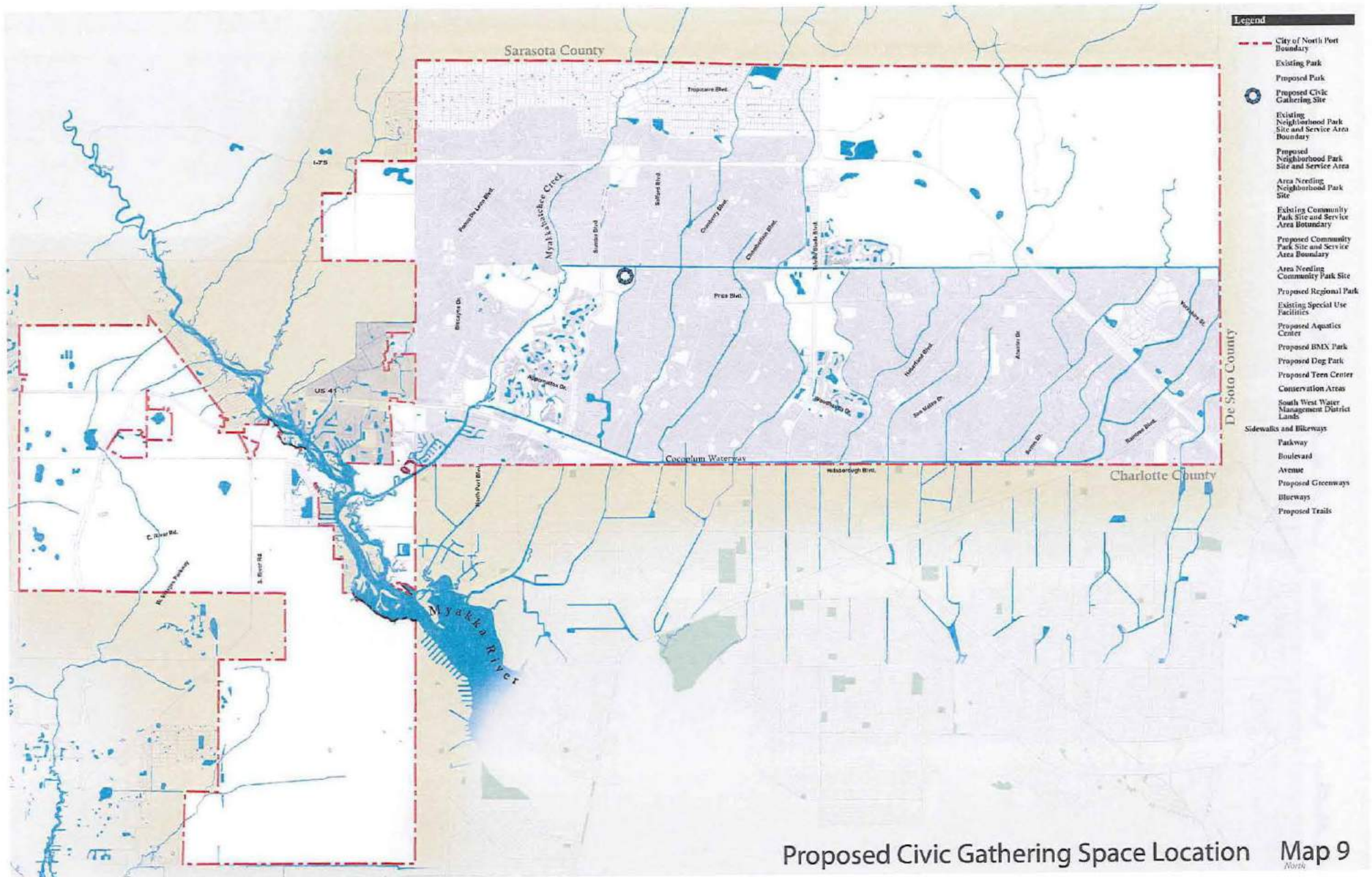


Legend

- City of North Port Boundary
- Existing Park
- Proposed Park
- Proposed Civic Gathering Site
- Existing Neighbourhood Park Site and Service Area Boundary
- Proposed Neighbourhood Park Site and Service Area
- Area Needing Neighbourhood Park Site
- Existing Community Park Site and Service Area Boundary
- Proposed Community Park Site and Service Area Boundary
- Area Needing Community Park Site
- Proposed Regional Park
- Existing Special Use Facilities
- * Proposed Aquatics Center
- * Proposed BMX Park
- * Proposed Dog Park
- * Proposed Teen Center
- * Conservation Areas
- * South West Water Management District Lands
- Sidewalks and Bikeways
- Arterial
- Boulevard
- Avenue
- Proposed Greenways
- Blueways
- Proposed Trails

- Special Use Facilities**
- 1. Garden of the Five Senses
 - 2. Macina Boat Ramp
 - 3. North Port Pool
 - 4. North Port Skate Park
 - 5. Veterans Park

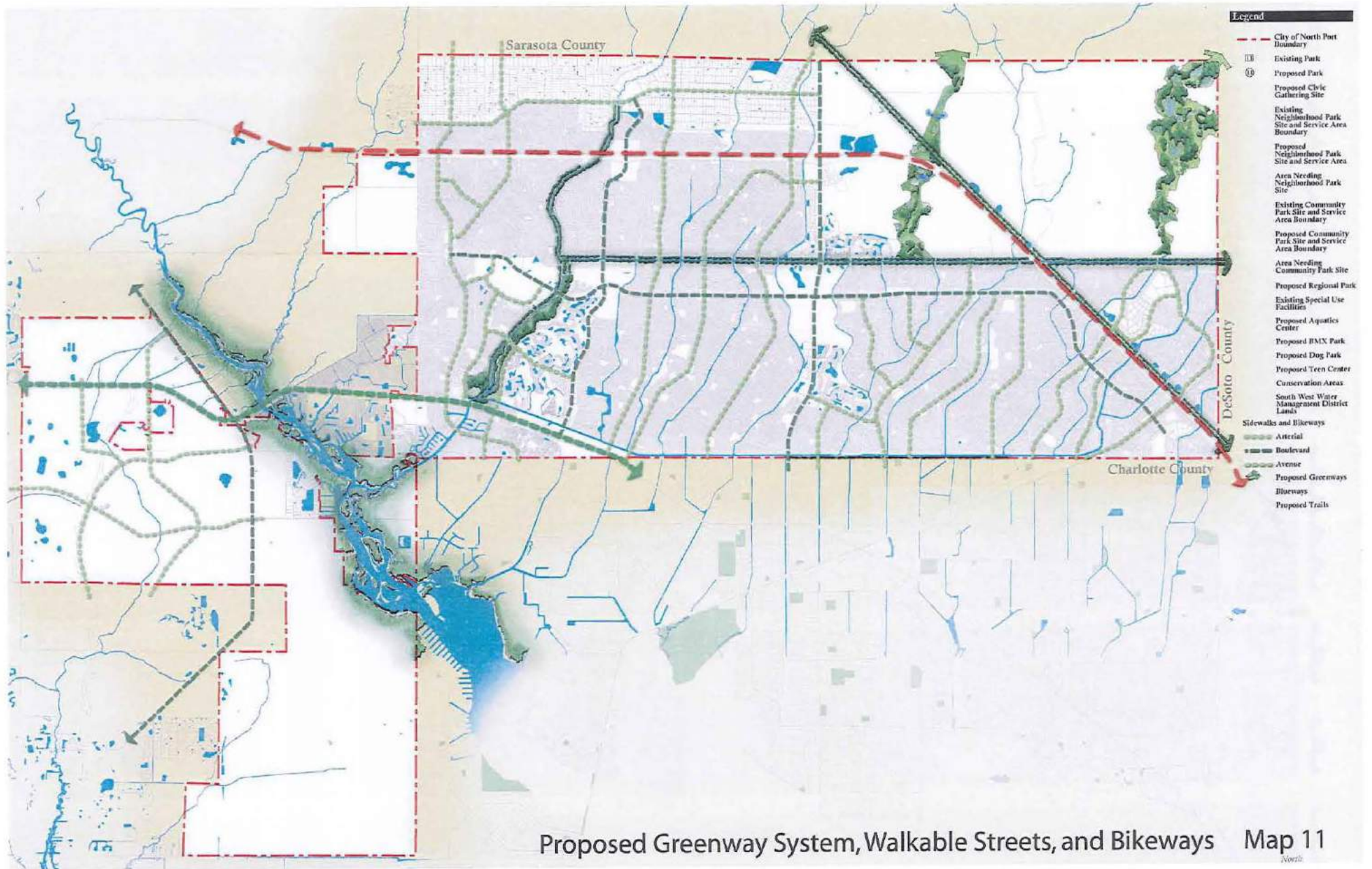
Proposed Special Use Facility Locations Map 8



Proposed Civic Gathering Space Location **Map 9**
North

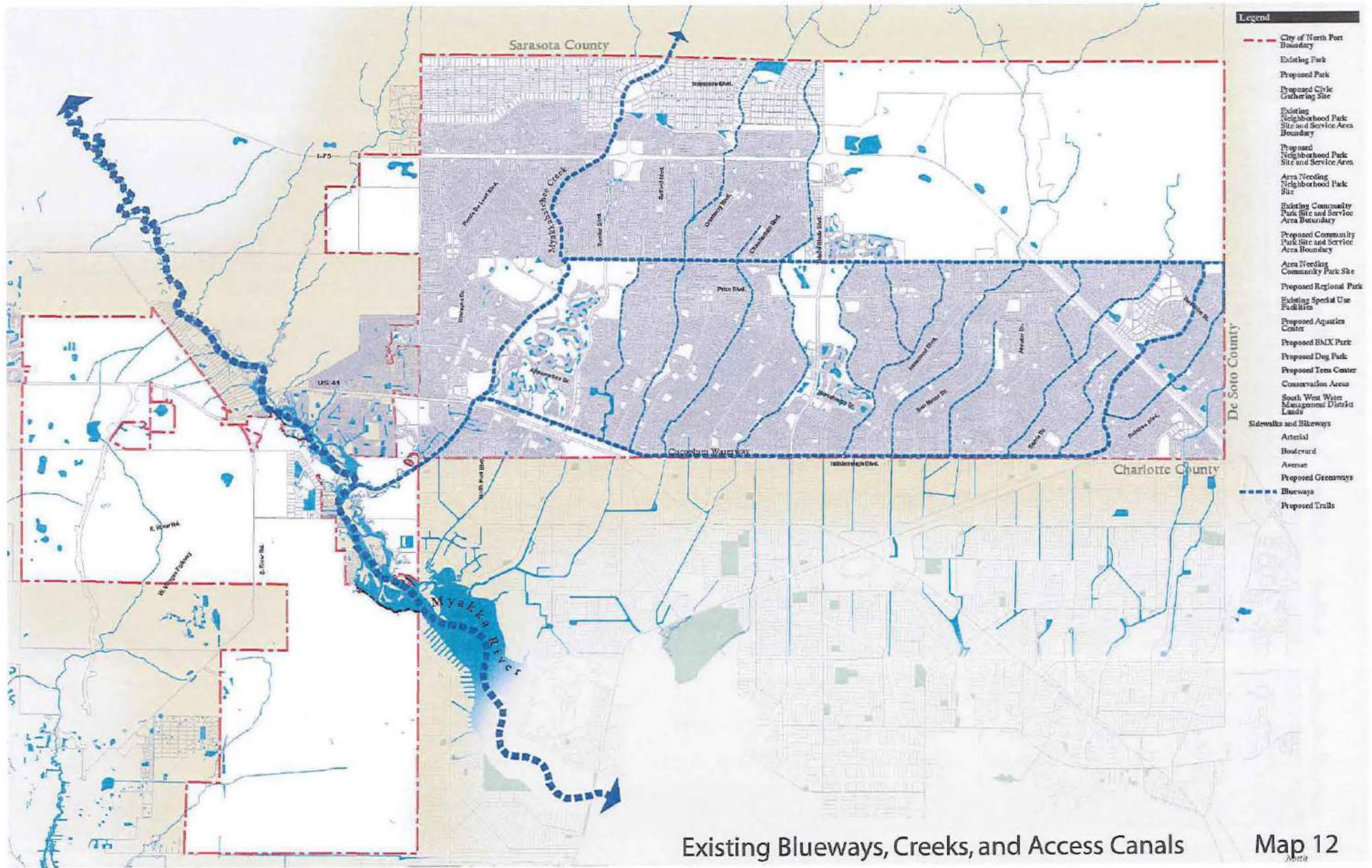


Existing Regional Conservation Areas



Proposed Greenway System, Walkable Streets, and Bikeways Map 11

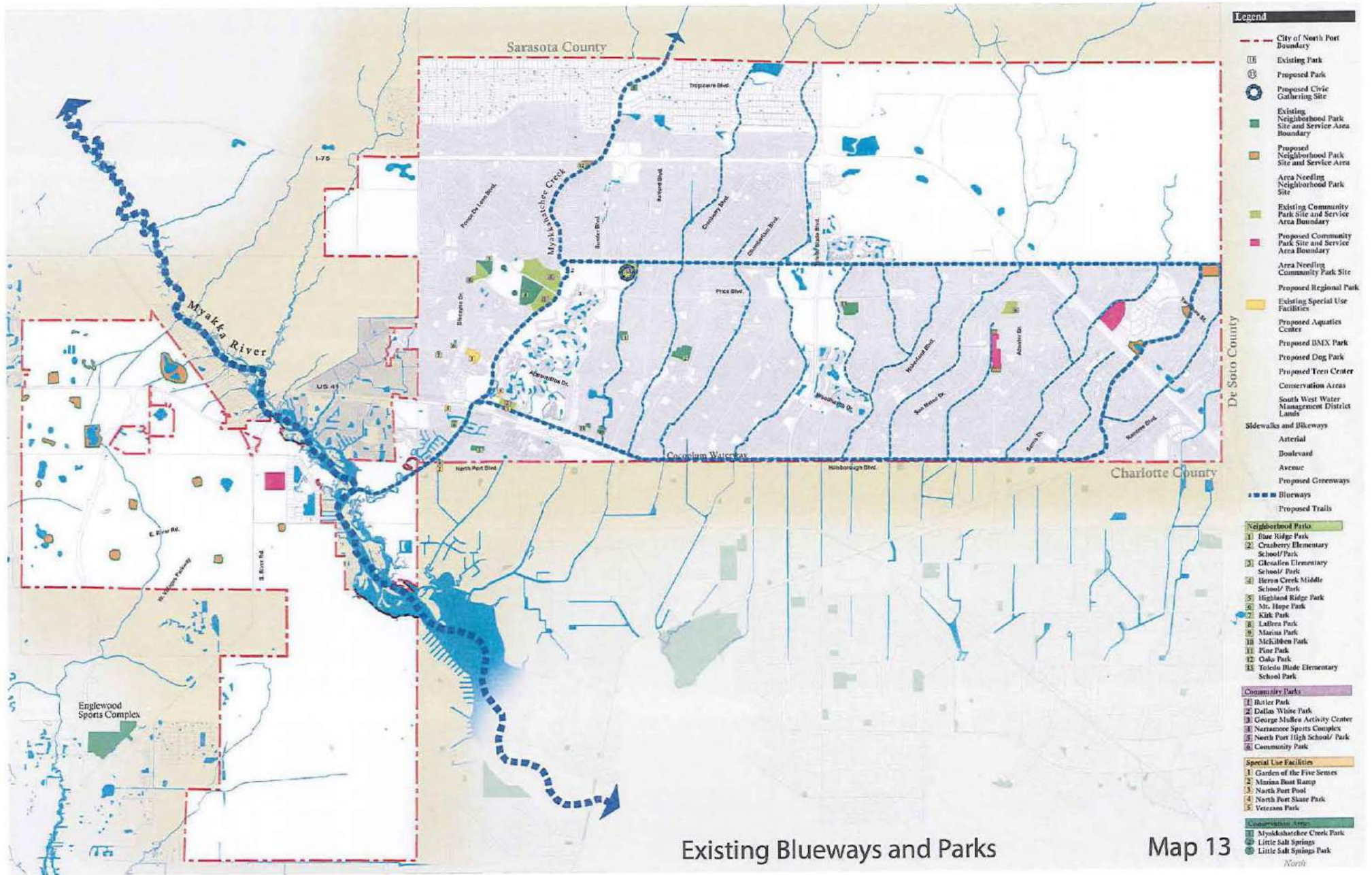
North



- Legend**
- - - City of North Port Boundary
 - Existing Park
 - Proposed Park
 - Proposed Cycle Grader Site
 - Existing Neighborhood Park Site and Service Area Boundary
 - Proposed Neighborhood Park Site and Service Area
 - Area Needing Neighborhood Park Site
 - Existing Community Park Site and Service Area Boundary
 - Proposed Community Park Site and Service Area Boundary
 - Area Needing Community Park Site
 - Proposed Regional Park
 - Existing Special Use Facilities
 - Proposed Aquatics Center
 - Proposed BMX Park
 - Proposed Dog Park
 - Proposed Tennis Center
 - Conservation Areas
 - South West Water Management District Lands
 - Sidewalks and Bikeways
 - Arterial
 - Boulevard
 - Avenue
 - Proposed Greenways
 - Blueways
 - Proposed Trails

Existing Blueways, Creeks, and Access Canals

Map 12



Legend

- City of North Port Boundary
- Existing Park
- Proposed Park
- Proposed Civic Gathering Site
- Existing Neighborhood Park Site and Service Area Boundary
- Proposed Neighborhood Park Site and Service Area
- Area Needing Neighborhood Park Site
- Existing Community Park Site and Service Area Boundary
- Proposed Community Park Site and Service Area Boundary
- Area Needing Community Park Site
- Proposed Regional Park
- Existing Special Use Facilities
- Proposed Aquatics Centers
- Proposed BMX Park
- Proposed Dog Park
- Proposed Teen Center
- Conservation Areas
- South West Water Management District Limits
- Sidewalks and Bikeways
 - Arterial
 - Boulevard
 - Avenue
 - Proposed Greenways
 - Blueways
 - Proposed Trails
- Neighborhood Parks
 - 1 Blue Ridge Park
 - 2 Cranberry Elementary School/ Park
 - 3 Glenallen Elementary School/ Park
 - 4 Heron Creek Middle School/ Park
 - 5 Highland Ridge Park
 - 6 Mr. Hope Park
 - 7 Kirk Park
 - 8 Laffee Park
 - 9 Marcus Park
 - 10 McKibben Park
 - 11 Pine Park
 - 12 Oak Park
 - 13 Tolosa Blade Elementary School/ Park
- Community Parks
 - 1 Butler Park
 - 2 Dallas White Park
 - 3 George Muller Activity Center
 - 4 Narramore Sports Complex
 - 5 North Port High School/ Park
 - 6 Community Park
- Special Use Facilities
 - 1 Garden of the Five Senses
 - 2 Marina Boat Ramp
 - 3 North Port Pool
 - 4 North Port Skate Park
 - 5 Veterans Park
- Conservation Areas
 - 1 Myakkaatchee Creek Park
 - 2 Little Salt Springs
 - 3 Little Salt Springs Park

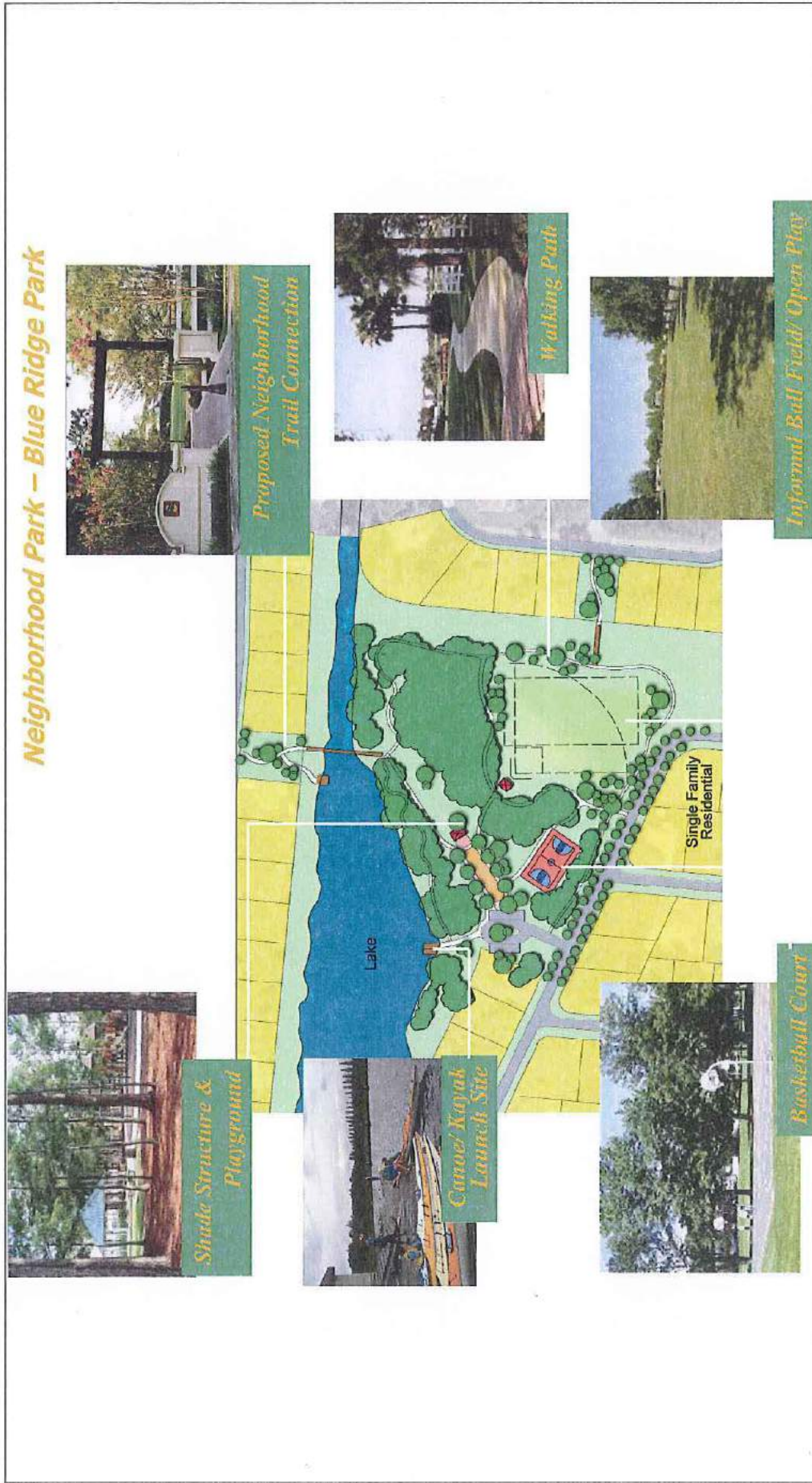


Figure 1 – Neighborhood Park



Figure 2 – Community Park/ School

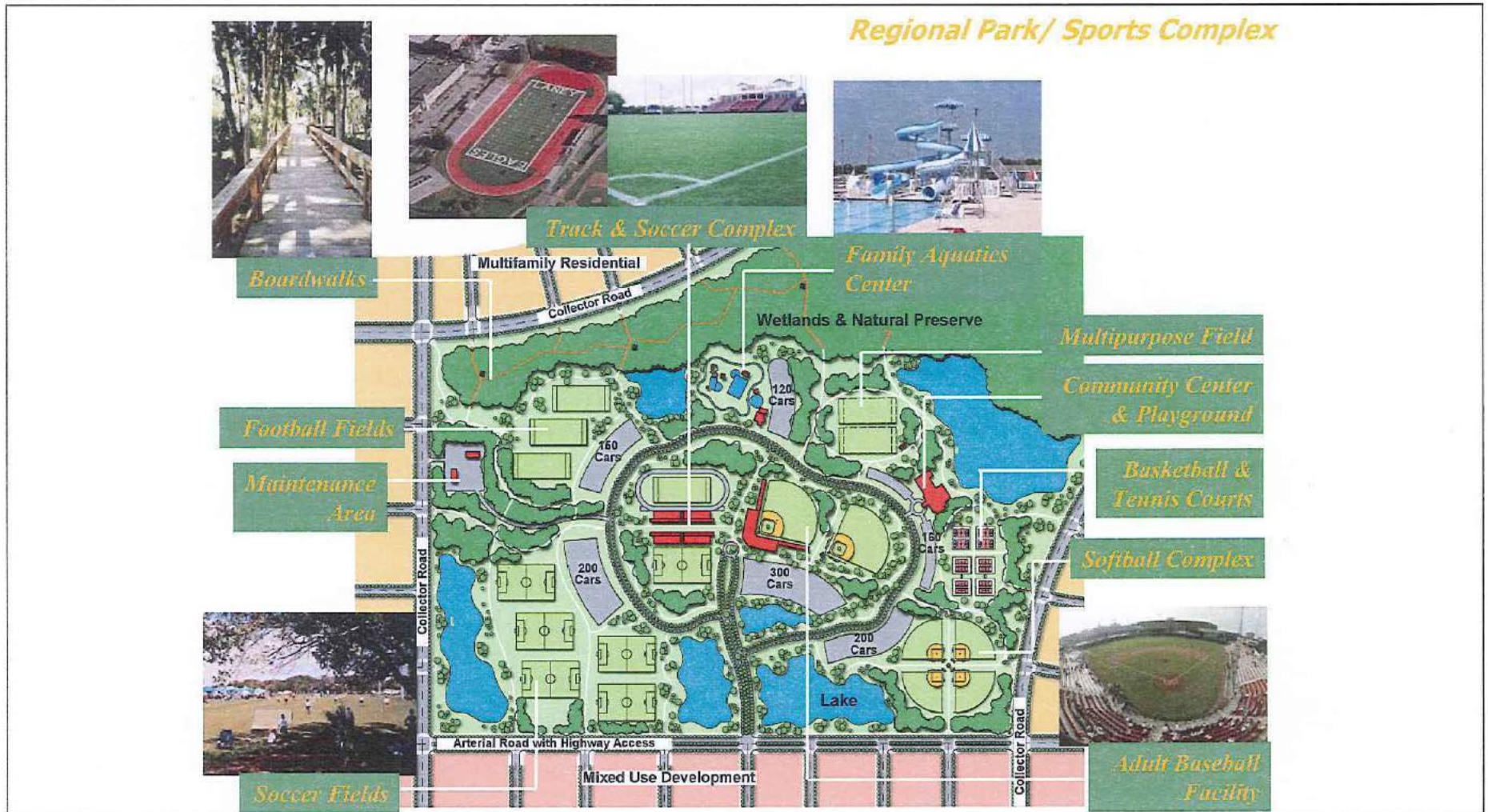


Figure 3 – Regional Park/Sports Complex

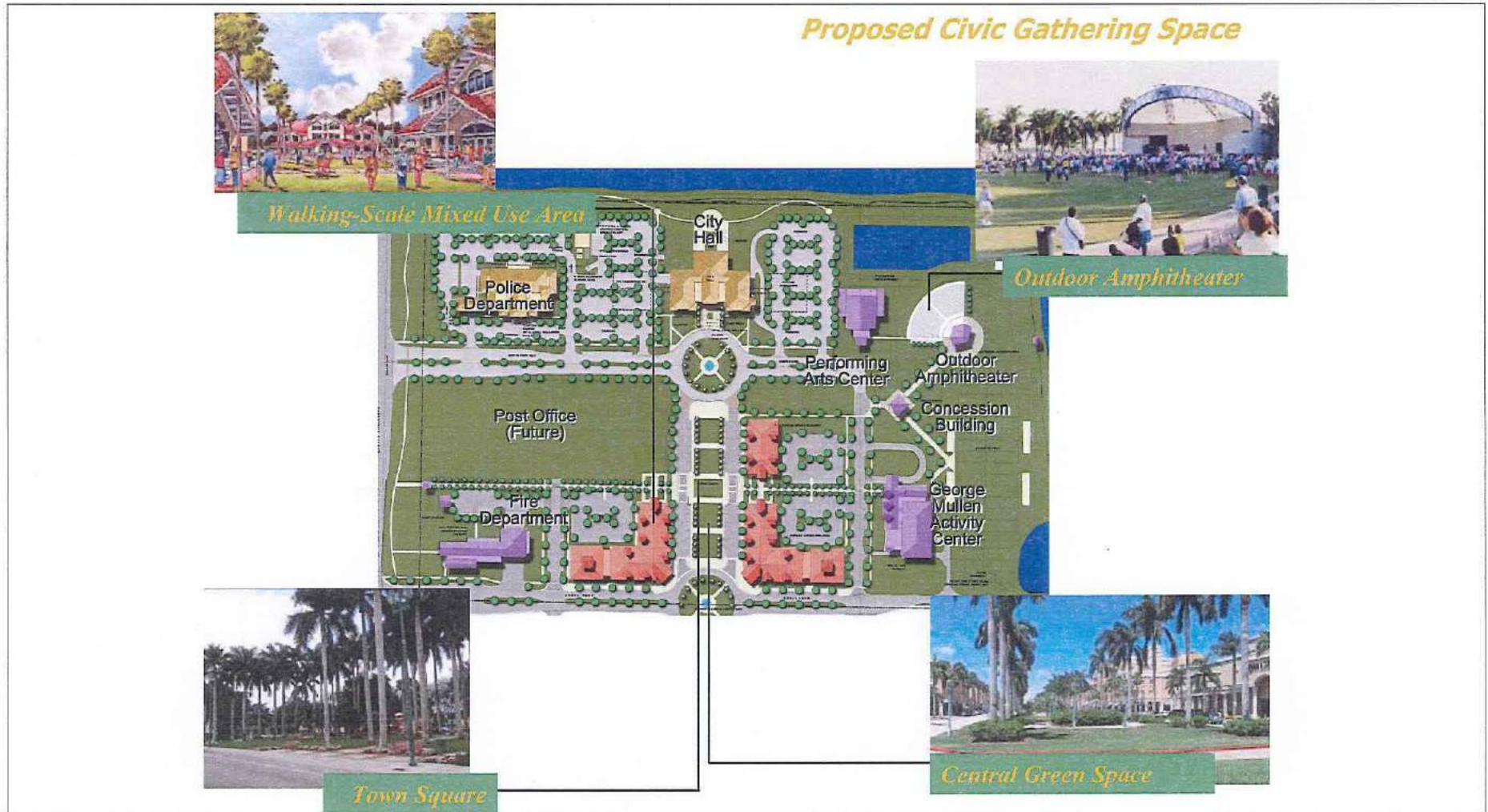


Figure 4 – Civic Gathering Space

Proposed Civic Gathering Space



Figure 5 – Proposed Civic Gathering Space

Conservation Area – Little Salt Springs Park



Figure 6 - Conservation Area (Little Salt Springs)

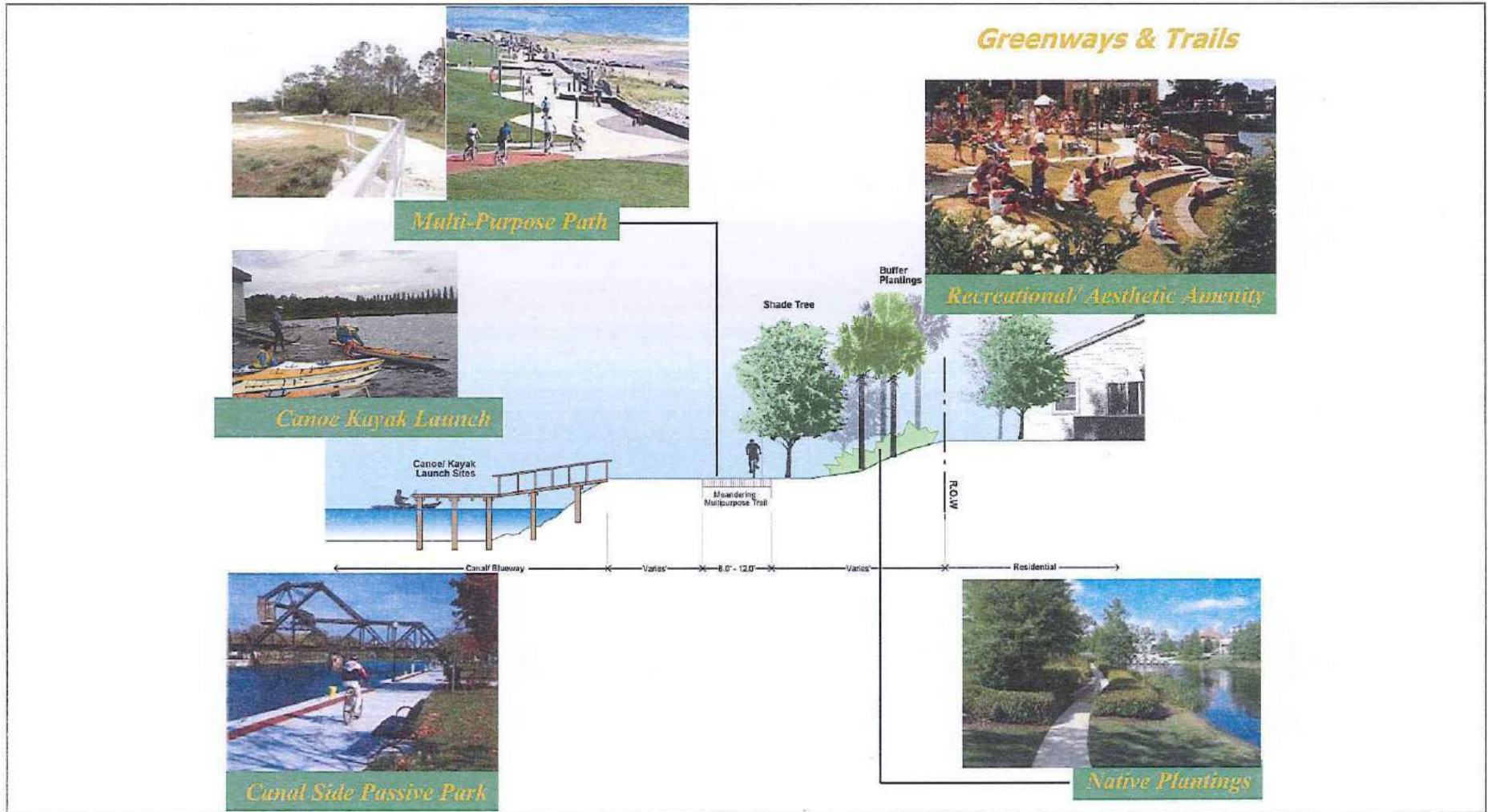


Figure 7 – Typical Trail Section

CITY OF NORTH PORT PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN MAPS & FIGURES

