



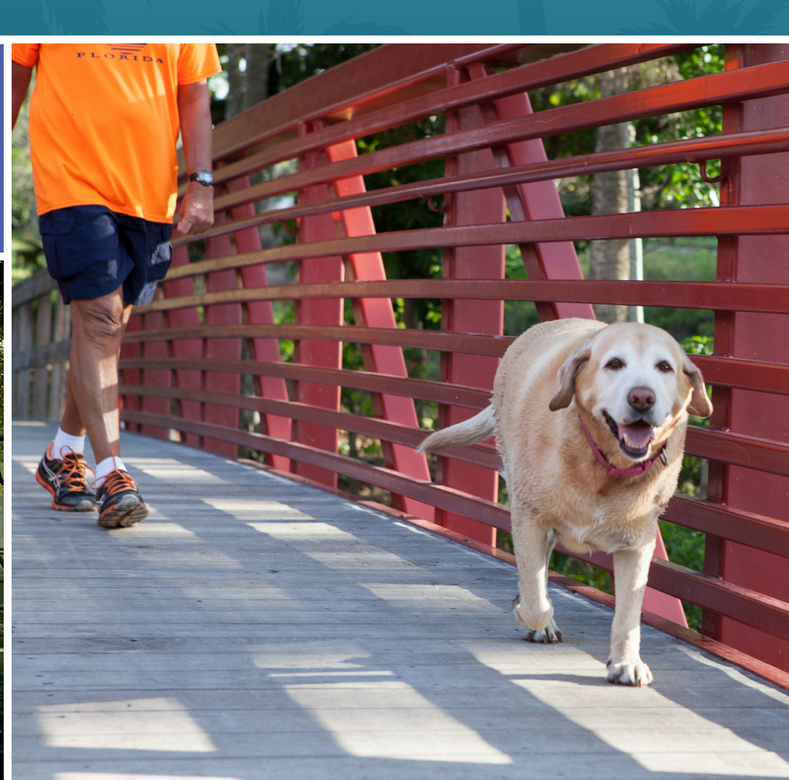
PARKS

MASTER PLAN

City of Bonita Springs Florida









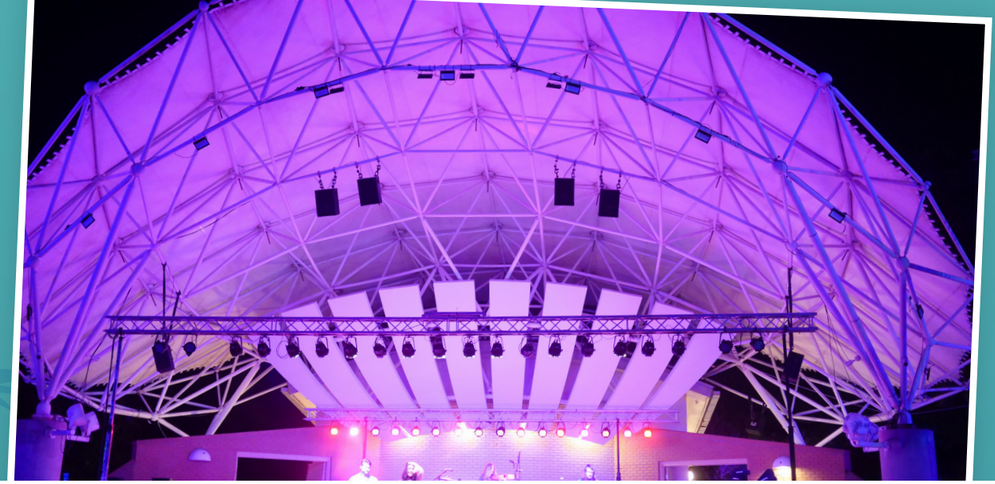




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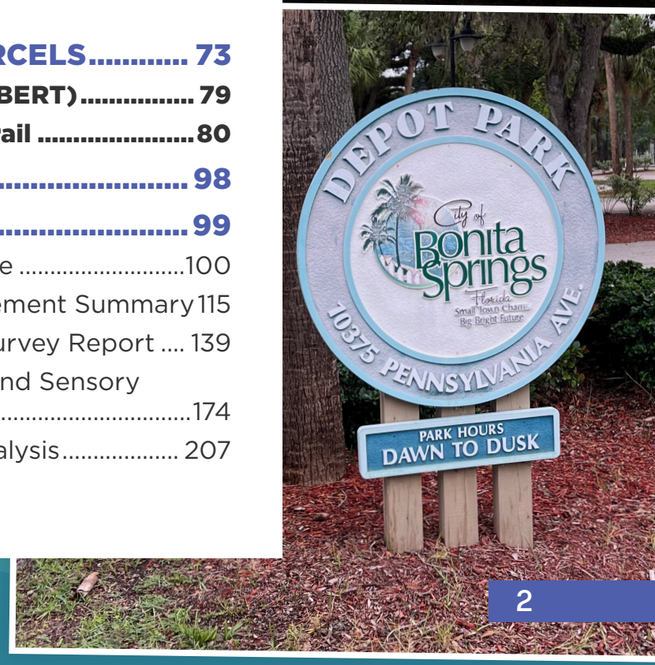
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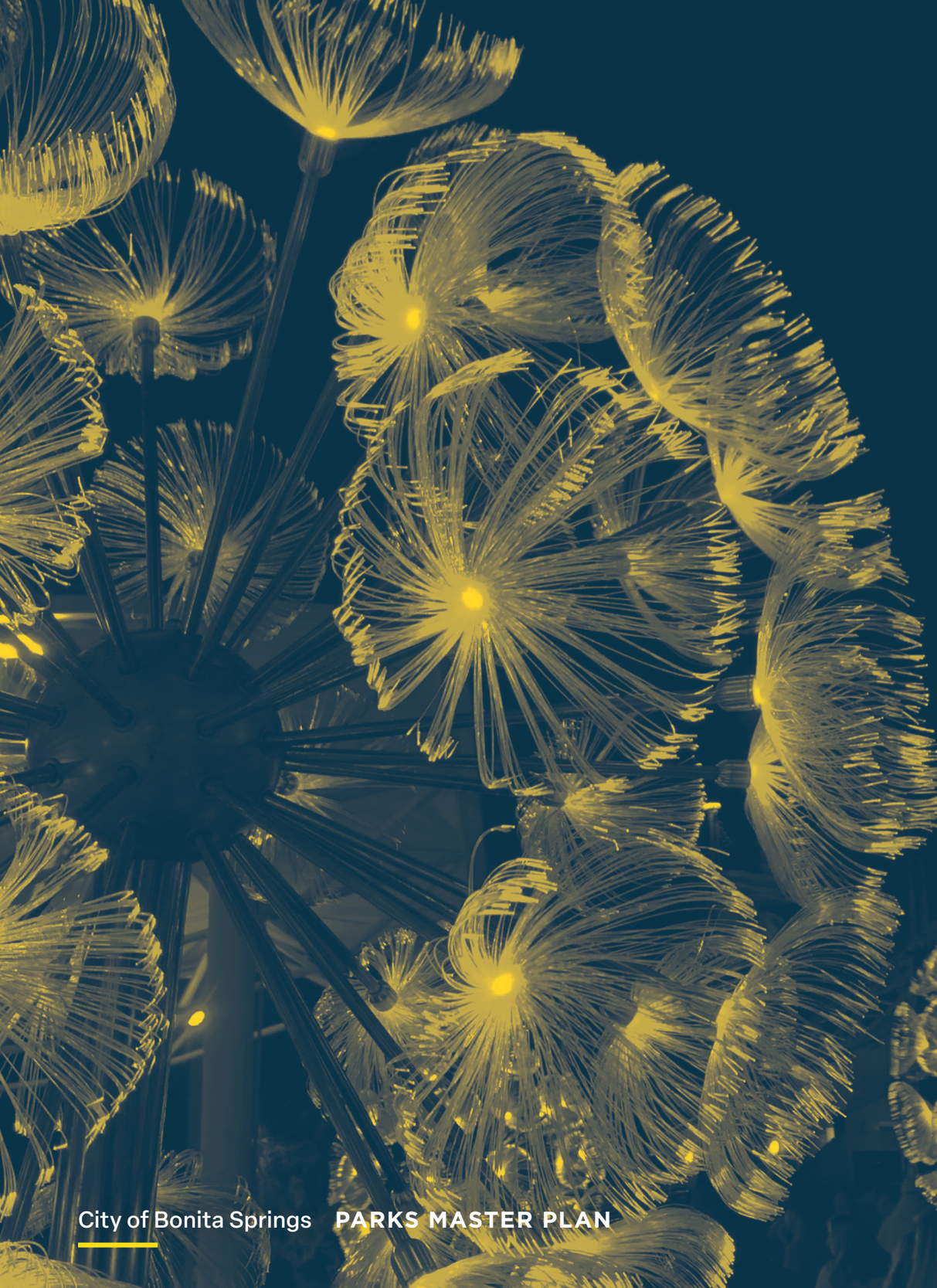
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Acknowledgements

Elected Officials

- Mayor, Mike Gibson
- Council District 1, Jamie Bogacz
- Council District 2, Jesse Purdon
- Council District 3, Laura E. Carr
- Council District 4, Chris Corrie
- Council District 5, Nigel P. Fullick
- Council District 6, Jim Fitzpatrick

City Management

- Arleen Hunter, City Manager
- Matt Feeney, Assistant City Manager

Parks and Recreation Staff

- Nicole Perino, Parks and Recreation Director
- Jason Jaccarino, Maintenance Manager
- Cheryl Cook, Recreation Center Lead
- Jesse Felger, Recreation Project Manager

Consultant Team

- Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker LLC
- RVi
- ETC Institute
- IBCCES

INTRODUCTION

BONITA SPRINGS is a city defined by its natural environment. Located between Fort Myers and Naples along Florida's Southwest Coast, the Imperial River borders the downtown square; the beach parks draw residents and visitors alike; and parks become spaces for community-wide events and daily gatherings.

For the roughly 60,000 people who call Bonita Springs home, parks and natural areas make Bonita, Bonita. Residents describe outdoor spaces as essential to their health, family life, and sense of belonging. When asked what they most want to protect as the City grows, they name the natural environment first.

What's most important to quality of life?

72% Outdoor recreational and open space

65% Natural environment

65% Community character or a sense of place

What are the top priority land types needed in the City?

87% Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Use

69% Environmental/ Conservation

What can the City do to improve overall health?

75% Increase accessibility to outdoor recreation, biking, hiking

61% Plan for gathering areas that promote a sense of community

SOURCE: 2023 Bonita Springs Evaluation and Appraisal Review (EAR.) p. 125-128

Strategic Priorities Overview

Developed over more than a year of community engagement, technical analysis, and coordination with City staff and leadership, this Parks Master Plan establishes the direction for Bonita Springs' parks, facilities, programs, and services over the next 10 to 15 years. It is grounded in the City's long-held vision, articulated in the Comprehensive Plan, of "a community that values its natural environment…a walkable, pedestrian-friendly community with interconnected sidewalks… and outstanding parks and recreational facilities." This plan translates that vision into specific goals, strategies, and investments that are achievable, and directly tied to what residents say they need.

The planning process that produced this document was far-reaching. Through public workshops, focus groups, pop-up events at festivals and neighborhood gatherings, an interactive online platform, and a statistically valid mailed survey, the planning team reached more than 9,000 residents and collected 1,243 distinct pieces of feedback.

Across every method, every audience, and every neighborhood, residents made clear four specific priorities.

Take care of the parks we already have	**IMPROVE EXISTING PARKS**
Protect what makes Bonita special	**PRESERVE NATURAL RESOURCES**
Make it easier for everyone to get to and use our parks.	**EXPAND ACCESS**
Make sure city staff has what it needs to do all of that well.	**OPTIMIZE OPERATIONS**

THOSE FOUR PRIORITIES BECAME THE FOUR GOALS OF THIS PLAN.

Improve Existing Parks

Responds to the community's clear preference for reinvestment over expansion. Aging infrastructure and lingering impacts from recent hurricanes point to a parks system that would benefit from upgrades and modernization. Progress is already being made through significant investments in park improvements.

Expand Access

Addresses the physical and social barriers that currently prevent some residents from fully benefiting from the park system. Adding trail and greenway connectivity, expanding aquatic facilities, improving beach access, incorporating inclusive design, and increasing awareness of existing park amenities are all essential to making parks truly accessible and available to everyone.

Preserve Natural Resources

Reflects the community's desire to preserve Bonita Springs' unique ecological value and natural environment. Wetlands, wildlife corridors, the river, and the coast provide recreational value, flood protection, and habitat that cannot be recovered once lost. The residents want the City to protect them deliberately and proactively, especially throughout periods of growth.

Optimize Operations

Recognizes that the first three goals are only achievable if the department running the system has the staff, tools, funding, and processes to deliver on them consistently.

Each of the goals outlined in this plan is supported by community engagement and extensive analysis by the consultant team. The sections that follow in this Parks Master Plan detail the goals and their supporting evidence.

Why now?

With City growth, available land is becoming scarcer, and the infrastructure that residents rely on is aging. Modernizing existing facilities, acquiring land for future parks, and connecting neighborhoods through greenways, all take time and careful planning.

The Bonita Springs Master Plan envisions a community where every resident has access to safe, welcoming, well-maintained parks and natural spaces that reflect the character of this place and the people who have chosen to make it home.

The plan is meant to be used, referenced, and updated as conditions change and priorities evolve. It is, above all, a reflection of what the people of Bonita Springs said they want, and a commitment from the City to work toward delivering it.



The Planning Process

This Parks Master Plan reflects more than a year of listening and analysis. The planning team heard from residents at community workshops, pop up events, focus groups, and through an online platform. A mailed survey was also sent to households across the City.

Alongside community engagement, the team conducted a thorough review of the park system as it exists today. As part of the planning effort, the team visited every park and preserve, assessed facility conditions, and reviewed maintenance and staffing practices. Additional research examined how well the park system served Bonita Springs neighborhoods, how alternative providers fill the gaps, and how accessible facilities are for residents with disabilities or sensory needs.

Related Planning Efforts

The Parks Master Plan was developed in coordination with the City's existing planning framework and reflects the priorities established in several related documents.

- The City's Comprehensive Plan sets the broadest context, calling for "a community that values its natural environment… a walkable, pedestrian-friendly community with interconnected sidewalks… and outstanding parks and recreational facilities." This Master Plan translates those commitments into specific actions.
- The 2023 Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) reinforced those priorities, highlighting resident demand for greater outdoor recreation access, community gathering spaces, and open space protection.
- This plan was also developed alongside the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, currently being updated as a citywide mobility plan through the Public Works Department.

The result is a Master Plan with recommendations that connect to and support the City's broader goals for land use, mobility, and environmental stewardship.

















PHASE 1:
Discovery
March–April 2025

PHASE 2:
Engagement
April–September 2025

PHASE 3:
Analysis
April–December 2025

PHASE 4:
Visioning
January 2025–March 2026

PHASE 5:
Final Plan
March–September 2026

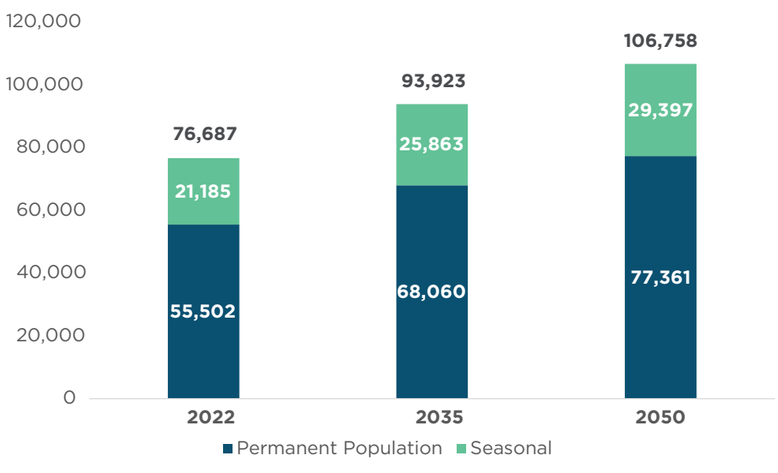
Demographic Profile

The City of Bonita Springs is located in southwest Florida, between Naples and Fort Myers. Established in 1999, Bonita Springs is a relatively new municipality within Lee County—celebrating its 25th birthday in 2025. The City is near Fort Myers, Naples, Fort Myers Beach, Sanibel, and Estero.

Accessible via Interstate 75 and U.S. Highway 41, the City offers stunning beaches like Bonita Beach and Lover's Key, as well as scenic waterways for kayaking and fishing. Since incorporation, the City's population has grown to over 55,500 permanent residents in 2022. There are an additional 21,185 estimated seasonal residents who live in Bonita Springs, bringing the City to over 76,600 people during the cooler months.

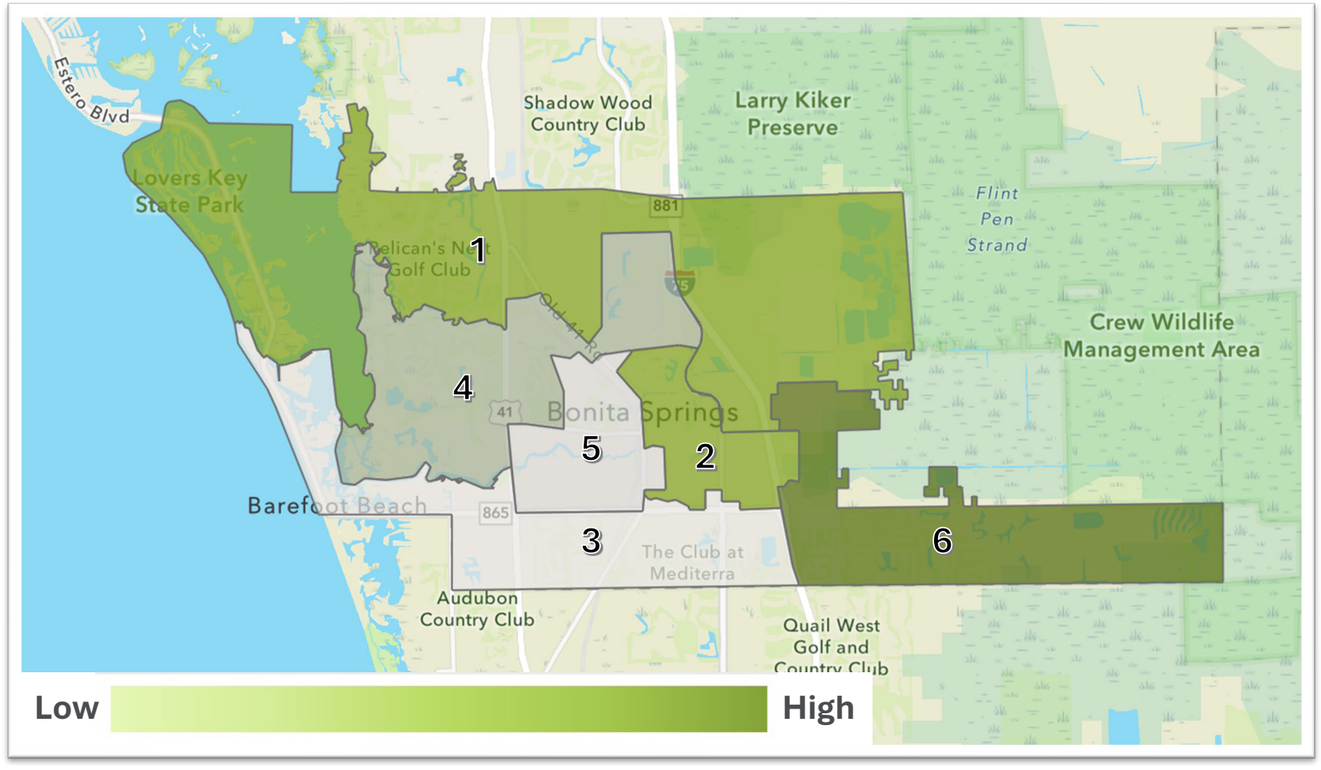
By 2035, the population is estimated to grow to an estimated 68,000 permanent residents and close to 26,000 seasonal residents. By 2050, if growth rates continue, the population could grow to over 100,000.

Figure 1: Population Over Time



SOURCE: Esri Community Analyst, 2024
Esri Community Analyst, U.S. Census Bureau
https://www.esri.com; BEBR, FL

Figure 2: Population Change Over Time



0.76% District 1

0.76% District 2

0.49% District 3

0.74% District 4

0.53% District 5

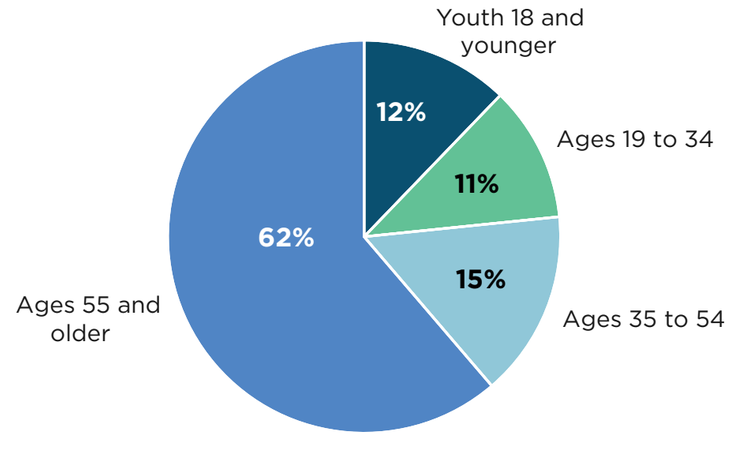
1.67% District 6

Age Distribution

In 2024, 62% of Bonita Springs' population was 55 years or older. The age distribution in Bonita Springs reflects a community with a significant older adult population. Residents 55 and older make up the majority at 62%, followed by adults aged 35 to 54 at 16%. Youth 18 and younger represent only 12% of the population, while young adults aged 19 to 34 account for 11%.

This distribution suggests a strong need for programs, amenities, and facilities that serve older adults, while still offering diverse options for families, youth, and working-age adults.

Figure 3: Age Distribution





Bonita Springs is experiencing a unique demographic shift as its population ages in place. The age group with expected growth are those 55 years and older, from 51% of the population in 2010 to 62% by 2029. This trend reflects both the aging of long-term residents and the continued appeal of Bonita Springs as a retirement destination.

In contrast, the proportion of children and youth under 18 is expected to decline steadily, representing just 12% of the total population by 2029. Younger adult age groups, including those aged 19 to 54, are projected to either decline slightly or remain stable.



Figure 4: Youth Age Group Change Over Time (2010–2029)

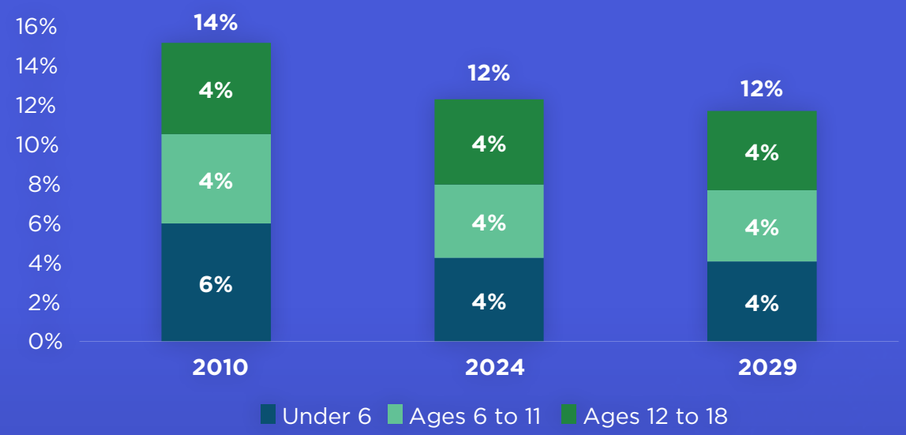
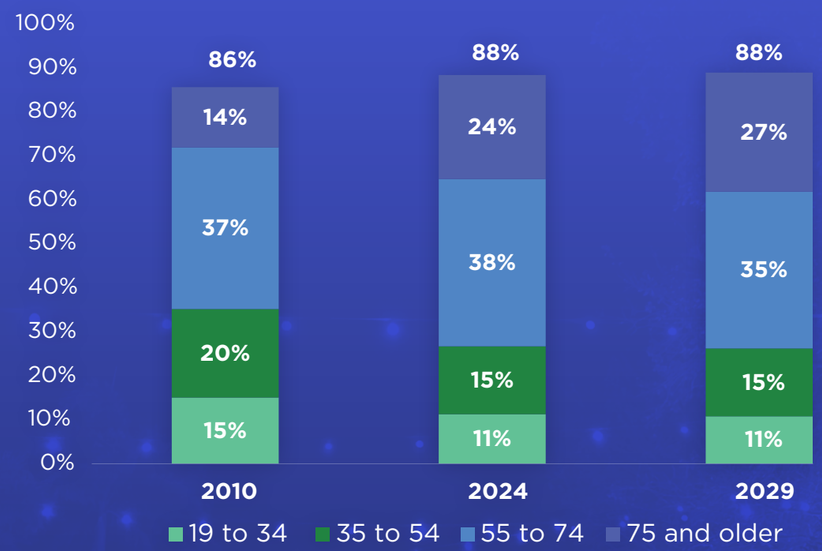


Figure 5: Adult Change Over Time (2010–2029)











COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

Bonita Springs is experiencing steady population growth, becoming more diverse, and aging—all trends that will directly impact future parks and recreation needs and the services that the City provides. The full demographic profile is available in Appendix A. These trends highlight an opportunity to align future investments with the evolving needs of the community—helping to ensure equitable access, inclusive programming, and age-friendly environments.

- The City is projected to add over 2,500 residents by 2029, continuing a steady population growth trend. This is expected to place additional demand on parks and recreation services.

- Adults 55 and older are the age group expected to grow in the City, which emphasizes the need for low-impact programming, passive recreation, and accessible facilities.

- The community is expected to become more diverse over time. Hispanic, multiracial, and other racial groups are increasing—pointing to the importance of culturally relevant programs and inclusive outreach.

- About 13.3% of residents live with a disability, emphasizing the need for inclusive design principles across parks, trails, and facilities.





VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY





How We Heard from the Community

The engagement strategy for the Bonita Springs Parks Master Plan was designed to reach residents through multiple formats and settings, with an emphasis on reducing barriers to participation and increasing opportunities for input.

Engagement Approach

The engagement approach focused on maximizing touchpoints, reducing barriers to participation, and using methods appropriate for connecting with hard-to-reach audiences. A “touchpoint” is defined as any planned or unplanned opportunity to connect with community members to share information and raise awareness about the Parks Master Plan.

The project goal was to reach approximately 5% of the community (approximately 2,500–3,000 people) to share information and provide opportunities for feedback. That goal was exceeded, with more than 9,000 residents reached and 1,243 pieces of feedback collected.

- ✓ CUSTOMIZED
- ✓ MAXIMIZE TOUCHPOINTS
- ✓ REMOVE BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION
- ✓ MAKE ENGAGEMENT ENGAGING
- ✓ DEFENDABLE TO PUBLIC AND ELECTED OFFICIALS
- ✓ MEET PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE
- ✓ FOCUS ON HARD-TO-REACH AUDIENCES

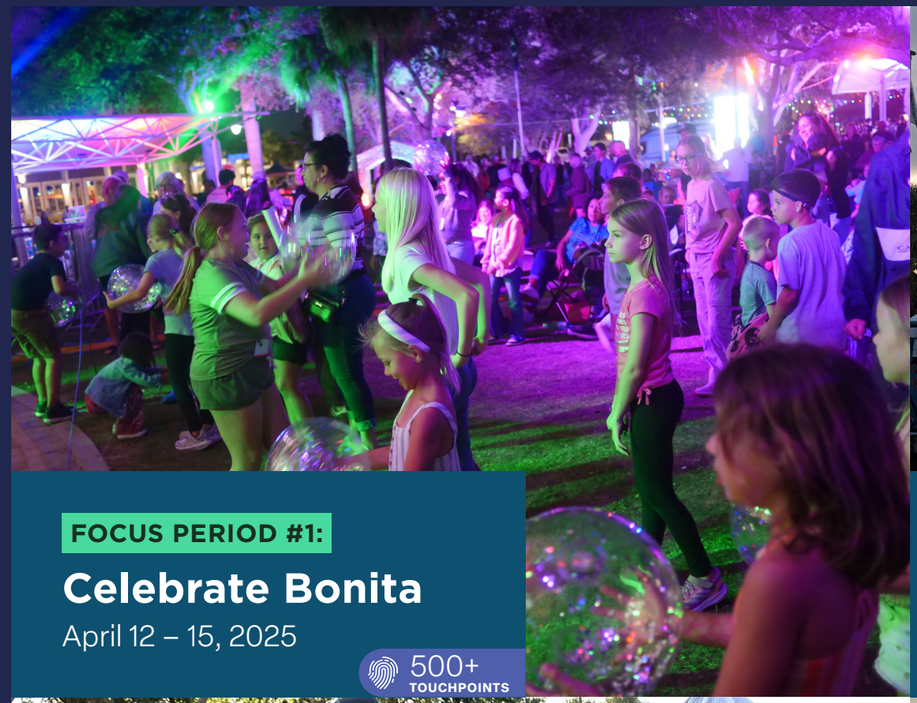
Focus Events

Three focused engagement periods were scheduled around community events with historically high participation:

At these events, project staff hosted interactive booths that included:

- ✓ Printed maps for location-based comments
- ✓ Comment cards for open-ended input
- ✓ Priority-setting exercises
- ✓ Informal, one-on-one conversations with planning staff

Beyond those anchor events, the team conducted pop-up sessions at farmers markets, youth sports games, and neighborhood gatherings throughout the City. Materials were available in both English and Spanish to reduce language as a barrier to participation.



FOCUS PERIOD #1:

Celebrate Bonita

April 12 – 15, 2025

500+ TOUCHPOINTS



FOCUS PERIOD #2:

Fourth of July

July 4 – 7, 2025

4,000+ TOUCHPOINTS



FOCUS PERIOD #3:

Back to School Backpack Giveaway

July 25, 2025

350+ TOUCHPOINTS



Public Workshop

August 7, 2025

TOUCHPOINT: Any planned or unplanned opportunity to connect with community members to share information and raise awareness about the Parks Master Plan.

Figure 6: Engagement by the Numbers

In-Person Feedback

5,958 Touchpoints

457 Feedback Received

Online Feedback

711 Website Visits

383 Online Contributions Submitted

Statistically-Valid Survey

2,500 Surveys Mailed

403 Surveys Completed

9,169 Total Touchpoints

Engagement Methods Overview

The community engagement effort for the Bonita Springs Parks Master Plan used a combination of in-person and online methods to provide multiple opportunities for participation throughout the planning process. Engagement methods were intentionally varied by format, setting, and level of time commitment to accommodate different participation preferences and to support access across the community.



OPEN ENDED COMMENTS

- Comment Cards
- Ideas Wall
- Focus Groups
- 1-1 Interviews
- Pop-ups and Special Events

LOCATION SPECIFIC FEEDBACK

- Interactive Online Maps
- In-Person Workshops Activities

PRIORITIZATION TOOLS

- Budget Exercise
- Dot Voting
- Statistically Valid Survey

Prioritization Activities

Two prioritization tools were used to collect structured input on needs and investments:

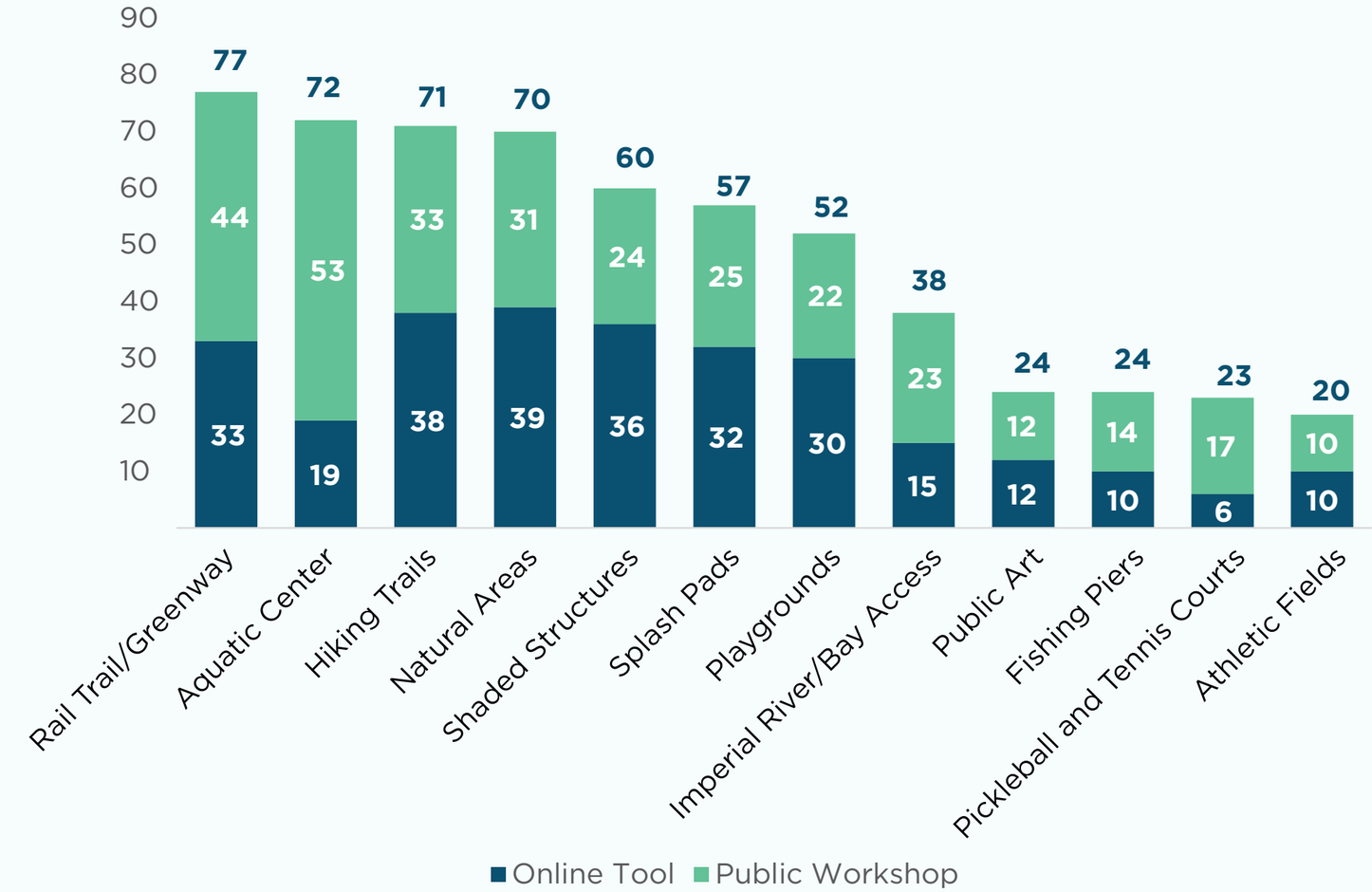
Dot Voting (Amenity Prioritization)

The dot voting exercise provided a clear snapshot of park amenities that are of community interest.

TOP SELECTIONS INCLUDED:

- Rail Trail/Greenway **(77 votes)**
- Aquatic Center **(72 votes)**
- Hiking Trails **(71 votes)**
- Natural Areas **(70 votes)**
- Shaded Structures **(60 votes)**

Figure 7: Dot Voting Tool



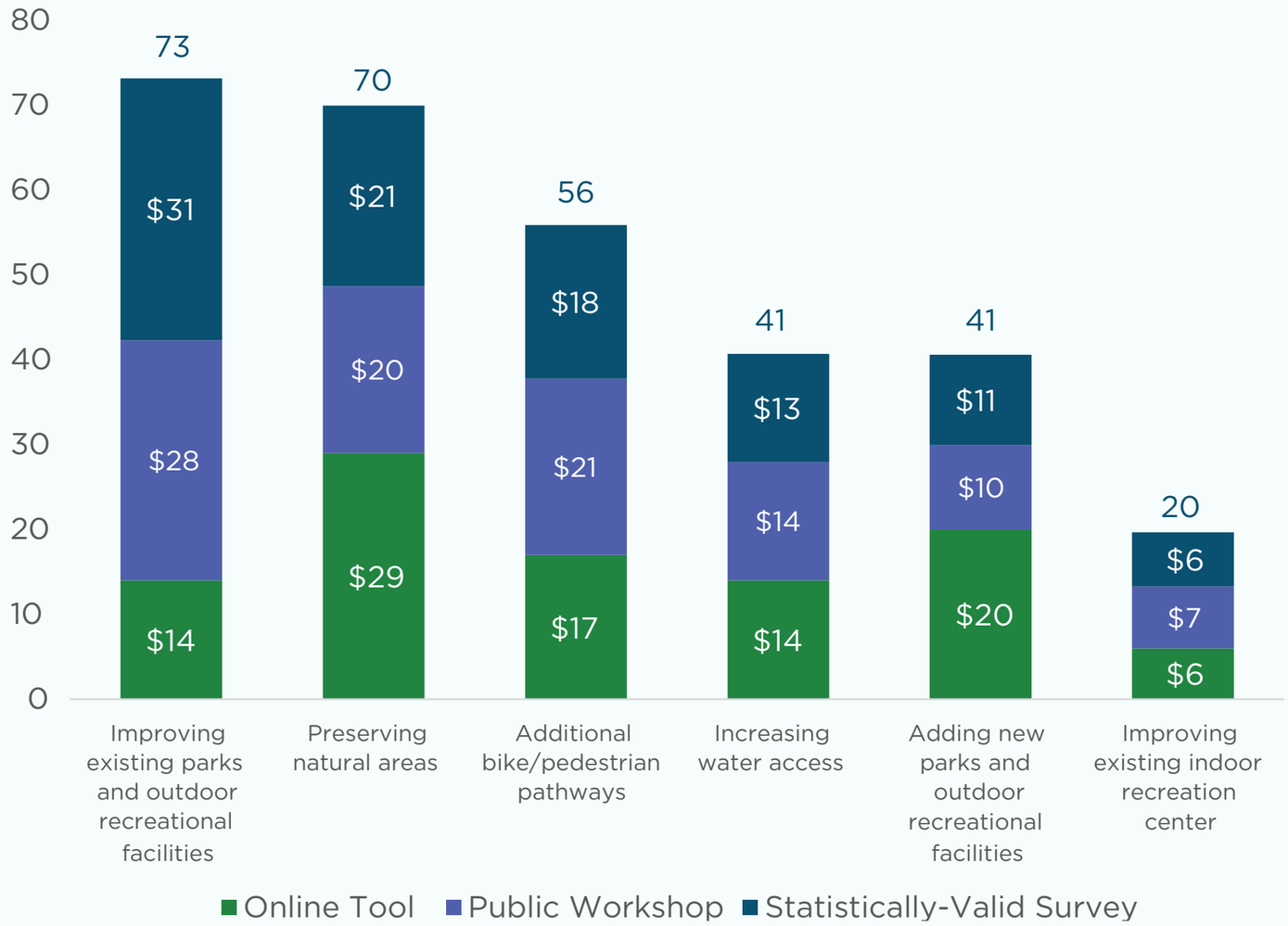
Budget Exercise (Project Categories)

Participants allocated a hypothetical $100 across six categories. Results showed the strongest preference for:

- Improving existing parks and outdoor recreational facilities
- Preserving natural areas
- Additional bike/pedestrian pathways

Improving existing parks and recreational facilities was the top priority.

