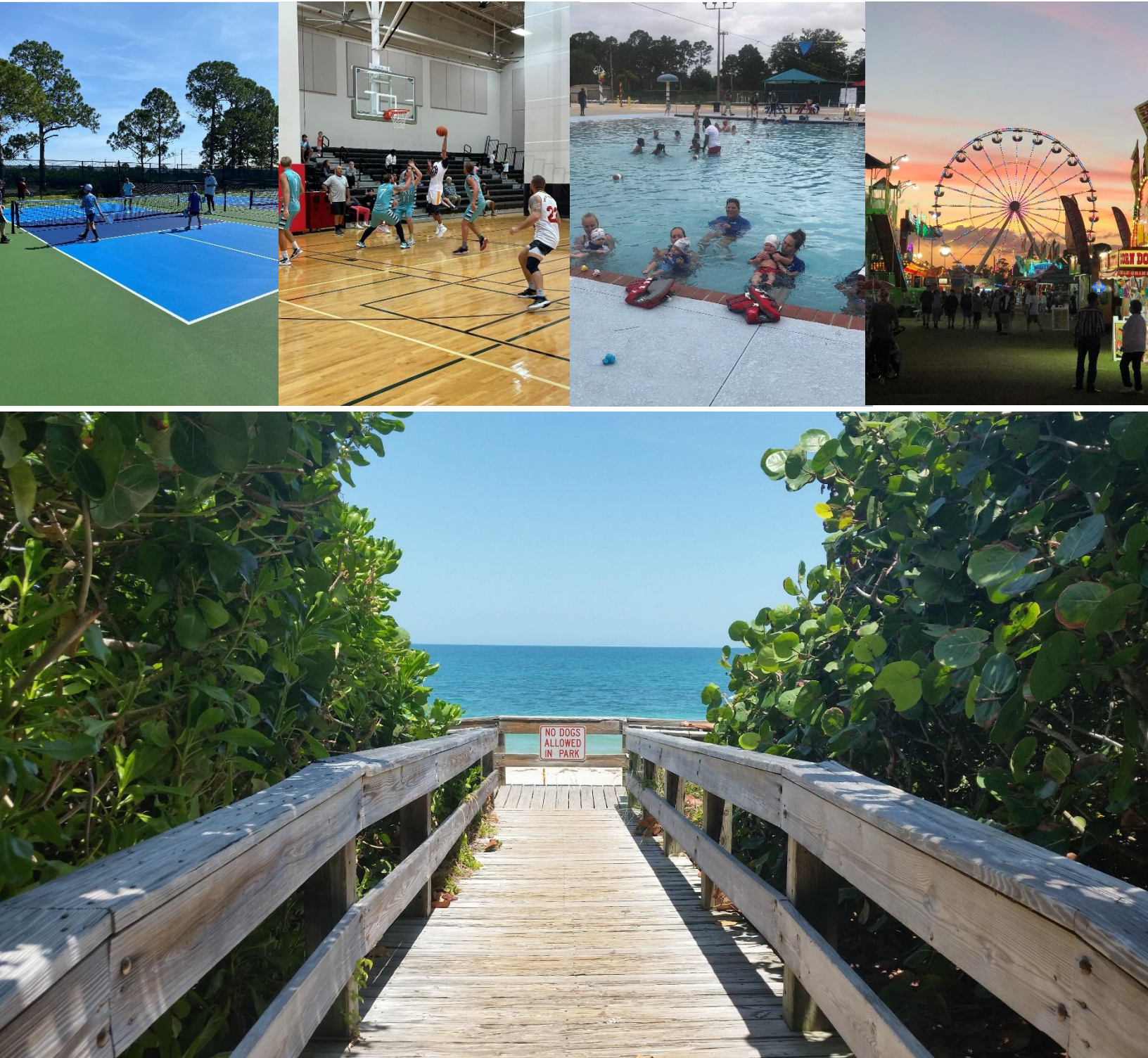




Parks and Recreation Master Plan

APPENDIX C: Detailed Site and Facility Assessments





Indian River County Site Assessments



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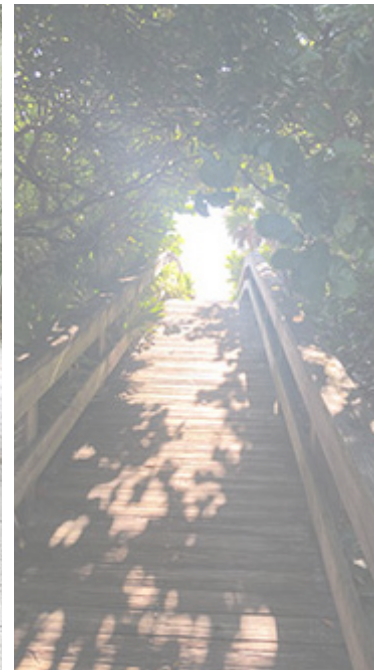
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Indian River County



Parks Site Assessment Findings



1.1 Park Site Findings

Research by park experts has shown that all successful parks and public spaces share common qualities:

- Easily accessible
- Comfortable and have an attractive image
- Allow users of all ages to engage in a variety of activities and allow people to gather and meet one another
- Sustainable – meaning that they help meet existing needs while not compromising the needs of future generations

Considering these qualities, Indian River County's parks were evaluated based on 6 categories and 35 sub-categories using one park from each site type as a measuring stick for the rest of the park system. The 4 site types and respective measuring stick parks are listed below.

1. Neighborhood – West Wabasso Park
2. Community – Dick Bird Park/South County Park
3. Beach – Round Island Beach Park
4. Specialty – Round Island Riverside Park

Parks were evaluated collaboratively by County staff and the consultant using a five-point scale, with the lowest score, 1.0, being poor and the highest score, 5.0, being great.

A poor score of 1.0 indicates that the category needs improvement, and a high score indicates that the category exceeds expectations.

(see figure 1.1a):



ACCESS

Proximity, Access, and Linkages

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



COMFORT

Comfort and Image

- **First impression/overall attractiveness**
Is the park attractive at first glance?
- **Feeling of safety**
Does the park feel safe at the time of the visit?
- **Cleanliness/overall quality of maintenance (Exterior /Interior)**
Is the park clean and free of litter?
- **Comfort of places to sit**
Are there comfortable places to sit?
- **Protection from bad weather**
Is there shelter in case of bad weather?
- **Evidence of management/stewardship (Exterior/ Interior)**
Is there visual evidence of site management?
- **Ability to easily supervise and manage the park or facility (Interior)**
How difficult it is to supervise the park and its facilities?
- **Condition and effectiveness of any equipment or operation systems**
Is the equipment and/or operating system in good condition?
- **Branding**
Does the park exhibit appropriate branding?



USE

Uses, Activities, and Sociability

- **Mix of uses/things to do**
Is there a variety of things to do given the type of park?
- **Level of activity**
How active is the park with visitors?
- **Sense of pride/ownership**
Is there evidence of community pride in the park?
- **Programming flexibility**
How flexible is the park in accommodating multiple uses?
- **Ability of facility to effectively support current organized programming**
Is the site meeting the needs of organized programs?
- **Marketing or promotional efforts for the facility**
Is the site being marketed effectively?



BUILDINGS

Buildings and Architecture

- **Image and aesthetics**
Is the building attractive?
- **Clarity of entry and connection to the park**
Is the building integrated into its surroundings?
- **Interior layout**
Is the layout functional?
- **Interior finishes, furniture, and equipment**
Are the furnishings and equipment inside the building of good condition and quality?
- **Functioning dimensions of spaces**
Does the organization of space support the building's intended function?
- **Structural integrity**
Is there any obvious need for structural repairs?
- **Building enclosure**
Is there any obvious need for repairs to the building shell?
- **Building systems**
Are all the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems in working order?
- **Energy and sustainability**
Is there evidence that the building is energy efficient?



NRPA PILLARS

Health and Wellness,
Conservation, Social Equity

- **Health and Wellness**
Does the park promote a variety of health and wellness opportunities?
- **Conservation**
Does the park promote conservation practices?
- **Social Equity**
Does the park promote social equity?



CONDITION

Amenities, Furnishings,
Landscape, and Hardscape

- **Site Structures / Amenities**
What are the conditions of the park's amenities?
- **Site Furnishings**
What are the conditions of the park's furnishings?
- **General Landscape / Hardscape**
What are the conditions of the park's landscape and hardscapes?

Figure 1.1a

Park Site Evaluations Results

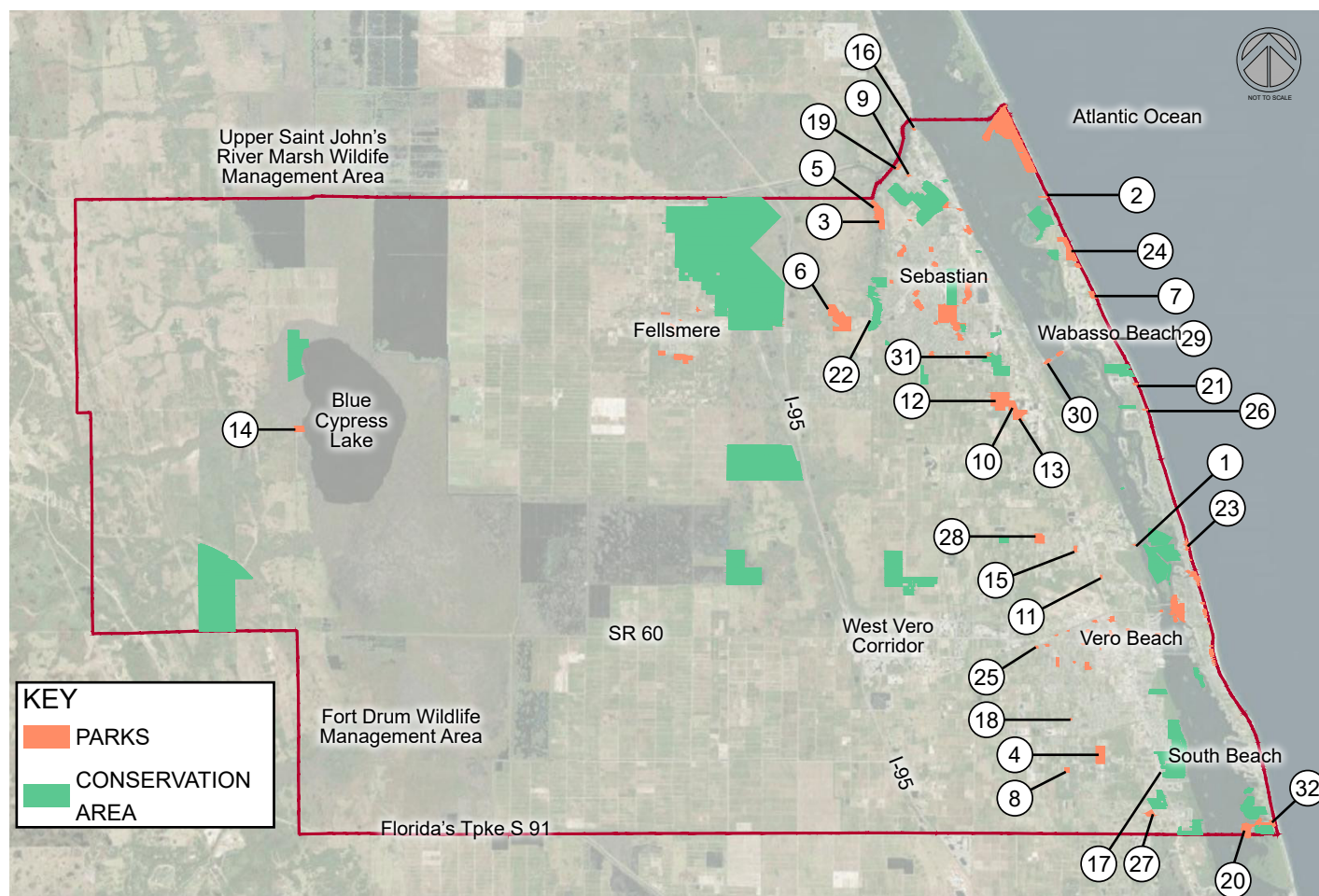
CHART LEGEND:	TOTAL AVERAGES	PARK NAME:													
		45° Street Dock	Amberlands Beach Park	Dale Wimbrow Park	Dick Bird Park/South County Park	Donald MacDonald Camground	Fran B. Adams Park/ North County Regional Park	Golden Sands Beach Park	Grovenor Estates Park	Helen Hanson Park	Hobart Ballfields	Hose Shumann Park	JRC Fairgrounds	Kiwanis-Hobart Park	Middleton's Fish Camp Park
1.0 Needs Improvements															
5.0 Exceeding Expectations															
TOTAL AVERAGE SCORE:	2.3	1.5	1.7	2.7	3.2	2.4	2.9	2.7	2.0	1.6	1.9	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.0
TOTAL CONDITION SCORE:	2.0	1.4	1.2	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.7	1.8	1.5	1.5	2.6	2.2	2.5	1.6
SITE AMENITIES	2.5			3.5	2.9	3.0	2.3	2.8		1.8	1.5	3.6	2.9	2.8	1.7
Baseball/Softball Field	2.3				3.0		3.0			1.0	2.0				
Basketball Court	2.4				3.0					1.0		3.0		2.0	
Boat Ramp	3.0			5.0		5.0									2.0
Campground	2.0					3.0							2.0		1.0
Canoe/Kayak Launch	2.4														
Community Recreation Center															
Fishing Dock/Pier	2.8					1.5									
Golf/Frisbee Golf	4.0													4.0	
Outdoor Gym Equipment	3.0														
Pavilion	2.7				3.0	3.0	2.0	2.0				4.0	3.5	2.0	
Pickleball Court	4.0				4.0										
Playground	3.3			3.5	3.0		3.0	4.5		4.0		3.5		3.0	2.0
Pool/Aquatic Center	2.5						3.0								
Racket Ball															
Restroom	2.5			2.0	2.0	2.5	2.0	2.0		1.0	1.0	4.0	3.0	4.5	2.0
Soccer/Rugby/ Football/Lacrosse Field	2.3				3.0		1.0						3.0		
Splash Pad / Spray Park	2.0														
Tennis Court	3.5				4.0										
Volleyball Court	1.0				1.0									1.0	
GENERAL LANDSCAPE + HARDSCAPE	2.1	1.8	1.3	2.6	2.2	2.4	2.7	3.4	2.5	1.2	1.4	2.0	1.4	2.3	1.8
Landscape	2.1	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	1.0
Hardscape/Walkways	1.7	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	3.0	3.0		1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	1.0
Trees	2.5	3.0		3.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	1.0	3.0	2.0
Parking	1.8	1.0	1.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	4.5		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0
Turf/Fields	2.4				3.0		3.0			1.0	2.0		3.0		
Trails	3.2			3.0	2.0	4.0	4.0								3.5
Garden	3.0														
SITE FURNISHINGS	1.6	1.0	1.0	1.6	2.1	2.1	1.9	2.0	1.0	1.4	1.7	2.2	2.3	2.6	1.3
Bench	1.8			2.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	2.0		1.0	2.0	1.0		3.0	3.0
Bike Rack	2.3				2.0	1.0	3.0	2.0						4.0	
Dog Waste Station	2.0					2.0									
Drinking Fountain	2.2			1.0	2.0	5.0	1.0	2.0			1.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	
Picnic Table	2.1			2.5	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.0		1.0	2.0	3.0		2.0	
Trash/Recycling	1.5	1.0	1.0	1.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0		2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Signage	1.1	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Sail Shade Structure	2.0														
Lighting	2.0	1.0		1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0			2.0	2.0		3.0	2.0	1.0
SYSTEM AVERAGES	2.5	1.6	2.3	2.9	4.1	2.3	3.5	2.7	2.2	1.8	2.2	2.5	3.0	3.1	2.4
1: PROXIMITY, ACCESS, + LINKAGES	2.1	1.2	1.8	1.9	3.0	1.4	2.8	2.0	2.3	2.0	2.2	1.8	2.4	1.6	1.4
Visibility from a distance	2.7	2.0	2.0	2.5	3.0	1.0	3.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	4.0	2.0	1.0
Ease in walking to the park	2.4	1.0	2.0	1.0	4.0	1.0	4.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	4.0
Clarity of information/signage	1.6	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
ADA Compliance	1.9	1.0	1.0	3.0	4.0	2.0	2.0	3.0		1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.0
Lighting	1.8	1.0		1.0	2.0	1.0	3.0			2.0	2.0		3.0	1.0	1.0
2: COMFORT + IMAGE	3.0	2.1	2.8	3.6	4.0	3.1	3.5	3.5	2.8	1.9	2.9	3.1	3.6	3.6	3.0
First impression/overall attractiveness	2.9	2.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Feeling of safety	3.8	1.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.5	4.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.0
Maintenance (Exterior Site)	3.9	2.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.5
Maintenance (Facilities Interior)	3.9	3.5				4.0	4.0						4.0		3.0
Comfort of places to sit	2.6	1.0		3.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	3.0		1.0	1.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	3.0
Protection from bad weather	2.6	1.0		4.0	5.0	2.0	4.0	4.0		1.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	1.0
Stewardship (Exterior Site)	3.5	3.0	2.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	3.0	4.5	2.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.0
Stewardship (Facility Interior)	3.6	3.5				3.0	4.0						4.0		3.0
Supervision ability (Interior)	3.8					2.0	4.0						4.0		4.0
Condition of operating systems	2.9				4.0	3.0	3.0			2.0			3.0		2.5
Branding	1.5	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
3: USES, ACTIVITY, + SOCIABILITY	2.6	1.2	2.4	3.0	4.7	2.5	4.2	2.8	1.5	1.8	2.5	2.6	4.0	3.8	2.3
Mix of uses/things to do	2.1	1.0	2.5	3.0	5.0	1.0	4.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	1.0
Level of activity	3.2	2.0	2.5	4.0	5.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	1.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	3.0
Sense of pride/ownership	3.6	1.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.5	2.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	5.0	4.0
Programming flexibility	2.8	1.0	1.0	3.0	5.0	2.0	5.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	5.0	5.0	2.0
Current organized programming	2.4	1.0		3.0	5.0	3.0	5.0			2.0	2.0		4.0	3.0	2.0
Marketing efforts	1.5	1.0	2.0	1.0	3.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	1.0
4: BUILDINGS + ARCHITECTURE	2.7					1.3	3.2						3.2		2.9
Image and aesthetics	2.6					2.0	2.0						3.0		3.5
Clarity of entry and connections	3.5					2.0	4.0						3.0		5.0
Interior layout	2.8					1.0	3.0						4.0		3.0
Interior finishes, furniture and equipment	2.0					1.0	2.0						3.0		2.0
Functioning dimensions of spaces	2.6					1.0	2.5						4.0		3.0
Structural integrity	2.5					1.0	4.0						3.0		2.0
Building enclosure	2.8					1.0	4.0						3.0		3.0
Building systems	3.3					2.0	4.0						4.0		3.0
Energy and sustainability	2.0					1.0	3.0						2.0		2.0
5: NRPA 3 PILLARS	2.5	2.0	2.3	3.0	4.7	3.0	4.0	2.7	2.0	1.7	1.3	2.3	1.7	3.3	2.7
Health/Wellness	2.3	2.0	3.0	3.0	5.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	3.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	4.0	2.0
Conservation	2.9	2.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	5.0	3.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	3.0	5.0
Social Equity	2.3	2.0	1.0	3.0	5.0	2.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	3.0	1.0

