OVERVIEW - GUIDELINES & NEEDS

Parks and recreation guidelines serve as a measurement tool to evaluate how well a community is meeting its desired level of service. Guidelines evolved from analysis performed in the technical background studies of this report, community input, guidance from City staff and the Steering Committee, as well as comparisons to generally accepted state and national standards. Formulating the parks and recreation guidelines involved, to a great extent, reasoned judgement weighing needs and desires with practical implementation considerations such as current and projected funding, land availability and other factors.

4.1 NATIONAL AND STATE PARTICIPATION RATES

Planners of parks and recreation facilities must be cognizant of activities that generate the greatest number of participants and are increasing in popularity. State and national trends were reviewed using survey data compiled by the National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA). The NSGA conducts national surveys that measure activities by participation and percent change from the previous survey. The definition of participation includes those persons seven years and older who have participated in the activity more than once during the year of the survey.

Table 4-1 shows the results of the NSGA survey according to frequency of participation by those seven years of age and older in 1999. Of the sports ranked in the top ten nationally, the City provides facilities for all but bowling and billiards/pool. However, these needs are currently being met by the private sector.

Table 4-1 also shows those sports that have seen the greatest gains in popularity between 1994 and 1999. On-road mountain biking topped the list with a participation jump of 68.3 percent during the 5-year period. Paintball, in-line skating and roller hockey are other sports that ranked in the top ten fastest growing sports. It is important to highlight that although these sports have seen the greatest increases, the overall participation rate is still relatively low.
### TABLE 4-1
**NATIONAL PARTICIPATION RATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport Ranked by Total Population</th>
<th>Total (In Millions)*</th>
<th>Sport Ranked by Change</th>
<th>Percent Change 1994 vs. 1999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Exercise Walking</td>
<td>80.8</td>
<td>1. Mountain Biking (on road)</td>
<td>68.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Swimming</td>
<td>57.9</td>
<td>2. Snowboarding</td>
<td>57.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Camping (Vacation/Overnight)</td>
<td>50.1</td>
<td>3. Backpack/Wilderness Camp</td>
<td>56.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Exercising with Equipment</td>
<td>45.2</td>
<td>4. Calisthenics</td>
<td>47.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Fishing</td>
<td>46.7</td>
<td>5. Skateboarding</td>
<td>42.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Bicycle Riding</td>
<td>42.4</td>
<td>6. Paintball Games</td>
<td>38.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Bowling</td>
<td>41.6</td>
<td>7. Roller Skating (In-line)</td>
<td>23.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Billiards/Pool</td>
<td>32.1</td>
<td>8. Mountain Biking (off road)</td>
<td>19.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Basketball</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>9. Camping (Vacation/Overnight)</td>
<td>16.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Golf</td>
<td>27.0</td>
<td>10. Hockey (Roller)</td>
<td>14.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Hiking</td>
<td>28.1</td>
<td>11. Exercise Walking</td>
<td>14.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Boating, Motor/Power</td>
<td>24.4</td>
<td>14. Hiking</td>
<td>11.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Running/Jogging</td>
<td>22.4</td>
<td>15. Golf</td>
<td>9.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Dart Throwing</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>16. Running/Jogging</td>
<td>8.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Hunting with Firearms</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>17. Baseball</td>
<td>8.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Baseball</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>18. Snorkeling</td>
<td>7.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Mountain Biking (on road)</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>20. Soccer</td>
<td>5.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Softball</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>21. Scuba Diving (Open Water)</td>
<td>5.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Soccer</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>22. Basketball</td>
<td>5.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Target Shooting</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>23. Table Tennis</td>
<td>4.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Calisthenics</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>24. Exercising with Equipment</td>
<td>3.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Volleyball</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>25. Fishing</td>
<td>2.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. Football (Touch)</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>26. Hunting with Firearms</td>
<td>1.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. Tennis</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>27. Hockey (Ice)</td>
<td>-1.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. Football (Tackle)</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>28. Ice/Figure Skating</td>
<td>-1.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. Step Aerobics</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>29. Swimming</td>
<td>-4.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. Table Tennis</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>30. Dart Throwing</td>
<td>-4.60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Participated more than once (in millions) by persons seven (7) years of age and older

Source: National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA)
Florida’s 1994 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

The City of Cape Coral is part of the Southwest Florida (Region 9) planning area that includes Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota counties. The Region encompasses more than 5,986 square miles and lies on Florida's southwest Gulf coast roughly midway between Tampa Bay and the Florida Keys.

According to the SCORP, Southwest Florida’s most popular resource-based outdoor recreational activities in 1992 included saltwater beach activities, saltwater fishing and boating, bicycling and nature study. The most popular user-oriented activities included outdoor pool swimming, golf, tennis and shuffleboard.

4.2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Meaningful public involvement in the parks and recreation master planning process was set as a high priority by the City when launching this project. Obtaining diverse public input is essential for developing a strong plan that responds to the needs and desires of the entire community. Public participation activities and results are summarized below. All input received through the workshops and survey are provided in Appendix B.

Steering Committee

The City Parks and Recreation Department selected and assembled a Steering Committee to guide the development of the Master Plan. Members, representing both the public and private sector, were chosen for their keen insight into important issues affecting the City and the parks and recreation system.

The Steering Committee provided oversight and direction to the master planning process by reviewing and commenting on background data, recommendations and action items presented.

Community Workshops

Three widely publicized community workshops were held in early February 2001 to gain input from the general public. Approximately 200 citizens came out to express their views on the current and desired parks and recreation system.

Workshops were held during the evening at three separate locations (Cape Coral Elementary, Gulf Elementary, and Caloosa Elementary) for convenience. The workshops began with a presentation by Wade-Trim on the planning process and the inventory of existing conditions. Attendees were then divided into groups to run through an issue identification exercise. This was followed with a discussion on needs and wants for future parks and recreation facilities. Results were reported back to the entire group for feedback. The workshops were invaluable in providing information not only at the City level but at the neighborhood level as well.

Public input obtained through the workshops is summarized below by topical area.
Guidelines & Needs

Yacht Club
Participants identified lack of restrooms and parking at the Yacht Club as well as a general concern of overcrowding at the park. The current location of the boat ramp disrupts circulation in the parking lot. It was generally felt that additional land needs to be acquired to accommodate the facility’s heavy usage and to provide room for expansion. With respect to facilities, participants expressed a desire to see more diversity at the Yacht Club. A strong movement for expanded and enhanced (clay) tennis courts came from an organized group of tennis players. Other support was given for enlarging the beach area and providing rowing facilities.

Seahawk Park
A contingent of support came from radio-controlled flyers (R/C Seahawks) of Seahawk Park who would like to see it enlarged to 100 acres to ensure the necessary open space is maintained for safe flying. Adjacent land is currently platted for residential development. It was suggested that the park be expanded to include other open space recreation facilities such as a fairgrounds/events center. R/C Seahawk representatives revealed that the park draws numerous visitors to observe the flying at the park.

Ecological/Nature Parks
Strong sentiment was expressed toward preserving and enhancing the natural areas in Cape Coral while providing for additional eco-tourist and resource-based recreational opportunities. Many felt that Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve is underutilized and needs to be better promoted. Some feel that a large ecological park is needed in the northeast part of the City. In addition, providing increased low-impact access to coastal areas/mangrove preserves for wildlife viewing is needed. It was suggested that land within Tarpon Point be acquired to provide additional public boat access. Other nature oriented facility improvements include developing a linear park along Gator Slough, expanding the bicycle/pedestrian trail system, constructing a multi-use perimeter trail at Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve, better utilization of boat ramps, and building ecologically oriented improvements at the Yacht Club. Wildlife protection and habitat needs focused on manatees and burrowing owls with general support for protecting the diversity of plant and animal life in Cape Coral.