Figure 8: Budget Prioritization Tool



Statistically-Valid Survey

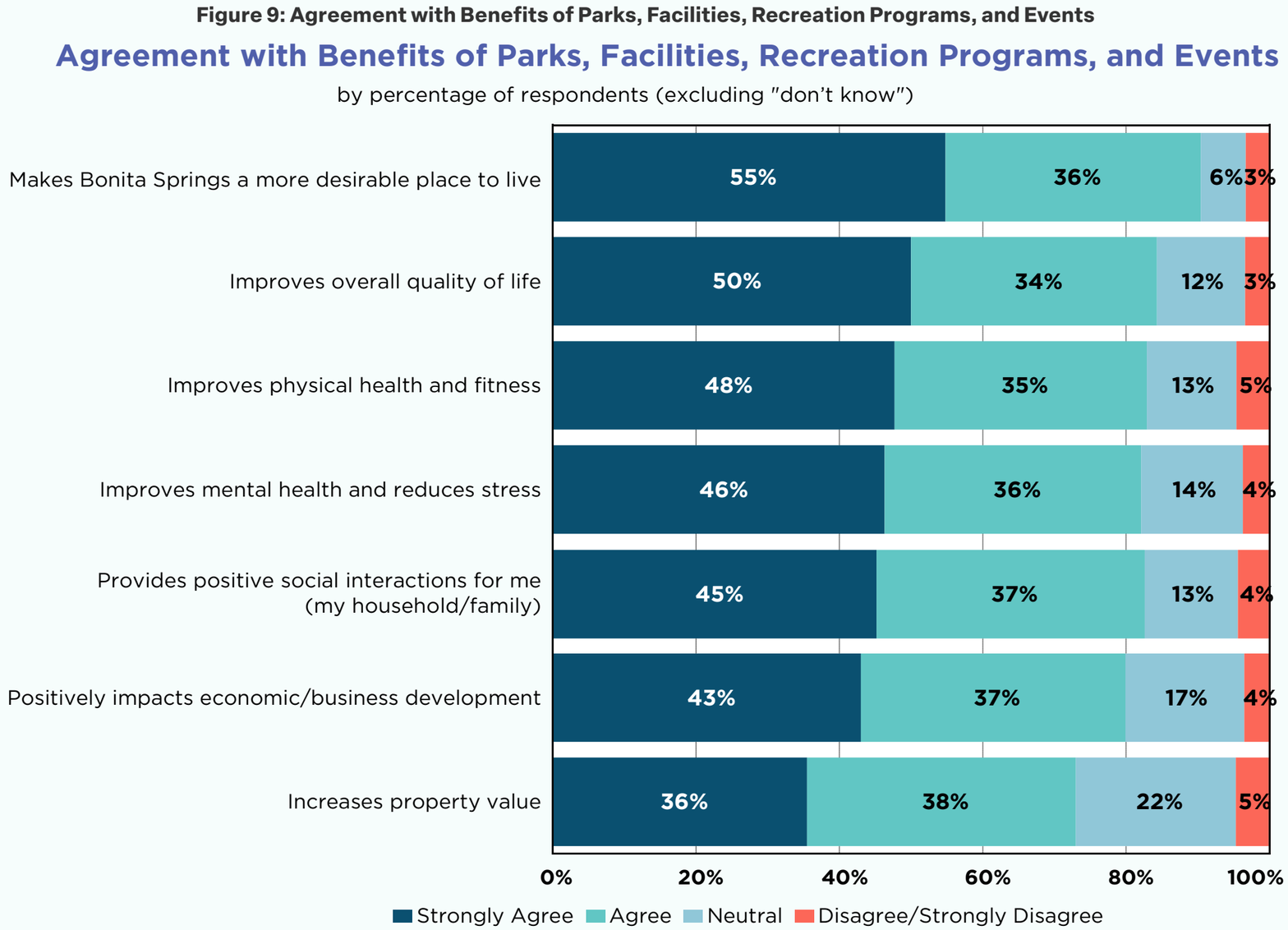
During the planning process, the City partnered with ETC Institute to conduct a statistically valid community survey mailed to a random sample of Bonita Springs households. Four hundred and three residents responded, producing results at a 95 percent confidence level with a margin of error of approximately plus or minus five percent. Alongside the broader community engagement described elsewhere in this plan, the survey provided the most statistically rigorous data available on how residents use their parks, what they need from them, and where they want the City to focus its attention over the next decade.

The findings were clear and consistent, and several patterns emerged in alignment with other engagement methods to shape the overall direction of this plan.

Park and Recreation Benefits

Residents of Bonita Springs value their parks. Ninety-one percent agreed that parks and recreation opportunities make Bonita Springs a more desirable place to live (agree and strongly agree). Eighty-four percent said parks improve their overall quality of life, and 83 percent said they improve physical health and fitness. This data suggests that the community in Bonita Springs understands the role parks play in daily life and considers them essential.

Figure 9: Agreement with Benefits of Parks, Facilities, Recreation Programs, and Events



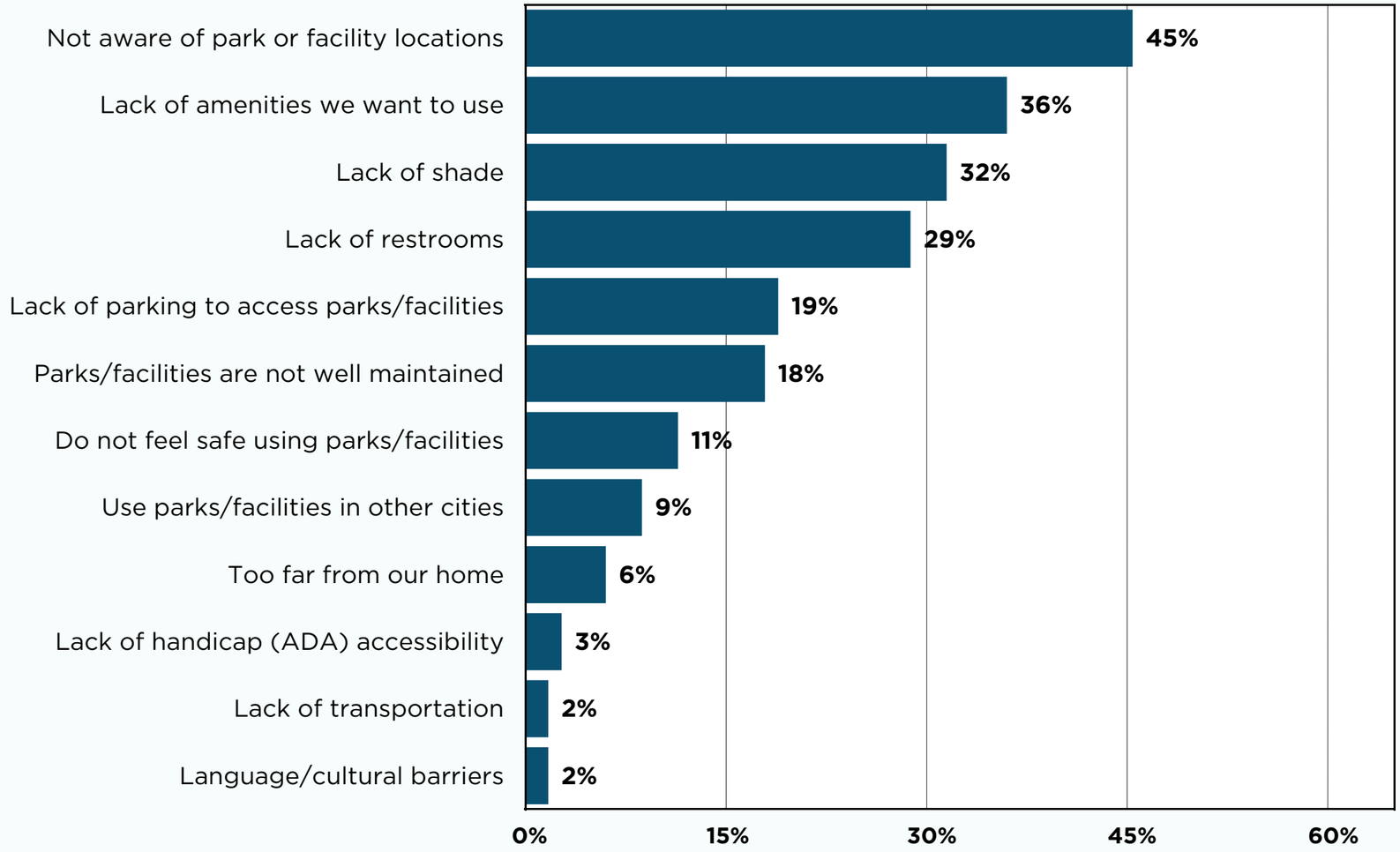
Barriers to Use

When residents were asked what prevents them from visiting City parks more often, the top three answers were clear: 45 percent cited a lack of awareness of park or facility locations, 36 percent cited a lack of amenities they want to use, and 32 percent cited a lack of shade.

Figure 10: Barriers to Park Use

Reasons that prevent households from visiting City of Bonita Springs parks and recreation facilities more often

by percentage of respondents who indicated use (multiple selections could be made)

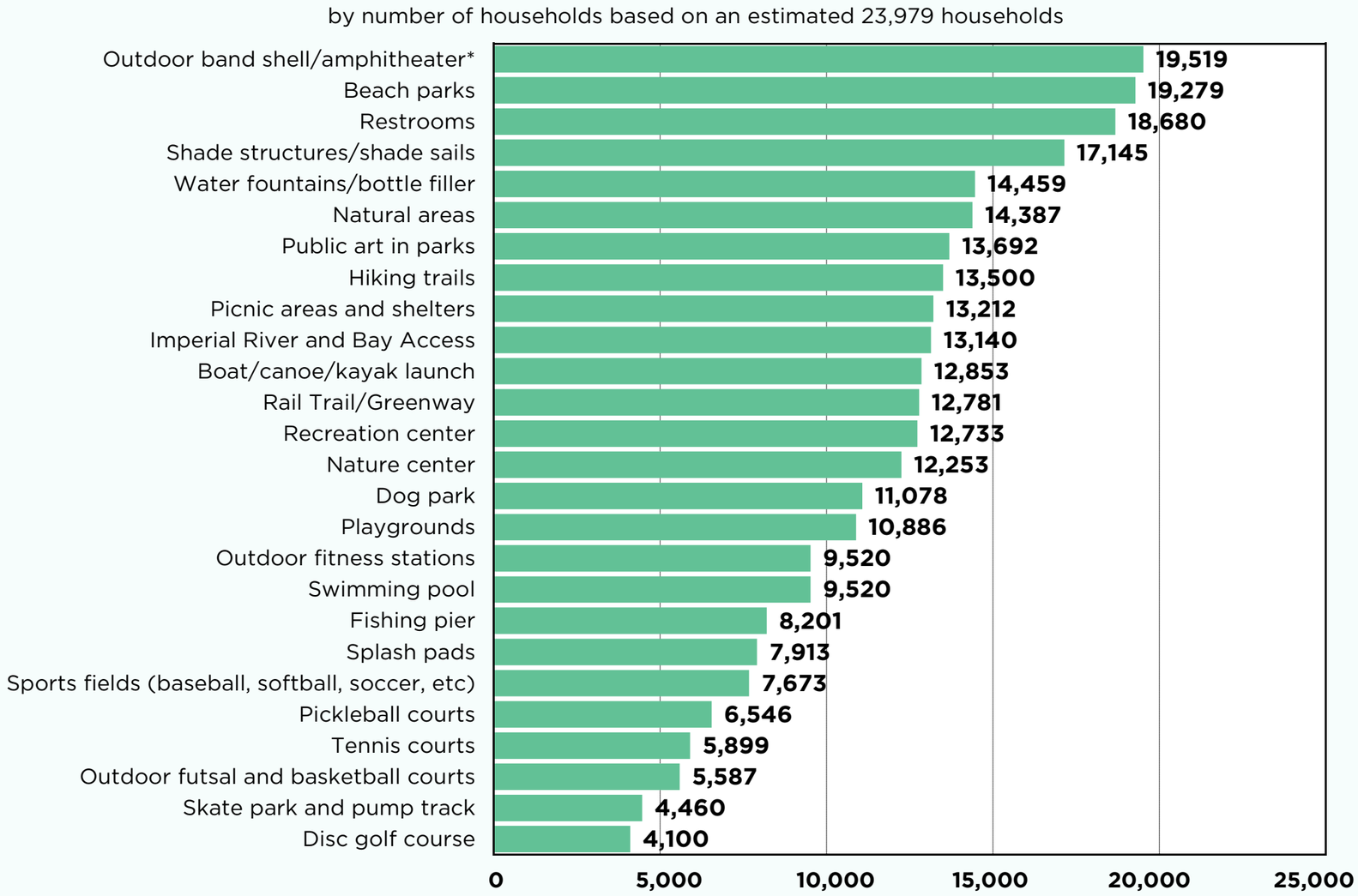


Community Needs

The survey asked residents whether their needs were being met across 26 different park facilities and amenities. The three largest unmet needs across the city were restrooms, shade structures, and beach parks, each identified as unmet or only partly met by more than 11,600 households. Water fountains, the Rail Trail and greenway, and natural areas followed closely behind.

*The Outdoor Bandshell ranked as the community's highest need, underscoring its importance as a central gathering space and the hub of downtown.

Figure 11: Estimated Households with Unmet Facility Needs



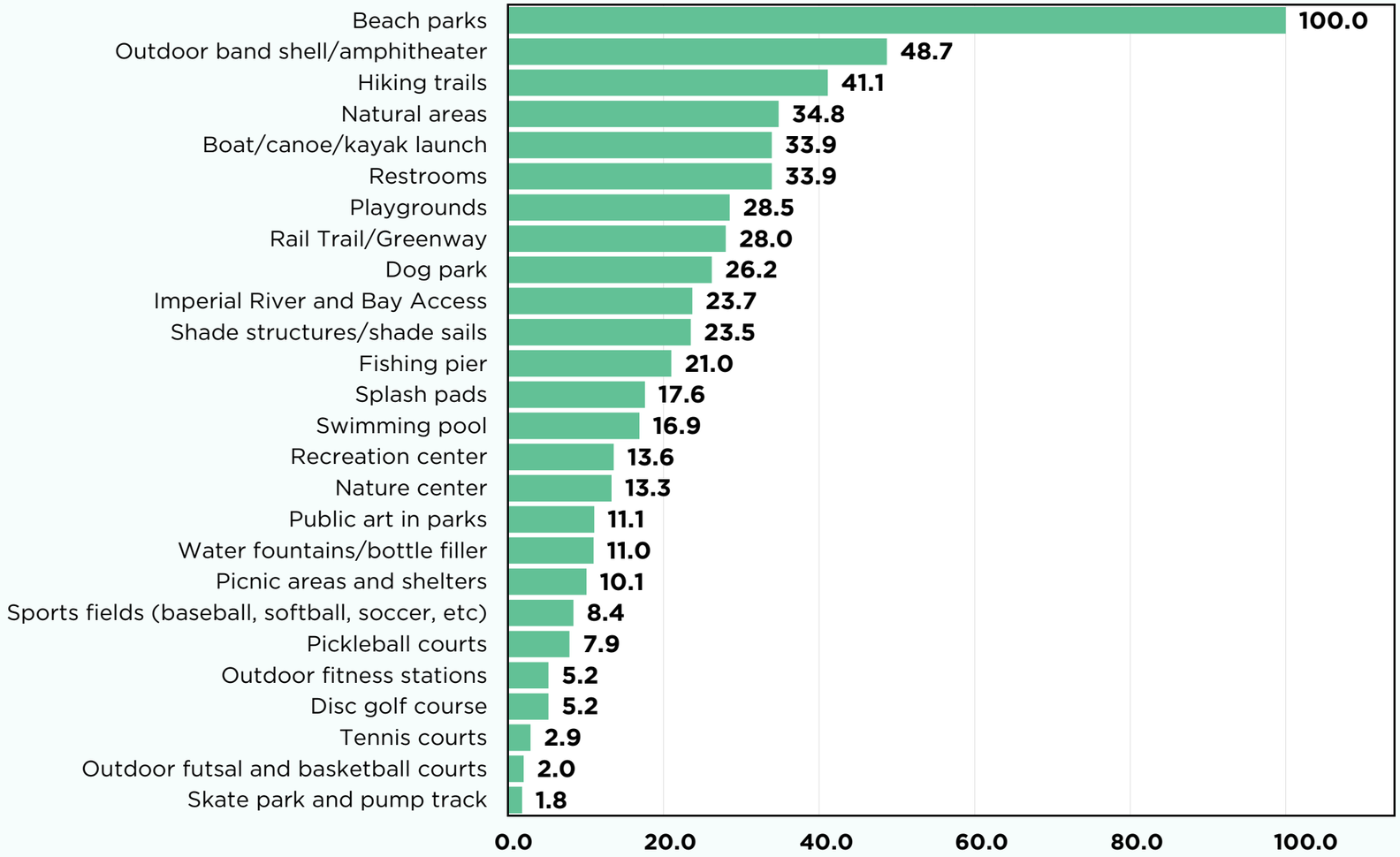
Facility and Amenity Importance

When asked to identify the four most important facilities for their household, beach parks topped the list with 56 percent of households selecting it, followed by the outdoor Bandshell at 27 percent, hiking trails at 23 percent, and a three-way tie at 19 percent between natural areas, boat and kayak launches, and restrooms.

Figure 12: Top Facilities and Amenities by Importance

Importance Rating for Parks and Recreation Facilities/Amenitites

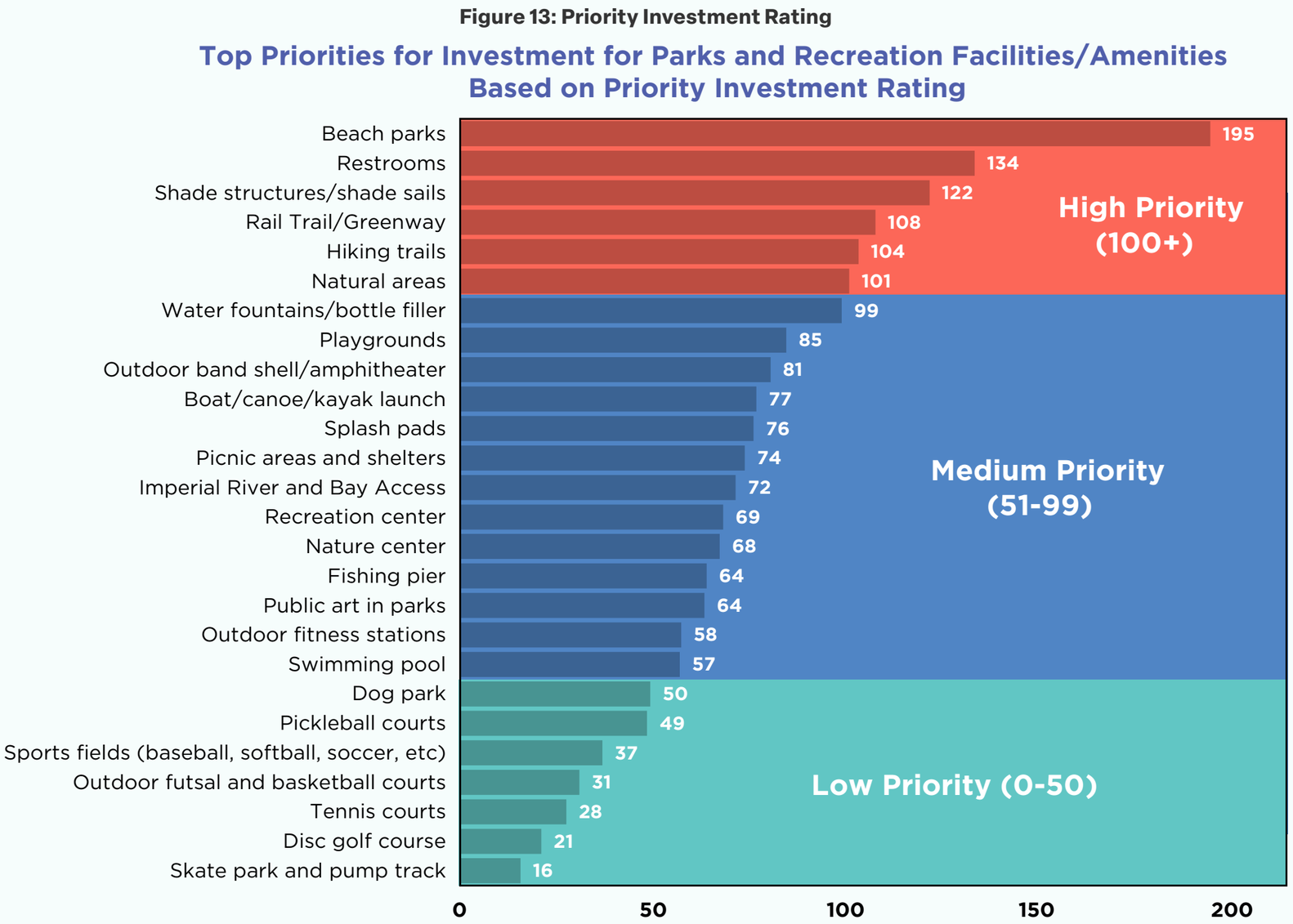
the rating for the item rated as the most important=100
the rating of all other items reflects the relative level of importance for each item compared to the item deemed the most important



Top Priorities for Facilities and Amenities

The Priority Investment Rating, a combined measure of both unmet need and resident-reported importance, placed six amenities in the “high priority” category with scores above 100: beach parks, restrooms, shade structures, the Rail Trail and greenway, hiking trails, and natural areas. These six amenities form the strongest evidence-based case for where the City should focus its near-term investment.

Figure 13: Priority Investment Rating



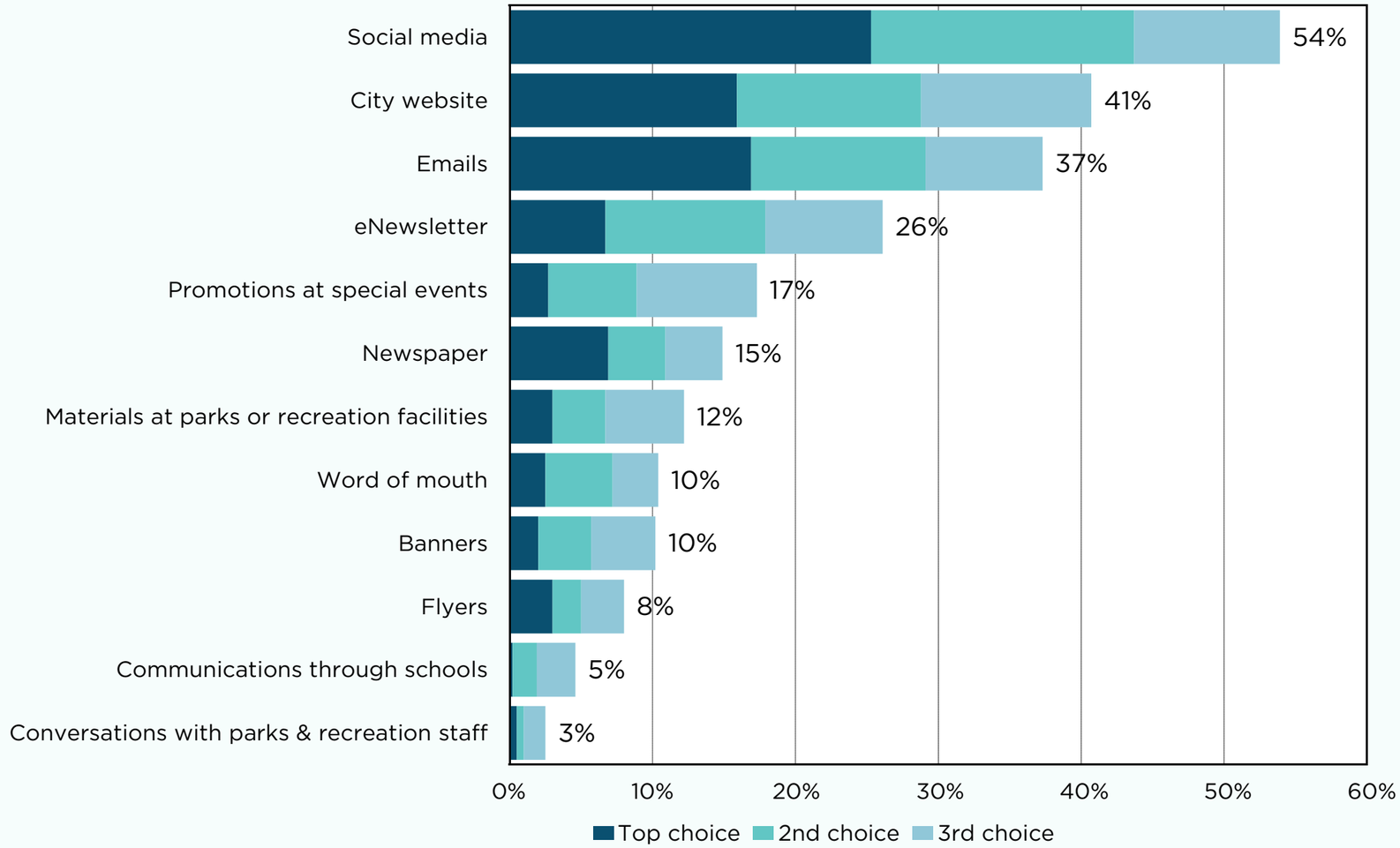
Communication Preferences

Residents most commonly learn about parks and programs through word of mouth (57 percent), social media (52 percent), and the City website (40 percent), but when asked what they would prefer, social media rose to 54 percent, the City website to 41 percent, and email to 37 percent. The gap between what residents currently use and what they would prefer suggests real opportunity to strengthen digital and email-based communication, particularly given how strongly awareness came up as a barrier to park use.

Figure 14: Preferred Communication Methods

Which THREE communication methods would you MOST PREFER the City use to communicate with you about parks, recreation facilities, programs, and events?

by percentage of respondents who selected the items as one of their top three choices



Park Classifications

To organize Bonita Springs' parks and recreation facilities, each site was classified by its primary role and the scale of population it is intended to serve. Some facilities serve multiple functions, but each is grouped here by its broadest classification. Together, these sites form a parks system that ranges from small pocket parks serving immediate neighborhoods to open space preserves and community parks that draw visitors from across the region.

Classification	Parks		Parks	Acres
Beach Access Parks	Beach Park North Bay Park North		2	+/- 1
Community Parks	Bonita Springs Dog Park Bonita Soccer Complex Marni Fields Riverside Park Bandshell Liles Hotel Plaza Community Pool	Bonita Springs Community Park Bonita Springs Recreation Center Leitner Creek Soccer Complex Imperial 41 Park	10	+/- 95
Natural Resource Areas	Oak Creek Kayak Launch Oak Creek Preserve Bonita Nature Place	Cullum's Trail River Park Windsor Preserve	6	+/- 56
Neighborhood Parks	Carpenter Lane Park Leitner Neighborhood Park	Banyan Tree Park Depot Park Island Park	5	+/- 12
Pocket Parks	Terry Street Pocket Park Imperial Parkway Park	Forest Park Kentucky Street Park	4	+/- 3.67
Special Uses Parks	Bonita Wonder Gardens		1	+/- 3
TOTAL			**28**	**+/- 171**

Beach Access Parks

TOTAL PARKS = 2 **ACRES** = +/- 1 Acres **ANNUAL VISITS** = 129,256

FACILITY

1. BEACH PARK NORTH

Total Annual Visits: 85,070

Approx. Acres: +/- 0.35 Acre

- **Key interest:** 18 parking stalls + 1 handicap stall

2. BAY PARK NORTH

Total Annual Visits: 44,186

Approx. Acres: +/- 0.73 Acre

- **Key interest:** Water access

PARK SPOTLIGHT



BEACH PARK NORTH

Beach Park North is located at the north end of Bonita Beach just before the Bonita Beach Causeway bridge, providing convenient public access to the Gulf shoreline. The park is primarily used for beach access, making it a popular spot for visitors looking to enjoy the water and sandy beach.

The site includes two shaded picnic shelters, offering a comfortable place for small gatherings, meals, or a break from the sun. Its simple layout and location make it an easy and practical entry point to the beach.

Community Parks

TOTAL PARKS = 10 **ACRES** = 94.91 **ANNUAL VISITS** = 990,744

FACILITY

1. BONITA SPRINGS DOG PARK
Total Annual Visits: 91,793
Approx. Acres: +/- 6 Acres
- **Key interest:** 3 Dog parks

2. BONITA SOCCER COMPLEX
Total Annual Visits: 307,077
Approx. Acres: +/- 7 Acres
- **Key interest:** Soccer fields

3. MARNI FIELDS
Total Annual Visits: 64,431
Approx. Acres: +/- 17 Acres
- **Key interest:** Soccer fields

4. RIVERSIDE PARK BANDSHELL
Total Annual Visits: 176,460
Approx. Acres: +/- 2.41 Acres
- **Key interest:** Event lawn

5. LILES HOTEL PLAZA
Total Annual Visits: 64,610
Approx. Acres: +/- 6 Acres
- **Key interest:** River access

6. COMMUNITY POOL
Total Annual Visits: 30,980
Approx. Acres: N/A
- **Key interest:** Competitive length pool

7. BONITA SPRINGS COMMUNITY PARK
Total Annual Visits: 190,973
Approx. Acres: +/- 39 Acres
- **Key interest:** Baseball / Softball complex

8. BONITA SPRINGS RECREATION CENTER
Total Annual Visits: 64,420
Approx. Acres: N/A
- **Key interest:** Multi-purpose recreation building

9. LEITNER CREEK SOCCER COMPLEX
Total Annual Visits: N/A
Approx. Acres: +/- 17 Acres
- **Key interest:** Youth soccer

10. IMPERIAL 41 PARK
Total Annual Visits: N/A
Approx. Acres: +/- 0.5 Acres
- **Key interest:** Future public plaza

PARK SPOTLIGHT



RIVERSIDE PARK BANDSHELL

Riverside Park is a vibrant green space located in the heart of downtown Bonita Springs along historic Old 41. It serves as a central community gathering place, featuring a large event lawn and a bandshell that host concerts, festivals, and other public events throughout the year.

A walking path loops around the park, providing a relaxed setting for recreation and everyday use beneath mature shade trees. Along the route, visitors can enjoy shaded seating, water fountains, bike racks, and conveniently located restrooms.

Riverside Park is home to the City's largest public sponsored events including Celebrate Bonita, Star Spangled Bonita, Halloween Stroll, Holiday Stroll, Holiday in the Park, and Movies in the Park.

The park also includes public art and community features, such as a 9-foot Veterans Memorial and Memorial paver walk.

Natural Resource Areas

TOTAL PARKS = 6 **ACRES** = 59.67 Acres **ANNUAL VISITS** = 71,981

FACILITY

1. OAK CREEK KAYAK LAUNCH

Total Annual Visits: N/A

Approx. Acres: +/- 0.25 Acres

- **Key interest:** Kayak launch

2. OAK CREEK PRESERVE

Total Annual Visits: N/A

Approx. Acres: +/-3.67

- **Key interest:** Nature viewing

3. BONITA NATURE PLACE

Total Annual Visits: 34,560

Approx. Acres: +/- 28 Acres

- **Key interest:** Educational nature viewing

4. CULLUM'S TRAIL

Total Annual Visits: 22,321

Approx. Acres: 1.5 miles

- **Key interest:** Hiking trail

5. RIVER PARK

Total Annual Visits: 15,100

Approx. Acres: +/- 17 Acres

- **Key interest:** Water access

6. WINDSOR PRESERVE

Total Annual Visits: N/A

Approx. Acres: +/- 11 Acres

- **Key interest:** Green space

PARK SPOTLIGHT



BONITA NATURE PLACE

Bonita Nature Place is a small indoor/outdoor environmental education center that offers visitors an opportunity to experience Southwest Florida's native ecosystems. The site includes a network of short walking trails that pass through natural habitats, allowing guests to observe local plants and wildlife in a quiet, natural setting.

The property features several educational and conservation elements, including a working honeybee hive, butterfly garden, protected gopher tortoise habitat, and designated areas supporting bat and owl conservation.

Bonita Nature Place also functions as a hub for environmental education, hosting school programs, nature talks, and community workshops. Seasonal indoor programming takes place in an enclosed lanai surrounded by native plantings. Outdoor areas remain open from dawn to dusk for self-guided exploration.

Neighborhood Parks

TOTAL PARKS = 5 **ACRES** = +/- 12 Acres **ANNUAL VISITS** = 111,790

FACILITY

1. CARPENTER LANE PARK

Total Annual Visits: 1,454

Approx. Acres: +/- 2 Acres

- **Key interest:** Imperial River overlook

2. LEITNER NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Total Annual Visits: 18,991

Approx. Acres: +/- 1 Acres

- **Key interest:** covered pavilion

3. BANYAN TREE PARK

Total Annual Visits: 17,720

Approx. Acres: +/- 1 Acre

- **Key interest:** Splashpad

4. DEPOT PARK

Total Annual Visits: 67,300

Approx. Acres: +/- 6 Acres

- **Key interest:** Playground

5. ISLAND PARK

Total Annual Visits: 6,325

Approx. Acres: +/- 2 Acres

- **Key interest:** Exercise stations

PARK SPOTLIGHT



DEPOT PARK

Depot Park is located along the historic downtown railroad tracks, inspiring the park's overall character and theme.

Mature native trees provide plentiful shade throughout the park, making it comfortable for visitors year-round. The park includes an enclosed playground for children, along with a covered pavilion with seating and public restrooms. This linear shaded park extends to the Imperial River offering views and water access.

Depot Park also serves as a flexible community space, often used for photography sessions, small gatherings during wedding season, and educational activities such as homeschooling. Its combination of shade, amenities, and central downtown location makes it a versatile and well-used destination.

Pocket Parks

TOTAL PARKS = 4 **ACRES** = +/- 3.67 Acres **ANNUAL VISITS** = 6,271

FACILITY

1. TERRY STREET POCKET PARK

Total Annual Visits: 4,427

Approx. Acres: +/- 0.5 Acres

- **Key interest:** Pedestrian and bicycle rest stop

2. IMPERIAL PARKWAY PARK

Total Annual Visits: 1,844

Approx. Acres: +/- 1 Acre

- **Key interest:** Green space

3. FOREST PARK

Total Annual Visits: N/A

Approx. Acres: +/- 1 Acre

- **Key interest:** Green space

4. KENTUCKY STREET PARK

Total Annual Visits: N/A

Approx. Acres: +/- 0.67 Acres

- **Key interest:** Green space

PARK SPOTLIGHT



TERRY STREET POCKET PARK

Terry Street Pocket Park is a small neighborhood green space that offers a quiet and inviting setting along the West Terry St multi-use path. The park features lush landscaping and a mature tree canopy that provides ample shade, creating an inviting environment that encourages passersby to explore the space.

Thoughtfully designed for passive use, the park includes benches for seating, bike racks, and a public art sculpture that adds visual interest and a sense of identity to the space. Its simple layout and greenery make it an ideal spot for short visits, casual gatherings, or a peaceful break outdoors.



BONITA WONDER GARDENS

Classification: Special Use 27100 Old 41 Road

Bonita Wonder Gardens is a historic botanical and animal attraction located in downtown Bonita Springs along the Imperial River. The site supports education, animal rehabilitation, and conservation through a variety of garden areas and animal exhibits. Visitors can explore the property while learning about animal care, conservation, native plants, and tropical landscapes.

The property is owned by the City of Bonita Springs and operated by a nonprofit organization through a public-private partnership, helping maintain the Wonder Gardens as an educational resource and community destination. The organization is guided by a board of directors and operates under their own master plan that helps direct long-term improvements, programming, and stewardship of the site. As part of its partnership with the City, the organization presents project updates and future initiatives to City leadership on a biannual basis, providing ongoing transparency and coordination regarding Wonder Gardens' operations and development.

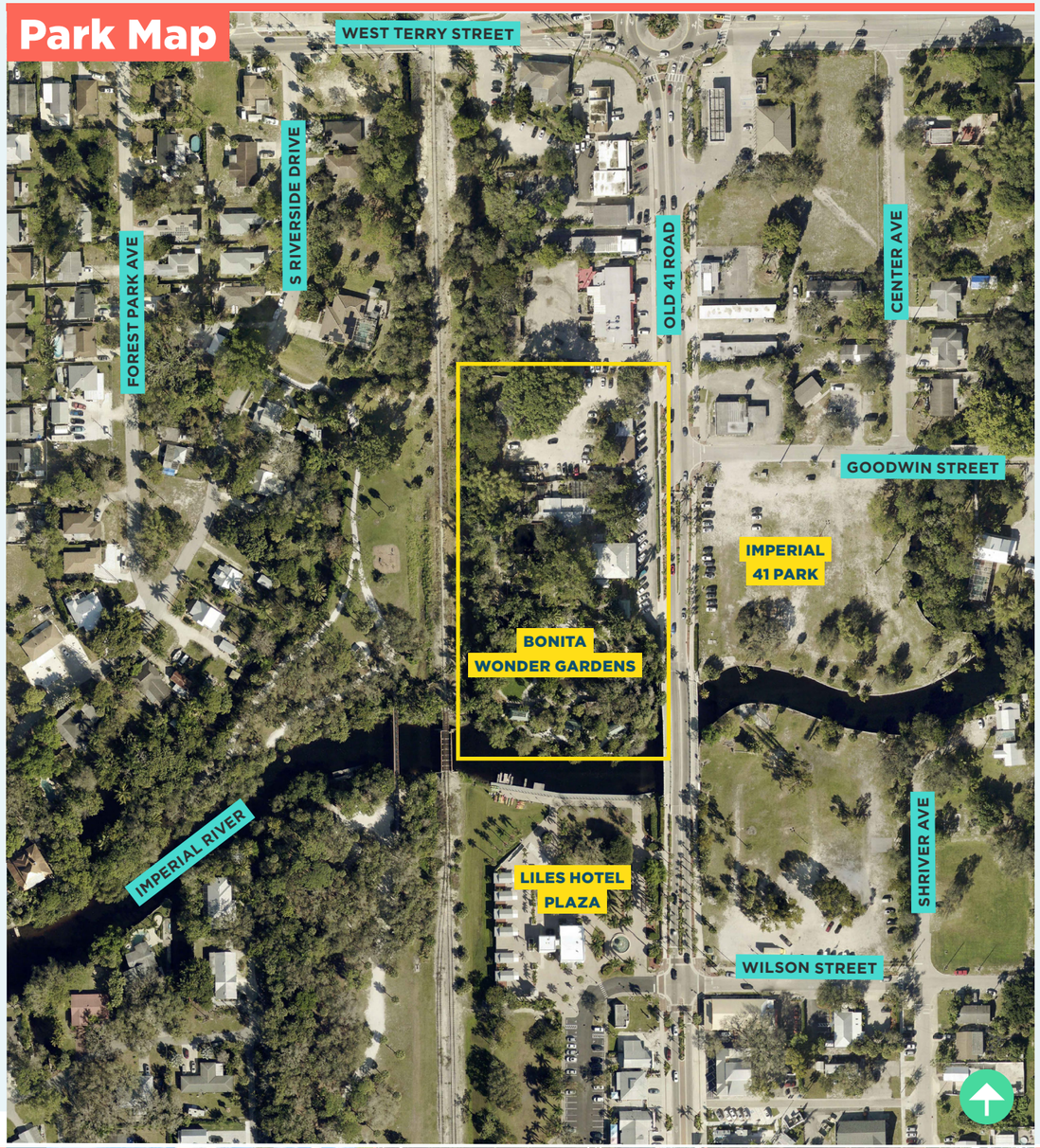
Programming & uses

- Botanical and animal exhibits
- Animal rehabilitation & non-releasable animals
- Animal encounters
- Educational programs
- Special events

Key assets

- +/- 3 Acres
- Designated parking lot
- Shaded seating
- Educational Signage
- Macaw Exhibit
- Bird Pavilions
- Flamingo Lagoon
- Event Lawn
- Alligator Hole
- Reptile House
- Otter Exhibit
- Tea houses
- Gift shop
- Event patio with chickee hut

Park Map



FEATURED PHOTOS


Tea Houses



Signage


Mature Canopy Trees

Park Snapshots

As part of the planning process, the consultant team conducted site visits to every park and completed a comprehensive assessment of each facility creating parks snapshots. These assessments rated park components on a three-point scale: Needs Improvement/Basic (1), Meets Expectations/Good (2), High Quality/Excellent (3), or Not Available. These component ratings appear in the Park Component Rating table on each park profile.