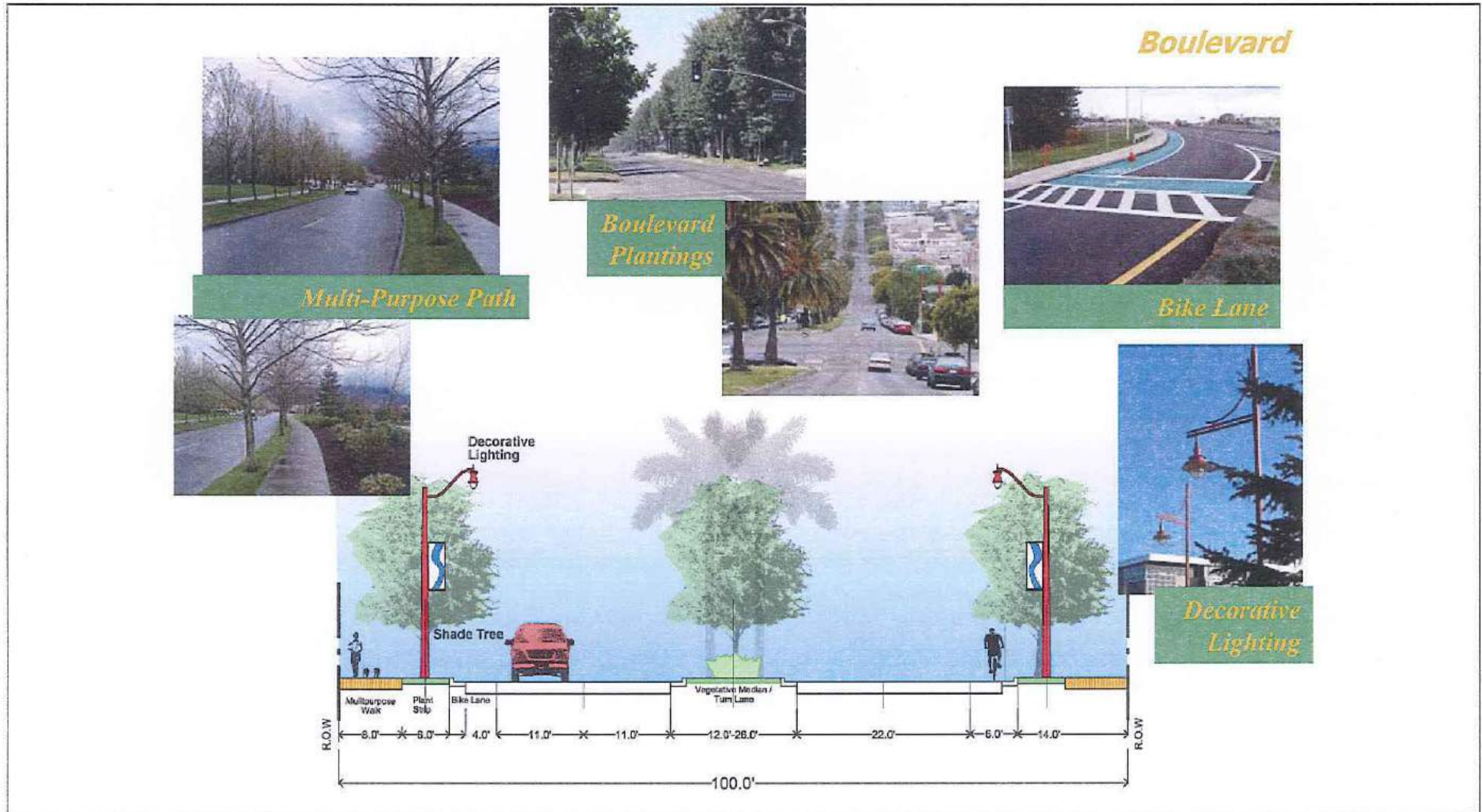


Figure 8 – Typical Collector/Boulevard Section

City of North Port
Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment

January 18, 2006



 Glatting Jackson Kercher Anglin Lopez Rinehart, Inc

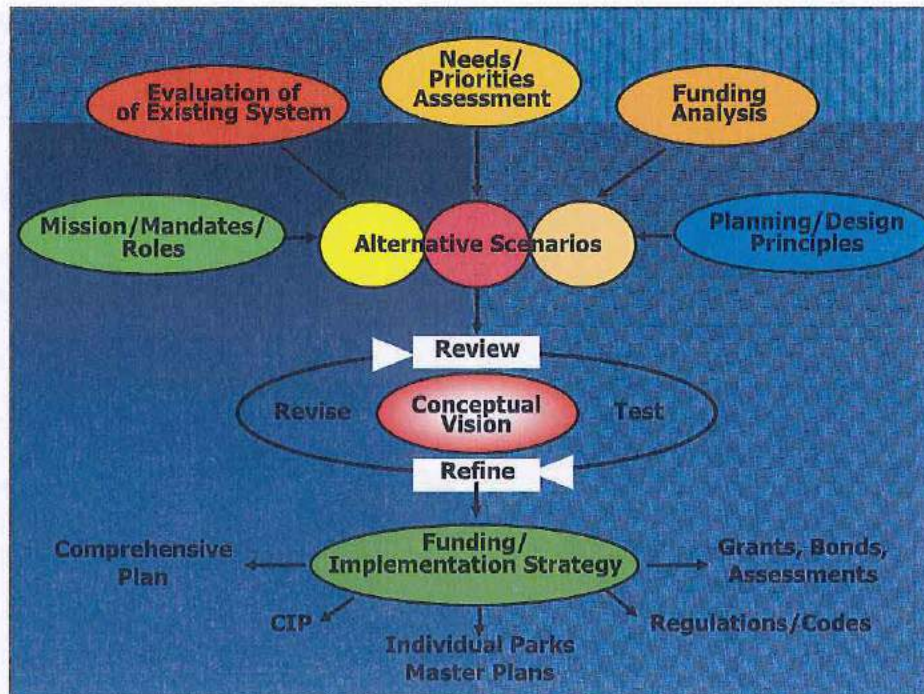
Agenda

- Scope of Work
- Findings
- Recommendations
- Discussion

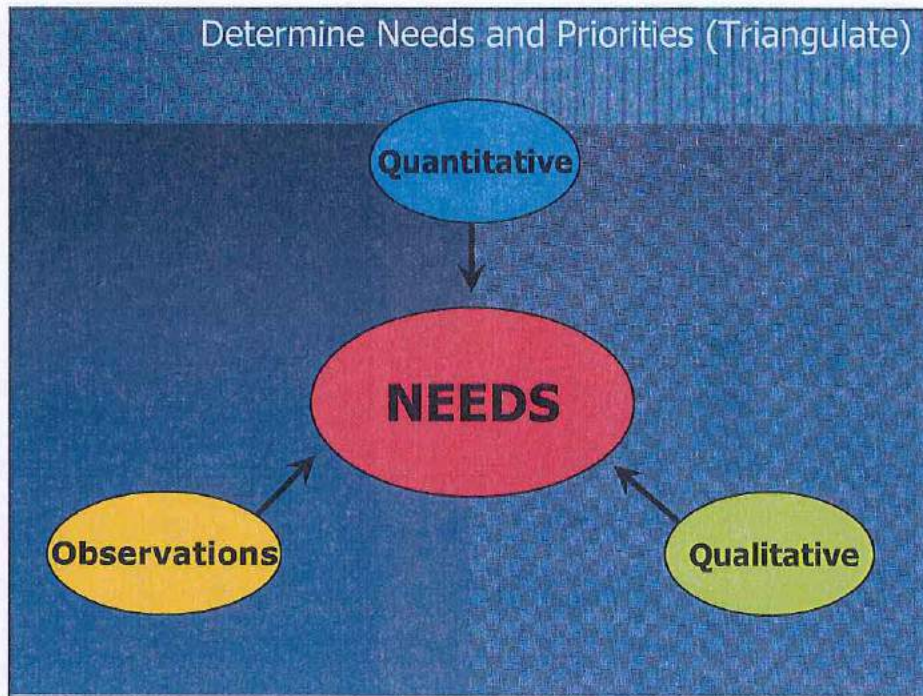


Needs Assessment/ Master Planning Process

- A. Who and what are we, what do we do now, and why?
- B. What do we want to be and do in the future, and why?
- C. How do we get there?



Determine Needs and Priorities (Triangulate)



Anecdotal – Site Visits, Existing Conditions Analysis



- General Observations - Aesthetics, Functionality, etc
- Physical Connections
- Risk Management
- Opportunities
- Site Problems/ Issues
- Park Amenities
- Grounds Condition
- Capital Improvement Needs

Qualitative Techniques

- Interviews with City Commissioners
- Steering Committee Workshop
- Stakeholder/ Focus Group Meetings
- Public Workshop



Quantitative Techniques



- Level of Service (LOS) Analysis – Facilities
- Level of Service (LOS) Analysis – Acreage
- Level of Service (LOS) Analysis – Service Areas
- Telephone Survey
- Benchmarking – Acreage, Capital Improvements and O&M

Remaining Scope of Work



- Visioning Workshop
- Conceptual Parks and Open Space System Map
- Implementation Program

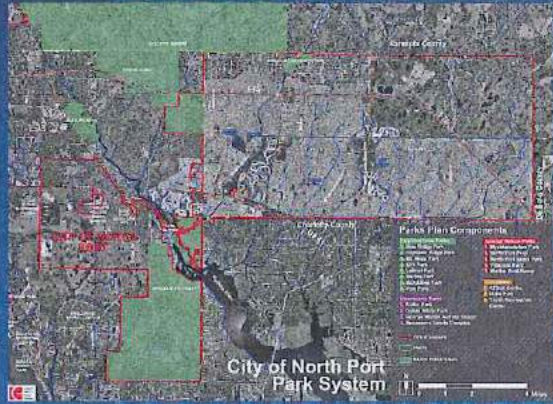
Agenda

- Scope of Work
- Findings
- Recommendations
- Discussion



Existing Conditions Analysis

- Physical Conditions
- Proximity, Access and Linkages
- Opportunities



Existing Conditions Analysis

Physical Conditions:

- Parks are generally in a deteriorating state and require capital investments and renovations.
- Specific areas needing improvement:
 - Accessibility compliance
 - Parking (Particularly in Active Recreation Facilities)
 - Park furniture
 - Park signage
 - Implementation of trees, shrubs, and ground cover

Existing Conditions Analysis

Physical Conditions- Deteriorating



Existing Conditions Analysis

Physical Conditions



Existing Conditions Analysis

Proximity, Access and Linkages:

- **All** parks have adequate access to streets
- **16** of the **17** parks have adequate emergency access
- Approximately **76%** of the parks provide adequate weather protection
- Approximately **70%** of the parks can be freely observed by neighbors and/or police for safety and crime prevention
- Only **40%** of the parks have adequate transit (bus) access
- Only **35%** of the parks have adequate safety lighting
- Only **29%** have adequate bicycle, pedestrian or handicapped accessibility

Existing Conditions Analysis

Proximity, Access, Linkages



Existing Conditions Analysis

Proximity, Access, Linkages



Existing Conditions Analysis

Proximity, Access, Linkages



Existing Conditions Analysis

Opportunities:

- **23%** of the parks have been designed for single use, programmed activities.
- **Many** of the parks are considered to be less than "visually appealing."
- Only **1** of the **17** park sites indicates a use of consistent design or maintenance standards
- Only **12%** of the parks have potential for additional revenue opportunities
- **47%** of the parks have potential for stronger partnership opportunities

Existing Conditions Analysis

Opportunities



Existing Conditions Analysis *Opportunities*



Existing Conditions Analysis

Summary of Findings:

- Existing city parks need to be upgraded and enhanced to make them more attractive, functional and inviting for city residents.
- Parks need to be expanded and/or land needs to be purchased for new parks to provide more multi-purpose open space for a variety of recreational facilities and activities

Qualitative Techniques

- Interviews with City Commissioners
- Steering Committee Workshop
- Stakeholder/ Focus Group Meetings
- Neighborhood Workshops



Interviews with City Commission September 22 & 29, 2005

Question 1: We think of the ideal parks system as having all of the following components (as shown on the attached model):

- Urban Parks and Civic Gathering Spaces
- Small Neighborhood Green Spaces
- Small Neighborhood Parks
- Large Community Parks
- Large Regional Parks
- Community Centers
- Cultural and Historical Facilities
- Special Use Facilities
- Beach/ Water Access
- Greenways, Bikeways and Trails
- Public Transit
- Shaded Streets, Avenues, and Parkways w/ Sidewalks

Is this consistent with your own ideas?

Response: *Yes (all respondents)*



Interviews with City Commission – (5 Commissioners)

September 22 & 29, 2005

Question 2: Attached is a survey that we use to determine community needs and priorities. Of the facilities listed, which do you believe are needed most in your community?

- *Youth athletic fields and courts – baseball, football, soccer, basketball (5)*
- *BMX track (4)*
- *Improve streets – repaving, street lights, sidewalks, drainage, shade trees – a sidewalk within 2 miles of every school (4)*
- *Youth/ teen centers (3)*

Interviews with City Commission - (5 Commissioners)

September 22 & 29, 2005

Question 3: Typically we find that most communities need millions of dollars to meet both current and future parks, recreation, open space and cultural needs. Significant funding sources are shown on the following chart. Which of these would you support?

- *Bonds (5) (if voters approve)*
- *Impact Fees (4) (need to increase – doing study)*
- *Grants (2)*
- *Existing 1 cent sales tax (2)*
- *User fees (2)*

Interviews with City Commission - (5 Commissioners)

September 22 & 29, 2005

Question 4: Most communities can't do everything themselves; what partnerships do you think would be most beneficial to pursue?

- *County should maintain parks up to City standards (3)*
- *City should build, repair facilities; County to maintain (2)*
- *Need to resolve capital improvement responsibilities in inter-local agreement (2)*
- *Partner with YMCA for Youth/ Teen Programming (2)*
- *Work with School Board to install Soccer Fields on school sites. (2)*

Interviews with City Commission - (5 Commissioners)

September 22 & 29, 2005

Summary of Findings:

- All Commissioners agreed on elements of an ideal park system
- Bonds and Impact Fees are preferred funding mechanisms
- Partnerships include County, YMCA, School Board
- Top Priorities Include:
 - Youth athletic fields and courts – baseball, football, soccer, basketball
 - BMX track
 - Improve streets – repaving, street lights, sidewalks, drainage, shade trees – a sidewalk within 2 miles of every school
 - Youth/ teen centers

Steering Committee Workshop – (5 Participants)

September 22, 2005

Summary of Findings:

- Baseball/ Softball fields (3 "votes")
- Gymnasium/ Recreation Center (3)
- Soccer/ Football Fields (2)
- Special Events Area/ Outdoor Amphitheater (2)
- Bicycle Paths/ Trails (1)
- Camp Sites (1)
- Nature or Environmental Facilities/ Trails (1)
- Playgrounds/ Tot Lots (1)
- Youth/ Teen Centers (1)



Focus Group Meetings

November 10, 2005

- Youth Opportunities Advisory Board
- People for Trees and Little Salt Springs Archaeological Society
- Youth Soccer League

Stakeholder/ Focus Group Meetings- (8 Participants)

November 10, 2005

Summary of Findings:

- Teen Center, Programs
- Gymnasium
- ATV (Off-road vehicles) Site
- Family Aquatics Center/ Water Park
- Additional Parks with "Something Different"
- Multi-use Fields
- Paintball Park
- Commercial Entertainment
- Walkable Destinations
- Camp Sites Along Greenway
- Passive Park in Salt Springs
- Development of Myakkahatchee Creek Park as Passive Park/ Trailhead
- Protection of Little Salt Springs
- Survey, Protection of Other Archaeological Sites
- 6 – 8 Additional Practice Soccer Fields, Lighted
- Increased Access to School Facilities through Better Inter-local Agreements

Public Workshop - (40 Participants)

November 9, 2005

Needs Identified:

- Dog Parks (33)
- Bicycle Paths/ Trails (31)
- Walking/ Jogging Trails (30)
- Swimming Pools (29)
- Shade Trees on Sidewalks (29)
- Aquatic Center/ Water Play (25)
- Picnic Areas (23)
- Gymnasium/ Recreation/ Community Center (22)
- Nature/ Environmental Facilities, Trails (22)
- Youth/ Teen centers (22)
- Canoeing/ Kayaking Launches, Trails (21)
- Playgrounds/ Tot Lots (21)
- Special Events Area/ Outdoor Amphitheater (21)
- Soccer/ Football Fields (20)
- Basketball Courts (20)
- Boat Ramps/ Docks (20)
- Cultural Centers/ Museums (20)
- Fishing Piers/ Sites (20)
- Open Play Areas (20)

Public Workshop -(40 Participants)

November 9, 2005

Summary of Findings:

- Dog Parks (34)
- Walking/ Jogging Trails (17)
- Shade Trees on Sidewalks (14)
- Canoeing or Kayaking Launches or Trails (10)
- Playgrounds/ Tot Lots (7)

Quantitative Techniques



- Level of Service (LOS) Analysis – Acreage
- Level of Service (LOS) Analysis – Facilities
- Service Area Analysis
- Benchmarking – Acreage
- Telephone Survey

Level of Service (LOS) – Acreage:



CITY OF NORTH PORT PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ACREAGE LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS

COMPARISON TO STATE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN STANDARDS

TOTAL CITY POPULATION 2005 = 42,000

TOTAL PROJECTED CITY POPULATION 2025 = 150,000

PARK TYPE	ACRES PER 1000 POPULATION SERVED	CITY OF NORTH PORT	SARASOTA COUNTY	PRIVATE FACILITIES	TOTAL	CURRENT NEED	CURRENT SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)	FUTURE NEED	FUTURE SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)
NEIGHBORHOOD	2	23	0	0	23	84	(61)	300	(277)
COMMUNITY	2	79	0	0	79	84	(5)	300	(221)
REGIONAL	20	160	0	0	160	840	(680)	3,000	(2840)

* POPULATION FIGURES FROM THE CITY OF NORTH PORT

Level of Service (LOS) – Acreage:

Summary of Findings:

- The City needs to acquire a minimum of 498 acres of Neighborhood and Community Park lands to meet SCORP guidelines for the anticipated 2025 population

Level of Service (LOS) – Facilities:



CITY OF NORTH PORT PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE FACILITY LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS

COMPARISON TO STATE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN STANDARDS

TOTAL COUNTY POPULATION 2005 = 42,000

TOTAL PROJECTED CITY POPULATION 2025 = 150,000

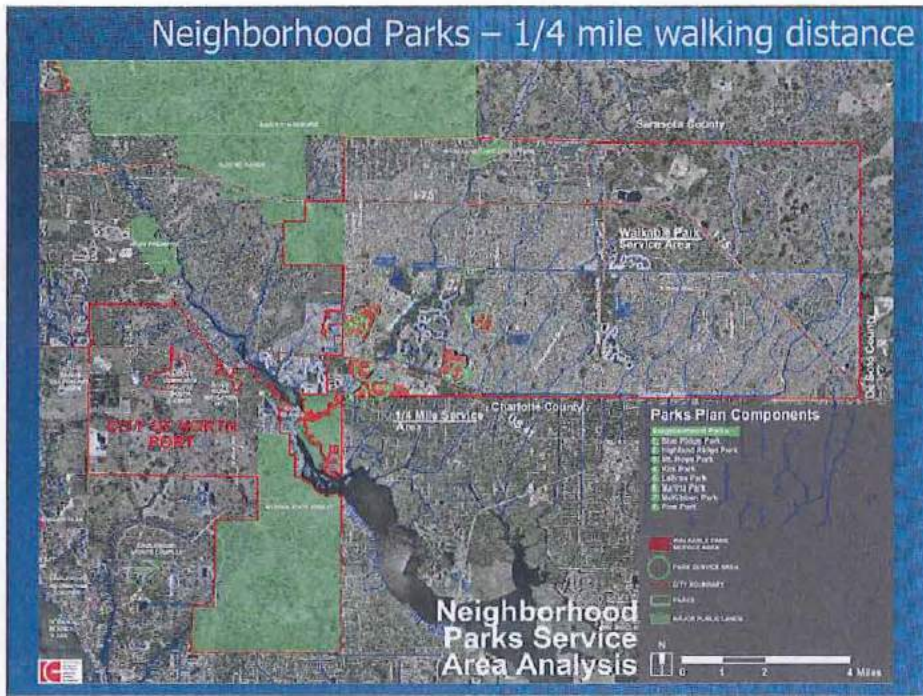
ACTIVITY	POPULATION SERVED	CITY OF NORTH PORT	SARASOTA COUNTY	PRIVATE FACILITIES	TOTAL	CURRENT NEED	CURRENT SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)	FUTURE NEED	FUTURE SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)
BICYCLING (MILES)	5,000	0	0	0	0	8	(8)	20	(30)
CAMPING (ACRES)	6,750	0	0	0	0	6	(6)	22	(22)
BOAT RAMPS (LANES)	5,000	1	0	0	1	8	(7)	30	(29)
FISHING (800' OF PIER)	5,000	0	0	0	0	8	(8)	27	(27)
HIKING (MILES)	6,750	0	0	3	3	6	(3)	22	(19)
HORSEBACK RIDING (MILES)	5,000	0	0	0	0	8	(8)	30	(30)
PICNICKING	6,000	13	0	0	13	7	6	25	(12)
BASEBALL/SOFTBALL	5,000	4	0	0	4	8	(4)	30	(26)
BASKETBALL	5,000	5	0	0	5	7	(2)	30	(25)
FOOTBALL/SOCCER/RUGBY	6,000	4	0	0	4	7	(3)	25	(21)
GENERAL PLAY	10,000	9	0	0	9	4	5	15	(5)
GOLF (18 HOLES)	50,000	0	0	3	3	1	2	3	0
RAQUETBALL/HANDBALL	10,000	2	0	0	2	4	(2)	15	(13)
SHUFFLEBOARD	6,000	12	0	0	12	7	5	25	(13)
SWIMMING POOL	25,000	1	0	3	4	2	2	6	(2)
TENNIS	2,000	5	0	8	13	21	(8)	75	(62)
VOLLEYBALL	6,000	2	0	0	2	7	(5)	25	(23)

* POPULATION FIGURES FROM THE CITY OF NORTH PORT

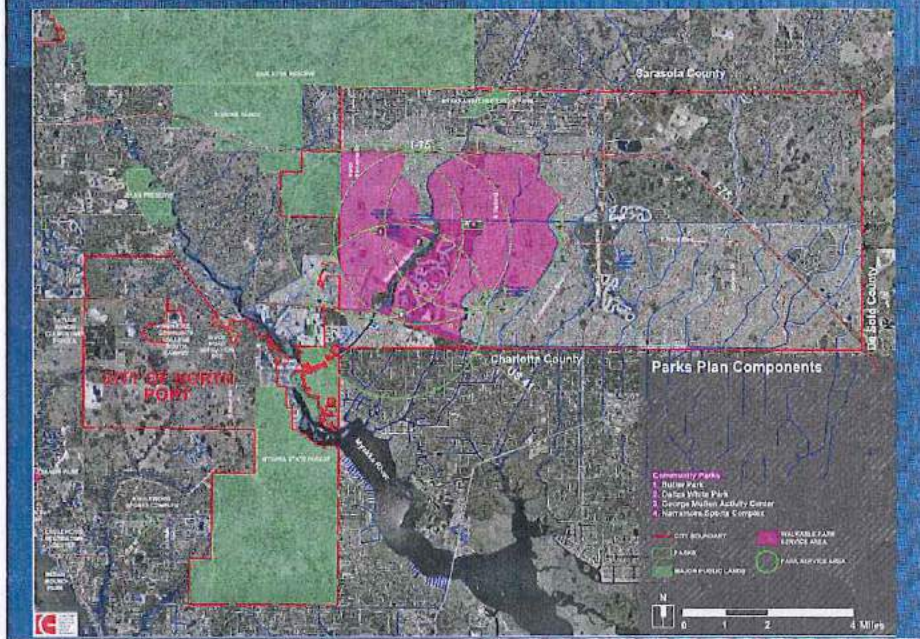
Level of Service (LOS) – Facilities:

Summary of Findings:

- The City is deficient in a wide variety of recreation facilities, which is consistent with the shortage of park lands.
- Top priorities are also consistent with the other techniques, including:
 - Bicycle Paths
 - Fishing Piers
 - Horseback Riding
 - Tennis Courts
 - Boat Ramps



Community Parks – 2 mile walking, bicycling, driving distance



Service Area Analysis:

Summary of Findings:

- City needs to acquire and develop more Neighborhood and Community Parks.
- City should update Land Development Codes and/or Impact Fees to require new development to provide or fund new parks concurrent with the growth of the City

Benchmarking Local Comparables



CITY OF NORTH PORT PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE BENCHMARKING COMPARABLE CITY PARK SYSTEMS

City	CITY OF NORTH PORT	CITY OF PALM COAST	CITY OF PALM BAY	CITY OF CAPE CORAL
Current Population	42,000	65,018	80,300	144,755
City Size (Sq. Miles)	103	62	65	144
City Size (Acres)	65,920	39,680	41,600	92,160
Total Park System Acreage (Developed and Undeveloped Lands)	277	478	830	1297
Parkland as Percent of City Area	0.4%	1.2%	2.0%	1.4%
Comprehensive Plan LOS	4 acres/ 1000	8 acres/ 1000	5 acres/ 1000	4 acres/ 1000
Total Actual LOS *	6.3 acres/ 1000	3 acres/ 1000	3 acres/ 1000	2.4 acres/ 1000
Number of Employees:	8	50	106	112
Full-Time	4	17	47	88
Part-Time	4	24	18	24
Contracted Employees	n/a	18	41	n/a
Volunteers	20	3	5	n/a
Annual Budget:	\$768,908	\$2,189,199	\$3,353,200	\$5,586,561
Administration/ Personal	\$220,908	\$442,886	\$2,093,800	\$4,232,050
Maintenance	\$600,000*	\$747,538	\$1,259,400	\$1,139,852
Programming	\$48,000	\$988,775	n/a	\$214,659
Capital Construction	\$2,925,210	\$5,163,185	\$37,600	\$2,106,800
Budget per Capita	\$18.31	\$33.67	\$37.13	\$38.59

* Money paid to Sarasota County for Park Maintenance

Benchmarking National Comparables



CITY OF NORTH PORT PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE NATIONAL BENCHMARKING COMPARABLES

City	CHICAGO, ILLINOIS	PORTLAND, OREGON	KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI	MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA
Population	2,722,000	481,000	441,000	359,000
City Size (Sq. Miles)	227.2	124.7	311.5	54.9
City Size (Acres)	145,408	79,808	199,360	35,136
Total Park System Acreage (Developed and Undeveloped Lands)	7,329	9,659	11,047	5,894
Parkland as Percent of City Area	5.0%	12.1%	5.5%	16.2%
Actual Acreage LOS *	2.7 acres/ 1000	21.4 acres/1000	25.0 acres/ 1000	16.0 acres/ 1000
Number of Employees:	2,730	1,679	920	1,500
Full-Time	2,162	371	720	500
Seasonal Employees	568	1308	200	1,000
Volunteers	450	3,500	1,927	3,000
Annual Budget:	\$234,242,000	\$39,480,000	\$25,866,000	\$44,125,000
Maintenance	\$112,436,000	\$25,613,000	\$16,551,000	\$24,091,000
Programming	\$121,806,000	\$13,877,000	\$9,315,000	\$20,034,000
Capital Construction	\$59,390,000	\$25,770,000	\$14,868,000	\$10,794,000
Budget per Capita	\$82.10	\$58.65	\$86.05	\$122.91

Summary of Findings:

- Of the four communities, North Port has the lowest required Level of Service
 - (4 acres/ 1,000 population vs. 8 acres/ 1,000 population for Palm Coast, for example)
- Of the four communities, North Port has the lowest percentage of park land per city area
 - (0.4% acres vs. 2.0% acres 1,000 population vs. 10 acres/ 1,000 population for City of Palm Bay, for example)
- Of the four communities, North Port spends the least on parks administration/ programming
 - (\$18.31 per capita vs. \$38.59 per capita for they City of Cape Coral)

Chart 1: City of North Port Survey of Residents
Sample Statistics

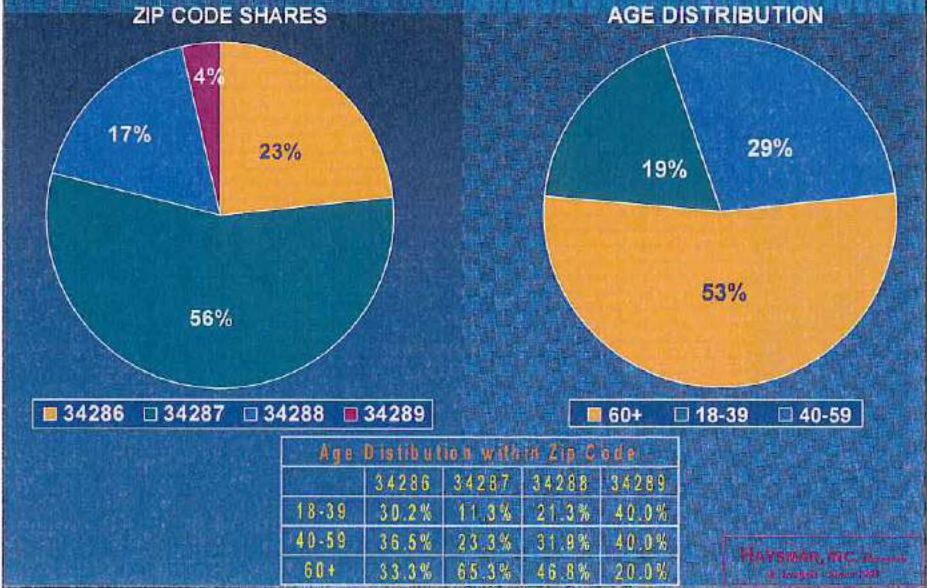


Chart 2: City of North Port Survey of Residents
Residents' Recreation Activities

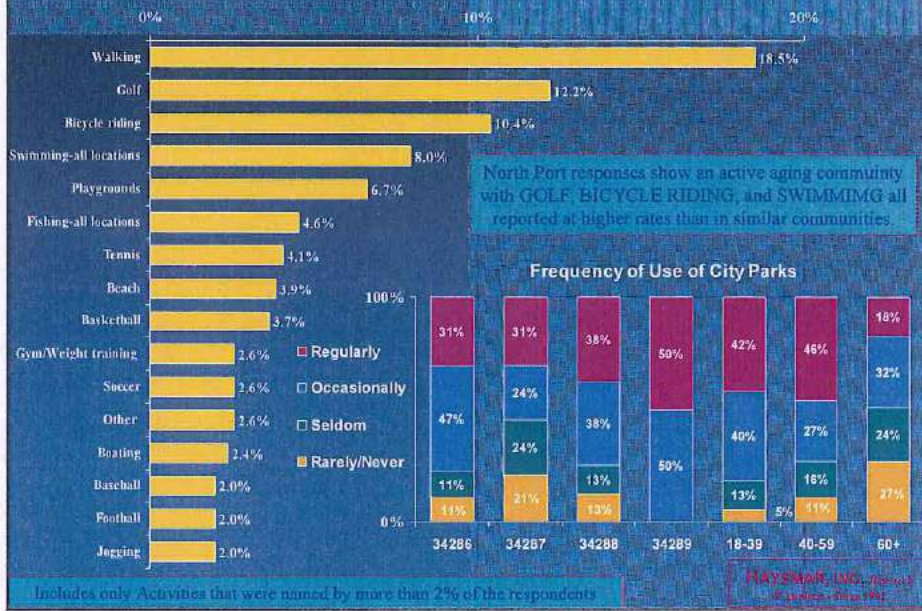


Chart 3: City of North Port Survey of Residents
Residents' Interest in Additional Facilities

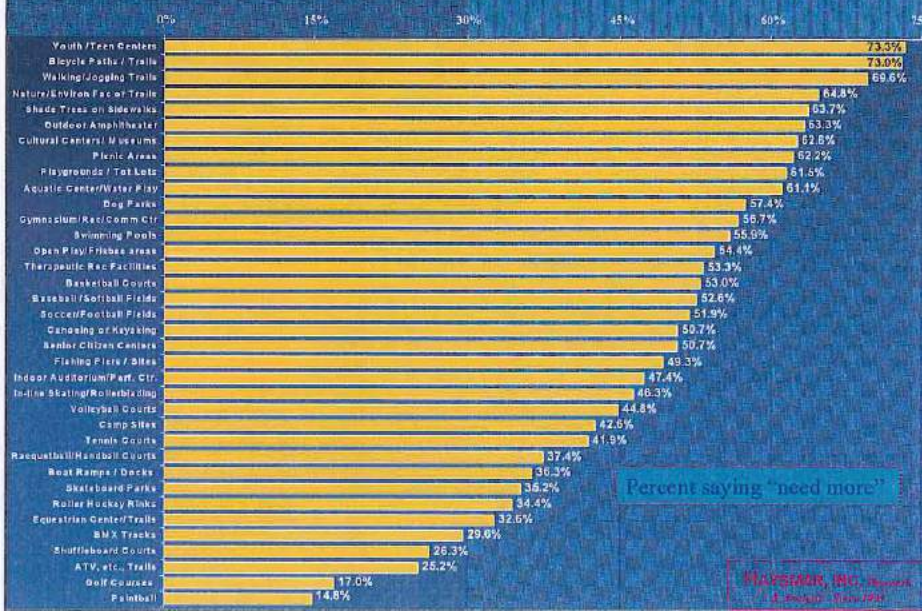


Chart 4: City of North Port Survey of Residents
Top 10 "Most Needed" Facilities by Zip Code and Age Group

Most Needed Facilities by Respondent ZIP		
34286	34287	34288
Bicycle Paths	Youth /Teen Ctrs	Youth /Teen Ctrs
Aquatic Center	Walking/Jog Trails	Bicycle Paths
Outdoor Amphitheater	Bicycle Paths	Baseball /Softball Fields
Environ. Fac./Trails	Environ. Fac./Trails	Walking/Jog Trails
Youth /Teen Ctrs	Cultural Ctrs/Muse	Playgrounds
Walking/Jog Trails	Shade Trees	Shade Trees
Picnic Areas	Dog Parks	Soccer/Football Fields
Shade Trees	Outdoor Amphitheater	Picnic Areas
Cultural Ctrs/Muse	Picnic Areas	Environ. Fac./Trails
Playgrounds	Playgrounds	Outdoor Amphitheater

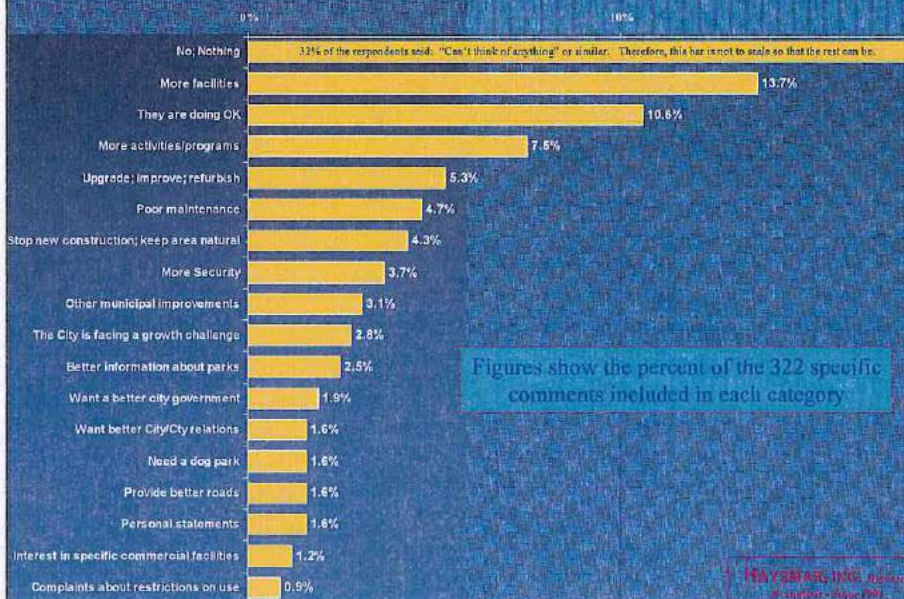
All geographical areas show similar patterns of interest: trails and community gathering areas.

