

**AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
INVERNESS, FLORIDA, CITY HALL, 212 WEST MAIN STREET
April 15, 2025 - 5:30 PM**

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Any person who decides to appeal any decision of the Governing Body with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to provide that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based (Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes).

Accommodation for the disabled (hearing or visually impaired, etc.) may be arranged with advance notice of seven (7) days before the scheduled meeting, by dialing (352) 726-2611 weekdays from 8 AM to 4 PM.

ENCLOSURES*

- 1) INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & ROLL CALL**
- 2) PLEASE SILENCE ELECTRONIC DEVICES**
- 3) ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**
- 4) PRE-SCHEDULED APPEARANCES / RECOGNITIONS**
- 5) PUBLIC HEARINGS / WORKSHOPS**
- 6) OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
*The public is invited to speak. (Speaking time limit: Individual - 3 minutes;
Group/Organization - 5 minutes)*
- 7) CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**
- 8) CONSENT AGENDA**
 - a) Bill Listing
 - b) Council Minutes* - 04.01.2025
 - c) Oak Ridge Cemetery - Burial Space Buyback*
- 9) CITY CLERK'S REPORT**
- 10) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**
 - a) Citrus County Tourism Presentation

**AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
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- b) Parks Amenities Assessment and Study
- c) City Stormwater Management Update - Ordinance 2025-845 - First Reading
- d) City Garden - IFAS/UF Extension Service Proposal
- e) Project and Program Updates
 - CRA Bill
 - Liberty Boardwalk Update
 - Eden Dr and 41 S Sewer Main
 - Other

11) MAYOR & COUNCIL SUBJECTS / REPORTS

- a) Mayor Plaisted
- b) Councilwoman Bega
- c) Councilwoman Hepfer
- d) Councilwoman Lizanich
- e) Councilman Davis
- f) Councilman Craig

12) NON-SCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT

(Speaking time limit: Individual - 3 minutes; Group/Organization - 5 minutes)

13) ADJOURNMENT

a) **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Teen's Night Out

Thursday, April 17, 2025 from 5:30pm – 7:00pm
Depot Pavilion

Market at the Depot

Saturday, April 19, 2025 from 9:00am – 1:00pm
Depot Pavilion

National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 1, 2025 @ 12:00 noon
Depot Pavilion

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Market at the Depot

Saturday, May 3, 2025 from 9:00am – 1:00pm
Depot Pavilion

Inverness City Council Regular Meeting

Tuesday, May 6, 2025 @ 5:30pm
IGC – Council Chambers

CASH REQUIREMENTS REPORT

VENDOR	DOCUMENT	INVOICE	VOUCHER	DESCRIPTION	DUE DATE	DUE 09/30/25
		TOTALS FOR 5478 SPRING HILL DR LLC				227.70
		TOTALS FOR ACE HARDWARE CO OF INV INC				82.45
		TOTALS FOR AMERICAN TEST CENTER, INC.				570.00
		TOTALS FOR BARZAGA, AMADOR				108.43
		TOTALS FOR BLACK, JESSICA				193.53
		TOTALS FOR KENDRA BRIGGS				50.00
		TOTALS FOR CENTRAL AUTO AND TRUCK PARTS, INC.				17.99
		TOTALS FOR CITRUS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD				1,678.00
		TOTALS FOR CONNOLLY, AMBER B.				65.54
		TOTALS FOR DAIGLE, RONALD				215.24
		TOTALS FOR DUVALL, MORGANNE A.				67.98
		TOTALS FOR FERREIRA, TERRI L.				65.59
		TOTALS FOR GIL, CLAUDIA M.				59.79
		TOTALS FOR DALE GIRARDIN				200.00
		TOTALS FOR GOODING & BATSEL, PLLC				6,368.50
		TOTALS FOR JJGIPE AUTO BODY LLC				807.47
		TOTALS FOR LAMKIN, CRYSTAL				29.51
		TOTALS FOR LAWLOR, JENNIFER M.				199.36
		TOTALS FOR MATHIEU, KRISTIE L.				56.70
		TOTALS FOR MECHANICAL SERVICES OF CENTRAL FL				2,434.50
		TOTALS FOR MILLER, MICHELE				78.49
		TOTALS FOR OFFICE DEPOT INC				93.77
		TOTALS FOR NATIONAL WASTE				87.20
		TOTALS FOR THE IT STORE				73.80
		TOTALS FOR USIC LLC				8,219.35
		TOTALS FOR VAN DER VALK CONSTRUCTION, LLC				251.81
		TOTALS FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT OF CENTRAL FL				33,230.81

CASH REQUIREMENTS REPORT

VENDOR	DOCUMENT	INVOICE	VOUCHER	DESCRIPTION	DUE DATE	DUE 09/30/25
				TOTALS FOR WHITE, CHARLENE		150.00
				REPORT TOTALS		55,683.51

** END OF REPORT - Generated by Stacey Iddings **

April 1, 2025
5:30 PM

The City Council of the City of Inverness met on the above date in Regular Session at 212 W. Main Street, with the following members present:

President Davis
Vice President Lizanich
Councilwoman Bega
Councilwoman Hepfer
Councilman Craig
Mayor Plaisted

Also present were City Manager Williams, City Attorney Hartley, Staff Members, and City Clerk Jackson.

The Invocation was given by Councilwoman Hepfer and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by the City Council.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to accept the Agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Lizanich. The motion carried.

PRE-SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

4)a) Inverness Fire Department and Red Cross Partnership with Fire Chief Bessler introduced Kris Abel, Red Cross representative and provided details of an upcoming event. It was noted that most people don't realize they only have two minutes to escape a home fire. On average 7 people die in a home fire - every day; 30 people suffer injuries from a home fire every day; and \$7 billion in property damage occurs from home fires every year. Inverness Fire Department (IFD) has partnered with the American Red Cross to install smoke alarms free of charge for City residents as part of the Red Cross' Sound the Alarm Save a Life Program. On April 5, 2025, the Inverness Fire Department will be participating with the Red Cross in their Sound the Alarm Save A Life Program at Leeson's Mobile Home Park, where representatives will go door to door, installing smoke alarms for residents free of charge.

PUBLIC HEARINGS / WORKSHOP

5)a) FY 2025-26 Budget Overview Workshop* with City Manager Williams starting with the budget overview presentation explaining the basis the City works with is plan, fund, and execute. Planning would involve State mandates, needs changes, priorities, goals, and objectives. Funding included sustainability in non-ad valorem revenues, fund balances, and grants. Executing by timing, resources available, and meeting goals and objectives.

PLANNING – Fund Balance – General Fund: Unrestricted \$5M; Infrastructure \$7,677,337; Building \$4,000,000; Equipment \$1,585,365; Fire \$500,000; Land Acquisition \$795,395; ICRA \$1,234,506; Utility \$13,394,290, and Cemetery \$1,192,762. Assessing Needs included focus on staffing levels, market analysis/minimum wage, and benefit costs; materials costs, availability, and equipment needs; and Private Public Partnerships (PPP) with contract reviews, assessment of cost benefit, and CPI/cost. Prioritizing with initiatives tied to Council goals and objectives, return on investment, most efficient and cost-effective service delivery while

maintaining essential levels of service and establishing goals and objectives that are attainable and produce desired results.

FUNDING – Revenue Projections noting General Fund Ad Valorem \$5,208,257 with 7.66 millage, Non-Ad Valorem \$8,614,588 for **Total: \$13,822,845**; CRA \$1,797,046; and Utility \$7,223,156. Funding Considerations and Impacts involved an estimated revenue forecast of an assumed 3% growth in assessed value, exploring new funding sources, State Legislature, CRAs possible sunset, ARPA \$1,237,176, projected to be expended in FY 2025; and millage rate of 7.66.

EXECUTING by Functional Area – General Government establish staffing levels to support level of service at competitive rates, project/growth management, lobbying efforts, grants, and cooperative funding, Intergovernmental and Community Partnerships, and policy development and implementation. Economic Development includes Incentive Programs, CRA Plan/Annual Report, infrastructure investment, and Medical Arts District. Transportation spoke to road resurfacing and improvement, multimodal, and infrastructure investment/partnerships. Public Safety & Fire Department with volunteer recruitment and staff development, level of service/ISO rating, and utilization of revenue/grant opportunities. Enhanced Law Enforcement with CCSO agreement, service, and costs and stable level of service under one contract. Cultural Recreation marketing and programming that maintains and creates energy and momentum, continue PPP for events, vendors, and facility operators. It was noted that Whispering Pines Park is not owned by the City, it is a State-owned park. Physical Environment management of parks system, parking and lighting improvements, and shared downtown sanitation. Oak Ridge Cemetery promotion of pre-need sales, landscaping enhancement, and intergovernmental and community partnerships. City Manager Williams announced the CIP Workshop will be May 6 at 5:30pm; Tentative Millage and establishing budget public hearings will be July 15 at 5:30pm; full Budget Workshop on August 5 at 5:30pm, and Budget Adoption hearings on September 2 for the tentative budget adoption and September 16 for final budget adoption. President Davis thanked the City Manager for great leadership and staffing. Mayor Plaisted agreed that the City Manager keeps the Elected Officials well informed. Councilwoman Lizanich questioned the possibility of Whispering Pines Park RV project with City Manager Williams noting the State's current draft budget has no project funding for any Citrus County projects. Councilwoman Hepfer suggested the Federal and State governments should be taught the Plan, Fund Execute process.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Debbie Wheatley – Silverwood St. praised the budget overview presentation.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

City Attorney Hartley updated a few items regarding various bankruptcies, foreclosures, mortgage company foreclosures with City liens. Spoke of receiving a 627 letter where an attorney has asked for the City's insurance information, although the location of the incident is outside the City limits.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Bill Listing*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes* – 03/18/2025
 - Recommendation - Approval

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to accept the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

10)a) Small Town Saturday Night with Park & Rec Director Worley spoke of the history and structure regarding the creation of the events starting with the kicked off the initial Small Town Saturday Night in Downtown Inverness on the Square on February 4, 2023. This event is where the community can come downtown and listen to free music and enjoy the downtown businesses. The concerts have been hugely successful, bringing in 5,000 plus patrons into the downtown area for each concert, with the downtown businesses experiencing record sales during these free concerts. The next scheduled Small Town Saturday Night is April 12, 2025. Requesting consensus from the Council to increase the number of Small Town Saturday Night events throughout the year.

City Manager Williams spoke of other downtown events that were not doing as well and have relocated. Councilwoman Hepfer suggested 2 per quarter. Mayor Plaisted suggested every 6 weeks and suggested an exotic car show in the future. Councilwoman Lizanich questioned inviting the Jeep Club. Council consensus requested a cost analysis including an increased number of concerts.

10)b) Hill Street Waterline Remediation* with Public Works Director Pell stating a section of the City's 6-inch water line along Hill Street that has become exposed and in need of immediate remediation. The line serves three fire hydrants and several other residential connections to the City's water system. Pursuant to the City's purchasing policy, the City Manager can authorize emergency repair necessary to protect the City's health and welfare, or to protect it from substantial loss. The City has met with Pospiech Contracting who can start the project immediately for \$131,780.00, to replace 1300 LF of the 6-inch water line and the necessary connections to fully remediate the issue. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to approve the proposal from Pospiech Contracting in the amount of \$131,780.00 for the immediate remediation of the Hill Street water line as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.**

10)c) Project/Program Updates (Verbal)

- Senate Bill 1242 regarding possible sunset on CRAs. CRAs are critical to the City and there is good support to prevent the ending of CRAs.
- Liberty Park Boardwalk Remediation Project update regarding wooden walkway that was previously removed. State requires a unit management plan as this is part of the State park system. Councilwoman Bega asked why the walkway was removed with City Manager referencing the City lease. President Davis had concerns regarding eroding and possibly adding a railing to block access. Asked for staff to investigate the cost of a management plan with options. City Manager Williams reiterated this is State property.
- Whispering Pines Park Admin Building will be renovated now that CCSO has relocated to the CORE building. The Admin building will become the Park & Rec Department offices.

- Other with City Manager referencing the interesting economic times we are in. Spoke of a letter received from DOGE and the City's response. Spoke of the erosion of Home Rule. There will be a major announcement regarding the City on April 9 at 12:01pm. The Wayfind signage is entering fabrication and will start April/May. Shade structure for Liberty Park playground has been ordered.
- Community Development Director Shoemaker provided an update on the downtown landscaping project which is underway now. Spoke of upcoming tree trimming and that the project will be completed in 90 days.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Mayor Plaisted had concerns with the look of the chain-link fencing on 41S around the retention pond. It was noted that area is FDOT right of way. Appreciates the stripes, blinking light, and double yellow line at Zephyr and Ella.

Councilwoman Bega announced April 12 at 8:00am will be Keep Citrus County Beautiful's City Clean Up Day. Everyone is to meet in front of the Valerie Theatre.

Councilwoman Lizanich thanked staff for all they do.

Councilman Craig spoke of recently seeing a playground with the shade sails and how nice it looked.