In addition to the physical assessment, each park profile contains a park summary, key assets, and a description of current programming and uses. The profile also includes the park's classification within the overall system

The visitor and usage data shown on each profile come from mobility data analytics providers, using both Placer.ai and Advan to gather patterns across the calendar year (2024). This data is anonymous, aggregated, and used to understand visitation patterns. Two metrics are included: total annual visits and average stay at the park. Together, these elements provide a snapshot of each park's current condition and performance.



BONITA SPRINGS COMMUNITY PARK

Park Classification: Community Park 26740 Pine Avenue

PARK SUMMARY

Bonita Springs Community Park is a large green space offering a wide variety of programs, including sport fields, playground, and open lawns. The space has plenty of designated parking with overflow lots.

PROGRAMMING & USES

- Practices and tournaments for a variety of sports including disc golf, tennis, baseball and softball
- Walking trails
- Open space access
- Recently renovated restroom and concession stand
- Hosts Lee County Sheriff's Department Bonita Springs community policing unit
- Neighborhood services and emergency management offices

KEY ASSETS

- +/- 39 Acres
- Multiple parking areas
- Baseball / softball complex with batting cages
- Lighted tennis courts
- 9 hole disc golf course
- Playground
- Lighted skate park
- Concession stand
- Restrooms
- Open fields
- Paved connectivity
- Shaded seating areas
- Lighted outdoor pavilion for basketball and futsal

190,973 Avg. Annual Visits

83 min. Avg. Stay at Park

PARK COMPONENT RATING

1 Needs Improvement/Basic 2 Meets Expectation/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - Not Available

Amphitheater/Event Space	Bike Trails or Trails	Drinking Fountain	Fitness Equipment	Fishing/Pier/Dock/Ramp	Parking	Picnic Shelters	Playground/Play Structure	Public Art	Restrooms	Shade	Walking/Nature Trail	Directional Signage	Other
-	-	2	-	-	2	2	2	-	3	2	2	1	-

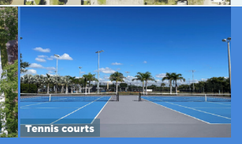
Park Map



FEATURED PHOTOS


Pavilion


Playground


Tennis courts



CARPENTER LANE PARK

Park Classification: Neighborhood Park 12001 Carpenter Lane

PARK SUMMARY

Carpenter Lane Park is a nature focused space off an unpaved road. It features a simple boardwalk overlook and crushed shell paths along the Imperial River. Visitors have opportunities for nature and wildlife viewing.

PROGRAMMING & USES

- Accessible green space with ADA accessible overlook
- Future replacement boardwalk overlook planned

KEY ASSETS

- +/- 2 Acres
- Boardwalk overlook *
- ADA accessible ramp *
- Designated parking spots including ADA accessible
- Crushed shell
- Tropical and native landscape
- Mature tree canopy

* Some park amenities may be temporarily closed due to hurricane damage.

1,454
Avg. Annual Visits

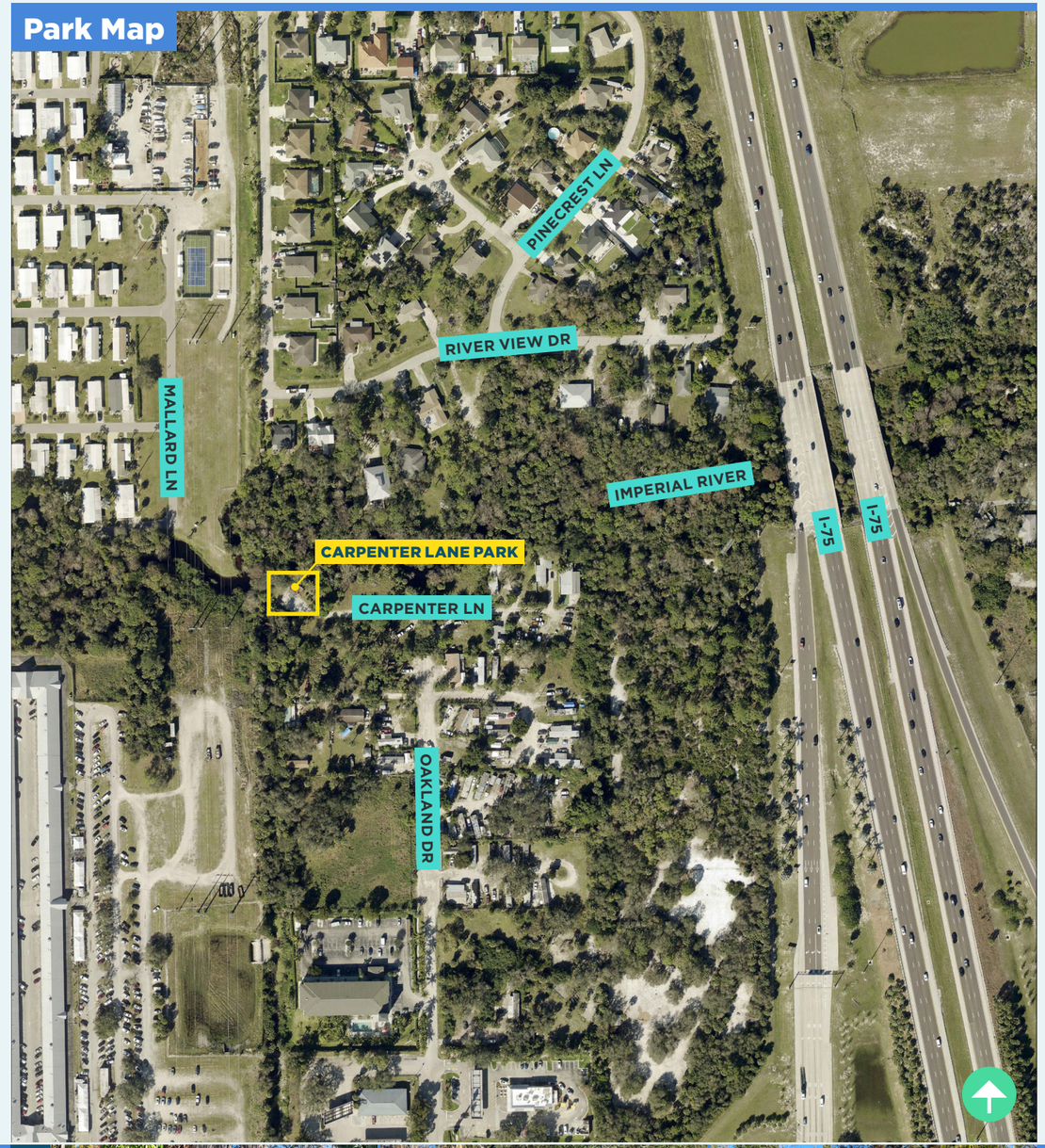
16 min.
Avg. Stay at Park

PARK COMPONENT RATING

1 Needs Improvement/Basic 2 Meets Expectation/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - Not Available

Amphitheater/Event Space	Bike Trails or Trails	Drinking Fountain	Fitness Equipment	Fishing/Pier/Dock/ Ramp	Parking	Picnic Shelters	Playground/Play Structure	Public Art	Restrooms	Shade	Walking/Nature Trail	Directional Signage	Other
-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-

Park Map



FEATURED PHOTOS


Imperial River


Parking lot


Wood panel fence



BONITA SPRINGS DOG PARK

Park Classification: Community Park 11071 E Terry Street

PARK SUMMARY

The Bonita Springs Dog Park is a frequently visited park from residents of the community and surrounding areas. Featuring shaded pavilions, benches, picnic tables, water fountains, waste stations, and dog wash stations. The park is well maintained and popular.

PROGRAMMING & USES

- Dedicated off-leash small (.45 acres), medium (.75 acres), and large (1.20 acres) breed dog enclosed areas
- 7 AM to dusk hours with controlled access
- 1/2 mile asphalt walking trail loop
- Regularly maintained sod and mulch areas
- Connectivity to nearby neighborhood

KEY ASSETS

- +/- 6 Acres
- Dog wash station/Chilled water/Dog waste receptacles
- Designated parking stalls and overflow gravel parking
- Dog-themed sculptures & decorative bike racks
- ADA accessible
- Posted rules and signs
- Shade structures

91,793 Avg. Annual Visits

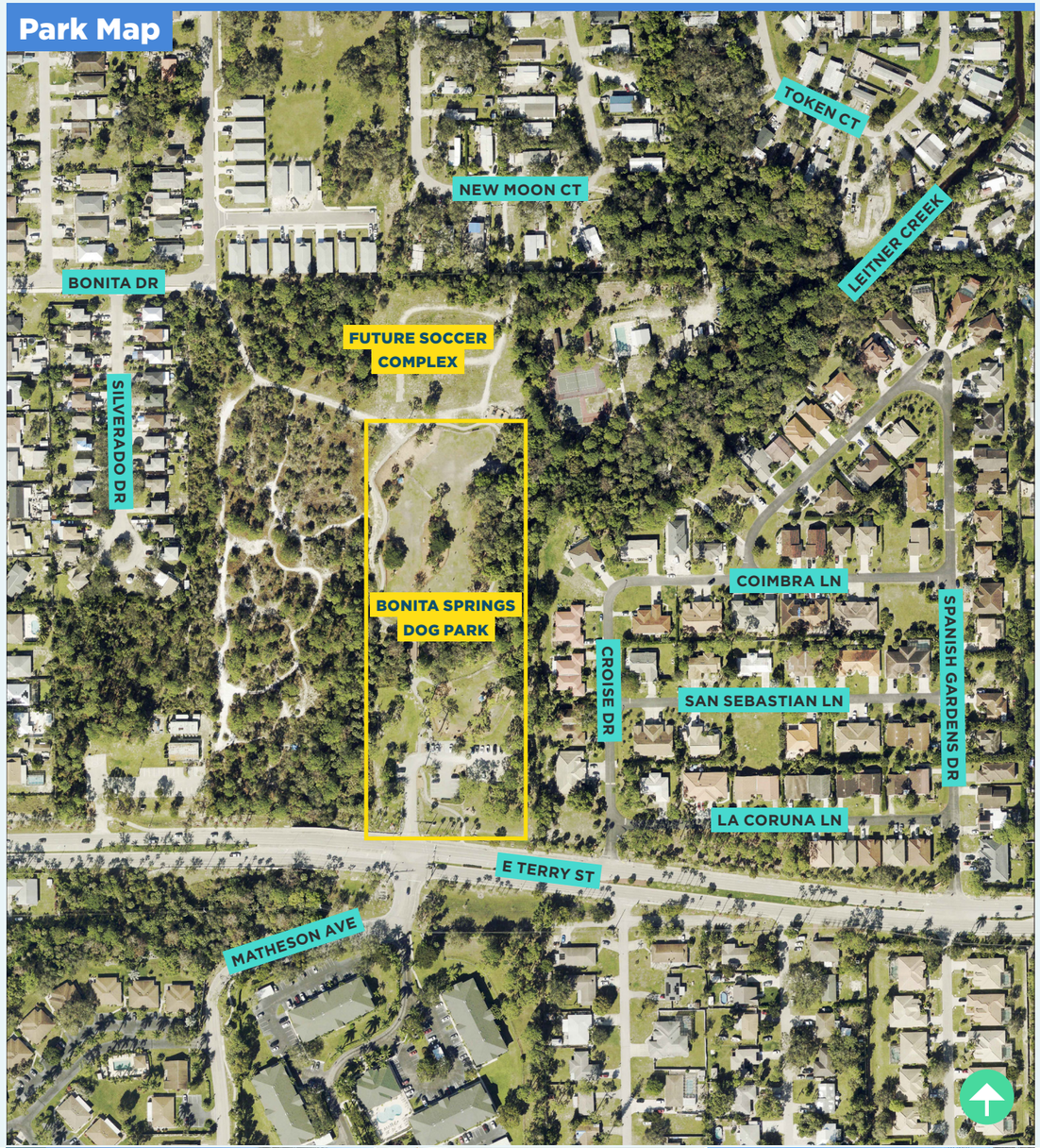
32 min. Avg. Stay at Park

PARK COMPONENT RATING

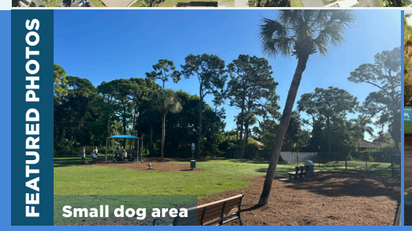
1 Needs Improvement/Basic 2 Meets Expectation/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - Not Available

Amphitheater/Event Space	Bike Trails or Trails	Drinking Fountain	Fitness Equipment	Fishing/Pier/Dock/Ramp	Parking	Picnic Shelters	Playground/Play Structure	Public Art	Restrooms	Shade	Walking/Nature Trail	Directional Signage	Other
-	2	2	-	-	2	2	2	2	-	2	2	2	2

Park Map

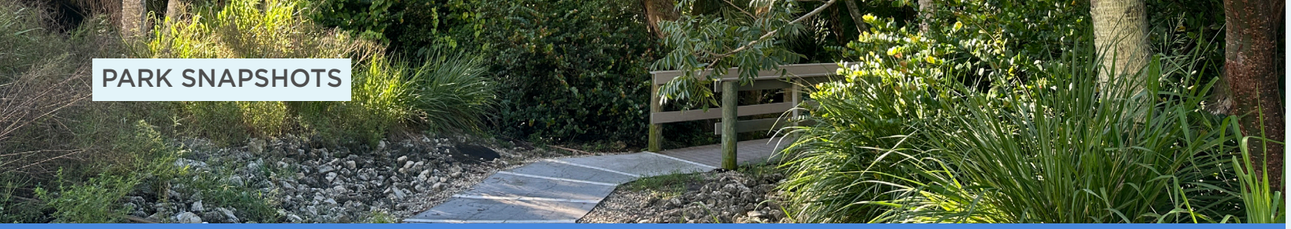


FEATURED PHOTOS


Small dog area


Medium dog area


Large dog area



OAK CREEK KAYAK LAUNCH

Park Classification: Natural Resource Area Dean Street

PARK SUMMARY

Oak Creek Kayak Launch is situated behind local businesses and runs along the backside of apartments at the start of downtown Bonita Springs. Dedicated parking signage helps direct visitors to the launch access. An ADA mobility mat connects visitors from the parking lot to the ramp, which is covered by mature tree canopies along Oak Creek.

PROGRAMMING & USES

- Kayak launch *
- Access trail

KEY ASSETS

- Water access *
- ADA mobility mat
- Kayak parking signs
- Dock / boardwalk
- Mature canopy trees

* Launch closed pending ADA improvements.

N/A
Avg. Annual Visits

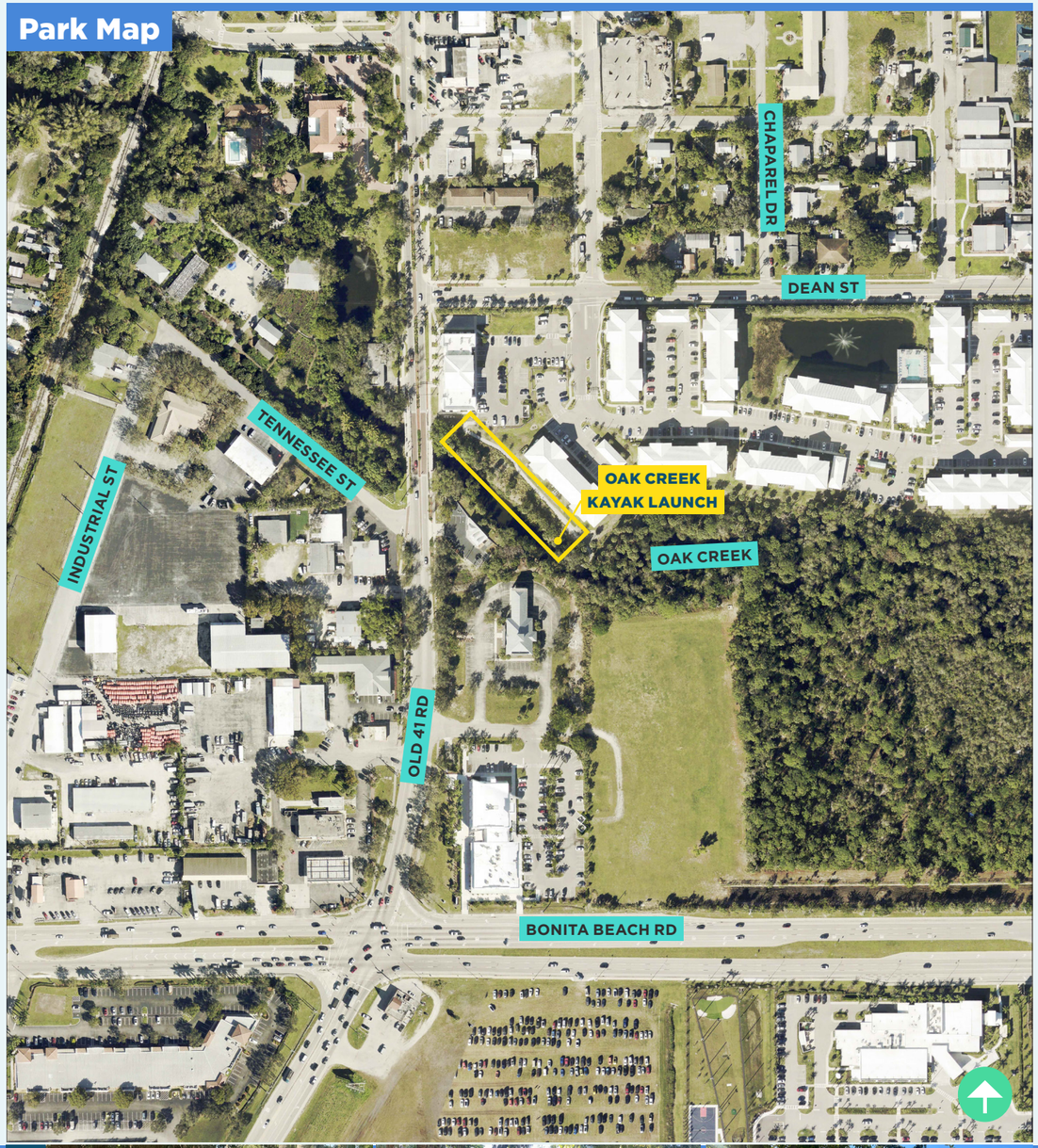
N/A
Avg. Stay at Park

PARK COMPONENT RATING

1 Needs Improvement/Basic 2 Meets Expectation/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - Not Available

Amphitheater/Event Space	Bike Trails or Trails	Drinking Fountain	Fitness Equipment	Fishing/Pier/Dock/ Ramp	Parking	Picnic Shelters	Playground/Play Structure	Public Art	Restrooms	Shade	Walking/Nature Trail	Directional Signage	Other
-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-

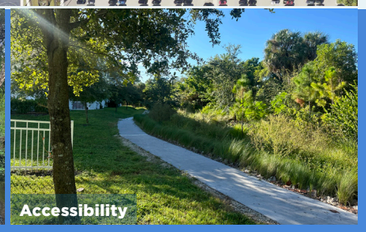
Park Map



FEATURED PHOTOS


Railing


Water Access


Accessibility



BONITA SOCCER COMPLEX

Park Classification: Community Park 27100 Kent Road

PARK SUMMARY

The Bonita Soccer Complex is a large recreational space located near the Bonita Springs YMCA along East Terry Street. The complex has three soccer fields that allows for local leagues to practice or host tournaments with newly renovated lighting, restrooms, a concessions stand, seating for spectators, and a playground.

PROGRAMMING & USES

- Used by adult & youth soccer leagues
- Concession stand with food and beverages
- Parking shared with YMCA facilities

KEY ASSETS

- +/- 7 Acres
- Designated parking stalls
- Movable soccer goals
- 3 soccer fields
- Playground
- Paved pathway
- Picnic tables, bleachers, and benches
- Bike racks
- Restrooms
- LED Field lighting
- Concessions and meeting rooms

307,077
Avg. Annual Visits

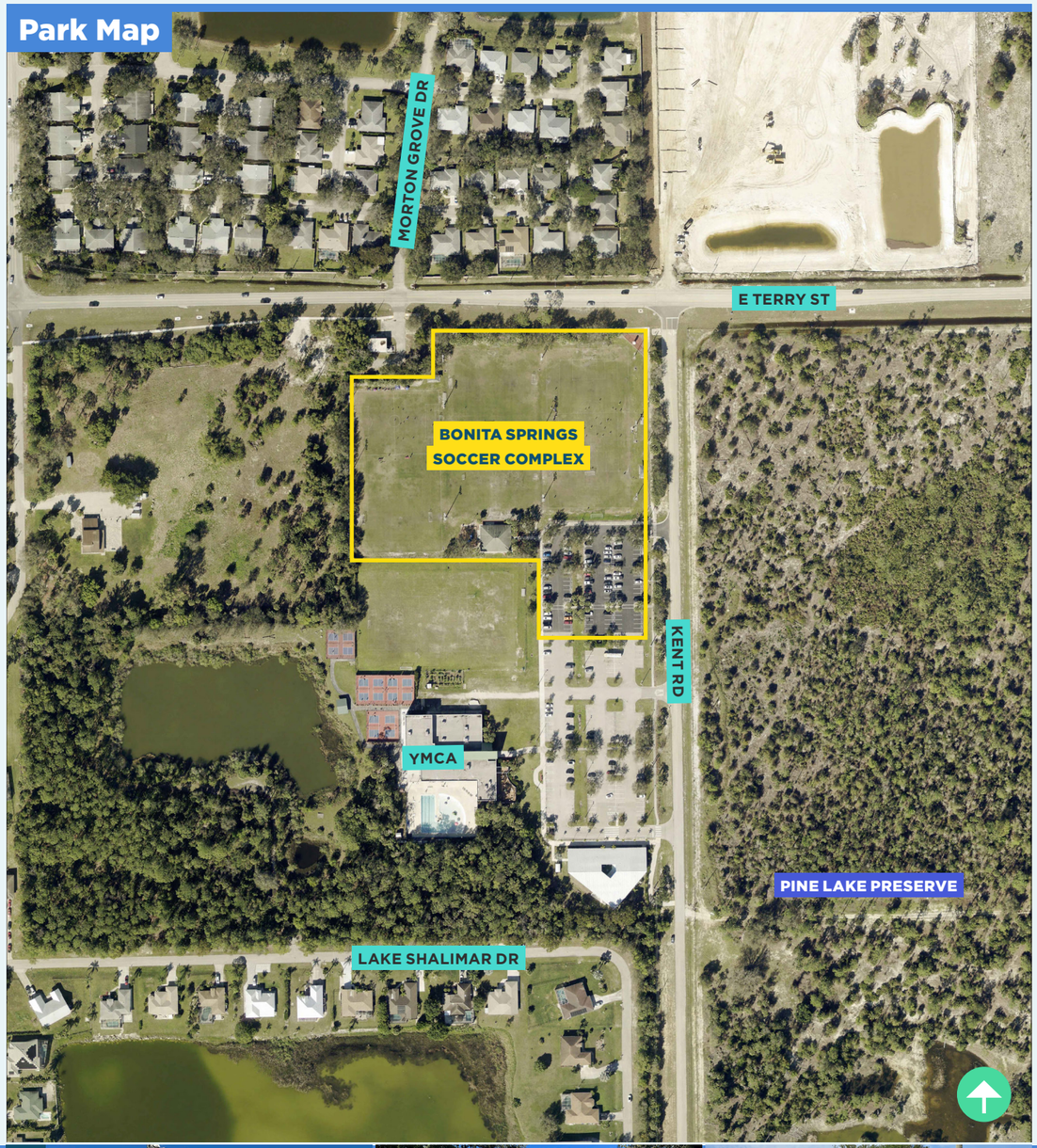
62 min.
Avg. Stay at Park

PARK COMPONENT RATING

1 Needs Improvement/Basic 2 Meets Expectation/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - Not Available

Amphitheater/Event Space	Bike Trails or Trails	Drinking Fountain/ Bottle Filler	Fitness Equipment	Fishing/Pier/Dock/ Ramp	Parking	Picnic Shelters	Playground/Play Structure	Public Art	Restrooms	Shade	Walking/Nature Trail	Directional Signage	Other
-	-	2	-	-	2	1	2	-	3	2	-	1	-

Park Map



FEATURED PHOTOS









MARNI FIELDS

Park Classification: Community Park 11951 E Terry Street

PARK SUMMARY

Marni Fields is a dedicated soccer park offering year-round play, serving adult and youth leagues as well as community users for training and practice. The park features irrigated turf grass, flexible open space, and multiple parking options.

PROGRAMMING & USES

- Used by local adult & youth soccer leagues
- Open for public play during non-reserved times
- Movable soccer goals
- Flexible spaces for spectators
- Well maintained irrigated turf is playable all year
- Hosts local & regional tournaments

KEY ASSETS

- +/- 17 Acres
- 3 Full size soccer fields
- Adult fields dividable into multiple youth fields
- Designated parking stalls
- Benches & picnic tables
- Bleachers
- Waste receptacles
- Flexible green space
- ADA accessible portable restrooms
- Perimeter safety fence & gates

64,431 Avg. Annual Visits

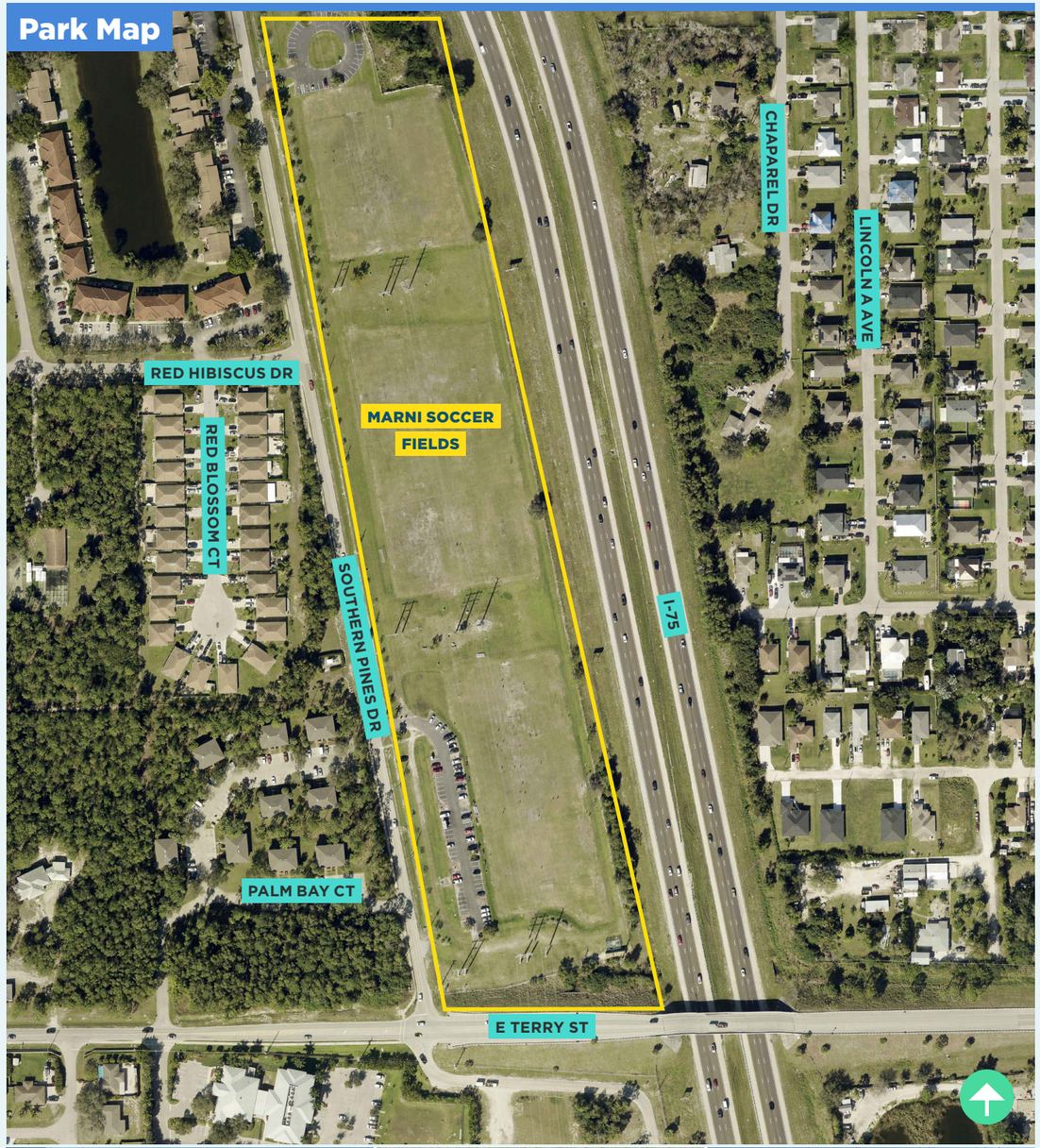
96 min. Avg. Stay at Park

PARK COMPONENT RATING

1 Needs Improvement/Basic 2 Meets Expectation/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - Not Available

Amphitheater/Event Space	Bike Trails or Trails	Drinking Fountain	Fitness Equipment	Fishing/Pier/Dock/ Ramp	Parking	Picnic Shelters	Playground/Play Structure	Public Art	Restrooms	Shade	Walking/Nature Trail	Directional Signage	Other
-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-

Park Map



FEATURED PHOTOS


Parking Lot


Bench Seating


Soccer Fields



LEITNER NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Park Classification: Neighborhood Park 26724 Nomad Drive

PARK SUMMARY

Leitner Neighborhood Park is a small park situated in a residential neighborhood along Imperial Parkway. The main building is actively utilized by Cafe of Life to provide necessary resources to residents of the community. Throughout the park, there is shade provided by the building and a few canopy trees, a playground, basketball hoop, parking lot, restrooms in the building, a planned synthetic turf play lawn, open flex space, and seating.

PROGRAMMING & USES

- Actively utilized by Cafe of Life, who host community meal services and other programs to the local community
- Covered pavilion and seating areas
- Flexible play areas
- Basketball hoops located in parking lot

KEY ASSETS

- +/- 1 Acres
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Designated parking stalls
- Benches & picnic tables
- Flex space
- Waste receptacles
- Community mural
- Perimeter safety wall
- Synthetic turf lawn

18,991
Avg. Annual Visits

59 min.
Avg. Stay at Park

PARK COMPONENT RATING

1 Needs Improvement/Basic 2 Meets Expectation/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - Not Available

Amphitheater/Event Space	Bike Trails or Trails	Drinking Fountain	Fitness Equipment	Fishing/Pier/Dock/ Ramp	Parking	Picnic Shelters	Playground/Play Structure	Public Art	Restrooms	Shade	Walking/Nature Trail	Directional Signage	Other
-	-	2	-	-	2	3	2	2	2	2	-	2	-

Park Map



FEATURED PHOTOS


Central building



Art and Basketball Hoop


Playground and canopy shade



OAK CREEK PRESERVE

Park Classification: Natural Resource Area 27860 Matheson Avenue

PARK SUMMARY

Oak Creek Preserve is located along a dead end residential street and is part of the Lee County 20/20 Preserve Conservation Land Management Plan between the City and County. It features passive recreation opportunities underneath a mature tree canopy.

PROGRAMMING & USES

- Passive park
- Park hours are dawn to dusk
- Nature viewing
- Controlled access

KEY ASSETS

- Native vegetation
- Oak Creek access
- Mature native plantings

N/A
Avg. Annual Visits

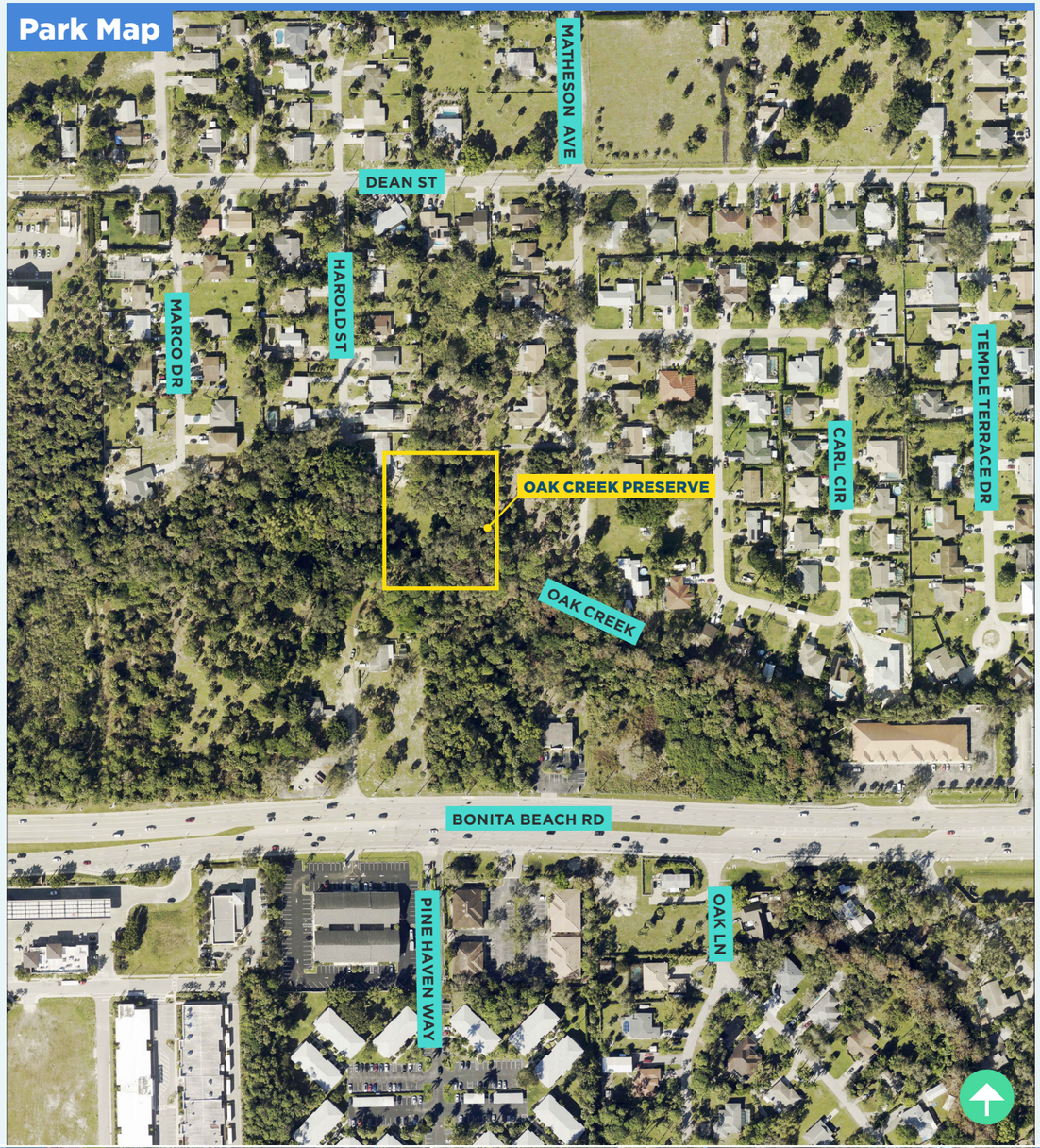
N/A
Avg. Stay at Park

PARK COMPONENT RATING

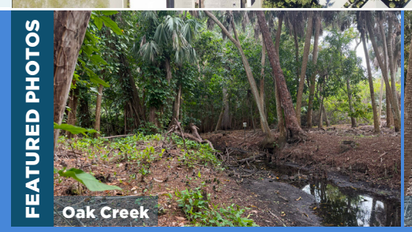
1 Needs Improvement/Basic 2 Meets Expectation/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - Not Available

Amphitheater/Event Space	Bike Trails or Trails	Drinking Fountain	Fitness Equipment	Fishing/Pier/Dock/Ramp	Parking	Picnic Shelters	Playground/Play Structure	Public Art	Restrooms	Shade	Walking/Nature Trail	Directional Signage	Other
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Park Map

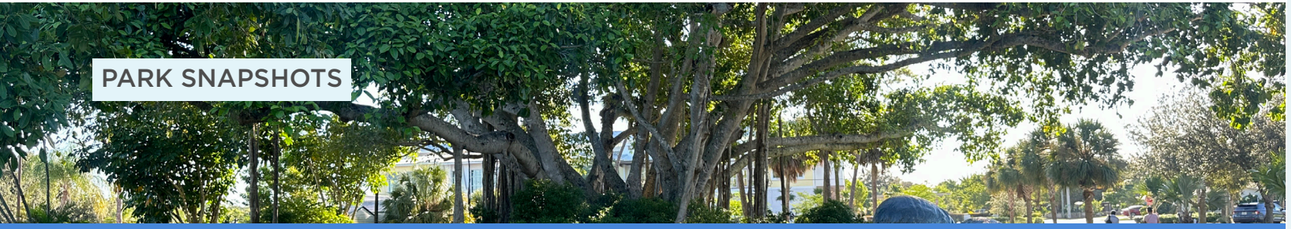


FEATURED PHOTOS









PARK SNAPSHOTS

BANYAN TREE PARK

Park Classification: Neighborhood Park 10520 Reynold Street

PARK SUMMARY

Located in the heart of downtown Bonita Springs, Banyan Tree Park is home to a historic banyan tree that has been a fixture of downtown for decades. The park has limited seating opportunities and features several art sculptures. The park is utilized by local events hosted by the city throughout the year. Park improvements are currently in the construction phase.

PROGRAMMING & USES

- Passive park with open lawn
- Signage describing history of Banyan tree and other historic elements
- Construction underway for splash pad, restroom facility, shade structures, ADA walkways, and feature lighting, slated for completion in Fall 2026.

