

Workshop  
**STAFF MEMO**



**Meeting:** Workshop - Oct 04 2021  
**Staff Contact:** Nilsa Zacarias, Director of  
Community Development

**Department:** Community Development

**TITLE**

Our Parks Our Values - Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Proposed Scope of Work and Timeline

**SUMMARY:**

Our Parks Our Values - Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Proposed Scope of Work and Timeline

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

[OUR PARKS OUR VALUES Master Plan- Proposed Scope and Timeline 9-27-21](#)



*Our Parks*

*Our Values*

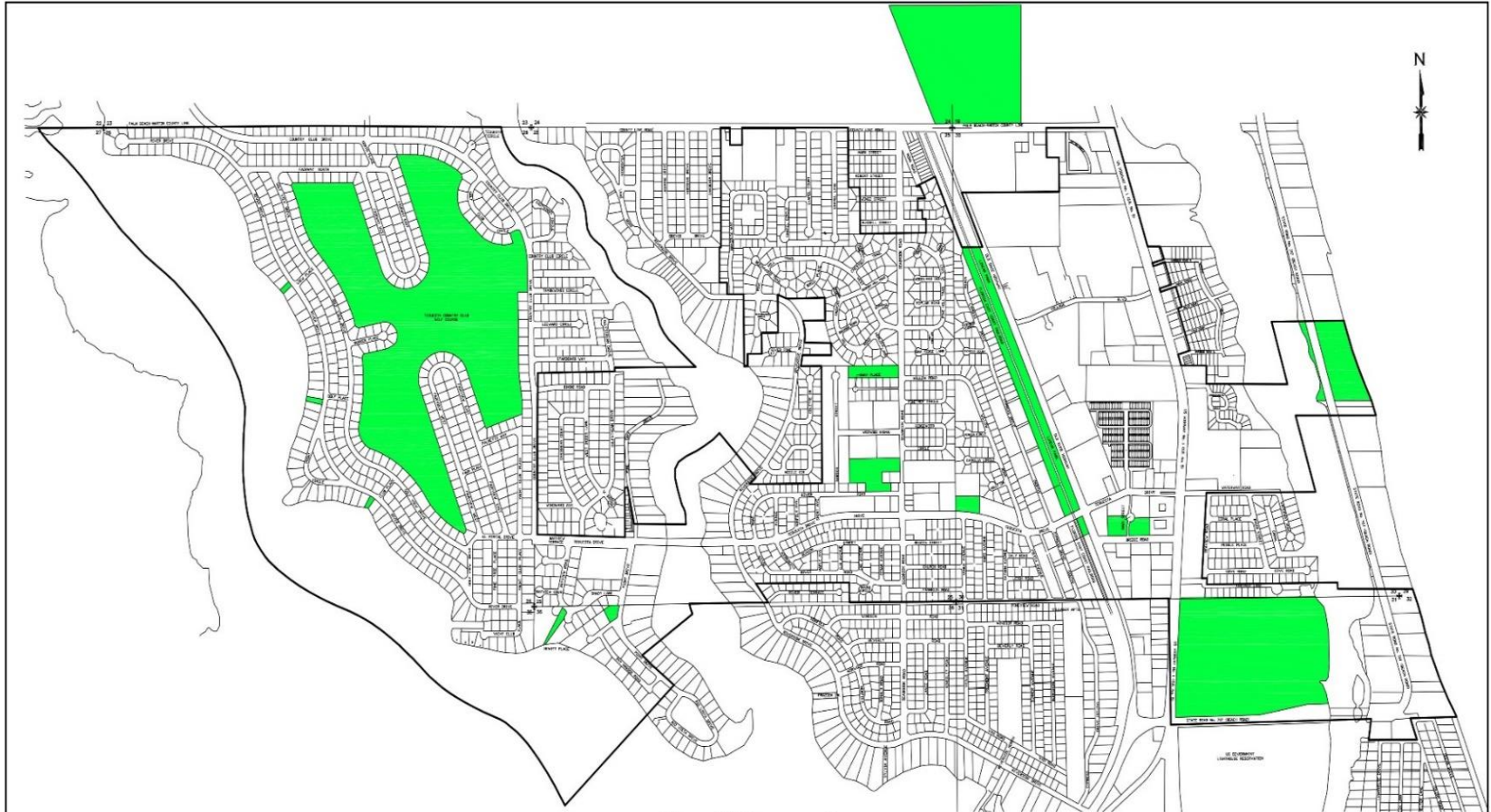
## Village of Tequesta

# Parks and Recreation Master Plan

## *The Community Vision*

Proposed Scope and Timeline

9.24.21



The Village of  
**TEQUESTA**  
 PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA  
**PARKS AND OPEN SPACE**



1 inch = 1100 ft.

JANUARY 2017

**LEGEND**

- PARKS AND OPEN SPACE**
- CORPORATE LIMITS**
- LOT OR TRACT LINES**

**Legacy**  
 Surveying and Mapping, Inc.  
 112 N. U.S. Highway No. 1  
 Tequesta, FL 33469  
 Phone: (561) 740-9424  
 BUSINESS LICENSE: LB# 8130



## Introduction

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Parks and recreation master planning is a comprehensive process that provides guidance and policy direction to local government decision makers. The planning process, which engages the community and stakeholders, provides a foundation for understanding and responding to the parks and recreation needs of residents. The process involves strategically examining the community's vision; existing community services, facilities, and resources; and assessing future needs concerning parks, recreation, and open spaces. Planning for parks and recreation facilities attract economic development, promotes active lifestyles, and build healthy communities.

*Our Parks Our Values* Master Plan will provide the vision of the residents and serve as a framework for the long-term development of parks and recreation programs. The final document will allow the Village of Tequesta to assess current and future recreational needs, evaluate feasible options, develop a strategic action plan, and budget for long-term or phased-in development and improvements. See Appendix, Parks and Recreation Element, Village's Comprehensive Plan.

In essence, the purpose of this master plan is to develop a comprehensive vision for a park and recreation system in context of its location, natural resources, and vision of the community. This vision will serve as a framework for the long-term use and development of a park or facility in a manner that is consistent with a local government's comprehensive plan and policy agenda.



## Benefits

*Our Parks Our Values* Master Plan will provide an understanding of the community needs and vision. It will enable to prioritize resource allocation for projects, programs, and services in a manner that is fiscally responsible, environmentally sound, publicly supported, and politically prudent. An effective master plan is the result of a collaborative effort that solicits and incorporates input from a diverse group of local government leaders, staff members, citizens, and stakeholders.

The Master Plan will provide a foundation for:

- Building credibility, support, and consensus from community members and stakeholders
- Informing citizens about a park's needs and its community assets
- Identifying capital improvement goals that are needed to assess fiscal requirements and fundraising needs
- Guiding critical decisions about parks and recreation facilities, infrastructure, programs, and services
- Developing recommendations and an implementation strategy

*Our Parks Our Values* Master Plan will be a successful master planning process that will transform the community's vision into tangible plans to create outstanding recreation opportunities, well-maintained facilities, and a customer-focused and responsive park system. It will be a blueprint guiding document, a long-term road map for the Village of Tequesta parks and recreation programs.



## Key Aspects and Elements

*Our Parks Our Values* Master Plan will be financially feasible, environmentally compatible, balanced, technically sound, responsive and flexible. The plan will describe how it is or will:

- Be consistent with the comprehensive plan;
- Be responsive to the interests of citizens and diverse groups of stakeholders;
- Implementable, lead to a shared vision for community livability, and provide recommendations for land-use policy, parks development and rehabilitation, and natural resource conservation;
- Be adaptable to future changes in conditions;
- Lead to a shared vision for recreation and conservation among all stakeholders and guide future implementation;
- Address needs based upon the demographics of the community, including all ages and income level and special-needs populations;
- Address the need for ADA accessibility (e.g., facilities, sites, and programs);
- Create opportunities for citizens to connect to open space, greenways, parks, and conservation areas;
- Strengthen connections between recreation, healthy lifestyles, and economic benefits in communities;
- Reconnect people to the outdoors and foster environmental stewardship;
- Leverage investment of resources, partnerships, and funding; and
- Support environmental sustainability, conservation, and green practices



## Community Vision

Public involvement is a fundamental part of the master planning process that should be documented and incorporated into all steps of the master planning process. The community and stakeholders should be involved throughout the process.

*Our Parks Our Values* Master Plan will embrace Tequesta's strong sense of community by facilitating a proactive public participation program (4Ps). The residents active engagement and feedback will be the keystone of the Master Plan. The purpose of the proposed public outreach and participation program includes the following:

- Create a fun, inclusive and engaging process that celebrates Tequesta's parks and recreation programs
- Engage a wide range of ages by providing multiple ways to participate
- Inform the community about Tequesta parks and available programs
- Listen to the resident's current and future needs regarding parks and recreation
- Define the vision and core values that will serve as the basis of the Master Plan

The Master Plan will include the input, feedback and active involvement of the Parks and Recreation Department, the Village Manager and other Village staff to ensure the resulting plan is economically feasible and environmentally sustainable.

