

A stylized graphic featuring a yellow sun with rays and two large, overlapping leaves, one light green and one light blue, positioned behind the main title text.

Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update

October 15th, 2024



CHARLOTTE COUNTY
FLORIDA

Agenda

- Accomplishments
- Part 1 – The setting
- Part 2 – The future
- Part 3 – System building blocks
- Part 4 – Plan implementation
- Part 5 – Staffing
- Recommendations

Accomplishments

- Completed 1% local sales tax projects
 - Ann&Chuck Dever Regional Park recreation center and splash pad
 - Centennial Park recreation center & pool
 - GC Herring Veterans Memorial Park
 - McGuire Park – phase 1
 - Multi use trails and bike lanes
 - Briggs - Gasparilla to Keystone
 - Port Charlotte Blvd - Edgewater Dr. to US 4
 - Loveland Boulevard - Peachland to Veterans
 - Kings Highway - Veterans Blvd to Sandhill Blvd
 - Placida boat ramp (in permitting)
 - Porth Charlotte Beach sailing center
 - Renovation at Harold, South County Regional & Tringali recreation centers
 - William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park
- Environmental Parks
 - Ongoing implementation of land management plans
- Develop operational plans and procedures
 - Athletics & Aquatic operations plans
 - General security plan
 - Hurricane preparedness plan
 - Maintenance & operations plan
 - Maintenance training manual
 - Preventative maintenance plan
 - Program operations plan
 - Recreational internship program
 - Recycling plan
 - Shelter manager handbook

Accomplishments

- Annual facility maintenance, repairs and renovations
 - Developed and implemented Capital Maintenance Plan
 - Court resurfacing program
 - Playground improvement program
 - Park amenity improvements
 - Paving and parking improvements
 - Sidewalks to parks
 - Bike rack amenities in active use parks
 - Signage – developed signage master plan and wayfinding standards; are deployed these signs (installation of phase 1 is in progress)
- Achieve CAPRA accreditation (2017) and first reaccreditation (2022)
- Community planning
 - Completed park specific master plans for:
 - Bissett Park
 - Lake Betty Park
 - Myakka River Park
 - Expanded and developed new communication tools for Blueways Trail system
 - Signage – developed signage master plan and wayfinding standards; are deployed these signs
- Community support and partnership
 - Continued to facilitate partnerships with:
 - Adult sports leagues, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
 - Youth Sports Council, Department of Health
 - Emergency Management – Mass Care coordination and Shelter operations

Accomplishments



Accomplishments



Part 1 – The Setting

- Demographics of Charlotte County
 - Growth projections
- Trends
 - Park & recreation evolving trends
- Statistically valid surveys
- Park specific master planning

Part 1 – The Setting

Population Forecast								
Charlotte County Population Forecast by Cluster								
	2024	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	9995
Babcock Ranch	7,592	9,267	20,788	32,289	38,371	40,559	41,233	41,513
Burnt Store Road	5,564	6,700	10,084	14,403	19,269	22,822	23,837	36,597
East	18,752	19,191	21,817	23,523	25,102	26,647	27,791	55,940
Mid	104,629	107,256	115,698	122,699	128,535	133,835	138,777	200,662
Punta Gorda	25,200	25,559	27,081	28,664	30,241	31,592	32,694	36,661
West	50,687	51,598	56,411	61,606	66,819	71,854	76,754	121,647
Total	212,424	219,571	251,879	283,184	308,337	327,309	341,086	493,020