Figure 1.1a

Park Site Evaluations Results (Continued)

CHART LEGEND:	PARK NAME:												
	Moore's Point	Oslo Road Boat Ramp	Pine Hill (Lone Pine)	Roseland Community Park	Round Island Beach Park	Round Island Riverside	Seagrape Beach Access	Sebastian Canoe Launch Park	Tracking Station Beach	Treasure Shores Park	Tropic Colony	Turtle Trail Beach Access	Yero Highland Park
1.0													
5.0													
Needs Improvements													
Exceeding Expectations													
TOTAL AVERAGE SCORE:	1.5	1.6	1.5	2.5	2.9	2.6	2.3	2.3	1.8	2.1	1.9	2.3	1.6
TOTAL CONDITION SCORE:	1.1	1.3	1.3	2.6	2.8	2.2	1.8	2.2	1.7	2.4	1.8	1.5	2.3
SITE AMENITIES	1.0	1.0	1.0	3.5	3.5	3.0		2.5	2.0	4.0		2.2	3.0
Baseball/Softball Field												2.5	2.0
Basketball Court			1.0									3.0	3.5
Boat Ramp		1.0			3.0								2.0
Campground													
Canoe/Kayak Launch		1.0			3.0		2.5						3.0
Community Recreation Center													
Fishing Dock/Pier				3.0	4.0								
Golf/Frisbee Golf													
Outdoor Gym Equipment												2.0	4.0
Pavilion	1.0			4.0	2.0	3.0	2.5	2.0				3.0	3.0
Pickleball Court													4.0
Playground				5.0	3.0			5.0				2.0	2.0
Pool/Aquatic Center												2.0	
Racket Ball													
Restroom					2.0			2.0	3.0			2.0	3.0
Soccer/Rugby/ Football/Lacrosse Field												2.0	3.0
Splash Pad / Spray Park												2.0	
Tennis Court												3.0	
Volleyball Court												1.0	1.0
GENERAL LANDSCAPE + HARDSCAPE	1.0	1.5	1.3	2.8	3.0	2.0	2.5	2.8	1.5	1.8	2.5	2.0	2.8
Landscape	1.0	2.0	1.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	4.0	3.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	4.0	2.0
Hardscape/Walkways	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Trees	1.0	2.0	2.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	4.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	3.0
Parking	1.0	1.0		2.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0		4.0	2.0
Turf/Fields												2.5	2.0
Trails					2.0							3.0	4.0
Garden												3.0	
SITE FURNISHINGS	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.0	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.0	1.0	1.9
Bench					2.0	2.0			1.0	1.0		2.5	2.0
Bike Rack					2.0	2.0			3.0	3.0		2.0	2.0
Dog Waste Station													1.0
Drinking Fountain					2.0	2.0		1.0	1.0			1.0	2.0
Picnic Table	1.0		2.0	2.5	2.0	2.0		2.0	2.0	2.0		2.5	2.0
Trash/Recycling	2.0	2.0		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0		1.0	1.0
Signage	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Sail Shade Structure					2.0								
Lighting												3.0	4.0
SYSTEM AVERAGES	1.9	1.9	1.7	2.4	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.4	1.9	1.8	2.0	2.9	1.6
1: PROXIMITY, ACCESS, + LINKAGES	2.2	1.4	2.0	1.5	2.5	2.3	2.3	1.3	1.8	1.3	2.3	2.8	2.8
Visibility from a distance	4.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	3.0	5.0	4.0
Ease in walking to the park	4.0	1.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	5.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	3.0	5.0	4.0
Clarity of information/signage	1.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0
ADA Compliance	1.0	1.0		1.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	3.0	1.0		1.0	3.5
Lighting	1.0	1.0										1.0	3.0
2: COMFORT + IMAGE	2.3	2.2	1.9	3.2	3.9	2.9	2.9	3.6	2.6	2.1	2.5	2.9	1.7
First impression/overall attractiveness	2.0	2.0	1.0	3.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	4.0	3.0
Feeling of safety	3.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	5.0
Maintenance (Exterior Site)	2.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	5.0
Maintenance (Facilities Interior)				4.0								5.0	
Comfort of places to sit	3.0		1.0	2.0	4.0	2.0	1.0	3.0	2.0	1.0		1.0	1.0
Protection from bad weather	3.0		1.0	1.0	4.0	2.0	1.0	4.0	2.0	1.0		1.0	1.0
Stewardship (Exterior Site)	2.0	3.0	2.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.0		4.0	2.0
Stewardship (Facility Interior)				4.0								4.0	
Supervision ability (interior)				5.0									
Condition of operating systems													
Branding	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0
3: USES, ACTIVITY, + SOCIABILITY	2.0	1.5	1.5	2.8	2.8	2.5	2.4	2.0	2.0	1.0	2.5	1.0	4.2
Mix of uses/things to do	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	5.0	2.0
Level of activity	3.0	3.0	1.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.0	4.0	5.0
Sense of pride/ownership	3.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	1.0	4.0	5.0
Programming flexibility		1.0										4.0	
Current organized programming		1.0			1.0	1.0		1.0	1.0	1.0		1.0	4.0
Marketing efforts	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	3.0	1.0
4: BUILDINGS + ARCHITECTURE													
Image and aesthetics													
Clarity of entry and connections													
Interior layout													
Interior finishes, furniture and equipment													
Functioning dimensions of spaces													
Structural integrity													
Building enclosure													
Building systems													
Energy and sustainability													
5: NRPA 3 PILLARS	1.0	2.3	1.3	2.0	2.7	3.7	4.0	2.3	1.3	1.7	2.0	4.0	1.0
Health/Wellness	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	5.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	5.0	2.0
Conservation	1.0	5.0	1.0	3.0	3.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	1.0	2.0	3.0	5.0	1.0
Social Equity	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	4.0

Figure 1.1b
Map of Park Site Evaluations



- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. 45th Street Dock | 17. Oslo Road Boat Ramp |
| 2. Ambersands Beach Park | 18. Pine Hill (Lone Pine) |
| 3. Dale Wimbro Park | 19. Roseland Community Park |
| 4. Dick Bird Park/South County Park | 20. Round Island Riverside |
| 5. Donald MacDonald Campground | 21. Seagrape Beach Access |
| 6. Fran B. Adams Park/ North County Regional Park | 22. Sebastian Canoe Launch Park |
| 7. Golden Sands Beach Park | 23. Tracking Station Beach |
| 8. Grovenor Estates Park | 24. Treasure Shores Park |
| 9. Helen Hanson Park | 25. Tropic Colony |
| 10. Hobart Ballfields | 26. Turtle Trail Beach Access |
| 11. Hosie Shumann Park | 27. Vero Highland Park |
| 12. IRC Fairgrounds | 28. Victor Hart Park |
| 13. Kiwanis-Hobart Park | 29. Wabasso Beach Park |
| 14. Middleton's Fish Camp Park | 30. Wabasso Causeway Park |
| 15. MLK Park | 31. West Wabasso Park |
| 16. Moore's Point | 32. Round Island Beach Park |

1.2 Park and Facility Evaluation Summary Findings

Based on the evaluation of Indian River County's parks and recreation system that uses the criteria previously described, it appears that the County's parks and recreation system scored just below fair condition, with an overall condition score of 2.3 out of 5. These findings are discussed in more detail below. The park system displayed a variety of strengths and opportunities that the County should build on and improve wherever possible. These will be further explored during the Long-Range Visioning Phase of the project.

General Comments for Park System

General Comments for Park System

- In some cases, a detailed Master Plan for the entire site is necessary to meet the county's needs.
- Most site furnishings and equipment require cleaning, upgrading, or servicing. Update existing interpretive signage, benches, bike racks, and waste receptacles. Convert drinking fountains to bottle-fill stations and add bike fix-it stations to support cycling.
- Assess parks for American's with Disabilities Act Compliance and address deficiencies.
- More in-depth analysis of existing parks for compliance with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Standards (CPTED).
- Increase tree canopy for shade and aesthetics; increase wildflower and native plantings for conservation efforts.
- Coordinate with Engineering and Transportation Departments for shared project opportunities involving stormwater planning and sidewalk connectivity throughout the system.
- Establish digital transformation strategy throughout system to incorporate Wi-Fi access, solar power charging stations, educational opportunities, asset management, gaming integration, and trail tracking. Technology improvements should include security monitoring, lighting, and energy efficiency.

Lessons from the 2020 Pandemic

- The community has turned to parks and recreation areas for healthy outdoor physical activity and relief from the worries and pressures of the pandemic on them and their families.
- National surveys have shown an increase in visitation, trail usage, and value of local park systems.
- Replace outdated drinking fountains with hands-free bottle-fill stations.
- Consider adding hand washing stations to spaces outside of restrooms, perhaps connected to the bottle-refill stations.
- Include more natural play areas and be mindful of "small footprint, high occupancy" play equipment.
- Develop regular cleaning schedule for park equipment, site furnishings, and play areas.
- Transition to self-cleaning restrooms.
- Add sanitizing stations to outdoor exercise areas.

1.3 General Condition of Amenities, Furnishings, Landscape, and Hardscape

(+) STRENGTHS



- Many of the parks contain facilities and amenities such as sports courts, fields, pavilions, playgrounds, etc. that appear to be in fair condition and may not need improvements in the next 5 to 7 years. Notable examples include Dick Bird, Fran B. Adams, Round Island Riverside, and West Wabasso.

(-) OPPORTUNITIES



- Most of the parks' landscape and hardscape elements will need improvements in the next 1-5 years. Parks with the greatest need include Ambersands Beach Park, Treasure Shores, Wabasso Causeway, North County Park/Fran B. Adams, Helen Hanson, and MLK Park.



- Though many of the County parks contain facilities and amenities such as sports courts, fields, pavilions, playgrounds, etc. that may not need improvements in the next 5 to 7 years, some will need improvements in the next 1 to 5 years. Parks with the greatest need are Kiwanis-Hobart, MLK, Victor Hart, Pine Hill, and Oslo Boat Ramp. The County should develop an Asset Management/ Repair and Replacement Schedule to proactively plan for these Capital Improvements.



- Most of the parks' site furnishings such as drinking fountains, picnic tables, trash receptacles, signage, etc. will need replacement in the next 1 to 5 years. All Neighborhood Parks scored poor or below fair in this category. The County should develop an Asset Management/ Repair and Replacement Schedule to proactively plan for these updates.

Proximity, Access, and Linkages

(+) STRENGTHS



- Most of the parks provide adequate visibility or clear site lines into the park. MLK Park, Vero Highland, Helen Hanson, Dale Winbrow, and Victor Hart are examples of parks that provide clear visibility into the park from at least two sides of the park.



- Most County parks and recreation facilities show evidence of intention to be accessible and allow equitable use for people with all needs/abilities.

(-) OPPORTUNITIES



- While some of the parks allow for people to enter via adjacent neighborhoods safely and comfortably, there is a notable opportunity to improve the walking or biking experience to all County parks. The objective should be to create an interconnected park sidewalk network. This network should be on narrow streets and include ADA accessibility, pedestrian-timed street crossings, and wide shaded sidewalks that lead to pedestrian entrances. Notable examples include South County Park, MLK Park, and Victor Hart Park.



- In the 10-year plan, all park lights need to be upgraded to be LED. The objective is to allow users opportunities to enjoy park amenities after dusk, where appropriate, and provide safety lights in parks where after dusk activities are not appropriate. Parks serving as good examples of upgraded lighting include West Wabasso and North County/Fran B. Adams.



- Most of the parks contain gateway and regulatory signage, however there is an opportunity to enhance signage in all of the County's parks. Additional signage opportunities that the County should consider include park system location maps, park amenity location maps and amenity directional signage (depending on the size and complexity of the park), amenity signs, and educational interpretive signs. Signage enhancements should include branding consistency.



- Although many of the parks are accessible, the County should continue to improve ADA accessibility to more park amenities to ensure that people with disabilities have equitable access to a variety of activities. Beach accessibility is important to the community of Indian River County and more efforts should be made to improve access to the ocean where possible.

Comfort and Image

(+) STRENGTHS



- The first impression and overall attractiveness of most of the County's parks is fair with a few being great. Dick Bird/South County, Round Island Beach Park, and West Wabasso Park are parks that provide a great first impression and show a high degree of overall attractiveness. The positive first impression and overall attractiveness of these parks also translates into a feeling of safety and stewards from park users.



- Many of the County's parks exhibit good signs of overall cleanliness, quality of exterior maintenance, management, and stewardship with some parks exhibiting a higher degree than others. Notable examples include Dick Bird/South County, Golden Sands Beach, Round Island Beach, Victor Hart, and Hobart Ballfields and Park.



- The interior spaces of many County park buildings can be easily supervised and managed due to an interior design that is configured to allow clear site lines to major amenities, entrances, and exists from a central location. Buildings in Victor Hart Park, IRC Fairgrounds, and Fran B. Adams' Aquatic Center are good examples. This translates into strong interior cleanliness and management/stewardship, which the above parks exhibit.

(-) OPPORTUNITIES



- While some of the County's parks have a fair to great first impression, overall attractiveness, cleanliness, quality of maintenance, management, and stewardship, there is an opportunity to improve the quality of parks so it is consistent across the entire parks system. This includes addressing deferred maintenance, upgrading the public restrooms and site furnishings, completing capital improvements, and re-master planning some of these parks. Parks that require attention soonest are MLK Park, Wabasso Causeway Park, Helen Hanson, Pine Hill (Lone Pine), Fran B. Adams, Treasure Shores, Ambersands Beach, and Turtle Trail Beach Access.



- There is an opportunity to improve the appearance, comfort, and experience of all park sitting areas. The County should strive to incorporate a consistent variety of seating options in parks including movable tables and chairs, which allow user to customize their sitting experience.



- Some of the parks do not contain shelters where park users can go to find refuge from Florida's inclement and at times unpredictable weather. The County should strive to incorporate more shelters and shade in parks including pavilions, shade structures for playgrounds, exercise stations, and seating areas, and shade trees to enhance park user's experience and comfort. Dick Bird, Fran B. Adams, Victor Hart, Golden Sands Beach, and Kiwanis Hobart Park provide good examples of how to incorporate different types of shelters and shade.



- Some of the parks contain equipment and operating systems that are in good condition, however, others do not. The County should ensure that the equipment and operating systems in all the County parks are in good working condition. Good examples include West Wabasso Park and Dick Bird/South County Park.



- All County parks have the potential to enhance their branding through the consistent use of high-quality materials, colors, textures, furnishings, signage, details, upkeep, and overall aesthetics. The County should develop park standards that define the County's brand and implement the branding throughout the parks and recreation system.

Uses, Activities, and Sociability

(+) STRENGTHS



- Most of the County parks exhibit a high degree of pride and ownership with few signs of litter, vandalism, or misuse. Many parks appear to be actively used and show signs of care and upkeep from the community as well as the County staff. Notable examples include Dick Bird/South County Park, Kiwanis-Hobart Park, and Roseland Community Park.

(-) OPPORTUNITIES



- While some of the County parks provide a range of facilities, amenities, and activities for users of all ages that lead to a high level of activity, many do not. This limited range of facilities, amenities, and activities in parks also limits the level of activity that occurs in these parks. Even parks that are well used in the evenings or weekends may remain underused at other times of the day. The County should strive to have a mix of uses at each park. This can be achieved by increasing or changing the amenities and programs in the parks based on the community's needs and priorities. Specific parks that could use additional things to do include Helen Hanson, Pine Hill (Lone Pine), MLK Park, and the beach parks.



- While some of the County's parks are adequately planned and spatially organized to facilitate organized programming, many are not. Spaces for multi-purpose, multi-generational experiences, and parking appear to be limiting factors. Parks where the ability to support current organized programming is challenged include Fran B. Adams/North County Park, Hobart Ballfields, Helen Hanson Park, Roseland Community Park, and the beach parks.



- While some of the parks use a variety of marketing and promotional tools to make residents aware of the park, its recreation facilities, activities, and program marketing is poor overall. To the extent possible, the County should look to enhance marketing efforts through as many avenues as possible including traditional and digital means.

