



# Indian River County 2030 Comprehensive Plan

## Chapter 10

# Recreation and Open Space Element

Indian River County Community Development Department

Adopted: October 12, 2010

Supplement #14; Adopted August 16, 2016, Ordinance 2016-008

## Table of Contents

	<b>Page</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>BACKGROUND</b>	<b>1</b>
Recreation and Open Space System	2
<b>EXISTING CONDITIONS</b>	<b>7</b>
Recreation	7
Recreation Activities and Programs	26
Bicycle, Trail, and Pedestrian Facilities	29
Open Space	29
<b>ANALYSIS</b>	<b>36</b>
Parks and Recreation	36
Bicycle, Trail, and Pedestrian Facilities	40
Open Space	41
Population Projections	42
Funding and Capital Projects	43
Arts and Cultural Programs	44
<b>GOAL, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES</b>	<b>46</b>
Implementation, Evaluation, and Monitoring	<b>54</b>
Implementation	54
Evaluation & Monitoring Procedures	57
<b>Appendix A: Parks and Facilities in City of Vero Beach</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Appendix B: Parks and Facilities in the City of Sebastian</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Appendix C: Parks and Facilities in the City of Fellsmere</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Appendix D: School Recreation Facilities in Indian River County</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Appendix E: Indian River County Recreation Department, All Programs Evaluation Matrix</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Appendix F: Recreation and Open Space Capital Improvement Schedule</b>	<b>72</b>

**List of Figures**

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
10.1	Indian River County Parks Locations	8
10.2	Beachfront Parks in Indian River County	16
10.3	River and Lake Park Areas of Indian River County	17
10.4	Park Service Areas	45

## **List of Tables**

<u>Table</u>		<u>Page</u>
10.1	Parkland Facility Characteristics and Standards	3
10.2	County Parks by Jurisdictions	8
10.3	Unincorporated County Parks by Type	9
10.4	Recreational Parks in Indian River County	11
10.5	Parks and Facilities in Unincorporated Indian River County	12
10.6	Beach Front Parks and Facilities in Indian River County	20
10.7	River and Lake Park Areas in Indian River County	22
10.8	Recreation Facility Standards	39
10.9	Functional Population Projection for Unincorporated IRC	43
10.10	Recreation and Open Space Element Implementation Matrix	54
10.11	Recreation and Open Space Element Evaluation Matrix	57

## **INTRODUCTION**

In all areas, recreation and open space are important components of the community. In fact, the availability of sites for leisure time pursuits or passive enjoyment assumes more importance as growth occurs and population increases. Besides their functional value, recreation and open space sites perform various other functions. These may include resource protection, development control, aesthetic enhancement, and others.

Through their location, recreation and open space areas can serve to protect valuable natural resources by putting such areas under public control and restricting development. In a similar manner, recreation and open space areas can channel growth by establishing buffers or greenbelts. Most often, however, recreation and open space areas complement urban development by meeting a community's need for active and passive recreation.

In rapidly developing areas such as Indian River County, it is important to program recreation and open space improvements in the planning process. By assessing future demand, adequate sites can be secured in areas of projected need before development restricts land availability. In some cases, site acquisition can also meet other objectives such as habitat preservation, wellfield protection, wastewater effluent reuse, stormwater management, or others. In that way, the Recreation and Open Space Element is related to other components of the Comprehensive Plan.

The Recreation and Open Space Element, itself, consists of two components. While often similar and complementary, recreation and open space must be considered separately. Each produces different benefits and meets different needs. That, however, does not preclude the same site from providing both recreation and open space functions. One major difference between the recreation and open space components of this element, however, is the type of need each serves to meet. While recreation sites and facilities are designed to meet the recreation needs of the county's population, open space is more oriented to meeting the community's quality of life and aesthetic desires.

The purpose of this element is to inventory existing recreation and open space sites and facilities, identify applicable criteria and standards, and assess current and projected needs for recreation and open space. That analysis then provides a basis for developing the county's recreation and open space goals, objectives, and policies.

## **BACKGROUND**

While it is necessary to identify and analyze existing recreation and open space conditions in Indian River County, it is useful to consider the recreation and open space system generally. As with all local governments, Indian River County has a recreation and open space system that is one component of a large, multi-jurisdictional system comprised of sites and facilities acquired and maintained by all levels of government. Looking at the overall system generally serves to put the analysis of existing conditions in Indian River County in perspective. Because existing recreation and open space facilities in Indian River County reflect the policies of the county's decision makers

over time, the review of past policies and actions provides necessary background information for the review and analysis of existing conditions.

## Recreation and Open Space System

As a whole, the recreation and open space system is more than just public facilities provided by a local government. Instead, it is a group of systems, public and private, local and state, large and small, that serve to provide recreation and open space benefits to a community. Because of their differences, it is useful to consider recreation and open space separately.

### Recreation

According to the State's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), Outdoor Recreation in Florida – 2000, and other recreation publications, recreation facilities can be categorized into two major types: resource-based and user-based. Resource-based facilities are those whose location is dependent upon a natural resource such as the ocean, a river, a lake, or other resource. On the other hand, user-based facilities are activity oriented facilities whose location is not dependent upon the existence of natural resources. Unlike resource-based facilities, user-based facilities can usually be located in areas of high demand, as long as sites with sufficient size are available.

Parkland also can be divided into five different categories. Based primarily on the size of the site and the size and range of its service area, parkland can be classified as one of the following: regional parks (urban district parks), community parks, neighborhood parks, specialty parks, and beach parks. Table 10.1 identifies the characteristics and general standards applicable to each type of parkland. Depending on the size of a community and its park development policies, all five park types may be present, or there could be far fewer types of parks.

Table 10.1: Parkland Facility Characteristics and Standards

Park Facility	Location	Service Area	Population Served	Area Per 1,000 Population	Park Adjoining School	Size	Typical Facilities
Regional Park or Urban District Park	In a large urban area or on its periphery	30 minutes to 1 hour driving time 10 miles	Over 100,000	20 Acres		Minimum of 250 acres, upward to several thousand acres	Camping, nature, walking & biking paths, picnicking, and other facilities not requiring intensive development
Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood area adjacent to elementary school when feasible	1/4 - 1/2 mile	Up to 5,000	2 acres	Minimum of 2 acres	Minimum of 5 acres	Play apparatus areas, recreation buildings, sports fields, paved multi-purpose courts, senior citizens area, picnic area, open or free play area, landscaping
Community Park	Designed to serve residents adjacent to Jr. or Sr. high school when feasible	1/2 to 3 miles	Up to 5,000	2 acres	Minimum Of 5 acres	Minimum of 20 acres	All the facilities found in a neighborhood park plus facilities to service the entire family. Pools, softball/baseball fields, tennis courts, play areas, picnic areas, passive and active recreation areas, and recreation buildings
Specialty Park	Near or contiguous to natural resources	30 minutes to 1 hour driving time		1 acre	N/A	1/10 acre	Designed primarily for a specific purpose such as swimming, boating or camping. Locations are contiguous to, or encompass, natural resources.
Beach Park	Contiguous to Ocean	30 minutes to 1 hour driving time		.5 acre	N/A		Designed to provide beach access, parking, and other facilities.

Recreation facilities, however, include more than facilities and parklands owned by a local government. The system also consists of state facilities, school facilities, privately-owned facilities, and facilities of other local governments. The existence and availability of these various types of facilities is unique to each community. With an inventory of those facilities in Indian River County, it is then possible to assess the county's recreation system and to determine present and future needs.

### **Open Space**

Open space can be defined as those areas in the community which are not occupied by buildings, structures, or impervious surfaces. As with recreational facilities, open space can be classified into several categories, depending upon its type and function. Together, those categories of open space comprise the overall open space system in the county and to a great extent determine the character and aesthetics of the county.

Identifying the components of the open space system generally provides the basis for inventorying and classifying open space areas in Indian River County. That is the function of the Existing Conditions Section of this element. This inventory can then be used in conjunction with applicable standards to determine the county's need for open space at present and in the future.

Overall, open space can be divided into three general categories. These are: pastoral open space, utilitarian open space, and corridor open space. Pastoral open space can be defined as natural resource conserving or recreation open space. Resource based parks and conservation areas are considered pastoral open space. As its name implies, utilitarian open space consists of open areas used for a specific purpose. Examples include stormwater management areas, agricultural areas, pastureland, mining areas, aquifer protection areas, and other comparable sites.

Corridor open space is similar to utilitarian open space in that corridor open space also serves another function or use. Usually linear in form, corridor open space consists of those areas used principally as utility or transportation corridors. These can be rights-of-way or easements supporting roadways, pipelines, transmission lines, drainage ditches, or other similar facilities.

Like recreation, the open space system is a combination of government and privately owned sites. Each provides open space benefits to the community. For current privately owned open space sites to be considered as sources of open space for the future, however, preservation commitments must be established for those sites. The Existing Conditions Section identifies and inventories existing open space in Indian River County.

### **Past Policies**

The existing recreation and open space conditions in a community are primarily a result of the specific policies followed and actions taken by the community in the past. Because of the interrelationship of state, national, and private recreation and open space systems with the local system, local policies are not the only determinant of local recreation and open space conditions; however, local actions are the principal reason for the existing characteristics of the local system.

In Indian River County, the recreation and open space policy of the Board of County Commissioners has been consistent over time, evolving to an ever more active role in the area of recreation and open space. These policies are best illustrated by considering the two main components of the local recreation and open space system. These are: site acquisition/facility development and program development. Past policies, however, are probably best reflected by existing conditions, since existing parks, recreation facilities, open spaces, and recreation programs were established, acquired, or developed based upon past local policy decisions.

### **Site Acquisition/Facility Development**

Until the late 1970's, Indian River County did not have an active recreation and open space acquisition and development program. Beginning in the early 1980's, however, the county embarked upon a more ambitious program of acquisition and development of parks.

That program complemented and conserved the county's major natural resources. To that end, the county focused on acquiring beachfront sites, providing beach and river access, and developing a county-owned golf course. That policy resulted in an emphasis on the acquisition of resource-based facilities, while giving a lower priority to providing neighborhood parks and related facilities.

During the first half of the 1980's, the county took two major actions to acquire and develop recreational parks. In 1982, the county issued five million dollars in bonds in order to acquire beachfront property and to match state Save Our Coasts funds for additional beachfront land acquisition. Then, in 1985, the county issued another bond to construct an eighteen hole public golf course on part of an existing park site. Since then, the county has continued to focus on resource-based park development through its Environmental Lands Acquisition Program.

Since 1990, however, the county has focused on the provision of user-based facilities. In so doing, the county developed South County Park, an 80 acre site containing several multi-purpose fields, tennis courts, and a playground. The county also provided user-based facilities through coordination with the cities of Vero Beach, Sebastian, and Fellsmere. For example, the county provided approximately 50% of the cost of developing the Barber Street Complex in Sebastian. Similarly, the county paid for approximately 50% of Fellsmere's parks and recreation improvements. A comparable situation exists at the 16th Street Ballfields. Although located in the City of Vero Beach, the land is owned by the county.

### **Program Development**

Like its acquisition program, Indian River County's current recreation programs and services began in the late seventies. In 1977, the county established North County Recreation, Inc.. Created to provide recreation services to residents of the north county, North County Recreation offered a number of recreation programs and activities at several sites. Also offering recreation programs and services was the Gifford Recreation Program.

At that time, the county financially supported the north county and Gifford recreation programs because neither north county nor Gifford residents had access to municipal recreation programs and services. When North County Recreation was formed, both Sebastian and Fellsmere were small cities without the capacity to serve unincorporated county residents.

As for the south county, Indian River County has followed a much different recreation program policy. Since the City of Vero Beach had maintained an extensive recreation program that also served unincorporated county residents, the need for the county to establish a separate recreation program for the south county area did not exist. Because much of the south county developed as almost an extension of the City of Vero Beach, the extension of City recreation programs to include unincorporated county residents was not only feasible, but also practical. In the past, the Board of County Commissioners made annual contributions to the City of Vero Beach's recreation program in exchange for the city providing recreation services to south county residents.

That, however, is no longer the case. Since the county's Recreation Department now provides recreation programs throughout the county, the county does not make financial contributions to any of the municipalities for recreation programs or facilities.

### **Summary**

In the past, Indian River County's recreation and open space policy was similar for both the acquisition/development of sites and the provision of programs and services. In both areas, the county was not active prior to the late 1970's. Since then, however, the county's recreation policy has expanded and evolved. From a focus on securing available oceanfront park sites before their development, the county has moved to a more balanced recreation and open space policy involving both resource-based and user-based sites and special use facilities in all areas of the county.

## **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

One of the most important parts of the Recreation and Open Space Element is the Existing Conditions Section. Not only does this section contain an inventory of the county's existing recreation and open space sites and facilities; it also classifies them according to type and function. This provides the basis for an analysis and needs assessment of the county's recreation and open space system.

Unlike the background section which examined the county's recreation and open space policies over time, the existing conditions section looks at the system at one point in time. By doing an inventory of the entire system, each component can be identified, and the characteristics of each site and facility can be described. Only through a determination of what facilities exist can a plan be developed to meet the county's present and future needs.

In terms of existing conditions, it is best to consider the recreation and open space components of the system separately. Since each has different characteristics and classifications, each can be more effectively addressed through an individual inventory. As noted in an earlier section, however, there is some overlap in the two systems; that will be addressed in the separate inventories.

## **Recreation**

Generally, the identification of existing recreation conditions should include both an inventory of sites and facilities and a listing of current recreation programs and services. While the former constitute the physical parts of the recreation subsystem, the latter provides an indication of how the facilities are used. Both must be considered in any assessment of the county's recreation system. For planning purposes, however, the sites and facilities assume more importance, since it is those physical attributes which are most affected by growth.