KEY ASSETS

- +/- 1 Acres
- Art sculptures
- Historic banyan tree
- Public on-street parking
- Benches & bus stop
- Open lawn
- Waste receptacles
- Bike racks
- Mature canopy
- Rotary clock
- Blue star memorial
- Fallen officers memorial

17,720 Avg. Annual Visits

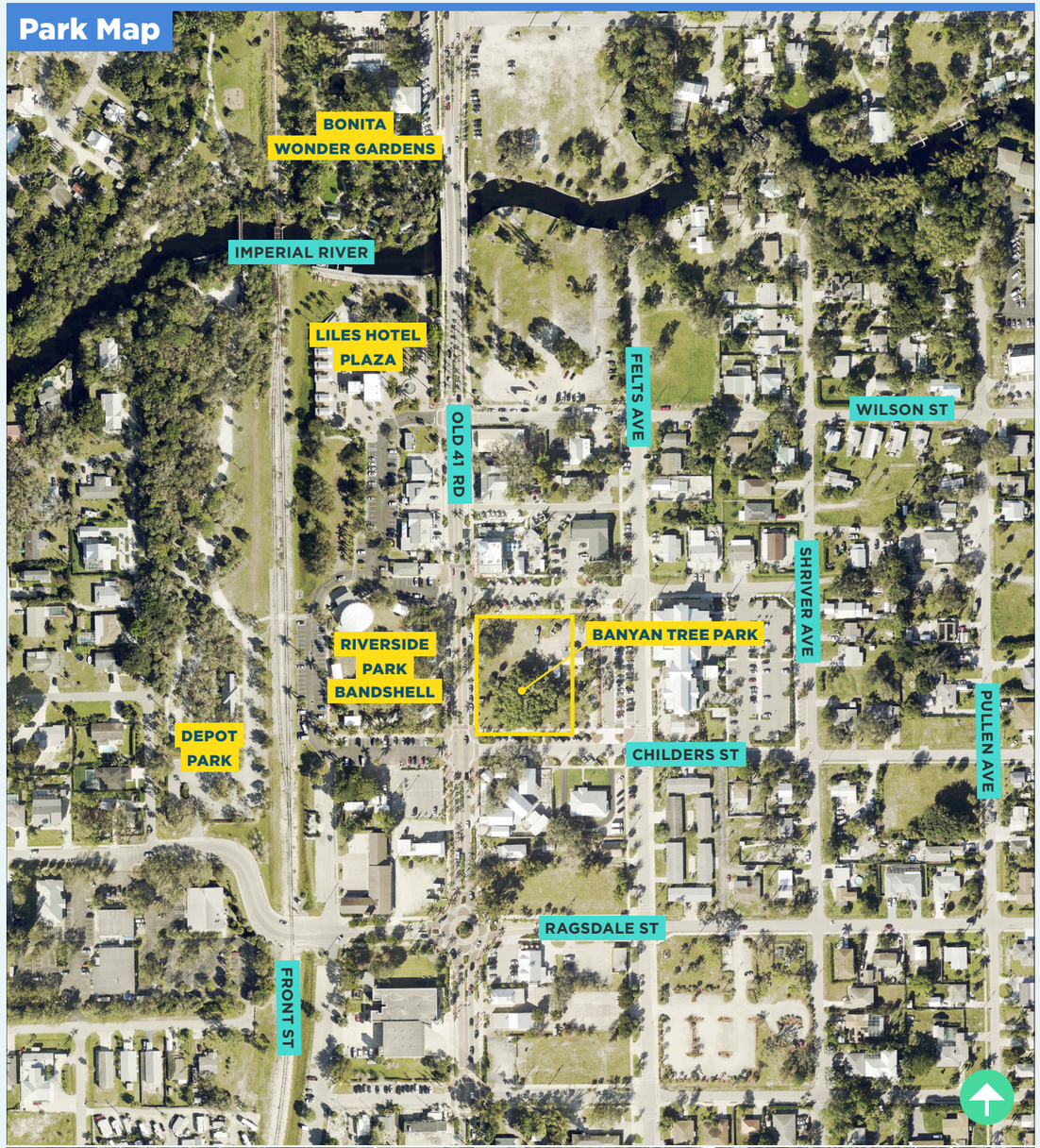
33 min. Avg. Stay at Park

PARK COMPONENT RATING

1 Needs Improvement/Basic 2 Meets Expectation/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - Not Available

Amphitheater/Event Space	Bike Trails or Trails	Drinking Fountain	Fitness Equipment	Fishing/Pier/Dock/Ramp	Parking	Picnic Shelters	Playground/Play Structure	Public Art	Restrooms	Shade	Walking/Nature Trail	Directional Signage	Other
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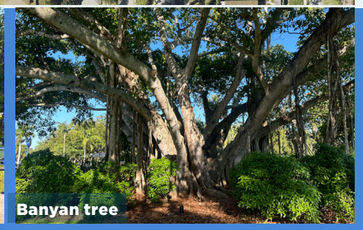
Park Map



FEATURED PHOTOS


Art sculpture


Rotary clock


Banyan tree



DEPOT PARK

Park Classification: Neighborhood Park 10375 Pennsylvania Avenue

PARK SUMMARY

Depot Park is located along the existing downtown railroad tracks which inspired the theme of the park. Mature native trees provide ample amounts of shade for visitors while an enclosed playground features a covered pavilion with seating and public restrooms. The space is also used for photography, event space during wedding seasons and for home schooling.

PROGRAMMING & USES

- Playground and natural play, features “Lion’s Pride Park”
- Photography, weddings, and home school meetups.
- Themed around local railroad history
- Rentable multi-purpose pavilion
- On leash, dog friendly areas where appropriate

KEY ASSETS

- +/- 6 Acres
- Art sculptures
- Pedestrian bridge connection to Island Park
- Public restrooms and drinking fountain
- Bike racks
- Shaded seating
- Pavilion
- Open lawn space
- Paved and unpaved parking
- Mature canopy trees
- Childrens play area

67,300 Avg. Annual Visits

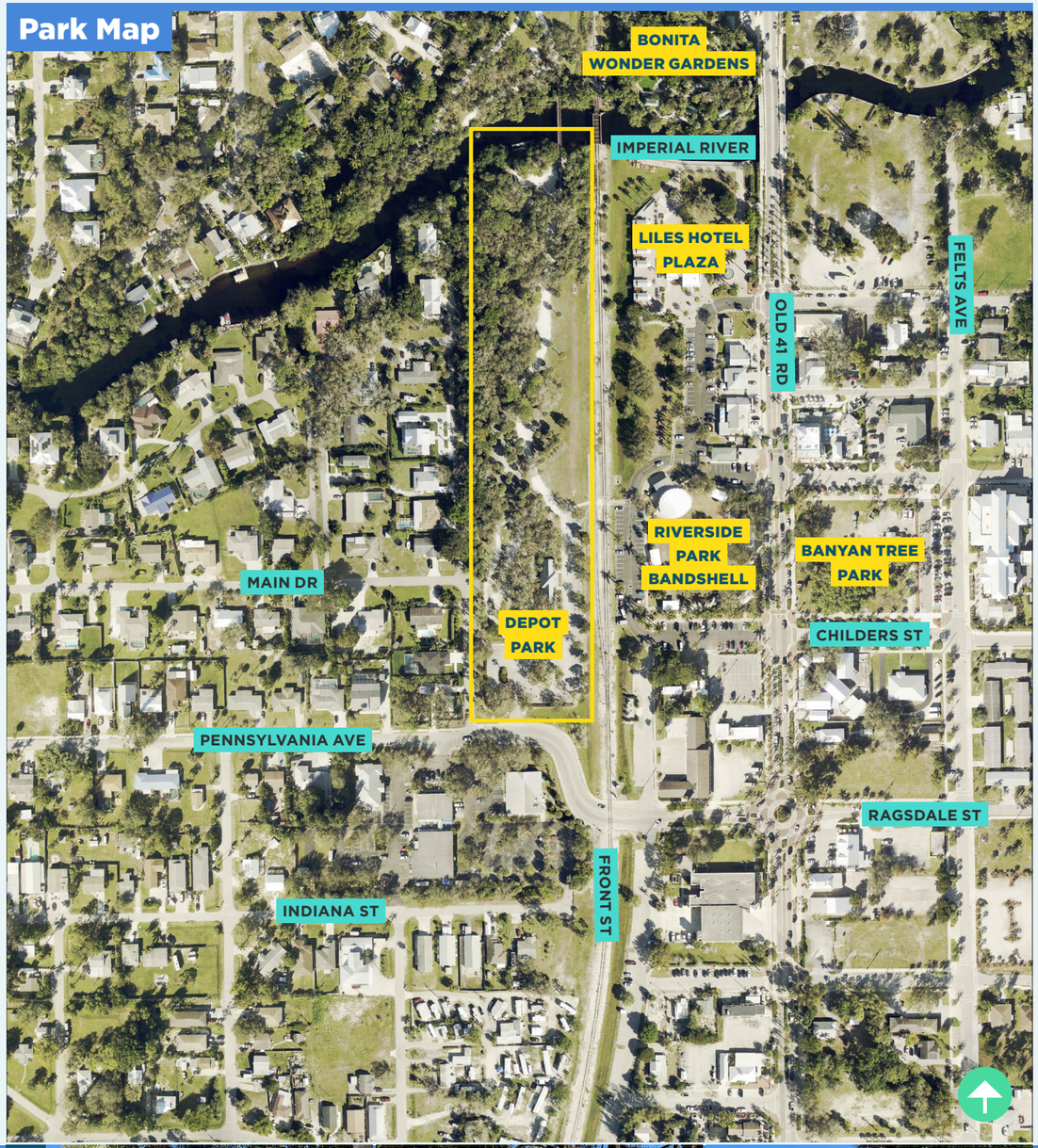
37 min. Avg. Stay at Park

PARK COMPONENT RATING

1 Needs Improvement/Basic 2 Meets Expectation/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - Not Available

Amphitheater/Event Space	Bike Trails or Trails	Drinking Fountain	Fitness Equipment	Fishing/Pier/Dock/ Ramp	Parking	Picnic Shelters	Playground/Play Structure	Public Art	Restrooms	Shade	Walking/Nature Trail	Directional Signage	Other
-	2	1	-	-	2	2	1	2	1	3	2	1	-

Park Map



FEATURED PHOTOS


Shade Pavilion with Public Restrooms


Fenced Play area


Pedestrian Bridge to Island Park



ISLAND PARK

Park Classification: Neighborhood Park 27091 S. Riverside Drive

PARK SUMMARY

Island Park is a passive park located along the existing downtown railroad tracks. The park serves neighborhood residents to the north and offers a walking path connected to Depot Park. Weddings and memorials are hosted in this space. This park also offers passive recreation opportunities along various exercise stations, a crushed shell walking path, and picnic tables with mature canopy tree coverage. There is no parking specifically dedicated for this park, but visitors can park nearby at Depot Park or downtown for quick access.

PROGRAMMING & USES

- Passive park with walking loop
- Outdoor exercise stations

KEY ASSETS

- +/- 2 Acres
- Waste receptacles
- Crushed shell walking path
- Signage
- Picnic shelter & shaded seating
- Bridged pathway and railings
- Mature tree canopy

6,325
Avg. Annual Visits

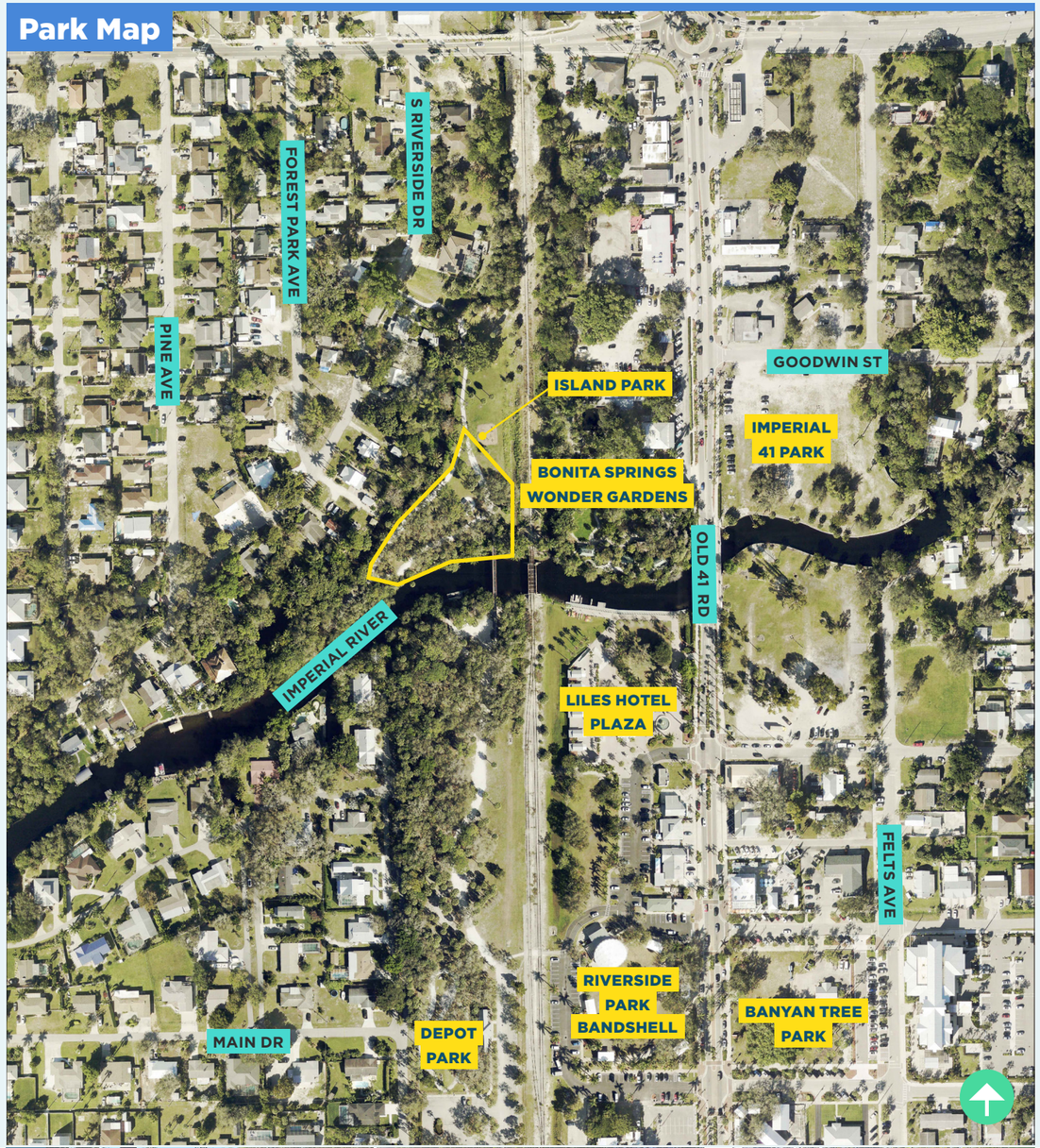
18 min.
Avg. Stay at Park

PARK COMPONENT RATING

1 Needs Improvement/Basic 2 Meets Expectation/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - Not Available

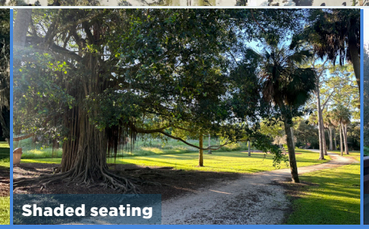
Amphitheater/Event Space	Bike Trails or Trails	Drinking Fountain	Fitness Equipment	Fishing/Pier/Dock/ Ramp	Parking	Picnic Shelters	Playground/Play Structure	Public Art	Restrooms	Shade	Walking/Nature Trail	Directional Signage	Other
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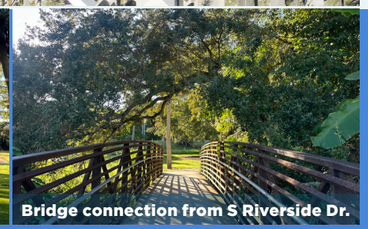
Park Map



FEATURED PHOTOS


Exercise stations


Shaded seating


Bridge connection from S Riverside Dr.



RIVERSIDE PARK BANDSHELL

Park Classification: Community Park 10450 Reynolds Street

PARK SUMMARY

Riverside Park is centrally located in Downtown Bonita Springs along Old 41. The park is known for its event lawn and bandshell where concerts and large events are held throughout the year. There is a walking path surrounding the park with shaded benches, water fountains, bike racks, and restrooms. Various art pieces are featured throughout the park including a 9 foot tall Veterans Memorial.

PROGRAMMING & USES

- Host concerts and events
- Spacious open event lawn
- Veteran recognition and memorial paver walkway
- Seasonal holiday strolls

KEY ASSETS

- +/- 2.41 Acres
- Bandshell
- Veterans memorial
- Art sculptures
- Shaded seating
- Bike racks
- Mature trees
- Trash receptacles
- Restrooms
- Event lawn & stage

176,460
Avg. Annual Visits

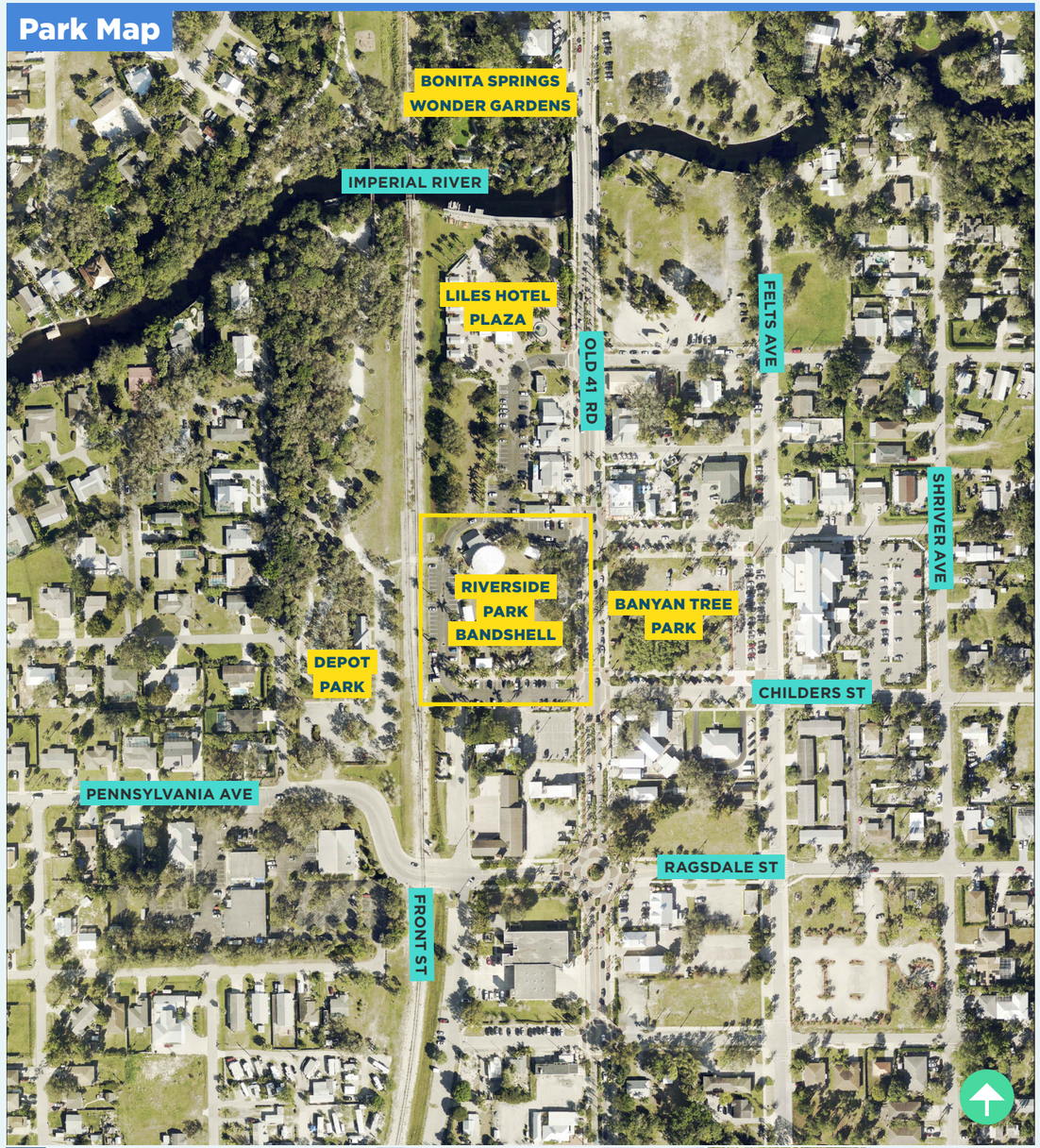
60 min.
Avg. Stay at Park

PARK COMPONENT RATING

1 Needs Improvement/Basic 2 Meets Expectation/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - Not Available

Amphitheater/Event Space	Bike Trails or Trails	Drinking Fountain	Fitness Equipment	Fishing/Pier/Dock/Ramp	Parking	Picnic Shelters	Playground/Play Structure	Public Art	Restrooms	Shade	Walking/Nature Trail	Directional Signage	Other
3	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	2	3	2	-	1	-

Park Map



FEATURED PHOTOS



Veterans Memorial


Bandshell


Shaded seating



LILES HOTEL PLAZA

Park Classification: Community Park 27300 Old 41 Road

PARK SUMMARY

Liles Hotel Plaza is located adjacent to the Imperial River near Riverside Park in downtown. The park is utilized for its shared event lawn, Imperial River dock for wildlife viewing, kayak launch, and the historic Liles Hotel building. There are cottages for artists to showcase their artwork while visitors explore the area. The plaza has a central water feature with seating in the sun or shade, lush landscaping, and extensive paver path connectivity to nearby parks. Planned future renovations and visioning efforts for the plaza aim to continue enhancing the overall visitor experience.

PROGRAMMING & USES

- Open event lawn
- Imperial river dock and fishing dock
- ADA kayak launch
- Artist cottages host pop up art sales
- Kayak and paddle board concessionaire with guided tours

KEY ASSETS

- +/- 6 Acres
- Historic Liles hotel building
- Bike racks
- Mature shade trees
- Trash receptacles
- Artist Cottages
- Shade pergolas
- Boardwalk and fishing dock
- Fountain feature
- Paver pathways
- Art sculptures
- Historic water tower

64,610 Avg. Annual Visits

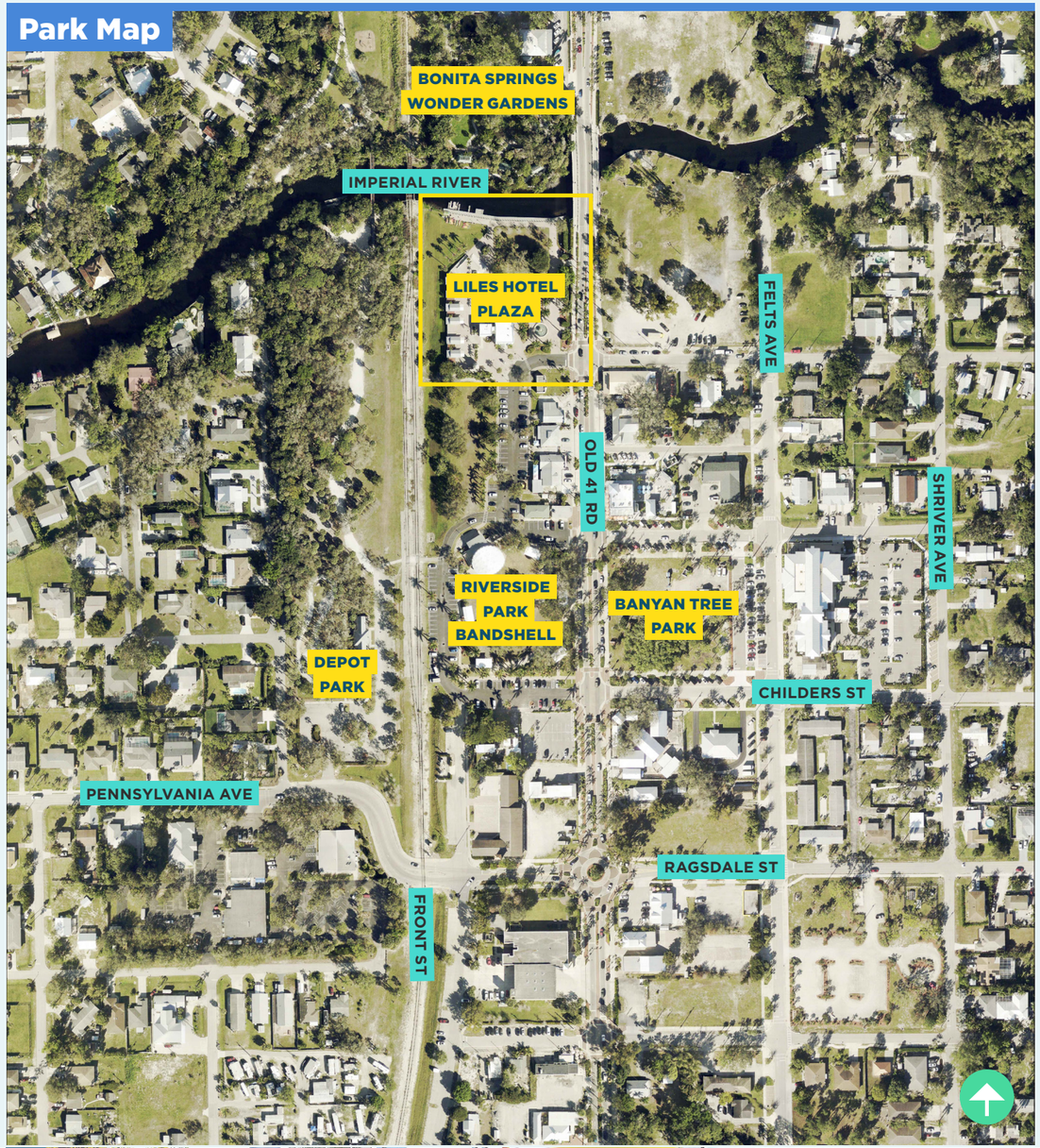
60 min. Avg. Stay at Park

PARK COMPONENT RATING

1 Needs Improvement/Basic 2 Meets Expectation/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - Not Available

Amphitheater/Event Space	Bike Trails or Trails	Drinking Fountain	Fitness Equipment	Fishing/Pier/Dock/Ramp	Parking	Picnic Shelters	Playground/Play Structure	Public Art	Restrooms	Shade	Walking/Nature Trail	Directional Signage	Other
2	-	2	-	2	2	2	-	2	-	2	2	1	-

Park Map



FEATURED PHOTOS


Planned Future Renovations


Planned Future Renovations


Existing Conditions



BONITA NATURE PLACE

Park Classification: Natural Resource Area 27601 Kent Road

PARK SUMMARY

Bonita Nature Place is a small environmental education center featuring several short walking trails, an active honey bee hive, butterfly garden, gopher tortoise habitat, and areas that support bat and owl conservation. The Bonita Nature Place is often utilized for school programs, nature talks, and community workshops. The facility has seasonal indoor scheduled programs, and enclosed lanai with native plants, plus outdoor amenities open from 8 a.m. to dusk.

PROGRAMMING & USES

- Educational field trips
- Wildlife conservation
- Trail connecting Bonita Nature Place to Cullum's Bonita Trail
- Seasonal events
- Seasonal guided tours
- Wildlife viewing and birding hot-spot

KEY ASSETS

- +/- 28 Acres
- Butterfly garden
- Bat house
- Bee house environmental education center
- Crushed shell parking
- Shaded seating
- Nature trails
- Designated parking
- Gopher Tortoise preserve
- Connection to Lee County 20/20 preserve

34,560
Avg. Annual Visits

54 min.
Avg. Stay at Park

PARK COMPONENT RATING

1 Needs Improvement/Basic 2 Meets Expectation/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - Not Available

Amphitheater/Event Space	Bike Trails or Trails	Drinking Fountain	Fitness Equipment	Fishing/Pier/Dock/Ramp	Parking	Picnic Shelters	Playground/Play Structure	Public Art	Restrooms	Shade	Walking/Nature Trail	Directional Signage	Other
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Park Map

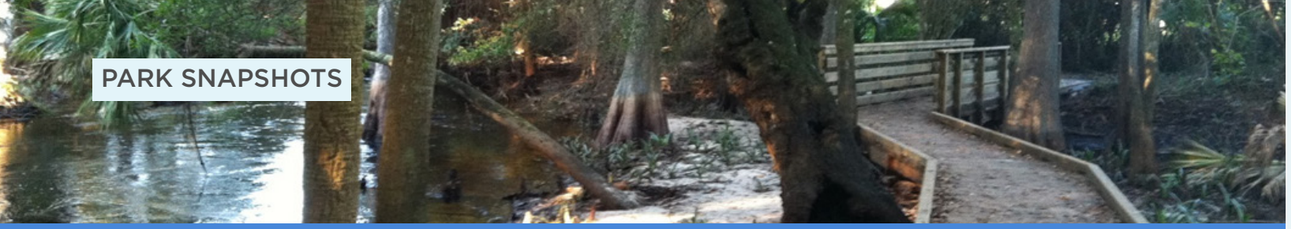


FEATURED PHOTOS


Shaded seating


Pollinator garden


Bee house



CULLUM'S TRAIL

Park Classification: Natural Resource Area 27651 Kent Road

PARK SUMMARY

Located adjacent to Bonita Nature Place, Cullum's Bonita Trail features a crushed shell nature trail loop about 0.9 miles. The trail passes through native habitat highlighting native species along the Imperial River with benches and boardwalks. There is a designated parking lot for visitors and can also be accessed from the Bonita Nature Place.

PROGRAMMING & USES

- Trails
- Kayak launch
- Wildlife viewing
- Dog friendly, remaining on leash

KEY ASSETS

- +/- 1.5 mile crushed shell trail
- Mature tree canopy
- Native vegetation
- Kayak launch
- Designated parking with ADA accessible stall
- Boardwalks
- Shaded seating

22,321
Avg. Annual Visits

28 min.
Avg. Stay at Park

PARK COMPONENT RATING

1 Needs Improvement/Basic 2 Meets Expectation/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - Not Available

Amphitheater/Event Space	Bike Trails or Trails	Drinking Fountain	Fitness Equipment	Fishing/Pier/Dock/Ramp	Parking	Picnic Shelters	Playground/Play Structure	Public Art	Restrooms	Shade	Walking/Nature Trail	Directional Signage	Other
-	2	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	-

Park Map



FEATURED PHOTOS


Boardwalk


Imperial River access


Trails



COMMUNITY POOL

Park Classification: Community Park 26890 Pine Avenue

PARK SUMMARY

The Community Pool is an ADA accessible outdoor pool with 8 lap lanes featuring lap swim, open swim, and water aerobics classes. The pool house offers lockers, swimming accessories, restrooms, and locker rooms. The pool deck provides chaise lounges, chairs, and shaded areas.

PROGRAMMING & USES

- Lap swimming
- Open swim
- Swim lessons
- Water aerobics / fitness classes
- Private rentals / pool parties
- Planned future improvements, which include: competition pool, resort style pool with lazy river, children's activity pool and new locker room facility with family restrooms

KEY ASSETS

- 173,218 gallon competitive length salt water pool, heated
- Chaise lounge, chairs and picnic tables with shade
- ADA lift
- Designated parking
- Life jackets
- Men and Women's locker rooms
- Indoor and outdoor showers

30,980
Avg. Annual Visits

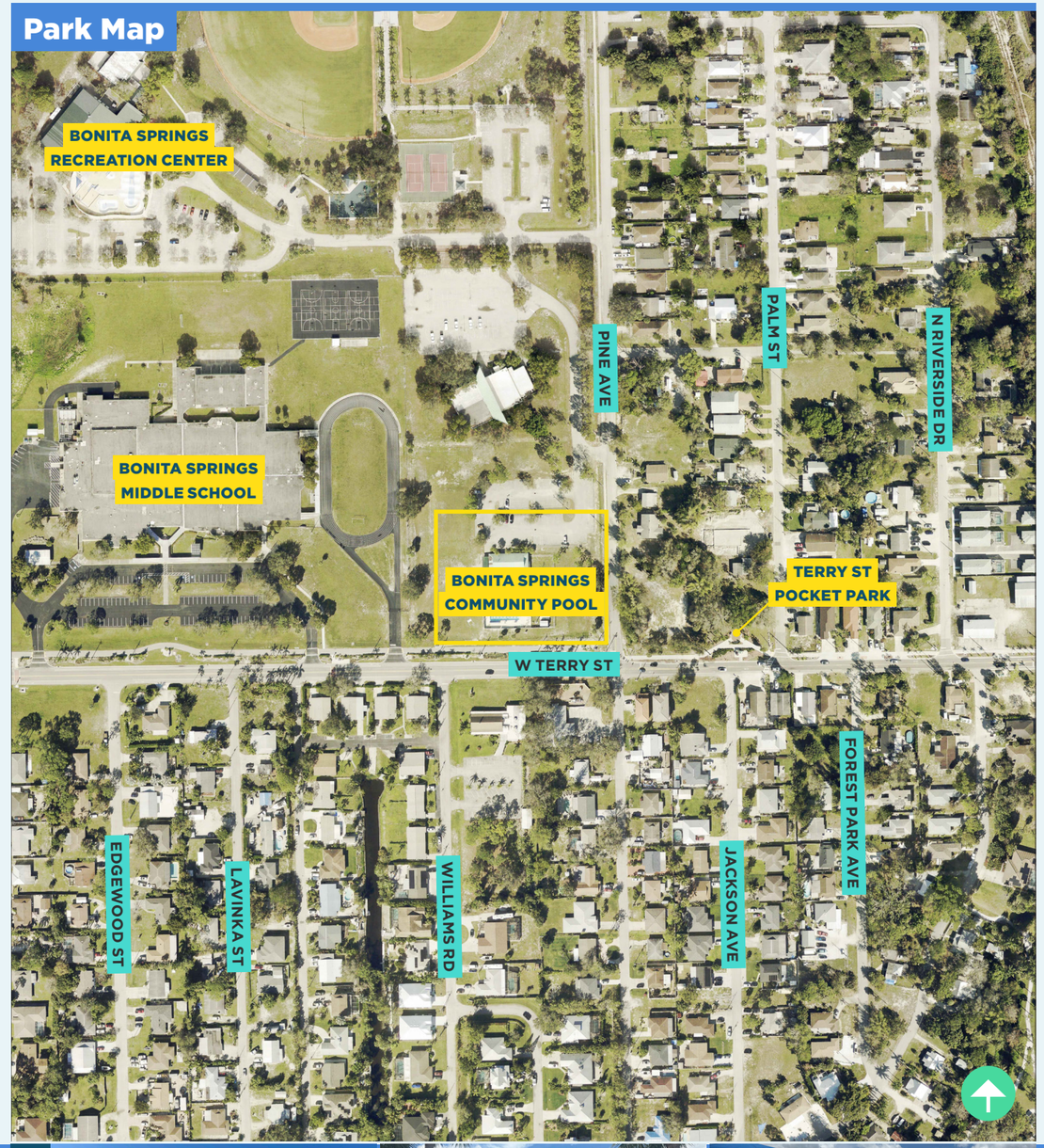
75 min.
Avg. Stay at Park

PARK COMPONENT RATING

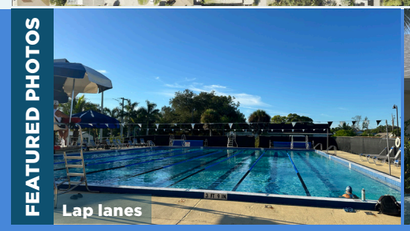
1 Needs Improvement/Basic 2 Meets Expectation/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - Not Available

Amphitheater/Event Space	Bike Trails or Trails	Drinking Fountain	Fitness Equipment	Fishing/Pier/Dock/Ramp	Parking	Picnic Shelters	Playground/Play Structure	Public Art	Restrooms	Shade	Walking/Nature Trail	Directional Signage	Other
-	-	2	-	-	2	2	-	-	1	2	-	1	-

Park Map



FEATURED PHOTOS


Lap lanes


Pool house


Accessibility



TERRY STREET POCKET PARK

Park Classification: Pocket Park 10255 W Terry Street

PARK SUMMARY

Terry Street Pocket Park is a small neighborhood park with lush plantings, tree canopy shade, and seating. The park has benches, bike racks, and an art sculpture.

PROGRAMMING & USES

- Passive park
- School bus stop
- Bike rest area

KEY ASSETS

- Waste receptacles
- Decorative bike racks
- Bench seating
- Lush planting
- Mature tree canopy
- Public art

4,427 Avg. Annual Visits

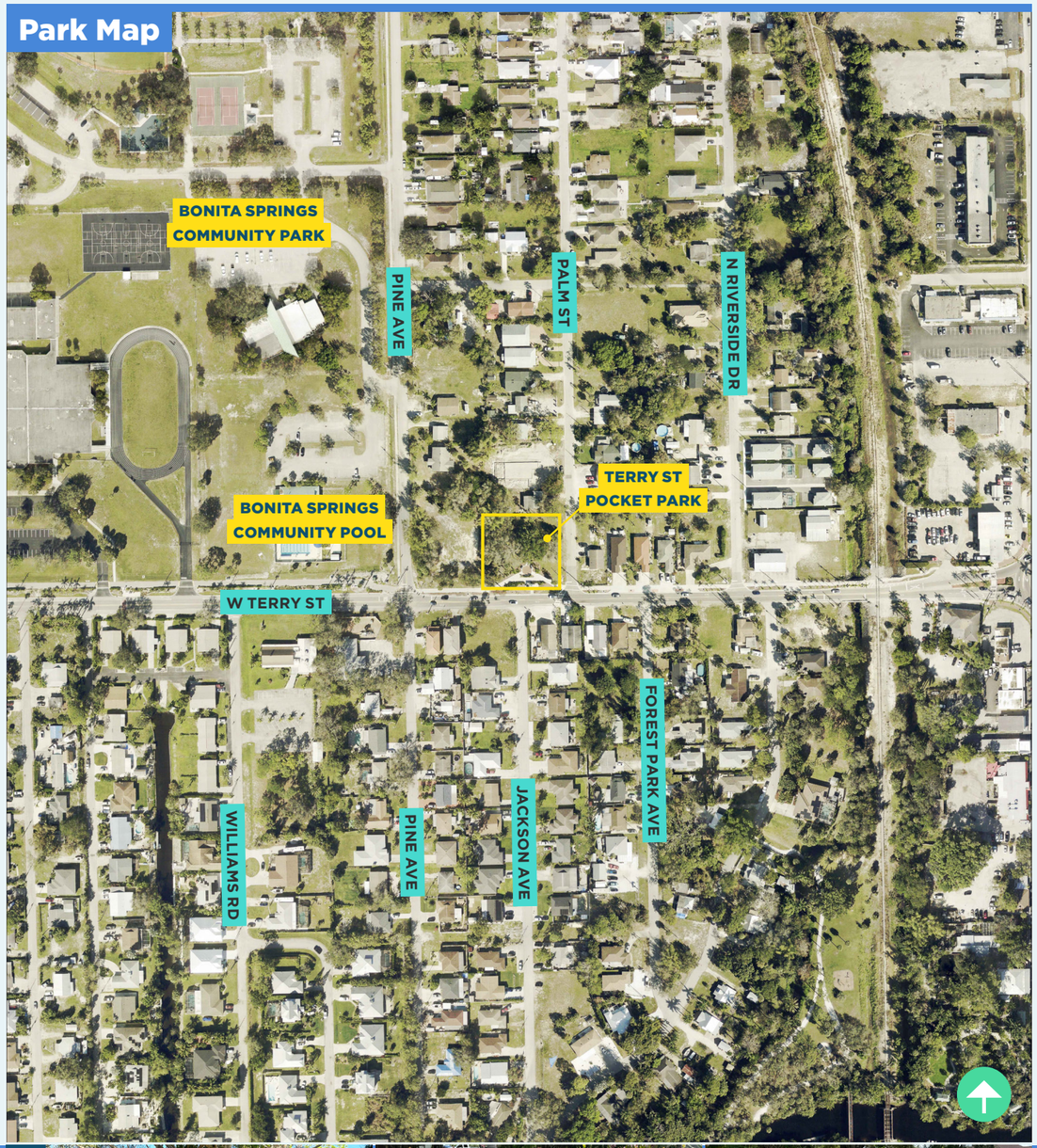
16 min. Avg. Stay at Park

PARK COMPONENT RATING

1 Needs Improvement/Basic 2 Meets Expectation/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - Not Available

Amphitheater/Event Space	Bike Trails or Trails	Drinking Fountain	Fitness Equipment	Fishing/Pier/Dock/Ramp	Parking	Picnic Shelters	Playground/Play Structure	Public Art	Restrooms	Shade	Walking/Nature Trail	Directional Signage	Other
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-

Park Map

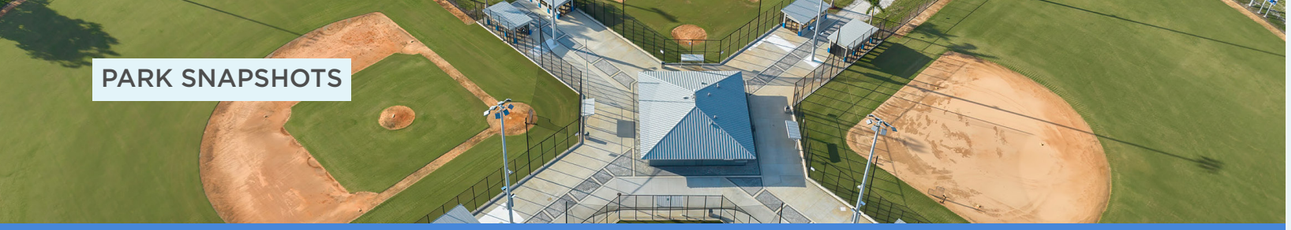


FEATURED PHOTOS


Sculpture and canopy tree


Waste receptacles & bike racks


Bench seating



BONITA SPRINGS COMMUNITY PARK

Park Classification: Community Park 26740 Pine Avenue

PARK SUMMARY

Bonita Springs Community Park is a large green space offering a wide variety of programs, including sport fields, playground, and open lawns. The space has plenty of designated parking with overflow lots.

