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Executive Summary
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction
The City of New Port Richey is a small coastal city known for its rich history and natural character. As the “Gateway to Tropical Florida,” the City’s parks and recreation facilities play a key role in the City’s quality of life and sense of place. Currently, the City has 14 parks and recreation sites, ranging from riverside parks to neighborhood pocket parks, to the 94-acre James E. Grey Preserve. The Parks and Recreation Department is highly regarded and has been the recipient of numerous awards and designations.

This high quality is reflected in residents’ overall satisfaction with their parks: according to the City’s 2012 Citizen Survey, respondents were very pleased with New Port Richey’s parks and recreation facilities and services. Therefore, the purpose of this Master Plan is to make a good system even better, focusing on the unmet needs of the community.

The City’s Request for Qualifications (RFQ) stated that the purpose of this Parks Master Plan is “to ensure that quality recreation and park facilities and services are available to the community into the future”, taking into account “the existing parks and amenities, available open space areas within the City limits, the impact and accessibility of parks and recreation facilities on the environment and the community, and community education and health”.

The Master Plan was completed in four phases over a six-month period, including an evaluation of the existing parks system; an assessment of community needs and priorities; the development of a long-range vision; and the development of the Master Plan document, including an implementation strategy/action plan.

Needs Assessment Summary
The purpose of the parks and recreation needs assessment is to identify the needs and priorities of New Port Richey residents and stakeholders. Needs Assessment techniques included an evaluation of the existing parks system; a level-of-service (LOS) analysis; a statistically-representative survey; an on-line survey; a public outreach meeting; and stakeholder/focus group interviews.

The chart on the following page illustrates the top priority action, facilities, and program needs identified from each of the different needs assessment techniques.

There is a broad-based consensus that the top priority facilities include:

- Improvements to existing parks, including additional facilities, programs, amenities, and marketing;
- Additional walking, hiking, and biking trails;
- Additional off-leash dog parks;
- Additional small neighborhood parks; and
- Natural areas and nature parks

Top priority programs include:

- Adult fitness and wellness programs;
- Summer concerts; and
- Nature programs
### Elements of the Vision

- City-wide improvements and initiatives such as improved marketing of recreation and programming opportunities; improved signage and wayfinding for parks and recreation facilities; protection and enhancement of the Cotee River as the “heart” of the parks system; increased amenities and “things to do” at City parks; increased collaboration with the School District; a public art and interpretive program throughout the City’s parks; greater energy efficiency at public parks and recreation facilities; and improved bicycle/pedestrian connectivity to improve access throughout the City.

- Specific improvements to each of the City’s 14 parks and recreation sites.

### Needs Assessment Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Needs Assessment Summary</th>
<th>Needs Assessment Techniques</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Site Evaluations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Actions</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve Marketing and Outreach Efforts</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve Existing Parks</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce Program Fees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Facilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paved bike trails</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-leash dog parks</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking and hiking trails</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Neighborhood Parks</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural areas/ nature parks</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programs</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult fitness and wellness programs</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature programs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer concerts</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pet exercise programs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50+ programs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Long Range Vision

A long-range parks and recreation vision was developed from several sources, including ideas generated from stakeholders during the needs assessment process; current “best practices” in parks and recreation planning, and urban design; and ideas generated from a “Visioning” workshop with City of New Port Richey staff, stakeholders, and consultants.

The Vision recognizes that the City’s parks and recreation system is integral to the quality of life for City residents, as expressed through the NPR Parks and Recreation Department Mission and Vision:

**Mission:** Create memorable recreational, parks & aquatic experiences to enhance the quality of life.

**Vision:** Connecting people and parks for life.
Evaluation of Existing Conditions
EXISTING PLANS AND CONTEXT REVIEW

Introduction

The purpose of this section is to summarize the context of the Parks Master Plan. Evaluation of Existing Conditions included a review of existing plans, demographics analysis, and parks and recreation facility inventory. Following are the findings from the evaluation.

1.1 Existing Plans and Context Review

The 2012 Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) Redevelopment Plan and the elements of the City’s Comprehensive Plan were reviewed for implications for the Parks Master Plan:

2012 Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) Redevelopment Plan

The CRA Plan includes several concepts, policies, and/or recommendations relevant to the Parks Master Plan. These include:

- Policy FLU 1.2.6 encourages neighborhood plans to include open space for active and passive uses; reuse of the alley system for mobility enhancement; planting of regularly-spaced shade trees on key streets to encourage pedestrian activity year-round; and sidewalk connectivity within and external to the neighborhood, especially sidewalks which link residential areas to schools.
- Policy FLU 1.6.6 encourages the use of the river waterfront through enhanced public facilities.
- Policy TRA 2.1.2 promotes bicycle and pedestrian ways that provide connectivity between residential areas, to recreation areas, schools, shopping areas, transit terminals and the bicycle facilities of other jurisdictions.
- Policy ROS 1.5.6 continues to pursue state and federal funding to enhance the City's parks and recreational program. This is particularly important for the enhancement of the James E. Grey Preserve.
- Objective LIV 1.10 proposes to preserve, enhance and extend the pattern and character of the streets and alleyway system including the prevailing grid as a means to facilitate multi-modal mobility and reducing the future need for wider streets.

The CRA Plan also notes that there are issues and concerns common to most of the neighborhoods within the City that “would seem to lend themselves to City-wide solutions”. Proposed CRA actions with potential implications for the Parks Master Plan include:

- Improve Community Communication
- Revise the Financial Approach to the Use of City Resources
- Re-institute the Neighborhood Planning Program
- Coordinate Festival Planning
uses and ensure access. Observation decks and other similar structures could be constructed at the terminus of key road right-of-way as another means to guarantee access and enhanced scenic views."

Finally, the Redevelopment Plan calls for a traffic circulation system, which mitigates congestion, enhances community character and provides for efficient parking resources and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The bicycle/pedestrian facilities are particularly important to provide equitable access to parks for all residents.

Comprehensive Plan

Barth Associates reviewed the elements of the Comprehensive Plan including the Capital Improvements Element, Coastal Management Element, Conservation Element, Future Land Use Element, Housing Element, Infrastructure Element, Livable Cities Element, Public School Facilities Element, Intergovernmental Coordination Element, and Recreation and Open Space Element. Key implications include:

- The City’s 5-year Capital Improvements Program includes proposed improvements to Sims Park, the Recreation and Aquatics Center, the Pine Hill Baseball Field, James E. Grey Preserve, sidewalks and multi-use trails.
- A variety of funding sources are potentially available to implement the recommendations of the Parks Master Plan, including “Local Resources” such as the General Fund, Redevelopment Trust Fund (CRA), Impact Fees, Stormwater Utility Fees, Special Assessments, and Municipal Share of County Business Tax Receipts; “County Resources” (Local Option Taxes) such as the Tourist Development Tax, County Gas Tax (transportation), Pasco County Local

The CRA Plan also states that the character of the community should be emphasized through recreational opportunities:

“The CRA includes a system of approximately 160 acres of existing parks and open spaces that serve the current needs of residents and visitors alike. A healthy variety of recreational experiences is critical to serve the residential population. The Redevelopment Plan recommends strengthening connections between several neighborhood parks and open spaces to the riverfront by means of enhanced streetscapes, sidewalks, bike paths and multi-use trails that can be implemented over time as funding is available. The investment in the Recreation and Aquatic Center provides a significant enhancement to the immediate neighborhood and surrounding community. Partnership with North Bay Hospital is encouraged for projects including the development of a trail to the Recreation Center.

Access to the river is important for all residents, especially those that do not own waterfront property. There is public access to water resources in all of the City’s water-based parks. The City should coordinate with adjacent municipalities, county and appropriate agencies to ensure adequate sites for water-dependent
Chapter 1: Evaluation of Existing Conditions

Option Gas Tax (transportation), and Local Option Sales Taxes (Penny for Pasco); and “Alternative Financing Methods” such as General Obligation Bonds and Revenue Bonds. Other potential funding sources include "State Sources", "Developer Agreements", and "Grants and Loans" (Capital Improvements Element).

- The City’s parks and conservation areas have the potential to help accomplish the City’s objectives to protect and enhance the Pithlachascotee (Cotee) River, provide native habitat, protect existing natural areas, treat stormwater runoff, store flood waters, and improve energy efficiency system (Conservation Element).

- The City’s parks, conservation areas, sidewalks, and trails have the potential to contribute to the livability and sustainability objectives including the creation of great public spaces; stabilizing neighborhoods; providing pedestrian/bicycle access; and generating other economic, social, and/or environmental benefits outlined in the Livable Cities Element.

- The City should continue to seek partnerships with public schools, developers, Pasco County, and others to maximize resources in order to sustain/improve the quality of life for City residents (Public School Facilities Element, Intergovernmental Coordination Element).

- The City should continue to maintain or exceed the parks and recreation level-of-service (LOS) standards established in the Recreation and Open Space Element. It is important to note, however, that these standards are based in part on the 2000 Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), which has been updated. The latest SCORP (2013) includes benchmark data rather than standards and encourages communities to develop their own LOS standards.

1.2 Demographic Analysis

The most effective parks and recreation systems are those that are tailored to the needs of their residents, both present, and future. The following section analyzes demographic data for the City of New Port Richey and discusses how the findings may relate to City residents’ parks and recreation needs. It is important to note that these findings are not recommendations, but rather preliminary observations that will be considered and examined further alongside the findings from subsequent parks and recreation needs assessment techniques.

In order to better understand the demographic data, City of New Port Richey data is compared to data from Pasco County and the State of Florida. Key demographics examined include:

- Population Density + Percent Housing Units in Multi-Unit Structures
- Population + Population Growth
- Ethnicity + Race
- Age Distribution
- Household Types
- Household Income
- Poverty
- Education
- Housing Characteristics
In each category, 2015 U.S. Census American Community Survey data was compared to 2000 U.S. Census data to identify demographic trends. A summary of the key findings and possible implications for City parks and recreation needs are presented below first, followed by more detailed discussions of each of the demographics examined.

Summary of Demographic Analysis
Based on the review of demographic data from 2000 to 2015, it appears that the City of New Port Richey has experienced various demographic shifts during the last fifteen years. These may suggest shifts in parks and recreation desires and needs based on the following demographics examined.

Population Density + Percent Housing Units in Multi-Unit Structures
In the year 2015, the City of New Port Richey had the highest population density of the jurisdictions analyzed. However, almost 60 percent of residents live in single-family homes. The high population density and a high percentage of single-family homes may suggest small residential lots with small backyards and front yards. This may limit the amount of private greenspace available for basic, everyday recreational activities that a family living in a single-family home may enjoy in their front or back yard.

Additionally, the City has the highest percentage of housing units in multi-unit structures of the jurisdictions analyzed. Based on these factors, City residents may have a need for small, close-to-home recreational opportunities that provide typical every day recreational facilities such as playgrounds, a lawn to play catch, picnic pavilions, or a place for dogs to run without a leash.

Population + Population Growth
While the City of New Port Richey lost population between the years 2000 and 2015, the City is projected to grow by about 2,400 residents by the year 2020. This represents a projected growth rate of about 15.78 percent, which is higher than the projected growth rates for Pasco County and the State of Florida. This increase in residents may suggest that more park acreage, facilities and amenities may be needed to maintain the quality of life that residents currently enjoy.

Ethnicity
In the year 2015, the City of New Port Richey had an 88.7 percent majority of White residents. However, between the years 2000 and 2015, the City experienced a 5.0 percent decrease in White residents and a 12.8 percent increase in Hispanic, Black, and Asian minority residents. The City may wish to monitor these demographic changes to see if it should offer ethnically and culturally influenced programming and activities.

Age Distribution + Household Types
2015 Age Distribution and Household Type census data both suggests that the City of New Port Richey’s population is predominantly comprised of adults between the ages of 35 and 64, with younger aged seniors on the rise. This may suggest that the City may continue to experience a higher demand for adult and younger senior-oriented recreation programs, activities, and facilities such as tennis, pickle ball, walking, biking, and hiking in nature, versus youth programs, activities, and facilities.
Chapter 1: Evaluation of Existing Conditions

Household Income + Poverty
In the year 2015, the City of New Port Richey had the lowest median household income and highest poverty rates of the jurisdictions analyzed. While the household income grew between the years 2000 and 2015, the growth rate was the lowest of the jurisdictions analyzed. Poverty rates on the other hand, grew at faster rates than the jurisdictions analyzed.

This data suggests that residents may have limited disposable income, and may rely on more affordable recreation options, social programs, and services.

Education
2015 Education census data suggests that a high percentage of residents in the City of New Port Richey have a low educational attainment (high school equivalency or less). This is consistent with the City's high poverty rates and low household income. Fortunately, the data suggest that this condition appears to be changing with a slight increase in the percentage of residents receiving college degrees.

Housing Characteristics
In the year 2015, the City of New Port Richey had the lowest percentage of occupied and owner-occupied housing units of the jurisdictions analyzed. The City also had the highest percentage of vacant and renter-occupied housing units of the jurisdictions analyzed. Additionally, between the years 2000 and 2015, the City experienced the highest growth rates of vacant and renter-occupied housing units and a decrease of owner-occupied housing units of the jurisdictions analyzed.

These findings may suggest a degree of community instability, where neighborhood turnover may be high and people may be less invested in their homes and community as a whole. There may be a need to enhance the sense of community. This can be partially accomplished through an investment in community amenities and places where people can gather.

More detail on each of the demographic categories analyzed is presented below.
Population Density + Percent Housing Units in Multi-Unit Structures

Population Density and Percent Housing Units in multi-unit structures are important to consider in parks system planning because they impact lifestyles and the manner by which residents enjoy parks and recreation services. For example, cities with high population densities may have more residents living in a smaller area. This may create a larger demand on and for parks, recreation facilities, and programs within a given area. Similarly, residents living in multi-unit structures typically rely more on public parks to provide basic, close-to-home recreational opportunities such as a playground, a lawn to play catch, a community garden, or a place for dogs to run. These are some of the basic, everyday activities that a family living in a single-family home may enjoy in a front or back yard.

Figure 1.1 below shows the major difference in Population Density and Percent Housing Units in Multi-Unit Structures between the three jurisdictions analyzed. The City of New Port Richey has the highest density and highest percentage of housing units in multi-unit structures of the jurisdictions analyzed. However, almost 60 percent of residents live in detached housing units (single-family homes). The high density and high percentage of single-family homes may suggest smaller single-family home properties with small backyards and front yards, which may indicate a need for more public open space such as neighborhood parks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Population Density (Population per Acre)</th>
<th>Percent of Housing Units in Multi-Unit Structures*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of New Port Richey</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasco County</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Florida</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>33.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: US Census

Population and Population Growth

Population and population growth are two important demographics to consider in parks system planning. The larger the population growth, the more need there may be to expand parks and recreation services in the future. Figure 1.2 below compares the past, existing, and projected population and population growth of New Port Richey to Pasco County and the State of Florida.

As represented in Figure 1.2 above, the City of New Port Richey lost about 900 residents between the years 2000 and 2015. However, based on population figures included in the City’s Comprehensive Plan, the City is projected to grow by about 2,400 residents by the year 2020 which represents a growth rate of about 15.78 percent. This projected growth rate is higher than the projected growth rate for Pasco County and the State of Florida. This increase in residents may suggest that more park acreage, facilities, and amenities are needed to maintain the quality of life that residents currently enjoy. This need will be further analyzed in subsequent sections.
Chapter 1: Evaluation of Existing Conditions

Figure 1.2 - Population + Population Growth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>City of New Port Richey</th>
<th>Change in %</th>
<th>Pasco County</th>
<th>Change in %</th>
<th>State of Florida</th>
<th>Change in %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000*</td>
<td>16,117</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>344,765</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15,982,378</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015**</td>
<td>15,260</td>
<td>-5.32%</td>
<td>479,288</td>
<td>39.02%</td>
<td>19,645,772</td>
<td>22.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>17,668*</td>
<td>15.78%</td>
<td>540,400**</td>
<td>12.75%</td>
<td>21,141,318**</td>
<td>7.61%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: US Census
**Source: US Census American Community Survey
^Source: City of New Port Richey Comprehensive Plan
^^Source: University of Florida Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR)

Ethnicity and Race

Ethnicity and race can be an interesting indicator of recreation program and facility needs and desires.

Figure 1.3 below demonstrates the ethnic shifts that the City of New Port Richey and comparable jurisdictions have experienced from the year 2000 to 2015. The data reveals that overall, the City has remained majority White. However, the City does appear to be becoming more diverse with a decrease in White residents (-5.0 percent) and an increase in Hispanic, Black, and Asian residents (collectively 12.8 percent). For the most part, this rate of change appears to be happening at a faster rate than Pasco County and the State of Florida. The City may wish to monitor these changes to see if it should explore offering ethnic and culturally influenced programming and activities. Additionally, needs assessment techniques discussed in subsequent chapters will explore this idea further.

Figure 1.3 – Ethnicity and Race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>City of New Port Richey</th>
<th>Change in %</th>
<th>Pasco County</th>
<th>Change in %</th>
<th>State of Florida</th>
<th>Change in %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>93.7%</td>
<td>88.7%</td>
<td>94.1%</td>
<td>91.5%</td>
<td>78.0%</td>
<td>76.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Race</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>-0.3%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: US Census
**Source: US Census American Community Survey
**Age Distribution**

The type of programs and recreation facilities that a city provides its residents is directly related to the age distribution of the city's population. Cities with a high concentration of population ages 0-9 and 10–19 for example, may offer more before school or after school care programs and youth athletics, and therefore, may require more playgrounds, athletic fields, and stronger joint-use agreements with schools; whereas cities with a high concentration of population ages 65 and older, may require more senior programs, senior center space, and transportation services to transport seniors from activity to activity.

**Figure 1.4** below shows the change in age distribution and median age from the year 2000 to 2015 for the City of New Port Richey. In 2015, the City of New Port Richey had the highest median age of all the jurisdictions analyzed. The median age increased from age 44.2 in 2000 to 47.4 in 2015 suggesting that the population in the City is getting older. In 2015, 65.1 percent of the population in New Port Richey was over the age of 35. The City experienced a slightly higher increase in population ages 35 to 64 than the jurisdictions analyzed and a decrease in younger age cohorts. This suggests that adults and younger aged seniors may continue to remain the dominant population in the City of New Port Richey, with younger aged seniors on the rise. This may suggest that the City will continue to experience a higher demand for adult and younger senior-oriented recreation programs, activities, and facilities such as tennis, pickle ball, walking, biking, and hiking in nature, versus youth programs, activities, and facilities.

**Figure 1.4 – Age Distribution**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>City of New Port Richey</th>
<th>Change in %</th>
<th>Pasco County</th>
<th>Change in %</th>
<th>State of Florida</th>
<th>Change in %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median Age</td>
<td>44.2 47.4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>44.9 40.9</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>38.7 41.4</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ages 0-9</td>
<td>10.9% 9.5%</td>
<td>-1.4%</td>
<td>11.0% 11.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>12.4% 11.2%</td>
<td>-1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ages 10-19</td>
<td>10.4% 9.2%</td>
<td>-1.2%</td>
<td>11.1% 11.8%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>13.0% 11.8%</td>
<td>-1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ages 20-34</td>
<td>16.6% 16.2%</td>
<td>-0.4%</td>
<td>14.3% 15.7%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>18.8% 19.2%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ages 35-54</td>
<td>24.4% 24.6%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>25.8% 26.4%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>28.5% 26.3%</td>
<td>-2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ages 55-64</td>
<td>9.4% 13.5%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>11.0% 13.2%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>9.8% 12.9%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ages 65+</td>
<td>28.3% 27.0%</td>
<td>-1.3%</td>
<td>26.8% 22.0%</td>
<td>-4.8%</td>
<td>17.6% 18.6%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: US Census

*Source: US Census American Community Survey
Chapter 1: Evaluation of Existing Conditions

Household Type

Occupied households and family types often mirror age distribution and can be used to further confirm the trends noted in the City's age distribution analysis. As noted in Figure 1.5, occupied households in the City of New Port Richey saw the largest percentage decrease (-9.1 percent) over the last fifteen years of the jurisdictions analyzed. Family households in the City of New Port Richey also decreased at a faster rate than Pasco County and in contrast to the State of Florida. Non-family households in the City of New Port Richey on the other hand, grew by about 3.1 percent, which is a higher growth rate than Pasco County (1.2 percent) and the State of Florida (2.0 percent). Moreover, households with their own children under 18 years also saw a decrease between the years 2000 and 2015 (-5.4 percent). These findings suggest that the City of New Port Richey may continue to attract adults and younger senior populations and may therefore continue to see a need for adult and younger senior based recreation programs, activities, and facilities.

Figure 1.5 – Household Types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>City of New Port Richey</th>
<th>Pasco County</th>
<th>State of Florida</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year</strong></td>
<td><strong>2000</strong></td>
<td><strong>2015</strong></td>
<td><strong>2000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total occupied households</td>
<td>7,231</td>
<td>6,575</td>
<td>-9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family households</td>
<td>54.8%</td>
<td>50.6%</td>
<td>-4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-family households</td>
<td>45.2%</td>
<td>48.3%</td>
<td>-3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with own children under 18 years</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>-5.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: US Census
^Source: US Census American Community Survey

Household Income

Household income provides parks planners with a glimpse of the purchasing power of city residents. The lower the household income, the more residents may rely on the local government to provide more affordable parks, recreation, and social programs and services.