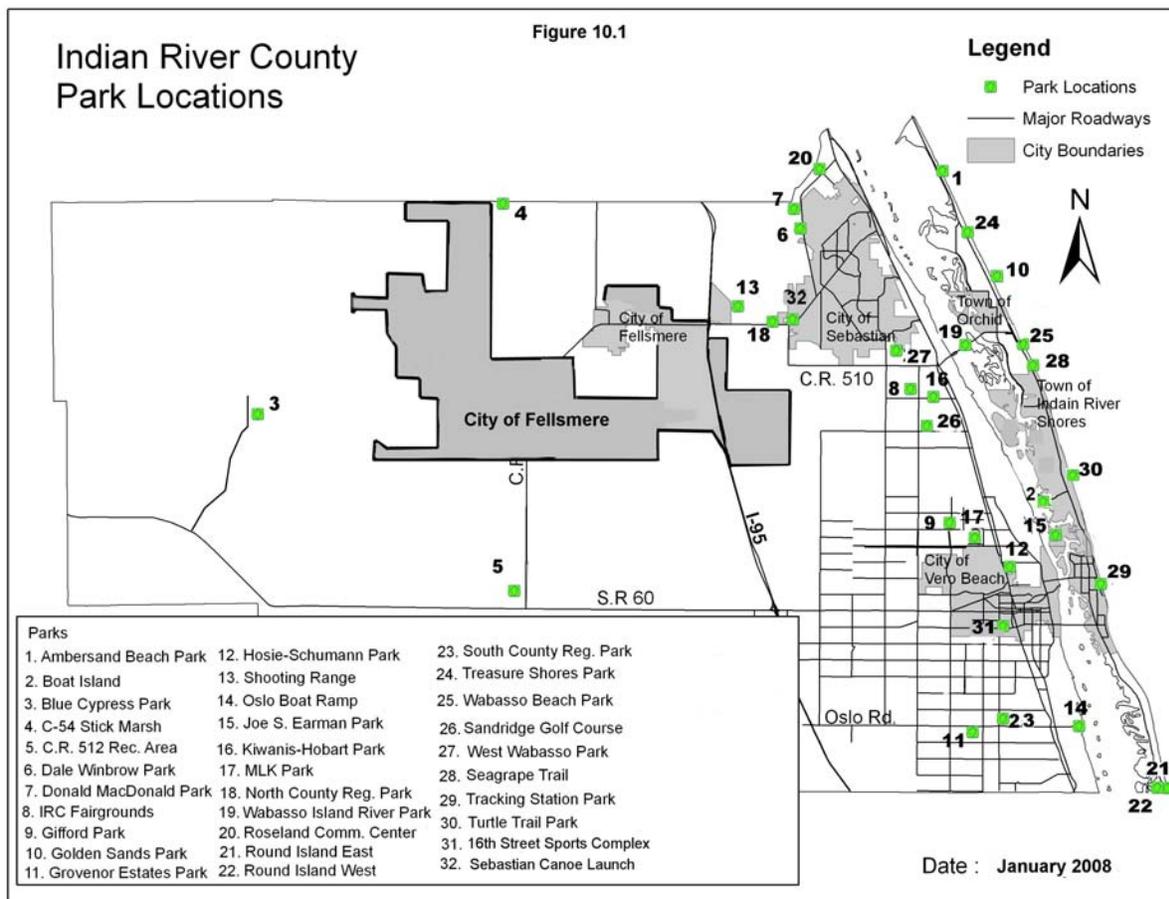
### **Parks and Facilities**

In 2005, there were 70 public parks in the County. Of those parks, 27 were located in the unincorporated County. Each of the 70 parks is owned, operated and maintained by one of six separate governments. The cities of Vero Beach, Sebastian, and Fellsmere have their own municipal parks within their respective city limits, while Indian River County, the State of Florida, and the United States Government each administer other park areas. Following is the list of the county parks by jurisdiction.

Table 10.2  
County Parks by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	# of Parks
Unincorporated County	27
City of Vero Beach	20
City of Sebastian	13
City of Fellsmere	7
State of Florida (Sebastian Inlet State Park)	1
USA (Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge)	1
St. Johns River Water Management District	1
Total	70

Figure 10.1 depicts the location of each of the 27 park sites in the unincorporated county. Also shown are boat ramps, Sandridge Golf Course, and the IRC Shooting Range. Those facilities, however, are not counted as county parks.



Classifying each of those recreational facilities into park types is a difficult, yet necessary, process. While Table 10.1 identifies standards and characteristics by park type, most recreational facilities have characteristics representative of more than one type. While size and service area, as well as facilities, differentiate neighborhood from community parks, some parks may have facilities and service areas indicative of one type but a size characteristic of another park category. This makes classification somewhat judgmental. Currently, any parks that attract countywide residents are classified as regional parks/specialty parks (urban district, beach, lake, or river parks).

Table 10.3  
Unincorporated County Parks by Type

Parks in the Unincorporated County	Number
Neighborhood Parks	7
Community Park	1
Regional or Specialty Parks	19
Total	27

Within the unincorporated areas of the county, Indian River County has 27 parks. Except for Blue Cypress Lake Park, which is located on the western shoreline of Blue Cypress Lake, all county parks are located in the eastern portion of the county.

Of the county's 27 parks, nineteen are classified as regional or specialty parks. These are parks which are designed for a specific purpose such as swimming, boating or camping. Ambersand Beach Park, Blue Cypress Lake Park, and Donald McDonald Park are examples of specialty parks. While Ambersand Beach is used for activities such as swimming and sunbathing, Blue Cypress Lake Park is used by area fishermen and boaters to gain access to the large freshwater lake. Donald McDonald Park is used for camping activities. Other specialty parks owned by the county include Dale Wimbrow Park (picnic and outdoor activities), Round Island Park (swimming and inland water activities), Wabasso Beach Park (ocean swimming, surfing, and fishing), Tracking Station Park (ocean swimming and sunbathing), Joe S. Earman Park (an island park in the Indian River Lagoon), Golden Sands Park (ocean swimming), and Treasure Shores Park (ocean swimming).

The second park classification is Community Park. These parks are designed to serve the needs of residents living in a particular community. Gifford Park is classified as community park. In this capacity, Gifford Park provides residents of Gifford access to recreational facilities.

The third type of classification is neighborhood park. Although smaller than community parks, neighborhood parks provide many of the same facilities, but serve fewer people and have a more limited service area than community parks. Seven of the county's recreational facilities can be categorized as neighborhood parks.

In the past, the county has prepared master plans for two of its regional parks as well as the county fairgrounds. The parks with master plans are the South County Regional Park and the North County Regional Park.

According to the Indian River County Public Works Department, there are 70 parks within the county. Of these parks, 27 are located within the unincorporated county and comprise approximately 1,528 acres. Currently, only 160 acres of parkland are located south of S.R. 60. Of those parks in the unincorporated county, all have been retrofitted to ensure that the facilities are handicapped accessible. Since 1998, all new county park and recreation facilities have been constructed to be handicapped accessible and barrier free with no access constraints.

Table 10.4 lists the recreational parks in Indian River County. As shown, residents of and visitors to Indian River County have seventy recreational parks available for their use.

County Parks	Vero Beach City Parks	Sebastian City Parks	Fellsmere City Parks	Other Parks
1. Ambersand Beach Park	28. Leisure Square Park	48. Main Street Riverfront Park	61. Senior League Park	68. Sebastian Inlet S.R.A.
2. Moores Point Park	29. Jacoby Park	49. Community Center	62. Little League Park	69. Pelican Island N.W.R.
3. Blue Cypress Lake Park	30. Troy Moody Park	50. Easy Street Park	63. Fellsmere Preserve	70. St. Johns River Upper Basin
4. West Wabasso Park	31. Memorial Island/Riverside Park	51. Schumann Drive Park	64. Grant Park	
5. Wabasso Beach Park	32. Pocahontas Park	52. Barber Street Sports Complex	65. Tennis and Handball Court	
6. Dale Wimbrow Park	33. Michael Field	53. Riverview Park	66. Sunrise Villas Park	
7. Donald McDonald Park	34. Bob Summers Field	54. Friendship Park	67. Whispering Pines Park	
8. IRC Fairgrounds	35. McCansh Park	55. Englar Stormwater Park		
9. Gifford Park	36. Charles Park	56. Lake Hardee Park		
10. Golden Sands Park	37. Humiston Beach Park	57. Airport and Golf Course		
11. Governors Estate Park	38. Jaycee Beach Park	58. Blossom Park		
12. Hosie-Schumann Park	39. South Beach Park	59. Schumann Lake Island		
13. Wabasso Causeway Park	40. Royal Palm Point	60. Historical Park		
14. Joe S. Earman Park	41. Young Park			
15. MLK Park	42. Ballfield Complex			
	43. Van Busch Park			

Table 10.4: Recreational Parks in Indian River County				
County Parks	Vero Beach City Parks	Sebastian City Parks	Fellsmere City Parks	Other Parks
16. Kiwanis-Hobart Park				
17. Seagrape Beach Access	44. McWilliams Park			
18. North County Regional Park	45. Conn Beach Park			
19. Turtle Trail Beach Access	46. Boat Basin Park			
20. Roseland Community Center	47. Lake Rose Park			
21. Round Island Park East				
22. Round Island Park West				
23. South County Regional Park				
24. Treasure Shores				
25. Tracking Station Beach Park				
26. 16 <sup>th</sup> Street Sports Complex				
27. Helen Hanson Park				

Source: Indian River County Recreation & Public Works, City of Vero Beach, City of Sebastian, City of Fellsmere





- City of Vero Beach

Currently, the City of Vero Beach has 20 municipal parks. These public parks are classified as specialty parks, community parks, beach parks or neighborhood parks. While the majority of Vero Beach's parks are ten acres or less, Memorial Island Park is comprised of 54 acres and is one of Vero Beach's most developed recreational park areas. Other parks in Vero Beach include neighborhood parks such as Groveland Park, Jacoby Park, and Troy Moody Park; community parks such as Pocahontas Park, Michael Field, Bob Summers Field, and MacWilliams Park; beach parks such as Humiston Park, Jaycee Park, South Beach Park and Conn Beach Park; and specialty parks such as Boat Basin Park, and the 16th Street Ballfield Complex. Appendix A provides a detailed inventory of parks found in the City of Vero Beach.

- City of Sebastian

At present, the City of Sebastian has thirteen municipal parks. Seven are classified as community parks, while four are classified as neighborhood parks. All parks are situated on five acres or less with the exception of the Barber Street Sports Complex and Lake Hardee Park. Riverview Park, Schumann Drive Park and Lake Hardee Park are the most developed park areas owned by Sebastian. Other park areas in Sebastian include the Community Center and the Sebastian Yacht Club. Appendix B provides a detailed inventory of parks found in the City of Sebastian.

- City of Fellsmere

All of the City of Fellsmere's parks are classified as neighborhood or specialty parks, and all are six acres or less in size. While Central Park has a basketball court and playground equipment, City Hall has horseshoe pits and playground equipment, and the City recreation area has a baseball field. Appendix C provides a detailed inventory of parks found in the City of Fellsmere.

- Others

Located partly within Indian River County and partly within Brevard County, the Sebastian Inlet State Recreation area is managed by the State of Florida. The primary feature of the park is the presence of the Sebastian Inlet, the physical feature which forms the dividing line between Brevard County and Indian River County. The park is comprised of approximately 301 acres of beach, dune vegetation, woodlands, and inland waters. With 8,000 lineal feet of shoreline, the Sebastian Inlet State Recreation Area is a popular park for such activities as swimming, surfing, boating, and fishing, and offers facilities such as paved parking, fishing piers, restrooms, showers, a lifeguard tower, and dune crossovers.

Besides the state, the federal government also has park facilities within the county. One such facility is the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge which was established in 1903. This was the first national wildlife refuge established in the United States. Comprising approximately 4,359 acres that

lie east of the Intracoastal Waterway in the north part of the county, the refuge was founded to protect the rookeries and nesting areas of the brown pelican and other coastal bird species. There is a restroom facility and an observation tower at this park.

Finally, there is the St. Johns Marsh. Acquired by the St. Johns River Water Management District for water management functions, the 155,000 acre Upper St. Johns River Basin Project includes land in both Indian River and Brevard counties. While primarily a conservation area, the St. Johns Marsh provides various recreation benefits. These include fishing, hunting, airboating, and others.