Most Needed Facilities by Respondent Age		
18-39	40-59	60+
Outdoor Amphitheater	Youth /Teen Ctrs	Bicycle Paths
Aquatic Center	Aquatic Center	Youth /Teen Ctrs
Youth /Teen Ctrs	Bicycle Paths	Walking/Jog Trails
Bicycle Paths	Picnic Areas	Shade Trees
Environ. Fac./Trails	Walking/Jog Trails	Cultural Ctrs/Muse
Walking/Jog Trails	Outdoor Amphitheater	Environ. Fac./Trails
Dog Parks	Environ. Fac./Trails	Playgrounds
Playgrounds	Playgrounds	Senior Citizen Centers
Shade Trees	Soccer/Football Fields	Outdoor Amphitheater
Picnic Areas	Open Play/Frisbee	Thera/Rec Facilities

And in the case of North Port, age groups are similar as well.

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North Port, FL 34288

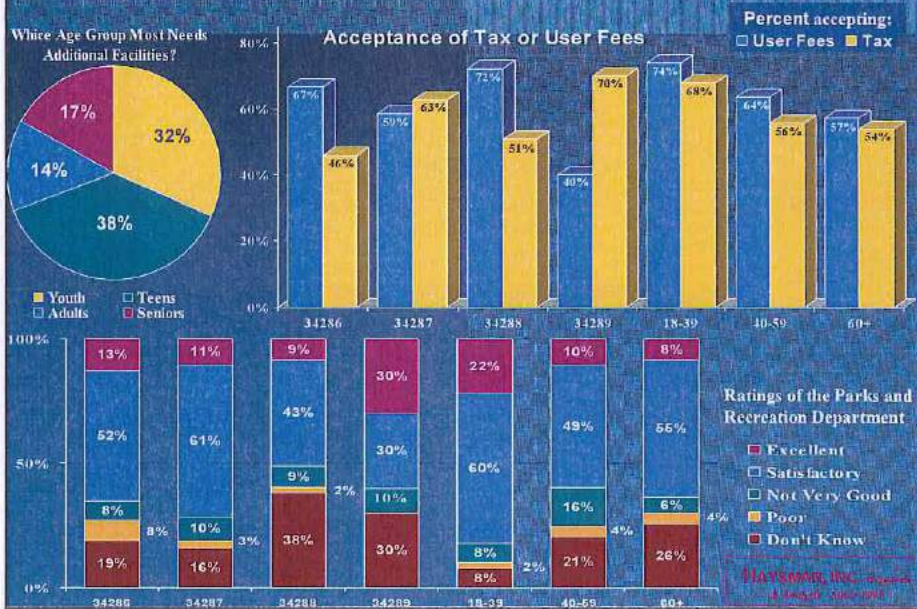
Chart 5: City of North Port Survey of Residents
Residents' Comments about City Recreation Facilities



Figures show the percent of the 322 specific comments included in each category

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North Port, FL 34288

Chart 6: City of North Port Survey of Residents
Residents' Views on Management Issues



Telephone Survey:

Summary of Findings:

- Residents need a wide variety of parks and recreation facilities.
- Top priorities are also consistent with the other techniques, including:
 - Youth/ Teen Centers
 - Bicycle Paths/ Trails
 - Walking/ Jogging Trails
 - Nature Facilities/ Trails
 - Shaded Sidewalks

Needs/Priorities Summary

	Telephone survey	Public Workshop	Interview with Commissioners	Steering Committee Workshop	Stakeholder/ Focus Group Meetings	Level of service Analysis	Existing Conditions Analysis
Youth/ Teen Center (73.3%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Bicycle Paths/Trails (73%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Walking/ Jogging Trails (69.9%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Nature/ Environmental Facilities/ Trails (64.8%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Shade Trees on Sidewalks (63.7%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Outdoor Amphitheater (63.3%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cultural Center/ Museums (62.6%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Picnic Areas (62.2%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Playgrounds/ Tot Lots (61.5%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Aquatics Centers/ Water Play (61.1%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Dog Parks (57.4%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Gymnasium/ Recreation/ Community Centers (56.7%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Swimming Pools (55.9%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Open Play Areas (54.4%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Therapeutic Facilities (53.3%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Basketball Courts (53.0%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Baseball/ Softball Fields (52.6%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Soccer/ Football Fields (51.9%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Canoeing/ Kayaking Facilities (50.7%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Senior Citizen Centers (50.7%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Needs/Priorities Summary

	Telephone survey	Public Workshop	Interview with Commissioners	Steering Committee Workshop	Stakeholder/ Focus Group Meetings	Level of service Analysis	Existing Conditions Analysis
Youth/ Teen Center (73.3%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Bicycle Paths/Trails (73%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Walking/ Jogging Trails (69.9%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Nature/ Environmental Facilities/ Trails (64.8%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Shade Trees on Sidewalks (63.7%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Outdoor Amphitheater (63.3%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cultural Center/ Museums (62.6%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Picnic Areas (62.2%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Playgrounds/ Tot Lots (61.5%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Aquatics Centers/ Water Play (61.1%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Dog Parks (57.4%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Gymnasium/ Recreation/ Community Centers (56.7%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Swimming Pools (55.9%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Open Play Areas (54.4%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Therapeutic Facilities (53.3%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Basketball Courts (53.0%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Baseball/ Softball Fields (52.6%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Soccer/ Football Fields (51.9%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Canoeing/ Kayaking Facilities (50.7%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Senior Citizen Centers (50.7%)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Summary of Top Priority Needs

- Additional Park Land
- Youth Athletic Fields and Courts – baseball, football, soccer, basketball, multiple-use/ open play areas
- Youth/ Teen Center and Gymnasium
- Improved Streets, Bike Paths, Trails and Shaded Sidewalks
- Dog Park

City Revival Model



An interconnected system of aesthetically pleasing, functional and well-maintained parks, streets, pedestrian/bikeways and natural areas that meets the needs and desires of community residents

Principles of City Revival Model

- At least one major central gathering space, civic building for public events
- A small park, playground or square within 1/10 – 1/4 mile of every resident
- A neighborhood park within 1/2 mile of every resident
- A community center and park within 3 miles of every resident
- At least 50% of community parks preserved in natural or maintained open space
- Sports complexes and other special use facilities located in non-residential areas
- Every street (within a connected network) designed as a linear park



Principles of City Revival Model

- Elementary Schools designed to be used as Neighborhood Parks
- Middle Schools and High Schools as Community Parks
- Public access provided to beaches, rivers, lakes and streams
- Natural areas protected as conservation lands with appropriate public access
- Pedestrian, bicycle and transit access to every public park and open space
- Public art and signage integrated throughout the system to create sense of place
- Convenient access to social, recreation and wellness programs



Sites and Connectors



Agenda

- Scope of Work
- Findings
- Recommendations
- Discussion



Recommendations

Acquire Additional Park Land

- Need to acquire and/or develop additional park land into Neighborhood/ Community Parks; As Much as 498 + Acres by 2025 to keep up w/ demand
- May need to acquire/ aggregate parcels in order to create larger Community Parks

Recommendations

Youth Athletic Fields and Courts – Baseball, Football, Soccer, Basketball, Multi-Purpose

- Acquire land, aggregate parcels for Athletic Fields
- Investigate joint planning and development with the County and/or School District



Recommendations

Youth/Teen Center and Gymnasium

- Investigate partnering with YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, School Board, and County Centers to develop Joint-Use Facilities.
- Acquire land/ aggregate parcels to build City Youth/ Teen Center
- Investigate opportunities for adaptive re-use of abandoned warehouses/ buildings that could be transformed into Youth/ Teen Center.



Recommendations

Improved Streets, Shaded Sidewalks, Bicycle /Jogging Paths, Trails, Greenways

- Develop a City-wide Bikeways, Trails, Sidewalks and Greenways Plan
- Incorporate bike lanes, wide sidewalks and street trees in all street and utility projects



Recommendations

Dog Park

- Acquire land/ aggregate parcels to develop Dog Park
- Investigate partnership opportunities with Dog Kennels, Animal Hospitals, and private pet/ animal organizations.



Remaining Scope of Work



- Visioning Workshop
- Conceptual Parks and Open Space System Map
- Implementation Program

Agenda

- Scope of Work
- Findings
- Recommendations
- Discussion



City of North Port
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Review Workshop
May 31, 2006



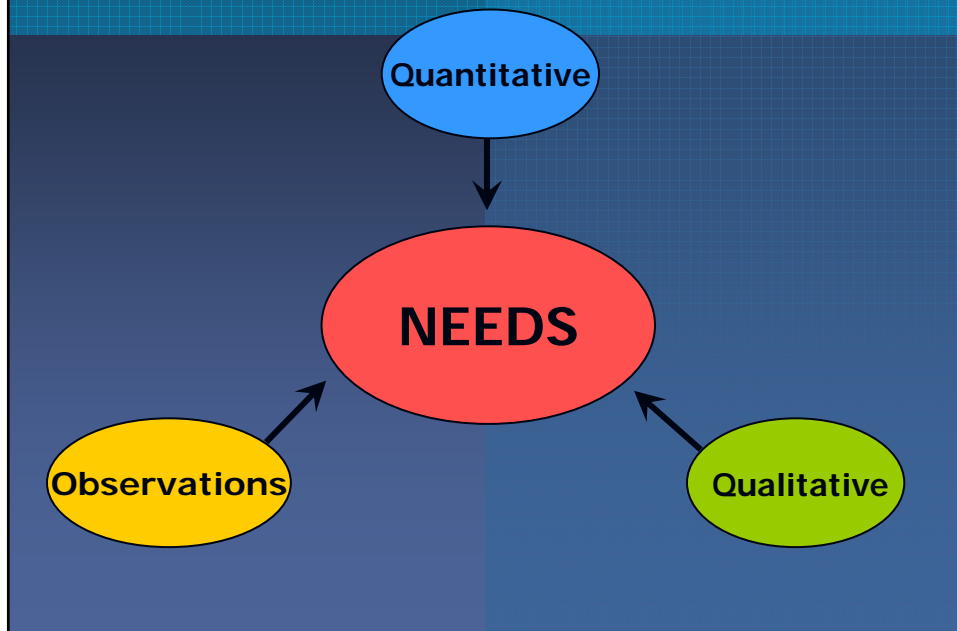
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Agenda

- Review of Needs Assessment Findings
- Presentation and Discussion of Vision to Meet Needs
- Discussion of Policy Implications of the Vision
- Remaining Scope of Work
- Questions and Answers



Determine Needs and Priorities (Triangulate)



Anecdotal – Site Visits, Existing Conditions Analysis



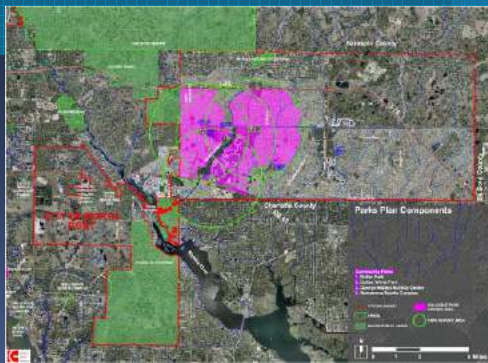
- General Observations - Aesthetics, Functionality, etc
- Physical Connections
- Risk Management
- Opportunities
- Site Problems/ Issues
- Park Amenities
- Grounds Condition
- Capital Improvement Needs

Qualitative Techniques

- Interviews with City Commissioners
- Steering Committee Workshop
- Stakeholder/ Focus Group Meetings
- Public Workshop



Quantitative Techniques



- Level of Service (LOS) Analysis – Facilities
- Level of Service (LOS) Analysis – Acreage
- Level of Service (LOS) Analysis – Service Areas
- Telephone Survey
- Benchmarking – Acreage, Capital Improvements and O&M

Needs/Priorities Summary

	Telephone Survey	Public Workshop	Interview with Commissioners	Steering Committee Workshop	Stakeholder/ Focus Group	Meetings	Level of service Analysis	Existing Conditions Analysis
Youth/ Teen Center (73.3%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bicycle Paths/Trails (73%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Walking/ Jogging Trails (69.9%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nature/ Environmental Facilities/ Trails (64.8%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Shade Trees on Sidewalks (63.7%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor Amphitheater (63.3%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cultural Center/ Museums (62.6%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Picnic Areas (62.2%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Playgrounds/ Tot Lots (61.5%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Aquatics Centers/ Water Play (61.1%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dog Parks (57.4%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gymnasium/ Recreation/ Community Centers (56.7%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Swimming Pools (55.9%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Open Play Areas (54.4%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Therapeutic Facilities (53.3%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Basketball Courts (53.0%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Baseball/ Softball Fields (52.6%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Soccer/ Football Fields (51.9%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Canoeing/ Kayaking Facilities (50.7%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Senior Citizen Centers (50.7%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Needs/Priorities Summary

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Aquatics Centers/ Water Play (61.1%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Summary of Top Priority Needs

- Additional Park Land
- Youth Athletic Fields and Courts – baseball, football, soccer, basketball, multiple-use/ open play areas
- Youth/ Teen Center and Gymnasium
- Improved Streets, Bike Paths, Trails and Shaded Sidewalks
- Dog Park

New York Times Advertisement



*Port Charlotte . . .
where active, friendly people live
life at its fullest, every day of the year.*

You'll find something akin to magic in Port Charlotte, Florida that will make you bless the day you came here to live. of Commerce. You can play your part in whatever social and municipal activities that attract you be just as important, or retiring, as you desire.



General Development Corporation Sales Brochure

PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA

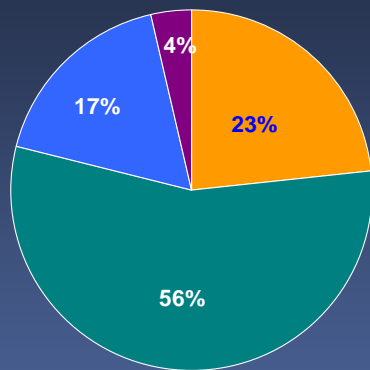
*Where retirement becomes
Re-new-ment—a new
beginning, not an end*

Here at Port Charlotte, you really begin
You shed your cares along with your years
confidence to the kind of living you dream
Here Retirement becomes Re-new-ment
rewarding meaning, as each day holds
pleasure and fulfillment. Here is life as
and quiet contentment of the beautiful



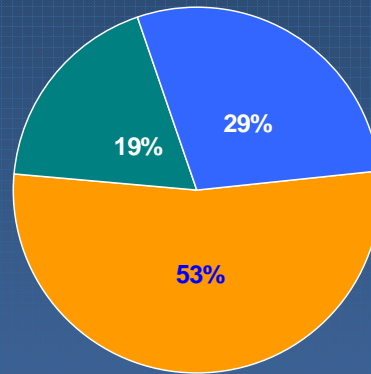
Chart 1: City of North Port Survey of Residents
Sample Statistics

ZIP CODE SHARES



34286 34287 34288 34289

AGE DISTRIBUTION



60+ 18-39 40-59

Age Distribution within Zip Code

	34286	34287	34288	34289
18-39	30.2%	11.3%	21.3%	40.0%
40-59	36.5%	23.3%	31.9%	40.0%
60+	33.3%	65.3%	46.8%	20.0%

HAYSMAR, INC. Research
& Analysis - Since 1991

Level of Service (LOS) – Acreage:



CITY OF NORTH PORT PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ACREAGE LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS

COMPARISON TO STATE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN STANDARDS

TOTAL CITY POPULATION 2005 = 42,000

TOTAL PROJECTED CITY POPULATION 2025 = 150,000

PARK TYPE	ACRES PER 1000 POPULATION SERVED	CITY OF NORTH PORT	SARASOTA COUNTY	PRIVATE FACILITIES	TOTAL	CURRENT NEED	CURRENT SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)	FUTURE NEED	FUTURE SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)
NEIGHBORHOOD	2	23	0	0	23	84	(61)	300	(277)
COMMUNITY	2	79	0	0	79	84	(5)	300	(221)
REGIONAL	20	160	0	0	160	840	(680)	3,000	(2840)

* POPULATION FIGURES FROM THE CITY OF NORTH PORT

Level of Service (LOS) – Facilities:



CITY OF NORTH PORT PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE FACILITY LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS

COMPARISON TO STATE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN STANDARDS

TOTAL COUNTY POPULATION 2005 = 42,000

TOTAL PROJECTED CITY POPULATION 2025 = 150,000

ACTIVITY	POPULATION SERVED	CITY OF NORTH PORT	SARASOTA COUNTY	PRIVATE FACILITIES	TOTAL	CURRENT NEED	CURRENT SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)	FUTURE NEED	FUTURE SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)
BICYCLING (MILES)	5,000	0	0	0	0	8	(8)	30	(30)
CAMPING (ACRES)	6,750	0	0	0	0	6	(6)	22	(22)
BOAT RAMPS (LANES)	5,000	1	0	0	1	8	(7)	30	(29)
FISHING (800' OF PIER)	5,000	0	0	0	0	8	(8)	27	(27)
HIKING (MILES)	6,750	0	0	3	3	6	(3)	22	(19)
HORSEBACK RIDING (MILES)	5,000	0	0	0	0	8	(8)	30	(30)
PICNICKING	6,000	13	0	0	13	7	6	25	(12)
BASEBALL/SOFTBALL	5,000	4	0	0	4	8	(4)	30	(26)
BASKETBALL	5,000	5	0	0	5	7	(2)	30	(25)
FOOTBALL/SOCCER/RUGBY	6,000	4	0	0	4	7	(3)	25	(21)
GENERAL PLAY	10,000	9	0	0	9	4	5	15	(6)
GOLF (18 HOLES)	50,000	0	0	3	3	1	2	3	0
RAQUETBALL/HANDBALL	10,000	2	0	0	2	4	(2)	15	(13)
SHUFFLEBOARD	6,000	12	0	0	12	7	5	25	(13)
SWIMMING POOL	25,000	1	0	3	4	2	2	6	(2)
TENNIS	2,000	5	0	8	13	21	(8)	75	(62)
VOLLEYBALL	6,000	2	0	0	2	7	(5)	25	(23)

* POPULATION FIGURES FROM THE CITY OF NORTH PORT

Benchmarking

Local Comparables - GDC Communities



CITY OF NORTH PORT PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE BENCHMARKING

COMPARABLE CITY PARK SYSTEMS

City	CITY OF NORTH PORT	CITY OF PALM COAST	CITY OF PALM BAY	CITY OF CAPE CORAL
Current Population	42,000	65,018	90,300	144,755
City Size (Sq. Miles)	103	62	65	144
City Size (Acres)	65,920	39,680	41,600	92,160
Total Park System Acreage (Developed and Undeveloped Lands)	277	478	830	1297
Parkland as Percent of City Area	0.4%	1.2%	2.0%	1.4%
Comprehensive Plan LOS	4 acres/ 1000	8 acres/ 1000	5 acres/ 1000	4 acres/ 1000
Total Actual LOS *	6.3 acres/ 1000	3 acres/ 1000	3 acres/ 1000	2.4 acres/ 1000
Number of Employees:	8	59	106	112
Full-Time	4	17	47	88
Part-Time	4	24	18	24
Contracted Employees	n/a	18	41	n/a
Volunteers	20	3	5	n/a
Annual Budget:	\$768,908	\$2,189,199	\$3,353,200	\$5,586,561
Administration/ Personal	\$220,908	\$442,886	\$2,093,800	\$4,232,050
Maintenance	\$500,000*	\$747,538	\$1,259,400	\$1,139,852
Programming	\$48,000	\$998,775	n/a	\$214,659
Capital Construction	\$2,925,210	\$5,153,185	\$37,600	\$2,106,800
Budget per Capita	\$18.31	\$33.67	\$37.13	\$38.59

* Money paid to Sarasota County for Park Maintenance

* 2.7 Acres/ 1,000 excluding 160 Acres of Myakkahatchee Creek Park

Benchmarking

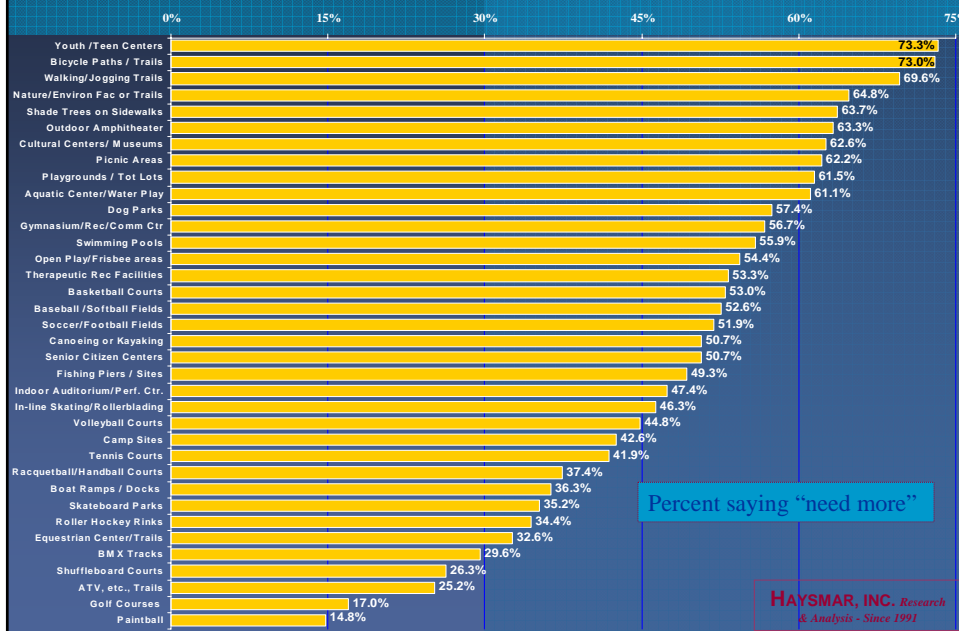
National Comparables



CITY OF NORTH PORT PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE NATIONAL BENCHMARKING COMPARABLES

City	CHICAGO, ILLINOIS	PORTLAND, OREGON	KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI	MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA
Population	2,722,000	481,000	441,000	359,000
City Size (Sq. Miles)	227.2	124.7	311.5	54.9
City Size (Acres)	145,408	79,808	199,360	35,136
Total Park System Acreage (Developed and Undeveloped Lands)	7,329	9,659	11,047	5,694
Parkland as Percent of City Area	5.0%	12.1%	5.5%	16.2%
Actual Acreage LOS *	2.7 acres/ 1000	21.4 acres/1000	25.0 acres/ 1000	16.0 acres/ 1000
Number of Employees:	2,730	1,679	920	1,500
Full-Time	2,162	371	720	500
Seasonal Employees	568	1308	200	1,000
Volunteers	450	3,500	1,927	3,000
Annual Budget:	\$234,242,000	\$39,490,000	\$25,866,000	\$44,125,000
Maintenance	\$112,436,000	\$25,613,000	\$16,551,000	\$24,091,000
Programming	\$121,806,000	\$13,877,000	\$9,315,000	\$20,034,000
Capital Construction	\$59,390,000	\$25,770,000	\$14,868,000	\$10,794,000
Budget per Capita	\$82.10	\$58.65	\$86.06	\$122.91

Chart 3: City of North Port Survey of Residents
Residents' Interest in Additional Facilities

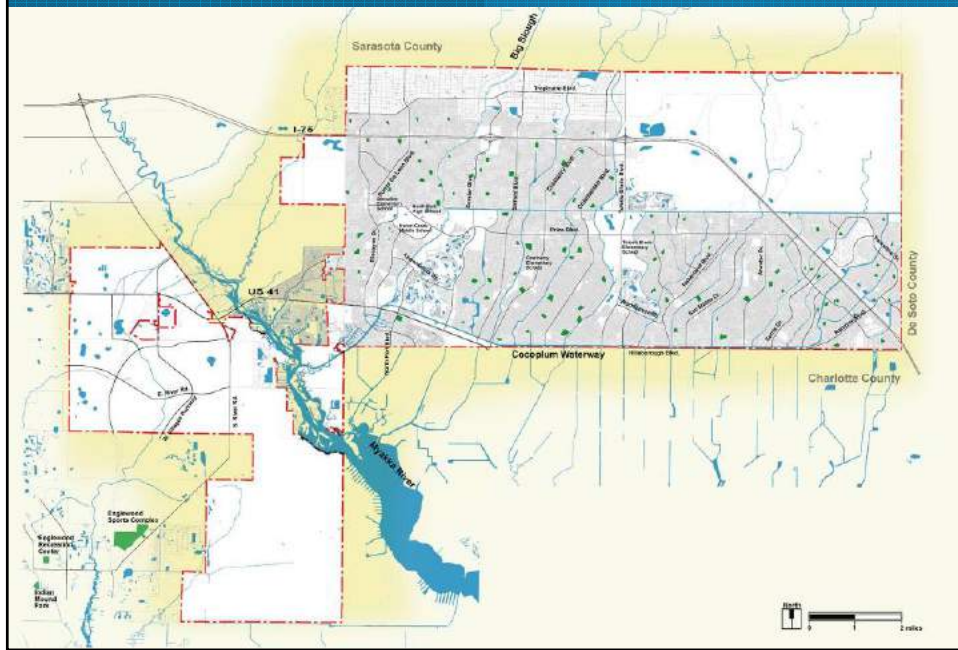


Agenda

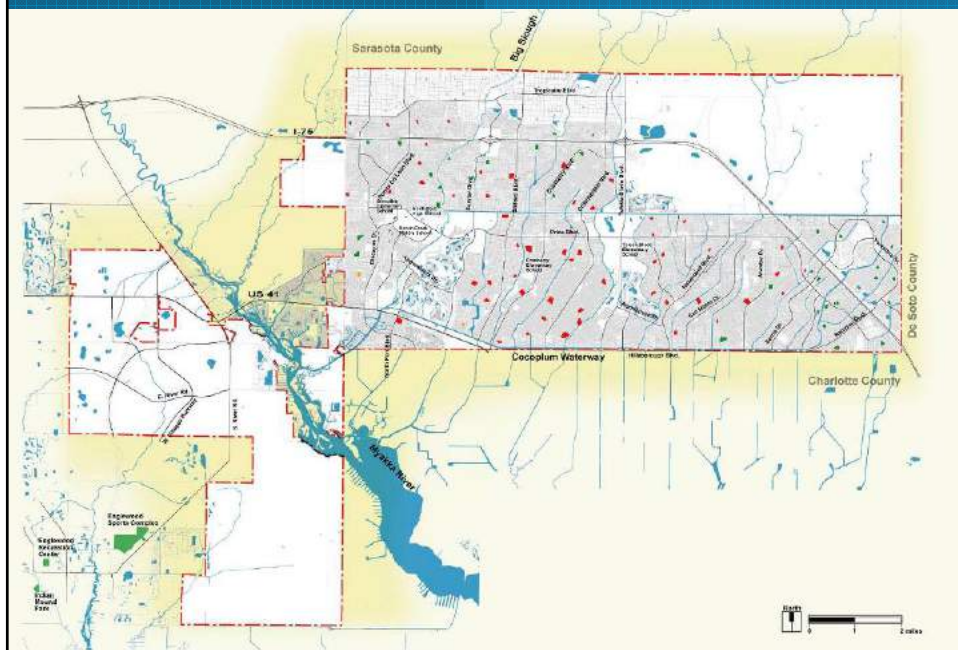
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- Presentation and Discussion of Proposed Projects to Meet Needs
- Discussion of Policy Implications of the Plan
- Remaining Scope of Work
- Questions and Answers



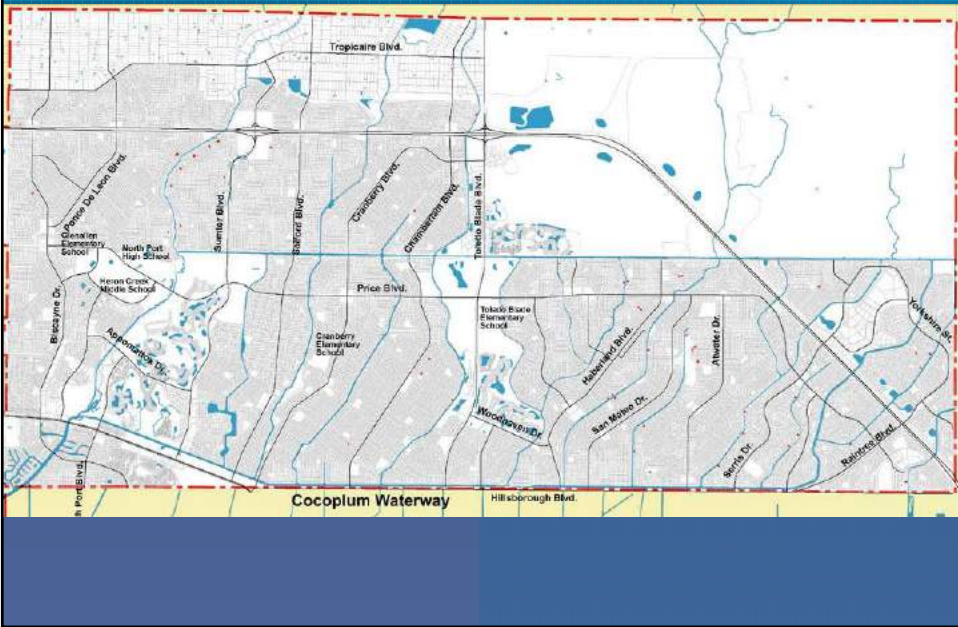
Intended Park Sites



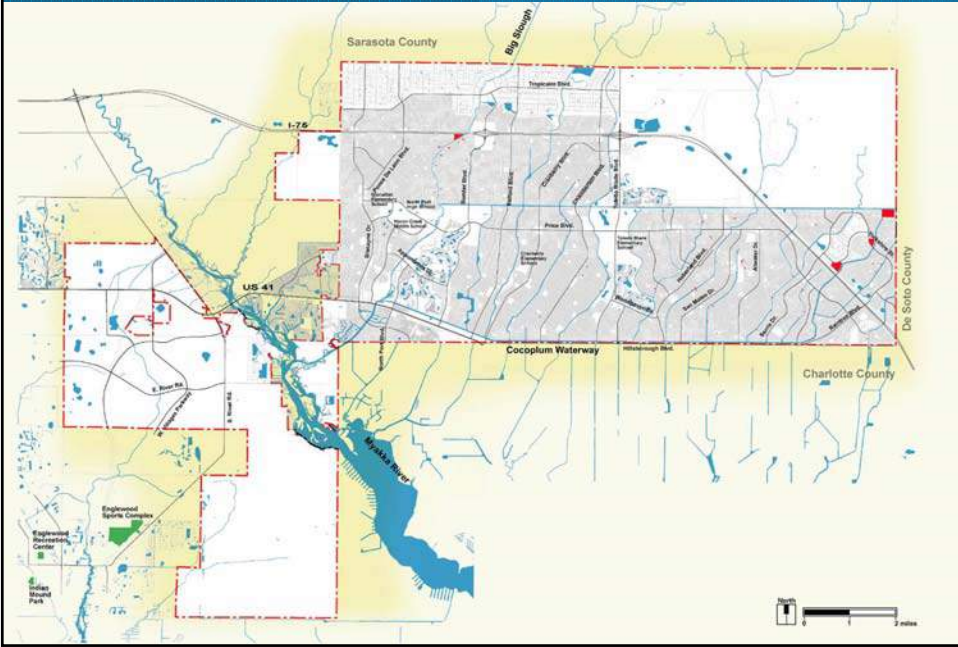
Intended Park Sites **Developed/ Sold/ Owned**