Other Parks
Issues related to other parks surfaced during discussions with citizens. These included, but are not limited to, adding facilities to Camelot Park, developing more boardwalks at Four Mile Cove Ecological Park, adding a hike/bike trail around Bimini Basin and removing exposed rocks in open areas of Jaycee Park.

Special Event and Festival Facilities
The lack of suitable sites for major events was raised as an issue by citizens. A strong desire was expressed for a large special event facility to hold festivals, concerts, shows and other compatible uses.

Tennis
A large number of tennis advocates attended the first workshop at Cape Coral Elementary. They were vocal in their support for more tennis courts, specifically clay tennis courts – noting that they are easier on the joints of older players. Moreover, they see a need for first class
tennis facilities that leagues can use and pointed to the economic benefits associated with such facilities.

**Baseball/Softball**
Athletic league representatives revealed a need for more fields in general, but specifically 6 baseball fields for the Babe Ruth Baseball. Further, covered dugouts are needed at all fields.

**Aquatic**
A need was expressed for an Olympic sized pool and aquatic complex. It was also felt that more support is needed for City aquatic programs.

**Boating and Waterfront**
Citizens expressed a strong need for boat access and parking throughout Cape Coral. Overall, it was largely felt that the City needs more boat ramps and launches for both salt water and fresh water as well as more parks on the waterfront.

**Alternative Recreation**
Several alternative recreation facilities were brought up for consideration. Strong support was expressed for the development of dog parks, possibly in combination with Seahawk Park. Also, constructing a skateboard park was raised as a safe alternative to kids skating in the street and other areas. Other needs included building a radio control model car facility, an ATV park, expanding hunting opportunities, and developing an outdoor gun range.

**General Comments**
It was generally stated that playing fields need to be updated to current sports standards. Moreover, participants felt that gravel paths need to be paved and that handicapped issues need more attention and remedy. Although not typically a function of parks and recreation planning, participants urged that more waterfront-oriented restaurant/retail be developed with associated pedestrian amenities.

**Community Survey Results**
A parks and recreation survey was randomly distributed to 5,000 households in the City of Cape Coral. Households were selected from a list generated by the Lee County Electric Cooperative from their customer database. From this mail-out, 669 surveys (13 percent) were returned. This represents a statistically significant sample (less than 5 percent range of error).

**Survey Respondent Characteristics**

- **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 to the City before 1980. While 36% moved to the City between the years of 1981 and 1989. Those who have lived here 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>
</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

- **Frequency of Use**
  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.

- **Satisfaction**
  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 Sun Splash Family Waterpark. 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

- **Frequency of Use**
  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.

- **Satisfaction**
  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.
Recreation Facilities

- **Frequency of Use**
  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.

- **Satisfaction**
  The top three recreation facilities that the survey respondents are satisfied with are the Piers/Docks, Sun Splash Family 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 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

Parks and Recreation Attitudes

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.

With respect 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.

Survey respondents were asked to rank their preferred funding sources for parks and recreation. 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

Summary of Open-Ended Responses

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. Concerns that were a common element in many of the surveys included that the Yacht...
Guidelines & Needs

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 provided 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 the following 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 Water Parks
  - 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
4.3 DEVELOPMENT OF PARK AND RECREATION STANDARDS

The procedure used to establish park and recreation standards is based on quality of life trends such as increases in available leisure time, increased disposable income, increased mobility and greater levels of equipment sophistication. Level of Service (LOS), as accepted by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) is:

- An expression of minimum acceptable facilities for citizens of every community.
- A guideline to determine land requirements for various kinds of park and recreation facilities.
- A basis for relating recreational needs to spatial analysis within a community-wide system of parks.

Population projections, outdoor recreation participation rates, budget needs and projections along with data about existing facilities must all be placed into some functional relationship before sound recreation planning decisions can be made. The methodology for determining LOS is needs-based and facilities-driven and land-measured according to the NRPA.

The mechanics of developing a park classification system and applying it to determine level of service include the following:

- Park classifications and facility standard categories.
- Size standards for each classification.
- Population Served for each park classification.
- Service Area for each park classification.
- Recreation activities that typically occur in each classification.
- Determine minimum population service requirements for each recreation activity.
- Existing supply and apply accepted standards to individual facilities.
- Expressed demand through interviews, surveys and public workshops.
- Existing LOS for each classification.

Recreation standards are used as a basis for determining the level of service demanded for a selected range of parks and recreation facilities through the Year 2010. As a starting point of reference, existing City standards and recommended State guidelines for providing parks and recreation facilities are examined for adequacy in addressing projected needs.
The recommended standards developed as part of this Parks Master Plan are guidelines for park development. The term level-of-service has a strong connotation in Florida relating to concurrency mandates of Florida’s Growth Management laws and the City’s Comprehensive Plan. To avoid confusion with the current concurrency requirements of the City’s Comprehensive Plan the term “guideline” will be used to identify park and recreation facility standards. The City may desire in the future to amend its Comprehensive Plan to incorporate the parks and recreation guideline standards developed as part of this Parks Master Plan as level-of-service standards in the City’s Comprehensive Plan.

Existing City of Cape Coral Level-of-Service (LOS) Standards

The City of Cape Coral amended its Recreation and Open Space Element in June 1997. The currently adopted LOS standards for recreation facilities are listed in Table 4-2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Unit of Measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basketball Goal</td>
<td>1 goal per 2,500 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMX Course</td>
<td>1 course per 400,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat Ramp</td>
<td>1 ramp per 25,000 residents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bocce Courts</td>
<td>1 court per 30,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamond Field Sports</td>
<td>1 field per 4,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise Course</td>
<td>1 course per 50,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Courses</td>
<td>1 course per 100,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gridiron</td>
<td>1 field per 10,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseshoe Pits</td>
<td>1 court per 12,500 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Tables</td>
<td>1 table per 725 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipped Play Areas</td>
<td>1 area per 6,250 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racquetball Courts</td>
<td>1 court per 10,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Center</td>
<td>1 center per 50,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shuffleboard Courts</td>
<td>1 court per 5,500 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pools</td>
<td>1 pool per 50,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis Courts</td>
<td>1 court per 5,000 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball Courts</td>
<td>1 court per 12,000 persons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Recreation and Open Space Element, City of Cape Coral Comprehensive Plan, as Amended on June 2, 1997

State Guidelines

In 1994, the Office of Park Planning in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection recommended a series of user-based guidelines and siting criteria for parks and recreation facilities as part of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The parameters of these guidelines are summarized below.
Use Guidelines
Use guidelines are assumptions about use conditions for outdoor recreation resources and facilities. They express the amount of outdoor recreation demand that can be provided by a particular unit of supply under stated conditions of use. It is important to note that population guidelines generally make no distinction between the varying requirements of different segments of the population, but they can be tailored to suit most planning purposes. They are simply hypothetical estimates of the amounts of outdoor recreation resources and facilities that are generally required to support a given population. Use guidelines found in the SCORP for user-oriented outdoor recreation activities are presented in Table 4-3.

Site Guidelines
Site guidelines are a set of general criteria for determining the specific types and amounts of park lands necessary to accommodate the needs of local communities. The criteria define the acreage, facility type and service area requirements for various types of community recreation sites and areas. Moreover, they are most commonly used as a means of expressing outdoor recreation needs, calculated based on population guidelines, in terms of spatial and facility requirements.