Buildings and Architecture

(+) STRENGTHS



- Some of the County's park buildings have an adequate image and aesthetic through the use of appropriate proportions and materials, and contribute to the context of the park and surrounding neighborhood. The most notable examples are the buildings at Victor Hart Park, Roseland Community Park, and Fran B. Adams/North County Park.
- Most of the park buildings have adequate entry points and connections to surrounding outdoor spaces.
- Most of the park buildings showed no visible evidence of loss of integrity of any structural components or building enclosures. Most of the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems are observed to be in operating order.

(-) OPPORTUNITIES



- Most of the restrooms and park facilities have finishes, furniture, and equipment (FF&E) that are either damaged, outdated, or not aesthetically pleasing.
- Many of the park maintenance, storage, or multipurpose spaces are incorrectly sized or otherwise ill-fitted for their current function. The following types of buildings should be redesigned to allow for better use of the facilities: baseball concession/press boxes, aquatic center multipurpose rooms and lifeguard/admin. offices, maintenance/equipment storage spaces.
- Most of the buildings' systems are not energy efficient. Over time, the County should look to replace and these systems to have energy efficient elements and use sustainable materials.



(-) OPPORTUNITIES



- Most County parks scored poorly in the evaluation of the '3 NRPA Pillars'. Many of the larger community parks are good examples of promoting health and wellness but there is an opportunity in the neighborhood and beach parks to add fitness equipment and increase the variety of activities available.
- There is an opportunity to enhance conservation strategies in all of the County's parks. These opportunities include additional tree canopy, the use of additional sustainable materials, erosion control, stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs), use of native landscaping, and other environmental best practices.
- While some of the County's parks exhibit good social equity strategies such as availability and ease of access, ADA compliance, recreation opportunities for many different ages/abilities located in a racially, ethnically, and economically diverse area, others do not. Specifically, the beach parks' social equity strategies could be improved.

1.4 Park Descriptions

1. 45th Street Dock

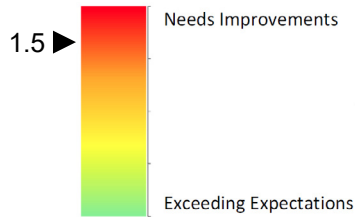
Location: 600 Gifford Dock Rd.

Size: .04 acres

Parcel Number(s):

32392400000003000002.1

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions and Uses

The 45th St Dock provides fishing access on the Indian River Lagoon. This site provides a dock and unpaved parking.

[County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://County Parks (arcgis.com))



2. Ambersands Beach Park

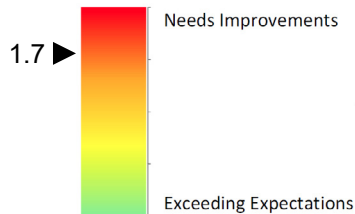
Location: 12566 Highway A1A

Size: 3.38 acres

Parcel Number(s):

30393300001000000006.0

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions and Uses

Located within the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge, Ambersands is the County's northernmost beach access. This park provides boardwalk access to a pristine beach.

Sea Turtles are protected by federal and state laws. Of the eight species of sea turtles worldwide, five are found in Florida. Florida beaches are one of the top three most important nesting areas in the world, especially in the Archie Carr Refuge where Ambersands lies.

[County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://County Parks (arcgis.com))



3. Dale Wimbrow Park

Location: 11805 Roseland Rd.

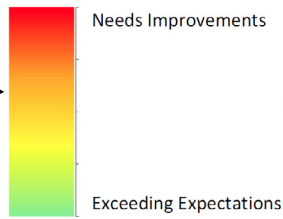
Size: 74.38 acres

Parcel Number(s):

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Ownership: County

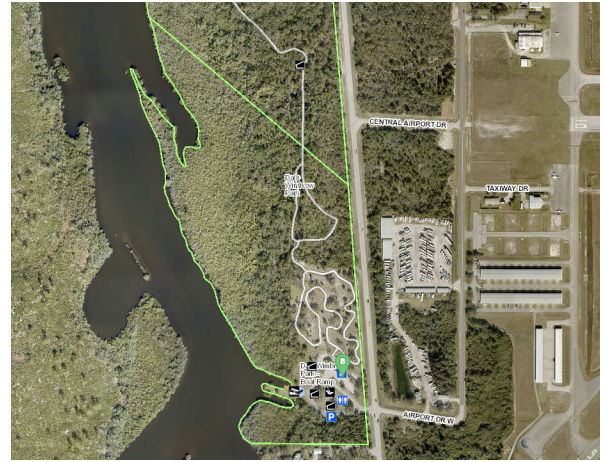
2.7 ▶



Existing Conditions and Uses

Dale Wimbrow Park lies along the Sebastian River located in Northern Indian River County. A very popular spot to kayak; rentals are available nearby. Features include picnic pavilions, an event pavilion, boat ramp, fitness trail, and fishing access.

[County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://CountyParks(arcgis.com))



4. Dick Bird Park / South County Park

Location: 800 20th Ave. SW

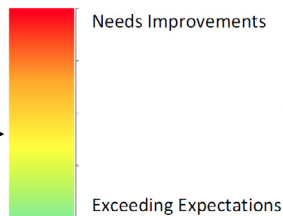
Size: 75.11 acres

Parcel Number(s):

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Ownership: County

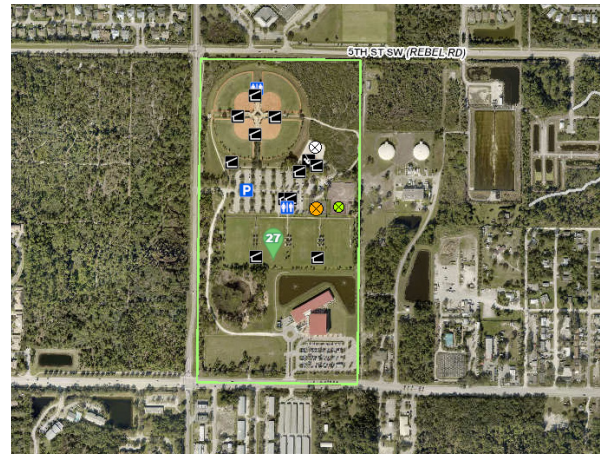
3.2 ▶



Existing Conditions and Uses

South County Regional Park offers four lighted 300' multi-purpose ball fields with concession stand and press box, four lighted lacrosse fields, two lighted tennis courts, two lighted basketball courts, a sand volleyball court, an ADA-accessible playground, pavilions, picnic tables, grills, and restroom facilities.

[County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://CountyParks(arcgis.com))



5. Donald MacDonald Campground

Location: 12315 Roseland Rd.

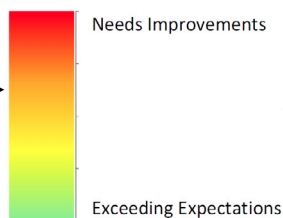
Size: 42.53 acres

Parcel Number(s):

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Ownership: County

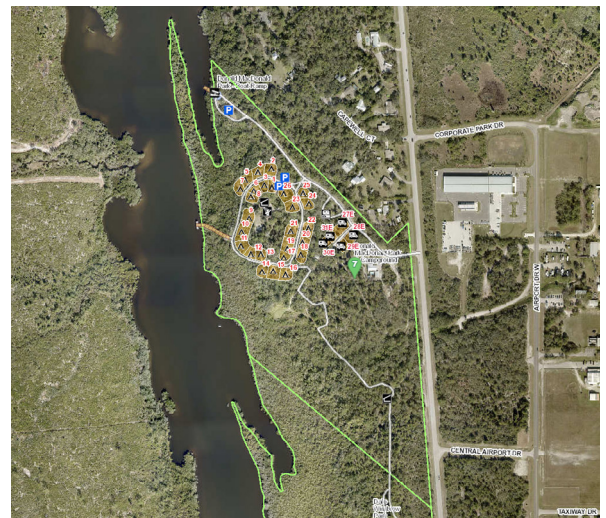
2.4 ▶



Existing Conditions and Uses

Donald MacDonald Park lies on the Sebastian River (northern Indian River County) and provides camping and river access for boats, canoes, and kayaks. Features include 26 primitive campsites and 5 sites with electricity, an observation boardwalk, a boat ramp, and fire pits on each site.

[County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://CountyParks(arcgis.com))



6. Fran B. Adams Park / North County Regional Park

Location: 9450 Sebastian Blvd.

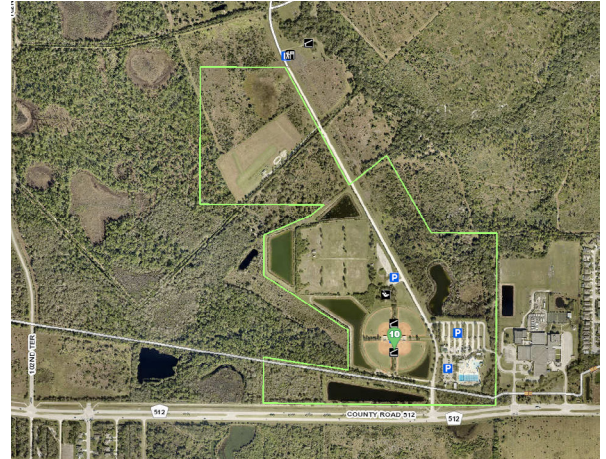
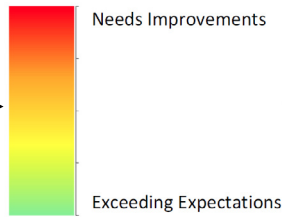
Size: 125 acres

Parcel Number(s):

31382200000100000001.0

Ownership: State

2.9 ▶



Existing Conditions and Uses

This multi-use park is located within the St. Sebastian Buffer Preserve State Park, which extends from West of I-95 to the South Prong of the Sebastian River, north of CR-512. The park has four 300' multi-purpose baseball fields, soccer fields, a concession stand, and press box. The facilities are equipped with lighting for nighttime use.

The North County Aquatic Center features a heated Olympic SCY-size pool and diving facilities, a zero entry activity pool, restrooms, showers, and concessions. [County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://CountyParks.arcgis.com)

7. Golden Sands Beach Park

Location: 10350 North A1A

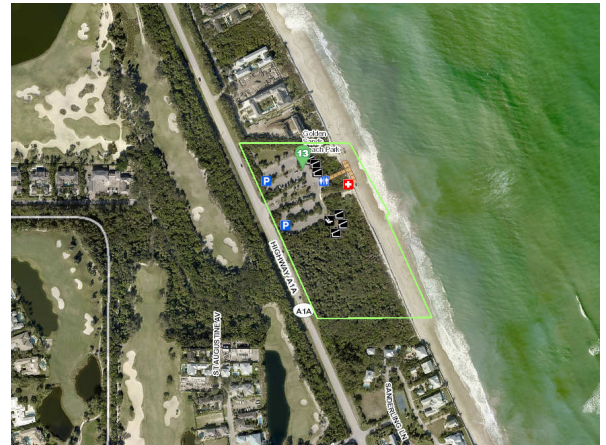
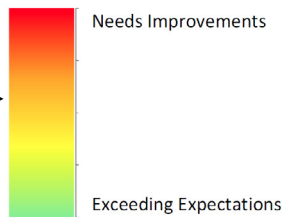
Size: 13.84 acres

Parcel Number(s):

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Ownership: County

2.7 ▶



Existing Conditions and Uses

Golden Sands Beach Park includes easy beach access, a playground, restroom facilities, showers, picnic pavilions with grills, and paved parking. ADA beach access and parking are available. [County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://CountyParks.arcgis.com)

8. Grovenor Estates Park

Location: 3205 10th St. SW

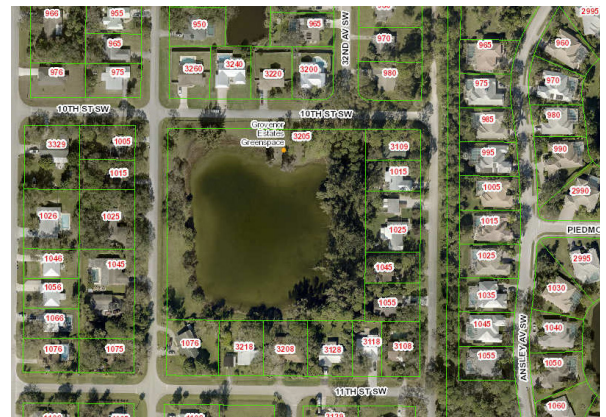
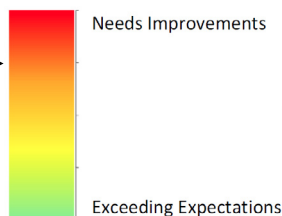
Size: 4.65 acres

Parcel Number(s):

33392700003007000000.1

Ownership: County

2.0 ▶



Existing Conditions and Uses

This small neighborhood park is located at 33rd Ave. SW and 10th St. SW in Vero Beach. The park consists of a pond, some open space for passive recreation and is heavily vegetated.

[County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://CountyParks.arcgis.com)

9. Helen Hanson Park

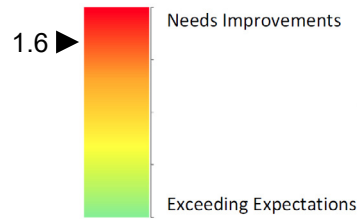
Location: 8020 129th Ct.

Size: 1.93 acres

Parcel Number(s):

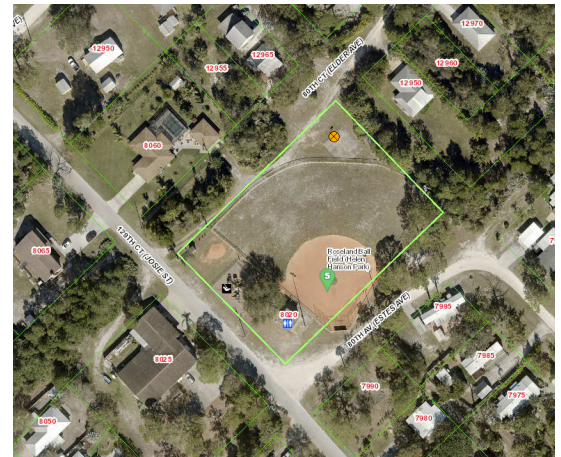
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Ownership: County



Existing Conditions and Uses

Roseland Ball Field, also known as Helen Hanson Park, features a lighted 200' ball field with concession, press box, and restrooms. Adjacent to the ball field is a children's playground and a ½ basketball court. Field is open for use unless prepared for games. Amenities include picnic tables, playground, water fountain, and parking. Restrooms are available for events only. [County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://CountyParks(arcgis.com))



10. Hobart Ballfields

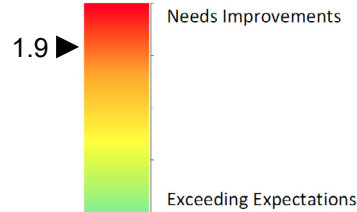
Location: 5790 77th St.

Size: 15.5 acres

Parcel Number(s):

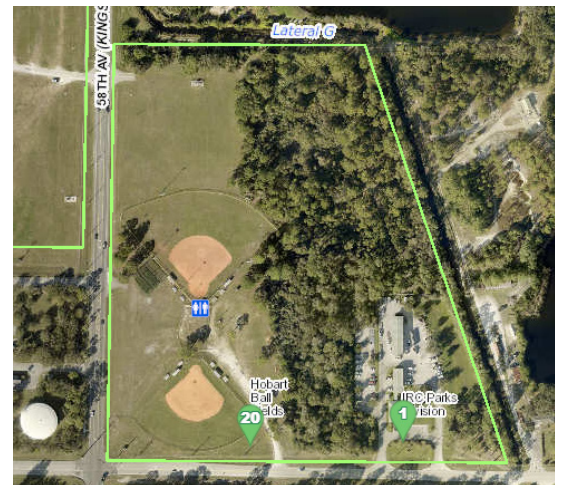
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Ownership: County



Existing Conditions and Uses

Hobart Ball Fields include a 200' multi-purpose ball field and a lighted 300' multi-purpose ball field with concession, press box, and restrooms. Fields are open for use unless prepared for games. Amenities include water fountain, restrooms, and unpaved parking. [County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://CountyParks(arcgis.com))



11. Hosie Shumann Park

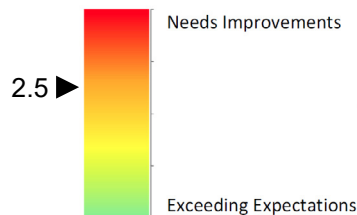
Location: 1760 39th St.

Size: 2 acres

Parcel Number(s):

32392600000700000008.0

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions and Uses

Hosie Schumann Park includes a children's playground, basketball court, and a picnic table. The park offers plenty of shade under large oak trees. There is open parking available. [County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://CountyParks(arcgis.com))



12. IRC Fairgrounds

Location: 5500 77th St.

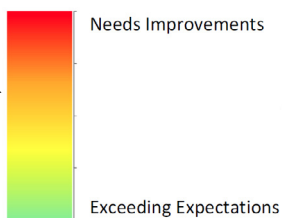
Size: 139 acres

Parcel Number(s):

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Ownership: County

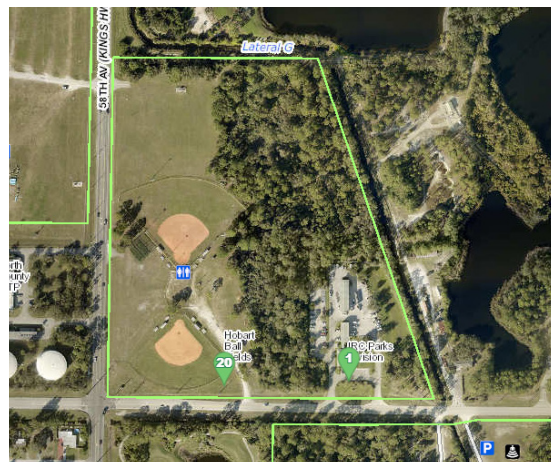
2.6 ▶



Existing Conditions and Uses

This facility is the central hub for the Parks Maintenance Division and staff who maintain Indian River County parks. Amenities include pavilion rentals and Fairground rentals.