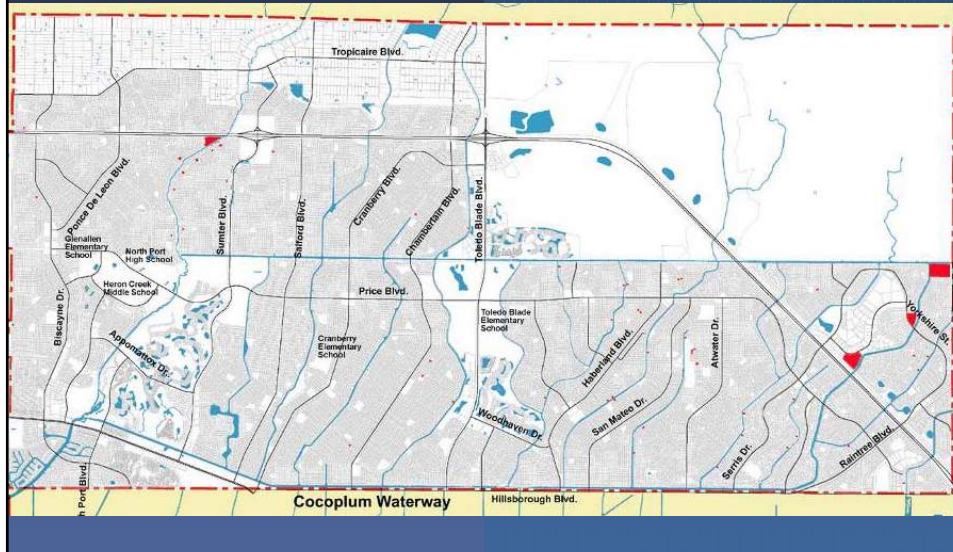
City Retained Escheated Lots



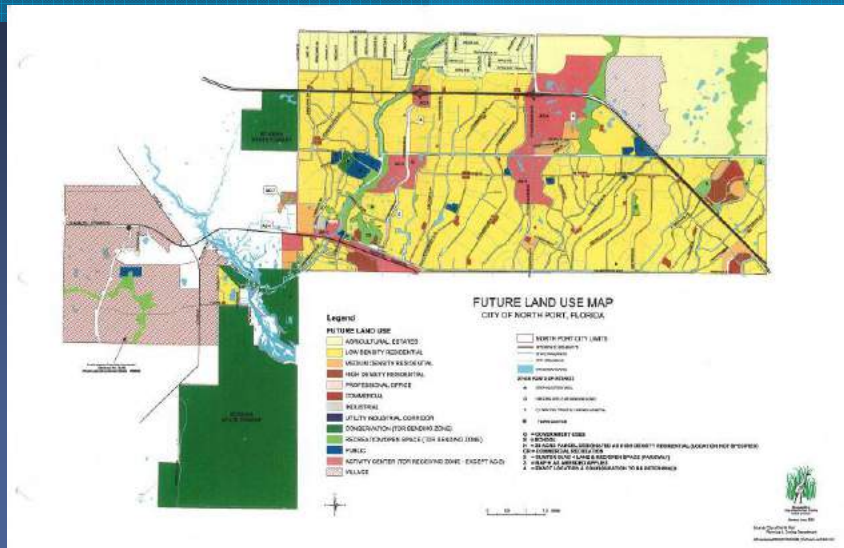
City Owned Parcels



City Owned Parcels



North Port Future Land Use Map



Proposed North Port System Criteria



CITY OF NORTH PORT PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM CRITERIA

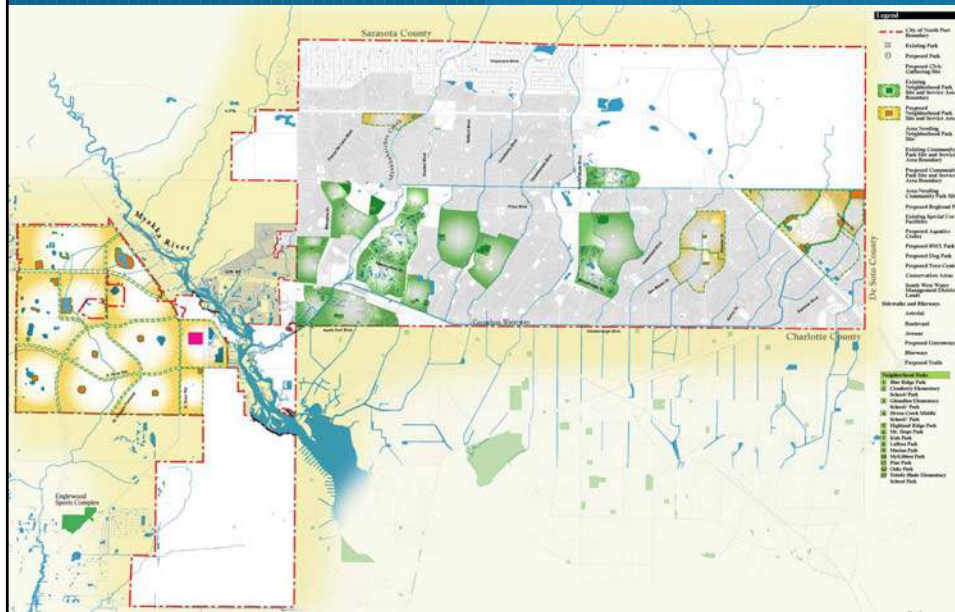
HIERARCHY OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

PARK TYPE	TYPICAL SIZE	SERVICE AREA	CRITERIA	TYPICAL FEATURES
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	3-5 ACRES	1/4 MILE	WALK TO FACILITY FOR NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS, WITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IF POSSIBLE	INFORMAL BALL FIELD, OPEN PLAY, PLAYGROUND, BASKETBALL PICNIC AREA
COMMUNITY PARKS	20 ACRES	2 MILES	BIKE OR DRIVE TO FACILITY FOR COMMUNITY RESIDENTS, 50% OPEN SPACE, WITH MIDDLE SCHOOLS IF POSSIBLE	COMMUNITY CENTER, BASEBALL, SOFTBALL, SOCCER, TENNIS, BASKETBALL, PLAYGROUND, PICNIC SHELTERS, 100 CAR PARKING
REGIONAL PARKS	100 ACRES	5 MILES	DRIVE TO FACILITY FOR ORGANIZED RECREATION, WITH HIGH SCHOOLS IF POSSIBLE	COMPLEXES OF SPORTS FACILITIES FOR LEAGUE AND TOURNAMENT PLAY, 200+ PARKING
SPECIAL USE FACILITIES	VARIABLES	CITY WIDE	LOCATED ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AND MULTI-MODAL NODES	PERFORMING ARTS, AQUATICS, SENIOR CENTER, TEEN CENTERS, SKATE PARKS, MOTOR SPORTS
CIVIC GATHERING SPACE	100 ACRES	CITY WIDE	CITY CENTER	CENTRALIZED GATHERING SPACE FOR MAJOR CIVIC EVENTS
CONSERVATION AREAS	VARIABLES	VARIABLES	PASSIVE, NATURAL AREAS WITH MINIMAL IMPROVEMENTS	TREES AND NATURAL GROUND COVER, TRAILS, MINIMAL MAINTENANCE
TRAILS, GREENWAYS AND BLUEWAYS	12' WIDE	CITY WIDE	INTERCONNECTED SYSTEM	DEVELOPED IN CONJUNCTION WITH SIDEWALKS AND BIKEWAYS TO PROVIDE A NETWORK OF RECREATIONAL AND TRANSPORTATION OPPORTUNITIES
SIDEWALKS AND BIKEWAYS	4-6' WIDE	CITY WIDE	INTERCONNECTED SYSTEM	TREE LINED, 4-6' WIDE FOR NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION THROUGHOUT THE CITY

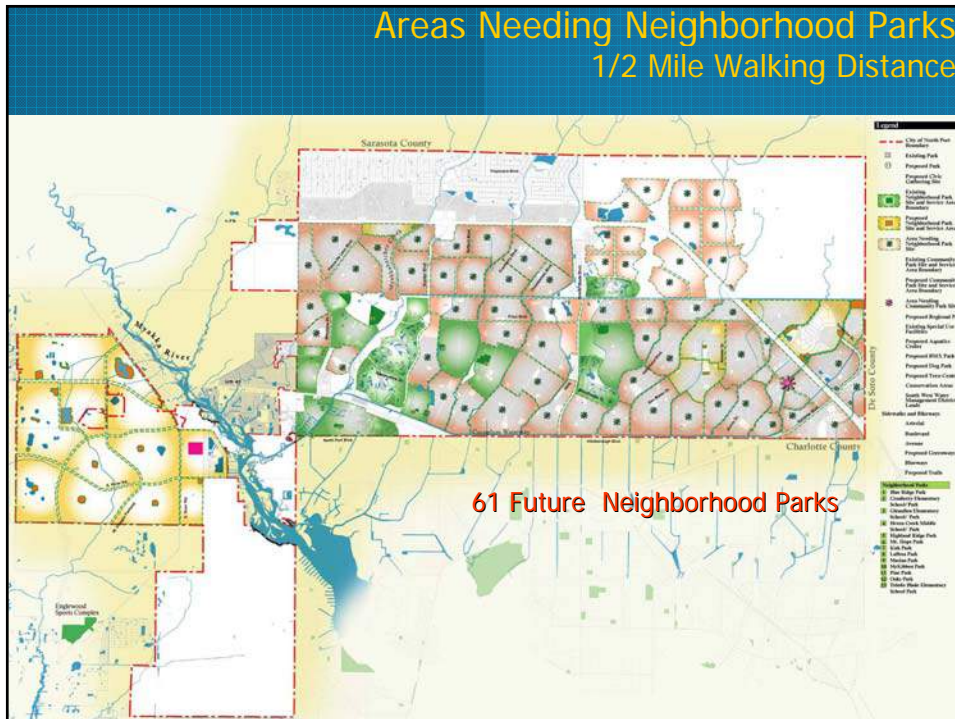
Neighborhood Parks

- "... the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood" - NRPA
- Within ¼ to ½ mile of each resident
- 3-5 acres in size

Proposed Neighborhood Park Locations – 1/2 Mile Walking Distance



Areas Needing Neighborhood Parks 1/2 Mile Walking Distance



61 Future Neighborhood Parks

Community Parks

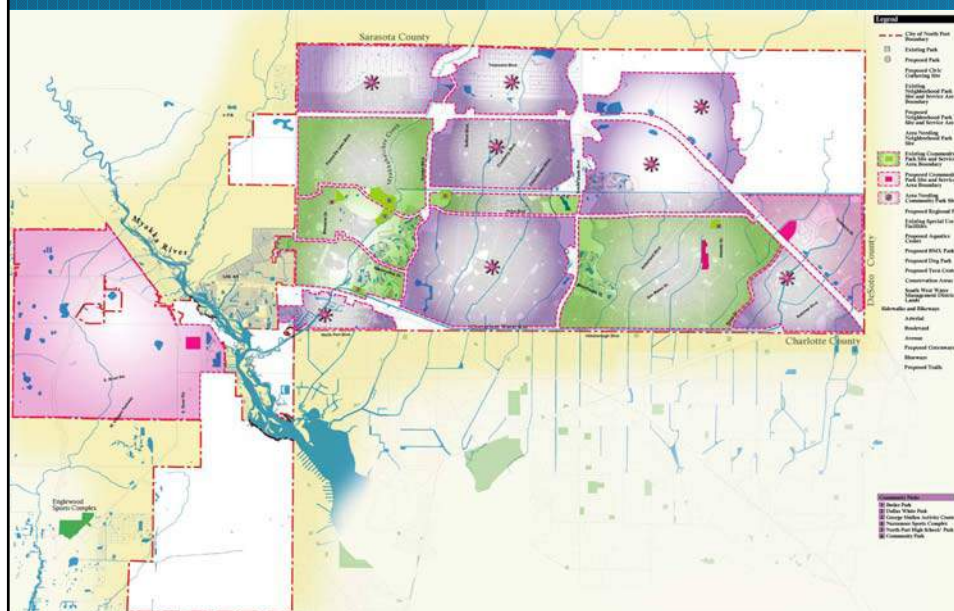
- "... broader purpose... focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs" - NRPA
- Within 2 to 3 miles of each resident
- 20-50 acres in size



Proposed Community Park Locations 2-3 Mile Walking Distance



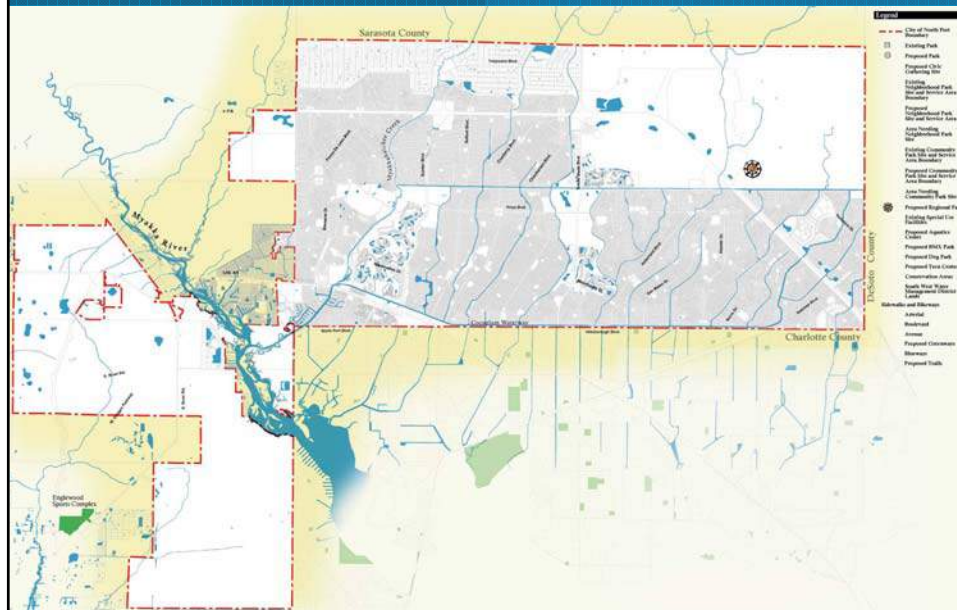
Areas Needing Community Park Acquisition 2-3 Mile Walking Distance





- Regional Parks**
- To provide for large athletic demands and organized sports.
 - Alleviates the pressure to over build community parks
 - for a broader population base than the city
 - +/- 100 acres

Proposed Regional Park Location



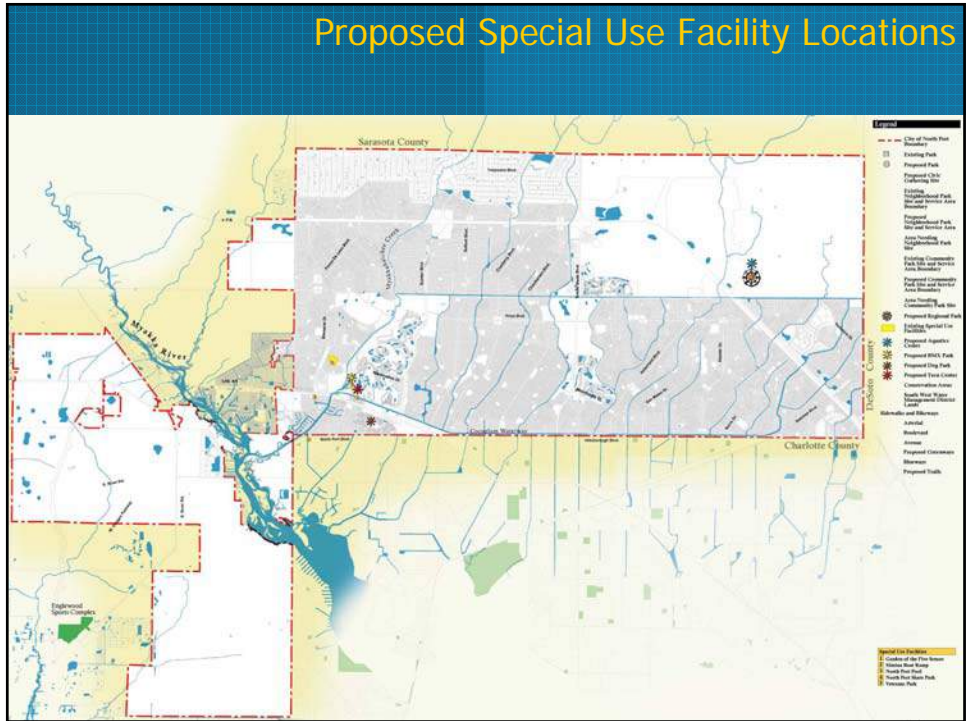
Special Use Facilities

- Facilities designed for a special purpose or constituency group
- Partnerships with or reliance on other organizations
 - Youth/ Teen Center
 - Dog Park
 - Aquatic Center
 - Senior Center

Special Use Facility – Highland Ridge Dog Park



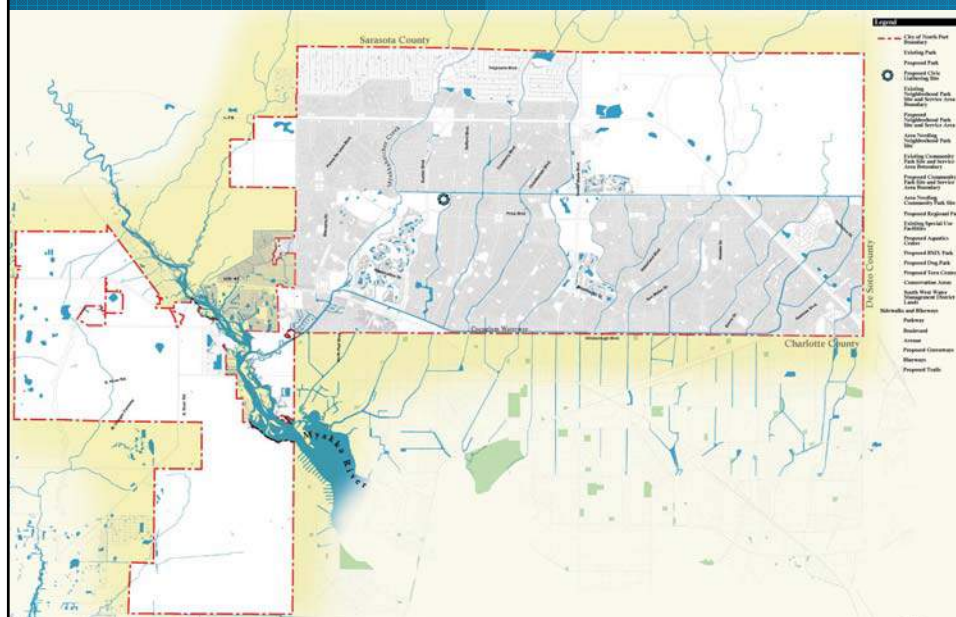
Proposed Special Use Facility Locations



Civic Gathering Space

- Centralized area for major civic events
- Helps to create a sense of identity for the City
- Incorporated with commercial and residential development
- On the intersection of major traffic corridors

Proposed Civic Gathering Space Location



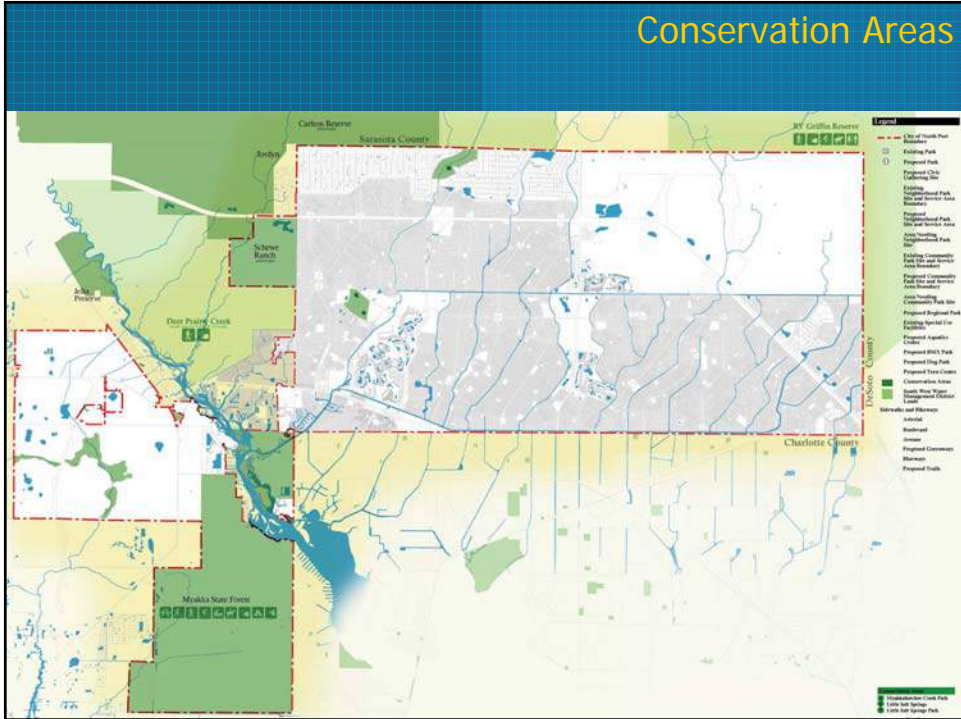


Conservation Areas

- Remove exotic vegetation
- Minimal development
 - trails
 - benches

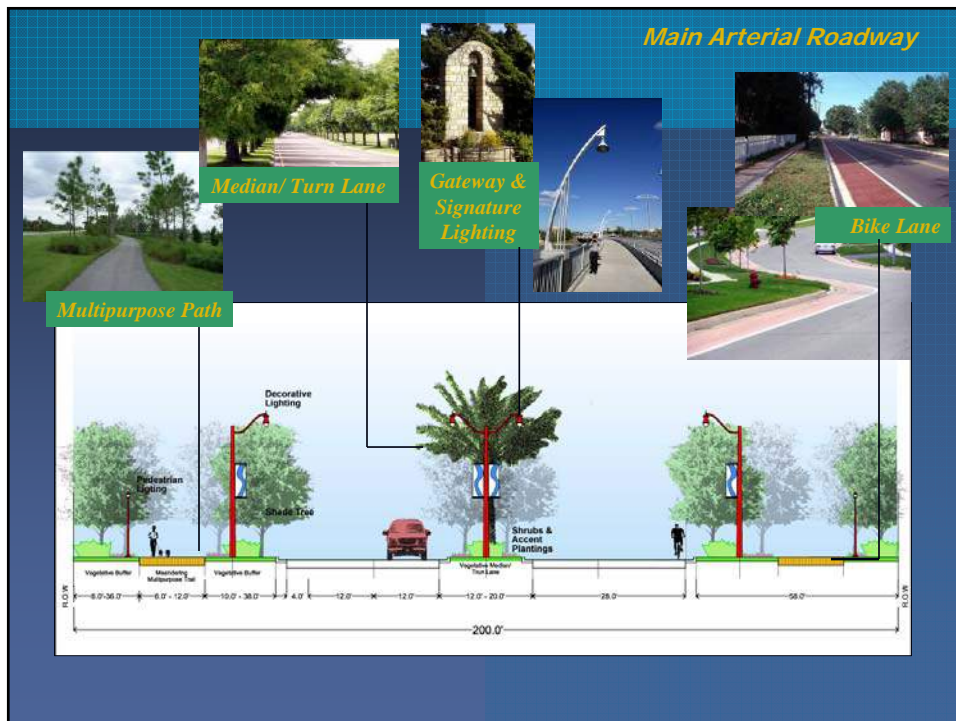
Regional Conservation Areas



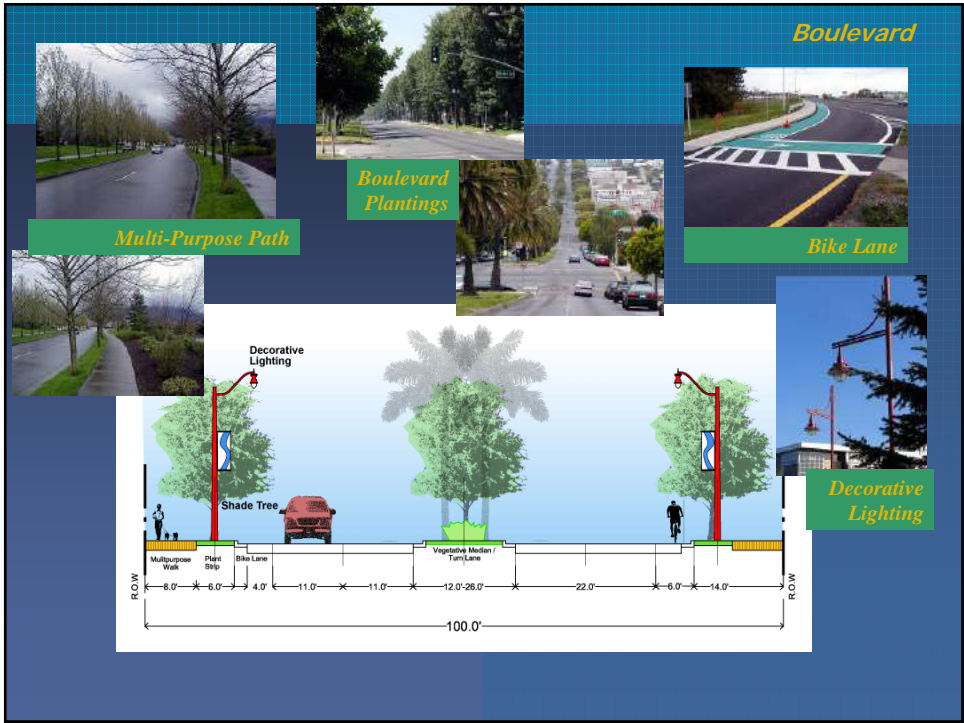
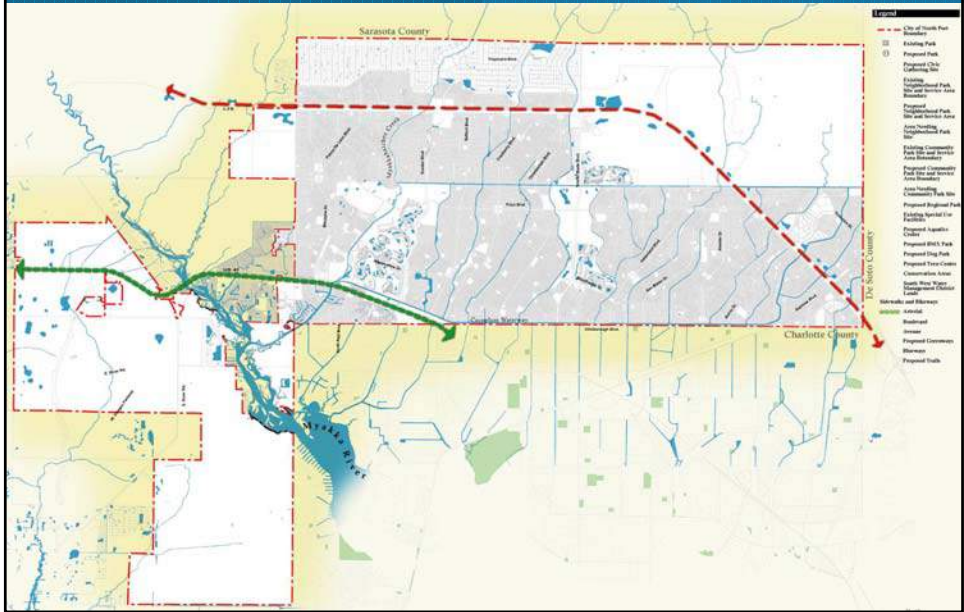


Sidewalks and Bikeways

- Tree lined sidewalks for pedestrian comfort
- Designated bike lanes on all arterial and collector streets for rider safety

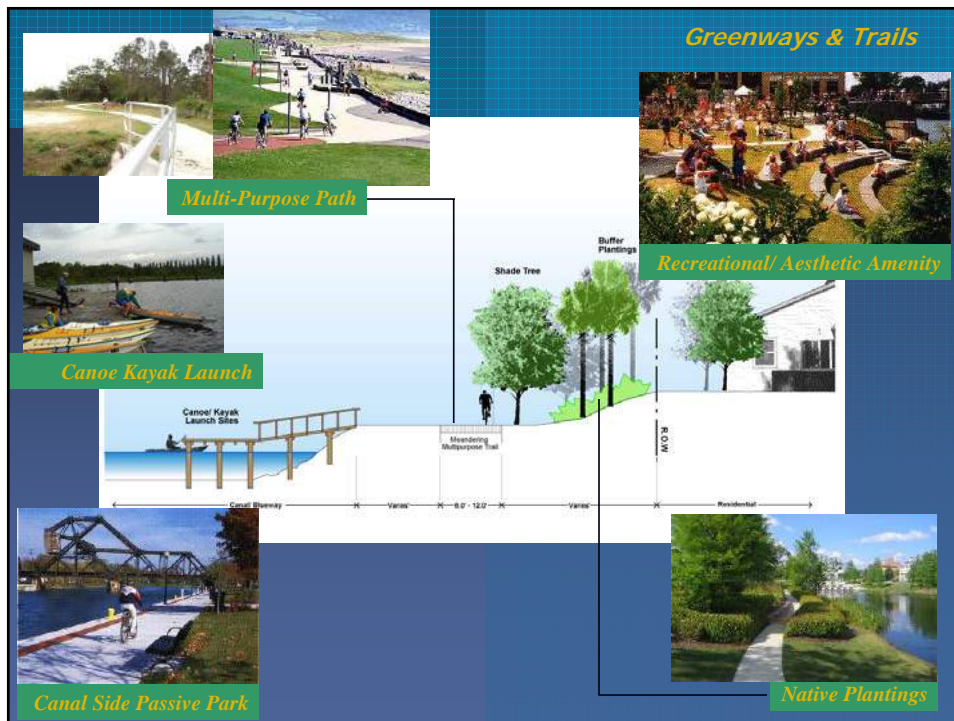


Proposed Sidewalks & Bikeways Arterials

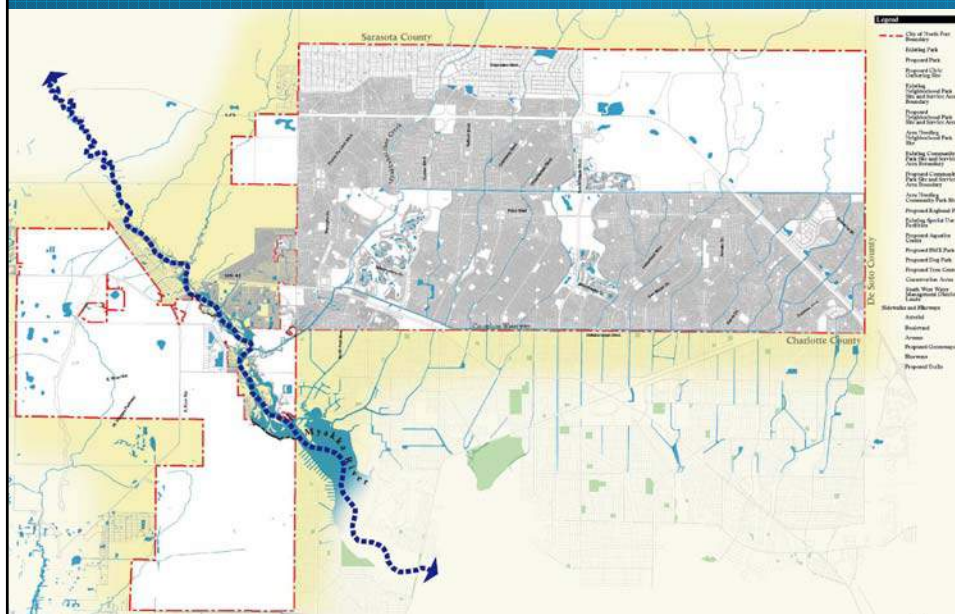


Trails, Greenways and Blueways

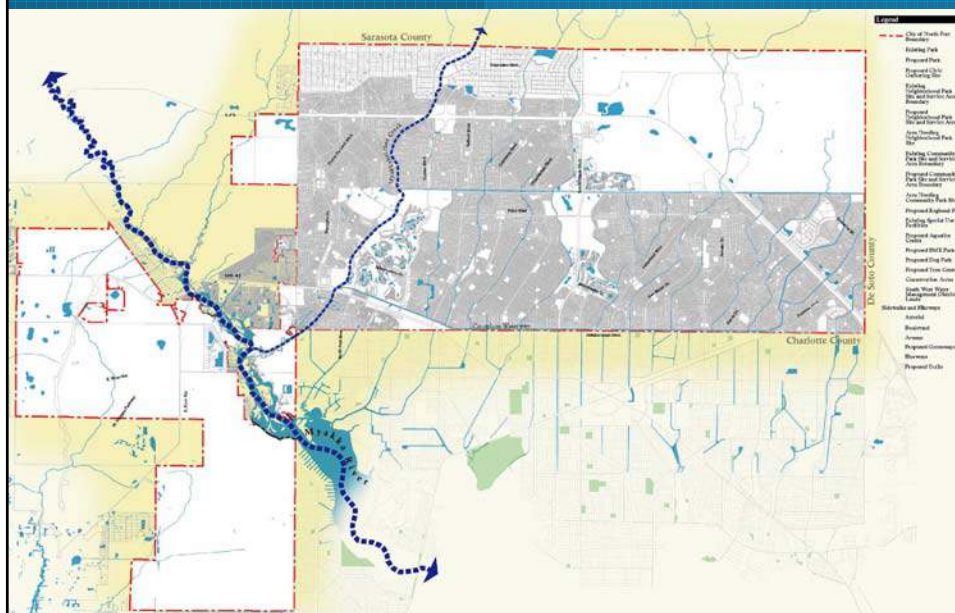
- Developed in conjunction with sidewalks and bikeways to provide a network of recreational and transportation opportunities
- Incorporated with right-of-ways, canals and conservation areas