The outdoor recreation site guidelines shown in Table 4-4, were formulated primarily to provide guidance to local governments for acquisition and development of recreation resources and facilities. The site guidelines were obtained through synthesis of the guidelines established by local government recreation and park departments, the Florida Recreation and Park Association, various recreation publications, and the National Recreation and Park Association.
### TABLE 4-3

**POPULATION GUIDELINES FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES**

**FLORIDA'S 1994 STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>User-Oriented Activity</th>
<th>Resource/Facility</th>
<th>Population Served</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Minimum</strong></td>
<td><strong>Maximum</strong></td>
<td><strong>Median</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>User-Oriented Activity</strong></td>
<td><strong>Resource/Facility</strong></td>
<td><strong>Population Served</strong></td>
<td><strong>Minimum</strong></td>
<td><strong>Maximum</strong></td>
<td><strong>Median</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Golf</strong></td>
<td>9-hole golf course</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18-hole golf course</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>65,200</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tennis</strong></td>
<td>Tennis court</td>
<td>1,067</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Baseball/softball</strong></td>
<td>Baseball/softball field</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Football/soccer</strong></td>
<td>Football/soccer field</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Handball/racquetball</strong></td>
<td>Handball/racquetball court</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Basketball</strong></td>
<td>Basketball court</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Swimming (pool)</strong></td>
<td>Swimming pool(a)</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shuffleboard</strong></td>
<td>Shuffleboard court</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>3,600</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Volleyball</strong></td>
<td>Volleyball court</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physical exercise</strong></td>
<td>Exercise trails</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Play</strong></td>
<td>Equipped play area</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Multipurpose field</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>3,750</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Multipurpose court</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource-Based Outdoor Activity</th>
<th>Resource/Facility</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
<th>Median</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Freshwater/saltwater beach activities</strong></td>
<td>Mile of freshwater or saltwater sandy beach shoreline</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>211,200</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fishing (non-boat): freshwater/saltwater</strong></td>
<td>800 linear feet of pier, catwalk or jetty</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>5,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fishing, power boating, water skiing, sailing, freshwater/saltwater</strong></td>
<td>Boat ramp lane</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>12,500</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Camping (RV/trailer and tent)</strong></td>
<td>Acre of camp area</td>
<td>5,600</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>6,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Picnicking</strong></td>
<td>Picnic area</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Horseback riding</strong></td>
<td>Linear mile of equestrian trail</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bicycle Riding</strong></td>
<td>Linear mile of bicycle trail</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hiking</strong></td>
<td>Linear mile of hiking trail</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>6,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nature Study</strong></td>
<td>Linear mile of nature trail</td>
<td>6,250</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>6,750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a) Based on a standard community pool measuring 81 feet x 60 feet (4,800 square feet).
### TABLE 4-4

**SITE GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNITY OUTDOOR RECREATION RESOURCES AND FACILITIES**

**FLORIDA'S 1994 STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Facility</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Service Area/ Population Served</th>
<th>Area per 1,000 Population</th>
<th>Park Adjoining School*</th>
<th>Separate Park</th>
<th>Typical Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Park</td>
<td>Neighborhood area adjacent to elementary school when feasible</td>
<td>$\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{2}$ miles/up to 5,000</td>
<td>2 acres</td>
<td>Minimum of 2 acres</td>
<td>Minimum of 5 acres</td>
<td>Play apparatus area, recreation buildings, sports fields, paved multi-purpose courts, senior citizens area, open or free play area, landscaping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Park</td>
<td>Designed to serve residents of a group of neighborhoods adjacent to Jr. and Sr. high school when feasible</td>
<td>$\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 miles/up to 25,000</td>
<td>2 acres</td>
<td>Minimum of 5 acres</td>
<td>Minimum of 20 acres</td>
<td>All the facilities found in a neighborhood park plus facilities to service the entire family. Pools, softball/baseball fields, tennis courts, play areas, passive and active recreation areas and recreation building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Park</td>
<td>In a large urban area or its periphery</td>
<td>30-40 minutes driving time/one for each 50,000</td>
<td>5 acres</td>
<td>Minimum of 100 acres, 200 acres or more desirable</td>
<td>Play apparatus area, restrooms, hiking and riding trails, nature center, boating, swimming, picnic areas, and sports fields</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Park</td>
<td>On the periphery of an urban area</td>
<td>30 minutes to 1 hour driving time/over 100,000</td>
<td>20 acres</td>
<td>Minimum of 250 acres upward to several thousand acres</td>
<td>Camping, nature and bridle paths, picnicking, and other facilities not requiring intensive development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat Access with Parking</td>
<td>Within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of coastal beach in an urban area or on its periphery, 1 access per 1/2 mile of shoreline</td>
<td>$\frac{1}{2}$ acre</td>
<td>Minimum of 1 acre</td>
<td>Walkways, parking and restrooms optional</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.4 RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES

The recommended parks and recreation guideline standards for Cape Coral are developed through closely considering the relationships of the various attributes that make up the City and evaluating their impact on parks and recreation service. These attributes include current and projected population settlement patterns, age composition, the spatial distribution, layout and condition of existing City parks and recreation facilities, the location, extent and viability of publicly owned lands, the presence of significant natural resources and wildlife habitats, economic indicators, community aspirations, and the leveraging capacity of the City structure in supporting the parks and recreation function.

Projected New Recreation Facility Needs

Table 4-5 identifies recreation facility needs during the planning period for Cape Coral. The population-based guidelines are largely derived from recommended SCORP standards. However, many of the SCORP standards were adjusted based on specific characteristics of Cape Coral and its population as well as input received through the workshops and surveys. In addition to typical facility guidelines, facility guidelines were developed for alternative recreational facilities such as skateboard courts, model/remote control facilities and dog parks. These alternative facility types received significant support through the survey and workshops. The needs identified by this analysis should be used as a guide for Cape Coral in determining what recreational facilities should be provided in new parks or added to existing parks.

Tennis Courts
The analysis indicates that there is a current deficit of 6 tennis courts with the deficit growing to 12 courts by the year 2010. The need for additional tennis courts was a major point of discussion at the first public workshop at Cape Elementary School. A large contingent of Cape Coral's tennis community attended the workshop and expressed the need for additional tennis courts, both hard surface and clay, in Cape Coral.

The guideline for tennis courts is recommended at 1 court per 10,000 residents. This service standard is consistent with the maximum population level recommended in the SCORP. Moreover, applying this standard reveals a significant deficit in tennis courts that will need to be met by the City by 2010. Upon filling this considerable deficit, the City should consider decreasing the guideline closer with the median SCORP standard to better satisfy the strong support for expanded tennis facilities in the community.

Baseball/Softball Fields
Baseball/softball fields show a current deficit of 2 fields. However, by the year 2010, the deficit is expected to increase to 20 fields. This deficit is inclusive of both youth and senior league fields.

The guideline for baseball/softball fields is recommended at 1 field per 3,500 residents. This is lower than the SCORP’s recommended median population guideline of 1 per 5,000 residents. The deficit of fields is consistent with the need expressed by athletic league representatives whose programs are growing due to the influx of young families to the City.
Soccer Fields
Soccer fields show a current deficit of 5 fields with the deficit growing to 13 fields by the year 2010. Soccer in Cape Coral is an all year activity with a variety of youth and adult recreational and competitive soccer programs and tournaments. This continuous activity places a significant strain on soccer facilities and requires additional fields to accommodate the City’s growing population.