Part 1 – The Setting

- **National Trends**

Shift from Team to Individual Activities

Rise in Health, Wellness, and Fitness Program

Increased Demand for Family and Women’s Programs

Decline in Youth Participation in Traditional Team Sports

Facilities Multigenerational Splashpads and Playgrounds

Growth of Low-Impact Sports

Demand for Greenways and Trails

Tech Access in Parks

Interest in Cultural and Eco-Tourism

- **State Trends**

Water-Based Recreation

Invasive Species Management

Senior Citizen Programs

Hurricane Preparedness and Resilient Infrastructure

Part 1 – the setting

- **Emerging trends**

Hiking and Trail Use

Kayaking and Paddleboarding

Camping

Pickleball

Cycling

Birdwatching and Wildlife Viewing

Fishing

- **Decreasing trends**

Traditional Team Sports

Hunting

Golf

Skateboarding

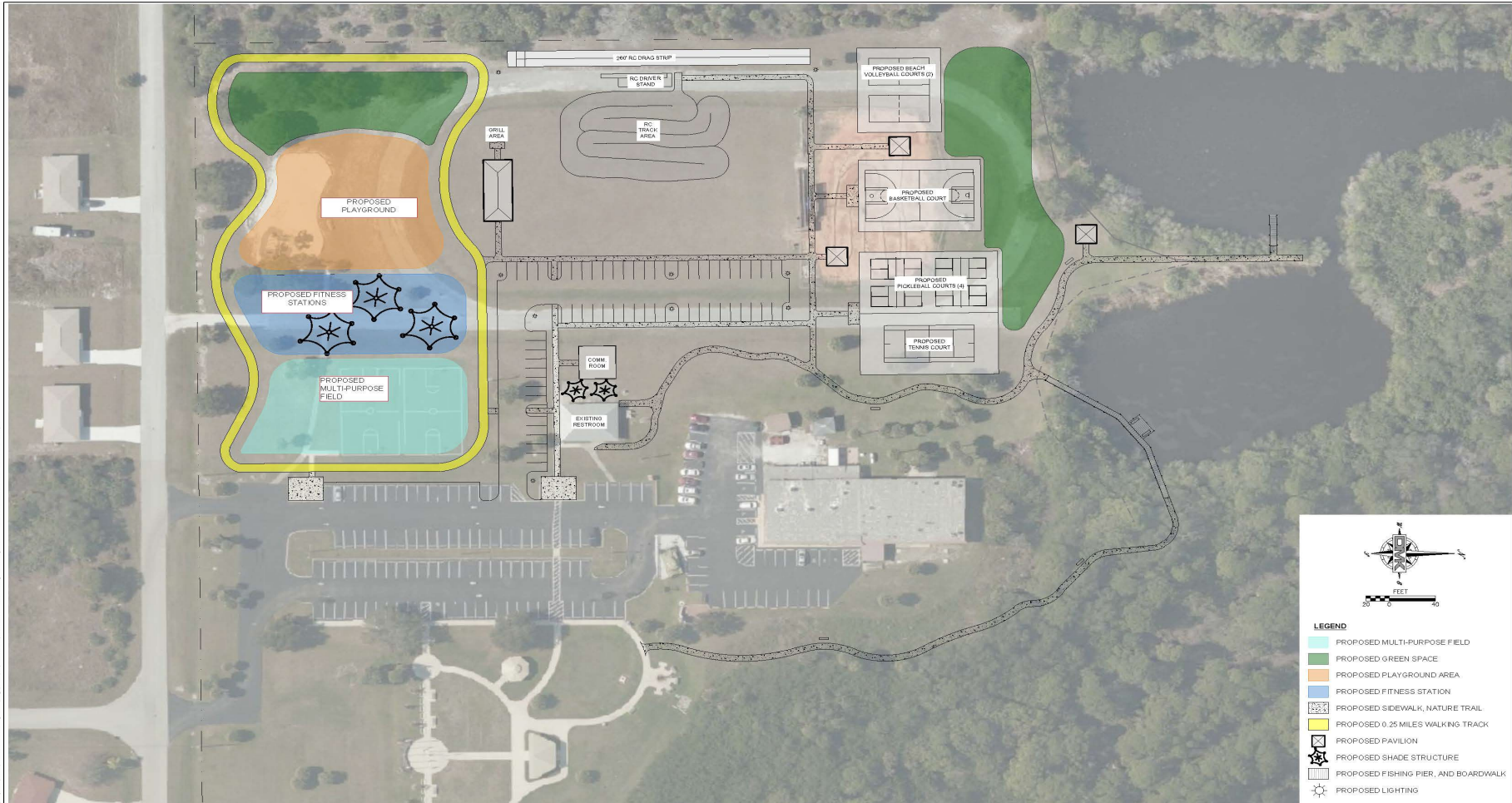
Part 1 – The Setting

Every 2 years, conduct a public outreach statistically valid survey to gather information from residents to determine the overall knowledge, needs, and wants. These trends are used to help the County determine where additional funding, resources, and employees are needed.