Figure 1.6 below illustrates the median household income and percentage distribution of income ranges in the City of New Port Richey in comparison to the other jurisdictions analyzed. The City of New Port Richey has the lowest median household income ($29,882) of the jurisdictions analyzed. More than half (57.9 percent) of the population has a median household income of less than $34,999. While the median household income increased by 13.4 percent from 2000 to 2015, this increase was at a lower rate than Pasco County and the State of Florida.
Figure 1.6 – Household Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>City of New Port Richey</th>
<th>Change in %</th>
<th>Pasco County</th>
<th>Change in %</th>
<th>State of Florida</th>
<th>Change in %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median Household</td>
<td>25,881</td>
<td>29,882</td>
<td>32,969</td>
<td>45,064</td>
<td>38,819</td>
<td>47,507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than $10,000</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>-2.3%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>-2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000 to $14,999</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>-1.1%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>-2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15,000 to $24,000</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>-3.4%</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>-5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000 to $34,999</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
<td>-1.8%</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>-3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$35,000 to $49,999</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>-2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000 to $74,999</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000 to $99,999</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 to $149,999</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150,000 to $199,999</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$200,000 or more</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>-0.5%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: US Census
^Source: US Census American Community Survey

The low median income suggests that residents may have limited disposable income, and may rely on more affordable recreation options, social programs, and services.

Poverty

Poverty rates can be used to further confirm the trends noted in the household income analysis. High poverty rates may suggest vulnerable families in need of free and affordable recreation options, social programs, and services. Figure 1.7 below illustrates various poverty indicators in the City of New Port Richey in comparison to the other jurisdictions analyzed. The City of New Port Richey had the highest poverty rates for all but one of the indicators in the year 2015. Notable indicators included population in poverty (24.7 percent), population under 18 years of age in poverty (43.4 percent), families in poverty (31.7 percent), female householder, no husband present in poverty (30.0 percent), and female householder, no husband present with related children under 18 in poverty (38.6 percent). The City saw the largest increase in population in poverty (8.1 percent) from the year 2000 to 2015 in comparison to Paso County (3.3 percent) and the State of Florida (4.0 percent). Female householder, no husband present with related children under 18 was the only indicator that decreased between 2000 and 2015.
Consistent with the suggested findings from the household income analysis, these high poverty rates suggest that a portion of the City of New Port Richey's population may have a need for more affordable recreation and/or social programs and services.

**Education**

Education is often associated with household income and poverty rates. Low educational attainment may limit a resident’s potential to generate income, which may influence their quality of life. Figure 1.8 below contains various education indicators for the City of New Port Richey in comparison to the other jurisdictions analyzed.
In 2015, the City of New Port Richey had the highest population rate (59.5 percent) of residents that were aged 18 to 24 with a high school equivalency education or less in comparison to Pasco County (53.3 percent) and the State of Florida (46.4 percent). The City also had the highest population rate (56.0 percent) of residents that were over 25 years of age with a high school equivalency education or less in comparison to Pasco County (45.7 percent) and the State of Florida (43.6 percent).

The City did, however, experience a 7.0 percent decrease in population ages 18 to 24 with a high school equivalency education between the years 2000 and 2015, in contrast to Pasco County and the State of Florida that experienced an increase of 2.3 percent and 0.4 percent respectively. Additionally, the City of New Port Richey saw the largest percentage change (5.9 percent) of population ages 18 to 24 with a Bachelor’s degree or higher between the years 2000 and 2015 in comparison to Pasco County and the State of Florida that saw increases of 2.9 percent and 1.7 percent respectively. The City also experienced an increase of 4.6 percent in populations over 25 years with a Bachelor's degree or higher. While this percentage change was not as high as Pasco County (5.4 percent) it was higher than the State of Florida (3.2 percent).
Chapter 1: Evaluation of Existing Conditions

This data suggests that a high percentage of residents in the City of New Port Richey have a low educational attainment. This is consistent with the City's high poverty rates and low household income. Fortunately, the data suggest that this condition appears to be changing with a slight increase in the percentage of residents receiving college degrees.

Housing Characteristics

Analysis of housing characteristics can provide further insights into a City’s population. For example, high percentages of homeownership typically suggest stable populations while economies with high percentages of rental and vacant properties may suggest transient and, at times, less stable populations and economies.

Figure 1.9 below illustrates the housing characteristics of the City of New Port Richey between the years 2000 and 2015 as compared to the other jurisdictions analyzed. In 2015, the City of New Port Richey had the lowest percentage of occupied housing units (74.9 percent) versus 80.4 percent in Pasco County and 80.3 percent in the State of Florida. Vacant units in the City of New Port Richey increased by 4.8 percent to 25.1 percent in 2015, the highest of the jurisdictions analyzed. Owner-occupied housing units decreased by 2.0 percent from the 58.9 percent in the year 2000 to 56.9 percent in 2015, also the highest of the jurisdictions analyzed. Renter-occupied housing units also increased by 2.0 percent to 43.1 percent in 2015, also the highest of the jurisdictions analyzed.

These findings may suggest a degree of community instability, where neighborhood turnover may be high and people may be less invested in their homes and communities as a whole. There may be a need to enhance the sense of community. This can be partially accomplished through an investment in community amenities and places where people can gather.

Figure 1.9 – Household Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>City of New Port Richey</th>
<th>Pasco County</th>
<th>State of Florida</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 2000*   2015^</td>
<td>2000*  2010^</td>
<td>2000*  2010^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total housing units</td>
<td>8,693            8,780</td>
<td>173,717 231,612</td>
<td>7,302,947 9,049,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupied housing units</td>
<td>79.7%          74.9%</td>
<td>84.9%  80.4%</td>
<td>86.8%  80.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant housing units</td>
<td>20.3%           25.1%</td>
<td>15.1%  19.6%</td>
<td>13.2%  19.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner-occupied housing units</td>
<td>58.9%          56.9%</td>
<td>82.4%  73.8%</td>
<td>70.1%  65.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renter-occupied housing units</td>
<td>41.1%          43.1%</td>
<td>17.6%  26.2%</td>
<td>29.9%  34.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: US Census
^Source: US Census American Community Survey
1.3 Parks and Recreation Facility Inventory

The City of New Port Richey has fourteen public parks within its City limits totaling 157 acres. The City's Comprehensive Plan organizes these parks into six categories. Specifically, these include the following:

**Special Purpose Facility** - Park or recreational facility that typically provides a single or predominant recreation facility, or has a very limited number of recreational facilities that serve a specific recreational purpose for the entire community.

- Service Area – Citywide
- Acreage – Varies based on activity space needs.

Figure 1.10 – Sims Boat Ramp – Example of a Special Purpose Facility
Community Park – Park facility typically providing a diverse range of recreational and leisure activities, or may contain useable areas where residents can gather to share community events or activities in an aesthetic natural environment. Facilities and activities at community parks may include, athletic fields, swimming pools, gymnasiums, performing and designing art centers, crafts buildings, large open areas for community events, and any facilities associated with the neighborhood or mini-park recreation areas. Unlike special purpose facilities, community parks offer more than one recreation facility or leisure activity, and in most cases, offer several.

- **Service area:** Citywide.
- **Acreage:** Varies based on activity space needs (typically 5 to 25 acres).
Neighborhood Park - Recreational facility sized for neighborhood needs or passive recreation. Typical facilities are playgrounds, picnic areas, tennis courts, basketball courts, open play areas or small multi-purpose fields, and landscaping.

- **Service area**: One-half mile radius (walking/biking distance).
- **Acreage**: Based on activity space needs (typically 2 to 5 acres).

Figure 1.12 – Meadows Park – Example of a Neighborhood Park
**Chapter 1: Evaluation of Existing Conditions**

**Mini-Park** - Park similar to, but smaller than, a neighborhood park. Often referred to as tot-lots, these parks typically contain open lawns and play areas. Mini-parks may also provide play apparatus for small children, a half to a full-size basketball court, one or two tennis courts, or picnic areas, landscaping, or natural areas. Mini-parks usually do not provide automobile parking.

- **Service area:** One-quarter mile radius (walking distance).
- **Acreage:** Based on activity space needs (typically less than 2 acres).

*Figure 1.13 – Grand Boulevard Park – Example of a Mini Park*
Linear Park - Linear facilities that accommodate bicycling, hiking, jogging, roller skating, or similar recreational activities.

- **Service area:** Citywide.
- **Acreage:** No minimum.

Open Space - Undeveloped lands suitable for passive recreation, leisure, or conservation uses. Types of open space include undeveloped parkland, lakes, rivers, wetlands and floodplains, Conservation and Preservation designated lands on the Future Land Use Map, plazas, and beautified corridors.

- **Service area:** Not applicable
- **Acreage:** 0.1-acre minimum.
Chapter 1: Evaluation of Existing Conditions

Thirteen of the fourteen parks are maintained by the City of New Port Richey’s Parks Division, which, according to the City of New Port Richey, Florida Annual Budget 2015-2016, was moved to the Grounds Maintenance Division under the direction of the Public Works Department to better help with the maintenance of all City properties. One of the City’s parks, Pinehill Park, is maintained and managed by Pasco County through a joint-use agreement. Capital improvement responsibilities are shared between the City and the leagues that play in Pinehill Park. Figure 1.15 below provides an inventory of the City’s parks system.

Figure 1.15 City of New Port Richey Parks Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Total Acreage</th>
<th>Open Space Acreage</th>
<th>Developed/Developable Acreage</th>
<th>Recreation Center/Community Center Square Footage</th>
<th>Park Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recreation &amp; Aquatic Center</td>
<td>17.27</td>
<td>17.27</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>39,600</td>
<td>Community Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine Hill Park*</td>
<td>9.68</td>
<td>9.68</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Community Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russ Park</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Mini Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange Grove Park*</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Mini Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasmin Park</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Mini Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotee River Park</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-0.8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Linear Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sims Park/Orange Lake</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>8.74</td>
<td>5.56</td>
<td>3,100</td>
<td>Community Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sims Boat Ramp</td>
<td>1.37</td>
<td>1.37</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Special Use Facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Boulevard Park</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Mini Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frances Avenue Park</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>4.21</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Neighborhood Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James E. Grey Preserve</td>
<td>93.37</td>
<td>12.45</td>
<td>80.92</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Community Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meadows Park</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Neighborhood Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Street</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Mini Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rivers End Park**</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Mini Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace Hall</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kulhawik Park</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Mini Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>154.50</td>
<td>26.16</td>
<td>128.34</td>
<td>44,800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Parks and Recreation Master Plan

#### James Grey Preserve

- Aerobics Room: 1
- Gymnasium: 1
- Indoor Basketball Courts: 2
- Indoor Volleyball Courts: 4
- Indoor Pickleball Courts: 4
- Locker Room: 2
- Multi-Purpose Room: 1
- Restrooms: 1
- Dog Park: 1
- Vending/Concession Stand: 1
- Picnic Areas: 1
- Playground: 1
- Fitness Stations: 1
- Walking Trails (LF or Miles): 5
- Basketball Court: 2
- Tennis Court: 4
- Pickleball Courts: 4
- Racquetball Court: 2
- Volleyball Court: 1
- Shuffleboard Court: 1
- Boat Ramp: 1
- Baseball Fields: 6
- Softball Fields: 1
- Multi-purpose Playing Fields: 1
- Canoe & Kayak Launch: 1
- Swimming Pool: 0
- Batting Cages: 0

#### Sims Park

- Aerobics Room: 1
- Gymnasium: 1
- Indoor Basketball Courts: 2
- Indoor Volleyball Courts: 4
- Indoor Pickleball Courts: 4
- Locker Room: 2
- Multi-Purpose Room: 1
- Restrooms: 1
- Dog Park: 1
- Vending/Concession Stand: 1
- Picnic Areas: 1
- Playground: 1
- Fitness Stations: 1
- Walking Trails (LF or Miles): 5
- Basketball Court: 2
- Tennis Court: 4
- Pickleball Courts: 4
- Racquetball Court: 2
- Volleyball Court: 1
- Shuffleboard Court: 1
- Boat Ramp: 1
- Baseball Fields: 6
- Softball Fields: 1
- Multi-purpose Playing Fields: 1
- Canoe & Kayak Launch: 1
- Swimming Pool: 0
- Batting Cages: 0

---

**Number of Indoor Facilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aerobics Room</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnasium</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Basketball Courts</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Volleyball Courts</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Pickleball Courts</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locker Room</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Purpose Room</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Park</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vending/Concession Stand</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Areas</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitness Stations</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking Trails (LF or Miles)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball Court</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis Court</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickleball Courts</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racquetball Court</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball Court</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shuffleboard Court</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Number of Outdoor Facilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boat Ramp</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball Fields</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball Fields</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-purpose Playing Fields</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoe &amp; Kayak Launch</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pool</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batting Cages</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 1: Evaluation of Existing Conditions

The City of New Port Richey also has other public and private recreational resources in the City. These include facilities provided by the Pasco County School Board, private apartment complexes, homeowner associations, and commercial providers. Pasco County School Board has four schools located within the City limits. Figure 1.16 identifies these schools and their respective recreation facilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
<th>Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richey Elementary School</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>Passive recreation areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf Middle School</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>Football field (1), baseball field (1), basketball courts (2), track (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf High School</td>
<td>37.6</td>
<td>Tennis courts (4), football field (1), track (1), baseball fields (2), basketball courts (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schwettman Education Center</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>Basketball courts (2), football field (1), open play field (1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: City of New Port Richey Comprehensive Plan

Various apartment complexes and homeowner associations within the City of New Port Richey also provide their residents with access to private recreational facilities. Examples of these communities include The Wilds, Rivermist Condominiums, and Sunnybrook. While these communities may address some specialized recreation needs, they typically do not address the large recreational needs such as natural areas, hiking trails, dog parks, pickleball courts, and multi-purpose open spaces. Since these private recreation facilities, along with the public schools are not accessible to the general public, these facilities are not included in the scope of analysis for the City’s Parks Master Plan. In order for them to be accessible to the public, the City would have to establish an interlocal agreement with these providers. Figure 1.17 below maps the City’s park system including Pasco County Public School and private recreation locations.
Figure 1.17 City of New Port Richey Parks System
Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment
Introduction
The purpose of this section is to identify the needs and priorities of New Port Richey residents and stakeholders. Needs Assessment techniques included an evaluation of the existing parks system; a level-of-service (LOS) analysis; a statistically-representative survey; an on-line survey; a public outreach meeting; and stakeholder/focus group interviews. Following are the findings from each of the techniques.

2.1 Evaluation of the Existing Parks System
The Barth Associates Team and City of New Port Richey Parks and Recreation Department staff visited and evaluated the City’s parks during the month of November 2016. These parks were evaluated using the following five key criteria:

ACCESS: Proximity, Access, and Linkages
- Visibility from a distance. Can one easily see into the park?
- Ease of walking to the park. Can someone walk directly into the park safely and easily?
- Clarity of information/signage. Is there signage that identifies the park, and/or signage that provides additional information for users?
- ADA Compliance. Does the site generally appear to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) laws for accessibility?
- Lighting. Is the park lighted appropriately for use at night? (if applicable)

COMFORT: Comfort and Image
- First impression/overall attractiveness. Is the park attractive at first glance?
- Feeling of safety. Does the park feel safe at the time of the visit?
- Cleanliness/overall quality of maintenance. Is the park clean and free of litter?
- Comfort of places to sit. Are there comfortable places to sit?
- Protection from bad weather. Is there a shelter in case of bad weather?
- Evidence of management/stewardship (Exterior Site). Is there visual evidence of site management?
- Evidence of management/stewardship (Interior). Is there visual evidence of management in interior spaces of park buildings?

USE: Uses, Activities, and Sociability
- Mix of uses/things to do. Is there a variety of things to do given the type of park?
- Level of activity. How active is the park with visitors?
- Sense of pride/ownership. Is there evidence of community pride in the park?
• Programming flexibility. How flexible is the park in accommodating multiple uses?
• Ability of facility to effectively support current organized programming. Is the site meeting the needs of organized programs?

SUSTAINABILITY: Environmental Sustainability

• Stormwater management. Is green infrastructure present to help manage stormwater?
• Multi-modal capacity. Is the park accessible by many modes of transportation?
• Facility energy efficiency. Has the site been updated with energy efficient components?

BUILDINGS: Buildings and Architecture (If a building is present on the site)

• Image and aesthetics. Is the building attractive?
• Clarity of entry and connection to the park. Is the building integrated into its surroundings?
• Interior finishes, furniture, and equipment. Are the furnishings and equipment inside the building of good condition and quality?
• Building enclosure. Is there any obvious need for repairs to the building shell?
• Building systems. Are all mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems in working order?

The criteria were scored for each park, using a scale of 1 to 5:

1.0 – 1.9 = Well Below Expectations (dark red)
2.0 – 2.9 = Not Meeting Expectations (red)
3.0 – 3.9 = Meets Expectations (orange)
4.0 – 4.9 = Exceeds Expectations (green)
5.0 = Far Exceeds Expectations (dark green)

Each whole number represents a performance tier. Scores were assigned based on an evaluation of the site and the buildings compared to other sites in the city. Although the process of scoring is inherently subjective, multiple evaluators were present to discuss each score and reach consensus.

The purpose of the scoring was to establish an understanding of how the parks rate in terms of quality and its ability to serve users. Figure 2.1 below provides a summary chart of the park system’s average scores and Figure 2.2 maps these findings. This is followed by a discussion associated with the apparent strengths and weaknesses of the park system. Detailed observations for each of the parks can be found in Chapter 3: Long Range Vision and Implementation Strategy, which have been integrated into the park improvement recommendations.
### Figure 2.1 Site Evaluation Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proximity/Access/Linkages (Max 5.0)</th>
<th>Pinehill Park</th>
<th>Russ Park</th>
<th>Jasmin Park</th>
<th>Sims Boat Ramp</th>
<th>Sims Park/Orange Lake</th>
<th>Peace Hall</th>
<th>Coffee River Park</th>
<th>Orange Grove Park</th>
<th>Frances E. Grey Preserve</th>
<th>Meadows Park</th>
<th>Grand Boulevard Park</th>
<th>Recreation &amp; Aquatic Center</th>
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</table>
Park System Observation Summary

Overall, the City of New Port Richey’s park system appears to be meeting expectations and providing residents and visitors with an acceptable recreational experience. This is represented by the overall average system score of a 3.4 noted in Figure 2.1. Ten of the thirteen visited parks scored in the range of 3.0 – 4.7 (Meeting and Exceeding Expectations). Three of the parks scored in the range of 2.1 to 2.3 (Not Meeting Expectations).

The highest scoring park was Sims Park (4.7). As such, it displays many great qualities and principles that should be integrated throughout the City’s park system. Sims Park meets expectations in Proximity/Access/Linkages (4.0) and Environmental Sustainability (4.7) and exceeds expectations in the categories of Comfort and Image (5.0) and Uses, Activities, and Sociability (5.0). The park provides the best overall first impression, has the highest level of overall quality of maintenance and stewardship and sense of safety, and provides the highest overall variety of shaded comfortable places to sit. It also provides residents and visitors of all ages with a variety of “things to do” including playing in the large playground for kids of various ages, playing in the splash pad, exercising on the outdoor exercise equipment, walking/running/jogging on the paths located throughout the park, picnicking, relaxing on the open lawn areas located under large oak canopy trees, listening to a concert in the amphitheater, and canoeing/kayaking on the Cotee River.

Sims Park also displays a high sense of pride and ownership from residents and visitors that use the facility, and it provides flexibility and ample space to support programming. The park provides a variety of shelters that appear to be ample for large gatherings and provide refuge during inclement weather. This is particularly important in Florida where severe weather such as heavy rains and thunderstorms can develop quickly. These shelters also provide refuge from the hot Florida sun which can lead to uncomfortable conditions, especially for small children and seniors.

Sims Park connects well to the surrounding neighborhood through sidewalks, parking, ample visibility into the park, and appropriate lighting. The park also displays good Environmental Sustainability (4.7) characteristics with ecological treatment of stormwater in the park, use of energy efficient fixtures, and multi-modal access via walking and bicycling through low-stress streets and sidewalks that lead into the park.

The lowest scoring parks were Russ Park and Orange Grove Park (2.1). They scored poorly in all the categories and display qualities and principles that the City should try to avoid in its parks. In the Proximity/Access/Linkages category, they scored poorly due to the lack of signage, ADA compliant facilities, and lighting. In the Comfort
and Image category, they scored poorly due to their unattractive overall first impressions and lack of comfortable and shaded places to sit. It is important to note that the grounds in both parks are actually well mowed and maintained. However, the limited amenities present in both parks are outdated and in poor condition, which negatively influenced the appearance of the parks.

In the Uses and Activities and Sociability category, the parks scored poorly due to the lack of “things to do”, low levels of activity, and limited flexibility for programming. Lastly, in the Environmental Sustainability category, the parks scored poorly due to their inability to be accessed by residents through multiple means of transportation (e.g. no safe bicycle routes or parking, no sidewalks to get to the park, and no parking spaces), and lack of facility energy efficient amenities.

In addition to looking at how specific parks scored, it is important to examine how the parks system as a whole scored in each of the categories and sub-categories. As noted in Figure 2.1, most of the categories and subcategories scored between the range of 3.1 and 3.9 (Meeting Expectations). However, there were a few subcategories that scored particularly high and others that scored particularly low.