The guideline for soccer fields is recommended at 1 field per 8,000 residents. This is higher than the SCORP’s recommended median of 1 field per 6,000 residents. The recommended guideline generates a significant deficit of soccer fields by 2010. Soccer is a growing and highly popular sport among the youth in Cape Coral. Based on interviews with park staff and athletic league representatives, the recommended guideline will accommodate the future soccer needs.

Football Fields
There is a current 2 field deficit of football fields that is projected to increase to a deficit of 5 fields by the year 2010.

The guideline for football fields is recommended at 1 field per 20,000 residents. This is below the maximum recommended SCORP guideline of 1 per 25,000 residents. Football is a growing activity within the City that not only includes the youth playing football but also the large number of cheerleaders that are part of the program as well. Representatives from the City’s two youth football organizations indicated that there is a need for additional fields to accommodate their growing organizations.

Aquatic Centers
The analysis indicates that there is a current deficit of 1 aquatic center that will increase to a deficit of 2 by the year 2010. The aquatic centers are proposed to be multi-purpose water facilities that not only include a traditional pool but also facilities such as zero-depth pools, slides or other water recreational apparatus.

The guideline for aquatic centers is recommended at 1 aquatic center per 40,000 residents. This is below the maximum SCORP guideline of 1 swimming pool per 50,000 residents. There was strong support from the community to develop an aquatic facility with a variety of amenities rather than just a simple lap pool. This type of aquatic facility may be combined with other recreational uses as part of a larger complex.

Hiking Trails and Bicycle Trails
The public workshops and surveys indicated a strong desire for trails including nature/hiking trails, bicycle trails and sidewalks. The analysis indicates that there is a significant deficit in hiking/nature trails. There is a current 16 mile deficit that is projected to increase to 26 miles by the year 2010. Similarly, there is a significant deficit in bicycle trails as well. A current 4 mile deficit existing that is projected to increase to a deficit of 20 miles by 2010.

The guideline for hiking and bicycle trails is 1 linear mile per 5,000 residents. This is consistent with the median SCORP guideline for bicycle trails. Applying this guideline produces a substantial void that needs to be addressed through the construction of sidewalks, bicycle paths and trails. Increasing the accessibility to parks as well as providing opportunities for
bicycle/pedestrian transportation and recreation ranked as one of the top priorities identified by citizens at the public workshops and in the survey.

**Boat Ramps**
The analysis indicates a current deficit of 7 boat ramps increasing to 13 ramps by the year 2010. Provision of these boat ramps may be accommodated in new parks or in existing parks where there is adequate space for proper launching and parking facilities as well as buffering of adjacent land uses.

The guideline for boat ramp lanes is 1 per 10,000 residents. This guideline is between the median and maximum SCORP guideline. The opportunity to enjoy the water recreational opportunities of Cape Coral is an important component of the City's quality of life. Boat ramps are a key component to the City's recreational system and to the image of the City as a waterfront destination. Developing increased boating access to freshwater and saltwater resources reduces the burden on current boat ramp facilities and enhances the availability of water-oriented recreational activities.

**Beach/Coastal Access**
The need for additional beaches in Cape Coral was expressed by the public within the workshops and surveys. However, based on the fact that Cape Coral's western and southern coastline are generally characterized by coastal marshes and mangrove swamps that are strictly protected and the eastern coastline is highly developed with single-family homes, the provision of new sand beaches is neither practical nor feasible. Consequently, the type of facility identified in the Master Plan is one that emphasizes access to the coast as opposed to strictly a beach. Coastal accesses are areas that are left in its natural state with public access by means of trails and/or boardwalks. These areas maintain the integrity and functionality of the coastal wetlands/marshes as well as providing access for the public to observe the wide variety of wildlife and fish that utilize these coastal habitats. Due to the existing coastal topography and development, Cape Coral currently has a relatively small area of sandy beach, 600 feet at the Yacht Club. However, Cape Coral has a significant amount of coastal areas that are available for public access. Currently, approximately 4 miles of Cape Coral's coastline is available or planned for public access. An additional 9 miles of coastline area is owned by the Sate of Florida but does not currently provide any public access. Compared to the recommended guideline for coastal access of 1 mile per 40,000 residents, 4 miles required by the year 2010, Cape Coral has an adequate supply of coastal access to serve the City through the planning period.

However, the fact that the City has adequate coastal resources available to meet the guideline does not reduce the need for the City to increase its emphasis on better utilization of its waterfront resources throughout the City both coastal and along the inland canal system.

**Alternative Recreational Facilities**
Through the public workshops and surveys there was a strong desire expressed for alternative recreational facilities such as dog parks, skateboard courts and remote control model facilities. The City does currently provide a remote control model facility at Seahawk Park but does not currently provide for the other alternative facilities. Consequently, the need for dog parks and
Guidelines & Needs

skateboard courts are indicated by the analysis. By the year 2010, it is projected that the City will require 2 dog parks and 1 skateboard court.

Shared Recreational Facilities

The City may desire, as demand for recreational facilities continue to increase, to share recreational facilities with different uses in order to accommodate the demand without incurring significant expense for new land acquisition and facility development. An example is with the use of baseball/softball fields to serve as football or soccer fields during lapses in the seasons for the baseball/softball leagues. This sharing arrangement will require significant coordination and cooperation between the athletic leagues but may result in significant savings and efficiencies in the long term.
GUIDELINES & NEEDS

INSERT TABLE 4-5 HERE
Projected New Park Needs

Table 4-6 and Maps 4-1 to 4-5 identify new park needs by type and location for the years 2000, 2005 and 2010 based on the recommended population guideline for each park classification. Existing and future population are factored against the existing supply of parks to determine the general location and extent of new park development required to meet the demand of current residents and future growth.

In order to promote efficient park development and to provide a diversity of recreational opportunities within the proposed parks, the implementation of the identified park needs is contingent upon the combination of park types that are complimentary to each other and limit conflicting uses. Specifically, the parks recommended for development include Regional Parks, Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks and Specialty Parks (i.e. Boat Access and Environmental Parks). The identified need for a District Park based on the guidelines is combined with the development of the Community Park. The development of Neighborhood Parks and Athletic Facilities are combined to provide an economy of scale where appropriate. Recommended park development concentrates on 4 primary park types, Regional, Community Neighborhood and Specialty.

The proposed locations for future park sites are the preferred locations. However, the locations of the proposed parks may be adjusted if a more appropriate location is identified.

Regional Parks (MAP 4-1)
The guideline for Regional Parks is one park per 100,000 residents. Based on the existing supply of 1 Regional Park, Four Mile Cove Ecological Park, there is a need to develop at least one additional Regional Park by 2010. The location for the proposed Regional Park is in northeast Cape Coral along the Del Prado Extension (RP1). The total park size is recommended to be 400+/- acres. Of this 400 acres, 200 acres are currently designated by the City's Comprehensive Plan as a Major Park and owned by the City of Cape Coral with the remaining southern 200 acres recently acquired by Lee County through the Environmental Lands program.

Community Parks (MAP 4-2)
Community Parks are proposed at one park per 50,000 residents. Based on the existing supply of 2 Community Parks there is a need to develop two new Community Parks by the year 2010.

The first new Community Park (CP1) is recommended for development within the southwest area of Cape Coral. The location of CP1 is proposed on 120 acres between Oasis Boulevard and Chiquita Boulevard to the south of the City's Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Facility. The site is currently designated as Community Park/Diamond Sports/Gridiron Sports in the City's Comprehensive Plan. The City currently owns 20 acres of the site.

