3.0 OVERVIEW - INVENTORY & ASSESSMENT

An important quality of life measure for any community is the presence of well-sited and developed park and recreation facilities. Places where all residents, young and old, active and inactive, can fully participate in a range of activities that meet individual, family, and group needs.

In an ideal community, every neighborhood would have a small park equipped with a playground and tot-lot that is within safe and easy reach by foot or pedal. There would be larger, activity based community parks where individuals and families of adjoining neighborhoods meet to play and socialize. The system would also provide wide-scale district parks where residents across the City meet to compete and recreate in field and court sports, swimming, and leisure activities. The ideal community would preserve large tracts of pristine and environmentally sensitive land as places where people interact with nature to escape from the stresses of urban living and rejuvenate the soul.

Research conducted by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) shows that leisure and exercise have a positive effect on physical and emotional health, yet most people do not get enough exercise in their ordinary routines. Beneficial effects of physical activity may be noted at all levels from the individual to the community. Gains can be seen in lifestyle (mood and improved health), in the workplace (greater productivity and reduced absenteeism, turnover and injuries) and in the national healthcare system (fewer physician visits, hospital care and geriatric care.

Cape Coral has taken great strides in the recent past towards building a park and recreation system that caters to the diverse needs and desires of its citizens. The purpose of this Chapter is to detail the pieces that the City currently has in place so that those pieces that are missing or need to be improved can be identified. The current inventory and conditions assessment summarized in this chapter will serve as the foundation on which to base decisions relating to future park and recreation facility needs.

3.1 METHODOLOGY

City of Cape Coral Parks and Recreation Department staff inventoried the location and extent of all existing City-owned parks and recreation facilities. Wade-Trim subsequently conducted an on-site condition assessment (December 2000) to rate each inventoried park in terms of function and maintenance on a scale of good, fair, and poor.

Maintenance refers to the condition of facilities such as litter control, boat ramp condition, fence condition, and parking surface condition. Facilities rated as fair needed upgrading such as new fencing, parking lot resurfacing, or boat ramp resurfacing. Facilities rated as poor had garbage on the ground or overgrown and weed infested landscapes. Function, on the other hand, refers to items such as the availability of parking, adequate vehicle turn around space, the
presence of safe pedestrian crossings or whether or not equipment is usable for its intended purpose. Copies of the completed assessment form for each park is included as Appendix A.

3.2 INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT BY PARK CLASSIFICATION

The “gap analysis” process begins with a baseline inventory and assessment of all park and recreation facilities currently owned and operated by the City. The results of the inventory conducted by City staff and the field survey conducted by Wade-Trim are displayed in Table 3-1. Map 3-1 identifies the location of each park.

For planning and analysis purposes, parks in Cape Coral are subdivided into classifications: Regional, District, Community, Neighborhood, and Specialty Parks (Athletic, Cultural, Environmental or Other). With the exception of the Specialty Parks classification, specifications are derived from site guideline recommendations found in Florida’s 1994 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) prepared by the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks, Office of Park Planning.

Regional Parks

Typically, regional parks are large resource based parks of 200 acres in size or greater. The recreation use is primarily passive and includes activities such as water-based recreation, camping, fishing, trails, nature study and education, gardens, and play areas. The location of a regional park is dependent on the availability of high quality natural resources capable of being developed and used for outdoor recreation.

- **Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve**: The City’s only regional, resource based park, Four Mile Ecological Preserve provides day hiking access via a 4,500 foot boardwalk and launching facilities/rentals for canoes/kayaks. The 365-acre park offers magnificent views of red, black and white mangroves with large open areas of marshlands. There is 5,000 feet of shoreline along the Caloosahatchee River and small tidal streams that meander into the interior. Wildlife that may be seen include various herons and egrets, otters, raccoons, woodpeckers, and migratory birds. Wildlife includes but is not limited to alligators, osprey, anhingas, cormorants, white ibis and ducks. Currently improvements under consideration or design for this park include the replacement of three canoe/kayak shelters and a new observation pier and access path.