*This proactive participation program will build support and consensus for the overall Master Plan; and to provide input for a final design for Tequesta Park and Remembrance Park.* The program will include the following initiatives:

- Open Forum at Village Hall
- Design Workshop at Tequesta Park
- Kiosk at Public Events (Food Trucks, Halloween, Tequesta Fest, etc.)
- Attendance to HOA Meetings
- On-Line and In-Person Survey
- Social Media Communication

*Our Parks Our Values* Master Plan will include (1) Review of Existing Conditions; (2) Analysis of Needs and Preferences; (3) Identify Priorities; (4) Adopt and Implement Plan. The community participation and vision program will be the basis of the Master Plan for Parks and Recreation Program. The following graphic summarize the key elements of the Plan:



The Master Plan report will include the following sections:

- Introduction
- Existing Conditions and Analysis
- Proactive Public Participation Program (4 Ps)
- Analysis of Needs and Preferences
- Identify Priorities and Recommendations
- Action Plan, Feasibility and Capital Improvement
- Adopt and Implement Plan (it will include a timeline)





## Public Participation Program

The Proactive Public Participation Program (4Ps) will include the following tasks:

### **Task 1: Initial Project Meeting**

Meet with Village Manager and Staff to discuss implementation of the scope, project schedule and deliverables.

### **Task 2: Advertising for Events and Survey**

The success of the public participation process relies on effective advertising and creative tools to communicate with the community. The following initiatives will be conducted in advance:

*Village web site will include a section for Our Parks Our Values Master Plan*

*Personal invitation to residents –An announcement on the water bill will include the link to the online survey and design workshop date*

*Invitation through social media*

*Meetings with Home Owner Associations*

*Smoke Signal (The November Issue will include the survey for residents who would like to fill a paper copy and drop it at the Village Hall. It will also include the link to the online survey if they prefer the survey monkey version)*

*Posters with key dates will be distributed to business for advertisement. The poster will include a QR Code to access the survey*

### **Task 3: Gathering Information and Existing Condition Analysis**

The Project Team will collect relevant information regarding the parks such as:

- Existing Plans, Conceptual Plans, Surveys and Landscape Plans
- Existing conditions of all parks and recreation programs
- Level of Service per the Village's Comprehensive Plan

The Project Team will analyze existing conditions and trends based on collected information, visual observation and meetings with Village's leaders, staff, and residents. The goal of this existing

condition analysis is to provide a feasible Master Plan. Once a park is on a final design phase, an Environmental Impact Study is required.

#### **Task 4. Surveys, Interviews, Kiosks and Village’s Boards**

To listen to the community is paramount to propose a comprehensive and sustainable Master Plan for current and future residents. The following initiatives will be accomplished to have a meaningful public discussion:

- A. **Surveys:** a survey will be prepared to post on-line and to provide to residents that attend public events and HOA meetings. The survey questions are intended to understand the needs of the community related to parks and recreational programs. It includes questions related to frequency of park use, how a person gets to or would like to get to their parks, and the types of programs and amenities they would like to see in the future. The survey will also allow for open ended comments. See the following proposed questions:

1. Are you a Tequesta resident? *(A resident is defined as person who reside within the boundaries of the Village of Tequesta, who pays taxes to the Village and has the ability to vote in the municipal elections)*
  - Yes
  - No
2. Provide your zip code
  - 33469
  - Other (please provide your zip code) \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is your age?
  - 17 and under
  - 18-25
  - 26-34
  - 35-44
  - 45-54
  - 55-64
  - 65-74
  - 75 older

4. How often do you visit our Parks?

- At least once a week
  - More than once a week
  - Not sure
  - Do not use parks
  - Other (Please provide comment)\_\_\_\_\_
- 

5. What are your favorite Parks and Open Spaces?

- Constitution Park
- Paradise Park
- Tequesta Park
- Linear Park that runs parallel to Old Dixie Hwy.
- Coral Cove Park
- JLONA\* Natural Area by US Hwy One
- Village Green at the Village Municipal Complex
- Others (Please provide comment)\_\_\_\_\_

\*JLONA (Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area)

6. What are your favorite programs?

- Indoor activities (senior programs, basketball, gym, etc.)
  - Outdoor activities
  - Others (Please provide comment)\_\_\_\_\_
- 

7. How would you improve our parks? What would you add?

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8. What recreation amenities would you like to be added?

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9. Do you feel there are adequate parks within walking/biking distance from your home?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Don't use parks/recreation facilities

10. How far are you willing to travel to a park?

- Walk 10 to 15 minutes
- Bike 15 to 30 minutes
- Car up to 30 minutes

11. What type of facilities are most important to you?

- Passive Parks (walkways, benches, gazebos, etc.)
- Active Parks (playgrounds, sports, picnic shelters, etc.)
- Community Gardens
- Nature Trails
- Others \_\_\_\_\_

12. What are your priorities for park investment?

- Acquire land for parks and facilities
- Maintain existing parks and facilities
- Improve access to parks and facilities through trails, sidewalks, bike lanes, safer crossings
- Improve existing parks and facilities through adding trees, playgrounds, sidewalks, etc.
- Add or enhance programs at parks and facilities (markets, concerts at the parks, others)
- Others (Please provide a comment) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. **Interviews:** a series of one-on-one interviews will be conducted with residents, elected officials, JTAA representatives, and village's staff to gather information and to have an in-depth understanding.

- C. **Kiosks:** the project team will attend Village's events to reach out residents and provide in person surveys. These kiosks or pop-ups will facilitate to communicate directly with the community, the following events are included:

Halloween: October 15<sup>th</sup>, (5:30- 8:30pm), Dover Street, Constitution Park  
Shredded and Coffee with the Cop: October 16<sup>th</sup>, (9-11am), Village Hall parking lot  
Food Truck: November 5<sup>th</sup> (5-8:30 pm)  
Chili Cook Off: November 13<sup>th</sup>  
Fall Festival: November 19<sup>th</sup> (5-8pm) and November 20<sup>th</sup> (12-5pm)

At the lobby in the Village Hall, there will be a permanent box where residents can hand deliver their surveys. Smoke Signal (The November Issue will include the survey, if residents would like to fill a paper copy and drop it at the Village Hall. It will also include the link to the online survey if they prefer the survey monkey version)

- D. **Village's Boards:** the project team will conduct a workshop with the Planning and Zoning Board and the Environmental Committee to listen to board and committee members.

#### **Task 5. Kick Off Open Forum *Our Parks Our Values Master Plan***

This event will be the opening of this proactive public participation program (4Ps), the purpose is to provide information regarding *Our Parks Our Values Master Plan* initiative including the following:

- Goals of the Master Plan
- Overview of existing Parks and Recreation Programs
- Current trends and future challenges
- Upcoming public participation events

This event will be conducted at the Village Hall, Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. Residents will be able to attend the event through You Tube.

#### **Task 6. Design Workshop**

This community workshop will be conducted at the Tequesta Park, Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9am to noon, and it will include the following activities:

- Welcome to all attendees to the workshop: allow time to mingle and provide refreshments
- Introduction: introduce the team and explain the purpose of this workshop
- Site tour: workshop attendees will have the opportunity to walk the park and have an understanding of the existing conditions
- Break out into groups with one facilitator
- **In addition to the Survey**, each group will address the following questions:
  - How would you improve, change or add to the Village's parks?*
  - What kind of amenities do you envision for Tequesta Park and Remembrance Park?*
  - What is unique about Tequesta Park? Why?*
  - In your opinion, what would you keep, change or improve in the proposed design of Tequesta Park and Remembrance Park?*

As part of the work group, there will be a design exercise regarding Tequesta Parks, Remembrance Park and others. Also, it is important to offer an activity table for children where they can work on crafts and provide their opinion about our parks, at the end of the morning they will also make a presentation.

#### **Task 7. Draft Report - Our Parks Our Values Master Plan**

The project team will prepare a draft report to include a summary of the residents active participation and vision for the Parks and Recreation Programs. The report will be graphic driven and it will provide the park's existing conditions and reflect the residents vision and needs.

Proposed Table of Content for the Master Plan report:

- Introduction
- Existing Conditions and Analysis
- Proactive Public Participation Program (4 Ps)
- Analysis of Needs and Preferences
- Identify Priorities and Recommendations
- Action Plan, Feasibility and Capital Improvement
- Adopt and Implement Plan (it will include a timeline)

**Task 8. Workshops with the Community, Village Council, and Boards**

The project team will conduct a series of workshops to present the draft plan and gather input prior to preparing the final document. The workshops will be with the community, the Village Council, the Planning and Zoning Board, the Environmental Advisory Committee.

**Task 9. Final Master Plan Report**

The project team will revise the Master Plan as necessary based on the input received at the workshops and submit the final Master Plan to the Village.