The subcategories that scored high included cleanliness/overall quality of maintenance (exterior) (4.0), cleanliness/overall quality of maintenance (interior) (5.0), evidence of management/stewardship (interior) (5.0), stormwater management (4.1), and Buildings/Architecture (4.4), image and aesthetic (4.0), clarity of entry and connections to park (5.0), and interior finishes and furniture and equipment (4.0). Most of these subcategories deal with park and building upkeep and maintenance. The high scores are an indication of how well the City's Parks and Recreation Department and Public Works Department are maintaining the City's parks and park buildings. This in turn, encourages park users and visitors to be good stewards of the park, which leads to great looking parks.

Subcategories that scored the lowest were clarity of information/signage and facility energy efficiency. Most of the signage in the City's parks is limited to a park monument sign. Many of the parks lack park amenity signage and wayfinding, park regulatory signage, and system-wide signage and wayfinding. The City is currently implementing a City-wide wayfinding program, which should include park directional and entrance signs. Additionally, the City should continue to upgrade as many park features as possible to be energy and water efficient.

As noted previously, detailed observations for each of the parks can be found in Chapter 3: Long-Range Vision and Implementation Strategy, which have been integrated into the park improvement recommendations.
2.2 Existing Level of Service Analysis

There is no industry standard or regulation regarding how a community should establish Levels of Service (LOS) for parks and recreation services. Both the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and the Florida State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) have discontinued the exclusive use of traditional population-based LOS standards such as park acres and facilities per 1,000 residents. Instead, cities are encouraged to conduct community-wide needs assessments and benchmark themselves against other similar communities in order to establish their own LOS standards. The National Recreation and Parks Association has developed its benchmarking website PRORAGIS, and SCORP publishes regional LOS averages around the state to assist local communities in establishing their LOS.

For the City of New Port Richey, three different LOS methods were used to determine how well the City's parks and recreation system is meeting residents' needs:

- **Acreage LOS**: Measures the quantity of parkland acreage that is available per 1,000 residents.
- **Facilities LOS**: Measures the number of recreation facilities available per capita.
- **Access LOS**: Measures the geographic areas served by parks or recreation facilities.

### Acreage Level of Service

The City's Comprehensive Plan establishes a total LOS target of 6 acres of park land per 1,000 residents. This 6-acre target is divided into two acreage categories: 5 acres per 1,000 residents for "Local Parks" and 1 acre per 1,000 residents for Open Space. Local Parks are defined in the Comprehensive Plan as Mini-Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, Linear Parks, and Special Purpose Facilities. These are the parks that allow the development of recreation facilities such as ball fields, playgrounds, sports courts, and dog parks. Open Space is defined in the Comprehensive Plan as undeveloped lands suitable for passive recreation, leisure, or conservation uses. Types of open space include undeveloped parkland, lakes, rivers, wetlands and floodplains, Conservation and Preservation designated lands on the Future Land Use Map, plazas, and beautified corridors. Recreation facilities such as ball fields, playgrounds, sports courts, and dog parks are typically not permitted to be built in these types of parks. As noted in Figure 1.10, the City of New Port Richey has a total of 154.50 acres of park land, 26.16 acres of which are considered Open Space and 128.34 Local Parks.

Figure 2.3 below analyzes the City’s park acreage LOS using the population estimates for the years 2015 and 2020. Park land acreage is organized into three categories 1) Total Park Acreage, 2) Local Parks and, 3) Open Space.

Based on the City's Acreage LOS target of 6 acres per 1,000 population, it appears that there may not be a need to acquire additional parkland in the near future. Furthermore, based on the City's Local Park target of 5 acres per 1,000 residents and Open Space target of 1 acre per 1,000 residents, it appears that there may not be a need for the City to acquire additional Local Parks or Open Space Parks. However, this analysis does not consider the differences in the distribution of park acreage between the various parts of the City, which is discussed in the section below regarding "Access Level of Service".
Table 2.3: City of New Port Richey Acreage Level of Service Analysis

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<th>New Port Richey Comprehensive Plan Acreage LOS Target (X/1,000 Population)</th>
<th>2015 Acres per 1,000 population</th>
<th>2015 Target Acreage</th>
<th>Acreage Need / Surplus</th>
<th>2020 Acreage</th>
<th>2020 Acres per 1,000 population</th>
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<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>26.16</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>15.26</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17.67</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Source: US Census  
^ Source: City of New Port Richey Comprehensive Plan

It is often useful to compare a city's target Acreage LOS to national acreage LOS benchmarks. Figure 2.4 below identifies the National Acreage LOS Median for Agencies with Population Density's similar to the City of New Port Richey. This Acreage LOS is 12.9 acres per 1,000 population. When looking at the City's total park land, the City of New Port Richey's current Acreage LOS is higher than the City's target of 6.0 acres per 1,000 population but below the National Median Acreage benchmark of 12.9 acres per 1,000 people. To match the National Median Acreage LOS benchmark, the City would need to acquire approximately 42 acres based on 2015 population figures. Factoring in population growth, the analysis shows that the projected Acreage LOS for 2020 will remain higher than the City's target but below the National Median Acreage LOS. The City would need to acquire approximately 73 acres by the year 2020 to match the National Median Acreage LOS benchmark.

When only looking at park acreage that allows the development of recreation facilities, the City of New Port Richey's current Acreage LOS is higher than the City's target of 5.0 acres per 1,000 population but below the National Median Acreage benchmark of 12.9 acres per 1,000 people. To match the National Median Acreage LOS benchmark, the City would need to acquire approximately 69 acres based on 2015 population figures. Factoring in population growth, the analysis shows that the projected Acreage LOS for 2020 will remain higher than the City's target but below the National Median Acreage LOS. The City would need to acquire approximately 100 acres by the year 2020 to match the National Median Acreage LOS benchmark.
Chapter 2: Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment

Figure 2.4: National Recreation and Parks Association PRORAGIS National Median Acreage LOS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Acreage Calculation</th>
<th>Total Park Acreage</th>
<th>2015*</th>
<th>2020**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acreage</td>
<td>Acres per 1,000 population</td>
<td>National Acreage LOS Median</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>154.50</td>
<td>15,260</td>
<td>17,668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Parks</td>
<td>128.34</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>26.16</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Source: US Census
** Source: City of New Port Richey Comprehensive Plan

Analyses of population to park acreage alone provides mixed results. When comparing the City’s existing Acreage LOS to the City’s Comprehensive Plan target of 6.0 acres per 1,000 residents for total park land and 5.0 acres per 1,000 for local parks, the analysis suggests that the City may not have to acquire any additional park land through the year 2020. When comparing the City’s existing Acreage LOS to the National Median Benchmark of 12.9 acres per 1,000 residents, the analysis suggests that the City may have to acquire additional park land through the year 2020. Findings from Chapter 2: Needs Assessment, may provide additional guidance on this need.

Facilities Level of Service

Each community must establish its own standards for Facilities LOS, expressed as the number of facilities required to serve the population. The City of New Port Richey’s Comprehensive Plan does include Facilities LOS targets for Swimming Pools, Basketball Courts, Tennis Courts, Baseball/softball Diamond, Picnic Areas, Shuffleboard Courts, Multi-use trails, fishing sites, and boat ramps. Figure 2.5 below lists these targets and analyzes the City’s Facilities LOS using the population estimate for 2015 and the population projection for 2020.

In addition to the City’s Facilities LOS targets, a Facilities LOS target for Pickleball Courts is included in Figure 2.5. This Facilities LOS target is based on the Barth Associates Team’s experience working with
communities throughout the State of Florida. It is important to note that the City has not adopted this particular Facilities LOS target. It is merely being used as a benchmark for this phase of the project.

**Figure 2.5: City of New Port Richey Facilities Level of Service Analysis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility Type</th>
<th>City of New Port Richey Comprehensive Plan Facilities Level of Service (1 per X persons)</th>
<th>Number of City of New Port Richey Facilities</th>
<th>Need Based on 2015 Population</th>
<th>Need / Surplus to meet City LOS Target</th>
<th>Need Based on 2020 Population</th>
<th>Need / Surplus to meet City LOS Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basketball Courts^</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.95</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat Ramp Lanes</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamond Field Sports</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Areas</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shuffleboard Courts</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>(4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pools</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis Courts</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>(5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing Sites (Feet)*</td>
<td>800 per 5,600</td>
<td>8,870</td>
<td>2,180</td>
<td>6,690</td>
<td>2,524</td>
<td>6,346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Use Trails (Mile)*</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>(6)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>(7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickleball Courts^</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>(6)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>(7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

^Indoor courts are counted as 50% due to their temporary availability.

Based on the City’s Facilities LOS targets, it appears that there may be a need for additional Basketball Courts, Boat Ramp Lanes, Diamond Field Sports, Shuffleboard Courts, Tennis Courts, and Multi-Use Trails. Additionally, based on the Facilities LOS target used by the Barth Associates Team for Pickleball Courts, it appears that there may be a need for additional Pickleball Courts.

Comparing the City’s existing and future Facilities LOS to state and national averages is also a useful way to understand potential needs.

Figure 2.6 below compares available National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) PRORAGIS database national median Facilities LOS standards to the City of New Port Richey’s existing and future...
Facilities LOS. Out of the 10 facilities included in Figure 2.6, the City of New Port Richey has LOS targets for four of them. Through the City’s Parks Master Plan process, the City may wish to establish targets for the other six facilities. This would be discussed in the Visioning phase of the project.

**Figure 2.6: National Recreation and Parks Association PRORAGIS Facilities LOS Benchmarking**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Recreation and Parks Association PRORAGIS Benchmark</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of New Port Richey Facilities LOS (1 per X persons)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of New Port Richey Facilities Level of Service (1 per X persons)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Median Level of Service (1 per X persons)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 City of New Port Richey Facilities Level of Service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 City of New Port Richey Facilities Level of Service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>City of New Port Richey</th>
<th>National Median Level of Service</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diamond Fields</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3,333</td>
<td>3,815</td>
<td>4,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rectangle Fields</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,899</td>
<td>2,543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Parks</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>53,915</td>
<td>15,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis Courts</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>4,413</td>
<td>3,815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball Courts*</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>7,526</td>
<td>3,052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Recreation Center</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>24,804</td>
<td>15,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pools</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>33,660</td>
<td>3,815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Center</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>15,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Course (population per 9 holes)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>26,288</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Indoor Basketball Courts are counted as 50% due to their temporary availability.

When compared to NRPA’s PRORAGIS database, it appears that the City’s existing and projected Facilities LOS are lower than the national **median** for most recreation facilities through the year 2020, except Basketball Courts. This means that when compared to other park systems throughout the nation with similar population densities, the City of New Port Richey may not have a need for most additional facilities. The Facilities LOS for Basketball Courts however, is above the national median after the year 2020, which may suggest that the City of New Port Richey may have a need for additional Basketball Courts. Additionally, the City currently does not have any Rectangle Fields or Golf Courses. While in the past it appears that the City may not have had a need for these facilities, this Facilities LOS techniques
suggest that the City may have a need for these facilities. The findings from this Facilities LOS technique will be compared to the findings from other techniques to confirm these needs.

Figure 2.7 below benchmarks the City of New Port Richey’s outdoor facilities to available Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Facilities LOS for agencies in Florida’s Central West Region for the years 2015 and 2020.

**Figure 2.7: Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Facilities LOS Benchmarking for Facilities in the Central West Region**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outdoor Facility Type</th>
<th>Central West Region LOS X/1000 Participants</th>
<th>Number of City of New Port Richey Facilities</th>
<th>Need Based on Participants in 2015</th>
<th>Need / Surplus to meet Central West Region LOS</th>
<th>Need Based on Participants in 2020</th>
<th>Need / Surplus to meet Central West Region LOS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseball Fields</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.38</td>
<td>1.62</td>
<td>2.76</td>
<td>1.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Basketball Courts</td>
<td>1.43</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.84</td>
<td>1.16</td>
<td>3.28</td>
<td>0.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football Fields</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.87 (0.87)</td>
<td>1.01 (1.01)</td>
<td>0.87 (0.87)</td>
<td>1.01 (1.01)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis Courts</td>
<td>1.31</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>1.80</td>
<td>2.55</td>
<td>1.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer Fields</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.91 (0.91)</td>
<td>1.05 (1.05)</td>
<td>0.91 (0.91)</td>
<td>1.05 (1.05)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Swimming Pools</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>3.73</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>3.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paved Trails (Miles)</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>2.45</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>2.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresh Water Boat Ramps (Lanes)</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.49</td>
<td>1.51</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>1.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Areas</td>
<td>3.22</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>19.65 (9.65)</td>
<td>22.76 (12.76)</td>
<td>22.76 (12.76)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This analysis suggests that the City may have a need for additional Outdoor Basketball Courts and Picnic areas.

**Access Level of Service**

Access LOS measures the distance residents have to travel to access parks and recreation facilities. It is used to understand how park access varies between different neighborhoods in a city. Similar to other LOS metrics, each community must determine its own standards. Access LOS may be determined based on recreational lifestyles, land use patterns, transportation networks, population densities and/or other variables.
**Chapter 2: Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment**

The City of New Port Richey’s Comprehensive Plan establishes Access LOS standards for the six park categories. It suggests that residents should be able to reach a neighborhood park within ½ mile and a mini-park within ¼ of a mile. The rest of the park categories, specifically community parks, linear parks, special use facilities, and open spaces have a city-wide Access LOS. Informed by the City’s Comprehensive Plan, the following distances were used to analyze Access LOS for the City’s park system:

- All Parks – 1/4 mile, 1/2 mile, and 1 mile
- Mini Parks – 1/4 mile and Neighborhood + Community + Linear + Special Use Parks - 1/2 mile

Access LOS analyses for recreation facilities were also conducted. Facilities chosen for analysis include some of those that were identified in previous LOS techniques. The analyses distances were determined based on industry best practices. It should be noted that this analysis considers US 19 as a barrier. Following are the recreation facilities analyzed along with the distance parameters:

- Picnic Areas – 1/2 mile and 1 mile
- Basketball Courts – 1/2 mile and 1 mile
- Tennis Courts – 1/2 mile and 1 mile
- Pickleball Courts – 1/2 mile and 1 mile

Figures 2.8 – 2.20 in subsequent pages illustrate where the gaps appear to be in the City based on the above-noted analyses. Figure 2.8 below provides a summary of these findings. Specifically, this summary suggests that while the City overall may have a need for all of the parks analyzed, the degree of need may be less based on the Access LOS Analysis distance used. The appropriate Access LOS distance that the City should establish will be further discussed in Chapter 4: Long Range Vision.
### Figure 2.8 – Summary of Park Needs Based on Access LOS Parameters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parks Analyzed</th>
<th>Access Level of Service Needs per Distance</th>
<th>Takeaways from Access LOS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Distances ¼ Mile</td>
<td>½ Mile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Parks</td>
<td>Most City residents do not have access to parks</td>
<td>More than half of the City’s residents have access to parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini Parks + Neighborhood Parks</td>
<td>More than half of the City’s residents have access to parks that function as Mini Parks and Neighborhood Park</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Areas</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>More than half of the City’s residents have access to Picnic Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball Courts</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Most City residents do not have access to Basketball Courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis Courts</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Most City residents do not have access to Tennis Courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickleball Courts</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Most City residents do not have access to Pickleball Courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Less than half of the City’s residents have access to a Playground</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Level-of-Service Analysis

While the City appears to have sufficient park acreage when compared to the City’s Acreage LOS target, it is below the National Median Benchmark.

- Based on the City’s Access LOS targets, parks do not appear to be equitably distributed throughout the City, which may suggest the need to acquire additional park land to address these gaps or change the City’s Access LOS standards.

- Facilities that the City may have a need for in the future may include:
  - Basketball Courts
  - Rectangle Fields
  - Diamond Fields
  - Boat Ramp Lanes
  - Multi-Purpose Trails
  - Tennis Courts
  - Pickleball Courts
  - Shuffleboard Courts
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Figure 2.9 – All Parks – 1/4 Mile Access LOS

Legend

- City Boundary
- Residential
- Office/Retail
- Agricultural
- Institutional
- Industrial
- Water Bodies
- Existing City Parks
- Existing County Parks
- Private Recreation Facility
- Bank

Community Park
1. James E. Grey Preserve
2. Recreation & Aquatics Complex
3. Pin Su Park
4. Grooms Park/Orange Lake

Linear Park
1. Cotee River Park

Mini Park
1. Riverwalk Park
2. Grand Boulevard Park
3. High Street Park
4. Jasmine Park
5. Orange Grove Park
6. Ruso Park
7. Kuhlman Park

Neighborhood Park
1. Frances Avenue Park
2. Meadow Park

Special Purpose Facility
1. New Port Richey Boat Ramp

Schools
1. Richy Elementary School
2. Gulf Middle School
3. Gulf High School
4. Schulentman Education Center

County Park
1. Eagle Point Park
2. Grove Park
3. Nicks Park
4. Cenex Mound
5. Robert W. Ross Memorial Park
6. Waterfront Park
Figure 2.10 – All Parks – 1/2 Mile Access LOS

Legend

Land Use
- City Boundary
- Residential
- Office/Retail
- Agricultural
- Institutional
- Industrial
- Water Bodies
- Existing City Parks
- Existing County Parks
- Private Recreation Facility
- Banker

Community Park
1. James E. Grey Preserve
2. Recreation & Aquatics Complex
3. Pinos Park
4. Corner Park
5. Orange Lake

Linear Park
1. Gibbs River Park

Mini Park
1. River View Park
2. Grand Boulevard Park
3. High Street Park
4. Jasmine Park
5. Orange Grove Park
6. Rus Park
7. Kuhl Hawk Park

Neighborhood Park
1. Frances Avenue Park
2. Meadow Park

Special Purpose Facility
1. New Port Richey Boat Ramp

Schools
1. Richy Elementary School
2. Gulf Middle School
3. Gulf High School
4. Schullman Education Center

County Park
1. Eagle Point Park
2. Grove Park
3. Nick Park
4. Dennis Mound
5. Robert E. Ross Memorial Park
6. Waterfront Park

Level of Service
- Access LOS

City of New Port Richey

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

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City of New Port Richey

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Figure 2.11 – All Parks – 1 Mile Access LOS

Legend

- **Land Use**
  - City Boundary
  - Residential
  - Office/Retail
  - Agricultural
  - Institutional
  - Industrial
  - Water Bodies
  - Existing City Parks
  - Existing County Parks
  - Private Recreation Facility

- **Community Park**
  - 1. James E. Gray Preserve
  - 2. Recreation & Aquatics Complex
  - 3. Pine Hill Park
  - 4. Sports Park/Orange Lake

- **Linear Park**
  - 1. Cotee River Park

- **Mini Park**
  - 1. River End Park
  - 2. Grand Boulevard Park
  - 3. High Street Park
  - 4. Jasmin Park
  - 5. Orange Grove Park
  - 6. Russ Park
  - 7. Kurthawk Park

- **Neighborhood Park**
  - 1. Frances Avenue Park
  - 2. Meadowlark Park

- **Special Purpose Facility**
  - 1. New Port Richey Boat Ramp

- **Schools**
  - 1. Richy Elementary School
  - 2. Gulf Middle School
  - 3. Gulf High School
  - 4. Schwelman Education Center

- **County Park**
  - 1. Eagle Point Park
  - 2. Grove Park
  - 3. Nick's Park
  - 4. Cottonwood
  - 5. Robert H. Rees Memorial Park
  - 6. Waterfront Park

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Figure 2.12 - Mini Parks - 1/4 Mile Access LOS and Neighborhood + Community + Linear + Special Use Parks - 1/2 Mile
Figure 2.13 – Picnic Areas – 1/2 Mile Access LOS
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Figure 2.14 – Picnic Areas – 1 Mile Access LOS

Legend

Land Use
- City Boundary
- Residential
- Office/Retail
- Agricultural
- Institutional
- Industrial
- Water Bodies
- Existing City Parks
- Existing County Parks
- Private Recreation Facility
- Bank

Community Park
1. James E. Gray Preserve
2. Recreation & Aquatics Complex
3. Pine Hill Park
4. Sans Park/Orange Lake

Linear Park
1. Gibbs River Park

Mini Park
1. Riverfront Park
2. Grand Boulevard Park
3. High Street Park
4. Jami 역 Park
5. Orange Grove Park
6. Russ Park
7. Kito Park

Neighborhood Park
1. Frances Avenue Park
2. Mead Park

Special Purpose Facility
1. New Port Richey Boat Ramp

Schools
1. Richy Elementary School
2. Gulf Middle School
3. Gulf High School
4. Schwatman Education Center

County Park
1. Eagle Point Park
2. Grove Park
3. Nick Park
4. Canoe Mound
5. Robert R. Russ Memorial Park
6. Waterfront Park

Level of Service
- Access LOS

North
0 0.5 1 Miles
Figure 2.15 – Basketball Courts – 1/2 Mile Access LOS
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Figure 2.16 – Basketball Courts – 1 Mile Access LOS
Figure 2.17 – Tennis Courts – 1/2 Mile Access LOS
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Figure 2.18 – Tennis Courts – 1 Mile Access LOS
Figure 2.19 – Pickleball Courts – 1/2 Mile Access LOS
Figure 2.20 – Pickleball Courts – 1 Mile Access LOS
2.3 Statistically Representative Survey

Overview and Methodology

ETC Institute administered a needs assessment survey for the City of New Port Richey during the fall of 2016. ETC Institute mailed a survey packet to a random sample of households in the City of New Port Richey. Each survey packet contained a cover letter, a copy of the survey, and a postage-paid return envelope. Residents who received the survey were given the option of returning the survey by mail or completing it on-line at www.NewPortRicheyGov.org.