Council President Davis thanked the audience for attending the meeting and looks forward to a great year. Great Council to work with for doing the best for our Small Town Done Right.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Debbie Wheatley – Silverwood St. stated the chain-link fencing would look much better in black.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

City Clerk

Council President

Interoffice Memorandum – *City of Inverness*

April 15, 2025

TO: Elected Officials
FROM: City Clerk
SUBJECT: Oak Ridge Cemetery Burial Space Repurchase

The Oak Ridge Cemetery records indicate that Southwest Addition Lot 620 North & South ½ burial rights are assigned to Gail Fiske, appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Elizabeth M. Hulse. Ms. Fiske contacted the Clerk's Office, by email, to state that the space is no longer needed and she wishes to sell it back to the City. The records show the price of \$400.00.

Agenda Memorandum - *City of Inverness*

April 15, 2025

TO: Elected Officials
FROM: Eric Williams, City Manager
SUBJECT: Citrus County Tourism Presentation
CC: Susan Jackson, City Clerk, Frank Calascione, Assistant City Manager
Enclosures: 1. Citrus County Tourism 2025 InvernessPresentation

Florida law allows counties to impose local option transient rental taxes on rentals or leases of accommodations in hotels, motels, apartments, rooming houses, mobile home parks, RV parks, condominiums, or timeshare resorts for a term of six months or less. These taxes are generally used for tourism promotion and capital construction.

Recognizing that the City of Inverness is a leading driver of visitation to Citrus County, it is important that periodic updates are provided to the City Council from the County's Tourism Division concerning the Tourism Development Council's initiatives and current City of Inverness visitation data.

This is also an opportunity for Council discussion concerning the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities in the relationship between the City and the County's tourism promotion efforts and to explore mutually beneficial capital construction project opportunities.

Recommended Action-

1. Allow staff and County representatives to speak/present
2. Council review and provide feedback/comment

If you wish to discuss this further, please contact me at your convenience.

Eric C. Williams



City of Inverness – Annual Tourism 2024 Recap

CITRUS COUNTY VISITORS & CONVENTION BUREAU

April 15, 2025

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WHO WE ARE



Auvis Cole
Director of Tourism



Terry Natwick
Sales & Marketing



Elissa Hofelt
Media & Content



Christina Lamb
Administrative Assistant



Kelly Miller
Destination Experience Specialist



Stephanie Erhardt
Visitor Services

2024 Highlights

(Launch) Partners In Tourism (PIT)

- County-wide Initiative (Various Locations)
- Old Courthouse Heritage Museum & The Cove

County Tourism Strategic Plan

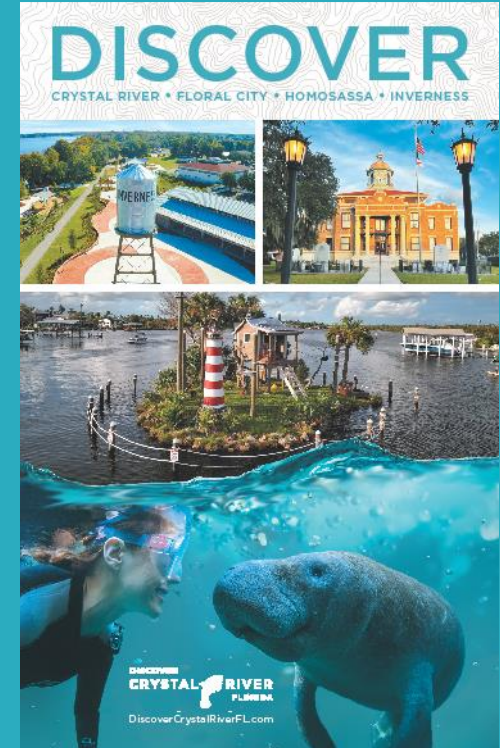
- May 2025 – Strategic Plan Retreat

“New” Destination Operating System

- Zartico – Data Analytics (Resident/Visitor Metrics)

“New” Grant Improvements – (in-progress)

- Special Event Marketing Grant
- Capital Project Funding Grant



Threshold 360 Partner Access

- [Complimentary Capture](#)
- [Embedded Listing on CVB website](#)
- Automatic upload to [Google Listing](#)
- Entry Platform Access
 - [Website Embed Codes](#)
 - [Share Page](#)
 - [Analytics](#)
- [Threshold 360 Discover Map](#)



 **THRESHOLD** 360

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FAM TOURS – Media & Sales



Jan 2024	George & Prieto	U.S.
Feb 2024	Valerie Raines	U.S.
Mar 2024	Chantel Rodriguez	U.S.
May 2024	Drink Tea Travel	U.S.
Oct 2024	Visit FL FAM	Brazil

USA TODAY #3 BEST SMALL TOWN IN THE SOUTH



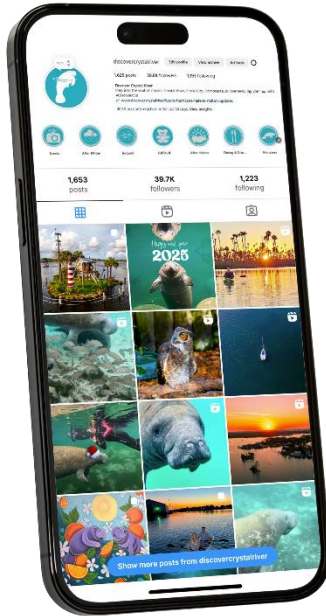
**USA
TODAY®**



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FLORIDA

FLORAL CITY || HOMOSA SSA || INVERNESS

Social Media Available on Mobile



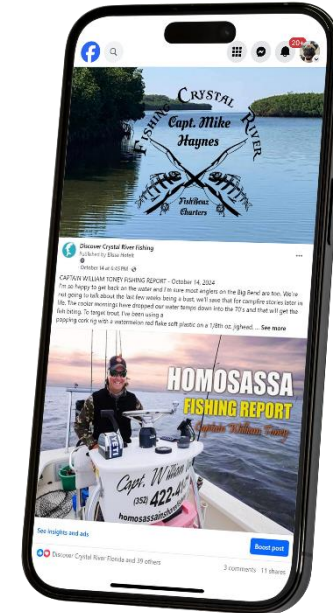
Instagram

40,815 Followers



Facebook Main

207,700 Followers



Facebook Fishing

23,576 Followers



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FLORIDA

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Visitor Comparison Metrics – City of Inverness

Key Visitor Insights

Source: Zartico Geolocation Data, Zartico Spend Data

Better understand your visitor makeup, including the share of total visitation and spending that comes from visitors, and their share of total spending towards local businesses.

% of all Devices that are Visitors

13.5%

% of Out-of-State Visitors

39.5%

% of all Spend that came from
Visitors

9.9%

% of Visitor Spend towards
Local Businesses

21%

Visitor Comparison Metrics – City of Inverness

How much are visitors contributing to your economy?

Source: Zartico Spend Data

Better understand visitor impact on your destination.

% of all Restaurant Spend that came from
Visitors

14%

% of all Retail Spend that came from Visitors

11%

Restaurant Avg. Visitor Spend

\$96

Retail Avg. Visitor Spend

\$120

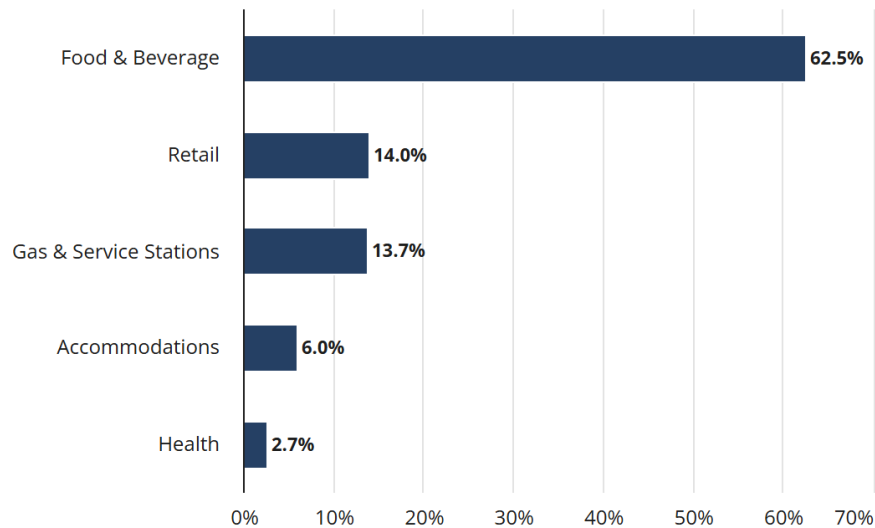
Visitor Spend Metrics – City of Inverness

Where are visitors spending in your destination?

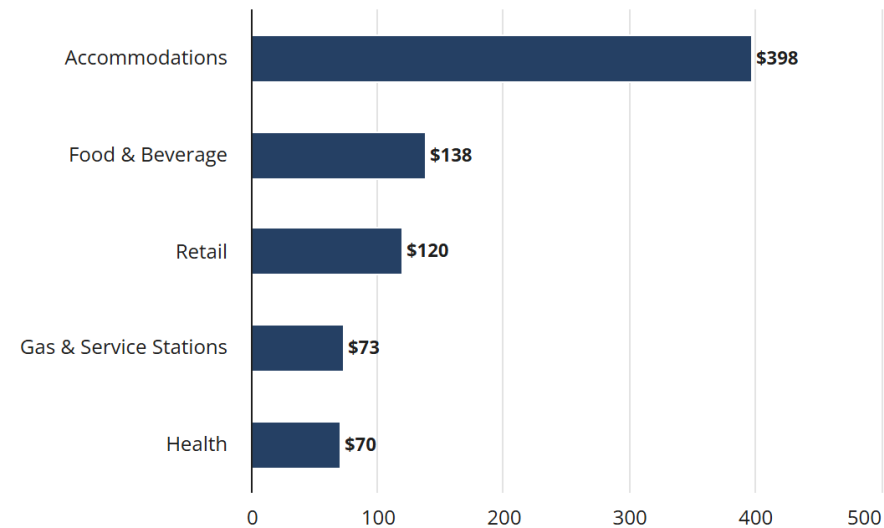
Source: Zartico Spend Data

Better understand the types of categories visitors are spending towards.

% of Visitor Spend by Category

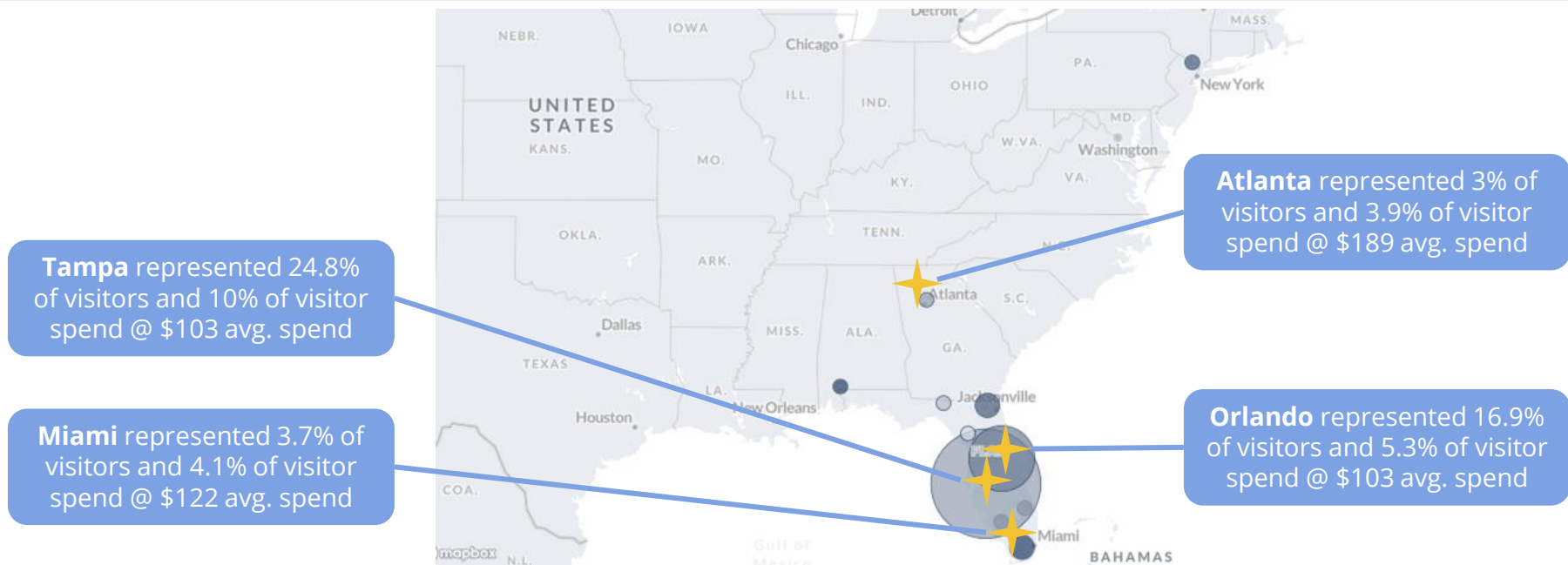


Avg. Visitor Spend by Category



Visitor Market Metrics – City of Inverness

Difference of Markets



Visitor Demographics – City of Inverness

What are your visitor demographics?

