

Cooper City

PARKS and RECREATION



Master Plan



PREPARED BY



Acknowledgments

We extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the residents of Cooper City, city staff, elected officials, and stakeholders who assisted in the public surveys, workshop, meetings, and the entire planning process. This critical feedback guided the development of this master plan and, in turn, will have a positive impact on Cooper City.

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Abbreviations & Terms Commonly Used:

Abbreviation	Term
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
B.E.B.R.	Bureau of Economic and Business Research
CIP	Capital Improvement Plan
CPTED	Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
ESRI	Environmental Systems Research Institute
GIS	Geographic Information System
LOS	Level of Service
MAS	Metropolitan Statistical Area
NRPA	National Recreation and Park Association
O & M	Operations and Maintenance
PRD	Parks and Recreation Department
PRMP	Parks and Recreation Master Plan
SCORP	State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
SFIA	Sports & Fitness Industry Association
CC	Cooper City
CCPRD	Cooper City's Parks and Recreation Department

Term	Definition
Active Recreation	Activities that require physical exertion (e.g., sports, playgrounds, fitness).
Passive Recreation	Low-impact activities (e.g., walking, picnicking, birdwatching).
Community Park	A large park designed to serve multiple neighborhoods or the entire city.
Neighborhood Park	A smaller park serving a specific local area or neighborhood.
Open Space	Undeveloped land set aside for natural or recreational purposes.
Greenway	A linear open space, often used for trails, that connects parks and natural areas.
Level of Service (LOS)	A standard that measures the availability of park facilities per population (e.g., acres per 1,000 residents).
Recreation Program	Organized activities such as sports leagues, classes, or camps.
Park Inventory	A detailed list and description of all existing park assets and amenities.
Needs Assessment	An analysis used to identify gaps and priorities for parks and recreation.
Stakeholder Engagement	A process to involve residents, staff, and partners in the planning process.

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An aerial photograph of a residential community. In the foreground, there are several large, multi-story apartment buildings with red-tiled roofs. The middle ground shows a mix of smaller houses and townhomes, interspersed with lush green trees and lawns. A large, calm lake is visible in the background, reflecting the sky. The overall scene is bright and sunny, with a clear blue sky. A large green graphic element is overlaid on the top left and bottom right corners of the image.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 0.1. Introduction
- 0.2. Planning Process Summary
- 0.3. Inventory & Assessment Summary
- 0.4. Needs Assessment
- 0.5. Plan Development & Recommendations
- 0.6. Implementation Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cooper City aerial

Chapter 0

Cooper City, Florida 9

Executive Summary

0.1. Introduction

The Cooper City is known for its parks and great recreation system. There are a variety of sports and fitness activities and outdoor activity areas available throughout the community. Cooper City's recreational resources and services directly promote community well-being and make the City an attractive place to live, work, and play for all ages.

Cooper City's location in central-western Broward County, centered in South Florida, provides for broad access to a variety of state and local recreational opportunities. Additional facilities provided by non-profits and the private sector augment the resident and visitor experience, which help provide cost-sharing for those facilities. The City's residents rely on the exceptional system of 23 City-owned parks for their primary athletic, recreational, and natural area experiences.

The creation of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan (PRMP) allows the City to establish goals and standards for Cooper City's parks and recreation system, which directly contributes to the daily lives of its residents and users. The PRMP vision and recommendations have been developed with input from Cooper City's residents and the City's leadership, which have been foundational components of the plan development process.

Phase 2 Needs and Priorities Assessment

PRIMARY DATA

Predominately Quantitative Techniques

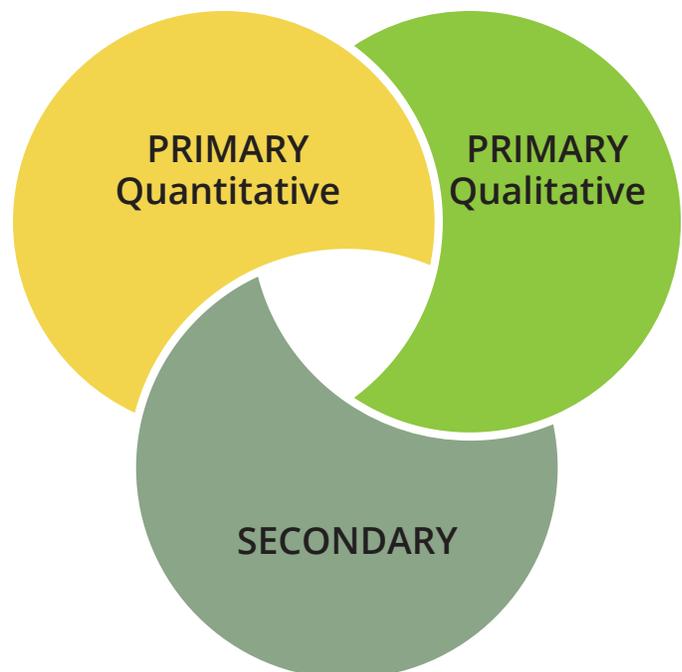
- Statistically-Valid Survey
- Level-of-Service Analysis
- Benchmarking

Predominately Qualitative Techniques

- Focus Groups
- Public Workshop
- Park Site Evaluations

SECONDARY DATA

- Demographic Data
- Trends Data
- Review of Previous Plans and Documents



0.2. Planning Process Summary

The PRMP planning process team included City staff and the Miller Legg consultant team. This team led the plan through a comprehensive process to collect and analyze observational, quantitative, and qualitative data related to parks and recreation facilities in Cooper City. This primary and secondary data was used to identify the City's resident and leader driven "Priority Needs" and make strategic recommendations for prioritization, phasing, cost estimates, and potential funding sources found in the implementation plan.



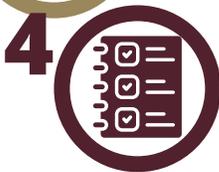
1. Inventory and Assessment including goals and objectives, system resource analysis, programming and service analysis and stakeholder interviews.



2. Needs Assessment including analysis of level of service (LOS) using Geographic Information System (GIS) software, benchmarking, statistically valid public survey and trends analysis.



3. Plan Development and Recommendations including strategic plan, project prioritization and draft document.



4. Implementation Strategy including recommendations, phasing, cost estimates, funding strategies developing the final plan.

The National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) accreditation standards provide a framework for agency best practices encouraging agencies to "adopt and periodically review and update its System Master Plan in alignment with its Mission, Vision and Strategic Plan that creates a basis for strategic investment in assets, property, facilities, and improvements." NRPA posits that master planning should include an analysis of current conditions through community needs assessment, community inventory, level of service analysis, and current trends and should incorporate historical or cultural aspects of the community and input/feedback efforts used to engage members of the community, users and non-users, to attempt to achieve statistically valid results that can be applied community wide. Master plans should be updated every 10 years with a 5-year review documented for accreditation certification. The Cooper City's Master Plan will meet or exceed all master planning requirements for NRPA Agency Accreditation, should the department pursue this in the future.

0.3. Inventory & Assessment Summary

In the Inventory Assessment phase, diverse methods were employed to gather and analyze data on the existing conditions of City parks and recreation facilities and programs. This phase included the review of the following:

- Overall Park System
- Planned Improvements
- Comprehensive Plan Standards
- Access Level of Service (LOS)
- State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Benchmarks
- National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Benchmarks

Park Inventory & Assessment Summary

The Cooper City contains an array of parks and recreational facilities. With 24 parks located within the City Limits, Cooper City offers a variety of indoor and outdoor spaces, from open areas to sports complexes. The parks are equipped with amenities such as playgrounds, picnic areas, walking trails, and sports fields, providing ample opportunities for relaxation and physical activity. Notable parks include the Flamingo West Park and Suellen H. Fardelmann Sports Complex (currently under improvements, which features multiple athletic fields and courts. The popularity and high usage rates of these parks and facilities by City's residents and visitors is a testament to the quality of the parks while contributing to normal wear and tear found in all park systems.

Park Assessment Summary findings include:



Restrooms are need upgrades. Features like **picnic pavilions**, **trash receptacles**, and **benches** are offered throughout every park and are in fair condition but need consistency.



Opportunities exist for **shade structures**, as some playgrounds, outdoor fitness areas, and bleachers do not have shade.



Sports fields and **courts** are maintained and have been designed for multipurpose use where possible. Turf on certain fields and surfaces on some courts are due for replacement, as these have become worn down in high-traffic zones, impacting play quality.



There are opportunities for improved **inner park pedestrian circulation**, **park connect trail connection** and ground surfaces in playgrounds and outdoor exercise equipment to improve accessibility.

Sports Program Participation

Cooper City's recreation department offers a wide range of programs and activities that are aimed at promoting community engagement and well-being. The Cooper City Community Center and the Pool and Tennis serves as a hub for many of these activities, providing a space for classes, meetings, and social gatherings.

Recreation programming is provided by the Cooper City Park and Recreation Department. Sports programs are supported by the Cooper City Optimist Club variety of sports including softball, flag football, basketball, kickball, baseball, soccer, volleyball, cheerleading, and golf.

The following are findings related to adult sports and recreation programs:

- Participation is steadily growing after Covid-19 pandemic.
- Resident participation averaged 59–61% in earlier years, but more recent seasons show a gradual rise in non-resident participation, especially in travel and competitive leagues.

0.4. Needs Assessment

Based on the 2035 projected City population of 39,069, the future population LOS is 7.36 acres per 1,000 residents, which exceeds the prescribed LOS in the City's Comprehensive Plan. The LOS analysis for walkable access shows that parks are

Table 0.1 Overall Key Matrix.

	TOTAL
Improve existing facilities/amenities	29
Additional shaded outdoor areas	22
Additional walking/biking trails and connect existing trails	20
Expand pickleball courts	19
Upgrade sports fields and outdoor courts	17
Playgrounds (e.g. inclusive, destination, upgrades)	16
Amenities (e.g. picnic areas, seating, drinking fountains, restrooms, parking)	15
Autism and ADA-friendly features	15
Improve park maintenance	15
Develop a new aquatics facility (e.g. splash pad)	15
Advertising/marketing parks and facilities better (e.g. email, social media, website)	14
Security improvements (e.g. lighting, security cameras)	12
Parking improvements	10
Expand youth programs	10
Expand senior, teen, and adult programs	6
More holiday celebrations, festivals, culinary events	6
More fitness/wellness/health programs	6
Recreation Center/Field House	6
Increase senior programming and expand space	5
Community garden and associated programming	4
Art in parks (murals, sculptures)	3
Outdoor games and activities (e.g. chess, tables)	3
Increase staff	3
Promote and enhance safety initiatives (home safety, CPR courses, CERT presentations)	3
Field drainage improvements	3

Executive Summary

geographically scattered throughout the City, with the majority of residents living within a 5 to 10-minute walk from a park.

Stakeholder Public Engagement

To better understand and summarize the results from the survey, stakeholder input, and public meetings, key issues were identified to evaluate potential recommendations. Key issues were organized by category and data source, both qualitative and quantitative, then weighted and inserted in a data matrix for analysis and prioritization. (See Figure 0.1)

0.5. Plan Development & Recommendations

Vision Recommendations

Based on input received through the plan development process, residents are highly satisfied with Cooper City's parks and recreational facilities, indicating "above average" scores for the number of parks and facilities offered and their maintenance. The Cooper City Parks and Recreation Department has great facilities and provides a set of valuable services that contribute to its residents' high quality of life. To ensure that the Cooper City continues to meet the needs and expectations of the community over the next ten years, the planning team recommends the City focus on maintenance and improvement to parks in areas that were identified as "high priorities" by City residents. These general recommendations include:

Considering the priorities as identified through the public engagement process with residents, the PRMP Goals and Objectives are organized around the following strategic focus areas :



Maintain and improve existing City parks & facilities



Additional shaded outdoor areas



Develop interconnected open space system of parks, greenways, and trails



Expand pickleball courts



Provide additional multi-purpose fields and courts



Update and improve playgrounds (e.g. inclusive, destination)



Provide and improve comfort amenities (e.g., restrooms, lighting, seating, parking)



Provide and improve autism and ADA-friendly features



Improve park maintenance



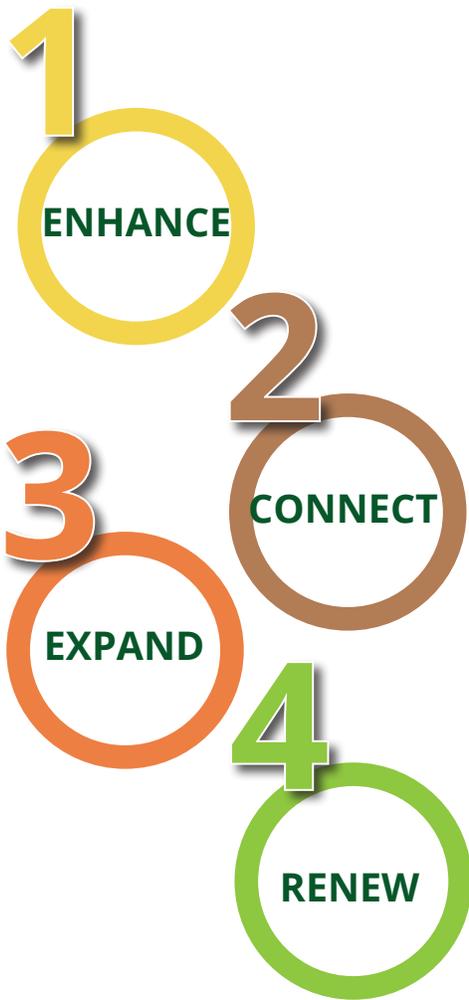
Develop a new aquatic feature (splashpad/sprayground)



Advertising/marketing parks and facilities better (e.g. email, social media, website)



Security improvements (e.g. lighting, security cameras)



1. **Enhance** existing facilities and amenities to update and maximize user comfort and convenience. Enhancement focuses on athletic fields, courts, playgrounds, shade structures, pavilions, restrooms, and parking.
2. **Connect** the park system's bicycle, pedestrian and parking facilities seamlessly within the parks and throughout the community. Connections focus on greenways, bike paths, multi-purpose paths and trails.
3. **Expand** the City's outdoor and indoor recreation Recreation facilities to keep pace with the City's growth. Expansion focuses on the indoor recreation multipurpose space.
4. **Renew** management & operational systems to ensure efficient and effective stewardship of park and recreation lands, facilities and programs. Renew focuses on maintenance, communications methods, marketing, partnerships, signage, accessibility, and funding.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is intended as a living document that provides a roadmap to continually improve the City's parks and facilities. It is recommended that the Cooper City formally review and update this Master Plan every five (5) years. This will allow the City to maintain awareness of community needs and recreational trends and adjust its parks and recreational approach as appropriate.

0.6. Implementation Strategy

After conducting all phases of the planning process, an implementation plan was developed to assist the City for budgeting, planning, and timing recommended improvements. The planning horizon for the Master Plan is ten years, and consequently, the implementation "action plan" has been categorized into short-, mid-, and long-term recommendations. The projects currently in the City's Community Investment Program (CIP) have been incorporated into the action plan along with new projects identified through the master plan process.

Executive Summary

The time-frame to complete each of these recommendations is as follows:



Legend:

- Planned in City's 2025-2029 CIP
- Modification to City's 2025-2029 CIP
- Master Plan - New Project

Table 5.1 Recommended Capital Projects											
Park & Facility	SHORT TERM				MID-TERM			LONG TERM			
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Cooper City Community Center	\$121,800										
Electronic upgrade (projector & screen)											
Security cameras											
Outdoor terrace area (seating, added shade, game tables)											
Repainting (2025)											
Bill Lips Sports Complex	\$6,543,000										
AED's stand-alone units											
Exterior paint											
Lighting system upgrades											
Sports lighting											
Playground add PIP and shade											
Softball fields upgrade - clayed and temporary fencing											
Multipurpose field upgrade											
Side parking pavers (40 spaces)											
Improve landscape buffer residential side											
Add shade structure areas											
Site amenities (20)											
Wayfinding signage											
Restroom / storage upgrade											
Chase Park					\$489,000						
Shaded playground upgrade											
Landscape improvements											
Site amenities (4)											
Christie Schafale Park & Dog Park	\$1,974,000										
Add splashpad											
Add restroom (1,000 SF)											
Shaded playground upgrade (destination)											
Basketball upgrade											
Dog park upgrade											
Sand volleyball upgrade											
Site amenities (15)											
Wayfinding signage											
Colony Park								\$396,000			
Shaded playground upgrade (teen age group)											
Site amenities (4)											

Executive Summary

Table 5.1 Recommended Capital Projects

Park & Facility	SHORT TERM				MID-TERM			LONG TERM			
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Cooper's Point Park					\$396,000						
Shaded playground upgrade (older age group)											
Site amenities (4)											
Dawn Park	\$396,000										
Playground upgrade											
Site amenities (4)											
Diamond Head Park					\$720,000						
Shaded playground upgrade											
Basketball upgrade											
Add (2) shelters											
Racquet courts to pickleball courts											
Site amenities (8)											
Ellie Kozak Park					\$744,000						
Shaded playground upgrade											
Add (2) shelters											
Site amenities (4)											
Encore Park	\$396,000										
Shaded playground upgrade											
Site amenities (4)											
Flamingo West Park					\$540,000						
AED's stand-alone units											
Outdoor exercise area											
Site amenities (15)											
Landscape and irrigation enhancement											
Forest Lake Park	\$852,000										
Shaded playground upgrade											
Basketball courts upgrade											
Side parking pavers (30 spaces)											
Sand volleyball upgrade											
Site amenities (10)											
Homes of Forest Lakes Park								\$396,000			
Shaded playground upgrade											
Site amenities (4)											
Jerry Morgan Park								\$60,000			
Wayfinding											
Site amenities (10)											
Memorial Park								\$690,000			
Playground replacement (installed)											
Upgrade event space											
Site amenities (15)											
Michael "City Mike" Riordan Park					\$228,000						
Playground replacement (installed)											
Trail improvements											
Dog park improvements											
Site amenities (10)											
Side parking pavers (10 spaces)											

Chapter 5: Implementation Strategy

Table 5.1 Recommended Capital Projects

Park & Facility	SHORT TERM				MID-TERM			LONG TERM				
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	
Natalie's Cove Park												\$396,000
Shaded playground upgrade												
Site amenities (4)												
Pine Lake Park												\$396,000
Shaded playground upgrade												
Site amenities (4)												
Poinciana Park												\$396,000
Shaded Playground upgrade												
Site amenities (4)												
Pool & Tennis Center Park												\$2,844,000
Electronic upgrade												
Pump room												
Flooring												
Playground upgrade (destination)												
Splash pad expansion upgrade												
Add shade structure areas												
Pavilion/restroom upgrade												
Court upgrades												
Sports lighting												
Wayfinding signage												
Gazebo upgrades												
Shelter upgrades												
Parking improvements												
Stirling Palm Park												\$606,000
Shaded playground upgrade												
Basketball courts upgrade												
Sand volleyball upgrade												
Site amenities (5)												
Suellen H. Fardelmann Sports Complex												\$3,903,000
AED's stand-alone units												
Playground replacement												
Lighting system upgrades												
Sports lighting												
Baseball fields upgrade (2025)												
Multipurpose field upgrade												
Sand volleyball upgrade												
Pickleball courts (2)												
Restroom upgrade												
Maintenance facility including utilities												
Covered outdoor space												
Fitness area												
Landscape buffer												
Shaded structures												
Lighting parking lot												
Site amenities (20)												
Wayfinding signage												

Chapter 5: Implementation Strategy

Table 5.1 Recommended Capital Projects

Park & Facility	SHORT TERM				MID-TERM			LONG TERM			
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Tamarind Park	\$1,104,000										
Shaded playground upgrade											
Sand volleyball upgrade											
Tennis courts upgrade											
Trail improvements											
Site amenities (10)											
Side parking pavers (20 spaces)											
Ted Ferone Park	\$1,080,000										
Basketball court nets											
Shaded playground upgrade											
Sand volleyball upgrade											
Racquet courts to pickleball courts											
Fitness area upgrade											
Trail improvements											
Side parking pavers (30 spaces)											
Site amenities (10)											
Pioneer Middle School	\$1,656,000										
Basketball courts upgrade											
Field track upgrade											
Baseball fields upgrade											
Multipurpose field upgrade											
Sports lighting											
1 Tennis courts upgrade											
1 Tennis court refurbish to pickleball											

Executive Summary

The following is a summary of the implementation plan cost per vision goal:

SHORT TERM (1-3YRS)	MID-TERM (4-6YRS)	LONG TERM (7-10YRS)	TEN YEAR TOTAL
1. Enhance Facilities and Amenities			
\$9,607,000	\$10,075,800	\$8,046,000	\$27,728,800

2. Connect the park system's facilities and its bicycle, pedestrian, and parking facilities seamlessly within the parks and throughout the community.			
\$2,960,000	\$2,960,000	\$4,930,000	\$10,850,000

3. Expand the City's Outdoor/Indoor Recreation Facilities to keep pace with the City's Growth			
\$0	\$0	\$28,020,000	\$28,020,000

4. Renew Management & Operational Systems			
Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A

Total:			
SHORT TERM (1-3YRS)	MID-TERM (4-6YRS)	LONG TERM (7-10YRS)	TEN YEAR TOTAL
\$12,567,000	\$13,035,800	\$40,996,000	\$66,598,800

Rates based on 2025 cost.

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CHAPTER

1

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Purpose of the Plan
- 1.2. Planning Process & Methodology

INTRODUCTION



Bill Lips Sports Complex

Chapter 1

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Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1. Purpose of the Plan

Developing a City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan (PRMP) is one of the most essential and impactful planning processes a municipality can undertake. A PRMP establishes the standards and future goals for a City's parks and recreation system with benefits that significantly affect the daily lives of its residents and users. The Cooper City PRMP was created to fulfill the City's focus on fostering a strong sense of place by creating unique spaces that promote community pride, social interaction, and economic stability.

The PRMP evaluates current and future facilities, amenities, and programs, providing recommendations based on its analysis and findings. Engaging key stakeholders and the community is a critical aspect of the PRMP planning process, ensuring the plan addresses their present and future needs. This approach offers significant advantages for Cooper City, which are outlined below:

- Establish a long-range vision.
- Provide strategies to fill gaps and reduce redundancies within park systems.
- Assess current and future recreation needs of the community.
- Encourage new opportunities for future recreational development.
- Prioritize improvement and the budgets for capital improvement plans (CIP).
- Align CIP investments with community needs.
- Build community support.
- Promote new ideas and partnerships.
- Educate the public.

1.2. Planning Process & Methodology

Figure 1.1 **Planning Process**



Chapter 1: Introduction

A PRMP process is exacting and interactive. The Cooper City PRMP planning team consisted of City staff and the Miller Legg team. The team guided this plan through a multifaceted process to gather and analyze observational, quantitative, and qualitative data on issues impacting the condition of Cooper City's parks and recreation facilities.

The PRMP planning process included:

- 1. Inventory & Assessment:** This initial step involves gathering and analyzing information to understand the current state of the parks system and related recreation programming. It includes defining the mission, vision, and objectives, assembling relevant data, assessing resources, analyzing funding, conducting comparative studies, and interviewing stakeholders. This comprehensive assessment forms the foundation for informed decision-making.
- 2. Needs Assessment:** In this step, various analytical tools and methods are employed to identify the community's needs. Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis, benchmark standards, statistically-valid surveys, walkability assessments, and national and regional recreation trends are used to pinpoint gaps and opportunities. This helps in understanding what the community requires to enhance its recreational services and programs.
- 3. Plan Development:** A strategic plan is developed based on the needs assessment. This includes analyzing trends, drafting supplemental plans, prioritizing projects, and preparing a document draft. The plan outlines the strategies and actions needed to address identified needs and improve the parks system and recreation programming.
- 4. Implementation:** The final step focuses on the steps necessary to execute the adopted plan. It includes a series of recommendations related to the phasing, costs, and timelines for improvements; consideration of funding strategies; finalizing supplemental plans; and completion of the overall PRMP. Effective implementation is key to ensuring the proposed improvements are realized, with enhanced community services and recreational opportunities that implement the vision of the community.

The following chapters provide a detailed overview of the planning process and its key components. Chapter 2 presents an inventory of existing resources and a level of service analysis to assess current conditions and gaps. Chapter 3 explores the community's needs, drawing from survey results, stakeholder input, and public engagement. Chapter 4 outlines the community's vision, establishing long-term goals and guiding principles. Finally, Chapter 5 details the implementation strategy, offering actionable steps and priorities to bring the plan to life.