Ten days after the surveys were mailed, ETC Institute sent emails and placed phone calls to the households that received the survey to encourage participation. The emails contained a link to the on-line version of the survey to make it easy for residents to complete the survey. To prevent people who were not residents of the City of New Port Richey from participating, everyone who completed the survey on-line was required to enter their home address prior to submitting the survey. ETC Institute then matched the addresses that were entered on-line with the addresses that were originally selected for the random sample. If the address from a survey completed on-line did not match one of the addresses selected for the sample, the on-line survey was not counted.

The goal was to obtain completed surveys from at least 400 residents. The goal was exceeded with a total of 502 residents completing the survey. The overall results for the sample of 502 households have a precision of at least +/-4.4% at the 95% level of confidence. Following is a summary of the findings.

Overall Facility Use and Ratings

Overall Use: Eighty-three percent (83%) of households surveyed indicated they had visited any of the City of New Port Richey parks and/or recreation facilities during the past 12 months. A majority of respondents (55%) made between one and 10 visits during the past year, 12% of respondents made 11 to 19 visits, and a third of respondents (33%) made 20 or more visits.

Ratings: A majority of respondents (68%), who visited a City of New Port Richey park or recreation facility, indicated the physical condition of the park they visited was "excellent". Sixty-eight percent (68%) is more than double the national average of 31%.
Chapter 2: Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment

Program Participation and Ratings

Overall Participation: Nineteen percent (19%) of households surveyed indicated that they had participated in the City of New Port Richey recreation programs during the past 12 months.

Ratings: A majority of respondents (90%), who participated in a program offered by the City of New Port Richey, indicated the quality of the program was either "excellent" (56%) or "good" (34%). The national averages are nearly a mirrored reversal, a majority of national respondents (53%) indicated the programs they participated in were "good", while 36% of national respondents indicated the programs they participated in were "excellent".

Organizations and Facilities Used for Parks and Recreation Programs and Cultural Facilities

Over half of the respondents (57%) indicated their household uses parks and recreation programs and facilities offered by the City of New Port Richey. The top three organizations, not including the City of New Port Richey, households use most often include neighboring cities/counties/state parks (34%), churches (20%), and private clubs (11%).

Barriers to Park, Facility, and Program Usage

Respondents were asked from a list of 19 potential reasons to identify why households use private fitness centers or other facilities instead of the City’s recreation and aquatics center. The top four reasons selected were: not knowing what is offered (43%), fees are too high (36%), program or facility is not offered (24%), and program times are not convenient (24%).
Facility Needs and Priorities

Facility Needs: Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 22 recreation facilities and amenities and rate how well their needs for each were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the community that had the greatest “unmet” need for various facilities.

The three recreation facilities with the highest percentage of households that indicated a need for the facility were: small neighborhood parks (56%), natural areas/nature parks (56%), and walking and hiking trails (55%). When ETC Institute analyzed the needs in the community, only two facilities, walking and hiking trails and paved bike trails, had a need that affected more than 2,000 households.

ETC Institute estimates a total of 2,314 of the 8,780 households in the City of New Port Richey have unmet needs for walking and hiking trails. The estimated number of households that have unmet needs for each of the 22 facilities that were assessed is shown in Figure 2.23.
Facility Importance: In addition to assessing the needs of each facility, ETC Institute also assessed the importance that residents placed on each facility. Based on the sum of respondents’ top four choices, the three most important facilities to residents were: walking and hiking trails (32%), large community parks (31%), and small neighborhood parks (30%). The percentage of residents who selected each facility as one of their top four choices is shown in Figure 2.24.
Priorities for Facility Investments: The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) was developed by ETC Institute to provide organizations with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on Parks and Recreation investments. The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) equally weights (1) the importance that residents place on facilities and (2) how many residents have unmet needs for the facility. Based on the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the following five facilities were rated as high priorities for investment:

- Walking and hiking trails (PIR=200)
- Paved bike trails (PIR=156)
- Natural areas/nature parks (PIR=155)
- Off-leash dog parks (PIR=139)
- Small neighborhood parks (PIR=137)

Figure 2.25 shows the Priority Investment Rating for each of the 21 facilities/amenities that were assessed on the survey.
Respondents were also asked to identify if their household had a need for 20 recreational programs and rate how well their needs for each program were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the community that had “unmet” needs for each program.

The three programs with the highest percentage of households that had needs were: summer concerts (48%), adult fitness and wellness programs (47%), and age 50+ programs (36%). In addition to having the highest total need, two of the top three most needed programs also have the highest unmet need among the 20 programming-related areas that were assessed. ETC Institute estimates a total of 2,500 households have unmet needs for adult fitness and wellness programs and 2,257 households have unmet needs for age 50+ programs. The estimated number of households that have unmet needs for each of the 20 programs that were assessed is shown in Figure 2.26.

*Source: ETC Institute (2016)*

**Programming Needs and Priorities**

Respondents were also asked to identify if their household had a need for 20 recreational programs and rate how well their needs for each program were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the community that had “unmet” needs for each program.

The three programs with the highest percentage of households that had needs were: summer concerts (48%), adult fitness and wellness programs (47%), and age 50+ programs (36%). In addition to having the highest total need, two of the top three most needed programs also have the highest unmet need among the 20 programming-related areas that were assessed. ETC Institute estimates a total of 2,500 households have unmet needs for adult fitness and wellness programs and 2,257 households have unmet needs for age 50+ programs. The estimated number of households that have unmet needs for each of the 20 programs that were assessed is shown in Figure 2.26.
In addition to assessing the needs of each program, ETC Institute also assessed the importance that residents place on each program. Based on the sum of respondents’ top four choices, the three most important programs to residents were: summer concerts (29%), adult fitness and wellness programs (26%), age 50+ programs (22%).

The percentage of residents who selected each program as one of their top four choices is shown in Figure 2.27.

Source: ETC Institute (2016)
Priorities for Programming Investments. Based on the priority investment rating (PIR), which was described earlier, the following five programs were rated as “high priorities” for investment:

- Adult fitness and wellness programs (PIR=190)
- Age 50+ programs (PIR=168)
- Summer concerts (PIR=158)
- Pet exercise (dog park) (PIR=150)
- Nature programs (PIR=128)

Figure 2.28 shows the Priority Investment Rating (PIR) for each of the 19 programs that were rated.
Conclusions and Recommendations

The City of New Port Richey finds itself in a unique position compared to cities around the nation. They have fantastic support from their constituents, and over 90% of respondents feel that it is either “very important” (77%) or “somewhat important” (14%) for the City to provide high-quality parks and recreation facilities and programs. The key phrase from that statement is “high-quality”. Residents of New Port Richey have very high expectations for their parks and recreation facilities and programs, and the City is doing a fantastic job of ensuring most needs are met within the community.

When compared to the national average, more respondents from New Port Richey indicated the parks they’ve visited, and the programs they’ve participated in were “excellent”. Nationally, respondents are more likely to indicate their parks and recreation programs and facilities are more “good” than “excellent”, the City should pride itself knowing that they have high standards and are meeting those standards by setting the bar nationally.

One important factor that may be contributing to lower rates of program use in the City of New Port Richey is that respondents do not know what is being offered. Focusing on the ways respondents learn about recreation programs and activities, namely the newspaper and word of mouth could go a long way in closing the participation gap seen here.

When analyzing the programs offered by the City of New Port Richey the same item was among the most important to respondent’s households, had the highest level of unmet need, and was the number one most important facility to households; walking and hiking trails. Focusing on walking and hiking trails would provide the greatest benefit for the largest number of residents within the City of New Port Richey.

In order to ensure that the City of New Port Richey continues to meet the needs and expectations of the community, ETC Institute recommends that the Parks & Recreation Department sustain and/or improve the performance in areas that were identified as “high priorities” by the Priority Investment Rating (PIR). The facilities and programs with the highest PIR ratings are listed below.

Facility Priorities
- Walking and hiking trails (PIR=200)
- Paved bike trails (PIR=156)
- Natural areas/nature parks (PIR=155)
- Off-leash dog parks (PIR=139)
- Small neighborhood parks (PIR=137)

Programming Priorities
- Adult fitness and wellness programs (PIR=190)
- Age 50+ programs (PIR=168)
- Summer concerts (PIR=158)
- Pet exercise (dog park) (PIR=150)
- Nature programs (PIR=128)
2.4 On-line Survey

The survey instrument used for the statistically-valid survey was modified for use as an on-line survey, administered by the City. Approximately two hundred and forty people responded to the on-line survey; the survey results are included in Appendix C. Highlights from the survey include:

• Over 94% of respondents have visited parks and/or recreation facilities in the City of New Port Richey during the past 12 months.

• The three most frequently visited parks are the Recreation and Aquatics Center (43%), Sims Park/Orange Lake (37%), and the James E. Grey Preserve (5%).

• Over 92% of respondents rated the physical condition of the parks they visited as good or excellent.

• Over 46% of the respondents have participated in a recreational program offered by the City of New Port Richey over the past 12 months.

• Over 95% of respondents rated the quality of the program they attended as good or excellent.

• 50% or more of respondents indicated a need for more of the following recreation facilities:
  - Paved bike trails (78%)
  - Walking and hiking trails (68%)
  - Community gardens (66%)
  - Natural areas/nature parks (61%)
  - Small neighborhood parks (54%)
  - Off-leash dog parks (60%)
  - Picnic shelters/picnic areas (50%)
  - Spray-grounds/splash pads (50%)

• 50% or more of respondents indicated a need for more of the following recreation programs:
  - Nature programs (66%)
  - Adult fitness and wellness programs (58%)
  - Summer concerts (58%)
  - Teen programs (57%)
  - Before and after school programs (54%)
  - Adult sports programs (53%)
  - Youth fitness and wellness programs (54%)
  - Water fitness programs (50%)

• The top three reasons why respondents use private fitness centers or other facilities instead of the City’s Recreation and Aquatics Center are:
  - Fees are too high (38%)
  - Facility operating hours not convenient (19%)
  - Program times are not convenient (19%)
2.5 Public Outreach Meeting

The City hosted a public meeting Monday, December 5 to solicit residents’ input regarding parks and recreation needs and priorities. Approximately 30 people attended the meeting. The agenda included:

- Welcome, Introductions
- Overview, Purpose of the Master Plan
- Needs Assessment Exercises:
  - Facility and program priorities (“dots”)
  - Individual park improvements (“post-its” on aerials)
- Open station - flipchart
- Questions, discussion, adjourn

Following are the findings from the three needs assessment exercises.

Facility and Program Priorities

Participants were asked to indicate which types of recreation facilities and programs are “important, but not being provided adequately in New Port Richey”. The top three priority facilities included “paved bike trails” (indicated by 18 participants), “off-leash dog parks” (10 people), and “walking and hiking trails” (9 people). Other needs included a “skateboarding area”, “outdoor pool/aquatics”, and “outdoor stage/amphitheater” (7 people each).

The top four priority programs included “river activities” (indicated by 13 participants), “pet exercise (dog park)” (11 people), and “adult fitness/wellness” and “circuit exercise” (8 people each). Other needs included a “summer concerts” and “special events” (7 people each), and “nature programs” (6 people).

Individual Park Improvements

Participants were asked to write down specific improvements needed at each of the City’s existing parks. Proposed improvements included:

Cotee River Park

- Blow sidewalks more often
- Favorite Sunday walk
- Stop water runoff from Kentucky sprinklers
- Continue the bayou in Port Richey
- Docks at street ends
- Wider multi-use sidewalks
- Sidewalks between Sims Park and Cotee River Park are too narrow, often overgrown
- Continue lighting, add lamp posts to Sims Park along Grand, improve sidewalk

Frances Avenue Park

- Larger playground area
- Enclosed dog park
- Dog park in a shaded area
- Add bigger slides and equipment for bigger kids
- Equipment for special needs kids
- No more improvements
- Paved access to boat launch

Grand Boulevard Park

- Great park
- Add a restroom

High Street Park

- Dog park and pond
- Play area fenced in
Chapter 2: Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment

James E. Grey Preserve
- Allow dogs
- Love it, leave it alone
- Bike path next to river
- Real bike paths, not wide sidewalks
- Bike park (2)
- Real bike path, directions to it from main roads
- More playground equipment
- More shelters

Jasmin Park
- Get rid of sand spurs
- More benches or covered picnic areas
- No playground
- Porch swing
- Quit driving up with heavy trucks to empty trash cans; sidewalks are cracked

Meadows Park
- Time-out cages, areas
- Community area for both small and large dogs
- More shade trees
- Look at new Tarpon Springs dog park
- Put a barrier in the river to prevent dogs from swimming away, protection from alligators
- Grass to replace sand
- Walking trail around periphery of park
- Trees, shade, and grass
- Is river clean enough for dogs to swim in?

Orange Grove Park
- Covered picnic area
- Dock and benches
- Casual space areas

Peace Hall
- "No" to return of the gardens
- Gardens back
- Beautiful landscape and shell art sculptures
- Sections with shade
- Yes, bring the green
- Gardens/plants
- Kitchen for events
- Make building bigger for parties
- More community-pleasing acoustic music inside

Pine Hill Park
- Adult softball fields

Recreation and Aquatics Center (grounds)
- No changes needed
- Do not spend more money on brick, use existing space more effectively
- Additional parking
- Skatepark
- More parking out front
- Bigger slide pool
- Staff is great, wonderful place
- Expanded recreation services, hours of operation

River Drive Park
- Make it a playground, get prostitutes out
- Lots of light

Russ Park
- Sell it
- Have no clue where it is
2.6 Stakeholder/ Focus Group Interviews

The Barth Associates team conducted interviews with key stakeholders and focus groups (invited by the City) on December 5th and 6th. Interview questions included:

1. Review of Scope/ Schedule: Do you have any questions about the project scope/ methodology?

2. Needs: Based on what you know, see and hear about your community, what do you believe are the top priority parks and recreation needs?

3. Priorities: Of the needs listed above, what are your top 3 priorities?

4. Benchmark Communities: As we analyze your system, who should we compare you to? Are there any communities that you wish to emulate?

Following is a summary of responses related specifically to needs and priorities. Interview notes are included in Appendix D.

Council Member and City Manager Priorities

Top priority improvements identified by the five members of City Council and the City Manager included:

- Complete phase 2 of Sims Park (including Orange Lake)
- Improve Grey Preserve, including new amenities and programs
- Coordinated marketing, broad and inclusive (not in silos)
- Upgrade other parks throughout the City, including Frances Park, Pine Hill Park, Russ Park, and Jasmin Park, including:
  - Playground equipment, other passive amenities in neighborhood parks
  - Improved maintenance and quality
  - Free programs and activities
  - Incorporation of public art, history, iconic images
  - Incorporation of natural elements, e.g. bat house and programs

Sims Boat Ramp

- Ramp use free
- Parking fee, especially for non-City residents
- Sidewalk on Main is undermining (washing out) by the bridge on the Chamber side
- Charge for the boat ramp
- Charge for parking meters or charge $5 to use the boat ramps or sell permits, especially for non-residents
- Don’t charge citizens for boat ramp
- More boat ramps and parking
- Purchase abutting properties

Sims Park (including Orange Lake)

- Docks along entire seawall
- More shade in front of the stage
- Move swings
- Improve street (repave?)
- Make splash pad more of a "spray ground"
- More handicapped swings and equipment
- More bike paths linking all parks
- Do not want crazy improvements made to circle boulevard Orange Lake walk, leave as is
- Dog park area under shade
- Lake used to be crystal clear, bring clear water back, new area for ducks
- Finish all phases before spending $ on rec center
- More shade structures
- More boat docks

Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Priorities of other Key Stakeholders

In addition to interviewing Council members and the City Manager, Barth Associates also met with representatives of the following recreation interest groups to discuss their needs and priorities: tennis, pickleball, swimming, skateboarding, Pinehill Baseball, fitness and runners, kayaking, playgrounds, and dog parks. Following is a summary of their priority needs:

Tennis:
- Adjust tennis lighting to encourage nighttime play
- 6 lighted har-tru courts
- 5 permanent children’s courts

Pickleball:
- 4 lighted outdoor courts in one park

Swimming:
- Marketing
- 50-meter heated pool (heated)
- Heated plunge pool
- Additional programming provided by 50-meter pool and heated plunge pool

Skateboarding:
- New skatepark
- Skate programs

Pinehill Baseball:
- Parking
- Sidewalks
- Upgrade on concession stand.

Fitness and Runners:
- Dedicated multi-purpose trail, minimum 5 miles long
- Safe, well-lighted running routes

Kayaking:
- Acquisition of land for boat ramps (parking will come).
- Boat parking (Charge for boat parking at the church lot near the Sims Boat Ramp.)
- Better canoe/kayak at James E. Grey Preserve

Playgrounds:
- More playgrounds for kids under 5, especially infit swings
- Maintenance of swings – fix seatbelts
- Larger pavilions, additional tables
- More dog parks

Dog Parks:
- Better signage to get to the dog park, park, and walk to the park
- Better and more parking
- Better location for the dog park
2.7 Summary of Needs and Priorities

Figure 2.29 below illustrates the top priority action, facilities, and program needs identified from each of the different needs assessment techniques.

There is a broad-based consensus that the top priority facilities include:

- Improvements to existing parks, including additional facilities, programs, amenities, and marketing;
- Additional walking, hiking, and biking trails;
- Additional off-leash dog parks;
- Additional small neighborhood parks; and
- Natural areas and nature parks

Top priority programs include:

- Adult fitness and wellness programs;
- Summer concerts; and
- Nature programs

Figure 2.29: Summary Needs

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<th>Site Evaluations</th>
<th>LOS Analysis</th>
<th>Statistically Valid Survey</th>
<th>On-line Survey</th>
<th>Public Meeting</th>
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Long Range Vision
Introduction

The purpose of this section is to outline a compelling, long-range vision for the City’s parks system that responds to residents’ needs and desires.

The long-range parks and recreation vision was developed from several sources, including ideas generated from stakeholders during the needs assessment process; current “best practices” in parks and recreation planning and urban design; and ideas generated from the ½ day visioning workshop, conducted on February 18, 2017 with City of New Port Richey staff, stakeholders, and consultants. The vision recognizes that the City’s parks and recreation system is integral to the quality of life for City residents, as expressed through the NPR Parks and Recreation Department Mission and Vision:

Mission: Create memorable recreational, parks and aquatic experiences to enhance the quality of life.

Vision: Connecting people and parks for life.

Workshop participants also noted the following values that should be included in the mission/vision, and be used to help prioritize proposed improvements:

- Health
- Affordability
- Families
- Convenience
- Access
- Athletics
- Safe routes
- Communication/marketing
- Education
- Connectivity
- Forward-thinking

The long-range vision is divided into two sections. Section 3.1 includes proposed City-wide improvements and Initiatives, while Section 3.2 outlines proposed individual park improvements.
3.1 Proposed City-wide Public Realm Improvements and Initiatives

The proposed City-wide improvements are intended to improve the overall quality of the City's public realm, including connectivity, aesthetics, environmental sustainability, and the quality of users' experience.

1. Improved Marketing

The City-wide mail survey found that 43% of residents use private recreation centers or other facilities instead of the City's Recreation and Aquatics Center because they "do not know what is being offered". This finding may indicate a need for increased marketing efforts to inform residents of programs, activities, special events, facility hours of operation, and/or other information regarding parks and recreation opportunities within the City.

The survey also found that residents learn about the City's programs and services primarily through newspaper articles, from friends and neighbors, the City website, flyers at facilities, social media, and mailings. The City should intensify efforts to keep residents informed; request additional input from residents re: preferred communication techniques; and conduct an annual on-line survey to determine if intensified marketing efforts have generated results, and whether residents feel better-informed.

2. Improved Signage + Wayfinding for City Parks

The City is currently implementing a new signage and wayfinding system to re-enforce the City's brand, and to make it easier for residents and visitors to find City facilities. The City should expand the system to include uniform park directional signs, entrance signs, and information signs. Improved signage could also help inform residents and visitors about City parks and recreation facilities, programs, and activities.

3. Protection and Enhancement of the Cotee River as the “Heart” of the System

The City’s Comprehensive Plan encourages the protection and enhancement of the Pithlachascotee (“Cotee”) River, and the CRA Redevelopment Plan promotes the use of the river waterfront through enhanced public facilities. The parks and recreation vision proposes to reinforce the role of the Cotee River as the heart of the City's parks and recreation system. The river connects over ½ of the City’s parks; is within easy walking distance of most of the City's residents; and generates economic, social, environmental, and recreation benefits for the City (See Figure 3.1).