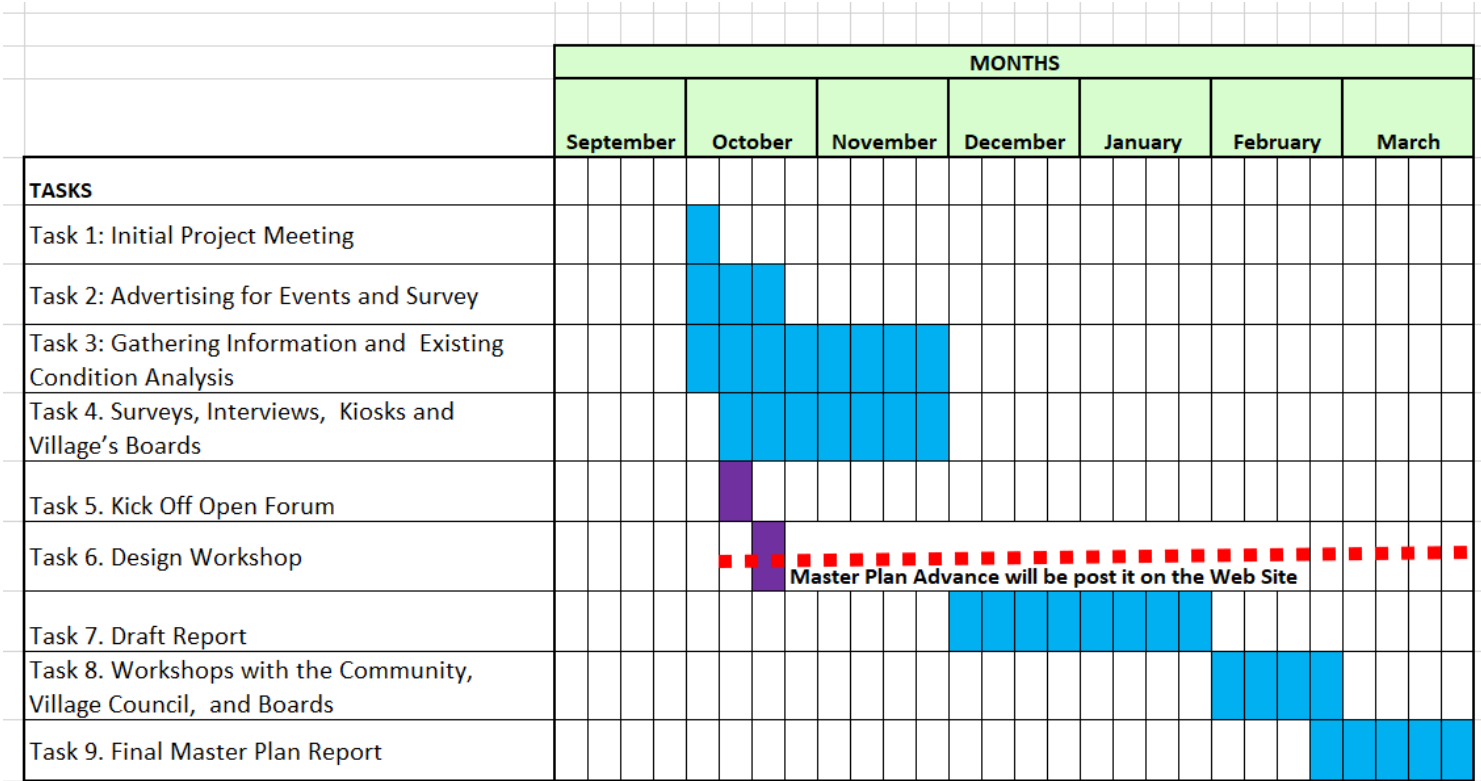
## Timeline and Schedule

The following table summarizes the upcoming public participation events for the months of **October and November 2021**:

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
<b>Kick-Off Open Forum</b>	Tuesday, October 12 <sup>TH</sup> (5:30-7:30 pm)	Village Hall Chambers
<b>Halloween</b>	Friday, October 15 <sup>th</sup> (5:30-8:30 pm)	Constitution Park
<b>Shredded and Coffee with the Cop</b>	Saturday, October 16 <sup>th</sup> (9-11 am)	Village Hall parking lot and Chambers
<b>Design Workshop</b>	Saturday, October 23 <sup>rd</sup> (9-noon)	Tequesta Park
<b>Meeting with Tequesta Pines HOA</b>	Wednesday, October 27 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>Chili Cook Off</b>	Saturday, November 13 <sup>th</sup>	Paradise Park
<b>Fall Festival</b>	Friday, November 19th (5-8pm) Saturday, November 20 <sup>th</sup> (12-5pm)	Paradise Park



The following timeline is proposed to prepare *Our Parks Our Values Master Plan*:





## **APPENDIX**

Parks and Recreation Element from the  
Village's Comprehensive Plan



# COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

POLICY DOCUMENT

*Goals, Objectives,  
& Policies*

## RECREATION & OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

## VILLAGE OF TEQUESTA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

### RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

- Goal: 1.0.0** *The development of a sustainable recreation and open space system that adequately provides for the current and projected recreational needs of the Village and enhances its built and natural environment by providing active and passive recreation opportunities.*
- Objective: 1.1.0** *Maintain community and neighborhood parks and facilities meeting the current and future needs of all age groups in Tequesta.*
- Policy: 1.1.1** Provide recreation facilities which offer sufficient choice and variety for all age groups.
- Policy: 1.1.2** Continue the implementation of recreation programs for Tequesta Park that complement and enhance the use of the Village’s recreational facility assets, with periodic evaluations of how these programs are meeting the recreation needs of the Village.
- Objective: 1.2.0** *As part of the development approval process, require that recreation areas be provided as a part of the development, or accept a recreation fee in lieu of land, where and when appropriate, in order to maintain a sustainable recreation system for the community.*
- Policy: 1.2.1** The Village shall continue to zone all properties utilized or targeted for recreation and open space purposes as R/OP, Recreation/Open Space.
- Objective: 1.3.0** *Continue to coordinate development which allows safe and easy access to recreational facilities outside and within the Village’s corporate limits in a manner that is consistent with the Transportation Element of this Plan and the Village of Tequesta Capital Improvement Program.*
- Policy: 1.3.1** The Village should provide for safe access to recreation areas by making road improvements and pathway improvements compatible with surrounding development patterns and consistent with the Village Capital Improvement Program and Transportation Element.
- Policy: 1.3.2** Existing roads and thoroughfares should be considered as primary locations for the accommodation of bicycle traffic when they lead to the Village’s park and recreation facilities and encourage bicycle paths in the parks.
- Policy: 1.3.3** Obtain easements or use road rights-of-way for bicycle and pedestrian paths well in advance of development where they are desired consistent with Complete Street principles.



**Policy: 1.3.4** In providing pathways with safe access to recreational areas, the Village should coordinate this activity with surrounding involved governments by reviewing Comprehensive Plans and Capital Improvement Programs of adjacent governments as part of the annual budgetary process.

**Objective: 1.4.0** *Continue to expand recreational facilities with the growth of the Village to meet the needs of the residents and Level of Service Standards.*

**Policy: 1.4.1** Preserve currently allocated recreational areas within the Village by zoning those parcels and properties R/OP, Recreation/Open Space district.

**Policy: 1.4.2** Strive to meet minimum standards for recreation open space, service areas, and facilities as established in the Policy 1.4.5 of this Element.

**Policy: 1.4.3** Encourage the use of private recreation facilities within the Village and work cooperatively with the private sector to provide public recreation areas in future developments as part of the site plan review process.

**Policy: 1.4.4** Through cooperative arrangements, encourage the use of existing school and publicly owned recreation facilities in the North County area to meet the recreation needs of Village residents.

**Policy: 1.4.5** The following Level of Service Standards, shall apply to recreation and open space facilities within the Village of Tequesta.

Classification Area/Activity	Standard (Unit/Population)
Neighborhood Parks	2 acres/1,000
Community Parks	2 acres/1,000

**Policy: 1.4.6** The Village shall continue maintaining and enforcing landscaping regulations which establish landscaping and open space definitions, standards and regulations consistent with Florida Friendly Landscaping requirements.

**Policy: 1.4.7** The Village should continue to work cooperatively with the Federal Government and Palm Beach County to direct the development of the Coast Guard property north of CR 707 for future recreation/open space, culture/civic and/or other appropriate public use. Since there is similar federally owned property south to CR 707 within the corporate limits of the Town of Jupiter, the Village should investigate coordination with their work toward similar development of the entire area.