PROGRAMMING & USES

- Practices and tournaments for a variety of sports including disc golf, tennis, baseball and softball
- Walking trails
- Open space access
- Recently renovated restroom and concession stand
- Hosts Lee County Sheriff's Department Bonita Springs community policing unit
- Neighborhood services and emergency management offices

KEY ASSETS

- +/- 39 Acres
- Multiple parking areas
- Baseball / softball complex with batting cages
- Lighted tennis courts
- 9 hole disc golf course
- Playground
- Lighted skate park
- Concession stand
- Restrooms
- Open fields
- Paved connectivity
- Shaded seating areas
- Lighted outdoor pavilion for basketball and futsal

190,973
Avg. Annual Visits

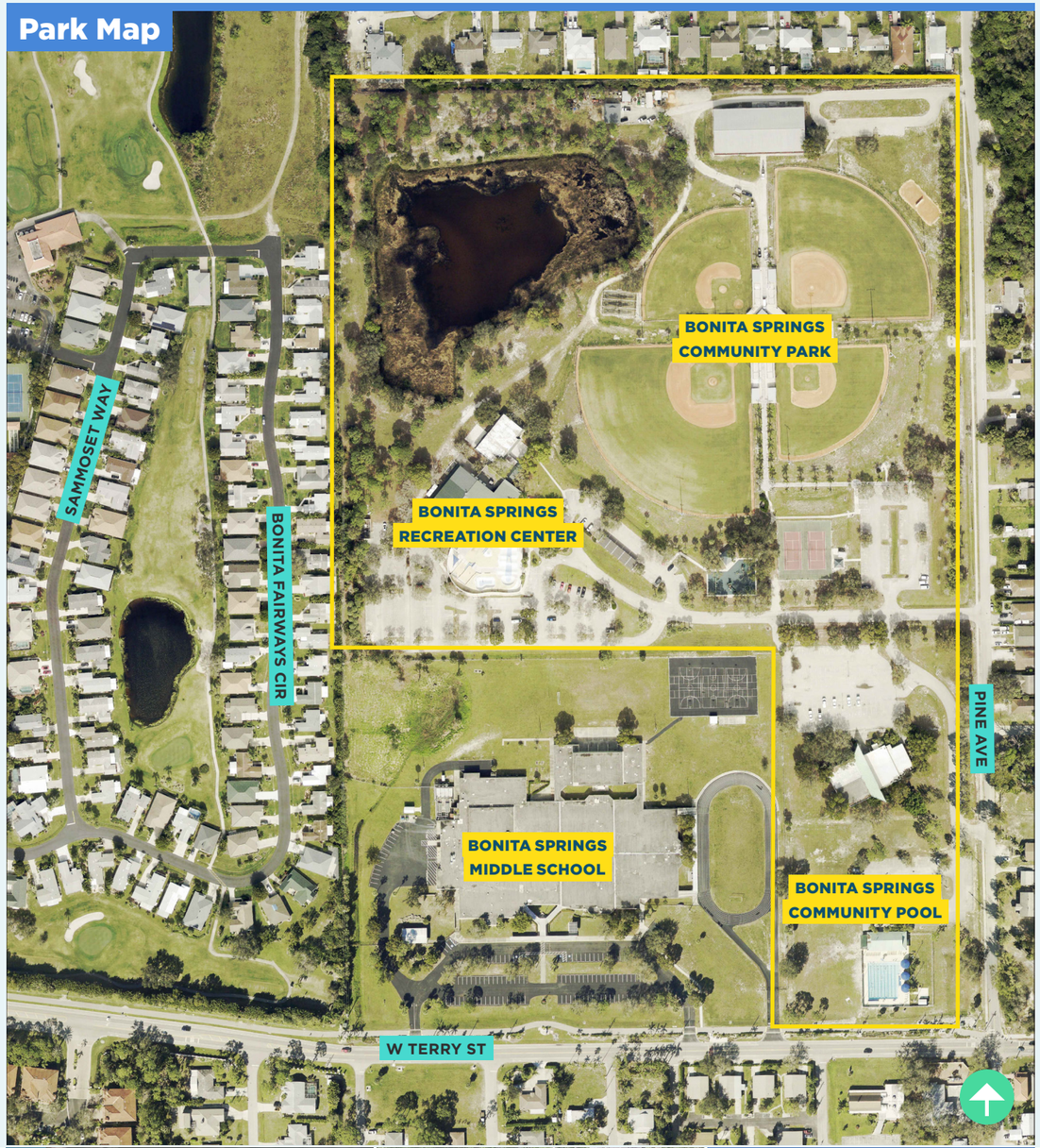
83 min.
Avg. Stay at Park

PARK COMPONENT RATING

1 Needs Improvement/Basic 2 Meets Expectation/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - Not Available

Amphitheater/Event Space	Bike Trails or Trails	Drinking Fountain	Fitness Equipment	Fishing/Pier/Dock/Ramp	Parking	Picnic Shelters	Playground/Play Structure	Public Art	Restrooms	Shade	Walking/Nature Trail	Directional Signage	Other
-	-	2	-	-	2	2	2	-	3	2	2	1	-

Park Map



FEATURED PHOTOS


Pavilion


Playground


Tennis courts



BONITA SPRINGS RECREATION CENTER

Park Classification: Community Park 26740 Pine Avenue

SUMMARY

Bonita Springs Recreation Center is located within the Bonita Springs Community Park. It features a fitness room, a full-sized gymnasium which offers pickleball, basketball courts, table tennis and an outdoor concrete skate park. The gymnasium is also used to host events or classes for members and the community.

PROGRAMMING & USES

- Cardiovascular/fitness center
- Programmed fitness classes
- Community events
- After-school and summer camp programs
- Membership or daily drop-in fitness center

KEY ASSETS

- Multiple designated parking areas
- Restrooms
- Full-size gymnasium
- Fitness room
- Paved connectivity & ADA access
- Covered drop-off
- Men's & Women's locker rooms
- Lighted concrete skate park

64,420 Avg. Annual Visits

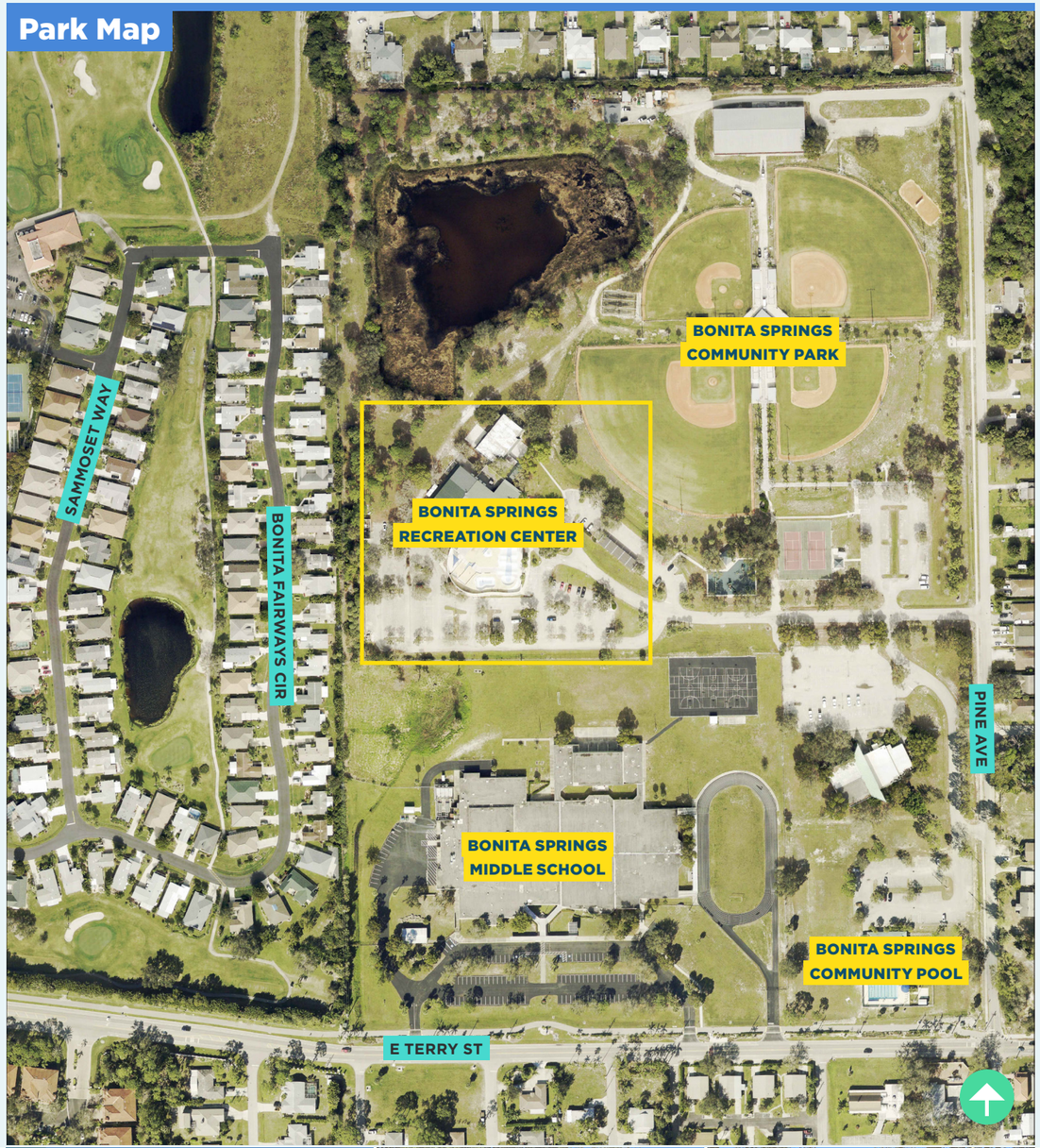
83 min. Avg. Stay at Park

PARK COMPONENT RATING

1 Needs Improvement/Basic 2 Meets Expectation/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - Not Available

Amphitheater/Event Space	Bike Trails or Trails	Drinking Fountain	Fitness Equipment	Fishing/Pier/Dock/ Ramp	Parking	Picnic Shelters	Playground/Play Structure	Public Art	Restrooms	Shade	Walking/Nature Trail	Directional Signage	Other
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Park Map

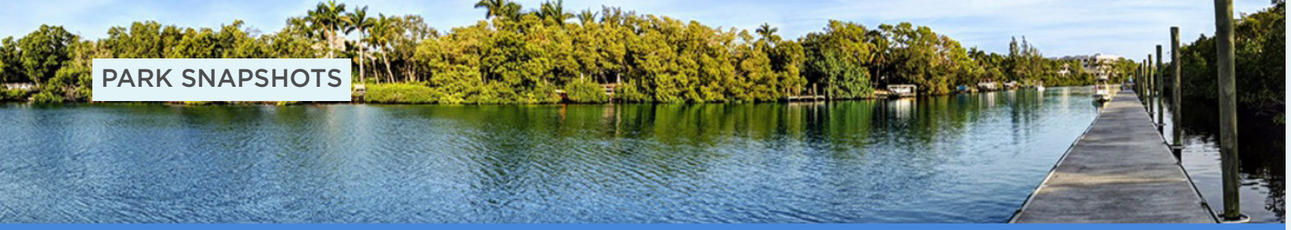


FEATURED PHOTOS


Lighted skate park


Signage and flag poles


Recreation Center



RIVER PARK

Park Classification: Natural Resource Area 27550 S Tamiami Trail

PARK SUMMARY

Located along the Imperial River, River Park is primarily programmed for water activities, including kayaking and fishing. There are walking paths, public art, boardwalks, and shaded seating areas accessible from a dedicated parking lot surrounded by rain gardens.

PROGRAMMING & USES

- Fishing and kayaking
- Passive park
- Wildlife viewing

KEY ASSETS

- +/- 17 Acres
- Shade structures
- Art sculptures
- Water access and boardwalks along river
- Lush vegetation
- Designated parking
- Rain gardens
- Public boat dock
- Kayak launch
- Fishing platform

15,100 Avg. Annual Visits

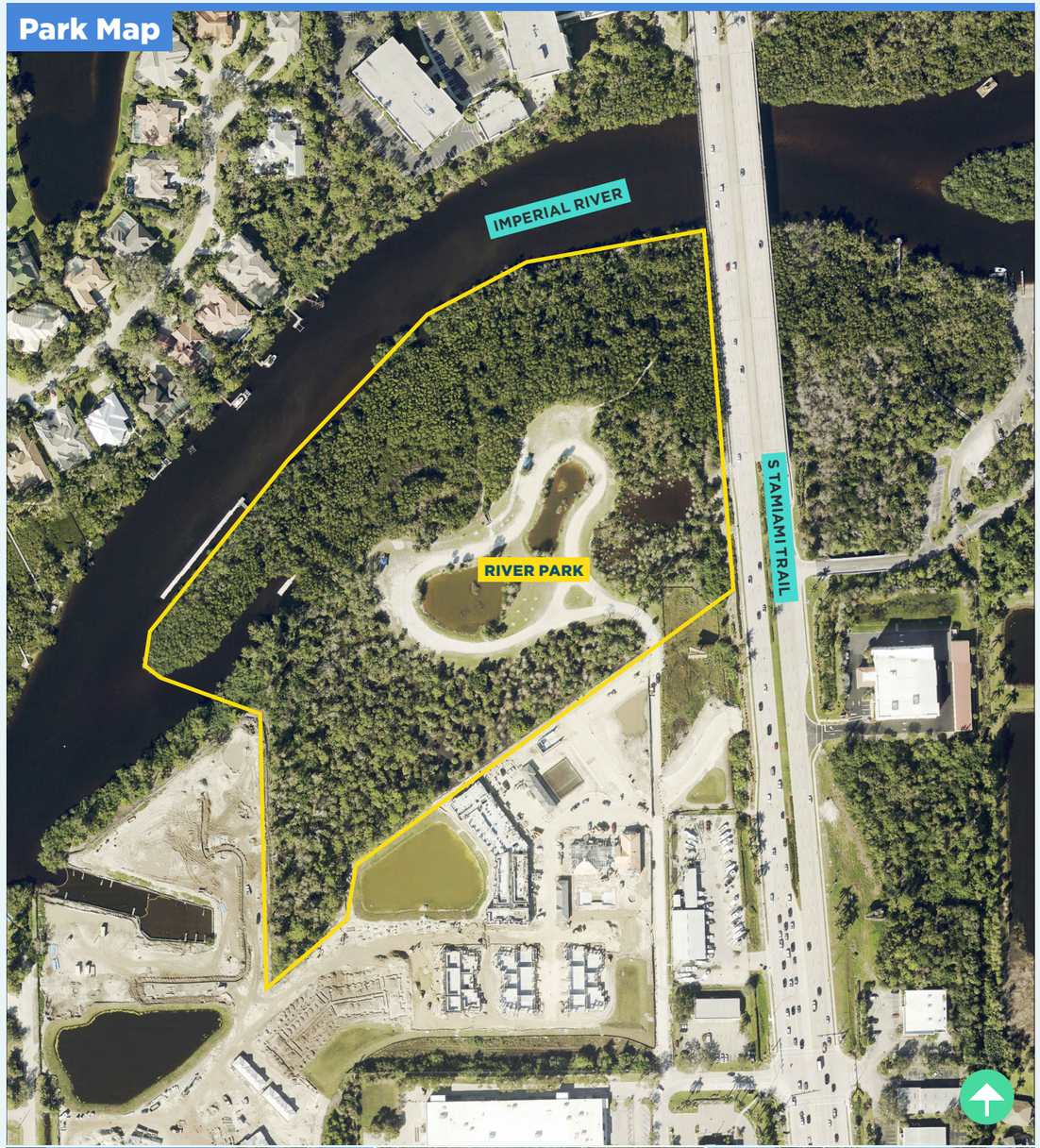
24 min. Avg. Stay at Park

PARK COMPONENT RATING

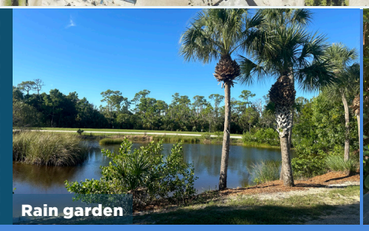
1 Needs Improvement/Basic 2 Meets Expectation/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - Not Available

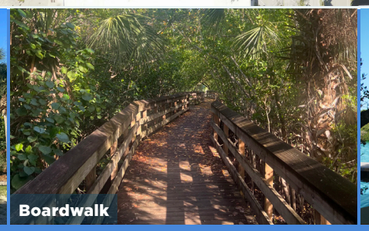
Amphitheater/Event Space	Bike Trails or Trails	Drinking Fountain	Fitness Equipment	Fishing/Pier/Dock/Ramp	Parking	Picnic Shelters	Playground/Play Structure	Public Art	Restrooms	Shade	Walking/Nature Trail	Directional Signage	Other
-	-	-	-	2	2	2	-	2	-	2	2	1	-

Park Map



FEATURED PHOTOS


Rain garden


Boardwalk


Water access



BEACH PARK NORTH

Park Classification: Beach Access Park 26083 Hickory Boulevard

PARK SUMMARY

Beach Park North is located at the north end of Bonita Beach just before crossing the Bonita Beach Causeway bridge. The primary use of this park is for beach access and there are two shaded picnic shelters.

PROGRAMMING & USES

- Beach access for Bonita Beach
- Picnic areas
- Beach parking

KEY ASSETS

- +/- 0.35 Acres
- Designated parking stalls
- Two shade structures with picnic tables
- Trash receptacles
- Signage
- Foot-wash station

85,070 Avg. Annual Visits

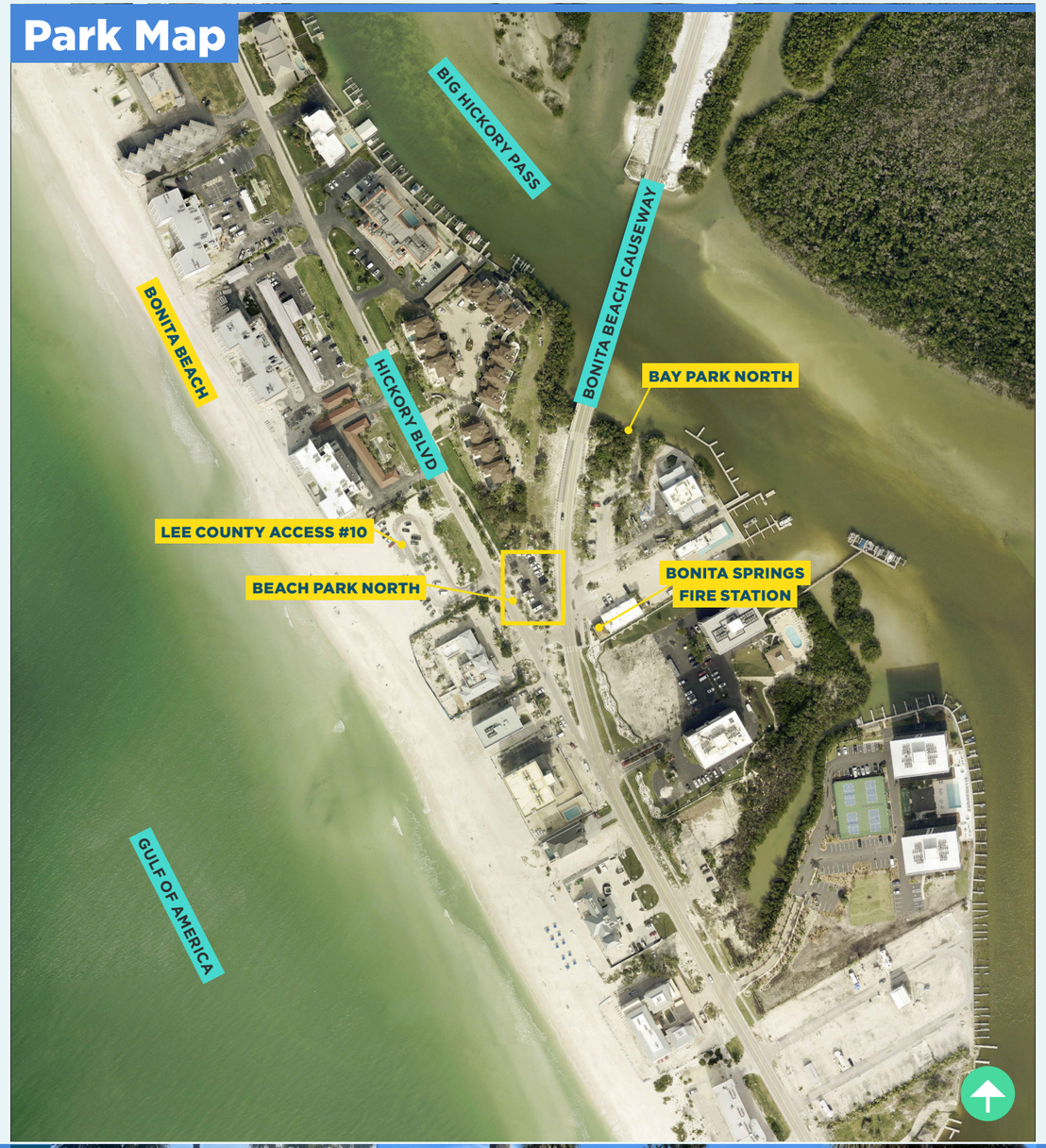
62 min. Avg. Stay at Park

PARK COMPONENT RATING

1 Needs Improvement/Basic 2 Meets Expectation/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - Not Available

Amphitheater/Event Space	Bike Trails or Trails	Drinking Fountain	Fitness Equipment	Fishing/Pier/Dock/Ramp	Parking	Picnic Shelters	Playground/Play Structure	Public Art	Restrooms	Shade	Walking/Nature Trail	Directional Signage	Other
-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	2	-	2	-

Park Map



FEATURED PHOTOS


Shaded seating and native canopy



Signage


Shaded seating and trash receptacles



BAY PARK NORTH

Park Classification: Beach Access Park Estero Boulevard

PARK SUMMARY

Bay Park North is a small park located on the bay side of the Bonita Beach Causeway bridge. The primary use of this park is for beach access parking, and water launches. A shaded picnic area and kayak racks are available.

PROGRAMMING & USES

- Water and beach access parking
- Passive park
- Non-motorized watercraft launching

KEY ASSETS

- +/- 0.73 Acres
- Designated parking stalls
- Shaded picnic bench
- Signage
- Non-motorized boat launch
- Kayak racks

44,186
Avg. Annual Visits

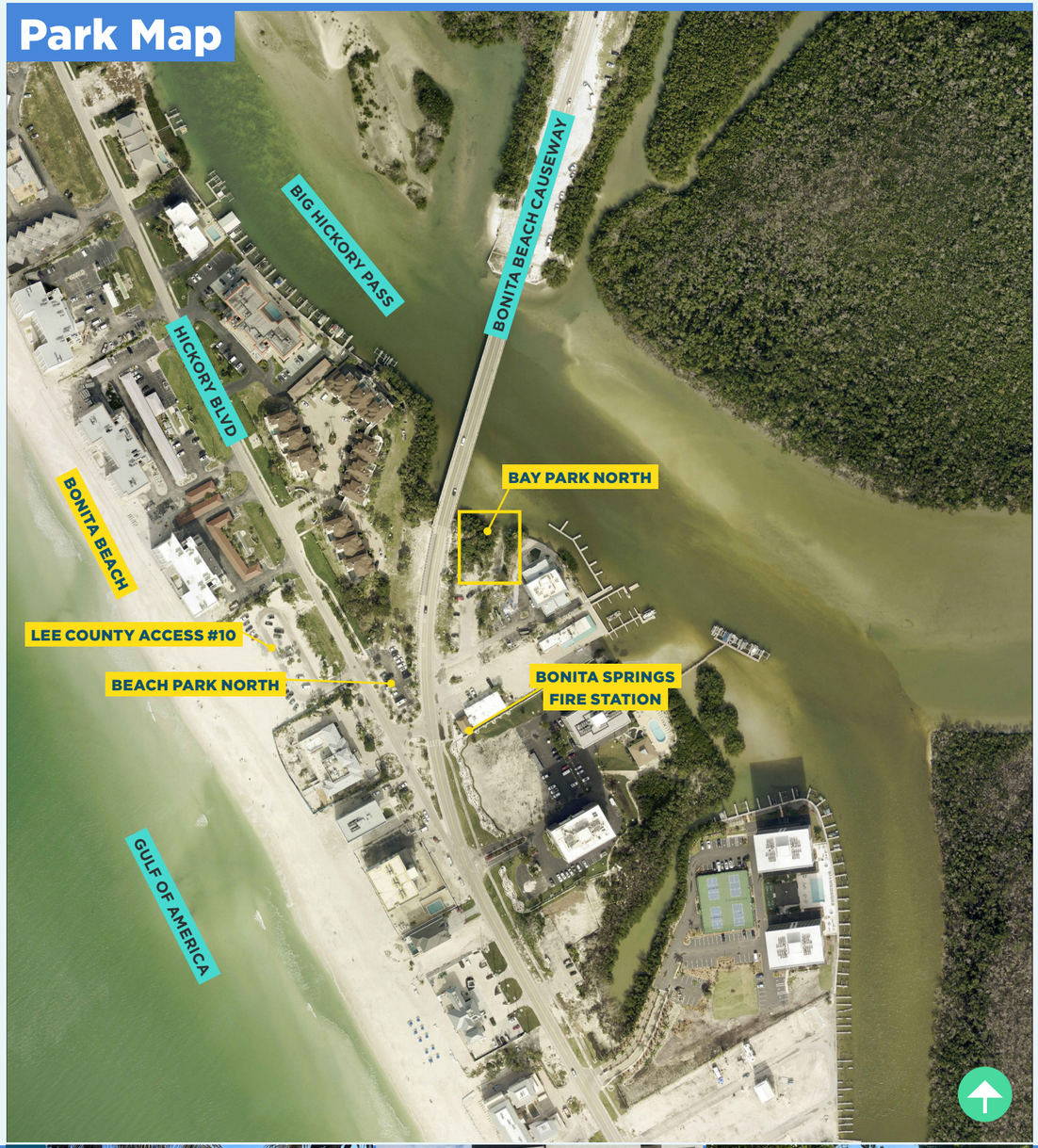
17 min.
Avg. Stay at Park

PARK COMPONENT RATING

1 Needs Improvement/Basic **2** Meets Expectation/Good **3** High Quality/Excellent **-** Not Available

Amphitheater/Event Space	Bike Trails or Trails	Drinking Fountain	Fitness Equipment	Fishing/Pier/Dock/Ramp	Parking	Picnic Shelters	Playground/Play Structure	Public Art	Restrooms	Shade	Walking/Nature Trail	Directional Signage	Other
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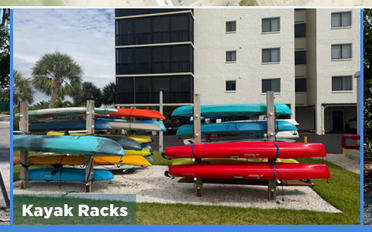
Park Map



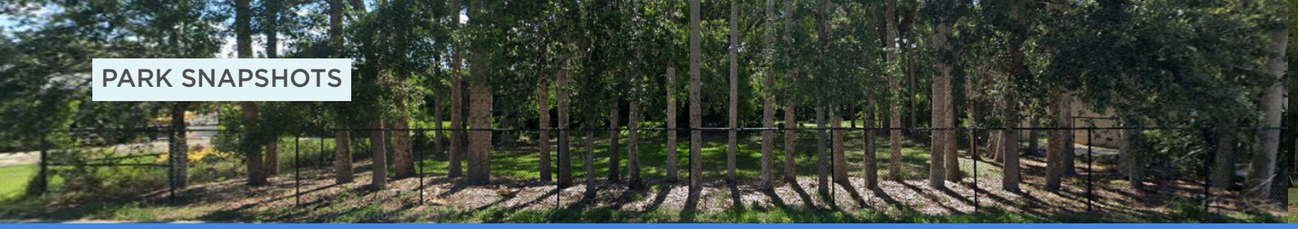
FEATURED PHOTOS



Signage


Kayak Racks


Water access





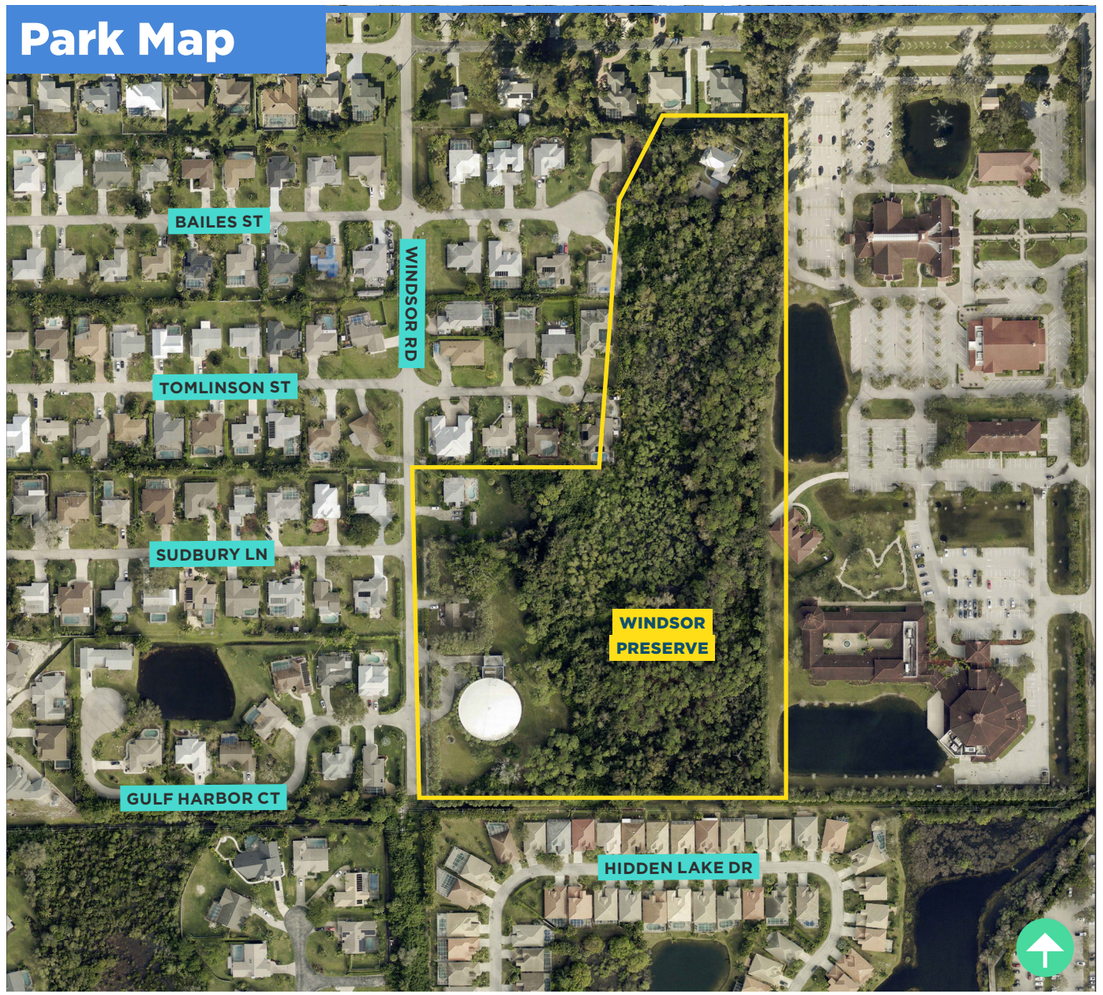
WINDSOR PRESERVE

Park Classification: Natural Resource Area 28481 Windsor Road

PARK SUMMARY

Windsor Preserve is +/- 11 acres of city owned preserve with mature shade trees. There is currently no access to the public.

Park Map



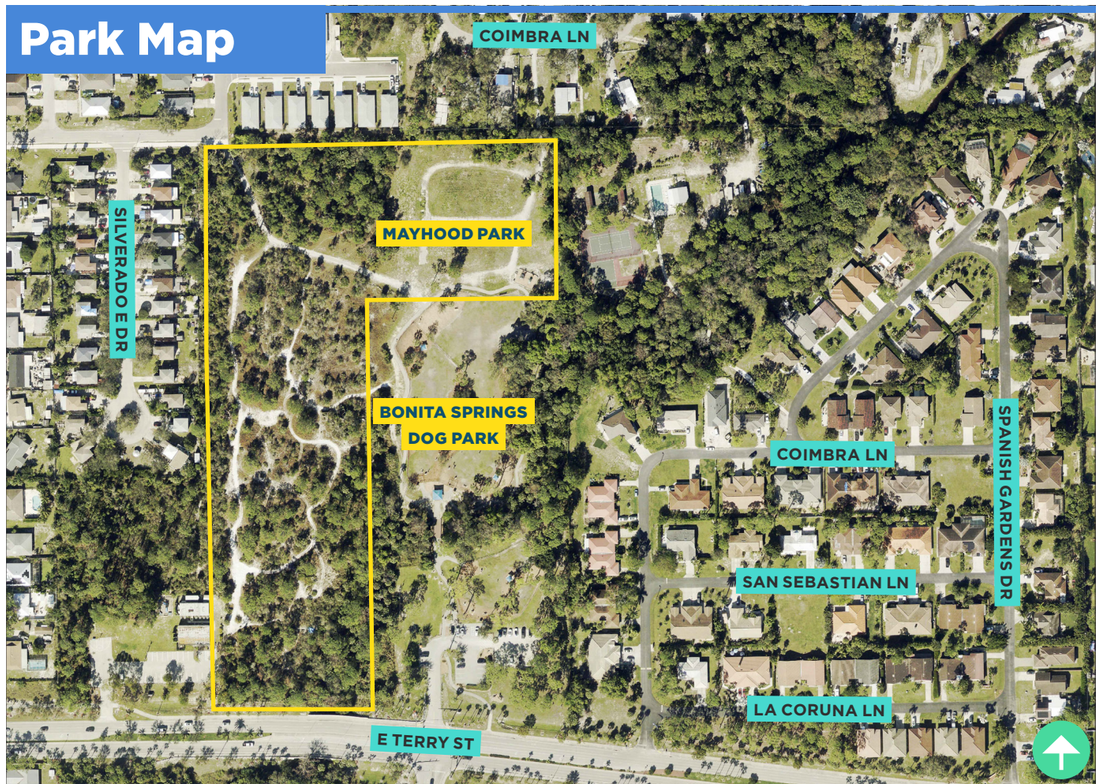
MAYHOOD PARK

Park Classification: Community Park 11071 E Terry Street

PARK SUMMARY

Leitner creek soccer complex is a +/- 17 acre improvement to the existing Bonita Springs dog park with enhanced ADA connectivity. The park will feature 1 adult sized soccer field and 2 9'x9' youth soccer fields with LED field lighting, a restroom and concessions building, additional parking and a renovated playground.

Park Map

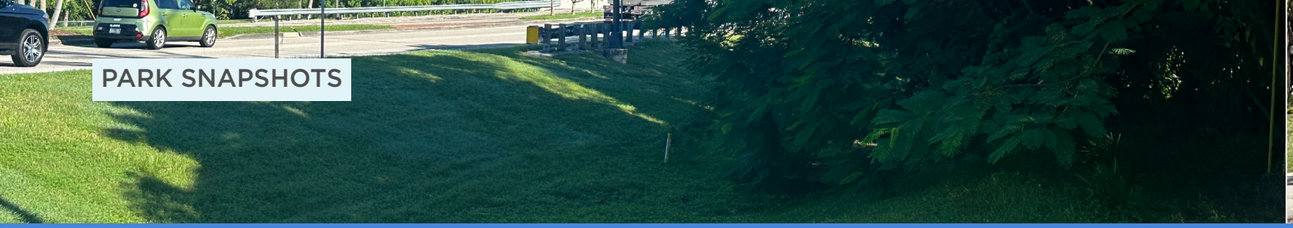


FEATURED PHOTOS


Playground


Trail


Open space





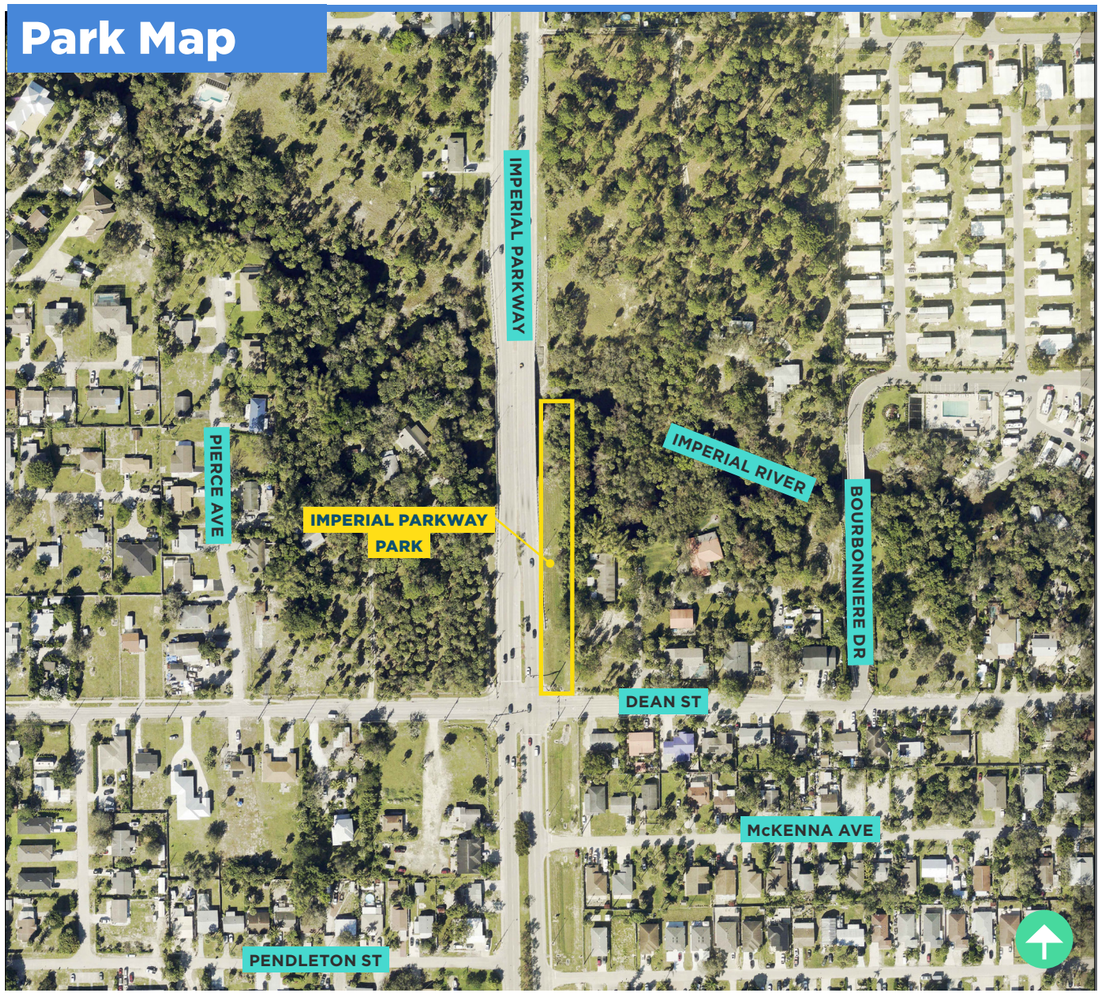
IMPERIAL PARKWAY PARK

Park Classification: Pocket Park (Future Development) Imperial Parkway

PARK SUMMARY

Imperial Parkway Park is a linear green space that runs along the east side of Imperial Parkway. A majority of the site has a steep grade change sloping away from the busy road. There is no signage, programming, or parking for visitors at this park.

