CAPE CORAL
PARKS AND RECREATION
MASTER PLAN
SUMMARY OF
MAILOUT SURVEY RESULTS
AND
PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

The information contained in the following summary report is the result of an intensive public participation process in the development of the City of Cape Coral Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This summary reflects the results of the random mail survey and of the public workshop series.

Approximately 1,000 people participated through the mail survey and public workshops. The input was varied and addressed a wide range of concerns, needs and desires. The information collected through the surveys and workshops is an important component of the development of the Parks Master Plan. However, it is critical to realize that the results of the surveys and workshops are not the sole driving force behind the Master Plan but serve as a guide in the development of recreation standards and recommendations.

Parks Master Plan Mission Statement

To establish a plan that meets the diverse recreational and social needs of Cape Coral’s citizens as individuals and as part of larger groups. This plan shall establish a vision through the year 2010 that protects and enhances the quality of life for ourselves today and our families for tomorrow.

Cape Coral Parks & Recreation Master Plan
Steering Committee
October 26, 2000
In an effort to accurately address the park and recreation needs of the people living in the City of Cape Coral, 5,000 surveys were sent out at random to Cape Coral households. These random households were selected through a list generated by the Lee County Electric Cooperative from their customer database. Of the 5,000 surveys sent, 669 responses were received, a response rate of 13%. Based on statistical sampling, the survey results are within the 95% confidence interval with a range of error of less than 5%. The following is a summary of these responses.

The Demographics of the Survey Respondents

- **Male or Female**
  Of the respondents to this survey, 41% were male while 59% were female.

- **Age Group**
  About 45% of the survey respondents were over the age of 65. The percentage of those who fell between the age bracket of 45 to 64 was 39% while 16% were under the age of 45.

- **When Moved to Cape Coral**
  Nearly 25% of the survey respondents have lived in Cape Coral for more than 20 years, moving there before 1980. While 36% moved there between the years of 1981 and 1989. Those who have lived there for 10 years or less (moving to Cape Coral in 1990 or later) comprised the remaining 39% of the survey respondents.

- **Rent or Own Current Residence**
  Almost all of the survey respondents own their home, 99%, while 1% rented.

- **Family Status**
  The majority of the respondents are married with 44% of them having children and 28% no children. Of those who are divorced, 6% have children and 3% do not. About 14% are widows/widowers and 6% are single.

- **Ages Within the Household**
  Of the ages of residents within a household, 47% of the respondents’ households had people 55 years and older. Twenty-five percent of the respondents had people in their households that were between the ages of 35 and 54, while 14% were between the ages of 15 and 34. About 13% of the respondents’ households have children that are 14 years of age and younger.

- **Employment Status**
  Approximately 52% of survey respondents are retired or not employed. Four percent said that they were Homemakers. Of those who are employed, 34% work full-time and 9% work part-time.
♦ **Highest Level of Education**
The majority of the respondents (66%) have completed college or post-graduate programs. Nearly 33% of the survey respondents completed high school or vocational school as their highest level of education, while 1% finished grade school.

♦ **Year Long Cape Coral Residents**
Ninety-two percent of the survey respondents live in Cape Coral all year. Only 8% were seasonal residents.

♦ **Type of Residence**
Single-family dwellings comprised the majority of respondent home types, 97%, while roughly 3% lived in duplexes and less than 1% lived in apartments or condos.

♦ **Zip Codes**
The following is the break down of zip codes for the survey respondents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zip Code</th>
<th>Residents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>33904</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>(39%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33914</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>(27%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33990</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>(19%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33909</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>(6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33991</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>(6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33993</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>(3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01515</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19914</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93304</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19914</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93304</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The demographics of the survey respondents generally reflect a Cape Coral resident who is over the age of 45 (86%). Of the 86%, 45% are over the age of 65. Correspondingly, only 13% of the survey respondents have children under the age of 14 residing in the household. Consequently, the results of the survey must be used cautiously.

---

**Parks and Recreation Properties**

The three parks in Cape Coral most frequently visited by the survey respondents are the **Yacht Club (Beach & Fishing Pier)**, **Four Freedoms Park and Jaycee Park**. **Giuffrida Park** was the least visited facility.