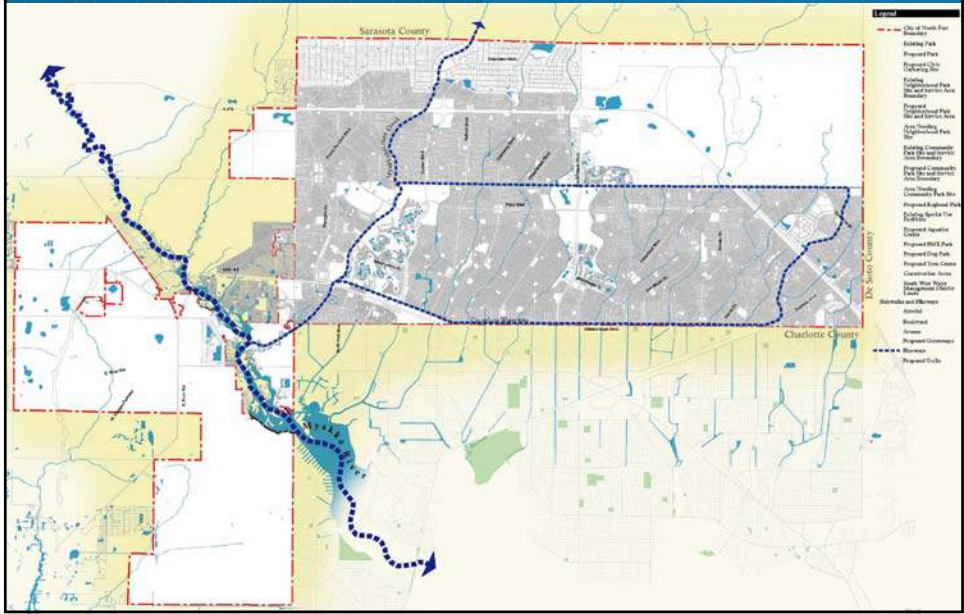
Existing Blueways Myakka River



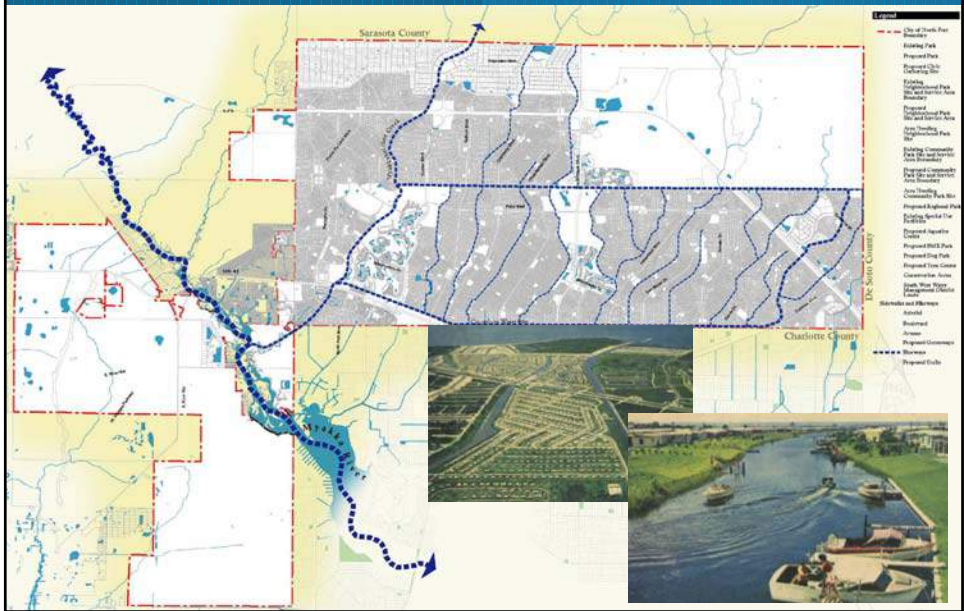
Existing Blueways Myakka River + Myakkahatchee Creek

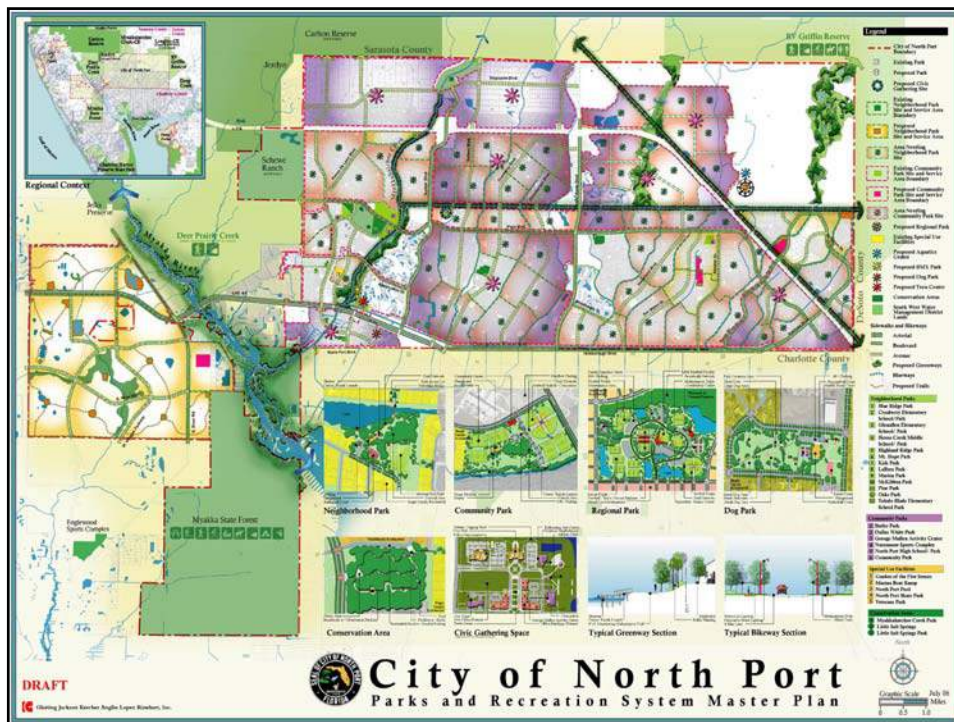


Existing Blueways Myakka River + Big Slough Creek + Cocoplum Waterway



Existing Blueways Myakka River + Big Slough Creek + Cocoplum Waterway + Access Canals





Summary of Top Priority Needs

- ④ Additional Park Land
- ④ Youth Athletic Fields and Courts – baseball, football, soccer, basketball, multiple-use/ open play areas
- ④ Youth/ Teen Center and Gymnasium
- ④ Improved Streets, Bike Paths, Trails and Shaded Sidewalks
- ④ Dog Park

Agenda

- Review of Needs Assessment Findings
- Presentation and Discussion of Proposed Projects to Meet Needs
- Discussion of Policy Implications of the Plan
- Remaining Scope of Work
- Questions and Answers



Policy Implications

- Revise the City's Comprehensive Plan to adopt the community park service areas proposed in the master plan
 - 2-3 mile service area
 - Facility standards consistent with the system criteria
 - Aesthetically pleasing and safe

Policy Implications

- Revise the City's Comprehensive Plan to integrate the concept of open space as an integral part of neighborhoods
 - Service area boundaries consistent with the master plan
 - ½ mile service area
 - Facility standards consistent with the system criteria
 - Aesthetically pleasing and safe

Policy Implications

- Revise the City's Comprehensive Plan to integrate linear greenways into policy for conservation areas

Policy Implications

- Revise the City's Land Development Regulations to require the development of neighborhood and community parks in new developments in accordance with the master plan

Policy Implications

- Revise the City's roadway design standards to incorporate sidewalks, bike lanes and street trees on major arterial and collector roads

Policy Implications

- Institute a formalized joint planning process with the County and School Board for the acquisition and development of parks and open space

Agenda

- Review of Needs Assessment Findings
- Presentation and Discussion of Proposed Projects to Meet Needs
- Discussion of Policy Implications of the Plan
- Remaining Scope of Work
- Questions and Answers



Remaining Scope of Work

- Implementation Strategy
- Final Report

Agenda

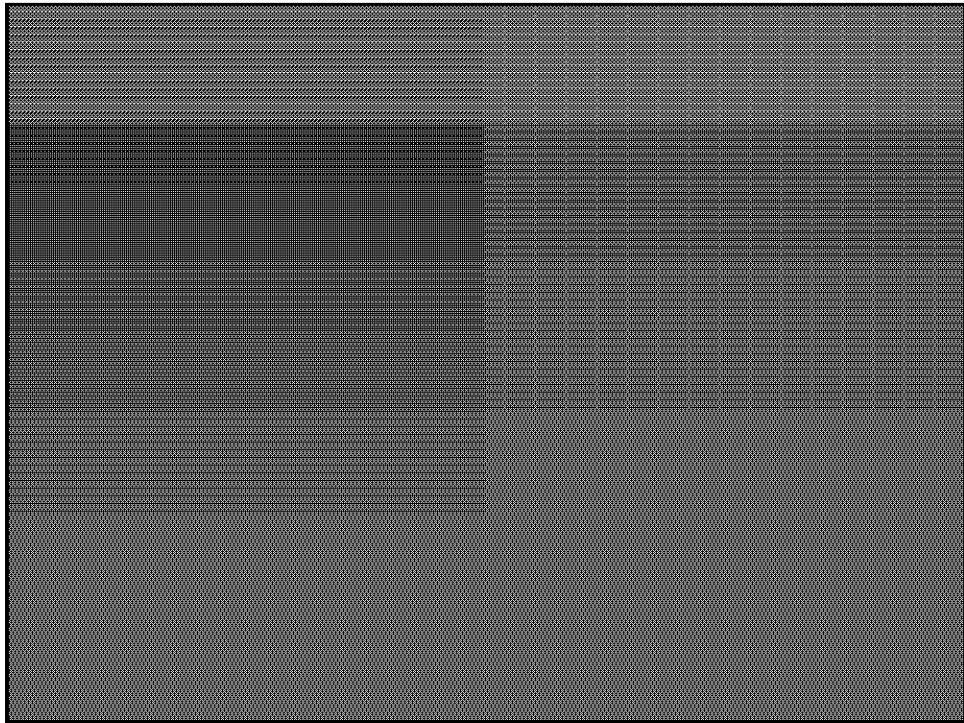
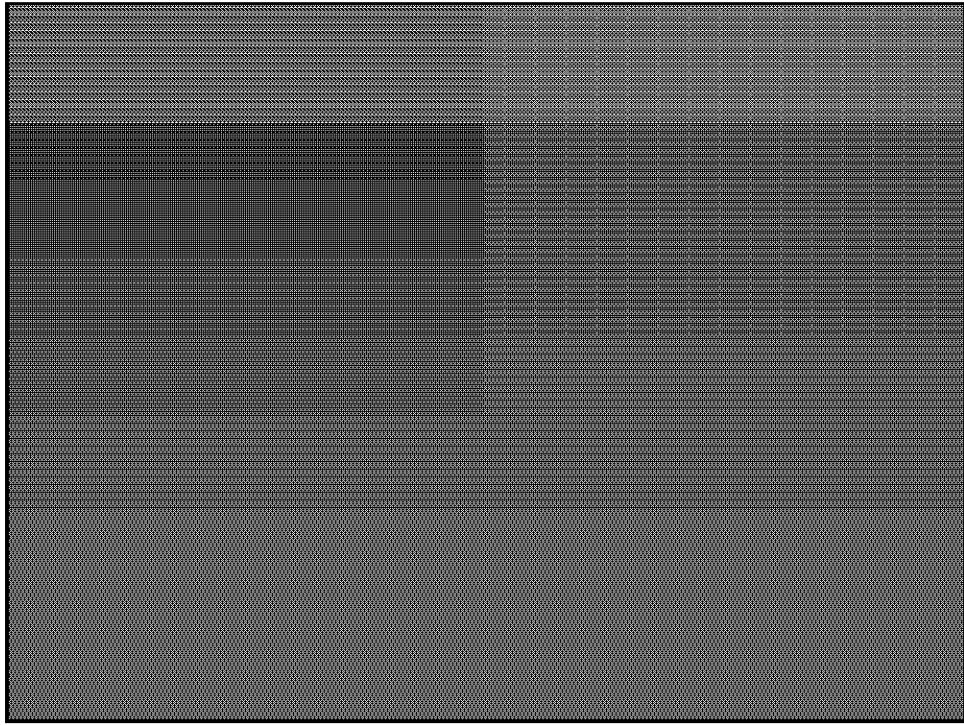
- Review of Needs Assessment Findings
- Presentation and Discussion of Proposed Projects to Meet Needs
- Discussion of Policy Implications of the Plan
- Remaining Scope of Work
- Questions and Answers



City of North Port
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Review Workshop
May 31, 2006



Glatting Jackson Kercher Anglin Lopez Rinehart, Inc



Opinion of Probable Costs



City of North Port Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Order of Magnitude Opinion of Probable Cost
System Total to 25 Year Build Out
April 12, 2006

INITIAL COSTS - DESIGN, PERMITTING AND CONSTRUCTION

	Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Total Price	Description
A) Neighborhood Parks						
1.	Land Acquisition					
	New Neighborhood Park Sites	75	EA	\$500,000	\$37,500,000	5 Acres at \$100,000/Acre
2.	Park/Facility Development					
	Neighborhood Park Development	82	EA	\$250,000	\$20,500,000	Informal Ball Field, Open Play, Playground, Basketball, Picnic Area
3.	Park/Facility Renovation					
	Neighborhood Park Renovation	2.5	%	\$0	\$512,500	50% Renovation at 20 Year Life Cycle
	Neighborhood Parks Total				\$58,512,500	
B) Community Parks						
1.	Land Acquisition					
	New Community Park Sites	7	EA	\$2,000,000	\$14,000,000	20 Acres at \$100,000/Acre
2.	Park/Facility Development					
	Community Parks	9	EA	\$3,500,000	\$31,500,000	10 acres Developed with Community Center, Baseball, Softball, Soccer, Tennis, Basketball, Playground, Picnic Shelters, 100 Car Parking, 10 Acres Passive Use/Trails
3.	Park/Facility Renovation					
	Butler Community Park Renovation	1.0	EA	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	50% Renovation at 20 Year Life Cycle
	Community Parks Total				\$47,000,000	
C) Regional Park (by Sarasota County)						
1.	Land Acquisition					
	New Regional Park Sites	1	EA	\$10,000,000	\$0	100 Acres at \$100,000/Acre by County
2.	Park/Facility Development					
	Regional Parks	1	EA	\$12,000,000	\$0	100 Acre Site Being Developed by County
3.	Park/Facility Renovation					
	Regional Park Renovation	1	EA	\$1,000,000	\$0	By Sarasota County
	Regional Parks Total				\$0	

D) Special Use Facilities						
1.	Land Acquisition					
	New Special Use Park Sites					
	Future	1	EA	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	20 Acres at \$100,000/Acre
	Future	1	EA	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	10 Acres at \$100,000/Acre
	Future	1	EA	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	10 Acres at \$100,000/Acre
	Future	1	EA	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	20 Acres at \$100,000/Acre
2.	Park/Facility Development					
	Special Use Park Development					
	Dog Park	1	EA	\$500,000	\$500,000	Segregated Large and Small Dog Areas, Play Features, Water and Shade Structures
	--- Development	1	EA	\$3,000,000	\$0	
3.	Park/Facility Renovation					
	Special Use Park Renovation	2.5	%	\$0	\$0	50% Renovation at 20 Year Life Cycle
	Special Use Parks Total				\$6,500,000	
E) Civic Gathering Spaces						
1.	Land Acquisition					
	New Civic Gathering Space Site	0	EA	\$10,000,000	\$0	To Be Developed at the New City Hall Site
2.	Park/Facility Development					
	Civic Gathering Space	1	EA	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	Stages, Restrooms and Support Amenities for Major Civic Events
3.	Park/Facility Renovation					
	Civic Gathering Space Renovation	2.5	%		\$125,000	50% Renovation at 20 Year Life Cycle
	Civic Gathering Space Total				\$5,125,000	
F) Conservation Areas						
1.	Land Acquisition					
	New Conservation Sites	0	EA	\$0	\$0	
2.	Park/Facility Development					
	Conservation Area Development	14	EA	\$100,000	\$1,400,000	Exotic Vegetation Removal, Trails, Landscaping
3.	Park/Facility Renovation					
	Conservation Area Renovation	2.5	%	\$0	\$35,000	50% Renovation at 20 Year Life Cycle
	Neighborhood Parks Total				\$1,435,000	

G) Trails , Greenways and Blueways						
1. Land Aquisition						
	Trails Right of Way	100	AC	\$100,000	\$0	100 Acres at \$100,000/Acre, By Other City Departments
	Park Connections	20	EA	\$100,000	\$0	Residential Lots for Access to Parks, By Other City Departments
2. Park/Facility Development						
	Trails and Bikeways Development	40	MI	\$350,000	\$0	Trails, Bridges, Benches, Shade Structures, Drinking Fountains, By Other City Departments
3. Park/Facility Renovation						
	Trails and Bikeways Renovation	2.5	EA	\$100,000	\$0	By Other City Departments
Trails and Bikeways Total					\$0	
H) Sidewalks and Bikeways						
1. Land Aquisition						
	Trails Right of Way	100	AC	\$100,000	\$0	100 Acres at \$100,000/Acre, By Other City Departments
	Park Connections	40	EA	\$100,000	\$0	Residential Lots for Access to Parks, By Other City Departments
2. Park/Facility Development						
	Trails and Bikeways Development	110	MI	\$350,000	\$0	Trails, Bridges, Benches, Shade Structures, Drinking Fountains, By Other City Departments
3. Park/Facility Renovation						
	Trails and Bikeways Renovation	2.5	EA	\$100,000	\$0	By Other City Departments
Trails and Bikeways Total					\$0	
Initial Cost Total					\$118,572,500	

Cost Summary

INITIAL COSTS SUMMARY					
1.	Land Acquisition				\$57,500,000
2.	Park/ Facility Development				\$58,900,000
3.	Park/ Facility Renovation				\$2,012,500

Potential Funding Distribution



City of North Port Parks and Recreation Master Plan
 Costs and Partnership Opportunities
 System Total to 25 Year Build Out
 April 12, 2006

PROPOSED FUNDING DISTRIBUTION

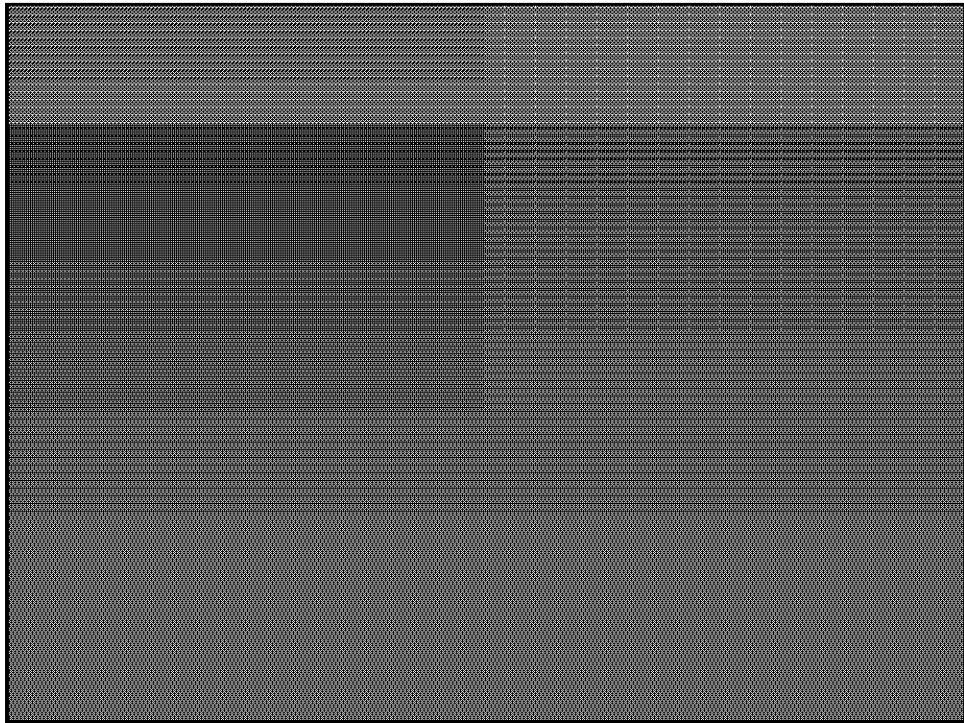
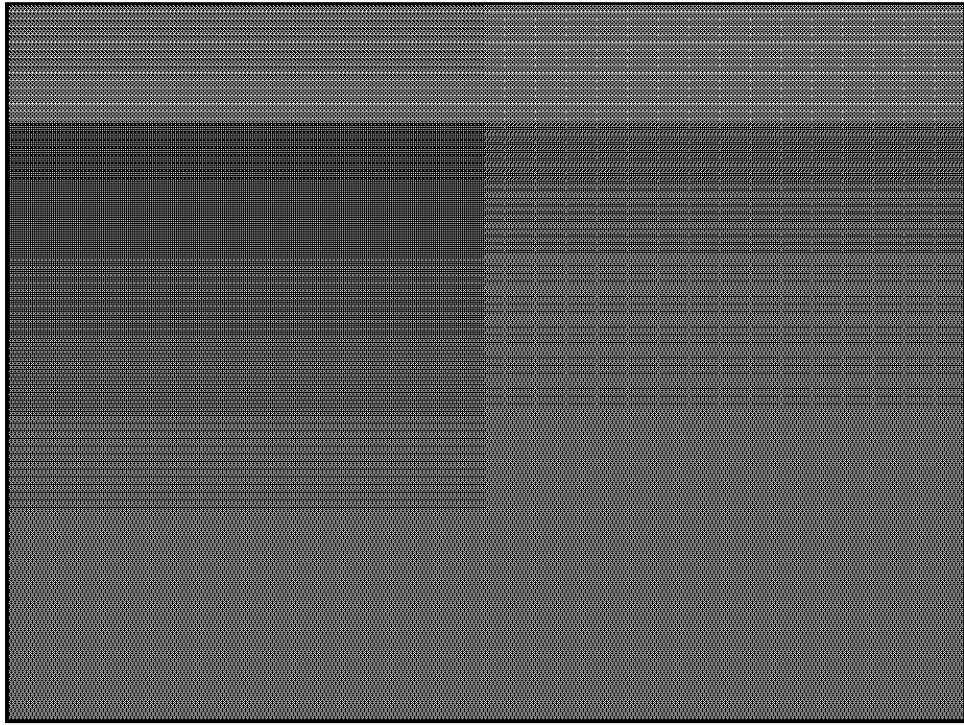
Item	Total Price	County		School Board		Grants		Impact Fees		Donations		City	
		Percent	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
A) Neighborhood Parks													
1. Land Acquisition													
New Neighborhood Park Sites	\$37,500,000	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
2. Park/Facility Development													
Neighborhood Park Development	\$20,500,000	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
3. Park/Facility Renovation													
Neighborhood Park Renovation	\$512,500	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Neighborhood Parks Total	\$58,512,500												
B) Community Parks													
1. Land Acquisition													
New Community Park Sites	\$14,000,000	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
2. Park/Facility Development													
Community Parks	\$31,500,000	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
3. Park/Facility Renovation													
Butler Community Park Renovation	\$1,500,000	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Community Parks Total	\$47,000,000												
C) Regional Park (by Sarasota County)													
1. Land Acquisition													
New Regional Park Sites	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
2. Park/Facility Development													
Regional Parks	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
3. Park/Facility Renovation													
Regional Park Renovation	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Regional Parks Total	\$0												

D) Special Use Facilities													
1. Land Acquisition													
New Special Use Park Sites													
Future	\$2,000,000	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Future	\$1,000,000	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Future	\$1,000,000	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Future	\$2,000,000	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
2. Park/Facility Development													
Special Use Park Development													
Dog Park	\$500,000	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
--- Development	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
3. Park/Facility Renovation													
Special Use Park Renovation	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Special Use Parks Total	\$6,500,000												
E) Civic Gathering Spaces													
1. Land Acquisition													
New Civic Gathering Space Site	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
2. Park/Facility Development													
Civic Gathering Space	\$5,000,000	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
3. Park/Facility Renovation													
Civic Gathering Space Renovation	\$125,000	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Civic Gathering Space Total	\$5,125,000												
F) Conservation Areas													
1. Land Acquisition													
New Conservation Sites	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
2. Park/Facility Development													
Conservation Area Development	\$1,400,000	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
3. Park/Facility Renovation													
Conservation Area Renovation	\$35,000	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Neighborhood Parks Total	\$1,435,000												

G) Trails, Greenways and Blueways											
1. Land Acquisition											
Trails Right of Way	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Park Connections	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
2. Park/Facility Development											
Trails and Bikeways Development	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
3. Park/Facility Renovation											
Trails and Bikeways Renovation	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Trails Greenways and Blueways Total	\$0										
H) Sidewalks and Bikeways											
1. Land Acquisition											
Trails Right of Way	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Park Connections	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
2. Park/Facility Development											
Trails and Bikeways Development	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
3. Park/Facility Renovation											
Trails and Bikeways Renovation	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Sidewalks and Bikeways Total	\$0										
Initial Cost Total											
	\$118,572,500		\$3,750,000		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0

Recurring Annual Costs

RECURRING COSTS - ANNUAL COSTS TO OPERATE FACILITIES					
Recurring Programming/ Staffing Costs (Annual)					
A.	Neighborhood Parks	0	%	\$20,500,000	\$0 Percentage of Development Cost
B.	Community Parks	3	%	\$31,500,000	\$945,000 Percentage of Development Cost
C.	Regional Parks	3	%	\$12,000,000	\$0 Maintained by Sarasota County
D.	Special Use Facilities	5	%	\$500,000	\$25,000 Percentage of Development Cost
E.	Civic Gathering Spaces	2	%	\$5,000,000	\$100,000 Percentage of Development Cost
F.	Conservation Areas	0	%	\$0	\$0 Percentage of Development Cost
G.	Trails Greenways and Blueways	0	%	\$1,400,000	\$0 Percentage of Development Cost
H.	Sidewalks and Bikeways	0	%	\$0	\$0 Percentage of Development Cost
Recurring Programs and Policies Total				\$1,070,000	
Recurring Operation and Maintenance Costs (Annual)					
A.	Neighborhood Parks	3	%	\$20,500,000	\$615,000 Percentage of Development Cost
B.	Community Parks	5	%	\$31,500,000	\$1,575,000 Percentage of Development Cost
C.	Regional Parks	5	%	\$0	\$0 To Be Maintained by Sarasota County
D.	Special Use Facilities	8	%	\$500,000	\$40,000 Percentage of Development Cost
E.	Civic Gathering Spaces	4	%	\$5,000,000	\$200,000 Percentage of Development Cost
F.	Conservation Areas	2	%	\$0	\$0 Percentage of Development Cost
G.	Trails Greenways and Blueways	2	%	\$1,400,000	\$28,000 Percentage of Development Cost
H.	Sidewalks and Bikeways	2	%	\$0	\$0 To Be Maintained by Others
Recurring Operations and Maintenance Total				\$2,458,000	
Recurring Cost Total				\$3,528,000	



New York Times Advertisement



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where active, friendly people live
life at its fullest, every day of the year.**

You'll find something akin to magic in Port Charlotte, Florida that will make you bless the day you came here to live. of Commerce. You can play your part in whatever social and municipal activities that attract you be just as important, or retiring, as you desire.



General Development Corporation Sales Brochure

PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA

**Where retirement becomes
Re-new-ment—a new
beginning, not an end**

Here at Port Charlotte, you really begin to live. You shed your cares along with your years and confidence to the kind of living you dream of. Here Retirement becomes Re-new-ment with a rewarding meaning, as each day holds pleasure and fulfillment. Here is life as it should be and quiet contentment of the beautiful coast.

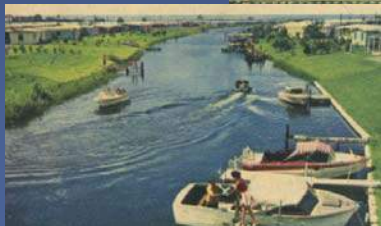
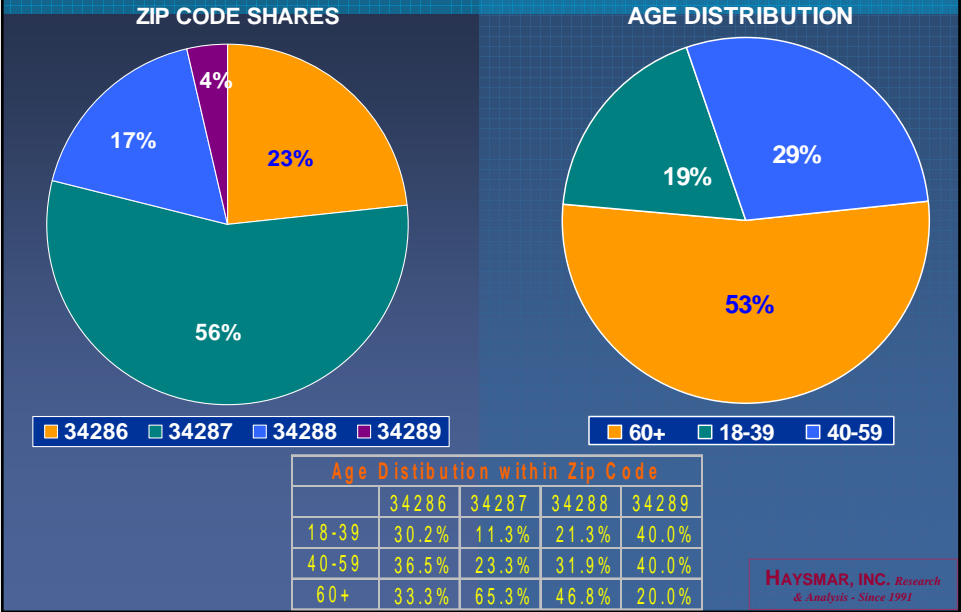



Chart 1: City of North Port Survey of Residents
Sample Statistics



Level of Service (LOS) – Acreage:



CITY OF NORTH PORT
PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE
ACREAGE LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS
COMPARISON TO STATE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN STANDARDS

TOTAL CITY POPULATION 2005 =		42,000							
TOTAL PROJECTED CITY POPULATION 2025 =		150,000							
PARK TYPE	ACRES PER 1000 POPULATION SERVED	CITY OF NORTH PORT	SARASOTA COUNTY	PRIVATE FACILITIES	TOTAL	CURRENT NEED	CURRENT SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)	FUTURE NEED	FUTURE SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)
NEIGHBORHOOD	2	23	0	0	23	84	(61)	300	(277)
COMMUNITY	2	79	0	0	79	84	(5)	300	(221)
REGIONAL	20	160	0	0	160	840	(680)	3,000	(2840)

* POPULATION FIGURES FROM THE CITY OF NORTH PORT

Level of Service (LOS) – Facilities:



**CITY OF NORTH PORT
PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE
FACILITY LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS
COMPARISON TO STATE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN STANDARDS**

TOTAL CITY POPULATION 2005 = 42,000

TOTAL PROJECTED CITY POPULATION 2025 = 150,000

ACTIVITY	POPULATION SERVED	CITY OF NORTH PORT	SARASOTA COUNTY	PRIVATE FACILITIES	TOTAL	CURRENT NEED	CURRENT SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)	FUTURE NEED	FUTURE SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)
BICYCLING (MILES)	5,000	0	0	0	0	8	(8)	30	(30)
CAMPING (ACRES)	6,750	0	0	0	0	6	(6)	22	(22)
BOAT RAMPS (LANES)	5,000	1	0	0	1	8	(7)	30	(29)
FISHING (800' OF PIER)	5,600	0	0	0	0	8	(8)	27	(27)
HIKING (MILES)	6,750	0	0	3	3	6	(3)	22	(19)
HORSEBACK RIDING (MILES)	5,000	0	0	0	0	8	(8)	30	(30)
PICNICKING	6,000	13	0	0	13	7	6	25	(12)
BASEBALL/SOFTBALL	5,000	4	0	0	4	8	(4)	30	(26)
BASKETBALL	5,000	5	0	0	5	7	(2)	30	(25)
FOOTBALL/SOCCER/RUGBY	6,000	4	0	0	4	7	(3)	25	(21)
GENERAL PLAY	10,000	9	0	0	9	4	5	15	(6)
GOLF (18 HOLES)	50,000	0	0	3	3	1	2	3	0
RAQUETBALL/HANDBALL	10,000	2	0	0	2	4	(2)	15	(13)
SHUFFLEBOARD	6,000	12	0	0	12	7	5	25	(13)
SWIMMING POOL	25,000	1	0	3	4	2	2	6	(2)
TENNIS	2,000	5	0	8	13	21	(8)	75	(62)
VOLLEYBALL	6,000	2	0	0	2	7	(5)	25	(23)

* POPULATION FIGURES FROM THE CITY OF NORTH PORT

Benchmarking

Local Comparables - GDC Communities



**CITY OF NORTH PORT
PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE
BENCHMARKING**

COMPARABLE CITY PARK SYSTEMS

City	CITY OF NORTH PORT	CITY OF PALM COAST	CITY OF PALM BAY	CITY OF CAPE CORAL
Current Population	42,000	65,018	90,300	144,755
City Size (Sq. Miles)	103	62	65	144
City Size (Acres)	65,920	39,680	41,600	92,160
Total Park System Acreage (Developed and Undeveloped Lands)	277	478	830	1297
Parkland as Percent of City Area	0.4%	1.2%	2.0%	1.4%
Comprehensive Plan LOS	4 acres/ 1000	8 acres/ 1000	5 acres/ 1000	4 acres/ 1000
Total Actual LOS %	6.3 acres/ 1000	3 acres/ 1000	3 acres/ 1000	2.4 acres/ 1000
Number of Employees:	8	59	106	112
Full-Time	4	17	47	88
Part-Time	4	24	18	24
Contracted Employees	n/a	18	41	n/a
Volunteers	20	3	5	n/a
Annual Budget:	\$768,908	\$2,189,199	\$3,353,200	\$5,586,561
Administration/ Personal	\$220,908	\$442,886	\$2,093,800	\$4,232,050
Maintenance	\$500,000*	\$747,538	\$1,259,400	\$1,139,852
Programming	\$48,000	\$998,775	n/a	\$214,659
Capital Construction	\$2,925,210	\$5,153,185	\$37,600	\$2,106,800
Budget per Capita	\$18.31	\$33.67	\$37.13	\$38.59