This Community Park (CP1) will also serve the role as the District Park that is identified in the needs analysis. The guideline for District Parks is one park per 80,000 residents. Based on the existing supply of 1 District Park, Cape Coral Sports Complex, there is a need to develop one additional District Park by 2010. Due to the size and location of the site it is feasible to develop this 120 acre site to serve the needs of both a Community Park as well as a District Park. Important design consideration should be placed on conserving natural features existing
on site to the greatest extent feasible. The intensity of uses should graduate from south to north with the southern portion of the site being the most passive. This will create a natural buffer for neighboring homes along SW 38th Street to the south, SW 21st Street to the east, and Oasis Boulevard to the west.

The second new Community Park is recommended for development in northeast Cape Coral south of Kismet Parkway, between Del Prado Boulevard and Andalusia Boulevard (CP2). This site is approximately 37 acres in size with 11.5 acres currently owned by the City. In addition, the site is identified within the City's Comprehensive Plan as a future Community Park site. The area proposed for development of this Community Park does contain a few existing homesites that will require acquisition and relocation. Other potential sites for this Community Park were researched to attempt to minimize displacement. However, due to the pattern of development and lack of large parcels suitable for park development in northeast Cape Coral, the currently identified Community Park designation within the City's Comprehensive Plan is the least intrusive and most effective location.

**Neighborhood Parks (MAP 4-3)**

Neighborhood Parks are one of the greatest needs within the City's parks system. There are very few true neighborhood parks within the City's park inventory. Based on a guideline of one park per 10,000 residents the City is currently deficient by 5 neighborhood parks with the deficit growing to 10 by 2010. Although the guideline proposed is one park per 10,000, the City should strive to acquire property throughout the City to develop small and passive neighborhood parks throughout neighborhoods. A general goal is that City should provide at least one neighborhood park within each GAC Unit of the City. In addition, as new large-scale residential and mixed-use development occurs, the City must work with the developers to assure that they provide adequate neighborhood park locations to serve their development.

The ten sites proposed for neighborhood parks are distributed generally throughout the southwest, northeast and northwest sectors of the City. The southeast sector has only one area identified for a new neighborhood park and that area is near the northern border of the sector, just south of Hancock Bridge Parkway. The lack of new neighborhood park development in southeast Cape Coral is a result of several factors. First, the southeast sector is the most highly developed with very few areas available for new park development. Secondly, because the southeast sector was the first area developed within the City most of the existing neighborhood parks are located in this area: Jaycee Park, Four Freedoms Park, Veterans Park, Saratoga Lake and Reflections Park.

In addition, several of the proposed Neighborhood Parks are integrated with the development of athletic facilities. Based on a guideline of one athletic specialty park per 12,500 residents there is a need of 5 new athletic specialty parks by 2010. This combination of park activity types provides an economy of scale for development as well as maintenance. In addition, the provision of neighborhood park type amenities such as a playground area, picnic pavilions and tables, walking paths and other relative low impact uses provide an alternative use of the park during athletic events as well as other times when the parks are not used for games. The critical aspect in the combination of these park types is to assure in the design of the park that the sector of the park identified to serve as the neighborhood park use is well defined and distinct from the athletic facilities within the park. This definition of uses is important to provide a true
Guidelines & Needs

Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2010

neighborhood park experience without the sense of being in the middle of a highly active park. The ten areas proposed for new neighborhood park development are as follows:

NP1: City owned parcel west of SE 24th Avenue south of Hancock Bridge Parkway (SE 3rd Street and SE 23rd Avenue). Site is designated in the City's Comprehensive Plan as a future park site. (3 acres)

NP2: City owned parcel east of Del Prado Boulevard between Diplomat Parkway and Pine Island Road (NE 22nd Pace and NE 15th Street). Site is designated in the City's Comprehensive Plan as a future park site. (4 acres)

NP3: Parcel east of Del Prado Boulevard and north of Diplomat Parkway (NE 20th Lane and NE 21st Avenue). Shared site with proposed dual-purpose athletic facility whose primary potential use is for baseball/softball. (24 acres)

NP4: Parcel north of Pine Island Road between Juanita Boulevard and Chiquita Boulevard (NW 4th Place and NW 3rd Street). Shared site with proposed dual-purpose athletic facility whose primary potential use is for football/soccer. (26 acres)

NP5: City owned parcel located north of Ceitus Parkway between Burnt Store Road and El Dorado Boulevard (NW 3rd Street and NW 27th Place). The parcel is designated in the City's Comprehensive Plan as a future park site. The 20-acre parcel to the west of the City owned parcel should be acquired for the development of this park. Shared site with proposed athletic facility whose primary potential use is for football. (26 acres)

NP6: City owned parcel east of Sands Boulevard between Beach Parkway and Cape Coral Parkway (SW 43rd Terrace and SW 26th Court). Site is designated in the City's Comprehensive Plan as a future park site. (17 acres)

NP7: City owned parcel north of Beach Parkway between Agualinda Boulevard and Chiquita Boulevard (SW 42nd Street and SW 18th Avenue). Site is designated in the City's Comprehensive Plan as a future park site. (8 acres)

NP8: City owned parcel east of Surfside Boulevard and north of Oasis Boulevard (SW 28th Terrace and SW 26th Avenue). Site is designated in the City's Comprehensive Plan as a future park site. (9 acres)

NP9: Parcel north of Gleason Parkway between Chiquita Boulevard and Skyline Boulevard (SW 14th Avenue and SW 30th Street). (Acquire 5 acres of 20 acres)

NP10: Parcel south of Trafalgar Parkway and west of Chiquita Boulevard (SW 20th Avenue and SW 22nd Terrace). Shared site with an athletic facility that may accommodate both baseball and soccer facilities. (55 acres)

In addition to the identified new park sites, the City may expand neighborhood park opportunities through coordination with the Lee County School Board. Schools within the City may share school grounds during non-school hours to provide recreational opportunities to the
surrounding neighborhoods. Additional, discussion of this opportunity is provided in Chapters 5 and 6.

**Specialty Parks - Boat Access (MAP 4-4)**

Boat access to Cape Coral's saltwater and freshwater resources is a critical component of the City's parks and recreation system. Using a guideline of 1 boat access park per 16,500 residents results in a deficit of 3 boat access parks in the current year rising to a deficit of 7 boat access parks by the year 2010. Development of these 7 boat access parks by 2010 will accommodate the calculated need of 13 additional boat ramps (at least 2 ramps per boat access park).

Due to site specific limitations, environmental considerations (i.e. manatees) and the detailed analysis required for the location and development of boat ramps, this Master Plan does not identify specific new boat access park locations for the required 7 parks. The one exception is the new park currently planned by the City along Chantry Canal. This planned park along the Chantry Canal will provide boat ramps on City owned parcels located at the southern end of SE 24th Avenue and will provide a boat access point to the Caloosahatchee River. The Chantry Canal boat ramps are currently in the process of planning and development by the City. The location of the remaining 6 parks for boat access should be determined through a specific boat ramp location study that identifies the most appropriate points of access. Specific attention in the development of the boat ramp siting study should be given to providing boat access in southwest Cape Coral as well as identifying appropriate boat access points within the City's freshwater canal system.