In regards to the satisfaction of users of the different parks, the top three parks that the respondents were most satisfied with are **Four Freedoms Park**, **Cultural Park Theater** and **SunSplash Water Park**. The three parks that respondents were least satisfied with are the **Cape Coral Sports Complex Soccer Fields**, **Yacht Club Tennis Courts** and **Pelican Soccer Fields**.
Recreation Programs and Activities

When asked which programs they used the most in the last 12 months, patrons responded by naming the **Senior Programs at the Rotino and Lake Kennedy Senior Centers** as the two programs most frequently used. City sponsored **Special Events** was the third most used program. The three programs that were utilized the least were **Adult BMX, Adult Soccer and Adult Football**.

The top three programs that the survey respondents were satisfied with are **Summer Recreation, Special Events sponsored by the City and Youth After-School Programs**. The three programs with the least satisfaction rating are the **Adult Tennis, Adult Aquatics and the Youth Tennis Programs**.

It should be noted that only 218 people out of a total of 669 returned surveys responded to this question. The low rate of response to this question indicates that a majority of people who returned the survey did not actively participate in City recreation activities.

---

Existing General Passive / Active Recreation Facilities

The following is a list of the top three frequently used passive/active recreation facilities as well as the least used passive/active recreation facilities. The top three facilities most frequently used by the survey respondents are the **Beach, the Piers/Docks and the Walking/Hiking Trails**. The three facilities that are the least used are the **Volleyball Courts, BMX Track and Shuffleboard Courts**.

The top three recreation facilities that the survey respondents are satisfied with are the **Piers/Docks, SunSplash Waterpark and Playgrounds**. The recreation facilities that the survey respondents were least satisfied with are the **Tennis Courts, Soccer Fields and Racquetball Courts**.

---

Future Park Facility Needs

The following are the top 5 park and recreation needs in the next 10 years as indicated by the survey respondents.

1. Walking/Hiking Trails
2. Biking Trails
3. Fishing Piers
4. Nature Preserve
5. Festival Area
Attitudes of Park / Program Users

In general, the respondents are pleased with the Parks and Recreation Department and the information provided about recreation programs. Nearly 87% believe that the information they receive about park programs is sufficient and adequate. Roughly the same amount, 86%, believe that this information is provided in a timely and prompt manner.

In regards to the variety of programs, 93% of the respondents consider the recreation programs to be adequate as well as diverse. Approximately 78% of the users would prefer to register for these programs remotely (i.e. mail, telephone, fax or e-mail).

The general consensus of the survey respondents regarding the parks and recreation facilities is very good. Ninety-six percent believe that the parks are safe and 93% consider the parks to be well maintained. The respondents are happy with the staff as well. Nearly 95% of the respondents believe that the staff provides prompt and courteous service.

Survey respondents agreed (97%) that the City should continue to pursue agreements with local schools and other agencies to provide park and recreation opportunities.

One surprising result was that 67% of the respondents did not want to have a neighborhood park developed near their home. A possible reason for this negative response is that the survey respondents may have inferred that an active recreation facility would be developed as opposed to a passive park. In addition, this response is countered by the information gathered through the written survey comments and public workshops. Neighborhood parks were frequently identified as needed in Cape Coral.

In reference to the question of needing more open space where no programs or facilities exist, the responses were split almost evenly. Fifty-two percent were in favor of more open space while 48% were opposed. The response in favor of open space/passive recreation parks was highly supported in both the written survey comments and public workshops.

In regard to boating and fishing services, 80% of the respondents agreed that there were adequate services. However, the surveys and public workshops did identify a strong need for additional boat ramps throughout the City.

In response to the question of needing more Special Events, nearly 69% of the respondents did not think that the City needed to schedule more events. However, Special Events was one of the top issues and needs for the City as identified through the written survey responses and public workshops.
The following is the ranking of funding sources for parks and recreation by the survey respondents.

1. Grants
2. User Fees
3. Impact Fees
4. Bonds
5. Property Taxes
6. Other
The survey mailed to Cape Coral property owners contained several questions that allowed for open-ended responses. These questions asked for specific comments relating to the positive and negative aspects of the City’s park and recreation system as well as the top three goals for the City’s Parks and Recreation Department over the next decade.

In general, the responses to the open-ended questions were positive. Many of the respondents praised the work of the City’s park and recreation staff. Many also felt that the City has provided an excellent parks and recreation system. There was also a general consensus that the City’s parks and recreation programs are well run and affordable.