CHAPTER 2

CHAPTER 2: SYSTEM INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

- 2.1. Community Profile
- 2.2. Inventory Assessment
- 2.3. Level of Service Analysis

SYSTEM INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

Christie Schafale Park

Chapter 2

Cooper City, Florida 27

Chapter 2: System Inventory & Analysis

2.1. Community Profile

2.1.1. Brief History

Cooper City, Florida, was established in 1959 by Morris Cooper, a New Jersey businessman who envisioned a well-planned, family-oriented community. After selling his successful shirt manufacturing company, Cooper invested in Florida real estate, acquiring over 690 acres of land. His vision materialized with the incorporation of Cooper City as a municipal corporation on June 20, 1959. By the end of that year, 85 residents lived in 35 completed homes, and the community began organizing essential services like street lighting, paved roads, and mail delivery. Early settlers were instrumental in shaping the city's infrastructure and community spirit.

Over the decades, Cooper City evolved from a modest development into a thriving suburban municipality. The city expanded its boundaries, notably annexing the Waldrep Dairy Farm in 2006, contributing to residential growth. Cooper City spans approximately 8.5 square miles today and is home to over 34,000 residents. Known for its excellent schools, parks, and recreational facilities, the city maintains its founder's vision of a close-knit, family-friendly environment. Landmarks like Brian Piccolo Park and a commitment to community

engagement continue to make Cooper City "Someplace Special."



Figure 2.1: Morris Cooper

Cooper City is recognized for its family-friendly charm, a strong sense of community, and outstanding recreational amenities. While not a coastal city, its prime location in central Broward County provides residents convenient access to regional parks, nature preserves, and South Florida's broader network of recreational resources. The Cooper City Parks and Recreation Department plays a central role in enhancing quality of life through various parks, sports fields, and indoor and outdoor facilities that support active lifestyles. The City offers extensive

Chapter 2: System Inventory & Analysis

opportunities for team sports such as baseball, softball, basketball, soccer, flag football, tennis, pickleball courts, walking trails, playgrounds, and a community pool and tennis center. In addition, special events, senior activities, fitness classes, summer camps, and after-school programs bring residents together and promote social engagement across all age groups.

Rooted in a long-standing commitment to public service and community well-being, Cooper City's Parks and Recreation Department has grown into a well-rounded system with 21 neighborhood parks and three major sports complexes. The department aims to provide inclusive, high-quality recreational services that foster health, wellness, and community pride. From its early development to today, Cooper City has invested in parks that serve as gathering places and activity hubs. With continued input from residents and ongoing updates to park infrastructure, the department is actively planning for the future through its Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This proactive approach ensures that Cooper City continues to offer exceptional recreational experiences that make it a desirable place to live, work, and play.



Figure 2.2: Historical picture of Bill Lips Sports Complex

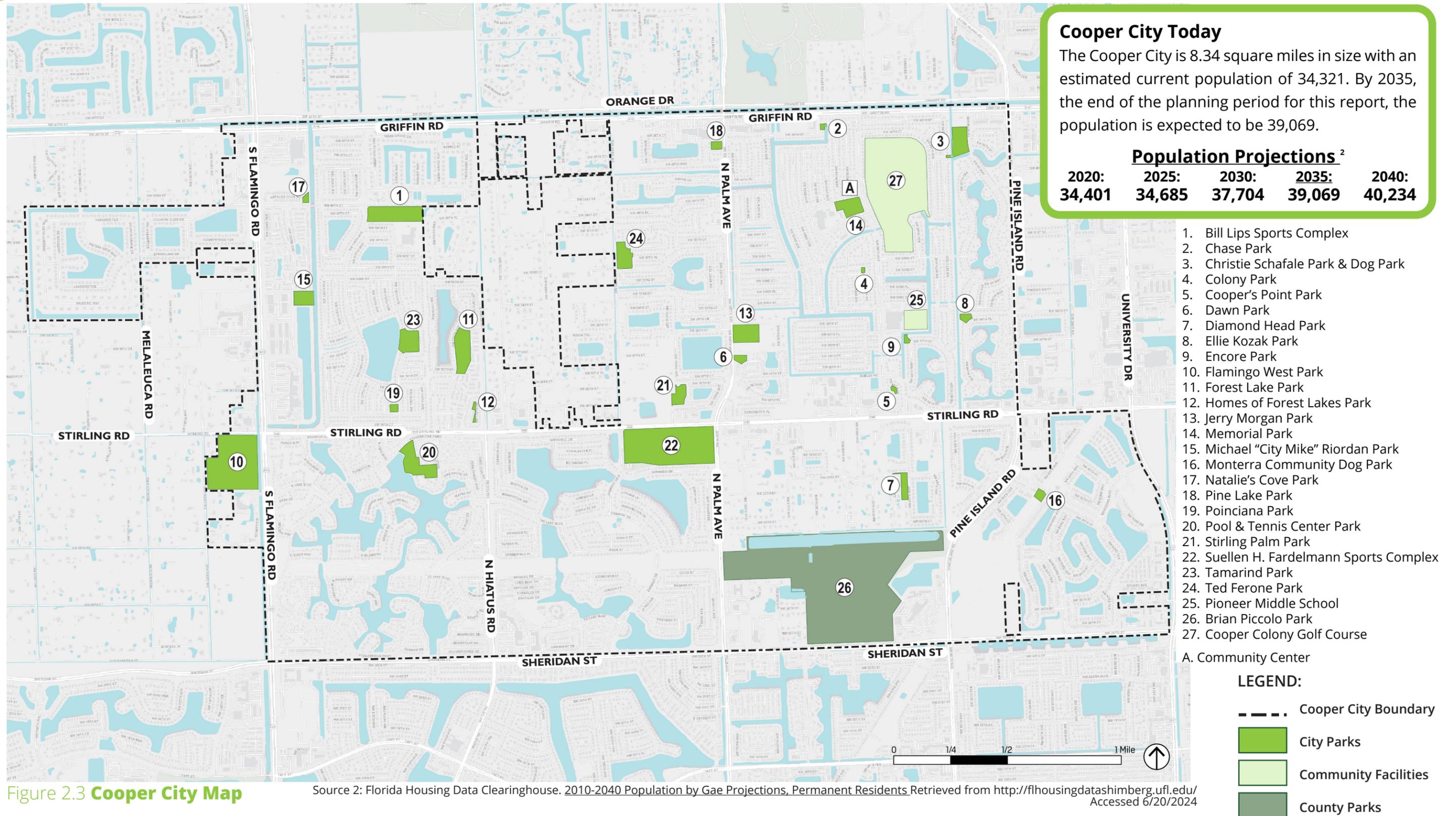


Figure 2.3 Cooper City Map

Source 2: Florida Housing Data Clearinghouse. 2010-2040 Population by Gae Projections, Permanent Residents Retrieved from <http://flhousingdatashimberg.ufl.edu/> Accessed 6/20/2024

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Chapter 2: System Inventory & Analysis

2.1.2. Demographic Methodology

The following analysis has been derived from statistics describing the total population and defining attributes such as income, age, sex, race, and ethnicity. All future projections of statistical characteristics for the Cooper City have been based on historical patterns and current conditions. The sources of information used in this analysis include the U.S. Census Bureau, Florida Housing Data Clearinghouse, and the University of Florida's Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR). All data was collected in June 2024 based on confirmed numbers reported in the 2020 Census, U.S. Census American Community Survey, or population estimates obtained through the Florida Housing Data Clearinghouse.

2.1.3. Demographic Analysis

To inform the PRMP, a demographic analysis was undertaken, comparing the age, race, and ethnicity characteristics in the Cooper City with the State of Florida and United States. The analysis identified several key findings:

- The age distribution in Cooper City is generally consistent with trends seen across Florida and the United States. About 14.3% of Cooper City's population is 65 or older, which is lower than Florida's senior population (21.1%) but similar to the national average of 16.8%. Approximately 60.4% of Cooper City residents are between the ages of 18 and 64, reflecting a strong working-age population.
- In terms of racial and ethnic makeup, 59.3% of Cooper City residents identify as White, which is lower than both the Florida average (61.6%) and the U.S. average (61.6%). Around 21.3% of the population identifies as two or more races, and 68% identify as Hispanic or Latino above the national average of 18.7% and slightly above Florida's 26.5%. Cooper City is less diverse in some racial categories but maintains a strong Hispanic presence and a growing multiracial demographic.

Chapter 2: System Inventory & Analysis

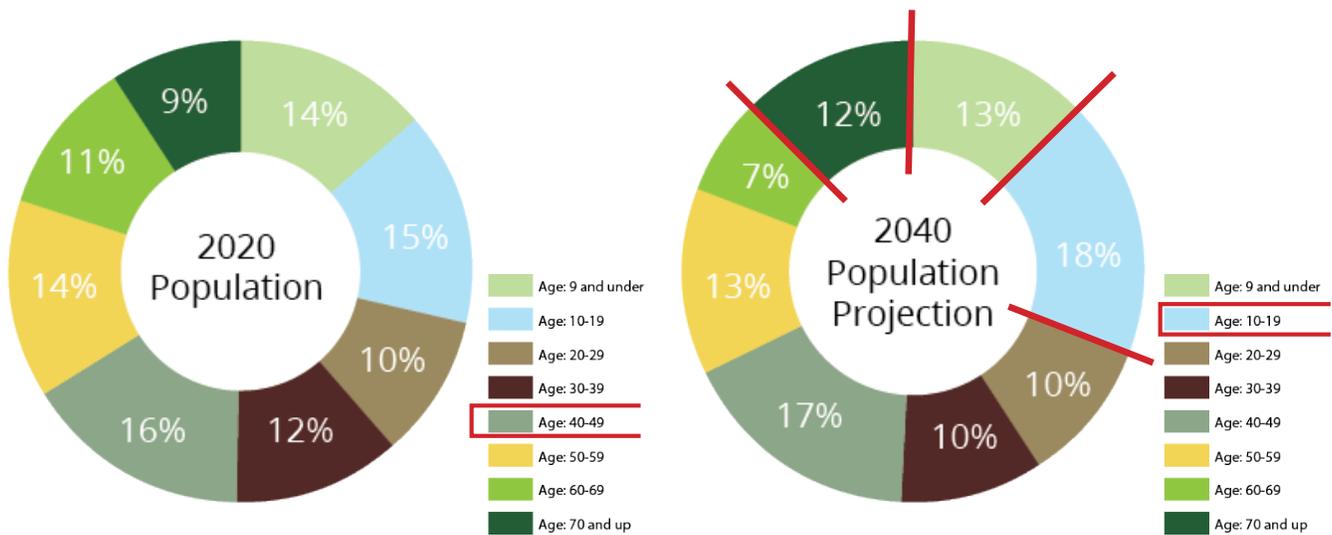


Figure 2.4: Population by Age Group.

Source 1. Census Bureau. (2020). 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/> Accessed 6/20/2024 Source 2. Florida Housing Data Clearinghouse. 2010-2040 Population by Age Projections, Permanent Residents. Retrieved from <http://flhousingdatashimberg.ufl.edu/> Accessed 6/20/2024

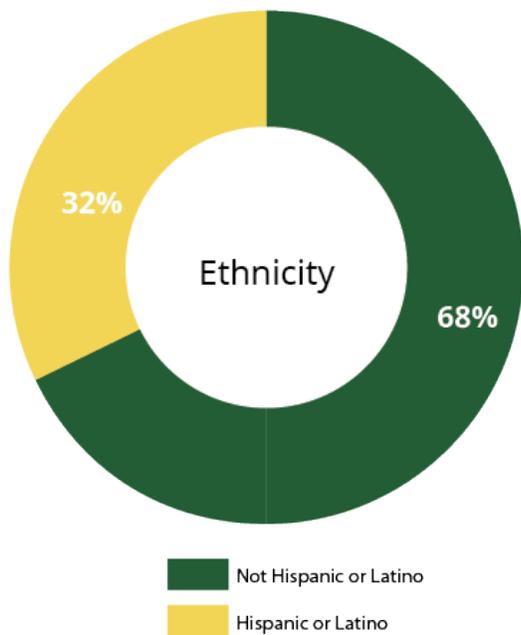
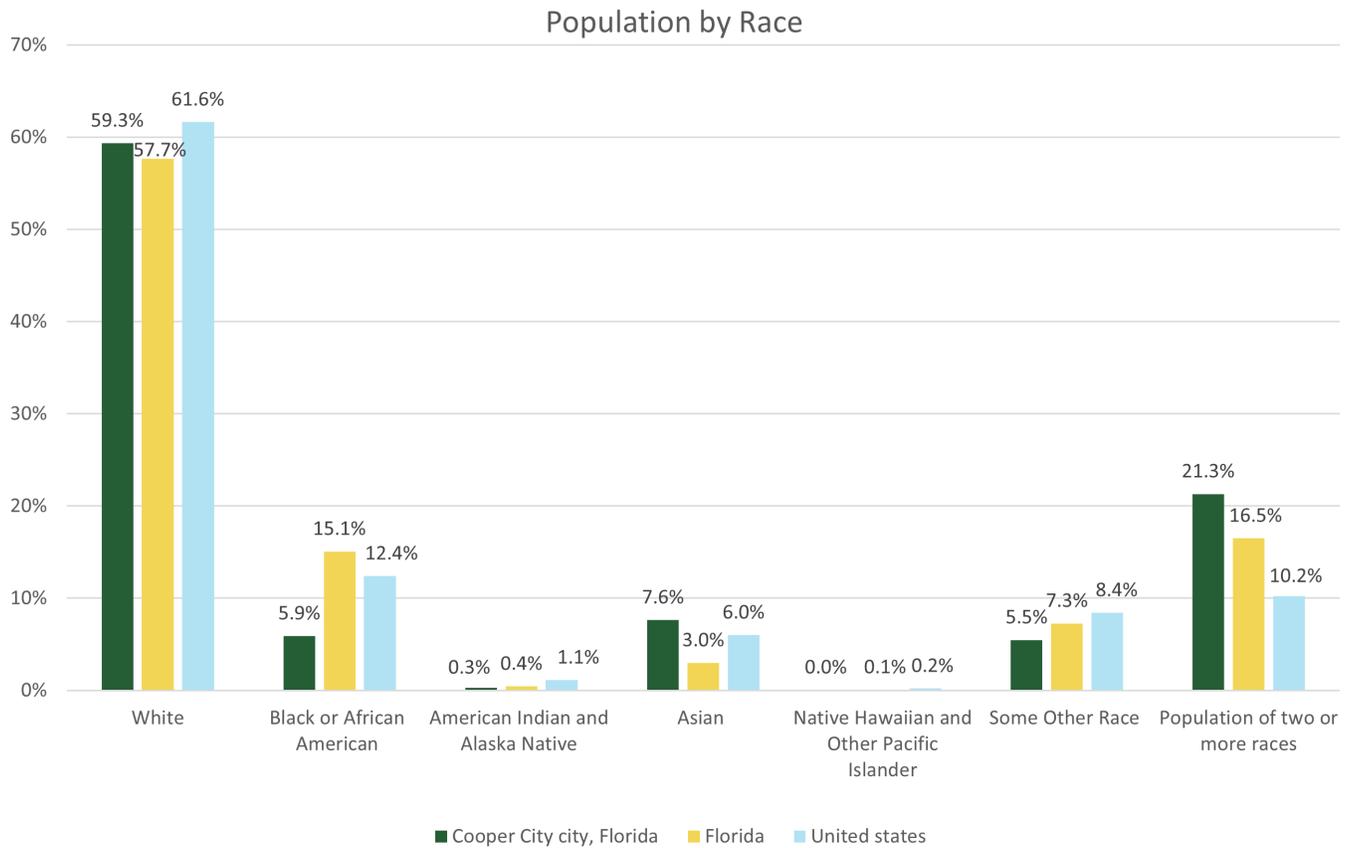
Age and Sex

Understanding the breakdown of age and sex helps guide recreational planning and services. In 2020, Cooper City had a median age of 40.0, slightly younger than Florida's median age of 42.6, but nearly aligned with the national median of 38.8. Approximately 60.4% of the population falls within the working-age group (18 to 64), closely matching state and national proportions. The population is nearly evenly split by sex, with 47.9% male and 52.1% female, mirroring national trends.

Aging in Place

According to the Florida Housing Data Clearinghouse, 34% of Cooper City's population is age 50 or older, with 9% aged 70 and above and another 25% in the 50–69 age brackets. Projections suggest that by 2040, the 70+ population will increase to 12%, reflecting national aging trends and the continued aging of the baby boomer generation. The 60–70+ demographic remains stable. Same as the 1–39 age group remains stable. However, the 40–69 age range is projected to decline by 4% over the next two decades. As this shift occurs, Cooper City will need to balance its youth-focused programming with expanded offerings for older adults. The Parks and Recreation Department currently provides strong support for youth programs and is encouraged to further develop inclusive, senior-focused recreational opportunities to serve its aging population.

Chapter 2: System Inventory & Analysis



Race and Ethnicity

Population by Race

The population of Cooper City is comprised of 59.3% White, 5.9% Black or African American, 0.3% American Indian or Alaska Native, 7.6% Asian and 0% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander as well as 5.5% identifying as other races and 21.3% as two or more races. In comparison to Florida and the United States, Cooper City has a low percentage of White population and a lower percentage of Black or African American population. Just over 32% of the City's population identifies as Hispanic or Latino.

Figure 2.5: Population by Race. Source 1. Census Bureau. (2020). Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/> Accessed 6/20/2024

Chapter 2: System Inventory & Analysis

Households and Income

The Cooper City's mean household income is \$122,565, which is higher than the mean household incomes for the State of Florida as well as the United States. There are 11,053 households in Cooper City, and an average of 3.33 persons per household. The median value of housing in Cooper City was \$555,800 in 2025.

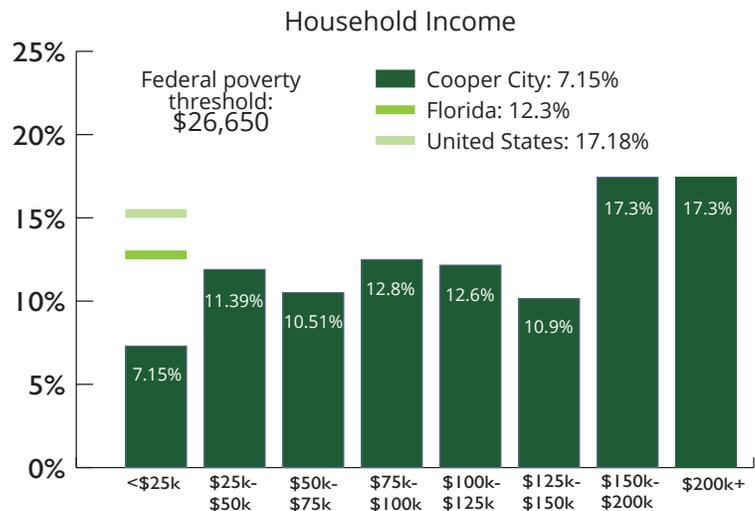


Figure 2.6: Household Income. Source 1: Data USA. (2019). Cooper City, FL Data USA. Retrieved from <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/Cooper-City-fl/> Accessed 6/4/2024

Education

Cooper City's population is well educated, with higher levels of education as compared to the state and nation.

- 94.8% of the population over the age of 25 has achieved a high school diploma or equivalent level. This is slightly higher than the state and national percentages.
- Nearly half the population (49.5%) over the age of 25 has received a bachelor's degree or more advanced degree, which is roughly 15% above similar rates for the State of Florida and U.S.
- These findings typically point to higher income levels.



Figure 2.7: Cooper City Households Demographics. Source 2: Census Bureau. (2020). 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/> Accessed 6/4/2024

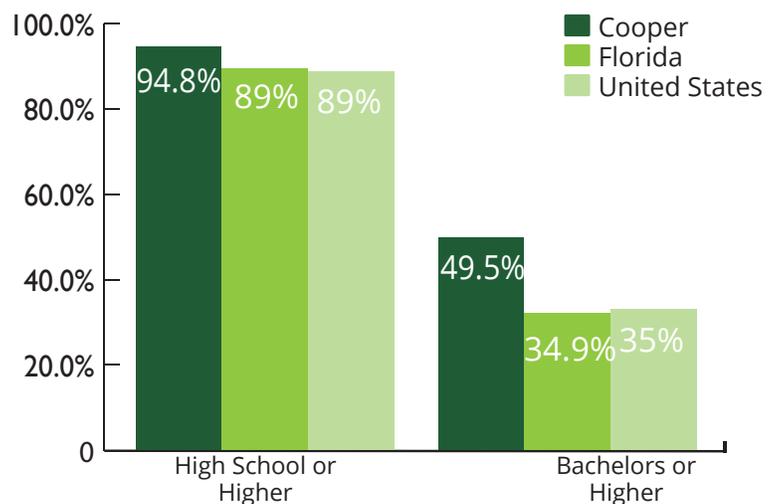


Figure 2.8: Cooper City Education Demographics. Source 2: Census Bureau. (2020). 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/> Accessed 6/4/2024

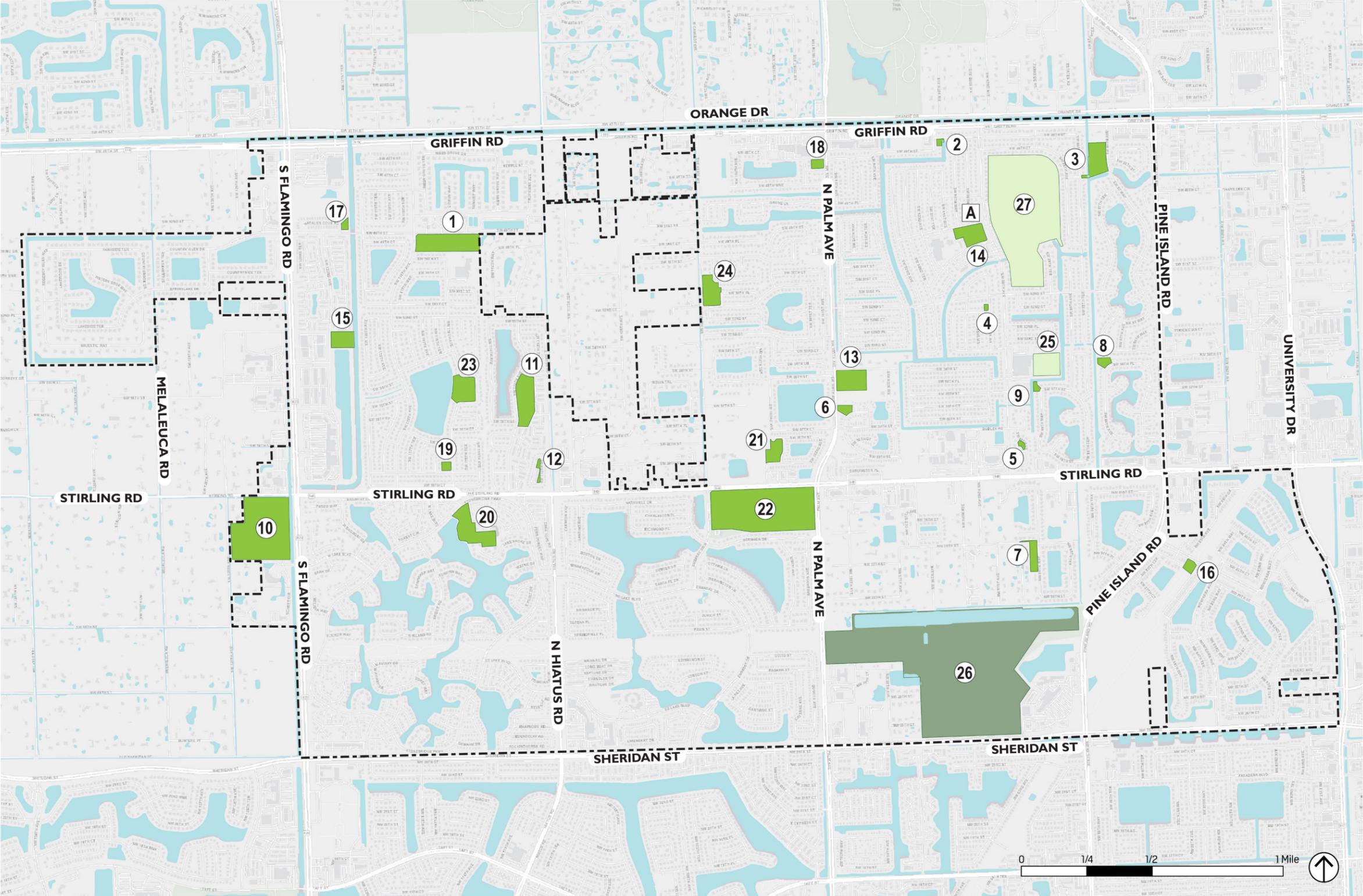
Chapter 2: System Inventory & Analysis

2.2. Inventory Assessment

Cooper City's Parks and Recreation Department (PRD) is responsible for enhancing the quality of life for residents by providing diverse recreational services and maintaining public spaces. The PRD's duties include managing and maintaining parks, athletic fields, and community centers to ensure they are safe and accessible. The department organizes various sports leagues, fitness programs, and community events that promote physical activity and social engagement. Additionally, the department oversees the issuance of permits for facility use, coordinates improvements and renovations of existing amenities, and addresses community needs through public workshops and surveys. By fostering a vibrant and inclusive environment, the PRD plays a crucial role in building a healthy and connected community.