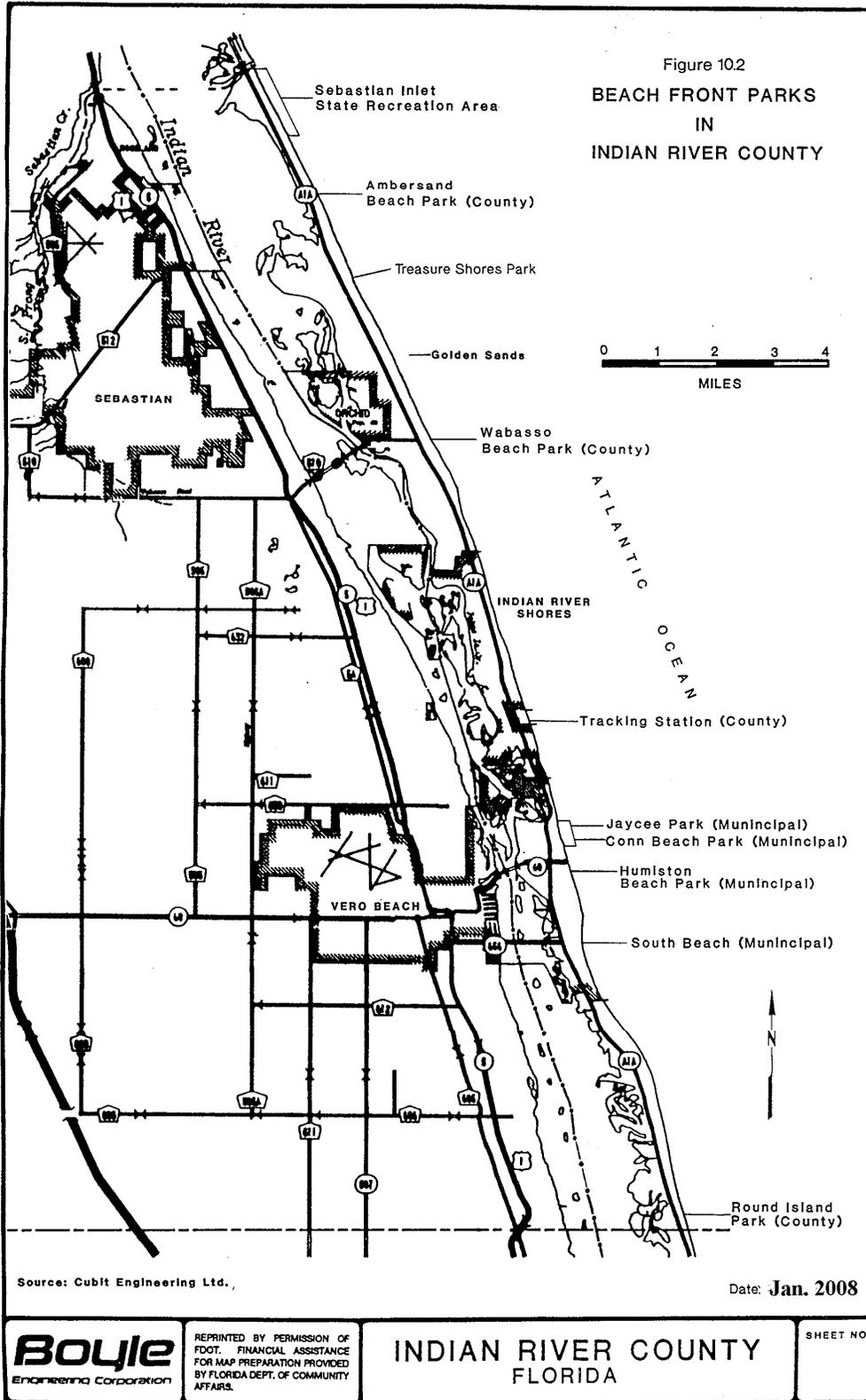
### **Beach, River, or Lake Parks**

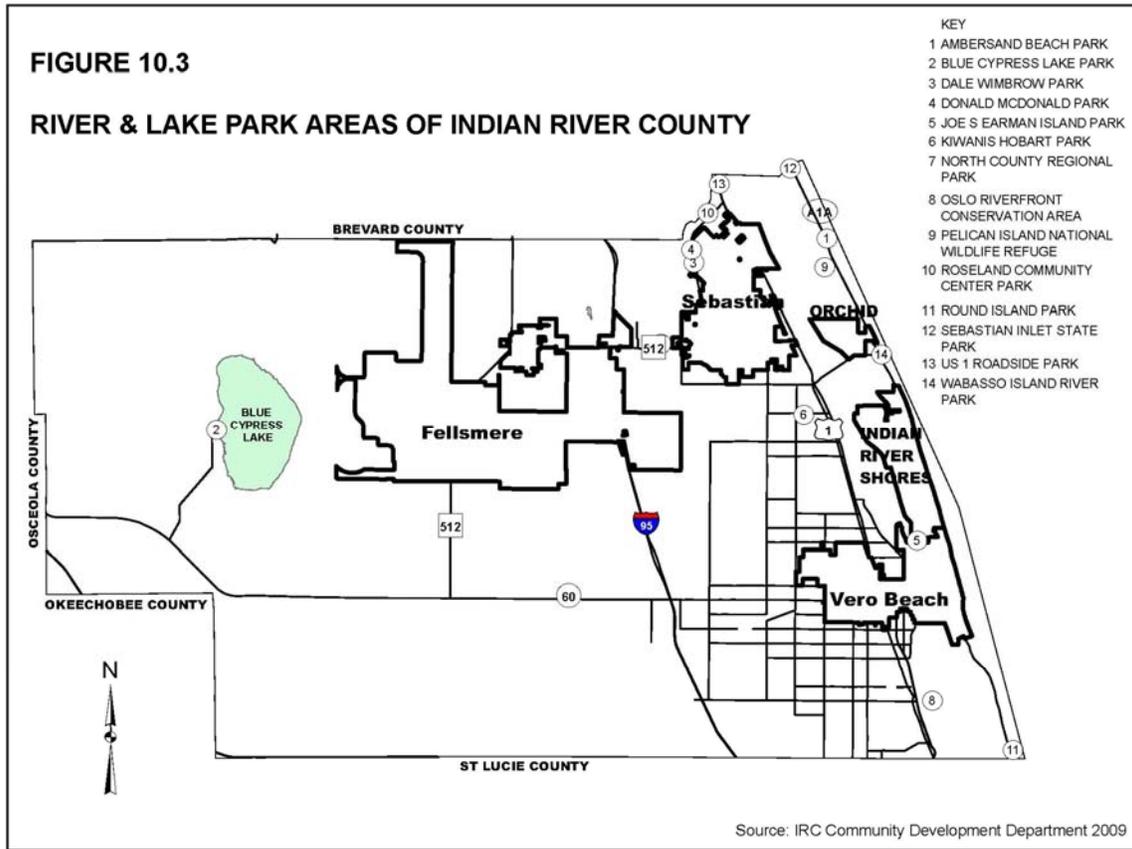
Within the county, there are 356 acres of beach, river, or lake parks. Of those 356 acres, 192 acres are beachfront parks, while 164 acres are riverfront or lakefront parks. Currently, there are 17 boat ramps and 3 canoe launch areas within the unincorporated county.

Beach parks are special types of recreational facilities that provide beach access, parking, showers, and other facilities. Within the county, there are nine developed beachfront parks with facilities and approximately 35 other access sites that lead to public beaches. While many access points contain some form of parking facilities, some do not. Most of those beach access points are found in the unincorporated areas of the Barrier Island.

While some of the beach access points do not currently have park facilities, most of those are found in the unincorporated areas of the Barrier Island. Table 10.6 identifies each of the developed beach parks in the county and lists the facilities available at each. While figure 10.2 shows the location of these beachfront parks within the county, figure 10.3 shows the location of river and lake parks within the county.

Like beach parks, lake and river parks are special recreation facilities. The County maintains eleven (11) parks located on rivers, lakes, or the Indian River Lagoon.





Currently, Indian River County maintains six public beach parks. One of those parks, Ambersand Beach, is a small beach park with no facilities other than stabilized parking. This small 3 acre parcel with 110 lineal feet of shoreline is located south of the Sebastian Inlet State Recreation Area. Swimming and surf fishing are popular activities at Ambersand Beach.

Located at the eastern end of CR 510, Wabasso Beach Park has facilities such as paved parking, restrooms, a lifeguard tower, showers, dune crossovers, and 274 feet of boardwalk. At a little over 2 acres in size, Wabasso Beach has 400 lineal feet of shoreline and offers activities such as swimming, scuba diving, surf fishing, surfing, and sunbathing.

Tracking Station Park is a county maintained park with paved parking and dune crossovers. This park consists of 9 acres with over 1,200 lineal feet of shoreline and offers good access to activities such as swimming, scuba diving, surf fishing, and sunbathing.

Round Island Park is the fourth park that the County maintains; it extends from the Indian River Lagoon to the Atlantic Ocean near the St. Lucie County line. The park's approximately 70 acres provide access to sandy beaches for swimming, scuba diving, and fishing, while an 8 foot "cat crossing" offers boaters easy access to launch their catamarans in the Atlantic Ocean. On the Indian River Lagoon side, Round Island Park provides paved vehicular access to the lagoon and a boat launching area. Other Round Island facilities include paved parking, picnic tables, and pavilions.

Located on the north barrier island, Golden Sands Park was the first of the beachfront tracts acquired with state Save Our Coast and county beach bond funds to be developed. With 1,040 feet of shoreline, Golden Sands Park is fourteen acres in size and has paved parking, restrooms, dune crossovers, picnic areas, and sandy beaches.

Treasure Shores Park is the newest county beach park. At 77 acres in size and with 4,483 feet of shoreline, Treasure Shores Park is the county's largest beach park. Like Golden Sands Park, Treasure Shores Park has paved parking, restrooms, dune crossovers, picnic areas, and sandy beaches.

At present, the City of Vero Beach operates and maintains four beachfront parks within its city limits. Jaycee Park and Conn Beach are contiguous and often considered as one beach park. While Jaycee Park has a full range of facilities including parking, restrooms, showers, picnic tables, a lifeguard tower, potable water, electric service, a restaurant, and 575 feet of boardwalk, Conn Beach has no facilities other than parking and electric service. Combined, Jaycee Park and Conn Beach make up 9.3 acres and have approximately 2,100 lineal feet of shoreline with 1,956 feet of boardwalk. The primary activities at Jaycee Park and Conn Beach are swimming and sunbathing.

Humiston Beach Park is located just south of SR 60 in Vero Beach and is the smallest municipal beach park in the county. Facilities at Humiston Beach include parking, restrooms, outdoor showers, picnic tables, potable water, electric service, and a 446 foot boardwalk. A children's playground is located in the four acre park, and its approximately 530 lineal feet of shoreline offer good access to swimming and scuba diving activity.

South Beach Park is located in the southern section of Vero Beach's city limits. This park's facilities include paved parking, restrooms, showers, lifeguard towers, dune crossovers, picnic tables, potable water, electric service, and a 525 foot boardwalk.

Table 10.6: Beachfront Parks and Facilities in Indian River County

	Parking	Restrooms	Outdoor Showers	Picnic Tables	Lifeguard Towers	Boardwalk Lineal Feet (+/-)	Dune Crossover	Potable Water	Electric Service	Park Acreage	Shoreline Lineal Feet (+/-)	Activities
State Parks												
Sebastian Inlet State Recreation Area	150	4	1	40	0	0	1	Yes	Yes	457	10,500'	Swimming, Surfing, Fishing, Inland water, Camping
County Parks												
Ambersand Beach	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	No	No	.3	100'	Swimming, Surfing, Fishing
Wabasso Beach	70	1	4	10	1	400'	3	Yes	Yes	1	330'	Swimming, Surfing, Fishing
Tracking Station Beach	88	2	2	2	1	0	3	Yes	No	5.5	890'	Swimming, Surfing, Fishing
Round Island	50	0	0	10	0	0	1	No	No	94	777'	Swimming, Surfing, Fishing
Golden Sands	103	1	4	7	1	0	2	Yes	Yes	14	1040'	Swimming, Surfing, Fishing, Playground
Treasure Shores	77	1	2	4	1	0	0	Yes	Yes	77	4483'	Swimming, Surfing, Fishing, Playground
Municipal Parks												
Jaycee Park	120	1	4	16	1	479'	3	Yes	Yes	9.3	500'	Swimming, Surfing, Fishing, Playground
Conn Beach	78	0	0	0	0	1486'	5	No	No	1.1	1,500'	Swimming, Surfing, Fishing, Playground
Humiston Beach	118	1	8	7	1	440'	4	Yes	Yes	4.4	390'	Swimming, Surfing, Fishing, Playground
South Beach	264	1	5	6	2	0	3	Yes	Yes	5.4	861'	Swimming, Surfing, Fishing, Playground

Source: Indian River County Community Development Department

### **River and Lake Parks**

Like beach parks, lake and river parks are special recreation facilities. Because of their unique characteristics, these parks also warrant separate consideration.

There are 11 county owned parks that are located on rivers, lakes, or the Indian River Lagoon. Each park is classified as being a neighborhood park, or a regional/specialty park, depending on the facilities and the number of people each park can accommodate. The majority of the river and lake park areas are located in the northeast section of the county; however, Blue Cypress Lake Park is located in the west part of the county, while Round Island Park is located on the Barrier Island in the extreme southeast part of the county. Kiwanis-Hobart Park is considered to be a lake park due to the presence of several lakes located within the park's boundaries.

There are two other river\lake parks that are located in the county, but are owned or maintained by government agencies other than Indian River County. While the Sebastian Inlet State Recreation Area is owned by the State of Florida and offers access to both the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian River Lagoon, the United States government owns the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge which is located in the Indian River Lagoon.

Listed below are brief descriptions of each river and lake park area owned by Indian River County, the state of Florida, and the U.S. Government. In addition to the parks listed below, the Gifford Dock Road boat dock provides county owned public access to the Indian River Lagoon. Figure 10.4 displays the location of river and lake parks in Indian River County. Table 10.7 displays a list of river and lake parks in Indian River County and the facilities available at each park.



Table 10.7 River and Lake Park Areas in Indian River County

Parks	Ownership	Classification	Acreage	Lineal Frontage (feet)	Electricity	Telephone	Water	Sandy Beach	Board Surfing	Swimming Area	Boating Area	Fishing	Inland Water	Field Area	Open Space/Scenic	Baseball	L.L. Baseball	Softball	Volleyball	Horseshoe Pits	Spectator Seating	Boat Moorings	Boat Launch	Golf Course	Foot Trails	Horse Trails	Community Center	Concessions	Parking	Camp Sites	Outdoor Grills	Picnic Tables	Pavilions	Restrooms	Night Lighting	Equipped Playgrounds	Lifeguard Tower	Kitchen	Site Office	Mgrs. Residence	Maint. Equip. Storage	Sprinkler System	Pump House	Well					
Sebastian Inlet State Rec. Area	S	R	457	10500			√	√	√	√	√	√								√						√	√		√		√																		
Pelican Island Nat. Wildlife Refuge	F	R	4359	0									√																																				
Boat Island	F	R	10	0										√					√			√						√	√	√																			

C – County    S – State    F – Federal    R - Regional Park    S - Specialty Park    N - Neighborhood Park

Source: Indian River County Community Development Department

**Kiwanis Hobart Park** - Located between US 1 and 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue along 77<sup>th</sup> Street, this park is the largest and most developed of the county owned parks. It is approximately 654 acres in size and includes such facilities as baseball fields, softball fields, soccer fields, basketball courts, picnic tables, outdoor grills, and foot trails. Several lakes located within the park offer various inland water activities. A 36 hole public golf course and the county's fairground site are also located at the park. Because of its size and development, Kiwanis-Hobart is classified as an urban district park.

**Donald McDonald Park and Dale Wimbrow Park** - These parks are located adjacent to each other on the east side of the St. Sebastian River and have a combined size of approximately 74 acres. Facilities include boating, fishing, picnic tables, and scenic/open space areas. Overnight camping is available at Donald McDonald Park, but not at Dale Wimbrow Park. Both parks are classified as specialty parks.

**Blue Cypress Lake Park** – This park is located on the west shore of Blue Cypress Lake. Facilities include boating, fishing, concessions, picnic tables, pavilions, and restrooms. This park is classified as a specialty park and is owned and maintained by Indian River County.

**Roseland Community Center Park** - Located on the St. Sebastian River just west of the Florida East Coast Railway bridge, this park serves as a meeting place for the community of Roseland. The park includes a building that provides electricity, water, and a kitchen. Picnic tables and a fishing area provide outdoor activities. Roseland Community Center Park is classified as a neighborhood park.

**Round Island Park** - This park is located on the south end of the Barrier Island near the Indian River County-St. Lucie County line. There are several outdoor pavilions with picnic tables and a catamaran dune crossover on the ocean side. West of SR A1A, the park offers fishing and access to the Indian River Lagoon and inland water activities. This park is classified as a specialty park.

**US 1 Roadside Park** - This park is located east of US 1 at the Indian River County-Brevard County line where the St. Sebastian River flows into the Indian River Lagoon. The only facilities are parking, picnic tables, and outdoor pavilions. This roadside park is classified as a specialty park.

**Ambersand Beach Park** - Located on the Barrier Island, this beach park can be found on the narrow strip of land south of the Sebastian Inlet. There are no facilities other than swimming and access to inland water areas. Ambersand Beach Park is classified as a specialty park.

**Boat Club Island Park** - This park is located northeast of the Grand Harbor marina on South Sister Island (spoil island# IR-25). The park contains three docks, a picnic pavilion, and a nature trail. This park is owned by the State and managed by the county's Parks Division.

**Joe S. Earman Park** - This four acre park is located on the northern one-third of spoil island# IR-28. The park contains picnic areas, restrooms, and a boat dock on the Indian River Lagoon. Joe S. Earman Park is classified as a specialty park.

**Sebastian Inlet State Recreation Area** - This state owned park sits in both Brevard and Indian River Counties and is managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Facilities include sandy beaches, swimming, boating, surfing, fishing and overnight camping. The Sebastian Inlet State Recreation Area is a regional park.

**Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge** - This national wildlife refuge consists of 4,359 acres of the Indian River Lagoon and mangrove islands between the Sebastian Inlet and CR 510, east of the Intracoastal Waterway. Pelican Island was the first National Wildlife Refuge, founded in 1903, and is also part of the national wilderness system. There are parking facilities, an observation tower, a rest room facility and scenic water areas. Pelican Island is classified as a national park.

### **Other Recreation Facilities**

Besides county, city, state, and federal parks, and recreation facilities, there are other facilities that must be considered. These include school recreational facilities, privately owned but publicly available recreation facilities, and private recreation facilities.