Although most surveys contained praise of the City’s parks and recreation system, nearly all surveys had at least one complaint or suggestion for improvement. These negative comments were varied and covered issues ranging from specific complaints for individual parks to general suggestions for overall improvement of the City’s parks and recreation programs. As with the positive comments, there are several negative comments that were expressed in many of the surveys. The concerns that were a common element in many of the surveys included that the Yacht Club park is too small and is poorly maintained; soccer and baseball/softball fields need better maintenance; lack of tennis courts and poor maintenance of existing courts; parks lack adequate landscaping and not well maintained; conditions of restrooms at parks are very poor; insufficient amount of parking at all parks; and in general the maintenance of many facilities needs improvement.

The question on the survey asking respondents to list their top 3 goals for the City’s Parks and Recreation Department for the next 10 years provides a diverse array of answers. The responses can be generally grouped into four broad categories: Special Events, Facilities, Passive Recreation and General Needs. Within these four areas trends emerged in future needs and desires.

**Special Events**
- Arts and Crafts Shows and Exhibits
- Public Concerts
- Block Parties

**Facilities**
- Boat Ramps (Freshwater and Saltwater)
- Tennis Courts (Clay and Hard)
- Neighborhood Parks
- Pools and Waterparks
- Racquetball Courts
- Beaches
- Dog Park
- Skate Park
Passive Recreation
Trails (Walking/Biking/Skating)
Nature Preserves

General Needs
Sidewalks
Waterfront Activities (Commercial/Recreational)
Maintenance of Parks
Promotion of Existing Parks and Recreation Programs
Programs and Activities for Children and Teenagers
Programs and Activities for Seniors
Plan and Prepare for Growth
Buy Parkland Early
Security and Police Patrols

The following list of comments is a summary of all the written responses to open-ended questions on the survey. The comments are broken down into three categories: Positive Comments, Negative Comments and Future Needs/Desires. The comments that are **bold and italicized** are those that were a common theme throughout the surveys.

Positive Comments

*Parks and Recreation Staff does an excellent job.*

Mr. Chris at Four Freedoms Park is an “A+”.

Bill the evening manager at the Yacht Club is great.

Steve Pohlman is doing an excellent job.

Staff at the Rotino Senior Center is great.

*Cape Coral’s Parks are excellent facilities.*

SunSplash is an excellent facility.

Camelot Park is a great park.

Four Freedoms Park is a great park.

Jaycee Park is a great park.

BMX track is great.

Cultural Park is great.

*Park and recreation programs are well run and affordable.*

Cape Coral Mini-bus service is excellent.
Pre-School and after-school programs are wonderful.

City's Special Populations Program is a model program.

Enjoy special events put on by City.

**Negative Comments**

Coral Oaks fairways are in poor condition.

Coral Oaks staff is not customer friendly.

Bad drainage at the Sports Complex soccer fields.

The conditions of the buildings at the Sports Complex are poor.

Pelican soccer field is in poor condition.

*The Yacht Club is too small and has poor maintenance.*

The baseball fields at the Sports Complex are too close. Foul balls are dangerous.

Poor drainage at the soccer fields in the Sports Complex.

Need places to sit to watch games at the Sports Complex soccer fields.

Lack of parking at Koza/Saladino Park.

Lack of bleachers at Koza/Saladino Park.

Koza/Saladino baseball fields are in poor condition.

Baseball program at Koza/Saladino is run for the coached and not the kids.

Lighting on softball fields is poor.

Concern about drugs at Giuffrida Park.

Softball fields at Strausser/BMX Park need improvement.

Camelot Park is in poor condition.

Parking at Horton Park is inadequate.

*Need improved maintenance of baseball and soccer fields.*

Bocci courts are not well maintained.
Tennis Courts are in poor condition need to be replaced.

Insufficient number of parks and they are poorly placed.

Parks lack adequate landscaping.

Fees for parks and recreation programs are too high.

Maintenance of facilities is poor need to increase maintenance staff.

Condition of restrooms at parks is very poor.

City has too many parks.

Lack of adequate parking at all parks.

Poor design of swimming programs. Program not large enough. Unable to sign up child for swimming lessons for 2 years.