*Assessment: Canoe launch not well defined; difficult to access.*
District Parks

District Parks are also large parks that are typically 100 acres or larger in size. The distinction between District Parks and Regional Parks is that District Parks are primarily active use parks. A District Park is designed to serve several communities and contains large athletic complexes, recreation centers and a diverse range of intensive recreational facilities such as gymnasiums, swimming facilities, inline hockey rinks, BMX tracks, skateboard courts, and model facilities. The District Park can also offer natural resource based uses such as nature trails, fishing and boating. District Parks are generally located closer to urban areas than Regional Parks. These parks are located near major arterial roads within 30 minutes driving time from population centers.

➢ Cape Coral Sports Complex: This 52 acre park located in west central Cape Coral is the most intensively developed active recreation complex in the City. This facility is utilized to host not only local athletic competitions but also national tournaments for baseball, softball and soccer. The park contains 4 baseball fields, 5 softball fields and 5 soccer fields. In addition, there are 14 bleachers for spectators, 10 tables for picnicking and 23 benches for sitting.

Assessment: Site lighting may be inadequate, some litter and weeds along walkways, missing fence padding on softball fields, concession ramps not level, some wood rot in dugouts.

Community Parks

A Community Park is described in the SCORP as a "drive to park". These parks are typically 20 acres or larger in size. The Community Park is designed to serve the recreation needs of several neighborhoods. The Community Park has a variety of active recreational uses such as community centers, ball fields, tennis courts, trails, boat ramps, beaches, boardwalks, fishing and swim areas, and is often a gathering place for area residents.

➢ Lake Kennedy Community Park: This intensively developed park includes Sun Splash Family Waterpark, Cape Coral Senior Center, Special Population Center, and Social Services. The 46-acre site is located in central Cape Coral, just south of the Pine Island Road corridor. Recreation facilities include a 44-foot dock, 1,190 feet of fitness trail, a group shelter and small shelter. Over the past year improvements to this park include the renovation of the Senior Center ballroom, enclosure of the north patio of the Senior Center, installation of a new 457-foot waterslide and 1,000 -foot ecological boardwalk at Sun Splash as well as the construction of a second ticket booth.

Assessment: Parking Limited.
Yacht Club Community Park: Perhaps the most intensively developed, multi-dimensional, and well identified community park, this 13 acre facility is positioned on the coast in southeast Cape Coral. Recreation facilities include 2 double lane boat ramps, 5 tennis courts, 2 racquetball courts, 2 shuffleboard courts, 2 horseshoe courts, a swimming pool, and an equipped playground. Other amenities include 634 linear feet of beach, a 1,677-foot dock, an 804-foot fishing pier with private concessions, a yacht basin, 2 group shelters, 43 picnic tables and 39 benches. The site also supports the Tony Rotino Senior Center, a community center and ballroom, and tennis pro shop. Recent improvements to the Yacht Club Park include construction of new restrooms on the beach, new air handlers for the community center, improvements to the racquetball courts, repairs to the sewer lines, completion of the north dock at the yacht basin, new filtration systems for the pool and improvements to the pool bathhouse restrooms.

Assessment: Harbor Master/Tennis Pro Building is old, needs maintenance, parking lot is too small; doesn’t function well, limited overflow parking is available, needs resurfacing, potential driveway conflicts with boat ramp, entry signage is not very visible, access to beach limited, opportunities for park expansion limited by adjacent development.
Neighborhood Parks

The Neighborhood Park is described in the SCORP as a "walk to park". These parks are typically less than 5 acres in size. It is desirable to locate a neighborhood park adjacent to an elementary school because they serve the same population, share compatible land uses and contain recreation facilities that are of mutual benefit according to the SCORP. Facilities located within a neighborhood park are limited and typically include playgrounds, open play areas, picnic areas, and outdoor courts.