- Highest rated benefits wanted from programs and facilities are: fun for all ages, provide a place to relax and enjoy nature, and they are a safe
- Increased interest in nature (walking trails, hiking, birding, gardening, etc) and active sports (sports courts)
- There was an increased demand for new programs, the highest rated program being aquatic recreation.
- High demand for more adult and senior programs
- People prefer to receive communication through emails/e-newsletters and the Charlotte County Parks website.
- Activity level stayed the same for 50% of the people surveyed, however 34% of the respondents stated they had increased their activity levels.



Project Name: G:\Projects\2020\19-0003 GC Herring Park\DWG\Concept\19-0003 GC Herring Park\DWG\Concept\19-0003 GC Herring Park.mxd
 Date: 08/22/19
 User: dmka
 Plot Date: 08/22/19
 Plot Time: 10:28:11 AM



LEGEND

- PROPOSED MULTI-PURPOSE FIELD
- PROPOSED GREEN SPACE
- PROPOSED PLAYGROUND AREA
- PROPOSED FITNESS STATION
- PROPOSED SIDEWALK, NATURE TRAIL
- PROPOSED 0.25 MILES WALKING TRACK
- PROPOSED PAVILION
- PROPOSED SHADE STRUCTURE
- PROPOSED FISHING PIER, AND BOARDWALK
- PROPOSED LIGHTING

DATE	REVISION	BY	



DMK ASSOCIATES
 421 Commercial Court, Suite C Venice, Florida 34292
 Phone: (941) 412-1293, Fax: (941) 412-1043
 Certificate of Authorization No. 3943

DATE: 08/22/19 CKD BY: DATE:
 DRAWN: DMW KEM 07/29/21
 DESIGN: DMW KEM 07/29/21
 SCALE: @ 22"x34" DMK NO.: 19-0003



CHARLOTTE COUNTY
 PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
 7000 FLORIDA STREET
 PUNTA GORDA, FL 33966
 PH: 941-575-3600
 FAX: 941-687-2995

**G.C. HERRING PARK MASTER PLAN
 CONCEPTUAL LAYOUT PLAN**

ENGINEER OF RECORD
 WEND E. MARLEY, P.E.
 STATE OF FLORIDA NO. 4766

Part 2: The Future

Vision: Envisions an unparalleled, attractive, connected, and sustainable parks and recreation system that focuses on regional and community-based opportunities while preserving environmentally sensitive resources and enticing residents and visitors to **“Get Up, Get Out, Get Active.”**

Diversity and Distribution of Inventory and Services

- Meet reactional needs of community
- Be able to adapt to emerging trends
- Achieve a diverse regionally-balanced system

Economic Vitality through Parks

- Help stimulate economic viability of community
- Promote tourism experiences and opportunities in the park system
- Maintain our park system to protect public investment

Service Excellence

- Provide high quality programs and facilities
- Develop highly-effective workforce
- Achieve and maintain agency accreditation

Part 2: The Future

Positive Partnerships

- Help build community through partnerships
- Promote accessibility for entire community
- Community engagement

Sustainable Practices

- Ensure sustainability of natural resources
- Improve community livability
- Financially sustainable system

Health and Wellness

- Emphasize importance of Parks and Recreation to public health and wellness
- Ensure programming is accessible to all members of the community
- Provide programming that focuses on health and wellness

Continuous Improvement

- Ongoing evaluation and enhancement of system
- Maintain adequate resources to operate the system

Part 3: System Building Blocks

Park development standards

- Primary responsibility is to maximize efforts and resources toward providing facilities, services, and programs for use by the community
- Continued focus on regional, community, special purpose parks, regional trails, and environmentally sensitive lands
- Reaffirms standards for size and amenities to be programmed by park classification