Quit wasting time and tax dollars sending out surveys.

Future Needs and Desires

Shooting Range

Arts & Craft Shows and Exhibits

Running Races

Outdoor Concerts

More parks like Jaycee Park.

More affordable summer care for children.

More arts and cultural activities for children.

Expansion of the Mini-bus system.

Boat Ramps (Freshwater and Saltwater)

Youth Center

Sports Tournaments

Clean parks

Ice Skating Rink
Dog Park

Tennis Courts (Clay Courts and Hard)

Block Parties

Trails

Nature Preserves
Alternate Gulf access in western Cape Coral.
Boardwalk or footbridge across Spreader waterway.
Marina
More diversity of park and recreation programs.

More sidewalks and bikepaths.

Horseshoe League
Expansion of adult softball league.

General waterfront activities (commercial)

Improved maintenance of existing parks.

Increased promotion of existing park and recreation opportunities.

Increased programs and activities for children and teenagers throughout the City.

Medical services at Senior Centers.

More neighborhood parks.

Increased senior programs.

More swimming programs.

More softball fields.

Additional pools and/or waterpark.

Botanical Gardens

Additional Fishing Piers
More soccer fields.
Increase parking at parks.

More benches in parks.

Need T-ball fields.

Need Bocci Ball courts.

Need more adult only activities.

Make swimming pools free.

Need more football fields.

Need a women/girls basketball league.

Zoo

Expansion of Special Populations Program.

**Provide a Skatepark.**

Motor-Sports and Drag Racing

Need to provide new signs at the parks.

Provide tours of the City.

Improve coordination with schools.

Provide a new or larger library.

Improve wheelchair access.

**Need indoor racquetball courts.**

Expand special education classes.

Provide more activities for singles in the 40-60 age range.

Art League needs to expand.

Expand SunSplash

Provide covered areas for spectators.

Provide a playground at Pelican Baseball Fields.

Need more baseball fields.
Provide fitness equipment in a gym.

Expand Seahawk Park.

*Plan and prepare for growth.*

*Buy land for new parks early.*

*Increase security and/or police presence at parks.*

Horseback riding

Amusement park

*Beach area*

Public golf course

In-line skating trails

Increase evening programs.

Provide more day-trips.

Increase picnic areas.

Provide more playgrounds.

Increase opportunities for canoe/kayaking.

Increase canal dredging.

Increase the number of private vendors at parks.

Expand Cultural Park.

Community Center

Rodeo

Medieval Fairs
On February 6, 7 and 8 a series of public workshops were held to obtain public feedback from the citizens of Cape Coral regarding the City’s parks and recreation system. Approximately 200 people participated in these workshops. In addition, the City of Cape Coral Parks Department held workshops with the Cape Coral Chamber of Commerce, Cape Coral Shriners Club, City of Cape Coral Department Directors and City of Cape Coral Parks and Recreation Department Supervisory Staff. The results of these workshops is summarized below.

**Improvements Needed to Existing Parks**

**Yacht Club**
- Yacht Club lacks:
  - Restrooms
  - Sprinklers
  - Parking
- Diversity/Expansion is needed at the Yacht Club (e.g. Tennis Courts and Clay Tennis Courts) along with better maintenance for existing courts
- Yacht Club Boat Ramp is poorly situated
- Expanded Beach Area is needed at the Yacht Club
- Keep facilities centralized at Yacht Club—look to acquire more land
- Consider rowing program at Yacht Club
- Multi-level parking
- Yacht Club rental too expensive

**Pelican Baseball Complex**
- Need sign on Pelican Boulevard for the Park
- Concern about the condition of the building/restrooms and general conditions at the Pelican Baseball Complex
- Need a playground at the Pelican Baseball Complex
- Concern about the gravel paths in the Pelican Baseball Complex
- Babe Ruth Organization willing to assist the City
  - League fixed the west fields
  - League fixed the fence
League put in the new scoreboards

Football Facilities
- Need for concession stand renovation at Caloosa Park
- Condition of track around field concern at Caloosa Park
- Parking at Caloosa Park is a big problem also at Storm Football Complex
- Use of practice fields for parking is ripping up the field at Storm Football Complex
- Lots behind Caloosa Park could be acquired for parking
- Need a place for cheerleaders at Caloosa Park
- Need lighting for practice fields
- Need playground at Caloosa Park
- Concern with field maintenance at Storm Football Complex