- **Four Freedoms Park**: This 3.2-acre park overlooking the Bimini Basin contains 3 equipped playgrounds, 5 small shelters, 18 picnic tables, and 2 benches. Also on site is a community center/pre-school and an amphitheater.

  *Assessment:* Parking limited (portions unpaved), driveways need resurfacing, security lighting only, weedy in spots, some litter, dumpster unscreened, limited access to playground area, playground surface unkempt, stage not wheelchair accessible, stage needs paint and minor concrete repair, dock and seawall experiencing erosion.

- **Camelot Park**: This 6.4-acre park is situated in southwest Cape Coral. It features 1,610 feet of fitness trail, an equipped playground, 2 group shelters, 5 picnic tables and 4 benches.

  *Assessment:* Restroom building needs paint, benches need paint, litter receptacles are unattractive, entry signage poorly located and needs paint.

- **Reflections Park**: This 4.25 acre park, adjacent to City Hall, is a passive area that contains 4 picnic tables and 5 benches.

  *Assessment:* Bollards need repair/paint, pond devoid of aquatic plants as indicated on sign, benches are worn.

- **Giuffrida Park**: This 3.7-acre park contains 6 basketball hoops, 2 equipped playgrounds, 2 group shelters and 9 picnic tables.

  *Assessment:* Parking on grass along park perimeter, weedy, litter strewn, signs exhibit graffiti. Gate needs repair, small ledge exists between parking lot and sidewalk; may limit accessibility. No striping on basketball court, missing piece of playground equipment.

- **Jaycee Park**: This 8 acre park offers 1,240 feet of fitness trail, 2 equipped playgrounds, 2 group shelters, 25 picnic tables and 8 benches. A shoreline protection program was completed within the past year at the park.

  *Assessment:* Paint on picnic shelters is chipping, picnic tables need to be refinished, portion of parking lot being uplifted by tree roots, playground surface needs added sand and mulch. Park landscaping minimal with exception of Australian Pines along riverbank.
Saratoga Lake Park: This 5 acre park contains 6 basketball hoops, 1 volleyball court, 3 lawnbowling (bocci) courts, 8 horseshoe courts, 1,830 feet of fitness trail, 1 equipped playground, 1 group shelter, 20 picnic tables, and 2 benches. Restrooms were constructed at the park in the past year.

Assessment: Dumpster unscreened, no visible entry signage.

Veterans Park: This 4.2 acre park contains 2 basketball hoops, 4 shuffleboard courts, 4 lawnbowling (bocci) courts, 2 equipped playgrounds, 1 group shelter, 7 picnic tables and 2 benches. Recently, a paved path was constructed to provide handicapped accessibility from the parking lot to the park.

Assessment: No doors on restroom stalls/accessibility issues, traffic in parking lot poses conflict with basketball play, driveways need resurfacing, bocci courts need restriping and to be releveled.

Athletic Specialty Parks

Athletic specialty parks may be characterized as having a predominant focus on “gridiron” and “diamond” sports fields for athletic play. Park sites generally range in size from 10 to 20 acres and are intended primarily for local use. These parks may have the ability to also serve as a neighborhood park depending upon the facilities provided and its functionality.

Northwest Softball Complex: This complex currently supports 5 softball fields with 10 spectator bleachers and 10 dugouts. The 15-acre site also has 2 picnic tables.

Assessment: Parking lot and driveways need resurfacing, section of parking lot fencing missing, dumpster is unscreened.

Pelican Baseball: This 16.2-acre athletic park contains 4 baseball fields with 4 bleachers, 3 picnic tables, and 8 benches.

Assessment: Grounds are very weedy, dumpster unscreened, sport and playground fence supports are broken in several locations and have jagged/sharp edges, entry sign is poorly situated and needs paint, restrooms need accessibility improvements, some wood bleacher benches are loose, press box/concession stand in poor condition and needs improvement or replacement.

Pelican Soccer: This 14.3 athletic park contains 5 soccer fields, 1 equipped playground, 3 picnic tables and 10 benches.