Points system to measure amenities and acreage

- Amenities and acreage are assigned a 'point value' to measure diversity throughout the system
- Updated amenity point system to allow for more diversity in amenity options and recreational opportunities

Part 3: System Building Blocks

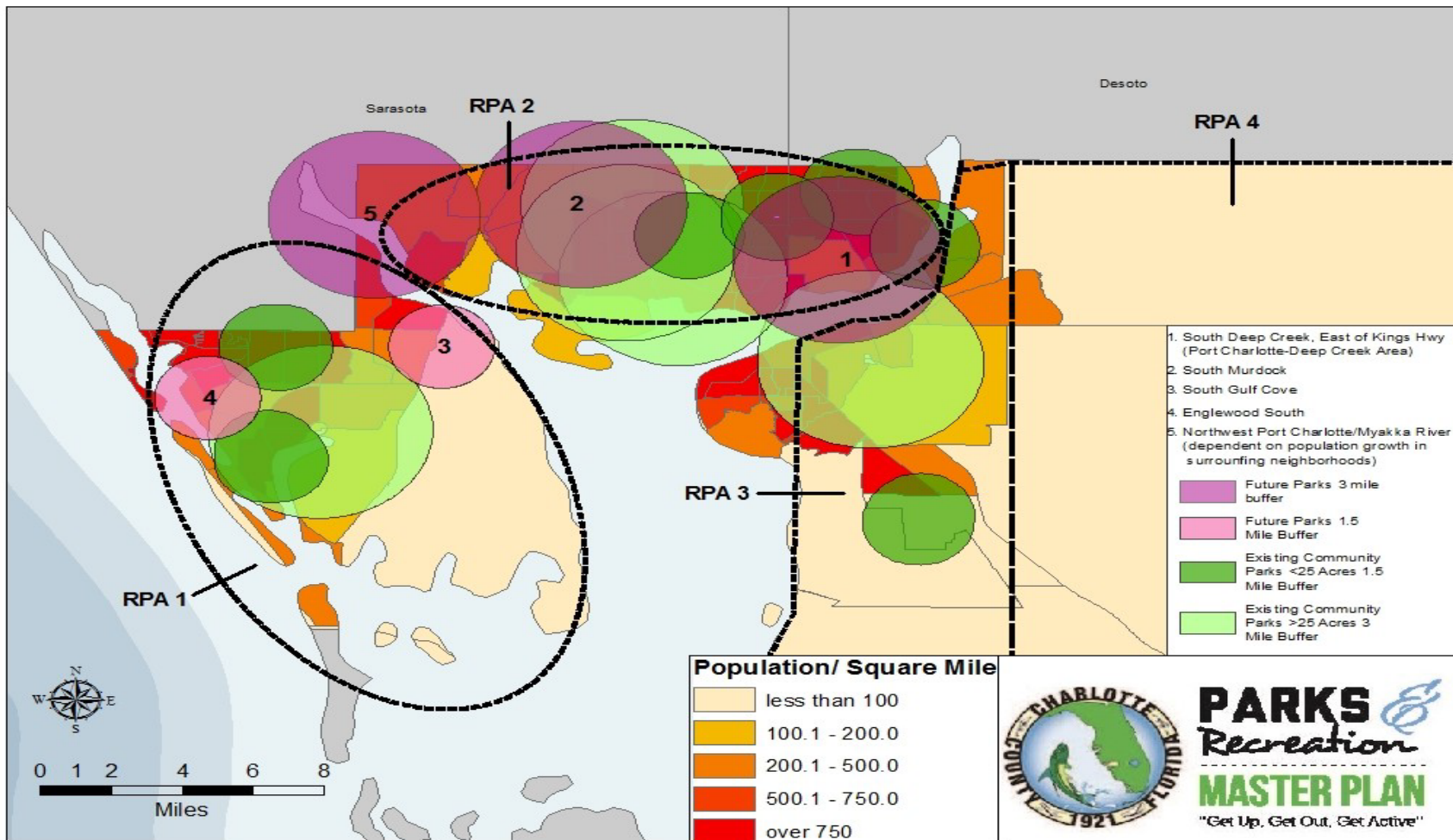
- The old amenity point menu had 28 amenity types that were awarded points
- The new amenity point menu has 58 amenity types that are awarded points.
- The new point menu also gives points to enhancing an amenity that allows for more or different type of use
 - Adding lighting to a sports field extends the amount of time per day the field can be used providing greater access to the community
 - Adding multi-purpose lines to a sport court allows greater use of that court by the community for more than one sport
 - Building a more accessible and inclusive playground increases accessibility and use for that amenity