- Schools

Generally, school recreation facilities are considered differently from other public recreation facilities because of use restrictions. While all public schools in the county have recreation facilities, the primary purpose of those facilities is to serve the needs of the students at each school. For this reason, school recreation facilities often restrict use by the general public. In fact, some school recreation facilities are not available for use by the general public at all. When school recreation facilities are open to the public, however, they can supplement other publicly owned facilities and increase the community's recreational opportunities. The school recreation facility information is shown in Appendix "D".

- Private Recreation Facilities

Another component of the recreation system consists of those private recreation facilities within the county. Some of those facilities are privately owned yet publicly available. Examples of these are golf courses open to the public, health clubs, marinas, and racquet/tennis clubs. Other privately owned recreational facilities are restricted to specific groups and not open to or available to the general public. Examples include recreational facilities which are accessory to a residential project and private golf courses and clubs open only to members. The many private recreation facilities are too numerous to inventory on an individual basis.

### **Recreation Activities and Programs**

Currently, programs and activities at County and municipal parks are operated separately. At county parks, the Indian River County Recreation Department provides, operates, and publicizes recreational programs and facilities for use by County residents and visitors.

Within the County, a variety of recreational activities are available for residents of all ages. For example, shuffleboard and bocce ball are provided for the older population, while playground equipment, jungle gyms, a splash pad, and a skate park are available for a younger crowd. Additionally, trails for walking, open fields for soccer, and piers for fishing provide further outdoor recreation options.

Overall, the County Recreation Department provides diversified recreational opportunities supervised by professional staff in modern facilities. As structured, the county's recreational program supplements recreational programs provided by private non-profit or for-profit providers. Generally, county programs are free to children of very low and low income families. Because the county-provided recreation programs usually cost less than programs offered by private for-profit providers, the county recreational programs are generally more suitable for very low and low income individuals. Since very low and low income individuals usually cannot afford programs offered by private providers, the county's programs do not compete with private recreation providers.

Due to limited resources, the county provides only CORE recreational programs. CORE programs are those programs that keep resources, staff, and/or funding focused on the primary activities that the Indian River County Recreation Department must support. Determining if a program or service is CORE involves an evaluation based on the following criteria.

- It is a program that must be provided because of an external regulation, law, or other regulatory requirement. It is not viewed as optional by the department. Depending on the program, the County may not have to provide the program, but the county must ensure that the program is provided.
- It is a direct service to the public

- If the County Recreation Department is in a cutback or reduction situation, the program would be preserved at the cost of all other services or programs.
- It serves a significant number of people.
- It is an activity, program, or service that the majority of current customers or users perceive as necessary and important.
- It generates a reasonable revenue yield and/or a reasonable user participation rate.

Each year, every individual program and facility that the recreation department operates is evaluated to identify the CORE and non-CORE programs. Overall, the more of the above criteria that a program or facility meets, the more likely it is considered CORE to the department. A list of current CORE and non-CORE programs is provided in Appendix E.

In 2009, the Recreation Department experienced a reduction in full-time, part-time and seasonal staffing as well as the elimination of the spring break and traditional summer youth camps. At the same time, the Gifford Aquatic Center operation was changed to summer seasonal operation only (May 1-September 15th) while the North County Aquatic Center zero depth pool operation was changed to summer seasonal only (May 1-September 15th).

On average, the Recreation Department provides 142 recreation programs per year. The following examples illustrate the types of recreation programs provided by the county recreation department.

- Instructional – Self Defense, Senior Aerobics
- Special Events – Winter Fest, Daddy/Daughter Dance, Screen on the Green, State Special Olympics, Aquatic Championships
- Athletics – Youth Sports: Football, Baseball, Basketball, Sports Tournaments
- Athletics – Adult Sports: Softball, Volleyball, Sports Tournaments
- Camps – Summer Traditional Youth, Summer Youth Athletic Specialty Camps
- Aquatic – Public Swimming Pools and Beaches, Swim Lessons, Aquanautics, Junior Lifeguard

Generally, Indian River County Recreation Department program delivery is affected by the type and location of facilities, including those that are county owned or controlled and/or leased. Program delivery is also influenced by available financial resources as well as the availability of programs by not-for-profit groups and organizations such as the Indian River Soccer Association. The following identifies the geographical distribution of recreation programs within the county.

South of S.R. 60

- Youth

The majority of CORE youth sports programs are offered at facilities south of SR 60. These programs include football, cheerleading and baseball. Youth basketball programs are provided at school sites. Growth of these programs is limited due to a lack of county facilities and a lack of

accessibility to school facilities. Since there is a lack of county facilities west of 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, no programs are offered in that area.

- Adult

Most adult outdoor softball programs are also south of S.R. 60.

- Aquatics

There are no county operated pool facilities south of S.R. 60. While the City of Vero Beach operates Leisure Square, a facility that accommodates city and county residents south of S.R. 60, there is a differential fee structure for county residents at the facility.

North of S.R. 60

- Youth

When available, the indoor fairgrounds facility offers youth basketball leagues as part of a county-wide schedule which relies heavily on the use of school sites. While youth baseball is played at the North County Regional Park, Hobart field is also used as needed for youth baseball.

- Adult

Softball sports leagues now operate at the North County Regional Park sports fields.

- Aquatics

The Gifford and the North County Aquatic Centers serve the residents in the central and north county areas with a wide range of programs.

### Recreation Program Sign-up and Facility Reservation

To utilize the county's recreation programs, applicants must sign up for programs and pay appropriate fees. To sign up for a recreation program, applicants must come to the recreation department in person. To reserve park facilities, such as large pavilions in Hobart Park, clients must go to that park office in person to make the reservation.

## **Bicycle, Trail, and Pedestrian Facilities**

In 2006, approximately 200.44 miles of the county's thoroughfare plan roadway system had bikelanes (a combined outside lane/paved shoulder width of at least fourteen feet). In addition, 101.84 miles of roadways contained an adjacent sidewalk. Currently, a CR 512 sidewalk/bikepath and an Oslo Road bikepath are under construction as part of improvements to these roadways.

In addition to the facilities that were available prior to 1996, a boardwalk trail to the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge observation tower; a trail at Kitchen Station along C.R. 512; and a trail on Old Winter Beach Road now exist. Current efforts to increase recreational opportunities along major transportation corridors include adding sidewalks, bikelanes or shared-use paths along Aviation Blvd., 66<sup>th</sup> Avenue and CR 510.

Recently, the Indian River County MPO developed North and Central county Greenways Plans. The central greenways plan, which was adopted in 2006, identifies greenway trails and additional off-road bicycle and pedestrian corridors that will connect major destinations in the Vero Beach/Central County area. Greenways will be located along railroad, canal, airport, and other publicly owned rights-of-way.

In August of 2008, the MPO adopted a North County Greenways plan to identify off-road bicycle and pedestrian corridors in the Sebastian/North County area. As a result of that plan, the MPO has identified and/or begun development of new greenways on the Trans-Florida Rail Corridor; through Sebastian Stormwater Park; and in other locations in the North County area.

## **Open Space**

Besides recreation, this element must address open space in Indian River County. While the background section includes a brief description of open space and open space categories, this section identifies existing open space conditions in the county.

As referenced in the background section of this element, open space can be categorized as being any one of three different types. These are corridor open space, utilitarian open space, and pastoral open space. Each of these types is defined and discussed in the background section. Like recreation facilities, open space areas have some overlap among categories. This makes classification of open space areas subject to a certain amount of interpretation.

### **Corridor Open Space**

Corridor open space is an important part of a community's development pattern. Basically, corridor open space consists of those rights-of-way or easements which accommodate traffic or utility facilities. Usually, linear in nature, corridor open space is difficult to quantify. In many cases

corridor open space includes structures such as paved roads, bridges, utility facilities, and other improvements.

- Road Rights-of-Way

In Indian River County, road rights-of-way provide a substantial amount of open space. Since many roads in the unincorporated county are built with a rural section design, these roads generally have a wide right-of-way to accommodate swale drainage as well as utility improvements and roadside recovery area.

While the right-of-way width and, therefore, the amount of open space varies among roadways, it is possible to identify open space by roadway facility type. According to county standards, local roads should have sixty feet of right-of-way, while collectors, minor arterials, and principal arterials should have right-of-way widths of 80, 100, and 120 feet, respectively.

Within the county, several roadways have wide rights-of-way, some exceeding 120 feet, and incorporate center grassed medians, characteristics which enhance open space. These roads include Indian River Boulevard, I-95, and the Florida Turnpike. Several other roadways have wide rights-of-way and grassed medians in certain areas; these include CR 512, SR 60, and US 1.

Besides traditional roadways, there is another category of roads which provides open space functions. These are scenic and historic roads. Indian River County has designated five corridors as scenic/historic roads. These are: Jungle Trail, Fellsmere Grade, Quay Dock Road, Gifford Dock Road, and Old Winter Beach Road.

The locations of these scenic/historic roads are as follows:

Jungle Trail - Entire length.

Fellsmere Grade - From SR 507, west to Lateral M (Levee 76 and S-96-B, SJRWMD Project).

Quay Dock Road - From U.S. 1 to the Indian River Lagoon, including the dock site.

Winter Beach Road - North Winter Beach Road (69th Street), from US 1 across Hole-in-Wall Island, across tip of Pine Island, to Jungle Trail, including the Bridgetender's property.

Gifford Dock Road - North Gifford Road (45th Street), from US 1 to the Indian River Lagoon, including the dock site and the mitigated property from Grand Harbor.

- Utility Rights-of-Way and Easements

In addition to transportation rights-of-way, corridor open space also includes utility rights-of-way and easements. While utilities are often installed within road rights-of-way, there are other circumstances where separate utility corridors are provided. Like road rights-of-way, utility corridors also serve open space functions.

Utility corridors include rights-of-way and easements for drainage, electric utilities, gas utilities, telephone, water and sewer, cable, and others. Most of these areas are easements within subdivisions. Usually ten to twenty feet wide and located on property lines, these drainage and utility easements must be kept free of structures. Therefore, these areas serve an open space function.

Even more productive as open space areas are several utility corridors which extend the length of the county. There are several of these located in unincorporated Indian River County. The Houston Texas Gas and Oil Company Easement and the FP&L 240 KV easement both parallel I-95 and run west of the interstate, extending the entire length of the county. Although the easements vary some in width, the gas easement is generally 50 feet, while the transmission line easement is 170 feet. In those areas where they abut, the easement is 210 feet wide. In the south county, an AT&T easement which is 33 feet in width runs north/south west of Old Dixie Highway.

Other corridor open space is included within the system of water control district canals which exist in the county. Created for the purpose of providing drainage functions to landowners, the six independent water control/improvement districts which exist in Indian River County maintain extensive systems of drainage canals. Usually paralleling and abutting roadways, these canals are rights-of-way owned by the various water control districts.

The largest of these water control districts, the Indian River Farms Water Control District, has over 200 miles of primary canals. For the main canals in this system, the right-of-way is as much as 200 feet. Together, this canal system provides a substantial amount of open space in the county. More information on the drainage canals is included in the drainage sub-element of this plan.

The final type of corridor open space is the FEC railroad right-of-way. Measuring 100 to 110 feet in width, the railroad right-of-way runs north/south, extending the length of the county and paralleling US 1. Like the other examples of open space, the railroad right-of-way provides a substantial amount of open space in the county.

### **Pastoral Open Space**

The second major type of open space is pastoral open space. Defined generally as open space area set aside for conservation, natural resource protection, or passive use purposes, pastoral open space

includes most of the county's environmentally sensitive areas, its resource based parks, and various conservation areas.

The largest single area of pastoral open space in the county is the St. Johns River upper basin. Purchased by the St. Johns River Water Management District for conservation and water management purposes, the upper basin consists of 174,121 acres in Brevard and Indian River Counties. Of that, approximately 81,000 acres are located in Indian River County. While the upper basin area provides some recreation functions such as boating, airboating, fishing and others, it serves primarily as pastoral open space.

Other conservation lands also provide pastoral open space. Through its Environmental Lands Program, the county has purchased over ±11,000 acres of environmentally important lands. Although those lands were purchased primarily for conservation, a limited amount of passive recreation is available at those sites.

In addition to purchasing land, the county uses development exactions to preserve open space. Currently, county Land Development Regulations require developers of land containing native upland plant communities to preserve 15% of these communities or pay a fee-in-lieu. The preservation of that land is accomplished through a conservation easement. Through 2008, ± 8,937 acres had been preserved through such easements in Indian River County.

Many recreation sites in the county can also be classified as pastoral open space. The largest among those is the Sebastian Inlet state park. Located in both Brevard and Indian River Counties, the park provides beachfront areas, camping facilities, picnic areas, fishing and swimming opportunities, and other recreation amenities. As primarily a passive park, the Sebastian Inlet state park can be classified as pastoral open space. Besides the state park, the unincorporated county has over 350 acres of river and beach park, resource based recreation facilities which can also be categorized as pastoral open space.

Other pastoral open space areas in the county are privately owned areas. Included among these areas are the lands designated as environmentally sensitive by the county. Much of this land consists of the estuarine wetlands in the county. While some of this land has been impounded for mosquito control, other estuarine wetlands are unimpounded. There are also freshwater wetlands adjacent to the St. Sebastian River. All of these areas are considered pastoral open space.

Another large area of pastoral open space is the Pelican Island Wildlife Refuge. Established by the federal government as the first wildlife refuge in the country, Pelican Island constitutes several islands and upland areas within the Indian River Lagoon in the northern part of the county. While inaccessible to the public, the refuge functions as a bird sanctuary and pastoral open space. Besides the refuge, there are 43 spoil islands within the Indian River that can be classified as pastoral open space.

- **Utilitarian Open Space**

The last major category of open space is utilitarian open space. Defined generally as open lands used for productive purposes from which monetary benefits accrue, utilitarian open space is characterized by several types of land uses. Foremost among those are agricultural lands, pasture lands, forestry lands, and mining areas.

More so than corridor and pastoral open space, utilitarian open space areas are often privately owned. In some cases, however, the differentiation between utilitarian open space and other types is dependent more on the configuration of the land than its function. For example, a drainage canal right-of-way would be considered corridor open space, even though its drainage function is utilitarian in nature. On the other hand, a large retention area, which also serves drainage functions, would be classified as utilitarian rather than corridor open space because of its non-linear configuration.

In Indian River County, a substantial amount of land can be categorized as utilitarian open space. Most of that land is in active agricultural use. As identified in the existing land use section of the Future Land Use Element, there are approximately 137,000 acres of agricultural land in Indian River County.

Besides agricultural uses, mining or excavation areas are also considered utilitarian open space. Presently, there are approximately ten sand/rock mines, comprising nearly 300 acres, in the unincorporated county. Other utilitarian open space areas include retention ponds, buffer areas, wastewater reuse sites, old landfill sites, and required yards within individual development projects or sites.

