



COLLIER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

September 2011

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

- ACS = American Community Survey
- AMI = Area Median Income
- AUIR = Annual Update and Inventory Report
- CAT = Collier Area Transit
- CIE = Capital Improvements Element
- ESRI = Environmental Systems Research Institute
- LOS = Level of Service
- LOSS = Level of Service Standard
- LRTP = Long Range Transportation Plan
- TAZ = Traffic Analysis Zone



Executive Summary

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The purpose of this Executive Summary is to provide an overview of each section of the Collier County 10-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

The Collier County Parks and Recreation Department's focus is to provide the public, both residents and visitors, with unique recreation experiences. The County's parks and recreation facilities contribute to the health of the community's residents, enhance the integrity and quality of the natural environment, and attract visitors to the community, thereby contributing to local tourism and economic development. To optimize the County's existing parks and recreation resources and assets, as well as to strategically plan for the immediate future, the County has retained Tindale-Oliver & Associates, Inc. (TOA) to assist in the preparation of a 10-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan (referred to hereinafter as the Master Plan). The results of this short-term Master Plan will be folded into the County's Master Mobility Plan to be conducted in 2011. The Master Mobility Plan will be a longer-term vision plan for the County, identifying and coordinating infrastructure needs, including those for parks and recreation, necessary to serve the County's projected build-out population.

SECTION 2: DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

An analysis of demographic conditions is pertinent to the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The county's demographic and socioeconomic profile provides insight into the composition of the county's population, enhancing the understanding of citizen needs and providing a framework for the needs and analysis and, ultimately, a list of recommendations. Demographic and socioeconomic variables reviewed as part of this analysis include:

- Population estimates and growth projections
- Age
- Income

The demographic analysis completed for the Master Plan provides the following conclusions:

- Historically, the majority of population growth in Collier County has occurred within the traditionally urbanized area. To a lesser extent, population growth will continue in this area, mainly through infill and redevelopment; however, the highest concentration of growth and new development over the next five years is projected to occur in the Golden Gate Estates area, then extending into the Immokalee and Ave Maria areas in the subsequent five-year period.
- Although population growth is projected to occur in Collier County, especially east of CR 951, very minimal increases in overall population density are projected over the next 10 years.

- Currently, nearly 75 percent of Collier County’s residents are younger than age 65. Based on previous trends, the average age of Collier County residents is expected to increase in the future, along with the percentage of residents age 65 years and older. However, the overall population of Collier County is projected to continue growing, and there is no supporting data to suggest that this trend will be sustained indefinitely. The trending age increases over the past 20 years are likely attributed to the “baby boomers” reaching retirement age.
- A comparison of age data between 1990 and 2009 indicates the following:
 - There is an increased percentage of residents under 5 years of age in the northwest area of the county and a decreased percentage in the urbanized area.
 - The area northeast of Naples has experienced a decline in the total percentage of residents between 5 and 19 years of age, while The Estates area has maintained a consistently high percentage of residents between 5 and 19 years.
 - The percentage of total population within the 20-64 years age category has declined with the exception of the far northeast county, far northwest county, east of Naples, and The Estates area.
 - The majority of persons within the 65 years or older age category live in the urbanized areas of Collier County. Within the urbanized area, there appears to be increased percentages of residents age 65 and older in the central area, while the area east of CR 951 maintains the lowest percentage of residents age 65 and older.
- Collier County’s median household income continues to grow at a faster pace than Florida’s. In Collier County, the highest rate of growth is observed in household income greater than \$75,000.
- Areas with median household incomes of \$50,000 or less are mainly located in the greater Immokalee area, East Naples (in particularly south of US 41), and the area surrounding I-75/west of CR 951. These areas also stand out as those with higher percentages of households with an average income of 80 percent or less of the AMI.

SECTION 3: EXISTING AND PLANNED INVENTORY

The residents of and visitors to Collier County are provided a significant selection of parks and recreation facilities and activities, ranging from beach access to trails and open space to active recreation facilities. Current inventories for several different types of parks and recreation facilities are provided, including:

- Water Access
- Resource-Based Parks (Federal and State Park Land)
- Conservation Land
- User-Oriented Parks (Regional and Community Parks)
- Undeveloped Park Land/Planned Capital Improvements

The purpose of this Master Plan is to identify and prioritize user-oriented type parks, which are provided by Collier County, the School District Board of Collier County (through interlocal agreement), and the municipalities within Collier County. Consistent with the County's planning practices, recommendations for this Master Plan will consider only community and regional parks within Collier County, as neighborhood parks are designed to serve a small geographic area and are being provided more frequently by developers to serve a subdivision.

In addition, the current inventory of resource-based park land is likely to remain constant, and the inventory of conservation land may increase incrementally as the county grows towards its estimated build-out population of approximately 950,000 residents. As such, the existing resource-based park land will serve not only the current population but the build-out population as well.

In September 2011, Collier County released an updated Boat and Beach Access Report, the purpose of which is to assess Collier County's performance in providing beach access and boat launch facilities to County residents and visitors. This report looks at the county's existing boat and beach access inventory, existing and projected capacity needs, and level of service (LOS). In addition to current projects to expand the access to open water and the beaches, the 2011 Boat and Beach Access Report include several recommendations improvements. Therefore, to not duplicate effort concerning planning for boat and beach access cites, the recommendations included in the 2011 Boat and Beach Access Report are incorporated into the Master Plan.

Collier County has identified regional park land acquisitions planned over the next 10 years in its 2010 Annual Update and Inventory Report (AUIR). There are no proposed community park land acquisitions identified in the 2010 AUIR. It is important to note that the planned regional park land acquisitions are not land purchases, but are an interdepartmental transfer, lease, or developer contribution. Therefore, these acquisitions are not direct expenditures within the Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Plan.

The County Parks and Recreation Department has identified several capital projects planned for the next 10 years, should funding be available. These are major projects and do not include minor capital projects (e.g., parking lot expansion, additional restroom facility, etc.) These projects include:

- Develop Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park
- Develop Manatee Community Park

- Construct Eagle Lakes Community Center and Swimming Pool Complex
- Develop Vanderbilt Extension Community Park
- Acquire beach and boat access

SECTION 4: NEEDS ANALYSIS

An analysis was conducted to determine the needs of Collier County park land and recreation facilities over the next 10 years. The needs analysis consists of three parts:

- Analysis of park land needs
- Analysis of driving distance to parks and recreation facilities (drive-time analysis)
- Current utilization of recreation facilities

The results of the needs analysis are used to develop the Master Plan recommendations. The results of the needs analysis also are compared to the input received from the focus group (discussed in Section 5) to validate the Master Plan recommendations or to determine if additional needs identified by the focus group should be considered.

Park Land Needs Analysis

Based on a review of the regional park acreage planned to be acquired by the County over the next 10 years, as provided in the County's 2010 Annual Update and Inventory Report (AUIR), it is determined that Collier County will be very close to meeting the required 2020 regional park acreage based on the adopted LOS. Over the next 10 years, the County will continue to exceed the required community park acreage thru its existing inventory. However, the location of the planned park land acquisitions is equally, if not more important than the quantity of land to be acquired.

Of the 302.5 acres of regional park land planned to be acquired by 2020, approximately 83 percent is located in areas of the highest projected growth over the next 10 years. This indicates that the County is effectively planning for future population growth by proactively acquiring regional park land concurrent with areas of future growth.

In addition, based on a comparison of location of planned parks and recreation capital projects relative to projected population growth, the County has identified capital projects that are consistent with areas of future growth within Collier County.

Drive-Time Analysis

Collier County's Growth Management Plan, Recreation and Open Space Element includes Objective 3.1 targets a 15-20 minute drive time to community parks, regional parks, and open space within the coastal Urban Designated Area, the Immokalee Urban Designated Area, and Northern Golden Gate Estates.

To determine if the above currently is being met, a drive-time analysis was completed for the following:

- Regional and Community Parks (combined)
- Athletic Fields
- Hard Courts
- Aquatic Recreation Facilities
- Miscellaneous Facilities

Because of the extensive parks and recreation system in Collier County, a significant portion of the county's current residents and visitors have access to at least one, if not more, parks and associated recreation facilities within a 15-20 minute drive time. As such, for purposes of this Master Plan, the drive-time analysis was expanded to show the differential drive time for several tiers: 0-5 minutes, 5-10 minutes, 10-15 minutes, 15-20 minutes, and greater than 20 minutes.

Results of the drive-time analysis indicate the following.

Future Park Land

- **Area of Immediate Need** –The drive time analysis indicates that the coverage area of existing community parks relative to existing county population is very good; however, a significant portion of the existing population lacks the presence of a regional park, including The Estates, Corkscrew, and Immokalee. Regional park land planned to be acquired over the next 10 years, including Big Corkscrew Island, Pulling Park, and Big Cypress, could address the lack of regional park land in these areas.
- **Area of Future Growth** – Population projections indicate future growth along the US 41 corridor. The County is proposing development of a passive park (Manatee Community Park) along US 41 south of CR 951 that would serve many of the existing and future residents along this portion of the US 41 corridor. Collier-Seminole State Park is located off US 41 south of CR 92; however, there are no active recreation facilities (i.e., athletic fields, hard courts, aquatic facilities, etc.) at this state park, and future development along this corridor likely will result in a need for additional active recreation facilities in this area. As such, the County should evaluate if the acreage at Manatee Community Park is sufficient to provide both passive and active facilities, or if additional community park land along the US 41 corridor is needed to provide additional “active” recreational facilities.
- **Area of Future Growth** – Population projections indicate future growth in the surrounding Everglades Boulevard. Future regional parks, including Big Corkscrew Island and Big Cypress, will provide park land and recreational facilities in proximity to this area.

Athletic Fields and Hard Courts

- Area of Immediate Need –The drive time analysis indicates that the coverage area of existing athletic fields and hard courts relative to existing county population is very good. There are few areas with existing population that are not within 15 minutes of an athletic field or hard court.
- Area of Future Growth – Athletic fields and hard courts located at future community parks such as Manatee Community Park or another future community park located further south along US 41 will address facility needs related to future population growth along US 41.
- Area of Future Growth – Athletic fields and hard courts located at future regional parks such as Big Corkscrew Island and Big Cypress will address facility needs related to future population growth surrounding Everglades Boulevard and also help to alleviate usage at existing facilities.

Aquatic Facilities

- Area of Immediate Need – An aquatic facility is needed to serve the existing population of northern Golden Gate Estates. This currently populated area is just outside the urban area of the county and has limited access to any of the existing public aquatic facilities. The inclusion of an Interactive Water Feature or Splash Play Area at the proposed Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park would provide northern Golden Gate Estates with a local aquatic facility.
- Area of Immediate Need – The drive-time analysis indicates that an aquatic facility is needed to serve the residents of Marco Island, which would fall under the responsibility of the City of Marco Island.
- Area of Future Growth – An aquatic facility, such as an Interactive Water Feature or Splash Play Area, located at future community parks such as Manatee Community Park or another future community park located further south along US 41 will address facility needs related to future population growth along US 41.
- Area of Future Growth – An aquatic facility, such as an Interactive Water Feature or Splash Play Area, at future regional parks such as Big Corkscrew Island and Big Cypress will address aquatic facilities needs related to future population growth surrounding Everglades Boulevard.

Miscellaneous Facilities

- Area of Immediate Need – Miscellaneous recreation facilities (i.e., recreation centers, playgrounds, multi-use trails, etc.) are needed to serve the existing population of northern Golden Gate Estates. This currently populated area is just outside the urban area of the county and has limited access to miscellaneous facilities at other parks. The inclusion of facilities such

as recreation centers, playgrounds, and multi-use trails at the proposed Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park would relieve this deficit.

- Area of Future Growth – Miscellaneous recreation facilities (e.g., recreation centers, playgrounds, and multi-use trails) located at future community parks such as Manatee Community Park or another future community park located further south along US 41 will address facility needs related to future population growth along US 41.
- Area of Future Growth – Miscellaneous recreation facilities, such as recreation centers, playgrounds, multi-use trails, etc., at future regional parks such as Big Corkscrew Island and Big Cypress will address aquatic facilities needs related to future population growth surrounding Everglades Boulevard.

Utilization Analysis

The drive-time analysis provides information as to whether the inventory of existing user-oriented parks, as well as recreational facilities within those parks, are located in areas that provide reasonable access to the majority of County residents. However, the need for recreational facilities should not only be determined by the location of existing facilities, but the extent to which these facilities are currently being used.

To examine the current utilization of the County's recreational facilities, usage information provided by Collier County Parks and Recreation Department was reviewed. The County currently maintains weekly usage information for athletic fields at County community and regional parks. Therefore, utilization analyses were conducted for baseball/softball/little league fields and football/soccer/multi-use fields for parks where utilization data are collected and available for analysis.

For purposes of the utilization analysis, athletic fields are defined as being "over-utilized" if usage is at or exceeds 95 percent of available hours. The utilization analysis also looks at usage both on a quarterly as well as annual basis. The results of the analysis indicate the following:

- Baseball and softball fields in Collier County are not currently experiencing utilization issues based on annual utilization data, with the exception of softball fields at Vineyards Community Park; however, baseball and softball fields at certain parks were over-utilized based on quarterly data.
- There are moderate annual utilization issues for little league and multi-use fields.
- There are significant annual utilization issues for football/soccer fields throughout Collier County.

SECTION 5: FOCUS GROUP

As part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan effort, a focus group meeting was conducted to gain input from a wide range of stakeholders and interested parties. The goal of the focus group was two-fold: first, to provide educational information on the Master Plan process to selected participants, and second, for participants to then identify and prioritize the parks and recreation needs of Collier County over the next 10 years. A total of 74 individuals were invited to attend the focus group, representing a wide variety of agencies, organizations, and interests. Overall, 27 participants attended the focus group, which was held in the Exhibit Hall at North Collier Regional Park on Thursday, October 14, 2010.

The reoccurring themes of the focus group included the following related to parks and recreation:

1. What do we want?
2. Where and when do we want it?
3. How do we get there?

Input received from the focus group participants is used to confirm the results of the Needs Analysis discussed in Chapter 4 and to determine if any additional recommendations should be considered for the Master Plan.

What do we want? – Focus group participants indicated that they would like to see the County maintain the high quality of parks, facilities, and programs currently being provided, while maximizing use of existing land for additional active and passive facilities. While noting that County financial resources are becoming more strained, participants did indicate they would like to see more staff presence at parks and more emphasis on maintaining the existing assets.

Where and when do we want it? – When removing land acquisition at Vanderbilt Beach from consideration, due to it being funded by a separate dedicated funding source, Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park was the top priority for future capital projects for three out of the four break-out groups. The general consensus of the break-out groups indicated that development of Vanderbilt Community Extension and Manatee Community Park is not needed within the next 10 years and these projects have a lower priority than development of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park or construction of a community/fitness center and swimming pool at Eagle Lakes Community Park.

How do we get there? – The focus groups agreed that the County should continue to leverage existing local revenue sources for parks (i.e., impact fees, tourist development council, and grants/other miscellaneous revenue sources), especially since impact fees are mainly used to pay the County's current parks and recreation debt. The participants had varying support for the potential local revenue sources presented during the focus group, and even those participants who personally supported one or more of the potential revenue sources for parks expressed doubt about any widespread support for a

new tax or assessment given the current economy. However, the groups did agree that the County should pursue user fees and income from sporting events and tournaments to help fund park capital and maintenance needs.

SECTION 6: CITIZEN INPUT MEETINGS

At the direction of the Collier County BCC, two Citizen Input Meetings were held to obtain input from the public and to ensure that the residents of Collier County are provided with the opportunity to review and comment on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The first meeting was held on April 6, 2011, at the South Regional Library from 6 to 8 PM, and the second meeting was held on April 7, 2011, from 6 to 8 PM at the University of Florida (UF) Extension Services building. To maximize the opportunity for participation, the meetings were held during evening hours, with one held in a centralized location in southern Collier County and one held in a centralized location in northern Collier County.

Similar to the Focus Group, input obtained during the Citizen Input Meetings is used to confirm the results of the Needs Analysis discussed in Chapter 4 and to determine if any additional recommendations should be considered for the Master Plan.

- There was clear consensus that the two most desired projects are construction of the community/fitness center and pool at Eagle Lakes Community Park and development of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park.
- Though the priority of these two projects is influenced largely by where the citizens live, overall participants from both meetings recognized that both projects are needed to serve the nearby families, youth, and residents.
- The majority of participants at the South Regional Library meeting were not in favor of constructing active facilities at Manatee Community Park, citing the intrusion of lights and loudspeakers, along with a lack of need due to the surrounding adult residential communities.
- Participants at both meetings recognized that there is currently little available funding for these parks projects. While the County is actively pursuing a grant to help fund the community center at Eagle Lakes Community Park, there are still budgetary issues with this project, as well little to no revenue available to begin construction at Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park.
- Participants discussed the need to consider other revenue sources (such as a dedicated millage or MSTU) to fund these projects sooner rather than later. However, there was concern over a small number of citizens paying for a park when they have already contributed to other County parks through impact fees and ad valorem taxes. Several participants stated that they would not support increased taxes and should receive a share of what they have already contributed.
- Though it was not unanimous, given the interest from some meeting participants to look at alternative funding sources, rather than waiting for impact fees to pick up again, the County may want to consider analyzing countywide millage or MSTU scenarios to complete the community/fitness center and pool at Eagle Lakes Community Park and development of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park.

SECTION 7: MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of the demographic analysis and needs analysis, as well as input received by the focus group and citizen input meeting participants, the following strategic recommendations are included in the Collier County 10-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

It should be noted that, based on the input and comments received during the Master Plan process from the focus group and citizen input meeting participants, the development of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park and construction of a community/fitness center and pool at Eagle Lakes Community Park have been identified as the highest priorities.

Development of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park

The need for development of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park is based on the following.

- The development of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park will address the lack of regional park presence in a significant area of the county, including The Estates, Corkscrew, and Immokalee, which accounts for approximately one-half of the County's current residential population.
- This park will serve an area that is projected to have the most significant population growth in the county over the next 10 years.
- This park will provide relief to over-utilized football/soccer and multi-use fields as well as help prevent over-utilization of other facilities.
- There is currently no aquatic recreation or miscellaneous facilities available within this area.

When removing beach land acquisition from consideration, due to it being funded by a separate dedicated funding source, Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park was the top priority for three out of the four break-out groups. These three groups cited a need for a regional park in northern Golden Gate Estates to serve both the existing and projected population in this area. This sentiment was shared by participants at the Citizen Input Meeting held at the UF Extension Services building as well as participants at the meeting held at the South Regional Library (though the majority of those meeting participants ranked the completion of nearby Eagle Lakes as a higher priority). Input gathered from the focus group and citizen input meeting participants confirm the findings of the Demographic and Needs Analyses that a regional park is needed to serve Golden Gate Estates.

Construction of Community/Fitness Center and Pool at Eagle Lakes Community Park

Collier County is currently seeking a Community Development Block Grant (CBDG) to help fund the construction of a community/fitness center and swimming pool at Eagle Lakes Community Park. As discussed below, the community/fitness complex and swimming pool have been identified as separate priorities.

The need for a new community/fitness center and pool complex is based on the following:

- A community/fitness center would provide benefit to the current population within the south/east Naples area. Demographic and socioeconomic data were reviewed specific to the service area of this community center as outlined in the County's CDBG package.
- The demographics within the immediate area support the need for a community center. The area to be served by this community center is a lower income area, with a higher person-per-household and younger-aged residents.
- While a swimming pool is currently unavailable, there is a splash park located at Eagle Lakes Community Park. Given the need for a community center in this area and lack of available funding both constructing and operating new county facilities, priority for constructing improvements at Eagle Lakes Community Park should be placed on the community/fitness center. It should be noted that the participants of the meeting held at the South Regional Library feel as though the community/fitness center and pool are needed to serve the residents and, in particular, the youth within this area.

Additional Athletic Fields to Serve Existing Population

The results of the utilization analysis indicate that the following:

- The Immokalee area is experiencing over-utilization of little league, football/soccer, and multi-use fields. Additional athletic fields are needed in this area to provide relief.
- There is over-utilization of football/soccer fields countywide. The development of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park will provide relief to over-utilized football/soccer fields in the Estates area. In addition, the placement of football/soccer fields at Manatee Community Park would provide relief to over-utilize fields in the east/south Naples area. However, as noted later in this Master Plan, input received during the Citizen Input Meeting held at the South Regional Library showed strong opposition to athletic fields at this location.
- There is over-utilization of football/soccer fields in the north Naples area (north of Pine Ridge Road). Additional football/soccer fields are needed in this area to provide relief.

It is recommended that the County collect similar utilization data (as feasible) for other facilities, such as hard courts, aquatic facilities, and community centers, as feasible, to assist in the determination for need of future facilities.

Continue to Optimize Interlocal Agreements for School Sites

Collier County Parks and Recreation Department and the School District Board of Collier County currently have interlocal agreements at several school sites to maximize the use of county assets for

both recreation and educational facilities. Although the School District Board of Collier County is not planning to construct any new schools in the near future, it is recommended that when new school construction occurs, each new school site should be evaluated, designed, and constructed to maximize the potential for co-location of recreational and educational facilities.

Development of Manatee Community Park

Manatee Community Park will be developed as a passive park consistent with the conceptual plans for this park. Feedback and comments obtained during the focus groups and citizen input meetings indicate that development of this park is not viewed as high of a priority as the development of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park or construction of a community/fitness center and pool at Eagle Lakes Community Park.

Development of Vanderbilt Extension Community Park

The development of Vanderbilt Extension Community Park is tied to the extension of Vanderbilt Beach Road. In addition, Vanderbilt Extension Community Park is located on the periphery of a concentrated area of projected population growth. For the next 10 years, the development of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park should provide park land and recreational facilities needed to serve both existing population and future growth within this immediate area. Given that development of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park is a priority, development of Vanderbilt Extension Community Park would be more appropriate once more extensive population growth west of Vanderbilt Extension Community park occurs. Feedback and comments obtained during the focus groups and citizen input meetings indicate that development of this park is not viewed as high of a priority as the development of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park or construction of a community/fitness center and pool at Eagle Lakes Community Park.

Recommendations from 2011 Boat and Beach Access Report

In addition to current projects to expand the access to open water and the beaches, the 2011 Boat and Beach Access Report includes the following recommendations, which are incorporated into the Master Plan as follows.

1. Barefoot Beach Preserve

Not exceeding the carrying capacity of this park is a primary objective because of its status as a nature preserve. However, a dock and pier can be provided to the inland side of the island to accommodate waterborne visitors while protecting the beach and dunes. This area will also allow provide visitors a better view the mangrove habitat, which presently is only accessible by canoe/kayak. Pickup locations can be at Cocohatchee Park and Conner Park.

2. Beach and Boat Access

Beach access can be viewed from two perspectives – the number and amount of beach access points and the effectiveness of each of those locations. Although no standards exist for the number of public beach access points a County should have, Collier County has been aggressively working to increase the number and location of its public beach accesses points. This, however, has met with limited success because of the high cost and low availability of suitable locations.

It is recommended that the County continue to pursue its current acquisition policy but at the same time aggressively pursue revisions to the Land Development Code that permits greater public beach access.

3. Parking and Transportation Service for Beach Access

The number of beach parking spaces currently meets the countywide 1:150 parking space to permanent residents recommended ratio suggested by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. If additional parking is required at the more popular beach parks or during the busy season, the County should consider providing beach access through a combination of:

- Exploring an extended Collier Area Transit (CAT) operation along Gulf Shore Drive to increase service to the beach access points along Vanderbilt Beach.
- Developing a business plan to provide tram service during peak use periods between Conner Park and the Vanderbilt Beach garage to feed our most popular beaches using existing underused public access points.

4. Beach Parking Fees

Collier County has adopted a policy of free beach parking with a beach parking pass for residents and non-residents have the opportunity to purchase a pass for an annual fee.

5. Boat Launch and Boat Trailer Parking

Boat ramp lanes are not adequate for the peak periods of weekends and holidays for the number of boat users in Collier County. Even with the additional new lane at Bayview Park, the County is operating with a two-lane deficit in 2011. This deficit will grow by one lane in 2013 to 2015 timeframe and increase to five additional ramp lanes in 2020.

Boat trailer parking presently is inadequate, and even with programmed parking increases, the County has a significant parking space deficit based on current ramp capacity. This deficit is a county wide average and does not account for peak usage or chronic shortages at popular ramp locations such as Bayview, Caxambas, or Cocohatchee.

The County should continue to assertively pursue expanding the existing boat parks, parking, and facilities where appropriate. Additionally, strategic acquisition of desirable boat launch sites should continue.

Continue to Evaluate Need for Remote Control Park

At the September 27, 2011, Collier County BCC meeting, Commissioner Fiala expressed a desire for the Collier County Parks and Recreation Department to continue to evaluate the need for an area where citizens and visitors can recreate with remote control planes, boats, and cars. As such, it is recommended that Collier County continue to evaluate this need in its consideration of future parks and recreation capital projects.



Section 1 - Introduction

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INTRODUCTION

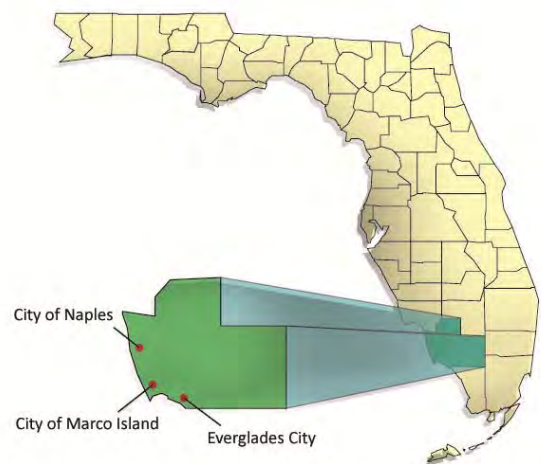
The Collier County Parks and Recreation Department's focus is to provide the public, both residents and visitors, with unique recreation experiences. The County's parks and recreation facilities contribute to the health of the community's residents, enhance the integrity and quality of the natural environment, and attract visitors to the community, thereby contributing to local tourism and economic development. To optimize the County's existing parks and recreation resources and assets, as well as to strategically plan for the immediate future, the County has retained Tindale-Oliver & Associates, Inc. (TOA) to assist in the preparation of a 10-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan (referred to hereinafter as the Master Plan). The results of this short-term Master Plan will be folded into the County's Master Mobility Plan to be conducted in 2011. The Master Mobility Plan will be a longer-term vision plan for the County, identifying and coordinating infrastructure needs, including those for parks and recreation, necessary to serve the County's projected build-out population.

Consistent with the Mission of Collier County's Parks and Recreation Department, the master planning process is designed to ensure that Collier County's legacy of parks and open spaces will continue well into the future.

"To promote health and wellness, alternative leisure activities, community involvement through recreation, sports, awareness of the environment, and providing special events that bring the Collier County community together in a fun atmosphere." – Mission of Collier County Parks and Recreation

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Collier County, located in southwest Florida along the Gulf of Mexico, was incorporated by the Florida Legislature in 1923 from portions of Lee and Monroe counties. There are three municipalities within Collier County: Everglades City, Marco Island, and Naples, which is the County seat. In 2009, Collier County was ranked as the 15th most populous county in Florida, with 1.8 percent of the state's total population. Collier County is the second largest county in Florida, with approximately 2,025 total acres, although a significant portion of this area is designated as either federal or state park land or as conservation land. Collier County is rich in geographic diversity, from the beaches to the Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park. Collier County's beaches, tropical climate, and rich geographic and biological diversity make it one of the premier tourism and retirement destinations within the United States.



Collier County, FL

SERVICE AREA

Collier County Parks and Recreation provides community and regional parks that are available to all residents and visitors of Collier County. As such, this Master Plan considers the entire county as a single service area.

REPORT ORGANIZATION

In addition to this Introduction, the Collier County 10-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan includes the following sections:

Section 2 – Demographic Analysis

Section 2 provides a demographic and socioeconomic profile of Collier County and includes an analysis of historic and projected trends of variables such as population growth, population density, age composition, and average household income.

Section 3 – Parks and Recreation Inventory

Section 3 provides detailed information about the regional and community parks currently available in Collier County as well as planned parks and recreation capital projects being considered by the County in the near term.

Section 4 – Needs Analysis

Section 4 documents the assets and constraints of the existing system and assesses the current and future needs of the County's parks and recreation system.

Section 5 – Focus Group Summary

Section 5 documents the results of a focus group conducted on October 14, 2010, where a variety of parks and recreation stakeholders provided information relating to the needs and prioritization for incorporation into this master planning process.

Section 6 – Citizen Input Meetings

Section 6 documents the results of two Citizen Input Meetings conducted in April 2011 at the direction of the Collier County Board of County Commissioners (BCC). The purpose of these meetings was to obtain input from the public and to ensure that the residents of Collier County are provided with the opportunity to review and comment on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Input received during these meetings has been documented and incorporated into this master planning process.

Section 7 – Master Plan Recommendations

Section 7 brings together the results of the analysis and public input and presents a set of strategic recommendations regarding short-term parks and recreation planning for Collier County.

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Section 2 – Demographic Analysis

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PURPOSE OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

An analysis of demographic conditions is pertinent to the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The county's demographic and socioeconomic profile provides insight into the composition of the county's population profile, enhancing the understanding of citizen needs and providing a framework for the needs and analysis and, ultimately, a list of recommendations. However, as part of this analysis, it is important to recognize that certain data sources, such as the U.S. Census, count only Collier County's resident population and do not consider seasonal residents or visitors to the county. Therefore, findings from the demographic analysis include adjustments or assumptions to account for the profile of the county's peak season population, which includes both seasonal residents and visitors.

POPULATION ESTIMATES AND GROWTH PROJECTIONS

As with the rest of Florida, Collier County experienced tremendous population growth over the past decade, including a 33 percent increase in population since 2000, compared to a 17 percent increase for Florida as a whole. Table 2-1 and Figure 2-1 present the historical and projected permanent population for both Collier County and Florida. While Collier County consistently has had a higher annual growth rate than Florida since 1990 and is projected to continue this trend over the next 10 years, population projections indicate that the differential annual growth between the county and Florida is decreasing.

Collier County's population is projected to increase 66 percent, more than Florida, between 2010 and 2020.

For planning purposes, Collier County uses peak seasonal population to plan for the need of its capital facilities, including parks and recreation. As documented in its Annual Update and Inventory Report (AUIR), the County develops its peak seasonal population figures by adjusting the Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) medium-range projections by a 20 percent seasonal adjustment factor. In the AUIR, Collier County uses countywide population figures to determine the regional park acreage need, based on the adopted level of service (LOS), while using the unincorporated county population to determine the community park acreage need. Therefore, for reference, Table 2-2 presents a comparison of the county's historical and projected permanent and peak seasonal population figures for both the entire county and the unincorporated county only. Since the county's peak seasonal population is projected using a constant adjustment factor, the annual growth rates for the county's peak seasonal population mirror those of its resident population.

Table 2-1

Collier County and Florida

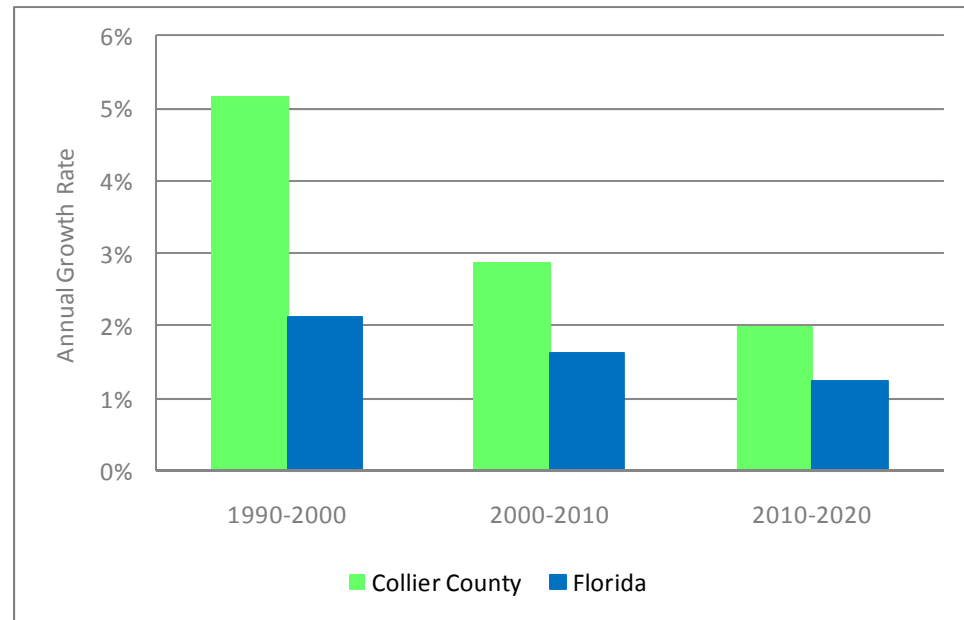
Historical and Projection Population Growth (2000-2020)

Year	Collier County ⁽¹⁾		Florida ⁽²⁾	
	Population Figure	Growth Rate	Population Figure	Growth Rate
2000	251,377		15,982,824	
2001	264,475	5.2%	16,330,224	2.2%
2002	277,457	4.9%	16,674,608	2.1%
2003	292,466	5.4%	17,071,508	2.4%
2004	306,186	4.7%	17,516,732	2.6%
2005	317,788	3.8%	17,918,227	2.3%
2006	326,658	2.8%	18,349,132	2.4%
2007	333,858	2.2%	18,680,367	1.8%
2008	332,854	-0.3%	18,807,219	0.7%
2009	333,032	0.1%	18,750,483	-0.3%
2010	333,600	0.2%	18,773,400	0.1%
2011	339,786	1.9%	18,989,914	1.2%
2012	346,087	1.9%	19,208,925	1.2%
2013	352,505	1.9%	19,430,462	1.2%
2014	359,042	1.9%	19,654,554	1.2%
2015	365,700	1.9%	19,881,200	1.2%
2016	373,518	2.1%	20,147,131	1.3%
2017	381,504	2.1%	20,416,619	1.3%
2018	389,660	2.1%	20,689,712	1.3%
2019	397,990	2.1%	20,966,458	1.3%
2020	406,500	2.1%	21,246,900	1.3%

(1) Source: Collier County Comprehensive Planning Section (June 11, 2010).

(2) Source: Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida.