**Specialty Parks - Environmental (MAP 4-4)**

Environmental specialty parks provide for a wide diversity of passive recreational opportunities including nature study, animal/bird watching, environmental education and hiking. Currently, the City has one park classified as an environmental park, Rotary Park. Based on a guideline of one environmental park per 50,000 residents there is a need to provide 2 additional environmental based parks over the next 10 years. Proposed locations for environmental parks are as follows:

**EP1:** Parcel located at the western end of Ceitus Parkway along the Spreader Canal. This potential park with its location along the Spreader Canal south of the boat lock provides an opportunity for manatee observation and education. This park may also serve as a future neighborhood park. (10 acres)

**EP2:** Parcels located in extreme northwest Cape Coral. The parcels are located just south of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's CARL holdings and encompass Crystal Lake. This proposed park would provide areas for an environmental education center, picnicking or other activities in conjunction with the State conservation lands to the north. This site may be appropriate for the future development, beyond the year 2010, of the Community Park for northwest Cape Coral. (57 acres)
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INSERT TABLE 4-6 HERE
Guidelines & Needs

City of Cape Coral
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MAP 4-3
Neighborhood Parks
Existing and Proposed
MAP 4-5
All Parks
Existing and Proposed
4.5 EXISTING PARK NEEDS

Based on the analysis of existing parks and recreation facilities in relation to the identified needs and guidelines proposed in the Master Plan, several alterations or improvements to existing facilities are recommended. The following section identifies the major recommended alterations or changes to existing parks and recreation facilities within the City. If a specific park or recreation facility is not identified below then it can be assumed that no major alterations or improvements are recommended, however, a discussion on general parks and recreation needs that apply to all parks within the City's parks and recreation system is contained in Section 4.7.

Burnt Store Boat Ramp
In order to provide additional room for boat trailer parking and to provide open space for the provision of passive uses such as a picnic area, the acquisition of two parcels containing approximately 11 acres to the north of the existing park should be considered.

Caloosa Park
One of the greatest needs identified for this park is the lack of parking for the facility. Along the northern and western edge of the park are vacant residential lots that could be acquired and utilized for additional/overflow parking.

Camelot Park
This park has a significant amount of open space and can be further developed to provide additional amenities such as picnic shelters or relative low impact uses such as an unlit basketball court, tennis court or sand volleyball court. In addition, drainage issues have been identified along the northern portion of the site. These drainage concerns should be reviewed and corrected as appropriate by the City.

Cultural Park
The City should investigate the feasibility of implementing and/or updating the Cultural Park Master Plan. The Cultural Park Master Plan was prepared in May 1994 by Avalon Engineering. The Cultural Park Master Plan includes a site analysis, development objective and program, campus building plan, park features and preliminary cost estimates. The Plan is generally organized around the existing facilities. The Historical Museum, Theater, and Art League buildings are all planned for expansion. According to the Plan, the facilities are linked by a covered concourse with the Historical Museum and Art League Buildings serving as termination points. The existing core parking areas are preserved. Additional paved parking is proposed on the north and south sides of the park. Further, the Plan concentrates building development on the eastern half of the parcel leaving a large contiguous area to utilize as open space for gardens, outdoor art shows and a sculpture park. The phasing of the improvements to Cultural Park identified in the Plan are to be accomplished incrementally over a 20 year period and is estimated to cost a total of $10,784,602 based on 1994 prices. Implementing the improvements identified in the Cultural Park Master Plan received support from the community during this City-wide master planning process. However, fiscal constraints will necessitate a high level of private sector participation and outside grant support for carrying out the improvements.
Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve
Currently, the canoe launch area is not well-defined. The City could provide a dock/boardwalk and better delineate the canoe launch area.

Four Freedoms Park
Improvements recommended for Four Freedoms Park include maintenance issues related to the condition of the dock along the western seawall of the park and significantly improving the landscaping of the park. This park is located within the City's Community Redevelopment Area (CRA). A master planning process is currently underway for the CRA. Four Freedoms can provide a focal point for the CRA through appropriate improvements that enhance the park's relationship to Bimini Basin and the opportunities tied to the waterfront. Future improvements to Four Freedoms should be closely coordinated with the recommendations of the CRA master plan to provide a key component to a successful downtown.

Giuffrida Park
The primary improvement needs for this park are for fence repair along the perimeter of the park and for general maintenance to eliminate signs of vandalism and abuse of the park's facilities and equipment (graffiti, broken playground equipment, etc.).

Horton Park
As with all boat access parks in the City, Horton Park requires additional boat trailer parking areas. Unlike the Burnt Store Boat Ramp, there are no vacant parcels adjacent to Horton Park to assemble for additional parking. Any additional parking will need to be provided within the open space currently provided in the park. The City has recently provided temporary parking within the park's open areas.

Jaycee Park
This park with its riverfront location and large open spaces can serve as a signature park for the City. The park is heavily utilized by the adjacent residential area. Improvements should include paving the roadway along the river, providing additional picnic shelters and/or a gazebo. The landscaping should be upgraded along with improvements to the park's irrigation system. In addition, Jaycee Park should continue to be utilized for holding of special events such as art/craft shows or other exhibitions.

Lake Kennedy Community Park
Lake Kennedy Community Park has great opportunity for future development and improvements. Currently in planning is the development of a Youth Center within the park. A complimentary use to the Youth Center is for the construction of a skate park. Other improvements recommended for Lake Kennedy Park include continuous improvements to the Sun Splash Family Waterpark. New or improved water slides, other water recreational facilities and park expansion should continue to be planned for the Waterpark. The need to improve and provide new facilities and equipment within Sun Splash is critical for its long term success.

In order to accommodate future development within Lake Kennedy Community Park as well as the Sun Splash Family Waterpark, the City should begin acquisition of parcels located to the west of Lake Kennedy Community Park that are designated as parks and recreation within the
City's Comprehensive Plan. The area encompasses approximately 11 acres within 42 parcels. The City currently owns 5 of these parcels, nearly 1.5 acres.

**Pelican Baseball Complex**
The primary improvement required of the Baseball Complex is the replacement of the press box/concession stand/restroom building. The current building is in extremely poor condition. Other improvements for the Complex include repairing broken/unsafe sections of fence around the baseball fields. Improvements to this facility should be completed with the cooperation and assistance of the athletic organization(s) using the complex.

**Pelican Soccer Complex**
The primary need for the Pelican Soccer Complex is the replacement of the concession/restroom/office building. Improvements to this facility should be completed with the cooperation and assistance of the athletic organization(s) using the complex.

**Rotary Park**
One of the recreational amenities frequently requested through the public workshops and surveys was a dog park. Rotary Park provides an excellent opportunity for the development of a dog park.

**Seahawk Park**
The remote control airfield at Seahawk Park (14.3 acres) is widely used by the Seahawks R/C club for flying of their model airplanes. A major concern of this organization is the need to expand the limits of the park to approximately 100 acres to provide a safe flying area as well as opportunities for other recreational activities. This Plan recommends that a festival gathering area be developed on 140 acres of land adjacent to Seahawk Park. This passive space will jointly accommodate the needed fly over area for Seahawk Park users. Additional discussion of the festival area is included in Section 4.7.

**Storm Football Complex**
As with the Caloosa Field, the primary concern at the Storm Football Complex is the lack of parking for the facility. There is the opportunity to assemble lots to the north of SW 26th Street (8 lots, 1.95 acres) and to the west of SW 17th Avenue along the canal (8 lots, 1.83 acres). The development of these lots will provide additional parking for the facility. In addition, the lots located to the west of SW 17th Avenue along the canal can be developed to provide for picnic areas and recreational opportunities along the waterfront. If acquisition of these lots is impractical, parking may be added around the perimeter of the existing park.

**Veteran's Park**
The basketball hoops at Veteran's Park are located within the parking lot. These hoops should be removed from the parking lot and an unlit basketball court should be constructed within the open area of the park.

**Yacht Club Community Park**
The one park with the most comments, issues and concerns is the City's Yacht Club Community Park. It is one of the most visited parks within the City's parks system and has significant demands placed on it by the activities that take place. The Yacht Club is located on
only 13 acres and has the widest diversity of uses of any City park. The situation of the park is best described in terms of "placing 10 pounds in a 5 pound bag". The activities of the park are popular but due to the small park size and the placement and nature of the recreational activities, the function of the park is relatively poor. Consequently, this Master Plan proposes several recommendations for improving the function of the Yacht Club Community Park.