- Objective: 1.5.0*      *Consider utilizing methods of obtaining additional land to increase the community and neighborhood recreational facilities within the corporate limits of Tequesta when necessary.*
- Policy: 1.5.1      Establish methods for the use of and/or purchase of privately owned lands suitable for recreation in order to increase the existing inventory of recreation areas and open space facilities.
- Policy: 1.5.2.      The Village shall consider seeking land donations from property owners and financial contributions from the private sector for the development of recreational opportunities.
- Policy: 1.5.3      The Village shall coordinate ways and means for private developers to provide public recreation facilities within their developments.
- Policy: 1.5.4.      The Village shall encourage co-sponsorship of recreational and cultural events, such as races, greenmarkets, festivals and athletic events, using Village facilities as a location for these events.
- Objective: 1.6.0*      *Continue to receive and consider citizen input in determining recreational needs of the community.*
- Policy: 1.6.1      Encourage citizen participation in determining recreation facility needs for the various existing and future neighborhood recreation developments by adhering to the public participation procedures established by this Plan.
- Policy: 1.6.2      Maintain citizen input in the planning of additional recreational facilities within the Village by adhering to the public participation procedures established by this Plan.
- Objective: 1.7.0*      *Encourage the protection and supplementation of the existing tree canopy, a vital community and environmental asset, in order to sustain the resource and maintain the environmental benefits provided by mature tree canopies.*
- Policy: 1.7.1      Consider acquiring and preserving open space lands for purposes of recreation, habitat protection and enhancement.
- Policy: 1.7.2      Consider the community's street trees as infrastructure and strive to preserve and protect these trees as a community and private property asset.
- Policy: 1.7.3      The Village shall encourage Tree and Landscape Ordinances to support sustainable development principles of tree preservation as a key element in retention and provision of plant materials and minimize impact to the existing site resources.



Policy: 1.7.4 The Village shall support Public/Private beautification efforts on public property and encourage private maintenance agreements.

Objective: 1.8.0 *Coordinate with the Southeast Florida Regional Greenways and Trails Plan, the Village’s greenway and trail initiatives throughout its geographical boundary and along its waterfront areas,*

Policy: 1.8.1 Consider adopting Southeast Florida Regional Greenways and Trails Plan to coordinate the development of a future greenways and trails network within the Village that connects to County trails and facilities.

Policy: 1.8.2 Seek funding opportunities for acquisition, development and maintenance of sites for greenway corridors.

Policy: 1.8.3 Utilize future park and open space acquisition opportunities to connect the Village’s existing park and open space into a coordinated greenway and trail system



## **DATA & ANALYSIS**

### **CHAPTER 6: RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Village of Tequesta Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing safe, state-of-the-art park and recreation facilities to enhance the quality of life for the Village’s residents and visitors. The Department offers leisure, educational, and physical activities to promote cultural, community and family fellowship.

Recreation and open spaces are vital to making the Village of Tequesta a desirable place to live, work, play, and visit. Besides their intrinsic functional value for leisure time pursuits or passive enjoyment, recreation and open spaces provide opportunities to improve the health and fitness of residents, enhance the Village’s aesthetic quality, and promote resource protection and development management. For instance, the acquisition of sites required for habitat protection and stormwater management can also be used for passive or compatible active recreational purposes.

The two components of Recreation and Open Space, produce different benefits and meet different needs. The recreation component relates to recreation sites and facilities which meet the recreational needs of the Village’s permanent and seasonal population, while the open space component is oriented to meeting quality of life issues and enhancing the Village’s aesthetic quality. Therefore, this Recreation and Open Space Element includes guidelines for the development of recreation and open space facilities.

This chapter also provides an inventory of existing recreation and open sites and facilities, identifies applicable standards and guidelines, and assesses current and projected needs for recreation and open space. The data and analysis provide the framework for identifying and establishing specific goals, objectives, and policies to ensure that an adequate system of parks, recreational facilities, and open space is available for Village residents and visitors both now and in the future.





## EXISTING CONDITIONS AND INVENTORY

The Parks and Recreation Department oversees and manages the recreation program and park facilities of the Village of Tequesta. The Village offers a wide range of leisure, educational and physical activities and programs, such as:

- Community Wide Special Events
- After School Programs
- Athletic Programs
- Tequesta Fest
- Movies in the Park
- Food Truck Pow Wow
- Passive and Active Parks



### Inventory of Public Recreation and Open Space Parks

The Goal of the Recreation and Open Space element of the current Comprehensive Plan is the “development of an open space system that adequately provides for the recreational needs of the Village and enhances the overall environmental characteristics of the area”. There is an array of recreation and open space opportunities available within and outside of the corporate limits of Tequesta. This section contains an inventory of the Village’s existing recreation and open space sites and facilities which provides the basis for analysis and assessment of the Village’s recreation and open space system needs and opportunities. These sites and facilities are classified according to type and function. Figure 7-1 below illustrates the location of the public parks that serve the Village population:

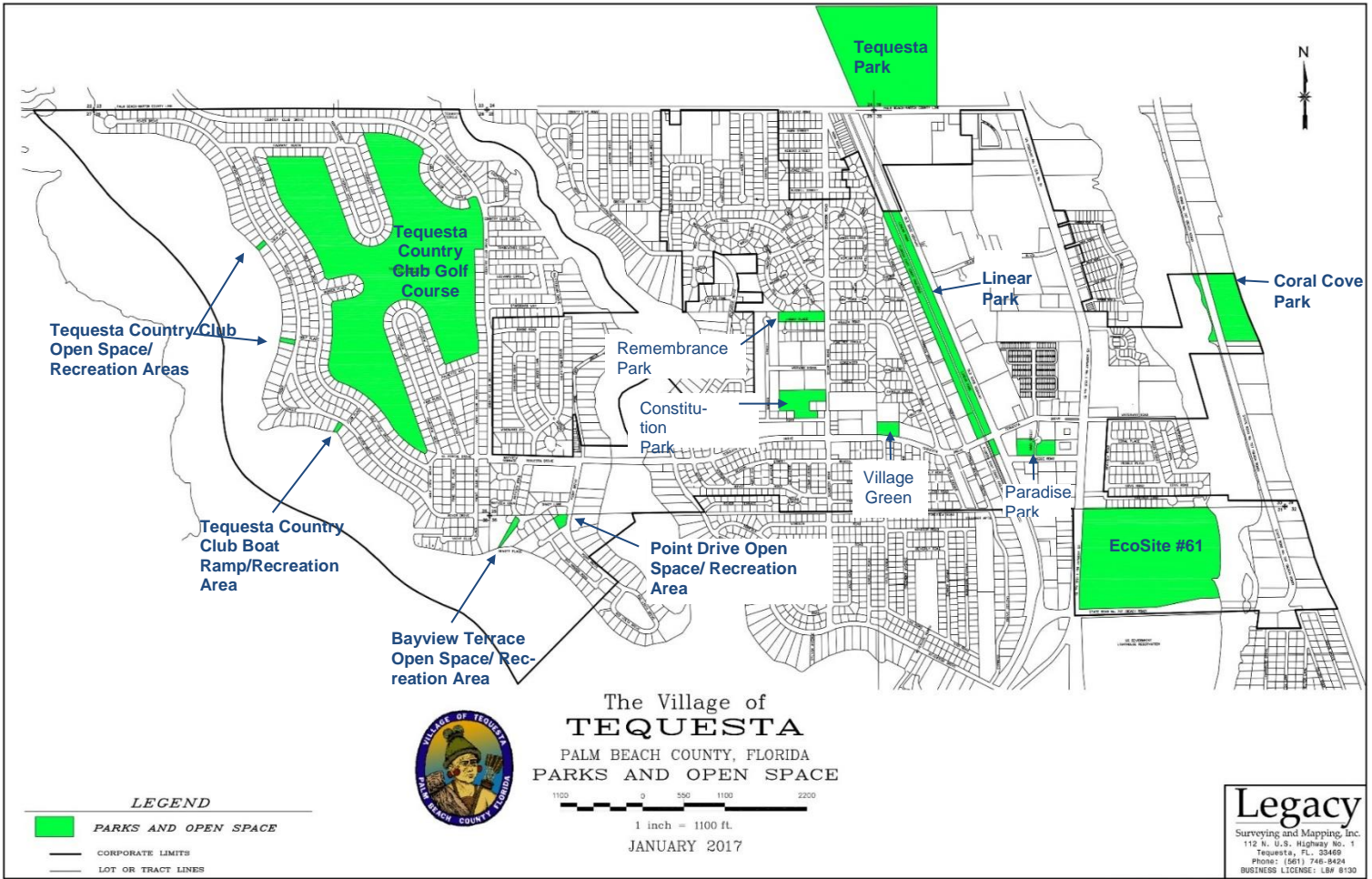


Figure 7-1. Public Parks and Open Space

## **Classification of Parks and Recreational Facilities**

In addition to the Village's current open space and recreation system, there are an array of recreation and open space opportunities available within and outside the corporate limits of Tequesta. That may include "mini-parks", "eco-oriented facilities" and general open space areas, in addition to neighborhood and community parks. Standards and guidelines for all existing and potential parks and recreational facilities will be analyzed in this section. Recreation areas and facilities provided by the Village today are classified as either "active" or "passive" and as "neighborhood" or "community" facilities.

"Active" facilities often require specially constructed fields, courts or other apparatus which lend themselves to a particular user-oriented activity. "Passive" recreation facilities require a resource base, either natural or man-made, with which the user interacts. Oceans, beaches, woodlands and other natural areas offer a variety of passive recreational experiences. "Neighborhood" parks are facilities that typically are located within or near residential areas, and are primarily designed to serve Village residents. "Community" facilities are designed to serve, both Tequesta residents and the non-resident population. The Village strives to maintain community and neighborhood parks and facilities to meet the current and future needs of all age groups in Tequesta.

### **Mini-Parks (Tot-lots and pocket parks)**

Mini-parks are small facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population, and when designed with a tot-lot, are geared toward toddlers. Mini-parks are designed to serve the needs of a neighborhood within a radius of up to six (6) blocks. A minimum of one half (1/2) acre for each stand-alone park is recommended. Mini-parks primarily offer passive recreation and typical facilities provided include playground areas, benches, open space, picnic tables, shade trees and landscaping.



Private mini-parks could be required within planned residential neighborhoods. Since most of the neighborhood and community parks offer the facilities typically found in mini-parks on a larger scale, the Village has not established a level of service standard based on population for this category of park. Adequate provision of mini-parks could be measured through requirements for new development and redevelopment.

### **Neighborhood Parks**

The neighborhood park is a "walk to" park generally located along streets where people can walk or bicycle without encountering heavy traffic. It serves the population of a neighborhood in a radius of up to one-half mile and generally has 2 acres for each 1,000 population.

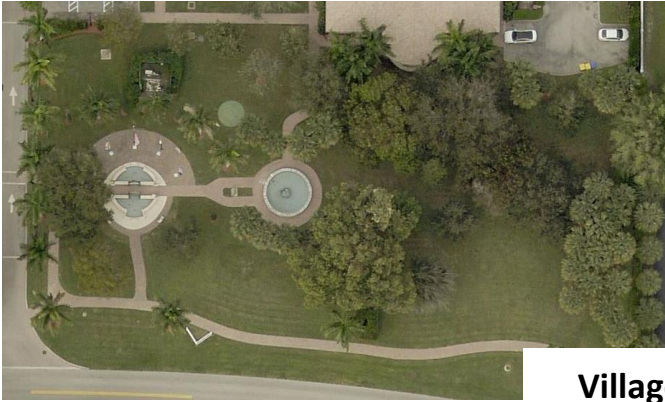
The Village owns, leases, or has easements from other agencies for neighborhood parks. The three Village-owned parks include the Village Green, Constitution Park, and Remembrance Park. The Village Green is a one-acre passive park located adjacent to the Village Hall complex. The park is softly lighted and features walkways, benches, a fountain, and a monument honoring First Responders. Another Village-owned neighborhood park, Constitution Park, offers a variety of passive and active activities on a 3.94 acre, including playgrounds, basketball courts, nature trails, a skate park, a putt-putt course, a picnic pavilion, benches, and shade trees. Surrounded on all sides by a residential area, Remembrance Park is a small, passive neighborhood park that has not yet been fully developed. The Village should consider adding more defined park elements, such as a trail, benches, or a pavilion in order to maximize the functionality of the park to better accommodate neighborhood residents.

The Village received an easement from the FEC Railroad to utilize a portion of its right-of-way for a linear park. Now known as Linear Park, this passive park includes sidewalk facilities, landscaping, and a pergola located at the intersection of Old Dixie Highway and Village Boulevard. A majority of the remaining portion of the FEC Railroad right-of-way is reserved as open space. A small portion of the easement, south of Tequesta Drive and abutting Old Dixie Highway, is retained for Commercial use.

Aside from the five neighborhood parks mentioned above, the Village also owns various lands that serve specific neighborhoods, including an open space area and a boat ramp.

Country Club, and two recreation and open space areas in both Bayview Terrace and Point Drive neighborhood areas.





**Village Green**



# NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS



**Constitution Park**





**NEIGHBORHOOD  
PARKS**



**Linear Park**



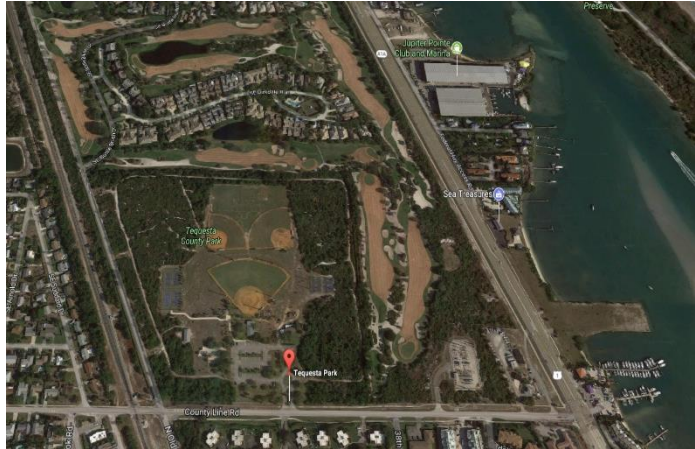
**Remembrance Park**

## Community Parks

A community park is a "ride to" park located near major streets or arterials. It is designed to serve community residents within a radius of up to three miles. Multi-modal access to community parks is strongly encouraged. Multi-modal access can be enhanced by bike paths and pedestrian walkways.

Typical facilities found in community parks are designed to serve the entire family and include both passive and active recreation opportunities such as playground areas, recreation buildings, sports fields, paved multipurpose courts, picnic areas, open or free play areas, swimming pools, and landscaping. Adequate off-street parking may be needed to contain parking overflow. Just as a neighborhood park fulfills the recreation needs of a neighborhood, a community park is designed to meet the recreation needs of an entire community and generally has 2 acres for each 1,000 population.

The Village operates Tequesta Park, a 45-acre community park located outside the Village, in southern Martin County. It includes a variety of community facilities: tennis courts, basketball courts, baseball and softball fields, a multi-purpose field that can accommodate activities such as soccer or football, a walking trail, a dog park, and a picnic pavilion. This facility is leased from the State Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Tequesta operates the facility and directs the recreation programs at the park.



Paradise Park is the only Village-managed community park located within the Village boundaries. The Village leases this privately-owned property and utilizes as park. This centrally located, two-acre park accommodates several Village-sponsored events throughout the year. The Village may consider purchasing this property in the future.

Coral Cove Park is a County-owned and operated community park located within the corporate limits of Tequesta. This park is a 6.21-acre beachfront park located on the barrier island portion of Tequesta. Coral Cove Park was annexed into the Village in 1985. The park has 955.5 feet of beach, one mile of nature trail, a fishing site, a picnic table area, and a playground.

**Figure 7-2: Public & Private Beach Frontage**



As illustrated in the Figure 7-2, Tequesta also has public and private beach frontage along the Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway. As indicated in Table 7-1 below, there are 3271 linear feet of public beach frontage within the Village limits, and a total of 5173 linear feet of private beach frontage.

**Table 7-1. Beach Frontage Assessment**

Beach Frontage Assessment: Village of Tequesta				
Areas	Beach Frontage	Length (L.F.)	Length (miles)	Notes
A	Private Beach	1703.1	0.32	Measured along shoreline
B	Public Beach	955.5	0.18	Measured along shoreline
<b>Total Beach Front:</b>		<b>2658.6</b>	<b>0.50</b>	
C	Private Intracoastal	3470	0.66	Measured along shoreline
D	Public Intracoastal	2315.5	0.44	Measured along shoreline
<b>Total Intracoastal Front:</b>		<b>5785.5</b>	<b>1.10</b>	
Beach Access		15 access easements		
<b>Total public frontage: (Beach &amp; Intracoastal)</b>		<b>3271</b>	<b>0.62</b>	
<b>Total private frontage: (Beach &amp; Intracoastal)</b>		<b>5173.1</b>	<b>1.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL FRONTAGE:</b>		<b>8444.10</b>	<b>1.60</b>	



The photos shown on the left and right depict the County's Coral Cove Park located within the Village boundaries. Selected pictures of the Village's Community Parks are shown on the next page.







**Paradise Park**



## COMMUNITY PARKS

Paradise Park and Tequesta Park are the two Village's Community Parks that provide active and passive recreational spaces.



**Tequesta Park**



## Open Space Areas

Open space is defined as any land or water surface that affords unobstructed physical movement, and is relatively free of human-made structural mass, except for structures indented to serve the use of the open space for passive recreation. Open space can be classified in two ways, as either green open space or as urban open space. Green open space may include greenways, Eco-Oriented parks, or private Golf Courses

Urban open space, on the other hand, exists principally to intersperse congested urban environments with aesthetically pleasing buffer areas, to protect natural resources, and to provide passive recreation opportunities. Urban open space may include plazas, squares, courtyards, linear parks, and also the area covered by lakes, streams and canals. These areas are typically located within built-up areas and, in some cases, may offer benches, commemorative structures, art in public places, trails, or paths.

Either type of open space can be publicly or privately owned. Since open space is a fundamental element in land classification, as well as land use planning and resource management, these areas are not considered public parks but have been included in the level of service standard calculations as part of the overall recreation and open space.

In addition to the parks identified above, there are various other public recreation and open space areas in Tequesta. Pictures of these areas and facilities are provided on page thirteen.