Figure 2-1
Collier County and Florida Historical and Projected Annual Growth Rate Trends (1990-2020)

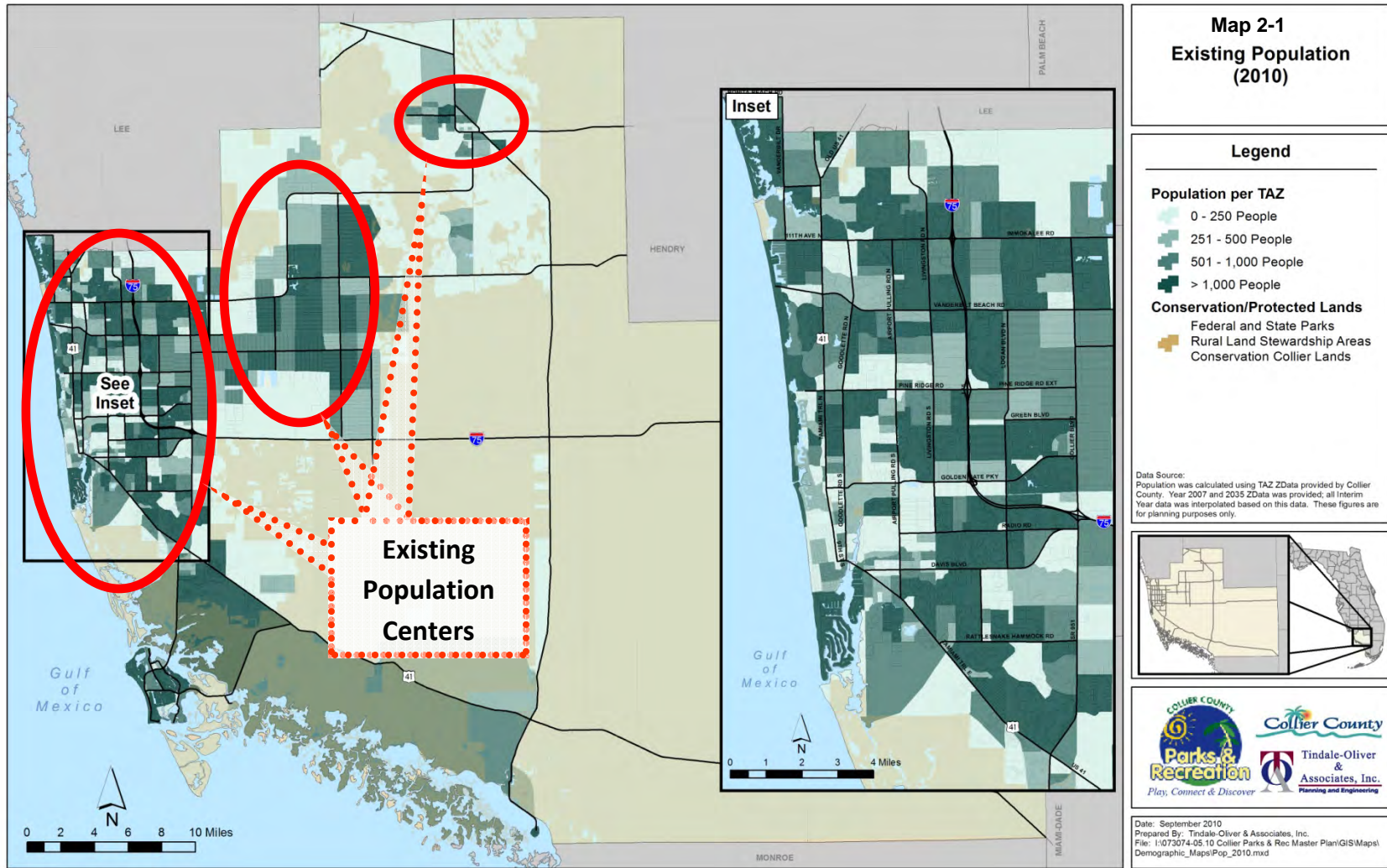


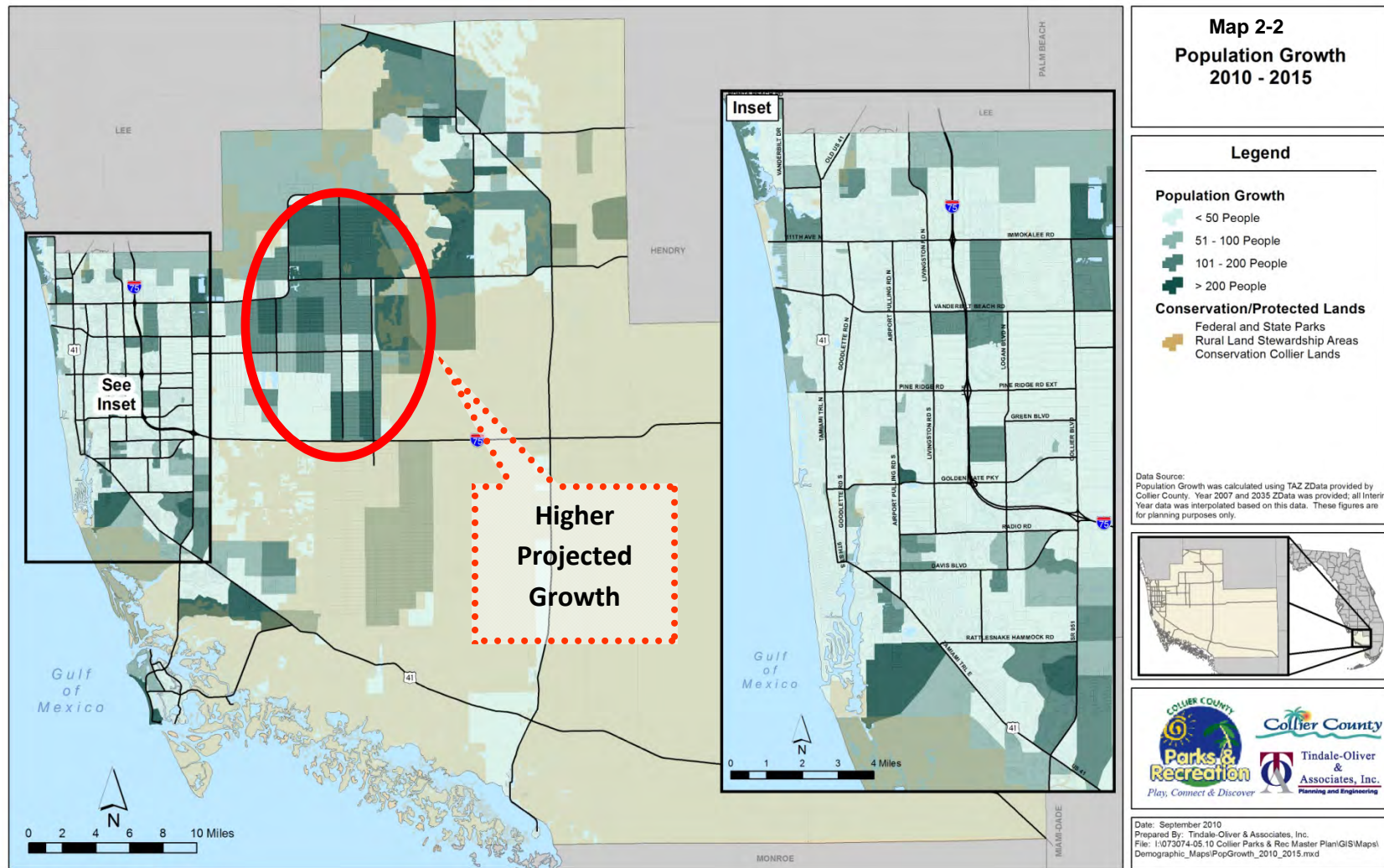
**Table 2-2
Collier County Permanent and Peak Seasonal
Historical and Projected Population (2000-2020)**

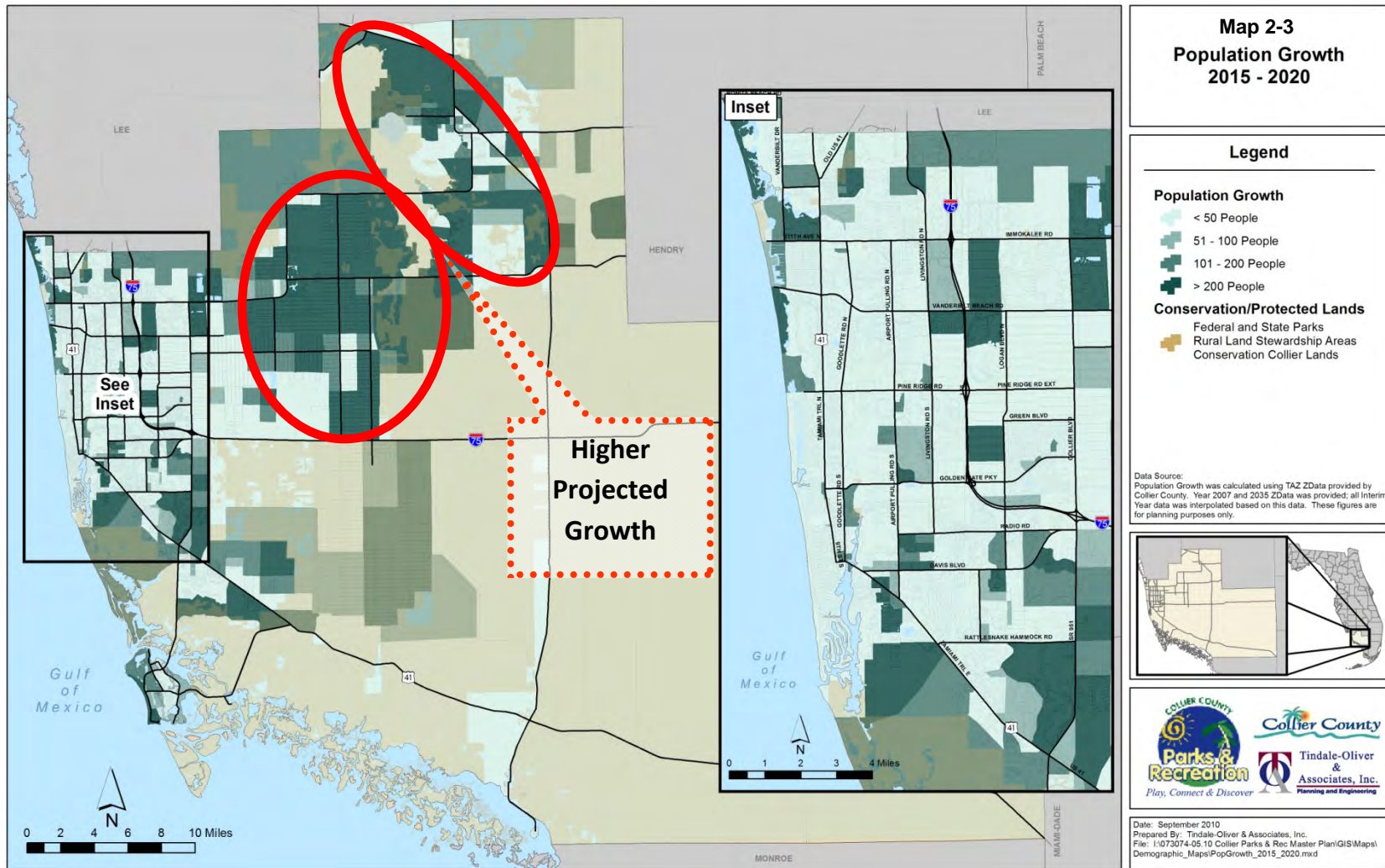
Year	Countywide		Unincorporated County	
	Resident Population	Peak Season Population	Resident Population	Peak Season Population
2000	251,377	309,511	221,139	265,366
2001	264,475	325,159	233,460	280,152
2002	277,457	341,954	246,971	296,365
2003	292,466	359,191	260,948	313,137
2004	306,186	374,384	273,382	328,058
2005	317,788	386,668	283,283	339,940
2006	326,658	396,310	290,866	349,039
2007	333,858	400,027	293,611	352,333
2008	332,854	399,532	293,421	352,104
2009	333,032	399,979	294,152	352,983
2010	333,600	404,032	297,266	356,719
2011	339,786	411,524	303,062	363,674
2012	346,087	419,155	308,971	370,764
2013	352,505	426,928	314,994	377,993
2014	359,042	434,845	321,134	385,361
2015	365,700	443,531	327,886	393,463
2016	373,518	453,013	335,272	402,326
2017	381,504	462,698	342,824	411,388
2018	389,660	472,590	350,544	420,653
2019	397,990	482,694	358,438	430,126
2020	406,500	492,410	366,008	439,209

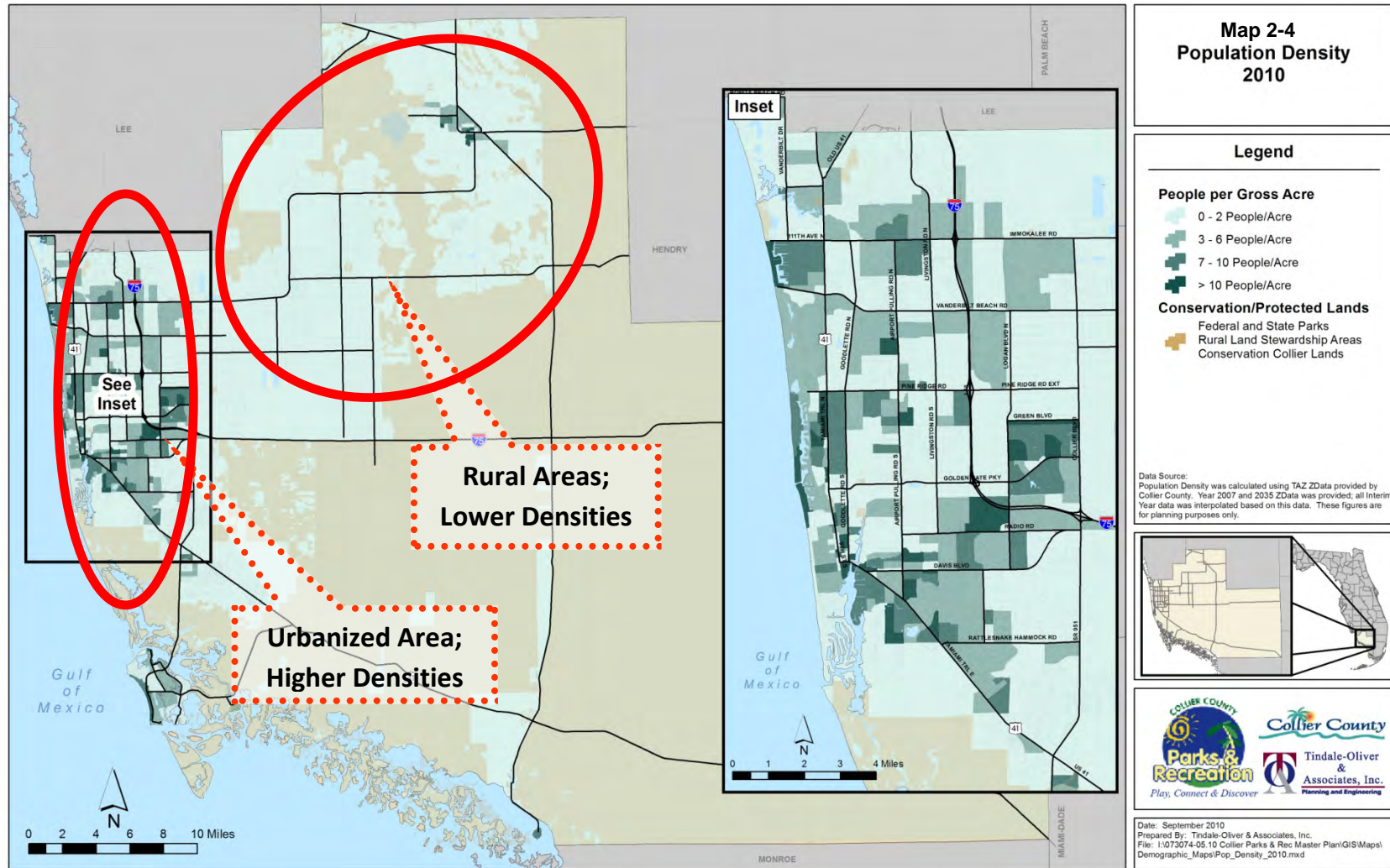
Source: Collier County Comprehensive Planning Section (June 11, 2010).

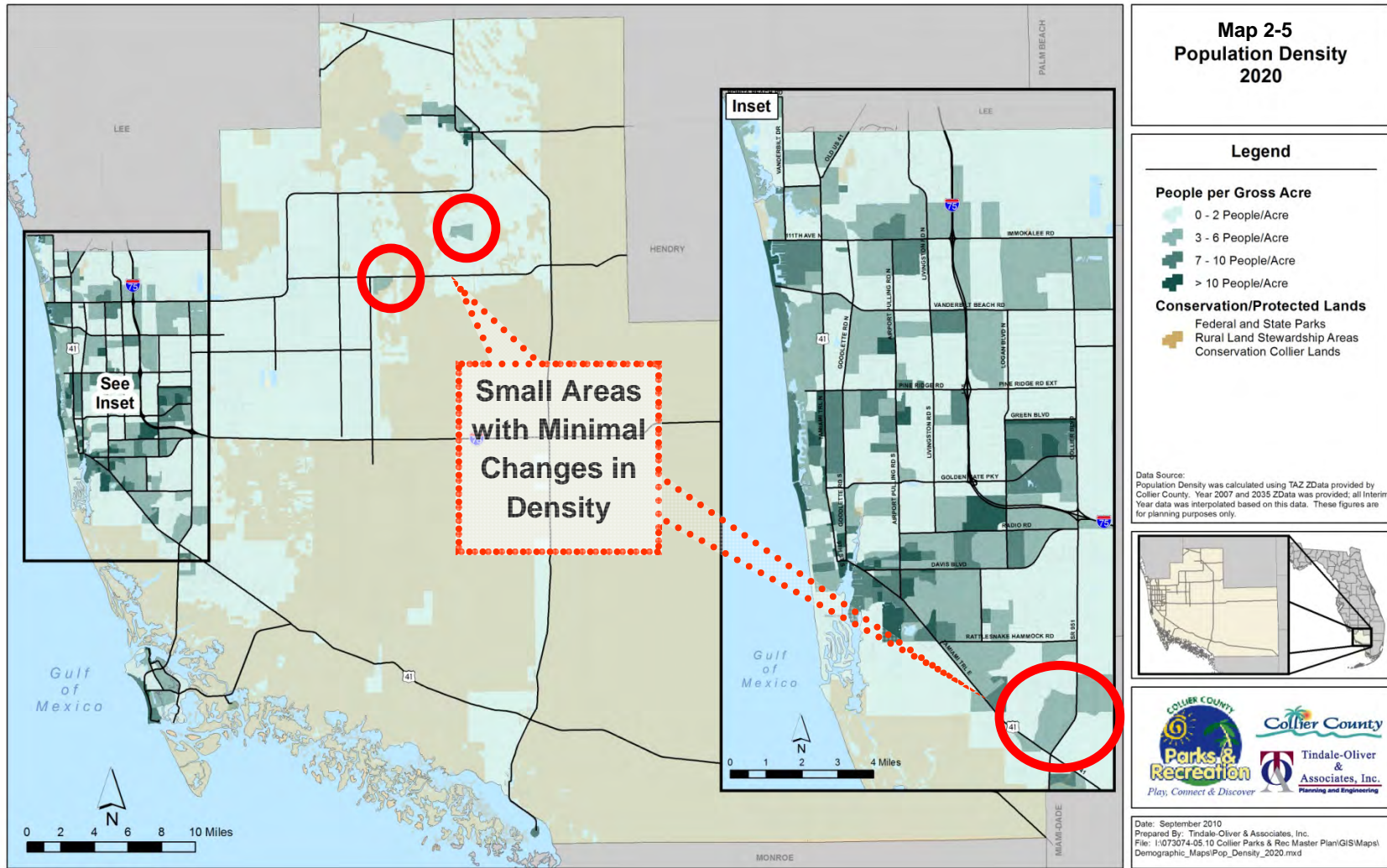
The permanent population estimates and projections developed by BEBR are countywide figures, while the peak population projections developed by the County are developed for each municipality and planning area. To analyze population growth at a smaller geographic sub-unit, the socioeconomic data developed for the ongoing Collier County 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) are used, which illustrates the population projections by Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ). Map 2-1 illustrates where the existing (2010) population of Collier County is by TAZ, and the projected population growth of Collier County over the next 10 years is illustrated in Maps 2-2 and Map 2-3.











Currently, the majority (approximately 73%) of the county's population lies west of CR 951 in what is the more urbanized area. However, as shown, the highest concentration of growth over the next five years is projected to occur in the Golden Gate Estates area, then extending into the Immokalee and Ave Maria areas in the subsequent five-year period. The urbanized area is projected to experience a lower population growth during the 10-year period.

It is important to look at not only absolute population growth, but also the projected change in population and housing unit densities. Maps 2-4 and 2-5 illustrate the existing population density for 2010 and 2020, respectively. Overall, the County does not project a significant increase in its population densities over the next 10 years. Between 2010 and 2015, slight increases in densities are projected within pocket areas west of CR 951, as well as within and surrounding Immokalee. In addition, between 2015 and 2020, slight increases in densities in the Ave Maria and Orange Tree areas also are projected.

As part of the demographic analysis, a review of the absolute growth of dwelling units and dwelling unit densities between 2010 and 2020 also was completed. As expected, the housing unit trends during this 10-year period closely mirror the population trends.

AGE

While the benefits of parks and recreation span every age and demographic component, the age profile of a community's residents can have a direct impact on its parks and recreation facility needs. To understand this impact, a review of both the historical age trends of the county, as well as the current age composition of the county's residents was undertaken.

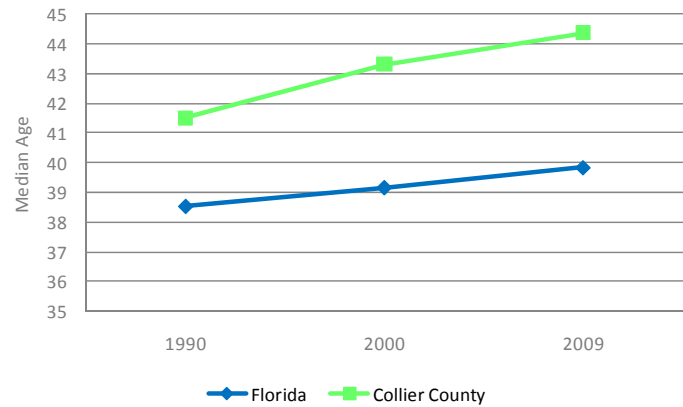
Age is one of the most important demographic factors for determining parks and recreation facility needs.

As presented in Table 2-3 and Figure 2-2, the median age in both Collier County and Florida has been trending upward since 1990, with Collier County's median age growing at a slightly faster rate than Florida's.

**Table 2-3 and Figure 2-2
Median Age (1990, 2000, 2009)**

Year	Florida	Collier County
1990	38.5	41.5
2000	39.2	43.3
2009	39.8	44.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 1990 Census, 2000 Census, and 2009 American Community Survey.



As presented in Table 2-4 and Figure 2-3, currently the highest percentage of Collier County’s residents are between the ages of 20 and 64 years. In Collier County, the most significant shift in age distribution since 1990 reflects an exit of the “baby boomer” generation from the middle-age into the 65+ age bracket.

Statewide, the percent of total population under 5 years and those 65+ years is declining, while collectively the percent of population between 5 and 64 years is increasing. In Collier County, the percent of total population under 5 years mirrors Florida and is showing a slight decline. In addition, the percent of total population from 5 to 19 years appears to be growing slightly. The percentage of population from 20 to 64 years is declining at an increasing rate; however, the most pronounced growth of residents is in the category of 65+ years, likely reflecting the attraction of the county as a premier retirement destination. However, it is important to note that, as of 2009, approximately 73 percent of Collier County’s residents are still younger than 65.

**Table 2-4
Distribution of Age by Category (1990, 2000, 2009)**

Age Category	Florida			Collier County		
	1990	2000	2009	1990	2000	2009
Under 5 years	7.8%	7.1%	6.3%	7.1%	6.4%	6.3%
5 to 19 years	16.9%	18.1%	18.2%	14.9%	15.3%	16.1%
20 to 64 years	56.9%	57.2%	58.3%	55.3%	53.9%	50.7%
65 years and older	18.3%	17.6%	17.3%	22.7%	24.4%	26.9%

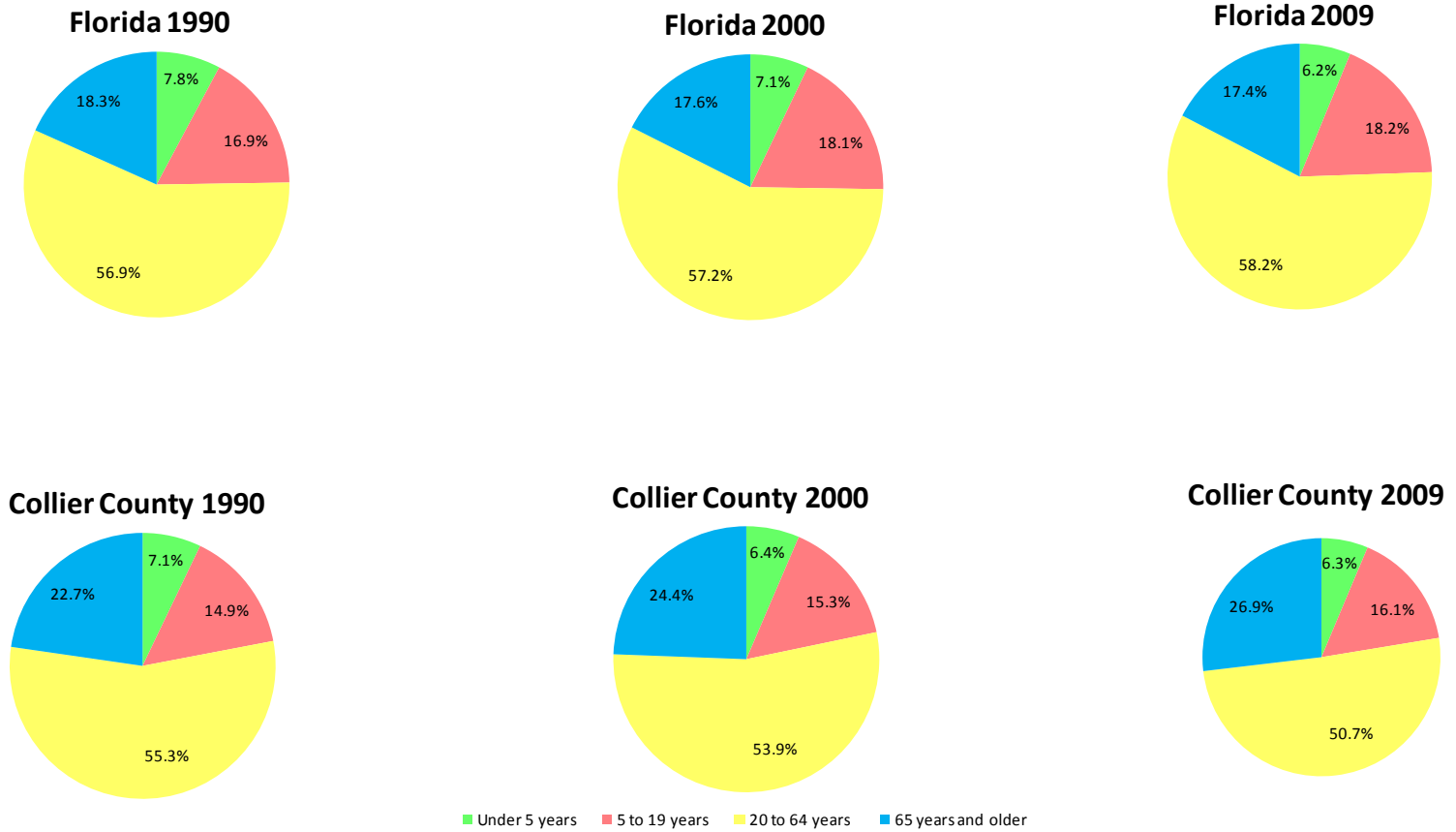
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 1990 Census, 2000 Census, and 2009 American Community Survey

The decennial Census provides data in geographic units known as Block Groups, allowing the data to be mapped at smaller geographic intervals. Although the U.S. Census Bureau develops interim estimates for a number of its decennial Census variables as part of the American Community Survey (ACS), the ACS does not include data for geographic units smaller than Collier County. Therefore, to analyze the distribution of 2009 age data throughout Collier County, the 2009 age data by Census Block Group developed by Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) is used.

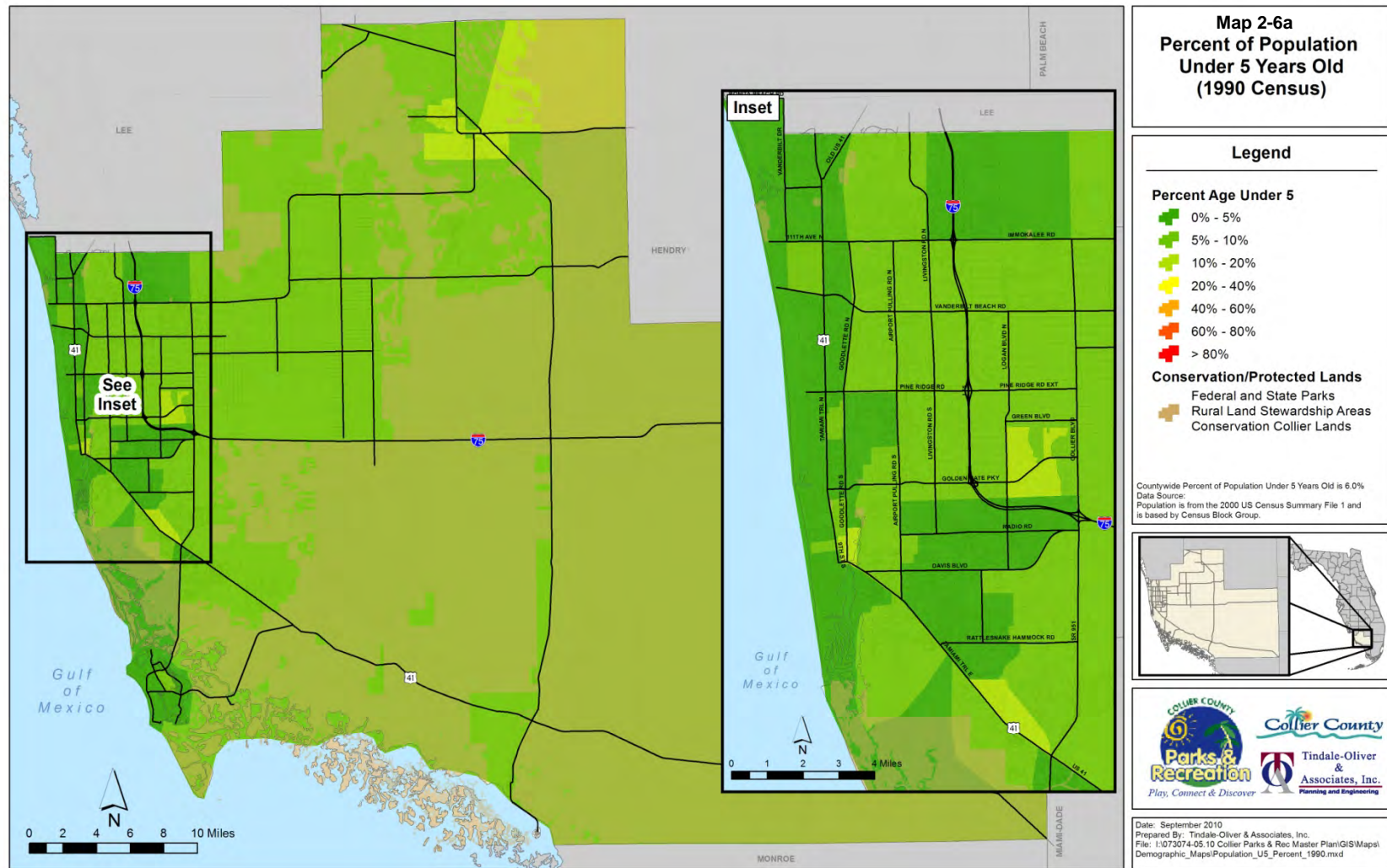
Maps 2-7 through 2-10, as listed below, present the age distribution in Collier County by Census Block Group as follows:

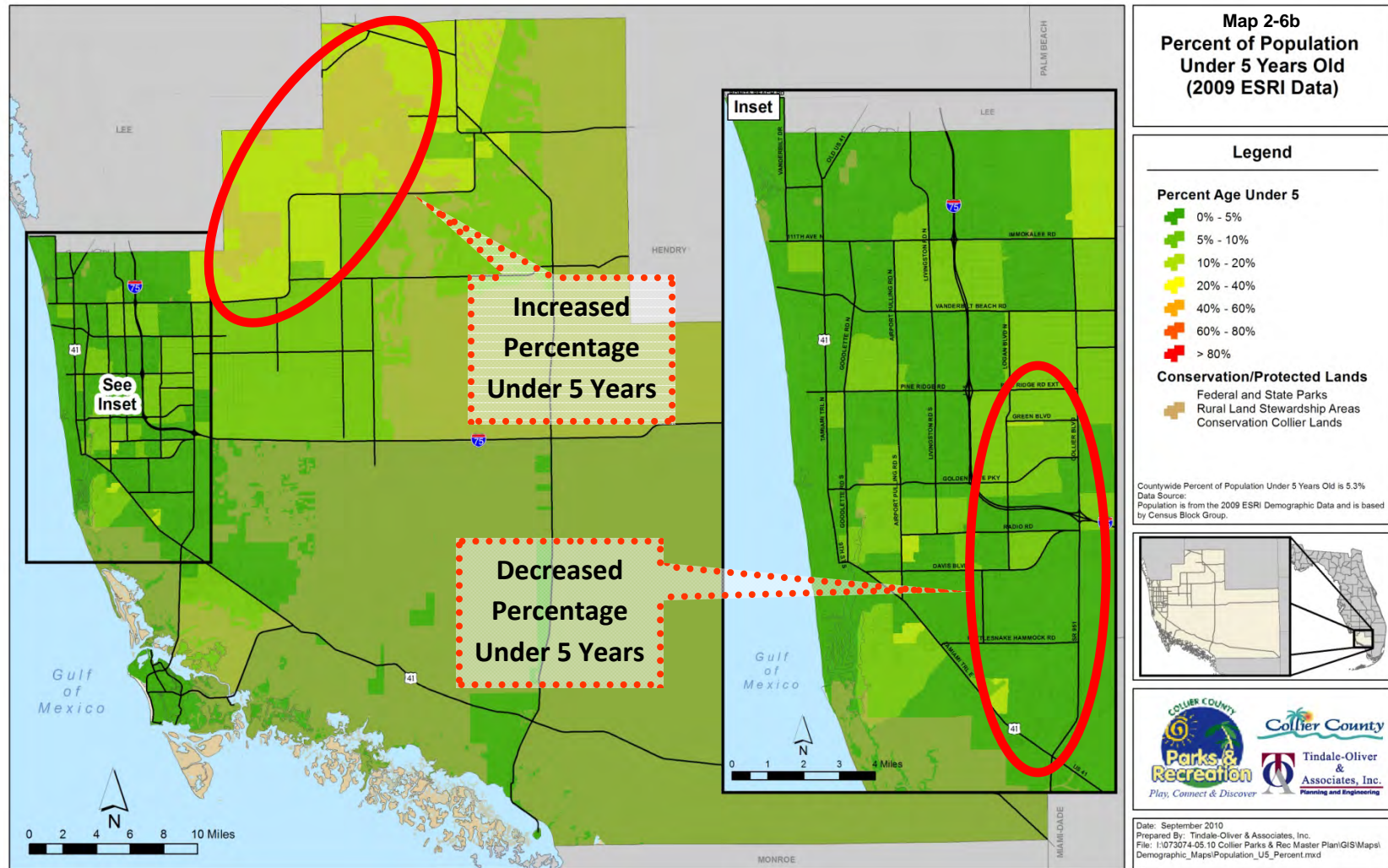
- Map 2-6a: Percent of Population Under 5 Years Old (1990)
- Map 2-6b: Percent of Population Under 5 Years Old (2009)
- Map 2-7a: Percent of Population 5 to 19 Years Old (1990)
- Map 2-7b: Percent of Population 5 to 19 Years Old (2009)
- Map 2-8a: Percent of Population 20-64 Years Old (1990)
- Map 2-8b: Percent of Population 20-64 Years Old (2009)
- Map 2-9a: Percent of Population 65+ Years Old (1990)
- Map 2-9b: Percent of Population 65+ Years Old (2009)

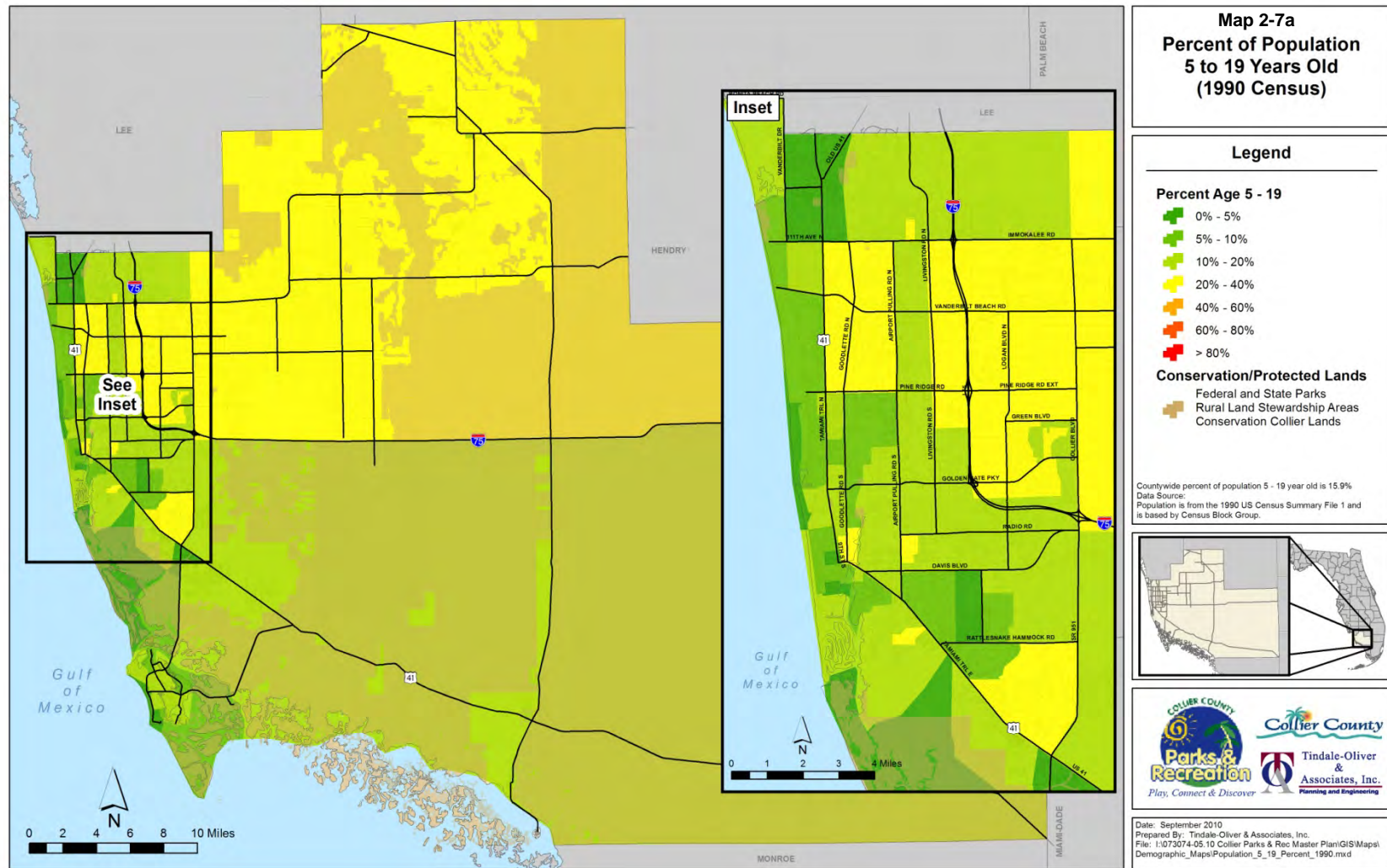
Figure 2-3
Distribution of Age by Category (1990, 2000, 2009)