### **Funding and Capital Projects**

While all county capital park projects are funded by county general fund revenue, park and recreation impact fee revenue, optional sales tax revenue, federal and state grants, or developer contributions, recreational programs are funded by Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) revenue or recreation program user fees and reservation fees. Recreation program user fees, however, are subsidized for children of very low and low income families. Also, the recreation department charges user fees for reserving county park facilities, such as the 2 large pavilions in Hobart Park.

### **Arts and Cultural Programs**

In Indian River County, arts and culture are vital to citizens and their quality of life. This is illustrated by a 2006 survey conducted by the Cultural Council of Indian River County in which 60% of survey respondents say that they attend at least one cultural event a year, compared with a national average of 35%. Also, cultural venues and events bring visitors to the county.

Within the County, private for-profit and not-for-profit groups provide many arts and cultural programs and events. These programs and events are overseen by the Cultural Council of Indian River County (CCIRC). As such, the Cultural Council's mission is to nurture a cooperative environment in which cultural and educational organizations and individuals may thrive and thereby enrich the quality of life in Indian River County for all residents and visitors.

### **History of CCIRC**

In February 1995, the Cultural Council of Indian River County was incorporated in the State of Florida as a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, and in March of that same year was designated as the Local Arts Agency for Indian River County by the County Commissioners. In 2005, the Cultural Council received recognition as a quasi-nonprofit organization by the Board of County Commissioners. With the support of individuals, businesses and organizations throughout the county, the Cultural Council continues to be an active advocate for the presence of creativity in all aspects of the community, which in turn, enhances the quality of life in Indian River County.

When individuals, organizations or businesses join the CCIRC they become part of a countywide cultural support system. The focus of that countywide support system is to promote community-based initiatives such as Public Art Programs, Arts in Education, Cultural Tourism Promotion, Community Cultural Planning and Economic Development. In so doing, the CCIRC values collaborative efforts, streamlining community services, maximizing resources, and providing a platform for discussions.

Throughout the United States, cultivating creative based industries is the latest and most likely area of growth for Local Arts Agencies. Innovative industries are those where creative talent is a key input, ideas and intellectual property are key assets, and creative goods and services are key outputs.

Currently, the Cultural Council's activities and programs include:

- Providing a Cultural Information Center in Downtown Vero Beach, with information on display and distribution for residents and visitors
- Providing opportunities for sharing information for nonprofit organizations, artists and businesses
- Facilitating cooperation among non-profit organizations to maximize resources and minimize competition
- Promoting local artists of all types, including visual, performing and literary, along with cultural organizations
- Sponsoring public art exhibitions in county buildings
- Publishing an annual Cultural Event Planner and supplement printed calendar with updates and changes in an online calendar of events
- Maintaining an informative website with descriptions and links to all members
- Distributing local cultural information statewide at Florida Welcome Centers

- Participating in community efforts to foster economic development, cultural tourism and community planning
- Collecting & distributing revenue collected from the Arts License Plates on behalf of the County Commission

## **ANALYSIS**

Several functional components must be considered in analyzing recreation and open space conditions in the county. These components include: parks and recreation facilities; open space; levels of service; funding; and capital projects.

### **Parks and Recreation**

Since 1998, Indian River County has experienced a nearly 20% population increase and a 23% parkland increase. Thus, the amount of park and recreation space to serve the County's residents has increased comparably with population growth. Throughout the county, park and recreation demand is met by County and municipal park facilities, schools, and privately owned recreation facilities.

Although, the county has park and recreation facilities located throughout the county, those facilities are not equitably distributed between county residents north of S.R. 60 and county residents south of S.R. 60. Of the 1,528 acres of parklands in the unincorporated county, only 160 acres are located south of S.R. 60. Also, there are no parks within the S.R. 60 corridor west of 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue to serve the population that is living in that area. Therefore, not all county residents have equal access to the unincorporated county parks and facilities. In the future, the county should purchase and develop parkland west of 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and South of S.R. 60.

Since planning is a continuous process, park master plans for the south county park, north county park, and fairground must be evaluated on a regular basis to ensure that they are updated and meet current needs. To keep up with changing conditions, including changes to the county's population, changes to the county's population composition, changes to funding availability, and changes to the historic demand for recreational programs, the Recreation Department should update both the north and south county regional park master plans by 2011.

### **County and Municipal Parks**

Since 1998, the County has acquired an additional 288 acres of parkland, representing a nearly 23% increase in total parkland acres. In the same time period, the total number of parks in the unincorporated County and in the municipalities of Vero Beach, Sebastian, and Fellsmere increased by approximately 25%.

At present, 1,002 acres of the 1,528 areas parklands are developed. In the future, the county should build additional parks in the south county area. One such park can be built in the south county initiative area where the county coordinated with developers of several projects between 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue south of Oslo Road who set aside land for a public park.

Since 1998, the county and municipalities have kept pace with the need for parklands. In so doing, the county has maintained its park LOS and provided park and recreational facilities for its citizens.

In the future, the county should develop its current undeveloped park lands as well as purchase and develop new park lands as needed to accommodate future growth.

#### Specialty (Beach, River and Lake) Parks

Two facts are important in analyzing the County's beach, river and lake parks. These are:

- All indications are that the population of the County will continue to grow. For example, the University of Florida's Bureau of Economic and Business Research projects that the County's population will increase from 130,041 in 2005 to 196,900 in 2030. That growth represents a nearly 51% population increase in 25 years;
- The amount of parkland adjacent to natural water bodies in the County has remained constant since 1998 (356 acres). Of those 356 acres, 192 acres are beachfront parks, and 164 acres are riverfront or lakefront parks.

In the past, the county and the municipalities have provided beach, river, and lake parks to accommodate the population of the county. In the future, the opportunities for acquiring additional beach, river, and lake parks will be limited. Consequently, the county will probably not be able to obtain additional access to these water bodies. In the future, the county should ensure that the current accesses to water bodies are retained.

One of the major ongoing expenses for beach parks is providing for lifeguards and beach rescue operations. Since all of the public beach parks are located within the City of Vero Beach and the unincorporated county area, operational expenses for beach rescue operations and lifeguards are borne by the county and the City of Vero Beach. Since beach rescue operations and lifeguards are essential health and safety services, the City of Vero Beach and the county should continue to provide these services to county residents.

#### Recreation Facilities and Programs

Since 1998, the major recreation change in the County has been the separation and restructuring of the County's and the City of Vero Beach's recreation departments. The most significant aspect of that change has been in the way that recreation programs are delivered. Specifically, the change resulted in the county creating a separate recreation department not affiliated with the City of Vero Beach.

As a separate organization, the County Recreation Department on an annual basis identifies CORE recreation programs and services that must be provided to serve the county population. The most important factor for providing CORE recreational programs is funding. A list of the existing CORE and non-CORE programs is provided as Appendix E.

To more accurately determine demand for existing park and recreational programs and to identify

the need for new recreational programs, the Recreation Department should conduct a survey of the existing recreation facility users, as well as a random survey of the entire unincorporated county population, by 2011. The results of this survey should be used to plan future capital projects and recreation programs.

In Indian River County, there are some user groups that utilize county park and recreational facilities on a long-term basis. Currently, there are no formalized agreements with most of those long term user groups. While many of these user groups provide programs important to the community, there is a potential for some small groups to obtain exclusive use of park areas at certain times, thereby limiting public use of those areas. To better serve the county's population, the county should establish a new policy requiring that the recreation department enter into multi-year contracts with the long term user groups utilizing the county's park and recreational facilities.

Currently, the recreation department's reservation system requires clients signing up for recreation programs or reserving park facilities to make reservations in person at the recreation department or at the park office. By developing a web based automated system which allows users to reserve park facilities or to sign up for recreational programs online, the recreation department could increase the efficiency of the parks and recreation program reservation system. For that reason, a new policy, requiring development of the web based reservation and recreation program sign up system, should be adopted.

Within the county, there are some special events that impact more than one jurisdiction. Consequently, a new policy should be established to require that the county, when appropriate, enter into agreements with municipalities for county-wide programs and for special events that impact other jurisdictions.

### *Adequate Facilities*

Generally, park areas should consist of facilities that are appropriate for the intended population to be served. As a guide, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has established park and recreation standards to be used as:

- a national expression of minimum acceptable facilities for the citizens of urban and rural communities
- guidance to determine land requirements for various kinds of parkland recreation areas and facilities
- a basis for relating recreational needs to spatial analysis within a community-wide system of parks and open space areas
- a means to justify the need for parks and open space within the overall land-use pattern of a region or community

The purpose of these guidelines is to present park and recreation space standards that are applicable nationwide for planning, acquiring, and developing park, recreation, and open space lands. These standards should be viewed as guidelines and should be interpreted according to the particular situation to which they are applied and specific local needs. Since each locality has different

demographics, local characteristics should be considered when determining what standard is appropriate.

Based on the National Recreation and Park Association guidelines and the 2005 countywide functional population of approximately 130,000, the table below provides an indication of the number of facilities needed within the county. As the table indicates, the County needs 26 basketball courts, 26 volleyball courts, 26 baseball/softball fields, 6 football fields, 13 soccer fields, and 65 tennis courts. Since one 18-hole golf course is recommended for every 50,000 people, three golf courses would meet that minimum need. Overall, the NPRA guidelines recommend that a community have one public swimming pool per 20,000 population, thus requiring seven pools to meet that standard for Indian River County’s 2005 functional population. It should, however, be noted that there are no county operated pool facilities south of S.R. 60.

Table 10.8  
Recreation Facility Standards

Activity/Facility	Unit/pop.	Units needed <i>based on 130,000 pop</i>	Units Provided <b>2005</b>	Provider of Facilities
Basketball	1 per 5,000	26	51	Schools/public
Tennis	1 per 2,000	65	101+	Schools/public/private*
Volleyball	1 per 5,000	26	50+	Schools/public/private*
Baseball/Softball	1 per 5,000	26	27	Schools/public
Football	1 per 20,000	6	5	Schools/public
Golf (18 hole)	1 per 50,000	3	20	public/private*
Swimming Pools	1 per 20,000	7	10+	public/private*
Soccer Fields	1 per 10,000	13	16**	School/Public/Private

\* Private facilities which are open to the public for a fee

\*\* 16 individual layouts, however, the soccer association counts them as 11 fields

With the exception of football fields, Indian River County has sufficient recreation facilities to meet the minimum guidelines suggested by NRPA. Since the county usually builds multi-purpose fields that can be used for several different activities, football fields can also be used as soccer fields, and volleyball courts may also be used for tennis or basketball courts.

According to the Introductory Element of the Indian River County Comprehensive Plan, the median age of the County’s population in 2005 was 47, with approximately 16% of the population at school age (6 -19 years). Given that demographic makeup, five football fields are most likely sufficient for Indian River County’s 2005 population.

Over the last ten years, there has been an increase in the total number of recreational facilities in the County. Many of these recreational facilities are provided in conjunction with schools. As a matter of fact, the majority of basketball courts, volleyball courts, baseball/softball fields and football fields within Indian River County are located adjacent to schools.

Although some school recreation facilities may have use restrictions, school recreation facilities that

are open to the public can supplement other recreational facilities and increase the community's recreational opportunities. In the past, some school facilities have been unavailable for use by the general public.

Currently, no formal agreements between the School District of Indian River County and the county exist for use of school recreation facilities. To address that issue, the county should coordinate with the school district to discuss public access issues and establish an agreement with the school district for use of school recreation facilities by the public. For that reason, a new policy should be established indicating that the county should coordinate with the school district to establish an agreement regarding use of school recreation facilities.

In addition to schools, private facilities offer a range of recreational activities within the County. Privately owned, but publicly available recreational facilities include tennis courts, golf courses, health clubs, and other facilities. While some privately owned recreational facilities are not open to the general public, those facilities still provide recreational opportunities in Indian River County.

### **Bicycle, Trail, and Pedestrian Facilities**

Since 1998 there has been a significant increase in the supply of bicycle and pedestrian facilities. This is evident from the 61% increase (76 miles) in the miles of on-road bikelanes between 1995 and 2005.

While additional bikelanes have increased the opportunities for fast-biking, tour-biking, fitness biking, and utility biking, such bike lanes are continuous on only a few roadways in the county. Also, some of these bikelanes do not connect to major bike/ped attractions like playgrounds, parks, schools, employment centers, and shopping areas. Overall, the increasing speed and higher volume of adjacent traffic, the increase in heavy or oversize vehicles on the adjacent roadways, poor intersection geometry, few dedicated crossings for pedestrians, and high crash rates cause unsafe biking conditions, discouraging residents from active use of biking as a source of recreation, as a means to a healthy lifestyle, and as a mode of transportation. The Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan discusses bike/ped services in the county in further detail and provides appropriate recommendations.

Since 1994, the county has seen an increase of 136% (57 miles) in the number of miles of new sidewalks. Most of the sidewalks provide walking access to new residential developments along state roads and along county roads. Those new sidewalk improvements have increased pedestrian access to destinations such as schools, parks, playgrounds, libraries, local stores, coffee shops, restaurants, and other destinations, resulting in increased pedestrian activity.

One way that the county is addressing bicycle and pedestrian issues is through development of North Central and South County Greenways Plans. Through these plans, the county has identified opportunities for off road, non-motorized travel on facilities such as abandoned rail corridors, public rights of way, and canal easements. The first of these plans, the Central Indian River County

Greenways Plan, was adopted by the MPO in 2006. That plan identifies a number of off-road alternatives for non-motorized travel. The highest priority alternative, the Airport/Aviation Boulevard loop, will provide a safe off-road travel alternative to several facilities, including U.S. 1, 41<sup>st</sup> Street, and 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

In addition, off-road trails in conservation areas and on beaches provide opportunities for hiking, sight-seeing, wildlife adventure, and water sports. Through the MPO's Greenways Plans, the county will focus on connecting bike/ped destinations, such as recreational centers, conservation lands, wildlife sanctuaries, and the beaches in the county, through on-road bikelanes, off-road walkways, and off-road trails. Through these bike/ped connections, such destinations are expected to gain popularity. In the future, the county should develop a south county greenway plan. The county also should implement its north county and central county greenways plans.

### **Open Space**

Since 1998, the amount of publicly owned or publicly controlled open space in Indian River County has increased by 46% (31,761 acres), from approximately 68,239 acres in 1995 to approximately 100,000 acres in 2005.

Typically, the amount of open space declines as land is developed. Conversely, the need for public open space becomes even more important as more development occurs. Within the county's Urban Service Area (USA), open space areas are being lost as development occurs on previously undeveloped tracts of land.

Not only does open space enhance the aesthetics of an area; it can also define a community's character. For example, corridor open spaces can enhance the image and character of the County. The County can also utilize the open spaces of road rights-of-way, drainage district rights-of-way, and utility rights-of-way as open space corridors.

Equally important is pastoral open space. Often, larger areas of pastoral open space, such as the St. Johns Marsh and the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge, are under public ownership. As publicly owned lands, these areas will remain undeveloped and serve open space functions in perpetuity. Privately owned pastoral open space areas, however, are subject to the threat of development. In recent years, however, the County has obtained an additional 31,761 acres of open space that is reserved as conservation land.