Part 3: System Building Blocks

In 2017, the Master Plan identified possible future gaps in park system. Those gaps were based upon future population growth and density. The specific areas were:

<u>Park location</u>	<u>Park needed</u>
• East Kings Highway Community Park	2029
• South Murdock Community Park	2031
• Englewood South Community Park	2035
• NW Port Charlotte Community Park	2035
• South Gulf Cove Community Park	2043

Charlotte County Park Opportunities



Part 3: System Building Blocks

This Master Plan update evaluated the growth the County has experience and will continue to experience to refine when and where the County needs to focus our ‘new park’ development. Those gaps were based upon future population growth and density. The specific areas were:

<u>Park location</u>	<u>Park needed</u>
• South Murdock Community Park	2030
• Tuckers Grade Community Park	2030
• Burnt Store Regional Park	2035
• Englewood South/775 Area Community Park	2040
• South Gulf Cove Community Park	2045
• North Placida/South Gulf Cove Community Park	2045
• El Jobean Community Park	2045
• East Kings Highway Community Park	2045
• South Burnt Store Community Park	2045
• NW Port Charlotte Community Park	2050+
• North Burnt Store Zemel Community Park	2050+
• South Shell Creek Bermont Community Park	2050+
• Peace River Shores Community Park	2050+
• Bermont Regional Park	2050+

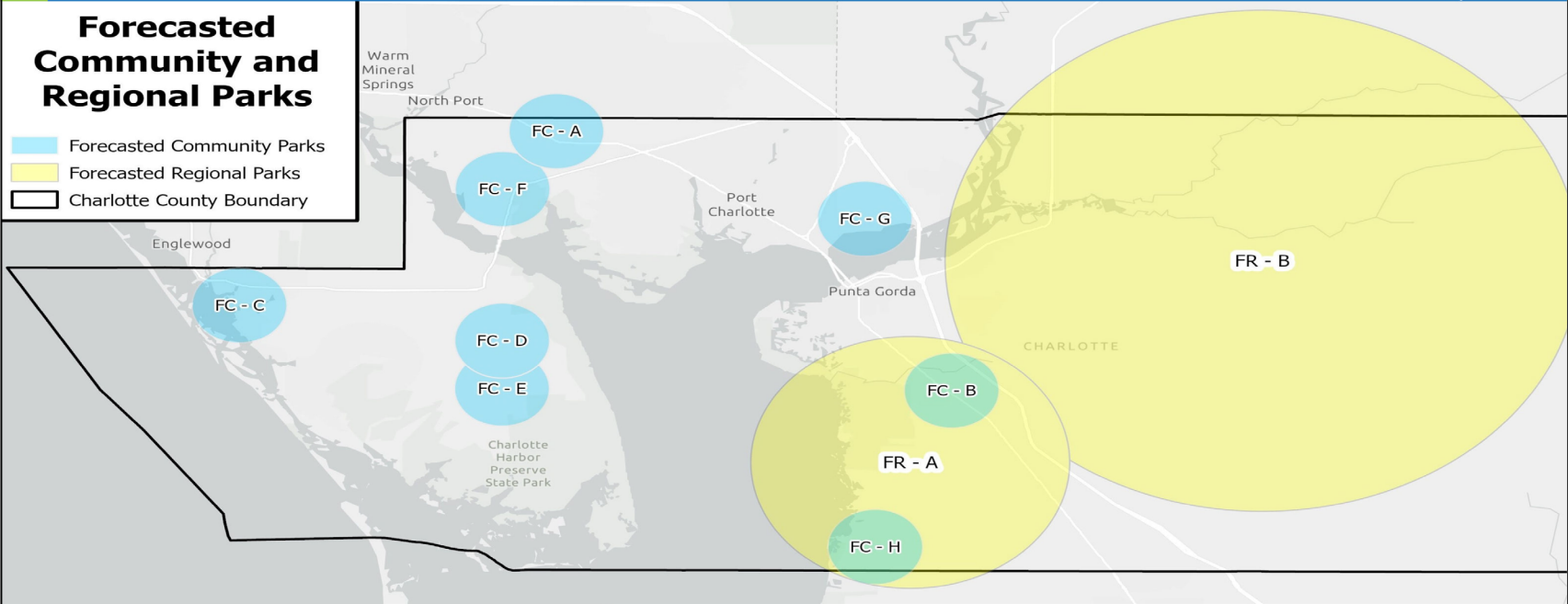
CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Figure 6 - Forecasted Community and Regional Parks