The City should pursue the acquisition of 7 parcels (1.8 acres) to the north of the Yacht Club Community Park along Floridian Court and vacate the Floridian Court right-of-way. The addition of this land to the park will provide an area for boat trailer parking as well as general passive recreational uses such as picnic shelters along the waterfront. Many of the concerns relating to the Yacht Club are tied to its limited size. The expansion of the Yacht Club will allow for additional space to redesign and improve the overall functionality of the park.

Due to the extremely complex issues and concerns relating to potential changes to the Yacht Club, this Master Plan will address the concerns and issues in a relatively broad manner. In order to develop a plan for the Yacht Club that results in a park that is able to adequately handle the demands placed on it as well as being sensitive to the concerns of the surrounding land owners, a master plan should be developed for the Yacht Club that identifies specific improvements and changes to the park that result in a park that operates and functions efficiently and maintains its reputation as one of the City's crown jewels within its park system.

The Yacht Club master plan should address issues that relate specifically to the function of the park such as the boat ramp location, reconfiguration of access through the park and parking areas, appropriateness of uses within the park that are not necessarily water dependent or related and providing an emphasis on the relationship of the park to the Caloosahatchee River.

One recommendation that does not necessarily require additional study is that the entryway to the park should be redesigned to provide a prominent point of entry into the Yacht Club Community Park. The Yacht Club is the crown jewel of the City's parks system, but the entryway does not reflect that sense. As you enter the park from Driftwood Parkway there is no strong landmark or feature that informs you that you are now in the City's character defining park. The construction of an entryway will define the park and assist in promoting its character and importance to the City.

Any recommendations for alterations to the Yacht Club must result in a park design that is efficient and emphasizes the feature that makes the park so unique and popular, the Caloosahatchee River. In order for these changes to take place and be implemented, a specific and detailed park master plan for the Yacht Club must be completed.

4.6 PROGRAMMING NEEDS

General needs for recreational and social services programming for current and future residents are provided below. The identification of these needs was through analysis of comments received from the public during the workshops and surveys as well as input from City staff.
Aquatics Program
The City's aquatics program should be expanded as new parks and aquatic centers are developed in the City to meet the demands of the City's growing population. Youth and adult swimming and life saving classes are valuable in a waterfront community such as Cape Coral with the extensive canals and large number of private swimming pools.

Fine and Cultural Arts
The City should continue to support the City's fine and cultural arts programs. The provision of diverse fine and cultural arts programs is a sign of the quality of life of a community. As the City grows, the City's fine and cultural arts programs need to expand to meet the demands of the community. The building blocks of a strong fine and cultural arts program is in place with the Cape Coral Arts Studio and Cultural Park along with the cooperative efforts between the City and private organizations.

Youth Programs
One of the most frequent responses to the survey conducted through this master planning effort was that the City needs to provide more recreational opportunities for the City's youths. The City's youth program should continue to expand and diversify to meet the changing needs of Cape Coral's youth population. As the City embarks on a program of park and recreation expansion, it is critical that programs are continued to be offered and expanded for the City's youth population. One of the brightest future opportunities is the development of the currently proposed Youth Center. The Youth Center will provided recreational, cultural and educational opportunities for children and teenagers throughout the City.

Special Events
Similar to youth program, the need for more special events was expressed through the workshops and surveys. The City should continue to provide those events that it currently holds and should look to add additional events. In order for the City to be able to expand its ability to host special events, it is imperative that an area be identified and developed for large scale events.

Athletics
The City's growing youth population will continue to place significant demands on the City's athletic programs. As new parks and athletic facilities are developed, the City's athletic program will grow as well. One critical component of assuring the efficient provision of athletic programs by the City as well as other private organizations is through a coordinating organization of all athletic leagues within the City. This organization can help the City in balancing the needs and demands of each of the different athletic organization in a cooperative manner.

Social Services
The City's social services programs should continue to be supported and promoted by the City. The positive impact of these programs on the citizens of Cape Coral is immense and is a major component of the City's high quality of life for all of its citizens.
Forestry
With the development of the Regional/Major Park in northeast Cape Coral and the potential development of public access to the State owned conservation lands in extreme northwest Cape Coral will provide the City an excellent opportunity to look at the expansion of the eco-tourism type programs that are currently provided by the Forestry Division.

Park Rangers
The Park Ranger program is having a positive impact on the safety within the City's parks. As the number of parks in the City increases over time the need for additional Park Rangers is evident. Based on the current provision of approximately one Park Ranger per 10 parks, and assuming all parks recommended by this Master Plan are developed, by the year 2010 the City should increase the number of Park Rangers by 3 to a total of 6.

4.7 GENERAL PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS

The following section provides a discussion of parks and recreation needs that are not necessarily specific to any particular park but are applicable in general to the City's parks and recreation system as a whole.

Park Character/Identity
Cape Coral's parks and recreation system lack a sense of cohesiveness and identity. One of the primary factors is the lack consistent signage throughout the park system. There are several different types of park identification signs at existing parks. This lack of consistency in signage is symptomatic of the lack of character identity for the system. The City should develop a uniform signage program for the parks system that reflects the identity of the community.

Landscaping and aesthetics were issues that were consistently raised at the public workshops and in the survey. Many of the City's parks lack landscaping that helps to define as well as beautify the park facility. The City's flagship parks or those that truly define the City and its community should have priority in the upgrading and improvement of its landscaping. These flagship parks include the Yacht Club Community Park, Jaycee Park, Four Freedoms Park and Lake Kennedy Park. These four parks should have improved and upgraded landscaping as well as entryway features developed to define and reflect the important nature of these parks.

An additional issue that detracts from the City parks' character and identity is the location of dumpsters within the park. This issue may seem slight but it has a great impact on the perception of the park. Many of the dumpsters located in parks throughout the City are not screened from view and are typically out in the open in parking lots or other open areas. The City should place dumpsters within City parks behind appropriate screening, either landscaping or fencing.

Generally, more emphasis needs to be placed on the overall appearance of the City's parks and recreation system. The City's parks are not in poor condition and are maintained well given the resources available as evidenced by the park assessment results in Chapter 3, but the parks lack a certain appeal. As you drive by City parks or even from within many of the parks the overall appearance of the parks lack a sense of identity. Through the implementation of consistent and
coordinated signage, coordinated landscape materials and hardscape items (shelters, benches, etc.) and an emphasis on improving the overall "look" of the parks system the opportunity to develop a strong sense of character for the City's parks system will evolve. When a Cape Coral citizen or visitor to the area enters a City park they need to identify that they are in a Cape Coral park and take back a positive image to their family, friends and neighbors.

**Accessibility Issues**

The passage of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) required that all areas of public service and accommodation are subject to barrier-free requirements, including parks and recreation facilities and programs. The ultimate goal is to provide recreational opportunities that include everyone. Factors that should be considered in the evaluation of accessibility are:

- Can a person with a disability safely and independently get from the arrival place to the activity area?
- Can a person with a disability safely and independently move around the area?