Assessment: Parking lot is very small, substantial overflow around fields, limited circulation, unscreened dumpster, missing water fountain, sign is poorly sited, restroom doorway may have ADA compliance issues, some wood planks are loose in the bleachers.
Storm Football Complex: This complex sits on 10 acres in southwest Cape Coral. The site contains 3 football fields, 1 large shelter, 11 picnic tables, and 5 benches.

Assessment: Parking lot is too small, parking lot and driveways need resurfacing.

Jason Verdow Park: This 5.5-acre park contains 3 baseball fields with 6 bleachers, one equipped playground, a group shelter, 15 picnic tables and 6 benches.

Assessment: Southern parking lot needs resurfacing as well as the driveway, dumpster is unscreened and covers entry sign which needs paint, no handicapped access to elevated bleachers, playground surface unkempt, cell tower on site.

Strausser BMX Sports Complex: This 20 acre park contains a BMX track, 3 softball fields, 2 volleyball courts, a boat ramp, and an equipped playground. It also has a group shelter, 9 picnic tables, and 6 benches.

Assessment: Parking lot and driveways need resurfacing, graffiti spotted on some picnic tables, dumpster not screened, ramps not flush with ground, boat ramp is unsigned and unpaved. Eagle’s nest located near park; may pose limitations to future development.

Burton Memorial Park: This 8.5 acre park is intensively developed with active recreation facilities that include 4 softball fields, 6 basketball hoops, 1 tennis court, and an equipped playground. There are also 9 picnic tables, 8 benches and a group shelter. Recent improvements to Burton Park include the resurfacing of the tennis court and the construction of a new picnic shelter. This park due to its layout, facilities and location also functions as a neighborhood park for the surrounding area.

Assessment: Storage building needs general maintenance, paint, picnic table missing a bench, dumpster unscreened, water fountain needs repair, entry signage needs paint, no nets on basketball hoops or court striping.

Caloosa Park: Caloosa Park is sited adjacent an elementary school property on 15 acres. There are 1 ¾ football fields, 2 multi-purpose fields, and 14 basketball hoops. In addition, there are 2 equipped playgrounds, a group shelter, 9 picnic tables, and 15 benches. This park is located on Lee County School Board property and is maintained by the City.

Assessment: The park is unsigned, baseball fields in unplayable condition, The basketball courts and football field are locked to prevent general entry.
Koza/Saladino Park: This 11-acre park sits in the middle of a highly developed single-family neighborhood. This park contains 4 baseball fields, 2 equipped playgrounds, a group shelter, 4 picnic tables and 10 benches.

Assessment: Storage building under construction, parking lot is too small, grounds are weedy in places, several unscreened dumpsters, entry sign is poorly situated and needs paint.

Coral Oaks Golf Course: This is a City owned and operated 18-hole golf course located in northwest Cape Coral. Over the past year the course has had significant improvements made including resurfacing of the putting greens with a new mix of soil and Tif-eagle grass sprigs, a new computerized irrigation system was installed, two rain shelters were converted into restrooms. In addition, the clubhouse received new aluminum siding, new PVC railing around the building, new carpeting, and equipment was replaced in Knickers Pub.

Assessment: Course and clubhouse appear to be in excellent condition; recent renovations to course and clubhouse evident.

Cultural Specialty Parks

Cultural specialty parks may be characterized as creative and/or performing art centers or places with historic or cultural significance. They are intended to provide local residents with opportunities to develop and appreciate art and learn more about society and culture.

Cultural Park: This park is program oriented with no outdoor recreation facilities. It generally consists of a theater, historical museum, and the Cape Coral Art League building.

Assessment: Attractive entry signage and landscaping, large vacant field on site has potential for future facility development. Parking lot and driveways need resurfacing.