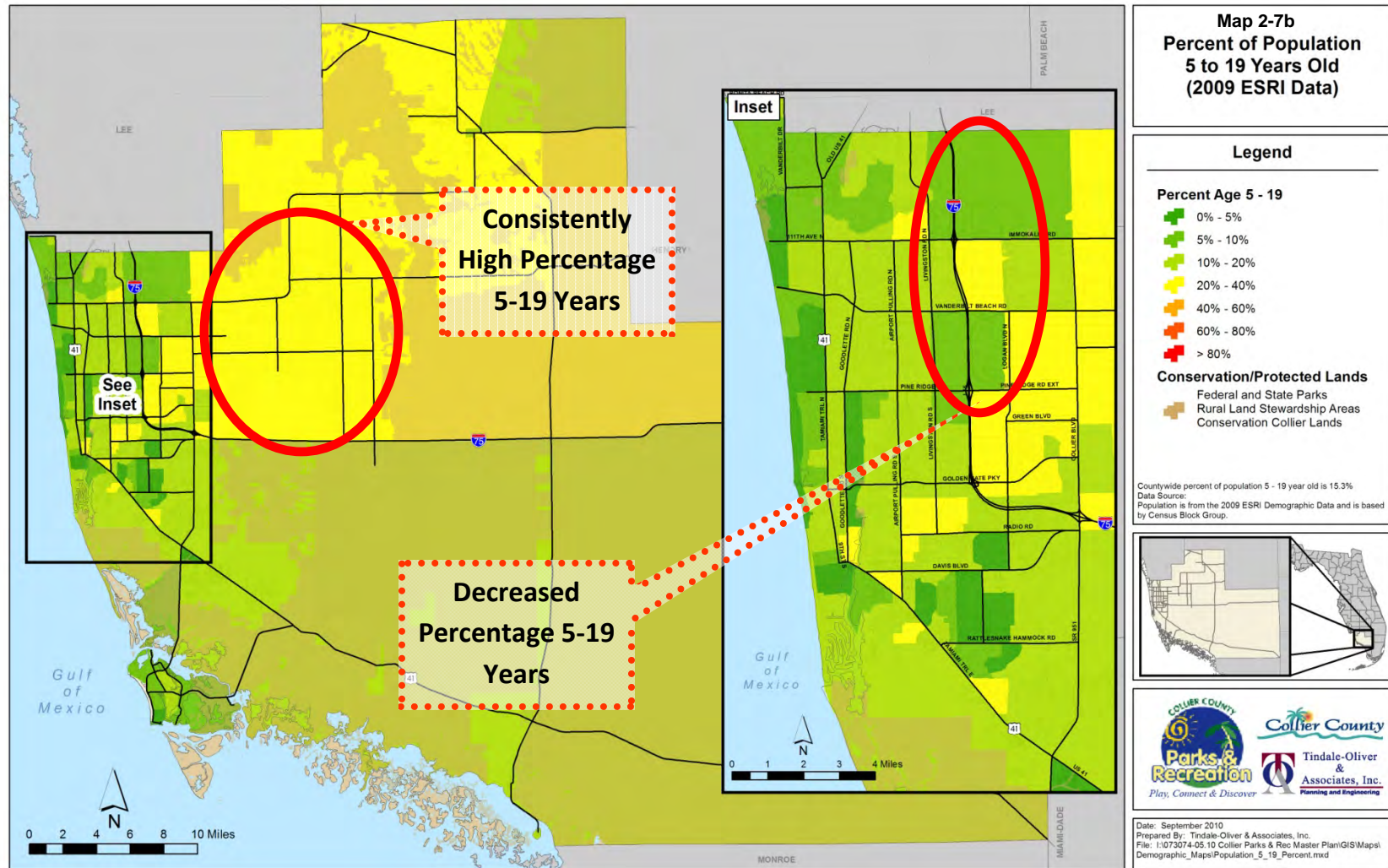


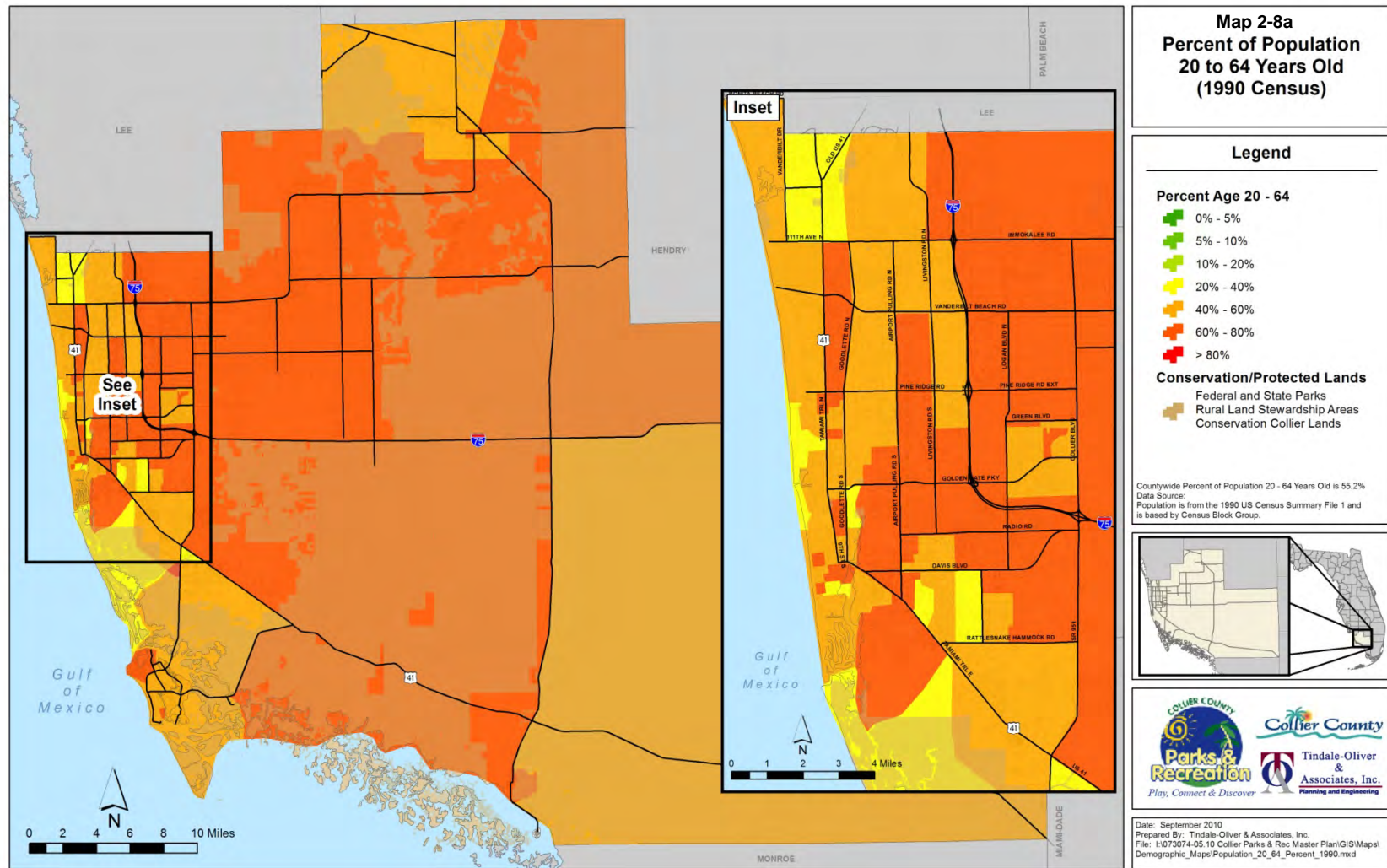
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 1990 Census, 2000 Census, and 2009 American Community Survey

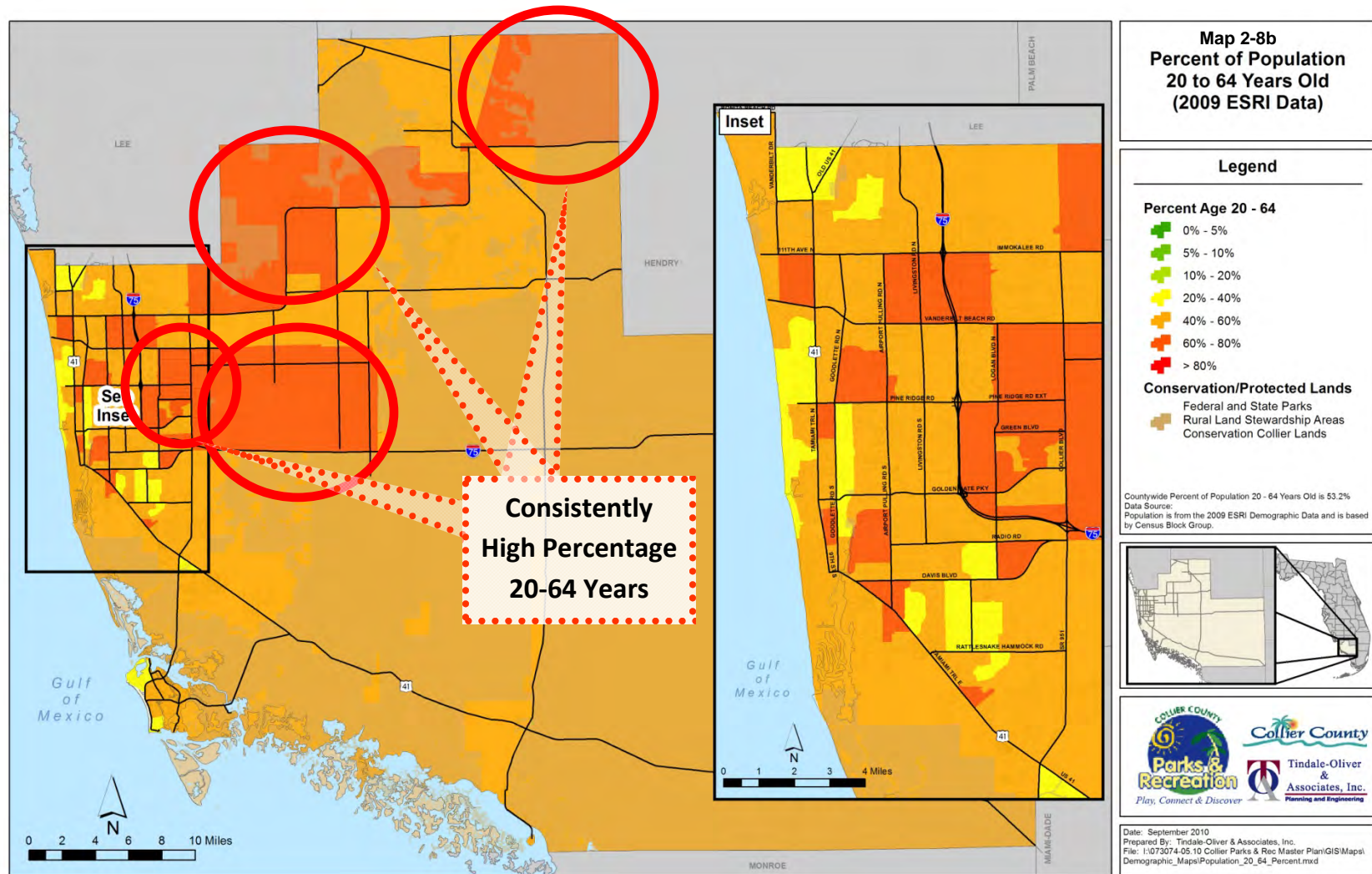


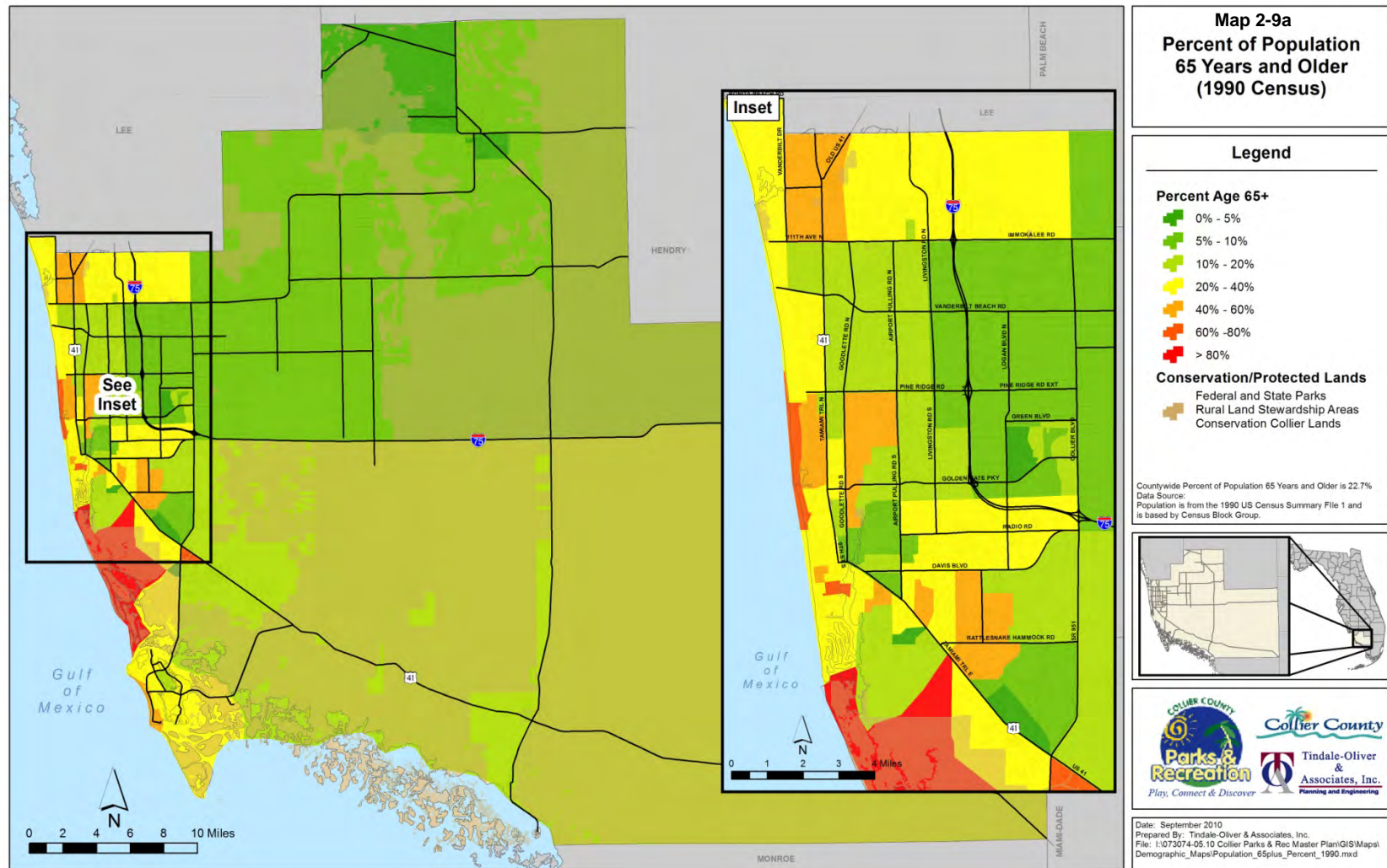


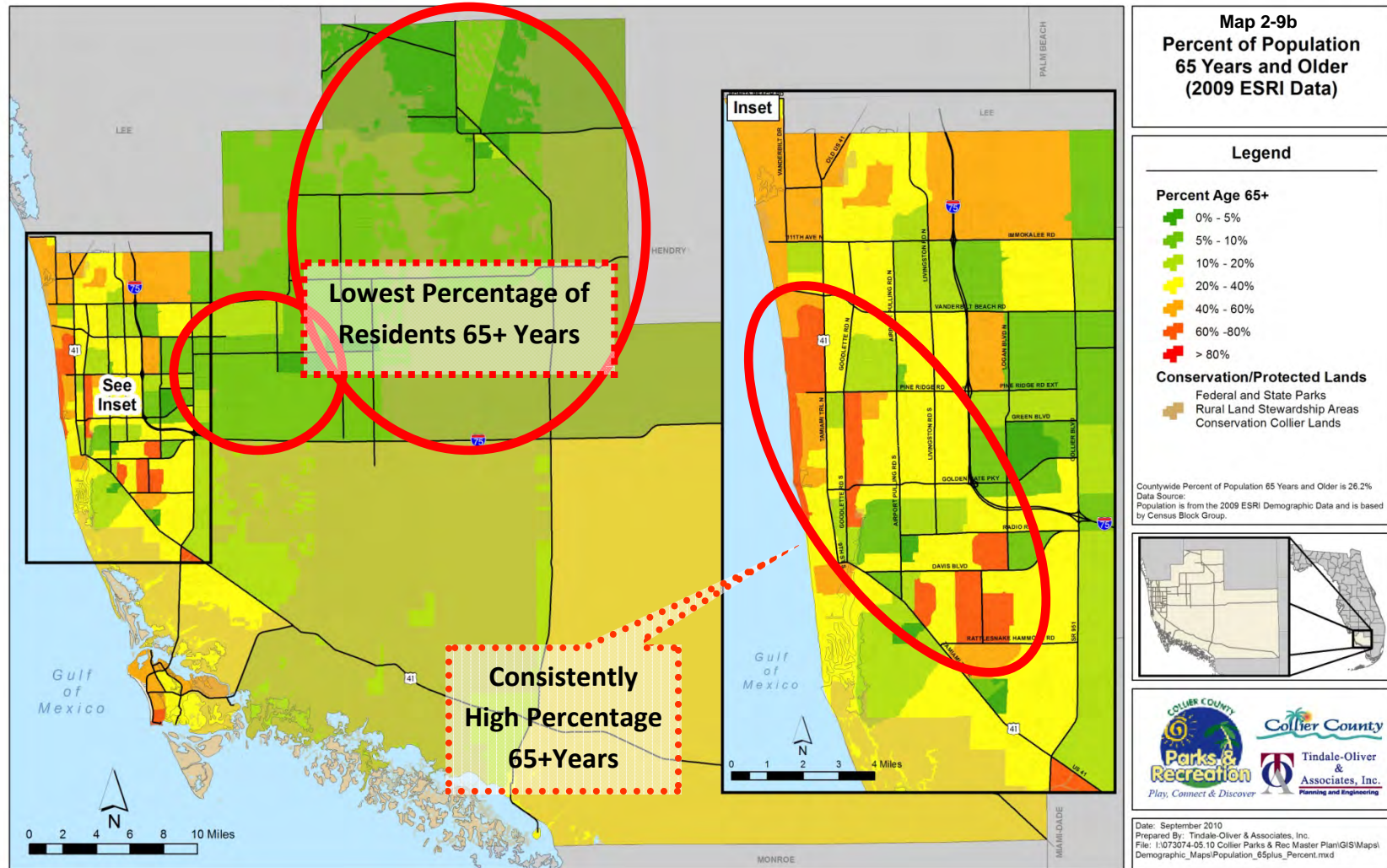












When looking at these maps, two comparisons can be made. The first compares the shift in population distribution since 1990 within a single age category (e.g., comparing Map 2-6a and Map 2-6b illustrates how the distribution of population under 5 years of age has changed since 1990).

- Maps 2-6a and 2-6b compare how the percentage of Collier County's population under 5 years of age has changed since 1990. Based on these maps, it appears that between 1990 and 2009, there is an increased percentage of residents under 5 years of age in the northwest area of the county and a decreased percentage in the urbanized area (see map inset).
- Maps 2-7a and 2-7b compare how the percentage of Collier County's population between 5 and 19 years of age has changed since 1990. Based on these maps during this period, the area northeast of Naples has experienced a decline in the total percentage of residents between 5 and 19 years of age, while The Estates area has maintained a consistently high percentage of residents between 5 and 19 years.
- Maps 2-8a and 2-8b compare how the percentage of Collier County's population between 20 and 64 years of age has changed since 1990. Based on these maps, the percentage of total population within this age category has declined with the exception of the far northeast county, far northwest county, east of Naples, and The Estates area.
- Maps 2-9a and 2-9b compare how the percentage of Collier County's population 65 years and older has changed since 1990. The majority of persons within this age category live in the urbanized areas of Collier County (see map inset). Within the urbanized area, there appears to be increased percentages of residents age 65 and older in the central area of the map, while the area east of CR 951 maintains the lowest percentage of residents age 65 and older.

Second, the four maps illustrating the 2009 age data (2-6b, 2-7b, 2-8b, 2-9b) are compared to show the distribution of Collier County's existing population with respect to age. When comparing these four maps, there is a clear variation in the age distribution within the county. Census Block Groups located east of CR 951 have a higher percentage of persons age 19 and younger, while the area west of CR 951 have a higher percentage of persons age 65 years and older. Golden Gate Estates, the area immediately west of Golden Gate Estates, Corkscrew, and the area east of Immokalee have the highest percentage of persons between 20 and 64 years.

Seasonal Residents

As previously mentioned, on an annual basis, Collier County draws a number of seasonal residents and visitors during its peak. By nature, the majority of the seasonal residents is likely retirees and would likely fall into the 65 years and older category. This would increase the total percentage of peak

residents ages 65 and older, although the age distribution of the county’s seasonal residents has not been quantified.

Visitors

In 2008, an independent research firm contracted by the Naples, Marco Island, Everglades Convention and Visitors Bureau found that the average age of visitors¹ to Collier County is 48.5 years. While visitors to Collier County will impact to the parks and recreation facilities, the majority of this impact most likely is to beach access points. However, at the same time it is noted that a high percentage of these visitors will stay in lodging facilities along the beach and will use the beach access points provided by the lodging facility.

INCOME

Similar to age, the income levels within a community also can directly impact its parks and recreation facility needs. To understand this impact, a review of both the historical household income trends of the county as well as the current distribution of income of the county’s residents was undertaken.

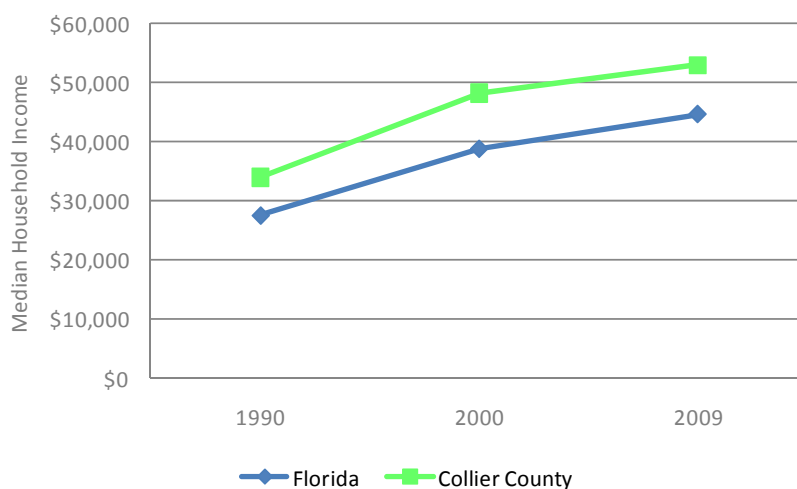
Growth in Collier County’s median household income is outpacing Florida’s.

As presented in Table 2-5 and Figure 2-4, the median household income in both Collier County and Florida has been trending upward since 1990, with Florida’s median household income growing at a slightly higher rate than Collier County.

**Table 2-5 and Figure 2-4
Median Household Income (1990, 2000, 2009)**

Year	Florida	Collier County
1990	\$27,483	\$34,001
2000	\$38,819	\$48,289
2009	\$44,736	\$52,998

U.S. Census Bureau 1990 Census, 2000 Census, and 2009 American Community Survey.



¹ Visitor defined as staying in short-term paid lodging within Collier County.

As presented in Table 2-6 and Figure 2-5, in Collier County the percentage of households with median incomes lower than \$50,000 has been decreasing steadily since 1990 while the percentage of households with median incomes higher than \$50,000 has been increasing during this same period. This trend also has been occurring statewide in Florida, with the percentage of household incomes lower than \$45,000 declining steadily since 1990 and household incomes greater than \$45,000 increasing during this same period.

In 2009, the percentage of Collier County households with incomes greater than \$150,000 was twice that of Florida households.

Households with annual income that does not exceed 80 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) are defined as being “low income” by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under the Uniform Act, while households with annual incomes that do not exceed 50 percent of the AMI are defined as being “very low income.” The 2010 AMI figure for the Naples-Marco Island area is \$72,300; 80 percent of the 2010 AMI for a four-person household equates to an annual household income of \$57,850.

Map 2-10 presents the distribution of household income by Census Block Group based on 2009 ESRI data. In general, the highest median household incomes are in the more urbanized western areas of the county, with the median household incomes decreasing as you move east towards the more rural areas of the county. In addition, the east/south Naples area, in particularly south of US 41, is an area east of CR 951 with lower median household incomes.

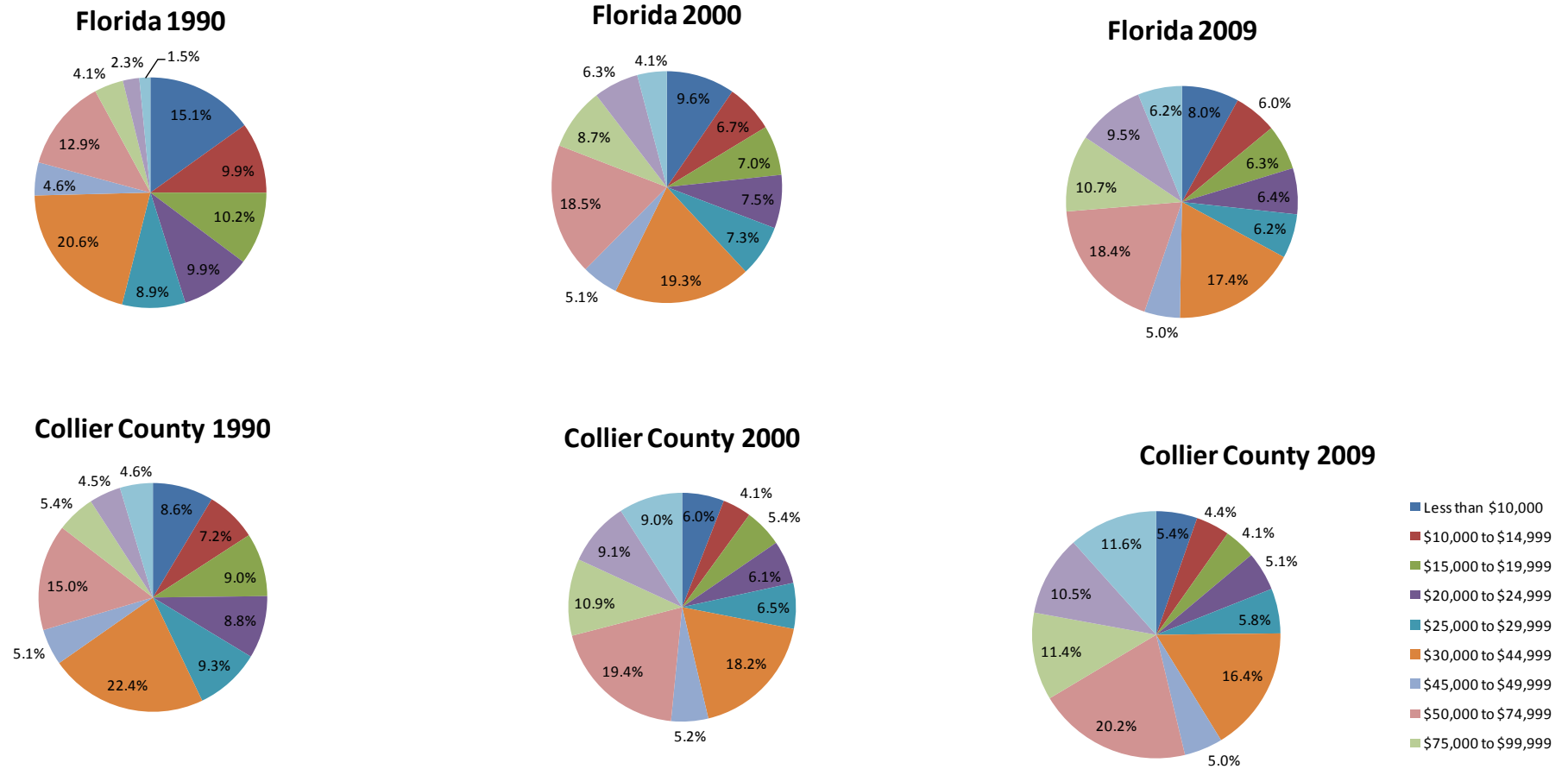
Map 2-11 presents the distribution of households that meet the criteria for “low income” with annual household incomes of 80 percent or below the 2010 AMI for the Naples-Marco Island area. The areas with lower income households mirror the lower income areas illustrated on Map 2-10.

Table 2-6
Distribution of Household Income (1990, 2000, 2009)

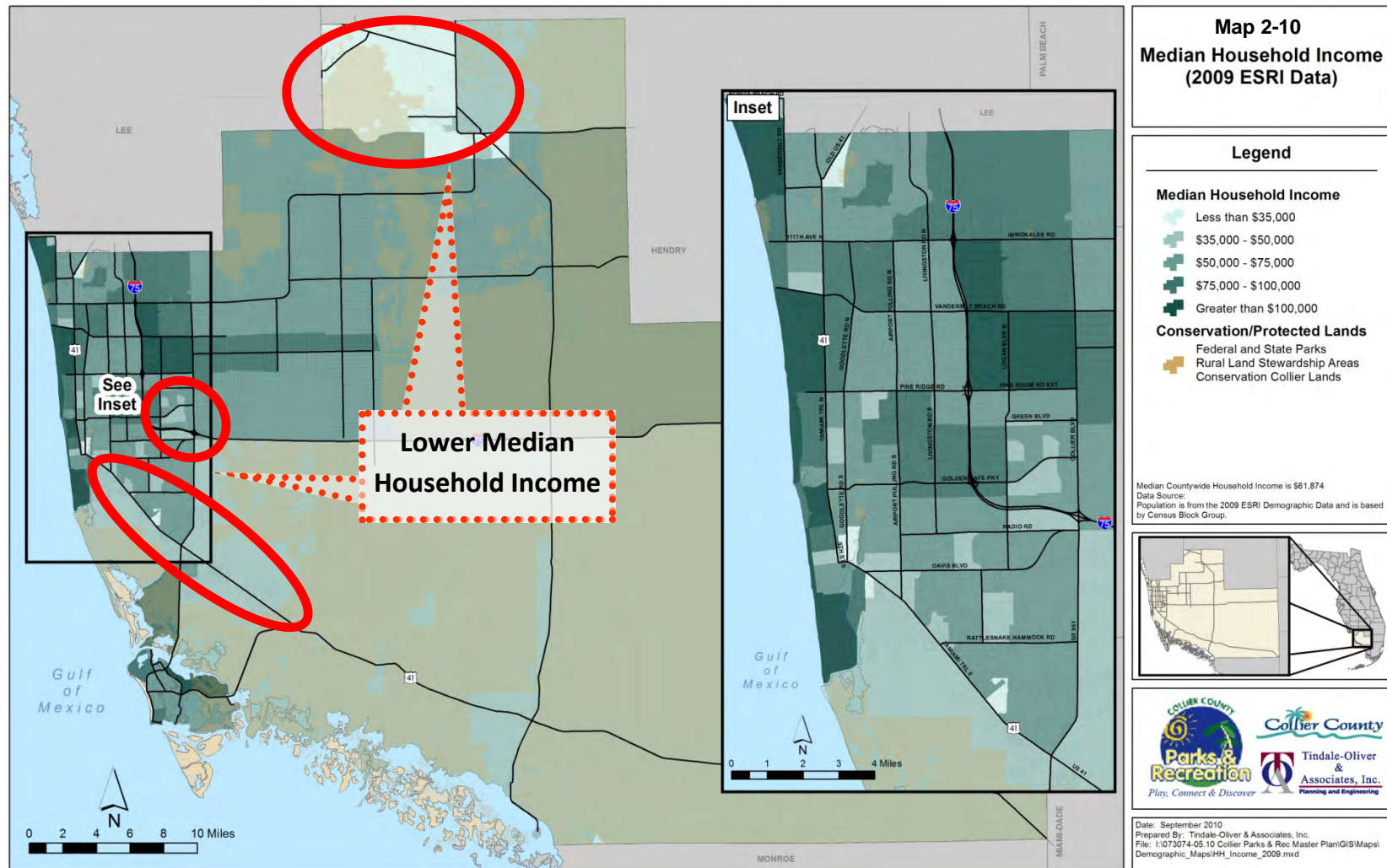
Income Distribution	Florida			Collier County		
	1990	2000	2009	1990	2000	2009
Less than \$10,000	15.1%	9.6%	8.0%	8.6%	6.0%	5.4%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	9.9%	6.7%	6.0%	7.2%	4.1%	4.4%
\$15,000 to \$19,999	10.2%	7.0%	6.3%	9.0%	5.4%	4.1%
\$20,000 to \$24,999	9.9%	7.5%	6.4%	8.8%	6.1%	5.1%
\$25,000 to \$29,999	8.9%	7.3%	6.2%	9.3%	6.5%	5.8%
\$30,000 to \$44,999	20.6%	19.3%	17.4%	22.4%	18.2%	16.4%
\$45,000 to \$49,999	4.6%	5.1%	5.0%	5.1%	5.2%	5.0%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	12.9%	18.5%	18.4%	15.0%	19.4%	20.2%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	4.1%	8.7%	10.7%	5.4%	10.9%	11.4%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	2.3%	6.3%	9.5%	4.5%	9.1%	10.5%
\$150,000 and greater	1.5%	4.1%	6.2%	4.6%	9.0%	11.6%

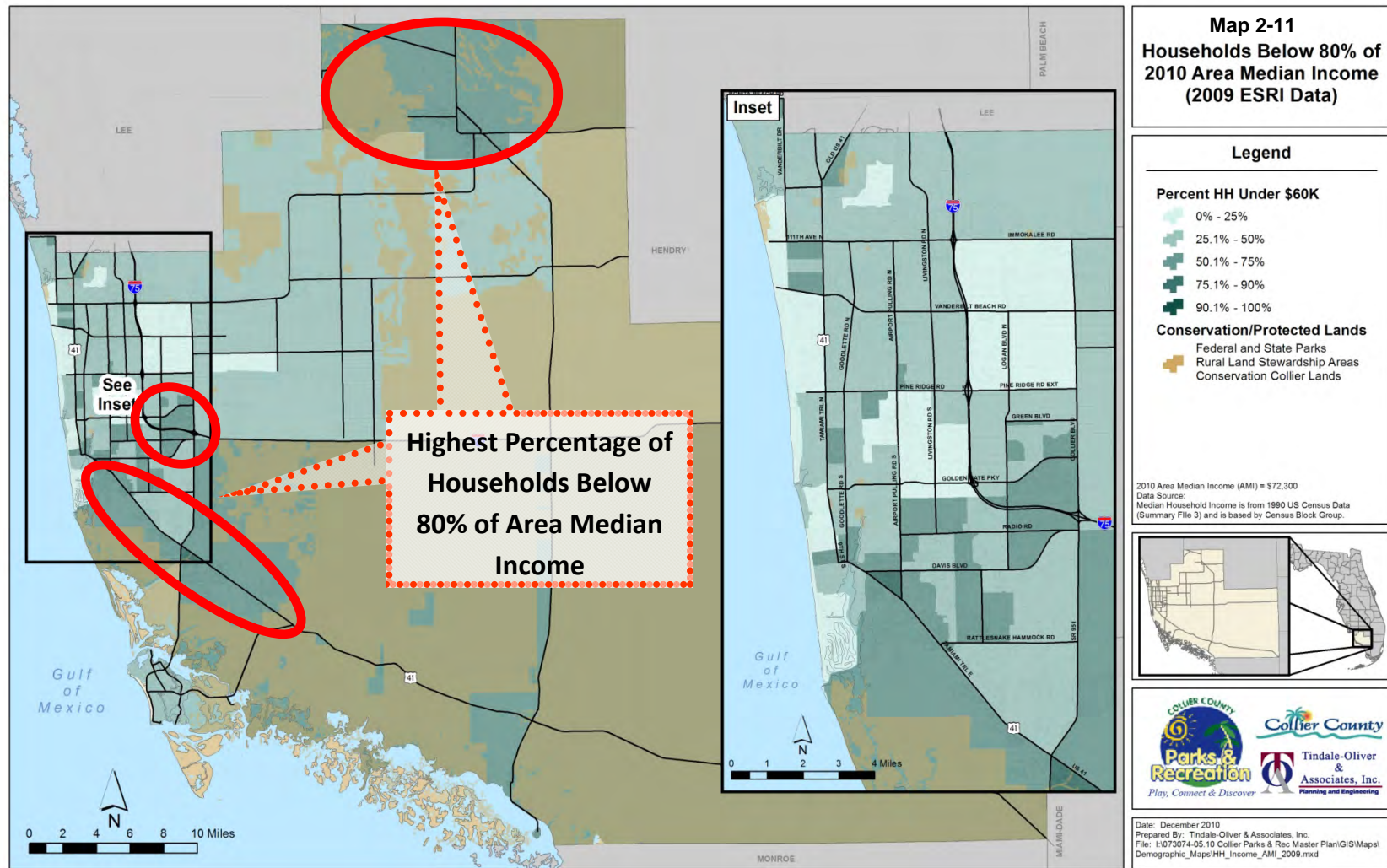
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 1990 Census, 2000 Census, and 2009 American Community Survey.

Figure 2-5
Distribution of Median Household Income (1990, 2000, 2009)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau 1990 Census, 2000 Census, and 2009 American Community Survey





CONCLUSIONS OF DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

- Historically, the majority of population growth in Collier County has occurred within the traditionally urbanized area. To a lesser extent, population growth will continue in this area, mainly through infill and redevelopment; however, the highest concentration of growth and new development over the next five years is projected to occur in the Golden Gate Estates area, then extending into the Immokalee and Ave Maria areas in the subsequent five-year period.
- Although population growth is projected to occur in Collier County, especially east of CR 951, very minimal increases in overall population density are projected over the next 10 years.
- Currently, nearly 75 percent of Collier County's residents are younger than age 65. Based on previous trends, the average age of Collier County residents is expected to increase in the future, along with the percentage of residents age 65 years and older. However, the overall population of Collier County is projected to continue growing, and there is no supporting data to suggest that this trend will be sustained indefinitely. The trending age increases over the past 20 years are likely attributed to the "baby boomers" reaching retirement age.
- Collier County's median household income continues to grow at a faster pace than Florida's. In Collier County, the highest rate of growth is observed in household income greater than \$75,000. In the future, Collier County may want to consider conducting a survey of its parks and recreation users to determine the average household income of its users compared with the county as a whole.
- Areas with median household incomes of \$50,000-or-less are mainly located in the greater Immokalee area, east/south Naples (in particularly south of US 41), and the area surrounding I-75/west of CR 951.



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Section 3 – Parks and Recreation Inventory

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EXISTING INVENTORY

The residents of and visitors to Collier County are provided a significant selection of parks and recreation facilities and activities, ranging from beach access to trails and open space to active recreation facilities. This section provides current inventories for several different types of parks and recreation facilities, including:

- Water Access
- Resource-Based Parks
- Conservation Land
- User-Oriented Parks
- Undeveloped Park Land/Planned Capital Improvements

Parks and recreation resources in Collier County range from water access sites to conservation land to user-oriented parks.

Consistent with the 2010 Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, prepared by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Park Planning, this Master Plan distinguishes between “resource-based” and user-oriented” parks and activities.

User-oriented types of outdoor recreation are those that can be provided almost anywhere for the convenience of the user. This category is the broader of the two and includes activities such as golf, tennis, baseball, basketball, shuffleboard, volleyball, soccer, pool swimming, archery, skeet and trap shooting, and playground activities. User-oriented activities are needed in vast amounts in urban and suburban areas, and as with other services, user-oriented recreation facilities and programs are primarily provided by local governments.

Resource-based outdoor recreation differs from user-oriented recreation in that it cannot be provided just anywhere, but is dependent upon some element or combination of elements in the natural or cultural environments that cannot be easily duplicated by man. It may be either active or passive in nature. Examples include hiking, hunting, fishing, camping, backpacking, boating, water skiing, surfing, biking, nature study and visiting historical and archaeological sites. Resource-based recreation lends itself better to the capabilities of state and federal government. An important distinction to make between user-oriented and resource-based outdoor recreation is that the former can always be provided, assuming the availability of space and funds for development, while the latter can be provided only to the extent that the supporting natural or cultural resources are available.²

² 2010 Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The water access, resource-based, and conservation land acreage and facilities available in Collier County are documented in this section. However, the focus of this Master Plan is to identify existing and future needs related to user-oriented parks in Collier County. As will be discussed in this section, a similar effort was done recently for water access locations, and the recommendations from that report have been incorporated into this Master Plan. While an abundance of resource-based park land, including conservation land, is available in Collier County, this type of park land is not being considered in the recommendations of this Master Plan, as Collier County Parks and Recreation Department is geared towards providing user-oriented parks and facilities. In addition, the current inventory of resource-based park land is likely to remain constant, and the inventory of conservation land may increase incrementally as the county grows towards its estimated build-out population of approximately 950,000 residents. As such, the existing resource-based park land will serve not only the current population but the build-out population as well.