Unlike corridor and pastoral open spaces, utilitarian open space is land used for productive, usually monetary purposes. Those areas are subject to development with changing circumstances. One common example of that is the conversion of agricultural land within the Urban Service Area (USA) to urban uses. Within development projects, retention ponds, buffer areas, upland set-asides, and required yard areas serve as open space. Like the publicly owned pastoral areas, these areas can be expected to remain indefinitely.

As funding becomes available in the future, the county should continue to acquire additional environmental land.

#### **Level of Service Standards**

In 2005, an impact fee study that assessed park needs was conducted. That study established a LOS standard of 6.61 acres per 1,000 permanent residents plus weighted seasonal population for unincorporated Indian River County. The current standard is based on the existing 1,528 acres of parkland in the unincorporated county and the unincorporated county functional population of 96,680. This translates to a demand of 639 acres and a surplus of 889 acres. Based on generally accepted national standards for parks as well as the county's demographic characteristics, 6.61 is an appropriate standard.

Often, residents and tourists use parks within several different jurisdictions. In Indian River County, this means that municipal parks serve County residents as well as municipal residents, and that County parks serve municipal residents as well as County residents. This makes it difficult to determine the population to be served by each jurisdiction. The level of service standard, however, is based on the unincorporated area functional population and the unincorporated area parkland acreage.

#### **Population Projections**

The principal determinant of future park and recreation needs is the projected future population. As population increases, there is a need for more parklands and recreational facilities. In the Introductory Element of the County's Comprehensive Plan, there are projections of not only the resident population of the County, but also the functional population of the County. The functional population is the resident population plus the seasonal population.

While not a major tourist area, Indian River County can be expected to attract an increasing number of tourists and an increasing seasonal population in the coming years. Some of the factors contributing to the growth of tourism are the ideal winter climate; access to beaches, water facilities, and other recreation facilities; and proximity to other major attractions in the state.

The seasonal population used in the development of the comprehensive plan is not intended to provide an enumeration or total count of persons who visit Indian River County throughout any given year, but rather to provide an estimate of the potential peak season population. Overall, the projected population determines future needs for parks and recreation facilities.

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2030</b>
<b>Resident</b> (65% of total county population)	93,077	102,286	110,045	119,210	127,985
<b>Seasonal</b> (14% of unincorporated population)	13,030	14,320	15,406	16,689	17,917
<b>Functional (Total)</b>	106,107	116,606	125,451	135,899	145,902

Source: Indian River County Planning Department per BEBR 2009 projections

With the current LOS standard of 6.61 acres of parkland per each 1,000 functional population, the current inventory of 1,528 acres of parkland is sufficient to meet the 964 acres of parkland needed to accommodate demand from the projected 2030 unincorporated county functional population of 145,902.

Since 1998, most of the growth in the county has occurred and is still occurring in the south county area between 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue, in the west county/SR 60 area between 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 98<sup>th</sup> Avenue, in the central county area between 49<sup>th</sup> Street and 65<sup>th</sup> Street, and in the north county area, including Vero Lake Estates and the C.R. 510 Corridor.

Even though there are sufficient parklands within the county to serve the overall unincorporated county population, the county's geographical distribution of the parkland is not equitable. Of the 1,528 acres of parkland, only 160 acres are located south of S.R. 60, an area where a large percentage of the unincorporated county population live. As shown on attached figure 10.4, a 3 mile park service area radius around county parks does not cover the west portion of the urbanized area of the county along S.R. 60. Consequently, there is a need for county parks in the western urbanized area of the county near S.R. 60, and in the area south of S.R. 60. In the future, the county should purchase and develop park lands west of 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and South of S.R. 60.

### **Funding and Capital Projects**

Until 2005, the county's recreation capital and operations needs were funded by county general fund revenue, optional sales tax revenue, Florida Recreation Development Assistance (FRDAP) grants, or other grants. In 2005, the county adopted a new recreation impact fee to partly fund park acquisition and construction. To offset the cost of acquiring parkland, the county has also acquired parkland from development projects, including Pointe West, the South County Initiative, Liberty Park and others.

Going forward, the County plans to use park impact fee revenue, optional sales tax revenue, and grants to build a multi-purpose recreation facility at the South County Park. The county has also applied for and received a grant to improve the Oslo Road boat ramp. The current list of 5-year parks and recreation capital projects is attached (Appendix F).

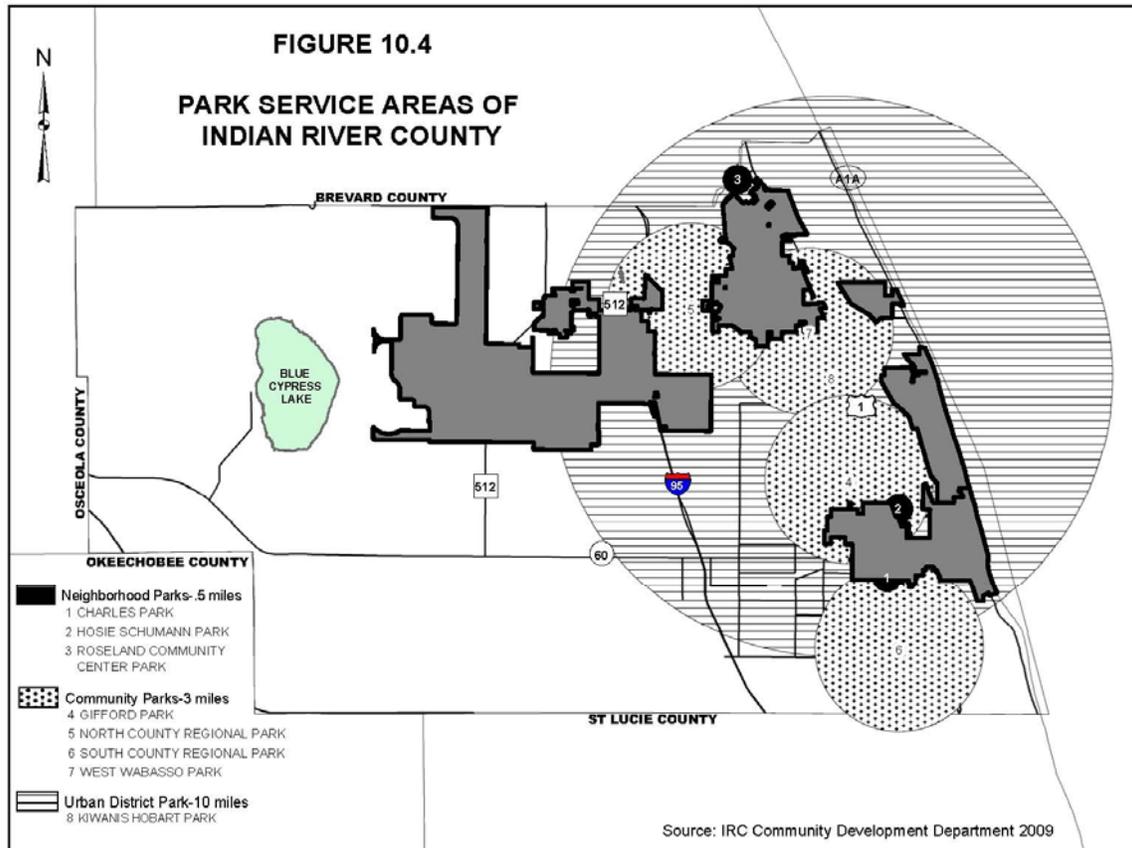
In the future, most of the capital needs will be funded by recreation impact fees, grants, and optional sales tax revenue, while general funds revenue and user fees will be used for operational expenditures. Going forward, however, the Recreation Department should re-evaluate its user fee structure for recreational programs to ensure that costs are fully recovered. Due to a recent decrease in general fund revenue, the Recreation Department should also evaluate other funding options, such as facility naming rights, beach and park concessions, and others.

### **Arts and Cultural Programs**

In the past, Indian River County residents have demonstrated that they value growth in and access to cultural programs in education, the arts, sciences and humanities. For that reason, the county has fostered an environment which promotes opportunities for individuals and organizations in the cultural sector that benefits residents of and visitors to Indian River County.

According to the State of Florida's cultural plan, "Culture Builds Florida's Future", the quality of cultural life has been shown to be a reason people and businesses decide to relocate to an area. As such, the cultural sector impacts tourist development, retail sales, employment opportunities and general economic development. More so than many areas, Indian River County has the audience, interest, organizations and talent available to implement cultural development for the benefit of the entire community.

In the future, the county should work with the Cultural Council of Indian River County to facilitate the provision of Arts and Cultural programs within the county.



## **GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

As with all elements of the comprehensive plan, goals, objectives and policies are the basis of the Recreation Open Space Element. Not only do they establish the county's direction for recreation and open space; but goals, objectives and policies also set community expectations for recreation and open space and courses of action which the county will pursue to meet those expectations.

**GOAL:** It is the goal of Indian River County to provide a recreation and open space system which meets the needs of all residents of the county, is accessible to all residents of the county, and maximizes the county's physical, cultural and historical resources.

### **OBJECTIVE 1: Adequate Parklands and Recreation Facilities**

Through 2030, adopted recreation levels-of-service will be maintained to ensure that adequate parklands and recreation facilities are available and accessible for public use.

**POLICY 1.1:** The county hereby adopts a recreation level-of-service standard of 6.61 recreation acres per 1,000 permanent population plus weighted seasonal population

**POLICY 1.2:** For level-of service purposes, the county shall measure parkland acres per 1000 population by summing the total county owned park acreage and dividing by the current estimate of unincorporated county permanent population, plus weighted seasonal population.

**POLICY 1.3:** The county shall maintain its concurrency management system, which allows proposed developments only if there is sufficient parkland to serve the proposed development.

**POLICY 1.4:** The county hereby adopts the facility standards identified in Table 10.1 as guidelines to be used in developing parklands.

**POLICY 1.5:** By 2018, the county shall complete a needs analysis of its recreation services. This analysis will include an assessment of the type of parks and facilities needed in Indian River County, the quantity of facilities needed, the location where those facilities are needed, the current use of facilities, and a comparison of county needs to national standards for recreation services, and unique local conditions relevant to recreation services.

**POLICY 1.6:** By 2018, the Recreation Department shall evaluate the existing user fee structure and include full cost recovery for adult programs.

**POLICY 1.7:** By 2017, the Recreation Department shall revise its fee structure for county recreational programs and reservation of county park facilities to include a surcharge for out of county residents.

**POLICY 1.8:** By 2018, the Recreation Department shall evaluate the current per capita expenditure in the north and south areas (with S.R. 60 as a dividing line) and utilize the collected data to guide placement of needed park facilities in each area.

**POLICY 1.9:** By 2018, the Recreation Department shall evaluate new funding options, including privatization and partnerships.

**POLICY 1.10:** By 2017, the Recreation Department shall evaluate new revenue opportunities such as facility naming rights, beach and park concessions, and others.

**POLICY 1.11:** By 2018, the Recreation Department shall evaluate the feasibility of creating a foundation to develop and receive donations for parks capital and infrastructure needs.

**POLICY 1.12:** The county shall continue to charge park and recreation impact fees to fund a portion of the park system's capital budget needs.

**POLICY 1.13:** The Recreation Department shall continue to apply user fees for those facilities and programs where the benefit is quantifiable and where the fee can be effectively implemented.

**POLICY 1.14:** The county shall, as part of its user fee program, develop a method to subsidize recreation user fees for low income residents so that there will be minimal effects of user fees on participation at sites or programs.

**POLICY 1.15:** The county shall identify state and federal recreation grant programs. When applicable, the county shall apply for available grant funds, for recreation facility or program funding.

**POLICY 1.16:** The county shall maintain land development regulations that require certain planned residential development projects to provide recreation areas and facilities that meet the county's recreation level-of-service standards.

## **OBJECTIVE 2: Parklands in the South District**

By 2020, the county will have 461 acres of parkland south of S.R. 60.

**POLICY 2.1:** By 2018, the county will, based on funding availability, complete remaining improvements identified in the South County Regional Park Master Plan.

**POLICY 2.2:** The county shall, based on funding availability, include active recreation facilities such as baseball fields, basketball courts, tennis courts, jogging trails, swimming pools and others in its future south county parks if those facilities are consistent with the 2012 updated south county regional park master plan.

**POLICY 2.3:** The county shall give parkland acquisition priority to the area south of SR 60, west of 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

**OBJECTIVE 3: Parkland Development**

By 2020, the county will have developed at least 65 percent of its currently undeveloped existing park acreage.

**POLICY 3.1:** By 2020, the county shall complete phase II of the Treasure Shores Park.

**POLICY 3.2:** By 2018, the county shall develop a new master plan for the fairgrounds, indicating needed facilities and necessary structures.

**POLICY 3.3:** The county shall add facilities to existing parks having undeveloped area. Some parkland will remain undeveloped for a variety of reasons, including environmental, regulatory, and aesthetics.

**POLICY 3.4:** By 2018, the Recreation Department shall update the North County Regional Park and the South County Regional Park Master Plans.

**OBJECTIVE 4: Access to Parklands and Recreation Facilities**

Throughout the time horizon of the plan, all new parks and recreational facilities will be located near population centers and will be handicap accessible.

**POLICY 4.1:** The county shall continue to design all new parks and recreational facilities to provide barrier-free access.

**POLICY 4.2:** The county shall locate new park facilities in close proximity to the population to be served based upon service radius for different park types.

**POLICY 4.3:** The county shall provide vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle access consistent with the Bikeway/Sidewalk Development Plan to all county owned parks in conjunction with park development.

**OBJECTIVE 5: Access to Natural Resources**

Through the time horizon of the plan, the current 57 access points to the county's major water resources, including the Atlantic Ocean, Indian River Lagoon, St. Sebastian River, and freshwater lakes, will be maintained.

**POLICY 5.1:** The county shall use beachfront and riverfront lands that have been acquired through the county's Environmental Lands Acquisition Program for public access to the county's major natural water resources.

**POLICY 5.2:** The county hereby designates the Indian River Lagoon, the St. Sebastian River, and associated coastal resources as a greenway (a.k.a. "blueway") and waterway trail system. Consistent with Policy 8.1 of the Coastal Management Element, Indian River County will participate in the Indian River Lagoon "Blueway" Florida Forever (f.k.a. "Conservation and Recreation Lands") project to acquire and provide passive recreational access to coastal resources bordering the Indian River Lagoon by providing local funding assistance, and by providing "in-kind" services, such as identifying environmentally-sensitive parcels.

### **OBJECTIVE 6: Recreation Programs**

Through the time horizon of the plan, at least 142 recreation programs per year will be provided.

**POLICY 6.1:** The county shall provide supervised recreation activities at all appropriate park sites.

**POLICY 6.2:** The county may allow private leisure and recreation groups to use park areas for recreation programs and activities provided that the following conditions are met:

- The area of the park to be used must not currently be in use by the general public or designated for future use on the park master plan;
- A lease specifying duration of use, characteristics of use, insurance requirements, and other applicable conditions must be executed by the Board of County Commissioners;
- A site plan or temporary use permit must be approved by the planning department;
- Any improvements made to the leased site must be done and paid for by the lessee with the improvements conveying to the county when the lease expires.