[County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://County Parks (arcgis.com))



13. Kiwanis Hobart Park

Location: 5555 77th St.

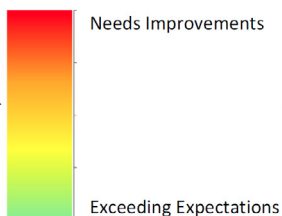
Size: 41.4 acres

Parcel Number(s):

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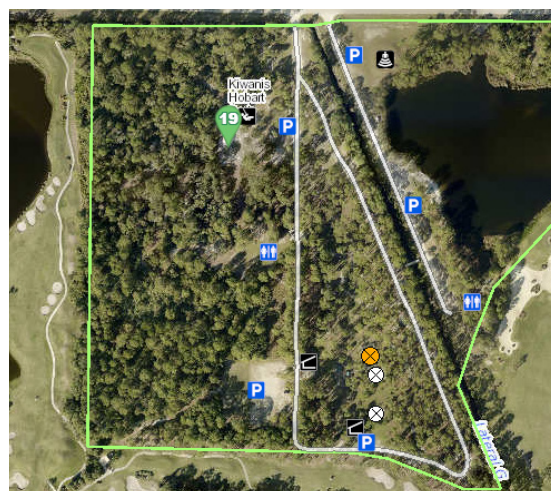
Ownership: County

2.8 ▶



Existing Conditions and Uses

Located across the street from Hobart Ball Fields, this spacious park features two large picnic pavilions, a children's park with playground equipment, an amphitheater, basketball court, horseshoe pits, covered picnic tables, and a lakeside area with separate restrooms, grills, walking trails, water fountain, restrooms, and parking. [County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://County Parks (arcgis.com))



14. Middleton's Fish Camp Park

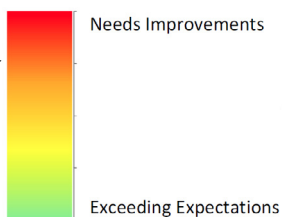
Location: 7400 Blue Cypress
Lake Rd.

Size: 23 acres

Parcel Number(s):

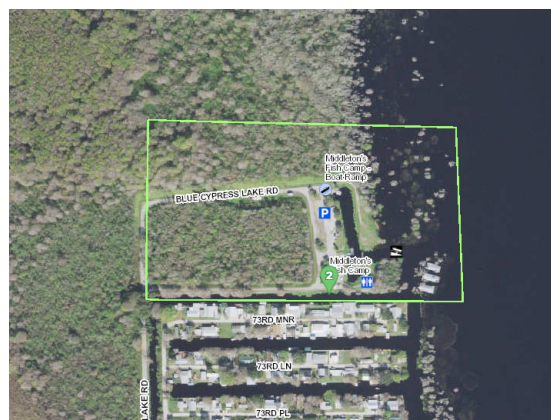
32360000000000000003.0

2.0 ▶



Existing Conditions and Uses

This county-owned property is operated by Jeanne Middleton, wife of the late Joe Middleton, whom the park is named for. The Middletons have grown and enriched the Blue Cypress Village with Middleton's Fish Camp for many years. This park provides access to Blue Cypress Lake, view Florida's wildlife, and fish. Amenities include a boat ramp, full bait & tackle, primitive camping, free showers, lodging, fishing guides, boat rentals, pontoon boat eco-tours, and photography tours. [County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://County Parks (arcgis.com))



15. MLK Park

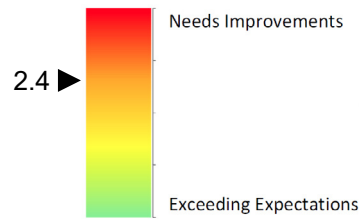
Location: 2880 45th St.

Size: 5.84 acres

Parcel Number(s):

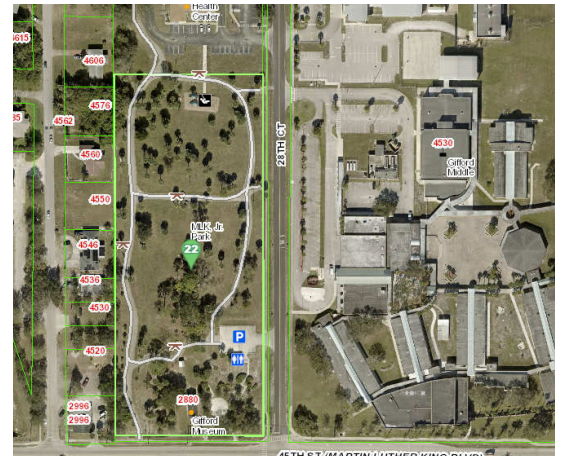
32392200013000000003.0

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions and Uses

Located across the street from Gifford Middle School, the county's newest park features a playground, benches, and a half-mile walking trail. [County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://County Parks (arcgis.com))



16. Moore's Point

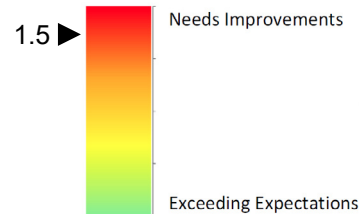
Location: 14510 US Highway 1

Size: 0.55 acres

Parcel Number(s):

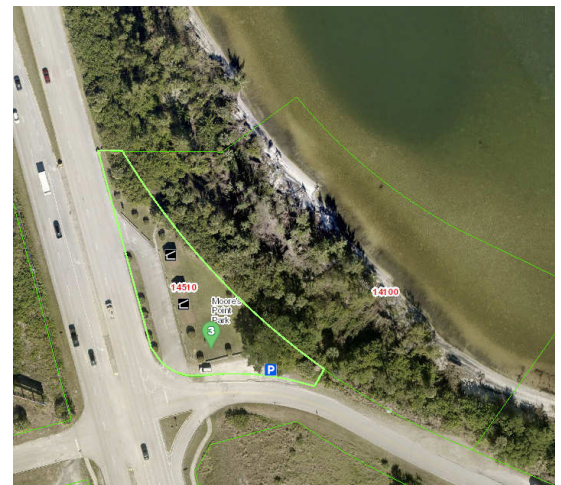
30382500000300000001.0

Ownership: FDOT



Existing Conditions and Uses

Located across the street from Hobart Ball Fields, this park hosts two large picnic pavilions available for rent, a children's park with playground equipment, an amphitheater, basketball court, horseshoe pits, covered picnic tables, and a lakeside area with separate restrooms. [County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://County Parks (arcgis.com))



17. Oslo Road Boat Ramp

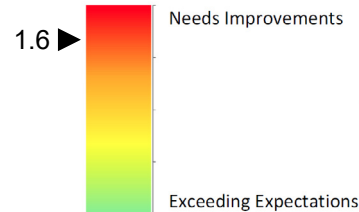
Location: 455 9th St. SW

Size: 2.57 acres

Parcel Number(s):

33401900000700000001.0

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions and Uses

Oslo Dock is located at the end of 9th St SE (Oslo Road) on the Indian River Lagoon. This natural area includes a boat launch for shallow draft vessels, canoe launch, unpaved parking area, and nearby trails through the ORCA conservation lands.

[County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://County Parks (arcgis.com))



18. Pine Hill (Lone Pine)

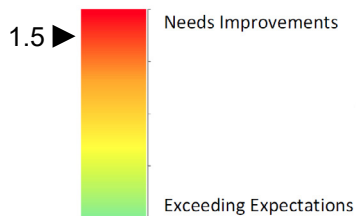
Location: 206 30th Ave.

Size: 0.12 acres

Parcel Number(s):

33391500007000000017.0

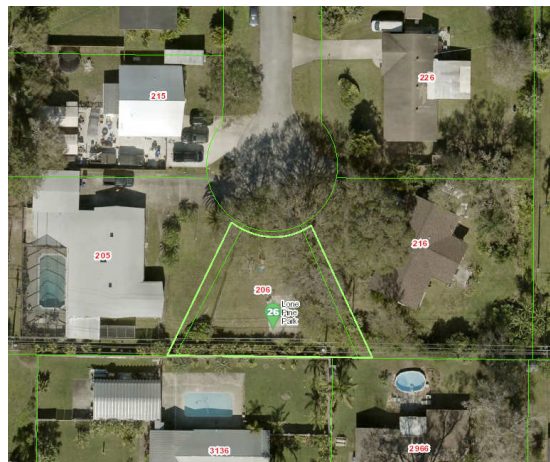
Ownership: County



Existing Conditions and Uses

A small neighborhood park. Parking is not available. Amenities include playground equipment in a small fenced park

[County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://CountyParks(arcgis.com))



19. Roseland Community Park

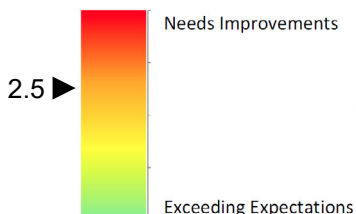
Location: 12925 83rd Ave.

Size: 0.72 acres

Parcel Number(s):

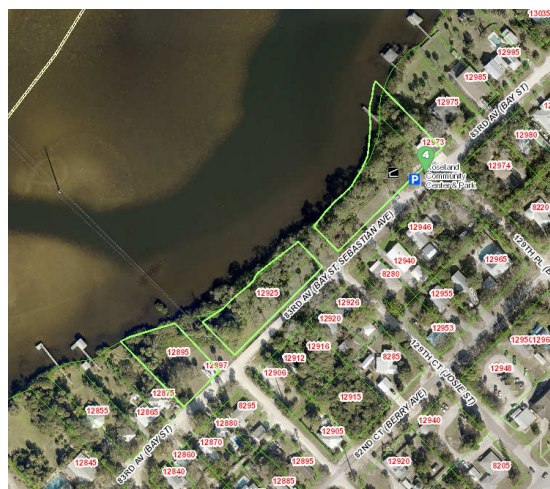
30382100005000000000.1

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions and Uses

Roseland Community Center & Park includes a community building, a boardwalk on the Sebastian River, a covered pavilion and grill. The park offers a place to have a picnic and enjoy the shady green space next to the river. Amenities include grill, pavilion, picnic table, and parking. [County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://CountyParks(arcgis.com))



20. Round Island Riverside

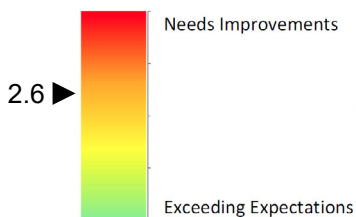
Location: 2200 A1A

Size: 94.16 acres

Parcel Number(s):

33403400001000000012.1

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions and Uses

Located less than half a mile north of St. Lucie County, Round Island Riverside Park is Indian River County's southernmost public park. This unique park features two boat ramps, canoe launch, picnic pavilion with a grill, paved parking, and a 400' boardwalk for wildlife viewing. Cross over the footbridge to a natural island where you will find nature trails that lead to a fishing pier and an observation tower. The Round Island South Conservation Area lies adjacent to the park. [County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://CountyParks(arcgis.com))



21. Seagrape Beach Access

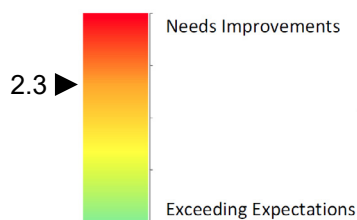
Location: 8302 N A1A

Size: 0.76 acres

Parcel Number(s):

31393600000001000003.0

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions and Uses

Located approximately one mile south of County Road 510, Seagrape Trail will lead you to the beach. Amenities include a boardwalk beach access and paved parking.

[County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://County Parks (arcgis.com))



22. Sebastian Canoe Launch Park

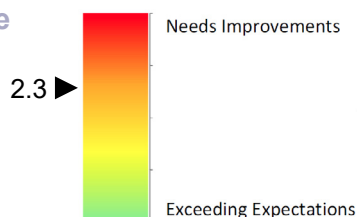
Location: 9800 Canoe Launch Cove

Size: 1.03 acres

Parcel Number(s):

31382300000300000003.1

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions and Uses

The canoe launch is situated on the South Prong of the Sebastian River, providing access to the natural area and wildlife. The Sebastian River provides a glimpse into old Florida, the way it was before the state was heavily settled. The park also provides connection to Dale Wimbro Park by kayak. Amenities include a pavilion, picnic tables, and parking. [County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://County Parks (arcgis.com))



23. Tracking Station Beach

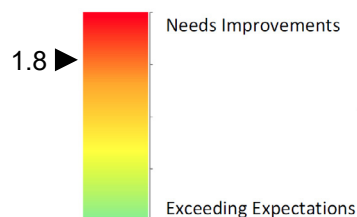
Location: 800 46th Pl.

Size: 5.53 acres

Parcel Number(s):

32402000000001000003.0

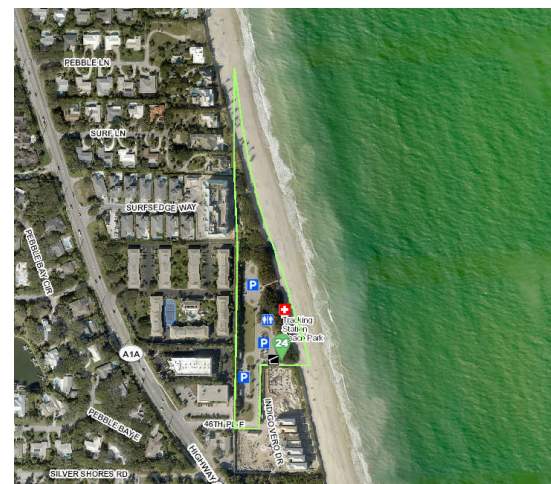
Ownership: US Gov



Existing Conditions and Uses

Nestled in the healthy seagrasses in between Indian River Shores and Vero Beach, you will find Tracking Station Beach Park. This lengthy park includes paved parking, three boardwalks for access to the beach, restrooms, and a pavilion with a picnic table and grill. ADA beach access and parking are available.

[County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://County Parks (arcgis.com))



24. Treasure Shores Park

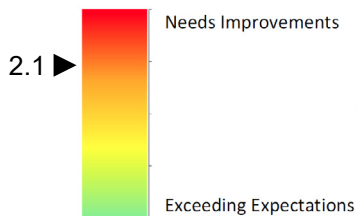
Location: 11300 Highway A1A

Size: 20.8 acres

Parcel Number(s):

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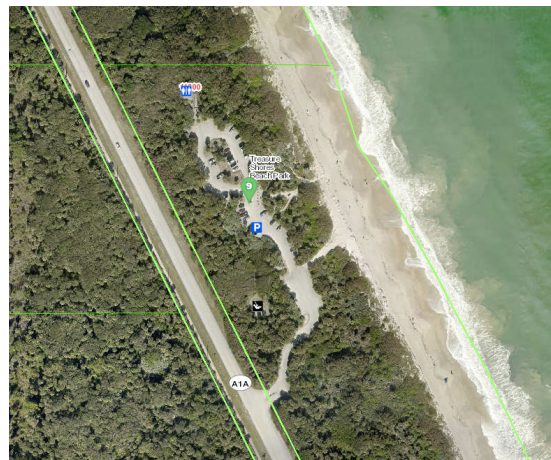
Ownership: County



Existing Conditions and Uses

Hidden among large, beautiful oak trees, Treasure Shores Beach Park provides access to the shoreline, paved parking, restroom facilities, a playground area, and picnic tables. ADA beach access and parking are available.

[County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://CountyParks(arcgis.com))



25. Tropic Colony

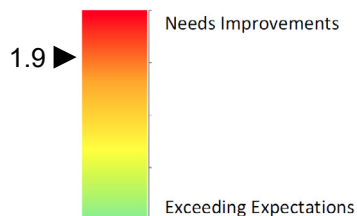
Location: 1825 46th Av.

Size: 0.53 acres

Parcel Number(s):

33390400011003000004.0

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions and Uses

Undeveloped land around neighborhood pond.

[County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://CountyParks(arcgis.com))



26. Turtle Trail Beach Access

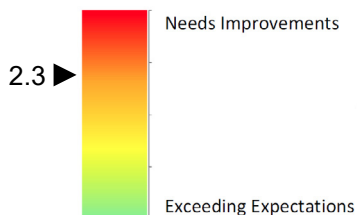
Location: 8102 A1A

Size: 1.16 acres

Parcel Number(s):

31393600000010000006.0

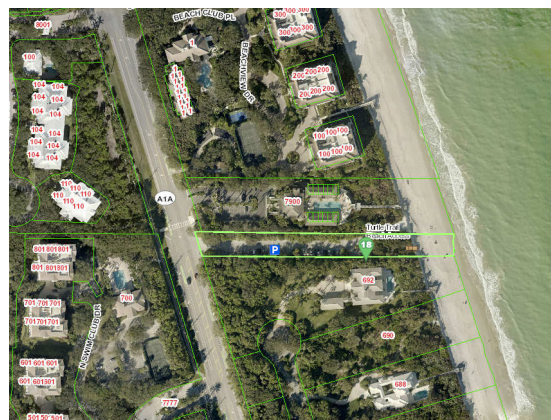
Ownership: County



Existing Conditions and Uses

Just south of Seagrape Trail, you'll find Turtle Trail Beach Access. This park provides access to the ocean with natural vegetation. Paved parking is available.