Park Map



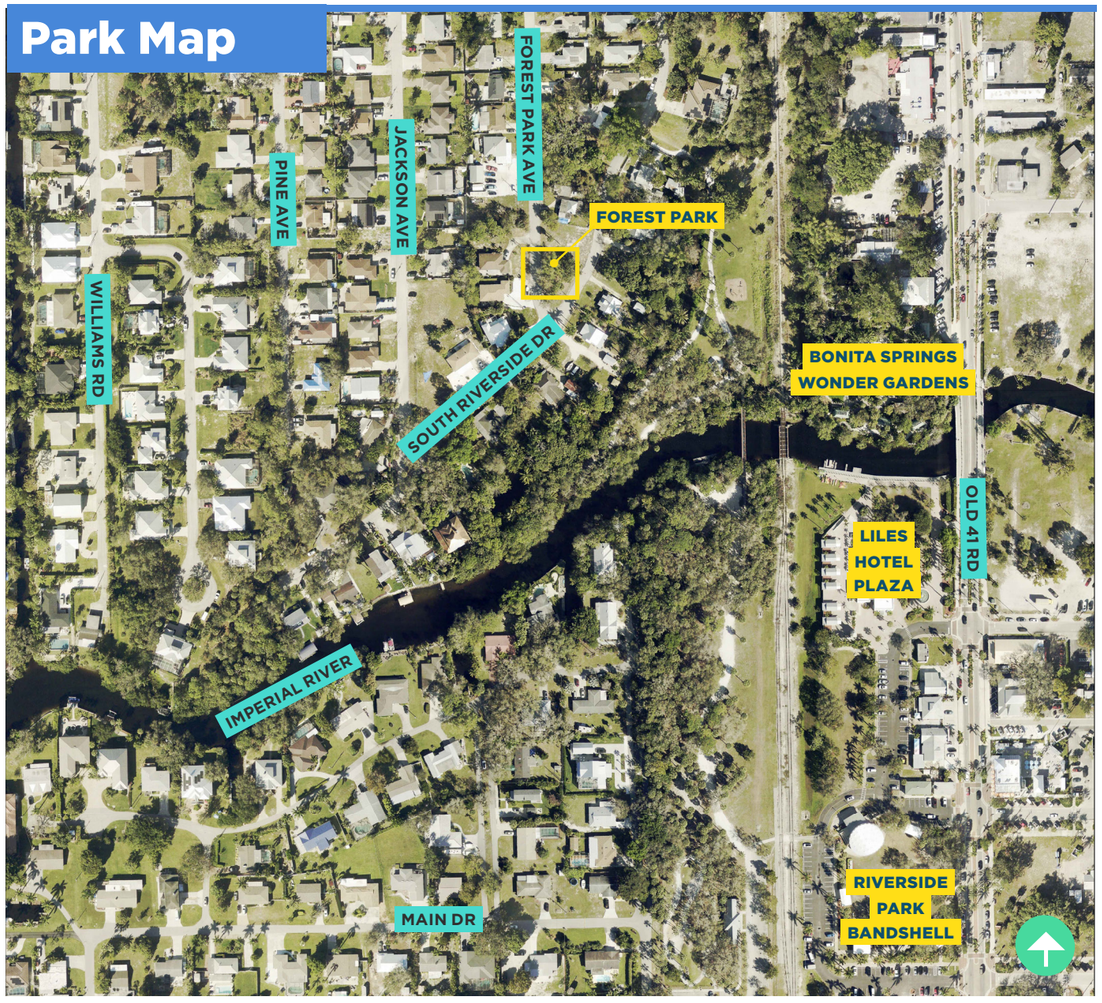
FOREST PARK

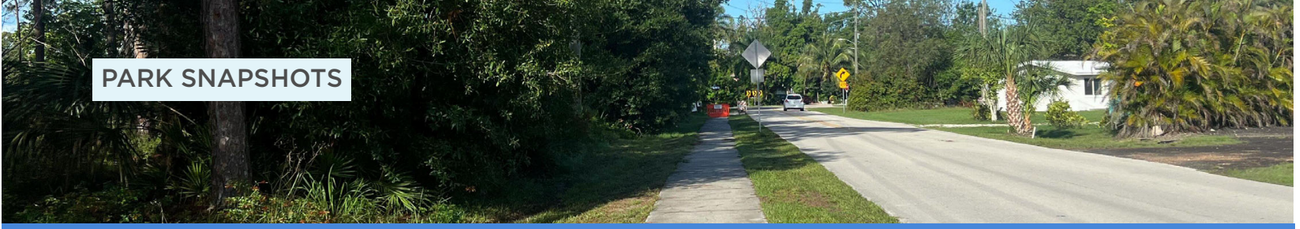
Park Classification: Pocket Park S. Riverside Drive

PARK SUMMARY

Forest Park is a small park located on South Riverside Drive. There are mature oaks and small green space here.

Park Map





KENTUCKY STREET PARK

Park Classification: Pocket Park

10036 Kentucky Street

PARK SUMMARY

Kentucky Street Park is a passive green park with no programming or parking for visitors. There are mature trees with a pathway alongside the park.

Park Map



VISITATION ANALYSIS

The current parks generate over **1.3 MILLION VISITS** a year.

Beach Park North recorded **135,600 VISITS** on 0.35 acres, making it one of the most intensively used parcels in the entire system.





Community Park, spanning 39 acres, welcomed nearly **191,000 VISITS**.



The Bonita Soccer Complex drew more than **307,000 VISITS IN 2024** across just 7.5 acres.

The Community Pool has **30,980 VISITS** and has become a genuine part of people's weekly routines rather than an occasional destination.



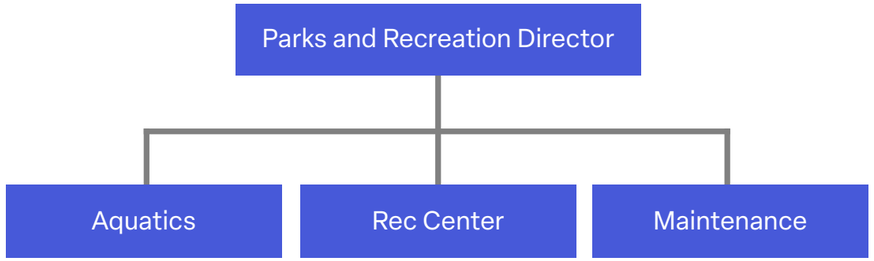
Figure 15: Top 10 Parks by Visitation Metrics

Top 10 Parks by Visitation	Park Classification	Listed Acres	Visits	Visitors	Avg. Dwell Time (min.)
Bonita Soccer Complex	Community	7.52	307,077	41,423	62
Bonita Springs Community Park	Community	39.07	190,973	32,919	83
Riverside Park	Community	6.21	188,400	89,400	60
Bonita Springs Dog Park	Community	6.5	91,793	9,883	32
Beach Park North	Beach Access Park	0.35	85,070	26,360	62
Depot Park	Neighborhood	6.73	67,300	29,400	37
Marni Fields	Community	17	64,431	14,013	96
Bonita Springs Recreation Center	Community	N/A	64,420	3,680	50
Bay Park North	Beach Access Park	0.73	44,186	27,227	17
Bonita Springs Community Pool	Community	3	30,980	2,256	75

Staffing and Operations

The Bonita Springs Parks and Recreation Department operates across three divisions: Maintenance, Recreation Center, and Aquatics. As of fiscal year 2024–2025, the department employs 19 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions across those divisions, a staffing level that has remained largely stable over the past six years.

Figure 16: Org Chart



Organizational Overview

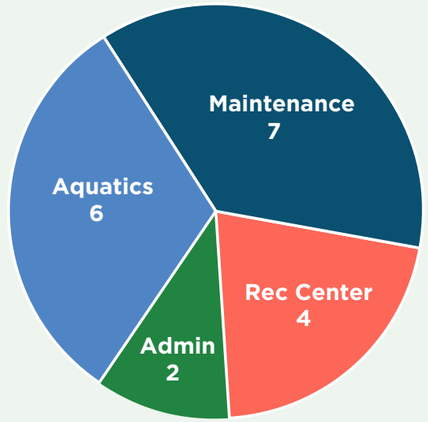
As part of this planning process, department staff were invited to complete an internal survey covering nine areas of organizational performance and workplace experience. Sixteen staff members responded across all three divisions. The overall results were positive: 94% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they have the information and training needed to do their jobs well, that they understand what is expected of them, and that they enjoy their work. Eighty-eight percent agreed or strongly agreed that their workload is manageable and that team members work toward common goals.

Facility improvements were cited by multiple respondents as a factor that would make their work more effective, reflecting the same finding that surfaced repeatedly in the community engagement process. Equipment needs also came up in Maintenance, with at least one respondent identifying new equipment as the most meaningful improvement to their day-to-day efficiency.

Overall, the staffing data and survey results together describe a department that is functioning well at its current scale and staff who are largely engaged, well-trained, and clear on their roles. However, as growth continues for the department, additional resources and staff will be needed. It is important to note that total staffing has grown by only half a position over six years while the park system and community demand have continued to expand.

Figure 17: Staffing Levels by Division

Full-Time Equivalent Employees



Maintenance Assessment

ABOUT THIS ANALYSIS

Forty parks and properties were assessed that represent both developed parks, undeveloped and ancillary City properties, facility grounds, and trails. Many specialty parks were also assessed, including a dog park, skate park, and a basketball/futsal pavilion. Parks and properties were assessed based on community satisfaction, input from staff, and BerryDunn's observations of the overall condition of each park or property.

The assessment in December 2025 included:

- ✓ On-site tours, observations
- ✓ Staff interviews
- ✓ Benchmarking and financial analysis
- ✓ Development of park-by-park task lists

Maintenance and Operations

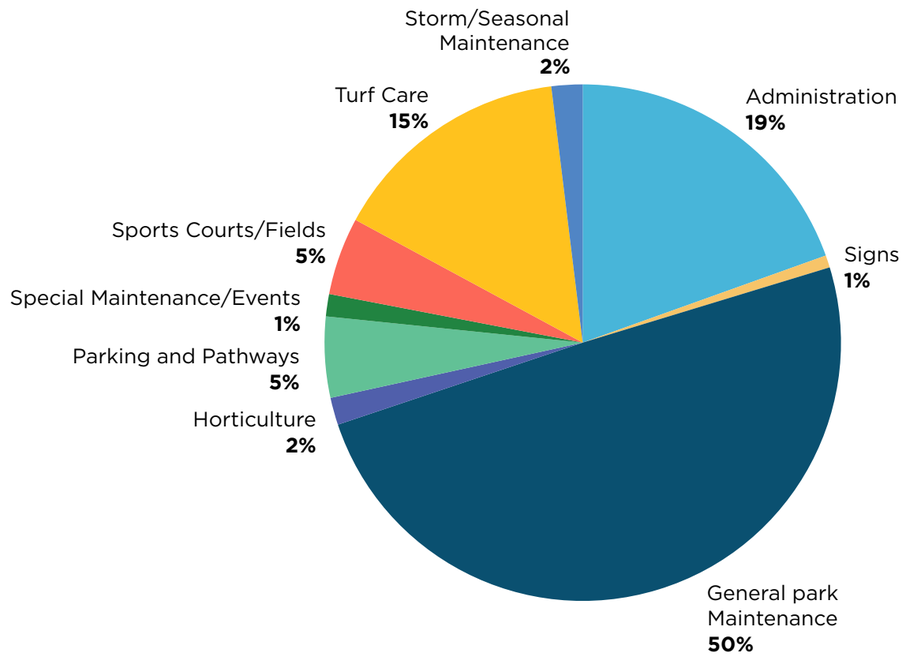
MAINTENANCE STAFFING AND WORKLOAD

The Maintenance division includes seven positions in fiscal year 2024-2025, including:

- **(1)** One Maintenance Manager
- **(1)** One Senior Maintenance Lead
- **(5)** Five Maintenance Specialists

Of those, five positions are dedicated to hands-on field maintenance work. A task-based workload analysis conducted for this plan calculated the total hours required to perform all identified maintenance tasks across the park system against the productive hours available per field staff member, accounting for vacation, sick leave, and training time at 1,848 productive hours per FTE annually. That analysis found that the current five field maintenance FTE falls short of what the system requires, with a projected need of approximately seven FTE to meet existing maintenance demand adequately. That gap of roughly two positions is the basis for the recommendation to add two field maintenance FTE over the life of this plan.

Figure 18: Percentage of Maintenance Tasks Needed



How Maintenance Time Is Spent

The task analysis also examined how maintenance time is distributed across different types of work. General park maintenance, which encompasses landscaping, litter removal, graffiti abatement, and upkeep of benches, tables, and restrooms, accounts for the largest share of maintenance effort at 50% of total tasks. Administrative work, including preparation, record keeping, and coordination, accounts for 19%. Turf care, covering mowing, edging, trimming, and blowing across common areas and athletic fields, represents 15%. The remaining work is distributed across sports courts and fields, parking and pathways, horticulture, special maintenance and events support, signs, and storm and seasonal maintenance.

Table 1: Key Maintenance Tasks

Task Category	Description
Administration	Preparation, organization, record keeping
Signs	Entrance, rules, and directional signs
General Park Maintenance	Landscaping, litter removal, graffiti abatement; maintenance of benches, tables, and restrooms
Horticulture	Maintain landscape beds, apply herbicides, hand-weed for weed control
Parking and Pathways	Maintain parking lots, pathways, and natural trails
Special Maintenance/Events	Support event setup/breakdown; upkeep for skate and dog parks; includes City-owned parking and land banked areas
Sports Courts & Fields	Maintain athletic fields and courts; prepare for games
Turf Care	Mow, edge, trim, and blow turf for common areas and athletic fields

Investment in Park Maintenance

The overall condition of Bonita Springs' parks reflects a strong commitment to maintenance and stewardship. Despite a relatively small maintenance team, most parks and facilities are maintained at a good or above-average level, and the City's most heavily used facilities continue to perform well. This level of service is supported by an operating budget that prioritizes ongoing maintenance and care of existing assets, reflecting community feedback that emphasized maintaining and improving current parks. However, maintaining that standard across the entire system is becoming increasingly difficult. The City's maintenance staff is responsible for a variety of parks, trails, natural areas, recreational facilities, and specialty amenities spread throughout the community. As facilities age and the park system continues to evolve, demands on staff time continue to grow. While the impacts are not yet widespread, signs of this strain are most apparent at some of the aging smaller neighborhood parks and passive park facilities. Analysis of maintenance data indicates that current staffing is insufficient to meet the long-term maintenance needs of the park system. Adding two field maintenance positions would help the City sustain the quality residents currently experience, provide more consistent care across all parks and facilities, and protect the City's investment in its recreational infrastructure for years to come.



KEY FINDINGS

- Most parks (64%) are rated well maintained or above average, with major parks and active facilities consistently performing well.
- Park maintenance is consistently strong at major locations, including Community Park, Riverside Park Bandshell, sports complexes, trails, and the dog park.
- Cleanliness standards are highest at the most active and busiest locations.
- Depot Park emerged as the one of the highest priorities. Depot Park's aging facility highlights opportunities for future improvements that could enhance user experience and increase ratings.
- Smaller neighborhood parks and older facilities show more issues, particularly with restrooms, amenities, and general consistency.
- Signage quality differs widely throughout the park system, with many parks lacking clear identification, easy-to-read rules, or consistent directional signage.
- Some properties lack clear identification or defined use, leading to low public awareness. Preserves, while intentionally maintained as passive open space, would benefit from clearer signage and communication of their purpose.

MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider capital improvements to the maintenance yard to improve security and efficiency. Add additional covered equipment storage.
- Work with maintenance staff at all levels to help populate park task lists for each park.
- Continue to train staff to be playground inspectors. Consider adding successful completion of playgrounds inspector certification as a classification requirement.
- Purchase maintenance task tracking software to better understand maintenance tasks, that lead to data-driven decisions.
- Consider the addition of two FTE dedicated to park maintenance, based on the assessment of required maintenance tasks as parks evolve.
- Build on the staffing estimates developed in this assessment to help ensure adequate operations and maintenance estimates are made at the time new park properties are purchased or placed in service. At a minimum, $10,488 per acre should be added to the budget for basic day-to-day maintenance.
- Establish tiered maintenance standards that define service levels for destination parks, neighborhood parks, trails, and undeveloped properties.

Level of Service

Using the inventory and assessment created in collaboration with RVi, BerryDunn analyzed the City of Bonita Springs' level of service across its park system and trails.

The City of Bonita Springs maintains 17 developed parks, totaling 150 acres. This provides 2.51 acres of City managed parkland per 1,000 residents. The City holds nine Undeveloped/Future Park properties with 49 additional acres of land for future development. Combined with 100+ alternative provider parks, Bonita Springs has an effective distribution of parks across the system.

The City of Bonita Springs is approaching build-out along its coastline and core neighborhoods, but development continues in the northeast and through redevelopment of older properties. Bonita Springs currently has one park for every 3,515 residents, below national median levels. If planned park sites are developed, that ratio improves to one park per 2,300 residents—meeting the benchmark for comparable communities. Parkland acreage and trail miles per capita will need to grow alongside population to maintain that progress.

Figure 19: Bonita Springs Park System



City Parks with Alternative Provider Parks

Figure 20 shows the distribution of all City-owned parks. Parks labeled in green are open to the public, while parks labeled in orange represent currently undeveloped parcels owned by the City with plans to become future parks. Also shown on the map with circular icons are alternative provider parks throughout the City. They include state parks, beach parks, golf courses, boat ramps, and other parks. These parks were identified by the consultant team using aerial imagery and verified by City staff.

Figure 20: System Map With Alternative Providers

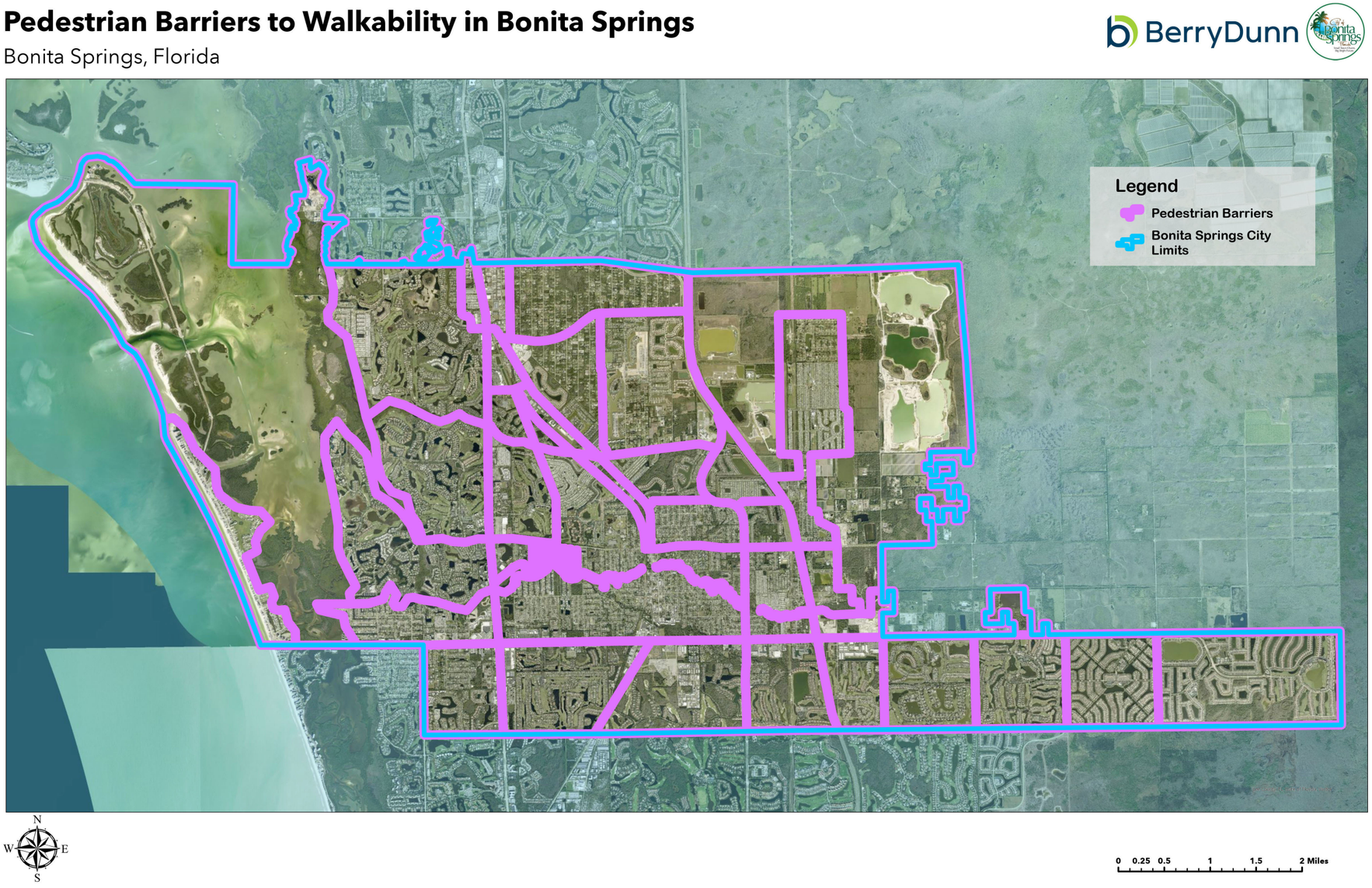


Trails, Walkability, and Connectivity

PEDESTRIAN BARRIERS TO WALKABILITY

Pedestrian barriers, such as highways, major streets, railroads, and natural features like rivers, impact walkable access. BerryDunn identified and mapped these pedestrian barriers to provide a more accurate picture of walkability in Bonita Springs. Pedestrian barriers are resolved by bridges, crosswalks, and trails that allow for better pedestrian navigation.

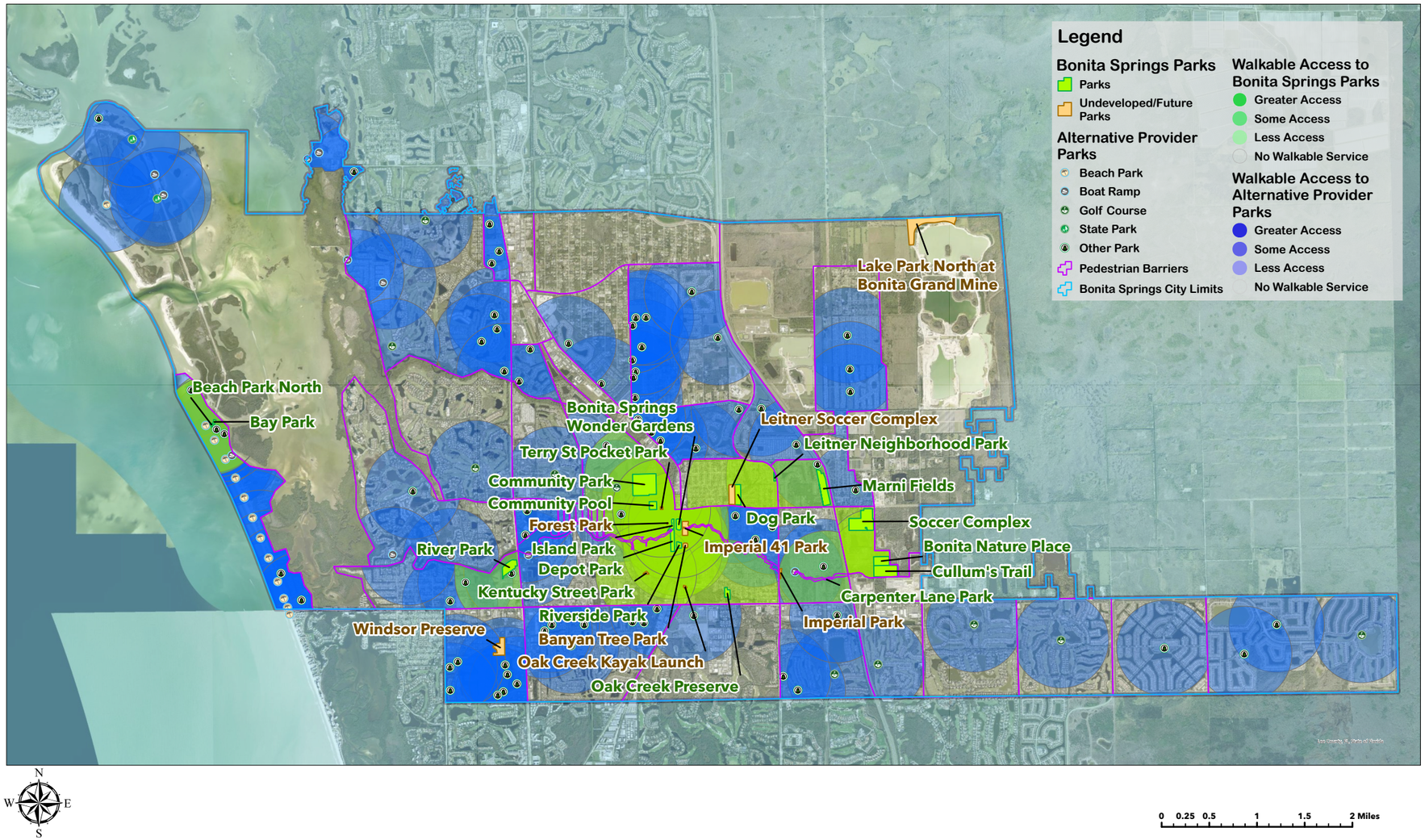
Figure 21: Pedestrian Barriers Map



WALKABLE ACCESS TO PARKS

Figure 22 shows 10-minute walkability to all parks. These access areas are limited by the identified pedestrian barriers. Access to Bonita Springs parks is shown in green, and access to alternative provider parks is shown in blue. Darker colors represent greater access to more park amenities. The downtown area in Bonita Springs is particularly well served. Meanwhile, the northern portion of the City represents an opportunity area for park development. Additionally, expanding the trail network will increase connectivity and improve access across the City.

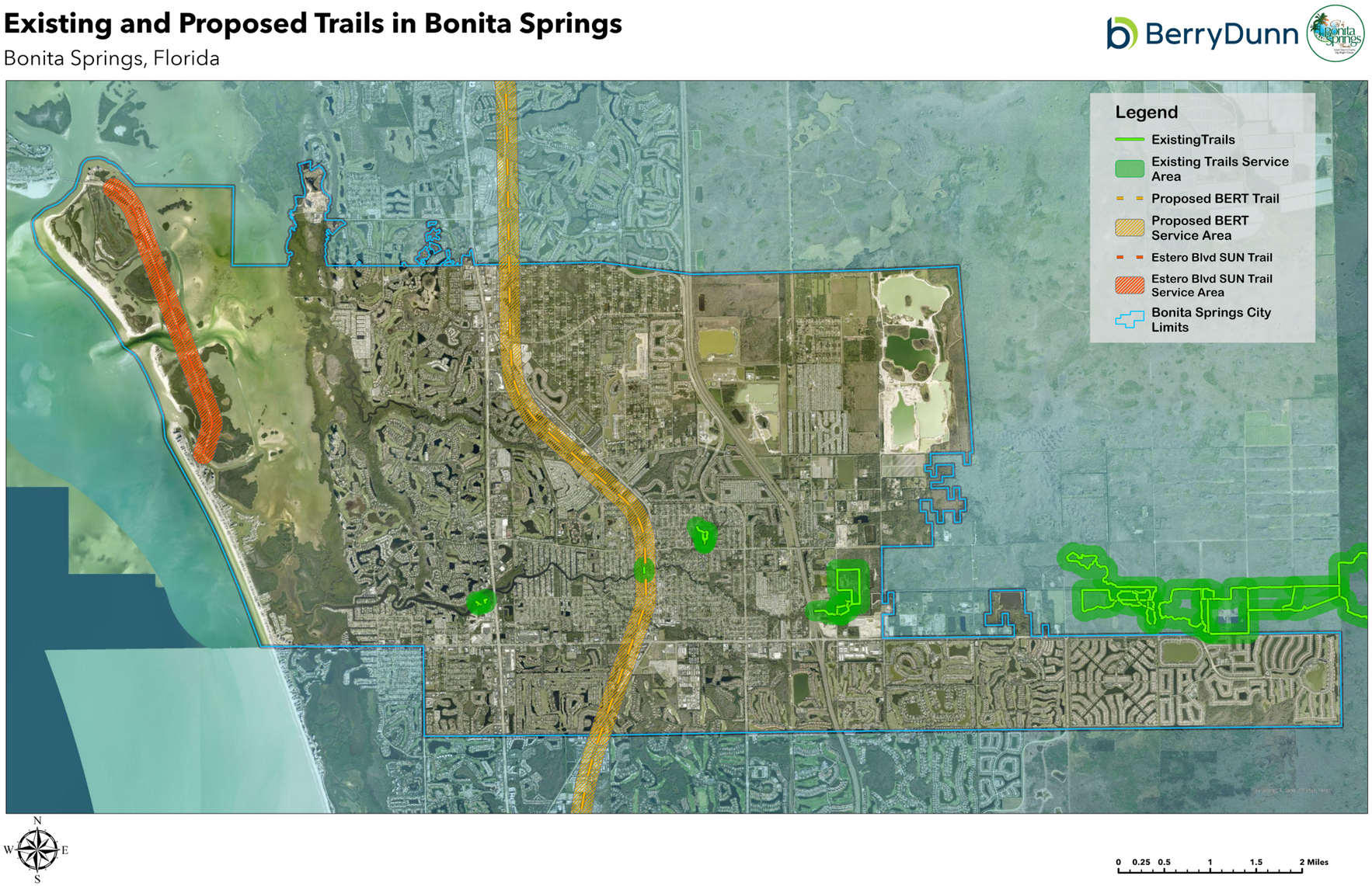
Figure 22: Walkable Access Map



Trail Connectivity in Bonita Springs

The current off-street trail network is limited to park properties and the CREW trails east of the City. These trails and their service areas are shown in green in Figure 23. Planned trail improvements, including the proposed Bonita Estero Rail Trail (BERT) and the Estero Boulevard SUN Trail, would significantly expand the City's bicycle and pedestrian network and improve connections between neighborhoods, parks, destinations, and neighboring communities. Together, these projects would help reduce barriers to walking and bicycling, increase access to recreational opportunities, and support a more connected and navigable transportation system throughout Bonita Springs.

Figure 23: Trail Map



Inclusivity, Accessibility, and Sensory Considerations



▶ About the Analysis

The International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES) performed an on-site review and provided recommendations to create a more welcoming space in Bonita Springs Parks and Recreation centers for autistic and sensory sensitive visitors. These recommendations, paired with key principles of universal design, are summarized in this document. The full report is available in Appendix D.

Making Parks and Facilities More Inclusive

Universal design refers to an approach that makes spaces accessible and usable to all community members, without barriers attached to ability, age, cognition, income, and other factors. The incorporation of universal design principles in parks and playgrounds allows for an extension of inclusivity beyond the requirements of the ADA.

While ADA requirements dictate the basic legal standards for accessibility, they focus on barriers to access for wheelchair users or other individuals with physical disabilities. While universal access is hard to define because of the varying needs of individuals, the principles of universal design focus on inclusion rather than just access, providing a greater quality of play and recreation for all parks and playground users.

Common ways to incorporate universal design principles include the addition of interpretive and interactive park signage, dedicated spaces for children with specific sensory needs, and multiuse playground equipment to facilitate multiple styles of play with varying difficulty. While adding universal design components to a park, departments should include community stakeholders, whether they are individuals with disabilities, their families, or any community members with a set of needs left unmet by ADA compliance. The incorporation of universal design elements into parks and playgrounds creates intentionally inclusive space that allows for underrepresented community members to recreate and relax beyond the bare minimum of access created by ADA requirements.

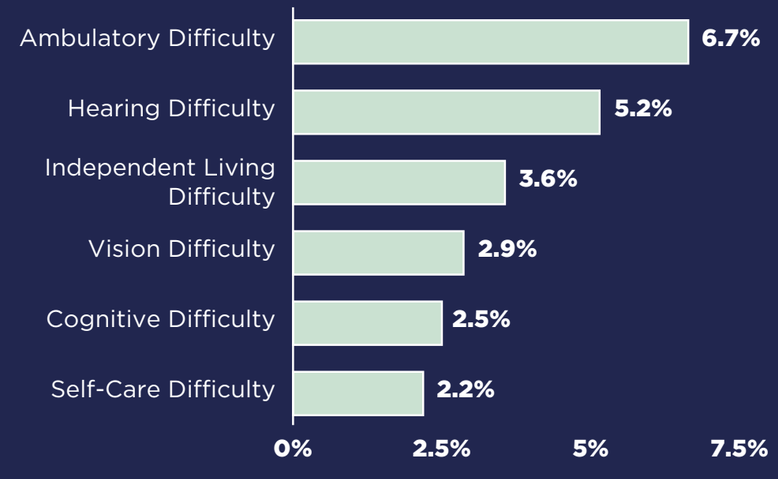
Community Needs

The 13.3% of Bonita Springs residents reported as living with a disability reflects only conditions captured by the U.S. Census. A broader view reveals that a much larger share of residents and visitors benefit from parks designed with inclusivity in mind.

- **AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER.** Approximately 1 in 31 children (3.2%) has been identified with autism, and an estimated 2.2% of U.S. adults are also on the spectrum.[1]
- **SENSORY PROCESSING DIFFERENCES.** An estimated 5% to 16% of children experience sensory processing challenges, often involving sensitivities to noise, light, crowding, or unpredictable stimuli.[2]
- **HEARING, VISION, AND COGNITIVE DIFFICULTIES.** More than 10% of Bonita Springs residents report a hearing, vision, or cognitive difficulty, benefiting from directional signage, contrast, and quiet spaces.
- **MOBILITY AND INDEPENDENT LIVING.** With 6.7% reporting ambulatory difficulty and 3.6% reporting independent living difficulty, parks must support wheelchairs, walkers, strollers, and caregivers alike.

When family members and caregivers are factored in, inclusive design touches nearly every household in Bonita Springs.

Figure 21: Individuals Living with Disabilities in Bonita Springs



1 National Institute of Mental Health. (2025). Autism spectrum disorder (ASD). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health. https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/autism-spectrum-disorder-asd

2 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2025, April 15). Prevalence and early identification of autism spectrum disorder among children aged 4 and 8 years — Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network, 16 sites, United States, 2022 (MMWR Surveillance Summaries, Vol. 74, No. 2). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/74/ss/ss7402a1.htm

Key Principles of Universal Design and Recommendations by IBCCES

Recommendations made by IBCCES for the improved accessibility of Bonita Springs parks and playgrounds are closely linked to principles of universal design. IBCCES' recommendations more directly apply to sensory needs, while universal design recommendations address general barriers for varying levels of need and ability.

The key principles of universal design and common examples are listed below, followed by possible applications of these design principles mentioned in the IBCCES audit in bold.

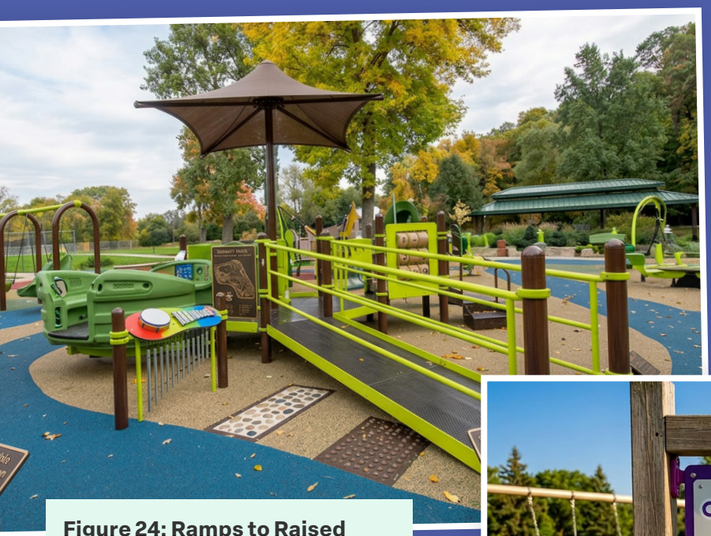


Figure 24: Ramps to Raised Play Structures

▶ Equitable use

- Play structures are accessible to children with mobility aids
- E.g., ramps instead of stairs, transfer platforms etc.
- Use ramps to provide access to elevated features

▶ Flexibility

- Equipment is multi-use for diverse needs
- E.g., challenge levels, quiet zones, sensory panels
- Add a lower sensory inclusion space to Bonita Community Park Playground; use calming color palettes, avoid metal play structures, provide shaded and quiet spots, and use natural and soft barriers
- Add tactile play items such as gears and spinners, musical instruments, water tables, and sandboxes



Figure 25: Example of a Visual Communication Board

▶ Simple/intuitive design and perceptible information

- Play experiences are easy to understand regardless of age/experience; necessary information is available
- Clear signage and predictable layout, tactile paths, visual contrasts, auditory elements
- Add communication boards to assist nonverbal visitors with lots of visuals; for programming at Little Rec Center or Nature Place Learning Center, provide visual schedules or instructions to make it easier to follow along, rather than just auditory instructions
- Bee House, Depot Park Playground, and Leitner Neighborhood Park have great symbol-based signage



Figure 26: Example of an Accessible Play Structure Requiring Low Physical Effort

▶ Tolerance for error

- Design minimizes hazards and adverse consequences
- Protective surfacing: guardrails, barriers and clear sightlines, equipment put in for the purpose of accessibility does not create more possibility of danger with misuse
- Wide simple pathways, smooth transitions between zones; barriers, guardrails, and other deterrents help ensure the physical safety of playground users and prevent overwhelmed individuals who are seeking escape from entering dangerous areas

▶ Low physical effort

- Playground can be enjoyed without being overly taxing
  - » Smooth and level pathways and transfer platforms, multiple routes for entry/exit/summit of play structures to give levels of challenge
  - » Make visitors aware of how much physical effort is required in an area; at Bonita Nature Place, the signage is coded to help visitors better understand how physically demanding each trail is

▶ Size and space for approach and use

- Adequate space for approach and interaction
  - » Wheelchair-accessible entrances and exits/transfer platforms
  - » Spaces for group play alongside spaces for solo breaks









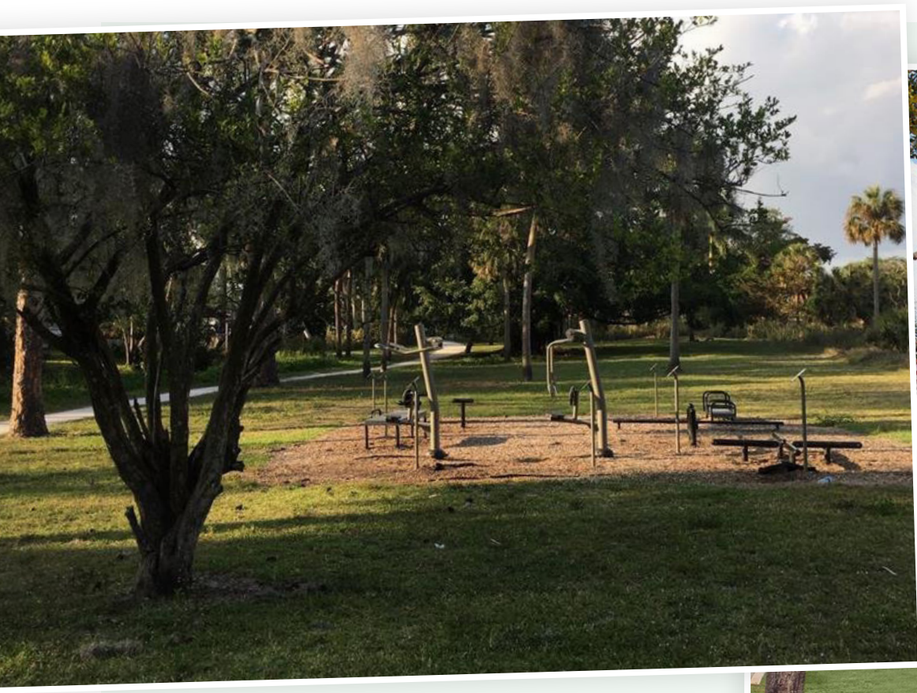
Community Events and Recreation Programs

The City of Bonita Springs offers a wide range of recreation programs, fitness classes, youth and adult sports leagues, aquatics opportunities, and signature community events through its Parks and Recreation Department. Participation across most of these offerings has held steady or grown in recent years.