* Money paid to Sarasota County for Park Maintenance

* 2.7 Acres/ 1,000 excluding 160 Acres of Myakkahatchee Creek Park

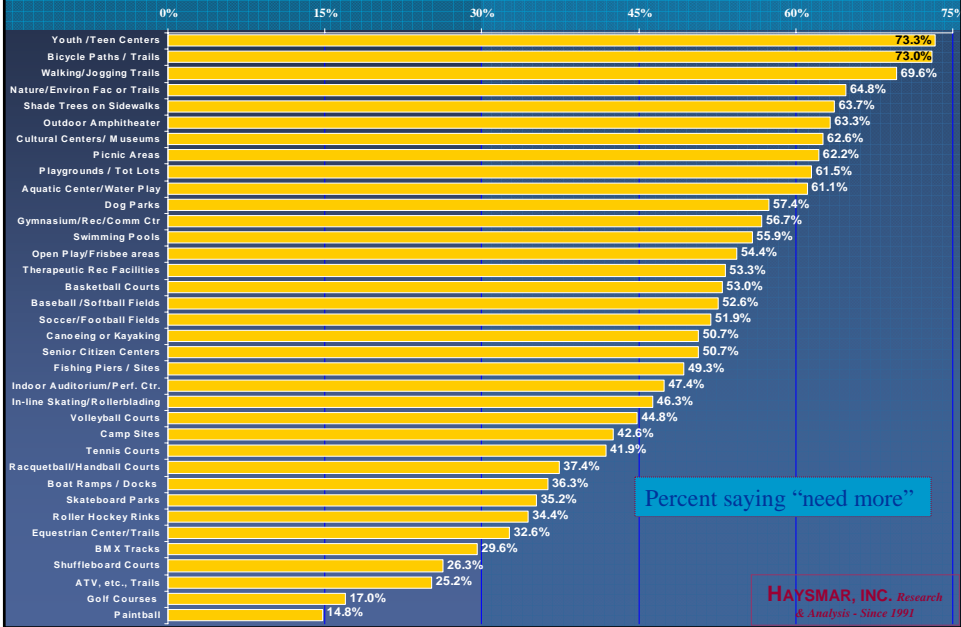
Benchmarking National Comparables

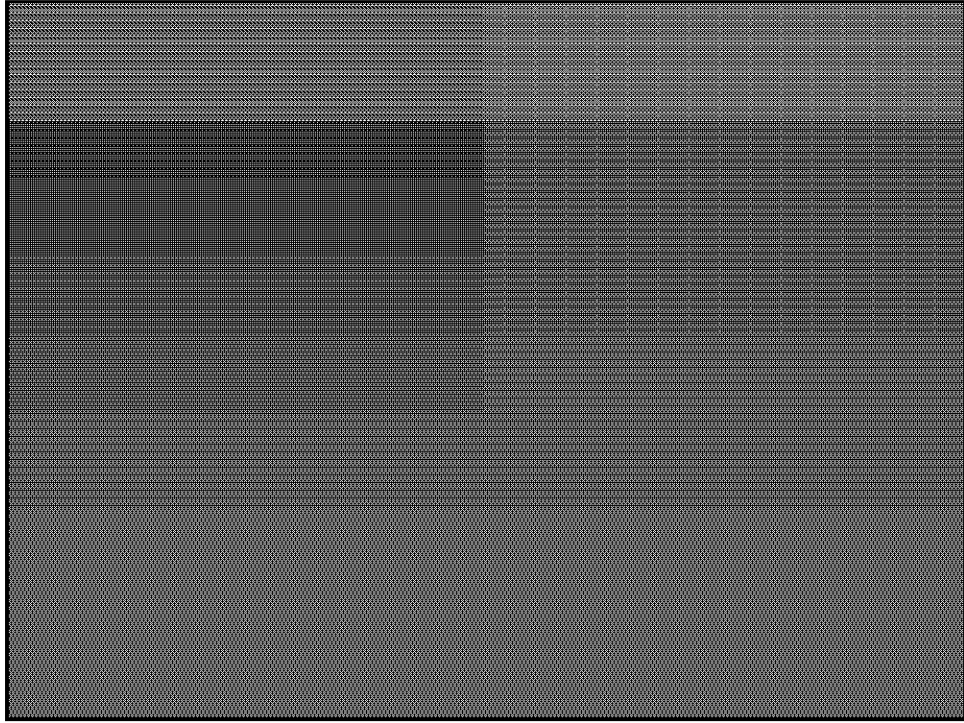


CITY OF NORTH PORT PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE NATIONAL BENCHMARKING COMPARABLES

City	CHICAGO, ILLINOIS	PORTLAND, OREGON	KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI	MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA
Population	2,722,000	481,000	441,000	359,000
City Size (Sq. Miles)	227.2	124.7	311.5	54.9
City Size (Acres)	145,408	79,808	199,360	35,136
Total Park System Acreage (Developed and Undeveloped Lands)	7,329	9,659	11,047	5,694
Parkland as Percent of City Area	5.0%	12.1%	5.5%	16.2%
Actual Acreage LOS *	2.7 acres/ 1000	21.4 acres/1000	25.0 acres/ 1000	16.0 acres/ 1000
Number of Employees:	2,730	1,679	920	1,500
Full-Time	2,162	371	720	500
Seasonal Employees	568	1308	200	1,000
Volunteers	450	3,500	1,927	3,000
Annual Budget:	\$234,242,000	\$39,490,000	\$25,866,000	\$44,125,000
Maintenance	\$112,436,000	\$25,613,000	\$16,551,000	\$24,091,000
Programming	\$121,806,000	\$13,877,000	\$9,315,000	\$20,034,000
Capital Construction	\$59,390,000	\$25,770,000	\$14,868,000	\$10,794,000
Budget per Capita	\$82.10	\$58.65	\$86.06	\$122.91

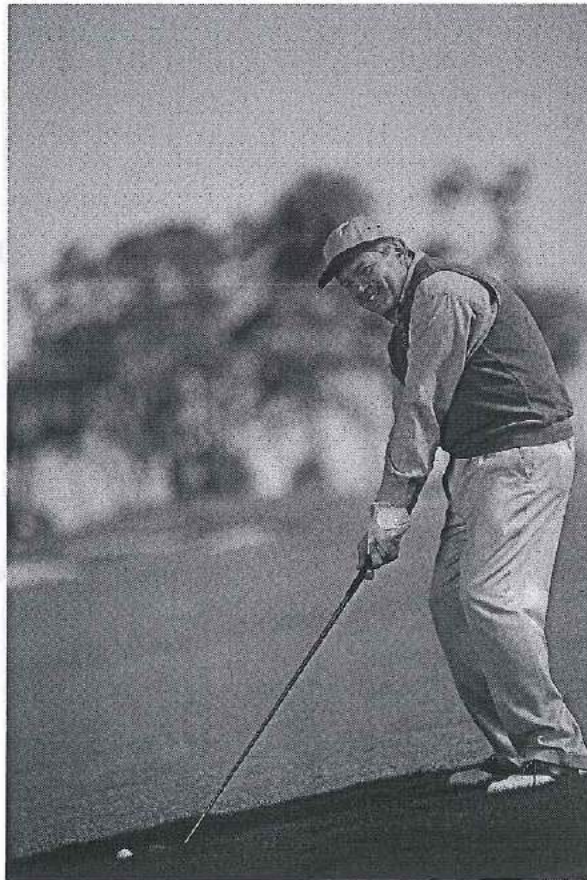
Chart 3: City of North Port Survey of Residents
Residents' Interest in Additional Facilities





City of North Port Survey of Residents

Final Report, November 2005



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Research & Analysis- Since 1991

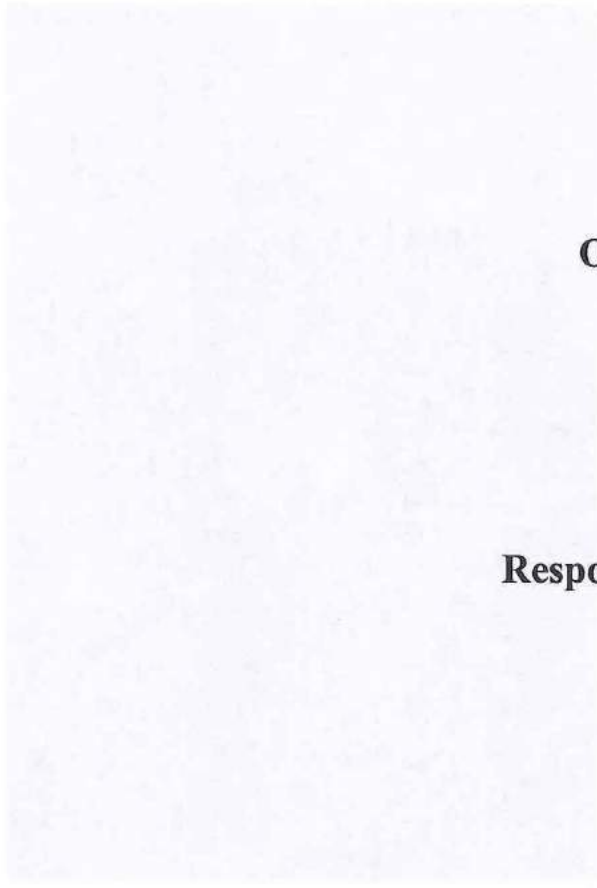
(561) 747-9915

Introduction and Findings

**City of North Port
Survey of Residents**

Final Report, November 2009

Presentation Charts



Overall Response Tables

**Responses by ZIP Code Area
and by Age;
Top 10 Tables**

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Verbatim Comments

City of North Port Survey of Residents Final Report - November 2005

I. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of a survey of the residents of the City of North Port. The survey was commissioned by Glatting-Jackson to support their work with the City's Parks and Recreation Department. The survey had five objectives:

1. to determine the types of recreational activities that residents currently enjoy;
2. to measure the residents' frequency of use of City recreation facilities and parks and to determine which facilities are most used;
3. to determine the residents' levels of interest in 36 types of recreation facilities ranging from an Aquatic Center to Walking and Jogging Trails;
4. to gauge residents' opinions regarding user fees and taxes to support recreation facilities; and,
5. to determine if residents perceive differences in the maintenance of facilities that are maintained by the City and those that are maintained by a different entity.

II. METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted by telephone. Citizens who live in the City of North Port were selected at random, called on the telephone, and asked to participate in the survey. The calls were made between November 10th and November 17th 2005 in the afternoons and evenings on weekdays and during the day on Saturdays. Two-hundred-seventy (270) interviews were completed. The overall findings have a confidence interval of $\pm 6\%$ at the 95% confidence level.

The City contains all or part of four postal Zip Code areas. A sample of telephone numbers was selected from these Zip areas from addresses identified as being located in the City of North Port. This double check, Zip areas and addresses, was performed to increase the likelihood that respondents were residents of North Port. Potential respondents were selected randomly from this sample. In addition, when contacted by telephone, respondents were asked if they were residents of the City, providing a third check to assure municipal residency of the respondents.

III. REPORT FORMAT

The report proceeds in steps, marked by Tabs, from a general overview to detailed tables. A discussion of the findings of the survey is presented below. Tab 2 contains a set of charts that graphically present the general survey results. Tab 3 contains tables that present the overall survey results in greater detail. Tab 4 contains tables that present detailed findings by Zip Code area and age group. Tab 4 also contains tables of the Top-10 most commonly performed recreation activities and the Top-10 types of facilities of which residents want more. The tables are presented for both Zip areas and age groups. Tab 5 contains the verbatim text of respondent comments and summary tables that provide comment totals by subject.

IV. FINDINGS

1. For this discussion, results were combined into three groups by age: **young** (aged 18-39), **middle aged** (aged 40-59), and **older** (aged 60 and above). The City's population is a little older than other similar municipalities in South Florida. In North Port the young category contains 19% of the population and the older category contains 53%. The more normal distributions for these populations are 28% young and 37% older. While the City's youngest age group is not the smallest encountered the middle aged share is the smallest and the share of older citizens is the largest.

Note also that Zip area 34289 contributed only 3.7% of the respondents (10 of 270) and the age distribution in that Zip area was outside North Port's overall pattern. Hence, detailed findings are generally reported only for Zip areas 34286, 34287 and 34288.

2. The recreational patterns of North Port's residents show an active aging population. The share of residents who say that they "Don't Participate" in any type of recreational activity is in line with other similar cities, 10% for North Port to a general average of about 9%. Further, the share of the City's residents who say they participate in "Senior Activities" is not statistically different from other cities with younger populations.

This active aging population can be seen even more clearly in the details of the recreation activities pursued. In North Port, "Golf," "Bicycle Riding" and "Swimming" are all pursued to a much greater extent than in other areas. Even more unusual, although the total number of people engaging in the activity is not large (12), "Gym/Weight Training" is far more commonly practiced in North Port than elsewhere. Further, only 2.3% of North Port's residents report partaking recreation activities "Other" than the normal collection tested in the survey and none of North Port's residents have taken up "Roller-hockey," "Bird Watching," "Horseback Riding," or "BMX" somewhat less mainstream activities. These are all indicators of an active, but traditional, aging population.

3. Only 51% of the respondents indicated that they have ever used the City's facilities; the more common figure is about 80%. Further evidence of the attraction of nearby facilities and recreation opportunities provided by other entities is clear in the relative frequency of use of the City's facilities by those who did use them. Although North Port's residents are as active as those in other cities (see item #2, above), 36% of those who ever use the City's recreational facilities say that they do so "Seldom" or "Rarely or Never," compared to 26% for similar cities.

On a local basis, residents that live in Zip areas 34286 and 34288 are significantly more likely to use the City's recreational facilities "Regularly" or "Occasionally" than residents in Zip area 34287, about 77% to 55%. North Port also experiences a normal age differentiation in intensity of use: the combined shares of "Use Regularly" and "Use Occasionally" fall from 82%, to 73%, to 49% when moving from the young to the middle age to the older age groups.

age differentiation in intensity of use: the combined shares of "Use Regularly" and "Use Occasionally" fall from 82%, to 73%, to 49% when moving from the young to the middle age to the older age groups.

4. The types of recreational activities chosen by North Port residents show the same patterns as in the frequency of recreational activity: they suggest and active older community. The "Top 10" list presented in Tab 4 provides a graphical view of the residents' interests. "Walking," "Bicycle Riding," and "Swimming" are universally attractive; all age groups and all Zip areas share an interest in these three.

More interesting, however are four activities of "Golf," "Fishing," "Playgrounds," and "Basketball." These activities are evenly enjoyed on a geographic basis, indicating that the different age groups are fairly evenly distributed throughout the City. But when analyzed by age, only the middle aged group named all four as commonly pursued activities, whereas, the young age group named only "Playgrounds" and "Basketball" and the older aged group named only "Golf" and "Fishing." Not a surprising result; it shows that the residents of North Port exhibit common age driven differences in interests.

In a secondary note, this finding also partially explains why older residents seem less active. "Fishing" and "Golf" are rarely pursued at City facilities whereas "Playgrounds" and "Basketball" are activities common to those facilities.

5. Notwithstanding these differences, respondents' opinions about the types of facilities that the City should provide were uniformly held. No matter how the survey sample was subdivided, by geography or age, there was uniform strong support for trails in the forms of "Bicycle Paths," "Walking and Jogging Trails," and "Environmental Trails." Similarly, there was uniformly strong support for a community gathering area in the form of a "Youth/Teen Centers," (the top rated facility overall) or a "Special Events Arena/Outdoor Amphitheater." "Playgrounds" also received uniform, though less strong, support throughout the community.

6. Residents of North Port are more reticent than those of similar sized Florida cities to support parks and recreational activities through increased property taxes. A significantly greater share of the City's residents is unwilling to bear any additional tax (43% for North Port to about 36% for the average city). It is interesting to note that, based on a much smaller sample, the residents of municipalities on Florida's West Coast are generally less willing to support a property tax than are those on Florida's East Coast.

Looking at the age groups, it is clear that the reticence is driven by the middle aged and older groups, about 45% of which are unwilling to support a tax increase. Only 32% of the young age group opposes a property tax increase for this purpose.

7. North Port residents were more accepting of user fees. While 57% of the City's respondents were accepting of a property tax increase (including 22% at the lowest

level); 62% of the residents accepted the concept of fees without specifying an amount. Further, relative to other cities, the share of respondents who said "Yes" to fees was greater and the share saying that they would support increased taxes was lower.

Even though the City's residents generally supported user fees rather than property tax increases, the age distribution of support for both views was quite similar. As with the tax question, the young age group was most supportive, 74% saying that they would be willing to pay user fees, while only approximately 60% of the middle aged and older groups were accepting of the idea.

8. Residents of North Port expressed the opinion, common in similar cities, that teens are more in need of additional recreational facilities than are younger or older residents. The results from this question were uniform across age categories with the exception that the age group closest to teens, the young age group, was significantly more likely to identify teens as needing additional facilities than were the other groups, 43% to approximately 35%.

9. In keeping with the competition/dilution effect of the municipalities to North Port's south and west noted in item #3 above, an unusually high percentage of respondents said that they "Didn't Know" about the maintenance of the City's parks and recreational facilities: 21% for North Port vs. a general average of about 8%. However, when considering the responses of those who were willing to give a rating, the maintenance of the City's facilities was rated right in line with other similar cities, with almost 84% rating the maintenance either "Excellent" or "Satisfactory."

On the local question of the quality of the maintenance of facilities handled by a vendor, there was very little difference across age groups or geographical areas, overall 92% of the population saw no difference between the two.

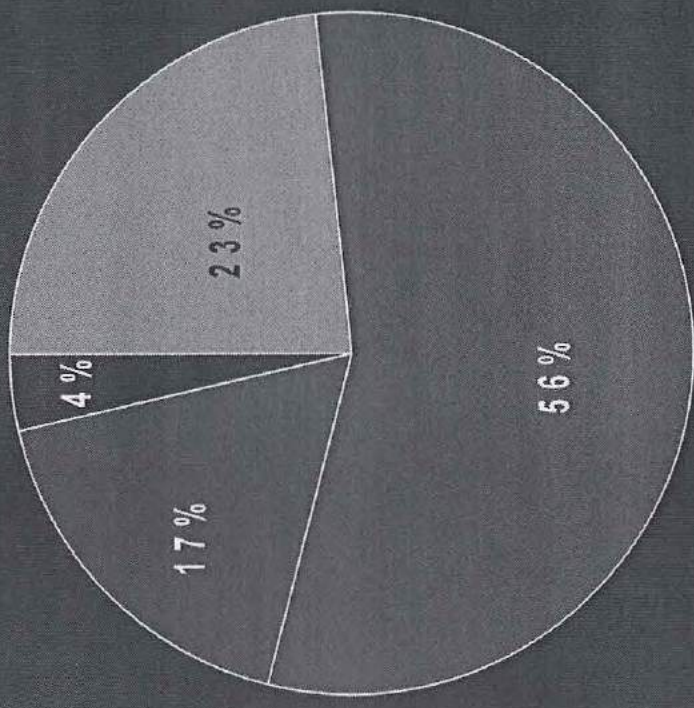
10. Respondent comments to the offer to "Tell us one thing about the City's Parks and Recreation facilities" resulted in 42% of the respondents having nothing to say or saying "Doing OK." Approximately 14% of the respondents asked for "More Facilities," about 8% wanted "More Programs," and about 5% called for "More cleaning, upgrading, maintenance, improvement." These relative shares for these issues are normal.

A review of the responses beyond the common statements shows that about 7% of the residents of North Port have concerns about growth management (this is rarely heard in recreational surveys), about general municipal services including roads (about 5%), and about the City government's relationship with the County government (about 3.5%).

These concerns were followed in frequency by a background of personal statements, by statements of interest in a variety of commercial activities, and by a resolute group of residents that would like the City to provide a dog park.

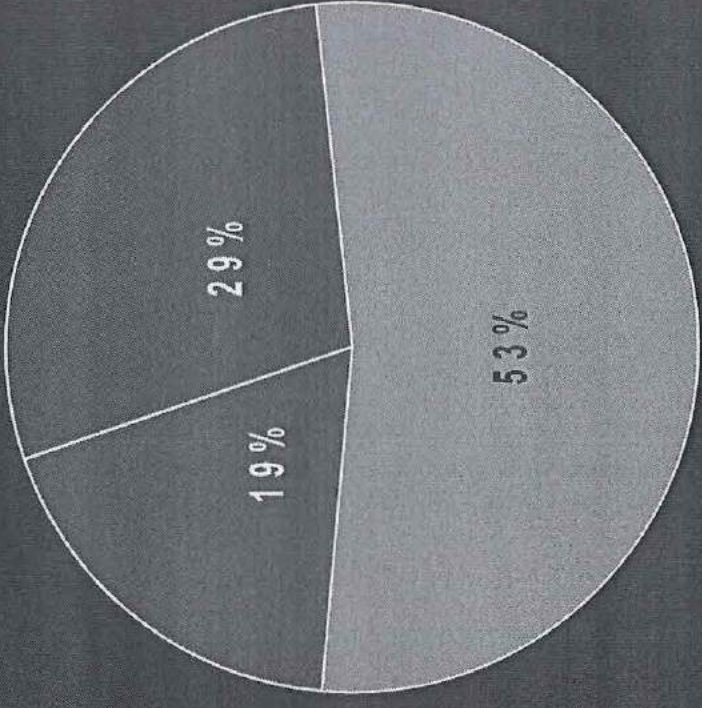
Chart 1: City of North Port Survey of Residents Sample Statistics

ZIP CODE SHARES



34286
 34287
 34288
 34289

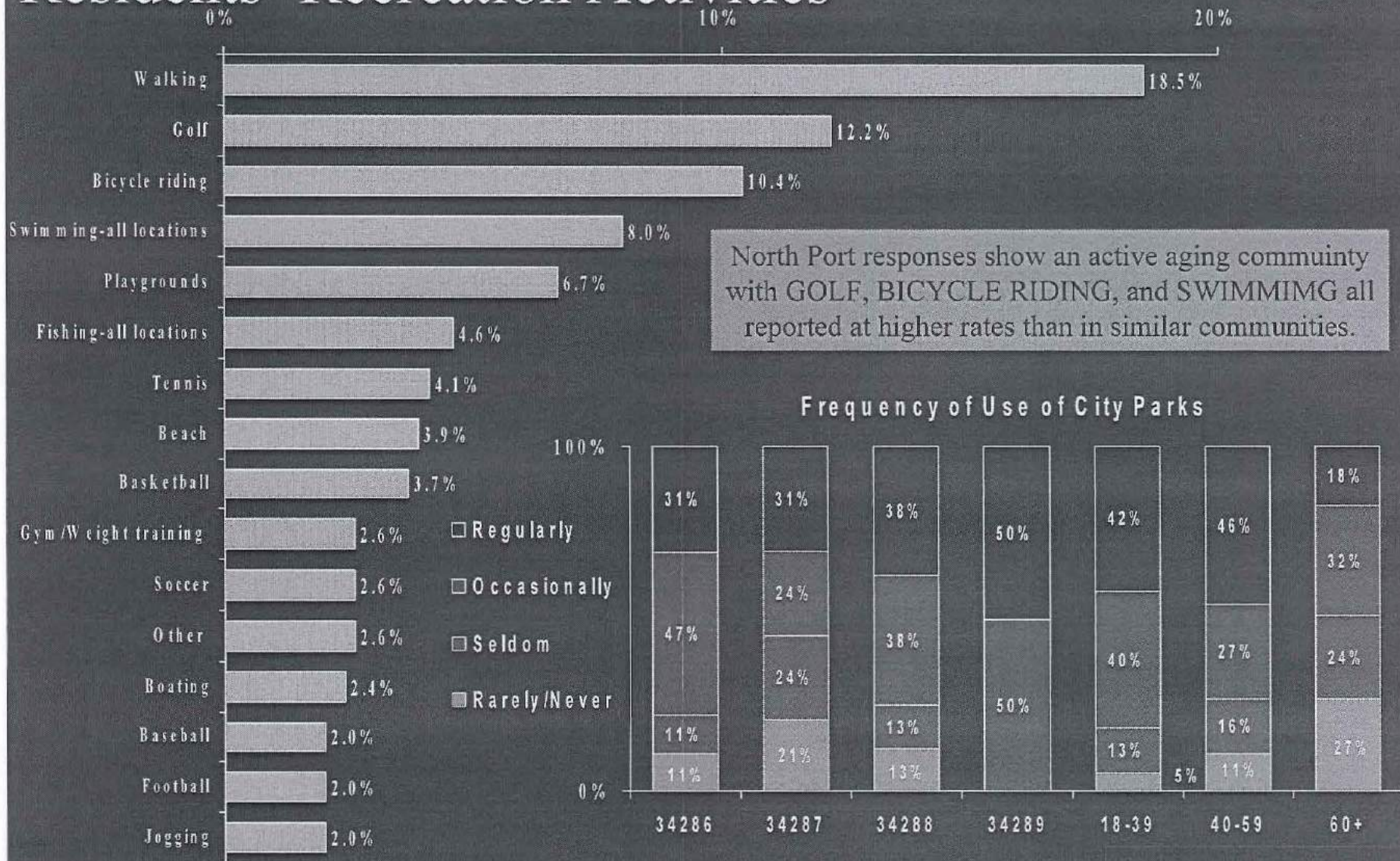
AGE DISTRIBUTION



60+
 18-39
 40-59

Age Distribution within Zip Code				
	34286	34287	34288	34289
18-39	30.2%	11.3%	21.3%	40.0%
40-59	36.5%	23.3%	31.9%	40.0%
60+	33.3%	65.3%	46.8%	20.0%

Chart 2: City of North Port Survey of Residents Residents' Recreation Activities



North Port responses show an active aging community with GOLF, BICYCLE RIDING, and SWIMMING all reported at higher rates than in similar communities.

Includes only Activities that were named by more than 2% of the respondents

Chart 3: City of North Port Survey of Residents Residents' Interest in Additional Facilities

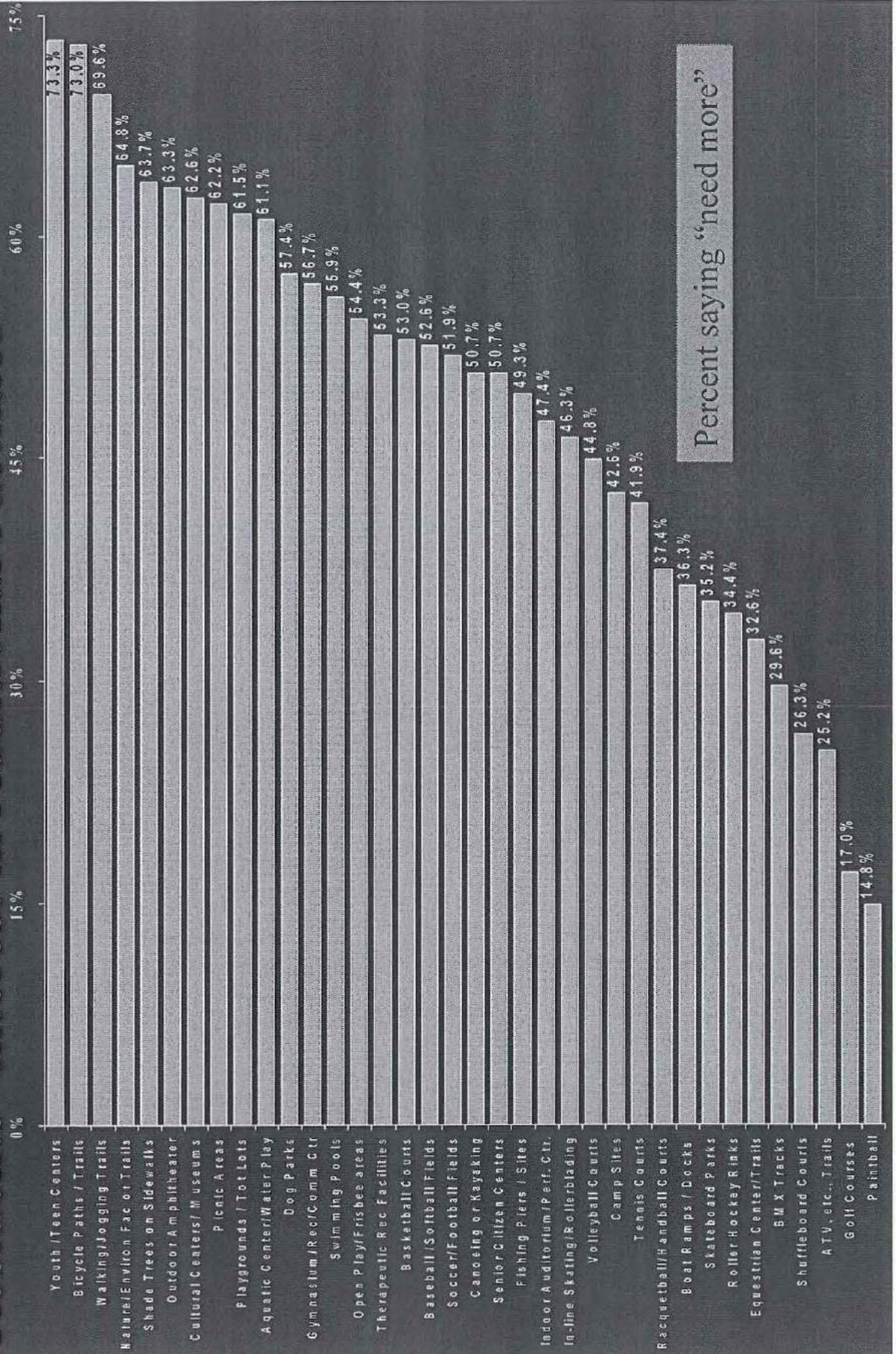


Chart 4: City of North Port Survey of Residents

Top 10 "Most Needed" Facilities by Zip Code and Age Group

Most Needed Facilities by Respondent ZIP

<u>34286</u>	<u>34287</u>	<u>34288</u>
Bicycle Paths	Youth /Teen Ctrs	Youth /Teen Ctrs
Aquatic Center	Walking/Jog Trails	Bicycle Paths
Outdoor Amphitheater	Bicycle Paths	Baseball /Softball Fields
Environ. Fac./Trails	Environ. Fac./Trails	Walking/Jog Trails
Youth /Teen Ctrs	Cultural Ctrs/M use	Playgrounds
Walking/Jog Trails	Shade Trees	Shade Trees
Picnic Areas	Dog Parks	Soccer/Football Fields
Shade Trees	Outdoor Amphitheater	Picnic Areas
Cultural Ctrs/M use	Picnic Areas	Environ. Fac./Trails
Playgrounds	Playgrounds	Outdoor Amphitheater

All geographical areas show similar patterns of interest: trails and community gathering areas.

Most Needed Facilities by Respondent Age

<u>18-39</u>	<u>40-59</u>	<u>60+</u>
Outdoor Amphitheater	Youth /Teen Ctrs	Bicycle Paths
Aquatic Center	Aquatic Center	Youth /Teen Ctrs
Youth /Teen Ctrs	Bicycle Paths	Walking/Jog Trails
Bicycle Paths	Picnic Areas	Shade Trees
Environ. Fac./Trails	Walking/Jog Trails	Cultural Ctrs/M use
Walking/Jog Trails	Outdoor Amphitheater	Environ. Fac./Trails
Dog Parks	Environ. Fac./Trails	Playgrounds
Playgrounds	Playgrounds	Senior Citizen Centers
Shade Trees	Soccer/Football Fields	Outdoor Amphitheater
Picnic Areas	Open Play/Frisbee	Thera/Rec Facilities

And in the case of North Port, age groups are similar as well.