[County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://CountyParks(arcgis.com))



27. Vero Highland Park

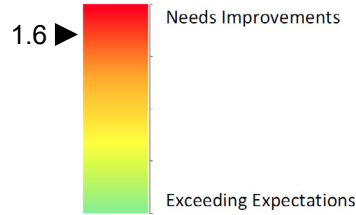
Location: 330 21st Rd. SW

Size: 8.72 acres

Parcel Number(s):

33393600002030000000.1

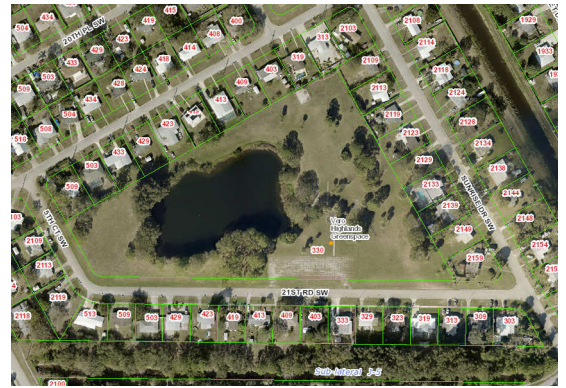
Ownership: County



Existing Conditions and Uses

Undeveloped park space surrounding a large neighborhood pond.

[County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://County Parks (arcgis.com))



28. Victor Hart Park

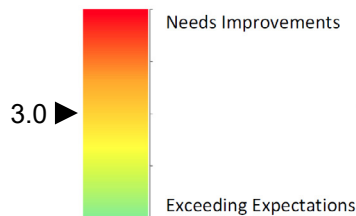
Location: 4715 43rd. Ave.

Size: 38.96 acres

Parcel Number(s):

32392100001009000001.0

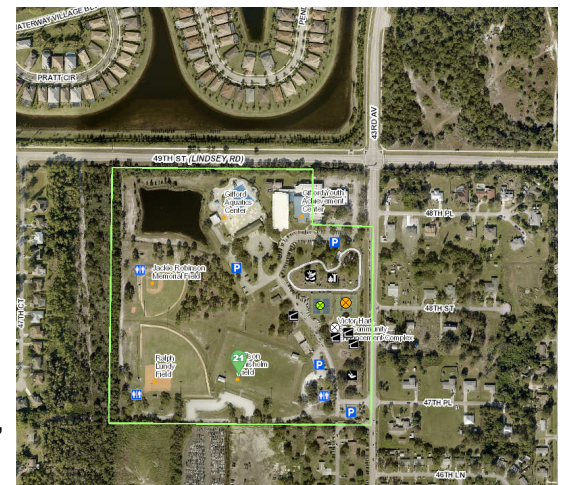
Ownership: County



Existing Conditions and Uses

This park includes a 200' Little League field and a 300' multi-purpose baseball/softball field, both with lights, concession, press box, and restrooms. It includes a lighted full-size football field, two lighted basketball courts, children's park with playground equipment, a sand volleyball court, two lighted tennis courts, a tennis wall, covered pavilions, exercise equipment, and a fitness trail.

[County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://County Parks (arcgis.com))



29. Wabasso Beach Park

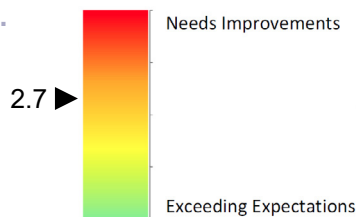
Location: 1820 Wabasso Beach Rd.

Size: 0.46 acres

Parcel Number(s):

31392300000500000001.0

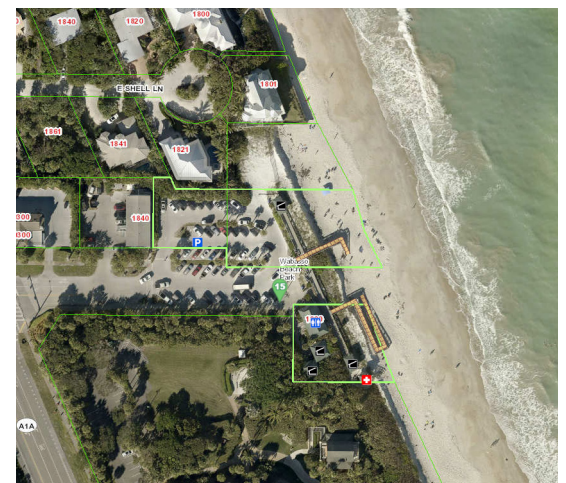
Ownership: County



Existing Conditions and Uses

Wabasso Beach Park is a popular spot for swimmers, sunbathers, and surfers alike. The park includes an extensive boardwalk for ocean viewing and easy beach access, pavilions with picnic tables and grills, a bike rack, showers, restroom facilities, and paved parking. ADA beach access and parking are available.

[County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://County Parks (arcgis.com))



30. Wabasso Causeway Park

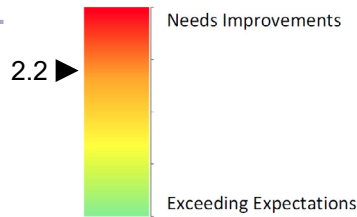
Location: 3105 Wabasso Bridge Rd.

Size: 13.40 acres

Parcel Number(s):

31392700000500000002.0

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions and Uses

Wabasso Causeway Park includes two areas, both situated around the Wabasso Causeway Bridge over the Indian River Lagoon. The eastern portion of the park includes a boat ramp, canoe launch, and restroom facilities. Both portions have picnic tables, covered pavilions, grills, and plenty of shoreline for fishing.

[County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://CountyParks(arcgis.com))



31. West Wabasso Park

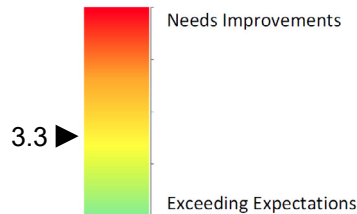
Location: 8900 64th Ave.

Size: 10 acres

Parcel Number(s):

31392900000300000013.0

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions and Uses

West Wabasso Park is a multi-use park located adjacent to Wabasso Scrub Conservation Area. It features a lighted 300' multi-purpose baseball/softball field with concession, press box, two lighted basketball courts, a lighted tennis court, and a fitness trail.

[County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://CountyParks(arcgis.com))



32. Round Island Oceanside Park

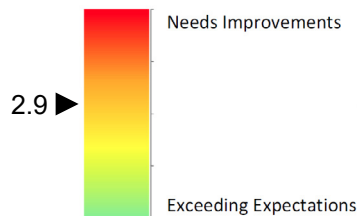
Location: 2200 S. HWY A1A

Size: 0.72 acres

Parcel Number(s):

33403400001000000012.1

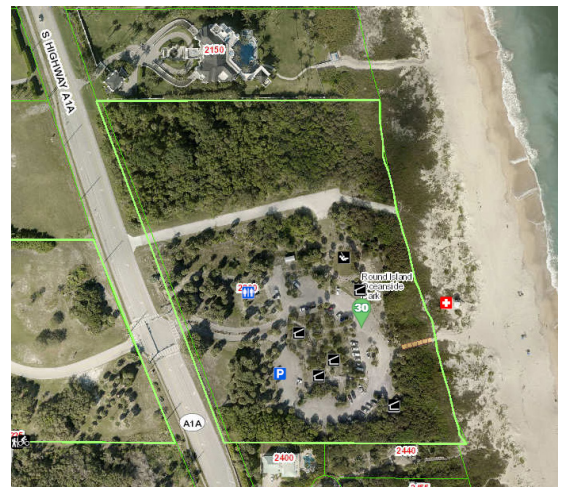
Ownership: County



Existing Conditions and Uses

Just across Hwy A1A from her riverside sister park. This park is the County's southernmost beach park. Amenities provided include covered pavilions with grills, a children's playground, restrooms, and paved parking. ADA beach access and parking are available.

[County Parks \(arcgis.com\)](http://CountyParks(arcgis.com))



Indian River County



Conservation Site Assessment Findings



2.1. Conservation Site Findings

The consultant team conducted in-person site assessments of County Conservation Area Sites. Evaluation forms were completed in January 2024 by the County's Conservation Lands Manager. These evaluations establish a base-line understanding and "snapshot" of the sites' existing conditions and amenities. This assessment will be utilized with other technical research reports to assist with the final Master Plan including recommendations and action strategies.

METHODOLOGY

The consultant team used a site assessment form to document observations. One form was completed for each conservation site within the Indian River County Parks and Recreation system.

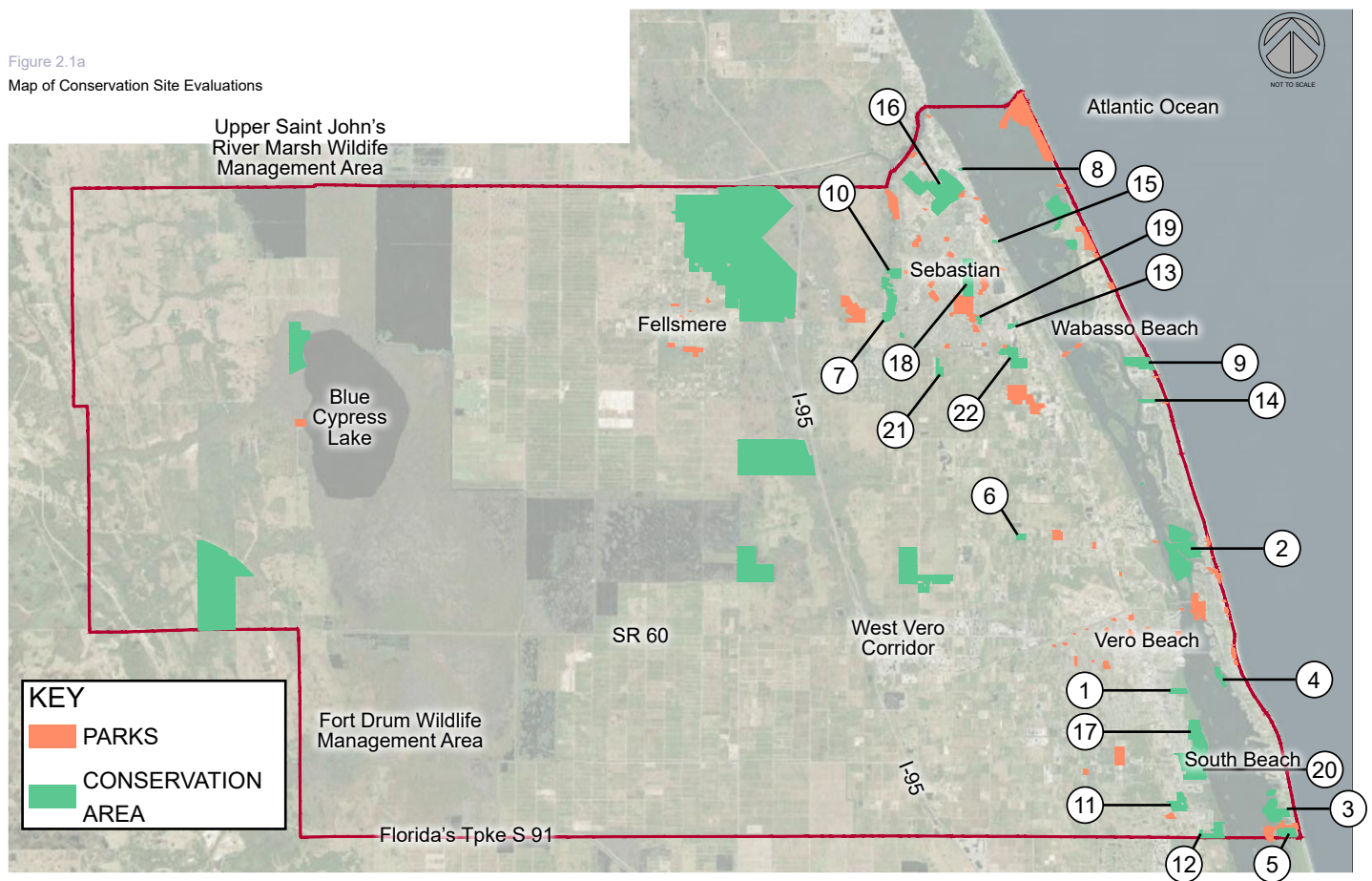
The assessment form includes:

- General description
- Size
- Approximate coverage of ecozones
- Existence of buffer zones
- Degree of encroachment
- Grade of presence of invasives
- Current or recent restoration activities onsite
- Short and long term management goals
- Predominant usages
- Site impacts on environment
- Environmental education opportunities
- User groups
- Critical Issues/Priorities
- Management issues

The following sites were evaluated:

1. Indian River Lagoon Greenway
2. Lost Tree Island Conservation Area
3. Oyster Bar Marsh Conservation Area
4. Prange Island Conservation Area
5. Round Island South Conservation Area
6. 58th Avenue Conservation Area
7. Ansin Riverfront Conservation Area
8. Archie Smith Fish House
9. Captain Forster Hammock Preserve
10. Cypress Bend Community Presere
11. Hallstrom Farmstead
12. Harmony Oaks Conservation Area
13. Jane Schnee Conservation Area
14. Jones' Pier Conservation Area
15. Kroegel Homestead
16. North Sebastian Conservation Area
17. Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area
18. Sebastian Harbor Preserve
19. Sebastian Scrub Conservation Area
20. South Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area
21. South Prong Preserve
22. Wabasso Scrub Conservation Area

Figure 2.1a
Map of Conservation Site Evaluations



2.2. Conservation Area Descriptions

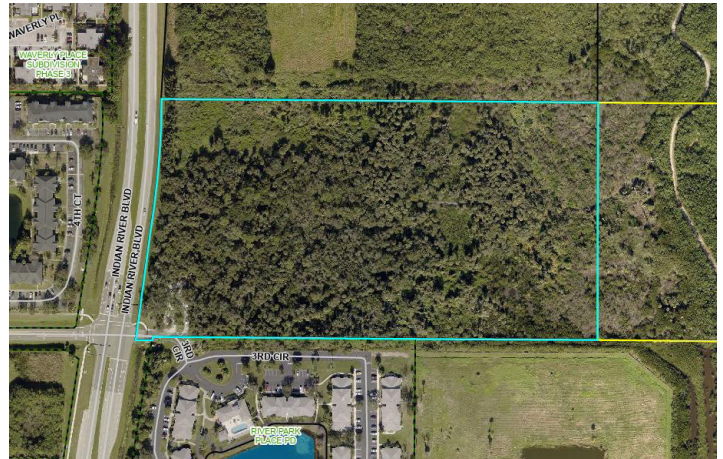
1. Indian River Lagoon Greenway

Location: 850 Indian River Blvd.

Size: 37.5 acres

Parcel Number(s): 33400700000007000003.0
33400700000008000002.0

Ownership: County/IRLT



Existing Conditions

Indian River Lagoon Greenway contains 37.5 Acres of conservation land area partially owned by Indian River Land Trust and managed by Indian River County. The site ecozone coverage is 30% Maritime Hammock, 20% Disturbed Lands in Transition (approximately 60% of which being wetland), and 50% Mangrove Impoundment. No buffer zones exist, and there is no degree of encroachment. There is about 10% presence of flora invasives. As far as invasive fauna, invasive agamas were observed. Current and/or recent restoration activities include the removal of invasive vegetation. Management for invasive vegetation is on-going. Neither a cultural resource survey nor any recent listed species surveys have been completed. Invasive treatment areas are mapped in GIS as they are completed. A draft Natural Resource Management Plan was developed upon acquisition but was never finalized. The draft Plan loosely outlines that annual management of invasives is needed and identifies that the County has an Upland Mitigation Fund and a Tree Fund that can be used for funding. This site has been treated through the FWC Upland Mitigation Program which is at no cost to the County. Funding for staff and equipment is available as described above. The County generally contracts out larger treatment events. There is no identified funding for large equipment such as shredders; the annual budget covers the cost of herbicide, tanks, and sprayers.

Predominant Usages

Resource based recreational uses allowed on this site include bird watching, fishing, guided tours, hiking, nature study, pets on-leash, and picnicking. Visitation to the site appears to be of appropriate frequency. Human use of this site has caused significant spread of exotic vegetation. Frequent visual inspection is conducted to monitor potential impacts from recreational use. Environmental education opportunities that currently exist to enhance user experiences on the site include (1) guided tours to highlight wildlife use and discuss the ecology of the Lagoon and challenges for improving habitat and water quality, and (2) volunteer days to help with invasives and clean up events. To take advantage of natural resources and facilities and manage resource-based recreation, the Indian River Land Trust conducts volunteer work and site tours.

Critical Issues/Priorities

The most substantial challenge, threat, and management issue for the site is maintaining a habitat free of invasive vegetation.

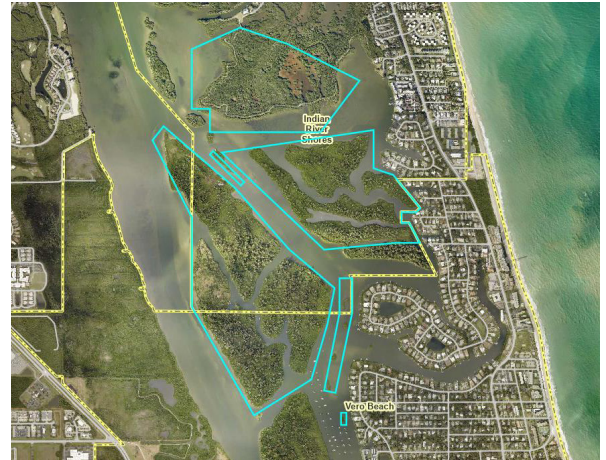
2. Lost Tree Island Conservation Area

Location: 505 Gifford Dock Rd.