Proposed improvements and programs to enhance the use of the river include:

- Extension of the City’s signage and wayfinding system to the river corridor, including identification of City parks; directional signs to canoe/kayak/boat
ramps and dockage; maps and kiosks at the waterfront parks, showing blueway and greenway trails and trailheads; and QR codes providing links to boating-related outfitters, restaurants, programs, and other information. Reinforce the three distinct “character zones” of the river: “natural zone” from James E. Grey Preserve to Frances Park; “residential zone” from Frances to Sims; and “historic zone” from Sims Park to SR 19

• Construction of rain gardens and/or other stormwater treatment facilities in City parks to help retain and treat stormwater runoff in order to 1) reduce flooding, and 2) improve water quality before it enters the river

• Native plantings throughout the City parks system to restore/improve habitat where appropriate

• Construction of street-end fishing docks and/or canoe/kayak launches to improve residents’ access to the river

• Monthly learn-to-paddle classes at different parks throughout the City, in partnership with local kayak/paddleboard vendors

• Formation of a non-profit “Friends of the Cotee” group to promote the protection and enhancement of the river

• Additional river-related special events coordinated by the City and/or the Friends of the Cotee, such as a kayak festival providing lessons, rentals, and opportunities to try out new boats from manufacturers; a kayak relay race, from James E. Grey Preserve to the Nick’s Park Boat Ramp in Port Richey; and additional Cotee River clean up days to pick up litter, remove exotic species, and plant native vegetation. Corporate sponsors (e.g. refuse-removal companies), manufacturers, and vendors should be asked to help defray costs

• Closer coordination with county and state agencies to develop and implement a river management plan

• Work in cooperation with Pasco County on the continued development of Green Key to provide direct Gulf access
Figure 3.1 – The Cotee River as the Heart of the System
4. Increased Amenities and “Things to Do” at City Parks

Many of the priorities identified in the needs assessment can be met through improvements to existing parks, including walking trails, on-leash or off-leash dog areas, neighborhood park facilities, natural areas, adult/50+ fitness programs, nature programs, summer concerts, and pet exercise programs. In order to provide residents with free/low cost access to these facilities and programs within easy access of their homes, the City should strive to provide the following amenities (where appropriate) at each of the City’s parks:

- Paved, multi-purpose trail
- On-leash dog walk areas and pick-up stations
- Multipurpose open lawn(s)
- Shaded playground(s) for all ages
- Multi-purpose court(s) for basketball, tennis, and pickleball
- Shade trees
- All types of seating, including moveable tables and chairs
- Picnic shelter(s)
- Wi-Fi throughout the park
- Information kiosks with maps of the parks system, and information regarding upcoming programs and events
- Outdoor fitness station(s)
- Bike racks and bike fix-it stations
- Drinking fountains
- Restrooms (in parks that are far from residents’ homes)
- Regularly scheduled “neighborhood” fitness programs, nature programs, concerts, and other special events

The City may wish to experiment with some of these amenities, such as movable chairs and tables, at Sims Park and/or other popular parks to test residents’ reactions.
5. Increased Collaboration with Schools

Several opportunities to collaborate with the school system were identified during the visioning process. These included the integration of City parks and natural areas in school science, history, math, art, and environmental curricula; school field trips to parks for education and fitness; learn-to-swim classes at school sites; use of the City’s Recreation and Aquatics Center for school programs; and other opportunities to leverage existing City and school resources.

6. Public Art and Interpretive Program

New Port Richey has a rich, vibrant, and fascinating history that differentiates it from other cities and towns in Florida. The City’s parks system provides a “canvas” to tell the City’s story, including the natural environment, connections to Hollywood, the Cotee River, the Gulf of Mexico, folklore, and other unique elements. Art forms could include sculpture, kiosks, custom shelters and site furnishings, architecture, geocaching, exhibits (permanent...
Chapter 3: Long Range Vision

7. Facility Energy Efficient Fixtures

Wherever possible, the City should strive to replace existing water and power systems with energy efficient and sustainable systems to reduce operation and maintenance costs, conserve energy and water, and enhance natural systems. Specific improvements the City may wish to consider include the use of solar power, non-potable water, pervious pavements, rain gardens, and xeric/native plantings. The City may also wish to re-evaluate its use of sod, fertilizers and pesticides, particularly on parks adjacent to the Cotee River.

Local Historical Themes to Explore in Parks

8. Improved Bicycle/ Pedestrian Connectivity

Additional walking, hiking, and biking trails were one of the highest priority needs identified through the needs assessment process. During the visioning process, attendees discussed a variety of challenges and opportunities related to walking and biking within the City of New Port Richey.

One of the biggest challenges discussed was the limited right-of-way found in many of the City’s roads. Many of these roads contain insufficient space to add enhanced bicycle and pedestrian...
Figure 3.2 – Bicycle and Pedestrian Vision

Legend

- City Boundary
- Residential
- Office/Retail
- Agricultural
- Institutional
- Industrial
- Water Bodies
- Existing City Parks
- Existing County Parks
- Private Recreation Facility

Community Park
1. James E. Grey Preserve
2. Recreation & Aquatics Complex
3. Pinos Hill Park
4. Sans Park/Orange Lake

Linear Park
1. Cotee River Park

Mini Park
1. River End Park
2. Grand Boulevard Park
3. High Street Park
4. Jasmine Park
5. Orange Grove Park
6. Ross Park
7. Kuhlwein Park

Neighborhood Park
1. Frances Avenue Park
2. Meadow Park

Special Purpose Facility
1. New Port Richey Boat Ramp

Schools
1. Richey Elementary School
2. Gulf Middle School
3. Gulf High School
4. Schollman Education Center

County Park
1. Eagle Point Park
2. Grove Park
3. Nick's Park
4. Covered Mound
5. Robert K. Ross Memorial Park
6. Waterford Park

Bicycle + Pedestrian Facilities
- Existing Multi-Purpose Trail
- Proposed Multi-Purpose Trail
- Proposed Cycle Track
- Proposed Neighborhood Greenway

North
0 0.5 1 Miles
facilities. Various strategies were discussed for implementing walking and biking facilities in these constrained environments.

One strategy proposed was minimizing the space allocated for vehicular traffic by reducing travel lanes widths to acceptable minimums, using header curbs instead of curb and gutters, and removing medians. The new-found space achieved through these roadway modifications could be re-allocated to walking and bicycling facilities.

Other strategies discussed included obtaining easements or acquiring additional right-of-way from adjacent properties, and modifying traffic patterns were appropriate to allocate more right-of-way space to walking and bicycle facilities. Examples of traffic pattern modifications include changing two-way roads to one-way roads and reducing four lane roads to three-lane roads. While additional analysis would have to be completed to ensure that traffic pattern modifications would not adversely impact traffic in the City, the City’s gridded roadway network has the potential to facilitate these modifications without causing significant inconveniences.

Figure 3.2 illustrates a proposed preliminary Bicycle and Pedestrian Vision, informed by the visioning process and the Pasco County Greenways, Trails, and Blueways Map. The City should plan to develop a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian master plan that could further inform this preliminary vision.

The preliminary vision is comprised of the following types of bicycle and pedestrian facilities and strategies:

**A. Sidewalks** - 5’ to 6’ wide pedestrian walkways located on both sides of all city streets. They should ideally have a landscape buffer with street trees between the street and the sidewalk.

**B. Multi-Purpose Trails** - Paths that are fully separated from the street and can be shared by bicyclists, pedestrians, rollerbladers, and other non-motorized modes. They can be used for leisure and commuter trips and are typically designed as a loop or a connection between points of interest. They are appropriate along high volume or high speed streets. Multi-purpose trails range in width between 8’ to 12’ wide and are marked with a yellow center line. They should ideally have a landscape buffer with street trees between the street and the trail.
C. Cycle Tracks - Bike-only facilities physically separated from automobiles and sidewalks by striping, a curb, planters, bollards, parked cars, and/or other vertical elements. Cycle tracks can be one-way or two-way, and can be at the same level as the roadway or slightly elevated.

A cycle track is appropriate for medium-high volume streets. One-way cycle tracks are typically a minimum of 5’ wide with a 1.5’ to 3’ buffer. Two-way cycle tracks are ideally 12’ wide with a 1.5’ to 3’ buffer.

D. Neighborhood Greenways - The most basic bicycle facility and simplest to implement, neighborhood greenways use minimal traffic control signals and markings to denote that cars and bicyclist share the road. Typically, this is achieved by placing a sharrow marking on the travel lane and adding signs that notify drivers that they are sharing the road with bicyclist. A neighborhood greenway condition is appropriate in low-volume and low-speed streets.
E. Programs - Bicycle advocacy and education programs intended to establish a culture that encourages and supports walking and biking. Proposed programs should include material that provides reasons to choose bicycling and walking over other modes of transportation, provides tips for safe bicycling, links to local, regional, and national advocacy organizations, and other important bicycle-related information. This information could also be integrated into school curriculums.

The City should seek to integrate bicycling and walking into the City’s special events and encourage and facilitate bicycling and walking to these events. Additionally, the City should explore creating events that foster bicycling and walking over driving. An example of these types of event are the “open streets” events that occur all across the county. Open streets events temporarily close the streets or a portion of a City to cars to create a whole new healthy, sustainable, and vibrant street experience for residents and visitors.

The vision seeks to physically connect the City’s parks and recreation system through a network of bicycle and pedestrian facilities located within a ¼ mile, or a 5-minute walk from every resident’s home.

The proposed preliminary Bicycle and Pedestrian Vision also considers temporary, low-cost, and phased implementation strategies that allow the City to “test” the viability, effectiveness, and impact of some of these facilities.

For example, Figures 3.3 - 3.5 illustrate how a proposed bicycle and pedestrian greenway along Grand Boulevard could be tested by simply placing traffic cones along the roadway and temporarily converting the two-way to a one-way road allowing pedestrians and cyclist to use the other lane for walking and biking. If residents and City officials feel that this temporary facility is desirable, it could be converted into a high-quality multi-use trail as depicted in Figure 3.6. This experimental and phased strategy could be used for all of the various types of bicycle and pedestrian proposed in the bicycle and pedestrian vision. An initial test could be conducted on the south section of Grand Boulevard.
Figure 3.3: Existing Grand Boulevard along the Cotee River

Figure 3.4: Proposed Weekend Shared-Use Concept
9. Additional Neighborhood Parks

The needs assessment indicated a potential need for additional neighborhood parks, to ensure that every resident has access to a park within ½ to 1 mile of their home. Figure 3.6 illustrates areas in the City that currently have access to a mini and/or neighborhood park within 1 mile. Four areas near the City’s limits currently do not have access to mini or neighborhood parks. The City should evaluate the potential use of existing City-owned sites in these areas to develop neighborhood parks. Any proposed new parks should not only provide additional recreational opportunities for City residents, but should also help meet other City needs such as economic development, neighborhood stabilization, stormwater treatment, flood control, and/or other benefits.
Figure 3.6 – Areas in Need of a Neighborhood Park

Legend

Land Use
- City Boundary
- Residential
- Office/Retail
- Agricultural
- Institutional
- Industrial
- Water Bodies
- Existing City Parks
- Existing County Parks
- Private Recreation Facility
- Bank

Community Park
1. James E. Grey Preserve
2. Recreation & Aquatics Complex
3. Pine Hill Park
4. Sons Park/Orange Lake

Linear Park
1. Cuba River Park

Mini Park
1. River End Park
2. Grand Boulevard Park
3. High Street Park
4. Jasmin Park
5. Orange Grove Park
6. Russ Park
7. Kuhnhack Park

Neighborhood Park
1. Frances Avenue Park
2. Meadow Park

Special Purpose Facility
1. New Port Richey Boat Ramp

Schools
1. Richy Elementary School
2. Gulf Middle School
3. Gulf High School
4. Schwartzman Education Center

County Park
1. Eagle Point Park
2. Grove Park
3. Nicks Park
4. Cenner Mound
5. Robert F. Russ Memorial Park
6. Waterfront Park
3.2 Proposed Individual Park Improvements

In addition to the proposed City-wide improvements, following are proposed recommendations for each of the City’s parks. As noted previously, these proposed improvements are based on public and stakeholder input, park site evaluation findings, needs assessment findings, and industry best practices and trends. Some of the small-scale improvements, such as site furnishings, can be implemented immediately. Larger scale improvements may require the development of an overall master plan for the specific park site, working with neighborhood residents and/or City-wide stakeholders.

Cotee River Park

Cotee River Park is a 1.8-acre linear park located along the eastern edge of the Pithlachascotee River between Virginia and Massachusetts Avenue. As a linear park, Cotee River Park serves residents city-wide. The park provides residents and visitors with opportunities to stroll and sit along the river on benches and picnic tables found under shade structures and trees.

The park provides a great overall first impression. Visibility into and out of the park is good, and park amenities are well maintained, all of which create a feeling of safety. Parking along the road needs to be improved to increase access and safety. The linear nature of the park limits the opportunities for amenities, activities, and programming. Potential improvements include:
Short-Term Operations and Maintenance
Improvements Obtained Through Public Input:

• Blow and maintain sidewalks more often, especially the sidewalk located between Sims Park and Cotee River Park

Capital Improvements:

• Improved parking
• Signage and wayfinding system
• Power, water, infrastructure for visitor use
• More seating, especially moveable tables and chairs
• Wi-Fi throughout the park
• Amenities such as bike racks, bike fix-it stations, water fountains, and fitness equipment
• Additional shelters in the park
• Improved bollards (already budgeted)
• Canoe-kayak launch points
• Docks at street ends
• Pedestrian lighting
• Dog pick-up stations and allow dogs on leashes
• Information kiosk
• Trash receptacles, recyclable bins
• Public art
Frances Avenue Park is a 19-acre community park located near the southeastern portion of the City between the Pithlachascotee River and Louisiana Avenue. The park serves the needs of residents in nearby neighborhoods, as well as City-wide, and provides a variety of things to do including a playground, picnic shelters, basketball, multi-purpose field, and access to the Cotee River. The park also contains a restroom facility and a parking lot.

The park provides an acceptable first impression. Visibility into and out of the park is good from the Louisiana Avenue side of the park but limited from the other sides due to adjacent residential homes that back onto the park. The park and park amenities are well maintained and in acceptable condition. Some of them, like the restroom facilities and picnic shelters appear to be nearing the end of their life cycle and may need improvements or replacement in the near future. Frances Avenue, which runs through the park, limits vehicular and pedestrian access to the residential neighborhood behind the park. Potential improvements include:
Capital Improvements:

- Clear exotic species along the Pithlachascotee River shore line
- Integrate park boulders into play areas
- Signage and wayfinding system
- Power, water, infrastructure for visitor use
- More seating, especially moveable tables and chairs
- Wi-Fi throughout the park
- Amenities such as bike racks, bike fix-it stations, water fountain, and fitness equipment
- Paved, multi-purpose trail
- Multi-purpose courts for basketball, tennis, and pickleball
- Paved access to boat launch
- Improved restroom
- Improved shelters
- Expand playground area with shade canopy to include bigger slides and equipment for bigger kids and equipment for special needs kids
- Enclosed dog park in shaded area(?)
- Formal multi-purpose lawn for non-competitive pick-up activities such as throwing the Frisbee, playing catch, kicking the ball with friends, and special events
- Information kiosk
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins
- Community gardens
- Public art
Grand Boulevard is a 1-acre Mini Park located along the Pithlachascotee River on Grand Boulevard. As a riverfront Mini Park, Grand Boulevard Park is intended to provide access to the river for local residents. This suggests that the park should be accessible primarily by walking or biking, with little or no parking provided.

The park provides a great overall first impression. While limited to three sides, the visibility into and out of the park is good. Park and park amenities are well maintained and good condition. Potential improvements include:
Short-Term Operations and Maintenance Improvements:

- Littoral plantings along seawall
- Plant mangroves to buffer adjacent homes
- Remove fence around storm-water pond and add plantings and boulders along the pond slopes to create habitat and improve aesthetics

Capital Improvements:

- Signage and wayfinding system
- Power, water, infrastructure for visitor use
- All types of seating, including moveable tables and chairs
- Wi-Fi throughout the park
- Amenities such as bike racks, bike fix-it stations, water fountains, and fitness equipment
- Dog pick-up stations and allow dogs on leashes
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins
- Improved bicycle/pedestrian access
High Street is a 0.98-acre Mini Park located in the southern part of the City. As a Mini Park, High Street Park is intended to serve residents located about a ¼ mile from the park. This suggests that the park should be accessible primarily by walking or biking, and should contain little or no parking. High Street Park is currently undeveloped and functions primarily as a storm-water retention facility. The park is accessible from one side; the other three sides are bordered by homes. This edge condition limits access and visibility into the park.

Potential improvements include:
Capital Improvements:

- Signage and wayfinding system
- Power, water, infrastructure for visitor use
- All types of seating, including moveable tables and chairs
- Wi-Fi throughout the park
- Playground for all ages with a shade canopy
- Picnic shelter
- Amenities such as bike racks, bike fix-it stations, and water fountain
- Dog pick-up stations and allow dogs on leashes
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins
- Public art

The City may also wish to remove/relocate the existing fire station to expand the park; the fire station is located in the center of the neighborhood, and may be redundant due to the location of another station nearby.
James E. Grey Preserve is the City’s largest park. This wooded 98-acre Community Park serves residents city-wide with a variety of amenities including a playground, restroom, natural areas, and a natural surface trail system throughout the park.

The park provides a great overall first impression. Park and park amenities are well maintained and in good condition. The park is accessed primarily by vehicles with limited to no pedestrian or bicycle access. The park contains sufficient parking and park spaces for programmed events. However, the dirt parking lot creates a lot of dust. The City recently purchased 14 acres that expanded the park from 84 acres to 98 acres. Potential improvements include:
**Capital Improvements:**

- Signage and wayfinding system
- Add fine gravel to parking lot
- Observation tower
- ADA access to key park features such as the playground, pavilions, and restrooms
- Mulch trails
- Paved, multi-purpose trails
- Expanded playground
- Sustainable power, water, infrastructure for visitor use
- All types of seating, including moveable tables and chairs
- Picnic shelters
- Wi-Fi throughout the park
- Amenities such as bike racks, bike fix-it stations, water fountain, and fitness equipment
- Canoe/kayak launch
- Dog pick-up stations and allow dogs on leashes
- Information kiosk
- Possible “drawbridge” connection to Meadow Park
- Canoe/ kayak/ paddleboard rental concession (private), particularly on weekends
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins
- Public art, educational/historical signage
- Nature/ environmental center
- Youth group camping area including primitive camp sites, outdoor classrooms, restrooms, campfire circle
- Community gardens
Jasmin Park is a 1-acre Mini Park located along the Pithlachascotee River in the north part of the City. As a riverfront Mini Park, Jasmin Park is intended to provide access to the river for local residents. This suggests that the park should be accessible primarily by walking or biking, with little or no parking provided. The park provides residents with limited facilities and amenities including benches with shelters, open lawn area, and a fishing dock.

The park provides a great overall first impression. Visibility into and out of the park is good and the park and park amenities are well maintained and good condition, all of which create a safe feeling in the park. The linear nature of the park limits the opportunities for amenities, activities, and programming in the park. Potential improvements include:
Short-Term Operations and Maintenance Improvements:

- New sign
- Removal of vegetation to allow better views
- Seawall repair

Capital Improvements:

- Wider sidewalks
- Signage and wayfinding system
- Picnic shelters
- ADA access to shelters and dock
- Canoe/kayak launch
- Bench swings
- Power, water, infrastructure for visitor use
- All types of seating, including moveable tables and chairs
- Wi-Fi throughout the park
- Amenities such as bike racks, bike fix-it stations, and water fountain
- Dog pick-up stations and allow dogs on leashes
- Information kiosk
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins
Chapter 3: Long Range Vision

Meadows Park

Meadows is a 6-acre Neighborhood Park located along the Pithlachascotee River in the southern part of the City. As a Neighborhood Park, Meadows Park is intended to serve residents located within a ½ mile of the park; however, the dog park is intended to serve residents City-wide.

The park is “tucked away” behind several homes, and provides a variety of facilities and amenities including a dog park with two dog corrals, a playground, a restroom, and a basketball court. The park was underused and frequently vandalized; the City added the dog park to improve the level of use and safety.

The park does not provide an overall great impression. Access and visibility into the park are limited due to its less than ideal location behind single-family residential homes. While the park grounds are well maintained, many of the park amenities and facilities including the playground, picnic shelters, furnishings, and dog corral fencing appear to be aged and/or over-used and are in need of repair. Additionally, the over-use of the dog park is leading to excessive wear and tear of the dog corral grounds.

Ideally, the dog park would be relocated to a more central, accessible location to serve residents City-wide; and the park would be restored and improved as a neighborhood or stormwater park. The City is currently evaluating alternative locations for the dog park, including other City-owned sites; a master planning/feasibility study should be conducted to evaluate the various alternatives. Potential improvements include:
Short-Term Operations and Maintenance Improvements:

- Clear understory to provide views to river and shelter

Capital Improvements:

- Acquire +/- 3 homes at entrance (if owners are willing) to open views into the park
- Signage and wayfinding system
- Power, water, infrastructure for visitor use
- Remove playground enclosure and add a new playground with a shade canopy
- Picnic shelters
- Paved, multi-purpose trail
- Trees, shade, and grass
- All types of seating, including moveable tables and chairs
- Wi-Fi throughout the park
- Amenities such as bike racks, bike fix-it stations, water fountains, and fitness equipment
- Information kiosk
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins
- Public art
- Environmental theme, including signs and exhibits
- Stormwater treatment and habitat improvements
- Bridge connection to James E. Grey Preserve
- If the dog park is not relocated, additional improvements may include:
  - Expand dog park into forested area
  - Replace sod in dog park with decomposed granite
  - New fencing for dog park
  - Agility equipment for dog park
  - Areas for both small and large dogs
Orange Grove Park

Orange Grove Park is a 0.2-acre Mini Park located along the Pithlachascotee River at the intersection of Grand Boulevard and Orange Grove Avenue. As a riverfront Mini Park, Orange Grove Park is intended to provide access to the river for local residents. This suggests that the park should be accessible primarily by walking or biking.