Seahawk Air Park
- Expand the Seahawk Air Park now and use it as open land for multi purposes and activities
- The fly over area of Seahawk Air Field includes residential lots will stop flying when the first house is built
- Acquire 100 acres (Land Banking)
- Seahawk Park is self supporting
- 3,000-5,000 viewers at Seahawk Park
- Markham Park in Ft. Lauderdale is an example
- Attract 20,000 to Cape Coral Winter Fest to Seahawk Park
- Seahawk Organization is currently investing $4,000 in structures at the park

Other Parks
- More facilities are needed at Camelot Park
- Restore Rose Gardens
- Upgrade Cultural Park - Implement Cultural Park Master Plan
- Bad drainage at Cape Coral Sports Complex
- More boardwalks needed at 4-Mile Cove
- Rocks and hardness in the open area of Jaycee Park need to be addressed
- Retain Existing Parkland
General Existing Park Comments
♦ Need to update playing fields to current sport standards
♦ Waterfront seating, restaurant (St. Petersburg Pier)
♦ No place to walk or bike around Bimini Basin
♦ Handicap needs
  ➢ More activities
  ➢ Put in fishing pier on freshwater and saltwater side for the handicapped
  ➢ Shelters that are accessible
  ➢ Pave gravel paths in parks

Improvements Needed to Existing Parks Comments

“I use and enjoy Seahawk Air Park off Wilmington Parkway. I have been in the R.C. hobby for over 50 years! One of the main interest in trying my retirement in Cape Coral is the availability of R.C. flying at Seahawk Park. Our main concern is the small size of the field now (11.5-acres)—we are concerned that the building of new houses close to the park will assist our leaving due to safety concerns.”

“Seahawk park expansion from 10 to 100 acres. I believe as a resident we should plan acquisition of land to established major parks now where land is available. Seahawk Park is an example where100 acres should be acquired now while it is vacant and without any improvements for diverse uses and as inexpensive and available as now.”

“I am a member of the Cape Coral R/C Seahawks. We fly radio controlled model airplanes on city parkland in the NW cape. The area surrounding this 9-acre park is undeveloped and ideal for purchase for a large 100-acre multi-purpose park. This could be used for outdoor events such as boat shows, RV shows, craft/art shows, fairs, horseback riding, bike riding, running dogs, with a suitable facility accommodate a rifle/pistol range and also nature trails could be added.”

“First, I would like to thank the City of Cape Coral for allowing us to fly our R.C. airplanes at Seahawk Air Park. This location provides a great many of us to indulge in a recreation that we would not have otherwise or we would have to travel many miles for it. It also provides a place to gather socially and allows us to bring in the community for demonstrations. We have entertained special populations several times, Boy Scouts and a long time ago about 150 high school students. I believe the park should be expanded to include other activities such as hiking trails, horse backing riding and fairgrounds.”

“I personally use Seahawk Park 12-15 hours a week. I would like to see it expanded for model airplanes. We have many spectators young and old interested in model aviation and male and female members. It can also be used
for boat shows car shows, BMX, roller-blading, fishing, horseback riding, etc. The property is inexpensive (no city water & sewer). I think we need a different kind of park.”

“Seahawk Air Park expansion to 100 acres. Will provide recreation in an open land use for citizens of all ages and in addition provide land for fairs, festivals and special shows, horse, boats, autos, celebration, air shows. Radio controlled air shows at Seahawk Air Park during the “Celebrate Cape Coral” attracted 20,000 people in the last five years”

“Keep beach at Yacht Club but add more parking. Senior center and tennis courts should be moved to a land area instead of by the beach. Keep the beach for families to go to with small children and fishing pier for older residents that cannot handle a boat. Also beach & pier good for visitors on a hot evening.”

“We have 1400 plus kids playing soccer on only two fields. We are cramped for space now and will need another complex in the next 2 years. 20 acres would be enough. Perhaps we could partner with the city as far as maintenance.”

“The entire system needs to be expanded and property to be acquired soon because it will not become less expensive. All facilities should be considered and expanded. The tennis facility need is obvious. We should proceed on one nice facility (12-16) courts (clay courts) consider closing the Yacht Club courts and converting the area to parking or expanded facilities.”