Source: Zartico Spend Data

% of Visitor Cardholders Age 25-54

51%

% of Visitor Cardholders with a Household
Income \$100k+

44%

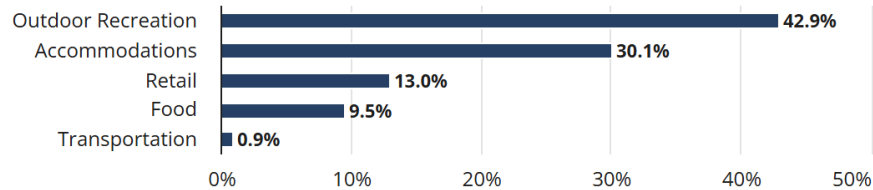
% of Visitor Cardholders with Children

35%

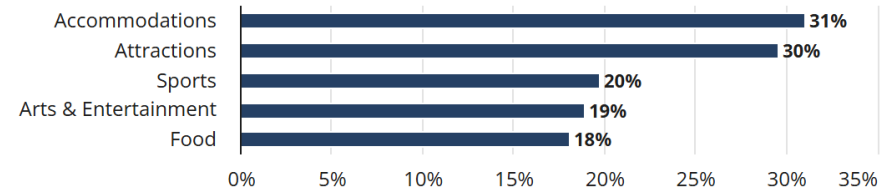
Where do visitors go in-destination? Where do they make the greatest impact?

Source: Zartico Location Data

% of Visitors



% of all Devices that are Visitors



Visitor / Resident Event Metrics – City of Inverness

Patriotic Evening - 2024

Impact on local economy

Source: Zartico Spend Data

What was the change in spending overall, by visitors, and by residents during the selected timeframe?

Change in Total Spend

32.4%

Change in Total Visitor Spend

13.9%

Change in Resident Spend

34.2%

Visitor spend insights and shifts

Source: Zartico Spend Data

Understand if visitor spending increased or decreased in key categories to illustrate additional event impact insight.

Change in Retail Spend

-39.7%

Change in Restaurant Spend

94.3%

Change in Attraction Spend

—

Visitor / Resident Event Metrics – City of Inverness

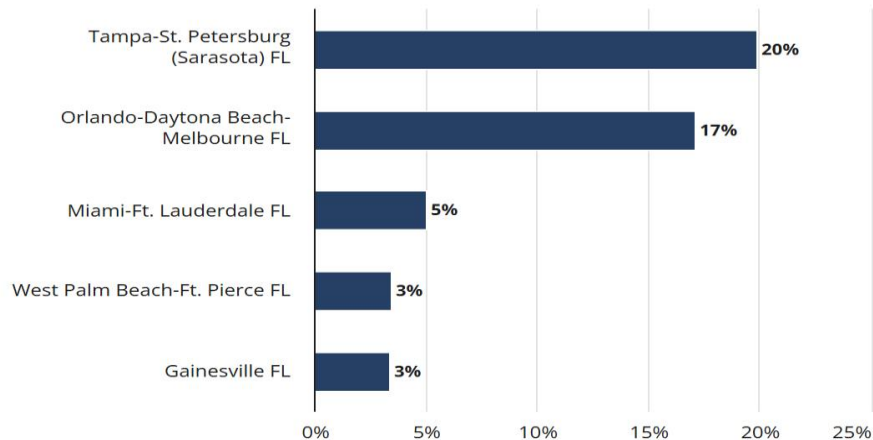
Patriotic Evening - 2024

Origin market make up and shifts

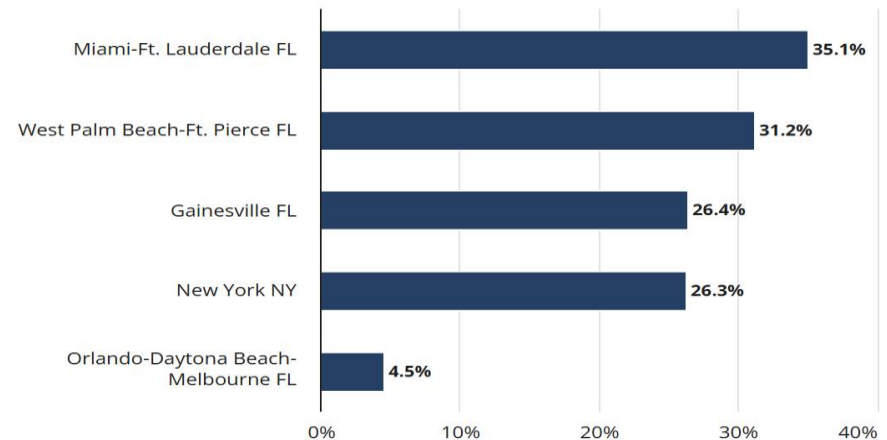
Source: Zartico Geolocation Data

Understand if your event attracted visitors from new or different origin markets.

Top Origin Markets



Top Origin Markets - Change in Visitation



A manatee is swimming in a river, with sunlight filtering through the trees in the background, creating a warm, golden glow. The manatee is in the foreground, swimming towards the right. The water is clear, and the sunlight creates a shimmering effect on the surface.

THANK YOU

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The logo for Crystal River Florida, featuring a stylized white silhouette of a manatee swimming to the right.

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Agenda Memorandum - *City of Inverness*

April 15, 2025

TO: Elected Officials
FROM: Eric Williams, City Manager
SUBJECT: Parks Amenities Assessment and Study
CC: Frank Calascione, Assistant City Manager, Susan Jackson, City Clerk, Woody Worley, Parks & Recreation Director
Enclosures: 1. 2025_0409 Inverness Park Study

As Council is aware, an assessment and study was funded/commenced to ensure efficient resources are allocated and make informed decisions for future planning within the Park's System. In particular, Liberty and Wallace Brooks Parks see a lot of usage but not many options for the youth, mainly middle school age and teenagers, causing them to find alternative ways to occupy their time that often is not positive to the parks system. Additionally, Whispering Pines Park is outdated and several facilities are in need of replacement with either like or differing recreational opportunities.

The City engaged the Wantman Group, Inc (WGI) to perform the aforementioned study which focused on existing park amenities throughout the City and to provide general recommendations on park improvements aiming at a variety of activities for the community with a focus on the City's youth. The resulting draft park study will be presented this evening outlining general recommendations for consideration and input into the upcoming CIP development. These general recommendations are for improving the local parks by enhancing the usability of what is currently there and providing more current amenities, which will help to provide an action plan moving forward.

It is recommended that Council receive the presentation and provide feedback and question to general recommendations and ideas presented. Staff will cultivate the consensus direction for inclusion in the development of next year's CIP.

Recommended Action-

1. Allow staff to present
2. Deliberate the matter
3. Provide consensus direction on general recommendations from the presented study for inclusion into the development of next fiscal year's CIP

If you wish to discuss this further, please contact me at your convenience.

Eric C. Williams

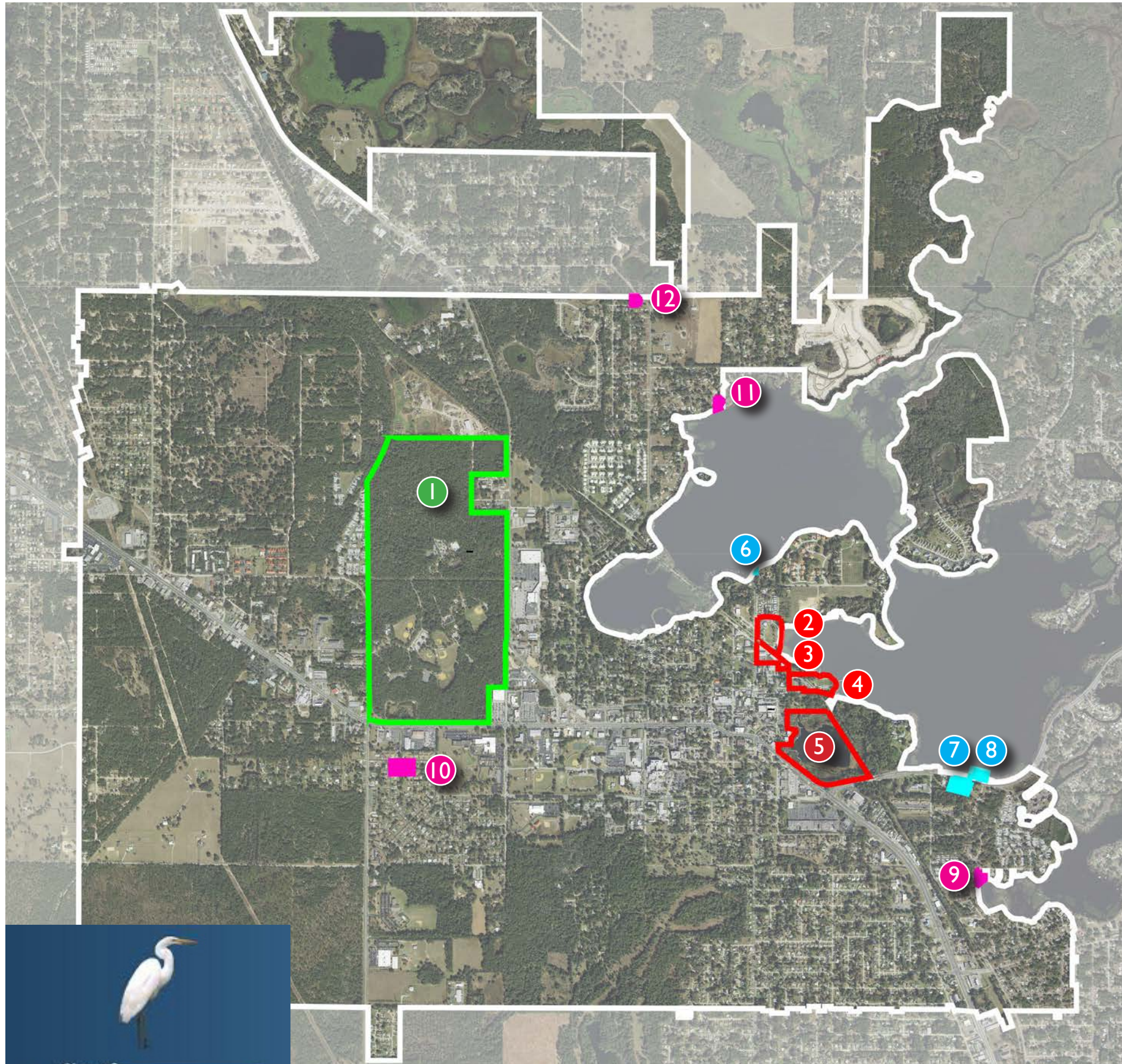


City of
Inverness
Florida

EXISTING PARK AMENITIES

INVENTORY, ANALYSIS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS





City of Inverness Parks

GOALS

Review the 12 existing parks amenities, conditions, and functionality to make recommendations for park improvements aiming to provide a variety of activities for the community with a focus on the City's youth.