The assessment of each of the City's parks included a cursory review of potential barriers to accessibility. Several potential concerns for accessibility were revealed. Accessibility concerns include:

- Cape Coral Sports Complex: Ramps to concession areas are not flush with ground.
- Four Freedoms Park: Stage is not wheelchair accessible.
- Giuffrida Park: Small ledge between parking lot and sidewalk may limit wheelchair accessibility.
- Veterans Park: Restrooms are small and appear not to be wheelchair accessible.
- Pelican Soccer Complex: Restrooms are small and appear not to be wheelchair accessible.
- Pelican Baseball Complex: Restrooms are small and appear not to be wheelchair accessible.
- Jason Verdow Park: No ramp access to elevated bleachers.
- Strausser/BMX Complex: Ramps are not flush with the ground.

Additionally, many parks have no internal sidewalks and require wheelchair or other physically challenged individuals to cross sandy paths.

The City should conduct a comprehensive ADA accessibility review to determine exact accessibility needs. Prior to this review, the City should strive to resolve minor accessibility issues such as ramps not flush with the ground or other minor concerns.
All parks and recreational facilities recommended in this Master Plan shall be designed, constructed or installed in compliance with the latest adopted U.S. Department of Justice and other applicable standards.

**Parking Issues**

Many of the City's parks have limited parking. The ability to provide additional parking within the park or to expand to adjacent areas is limited due to the relative small size of many of the existing parks and the potential impact on the surrounding residential areas.

An opportunity to address parking concerns is the implementation of metered parking at select parks. The parks that are recommended for the metered parking are the Yacht Club, Horton Park and the Burnt Store Boat Ramp. The meter system should include an option that allows City residents to obtain a pass, either for free or for a small administrative fee that enables them to park without having to utilize the meters.

**Festival Gathering Area**

The need for the development of an area that will serve as a festival gathering area is apparent in Cape Coral. This issue was raised numerous times in the public workshops and in the written survey comments. Currently, the City has no true designated special event or gathering area. Special events are typically held within downtown Cape Coral along Cape Coral Parkway or in City owned parking lots. Jaycee Park has hosted special events as well. Private property in Tarpon Point in southwest Cape Coral was frequently used in the past. However, that area is no longer available for events as plans for development of the property take shape. A second privately held area is the German American Club along Pine Island Road west of Chiquita Boulevard. The German American Club holds its annual Oktoberfest along with other events through the year.

A possible location for a festival area was considered as part of the Master Plan analysis. Not surprisingly, the ability to find a suitable large area for the festival area is complicated by the lack of large parcels. However, there are three prime alternatives that should be considered for the festival area.
Alternative 1
Alternative 1 calls for the assemblage of 479 parcels around Seahawk Park to create a 154 acre multi-purpose festival area. Seahawk Park is located in north central Cape Coral, south of Willmington Parkway, about one-half mile east of Chiquita Boulevard. Of the 479 parcels, only 8 are developed.

Positive Aspects
- Will accommodate existing Seahawk R/C airfield
- Freshwater fishing opportunities
- Provides ample room for festival gathering area/passive recreational uses
- No significant environmental impact

Negative Aspects
- Number of parcels to assemble
- Relatively isolated/remote access

Alternative 2
Alternative 2 requires the assemblage of 461 parcels in northeast Cape Coral, just north of the Regional Park on Del Prado Boulevard. This will provide 135 acres for a festival gathering area and other compatible uses. Only four of the 461 parcels are developed. The remainder is vacant land with no significant environmental features present.

Positive Aspects
- Excellent Access
- Freshwater fishing opportunities
- Adjacent to Regional Park
- No significant environmental impact

Negative Aspects
- Number of parcels to assemble
- Will require the R/C airfield to be relocated

Alternative 3
Alternative 3 is for the location of a festival area along Pine Island Road (SR 78) in central Cape Coral. The Pine Island Road Corridor Master Plan was reviewed to determine if sufficient public space is designated to accommodate a large festival gathering area. The Plan contemplates more intensive uses along the corridor and does not provide for a large expanse of open space that is needed for a festival.
Further, it would likely be cost prohibitive to pursue this option. It is estimated that to assemble 100 acres of land, it would cost approximately $14,157,000 in current dollars.

**Positive Aspects**
- Central/convenient location
- Easy access

**Negative Aspects**
- High land cost
- Difficult assembly of narrow and deep parcels

**Recommended Alternative**
Alternative 1 is viewed as the best alternative for the development of a festival gathering area. This will keep the R/C Seahawk airfield in its current place and provide needed airspace. It also will provide freshwater access for fishing enthusiasts. Implementing this alternative will require a considerable amount of land acquisition (479 parcels) with an estimated cost of $1,707,580. Fortunately, the vast majority of this property is vacant. This area will gain recognition as the northwest part of Cape Coral develops. Wayfinding signage should be developed in conjunction with this project to assist visitors in locating the festival gathering area.

**Recreation Centers**
The development of new Community Parks contains recreation centers as a primary component. The focus of these recreation centers are multigenerational and are intended to provide recreational opportunities for all ages of Cape Coral residents. The mix of different ages and backgrounds is a great opportunity for people to learn and gain knowledge and insight that they may otherwise miss out on if they are limited to using just a senior center or youth center. The recreation center should have programs, classes and events that target portions of the City's population but the overall function of the facility is to serve all residents.

In addition, the ongoing development efforts for the Youth Center in Cape Coral should continue to be supported by the City. The provision of the Youth Center will provide an excellent opportunity for the youth of Cape Coral to participate in activities that will enhance their character and brighten future opportunities for many. As with the existing Senior Centers in Cape Coral and its positive impact on the lives of the City's senior population, the proposed Youth Center will have a far reaching positive impact on the future of Cape Coral and its youth.

Together, the Senior Centers, the proposed Recreation Centers and the proposed Youth Center will provide activities, resources and educational opportunities to all segments of Cape Coral's population and enhance the long term well-being of the City and its citizens.

**Integration of Public Facilities with Parks**
The integration of municipal service buildings and facilities such as police, fire and public works into parks should be explored as a way to maximize the efficient use of the supply of City owned property as well as that property that may be acquired for future park development. Sharing property will also serve to benefit the community by increasing surveillance within the parks. Buildings should be functionally integrated so as not to encroach on designated park
areas or impede access. Moreover, they should be designed in a manner that reinforces and strengthens the civic identity of Cape Coral.

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Access to Parks**
A limiting factor in the ability of Cape Coral residents to easily travel to City parks by means other than an automobile is the lack of a comprehensive network of sidewalks and/or bicycle lanes throughout the City. The City has begun to take steps to improve and expand opportunities for improved mobility by pedestrians and bicyclists; however, this effort should focus on the connection of residential areas of the City to public facilities such as schools and parks. The expansion of the network of sidewalks and bicycle lanes will not only provide an alternative means of mobility throughout the City but will also provide opportunities for recreational activities such as walking, jogging, bicycling and in-line skating.

**Enhance and Promote Waterfront and Water Related Recreational Opportunities**
The water resources and waterfront areas of Cape Coral are a defining characteristic of the City. Emphasis of these waterfront areas and opportunities has traditionally been focused along the banks of the Caloosahatchee River and the canal systems that provide access to the river and ultimately to the Gulf of Mexico. This emphasis needs to be expanded to include waterfront opportunities throughout the City and in existing parks as well as planned new parks that have water features both as part of the City's freshwater and saltwater systems. Parks such as Lake Kennedy Community Park, Strausser/BMX Park, Saratoga Lake Park and Seahawk Park all have access to or are adjacent to freshwater systems. The City should place an emphasis within these parks as well as those that provide access to the saltwater systems to better utilize the water resources for recreational opportunities such as boating, fishing and other passive activities.

Similarly, the public workshops as well as the surveys identified a strong desire by many of the respondents to increase activity along Cape Coral's waterfront areas. The responses were not limited to just recreational concerns and activities but included the development of commercial and entertainment areas along the City's waterfronts.