Chart 5: City of North Port Survey of Residents Residents' Comments about City Recreation Facilities

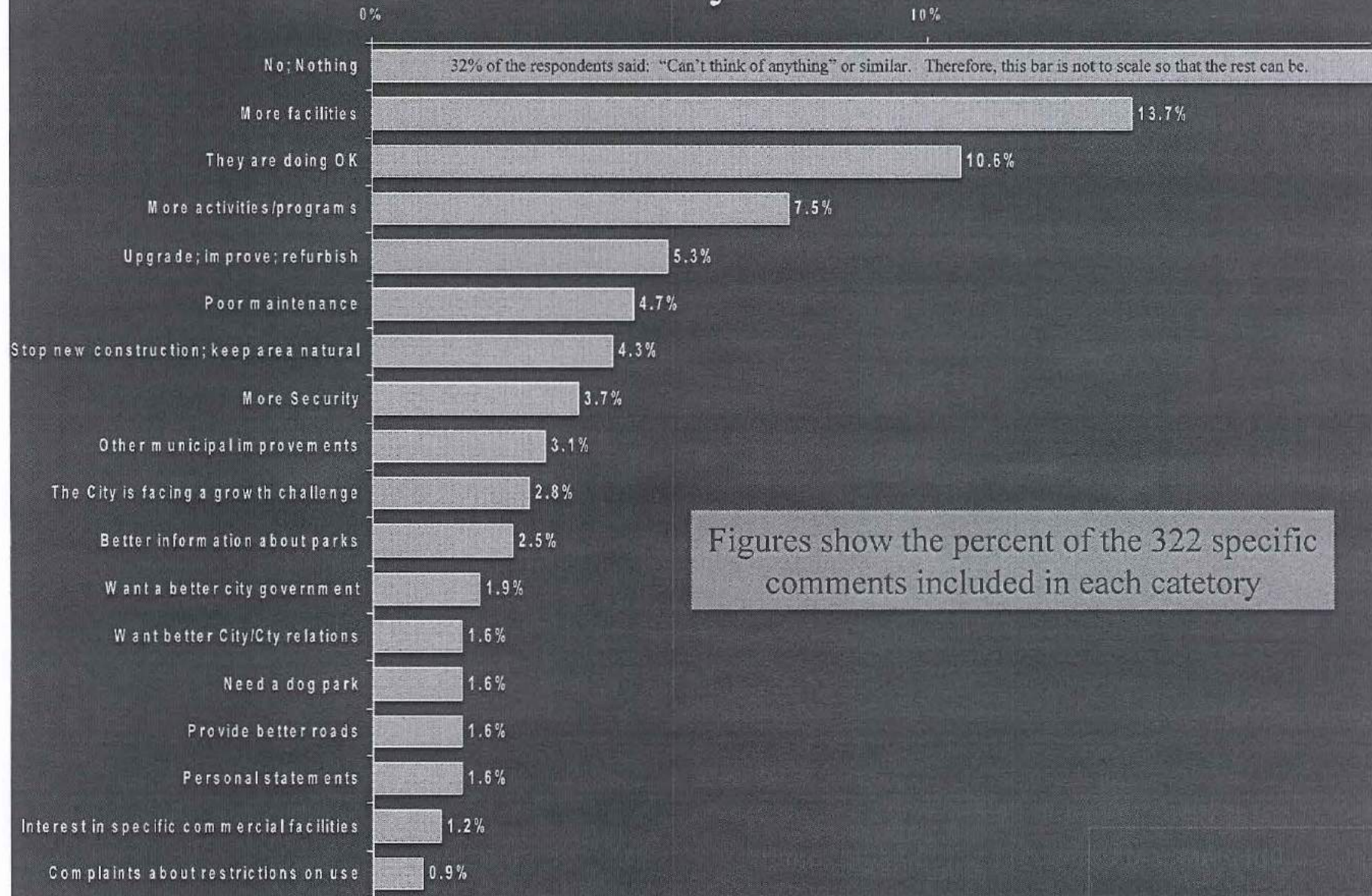
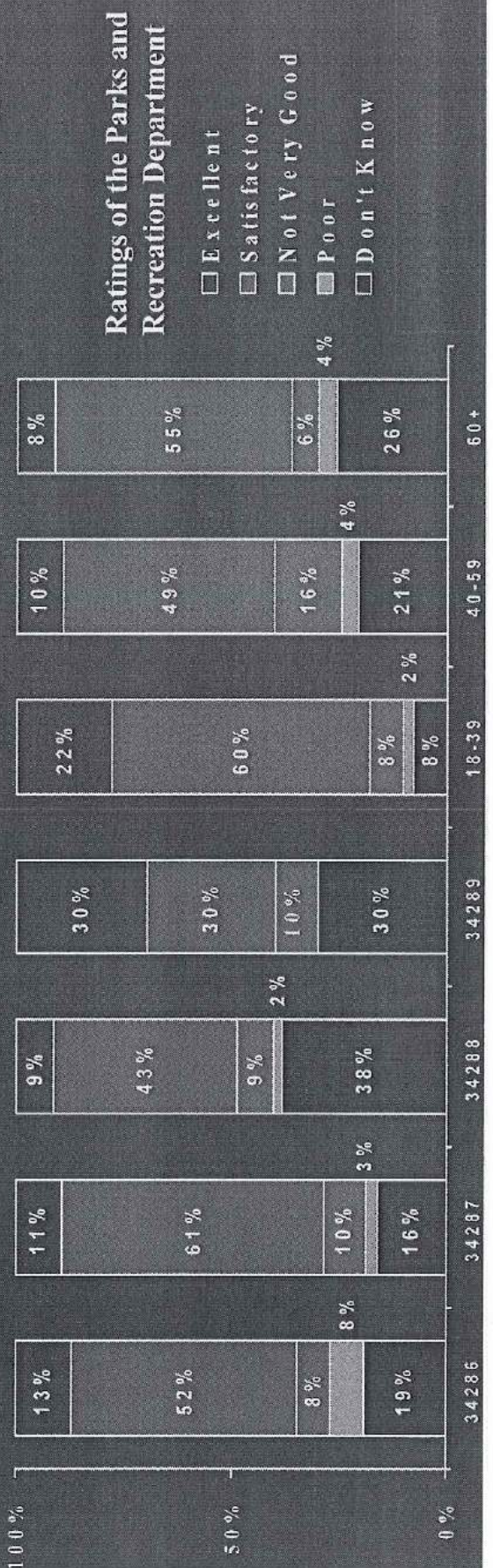
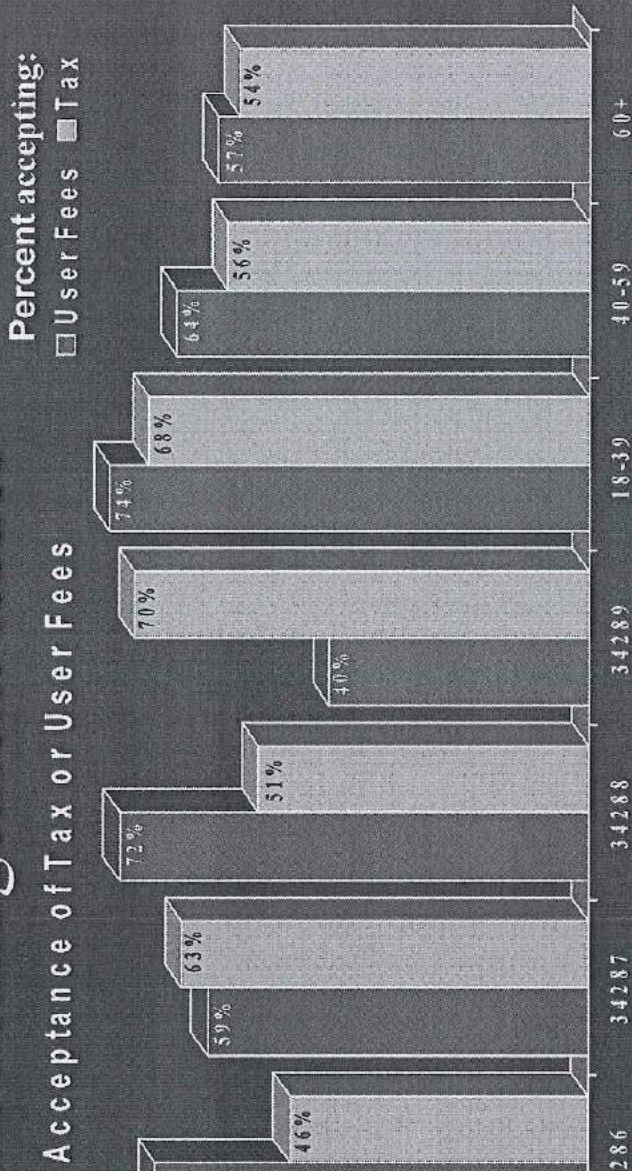
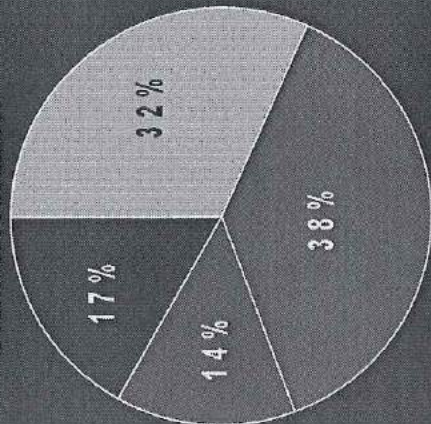


Chart 6: City of North Port Survey of Residents' Views on Management Issues

Which Age Group Most Needs Additional Facilities?



City of North Port - Survey of Residents
Overall Results - November 2005

3 What type of recreational activities do you or anyone in your household presently participate in?

	num.	pct.
Walking	85	16.6%
Golf	56	11.0%
None/don't participate	51	10.0%
Bicycle riding	48	9.4%
Swimming-Pool, Ocean, Lake	37	7.2%
Playgrounds	31	6.1%
Fishing-boat, shore or pier	21	4.1%
Tennis	19	3.7%
Beach	18	3.5%
Basketball	17	3.3%
Gym/Weight training	12	2.3%
Soccer	12	2.3%
Other	12	2.3%
Boating	11	2.2%
Baseball	9	1.8%
Football	9	1.8%
Jogging	9	1.8%
Hiking	8	1.6%
Senior Citizen activities (e.g., bingo shuffleboard.....)	7	1.4%
Softball	7	1.4%
In-line Skating or Rollerblading	5	1.0%
Skateboarding	5	1.0%
Canoeing / Kayaking	4	0.8%
Community recreational center activities	4	0.8%
Camping	2	0.4%
Dog Park	2	0.4%
Frisbee	2	0.4%
Nature Study	2	0.4%
Picnicking	2	0.4%
Volleyball	2	0.4%
Gymnastics	1	0.2%
Racquetball	1	0.2%
Total Responses	511	100%

Other Responses to Q3. (14 respondents gave 15 responses)	num.	pct.
Active pursuits	5	33.3%
Passive pursuits	4	26.7%
Bowling	3	20.0%
Dance	2	13.3%
Esoteric pursuits	1	6.7%
Total Responses	15	100%

City of North Port - Survey of Residents
Overall Results - November 2005

4 What parks or recreation facilities do you use most often?

	num.	pct.
Don't Use the City Parks	132	50.0%
Dallas White Park	57	21.6%
North Port Pool	16	6.1%
Myakkahatchee	12	4.5%
Blue Ridge Park	11	4.2%
George Mullen Activity Center	10	3.8%
Butler Park	8	3.0%
LaBrea Park	4	1.5%
North Port Skate Park	4	1.5%
Highland Ridge Park	3	1.1%
Oaks Park	2	0.8%
Al Goll Center	1	0.4%
Kirk Park	1	0.4%
McKibben Park	1	0.4%
Veterans Park	1	0.4%
Marina Boat Ramp	1	0.4%
Mt. Hope	0	0.0%
Marina Park	0	0.0%
Narramore Sports Complex	0	0.0%
Pine Park	0	0.0%
Youth Recreation Center	0	0.0%
Total Responses	264	100%

Other Responses to Q4. (40 respondents gave 49 responses)

	num.	pct.
Other specifically named park/facility	20	40.8%
"The park near _____"	7	14.3%
Sable Trace	5	10.2%
Heron Creek	5	10.2%
Schools/government facilities	4	8.2%
Bobcat trail/golf course	3	6.1%
Don't know; can't remember	3	6.1%
Manasota Beach	2	4.1%
Total Responses	49	100%

5 How frequently do you use the City Parks?

	num.	pct.
Regularly (once a week or more often)	44	31.9%
Occasionally (once a month or so)	45	32.6%
Seldom (once or twice a year)	26	18.8%
Rarely or never	23	16.7%
Total Responses	138	100%

City of North Port - Survey of Residents
Overall Results - November 2005

7 Now I am going to name several types of recreation facilities. I want you to tell me if you think that the City of Northport needs more of the facility, if there are already enough, or if there are too many.

	need more	enough	too many	don't know
Youth /Teen Centers	73.3%	10.4%	2.2%	14.1%
Bicycle Paths / Trails	73.0%	13.3%	1.5%	12.2%
Walking / Jogging Trails	69.6%	15.9%	3.7%	10.7%
Nature or Environmental Facilities or Trails	64.8%	13.7%	3.3%	18.1%
Shade Trees on Sidewalks	63.7%	21.5%	3.7%	11.1%
Special Events Area/ Outdoor Amphitheater	63.3%	14.4%	4.1%	18.1%
Cultural Centers/ Museums	62.6%	14.8%	4.8%	17.8%
Picnic Areas	62.2%	18.5%	1.9%	17.4%
Playgrounds / Tot Lots	61.5%	22.2%	0.7%	15.6%
Aquatic Center/Water Play	61.1%	16.7%	7.4%	14.8%
Dog Parks	57.4%	10.7%	12.6%	19.3%
Gymnasium/Recreation/Community Center	56.7%	22.6%	2.2%	18.5%
Swimming Pools	55.9%	30.0%	1.5%	12.6%
Open Play Areas/ Frisbee areas	54.4%	23.3%	2.2%	20.0%
Therapeutic Recreational Facilities	53.3%	12.2%	3.0%	31.5%
Basketball Courts	53.0%	19.3%	0.7%	27.0%
Baseball /Softball Fields	52.6%	25.2%	0.4%	21.9%
Soccer/Football Fields	51.9%	25.6%	1.5%	21.1%
Canoeing or Kayaking Launches or Trails	50.7%	14.4%	4.8%	30.0%
Senior Citizen Centers	50.7%	24.4%	3.7%	21.1%
Fishing Piers / Sites	49.3%	19.6%	4.1%	27.0%
Performance Center/ Auditorium (Indoor)	47.4%	38.9%	0.7%	13.0%
In-line Skating / Rollerblading Facilities or Trails	46.3%	23.3%	8.1%	22.2%
Volleyball Courts	44.8%	20.0%	4.8%	30.4%
Camp Sites	42.6%	19.3%	7.8%	30.4%
Tennis Courts	41.9%	26.7%	2.6%	28.9%
Racquetball /Handball Courts	37.4%	18.9%	6.3%	37.4%
Boat Ramps / Docks	36.3%	23.3%	6.7%	33.7%
Skateboard Parks	35.2%	38.1%	7.4%	19.3%
Roller Hockey Rinks	34.4%	18.9%	10.7%	35.9%
Equestrian Center/ Trails	32.6%	19.6%	17.4%	30.4%
BMX Tracks	29.6%	13.0%	18.9%	38.5%
Shuffleboard Courts	26.3%	29.6%	13.0%	31.1%
Off - Highway Vehicle/ATV Trails	25.2%	16.3%	27.0%	31.5%
Other	18.1%	0.4%	0.0%	81.5%
Golf Courses	17.0%	42.6%	30.4%	10.0%
Paintball	14.8%	18.9%	38.1%	28.1%

City of North Port - Survey of Residents
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7 Now I am going to name several types of recreation facilities. I want you to tell me if you think that the City of Northport needs more of the facility, if there are already enough, or if there are too many.

Other Responses to Q7. (231 respondents gave 239 responses)

	num.	pct.
No, nothing	183	76.6%
Activities for children/teens	9	3.8%
Community gathering areas; spaces	8	3.3%
Commercial/Govt. service or entertainment enterprises	7	2.9%
Outdoor areas for active pursuits	6	2.5%
Indoor areas for active pursuits	6	2.5%
Bowling	4	1.7%
Sidewalks	4	1.7%
Facilities for team sports	4	1.7%
Theater, cultural center, auditorium	4	1.7%
Activities for older adults	2	0.8%
Miscellaneous	2	0.8%
Total Responses	239	100%

6 Would you be willing to pay an increase in your PROPERTY TAXES in order for the city to improve the parks system by building new facilities and/or upgrading existing park facilities? Would you be willing to pay an increase of:

	num.	pct.
less than \$10 a year in additional taxes;	59	21.9%
between \$10 and \$25 a year;	60	22.2%
over \$25 a year; or,	35	13.0%
unwilling to pay additional taxes for this purpose	116	43.0%
Total Responses	270	100%

8 Would you be willing to pay increased USER FEES for the development and/or maintenance of any of the facilities or programs listed above that you felt there should be more of in Northport?

	num.	pct.
Yes	168	62.2%
No	67	24.8%
Depends on amount	35	13.0%
Total Responses	270	100%

City of North Port - Survey of Residents
Overall Results - November 2005

9 Which age groups do you feel are most in need of additional recreation services in Northport?

	num.	pct.
Youth	148	30.6%
Teens	176	36.4%
Adults	65	13.5%
Seniors	80	16.6%
Don't Know	14	2.9%
Total Responses	483	100%

10 How would you rate the MAINTENANCE of the City's parks and other recreational facilities?

	num.	pct.
Excellent	31	11.5%
Satisfactory	147	54.4%
Not very good	25	9.3%
Poor	10	3.7%
Don't Know	57	21.1%
Total Responses	270	100%

11 How would you rate the recreational activities available at the City's parks and recreational facilities?

	num.	pct.
Excellent	15	5.6%
Satisfactory	113	41.9%
Not very good	49	18.1%
Poor	18	6.7%
Don't Know	75	27.8%
Total Responses	270	100%

12 Have you noticed a difference in the maintenance of the Narrimore Sports Complex, the North Port Skate Park, and Veterans Park and the City's other parks and recreational facilities?

	num.	pct.
Yes	21	7.8%
No	249	92.2%
Total Responses	270	100%

City of North Port - Survey of Residents
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15 And finally, what one thing would you like to tell us about the City of North Port's Parks and Recreation facilities? (270 Respondents, 322 Responses)

	num.	pct.
No; Nothing	102	31.7%
More facilities	44	13.7%
They are doing OK	34	10.6%
More activities/programs	24	7.5%
Upgrade; improve; refurbish	17	5.3%
Poor maintenance	15	4.7%
Stop new construction in North Port; keep areas natural	14	4.3%
More Security	12	3.7%
Other municipal improvements	10	3.1%
The City is facing a challenge with growth	9	2.8%
More advertisement; information about parks	8	2.5%
Want a better city government	6	1.9%
Want better relations with the county	5	1.6%
Need a dog park	5	1.6%
Provide better roads	5	1.6%
Personal statements	5	1.6%
An interest in specific commercial facilities	4	1.2%
Complaints about restrictions on use	3	0.9%
Total Responses	322	100%

13 Which of these age groups includes you?

	num.	pct.
18-24	10	3.7%
25-29	7	2.6%
30-39	33	12.2%
40-49	30	11.1%
50-59	47	17.4%
60-69	71	26.3%
70+	72	26.7%
Total Responses	270	100%

ZIP CODE

	num.	pct.
34286	63	23.3%
34287	150	55.6%
34288	47	17.4%
34289	10	3.7%
Total Responses	270	100%

City of North Port - Survey of Residents
Results by Zip Code Areas and Age Categories - November 2005

3 What type of recreational activities do you or anyone in your household presently participate in?

	BY ZIP CODE AREA				Total Sample	BY AGE CATEGORY		
	34286 n=63	34287 n=150	34288 n=47	34289 n=10		18-39 n=50	40-59 n=77	60+ n=143
Walking	10.9%	19.9%	16.2%	11.1%	16.6%	5.2%	18.0%	21.3%
Golf	6.3%	11.3%	17.2%	5.6%	11.0%	3.5%	9.3%	15.7%
None/don't participate	7.8%	12.4%	6.1%	11.1%	10.0%	3.5%	3.7%	17.5%
Bicycle riding	7.8%	10.5%	9.1%	5.6%	9.4%	5.2%	10.6%	10.6%
Swimming-Pool, Ocean, Lake	6.3%	7.1%	7.1%	16.7%	7.2%	4.4%	8.1%	8.1%
Playgrounds	7.8%	5.6%	5.1%	5.6%	6.1%	14.8%	6.2%	1.7%
Fishing-boat, shore or pier	6.3%	3.0%	5.1%	0.0%	4.1%	3.5%	6.8%	2.6%
Tennis	5.5%	1.9%	6.1%	5.6%	3.7%	3.5%	3.7%	3.8%
Beach	3.9%	3.8%	3.0%	0.0%	3.5%	5.2%	3.1%	3.0%
Basketball	3.9%	3.4%	3.0%	0.0%	3.3%	7.8%	3.7%	0.9%
Gym/Weight training	3.1%	2.3%	2.0%	0.0%	2.3%	3.5%	1.2%	2.6%
Soccer	4.7%	1.9%	1.0%	0.0%	2.3%	4.4%	3.7%	0.4%
Other	5.5%	1.1%	2.0%	0.0%	2.3%	3.5%	1.9%	2.1%
Boating	2.3%	1.5%	1.0%	16.7%	2.2%	0.0%	4.4%	1.7%
Baseball	1.6%	1.9%	1.0%	5.6%	1.8%	5.2%	1.2%	0.4%
Football	3.1%	1.1%	2.0%	0.0%	1.8%	5.2%	1.2%	0.4%
Jogging	1.6%	1.5%	3.0%	0.0%	1.8%	1.7%	2.5%	1.3%
Hiking	2.3%	0.8%	2.0%	5.6%	1.6%	3.5%	1.9%	0.4%
Senior Citizen activities (e.g., bingo shuffleboard.....)	0.0%	2.3%	0.0%	5.6%	1.4%	0.0%	0.6%	2.6%
Softball	2.3%	0.8%	1.0%	5.6%	1.4%	4.4%	0.6%	0.4%
In-line Skating or Rollerblading	2.3%	0.4%	1.0%	0.0%	1.0%	1.7%	1.9%	0.0%
Skateboarding	1.6%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	1.7%	0.6%	0.9%
Canoeing / Kayaking	0.8%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0.9%	1.9%	0.0%
Community recreational center activities	0.0%	1.1%	1.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.6%	1.3%
Camping	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.9%	0.6%	0.0%
Dog Park	0.8%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.4%	1.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Frisbee	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.9%	0.6%	0.0%
Nature Study	0.8%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.9%	0.6%	0.0%
Picnicking	0.0%	0.4%	1.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.9%	0.0%	0.4%
Volleyball	0.8%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.4%	1.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Gymnastics	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%
Racquetball	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%

City of North Port - Survey of Residents
Results by Zip Code Areas and Age Categories - November 2005

4 What parks or recreation facilities do you use most often?

	BY ZIP CODE AREA				Total Sample	BY AGE CATEGORY		
	34286 n=63	34287 n=150	34288 n=47	34289 n=10		18-39 n=50	40-59 n=77	60+ n=143
Don't Use the City Parks	42.9%	45.3%	66.0%	60.0%	50.0%	24.0%	52.0%	55.9%
Al Goll Center	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
Blue Ridge Park	1.6%	5.3%	2.1%	10.0%	4.2%	12.0%	3.9%	1.4%
Butler Park	4.8%	2.0%	2.1%	10.0%	3.0%	6.0%	3.9%	1.4%
Dallas White Park	30.2%	22.7%	6.4%	10.0%	21.6%	30.0%	19.5%	18.9%
George Mullen Activity Center	7.9%	2.7%	2.1%	0.0%	3.8%	12.0%	2.6%	1.4%
Highland Ridge Park	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%
Mt. Hope	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Kirk Park	1.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%
LaBrea Park	1.6%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%	6.0%	0.0%	0.7%
Marina Park	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
McKibben Park	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
Myakkahatchee	3.2%	3.3%	6.4%	20.0%	4.5%	10.0%	3.9%	2.8%
Narramore Sports Complex	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
North Port Pool	9.5%	6.0%	2.1%	0.0%	6.1%	8.0%	5.2%	5.6%
Oaks Park	1.6%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	2.0%	0.0%	0.7%
Pine Park	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
North Port Skate Park	1.6%	1.3%	2.1%	0.0%	1.5%	2.0%	0.0%	2.1%
Veterans Park	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
Youth Recreation Center	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Marina Boat Ramp	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%

5 How frequently do you use the City Parks?

	BY ZIP CODE AREA				Total Sample	BY AGE CATEGORY		
	34286 n=63	34287 n=150	34288 n=47	34289 n=10		18-39 n=50	40-59 n=77	60+ n=143
Regularly (once a week or more often)	30.6%	30.5%	37.5%	50.0%	31.9%	42.1%	46.0%	17.5%
Occasionally (once a month or so)	47.2%	24.4%	37.5%	50.0%	32.6%	39.5%	27.0%	31.8%
Seldom (once or twice a year)	11.1%	24.4%	12.5%	0.0%	18.8%	13.2%	16.2%	23.8%
Rarely or never	11.1%	20.7%	12.5%	0.0%	16.7%	5.3%	10.8%	27.0%

City of North Port - Survey of Residents
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6 Would you be willing to pay an increase in your PROPERTY TAXES in order for the city to improve the parks system by building new facilities and/or upgrading existing park facilities? Would you be willing to pay an increase of:

	BY ZIP CODE AREA				Total Sample	BY AGE CATEGORY		
	34286 n=63	34287 n=150	34288 n=47	34289 n=10		18-39 n=50	40-59 n=77	60+ n=143
less than \$10 a year in additional taxes;	12.7%	27.3%	14.9%	30.0%	21.9%	28.0%	18.2%	21.7%
between \$10 and \$25 a year;	19.1%	24.7%	21.3%	10.0%	22.2%	30.0%	22.1%	19.6%
over \$25 a year; or,	14.3%	10.7%	14.9%	30.0%	13.0%	10.0%	15.6%	12.6%
unwilling to pay additional taxes for this purpose	54.0%	37.3%	48.9%	30.0%	43.0%	32.0%	44.2%	46.2%

7 Now I am going to name several types of recreation facilities. I want you to tell me if you think that the City of Northport needs more of the facility, if there are already enough, or if there are too many.

	Percent saying "need more"	BY ZIP CODE AREA				Total Sample	BY AGE CATEGORY		
		34286 n=63	34287 n=150	34288 n=47	34289 n=10		18-39 n=50	40-59 n=77	60+ n=143
Aquatic Center/Water Play	76.2%	54.7%	59.6%	70.0%	61.1%	82.0%	80.5%	43.4%	
Baseball /Softball Fields	52.4%	48.7%	72.3%	20.0%	52.6%	42.0%	62.3%	51.1%	
Basketball Courts	50.8%	52.0%	59.6%	50.0%	53.0%	50.0%	62.3%	49.0%	
Bicycle Paths / Trails	82.5%	68.0%	76.6%	70.0%	73.0%	74.0%	77.9%	69.9%	
BMX Tracks	28.6%	30.7%	27.7%	30.0%	29.6%	44.0%	36.4%	21.0%	
Boat Ramps / Docks	47.6%	31.3%	42.6%	10.0%	36.3%	38.0%	39.0%	34.3%	
Camp Sites	57.1%	36.7%	36.2%	70.0%	42.6%	66.0%	48.1%	31.5%	
Canoeing or Kayaking Launches or Trails	61.9%	48.7%	48.9%	20.0%	50.7%	56.0%	62.3%	42.7%	
Cultural Centers/ Museums	68.3%	61.3%	59.6%	60.0%	62.6%	68.0%	59.7%	62.2%	
Dog Parks	54.0%	60.0%	51.1%	70.0%	57.4%	72.0%	63.6%	49.0%	
Fishing Piers / Sites	60.3%	45.3%	55.3%	10.0%	49.3%	56.0%	61.0%	40.6%	
Golf Courses	12.7%	15.3%	27.7%	20.0%	17.0%	10.0%	19.5%	18.2%	
Gymnasium/Recreation/Community Center	60.3%	54.7%	59.6%	50.0%	56.7%	68.0%	62.3%	49.7%	
Equestrian Center/ Trails	31.8%	34.7%	29.8%	20.0%	32.6%	48.0%	39.0%	23.8%	
In-line Skating / Rollerblading Facilities or Trails	47.6%	46.7%	44.7%	40.0%	46.3%	50.0%	54.6%	40.6%	
Nature or Environmental Facilities or Trails	73.0%	62.7%	61.7%	60.0%	64.8%	74.0%	68.8%	59.4%	
Open Play Areas/ Frisbee areas	60.3%	48.7%	61.7%	70.0%	54.4%	68.0%	64.9%	44.1%	
Off - Highway Vehicle/ATV Trails	36.5%	18.0%	31.9%	30.0%	25.2%	42.0%	31.2%	16.1%	
Paintball	23.8%	15.3%	2.1%	10.0%	14.8%	46.0%	16.9%	2.8%	
Performance Center/ Auditorium (Indoor)	50.8%	39.3%	61.7%	80.0%	47.4%	56.0%	54.6%	40.6%	

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7 Now I am going to name several types of recreation facilities. I want you to tell me if you think that the City of Northport needs more of the facility, if there are already enough, or if there are too many.

CONTINUED	BY ZIP CODE AREA				Total Sample	BY AGE CATEGORY		
	Percent saying "need more"	34286 n=63	34287 n=150	34288 n=47		34289 n=10	18-39 n=50	40-59 n=77
Picnic Areas	69.8%	58.0%	63.8%	70.0%	62.2%	68.0%	77.9%	51.8%
Playgrounds / Tot Lots	66.7%	56.7%	70.2%	60.0%	61.5%	68.0%	68.8%	55.2%
Racquetball /Handball Courts	42.9%	32.0%	48.9%	30.0%	37.4%	46.0%	45.5%	30.1%
Roller Hockey Rinks	33.3%	32.7%	42.6%	30.0%	34.4%	48.0%	33.8%	30.1%
Senior Citizen Centers	57.1%	48.7%	53.2%	30.0%	50.7%	30.0%	57.1%	54.6%
Shuffleboard Courts	25.4%	28.0%	23.4%	20.0%	26.3%	26.0%	19.5%	30.1%
Skateboard Parks	38.1%	32.7%	36.2%	50.0%	35.2%	36.0%	40.3%	32.2%
Soccer/Football Fields	52.4%	47.3%	68.1%	40.0%	51.9%	44.0%	66.2%	46.9%
Special Events Area/ Outdoor Amphitheater	74.6%	59.3%	61.7%	60.0%	63.3%	84.0%	68.8%	53.2%
Swimming Pools	63.5%	55.3%	53.2%	30.0%	55.9%	58.0%	61.0%	52.5%
Tennis Courts	34.9%	41.3%	53.2%	40.0%	41.9%	36.0%	44.2%	42.7%
Therapeutic Recreational Facilities	47.6%	56.0%	55.3%	40.0%	53.3%	52.0%	54.6%	53.2%
Youth /Teen Centers	73.0%	70.7%	78.7%	90.0%	73.3%	80.0%	83.1%	65.7%
Volleyball Courts	50.8%	40.0%	53.2%	40.0%	44.8%	46.0%	50.7%	41.3%
Walking / Jogging Trails	71.4%	69.3%	70.2%	60.0%	69.6%	72.0%	76.6%	65.0%
Shade Trees on Sidewalks	69.8%	60.7%	68.1%	50.0%	63.7%	68.0%	62.3%	62.9%
Other	20.6%	17.3%	19.2%	10.0%	18.1%	30.0%	16.9%	14.7%

8 Would you be willing to pay increased USER FEES for the development and/or maintenance of any of the facilities or programs listed above that you felt there should be more of in Northport?

	BY ZIP CODE AREA				Total Sample	BY AGE CATEGORY		
	34286 n=63	34287 n=150	34288 n=47	34289 n=10		18-39 n=50	40-59 n=77	60+ n=143
Yes	66.7%	58.7%	72.3%	40.0%	62.2%	74.0%	63.6%	57.3%
No	20.6%	26.7%	19.2%	50.0%	24.8%	10.0%	27.3%	28.7%
Depends on amount	12.7%	14.7%	8.5%	10.0%	13.0%	16.0%	9.1%	14.0%

City of North Port - Survey of Residents
Results by Zip Code Areas and Age Categories - November 2005

9 Which age groups do you feel are most in need of additional recreation services in Northport?

	BY ZIP CODE AREA				Total Sample	BY AGE CATEGORY		
	34286 n=63	34287 n=150	34288 n=47	34289 n=10		18-39 n=50	40-59 n=77	60+ n=143
Youth	30.1%	32.5%	25.6%	33.3%	30.6%	32.6%	33.1%	28.5%
Teens	36.3%	38.1%	31.1%	40.0%	36.4%	42.7%	33.8%	35.8%
Adults	12.4%	11.7%	20.0%	13.3%	13.5%	16.9%	14.2%	11.8%
Seniors	15.9%	17.0%	17.8%	6.7%	16.6%	4.5%	16.2%	21.1%
Don't Know	5.3%	0.8%	5.6%	6.7%	2.9%	3.4%	2.7%	2.9%

10 How would you rate the MAINTENANCE of the City of Northport' parks and recreational facilities?

	BY ZIP CODE AREA				Total Sample	BY AGE CATEGORY		
	34286 n=63	34287 n=150	34288 n=47	34289 n=10		18-39 n=50	40-59 n=77	60+ n=143
Excellent	12.7%	10.7%	8.5%	30.0%	11.5%	22.0%	10.4%	8.4%
Satisfactory	52.4%	60.7%	42.6%	30.0%	54.4%	60.0%	49.4%	55.2%
Not very good	7.9%	10.0%	8.5%	10.0%	9.3%	8.0%	15.6%	6.3%
Poor	7.9%	2.7%	2.1%	0.0%	3.7%	2.0%	3.9%	4.2%
Don't Know	19.1%	16.0%	38.3%	30.0%	21.1%	8.0%	20.8%	25.9%

11 How would you rate the recreational activities available at the City's parks and recreational facilities?

	BY ZIP CODE AREA				Total Sample	BY AGE CATEGORY		
	34286 n=63	34287 n=150	34288 n=47	34289 n=10		18-39 n=50	40-59 n=77	60+ n=143
Excellent	4.8%	6.0%	4.3%	10.0%	5.6%	6.0%	3.9%	6.3%
Satisfactory	36.5%	48.0%	31.9%	30.0%	41.9%	52.0%	31.2%	44.1%
Not very good	22.2%	14.7%	21.3%	30.0%	18.1%	24.0%	26.0%	11.9%
Poor	6.4%	7.3%	6.4%	0.0%	6.7%	4.0%	10.4%	5.6%
Don't Know	30.2%	24.0%	36.2%	30.0%	27.8%	14.0%	28.6%	32.2%

12 Have you noticed and difference in the maintenance of the Narrimore Sports Complex, the North Port Skate Park, and Veterans Park and the City's other parks and recreational facilities?

	BY ZIP CODE AREA				Total Sample	BY AGE CATEGORY		
	34286 n=63	34287 n=150	34288 n=47	34289 n=10		18-39 n=50	40-59 n=77	60+ n=143
Yes	9.5%	6.7%	10.6%	0.0%	7.8%	12.0%	9.1%	5.6%
No	90.5%	93.3%	89.4%	100.0%	92.2%	88.0%	90.9%	94.4%

**City of North Port - Survey of Residents
Results by Zip Code Areas and Age Categories - November 2005**

13 Which of these age groups includes you?

	BY ZIP CODE AREA				Total Sample	BY AGE CATEGORY		
	34286 n=63	34287 n=150	34288 n=47	34289 n=10		18-39 n=50	40-59 n=77	60+ n=143
18-39	30.2%	11.3%	21.3%	40.0%	18.5%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
40-59	36.5%	23.3%	31.9%	40.0%	28.5%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
60+	33.3%	65.3%	46.8%	20.0%	53.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%

ZIP CODE

ZIP CODE	BY ZIP CODE AREA				Total Sample	BY AGE CATEGORY		
	34286 n=63	34287 n=150	34288 n=47	34289 n=10		18-39 n=50	40-59 n=77	60+ n=143
34286	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	23.3%	38.0%	29.9%	14.7%
34287	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	55.6%	34.0%	45.5%	68.5%
34288	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	17.4%	20.0%	19.5%	15.4%
34289	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	3.7%	8.0%	5.2%	1.4%

City of North Port Survey of Residents
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Q3. What type of recreational activities do you or anyone in your household presently participate in? (14 Respondents; 15 Responses)

code	Q3. Comment Summary Table	total
1	Other active pursuits	5
2	Passive pursuits	4
3	Bowling	3
4	Dance	2
5	Esoteric pursuits	1

code Q3. Verbatim Comments

- 1 Boating
- 1 Four Wheeling
- 1 Hiking
- 1 Horseshoes
- 1 Water Aerobics
- 2 Miniature Golf
- 2 Painting
- 2 Photography
- 2 Plays Bridge
- 3 Bowling
- 3 Bowling
- 3 Bowling
- 4 Dance
- 4 Dance (tap, ballet)
- 5 Anthropology, fossil hunting

Q4. Which parks or recreation facilities do you use most often? (40 Respondents, 49 Responses)

code	Q4. Comment Summary Table	total
1	Other specifically named park/facility	20
2	"The park near _____"	7
3	Sable Trace	5
4	Heron Creek	5
5	Schools/government facilities	4
6	Bobcat trail/golf course	3
7	Don't know; can't remember	3
8	Manasota Beach	2

code Q4. Verbatim Comments

- 1 Boca Grande
- 1 Boys & Girls Club
- 1 Caloosahatchee Park
- 1 Don Pedro Island
- 1 Duffy's Golf Course

City of North Port Survey of Residents
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- 1 Englewood Beach
- 1 Fiesta Key
- 1 Gilcrest
- 1 Harold Park
- 1 Inglewood beach
- 1 Jelks Preserve
- 1 Kespersion Beach
- 1 Kid's Space
- 1 Mom's Club of Northport
- 1 Port Charlotte
- 1 The Jockey Club
- 1 Toledo Blade
- 1 Uses bike path that runs along Sumter Blvd and Green Wood area
- 1 We go up to Venice and use their Dog Park.
- 1 We walk on North Port Blvd.
- 2 Park near Fire Dept off 441
- 2 Park near the municipal pool on Greenwood Ave
- 2 Park off of Price and Sumpter
- 2 The one by the police station
- 2 The one near police station
- 2 The one near the police station
- 2 The one off of North Port Blvd.
- 3 Sable Trace
- 3 Sable trace
- 3 Sable Trace Country Club
- 3 Sable Trace golf course
- 3 Sable Trace Golf Course.