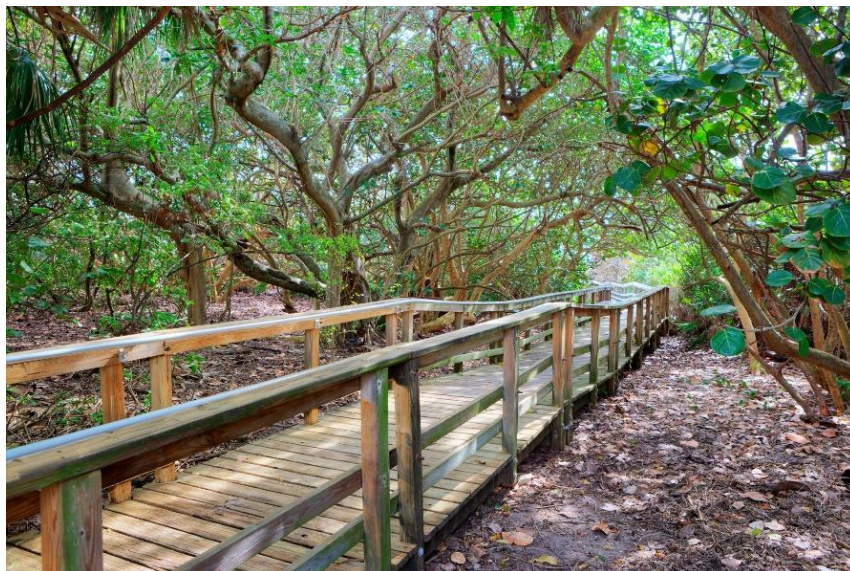
- a. A 50-acre natural area with trails owned by the U.S. Department of Interior, located east of U.S. Highway 1 and north of CR 707, which is the north portion of the 120-acre *Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area (ONA)*. This is one of three ONA's in the United States. This area includes a nature trail that winds throughout a portion of the property along the river. This site is shown in the Village's Zoning Map as Ecosite #61.

*The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse (ONA)* is part of the Bureau of Land Management's 27-million-acre National Conservation Lands; and the only complete unit east of the Mississippi River. In close proximity to several million people, and embedded in Florida's urbanized Treasure Coast, the 120-acre site in northern Palm Beach County is so recognized for its remarkable array of natural and cultural resources. Its location at the confluence of the Loxahatchee River and Indian River Lagoon, just one and a half miles from the Atlantic Ocean, has made the site a popular and strategic site of human occupation for the past 5,000 years.



The ONA designation was established by Congress primarily to protect unique scenic, scientific, educational, and recreational values. The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse ONA is one of three sites afforded this designation. Congress established Oregon's Yaquina Head in 1980; the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and the Piedras Blancas Light Station in California were established in May of 2008. Besides visiting the historic Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, the ONA offers a variety of other visitor experiences. The area includes a hardened trail and boardwalk through native and restored Florida coastal habitats, and exciting interpretive programs regarding the site's unique military history and its important role in World War II.

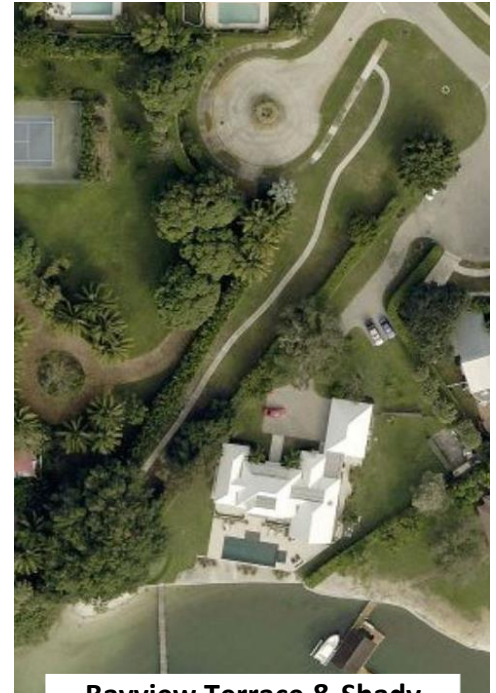
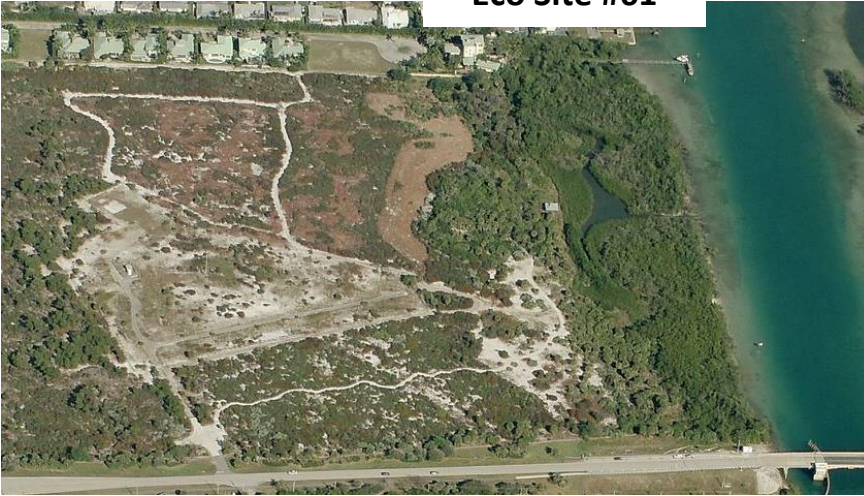
- b. There are three open space easements established in the Tequesta Country Club area off of River Drive, abutting the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River. One of these easements includes a dock and boat ramp, while the other easements provide access to the River for passive recreational use.
- c. In addition, an open space area in the Bayview Terrace and Shady Lane neighborhood provides a passive recreation space for residents, with a paved walking trail that leads to the waterfront. Another open space area along Point Drive, also located in the Shady Lane neighborhood, is officially titled to the Village. This greenspace contains a large Banyan Tree and serves as a passive recreation area for the neighborhood residents.
- d. There are four additional parcels in Tequesta, identified as parcels B, C and Russell Road, which are retained as open space and used for drainage retention/detention purposes. In addition, a parcel on Cypress Drive North, also used for drainage and retention/detention purposes, which was dedicated to the Village since the last EAR.



*Coral Cove Park*

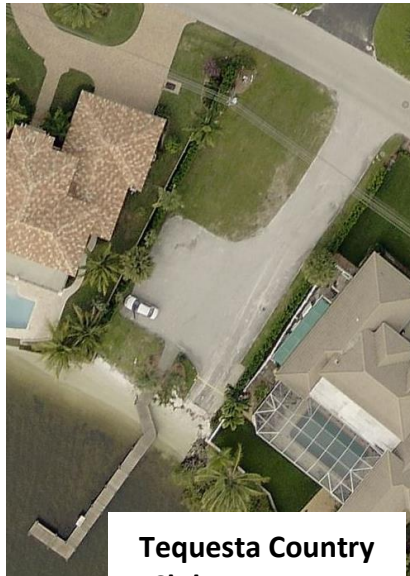


**Eco Site #61**

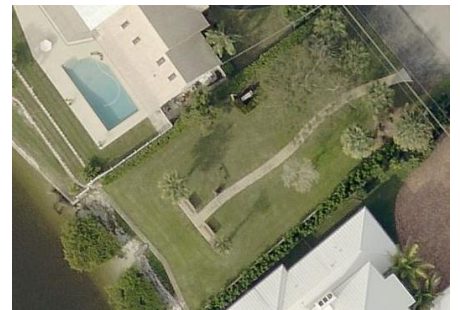


**Bayview Terrace & Shady Lane Open Space/ Recreation Area**

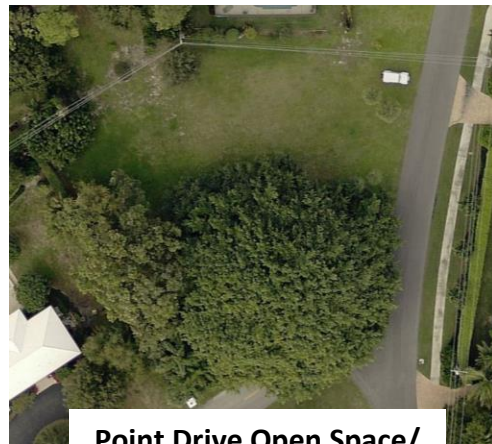
**OPEN SPACE  
PARK &  
RECREATION  
AREAS**



**Tequesta Country Club Boat Ramp**



**Tequesta Country Club Neighborhood Open Space/ Recreation Areas**



**Point Drive Open Space/ Recreation Area**



## Recreation and Open Space Inventory

### Beach Parks and Beach Access

Beach parks and access areas are natural-resource based or open space lands. These are lands that are valuable to the community for a number of reasons, all of which should be used as criteria in the evaluation of potential beach access areas.



The majority of beaches and beach parks within the Village of Tequesta are owned and managed by other entities, as discussed ahead in this document. Coral Cove Park with access to the Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway is owned and managed by Palm Beach County. There are several private beaches and access areas to the Loxahatchee River and the Intracoastal Waterway in the Tequesta Country Club.