Water Access Inventory

Table 3-1 provides the water access inventory for Collier County, which includes both publicly- and privately-owned sites and facilities available to the public. Water access sites identified include both saltwater and freshwater access. Map 3-1 illustrates the locations of the water access sites available to the public in Collier County.

**Table 3-1
Water Access Inventory**

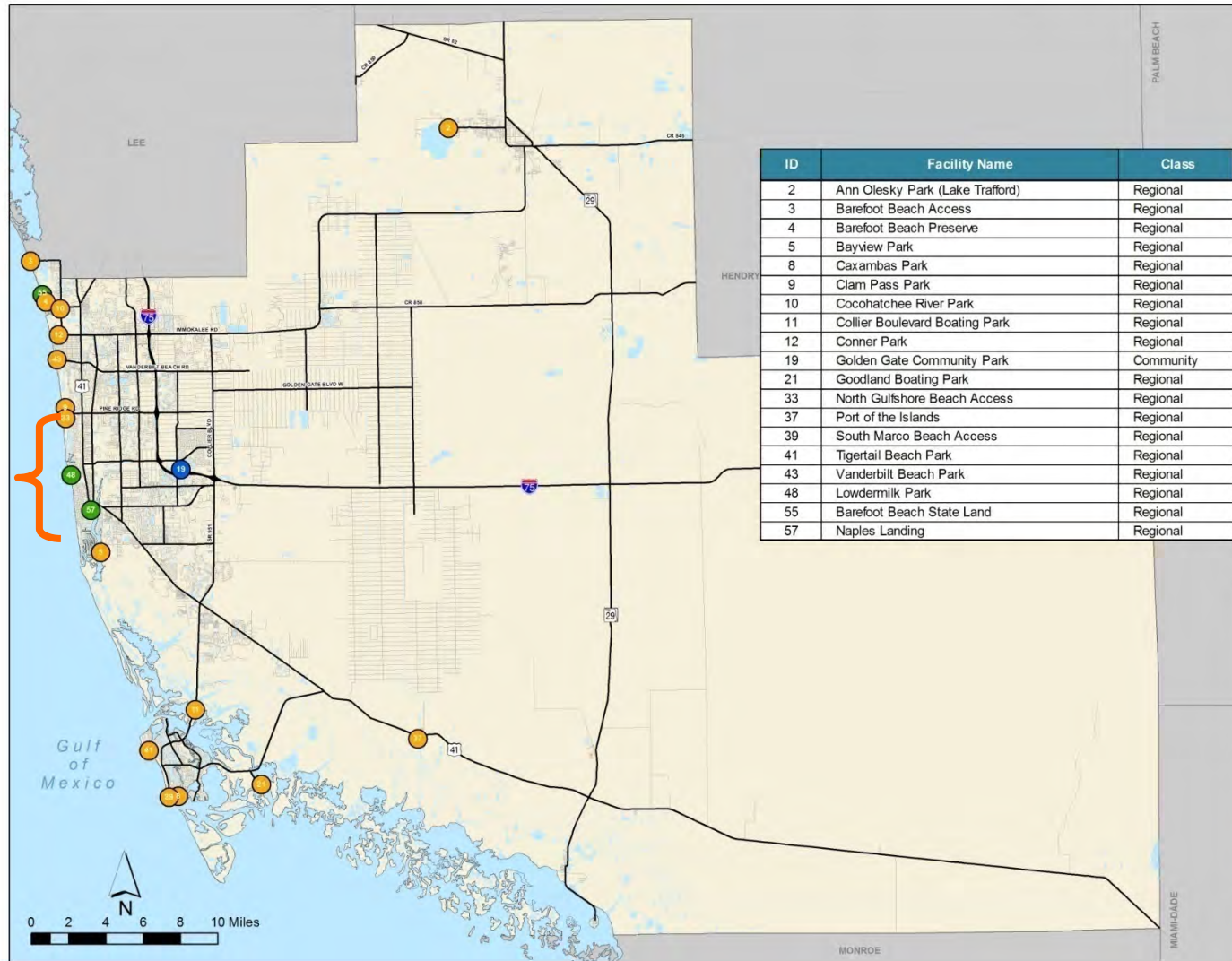
Owner	Park/Facility Name	Beach Access (Y/N)	Fishing Access Point	Boat Ramp Lane	Non-Motorized Launch Lane
County	Ann Olesky Park (Lake Trafford)	N	Y	1	
County	Barefoot Beach Access	Y			
County	Barefoot Beach Preserve Community Park	Y			1
County	Bayview Park	N	Y	3	
County	Big Corkscrew Island	N	Y		
County	Bluebill Beach Access	Y			
County	Caxambas Park	N	Y	2	
County	Clam Pass Park	Y			1
County	Cocohatchee River Park	N	Y	4	
County	Collier Boulevard Boating Park	N		2	
County	Conner Park	N			
County	Freedom Park	N	Y		
County	Golden Gate Community Park	N		2	
County	Goodland Boating Park	N	Y	2	
County	North Gulfshore Beach Access	Y			
County	Port of the Island Marina	N		2	
County	South Marco Beach Access	Y			
County	Sugden Park	Y	Y		1
County	Tigertail Beach Park	Y			
County	Vanderbilt Beach	Y			
Naples	1900 Block Gulf Shore Blvd Beach Access	Y			
Naples	Broad Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	Central Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	Gorden Drive South Beach Access	Y			
Naples	Horizon Way Beach Access.	Y			
Naples	Loudermilk Park	Y			
Naples	Miramar Beach Access	Y			
Naples	N 1st Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	N 2nd Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	N 4th Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	N 6th Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	N 7th Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	N 8th Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	Naples Fishing Pier	N	Y		
Naples	Naples Landing	N		3	1
Naples	North Lake Drive Beach Access	Y			
Naples	Pier Parking Lot Beach Access	Y			
Naples	S 10th Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	S 11th Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	S 12th Avenue Beach Access	Y			

Table 3-1 (continued)
Water Access Inventory

Owner	Park/Facility Name	Beach Access (Y/N)	Fishing Access Point	Boat Ramp Lane	Non-Motorized Launch Lane
Naples	S 13th Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	S 14th Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	S 15th Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	S 16th Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	S 17th Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	S 18th Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	S 19th Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	S 1st Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	S 2nd Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	S 32nd Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	S 33rd Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	S 3rd Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	S 4th Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	S 5th Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	S 6th Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	S 7th Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	S 8th Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	S 9th Avenue Beach Access	Y			
Naples	Vedado Public Beach Access	Y			
Private	Calusa Island Marina	N		2	
Private	Glades Haven Marina	N		2	
Private	Isles of Capri Marina	N		1	
Private	Moran's Restaurant Marina & Motel	N		1	
Private	Outdoor Resorts	N		1	
Private	Shell Island Road Boat Ramp	N		1	
State	Barefoot Beach State Land	N			
State	Collier-Seminole State Park	N	Y	2	
State	Delnor Wiggins State Recreation Area	Y		2	

Source: Collier County Boat and Beach Access Report (September 2011), supplemented with information provided by Collier County Parks and Recreation Department.

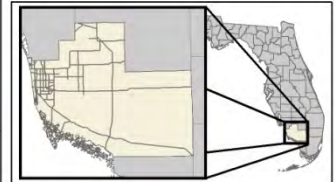
Various Beach Access Points (City of Naples)



Map 3-1
Boat and Beach
Access Sites

Legend

- Collier Community Park
- Collier Regional Park
- Other Agency Community Park
- Other Agency Regional Park



Date: October 2010
 Prepared By: Tindale-Oliver & Associates, Inc.
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Collier County Boat and Access Report

In September 2011, Collier County released an updated Boat and Beach Access Report, the purpose of which is to assess Collier County's performance in providing beach access and boat launch facilities to County residents and visitors. The full 2011 Boat and Beach Access Report can be found in Appendix A.

The Boat and Beach Access Report looks at the county's existing boat and beach access inventory, existing and projected capacity needs, and level of service (LOS). The County's Growth Management Plan does not provide a separate LOS for water access acreage (i.e., acreage related to beach access points, beach parking, and boating access). Rather, water access acreage is included under the county's regional park acreage for purposes of measuring comprehensive plan concurrency. The Growth Management Plan does not provide a distinction between regional park acreage and acreage reserved for beach and water access. However, the 2010 AUIR does provide a Water Access LOS Guideline of one access point per every 10,000 permanent residents. This includes public beach access points, boat ramp lanes, fishing access points, canoe/kayak launches, and any other fresh or saltwater access facilities available to the public. According to the 2011 Boat and Beach Access Report, the County currently is maintaining an LOS of one water access point per every 4,239 residents, based on a current water access inventory of 79 access points. In addition, based on the projected build-out population of 950,000 residents and LOS Guideline of 1:10,000, the county will need a total of 95 water access points. It should be noted that the capacity analyses within the 2011 Boat and Beach Access Report consider only permanent residents and not seasonal residents or tourists.

An analysis of the current number of registered vessels in Collier County compared to the number of storage points (i.e., wet slips and dry storage spaces) indicate that at least 13,100 vessels are likely dependent on the County's boat ramps for water access. Based on the projected number of vessels and storage points, there is projected to be a deficiency of three boat ramps by 2020.

One of the most important issues with water access points, especially boat launches and beach access, relates to the level of adequate parking (vehicle and boat trailer) available at parks and other facilities where boat launches/ ramps and access points are located. An analysis of the available parking spaces at these facilities indicates a current deficit of 149 parking spaces at saltwater launch facilities and a deficit of 90 spaces at freshwater launch facilities. An analysis of the number of beach parking spaces per permanent resident indicates the current ratio 1:106 and is projected to be 1:129 in 2020. As such, the County is projected to maintain adequate parking for the next 10 years based on the goal ratio of 1:150 established by the County's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in 1999.

In addition to current projects to expand the access to open water and the beaches, the 2011 Boat and Beach Access Report include several recommendations improvements. Therefore, to not duplicate

effort concerning planning for boat and beach access sites, the recommendations included in the 2011 Boat and Beach Access Report are incorporated into the Master Plan and include:

1. Barefoot Beach Preserve

Not exceeding the carrying capacity of this park is a primary objective because of its status as a nature preserve. However, a dock and pier can be provided to the inland side of the island to accommodate waterborne visitors while protecting the beach and dunes. This area will also allow provide visitors a better view the mangrove habitat, which presently is only accessible by canoe/kayak. Pickup locations can be at Cocohatchee Park and Conner Park.

2. Beach Access

Beach access can be viewed from two perspectives – the number and amount of beach access points and the effectiveness of each of those locations. Although no standards exist for the number of public beach access points a County should have, Collier County has been aggressively working to increase the number and location of its public beach accesses points. This, however, has met with limited success because of the high cost and low availability of suitable locations.

It is recommended that the County continue to pursue its current acquisition policy but at the same time aggressively pursue revisions to the Land Development Code that permits greater public beach access.

3. Parking and Transportation Service for Beach Access

The number of beach parking spaces currently meets the countywide 1:150 parking space to permanent residents recommended ratio suggested by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. If additional parking is required at the more popular beach parks or during the busy season, the County should consider providing beach access through a combination of:

- Exploring an extended Collier Area Transit (CAT) operation along Gulf Shore Drive to increase service to the beach access points along Vanderbilt Beach.
- Developing a business plan to provide tram service during peak use periods between Conner Park and the Vanderbilt Beach garage to feed our most popular beaches using existing underused public access points.

4. Beach Parking Fees

Collier County has adopted a policy of free beach parking with a beach parking pass for residents and non-residents have the opportunity to purchase a pass for an annual fee.

5. Boat Launch and Boat Trailer Parking

Boat ramp lanes are not adequate for the peak periods of weekends and holidays for the number of boat users in Collier County. Even with the additional new lane at Bayview Park, the County is operating with a two-lane deficit in 2011. This deficit will grow by one lane in 2013 to 2015 timeframe and increase to five additional ramp lanes in 2020.

Boat trailer parking presently is inadequate, and even with programmed parking increases, the County has a significant parking space deficit based on current ramp capacity. This deficit is a county wide average and does not account for peak usage or chronic shortages at popular ramp locations such as Bayview, Caxambas, or Cocohatchee.

The County should continue to assertively pursue expanding the existing boat parks, parking, and facilities where appropriate. Additionally, strategic acquisition of desirable boat launch sites should continue.

Resource-Based Park Inventory

Approximately one-half of the total land within Collier County is designated as federal or state resource-based park land. Table 3-2 provides an inventory of the resource-based park land and facilities available in Collier County, and Map 3-2 illustrates the locations of the resource-based parks.

**Table 3-2
Resource-Based Parks and Recreation Inventory**

Agency	Park/Facility Name	Total Acres	RV Sites	Tent Sites	Primitive Camping (Acres)	Picnic Shelter	Picnic Table	Hiking Trail (mile)	Florida Trail	Florida National Scenic	Equestrian Trail (mile)	Nature Trail	Multi-Use Trail (mile)	Playground
Federal	Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve	110,000											4	
Federal	Everglades National park	39,262		3			5	1						
Federal	Big Cypress National Preserve	569,377	66	68	20		50			35		1	70	
Federal	Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge	31,150											1	
State	Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge	26,400												
State	Picayune Strand State Forest	69,975			3						22		3	
State	Collier-Seminole State Park	7,272	120	121	1	4	10	1	7				4	
State	Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park	76,069							8				178	
State	Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park	166				1	155							1
State	Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed	16,230			1									
Total		945,901	186	192	25	5	220	2	15	35	22	1	260	1

Source: State of Florida Office of Parks Planning Outdoor Recreation Planning Inventory database and the Collier County 2010 Annual Update and Inventory Report.

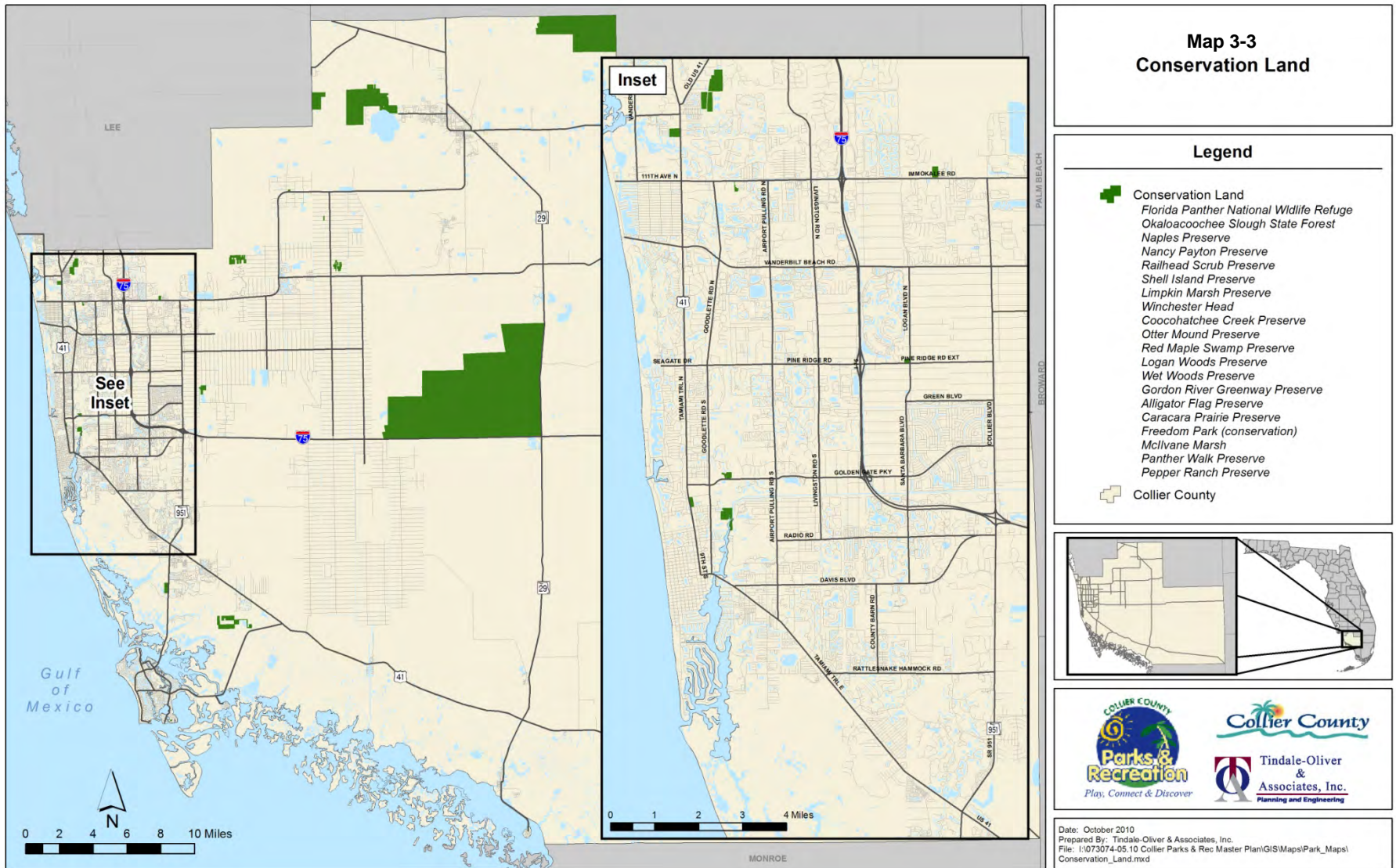
Conservation Land Inventory

Properties of high natural resource values may be protected conservation land under federal, state, or local programs. In Collier County, there are nearly 35,000 acres of designated conservation land, as shown in Table 3-3. The majority of this acreage is protected land under the State of Florida. At the local level, Collier County operates Conservation Collier, a program to acquire conservation land. Public access to these sites varies but must be consistent with conservation goals and limited to natural resource-based recreation and education activities (e.g., environmental education, hiking, nature photography, bird-watching, kayaking, canoeing, swimming, hunting and fishing). Map 3-3 illustrates the locations of conservation land in Collier County.

**Table 3-3
Conservation Land Inventory**

Agency	Park/Facility Name	Land (Acres)
State	Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge	26,394.0
State	Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest	4,700.0
City of Naples	Naples Preserve	9.5
Conservation Collier	Nancy Payton Preserve	65.0
Conservation Collier	Railhead Scrub Preserve	80.3
Conservation Collier	Shell Island Preserve	83.2
Conservation Collier	Limpkin Marsh Preserve	9.3
Conservation Collier	Winchester Head	8.9
Conservation Collier	Cocohatchee Creek Preserve	3.6
Conservation Collier	Otter Mound Preserve	1.8
Conservation Collier	Red Maple Swamp Preserve	81.3
Conservation Collier	Logan Woods Preserve	7.5
Conservation Collier	Wet Woods Preserve	26.8
Conservation Collier	Collier Devopment Corporation aka Gordon River Greenway Preserve	41.3
Conservation Collier	Alligator Flag Preserve	18.5
Conservation Collier	Caracara Prairie Preserve	367.7
Conservation Collier	Freedom Park (conservation portion)	12.5
Conservation Collier	Mcllvane Marsh	368.0
Conservation Collier	Panther Walk Preserve	4.5
Conservation Collier	Pepper Ranch Preserve	2,512.0
Total Acreage		34,795.5

Source: State of Florida Office of Parks Planning Outdoor Recreation Planning Inventory database, and supplemental information provided by Collier County.



User-Oriented Park Inventory

As previously mentioned, the purpose of this Master Plan is to identify and prioritize user-oriented type parks, which are provided by Collier County, the School District Board of Collier County (through interlocal agreement), and the municipalities within Collier County. Consistent with the County's planning practices, recommendations for this Master Plan will consider only community and regional parks within Collier County, as neighborhood parks are designed to serve a small geographic area and are being provided more frequently by developers to serve a subdivision.

It is important to note that the user-oriented park inventory provided in this Master Plan differs from the community and regional park inventory included in the County's AUIR. The AUIR inventory includes water access sites considered regional park land and land purchased for future parks but not yet developed. Water access locations (including those considered to be regional parks in the AUIR) are shown separately, and recommendations concerning water access locations have been documented by the County in the 2011 Boat and Beach Access Report.

The Master Plan considers both county and municipal community and regional parks.

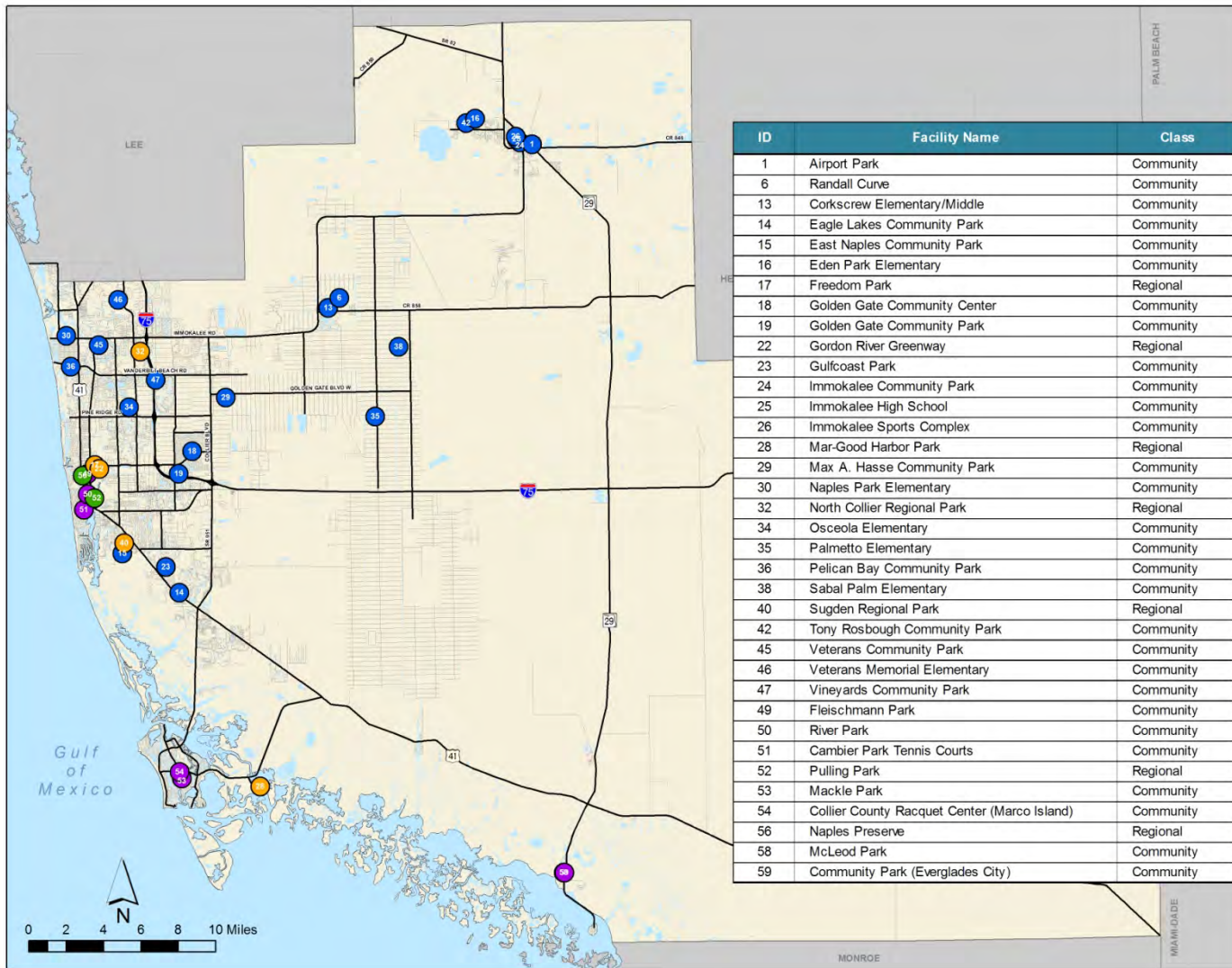
Another difference of note between the Master Plan and AUIR is that, for LOS purposes, the County considers only the regional and community parks owned and operated by the County. However, the Master Plan considers the availability of community and regional parks to residents and visitors throughout Collier County to determine future needs. Therefore, the Master Plan provides a holistic inventory of community and regional parks provided by not only Collier County, but also in Naples, Marco Island, and Everglades City.

Table 3-4 provides a summary of the acreage and facilities currently provided at the user-oriented community and regional parks in Collier County, which also are illustrated on Map 3-4.

In addition, Appendix B provides detail pertaining to each user-oriented park considered in the Master Plan, including park location, park type, acreage, and facilities.

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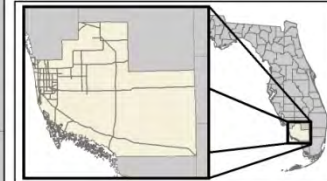
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Map 3-4
Existing Community and Regional Parks

Legend

- Collier Community Park
- Collier Regional Park
- Other Agency Community Park
- Other Agency Regional Park



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PLANNED PARK LAND ACQUISITIONS

Collier County has identified regional park land acquisitions planned over the next 10 years in its 2010 AUIR. There are no proposed community park land acquisitions identified in the 2010 AUIR. It is important to note that the planned regional park land acquisitions are not land purchases, but are an interdepartmental transfer, lease, or developer contribution. Therefore, these acquisitions are not direct expenditures within the Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Plan. Map 3-5 presents the locations of regional park land acquisitions, totaling 302.5 acres over the next 10 years. Also shown on this map are two undeveloped park sites (Vanderbilt Beach Extension Community Park and Manatee Community Park) totaling 180 acres for which the County already has acquired the land.

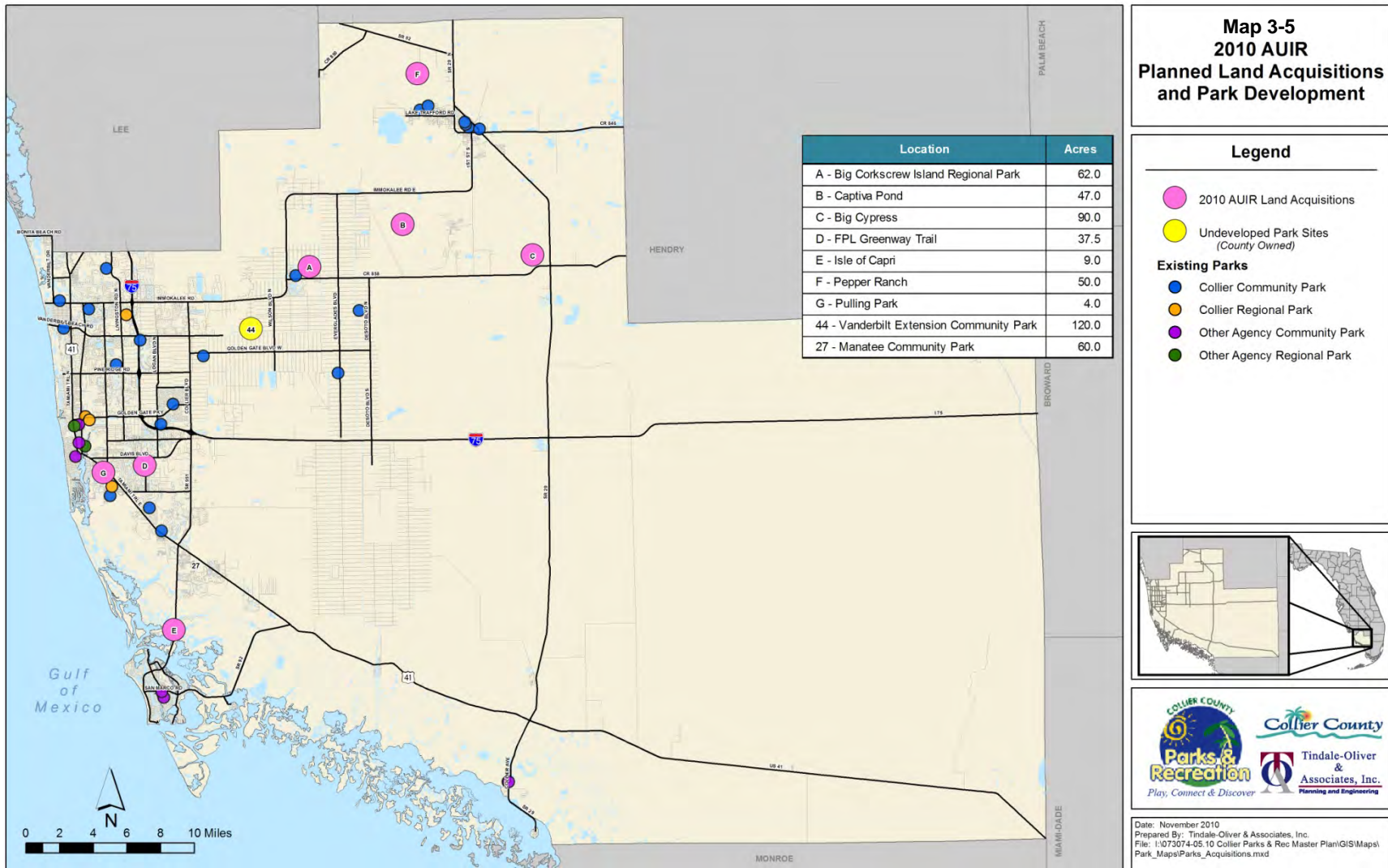
PLANNED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

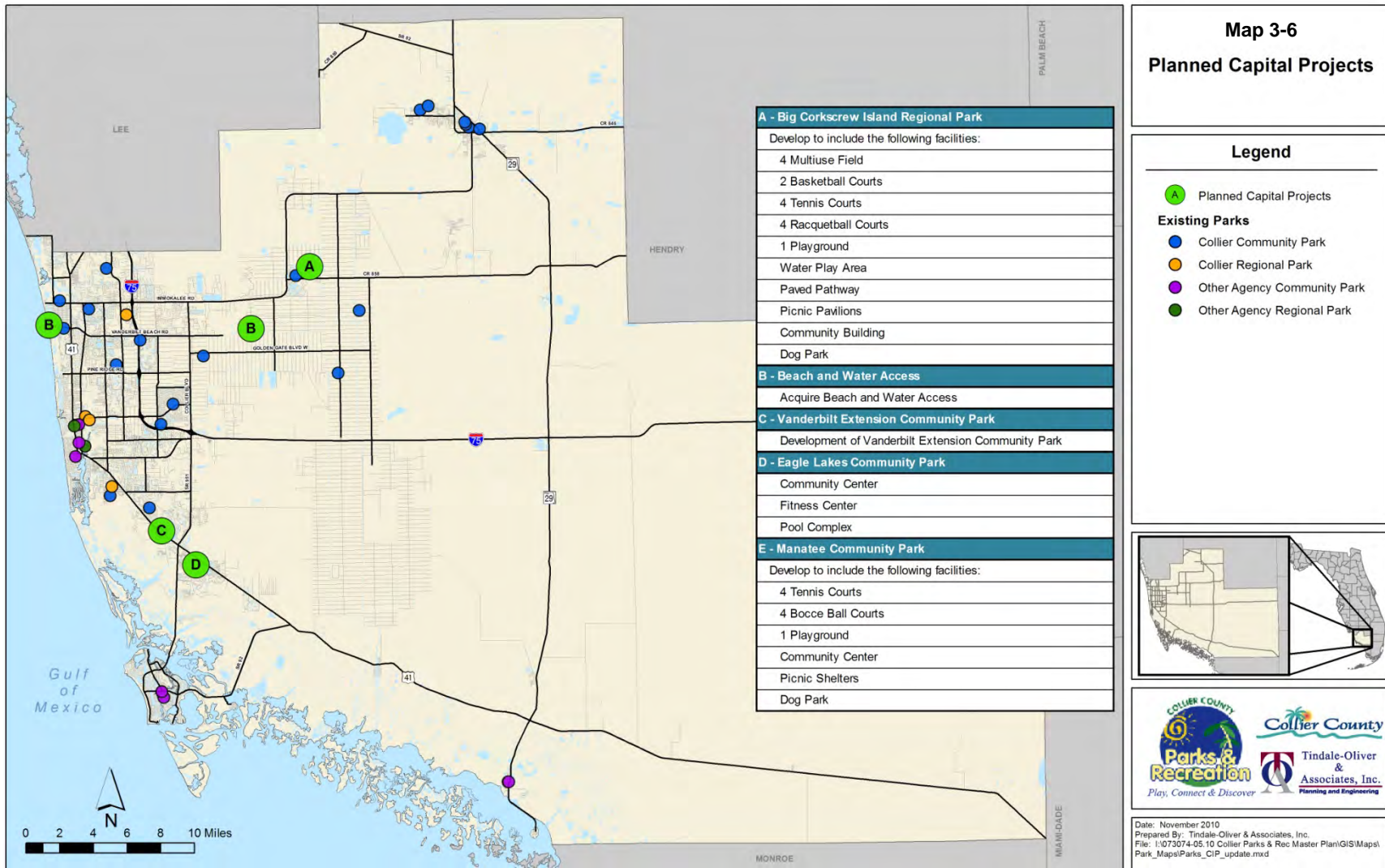
The County Parks and Recreation Department has identified several capital projects planned for the next 10 years, should funding be available. These are major projects and do not include minor capital projects (e.g., parking lot expansion, additional restroom facility, etc.) These projects include:

- Develop Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park
- Develop Manatee Community Park
- Construct Eagle Lakes Community Center and Swimming Pool Complex
- Develop Vanderbilt Extension Community Park
- Acquire beach access at Vanderbilt Beach

As listed above, the County is considering acquisition of three properties to provide beach access at Vanderbilt Beach, which is planned to be funded with Tourist Development Council revenue (hotel bed taxes), a funding source specific to beach land and facilities.

Map 3-6 presents the locations of planned capital parks and recreation projects.







Section 4 – Needs Analysis

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INTRODUCTION TO NEEDS ANALYSIS

The purpose of this section is to determine the needs of Collier County park land and recreation facilities over the next 10 years. The needs analysis consists of three parts:

- Analysis of park land needs
- Analysis of driving distance to parks and recreation facilities (drive-time analysis)
- Current utilization of recreation facilities

The results of the needs analysis will be used to develop the Master Plan recommendations. The results of the needs analysis also will be compared to the input received from the focus group (discussed in Section 5) to validate the Master Plan recommendations or to determine if additional needs identified by the focus group should be considered.

PARK LAND NEEDS ANALYSIS

For Collier County, the AUIR is a financial management and planning tool for the annual update of the Comprehensive Plan Capital Improvements Element (CIE). The AUIR provides an inventory of required infrastructure that the County can use to determine if the adopted LOS is being met and will continue to be met for the next five years. As a result, the finances necessary to maintain the LOS are determined, as the AUIR is a five-year financially feasible plan. For the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the last three AUIRs prepared in 2007, 2008, and 2009 were reviewed.

Over the past several years, the County's Parks and Recreation AUIR has recognized the need for delaying park land acquisition to respond to decreased levels of growth and new development. Further, the reduced population growth impacts the acreage needed to maintain the existing LOS, and the lack of new population has greatly impacted impact fee collections, which is the County's primary sources for funding new park land and facilities. However, at the same time, the County continues to be responsive to strategic acquisition of park land as specific opportunities that make both fiscal and practical sense arise. Planned land acquisitions included in the 2010 AUIR are consistent with the land acquisitions previously presented in Section 3, Map 3-5. As documented in Table 4-1, the County continues to maintain a surplus of community park land per the 2010 AUIR but is anticipating a continued deficit of regional park land, based on the adopted LOS.

For the County's purposes of monitoring achieved and anticipated LOS, the AUIR includes only community and regional park land owned by Collier County. The inclusion of County-owned parks makes sense for the AUIR, given that that the AUIR is a financially-feasible planning document. However, as previously discussed, the Master Plan is taking a holistic picture of the park land and recreation facilities currently available to the residents and visitors of Collier County and, as such, is looking at parks owned by both the County and other agencies (i.e., municipalities of Naples, Marco

Island, and Everglades City) to determine where gaps in recreational needs existing and where future park land and facilities are needed.

**Table 4-1
2010 AUIR Summary**

Description	Community Parks		Regional Parks	
	Acres	Value ²	Acres	Value ²
Five-Year Summary (FY 10-15)				
Available Inventory as of 9/30/10	591.54	\$136,054,200	1,074.68	\$247,176,400
Required Inventory as of 9/30/15 ¹	472.16	\$108,596,800	1,286.24	\$295,835,200
Proposed AUIR FY 10/11 - 14/15	(47.00)	(\$10,810,000)	165.50	\$38,065,000
5-Year Surplus or (Deficit)	72.38	\$16,647,400	(46.06)	(\$10,593,800)
Ten-Year Summary (FY 10-20)				
Available Inventory as of 9/30/10 ¹	591.54	\$136,054,200	1,074.68	\$247,176,400
Required Inventory as of 9/30/20 ¹	527.05	\$121,221,500	1,427.99	\$328,437,700
Proposed AUIR FY 10/11 - 19/20	(47.00)	(\$10,810,000)	302.50	\$69,575,000
10-Year Surplus or (Deficit)	17.49	\$4,022,700	(50.81)	(\$11,686,300)

¹LOS Standard: Community Park - 1.2 ac/1,000 (unincorporated county); Regional Park - 2.9 ac/1,000 (countywide).

²Unit Cost: \$230,000/acre.

Source: Collier County 2010 Annual Inventory and Update Report (September 2010).

As shown in Section 3, Table 3-4, based on the current inventory of city-owned park land inventory, there is an additional 74.58 acres of municipal community park land and 36.6 acres of municipal regional park land. When the municipal park land is added to the community and regional park land in the 2010 AUIR, the 2020 surplus of community park land increases to 92.07 acres, while the 2020 deficit of regional park land decreases to 14.21 acres.

When taking into account only the County-owned existing community park acreage and existing and planned regional park acreage available by 2020 in Collier County, the County will exceed the required community park acreage based on the adopted LOS standard. In addition, the County will be within 3.5 percent of the required regional park land acreage based on the adopted LOS standard. However, when taking into account the total (County and City-owned) existing and planned regional park acreage available by 2020 in Collier County, the County will be within one percent of the required regional park land acreage based on the adopted LOS standard.

Table 4-2
10-Year Park Land Surplus/Deficit Including Municipal Park Land

Description	Community Parks (acres)	Regional Parks (acres)
10-Year Surplus or (Deficit) ⁽¹⁾	17.49	(50.81)
Available Municipal Park Acreage ⁽²⁾	74.58	36.60
Remaining 10-Year Surplus (Deficit) ⁽³⁾	92.07	(14.21)

(1) Source: Table 4-1.