Q4. Which parks or recreation facilities do you use most often? (40 Respondents, 49 Responses)

CONTINUED

- 4 Heron Creek
- 4 Heron Creek Country Club
- 4 Heron Creek.
- 4 Heron Creek.
- 4 Heron golf course
- 5 Glen Allen
- 5 Glen Allen Elem.
- 5 North Port High School
- 5 Venice regional health facility
- 6 Bobcat golf course
- 6 Bobcat trail
- 6 Bobcat trail.
- 7 Does not recall name.
- 7 Don't know names of parks
- 7 Don't know the name
- 8 Manasota

City of North Port Survey of Residents
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8 Manasota Beach

Q7. I want you to tell me if you think that North Port, needs more of the facility, if there are already enough, or if are too many of this type of recreation facility. (231 Respondents; 239 Responses)

code	Q7. Comment Summary Table	total
1	No, nothing	183
2	Activities for children/teens	9
3	Community gathering areas; spaces	8
4	Commercial/Govt. service or entertainment enterprises	7
5	Outdoor areas for active pursuits	6
6	Indoor areas for active pursuits	6
7	Bowling	4
8	Sidewalks	4
9	Facilities for team sports	4
10	Theater, cultural center, auditorium	4
11	Activities for older adults	2
12	Miscellaneous	2

code Q7. Verbatim Comments

- 1 No (158 times)
- 1 No Comment (twice)
- 1 None (12 times)
- 1 Nothing (11 times)
- 2 Activities for younger children infant to pre-K
- 2 Anything for kids, anything having to do with bikes, in-line skating, walking, hiking.
- 2 Arcade for kids.
- 2 Children's park/playgrounds
- 2 City Street Skating for Young and Adults
- 2 More things for the kids in the area. Too much for the seniors need more for the kids,
- 2 Parks and facilities to accommodate smaller children like pre-schoolers.
- 2 Something for older teens age 18-29 to do. You have to go miles away to find something to do.
- 2 Water park for the kids, something for the young kids during the summer. Maybe even a miniature golf course, go-karts.
- 3 Fairgrounds
- 3 George Mullen was to turn into a YMCA, but it did not. We need a Y type facility for families
- 3 Make a city park lake
- 3 Mini park systems or an acre and a half where you can encompass a number of activities so there's more contact between age groups to promote tolerance.
- 3 Radio Control Car parks.
- 3 Reading area
- 3 There aren't too many areas for picnics. We go to Sarasota for picnic and the beach.
- 3 Women's center for yoga

Q7. I want you to tell me if you think that North Port, needs more of the facility, if there are already enough, or if are too many of this type of recreation facility. (231 Respondents; 239 Responses)

CONTINUED

- 4 A brand new post office.
- 4 I attend the functions at the performing arts center. When something there is good and there is a big crowd, at the end of the show, there is no place to go and to have a cup of coffee. That
- 4 Movie Theater
- 4 Movie Theaters
- 4 Nature stuff - St. Pete has the aquarium. There's a lot to learn, even for the natives.
- 4 Need a Hospital.
- 4 Zoo's, but in natural habitat form no cages.
- 5 Driving ranges, Golf and batting range
- 5 Equestrian Trails
- 5 Fenced in playground areas in the park.
- 5 Horseshoe pit
- 5 Miniature Golf
- 5 Walking and Jogging Trails, and Bicycle Trails
- 6 Craft area
- 6 dance classes.
- 6 Indoor Roller Skating Rink
- 6 Roller skating Rink- Indoor
- 6 Roller skating Rinks
- 6 Some more weightlifting facilities without having to joint the Y
- 7 Bowling
- 7 Bowling Alley
- 7 Bowling Alley
- 7 Bowling Alley
- 8 Need sidewalks...
- 8 Safer walking area
- 8 Side walks on Chamberlain
- 8 Want sidewalks off of Atwater St.
- 9 Football, baseball, basketball places
- 9 Lacrosse field
- 9 My boy just started to play soccer, and we need more soccer.
- 9 One large recreation center that has all facilities such as pool, track, medical shots
- 10 A cultural center
- 10 More cultural events such as plays and a visiting symphony
- 10 The Auditorium could also double as a red cross sanctuary/shelter for emergencies.
- 10 Theaters
- 11 A Larger Senior Citizens Hall
- 11 Adult and/or senior park
- 12 Let the residents use golf carts on the sidewalks.
- 12 Something for animal husbandry. Wildlife reserve.....

City of North Port Survey of Residents
Verbatim Comments - November 2005

Q11. What type of programs would you like to see offered by the City of North Port Parks and Recreation Department?
(270 Respondents, 322 Responses)

code	Q15. Comment Summary Table	total
1	No; Nothing	102
2	More facilities	44
3	They are doing OK	34
4	More activities/programs	24
5	Upgrade; improve; refurbish	17
6	Poor maintenance	15
7	Stop new construction in North Port; keep areas natural	14
8	More Security	12
9	Other municipal improvements	10
10	The City is facing a challenge with growth	9
11	More advertisement; information about parks	8
12	Want a better city government	6
13	Want better relations with the county	5
14	Need a dog park	5
15	Provide better roads	5
16	Personal statements	5
17	An interest in specific commercial facilities	4
18	Complaints about restrictions on use	3

code Q15. Verbatim Comments

- 1 I don't do anything with them anymore, but I used to years ago. But I haven't done anything for years.
- 1 I don't have anything to say.
- 1 I don't have anything to say.
- 1 I don't know. I know they have a swimming pool, and the YMCA everyone enjoys. But I'm not using them, so I don't know.
- 1 I really don't have anything say.
- 1 No (68 times)
- 1 No Comment (4 times)
- 1 No Problems.
- 1 No, don't use them.

Q11. What type of programs would you like to see offered by the City of North Port Parks and Recreation Department?

(270 Respondents, 322 Responses) CONTINUED

- 1 No. I like it a lot but I don't know much yet. Just moved.
- 1 None (3 times)
- 1 Nothing (19 times)
- 2 Also have more places for seniors to go.
- 2 Am under impression there is an inadequate number of play areas for teens and youth and this is a detriment to the community, as they will find other less positive things to do.
- 2 Auditorium in High School is not sufficient.
- 2 Bike paths ...Definitely need more bike paths.
- 2 Bring some stuff down to the south side of town, not all up in the original part of town. Stop ignoring the south end of town.
- 2 But the city needs a YMCA so I can go for exercises.
- 2 Child care facilities.
- 2 Facilities are inadequate.
- 2 Get something for the younger ages. A youth center where they would have somewhere to go and hang out with each other.
- 2 I just feel that from where I live the teenagers are a little short of facilities and things to do.
- 2 I like to see that youth have a few places to go to for their own good and everybody else's good.
- 2 I think for the health of the community need a quiet park for adults and seniors. There are too many people out walking on the streets because there is no place to go.
- 2 I think there's a need for more recreational facilities and parks.
- 2 I wish that there were more localized Basketball courts Open to the public
- 2 I would like to have some type of park down toward Chamberlain/Toledo Blade for the kids. It's too far to drive to the opposite ends of town. There is not a single park within walking range of this area.
- 2 I'd like to see the parks expand to the San Mateo and price area.
- 2 Indoor skate park
- 2 More availably. We have to go to Port charlotte or Sarasota or Venice for recreational activities.
- 2 More fishing facilities.
- 2 More swimming facilities.
- 2 Need more and closer to Cranberry St.
- 2 Need More Things at the parks for toddlers to play in. smaller slides.
- 2 Need more things for the kids to do and need more outdoor stuff. Promote jogging and outdoor facilities.
- 2 Not enough parks and the play areas are limited.
- 2 Overcrowded in some sports. Soccer is overcrowded and the softball fields are overcrowded.

City of North Port Survey of Residents
Verbatim Comments - November 2005

Q11. What type of programs would you like to see offered by the City of North Port Parks and Recreation Department?

(270 Respondents, 322 Responses) CONTINUED

- 2 Start thinking about the kids and seniors this isn't enough available we don't need any more golf courses.
- 2 The playgrounds have a lot of stuff for the little guys but nothing for kids aged 7-10.
- 2 There are no decent walking facilities.
- 2 There are not enough parks.
- 2 There needs to be more of outdoor meeting places for play groups, young kid toddlers, pre-teens.
- 2 There's not one thing I can tell you. The sports facilities are important. They should control them as needed.
- 2 They need more football fields.
- 2 They need more for younger kids to do like bike trails.
- 2 They need more of them to get the kids off the street.
- 2 They need more of them.
- 2 They've done well in establishing them but the growth of the city has outpaced them.
- 2 We need more. We're way behind other towns. We are turning away kids for the soccer program because there is not enough room. We are building more fields but we will outgrow them in 2-3 years.
- 2 WE WANT AN ATV PARK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- 2 What they have is nice, but they need more playground areas for kids.
- 2 With the city growing, they should grow accordingly.
- 2 Would be nice to have a musical area could be outdoors. A lot of people play instruments and would like to play.
- 2 Would like a park by the river. We need public access to lakes and rivers.
- 2 Would like to see a place for seniors to go dancing.
- 2 Would love to see a park near Chamberlain and Price Blvd. I have to drive 6 miles to get to a park.
- 3 A sufficient amount of activities now.
- 3 Doing a fine job with what they have.
- 3 Doing a good job.
- 3 Doing a pretty good job.
- 3 Doing pretty good considering all the growing pains.
- 3 Everything is fine because my grandkids like it. They enjoy everything.
- 3 Great city and a great place for young families.
- 3 I think that Bill Ward is doing a wonderful job with the parks that he maintains.
- 3 I think they generally do a good job.
- 3 I think they're doing a great job keeping pace with the growth of the city. You can't have everything yesterday.
- 3 I think they're good.

Q11. What type of programs would you like to see offered by the City of North Port Parks and Recreation Department?

(270 Respondents, 322 Responses) CONTINUED

- 3 I think we're doing great. North Port is learning from the mistakes of other areas. I like the way the new building are designed with Mediterranean themes. I like the fact that there's are not a lot of signs on the highway.
- 3 I think you're doing a good job.
- 3 I wish I could get to use them more often.
- 3 I wish I had a day to think about that. Generally, it's pretty good.
- 3 It's nice to have the bike paths because we all need to be more active.
- 3 It's ok
- 3 Keep up the good work.
- 3 My compliments on how good 41 looks.
- 3 So far, it's ok, but it hasn't been great. We haven't really visited a lot of them.
- 3 They are doing pretty well now but barely keeping up.
- 3 They are kept up pretty good.
- 3 They are nice to go to
- 3 They do well with younger children.
- 3 They keep the local park up really nice.
- 3 They're clean.
- 3 They're fine.
- 3 They're satisfactory.
- 3 They're sufficient.
- 3 They're taken care of well.
- 3 We enjoy them
- 3 We have a very good mixture of activities. It's a nice place to live.
- 3 What we do have is generally good.
- 3 What we have is kept well.

City of North Port Survey of Residents
Verbatim Comments - November 2005

Q11. What type of programs would you like to see offered by the City of North Port Parks and Recreation Department?

(270 Respondents, 322 Responses) CONTINUED

- 4 Either you don't have anybody to organize these activities or you do not do enough for the young kids as far as on the fields. No Supervision. Ages 6-10 in particular.
- 4 Focus on the younger adults and having group activities for them.
- 4 I just don't think there is enough in North Port for the kids to do.
- 4 I think they should have something better for the youth to the lower teens to get them involved so they're not in troubleage 10-14
- 4 Just more activities to do in the city so we don't go elsewhere.
- 4 Just need more stuff for the kids.
- 4 More activities for teenagers or build a bigger jail.
- 4 More for teens to do.
- 4 More golf and tennis instruction for children and summer activities.
- 4 More of them, there's a real lack of activities for kids. I'd love to see the equestrian activities for kids. Everything is soccer, baseball and basketball. We need a variety of activities.
- 4 Need more activities for the kids. Teenagers to keep them out of trouble.
- 4 Need more for the youngsters.
- 4 Need more places for kids to occupy their time.
- 4 Promote better recreation and services within the parks department.
- 4 The more we can do for our kids the better... to keep them off the streets.
- 4 The swimming pool could be better with schedule of classes and use of the pool.
- 4 There are not enough recreational activities for children and not enough facilities.
- 4 There is a dearth of things to do in North Port.
- 4 There needs to be more stuff for teenagers, stuff that interests them. I see a lot of riffraff hanging out. Paintball, BMX, a water park would be huge, stuff where there are challenges or competitions where teens can hang out and not do drugs or smoke and drink beer.
- 4 They need more activities for the kids.
- 4 They need more baseball, but they need to take what they have and to take better care of them.
- 4 We need more for the teens. More indoor recreation for teens.
- 4 We really need more things for youth to keep them out of trouble.
- 4 Would like better senior citizen centers that offer activities such as classes and seminars. Also, accommodate the hard of hearing.

Q11. What type of programs would you like to see offered by the City of North Port Parks and Recreation Department?

(270 Respondents, 322 Responses) CONTINUED

- 5 Better lighting at some of the ball fields.
- 5 Consolidate things and wisely spend dollars. Walking paths and bike paths can be the same thing. Use the Auditoriums of the schools for performances, bring money into the schools.
- 5 Cure the fire ant problem- am concerned about my 2 year old child.
- 5 I don't know what's happened to Jean's Park. It was said it was going to be done and it's just stalled.
- 5 I don't like the sand they use in the parks underneath the swings; I feel a different type of material would be nice.
- 5 I have no problem paying more taxes if the additional tax is dedicated to improving the parks.
- 5 Look forward to seeing the improvements.
- 5 Swings need to be updated they need to be taken better care of and they're not.
- 5 The Moms Club of Northport is interested in more shade canopies for the parks in playgrounds to get the kids out of the sun.
- 5 They could be beefed up a little, more beautified, more Florida-looking, and family oriented stuff like bands coming in, festivals.
- 5 They have a good start, but we need to update and expand on what we already have. The little kids' playgrounds need to be updated to safer materials, not the hot metal stuff and wood. Venice is using the new, hard plastic. It doesn't get hot. Update what we have.
- 5 They need bathrooms at the park off Salford.
- 5 They need more lighting on the football fields.
- 5 They need more shade.
- 5 We need more safety features like crushed rubber play areas.
- 5 With the baseball fields and Butler Park there is a major fire ant problem.
- 5 Would like to see covered picnic areas and play areas because park is too hot in the summer to bring my child.
- 6 Better maintenance of parks.
- 6 I hope that the city has the ability to maintain them better than they do other facilities in the city.
- 6 No one takes responsibility for maintaining the parks.
- 6 Soccer fields are in dire need of help. Benches are broken. the grass is sparse the fences need repair. Upkeep hasn't been that good.
- 6 Soccer fields. The grass isn't kept up, and parking is awful. People park on the road because they can't find a parking space.
- 6 Some of the playgrounds are in pretty poor shape, the swings are in disrepair, the sand pits are not kept up or cleaned.
- 6 The boat ramp can use some work.
- 6 The equipment is old.
- 6 The parks have to be done to ADA standards,
- 6 They do not take care of the facilities they have.
- 6 They don't have enough or people to take care of them.
- 6 They need a lot more attention in that they're run down. We're tired of hearing that there's no man power. Clean 'em up.

Q11. What type of programs would you like to see offered by the City of North Port Parks and Recreation Department?

(270 Respondents, 322 Responses) CONTINUED

- 6 They need to be taken care of better.
- 6 They need to maintain them.
- 6 Try to step up the maintenance.
- 7 Destroying the green space and when I complained no one would do anything, or knew who was in charge.
- 7 Don't knock down all the trees to build a Wal-Mart.
- 7 I don't like all the development going on in North Prot.
- 7 I'd like to see a better tree ordinance than the one we have.
- 7 Leave the trees alone. Leave some natural flora and fauna. Trees give shade.
- 7 More trees stop the cutting and start planting. Stop builders from cutting trees all trees and leave some on the lot.
- 7 Need to plant more in development areas, new housing areas.
- 7 North Port needs to be careful because it's growing so fast. I'm glad we passed those propositions to keep the open areas. I'd hate to not see open space areas where no one can enjoy the outdoors. Developers come in and take everything. Planning needs to be done very carefully and well. Keep as much green as possible.
- 7 Stop cutting the trees.
- 7 Stop further development.
- 7 Tax breaks to the wrong people and not to citizens of North Port. Letting too many developers in and not enough thought process going on. Seniors are having to move out because it's too expensive to live here.
- 7 They are clearing too many trees. Not too happy with Wal-Mart and Home Depot.
- 7 They need to not let them get swallowed up by new land development.
- 7 We need to slow down on building any kinds of new homes and apartment buildings.
- 8 Also, we really need fenced in playgrounds. Many of the playgrounds are near busy roads, and also, with the playgrounds not being fenced in, it's really difficult for the children to be able to play independently because they're always running off, and the parents are always having to chase after them.
- 8 Get these sex prowlers off the streets and send warnings when they are around.
- 8 I think they need better parks and recreation. I have an 11 year old son and the park that he goes to needs to be patrolled. It has a lot of older kids and he's afraid to go there alone.
- 8 Law enforcement should have better training.
- 8 North Port is going to have to do something to contribute to the kids. Have supervision in the parks, I read about the vandalism in the park. There should be more patrols.
- 8 Parks should be staffed in the evenings.

Q11. What type of programs would you like to see offered by the City of North Port Parks and Recreation Department?

(270 Respondents, 322 Responses) CONTINUED

- 8 The canalization at the parks, it's terrible. They need more security. Someone is breaking into the parks and there are broken beer bottles under the slides and in the sandboxes, and kids will get cut. It's been in the paper.
- 8 The security is poor.
- 8 The vandalism concerns me. We have adequate but could use more teen areas. Maybe they would be deterred from vandalism. But I do not have a lot of faith in that. I think we need more supervision and enforceable curfew for teens.
- 8 There should be a bit of parental supervision and involvement, especially in sports activities.
- 8 They need supervision for teenagers.
- 8 They need to be patrolled.
- 9 Lower golf fees for municipal golf course.
- 9 Lower prices of golf prices.
- 9 More sidewalks
- 9 More sidewalks on Price Blvd. between the high school/middle school on Sumpter.
- 9 Right now, the most important thing is that it's terrible what they're trying to do with our solid waste.
- 9 Something done about cleaning up litter.
- 9 They should have better sidewalks.
- 9 They should have better trash pick up.
- 9 They should have more schools.
- 9 Would like mini buses to take seniors to park facilities.
- 10 A growing town moving and growing and its going to require a lot of work from a lot of people to keep up with the growth.
- 10 Don't understand why the new people that move in think we have to furnish them with everything right now.
- 10 I think that it's a very good start for what we have now. What will have in the next 15 years is a different story. Provide for the influx of younger. Provide everything that was included in this survey.
- 10 I think the city needs to grow with the new residents and not be behind the curve.
- 10 I think they should take the growth aspect and the immediate building of these facilities slowly. Give the city a chance to see how it develops. I think the developers should pay most of the cost including the new residence for the upgrading and building of new parks.
- 10 It's hard to predict because of the growing numbers.
- 10 Keep bringing issues back to the population and try to keep all things in balance.
- 10 Not that familiar with all parks. I do believe that the City & County should include all those facilities in their study.
- 10 They're trying to keep pace with the growth, and we are experiencing a tremendous growth. It's projected that this will be the third largest city in Florida.

Q11. What type of programs would you like to see offered by the City of North Port Parks and Recreation Department?

(270 Respondents, 322 Responses) CONTINUED

- 11 I don't know use them because I don't know where they are. I've never been informed and they're poorly advertised.
- 11 I haven't seen very many parks other than a few, our own in Holiday Park.
- 11 If there are pedestrian walkways and jogging paths we need to let people know where they are. Need More. And need signs.
- 11 Needs More Advertisement
- 11 Not aware of any facilities in the area nearest to Port Charlotte.
- 11 Should be more in the paper about what's going on in the parks.
- 11 There's no advertisement to say what's going on or where the parks are. I don't know where they are, or what's in them, like is there a walking area or a picnic area? Publish this information in the newspaper.
- 11 They need to be more public about what's going on and what programs are available. I read the newspaper everyday and they never mention anything.
- 12 Get rid of the 3 donkeys that are in power.
- 12 Give the mayor a chance.
- 12 Need to start over with a new city council.
- 12 Spend the money wisely
- 12 We have people that have giving their money to the city, and now we have commissioner who don't know their a** from a hole on the grown. Get rid of commissioners, and get a mayor, one mayor. They don't know anything, and all of them together not knowing anything
- 12 We need to do a better job at managing our funds to, and to take politics out of providing recreational facilities for the people of North Port. The city has a tendency to respond to a minority of people asking for something versus what the majority would say. A good example is the skateboard park. Not many people are using it. It's a waste of money for what they want to do.
- 13 I think that they need to work for a harmonious relationship between the city and the county as to working together.
- 13 I think the county and the city need to get together and rework the inter local agreement that they have. The county does not seem to understand that we have over 45,000 people in North Port using the facilities that they are supposed to be maintaining.
- 13 I think they need to take back the parks from the county I would be willing to pay the taxes for that. I would rather have our parks controlled by our city I do not think the county does a good job.
- 13 I'd like to see the city run all the parks within the city limits. I feel local control would be overall better for the residents.
- 13 It would be nice for the parks to be under North Port control, but that would take more money. We're not getting our money's worth from Sarasota County. They had to fight against double-taxation. The county and the city was taxing for the parks, and we're not getting our money's worth from the county.

Q11. What type of programs would you like to see offered by the City of North Port Parks and Recreation Department?

(270 Respondents, 322 Responses) CONTINUED

- 14 A place where you can exercise, walk and bring your companion dog with you. There's no park where you can bring your dog, other than dog parks. So we go to Arcadia and walk along the river. We have to travel so that we can bring the dogs and have a good time along with our family.
- 14 I'd like to see some dog parks available.
- 14 The dog park is a great idea.
- 14 The Dog Park is not only for dogs but for pet owners and their pets to get together. To socialize while letting the dogs run off leash. It brings the community together. All pet owners never run out of something to say about their dogs and they also discuss community issues in the DOG PARKS
- 14 Want more park space for dogs.
- 15 Do something about roads they are real bad and city hourly wage crews need to be seen working more and taking less breaks. Back off from code enforcement they are bordering on harassment.
- 15 Fix the roads they are in horrible shape.
- 15 I think they need an impact fee to construct the roads and repaving roads putting in water and sewer.
- 15 Need to spend the money on roads.
- 15 Road improvement desperately needed.
- 16 Concentrate on the youth.
- 16 Feel that a well developed community with proper activities helps promote better physical and mental health of people in its community.
- 16 I do not think they should cater to the kids.
- 16 I would like to see a juxtaposition for all humanity, people and animals in a large designated area. Have a wild reserve have horseback riding, have the Veterinarian and animal control, park senior citizen complex. Outdoor bring your chair facilities. The way to fund the program is all of the vendors who participate in these activities give back 25% and do 4 fundraisers a year. Plus we have competition between the schools in the fields of Arts.
- 16 Important for people to have to be physically active
- 17 A movie theater
- 17 Better restaurants
- 17 Bowling
- 17 Need a decent restaurant

City of North Port Survey of Residents
Verbatim Comments - November 2005

Q11. What type of programs would you like to see offered by the City of North Port Parks and Recreation Department?

(270 Respondents, 322 Responses) CONTINUED

- 18 The Mullen Center is rented out for affairs and in doing so they close down the only indoor basketball court available and I think it's wrong. They should allow the rentals someplace else because it's the only place the children have to go to play indoor basketball.
- 18 The North Port Glen Allen, a group of mothers and I use that playground, and now they're telling us that we can't use it until after 5 PM. We've been going for the past three years. We should be able to go when we want, but I understand that we can't go there during school hours. After school, it should be open to everyone.
- 18 They need to allow kids to do more things. We want a party at Dallas White Park, we want to rent a bouncer, but the park won't allow us. They let you rent a pavilion, but won't let you do anything. They won't let you have pony rides also. If you rent it, you should be able to do what you want, especially if they're insured and licensed.

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

GOAL 1: To develop and maintain a community park and recreation system that will provide a diverse range of active and passive recreational opportunities and facilities to meet the needs of the present and future residents of the City of North Port.

Objective 1 : To plan, acquire and improve community parks and open space lands consistent with the needs of North Port's resident population, as determined by the City's recreation level of service, through the year 2017.

Policy 1.1 : Recreation and open space lands shall be designated as either active or passive recreational uses and are located in urban, State park and conservation areas. These lands contain park sites and their associated facilities or open space with minimal facilities.

"*Recreational and Open Space*" lands, as depicted on the adopted Future Land Use Map, may be publicly owned. Other non-public recreational lands may be depicted on the adopted Future Land Use Map as "Commercial Recreation".

Policy 1.2 : The City shall adopt the following definitions for recreation and open space lands:

Community park - A community park is a "ride-to" park, located near major streets or arterials. It is designed to serve the needs of ten (10) to fifteen (15) neighborhoods which constitutes a community -- and serves community residents within a radius of up to approximately three (3) miles, or a service population of approximately twenty-five thousand (25,000) to thirty-five thousand (35,000) permanent residents. Community parks shall be approximately twenty (20) acres or more in size.

Open Space - Open space, as it relates to recreation, is undeveloped public lands suitable for passive recreation and used primarily for parks, recreation, conservation, preservation of water resources, historic or scenic purposes, and greenways designed to buffer incompatible land uses. It varies considerably in size and may take the form of land or water surfaces.

Conservation - Conservation lands are public lands maintained for continuing the sustainable yield of natural resources, including potable water, timber, game and sport fishing. Allowable development activities include wildlife relocation areas and improvements which are ancillary to the principal uses, including fire trails, or facilities which allow limited human access, such as unpaved parking spaces, primitive camping areas, canoe launches, and sanitation facilities. No other uses may be permitted within Conservation Areas, with the exception of the Winchester Boulevard hurricane evacuation route through the Myakka State Forest, which is deemed necessary to protect human life from the threat of natural disasters provided that such facility is constructed so that the impact upon native habitat and wildlife populations are minimized consistent with the policies in the Conservation Plan, and consistent with the requirements of all permitting agencies.

Policy 1.3 : The City shall depict on a Future Land Use Map series appropriate general locations for Recreation and Open Space which includes: Community parks, Open Space, Conservation and Commercial Recreation lands.

Policy 1.4 : The City adopts a level of service of ten (10) acres of recreation and open space area per one-thousand (1000) population, to be allocated, among three (3) park classifications, with the following minimum acreage classifications:

1.5 acres of Community park;

1.5 acres of Open Space;

7.0 acres of Conservation.

Policy 1.5 : Amend administratively the City's Future Land Use Map, City-owned lands located along the Myakkahatchee Creek as Recreation and Open Space only after an appropriate study determines the limits to the Recreation and Open Space areas, or when the City purchases/controls lands in this area.

Policy 1.6 : The City shall continue to classify on the City's Future Land Use Map, Little Salt Spring, the archaic Indian burial grounds located across from Little Salt Spring, and the Atwater Drive Archaeological site as Conservation areas regulating any new development or expansion/replacement of existing development, only after the areas have been purchased/controlled by a governmental agency.

Objective 2 : Establish general priorities for the development of a community park system to meet the park and

recreational needs of present and projected resident populations.

Policy 2.1 : Construction of a multi-purpose civic center to be located in the City Center to provide for recreational activities for all age groups.

Policy 2.2 : Establish recreational linkages between neighborhoods and existing and proposed community parks, schools, City Center and multi-purpose buildings, and conservation areas by utilizing facilities including but not limited to: roadways, pathways, greenways, pedestrian bridges, and waterways.

Policy 2.3 : The City may utilize impact fees for capital improvements to the existing fresh and tidal water canals pursuant to the impact fee ordinance, as amended.

Policy 2.4 : Where it is determined to be financially feasible, the assembly and consolidation of community park lands adjacent to existing and proposed school sites, and City-owned properties shall be encouraged.

Policy 2.5 : The City shall pursue a proactive land assembly strategy to purchase, sell, barter or enter into long-term lease agreements for the purpose of expanding existing or future community park sites.

Policy 2.6 : Where economically feasible, the City shall promote the procurement of greenways for the purpose of expanding linear parks by acquiring land necessary to link publicly-owned conservation lands and recreation areas within and outside the City limits, and coordinate any such linkages with other agencies providing parks located outside the City limits.

Policy 2.7 : The City shall monitor and report annually, as part of the budget process to the City Commission, the inventory of all public lands and recreation facilities for the purpose of identifying and prioritizing land assembly and facility development to meet existing and future recreational and open space needs of the resident population.

Objective 3 : Promote the development of a privately supported neighborhood-based park system to fulfill the recreation and open space desires of existing and future neighborhoods within the City.

Policy 3.1 : Prior to 2000, the City shall support the development of a privately initiated and funded "Adopt a Park" program, at the discretion of each neighborhood, for establishing, improving and maintaining neighborhood parks.

Policy 3.2 : As identified through neighborhood-based resident surveys, coordinate with private agency groups and individuals to provide funding priorities for the installation of landscaping, equipment, facility development in order to improve existing and proposed future parks.

Policy 3.3 : All future neighborhood parks proposed as part of the "Adopt a Park Program" shall be rezoned to the appropriate zoning district designation. The City shall process such petitions, by waiving all applications fees and assisting the applicant/neighborhood association(s). Comprehensive plan amendments will not be required in such instances.

Policy 3.4 : All future neighborhood parks proposed as part of the "Adopt a Park Program" shall be required to undergo a conditional use review.

Objective 4 : Coordinate with other public and private agencies to meet existing and projected community park demand.

Policy 4.1 : The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will continue to provide a formal advisory role to the City Commission per Resolution #93-R-44, as amended.

Policy 4.2 : Through the efforts of the Sarasota County Department of Parks and Recreation and the City of North Port's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, conduct a survey every five years of community desires for new City-wide park acquisitions and facility-based improvements. This survey shall be included within the Evaluation and Appraisal Report for the Recreation and Open Space Element, of the Comprehensive Plan.

Objective 5 : The City will continue to coordinate with the Sarasota County Park and Recreation Department which operates the City's recreational programs so that when viewed in their entirety, the programs and activities are readily accessible to and usable by City residents.

Policy 5.1 : Conduct a review of all publicly owned recreation and open space areas as part of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report for the Recreation and Open Space Element, of the Comprehensive Plan to assess the need for improvements or modifications of facilities to ensure full public access, and meeting the changing needs of the users.

Policy 5.2 : Coordinate with the State of Florida, Southwest Florida Water Management District and other agencies to provide appropriate public access to conservation areas located within, adjacent to or near the City

limits.

Objective 6 : All new residential development within the City shall be required to continue to provide for their proportionate fair share of recreation areas via the impact fee ordinance and open space necessary to accommodate the recreational needs of residents of such developments.

Policy 6.1 : Continue to implement the City of North Port Parks and Recreation Facilities Impact Fee Ordinance to ensure that community parks and open space areas are maintained at the adopted level of services for existing and future resident populations. The City will also continue to identify other funding sources and ensure that Sarasota County continues to collect impact fees.

Policy 6.2 : Prior to 2000, the City shall review and amend the Unified Land Development Code consistent with the Goals, Objectives and Policies of this element.

Objective 7 : Continue to negotiate with property owners to increase the number of recreation and open space areas necessary to meet existing and future demand based upon the adopted level of service standards.

Policy 7.1 : Negotiate with property owners to facilitate the utilization of Transfer of Development Rights, long-term lease agreements, land bartering or acquisition of future park sites for future community parks and open space in response to population growth.

Policy 7.2 : Negotiate with property owners to expand the recreational value of lands located along the Myakkahatchee Creek.

Policy 7.3 : Continue to encourage Atlantic Gulf Corporation not to sell off future designated park sites to third parties without first consulting with the City.

Objective 8 : Establish Special Interest Parks to enhance the public's appreciation and enjoyment of the City's outstanding natural resource areas.

Policy 8.1 : Work cooperatively with the University of Miami and/or other property owners to designate Little Salt Spring, and other appropriate areas, as a Special Interest Park and to provide appropriate public access.

Policy 8.2 : Prior to 2000, the City shall initiate the revision of the Land Development Code to strengthen the use of transfer of development rights, long-term lease agreements, land bartering, acquisition or other techniques, to preserve existing and proposed recreational areas, including but not limited to: lands located along the Myakkahatchee Creek, Myakka River, Little Salt Spring, Atwater Drive Archaeological site, the archaic Indian burial grounds located across from Little Salt Spring, and other appropriately identified special park sites.

Objective 9 : Coordinate with other government agencies and the private sector to implement park acquisition, construction, maintenance, and preservation plans.

Policy 9.1 : The City shall continue to work with Sarasota County Department of Parks and Recreation on the operation, acquisition, improvements and maintenance of the City's recreation and open space lands.

Policy 9.2 : Continue to work with the Sarasota County School Board and the Sarasota County Department of Parks and Recreation to provide recreation facilities and programs at the Glenallen Elementary School, Toledo Blade Elementary School, Multi-purpose building, and other future appropriate public sites and facilities.

Policy 9.3 : Increase cooperation with the Sarasota County Historical Society, the Environmental Coalition of Southwest Florida (ECOSWF), the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC), and related public and private agencies to ensure the preservation and protection of archaeological resources within the City.