Size: 508 acres

Parcel Number(s): 32401900000500000016.0

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions

Lost Tree Island Conservation Area contains 508 Acres of conservation land area. The site consists of spoil islands, of which the County has restored approximately 25 acres of habitat. A Plan has been developed to create a mosaic of uplands and wetlands for ecozone coverage. Buffer zones exist within the Indian River Lagoon. There is greater than 90% presence of flora invasives. As far as invasive fauna, invasive agamas were observed. Current and/or recent restoration activities include the removal of invasive vegetation and replanting. Management for invasive vegetation is on-going, and a plan for restoration was developed and is planned to be permitted and implemented. Neither a cultural resource survey nor any recent listed species surveys have been completed. Invasive treatment areas are mapped in GIS as they are completed. The latest Natural Resource Management Plan is the FCT Management Plan from 2003. The Plan loosely outlines that annual management of invasives is needed and identifies that the County has an Upland Mitigation Fund and a Tree Fund that can be used for funding. Funding for staff and equipment is available as described above. The County generally contracts out larger treatment events. There is no identified funding for large equipment such as shredders; the annual budget covers the cost of herbicide, tanks, and sprayers. This site is not highly used; therefore, there is not a significant concern about vandalism.

Predominant Usages

Resource based recreational uses allowed on this site include bird watching, fishing, hiking, nature study, pets on-leash, and picnicking. Visitation to the site appears to be infrequent. Human use of this site has caused significant spread of exotic vegetation and some dumping. Frequent visual inspection is conducted to monitor potential impacts from recreational use. Environmental education opportunities that currently exist to enhance user experiences on the site include (1) guided tours to highlight wildlife use and discuss the ecology of the Lagoon and challenges for improving habitat and water quality, and (2) volunteer days to help with invasives and clean up events. To take advantage of facilities, the general public infrequently uses the two small pavilions and small dock for picnicking.

Critical Issues/Priorities

The most substantial challenge, threat, and management issue for the site is maintaining a habitat free of invasive vegetation.

3. Oyster Bar Marsh Conservation Area

Location: 1955 S. Highway A1A

Size: 132 acres

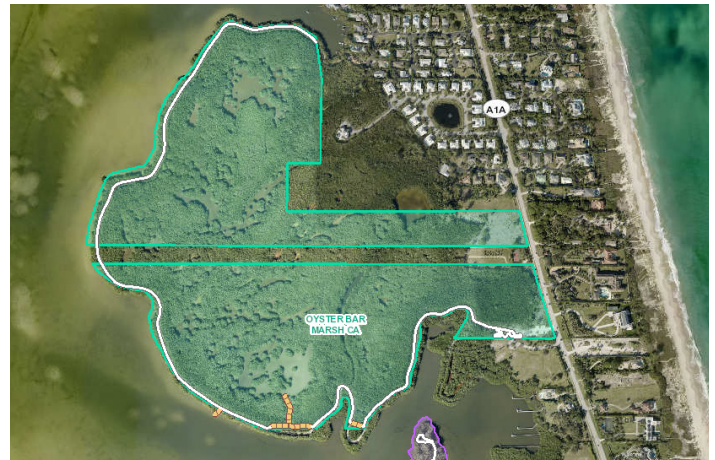
Parcel Number(s): 33403400001000000009.2; 33403400001000000008.2; 33403400001000000007.2;
33403400001000000005.1; 33403400001000000001.1; 33403300000001000001.0;
33403300000001000002.0; 33402800000004000007.0; 33402800000004000008.0
; 33403400007000000000.3; 33403400000001000005.0; 33403400000001000006.0;
33403400000002000001.1

Ownership: County/IRLT

Existing Conditions

Oyster Bar Marsh Conservation Area contains 132 Acres of conservation land area partially owned by Indian River Land Trust and managed by Indian River County. The site ecozone coverage is 95% hammock, approximately 10% of which is restored hammock in progress. No buffer zones exist, and there is no degree of encroachment. There is less than 5% presence of flora invasives. As far as invasive fauna, invasive agamas were observed.

Current and/or recent restoration activities include the removal of invasive vegetation and replanting. Management for invasive vegetation is on-going. Neither a cultural resource survey nor any recent listed species surveys have been completed. Invasive treatment areas are mapped in GIS as they are completed. The latest Natural Resource Management Plan is the FCT Management Plan from 2013. The Plan loosely outlines that annual management of invasives is needed and identifies that the County has an Upland Mitigation Fund and a Tree Fund that can be used for funding. Funding for staff and equipment is available as described above. The County generally contracts out larger treatment events. There is no identified funding for large equipment such as shredders; the annual budget covers the cost of herbicide, tanks, and sprayers.



Predominant Usages

Resource based recreational uses allowed on this site include bird watching, fishing, guided tours, hiking, nature study, pets on-leash, and picnicking. Visitation to the site appears to be of appropriate frequency. Human use of this site has not caused significant natural resource impacts. Frequent visual inspection is conducted to monitor potential impacts from recreational use. Environmental education opportunities that currently exist to enhance user experiences on the site include (1) guided tours to highlight wildlife use and discuss the ecology of the Lagoon and challenges for improving habitat and water quality, and (2) volunteer days to help with invasives and clean up events. To take advantage of facilities, the general public utilizes the boardwalks and the overlook on the Lagoon. Indian River Land Trust participates in the management of resource-based recreation.

Critical Issues/Priorities

The most substantial challenge, threat, and management issue for the site is maintaining a habitat free of invasive vegetation.

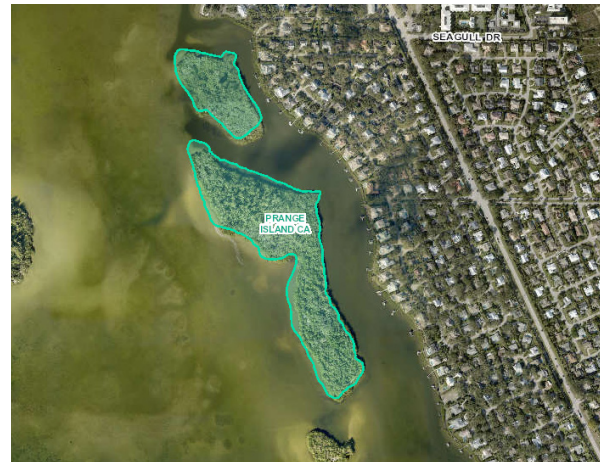
4. Prange Island Conservation Area

Location: 901 Castaway Blvd.

Size: 26.50 acres

Parcel Number(s): 33400800000007000001.0

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions

Prange Island Conservation Area contains 26.5 Acres of conservation land area. The site consists of natural islands in the Lagoon that are 100% upland hammock ecozone coverage. Buffer zones exist within the Indian River Lagoon. There is greater than 30% presence of flora invasives. As far as invasive fauna, invasive agamas were observed. Current and/or recent restoration activities include the removal of invasive vegetation and replanting. Management for invasive vegetation is on-going. Neither a cultural resource survey nor any recent listed species surveys have been completed. Invasive treatment areas are mapped in GIS as they are completed. The latest Natural Resource Management Plan is the FCT Management Plan from 1996. The Plan loosely outlines that annual management of invasives is needed and identifies that the County has an Upland Mitigation Fund and a Tree Fund that can be used for funding. Funding for staff and equipment is available as described above. The County generally contracts out larger treatment events. There is no identified funding for large equipment such as shredders; the annual budget covers the cost of herbicide, tanks, and sprayers. This site is not highly used; therefore, there is not a significant concern about vandalism.

Predominant Usages

Resource based recreational uses allowed on this site include bird watching, fishing, hiking, nature study, pets on-leash, and picnicking. Visitation to the site appears to be infrequent. Human use of this site has caused significant spread of exotic vegetation and some dumping. Frequent visual inspection is conducted to monitor potential impacts from recreational use. There is a small group of individuals who treat invasive vegetation. Environmental education opportunities that currently exist to enhance user experiences on the site include (1) guided tours to highlight wildlife use and discuss the ecology of the Lagoon and challenges for improving habitat and water quality, and (2) volunteer days to help with invasives and clean up events. To take advantage of facilities, the public infrequently uses a small dock and unmaintained trails.

Critical Issues/Priorities

The most substantial challenge, threat, and management issue for the site is maintaining a habitat free of invasive vegetation.

5. Round Island South Conservation Area

Location: 2205 S. Highway A1A

Size: 59 acres

Parcel Number(s): 33403400001000000017.0

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions

Round Island South Conservation Area contains 59 Acres of conservation land area. The site ecozone coverage is 75% Mangrove Impoundment, 22% Maritime Hammock, and 3% Disturbed Lands in Transition. Buffer zones exist with zero degree of encroachment. There is less than 10% presence of flora invasives. As far as invasive fauna, invasive agamas were observed. Current and/or recent restoration activities include the removal of invasive vegetation and replanting. Management for invasive vegetation is on-going. Neither a cultural resource survey nor any recent listed species surveys have been completed. Invasive treatment areas are mapped in GIS as they are completed. The latest Natural Resource Management Plan is the FCT Management Plan from 2007. The Plan loosely outlines that annual management of invasives is needed and identifies that the County has an Upland Mitigation Fund and a Tree Fund that can be used for funding. This site has been treated through the FWC Upland Mitigation Program which is at no cost to the County. Funding for staff and equipment is available as described above. The County generally contracts out larger treatment events. There is no identified funding for large equipment such as shredders; the annual budget covers the cost of herbicide, tanks, and sprayers. This site is not highly used; therefore, there is not a significant concern about vandalism. As far as protection for sensitive environments and opportunities for more intense recreational use, this site is adjacent to a large park where boating and kayaking is available. Only passive recreation is available on site.

Predominant Usages

Resource based recreational uses allowed on this site include bird watching, fishing, hiking, nature study, pets on-leash, and picnicking. Visitation to the site appears to be infrequent. Human use of this site has caused significant spread of exotic vegetation. Frequent visual inspection is conducted to monitor potential impacts from recreational use. FWC has provided invasive vegetation funding through the TIERS program for site management. Environmental education opportunities that currently exist to enhance user experiences on the site include (1) guided tours to highlight wildlife use and discuss the ecology of the Lagoon and challenges for improving habitat and water quality, and (2) volunteer days to help with invasives and clean up events. To take advantage of facilities, the public may use an observation boardwalk that overlooks the mangrove impoundment.

Critical Issues/Priorities

The most substantial challenge, threat, and management issue for the site is maintaining a habitat free of invasive vegetation.

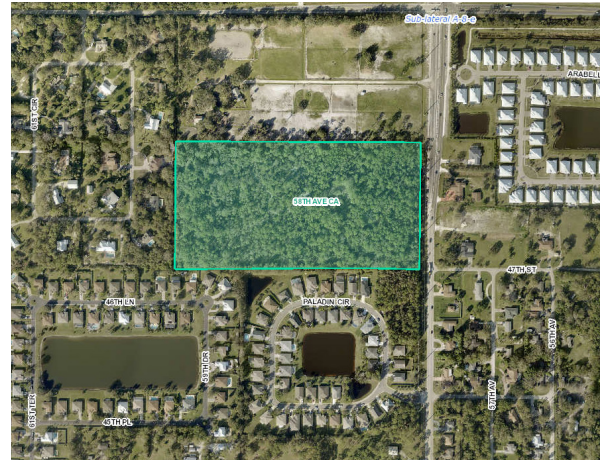
6. 58th Avenue Conservation Area

Location: 4755 58th Ave.

Size: 20 acres

Parcel Number(s): 32392000001009000002.0

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions

58th Avenue Conservation Area contains 20 Acres of conservation land area. The site ecozone coverage is 8% wetland and 92% upland (flatwoods). No buffer zones exist, and there is no degree of encroachment. There is about 15-20% presence of flora invasives. As far as invasive fauna, invasive agamas were observed. Current and/or recent restoration activities include on-going control of invasive vegetation. Neither a cultural resource survey nor any recent listed species surveys have been completed. Invasive treatment areas are mapped in GIS as they are completed. A Natural Resource Management Plan has not been developed for this site; work is limited to land management to remove invasives. The County generally contracts out larger treatment events. There is no identified funding for large equipment such as shredders; the annual budget covers the cost of herbicide, tanks, and sprayers. This site is not open to the public; therefore, there is not a significant concern about vandalism.

Predominant Usages

Resource based recreational uses are not allowed on this site. Visitation to the site appears to be infrequent. Human use of this site has caused minor spread of exotic vegetation, dumping, and vandalism. Frequent visual inspection is conducted to monitor potential impacts from recreational use. This site is not open to the public.

Critical Issues/Priorities

The most substantial challenge and management issue for this relatively small site is maintaining a habitat free of invasive vegetation.

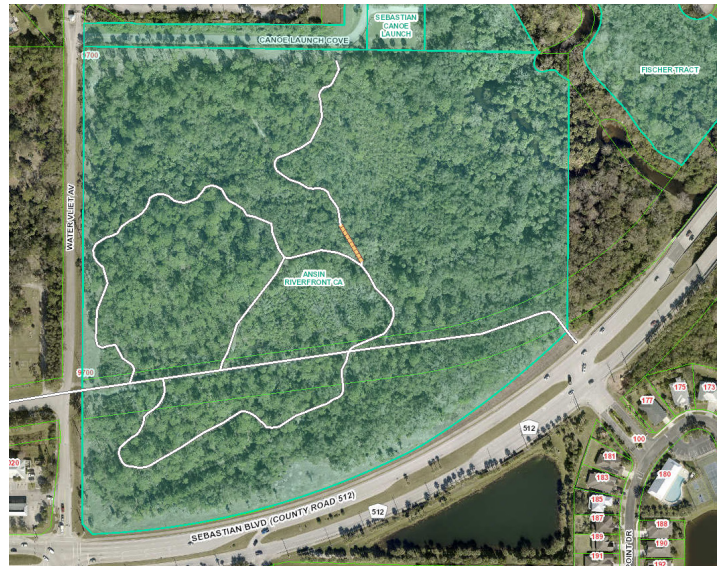
7. Ansin Riverfront Conservation Area

Location: 9800 Canoe Launch Cove

Size: 28 acres

Parcel Number(s): 31382300000500000003.0

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions

Ansin Riverfront Conservation Area contains 28 Acres of conservation land area. The site ecozone coverage is 36% Forested Wetland and 64% Flatwoods. Buffer zones exist with zero degree of encroachment. There is less than 10% presence of flora invasives. As far as invasive fauna, invasive agamas were observed. Current and/or recent restoration activities include the removal of invasive vegetation and mowing to reduce fuel loads in flatwoods. Management for invasive vegetation is on-going. Neither a cultural resource survey nor any recent listed species surveys have been completed. Invasive treatment areas are mapped in GIS as they are completed. The latest Natural Resource Management Plan is the FCT Management Plan from 2006. The Plan loosely outlines that annual management of invasives is needed and identifies that the County has an Upland Mitigation Fund and a Tree Fund that can be used for funding. Funding for staff and equipment is available as described above. The County generally contracts out larger treatment events. There is no identified funding for large equipment such as shredders; the annual budget covers the cost of herbicide, tanks, and sprayers. As far as protection for sensitive environments and opportunities for more intense recreational use, only passive recreation is available on site. The Cross Florida trail runs through the site but is not adversely affecting the natural areas.

Predominant Usages

Resource based recreational uses allowed on this site include bird watching, guided tours, hiking, mountain biking, nature study, and pets on-leash. Visitation to the site appears to be of appropriate frequency. Human use of this site has caused minor spread of exotic vegetation. Frequent visual inspection is conducted to monitor potential impacts from recreational use. Environmental education opportunities that currently exist to enhance user experiences on the site include (1) guided tours to highlight wildlife use and discuss the ecology of the Lagoon and challenges for improving habitat and water quality, and (2) volunteer days to help with invasives and clean up events. To take advantage of facilities, the public frequently uses the Cross Florida Trail.

Critical Issues/Priorities

The most substantial challenge, threat, and management issues for the site are maintaining a habitat free of invasive vegetation and maintaining firebreaks.

8. Archie Smith Fish House

Location: 1740 Indian River Drive

Size: 1.1 acres

Parcel Number(s): 30393100001000000001.9

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions

Archie Smith Fish House contains 1.1 Acres of conservation land. The site ecozone coverage is 60% Upland Hammock (west of Indian River Drive) and 40% waterfront pier and house (set to be demolished). No buffer zones exist, and there is a 15% degree of encroachment. There is about 10% presence of flora invasives. As far as invasive fauna, invasive agamas were observed. There are no current and/or recent restoration activities on site, nor is there a current Annual Work Plan. Neither a cultural resource survey nor any recent listed species surveys have been completed. This site was purchased to preserve the historic dock and associated buildings. There is a small, forested upland on the west side of Indian River Drive; however, no detailed survey of this area has been completed. The site has received funding from FIND and DHR for renovation of the dock and design of renovated buildings (no natural resource funding has been pursued). This is a small site on the Indian River Lagoon; the County is in the process of adding a pavilion (over water) that will be used by the public, in addition to opportunities for fishing on the pier. Additional design and permitting of parking area is needed to allow for increased public use.

Predominant Usages

Resource based recreational uses allowed on this site include bird watching, fishing, nature study, pets on-leash, and picnicking. Visitation to the site appears to be infrequent. Human use of this site has resulted in vandalism and unauthorized entry, which could significantly impact resource protection goals at this site. Frequent visual inspection is conducted to monitor potential impacts from recreational use. Environmental education opportunities that currently exist to enhance user experiences on the site include (1) guided tours to highlight Lagoon education, and (2) volunteer days to help with clean up events. The facilities at this site are for public use only.

Critical Issues/Priorities

The most substantial challenge for the site is the potential for unauthorized access.