Cape Coral Arts Studio: This park is program oriented with no outdoor recreation facilities. The facility has expanded into the former Parks and Recreation Department’s Administrative Offices that have been relocated to the City Hall. The building has undergone renovations to add several classrooms for the programs offered by the Arts Studio.

Assessment: Landscaping needs upgrading; parking lot needs resurfacing; existing building small but expansion is planned.

Boat Access Specialty Parks

Horton Park: This 5 acre park provides boat access to the Caloosahatchee River with its boat ramp. In addition, the park contains picnic tables and a restroom.

Assessment: Parking lot is too small for park; restrooms need general/ minor maintenance.
Inventory & Assessment

- **Burnt Store Boat Ramp**: This park contains a boat ramp and 100 linear feet of dock. This ramp provides access to Pine Island, Charlotte Harbor, and the Gulf of Mexico through a boat lift. Recent improvements to the park include the construction of restrooms.

  *Assessment:* Parking lot needs resurfacing.

Horton Park and the Burnt Store Boat Ramp are the only two parks within the City's current parks and recreation system that are intended primarily for boating access. Other parks within the City's parks and recreation system provide boating access but are not primarily intended to serve as boat access parks. These parks include: Yacht Club Community Park, Strausser BMX Sports Complex and Four Mile Cove Ecological Park.

**Environmental Specialty Parks**

- **Rotary Park**: This new park, opened in the summer of 2001, is located in southwest Cape Coral. The park was developed in cooperation with Cape Coral's three Rotary Clubs. The park contains an environmental education center, observation tower, trails and picnic areas.

  *Assessment:* New park; no maintenance or functional concerns at this time.

**Other Specialty Parks**

These parks do not fit into any one category and provide a specific function.

- **Seahawk Park**: This specialty park located on 14.3 acres in north Cape Coral provides a facility for the Seahawk Remote Control Airplane Club. The park consists of a paved runway for the model planes, shelters, and benches.

  *Assessment:* Parking area unpaved; no signage for park; no landscaping.

- **Arboricultural Park Nursery**: This facility is located on 5.1 acres in southwest Cape Coral. The facility contains plants that are used throughout the City for landscaping projects. This park is a support facility to the operation of the City's Parks and Recreation Department.

  *Assessment:* This park was not assessed for function or maintenance.
INSERT TABLE 3-1 HERE
INSERT TABLE 3-1 HERE
INSERT TABLE 3-1 HERE
INSERT TABLE 3-1 HERE
3.3 INVENTORY OF RECREATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMMING

Cape Coral provides a wide variety of recreational and social services programming. The following inventory summarizes the current recreational programs and social services provided by the City. Information for this section was obtained from discussions with Parks and Recreation staff, performance measures for the Parks and Recreation Department and informational handouts provided by the City of Cape Coral for the parks and recreation programs and services.

**Yacht Basin**
The City provides wet slip storage for recreational boats up to 55 feet in length at the Godman Yacht Basin. The basin offers 99 wet slips for monthly and transient dockage. In FY1999 and FY2000, 100% of the slips available for rental were rented. Correspondingly, there is a waiting list of over 100 persons desiring to rent a slip at the Yacht Basin. In addition, a privately contracted charter boat service operates from the Yacht Basin.

**Aquatics**
The City's aquatics program is based out of the Yacht Club Community Park pool. The programs include Learn to Swim, Junior Lifeguard Camp, Synchronized Swimming, and open swim time for the public. Nearly 1,100 persons participated in the Learn to Swim program in 2000. The Synchronized Swimming program had 111 participants and held a Synchronized Swimming show for the community. There were 223 scheduled aquatic sessions in 2000. The Lifeguard program and staff earned the Ellis & Associates Platinum Aquatic Safety Award in 2000. This award demonstrates that the lifeguards provide the highest level of protection.

**Four Freedoms Park**
Four Freedoms Park offers a variety of programs for children and adults. Programs include pre-school, gymnastics, tumbling, dance, martial arts, aerobics, tai-boxing, educational seminars and special events and camps. Over 14,000 people have participated in programs offered through Four Freedoms.