CENTRAL COMMUNITY PARK

- 1 WHISPERING PINES PARK

WATER FRONT PARKS

- 2 LIBERTY PARK
- 3 THE DEPOT PAVILION
- 4 WALLACE BROOKS PARK
- 5 COOTER POND PARK

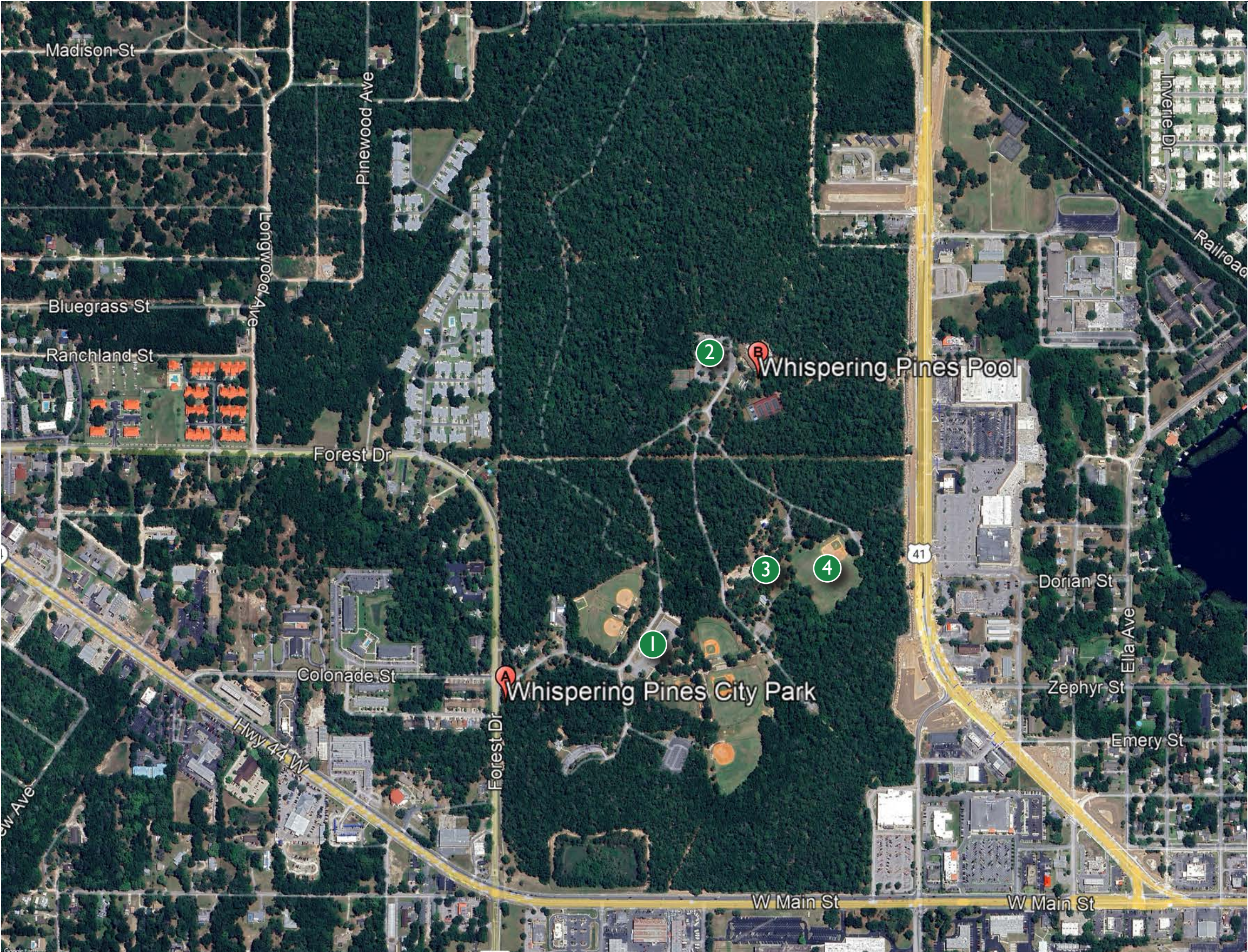
BOAT RAMP PARKS

- 6 NORTH AOPKA BOAT RAMP
- 7 WAYSIDE PARK
- 8 44 BOAT RAMP

RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

- 9 MOSSY OAK PARK
- 10 BRYANT PARK
- 11 HILLCREST PARK
- 12 WHITE LAKE PARK





LEGEND

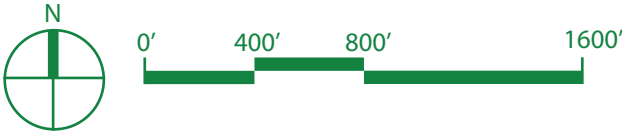
- 1 Baseball Fields
- 2 Upper Sports Area
- 3 Family and Kids Area
- 4 Potential Future RV Camp Grounds

In addition to the amenities identified in the legend, the park offers 6 hiking trails within the northern portion of the park, along with the perimeter trail that runs around the perimeter of the park boundary.

The eastern portion of the perimeter trail was recently improved with new pavement and landscape that was implemented as part of FDOT's widening of US Highway 41.

Whispering Pines Park

1700 E. Forest Dr., Inverness, FL 34453





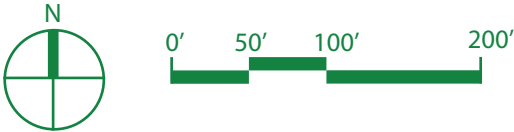
EXISTING AMENITIES

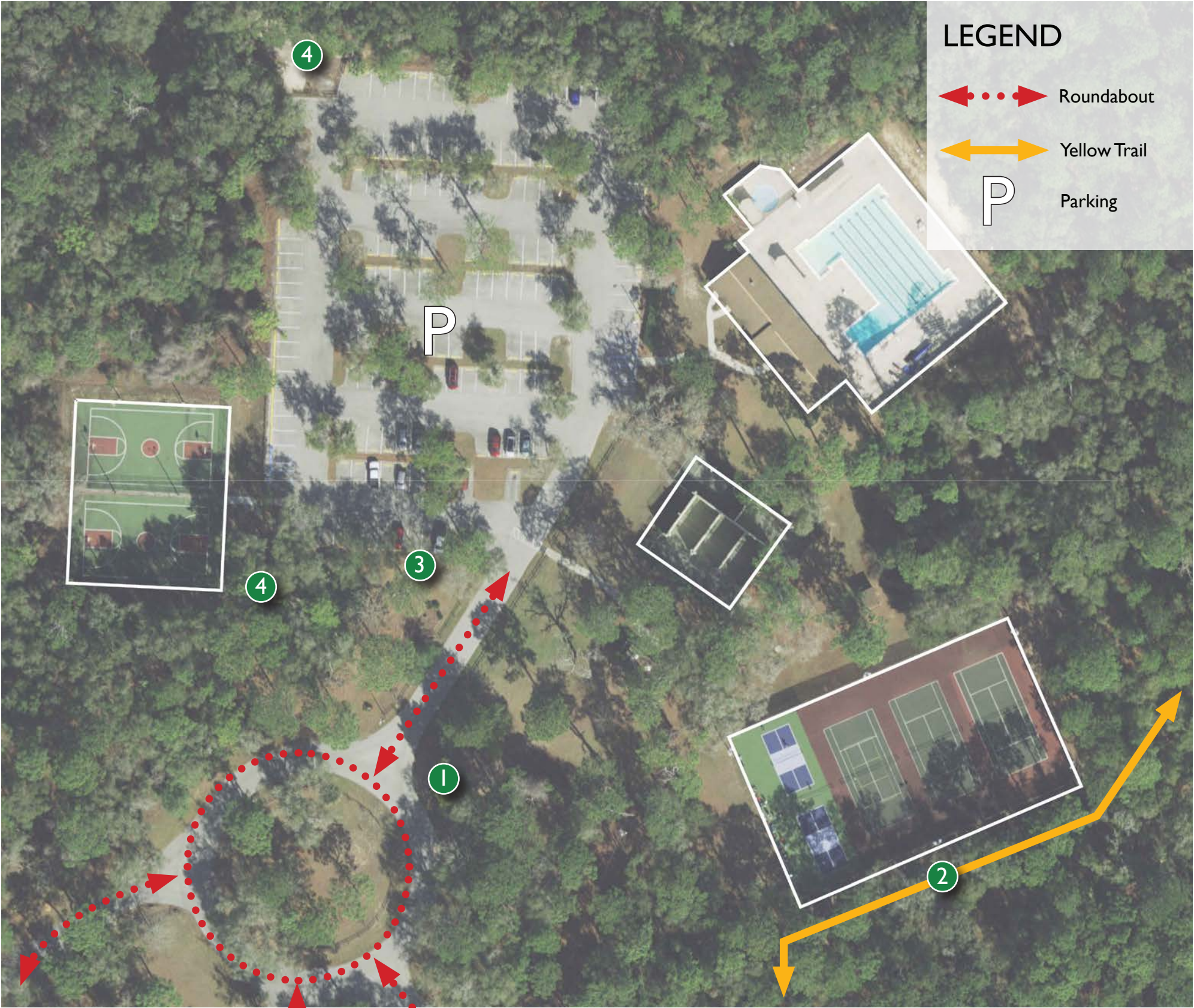
The park's ball fields serve the community well. The park's central location within the City fills each field most evenings and weekends, filling the parking lots with players and spectators. All of the fields are lit well at night to keep the activities going after sunset.



Baseball and Softball Fields Area 1

Whispering Pines Park





Upper Sports Area 2

Whispering Pines Park

EXISTING AMENITIES

The existing amenities available within Areas 2 and 3 of the park can all be accessed from one of the turns off of the central roundabout.

The existing site amenities in Area 2 include:

1 Way-finding Signage



2 Yellow Trail



3 Butterfly Garden



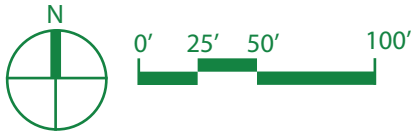
4 Two Disc Golf Courses





Upper Sports Area 2

Whispering Pines Park



5 Two Basketball Courts



The existing basketball courts are well lit at night, making them a good amenity available for use during the full operating hours of the park.

6 Swimming Pool

The existing swimming pool serves the community well during the operating months, March 1st through October 31st, with swim lanes provided in the main pool and a kiddie pool provided in the northwest corner of the pool area.





7 Racquetball Courts



The existing racquetball courts are currently closed and not suitable for public use, showing signs of deterioration. The courts central location, surrounded by open lawn area shaded by existing canopy trees offers an opportune location for additional park amenities to activate the underutilized space.

The existing restrooms and accessory storage structures are in good locations, however the accessory structures appear to be underutilized.

8 Restrooms



9 Accessory Structures





10 Tennis and Pickleball Courts



Existing pickleball and tennis courts are well used and adequately lit for nighttime use. There are 2 courts striped solely for pickleball use and 3 tennis courts that have striping for pickleball and tennis within the same court. While the (3) multi-use courts provide additional opportunities to play pickleball, when given the option players typically prefer courts striped for one use. In addition, the existing 25,640 SF courts area has the ability to accommodate 12 pickleball courts, instead of 5 pickleball courts that are currently provided.

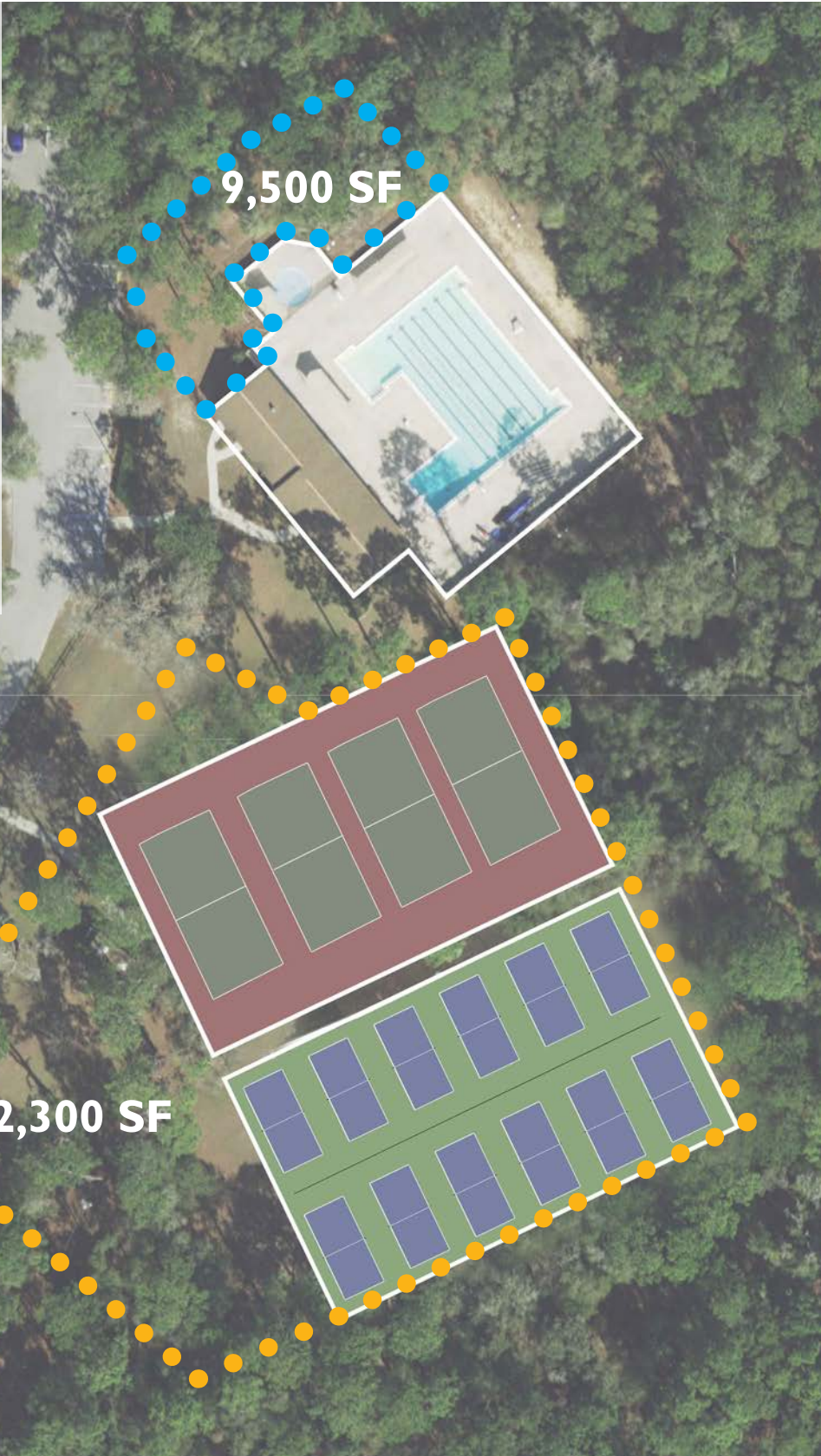
Even though there are seating areas outside of the courts, they are at a lower elevation making it hard for spectators to observe matches. There a couple benches inside the court area on the perimeter, but users still tend to bring and set up their own chairs within the fenced court areas to watch the matches and await their turn to play, displaying the need for more seating.