“Having raised 2 children in tennis (Junior USTA) all their matches throughout the state are played on clay courts. They need to practice on the same surface they compete on just as soccer players do. If clay courts are not provided –then it forces families to go over the bridge to Ft. Myers.”

“We need a tennis center to replace the courts lost at the Yacht Club (including locker rooms & showers)”

“Need multi-use large area 100-600 acre and need more tennis courts.”

“I do love the parks in our city & how so many of them are convenient & all of the activities offered. Need to keep what is offered now & expand on it. I would not eliminate anything, unless it was replaced with the same somewhere else in the city. Racquetball courts --- the courts at the yacht club are not at all for racquetball—if you play the sport this would be obvious. We need a group of courts available day and night with four walls and lighting. With a city this size, many courts are needed. Note, a nominal fee can be charged for use to help offset maintenance & operating costs. I have children that participate in various sport leagues in the city and just love the variety that is available. We need to keep our beach. We would never be able to get this kind of park in the future and is unique to our city. Recreation center can include simple things like billiards, ping – pong etc…”
Ecological/Nature Passive Parks

- More of the large scale ecological/nature parks as well as passive recreational areas are needed
- Eco-Park is underutilized
- More manatee viewing areas are needed
- Need a manatee/ ecological park at Ceitus Parkway
- Concerns about Burrowing Owls and providing fields for them
- Concerns about wildlife quantity in Cape Coral
- Disappointed with having to go to Ding Darling to observe wildlife
- Emphasize and better utilize waterfront boat ramps and ecotourism
- Not enough beauty or shade in parks
- Connectivity and pedestrian safety should be a concern when planning a multi-use perimeter trail at Eco-Park
- Look to upgrade the Yacht Club for ecological needs (e.g. canals could suffice for ecotourism)
- Provide more green space
- Need for a 5,000 acre ecological park in Northeast Cape Coral
- Like to see more hiking/nature trails and fishing lakes (1,000 acre lake)
- Jogging, biking and in-line skating trails are needed (both sidewalk and off road)
- Expand bike trail system
  - Country Club Boulevard
  - Cross-town route
- Cape Coral Wildlife
  - Manatee Park Development
  - Ask for donation of land for a park along the eastern edge of Tarpon Point to keep the waterfront accessible
- Access to Mangrove preserve
- Promote environmental education and recreation
- Linear park along Gator Slough/drainage ways

Ecological/Nature Passive Parks Comments

“I am concerned with Cape Coral wildlife. We need to preserve and protect the native Florida wildlife within the City of Cape Coral. I propose at least a 5,000-
acre wildlife park where fishing and hunting will be featured, (Uplands Park) also a place to ride horses and have nature trails. I would like to see a large sports park, but elsewhere, not in the N.E. part of Cape Coral. I would like to see a zoo as well. There should be preservations for the burrowing owls throughout Cape Coral. The Manatee Park is an excellent idea. Need more acreage around this park."

“I would like to see at least a five thousand-acre park in N.E. Cape Coral, to include hiking trails, fishing lakes with one main lake to be around 1,000 acres to be used as both a water storage area and fishing area. There are wild hogs, bobcats, fox, deer, quail, turkey and other Florida native wildlife. I would also like to see a zoo built for our children.”

“We need more bike/walking paths through the city.”

**Special Events and Festivals**

- Large events venue needed to hold major events (e.g. for the 4th of July or Celebrate Cape Coral)
- There’s a lack of outdoor concert facilities (e.g. outdoor amphitheater or covered amphitheater). Suggested that the land west of City Hall be utilized
- Expand theater and cultural arts
- Since there are not large gathering spaces and open areas, about 100-600 acres is suggested in the NW part of town
- More parkland is needed to plan/hold the Odyssey of the Mind competitions
- Move art festival off of Cape Coral Parkway
- Expand Tour De Cape to Triathlon

**Future Park Needs (Athletic Facilities)**

**Tennis**
- Not enough tennis court, hard surface and in particular clay tennis courts
- Need more clay courts, enough to meet demand
- Only city in South Florida with a population over 100,000 without clay courts
- Tennis leagues are willing to help provide courts and maintenance
- Clay courts are needed for seniors
- Need first class tennis facilities
- Suggest putting courts in the SE section of City or Lake Kennedy
City is losing revenue to competing cities with clay courts
Need of clay tennis courts at the Yacht Club current courts are poorly maintained.
Consider letting the city run the tennis courts
Show the ‘economic’ development benefit of clay courts
Should count courts only on city property