(2) Source: Table 3-4.

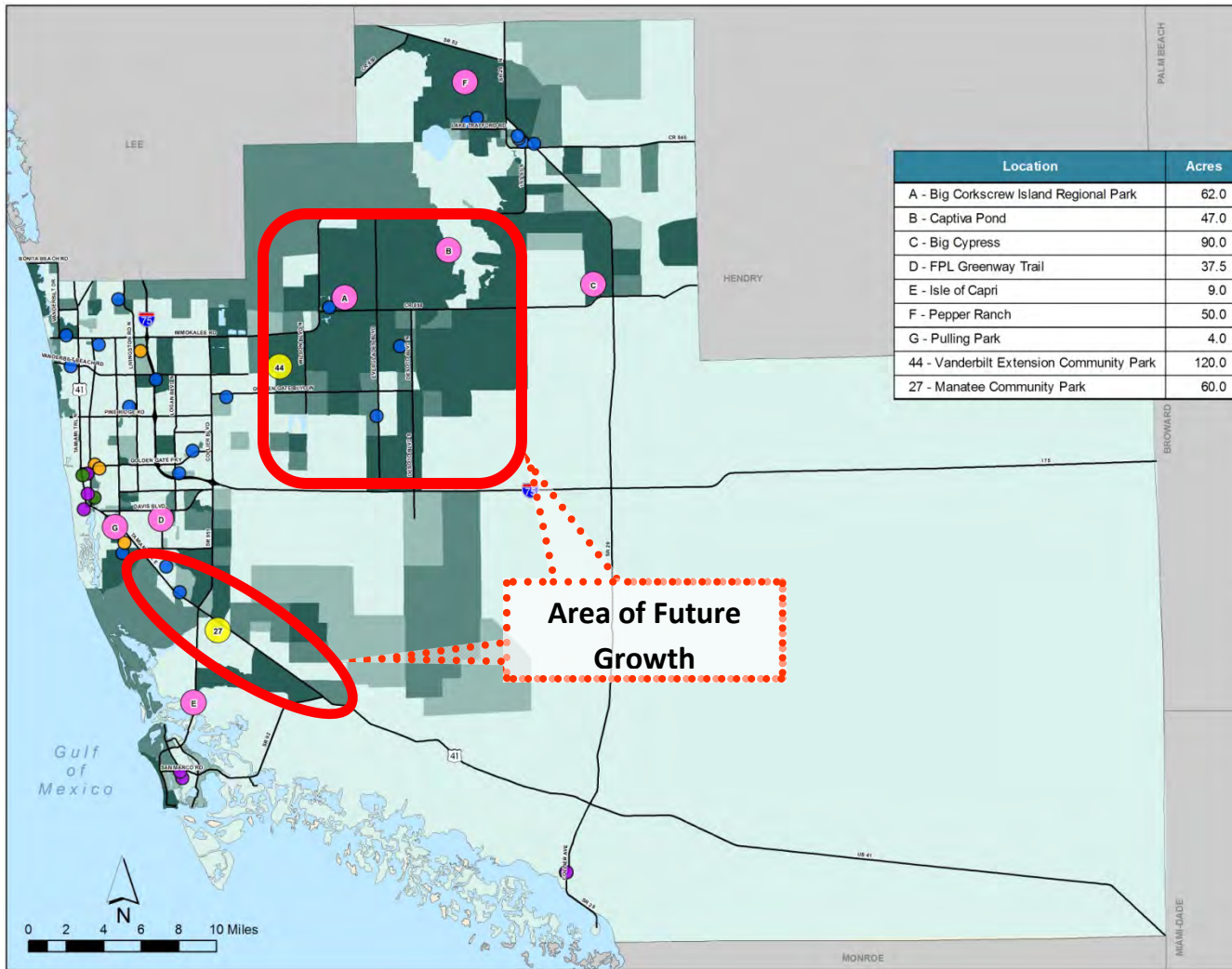
(3) 10-Year Surplus/Deficit from 2010 AUIR plus available municipal park acreage.

Including the planned regional land acquisitions, the County will be very close to meeting the required 2020 regional park acreage based on the adopted LOS. However, the location of the planned park land acquisitions is equally, if not more important than the quantity of land to be acquired.

As illustrated on Map 4-1, of the 302.5 acres of regional park land planned to be acquired by 2020, approximately 83 percent is located in areas of the highest projected growth over the next 10 years. This indicates that the County is effectively planning for future population growth by proactively acquiring regional park land concurrent with areas of future growth.

Map 4-2 illustrates the location of the County’s planned parks and recreation capital projects relative to projected growth. As shown, the County has identified capital projects that are consistent with areas of future growth within Collier County. It is recognized that beach access at Vanderbilt Beach is not in an area of projected population growth. However, the location of beach access sites are limited along the coastal properties and the acquisition of beach access at Vanderbilt Beach will provide additional beach access that will accommodate future population growth (as well as visitors and tourists) elsewhere in the county.

Additional areas where the County may need to monitor future growth and evaluate the need to purchase park land should the growth occur are circled on Maps 4-1 and 4-2. These areas are chosen both because of high growth and there is longer than a 15-20 minute drive-time to the nearest existing or planned park. The drive-time analysis used to make this determination is discussed later in the section.



Location	Acres
A - Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park	62.0
B - Captiva Pond	47.0
C - Big Cypress	90.0
D - FPL Greenway Trail	37.5
E - Isle of Capri	9.0
F - Pepper Ranch	50.0
G - Pulling Park	4.0
44 - Vanderbilt Extension Community Park	120.0
27 - Manatee Community Park	60.0

**Map 4-1
2010 AUIR
Planned Land Acquisitions
and Park Development
with Population Growth
(2010 - 2020)**

Legend

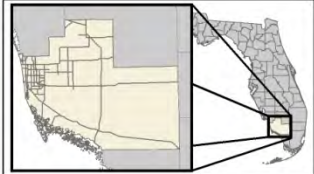
- 2010 AUIR Land Acquisitions (Pink circle)
- Undeveloped Park Sites (County Owned) (Yellow circle)

Existing Parks

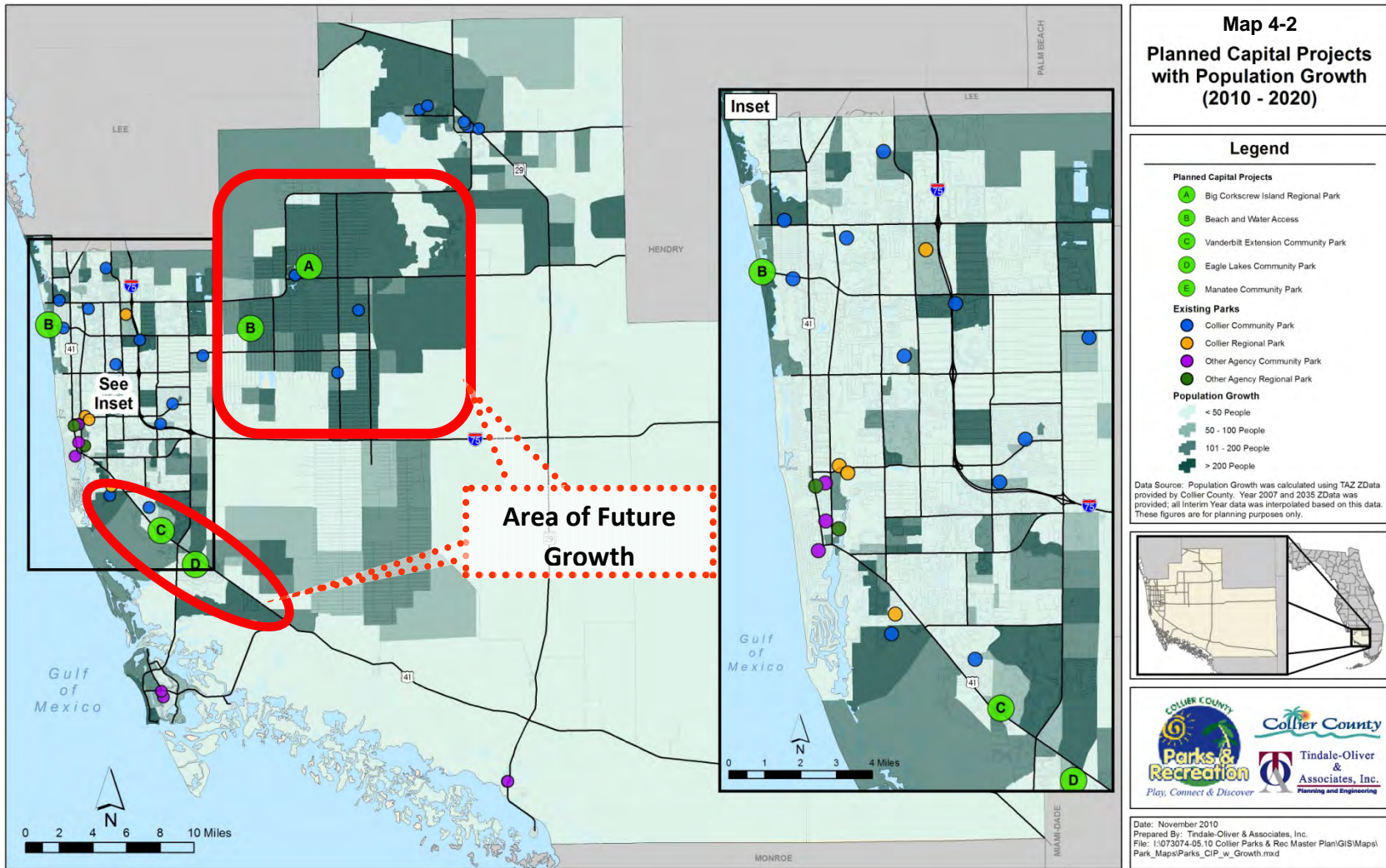
- Collier Community Park (Blue circle)
- Collier Regional Park (Orange circle)
- Other Agency Community Park (Purple circle)
- Other Agency Regional Park (Green circle)

Population Growth

- < 50 People (Lightest green square)
- 50 - 100 People (Light green square)
- 101 - 200 People (Medium green square)
- > 200 People (Darkest green square)



Date: November 2010
 Prepared By: Tindale-Oliver & Associates, Inc.
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DRIVE-TIME ANALYSIS

Collier County's Growth Management Plan, Recreation and Open Space Element includes Objective 3.1, which states:

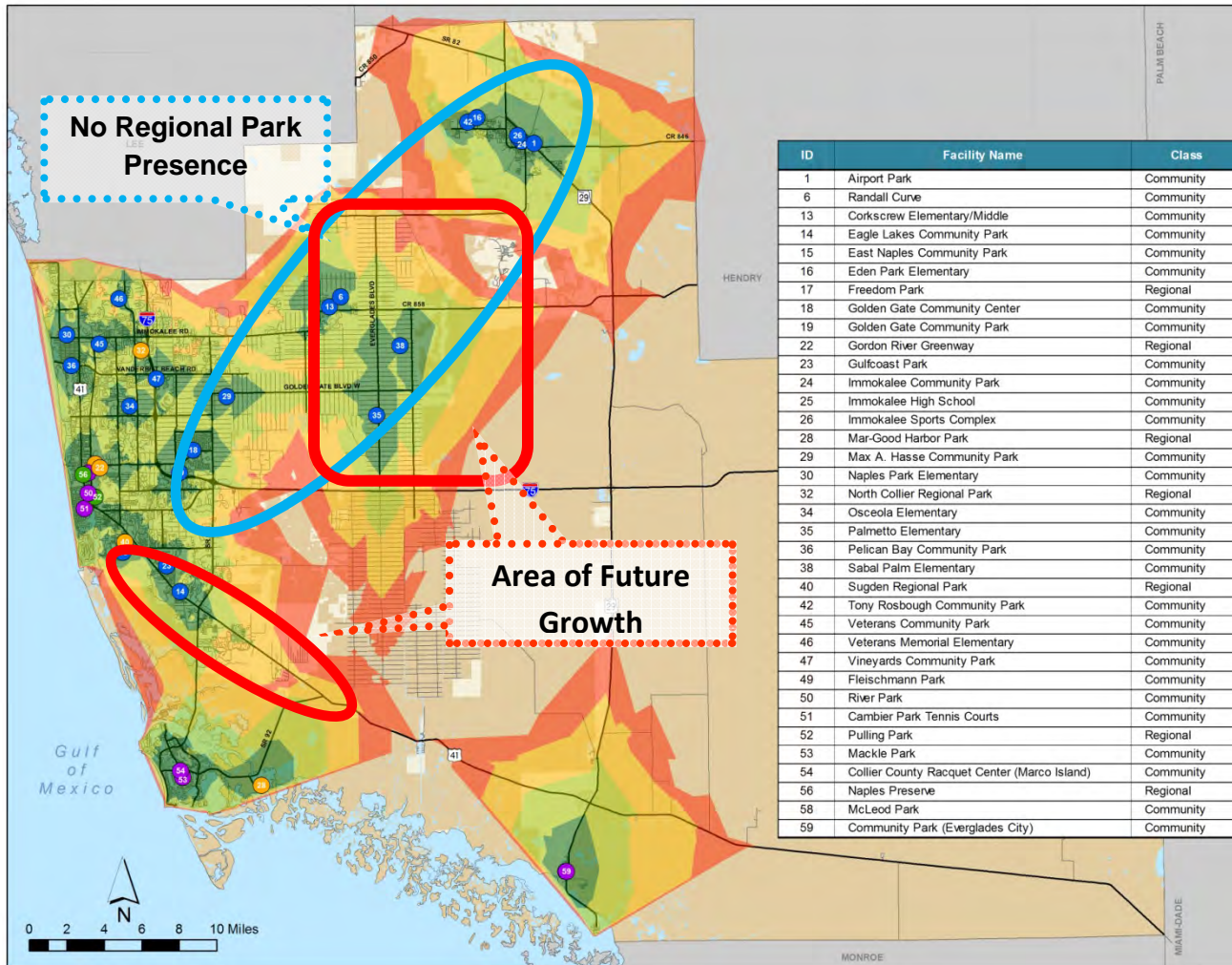
*"By the year 2010, the Parks and Recreation Department will develop a Community and Regional Park Plan to provide larger parks and recreational facilities as well as passive open space within a **15- to 20-minute drive** of residents within the coastal Urban Designated Area, the Immokalee Urban Designated Area, and Northern Golden Gate Estates (this excludes Conservation designated areas, Agricultural/Rural designated areas, Southern Golden Gate Estates, and the outlying Urban Designated Areas of Copeland, Port of the Islands, Plantation Island and Chokoloskee)."*

To determine if the above currently is being met, a drive-time analysis was completed for the following:

- Regional and Community Parks (combined)
- Athletic Fields
- Hard Courts
- Aquatic Recreation Facilities
- Miscellaneous Facilities

Because of the extensive parks and recreation system in Collier County, a significant portion of the county's current residents and visitors have access to at least one, if not more, parks and associated recreation facilities within a 15-20 minute drive time. As such, for purposes of this Master Plan, the drive-time analysis was expanded to show the differential drive time for several tiers: 0-5 minutes, 5-10 minutes, 10-15 minutes, 15-20 minutes, and greater than 20 minutes.

The results of the drive time analysis, which are illustrated in Maps 4-3 thru 4-7, are summarized into two categories of potential needs: Areas of Immediate Need and Areas of Future Growth. Areas of Immediate Need are identified based on current population, while Areas of Future Growth are based on projected population growth from 2010-2020.



ID	Facility Name	Class
1	Airport Park	Community
6	Randall Curve	Community
13	Corkscrew Elementary/Middle	Community
14	Eagle Lakes Community Park	Community
15	East Naples Community Park	Community
16	Eden Park Elementary	Community
17	Freedom Park	Regional
18	Golden Gate Community Center	Community
19	Golden Gate Community Park	Community
22	Gordon River Greenway	Regional
23	Gulfcoast Park	Community
24	Immokalee Community Park	Community
25	Immokalee High School	Community
26	Immokalee Sports Complex	Community
28	Mar-Good Harbor Park	Regional
29	Max A. Hasse Community Park	Community
30	Naples Park Elementary	Community
32	North Collier Regional Park	Regional
34	Osceola Elementary	Community
35	Palmetto Elementary	Community
36	Pelican Bay Community Park	Community
38	Sabal Palm Elementary	Community
40	Sugden Regional Park	Regional
42	Tony Rosbough Community Park	Community
45	Veterans Community Park	Community
46	Veterans Memorial Elementary	Community
47	Vineyards Community Park	Community
49	Fleischmann Park	Community
50	River Park	Community
51	Cambiar Park Tennis Courts	Community
52	Pulling Park	Regional
53	Mackle Park	Community
54	Collier County Racquet Center (Marco Island)	Community
56	Naples Preserve	Regional
58	McLeod Park	Community
59	Community Park (Everglades City)	Community

Map 4-3
Existing Parks
(Community & Regional)
Drive Time Service Area

Legend

Community & Regional Parks

- Collier Community Park
- Collier Regional Park
- Other Agency Community Park
- Other Agency Regional Park

Drive Time

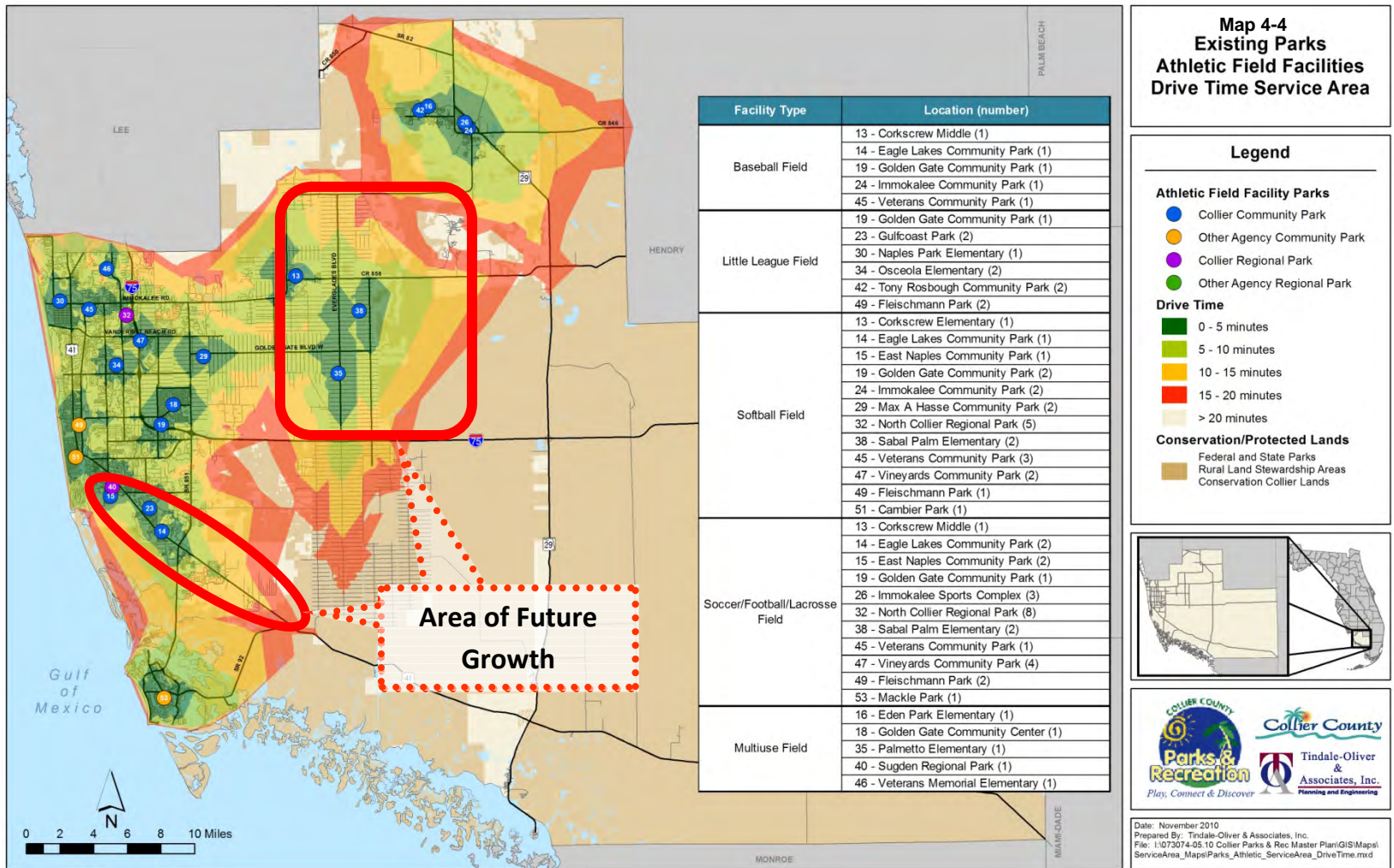
- 0 - 5 minutes
- 5 - 10 minutes
- 10 - 15 minutes
- 15 - 20 minutes
- > 20 minutes

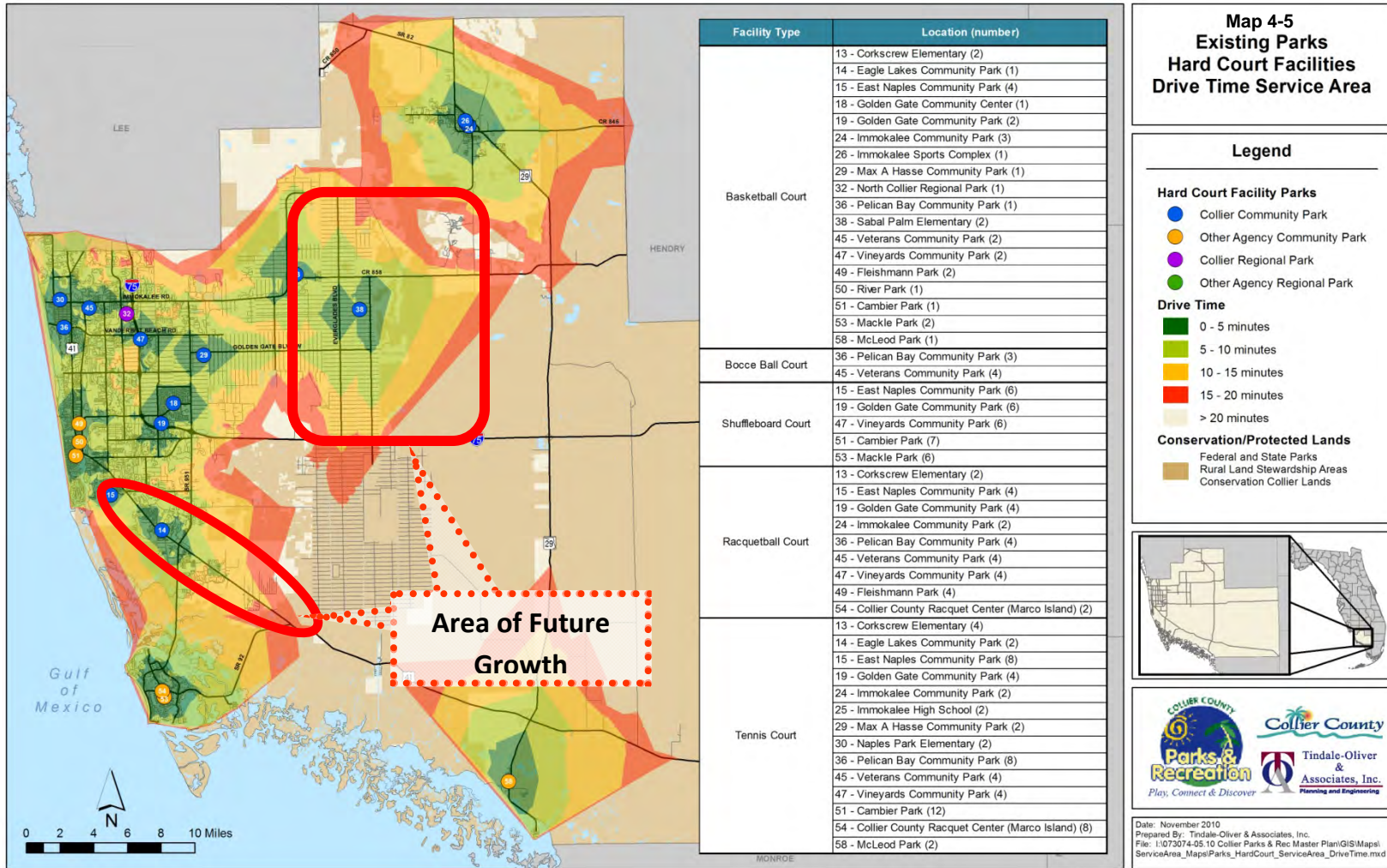
Conservation/Protected Lands

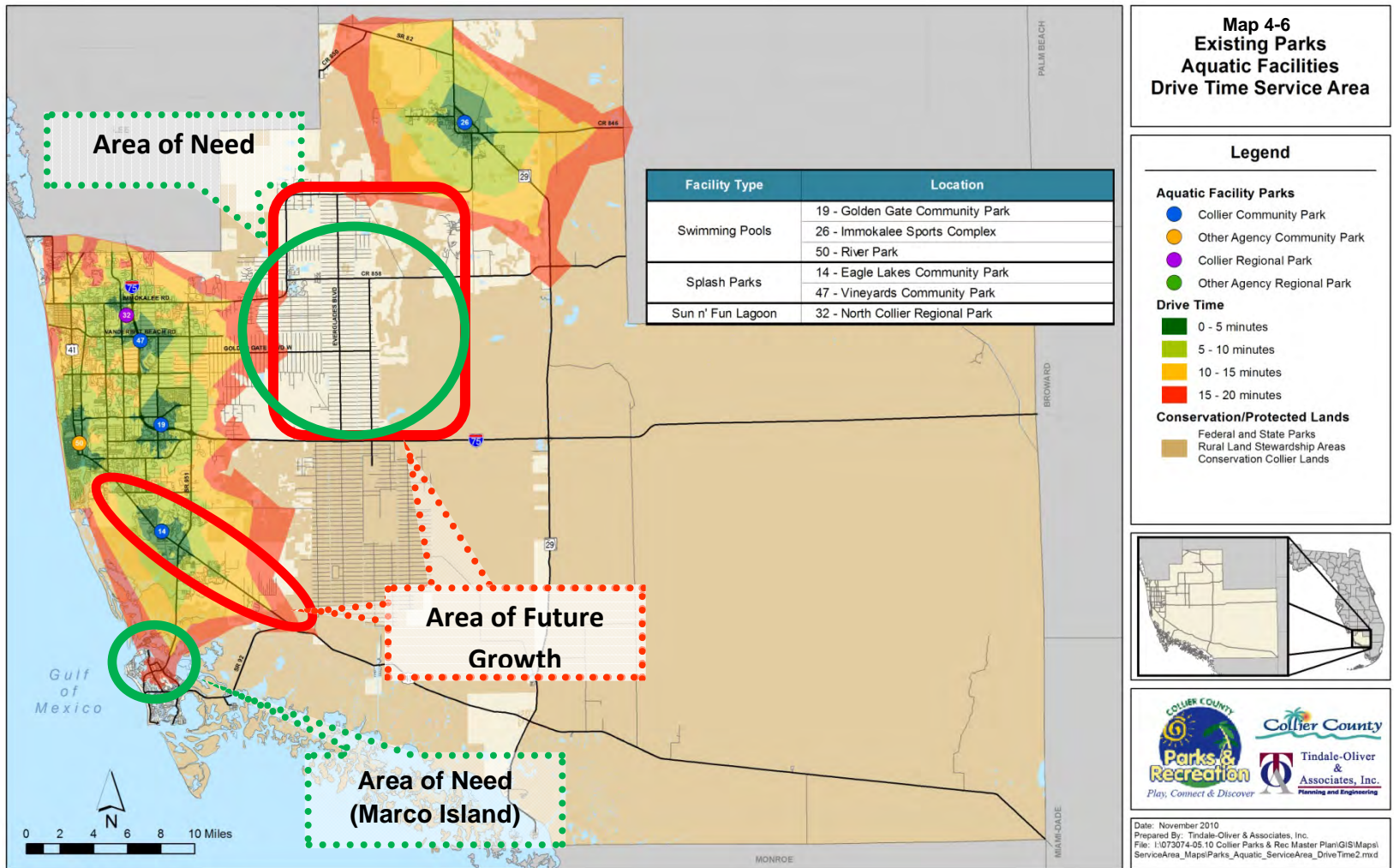
- Federal and State Parks
- Rural Land Stewardship Areas
- Conservation Collier Lands

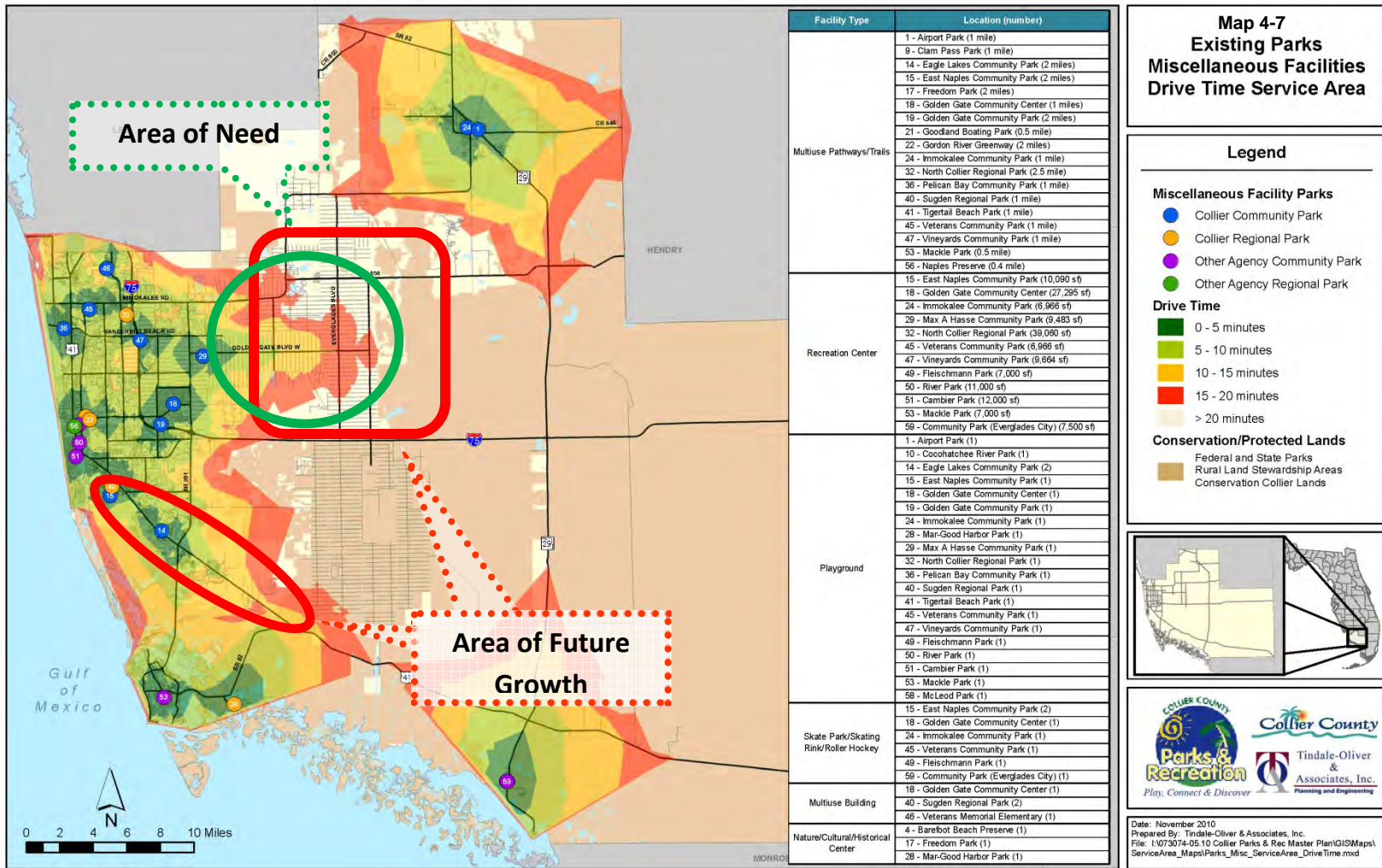


Date: November 2010
 Prepared By: Tindale-Oliver & Associates, Inc.
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Future Park Land

- Area of Need –The drive time analysis indicates that the coverage area of existing community parks relative to existing county population is very good; however, a significant portion of the existing population lacks the presence of a regional park, including The Estates, Corkscrew, and Immokalee. Regional park land planned to be acquired over the next 10 years, including Big Corkscrew Island, Pulling Park, and Big Cypress, could address the lack of regional park land in these areas.
- Area of Future Growth – Population projections indicate future growth along the US 41 corridor. The County is proposing development of a passive park (Manatee Community Park) along US 41 south of CR 951 that would serve many of the existing and future residents along this portion of the US 41 corridor. Collier-Seminole State Park is located off US 41 south of CR 92; however, there are no active recreation facilities (i.e., athletic fields, hard courts, aquatic facilities, etc.) at this state park, and future development along this corridor likely will result in a need for additional active recreation facilities in this area. As such, the County should evaluate if the acreage at Manatee Community Park is sufficient to provide both passive and active facilities, or if additional community park land along the US 41 corridor is needed to provide additional “active” recreational facilities.
- Area of Future Growth – Population projections indicate future growth in the surrounding Everglades Boulevard. Future regional parks, including Big Corkscrew Island and Big Cypress, will provide park land and recreational facilities in proximity to this area.

Athletic Fields and Hard Courts

- Area of Need –The drive time analysis indicates that the coverage area of existing athletic fields and hard courts relative to existing county population is very good. There are few areas with existing population that are not within 15 minutes of an athletic field or hard court.
- Area of Future Growth – Athletic fields and hard courts located at future community parks such as Manatee Community Park or another future community park located further south along US 41 will address facility needs related to future population growth along US 41.
- Area of Future Growth – Athletic fields and hard courts located at future regional parks such as Big Corkscrew Island and Big Cypress will address facility needs related to future population growth surrounding Everglades Boulevard and also help to alleviate usage at existing facilities.

Aquatic Facilities

- Area of Need – An aquatic facility is needed to serve the existing population of northern Golden Gate Estates. This currently populated area is just outside the urban area of the county and has limited access to any of the existing public aquatic facilities. The inclusion of an Interactive Water Feature or Splash Play Area at the proposed Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park would provide northern Golden Gate Estates with a local aquatic facility.
- Area of Immediate Need – The drive-time analysis indicates that an aquatic facility is needed to serve the residents of Marco Island, which would fall under the responsibility of the City of Marco Island.
- Area of Future Growth – An aquatic facility, such as an Interactive Water Feature or Splash Play Area, located at future community parks such as Manatee Community Park or another future community park located further south along US 41 will address facility needs related to future population growth along US 41.
- Area of Future Growth – An aquatic facility, such as an Interactive Water Feature or Splash Play Area, at future regional parks such as Big Corkscrew Island and Big Cypress will address aquatic facilities needs related to future population growth surrounding Everglades Boulevard.

Miscellaneous Facilities

- Area of Need – Miscellaneous recreation facilities (i.e., recreation centers, playgrounds, multi-use trails, etc.) are needed to serve the existing population of northern Golden Gate Estates. This currently populated area is just outside the urban area of the county and has limited access to miscellaneous facilities at other parks. The inclusion of facilities such as recreation centers, playgrounds, and multi-use trails at the proposed Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park would relieve this deficit.
- Area of Future Growth – Miscellaneous recreation facilities (e.g., recreation centers, playgrounds, and multi-use trails) located at future community parks such as Manatee Community Park or another future community park located further south along US 41 will address facility needs related to future population growth along US 41.
- Area of Future Growth – Miscellaneous recreation facilities, such as recreation centers, playgrounds, multi-use trails, etc., at future regional parks such as Big Corkscrew Island and Big Cypress will address aquatic facilities needs related to future population growth surrounding Everglades Boulevard.

UTILIZATION ANALYSIS

The drive-time analysis provides information as to whether the inventory of existing user-oriented parks, as well as recreational facilities within those parks, are located in areas that provide reasonable access to the majority of County residents. However, the need for recreational facilities should not only be determined by the location of existing facilities, but the extent to which these facilities are currently being used.

To examine the current utilization of the County's recreational facilities, usage information provided by Collier County Parks and Recreation Department was reviewed. The County currently maintains weekly usage information for athletic fields at County community and regional parks. Therefore, utilization analyses were conducted for baseball/softball/little league fields and football/soccer/multi-use fields for parks where utilization data are collected and available for analysis.

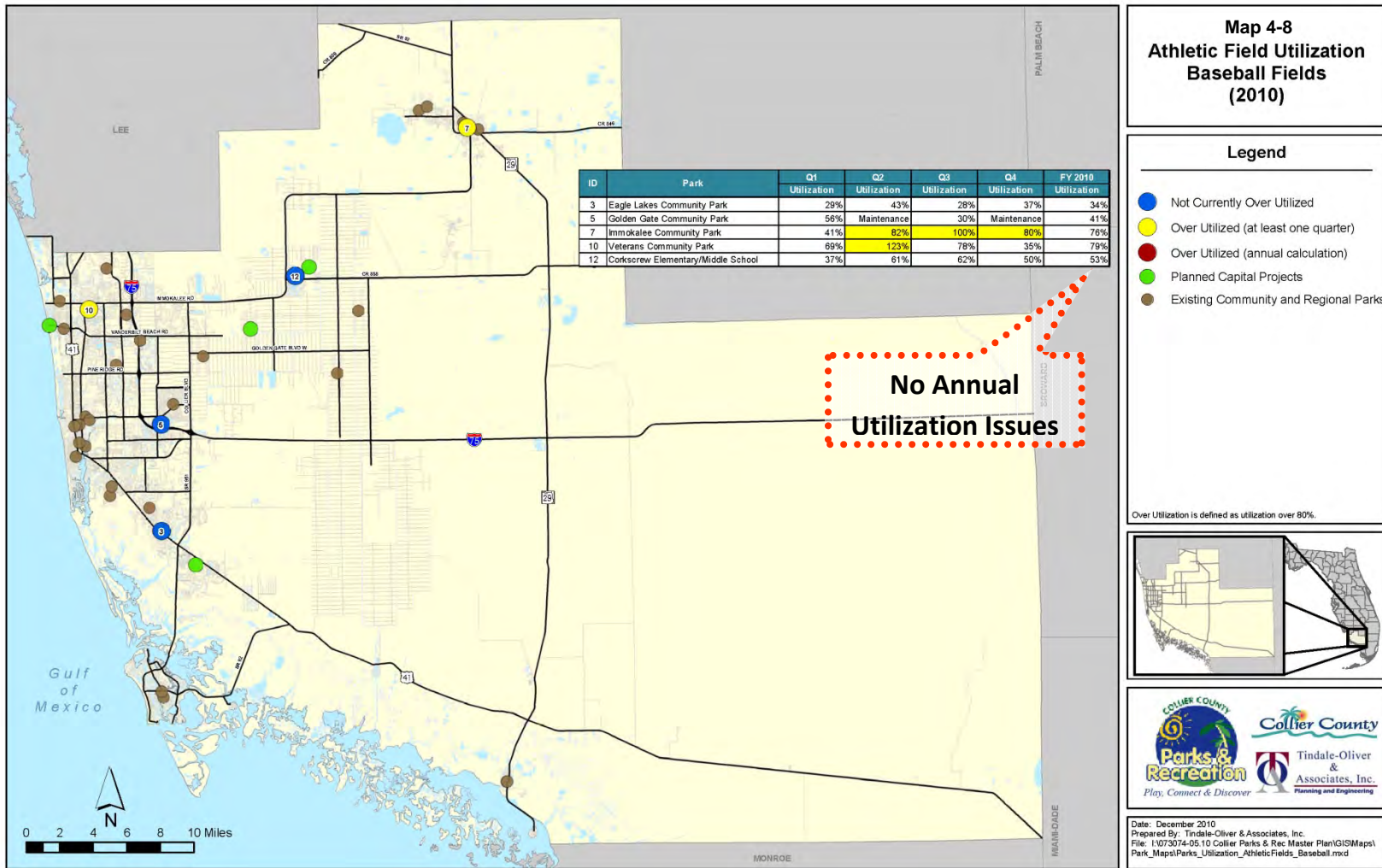
For purposes of the utilization analysis, athletic fields are defined as being "over-utilized" if usage is at or exceeds 95 percent of available hours; however any utilization over 85 percent is highlighted to visually highlight those fields with higher usage. The utilization analysis also looks at usage both on a quarterly as well as annual basis. It should be noted that the utilization of a field takes into account all uses of the field, including special events, and not just athletic-related usage of the field.

The results of the analysis are illustrated in the following maps:

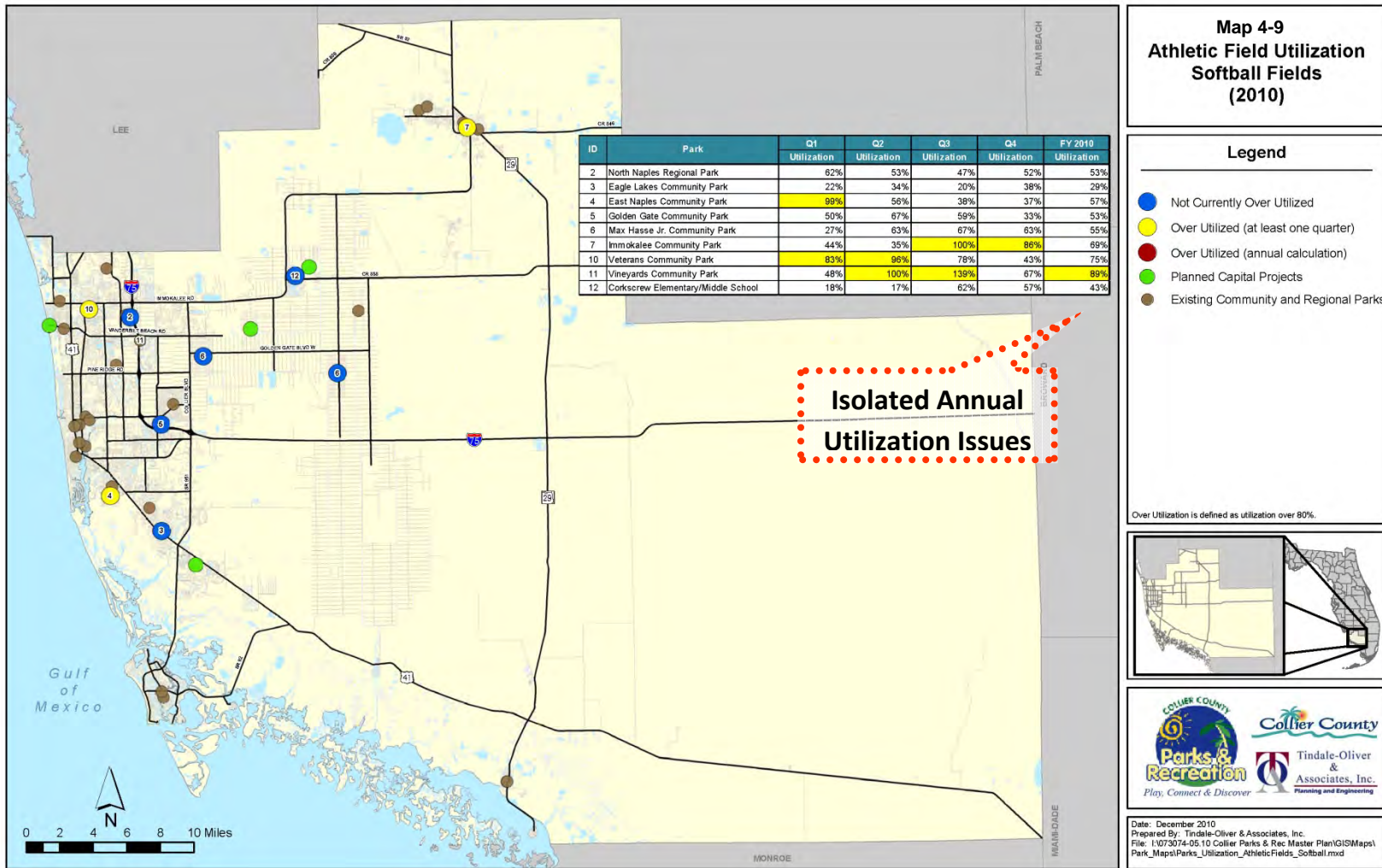
- Map 4-8 illustrates the utilization of baseball fields.
- Map 4-9 illustrates the utilization of softball fields.
- Map 4-10 illustrates the utilization of little league fields.
- Map 4-11 illustrates the utilization of football/soccer fields.
- Map 4-12 illustrates the utilization of multi-use fields.

The above maps indicate the following based on the utilization data available:

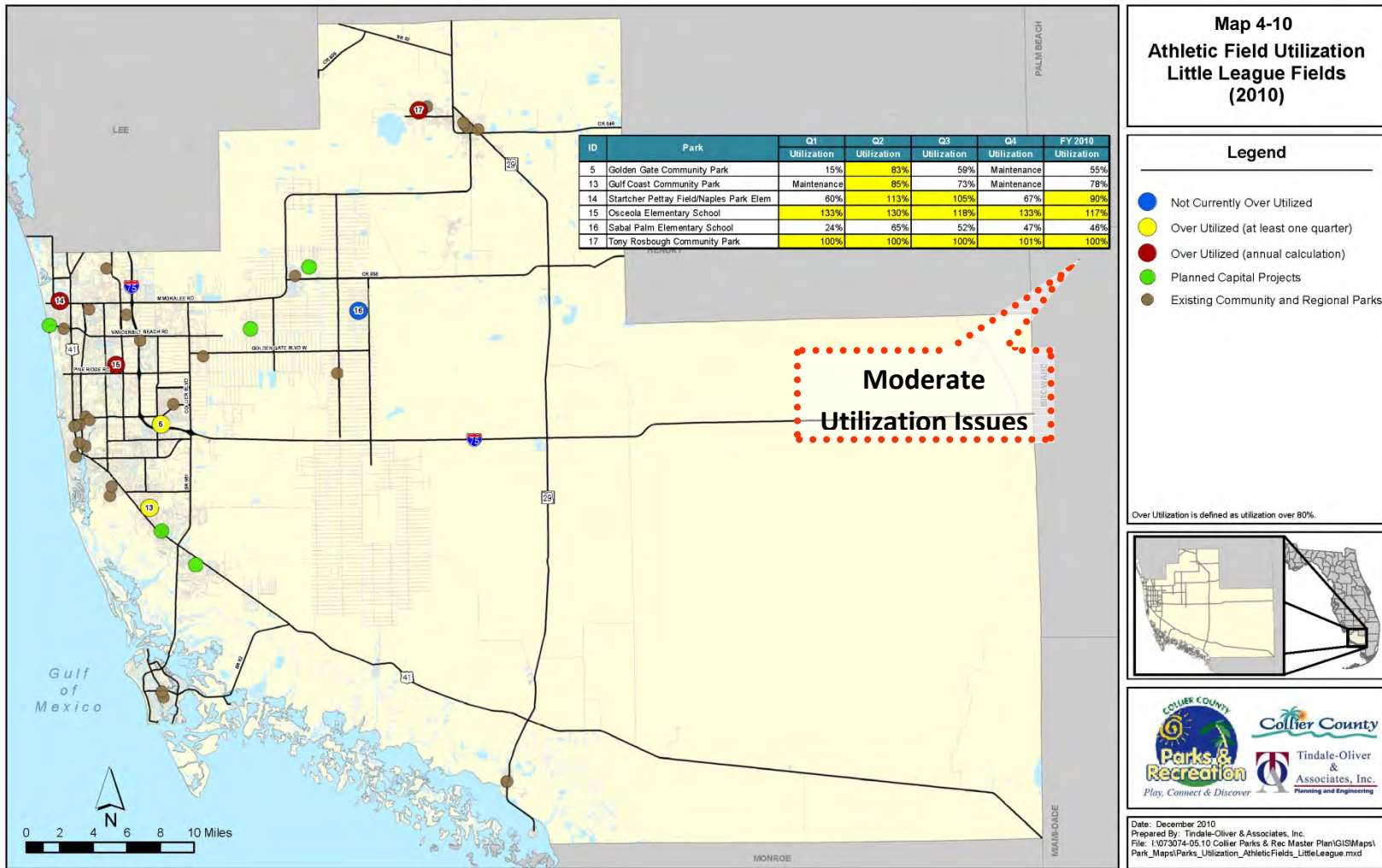
- Baseball and softball fields in Collier County are not currently experiencing utilization issues based on annual utilization data, with the exception of softball fields at Vineyards Community Park; however, baseball and softball fields at certain parks were over-utilized based on quarterly data.
- There are moderate annual utilization issues for little league and multi-use fields.
- There are significant annual utilization issues for football/soccer fields throughout Collier County.



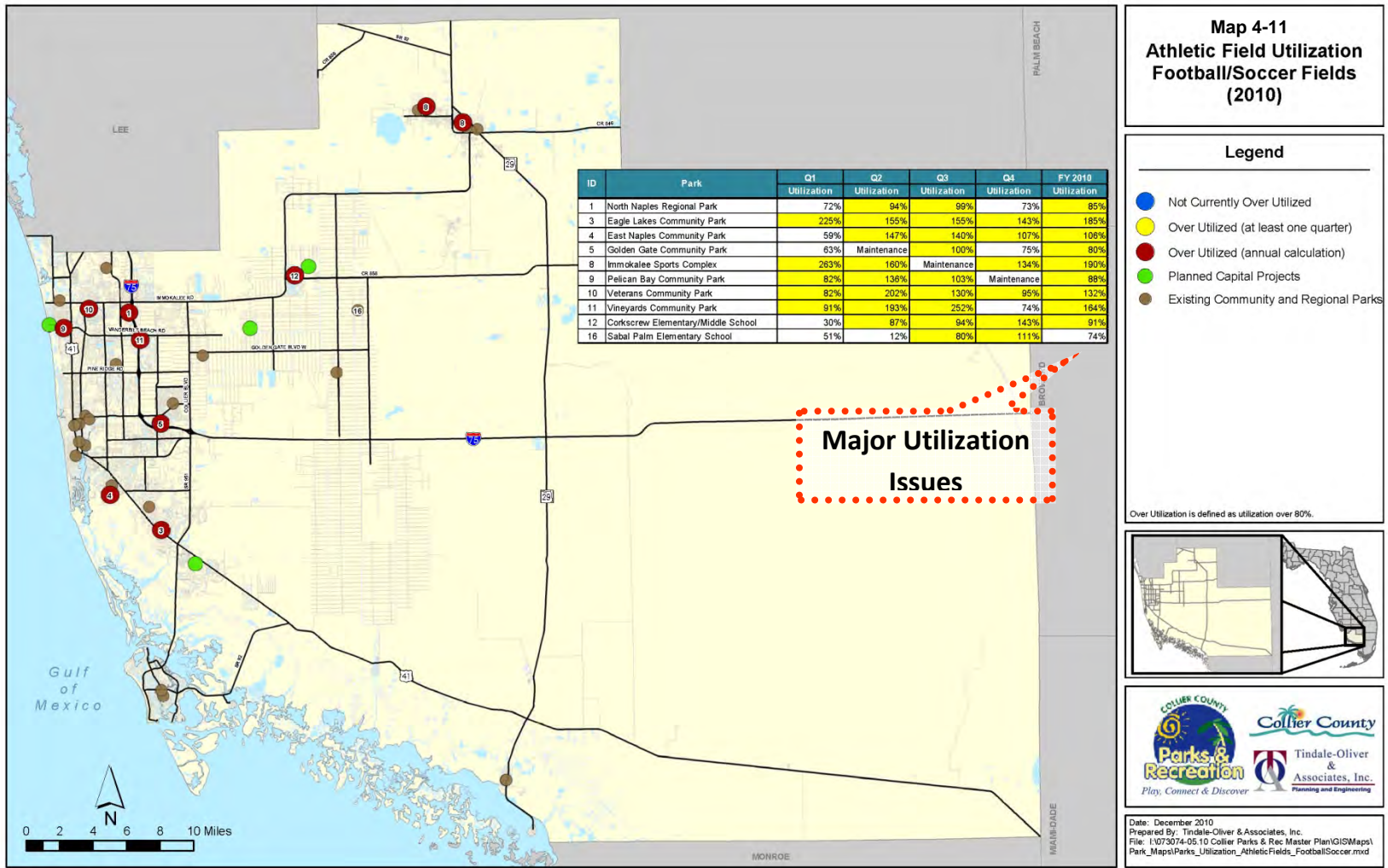
Note: The utilization of a field takes into account all uses of the field, including special events, and not just athletic-related usage of the field.



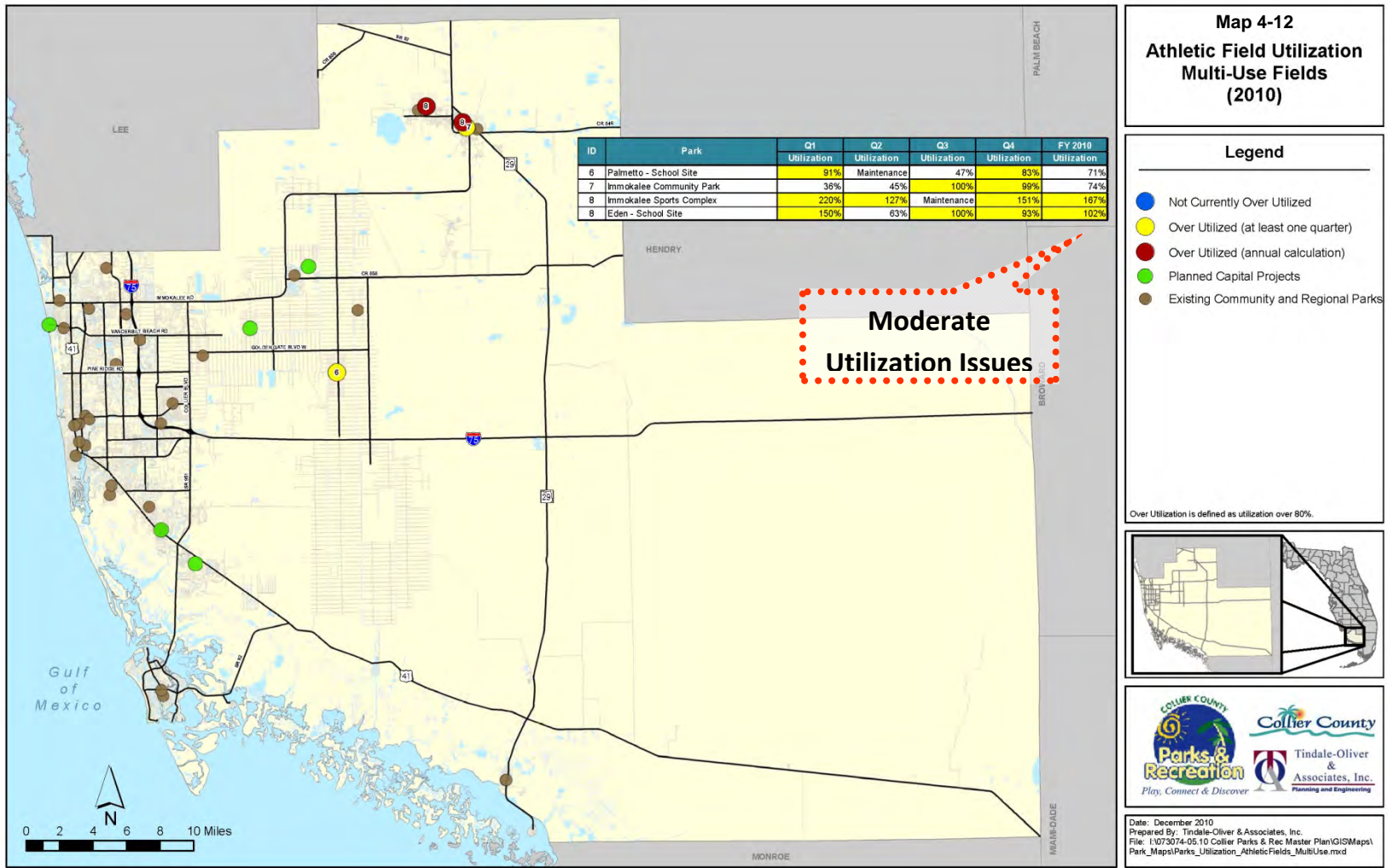
Note: The utilization of a field takes into account all uses of the field, including special events, and not just athletic-related usage of the field.



Note: The utilization of a field takes into account all uses of the field, including special events, and not just athletic-related usage of the field.



Note: The utilization of a field takes into account all uses of the field, including special events, and not just athletic-related usage of the field.



Note: The utilization of a field takes into account all uses of the field, including special events, and not just athletic-related usage of the field.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Collier County currently relies on three primary revenue sources to fund parks and recreation capital projects, including Tourism Development Council (hotel bed tax) revenue, which is used to fund beach projects; miscellaneous grants; and parks and recreation impact fee revenue, which is used to fund capital parks and recreation projects necessitated by growth and new development. Impact fees for the County's regional park system are charged to new residential development within both unincorporated and incorporated Collier County, while impact fees for the County's community park system are charged to new residential development within the unincorporated area only.

Impact fees are the primary funding source for non-beach access capital parks and recreation projects. Due to the economic downturn and slowed residential development, the County has experienced a decrease in parks and recreation impact fee collections over the past several years, while recognizing a need to delay capital projects as growth has slowed. The County currently estimates annual parks and recreation impact fee collections of \$1.7 million, although it should be recognized that actual collections for 2010 are expected to be higher due to an unexpected increase in residential building permit activity.

The primary impact fee expenditure is the repayment of debt service for North Collier Regional Park, annual payments for which total approximately \$3.1 million thru 2026. Therefore, a significant portion of the County's parks and recreation impact fees collected in the immediate future are currently earmarked for the repayment of debt, leaving a funding gap for needed capital projects. As growth and development activity picks up, additional parks and recreation impact fee revenue will be generated beyond that needed to pay the existing debt, providing revenue to help fund needed capital projects.



Section 5 – Focus Group

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FOCUS GROUP PURPOSE

As part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan effort, a focus group meeting was conducted to gain input from a wide range of stakeholders and interested parties. The goal of the focus group was two-fold: first, to provide educational information on the Master Plan process to selected participants, and second, for participants to then identify and prioritize the parks and recreation needs of Collier County over the next 10 years. The reoccurring themes of the focus group included the following related to parks and recreation:

4. What do we want?
5. Where and when do we want it?
6. How do we get there?

Input received from the focus group participants is used to confirm the results of the Needs Analysis discussed in Chapter 4 and to determine if any additional recommendations should be considered for the Master Plan.

FOCUS GROUP FORMAT

The focus group began with an opening presentation to provide an overview of the master planning process, review demographic and inventory data provided to the participants (similar to what is provided in Section 2 – Demographic Analysis and Section 3 – Parks and Recreation Inventory), and review the three break-out group exercises designed to follow the above themes. Following the opening presentation, the participants were divided into four break-out groups in which they completed the set of exercises provided. The focus group wrapped up with a presentation by each group highlighting its discussion of each exercise. During these presentations, each group was asked to discuss consensus reached by the group and also to discuss any dissenting opinions that group members may have had.

The agenda for the focus group is provided in Figure 5-1.

9:00 AM - 9:45 AM	Opening Presentation
10:00 AM - 1:30 PM	Break-Out Group Exercises
	<i>Exercise 1: What Do We Want?</i>
	<i>Exercise 2: Where and When Do We Want It?</i>
	<i>Exercise 3: How Do We Get There?</i>
	Summary Discussion of Group Findings
1:45 PM - 2:45 PM	Presentation of Group Findings
2:45 PM - 3:00 PM	Next Steps

Figure 5-1
Collier County Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Focus Group Agenda

FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANTS

A total of 74 individuals were invited to attend the focus group, representing a wide variety of agencies, organizations, and interests. Overall, 27 participants attended the focus group, which was held in the Exhibit Hall at North Collier Regional Park on Thursday, October 14, 2010. Participants included:

1. Bill Arthur, Golden Gate Advisory Board
2. Dave Ball, Naples Girls Softball Little League*
3. Julie Bissell, Collier County Lacrosse Association*
4. Philip Brougham, Collier County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board*
5. Barbara Buehler, Collier County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
6. Susan Cone, Up A Creek Kayak Tours
7. Ted Decker, Isles of Capri
8. John Dina, Optimist Soccer Club of Naples
9. Brandon Dowdy, YMCA of the Palms
10. Tom Eastman, School District Board of Collier County
11. Doug Finlay, Naples City Council
12. Ann Marie Foley, East Naples Kiwanis
13. Peter Gaddy, Golden Gate Estates Area Civic Association
14. Hunter Hansen, Naples Grande
15. Jim Hoppensteadt, Pelican Bay Foundation
16. Gavin Spooner, Naples Youth Soccer
17. Annette Kniola, Golden Gates Estates Task Force
18. Lester Nino, MEXI Soccer
19. Edward "Ski" Olesky, Collier County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

20. John Ribes, Collier County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
21. David Saletko, Collier County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
22. Brad Schiffer, Collier County Planning Commission
23. Clarence Tears, South Florida Water Management District
24. Janet Vasey, Collier County Productivity Committee
25. Harold Weeks, NAACP Collier County Branch
26. Margaret Winn, Friends of Barefoot Beach
27. Diana Worrall, Citizen Representative*

**Breakout Group Leader*

A full list of the individuals invited is provided in Appendix C. Those invited but unable to attend due to other commitments were asked to provide input via a follow-up email survey.

FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

The remainder of this section documents the input received by each break-out group for each exercise completed during the focus group.

Exercise 1 –What Do We Want?

The goal of Exercise 1 was to get participants to think about what it is that they currently like most about parks and recreation in Collier County as well as what they would like to change. In addition, participants were asked to discuss standards for their ideal community park and regional park. To accomplish this, Exercise 1 was divided into three separate exercises.

Exercise 1 –A: Parks and Recreation Characteristics

For Exercise 1-A, participants first were asked to brainstorm about what they like most about parks and recreation in Collier County and then about what they would most like to change. Table 5-1 provides a summary of the results of this brainstorming exercise, highlights of which include:

- Quality of the parks facilities and programs, quality and friendliness of the Parks and Recreation Department staff, and facility/program diversity were the most frequent responses for what participants liked most.
- More staff presence at the County’s parks and facilities was the change most desired, followed by improved maintenance, more facilities, and more beach and freshwater access.

**Table 5-1
Summary Results of Exercise 1-A**

Description	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Like Most:				
Activities/Programs			X	X
Number of Nature Trails & Open Spaces			X	
Beautification/Landscaping	X			
Environmental Sensitivity		X		
Facility/Program Diversity		X	X	X
Free Parking/Free Use	X			
Parks as a Tourist Attraction	X			
Proximity/Accessibility				X
Quality of Facilities/Maintenance	X	X		X
Quality/Friendliness of Staff	X	X	X	
Water Features			X	
Like to Change:				
"Green" Park System		X		
Acquisition of Park Land		X		
Formulation of "Best Practices" Approach; use other parks in Florida or U.S. to develop benchmarks				
Improved Maintenance			X	X
Improved Marketing Plan (to reach more people)				X
Maximize Access to All		X		
More Facilities	Greenways, Pet Facilities, Athletic Fields, Meeting Rooms, Fitness Centers			"Passive" Facilities
More Flexibility with Scheduling/Beach Hours			X	
More Relevant Facilities by Location	X			
More Staff Presence/Training	X		X	X
Partner with other Agencies/Providers	X			
Smoke Free Environment		X		
Upgrade/Replace Equipment			X	
Maximize Water Access (Beach)		X	X	
Maximize Water Access (Fresh)		X	X	

Exercise 1–B: Regional Park Standards

For Exercise 1-B, participants were presented with a set of regional park standards, including target park size (acreage) and population served. In addition, the standards included a list of baseline facilities (“must-haves”) versus optional and premium facilities (preferred to be included if space and funding allow). Participants were asked for input on the design standards to identify any changes.

The regional park standards provided to the focus group participants are provided below. Recommended changes to the standards are denoted in *italics*.

Regional Park Standards:

Population Served: 1 park per 100,000 population

Optimal Park Size: 50+ acres

Recreational Facilities (Baseline):

- Sports Complex / Office / Concession / Restrooms (1)
- Softball Fields (4 minimum)
- Multipurpose Field (1) – *synthetic fields (Group 2)*
- Football, Soccer and Lacrosse Fields (4 minimum) – *should be 8 minimum (Group 1); should be 6 minimum (Group 4)*
- Playground (1)
- Picnic Areas (8 minimum) – *should be shaded/covered (Group 1)*
- Rental Pavilions (2 minimum) – *change to 4 minimum (Group 3)*
- Restrooms (2)
- Walking Path / Paved (1)
- Play Area of Open Green Space (1)
- Bike Trail (1) – *change to bike access and move Bike Trail to “Optional” (Group 1)*
- Maintenance Building (1)
- Parking throughout Park
- Park Benches throughout Park
- *Add baseball fields (Group 2)*
- *Add basketball courts (Group 2)*
- *Add indoor racquetball/handball (Group 2)*
- *Add marquee sign for events and to provide information that can be easily read by passing cars (Group 2)*
- *Add multipurpose/racquetball courts (4) (Group 3)*
- *All facilities included under community park “baseline” standard should be present at a regional park (Group 4)*

Recreational Facilities (Optional):

- Swimming Pool / Office / Restrooms (1) – *move to “baseline” (Group 4)*
- IWF (Interactive Water Feature / Splash Play Area) (1) – *move to “baseline” (Group 2); move to “baseline” (Group 4)*
- Gymnasium/ Restrooms (1) – *move to “baseline” (Group 1)*
- Fitness Center / Office / Restrooms/ Locker Rooms (1) – *move to “baseline” (Group 4)*
- Dog Park (1) – *move to “baseline” (Group 2)*
- Amphitheatre (1)
- Nature Trail (1) – *move to “baseline” (Group 4)*
- Sports Complex for Football, Soccer and Lacrosse/ Concession / Restrooms / Office (1)
- Sports Complex for Softball/ Concession / Restrooms / Office (1)
- *Add fire pit/movie night (Group 2)*

Recreational Facilities (Premium):

- Water Park / Other Large Attraction including: Office / Concession / Restrooms (1)
- Boat Launch /Water Access (1) – *move to “optional” (Group 3)*
- Community and Rental Building for Cultural Activities / Restrooms (1) – *move to “baseline” (Group 1)*
- Disc Golf (1)
- Ski Lake (1) – *Move to “baseline” if lake exists (Group 2)*
- Bridle Paths / Horseback Riding (1)
- Camping (1)

Exercise 1–C: Community Park Standards

For Exercise 1-C, participants were presented with a set of community park standards and asked to provide input on the design standards and identify changes, similar to what was asked for Exercise 1-B (regional parks). The community park standards provided to the focus group participants are provided below. Recommended changes to the standards are denoted in *italics*.

Community Park Standards:

Population Served: 1 park per 5,000 population – *should serve 10,000 population due to all the private facilities provided in private subdivisions (Group 3)*

Optimal Park Size: 20-50 acres (minimum 5 acres if adjoined to school)

Recreational Facilities (Baseline):

- Recreation Center/ Meeting Rooms/ Restrooms / Office (1)
- Playground (1)

- Baseball Fields (2)
- Softball Fields (2)
- Multipurpose Field (1)
- Football / Soccer / Lacrosse Field (2) – *change to 4 minimum (Group 1)*
- Tennis Courts (2)
- Racquetball Courts (2) – *should include handball courts (Group 2); move to “optional” (Group 4)*
- Concession Building / Restrooms (1)
- Basketball Courts (2)
- Picnic Areas (6) – *should be shaded/covered (Group 1)*
- Rental Pavilions (2)
- Walking Path (1)
- Play Area of Open Green Space (1) – *may not be necessary with multipurpose field (Group 4)*
- Maintenance Building (1)
- Parking throughout Park
- Park Benches throughout Park
- *Add shading to slides/playgrounds (Group 2)*
- *Add shade structures throughout park (Group 4)*

Recreational Facilities (Optional):

- Swimming Pool/ Office / Restrooms (1)
- IWF (Interactive Water Feature / Splash Play Area) (1) – *move to “baseline” (Group 2)*
- Bike Trail (1)
- Fitness Center/ Office / Restrooms / Locker Rooms (1) *move to “baseline” (Group 4)*
- Dog Park (1)
- Covered Basketball Courts (2) – *move to “baseline” (Group 2); move to “premium” (Group 4)*

Recreational Facilities (Premium):

- Skate Park / Office / Restrooms (1)
- BMX Track / Office / Restrooms (1)
- Amphitheatre (1)
- Boat Launch (1) – *if park is located on water, move to “baseline” (Group 4)*

The results of Exercises 1-A and 1-B indicate that the participants would like to see modifications to the standards, in particular to the “baseline” facility standards for both regional and community parks. Some comments to note include:

- More athletic fields and courts added to the “baseline” standards, both in type and number provided.
- Provide shade structures, in particular for basketball courts, picnic pavilions, and playgrounds.

- Provide additional signage and advertising visible by passing cars.
- Increase presence of aquatic facilities, such as swimming pools or interactive water features by moving to the “baseline” standards.
- Enhance recreation centers included under the “baseline” standards to provide gymnasiums and fitness centers.
- Design standards to maximize water access at any park when available.

Exercise 2 –Where and When Do We Want It?

The goal of Exercise 2 was to identify and prioritize the parks and recreation needs of Collier County over the next 10 years. Participants were provided with the planned land acquisitions and planned capital projects identified by the County and asked to provide input relating to need and priority.

Exercise 2-A: Planned Land Acquisitions

For Exercise 2-A, participants were asked to review the planned regional park land acquisitions over the next 10 years as identified in the 2010 AUIR. There are no proposed community park land acquisitions identified in the 2010 AUIR. As discussed in Section 3, Parks and Recreation Inventory, the regional park land acquisitions identified in the 2010 AUIR are not land purchases, but are acquisitions in the form of an interdepartmental transfer, lease, or developer contribution. As such, these acquisitions do not directly impact the Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Plan. Figure 5-2 was provided to the participants to illustrate the planned land acquisitions.

Input provided by each break-out group relating to the need to acquire more regional park land includes the following.

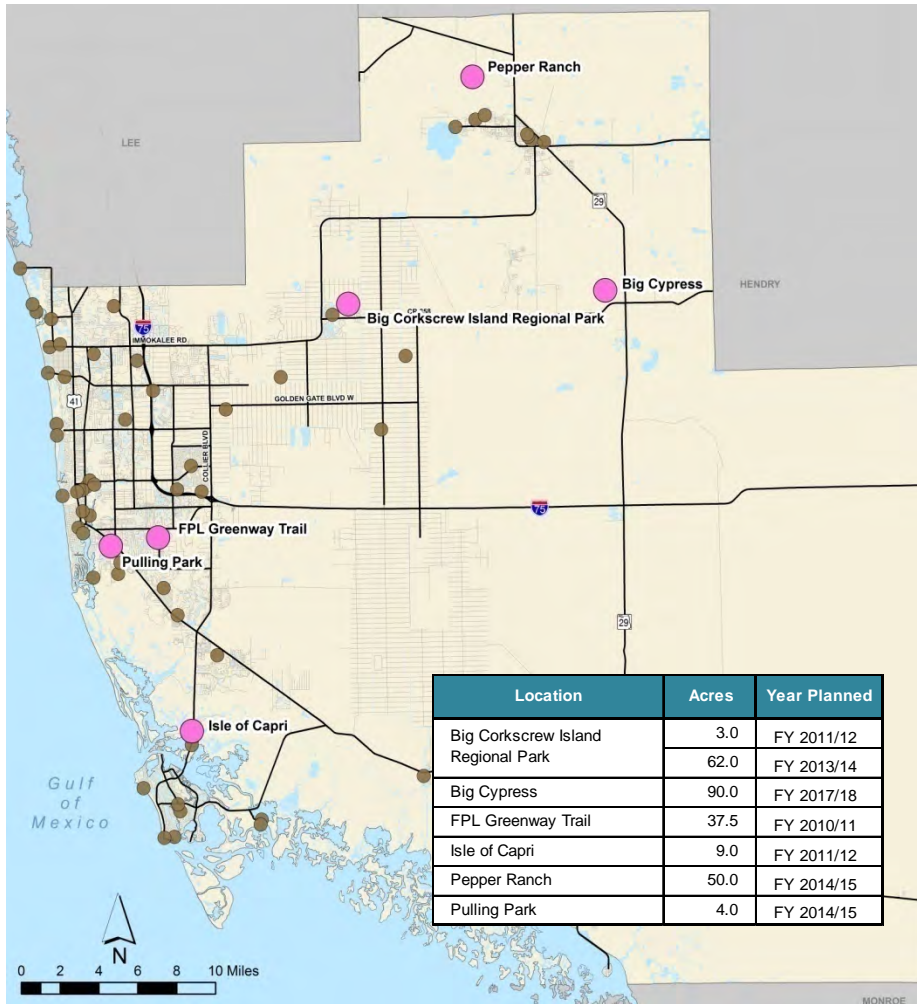
- Group 1:
 - Quarry in Golden Gate Estates could provide community park land with water access.
 - Regional park land needed in the southeast part of Golden Gate Estates.
- Group 2:
 - New park needed southeast of Big Cypress between SR 29 and the Collier/Hendry county line.
 - New park needed southwest of Immokalee.
 - New park needed north of CR 951 near Lee/Collier county line.
 - New park needed east of CR 951 and north of I-75 in west Golden Gate Estates.
- Group 3:
 - Quarry in Golden Gate Estates could provide community park land with water access.
 - More beachfront parks needed.
 - Should consider regional park land in Belle Meade instead of planned land acquisition for Pepper Ranch.

- Group 4:
 - Additional park land needs to be purchased east of US 41 south of the planned Manatee Community Park, as there is project to be high population growth along the US 41 corridor over the next 10 years.

Exercise 2-B: Planned Capital Projects

For Exercise 2-B, participants were asked to provide input on the capital projects planned for the next 10 years as identified by the County Parks and Recreation Department. These are major projects and do not include minor capital projects (e.g., parking lot expansion, additional restroom facility, etc.). Figure 5-3 illustrates these planned capital projects. In addition, participants were asked to provide input on any capital projects they felt were needed in addition to those identified on the map. To accomplish this, participants were asked to determine which projects were needed based on the demographic data provided, existing inventories, and their own opinions as members of the parks and recreation community.

**Figure 5-2
Planned Regional Park Land Acquisitions**



**Figure 5-3
Planned Capital Projects**

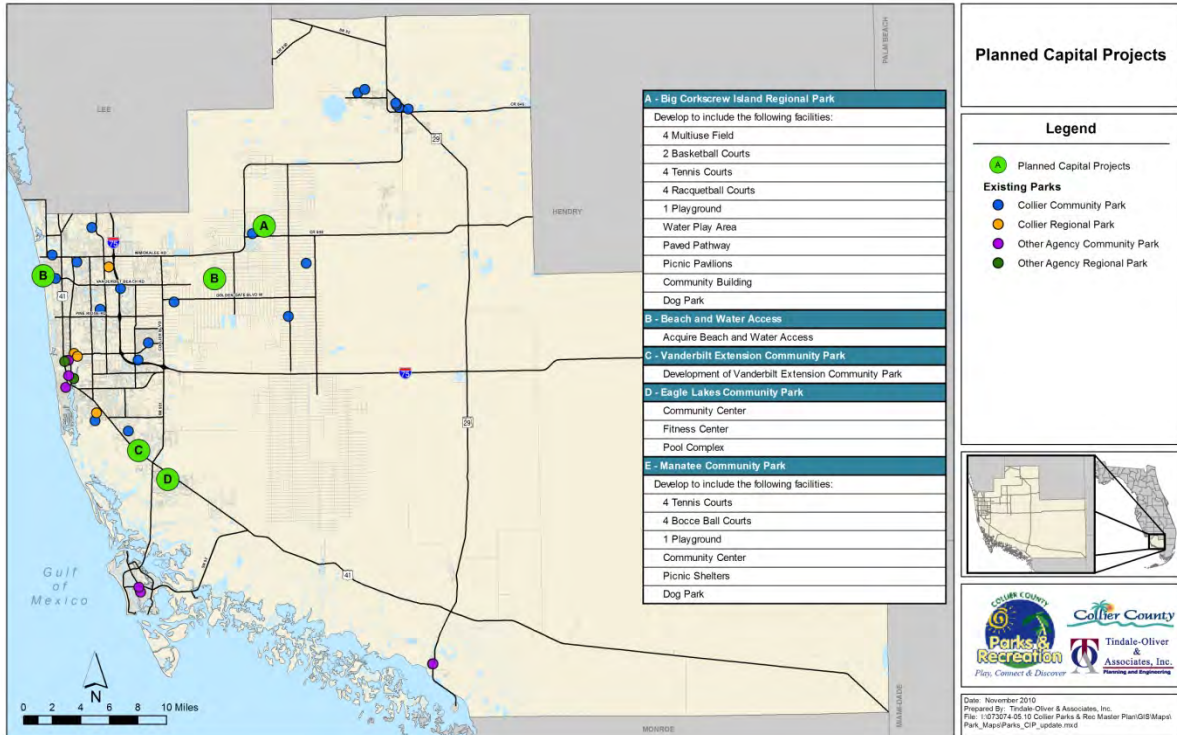


Table 5-2 presents the prioritization of the identified capital projects for each break-out group.