PICKLEBALL GROWTH FACTS

Per the *USA Pickleball Association* database, 18,455 new courts were added in 2024, totaling 68,458 courts across the nation, with a 650% increase in new courts over the past 7 years.

Pickleball has been ranked the fastest growing sport for the third year in a row by the *Sports Industry Association*, with studies showing the largest increase in the 25–34 age range in 2024 and over 1 million under the age of 18 from 2022 to 2023 displaying a cross-generational appeal.



LEGEND

- ● ● Potential Kids Water Play Area
- ● ● Potential Pickleball and Tennis Court Expansion

OPPORTUNITIES

1. Kids Pool Expansion

With the open space available just outside of the kiddie pool, there is an opportunity to increase the area by an additional 9,500 SF to accommodate more users and to target a larger age range.

2. Pickleball and Tennis Court Expansion

In the evening, all courts available are typically full with pickleball players waiting for an open court. Based on site observations and the growing popularity of Pickleball, the park would benefit from providing more courts separated per sport.

By removing the existing racquetball courts and redesigning the 72,300 SF space indicated, there is an opportunity to provide 12 new pickleball courts and 4 tennis courts seating areas to observe and await one’s scheduled match time.





LEGEND

● ● ● Potential Future
RV Campgrounds

P Parking

EXISTING AMENITIES

The existing amenities currently serve the kids age group ranging from 2-12 years, with open space and picnic areas in between amenity areas.

The Existing amenities in this area include:

1 Playground



24,250 SF Playground offers play equipment geared towards the 2-5 and the 5-12 year age groups. The play equipment, having been recently replaced, is in good condition, but the playground surfacing is currently sand, which does not meet current playground code regulations. To make the surfacing code compliant, the sand can be replaced with (EWF) engineered wood fiber, synthetic turf, or (PIP) poured-in-place rubber surfacing. Each code complaint surfacing has it's pros and cons, with the option listed in order of least expensive to most expensive cost.

2 Picnic Tables and Grills Under the Tree Canopy



3 2,000 SF Pavilion with Picnic Tables



Family Area 3

Whispering Pines Park



0' 50' 100' 200'





LEGEND

- ● ● Potential Future RV Campgrounds
- P Parking

EXISTING AMENITIES

In close proximity to the existing playground and group picnic areas, the following amenities are provided.

4 Restrooms



7 Pathway leading to Splash Pad



5 400 SF Pavilion with Picnic Tables



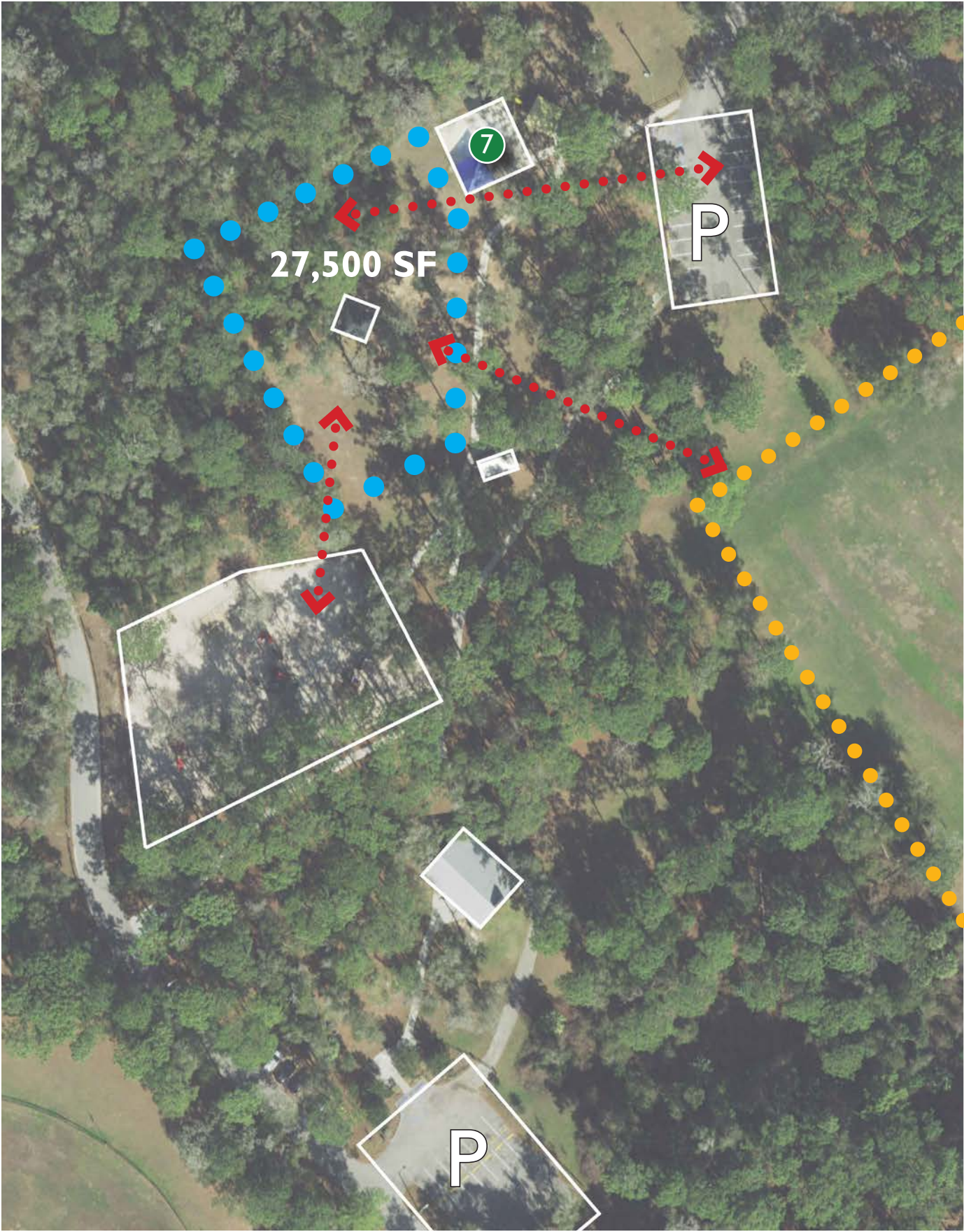
6 Kids Nature Trail



Family and Kids Area 3

Whispering Pines Park





LEGEND

- ● ● Area for Potential Splash Pad Expansion
- ◀ ● ● ● ▶ Connectivity between amenities
- ● ● Potential Future RV Campgrounds
- P Parking

Despite its 2,400 SF size, the existing splash pad gets heavily used during the operating months, April 1st - Oct 31st, frequently getting filled to the maximum capacity of 26. Staff typically needs to monitor users on a daily basis and keep people from entering when filled to max. capacity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

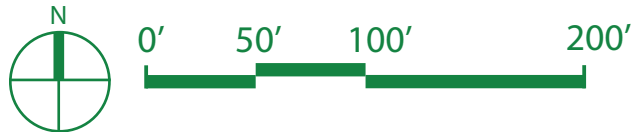
There is adequate space to provide additional shaded seating areas and to expand the wet play area to match the usage capacity of the existing playground.

It is recommended to expand the splash pad utilizing the open space indicated. The potential splash pad expansion would provide good connectivity to existing amenities and parking. It is also in close proximity to the baseball field that has been considered to be utilized for a future RV park that will increase demand for the water play during the summer months.



Family and Kids Area 3

Whispering Pines Park





Out of the twelve parks inventoried, 9 parks have monument style signs, with the remaining boat ramp parks having directional way-finding signage as the main identifiers for the parks.

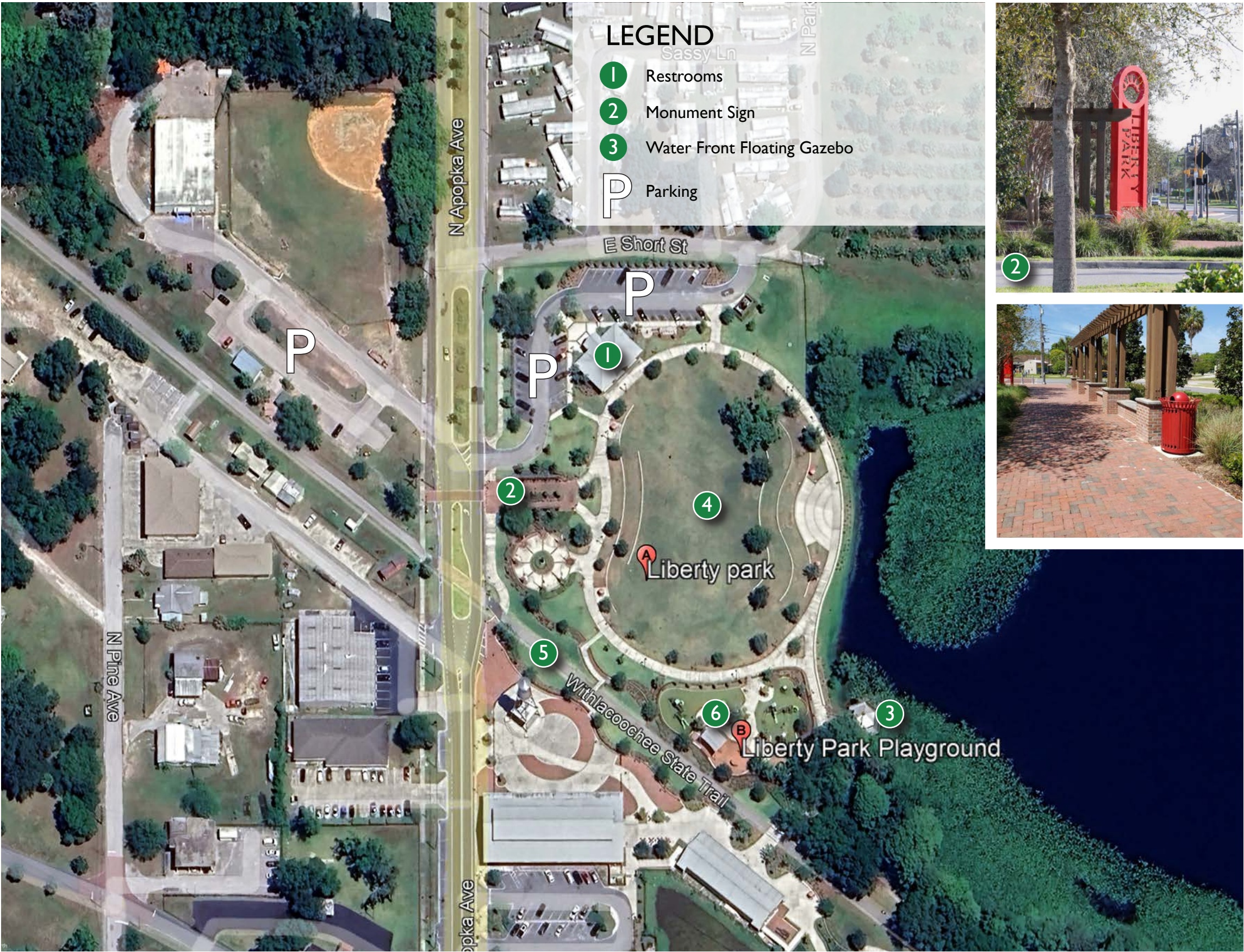
RECOMMENDATIONS

Providing monument style signs for the boat ramp parks would help make the parks more identifiable and help unify the City's Park Signage.



Existing Park Signage





Liberty Park's central location, sweeping water views, and variety of amenities makes it a great asset for the City. The park amenities are well used and integrated with the adjacent state trail, Depot District and boardwalk connecting to Wallace Brooks Park. The park's red monument sign and matching site furnishings provide good visual cues and conformity between the water front amenities that include:

4 Multi-Use Lawn/Event Space



5 Withlacoochee State Trail Access

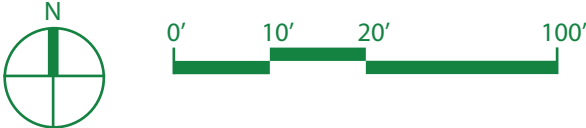


6 Playground



Liberty Park

286 N. Apopka Ave., Inverness, FL 34450





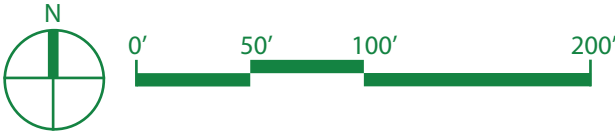
The Depot Pavilion and Liberty Park function as one cohesive space within the Depot District. Both are along N.Apopka in direct axis with the City’s historic Old Courthouse Museum and within walking distance of all that historic Downtown Inverness has to offer along Courthouse Square, Old Main St, and E Main St. The Pavilion is available for rent and hosts different events and markets throughout the year.