Baseball/Softball
Need 6 baseball fields for Juniors of Babe Ruth Baseball
Need to provide covered dugouts at ball fields
Need more baseball fields

Aquatic
Need for Olympic size pool and aquatic complex
Support for more aquatic programs

Other
More soccer fields
More basketball courts
More racquetball courts

Future Park Needs (General Suggestions)
Need for a centralized multi-use athletic tournament facility
Need another golf course
A community based indoor gymnasium
Move the Rotino Center to Parks Administration Building
Add new sports equipment
Volleyball courts
Need a zoo/aquarium
Need another complex like Pelican Soccer Complex
Size of parks are inadequate
Large multi-purpose park with facilities is needed for all sports
Need adult female soccer league
Need more practice fields
Need regional park
Not setting aside land for athletic facilities
Need more racquetball/handball courts
Outdoor Event Facility in NW of the City and Bimini Basin—4 Freedoms Park
Investigate acquisition of 2.5 acres along Cape Coral Parkway (possible area for clay tennis courts)
Look at acquiring parcel between the 2 banks and Four Freedoms Park
Need to integrate youth and adult facilities into a central complex
Add pedestrian bridges over canals to better access parks (Pelican Corridor)
Improve handicapped accessibility
Add sidewalks
Provide Wellness Center
Include fire substations at large parks

Future Park Needs (General Suggestions) Comments

“This master plan is an excellent idea! How much of the citizen input is going to play a roll in the master plan? Things to see: more pools, boat, ramps, stadium, and gymnasium. Recreational rowing program in need of boat house to accommodate such a program. A program as rowing can accommodate citizens, high schools, all year round competitive and recreational.”

“More Tennis Courts– Most Concrete or Asphalt but some should be clay for Seniors
Boat Launching Ramps and Trailer Parking
Passive Parkland for people, picnic’s, etc.
More Playground and Athletic Fields for young people
Active Small Parks for all–horseshoes, Bocci Ball, basketball, swings, slides, merry-go rounds, etc. (Neighborhood Parks)
The above are the priorities for Parks in the order listed but all of the above should be obtained. No City can acquire too much parkland and it must be acquired now while it is more available and economical.”

“Linear park. I have enjoyed in the past the 4 miles along Bayshore Boulevard in Tampa and the rails to trails in Pinellas County for distance in-line skating. Would like a linear park (10-foot wide asphalt) along alligator slough from U.S. 41 to Burnt Store Road. Could incorporate an off-line regional detention basin, which could be stormwater storage during rainy season and fields during dry season.”
Future Park Needs (Alternative Recreation)

- Dog Parks are needed, possibly in combination with Seahawk Park
- Skateboard parks—for safety and not to get in trouble
  - Don’t want to got to Ft. Myers
  - Don’t want to destroy people’s property
- Radio control model car facility
- ATV park
- Hunting opportunities
- Outdoor gun range

Future Park Needs (Alternative Recreation) Comments

“Suggestion: skate board park or facility at Camelot Park. The area that we live in has many young children 8-14 years old that have nowhere to skate other than in the streets. A surface area with some ramps would provide an adequate place to skateboard, rollerblade, scooter, etc at least a safe environment to meet with their friends.”

Boating and Waterfront

- Expand boat access and parking in the NW of Cape Coral on the North Spreader
- Boat lift facilities into spreader waterways are inadequate
- Not enough waterfront destinations
- Need more boat ramps and launches
- Not enough parking at the Yacht Club beach
- Boat ramps at large parks with parking
- Move boat ramps from the Yacht Club to Jaycee Park
- Lack of adequate water access is a problem
- There are not enough parks on the water
- Freshwater boat ramps needed for citizen and government access
- Kayak opportunities
- Rowing programs with a 60 x 80 boat house, 8-10 skulls other activities (potential for handicapped participation)
Boating and Waterfront Comments

“We need more freshwater ramps! Parking doesn’t need to be for a bass tournament. But freshwater owners need to have this also government. Property needs to be purchased while the prices are still low and property is still available—plan ahead! Lacking 2-4, maybe 5, on weekends. That’s it. Also ramps or even just access for boats/kayaks/canoes for the western mangrove preserve areas. This is a wonderful area for exploration and Eco-tourism is hot. This is a very underutilized area because you can’t get there except going into vacant lots, and down the cliffs. Just a small area with a slope down to the water and small gravel parking area would be great.”