### Eco-Oriented Park

The Village recognizes the importance of protecting the diverse ecosystem, while embracing the natural resources available to our residents. Eco-oriented parks provide residents enjoyment and awareness of our natural environment and shall utilize eco-friendly design to minimize the impact to the environment. These sites are unique in function and location; therefore, these sites vary widely in size and number of residents served. The major natural area within Village limits is known as “Ecosite #61”, which is actually the northern portion of the federally owned and managed “*Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area (ONA)*”. For those reasons, the Village has not established a level of service standard based on population for this category of park.

The most important aspect of an eco-oriented park is its relationship to the natural environment, thus providing awareness to our residents about our natural environment. Eco-oriented parks may include recreation activities (such as kayak rental facilities, hiking and biking trails and learning centers), so long as the impacts on the surrounding eco-system are limited.



**Inventory and Level of Service**

Because of the limited amount of land available for future development in Tequesta, the opportunity for expansion of recreational and open space lands is limited. Table 7-2 below lists the existing Village and County-owned recreation and open space parks in Tequesta, which are grouped according to type of park or activity area.

**Table 7-2. Existing Inventory**

INVENTORY (Classification Area/Activity)	EXISTING (Acres)
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS</b>	
Constitution Park	3.94
Village Green Park	1.50
Remembrance Park	1.76
Linear Park	7.12
Point Drive Open Space/Recreation Area (Banyan Tree)	.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.78</b>
<b>COMMUNITY PARKS</b>	
Tequesta Park	45.00
Paradise Park	2.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>47.21</b>



*Village Green Park*

## Level of Service Analysis

The following tables analyze current demand and available capacity, comparing current level of service standards for existing and projected population. According to the Village Comprehensive Plan the Village adopted a Level-of-Service (LOS) standard of two (2) acres of park space for every 1,000 population for both community and neighborhood parks.

The demand and capacity for community and neighborhood parks and other activity areas is calculated in Table 7-3 below, which shows the Village’s current park area/activity demand and capacity according to a total population estimate of 6,599 (US Census Quickfacts dated July 1, 2015 and NZ Consultants).

**Table7- 3. Demand\* and Capacity for Current LOS Standards**

Park Classification	Existing Inventory* (acres)	LOS Standards (acres/population)	2015 Population	Demand (acres)	Surplus (acres)
Community Parks	47.21	2/1,000	6,599	13.19	34.02
Neighborhood Park	14.78	2/1,000	6,599	13.19	1.59

*\*Supply based on the Village’s direct ownership and or management of parks. County and Federal parks are not included.*

Table 7-4 depicts the demand and capacity for projected 2040 population. While current LOS standards are equivalent to Palm Beach County’s, this update to the Comprehensive Plan provides an opportunity to assess these standards and propose standards that are more realistic for Tequesta’s population. These changes will enable the Village to accurately assess its strengths and weaknesses to properly accommodate future growth demands for parks and open space.

**Table 7-4. Demand\* and Capacity for Proposed LOS Standards**

Park Classification	Existing Inventory* (acres)	LOS Standards (unit/population)	2040 Population	Demand (acres)	Surplus (acres)
Community Parks	47.21	2/1,000	7,128	14.3	32.91
Neighborhood Parks	14.78	2/1,000	7,128	14.3	0.48

*\*Supply based on the Village’s direct ownership and or management of parks. County and Federal parks are not included.*

Current and future demand are based on population estimates discussed in detail in the overall Introduction to the Data & Analysis documents. Existing supply of Village-owned and managed parks, continue to show a sufficient surplus of park area, particularly for community parks.

## **Level of Service Conclusions and Recommendations**

As previously discussed, parks and open spaces owned and managed by other entities, were not included in the park LOS analysis. Specifically, the open space area known as Eco Site No. 61, which corresponds to the approx. 50-acre north portion of the federally owned and managed 120-acre *Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area (ONA)*, which is located within the Village boundaries. This federally-owned open space area provides a walking trail and beach frontage along the Intracoastal Waterway, which is used by Village residents and non-residents, including tourists.

Likewise, Coral Cove Park is a County-owned and operated community park located within the corporate limits of Tequesta. This park is a 6.21-acre beachfront park located on the barrier island portion of Village. The park has 955.5 feet of beach, one mile of nature trail, a fishing site, a picnic table area, and a playground, and is used by Village residents and non-residents as well.

There are also private beach front areas along the ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway, which do not provide public access.

The Village may consider the feasibility of utilizing portions of the Community Parks to develop additional neighborhood parks, given their surplus of 32.91 acres, if future changes in demand require the construction of additional neighborhood parks. The Village could also explore potential small sites for the construction of mini-parks (tot-lots and pocket parks) in the future, with the purpose of enhancing the quality of life of residents.

## **Private Park and Recreation Facilities**

While the Village provides residents and visitors with abundant recreational opportunities, the private sector also has provides numerous recreational facilities. The private sector offers an array of recreational opportunities in certain areas for the population it serves. Private developments often include recreational amenities, although these facilities are typically not available to the general public.

The Village's primary private recreational facility is the 120-acre Tequesta Country Club which offers an 18-hole golf course, tennis and other club activities; however, it is only available for use by members of the Club.





In addition, several health and fitness clubs located throughout the Village are available to the public with memberships open on a monthly fee basis.

### **Commitment to Greenways, Blueways and Preserving Natural Areas**

The State of Florida is encouraging the creation and strengthening its greenway and blueway trails as nature-based tourist attractions and economic development engine for local governments. This trend could offer many opportunities for the Village, and this section will focus on current initiatives and upcoming challenges regarding these two forms of recreation and open space initiatives.



### **Greenways & Trails**

By definition, greenways are “corridors of undeveloped land preserved for recreational use or environmental protection” (Merriam-Webster). Greenways are designed to provide connectivity between parks, nature reserves, cultural and historic sites, and waterfront areas as an alternative means of transportation for bicyclists, pedestrians, and others. Additionally, greenways and trail systems can connect to state and regional trail systems.

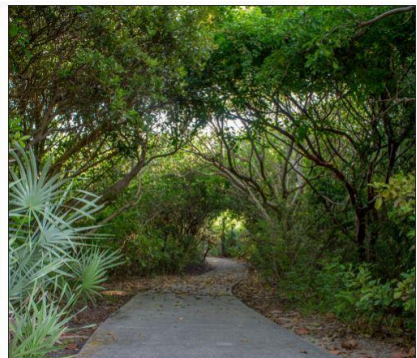
The Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has taken major steps to facilitate the coordination between local, state, and regional trail systems in Palm Beach County and surrounding areas. Developed by the Palm Beach MPO with assistance from the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, the Southeast Florida Regional Greenways and Trails Plan, often referred to as “The Plan,” intends to serve as a conceptual guideline for the Palm Beach MPO and others in planning efforts to develop an integrated network of non-motorized connections throughout the region. As discussed in the Plan, greenways and trails are a growing part of multi-modal transportation networks across Florida and the U.S. This Plan provides a desired vision for a greenways and trails system in Palm Beach County with consideration of the Southeast Florida regional context (from Indian River County to Monroe County).

As indicated in the Southeast Florida Regional Greenways and Trails Plan, the Palm Beach MPO encourages local governments and agencies to adopt this Plan, in order to collaborate on the implementation of regional facilities that extend from Palm Beach County into adjacent counties, which can produce multi-county facilities and provide an enhanced return on these investments for the traveling public. Accordingly, Tequesta’s location in the northeast corner of Palm Beach County, allows it to serve as the gateway between Palm Beach and Martin Counties and the surrounding areas. As shown in Figure 7-3, the Plan proposes a paved multi-use trail that runs north-south, adjacent to U.S. Highway 1 (US-1) in Tequesta. This corridor will connect to other trails systems located north and south of the Village.