RECOMMENDATIONS
With the Depot District and surrounding areas having been recently renovated in 2019, the site design, connectivity to Downtown, and way-finding system and signage can be used as a the precedent for future water front park improvements. The red site furnishing provide a great visual cue that can be carried throughout other waterfront parks and boat ramps.



Depot Pavilion

300 N. Apopka Ave., Inverness, FL 34450

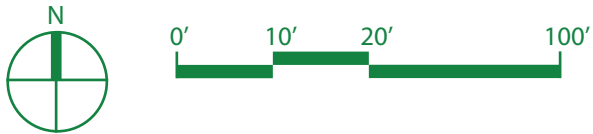




EXISTING AMENITIES
This waterfront park blends seamlessly with Liberty Park and the Depot District and provides another access point or rest stop off of the Withlacoochee State Trail.



Wallace Brooks Park
321 E. Dampier St., Inverness, FL 34450





OPPORTUNITIES
With the parks central waterfront location and open space, there is adequate room to provide additional amenities for the City's youth, within the 12,500 SF space indicated on the western side of the existing open lawn area.

1. SKATE PARK
There is a growing popularity within Municipalities to develop skate parks to provide a useful amenity for the skate boarding and scooter community. Since scooters and skate boards are often prohibited in public parks due to disturbance of pedestrian circulation and damage that can occur from site furnishings being used to perform *tricks*, offering a space where scooters and skate boards are permitted helps negate site damage and offers a designated space for a sport that is widely prohibited in most public parks. In addition, bikes can also utilize skate parks, adding an additional biking activity along the Withlacoochee State Trail.

In addition, the US census estimated 9-million skateboarders in the U.S. with only about 3,900 skateparks, a statistic that has been adding to the demand for skate parks across the country and fueling current growth being seen in municipalities across the nation.

2. FITNESS COURT IMPROVEMENTS
Replacement of the existing stationary fitness equipment with elements that appeal to a larger age range. For example, by adding equipment options such as cross training, an obstacle course, and weight training type equipment, the fitness area could provide new cross-generational amenities for the park's users.

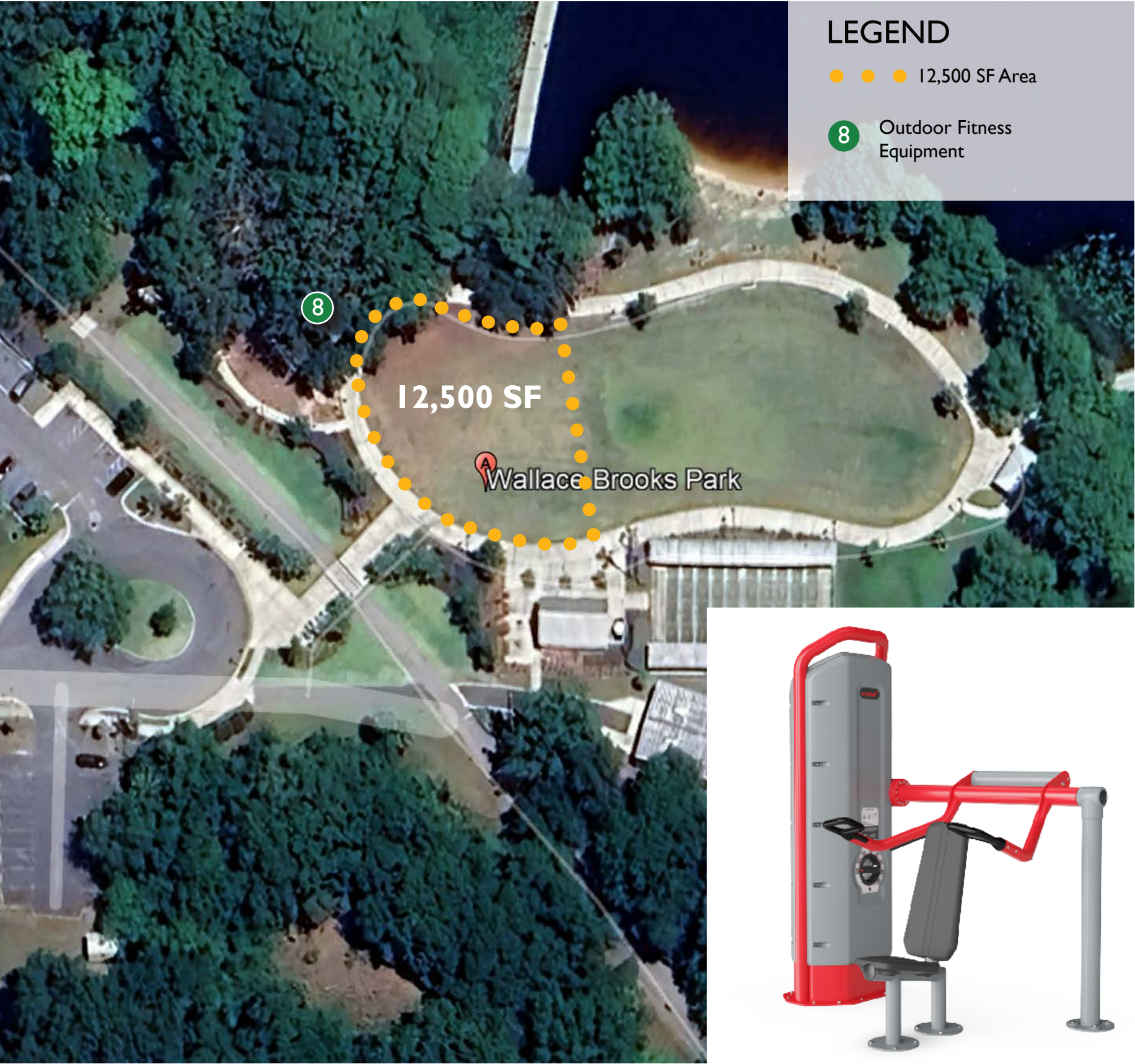
3. NEW SPLASH PAD
Wallace Brooks Park is also a good place for a splash pad area to expand the water play opportunities beyond the lake. In addition to providing for the typical age group of 2-12 yrs, misters and sculptural spray structures can be implemented as a way for all ages to cool off during the summer months.



Wallace Brooks Park
321 E. Dampier St., Inverness, FL 34450

**5,000 - 10,000 SF Skate Park
Character Images**

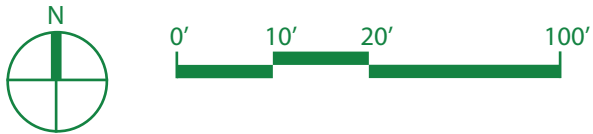




Cross Training, Obstacle Coarse, and Strength Training Character Images



Wallace Brooks Park
321 E. Dampier St., Inverness, FL 34450

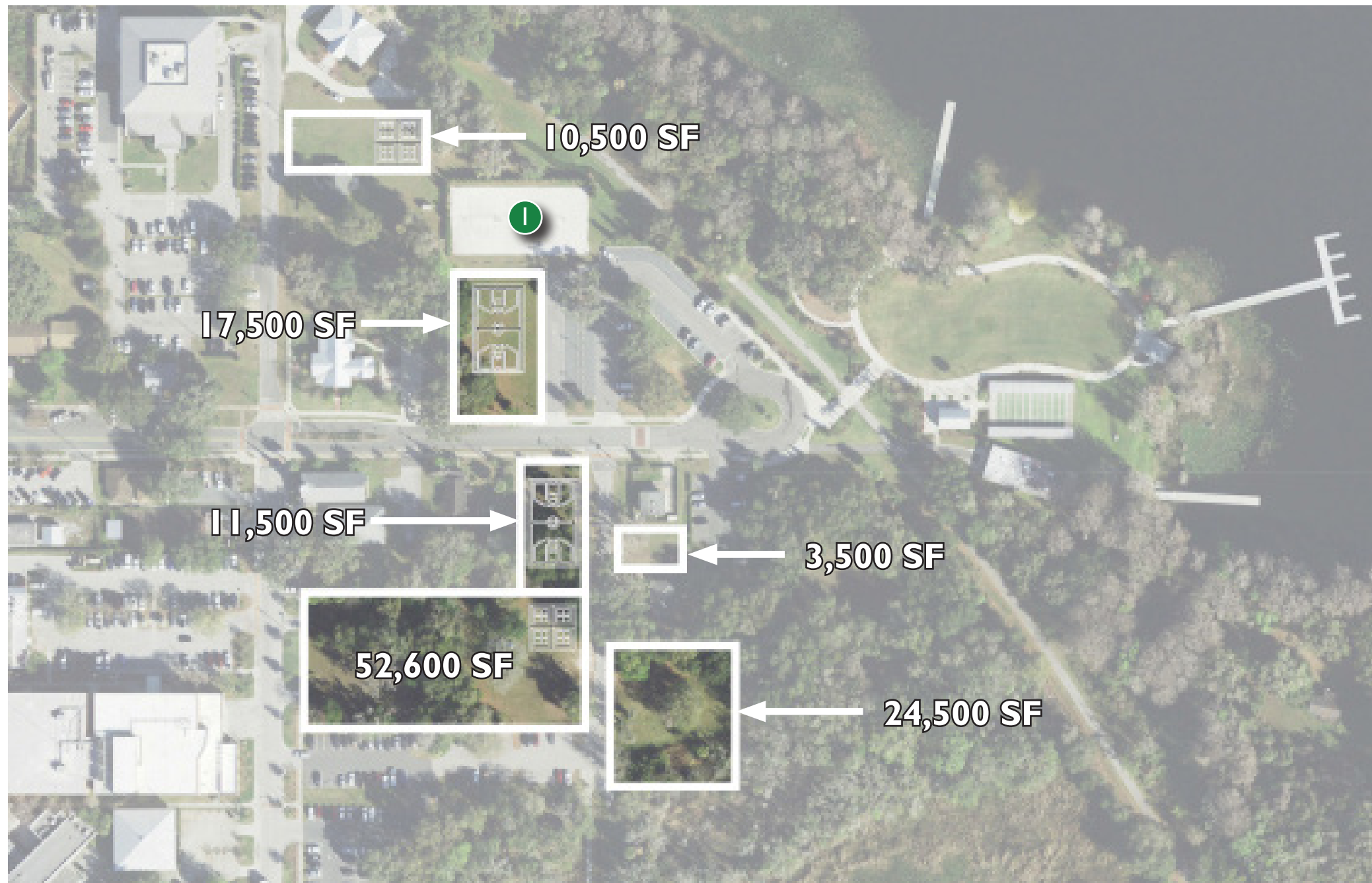




Wallace Brooks Park
321 E. Dampier St., Inverness, FL 34450

Splash Pad Character Images



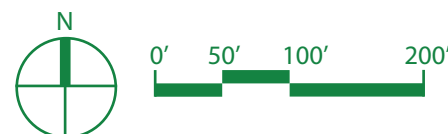


RECOMMENDATIONS

Wallace Brooks Park and Liberty Park, are both popular hang out spots for middle aged school kids. After school hours, the water front area is active with kids walking to the parks and congregating at Liberty Park's Playground or Wallace Brooks Park. Wallace Brooks currently offers volleyball and water activities such as boating and fishing. In between the downtown water front parks, there lies opportunities to add amenities to the existing network of gathering spaces. There are (6) six areas identified in the aerial view, in between The Depot District, Wallace Brooks Park, and Cooter Pond Park, that can be considered for further studies to provide additional amenities for the City's youth.

The (6) six areas identified, provide additional potential sites for a proposed skate park, with opportunities to provide a skate park starting at approximately 10,000 SF, up to 30,000 SF, 4-square courts, or a basketball court to add to the group activities offered along the waterfront areas, with adequate room to provide additional parking for the downtown area.