Forecasted Community and Regional Parks

- Forecasted Community Parks
- Forecasted Regional Parks
- Charlotte County Boundary



PARKS & Recreation

MASTER PLAN

"Get Up, Get Out, Get Active"



Stateplane Projection
Datum: NAD83
Units: Feet
Source: Community Services
Metadata available upon request

(Not To Scale)

This map is a representation of compiled public information. It is believed to be an accurate and true depiction for the stated purpose, but Charlotte County and its employees make no guarantee, implied or otherwise, to the accuracy or completeness. We therefore do not accept any responsibility as to its use. This is not a survey or is to be used for design. Reflected Dimensions are for informational purposes only and may have been rounded to the nearest tenth. For precise dimensions, please refer to recorded plats and related documents.

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Part 4: Plan Implementation

- Alternative funding options
 - 1% Local Sales Tax program, Impact fees, User fees, Cost savings & recovery, Grants
- Capital Maintenance Program
 - Boat ramp, seawalls & shorelines, Building, Court/field resurfacing, Electrical & lighting, Environmental, Park & stormwater, Parks Master Plan, Playgrounds, Pools & splashpads, Equipment, Trails, boardwalks & piers

Part 4: Plan Implementation

- Continuation of ongoing action items
 - Implementation of Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan
 - Continue CMP work programs to ‘take care of what we have’
 - Evaluation of parks for additional amenities to meet ‘points per park’ level of service
 - Maintain CAPRA accreditation
- Implementation goals
 - Phase 2 of 2020 sales tax projects
 - Parkland acquisition for future parks
 - Park & facility development
 - Implementation of Bissett Park, Myakka River Park, Centennial Park, Lake Betty Park master plans
 - Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center parking garage
 - Recreation Center renovations, Park renovations
 - Tringali Community Center and Recreation Center replacement
 - Acquisition and implementation of Placida passive park parcels