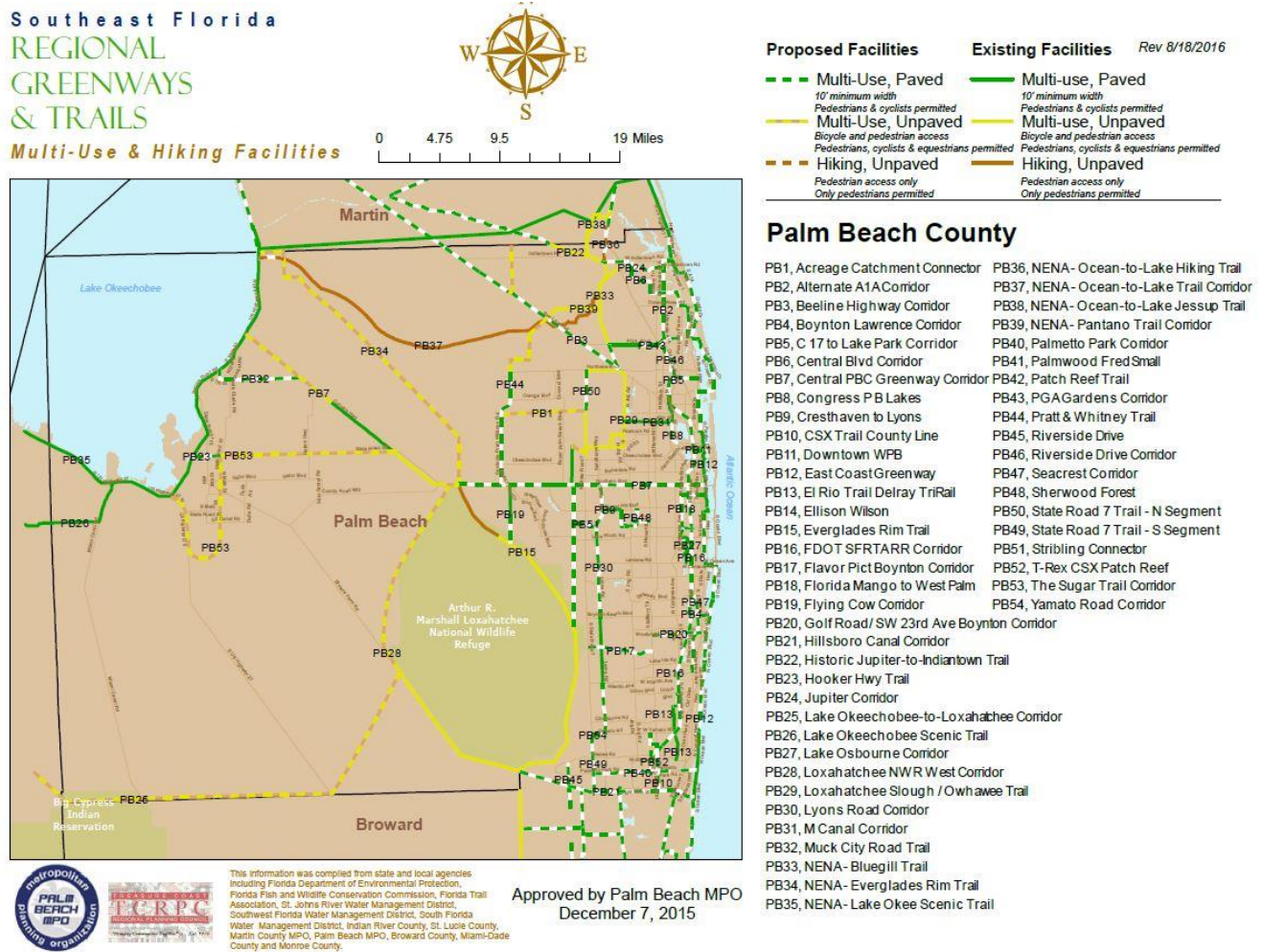
This Plan provides an excellent guideline for Tequesta to connect to the existing county and regional greenways and trails system. Developing a local system of its own will enhance the Villages’ connectivity, circulation, recreation opportunities, and potential economic development. Residents living in the western area of the Village could utilize greenway corridors to safely cross the Village to access the parks and beach access areas on the eastern side. Similarly, an organized, developed trail system would enable residents to walk or bike to restaurants, businesses, schools, churches, and park and open space areas. Such a greenway and trail system would offer an alternative form of transportation for residents and visitors alike, not only within the Village, but the County and region, as well.

With regard to economic benefits, the Plan indicates that trail development stimulates local economies, increases local tax revenue, attracts visitors seeking new recreational opportunities and revitalizes business districts. In addition, residential and commercial property values located near the trail system or park areas are likely to rise, as multi-use trails are considered critical amenities for home buyers and business owners. Moreover, communities that offer trails and open space are more attractive to businesses and corporations when choosing where to locate or expand (Southeast Florida Regional Greenways and Trails Plan).

Tequesta’s adoption of the Southeast Florida Regional Greenways and Trails Plan would not only provide a safe transportation network for pedestrians, bicyclists, and others, but it would also provide environmental, health, and economic benefits for the Village and its residents.



**Figure 7-3. Southeast Florida Regional Greenways and Trails Plan**



**Blueway Trails**

The blueway trails are intended for paddling activity and guest’s leisure and entertainment could be part of the Village’s economic development engine to attract tourist and visitors throughout the year. The Village should further support its existing blueways (Loxahatchee River, Intracoastal Waterway and the Atlantic Ocean) by considering joining the Florida Paddling Trails Association that promotes communities to participate in the Florida Paddling Trails Blueway Community Program. Since Tequesta offers basic tourism amenities, then FPTA can help to market the Village’s resources to outdoor recreation enthusiasts as a nature-based tourism destination, resulting in local economic stimulus and increased public awareness of natural Florida.

For a community to apply for Florida Blueway Community status, key criteria include:



- Proximity to a Florida paddling trail or Blueway
- Availability of accommodations, from hotels to B&Bs to campgrounds
- Availability of restaurants and places to eat
- Additional outdoor recreation opportunities such as hiking and biking trails, birding, boating, fishing, beaches or traditional visitor draws such as historic districts, museums, shopping and major attractions

The process of being designated a Blueway Community begins by bringing together local community leaders, tourism affiliates, business leaders, and members of the Florida Paddling Trails Association to discuss the communities' nature-based tourism ideas and needs.

By working together on promotional products, educational resources and special events, FPTA and the Blueway Community can increase the ability to apply for



targeted grants to assist in the community's efforts towards nature-based tourism development, economic development, and trail related infrastructure development. FPTA provide the know-how and volunteer support, and the Village provides the destination and community support.

Based on the above information, the Village should consider conducting an analysis in terms of the Village's role and participation on the South East Regional Blueway Trails and how this initiative becomes an opportunity for economic development as nature-based tourist attraction.

### **Church and Recreation Facilities**

Some churches and youth centers provide neighborhood-oriented recreation facilities and programs in the Village. Many of the churches provide playgrounds and offer recreational programs on a limited basis for their congregations.

### **Regional Public Park and Recreation Facilities**

There are numerous public facilities outside the Village of Tequesta which offer a variety of recreational opportunities to Tequesta residents as well as the general public. Jonathan Dickinson State Park and Blowing Rocks Preserve are located just north of the Village, in southern Martin County. In the Jupiter-Tequesta area, recreation and open space facilities include Jupiter Beach Park, DuBois Park, Carlin Park, Burt Reynolds Park, Jupiter Island Park and Lighthouse Park,

all within close proximity to each other. To the south, in the Juno Beach area, park and recreation facilities include Loggerhead Park, Juno Park, Juno Beach Park, and Bert Winters Park. Even further south, Phil Foster Park and Ocean Reef Park also offer a variety of recreational opportunities. There are also a number of public and private golf courses in close proximity to Tequesta.

### **Village Recreation Department and Funding**

The Village of Tequesta Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for providing recreational services and programs and operating the Village’s recreational facilities. The Village encourages citizen participation and continually assesses citizen needs and develops its recreation programs accordingly. The Village should seek alternative means to expand facilities to accommodate the needs of the community.

### **Adapting Open Space Areas for Climate Resiliency**

In order to sustain and develop a healthy environment, it is important that municipalities ensure necessary actions are taken to reduce the negative impact of environmental changes. Maintaining and preserving parks, open space, and natural areas enhances the Village’s green infrastructure system, an important element in developing the community’s climate resiliency. A community’s level of climate resiliency is not only important for a healthy environment, but also for economic sustainability.

Tequesta should develop and maintain a green infrastructure system to protect the community against inevitable negative environmental impacts. Such a system would strengthen the Village’s resiliency and economic stability by providing natural flood management, lowering building energy demands, lowering water management costs, and protecting coastal areas. In addition, the Village should encourage developers to incorporate green infrastructure practices into their site designs. [See the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) website].

### **FINAL REMARKS**

With the modest population growth projected for Tequesta in the 5- and 10-Year planning periods, the combination of Village-owned neighborhood and community parks, County-owned and operated Coral Cove Park, Tequesta Park, other public recreation and open space facilities available nearby for use of Village residents, and other facilities provided by churches and the private sector provides recreation and open space facilities adequate to meet future needs of the community.



However, there are several considerations regarding recreation and open space facilities that the Village should explore in order to further enhance its overall parks and recreation system. Such considerations include, but are not limited to:

1. *Adding more defined park elements:*  
Adding defined park elements such as trails, benches, or a pavilion, help to maximize the functionality of the park so that it can better accommodate neighborhood residents.
2. *Purchasing property for public recreation areas:*  
Purchasing property for public recreation purposes will enable the Village to enhance its already adequate park and recreation system, while also allowing the Village more control over these properties.
3. *Developing additional neighborhood parks & pocket parks:*  
The Village may consider the feasibility of utilizing portions of the Community Parks to develop additional neighborhood parks, given their surplus of 32.91 acres, if future changes in demand require the construction of additional neighborhood parks. The Village could also explore potential small sites for the construction of mini-parks (tot-lots and pocket parks) in the future, with the purpose of enhancing the quality of life of residents.
4. *Adopting the Southeast Florida Regional Greenways and Trails Plan:*  
Adopting this plan would not only provide a safe transportation network for pedestrians, bicyclists, and others, but it would also provide environmental, health, and economic benefits for the Village and its residents.
5. *Participation in the South East Regional Blueway Trails initiative:*  
With its proximity to three major water bodies in the area, the Village should explore future participation in this initiative for economic development opportunities as a nature-based tourist attraction.

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