Bonita Springs' recreation programming is delivered primarily through the Recreation Center on Pine Avenue and the Community Pool, with youth and adult sports leagues operating at the Bonita Soccer Complex, Marni Fields, and Bonita Community Park. The Riverside Park Bandshell serves as the City's central venue for outdoor events and community gatherings. Together, these facilities host a year-round mix of fitness classes, martial arts, youth and adult sports leagues, aquatics programming, and signature community events that serve residents of every age.

Key Findings

- The Department's programming reach is strong and broadly stable. Recreation Center membership has held steady at approximately 7,300 members for three consecutive years, and participation across fitness, sports, and aquatics programming is generally flat to growing.
- Signature events continue to anchor the community calendar. Star Spangled Bonita draws more than 35,000 people annually, and Celebrate Bonita draws a majority-resident crowd, confirming their role as genuine community gatherings rather than tourism draws.
- Facility rentals are a growth story. Bandshell rentals have tripled since 2022 to more than 40 per year, signaling strong and rising demand for quality outdoor venues. The Community Park baseball field has emerged as a new rental draw alongside it.
- Youth sports are expanding. Little League participation nearly doubled in one year, and Wildcat Kids Soccer continues to grow. Together, these programs indicate meaningful and sustained demand for youth athletics.
- Fitness and wellness programming reflects the community's demographics. Stretch and Tone grew 58 percent in two years, and Line Dance draws substantial non-member participation, pointing to strong interest in accessible wellness programming suited to the City's aging population.
- The Recreation Center serves an older, loyal membership base. More than 4,200 of the Center's roughly 7,300 members are age 55 and older, aligning directly with the demographic patterns described earlier in this plan and reinforcing the importance of active aging programming.
- Awareness, not quality, is the primary ceiling on programming reach. Nearly half of surveyed households reported not knowing where all City parks and facilities are located. The Department's offerings are strong and growing. The opportunity lies in connecting more residents to what already exists.







Funding Sources

The Department operates on an annual budget of approximately $3.6 million, funded almost entirely through the City's General Fund. Roughly 93 percent of operating costs are supported by general City revenues rather than fees or program income, reflecting a deliberate public-service model consistent with the City's broader approach to government services.

The City's General Fund draws from a diversified tax base. Property taxes and impact fees each contribute about 21 percent of total City revenues, followed by state-shared revenues, investment earnings, and other sources. Taxable property values grew 9 percent in FY2024.

A dedicated Park Impact Fee Fund supports capital investment. Fees collected from new development can only be spent on park-related projects. In FY2024, the fund brought in $731,642 in impact fees, more than double its projected $352,070, reflecting the strong construction activity in Bonita Springs. However, Park Impact Fees may be significantly limited in the future as a result of buildout.

The current Capital Improvement Plan represents a significant near-term investment in parks, such as the Riverside Park Bandshell renovations, Banyan Tree Park renovations, Leitner Soccer Complex, Community Aquatic Facility, and Baseball Complex phased renovations. With $12.6 million in new appropriations programmed over the following four years, the total planned capital investment exceeds $27 million. The majority of that investment is concentrated in the next two years. The City utilizes a pay as you go model for capital improvement projects so funding is built up year by year in order to pay for capital projects instead of using debt for funding.

Table 2: Capital Improvement Plan Budget

	Amount
Current Parks Capital Improvements (as of 1/31/25)	$14,863,137
FY2025–2026	$7,932,750
FY2026–2027	$2,650,000
FY2027–2028	$1,100,000
FY2028–2029	$950,000
TOTAL CIP	**$27,495,887**

Strategic Priorities

The strategic priorities of this Master Plan reflect what Bonita Springs residents, stakeholders, and City staff identified as most important through the planning process. They are grounded in community input, existing conditions, and the operational realities facing the parks and recreation system as the City continues to grow.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS

This Master Plan identifies four strategic priorities that guide the long-term direction of Bonita Springs Parks and Recreation. Each priority translates community expectations and organizational needs into a clear framework for decision-making—one that accounts for a rapidly developing city, finite land resources, and a community with high expectations for parks, facilities, and services.

Improve Existing Parks

Preserve Natural Resources

Expand Access

Optimize Operations



Improve Existing Parks

GOAL

Enhance the quality, comfort, and usability of Bonita Springs' existing parks by investing in modern amenities, addressing long-standing maintenance needs, and creating welcoming spaces that residents and visitors can enjoy year-round.

OBJECTIVES

- Ensure Bonita Springs' parks provide a welcoming and comfortable experience for residents and visitors across all ages, abilities, and activity levels.
- Maintain existing parks at a level that reflects community pride and expectations, supporting regular use and long-term enjoyment.
- Improve clarity and ease of navigation within parks, helping users better understand park layouts, amenities, and connections.
- Extend the useful life of park assets by addressing facility condition and functionality before deficiencies become safety or usability concerns.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

- Upgrade aging park amenities to improve comfort, usability, and overall park experience, with a focus on high-use facilities.
- Modernize playgrounds with more engaging and inclusive designs that better serve today's families and children.
- Renovate or replace restrooms to improve reliability, cleanliness, and accessibility across the park system.
- Add shade structures and seating in priority locations to address heat exposure and increase comfort, particularly during warmer months.
- Implement consistent signage improvements to help users more easily navigate parks and understand available amenities.

VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY

- When residents were asked what they wanted most from their parks, the answer was consistent across every format and every audience: improve existing parks. Upgrading aging amenities ranked as the top community priority in surveys and workshops, and the on-site analysis confirmed that the need is validated.
- Improving existing parks is the top community priority. In the community budget exercise, improving existing parks and outdoor recreational facilities ranked first overall across the statistically valid survey and public workshop, receiving the largest share of allocated funding.
- Aging amenities are a major barrier to park use. Survey results identified shade (32%) and restrooms (29%) as the most common barriers to greater park use, confirming strong demand for upgrades to comfort and basic amenities.
- Restrooms, shade, and seating are the most unmet needs. The statistically valid survey identified restrooms (12,254 households) and shade structures (12,087 households) as the top unmet needs citywide, reinforcing the importance of reinvestment in existing parks.
- Clear signage is consistently requested. Workshop participants and online feedback repeatedly called for clearer signage and better directional signage, noting difficulty navigating parks and identifying amenities.
- Community priorities align with on-site conditions. Engagement findings calling for improved maintenance, modern playgrounds, updated restrooms, shade, and seating are validated by on-site assessments, which found inconsistent conditions at older and neighborhood parks, particularly for restrooms, amenities, and signage.

Preserve Natural Resources

GOAL

Protect the natural features and green spaces that make Bonita Springs special so they remain available for future generations.

OBJECTIVES

- Maintain access to green space and quiet outdoor areas that provide opportunities for nature-based recreation, relaxation, and connection to the environment.
- Protect sensitive wildlife habitats including areas that support native species within the parks and open space system.
- Integrate conservation into recreation and growth decisions so park improvements and community development do not come at the expense of key natural resources.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

- Acquire environmentally significant land before it is no longer available, prioritizing protecting parcels that support habitat corridors, water access, and buffers for existing preserves.
- Expand low-impact access to natural areas through boardwalks, interpretive signage, kayak launches, and shaded gathering points that direct activity away from sensitive ecological zones.
- Pursue regional and state conservation partnerships, including Lee County's greenway and blueway initiatives and funding programs such as the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program and Florida Communities Trust.
- Embed conservation into capital project planning so park improvement evaluates habitat, tree canopy, and native landscape impacts from the start of design.
- Replace ornamental plantings with native and Florida-friendly species over time to reduce long-term maintenance demands while supporting pollinators, wildlife, and native ecology.

VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY

- Natural environment is central to quality of life. In the statistically valid survey, 65% of households identified the natural environment as one of the most important contributors to quality of life in Bonita Springs, placing it among the top factors defining what makes the City desirable.
- Strong willingness to fund conservation. In the community budget exercise, preserving natural areas ranked second overall, receiving approximately 20%–25% of allocated dollars across both the public workshop and statistically valid survey.
- Clear preference for conservation over new development. Residents consistently expressed a preference for improving existing parks and preserving natural areas rather than adding new parks or facilities, reinforcing a conservation first approach to growth and reinvestment.
- High priority for natural areas, trails, and greenways. Dot voting and prioritization tools ranked natural areas, hiking trails, and greenways among the top amenities residents want the City to protect and expand, aligning with support for passive recreation and land conservation.
- Broad support for protecting wetlands and undeveloped land. Open-ended comments from the online platform and ideas wall to protect wetlands, waterways, wildlife habitat, and undeveloped land.
- Support for balancing growth with environmental stewardship. Across engagement formats, residents emphasized the need to manage growth carefully while protecting natural resources, reflecting strong support for long-term conservation alongside continued development.

Expand Access

GOAL

Expand access to Bonita Springs' parks and recreational opportunities by improving connectivity, inclusivity, and awareness, so residents and visitors can more easily reach, navigate, and enjoy parks across the city.

OBJECTIVES

- Make it safer and more convenient to reach parks and travel between them, whether walking, biking, or visiting nearby destinations.
- Design park experiences that are inclusive and welcoming for families, seniors, people with disabilities, and young children.
- Improve community awareness of parks, amenities, and programs so residents know what is available and how to access it.
- Increase opportunities for residents to connect with water where appropriate, supporting recreation, enjoyment, and sense of place.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

- Integrate accessibility and inclusive design principles into park amenities and site design, supporting use by seniors, families, people with disabilities, and young children.
- Develop a coordinated approach to park signage and communication, making it easier for residents and visitors to find parks, understand amenities, and navigate the system.
- Coordinate with City departments and partners to align park access improvements with broader transportation, mobility, and community initiatives.
- Evaluate opportunities for additional water access within the parks system, balancing recreation needs with environmental and safety considerations.



VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY

- Trails and greenways are the highest-priority access investment. In the public workshop amenity poll, a rail trail/greenway system received 77 votes, making it the single most popular amenity. Trails and greenways also ranked among the highest priorities across surveys and online engagement tools.
- Inclusive and age-friendly access is a community expectation. Engagement input emphasized the need for parks that support older adults, families, and people with disabilities, including smooth walking surfaces, accessible seating, and inclusive play opportunities. These priorities align with findings from the inclusive facilities and sensory assessment.
- Awareness is a significant access gap. In the statistically valid survey, 45% of households reported not knowing where all parks and facilities are located, contributing to underuse of smaller parks and natural areas. Public workshops and online feedback repeatedly called for clearer signage and improved park maps.

Optimize Operations

GOAL

Strengthen the City's ability to operate, maintain, and manage parks and recreation services by improving reliability, consistency, and internal systems that support long-term success.

OBJECTIVES:

- Park facilities, playgrounds, and equipment are maintained and replaced in a predictable and consistent manner, reducing unexpected failures and deferred maintenance.
- Community events and recreation programs are dependable and well supported, allowing residents to confidently plan participation year after year.
- Operational decisions are informed by accurate, up-to-date information, improving efficiency, transparency, and long-term planning.
- Staff capacity and resources are aligned with system needs, supporting safe, effective, and sustainable operations.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS:

- Establish and maintain lifecycle-based maintenance and replacement schedules for playgrounds, facilities, and major equipment to guide budgeting and capital planning.
- Use condition data and asset information to prioritize maintenance and reinvestment, ensuring limited resources are directed to the highest-need areas.
- Formalize operational practices that support consistent delivery of programs and events, reducing reliance on ad-hoc or short-term fixes.
- Improve internal technology and tracking systems to better manage assets, work orders, scheduling, and operational performance.
- Align staffing strategies, training, and workflows with operational demands, supporting both day-to-day service delivery and long-term system management.
- Use operational data to inform decision-making and communicate needs, supporting transparency with leadership, partners, and the community.
- Continue to build on park and facilities GIS database developed through this master planning process.



VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY

- 82% of residents are satisfied with park maintenance, and 64% of parks were rated well-maintained or above average—but consistency remains a theme, particularly at older/smaller facilities.
- In the survey, shade (32%) and restrooms (29%) were major barriers to greater park use.
- The system's operational demand is high: over 1.3 million park visits in 2024 and growing rentals (e.g., Bandshell rentals reached 41 in 2024), underscoring the need for strong internal systems and staffing capacity.

Future Park Maps and Potential Parcels

The following pages present future park maps and potential park parcels under consideration. Inclusion here does not guarantee that these parcels will be developed as parks. Rather, they represent parcels that align with the priorities identified through this master plan, which point to a future need for additional parkland in Bonita Springs. Documenting these opportunities now allows the City to move strategically as acquisition, partnership, or development opportunities arise.

Each future park profile includes a set of criteria that were evaluated to assess the parcel's potential. These criteria are described below and outlined on the following pages.

LOCATION

Whether the parcel is centrally located to Bonita Springs residents, expands park access to a new area of the community, or sits in proximity to existing parks or other City-owned property.

PROPERTY SIZE

The size and shape of the parcel, and how well those dimensions support potential park uses.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Vegetation currently on site, along with existing facilities on or near the parcel such as parking, restrooms, shade structures, and utilities.

PROXIMITY TO TRAILS AND PARKS

How conveniently the parcel is located to existing or planned parks and trails in the system.

PROXIMITY TO WATER

Whether the parcel sits adjacent to existing or proposed waterways, including lakes, rivers, creeks, or the gulf waters.

PROXIMITY TO EXISTING FACILITIES

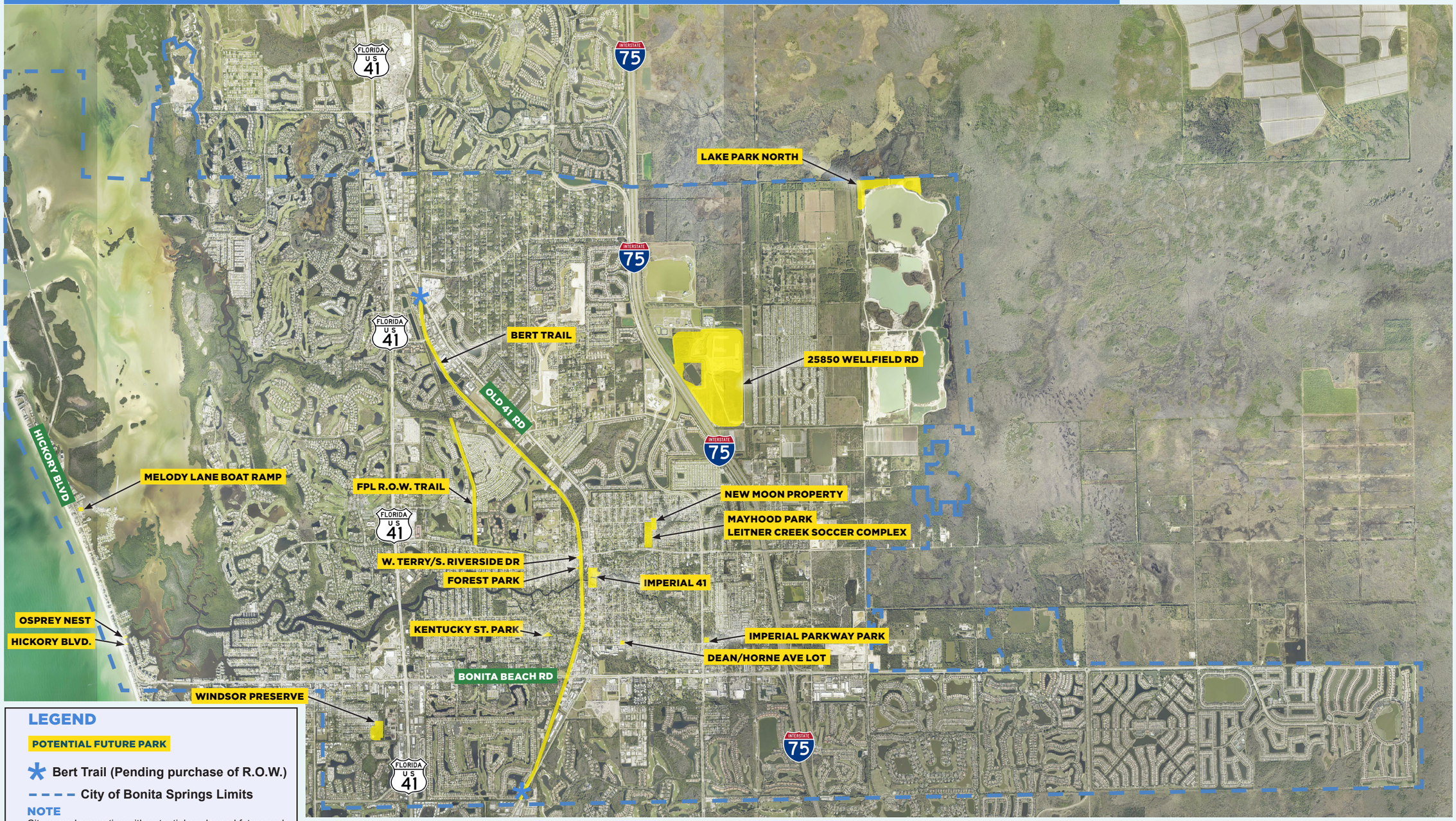
How conveniently the parcel is located to existing or planned facilities, parking areas, restrooms, shade structures, and utilities.

ADJACENCY TO PRESERVES

Whether the parcel is adjacent to or in close proximity to existing preserve lands.



CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS - POTENTIAL FUTURE PARKS MAP



LEGEND

POTENTIAL FUTURE PARK

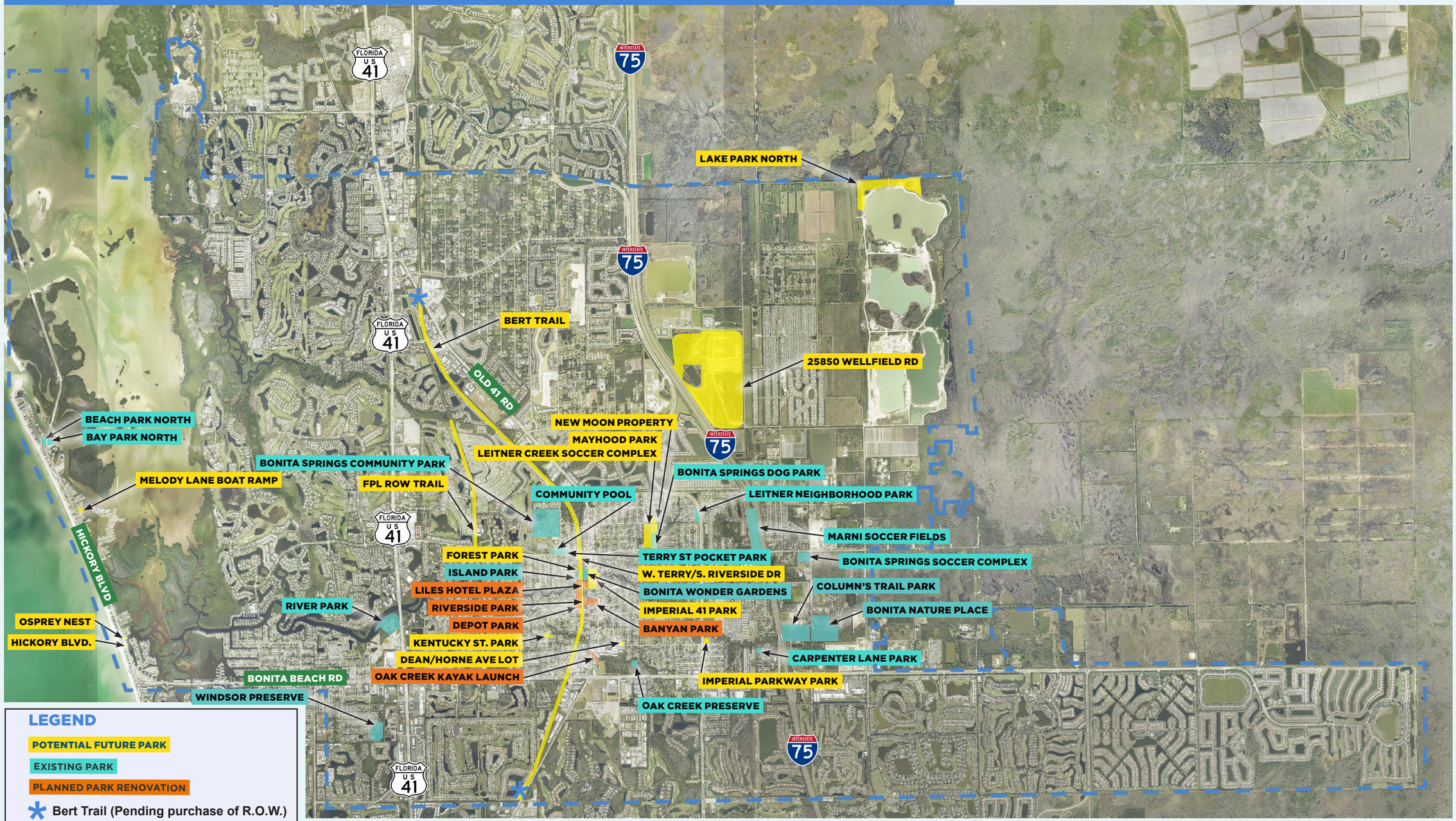
* Bert Trail (Pending purchase of R.O.W.)

City of Bonita Springs Limits

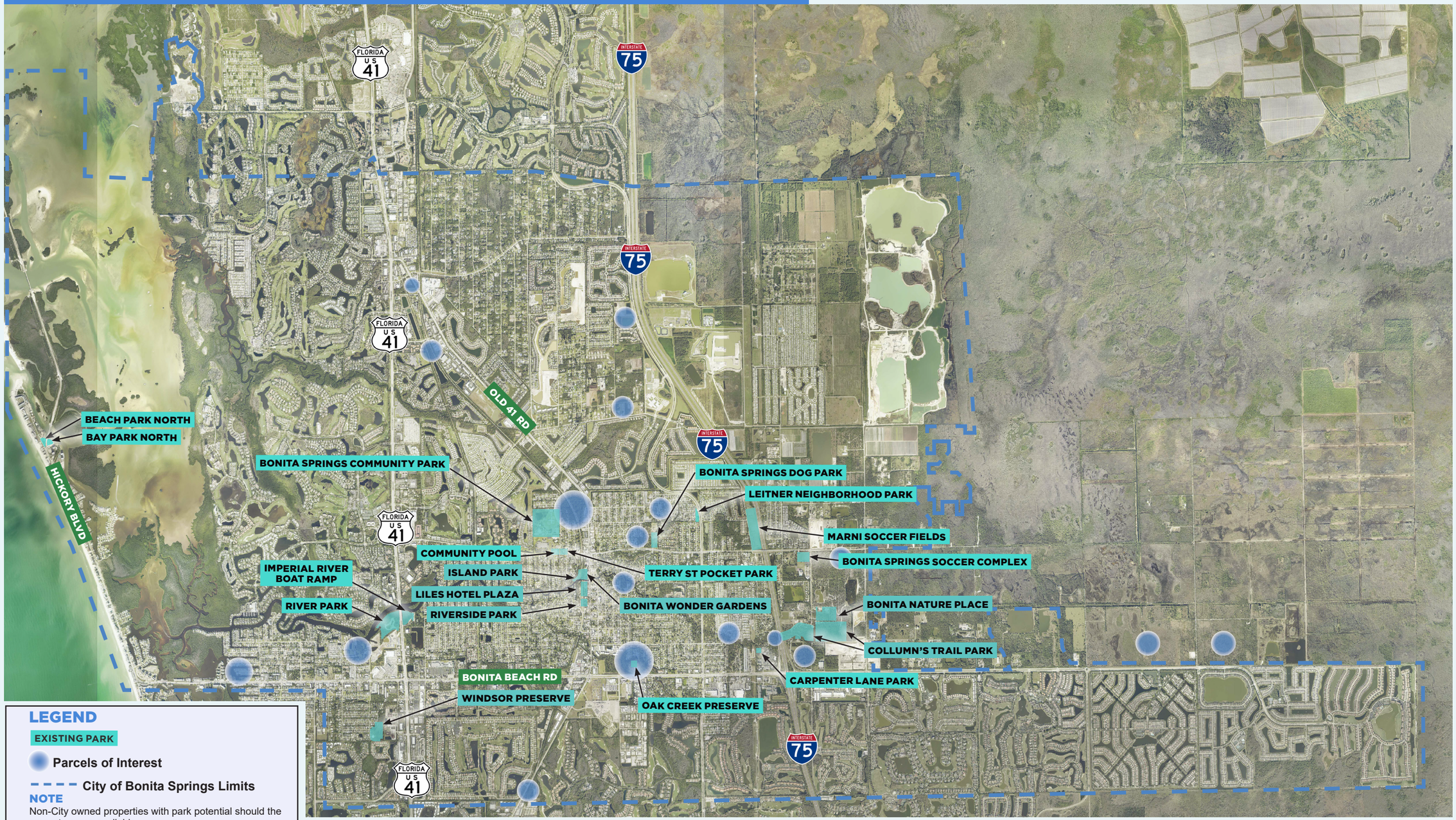
NOTE

City owned properties with potential or planned future park improvements.

CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS - OVERALL PARKS MAP



POTENTIAL FUTURE PARCELS OF INTEREST



LEGEND

EXISTING PARK

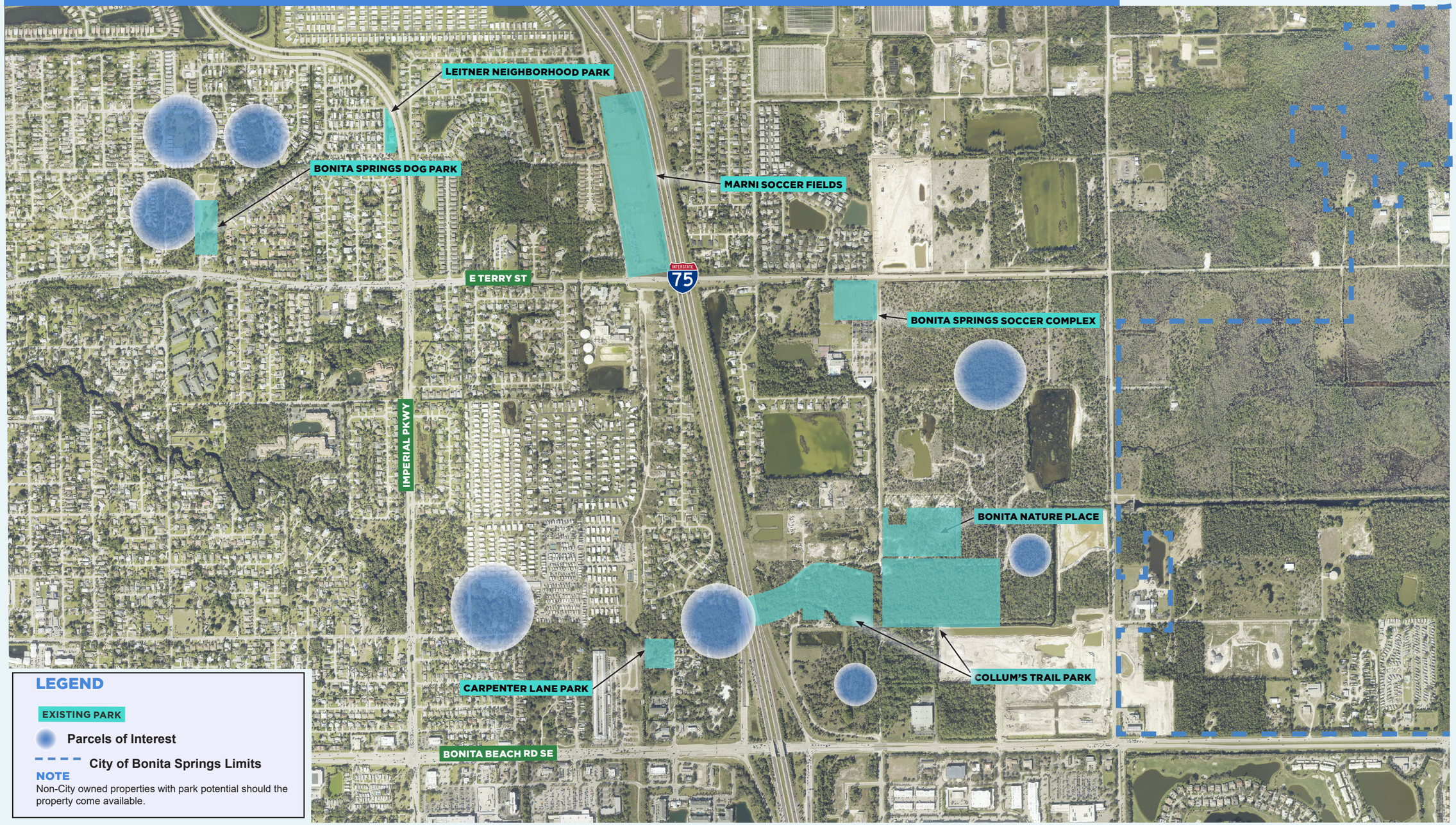
Parcels of Interest

City of Bonita Springs Limits

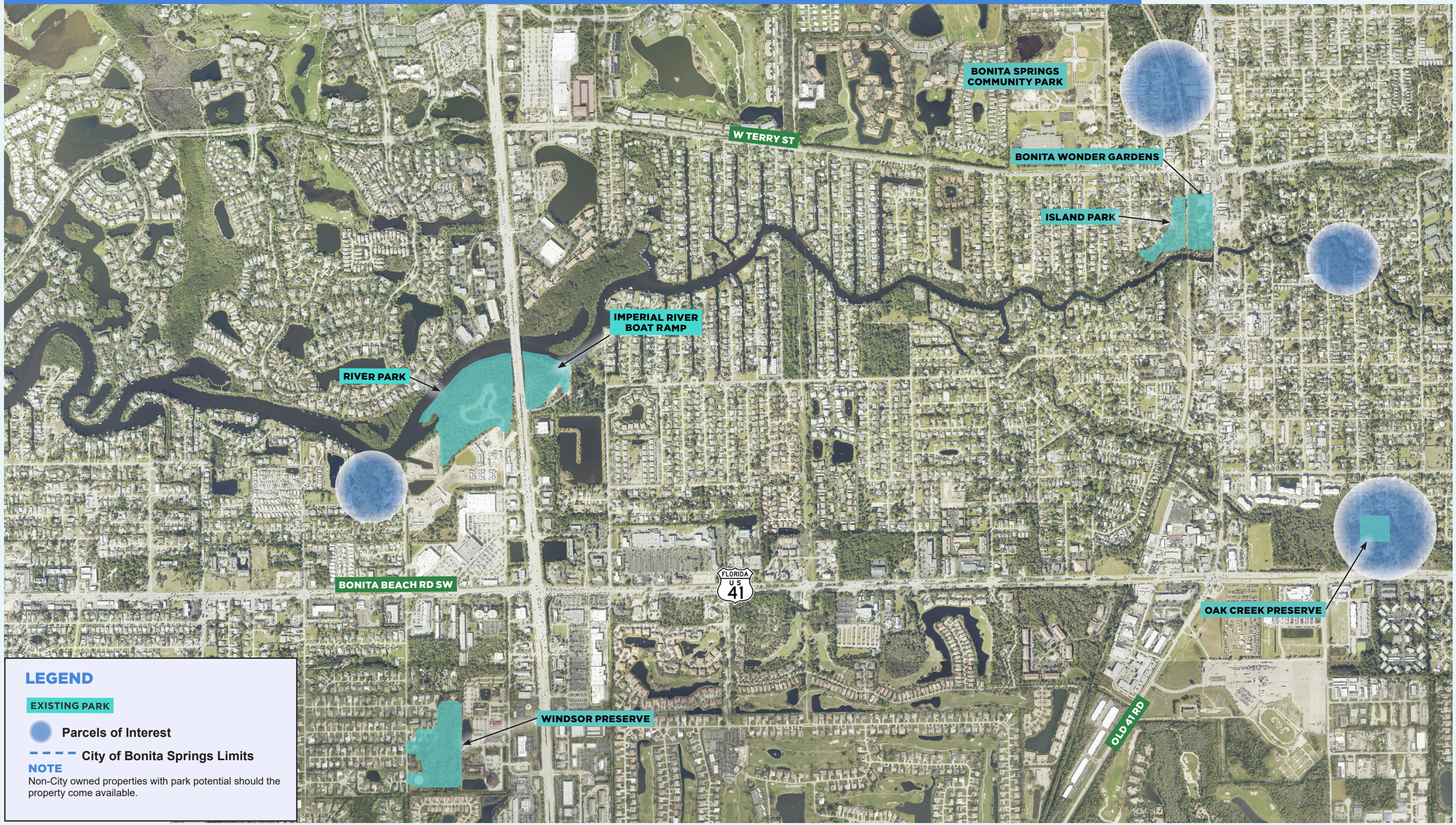
NOTE

Non-City owned properties with park potential should the property come available.

POTENTIAL FUTURE PARCELS OF INTEREST ENHANCED EAST



POTENTIAL FUTURE PARCELS OF INTEREST ENHANCED WEST



Bonita Estero Rail Trail (BERT)

BERT is a planned multi-use trail that will transform an inactive rail corridor into a continuous route for walking, bicycling, running, and other forms of recreation. Extending approximately 11.4 miles between Bonita Springs and Estero, with roughly 5.8 miles located within the city limits, the trail has the potential to become one of the region's most significant active transportation and recreation corridors. The trail will help connect neighborhoods, parks, schools, businesses, and community destinations while providing a safer alternative to traveling along major roadways.

In August 2026, Bonita Springs voters approved the bond referendum needed to fund the City's share of the corridor acquisition, demonstrating strong community support for the project and allowing the City to move forward with land acquisition efforts and subsequent planning and design activities. The approval represents a major milestone toward preserving the rail corridor for public use and advancing a long-envisioned regional trail connection. While additional steps remain, including acquisition, design, permitting, and construction, BERT is expected to play an important role in expanding the City's trail network, improving pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, and increasing access to parks and recreational opportunities throughout Bonita Springs and the surrounding area.

This project supports many of the goals identified throughout this master plan by enhancing connectivity, reducing barriers to non-motorized travel, and strengthening links between residents and recreational amenities across the community.



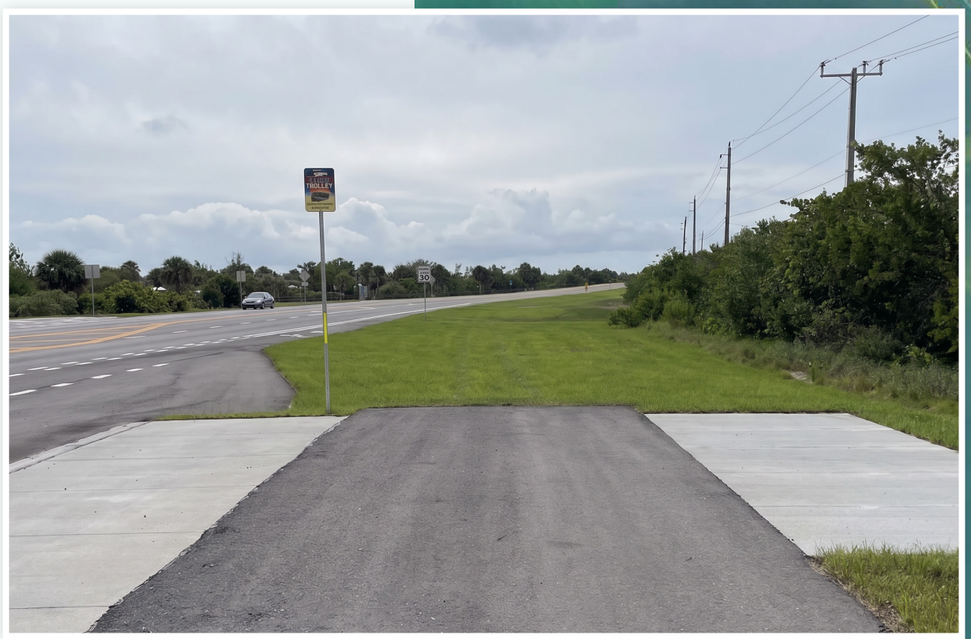
Estero Boulevard SUN Trail

The Estero Boulevard SUN Trail is a planned off-road shared-use path that will provide a safer and more connected route for people walking and bicycling between Fort Myers Beach and Bonita Springs. The project is being supported through SUN Trail grant funding and is intended to create a dedicated trail along the Gulf side of Estero Boulevard, connecting the areas around Big Carlos Pass, Little Carlos Pass, and New Pass.

The project is currently in the design phase. The County has completed approximately 30 percent of the design, and those plans are presently undergoing an electronic review process for comments and feedback. At this stage, detailed public renderings or conceptual drawings have not yet been developed, so the final appearance of the trail and its surrounding features is still being refined.

Based on the current plans, the completed trail is expected to consist primarily of a 12-foot-wide shared-use path located on the Gulf side of Estero Boulevard. The path will provide an off-road facility for pedestrians and bicyclists, improving connectivity between the communities while keeping users separated from roadway traffic. At the South end of the trail, the path will connect to existing infrastructure along Hickory Boulevard.

The project remains subject to additional design development and review before construction can begin. As the design advances, additional information about the trail's appearance, features, and construction will become available. Current planning anticipates continued progress toward construction in the coming years, with the project ultimately creating a continuous, off-road connection along this portion of Estero Boulevard.