Part 5: Staffing

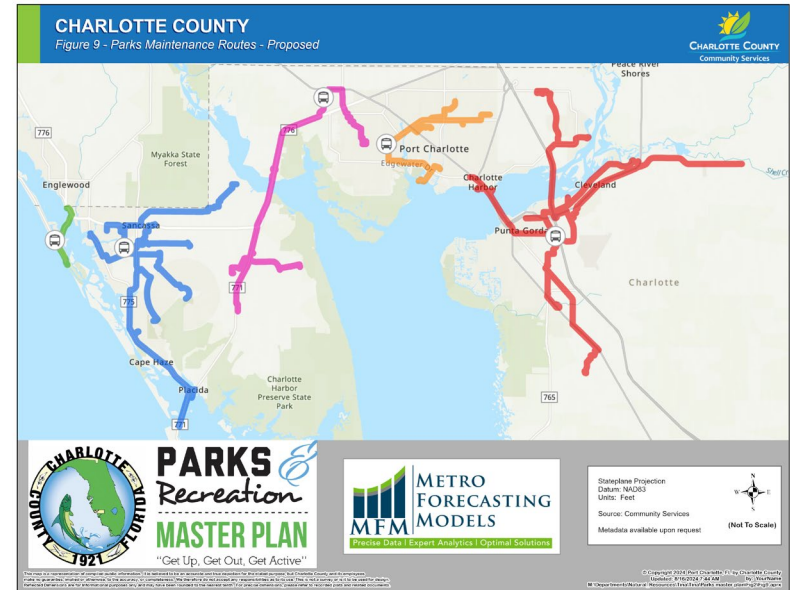
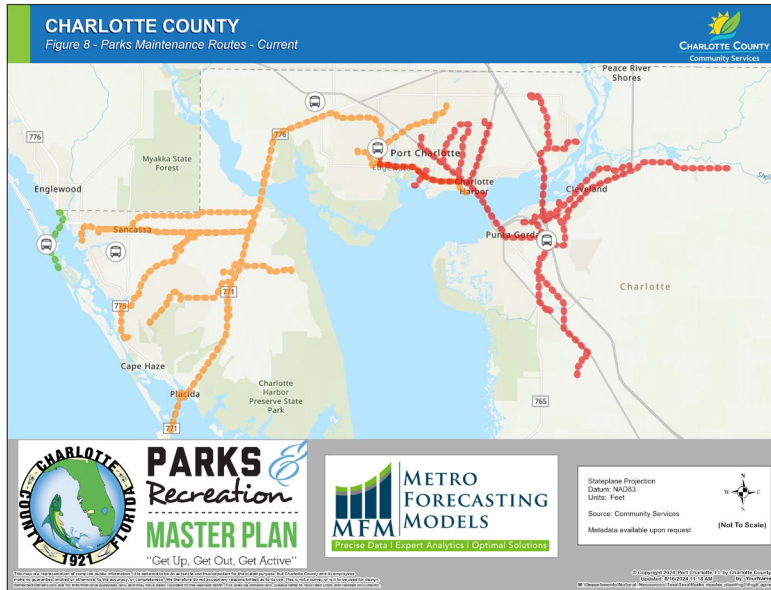
- Parks and Natural Resources Levels of Maintenance & Operations (LOMO)
- The old LOMO system was defined by 11 individual park elements
 - Trimming and pruning, plantings weed control, fertilizing and mulching, pest control, restrooms, common area mowing, site visual inspections, litter control, surfaces, repairs and special features, and turf care.
- Within each of the 11 park element there were six (6) modes of maintenance, creating a complicated matrix that was difficult to manage, track, or determine the LOMO of a park as a whole.
- The old LOMO system has not been updated since the Board approved levels in 2008

Part 5: Staffing

- Parks and Natural Resources Levels of Maintenance & Operations (LOMO)
- The new LOMO system eliminates the park elements and creates park level mode standards for each park group
 - Ballfields
 - Three (3) Modes with standards that range from high level of intensive and frequent maintenance associated with clean and safe field conditions above recreational levels, to moderately low-level maintenance associated with fields that are generally neat and orderly with tolerance to the effects of wear and tear.
 - Environmental
 - Three (3) Modes with standards that range from high level active management, outreach and recreation and a monitoring program that exceeds permitting/grant requirements and informs management actions, to active management improves habitats only where permitted listed species are present, little to no outreach, minimal recreation and a monitoring program that only meets permitting/grant requirements.
 - Parks
 - Five (5) Modes with standards that range from a high level of intensive and daily maintenance associated with high visitation and includes more extensive work that would surpass other service level areas to a minimum maintenance level where parks are visited monthly to perform a visual inspection and keep areas free from safety hazards.

Part 5: Staffing

- New Parks Maintenance routes
 - Data analysis shows increasing the number of maintenance yards from 3 to 5 will allow for staff to maintain parks more efficiently; saving over 440 hours and saving over 18,000 miles of wear and tear on vehicles annually



Part 5: Staffing

- Park and Natural Resources Right-sizing
 - Evaluated each park and maintenance work group to determine staffing needs based on what amenities are in each park and what mode each park is maintained at
- Park and Natural Resources staffing methodology
 - Created a time-based matrix for maintaining different types of amenities
 - Built in the LOMO Modes for each amenity type
 - Updated the amenity inventory for each park
 - Updated the supervisory structure