**Table 5-2
Prioritization of Capital Projects**

Capital Project	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Develop Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park	1	1	2	2
Develop Manatee Community Park	5	5	4	5
Construct Eagle Lakes Community & Fitness Center/Swimming Pool Complex	4	2	3	1
Develop Vanderbilt Extension Community Park	3	4	X	3
Acquire Beach Access at Vanderbilt Beach	2	3	1	X
Construct Maintenance Building at East Naples Community Park	--	--	--	4

X = Group elected to remove project from list of need.

Consensus reach by each of the four break-out groups provided varying opinions as to the prioritization and need of the planned capital projects.

- Group 2 participants discussed a need to acquire land for several new parks (mentioned under Exercise 2-A) as well as the need provide adequate facilities at these new parks.
- Group 3 participants felt that development of Vanderbilt Extension Community Park, which is predicated on the completion of the Vanderbilt Road extension project, is not necessary, given the remote park location and availability of other, more accessible parks in the surrounding area.
- Group 4 participants felt that acquisition of beachfront property for additional beach access at Vanderbilt Beach is not necessary, given the cost to acquire the land. Group 4 participants did cite the need for a maintenance facility constructed at East Naples Community Park. In addition, Group 4 participants highlighted the need to maximize the available land at existing community and regional parks to construct additional athletic fields, as the existing athletic fields throughout the county are currently over capacity.

The County is considering acquisition of three properties to provide beach access at Vanderbilt Beach, which is planned to be funded with Tourist Development Council revenue (hotel bed taxes), a funding source specific to beach land and facilities. Therefore, for purposes of prioritizing the planned improvements, Vanderbilt Beach access should be removed from consideration, as this project has a separate dedicated funding source not available to the other planned improvements.

When removing land acquisition at Vanderbilt Beach from consideration, due to it being funded by a separate dedicated funding source, Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park was the top priority of three out of the four break-out groups. These three groups cited a need for a regional park in Golden Gate Estates to serve both the existing and projected population in this area. Group 4 indicated that the County

should finish completing the Eagle Lakes community/fitness center and swimming pool complex prior to starting construction at Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park.

Exercise 3 –How Do We Get There?

As part of Exercise 2, participants were provided a matrix showing the park land and recreational facility unit costs from the County's 2009 Parks and Recreation Impact Fee Study. By providing these costs, participants were able to see the order-of-magnitude costs for the projects they identified as top priorities. In Exercise 3, participants were asked to discuss existing and potential local revenue sources to fund the priority projects identified in Exercise 2.

Exercise 3-A: Existing Local Funding Sources

In Exercise 3-A, participants were provided information on revenue sources currently used by the County to fund parks and recreation projects. Existing local funding sources include:

- **Parks and Recreation Impact Fees**
 - Can be used for Capital only
 - Charged to new residential development only
 - Existing funding source already in place (currently used to pay down existing debt service)
 - Amount of revenue generated is dependent on level of growth
 - Current fees = \$3,387 (2,000 sq ft single family); \$1,822 (multi-family)
 - Annual collections estimated to be ~ \$1.7M

- **Tourist Development Council Funds**
 - Provides funding for beach facilities

- **Grants and other miscellaneous revenue**
 - Local match may be required
 - Often earmarked for specific project or location
 - Occasional source; may not be consistently available

As presented in Table 5-3, all groups agreed that the County should continue pursuing each of these three existing local funding sources. Group 2 was unable to complete the exercise due to time constraints.

**Table 5-3
Existing Local Funding Sources**

Existing Revenue Source	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Impact Fees	Yes	--	Yes	Yes
Tourism Development Council	Seems Appropriate	--	Yes	Yes
Grants & Other Misc. Revenue Sources	Yes	--	Yes	Yes

Exercise 3-B: Potential Local Funding Sources

In Exercise 3-B, participants were provided information on potential local revenue sources for parks and recreation. The purpose of this exercise was not to promote a specific funding policy, but to gain an understanding of whether there is support for these local funding sources by the focus group participants. Potential local funding sources discussed during this exercise include:

- **Local Option Sales Tax (example provided was 0.25% sales tax)**
 - Can be used for Capital and Operation
 - Enacted by referendum
 - Potential large revenue source
 - Cost burden shared by residents and non-residents
 - Use limited to specific programs
 - Bondable revenues
 - Example: 0.25% sales tax would generate approximately \$12.6M annually³

- **Municipal Services Benefit Unit (non ad-valorem assessment)**
 - Can be used for Capital and Operation
 - May levy fees and/or assessments
 - Stable revenue source
 - Revenues must be spent to benefit assessed properties
 - Bondable revenue
 - Example: \$50 annual assessment per home would generate approximately \$9.4M⁴

- **Municipal Services Tax Unit (ad-valorem based)**
 - Can be used for Capital and Operation
 - Revenues fluctuate with property values
 - Bondable revenue

³2009 Local Government Financial Information Handbook (Local Discretionary Sales Surtax Table)

⁴\$50 multiplied by the total number of residential housing units per 2010 Tax Roll

- Example: 0.1 mill would cost \$10 per \$100,000 of property value annually
- Example: 0.1 mill from residential only would generate approximately \$5.2M annually⁵
- Example: 0.1 mill from all land uses would generate approximately \$6.0M annually⁶

As presented in Table 5-4, the groups had differing opinions regarding support for these potential revenue sources. Other sources identified included user fees (Groups 1 and 3) and tourism revenues generated by the Parks and Recreation Department partnering with outside organizations to bring tournaments and other events to the county (Group 4).

**Table 5-4
Potential Local Funding Sources**

Potential Revenue Source	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Local Option Sales Tax	No	--	Yes	No
Municipal Service Benefit Unit	No	--	Yes	Yes
Municipal Service Tax Unit	No	--	Yes	Maybe
Other Sources	Yes	--	Yes	Yes

SUMMARY OF FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

What do we want? – Focus group participants indicated that they would like to see the County maintain the high quality of parks, facilities, and programs currently being provided, while maximizing use of existing land for additional active and passive facilities. While noting that County financial resources are becoming more strained, participants did indicate they would like to see more staff presence at parks and more emphasis on maintaining the existing assets.

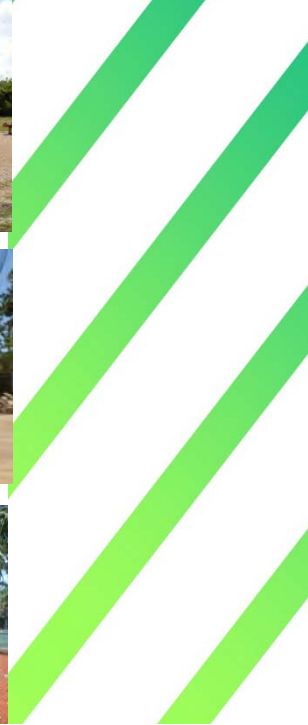
Where and when do we want it? – When removing land acquisition at Vanderbilt Beach from consideration, due to it being funded by a separate dedicated funding source, Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park was the top priority for future capital projects for three out of the four break-out groups. The general consensus of the break-out groups indicated that development of Vanderbilt Community Extension and Manatee Community Park is not needed within the next 10 years and these projects have a lower priority than development of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park or construction of a community/fitness center and swimming pool at Eagle Lakes Community Park.

How do we get there? – The focus groups agreed that the County should continue to leverage existing local revenue sources for parks (i.e., impact fees, tourist development council, and grants/other miscellaneous revenue sources), especially since impact fees are mainly used to pay the County’s current parks and recreation debt. The participants had varying support for the potential local revenue

⁵ Collier County 2010 Tax Roll

⁶ Collier County 2010 Tax Roll

sources presented in Exercise 3-B, and even those participants who personally supported one or more of the potential revenue sources for parks expressed doubt about any widespread support for a new tax or assessment given the current economy. However, the groups did agree that the County should pursue user fees and income from sporting events and tournaments to help fund park capital and maintenance needs.



Section 6 – Citizen Input Meetings

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OVERVIEW OF CITIZEN INPUT MEETINGS

At the direction of the Collier County Board of County Commissioners (BCC), two Citizen Input Meetings were held to obtain input from the public and to ensure that the residents of Collier County are provided with the opportunity to review and comment on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The first meeting was held on April 6, 2011, at the South Regional Library from 6 to 8 PM, and the second meeting was held on April 7, 2011, from 6 to 8 PM at the University of Florida (UF) Extension Services building. To maximize the opportunity for participation, the meetings were held during evening hours, with one held in a centralized location in southern Collier County and one held in a centralized location in northern Collier County.

The format of both meetings included a presentation by TOA outlining the content of the Master Plan followed by a question–answer period during which citizens asked questions of both TOA and the BCC. Following the question–answer period, participants were provided the opportunity to view four displays of the data analysis and recommendations of the Master Plan. Participants also were asked to provide input via a Citizen Input Form, an example of which is provided in Appendix D. Input received from both Citizen Input Meetings is documented in the remainder of this section.

A total of 87 people signed in at the meeting at the South Regional Library, and 24 signed in at the meeting at the UF Extension Services. While every effort was made to encourage participants to sign in, there were likely more attendees than formally counted.

SUMMARY OF CITIZEN INPUT MEETINGS

Citizen input included information provided on the Citizen Input Form, which included a series of four questions and space for general comments, and verbal comments made during the question–answer period. Following is a summary of responses for each of the four questions, followed by the more general comments and input received.

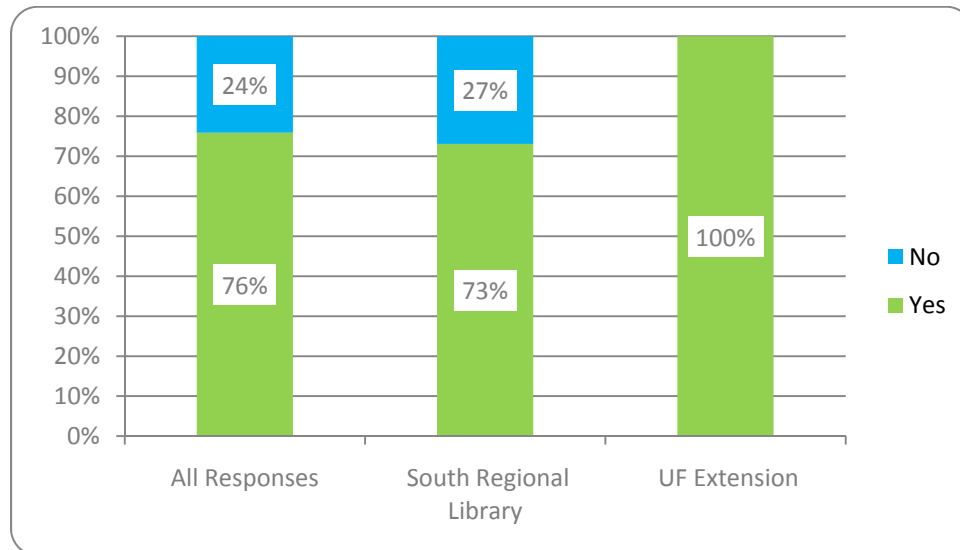
Question #1 – Location of Future Land Acquisitions

The first question pertains to whether participants agree with the location of future land the County is planning to acquire via interdepartmental transfers or development agreements.

Question #1: Do you agree that Collier County will be acquiring land in the appropriate areas over the next 10 years? ___ Yes ___ No

As shown in Figure 6-1, 76 percent of respondents agree that the County is planning to acquire regional park land in the appropriate areas over the next 10 years.

Figure 6-1
Question #1: Do you agree that Collier County will be acquiring land in the appropriate areas over the next 10 years?



Specific comments pertaining to Question #1 include the following:

South Regional Library Meeting

- Better parking and more bathrooms for beaches, particularly on Marco Island.
- Currently, Collier County has enough large parks and does not need any more; further acquisition should be only through gifts/donations.
- Park land should be acquired East of C.R. 951 on U.S. 41

UF Extension Services Meeting

- Manatee Community Park should include activities aimed toward the older community, having Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park focus on youth activities.

Question #2 – Prioritization of Planned Capital Projects

The second question asked participants their opinion on the planned capital projects identified by Collier County and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This question included two parts.

Please prioritize the following projects (with “1” being most important)

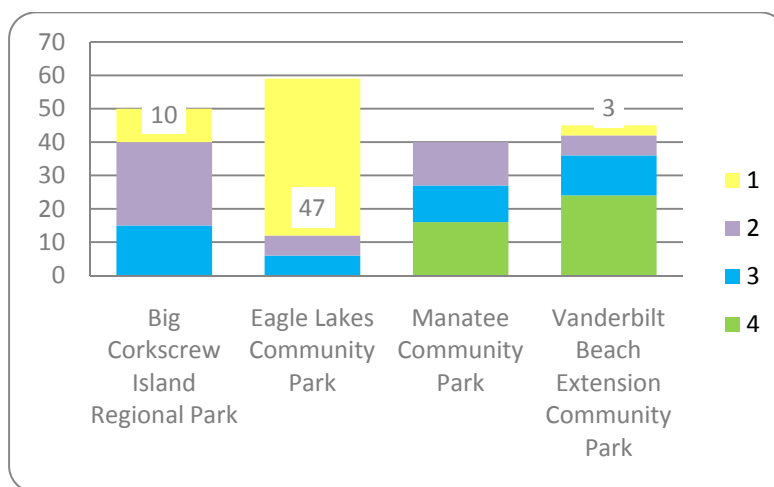
- Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park (develop park)*
- Eagle Lakes Community Park (construct community fitness center/pool)*

- ___ Manatee Community Park (develop park)
- ___ Vanderbilt Beach Extension Community Park (develop park)

Are there any parks and recreation capital project(s) not listed above that you feel are needed and should be considered by Collier County?

As shown in Figure 6-2, based on the responses received, completion of Eagle Lakes Community Park received the most frequent top priority ranking (“1”), with the development of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park second.

Figure 6-2
Question #2: Prioritization of Planned Capital Projects



No specific comments with respect to the identification of additional parks and recreation capital projects already not identified by Collier County and the Master Plan. Comments pertaining to Question #2 include the following:

South Regional Library Meeting

- A community center/fitness center and pool at Eagle Lakes Community Park is very much needed to serve the area’s residents.
- Eagle Lakes Community Park should be completed before any other land acquisition or projects.
 - Eagle Lakes Community Park should include a dog park, community center, and pool.
- Manatee Community Park should be developed as a passive park only; this area is not the right location for active activities.
- Additional beach parking and a kayak trail should be considered by the County.

UF Extension Services Meeting

- No other projects should be considered.
- Sell Manatee Community Park land.

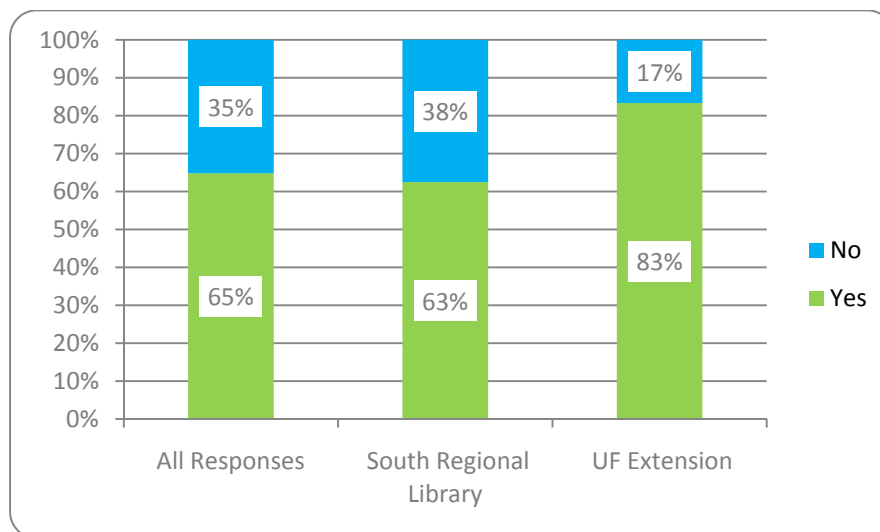
Question #3 – Current Field Utilization/Athletic Field Need

Based on the current utilization data for athletic fields in Collier County, the following question was asked:

Do you agree that the County should continue to develop athletic fields due to the current utilization and demand? ___ Yes ___ No

As shown in Figure 6-3, according to the responses received, 65 percent of respondents agree that the County should continue to develop athletic fields due to the current utilization and demand. However, as noted below, several comments were received that the planned construction of fields at Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park or other future parks may alleviate some of the athletic field utilization issues at existing parks.

Figure 6-3
Question #3: Do you agree that the County should continue to develop athletic fields due to the current utilization and demand?



Specific comments pertaining to Question #3 include the following:

South Regional Library Meeting

- Overcrowding of current fields is a prevalent issue; many would rather use other multi-use

green areas due to over-regulation and crowding of current fields.

- Multi-purpose tracks are recommended for East Naples.
- Fields are not needed at Manatee Community Park.
- Fields should be built wherever there is need (2 comments).

UF Extension Services Meeting

- Additional parks will decrease current utilization and therefore need should be assessed after the new parks are built.
- There should be more fields for children in the Estates.
- Additional fields are requested in the Big Corkscrew area.

Question #4 – Input Concerning Master Plan Recommendations

Similar to Question #2, Question #4 was a two-part question. First, participants were asked if they agree with the recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan developed to date. Second, participants were asked to provide alternative recommendations as appropriate.

Do you agree that each of these should be included as a recommendation?

- *Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park (develop park) ___ Yes ___ No*
- *Eagle Lakes Community Park (construct community fitness center/pool) ___ Yes ___ No*
- *Additional Athletic Fields to Serve Existing Population ___ Yes ___ No*
- *Optimize Inter-local Agreements for School Sites ___ Yes ___ No*
- *Manatee Community Park (develop park including athletic fields) ___ Yes ___ No*
- *Vanderbilt Beach Extension Community park (develop park) ___ Yes ___ No*
- *Incorporate Recommendations from 2010 Boat and Beach Access Report ___ Yes ___ No*

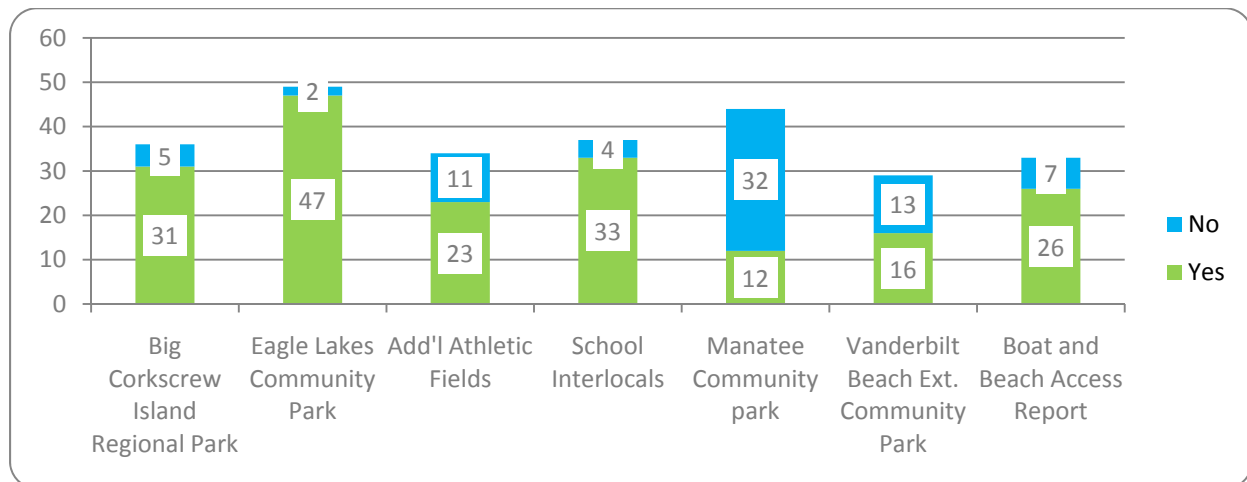
If “no” to any of the above, please let us know why you disagree or if you feel that the Master Plan should include a recommendation not currently presented, please let us know what that recommendation is.

Figures 6-4 and 6-5 illustrate the responses by meeting location. The majority of respondents agreed with the development of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park, the community/fitness center and pool at Eagle Lakes Community Park, the use of athletic field utilization data to assist in determining a need for future field needs, and the continued use of interlocal agreements with the School District Board of Collier County for joint school-park sites.

As expected, agreement with the Master Plan projects is influenced by the geographic area of the meeting location. Participants attending the meeting held at the South Regional Library principally were in favor of completing Eagle Lakes Community Park, though the majority also was in favor of developing Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park. The majority of participants at the South Regional Library meeting

were not in favor of developing Manatee Community Park as an active park, citing the intrusion of lights and loudspeakers and a lack of need for additional athletic fields in the area.

Figure 6-4
Question #4: Do you agree that each of these should be included as a recommendation?
(South Regional Library)



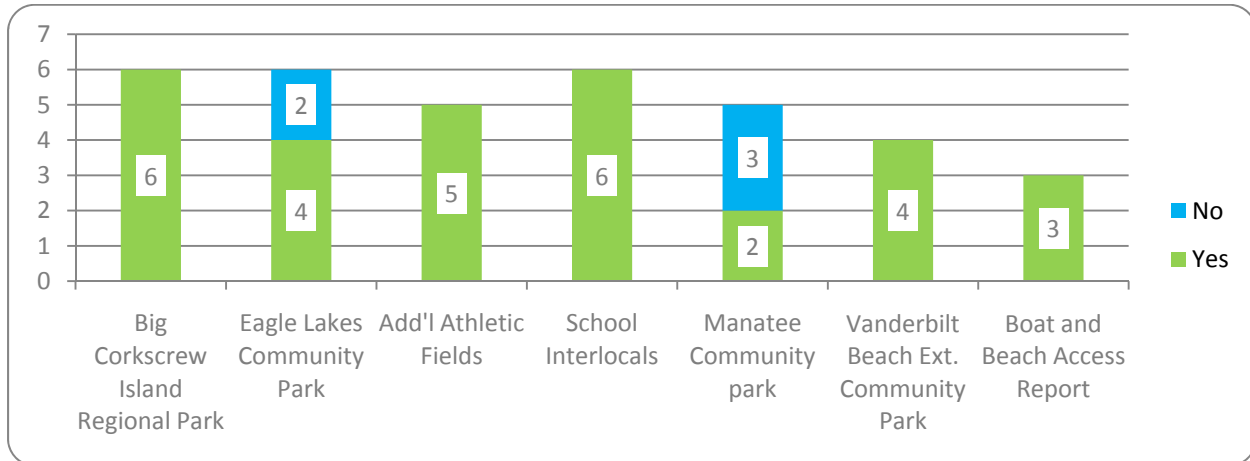
Specific comments pertaining to the Master Plan recommendations received from participants at the South Regional Library meeting location include the following:

South Regional Library Meeting

- Residents have been waiting a long time to have their park (Eagle Lakes) finished and need a community center and pool.
- Manatee Community Park is not suitable for athletic fields and a common concern was opposing the use of speakers and bright lights in the area (several comments).
- Projects identified for Eagle Lakes Community Park and Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park should be considered priorities.

Participants attending the meeting held at UF Extension Services were largely in favor of completing Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park, though the majority also was in favor of Eagle Lakes Community Park. Slightly more participants at UF Extension Services were not in favor of developing Manatee Community Park than were in favor. Participants at the UF Extension Services meeting were unanimously in favor of the remaining recommendations.

Figure 6-5
Question #4: Do you agree that each of these should be included as a recommendation?
(UF Extension Services)



Specific comments pertaining to the Master Plan recommendations received from participants at the UF Extension Services meeting location include the following:

UF Extension Services Meeting

- Manatee Community Park may not be needed.
- Areas with no facilities should be provided with some before other areas are considered for additional facilities.

Additional Comments

In addition to comments previously noted, participants were given the opportunity to provide more generalized comments and input regarding the Master Plan, both during the question–answer period and on the Citizen Input Form. A summary of comments received is provided below.

South Regional Library Meeting

- Priority should be given to meeting the needs of the youth in the community above all others.
 - Lower-income families with children around Eagle Lakes Community Park need somewhere for their children to go that is supervised after school and during summer; children in this area also need a pool to learn how to swim.
- Additional facilities for Eagle Lakes Community Park were requested, including swimming pool, as well as other indoor facilities (e.g., community center) to escape the hot weather.
- One respondent praised Eagle Lakes Community Park, including its size, well-designed pathways, and play areas.

- Parking and additional bathrooms for beach parks are needed.
- New athletic fields may help relieve some of the current utilization issues, reducing need for them at Manatee Community Park, which was strongly opposed by meeting participants.
- There is clearly a lack of available revenue for new parks projects and, while the County is pursuing a grant for the construction of the community center at Eagle Lakes Community Park, there is a shortfall of needed funding for this project. There was discussion among the participants and the BCC regarding the use of ad valorem (dedicated millage) countywide or a Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) to the residents benefiting from the Eagle Lakes Community Park project. The example of Golden Gate Estates using an MSTU to construct and operate its community center was discussed as an example of this approach, though there was some opposition to having a smaller group pay for a park project when they have also historically paid for other parks used by residents in other areas (equality issue).
- Removal of the impact fee deferral program for parks impact fees since those that have impact fees deferred (low income) largely benefit from use of the parks facilities.
- A number of participants agree with implementing user fees to help pay for facilities, while several opposed the use of bonds or higher taxes for any additional parks.

UF Extension Services Meeting

- Families and children in the Estates must drive a considerable amount of time to reach an existing park facility.
- It was requested that Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park be built, though recognizing that it may need to be constructed in phases to be funded faster.
- Other funding options should be evaluated, such as impact fees and user fees, prior to any MSTU being created to help pay for parks facilities.
- Families living in the Estates have paid impact fees and taxes for parks in other areas of the County and feel they have gotten very little in return.
- Need to identify creative ways to pay for Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park. Some suggestions include:
 - Sell land being held for Vanderbilt Extension Community Park.
 - Reduce road maintenance/landscaping budget and put savings towards parks projects.
 - Hold trash pick-up only once a week (instead of twice) and dedicate savings towards park.
 - Restructure the utilization of the monies that would be acquired from the Southwest Florida Water Management District in regards to the ATV Park Settlement.
 - Partial repayment of impact fees deferred under the County's impact fee ordinance.

Citizen Input Meetings Conclusions

- There was clear consensus that the two most desired projects are construction of the community/fitness center and pool at Eagle Lakes Community Park and development of Big

Corkscrew Island Regional Park.

- Though the priority of these two projects is influenced largely by where the citizens live, overall participants from both meetings recognized that both projects are needed to serve the nearby families, youth, and residents.
- The majority of participants at the South Regional Library meeting were not in favor of constructing active facilities at Manatee Community Park, citing the intrusion of lights and loudspeakers, along with a lack of need due to the surrounding adult residential communities.
- Participants at both meetings recognized that there is currently little available funding for these parks projects. While the County is actively pursuing a grant to help fund the community center at Eagle Lakes Community Park, there are still budgetary issues with this project, as well little to no revenue available to begin construction at Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park.
- Participants discussed the need to consider other revenue sources (such as a dedicated millage or MSTU) to fund these projects sooner rather than later. However, there was concern over a small number of citizens paying for a park when they have already contributed to other County parks through impact fees and ad valorem taxes. Several participants stated that they would not support increased taxes and should receive a share of what they have already contributed.
- Though it was not unanimous, given the interest from some meeting participants to look at alternative funding sources, rather than waiting for impact fees to pick up again, the County may want to consider analyzing countywide millage or MSTU scenarios to complete the community/fitness center and pool at Eagle Lakes Community Park and development of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park.

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Section 7 – Master Plan Recommendations

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COLLIER COUNTY 10-YEAR MASTER PLAN STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of the demographic analysis and needs analysis, as well as input received by the focus group and citizen input meeting participants, the following strategic recommendations are included in the Collier County 10-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

It should be noted that, based on the input and comments received during the Master Plan process from the focus group and citizen input meeting participants, the development of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park and construction of a community/fitness center and pool at Eagle Lakes Community Park have been identified as the highest priorities.

Development of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park

The need for development of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park is based on the following.

- The development of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park will address the lack of regional park presence in a significant area of the county, including The Estates, Corkscrew, and Immokalee, which accounts for approximately one-half of the County's current residential population.
- This park will serve an area that is projected to have the most significant population growth in the county over the next 10 years.
- This park will provide relief to over-utilized football/soccer and multi-use fields as well as help prevent over-utilization of other facilities.
- There is currently no aquatic recreation or miscellaneous facilities available within this area.

When removing beach land acquisition from consideration, due to it being funded by a separate dedicated funding source, Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park was the top priority for three out of the four break-out groups. These three groups cited a need for a regional park in northern Golden Gate Estates to serve both the existing and projected population in this area. This sentiment was shared by participants at the Citizen Input Meeting held at the UF Extension Services building as well as participants at the meeting held at the South Regional Library (though the majority of those meeting participants ranked the completion of nearby Eagle Lakes as a higher priority) . Input gathered from the focus group and citizen input meeting participants confirm the findings of the Demographic and Needs Analyses that a regional park is needed to serve Golden Gate Estates.

Construction of Community/Fitness Center and Pool at Eagle Lakes Community Park

Collier County is currently seeking a Community Development Block Grant (CBDG) to help fund the construction of a community/fitness center and swimming pool at Eagle Lakes Community Park. As discussed below, the community/fitness complex and swimming pool have been identified as separate priorities.

The need for a new community/fitness center and pool complex is based on the following:

- A community/fitness center would provide benefit to the current population within the south/east Naples area. Demographic and socioeconomic data were reviewed specific to the service area of this community center as outlined in the County's CDBG package.
- The demographics within the immediate area support the need for a community center. The area to be served by this community center is a lower income area, with a higher person-per-household and younger-aged residents.
- While a swimming pool is currently unavailable, there is a splash park located at Eagle Lakes Community Park. Given the need for a community center in this area and lack of available funding both constructing and operating new county facilities, priority for constructing improvements at Eagle Lakes Community Park should be placed on the community/fitness center. It should be noted that the participants of the meeting held at the South Regional Library feel as though the community/fitness center and pool are needed to serve the residents and, in particular, the youth within this area.

Additional Athletic Fields to Serve Existing Population

The results of the utilization analysis indicate that the following:

- The Immokalee area is experiencing over-utilization of little league, football/soccer, and multi-use fields. Additional athletic fields are needed in this area to provide relief.
- There is over-utilization of football/soccer fields countywide. The development of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park will provide relief to over-utilized football/soccer fields in the Estates area. In addition, the placement of football/soccer fields at Manatee Community Park would provide relief to over-utilize fields in the east/south Naples area. However, as noted later in this section, input received during the Citizen Input Meeting held at the South Regional Library showed strong opposition to athletic fields at this location.
- There is over-utilization of football/soccer fields in the north Naples area (north of Pine Ridge Road). Additional football/soccer fields are needed in this area to provide relief.

It is recommended that the County collect similar utilization data (as feasible) for other facilities, such as hard courts, aquatic facilities, and community centers, as feasible, to assist in the determination for need of future facilities.

Continue to Optimize Interlocal Agreements for School Sites

Collier County Parks and Recreation Department and the School District Board of Collier County currently have interlocal agreements at several school sites to maximize the use of county assets for both recreation and educational facilities. Although the School District Board of Collier County is not planning to construct any new schools in the near future, it is recommended that when new school construction occurs, each new school site should be evaluated, designed, and constructed to maximize the potential for co-location of recreational and educational facilities.

Development of Manatee Community Park

Manatee Community Park will be developed as a passive park consistent with the conceptual plans for this park. Feedback and comments obtained during the focus groups and citizen input meetings indicate that development of this park is not viewed as high of a priority as the development of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park or construction of a community/fitness center and pool at Eagle Lakes Community Park.

Development of Vanderbilt Extension Community Park

The development of Vanderbilt Extension Community Park is tied to the extension of Vanderbilt Beach Road. In addition, Vanderbilt Extension Community Park is located on the periphery of a concentrated area of projected population growth. For the next 10 years, the development of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park should provide park land and recreational facilities needed to serve both existing population and future growth within this immediate area. Given that development of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park is a priority, development of Vanderbilt Extension Community Park would be more appropriate once more extensive population growth west of Vanderbilt Extension Community park occurs. Feedback and comments obtained during the focus groups and citizen input meetings indicate that development of this park is not viewed as high of a priority as the development of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park or construction of a community/fitness center and pool at Eagle Lakes Community Park.

Recommendations from 2011 Boat and Beach Access Report

In addition to current projects to expand the access to open water and the beaches, the 2011 Boat and Beach Access Report includes the following recommendations, which are incorporated into the Master Plan as follows.

1. Barefoot Beach Preserve
Not exceeding the carrying capacity of this park is a primary objective because of its status as a nature preserve. However, a dock and pier can be provided to the inland side of the island to

accommodate waterborne visitors while protecting the beach and dunes. This area will also allow provide visitors a better view the mangrove habitat, which presently is only accessible by canoe/kayak. Pickup locations can be at Cocohatchee Park and Conner Park.

2. Beach and Boat Access

Beach access can be viewed from two perspectives – the number and amount of beach access points and the effectiveness of each of those locations. Although no standards exist for the number of public beach access points a County should have, Collier County has been aggressively working to increase the number and location of its public beach accesses points. This, however, has met with limited success because of the high cost and low availability of suitable locations.

It is recommended that the County continue to pursue its current acquisition policy but at the same time aggressively pursue revisions to the Land Development Code that permits greater public beach access.

3. Parking and Transportation Service for Beach Access

The number of beach parking spaces currently meets the countywide 1:150 parking space to permanent residents recommended ratio suggested by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. If additional parking is required at the more popular beach parks or during the busy season, the County should consider providing beach access through a combination of:

- Exploring an extended Collier Area Transit (CAT) operation along Gulf Shore Drive to increase service to the beach access points along Vanderbilt Beach.
- Developing a business plan to provide tram service during peak use periods between Conner Park and the Vanderbilt Beach garage to feed our most popular beaches using existing underused public access points.

4. Beach Parking Fees

Collier County has adopted a policy of free beach parking with a beach parking pass for residents and non-residents have the opportunity to purchase a pass for an annual fee.

5. Boat Launch and Boat Trailer Parking

Boat ramp lanes are not adequate for the peak periods of weekends and holidays for the number of boat users in Collier County. Even with the additional new lane at Bayview Park, the County is operating with a two-lane deficit in 2011. This deficit will grow by one lane in 2013 to 2015 timeframe and increase to five additional ramp lanes in 2020.

Boat trailer parking presently is inadequate, and even with programmed parking increases, the County has a significant parking space deficit based on current ramp capacity. This deficit is a county wide average and does not account for peak usage or chronic shortages at popular ramp locations such as Bayview, Caxambas, or Cocohatchee.

The County should continue to assertively pursue expanding the existing boat parks, parking, and facilities where appropriate. Additionally, strategic acquisition of desirable boat launch sites should continue.

Continue to Evaluate Need for Remote Control Park

At the September 27, 2011, Collier County BCC meeting, Commissioner Fiala expressed a desire for the Collier County Parks and Recreation Department to continue to evaluate the need for an area where citizens and visitors can recreate with remote control planes, boats, and cars. As such, it is recommended that Collier County continue to evaluate this need in its consideration of future parks and recreation capital projects.

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Appendix A – Collier County Boat and Beach Access Report (September 2011)

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BOAT AND BEACH ACCESS REPORT

Update September 2011

Collier County
BOAT AND BEACH ACCESS REPORT

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the Boat and Beach Access Report is to assess Collier County's performance in providing beach access and boat launch facilities to County residents and visitors.

This report will identify the overarching complications involved with providing beach access and boat launch services that keep up with demand, examine current level of service standards adopted by Collier County and the recreation industry, inventory current facilities and update the 1999 and 2003 Reports with regard to options and inventories, and suggest options for future services and facilities.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

While the Gulf of Mexico is a vast but not unlimited resource for water-dependent recreation, limited access to it limits the population's ability to use it. Sandy beach, on the other hand, is a finite recreational resource even further limited by the constraints of access, available parking and public facilities. The decreasing availability of adequate public beach access and increasing cost of beach property exacerbate this issue. The more access that is needed, the more difficult it is to find and afford.

The challenge is to provide adequate access to beaches and waterways which includes available parking and public facilities without exceeding the carrying capacities of the resources and thereby decreasing their desirability and worth.

LEVELS OF SERVICE

The Collier County Growth Management Plan outlines level of service standards (LOSS) for parkland in two categories: community park acreage and regional park acreage. Beach, beach parking and boating access acreage are included in the regional park acreage measure for purposes of comprehensive plan concurrency. The comprehensive plan requires no distinction between park acreage and acreage reserved for beach and water access.

Water Access Level of Service is guidance defined in the 2009 AUIR as public beach access points, boat ramps lanes, fishing access points, canoe/kayak launches, and any other fresh or saltwater access facilities and recommended at a service level of 1:10,000 residents. Currently, 79 Water Access points exist throughout Collier County and represent a LOS of 1:4,239 residents (334,837 residents projected in 2010). Based on this Level of Service guidance, Ninety Five (95) water access points will be required for a build-out population of 950,000 in 2080.

Summary of Existing Boating Facilities and Capacity Needs

Boat Ramps

Currently 33 boat ramp lanes serve boaters countywide. One more boat ramps will be placed into service by the County within the next 12 months bringing the total to 33. The Parks and Recreation Department maintains eighteen of these lanes in eight locations; City or State government provides seven lanes in three locations; and eight are privately owned at six locations and open to the public. Table 1 outlines the locations and amenities of these facilities.