“We need more boat ramps.”

Funding Concerns

♦ Lack of funding
♦ Suggest nominal user fees or yearly membership
♦ No land banking program in place to acquire land early
♦ Link economic development with Parks and Recreation
♦ Assure funding is going to the park system
♦ Increase cooperative arrangements with organizations to operate and maintain facility
♦ Look at alternate funding, through environmental hunting/fishing groups
♦ Public and private partnerships
♦ Organizations should help to build and improve the parks
♦ City should provide the base park and leagues upgrade facilities
♦ Parking fees (nominal)
♦ Integrate private uses with the parks such as restaurants and shops
♦ Need hotels to support tourism
♦ Programs are too expensive
♦ Need to provide on-line registration

Funding Concerns Comments

“Could generate funds to pay for land or could charge for use. We need a land bank.”
Positive Feedback

♦ Before and after school programs
♦ Love Seahawk Air Park
♦ Likes art and physical fitness programs
♦ Likes all the play fields and staff
♦ Likes Yacht Club tennis courts
♦ Keep Tony Rotino Senior Center at the Yacht Club
♦ Parks and Recreation overall are good
♦ Appreciates the Yacht Club pool, staff, and programs
♦ Appreciates the Lake Kennedy Senior Center
♦ Diversity of recreation facilities
♦ Multi-use facilities
♦ Yacht Club
♦ Good Youth Sport System
♦ City outreach to citizens
♦ Activities for children and play facilities
♦ Diversity of programs and facilities
♦ Public input
♦ Maximizing opportunities
♦ Employees!
♦ Easy registration
♦ Moving trees to the parks
♦ Safe park system
♦ SunSplash is great
♦ Available undeveloped property
♦ Parks are easy to access
♦ Ecotourism at 4-Mile Cove
♦ Parks are safe and clean
♦ Designation of Cultural Park
♦ Philosophy of the Parks and Recreation Department is good
♦ Diversity of the Parks programming
♦ Affordability of programs
♦ After school programs
- Senior Center
- Arts Studio
- Fishing Pier
- Jaycee Park
- Special Events
- Service to people with disabilities (Special Populations)
- Variety of services with limited resources
- Amenities without over commercialization
- Coral Oaks Golf Course

**Positive Feedback Comments**

“Great workshops! Thank you for the opportunity. If I or the arts Council can help you please call!”

**Negative Feedback and General Concerns**

- Don’t have enough tennis courts
- Don’t have clay tennis courts (especially at the Yacht Club)
- The Yacht Club tennis courts are poorly maintained
- The boat ramp is crowded
- Boats conflicting with the Yacht Club beach
- City Council has not prioritized tennis players needs
- Need more senior recreation
- Yacht Club ramp on river is bad
- Take away Yacht Club boat ramp
- There is a lack of sidewalks and existing ones need improvement
- Not enough of anything
- Diversify recreation opportunities
- Lack of neighborhood parks, the residents would like to walk to parks in residential neighborhoods with a range of play and sport facilities
- Need to increase communications with the City
- Difficult to practice and schedule games
- Currently there are only 2 baseball fields for Juniors and 2 fields for Seniors
- Lack of Multi-use facilities/Community Center
- Not enough contiguous land
- Lack of activities for teenagers
- Not enough pools like the Yacht Club
- Lack of progress to implement Cultural Park Master Plan
- Concern about being able to meet the growth in different sport leagues
- Not enough special events
- KC Riverstop too noisy and too much drinking
- Limited resources
- Grounds maintenance
- Lack of neighborhood connections

Negative Feedback and General Concerns Comments

“The developers have ruined Cape Coral. It is a slap in the face to build a home and then have an ordinance where the person next door can build a house that butts up to yours and extends 5’ in front. Developers must stay out of the Rose Garden. We do not want any condos, shops, traffic there.”