**Fine and Cultural Arts**
The fine and cultural arts program is based out of Cultural Park and the Arts Studio. These programs provide a wide diversity of opportunities for all ages and abilities. Opportunities include fine arts/crafts classes, workshops, gallery exhibits and tours as well as theatre. The number of participants in the fine and cultural arts program has increased from 1,088 in FY 1998 to 5,000 in FY 2000. There are several community groups that provide opportunities for fine and cultural arts in cooperation with the City. These groups include: Cape Coral Art League, Cultural Park Theater Company, Inc., Cape Coral Council for Arts and Humanities, SW Florida Craft Guild and the Cape Coral Historical Society.

**Youth Programs**
The City's youth programs provide alternatives for potential latchkey children by offering recreational, social and educational opportunities. Programs include morning and after-school care programs at Cape Elementary School, school break and vacation programs, summer
recreation program, classes, babysitting/child care classes and employment training and opportunities. Nearly 700 youths participated in these programs in FY 2000. In addition, the morning and after-school care programs were not able to accommodate the demand for this service as evidence by the waiting list of children for this service.

**Special Events**
The City provides special events services to enhance the quality of life within the City and to provide visitors to Cape Coral a positive City image. Special events provided by the City include: Holiday Boat-A-Long, Tour de Cape Bike Ride, Sounds of Jazz, Kids Festival, Holiday Tree Lighting, Veteran's Day Parade, Home & Yard Show, football trips and dog obedience classes. The number of special events in the City has risen from 6 in FY 1998 to 17 in FY 2000. Correspondingly, the number of people who have attended these events has risen from 11,000 in FY 1998 to 19,000 in FY 2000.

**Coral Oaks Golf**
The City provides a year-round municipal golf facility that includes an 18-hole golf course, driving range, clubhouse, pro shop and restaurant. Coral Oaks is an enterprise fund operation and is separate from the City's general fund. There has been tremendous growth in the golfing industry during the last decade. This has lead to a sharp increase in the supply of courses nationwide. Coral Oaks has been impacted by this trend as evidenced by the number of rounds of golf played in FY 1995 (56,000) compared to FY 2000 (52,089). Coral Oaks has recently renovated and improved the course, restaurant and clubhouse. These changes should help bolster usage at the course.

**Sun Splash Family Waterpark**
The Sun Splash Family Waterpark is an aquatic center that provides pools, water slides and other water play equipment and facilities. The Waterpark, in addition to its attractions, also provides opportunities for swimming lessons, aquatic exercise classes, water safety training and special events. In FY 2000, 202 youth were enrolled in the Learn-to-Swim, Splash-ca-teer, or Junior Lifeguard programs.

Since first opening for the 1992 operating season, Sun Splash Family Waterpark has hosted 1,591,479 visitors for the period ending September 30, 2001. Total revenues generated by the facility for the same period are $14,670,480. The total number of scheduled operating days per season will generally align with Lee County School Board's Academic Calendar, with additional operating days during March, April, May and September to capture a percentage of tourist dollars. Sun Splash Family Waterpark is not open during the winter months due to the prohibitive costs associated with heating 1 million gallons of moving water.

Average attendance per operating day was 1,166 in FY 1999, 1,158 in FY 2000 and 1,209 in FY 2001. Average revenues per operating day were $10,839 in FY 1999, $11,641 in FY 2000 and $12,666 in FY 2001. Per person expenditures, including the cost of admission, food and beverage purchases, locker rental, parking and other miscellaneous charges were $9.29 in FY 1999, $10.05 in FY 2000 and $10.47 in FY 2001. While an admission price increase was instituted in FY 2000, historical indicators demonstrate a continuing increase in per person
expenditures. This increase is attributed to an expansion of the available goods and services offered at the facility.