10440 WEST TERRY STREET

PARCEL SUMMARY

10440 W Terry Street

Approx 10,498 Ft²

EXISTING ASSESSMENT

- Located within residential neighborhood
- Proximity to central downtown Bonita Springs
- Proximity to existing parks and sidewalks
- Located just north of Island and Forest park

KEY ASSETS

- Located central downtown Bonita Springs
- Proximity to Rail Road/BERT trail
- Proximity to existing parking areas
- Located near existing parks

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Rest station
- Bike repair kiosk
- Welcome to downtown Bonita Springs park
- Potential trailhead for BERT

PARCEL COMPONENT RATING

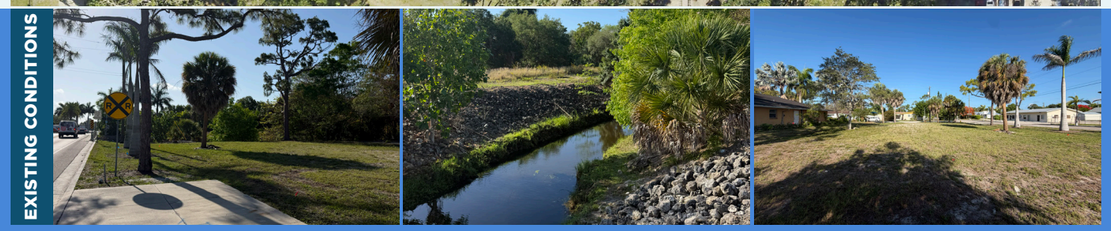
1 Low Quality/Basic 2 Medium Quality/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - -- Not Available

Location	Property Size	Existing Conditions	Proximity to Trails/ Parks	Proximity t0 Water	Proximity to existing facilities	Adjacency to parking	Adjacency to preserves
3	1	2	3	2	2	2	1

Park Map



EXISTING CONDITIONS





25850 WELLFIELD ROAD

Approx. 237 Acre

25850 Wellfield Road

EXISTING ASSESSMENT

- Bounded by I-75 on the west
- Adjacent to industrial uses, residential neighborhoods, and transportation infrastructure
- Excellent visibility from I-75, creating an opportunity for a regional destination park
- Large land parcel currently utilized for public works
- Existing vegetation in the NW corner of property
- Access roads have gravel surfaces and do not contain sidewalks

KEY ASSETS

- Large property size
- Existing vegetation
- Visibility from interstate
- Existing large lake

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ecological restoration zone
- Larger regional park opportunity
- Kayaking
- Paddleboarding
- Nature trails and boardwalks
- Fishing ponds

PARCEL COMPONENT RATING

1 Low Quality/Basic **2** Medium Quality/Good **3** High Quality/Excellent **-** -- Not Available

Location	Property Size	Existing Conditions	Proximity to Trails/ Parks	Proximity to Water	Proximity to existing facilities	Adjacency to parking	Adjacency to preserves
2	3	1	1	2	1	1	1

Park Map



EXISTING CONDITIONS





27701 DONEGAL DRIVE

PARCEL SUMMARY

27701 Donegal Drive

Approx. 1 Acre

EXISTING ASSESSMENT

- No existing access currently
- No parking or trails
- Existing heavy vegetation
- Abuts Imperial river

ASSETS

- Located along Imperial River
- Proximity to existing sidewalks
- Central location in Bonita Springs

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Possible water treatment
- River access, kayak launch
- Viewing platform
- Fishing
- Wildlife viewing
- Enhanced landscape

PARCEL COMPONENT RATING

1 Low Quality/Basic 2 Medium Quality/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - -- Not Available

Location	Property Size	Existing Conditions	Proximity to Trails/ Parks	Proximity to Water	Proximity to existing facilities	Adjacency to parking	Adjacency to preserves
2	1	2	2	3	1	1	2

Park Map



EXISTING CONDITIONS

27733 HORNE AVENUE

PARCEL SUMMARY

27733 Horne Avenue

Approx. 17,235 Ft²

EXISTING ASSESSMENT

- Located within residential neighborhood
- Existing vegetation
- Pedestrian sidewalk across Dean street

KEY ASSETS

- Located within residential neighborhood
- Connected to existing sidewalk on Dean st.
- Existing Vegetation

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Neighborhood playground to replace former elementary playground
- Shaded seating area and/or picnic pavilion
- Enhanced landscape
- On-street parking

PARCEL COMPONENT RATING

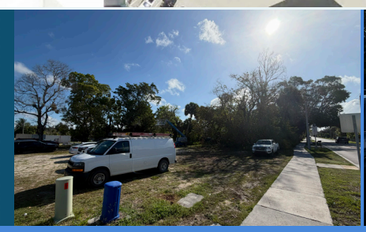
1 Low Quality/Basic 2 Medium Quality/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - -- Not Available

Location	Property Size	Existing Conditions	Proximity to Trails/ Parks	Proximity to Water	Proximity to existing facilities	Adjacency to parking	Adjacency to preserves
2	1	2	2	1	1	1	-

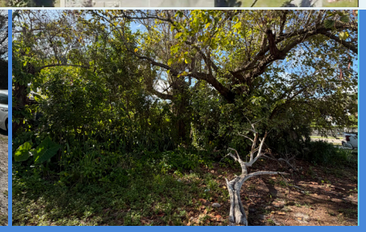
Park Map



EXISTING CONDITIONS









BANYAN TREE PARK

Approx. 1 Acre

10520 Reynold Street

PARK SUMMARY

Located in the heart of downtown Bonita Springs, Banyan Tree Park is home to a historic banyan tree that has been a fixture of downtown for decades. The park has limited seating opportunities and features several art sculptures. The park is utilized by local events hosted by the city throughout the year.

PROGRAMMING & USES

- Signage describing history of Banyan tree and other historic elements
- Construction underway for splash pad, restroom facility, shade structures, ADA walkways, and feature lighting

KEY ASSETS

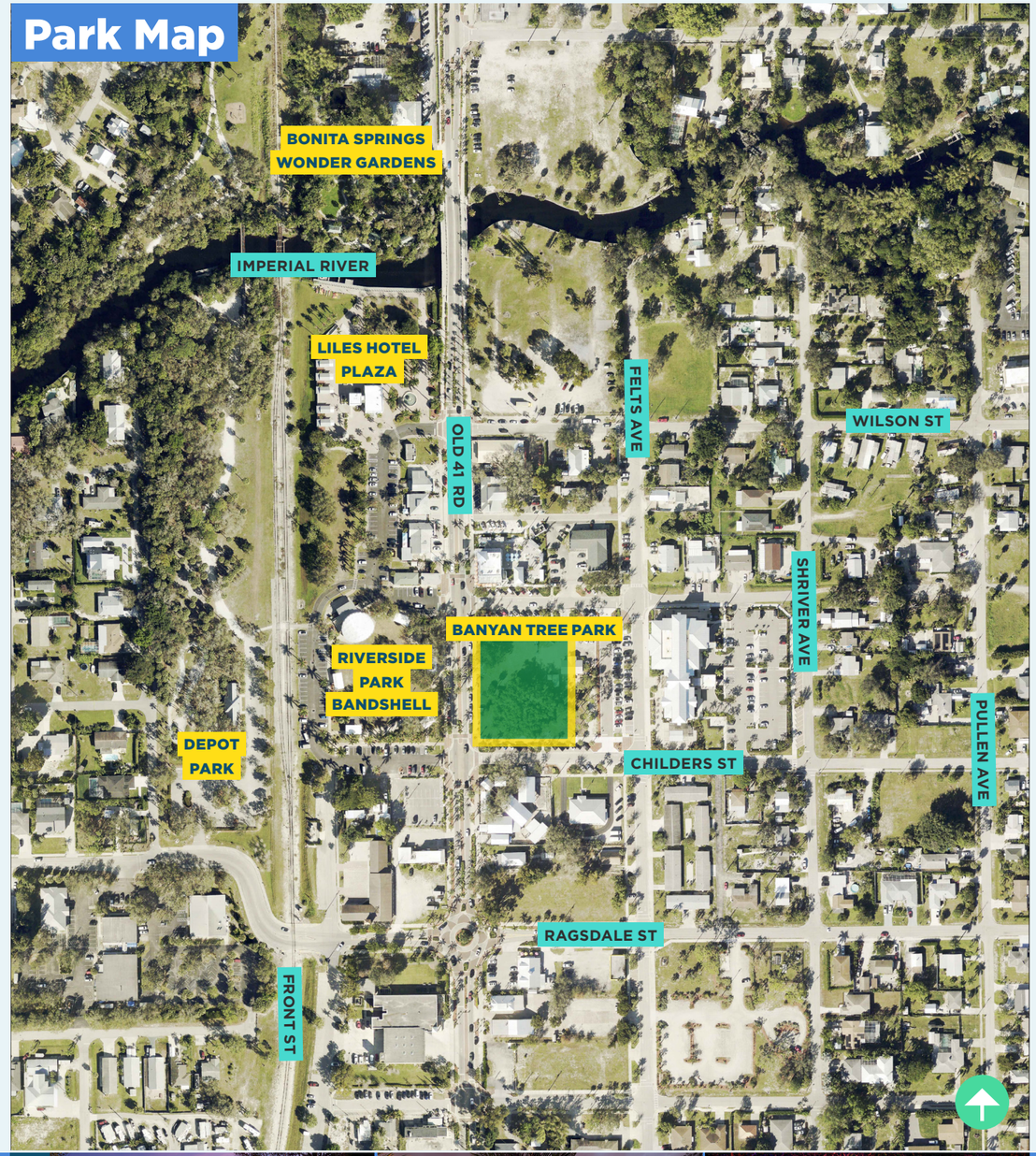
- +/- 1 Acres
- Art sculptures
- Historic banyan tree
- Public on-street parking
- Benches & bus stop
- Open lawn
- Waste receptacles
- Bike racks
- Mature canopy
- Rotary clock
- Blue star memorial
- Fallen officers memorial

PARK COMPONENT RATING

1 Needs Improvement/Basic 2 Meets Expectation/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - Not Available

Location	Property Size	Existing Conditions	Proximity to Trails/ Parks	Proximity to Water	Proximity to existing facilities	Adjacency to parking	Adjacency to preserves
3	2	1	3	3	3	3	-

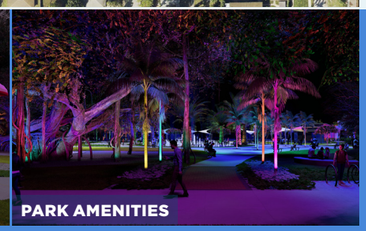
Park Map



FEATURED PHOTOS









FUTURE PARK MAPS AND POTENTIAL PARCELS

FOREST PARK

PARCEL SUMMARY

Forest park Avenue & S Riverside Drive

Approx. 4,356 Ft²

EXISTING ASSESSMENT

- Mature existing native trees and palms
- Fruit trees and bamboo stand
- Large grass open space
- Smaller property size
- Full access along two of three sides of parcel

KEY ASSETS

- Existing vegetation
- Located in downtown Bonita Springs
- Provides neighborhood connection

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Enhanced pocket park
- Tot lot play area
- Shaded seating area
- On-street parking
- Enhanced landscape

PARCEL COMPONENT RATING

1 Low Quality/Basic 2 Medium Quality/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - -- Not Available

Location	Property Size	Existing Conditions	Proximity to Trails/ Parks	Proximity to Water	Proximity to existing facilities	Adjacency to parking	Adjacency to preserves
3	1	1	3	2	3	2	1

Park Map



EXISTING CONDITIONS





FPL R.O.W. TRAIL

PARCEL SUMMARY

W. Terry St. & 26180 Pueblo Bonito Boulevard

Approx. 5.32 Acre

EXISTING ASSESSMENT

- Existing gravel FPL access road and easement
- Existing connection from residential neighborhoods to W. Terry Street.
- Existing vegetation on either side of access road
- 10’ Sidewalk with protective bollards bisects south end
- Water access to Spring Creek

KEY ASSETS

- Proximity to sidewalks at W. Terry Street
- Provides residential neighborhood connection
- Existing gravel access road

RECOMMENDATIONS

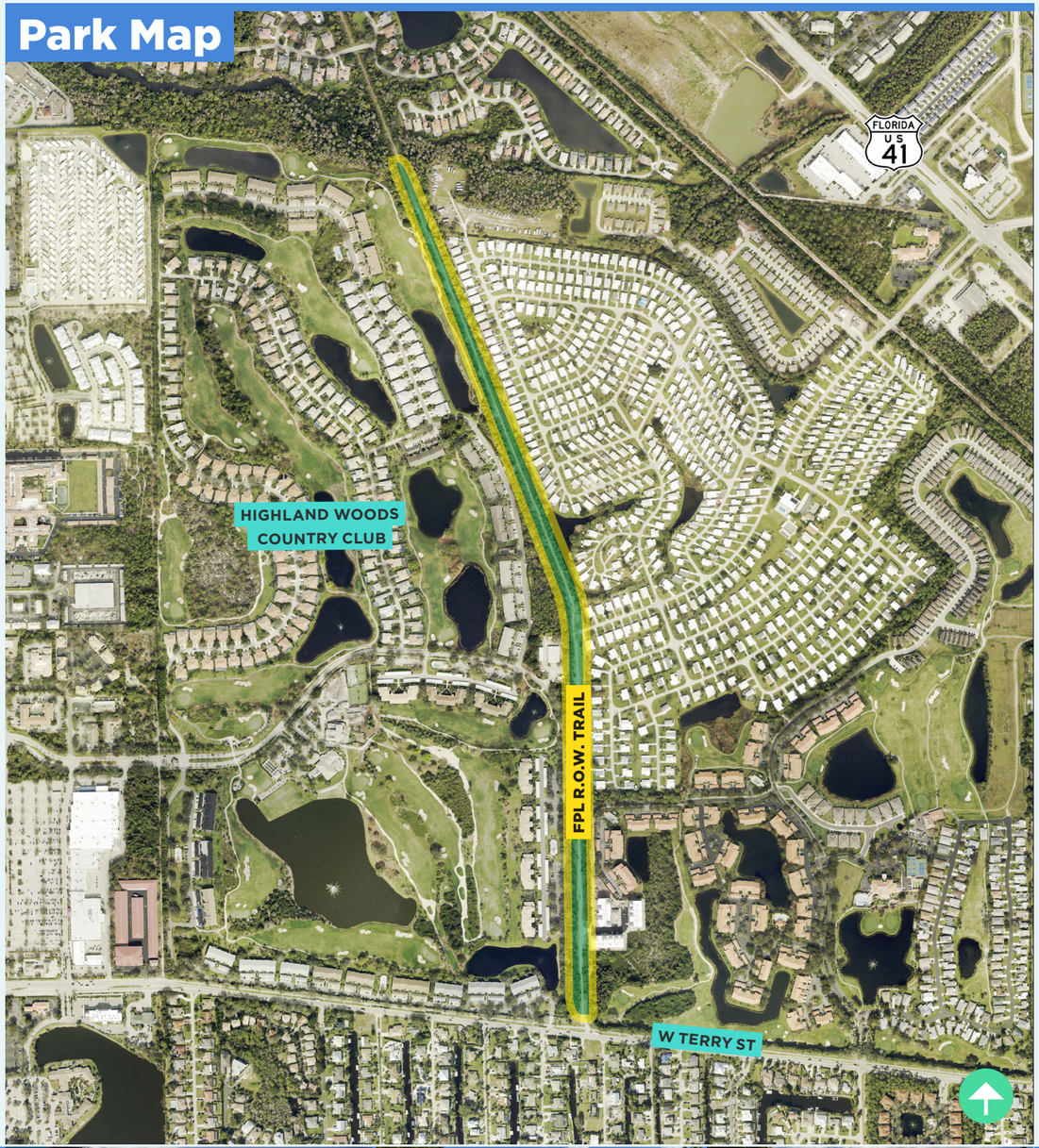
- Enhanced trail features:
  - Lighting
  - Signage
  - Bike
  - Pedestrian
- Shaded rest area
- Water station
- Spring Creek observation platform

PARCEL COMPONENT RATING

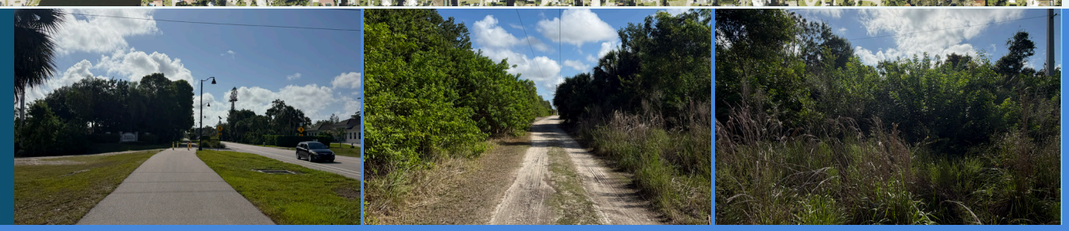
1 Low Quality/Basic 2 Medium Quality/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - -- Not Available

Location	Property Size	Existing Conditions	Proximity to Trails/ Parks	Proximity to Water	Proximity to existing facilities	Adjacency to parking	Adjacency to preserves
2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2

Park Map



EXISTING CONDITIONS





HICKORY BLVD.

PARCEL SUMMARY

Hickory Boulevard

Approx. 3,398 ft²

EXISTING ASSESSMENT

- Located off Hickory Boulevard in western Bonita Springs
- Existing sidewalk connection along Hickory Boulevard
- Abuts the Estero Bay
- Existing vegetation with Mangroves
- Located between residential parcels

KEY ASSETS

- Site faces waterway
- Adjacent to Bonita Springs public access parking
- Existing vegetation
- Existing sidewalk
- Abuts residential parcels

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Bay access
- Paddleboard / Kayak launch
- Limited parking

PARCEL COMPONENT RATING

1 Low Quality/Basic 2 Medium Quality/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - -- Not Available

Location	Property Size	Existing Conditions	Proximity to Trails/ Parks	Proximity to a Water	Proximity to existing facilities	Adjacency to parking	Adjacency to preserves
2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2

Park Map



EXISTING CONDITIONS





MELODY LANE

PARCEL SUMMARY

Hickory Boulevard

Approx. 2,011 ft²

EXISTING ASSESSMENT

- Site faces Hogue Channel
- Existing vegetation with mature Mangroves
- Nearby public parking
- Abuts residential parcels
- Existing vegetation
- Adjacent to Lee County public access parking
- Site faces waterway

RECOMMENDATIONS

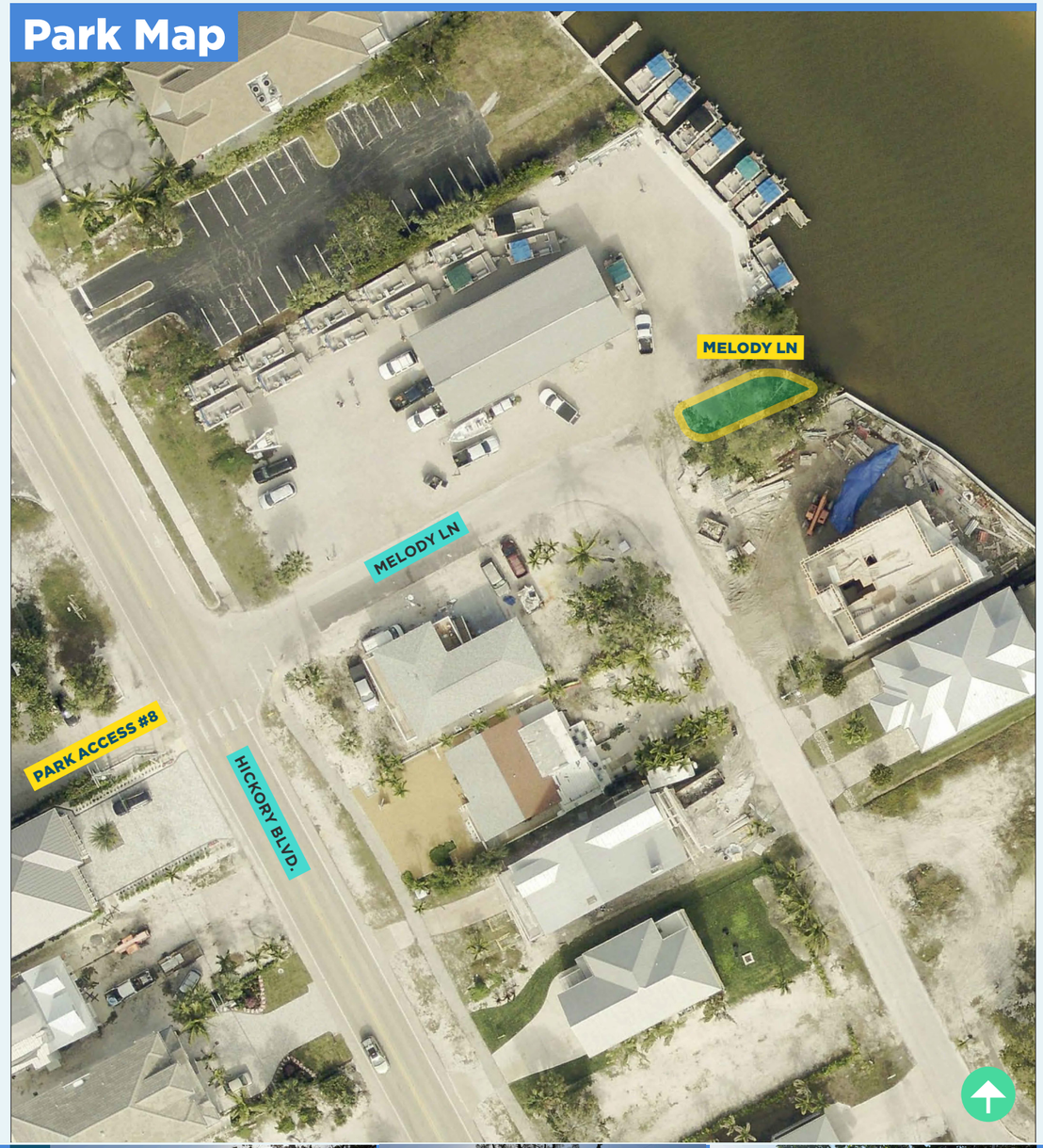
- Public boat ramp
- Water access

PARCEL COMPONENT RATING

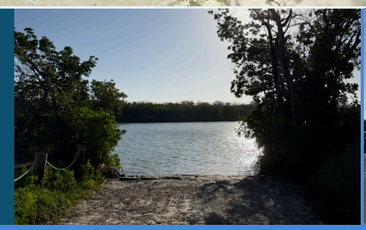
1 Low Quality/Basic 2 Medium Quality/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - -- Not Available

Location	Property Size	Existing Conditions	Proximity to Trails/ Parks	Proximity to water	Proximity to existing facilities	Adjacency to parking	Adjacency to preserves
2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2

Park Map



EXISTING CONDITIONS









OSPREY NEST

PARCEL SUMMARY

Hickory Boulevard

Approx. 4,442 ft²

EXISTING ASSESSMENT

- Located off Hickory Boulevard in western Bonita Springs
- Existing sidewalk connection along Hickory Blvd.
- Abuts Estero Bay
- Existing vegetation, Mangroves Estero bay
- Located between residential parcels

KEY ASSETS

- Adjacent to waterway
- Existing vegetation
- On site Osprey nest
- Adjacent to Lee County public access parking
- Existing sidewalk

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Bay access
- Boardwalk
- Wildlife viewing

PARCEL COMPONENT RATING

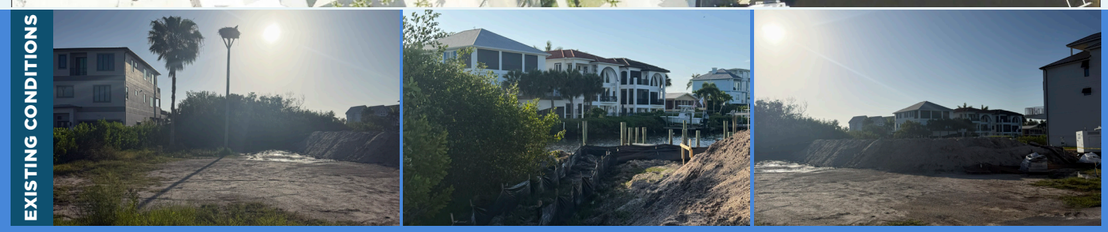
1 Low Quality/Basic 2 Medium Quality/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - -- Not Available

Location	Property Size	Existing Conditions	Proximity to Trails/ Parks	Proximity to Water	Proximity to existing facilities	Adjacency to parking	Adjacency to preserves
2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2

Park Map



EXISTING CONDITIONS





IMPERIAL 41 PARK

PARCEL SUMMARY

10580 Goodwin Street

Approx. 5.3 Acre

Imperial 41 Park is a mixed-use public/private partnership. The property will feature a public park with restrooms, parking, fire pit, bicycle parking, kayak launch, crushed shell walking path, and open space event area.

EXISTING ASSESSMENT

- Centrally located in downtown Bonita Springs
- City owned parcel dissected by the Imperial River
- Proximity to utilities and existing parks
- Seawall
- Located in a flow way zone
- Under development as part of public/private partnership
- Planned park

KEY ASSETS

- Location is in the center of Bonita Springs
- Connection with Imperial River
- Adjacent to Old 41 road, Wonder Gardens, Riverside Park, and Liles Hotel Plaza
- Easily accessed by vehicles and pedestrians

PLANNED PARK FEATURES

- Fire pit
- Kayak launch
- Park restrooms
- Open space with crushed shell river walk

PARCEL COMPONENT RATING

1 Low Quality/Basic 2 Medium Quality/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - -- Not Available

Location	Property Size	Existing Conditions	Proximity to Trails/ Parks	Proximity to Water	Proximity to existing facilities	Adjacency to parking	Adjacency to preserves
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1

Park Map



FUTURE RENDERINGS







KENTUCKY STREET PARK

PARCEL SUMMARY

10036 Kentucky Street

Approx. 33,728 Ft²

EXISTING ASSESSMENT

- Located within residential neighborhood
- Mature existing pine upland mix vegetation
- Proximity to existing creek

KEY ASSETS

- Existing mature native vegetation
- Proximity to existing creek
- Existing sidewalk connections

RECOMMENDATIONS

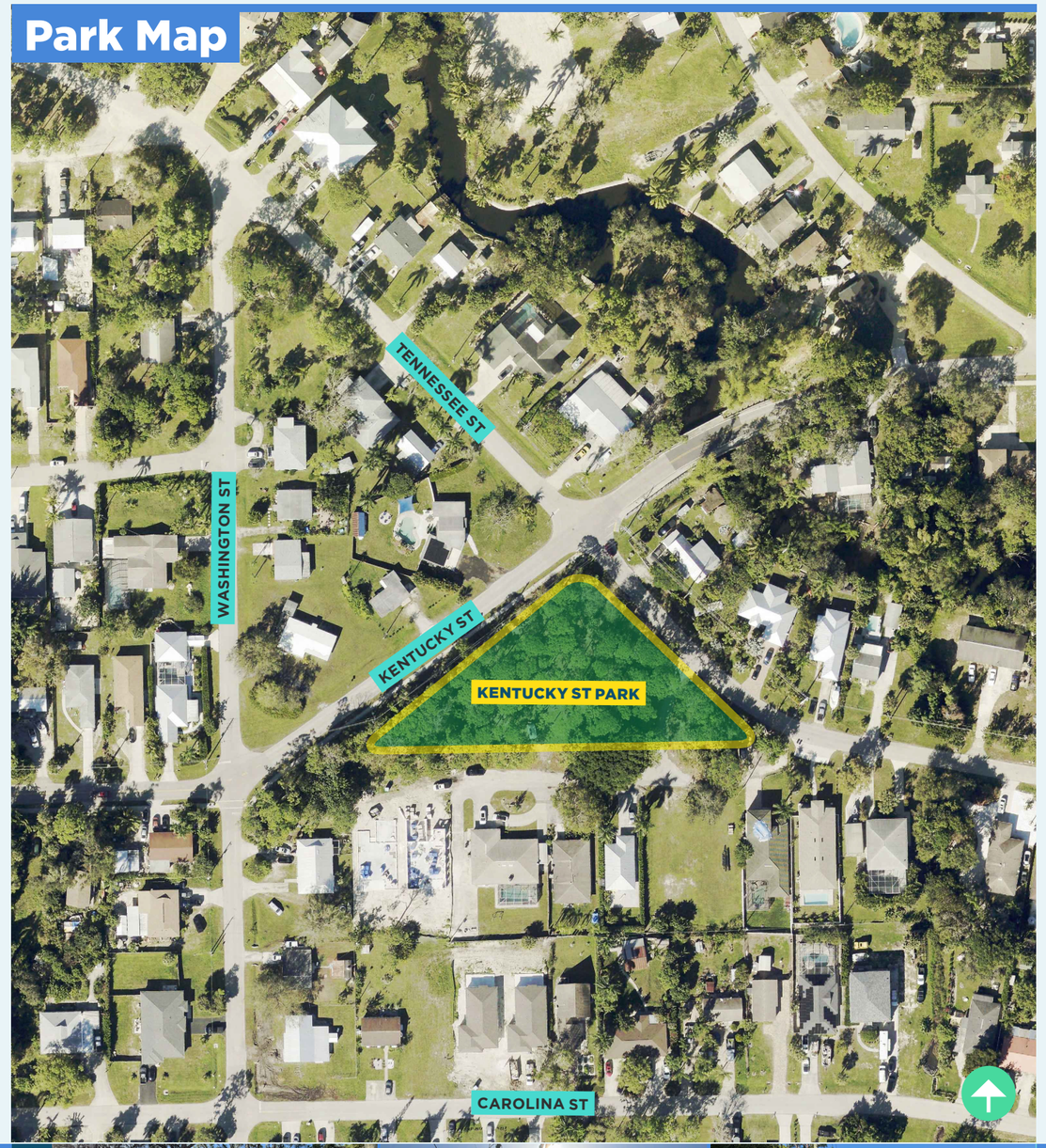
- Small neighborhood park and amenities
- Playground
- Benches
- Bike racks
- Shade structure
- On-street parking

PARCEL COMPONENT RATING

1 Low Quality/Basic 2 Medium Quality/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - -- Not Available

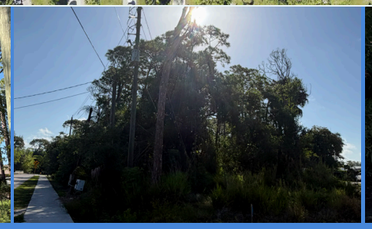
Location	Property Size	Existing Conditions	Proximity to Trails/ Parks	Proximity to Water	Proximity to existing facilities	Adjacency to parking	Adjacency to preserves
2	1	2	2	3	2	1	1

Park Map



EXISTING CONDITIONS







LAKE PARK NORTH

Bonita Grande Drive

PARCEL SUMMARY

Approx. 30 Acre

EXISTING ASSESSMENT

- Site is currently detention areas and vacant land with no infrastructure
- Future connection with Bonita Grande Mine road extension
- Existing large lake with ability to use for passive boating/kayaking
- Future multi-use trail along Bonita Grande Mine road extension
- Adjacent to existing preserve lands

KEY ASSETS

- Proximity to Preserve
- Proximity to multi-use trail
- Provides park location for residents of Eastern Bonita Springs
- Views to water and preserve that will remain undeveloped

RECOMMENDATIONS

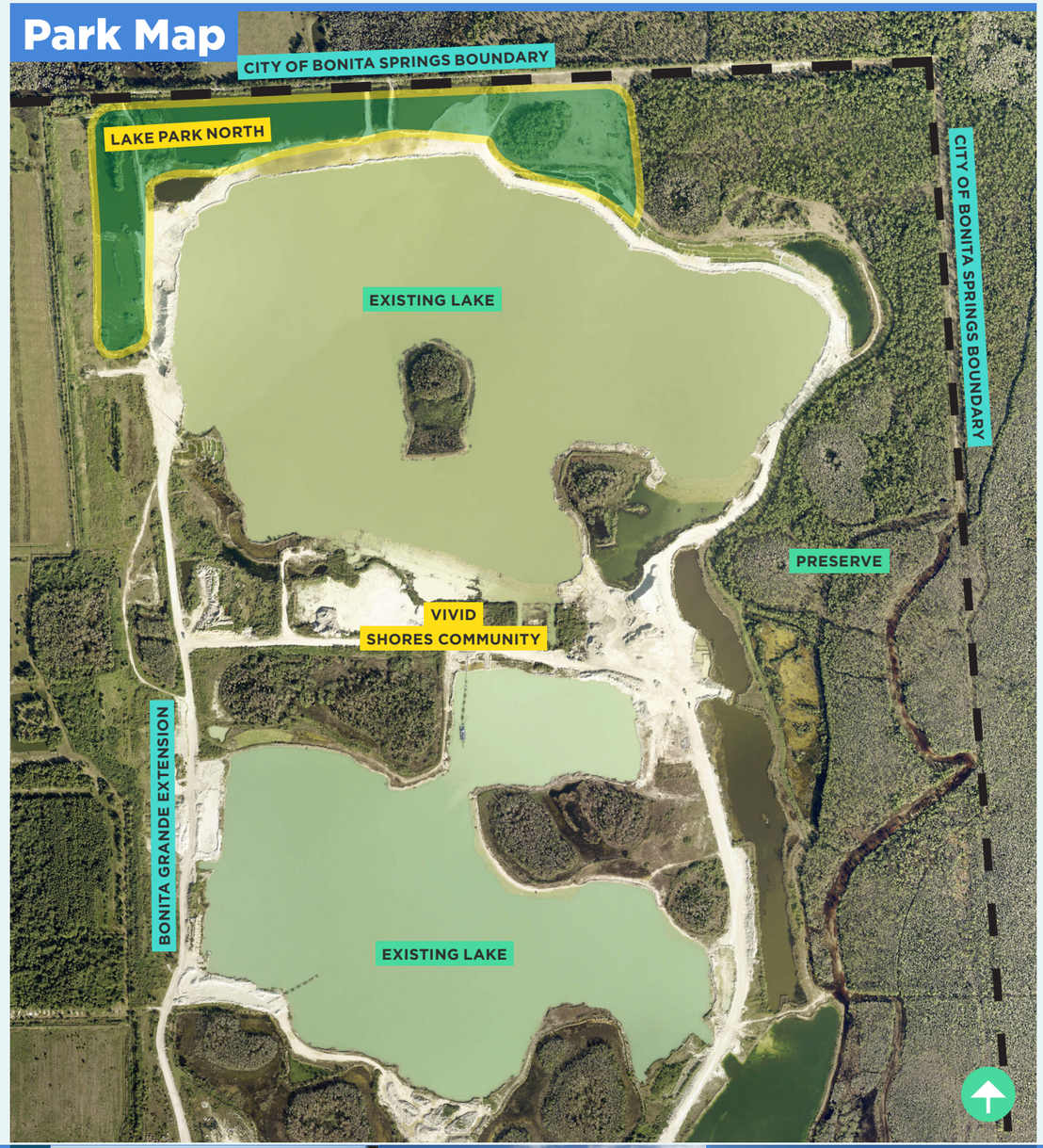
- Large Lake Activities:
  - Paddleboarding
  - Kayaking
  - Water recreation
  - Fishing
- Hiking trails
- Wildlife viewing

PARCEL COMPONENT RATING

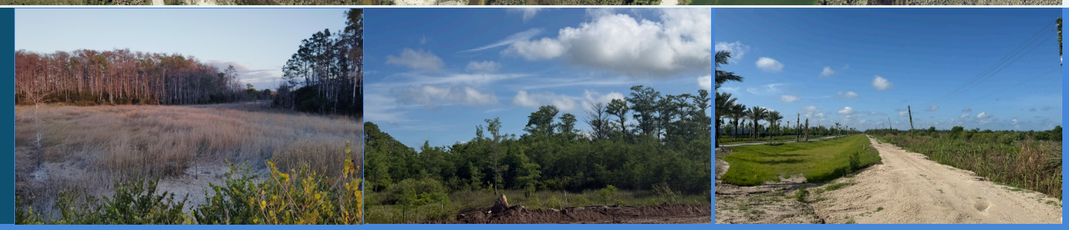
1 Low Quality/Basic 2 Medium Quality/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - -- Not Available

Location	Property Size	Existing Conditions	Proximity to Trails/ Parks	Proximity to Water	Proximity to existing facilities	Adjacency to parking	Adjacency to preserves
3	2	3	3	3	2	1	3

Park Map



EXISTING CONDITIONS





LEITNER CREEK SOCCER COMPLEX

PARCEL SUMMARY

11071 E Terry Street

Approx. 16.58 Acre

EXISTING ASSESSMENT

- Existing native preserve
- Existing passive trails
- Centrally located within Bonita
- Proximity to neighborhoods
- Existing parking lot
- Existing playground, pavilion and bench seating
- Adjacent to dog park

KEY ASSETS

- Existing preserve vegetation
- Proximity to neighborhoods
- Existing passive trails
- Existing infrastructure and parking
- Large city-owned parcel

PLANNED PARK FEATURES

- (4) Youth soccer fields
- Concessions building with restrooms, meeting rooms and storage
- Shaded playground and spectator seating
- Enhanced native landscape
- Enhanced connectivity

PARCEL COMPONENT RATING

1 Low Quality/Basic 2 Medium Quality/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - -- Not Available

Location	Property Size	Existing Conditions	Proximity to Trails/ Parks	Proximity to Water	Proximity to existing facilities	Adjacency to parking	Adjacency to preserves
2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2

Park Map



FUTURE RENDERINGS





NEW MOON PROPERTY

PARCEL SUMMARY

11063 New Moon Court

Approx. 11,124 ft²

EXISTING ASSESSMENT

- Existing parcel between 2 residential lots
- Existing native vegetation
- Existing gravel trail
- Trail connection to Bonita Springs Dog Park and Leitner Soccer Complex from neighborhood

KEY ASSETS

- Trail connection to Bonita Springs Dog Park and future Leitner Creek soccer complex
- Existing native vegetation
- Neighborhood access

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Enhanced pedestrian and bike entrance to future Leitner Creek Soccer Complex (AKA Mayhood Park) and dog park.
- Enhanced landscape
- Bike racks

PARCEL COMPONENT RATING

1 Low Quality/Basic **2** Medium Quality/Good **3** High Quality/Excellent **-** -- Not Available

Location	Property Size	Existing Conditions	Proximity to Trails/ Parks	Proximity to Water	Proximity to existing facilities	Adjacency to parking	Adjacency to preserves
2	1	2	2	2	2	1	1

Park Map



EXISTING CONDITIONS





SOUTH RIVERSIDE DRIVE

PARCEL SUMMARY

27101 S Riverside Drive

Approx. 6,665 Ft²

EXISTING ASSESSMENT

- Located adjacent to residential properties
- Existing pedestrian connection to Island Park
- Proximity to existing railroad and trail to central Bonita Springs
- Smaller property size

KEY ASSETS

- Pedestrian access to Island Park
- Located in downtown Bonita Springs
- Provides neighborhood connection

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Enhanced pocket park
- Enhanced entrance to Island Park
- Maintenance access to Island Park
- Public art/Seating area
- Potential trailhead for BERT

PARCEL COMPONENT RATING

1 Low Quality/Basic 2 Medium Quality/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - -- Not Available

Location	Property Size	Existing Conditions	Proximity to Trails/ Parks	Proximity to Water	Proximity to existing facilities	Adjacency to parking	Adjacency to preserves
3	1	1	3	2	3	2	1

Park Map



FUTURE RENDERINGS





WINDSOR PRESERVE

PARCEL SUMMARY

28481 Windsor Road

Approx. 9.79 Acre

EXISTING ASSESSMENT

- Located within an existing neighborhood
- Contains water treatment facility and parking for employees
- Heavily vegetated with natives and invasives
- Fenced along the perimeter
- Abuts existing residential homes

KEY ASSETS

- Large vegetated site
- Existing access off Windsor Rd.
- Contains existing fencing

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Trails/Boardwalks
- Educational kiosk
- Wildlife viewing

PARCEL COMPONENT RATING

1 Low Quality/Basic 2 Medium Quality/Good 3 High Quality/Excellent - -- Not Available

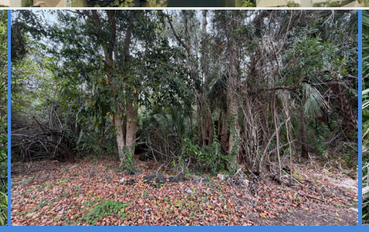
Location	Property Size	Existing Conditions	Proximity to Trails/ Parks	Proximity to Water	Proximity to existing facilities	Adjacency to parking	Adjacency to preserves
2	3	2	2	2	1	2	2

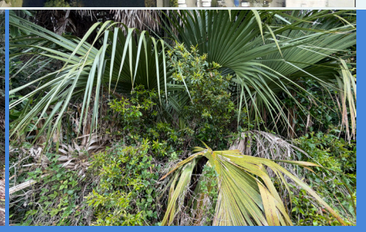
Park Map



EXISTING CONDITIONS







Conclusion

The Bonita Springs Parks Master Plan is the result of a community-driven process, shaped by the perspectives of residents, the realities of city growth, and the evolving needs of the community. Throughout the planning effort, the city's commitment to maintaining and improving its parks has been evident, with residents consistently expressing the importance of clean, comfortable, and accessible spaces. The plan recognizes that the foundation of a successful parks system lies in the upkeep of existing assets, the deliberate protection of natural environments, and the thoughtful expansion of access for all.

By integrating demographic analysis, operational review, and direct community feedback, the plan sets forth a practical approach to addressing current gaps and preparing for future challenges. Upgrades to amenities, enhanced maintenance practices, and improved signage are identified as immediate priorities, while conservation efforts are positioned as essential for preserving the city's character and ecological health.

As Bonita Springs continues to grow and change, this master plan serves as a living document, intended to be referenced, updated, and used as a guide for decision-making. Its success will be reflected in the quality and accessibility of parks, the consistency of maintenance, and the satisfaction of residents who rely on these spaces for recreation, connection, and well-being.

City of Bonita Springs Florida





PARKS MASTER PLAN

BerryDunn