9. Captain Forster Hammock Preserve

Location: 8650 Jungle Trail

Size: 111 acres

Parcel Number(s): 31392600000010000001.0;

31392600000010000004.0;

31392500000003000001.0

Ownership: State of Florida/TIITF



Existing Conditions

Captain Forster Hammock Preserve contains 111 Acres of conservation land area owned by FDEP and managed by Indian River County. The site ecozone coverage is 10% Wetland, 10% Coastal Hammock/Dune, and 80% Maritime Hammock. No buffer zones exist, and there is zero degree of encroachment. There is a 15% presence of flora invasives. As far as invasive fauna, invasive agamas were observed. Current and/or recent restoration activities include the removal of invasive vegetation and replanting. Management for invasive vegetation is on-going. Neither a cultural resource survey nor any recent listed species surveys have been completed. Invasive treatment areas are mapped in GIS as they are completed. No Natural Resource Management Plan has been developed for this site. The County generally contracts out larger treatment events. There is no identified funding for large equipment such as shredders; the annual budget covers the cost of herbicide, tanks, and sprayers. As far as protection for sensitive environments and opportunities for more intense recreational use, only passive recreation is available on site.

Predominant Usages

Resource based recreational uses allowed on this site include bird watching, fishing, guided tours, hiking, nature study, and pets on-leash. Visitation to the site appears to be of appropriate frequency. Human use of this site has caused significant spread of exotic vegetation. Frequent visual inspection is conducted to monitor potential impacts from recreational use. FWC has provided invasive vegetation funding through the TIERS program for site management. Environmental education opportunities that currently exist to enhance user experiences on the site include (1) guided tours to highlight wildlife use and discuss the ecology of the Lagoon and challenges for improving habitat and water quality, and (2) volunteer days to help with invasives and clean up events. To take advantage of facilities, many groups conduct bird watching events.

Critical Issues/Priorities

The most substantial challenge, threat, and management issue for the site is maintaining a habitat free of invasive vegetation.

10. Cypress Bend Community Preserve

Location: 800 Gardenia Street

Size: 47 acres

Parcel Number(s): 31381400000300000004.0

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions

Cypress Bend Community Preserve contains 47 Acres of conservation land area. The site is a fallow grove along the St. Sebastian River. The plan is to revegetate with xeric species over time. The riverfront area has large laurel oaks along the edge and a steep drop off to the river. As far as invasive fauna, invasive agamas were observed. There are no current and/or recent restoration activities on site. This site was purchased in 2006 with partial funding from Florida Communities Trust (FCT). There is a Management Plan that focuses on restoration of the fallow grove. The plan includes development of passive recreation on the site, including a small educational building and trails. The Plan loosely outlines that annual management of invasives is needed and identifies that the County has an Upland Mitigation Fund and a Tree Fund that can be used for funding. Neither a cultural resource survey nor any recent listed species surveys have been completed. Invasive treatment areas are mapped in GIS as they are completed. As far as protection for sensitive environments and opportunities for more intense recreational use, this is a small site on the Indian River Lagoon; recreation on the site is limited to passive trail walking. There is an unimproved kayak launch that the County allows access.

Predominant Usages

Resource based recreational uses allowed on this site include bird watching, canoeing/kayaking, nature study, pets on-leash, and picnicking. Visitation to the site appears to be infrequent. Human use of this site has resulted in unauthorized entry, which appears insignificant to resource protection goals at this site. Frequent visual inspection is conducted to monitor potential impacts from recreational use. The site is not open to the public except for kayak launching.

Critical Issues/Priorities

The most substantial challenge for the site will be to create xeric habitat. The most substantial management issue is that there is no significant seed bank for restoration; treating nuisance vines and invasives and revegetation will be a long-term effort.

11. Hallstrom Farmstead

Location: 1701 Old Dixie Highway

Size: 93 acres

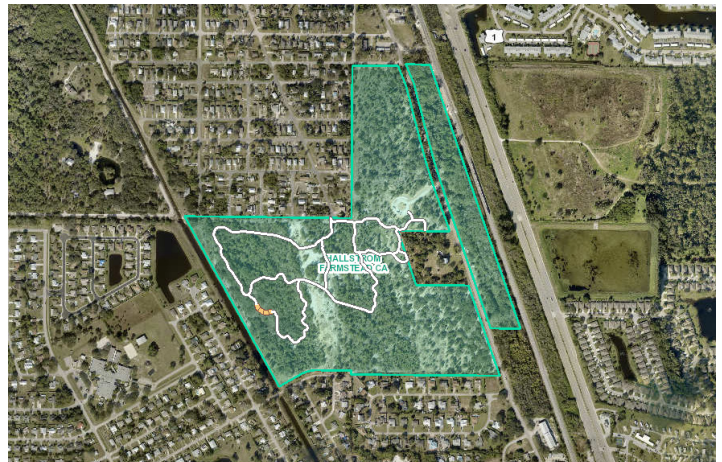
Parcel Number(s): 33403100000100000003.3;

33403100004000100001.0;

33403100000300000001.0;

33403100000100000006.1

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions

Hallstrom Farmstead contains 93 Acres of conservation land area. This site is an old, farmed area adjacent to the Historic Hallstrom House. The County owns several barns on the east side of Old Dixie Highway. Soon to be finished amenities include 2 picnic pavilions, a restroom, parking area, and trails. The fallow farmed areas are slowly getting revegetated. Approximately 5% of the site is wetland (mostly on the east side of Old Dixie Highway); about 20% of the site is sand pine scrub; about 10% of the site is hammock; and about 65% of the site is fallow lands in transition. No buffer zones exist, and there the site is fenced. There is a 15-20% presence of flora invasives. As far as invasive fauna, invasive agamas were observed. Current and/or recent restoration activities on site include many years of treatment for invasive vegetation. Both herbicide treatment and mechanical treatment have been completed. In 2022 and 2023 the County has been planting to restore uplands (with limited success). The County has scheduled treatment for invasive vegetation, and the site has received funding from FWC TIERS to treat invasive species. This site was purchased in 2002 with partial funding from Florida Communities Trust (FCT). There is a Management Plan to preserve the historic buildings, and the goal is to eventually restore the fallow farmland. The Plan loosely outlines that annual management of invasives is needed and identifies that the County has an Upland Mitigation Fund and a Tree Fund that can be used for funding. This site has been treated through the FWC Upland Mitigation Program which is at no cost to the County. Funding for staff and equipment is available as described above. The County generally contracts out larger treatment events. There is no identified funding for large equipment such as shredders; the annual budget covers the cost of herbicide, tanks, and sprayers. A cultural resource survey was completed, and there were no issues found. Natural areas are surveyed for wildlife use, specifically Florida gopher tortoises. Recreation on the site is limited to passive trail walking.

Predominant Usages

Resource based recreational uses allowed on this site include bird watching, guided tours, nature study, pets on-leash, and picnicking. Visitation to the site is infrequent since the site is not yet open. Human use of this site has resulted in unauthorized entry and significant spread of exotic vegetation. Frequent visual inspection is conducted to monitor potential impacts from recreational use. The site is not open to the public yet. In the future, there will be guided tours and other events planned. Future collaboration with the Historical Society is planned for the management of resource-based recreation.

Critical Issues/Priorities

The most substantial challenge for the site will be to create xeric habitat. The most substantial management issue is that there is no significant seed bank for restoration; treating nuisance vines and invasives and revegetation will be a long-term effort.

12. Harmony Oaks Conservation Area

Location: 2323 4th Avenue SE

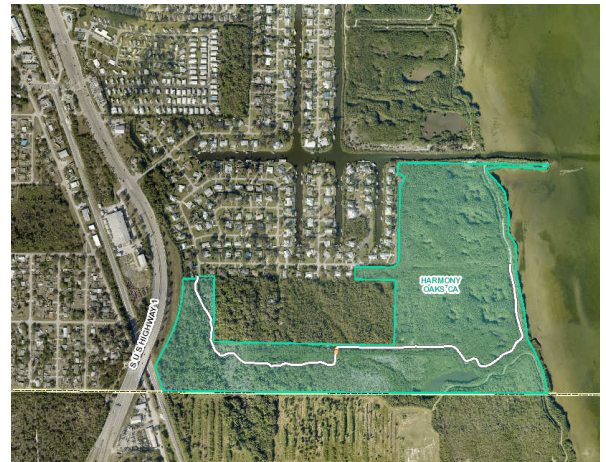
Size: 59 acres

Parcel Number(s): 33403200000003000001.0;

33403200001000000000.2;

33403100000700000012.0

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions

Harmony Oaks Conservation Area contains 59 Acres of conservation land area. The site ecozone coverage is 75% Mangrove Impoundment, 22% Maritime Hammock, and 3% disturbed in transition. Buffer zones exist, and there is zero degree of encroachment. There is less than 10% presence of flora invasives. As far as invasive fauna, invasive agamas were observed. Current and/or recent restoration activities on site include the removal of invasive vegetation and replanting. The latest Natural Resource Management Plan is the FCT Management Plan from 2007. The Plan loosely outlines that annual management of invasives is needed and identifies that the County has an Upland Mitigation Fund and a Tree Fund that can be used for funding. This site has been treated through the FWC Upland Mitigation Program which is at no cost to the County. Funding for staff and equipment is available as described above. The County generally contracts out larger treatment events. There is no identified funding for large equipment such as shredders; the annual budget covers the cost of herbicide, tanks, and sprayers. This site is not highly used therefore we do not have a significant concern about vandalism. Management for invasive vegetation is on-going. Neither a cultural resource survey nor any recent listed species surveys have been completed. Invasive treatment areas are mapped in GIS as they are completed.

Predominant Usages

Resource based recreational uses allowed on this site include bird watching, fishing, hiking, nature study, pets on-leash, and picnicking. Visitation to the site is infrequent. Human use of this site has resulted in significant spread of exotic vegetation. Frequent visual inspection is conducted to monitor potential impacts from recreational use. FWC has provided invasive vegetation funding through the TIERS program. Environmental education opportunities that currently exist to enhance user experiences on the site include (1) guided tours to highlight Lagoon education, and (2) volunteer days to help with clean up events. To take advantage of facilities, the public may utilize an observation boardwalk that overlooks the mangrove impoundment.

Critical Issues/Priorities

The most substantial challenge, threat, and management issue for the site is maintaining a habitat free of

13. Jane Schnee Conservation Area

Location: 2050 Barber St.

Size: 10.8 acres

Parcel Number(s): 31392000000700000007.3

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions

Jane Schnee Conservation Area contains 10.8 Acres of conservation land area.

The site ecozone coverage is 40% Scrub and 60% previously cleared lands in transition. No buffer zones exist, and there is zero degree of encroachment. There is a 20% presence of flora invasives. As far as invasive fauna, invasive agamas were observed. Current and/or recent restoration activities on site include on-going control of invasives. FWC Mitigation team recently completed mowing for invasives. No Natural Resource Management Plan has been developed for this site. Work is limited to land management to remove invasives and promote healthy scrub. No cultural resource survey has been completed. Detailed Florida scrub-jay survey and banding occurs annually; Florida gopher tortoise surveys conducted routinely; and volunteers conduct native plant surveys periodically. Invasive species coverage is mapped in GIS as work is completed. The County generally contracts out larger management work (shredding, etc.) There is no identified funding for large equipment such as shredders; the annual budget covers the cost of herbicide, tanks, and sprayers. This site is not highly used; therefore, there is not a significant concern about vandalism.

Predominant Usages

Resource based recreational uses allowed on this site include bird watching, nature study, and pets on-leash. Visitation to the site is infrequent. Human use of this site has resulted in vandalism, dumping, spread of exotic vegetation, and disturbance of wildlife (feeding scrub-jays). The spread of exotic vegetation and disturbance of wildlife significantly impact the resource protection goals for this site. Frequent visual inspection is conducted, and volunteers monitor scrub-jays for potential impacts from recreational use. Environmental education opportunities that currently exist to enhance user experiences on the site include volunteer days to help with clean up events. There is very little use of this site by the public. The site was acquired to preserve occupied scrub-jay habitat.

Critical Issues/Priorities

The most substantial challenge and management issue for this relatively small site is the treatment of invasive vegetation.

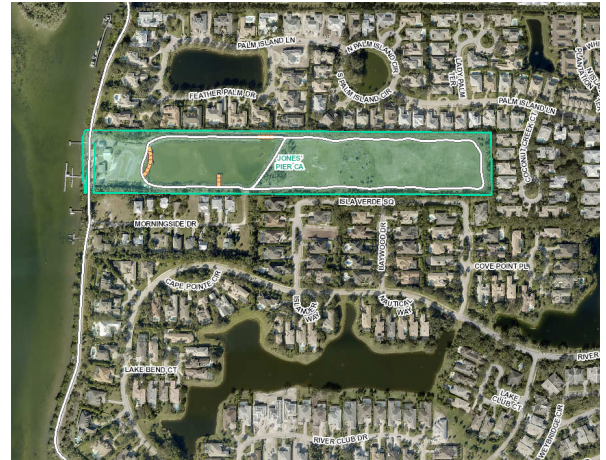
14. Jones' Pier Conservation Area

Location: 7770 Jungle Trail

Size: 16.5 acres

Parcel Number(s): 31393600000008000004.0

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions

Jones' Pier Conservation Area contains 16.5 Acres of conservation land area.

The site ecozone coverage is 30% Wetland and 70% trails, buildings, and open areas. No buffer zones exist, and there is zero degree of encroachment. There is less than a 5% presence of flora invasives. As far as invasive fauna, invasive agamas were observed. Recent restoration activities on site include re-grading to construct 4-acre salt marsh and other habitats. Management for invasive vegetation is on-going. The latest Natural Resource Management Plan is the FCT Management Plan from 2018. The Plan loosely outlines that annual management of invasives is needed and identifies that the County has an Upland Mitigation Fund and a Tree Fund that can be used for funding. Funding for staff and equipment is available as described above. The County generally contracts out larger treatment events. There is no identified funding for large equipment such as shredders; the annual budget covers the cost of herbicide, tanks, and sprayers. A cultural resource survey has been completed. Invasive species coverage is mapped in GIS as work is completed.

Predominant Usages

Resource based recreational uses allowed on this site include bird watching, fishing, guided tours, nature study, pets on-leash, and picnicking. Visitation to the site is of appropriate frequency. Human use of this site has not significantly impacted resource protection goals at this site. Frequent visual inspection is conducted to monitor potential impacts from recreational use. Environmental education opportunities that currently exist to enhance user experiences on the site include (1) guided tours to highlight wildlife use and discuss water quality, listed species, and other appropriate discussions based on available habitat, and (2) volunteer days to help with clean up events. Various school groups and local NGO's take advantage of site facilities.

Critical Issues/Priorities

The most substantial challenge, threat, and management issue for the site is maintaining a habitat free of invasive vegetation.

15. Kroegel Homestead

Location: 11296 S. Indian River Drive

Size: 2.6 acres

Parcel Number(s): 31390800003000000001.0

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions

Kroegel Homestead contains 2.6 Acres of conservation land area. The site is part of a larger pioneer homestead abutting the Lagoon. As far as invasive fauna, invasive agamas were observed. There are no current and/or recent restoration activities on site. This site was purchased to preserve the historic buildings; there are large live oak trees in the western portion of the site. Management is more focused on historic elements of the site. The site has received funding from DHR associated with the historic buildings (no natural resource funding has been pursued). A cultural resource survey was completed, and there were issues related to potential excavation restrictions.

Predominant Usages

Resource based recreational uses allowed on this site include bird watching, guided tours, nature study, pets on-leash, and picnicking. Visitation to the site is infrequent. Human use of this site has resulted in minor vandalism. Frequent visual inspection is conducted to monitor potential impacts from recreational use. Environmental education opportunities that currently exist to enhance user experiences on the site include (1) guided tours to highlight Lagoon education, and (2) volunteer days to help with clean up events. The site is not open to the public yet.

Critical Issues/Priorities

None to report as the site is not yet open.

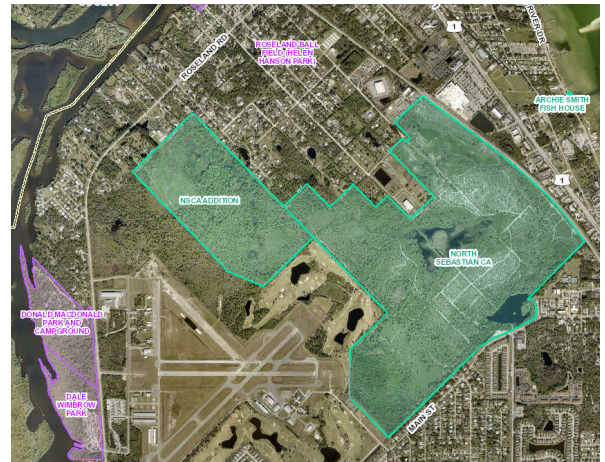
16. North Sebastian Conservation Area

Location: 1295 Main Street

Size: 422 acres

Parcel Number(s): 30382100006005000001.0

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions

North Sebastian Conservation Area contains 422 Acres of conservation land area owned by Indian River County, and 133 Acres owned by SJRWMD and managed by Indian River County. The site ecozone coverage is 25% Wetland, 47% Mesic, and 28% Xeric. No buffer zones exist, and there is zero degree of encroachment. There is less than 10% presence of flora invasives. As far as invasive fauna, invasive agamas were observed. Current and/or recent restoration activities on site include the removal of invasive vegetation and maintaining scrub for use by scrub-jays. Management for invasive vegetation is on-going. The latest Natural Resource Management Plan is the FCT Management Plan revised in 2020; this site is part of the Sebastian Area Wide HCP (2000). The Plan loosely outlines that annual management of invasives is needed and identifies that the County has an Upland Mitigation Fund and a Tree Fund that can be used for funding. This site has been treated through the FWC Upland Mitigation Program which is at no cost to the County. Funding for staff and equipment is available as described above. The County generally contracts out larger treatment events. There is no identified funding for large equipment such as shredders; the annual budget covers the cost of herbicide, tanks, and sprayers. No cultural resource survey has been completed. Detailed Florida scrub jay survey and banding occurs annually; Florida gopher tortoise surveys conducted routinely; volunteers conduct native plant surveys periodically. Invasive species coverage is mapped in GIS as work is completed.