Part 5: Staffing

- Recreation Levels of Maintenance & Operation
- This would include both Recreation Centers and Aquatic Facilities which are based upon hours of operation at each facility along with staffing minimums
 - Recreation Centers
 - **Level 1** – This would be a decrease in current operating hours of each facility by 16 hours thus eliminating some activities and supporting other programs on a limited basis
 - **Level 2** – This is based upon our current daily operating hours at each facility and provides amenities that support staff-led athletic leagues, various internal program offerings, trainings, facility rentals, quarterly REC2U events, all summer/break camps, minimal division events, and limited Tourism sponsored events.
 - **Level 3** – This will provide an increase of 14 operating hours per week at each facility along with an additional 11 hours per week in event support. In addition to the offering from Level 2, there would be expanded operating hours to increase programming and meeting space availability to the community, three (3) division offered events, extended league operations
 - **Level 4** – This will provide the same operating hours as Level 3 but with a 25 hour per week increase for programs and initiatives to include six (6) division offered events, expanded activities in our park system, and the capacity to host various programs with our community partners

— Aquatic Facilities

- **Level 1** – This would be a decrease in current operating hours of each facility by 16.5 hours thus eliminating some activities and supporting other programs on a limited basis
- **Level 2** – This is based upon our current daily operating hours at each facility and provides amenities that support a variety of programming to include recreational swimming, expanded camp operations, public lap swimming, competitive swimming, Learn-to-Swim, fitness classes, trainings, splash pad operations, and collegiate swim team trainings
- **Level 3** – This will provide an increase of 19.5 operating hours per week at each facility along with an additional 5.5 hours per week to support new programs, events, and rentals. In addition to the offering from Level 2, there would be expanded operating hours to increase programming options to include fitness classes, trainings, and Learn-To-Swim
- **Level 4** – This will provide the same operating hours as Level 3 but with a 25 hour per week increase for programs and events to include water polo and artistic swimming along with the ability to host a variety of community partner events

Part 5: Staffing

- Recreation Right-sizing
 - Recreation Centers
 - Level 3 – With the additional 14 operating hours per week at each facility and the additional 11 hours per week in event support, the following positions will be necessary:
 - Reclass one (1) of the existing FT Recreation Specialist positions *at each facility* to a FT Senior Recreation Specialist (total of 6).
 - Two (2) FT Rec Specialists *at each facility* – total of 12
 - One (1) PT Rec Specialists *at each facility* – total of 6
 - One (1) Seasonal Rec Specialists *at each facility* – total of 6
 - One (1) FT MW at each facility – total of 6
 - Level 4 – With the additional 25 hour per week increase for programs and initiatives, the following positions will be necessary:
 - One (1) FT Program Assistant *at each facility* – total of 6
 - One (1) PT Program Assistant *at each facility* – total of 6
 - One (1) FT MW *at each facility* – total of 6
 - One (1) Data Analysis Coordinator
 - One (1) Special Event Supervisor
 - One (1) Administrative Assistant, Senior

— Aquatics

- Level 2 – In an effort to provide lead coverage in the absence of an Aquatic Coordinator, the following reclass would be necessary:
 - Reclass one (1) of the existing FT Lifeguard positions *at each facility* to a FT Senior Lifeguard (total of 4).
- Level 3 - With the additional 19.5 operating hours per week at each facility and the additional 5.5 hours per week in event support, the following positions will be necessary:
 - One (1) FT Aquatic Coordinator *at each facility* – total of 4
 - One (1) FT Lifeguard *at each facility* – total of 4
 - One (1) FT Maintenance Worker *at each facility* – total of 4
- Level 4 - With the additional 25 hour per week increase for programs, events, and trainings, the following positions will be necessary:
 - One (1) FT Senior Pool Technician

Recommendations

- Recommend adoption of update park classification and standards for park design
- Recommend adoption of park 'level of service' point and acreage based systems
- Recommend adoption of new park priorities
- Recommend adoption of annual facility maintenance plan and new route plans
- Recommend adoption of level of maintenance & operation and staffing plan
- Recommend the approval of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Questions