New Downtown Amenity Opportunities





4-Square Courts

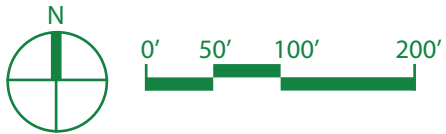


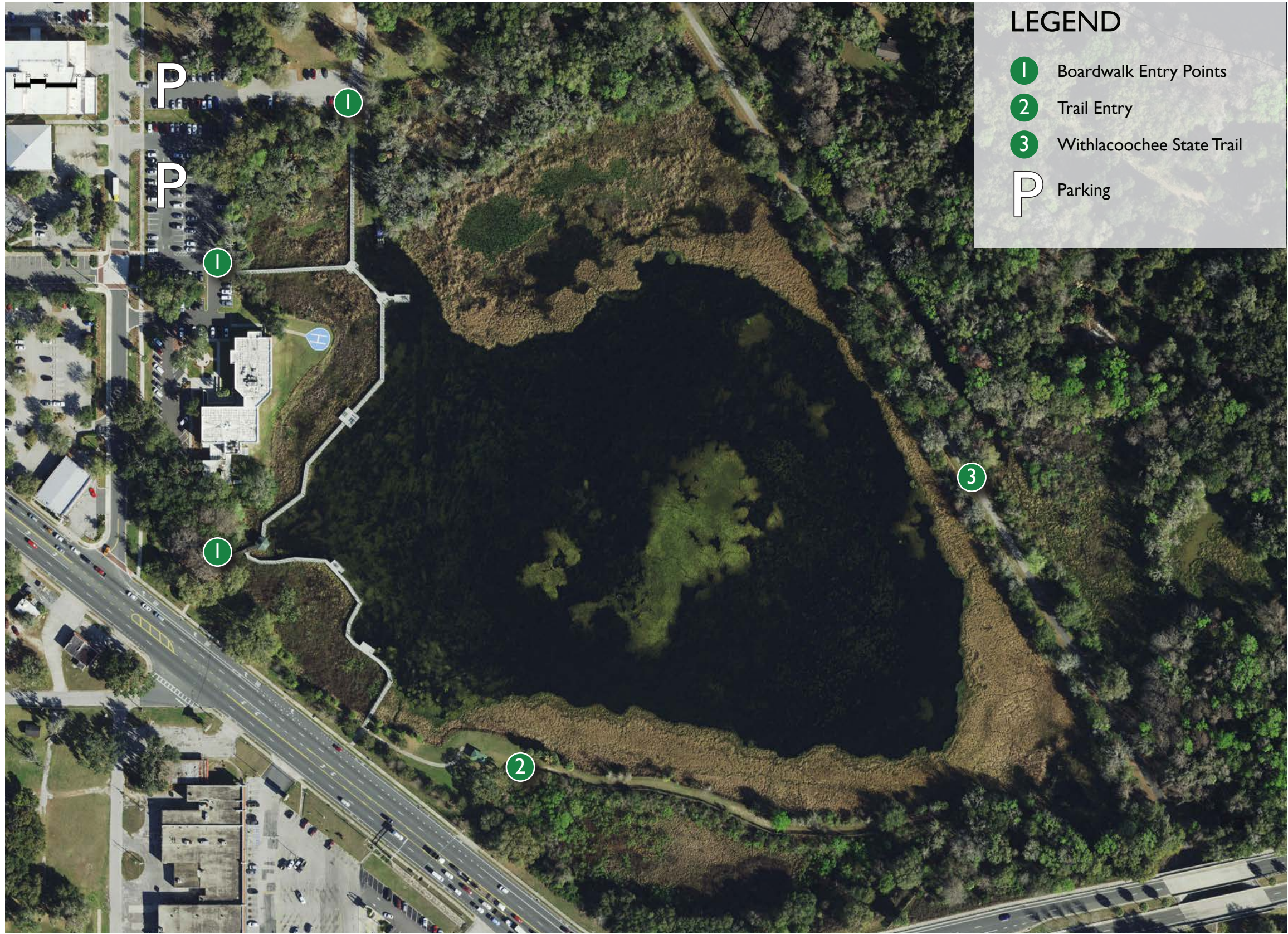
Permanent Bowl Style with Modular Design Elements and Bleacher Style Seating



Skate Park with Surface Mounted Equipment with Adjacent Basketball Court

New Downtown Amenity Opportunities





LEGEND

- 1 Boardwalk Entry Points
- 2 Trail Entry
- 3 Withlacoochee State Trail
- P Parking

EXISTING AMENITIES

Cooter Pond Park is one of the first City Parks that can be seen shortly after one enters the eastern City limits along US Highway 41, as you enter the heart of downtown Inverness.

The park's boardwalk offers educational signage to learn about the ecosystem, picnic areas and benches to take in the water views, and a land hiking path that connects to the Withlacoochee State Trail.

2 TRAIL ENTRY



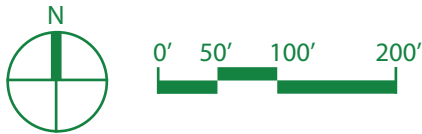
RECOMMENDATIONS

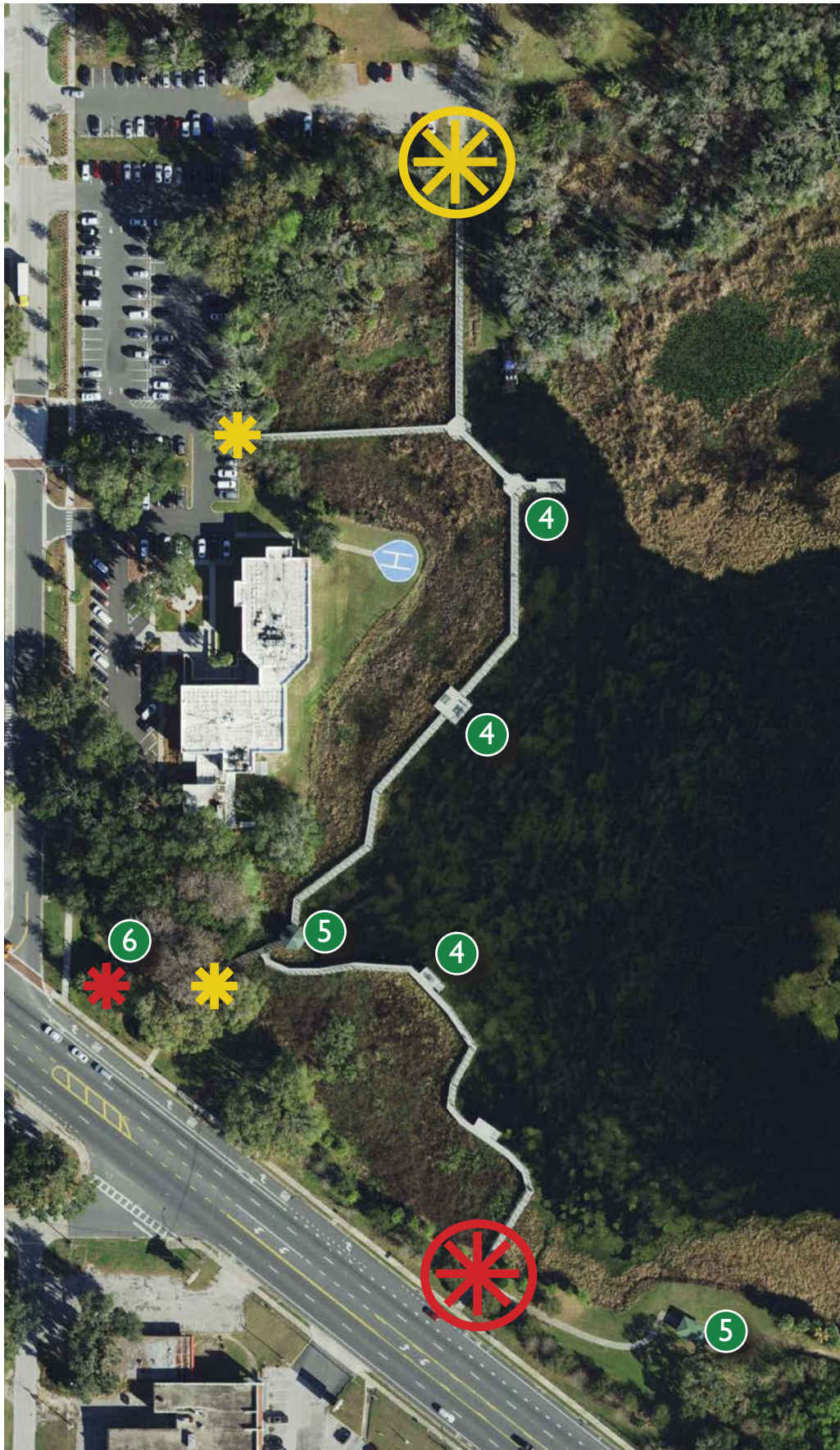
The park appears to be very well utilized, but could benefit from signage and way-finding improvements and upgrades to site furnishings to match the other water front parks such as Liberty and Wallace Brooks Parks.

The walking trail at the east end of the boardwalk leads to the Withlacoochee Trail, would benefit and be more identifiable from the addition of trail-head signage.

Cooter Pond Park

181 Hwy 41 South Inverness, FL 34450





LEGEND

- 4 Seating Areas
- 5 Pergola/Pavilion
- 6 Shady Seating Area
- ✱ Existing Sign Type I
- ✱ Existing Sign Type II
- ✱ Recommended Additional Sign Type I
- ✱ Recommended Additional Sign Type II



SIGNAGE RECOMMENDATIONS

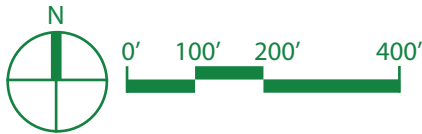
There are (3) three types of signage within the park. There is (1) one monument sign, sign type I, at the NE corner of US HWY 41 and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. that could be upgraded to match the metal red signs implemented at Liberty and Wallace Brooks Parks.

When entering the City heading westbound, the first signage visible from the road can't be seen until you have driven past the majority of the park. Adding a second monument sign at the southeastern entry to the park would be beneficial to pedestrian and car traffic alike. The additional monument sign would make the park more visible and would make the network of downtown parks visually cohesive.

Signage type II, found at (2) of the boardwalk entries, offers visitors history and additional information on the park. The northern boardwalk entry is missing a sign and would benefit from the addition of a sign type I, II, or both.

Cooter Pond Park

181 Hwy 41 South Inverness, FL 34450





RECOMMENDATIONS
 The informational signage along the boardwalk, signage type III, offers valuable education information. Unfortunately, water front areas are exposed to harsh elements and the existing signs appear to have reached their limit. It is recommended to replace the signage to continue to teach the public about the native ecosystem of Cooter Pond.



Observation of wildlife



Fishing





The public boat ramp at the end of N.Apopka Ave is a highly used access point to Henderson Lake.

The boat access could benefit from the addition of identification signage and doesn't offer much parking. Studies to identify potential additional boat trailer parking would be beneficial for the site.



North Apopka Boat Ramp

420 N. Apopka Ave., Inverness, FL 34450



0' 10' 20' 100'





Wayside Park offers parking for the Hwy 44 Boat Ramp directly across the street. However, if one didn't already know it was there it could be easily missed by cars driving by.

Both Wayside Park and the boat ramp across the street would benefit from signage making the area more easily identifiable. Both of these sites could have the metal red signs implemented to speak the same vernacular as the other water front parks.

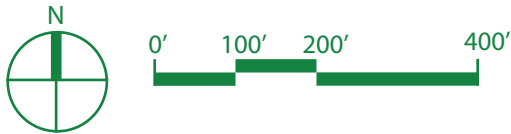
Wayside Park has a few picnic tables in the open lawn area with minimal tree canopy for shade. The addition of a picnic pavilion and restrooms are potential amenities that would serve the park well.

The asphalt parking lot would also benefit from new surfacing, striping, and terminal parking islands to provide shade and soften the expanse of harsh pavement.



Wayside Park

1010 FL Hwy 44, Inverness, FL 34450



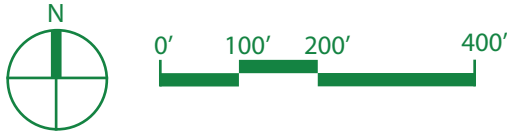
RECOMMENDATIONS

The boat ramp area currently doesn't offer any bike racks, presenting the opportunity to add the red bike racks that are used across the waterway at Liberty Park and the Depot District.



Highway 44 Boat Ramp

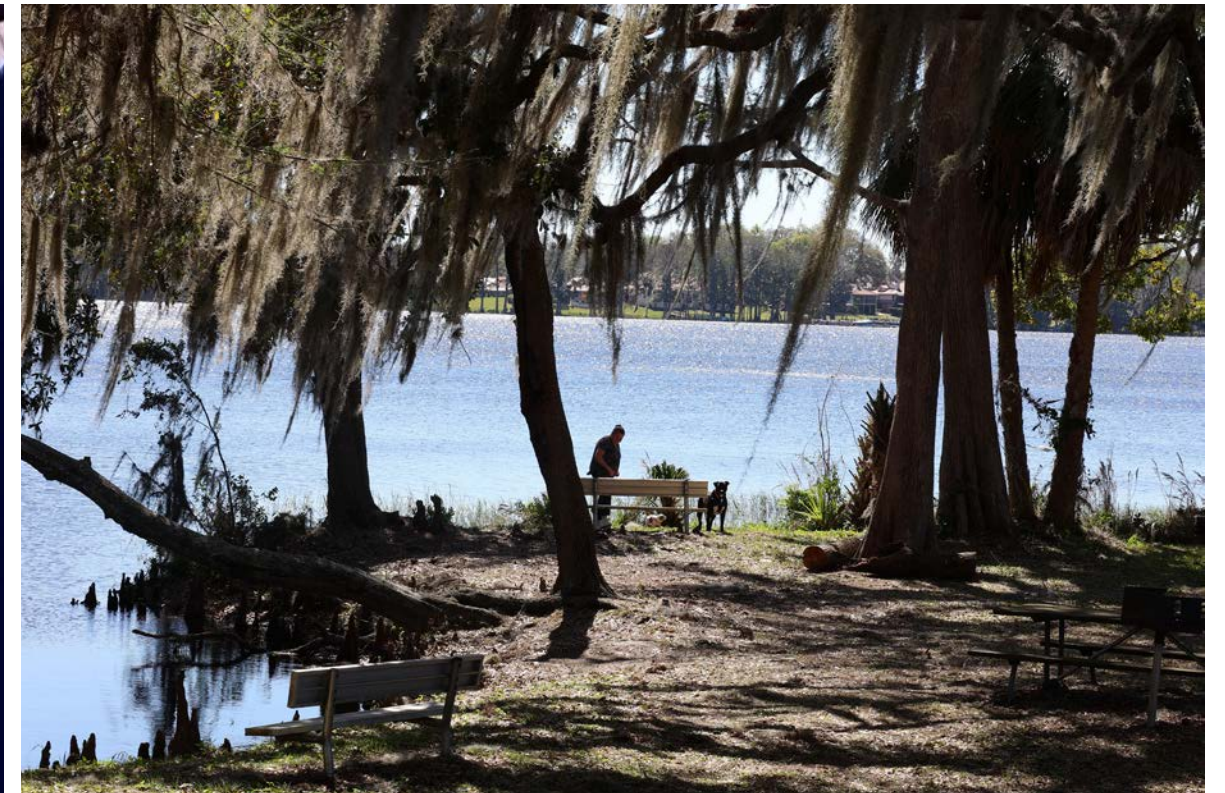
1025 FL Hwy 44, Inverness, FL 34450





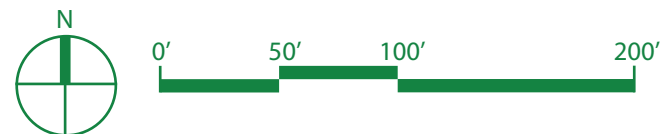
Hillcrest is a beautiful neighborhood park nestled in between two residential properties. It offers seating and picnic tables by the water. People use the park to walk their dogs, sit by the water, and to fish in the lake. There is adequate parking for the site, since most people walk to the park,

Recommended upgrades for the park include the addition of a bike rack and replacing the sign to match the signage style used at Whispering Pines and Bryant Parks.