**Athletics**
The City provides athletic programs to provide opportunities for all ages of Cape Coral's residents to participate in organized team sports and activities. The City as well as other private sports organizations provide these athletic opportunities. The City provides athletic leagues for softball (men/co-rec/50 plus/church league), basketball (biddy/youth/men), instructional T-ball, co-recreational volleyball, adult soccer and adult flag football. Private athletic organizations in the City include:

- Little League (Baseball/Softball/Senior League)
- Babe Ruth Baseball (Junior and Senior Divisions)
- Pop Warner Junior Football and Cheerleading (2 Leagues)
- Cape Coral Youth Soccer Recreational and Competitive Leagues
- BMX Motorcross

It is estimated that over 10,000 people participate in either a youth or adult athletic league provided by the City or private organization.

In addition, the athletics program hosts several local and national athletic tournaments including the Gene Cusic College Tournament (250 college baseball and softball teams), Roy Hobbs World Series Baseball, ISA Girls World Series and numerous soccer tournaments.

**Social Services**
The City has an extensive and successful social services program whose mission is to "...directly assist with the planning, promotion, and implementation of quality of life services for senior citizens, the frail elderly and the emotionally and/or physically disabled persons of all ages in our community". Social Services is comprised of several sections including Special Populations, Senior Centers and Transportation.

- **Special Populations**
  Special Populations assists persons with mental and physical disabilities to foster independence, self esteem, individual growth and interpersonal relationships. This is accomplished through programs such as adult day training, supported employment, after-school, evening socials, special events and activities. The number of participants in the Special Populations program has increased from 145 in FY 1998 to 150 in FY 2000. The waiting list to participate in the program has also increased from 52 in FY 1998 to 70 in FY 2000.

- **Senior Centers**
The City provides two Senior Centers (Rotino Center and the Lake Kennedy Center). The mission of the Senior Centers is to provide senior citizens (55 years or older) with social, recreational and educational programs to sustain or improve the quality of life. A wide range of classes, social functions, trips, recreational activities and health education and support services are provided at the Senior Centers.
The Rotino Senior Center, located at the Yacht Club and in operation for 23 years, has shown a consistent increase in membership growing from 828 members in FY 1998 to 850 members in FY 2000. The Lake Kennedy Senior Center is located at Lake Kennedy Park and has been in operation for 10 years. Membership at the Lake Kennedy Senior Center was 683 in FY 2000. Due to the demand for classes and programs at the Senior Centers, the City has estimated that 100 people were unable to participate in their desired class or program due to enrollment limits in FY 2000.

Transportation
The City provides a Mini-Bus program to provide transportation services to senior and handicapped citizens of Cape Coral who are unable to drive and unable to utilize the public transportation system. The Mini-Bus service provides transportation for medical, shopping, social and other needs. The number of requests for Mini-Bus service has increased from 8,252 in FY 1998 to over 9,400 in FY 2000. The Mini-Bus service was unable to serve approximately 100 riders in FY 2000 due to lack of capacity within the available vehicles. Sixty-five (65) additional riders were unable to be served due to a lack of wheelchair accommodations on the vehicles. In 2000, City Council approved the purchase of a wheelchair accessible vehicle to resolve the wheelchair accessibility problem.

Forestry
The City through the Forestry Division provides environmental recreation programs, classes and trips. These programs are based out of Four Mile Cove Ecological Park and Rotary Park. In addition, the Forestry Division performs plan reviews and site inspections of new construction to assure conformance with the City's landscaping requirements.

Park Rangers
The City has 3 park rangers that in coordination with the City Police Department patrol City parks to assure the safety of park visitors and prevent vandalism. In addition, the park rangers coordinate reservations for the picnic pavilions and shelters and gazebo. The success of the park ranger program is evident in the statistics. The number of warnings issued by the Rangers as well as the number of actual acts of vandalism at the City parks has significantly declined since 1998. In FY 1998, the number of warnings issued by Park Rangers was 100. In FY 2000, the number of warnings decreased to 40. Similarly, the number of acts of vandalism in City parks in FY 1998 was 28. The number of acts of vandalism in City parks in FY 2000 was 5. The number of reservations for the City's picnic pavilions and shelters has increased from 280 in FY 2000 to 307 in FY 2001.
3.4 INVENTORY OF OTHER PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

In addition to City parks and recreational facilities, there are other public and private parks and recreational facilities within the City of Cape Coral that serve City residents. These parks and recreational facilities can be separated into two classifications: Other Governmental and Private.