As part of the initial information gathering phase, the planning team reviewed a number of documents related to the City's park and recreational activities, including:

- Parks Inventory
- Vision, Mission, and Goals
- Comprehensive Plan Recreation and Open Space Element
- Former Optimist Agreement
- Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)
- Parks and Recreation Department Budget
- Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
- Cooper City program enrollment data (from the City and Optimist)



1. Bill Lips Sports Complex
2. Chase Park
3. Christie Schafale Park & Dog Park
4. Colony Park
5. Cooper's Point Park
6. Dawn Park
7. Diamond Head Park
8. Ellie Kozak Park
9. Encore Park
10. Flamingo West Park
11. Forest Lake Park
12. Homes of Forest Lakes Park
13. Jerry Morgan Park
14. Memorial Park
15. Michael "City Mike" Riordan Park
16. Monterra Community Dog Park
17. Natalie's Cove Park
18. Pine Lake Park
19. Poinciana Park
20. Pool & Tennis Center Park
21. Stirling Palm Park
22. Suellen H. Fardelmann Sports Complex
23. Tamarind Park
24. Ted Ferone Park
25. Pioneer Middle School
26. Brian Piccolo Park
27. Cooper Colony Golf Course

A. Community Center

LEGEND:

- Cooper City Boundary
- City Parks
- Community Facilities
- County Parks

Figure 2.10 Cooper City Parks and Recreation Facilities Map

2.2.2. Overall Park System

Table 3.1 shows the inventory summary of Cooper City's 22 parks and facilities throughout the City, totaling approximately 240.85 acres of park land. The sites include:

- 22 Playgrounds
- 10 Multi-purpose Fields
- 13 Baseball/Softball Fields (Including Pioneer Middle School)
- 13 Basketball Courts
- 17 Tennis Courts
- 12 Pickleball Courts
- 10 Racquetball Courts
- 12 Sand Volleyball Courts

	Basketball Court	Concession	Diamond Field	Dog Park	Fitness Equipment	Fishing Dock/Access	Gazebo	Multi-Purpose Field	Natural Area	Open Play Area	Pickleball Court	Picnic Area	Pavilion	Playground	Racquetball Courts	Sand Volleyball	Soccer/football/Field	Splashpad	Swimming Pool	Tennis Court	Walking Path	
1. Bill Lips Sports Complex Park		1	4					2				1	1	1			2					
2. Chase Park						1						1		1								1
3. Christie Schafale Park & Dog Park	1			1	1					1		1		1		1						1
4. Colony Park												1		1								
5. Cooper's Point Park												1		1								
6. Dawn Park										1		1		1								
7. Diamond Head Park	1									1		1		1	2							1
8. Ellie Kozak Park					1					1		1		1								
9. Encore Park										1				1								
10. Flamingo West Park		1				1		4	1			1	4	1			4					1
11. Forest Lake Park	1									1	2			1		1					1	1
12. Homes of Forest Lakes Park										1		1		1								
13. Jerry Morgan Park									1													1
14. Memorial Park							1					1		1								
15. Michael "City Mike" Riordan Park	1									1				1		1					1	1
16. Monterra Community Dog Park				1																		
17. Natalie's Cove Park										1		1		1								
18. Pine Lake Park										1				1								
19. Poinciana Park										1				1								
20. Pool & Tennis Center Park	2										4	1	1	1		2		1	1		8	
21. Stirling Palm Park	1									1		1		1		1						1
22. Suellen H. Fardelmann Sports Complex	2	1	7					3			6	1	1	1		4	3					1
23. Tamarind Park					1					1		1		1	4	1					2	1
24. Ted Ferone Park	1				1					1				1	4	1					2	1
25. Pioneer Middle School	3		2					1									1				3	
Total	13	4	13	2	4	1	1	10	2	15	12	16	7	22	10	12	10	1	1	17	11	

Chapter 2: System Inventory & Analysis

2.2.3. Park Inventory Evaluation

Cooper City boasts a comprehensive Parks and Recreation Department that manages 21 neighborhood parks and three sports complexes. These facilities offer a variety of amenities, including playgrounds, open green spaces, and sports fields. The city also features two dog parks, Christie Schafale Dog Park and Monterra Community Dog Park, providing designated areas for pets to play. For aquatic and racquet sports enthusiasts, the Pool & Tennis Center has a swimming pool and tennis courts.

The Parks and Recreation Department provides diverse programs for all age groups, including youth classes, day camps, swimming lessons, and adult fitness classes. Active adult programs include Silver Sneakers, yoga, and Tai Chi. The department also hosts annual special events and offers facility rentals for private events at the Community Center and Pool & Tennis Center.

The Park Inventory Evaluation assesses various features contributing to users' comfort and convenience, such as park access, parking, seating, restrooms, and more. Each park was scored in five categories: evaluation of comfort and convenience features, park design and ambiance, component condition, and neighborhood and community scores. Appendix B also includes detailed assessments of all parks in the City. The following is a summary of the park inventory evaluation assessment. The park inventory evaluation was completed in a series of steps:

1. The planning team first prepared a preliminary list of existing parks and amenities using information provided by the department, aerial photography, and Geographic Information System (GIS) data.
2. Field visits were conducted to verify preliminary park data and add additional detail regarding park components.
3. Pursuant to the field visits, data sets were expanded to include additional details regarding park components, and eAs identified in field visits, additional details were added to the data set. An evaluation rubric was applied to each park component to determine how well it met City and NRPA standards. A three-point rating system was applied to evaluate each park element, including components, comfort and convenience features, and overall design and ambiance.

Chapter 2: System Inventory & Analysis

Table 2.1 Evaluation Summary

Evaluation Category	Evaluation Criteria
1. Park Design & Ambiance	A pleasant environment and thoughtful design can enhance a user's experience while their absence can detract from it.
2. Neighborhood Score	Parks with high neighborhood scores are readily accessible by nearby bicyclists and pedestrians, blending harmoniously with the surrounding community.
3. Community Score	Evaluates the value to the entire community. Parks with high scores in this category possess distinctive characteristics within the recreation system. They tend to attract a wide range of visitors from across the community, have the necessary capacity and accompanying amenities to accommodate larger crowds, or are located in areas accessible primarily by car. Conversely, parks with lower scores may have restricted parking options or limited access for the broader community.
4. Comfort & Convenience Features	The assessment evaluated a total of twelve elements that play a significant role in enhancing overall user experience as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Park Access 2. Parking 3. Restrooms 4. Seating 5. Picnic Tables 6. Water Fountains 7. Trash Receptacles 8. BBQ Grills 9. Path Connectivity 10. Landscape 11. Shade 12. Lights
5. Component Condition	This criteria catalogs the existing condition of all significant components of the park, such as structures (e.g., playgrounds, pavilions, sports facilities), natural elements (e.g., trees, water bodies, wildlife), and pathways. Each component is assessed in terms of its functionality, safety, aesthetics, and compliance with relevant regulations.

Overall Score

The overall score is calculated using a percentage-based scoring method that calculates performance by dividing the number of earned points by the total possible points to express the result as a percentage. This method provides a transparent and standardized way to evaluate how much of the total available points were achieved. Note that scoring is based on possible points because not all parks have the same components. Table 2.2 summarizes overall score for all parks.

The park rating process involves evaluating parks based on their design, neighborhood accessibility, community value, comfort features, and component condition. Each aspect is scored from 0 (Not Functioning) to 3 (Exceeds Expectations). For example, the Memorial Park scored a total of 37 out of a possible 54 points, producing an overall rating of 69%. Additionally, the City has ongoing CIP and maintenance plan to replace and repair key park assets and amenities. Accordingly, parks included in the City's current CIP were assigned up to 3 additional points based upon the anticipated improvements.

Chapter 2: System Inventory & Analysis

2.2.4. Park Assessment Summary

Comfort & Convenience Amenities:

Cooper City parks offer comfort-focused amenities such as picnic pavilions, benches, and trash receptacles, generally in fair condition. While restrooms are available, some are aging and in need of updates. The City has identified the need for more shade structures over playgrounds, fitness areas, and bleachers, and is considering standardizing amenities across parks to create a more consistent and functional system.

Sports Fields & Courts

Sports fields and courts are well-maintained overall, though some show signs of wear from heavy use. Fields at major complexes are regularly groomed for soccer, football, baseball, and softball, but high-traffic areas may need turf restoration. Outdoor basketball courts show surface cracking and faded lines, while tennis and pickleball courts, especially at the Pool & Tennis Center, are in better condition. Lighting supports evening play, but some fixtures and seating areas could be upgraded. Overall, the facilities are functional, with opportunities to improve turf, resurface courts, and add shade and spectator amenities.

Accessibility

Cooper City is dedicated to making its parks accessible to all residents, with many offering wheelchair-friendly mulch and concrete pathways and conveniently located accessible parking. Recent efforts, such as adding ADA-accessible playground equipment at Suellen H. Fardelmann Sports Complex and Ellie Kozak Park, reflect this commitment. However, there are still opportunities to improve circulation paths and surfacing around playgrounds and fitness areas to enhance overall accessibility.

The Following table provides a complete assessment of the existing conditions found within the City's 24 parks. The top ($\geq 70\%$) highest-scoring parks were Flamingo West Park, Memorial Park, and Michael City Mike Riordan Park. These parks scored higher because of their overall ambiance and multitude of amenities. The lowest scoring parks ($< 50\%$) were Dawn Park and Pioneer Middle School. These parks scored lower due to the lower scoring of comfort amenities and their condition.

Scoring was assigned as follows:

- 0 = Not Functioning / Non-Existing
- 1 = Below Expectations
- 2 = Meets Expectations
- 3 = Exceeds Expectations

Chapter 2: System Inventory & Analysis

Table 2.2 City Parks Inventory Score Summary

Park Name	Overall (Design & Ambiance, Community & Neighborhood Value)	Comfort & Convenience	Component Condition	Total Score	Combined % Score	Funded CIP Life-cycle	Adjusted Score
1. Bill Lips Sports Complex Park	5	20	12	37	56%	3	58%
2. Chase Park	6	17	6	29	64%		64%
3. Christie Schafale Park & Dog Park	6	23	14	43	65%		65%
4. Colony Park	5	14	4	23	55%		55%
5. Cooper's Point Park	5	16	4	25	60%		60%
6. Dawn Park	4	10	4	18	42%		43%
7. Diamond Head Park	6	18	10	34	60%		60%
8. Ellie Kozak Park	5	20	10	35	61%		61%
9. Encore Park	5	12	4	21	64%		64%
10. Flamingo West Park	9	24	18	51	81%	3	86%
11. Forest Lake Park	6	19	20	45	63%		63%
12. Homes of Forest Lakes Park	5	13	4	22	56%		56%
13. Jerry Morgan Park	6	14	7	27	69%		69%
14. Memorial Park	6	24	17	47	68%	3	73%
15. Michael "City Mike" Riordan Park	6	19	10	35	65%	3	70%
16. Monterra Community Dog Park	5	13	2	20	56%		56%
17. Natalie's Cove Park	6	15	4	24	60%		57%
18. Pine Lake Park	6	12	3	21	64%		64%
19. Poinciana Park	6	12	3	21	64%		64%
20. Pool & Tennis Center Park	6	26	16	46	61%		61%
21. Stirling Palm Park	6	17	8	31	65%		65%
22. Suellen H. Fardelmann Sports Complex	6	26	18	50	62%	3	65%
23. Tamarind Park	6	18	15	39	62%		62%
24. Ted Ferone Park	6	20	15	41	59%		59%
25. Pioneer Middle School	3	8	7	18	35%		35%

Chapter 2: System Inventory & Analysis

2.2.5. Program Participation & Facility Usage

The Cooper City's Parks and Recreation Department (CCPRD) offers a variety of recreation programs to engage residents of all ages. From youth sports leagues to adult fitness classes, there's something for everyone to stay active and connect socially. The CCPRD also hosts special events throughout the year, such as community festivals, holiday celebrations, and outdoor movie nights, which help foster a strong sense of community.

Together with the programs offered by the CCPRD and the Optimist Club of Cooper City provides additional youth sports activities. The Optimist is a non-profit organization and long-standing programming partner with the City, offering 8 sports programs that include soccer, basketball, baseball, and cheerleading.

Table 3.3 summarizes the annual participation levels for the Cooper City Optimist Club's youth and adult sports programs from 2018–2019 through 2023–2024. Participation levels vary by sport and season, with several programs, such as soccer, baseball, basketball, and volleyball, consistently drawing the highest number of participants. A noticeable decline occurs in the 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 seasons across nearly all sports, reflecting the significant impact of COVID-19 on league operations and registration. Despite these disruptions, most programs show strong recovery in the 2021–2022 and 2022–2023 seasons, demonstrating sustained community interest and continued demand for organized sports in Cooper City.

Table 2.3 Optimist Club League Participant

Sport	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Football-Flag	336	318	294	305	318	282
Baseball	668	715	439	647	673	627
Softball	178	163	136	125	132	148
Basketball	1204	370	811	1245	1322	474
Volleyball - Adult	295	238	115	265	300	278
Soccer	1425	1253	822	1155	1078	
Travel Baseball			52	581	645	627
Travel Soccer			265	267	312	299
Flag Football - Youth	259	271	305	327	366	
Flag Football - Adult	0					
5 X 5 Soccer	841		736	903	769	
Volleyball (Youth)	216		327	191	445	
Football-Tackle	188		255	250		
Cheerleading	101		112	96		
Total Participants:	5,711	3,328	4,669	6,357	6,360	2,735

2.3. Level of Service Analysis

2.3.1. Acreage LOS

Acreage Level of Service (LOS) compares the total amount of park and open space acreage in a community to its current and projected population, expressed as acres per 1,000 residents. Cooper City's Comprehensive Plan establishes a minimum standard of 6 acres of park and open space per 1,000 residents, while County and State standards require 3 acres per 1,000 residents.

Based on the City's current estimated population of 61,137 (2024), the citywide acreage LOS is:

- 15.53 acres per 1,000 residents when including Cooper Colony Golf Course and Brian Piccolo Regional Park.
- 8.36 acres per 1,000 residents when excluding these two facilities.

Both calculations exceed City, County, and State acreage LOS requirements.

Using the 2035 projected population of 39,069, the future acreage LOS is as follows:

- 13.68 acres per 1,000 residents including Cooper Colony Golf Course and Brian Piccolo Regional Park.
- 7.36 acres per 1,000 residents excluding these facilities.

Even with anticipated population changes, Cooper City will continue to exceed all adopted acreage LOS standards.

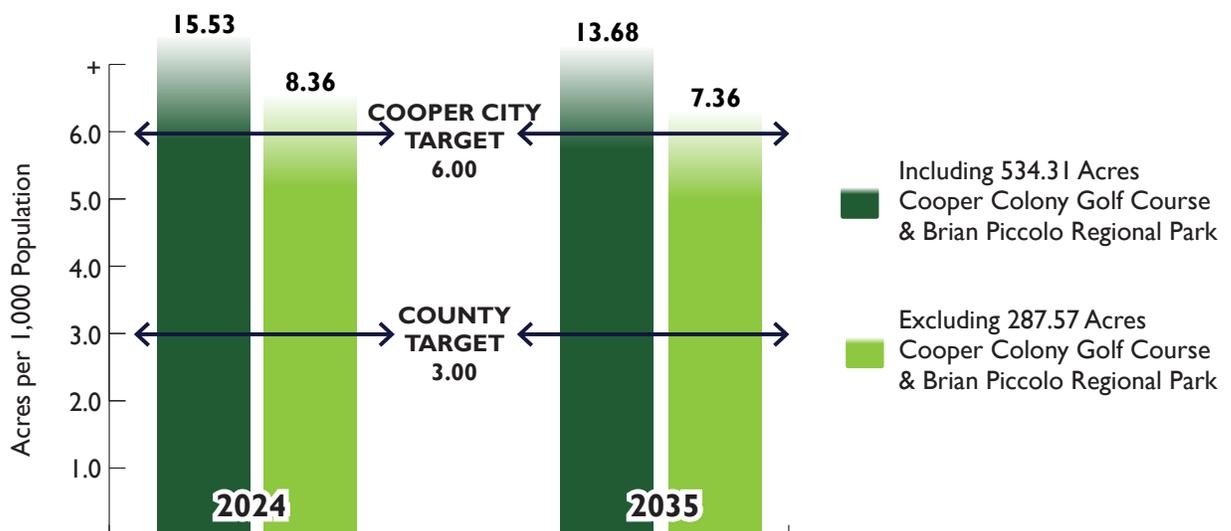


Figure 2.11: Park System Acreage Level of Service

Chapter 2: System Inventory & Analysis

2.3.2. Access LOS

Access Level of Service (LOS) evaluates how easily residents can walk to parks and recreational facilities throughout Cooper City. This analysis uses geospatial mapping of quarter-mile (5-minute walk) and half-mile (10-minute walk) radii around each park to illustrate walkable access. The resulting GIS maps visually display coverage areas and highlight neighborhoods that have strong walkability as well as those with limited access.

The 5-minute walkshed maps show that most City parks provide small, localized pockets of walkable access, primarily clustered in the northern and central neighborhoods of Cooper City. When County and Community Facilities are added to the analysis, walkable access expands slightly but remains concentrated around the same areas.

The 10-minute walkshed maps reveal a broader picture of walkable coverage. Under this expanded radius, much of northern and central Cooper City is within a 10-minute walk of at least one park, particularly around Bill Lips Sports Complex, Christie Schafale Park, Suellen H. Fardelmann Sports Complex, and the network of parks east of Pine Island Road. Including County facilities, such as Brian Piccolo Regional Park, further enlarges the overall coverage area within the City.

Across all mapping scenarios, the most prominent coverage gaps occur in the southern portion of Cooper City, especially near Sheridan Street and the surrounding subdivisions. These gaps are primarily caused by the presence of large land holdings such as Cooper Colony Golf Course and adjacent private recreation areas, which limit the distribution of walkable public park facilities in this part of the City.

Overall, the Access LOS maps show that while many neighborhoods enjoy strong walkable access to parks, southern Cooper City remains underserved, identifying a key opportunity area for future improvements or strategic partnerships.

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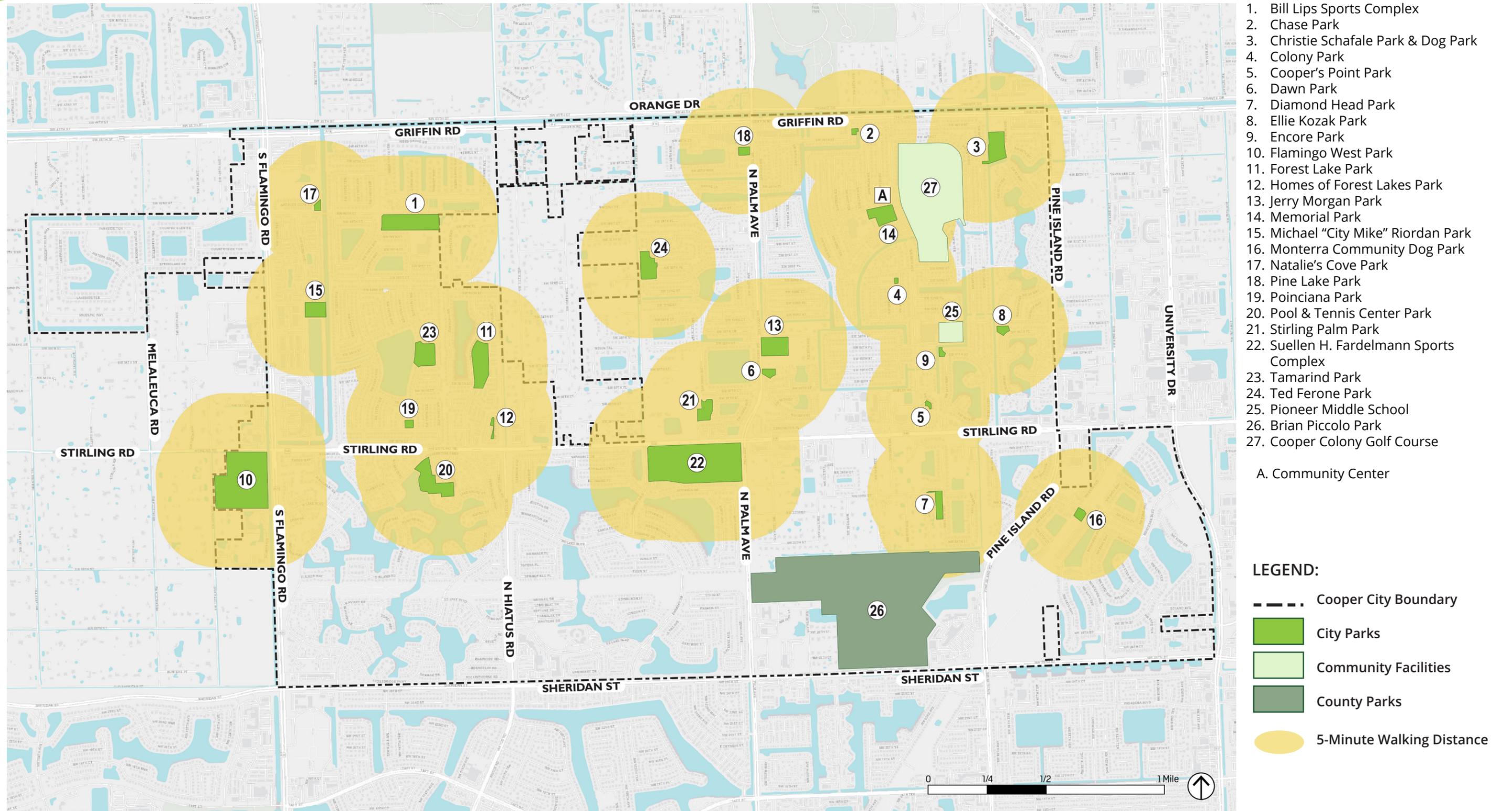


Figure 2.12 City Park Walkability (5-min Parkshed)

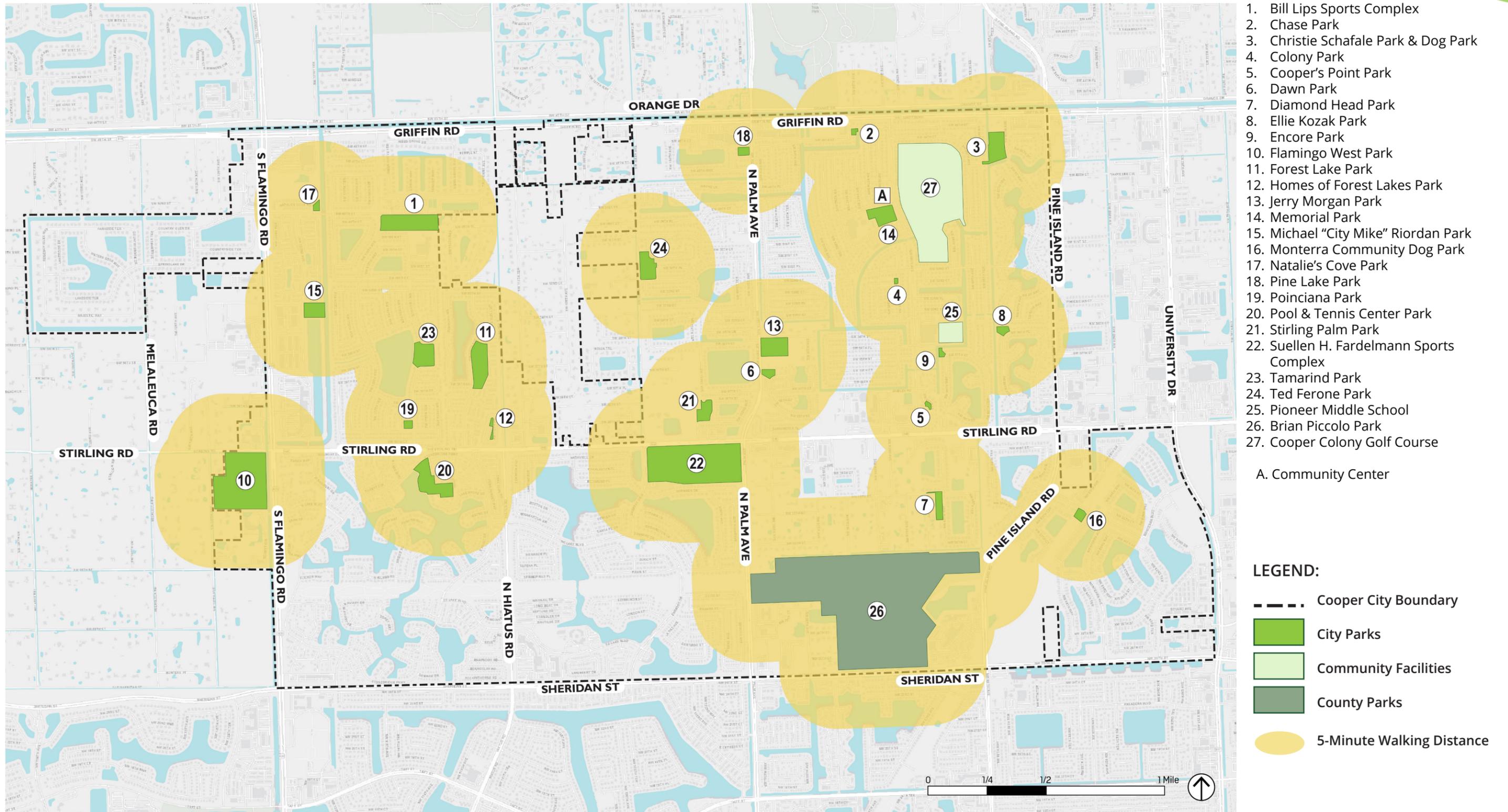
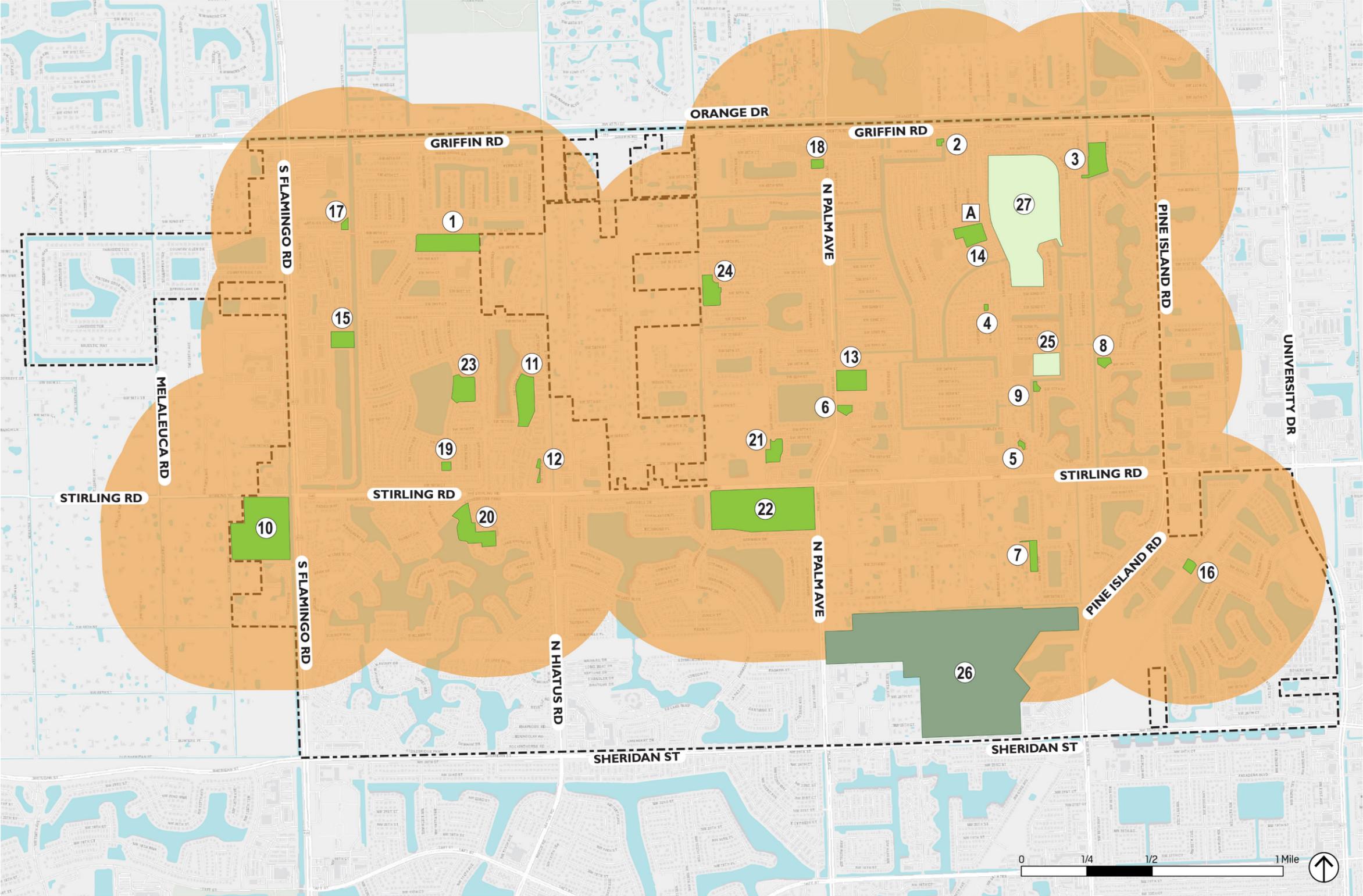


Figure 2.13 City, County & Federal Park Walkability (5-min Parkshed)



1. Bill Lips Sports Complex
2. Chase Park
3. Christie Schafale Park & Dog Park
4. Colony Park
5. Cooper's Point Park
6. Dawn Park
7. Diamond Head Park
8. Ellie Kozak Park
9. Encore Park
10. Flamingo West Park
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20. Pool & Tennis Center Park
21. Stirling Palm Park
22. Suellen H. Fardelmann Sports Complex
23. Tamarind Park
24. Ted Ferone Park
25. Pioneer Middle School
26. Brian Piccolo Park
27. Cooper Colony Golf Course

A. Community Center

LEGEND:

-  Cooper City Boundary
-  City Parks
-  Community Facilities
-  County Parks
-  10-Minute Walking Distance

Figure 2.14 City Park Walkability (10-min Parkshed)

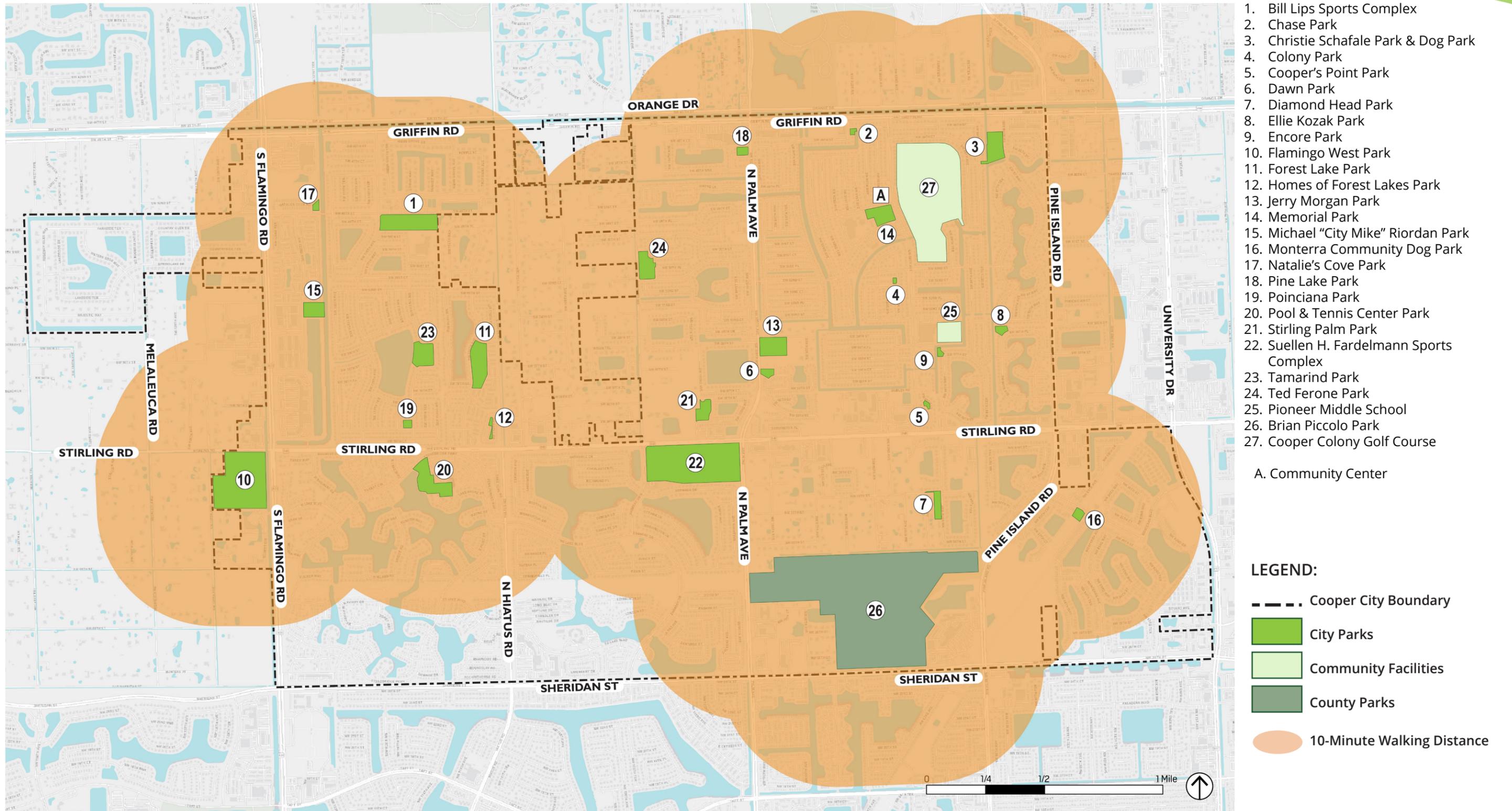


Figure 2.15 City, County & Federal Park Walkability (10-min Parkshed)

Chapter 2: System Inventory & Analysis

2.3.3. State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Benchmarks

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is Florida’s official framework for evaluating and planning outdoor recreation facilities. Updated every five years, SCORP provides benchmark Level of Service (LOS) metrics that compare the number of facilities available to the number of annual participants for each activity. LOS is calculated using the formula:

$$\text{LOS} = \text{Number of Facilities} \div (\text{Participants Annually} / 1,000)$$

The City’s LOS was compared against the SCORP 2025 benchmark ranges to identify areas where Cooper City meets or exceeds statewide expectations. As shown in the table, Cooper City exceeds SCORP’s 2025 LOS guidelines in every activity category.

- Swimming – Outdoor Pool: Cooper City’s LOS is 0.068, slightly above the SCORP guideline of 0.045.
- Tennis: The City provides an LOS of 0.885, higher than the SCORP guideline of 0.78
- Football: Cooper City’s LOS of 1.661 greatly surpasses the SCORP standard of 0.20.
- Baseball/Softball: The City’s LOS of 1.800 is well above the SCORP benchmark of 0.49.
- Basketball: Cooper City achieves an LOS of 2.699, more than four times the recommended SCORP LOS of 0.63.
- Soccer: With an LOS of 1.517, the City far exceeds the SCORP guideline of 0.07.

Overall, Cooper City is providing a significantly higher level of service than statewide averages, particularly for field sports and basketball, where the City’s LOS is multiple times above the recommended SCORP standards. This demonstrates strong provision of active recreation facilities relative to community participation levels.

Table 2.4 SCORP Population Guidelines for Select Outdoor Recreation Activities					
Activity	Facility Type	Current # of Facilities	Participants Annually	Cooper City LOS	SCORP LOS 2025
Swimming Outdoor Pool	Pool	1	14792	0.068	0.045
Tennis	Court	17	7912	0.885	0.78
Football	Field	10	7224	1.661	0.2
Baseball/ Softball	Field	13	7224	1.800	0.49
Basketball	Court	13	4816	2.699	0.63
Soccer	Field	10	7912	1.517	0.07

Legend: Meets NRPA Benchmarks Below NRPA Benchmarks

Chapter 2: System Inventory & Analysis

2.3.4. National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Benchmarks

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) provides national benchmarks to help communities evaluate how their parks and recreation facility inventories compare to similar jurisdictions. For this analysis, Cooper City is compared to the NRPA median values for jurisdictions with populations between 20,000 and 40,000.

Based on the NRPA benchmarks, Cooper City exceeds the median standard in nearly every major facility category, particularly in active recreation amenities such as playgrounds, courts, and athletic fields.

Table 2.5 Comparison of City Facilities & NRPA Benchmarks

Type of Facility	Cooper City	Median for Jurisdictions between 20,000 and 40,000 Population
Playgrounds/Totlots	22	10
Basketball Courts	13	4
Tennis Courts (outdoor only)	17	5
Diamond Fields	13	12
Rectangular Fields: multi-purpose	10	10
Dog park	2	1
Swimming pools (outdoor only)	1	1
Pickleball (outdoor only)	12	2
Splashpads/Spraygrounds	1	1
Community gardens	0	1
Volleyball	12	2
Community/Recreation Centers	2	1
Performance Amphitheater/ Outdoor Stage	0	1

Legend: Meets NRPA Benchmarks Below NRPA Benchmarks

Overall, Cooper City provides an exceptionally high level of recreation amenities, especially in active-use facilities, courts, and fields, and meets or exceeds nearly all NRPA benchmark standards.

CHAPTER 3



CHAPTER 3: COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- 3.1. Recreation Trends
- 3.2. Stakeholder Involvement
- 3.3. Community Involvement
- 3.4. Key Input Findings Summary

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Cooper City residents participating in parks and recreation workshop

3.1. Recreation Trends

3.1.1. Introduction

This trends report highlights an analysis of recreation expenditures, local participation in recreation activities recreation trends across the United States based on the following annual reports:

- Academy of Sports Medicine (ACSM), Worldwide Fitness Trends, 2024
- National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA), Top Trends in Parks and Recreation, 2024
- NRPA, Engagement with Parks Report, 2023
- NRPA, Agency Performance Review, 2024
- Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA), Topline Participation Report, 2024

This report aims to provide Cooper City with a high-level overview of the state of parks and recreation nationwide, including trends in the following categories:

- Facilities
- Programming
- Policies and procedures
- Engagement
- Participation

By exploring these trends, the agency can gain valuable insights into communities' evolving habits and preferences regarding recreation. These insights can assist the agency in learning more about potential areas for growth, opportunities, improvement, and inclusivity.

Estimated Local Participation

Figures 3.1 and 3.2 compare the level of participation by adults for fitness and sport activities respectively for Cooper City and the state of Florida .

Chapter 3: Community Needs Assessment

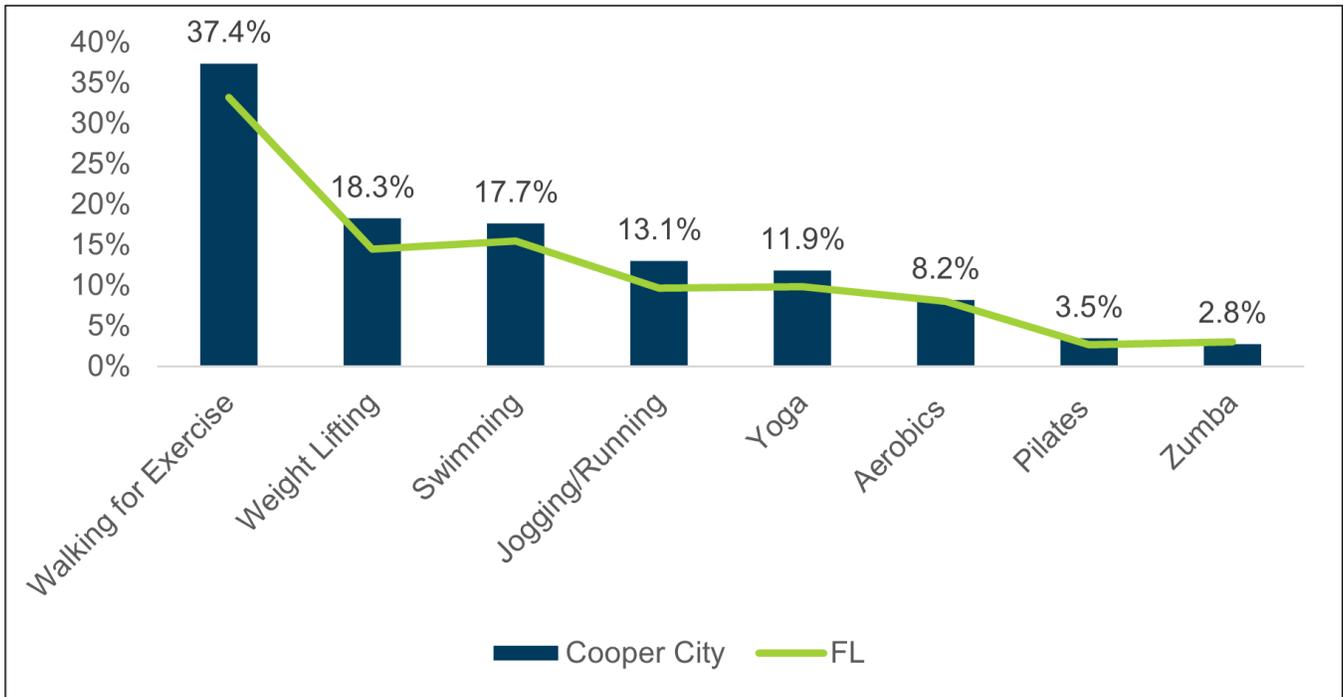


Figure 3.1: Local Participation in Fitness Activities

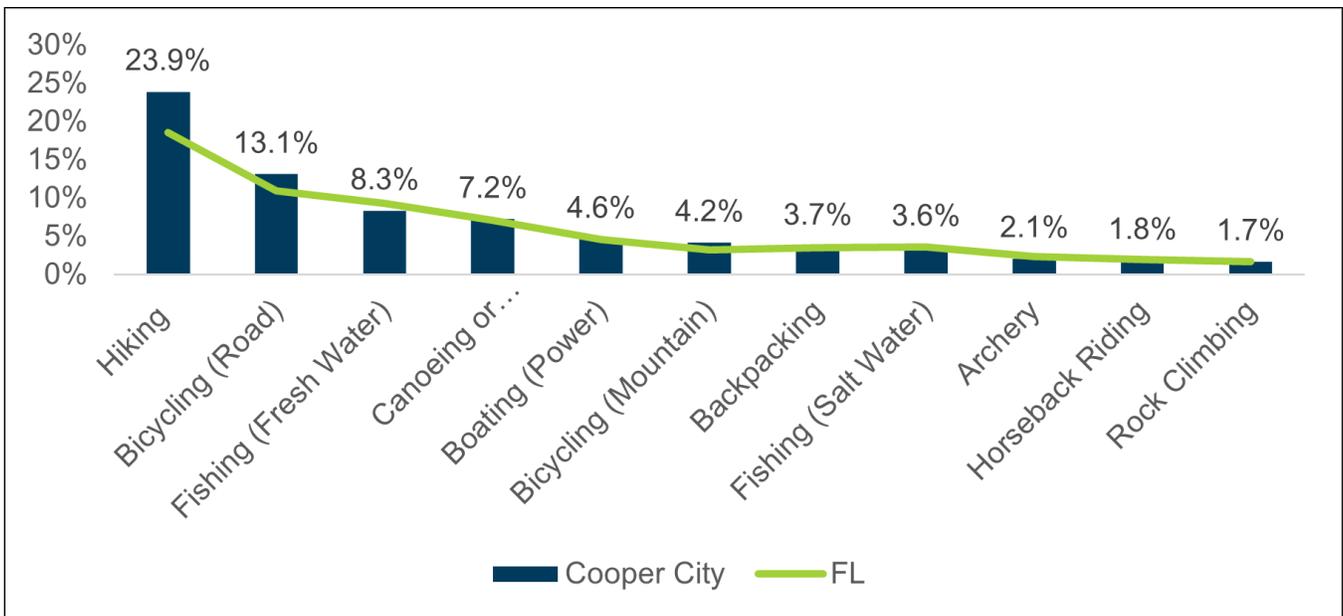


Figure 3.2: Local Participation in Sports Activities

Source 1: SFIA. November 27, 2024. Sports/activities participation data was retrieved from ESRI Business Analyst, using U.S. Market Potential data. This data provides details about the types of goods, services, and activities consumers use and demand, based on survey data from MRI-Simmons.

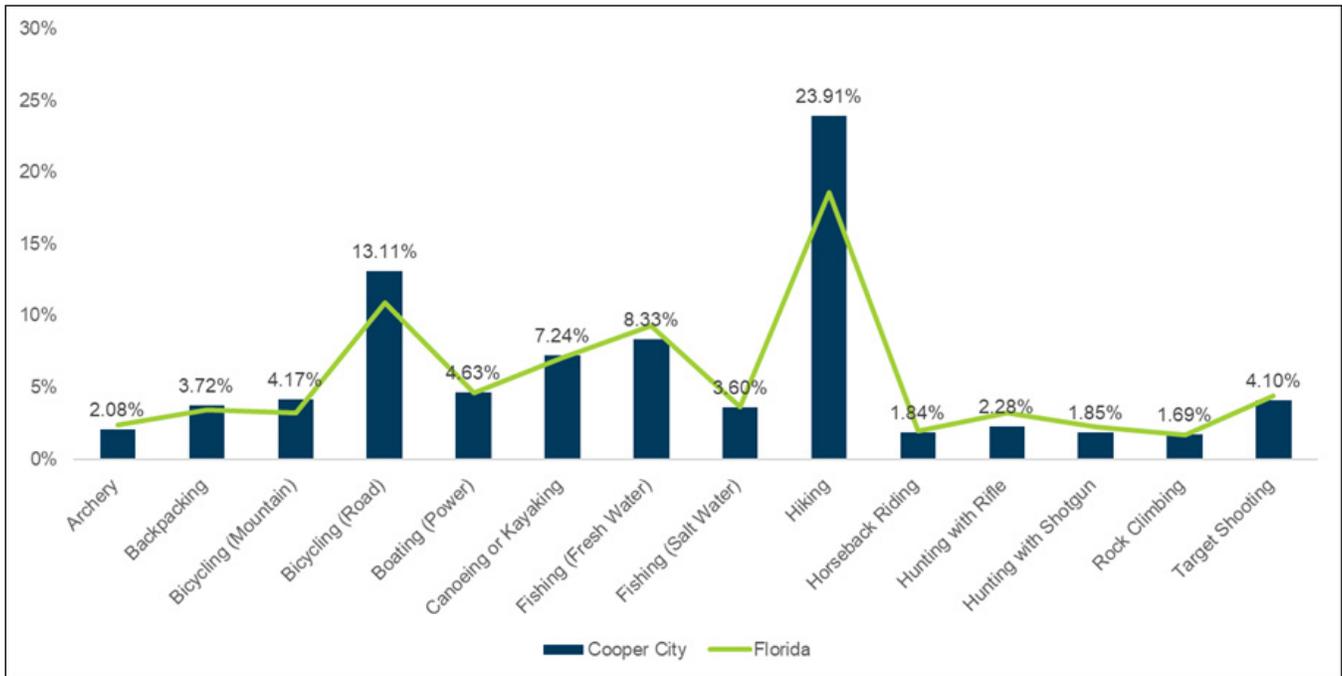


Figure 3.3: Local Participation in Outdoor Recreation

3.1.2. Local Recreation Expenditures

In 2024, the average expenditure by each City resident on membership fees for social, recreation, and/or health clubs was an estimated \$443.34. Sports, recreation, and exercise equipment expenditures averaged \$445.34. Additional information regarding the average and total recreational expenditures is shown in Tables 3.1 and 3.2.

Average Expenditures	Cooper City	FL
Sports/Rec/Exercise Equipment	\$445.34	\$293.75
Membership Fees for Social/Recreation/Health Clubs	\$443.97	\$272.73
Recreational Lessons	\$302.77	\$152.62
Participant Sports Excluding Trips	\$201.94	\$124.93
Admission to Sports Events Excluding Trips	\$108.53	\$69.07
Bicycles	\$122.03	\$75.09
Hunting & Fishing Equipment	\$68.59	\$59.22
Tickets to Parks or Museums	\$56.79	\$34.64
Camping Equipment	\$23.72	\$16.84
Water Sports Equipment	\$17.90	\$12.17
Other Sports Equipment	\$13.81	\$10.42

Chapter 3: Community Needs Assessment

Table 3.2 Estimated Total Recreational Expenditures, 2024

Total Expenditures	Cooper City	FL
Sports/Rec/Exercise Equipment	\$5,074,188	\$2,668,698,532
Membership Fees for Social/Recreation/Health Clubs	\$5,058,581	\$2,477,705,488
Recreational Lessons	\$3,449,785	\$1,386,521,575
Participant Sports Excluding Trips	\$2,300,907	\$1,135,000,709
Admission to Sports Events Excluding Trips	\$1,236,589	\$627,498,059
Bicycles	\$1,390,373	\$682,139,122
Hunting & Fishing Equipment	\$781,566	\$538,014,286
Tickets to Parks or Museums	\$647,043	\$314,739,813
Camping Equipment	\$270,249	\$152,967,420
Water Sports Equipment	\$203,897	\$110,526,918
Other Sports Equipment	\$157,339	\$94,700,717

3.1.3. Florida SCORP Trends

The following trends were highlighted in Florida's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for 2023 to 2027.

COVID-19 and Outdoor Recreation

During the 2020 pandemic, people sought local outdoor activities for physical and psychological well-being. More than half of Americans participated in outdoor experiences—many for the first time—leading to record visitation at parks like the Canaveral National Seashore. This trend boosted the outdoor equipment industry; however, many participants are considered casual, which might lead to declines in future outdoor engagement. Florida's SCORP surveyed 2,122 residents and 114 visitors between March and July 2021. Most respondents, particularly residents, participated in trail activities such as running, walking, and bicycling, with greenways and trails being the most desired recreation facilities. Camping, especially tent camping, was popular, though providers saw higher demand for RV camping. Among residents, 42% reported increased outdoor activity during the pandemic, while 98% of visitors and 97% of residents valued access to recreation through greenways and trails.

Source 2: Florida Department of Environmental Protection. June 14, 2023. 2023-2027 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Tallahassee: Florida Department of Environmental Protection. https://floridadep.gov/sites/default/files/SCORP-FINAL-May2024_GovLetter_0.pdf

E-Bikes, Scooters, and Other Electric Mobility Devices

A wide variety of electric mobility devices, including e-bikes, scooters, skateboards, and unicycles, have gained popularity in recent years, offering new ways for people to enjoy the outdoors, especially those with mobility challenges. E-bikes come in several types, such as cruisers and mountain bikes, and are categorized into classes based on speed/assist functions, with some capable of reaching 40 miles per hour. Although e-bikes expand access to backcountry areas, concerns have emerged about their safety and impact on wildlife, especially on shared-use trails. E-bike regulations vary across local, state, and federal levels, with some areas implementing speed limits of 15 to 20 miles per hour. Electric scooters, skateboards, and unicycles also come in a range of models and offer different speeds and features, with scooters capable of reaching up to 56 miles per hour. Despite the growing popularity of these devices, safety and regulatory challenges remain, especially regarding their compatibility with traditional trail use and enforcement of speed limits. Hoverboards and other novel devices like electric unicycles and hovershoes continue to expand the electric mobility market.

Pump Tracks

A pump track is a small circular trail with rollers and berms designed for wheeled sports—like biking, skating, and scootering—where users maintain momentum through a pumping motion after the initial push. Suitable for both children and adults, pump tracks can be permanent or temporary structures made from materials like dirt, wood, or concrete. They improve bike handling skills, spatial awareness, and cooperation, and require a space only slightly larger than a baseball diamond.

Technology Innovations and Outdoor Recreation

Technology is increasingly impacting outdoor recreation, from online trip planning and map downloads to purchasing gear and learning outdoor skills through instructional videos. Digital devices are becoming the primary tools for finding recreation locations and guiding users once there, while printed materials are becoming less common. Recreation providers use technology like trail counters to track activity types and online reservation systems to simplify access. Emerging trends, such as drones and remote-controlled vehicles, are also influencing outdoor recreation, providing new ways to engage with the outdoors and monitor environmental impacts. While these hobbies might not offer high physical activity, they encourage outdoor participation.

Chapter 3: Community Needs Assessment

Pickleball

Pickleball appeals to all ages and is the fastest growing sport among players under 24 years old; therefore, demand for more courts has increased. The game—played with solid racquets and a whiffle-like ball on a half-size tennis court—emphasizes finesse over power due to its unique rules like underhand serves and the "kitchen" no-slam zone. Pickleball is also easier on the body, allowing older adults to compete effectively with younger players.

Facilities

A typical parks and recreation agency will manage approximately 22 parks and seven buildings. The type and number of facilities and parks an agency can manage vary greatly; however, the NRPA Agency Performance Review for 2024 provides insight into what most agencies offer across the nation.³

3.2 Stakeholder Involvement

To develop the Cooper City PRMP, an extensive public engagement process was undertaken that included stakeholder interviews, focus groups, surveys of residents and other park/recreational users, and a series of public workshops and presentations. The process began with stakeholder focus groups that provided direct feedback for consideration in the plan's development. The planning team hosted interviews with individuals and groups to gather their perspectives on the vision, challenges, opportunities, and strategies for the master plan's development. Beginning in March 2024, a series of fourteen stakeholder interviews were conducted in-person at City Hall and the Cooper City Community Center. This section provides an overview of the interview process, including main topics of discussion and feedback. Stakeholder interviews were conducted with representatives from the following groups:

- Cooper City Commission
- Cooper City Parks & Recreation Staff
- Recreation Advisory Board
- Cooper City Optimist Club
- Tot Parent
- Pickleball Group

Each focus group was asked questions and guided through a meaningful conversation by a facilitator from the planning team. General topics of discussion included:

- Expectations of the Master Plan
- Key Issues or Values in the Cooper City Community
- Utilization of Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Comparison with Other Municipalities
- Future Facilities/Amenities Improvements
- Strengths and Weaknesses of the Parks and Recreation Department
- Adequacy of Current Budget

Chapter 3: Community Needs Assessment

3.2.1. Cooper City -City Commission

The Cooper City Commission, a board of five elected officials, sets policy, approves budgetary and financial activities, and sets strategic direction and vision for the Cooper City. Each member of the Cooper City Commission was interviewed individually.



Mayor
James Curran



Commissioner
Ryan C. Shrouder



Commissioner
Jeremy Katzman



Commissioner
Lisa Mallozzi



Commissioner
Jason Smith

The following list summarizes recurring comments received consistently throughout these interviews:

- Pickleball and volleyball should be prioritized: These sports have rapidly grown in popularity, and Cooper City should invest in regulation courts to accommodate demand and attract competitions.
- Optimist Club is a key community asset: The Optimist Club has been a vital part of the community for decades and should be supported by the city. Their role in youth sports and recreation is essential to Cooper City's identity.
- Small passive parks need upgrades: Many smaller parks are underutilized due to a lack of shade, amenities, and updated equipment. Adding shade structures, seating, and interactive features can encourage more use.
- Parks should offer something for everyone: Recreation spaces should be designed to accommodate all ages and interests. There should be a balance between active and passive recreation opportunities, ensuring accessibility for all residents.
- A multipurpose sports complex is needed: Facilities should be designed to host multiple sports and recreational activities, including basketball, soccer, and community events, with a focus on multi-generational use.

3.2.2. Cooper City Parks & Recreation Staff

In determining the Goals and Objectives of the City for its Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Miller Legg conducted a workshop style meeting with the Town's Parks and Recreation staff. The purpose of the workshop was to involve the staff in the Parks & Recreation Master Plan process by gathering their thoughts on the current conditions and future needs of parks, facilities, and programs.

The following list summarizes comments made during the interview:

- Favorite Parks – Why
 - Suellen Park: diverse amenities; needs improved power, lighting, restrooms, entryway.
 - Forest Lake: high potential, ample green space, strong community appeal.
 - Memorial Park: serene, hometown feel, under-maintained but high potential.
 - Flamingo Park: popular amenities but lacks adjacent parking.
- Least Favorite Parks – Why
 - Natalie's Cove: tiny, no amenities.
 - Memorial Park: underutilized, maintenance issues, limited parking.
 - Bill Lips Park: poor appearance, next to water plant, outdated facilities.
- Systemwide Issues
 - Insufficient parking & restrooms citywide.
 - Non-resident usage pressure.
 - Need to revisit joint-use agreements with schools.
 - Inconsistent planning, short-term fixes instead of long-term solutions.
 - Budget planning historically weak.
- Facilities & Program Priorities
 - Upgrade pool/tennis center; replace outdated kitchen.
 - Potential gym expansion; expand splashpad.

Chapter 3: Community Needs Assessment

- Need consistent recreation operating standards.
- Staffing shortages and heavy event workloads.
- High demand for rentals but limited supply.
- Strengths
 - Highly dedicated staff; “all hands on deck” operations.
 - High youth program participation & revenue recovery post-COVID.
- Challenges
 - Lack of true needs-based planning.
 - Pressure from residents without understanding operations.
 - Need for cost-recovery and operations analysis.
 - Maintenance transferred from Public Works creates backlog.

3.2.3. Optimist Group of Cooper City

Key Issues by Sport

- Baseball:
 - 7 fields, 62 teams; need more batting cages, shade, safety netting.
 - Drainage and dugout flooding issues.
- Softball:
 - 4 fields; using soccer fields as overflow.
 - Need additional cages and improved surfaces.
- Soccer:
 - 2,500 kids; adult pickup players causing security issues.
 - Need better security lighting, cameras, lightning procedures.
- Basketball:
 - Need covered courts for shared City events.

- Systemwide Issues
 - Shade, safety from foul balls.
 - Odors from water/sewer plant at Bill Lips.
 - Consistency of field surfaces.
 - Need more practice fields and multipurpose areas.
- Priority Needs
 - Dedicated adult turf field.
 - Lighting passive spaces for practice.
 - Water fountains & restrooms at more parks.
 - Repurposing racquetball & tennis courts into multi-use courts.
- Additional Suggestions
 - 1 batting cage per field minimum.
 - Consolidate baseball at one park & soccer at another.
 - Need a Recreation Program Plan (RPP).
- Challenges
 - Non-resident participation ratios; balancing capacity with demand.

3.2.4. Recreation Advisory Board

- Key Issues
 - Need more playground variety and updated equipment.
 - High demand for pickleball; space/noise concerns.
 - Desire for misters, bottle fillers, dog bowls, and improved equipment.
- Priority Items
 - Events are successful and well attended.
 - Pickleball courts are a major priority.

Chapter 3: Community Needs Assessment

- Replacement of rusted exercise equipment at Tamarind.
- Suggested Additions
 - More creative and artistic programs.
 - Additional playground shade, especially at Flamingo West.
 - Disc golf; more free-play spaces.
 - Accessible/handicap-friendly playground equipment.
- Challenges
 - Maintenance issues: swings, water fountains, dog-friendly features.
 - Need better advertising of existing amenities and programs.

3.2.5. Senior Advisory Board

- Key Issues
 - Aging population (many in their 90s); need age-friendly features.
 - Need more ADA accommodations & handicapped parking.
 - Desire for a Cooper City historical room.
- Priority Items
 - Improved parking at Community Center.
 - Expanded park amenities (benches, shelters).
 - Senior-focused pickleball opportunities.
- Suggested Additions
 - More space for senior games.
 - CPR, CERT, and COPS educational programs.
- Challenges
 - Preparing and organizing the Senior Expo.

3.2.6. Tot Parent

- Key Issues
 - Outdated playgrounds; lack modern equipment & color variety.
 - Kids prefer other cities' parks (e.g., Pine Island).
 - No restrooms near playgrounds.
 - Shade still insufficient.
 - Splashpad at Pool & Tennis is limited and disrupted by programming.
- Priority Program Needs
 - More youth/tot programs; better variety & more frequent offerings.
 - Improved communication on programs (website issues).
 - Better accessibility and program promotion.
- Suggested Additions
 - More events & giveaways for families.
 - Dedicated art & gymnastics programs for ages 10 and under.
 - Improved tots classes (like Mrs. Grace's).
 - Parent-friendly park layouts (enclosed areas).
 - Parent-night-out programs.
 - Concierge-style information desk.
- Parent Challenges
 - Hard to navigate website; inconsistent communication.
 - Confusing Optimist vs. City programming access.
- Other Notes
 - Families want spaces where kids can play while parents relax.
 - Interest in golf-cart-friendly events.

3.2.7. Pickleball Ambassador

- Key Issues
 - Rapid growth in pickleball; tennis/basketball declining.
 - Only 8 courts citywide—not enough to meet demand.
 - Need land or redevelopment opportunities (Bill Lips example).
 - Courts often overcrowded and unpredictable in use patterns.
- Priority Needs
 - Temporary courts at Rock Creek or gymnasium.
 - Additional splashpad option beyond Rock Creek.
 - Open space suitable for new courts (with constraints like retention).
 - Shade, bottle fillers, comfort amenities.
- Suggestions for Expansion
 - T-ball/under-10 opportunities.
 - More event promotion (current timing not ideal).
 - Improve Suellen Complex (walking trail, shade structures).
 - Indoor recreation opportunities.
- Challenges
 - Maintenance issues after Public Works transfer.
 - Limited open space due to water retention areas & powerlines.

3.3. Community Involvement

This process of engaging the public promotes civic participation and empowerment, encouraging citizens to take an active role in shaping the future of their communities so the Cooper City can develop a more responsive, resilient, and equitable plan reflective of the needs of the residents. Cooper City residents had the opportunity to participate in the master planning process through both the public workshop and the open access survey.

3.3.1. Public Workshop #1 Input

The purpose of Workshop #1 was to involve the residents of Cooper City in the Parks & Recreation Master Plan process by gathering their thoughts on the current conditions and future needs of parks and facilities in the Cooper City.

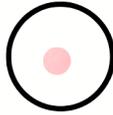
The workshop was held at the Cooper City Community Center and was open to all Cooper City residents. Approximately 80 residents attended the workshop. Workshop participants were greeted with a sign in sheet and comment cards for those who chose to speak at the end of the meeting. The workshop began with a presentation by the Miller Legg team that covered the following topics:

- Current and Upcoming Projects
- Master Plan Process
- Demographic Profile
- Existing Parks & Facilities Inventory
- Level of Service Standards
- Online Public Survey
- Public Workshop #1 Activity Session

Once the presentation was complete, Miller Legg invited workshop participants to participate in the following activities:

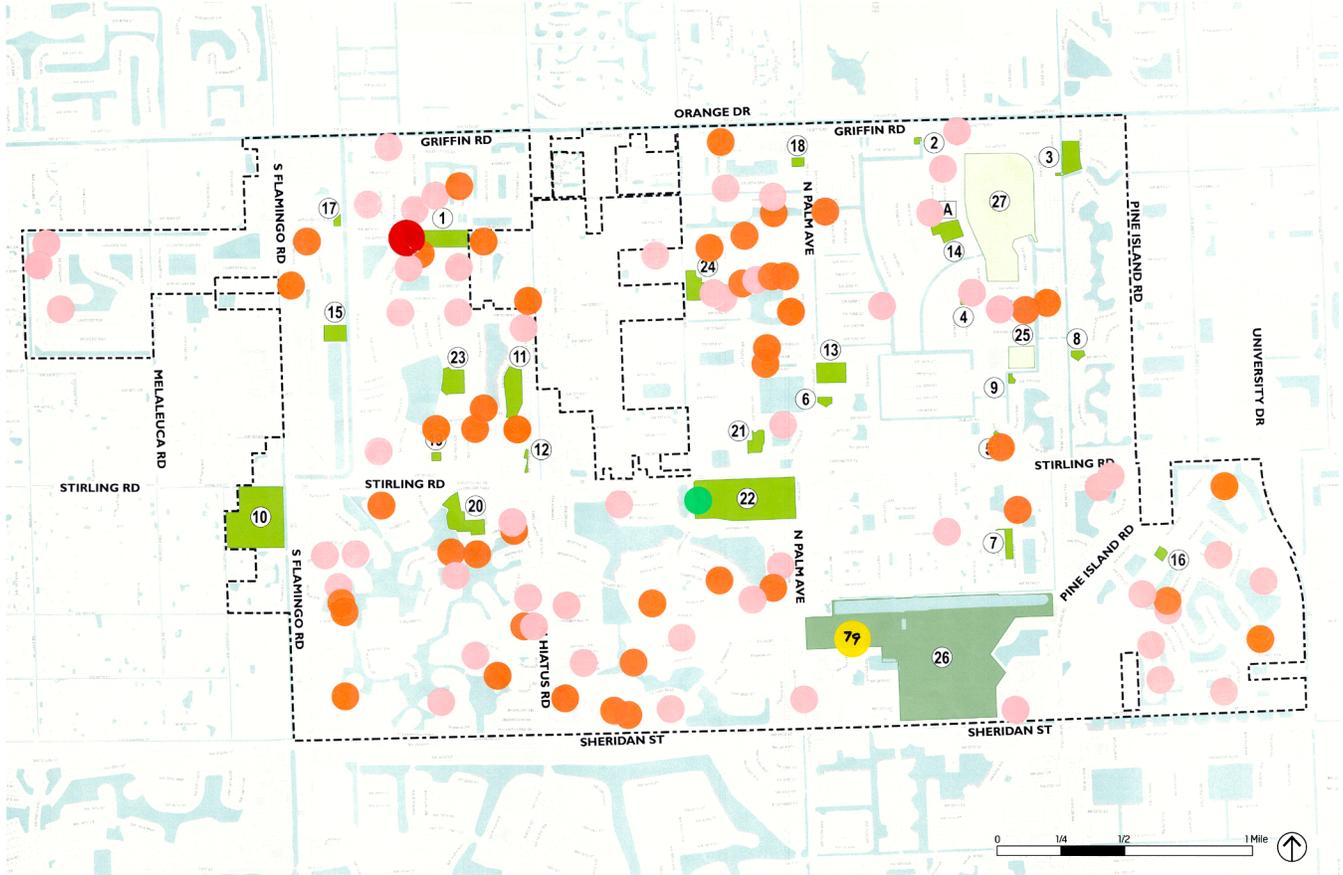
Activity #1: Participants were directed to place an orange sticker on the location map identifying where they live in the Cooper City. The results of this activity determined that participants attending the workshop lived throughout Cooper City.

Chapter 3: Community Needs Assessment



Where in Cooper City do you live?

(If you do not live in the Cooper City, please fill out a comment card)



LEGEND

----- Cooper City Boundary

City Parks

Community Facilities

County Parks

1. Bill Lips Sports Complex
2. Chase Park
3. Christie Schafale Park & Dog Park
4. Colony Park
5. Cooper's Point Park
6. Dawn Park
7. Diamond Head Park
8. Ellie Kozak Park
9. Encore Park
10. Flamingo West Park
11. Forest Lake Park

12. Homes of Forest Lakes Park
13. Jerry Morgan Park
14. Memorial Park
15. Michael "City Mike" Riordan Park
16. Monterra Community Dog Park
17. Natalie's Cove Park
18. Pine Lake Park
19. Poinciana Park
20. Pool & Tennis Center Park

21. Stirling Palm Park
 22. Suellen H. Fardelmann Sports Complex
 23. Tamarind Park
 24. Ted Ferone Park
 25. Pioneer Middle School
 26. Brian Piccolo Park
 27. Cooper Colony Golf Course
- A. Community Center

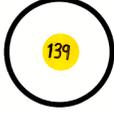
Figure 2.16: Workshop Activity #1: Where in Cooper City do you live?

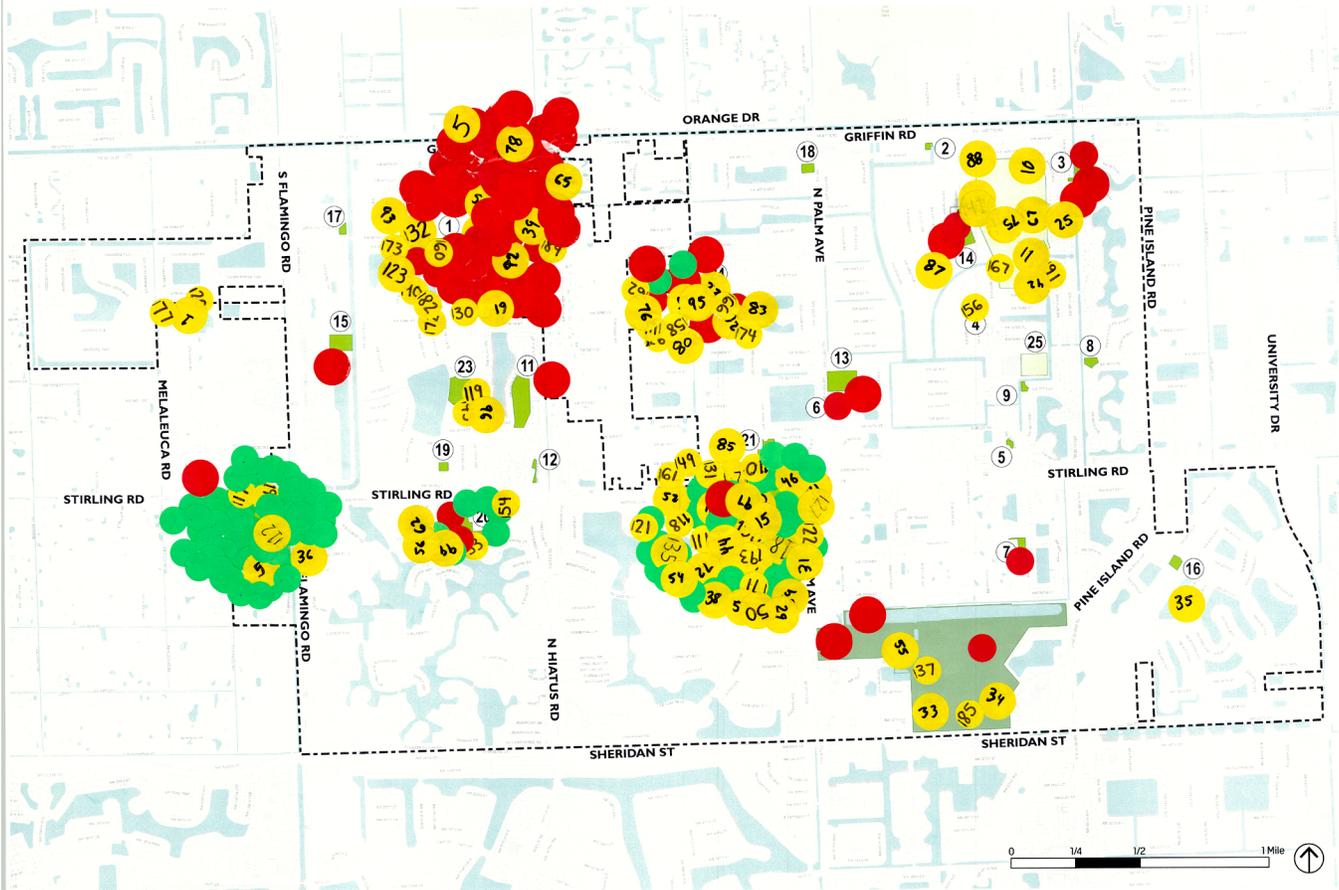
Activity #2: Using 3 colored stickers, participants were asked to identify their favorite park, their least favorite park, and where they would like a new facility or improvement to an existing facility. They were handed a comment card and instructed to write what new facility they would like for the City.

The following is a summary of participant feedback:

- Flamingo West Park received the most votes for favorite park (57 votes), followed by Suellen H. Fardelmann Sports Complex (30 votes) and the Pool & Tennis Center (6 votes).
- Ted Ferone Park received 2 votes for favorite park.
- Bill Lips Sports Complex received 1 vote for favorite park.
- Bill Lips Sports Complex received the most votes for least favorite park (57 votes), followed by Ted Ferone Park (6 votes), Christie Schafale Park & Dog Park (3 votes), and Pool & Tennis Center Park (2 votes).
- Dawn Park, Diamond Head Park, Flamingo West Park, Forest Lake Park, Jerry Morgan Park, Michael "City Mike" Riordan Park, and Suellen H. Fardelmann Sports Complex each received 1 vote for least favorite park
- Any parks or facilities not mentioned by name did not receive any votes for most or least favorite park.

Chapter 3: Community Needs Assessment

-  Select your most favorite park
-  Select your least favorite park
(Write in comment card the reason)
-  New facility / Improvements to existing facilities
(Write in comment card what type of facility)



LEGEND

-  Cooper City Boundary
-  City Parks
-  Community Facilities
-  County Parks

1. Bill Lips Sports Complex
2. Chase Park
3. Christie Schafale Park & Dog Park
4. Colony Park
5. Cooper's Point Park
6. Dawn Park
7. Diamond Head Park
8. Ellie Kozak Park
9. Encore Park
10. Flamingo West Park
11. Forest Lake Park

12. Homes of Forest Lakes Park
13. Jerry Morgan Park
14. Memorial Park
15. Michael "City Mike" Riordan Park
16. Monterra Community Dog Park
17. Natalie's Cove Park
18. Pine Lake Park
19. Poinciana Park
20. Pool & Tennis Center Park

21. Stirling Palm Park
22. Suellen H. Fardelmann Sports Complex
23. Tamarind Park
24. Ted Ferone Park
25. Pioneer Middle School

A. Community Center

Figure 2.17: Workshop Activity #2: Select your most favorite park, least favorite park, new facility/improvements.

Activity #3: Participants were given 2 sets of 5 stickers per person (blue and red), and instructed to place them on charts as follows: five red dots for their top 5 favorite activities and five blue dots for their top 5 facilities. Figure 2.18 graphically represents the participants prioritization of their top 5 activities and facilities:

- The activity that had the most votes was soccer followed by baseball/softball and then basketball. The activities with the least votes were disc golf, extreme sports, indoor social gatherings, and performances.
- The facility that received the most votes was multi-purpose fields followed by baseball/softball fields and indoor sports courts. The facilities with the least votes were art/music rooms, outdoor fitness equipment, performance stages, and recreation centers.

- Top Activity or Program**
1. Soccer
 2. Baseball/Softball
 3. Basketball
 4. Pickleball
 5. Swimming
 6. Walking/Running
 7. Football
 8. Biking
 9. Golf
 10. Fitness/Weight Training
 11. Volleyball

- Top Facility**
1. Multi-purpose Field
 2. Baseball/Softball Field
 3. Indoor Sports Courts
 4. Swimming Pool
 5. Outdoor Sports Court
 6. Pickleball
 7. Volleyball
 8. Splashpad/Sprayground
 9. Nature Preserve
 10. Golf Course
 11. Picnic Areas

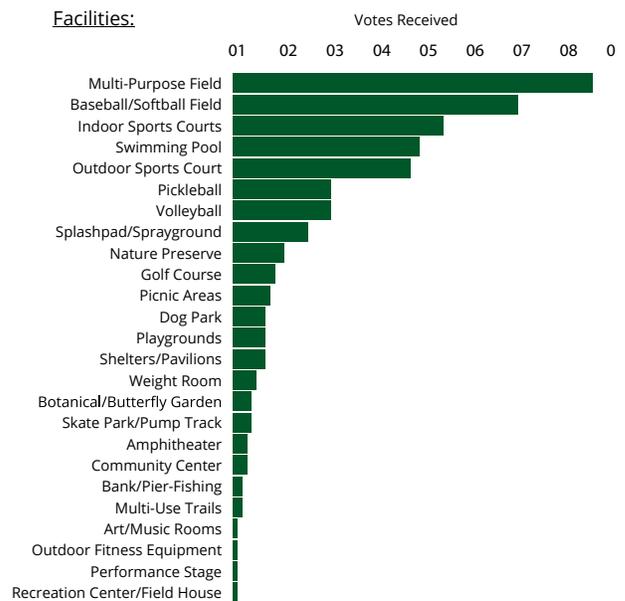
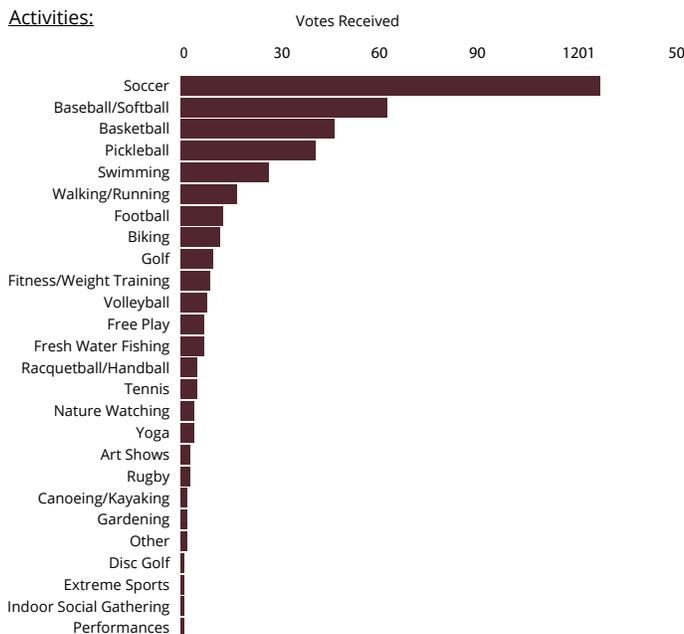


Figure 2.18: Workshop #1 Activity #3 Results - Activities and Facilities.

Chapter 3: Community Needs Assessment

Activity #4: Participants who chose a comment card were asked to provide their insight and opinions on the vision for Cooper City Parks and Facilities. As an alternative to this, participants were encouraged to leave a comment in an Idea Box if they had any additional desired needs not addressed by the above categories.

The following is a summary of comments that were provided by Cooper City residents:

- Several residents noted that baseball fields are aging and in need of renovation, including improved drainage and regrading.
- It was mentioned that concession stands at sports facilities are outdated and in poor condition.
- Multiple comments indicated that travel soccer requires additional field space to support program growth, with Flamingo West Complex frequently referenced.
- Residents expressed interest in converting certain athletic fields to synthetic turf to reduce weather-related cancellations.
- A concern was raised that basketball lacks a dedicated indoor facility and currently relies on school spaces.
- Several residents asked that basketball courts remain basketball-exclusive and not be converted to multipurpose use.
- Residents stated that there is a shortage of pickleball courts and that additional dedicated or multipurpose spaces would be beneficial.
- Residents encouraged maximizing and creatively repurposing existing park facilities before pursuing new development.



Figure 2.19: Residents participating in an activity at the workshop



Figure 2.20: Residents speaking during the public workshop

Chapter 3: Community Needs Assessment

3.3.2. Online Public Survey Input

To assist with developing the Goals and Objectives for the Cooper City PRMP, an online public survey was conducted. The purpose of this survey was to gather information from residents about use of parks and recreation facilities, communication preferences, demographics, and any future improvements or recommendations they may have. The convenience of an online survey encourages greater participation, overcoming barriers such as time constraints and geographical limitations that may hinder involvement in traditional outreach methods. Full survey and results are available in the Appendix.

Cooper City administered a survey through RRC, a survey research firm. The survey was advertised on the Cooper City website, social media platforms, and through other methods. The five-page survey questionnaire provided residents the opportunity to rate and prioritize parks and recreation facilities and services. The survey was distributed as an open link survey, which was available online. The survey was available to all residents of Cooper City from December 12, 2024 to January 31, 2025. There was an option to take the survey in English or Spanish to accommodate a greater range of participants. In total, 963 surveys were completed. The margin of error is plus or minus four percentage points around any given percentage point reported for the entire sample.

The data collected from the survey was weighted so that the respondent's housing tenure, housing unit type, race, ethnicity, gender, and age were represented in proportions reflective to the Cooper City based on data from the U.S. Census.

Survey Key Findings:

Most Cooper City residents are familiar with the City's parks and recreation facilities and services.

- Survey participation was strong, from both the statistically valid Invite sample, and the publicly available Open link sample. The Invite sample provides a representative and disperse sample of the diverse residents of Cooper City, while the Open link captures opinions from the City's passionate and active participants.
- Core parks and facilities, including Brian Piccolo County Park, Suellen H. Fardelmann and Bill Lips Sports Complexes, Pool and Tennis Center Park, and Flamingo West, are heavily favored by respondents, with high shares who report using these locations frequently.
- Both the Invite and Open heavily use walking paths, playgrounds, and exercise trails;

Chapter 3: Community Needs Assessment

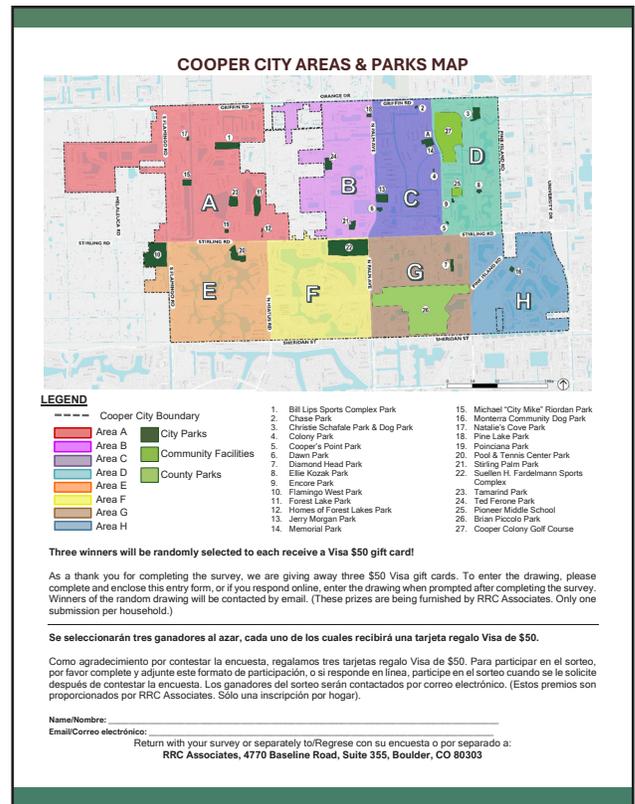
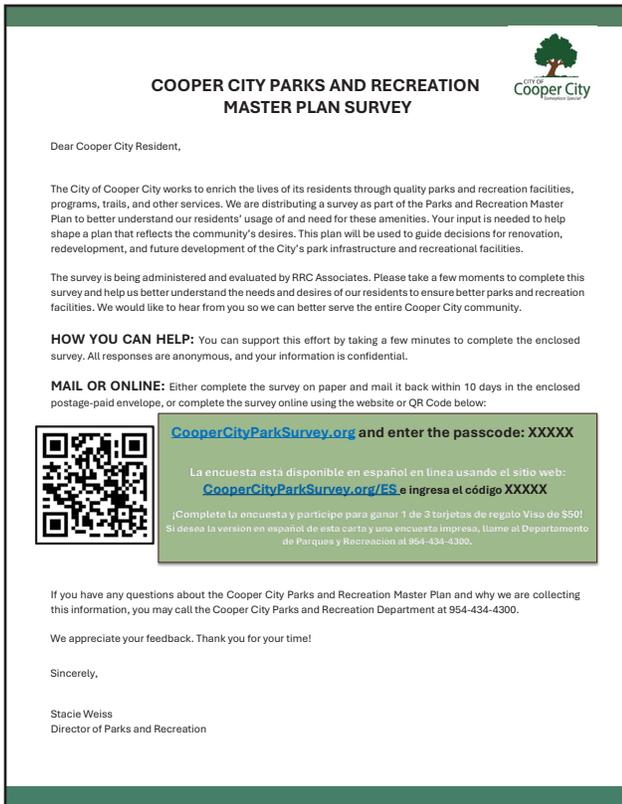


Figure 2.21: Survey Cover Letter and Survey Sample Page

RESEARCH METHODS

1

Statistically Valid (Invitation Survey)

Survey packets were mailed to a random sample of all residential address in Cooper City, with a paper survey and return envelope, along with a cover letter, in English and Spanish, which provided instructions to complete the survey online through a password protected website (1 response per household).



656 Invitation surveys completed
+/- 3.8% Margin of Error

2

Open Link Survey

Later, the online survey was made available to all Cooper City stakeholders, including non-residents (e.g., commuters, residents of nearby communities)



307 Open Link surveys completed

963
Total Surveys Completed

5,000 Surveys Mailed
(4,940 delivered)



Figure 2.22: Invite Sample Survey Respondents

however, the Open sample shows slightly higher usage of certain amenities, suggesting that these respondents use a greater variety of amenities—likely reflecting a more engaged user base.

- Respondents from both samples report moderate to high levels of familiarity with Cooper City’s parks, facilities, recreation programs and services. On average, Invite respondents rated their familiarity a 3.7 on a 5-point scale, while Open link respondents averaged 4.1.
- Word of mouth, email, the City of Cooper City website, and social media are the most prominent forms of communication used by respondents. High engagement in social media and word of mouth among both samples indicates a highly engaged community, however, respondent ratings indicate only moderate effectiveness in reaching residents with parks and recreation information (average rating 3.2 out 5 for Invite and 3.0 for Open).
- Email is the most preferred form of communication for respondents in both samples by a large margin. This is followed by other online platforms, including social media and the City website. Despite word of mouth being the most common form of communication, respondents generally disfavor it, suggesting that users are eager for more direct communication from the City.
- Respondents from both samples rate Amenities at City Parks the highest among the most important facilities or services, followed by City parks and open spaces, trails and pathways, and community events. These facilities and services are notably the most accessible to all members of the community while specialized programs, such as adult, teen, senior and afterschool/summer camp programs were rated as less important.

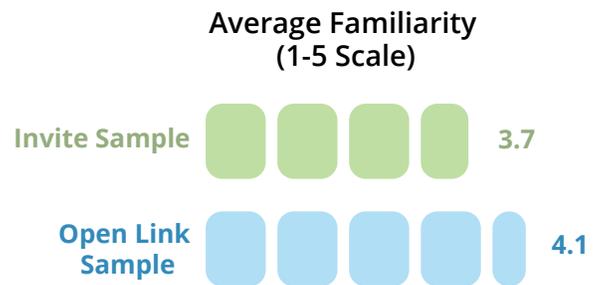


Figure 2.23: Average Familiarity with Parks and Recreation Facilities, Programs, and Services

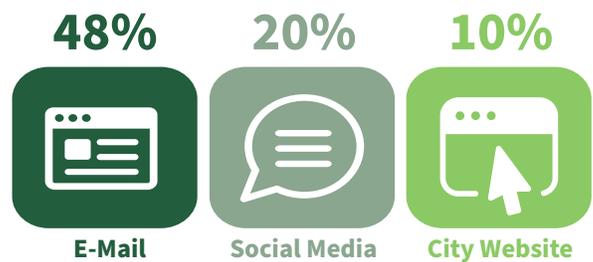


Figure 2.24: Preferred Communications

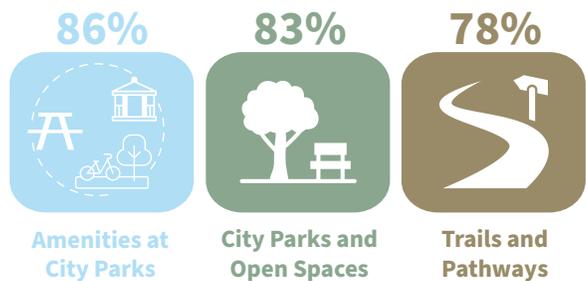


Figure 2.25: Facilities & Services Importance Ratings Between 4-5

Chapter 3: Community Needs Assessment

- While respondents express generally high levels of satisfaction, amenities that were rated as highly important, such as amenities at City parks, and trails/pathways, received lower scores in terms of meeting the needs of the community.
- City parks and open spaces, community events, athletic courts, youth sports & programs, athletic fields were identified as important amenities that currently meet community needs.
- Trails and pathways, fitness and wellness programs, amenities at City parks, and athletic fields were identified key areas for improvement by either Invite or Open link respondents. Enhancing these facilities/programs could significantly improve overall community satisfaction.
- When looking to the next 5 to 10 years, Invite and Open respondents strongly favor improvements among facilities and amenities that focus on enhancing existing facilities over entirely new or more specialized amenities, such as increasing shade, expanding walking/biking trails. These interests suggest a focus on comfort, connectivity, and upgrading current parks to maximize community impact.
- Among programs and services, Invite respondents seek programs focused on fitness, wellness and health most while Open respondents place a high level of importance on youth sports & programs, followed closely by teen and adult programs.
- Invite and Open sample respondents share similar interests, with holiday celebrations, festivals, and food/culinary events being rated the most important events.
- Across all three categories (facilities and amenities, programs and services, and events), residents identify improvements as their top priorities, including shaded outdoor areas, additional walking/biking trails and improvements/renovations to existing amenities.

Additional findings:

- Both the Invite and Open heavily use walking paths, playgrounds, and exercise trails. However, the Open sample shows slightly



Figure 2.26: Top Priorities for Improvements

higher usage of certain amenities, suggesting that these respondents use a greater variety of amenities—likely reflecting a more engaged user base.

- In both samples, roughly half prefer a walk of less than 10 minutes, and around a third are comfortable with 10–14 minutes. Only a small minority (fewer than 1 in 6) are willing to walk 15 minutes or more.
- The vast majority of respondents drive vehicles to visit Cooper City parks or facilities, but a substantial portion walk or run as well. Over half of the Invite sample (55%) indicate they walk or run while approximately a quarter bike. Only 4% of the Invite sample responded that they do not use parks or recreation facilities.

The following are specific key results for parks, facilities, and amenities:

Most Used Recreation Facilities:

- Suellen H. Fardelmann Sports Complex
- Brian Piccolo County Park
- Bill Lips Sports Complex
- Flamingo West Park
- Pool and Tennis Center Park

Least Used Recreation Facilities:

- Natalie's Cove Park
- Chase Park
- Encore Park
- Homes of Forest Lake Park
- Dawn Park

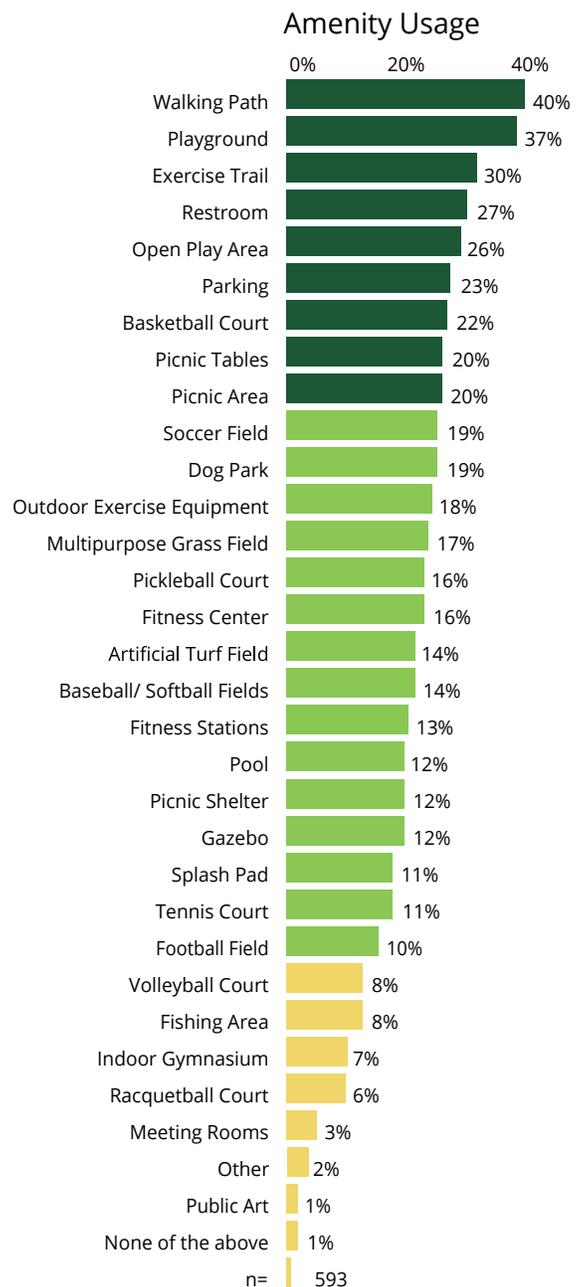


Figure 2.27: Amenity Usage

Chapter 3: Community Needs Assessment

What to Improve - Facilities & Amenities:

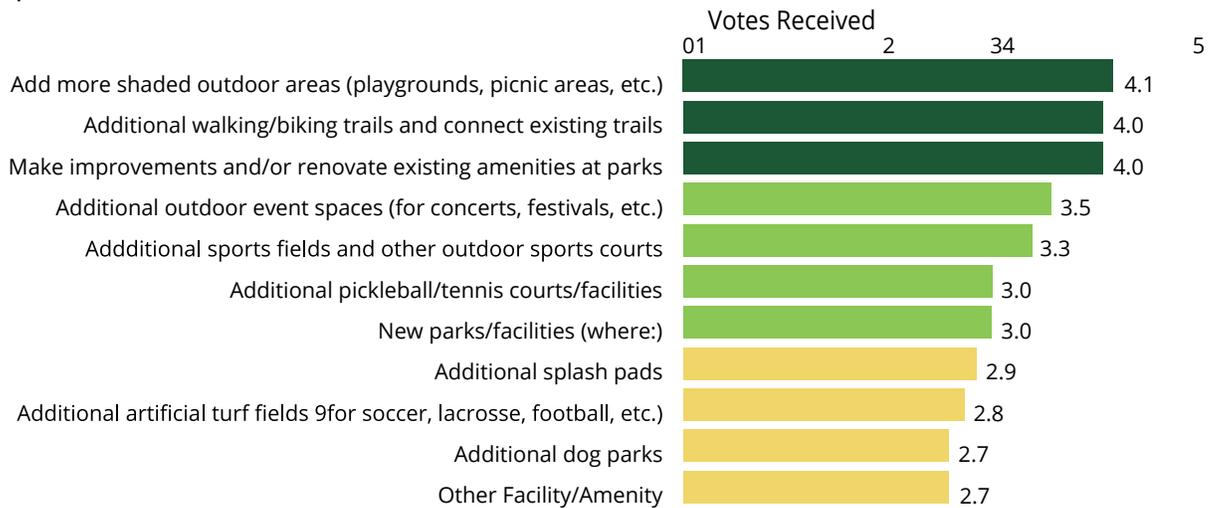


Figure 2.28: What to Improve - Facilities & Amenities

What to Improve - Programs & Services:

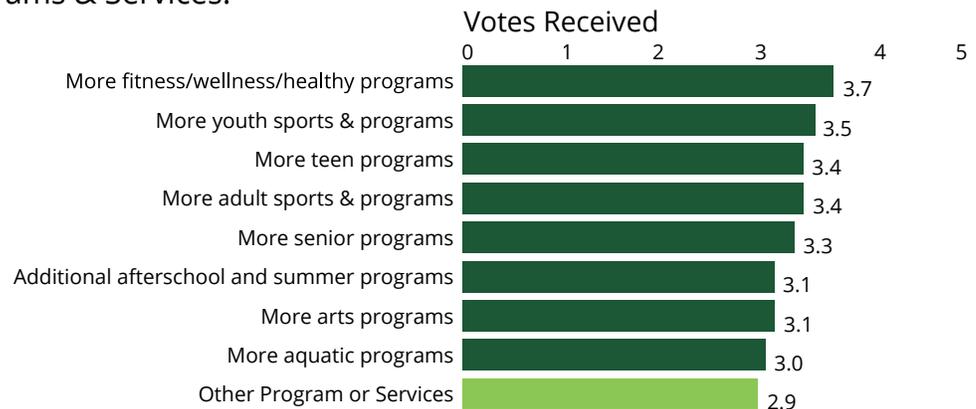


Figure 2.29: What to Improve - Programs & Services

What to Improve - Events:

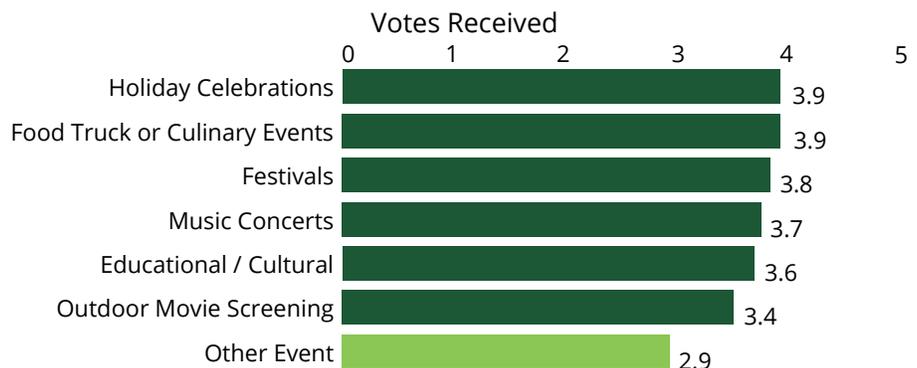


Figure 2.30 What to Improve - Events

3.4. Key Input Findings Summary

To further review and synthesize the findings from the survey, stakeholder engagement and public meetings, key issues were identified to evaluate for potential recommendations. Key issues were further organized by category and data source, then inserted in a data matrix for analysis. Data sources, both qualitative and quantitative, indicate where the issue was heard or identified. These sources include staff input, public/ stakeholder input, interviews with City leadership, community survey, and the park inventory and LOS analysis. A blank matrix cell means the issue didn't come up or wasn't specifically addressed. Each key issue was assigned a value based upon the desired priority from each stakeholder input.

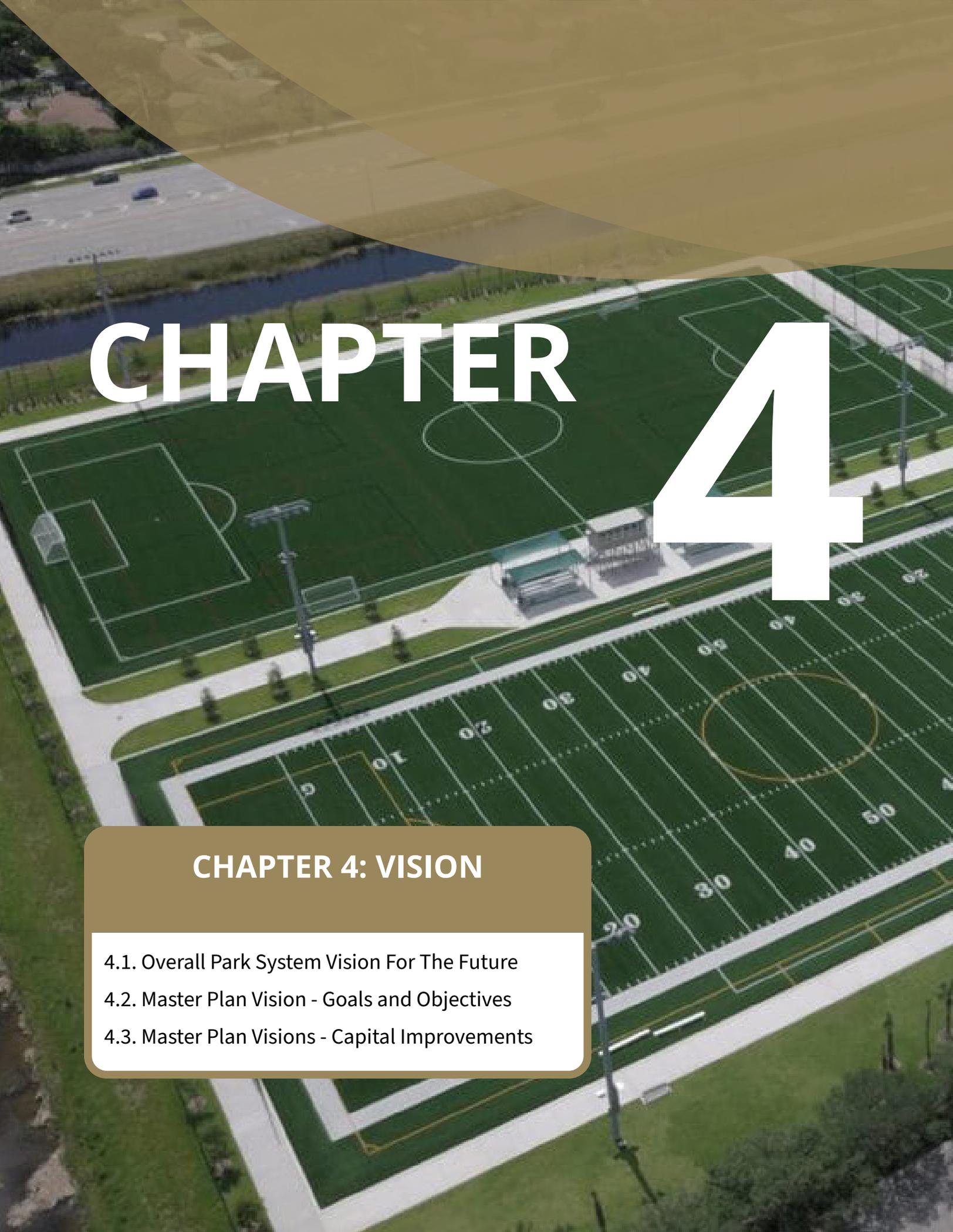
NRPA and SCORP level-of-service (LOS) benchmarks were incorporated into the key evaluation matrix to provide an objective, nationally and statewide recognized comparison framework. Based on this analysis, the City is currently meeting the majority of its LOS standards, with only targeted gaps identified for future planning consideration.

Because the public workshop and surveys represent a larger sampling of stakeholders, the key issues identified through these methods were weighted more heavily, with public workshop key issues assigned 2x the number of points, and public survey key issues assigned 3x the number of points.

Chapter 3: Community Needs Assessment

Table 3.13 Overall Key Matrix.

Key Issue - Rating Scale First Priority = 3 pts Second Priority = 2 pts Third Priority = 1 pt *Public Workshop counted for 2x times the pts *Public Survey counted for 3x times the pts Note: A community center typically offers a variety of social, educational, and cultural activities for all ages, while a recreation center focuses more on physical activities and sports programs.	Qualitative									Quantitative			
	TOTAL	COMMISSIONERS	PARKS AND REC STAFF	REC. ADVISORY BOARD	SENIOR CITIZEN ADV. BOARD	OPTIMIST	TOT PARENT	PICKLEBALL GROUP	PUBLIC WORKSHOP	RECREATION TRENDS	PROGRAM PARTICIPATION	SURVEY	NRPA & SCORP BENCHMARKS
Improve existing facilities/amenities	29	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	3			9	
Additional shaded outdoor areas	22	1	2	2	2	3		3				9	
Additional walking/biking trails and connect existing trails	20	1	1	2				2	2	3		9	
Expand pickleball courts	19	3	3	3	3			3	4				
Upgrade sports fields and outdoor courts	17							6	2	3		6	
Playgrounds (e.g. inclusive, destination, upgrades)	16	2	2	3		1	3	2				3	
Amenities (e.g. picnic areas, seating, drinking fountains, restrooms, parking)	15	1		2			3	3				6	
Autism and ADA-friendly features	15	3	3	3	3							3	
Improve park maintenance	15					3		3				9	
Develop a new aquatics facility (e.g. splash pad)	15	2	2	2				2	2	2		3	
Advertising/marketing parks and facilities better (e.g. email, social media, website)	14			2			3					9	
Security improvements (e.g. lighting, security cameras)	12			3		3						6	
Parking improvements	10	1	3	3	3								
Expand youth programs	10						3	1				6	
Expand senior, teen, and adult programs	6											6	
More holiday celebrations, festivals, culinary events	6											6	
More fitness/wellness/health programs	6											6	
Recreation Center/Field House	6	1						2					3
Increase senior programming and expand space	5			2	3								
Community garden and associated programming	4			1									3
Art in parks (murals, sculptures)	3	1	1	1									
Outdoor games and activities (e.g. chess, tables)	3	1	1	1									
Increase staff	3	3											
Promote and enhance safety initiatives (home safety, CPR courses, CERT presentations)	3				3								
Field drainage improvements	3					3							

An aerial photograph of a sports complex. In the foreground, a large green football field with white yard lines and numbers (5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80) is visible. To the left, there are two soccer fields with white markings. In the center, there is a modern building with a glass facade and a green roof. The background shows a parking lot with several cars and a road. A large, semi-transparent brown shape is overlaid on the top left of the image.

CHAPTER 4

CHAPTER 4: VISION

- 4.1. Overall Park System Vision For The Future
- 4.2. Master Plan Vision - Goals and Objectives
- 4.3. Master Plan Visions - Capital Improvements

VISION



Flamingo West Park

Chapter 4

Cooper City, Florida 85

Chapter 4: Vision

4.1. Overall Park System Vision For The Future

The PRMP planning process included the gathering and analysis of observational, quantitative, and qualitative data on issues affecting the condition and use of City parks and recreational facilities.

Survey data obtained through the PRMP process provided additional insight. Respondents indicated most facilities and amenities are satisfactory for the needs of the community, identifying amenities, City parks and open spaces, trails and pathways, and community events as the most important elements. Respondents felt strongly about the need to improve and upgrade particularly shade structures and playgrounds. Respondents also emphasized a desire for connectivity to parks with trails and pathways, noting that 35% of residents indicated a willingness to walk 10-14 minutes to parks and another 32% willing to walk 5-9 minutes. Overall, 41% of respondents indicated that additional shade elements would help increase their use of parks and recreational facilities.

Based on the data, input, and analysis, there are twelve general recommendations that have been developed to guide the PRMP.

They are as follows:



Maintain and improve existing City parks & facilities



Provide and improve comfort amenities (e.g., restrooms, lighting, seating, parking)



Additional shaded outdoor areas



Provide and improve autism and ADA-friendly features



Develop interconnected open space system of parks, greenways, and trails



Improve park maintenance



Expand pickleball courts



Develop a new aquatic feature (splashpad/sprayground)



Provide additional multi-purpose fields and courts



Advertising/marketing parks and facilities better (e.g. email, social media, website)



Update and improve playgrounds (e.g. inclusive, destination)



Security improvements (e.g. lighting, security cameras)

4.2. Master Plan Vision - Goals and Objectives

Based on the key findings derived through the PRMP planning process, and with consideration of other City plans and priorities, a series of four high-level "Vision Goals" have been developed for the City's park and recreation system as follows:

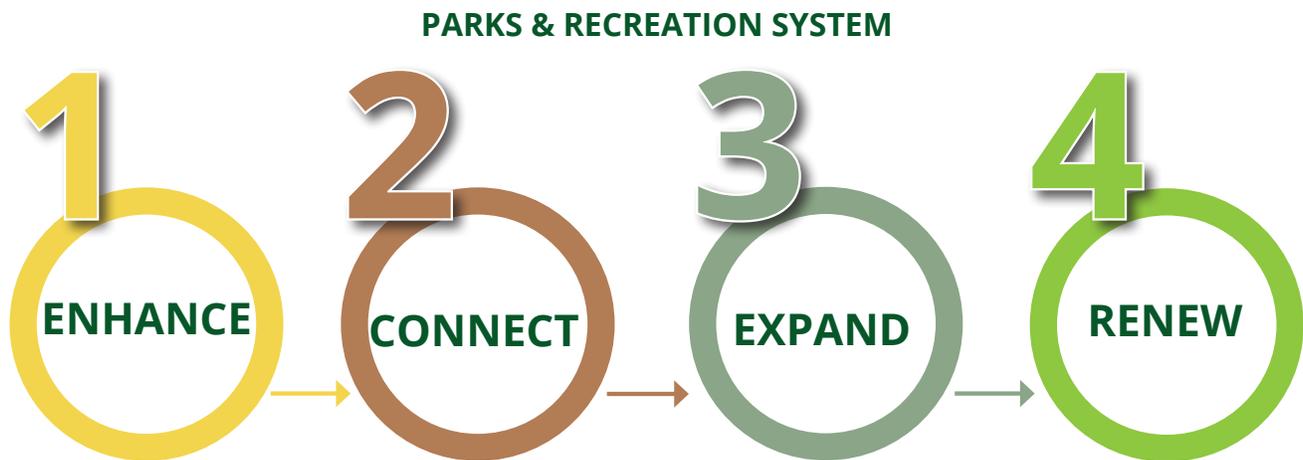


Figure 4.2: Parks & Recreation System - Vision Goals.

- 1. Enhance** existing facilities and amenities to update and maximize user comfort and convenience. Enhancement focuses on athletic fields, courts, playgrounds, shade structures, pavilions, restrooms, and parking.
- 2. Connect** the park system's bicycle, pedestrian and parking facilities seamlessly within the parks and throughout the community. Connections focus on greenways, bike paths, multi-purpose paths and trails.
- 3. Expand** the City's outdoor and indoor recreation facilities to keep pace with the City's growth. Expansion focuses on the indoor recreation multipurpose space.
- 4. Renew** management & operational systems to ensure efficient and effective stewardship of park and recreation lands, facilities and programs. Renew focuses on maintenance, communications methods, marketing, partnerships, signage, accessibility, and funding.

These four vision goals are supported by a series of objectives that are derived from the key recommendations. Together, the vision is intended to help guide the development, improvement, and maintenance of the City's parks, facilities, and amenities to achieve or exceed the current and future levels of service as envisioned by the City.

4.2.1. Enhance Facilities and Amenities

Objective 1.1 – Establish regular facility inspections, evaluations, and protocols for repair and replacement of existing amenities.

Prioritize continued improvement, repair, and upgrading of existing facilities and amenities through daily, monthly, and annual evaluation of current conditions using formal criteria and checklists. Recommended maintenance standards are provided in the Appendix.

Objective 1.2 - Renovate or replace outdated facilities and amenities

Using the PRMP park inventory and park ratings, create a lifecycle replacement plan to address outdated playgrounds, renovate outdated sport surfaces, and upgrade or replace existing restroom facilities and aging amenities in parks and facilities. Improve field drainage issues throughout sport parks.

Objective 1.3 – Continually refine recreational facilities to respond to current and future population demands.

Explore opportunities for appropriate future facility expansion and redesign, including multipurpose uses and re-purposed spaces in prioritized neighborhood parks and sports-oriented community parks. Improve storage capacity for maintenance and recreational sports programming and add more rental picnic pavilions.

Objective 1.4 – Develop new facilities and amenities based on level of service analysis.

Identify opportunities to add new facilities and amenities to better serve Cooper City residents to maintain level of service standards as Cooper City's population expands.

Objective 1.5 –Identify and implement partnerships for expansion of recreation amenities and programming.

Identify and implement opportunities for expansion of recreation amenities and programming through partnerships with public and private entities (e.g., Broward County Brian Piccolo Park).

Objective 1.6 – Upgrade convenience and customer service and destination amenities in existing facilities.

As prioritized through stakeholder engagement and inventory assessment, add shade, storage, public art, security lighting, and destination park amenities (e.g., outdoor exercise stations, splashgrounds/spraygrounds) as appropriate across Cooper City's park system.

Objective 1.7 – Continue to improve Autism Friendly and ADA accessibility at parks.

Identify and address Autism and ADA needs to provide universal access to facilities.

4.2.2. Connect the park system's facilities and its bicycle, pedestrian, and parking facilities seamlessly within the parks and throughout the community

Objective 4.2.1 - Expand greenways and trails connectivity.

Build upon the City's network of greenways to enhance connections to parks and between neighborhoods, and natural areas and consider incorporating fitness stations at suitable locations along trails.

Objective 4.2.2 - Connectivity within parks.

Improve pedestrian connections within parks with the addition of pathways, lighting, and shade elements as appropriate. Provide dedicated areas for golf cart parking within community parks.

4.2.3. Expand the City's Outdoor/Indoor Recreation Facilities to keep pace with the City's Growth

Objective 3.1 - Identify and implement expansion of indoor and outdoor recreation spaces.

Identify and implement opportunities to expand indoor, multi-purpose recreation spaces, including athletic, and special events recommended in the Master Plan.

4.2.4. Renew Management & Operational Systems

Objective 4.1 Develop a comprehensive facility and lifecycle maintenance program with sustainable funding to ensure all improvements are maintained in a first-class condition.

- Create a 3-tiered Maintenance plan for daily/routine, lifecycle replacement and capital improvements.
- Prioritize replacement of Irrigation systems.
- Recommended maintenance standards are provided in the Appendix.

Objective 4.2 - Continue to improve marketing and external communication.

The City is currently undergoing enhancements to its marketing strategy and will continue to make improvements.

- Continue to review and update marketing strategies annually to evaluate their effectiveness and impact.
- Responding to the community's preference for emails and social media, implement expanded parks/recreation-focused social media advertising and communications to expand outreach.

Chapter 4: Vision

Objective 4.3 – Expand access to technology at parks and recreational facilities.

- Prioritize expanding technological enhancements in recreation facilities and parks establishing a robust network infrastructure across major recreational facilities.
- Explore innovative uses of technology, such as advanced mobile navigation apps for parks and trails, and enhanced social media engagement.
- Seek partnership opportunities to support and expand technology-driven initiatives.

Objective 4.4 – Expand access to recreational facilities and programs through partnerships.

- Expand utilization of joint operating agreements to maximize resident's access to recreational facilities and programs.
- Continue to work with the School District, educational providers, athletic organizations, County Parks, and other service providers

Objective 4.5: Staff, equip, and train to meet demand and maintain high-quality - service levels.

- As parks and facility upgrades are implemented, ensure that staffing levels are adequate to maintain current performance standards.
- The intensity of maintenance practices required for improved facilities and amenities requires staffing standards to be used to maintain fidelity to lifecycle and daily maintenance programs.
- Identify and facilitate training programs and equipment upgrades.
- Utilize contractual services for part-time, seasonal, and instructional roles.
- Identify opportunities for greater volunteer engagement and training.

Objective 4.6: Conduct annual review of departmental policies, procedures, and processes.

Review and update all departmental policies, procedures, and processes annually using staff and user feedback where appropriate

Objective 4.7: Pursue additional grant, private and philanthropic funding opportunities.

Pursue all grant opportunities at the federal, state, regional, and local levels (refer to List of Applicable Grants in Chapter 5) and identify opportunities (e.g., naming, sponsorships) that could be used to encourage financial and in-kind contributions and support.

Objective 4.8 – Develop a cost recovery and pricing policy.

Develop and implement a cost recovery and pricing policy to guide and support program and service delivery including, an annual review process to adjust for the Consumer Price Index (CPI), fee schedules, percentage of operating costs coverage, participation rates, a comparison of resident and non-resident fees, and economic indicators.

4.3. Master Plan Vision - Capital Improvements

Cooper City's ultimate goal is to be a "special place" community that preserves its unique character, history, and vibrant small-City feel. This vision extends to its parks and open spaces, which are seen as essential components of the City's identity and quality of life.

To help achieve this vision, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan plays a supporting role for policy guidance, investment, and implementation. The PRMP was developed comprehensively, with a systematic evaluation of the community's needs, both today and going forward, with a detailed analysis of the programming capacity of the City's recreational facilities.

Table 4.1 provides a general summary of potential amenity modifications and enhancements listed by park.

Park	Recreational Facility / Amenity Modifications & Additions	
Cooper City Community Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electronic upgrade (projector & screen) Security cameras 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor terrace area (seating, added shade, game tables) Repainting (2026)
Bill Lips Sports Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shaded Playground upgrade 2023 - Add PIP and shade Softball fields upgrade 2025 - clayed and temporary fencing Multipurpose field upgrade 2025 Lighting upgrade (2027) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Side parking pavers (2026) (40 spaces) Improve landscape buffer residential side Add shade structure areas Site Amenities (20) (2026) Wayfinding signage (2027)
Chase Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shaded Playground upgrade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site Amenities (4)
Christie Schafale Park & Dog Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add splashpad Add restroom (1,000 SF) Shaded Playground upgrade (destination) Basketball upgrade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog park upgrade Sand Volleyball upgrade Site Amenities (15) (2026) Wayfinding signage (2026)
Colony Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shaded Playground upgrade (teen age group) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site Amenities (4)
Cooper's Point Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shaded Playground upgrade (older age group) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site Amenities (4)
Dawn Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playground upgrade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site Amenities (4)

Chapter 4: Vision

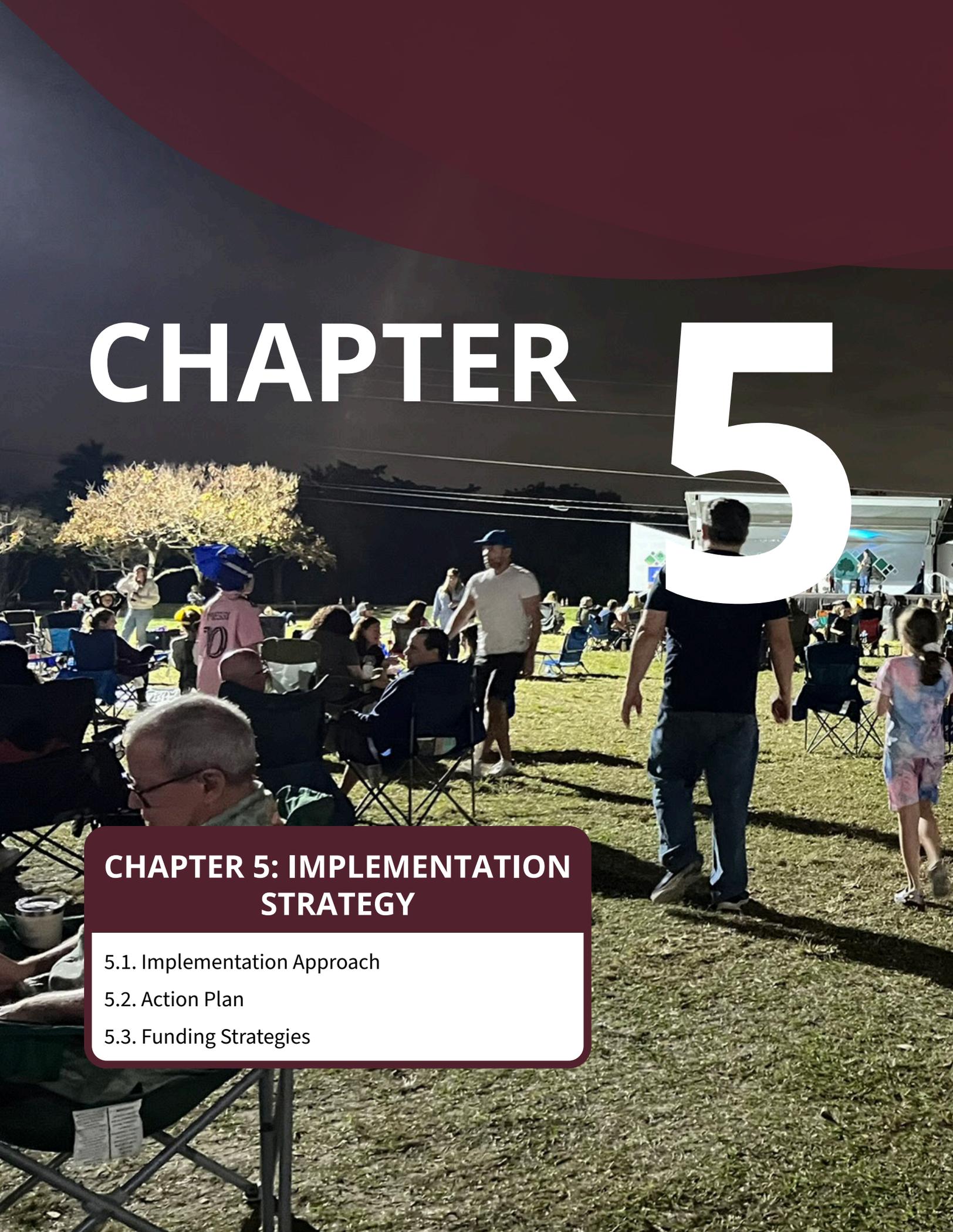
Table 4.1 **Park Improvements**

Park	Recreational Facility / Amenity Modifications & Additions	
Diamond Head Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaded Playground upgrade • Basketball upgrade • Add (2) Shelters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racquet Courts to pickleball courts • Site Amenities (8)
Ellie Kozak Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaded Playground upgrade (2030) • Add (2) Shelters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Amenities (4)
Encore Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaded Playground upgrade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Amenities (4)
Flamingo West Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Exercise Area • Enhance Landscape tree canopy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Amenities (15)
Forest Lake Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaded Playground upgrade • Basketball courts upgrade • Side parking pavers (30 spaces) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sand Volleyball upgrade • Site Amenities (10)
Homes of Forest Lakes Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaded Playground upgrade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Amenities (4)
Jerry Morgan Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wayfinding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Amenities (10)
Memorial Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade event space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Amenities (15)
Michael “City Mike” Riordan Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail improvements • Dog park improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Side parking pavers (10 spaces) • Site Amenities (10)
Natalie’s Cove Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaded Playground upgrade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Amenities (4)
Pine Lake Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaded Playground upgrade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Amenities (4)
Poinciana Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground upgrade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Amenities (4)
Pool & Tennis Center Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic upgrade • Playground upgrade (destination) • Splash pad expansion upgrade • Add shade structure areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pavilion/restroom upgrade • Court upgrades • Wayfinding signage
Stirling Palm Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaded Playground upgrade • Basketball courts upgrade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sand Volleyball upgrade • Site Amenities (5)

Table 4.1 Park Improvements	
Park	Recreational Facility / Amenity Modifications & Additions
Suellen H. Fardelmann Sports Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaded Playground upgrade (2025) • Baseball fields upgrade (2025) • Multipurpose field upgrade • Sand Volleyball upgrade • Pickleball courts (2) addition • Restroom Upgrade • Covered Outdoor space • Fitness Area • Landscape Buffer • Site Amenities (20) • Wayfinding signage
Tamarind Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaded Playground upgrade • Sand Volleyball upgrade • Tennis courts upgrade • Trail improvements • Site Amenities (10) • Side parking pavers (20 spaces)
Ted Ferone Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball court nets • Shaded Playground upgrade • Sand Volleyball upgrade • Racquet Courts to pickleball courts • Fitness area upgrade • Trail improvements • Side parking pavers (30 spaces) • Site Amenities (10)
Pioneer Middle School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball courts upgrade • Field track upgrade • Baseball fields upgrade • Multipurpose field upgrade • Sports lighting • 1 Tennis court upgrade • 1 Tennis court refurbish to pickleball

Through the planning process, some park amenities have been identified to modernize the City's recreational facilities and broaden their appeal to Cooper City's demographics. For example, outdoor fitness trails have risen in popularity over the past decade as have "ninja courses" that provide challenging obstacle courses that cater to a younger demographic. Each of these elements has been added to the recommended capital improvements presented in Chapter 4.

CHAPTER 5



CHAPTER 5: IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

- 5.1. Implementation Approach
- 5.2. Action Plan
- 5.3. Funding Strategies

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY



Eat to the Beat @ Suellen H. Fardelmann Sports Complex

Chapter 5: Implementation Strategy

5.1. Implementation Approach

The Master Plan has been developed with a ten-year planning horizon. To assist the City in evaluating, prioritizing, and budgeting for the recommendations, a ten-year conceptual Recommended Capital Projects and Parks/Recreation Action Plan have been developed that prioritize improvements in three time intervals:

- Short-term: 1-3 years
- Mid-term: 4-6 years
- Long-term: 7-10 years

Legend:

- Planned in City's 2025-2029 CIP
- Modification to City's 2025-2029 CIP
- Master Plan - New Project

Table 5.1 on the following page details the recommended capital improvements. This composite listing includes those improvements contained within the City's current CIP (from 2025 through 2029) as well as new recommended improvements that have been identified as part of the Parks Facilities Master Plan process.

Table 5.1 Recommended Capital Projects											
Park & Facility	SHORT TERM				MID-TERM			LONG TERM			
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Cooper City Community Center											
Electronic upgrade (projector & screen)											
Security cameras											
Outdoor terrace area (seating, added shade, game tables)											
Repainting (2025)											
Bill Lips Sports Complex											
AED's stand-alone units											
Exterior paint											
Lighting system upgrades											
Sports lighting											
Playground add PIP and shade											
Softball fields upgrade - clayed and temporary fencing											
Multipurpose field upgrade											
Side parking pavers (40 spaces)											
Improve landscape buffer residential side											
Add shade structure areas											
Site amenities (20)											
Wayfinding signage											
Restroom / storage upgrade											
Chase Park											
Shaded playground upgrade											
Landscape improvements											
Site amenities (4)											
Christie Schafale Park & Dog Park											
Add splashpad											
Add restroom (1,000 SF)											

Chapter 5: Implementation Strategy

Table 5.1 Recommended Capital Projects

Park & Facility	SHORT TERM				MID-TERM			LONG TERM			
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Shaded playground upgrade (destination)											
Basketball upgrade											
Dog park upgrade											
Sand volleyball upgrade											
Site amenities (15)											
Wayfinding signage											
Colony Park											
Shaded playground upgrade (teen age group)											
Site amenities (4)											
Cooper's Point Park											
Shaded playground upgrade (older age group)											
Site amenities (4)											
Dawn Park											
Playground upgrade											
Site amenities (4)											
Diamond Head Park											
Shaded playground upgrade											
Basketball upgrade											
Add (2) Shelters											
Racquet courts to pickleball courts											
Site amenities (8)											
Ellie Kozak Park											
Shaded playground upgrade											
Add (2) shelters											
Site amenities (4)											
Encore Park											
Shaded playground upgrade											
Site amenities (4)											
Flamingo West Park											
AED's stand-alone units											
Outdoor exercise area											
Site amenities (15)											
Landscape and irrigation enhancement											
Forest Lake Park											
Shaded playground upgrade											
Basketball courts upgrade											
Side parking pavers (30 spaces)											
Sand volleyball upgrade											
Site amenities (10)											
Homes of Forest Lakes Park											
Shaded playground upgrade											
Site amenities (4)											
Jerry Morgan Park											
Wayfinding											
Site amenities (10)											

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Table 5.1 Recommended Capital Projects

Park & Facility	SHORT TERM				MID-TERM			LONG TERM			
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Memorial Park											
Playground replacement (installed)	■										
Upgrade event space										■	■
Site amenities (15)										■	■
Michael "City Mike" Riordan Park											
Playground replacement (installed)	■										
Trail improvements					■						
Dog park improvements					■						
Site amenities (10)					■						
Side parking pavers (10 spaces)					■						
Natalie's Cove Park											
Shaded playground upgrade									■	■	
Site amenities (4)									■	■	
Pine Lake Park											
Shaded playground upgrade									■	■	
Site amenities (4)									■	■	
Poinciana Park											
Shaded playground upgrade									■	■	
Site amenities (4)									■	■	
Pool & Tennis Center Park											
Electronic upgrade		■									
Pump room			■								
Flooring		■									
Playground upgrade (destination)					■						
Splash pad expansion upgrade		■									
Add shade structure areas			■								
Pavilion/restroom upgrade				■							
Court upgrades			■								
Sports lighting					■						
Wayfinding signage			■								
Gazebo upgrades					■						
Shelter upgrades					■						
Parking improvements					■						
Stirling Palm Park											
Shaded playground upgrade									■		
Basketball courts upgrade									■		
Sand volleyball upgrade									■		
Site amenities (5)									■		
Suellen H. Fardelmann Sports Complex											
AED's stand-alone units	■										
Playground replacement	■										
Lighting system upgrades		■									
Sports lighting					■						
Baseball fields upgrade (2025)	■										
Multipurpose field upgrade				■							
Sand volleyball upgrade		■	■								

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Table 5.1 Recommended Capital Projects

Park & Facility	SHORT TERM				MID-TERM			LONG TERM			
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Pickleball courts (2)						■	■				
Restroom upgrade		■	■								
Maintenance facility including utilities		■	■								
Covered outdoor space							■				
Fitness area						■					
Landscape buffer						■					
Shaded structures							■				
Lighting parking lot						■					
Site amenities (20)						■					
Wayfinding signage						■					
Tamarind Park											
Shaded playground upgrade			■								
Sand volleyball upgrade			■								
Tennis courts upgrade			■								
Trail improvements			■								
Site amenities (10}			■								
Side parking pavers (20 spaces)			■								
Ted Ferone Park											
Basketball court nets			■	■							
Shaded playground upgrade			■	■							
Sand volleyball upgrade			■	■							
Racquet courts to pickleball courts			■	■							
Fitness area upgrade			■	■							
Trail improvements			■	■							
Side parking pavers (30 spaces)				■							
Site amenities (10)				■							
Pioneer Middle School											
Basketball courts upgrade				■							
Field track upgrade				■							
Baseball fields upgrade				■							
Multipurpose field upgrade			■								
Sports lighting			■								
1 Tennis courts upgrade				■							
1 Tennis court refurbish to pickleball				■							

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Table 5.2 **Action Plan**

1. Enhance Facilities and Amenities

OBJECTIVES	SHORT TERM (1-3YRS)	MID-TERM (4-6YRS)	LONG TERM (7-10YRS)	TEN YEAR TOTAL
Objective 1.1 – Establish regular facility inspections, evaluations, and protocols for repair and replacement of existing amenities.				
1.1.a Continual evaluation of current facilities and amenities	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
1.1.b Continue to implement existing projects, capital improvement plan, and preventative maintenance to address underperforming facilities and amenities.	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
Objective 1.2 – Renovate or replace outdated or failing facilities, amenities, parks, and open spaces.				
1.2.a Renovate existing restrooms (1,000 SF @ \$250/SF) (Suellen, Bill Lips, Pool & Tennis Center, Flamingo West)	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$1,000,000
1.2.b Update convenience amenities (\$20,000 per year)	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$80,000	\$200,000
Objective 1.3 – Continually refine recreational facilities to respond to current and future population demands.				
1.3.a Continual evaluation of current facilities and future population demands.	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
1.3.b Facilities and amenities enhancements				
Community Center		\$121,800		\$121,800
Bill Lips Sports Complex Park	\$1,863,000		\$4,680,000	\$6,543,000
Chase Park		\$489,000		\$489,000
Christie Schafale Park & Dog Park	\$1,506,000			\$1,506,000
Colony Park			\$396,000	\$396,000
Cooper's Point Park		\$396,000		\$396,000
Dawn Park	\$396,000			\$396,000
Diamond Head Park		\$720,000		\$720,000
Ellie Kozak Park		\$744,000		\$744,000
Encore Park	\$396,000			\$396,000
Flamingo West Park		\$540,000		\$540,000
Forest Lake Park	\$852,000			\$852,000
Homes of Forest Lakes Park			\$396,000	\$396,000
Jerry Morgan Park			\$60,000	\$60,000
Memorial Park			\$90,000	\$90,000
Michael "City Mike" Riordan Park		\$228,000		\$228,000
Natalie's Cove Park			\$396,000	\$396,000
Pine Lake Park			\$396,000	\$396,000
Poinciana Park			\$396,000	\$396,000
Pool & Tennis Center Park		\$2,844,000		\$2,844,000
Stirling Palm Park			\$606,000	\$606,000
Suellen H. Fardelmann Sports Complex		\$3,183,000		\$3,183,000

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Table 5.2 **Action Plan**

1. Enhance Facilities and Amenities

OBJECTIVES	SHORT TERM (1-3YRS)	MID-TERM (4-6YRS)	LONG TERM (7-10YRS)	TEN YEAR TOTAL
Tamarind Park	\$1,104,000			\$1,104,000
Ted Ferone Park	\$1,080,000			\$1,080,000
Pioneer Middle School	\$2,100,000			\$2,100,000
TOTAL:	\$9,297,000	\$9,265,800	\$7,416,000	\$25,978,800
1.3.c Evaluate opportunities for destination amenities based on demand.	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
1.3.c Continue to engage Optimist and the community in amenities development.	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
Objective 1.4 - Develop new facilities and amenities based on level of service analysis.				
1.4.a Proposed facilities and amenities				
New splashpad/sprayground per term			\$300,000	\$700,000
Objective 1.5 - Identify and implement partnerships for expansion of recreation amenities and programming				
1.5.a Evaluate potential expansion of recreation amenities through County Partnership	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
1.5.b Implement recreation amenities expansion opportunities.	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
1.5.c Continual evaluation of potential expansion of recreation amenities.	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
Objective 1.6 - Upgrade convenience and customer service amenities to existing facilities.				
1.6.a Develop a process to evaluate current facilities	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
1.6.b Continual evaluation of current facilities	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
1.6.c Continue to implement existing capital projects (Fiscal Year 2025-2029), and preventative maintenance to address underperforming amenities.	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
Objective 1.7 - Continue to improve ADA accessibility at parks.				
1.7.a Address non-compliant elements within City-owned recreational facilities, parks, and trails based on the ADA and Autism Friendly standards.	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
1.7.b Continual evaluation of ADA and autism needs for parks, facilities, and trails.	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
Subtotal of 1. Enhance:	\$9,607,000	\$10,075,800	\$8,046,000	\$27,728,800

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Table 5.2 Action Plan				
2. Connect the park system's facilities and its bicycle, pedestrian, and parking facilities seamlessly within the parks and throughout the community.				
OBJECTIVES	SHORT TERM (1-3YRS)	MID-TERM (4-6YRS)	LONG TERM (7-10YRS)	TEN YEAR TOTAL
Objective 2.1 – Expand greenways and trails connectivity.				
2.1.a Annually develop greenways and expand to connect neighborhoods and parks. (1/2 mile per year @ \$750,000)	\$2,250,000	\$2,250,000	\$4,000,000	\$8,500,000
2.1.b Consider adding fitness stations and family fun stations in appropriate locations on trails throughout parks and new greenways. Dedicated golf cart parking areas. @ \$20,000 per station (6 stations per year)	\$360,000	\$360,000	\$480,000	\$1,200,000
Objective 2.2 – Connectivity within Parks				
2.2.1 Expand and improve existing parking areas and construct new parking areas.	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$450,000	\$1,150,000
Subtotal of 2. Connect:	\$2,960,000	\$2,960,000	\$4,930,000	\$10,850,000

3. Expand the City's Outdoor/Indoor Recreation Facilities to keep pace with the City's Growth				
OBJECTIVES	SHORT TERM (1-3YRS)	MID-TERM (4-6YRS)	LONG TERM (7-10YRS)	TEN YEAR TOTAL
Objective 3.1 – Identify and implement expansion of indoor and outdoor recreation spaces.				
3.1.a Proposed Indoor Recreation space				
New Recreation Center (40,000 sf @ \$650/sf)	\$0	\$0	\$26,000,000	\$26,000,000
3.1.b Develop indoor program space (furniture, sport equip., computers, etc.) (\$500,000 initial setup + \$10,000/ year)	\$0	\$0	\$520,000	\$520,000
3.1.c Additional staff for Indoor Spaces	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
3.1.d New event space (amphitheater)			\$1,500,000	
3.1.e Continue to partner with Broward County to provide programming at Brian Piccolo Park.	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
Subtotal of 3. Expand:	\$0	\$0	\$28,020,000	\$28,020,000

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Table 5.2 **Action Plan**

4. Renew Management & Operational Systems

OBJECTIVES	SHORT TERM (1-3YRS)	MID-TERM (4-6YRS)	LONG TERM (7-10YRS)	TEN YEAR TOTAL
Objective 4.1 – Develop a comprehensive facility and lifecycle maintenance program with sustainable funding to ensure all improvements are maintained in a first-class condition.				
4.1.a Create a 3-tiered Maintenance plan for daily routine, lifecycle replacement and capital improvements.	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
4.1.b Prioritize replacement of irrigation system.	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
4.1.c Continue to identify additional maintenance needs	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
Objective 4.2 – Continue to improve marketing and external communication.				
4.2.a Continue to update the Department's marketing and advertisement strategy annually	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
4.2.b Continue to evaluate previous marketing strategies and public outreach methods effectiveness	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
4.2.c Continue to explore increased resident engagement to create advocacy in the community	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
Objective 4.3 – Expand access to technology at parks and recreational facilities.				
4.3.a Expand Wi-fi throughout major parks	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
4.3.b Continue to expand Mobile Application opportunities	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
4.3.c Explore opportunities for Placer.ai by partnership (Placer.ai is an AI-powered location analytics platform that provides detailed insights into consumer foot traffic and behavior to help businesses make informed decisions)	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
Objective 4.4 – Expand access to recreational facilities and programs through partnerships.				
4.4.a Explore additional partnership opportunities and build on existing partnerships with schools, private and non-profit organizations	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
4.4.b Ensure all existing and future partnerships are memorialized in a signed partnership agreement	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
Objective 4.5 – Staff, equip, and train to meet demand and maintain high-quality - service levels.				
4.5.a As parks and facility upgrades are implemented, ensure staffing levels are adequate to maintain current performance standards.	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
4.5.b Evaluate staffing levels to maintain current and desired performance standards.	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
4.5.c Review current volunteer program and look for additional volunteer opportunities.	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A

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Table 5.2 **Action Plan**

4. Renew Management & Operational Systems				
OBJECTIVES	SHORT TERM (1-3YRS)	MID-TERM (4-6YRS)	LONG TERM (7-10YRS)	TEN YEAR TOTAL
4.5.d Improve training and tailor to specific positions and job duties. Ensure that staff have adequate and appropriate tools to perform their jobs.	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
4.5.e Assess the advantages and disadvantages of using contractual services for part-time, seasonal, and instructional positions.	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
Objective 4.6 – Conduct annual review of departmental policies, procedures, and processes.				
4.6.a The Department should review and update all departmental policies, procedures, and processes annually.	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
4.6.b As part of that review, the department should engage staff in the review process, and users where appropriate.	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
Objective 4.7: Pursue additional grant, private and philanthropic funding opportunities.				
4.7.a Develop strategy to seek alternative funding sources that includes donations, grants, and sponsorships.	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
4.7.b Continue using existing grant writing services to research, submit, and track federal, state, and local grants.	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
4.7.c Explore additional sponsorship opportunities and build on existing sponsorships	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
Objective 4.8 – Develop a cost recovery and pricing policy.				
4.8.a Develop a resource allocation and cost recovery philosophy, model, and policy that is grounded in the values, vision, and mission of Cooper City.	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
4.8.b Establish a pricing methodology that continuously reflects community values, while generating adequate revenues to sustain Cooper City facilities and parks. Reviewed annually.	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
Subtotal of 4. Renew	Department Staff	Department Staff	Department Staff	N/A
Total:	SHORT TERM (1-3YRS)	MID-TERM (4-6YRS)	LONG TERM (7-10YRS)	TEN YEAR TOTAL
	\$12,567,000	\$13,035,800	\$40,996,000	\$66,598,800

5.3. Funding Strategies

Implementation of Cooper City's 10 year horizon Parks and Recreation Master Plan is anticipated to cost up to appx. \$69 Million for park development, event space, indoor recreation facilities and amenities. This includes escalated 5% annual inflation rate based on 2025 cost.

In order to implement the vision and objectives of the PRMP, the funding strategies focus on identifying available funding sources for priority projects and exploring alternative options. The City may leverage or "stack" potential grants and bond sales for parks and recreation improvements, as well as sources that have been utilized in the past. Analyzing both existing and potential funding sources established the basis for phasing recommendations, which are based on estimated costs. In Section 5.1 Implementation, the phasing recommendations were categorized into short-term CIP recommendations to be completed within the next three (3) years, mid-term four (4) to six (6) years, and long-term seven (7) to ten (10) years.

The priorities for implementation and potential funding sources for the Cooper City Parks and Recreation Master Plan have been established based on input from City staff, consultants and Commission members.

Funding Approach

Common methods for funding parks and recreation capital improvements include:

- General Fund/ CIP (budget allocation)
- Infrastructure Sales Tax (approved by voters County-wide) allocation
- Park Impact Fees
- Grants
- User Fees
- Special Assessments
- General Obligation Bonds (backed by property tax)
- Revenue Bonds

The most feasible means of generating the necessary funds for the projects outlined in the Cooper City Parks and Recreation Master Plan are budget allocation, grants, and/or user fees, all of which are listed as potential sources.

Funding for the Cooper City Parks and Recreation Master Plan has been divided into Three (3) categories including:

- General Fund/ CIP (budget allocation)
- User Fees
- Grants

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The next section will provide a summary for each type of funding.

Recent CIP Funding

Between the years of 2022 - 2025 Cooper City spent approximately \$348,382 annually (\$17.42 per resident) on parks and recreation capital improvements. The category includes projects that are budgeted and funded from existing City reserves, plus future monies to be collected through user fees.

Year	Capital Budget for Parks and Recreation	Population Estimate	Dollars Spent Per Resident on Parks
2025	\$225,000	34,685	\$6.49
2024	\$1,104,000	34,321	\$32.17
2023	\$567,334	34,166	\$16.61
2022	\$490,794	34,106	\$14.39
Avg.:	\$348,382	Average:	\$17.42

Table 5.1: Capital budget for parks and recreation compared to the City's population for years 2022 - 2025.

It is important to note that additional funding needs to be allocated from the City's general fund for the operations and maintenance (O&M) of new facilities as they are constructed and opened. City staff should estimate projected O&M costs for each new project, and request additional O&M funding concurrent with approval for capital funding.

Grants Funding

One of the best ways to fund parks and recreation projects is through grants. There are several benefits to using grants to pay for parks and recreation projects:

- Access to additional funding: Grants provide additional funding that can be used to supplement existing budgets for parks and recreation projects. This allows for more comprehensive and extensive projects to be completed.
- Encourages innovation and creativity: Grant funding often requires innovative ideas and approaches to be implemented, encouraging creativity and originality in park and recreation design and development.
- Supports community involvement: Grant funding can help support community involvement in park and recreation projects, allowing for greater input and participation in the planning and development process.
- Promotes sustainability: Many grant programs prioritize projects that promote sustainability and environmentally friendly practices, helping to ensure that parks and recreation areas are designed and maintained with a long-term perspective in mind.
- Boosts local economy: Parks and recreation areas can help drive tourism and stimulate local economies. By funding these projects with grants, it can provide a boost to the local economy through increased tourism and recreational activity.

Overall, using grants to fund parks and recreation projects can provide a wide range of benefits to

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communities and help support the development of sustainable, innovative, and engaging outdoor spaces.

The sub-vision has identified several grants that can be utilized to fund proposed projects. Many of these grants offer annual options for application, providing multiple opportunities for communities to secure funding. It's important to note that individual grants may apply to multiple projects, resulting in overlapping grants being used to fund different projects. To help communities maximize funding, the concept of "Grant Stacking" has emerged as a practical approach. This involves combining grants of varying levels (federal, state, and local) to support a single project, with careful selection of grants potentially resulting in one grant providing the matching funds requirement for another grant and vice versa.

The below Table provides a list of potential grants applicable to Cooper City, along with summarized descriptions of project-based potential funding sources. It's essential to remember that eligibility for these grants is based on the municipality's ability to apply for them. However, prior awards or current projects may impact a municipality's ability to obtain these grants. Additionally, grant amounts are typically based on the maximum award possible, with the actual cost of project elements ultimately determining the maximum amount that can be obtained.

While the grants listed in chart represent stable programs that occur annually, it's important to note that other funding opportunities may also be available. For example, it's crucial for communities to research and explore all potential funding sources, including line item appropriations from local, state, and federal governments, to maximize their funding options fully.

By utilizing multiple funding sources, communities can more effectively fund their parks and recreation projects, allowing for more significant innovation, community involvement, and long-term sustainability. The grant stacking approach, combined with careful research and planning, can help communities achieve their project goals in a timely and cost-effectively.

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List of Applicable Grants

Funding Program	Grant Amount	Match Requirement	Types of Eligible Elements	Anticipated Deadline
American Dermatology Academy Grants	\$500-\$8,000	50%	Projects developing shade structures in high-use public areas, with a concentration on facilities that serve children and seniors.	15-Dec
Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	n/a	n/a	Rehabilitation and preservation of housing, water and sewer improvements, street improvements, economic development activities, downtown revitalization, parks and recreation projects, and drainage improvements.	Estimated November
Complete Streets and Local Initiatives	\$1,500,000	0%	Pedestrian and bicycle trails and greenways	January
Cultural Facilities Grant Program	\$500,000	200%	Educational, amphitheater, nature, art elements	June
Environmental Education Grants	\$91,000	25%	Educational elements, signage, nature trails, internet applications	April
Florida Communities Trust (FCT)	\$5,000,000	25%	Facilities including those for unique and disabled persons	
Florida Forever Program (FCT)	\$6.6 million maximum	Communities with less than 10,000- no required match Communities with more than 10,000- 75:25 match	Acquisition of land for community-based parks, open spaces and greenways that were identified as needs in local government comprehensive plans.	Estimated July 31st
Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP)	\$200,000	100%	Fields, courts, trails, playgrounds, restrooms, shade structures, lighting and landscaping	September
Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program	\$200,000 maximum	Grants up to \$50,000- no match requirement Grants more than \$50,000 and up to \$150,000- 75:25 Grants over \$150,000- 50:50	Acquisition and development of recreational facilities.	Estimated August

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Florida Small Matching Grant Program	\$50,000	100%	Restoration of historic structures, education facilities	June
Florida Special Category Grant Program	\$350,000	100%	Acquisition and Development of historic structures	December
Florida Urban Forest Health Initiative	\$24,000	No match required	Tree plantings, remedial pruning, removal of hazardous trees.	Estimated November
FRDAP (Disabled & Unique Abilities)	\$500,000	0%	Any outdoor trail and greenway elements that enhance opportunities for disabled or person with unique abilities	July
Great Urban Parks	\$575,000	0%	Active and passive facilities, stormwater, environmental	April
Historic Preservation-Special Category Grant	\$350,000	50:50:00	Acquisition, preservation, protection, restoration, rehabilitation and stabilization of historical and archaeological sites, investigation of archaeological sites, photography, the preparation of measured drawings and other records that record historical/archaeological sites and properties threatened with damage or destruction, planning for eligible Acquisition and Development activities, such as the preparation of plans and specifications.	June 1st
Land and Water Conservation Grant (LWCF)	\$200,000	100%	Acquisition or development of recreational facilities. Cultural facilities, fields, courts, trails, playgrounds, restrooms, shade structures, signage, lighting, landscaping, and parking	March
Lowe's Neighborhood Grants	Varies	n/a	Neighborhood beautification projects, education programs and community resources such as parks and safety programs.	February
MLB Tomorrow Fund	\$40,000	100%	Renovation and development of ball field related elements	Rolling
OGT Land Acquisition Program	\$1,000,000	0%	Acquisition of trails/greenways that enhance the state system	October

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Our Town Grant	\$200,000	100%	Innovative public projects including heritage trails	October
Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLPP)	\$750,000	100%	Ballfields, courts, trails, playgrounds, restrooms, shade structures, lighting and landscaping	May
Pre-Disaster Mitigation	\$3,000,000	25%	Stormwater, including open space and trails	October
Preserve America	200,000	100%	Signage, wayfinding	TBD
Public Art Challenge	\$1,000,000	25%	Art in Public Places	December
Recreation Trails Programs (RTP)	\$200,000	20%	Trails, trailside, trailhead facilities. Any outdoor trail and greenway elements that enhance opportunities for disabled or person with unique abilities	April
State Energy Efficiency Grant Program	Category 1: may not exceed 10% of \$12.4 million Category 2: small counties (<50,000) and small cities (<15,000) may not exceed \$250,000	no match required	Programs that contribute to sustainable market transformation, achieve significant energy and cost savings and create jobs, result in new or innovative approaches to reduce fossil fuel emissions, reduce total energy use and increase energy efficiency, and are capable of being financially self-sustaining.	Estimated rolling application
Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP)	\$500,000	80:20:00	Facilities for pedestrians and bicycles, safety and educational activities for pedestrians and cyclists, acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites, scenic or historic highway programs, landscaping and other scenic beautification rehabilitation and operation of transportation buildings, structures or facilities, preservation of abandoned railway corridors, control and removal of outdoor advertising.	Rolling application until funds are gone

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U.S. Soccer Foundation Grants	\$50,000	100%	Field turf, lighting, irrigation and program equipment	October, February, June
Urban & Community Forest	\$10,000-\$25,000	50:50:00	Tree ordinances, tree inventories, management plans, master plans, in-house training, staffing, student internships, tree planting, tree protection, and maintenance projects, educational programs, Arbor day programs, developing brochures and purchasing exhibits.	Estimated November
Urban Forestry Grant Program (UFC)	\$10,000	100%	Tree plans/programs and planting	March
USTA Public Facilities Grant	\$50,000	80%	Renovation and/or construction of public tennis facility	Rolling
Water Project Funding	\$3,000,000	100%	Stormwater, water quality, alternative water	November