The park is relatively undeveloped. While the park grounds are well maintained, the park contains a small picnic shelter with a bench that is past its life cycle and in poor condition. The park is narrow and contains limited space for additional amenities, activities, and programming. Potential improvements include:
Capital Improvements:

- Signage and wayfinding system
- Picnic shelters
- Canoe/kayak launch
- Dock
- ADA access to shelters and dock
- Bench swings
- Power, water, infrastructure for visitor use
- All types of seating, including moveable tables and chairs
- Wi-Fi throughout the park
- Amenities such as bike racks, bike fix-it stations, and water fountain
- Dog pick-up stations and allow dogs on leashes
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins
- Public art
Peace Hall

Peace Hall is an historic, special event building in Sims Park/Orange Lake. The space is approximately 2,100 square feet and is regularly booked for weddings and family gatherings. It provides a great first impression. The hall is well maintained and in good condition. The building is aging, and some of the mechanical/electrical systems are outdated and nearing the end of their life cycle.

The City may wish to reinforce the use of Peace Hall, and the adjacent Rao Musunuru, M. D., Museum and Library, as a special events venue by redesigning the grounds to create greater privacy; improving the pedestrian connections to Orange Lake; and providing additional event parking. Other potential improvements include:
Capital Improvements:

- Building system upgrades
- Signage and wayfinding
- Wi-Fi
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins
- Bike racks
- Public art
- Additional landscaping along the east side
- Valet parking and drop-off
Pine Hill Park is an 11-acre Community Park located in the north part of the City. As a Community Park, Pine Hill Park is intended to serve residents city-wide. However, the park functions more as a Sports Complex than a Community Park, providing residents and visitors with limited active recreation opportunities focused on little league baseball. The park contains typical sports complex amenities including batting cages, a concession stand with a sheltered seating area, and restrooms. The park is owned by the City, but maintained by the County and the little league baseball leagues that use the park. Maintenance responsibilities will revert back to the City within the next 2 years.

The park does not provide an overall great impression. It was one of the lowest scoring parks in the site evaluation. Visibility into and out of the park is good from Pine Hill Road, but limited from the other sides due to adjacent residential and light industrial development. The park and park amenities are nearing the end of their life cycle and are in need of repair. Parking is limited, which becomes a problem during games; the City recently purchased property across Pine Hill Road for expansion. Pedestrian and bicycle access is limited. Health and safety concerns include the risk of parked cars being hit by errant balls, and outdated concession and restroom building.

Alternative visions for Pine Hill Park include maintaining and improving the park as a size-constrained Little League Complex; or partnering with Pasco County and the leagues to construct a new, expanded, multi-use sports complex to serve the needs of western Pasco County residents. If a new sports complex is constructed, Pine Hill Park could be redesigned as a multi-purpose community park, possibly including a new dog park (to replace the Meadows dog park) and/or a new skate park (to replace the skate park at the Aquatics and Recreation Center). A master planning/feasibility study should be conducted to evaluate the various alternatives.

Potential improvements to Pine Hill Park (in its current use) include:
Capital Improvements:

- Signage and wayfinding system
- Better and more parking with ADA access (consider on-street parking along Pine Hill Road in combination with traffic calming measures).
- Explore expanding park property onto City property located just west of the park
- Raised crosswalk to connect to Church and potential expansion property
- Sidewalks throughout the park
- Upgrade concession stand and restrooms
- Improve drainage
- Ballfield fence
- Outfield netting
- Shade trees & canopies
- Paved, multi-purpose trail
- All types of seating, including moveable tables and chairs
- Picnic shelters
- Playground for all ages with shade canopy
- Wi-Fi throughout the park
- Amenities such as bike racks, bike fix-it stations, water fountains, and fitness equipment
- Multi-purpose courts for basketball, tennis, and pickleball
- Improved drop-off area
- Consolidated maintenance facility behind batting cages
- Information kiosk
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins
- Public art
Recreation and Aquatics Center (Grounds)

The Recreation and Aquatics Center is part of an 18-acre “Signature” Park located in the north part of the City. The park functions as one of the main hubs of the City’s Parks and Recreation Department. The following recommendations focus on the grounds surrounding these facilities, as the building and aquatics facilities are being addressed through a separate study.

As a Signature Park, the Recreation and Aquatics Center grounds are intended to serve City and County residents throughout the region. The park grounds provide residents with a variety of outdoor activities including lighted tennis courts, a lighted skate park, lighted basketball courts, and open greenspace. Out of the 18 acres of park land, it appears that approximately 4 acres of the park are undeveloped. There may be opportunities to expand the offering of facilities and activities in the park by adjusting the layout of certain facilities and better utilizing excess greenspace. This may include the use of two large open greenspace areas that function as retention ponds that remain dry throughout the year.

The park provides an acceptable first impression. Visibility into and out of the park is good from and to Kentucky Avenue, which runs on the north side of the park. The topography along Van Buren Street limits views into and out of the park along the west side and residential development on the south and east of the park limit views into and out of the park. While the tennis and basketball courts appear to be in
good condition, the skate park is nearing the end of its life cycle and should be replaced. Pedestrian and bicycle access to the park is limited due to limited sidewalks connecting to the park.

There is a need to expand parking for the Center, especially considering the proposed building expansion. In order to make the best use of the existing property, the City should evaluate whether any existing uses could be relocated. For example, neither the skate park nor the Claude Pepper Senior Center have a direct relationship with the Aquatics and Recreation Center. A master planning/feasibility study should be conducted to evaluate the various site plan alternatives.

Potential improvements to the Recreation and Aquatics Center site (in its current use) include:

**Capital Improvements:**

- Signage and wayfinding
- Upgraded or relocated skatepark
- Outdoor, lighted pickleball courts
- Resurface tennis courts and improve lighting to allow night play
- Additional tennis courts
- Power, water, infrastructure for visitor use
- Multipurpose open lawns
- Shade trees & canopies
- Paved, multi-purpose trail
- All types of seating, including moveable tables and chairs
- Picnic shelters
- Playground for all ages with shade canopy
- Wi-Fi throughout the park
- Amenities such as bike racks, bike fix-it stations, water fountains, and fitness equipment
- Dog pick-up stations and allow dogs on leashes
- Information kiosk
- Public art
- Additional parking
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins
- Acquire the 4-5 homes at the southern end of the park, along Van Buren Street and Indiana Avenue, to provide greater visibility and land for expansion
River End Park is a 0.16-acre Mini Park located in the northern part of the City. As a Mini Park, River End Park is intended to serve residents located within a ¼ mile of the park. This suggests that park should be accessible primarily by walking or biking.

The park is currently undeveloped. It has great visibility with transparent edges around the entire park. Single-family homes face the property and provide "eyes on the park". The site is relatively flat, contains a utility lift station, and a large pine tree in the center of the property surrounded by sabal palms. Potential improvements include:
Capital Improvements:

- Signage and wayfinding system
- Power, water, infrastructure for visitor use
- Shade trees & canopies
- Paved, multi-purpose trail
- All types of seating, including moveable tables and chairs
- Picnic shelter
- Playground for all ages with a shade canopy
- Wi-Fi throughout the park
- Amenities such as bike racks, bike fix-it stations, water fountain, and fitness equipment
- Dog pick-up stations and allow dogs on leashes
- Perimeter bollards for vehicular control
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins
- Maze
- Public art
Russ Park is a 0.27-acre Neighborhood Park located on the west side of the City. It is the only park located west of US Highway 19. As a Neighborhood Park, Russ Park is intended to serve the needs of local residents. This suggests that park should be accessible primarily by walking or biking.

The park does not provide a great first impression. It was the lowest scoring park in the site evaluations. The triangle shaped park has limited visibility from Avery Road located on the north side of the park, and no visibility from the other two sides due to adjacent residential and light industrial development. The dense and unpruned tree canopy further deters from the curb appeal of the park. While the park grounds are well maintained, the park contains a playground structure that is in poor condition. The park is narrow, and a central drainage swale limits the space available for additional amenities, activities, and programming. Potential improvements include:
Short-Term Operations and Maintenance Improvements:

- Prune existing trees and selectively remove understory plantings to enhance the overall appearance and use of the park
- Install buffer plantings along single-family residential property and light industrial property, enhance visibility and access to the park from the residential area
- Pipe existing swale to expand usable park space

Capital Improvements:

- Signage and wayfinding system
- ADA access
- New playground with shade canopy
- Outdoor exercise equipment
- Picnic shelter
- Power, water, infrastructure for visitor use
- All types of seating, including moveable tables and chairs
- Wi-Fi throughout the park
- Amenities such as bike racks, bike fix-it stations, and water fountain
- Dog pick-up stations and allow dogs on leashes
- Information kiosk
- Security lighting
- Reorientation of park entry to Wedgewood Drive
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins
- Multi-purpose basketball/pickleball court
- Community garden
- Public art

The City may also wish to consider purchasing properties adjacent to the park, when they become available, to expand recreational opportunities.
Sims Boat Ramp is a 3-acre Special Use Facility park located near the geographic center of the city. The park contains two boat ramps, boat parking, a restroom, bench shelters, and a seawall used for fishing. A City-owned building is leased by the Chamber of Commerce. Sims Boat Ramp is the only park with a boat ramp in the City of New Port Richey.

The park focuses on providing boat access and has limited other amenities or facilities. The park is predominantly comprised of an asphalt parking lot for the boat ramps with limited greenspace and shade. The limited impervious surface that exists in the park is located near the sea wall where the restroom and bench shelters are located. Parking for vehicles and boat trailers regularly becomes a challenge due to the limited number of parking spaces on the property.

Potential improvements include:
Short-Term Operations and Maintenance Improvements:

- Confirm and formalize agreements with surrounding properties for off-site parking (e.g. nearby church)
- Explore additional parking along adjacent roadways
- Add signage and wayfinding to nearby satellite vehicle and boat trailer parking
- Explore charging a nominal fee for boat parking to manage demand.

Capital Improvements:

- Demolish the Chamber of Commerce building to expand park use
- Acquire the residential parcel to the north of the park to expand park use
- Waterfront café/ bait and tackle shop/ restroom building
- Boat ramp extension
- Signage and wayfinding
- Canoe/kayak launch
- Bridge connection for fishing
- Sidewalks to picnic shelters
- Power, water, infrastructure for visitor use
- All types of seating, including moveable tables and chairs
- Wi-Fi throughout the park
- Amenities such as bike racks, bike fix-it stations, and water fountain
- Improved lighting
- Information kiosk
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins
- Public art
Sims Park/Orange Lake is the City’s premier greenspace. This 15-acre “Signature” Park is located near the geographic center of the City along the Pithlachascotee River. As a Signature Park, Sims Park/Orange Lake attracts residents and visitors throughout the region and beyond, especially for special events. The park provides resident and visitors with a variety of opportunities including playing in the large playgrounds for kids of various ages, playing in the splash pad, exercising on the outdoor exercise equipment, walking/running/jogging on the paths located throughout the park, picnicking, relaxing on the open lawn areas located under large oak canopy trees, listening to a concert in the amphitheater, and canoeing/kayaking on the Cotee River.

The park provides a great overall first impression. Visibility into and out of the park is good and the park and park amenities are well maintained and in good condition, all of which create a safe feeling in the park. Sims Park/Orange Lake also displays a high sense of pride and ownership from residents and visitors that use the facility, and it provides flexibility and ample space to support programming. The park provides a variety of shelters that appear to be ample for large gatherings and provide refuge during inclement weather. Potential improvements include:
Short-Term Operations and Maintenance Improvements:

- Maintenance of pavilions that includes checking for wasp nests and bugs under tables in pavilions
- Maintenance of the playground that includes fixing the seatbelts on the baby swings
- Periodic sod replacement (including re-grading)

Capital Improvements:

- Implementation of Phase 2, including shade structures, a projection screen, and improved aesthetics around Orange Lake
- Power, water, infrastructure for visitor use
- Signage and wayfinding system
- All types of seating, including moveable tables and chairs
- Shade structures
- Bench swings
- Wi-Fi throughout the park
- Amenities such as bike racks, bike fix-it stations, water fountains, and fitness equipment
- Dog pick-up stations and allow dogs on leashes
- Information kiosk
- Canoe/ kayak/ paddleboard rental concession (private)
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins
- Sand volleyball courts
- Public art
- Outdoor music speakers
- Development of the adjacent Hacienda hotel as a special events venue within the park; comparable venues include Orange County’s Cypress Grove Park, Orlando’s Leu Gardens House, and Lakeland’s Peggy Brown Center and Hollis Gardens at Lake Mirror Park
Chapter 3: Long Range Vision

City of New Port Richey Parks System Master Plan Vision

The City of New Port Richey’s parks system is integral to the quality of life for City residents. Figure 3.7 illustrates a comprehensive vision of the City’s parks system that not only achieves the NPR Parks and Recreation Department’s Mission and Vision but also addresses the values that were identified as being important and should be included in the mission/vision, and prioritization of projects:

- Health
- Affordability
- Families
- Convenience
- Access
- Athletics
- Safe routes
- Communication/marketing
- Education
- Connectivity
- Forward-thinking

The City’s proposed parks system master plan vision will provide additional recreational opportunities for City residents and help meet other City needs such as economic development, neighborhood stabilization, stormwater treatment, flood control, and/or other benefits.
Figure 3.7 – City of New Port Richey Parks Master Plan System Vision

Legend

- City Boundary
- City Park
- County Park
- School
- Existing/Proposed Bicycle + Pedestrian Facility
- Proposed Street End Improvements
- Area in Need of a Neighborhood Park

Community Park
1. James E. Grey Preserve
2. Recreation & Aquatics Complex
3. Pine Hill Park
4. Sims Park/Orange Lake

Linear Park
1. Cisco River Park

Mini Park
1. River End Park
2. Grand Boulevard Park
3. High Street Park
4. Jeanne Park
5. Orange Grove Park
6. Russ Park
7. Kuhl Park

Neighborhood Park
1. Frances Avenue Park
2. Meadows Park

Special Purpose Facility
1. New Port Richey Suburb

Schools
1. Riverview Elementary School
2. Gulf Middle School
3. Gulf High School
4. Schvettman Education Center

County Park
1. Eagle Point Park
2. Grove Park
3. Nata Park
4. Defender Mound
5. Robert K. Reba Memorial Park
6. Waterfront Park

North
0 0.5 1 Miles
3.3 Estimate of Costs

Figure 3.8 lists a summary of the estimated costs of the proposed improvements discussed previously, including both City-wide and site-specific improvements. Subsequent pages provide more detail of these costs. All costs are “planning level estimates”, meaning that no detailed, engineering or design studies have been completed to determine the actual scope and magnitude of each improvements. Additionally, the costs do not include any potential land acquisition costs. Rather, estimates are based on available cost data and/or experience with similar projects.

The City should prioritize the proposed improvements, and prepare conceptual design/engineering studies of the top priorities in order to refine these estimates. The City should also develop a phasing and implementation strategy for the top priorities, based on available funding and partnerships. Appendix D includes a more detailed breakdown of the estimates for each of the improvements outlined in the Long Range Vision in this chapter.

### Figure 3.8 - City-Wide and Individual Park Improvement Estimates of Probable Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Improvement</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
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<td>Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity</td>
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<td>Improvements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional Neighborhood Parks</td>
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<td>$216,000</td>
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<td><strong>Total Costs</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity Improvements

Capital Improvements:

- Eight miles of multi-purpose trail $12,000,000
- Four miles of buffered cycle track $2,800,000
- Nineteen miles of neighborhood greenway $50,000

Total $14,850,000

20% Contingency and 10% Design Cost $4,455,000

Total $19,305,000

Additional Neighborhood Parks

Capital Improvements (do not include land acquisition):

- 5 acre park in the northwest $1,350,000
- 5 acre park in the southwest $1,350,000
- 5 acreage park in the southeast - $1,350,000
- 5 acreage park in the northeast - $1,350,000

Total $5,400,000

20% Contingency and 10% Design Cost $1,620,000

Total $7,020,000
Individual Park Improvements

Cotee River Park

Short-Term Operations and Maintenance Improvements Obtained Through Public Input:

- Blow and maintain sidewalks more often, especially the sidewalk located between Sims Park and Cotee River Park

Capital Improvements:

- Improved parking - $3,000
- Signage and wayfinding system - $8,000
- Upgrade pedestrian area lighting w/outlets for visitor use - $53,000
- More seating, especially moveable tables and chairs – $12,000
- Wi-Fi throughout the park – $5,000
- Amenities such as bike racks, water fountains, and fitness equipment - $72,000
- Additional shelters in the park - $51,000
- Improved bollards (already budgeted)
- Canoe-kayak launch points - $60,000
- Docks at street ends - $51,000
- Dog pick-up stations and allow dogs on leashes - $8,000
- Information kiosk – $17,000
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins - $11,000
- Public art - $10,000
- Native Rain Garden Stormwater Improvements $30,000
- Native Plantings $15,000

Subtotal $409,000

20% Contingency and 10% Design Cost $123,000

Total $532,000
Frances Avenue Park

Capital Improvements:

- Clear exotic species along the Pithlachascotee River shore line - $18,000
- Integrate park boulders into play areas - $3,000
- Signage and wayfinding system - $15,000
- Power, water, infrastructure for visitor use - $30,000
- More seating, especially moveable tables and chairs - $19,000
- Wi-Fi throughout the park - $5,000
- Amenities such as bike racks, water fountain, and fitness equipment - $70,000
- Paved, multi-purpose trail - $72,000
- Multi-purpose courts for basketball, tennis, and pickleball - $50,000
- Paved access to boat launch - $13,000
- Improved restroom - $90,000
- Improved shelters - $148,000
- Expand playground area with shade canopy to include bigger slides and equipment for bigger kids and equipment for special needs kids - $150,000
- Enclosed dog park in shaded area - $55,000
- Formal multi-purpose lawn for non-competitive pick-up activities such as throwing the Frisbee, playing catch, kicking the ball with friends, and special events - $85,000
- Information kiosk - $9,000
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins - $18,000
- Community gardens - $3,000
- Public art - $5,000
- Native Rain Garden Stormwater Improvements $30,000
- Native Plantings $20,000
- Upgrade pedestrian area lighting w/outlets for visitor use

Subtotal $965,000

20% Contingency and 10% Design Cost $290,000

Total $1,255,000
Grand Boulevard Park

Short-Term Operations and Maintenance Improvements:
• Littoral plantings along seawall - $2,000
• Plant mangroves to buffer adjacent homes - $1,000
• Remove fence around storm-water pond and add plantings and boulders along the pond slopes to create habitat and improve aesthetics - $15,000

Capital Improvements:
• All types of seating, including moveable tables and chairs - $19,000
• Wi-Fi throughout the park - $5,000
• Bike racks - $2,000
• Dog pick-up stations and allow dogs on leashes - $5,000
• Trash receptacles, recyclable bins - $4,000
• Native Plantings $15,000
• Upgrade pedestrian area lighting $25,000

Subtotal $93,000
20% Contingency and 10% Design Cost $28,000
Total $121,000
High Street Park

Capital Improvements:

- Signage and wayfinding system - $5,000
- Power, water, infrastructure for visitor use - $30,000
- All types of seating, including moveable tables and chairs - $12,000
- Wi-Fi throughout the park - $5,000
- Playground for all ages with a shade canopy - $150,000
- Picnic shelter - $51,000
- Amenities such as bike racks and water fountain - $5,000
- Dog pick-up stations and allow dogs on leashes - $3,000
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins - $11,000
- Public art - $5,000
- Native Rain Garden Stormwater Improvements $30,000
- Native Plantings $15,000
- Pedestrian area lighting with outlets for visitor use - $25,000

Subtotal: $347,000

20% Contingency and 10% Design Cost: $104,000

Total: $451,000
Chapter 3: Long Range Vision

James E. Grey Preserve

Capital Improvements:

- Signage and wayfinding system - $15,000
- Add fine gravel to parking lot - $120,000
- Observation tower - $500,000
- ADA access to key park features such as the playground, pavilions, and restrooms - $4,000
- Mulch trails - $42,000
- Paved, multi-purpose trails - $169,000
- Expanded playground - $100,000
- Sustainable power & water
- Power and water for visitor use - $30,000
- All types of seating, including moveable tables and chairs - $19,000
- Picnic shelters - $182,000
- Wi-Fi throughout the park - $10,000
- Amenities such as bike racks, bike fix-it stations, water fountain, and fitness equipment - $13,000
- Canoe/kayak launch - $60,000
- Dog pick-up stations and allow dogs on leashes - $12,000
- Information kiosk - $26,000
- Possible "drawbridge" connection to Meadow Park - $100,000
- Canoe/ kayak/ paddleboard rental concession (private), particularly on weekends - $ (By Concessionaire)
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins - $22,000
- Public art $25,000
- Educational/historical signage - $31,000
- Nature/ environmental center - $630,000
- Youth group camping area including primitive camp sites, outdoor classrooms, restrooms, campfire circle - $115,000
- Community gardens - $5,000
- Native Rain Garden Stormwater Improvements $30,000

Subtotal $2,260,000

20% Contingency and 10% Design Cost $678,000

Total $2,938,000
Jasmin Park

Short-Term Operations and Maintenance Improvements:

- New sign - $7,000
- Removal of vegetation to allow better views - $2,000
- Seawall repair - $49,000

Capital Improvements:

- Wider sidewalks & ADA Access - $23,000
- Signage and wayfinding system - $5,000
- Picnic shelters - $51,000
- Canoe/kayak launch - $60,000
- Bench swings - $8,000
- All types of seating, including moveable tables and chairs - $12,000
- Wi-Fi throughout the park - $5,000
- Amenities such as bike racks and water fountain - $5,000
- Dog pick-up stations and allow dogs on leashes - $3,000
- Information kiosk - $9,000
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins - $7,000
- Native Rain Garden Stormwater Improvements $30,000
- Native Plantings $15,000
- Upgrade pedestrian area lighting with outlets for visitor use - $18,000

Subtotal $309,000

20% Contingency and 10% Design Cost $93,000

Total $402,000
Meadows Park

Short-Term Operations and Maintenance Improvements:

- Clear understory to provide views to river and shelter - $10,000

Capital Improvements:

- Acquire +/- 3 homes at entrance (if owners are willing) to open views into the park - $450,000
- Signage and wayfinding system - $8,000
- Pedestrian area lighting with outlets for visitor use - $53,000
- Remove playground enclosure and add a new playground with a shade canopy - $5,000
- Picnic shelters - $91,000
- Paved, multi-purpose trail - $60,000
- Trees, shade, and grass - $20,000
- All types of seating, including moveable tables and chairs - $12,000
- Wi-Fi throughout the park - $5,000
- Amenities such as bike racks, water fountains, and fitness equipment - $71,000
- Information kiosk - $9,000
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins - $11,000
- Public art - $5,000
- Environmental theme, including signs and exhibits - $12,000
- Stormwater treatment and habitat improvements - $20,000
- Bridge connection to James E. Grey Preserve - $ (see James E. Grep Preserve)

If the dog park is not relocated, additional improvements may include:

- Expand dog park into forested area - $30,000*
- Replace sod in dog park with decomposed granite - $50,000
- New fencing for dog park - $15,000*
- Agility equipment for dog park - $8,000*
- Areas for both small and large dogs - $55,000

Subtotal $855,000*

20% Contingency and 10% Design Cost $257,000

Total $1,112,000
Orange Grove Park

Capital Improvements:

- Signage and wayfinding system - $8,000
- Picnic shelter - $17,000
- Canoe/kayak launch - $60,000
- Dock - $9,000
- ADA access to shelters and dock - $4,000
- Bench swings - $5,000
- Pedestrian area with outlets for visitor use - $11,000
- All types of seating, including moveable tables and chairs - $7,000
- Amenities such as bike racks - $1,000
- Dog pick-up stations and allow dogs on leashes - $2,000
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins - $2,000
- Public art - $5,000
- Native Planting $5,000

Subtotal $136,000

20% Contingency and 10% Design Cost $49,000

Total $185,000
Chapter 3: Long Range Vision

Peace Hall

Capital Improvements:

- Building system upgrades - $50,000
- Signage and wayfinding - $8,000
- Wi-Fi - $5,000
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins - $7,000
- Bike racks - $2,000
- Public art - $10,000
- Additional landscaping along the east side - $9,000
- Valet parking and drop-off - $3,000

Subtotal $94,000

20% Contingency and 10% Design Cost $28,000

Total $216,000
Pine Hill Park

Capital Improvements:

- Signage and wayfinding system - $15,000
- Better and more parking with ADA access (consider on-street parking along Pine Hill Road in combination with traffic calming measures). - $80,000
- Explore expanding park property onto City property located just west of the park
- Raised crosswalk & Signage to connect to Church and potential expansion property - $10,000
- Sidewalk & Multipurpose trail throughout the park - $120,000
- Upgrade concession stand and restrooms - $460,000
- Improve drainage - $50,000
- Ballfield fence - $85,000
- Outfield netting - $38,000
- Shade trees & canopies - $15,000
- All types of seating, including moveable tables and chairs - $36,000
- Picnic shelters - $136,000
- Playground for all ages with shade canopy - $150,000
- Wi-Fi throughout the park - $5,000
- Amenities such as bike racks, water fountains, and fitness equipment - $75,000
- Multi-purpose courts for basketball, tennis, and pickleball - $50,000
- Improved drop-off area - $25,000
- Consolidated maintenance facility behind batting cages - $195,000
- Information kiosk - $9,000
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins - $33,000
- Public art - $5,000
- Native Planting - $15,000
- Pedestrian area lighting with outlets for visitor use - $53,000

Subtotal: $1,664,000

20% Contingency and 10% Design Cost: $499,000

Total: $2,163,000
Recreation and Aquatics Center (grounds)

Capital Improvements:

- Signage and wayfinding - $30,000
- Upgraded or relocated skatepark - $1,000,000
- Outdoor, lighted pickleball courts - $200,000
- Resurface tennis courts and improve lighting to allow night play - $100,000
- Additional tennis courts - $240,000
- Power, water, infrastructure for visitor use - $70,000
- Multipurpose open lawns - $110,000
- Shade trees & canopies - $56,000
- Paved, multi-purpose trail - $92,000
- All types of seating, including moveable tables and chairs - $38,000
- Picnic shelters - $142,000
- Playground for all ages with shade canopy - $150,000
- Wi-Fi throughout the park - $10,000
- Amenities such as bike racks, bike fix-it stations, water fountains, and fitness equipment - $88,000
- Dog pick-up stations and allow dogs on leashes - $18,000
- Information kiosk - $34,000
- Public art - $20,000
- Additional parking - $41,000
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins - $44,000
- Acquire the 4-5 homes at the southern end of the park, along Van Buren Street and Indiana Avenue, to provide greater visibility and land for expansion - $450,000 (not in contingency)
- Native Rain Garden Stormwater Improvements $60,000
- Native Planting $30,000
- Pedestrian area lighting - $123,000

Subtotal $3,206,000

20% Contingency and 10% Design Cost $962,000*

Total $4,168,000
River End Park

Capital Improvements:

- Signage and wayfinding system - $8,000
- Area lighting with outlets in poles for visitor use - $21,000
- Shade trees & canopies - $11,000
- Paved, multi-purpose trail - $24,000
- All types of seating, including moveable tables and chairs - $12,000
- Picnic shelter - $51,000
- Playground for all ages with a shade canopy - $150,000
- Wi-Fi throughout the park - $5,000
- Amenities such as bike racks and water fountain equipment - $5,000
- Dog pick-up stations and allow dogs on leashes - $5,000
- Perimeter bollards for vehicular control - $48,000
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins - $7,000
- Maze - $4,000
- Public art - $5,000
- Native Rain Garden Stormwater Improvements $30,000
- Native Planting $20,000
- Pedestrian area lighting with outlets for visitor use

Subtotal $424,000

20% Contingency and 10% Design Cost $127,000

Total $551,000
Chapter 3: Long Range Vision

Russ Park

Short-Term Operations and Maintenance Improvements:

- Prune existing trees and selectively remove understory plantings to enhance the overall appearance and use of the park - $2,000
- Install buffer plantings along single-family residential property and light industrial property, enhance visibility and access to the park from the residential area - $3,000
- Pipe existing swale to expand usable park space - $8,000

Capital Improvements:

- Signage and wayfinding system - $5,000
- ADA access & pathway - $18,000
- New playground with shade canopy - $120,000
- Picnic shelter - $34,000
- All types of seating, including moveable tables and chairs - $12,000
- Wi-Fi throughout the park - $5,000
- Amenities such as bike racks water fountain - $4,000
- Dog pick-up stations and allow dogs on leashes - $3,000
- Information kiosk - $9,000
- Pedestrian area lighting with outlets in poles for visitor use - $18,000
- Reorientation of park entry to Wedgewood Drive - $3,000
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins - $5,000
- Community garden - $3,000
- Public art - $5,000
- Native Planting - $5,000

Subtotal: $262,000

20% Contingency and 10% Design Cost: $79,000

Total: $341,000
Sims Boat Ramp

Short-Term Operations and Maintenance Improvements:

• Confirm and formalize agreements with surrounding properties for off-site parking (e.g. nearby church)
• Explore additional parking along adjacent roadways
• Add signage and wayfinding to nearby satellite vehicle and boat trailer parking - $5,000
• Explore charging a nominal fee for boat parking to manage demand.

Capital Improvements:

• Demolish the Chamber of Commerce building to expand park use - $7,000
• Acquire the residential parcel to the north of the park to expand park use - $1,000,000
• Waterfront café/ bait and tackle shop/ restroom building - $330,000
• Boat ramp extension - $20,000
• Signage and wayfinding - $8,000
• Canoe/kayak launch - $60,000
• Bridge connection for fishing - $9,000
• Sidewalks to picnic shelters - $6,000
• Water for visitor use - $5,000
• All types of seating, including moveable tables and chairs - $19,000
• Wi-Fi throughout the park - $5,000
• Amenities such as bike racks, and water fountain - $5,000
• Pedestrian area lighting with outlets for visitor use - $42,000
• Information kiosk - $9,000
• Trash receptacles, recyclable bins - $13,000
• Public art - $6,000
• Native Rain Garden Stormwater Improvements $30,000
• Native Planting - $15,000

Subtotal $1,593,000

20% Contingency and 10% Design Cost $478,000

Total $2,071,000
Chapter 3: Long Range Vision

Sims Park/Orange Lake

Short-Term Operations and Maintenance Improvements:
- Maintenance of pavilions that includes checking for wasp nests and bugs under tables in pavilions
- Maintenance of the playground that includes fixing the seatbelts on the baby swings
- Periodic sod replacement (including re-grading) - $6,000

Capital Improvements:
- Implementation of Phase 2, including shade structures, a projection screen, and improved aesthetics around Orange Lake - $407,000
- Signage and wayfinding system - $15,000
- All types of seating, including moveable tables and chairs - $36,000
- Shade structures - $85,000
- Bench swings - $20,000
- Wi-Fi throughout the park - $10,000
- Amenities such as bike racks, bike fix-it stations, water fountains, and fitness equipment - $75,000
- Dog pick-up stations and allow dogs on leashes - $12,000
- Information kiosk - $26,000
- Canoe/ kayak/ paddleboard rental concession (private) - $ By Concessionaire
- Trash receptacles, recyclable bins - $27,000
- Sand volleyball courts - $100,000
- Public art - $15,000
- Outdoor music speakers - $40,000
- Development of the adjacent Hacienda hotel as a special events venue within the park; comparable venues include Orange County’s Cypress Grove Park, Orlando’s Leu Gardens House, and Lakeland’s Peggy Brown Center and Hollis Gardens at Lake Mirror Park - $2,000,000
- Native Rain Garden Stormwater Improvements $30,000
- Native Planting - $30,000
- Pedestrian area lighting with outlets for visitor use - $53,000

Subtotal $2,975,000
20% Contingency and 10% Design Cost $893,000
Total $3,868,000
Appendices
City of New Port Richey
2016 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey

...helping organizations make better decisions since 1982

Findings Report

Submitted to the City of New Port Richey, FL by:
ETC Institute
725 W. Frontier Lane,
Olathe, Kansas
66061

December 2016
B. Online Survey Responses

City of New Port Richey Community Needs Assessment Survey

Q1 Have you or any members of your household visited any of the parks and/or recreation facilities in the City of New Port Richey during the past 12 months?

Answered: 240  Skipped: 6

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C. Interview Notes

City of New Port Richey Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Stakeholder Interview Questions

Council/ Manager #1:

1. **Review of Scope/ Schedule:** Do you have any questions about the project scope/ methodology?
   - Long and short: pragmatic enough to get Sims Park to a certain point, so City could finish something.
   - In a nutshell: being asked to agree on a timeline, management team hasn’t provided numbers, audit information
   - When I put dollars and cents to it, want to know if we can afford it
   - One of the legs that holds up the table is parks and rec 14 months behind in aquatics and recreation center; Sims Park behind; being hampered by 30%
   - Shown up at meetings with new information, while at dais
   - Prepare to be flexible, viable; staff will move cheese
   - Strategic Plan was supposed to get to Council once completed budget; need to review old plan for consistency with recommendations

2. **Needs:** Based on what you know, see and hear about your community, what do you believe are the top priority parks and recreation needs?
   - Everybody thinks we did a great job with Simms Park
   - Internal fight re: providing a consistent deliverable and LOS out of Aquatics/ Rec center: overbuilt for market, built in wrong location: backed off on # employees, hours of operation; need to increase
   - How many use Center, when do you use it?
   - Neither sports nor swimming offset costs to break even
   - Have had 3 different rate studies for center. Have not done a good job of establishing identity, market. Ask Elaine for study from Sports Management Group, cost-recovery goals, etc.
   - Don’t have internal software updated
   - Major proponent of buying additional land for Gray Preserve, plus another 6 acres
   - Need to finish Phase 2 of Simms Park; create a plan (3- 5 year) for CIP at Grey Preserve, make it part of marketing plan, community enhancement; go back into local community parks such as Frances Park, spruce them up
Chapter 4: Appendices

- Need to work with Pasco County, other municipalities to build a bigger sports complex on west side of the County; did away with girls' softball at that location because of travel ball, etc.; most users are not City residents; should there not be a bigger/better plan for west County baseball?
- Tax dollars are entrusted to us to provide a level-of-service; however, about 43-44% goes to payroll, benefits, pension benefits for fire and police
- Water and sewer utility provides funding, along with Pennies for Pasco
- Hacienda being renovated as a hotel, original 1924 footprint; limited by grant funding; potential recreational use?
- Big elephant in room is consolidated VA facility

3. **Priorities:** Of the needs listed above, what are your top 3 priorities?
   - Phase 2 Sims Park
   - Grey Preserve improvements
   - Improvements at other parks, incl. Frances Avenue (current), baseball complex

4. **Benchmark Communities:** As we analyze your system, who should we compare you to? Are there any communities that you wish to emulate?
   - River, Hwy 19, historic downtown, non-profit hospital; no exact comparables, no other place like NPR
   - Decide what we want to be

**Council/Manager #2:**
- Trying to recruit families to move to NPR
- Jason (Principal of Gulf Middle School) has been working on school rankings
- Site furnishings, buildings are important; reflect character of neighborhoods
- Jasmine Park ideas
- Maintenance is important
- Homelessness is an issue
- How do we address economic, social issues? (e.g. HPPSs)
- Each neighborhood park will require a neighborhood master planning process

1. **Review of Scope/Schedule:** Do you have any questions about the project scope/methodology?
   No

2. **Needs:** Based on what you know, see and hear about your community, what do you believe are the top priority parks and recreation needs?
• Small parks are neglected, need to be improved; placemaking
• Each park needs its own identity; e.g. Frances is a small community park
• Plummer Field needs improvement, not very inviting, not enough parking
• New sports complex proposed for Starkey Ranch, 15 – 20 minutes away
• Kayak launch at Jasmin Park
• Improvements to Jasmin, Frances Parks

3. **Priorities:** Of the needs listed above, what are your top 3 priorities?
   - Quality facilities that are well-maintained
   - Improvements to Jasmin, Frances Parks

4. **Benchmark Communities:** As we analyze your system, who should we compare you to? Are there any communities that you wish to emulate?
   - Sick of being benchmarked against other communities
   - People keep comparing us to Dunedin

Council/Manager #3:

1. **Review of Scope/ Schedule:** Do you have any questions about the project scope/methodology?
   - No

2. **Needs:** Based on what you know, see and hear about your community, what do you believe are the top priority parks and recreation needs?
   - Don’t hear much
   - Believe that, in general, we need to upgrade all of the facilities are park properties
   - Need to program additional amenities and Grey Nature Preserve
   - Need a little bit from special interests; skateboard park, pickleball courts
   - See the City take ownership of Green Key Beach (intersection of US 19 Green Key)
   - Trails are very important

3. **Priorities:** Of the needs listed above, what are your top 3 priorities?
   - upgrade all of the facilities are park properties
   - Need to program additional amenities and Grey Nature Preserve

4. **Benchmark Communities:** As we analyze your system, who should we compare you to? Are there any communities that you wish to emulate?
Council/ Manager #4:

1. **Review of Scope/ Schedule:** Do you have any questions about the project scope/ methodology?
   - No.

2. **Needs:** Based on what you know, see and hear about your community, what do you believe are the top priority parks and recreation needs?
   - Not a whole lot on the needs side
   - Absolute amazement that Simms Park came out as well as it did
   - Need to complete Phase 2 of Simms; need more swing sets, porch swings by the river, completion of Orange Lake improvements
   - Concern that we focus too much on downtown, not enough on neighborhoods
   - Solution is to look at neighborhood parks, e.g. Orange Grove Park, Jasmin Park including boat docks, bench swings; more passive uses
   - Haven’t had neighborhood-level planning since before great recession
   - Have done a good job with special events, not with more passive areas; less intensive uses
   - “Spiff up” existing parks
   - Need to take advantage of river, greatest asset
   - Sidewalk to Frances Ave. boat ramp
   - Boat tours up river to Gray Preserve; add food, naturalist, other “layers”

3. **Priorities:** Of the needs listed above, what are your top 3 priorities?
   - Finish Orange Lake/ Sims Park (phase 2)
   - Fix Russ Park
   - Add playground equipment, other passive amenities to neighborhood parks (don’t need restrooms)

4. **Benchmark Communities:** As we analyze your system, who should we compare you to? Are there any communities that you wish to emulate?
   - Not directly, not like Dunedin, Tarpon Springs, Dade City
   - Have assets: special events, parks, birthday party venues, rec center, river, neighborhoods

**Council/ Manager #5**
1. **Review of Scope/ Schedule:** Do you have any questions about the project scope/ methodology?

No.

2. **Needs:** Based on what you know, see and hear about your community, what do you believe are the top priority parks and recreation needs?

- Need to divide Rec Center from remainder of parks system because Rec Center charges, other entities are free
- 65% ALICE threshold (asset limited but income restrained employed)
- People cannot afford to come here
- City is currently at +/- 40% cost recovery
- 2012 market study for rec center (get a copy)
- No feasibility study for $2.2M expansion plans
- Not activities at any park other than Simms; e.g. Frances Park could be programmed
- Too many employees at rec center, add programs to other parks
- Jasmin Park is right on river, no way to access
- Russ Park needs to be improved
- Need benches at dog park
- People want things to do, want it to be clean, neat, safe
- Location of park informs needs, e.g. Frances Park should relate to middle school, high school (appropriate playground), natural area of the river (jon boat access); programs on afternoons?
- Joint programming with schools?
- Old hospital being torn down (owned by HCA); City hopes that the VA will build new hospital
- Rec center could offer GED classes
- Hook up with Metropolitan Ministries
- More people need to feel like they are members of the community, need low/ no-cost recreation opportunities.
- Shift from economic development (now have 80% occupancy in downtown) to ALICE
- Metrics: % classified as “ALICE”; % homes owner-occupied
- People who work in rec center need to get out of the building
- Coordinate with the principals, find out what middle school kids needs are
- Doing a lot of work in the County to connect to trails; need to contact County re: trails maps, connect to Pinellas Trail, river, City, Starkey
3. **Priorities:** Of the needs listed above, what are your top 3 priorities?
   - Activities at the parks for no cost at each park

4. **Benchmark Communities:** As we analyze your system, who should we compare you to? Are there any communities that you wish to emulate?
   - No

**Council/ Manager #6:**

1. **Review of Scope/ Schedule:** Do you have any questions about the project scope/methodology?
   - We are not reaching millennials; could we do a webinar?
   - Could we survey residents at special events?
   - Have a good supply of affordable housing
   - We are a Main Street City, have volunteers willing to maintain parks

2. **Needs:** Based on what you know, see and hear about your community, what do you believe are the top priority parks and recreation needs?
   - Boat ramps and docks for public use
   - Acquire land at Simms Park boat ramps for parking and docks
   - Need to connect Orange Lake, Sims Park, Rec Center; create branding, signage along corridor, more pedestrian and bike friendly
   - Not hearing a need for Orange Lake improvements, such as docks
   - Signage and wayfinding; would like to see significant, iconic branding in all of our parks, e.g. bollards with ropes
   - Need features, public art such as maze, obelisk, bat house, in other parks (ex. Oso Creek Trail, Mission Viejo)
   - Each park should have some element that is iconic, some elements that are contemplative, some public art
   - Make people aware of all the things to do here
   - More programming to connect with nature, make people more aware of parks – birds, bats, etc.
   - Public art, e.g. call for artists that interpret each park’s character, history, etc., Gene Sarazen invited sand wedge here, Chasco Fiesta
   - Marketing: Need to make people more aware of Peace hall, other opportunities. Do not have effective, central marketing across the board
   - Duplication, conflicts between parks, libraries? Marketing in silos? Need one message that transcends departments
   - Need central calendar of City events?
3. **Priorities:** Of the needs listed above, what are your top 3 priorities?
   - Incorporation of public art, history, icon park images
   - Incorporation of natural elements, e.g. bat house and programs
   - Coordinated marketing, broad and inclusive, not in silos

4. **Benchmark Communities:** As we analyze your system, who should we compare you to? Are there any communities that you wish to emulate?

**Swimmers + Dog Park:**

1. **Review of Scope/ Schedule:** Do you have any questions about the project scope/ methodology?