Other Governmental

Other governmental parks and recreational facilities are those provided by Lee County or the Lee County School Board.

Lee County provides two facilities within the City of Cape Coral. The first is Hancock Community Park located on Hancock Bridge Parkway near the eastern City limit. This park provides tennis courts, baseball/softball fields, football field, equipped play area, picnic tables, picnic shelters, concession stand and restrooms. Hancock Community Park is owned, operated and maintained by Lee County. In addition to serving Cape Coral residents, this park serves the unincorporated North Fort Myers community. The second facility is the Cape Coral-Lee County Library located on SW 39th Terrace north of Mohawk Parkway. The library is owned, operated and maintained by Lee County.

There are currently 12 schools operated by the Lee County School Board in the City of Cape Coral. In 1979, the City of Cape Coral and the Lee County School Board entered into an interlocal agreement for the sharing of facilities for parks and recreational purposes. Schools that are currently used for City recreational purposes include:

- Cape Elementary School: Morning and after-school child care.
- Skyline Elementary School: Starland Playground constructed by volunteers for community use. Open until dark on non-school days. Closed on school days while school is in session.
- Caloosa Elementary/Middle School: Caloosa Football Complex located on School Board property but maintained and operated by the City.
- Gulf Middle School: Gymnasium used for City athletic leagues.

Table 3-2 identifies the schools located in Cape Coral and inventories the recreational facilities at each school.

Private Recreation

There are several private recreational providers within Cape Coral. A brief summary of the private recreational opportunities follows.

Golf Courses
- Cape Coral Golf Club - 18 hole, par 72 course on Palm Tree Boulevard. Designed by Dick Wilson and is Cape Coral's oldest golf course. The course is open to the public.
Executive Golf Course - 9 hole, par 30 course near Nicholas Parkway. Open to the public.
Palmetto Pines Country Club - 18 hole, par 72 course between Skyline and Chiquita Boulevards. Private club closed to the public.

Bowling
- Coral Lanes - Santa Barbara Boulevard
- Friendship Lanes - Del Prado Boulevard

Health Clubs/Gymnasiaum
- Body and Soul Fitness and Skin - Cape Coral Parkway
- Cape Coral Hospital Health & Fitness - Del Prado Boulevard & Cape Coral Parkway
- Cross Trainers Aerobic and Fitness - Del Prado Boulevard
- Curves for Women - Del Prado Boulevard
- Fitness 2000 - Cape Coral Parkway
- Gold's Gym - Cape Coral Parkway
- Gymnastic World West - SE 14th Place
- MH Sports and Health Care - SE 47th Terrace

Martial Arts
- A Street Defense Systems Institute - Viscaya Parkway
- American Kenpo Karate - Del Prado Boulevard
- Cape Coral Karate Academy - Del Prado Boulevard
- Cape Coral Isshin-Ryu Karate Academy - Skyline Boulevard
- Cape Coral Traditional Tae Kwan Do - Del Prado Boulevard
- Fort Myers School of Aikido - SW 48th Terrace
- Kobayashi Dojo - Vincennes Boulevard
- Universal Martial Arts - Orchid Boulevard
- World Martial Arts - Del Prado Boulevard

Dance
- GJ's Dance Factory - Del Prado Boulevard
- Lisa Lynn Dance World - SE 15th Avenue
- Robin Dawn Academy of Arts - SE 16th Place

Amusement Parks/Miniature Golf/Go-Carts/Etc.
- Mike Greenwell's Bat-A-Ball Family Fun Park - Pine Island Road