

City of Coconut Creek
***Parks and Recreation System
Master Plan Executive Summary***





Parks and recreation facilities and programs have always been integral to the quality of life in Coconut Creek,

from its establishment as a retirement community over fifty years ago, to its emergence as one of “the best small towns to live” in the U.S. in recent years. The purpose of this Parks and Recreation System Master Plan is to ensure that “the Creek” continues to meet the leisure needs of its residents, and that the parks and recreation system continues to contribute to the long-term sustainability and resiliency of the City. The Master Plan was approved and adopted by the City Commission in October 2019.

5 PHASES FOR THE YEAR-LONG PARKS AND RECREATION PLANNING PROCESS INITIATED IN AUGUST 2018

1. Preliminary Implementation Framework
2. Existing Conditions Analysis
3. Needs and Priorities Assessment
4. Visioning
5. Implementation Strategy and Final Master Plan



Newly Renovated Windmill Park

PRIORITIZATION



IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT CITY STAFF AND COMMISSION WILL PRIORITIZE INDIVIDUAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS AND PROGRAMS AS PART OF THE ANNUAL BUDGETING PROCESS, BASED ON AVAILABLE FUNDING AND/OR OTHER OPPORTUNITIES. PRELIMINARY PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA INCLUDE:

- The proposed project/ improvement will help meet residents’ high priority need(s)
- The proposed project/ improvement is “standard” for City of Coconut Creek parks
- The proposed project/ improvement corrects an existing deficiency
- The proposed project/ improvement is funded fully or in-part through grants, partnerships, and/or other funding sources
- The proposed project/ improvement will improve the equitable distribution of parks and recreation facilities
- The proposed project/ improvement will increase residents’ awareness of existing parks and recreation facilities
- The proposed project/ improvement is mandated by grant, donations, or funding requirements
- The proposed project/ improvement will decrease operations and maintenance costs
- The proposed project/ improvement will generate greater economic, social, and/or environmental benefits for the entire community



BASED ON THE CRITERIA OUTLINED ABOVE, CITY STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRIORITIZED THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OVER THE NEXT 1-2 YEARS:

1. Acquisition of additional park land
2. Lakeside Park and Oak Trails Park renovations and development
3. Recreation Complex and Park indoor/outdoor renovations
4. Sunshine Drive Park renovations
5. Mainstreet development
6. Fishing dock (Community Center, Windmill Park, Lakewood Park, Cypress Park)
7. Walking path at George S. Gerber Park (around football/soccer fields)
8. Windmill Park Lake renovation improvements
9. Veterans Park landscape plan and walking path
10. Connect all City greenways



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan could be implemented in as little as ten years, based on available funding. The Plan is intended as a “guiding document”, which should be updated periodically (ideally every five years) to make sure that it remains relevant and responsive to residents’ needs and priorities.

The City is well-positioned to implement the vision over time. Potential funding sources to construct proposed improvements include, but are not limited to:

- General Fund 01
- Community Improvement Fund 14
- Seminole Tribe Mitigation Fund 18
- User Fees
- Broward County Sales Surtax
- Park Impact Fee
- Grants
- Prescriptive Land Development Codes
- Roadway-Stormwater Fund
- MainStreet-Developer Funds
- Public / Private Partnerships

Other implementation strategies include:

- Continued use of roadway funding for sidewalks, trails, and “complete streets”
- Updates to land development codes to be more prescriptive regarding parks and recreation requirements
- Continued coordination with the MainStreet developers and/or other property owners to create a true downtown “signature” park and gathering space for both recreation and special events
- Identification of opportunities to use small parks and green spaces to beautify the City, provide small, contemplative spaces, and/or help catalyze economic development
- Integration of the vision with the City’s stormwater master plan, including the identification of projects that will provide multiple recreation, water quality, and/or flood control benefits
- Integration of the parks and recreation vision with other public realm initiatives – such as the Hillsboro Healthway – to generate multiple recreation, fitness, and transportation benefits
- Partnerships with health providers to prescribe activities within the city’s parks and recreation system
- Development of new park design standards to reflect residents’ needs – and national trends – for facilities such as outdoor amphitheater/ band shell and special events venues, dog parks, multi-use trails, water access, natural areas, group gathering spaces, and other desired amenities within parks
- Continued collaboration with other recreation providers to expand access to recreation, social, and/or educational programs

RESIDENTS’ NEEDS & PRIORITIES

The City’s parks planning consultant Barth Associates used a “mixed-methods, triangulated” process to determine resident’s parks and recreation needs and priorities. Qualitative needs assessment techniques included site evaluations, stakeholder interviews, focus group meetings and public workshops. Quantitative techniques included a level-of-service analysis, statistically-representative mail survey, and an on-line survey.



Public Workshop Prioritization Exercise

Based on a review of the findings from all of the needs assessment techniques, residents’ top priorities appear to include (in order of priority):

Facility Priorities	Program Priorities
1. Greenways and trails	1. Farmers market
2. Dog parks	2. Food truck events
3. Amphitheater/outdoor stage/special events venue	3. Concerts in the park
4. Kayak/canoe/paddleboard rentals	4. Large 1-day special events
5. Open spaces/nature parks	5. Senior programs
6. Sidewalks/walking paths within parks	6. Nature programs
7. Off-road bike paths/trails	7. Park amenities with changing stations
8. Pavilions/BBQ areas	
9. Playgrounds	
10. Fishing areas/docks	
11. Splash pads	
12. Adventure course	
13. Butterfly garden	
14. Bike rentals in parks	
15. Aquatics center/outdoor pool	
16. Improvements to existing parks and fitness centers	
17. Additional park land	



There are no state or national standards to guide the development of a long-range parks and recreation vision in response to residents' needs; each community must develop its own vision based on its values, priorities, and resources. Therefore, the City hosted a Visioning Workshop on March 27, 2019 to discuss the "appropriate response" to residents' top priority needs.

Visioning Workshop

LONG-RANGE VISION

Based on the findings from the workshop – as well as guiding parks system planning principles such as walkability, equity, and placemaking – Barth Associates developed a long-range vision for the parks and recreation system that included: Greenways and trails, Special-use facilities, Improvements to existing parks, Additional park land, Staffing recommendations, and Programming recommendations.

Estimated "order-of-magnitude" costs to implement the proposed long-range vision are approximately \$134 million in capital improvements, plus an estimated \$3.3M per year in additional operations and maintenance costs once the improvements are constructed. More detailed site analyses, site plans, design, and engineering studies will be required to estimate costs more accurately.



Long Range Parks and Recreation System Vision