**POLICY 6.3:** By 2018, the Recreation Department shall conduct a survey to determine the demand for existing recreational programs and to prioritize demand for new programs.

**POLICY 6.4:** The Recreation Department shall annually identify CORE recreation programs, and services as part of its annual budget request.

**POLICY 6.5:** By 2018, the Recreation Department shall establish an automated recreational program system which allows users to reserve park facilities or to sign up for recreation programs online.

**POLICY 6.6:** The Recreation Department shall formalize multi-year agreements with all long term user groups for utilizing county's public recreation facilities.

**POLICY 6.7:** The Recreation Department shall coordinate with the IRC school district to structure an agreement for public access to school recreational facilities.

**POLICY 6.8:** The County shall manage the county's shooting range to make it available to all county residents.

### **OBJECTIVE 7: Open Space**

Through the time horizon of the plan, there will be no decrease in the amount of publicly-owned or publicly-controlled open space within the county.

**POLICY 7.1:** The county shall acquire those environmentally sensitive areas programmed for acquisition in the conservation element of this plan. These areas will be used as open space, passive recreation areas, and historical sites, as appropriate.

**POLICY 7.2:** The county hereby designates the following roadways as scenic/historic roads:

- Jungle Trail (management plan developed)
- Fellsmere Grade (management plan drafted)
- Quay Dock Road
- Old Winter Beach Road
- Gifford Dock Road

**POLICY 7.3:** By 2015 the county shall develop management plans for each of the scenic/historic roads. These management plans shall provide for the protection of open space resources adjacent to these roads and shall designate areas suitable for open space acquisition. These roads will be used as access ways, open space, and corridors incorporating passive and active recreational activities while maintaining their primary historical importance.

**POLICY 7.4:** Consistent with the Transportation Element, the county shall acquire sufficient right-of-way for future roads to provide additional green (open space) areas by:

- Using rural cross sections including grassed swales unless precluded by physical constraints;
- Providing for grassed and landscaped medians on divided roadways where conditions allow; and
- Designing roadways to provide for grassed and landscaped roadway-recovery areas.

**POLICY 7.5:** The county, through its land development regulations, shall continue to apply its open space definitions and standards as reflected in this element.

**POLICY 7.6:** The county shall, through its land development regulations, continue to specify minimum open space requirements by land use type.

**POLICY 7.7:** The county shall, through its land development regulations, continue to require the recording of conservation easements for all environmentally sensitive areas from which density is transferred, and other such areas that are to be maintained as open space.

**OBJECTIVE 8: Intergovernmental Coordination**

By 2011, the county will have agreements with municipalities for county-wide programs and for special events that impact other jurisdictions.

**POLICY 8.1:** The county shall continue to coordinate with the St. Johns River Water Management District through representation on the district's regional recreation advisory committee.

**POLICY 8.2:** To enhance recreation opportunities, the county shall coordinate with and support state and federal agencies in their land acquisition programs by:

- Compiling information;
- Conducting site analyses;
- Contacting owners; and
- Providing staff assistance.

**POLICY 8.3:** By 2011, the county shall coordinate with the school board to exchange the county's 16<sup>th</sup> Street complex for an equal value regional park property within the unincorporated area of the county.

**POLICY 8.4:** The county Recreation Department's staff shall meet with municipalities' staff as needed for the provision of countywide programs and for special events.

**OBJECTIVE 9: Arts and Cultural Programs**

By 2012, the county will have a comprehensive cultural plan for the county (this plan will be developed by the Cultural Council of Indian River County (CCIRC)).

**Policy 9.1:** By 2012, the county shall participate with the Cultural Council of Indian River County in developing a comprehensive cultural plan for the county and shall encourage public/private partnerships, as appropriate.

**Policy 9.2:** The County shall, when possible, support cultural and heritage activities by providing financial support through tourist tax revenue.

**Policy 9.3:** The County shall cooperate with the CCIRC to establish a program for art in public places. This will involve the coordination, administration and display of loaned, local artwork in appropriate public buildings and open spaces.

**Policy 9.4:** The County shall support the sale of the “State of the Arts” License plates promoted by the Cultural Council of Indian River County. The CCIRC, as the County’s designated Local Arts Agency, will receive and dispense funds related to the sales of the Arts License Plates, as required.

**Policy 9.5:** The County shall consider the Cultural Council of Indian River County (CCIRC) as the county’s designated cultural agency. As such, the Cultural Council shall represent the various arts and culture groups in the County, serving as a liaison for all cultural requests to the county. In so doing, the Cultural Council may annually submit a funding request to the county on behalf of the county’s arts and culture organizations. That funding request shall include the following information:

- Detailed information about the organization's accomplishments during the last fiscal year, specifically as related to funding received from the county.
- Detailed budget information pertaining to any funds that the organization is requesting;
- The organization’s proposed goals and activities for the upcoming fiscal year; and a copy of the organizations most recent audit, if applicable.

**Policy 9.6:** Through the Cultural Council, the County shall support cultural and heritage organizations’ applications for state, federal and private foundation grants. The county’s support may include providing customized demographic information, leveraging the County’s grant eligibility, providing letters of support, and providing other support as appropriate.

**Policy 9.7:** The county shall assist the Cultural Council with the dissemination of a calendar of cultural events in Indian River County prepared by the CCIRC. This assistance will involve making information available at government facilities.

**Policy 9.8:** The county will assist the Cultural Council in providing avenues for nonprofit and artist networking such as:

- A. Providing workshops, seminars and one-on-one assistance for cultural organizations, artists and educators to enhance their effectiveness, viability and long-term survival.
- B. Promoting the use of its web-based tools to support and facilitate business transactions within the cultural community.
- C. Providing opportunities for cultural leaders of all kinds to meet and learn from each other, creating networks that foster collaboration and cooperation.

**Policy 9.9:** The Board of County Commissioners shall, upon request by the CCIRC, designate October of each year as National Arts and Humanities month.

## **Implementation, Evaluation, and Monitoring**

### **Implementation**

An important part of any plan is its implementation. Implementation involves execution of the plan's policies. It involves taking actions and achieving results.

For the Recreation and Open Space Element, implementation involves various activities. While some of these actions will be ongoing, others are activities that will be taken by certain points in time. For each policy in this element, Table 10.10 identifies the type of action required, the responsible entity for taking the action, the timing, and whether or not the policy necessitates a capital expenditure.

To implement the Recreation and Open Space Element, several different types of actions must be taken. These include: land acquisition, land (park) development, and physical improvement of facilities, as well as adoption of land development regulations and other ordinances, execution of interlocal agreements, provision of program support, and coordination. Plan implementation will also involve preparing several studies and feasibility analyses.

Overall plan implementation responsibility will rest with the planning department. Besides its responsibilities as identified in Table 10.10, the planning department has the additional responsibility of ensuring that other entities discharge their responsibilities. This will entail notifying other applicable departments of capital expenditures to be included in their budgets, notifying other departments and groups of actions that must be taken, and assisting other departments and agencies in their plan implementation responsibilities.

Policy	Type of Action	Responsibility	Timing	Capital Expenditure
1.1	Adopt recreation levels-of-service	BCC	Ongoing	No
1.2	Determination of current level-of-service	Planning Dept.	Ongoing	No
1.3	Maintain concurrency management system	Planning Dept.	Ongoing	No
1.4	Adopt facility standards	BCC	Ongoing	No
1.5	Complete Needs Analysis	Recreation Department	2012	No
1.6	User fee and cost recovery	Recreation Department	2012	No
1.7	Revise fee structure charge out of county users	Recreation Department	2013	No
1.8	Determine need infrastructure north / south of SR 60	Recreation Department	2012	No
1.9	Evaluate funding options	Recreation Department	2011	No

Table 10.10: Recreation and Open Space Element Implementation Matrix				
Policy	Type of Action	Responsibility	Timing	Capital Expenditure
1.10	Evaluate revenue option	Recreation Department	2011	No
1.11	Feasibility Study	Recreation Department	2011	No
1.12	Charge recreation fees for capital budget needs	Recreation Department	Ongoing	No
1.13	User fee were benefit is quantifiable	Recreation Department	Ongoing	No
1.14	Subsidized Recreation Fees	Recreation Department	Ongoing	No
1.15	State & Federal Funding	Recreation Department	Ongoing	No
1.16	Maintaining LDRs	Planning Division	Ongoing	No
2.1	Complete South County Park	BCC/Public Works Dept.	2015	Yes
2.2	Include active recreation facilities in future south county parks	BCC/Public Works Dept.	Ongoing	Yes
2.3	Prioritize parkland acquisition activities near SR 60	Planning Dept./Parks	Ongoing	Yes
3.1	Complete Phase II of Treasure Shores Park	Public Works Dept.	2020	Yes
3.2	Develop new master plan for fairgrounds	Public Works Dept.	2012	No
3.3	Add facilities to existing parks	Public Works Dept.	Ongoing	Yes
3.4	Update north and south regional park master plans	Public Works Dept.	2012	Yes
4.1	Create barrier-free access for all county parks	Public Works Dept.	Ongoing	Yes
4.2	Efficient location of new parks	Public Works Dept.	Ongoing	No
4.3	Implementation of Bikeway/Sidewalk Plan	Planning Dept./Public Works Dept.	Ongoing	Yes
5.1	Environmental Land Acquisition	Planning Division	Ongoing	Yes
5.2	Designate "Greenways"	BCC	Ongoing	No
6.1	Provide supervised recreation activities	Recreation Dept.	Ongoing	No
6.2	Allow private groups to use park areas	BCC/Recreation Dept.	Ongoing	No
6.3	Conduct Survey/Prioritize demand	Recreation Dept.	2011	No
6.4	Identify CORE programs and services	Recreation Dept.	Annually	No
6.5	Automated park reservations and sign up system	Recreation Dept.	2010	No
6.6	Multi year agreements with long term users	Recreation Dept.	Ongoing	No
6.7	Agreement fro access to school facilities	Recreation Dept.	Ongoing	No
6.8	Management of Shooting Range	Recreation Dept	Ongoing	No
7.1	Acquisition environmentally sensitive lands	BCC/Planning Dept.	Ongoing	Yes

Table 10.10: Recreation and Open Space Element Implementation Matrix				
Policy	Type of Action	Responsibility	Timing	Capital Expenditure
7.2	Designation of scenic/historic roads	BCC/Planning Dept.	Ongoing	No
7.3	Develop management plans for scenic/historic roads	Planning Dept.	2015	No
7.4	Acquisition of R-O-W	BCC/Public Works Dept.	Ongoing	Yes
7.5	Apply open space definitions and standards	Planning Dept.	Ongoing	No
7.6	Specify minimum open space requirements	Planning Dept.	Ongoing	No
7.7	Require the recording of conservation easements	Planning Dept.	Ongoing	No
8.1	Coordinate with St. Johns River Water Management	BCC/Planning Dept.	Ongoing	No
8.2	Coordinate with and support state and federal agencies	BCC/Planning Dept	Ongoing	No
8.3	Exchange 16 Street complex with school board	BCC/Planning Dept	2011	No
8.4	Meeting with municipalities for special events	Recreation Dept./BCC	Ongoing	No
9.1	Coordinate with cultural council	BCC	2012	No
9.2	Support cultural and heritage activates	BCC	Ongoing	No
9.3	Local artwork in public places	BCC/CCIRC	Ongoing	No
9.4	Support license plate sales	CCIRC/BCC	Ongoing	No
9.5	Designated cultural council as the designated cultural agency	BBC / CCIRC	Ongoing	No
9.6	Support cultural and heritage organization	BBC / CCIRC	Ongoing	No
9.7	Cultural calendar of events	BCC/CCIRC	Ongoing	No
9.8	Support cultural networking activities	BCC/CCIRC	Ongoing	No
9.9	October national arts month	BCC/CCIRC	Ongoing	No

## Evaluation & Monitoring Procedures

To be effective, a plan must not only provide a means for implementation; it must also provide a mechanism for assessing the plan's effectiveness. Generally a plan's effectiveness can be judged by the degree to which the plan's objectives have been met. Since objectives are structured, as much as possible, to be measurable and to have specific timeframes, the plan's objectives are the benchmarks used as a basis to evaluate the plan.

Table 10.11 identifies each of the objectives of the Recreation and Open Space Element. It also identifies the measures to be used to evaluate progress in achieving these objectives. Most of these measures are quantitative, such as number of acres of park, number of acres of open space, number of access improvements, and others. Besides the measures, Table 10.11 also identifies timeframes associated with meeting the objectives.

The planning department staff will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the Recreation and Open space Element. This will involve collection of data and compilation of information regarding recreation and open space improvements. Specifically, the planning staff will coordinate with the parks department to maintain an accurate and up-to-date inventory of park acreage and facilities. This will be done on a regular basis. As part of the county's concurrency management system, the planning staff will continually monitor the number of acres of each park type to ensure that recreation level-of-service standards will be maintained.

While monitoring will occur on a continual basis, formal evaluation of the Recreation and Open Space Element will occur every five years in conjunction with the formal evaluation and appraisal of the entire comprehensive plan. Besides assessing progress, the evaluation and appraisal process will also be used to determine whether the recreation and open space element objectives should be modified or expanded. In this way the monitoring and evaluation of the Recreation and Open Space Element will not only provide a means of determining the degree of success of the plan's implementation; it will also provide a mechanism for evaluating needed changes to the plan element.