2. **Needs:** Based on what you know, see and hear about your community, what do you believe are the top priority parks and recreation needs?

   a. **Swim:** 50-meter pool similar to the Long Center (but not indoor), 8 eight lanes, be able to switch to be 24 lanes to be 25 m. St. Pete is a great example of how they made a premier facility. They didn’t allow people to develop big. They have a 50-meter pool, then a 25x25 meter for water polo, master swimmers. Also have a zero-entry pool, slide pool, and everything is walkable. They use the parks in tune with that. This facility is set up the same, the only thing that is missing is a 50-meter pool.

   Signage throughout the community for the aquatic and recreation center is not good. Signage is too small. Not enough people know about this facility.

   Need more programs for aquatics – no swimming in the winter, only Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday for the public to use the 25-meter pool in the winter.

   Could offer swim lessons 9 months, if not year-round.

   25-yard pool is the only one that is heated (Pipeline pays for the heating bill). Pipeline also pays lifeguards, coach, and help with small CIPs. Pipeline is set up as an LLC, but functions more as a non-profit. Pipeline absorbs a lot of costs and breaks even every year.

   Diving well could be used for practice water polo, deep water aerobics, synchronized swimming
If the plunge pool was heated, it would provide opportunities for water aerobics, therapy.

Membership only covers use of facilities, have to pay extra for programs. $3 for members, $5 for non-members. Classes are free at most health clubs and YMCA.

Facility is underused. Cannot run swim meets because it is not deep enough, on purpose.

**Dog Park:** Existing park is good, but big dog park is out of way, hard to get to, then go behind the house. Should move the park to another location (e.g. Sims Park, Recreation and Aquatic Center).

Signage is bad. Poor marketing,

3. **Priorities:** Of the needs listed above, what are your top 3 priorities?

**Swimming Priorities:**
1. Marketing – Let realtors know to
2. 50-meter pool (heated) (No 50-meter pool in the County, the closest one is 1 hour away. Prime location for people from Spring Hill and Lando Lakes. Already host high school meets, and is the best Pool in Pasco County)
3. Heated plunge pool
4. More programming provided by 50-meter pool and heated plunge pool

**Dog Park Priorities:**
1. Better signage to get to the dog park, park, and walk to the park.
2. Better and more parking
3. Better location for the dog park

4. **Benchmark Communities:** As we analyze your system, who should we compare you to? Are there any communities that you wish to emulate?

   St. Pete Pool

**Tennis + Pickleball:**
1. **Review of Scope/ Schedule**: Do you have any questions about the project scope/methodology?

2. **Needs**: Based on what you know, see and hear about your community, what do you believe are the top priority parks and recreation needs?

   **Tennis**: More courts and different surfaces (clay and synthetic surfaces). 5 lighted additional clay courts.

   6 Permanent 36’ and 6-Permanent 60’ courts for children under 8 to develop younger tennis players and hold tournaments because the closest one is in Hillsborough Community College (one-hour away).

   Since the City can’t do leagues so the people that learn here have to go elsewhere to play in leagues. Loose money because they don’t have leagues. Great courts could bring in tournaments.

   Poor lighting. Lighting fixtures are too high and angled poorly. Becomes a safety.

   USTA could provide funding for kids (could go 50%/50%).

   **Pickleball**: Need time and court. Restricted to three courts in few hours (Monday -Friday). The City provides racquets and balls.

   4 outdoor dedicated pickleball.

   Would like to have four courts from 6:00 am to 12:00 pm. Could line the gym for 6 courts.

   Need Onyx Pickle balls.

   Shade to block sunlight.

3. **Priorities**: Of the needs listed above, what are your top 3 priorities?

   **Tennis**:
   1. Adjusted tennis lighting to encourage night playing which now is dangerous
   2. 6 lighted har-tru (or other synthetic surfaces - grass) courts
3. 5 permanent children’s courts

**Pickleball:**
1. 4 lighted outdoor courts in one park.

4. **Benchmark Communities:** As we analyze your system, who should we compare you to? Are there any communities that you wish to emulate?

**Skateboarders:**

1. **Review of Scope/Schedule:** Do you have any questions about the project scope/methodology?

2. **Needs:** Based on what you know, see and hear about your community, what do you believe are the top priority parks and recreation needs?

**Skateboarding:** Closest skate park is Tampa or Clearwater, about 1 hour drive. Existing facility is dangerous and not monitored, which is leading to poor behavior; which will not allow new members to use. All current skaters drive to Tampa. Or skate in local businesses.

Difficult to mix skating and biking.

Hire Clearwater Instructor for a skate summer camp, provides skateboarding lessons and equipment (economical and safe). Summer camp can help pay for itself.

Park in a better location that is more visible and work with the skating community to develop a skate park that they really like, and that is better than what the City currently has.

*Community Centers building maker spaces for adults and kids. Work with Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) who donate their time to help kids.

3. **Priorities:** Of the needs listed above, what are your top 3 priorities?

**Skateboarding:**
1. New skate park (that is compatible with bicyclist)
2. Skate programs
4. **Benchmark Communities**: As we analyze your system, who should we compare you to? Are there any communities that you wish to emulate?

**Fitness + Walkers:**

1. **Review of Scope/ Schedule**: Do you have any questions about the project scope/ methodology?

2. **Needs**: Based on what you know, see and hear about your community, what do you believe are the top priority parks and recreation needs?

   NPR Running: Problem is having running routes. Now that it is dark early, we are having issues that people are not seeing because it is too dark and can’t see, streets don’t work.

   Thanksgiving Gobble Run which was held at James E. Grey Preserve which was a huge success. But it was difficult to get there. Park is hard to find, people got lost getting to the park. Park closes at dark so they can’t use it as a run club. A lot of potential to use the park.

   Sims Park, don’t run around the park but run through it.

   **Need running routes – that doesn’t have curb or pot holes. Nicely paved, well lit, wouldn’t have to cross busy roads.**

   Also, do biking. Any group biking, they go to Starkey Park, which has a great bike trail. Bike safety is a big concern. Drivers don’t understand that you should give people enough room.

   **Need a dedicated multi-purpose trail that is at least 5 miles. Running/biking path along the river would be ideal; from Sims north to Gill Dawgs, under Highway 19).**

   Explore basic route in town that starts in Johnny Grits, runs through Sims Park, up Massachusetts.

   Also, run in Gulfview Square Mall, came to an agreement with them. They run around the mall (which is 1 mile). They provide the yellow cones and a security guard that helps patrol. Are even running in the mall during the last mall. Want to
combine the route with Salts Springs Park, where they will be building a restroom.

Ideal Route: Needs to be a restaurant with outdoor seating area that can hold about 50 people. Ask the restaurant to give specials. #keepmoving

3. **Priorities:** Of the needs listed above, what are your top 3 priorities?
   1. Safety
   2. Condition of the road
   3. Lighting

4. **Benchmark Communities:** As we analyze your system, who should we compare you to? Are there any communities that you wish to emulate?

**Playground Mom’s Club, Kayakers & Boaters:**

1. **Review of Scope/ Schedule:** Do you have any questions about the project scope/ methodology?

2. **Needs:** Based on what you know, see and hear about your community, what do you believe are the top priority parks and recreation needs?

   **Boat Ramps/Kayak/Canoes:** Boat ramps are very limited. Parking is very limited. Need more parking and boat ramps. The City needs to be aggressively looking for properties along the river for boat ramps.

   City should explore land on the Gulf.

   The city has done a pretty good job of adding kayak/canoe launches.

   Need better access for kayak/canoes that is safer in James E. Grey preserve, it is one of the most popular spots on the river. Have done a good job with Frances and Sims.

   Could charge people to park $2, $5, to $10. People will pay for it.

   Need to sign the Church so boaters can park at the Church.
Playground Mom’s Club: Pavilions are really small, especially for what they are charging. Need larger pavilions with more tables. Currently food takes up all the table space and we have to bring another table for the Mom’s to sit in.

Need baby swings. Under 5 playground is not very big, need more of that.

Maintenance of pavilions and playground - The seat belts are broken. Check for wasp’s nets and bugs under tables in pavilions and playgrounds.

Dog parks.

3. **Priorities:** Of the needs listed above, what are your top 3 priorities?

**Boats/Kayak/Canoes**
1. Acquisition of land for boat ramps (parking will come).
2. Boat parking (Charge for boat parking at the church lot near the Sims Boat Ramp.)
3. Better canoe/kayak at James E. Grey Preserve

**Playground**
1. More playgrounds for kids under 5, especially infit swings
2. Maintenance of swings – fix seatbelts
3. Make bigger pavilions and add tables.
4. More dog parks

4. **Benchmark Communities:** As we analyze your system, who should we compare you to? Are there any communities that you wish to emulate?

**West Pasco Little League (Controls Pinehill Park – City Owned/County Operated):**

1. **Review of Scope/ Schedule:** Do you have any questions about the project scope/ methodology?

2. **Needs:** Based on what you know, see and hear about your community, what do you believe are the top priority parks and recreation needs?

**Baseball League:** Need additional parking. Have been in conversations with the City to purchase lots for parking. Currently people park on the street. 400 kids in the league, get worried about walking on the street. Everyone ends up parking on
the street. There is a Church across the street that doesn’t help out, they tow people if they park there.

More sidewalks throughout the park. From dugout to dugout. Currently mostly sand areas that make it difficult to walk, kids push strollers through sand/dirt.

Concession stand is about 20 years old, could use a new roof. City helped them redo the dugouts which was big. Rotary club has helped.

Average about 400 kids for Spring Season, a little less during the Fall. Don’t see a need for additional fields. Fluctuate between 375 to 425. Have not exceeded those limits. 4 fields are sufficient.

Have some open space in the back, could use another batting cage, playground could be helpful, sails over the bleachers for protection and shade.

3. **Priorities:** Of the needs listed above, what are your top 3 priorities?

   1. Parking
   2. Sidewalks
   3. Upgrade on concession stand.

4. **Benchmark Communities:** As we analyze your system, who should we compare you to? Are there any communities that you wish to emulate?
D. Estimates of Probable Cost Back-Up

**Cotee River Park**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Unit Cost</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A. Hardscape &amp; Courts</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>B. Architecture &amp; Structures</strong></td>
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<td>1 Picnic Pavilions - Small (12’ x 12’ w/concrete pad)</td>
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**Combined Subtotal**

**Construction Costs** $731,000.00

**Construction & Design Fee Contingencies (30%)** $219,300.00

**Total Construction Costs** $950,300.00
### Frances Avenue Park

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<td>A. Hardscape &amp; Courts</td>
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<td>1 Public Art Pedestals (8' x 8' x 6&quot;concrete pad)</td>
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**Total Construction Costs**

$2,311,920.00
Grand Boulevard Park

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5/20/2017   3:56:27 PM
### High Street Park

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<td>1 Public Art AL</td>
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<td><strong>B. Architecture &amp; Structures</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Picnic Pavilions - Small (12' x 12' w/concrete pad) EA</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Playground w/shade structure (mulched surface) AL</td>
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#### Combined Subtotal

- **Construction Costs**: $597,000.00
- **Construction & Design Fee Contingencies (30%)**: $179,100.00

**Total Construction Costs**: $776,100.00
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<td><strong>A. Hardscape &amp; Courts</strong></td>
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<td>1 Picnic Pavilions - Small (12' x 12' w/concrete pad)</td>
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<td>12 Fitness Equipment (12 stations w/ resilient surface)</td>
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<tr>
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**Combined Subtotal**

Construction Costs: $4,646,240.00

Construction & Design Fee Contingencies (30%): $1,393,872.00

Total Construction Costs: $6,040,112.00
### Chapter 4: Appendices

Jasmin Park

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<td>1 Picnic Pavilions - Small (12' x 12' w/concrete pad)</td>
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**Combined Subtotal**

| Construction Costs             | $556,200.00 |
| Construction & Design Fee Contingencies (30%) | $166,860.00 |
| **Total Construction Costs**   | **$723,060.00** |
### Jasmin Park

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<th>Unit Cost</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>A. Hardscape &amp; Courts</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Paved Multipurpose Path (concrete)</td>
<td>SF</td>
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**Combined Subtotal**

- Construction Costs: $556,200.00
- Construction & Design Fee Contingencies (30%): $166,860.00

**Total Construction Costs**: $723,060.00
### Meadows Park

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<td>1 Picnic Pavilions - Small (12’ x 12’ w/concrete pad)</td>
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<td>4 Signage &amp; Wayfinding System (5 directional &amp; identification; 18’ x 18&quot;)</td>
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<td>LS</td>
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<td>12 Fitness Equipment (12 stations w/ resilient surface)</td>
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<td>13 Dog Park (225’ x 250’; graded and sodded; fence, gates, concrete entry aprons)</td>
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<td>1 Site Landscaping (trees, shrubs &amp; groundcovers, sod &amp; Irrigation)</td>
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<tr>
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**Combined Subtotal**

- Construction Costs: $2,072,000.00
- Construction & Design Fee Contingencies (30%): $621,600.00

**Total Construction Costs:** $2,693,600.00
### Orange Grove Park

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Hardscape &amp; Courts</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Public Art</td>
<td>AL</td>
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<td>SF</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Architecture &amp; Structures</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Picnic Pavilions - Small (12’ x 12’ w/concrete pad)</td>
<td>EA</td>
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<td>1 Power &amp; Water (3 pedestals and service)</td>
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<td><strong>$5,000.00</strong></td>
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<tr>
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**Combined Subtotal**:
- Construction Costs: **$233,800.00**
- Construction & Design Fee Contingencies (30%): **$70,140.00**
- **Total Construction Costs**: **$303,940.00**
### Peace Hall

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<th>Quantity</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>A. Hardscape &amp; Courts</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Public Art EA</td>
<td>EA</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<td>$10,000.00</td>
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<td>2 Valet Parking (modification to 3 spaces on Sims Lane; stand)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
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<td>$8,000.00</td>
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| **B. Architecture & Structures**          |       |           |          |            |
| **Subtotal**                              |       |           |          | $0.00      |

| **C. Site Furnishings & Amenities**       |       |           |          |            |
| 1 Wi-Fi AL                                | AL    | $5,000.00 | 1        | $5,000.00  |
| 2 Signage & Wayfinding System (5 directional & identification; 18’ x 18”) EA | EA    | $1,500.00 | 5        | $7,500.00  |
| 3 Trash Receptacles (includes concrete pad) | EA    | $1,100.00 | 3        | $3,300.00  |
| 4 Recycle Receptacles (includes concrete pad) | EA    | $1,100.00 | 3        | $3,300.00  |
| 5 Bike Racks (loops)                      | EA    | $500.00   | 3        | $1,500.00  |
| **Subtotal**                              |       |           |          | $9,200.00  |

| **D. Landscape**                          |       |           |          |            |
| 1 Site Landscaping (trees, shrubs & groundcovers, sod & Irrigation) | SF    | $5.00     | 1800     | $9,000.00  |
| **Subtotal**                              |       |           |          | $0.00      |

| **E. Miscellaneous**                      |       |           |          |            |
| 1 Peace Hall Building System Upgrades (MEP) | AL    | 50000     | 1        | 50000      |
| **Subtotal**                              |       |           |          | $50,000.00 |

**Combined Subtotal**
- Construction Costs: $160,200.00
- Construction & Design Fee Contingencies (30%): $48,060.00
**Total Construction Costs**: $208,260.00
## Pine Hill Park

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<tr>
<td><strong>A. Hardscape &amp; Courts</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Parking (areas north of NE &amp; NW fields)</td>
<td>SF</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td>20000</td>
<td>$80,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Public Art</td>
<td>AL</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Paved Multipurpose Path (8' width around and through facility; concrete)</td>
<td>SF</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>24000</td>
<td>$120,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Multipurpose Court w/fence (asphalt &amp; unlighted)</td>
<td>EA</td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
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<td>$50,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Improved Drop-off Area (curbing, stripping and landscaping)</td>
<td>AL</td>
<td>$25,000.00</td>
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<td>$25,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Raised Pedestrian Roadway Crossing (asphalt w/striping &amp; signage)</td>
<td>AL</td>
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<td>$10,000.00</td>
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<td>$90,009.00</td>
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| **B. Architecture & Structures**                                    |       |           |          |            |
| 1. Picnic Pavilions - Small (12' x 12' w/concrete pad)             | EA    | $17,000.00 | 8       | $136,000.00 |
| 2. Information Kiosk                                              | EA    | $8,500.00  | 1        | $8,500.00  |
| 3. Restroom/Concession Building                                    | SF    | $200       | 2300     | 460000     |
| 4. Maintenance Building (office, two drive thru bays, storage)     | SF    | $150       | 1300     | 195000     |
| **Subtotal**                                                       |       |           |          | $25,850.00 |

| **C. Site Furnishings & Amenities**                                 |       |           |          |            |
| 1. Playground w/ridge structure (mulched surface)                  | AL    | $150,000.00 | 1  | $150,000.00 |
| 2. Wi-Fi                                                           | AL    | $5,000.00  | 10      | $50,000.00  |
| 3. Signage & Wayfinding System (10 directional & identification; 18' x 18') | EA    | $1,500.00  | 10     | $15,000.00  |
| 4. Benches                                                         | EA    | $1,200.00  | 0       | $0.00      |
| 5. Tables & Chairs (moveable sets)                                 | EA    | $2,400.00  | 15      | $36,000.00  |
| 6. Recycle Receptacles (includes concrete pad)                     | EA    | $1,100.00  | 15      | $16,500.00  |
| 7. Bike Racks (loops)                                             | EA    | $500.00    | 8       | $4,000.00   |
| 8. Bike Fix-it Station (w/concrete pad)                            | EA    | $2,500.00  | 0       | $0.00      |
| 9. Drinking Fountain (unchlorid)                                   | EA    | $3,000.00  | 2       | $6,000.00   |
| 10. Fitness Equipment (12 stations w/resiliant surface)           | LS    | $65,000.00 | 1       | $65,000.00  |
| 11. Ballfield Fencing (complete w/backstops)                      | AL    | $25        | 3400     | 85000      |
| 12. Pedestrian area lighting                                      | EA    | $55000.00  | 3500    | 52500      |
| **Subtotal**                                                       |       |           |          | $236,845.00 |

| **D. Landscape**                                                   |       |           |          |            |
| 1. Trees (100 gal)                                                 | EA    | $600.00    | 25      | $15,000.00  |
| 2. Tree Irrigation                                                 | SF    | $100.00    | 25      | $2,500.00   |
| 3. Native Planting                                                 | AL    | $15,000.00 | 1       | $15,000.00  |
| **Subtotal**                                                       |       |           |          | $15,700.00  |

| **E. Miscellaneous**                                               |       |           |          |            |
| 1. Improved Drainage                                               | AL    | $50,000.00 | 1       | 50000      |
| **Subtotal**                                                       |       |           |          | $0.00      |

**Combined Subtotal**

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<tr>
<th>Construction Costs</th>
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<tr>
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### Recreation and Aquatics Center

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<th>Quantity</th>
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<tr>
<td>A. Hardscape &amp; Courts</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Parking (lot expansion and Van Buren on-street parking)</td>
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<td>$4.00</td>
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<td>SF</td>
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<td>4. Pickleball Courts (lighted)</td>
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<td>5. Tennis Court Resurfacing &amp; Lighting</td>
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<td>6. Tennis Court (lighted)</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Architecture &amp; Structures</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Picnic Pavilions - Small (12’ x 12’ w/concrete pad)</td>
<td>EA</td>
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<td>$102,000.00</td>
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<td>2. Picnic Pavilions - Group (20’ x 30’ w/concrete pad)</td>
<td>EA</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Information Kiosk</td>
<td>EA</td>
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<td>C. Site Furnishings &amp; Amenities</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Playground w/ shade structure (mulched surface)</td>
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<td>2. Power &amp; Water (21 pedestals and service)</td>
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<td>4. Signage &amp; Wayfinding System (20 directional &amp; identification; 18’ x 18”)</td>
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<td>Benches</td>
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<td>8. Recycle Receptacles (includes concrete pad)</td>
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<td>11. Drinking Fountain (unchilled)</td>
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<td>12. Fitness Equipment (12 stations w/ resilient surface)</td>
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<td>13. Dog Waste Stations</td>
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<tr>
<td>D. Landscape</td>
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</tr>
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<td>1. Trees (100 gal)</td>
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## River End Park

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<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A. Hardscape &amp; Courts</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Public Art</td>
<td>AL</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>B. Architecture &amp; Structures</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Picnic Pavilions - Small (12' x 12' w/concrete pad)</td>
<td>EA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>C. Site Furnishings &amp; Amenities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Playground w/shade structure (mulched surface)</td>
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**Construction Costs**: $769,800.00

**Construction & Design Fee Contingencies (30%)**: $230,940.00

**Total Construction Costs**: $1,000,740.00
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## Sims Park Orange Lake

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**Combined Subtotal**

Construction Costs

Construction & Design Fee Contingencies (30%)

**Total Construction Costs**

$5,848,800.00

$1,754,640.00

$7,603,440.00
### Sims Boat Ramp

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<td>A. Hardscape &amp; Courts</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Aquire Building North of Site</td>
<td>EA</td>
<td>$1,000,000.00</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$1,000,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Demo Chamber of Commerce Building</td>
<td>AL</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,007,000.00</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Combined Subtotal**

Construction Costs $3,115,600.00

Construction & Design Fee Contingencies (30%) $934,680.00

**Total Construction Costs** $4,050,280.00

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City of New Port Richey

Chapter 4: Appendices
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