Predominant Usages

Resource based recreational uses allowed on this site include bird watching, fishing, guided tours, hiking, nature study, pets on-leash, and picnicking. Visitation to the site is of appropriate frequency. Human use of this site has resulted in vandalism, spread of exotic vegetation, and disturbance of wildlife (feeding scrub-jays). The spread of exotic vegetation and disturbance of wildlife significantly impact the resource protection goals for this site. Frequent visual inspection is conducted, and volunteers monitor scrub-jays for potential impacts from recreational use. FWC has provided invasive vegetation funding through the TIERS program; FFS assists with prescribed fire. Environmental education opportunities that currently exist to enhance user experiences on the site include (1) guided tours to highlight wildlife use and discuss fire ecology, listed species, and other appropriate discussions based on available habitat, and (2) volunteer days to help with clean up events. There are many miles of trails and boardwalks available for the public to use for passive recreation.

Critical Issues/Priorities

The most substantial challenge, threat, and management issue for the site is maintaining a habitat free of invasive vegetation.

17. Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area

Location: 150 9th Street SE

Size: 298 acres

Parcel Number(s): 334019000000010000001.0;
3340190000001000000001.0;
3340190000001000000001.1

Ownership: SJRWMD / County



Existing Conditions

Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area contains 298 Acres of conservation land area owned by SJRWMD/ IRC and managed by IRC. The site ecozone coverage is 60% Mangrove Impoundment, 20% Maritime Hammock, 10% Pine Flatwoods, and 10% disturbed in transition. Buffer zones exist, and there is zero degree of encroachment. There is a 10% presence of flora invasives. As far as invasive fauna, invasive agamas were observed. Current and/or recent restoration activities on site include the removal of invasive vegetation and replanting. Management for invasive vegetation is on-going. The latest Natural Resource Management Plan is a Draft Management Plan (site acquired in 1991). The Plan loosely outlines that annual management of invasives is needed and identifies that the County has an Upland Mitigation Fund and a Tree Fund that can be used for funding. This site has been treated through the FWC Upland Mitigation Program which is at no cost to the County. The County generally contracts out larger treatment events. There is no identified funding for large equipment such as shredders; the annual budget covers the cost of herbicide, tanks, and sprayers. Neither a cultural resource survey nor any recent listed species surveys have been completed. Invasive treatment areas are mapped in GIS as they are completed. Only passive recreation is available on this site; there are trails, boardwalks, a wetland overlook (elevated) and a kayak launch for public use.

Predominant Usages

Resource based recreational uses allowed on this site include bird watching, canoeing/kayaking, fishing, guided tours, hiking, nature study, pets on-leash, and picnicking. Visitation to the site is of appropriate frequency. Human use of this site has resulted in unauthorized entry by homeless, dumping, and significant spread of exotic vegetation. Frequent visual inspection is conducted to monitor potential impacts from recreational use. FWC has provided invasive vegetation funding through the TIERS program. Environmental education opportunities that currently exist to enhance user experiences on the site include (1) guided tours to highlight wildlife use and discuss the ecology of the Lagoon and challenges for improving habitat and water quality, and (2) volunteer days to help with clean up events. Pelican Island Audubon is located across the street and uses the site for programming. Also, small groups do walking tours to observe plants and wildlife.

Critical Issues/Priorities

The most substantial challenge, threat, and management issue for the site is maintaining a habitat free of invasive vegetation.

18. Sebastian Harbor Preserve

Location: 184 Englar Drive

Size: 163 acres

Parcel Number(s): 31391800000300000001.0

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions

Sebastian Harbor Preserve contains 163 Acres of conservation land area.

The site ecozone coverage is 23% Wetland and 77% Flatwoods and palmetto prairie. No buffer zones exist, and there is less than 5% degree of encroachment. There is less than 10% presence of flora invasives. As far as invasive fauna, invasive agamas were observed. Current and/or recent restoration activities on site include the removal of invasive vegetation and mowing to reduce fuel loads in flatwoods. Management for invasive vegetation is on-going. The latest Natural Resource Management Plan is the FCT Management Plan from 2018. The Plan loosely outlines that annual management of invasives is needed and identifies that the County has an Upland Mitigation Fund and a Tree Fund that can be used for funding. The County generally contracts out larger treatment events. There is no identified funding for large equipment such as shredders; the annual budget covers the cost of herbicide, tanks, and sprayers. No cultural resource survey has been completed. Invasive species coverage is mapped in GIS as work is completed. Only passive recreation is available on this site.

Predominant Usages

Resource based recreational uses allowed on this site include bird watching, hiking, mountain biking, nature study, pets on-leash, and picnicking. Visitation to the site is of appropriate frequency. Human use of this site has resulted in minor spread of exotic vegetation. Frequent visual inspection is conducted to monitor potential impacts from recreational use. Environmental education opportunities that currently exist to enhance user experiences on the site include (1) guided tours to highlight wildlife use and discuss fire ecology, listed species, and other appropriate discussions based on available habitat, and (2) volunteer days to help with invasives and clean up events. There are 2.5 miles of trails and boardwalks available for the public to use for passive recreation.

Critical Issues/Priorities

The most substantial challenge, threat, and management issues for the site is maintaining a habitat free of invasive vegetation and maintaining firebreaks.

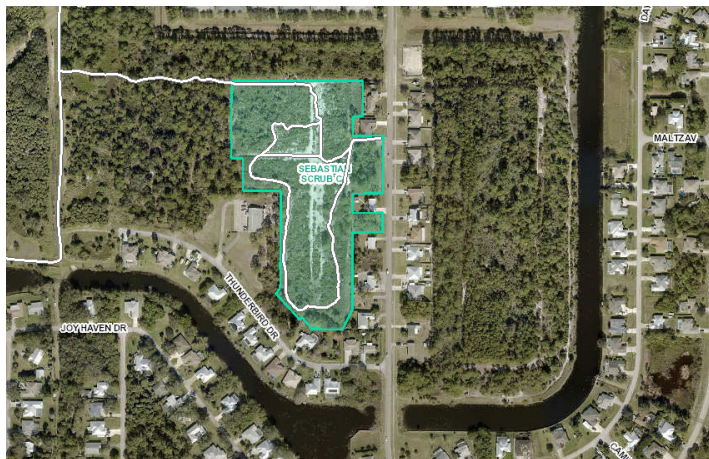
19. Sebastian Scrub Conservation Area

Location: 1258 Schumann Dr.

Size: 10 acres

Parcel Number(s): 31391900001584000002.0

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions

Sebastian Scrub Conservation Area contains 10 Acres of conservation land area.

The site ecozone coverage is 100% Scrub. No buffer zones exist, and there is zero degree of encroachment. There is less than 5% presence of flora invasives. As far as invasive fauna, invasive agamas were observed. No restoration activities are required on site. The latest Natural Resource Management Plan is the FCT Management Plan revised in 2013; this site is part of the Sebastian Area Wide HCP. The Plan loosely outlines that annual management of invasives is needed and identifies that the County has an Upland Mitigation Fund and a Tree Fund that can be used for funding. Work is limited to land management to remove invasives and promote healthy scrub. The site is occupied by Florida scrub-jays. No cultural resource survey has been completed. Detailed Florida scrub-jay survey and banding occurs annually; Florida gopher tortoise surveys conducted routinely; and volunteers conduct native plant surveys periodically. Invasive species coverage is mapped in GIS as work is completed. The County generally contracts out larger management work (shredding, etc.) There is no identified funding for large equipment such as shredders; the annual budget covers the cost of herbicide, tanks, and sprayers. This site is not highly used; therefore, there is not a significant concern about vandalism.

Predominant Usages

Resource based recreational uses allowed on this site include bird watching, guided tours, hiking, nature study, and pets on-leash. Visitation to the site is of appropriate frequency. Human use of this site has resulted in vandalism and disturbance of wildlife (feeding scrub-jays). The disturbance of wildlife significantly impacts the resource protection goals for this site. Frequent visual inspection is conducted, and volunteers monitor scrub-jays for potential impacts from recreational use. Environmental education opportunities that currently exist to enhance user experiences on the site include (1) guided tours to highlight wildlife use and discuss fire ecology, listed species, and other appropriate discussions based on available habitat, and (2) volunteer days to help with clean up events. There are trails available for the public to use for passive recreation.

Critical Issues/Priorities

The most substantial challenge and management issue for this relatively small site is the maintenance of firebreaks and trails.

20. South Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area

Location: 175 9th Street SE

Size: 143 acres

Parcel Number(s): 33403000000300000003.0

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions

South Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area contains 143 Acres of conservation land area. The site ecozone coverage is 45% Mangrove Impoundment, 20% Maritime Hammock, 30% Pine Flatwoods, and 5% disturbed in transition. Buffer zones exist, and there is zero degree of encroachment. There is about 10% presence of flora invasives. As far as invasive fauna, invasive agamas were observed. Current and/or recent restoration activities on site include the removal of invasive vegetation and replanting. Management for invasive vegetation is on-going. The latest Natural Resource Management Plan is the FCT Management Plan from 2013. The Plan loosely outlines that annual management of invasives is needed and identifies that the County has an Upland Mitigation Fund and a Tree Fund that can be used for funding. This site has been treated through the FWC Upland Mitigation Program which is at no cost to the County. The County generally contracts out larger treatment events. There is no identified funding for large equipment such as shredders; the annual budget covers the cost of herbicide, tanks, and sprayers. Neither a cultural resource survey nor any recent listed species surveys have been completed. Invasive treatment areas are mapped in GIS as they are completed. Only passive recreation is available at this site; there are trails and a boardwalk.

Predominant Usages

Resource based recreational uses allowed on this site include bird watching, guided tours, hiking, nature study, and pets on-leash. Visitation to the site is infrequent. Human use of this site has resulted in dumping and significant spread of exotic vegetation. Frequent visual inspection is conducted to monitor potential impacts from recreational use. FWC has provided invasive vegetation funding through the TIERS program. Environmental education opportunities that currently exist to enhance user experiences on the site include (1) guided tours to highlight Lagoon education, and (2) volunteer days to help with invasives and clean up events. Pelican Island Audubon is located adjacent to the site and uses it for programming. Also, small groups do walking tours to observe plants and wildlife.

Critical Issues/Priorities

The most substantial challenge, threat, and management issue for the site is maintaining a habitat free of invasive vegetation.

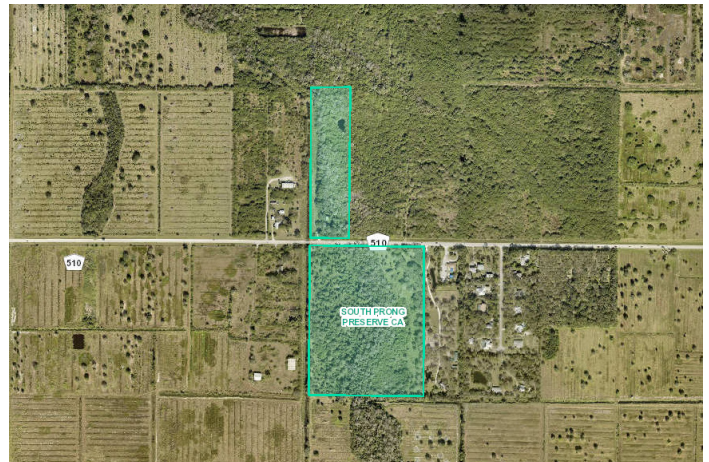
21. South Prong Preserve

Location: 7775 85th Street

Size: 37.5 acres

Parcel Number(s): 31383600000100000004.0;
31382500000700000004.0

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions

South Prong Preserve contains 37.5 Acres of conservation land area. The site ecozone coverage is 27% Forested Wetland and 73% Upland in transition. No buffer zones exist, and there is zero degree of encroachment. There is about 30% presence of flora invasives. As far as invasive fauna, invasive agamas were observed. Current and/or recent restoration activities on site include the removal of invasive vegetation. Management for invasive vegetation is on-going. The latest Natural Resource Management Plan is the FCT Management Plan from 2008. The Plan loosely outlines that annual management of invasives is needed and identifies that the County has an Upland Mitigation Fund and a Tree Fund that can be used for funding. The County generally contracts out larger treatment events. There is no identified funding for large equipment such as shredders; the annual budget covers the cost of herbicide, tanks, and sprayers. This site is not highly used at this point therefore we do not have a significant concern about vandalism. Neither a cultural resource survey nor any recent listed species surveys have been completed. Invasive treatment areas are mapped in GIS as they are completed. Only passive recreation is available here. The Friends of the St. Sebastian River lease the Ryall House (north of SR 510) on site to use as their office and volunteer gathering location; they conduct volunteer events year-round. Future plans include boardwalks and a small building on the south side of SR 510 for picnicking and events. A small parking area will be provided.

Predominant Usages

Resource based recreational uses allowed on this site include bird watching, guided tours, hiking, nature study, and pets on-leash. Visitation to the site is of appropriate frequency. Human use of this site has resulted in significant spread of exotic vegetation. Frequent visual inspection is conducted to monitor potential impacts from recreational use. Environmental education opportunities that currently exist to enhance user experiences on the site include (1) guided tours to highlight wildlife use and discuss water quality, listed species, and other appropriate discussions based on available habitat, and (2) volunteer days to help with invasives and clean up events.

Critical Issues/Priorities

The most substantial challenge, threat, and management issue for the site is maintaining a habitat free of invasive vegetation.

22. Wabasso Scrub Conservation Area

Location: 8900 64th Ave

Size: 111 acres

Parcel Number(s): 31392900000700000004.0;

31392900000700000001.1;

31392900000700000002.0

Ownership: County



Existing Conditions

Wabasso Scrub Conservation Area contains 111 Acres of conservation land area.

The site ecozone coverage is 15% Wetland and 85% Xeric. No buffer zones exist, and there is zero degree of encroachment. There is less than 5% presence of flora invasives. As far as invasive fauna, invasive agamas were observed. Current and/or recent restoration activities on site include scrub management for occupied Florida scrub-jay habitat and the removal of invasive vegetation.

Management for scrub-jay habitat and invasive vegetation is on-going. The latest Natural Resource Management Plan is the FCT Management Plan from 1995. This site is part of the Sebastian Area Wide HCP (2000). The Plan loosely outlines that annual management of invasives is needed and identifies that the County has an Upland Mitigation Fund and a Tree Fund that can be used for funding. The County generally contracts out larger treatment events. There is no identified funding for large equipment such as shredders; the annual budget covers the cost of herbicide, tanks, and sprayers. No cultural resource survey has been completed. Detailed Florida scrub jay survey and banding occurs annually; Florida gopher tortoise surveys conducted routinely; volunteers conduct native plant surveys periodically. Invasive species coverage is mapped in GIS as work is completed.

Predominant Usages

Resource based recreational uses allowed on this site include bird watching, guided tours, hiking, nature study, pets on-leash, and picnicking. Visitation to the site is of appropriate frequency. Human use of this site has resulted in vandalism and disturbance of wildlife (feeding scrub-jays). Frequent visual inspection is conducted, and volunteers monitor scrub-jays for potential impacts from recreational use. Environmental education opportunities that currently exist to enhance user experiences on the site include (1) guided tours to highlight wildlife use and discuss fire ecology, listed species, and other appropriate discussions based on available habitat, and (2) volunteer days to help with invasives and clean up events. There are trails and a wetland overlook available for the public to use for passive recreation. FFS assists in completing prescribed fires.

Critical Issues/Priorities

The most substantial challenge, threat, and management issue for the site is maintaining a habitat for scrub-jays.

1.2 SYSTEM SUMMARY

Indian River County Parks and Recreation Department provides, operates and publicizes recreational programs and facilities for the use of County residents and visitors of all age groups. While conducting the site assessments for the County, the consultant recognized the level of care that is taken, and that the system of parks and conservation sites is very well maintained overall. The following are the high-level system wide Strengths, Challenges and Opportunities:

1.2.1 STRENGTHS

- Beach parks in fair condition overall
- Wabasso Beach, Golden Sands, and Round Island Beach serve as good examples to the rest of the beach parks

1.2.2 OPPORTUNITIES

- Treasure Shores has abandoned feel; redesign and reactivate park based on the community needs assessment; needs improvements to playground, picnic area, and restroom facility
- Improve existing amenities before developing more park space to maintain
- Additional employees needed for maintenance, management, and marketing/event coordination
- Improve pedestrian and cyclist access at entrances and increase ease in walking to the parks with the goal of having an interconnected park sidewalk network
- Where possible, find multiple uses for the spaces to support more of the community's needs
- Redesign property based on community input and needs assessment
- Create consistent branding among buildings, aesthetics, materials, condition, etc.
- With future park improvements, incorporate pedestrian and cyclist access at all park entrances
- Upgrade parking lot surfaces, landscape and hardscape, and site furnishings
- To improve accessibility and safety, renovate or redesign pathways/boardwalks to the beach at Ambersands, Turtle Access, and Treasure Shores
- Increase marketing/promotional efforts to activate spaces
- Upgrade signage from simply gateway and regulatory to include interpretive and educational signage
- Increase amenities with ADA accessibility
- Increase mix of uses where possible by adding amenities or programming
- Upgrade site furnishings i.e., benches, drinking fountains, tables, signage, and lighting
- Upgrade interior finishes, furniture, and equipment inside buildings and restrooms
- Prioritize sustainability and energy efficient practices/materials
- Include new boat ramp, floating docks, kayak launch, road paving, and parking

1.3 SITE ASSESSMENT SUMMARIES

The following are the site assessment summaries. Site assessment forms for each site can be found in the appendix.