Table 1. Boat Ramp Facilities Available to the Public

Ownership	Facility	Ramp lanes	Trailer parking spaces	Additional Ramp Lanes under design/construction as of 6/2010	Additional Trailer parking spaces under design/construction as of 6/2010	Total Ramp lanes	Total Trailer parking spaces	Acres	Launch fee	Rest rooms	Concession	Picnic facilities	Coast Guard auxiliary	Play area	Dockmaster
County	Bayview Park	2	16	1	52	3	68	4	\$5.00	x		x		x	
	Caxambas Park	2	31	0	0	2	31	4	\$5.00	x	x	x	x		x
	Cocohatchee River Park	4	58	0	0	4	58	7	\$5.00	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Collier Boulevard Boating Park	2	83	0	0	2	83	7.1	\$5.00						
	Lake Trafford Park	1	8	0	0	1	8	2	0			x			
	Goodland Boat park	2	75	0	0	2	75	5.2	\$5.00	x	x	x		x	
	Port of the Island Marina	2	23	0	0	2	23		\$5.00	x	x				x
	Golden Gate Boat Ramp	2	10	0	0	2	10	0.5	0	x				x	x
City & State	Naples Landing	3	45	0	0	3	35		\$.75/hr	x		x		x	
	Collier-Seminole State Park	2	25	0	0	2	25		\$7.18	x					
	Delnor-Wiggins State Recreation Area	2	30	0	0	2	30		\$6.12	x	x	x			
Private	Outdoor Resorts	1	30+			1	30+		\$10.00	x	x				x
	Calusa Island Marina	2	32			2	32		\$5.00	x	x				x
	Glades Haven Marina	2				2									
	Moran's Restaurant Marina & Motel	1	40+			1	40+		\$5.30	x	x				x
	Isles of Capri Marina	1				1									
	Shell Island Road Boat Ramp	1	15			1	15		0						

Existing Capacity Needs

Twenty three thousand one hundred and seventeen (23,117) vessels were registered in Collier County in 2009 based on information obtained from the Tax Collectors office.

From 2002 to 2006 registered vessels steadily increased on average by 485 vessels per year, maximizing out in 2006 with 24,708 vessels. Since then, vessel registration has decreased on average by 530 vessels per year to its current level in 2009 of 23,117.

Registered vessels are estimated to continue to shrink in 2010, 2011 and 2012 by an average of 265 vessels per year. This estimate represents half of the actual yearly shrinkage experienced in 2007, 2008 and 2009. The number of registered vessels is estimated to bottom out to 22,322 vessels in 2012 and then expected to increase by 1.5% per year. A summary of vessel registration is listed in Table 2 below.

Table 2 - Vessel Registrations in Collier County			
Year	Total Number of Registered Vessels	Yearly increase or decrease	Avg Increase or decrease
2002	22,770		
2003	22,952	182	485
2004	23,244	292	485
2005	24,072	828	485
2006	24,708	636	485
2007	24,458	-250	-530
2008	24,173	-285	-530
2009	23,117	-1,056	-530
2010	22,852 Projected	-265	-265
2011	22,587 Projected	-265	-265
2012	22,322 Projected	-265	-265

For years, it was estimated that less than 6,000 wet slips and less than 3,000 commercial dry storage spaces were available for boat storage. This figure has been revised to 10,013 spaces in 2009 with the recent addition of Hamilton Harbor and permits issued by the City of Naples, the City of Marco Island and Collier County since October of 2004. As a result, at least 13,104 vessels countywide (23,117 registered vessels less 10,013 wet/dry slips) are dependent on boat ramps for water access in 2009.

Average and Peak Rate Capacity Analysis

Collier County has used on average, 20 launches per vessel per year in calculating the overall county launch demand. This estimate serves as a key assumption in calculating current and future capacity and is supported by the following points:

1. The average boater launches/goes out every other weekend but misses a few weekends/holidays due to poor weather.
2. The rule of thumb offered by an experienced Dock Master is that in the marina business, you can expect five percent of your clientele to go out on any given day. This equates to 18.5 trips per boat per year.
3. The 2009 Boater Characterization Study of registered boater within Collier County identified based on 9,359 questionnaires mailed to ramp users; wet and dry slip marina users; and home dock owners that boat usage within a 2,077 response group (22%) was 3.85 times per month or 46 times per year. This group, we believe represents the most highly motivated boating public in the County and sets the maximum cap for annual usage.

At an average of 20 launches per vessel per year, countywide facilities must be able to accommodate 256,780 launches per year to meet demand. Uniformly spread across all the 32 available boat ramp lanes (private and public) available in 2010, each lane will average 8,024 launches per year in 2010 (256,780 launches per year/32 lanes) or 22 lane-launches per day. In 2011, each lane will average 7,621 launches per year (251,480 launches per year/33 lanes) or 21 lane launches per day.

These figures are in accordance with the recommendation of the Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning Guide of 2000, which suggests that a single boat ramp lane can accommodate 36 launches per day (20 minutes total put-in and pull-out time over a 12-hour period). These calculations are ideal numbers, however, and do not provide for peak use times such as weekends and holidays, they spread usage uniformly across all the boat ramps in the county and don't account for any boats from outside the county.

Peak Rate Capacity Analysis

The Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning Guide recommends that average peak use be calculated as follows: Total user occasions are multiplied by 55 percent and divided by 111. This formula is derived from state park attendance, where 55 percent of the total annual attendance occurred over 111 days (52 weeks times two weekend days plus seven weekday holidays).

Table 3 summarizes Peak Rate Capacity Requirements.

Table 3 - Peak Rate Capacity Requirements

Year	Estimated Number of registered vessels	Estimated Number of wet/dry slips	Projected Number of vessels using boat ramps	Average Number of boat usages per year	Launches per year	Available Ramp Lanes	Launches per Day	Launches per Day per Ramp Lane	Launches per Peak Day	Launches per Peak day per Ramp Lane
2009	23,117	10,013	13,104	20	262,080	30	718	24	1,299	43
2010	22,852	10,013	12,839	20	256,780	32	704	22	1,272	40
2011	22,587	10,013	12,574	20	251,480	33	689	21	1,246	38
2012	22,322	10,013	12,309	20	246,180	33	674	20	1,220	37
2013	22,657	10,113	12,544	20	250,877	33	687	21	1,243	38
2014	22,997	10,213	12,784	20	255,674	34	700	21	1,267	37
2015	23,342	10,313	13,029	20	260,573	34	714	21	1,291	38
2016	23,692	10,413	13,279	20	265,575	34	728	21	1,316	39
2017	24,047	10,513	13,534	20	270,683	34	742	22	1,341	39
2018	24,408	10,613	13,795	20	275,897	34	756	22	1,367	40
2019	24,774	10,713	14,061	20	281,219	34	770	23	1,393	41
2020	25,146	10,813	14,333	20	286,651	34	785	23	1,420	42

Note –

1. Registered vessels are estimated to continue to shrink in 2010, 2011 and 2012 by an average of 265 vessels per year. This estimate represents half of the actual yearly shrinkage experienced in 2007, 2008 and 2009. The number of registered vessels is projected to bottom out in 2012 to 22,322. Vessel growth after 2012 is projected at 1.5% per year.
2. Wet/Dry slip projections are constant at 10,013 through 2012 and then increase by 100 per year. This projection is in anticipation of stronger environmental law and decreased availability of undeveloped waterfront property from the annual historic increase of 140 Wet/Dry slips per year from 2004 through 2008 based on the average number of permits issued by Collier County, Naples and Marco Island.

As can be seen from Table 3, the recommended carrying capacity of 36 launches per lane per day is exceeded during the peak times of weekends and holidays. In 2010, current demand requires that 36 lanes be available for peak periods (1,272 daily launches divided by 36 launches per day per ramp). Again, our current capacity in 2011 is 33 ramp lanes and our projected capacity in 2011 will be 33 ramp lanes.

Growth Considerations

The growth of boating countywide is a further consideration with regard to the level of service County boaters can expect to experience. For the six years leading up to 2002, the number of registered vessels in the county grew steadily at 1000 boats per year. From 2002 to 2006 the average vessel growth rate slowed to 485 boats per year. In 2007, growth turned negative and shrank on average by 530 vessels a year to where it currently stands at 23,117 registered

vessels in 2009. Registered vessels are estimated to continue to shrink in 2010, 2011 and 2012 by an average of 265 vessels per year. This estimate represents half of the actual yearly shrinkage experienced in 2007, 2008 and 2009 and attempts to account for a difficult but improving economy within Collier County. The number of registered vessels is projected to bottom out in 2012 to 22,322. Vessel growth after 2012 is projected at 1.5% per year.

Table 4 projects **peak** boat ramp lane deficiencies for the next ten years. As can be seen, at 20 launches per boat per year the county is short 3 ramp lanes required to handle the projected registered vessel volume in 2010. The ramp lane deficit decreases to 2 in 2011 with the addition of an additional ramp at Bayview Park.

The projected number of vessels using public boat ramps is expected to begin to increase in 2013. Currently, few solutions exist for finding homes for these additional boats in dry storage or wet slips. They will most likely become ramp users. Again at 20 launches per boat per year, they will begin to require additional boat ramp lanes in 2013 to 2015 timeframe.

Table 4 - Projection of Boat Ramp Needs						
Year	Estimated Number of registered vessels	Estimated Number of wet/dry slips	Projected Number of vessels using boat ramps	Number of Lanes available	Number of ramp lanes Needed countywide	Ramp lane deficit
2009	23,117	10,013	13,104	30	36	6
2010	22,852	10,013	12,839	32	35	3
2011	22,587	10,013	12,574	33	35	2
2012	22,322	10,013	12,309	33	34	1
2013	22,657	10,113	12,544	33	35	2
2014	22,997	10,213	12,784	34	35	1
2015	23,342	10,313	13,029	34	36	2
2016	23,692	10,413	13,279	34	37	3
2017	24,047	10,513	13,534	34	37	3
2018	24,408	10,613	13,795	34	38	4
2019	24,774	10,713	14,061	34	39	5
2020	25,146	10,813	14,333	34	39	5

Note –

1. Registered vessels are estimated to continue to shrink in 2010, 2011 and 2012 by an average of 265 vessels per year. This estimate represents half of the actual yearly shrinkage experienced in 2007, 2008 and 2009. The number of registered vessels is projected to bottom out in 2012 to 22,322. Vessel growth after 2012 is projected at 1.5% per year.
2. Wet/Dry slip projections are constant at 10,013 through 2012 and then increase by 100 per year. This projection is in anticipation of stronger environmental law and decreased availability of undeveloped

waterfront property from the annual historic increase of 140 Wet/Dry slips per year from 2004 through 2008 based on the average number of permits issued by Collier County, Naples and Marco Island

- Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park Boat launch facility is expected to be operational in 2014 adding an additional boat ramp lane.

Consequences of Adequate Parking

Observations reveal that where Collier County–run boat ramps are concerned, 36 launches per lane per day offer a generous launch and retrieval time. The problem resides not in the carrying capacity of the ramp but of the parking area. County boat ramp users can maximize a ramp’s capacity with adequate boat trailer parking.

Table 5 illustrates the extent of parking available at some County facilities. Bayview Park, at the end of its anticipated expansion in FY2012 along with Caxambas Park ramp and Cocohatchee Park ramp are all parking limited facilities. Specifically Bayview Park after expansion could accommodate 108 launches per day, but will offer only 68 trailer parking spaces on-site. Inadequate parking at these parks limits the effectiveness of these facilities. In Summary, Saltwater boat ramp parking deficit is 149 spaces while the Freshwater parking deficit is 90 spaces.

Table 5 - Parking Space Deficit at County-Owned Boat Launch Facilities						
	Ramp lanes	Current Parking Spaces	Add'l spaces anticipated by 2011	Total Parking Spaces	Daily Launch Capacity	Parking space deficit
Bayview Park	3	16	52	68	108	-40
Caxambas Park	2	31	0	31	72	-41
Cocohatchee River Park	4	58	0	58	144	-86
Collier Boulevard Boating Park	2	19	64	83	72	+11
Goodland Boat Park	2	0	75	75	72	+3
Port of the Islands	2	23	17	40	36	+4
Saltwater Totals	14	147	208	355	504	-149
Lake Trafford Park*	1	8	0	8	36	-28
Golden Gate Boat Ramp*	2	10	0	10	72	-62
Freshwater Totals	3	18	0	18	108	-90

Note –

- (*) Denotes fresh water boating access.
- The parking space deficit assumes no turnover in daily boat ramp parking.

Currently Lake Trafford and Golden Gate are the only freshwater boating ramps available throughout the County.

Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park Boat launch facility will be a fresh water facility expected to come on line in 2014 and tailored to very shallow draft vessels requiring no more than 4 feet of water. More access to fresh water may alleviate some of the burden on existing saltwater facilities and, as the County population grows may generate increasing demand of its own for freshwater facilities.

Beach Access throughout the County

Existing and Committed Beach Access

The State of Florida recommends a distance of one half-mile between sites for the spacing of beach access points for state-financed beach restoration projects.

Collier County beaches offer a wide range of choices with regard to the frequency of access points along its beaches. In general, State and County beach parks have more sparsely spaced access points to maintain lesser density and a more natural beach environment and experience. The City of Naples, on the other hand, maintains 34 of its 37 access points within a five-mile stretch of beach, allowing for a more urban beach experience. County residents and visitors are well served by this variety, but to keep up with demand the County should continuously seek ways to improve access, amenity, and parking at its beaches.

Table 6 is a summary of the public access available along the county's shoreline, from north to south (facilities operated by Collier County Parks and Recreation are highlighted):

Table 6. Public Access Along Collier County Shoreline				
	Linear feet	Description	Parking	Amenities
Barefoot Beach Access	650	5-acre beach access adjacent to Bonita Beach Park, which offers amenities	96	picnic shelters
Lely Barefoot Beach Development	7100	private residences, 63% inaccessible to the general public*	0	none
Barefoot Beach Preserve	7500	342 acres of undeveloped coastal barrier island, intended for low density public enjoyment	362	nature trail, interpretive center, programs, showers, picnic area, concession, rest rooms
Delnor-Wiggins State Recreation Area	5900	160 acres of preserved area, amenities	355	interpretive programs, picnic areas, concession, showers, rest rooms
Conner Park Beach access (via Bluebill Road)	20	Beach Access and future Restroom Facilities at the end of Bluebill Road with Parking at Conner Park approximately .4 miles away	155	restrooms
Vanderbilt Beach	6850	6 walkway easements allow for	0	none

Accesses		public access between residences and condominiums		
Vanderbilt Beach	375	5 acres preserve with natural vegetation housing a parking garage with bathrooms located at the end of Vanderbilt Beach road. Additional restroom facilities and concession located at the beach.	361	showers, rest rooms, concession, parking garage and street parking
Pelican Bay Development	12,000	Collier County owns a significant portion of the adjacent upland property, the rest is private; 89% inaccessible to public*	0	none
Clam Pass Park	3200	35 acres of preserve area and amenities. Studies underway to provide an additional passive beach park facility accessible by tram approximately 1,000 feet to the south of existing facility.	172	boardwalk with tram service, concession, picnic area, foot showers, rest rooms
North Gulf Shore Access	1350	parking is located at the end of Seagate Drive, pedestrian access from North Gulf Shore Boulevard	38	none
Park Shore Accesses (City)	13,000	3 City of Naples accesses are available amid North Gulf Shore condominiums	Included in the City of Naples totals	none
City of Naples Accesses	30,000	34 accesses stretch from north of The Beach Club to 32nd Avenue South; Lowdermilk Park and accesses near Naples Pier offer full amenities; select others have showers and foot showers	1,305 total	variable
Keewaydin Island	40,000	water access only	0	none
Hideaway Beach Development	5280	Private residences and condominiums, 100% inaccessible to the walking public* Water access only.	0	single public bathroom pending for 2010
Tigertail Beach	3900	31 acres of preserved area, amenities	245	concession, picnic area, playground, rest rooms
Marco Island	13,000	condominiums, hotels, 80% inaccessible to the general public*	0	none
South Marco Beach Access	1200	1-acre walkway easement between condominiums	70	rest rooms
Total	153,325		3,159	

Note –

1. Accessibility calculated by subtracting ¼ mile from the total linear footage for each contiguous publicly accessible beach.

Beach Parking

Even more than for boaters, a beachgoer's enjoyable day at the beach is only as attainable as the nearest available parking space. Since the 2003 Boat and Beach access report, Collier County has added 278 beach parking spaces to its inventory. Fifty-eight (58) net spaces were added (75 added at Conner Park offset with the loss of 17 spaces at the Bluebill access) and 220 at Vanderbilt Beach access with the addition of the parking garage. Total spaces at County beaches with the completion of the Conner Park parking addition will be 1,499. Spaces for the City of Naples have been verified at 1,305 and the State of Florida beach parking has remained static at 355.

Table 7 outlines the number of beach parking spaces per capita over the next ten years. These population figures are for year round residents and do not reflect seasonal residents. A 1:150 space-to-resident ratio was established as a goal by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in 1999. This ratio compares the number of public parking spaces to the population of the county. Revised population growth along with recent parking additions satisfies parking needs until 2020 based on this ratio.

Year	Yearly Population	Number of parking spaces	Ratio
2009	332,064	3159	1:106
2010	334,837	3159	1:107
2011	340,966	3159	1:109
2012	347,207	3159	1:111
2013	353,563	3159	1:113
2014	360,035	3159	1:115
2015	366,895	3159	1:117
2016	374,156	3159	1:119
2017	381,560	3159	1:121
2018	389,111	3159	1:124
2019	396,812	3159	1:126
2020	404,243	3159	1:129

Note –

1. Year round permanent population projections were only considered in the calculations.

Seasonal resident's usage, holidays and weekend demand **have not** been taken into account and will likely tax parking availability especially at the county's most popular beaches. There will be times within certain communities and certainly at the county's most popular beaches when

beach and parking capacity will be exceeded and parking closed. However, a number of considerations improve the outlook where the County's ability to provide sufficient parking for beach access is concerned.

- Some of the areas listed in Table 6 as partially inaccessible to the general public nonetheless do serve a portion of the population. Residents of Pelican Bay, Hideaway Beach, and Marco's Resident Beach enjoy a higher level of service than the general public due to the semi-private nature and access of their beaches. However, even these areas report inadequate capacity during peak use times.
- Additionally, thousands of residences in Collier County live west of Lely Barefoot Boulevard, Gulf Shore Drive, Gulf Shore Boulevard, Gordon Drive, and Collier Boulevard (Marco Island). The people who live in those residences do not need parking accommodation because they live within walking distance of the beach.

Other Recreation

A final topic in assessing the County's levels of service with regard to beaches and boating is the introduction of alternative recreational activities.

Sugden Regional Park is home to the 60-acre Lake Avalon, which supports a swimming beach and opportunities to participate in boating activities such as canoeing, kayaking, paddle boating, water skiing and sailing classes.

Clam Pass Park, Margood, Golden Gate Community Park (future), Bayview, Barefoot Beach Preserve and Gordon River Greenway Park offer canoe/kayak launches.

The North Collier Regional Park provides a water park with slides, a lazy river, and children's activity pools—a perfect alternative to the beach for cooling down on a hot day.

The existing Golden Gate Aquatic Center, Immokalee Sports Complex, Splash parks at Vineyards and Eagle Lakes Community Parks provide more choices, as well.

The County should continue to diversify the recreational activities it offers. Variety builds the participant base and alleviates the burden on traditional resources such as beaches.

PLANNED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The following is a summary of capital projects that have been approved by the Board and are either in the planning, design or construction phases:

Boat Access Projects

- **Bayview Boat Docks** – This project will add an additional 52 boat trailer spaces to this facility bringing the on-site total parking to 68 spots. Operational startup is expected by the end of calendar year 2012.

- **Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park** – This Park will accommodate canoes, kayaks and very shallow draft boats with trolling motors. This park is expected to be completed in 2018 with lake access in 2014.
- **Gordon River Greenway Park** – This Park will accommodate canoes and kayaks and will be commissioned and open to the public in 2012.
- **Margood Park** - This Park will accommodate canoes and kayaks and will be commissioned and open to the public in 2011.
- **Cocohatchee Boat Parking Expansion** - Aqua Development as part of its Planned Unit Development is required to add 20 boat parking spaces and 7 regular car parking spaces to this park. The site plan was approved and the permit issued for this work in 2007. Completion timing of this work is currently being discussed with the developer.

Beach Access and Beach Park Facilities

- **Bluebill Road Beach Access and Bathrooms** – This project will provide public bathrooms and beach access at the end of Bluebill Avenue. Parking will be provided from Conner Park. This project should be completed in 2011.
- **Vanderbilt Beach Road Restroom & Concessionaire** – This project is in design/permitting and will replace the existing restrooms at Vanderbilt Beach with a new facility that would expand the restrooms and concession capabilities. This project is expected to be completed in 2013.
- **New Beach Park Facility at Clam Pass** - A new facility is in the planning stages that would provide passive shade structures and restrooms facilities 1,000 feet to the south of the existing Clam Pass Facility. This facility would be accessed by tram similar to the existing facility and provide additional beach access to the public. This facility will require 3 years to plan, permit and construct.
- **Tigertail Dune Walkover & Restrooms**- This project will add an additional bathroom facility at Tigertail Beach as well as a mangrove walkover. The dune walkover is expected to be complete by 2011. The bathroom construction is dependent on revised FEMA flood maps.

CONCLUSIONS

In summary, the levels of service that today's residents and visitors enjoy can be summarized as follows:

1. Current boat ramp lanes provided within Collier County meet the non-peak level of service capacity demands of the boating public through 2020. This assumes that all of the public and private ramp lanes regardless of location, popularity or weather accommodate the same daily volume throughout the year.
2. Thirty-three boat ramp lanes cannot handle the current peak day boat traffic generated within Collier County. Thirty-six boat ramp lanes are required to handle the county's current boater needs. Boater demand will require an additional lane be added in 2013 to 2015 timeframe. Demand will require five additional ramp lanes to be added by 2020.

3. Inadequate boat trailer parking is further reducing the capacity of our launch facilities. Currently, we have a 149 trailer parking space deficit at our saltwater launch facilities. Acquisition of desirable boat launch sites with adequate trailer parking should continue.
4. The number of beach parking spaces currently meets the 1:150 parking spaces to permanent yearly resident ratio recommended by the Park and Recreation Advisory Board.
5. Over the next ten years, and especially on weekends and holidays, facility demand will negatively impact the level of service that is currently provided. There will be times especially at the County's most popular boat ramps and beaches when parking capacity will be exceeded and facilities closed unless new facilities and parking are developed.
6. Reductions in population growth projections along with support and funding from the Board of County Commissioners to expand existing and provide new boating/parking facilities have improved or at the very least maintained the Level of Service to the residents of Collier County.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are areas within Collier County where improvements can be made in addition to current projects to expand the access to open water and the beaches:

1. Barefoot Beach Preserve

Not exceeding the carrying capacity of this park is a primary objective because of its status as a nature preserve. However, a dock and pier can be provided to the inland side of the island to accommodate waterborne visitors while protecting the beach and dunes. This area will also allow provide visitors a better view the mangrove habitat, which presently is only accessible by canoe/kayak. Pick up locations can be at Cocohatchee and Conner Parks.

2. Beach Access

Beach access can be viewed from two perspectives; the number and amount of beach access points and the effectiveness of each of those locations. Although no standards exist for the number of public beach access points a County should have, Collier County has been aggressively working to increase the number and location of its public beach accesses points. This however, has met with limited success because of the high cost and low availability of suitable locations.

Staff is recommending that the County continue to pursue its current acquisition policy but at the same time aggressively peruse revisions to the Land Development Code that permits greater public beach access.

3. Parking and Transportation Service for Beach Access

The number of beach parking spaces currently meets the countywide 1:150 parking space to permanent resident recommended ratio suggested by the Park and Recreation Advisory Board. If additional parking is required at our more popular beach parks or during season the County should consider providing beach access through a combination of:

- Explore an extended CAT operation along Gulf Shore Drive to increase service to the beach access points along Vanderbilt Beach.
- Develop a business plan to provide tram service during peak use periods between Conner Park and the Vanderbilt Beach garage to feed our most popular beaches using existing underutilized public access points.

4. Beach Parking Fees

Collier County has adopted a policy of free beach parking with a beach parking pass for residents and non-residents have the opportunity to purchase a pass for an annual fee.

5. Boat Launch and Boat Trailer Parking

Boat ramp lanes are not adequate for the peak periods of weekends and holidays for the number of boat users in Collier County. Even with the additional new lane at Bayview Park, the County is operating with a two lane deficit in 2011. This deficit will grow by one lane in 2013 to 2015 timeframe and increase to 5 additional ramp lanes in 2020.

Boat trailer parking is presently inadequate and even with programmed parking increases the County has a significant parking space deficit based on current ramp capacity. This deficit is a county wide average and does not account for peak usage or chronic shortages at popular ramp locations like Bayview, Caxambas or Cocohatchee.

The County should continue to assertively pursue expanding the existing boat parks, parking, and facilities where appropriate. Additionally, strategic acquisition of desirable boat launch sites should continue.

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Appendix B – Supplemental Inventory Information for County-Owned Parks

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Airport Park

Classification:

- Community

Acres:

- 19 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Playground
- Picnic facilities
- Multiuse Pathway/Trail





Ann Olesky Park

Classification:

- Regional

Acres:

- 2.30 Acres

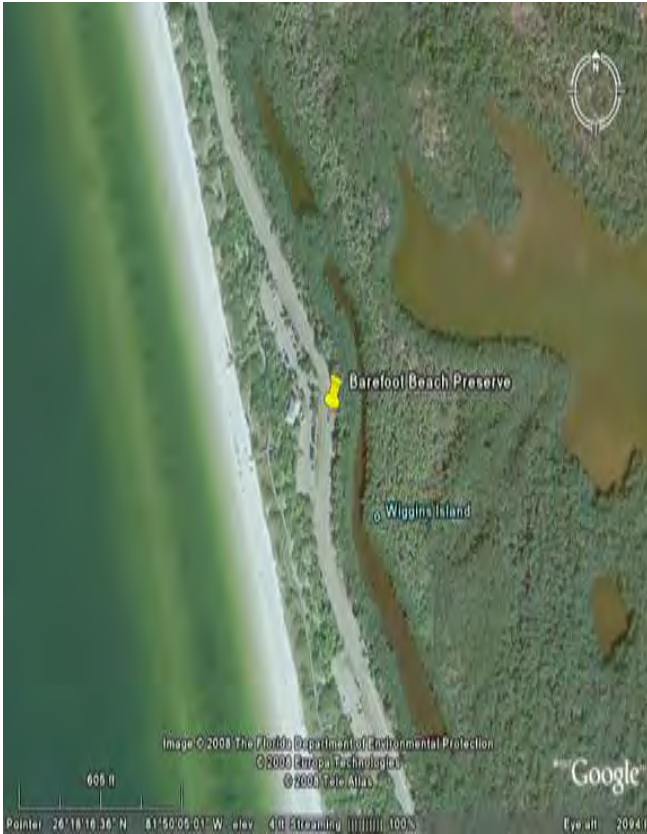
Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Boardwalk
- Boat ramp
- Picnic pavilion





Barefoot Beach Access

Classification:

- Regional

Acres:

- 5 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Boardwalk
- Beach access



Barefoot Beach Preserve Community Park

Classification:

- Regional

Acres:

- 159.60 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Beach access
- Boat ramp
- Nature/ cultural/ historical center



Bayview Park

Classification:

- Regional

Acres:

- 6.27 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Picnic shelter
- Boat ramp
- Trash receptacles
- Fishing access point





Caxambas Park

Classification:

- Regional

Acres:

- 4.20 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Boat ramp
- Restroom facility



Clam Pass

Classification:

- Regional

Acres:

- 35 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Beach access
- Picnic shelter
- Security station
- Multiuse Pathway/ Trail



Cocohatchee River Park

Classification:

- Regional

Acres:

- 7.20 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Boat ramp
- Picnic shelter
- Playground





Collier Boulevard Boating Park

Classification:

- Regional

Acres:

- 0.50 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Boat ramp
- Boat trailer parking





Conner Park

Classification:

- Regional

Acres:

- 5 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Beach access
- Multiuse pathway/ trail
- Fishing area



Corkscrew Elementary

Classification:

- Community

Acres:

- 16.90 Acres

Agency:

- School Board

Existing Facilities:

- Baseball field
- Basketball courts
- Multiuse field
- Softball field
- Tennis court



Eagle Lakes Community Park

Classification:

- Community

Acres:

- 32 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Baseball field
- Basketball court
- Multiuse trail paved
- Picnic pavilion
- Playground
- Tennis courts

East Naples Community Park

Classification:

- Community

Acres:

- 47 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Basketball court
- Bocce/shuffleboard
- Handball court
- Soccer/ Football/ Lacrosse
- Playground
- Racquetball court
- Roller hockey
- Skate Park



Eden Park Elementary

Classification:

- Community

Acres:

- 2.80 Acres

Agency:

- School Board

Existing Facilities:

- Multiuse field





Freedom Park

Classification:

- Regional

Acres:

- 25.16 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Boardwalk
- Education facility
- Look out pavilions
- Walking trails





Golden Gate Community Center

Classification:

- Community

Acres:

- 21 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Basketball court
- Multiuse field
- Playground
- Skate park





Golden Gate Community Park

Classification:

- Community

Acres:

- 35 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Baseball field
- Basketball court
- Bocce/shuffleboard court
- Little league field
- Playground
- Picnic pavilion
- Swimming pool
- Tennis courts

Goodland Boat Ramp



Goodland Boat Ramp
740 Palm Point Drive
Goodland, FL 34140

Source: 2006 Aerials - Collier County Property Appraiser
Created by: Collier County Parks and Recreation
H.ACCREDITATION WORKBOOK 2010/GIS maps/Collier County Parks

Goodland Boating Park

Classification:

- Regional

Acres:

- 5 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Multiuse pathway/ trail

Gordon River Greenway

Classification:

- Regional

Acres:

- 79 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Trail/boardwalk



Gulfcoast Community Park

(not pictured)

Classification:

- Community

Acres:

- 5 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Little League Field

Immokalee Community Park

Classification:

- Community

Acres:

- 23 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Baseball field
- Basketball courts
- Multiuse pathways
- Picnic pavilion
- Playground
- Racquetball court
- Recreation center
- Tennis court

-
-





Immokalee High School

Classification:

- Community

Acres:

- 1 Acres

Agency:

- School Board

Existing Facilities:

- Tennis court

Immokalee Sports Complex

Classification:

- Community

Acres:

- 14 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Basketball court
- Multiuse field (football/ soccer)
- Swimming pool



Mar-Good Harbor Park (not pictured)

Classification:

- Regional

Acres:

- 2.50 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Playground
- Nature/ cultural/ historical center

Max A. Hasse Community Park

Classification:

- Community

Acres:

- 20 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Basketball court
- Picnic pavilion
- Playground
- Softball field
- Tennis court





Naples Park Elementary

Classification:

- Community

Acres:

- 5 Acres

Agency:

- School Board

Existing Facilities:

- Little league field
- Tennis court

North Collier Regional Park

Classification:

- Regional

Acres:

- 207.70 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Multiuse field
- Picnic pavilion
- Softball field
- Sun N' Fun Lagoon





North Gulfshore Beach Access

Classification:

- Regional

Acres:

- .50 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Beach access



Osceola Elementary School

Classification:

- Community

Acres:

- 3.20 Acres

Agency:

- School Board

Existing Facilities:

- Little League field



Palmetto Elementary

Classification:

- Community

Acres:

- 2 Acres

Agency:

- School Board

Existing Facilities:

- Multiuse field

Pelican Bay Community Park

Classification:

- Community

Acres:

- 15 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Basketball court
- Paved multiuse pathway
- Picnic shelter
- Playground
- Racquetball court
- Tennis court



Port of the Islands

Classification:

- Regional

Acres:

- 5.55 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Boat ramp access



Randall Curve

(not pictured)

Classification:

- Community

Acres:

- 47.00 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Undeveloped



Sabal Palm Elementary

Classification:

- Community

Acres:

- 9.50 Acres

Agency:

- School Board

Existing Facilities:

- Basketball court
- Multiuse field
- Soccer/ football/ lacrosse



South Marco Beach Access

Classification:

- Regional

Acres:

- 5 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Beach access

Sugden Regional Park

Classification:

- Regional

Acres:

- 120 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Paved multiuse trail
- Picnic shelter
- Playground



Tigertail Beach Park

Classification:

- Regional

Acres:

- 31.60 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Beach access
- Playground



Tony Rosbough Community Park



Tony Rosbough Community Park

Classification:

- Community

Acres:

- 7 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Little League fields

Vanderbilt Beach

Classification:

- Regional

Acres:

- 5 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Beach access
- Boardwalk



Veterans Community Park

Classification:

- Community

Acres:

- 43.64 Acres

Agency:

- County

Existing Facilities:

- Baseball fields
- Basketball court
- Playground
- Roller hockey
- Tennis courts



Veterans Memorial Elementary

Classification:

- Community

Acres:

- 4 Acres

Agency:

- School Board

Existing Facilities:

- Multiuse field
- Multiuse building



Vineyards Community Park

Classification:

- Community

Acres:

- 35.50 Acres

Agency:

- School Board

Existing Facilities:

- Basketball court
- Bocce/shuffleboard court
- Multiuse field
- Paved multiuse field
- Picnic pavilion
- Playground
- Tennis courts





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Appendix C – Focus Group Invitees

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The following is a list of individuals invited to attend the Master Plan Focus Group. A list of individuals who were able to attend and participate, as well as a summary of the focus group discussion is provided in Section 5.

1. Bill Arthur, Golden Gate Advisory Board
2. Dave Ball, Naples Girls Softball Little League
3. Ted Beisler, President – East Naples Civic Association
4. Stella Benitez, Super Class User
5. Bernardo Bezos, President – Marco Island Civic Association
6. Julie Bissell, Collier County Lacrosse Association
7. Joe Bonness, Pathway Advisory Committee
8. Peter Brockman, Park Ranger – Collier Seminole State Park
9. Darrin Brooks, Golden Gate Community Center Advisory Board
10. Philip Brougham, Collier County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
11. Pam Brown, Immokalee Citizen
12. Andy Browne, United Arts Council of Collier County
13. Barbara Buehler, Collier County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
14. Laurel Butler, East Naples Kiwanis
15. Susan Cone, Up A Creek Kayak Tours
16. Jeff Curl, Conservation Collier and Golden Gates Estates Land Trust
17. Ted Decker, Isles of Capri
18. Lisa DeNove, North Naples Little League
19. Dan Dentino, Ave Maria
20. John Dina, Optimist Soccer Club of Naples
21. George Dondanville, Naples On The Run
22. Brandon Dowdy, YMCA of the Palms
23. Tom Eastman, School District Board of Collier County
24. Don Farmer, GG Homes Owners Association
25. Doug Fee, North Naples Civic Association
26. Doug Finlay, Naples City Council
27. Ann Marie Foley, East Naples Kiwanis
28. Peter Gaddy, President - Golden Gate Estates Area Civic Association
29. Kerry Geroy, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
30. Carolyn Graham, School District Board of Collier County – Teacher
31. Tim Guerrette, Collier County Sheriff's Office (Youth Relationship)
32. Sammy Hamilton, Mayor – Everglades City
33. Hunter Hansen, Naples Grande
34. Peggy Harris, Golden Gate Community Center Advisory Board
35. Wilbur Hawk, President of Family Network - Disabilities
36. Jim Hoppensteadt, President - Pelican Bay Foundation

37. Dave Jackson, Bayshore CRA
38. Steven Jones, Super Class User
39. Jim Klug, Golden Gate Community Center Advisory Board
40. Annette Kniola, Golden Gates Estates Task Force
41. Ellie Krier, Gordon River
42. Dawn Montecalvo, Naples Children Education Foundation
43. Veronica Montoya, Southwest Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
44. Bob Mulhere, Mulhere and Associates
45. Mike Nelson, Collier County Sheriff's Office
46. Lesther Nino, MEXI Soccer
47. Edward "Ski" Olesky, Collier County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
48. Mike O'Reagan, Chamber of Commerce
49. Penny Philippe, Immokalee CRA
50. Bill Poteet, Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee
51. John Ribes, Collier County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
52. Nancy Ritchie, City of Marco – Environmental Specialist
53. Leo Rodgers, President – Immokalee Civic Association
54. David Saletko, Collier County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
55. Brad Schiffer, Collier County Planning Commission
56. Tony Scott, Golden Gates National Little League
57. William Shafer, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
58. Rick Sims, President – Golden Gates Area Civic Association
59. Gavin Spooner, Naples Youth Soccer
60. Penny Taylor, Civic Leader
61. Clarence Tears, South Florida Water Management District
62. Virginia Traver, Ave Maria
63. Kaydee Tuff, Golden Gate Community Center Advisory Board
64. Janet Vasey, Collier County Productivity Committee
65. Jim Waterman, Schenkle & Schultz
66. Harold Weeks, NAACP Collier County Branch
67. Christine Wheeler, Hodges University
68. Kris Whipple, Park Planner and Facilitator
69. Susan Whitney, Super Class User
70. Curt Whitthoff, School District Board of Collier County - Teacher
71. Margaret Winn, Friends of Barefoot Beach
72. Diana Worrall, Citizen Representative
73. Joe Zaks, Northside Naples Kiwanis
74. Bart Zino, Youth Sports



Appendix D – Example Citizen Input Form



**Collier County
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Citizen Input Form**

April 7, 2011—University of Florida Extension Services

Station 1: Planned Land Acquisition and Projected Population Growth

Station 1 illustrates the land acquisitions planned for the next 10 years compared to the projected population growth.

Question #1:

Do you agree that Collier County will be acquiring land in the appropriate areas over the next 10 years?

Yes No

If "No," please explain, including whether you believe there are areas where land acquisition should be considered but are not shown on this map.

Station 2: Planned Capital Projects and Projected Population Growth

Station 2 illustrates the capital projects planned for the next 10 years compared to the projected population growth.

Question #2:

Please prioritize the following projects (with "1" being most important)

- Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park (develop park)*
- Eagle Lakes Community Park (construct community fitness center/pool)*
- Manatee Community Park (develop park)*
- Vanderbilt Beach Extension Community Park (develop park)*

Are there any parks and recreation capital project(s) not listed above that you feel are needed and should be considered by Collier County?



**Collier County
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Citizen Input Form**

April 7, 2011—University of Florida Extension Services

Station 3: Field Utilization Graphics

Station 3 illustrates utilization data for athletic fields in Collier County.

Question #3:

Do you agree that the County should continue to develop athletic fields due to the current utilization and demand? ___ Yes ___ No

If yes, at what location(s) would you like to see future athletic fields developed. If no, please explain.

Station 4: Master Plan Recommendations

Station 4 describes the current recommendations included in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Question #4:

Do you agree that each of these should be included as a recommendation?

- *Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park (develop park) ___ Yes ___ No*
- *Eagle Lakes Community Park (construct community fitness center/pool) ___ Yes ___ No*
- *Additional Athletic Fields to Serve Existing Population ___ Yes ___ No*
- *Optimize Inter-local Agreements for School Sites ___ Yes ___ No*
- *Manatee Community Park (develop park including athletic fields) ___ Yes ___ No*
- *Vanderbilt Beach Extension Community park (develop park) ___ Yes ___ No*
- *Incorporate Recommendations from 2010 Boat and Beach Access Report ___ Yes ___ No*

If "no" to any of the above, please let us know why you disagree or if you feel that the Master Plan should include a recommendation not currently presented, please let us know what that recommendation is.