Objective	Measure	Timeframe
1	Level-of-service provided for county recreation services	Through 2030
2	Acres of county parkland in south district	2020
3	Percent of county parkland that is developed	2020
4	Accessibility of county parks	Ongoing
5	Number of access points to the county's major natural water resources	Ongoing
6	Number of county recreation programs	Ongoing
7	Amount of publicly-owned or publicly-controlled open space in Indian River County	Ongoing
8	Agreements for special events with municipalities	2011
9	Existence of a comprehensive cultural plan	2012



Appendix B Parks and Facilities in the City of Sebastian																																											
Sebastian City Parks	Ownership	Classification	Acres	Electricity	Telephone	Water	Boating Area	Fishing	Inland Water	Field Area	Open Space/Scenic	Basketball	Football	Reg. Baseball	Softball	Tennis Courts	Racquetball Courts	Volleyball	Spectator Seating	Boat Moorings	Boat Launch	Foot Trails	Community Center	Concessions	Phys. Fit. Course	Parking	Outdoor Grills	Picnic Tables	Pavilions	Restrooms	Night lighting	Equipped Playgrounds	Maint. Equip. Store	Kitchen	Maint. Equip. Store	Sprinkler System	Pump House	Well					
Main St.	C	M	.4			√	√	√			√									√	√					√	√	√															
Community	C	M	1.0	√	√	√																√	√			√					√												
Easy St. Park	C	M	6.9			√			√		√															√		√	√	√		√											
Schumann Drive	C	N	4.0												√	√	√									√				√													
Barber Sports	C	M	13.1	√	√	√							√	√	√			√	√							√		√	√	√	√					√	√	√	√	√	√		
Riverview Park	C	M	3.3	√	√	√					√											√				√	√	√	√	√													
Friendship Park	C	M	10	√	√	√								√		√	√					√	√			√		√	√						√								
Englar Stormwater	C	N	163			√			√		√											√				√																	
Lake Hardee Park	C	N	13.8		√			√	√		√	√										√			√																		
Airport and Golf Course	C																																										
Blossom Park	C																																										
Schumann Lake	C	N	36				√	√	√		√																																
Main St	C	M	.4			√	√	√			√									√	√					√	√	√															
Periwinkle Park	C																																										

C - City of Sebastian M - Community Beach B - Beach Park S - Specialty Park N - Neighborhood Park

Appendix C: Parks and Facilities in the City of Fellsmere										
Fellsmere City Parks	Ownership	Classification	Acreage	Open Space/Scenic	Basketball	Regulation Baseball	Little League Baseball	Tennis Courts	Equipped Playground	Soccer Fields
Senior League Park	C	N	10.72	√	√	√			√	
Little League Park	C	S	3.72	√	√		√		√	
Fellsmere Perserve	C	S	98	√						
Grant Park	C	N	1.59	√	√				√	
Tennis and Handball Court	C	S	.3					√		
Sonrise Villas Park		N	2.41	√					√	√
Whispering Pines Park		N	0.37	√	√				√	
C - City of Fellsmere                      S - Specialty Park                      N - Neighborhood Park										

Appendix D: School Recreation Facilities in Indian River County

Schools	Ownership	Acreage	Electricity	Telephone	Water	Sewer	Field Area	Open Space/Scenic	Basketball	Football	Reg. Baseball	Softball	Tennis Courts	Volleyball	Spectator Seating	Bicycle Paths	Concessions	Parking	Restrooms	Showers	Night Lighting	Equipped Playgrounds	Site Office	Maint. Equip. Store	Sprinkler System	Well
Beachland Elementary	SB	25	√	√	√	√	√		2		√	√		2				√	√			√	√	√		
Citrus Elementary	SB	20	√	√	√	√	√		2		√	√		2				√	√			√	√	√		
Dodgertown Elementary	SB	20	√	√	√	√	√		2		√	√		2				√	√			√	√	√		
Fellsmere Elementary	SB	10	√	√	√		√		2		√	√		2				√	√			√	√	√		√
Gifford Middle	SB	29	√	√	√	√	√		4		√	√		4				√	√				√	√		
Oslo Middle	SB	40	√	√	√	√	√	√	gym					2				√	√				√	√	√	
Osceola Magnet Elementary	SB	20	√	√	√	√	√		2		√	√		2				√	√			√	√	√		
Pelican Island Elementary	SB	32	√	√	√	√	√		2		√	√		2				√	√			√	√	√		
Rosewood Elementary	SB	15	√	√	√	√	√		2		√	√		2				√	√			√	√	√		
Sebastian Elementary	SB	6	√	√	√	√	√		2		√	√		2				√	√			√	√	√		
Sebastian River Middle	SB	40	√	√	√	√	√		4	√	√	√	4	4				√	√	√			√	√		
Thompson Elementary	SB	14	√	√	√	√	√		2		√	√		2				√	√				√	√		

**Comprehensive Plan**

**Recreation and Open Space Element**

Schools	Ownership	Acreage	Electricity	Telephone	Water	Sewer	Field Area	Open Space/Scenic	Basketball	Football	Reg. Baseball	Softball	Tennis Courts	Volleyball	Spectator Seating	Bicycle Paths	Concessions	Parking	Restrooms	Showers	Night Lighting	Equipped Playgrounds	Site Office	Maint. Equip. Store	Sprinkler System	Well
Vero Beach Elementary	SB	15	√	√	√	√	√		2		√	√		2			√	√	√			√	√	√		
Vero Beach High	SB	75	√	√	√	√	√		8	√	√	√	8	8	√			√	√	√			√	√		
Vero Beach High Freshman Learning Center (FLC)	SB		√	√	√	√													√			√				
Storm Grove Middle School	SB	53	√	√	√	√	√	√	8	√	√	√						√	√			√	√	√		
Highland Elementary	SB	19	√	√	√	√	√		2		√	√		2				√	√			√	√	√		
Glendale Elementary	SB	20	√	√	√	√			2		√	√		2				√	√			√	√	√		
Treasure Coast Elementary	SB	34	√	√	√	√	√	√										√	√			√	√	√	√	
Liberty Magnet	SB	7.3	√	√	√	√	√	√										√	√			√	√	√		
Sebastian High	SB	75	√	√	√	√	√		gym		√	√		2	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	

SB – School Board

Appendix E

IRC Recreation Department  
All Program Evaluation Matrix

3/24/2008

<b>Program</b>	<b>Total Value</b>	<b>Core</b>	<b>Non Core</b>
<b>Aquatics</b>			
<b>GAC</b>			
<b>Fall Sept.16-Dec1</b>			
<b>Instructional</b>			
Self Defense	3	x	
Special K	5	x	
Complete Fitness	3	x	
<b>Winter Dec. 2-Feb .15</b>			
<b>Instructional</b>			
Self Defense	3	x	
Special K	5	x	
Complete Fitness	3	x	
<b>Other</b>			
MLK Celebration	5	x	
<b>Spring Feb.16- April 30</b>			
<b>Instructional</b>			
Self Defense	3	x	
Special K	5	x	
<b>Other</b>			
Step Up Florida	2		x
AAHLW & Water Safety	2		x

IRC Recreation Department  
All Program Evaluation Matrix

3/24/2008

Program	Total Value	Core	Non Core
<b>Summer</b>	<b>May 1- Sept. 15</b>		
<b>Instructional</b>			
Self Defense	3	x	
Special K	5	x	
Group Swim Lessons	4	x	
Private Lessons	4	x	
Youth Fun Day	4	x	
<b>Other</b>			
Daily admission	4	x	
Memberships	4	x	
Rentals	5	x	
Concessions	3		x
<b>Ocean Rescue</b>			
Summer			
Jr. Lifeguard Program	4	x	
<b>NCAC</b>			
<b>Fall Sept. 16- Dec.1</b>			
<b>Instructional</b>			
Aquanautics	3		x
Lifeguard class	3	x	
Scuba	2		x
Group Swim Lessons	2		x
Private Lessons	2		x
Swim Meets SRHS	3	x	

**IRC Recreation Department  
All Program Evaluation Matrix**

**3/24/2008**

<b>Program</b>		<b>Total Value</b>	<b>Core</b>	<b>Non Core</b>
State Special Olympics	5		x	
<b>Other</b>				
Daily admission		2	x	
Memberships		2	x	
Swim Team		3	x	
Dive Team		3	x	
Rentals		4	x	
Concession		1		x
<b>Pools</b>				
50 meter		4	x	
<b>NCAC</b>				
<b>Winter</b>	<b>Dec.2-Feb15</b>			
<b>Instructional</b>				
Aquanautics		3		x
Lifeguard class		3	x	
Scuba		1		x
Group Lessons		2		x
Private Lessons		2		x
Swim Meets		2		x
<b>Other</b>				
Daily admission		3		
Membership		3		
Swim Team		3		

**IRC Recreation Department  
All Program Evaluation Matrix**

**3/24/2008**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Total Value</b>	<b>Core</b>	<b>Non Core</b>
Dive Team	3		
College Teams	4	x	
Rentals	4		
Concessions	1		
<b>Pools</b>			
50 meter	4	x	
<b>NCAC</b>			
<b>Spring</b>	<b>Feb. 16- April 30</b>		
<b>Instructional</b>			
Aquanautics	3	x	
Lifeguard Class	4	x	
Scuba	1		x
Water Safety Class	3	x	
Group Lessons	3	x	
Private Lessons	2		x
Liberty Magnet	3	x	
Fellsmere	3	x	
SRMS	3	x	
TCSC Swim Meet	3	x	
<b>Other</b>			
Daily admission	3	x	
Memberships	3	x	
Swim Team	3	x	
Dive Team	3	x	
Rentals	4	x	
Concession	2		x

**IRC Recreation Department  
All Program Evaluation Matrix**

3/24/2008

<b>Program</b>	<b>Total Value</b>	<b>Core</b>	<b>Non Core</b>
Dancin on the Deck	2		x
Water Safety Day	2		x
Step Up Florida	2		x
<b>Pools</b>			
50 meter	4	x	
<b>NCAC</b>			
<b>Summer</b>	<b>May 1- Sept. 15</b>		
<b>Instructional</b>			
Aquanautics	3	x	
Lifeguard Class	4	x	
Scuba	1		x
Jr. Lifeguard	4	x	
Group Lessons	4		
Private Lessons	3	x	
Liberty Magnet	4	x	
Fellsmere	4	x	
SRMS	4	x	
TCSC Swim Meets	3	x	
<b>Other</b>			
Daily admission	4	x	
Memberships	3	x	
Swim Team	3	x	
Dive Team	3	x	
Rentals	4	x	
Concessions	2		x
Out of School Splash	3		x
Back to School	3		x

IRC Recreation Department  
All Program Evaluation Matrix

3/24/2008

<b>Program</b>	<b>Total Value</b>	<b>Core</b>	<b>Non Core</b>
<b>Splash Pools</b>			
Zero Depth		x	
50 meter		x	
<b>Special Events</b>			
<b>Fall</b>			
Bck to School Dance	1		x
Teen Sports Night	2		x
Screen on the Green	3	x	
<b>Winter / Spring</b>			
Winter Fest	4	x	
Santa Calling	4	x	
Daddy/ Daghtr Dance	5	x	
Momy/ Son HoDown	3	x	
Cmnty Hlth Days	1		x
Dr MLK Parade Float	1		x
Hlween Parade Float	0		x
Christmas Parade Float	1		x
<b>Egg Hunts</b>			
Water hunt	3	x	
Flashlight Indoor	3	x	
Flashlight Outdoor	3	x	

IRC Recreation Department  
All Program Evaluation Matrix

3/24/2008

<b>Program</b>	<b>Total Value</b>	<b>Core</b>	<b>Non Core</b>
<b>Athletics</b>			
<b>Youth Football</b>			
Tot time Flag	5	x	
Mighty Mite Flag	5	x	
Sr Mighty Mite Flag	5	x	
Jr Midget Tackle	5	x	
Midget Tackle	5	x	
Jr. Tackle	5	x	
Cheerleading      ng 6-9	5		
Cheerleading      ng 10-15	5	x	
<b>Youth Basketball</b>			
Tot Time	5	x	
Mighty Mite	5	x	
Midgets	5	x	
Juniors	5	x	
Seniors	5	x	
<b>Youth Basketball Summer</b>			
Tot Time	5	x	
Mighty Mite	5	x	
Midgets	5	x	
Juniors	5	x	
Seniors	5	x	
<b>Athletics</b>			
<b>Youth Baseball</b>	5	x	

**IRC Recreation Department  
All Program Evaluation Matrix**

**3/24/2008**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Total Value</b>	<b>Core</b>	<b>Non Core</b>
T Ball Tot Time	5	x	
Mighty Mite 6,7	5	x	
Mighty Mite 6,7 e 8,9	5	x	
<b>Youth Baseball Summer</b>	5	x	
T Ball Tot Time	5	x	
Mighty Mite e 6,7	5	x	
Mighty Mite e 8,9	5	x	
<b>Youth Camps</b>			
Traditional Summer	4	x	
Traditional Spng Brk	2		x
Fun & Games	4	x	
Volleyball Summer	4	x	
Basketball Summer	4	x	
Karate Summer	4	x	

**IRC RECREATION  
DEPARTMENT  
ALL PROGRAM EVALUATION MATRIX**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Total Value</b>	<b>Core</b>	<b>Non Core</b>
<b>Athletics</b>			
<b>Adult Fall Softball</b>			
Men's South County	4	x	
Men's North County	4	x	
Co-Ed South County	4	x	
Co-Ed North County	4	x	
<b>Adult Winter</b>			
Men's South County	4	x	
Co-Ed North County	4		
Co-Ed South County	4	x	
Adult Volleyball 16up	4	4	x

APPENDIX F: FIVE-YEAR SCHEDULE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Parks and Recreation						
Revenue	FY 2009/10	FY 2010/11	FY 2011/12	FY 2012/13	FY 2013/14	Total
FBIP	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200,000
Grant	\$ 225,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 225,000
Optional Sales Tax	\$ 3,343,545	\$ -	\$ 1,400,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,743,545
Impact Fees	\$ 425,000	\$ 2,205,000	\$ 3,575,000	\$ 4,375,000	\$ 1,575,000	\$12,155,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 4,193,545</b>	<b>\$ 2,205,000</b>	<b>\$ 4,975,000</b>	<b>\$ 4,375,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,575,000</b>	<b>\$17,323,545</b>

Expenditures	FY 2009/10	FY 2010/11	FY 2011/12	FY 2012/13	FY 2013/14	Total	Revenue Source
Oslo Boat Ramp and Parking	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200,000	FBIP
Oslo Boat Ramp and Parking	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000	Grant
Oslo Boat Ramp and Parking	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300,000	Impact Fees
S. County Regional Park improvements	\$ 125,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 125,000	Impact Fees
South County Regional Park Improvements	\$ 125,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 125,000	Grant
South County Recreation Multi Purpose Facility	\$ 1,843,545	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,843,545	Optional Sales Tax
South County Recreation Multi Purpose Facility	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000	Impact Fees
Fairgrounds Building Enclosure	\$ -	\$ 630,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 630,000	Impact Fees
Parks Maintenance Facility	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000	Optional Sales Tax
State Road 510 Fishing Pier	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,400,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,400,000	Optional Sales Tax
Land for Future Parks	\$ -	\$ 1,575,000	\$ 1,575,000	\$ 1,575,000	\$ 1,575,000	\$ 6,300,000	Impact Fees
West County Regional Park	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500,000	\$ 2,800,000	\$ -	\$ 3,300,000	Impact Fees
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 4,193,545</b>	<b>\$ 2,205,000</b>	<b>\$ 4,975,000</b>	<b>\$ 4,375,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,575,000</b>	<b>\$ 17,323,545</b>	

**Comprehensive Plan****Recreation and Open Space Element**

<b>Comparison of Expenditures to Revenue</b>	<b>FY 2009/10</b>	<b>FY 2010/11</b>	<b>FY 2011/12</b>	<b>FY 2012/13</b>	<b>FY 2013/14</b>	<b>Total</b>
Total Revenue	\$ 4,193,545	\$ 2,205,000	\$ 4,975,000	\$ 4,375,000	\$ 1,575,000	\$ 17,323,545
Total Expenditures	\$ 4,193,545	\$ 2,205,000	\$ 4,975,000	\$ 4,375,000	\$ 1,575,000	\$ 17,323,545
Annual Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0