Hillcrest Park

301 Huntington Lodge Dr., Inverness, FL 34453





White Lake Park is a small neighborhood park that features a half-basketball court and bench style seating.

The court is in need of refurbishing, a new hoop and resurfacing of the court are recommended.

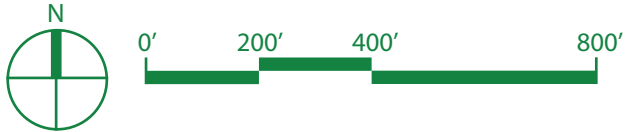
The site furnishings are also in need of an upgrade, with the (2) two existing benches being of different styles.

Lastly, the park sign could be replaced using the signage of Whispering Pines and Bryant Parks as the precedent.



White Lake Park

602 White Blvd., Inverness, FL 34453



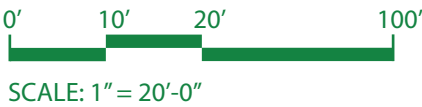
Mossy Oak Park is another beautiful neighborhood park offering seating and picnic tables by the water. People use the park to walk their dogs, sit by the water, and to fish in the lake. There is adequate parking for the site, since most people walk to the park,

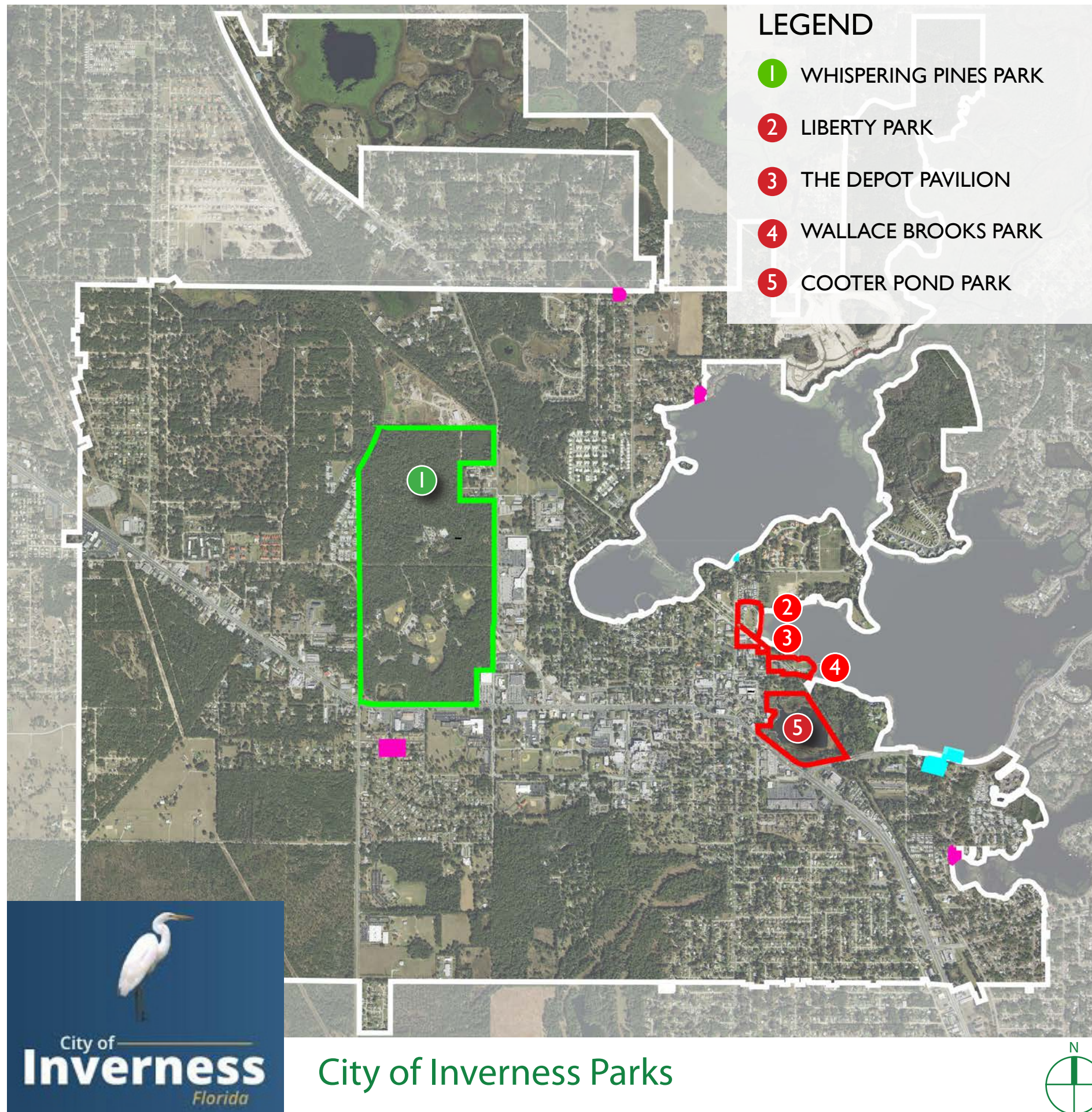
Recommended upgrades for the park include the addition of a bike rack and replacing the sign to match the signage style used at Whispering Pines and Bryant Parks.



Mossy Oak Park

1056 Mossy Oak Dr., Inverness, FL 34450





GOALS

Review the 12 existing parks amenities, conditions, and functionality to make recommendations for park improvements aiming to provide a variety of activities for the community with a focus on the City's youth.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1 WHISPERING PINES PARK

- Replacement and expansion of the splash pad and adjacent amenities
- Expansion and upgrade to Kiddie Pool Area to help accommodate overflow from splash pad
- Removal of the existing racquetball courts and redesign of approx. 72,300 SF area to provide 12 pickleball and 4 tennis courts.

4 WALLACE BROOKS PARK

- Skate Park
- Redesigned fitness court with cross-generational equipment options
- Splash Pad

EXPANSION OF DOWNTOWN PARK CONNECTIONS

- Basketball Court
- Four Square Courts

There are multiple open space opportunities to provide more activities to accommodate all age groups of the City's community by developing the properties identified to build onto the downtown waterfront's cohesive network of parks and public space.

Agenda Memorandum - *City of Inverness*

April 15, 2025

TO: Elected Officials
FROM: Rob Pell, Assistant Public Works Director
SUBJECT: City Stormwater Management Update - Ordinance 2025-845 - First Reading
CC: Eric Williams, City Manager, Susan Jackson, City Clerk, Frank Calascione, Assistant City Manager
Enclosures: 1. ORDINANCE 2025-845 Stormwater Management

In 2022, the City completed its Stormwater Master Plan and over the last few months has been working with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to update some of our management practices and recordkeeping. This evening, Council will consider the first reading of an ordinance that includes language covering inspections and monitoring, consistent with FDEP guidance.

It is recommended that Council proceed to approve the ordinance as presented on the first reading to make the directed and necessary adjustments to be implemented upon final adoption.

Recommended Action –

1. Allow Staff to Present
2. Motion, Second, and vote to read Ordinance 2025-845 by title only.
3. Deliberate the matter.
4. Motion, Second, and vote to adopt Ordinance 2025-845 on first reading by roll call.

If you wish to discuss this further, please contact me at your convenience.

Eric C. Williams

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-845

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 19 OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BY ADDING SECTION 19-11 ENTITLED INSPECTIONS AND MONITORING FOR COMPLIANCE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND INTERPRETING THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION INTO THE CODE AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS,
THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2025 AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 19-11 of the Code of Ordinances entitled "Inspections and Monitoring for Compliance" is hereby amended as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Section 2. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this Ordinance.

Section 3. Inclusion in the Code of Ordinances. The provisions of this Ordinance shall be included and incorporated in the Code of Ordinances of the City of Inverness as an addition, or amendment thereto, and shall be appropriately renumbered to conform to the uniform numbering system of the Code of Ordinances.

Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Upon motion duly made and carried on first reading, the foregoing Ordinance was approved on the _____ day of _____, 2025.

Upon motion duly made and carried on second reading, the foregoing Ordinance was adopted on the _____ day of _____, 2025.

Gene Davis, Council President

Robert Plaisted, Mayor

ATTEST:

Susan Jackson, City Clerk

Approved as to form and correctness:

James Hartley, City Attorney

EXHIBIT A

Sec. 19-11. Inspections and Monitoring for Compliance.

- (1) Right of entry, inspection, and sampling, concerning illicit discharge or connections.
- (2) City personnel and City agents shall be permitted to enter, inspect, and conduct sampling, on such lands in the City's MS4 or waters of the United States to ensure compliance with provisions of this Ordinance as reasonable and necessary to ensure that no illicit discharges or connections exist or have taken place. All structures and processes concerning discharges to the City's MS4, as well as records connecting them, shall be made accessible to City personnel and City agents.

Agenda Memorandum - *City of Inverness*

April 15, 2025

TO: Elected Officials
FROM: Eric Williams, City Manager
SUBJECT: City Garden - IFAS/UF Extension Service Proposal
CC: Susan Jackson, City Clerk, Woody Worley, Parks & Recreation Director
Enclosures:

As the Council is aware, the City Garden was completed in 2018 at a total construction cost of \$289,655 (not including property acquisition) with the intention of having a partnering non-profit acting as the garden manager, overseeing the daily operations and the educational programs of the facility. This concept did not materialize, and the City had to put a plan in place to rent out bed space in order to offset the cost of managing the garden. At that time the cost to the City was nearly \$21,000 annually of public funds to manage, maintain, and market the facility, with approximately \$2,000 in revenues from rentals. Within a few years, less than half of the beds were being utilized and half of those were being maintained to a less than desired standard.

In 2020, staff engaged with the Key Training Center to put together a plan to manage the garden, restore the 22 garden beds for growing produce, maintain the entire garden area, and use the garden as an education tool for its clients. This partnership excelled for four years, allowing both parties to show success. The City had a partner who was utilizing the garden in the manner it was intended and the Key Training Center saw tremendous results/benefits for its clients and the community. In January 2025, due to unforeseen circumstances, the Key Training Center had to relocate their Inverness facility to their main branch in Lecanto and was no longer able to manage the daily operations of the garden.

Given, the City began looking at alternatives/options for the garden that would reinvigorate/enhance the garden, make it cost-affordable, and become a viable educational garden managed by a single organization. Staff engaged with representatives of the University of Florida/IFAS Extension Services department in Lecanto to gauge their interest. They have put together a plan to manage the garden, maintain the entire area, use the garden as an educational tool for the community by way of free classes, and engage with local schools for educational opportunities as well. The aforementioned approach would proceed by way of a use permit. The permit will be for one year and provides a pathway to growing the City Garden program into the future.

Recommended Action -

1. Allow staff to present
2. Motion and second to approve issuing a use permit to the UF/IFAS Extension Services for the usage of the City Garden as presented.
3. Deliberate the Matter.

4. Vote the Matter.

If you wish to discuss this further, please contact me at your convenience.

Eric C. Williams

Agenda Memorandum - ***City of Inverness***

April 15, 2025

TO: Elected Officials

FROM:

SUBJECT: Project and Program Updates

- CRA Bill
- Liberty Boardwalk Update
- Eden Dr and 41 S Sewer Main
- Other

CC:

Enclosures:
