



**AGENDA
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING
CITY HALL BOARDROOM
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ATTENDANCE AND INSTRUCTIONS**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A) October 28, 2025, Parks & Recreation Meeting Minutes**
- 4. OLD BUSINESS**
- 5. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A) Perez Planning and Design Draft Report**
- 6. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**
 - A) Autumn Weidenhamer
Annual Report Presentation**
 - B) Ali Stephens**
 - C) Jessica Jullian**
 - D) Jan McGraw**
 - E) Aubrey Santucci**
 - F) Matthew Sweetser**
 - G) Andrea Ansley**
- 7. STAFF REPORTS**
 - A) Items of Discussion**
- 8. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**
- 9. NEXT MEETING DATE: TBD**
- 10. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Council, committee, board, panel, or agency with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she will may need to ensure that a record of the verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon the appeal is to be based.

"Persons with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this meeting are requested to notify the Public Services Office 850/837-4242 at least 48 hours in advance".

**MINUTES OF THE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
DESTIN CITY HALL BOARDROOM
OCTOBER 28, 2025, - 4:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairwoman Weidenhamer called the Parks & Recreation Meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, in the Destin City Hall Boardroom immediately followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL:

Members Present

Autumn Weidenhamer
Jessica Jullian
Andrea Ansley
Alison Stephens
Jan McGraw
Matthew Sweetser

Members Absent

Aubrey Santucci

Staff Present

Ryan Reed P&R Deputy Director
Sharon Gardner Records Mgmt. Specialist

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. September 23, 2025, Parks & Recreation Minutes

Chairwoman Autumn Weidenhamer asked for approval of minutes or for any changes to the agenda.

Motion made by Committee Member Ansley to approve the minutes as written, Committee member Jullian provided the second.

Motion passed 6-0. Committee member Aubrey Santucci was absent.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Park Inspections List: Parks & Recreation Deputy Director Ryan Reed

Deputy Director Reed discussed the distribution of assignments stating that he had attempted to accommodate various participant requests, and he expressed a strong intent to distribute the workload fairly. He also acknowledged that some members had submitted their inspections already, which was appreciated, and he and Parks Supervisor Lawrence Atkins had already begun reviewing those submissions. The committee members were encouraged to review their assignments and suggest changes if needed. The suggested deadline for final submissions will be the end of November.

Vice Chairman Sweetser mentioned the damage to the fence at Clement Taylor Park, and Deputy Director Reed advised he would investigate it.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A) Online Survey for the Master Plan

Deputy Director Reed provided an update regarding ongoing public engagement efforts on the Master Plan Online Survey encouraging all members to complete the survey themselves and to share it widely with others in the community. He reported that as of this meeting approximately two focus groups had been completed, with a total of six to seven planned. The expected timeline for completion and presentation of the final report to City Council is early January pending holiday scheduling. If approved by Council, next steps would move into the visioning phase (Phase 3) of the Master Plan process.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

A) Autumn Weidenhamer-Annual Report Template Discussion

Chairwoman Weidenhamer shared that she had taken the initiative to draft a presentation template to showcase the committee's role and accomplishments clearly and professionally.

Details of the draft included the following items:

- Items highlighted in yellow that are still in development or require edits.
- A mission statement.
- A proposed agenda for the council presentation.
- A section on ongoing work plan items, such as Adopt-a-Park program and park inspections which are intended to be framed as continuous improvement efforts.

Committee members were invited to review the draft and provide feedback. Committee member Jullian raised a question about the scope of the committee's advocacy responsibilities, especially regarding infrastructure needs and capital projects that affect the Parks and Recreation staff directly (e.g., work sheds at Morgans).

Deputy Director Reed explained that these are considered part of the Renewal & Replacement (R& R) or Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and are included in the annual budget process and aren't necessarily tied directly to the committee's work plans in a. However, the committee can and should be involved in supporting those needs where appropriate. It was agreed by the committee members that exploring ways to integrate some capital project needs into the committee's work plan is a worthwhile step, and this deeper involvement could enhance project outcomes and better reflect public needs.

Committee member Ansley volunteered to sponsor the Adopt-a-Park initiative, offering to take the lead on behalf of the committee. She is also exploring the revival of a bicycle helmet safety program and a road safety summer camp focused on youth education around bicycles and motorized scooters.

Committee member Stephens agreed to take the Park Inspection Work Plans. Vice chairman Sweetser volunteered to take the lead on the Adopt-a-Tree and Adopt-a-Bench programs. It was discussed that he would work on compiling a list of names for those items that have already been dedicated in order to ensure the records were current.

The discussion then focused on integrating ADA-compliant (Americans with Disabilities Act) playground equipment into city parks to improve accessibility for children with disabilities. It was agreed that the ADA-compliant equipment initiative would be organized as a separate work plan to ensure clear focus and planning for both accessibility and broader park improvements.

Deputy Director Reed announced that the annual plan is intended to align the committee's work plans with the city's budgeting process to ensure that the committee recommendations can influence budget planning, allowing for proactive resource allocation based on proposed or upcoming projects. He noted that holding planning sessions in both January and November might help keep the committee on track and up to date.

The committee members discussed how to effectively document and showcase the committee's impact within the annual plan. This includes both tangible outcomes (e.g., improvements made through committee recommendations) and intangible contributions (e.g., community engagement, volunteering). It was emphasized that committee members' volunteer work is a significant and often under-recognized part of their impact, and that visible volunteerism helps inspire others to get involved, increasing overall community engagement and awareness.

Chairwoman Weidenhamer and members of the committee then discussed the following:
Key Points Summary-Committee Role, Council Interaction, and Decision-Making.

Committee's Gatekeeping & Public Guidance Role-

- The committee often serves as a filter or pre-review step before projects are escalated to City Council.
- This is not to reject ideas, but to help guide proposals to the appropriate board or committee, ensuring only matters appropriate for Council consideration are brought forward.
- This helps manage Council's limited time and ensures that community-driven ideas follow the right path.

What the Committee needs from Council-

- Request for mutual support: if the Council expects support or validation from the committee, the committee also needs Council's support and respect in decision making.
- Committee members want to be empowered to make informed recommendations and help Council make decisions that are truly beneficial for the community.
- There is a desire to diplomatically communicate the need for genuine engagement, not just performative approval.
- There is concern about how the committee can meaningfully provide input or push back when Council appears to have already made their decision.
- Members reiterated that they take their responsibilities seriously and want to act in the community's best interest, even when it's uncomfortable or unpopular.

6 B) Ali Stephens-

1) Dog Park Monthly Inspection

Committee member Stephens shared her experience during their assigned month for the dog park upkeep, stating she visited at least once a week. The condition of the park was horrible,

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particularly due to unpleasant waste cleanup and general maintenance needs. The need for full perimeter cleaning and overgrown vegetation maintenance was also noted along with the deteriorating condition of park tools and structures including the following:

- Missing or broken dog waste scoopers
- Mold or grime build up on the wooden part of the rakes.
- Some equipment likely needs yearly replacement due to wear and weathering.

Community engagement:

- While cleaning, Committee member Stephens was approached by several park users, curious about what she was doing. After explaining the Parks & Recreation "Adopt-a-Park" rotation, many residents expressed genuine appreciation and thanked committee members for volunteering their time to keep the park clean and accessible.
- The interaction with the public served as a great opportunity to educate residents on the committee's role and efforts. Such visible acts of volunteerism not only keep the parks clean but also build public trust and appreciation.

B) Ali Stephens

2) Crystal Beach Access Inspection

Committee member Stephens spoke with a regular park user named "Static" who provided positive feedback specifically about the city staff responsible for trash pickup and park maintenance. It was emphasized that this staff member (believed to be Tim Mahar) and the entire maintenance team are consistently responsive, effective, and professional.

C) Jessica Jullian- Upcoming Community Center Events

Committee member Jullian shared that there are numerous upcoming events at the community center, especially around the holiday season. She mentioned that she is in regular contact with Beatriz Miller, who runs the center, and mentioned efforts to improve communication or volunteer needs by having Deputy Director Reed send out event updates to committee members. She also encouraged committee members to volunteer when possible, highlighting that extra help is always appreciated, particularly for family-friendly and holiday events. She mentioned particularly the "Holly Jolly" & Boat Parade events and that committee members and volunteers will be involved in craft activities, including painting ornaments. Discussion included possibly partnering with the CBS (Community Beautification Alliance) to create oyster shell or seashell ornaments, aligning with the city's Christmas parade theme of Seashells and Sleigh bells.

D) Jan McGraw-Nothing else to add to the discussion as quite a few things had already been mentioned and covered.

E) Matthew Sweetser- Tree Lighting event December 4th

Vice Chairman Sweetser reminded every one of the Tree Lighting event being held December 4th at the Community Center and asked everyone that could to please volunteer to help with handing out refreshments.

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F) Andrea Ansley- Fall Festival

Committee member Ansley noted she had attended the Fall Festival at the Community Center the night before the meeting and described it as a huge success. She praised the city staff and event organizers for their hard work and professionalism.

**7. STAFF REPORTS: Deputy Director Ryan Reed-
Pinfish Classic, Holiday Craft Fair, Clement Taylor Park update, Batting Cage at Morgans Sports Complex**

1) Announcement regarding the Pinfish Classic will be held Saturday November 1st starting at 7:30a.m. at Al's Restaurant on the dock. He would appreciate any volunteers for this event and the others that are upcoming.

2) The Holiday Craft Fair is scheduled for November 14th and 15th at the Community Center.

3) Clement Taylor Park Update:

Demolition has begun at Clement Taylor Park. The bathroom and playground have been removed, marking the official start of the renovation project. Deputy Director Reed expressed excitement about the project's progress despite the current empty lot appearance. Committee members commented on the unusual sight of the bathroom being gone, acknowledging it as a positive development. Staff had hoped to notify the committee to witness the demolition, but it happened without prior notice.

4) Batting Cage at Morgans Sports Complex:

The batting cage project is well underway. The concrete pad has been poured, and interior work has started. The installation crew worked quickly, completing most of the work in about a week.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None

9. NEXT MEETING DATE:

Chairwoman Weidenhamer and staff members discussed the availability of meeting in November but would likely be pushed to December due to committee members being out of town. Deputy Director Reed agreed to send out an email to confirm the date of the next meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:14 PM

Adopted this _____ day of _____ 2025

Autumn Weidenhamer, Chairwoman

Sharon Gardner, Records Mgmt. Specialist



Parks and Recreation System Master Plan

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
DRAFT Context Analysis + Needs and
Priorities Assessment Summary Findings

December 11, 2025

Agenda

- Project Purpose, Scope, and Schedule
- Findings to Date
- Potential Next Steps
- Discussion

Project Purpose



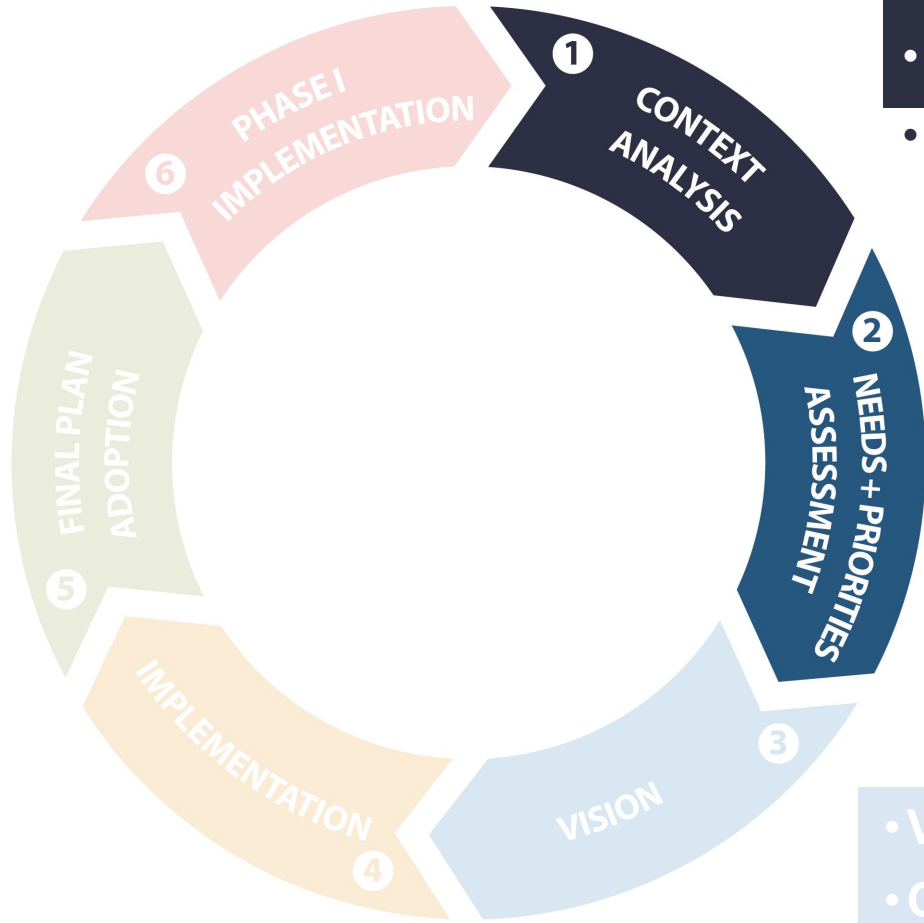
- Establish a roadmap for balanced facilities and amenities, aligned with the City’s Comprehensive Plan 2020.
- Set achievable goals, policies, guidelines, and priorities.
- **Inventory the current parks and recreation system, including facilities, personnel, services, customer base, equipment, and management practices.**
- Include a Capital Improvement Plan, **a Facility and Grounds Maintenance and Management Plan,** and a funding options analysis.

Current Project Scope

- Capital Improvements
- Staffing Improvements
- O&M Funding

- Draft Final Master Plan
- Final Master Plan

- Funding Alternatives
- Prioritization
- Implementation Strategy Summary Document



- Project Coordination
- Planning Context
- Demographic Context
- Park System Context
- Context Summary Document

- Primary Quantitative Data
- Primary Qualitative Data
- Secondary Data
- Needs + Priorities Summary Document

- Vision Update
- Capital + O&M Costs
- Parks and Recreation Vision Summary Document

Phase 2 Needs and Priorities Assessment

PRIMARY DATA:

Predominantly Quantitative Techniques:

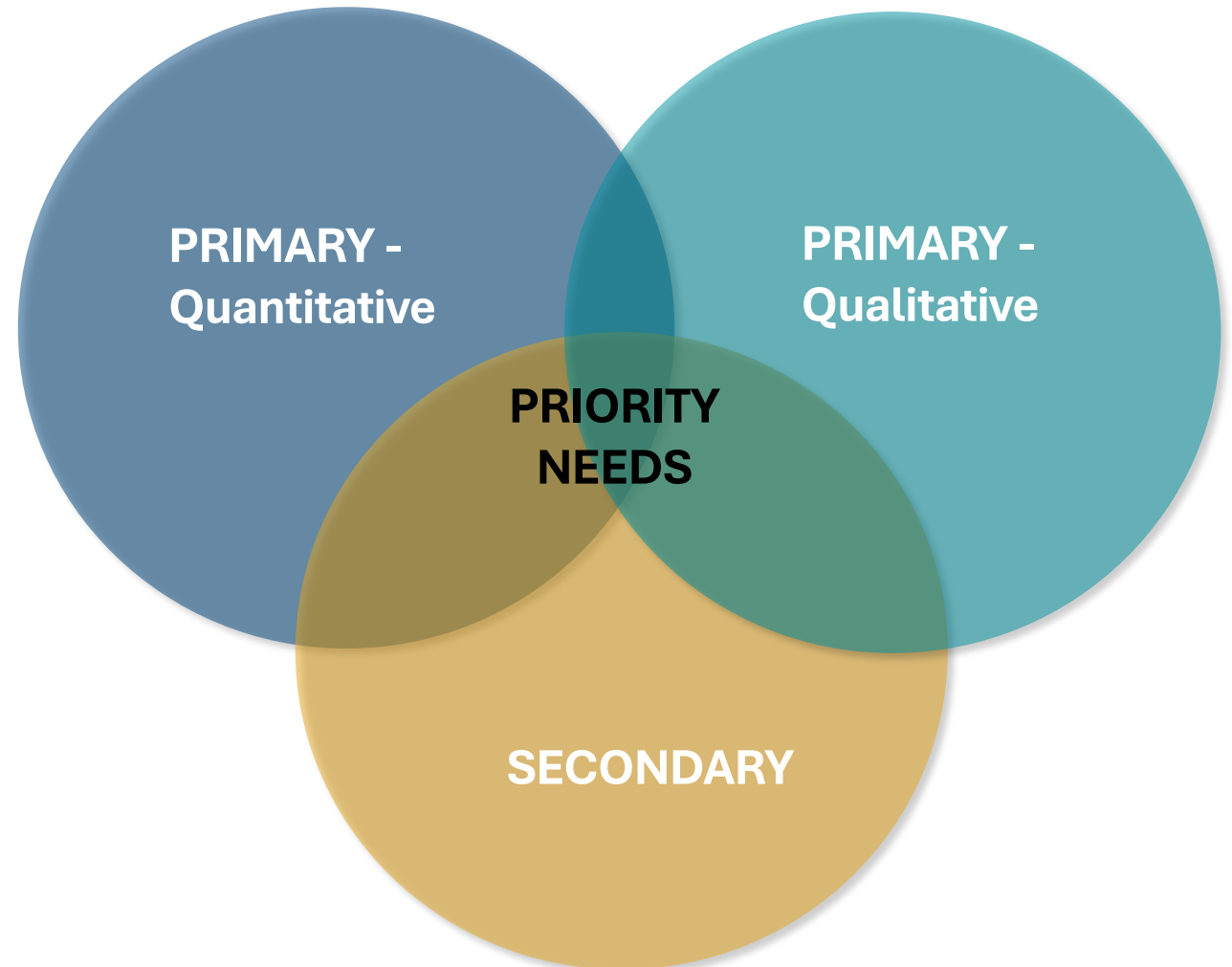
- Statistically-Representative Mail Survey
- On-line Survey
- Level-of-Service Analysis
- Benchmarking

Predominantly Qualitative Techniques:

- Steering Committee
- Interviews, Focus Groups
- Public Meeting
- Park Site Evaluations

SECONDARY DATA:

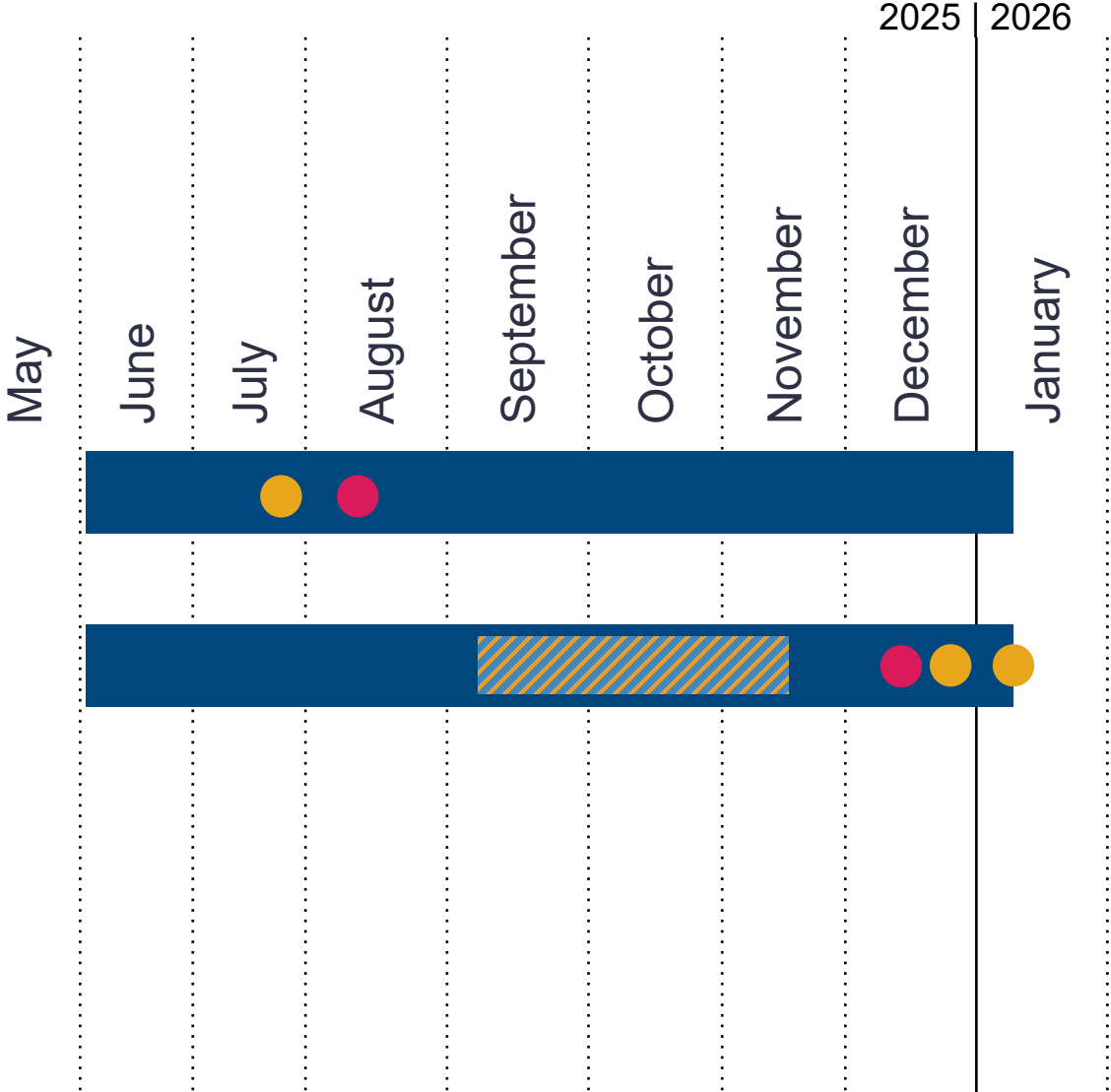
- Demographic + Trends Data
- Review of Previous Plans and Documents



Project Schedule

Phase 1. Context Analyses

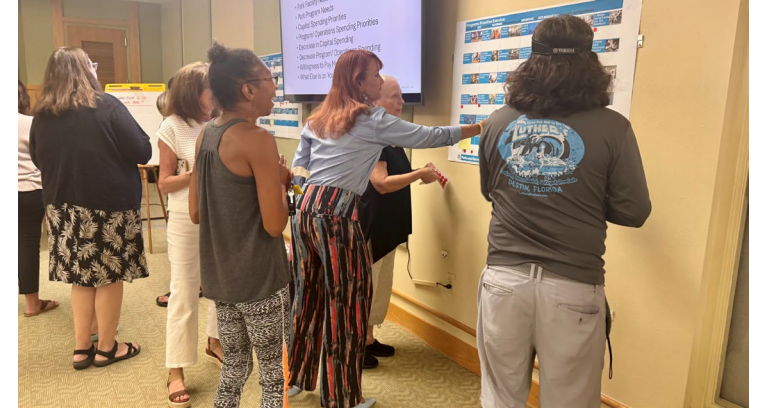
Phase 2. Needs + Priorities Assessment



Schedule Legend

- Task
- Parks Committee Meeting
- One-on-One Council Interviews/ Presentation
- Mail + Online Surveys

Public Engagement Highlights



450+
Statistically Valid / Online
Survey Responses



21,000+
Question Responses

1,150+
Opinion Dots/ Coins

16 Interviews/
Focus Group
Meetings

Agenda

- Project Purpose, Scope, and Schedule
- Findings to Date
- Potential Next Steps
- Discussion

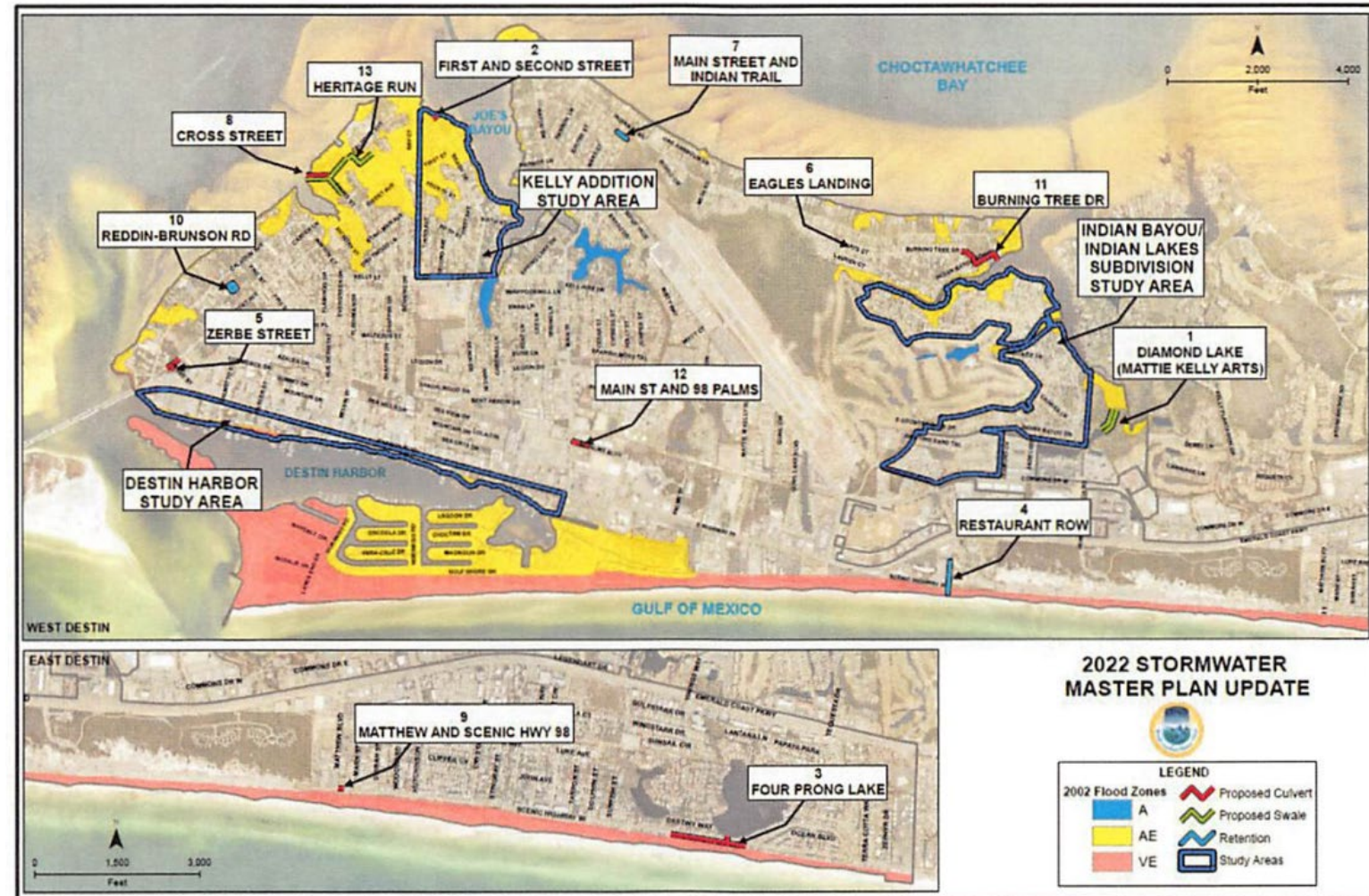
Summary Concepts

- Modernize
- Integrate
- Optimize



City of Destin | Planning Context

- Strategic Plan
- Park Specific Master Plans
 - Clement Taylor Park Renovations
 - Joe's Bayou Recreation Area
 - Norriego Point Park Improvements
 - Destin Linear Trail Plan
 - Tarpon Beach Improvements
 - The Shores at Crystal Beach Improvements
 - Buck Destin Improvements
 - Pickleball Courts
- Stormwater Master Plan Update
- Harbor CRA Master Plan
- Pathways Master Plan
- Town Center Maser Plan



City of Destin | Demographic Context

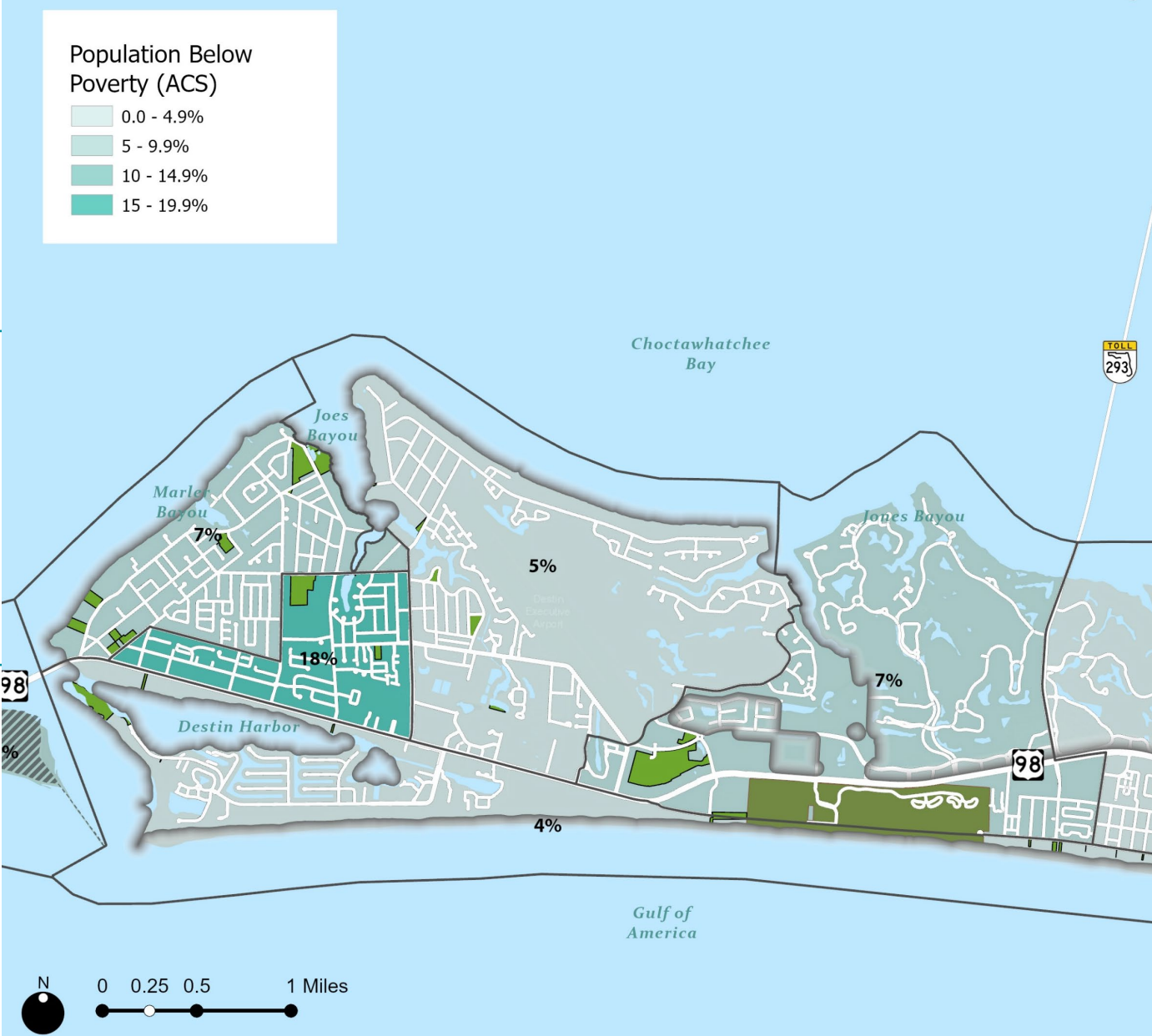
Findings:

- Population Growth:**
+2,300 from 2010-2024
+1,200 by 2035

+40,000 during Season
- Age Distribution:**
1 in 2.3 persons = 50+
1 in 3 persons = 20-49
1 in 5 persons = <19
- Household Income:**
L-\$55K
M-\$99K
H-\$105K
- Poverty:**
Median 7.7%

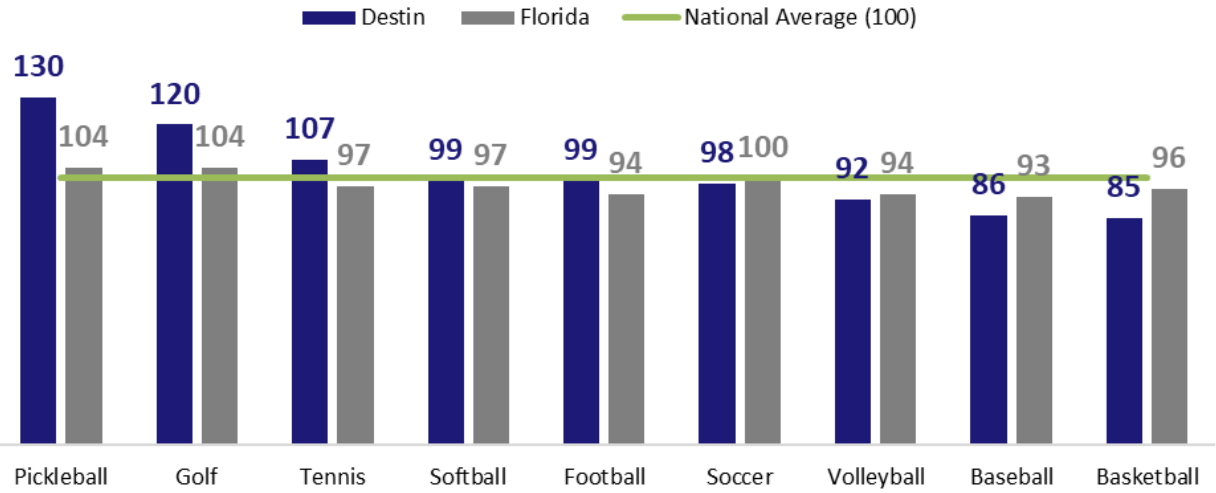
Relevance:

- Potential influence on the need/management of parks system.
- Multi-purpose, multi-generational spaces and activities.
- Programs and services that cater to a diverse range of incomes.

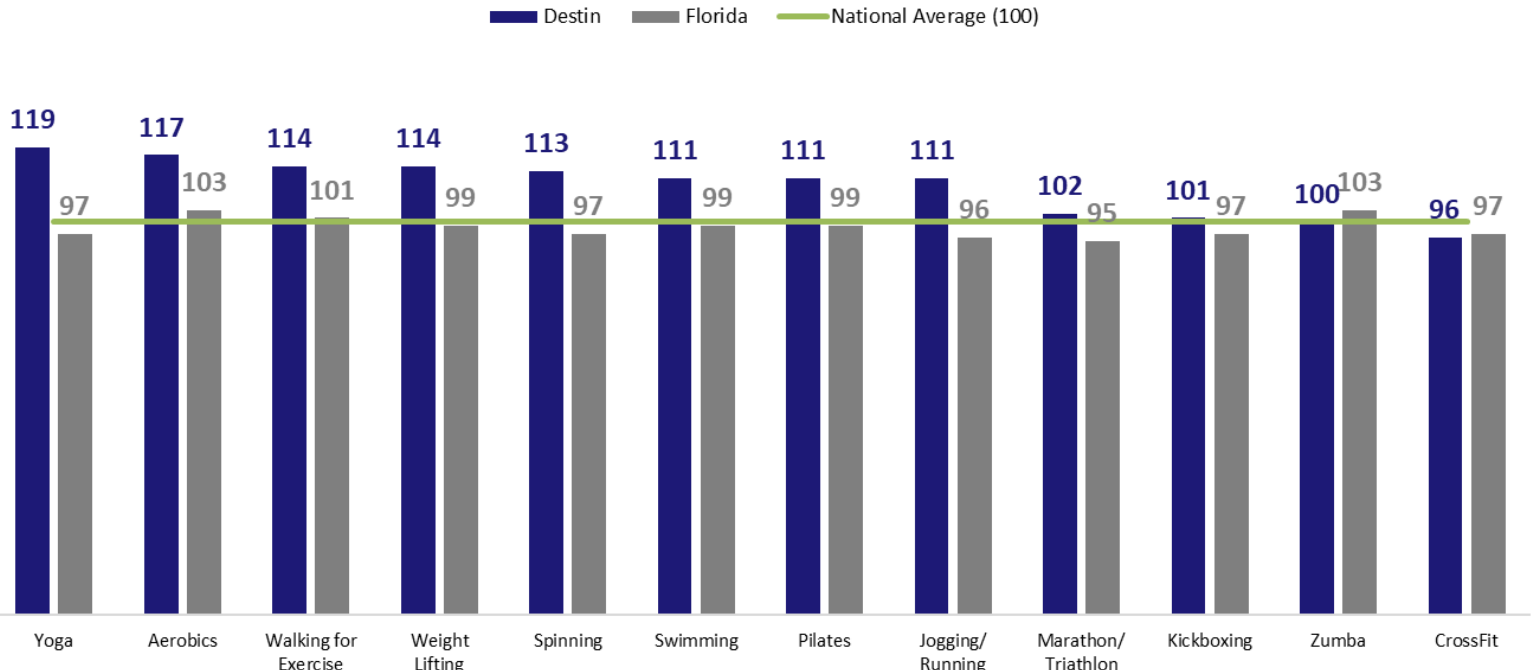


City of Destin | Trends Context

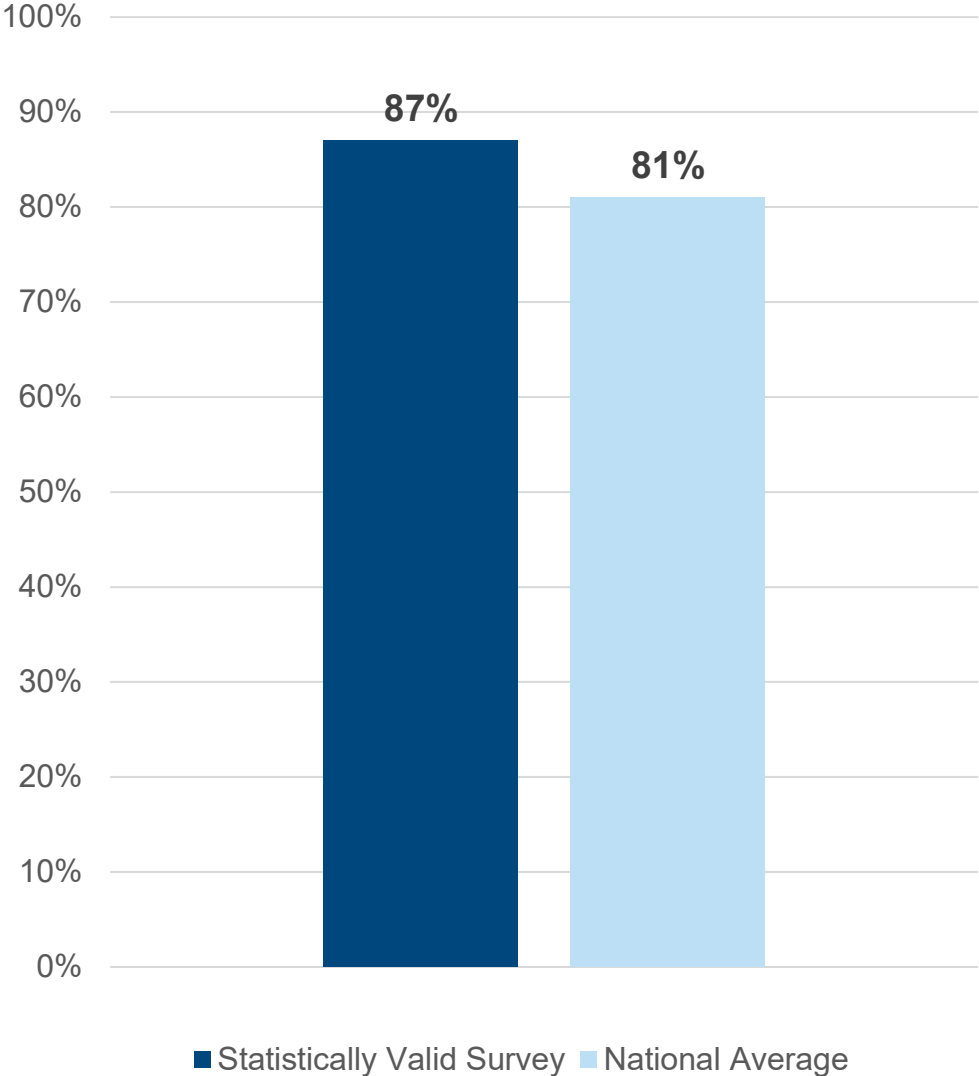
DESTIN GENERAL SPORTS MPI



DESTIN FITNESS MPI

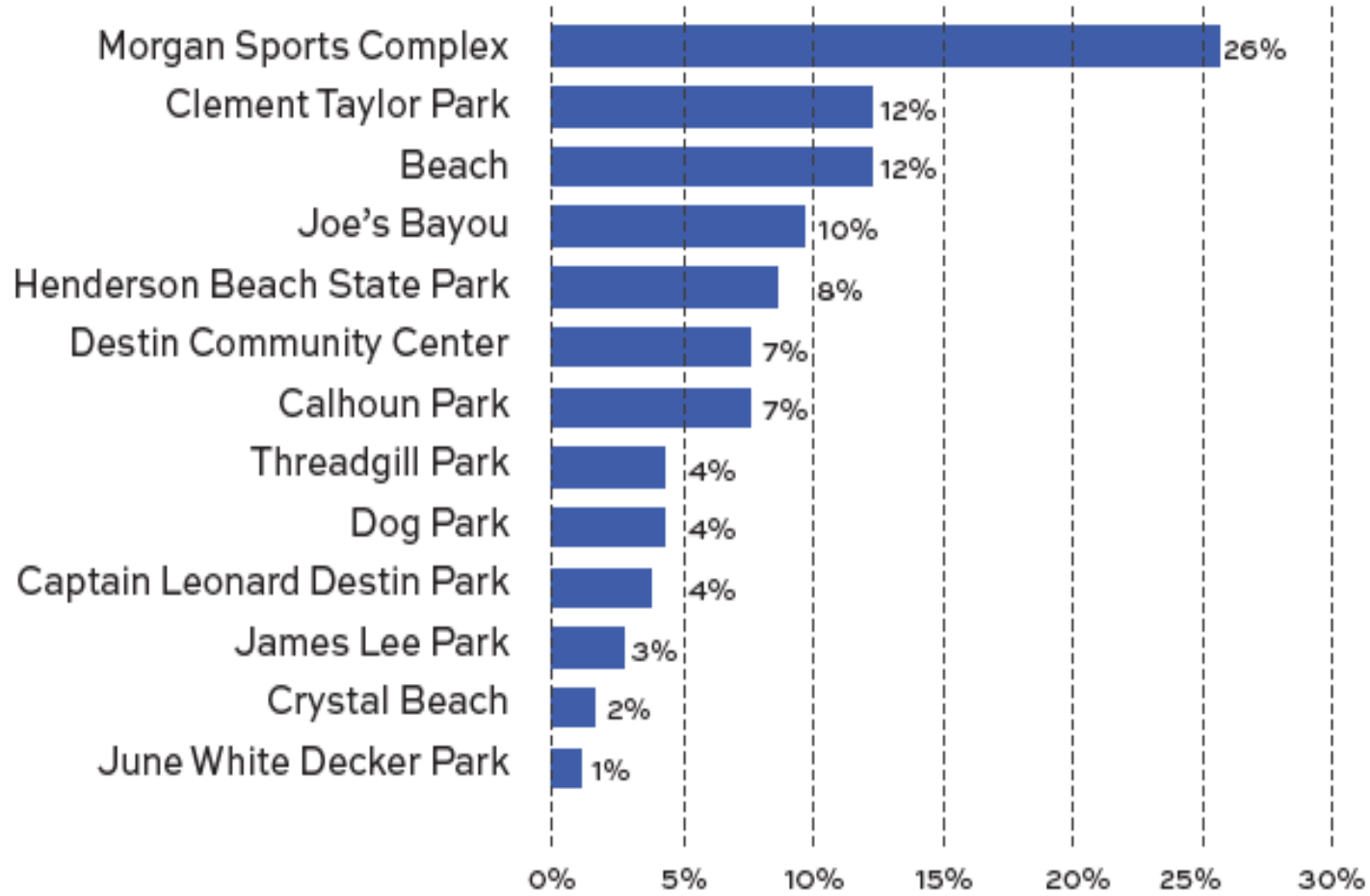


Park Use in the Last Year



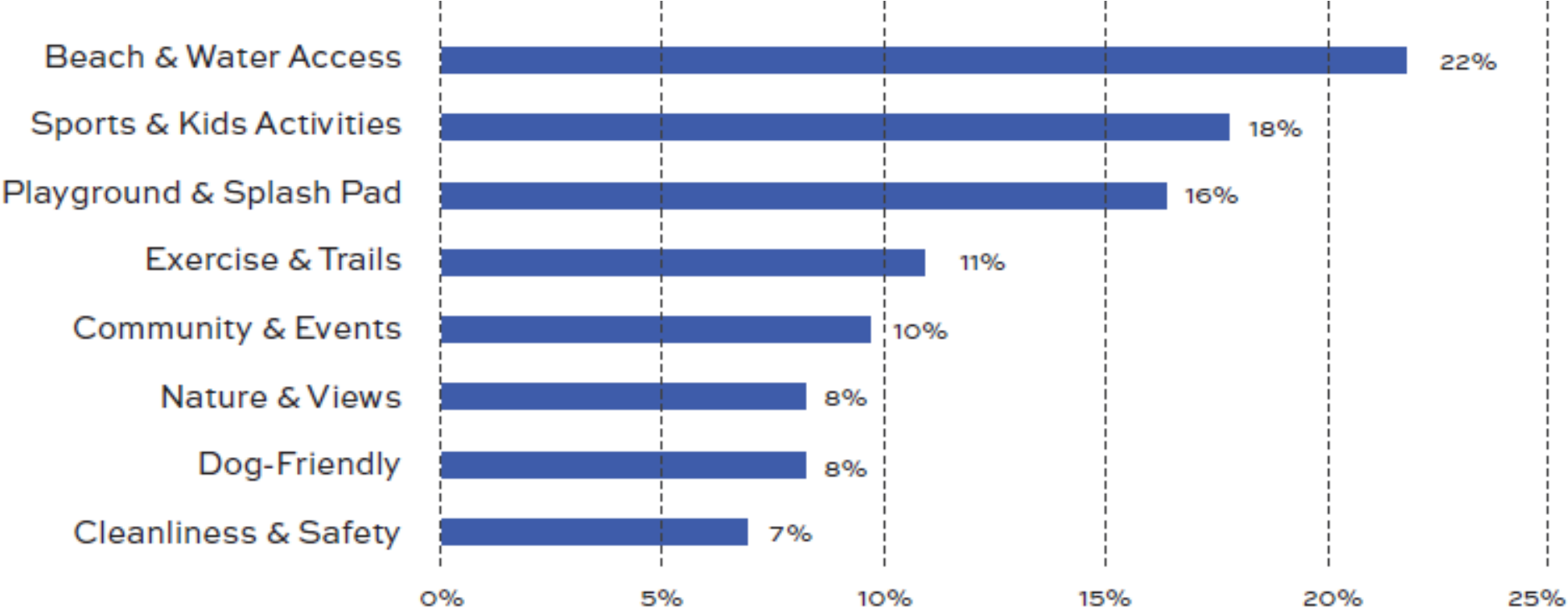
Parks and Recreation Facilities Visited Most Often

Statistically Valid Survey



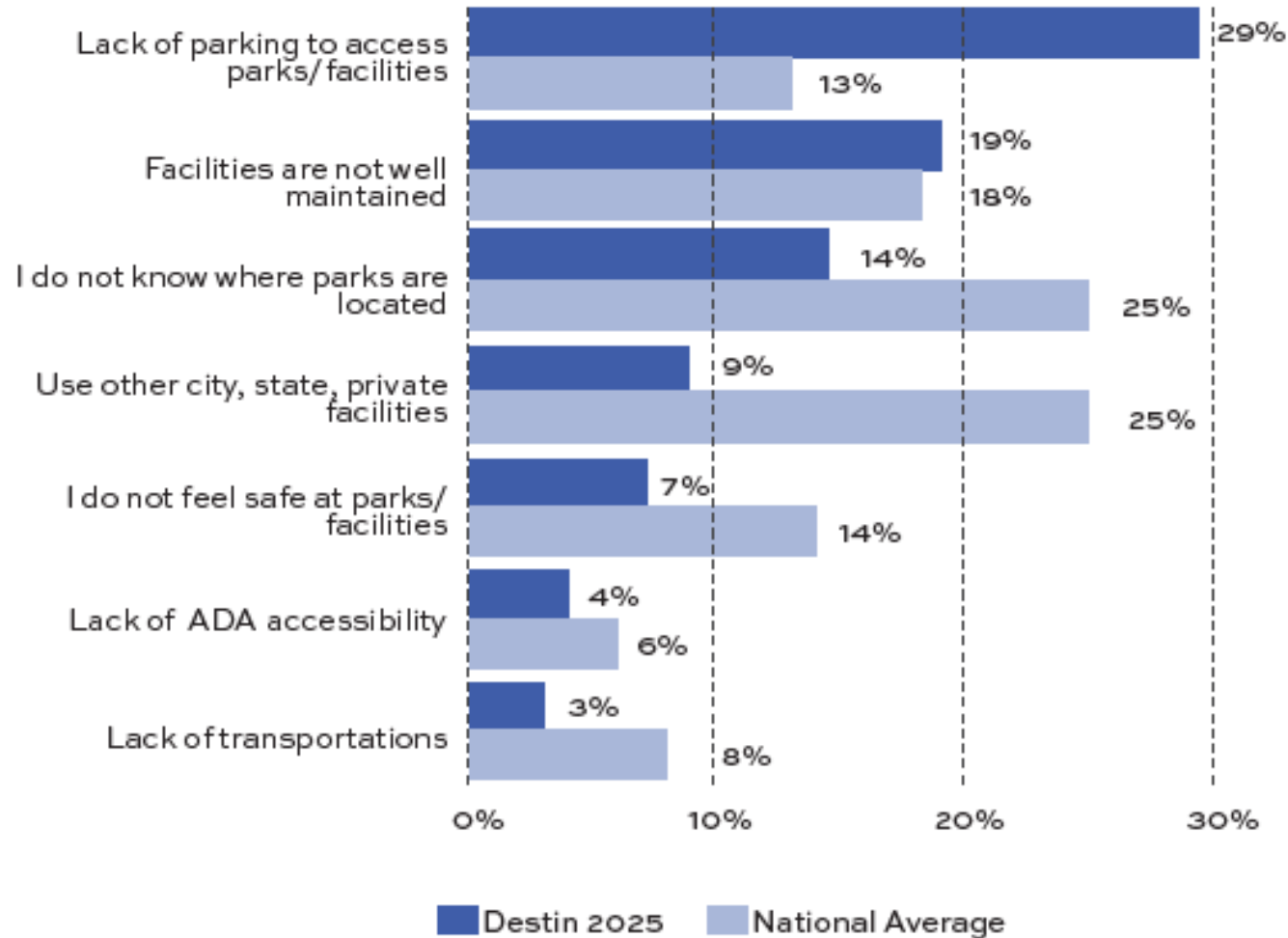
Reasons for Visiting Parks

Statistically Valid Survey



Barriers to Parks

Statistically Valid Survey



Allocation of \$100 for Capital Improvements

NEEDS ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE:	1. Statistically Valid Survey	2. Online Survey	3. Public Meeting	4. Parks & Rec Committee Meeting
FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR FACILITY/ CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:				
Improvements/maintenance of existing parks & recreation facilities	\$20.31	\$21.84	\$24.00	\$14.29
Acquiring new park land	\$18.47	\$21.15	\$15.11	\$14.29
Development of new/additional parks facilities in existing parks	\$15.04	\$15.37	\$12.44	\$6.35
Development of new walking & biking facilities	\$14.33	\$13.48	\$5.78	\$19.05
Development of new indoor recreation centers recreation centers	\$11.47	\$5.22	\$16.89	\$15.87
Improvements/maintenance of existing walking & biking facilities	\$8.30	\$4.85	\$5.33	\$0.00
Improvements/maintenance of existing indoor recreation centers	\$7.26	\$9.48	\$20.44	\$26.98
Other	\$4.81	\$7.61	\$0.00	\$0.00

Allocation of \$100 for Programs Operation Improvements

NEEDS ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE:	1. Statistically Valid Survey	2. Online Survey	3. Public Meeting	4. Parks & Rec Committee Meeting
FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR PROGRAMS/OPERATIONS:				
Increase staff to improve maintenance of parks & facilities	\$23.35	\$19.53	\$26.76	\$20.90
Additional community-wide special events	\$15.89	\$17.58	\$13.15	\$11.94
Additional youth athletic program/leagues	\$11.43	\$8.97	\$10.33	\$4.24
Additional adult recreation programs and/or classes	\$11.23	\$12.27	\$6.57	\$16.42
Additional youth recreation programs and/or classes	\$10.80	\$10.94	\$9.68	\$14.93
Additional senior recreation programs and/or classes	\$9.94	\$12.58	\$12.68	\$11.94
Increase frequency of programs/classes and/or extended hours of programming	\$6.96	\$8.06	\$9.39	\$10.45
Additional adult athletic program/leagues	\$6.22	\$5.56	\$6.57	\$1.49
Other	\$4.19	\$3.23	\$4.69	\$0.00

Willingness to Pay | Needs Assessment

NEEDS ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE:	1. Statistically Valid Survey	2. Online Survey	3. Public Meeting	4. Parks & Rec Committee Meeting
INCREASED TAX AMOUNT				
\$10-25 per year	71%	66%	52%	43%
\$26-50 per year	61%	54%	43%	43%
\$51-75 per year	53%	53%	43%	43%
\$76-100 per year	47%	37%	34%	29%
I am not willing to pay additional taxes	29%	34%	48%	57%
\$101-200 per year	28%	20%	25%	14%
Over \$200 per year	15%	8%	7%	0%

Park Condition Evaluation

PARK NAME	TOTAL CONDITION EVALUATION AVERAGE	AMENITIES CONDITION AVERAGE	FURNISHINGS CONDITION AVERAGE	HARDSCAPE LANDSCAPE CONDITION AVERAGE
TOTAL AVERAGES	2.3	1.9	2.5	2.5
Barracuda Beach Trail	2.7	2.0	3.0	3.0
Calhoun Beach Trail	2.5	2.0	2.6	3.0
Crystal Beach Trail	2.7	2.0	3.0	3.0
O'Steen Beach Trail	2.2	1.0	2.6	3.0
Tarpon Beach Trail	2.3	1.0	3.0	3.0
Pompano Beach Access	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Shirah Beach Access	2.6	2.0	2.8	3.0
June White Decker Beach Park	2.7	2.5	2.5	3.0
Shore at Crystal Beach Park	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.6
Dewey 'Buck' Destin Park	1.7	1.3	1.7	2.2
Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
First & Fourth Street Park	-	-	-	-
Harbor Lane Park	2.4	-	2.5	2.3
Harbor View	1.9	-	2.4	1.4
Jewel Melvin Park	2.0	-	2.0	2.0
Kell-Aire North	2.6	-	2.5	2.7
Kell-Aire Nature Walk	2.2	2.0	2.3	2.2
Kelly Street Duck Pond	1.8	1.0	2.0	2.3
Main Street Park	2.3	1.0	3.0	3.0
Captain Leonard Destin Park	2.7	2.3	2.7	3.0
Clement Taylor Park	1.7	1.2	2.0	2.0
Destin Community Center	2.2	1.5	2.3	2.8
Destin Elementary School Park	1.7	1.4	1.7	2.0
Morgan Sports Complex	2.3	1.7	2.5	2.7
Norreigo Point Park	-	-	-	-
Cemetery - Silbert Avenue	2.5	-	-	2.5
Cemetery - Stahlman Avenue	2.5	-	-	2.5
Dalton Threadgill Park	2.0	1.9	2.3	1.7
Harbor Boardwalk	2.3	-	2.0	2.5
Joe's Bayou Boat Ramp	1.8	1.7	2.3	1.5
Mattie Kelly Park	1.8	1.7	2.3	1.5
Nancy Weidenhamer Dog Park	2.8	3.0	2.3	3.0

- Site Amenity, Furnishings, and General Hardscape and Landscape Conditions

LEGEND	Condition	Score Implications
Performance	Score	Improvement Timeline
Excellent	3.0	7-9 Years
Fair	2.0	4-6 Years
Poor	1.0	1-3 Years
-	-	n/a

Total Park Condition Evaluation Average Score:
2.3

Maintenance Management - Modernize

Maintenance Management	
Theme	Forward Needs Summary
Modernize Equipment, Storage, and Procurement	Covered storage, lifecycle-based replacements, streamlined procurement, standardized tools
Modernize Asset Lifecycle Management	Consolidated lifecycle database, condition ratings, CIP alignment, Computerized Maintenance Management System (“CMMS”) integration
Modernize Infrastructure & Preventative Maintenance (“PM”)	Structured PM schedules, predictive maintenance technology, storm resilience upgrades

Maintenance Management - Integrate

Maintenance Management	
Theme	Forward Needs Summary
Integrate Unified CMMS & Work Orders	Centralized iWorQ usage and data management, GIS mapping, and reporting
Integrate Preventative Maintenance	Automated PM reminders, seasonal schedules, cross-department alignment
Integrate Customer Feedback	Integrate MGO Connect, QR code reporting, categorized issue tracking

Maintenance Management - Optimize

Maintenance Management	
Theme	Forward Needs Summary
Optimize Staffing Capacity & Specialized Roles	Functional org chart, salary study, specialized roles, staff training, updated Operating Instructions (“OIs”)
Optimize Routine Maintenance Standardization	Routine standards manual, checklists, zone-based assignments, contractor standards and oversight
Optimize Performance Measurement & Key Performance Indicator (“KPIs”) Framework	Defined KPIs, dashboards, annual reporting, data-driven resource allocation

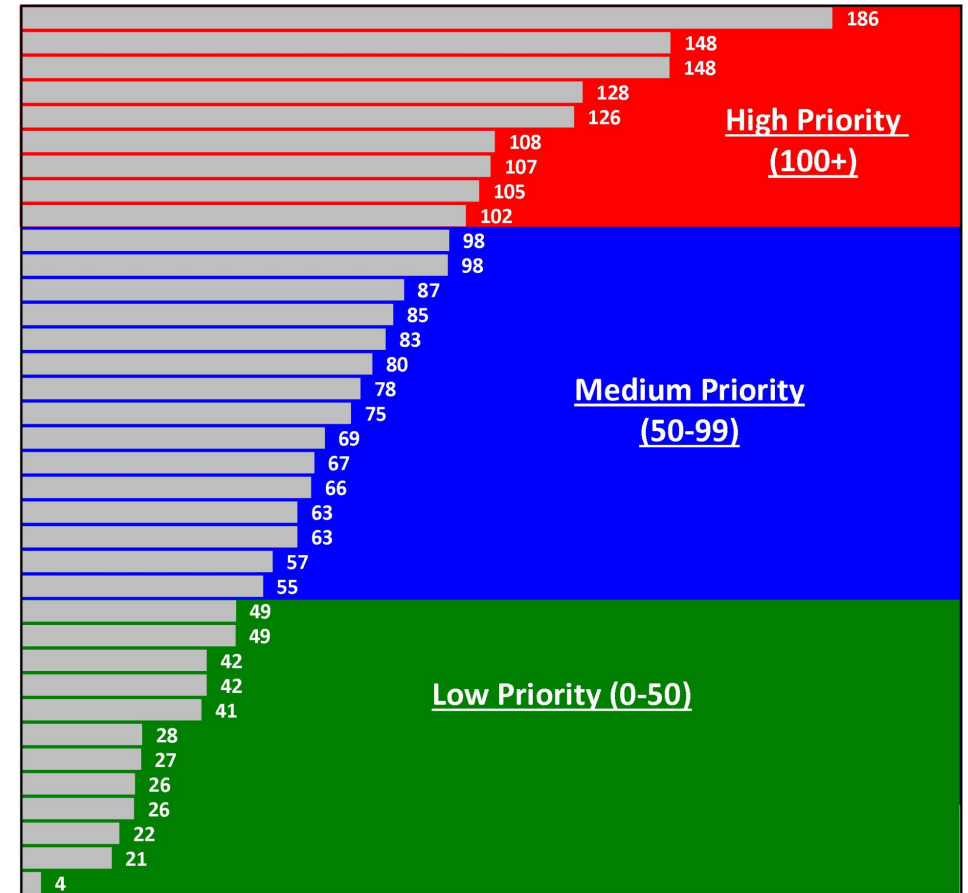
High-Priority Facility/ Amenity + Program/ Activity Needs Summary Methodology

Statistically Valid Survey Priority Investment Ranking Questions:

How well is the need for the Facility/ Amenity and Program/ Activity met?

- Fully Met
- Mostly Met
- Partly Met
- Not Met
- No Need

Which (Facility/Amenity and Program/ Activity) are most important to you? (Top 4 Choices)



High-Priority Facilities/ Amenities | Needs Summary Methodology

NEEDS ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE:		1. Statistically Valid Survey	2. Online Survey	3. City Leadership Interviews	4. Public Meeting	5. Parks & Rec Committee Meeting	6. Focus Groups	7. Level-of-Service Analysis + Benchmarks
FACILITIES/AMENITIES PRIORITIES:								
SVS High Priority	Beach access	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Natural areas/Nature parks	●	●	●	-	●	●	-
	Paved multi-purpose trails	●	●	●	-	●	●	-
	Unpaved walking and hiking trails	●	●	●	-	-	●	-
	Large community parks	●	●	●	-	-	●	●

- **High Priority**
(per SVS PIR rating, >90th Percentile in other Surveys, mention in interviews)
- **Medium Priority**
(per SVS PIR rating, >75th Percentile in Other techniques)
- **Low Priority**
(per SVS PIR rating, >50th Percentile in Other techniques)

High-Priority Programs/ Activities | Needs Summary Methodology

NEEDS ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE:		1. Statistically Valid Survey	2. Online Survey	3. City Leadership Interviews	4. Public Meeting	5. Steering Committee Meeting	6. Focus Groups
PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES:							
SVS High Priority	Adult fitness/wellness	●	●	●	●	●	.
	Nature programs/environmental education	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Community special events	●	●	●	●	.	●
	Movies in the park	●	●	.	●	●	.
	Community meetings	●	●
	Water fitness	●	●	.	●	●	.
	Cooking classes	●	●	.	●	●	●
	Music programs	●	●	.	●	●	●
	Safety classes	●	●	.	●	●	.

- **High Priority**
(per SVS PIR rating, >90th Percentile in other Surveys, mention in interviews)
- **Medium Priority**
(per SVS PIR rating, >75th Percentile in Other techniques)
- **Low Priority**
(per SVS PIR rating, >50th Percentile in Other techniques)

Programs, Services, & Fees - Modernize

Program, Services, and Fee Analysis	
Theme	Forward Needs
Modernize Program Balance for Under-Served Age Segments	Introduce teen and emerging adult programs; expand intergenerational offerings; monitor age-segment balance to strengthen retention.
Modernize the Program Portfolio	Launch trend-responsive programs; refresh or retire saturated offerings; reallocate staff to growth areas; implement annual innovation cycle.
Modernize Alignment With Community Priorities & Recreation Trends	Expand offerings in fitness, wellness, nature programs, arts, aquatics, and cultural activities; align programming with resident priorities.

Programs, Services, & Fees - Integrate

Program, Services, and Fee Analysis	
Theme	Forward Needs
Integrate a Consistent, Data-Driven Program Development Process	Implement standardized planning tools; require feasibility and cost recovery checks; establish uniform program planning timelines.
Integrate Financial Sustainability & Cost Recovery Practices	Conduct full cost-of-service analyses; recalibrate pricing for equity and sustainability; introduce partial recovery for Senior Programs; review market data annually.
Integrate Marketing, Branding, and Outreach Efforts	Develop campaign-based marketing; improve branding consistency; increase timely digital engagement; expand outreach to non-users.
Integrate Partnerships to Expand Capacity and Reduce Costs	Strengthen school access agreements; expand co-branded programs; collaborate with nonprofits and private providers; formalize partnership evaluation.

Programs, Services, & Fees - Optimize

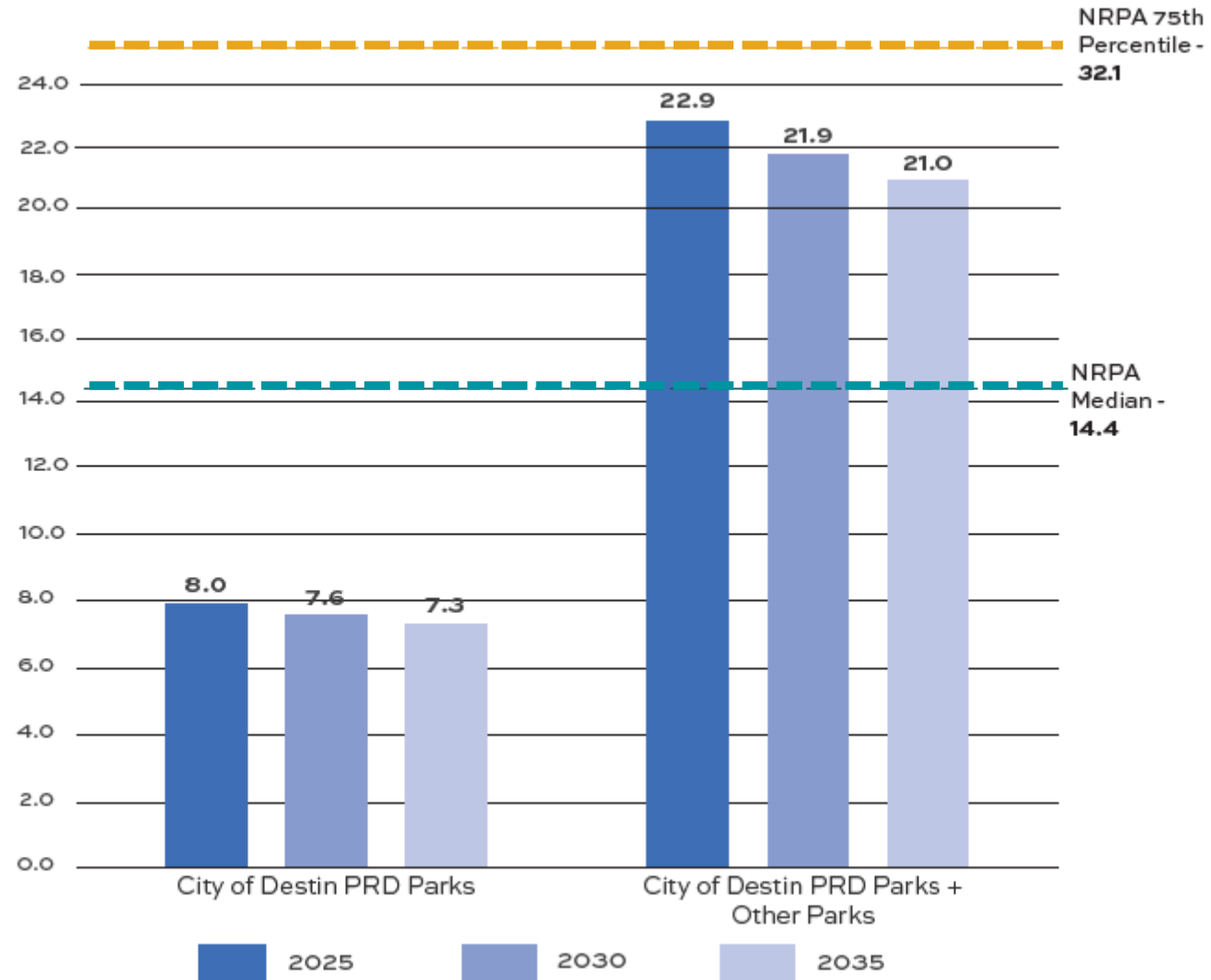
Program, Services, and Fee Analysis

Theme	Forward Needs
Optimize Facility Access and Adapt to Space Limitations	Maximize parks and partner sites; pursue shared-use agreements; strategically schedule facilities; explore long-term facility expansion options.
Optimize Performance Measurement Through KPIs	Expand KPI tracking by program area and lifecycle; use KPIs to guide program expansion or discontinuation; improve forecasting and reporting.
Optimize Staffing, Training, and Operational Capacity	Enhance training in customer service, safety, evaluation, and cost tracking; improve internal coordination; strengthen continuous improvement processes.

Level-of-Service (LOS) Analysis | Needs Assessment

- Acreage LOS
- Access LOS
- Indoor Square Footage LOS
- Capital Funding LOS

Acreage LOS | Needs Assessment



ALL CITY PARKS

Park Access LOS | Needs Assessment

Beach Trail/Mini Park

1. Barracuda Beach Trail
2. Calhoun Beach Trail
3. Crystal Beach Trail
4. O'Steen Beach Trail
5. Tarpon Beach Trail

Beach Access/Mini Park

1. Pompano Street Beach Access
2. Shirah Street Beach Access

Beach Park/Mini Park

1. June White Decker Beach Park
2. Shore at Crystal Beach Park

Mini Park

1. Buck Destin Park
2. Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park
3. First & Fourth Streets Park
4. Harbor Lane Park
5. Harbor View Park
6. Jewel Melvin Park
7. Kell-Aire Gardens (North)
8. Kell-Aire Nature Walk (South)
9. Kelly Street Duck Pond
10. Main Street Park

Neighborhood Park

1. Captain Leonard Destin Park
2. Clement Taylor Park

Community Parks

1. Destin Community Center
2. Destin Elementary School Park
3. Morgan Sports Complex

Natural Area Park

1. Norriego Point

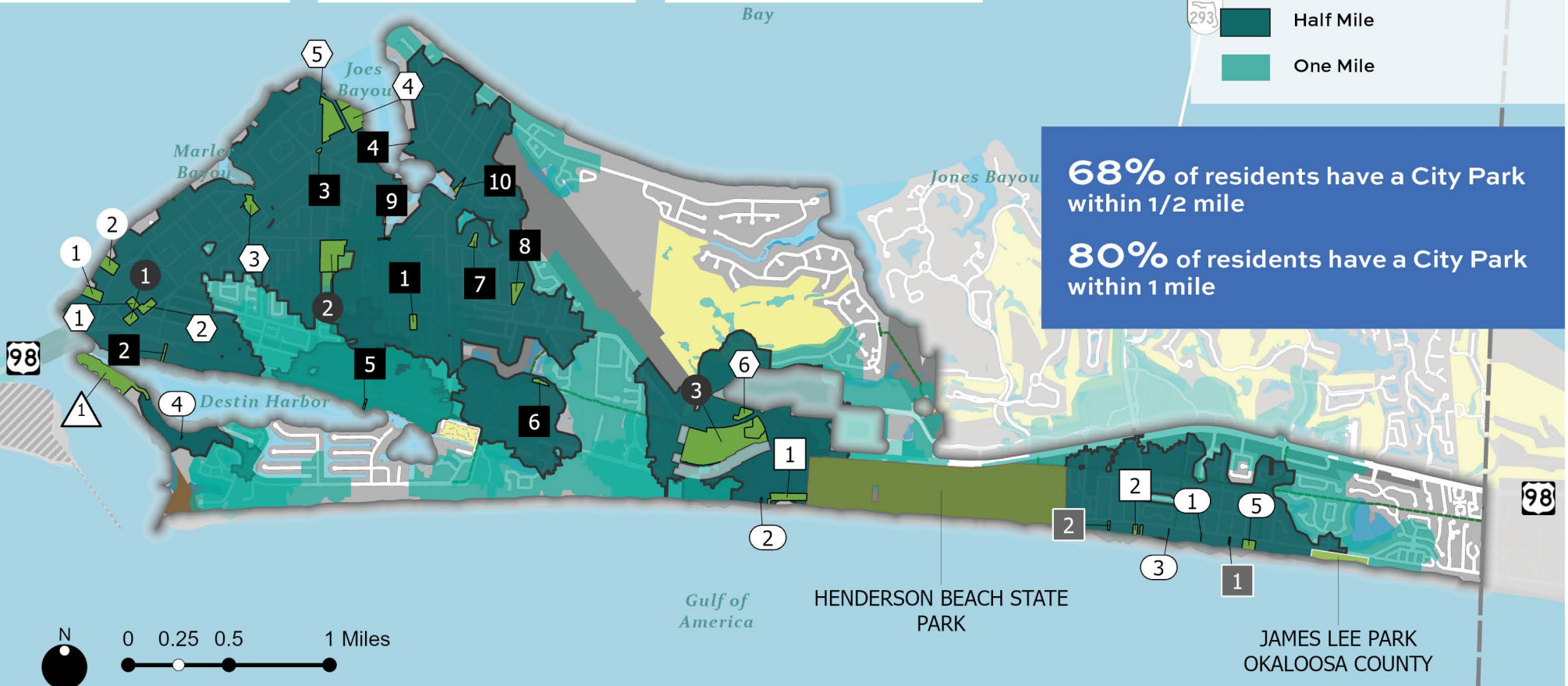
Special Purpose Park

1. Cemetery - Sibert Avenue
2. Cemetery - Stahlman Avenue
3. Dalton Threadgill Park
4. Joe's Bayou Boat Ramp
5. Mattie Kelly Park
6. Nancy Weidenhamer Dog Park

- County Boundaries
- Destin City Boundary
- Eglin AFB
- Roads
- DPR Parks
- County Parks
- State Parks
- Golf Courses

ACCESS LOS STANDARDS

- Half Mile
- One Mile



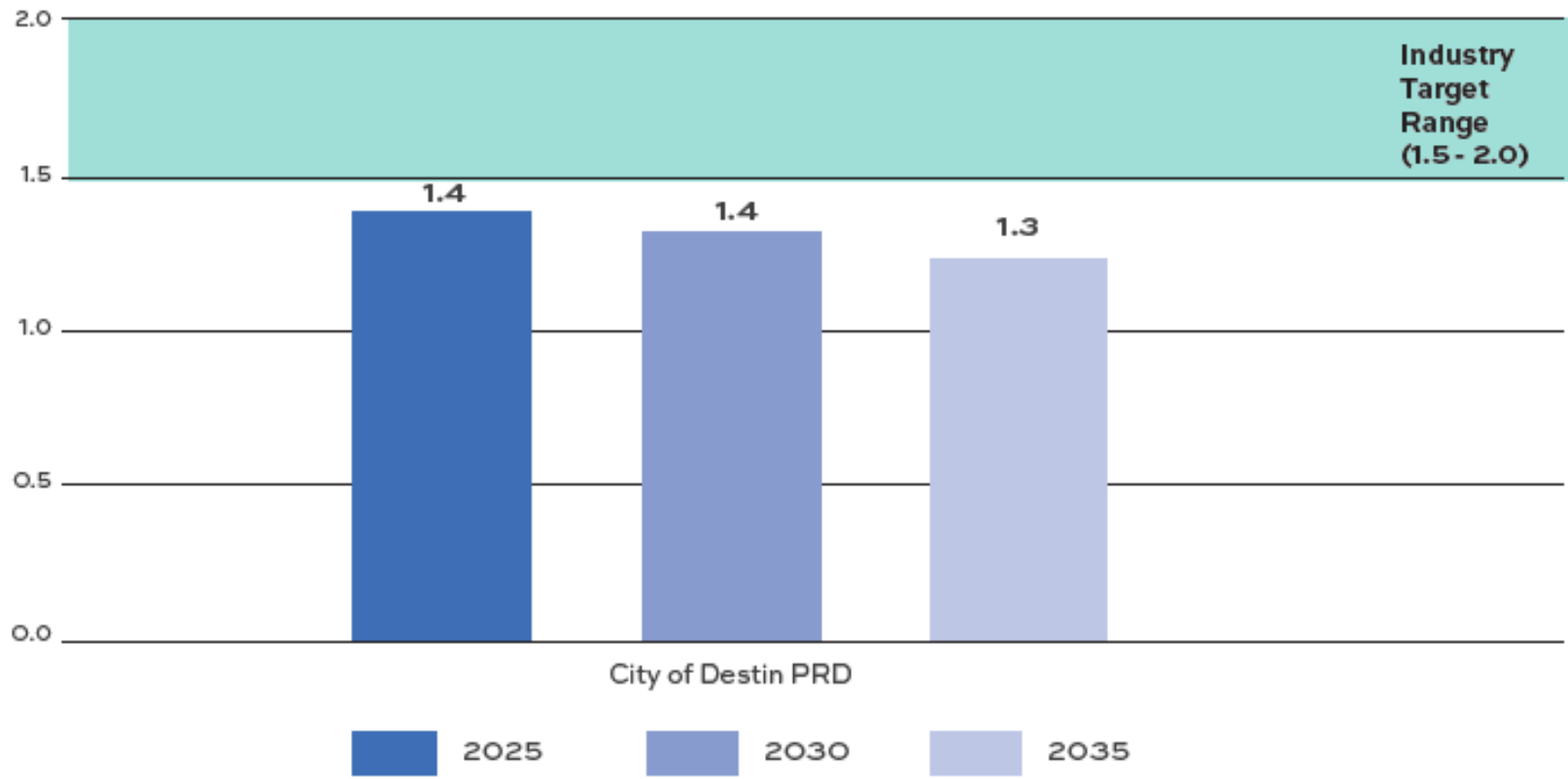
68% of residents have a City Park within 1/2 mile

80% of residents have a City Park within 1 mile

HENDERSON BEACH STATE PARK

JAMES LEE PARK
OKALOOSA COUNTY

Indoor Space LOS | Needs Assessment



CITY INDOOR CENTERS

Beach Trail/Mini Park

1. Barracuda Beach Trail
2. Calhoun Beach Trail
3. Crystal Beach Trail
4. O'Steen Beach Trail
5. Tarpon Beach Trail

Beach Access/Mini Park

1. Pompano Street Beach Access
2. Shirah Street Beach Access

Beach Park/Mini Park

1. June White Decker Beach Park
2. Shore at Crystal Beach Park

Mini Park

1. Buck Destin Park
2. Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park
3. First & Fourth Streets Park
4. Harbor Lane Park
5. Harbor View Park
6. Jewel Melvin Park
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Natural Area Park

1. Norriego Point

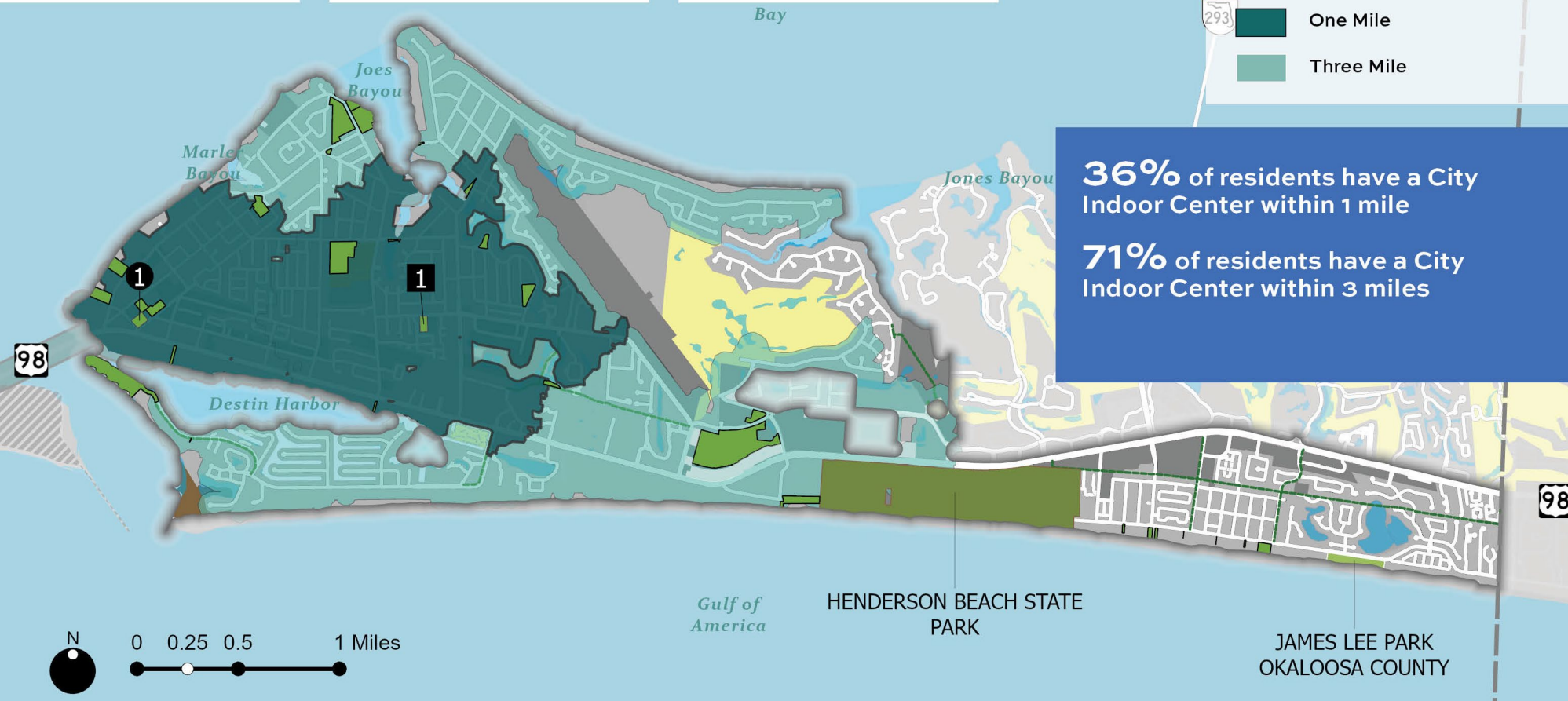
Special Purpose Park

1. Cemetery - Sibert Avenue
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4. Joe's Bayou Boat Ramp
5. Mattie Kelly Park
6. Nancy Weidenhamer Dog Park

- County Boundaries
- Destin City Boundary
- Eglin AFB
- Roads
- DPR Parks
- County Parks
- State Parks
- Golf Courses

ACCESS LOS STANDARDS

- One Mile
- Three Mile



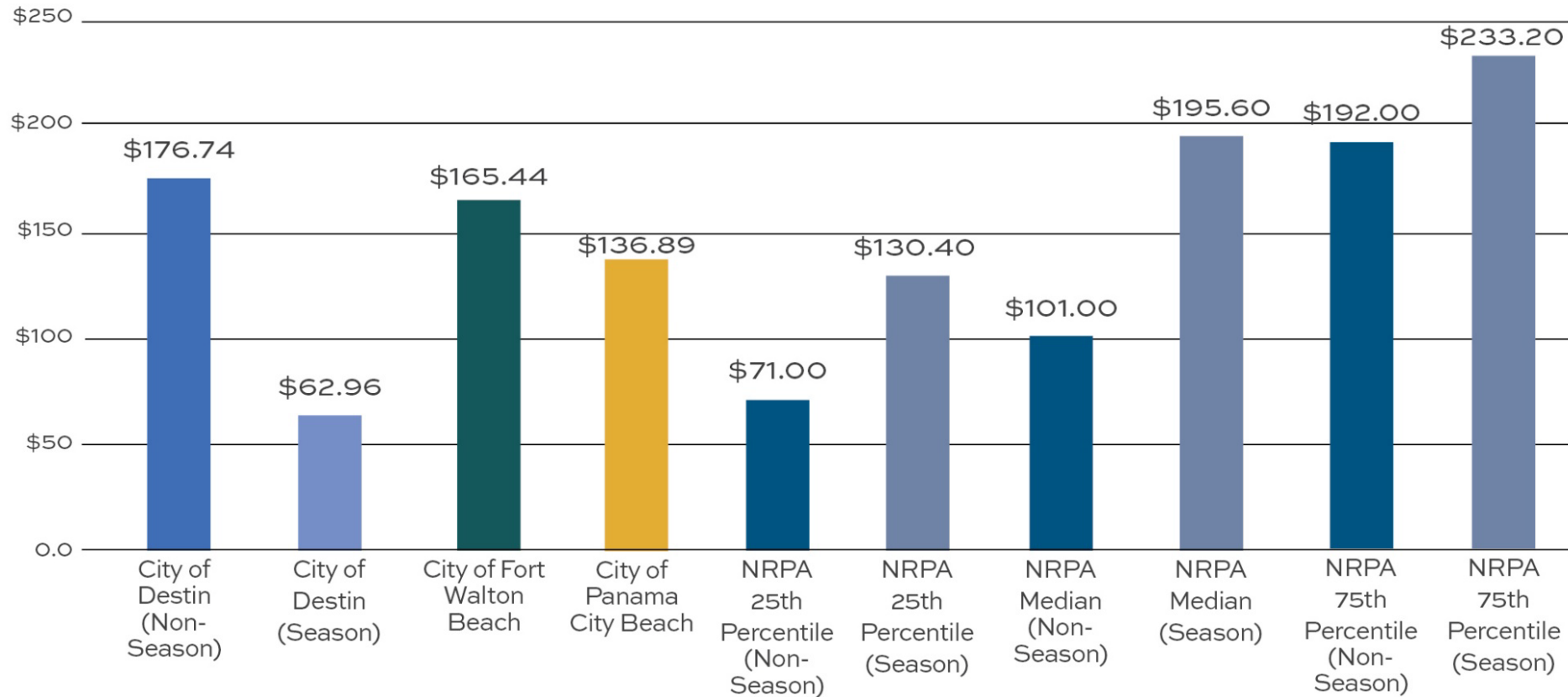
36% of residents have a City Indoor Center within 1 mile

71% of residents have a City Indoor Center within 3 miles

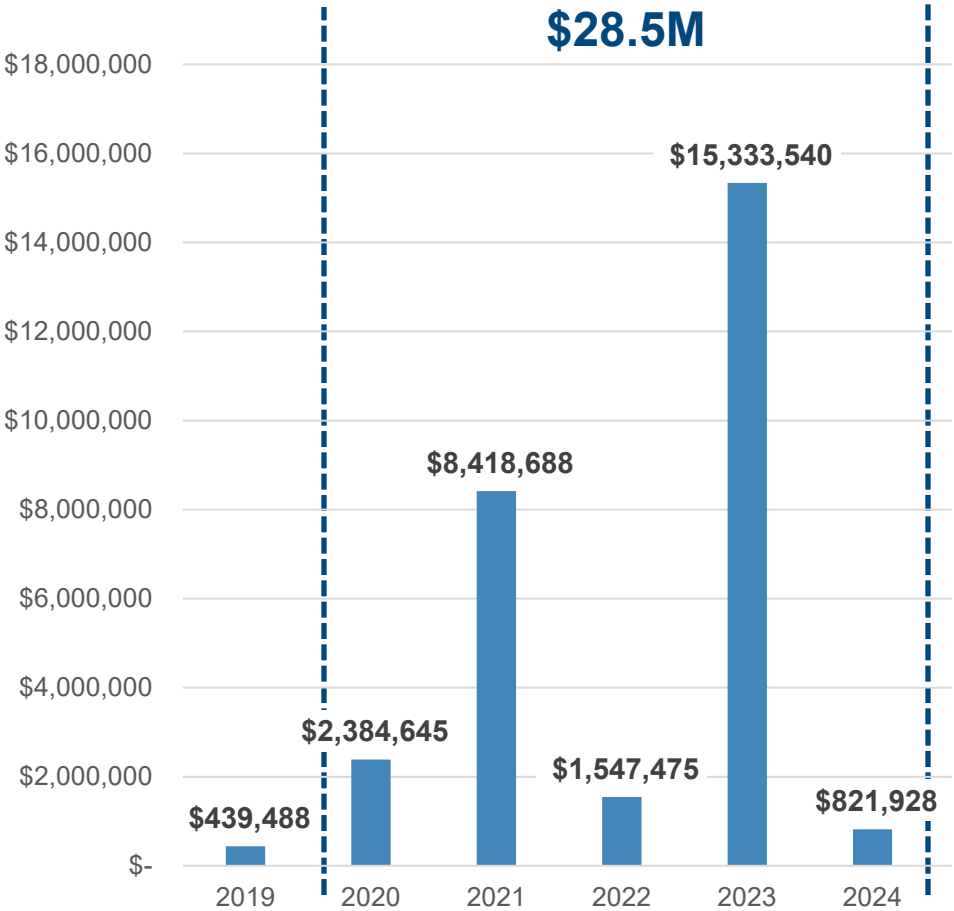
Indoor Center Access LOS | Needs Assessment

Funding LOS | Needs Assessment

Operations and Maintenance Spending per Capita (5-Year Average)

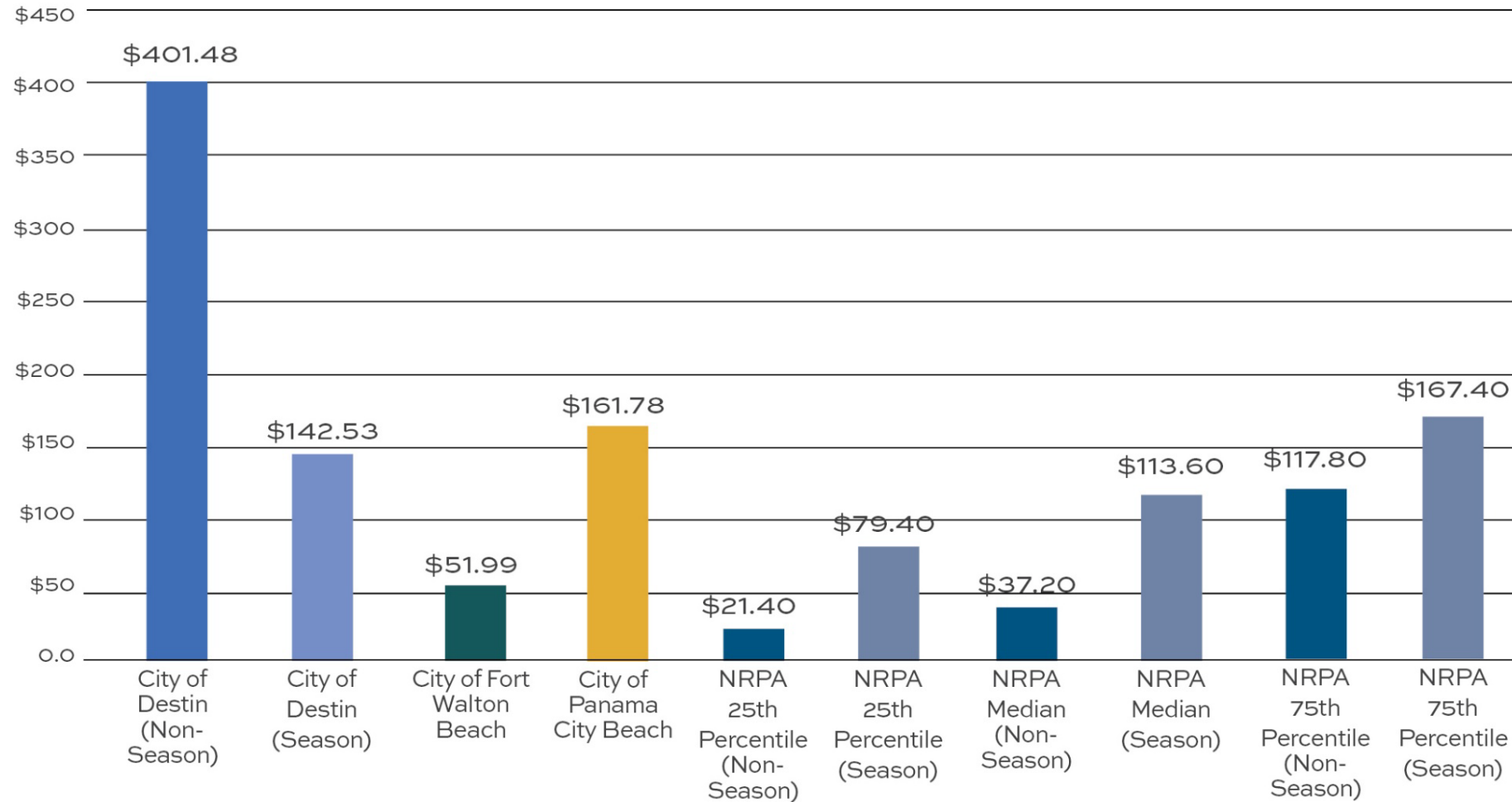


Capital Spending 2020-2024 | Needs Assessment

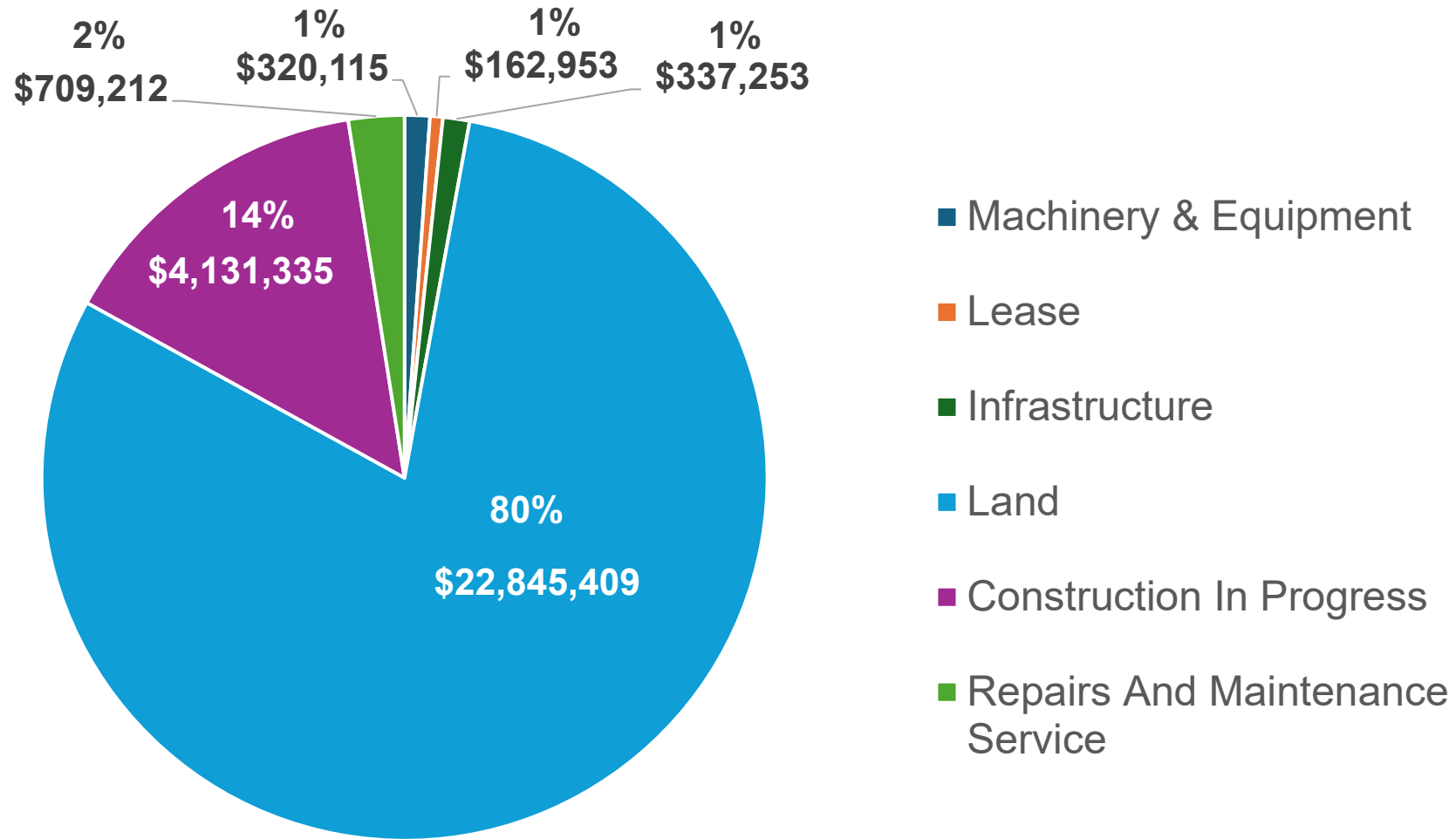


Funding LOS | Needs Assessment

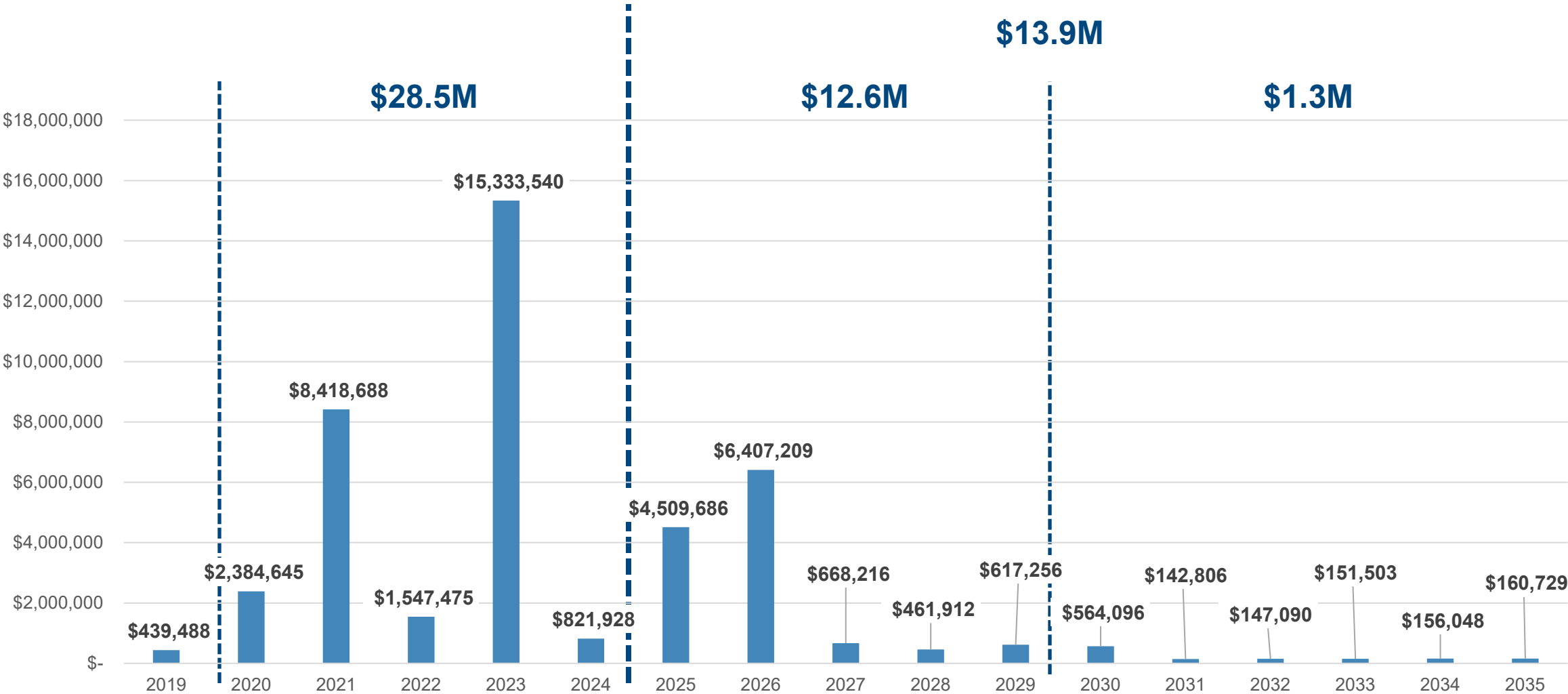
Capital Spending per Capita (5-Year Average)



Allocation of Capital Dollars | Needs Assessment



Capital Spending 2020-2035 | Needs Assessment



Property Tax Reduction Plans

- On December 2nd, the Florida House approved 4 proposals for further consideration that range from elimination to reduction of non-school homestead property taxes.
- Legislative Session January – March 2026 will discuss proposals and determine which of the proposals would go on the November 2026 Ballot for voters to consider.
- If passed by 60% of voters in the State, proposed reductions would influence local government services that are funded through property taxes.



Summary Concepts

- Modernize
- Integrate
- Optimize



Agenda

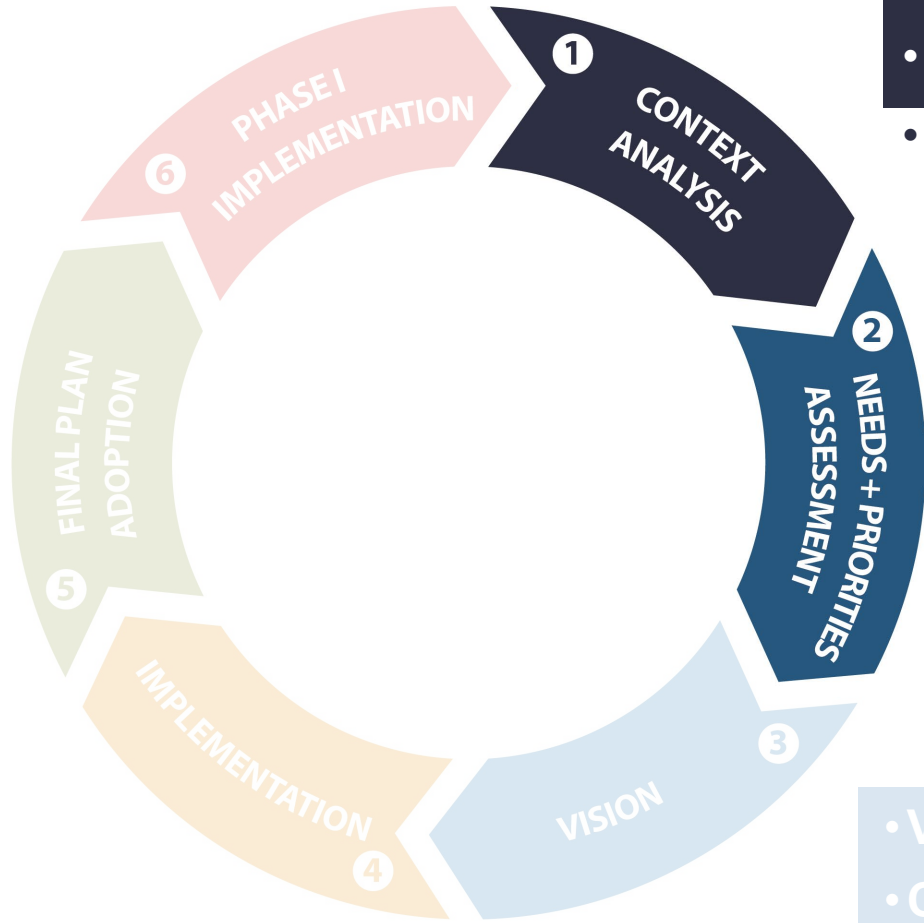
- Project Purpose, Scope, and Schedule
- Interactive Exercise
- **Potential Next Steps**
- **Discussion**

Finalize Current Project Scope

- Capital Improvements
- Staffing Improvements
- O&M Funding

- Draft Final Master Plan
- Final Master Plan

- Funding Alternatives
- Prioritization
- Implementation Strategy Summary Document



- Project Coordination
- Planning Context
- Demographic Context
- Park System Context
- Context Summary Document

- Primary Quantitative Data
- Primary Qualitative Data
- Secondary Data
- Needs + Priorities Summary Document

- Vision Update
- Capital + O&M Costs
- Parks and Recreation Vision Summary Document

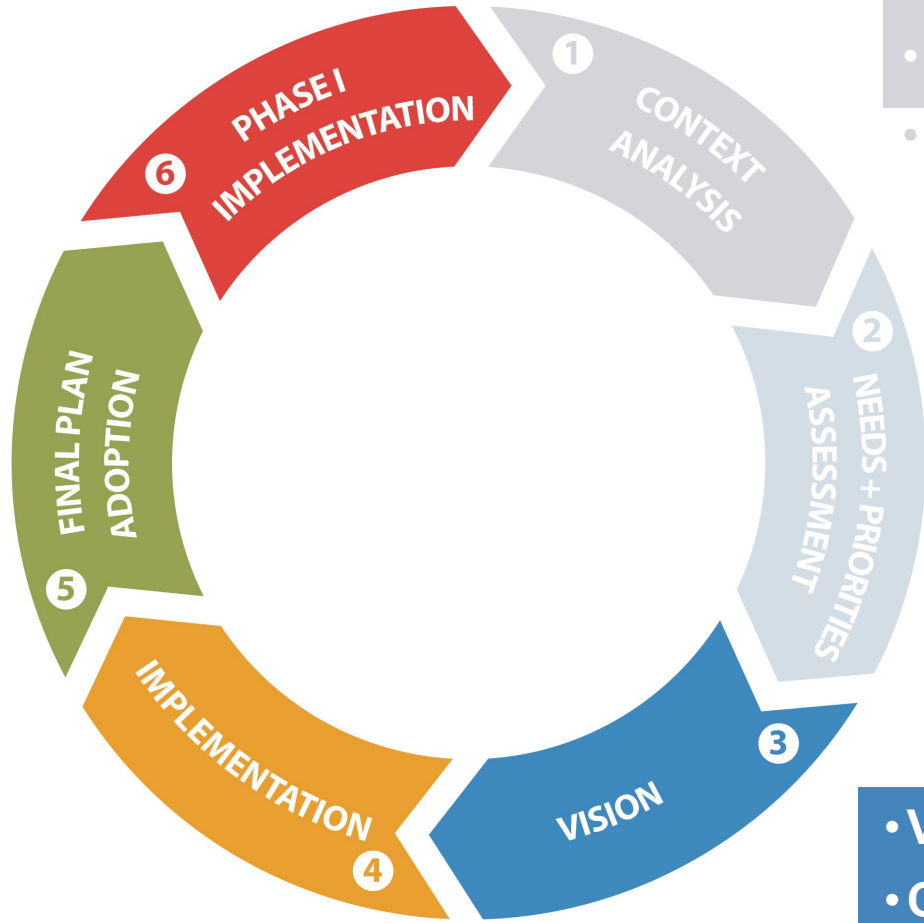
Potential Next Steps

- Capital Improvements
- Staffing Improvements
- O&M Funding

- Draft Final Master Plan
- Final Master Plan

- Funding Alternatives
- Prioritization

- Implementation Strategy Summary Document



- Project Coordination
- Planning Context
- Demographic Context
- Park System Context
- Context Summary Document

- Primary Quantitative Data
- Primary Qualitative Data
- Secondary Data
- Needs + Priorities Summary Document

- Vision Update
- Capital + O&M Costs
- Parks and Recreation Vision Summary Document

Agenda

- Project Purpose, Scope, and Schedule
- Interactive Exercise
- Potential Next Steps
- Discussion



Parks and Recreation System Master Plan

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
DRAFT Context Analysis + Needs and
Priorities Assessment Summary Findings

December 11, 2025

PEREZ PLANNING + DESIGN, LLC



G + I

CITY OF
DESTIN
FLORIDA

**PARKS & RECREATION
MASTER PLAN**

2025

**CHAPTER 0-2
DRAFT REPORT**

DRAFT

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

- Mayor Bobby Wagner
- Councilman Jim Bagby
- Councilman Rodney Braden
- Councilman Dewey Destin
- Councilman Torey Geile
- Councilwoman Terésa Hebert
- Councilwoman Sandy Trammell
- Councilman Kevin Schmidt

CITY STAFF

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- Steve O'Connor, Deputy Director of Community Development
- Tamara L. Young, PhD, Public Information Director
- Ryan Reed, Deputy Parks & Recreation Director
- Bryan Keller, Recreation Supervisor
- Scottie Atkins, Maintenance Supervisor
- Jeff Cozadd, Projects/Grants/Contracts Manager

CONSULTANT TEAM

- Perez Planning + Design, LLC
- PROS Consulting, Inc.
- ETC Institute, Inc.

Special Thanks

To the Parks and Recreation team and extended City staff, the stakeholders and partners, and especially every Destin resident who participated in this planning process and provided valuable input—

THANK YOU!

This plan is a reflection of your commitment to making Destin the destination for recreation!



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CHAPTER 0

INTRODUCTION

SECTIONS

- 0.1 Preparing for the Future
- 0.2 Plan Purpose
- 0.3 Planning Process



0.1 THE *DESTINATION* FOR RECREATION

The City of Destin is renowned for its rich fishing waters, white sand beaches, sunshine, and laid-back lifestyle. An abundance of recreation opportunities, including the City’s beloved beaches, have been fundamental to establishing Destin’s identity as the “World’s Luckiest Fishing Village.” This Parks and Recreation Master Plan seeks to reinforce the critical role that parks and recreation play in strengthening community character, contributing to the health and wellness of residents, supporting Destin’s development of a thriving local economy, and --ultimately--contributing to a high quality of life for Destin residents.

THE FUTURE OF A FISHING VILLAGE

As its population grows, and development continues to shape the community’s character, recreation has an ever more valuable role to play.



0.1.1 THE GROWING VALUE OF PARK SYSTEM PLANNING

Building healthy, vibrant and resilient communities

Parks and the broader public realm—including streets, trails, conservation areas, civic spaces, and stormwater infrastructure—can help create jobs, increase revenues, protect natural resources, shape urban form and character, expand transportation access, improve health and education, and strengthen families. And, considering the many challenges communities face, including economic uncertainty, severe weather and climate impacts, and political divisiveness, parks and recreation systems can be an oasis, bringing people together, mitigating the effects of storms and flooding, and providing an outlet for stress relief with opportunities to improve overall outcomes for community members.



BEACH TOWN

Norriego Point, following recent improvements. A recent land acquisition by the state will add additional parkland adjacent to the City's park.

Parks and recreation master planning provides an opportunity to think long-term about how the park system should be improved to help achieve these many benefits, exploring questions such as:

- Are additional facilities needed, like new ball fields or playgrounds in fast-growing areas?
- Is there land that should be protected for its environmental or scenic value before it becomes developed?
- Could new employees provide opportunities to expand programs or strengthen the local ecology?
- Is the whole community being served fairly, through an appropriately allocated variety of programs and park spaces?

This document serves to answer these questions and many more, creating a vision for the next ten years of progress, growth, and adaptation within Destin's Parks and Recreation Department ("the Department").

0.2 PLAN PURPOSE

The plan encompasses analysis and recommendations for all aspects of the recreation system, from physical park spaces, amenities, and buildings, to programs, funding, staffing, and administration. It seeks to achieve four overall objectives:

OBJECTIVES

1. Establish a roadmap for balanced facilities and amenities, aligned with the City's Comprehensive Plan 2020.
 - The plan will use a data-driven approach to understand the existing conditions of the parks and recreation system and establish a framework for decision-making about the allocation of parks and recreation resources that is responsive to users' social, economic, and environmental needs and priorities now and into the future.
2. Inventory the current parks and recreation system, including facilities, personnel, services, customer base, equipment, and management practices.
3. Set achievable goals, policies, guidelines, and priorities.
 - Establish a realistic and achievable implementation strategy that allocates and leverages resources to improve, manage, and operate Destin's Parks and Recreation system.
4. Include a Capital Improvement Plan, a Facility and Grounds Maintenance and Management Plan, and a funding options analysis.



O.2.1 BACKGROUND

Serving the growing Sunshine State

According to Florida law¹, local governments are required to adopt a Comprehensive Plan, including a Recreation and Open Space Element “indicating a comprehensive system of public and private sites for recreation, including, but not limited to, natural reservations, parks and playgrounds, parkways, beaches and public access to beaches, open spaces, waterways, and other recreational facilities.”

Many cities and counties across the state of Florida regularly complete Parks and Recreation Master Plans, to conduct a comprehensive analysis of their parks and recreation system and to guide detailed improvements and investments to these resources. These plans often inform the Recreational and Open Space Element, providing a strong basis for the Element’s legal mandates. These master plans are typically completed on a 5-year cycle (to align with the Comprehensive Plan requirements) though some communities complete updates more regularly and others may go 10 years or more between plans.

The City of Destin has not completed a Parks and Recreation Master Plan in over 20 years. Due to continued growth and numerous major development projects shaping the city, the Department and elected officials agreed that there was a need to establish a comprehensive plan to guide future parks and recreation improvements.

This Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a collaborative project between the Parks and Recreation Department, the Consultant Team, other City Departments, community organizations and stakeholders, and—most importantly—Destin’s residents.



PLANNING FOR PROGRESS

Developing a Master Plan allows the City to prepare for change, rather than being reactive to issues as they arise.

0.3 PLANNING PROCESS

Initiated in June 2025, the process for this plan follows a multi-phased strategy, with each phase building progressively on the findings and conclusions from the previous phases. It culminates in the adoption of the Final Plan, which then leads into a Phase 1 Implementation Strategy. The goal is to ensure that the plan is rooted in data and that while it starts at a point in time, it is designed to be adaptable and flexible to changing conditions over time and as implementation begins to reduce the scope of projects to a smaller scale.

PROJECT PHASES

Phase 1 - Context Analysis

The purpose of the Context Analysis phase is to examine the existing conditions of both the city and the parks and recreation system within Destin’s ongoing challenges, opportunities, and vision. This analysis includes Destin’s existing and projected demographics, a review of previously completed plans, the status of public and private development projects, as well as the state of the Department, its recreation programs, and parks and recreation facilities.

Phase 2 - Needs + Priorities Assessment

The purpose of the Needs and Priorities Assessment, the second phase of the planning process, is to determine the gaps between existing and desired conditions. Also initiated in November 2024, the needs assessment used a “triangulated” approach to identify needs from different perspectives. Qualitative and quantitative needs assessment techniques included a steering committee kick-off meeting; two public workshops; interviews and focus group meetings; a statistically-representative mail survey; and an on-line survey. Findings from the various techniques were compiled and compared to determine residents’ top priorities for parks and recreation improvements.

Phase 3 - Vision

The purpose of the Vision phase is to establish a long-range strategy for the City to address the needs and priorities developed in Phase 2. The Vision builds on the foundation of the existing conditions analysis, residents’ priorities, and current “best practices” in parks and recreation planning. The Vision includes recommendations for improvements to the existing parks system and programs, as well as recommendations for new parks, trails, programming, and recreation facilities.

Phase 4 - Implementation

The purpose of the Implementation phase is to develop a realistic strategy to implement the Vision. The planning team will estimate the costs to implement and maintain the proposed improvements identified in the Vision, and – based on the available and projected resources identified in the first phase of the project – developed a recommended phasing, funding, and project development strategy.

Phase 5 - Final Plan Adoption

The purpose of the last phase is to organize all the information in a summary document to present to City staff and City Council for final approval.

Phase 6 - Phase 1 Implementation

The purpose of this phase is initiate the Phase 1 recommendations identified in the Master Plan, bringing the plan off of the page and into reality.



CHAPTER 1

CONTEXT ANALYSIS

SECTIONS

- 1.1 Introduction to the City and its Parks
- 1.2 Planning Context
- 1.3 Demographic Context
- 1.4 Park System Context

1

1.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE CITY AND ITS PARKS

Recreation and park systems occupy a unique space at the intersection between the physical environment of a place, its people, and their culture. For many people, parks are the public spaces they interact with most directly and are a government institution with the rare power to provide environmental, social, and cultural benefits, both on an individual level, and for the community as a whole.

Parks provide a critical opportunity to strengthen the fabric of a community by weaving social and cultural experiences into the landscape. And because every community is different, understanding the nuances of Destin's context is extremely valuable to contributing to the overall success of this plan and its impact within the community.

The Consultant Team reviewed existing documents; analyzed demographics and trends; inventoried the existing parks system; and visited and evaluated parks and park structures, in order to assess Destin's existing conditions through the following three contexts:



PLANNING CONTEXT

The layout of the developed and natural environment, plus recent plans, initiatives, and projects shaping Destin.



DEMOGRAPHIC + TRENDS CONTEXT

The characteristics of the existing and projected residents of Destin, plus recreational trends analysis.



PARK SYSTEM CONTEXT

The organizational, programmatic, and physical condition of Destin's existing parks and recreation system.

1.2 PLANNING CONTEXT

Modern community planning involves a complex layering of regulatory, infrastructure, and environmental systems, including zoning, political representation, transportation and education, just to name a few.

Given this complexity, community planning typically functions best when it ensures that there is coordination across this broad spectrum of activities, embodying the idea of breaking down the “silos” between government agencies and departments. The challenges of engineering complex physical infrastructure, ensuring the health and vitality of the natural environment, educating all citizens, providing a strong economic outlook for every household, and even uplifting local

culture...all these interests must be addressed by local government agencies. Not to mention the role of political leaders, whose decisions about policy priorities are prone to shifting with each election. On top of it all, broader economic forces ensure cities are in near constant flux, with “change as the only constant” an increasing reality for Destin over the last 20 years.



1.2.1 MAPPING EXISTING CONDITIONS

This section maps the existing and planned conditions of Destin with relevance to this Parks and Recreation update.






- Future Land Use
- Environmental
- Transportation
- Regional Greenspace Context

























FUTURE LAND USE

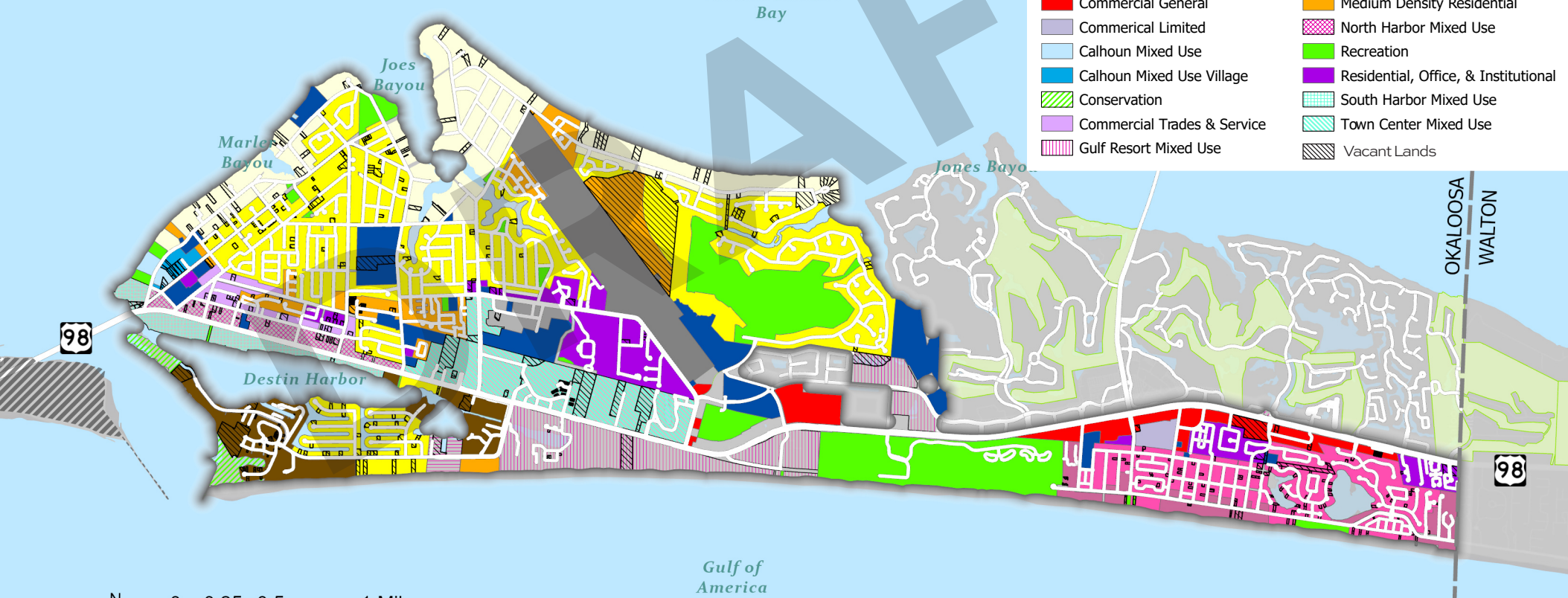
In addition to zoning, Future Land Use is one of the most powerful mechanisms municipalities have for shaping the character of their jurisdiction. The Future Land Use element of the Comprehensive Plan identifies 23 land use categories, which impact zoning and development decisions.

Importantly, two separate categories define types of land that can have park uses (Conservation and Recreation), which may include parks, preserves, and other lands where development is limited. Ensuring that any new park sites can and will be designated under these categories will be an important component of the vision.

One other crucial element with implications for parks planning is the presence of vacant lands, which may present cost-effective opportunities for future recreation. Destin currently has 486 vacant parcels, totaling over 245 acres.

-  County Boundaries
-  Destin City Boundary
-  Eglin AFB
-  Roads
-  Golf Courses








- | | |
|---|--|
|  Airport |  High Density Residential |
|  Bay Estates |  Holiday Isle Mixed Use |
|  Bay Resort Mixed Use |  Industrial |
|  Crystal Beach Neighborhood |  Institutional |
|  Crystal Beach Resort |  Low Density Residential |
|  Commercial General |  Medium Density Residential |
|  Commercial Limited |  North Harbor Mixed Use |
|  Calhoun Mixed Use |  Recreation |
|  Calhoun Mixed Use Village |  Residential, Office, & Institutional |
|  Conservation |  South Harbor Mixed Use |
|  Commercial Trades & Service |  Town Center Mixed Use |
|  Gulf Resort Mixed Use |  Vacant Lands |

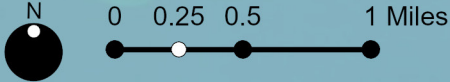


ENVIRONMENTAL

Environmental conditions are important to consider when determining appropriate uses within park land, and for selecting land with potential for recreational uses.

Flood Zones and Wetlands are particularly critical to document as these sensitive areas provide significant environmental value, and have development restrictions.













-  County Boundaries
-  Destin City Boundary
-  Eglin AFB
-  100-year Flood Zone
-  Wetlands
-  Beaches
-  1' Contours

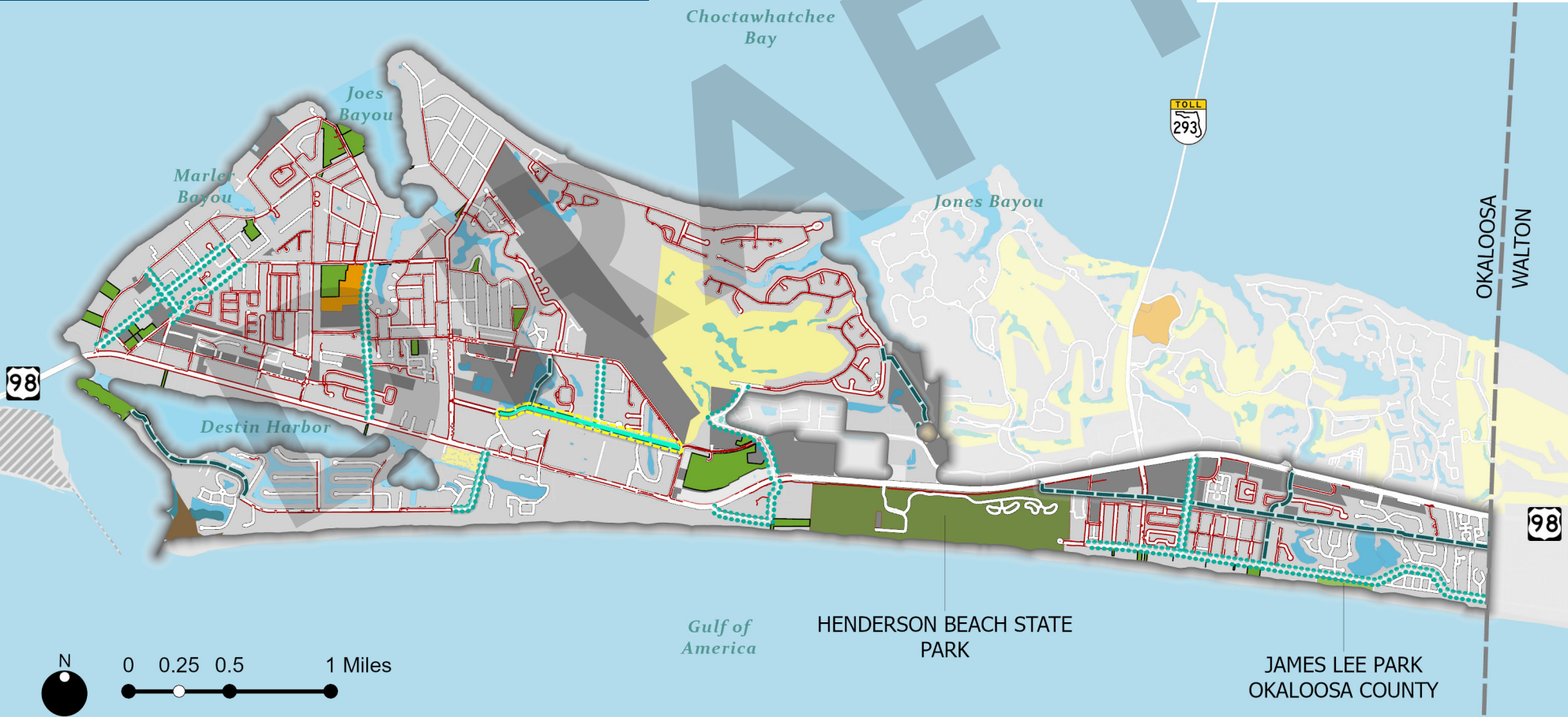


TRANSPORTATION

Transportation infrastructure, in particular road right-of-way, constitutes a large segment of the public realm and offers numerous opportunities for integration with parks and recreation, from sidewalks to bike lanes to greenway linear parks.

Destin is continuing to improve and expand its network of pedestrian and bicycle facilities and these developments will be important to consider in parks and recreation planning.

-  County Boundaries
-  Destin City Boundary
-  Eglin AFB
-  Roads
-  Sidewalks
-  Shared Use Paths
-  Bike Lanes
-  Linear Trail (Under Construction)
-  DPR Parks
-  County Parks
-  State Parks
-  Golf Courses



REGIONAL GREENSPACE

Destin is well situated with access to a variety of parks and greenspaces in the surrounding area, provided by other cities, counties and the state of Florida. Much of the land to the west and north of the city is protected under state Conservation Lands status which restricts long-term development.

Additionally, more than 10 state parks are within 30 miles of the city, offering significant opportunity for natural resource recreation.

- County Boundaries
- Destin City Boundary
- Eglin AFB
- Roads
- Conservation Lands
- State Parks



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1.2.2 REVIEW OF RELEVANT PLANNING DOCUMENTS

The Project Team reviewed the following planning documents, studies, and surveys provided by the City that have implications for the development of the parks master plan:

- City of Destin Strategic Plan
- City of Destin Comprehensive Plan
- Town Center Visioning Master Plan
- Harbor CRA Master Plan
- Stormwater Master Plan Update
- Pathways Master Plan, 2009 Update
- Destin Linear Trail Plan
- Clement Taylor Park Renovations (designed)
- Joe’s Bayou Recreation Area (in design)
- Norriego Point Park Improvements (under construction)
- Tarpon Beach Improvements (in construction)
- The Shores at Crystal Beach Improvements (under construction)
- Buck Destin Bathrooms (in design)
- Pickleball Courts (Phase 1) (under construction)

DESTIN ADOPTED CONDENSED STRATEGIC PLAN (2024)

Overview

The Strategic Plan lays out the City Council’s agenda for the following year, along with longer term priorities through 2029. It provides the City’s Vision, Prioritized Customers and Core Values, including seven Prioritized Strategic Goals.

Themes

The seven Prioritized Strategic Goals provide a framework under which all of the Objectives are organized:

- I. Financially sound city providing service excellence
- II. Enhanced quality of life and safety for families
- III. Economic development and revitalization
- IV. Effective, efficient and aesthetically pleasing infrastructure
- V. Improve mobility and connectivity
- VI. A green and sustainable environment
- VII. Offer livable wages and benefits to attract and maintain a high caliber, qualified staff

Recommendations

The Strategic Plan objectives are organized under four categories, with recommendations in each category directly pertaining to parks and recreation:

I. Council Objectives

Organized by Critical Priorities, Important Priorities and Desirable Priorities.

ADOPTED CONDENSED DESTIN STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024	
<p>VISION 2035: DESTIN IS A FAMILY-ORIENTED BEACH AND FISHING COMMUNITY WHERE PEOPLE WANT TO LIVE, WORK & PLAY AND WHERE VISITORS ARE WELCOMED TO RESPECTFULLY ENJOY OUR COMMUNITY AND ITS RESOURCES.</p>	
<p>PRIORITIZED CUSTOMERS: YEAR-ROUND CITY OF DESTIN RESIDENTS CITY OF DESTIN-BASED BUSINESSES CITY OF DESTIN VISITORS</p>	
<p>DESTIN’S CORE VALUES: Respect, Teamwork, Stewardship, Integrity, Professionalism and Transparency</p>	
<p>PRIORITIZED STRATEGIC GOALS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Financially sound city providing service excellence II. Enhanced quality of life and safety for families III. Economic development and revitalization IV. Effective, efficient and aesthetically pleasing infrastructure V. Improve mobility and connectivity VI. A green and sustainable environment VII. Offer livable wages and benefits to attract and maintain a high caliber, qualified staff 	
<p>SECTION 1: COUNCIL OBJECTIVES FY2024 - 2029</p>	
<p>COUNCIL’S CRITICAL PRIORITIES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Work with stakeholders to pursue the Destin City Center; Phase 1 Feasibility Study (II, III) (OPR: CD) 1.2 Public Waterfront acquisition initiative; Acquire property at the foot of the Marler Bridge (II, IV, V) (OPR: GPC) 1.3 Underground Utilities; Begin Phase 1 (II, IV, VI) (OPR: GPC) 1.4 Stahlman and US 98 pedestrian vehicle improvement concepts in cooperation with FDOT (II, V) (OPR: CD/ENG) 1.5 Pedestrian access concepts under the Marler Bridge (II, V) (OPR: CD/ENG) 1.6 Two-lane Crosstown Connector Beach to Benning; Phase 1 (II, V) (OPR: CD/GPC) 1.7 Improve parking, explore options (i.e., parking garage, surface parking), (V) (OPR: PW, CD) 1.8 Annexation of unincorporated enclaves (I) (OPR: CD/CMO) 	
<p>COUNCIL’S IMPORTANT PRIORITIES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.9 Morgan Sports Center and Dalton Threadgill Park Master Plan for renovations (OPR: PR) 	
<p>COUNCIL’S DESIRABLE PRIORITIES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.10 Support for regional Transit and Ferry systems (V) (OPR: GPC) 1.11 City Marina (Phase 1 Feasibility Study) (III, V) (OPR: CD) 1.12 Support Beach Re-nourishment, planning/scheduling in partnership with the County/State (II, VI) (OPR: CD) 1.13 Support regional workforce housing initiatives (CD) 	

Important Priorities include **1.9 Morgan Sports Center and Dalton Threadgill Park Master Plan for renovations (OPR: PR)**

II. Management Objectives

2.9 Establish Independent Park Foundation to assist City with acquisitions, renovations and maintenance (P&R)

III. Management in Progress

3.2 Plan for renewal and replacement of city facilities and infrastructure OPR: PW (I., IV.)

3.6 Develop/Implement Wayfinding Program; Improve the City’s gateways OPR: CD (II., IV.)

IV. Major Projects

4.7 Pickleball Courts: Complete design and construct. (In Progress) (II., VI.)

4.9 Norriego Point Park improvements Phase III - Recreation Components (Pending GSD Roadway extension)

4.10 Renovate Clement Taylor Park (Pending UST authorization to proceed) (II., VI.)

4.11 Redevelop Joe’s Bayou Recreation Area (In Progress) (II., VI.)

4.14 Linear Trail/Sun Trail: (In partnership with FPL) Secure additional funding, complete design, secure required easements, construct Phase 1 trail from Mattie Kelly Blvd to 98 Palms (In Progress) (II., VI.)

4.19 Complete improvements to the Shore at Crystal Beach Park & Tarpon Park (In Progress) (II., VI.)

Relevance to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

As the primary document outlining the City Council and Management’s priorities for the next 5 years, ensuring alignment with the Strategic Plan is critical. All the identified Objectives and Projects will be incorporated into this Plan’s recommendations.

DESTIN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (2020)

Overview

The City of Destin comprehensive plan is the City’s primary guiding document, providing the “principles, guidelines, standards, and strategies for the orderly and balanced future economic, social, physical, environmental, and fiscal development of the area.” The Comprehensive Plan includes 13 elements to help guide policy for the City Council to follow affecting City of Destin growth and development. Each element addresses a different facet of City regulation. The document is typically updated every 7 years, with amendments adopted by the Council as need.

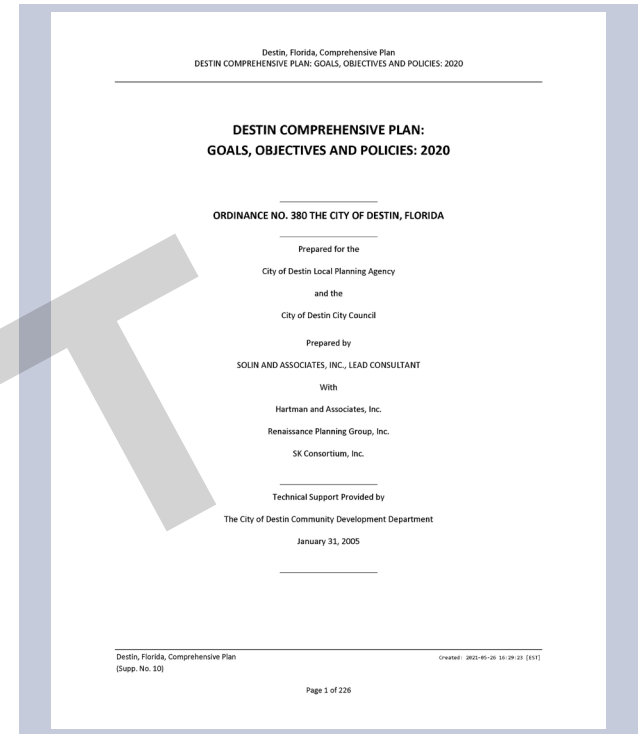
Themes

Each of the Elements is structured with Goals, Objectives, and Policies. The Goals are described as “broad and general,” the objectives are “specific and measurable,” and the policies “provide legislative and administrative guidance on how to conduct or achieve the goals and objectives.” Of the 13 elements, 7 include specific Policies relevant to Parks and Recreation:

- Future Land Use Element
- Conservation Element
- Coastal Management Element
- Recreation and Open Space Element
- Intergovernmental Coordination Element
- Capital Improvements Element

Recommendations

The following Goals, Objectives, or Policies are all directly relevant to parks and recreation.



Future Land Use Element

Policy 1-2.7.2: Recreation (REC).

The “REC” land use provides for publicly and privately owned property and facilities, with the intent to promote natural resource enhancement and to promote open spaces around buildings. No permanent or transient residential development is allowed within this FLUM designation. The LDC shall provide specific regulations for managing development of lands designated “REC.”

1. Active recreation areas include beach parks, boat launching facilities, parks, basketball courts, tennis courts, baseball and softball fields, meeting halls and the like. The intensity of development of such sites shall be limited to 75 percent of impervious surface for the site,

and be consistent with all setbacks, parking, landscaping, and open space requirements as defined within the LDC. Also, buffering to prevent intrusive noise, light, glare, vibration or other nuisance factors shall be required on all newly developed recreation sites.

2. Passive recreation areas include open spaces, wilderness and wetlands preserves, scenic vistas, parks, and Clement Taylor Park.

3. Development of all locally-owned public recreation facilities within the City shall be reviewed and approved by the City Council prior to development of such site.

OBJECTIVE 1-2.8: CONSERVATION LAND USE DESIGNATION.

The FLUM (Map 1-1), shall identify lands that are environmentally fragile for long-term preservation by designating them as “CON.” Environmentally fragile lands shall be referred to as conservation resources, which are defined in Rule 9J-5.003(30), Florida Administrative Code.

Policy 1-2.8.1: Conservation (CON).

The FLUM shall designate lands that are natural and coastal resources as “CON.” It is the intent of the “CON” land use designation to provide for the long-term protection and preservation of environmentally sensitive natural resource systems. The LDC shall be amended to ensure no development is permitted within “CON” designated areas, other than beach accessways, such as dune walkovers, parking, docks, restroom facilities, and passive recreation. The City shall have the option of obtaining a conservation easement from the property owner(s) to protect lands that are demonstrated to be environmentally sensitive.

Conservation Element

Policy 5-1.7.1:

Implement Protection of Vegetative Communities. Site design for development applications shall give priority to preserving areas with existing mature trees and native vegetation before replacing them with commercially-raised plants and trees. Open space requirements placed on site design shall be located in a manner that protects existing trees and native vegetation. The landscape standards and acceptable planting materials incorporated in the City’s Land Development Code shall promote the use of native plant species and prohibit the planting of exotic plants known to create nuisances. All open space areas where existing trees and vegetation are not preserved shall be replanted predominantly with native trees and vegetation.

Policy 5-1.13.6: Xeriscape Public Areas.

The City shall reduce irrigation needs of new and existing landscaped areas maintained by the City through the application of aggressive xeriscaping standards. Within one year of the adoption of this Plan, the City shall develop a 5-year xeriscaping program that prioritizes the location and measures to be taken to xeriscape existing landscaping of public lands.

Coastal Management Element

Policy 6-1.1.1: Conserve Through Land Acquisition.

The City shall evaluate opportunities to acquire coastal lands and wetlands through state and/or federal conservation land acquisition grant programs. The City has initiated a Beach Acquisition Program and intends to purchase beachfront properties to provide additional recreational opportunities for both citizens and tourists.

Policy 6-1.1.10: Protect Norriego Point.

The City shall continue its efforts to preserve and protect Norriego Point, a peninsula separating Destin Harbor from East Pass.

Policy 6-1.4.2: Provide Public Shoreline Access.
Development along the Gulf of Mexico shoreline shall use site design that discourages pedestrian access across dune systems, and shall reduce pedestrian impacts to coastal vegetation by providing narrow accessways between land uses and beach areas. The design and type of accessway or boardwalk shall use best management practices promoted by the FDEP.

Policy 6-1.4.4: Implement Beach Access Point Level of Service Standards.

The Land Development Code (LDC) shall include criteria for evaluating new development for compliance with the City’s beach access point level of service standard. The LDC shall also include development incentives to encourage new development occurring along shoreline areas to dedicate easements or to donate land for use as public accessways leading to shoreline areas along the Gulf and Choctawhatchee Bay.

Policy 6-1.4.6: Public Access Inventory:
The City will maintain and keep an inventory of public beach access facilities.

Policy 6-1.11.1: Maintain Public Beach Access.
The City shall continue to maintain all designated public beach access points.

Recreation and Open Space Element

All of the Goals, Objectives and Policies within the Recreation and Open Space element are relevant to the current operations and strategies of the Parks and Recreation Department and will inform recommendations in this Plan. Of particular importance are the Level of Service standards (Tables 7-1 and 7-2, see next page), which stipulate the provision of parks and facilities.

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS FOR RECREATION SITES

Park Facility	Location	Standard	Area for Each Facility	Facilities
Neighborhood	Facility	Facilities	Minimum of 2 acres	Play apparatus areas, recreation building, sport fields, paved multi-purpose courts, senior citizens area, picnic area, handicapped-accessible facilities, open or free play area, total lot, and landscaping. Bicycle parking facilities shall be provided.
Community	Serves residents of a group of neighborhoods	2.0 acres per 1,000 functional population ¹	Minimum of 20 acres	All facilities found in a neighborhood park plus facilities to service the entire family. Pools, softball/baseball fields, tennis courts, play areas, picnic areas, handicapped-accessible facilities, passive and active recreation areas, multi-purpose courts, and recreation building, and bathrooms. Automobile and bicycle parking to be provided.
Beach/Shoreline Access ²		One access point per one-half mile (i.e., 2,640 linear feet) of shoreline	N/A	Gulf Beach—Designated dune crossover pedestrian pathway and bicycle parking facilities; showers, automobile parking, and picnic areas are desirable if land area can accommodate such facilities and public use warrants. Restrooms where feasible.

¹ Functional population is defined as the average annual permanent and seasonal population, as defined within the Future Land Use Element Data Inventory and Analysis.

² Beach/shoreline access standard is applicable only to the following shoreline areas: Gulf beach (measured from the Gulf shoreline position nearest the western most edge of Gulf Shore Drive right-of-way to the eastern city limit), Joe's Bayou, and Choctawhatchee Bay south of Cobb's Point to Harbor Boulevard.

STANDARDS FOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Park Facility	City Standards
Tennis Courts	1.5 courts per 1,000 participants or 1 per 4,000 functional population
Baseball/Softball Fields ¹	1 per 1,000 participants or 1 per 6,000 functional population
Football	.9 per 1,000 participants
Soccer	1.5 fields per 1,000 participants
Volleyball	1 per 5,000 functional population
Community Swimming Pool	.02 pools per 1,000 participants
Basketball Courts	1.1 per 1,000 participants or 1 per 5,000 functional population
Boat ramps (saltwater)	.5 ramps per 1,000 participants
Children's Play Areas/Tot Lots	1 area per 10,000 functional population
Community Center	1 center per 20,000 functional population
Exercise Trails	1 linear mile per 14,000 functional population
Multi-Purpose Fields	1 per 10,000 functional population
¼ Mile Track	1 track per 20,000 functional population
Dog Parks	1 per 100,000 functional population

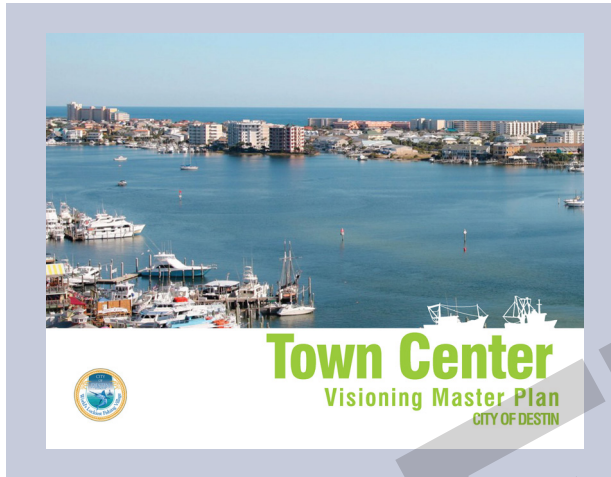
Relevance to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Each of the Objectives and Policies noted in the Comprehensive Plan are legally mandated statements that the Destin City government is required to follow. To the extent that this Plan can help the City achieve these standards, it will incorporate them into any related recommendations and seek to build on them with the latest data and best practices.

TOWN CENTER VISIONING MASTER PLAN (2025)

Overview

The City of Destin's Town Center Visioning Master Plan provides a framework for sustainable growth, civic improvement, and cultural preservation. Rooted in Destin's history as the "World's Luckiest Fishing Village," the plan seeks to balance economic development with community needs and environmental stewardship. Key city-owned sites—Harbor One, the Harbor Community Redevelopment Area (CRA), the Gateway site, and the Morgan Sports Complex—are central to the vision. The plan envisions a walkable, resilient, and culturally rooted Destin, with consolidated civic facilities, enhanced green infrastructure, and community-focused amenities that preserve small-town identity while guiding sustainable growth.



Themes

Community input and surveys revealed five overarching themes shaping the plan:

1. **Connectivity & Walkability** – Strong demand for safer, multimodal streets with protected bike lanes, sidewalks, and transit-friendly designs.
2. **Public Amenities for Residents** – Calls for more year-round amenities like playgrounds, indoor recreation centers, community gardens, and expanded library services.
3. **Cultural Heritage & Identity** – Strong interest in preserving and celebrating fishing village origins through public art, historic reconstructions, interpretive signage, and maritime-inspired architecture.
4. **Balanced Development** – Residents value economic benefits of growth but worry about overdevelopment impacting small-town character; emphasis on context-sensitive design and infill development rather than unchecked sprawl.

5. **Sustainability & Resilience** – Integration of green infrastructure (rain gardens, bioswales, permeable paving, native landscaping) to address stormwater, climate risks, and environmental protection.

Recommendations

The final plan outlines design strategies, programming, and implementation steps to guide Destin's future:

Urban Design & Architecture

- Apply Florida Vernacular and eclectic aesthetics (porches, sloped roofs, local materials blended with modern elements).
- Reinforce a sense of place through heritage-based placemaking and cultural landmarks.

Civic Facilities & Community Spaces

- Consolidate city services at the Morgan Sports Complex into a new City Hall and multigenerational Community Center, improving efficiency and community engagement.
- Provide flexible public spaces for markets, festivals, cultural events, and recreational opportunities.

Park and Trails

Expand pedestrian and bike networks linking neighborhoods, schools, and commercial centers.

Incorporate trails, greenways, and wayfinding to unify civic and recreational assets.

Economic & Cultural Vitality

Develop the Gateway site as a "Fishing Village" cultural hub with a museum, amphitheater, and community lawn.

Promote locally owned businesses, heritage tourism, and year-round cultural programming.

Implementation & Funding

Use phased development to minimize disruption, starting with temporary relocations and gradual construction.

Explore public-private partnerships, grants, and philanthropic support to finance major projects.

Maintain ongoing community engagement to ensure alignment with residents' values and needs.

Relevance to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The Town Center Master Plan presents a vision for Destin's future that is heavily rooted in new and improved park spaces and a thriving public realm, which will be critical to incorporate into the parks and recreation master plan. The Town Center plan's recommendations provide a significant base to build on with regard to citywide design strategies, as well as site-specific concepts for the Morgan Sports Complex, Harbor One, and the Gateway.

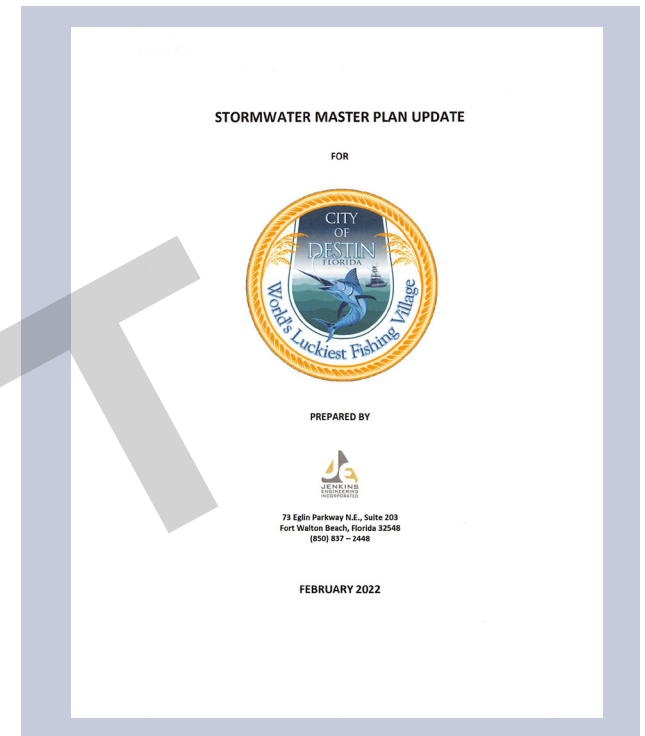
STORMWATER MASTER PLAN UPDATE (2022)

Overview

The Stormwater Master Plan Update provides a comprehensive review of existing stormwater infrastructure, flood risks, water quality, and regulatory requirements. It evaluates system capacity, identifies deficiencies, and sets priorities for improvement. The update is designed to align with environmental sustainability goals, growth projections, and resilience planning. It also integrates community feedback and regulatory compliance (state and federal requirements) to guide future infrastructure investments. Lastly, it represents a transition from a water quantity plan to a water quality plan, following the successful implementation of projects recommended in the 2004 plan.

Themes

1. Flood Risk and Resilience
 - Emphasis on mitigating flood-prone areas through infrastructure upgrades and green stormwater practices.
 - Focus on climate change impacts, increasing rainfall intensity, and urban development pressures.
2. Water Quality and Environmental Protection
 - Strong connection to Clean Water Act compliance, pollutant reduction, and watershed health.
 - Integration of nature-based solutions (wetlands, bioswales, riparian buffers).
3. Infrastructure and Capacity
 - Identification of undersized or failing stormwater systems.
4. Community and Equity
 - Expansion of stormwater storage and conveyance systems to meet future demands.
 - Consideration of vulnerable communities disproportionately affected by flooding.
5. Funding and Implementation
 - Public engagement to ensure transparency and prioritization of high-need neighborhoods.
 - Reliance on a mix of local funding, state/federal grants, and public-private partnerships.
 - Phased implementation approach to match available funding and community priorities.



Recommendations

The plan defined four key objectives:

1. Identify the City's changing needs regarding storm water runoff, from quantity to quality.
2. Identify flood mitigation and water quality improvement projects and study areas.
3. Provide policy recommendations to provide clear expectations and address deficiencies in the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code.
4. Provide an avenue for a dedicated funding source for stormwater facilities maintenance and repairs to continue

compliance with the State of Florida's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

It also identified three study areas (Indian Bayou, Kelly Addition Subdivision, Destin Harbor) and 13 priority drainage projects.

Relevance to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The plan's City-Wide Swale Initiative presents opportunities for integration with new multi-use Sidepaths. Additionally, the First and Second Street project is intended to reduce roadway overtopping adjacent to the Mattie Kelly Nature Preserve.

HARBOR CRA PLAN (2025)

Overview

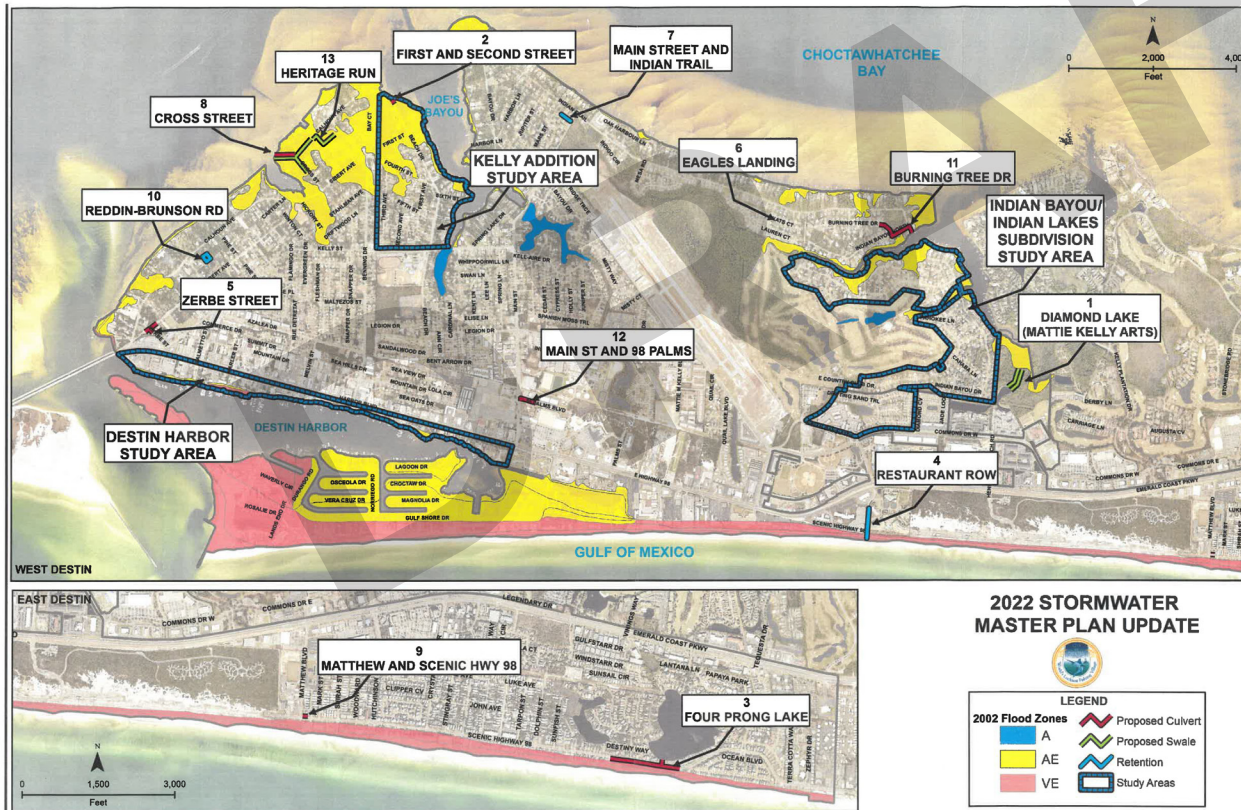
The Harbor Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) Plan is the primary framework guiding public improvements and quality-of-life enhancements within Destin's Harbor District (397.3 acres) through 2043. Originally adopted in 2003, this 2024 update is the first major revision of the Plan, which fulfills requirements under Florida Statutes for CRA planning to address blighted conditions by investing tax increment revenues in targeted public improvements.

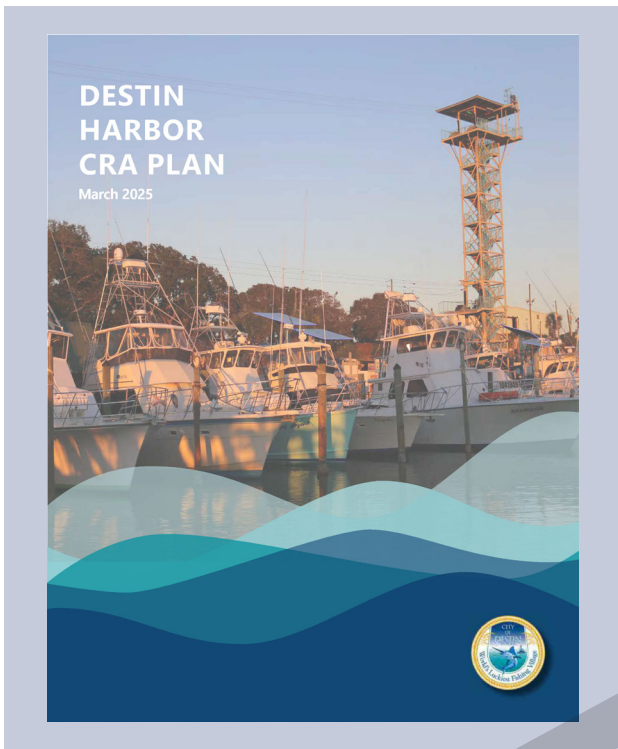
The plan aims to improve access, safety, and connectivity for residents and visitors through redevelopment objectives, programs, and capital projects (eight key projects) to be undertaken over the next 20 years.

Themes

The updated vision continues to build on the District's identity as Destin's economic and waterfront hub by focusing on improved access and safety.

- Two Key Themes from Advisory Committee (2023):





These goals tie directly to the Plan’s overarching objective: redevelop the Harbor area into a waterfront-oriented, economically sustainable, well-connected, and pedestrian-friendly district.

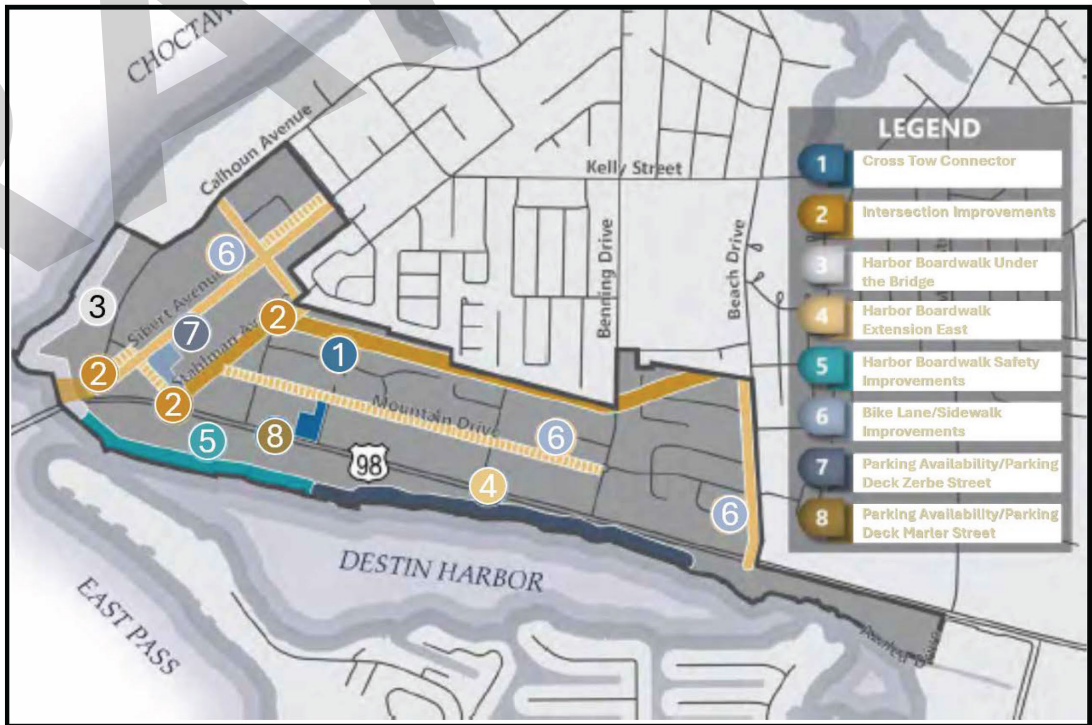
The plan also defined several projects as Near-Term Strategies (Less than 2 Years), Medium-Term Strategies (2-5 years), and Long-Term Strategies (More than 5 years).

Relevance to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Some of the strategies proposed in the CRA plan will be relevant to the Parks and Recreation master plan, based on their greenspace and recreation attributes, including:

- Landscaping and Amenities on the Cross Town Connector
- Wayfinding Signage
- Shared Use Path from Marler Lot to the Harbor Boardwalk

Harbor CRA Project Map



1. Connectivity – Enhancing movements across the District for vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists.
2. Safety – Making travel on foot and bike safer, and within the Harbor safer and more inviting.

Recommendations

The plan identifies Three Main Goals:

1. Make it easier to get into and park in the Harbor District.
2. Make it easier for pedestrians to get from the north side of U.S. Highway 98 to the south side of U.S. Highway 98.
3. Make it easier to get to and enjoy the Destin Harbor and Harbor Boardwalk.

PATHWAYS MASTER PLAN, 2009 UPDATE (2009)

Overview

The Pathways Master Plan (2009 Update) was developed with the primary goal of providing a safe, efficient, and connected network of pedestrian and bicycle pathways that provide alternatives to automobile travel. The plan builds upon the original 2000 Pathways Master Plan and reflects updated conditions, incorporates public feedback, and aligns with the City's Multimodal Transportation District (MMTD) policies. It inventories existing facilities, identifies programmed and planned improvements, and prioritizes future investments to enhance non-motorized mobility throughout Destin.

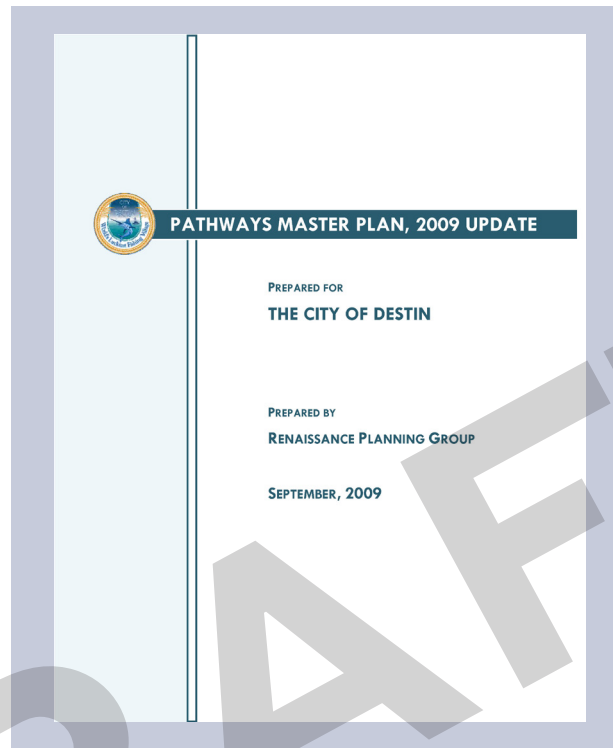
Key goals include:

- Updating and expanding the city's pedestrian, bicycle, and multi-use trail networks.
- Improving access to important community destinations.
- Enhancing safety and multimodal connectivity.
- Encouraging active transportation as part of daily life.

Themes

1. Connectivity and Accessibility

The plan emphasizes filling gaps in the current pedestrian and bicycle systems to ensure seamless travel across Destin. Many sidewalks and bike lanes are incomplete or inconsistent, particularly along US Highway 98, Mountain Drive, and Commons Drive. Improved



connections between neighborhoods, schools, parks, beaches, and shopping centers are prioritized.

2. Multimodal Transportation

The Pathways Plan is a key component of the City's MMTD, focusing on multimodal level of service (MMLOS) rather than car-only traffic measures. Enhancing non-motorized travel reduces congestion and improves livability.

3. Public Engagement and Community Needs

Public input from workshops and surveys highlighted residents' desire for:

- Better safety and visibility for pedestrians and cyclists.
- More east-west alternatives to US 98.

- Enhanced connections to beach access points, shopping areas, and recreational destinations.

4. Design Standards and Safety

Design guidelines ensure consistency and safety across facilities:

- Sidewalks: 5–10 feet wide, depending on area.
- Bike lanes: 4–5 feet wide.
- Multi-use trails: Minimum 10 feet wide.
- Streetscape and lighting enhancements are included to improve comfort and aesthetics.

Recommendations

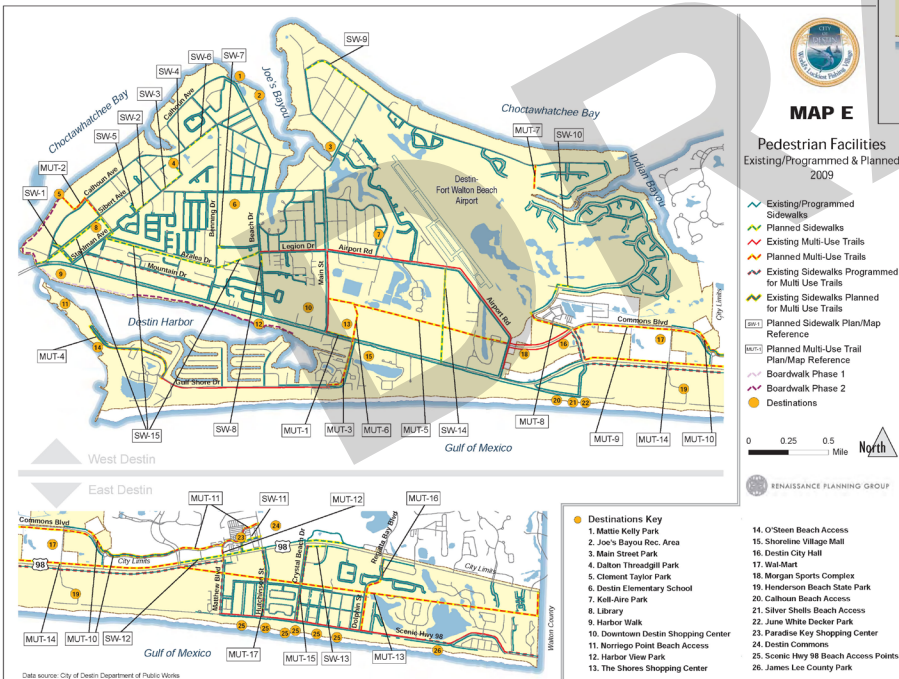
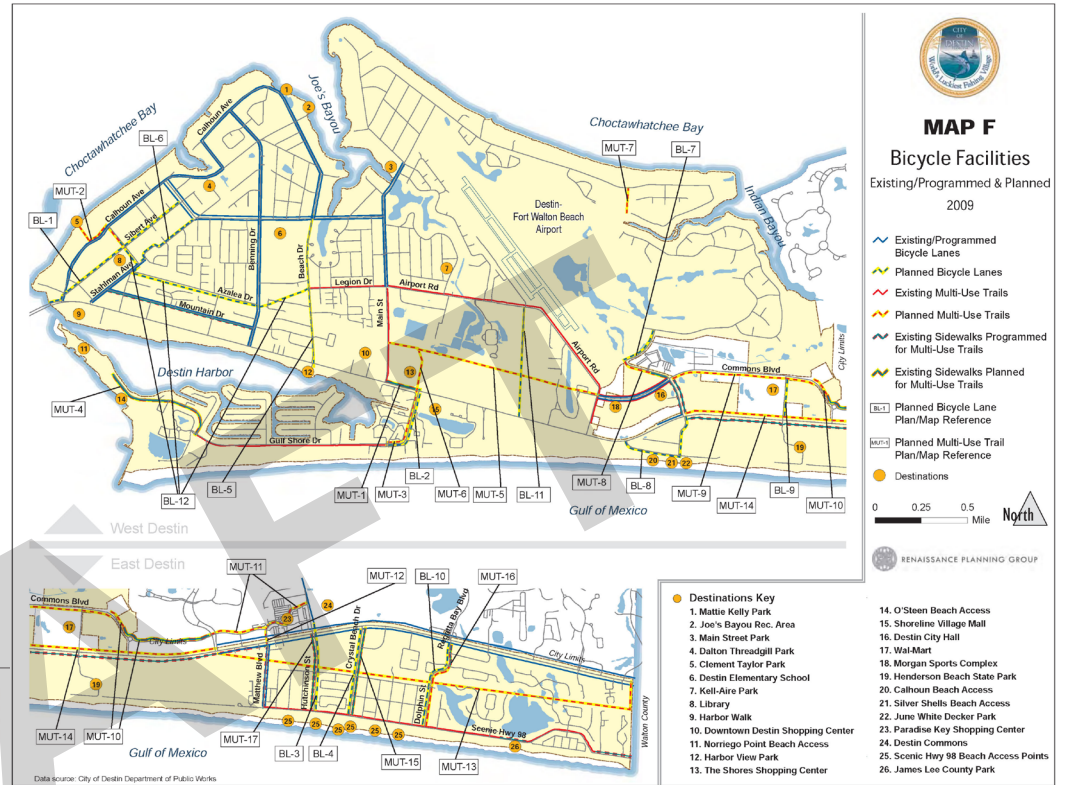
The recommended projects were scored based on nine weighted factors (e.g., gap-filling, safety, access to destinations, public support). The scoring determines three priority levels for implementation, focusing first on projects that maximize community impact and network efficiency.

The Implementation Strategy focused on four priority guidelines:

- Prioritize projects that connect existing paths and improve access to major destinations (parks, schools, shopping centers, beaches).
- Coordinate with the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for funding alignment.
- Incorporate pathway upgrades into redevelopment projects and public-private partnerships.
- Continue monitoring MMLOS performance to guide future updates.

Relevance to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The 2009 Pathways Master Plan lays out a comprehensive, phased roadmap to make Destin safer and more connected for walkers and cyclists. Parks and Recreation facilities serve as notable “Destinations” guiding the plan’s recommendations and the implementation of all the proposed projects would significantly impact the functionality of Destin’s parks.

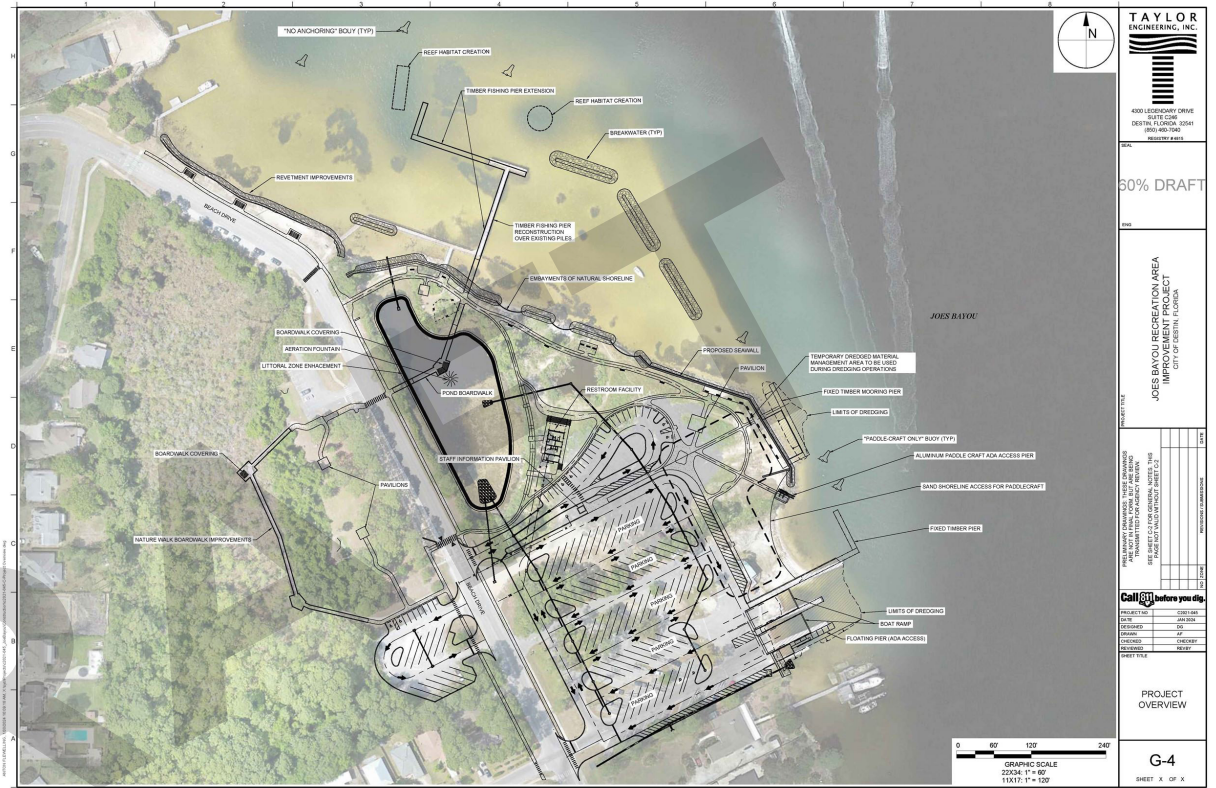


JOE'S BAYOU IMPROVEMENTS

Overview

The design for improvements to Joe's Bayou park provides:

- new piers for boat access and fishing
- enhanced parking and vehicular flow
- enhanced boardwalk and paths
- new restrooms



DRAFT

NORRIEGO POINT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Overview

The design for enhancements to Norriego Point provides:

- dune vegetation revitalization
- new boardwalk, benches, and dune walkovers
- restroom and educational kiosk
- improved parking and vehicular flow



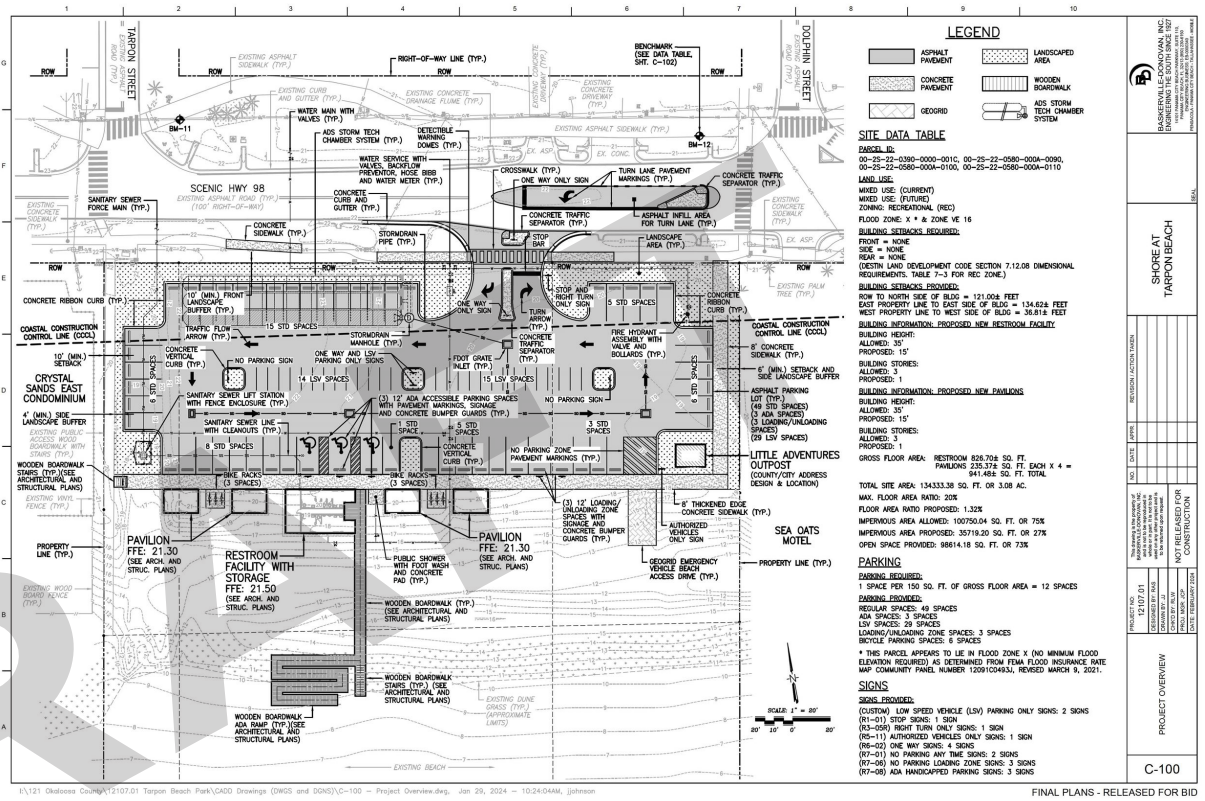
DRAFT

TARPON BEACH IMPROVEMENTS

Overview

The design for improvements to Tarpon Beach park provides:

- new boardwalk and pavilions
- restroom and showers
- improved parking and vehicular flow



LEGEND

- ASPHALT PAVEMENT
- CONCRETE PAVEMENT
- GEORGIO
- LANDSCAPED AREA
- WOODEN BOARDWALK
- AS STORM TECH CHAMBER SYSTEM

SITE DATA TABLE

00-22-0390-0000-0101, 00-22-22-0580-0004-0090, 00-22-22-0580-0004-0100, 00-22-22-0580-0004-0110

MIXED USE (CURRENT)
MIXED USE (FUTURE)
ZONING: RECREATIONAL (REC)
FLOOD ZONE: X * & ZONE VE 16

BUILDING SETBACKS REQUIRED:
FRONT = NONE
SIDE = NONE
REAR = NONE
(DESTIN LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE SECTION 7.12.08 DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS TABLE 7-3 FOR REC ZONE)

BUILDING SETBACKS PROVIDED:
ROW TO NORTH SIDE OF BLDG = 121.00A FEET
EAST PROPERTY LINE TO EAST SIDE OF BLDG = 134.62A FEET
WEST PROPERTY LINE TO WEST SIDE OF BLDG = 36.81B FEET

BUILDING INFORMATION: PROPOSED NEW RESTROOM FACILITY
BUILDING HEIGHT: ALLOWED: 35'
PROPOSED: 15'

BUILDING INFORMATION: PROPOSED NEW PAVILIONS
BUILDING HEIGHT: ALLOWED: 35'
PROPOSED: 15'

BUILDING INFORMATION: PROPOSED NEW PAVILIONS
BUILDING HEIGHT: ALLOWED: 35'
PROPOSED: 15'

BUILDING INFORMATION: PROPOSED NEW PAVILIONS
BUILDING HEIGHT: ALLOWED: 35'
PROPOSED: 15'

LITTLE ADVENTURES OUTPOST
COUNTY/CITY ADDRESS DESIGN & LOCATION

SEA OATS MOTEL
PROPERTY LINE (TYP.)

PARKING
PARKING PROVIDED:
1 SPACE PER 150 SQ. FT. OF GROSS FLOOR AREA = 12 SPACES

PARKING PROVIDED:
REGULAR SPACES: 49 SPACES
ADA SPACES: 3 SPACES
LIV SPACES: 0 SPACES
LOADING/UNLOADING ZONE SPACES: 3 SPACES
BICYCLE PARKING SPACES: 6 SPACES

* THIS PARCEL APPEARS TO BE IN FLOOD ZONE X (NO MINIMUM FLOOD ELEVATION REQUIRED) AS DETERMINED FROM FEMA FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP COMMUNITY PANEL NUMBER: 1209 (LOCAL), REVISION: MARCH 9, 2021.

SIGNS
SIGNS PROVIDED:
SIGNS PROVIDED:
(CUSTOM) LOW SPEED VEHICLE (LSV) PARKING ONLY SIGNS: 2 SIGNS
(R-01) STOP SIGNS: 1 SIGN
(R-02) RIGHT TURN ONLY SIGNS: 1 SIGN
(R-03) RIGHT TURN ONLY SIGNS: 1 SIGN
(R-04) AUTHORIZED VEHICLES ONLY SIGNS: 1 SIGN
(R-05) ONE WAY SIGNS: 4 SIGNS
(R-06) NO PARKING ANY TIME SIGNS: 2 SIGNS
(R-07) NO PARKING LOADING ZONE SIGNS: 3 SIGNS
(R-08) ADA HANDICAPPED PARKING SIGNS: 3 SIGNS

PROJECT OVERVIEW

C-100

FINAL PLANS - RELEASED FOR BID

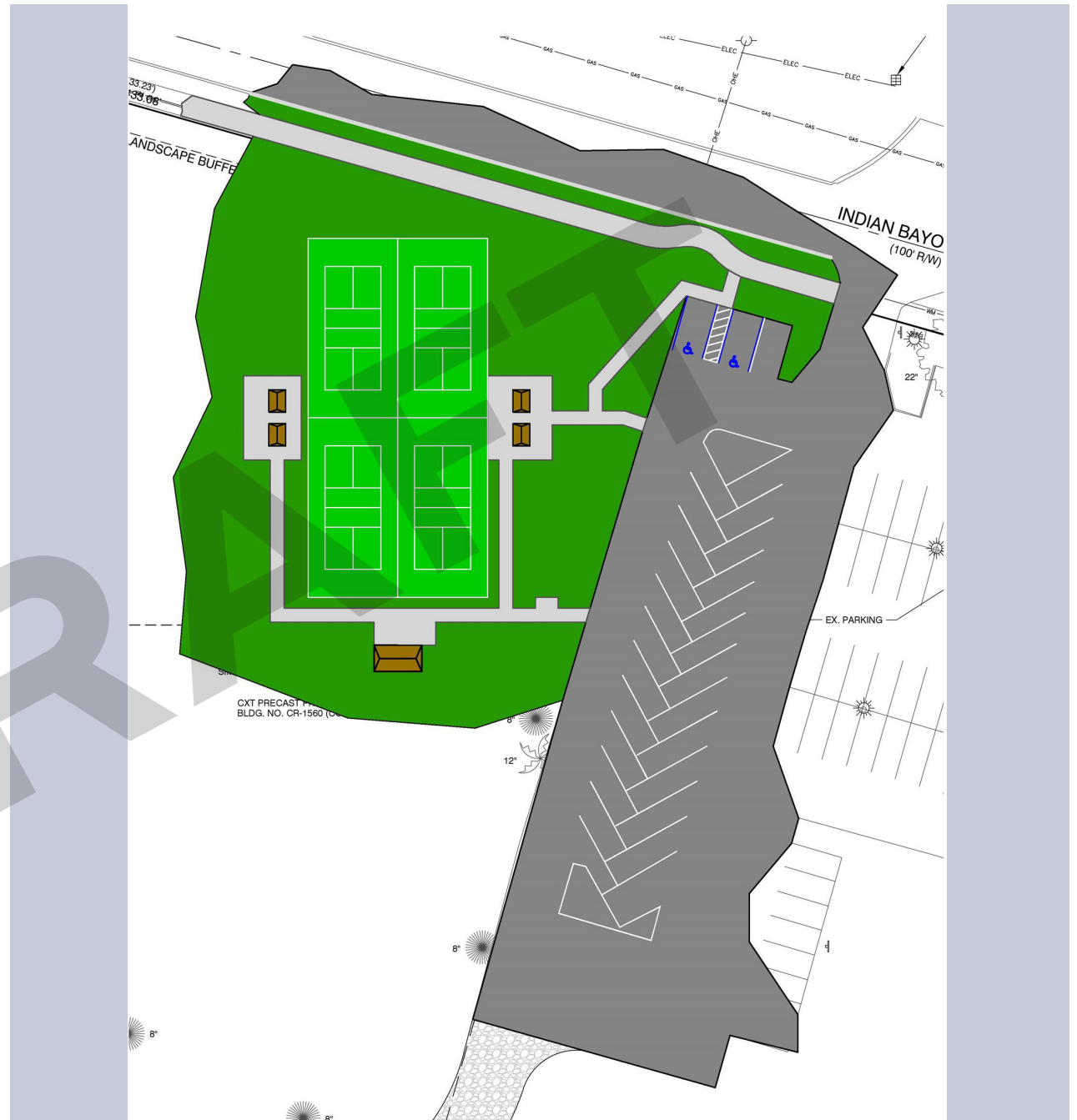
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PICKLEBALL PROJECT

Overview

The design for the development of Pickleball Courts provides:

- four pickleball courts
- walkways and covered seating
- improved parking and vehicular flow



1.3 DEMOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

The purpose of the demographic context analysis is to establish an understanding of the existing population within the City of Destin, as well as the projected changes in the coming years. This population data helps identify potential recreation trends and needs. The analysis catalogs a range of factors that have implications for parks and recreation, including the city’s population, population density, age distribution, ethnicity and race, income, and housing characteristics. The City’s demographics are also compared to Okaloosa County and the state of Florida’s demographics.

1.3.1 POPULATION AND POPULATION CHANGE

The figure below compares the past, existing, and projected population and population growth of the City of Destin to Okaloosa County and the State of Florida.

1.3a Population and Growth

	2010*	2020*	2010-2020 % Change	2024^	2025^	2030^	2035^	2025-2035 % Change
Destin	12,305	13,931	13%	14,608	14,640	15,327	15,890	9%
Okaloosa County	180,822	211,668	17%	221,806	226,193	236,800	245,500	9%
Florida	18,801,310	21,538,187	15%	23,014,551	23,379,261	24,836,000	25,980,800	11%

* Source: US Decennial Census

^Source: University of Florida Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR)

As represented in the table, the City of Destin added approximately 1,600 new residents and experienced a population growth of 13 percent between the years 2010 and 2020. This growth rate was lower than the both the county and state.

Population Change Implications

In the last 5 years, it is estimated that the city added just over 700 residents, accounting for a small portion of the growth in the county.

Between 2025 and 2035, the City of Destin is projected to increase by an additional 1,200 residents, a growth of 9% and a continued rate below the overall growth of the state of Florida.

Given this continued growth, there may be a need for more park acreage, facilities, amenities, programs, and resources to maintain the quality of life that residents currently enjoy.

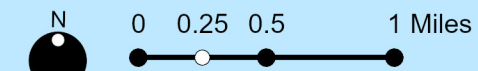
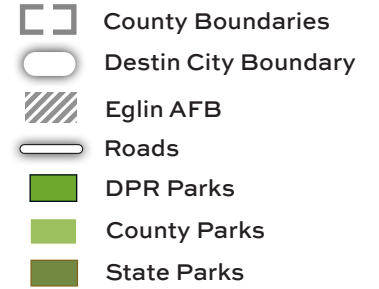
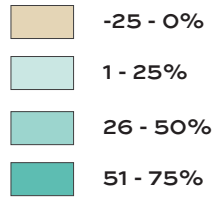
5.8%

9.8%

1.5%

Population Change | 2020 - 2025

Percent change per Census Tract



1.3.2 POPULATION DENSITY

Population density is an important factor to consider in parks and recreation system planning because it influences how residents enjoy parks and recreation services. Areas with higher population densities have more residents living in a defined geographic boundary. This typically creates increased demand for overall park land, along with more demand for specific recreation facilities, like ballfields, and programs.

Additionally, higher densities often indicate the presence of multi-unit structures versus single-family homes. Residents living in multi-unit structures typically rely more on public parks to provide basic, close-to-home recreational opportunities such as playgrounds, lawns to play catch, or dog parks for off-leash play. These are some of the basic, every-day recreational activities that a family living in a single-family home may enjoy in their backyard.

The figure below shows the major differences in population density between the City, County, and State. Throughout the years, the City of Destin has maintained a higher population density than the County and the State and is projected to continue that trend through 2030.

1.3b Population Density (Residents per land acre)

	2010*	2020*	2024^	2025^	2030^	2035^
Destin	2.5	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.2
Okaloosa County	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Florida	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8

* Source: US Decennial Census

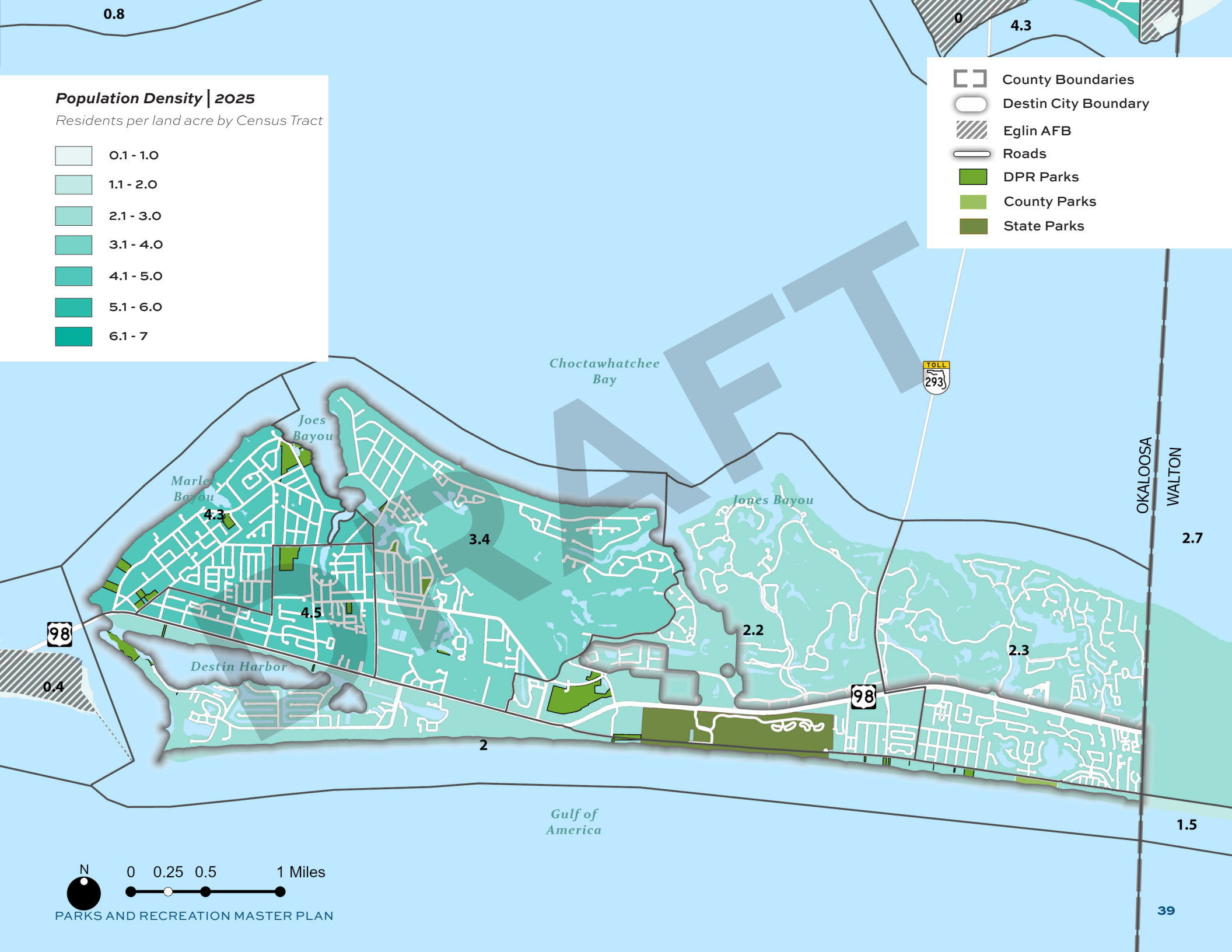
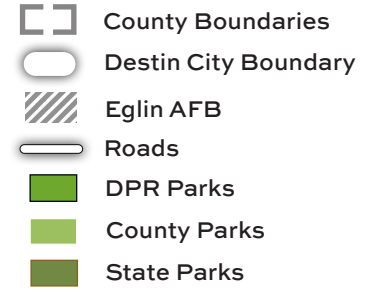
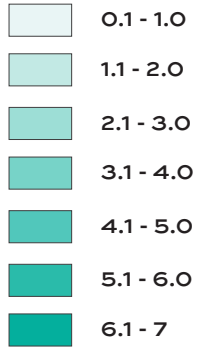
^Source: University of Florida Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR)

Population Density Implications

While the City has a higher population density than the County or State, the population density is still relatively low compared to major urban areas. Despite the concentration of multi-family housing around the Destin Harbor, the majority of the community is still comprised of single-family homes with moderately sized lots (~1/4 acre). These lots may address the everyday, close-to-home recreational needs of typical families such as access to a play space in the backyard, a lawn to play catch, a garden, or a confined space for a dog to run around without a leash. However, low population densities may also suggest a need for neighborhood and community gathering spaces with facilities and amenities that encourage social and physical interaction.

Population Density | 2025

Residents per land acre by Census Tract



1.3.3 AGE DISTRIBUTION

Although parks and recreation departments typically serve residents of all ages, the type of programs and recreation facilities that a department provides its residents are recommended to reflect the age distribution of the community's population. When feasible, adapting park facilities and programming to relate to the varying demographics across the city is considered a best practice.

Neighborhoods with a high concentration of residents ages 0-9 and 10-19 for example, have a higher need for youth activities such as before-school or after-school care programs and youth athletics. These communities may also require more playgrounds and athletic fields.

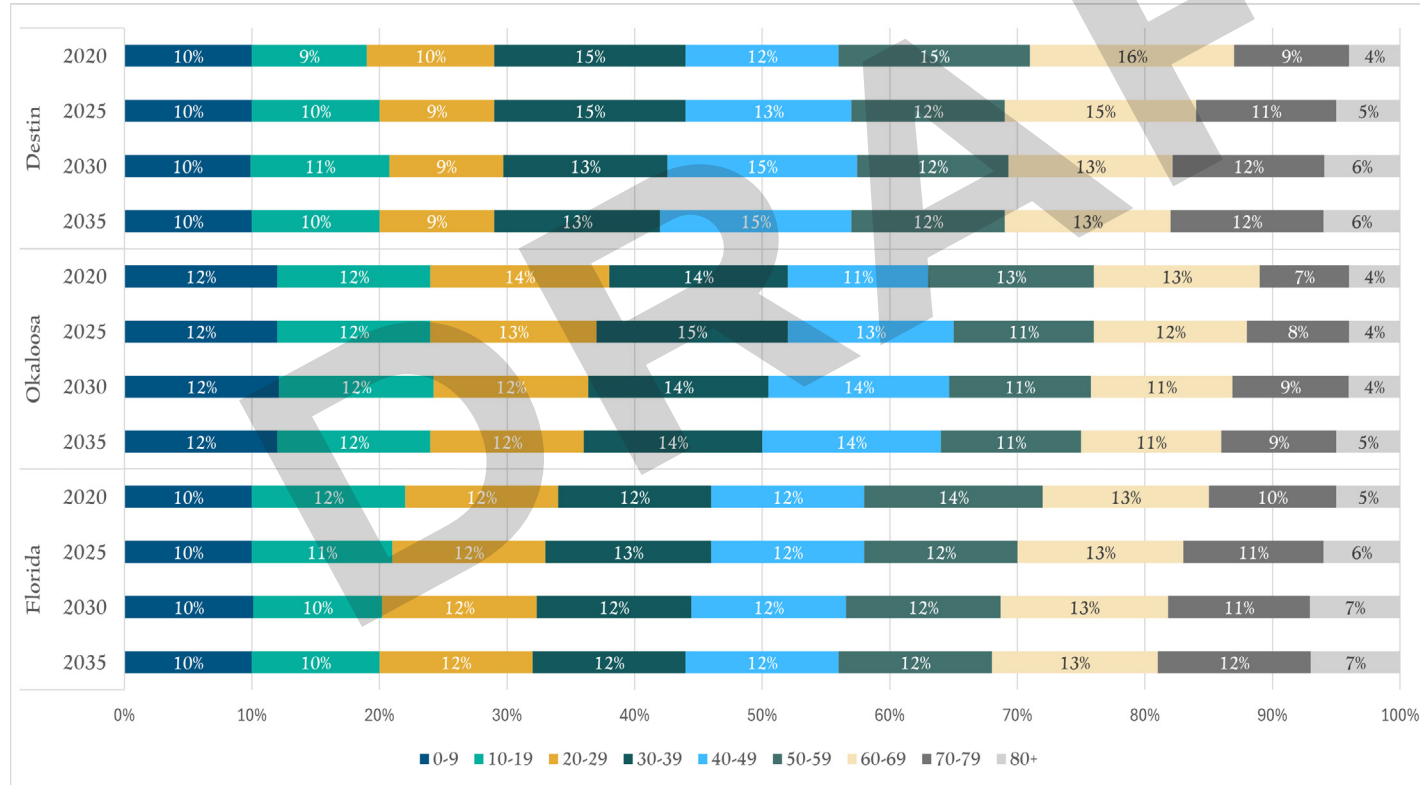
Communities with a high concentration of residents ages 65 and older on the other hand, may require more senior related activities, such as senior

leisure programs, health related services, senior center space, and transportation services to transport seniors from activity to activity.

Age distribution by nine age groups (0-9, 10-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79 and 80 and older) was analyzed for the City, County and State.

The figure below illustrates the age distribution in 2020, 2025, 2030 and 2035 for the City, County, and State. The data suggests that the City has a higher proportion of middle aged adults. The City has a slightly lower percentage of youth and young adults than the County or State. However, similar to the County and the State, the age distribution is experiencing an increase in adults over the age of 60 in 2025 versus 2020.

1.3c Age Distribution



* Source: US Decennial Census

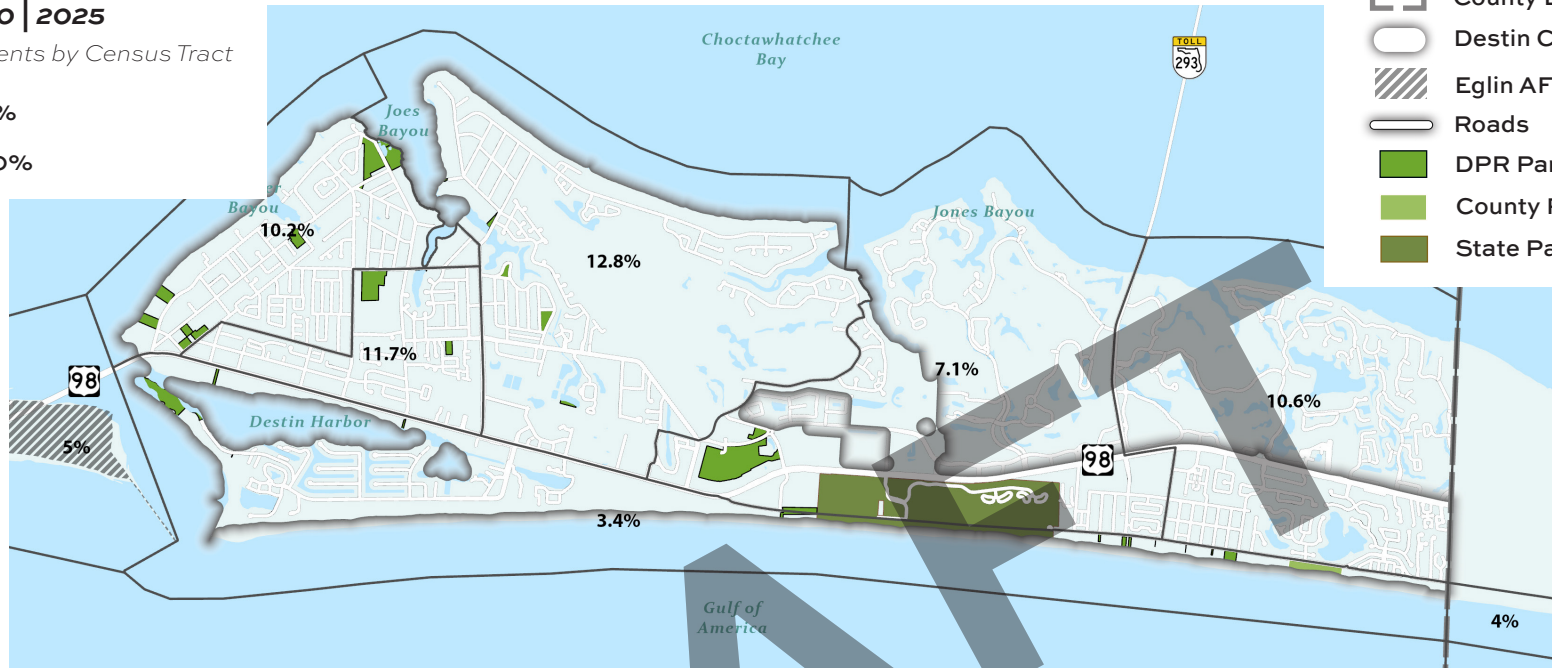
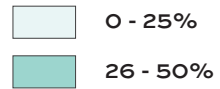
^Source: University of Florida Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR)

Age Distribution Implications

The City's relatively equal distribution across 10-year generations suggests a need for a diverse array of parks, recreation facilities, and programs. However, the gradually increasing population over 70, and its high degree of concentration in certain areas suggests a need to consider specific facilities and programs that serve this growing segment.

Age: Under 10 | 2025

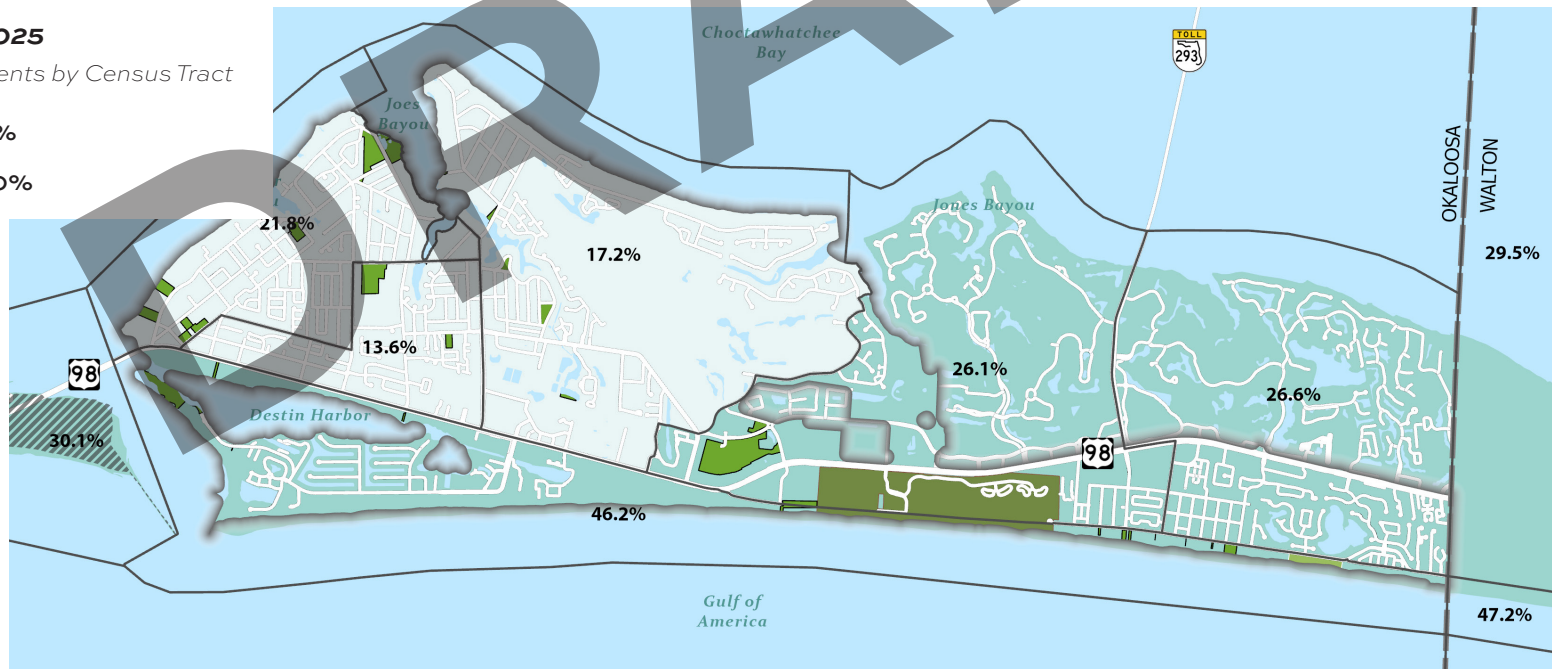
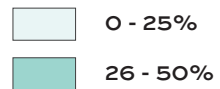
Percent Residents by Census Tract



- County Boundaries
- Destin City Boundary
- Eglin AFB
- Roads
- DPR Parks
- County Parks
- State Parks

Age: 65+ | 2025

Percent Residents by Census Tract

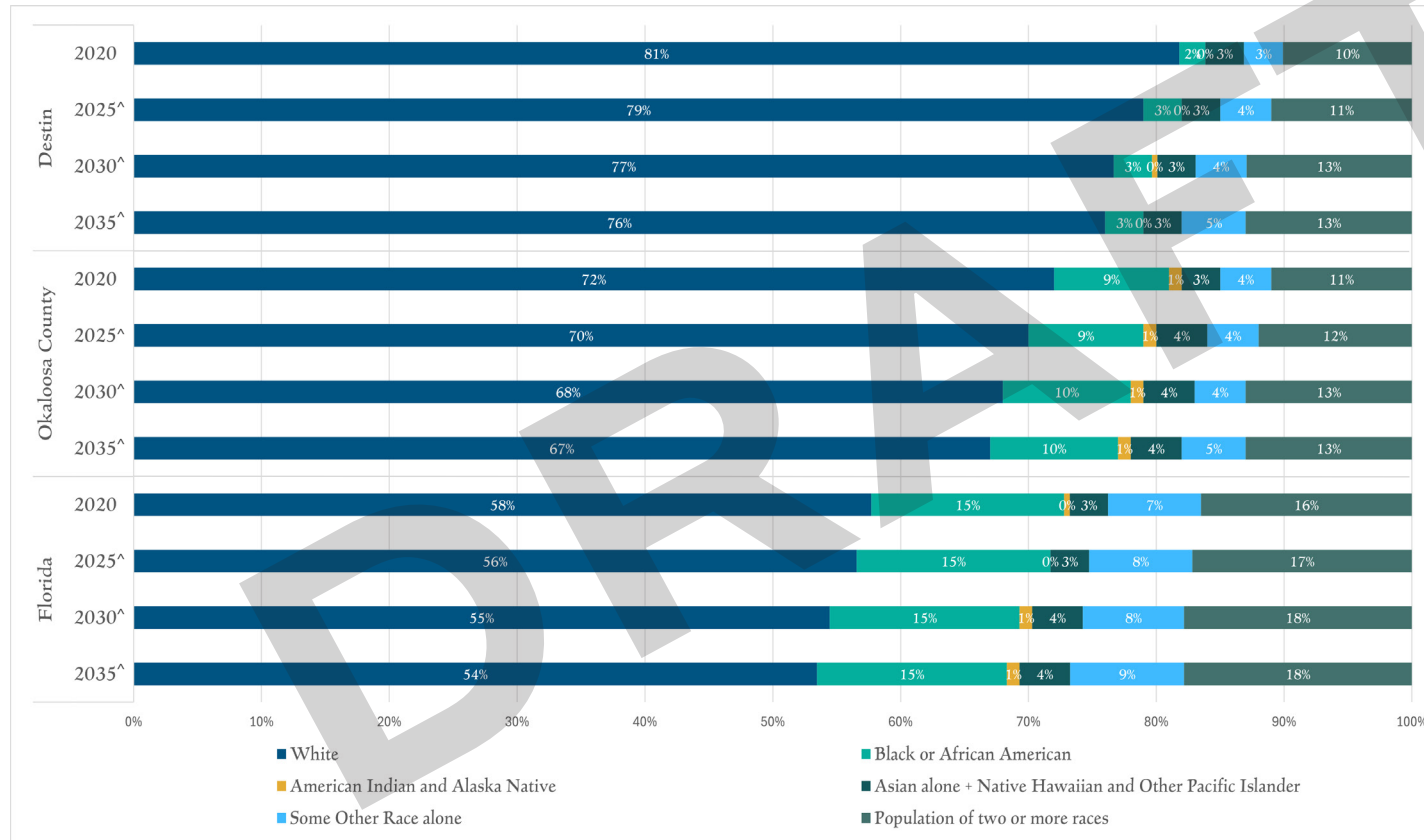


1.3.4 RACE + ETHNICITY

Race and ethnicity may be relevant indicators of recreation program and facility needs and desires, particularly worth considering if the racial makeup of a community is changing. Various academic studies have shown that individuals' preferences towards specific park settings, activities, or amenities can vary by racial category.

Additionally, Destin's diversity presents opportunities to celebrate and memorialize past and present figures and cultural keystones that make the city and its communities unique, with the potential for enriching community identity and character.

1.3d Race Distribution



* Source: US Census - American Community Survey 5-year estimates

^Source: ESRI

Race + Ethnicity Implications

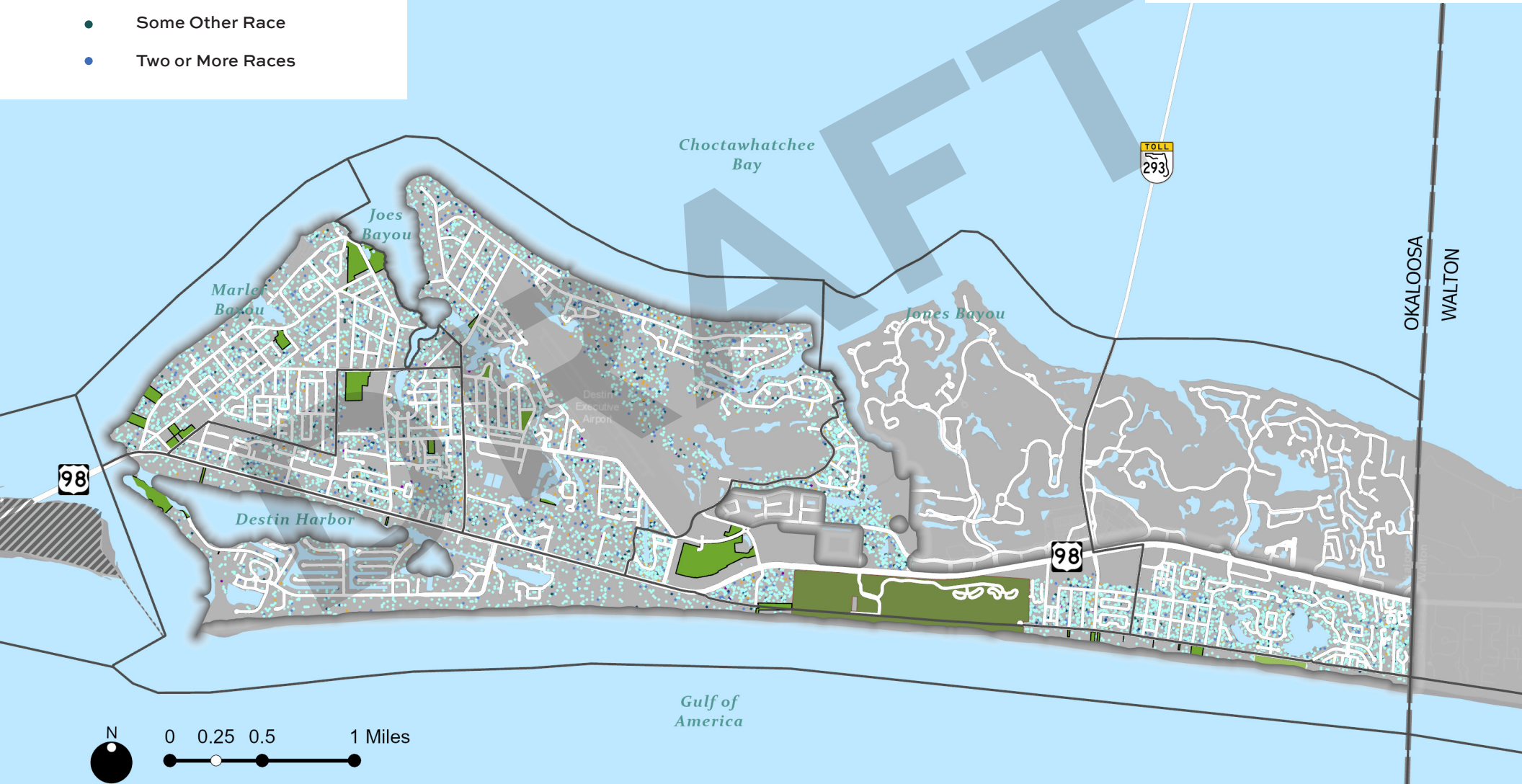
The City's moderate diversity suggests a need to continue seeking opportunities to provide a wide variety of programs and experiences that will appeal to residents of all backgrounds. Multi-lingual signage, multi-cultural events, and outreach to all communities can ensure a system that reflects the city.

Race | 2025

Each Dot Represents 2 Residents

- White
- Black/African American
- American Indian
- Asian + Pacific Islander
- Some Other Race
- Two or More Races

- County Boundaries
- Destin City Boundary
- Eglin AFB
- Roads
- DPR Parks
- County Parks
- State Parks

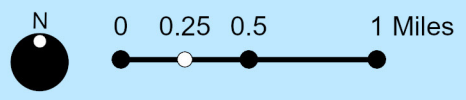
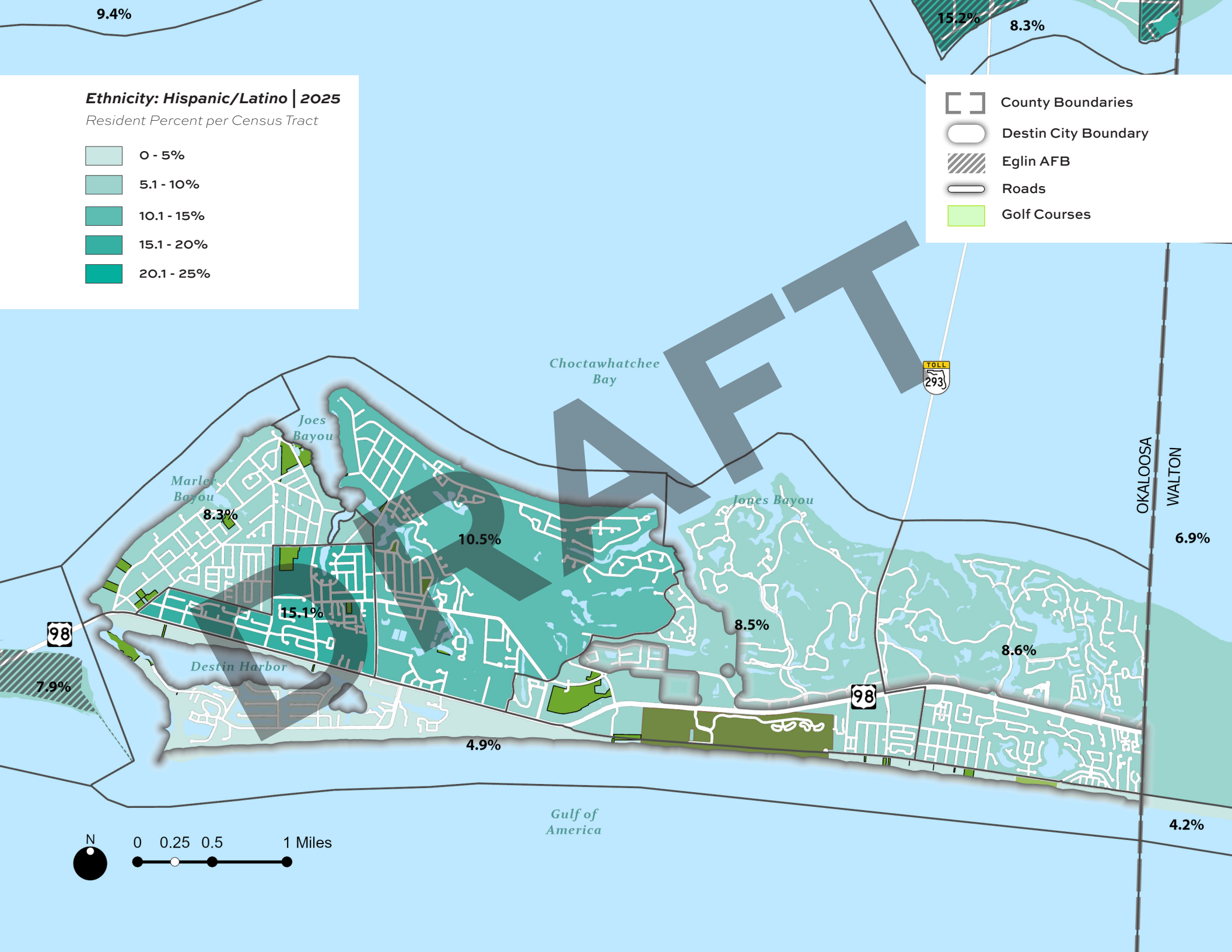
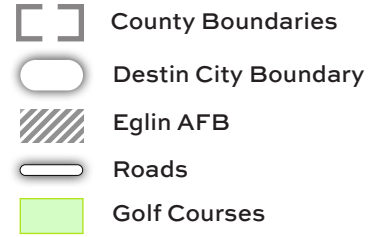
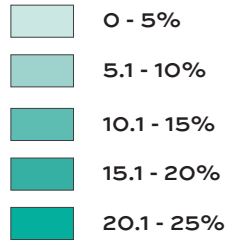


N

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Ethnicity: Hispanic/Latino | 2025

Resident Percent per Census Tract



DRAFT

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1.3.5 INCOME + POVERTY

Income levels provide a glimpse of the purchasing power of city residents. Simply stated, the higher the household income, the greater the potential that residents have disposable income to spend on fee-based leisure programs and activities. The lower the household income, the more residents may rely on local government to provide affordable and/or free parks, recreation, and social programs and services. This is particularly true for families living under the poverty threshold.

The figure below illustrates the median income and poverty rate in the City, County, and State as of 2020, 2025, 2030 and 2035.

1.3e Median Household Income and Poverty

	Median Household Income			Poverty	
	2020	2025	2030 [^]	2020	2025
Destin	\$81,468	\$99,397	\$112,193	9.6%	7.7%
Okaloosa County	\$64,373	\$87,748	\$99,646	10.7%	9.3%
Florida	\$57,703	\$78,205	\$89,997	13.3%	12.6%

Source: US Census - American Community Survey 5-year estimates

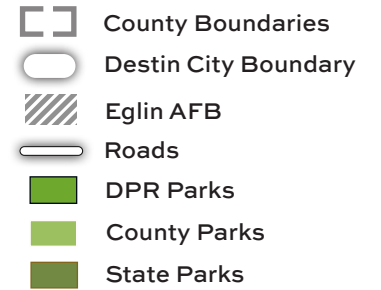
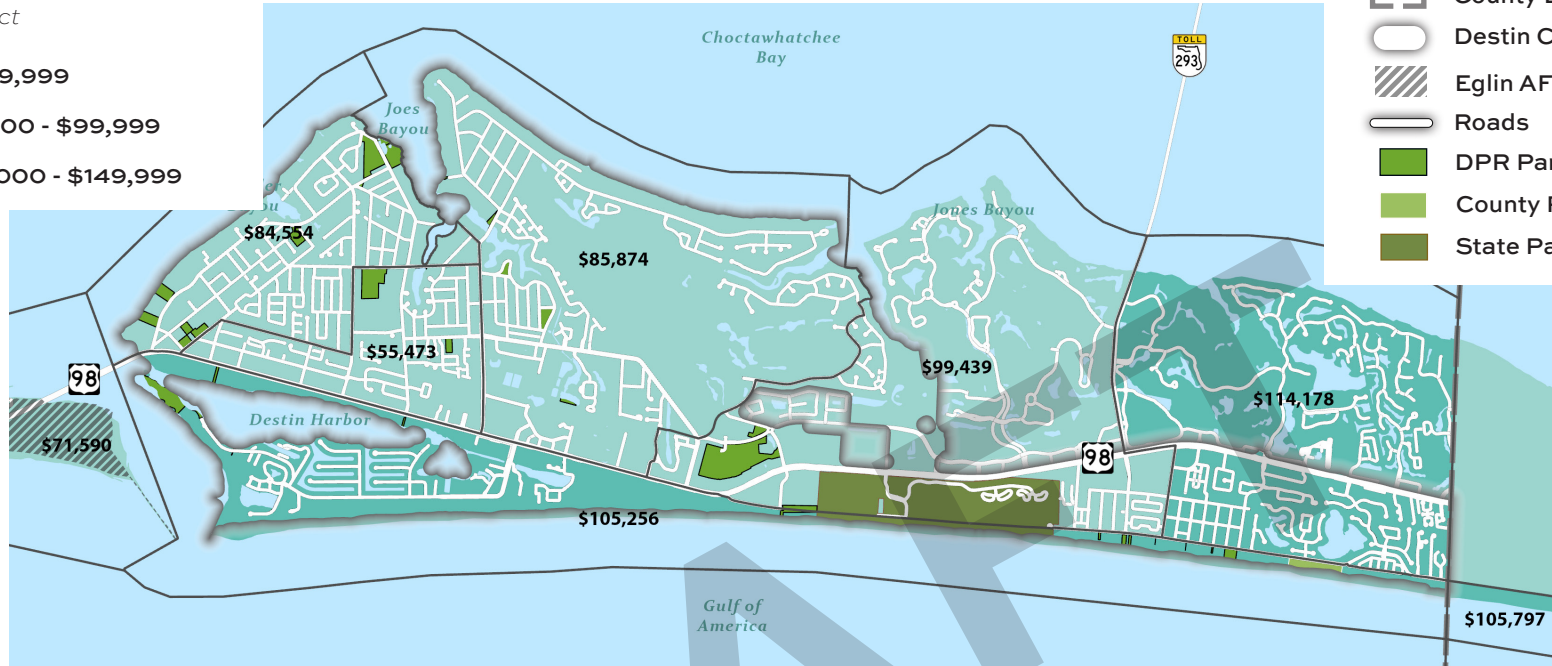
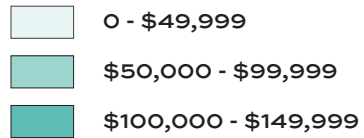
[^]Source: ESRI

Income + Poverty Implications

The positive trends in household income and poverty level at all geographies are notable, and in particular given that the city is outperforming the county and state. It will be critical to identify the populations that are not experiencing the positive trends and consider ways that the parks system may support them, whether through reduced fees based on income level or programs that provide continuing education or workforce development.

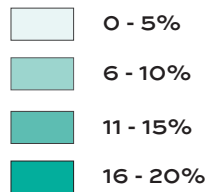
Median Household Income | 2025

By Census Tract



Poverty | 2025

Percent Residents by Census Tract



1.3.6 RECREATION TRENDS ANALYSIS

The City of Destin Parks & Recreation Department is recognized for its unique blend of beachfront recreation and traditional community park services. The department manages more than 30 parks and facilities, including playgrounds, trails, dog parks, athletic fields, and waterfront parks such as Clement Taylor Park and Morgan Sports Center. It is known for providing sports fields for tournaments that draw people in to the community for economic impact. Visitors enjoy Destin’s white-sand beaches with beach access points and boating and fishing. Locally residents seek out parks and boat ramps that reflect the city’s identity as the “World’s Luckiest Fishing Village.”

In addition to outdoor spaces, the Destin Community Center serves as a hub for youth programs, adult leagues, senior activities, and cultural events. The department also organizes popular community festivals and holiday celebrations, including the Fall Festival, Easter Egg Hunt, Holiday Craft Show, and Christmas Tree Lighting. What makes Destin Parks & Recreation distinct is its ability to balance services for residents with the demands of a major tourist destination, offering both locals and visitors a wide range of recreational, cultural, and coastal experiences.

The purpose of this analysis is to help the Parks and Recreation Department (“Department”) better understand which types of parks, facilities, and programs are best suited to meet the needs of residents by identifying key recreation market trends. The Recreational Trends Analysis evaluates both national and local patterns in recreation participation to gain insight into the preferences of the community. These findings provide a foundation for prioritizing investments in parks, trails, facilities, and programs, ensuring that resources are directed toward opportunities with the greatest impact. In doing so, the Department can introduce new programming while carefully managing staff capacity and maintaining overall organizational efficiency.

Recreational Trends Analysis

The Trends Analysis provides an understanding of local, regional and national recreation trends as well recreational interest by age segments. Trends data used for this analysis was obtained from Sports & Fitness Industry Association’s (SFIA), National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), and Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI). All trend data is based on current and/or historical participation rates, statistically valid survey results, or NRPA Park Metrics.

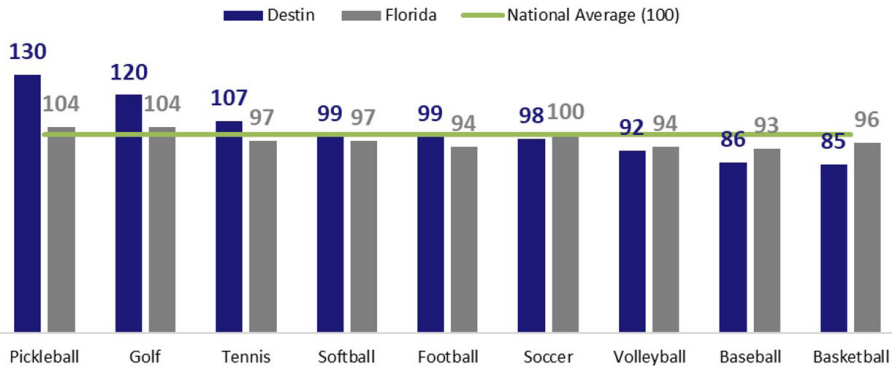


Local Sport and Leisure Market Potential

The following charts show sport and leisure market potential data for Destin residents, as provided by ESRI. Market Potential Index (MPI) measures the probable demand for a product or service within the defined service areas. The MPI shows the likelihood that an adult resident will participate in certain activities when compared to the U.S. national average. The national average is 100; therefore, numbers below 100 would represent lower-than-average participation rates, and numbers above 100 would represent higher-than-average participation rates. The service area is compared to the national average in four (4) categories – general sports, fitness, outdoor activity, and commercial recreation.

It should be noted that MPI metrics are only one data point used to help determine community trends; thus, programmatic decisions should not be based solely on MPI metrics.

DESTIN GENERAL SPORTS MPI



Overall, when analyzing Destin’s MPIs, the data demonstrates high potential in specific activities. For example, Freshwater Fishing (134) and Saltwater Fishing (126) scored above the state and national averages, while also outperforming all of their counterparts across all categories according to the analysis. Something to note about Destin’s MPI scores is that there are several activities above the national average, with 18 of the measured 47 activities scoring 100 or higher. This becomes significant when the City considers planning new programs or building new facilities, giving them a specific tool to estimate resident attendance and participation.

The following charts compare MPI scores for 47 sport and leisure activities that are prevalent for residents within the City. The activities are categorized by activity type and listed in descending order, from highest to lowest MPI score. High index numbers (100+) are significant because they demonstrate that there is a greater likelihood that residents within the service area will actively participate in those offerings provided by the City.

General Sports Market Potential

The General Sports MPI¹⁷ illustrates how residents of Destin compares to both the state of Florida and the national average (set at 100) in their likelihood to participate in a range of general sports activities. Overall, Destin residents demonstrate a notably higher interest in most sports, particularly pickleball (MPI 130) and golf (MPI 120), both well above state and national averages—indicating strong local participation and continued growth potential for these activities. Tennis (107) and softball/football (99 each) are also at or near average, suggesting moderate but consistent engagement. Sports such as soccer (98) and volleyball (92) hover slightly below the national benchmark but remain active

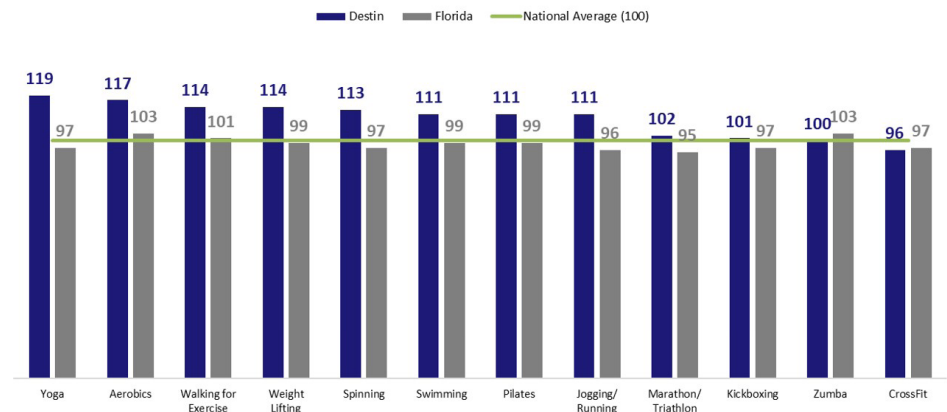
components of the community’s recreation mix. Soccer may see an increase in MPI in 2026 with the Americas hosting FIFA World Cup.

In contrast, baseball (86) and basketball (85) rank below both Florida and national participation levels, suggesting these are less dominant in local sports culture. Overall, the data highlights a strong preference for individual and lifelong sports (pickleball, golf, tennis) over team-based field or court sports, which can help guide facility investment, programming priorities, and league offerings in Destin’s parks and recreation planning.

Fitness Market Potential

The Fitness MPI chart highlights that residents of Destin demonstrate participation levels above both state and national averages in nearly all fitness activities, emphasizing a highly active and health-conscious community. The strongest engagement is seen in yoga (MPI 119) and aerobics (MPI 117), indicating a strong interest in wellness-oriented and group fitness formats. Activities such as walking for exercise, weight lifting, spinning, swimming, and Pilates (MPI 111–114) also show higher-than-average participation, reflecting balanced engagement across both traditional and low-impact fitness types. Even endurance-based activities like jogging/running (111) and marathon/triathlon (102) exceed national trends, suggesting a culture that values outdoor and performance-based exercise. Only CrossFit (96) and Zumba (100) align near the national average, implying slightly lower but still healthy participation. Overall, Destin’s fitness landscape reflects a diverse and motivated population that prioritizes wellness, with opportunities to further expand mind-body, aquatic, and strength training programs to meet strong local demand.

DESTIN FITNESS MPI

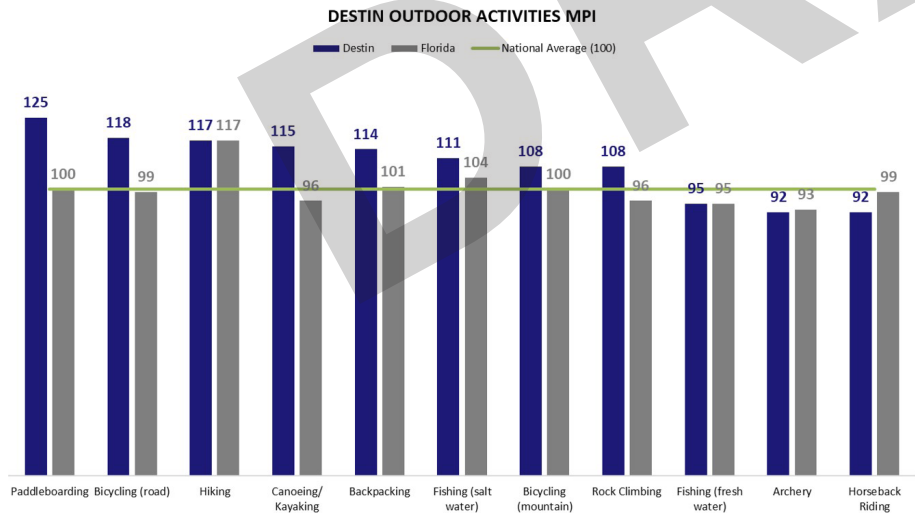


Outdoor Activity Market Potential

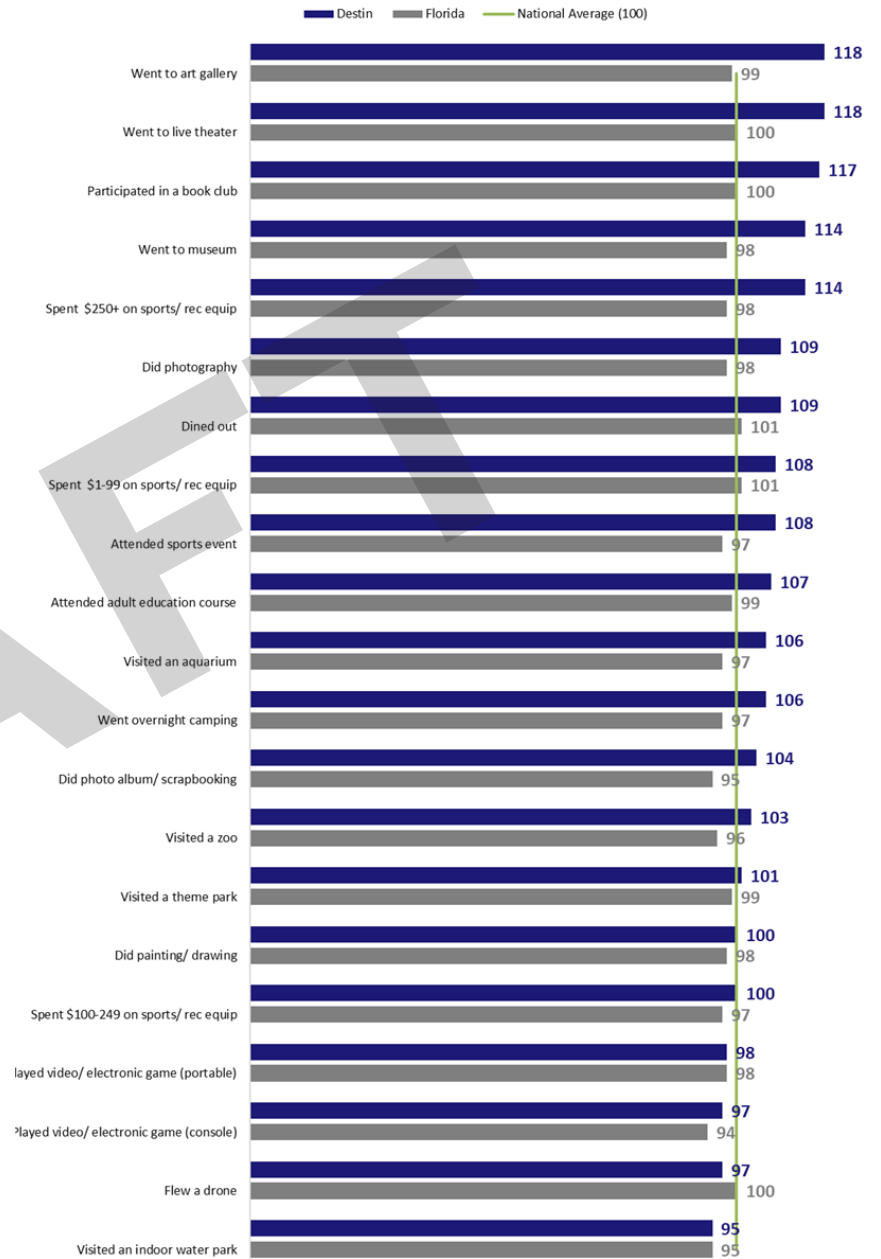
The Outdoor Activities MPI chart indicates that residents of Destin are highly engaged in outdoor recreation, with participation rates exceeding both state and national averages across nearly all activities. The most popular pursuits are paddleboarding (MPI 125) and bicycling (road) (118), which reflect the community’s strong connection to coastal and active-lifestyle recreation opportunities. Hiking (117), canoeing/kayaking (115), and backpacking (114) also rank well above the national average, highlighting a broad interest in nature-based adventure activities. Water-related recreation such as saltwater fishing (111) remains a local strength, aligning with Destin’s coastal identity as “The World’s Luckiest Fishing Village.” Other activities, including mountain biking (108) and rock climbing (108), demonstrate growing interest in more specialized outdoor sports, even if terrain or facilities may be limited regionally. While freshwater fishing (95), archery (92), and horseback riding (92) fall slightly below average, overall participation levels remain strong. Collectively, the data underscores Destin’s reputation as an outdoor-oriented community, with opportunities to expand paddlesports, trail-based recreation, and nature tourism to meet and sustain resident and visitor demand.

Commercial Recreation Market Potential

The Commercial Recreation MPI chart for the City of Destin reveals that residents exhibit high engagement in arts, cultural, and lifestyle-oriented activities, outperforming both Florida and national averages in nearly every category.



COMMERCIAL RECREATION MPI



The strongest participation is seen in visiting art galleries (MPI 118), attending live theater (118), and participating in book clubs (117). These are signaling a well-educated, culturally curious population with an appetite for social and creative experiences. Similarly, museum visits (114) and spending on sports and recreation equipment (\$250+; 114) indicate both cultural interest and an investment in active lifestyles. Activities such as photography (109), dining out (109), and attending sports events (108) further highlight Destin’s vibrant leisure economy and the community’s willingness to spend on quality experiences. Even traditional activities like camping (106), visiting aquariums (106), and theme park visits (101) remain above average, reinforcing a balanced mix of recreation preferences. Overall, Destin’s commercial recreation profile underscores a diverse and experience-driven community, where arts, culture, outdoor leisure, and recreation spending collectively support a robust local tourism and entertainment-type economy.

1.3.7 NATIONAL TRENDS IN RECREATION

Methodology

The Sports & Fitness Industry Association’s (SFIA) Sports, Fitness & Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report 2025 was utilized in evaluating the following trends:

- National Recreation Participatory Trends
- Core vs. Casual Participation Trends

The study is based on findings from surveys conducted in 2024 by the Sports Marketing Surveys USA (SMS), resulting in a total of 18,000 online interviews. Surveys were administered to all genders, ages, income levels, regions, and ethnicities to allow for statistical accuracy of the national population. A sample size of 18,000 completed interviews is considered by SFIA to result in a high degree of statistical accuracy. A sport with a participation rate of five percent has a confidence interval of plus or minus 0.32 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level. Using a weighting technique, survey results are applied to the total U.S. population figure of 308,888,845 people (ages six and older).

The purpose of the report is to establish levels of activity and identify key participatory trends in recreation across the U.S. This study looked at 124 different sports/activities and subdivided them into various categories including: sports, fitness, outdoor activities, aquatics, etc.

Overall Participation

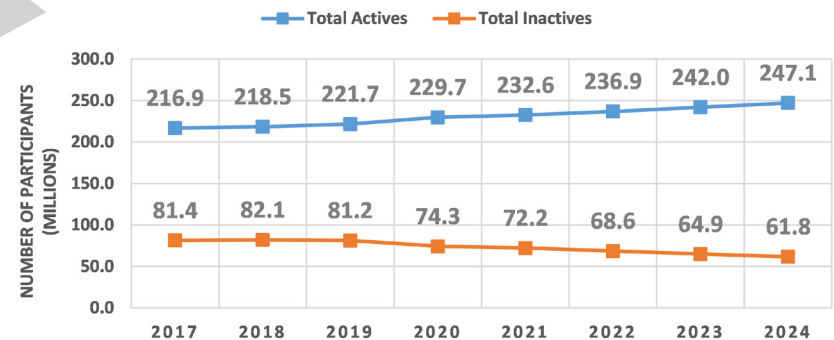
Approximately 247 million people ages six and over reported being active in 2024, which is a 2.1% increase from 2023 and the greatest number of active Americans since SFIA started reporting. This continues to be an indicator that Americans are continuing to make physical activity a priority in their lives. SFIA reported an increase in participation rates across all tracked categories from 2023 to 2024.

Racquet sports exhibited the highest growth with a 9.4% increase over one year, followed by team sports, which grew by 8.1% during the same period. The chart below depicts participation levels for active and inactive (those who engage in no physical activity) Americans over the past 6 years.

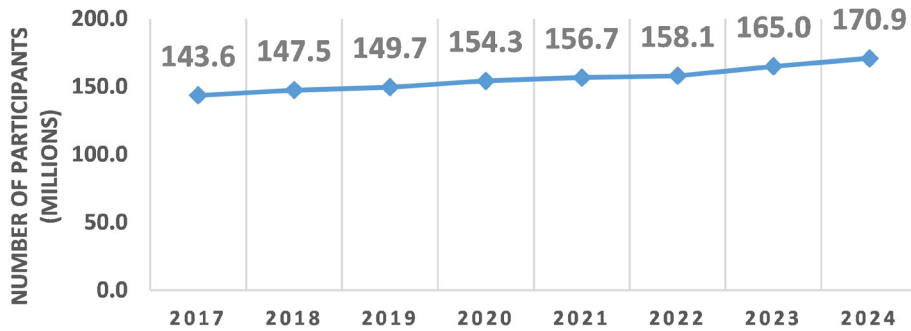
Core vs. Casual Participation

In addition to overall participation rates, SFIA further categorizes active participants as either core or casual participants based on frequency of participation. Core participants have higher

ACTIVITY AND INACTIVITY TREND



TOTAL CORE ACTIVES



participatory frequency than casual participants. The thresholds that define casual versus core participation may vary based on the nature of each individual activity. For instance, core participants engage in most fitness activities more than fifty times per year, while for sports, the threshold for core participation is typically 13 times per year.

In each activity, core participants are more committed and tend to be less likely to switch to other activities or become inactive (engage in no physical activity) than casual participants. This may also explain why activities with more core participants tend to experience less pattern shifts in participation rates than those with larger groups of casual participants. Increasing for the seventh straight year, 170.9 million people were considered CORE participants in 2024.

Participation By Generation

The chart below provides an overview of the 2024 participation rates across different generations. Fitness sports remain the preferred method of exercise for Boomers, Gen X, Millennials, and Gen Z. More than half of Gen X, Millennials, and Gen Z engaged in at least one type of outdoor activity. Team sports were predominantly popular among Gen Z, while nearly a third of Gen X participated in individual sports such as golf, trail running, triathlons, and bowling.

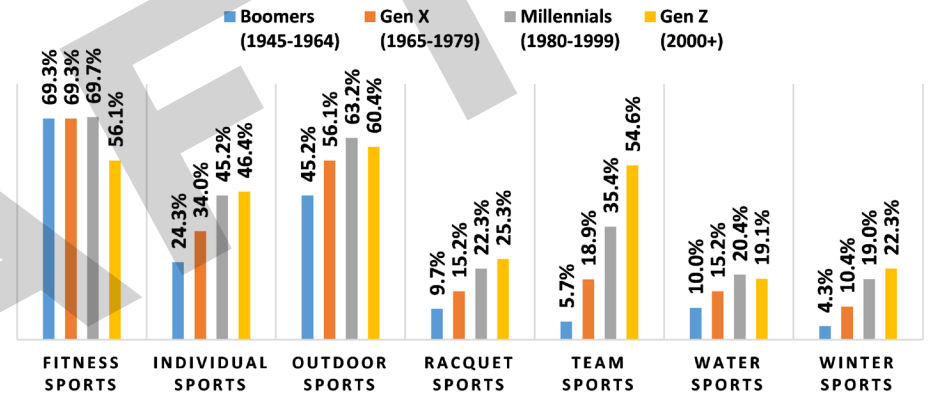
Highlights

Pickleball continues to be the fastest growing sport in America by reaching 19.8 million participants in 2024 which is a 473% growth since 2019. The growth of pickleball participants (19.8 million) has surpassed the size of outdoor soccer participants (14.4 million) and baseball participants (17.2 million). Following the popularity of pickleball, every racquet sport except badminton and cardio tennis has also increased in total participation in 2024.

Team sports continued to grow, with 20 out of 24 seeing higher participation from 2023 to 2024. Wrestling had the biggest rise at 8.6%. The sports featured in the 2024 Paris Olympics, such as basketball, gymnastics, swimming, track and field, skateboarding, volleyball, and wrestling, have seen substantial increases in participation. This trend highlights the impact and widespread appeal of the Olympic Games.

Class-based activities have reported their highest levels of engagement since the pandemic, with nearly all such activities demonstrating significant increases in participation. Notable growth was observed in aquatic exercise, boot camp-style training, cardio kickboxing, cross-training style workouts, barre, Pilates, tai chi, and yoga.

2024 PARTICIPATION BY GENERATION



1.3.8 NATIONAL TRENDS IN GENERAL SPORTS

Participation Levels

The most participated sports in the United States are basketball (31.9 million), golf (28.0 million), and tennis (25.7 million). Pickleball (19.8 million) and playing golf at an entertainment venue (19.1 million) complete the top five.

The popularity of basketball, golf, and tennis can be attributed to their ability to be played with a small number of participants. This, combined with the possibility of being played outdoors or with proper distancing, explains their increased popularity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Basketball’s overall success is also due to the minimal equipment required and the limited space needed for participation, making it the only traditional sport that can be played as a driveway pickup game at most American residences. Golf benefits from its appeal across a wide age segment and is considered a lifelong sport. Additionally, there has been a significant increase (93%) in target-type game venues or golf entertainment venues over the past five years, with golf entertainment options (e.g., Top Golf) providing a new alternative to rejuvenate interest in the game.

Five-Year Trend

Since 2019, pickleball (472.5%), golf - entertainment venues (93.3%), and tennis (45.6%) have increased in participation. Additionally, basketball (28.2%), outdoor soccer (21.5%) and tackle football (18.6%) have grown in participation. According to the five-year trend from 2019-2024, the sports that are declining in participation include roller hockey (-28.6%), rugby (-20.8%), and ultimate frisbee (-10.6%).

One-Year Trend

In the past year, sports such as pickleball (45.8%), wrestling (8.6%), and tennis (8.0%) have experienced significant increases in participation. Other notable one-year increases include tackle football (7.8%), flag football (7.7%), and fast-pitch softball (7.6%).

Sports such as slow-pitch softball (5.6%) and sand/beach volleyball (3.9%) have seen moderate increases over the past year but have experienced decreases over a five-year period. This trend may be associated with the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the resurgence of team program participation. Meanwhile, sports like roller hockey, rugby, ultimate frisbee, and lacrosse have continued to face declines in participation both over the past year and across five years.



BASKETBALL
31.9 MILLION



GOLF
28.0 MILLION



TENNIS
25.7 MILLION



PICKLEBALL
19.8 MILLION



GOLF VENUE
19.1 MILLION

National Participatory Trends - General Sports					
Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2019	2023	2024	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Basketball	24,917	29,725	31,947	28.2%	7.5%
Golf (9 or 18-Hole Course)	24,271	26,565	28,097	15.8%	5.8%
Tennis	17,684	23,835	25,742	45.6%	8.0%
Pickleball	3,460	13,582	19,807	472.5%	45.8%
Golf (Entertainment Venue)	9,905	18,464	19,144	93.3%	3.7%
Baseball	15,804	16,655	17,282	9.4%	3.8%
Soccer (Outdoor)	11,913	14,074	14,473	21.5%	2.8%
Football (Flag)	6,783	7,266	7,825	15.4%	7.7%
Volleyball (Court)	6,487	6,905	7,365	13.5%	6.7%
Softball (Slow Pitch)	7,071	6,356	6,714	-5.0%	5.6%
Badminton	6,095	6,513	6,247	2.5%	-4.1%
Football (Tackle)	5,107	5,618	6,055	18.6%	7.8%
Soccer (Indoor)	5,336	5,909	5,956	11.6%	0.8%
Football (Touch)	5,171	4,949	5,178	0.1%	4.6%
Gymnastics	4,699	4,758	5,108	8.7%	7.4%
Track and Field	4,139	3,905	4,195	1.4%	7.4%
Volleyball (Sand/Beach)	4,400	3,917	4,070	-7.5%	3.9%
Cheerleading	3,752	3,797	3,918	4.4%	3.2%
Racquetball	3,453	3,550	3,637	5.3%	2.5%
Ice Hockey	2,357	2,496	2,658	12.8%	6.5%
Softball (Fast Pitch)	2,242	2,323	2,499	11.5%	7.6%
Wrestling	1,944	2,121	2,303	18.5%	8.6%
Ultimate Frisbee	2,290	2,086	2,047	-10.6%	-1.9%
Lacrosse	2,115	1,979	1,922	-9.1%	-2.9%
Squash	1,222	1,315	1,399	14.5%	6.4%
Roller Hockey	1,616	1,237	1,154	-28.6%	-6.7%
Rugby	1,392	1,112	1,102	-20.8%	-0.9%

NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over

Participation Growth/Decline:	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)
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Core Vs. Casual Trends In General Sports

General sport activities, basketball, court volleyball, baseball and slow pitch softball have a larger core participant base (participate 13+ times per year) than casual participant base (participate 1-12 times per year). Since the pandemic, core participants are slowly reaching their pre-pandemic levels. Please see Appendix A for the full Core vs. Casual Participation breakdown.

1.3.9 NATIONAL TRENDS IN GENERAL FITNESS

Participation Levels

The national participatory trends in fitness have shown significant growth in recent years. These activities have gained popularity due to an increased interest among Americans in improving their health and enhancing their quality of life through active lifestyles. In 2024, general fitness activities that were adaptable to various environments, such as at home, in a gym, or through virtual classes, were the most popular. The activities with the most participation were walking for fitness (115.2 million), treadmill (56.8 million), free weights (56.2 million), running/jogging (51.0 million), and yoga (37.6 million).

Five-Year Trend

Over the last five years (2018-2023), the activities growing at the highest rate were trail running (46.9%), Pilates training (39.4%), yoga (23.6%) and barre (19.1%). Over the same period, the activities that have undergone the biggest decline in participation include group stationary cycling (-33.5%), cross-training style workout (-28.7%) and cardio kickboxing (-19.5%).

One-Year Trend

In the last year, nearly every fitness activity listed saw an increase in participation. Fitness activities with the largest gains in participation were group-related, slow, intentional movements activities, yoga (9.9%), and Pilates training (8.7%). Trail running (8.5%) also saw a moderate increase indicating trail connectivity continues to be important for communities to provide. In the same span, fitness activities that had the largest decline in participation were bodyweight exercise (-2.8%), elliptical motion/cross-trainer (-1.5%) and high impact/intensity training (-0.5%).

Core vs. Casual Trends In General Fitness

Participants of walking for fitness are mostly core users (participating 50+ times) and have seen a 1.5% growth in the last five years. Please see Appendix A for the full core vs. casual participation breakdown.



WALKING FOR FITNESS
115.2 MILLION



TREADMILL
56.8 MILLION



FREE WEIGHTS
56.2 MILLION



RUNNING/ JOGGING
51.0 MILLION



YOGA
37.6 MILLION

National Participatory Trends - General Fitness					
Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2019	2023	2024	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Walking for Fitness	111,439	114,039	115,261	3.4%	1.1%
Treadmill	56,823	54,829	56,843	0.0%	3.7%
Free Weights (Dumbbells/Hand Weights)	51,450	53,858	56,253	9.3%	4.4%
Running/jogging	50,052	48,305	51,052	2.0%	5.7%
Yoga	30,456	34,249	37,636	23.6%	9.9%
Stationary Cycling (Recumbent/Upright)	37,085	32,628	33,657	-9.2%	3.2%
Weight/Resistant Machines	36,181	29,426	30,850	-14.7%	4.8%
Free Weights (Barbells)	28,379	29,333	30,550	7.7%	4.1%
Dance, Step, & Choreographed Exercise	23,957	26,241	27,058	12.9%	3.1%
Elliptical Motion/Cross-Trainer	33,056	27,062	26,665	-19.3%	-1.5%
Bodyweight Exercise	23,504	22,578	21,949	-6.6%	-2.8%
High Impact/Intensity Training	22,044	21,801	21,683	-1.6%	-0.5%
Trail Running	10,997	14,885	16,154	46.9%	8.5%
Rowing Machine	12,809	12,775	12,933	1.0%	1.2%
Pilates Training	9,243	11,862	12,889	39.4%	8.7%
Stair Climbing Machine	15,359	12,605	12,668	-17.5%	0.5%
Cross-Training Style Workout	13,542	9,404	9,655	-28.7%	2.7%
Boxing/MMA for Fitness	8,638	8,378	8,911	3.2%	6.4%
Martial Arts	6,068	6,610	6,938	14.3%	5.0%
Stationary Cycling (Group)	9,930	6,227	6,600	-33.5%	6.0%
Boot Camp Style Cross-Training	6,830	5,434	5,699	-16.6%	4.9%
Cardio Kickboxing	7,026	5,524	5,654	-19.5%	2.4%
Barre	3,665	4,294	4,365	19.1%	1.7%
Tai Chi	3,793	3,948	4,162	9.7%	5.4%
Triathlon (Traditional/Road)	2,001	1,738	1,732	-13.4%	-0.3%
Triathlon (Non-Traditional/Off Road)	1,472	1,363	1,372	-6.8%	0.7%

NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over

Participation Growth/Decline:	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)
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1.3.10 NATIONAL TRENDS IN OUTDOOR/ADVENTURE RECREATION

Participation Levels

Results from the SFIA report demonstrate rapid growth in participation regarding outdoor/adventure recreation activities. Similar to general fitness activities, these activities encourage an active lifestyle, can be performed individually, and are not as limited by time constraints. In 2024, the most popular activities, in terms of total participants include day hiking (63.4 million), freshwater fishing (43.1 million), road bicycling (42.4 million), camping (40.2 million), and wildlife viewing (21.8 million).

Five-Year Trend

From 2019-2024, camping (42.8%), skateboarding (40.4%), birdwatching (32.3%), BMX bicycling (29.4%), and day hiking (27.6%) have undergone the largest increase in participation. The five-year trend also shows that only two activities declined in participation, adventure racing (-14.2) and backpacking overnight (-6.3%).

One-Year Trend

The one-year trend shows most activities had a moderate growth in participation. The highest growth being in-line roller skating (7.3%), BMX bicycling (5.8%), sport/boulder climbing (5.1%), and camping (4.3%). Activities that underwent decreases in participation were fly fishing (-1.6), indoor climbing (-1.6) and mountain biking (-0.5%).

Core vs. Casual Trends In Outdoor / Adventure Recreation

Although most outdoor activities have experienced participation growth in the last five years, it should be noted that all outdoor activities participation, besides adventure racing, consist primarily of casual users. Please see Appendix A for the full core vs. casual participation breakdown.



DAY HIKING
63.4 MILLION



FRESHWATER FISHING
43.1 MILLION



ROAD BICYCLING
42.4 MILLION



CAMPING
40.2 MILLION



WILDLIFE VIEWING
21.8 MILLION

National Participatory Trends - Outdoor / Adventure Recreation					
Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2019	2023	2024	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Hiking (Day)	49,697	61,444	63,430	27.6%	3.2%
Fishing (Freshwater)	39,185	42,605	43,185	10.2%	1.4%
Bicycling (Road)	39,388	42,243	42,470	7.8%	0.5%
Camping	28,183	38,572	40,244	42.8%	4.3%
Wildlife Viewing (>1/4 mile of Vehicle/Home)	20,040	21,118	21,899	9.3%	3.7%
Birdwatching (>1/4 mile of Vehicle/Home)	12,817	16,423	16,954	32.3%	3.2%
Camping (Recreational Vehicle)	15,426	16,497	16,460	6.7%	-0.2%
Fishing (Saltwater)	13,193	15,039	15,065	14.2%	0.2%
Backpacking Overnight	10,660	9,994	9,988	-6.3%	-0.1%
Skateboarding	6,610	8,923	9,280	40.4%	4.0%
Bicycling (Mountain)	8,622	9,289	9,241	7.2%	-0.5%
Fishing (Fly)	7,014	8,077	7,951	13.4%	-1.6%
Archery	7,449	7,662	7,787	4.5%	1.6%
Climbing (Indoor)	5,309	6,356	6,256	17.8%	-1.6%
Roller Skating, In-Line	4,816	5,201	5,581	15.9%	7.3%
Bicycling (BMX)	3,648	4,462	4,722	29.4%	5.8%
Climbing (Sport/Boulder)	2,183	2,544	2,674	22.5%	5.1%
Climbing (Traditional/Ice/Mountaineering)	2,400	2,569	2,577	7.4%	0.3%
Adventure Racing	2,143	1,808	1,839	-14.2%	1.7%

NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over

Participation Growth/Decline:	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)
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1.3.11 NATIONAL TRENDS IN AQUATICS

Participation Levels

Swimming is deemed a lifetime activity, which is why it continues to have such strong participation. In 2024, fitness swimming remained the overall leader in participation (29.4 million) amongst aquatic activities.



FITNESS SWIMMING
29.4 MILLION



AQUATIC EXERCISE
11.7 MILLION



SWIMMING ON A TEAM
3.4 MILLION

Five-Year Trend

Assessing the five-year trend, all three aquatic activities saw moderate increases in participation. Swimming on a team (22.8%) saw the highest percentage increase in participation.

One-Year Trend

In 2024, all aquatic activities saw moderate increases in participation which can be asserted to facilities and programs continuing to return to prepandemic levels.

Core vs. Casual Trends In Aquatics

All activities in aquatic trends have undergone an increase in casual participation (1-49 times per year) over the last five years. Please see Appendix A for full the core vs. casual participation breakdown.

National Participatory Trends - Aquatics					
Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2019	2023	2024	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Swimming (Fitness)	28,219	28,173	29,477	4.5%	4.6%
Aquatic Exercise	11,189	11,307	11,782	5.3%	4.2%
Swimming on a Team	2,822	3,327	3,465	22.8%	4.1%

NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over

Participation Growth/Decline:	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)
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1.3.12 NATIONAL TRENDS IN WATER SPORTS / ACTIVITIES

Participation Level

The most popular water sports / activities based on total participants in 2024 were recreational kayaking (15.1 million), canoeing (10.1 million), snorkeling (7.6 million), jet skiing (5.9 million) and stand-up paddling (4.4 million). It should be noted that water activity participation tends to vary based on regional, seasonal, and environmental factors. A region with more water access and a warmer climate is more likely to have a higher participation rate in water activities than a region that has a long winter season or limited water access. Therefore, when assessing trends in water sports and activities, it is important to understand that fluctuations may be the result of environmental barriers which can influence water activity participation.



RECREATIONAL KAYAKING
15.1 MILLION



CANOEING
10.1 MILLION



SNORKELING
7.6 MILLION



JET SKIING
5.9 MILLION



STAND-UP PADDLING
4.4 MILLION

Five-Year Trend

In the past five years, the fastest growing water activities have been surfing (42.7%), recreational kayaking (32.9%), stand-up paddling (23.6%), and rafting (23.5%). Notably, during this period, there were no activities that experienced a decline in participation.

One-Year Trend

In 2024, wakeboarding was the only activity that saw a decrease in participation by -1.2%. Activities with the largest increases in participation were stand-up paddling (6.6%), surfing (5.9%), and rafting (4.8%).

Core Vs. Casual Trends In Water Sports/Activities

As mentioned previously, regional, seasonal, and environmental limiting factors may influence the participation rate of water sports and activities. These factors may also explain why all water-based activities have drastically more casual participants than core participants, since frequencies of activities may be constrained by uncontrollable factors. Please see Appendix A for the full core vs. casual participation breakdown.

National Participatory Trends - Water Sports / Activities					
Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2019	2023	2024	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Kayaking (Recreational)	11,382	14,726	15,128	32.9%	2.7%
Canoeing	8,995	9,999	10,111	12.4%	1.1%
Snorkeling	7,659	7,489	7,696	0.5%	2.8%
Jet Skiing	5,108	5,759	5,978	17.0%	3.8%
Stand-Up Paddling	3,562	4,129	4,402	23.6%	6.6%
Rafting	3,438	4,050	4,245	23.5%	4.8%
Surfing	2,964	3,993	4,230	42.7%	5.9%
Sailing	3,618	4,100	4,226	16.8%	3.1%
Water Skiing	3,203	3,133	3,218	0.5%	2.7%
Scuba Diving	2,715	3,063	3,148	15.9%	2.8%
Kayaking (White Water)	2,583	2,995	3,075	19.0%	2.7%
Kayaking (Sea/Touring)	2,652	2,800	2,869	8.2%	2.5%
Wakeboarding	2,729	2,844	2,810	3.0%	-1.2%
Boardsailing/Windsurfing	1,405	1,434	1,476	5.1%	2.9%

NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over

Participation Growth/Decline:	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)	
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1.4 PARK SYSTEM CONTEXT

The Destin parks system context is analyzed here through three primary elements:

- Recreation Programs
- Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Department Operations and Facilities Maintenance

The following section provides an overview and assessment of each of these elements that will establish a foundation for recommendations in the Vision phase.



1.4.1 RECREATION PROGRAMS INTRODUCTION

The Destin Parks and Recreation Department’s (“DPRD”) Program Assessment is designed to help the City better understand how well its recreation programs and services are meeting the needs of the community today and how they can continue to improve in the future. This section looks at the types of recreation programs offered, who is served, and how resources are used to deliver those services. It also considers what residents value most and where new opportunities exist to expand or enhance offerings.

By reviewing data from current offerings, community feedback, and current trends, the assessment provides a clear picture of what is working well and where changes may be needed. The goal is to ensure that Destin’s programs remain high-quality, accessible, and financially sustainable for years to come. Most importantly, this effort helps align DPRD’s recreation services with the priorities and expectations of the people who live, work, and play in Destin, creating a roadmap for programs that strengthen community connections and enhance quality of life for all residents.

Program Framework

Conducting a program assessment provides a picture of how well current offerings align with community needs, participation trends, and organizational goals. By analyzing programs and services the framework allows DPRD to make data-driven decisions about which programs to grow, modify, or phase out. It also connects program delivery to broader financial and operational strategies, ensuring that goals, staffing, and facility usage are aligned with the community’s expectations. Most importantly, a program assessment ensures that recommendations are rooted in community feedback, creating a roadmap that balances innovation, sustainability, and enables DPRD to maximize impact across all age segments and a variety of interests.

Programmatic Facilities

DPRD delivers programs and activities across the network of facilities that support both community recreation and special events throughout the year. The Senior Center serves as a flexible hub, hosting daytime programs for older adults and evening rentals for basketball, pickleball, tennis, and field use. Dalton Threadgill Park provides three ball diamonds and batters boxes/ pitching mounds for youth sports, while Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park offers unique settings for monthly painting classes and weekly yoga sessions. Camps and seasonal programs utilize various city parks to provide outdoor learning and play experiences. In partnership with Destin Elementary School, the department also uses school facilities for special events, youth football, and field rentals, though access has become more limited in recent years due to increased use by the new charter school. Together, these locations form a well-rounded system of program venues that enhance recreation access and community engagement across Destin.

DESTIN’S PROGRAMMED FACILITIES



Dalton Threadgill Park

Dewey “Buck” Destin Park



Destin Community Center

Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park



Morgan Sports Center

Destin Elementary School



Core Program Areas

Public recreation is challenged by the premise of being all things to all people. To help reach the Department achieve its goals, it is important to identify Core Program Areas based on current and future needs to create a sense of focus around specific program areas of greatest importance to the community. The philosophy of the Core Program Area assists staff, policy makers, and the public focus on what is most important. Program areas are considered as Core if they meet any one or more of the following categories:

- The program area has been provided for a long period of time (over 4-5 years) and/or is expected by the community.
- The program area consumes a relatively large portion (5% or more) of the agency's overall budget.
- The program area is offered 3-4 seasons per year.
- The program area has wide demographic appeal.
- There is a tiered level of skill development available within the program area's offerings.
- There is full-time staff responsible for the program area.
- There are facilities designed specifically to support the program area.
- The agency controls a significant percentage (20% or more) of the local market.

Existing Core Program Areas

Through discussions with the DPRD staff, six Core Program Areas were identified as currently being offered for recreation programs.

Adult Sports

Description: Adult Sports programs provide recreational and competitive opportunities for adults of all ages and abilities through leagues, tournaments, drop-in play, and instructional offerings. These programs build community, support wellness and active lifestyles, and foster social connections.

Goals:

- Increase participation and retention by offering a wide variety of leagues and skill levels, while ensuring consistent quality through standardized scheduling and officiating.
- Maximize facility usage and balance youth and adult demand.

Camps

Description: Youth Camps provide safe, structured, and engaging opportunities for children to learn, play and grow during out-of-school times such as summer, school breaks, and holidays. Camps foster social development, physical activity, creativity, and lifelong memories while supporting families with affordable childcare options.

Goals:

- Provide safe, inclusive, and high quality experiences supported by well-trained staff and age-appropriate programming.
- Seek to expand participation through diverse themes and formats, while balancing affordability and strong cost recovery to remain sustainable.

Existing Core Program Areas

Through discussions with the DPRD staff, six Core Program Areas were identified as currently being offered for recreation programs.

Community & Family Events

Description: Community and Family Events bring residents together through inclusive, enjoyable, and memorable experiences that celebrate local culture, foster civic pride, and strengthen social connections. These events serve as gateways for families and individuals to engage with parks and recreation services while enhancing overall quality of life.

Goals:

- Deliver safe, well-organized, and welcoming experiences that bring residents of all ages together.
- Expand participation and reach by diversifying event offerings and locations, while also strengthening partnerships with local organizations and sponsors to broaden impact and reduce costs.

Senior Programs

Description: Senior Programs provide social, recreational, and wellness opportunities that enrich the lives of older adults by promoting active living, lifelong learning, and community connection. These programs support independence, reduce isolation, and enhance the overall quality of life for seniors.

Goals:

- Expand program variety to meet the diverse interests and abilities of older adults while fostering meaningful social connections that help reduce isolation.
- Maintain affordability and accessibility by leveraging facilities and parks for both structured and self-directed activities.
- Seek to support active aging and enhance the overall quality of life for seniors in the community.

Health & Wellness

Description: Health and Wellness programs promote active lifestyles, preventive health, and overall well-being through fitness classes, educational workshops, and self-directed opportunities in parks and facilities. These offerings help residents of all ages build healthy habits, reduce stress, and connect with supportive community resources.

Goals:

- Expand access to a wide variety of fitness, nutrition, and wellness opportunities that serve residents of all ages and abilities.
- Strengthen partnerships to broaden impact through affordable and engaging offerings.

Youth Sports

Description: Youth sports provide children and teens with opportunities to learn skills, build confidence, and develop teamwork through recreational and competitive play. Programs emphasize fun, fair play, and personal growth while promoting physical activity, healthy habits, and lifelong engagement in sports.

Goals:

- Offer a balance of recreational and competitive opportunities that serve a wide range of ages and abilities.
- Focus on building skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship, while ensuring programs remain accessible, affordable, and sustainable.
- Seek to recruit and train qualified coaches, officials, and volunteers to deliver safe, high-quality experiences.

Program Development Process

DPRD uses a collaborative, community-focused process for developing new programs and leagues. Ideas often originate from user feedback gathered at the Community Center and other facilities. Once potential programs are identified, a team of staff work together to vet each idea, ensuring quality outcomes and alignment with community interests. The department then identifies instructors or volunteers, evaluates space availability, and conducts logistical research on supplies, costs, and equipment needs.

Programs and leagues are managed in-house, with fees established through a structured cost-recovery model. Once approved, programs are advertised online and through printed materials, and each concludes with a financial review to evaluate performance and inform future programming decisions.

For DPRD, implementing a structured Program Development Process is especially valuable given the city's unique population dynamics, which fluctuate significantly between resident and tourist populations. This process ensures that programs are developed consistently and strategically, even as demand shifts with seasonal tourism.

By using standardized worksheets and evaluation tools, staff can thoughtfully design and adapt programs whether for residents, visitors, or both. It also helps the department anticipate and manage resource demands, ensuring programs remain financially sustainable and operationally feasible during peak periods.

Ultimately, the Program Development Process enables DPRD to maintain high-quality, mission-driven offerings year-round while remaining flexible enough to expand or modify programs in response to seasonal trends and evolving community interests. Program Development Sheets can be found in the Appendix.



1.4.2 PROGRAM PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE

Age Segments

An Age Segment Analysis was conducted to review the who is served by different program areas and identify any gaps. It is recommended that staff perform an Age Segment Analysis by individual programs to further understand and tailor future offerings to community needs. Primary age segments (P) served refers to the main or most important age groups that DPRD targets with its programs and services. Secondary age segments (S) refers to additional age segments that programs and services may reach as a result of being offered but are not the primary target age segment.

DPRD provides a balanced mix of programs that serve multiple age segments, with a strong emphasis on youth engagement. Preschool and elementary-age children benefit the most from core offerings such as camps, youth sports, and community events, reflecting DPRD’s commitment to early recreation participation and family-centered experiences.

Teen involvement is present but secondary, primarily through youth sports and select community events, suggesting an opportunity to expand targeted teen programming. Adult participation is concentrated in sports and wellness programs, effectively serving those ages 18–69 through both recreational leagues and fitness opportunities. Senior programming is also well represented, supporting adults 51 and older through structured offerings that promote active aging and social connection. “All Ages” programs and community events further strengthen DPRD’s inclusive approach, fostering intergenerational engagement and community cohesion. Overall, the department demonstrates a solid foundation across age groups but could enhance balance by increasing opportunities for teens and young adults.

1.4a Program Area Age Segments Served

Age Segments Served								
Core Program Area	Preschool (5 & Under)	Elementary (6-12)	Teens (13-17)	Adult (18-34)	Adult (35-50)	Adult (51-69)	Adult (70+)	All Ages Programs
Adult Sports				P	P	S		
Camps		P	S					
Community/Family Events	P	P	S					P
Health and Wellness							P	P
Senior Programs							P	
Youth Sports	P	P	S					

Program Classification

Conducting a classification of services analysis informs DPRD how each program serves the overall organization mission, the goals and objectives of each Core Program Area, and how the program should be funded regarding tax dollars and/or user fees and charges. How a program is classified can help to determine the most appropriate management, funding, and marketing strategies.

Program classifications are based on the degree to which the program provides a public benefit versus a private benefit. Public benefit can be described as everyone receiving the same level of benefit with equal access, whereas private benefit can be described as the user receiving exclusive benefit above what a general taxpayer receives for their personal benefit.

For this exercise, the Department used a classification method based on three categories: Essential Services, Important Services, and Value-Added Services. Where a program or service is classified depends upon alignment with the organizational mission, how the public perceives a program, legal mandates, financial sustainability, personal benefit, competition in the marketplace, and access by participants. The following graphic describes each of the three program classifications:

ESSENTIAL CLASSIFICATION

DPRD Must Provide:

- if it protects assets & infrastructure, is expected and supported, is a sound investment of public funds, is a broad public benefit, there is a negative impact if not provided, is part of the mission, and needs high to complete subsidy.

IMPORTANT CLASSIFICATION

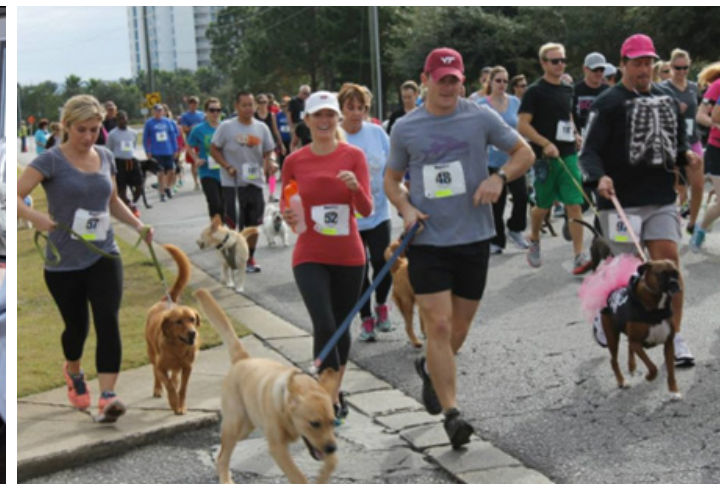
DPRD Should Provide:

- if it expands & enhances core services, is broadly supported & used, has conditional public support, there is a economic / social / environmental outcome to the community, has community importance, and needs moderate subsidy.

VALUE-ADDED CLASSIFICATION

DPRD May Provide:

- with additional resources, it adds value to community, it supports Core & Important Services, it is supported by community, it generates income, has an individual benefit, can be supported by user fees, it enhances community, and requires little to no subsidy.



CURRENT PROGRAM CLASSIFICATIONS

DPRD’s program classification distribution reflects a balanced and strategic approach to meeting community needs while maintaining financial responsibility. With 34% of programs classified as Essential, DPRD demonstrates a strong commitment to providing services with high public benefit, broad accessibility, and limited market competition. The largest share, 45% categorized as Important, indicates a focus on programs that serve both community and individual needs, offering moderate cost recovery while ensuring continued public access. Meanwhile, 20% of programs are considered Value-Added, representing specialized or interest-based offerings that enhance the overall recreation portfolio and rely more heavily on participant fees to sustain operations. This distribution shows that DPRD effectively prioritizes essential community services while still offering diverse opportunities that appeal to a wide range of interests.

Program Classification			
Factors	Essential	Important	Value - Added
Public interest; Legal Mandate; Mission Alignment	High public expectation	High public expectation	High individual and interest group expectation
Financial Sustainability	Free, nominal or fee tailored to public needs, Requires public funding	Fees cover some direct costs, Requires a balance of public funding and a cost recovery target	Fees cover most direct and indirect costs, some public funding as appropriate
Access	Open access by all	Open access, Limited access to specific, users	Limited access to specific users
Competition in the Market	Limited or no alternative providers	Alternative providers unable to meet demand or need	Alternative providers readily available
Benefits (health, safety, protection of assets, etc.)	Substantial public benefit (negative consequence if not provided)	Public and individual benefit	Primarily individual benefit
Best Practice Cost Recovery Goal*	0-50%	50%-75%	75%-100%+
Destin Program Distribution	34%	45%	20%

Cost Recovery

The cost recovery analysis for DPRD indicates that most core program areas are performing well relative to national and coastal community best practices, though there are opportunities for adjustment and strategic reinvestment. Overall, DPRD demonstrates excellent fiscal performance across most program areas, with opportunities to recalibrate certain programs to maintain equity while sustaining strong financial stewardship:

1.4b Program Area Cost Recovery

Cost Recovery Standards			
Core Program Area	Cost Recovery Goal (percentage)	Actual Cost Recovery for most recent FY (percentage)	Cost Recovery Best Practices
Adult Sports	100%	86%	80-100%
Camps	50%	79%	50-100%
Community/Family Events	0%	0%	0-25%
Health and Wellness	100%	80-100%	50-75%
Senior Programs	50%	0%	0-50%
Youth Sports	50%	85%	25-75%

- Adult Sports achieved an 86% cost recovery, aligning well within the best practice range of 80–100%, showing efficient operations and strong participation.
- Camps notably exceeded their 50% target, achieving 79%, which falls near the top of the best practice range and demonstrates effective pricing and demand management.
- Community and Family Events, offered free to the public, align appropriately with their 0% goal and best practice norms, reflecting a community service focus rather than a revenue driver.
- Health and Wellness programs are recovering between 80–100%, which is strong performance, though slightly above the best practice range of 50–75%, suggesting that some offerings may be achieving higher cost recovery than typical for this category.
- Senior Programs, with no cost recovery, are in line with the best practice range of 0–50%, indicating potential to introduce nominal fees or sponsorships to offset costs while maintaining accessibility.
- Youth Sports achieved 85% recovery, exceeding both their 50% goal and the best practice range of 25–75%, reflecting high participation and efficient operations but suggesting a review to ensure affordability for all families.

1.4c Pricing Strategies

Pricing Strategies

To ensure access, financial sustainability, and market competitiveness, best practice pricing strategies can be applied to offset operational costs in delivering programs and services. This is especially during periods when operational costs are increasing. These strategies consider factors such as age, household status, and residency, allowing pricing to reflect user characteristics and encourage participation across demographics. Operational variables like day of the week, time of day, and location help align pricing with demand patterns and facility use. The following are best practices in pricing programs and services.

DPRD employs a thoughtful mix of pricing strategies that balance fairness, competitiveness, and financial sustainability. Most core program areas including Adult Sports, Camps, Health and Wellness, Senior Programs, and Youth Sports incorporate all three pricing considerations: residency status, market rate comparisons, and departmental cost recovery goals.

This structure ensures that residents benefit from preferred rates, fees remain competitive with regional providers, and programs contribute appropriately to overall cost recovery targets. Community and Family Events are intentionally free, reinforcing DPRD’s mission to provide inclusive and community-building experiences. While these strategies effectively sustain operations, incorporating an additional pricing approach based on a customer’s ability to pay would further advance access for households experiencing financial limitations. Offering tiered pricing, scholarships, or fee assistance ensures that all residents, regardless of circumstances, can participate in recreational opportunities. This approach aligns with DPRD’s public service mission, strengthens the welcoming community, and promotes the health and well-being of all Destin residents.

Best Practice Pricing Strategies	
Pricing Strategy	Description
Age Segment	Different prices offered for different ages
Bundle Pricing	Programs/services are grouped together at a single, often discounted, rate
By Competition (Market Rate)	Competitors’ prices influence your price
By Cost Recovery Goals	Dept. cost recovery goals influence your price
By Customer’s Ability to Pay	Scholarships, subsidies, discounted rates offered for low-income
By Location	Different prices at different locations
Family/Household Status	Different prices offered for family/household groups
Group Discounts	Different prices for groups
Introductory Pricing	Program/service is offered at a lower price for a limited time when it’s first launched
Prime/Non-Prime Time	Different prices for different times of the day
Residency	Different prices for resident vs. non-resident
Subscription/Member Pricing	Pay a recurring fee at regular intervals (i.e. memberships, member/non-member)
Weekday/Weekend	Different prices for different days of the week

1.4d Pricing Strategies Implemented

Pricing Strategies Implemented			
	Residency	By Competition (Market Rate)	By Cost Recovery Goals
Core Program Area	Different prices for resident vs. non-resident	Competitors’ prices influence your price	Dept. cost recovery goals influence your price
Adult Sports	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Camps	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community/Family Events			<input type="radio"/>
Health and Wellness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Senior Programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth Sports	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Program Lifecycle

Recreation programs naturally move through a lifecycle that reflects how community interest, participation levels, and market conditions evolve over time. Introductory programs typically begin with modest participation as awareness builds, followed by a take-off stage where interest grows rapidly. As programs gain traction, they enter a growth phase marked by steady, consistent participation before reaching maturity, where growth slows but demand remains stable.

Eventually, programs may enter saturation, with minimal new growth and increased competition, and then move into decline as participation drops. Some programs may ultimately become a “no go” stage and be cancelled altogether as interest is not enough and DPRD should no longer offer. Understanding these lifecycles is essential for agencies to make proactive decisions about program development, marketing, resource allocation, and when to refresh or retire offerings to ensure long-term relevance and continue positive community impacts.

The DPRD program lifecycle distribution indicates a less balanced portfolio, with only 29% of programs in the early to mid-stages of Introduction, Take-Off, and Growth, falling below the recommended 50–60% range

1.4e Program Lifecycle Status

Lifecycle Stage	Description	Actual Program Distribution	Recommended Distribution
Introduction	New program; modest participation	42%	50-60% total
Take - Off	Rapid participation growth	14%	
Growth	Moderate, but consistent population growth	28%	
Mature	Slow participation growth	14%	40-50% total
Saturation	Minimal to no participation growth; extreme competition	1%	
Decline	Decline participation	0%	0-10% total

that activate spaces and create energy through new and relevant recreation programming. The 31% of programs in the Mature stage comes close to the recommended distribution of 40%, providing stability but highlighting limited new program development. However, 40% of programs are in the Saturation and Decline stages, exceeding the recommended 0–10%, suggesting that a significant portion of offerings may be losing relevance or facing increased competition.

Nearly all adult sports programs and several community and family events as well as senior programs make up the majority of the programming classified as saturated or declining in participation. These programs will require further analysis to determine the best course of action which could include options such as reformatting program offerings and their outcomes,

targeting audiences where they are, or sunsetting saturated and declining programs to reallocate resources into emerging program opportunities according to the local trends report and community priorities.

Ancillary Services

Ancillary Services are additional services to the main line of business that enhance or support the agencies main line of business. In parks and recreation agencies, these are typically non-programmatic services that are provided to the public such as shelter rentals, venue rentals and special use facilities. The full chart showing DPRD’s ancillary services and their performance can be found in Appendix. The following are a few of DPRD’s ancillary service trends to note between Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2024.

- Drop-in Adult Open Gym (17+) revenue increased 148% (\$1,493)
- Drop-in Adult Open Soccer (17+) revenue increased 275% (\$3,135) and participation increased 292%
- Drop-in Emerald Coast Table Tennis revenue increased 252% (\$3,560) and participation increased 181%
- Drop-in Pickleball revenue increased 620% (\$6,203)
- Drop-in Table Tennis revenue increased 241% (\$341)
- Concessions for the Community Center (In-house operations) increased in sales by 2,905% and in revenue by 3,263% (\$3,229)

New, additional revenue was also brought in for Boat Ramp Permits (\$16,225), Henderson State Park Day Pass (\$16,105), and Parking Fees (\$7,585) in 2024.

1.4.3 BEST PRACTICES

Best practices are methods, guidelines, or procedures that are proven through research and experience to be the most effective way to achieve a desired outcome, often leading to enhanced efficiency, quality, and customer satisfaction. Not all areas of operation will need to use all industry practices based, as several are based on specific types of recreation operations.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) Tracking

DPRD tracks a comprehensive set of key performance indicators (KPIs) (“Scorecard”) to evaluate the effectiveness, reach, and efficiency of its programs and facilities. These metrics including park user counts, tournament participation, program enrollment, Kidz Klub and camp attendance, rentals by park and facility, resident versus non-resident usage, and the number of special events.

Tracking these KPIs provides valuable insight into how well DPRD is managing resources. It also allows DPRD to identify trends in participation, adjust programming based on demand, and ensure access for residents while also accommodating seasonal visitors. By consistently analyzing this data, DPRD strengthens its ability to make data-driven decisions, optimize operations, enhance customer satisfaction, and align services with both community priorities and financial sustainability goals.

Human Resources Practices

DPRD’s Human Resources practices emphasize consistency, accountability, and professional growth to ensure high-quality service delivery across all programs and facilities. By regularly updating policies and procedures, DPRD maintains operational alignment with current standards and community expectations. Instructor quality checks, lesson plans, and program evaluation systems promote program excellence and participant satisfaction.

Comprehensive training including life safety, marketing, cost tracking, and diversity equips staff with the skills needed to operate at a high level. Additionally, structured performance reviews for full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees reinforce a culture of continuous improvement and recognition.

Together, these practices strengthen internal operations, enhance staff performance, and ensure that DPRD delivers safe, well-managed, and community-focused recreation experiences. Practices that are implemented for recreation programming are shown in the table right.

1.4f Human Resources Practices

DPRD Human Resources Practices
Regularly and consistently update policies & procedures
Instructor quality check
Lesson Plans
Program evaluation system
Basic life safety training (ex. CPR, first aid)
Marketing training
Training on calculating/tracking total cost of facility operations
Training on calculating/tracking cost of service
Continuing education
Diversity training
Performance reviews; full-time
Performance reviews; part-time
Performance reviews; seasonal

Customer Feedback

DPRD employs a variety of tools to understand community perceptions and guide decision-making, including post-program evaluations, user surveys, focus groups, and statistically valid surveys. Among these, the statistically valid survey is particularly critical, as it provides a representative snapshot of the entire community including both active users and non-users of the system. This approach ensures that the voices of all residents are heard, not just those already engaged with DPRD programs and facilities.

By capturing input from non-users, the department can identify barriers to participation, uncover unmet needs, and better understand public priorities. Ultimately, statistically valid survey data builds credibility, supports resident-driven planning, and strengthens DPRD's ability to make informed, equitable, and transparent decisions that reflect the community's true interests. Currently, DPRD utilizes the following to gain insight into customer perceptions:

Marketing

DPRD utilizes a comprehensive and multi-platform marketing approach to effectively promote its programs, facilities, and events to both residents and visitors. The department employs a wide range of tools, including printed and online program guides, the City's website, email blasts, social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, as well as traditional methods like flyers, newsletters, radio, and road sign marquees. This blend of digital and traditional outreach ensures that information reaches audiences across all age groups and communication preferences.

DPRD's marketing process is structured and collaborative, beginning with a press release to the City's Public Information Officer and PR Manager, followed by a review period before posts are approved for public release. Parks and Recreation staff manage content creation and determine appropriate marketing channels, often capturing event photos for timely social media updates. Additionally, upcoming events and programs are promoted through City Council announcements, reinforcing transparency and community engagement. This coordinated process allows DPRD to maintain consistent branding, broaden its reach, and strengthen awareness of its recreation opportunities.

1.4g Marketing Methods

DPRD Marketing Methods Used
Program guides (print)
Program guides (online)
Website
Smart/mobile phone enabled site
Flyers and/or brochures
Direct mail
Email blasts and/or listserv
Public Service Announcements (PSAs)
Roadsign marquees
Radio (paid or free)
SMS/MMS/Text message marketing
Newsletters (online)
In-facility signage
Facebook
Instagram
Youtube channel
QR codes

Additionally, the statistically valid 2025 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey shows that 60% of residents learn about programs, activities, and special events that are offered by DPRD through Social Media, specifically Facebook. Fifty-seven (57) percent are informed through word of mouth and 34% get information from the City of Destin's website.

Finally, the survey also shows the top ways that residents prefer to learn about DPRD services including Social Media (61%), City of Destin website (36%), and Word of Mouth (27%).

1.4.4 ALIGNING WITH COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

DPRD’s current core program areas include adult sports, camps, community and family events, health and wellness, senior programs, and youth sports. These core program areas provide a strong foundation of services but also highlight opportunities to better align with community priorities and recreation trends.

2025 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey

The 2025 statistically valid survey’s Priority Investment Rating (“PIR”), which equally weighs the importance that residents place on programs and how many residents have unmet needs for a program, indicates that residents place high value on expanding adult fitness and wellness programs, nature programs and environmental education, community special events, aquatic exercise and enrichment programming. Adult fitness and wellness, and Community special events currently align with community priorities. Nature programs/ environmental education, with the second highest PIR of 162, is an area that provides opportunity for program expansion along with several enrichment and art type programs ranging from safety and cooking classes to music programming.

To better align with community needs, DPRD should continue building on the popularity of special events while strategically expanding into underrepresented program areas. This includes developing more fitness, wellness, and outdoor adventure and education activities, and diversifying youth and family programs to include arts, cultural, and nature-based opportunities. Doing so will enhance the Department’s program portfolio by reflecting resident priorities.

1.4h Program Alignment

DPRD Program Alignment Matrix		
Community Priority Program	PIR Score	Recommended Distribution
Adult fitness and wellness programs	171	The highest priority rating, currently aligned with core program area of health & wellness
Nature programs/environmental education	162	Not currently aligned
Community special events	144	Currently provided as a Core Program Area; Resident supported as they have wide segment appeal
Movies in the park	134	Not currently aligned
Community meetings	110	Currently aligned
Water fitness programs	109	Not currently aligned
Cooking classes	106	Not currently aligned
Music programs	104	Not currently aligned
Safety classes	100	Not currently aligned

Recreation Trends

Additionally, the local market potential, as explained through ESRI’s Market Potential Index (“MPI”) in the Recreation Trends Analysis provides additional community data on core programming needs. Pickleball, Golf, and Tennis show MPI scores above both state and national averages for sports programming. Also, several fitness programs including Yoga, Aerobics, Walking for Exercise, Weight Lifting, Spinning, Swimming, Pilates, and Jogging/Running show averages above state and national averages. The recreation trends also reveal outdoor activities such

as Paddleboarding, Road Bicycling, Hiking, Canoeing/Kayaking, Backpacking, and Fishing that have strong market potential in Destin for additional recreation programming.

Finally, the MPI also aligns with community priorities identified in the survey that are related to arts and enrichment programming. Commercial recreation MPIs are above both state and national averages for “Went to art gallery,” “Went to live theater,” “Participated in a book club,” “Went to museum,” “Spent \$250+ on sports/rec equipment”.

1.4.5 OPERATIONAL STRENGTHS, CHALLENGES, AND OPPORTUNITIES

The program assessment considers both the strengths and challenges of DPRD’s current recreation programming, based on staff feedback, to provide a balanced understanding of how services are delivered and where improvements are needed.

Recognizing these internal factors is essential, as they directly influence the department’s ability to meet community needs, adapt to changing expectations, and manage resources effectively. By evaluating what supports success alongside the barriers that limit growth, the assessment establishes a foundation for strategic recommendations that will guide future program development, enhance operational efficiency, and ensure long-term sustainability. The following are the identified strengths and challenges determined through staff engagement

1.4i Program & Service Delivery Strengths and Challenges

DPRD Program & Service Delivery Strengths and Challenges	
Strengths	Challenges
Affordable services; family oriented	Limited space for program growth at older community center
Smaller program sizes	Staffing shortage; open positions are not appealing to qualified applicants
Year-round variety of programming	Field space is limited and usage is maxed out causing field recover and other maintenance issues
Community events	Field and facility usage conflicts between community needs and school needs
Growth in soccer programming	Aging and outdated recreation facilities; facility rentals are decreasing
	Misalignment between recreation and grounds division programming and maintenance

1.4.6 KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

Based on the detailed assessment of DPRD programs and services, the following key areas should remain in focus while delivering services to residents to ensure quality, sustainability, and alignment with community needs:

1.4j Key Focus Area Findings

DPRD Key Areas of Focus	
Focus Area	Findings
Program Portfolio Balance	DPRD's program lifecycle analysis shows 40% of programs in Saturation or Decline, indicating the need for new programming that is aligned with community priorities and trends.
Cost recovery and Financial Sustainability	Most programs require subsidies to cover full costs which make them susceptible to funding cuts. DPRD lacks formalized cost-of-service and cost recovery targets
Community alignment and Program Expansion	Community survey shows unmet demand for nature/environmental education, fitness/wellness, and enrichment programs
Performance Tracking and Evaluation	DPRD tracks limited KPIs
Marketing and Outreach	Current marketing relies heavily on social media (Facebook) and word of mouth with limited cross-platform consistency
Partnership development	DPRD benefits from several program partners but lacks formalized partnership agreements and measurable outcomes
Human Resources and Staffing Capacity	Staff operate under limited structure for program development, data tracking, and marketing.
Volunteer and Community Engagement	Volunteer involvement is informal and not fully leveraged to support programming.
Wider age segment appeal	Age segment analysis shows a heavy focus on youth and seniors, with limited engagement for teens and middle-aged adults

1.4.7 FEE REVIEW AND DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY

Review of Current Department Philosophy

DPRD Cost Recovery Policy establishes a structured philosophy for balancing community access with financial responsibility. The overall philosophy centers on ensuring that programs and services are priced according to who benefits from them, whether the entire community or individual participants. Using the Cost Recovery Pyramid Model, the proposal outlines three levels of service: Community Benefit programs (0% recovery, heavily subsidized), Merit programs (50% recovery, shared community and individual benefit), and Individual Benefit programs (up to 100% recovery of direct and indirect costs).

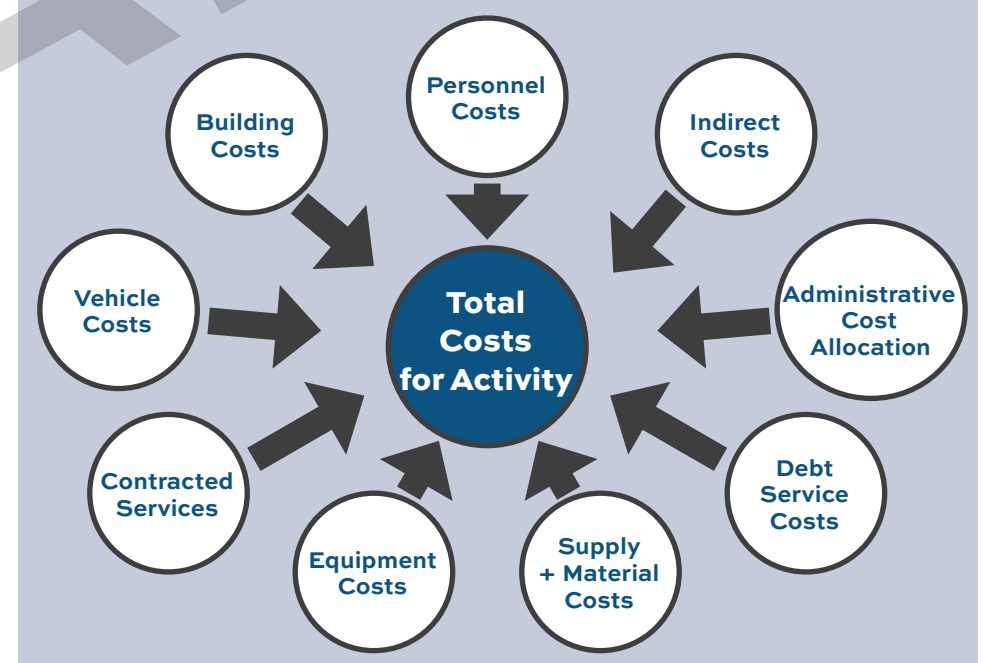
The proposal's guiding philosophy is grounded in transparency, equity, and sustainability. It aims to maintain the City's commitment to enhancing quality of life while ensuring fiscal accountability. By aligning fees with the level of community versus individual benefit, the policy allows Destin to preserve essential community offerings, like special events and park access, while ensuring that more value-added programs and services (e.g., adult leagues, private lessons, or boat launches) generate revenue to offset operational expenses.

In practice, this model provides a consistent framework for decision-making, helps staff justify pricing structures, and supports ongoing evaluation of program performance against financial goals. It reflects a forward-thinking, business-minded approach that upholds public service values while promoting operational efficiency and long-term sustainability.

Understanding the Full Cost-of-Service

To develop specific cost recovery targets, full cost of accounting needs to be created on each program and service that accurately calculates direct and indirect costs. Appropriate cost recovery goals are established once these numbers are in place, and the Department's staff are trained on this process. A Cost-of-Service Analysis should be conducted on each program, or program type, that accurately calculates direct (i.e., program-specific) and indirect (i.e., comprehensive, including administrative overhead) costs. Completing a Cost-of-Service Analysis not only helps determine the true and full cost of offering a program, but it also provides information that can be used to price programs based upon

accurate delivery costs. The figure below illustrates the common types of costs that must be accounted for in a Cost-of-Service Analysis.



COST OF SERVICE AND COST RECOVERY

The previously identified Core Program Areas would serve as an effective breakdown for tracking cost recovery metrics including administrative costs. Theoretically, staff should review how programs are grouped for similar cost recovery and subsidy goals to determine if current practices still meet management outcomes.

Determining cost recovery performance and using it to make informed pricing decisions involves a three-step process:

1. Classify all programs and services based on the public or private benefit they provide (as completed in the previous section).
2. Conduct a Cost-of-Service Analysis to calculate the full cost of each program.
3. Establish a cost recovery percentage, through Department policy, for each program or program type based on the outcomes of the previous two steps and adjust program prices accordingly.

The methodology for determining the total Cost-of-Service involves calculating the total cost for the activity, program, or service, then calculating the total revenue earned for that activity. Costs (and revenue) can also be derived on a per-unit basis. Program or activity units may include:

- Number of participants
- Number of tasks performed
- Number of consumable units
- Number of service calls
- Number of events
- Required time for offering program/ service

Parks and Recreation agencies use Cost-of-Service Analysis to determine what financial resources are required to provide specific programs at specific levels of service. Results are used to determine and track cost recovery as well as to benchmark different programs provided by the Department between one another. Cost recovery goals are established once Cost-of-Service totals have been calculated. Program staff should be trained on the process of conducting a Cost-of-Service Analysis and the process should be undertaken on a regular basis.

In many instances, communities lack the appropriate financial framework to track expenditures properly and efficiently. This is especially true when municipalities work to keep expenditures across all departments coded the same for the simplest approach. When in reality expenditures should be coded to each department's unique operations and similar where actually similar. With the variety of facilities, programs, and services, each one should be set up and tracked separately to require less time to determine the actual cost recovery. For programs, setting them up separately and track individually would consume a large amount of time as well, so it is best practice to set them up as core program areas (as defined earlier).

1.4k Fees and Charges Comparison

Fees & Charges Comparison

Coastal communities were chosen for comparison with DPRD because they share similar characteristics in population size, tourism influence, and recreation service delivery along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts. Each community represents a blend of resident and visitor participation, seasonal demand fluctuations, and a commitment to balancing access, affordability, and cost recovery within high-use recreation systems.

Cities such as Gulf Shores and Panama City Beach provide strong regional parallels for sports tourism and facility operations, while Morehead City and Wakulla County offer smaller-scale examples emphasizing community access and family-oriented recreation. Myrtle Beach serves as a higher-capacity benchmark for event management and recreation tourism, illustrating strategies applicable to larger markets. Together, these communities provide a well-rounded basis for evaluating DPRD’s fee structures, operational practices, and opportunities to align pricing and services with the public’s perceived value using these comparable coastal recreation markets.

DPRD Fees and Charges Comparison Coastal Communities					
City	State	Population (approx.)	Coastal Tourism Characteristics	Comparable Parks & Recreation Assets	Relevance to benchmarking
Destin	Florida	14,000	Gulf Coast beach city; high tourism influx; seasonal population peaks; sports and community events central to recreation mission	Morgan Sports Complex, Destin Community Center, beach and park pavilions, Joe’s Bayou boat launch, youth/adult sports leagues	Baseline city; provides context for pricing, participation trends, tourism impact
Gulf Shores	Alabama	17,000	Tourism-driven Gulf Coast city; large youth sports tournament base; seasonal population surges	Gulf Shores sportsplex, Meyer Park, Civic Center, beachside pavilions, community events.	Closest comparable coastal market for sports tourism, operations, and pricing balance.
Morehead City	North Carolina	10,000	Small coastal city with strong boating, fishing, waterfront recreation culture; moderate tourism	Morehead City Recreation Center, Rotary Park, Shevans Park, waterfront pavilions, youth sports leagues, and summer camps	Comparable small coastal community offering local recreation programs
Myrtle Beach	South Carolina	40,000	National tourism hub; major athletic complexes; strong focus on tournaments and sports marketing.	Ned Donkle complex, Doug Shaw Stadium, Market Common Fields. recreation centers, event venues	Useful benchmark for pricing, sports marketing, and recreation tourism.
Panama City Beach	Florida	20,000	Panhandle resort city; hosts major baseball/softball tournaments and large-scale sports tourism events.	Publix Sports Park, Frank Brown Park, community centers, beach pavilions, aquatic and fitness programs.	Excellent regional comparison; similar demographics, tourism demand and facility use patterns.

Rental Fees - Sample Comparison

The comparison of rental fees and charges across regional coastal communities shows that DPRD rates are competitive and well-aligned with market standards. Athletic field rentals, both with and without lights, fall within or slightly above the regional average, suggesting that DPRD’s pricing appropriately reflects facility quality and sustained demand. Gymnasium rentals are positioned at the higher end of the market, which is reasonable given the amenities and location advantages offered by Destin’s Community Center. Pavilion rentals are well-balanced, maintaining affordability while supporting cost recovery and accessibility for local users.

1.4k Facilities Fees and Charges Comparison

Fees and Charges Comparison							
Category	DPRD Rate	Gulf Shores, AL	Panama City Beach, FL	Morehead City, NC	Myrtle Beach, SC	Wakulla County, FL	Observations
Athletic fields (No lights)	\$30/hr	\$1375/5 fields all day	N/A	\$40/hr	\$50/hr	\$25/hr	Rates align with regional averages, potential to modestly increase if demand supports
Athletic fields (with lights)	\$50/hr	N/A	N/A	N/A	Tournaments \$1000/day	\$50/hr	Comparable to or slightly above regional benchmarks
Gymnasium rental	\$100/hr full \$50 half	N/A	\$75/hr	\$20/hr R \$40/hr NR	\$50/4 hrs	\$200/day	Rates are high but reasonable given facility amenities and location
Pavilions rental	\$65/day	\$50/4 hrs	\$70/4 hrs & \$120 day	\$30/ 3 hrs	N/A	\$50/4 hrs	Appropriate for market and local accessibility goals

KEY OBSERVATIONS FOR DPRD RENTALS

- Athletic field rates align with regional averages and could be modestly increased if future demand or increased operational costs support it.
- Lighted field rates are comparable to or slightly above regional benchmarks, justified by quality and high usage.
- Gymnasium rental rates are high but appropriate for the amenities and demand.
- Pavilion rentals are priced effectively to remain accessible while sustaining operational costs.

Adult & Youth Sports Sample Comparison

The comparison of sports participation fees across coastal benchmark communities shows that DPRD maintains a balanced and competitive pricing structure. Resident fees for both adult and youth sports are positioned near or below regional averages, supporting accessibility and encouraging participation within the community. Non-resident rates are appropriately higher, reflecting DPRD's cost recovery goals and maintaining equity between those who contribute to local tax support and those visiting from outside the city. Overall, DPRD's pricing strategy effectively balances affordability for residents with fiscal responsibility and alignment to regional market conditions.

1.4I Sports Fees and Charges Comparison

Fees and Charges Comparison							
Category	DPRD Rate	Gulf Shores, AL	Panama City Beach, FL	Morehead City, NC	Myrtle Beach, SC	Wakulla County, FL	Observations
Adult Sports Fee (resident)	\$30/player	N/A	\$600/team	N/A	N/A	N/A	Rates balanced with regional pricing
Adult Sports Fee (non-resident)	\$50/player	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Appropriate for non-resident pricing and competitive with nearby providers
Youth Sports Fee (resident)	\$30/player	\$70/player	\$75/hr	N/A	\$35/player	\$50/player	Rates well aligned
Youth Sports Fee (non-resident)	\$50/player	\$80/player	N/A	N/A	\$60/player		Rates appropriate for non-residents

KEY OBSERVATIONS FOR DPRD SPORTS

- Adult Sports (Resident): Rates are balanced with regional pricing and remain accessible to local participants.
- Adult Sports (Non-Resident): Fees are competitive with nearby providers and appropriately maintain a premium for non-residents.
- Youth Sports (Resident): Rates are well aligned with market averages, preserving affordability for families and supporting high youth participation.
- Youth Sports (Non-Resident): Fees are suitable for non-residents and effectively maintain the resident-to-non-resident differential.

Camps - Sample Comparison

The comparison of camp fees across regional coastal communities indicates that DPRD pricing is competitive and strategically positioned to balance affordability with financial sustainability. Resident camp fees are slightly below the regional market average, offering strong value to local families while maintaining accessibility. Non-resident rates, meanwhile, are consistent with or slightly below comparable communities, supporting DPRD’s cost recovery goals and reflecting fair market practices. Overall, the department’s camp pricing structure demonstrates a thoughtful approach that prioritizes community participation while sustaining fiscal responsibility.

1.4m Camps Fees and Charges Comparison

Fees and Charges Comparison							
Category	DPRD Rate	Gulf Shores, AL	Panama City Beach, FL	Morehead City, NC	Myrtle Beach, SC	Wakulla County, FL	Observations
Camps (Resident)	\$85/week	\$120/week	Varies by specialty camp	\$75/week	\$95/week	N/A	Slightly below market, possible minor increase feasible.
Camps (Non-resident)	\$100/week	\$150/week	Varies by specialty camp	\$100/week	\$125/week	N/A	Rates are competitive; aligns with cost recovery goals

KEY OBSERVATIONS FOR DPRD CAMPS

- Resident Camp Fees: Slightly below regional averages; a modest increase could be feasible to better align with market rates while maintaining affordability.
- Non-Resident Camp Fees: Competitive and well-aligned with regional benchmarks; support DPRD’s cost recovery and equitable pricing goals.

Boat Launch Fee - Sample Comparison

The comparison of resident boat launch fees across coastal communities highlights a broad variation in pricing approaches that reflect differing local priorities related to accessibility, facility maintenance, and seasonal demand. DPRD’s daily rate of \$25 per day is positioned at the upper end of the market, aligning with its status as a high-demand coastal destination (World’s Luckiest Fishing Village) with limited launch capacity and significant demand during seasonal use. Other communities, such as Panama City Beach, Myrtle Beach, and Wakulla County, offer lower daily rates that emphasize resident affordability over cost recovery. Morehead City’s per-foot pricing structure demonstrates a usage-based model tailored to varying vessel sizes

1.4n Boat Launches Fees and Charges Comparison

Fees and Charges Comparison							
Category	DPRD Rate	Gulf Shores, AL	Panama City Beach, FL	Morehead City, NC	Myrtle Beach, SC	Wakulla County, FL	Observations
Boat Launch (Resident)	\$25/day	N/A	\$12/day	\$2/foot per day	\$10/day	\$5/day	Broad range in pricing structures, reflecting local priorities

KEY OBSERVATIONS FOR DPRD BOAT LAUNCHES

- DPRD’s \$25 daily rate reflects market realities in a high-demand, tourism-driven coastal community and supports facility maintenance and crowd management.
- Regional comparison shows a broad range of rates (\$5–\$25 per day) depending on local priorities and infrastructure capacity.
- Lower-cost communities emphasize resident access and affordability, while higher-rate communities like Destin focus on managing heavy seasonal usage and sustaining operational quality.
- DPRD’s rate remains appropriate but should be periodically reviewed to balance affordability with infrastructure and maintenance needs.

Fee Review and Philosophy Conclusion

Based on the current approach and the fee comparison completed to date, DPRD's cost recovery philosophy should emphasize a balanced, transparent, and adaptive model that aligns financial sustainability with community access and quality service delivery.

PROPOSED DPRD COST RECOVERY PHILOSOPHY

- “Destin Parks and Recreation will provide high-quality, inclusive, and financially responsible recreation services by aligning cost recovery targets with the level of community versus individual benefit, ensuring that programs and facilities remain accessible, sustainable, and responsive to resident and visitor demand.”

KEY PILLARS OF THE PHILOSOPHY

COMMUNITY BENEFIT FIRST, FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ALWAYS

- Programs and services that provide broad community benefit (e.g., special events, open parks, senior programs) will remain heavily subsidized or free to ensure equitable access.
- Programs and amenities that primarily benefit individuals (e.g., leagues, rentals, camps) will recover a higher percentage of costs, supporting fiscal sustainability.

TIERED COST RECOVERY FRAMEWORK

- Adopt a refined six-tier model (Community/ Essential Benefit, Shared/ Important Benefit, Individual/ Value-Added Benefit) to guide pricing decisions.
- Apply consistent benchmarks—0–40% recovery for Essential programs, 40–80% for Important programs, and 80–100%+ for Value-Added or premium services.

BALANCING TOURISM AND RESIDENT NEEDS

- Recognize Destin's unique dual role as a local community and tourism destination.
- Apply higher recovery targets to visitor-driven program and rental demands while maintaining affordability for year-round residents.

RESIDENT ACCESSIBILITY AND NON-RESIDENT EQUITY

- Maintain affordable resident pricing to ensure local access to core services.

Continue applying premium non-resident rates that reflect use without property tax contribution (50–100% higher depending on service).

DATA-DRIVEN DECISION MAKING

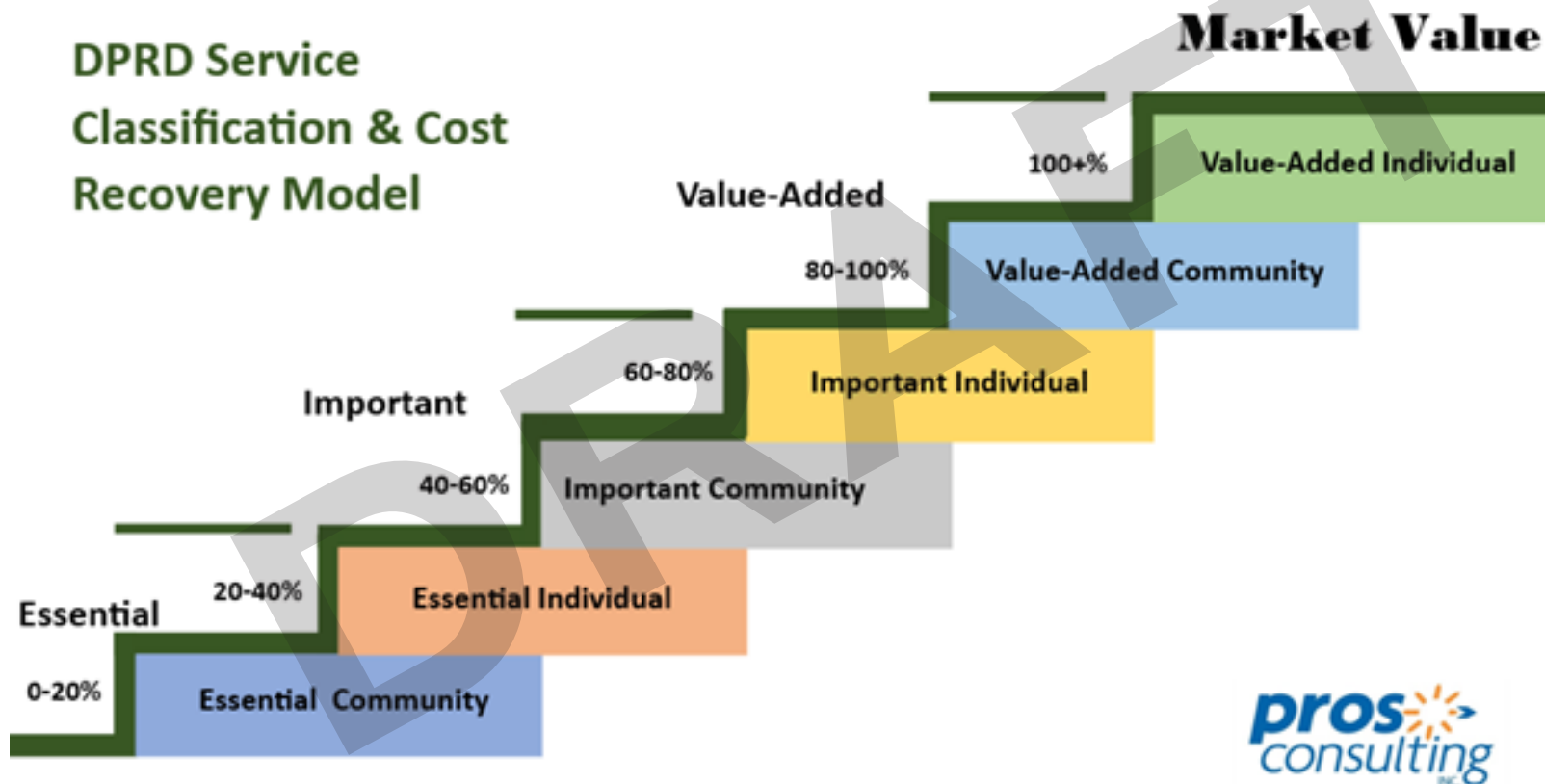
- Use participation trends, cost-of-service analysis, cost recovery data, and regional benchmarking to annually review fees and adjust pricing as market and operational conditions evolve.
- Monitor cost recovery performance by service, facility and core program area to ensure rates remain both competitive and equitable.

TRANSPARENCY AND COMMUNICATION

- Clearly communicate how and why fees are established, linking pricing to community benefit, facility quality, and operational costs, to build public trust.
- Train staff to explain cost recovery philosophy to residents and program participants consistently.

As DPRD continues to evolve to better meet the community's needs, there could be an added benefit to managing the services if they all were classified according to the Cost Recovery Service Classification Model depicted below based on the amount of community benefit versus individual benefit each program/ service provides.

As DPRD continues to evolve to better meet the community's needs, there could be an added benefit to managing the services if they all were classified according to the Cost Recovery Service Classification Model depicted below based on the amount of community benefit versus individual benefit each program/service provides.



Percentages represent direct and indirect cost recovery.

1.4.8 PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Parkland

The City of Destin's Department of Parks and Recreation system is currently comprised of 32 park sites, totaling 116+ acres.

Parks are classified by eight categories to assist with management and maintenance operations:

Minipark

- Smallest parks (3 acres or less)
- Designed to serve residents who live within walking distance (may have little to no parking or located in a residential neighborhood)
- Little to no programming or reservable amenities

Minipark - Beach Trail

- Typically small pedestrian right-of-way (5-10' boardwalk of path) that provide access to public beach.

Minipark - Beach Access

- Typically small pedestrian right-of-way (5-10') that provide access to public beach.
- Occasionally offer parking and other amenities (showers, restrooms, etc.)

Minipark - Beach Park

- Designed to serve residents who live within walking distance as well as those driving from nearby (0-3 miles)
- Offer parking and other amenities (showers, restrooms, etc.)
- Walking paths

Neighborhood Park

- Slightly larger than minipark and typically has more amenities (typically 3-10 acres)
- Designed to serve residents who live within walking distance (may have little to no parking)
- Little to no programming or reservable amenities

Community Park

- Larger than neighborhood parks, typically 10+ acres
- Serve a broader population and purpose and offers a wider range of activities/amenities than neighborhood parks

Natural Area Park

- Set aside to preserve natural or cultural resources, landscapes, and open space or provide enhanced aesthetics
- Recreation opportunities are passive (hiking, swimming, biking, etc.) with limited developed amenities

Special Purpose Park

- Intended for specialized or single-purpose recreational activities, such as athletic fields, dog parks, boat ramp, etc.



PARKS AND RECREATION INVENTORY

○ Beach Trail/Mini Park

1. Barracuda Beach Trail
2. Calhoun Beach Trail
3. Crystal Beach Trail
4. O'Steen Beach Trail
5. Tarpon Beach Trail

■ Beach Access/Mini Park

1. Pompano Street Beach Access
2. Shirah Street Beach Access

□ Beach Park/Mini Park

1. June White Decker Beach Park
2. Shore at Crystal Beach Park

■ Mini Park

1. Buck Destin Park
2. Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park
3. First & Fourth Streets Park
4. Harbor Lane Park
5. Harbor View Park
6. Jewel Melvin Park
7. Kell-Aire Gardens (North)
8. Kell-Aire Nature Walk (South)
9. Kelly Street Duck Pond
10. Main Street Park

○ Neighborhood Park

1. Captain Leonard Destin Park
2. Clement Taylor Park

● Community Parks

1. Destin Community Center
2. Destin Elementary School Park
3. Morgan Sports Complex

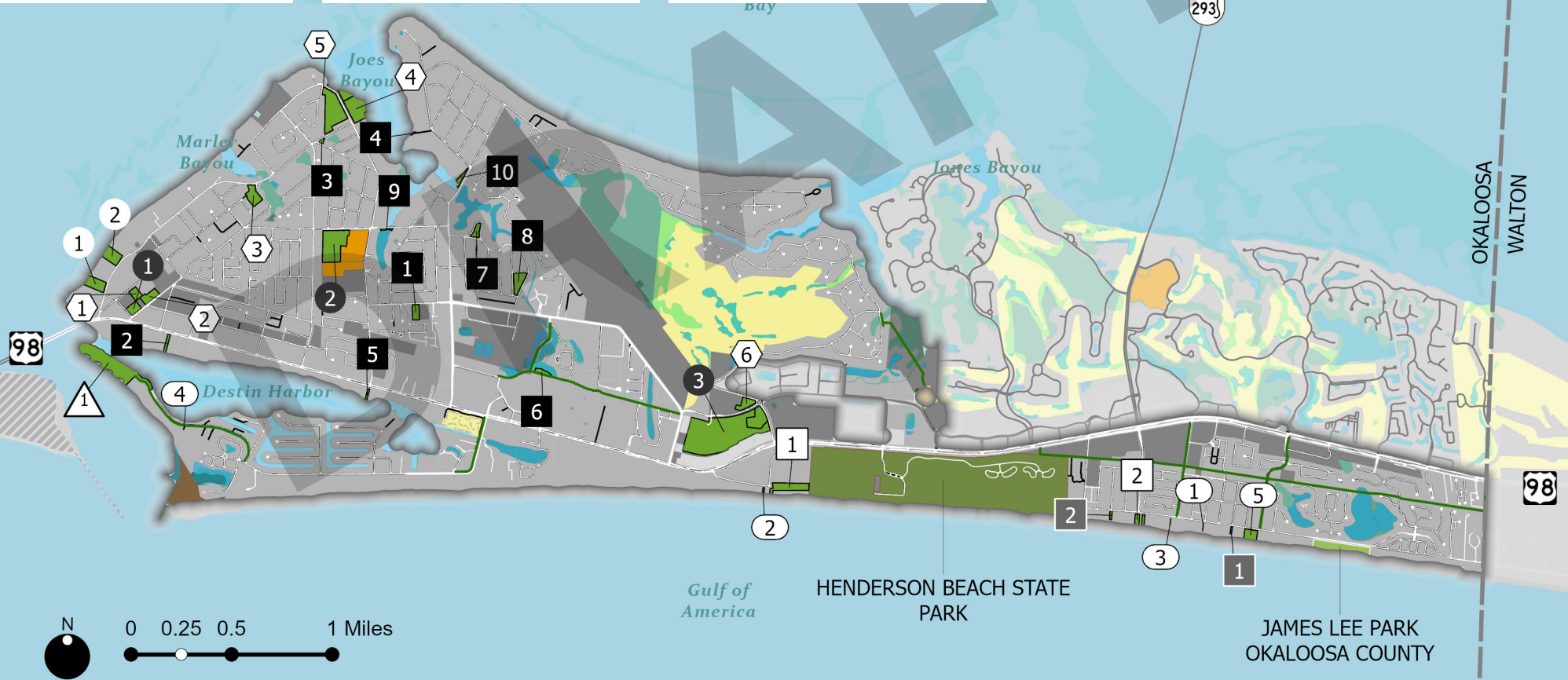
△ Natural Area Park

1. Norriego Point

⬡ Special Purpose Park

1. Cemetery - Sibert Avenue
2. Cemetery - Stahlman Avenue
3. Dalton Threadgill Park
4. Joe's Bayou Boat Ramp
5. Mattie Kelly Park
6. Nancy Weidenhamer Dog Park

- County Boundaries
- Destin City Boundary
- ▨ Eglin AFB
- Roads
- DPR Parks
- County Parks
- State Parks
- Golf Courses



1.4o Parks and Recreation Master Plan Inventory

				Number of Indoor Facilities														
Park Name	Acres (GIS)	Indoor Center Square Footage	Park Type/Classification	Centers					Individual Facilities					Aquatics				
				Recreation Centers	Community Centers	Senior Centers	Teen Centers	Nature Centers	Fitness Rooms (Weight room, treadmills, etc.)	Gyms (Basketball, etc.)	Ice Rink	Arena	Performance Amphitheater	Indoor Jogging Track	Indoor Competitive Swimming Pools	Indoor pool designated exclusively for leisure (i.e. non-competitive)	Therapeutic Pool	
Barracuda Beach Trail	0.03		Beach Trail/ Mini Park															
Calhoun Beach Trail	0.03		Beach Trail/ Mini Park															
Crystal Beach Trail	0.03		Beach Trail/ Mini Park															
O'Steen Beach Trail	0.03		Beach Trail/ Mini Park															
Tarpon Beach Trail	2.05		Beach Trail/ Mini Park															
Pompano Street Beach Access	0.17		Beach Access/ Mini Park															
Shirah Street Beach Access	0.31		Beach Access/ Mini Park															
June White Decker Beach Park	4.49		Beach Park/ Mini Park															
Shore at Crystal Beach Beach Park	1.19		Beach Park/ Mini Park															
Buck Destin Park	1.65	2,047	Mini Park			1												
Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park	0.77		Mini Park															
First & Fourth Streets Park	0.33		Mini Park															
Harbor Lane Park	0.16		Mini Park															
Harbor View Park	0.33		Mini Park															
Jewel Melvin Park	0.96		Mini Park															
Kell-Aire Gardens (North)	1.26		Mini Park															
Kell-Aire Nature Walk (South)	2.91		Mini Park															

Number of Outdoor Facilities

Typical Facilities		Specialty	Courts	Fields	Golf	Aquatics	Boating/Fishing
1	Playgrounds - Standard (5-12 years)						
	Tot lots (0-5yrs old)						
	Restrooms (Standalone)						
	Outdoor Fitness Equipment						
	Pavilions						
	Walking Paths (Miles)						
	Multi Use Trails (miles)						
	Community Gardens						
	Skate Parks						
	Dog Parks						
	Disc Golf Course						
	Performance Amphitheater						
2	Basketball Courts						
2	Tennis Courts						
	Pickleball Courts						
	Volleyball Court (sand/grass)						
	Multi-use Courts (Tennis + Pickleball)						
	Multi-use Courts (Basketball + Volleyball)						
	Diamond Fields: baseball - adult						
	Diamond Fields: baseball - youth						
	Diamond Fields: softball fields - adult						
	Diamond Fields: softball fields - youth						
	Diamond Fields: softball fields - tee ball						
	Rectangular Fields: Multi-purpose (Natural Turf)						
	Rectangular fields: football field						
	Rectangular fields: soccer field - adult						
	Rectangular fields: soccer field - youth						
	Rectangular Fields: Multi-purpose Synthetic						
	Golf Courses (9-Hole)						
	Golf Courses (18-Hole)						
	Splash Pads/ Spray Grounds						
	Aquatic Centers						
	Swimming Pools (Outdoor Only)						
	Freshwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)						
	Freshwater Non-Boat Fishing (Linear Feet of Pier)						
	Saltwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)						
	Saltwater Beach (Linear Feet)						
	Saltwater Non-Boat Fishing (Linear Feet of Pier)						
	Canoe/Kayak Launch						

1.4o Parks and Recreation Master Plan Inventory (continued)

				Number of Indoor Facilities													
				Centers					Individual Facilities				Aquatics				
Park Name	Acres (GIS)	Indoor Center Square Footage	Park Type/Classification	Recreation Centers	Community Centers	Senior Centers	Teen Centers	Nature Centers	Fitness Rooms (Weight room, treadmills, etc.)	Gyms (Basketball, etc.)	Ice Rink	Arena	Performance Amphitheater	Indoor Jogging Track	Indoor Competitive Swimming Pools	Indoor pool designated exclusively for leisure (i.e. non-competitive)	Therapeutic Pool
Kelly Street Duck Pond	0.30		Mini Park														
Main Street Park	0.86		Mini Park														
Norriego Point	13.42		Natural Area														
Captain Leonard Destin Park	3.29		Neighborhood Park														
Clement Taylor Park	3.39		Neighborhood Park														
Destin Community Center	1.89	19,083	Community Park		1					1							
Destin Elementary School Park	10.76		Community Park														
Morgan Sports Complex	39.31	6,630	Community Park														
Cemetery - Sibert Avenue	1.54		Special Use														
Cemetery - Stahlman Avenue	2.36		Special Use														
Dalton Threadgill Park	3.18		Special Use														
Joe's Bayou Boat Ramp	6.14		Special Use														
Mattie Kelly Park	11.43		Special Use														
Nancy Weidenhamer Dog Park	1.89		Special Use														
City Totals	116	27,760		0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1.4.9 PARK EVALUATIONS

All successful parks and public spaces share common qualities:

- Their elements, such as site structures, amenities, furnishings, landscape, and hardscape are in good condition
- They are easily accessible
- They are comfortable and attractive
- They allow users of all ages to engage in a variety of activities and allow people to gather and meet one another
- They are sustainable – meaning that they help meet existing needs while not compromising the needs of future generations

Considering these qualities, parks were evaluated collaboratively by City Staff and the Consultant Team. The following pages identify the findings from the two types of park evaluations that were completed.

1. Park Condition Evaluation: This analysis evaluates the physical condition of elements in parks such as structures, amenities, furnishings, landscape, and hardscape based on a 3-point scale. The score suggest

LEGEND	Condition	Score Implications
Performance	Score	Improvement Timeline
Excellent	3.0	7-9 Years
Fair	2.0	4-6 Years
Poor	1.0	1-3 Years
-	-	n/a

1. PARK CONDITION EVALUATION



CONDITION Elements

- **Amenity Conditions**
What are the condition of the park's amenities?
- **Furnishing Conditions**
What are the condition of the park's furnishings?
- **Landscape/ Hardscape Conditions**
What are the conditions of the park's landscapes and hardscapes?

when the park element may need to be replaced or improved:

Figure 1.4x illustrates a matrix of the condition evaluation scores including:

- **Total condition evaluation average score for the park system** - The park system received an average score of 2.3, suggesting overall, a fair condition of elements.
- **Total condition evaluation average score per park** - 7 parks received a total condition evaluation average score of 1.9 or below, suggesting a need for improvements over the next 1 to 3 years:

- Dewey 'Buck' Destin Park
- Harbor View
- Kelly Street Duck Pond
- Clement Taylor Park
- Destin Elementary School
- Joe's Bayou Boat Ramp
- Mattie Kelly Park

Some of these parks are already in the process of being improved including Clement Taylor, Joe's Bayou Boat Ramp, and Mattie Kelly Park.

Figure 1.4p - Park Condition Evaluation Findings Matrix

Scoring Legend		Excellent 3.0	Fair 2.0	Poor 1.0	N/A -																						
PARK NAME	PARK TYPE	TOTAL CONDITION EVALUATION AVERAGE	AMENITIES CONDITION AVERAGE	BASE/SOFT BALL FIELD	BASKETBALL COURT	BATTING CAGE	BOAT RAMP	BOARDWALKS/FLOATING DOCKS	COMMUNITY CENTER	DOG PARK	FISHING DOCK/PIER	DISC GOLF	CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH	PAVILION	PLAYGROUND	RACKETBALL	RESTROOM	SOCCER/RUGBY/ FOOTBALL FIELD	SPLASH SPAD	TENNIS COURTS	VOLLEYBALL COURT	CONCESSION BUILDING	MAINTENANCE BUILDING	STORAGE BUILDING	STORAGE SHEDS	DUGOUTS	CLASSROOM/ OFFICE
TOTAL AVERAGES		2.3	1.9	2.0	1.3	2.0	1.0	2.2	1.0	3.0	1.3	1.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.0	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.5	1.5	1.0	1.5	1.0	2.0	2.0
Barracuda Beach Trail	Beach Trail/ Mini Park	2.7	2.0	-	-	-	-	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Calhoun Beach Trail	Beach Trail/ Mini Park	2.5	2.0	-	-	-	-	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.0	-	-
Crystal Beach Trail	Beach Trail/ Mini Park	2.7	2.0	-	-	-	-	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
O'Steen Beach Trail	Beach Trail/ Mini Park	2.2	1.0	-	-	-	-	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tarpon Beach Trail	Beach Trail/ Mini Park	2.3	1.0	-	-	-	-	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pompano Beach Access	Beach Access/ Mini Park	3.0	3.0	-	-	-	-	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shirah Beach Access	Beach Access/ Mini Park	2.6	2.0	-	-	-	-	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.0	-	-
June White Decker Beach Park	Beach Park/ Mini Park	2.7	2.5	-	-	-	-	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shore at Crystal Beach Park	Beach Park/ Mini Park	2.9	3.0	-	-	-	-	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	-	-	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dewey 'Buck' Destin Park	Mini Park	1.7	1.3	-	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.0	1.0	-	-	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park	Mini Park	3.0	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	-	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.0
First & Fourth Street Park	Mini Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harbor Lane Park	Mini Park	2.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harbor View	Mini Park	1.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jewel Melvin Park	Mini Park	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kell-Aire North	Mini Park	2.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kell-Aire Nature Walk	Mini Park	2.2	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.0
Kelly Street Duck Pond	Mini Park	1.8	1.0	-	-	-	-	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Main Street Park	Mini Park	2.3	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Captain Leonard Destin Park	Neighborhood Park	2.7	2.3	-	-	-	-	2.0	-	2.0	-	2.0	3.0	2.0	3.0	-	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clement Taylor Park	Neighborhood Park	1.7	1.2	-	-	-	-	-	1.0	-	-	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	-	1.0	-	-	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Destin Community Center	Community Park	2.2	1.5	-	-	-	-	-	1.0	-	-	-	-	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Destin Elementary School Park	Community Park	1.7	1.4	-	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	
Morgan Sports Complex	Community Park	2.3	1.7	2.0	-	1.0	-	-	-	-	1.0	-	-	3.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	-	-	1.0	2.0	1.0	-	-	2.0	-	
Norreigo Point Park	Natural Area Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cemetery - Silbert Avenue	Special Purpose Park	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cemetery - Stahlman Avenue	Special Purpose Park	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dalton Threadgill Park	Special Purpose Park	2.0	1.9	-	2.0	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.0	-	-	-	-	1.0	-	1.0	1.0	3.0	-	
Harbor Boardwalk	Special Purpose Park	2.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Joe's Bayou Boat Ramp	Special Purpose Park	1.8	1.7	-	-	-	1.0	-	-	-	-	2.0	1.0	-	-	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.0	-	2.0	
Mattie Kelly Park	Special Purpose Park	1.8	1.7	-	-	-	1.0	-	-	-	-	2.0	1.0	-	-	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.0	-	-	2.0	
Nancy Weidenhamer Dog Park	Special Purpose Park	2.8	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Figure 1.4p - Park Condition Evaluation Findings Matrix (continued)

Scoring Legend	Excellent 3.0	Fair 2.0	Poor 1.0	N/A	-
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PARK NAME	PARK TYPE	FURNISHINGS CONDITION AVERAGE	BENCH	BIKE RACK	DOGWASTE STATION	WATER FOUNTAIN	PICNIC TABLE	TRASH CAN	SIGNAGE	SAIL SHADE STRUCTURE	SPORTS LIGHTING	SITE LIGHTING	FENCING	BLEACHERS	SHOWERS	HARDSCAPE LANDSCAPE CONDITION AVERAGE	LANDSCAPE	WALKWAYS/ BOARDWALK	PARKING	LOW SPEED VEHICLE PARKING	GARDEN/ MEMORIAL	TURF CONDITIONS	TREES/ PALM TREES	ENTRANCE SIGNAGE
TOTAL AVERAGES		2.5	2.5	2.7	2.0	2.0	2.5	2.4	2.6	3.0	1.7	2.7	2.1	2.5	3.0	2.5	2.3	2.6	2.2	1.0	2.3	2.3	2.8	2.7
Barracuda Beach Trail	Beach Trail/ Mini Park	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	3.0
Calhoun Beach Trail	Beach Trail/ Mini Park	2.6	3.0	2.0	-	-	-	2.0	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	3.0	3.0	-	3.0	-	-	-	3.0	3.0
Crystal Beach Trail	Beach Trail/ Mini Park	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	3.0
O'Steen Beach Trail	Beach Trail/ Mini Park	2.6	3.0	1.0	-	-	-	3.0	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	3.0	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	3.0
Tarpon Beach Trail	Beach Trail/ Mini Park	3.0	3.0	-	-	-	-	3.0	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	3.0	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	3.0
Pompano Beach Access	Beach Access/ Mini Park	3.0	3.0	3.0	-	-	-	3.0	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	3.0	3.0	-	3.0	-	-	-	3.0	3.0
Shirah Beach Access	Beach Access/ Mini Park	2.8	3.0	2.0	-	-	-	3.0	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	3.0	3.0	-	3.0	-	-	-	3.0	3.0
June White Decker Beach Park	Beach Park/ Mini Park	2.5	3.0	2.0	-	2.0	-	2.0	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	3.0	3.0	-	3.0	-	-	-	3.0	3.0
Shore at Crystal Beach Park	Beach Park/ Mini Park	3.0	3.0	3.0	-	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	2.6	3.0	-	3.0	1.0	-	-	3.0	3.0
Dewey 'Buck' Destin Park	Mini Park	1.7	1.0	3.0	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	-	-	-	3.0	-	-	2.2	2.0	2.0	1.0	-	-	-	3.0	3.0
Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park	Mini Park	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	-	3.0	-	-	-	3.0	3.0	3.0	-	-	-	-	3.0	3.0
First & Fourth Street Park	Mini Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harbor Lane Park	Mini Park	2.5	2.0	-	-	-	3.0	2.0	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.3	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	2.0
Harbor View	Mini Park	2.4	3.0	3.0	-	-	2.0	2.0	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.4	1.0	1.0	1.0	-	-	-	2.0	2.0
Jewel Melvin Park	Mini Park	2.0	3.0	-	1.0	-	-	-	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.0	2.0	-	2.0	-	-	-	2.0	2.0
Kell-Aire North	Mini Park	2.5	2.0	3.0	2.0	-	-	-	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.7	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	2.0
Kell-Aire Nature Walk	Mini Park	2.3	2.0	3.0	2.0	-	-	2.0	3.0	-	-	2.0	-	-	-	2.2	2.0	3.0	1.0	-	-	-	3.0	2.0
Kelly Street Duck Pond	Mini Park	2.0	2.0	3.0	-	-	-	2.0	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.3	2.0	3.0	2.0	-	-	-	-	-
Main Street Park	Mini Park	3.0	3.0	3.0	-	-	3.0	3.0	3.0	-	-	-	3.0	-	-	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	-	-	-	3.0	3.0
Captain Leonard Destin Park	Neighborhood Park	2.7	3.0	3.0	-	2.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	-	-	-	3.0	3.0
Clement Taylor Park	Neighborhood Park	2.0	2.0	2.0	-	1.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	-	-	-	2.0	-	-	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	-	-	-	3.0	2.0
Destin Community Center	Community Park	2.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.0	-	-	2.0	3.0	-	-	2.8	2.0	3.0	3.0	-	-	-	3.0	3.0
Destin Elementary School Park	Community Park	1.7	1.0	-	-	1.0	3.0	2.0	-	-	1.0	-	2.0	-	-	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	2.0	-	-
Morgan Sports Complex	Community Park	2.5	3.0	3.0	-	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	1.0	3.0	-	2.7	3.0	2.0	3.0	-	-	2.0	3.0	3.0
Norreigo Point Park	Natural Area Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cemetery - Silbert Avenue	Special Purpose Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.5	1.0	3.0	-	-	3.0	-	3.0	-
Cemetery - Stahlman Avenue	Special Purpose Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.5	1.0	3.0	-	-	3.0	-	3.0	-
Dalton Threadgill Park	Special Purpose Park	2.3	2.0	3.0	-	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	-	1.0	-	2.0	2.0	-	1.7	1.0	2.0	1.0	-	1.0	2.0	3.0	2.0
Harbor Boardwalk	Special Purpose Park	2.0	1.0	-	2.0	-	-	2.0	2.0	-	-	3.0	-	-	-	2.5	2.0	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Joe's Bayou Boat Ramp	Special Purpose Park	2.3	-	3.0	-	2.0	-	2.0	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.5	1.0	-	1.0	-	-	-	1.0	3.0
Mattie Kelly Park	Special Purpose Park	2.3	-	3.0	-	2.0	-	2.0	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.5	1.0	-	1.0	-	-	-	1.0	3.0
Nancy Weidenhamer Dog Park	Special Purpose Park	2.3	3.0	-	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	-	-	3.0	1.0	-	-	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	-	-	3.0	3.0	3.0

• Total condition evaluation average score per element

- Various elements across the parks system received a score of 1.9, suggesting a need to improve these elements in the next 3 years.

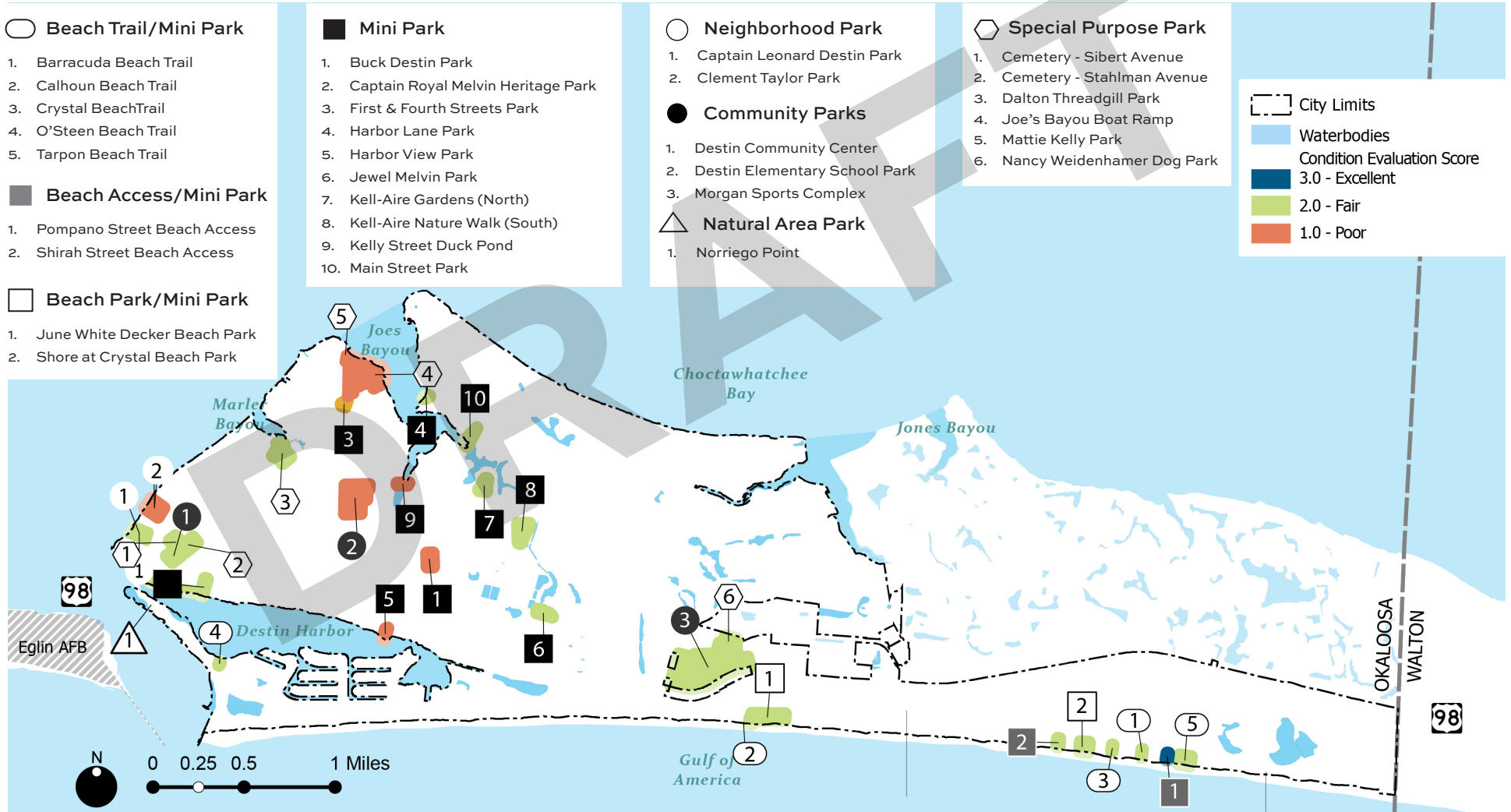
- Basketball courts
- Boat ramps
- Community center
- Fishing docks
- Disc golf
- Playgrounds
- Pickleball court
- Volleyball court
- Concession building
- Maintenance building
- Storage buildings
- Storage sheds
- Sports lighting
- Low-speed vehicle parking

- **Condition evaluation score per element, per park** - Approximately 20% of park elements throughout the park system need improvements in the next 1-3 years. These range from the basketball courts at Dewey 'Buck' Destin Park, to the

Batting Cages in the Morgan Sports Complex, to the landscape and hardscape at Harbor View Park. Specific recommendations will be identified in the Phase 3- Vision.

Figure 1.4q maps the findings based on the total condition evaluation average score per park.

Figure 1.4q - Total Condition Evaluation Average Findings Map



2. **Park Function Evaluation:** Evaluates how parks function based on criteria inspired by the Project for Public Spaces of the characteristics that make up a successful public space.

The criteria is comprised of 4 categories and 32 sub-categories and uses a 5-point scale:

LEGEND	
Performance	Score
Excellent	5.0
	4.0
Fair	3.0
	2.0
Poor	1.0
-	n/a

In the following pages, Figure 1.4r illustrates a matrix of the function evaluation scores including:

- Total function evaluation average score for the park system
- Total function evaluation average score per park
- Total function evaluation average score per characteristic
- Function evaluation score per characteristic, per park.

Figure 1.4s maps the findings based on the total function evaluation average score per park.

2. PARK FUNCTION EVALUATION



ACCESS

Proximity, Access, and Linkages

- **Visibility from a distance**
Can one easily see into the park?
- **Ease of walking to the park**
Can someone walk directly into the park safely and easily?
- **Clarity of information/signage**
Is there signage that identifies the park, and/or signage that provides additional information for users?
- **ADA Compliance**
Does the site generally appear to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) laws for accessibility?
- **Lighting**
Is the park lighted appropriately for use at night? (if applicable)



COMFORT

Comfort and Image

- **First impression/overall attractiveness**
Is the park attractive at first glance?
- **Feeling of safety**
Does the park feel safe at the time of the visit?
- **Cleanliness/overall quality of maintenance (Exterior /Interior)**
Is the park clean and free of litter?
- **Comfort of places to sit**
Are there comfortable places to sit?
- **Protection from bad weather**
Is there shelter in case of bad weather?

- **Evidence of management/ stewardship (Exterior/ Interior)**
Is there visual evidence of site management?
- **Ability to easily supervise and manage the park or facility (Interior)**
How difficult it is to supervise the park and its facilities?
- **Condition and effectiveness of any equipment or operation systems**
Is the equipment and/or operating system in good condition?
- **Branding**
Does the park exhibit appropriate branding?



USE

Uses, Activities, and Sociability

- **Mix of uses/things to do**
Is there a variety of things to do given the type of park?
- **Level of activity**
How active is the park with visitors?
- **Sense of pride/ownership**
Is there evidence of community pride in the park?
- **Programming flexibility**
How flexible is the park in accommodating multiple uses?
- **Ability of facility to effectively support current organized programming**
Is the site meeting the needs of organized programs?
- **Marketing or promotional efforts for the facility**
Is the site being marketed effectively?



BUILDINGS

Buildings and Architecture

- **Image and aesthetics**
Is the building attractive?
- **Clarity of entry and connection to the park**
Is the building integrated into its surroundings?
- **Interior layout**
Is the layout functional?
- **Interior finishes, furniture, and equipment**
Are the furnishings and equipment inside the building of good condition and quality?
- **Functioning dimensions of spaces**
Does the organization of space support the building's intended function?
- **Structural integrity**
Is there any obvious need for structural repairs?
- **Building enclosure**
Is there any obvious need for repairs to the building shell?
- **Building systems**
Are all the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems in working order?
- **Energy and sustainability**
Is there evidence that the building is energy efficient?

Figure 1.4r - Park Function Evaluation Findings Matrix

Scoring Legend		Excellent 5.0	4.0	Fair 3.0	2.0	Poor 1.0	N/A	-													
PARK NAME	TYPE	TOTAL FUNCTION EVALUATION AVERAGES	PROXIMITY/ ACCESS/ LINKAGES:	Visibility from a distance	Ease in walking to the park	Clarity of information/ signage	ADA Compliance	Lighting	COMFORT & IMAGE:	First Impression / overall attractiveness	Feeling of safety	Cleanliness/ overall quality of maintenance (Exterior)	Cleanliness/overall quality of maintenance (Facilities Interior)	Comfort of places to sit	Protection from bad weather	Evidence of management /stewardship (Exterior Site)	Evidence of management /stewardship (Facility(ies) Interior)	Ability to Easily Supervise and Manage the Park or Facility (Interior)	Condition and Effectiveness of any Equipment or Operating Systems	Branding	
				3.3	3.2	3.9	3.7	2.6		2.9	3.3	3.1	3.8	3.9	4.0	3.3	1.5	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.7
TOTAL AVERAGES		3.4	3.3	3.2	3.9	3.7	2.6	2.9	3.3	3.1	3.8	3.9	4.0	3.3	1.5	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.1	
Barracuda Beach Trail	Beach Trail/ Mini Park	3.4	2.5	1.0	4.0	4.0	1.0	-	3.4	4.0	4.0	4.0	-	4.0	1.0	4.0	-	-	-	3.0	
Calhoun Beach Trail	Beach Trail/ Mini Park	4.0	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	-	3.6	4.0	4.0	4.0	-	4.0	1.0	4.0	-	-	4.0	4.0	
Crystal Beach Trail	Beach Trail/ Mini Park	3.6	3.0	1.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	-	3.4	4.0	4.0	4.0	-	4.0	1.0	4.0	-	-	-	3.0	
O'Steen Beach Trail	Beach Trail/ Mini Park	3.3	2.5	1.0	4.0	4.0	1.0	-	3.1	3.0	3.0	4.0	-	4.0	1.0	4.0	-	-	4.0	2.0	
Tarpon Beach Trail	Beach Trail/ Mini Park	3.6	3.5	5.0	4.0	4.0	1.0	-	3.0	1.0	4.0	4.0	-	4.0	1.0	4.0	-	-	-	3.0	
Pompano Beach Access	Beach Access/ Mini Park	3.8	3.3	4.0	4.0	4.0	1.0	-	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.0	-	4.0	1.0	4.0	-	-	4.0	5.0	
Shirah Beach Access	Beach Access/ Mini Park	3.5	2.8	2.0	4.0	4.0	1.0	-	3.6	4.0	4.0	4.0	-	4.0	1.0	4.0	-	-	4.0	4.0	
June White Decker Beach Park	Beach Park/ Mini Park	4.2	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	-	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.0	-	4.0	1.0	4.0	-	-	4.0	5.0	
Shore at Crystal Beach Park	Beach Park/ Mini Park	4.5	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	-	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	-	4.0	5.0	4.0	-	-	4.0	4.0	
Dewey 'Buck' Destin Park	Mini Parks	3.1	3.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.0	3.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	1.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	2.0	
Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park	Mini Parks	4.6	4.4	3.0	4.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	-	5.0	1.0	5.0	-	-	5.0	5.0	
Harbor Lane Park	Mini Parks	2.6	2.5	1.0	4.0	4.0	1.0	-	3.1	3.0	4.0	4.0	-	4.0	1.0	4.0	-	-	-	2.0	
Harbor View	Mini Parks	1.6	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	3.0	-	2.0	1.0	3.0	-	-	2.0	2.0	
Jewel Melvin Park	Mini Parks	1.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	1.0	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	-	-	-	1.0	
Kell-Aire North	Mini Parks	2.2	2.3	2.0	3.0	3.0	1.0	-	2.8	4.0	3.0	4.0	-	3.0	1.0	3.0	-	-	3.0	1.0	
Kell-Aire Nature Walk	Mini Parks	2.3	3.3	5.0	4.0	3.0	1.0	-	2.5	2.0	4.0	3.0	-	3.0	1.0	3.0	-	-	3.0	1.0	
Kelly Street Duck Pond	Mini Parks	3.1	4.0	5.0	5.0	4.0	2.0	-	3.0	3.0	5.0	4.0	-	3.0	1.0	3.0	-	-	3.0	2.0	
Main Street Park	Mini Parks	3.5	4.0	4.0	5.0	5.0	2.0	-	3.6	4.0	5.0	5.0	-	3.0	1.0	4.0	-	-	4.0	3.0	
Captain Leonard Destin Park	Neighborhood Park	4.7	4.5	4.0	4.0	5.0	5.0	-	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0	-	5.0	5.0	5.0	-	-	4.0	5.0	
Clement Taylor Park	Neighborhood Park	3.0	2.8	2.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	-	2.5	3.0	2.0	2.0	-	3.0	4.0	2.0	-	-	1.0	3.0	
Destin Community Center	Community Park	3.5	4.2	5.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.5	1.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	
Destin Elementary School Park	Community Park	3.1	2.6	2.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	3.3	3.0	5.0	4.0	-	2.0	3.0	3.0	-	-	3.0	3.0	
Morgan Sports Complex	Community Park	3.8	4.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	3.6	4.0	4.0	4.0	-	4.0	1.0	4.0	-	-	4.0	4.0	
Cemetery - Silbert Avenue	Special Purpose Parks	3.1	3.5	4.0	4.0	2.0	4.0	-	2.8	2.0	4.0	4.0	-	1.0	1.0	3.0	-	-	4.0	3.0	
Cemetery - Stahlman Avenue	Special Purpose Parks	3.1	3.5	4.0	4.0	2.0	4.0	-	2.8	2.0	4.0	4.0	-	1.0	1.0	3.0	-	-	4.0	3.0	
Dalton Threadgill Park	Special Purpose Parks	2.9	2.6	2.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	3.4	3.0	4.0	4.0	-	4.0	1.0	4.0	-	-	4.0	3.0	
Harbor Boardwalk	Special Purpose Parks	4.9	4.8	5.0	5.0	4.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	-	5.0	-	5.0	-	-	5.0	5.0	
Joe's Bayou Boat Ramp	Special Purpose Parks	3.3	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	1.0	2.6	2.0	2.0	4.0	-	2.0	1.0	4.0	-	-	4.0	2.0	
Mattie Kelly Park	Special Purpose Parks	3.3	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	1.0	2.6	2.0	2.0	4.0	-	2.0	1.0	4.0	-	-	4.0	2.0	
Nancy Weidenhamer Dog Park	Special Purpose Parks	4.0	4.2	5.0	5.0	4.0	2.0	5.0	3.8	4.0	5.0	4.0	-	4.0	1.0	4.0	-	-	4.0	4.0	

Figure 1.4r - Park Function Evaluation Findings Matrix (continued)

		Scoring Legend																	
		Excellent	5.0	4.0	Fair	3.0	2.0	Poor	1.0	N/A	-								
PARK NAME	TYPE	USES AND ACTIVITIES & SOCIABILITY:	Mix of uses/things to do	Level of activity	Sense of pride/ownership	Programming Flexibility	Ability of Facility to Effectively Support Current Organized Programming	Marketing or Promotional Efforts for the Facility or Activities	BUILDINGS AND ARCHITECTURE:	Image and Aesthetics	Clarity of Entry and Connections to Park	Interior Layout	Interior Finishes and Furniture and Equipment	Functioning Dimensions of spaces	Structural Integrity	Building Enclosure	Building Systems	Energy and Sustainability	
																			3.6
TOTAL AVERAGES																			
Barracuda Beach Trail	Beach Trail/ Mini Park	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.0	-	-	5.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Calhoun Beach Trail	Beach Trail/ Mini Park	4.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	-	-	5.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Crystal Beach Trail	Beach Trail/ Mini Park	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.0	-	-	5.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
O'Steen Beach Trail	Beach Trail/ Mini Park	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.0	-	-	5.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Tarpon Beach Trail	Beach Trail/ Mini Park	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.0	-	-	5.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Pompano Beach Access	Beach Access/ Mini Park	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.0	-	-	5.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Shirah Beach Access	Beach Access/ Mini Park	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.0	-	-	5.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
June White Decker Beach Park	Beach Park/ Mini Park	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	-	-	5.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Shore at Crystal Beach Park	Beach Park/ Mini Park	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	-	-	5.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Dewey 'Buck' Destin Park	Mini Parks	3.7	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	2.6	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	
Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park	Mini Parks	4.8	5.0	5.0	5.0	-	-	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Harbor Lane Park	Mini Parks	2.3	4.0	1.0	3.0	-	-	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Harbor View	Mini Parks	1.5	1.0	1.0	2.0	-	-	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Jewel Melvin Park	Mini Parks	1.5	1.0	1.0	2.0	-	-	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Kell-Aire North	Mini Parks	1.5	1.0	1.0	3.0	-	-	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Kell-Aire Nature Walk	Mini Parks	1.3	1.0	1.0	2.0	-	-	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Kelly Street Duck Pond	Mini Parks	2.3	2.0	2.0	3.0	-	-	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Main Street Park	Mini Parks	2.8	2.0	3.0	4.0	-	-	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Captain Leonard Destin Park	Neighborhood Park	4.8	5.0	5.0	5.0	-	-	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Clement Taylor Park	Neighborhood Park	3.8	5.0	4.0	2.0	-	-	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Destin Community Center	Community Park	3.7	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	1.0	5.0	2.7	1.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	1.0	3.0	3.0		
Destin Elementary School Park	Community Park	3.3	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	2.0	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Morgan Sports Complex	Community Park	3.8	5.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	1.0	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cemetery - Silbert Avenue	Special Purpose Parks	3.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cemetery - Stahlman Avenue	Special Purpose Parks	3.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Dalton Threadgill Park	Special Purpose Parks	2.8	2.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Harbor Boardwalk	Special Purpose Parks	5.0	-	5.0	5.0	-	-	5.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Joe's Bayou Boat Ramp	Special Purpose Parks	4.3	4.0	5.0	4.0	-	-	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Mattie Kelly Park	Special Purpose Parks	4.3	4.0	5.0	4.0	-	-	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Nancy Weidenhamer Dog Park	Special Purpose Parks	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	-	-	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Park Function Evaluation Summary

Based on the evaluation of the City of Destin's parks and recreation system using the park function evaluation criteria previously described it appears that the City's parks and recreation system is in fair condition, with an overall score of 3.9. The system displayed a variety of strengths that the City should build on, as well as some opportunities to improve. These will be further explored during Phase 3 - Vision of the project. Following is an overview of these strengths and opportunities.



ACCESS | PROXIMITY, ACCESS, AND LINKAGES

(+) Strengths

- **Visibility** - Many of the City's parks provide adequate visibility into the park from at least two or three sides with clear sight lines into the park. Tarpon Beach Trail, Kell-Aire Nature Walk, Kelly Street Duck Pond, Destin Community Center, Harbor Boardwalk, and Nancy Weidenhamer Dog Park are great examples of parks that have clear visibility into the park.
- **Ease in walking to the park** - Many of the City's parks offer users the opportunity to walk to the park along sidewalks or low traffic streets that connect the park to the surrounding neighborhood. Great example are Kelly Street Duck Pond, Main Street Park, Harbor Boardwalk, and Nancy Weidenhamer Dog Park.
- **Clarity of information/ signage** - Many of the City's parks provide an exemplary hierarchy of signage including gateway signage, location map, identification, directional, and educational signage. Notable examples include Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park, Main Street Park, and Captain Leonard Destin Park.

(-) Opportunities

- **Park access** - While some of the City's parks show evidence of accessibility, there is an opportunity to improve the general accessibility of many of the parks, particularly for users with special needs. Notable examples to emulate include Calhoun Beach Trail, Shore at Crystal Beach Park, Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park, Captain Leonard Destin Park, and Harbor Boardwalk.
- **Park lighting** - While most of the City's park are intended to be used during day light hours and don't require lighting, there is an opportunity to improve the lighting in other parks. Parks where lighting could be improved are Dewey 'Buck' Destin Park, Harbor View, Destin Elementary School, Dalton Threadgill Park, Joe's Bayou Boat Ramp, and Mattie Kelly Park. Additionally, the City should continue to update park lighting to include LED, dark-sky, down-lighting.

COMFORT | COMFORT AND IMAGE

(+) Strengths



- **First impression/ overall attractiveness** - Most of the City's parks offer a positive first impression and overall attractiveness with some parks exhibiting higher degrees of design, maintenance standards, and branding than others. Notable examples include Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park, Captain Leonard Destin Park, and Harbor Boardwalk.
- **Cleanliness/ feeling of safety** - Most of the City's parks exhibit adequate cleanliness and overall quality of maintenance, management, and stewardship, including indoor maintenance of the Destin Community Center and building in Dewey 'Buck' Destin Park. These qualities have also helped foster a sense of safety and pride in the City's parks. Notable examples include Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park, Captain Leonard Destin Park, and Harbor Boardwalk.
- **Comfort of places to sit** - Most of the City's parks include inviting, neat, clean, and sensorially pleasant places to sit that are located in pleasant areas. Notable examples are Botanical Gardens and Woodland Trails Park. Notable examples include Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park, Captain Leonard Destin Park, and Harbor Boardwalk.
- **Equipment and operating systems** - Most of the City's parks contain equipment and operating systems that are in good condition, effective, and well maintained. Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park, Captain Leonard Destin Park, and Harbor Boardwalk are good examples.
- **Branding** - Most of the City's parks exhibit a positive example of brand consistency, including design details, materials, colors/ aesthetics, condition, image, etc. Notable examples Pompano Beach Access, June White Decker Beach Park, Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park, Captain Leonard Destin Park, and Harbor Boardwalk.

(-) Opportunities

- **Park experience and design standards** - While many of the City's parks are well maintained, clean, provide a great overall first impression, and strong branding, others don't exhibit the same type of quality experience. The City should continue to improve and upgrade the quality of parks to ensure that parks across the system exhibit similar park experience and design standards.



- **Protection from bad weather** - While some of the City’s parks offer protection from bad weather, there are many parks that don’t provide shade or shelters for refuge during inclement weather. The City should continue to provide a covered structure (depending on the complexity of the park, at least one) that offers complete protection from the elements, especially considering rapidly changing weather in Florida.

USE | USES, ACTIVITIES, AND SOCIABILITY

(+) Strengths



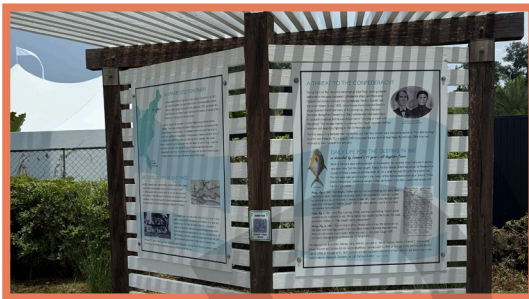
- **Mix of uses** - Many of the City’s parks provide a mix of things to do for a variety of users including children, adults, and seniors. This is particularly important for parks in the City of Destin considering the City’s multi-generational cohort of residents and visitors. Parks that provide an adequate mix of things to do, consider park type and purpose include June White Decker Beach Park, Shore at Crystal Beach Park, Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park, Captain Leonard Destin Park, Clement Taylor Park, and Morgan Sports Complex.



- **Activity** - Many of the City’s parks contain high levels of activity, considering the park type and purpose. June White Decker Beach Park, Shore at Crystal Beach Park, Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park, Captain Leonard Destin Park, Clement Taylor Park, Morgan Sports Complex, Harbor Boardwalk, Joe’s Bayou Boat Ramp, and Mattie Kelly Park are parks that have high levels of activity.



- **Pride** - Many of the City’s parks exhibit a high level of pride and ownership and display limited to no signs of litter, vandalism, and misuse of facilities. June White Decker Beach Park, Shore at Crystal Beach Park, Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park, Captain Leonard Destin Park, and Harbor Boardwalk exhibit high levels of pride and ownership.
- **Marketing** - Most of the City’s parks have strong marketing and promotional efforts to make the community aware of their presence, location, facilities, and activities. Strategies that are used by the City include a mix of digital and traditional print media. These include the presence of the parks and facilities in the Department website, videos created by the City to promote parks and activities through social media, digital and print fliers, and email blasts. Notable examples are Barracuda Beach Trail, Calhoun Beach Trail, Crystal Beach Trail, O’steen Beach Trail, Tarpon Beach Trail, Pompano Beach Access, Shirah Beach Access, June White Decker Beach Park, Shore at Crystal Beach Park, Destin Community Center, and Harbor Boardwalk.



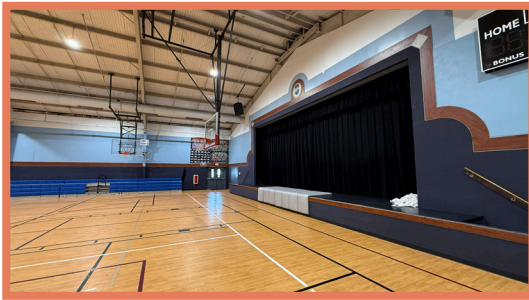
(-) Opportunities

- **More “things to do”** - While many of the City’s parks include a mix of facilities for users of various age groups, others do not. The City should continue to look for opportunities to diversify parks and recreation facilities and program offerings to cater to a park users of all ages. This would also enhance the level of activity in parks as well as sense of pride and ownership.
- **Ability to support programming** - While some of the City’s parks are adequately planned and spatially programmed to facilitate organized programming, others are not. Proper size, design, and layout of spaces and facilities along with limited parking is a challenge in certain parks such as the Destin Community Center, Destin Elementary School Park, Morgan Sports Complex, and Dalton Threadgill Park.
- **Multi-use/ multi-purpose use** - While many of the City’s parks provide opportunities for multi-use and flexible use due to adequate facilities, spaces, others do not. As the City continues to improve parks, there is an opportunity to ensure that park improvements are completed in way that facilitates multi-purpose and multi-use.
- **Awareness** - While many of the City’s parks have effective marketing and promotional efforts, others do not. The City should continue to expand strategies to promote the City’s parks through-low tech and high-tech strategies including signage, wayfinding, and partner cross-marketing.

BUILDINGS | BUILDINGS + ARCHITECTURE

(+) Strengths

- **Clarity of entry-** The City’s parks and recreation buildings benefit from having well-defined entry points that are easy for visitors to identify. Clear visual cues—such as pathways, and landscaping—reinforce the connection between the buildings and adjacent recreational areas, promoting accessibility and convenience. However, there may still be opportunities to enhance the entry experience by improving wayfinding elements and ensuring ADA compliance for all access routes.
- **Structural integrity** - Overall, the City’s parks and recreation buildings appear to maintain adequate structural integrity, are stable and capable of supporting the buildings’ intended use. This suggests that, despite aging finishes and systems, the core structure remains sound and does not pose immediate safety concerns. Nevertheless, given the buildings ages, ongoing monitoring and preventive maintenance are essential to address potential future issues.



(+) Opportunities

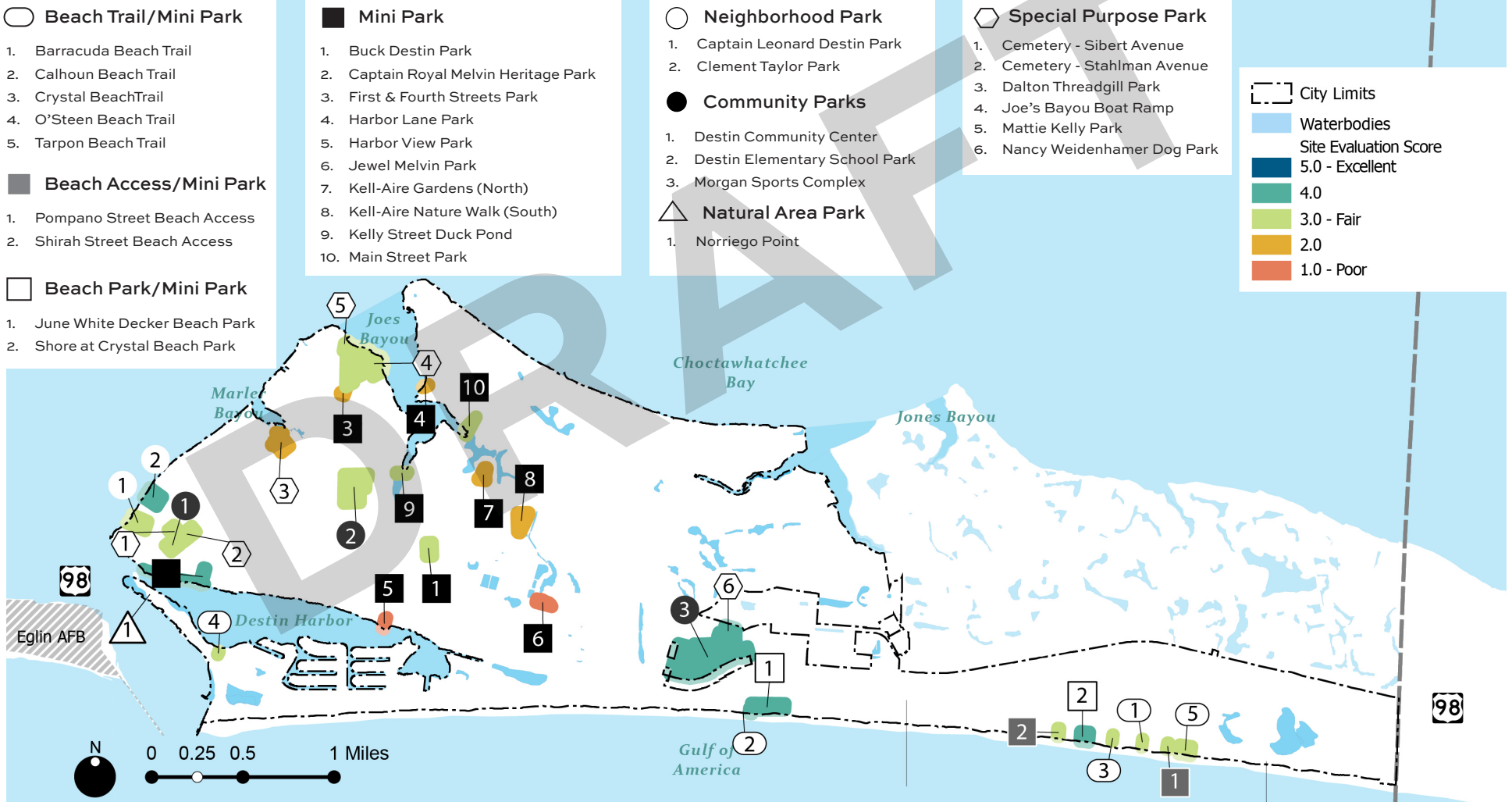
- **Appearance** - The visual condition of the City’s parks and recreation buildings impacts public perception and user experience. While the Destin Community Center may look acceptable from a distance, closer inspection reveals substantial deterioration of its exterior surfaces, including faded paint, cracks, and structural wear. These issues suggest that the building is not only aesthetically outdated but also potentially compromised in terms of durability. The Senior Center Building at Dewey “Buck” Destin Park exhibits similar signs of aging, indicating that both facilities are approaching or have surpassed their intended lifespan. Replacement or major renovation should be considered to maintain community pride and ensure safety.
- **Interior layout** - The current interior configurations of both buildings are inefficient and fail to support modern recreational programming. Spaces are often undersized or poorly arranged, limiting flexibility for activities and events. For example, the buildings lack adequate storage and accessibility, reducing comfort and usability. Improving the layout could involve reconfiguring spaces to allow for adaptable programming, better traffic flow, and compliance with ADA standards, ultimately enhancing the overall user experience.
- **Interior furnishings and equipment** - Furniture, finishes, and equipment inside the facilities are outdated and nearing the end of their functional life. Worn flooring, dated lighting, and aging furniture detract from the aesthetic appeal and comfort of the spaces. Additionally, equipment used for recreational programs may be obsolete or insufficient, limiting the variety and quality of activities offered. Renovating interiors with modern, durable materials and upgrading equipment would create a more inviting environment and support a broader range of programming.
- **Building enclosure** - The building envelope of the Destin Community Center—including the roof, windows, and doors—is in poor condition, with visible breaches and holes that compromise weather resistance. These deficiencies can lead to water intrusion, energy loss, and pest infiltration, accelerating structural deterioration. Given these issues, the building may no longer meet basic performance standards, reinforcing the need for replacement or comprehensive reconstruction to ensure safety and longevity.
- **Building systems and energy efficiency** - Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems within the facilities are likely outdated and inefficient, resulting in higher operating costs and reduced reliability. While the City has upgraded certain elements, further upgrading to modern, energy-efficient systems—such as additional LED lighting, high-efficiency HVAC units, and improved insulation—would reduce utility expenses and enhance comfort. Incorporating smart building technologies could further optimize performance and reduce environmental impact. Maintenance Area Improvements



- **Maintenance area** - The City's parks and recreation maintenance area presents a significant opportunity for improvement. Currently, while staff has been creative in identifying additional storage opportunities, storage capacity is limited, forcing valuable equipment—worth hundreds of thousands of dollars—to remain outdoors and exposed to harsh weather conditions. This exposure accelerates deterioration, reduces the lifespan of assets, and increases long-term replacement and repair costs.

Inadequate storage also creates operational inefficiencies, as staff may spend additional time managing and protecting equipment rather than focusing on core maintenance tasks. There is an opportunity for the City to consider investing in a properly designed, secure, and weather-protected maintenance facility that would safeguard assets, improve workflow, and ensure the City's investment in equipment is preserved for years to come.

Figure 1.4s- Total Function Evaluation Average Findings Map



1.4.10 MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT

Introduction

The Plan provides DPRD with a framework for delivering consistent, high-quality care across parks, facilities, trails, and public spaces. By defining expectations, establishing maintenance standards, and identifying true resource needs, the plan strengthens operational efficiency, enhances safety, and prolongs the life of assets. It also supports transparent, data-driven decision-making, helping the DPRD prioritize reinvestment, plan for system growth, and advocate for sustainable funding. Ultimately, this plan equips Destin with the tools to maintain a well-cared-for system that meets community expectations today while preparing for the demands of tomorrow.

Park System Overview

DPRD oversees a broad parks and facilities system that serves residents and visitors with a wide range of recreational opportunities. Despite the scale and complexity of maintaining such a dynamic system, DPRD staff remain committed to delivering high-quality service, safe and well-cared-for spaces, and meaningful experiences for the community. Their dedication, responsiveness, and pride in stewardship ensure that Destin's parks, facilities, and programs

continue to reflect the community's expectations and support a strong quality of life for all who enjoy them. This commitment extends to the City's indoor recreation amenities, including a multi-use sport court inside the Community Center that is regularly converted between basketball, volleyball, and pickleball uses. Because it functions as an indoor, multi-purpose space, this court is not included in the outdoor sport court inventory. This overview does not include the infrastructure that accompanies the grounds and facilities operation. DPRD considers infrastructure to be part of all properties and facilities.

Maintenance Program Findings and Best Practices

DPRD's maintenance program for grounds and facilities is built on a strong commitment from staff who consistently strive to be proactive in their work. Many routine and seasonal tasks are already planned in advance, and teams take initiative to stay ahead of issues whenever resources allow. However, limitations in documentation, staffing capacity, system growth, and reactive demands, such as weather impacts, high visitation, and non-park responsibilities, can make it difficult to maintain a fully proactive approach across all

sites. Routine and preventative maintenance, work management systems, lifecycle planning, equipment and tool management, and performance tracking each present opportunities to better support the proactive efforts staff are already making. This chapter summarizes key findings in these areas and outlines best practices designed to enhance operational efficiency. Together, these recommendations build on existing staff strengths and provide a framework for a more data-informed, sustainable maintenance program that supports high-quality parks and facilities for the Destin community.

Routine Maintenance

Routine maintenance is the foundation of DPRD's grounds and facilities operations, yet

much of the work today relies on institutional knowledge rather than consistent documentation or structured schedules. While DPRD staff already use structured schedules for mowing and turf treatments, these schedules primarily exist in paper form and are not yet housed in a centralized digital system accessible to all staff. This can create inconsistencies in communication and documentation despite the team's proactive practices.

Additionally, both teams navigate a highly dynamic environment, balancing daily operational needs with major tournaments, weather recovery, high seasonal visitation, and unexpected repairs. This often disrupts planned maintenance cycles.



As a result, service levels can vary across the system, and tasks may be deferred when reactive demands take priority.

Grounds maintenance requires year-round attention to turf care, landscaping, tree management, irrigation systems, trail upkeep, athletic field preparation, playground safety, and natural resource areas. Staff regularly manage storm impacts, drought conditions, and tourism-driven wear on outdoor spaces, often shifting from routine care to rapid field recovery or emergency cleanup. Clear expectations for inspection cycles, seasonal tasks, and maintenance frequencies will help bring greater consistency to these operations.

Similarly, facility maintenance is largely reactive, with most tasks initiated through the City's iWorQ system but not always tracked through completion. A small, self-sufficient team provides daily custodial services, minor repairs, and general building upkeep across more than 30 sites. They frequently respond to immediate needs such as restroom plumbing issues, material shortages, or last-minute event preparations. Maintenance staff are working with limited indoor storage and inconsistent material availability, both of which affect repair quality and long-term operational efficiency.

To strengthen DPRD's overall maintenance program and transition from a reactive to a planned, data-informed approach, several best practices apply to both grounds and facilities:

- Create a written Routine Maintenance Standards Manual that establishes consistent expectations for both grounds and facilities (see section 3.3.4).
- Implement zone-based schedules for custodial care, landscaping, inspections, and minor repairs.

- Consistently use daily and weekly task checklists tailored to each property or facility type to reinforce proactive approaches.
- Develop a decision-making matrix that clarifies which routine tasks should be completed in-house versus by contractors.
- Formalize contractor verification processes to ensure all outsourced work meets DPRD's standards.
- Track labor hours and work orders consistently, enabling better planning, forecasting future resource needs as assets are added, and performance evaluation.

Preventative Maintenance

Preventative maintenance is a critical component of DPRD's ability to protect its parks, facilities, and infrastructure; however, current practices across both grounds and facilities remain largely informal and inconsistently documented. Many preventative tasks, whether related to tree care, irrigation systems, playgrounds, building systems, or boardwalk structures, are known primarily through staff experience rather than scheduled, trackable procedures. As a result, much maintenance occurs only after problems emerge, leading to avoidable emergency repairs, shortened asset lifecycles, and higher long-term costs.

Both grounds and facilities teams regularly manage essential systems such as HVAC, plumbing, electrical, irrigation, playground safety features, turf systems, and coastal infrastructure. Yet these components are typically serviced on an as-needed basis, often with the support of Public Works or contracted vendors. Older facilities and heavily used outdoor assets are particularly vulnerable

to deferred maintenance under this reactive approach, especially during peak tourism seasons when system failures can disrupt operations and diminish the visitor experience.

Transitioning to a proactive, data-informed preventative maintenance program will help DPRD improve consistency, reduce emergency repairs, and extend the useful life of key assets. A more structured process supported by a computerized maintenance management software ("CMMS") capable of automated reminders, work order generation, and tracking would ensure that inspections and preventative tasks occur at the optimal times of year and are properly documented for future planning.

It is important to note that the intent of implementing a CMMS is to streamline existing processes and not add new administrative burdens. By automating reminders and reducing duplicate or paper-based tracking, the system should be designed to support staff rather than tie them to more reporting. The goal is to reduce time spent on manual documentation and help staff spend more time in the field while still capturing the data needed for planning and resource justification.

Key best practices that apply to both grounds and facilities include:

- Develop a comprehensive Preventative Maintenance Schedule covering all major systems and assets, with clearly defined inspection intervals, documentation requirements, and responsible staff.
- Fully utilize the iWorQ system (or another CMMS) to track preventative tasks, generate automated work orders based on season, and compile completion data for reporting and lifecycle planning.
- Implement routine inspection cycles

(quarterly, semiannual, and annual) for critical building systems, irrigation infrastructure, turf areas, playground equipment, boardwalks, and other high-use amenities. DPRD should build on the monthly inspection process that is already implemented for facilities and expand this for grounds maintenance management.

- Prioritize high-value or high-impact assets, such as HVAC units, irrigation controllers, restrooms, lighting systems, and athletic fields, to prevent failures that can disrupt operations.
- Adopt predictive maintenance strategies similar to what are implemented for ball field work at Morgan Sports Complex such as sodding, aerifying, overseeding, and top dressing, for other grounds and building systems. DPRD should prioritize facilities such as the Community Center where downtime has significant impact to quality service delivery.

Non-Park Grounds Maintenance

The maintenance team also supports a variety of non-park properties, including medians, easements, parking lots, cemeteries, and waterfront lighting systems. These sites operate under different standards and often involve shared responsibilities with contractors or other City departments. Because non-park work can strain staff capacity, documenting responsibilities, service levels, and contract expectations is important for maintaining transparency and ensuring workloads are accurately reflected in staffing and budget planning.

Technology and Work Management Systems

Efficient workload and work order management is essential for both grounds and facilities

operations, yet DPRD’s current systems and processes limit the department’s ability to plan, prioritize, and track maintenance consistently. DPRD relies on multiple tools, including iWorQ and the City’s Help Desk system, but neither platform is currently optimized for proactive maintenance management. Field staff have access to tablets, yet prior software changes and discontinued systems have reduced the use of mobile technology, and many work orders are created only after tasks are completed. Staff have a fundamental operational understanding of priorities; however, without consistent tracking, trends and resource needs cannot be effectively quantified and explained to City officials.

Both grounds and facilities teams operate in a highly communication-driven environment where tasks are assigned daily based on weather, immediate needs, event preparation, or equipment availability. Without a dedicated rapid-response structure, reactive tasks frequently disrupt planned work and strain staff capacity. Additionally, work orders routed through the City Help Desk or Public Works can introduce delays, confusion, and inconsistent prioritization, especially for assets with shared or unclear responsibilities between departments. These challenges create data gaps that limit DPRD’s ability to analyze work trends, track labor and material costs, or make informed staffing and budget decisions.

To improve efficiency, accountability, and interdepartmental coordination, DPRD should transition to a unified and fully utilized work management framework. Enhancing the use of iWorQ, or another CMMS capable of proactive planning, tracking, and reporting would allow the department to schedule preventative, routine, and reactive tasks more effectively. A more comprehensive system would also provide transparency for staff and leadership,

Destin Work Order # 13559

From Destin <wo@iworq.net>
 Date: Mon 8/11/2025 3:41 PM
 To: Ryan Reed <rreed@cityofdestin.com>

Click [Here](#) to open Work Order # 13559

Work Order #: 13559
 Work Order Date: 06/06/24
 Work Type:
 Priority:
 Problem Address/Area:
 Request Source: Staff Request
 Facility: 05 Mattie Kelly Park Fishing Pier- 45
 Category: Parks - Pier/Dock/Walkover repair
 Originator:
 Category Sub Description: 11.02 Dock Repairs
 Work Description: Replace
 Department: 002: Parks & Recreation
 Assigned To: 03 Parks
 Work Details: Replace rotten boards
 Assigned Priority: XLow
 Status: 005: Complete
 Projected Completion Date: 06/06/2024
 Preventative Maintenance:
 Notes:
 Event:
 Status: Completed

Employees	Hours	Cost
Name		

ABOVE Example Work Order (iWorkQ)

strengthen communication across divisions, and support long-term planning.

Key best practices that apply to both grounds and facilities include:

- Fully integrate iWorQ for all grounds and facility maintenance, ensuring every work order is created, assigned, tracked, and closed within the system.
- Expand system functionality with GIS integration to map maintenance zones, assets, and completed work.
- Standardize Operating Instructions (OIs) to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of Parks, Public Works, and other partners for each property or facility.

- Establish a formal work order closure protocol that includes verification, cost documentation, and labor tracking to improve accuracy and accountability.
- Implement dashboard reporting tools within iWorQ to monitor open work orders, response times, completion rates, and other key performance indicators (“KPI”).

Asset Lifecycle Management

Asset lifecycle management is a shared priority for both grounds and facilities, and it represents one of the greatest opportunities for DPRD to strengthen long-term stewardship of its parks and infrastructure. While lifecycle planning is occurring in parts of the organization, current processes rely heavily on other City departments and scattered records, and some asset categories lack up-to-date condition assessments or realistic replacement costs. Irrigation systems, playgrounds, boardwalks, roofs, mechanical systems, coastal infrastructure, and other high-use amenities are especially vulnerable to accelerated deterioration from weather, coastal exposure, and heavy tourism. Without a consolidated, current view of these assets, it is difficult to accurately forecast capital needs, prioritize reinvestment, or minimize costly deferred maintenance.

DPRD manages a wide range of facilities and site infrastructure with varying ages, conditions, and maintenance histories. Replacement logs and inventories exist, but they are not consistently maintained or consolidated between DPRD and Public Works. Responsibility for some systems such as irrigation, electrical, plumbing, and structural repairs can be blurred. This overlap creates uncertainty about ownership, accountability, and long-term planning for major repairs and replacements. Establishing a formal,

BUDGET		MUNIS	Inflation Rate		Year Last Replaced	Useful Life Remaining (years)	Life Expectancy	DEFAULT Replacem ent Year	PLANNED Replacem t Year	End of Life Replacement Cost (2.5%/yr)	FY24	FY25	FY26	
PROJ#	Asset#	Location	2023 cost per unit	2023 Cost to Replace	Age									
RRS73		Morgans Sod A, B, C, D (sqft)	\$1.05	\$ 260,400	2000	25	-5	20	2024	2027	\$ 279,930	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
RRS73		Morgans Sod E, F, G (sqft)	\$1.05	\$ 78,750	2022	3	17	20	2041	2041	\$ 112,219	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
RRS73		Morgans Sod 1, 2, 3 (sqft)	\$1.05	\$ 215,250	2000	25	-5	20	2024	2027	\$ 231,394	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
RRS73		Morgans Infields ABCD (sqft)	\$11.30	\$ 723,200	2000	25	-5	20	2024	2027	\$ 777,440	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
RRS73		Morgans Infields FG (sqft)	\$11.30	\$ 361,600	2002	23	-3	20	2024	2024	\$ 361,600	\$ 140,000	\$ -	\$ -
RRS73		Morgans - Field Lighting (per pole)	\$14,794.12	\$ 503,000	2000	25	-5	20	2024	2027	\$ 540,725	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
RRS73		Morgans - Fencing (ft, 6'/high)	\$41.67	\$ 25,000	2000	25	-5	20	2024	2024	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ -
RRS73		Morgans - Netting w/Poles (Backstop)	\$45,000.00	\$ 270,000	2000	25	-10	15	2024	2024	\$ 270,000	\$ 270,000	\$ -	\$ -
RRS73		Dalton Threadgill Turf (sqft)	\$1.05	\$ 46,200	1990	35	-15	20	2024	2026	\$ 48,510	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,510
RRS73		Dalton Threadgill Infield	\$11.30	\$ 361,600	1990	35	-15	20	2024	2026	\$ 379,680	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 379,680
RRS73		Dalton Threadgill Netting w/Poles (Backstop)	\$45,000.00	\$ 90,000	1990	35	-15	20	2024	2026	\$ 94,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 94,500
RRS72		Leonard Destin Park - Splashpad	\$50,000.00	\$ 50,000	2019	6	4	10	2028	2028	\$ 55,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
RRS72		Kell Aire South - Playground	\$100,000.00	\$ 100,000	2010	15	0	15	2024	2029	\$ 112,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
RRS72		Community Center - Playground	\$100,000.00	\$ 100,000	2005	20	-5	15	2024	2027	\$ 107,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
RRS72		Clement Taylor Park - Playground	\$100,000.00	\$ 100,000	1990	35	-20	15	2024	2026	\$ 105,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 105,000
RRS72		Buck Destin - Playground	\$100,000.00	\$ 100,000	2005	20	-5	15	2024	2027	\$ 107,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
RRS72		Morgans - Playground	\$100,000.00	\$ 100,000	2000	25	-10	15	2024	2024	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ -
RRS72		Royal Melvin - Playground	\$100,000.00	\$ 100,000	2023	2	13	15	2037	2037	\$ 132,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
RRS72		Leonard Destin - Playground	\$100,000.00	\$ 100,000	2019	6	9	15	2033	2033	\$ 122,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
RRS72		Elementary School - Playground	\$100,000.00	\$ 100,000	2000	25	-10	15	2024	2027	\$ 107,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
RRS72		Elementary School - Rubberized Track	\$300,000.00	\$ 300,000	2000	25	-5	20	2024	2027	\$ 322,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
RRS73		Dalton Threadgill - Batting Cage (Structure & Pad)	\$40,000.00	\$ 40,000	2020	5	15	20	2039	2039	\$ 55,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
RRS73		Dalton Threadgill - Batting Cage (Lighting)	\$5,000.00	\$ 5,000	2020	5	5	10	2029	2029	\$ 5,625	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

ABOVE DPRD’s Asset Replacement and Capital Improvement Plan

coordinated asset lifecycle management program will allow DPRD to track each major asset from installation through end-of-life, plan replacements proactively, and ensure maintenance investments are strategically timed to maximize asset value and community benefit.

To formalize lifecycle management for both grounds and facilities, the following best practices are recommended:

- Consolidate all grounds and facility assets into a single, comprehensive lifecycle management spreadsheet or database, integrating data from DPRD, Public Works, and the Consulting Team to eliminate duplication and improve accuracy.
- Include key lifecycle fields for each asset, such as installation date, expected service life, replacement cost, condition rating, location, and responsible department.
- Update and refine DPRD’s capital replacement plan to prioritize major building systems, structural components, site

infrastructure, and high-risk amenities based on condition, safety, and operational impact.

- Integrate lifecycle data with the iWorQ CMMS (or similar system) to enable real-time tracking, link work history to specific assets, and generate automated alerts when assets approach end-of-life or inspection milestones.
- Conduct a formal lifecycle review every three to four years to update costs, condition ratings, and priorities in response to market changes, storm events, and usage patterns.
- Coordinate closely with Finance and Public Works to align lifecycle costs projections with the City’s Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), ensuring future funding needs for both grounds and facilities are incorporated into annual budgets.

Equipment and Tool Management

Reliable equipment is essential for both grounds and facilities teams to perform maintenance efficiently, safely, and consistently. DPRD relies on a diverse inventory of vehicles, mowers, power tools, custodial equipment, specialty turf machinery, and facility maintenance systems to support daily operations. While the department has made progress in upgrading certain equipment—such as recent mower replacements through Public Works—challenges remain in availability, storage, procurement, and lifecycle planning. These limitations directly affect productivity, prolong downtime, and reduce the lifespan of critical assets.

One of the most significant issues is the lack of adequate covered storage, which forces much of DPRD's equipment to be kept outdoors. Continuous exposure to sun, salt air, humidity, and weather accelerates deterioration, increases repair needs, and shortens useful life. Additionally, the current procurement process requires approval through both Public Works and Finance, which can delay the purchase of specialized equipment, replacement parts, or tools needed for time-sensitive park and facility maintenance. These delays impact staff responsiveness and the department's ability to complete scheduled work efficiently, especially during peak tourism and athletic seasons.

To support long-term operational efficiency, DPRD should formalize a comprehensive equipment and tool management program that includes inventory control, lifecycle planning, storage considerations, procurement efficiency, and preventative care. Stronger equipment management practices will help ensure staff have the resources they need to maintain

parks and facilities effectively as the system continues to grow.

Key best practices for both grounds and facilities include:

- Continue to maintain an up-to-date equipment inventory database capturing make, model, age, condition, maintenance history, and estimated replacement year for all major equipment and tools.
- Continue to consistently implement a lifecycle replacement schedule that prioritizes high-use, high-value equipment (e.g., vehicles, mowers, lifts, HVAC tools, turf machinery) based on age and condition.
- Construct or designate a dedicated covered storage facility for vehicles, mowers, maintenance equipment, and materials to protect assets from weather exposure and extend service life.
- Streamline the procurement process by revising thresholds or providing DPRD with limited purchasing authority for minor equipment needs to reduce delays and improve responsiveness.
- Standardize equipment and tool types across maintenance operations to improve repair consistency, simplify training, and reduce the variety of replacement parts needed.
- The City mechanic is implementing routine inspection and servicing schedules for all powered equipment, vehicles, and facility systems to minimize unplanned downtime and ensure equipment readiness.
- The City mechanic will also be responsible for integrating equipment data into iWorQ



ABOVE DPRD Equipment (Source: The Destin Log)

or a similar asset management system to support tracking, maintenance history, and long-term replacement planning.

Staffing Levels and Structure

Staffing capacity and organizational structure are fundamental to DPRD's ability to maintain high-quality parks, facilities, and public spaces. While staffing levels have improved in recent years, the department must continue to evolve as new amenities come online and service expectations increase. Park renovations, enhanced amenities, expanded event demands, and aging infrastructure all require specialized skills, additional labor hours, and a more structured approach to workforce planning. Understanding current staffing capacity, along with future needs tied to system growth, will be essential to sustaining consistent service levels and shifting from reactive maintenance to a more proactive, planned model.

DPRD currently operates with a small, cohesive team responsible for both grounds and facilities maintenance across more than 30 sites. Staff take pride in their work and possess institutional knowledge that is critical to daily operations. However, limited staffing capacity, varying skill levels, and the absence of specialized facility maintenance roles create challenges in fully meeting operational demands. Facility maintenance responsibilities often overlap between DPRD, Public Works, and contracted service providers, leading to occasional gaps in accountability, delays in addressing technical issues, and inconsistencies in service delivery. Additionally, essential technical tasks such as electrical, plumbing, irrigation, and structural repairs often fall outside DPRD's internal capabilities, requiring coordination across departments or reliance on external vendors.

The small size of the current workforce also limits operational flexibility. Staff must cover a wide geographic area, support major athletic

and community events, and manage reactive needs triggered by weather, tourism, and seasonal fluctuations. This can result in fatigue during peak seasons and reduced capacity for long-term planning or preventative care, particularly at high-demand locations such as Morgan Sports Complex and heavily used waterfront parks.

To build a more resilient, skilled, and sustainable workforce, DPRD should consider organizational adjustments, improved role definitions, and targeted training. A functional staffing structure will help ensure service consistency, reduce burnout, and build capacity for proactive maintenance. A structure designed around actual maintenance hours, skill requirements, and asset complexity will benefit operations the most.

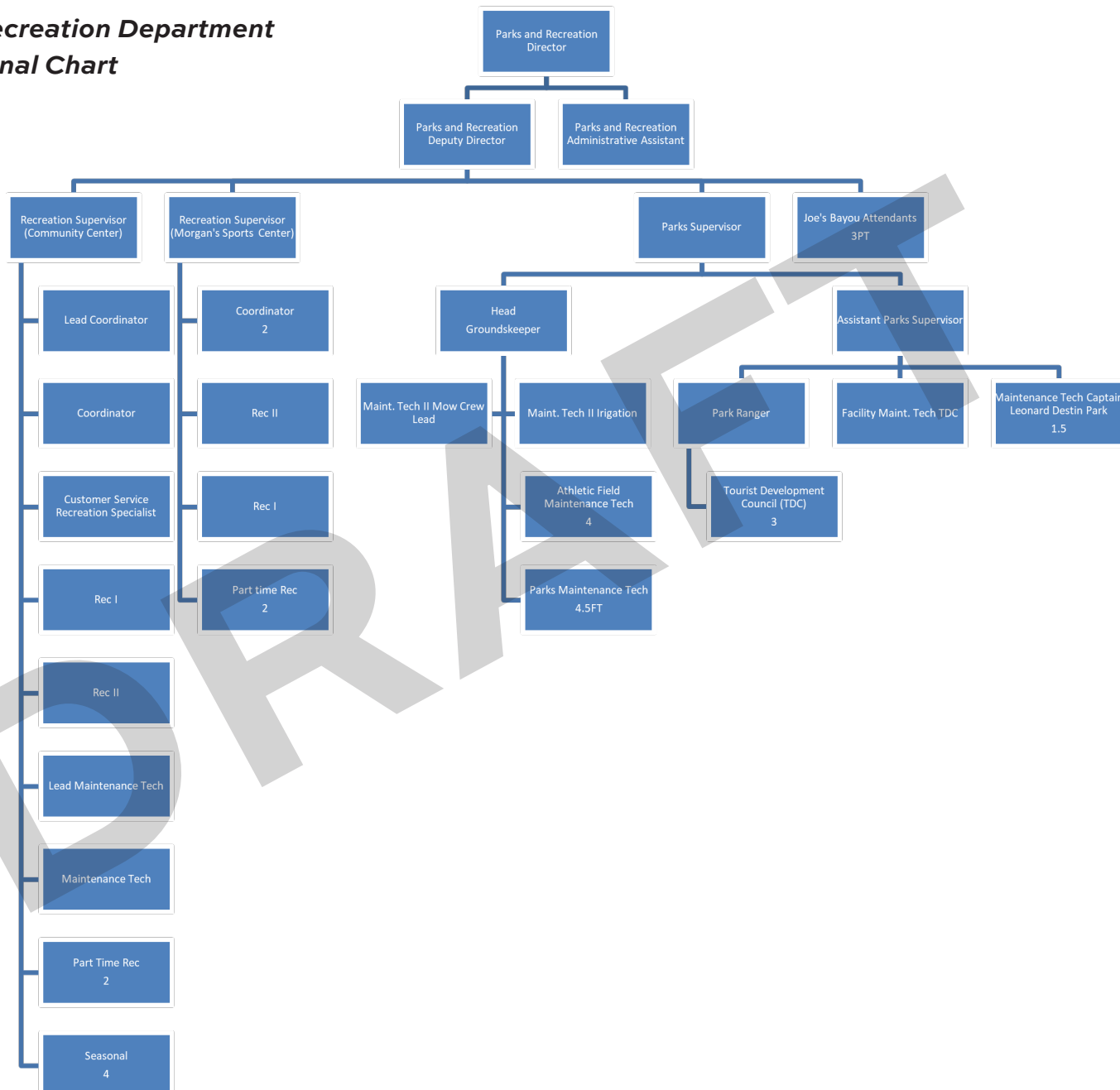
Key best practices that apply to both grounds and facilities include:

- Develop a functional organizational chart that clearly defines leadership roles, support positions, and cross-departmental relationships, distinguishing responsibilities for parks, facilities, and specialized assets.
- Conduct a comprehensive salary and staffing study every three to four years to support recruitment, retention, and competitive compensation based on workload and market conditions.
- Create formal job descriptions for all maintenance positions, including facility maintenance roles with defined skill sets, certifications, and areas of responsibility.
- Add specialized roles such as a facility systems specialist, irrigation/turf technician, or custodial supervisor to strengthen technical capacity and balance workloads.



- Include contracted and interdepartmental labor in FTE calculations to reflect the true level of staffing resources supporting the system.
- Establish a structured training and certification program focusing on preventative maintenance, facility systems, safety compliance, irrigation, turf management, and equipment operation.
- Evaluate long-term staffing needs using workload analysis that aligns labor hours with the specific maintenance demands of each park, facility, and asset type.

**Destin Parks and Recreation Department
Current Organizational Chart**



Customer Feedback and Engagement

Customer feedback is essential to guiding maintenance priorities across both grounds and facilities, offering real-time insight into service quality, emerging issues, and community expectations. While DPRD staff maintain a strong culture of responsiveness, most feedback today is received informally through phone calls, emails, in-person conversations, and comments from tournament directors or user groups. This decentralized approach makes it difficult to document recurring issues, analyze trends, or integrate community input into long-term planning and performance evaluation.

The City and DPRD currently utilize MGO Connect, an online customer portal that allows residents to report issues such as tall grass, highway damage, abandoned vehicles, and other service concerns. The platform tracks the status of requests and routes them to the responsible agency for resolution. While MGO Connect provides a strong foundation for citywide service reporting, it is not yet integrated into a comprehensive maintenance feedback workflow for DPRD's parks and facilities. As a result, some park and facility specific issues may be addressed reactively without being captured in a centralized system that supports trend analysis, accountability, or future planning.

For both grounds and facilities operations, establishing a more formal and coordinated customer feedback program, connected to systems like MGO Connect and integrated with DPRD's work management tools, will improve transparency, strengthen public engagement, and help ensure that community input directly informs maintenance decisions. A consistent feedback framework will also support internal



CITY OF DESTIN FLORIDA
PARKS AND RECREATION
Online Customer Portal

benchmarking and provide measurable data to justify resources, prioritize improvements, and celebrate areas of strong performance.

Key practices to strengthen customer feedback and engagement include:

- Integrate MGO Connect submissions into DPRD's maintenance workflow, ensuring that park and facility related reports are captured, categorized, and tracked through completion.
- Develop a DPRD-specific feedback portal or form (linked from the City website or mobile app) that interfaces with iWorQ and allows users to report maintenance concerns directly to the department.
- Install QR codes at restrooms, pavilions, playgrounds, athletic fields, trails, and other high-use amenities to give visitors quick, convenient access to the reporting portal.
- Categorize all feedback by site, issue type, and urgency, and monitor resolution steps using iWorQ or similar tools to ensure consistent follow-through.
- Conduct recurring internal reviews of customer feedback data to identify patterns, target improvements, and recognize strong staff performance.
- Provide automated acknowledgments to residents submitting feedback through MGO Connect or DPRD's portal to confirm receipt and communicate expected response times.
- Incorporate customer feedback metrics into annual maintenance reports to demonstrate accountability and responsiveness to City leadership and the community.

Performance Management & Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Performance measurement is essential for ensuring high-quality maintenance across both grounds and facilities, yet DPRD's current tracking systems remain limited and largely informal. While scorecards, inspections, and staff observations help identify issues and monitor conditions, there is no standardized framework for evaluating performance or measuring outcomes in a consistent, data-driven manner. As a result, success is often assessed based on visible task completion, staff responsiveness, or anecdotal public feedback. These are methods that do not provide the measurable benchmarks needed to evaluate efficiency, identify gaps, or support resource requests to City leadership.

A formal performance measurement system will allow DPRD to objectively assess maintenance operations, monitor trends over time, and make informed decisions that improve service quality. Establishing clear KPIs that reflect grounds and facilities priorities will strengthen accountability and create a more predictable, results-oriented maintenance culture. Examples would be task completion rates, inspection scores, response times, the ratio of preventive to reactive maintenance, and customer satisfaction. Standardizing these metrics will also support transparency and demonstrate the tangible value of maintenance operations to City leadership and the community.

Integrating performance tracking with systems like iWorQ will ensure that data is collected consistently and available in real time, allowing supervisors and managers to evaluate staff productivity, asset condition, and operational performance more effectively. Regular reporting of these metrics will improve internal communication, guide staff training and

development, and inform long-term planning for equipment, staffing, and capital needs.

Key practices to strengthen performance measurement across both grounds and facilities include:

- Define and implement standardized KPIs for maintenance operations, such as:
 - » Percentage of preventive versus reactive work orders
 - » Average work order response and completion times
 - » Maintenance cost per acre (grounds) or per square foot (facilities)
 - » Number of closures, safety incidents, or downtime events
 - » Customer satisfaction ratings by site or service type
- Use iWorQ or a comparable system to collect, analyze, and visualize performance data in real time for internal tracking and reporting.
- Develop a quarterly maintenance performance dashboard to display key metrics, highlight trends, and support decision-making.
- Integrate KPI reporting into annual maintenance summaries to communicate achievements, challenges, and needs to City leadership.



- Leverage KPI data to inform future staffing, capital investment, and operational priorities, ensuring maintenance strategies and resources align with demonstrated needs and performance outcomes.

Summary and Implementation

The Maintenance Program Findings highlight the transition DPRD must make from a reactive, experience-driven operation toward a structured, data-informed, and future-ready maintenance model. Routine maintenance, preventative maintenance, lifecycle planning, work order management, equipment readiness, staffing capacity, customer engagement, and performance measurement all require clearer standards, better documentation, and stronger internal systems. The best practices identified throughout the chapter provide a coordinated roadmap for stabilizing current operations while preparing DPRD for the demands of a growing and increasingly complex park and facility system.

The implementation framework focuses on strategies and actions that are practical, phased, and aligned with department capacity. Priority actions target immediate needs such as documentation, system configuration, consistent work order practices, and essential staffing and training improvements. Mid-term actions focus on building structure and efficiency improving lifecycle planning, standardizing maintenance procedures, and modernizing data systems. Long-term actions support sustained operational maturity through capital planning alignment, acquisition of covered storage space, and predictive maintenance practices.

This combined approach allows DPRD to strengthen reliability, improve accountability, extend asset life, and reduce operational disruptions while building internal capacity. The following is an implementation matrix that categorizes strategies by section, priority, and timeline to guide DPRD's next steps.

1.4.11 PARK GROUNDS & FACILITIES DEFINITION AND INVENTORY

Park Grounds Definition

Park grounds management refers to the operations and practices involved in maintaining the outdoor environments of parks and open spaces. This includes natural and landscaped areas, turf, trails, sports fields, sports courts, playgrounds, gardens, natural resource areas, and general parkland.

PARK GROUNDS KEY FUNCTIONS

The following Key Functions further define the Park Grounds Management and are not all inclusive:

- Turf care and mowing schedules
- Tree, shrub, and flower bed maintenance
- Irrigation system monitoring
- Trail maintenance and surface grading
- Litter and waste management in open spaces
- Playground safety inspections and repairs
- Athletic field preparation (lining, aeration, reseeding)
- Natural resource conservation (habitat restoration, invasive species control)
- Seasonal tasks (leaf removal, holiday decorating, etc.)

Figure 1.4t- Destin Parks and Recreation Grounds - Community & School Parks

Destin Parks and Recreation Grounds		
Type	Name	Amenities/ Site Furnishings/ Landscape
Community Park & School Park	Community Center	Parking
		Landscaping
		Playground
		Pedestrian Bridge
	Destin Elementary School Park	400 meter rubberized track
		Basketball court
		Benches
		Bike rack
		Bleachers
		Parking area
		Picnic tables
		Playground
		Public Restrooms
		Regulation football field
		Soccer Field
		Softball Field
	Morgan Sports Center	1/2 Basketball court
		Children's Park Playground
		Baseball Fields
		Benches
		Bleachers
		Concession Stand (2)
		Parking area
		Picnic tables
		Playground
		Public Restrooms
Sand Volleyball Court		
Soccer Fields		
Softball Fields		
Bike rack		
Walking Paths		

Figure 1.4u- Destin Parks and Recreation Grounds - Neighborhood Parks

Destin Parks and Recreation Grounds		
Type	Name	Amenities/ Site Furnishings/ Landscape
Neighborhood Parks	Clement Taylor Park	Beach swim area
		Benches
		Grills
		Parking area
		Pavilion
		Picnic tables
		Playground
		Public Restrooms
		Bike rack
		Sand Volleyball Court
		Leonard Destin Park
	Bathroom	
	Boardwalk	
	Pier	
	Paddleboard/ kayak launch	
	Pavilions (2)	
	Playground	
	Bike rack	
	Splash pad	

Figure 1.4v- Destin Parks and Recreation Grounds - Mini Parks

Destin Parks and Recreation Grounds		
Type	Name	Amenities/ Site Furnishings/ Landscape
Mini Parks	Buck Destin Park	Basketball court
		Bike rack
		Destin Senior Center
		Parking area
		Picnic tables
		Playground
		Tennis courts (2)
		Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park (Harbor Front)
	Pavilion	
	Picnic tables	
	ADA ramp	
	First & Fourth Street Park	Playground
		Restrooms
	Harbor Lane Park	ROW
		Benches
	Jewel Melvin Park	Staircase to water
		Picnic tables
	Kell-Aire Gardens (North)	Benches
		Parking area
		Benches
Bike rack		
Kelly Street Duck Pond	Grass area	
	Landscaping	
Main Street Park	Benches	
	Bike rack	
	Parking Lot	
	Bike rack	
	Picnic area	
Pier		

Figure 1.4w- Destin Parks and Recreation Grounds - Beach Access Parks

Destin Parks and Recreation Grounds			
Type	Name	Amenities/ Site Furnishings/ Landscape	
Beach Access/ Mini Parks	Barracuda Street Beach Access	Boardwalk	
	Crystal Beach Drive Beach Access	Boardwalk	
	Harbor View Park	Wood Deck	
		Picnic Tables	
		Handicap Parking Area	
	June White Decker Park	Parking Area	
		Bathroom	
		Deck	
		Boardwalk	
		ADA ramp	
		Shower	
		Flag pole	
		Benches	
		Bike rack	
		Shower	
	Calhoun Beach Access	Bike rack	
		Boardwalk	
		Shower	
	O'Steen Beach Access	Bench	
		Bike rack	
		Shower	
	Pompano Street Beach Access	Flag pole	
		Bike rack	
		Boardwalk	
		Parking area	
		Shower	
	Shirah Street Beach Access	Flag pole	
		Bench	
Bike rack			
Boardwalk			
Shore at Crystal Beach Beach Access	Pavilion		
	Boardwalk		
	Showers		
	ADA ramp		
	Benches		
	Bathroom		
	Parking area		
Tarpon Steet Beach Access	Picnic tables		
	Shower		
	Boardwalk		
		Bench	

Figure 1.4x - Destin Parks and Recreation Grounds - Special Use & Natural Area Parks

Destin Parks and Recreation Grounds			
Type	Name	Amenities/ Site Furnishings/ Landscape	
Special Use Properties	Cemetery - Sibert Avenue	Monuments & Landscaping	
	Cemetery - Stahlman Avenue	Monuments & Landscaping	
	Dalton Threadgill Park	Baseball Diamonds (2)	
		Bike rack	
		Concession Stand	
		Concession Stand	
		Parking area	
		Restrooms	
		Softball Diamond	
		T-Ball Field	
	Nancy Weidenhamer Dog Park	Benches	
		Dog Watering Stations	
		Parking area	
	Joe's Bayou Boat Ramp	Parking area	
		Docks (4)	
Boat Ramps (5)			
Landscape			
Picnic area			
Mattie Kelly Park and Nature Walk	Parking area		
	Bike rack		
	Boardwalk in nature area		
	Pier		
Natural Area	Norriego Point Beach Access and Park	Parking area	
		Beach/ sand dune	
		Boardwalk	
	James Lee Park Beach Access (County)	City does not maintain.	

Park Facility Definition

Park facility management involves the maintenance, operations, and functionality of built environments within the parks system. This includes recreation centers, pavilions, splashpads, museums, restrooms, shelters, maintenance buildings, and other indoor or built park infrastructure.

PARK FACILITY KEY FUNCTIONS:

The following Key Functions further define the Park Facilities Management but are not all inclusive:

- Building systems maintenance (HVAC, plumbing, electrical)
- Irrigation system monitoring and repairs
- Custodial services and janitorial schedules
- Facility repair and renovation planning
- Security systems and key/card access management
- Compliance with ADA and safety codes
- Facility equipment upkeep (kitchen appliances, water quality systems)
- Maintenance Inventory control and storage management
- Facility energy management and sustainability initiatives

DPRD has logged facility maintenance data, including square footage, replacement needs, and condition assessments in a comprehensive document that provides the foundation for tracking asset performance and prioritizing future investment. According to DPRD’s facility inventory and condition data, many of DPRD’s facilities are aging and are showing signs of wear which will continue to require more frequent maintenance. These facilities that have received general condition assessments of either fair or poor include Destin’s park maintenance facility, Community Center, Morgan Sports Complex’s structures including detached restrooms, Dalton Threadgill Little League structures, Crystal Beach restrooms and pavilion, and Joe’s Bayou Restrooms and Office. Additionally, several structures have been in service for over 25 years, emphasizing the need for increased preventive attention to extend their useful life and ensure safety and reliability.

Figure 1.4y- Destin Parks and Recreation Facilities

Destin Parks and Recreation Facilities	
Facilities	Location / Description
Showers	Calhoun Beach Access
	Captain Leonard Destin Park
	June White Decker Beach Park
	Norriego Point Beach Park
	O’Steen Beach Access
	Pompano Beach Access
	Shirah Beach Access
	Shore at Crystal Beach Park
Restrooms	Tarpon Beach Access
	Morgan Sports Complex
	Shore at Crystal Beach
	Destin Elementary School Park
	Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park
	Norriego Point Beach Park
	Leonard Destin Park
	Dalton Threadgill Park
	Joes Bayou Boat Ramp
	Clement Taylor Park
Splash Pad	Leonard Destin Park
Pavilions	Shore at Crystal Beach
	Morgan Sports Complex
	Clement Taylor Park
	Leonard Destin Park
Maintenance Buildings	Morgan Sports Complex
	Public Works
Concession Stand	Morgan Sports Complex
Community Center	101 Stahlman Avenue
Senior Center	Dewey “Buck” Destin Park

BELOW Destin Facility Inventory and Condition Assessments

Priority	Facility	Address	Type	Square Footage (Estimated)	Square Footage (Reported)	Year Built	Outbuilding	General Condition
1	City Hall & EOC	4200 Indian Bayou Tr	Administrative	10316	14000		yes	Fair
2	City Hall Annex	4100 Indian Bayou Tr	Administrative	8383	10500		no	Fair
3	Destin Public Works / Maintenance Facility	3949 Commons Dr West	Administrative	5121	10750		yes	Poor
5	Harbor Pump Station	725 Gulf Shore Dr	Industrial	200	400		no	Fair
6	Destin Community Center	101 Stahlman Ave	Public	12708	19500		yes	Poor
7	Destin Public Library	150 Sibert Ave	Public	10247	13250		no	Fair
10	Morgan Sports Complex and Detached Restrooms	3950 Commons Dr	Recreation	1870	3250		yes	Poor
12	Dalton Threadgill Little League	711 Hickory St	Recreation	545	N/A	1989	yes	Fair
13	Shore Of Crystal Beach Restrooms and Pavilion	2966 Scenic Hwy 98	Restroom	100	2000		no	Fair
17	Joe's Bayou Restrooms and Office	800 Beach Dr	Restroom	375	300		yes	Fair
18	Sibert Public Parking Lot	Sibert Ave / Zerbe St	Parking		N/A		no	Fair

1.4.12 MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Maintenance Standards – Level of Service Framework

The Destin Parks & Recreation Department (DPRD) maintains a diverse portfolio of athletic fields, neighborhood parks, beach access points, waterfront structures, trails, public facilities, and specialized recreation amenities.

To provide consistent, high-quality maintenance across these varied environments, DPRD uses a structured Level of Service (LOS) framework that defines expectations, frequencies, and standards of care. This framework provides a consistent foundation for planning maintenance workloads, allocating staff, and budgeting resources while allowing flexibility for seasonal conditions, storm impacts, and fluctuating tourism patterns.

The LOS model includes three levels, each representing a different frequency and intensity of maintenance activity. The appropriate LOS is determined by the park type, level of use, visibility, safety needs, and operational demands. Because Destin is a coastal destination with high seasonal visitation, this framework also accounts for rapid recovery needs following storms, heavy beach use, or athletic tournaments.

LEVEL 1 – HIGH-USE / HIGH-VISIBILITY MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Level 1 applies to DPRD’s highest-profile and most intensively used sites, including premier athletic complexes, beachfront access points with heavy visitation, central playgrounds, high-demand pavilions, specialized recreation amenities (splashpads, 400-meter track), and locations where resident and visitor use is constant.

Level 1 sites receive the most frequent and detailed maintenance, with an emphasis on safety, asset preservation, and aesthetics.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- High visibility and community expectation
- High tourism and athletic use
- Sensitive or specialized infrastructure (synthetic surfaces, rubberized track, splashpad, docks, boat ramps, etc.)
- Maintenance requirements driven by safety, sanitation, and performance standards

GENERAL LEVEL 1 EXPECTATIONS

- Daily or near-daily attention
- Strict inspection cycles
- Rapid response to hazards within 24 hours
- Greater emphasis on preventative maintenance
- Frequent cleaning and grooming
- Seasonal adjustments to meet peak demand

LEVEL 2 – STANDARD COMMUNITY PARK MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Level 2 applies to typical neighborhood parks, sports fields, public access trails, mid-volume beachfront areas, and general recreation amenities. These areas receive consistent and reliable maintenance but at a lower frequency than premier locations.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Moderate to high use
- Moderate visibility
- Mix of active and passive recreation areas
- Routine inspections and scheduled maintenance cycles

GENERAL LEVEL 2 EXPECTATIONS

- Weekly to biweekly maintenance frequencies
- Routine inspections and repairs within 48–72 hours
- Turf, site amenities, and hard surfaces maintained to community standards
- Preventative maintenance performed seasonally
- Adjustments made for weather, events, and seasonal patterns

LEVEL 3 – LOW-USE / NATURAL AREA MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Level 3 applies to undeveloped open space, naturalized areas, environmentally sensitive zones, and low-use parks or secondary properties, including certain dune areas, passive beachfront zones, and non-programmed green spaces.

These areas are maintained for safety, environmental protection, and visual stewardship without the intensive care applied to levels 1 and 2.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Moderate to high use
- Moderate visibility
- Mix of active and passive recreation areas
- Routine inspections and scheduled maintenance cycles

GENERAL LEVEL 2 EXPECTATIONS

- Weekly to biweekly maintenance frequencies
- Routine inspections and repairs within 48–72 hours
- Turf, site amenities, and hard surfaces maintained to community standards
- Preventative maintenance performed seasonally
- Adjustments made for weather, events, and seasonal patterns

How LOS Applies Across Destin's Maintenance System

The LOS framework is used to determine:

- Staffing levels and zone assignments
- Equipment and material needs
- Expected time commitments for each maintenance category
- Budgeting for operations and capital replacement
- Frequency of inspections and work orders
- Prioritization of maintenance during peak tourism or weather response

Because Destin's system includes unique coastal amenities, such as beach access points, dune systems, boat ramps, splashpads, ADA beach routes, and extensive boardwalk infrastructure, LOS must remain flexible and scalable. High-use periods (spring break, summer, major tournaments) may temporarily increase areas from Level 2 to Level 1 to maintain safety and visitor expectations.

Maintenance Standards

TURF MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Turf maintenance supports safety, playability, and aesthetics across athletic fields, general park areas, beachfront lawn spaces, and municipal landscapes. Due to Destin's climate, turf requires increased attention to moisture management, weed control, and rapid recovery following high-use events.

LEVEL 1 TURF MAINTENANCE (HIGH-USE / ATHLETIC & VISITOR AREAS)

- Mowing: 2 times per week
- Mowing Heights:
 - » Warm and Cool season: 1 - 1½ inches
- Edging: Weekly along sidewalks, curbs, driveways, and hardscape
- Coverage Standards:
 - » 95% turf coverage
 - » ≤3% weed presence
 - » ≤2% bare area
- Aeration: 1–2 times per year; additional as needed after wear
- Topdressing / Overseeding: Annual
- Soil & Water Testing: Annually; additional if needed
- Watering: Maintain uniform moisture; no saturated or drought areas
- Pest / Disease Inspection: Daily visual inspection; response within 24 hours
- Clipping Removal: Remove visible clippings
- Thatch Removal: Inspect monthly; dethatch as needed

LEVEL 2 TURF MAINTENANCE (NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS & MODERATE USE AREAS)

- Mowing: Weekly
- Edging: Weekly in season; biweekly off-season
- Coverage Standards:
 - » 88% turf coverage
 - » ≤8% weed presence
 - » ≤4% bare area
- Aeration: Annual in low-use; twice annually for high-use
- Fertilization: Twice per year
- Inspections: Weekly for pests, irrigation issues, and wear

LEVEL 3 TURF MAINTENANCE (LOW-USE / PASSIVE AREAS)

- Mowing: Every 10–14 days (or as vegetative growth dictates)
- Coverage:
 - » ≥50% turf coverage
 - » Up to 50% weed presence acceptable
 - » Up to 20% bare area acceptable
- Maintenance Focus: Safety/hazard-only maintenance (trip hazards, obstructions, severe erosion)

TURF MAINTENANCE (DOG PARKS)

- Mowing will occur once every 7 days
- Mowing heights:
 - » 2½" during cool season (day time highs consistently below 75 degrees)
- 50% turf coverage
- Up to 50% weed coverage for existing
- Up to 20% bare area

400-METER RUBBERIZED TRACK MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Maintain a safe, high-quality, competition-ready track surface with proper drainage, clear markings, and predictable maintenance cycles.

SURFACE CLEANING

- Blow or brush entire track surface 2–3 times weekly
- Remove sand, leaves, and organic debris daily during peak season
- Pressure wash quarterly, more frequently after storms or sand intrusion

SURFACE INTEGRITY & REPAIRS

- Inspect monthly for cracks, tears, bubbling, delamination, or uneven wear
- Perform safety-related repairs within 48 hours of discovery
- Routine patching as needed; avoid chemical cleaners that degrade rubber

LINE STRIPING & MARKINGS

- Inspect monthly
- Repaint lines annually or more often when hosting athletic competitions

DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE

- Inspect and clear drainage channels weekly
- Remove sand buildup near track edges immediately

USE RESTRICTIONS (TO PREVENT SURFACE DAMAGE)

- No metal spikes unless track supports them
- No bicycles, skateboards, golf carts, or vehicles
- Install and maintain clear signage at all access points

TREE & SHRUB MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Proper tree and shrub care protects park users from hazards and ensures a resilient, attractive landscape.

LEVEL 1

- Pruning: Twice annually (spring and fall)
- Mulch: 2-inch organic mulch around trees/shrubs
- Pest & Disease Response: Within 48 hours
- Fertilization: Based on plant needs or annually
- Hazard Removal: Immediate
- Invasive Species: Remove within 5 days
- Inspection: Monthly

LEVEL 2

- Pruning: Annually
- Mulch: Maintain 2-inch depth
- Hazard Removal: Immediate
- Invasive Species: Annual removal
- General Inspection: Monthly

LEVEL 3

- Pruning: Seasonal or hazard-only
- Focus: Safety, visibility, and clearance
- Natural Aesthetic: Allow naturalized growth unless obstructing access

MAINTENANCE BUILDING & COMPLEX STANDARDS

BUILDING STANDARDS

- Maintain clean, organized workspace
- Store tools and chemicals per OSHA and manufacturer requirements
- Perform quarterly safety inspections

MECHANICAL SYSTEMS

- Inspect HVAC monthly
- Maintain lighting and electrical systems per code
- Assess backup generators (if present) monthly

GROUNDS AROUND COMPLEX

- Maintain secure perimeter fencing
- Keep access roads/pad clear of debris
- Ensure proper drainage to prevent flooding

INVENTORY & SUPPLIES

- Maintain stocked PPE
- Log equipment in/out daily
- Provide secure, covered storage for vehicles and power tools

STORM CLEANUP STANDARDS

Destin's coastal environment requires enhanced readiness for storm impacts, sand accumulation, and hurricane recovery.

ALL LEVELS

- Drain Inspections: Twice monthly and before/after major rains
- Debris Removal: Immediate removal of materials obstructing access or drainage
- Water Inlet Maintenance: Maintain 100% of design inlet capacity
- Post-Storm Cleanup: Rapid response prioritized by safety, access, and LOS level

IRRIGATION SYSTEM STANDARDS

LEVEL 1

- Monthly system inspection
- Repairs initiated within 24 hours
- Annual backflow device test
- Uniform moisture maintained; no wet/dry zones

LEVEL 2

- Monthly inspection
- Repairs within 48 hours
- Backflow test annually

LEVEL 3

- Inspection as needed; hazard-only care

LITTER CONTROL STANDARDS

LEVEL 1

- Daily litter pickup
- Trash containers emptied daily or more during peak use
- Remove leaves/organic debris weekly

LEVEL 2

- Every other day service
- Leaf/debris removal weekly

LEVEL 3

- Weekly or as needed to maintain safe access

PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

ALL LEVELS

- Compliance: ASTM F1487 + CPSC standards
- Low-Frequency Inspections: Bi-monthly (CPSI-certified)
- High-Frequency Inspections: Weekly
- Surface Grooming:
 - » Level 1: Three times weekly
 - » Level 2: Two times weekly
- Repairs:
 - » Safety issues: Immediate
 - » All other repairs: Within 48 hours

HARD SURFACE MAINTENANCE STANDARDS (SIDEWALKS, PATHS, PARKING LOTS, COURTS)

LEVEL 1

- Remove debris immediately
- Weekly sweeping/blowing
- Repair trip hazards immediately
- Repaint markings annually

LEVEL 2

- Clear debris monthly
- Trip hazard removal immediately
- Repaint markings every 2 years

LEVEL 3

- Debris removal quarterly or as needed
- Safety-only maintenance

OUTDOOR COURT MAINTENANCE STANDARDS (BASKETBALL, TENNIS, VOLLEYBALL)

LEVEL 1

- Inspect monthly
- Repair within 48 hours
- Repaint lines annually/ replace sand annually
- Replace nets as needed

LEVEL 2

- Inspect monthly
- Repair within 10 days
- Repaint every 2 years

LEVEL 3

- Basic hazard removal

TRAIL MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

HARD & SOFT SURFACE TRAILS

- Monthly inspections
- Weekly debris removal (Level 1)
- Maintain 3–4” compacted depth in soft trails
- Remove overhang branches (84” clearance):
 - » Level 1: Twice annually
 - » Level 2: Annually
- Vegetation control 24” from trail edgeS

SITE AMENITY MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

(Benches, trash cans, picnic tables, grills, bike racks, flag poles, etc.)

LEVEL 1

- Monthly inspections and when onsite; repairs within 24 hours
- Power washing twice annually
- Daily sanitation checks

LEVEL 2

- Monthly inspections; repairs within 5 days
- Annual cleaning/washing

LEVEL 3

- Seasonal or hazard-only maintenance

ATHLETIC FIELD MAINTENANCE STANDARDS (BASEBALL, SOFTBALL, SOCCER, FOOTBALL)

LEVEL 1

- Mow twice weekly
- Mowing heights:
 - » Warm and Cool season: 1 - 1½ inches
- Edging twice monthly
- 95% turf coverage at season start
- Aeration 3x per year
- Monthly soil testing
- Repair worn areas after each tournament

LEVEL 2

- Mow twice weekly
- 80% turf coverage start of season
- Aeration annually
- Monthly pest inspections

LEVEL 3

- Hazard-only maintenance; minimal care

FENCE & GATE MAINTENANCE

- Inspect twice annually (Level 1)
- Safety repairs: immediate
- Other repairs: 48 hours (Level 1) / 5 days (Level 2)

SIGN MAINTENANCE

- Monthly inspections (Level 1) / every 3 months (Level 2)
- Repairs within 24 hours (Level 1) / 5 days (Level 2)
- Clean twice annually

PEST CONTROL

- Monthly IPM inspection
- Immediate response to outbreaks

VANDALISM & GRAFFITI

- Immediate response
- Document for incident tracking

PICNIC SHELTERS & PAVILIONS

LEVEL 1

- Clean before/after each reservation
- Power wash twice annually
- Minor repairs immediately

LEVEL 2

- Clean biweekly
- Repairs within 5 days

PAVILIONS (EXPANDED STANDARDS)

(Partially covered under Picnic Shelters but expanded due to heavy beach use.)

- Seasonal or hazard-only maintenance

LIGHTING (SECURITY, PATHWAY, AREA LIGHTING)

- Monthly inspections
- Repairs/bulb replacement:
 - » 24 hours (Level 1)
 - » 72 hours (Level 2)

RESTROOM MAINTENANCE

LEVEL 1 (HIGH-USE BEACH + ATHLETIC SITES)

- Clean 2–3 times daily
- Stock supplies daily
- Graffiti removal immediately
- Deep cleaning weekly

LEVEL 2

- Clean 1–2 times daily
- Deep clean monthly

LEVEL 3

- Clean as needed or seasonal

RESTROOMS (BEACHFRONT & HIGH-USE AREAS)

(Expanded from existing standards due to extreme use.)

PEAK SEASON

- Clean 3–4 times daily
- Restock supplies multiple times daily
- Disinfect high-touch surfaces hourly where feasible

WEEKLY

- Deep clean with chemical disinfectants
- Pressure wash exterior (if applicable)

MAINTENANCE

- Repair fixtures within 24 hours
- Inspect ventilation weekly

SHOWERS (BEACH & PARK) MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

DAILY CLEANING

- Rinse and disinfect shower platforms
- Remove sand buildup twice daily
- Inspect drainage and clear obstructions

WEEKLY TASKS

- Scrub surfaces to remove mildew
- Check water pressure and timing valves

MONTHLY

- Descale nozzles
- Check ADA and safety compliance

OPEN SPACE / NATURAL AREA MAINTENANCE

- Maintain natural appearance
- Remove hazards immediately
- Monthly inspections
- Remove dumped materials within 48 hours
- Reduce invasive plants by 5% annually

CONCESSIONS (INCLUDING STANDARDS FOR CONTRACTED SERVICES)

- Concession facilities cleaned, wiped down, and sanitized before opening
- Electrical appliances checked for compliance and repaired if damaged
- Lights checked and repaired as needed
- Concession operating permits secured before opening
- Appliances cleaned thoroughly before opening
- Prices for concessions will be posted
- Cash registers assessed to ensure they work properly
- Circuit breakers assessed prior to opening
- Cleaning and sanitization supplies on hand before opening
- Pick up debris daily

BROKEN EQUIPMENT STANDARD

- Immediate repair if capable
- If not: rope off, post signage indicating closure and repair schedule

ACCESSIBLE BEACH AREA MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

(Includes ADA Mobi-mat routes, accessible entry points, and ADA path surfaces.)

SURFACE MAINTENANCE

- Rake and clean daily during peak seasons
- Inspect for tears, displacement, and anchoring failures daily
- Reset or re-anchor mats after storms or king tides

ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE

- Maintain continuous accessible route free of sand accumulation
- Ensure ADA slopes, width, and surface firmness meet standards
- Repair surface hazards within 24 hours

SIGNAGE & WAYFINDING

- Inspect ADA signage monthly
- Replace faded or damaged signs within 5 days

BEACH / SAND DUNE MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

PRESERVATION OF NATURAL SYSTEMS

- No mechanical grading in dune restoration areas
- Remove trash daily without disturbing vegetation
- Protect dune fencing and walkovers; repair within 48 hours

EROSION & VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

- Inspect after storms and high surf events
- Replace damaged dune fencing promptly
- Partner with coastal management agencies for dune planting

SAFETY & ACCESS MANAGEMENT

- Remove hazardous debris immediately
- Maintain clear visibility to public access points

BEACH SWIM AREA MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

DAILY TASKS (PEAK SEASON)

- Remove debris twice daily
- Inspect buoy lines and swim markers daily
- Check for dangerous conditions and report as needed

WEEKLY TASKS

- Inspect anchor points for markers
- Assess water for clarity (visual; water quality tests managed by partners)

STORM RECOVERY

- Reset buoys immediately after severe weather
- Remove hazardous materials washed ashore
- Add sand to remediate erosion caused from storm surge

BOARDWALK, DECK, AND PIER MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

INSPECTION & SAFETY

- Weekly inspections for loose boards, protruding nails, rot, or soft spots
- Rails and guardrails inspected weekly
- Slip-resistant surfaces cleaned weekly, more often in high sand areas

STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE

- Replace broken or rotted planks immediately
- Pressure wash decks and boardwalks quarterly (avoid erosion runoff)
- Apply protective sealant every 2–3 years

STORM RESPONSE

- Inspect structural integrity after every major storm
- Clear sand buildup within 48 hours
- Temporarily close areas if decking is compromised

BOAT RAMPS & DOCKS MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

BOAT RAMP STANDARDS

- Inspect daily during peak season for holes, algae buildup, slick surfaces
- Pressure wash ramps weekly (in warm season)
- Paint lane markings and stop bars annually
- Maintain clear signage, depth markers, and hazard notices

DOCK STANDARDS (4 DOCKS)

- Weekly structural inspections: pilings, decking, bumpers, cleats
- Ensure lights, safety ladders, and railings are operational
- Replace damaged boards immediately
- Pressure wash monthly

STORM & TIDE RESPONSE

- Inspect all ramps and docks immediately post-storm
- Remove marine debris and reset floating docks

PADDLEBOARD / KAYAK LAUNCH MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

SURFACE & ACCESS MAINTENANCE

- Inspect launch area daily for algae, slick surfaces, or sand accumulation
- Pressure wash or scrub weekly during warm months
- Keep access path clear and ADA-compliant

LAUNCH INFRASTRUCTURE

- Inspect rails, rollers, and launch ramps weekly
- Repair or replace worn components within 48 hours

WATER ACCESS SAFETY

- Maintain signage for launch rules and safety
- Remove obstructions (driftwood, debris) immediately

SPLASHPAD MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

DAILY OPERATIONAL STANDARDS

- Inspect water quality at least twice daily
- Ensure drains, nozzles, and spray heads are clear
- Remove debris and wipe down surfaces daily

MECHANICAL & SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

- Inspect pumps, filters, chlorinators daily
- Backwash filters as required
- Replace worn nozzles and drains immediately

DEEP CLEANING

- Pressure wash pad surface weekly
- Chemical surface cleaning monthly

SEASONAL STARTUP/SHUTDOWN

- Winterize system if applicable
- Perform pre-season mechanical inspection

MONUMENT MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Applies to all memorials, monuments, commemorative structures, art pieces, plaques, historic markers, granite or stone features, and ornamental installations.

ROUTINE INSPECTIONS

- Monthly visual inspection of all monuments and plaques.
- Inspections shall include:
 - Structural stability
 - Graffiti or vandalism
 - Cracks, chips, or erosion
 - Staining or discoloration
 - Loose fasteners or failing mountings
 - Soil erosion or settlement around bases
 - Vegetation encroachment

STORM IMPACT INSPECTIONS

- Inspect monuments within 48 hours after tropical storms or hurricanes, looking for:
 - Leaning or movement
 - Damage from debris
 - Undermined footings caused by water or sand displacement

LANDSCAPE CARE

- Maintain all landscaped beds free of weeds, litter, and debris, service weekly during warm season and biweekly in cool season.
- Apply a minimum 2-inch mulch layer to shrubs and planting beds; replenish annually or as needed to maintain depth.
- Remove dead or declining plant material immediately, unless located within a designated natural or dune-recovery area.
- Trim or prune shrubs and ornamental grasses seasonally to maintain shape, plant health, and visibility.
- Maintain consistent soil moisture through irrigation or hand watering; prevent prolonged dry or saturated conditions.

HEALTH, GROWTH, AND PEST MANAGEMENT

- Inspect plants monthly for insects, disease, and stress; respond to outbreaks within 48 hours.
- Fertilize plant material annually or as required based on soil testing.
- Remove or treat invasive species within 5 days of discovery.

SEASONAL CLEANUPS

- Perform spring and fall cleanups to remove debris, rejuvenate beds, and prepare for seasonal growth.
- Replant annuals twice yearly or per DPRD's aesthetic guidelines.

CHAPTER 2

NEEDS & PRIORITIES ASSESSMENT

SECTIONS

- 2.1 Preparing to Improve
- 2.2 Public Engagement
- 2.3 Level of Service Analysis
- 2.4 Summary Findings

2.1 PREPARING TO IMPROVE

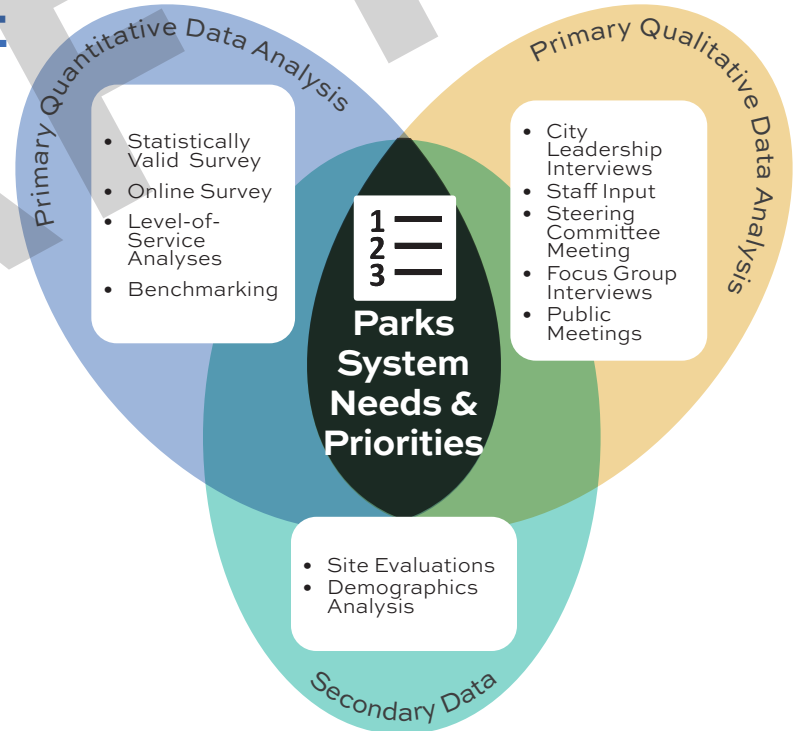
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The purpose of the Needs and Priorities Assessment is to determine the gaps between existing and desired conditions. There are no nationally accepted standards (or state-level requirements) for identifying residents' needs and determining ideal levels of service for recreation facilities, whether parks, indoor recreation centers, athletic fields, trails, or other amenities. Therefore, each community must determine the appropriate needs assessment techniques and Level-of-Service (LOS) standards required to identify and meet the specific needs of its residents. Historically, planning for parks and other elements of the public realm has been more art than science.

2.1.1 DIGGING INTO THE DATA

The strategy employed here is to use a mixed-methods, “triangulated” approach to identifying needs. Mixed-methods research combines the use of various primary data sources (quantitative and qualitative) collected through the planning process, with secondary data from other sources such as census data and previous reports.

The term triangulation refers to the comparison of findings from the various techniques to identify consistent themes and top priorities. For example, the findings from the statistically-valid survey are compared to the findings from the other techniques – such as public workshops, interviews, focus group meetings, and level-of-service analysis – to identify consistent priorities.



Findings from each of the needs assessment techniques, as well as a summary of top priority needs are discussed in this chapter.

2.2 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Given Destin’s population growth over the last two decades and the development that has occurred, the City and Department leadership were keen to hear from as many residents as possible about how the parks and recreation system could better serve their needs. From the beginning of this project, a broad public engagement strategy was a priority, with the intention of connecting deeply to the community.

A multi-pronged promotional strategy was developed using a variety of printed, online, and social media tools. Collectively, over 500 people have been engaged in the process to date, through the combination of surveys, public meetings, and interviews.

Providing Opportunities to Be Heard

These posts from the City and PRD Facebook pages (right) demonstrate one aspect of the City’s effort to reach out and encourage the public to participate in the planning process, both online and in-person.



2.2.1 STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY

Overview

ETC Institute administered a needs assessment survey for the City of Destin during the summer months of 2025. This survey was used to gather input to help determine park and recreation priorities for the community.

Methodology

ETC Institute mailed a survey packet to a random sample of households in Destin. Each survey packet contained a cover letter, a copy of the survey, and a postage paid return envelope. Residents who received the survey were given the option of returning the survey by mail or completing it online at Destin.EtcSurvey.org.

After the surveys were mailed, ETC Institute followed up with residents to encourage participation. To prevent people who were not residents of Destin from participating, everyone who completed the survey online was required to enter their home address prior to submitting the survey. ETC Institute then matched the addresses that were entered online with that addresses that were originally selected for the random sample. If the address from a survey completed online did not match one of the addresses selected for the sample, the online survey was not included in the final database for this report.

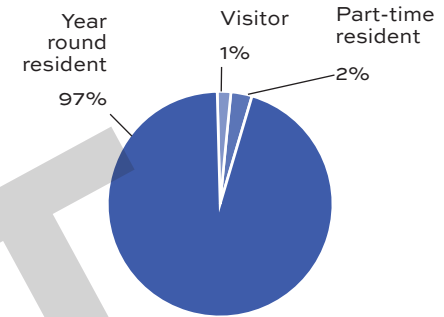
The goal was to collect a minimum of 300 surveys from residents. The goal was met with 328 surveys collected. The overall results for the sample of 328 surveys has a precision of at least +/-5.3 at the 95% level of confidence.

Following is a summary of the findings. Additional information is provided in the Appendix.

Resident Status

When asked about resident status, 97% of respondents were year round residents, 2% were part-time residents, and 1% were visitors staying in a short term rental.

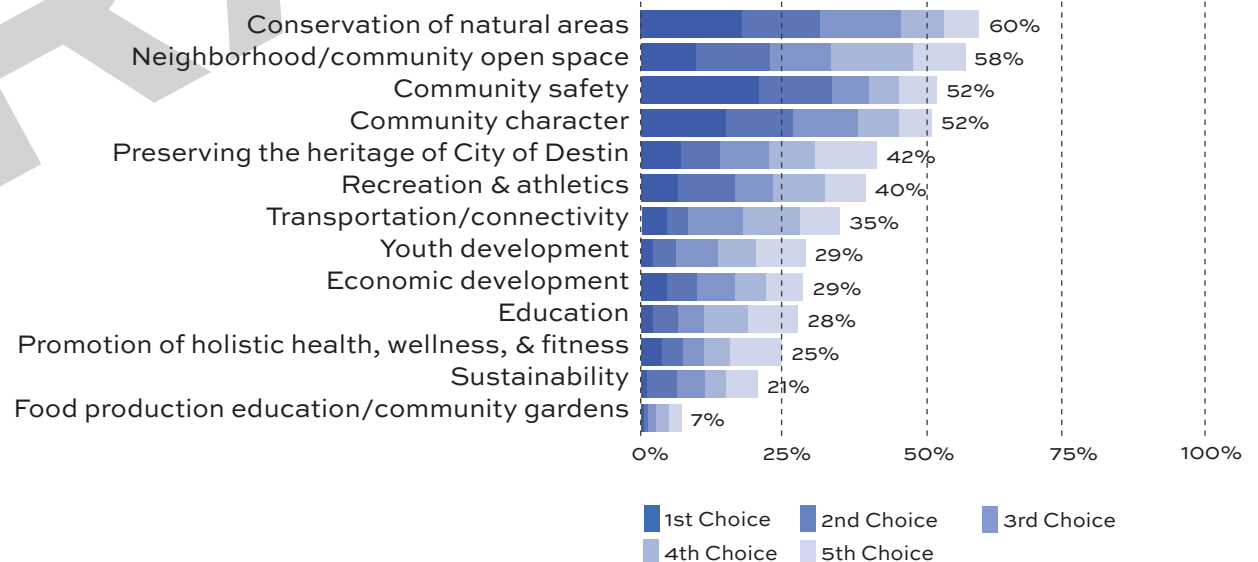
Figure 2.1a - Resident status



Benefits of Parks and Recreation.

The top five benefits of parks, recreation, and open spaces most important to households were conservation of natural areas (60%), neighborhood/community open space (58%), community safety (52%), community character (52%), and preserving the heritage of the City of Destin (42%).

Figure 2.1b - FIVE benefits that are MOST IMPORTANT to households.



Parks and Program Use

Most (87%) of respondents report visiting City of Destin parks and recreation facilities in the past year. That is higher than the national average of 81%. This suggests that Destin residents value their parks.

Figure 2.1c - Park Visitation in the Last Year - City of Destin vs. National Benchmark

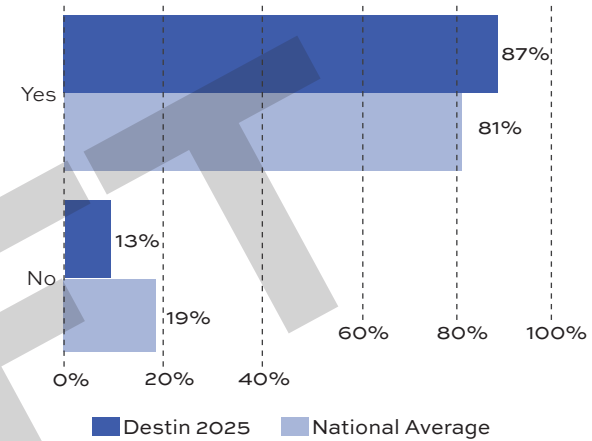
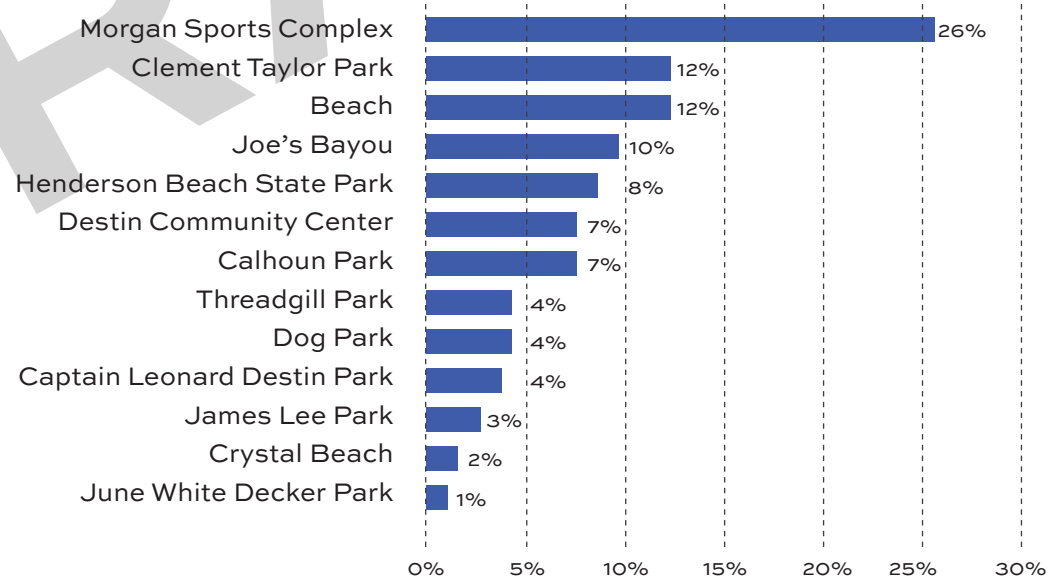


Figure 2.1d - Parks and Recreation Facilities Visited Most Often



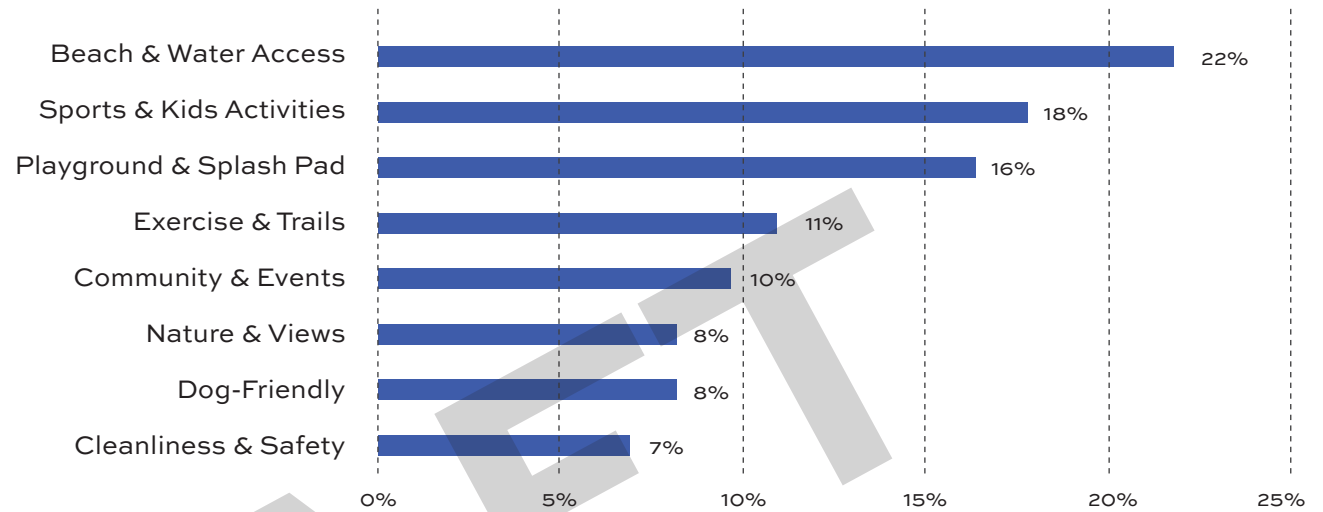
Parks and Recreation Facility Visited Most Often

Respondents identified Morgan Sports Complex (26%) as the most visited recreation destination by a large margin. A second tier of sites, including Clement Taylor Park, beaches, and Joe's Bayou, were visited by 10-12% of survey respondents. Other sites were visited much less frequently.

Reason for Visiting Parks

Beach and water access (22%), Sports and kids activities (18%), and playground and splash pad (16%) were the top three reasons why respondents visited City of Destin Parks.

Figure 2.1e - Reason for Visiting Parks



Attendance of Programs (Days and Times)

When asked the day and time that respondents preferred participating in parks and recreation programs, Saturday was the most preferred day for recreation programs in each of the age groups analyzed and evening was the most preferred time of day.

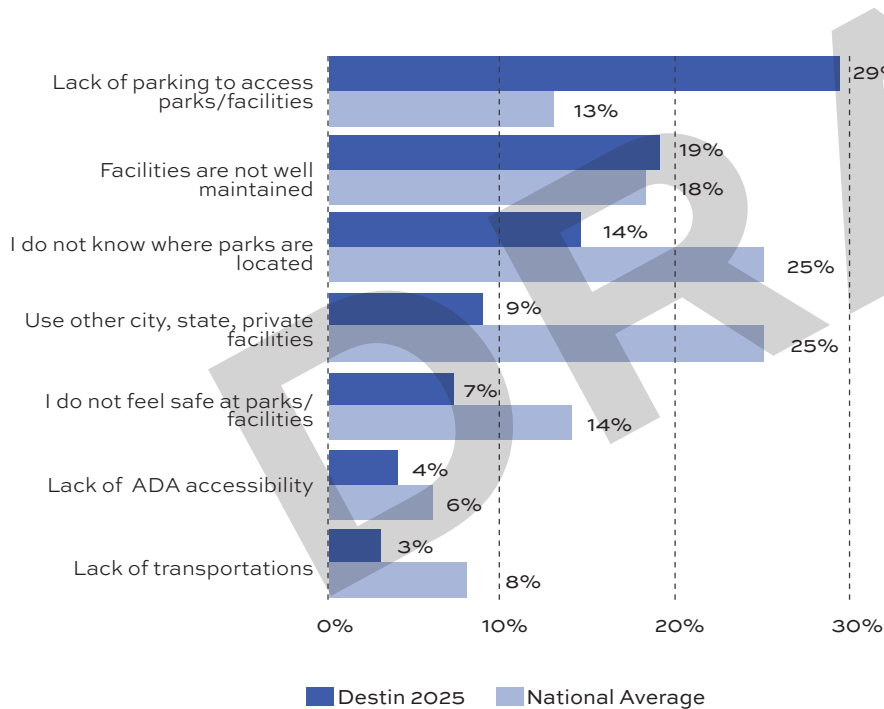
Figure 2.1f - Preferred Days and Times for Recreation Program Participation by Age Group

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Anytime
Child (under age 6)	15%	9%	9%	11%	11%	13%	20%	9%	10%	10%	8%
Youth (ages 6-12)	17%	10%	10%	10%	10%	13%	20%	2%	10%	15%	9%
Teen (ages 13-17)	10%	4%	3%	4%	4%	8%	13%	3%	7%	9%	7%
Adult (ages 18-59)	33%	17%	19%	17%	19%	23%	36%	10%	12%	21%	23%
Older Adult (ages 60+)	27%	22%	22%	23%	22%	24%	29%	25%	12%	13%	17%
Family	25%	11%	11%	11%	11%	19%	29%	9%	8%	13%	20%

Barriers to Park and Program Use

The top three reasons respondents do not use parks, trails, and recreation facilities is lack of parking (29%), facilities not being well maintained (19%), and parks not containing facilities/amenities appropriate to their family (16%). Percentage responses for lack of parking and facilities not being well maintained are above the national average.

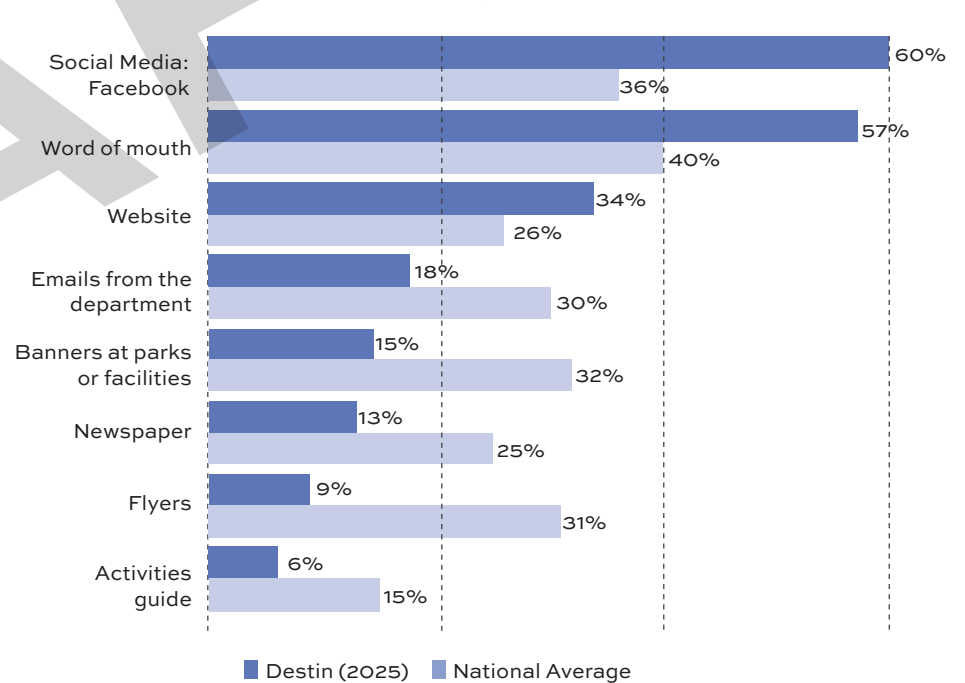
Figure 2.1g - Barriers to Recreation Program Participation – City of Destin vs. National Benchmark



Communication Methods

The three ways the highest percentage of respondents report learning about programs, activities, and special events offered by the City of Destin Parks and Recreation Department are Facebook (60%), word of mouth (57%), and the City of Destin website (34%). These top three are above the national average and are also the three ways respondents most prefer that the City use.

Figure 2.1h - Top Communication Channels for Recreation Program Awareness – City of Destin vs. National Benchmark



Funding Allocation Priorities for Parks and Recreation – Respondent-Based Budgeting of \$100

When asked to allocate a hypothetical \$100 towards facilities and capital improvements, the highest amount of funding (on average) went towards improvements/maintenance of existing parks and recreation facilities (\$20.31), acquiring new park land (\$18.47), and development of new/additional parks facilities in existing parks (\$15.04).

For programs and operations, the highest amount of funding went towards increasing staff to improve maintenance of parks and facilities (\$23.35), additional community-wide special events (\$15.89), and additional youth athletic programs/leagues (\$11.43).

Figure 2.1i- Funding Allocation Towards Facilities and Capital Improvements

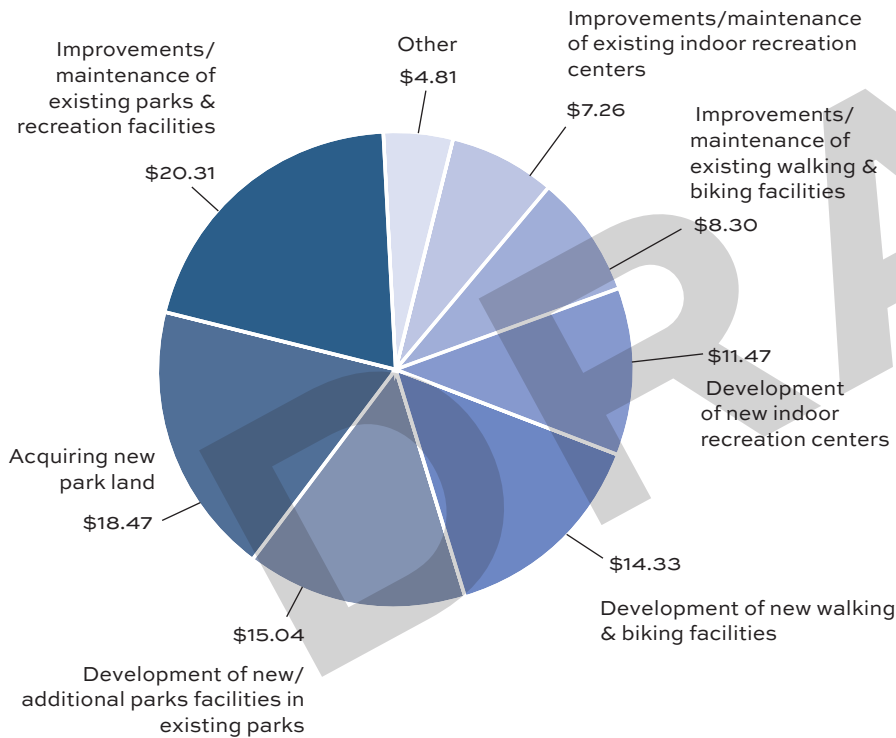
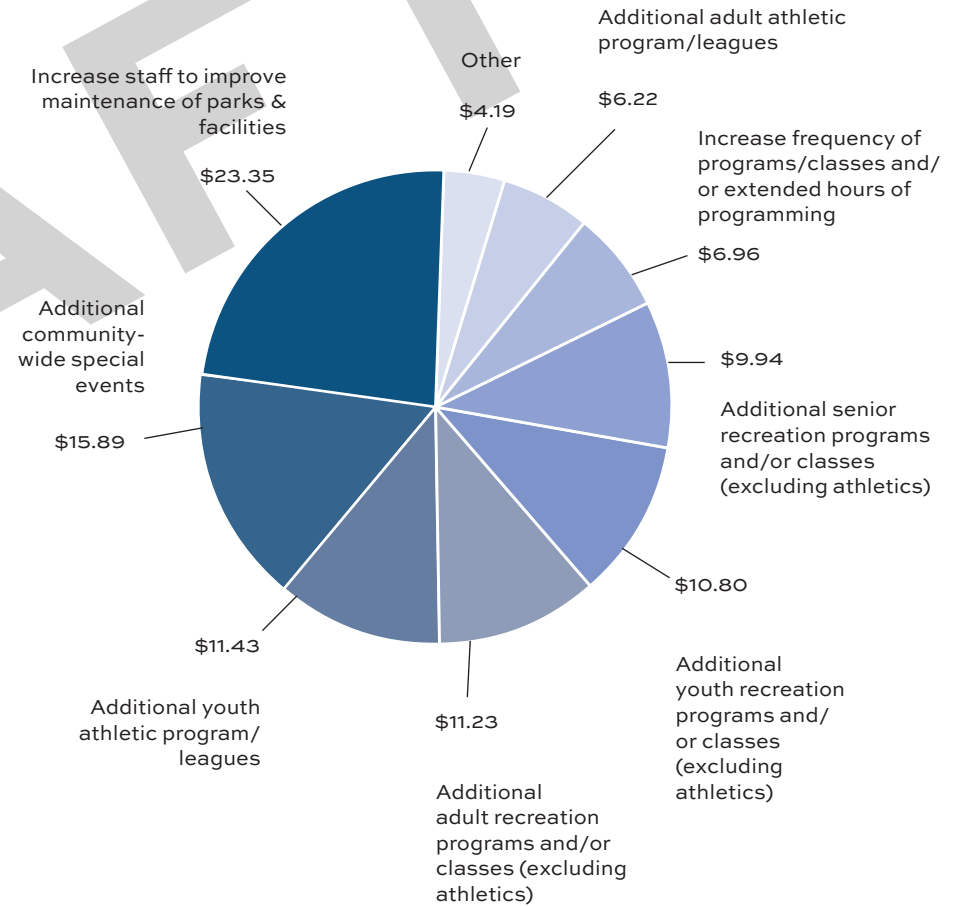


Figure 2.1j- Funding Allocation Towards Facilities and Capital Improvements



Recreation Facilities/Amenities Needs and Priorities

Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 37 recreation facilities and to rate how well their needs for each were currently being met.

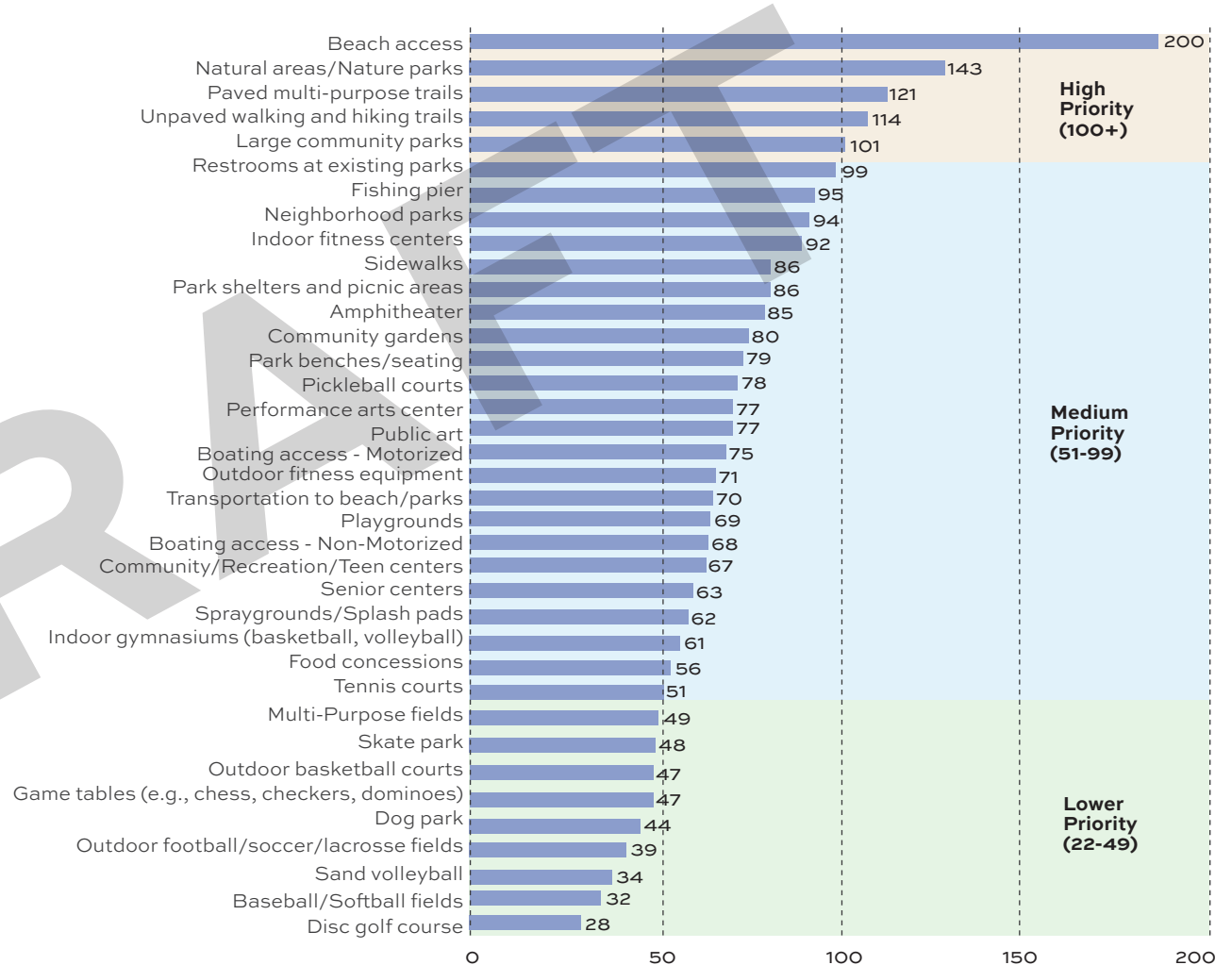
The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) was developed by ETC Institute to provide organizations with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on recreation and parks investments. The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) equally weighs (1) the importance that residents place on facilities and (2) how many residents have unmet needs for the facilities.

Based the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the following facilities were rated as high priorities for investment:

- Beach access (PIR=200)
- Natural areas/Nature parks (PIR=143)
- Paved multi-purpose trails (PIR=121)
- Unpaved walking and hiking trails (PIR=114)
- Large community parks (PIR=101)

The chart to the right shows the Priority Investment Rating for each of the 37 amenities/facilities assessed on the survey.

Figure 2.1k - Priority Investment Ratings for Parks and Recreation Facilities in Destin



Recreation Programs/Activities Needs and Priorities

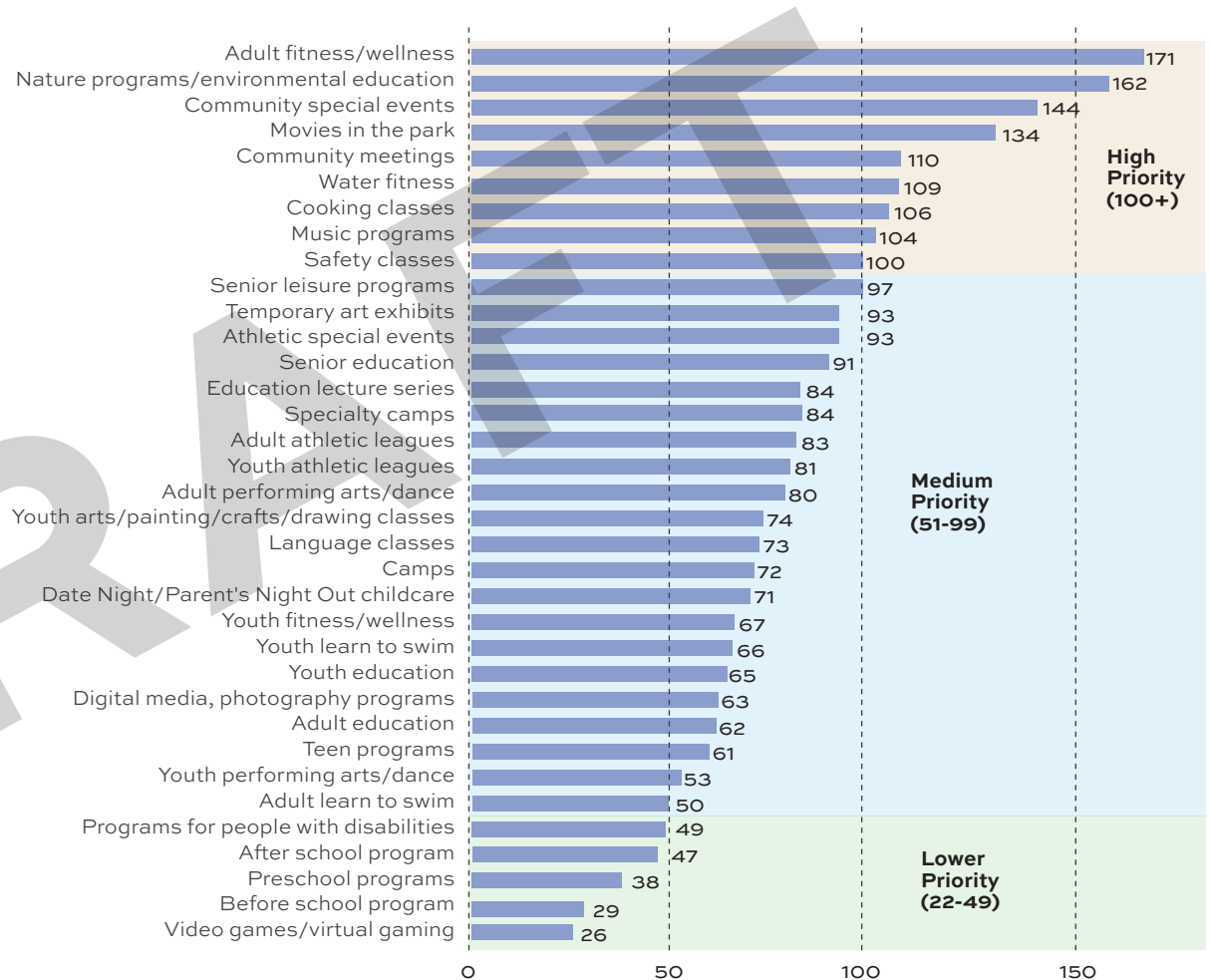
Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 35 recreation programs and to rate how well their needs for each were currently being met.

Based the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the following programs were rated as high priorities for investment:

- Adult fitness/wellness (PIR=171)
- Nature programs/environmental education (PIR=162)
- Community special events (PIR=144)
- Movies in the park (PIR=134)
- Community meetings (PIR=110)
- Water fitness (PIR=109)
- Cooking classes (PIR=106)
- Music programs (PIR=104)
- Safety classes (PIR=100)

The chart to the right illustrates the Priority Investment Rating for each of the 35 programs assessed in the survey.

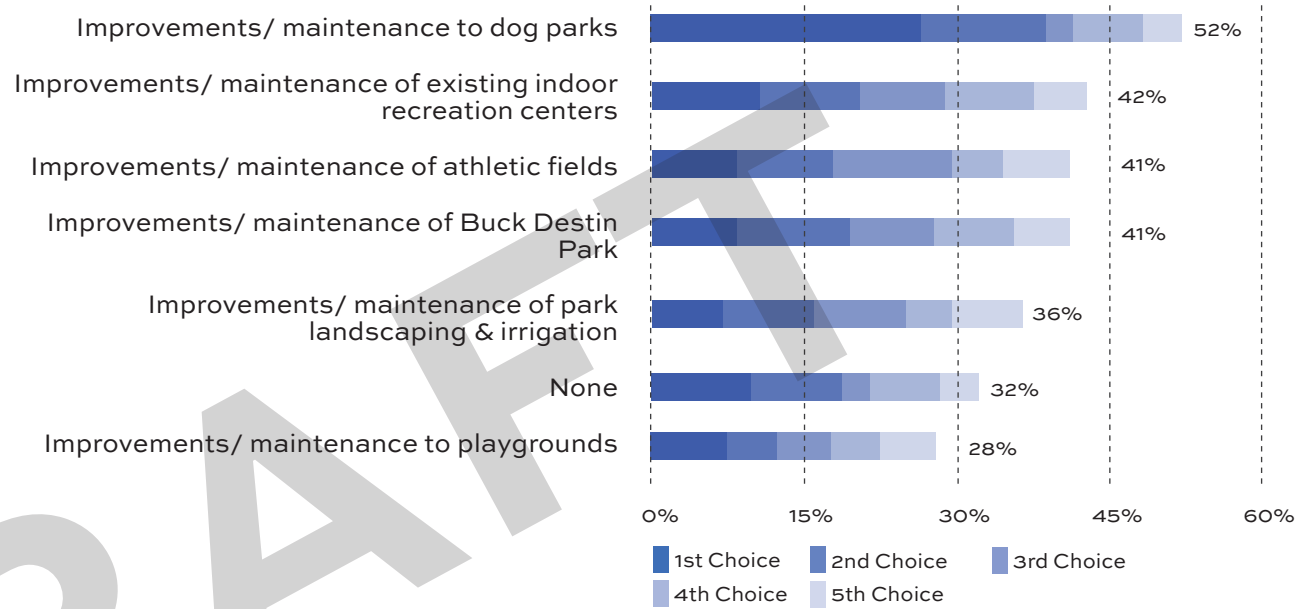
Figure 2.11- Priority Investment Ratings for Parks and Recreation Programs in Destin



Decreasing Funds for Facilities/ Capital Improvements

None, (52%), Improvements/ maintenance to dog parks (52%), improvements/ maintenance of existing indoor recreation centers (42%), and improvements/ maintenance of athletic fields along with improvements/ maintenance of Buck Destin Park (41%) where the top four areas where respondents were willing to decrease funding, if necessary.

Figure 2.1m - FACILITIES/CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS provided by the City of Destin Parks and Recreation Department, where respondents would decrease funds

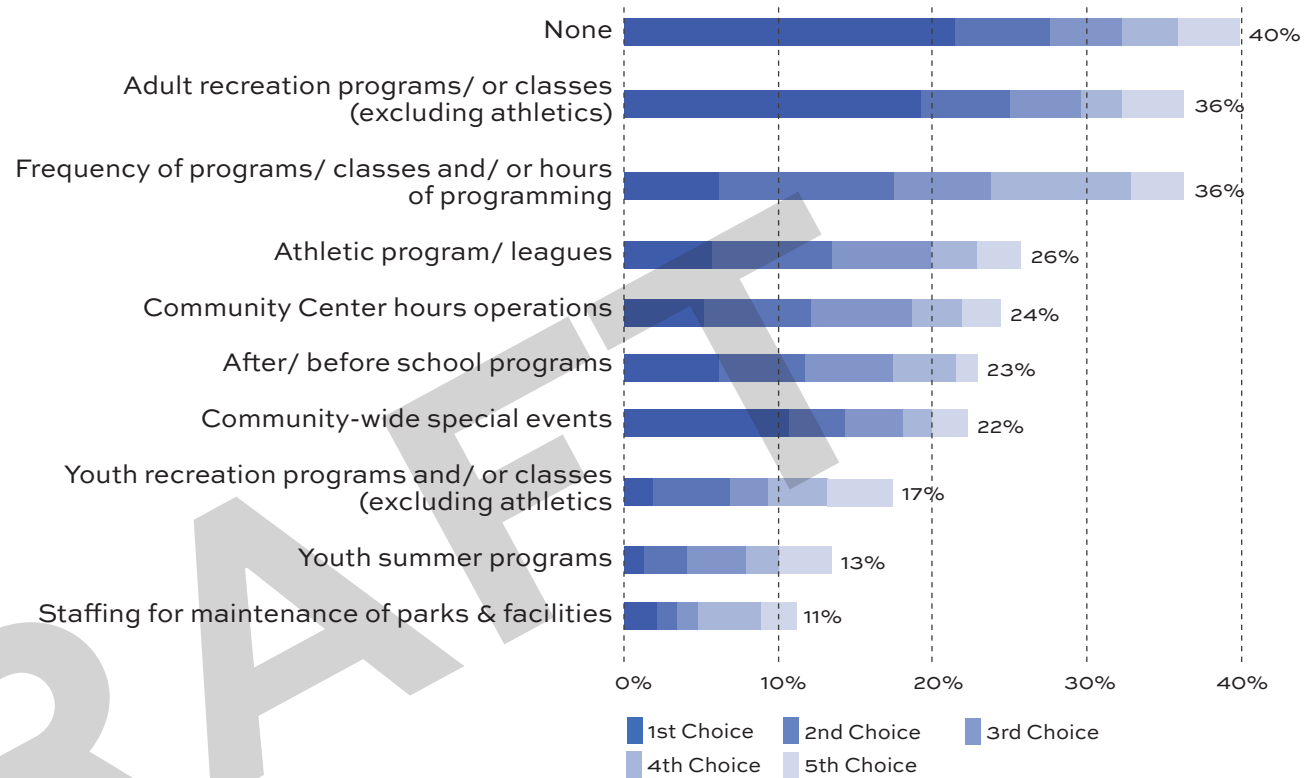


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Decreasing Funds for Programs and Operations

None (52%), Adult recreation programs/ or classes - excluding athletics (36%), frequency of programs/ classes/ and or hours of programming (36%), athletic program/ leagues (26%) were the top four areas where respondents were willing to decrease funding, if necessary.

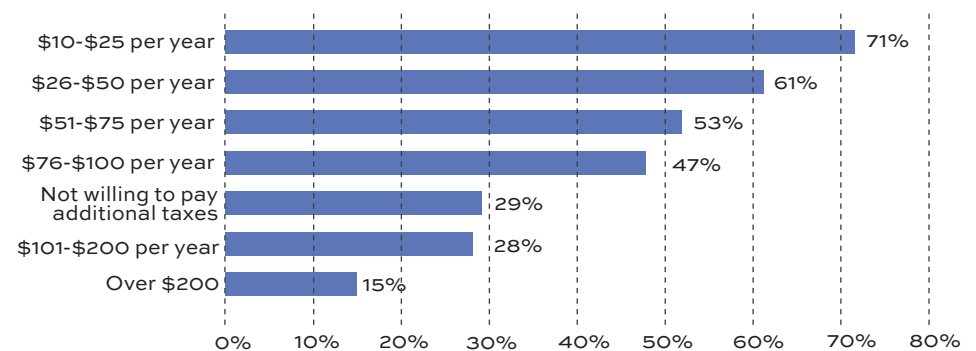
Figure 2.1n - PROGRAMS/ OPERATIONS provided by the City of Destin Parks and Recreation Department, where respondents you decrease funds



Taxes

Seventy-one percent of respondents are willing to pay \$10-\$25 of additional taxes per year to fund the parks and recreation improvements that are most important to their household, 61% are willing to pay \$26-\$50 per year, and 53% are willing to pay \$51-\$75 per year. Twenty-nine percent are not willing to pay additional taxes.

Figure 2.1o - Willingness to Pay Additional Annual Taxes for Park and Recreation Improvements



2.2.2 ONLINE SURVEY

Overview

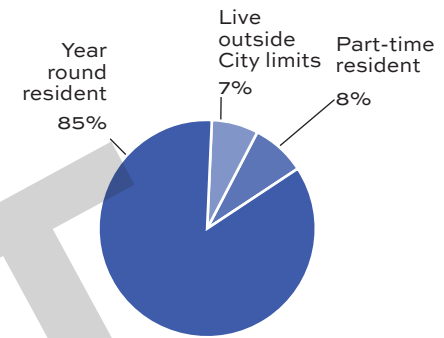
The City conducted an on-line survey using the Survey Monkey platform from October 2025 through November 2025. The questions were based closely on the Statistically Valid Survey, with some slight modifications as needed for formatting. Responses were received from 130 participants. Unlike the Statistically Valid Survey, the on-line survey is not based on a random sample of residents, and therefore cannot be considered statistically-representative.

A copy of the complete findings from the on-line survey are included in the Appendix. Following are highlights of the survey findings directly related to the parks and recreation needs assessment.

Resident Status

When asked about resident status, 85% of respondents were year round residents within City limits, 8% were part-time residents in City limits, and 7% live outside of Destin City limits and visit Destin.

Figure 2.2a - Resident status



Benefits of Parks and Recreation.

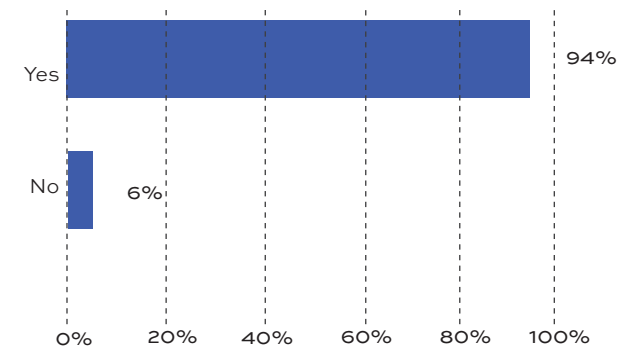
The top five benefits of parks, recreation, and open spaces most important to households were:

1. Community safety
2. Neighborhood/community open space for social interactions and play (creating sense of community/bringing people together)
3. Community character (quality of the built environment, neighborhoods, streetscapes, etc.)
4. Conservation of natural areas, and
5. Recreation and athletics and preserving the culture of the City of Destin

Parks and Program Use

Nearly all respondents (94%) reported visiting City of Destin parks and recreation facilities within the past year, compared to 87% in the Statistically Valid Survey. This indicates that participants in the online survey are likely more engaged and interested in parks and recreation than the general population.

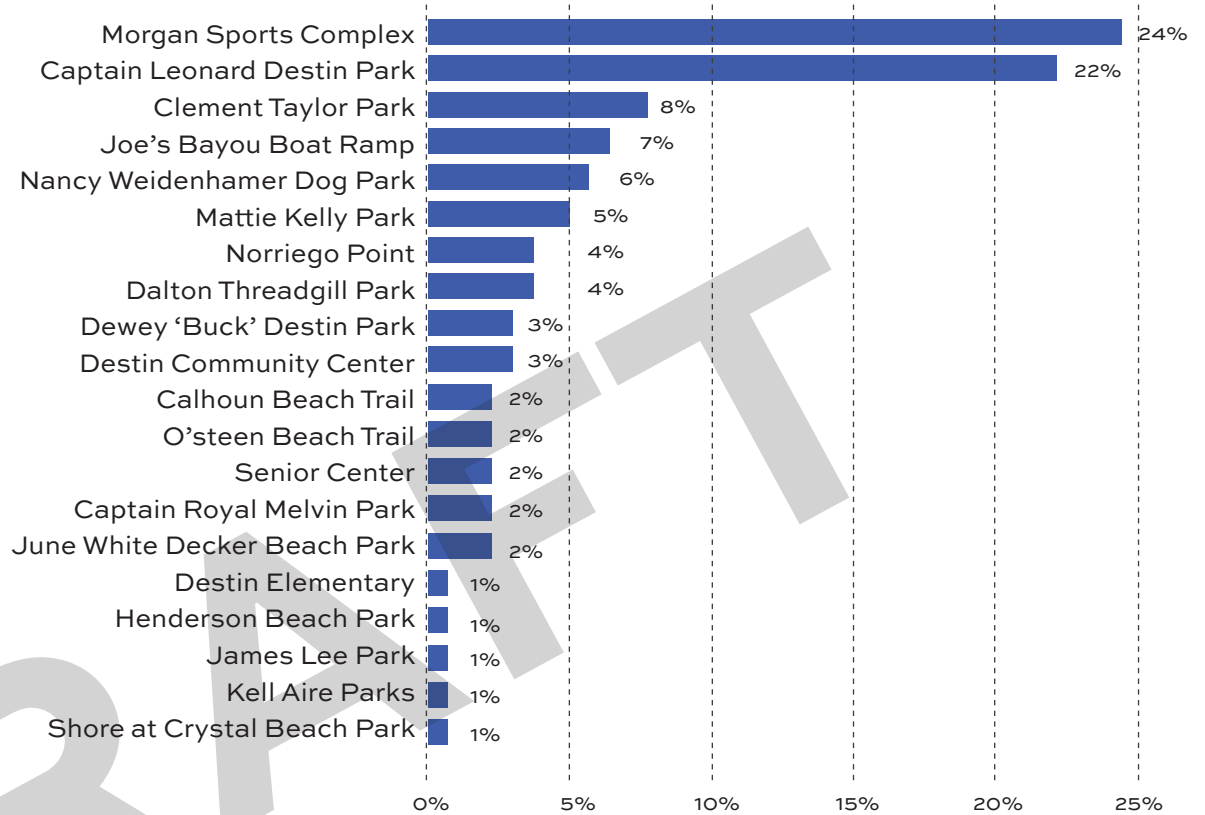
Figure 2.2b - Park Visitation in the Last Year



Parks and Recreation Facility Visited Most Often

Morgan Sports Complex (24%), Capitan Leonard Destin Park (22%) were the top two parks that respondents visited the most by a substantial percentage. Eight percent of respondents selected Clement Taylor Park as the third most visited park.

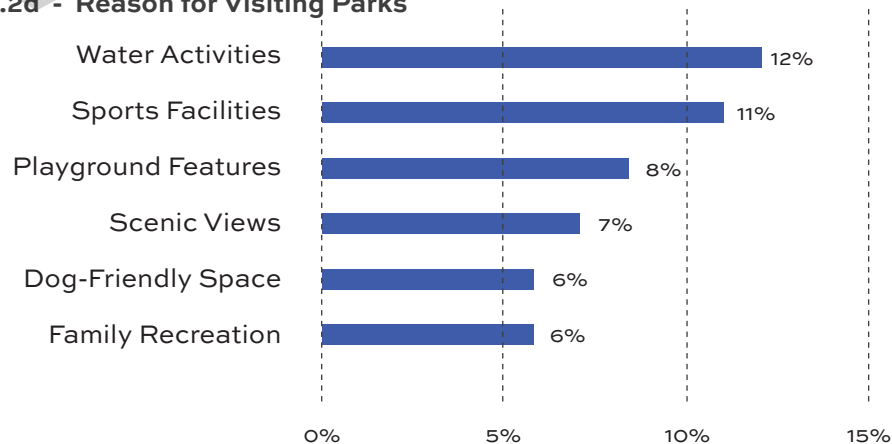
Figure 2.2c - Facility Visited Most Often



Reason for Visiting Parks

Online respondents identified a wide range of reasons for coming to Design Parks and Recreation Facilities. The top responses are categorized here as water activities (12%), sports facilities (11%), and playgrounds (8%).

Figure 2.2d - Reason for Visiting Parks



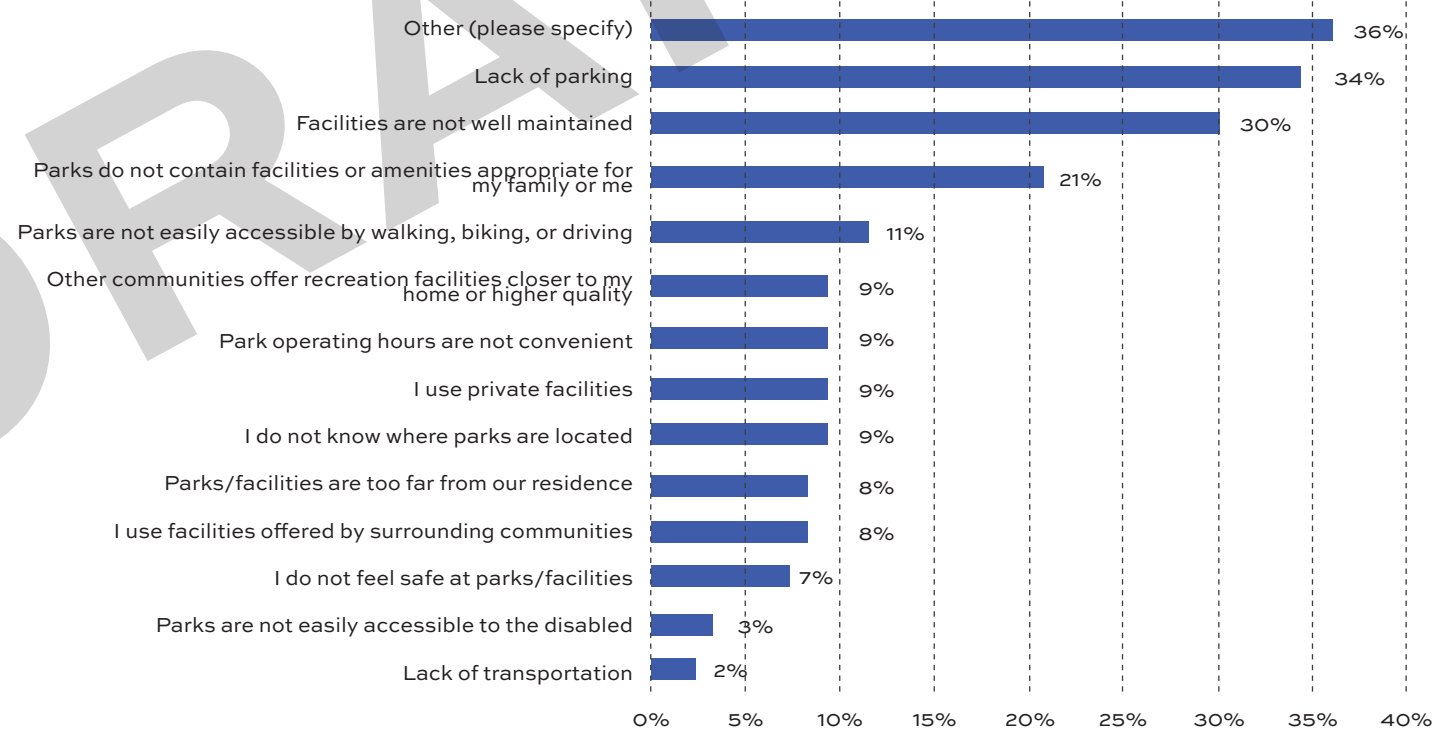
Attendance of Programs (Days and Times)

When asked the day and time that respondents preferred participating in parks and recreation programs, similar to the Statistically Valid Survey findings, Saturday was the most preferred day for recreation programs in each of the age groups analyzed and anytime was the most preferred time of day.

Figure 2.2e - Preferred Days and Times for Recreation Program Participation by Age Group

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Anytime
Child (under age 6)	32%	18%	16%	19%	16%	28%	42%	16%	16%	18%	29%
Youth (ages 6-12)	32%	19%	22%	24%	19%	30%	41%	13%	21%	28%	25%
Teen (ages 13-17)	26%	9%	11%	13%	11%	23%	36%	6%	13%	19%	30%
Adult (ages 18-59)	59%	31%	33%	34%	36%	47%	67%	22%	25%	37%	49%
Older Adult (ages 60+)	24%	26%	23%	27%	24%	24%	26%	20%	20%	4%	25%
Family	65%	25%	21%	31%	25%	43%	67%	25%	25%	30%	52%

Figure 2.2f - Barriers to Recreation Program Participation



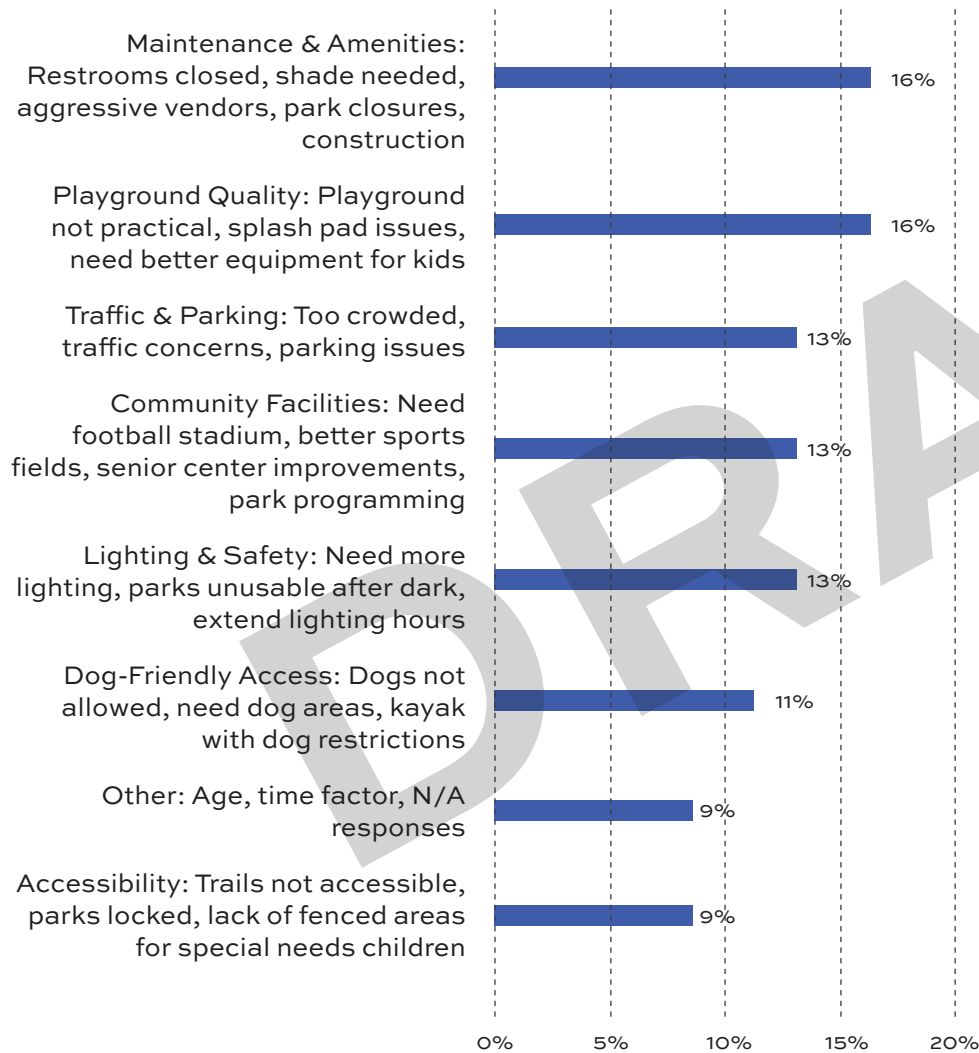
Barriers to Park and Program Use

Major themes in online respondents' concerns about park use include lack of parking (34%), facility maintenance (30%), and lack of desired facilities or amenities (21%). While many respondents indicated "other," comments in this category varied widely, and are discussed in the following chart.

“Other” Barriers to Park and Program Use

Online respondents who were asked about the barriers to park and program use they experienced highlighted a number of “other” reasons, providing qualitative answers that give additional insight into how the use parks—or don’t. These include maintenance and amenity concerns and concerns about safety and lighting, and specific user sets.

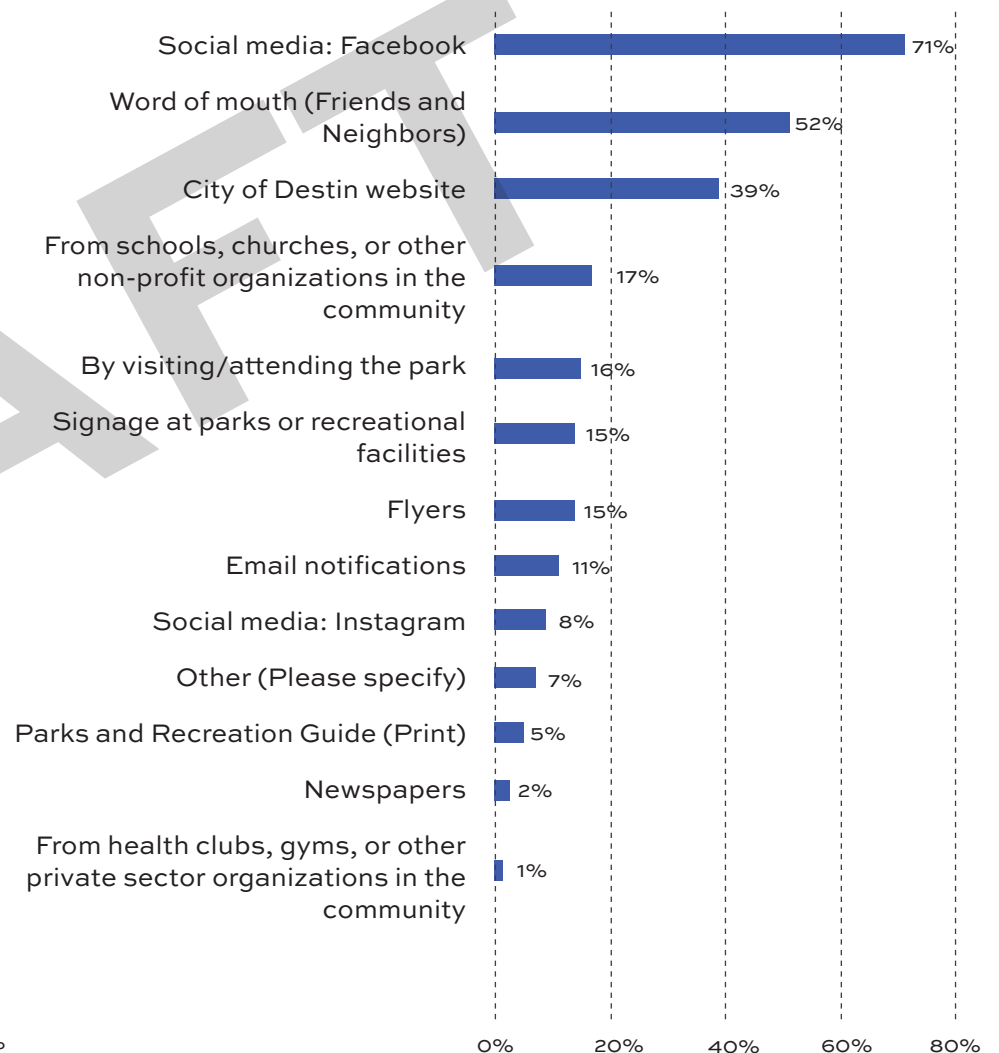
Figure 2.2g - “Other” Barriers to Park and Program Use



Communication Methods

Online survey participants indicated receiving information about parks and recreation programs from a variety of sources, the most significant of which were Facebook posts, word of mouth, and the City of Destin website. Compared to these channels, other efforts reached less than 20% of respondents.

Figure 2.2h - Top Communication Channels for Recreation Program Awareness



Funding Allocation Priorities for Parks and Recreation – Respondent-Based Budgeting of \$100

When asked to allocate a hypothetical \$100 towards facilities and capital improvements, similar to the findings from the Statistically Valid Survey, the highest amount of funding (on average) went towards improvements/maintenance of existing parks and recreation facilities (\$21.84), acquiring new park land (\$21.15), and development of new/additional parks facilities in existing parks (\$15.37).

For programs and operations, similar to the Statistically Valid Survey, the highest amount of funding went towards increasing staff to improve maintenance of parks and facilities (\$19.53), additional community-wide special events (\$17.58), and unlike the Statistically Valid Survey, senior recreation programs/leagues (\$12.58).

Figure 2.4e- Funding Allocation Towards Facilities and Capital Improvements

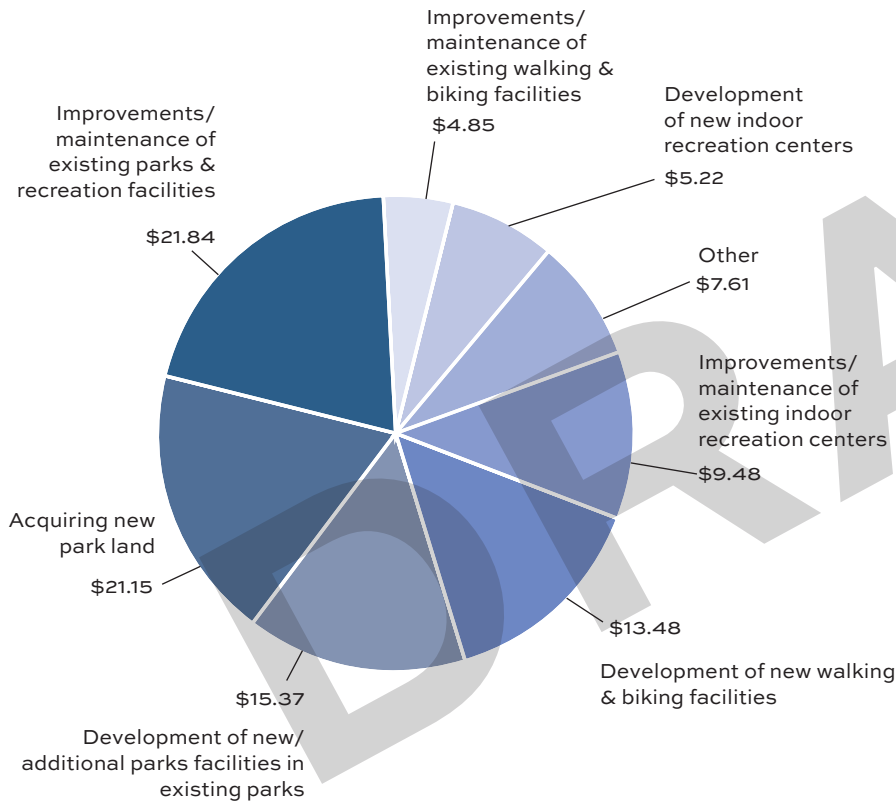
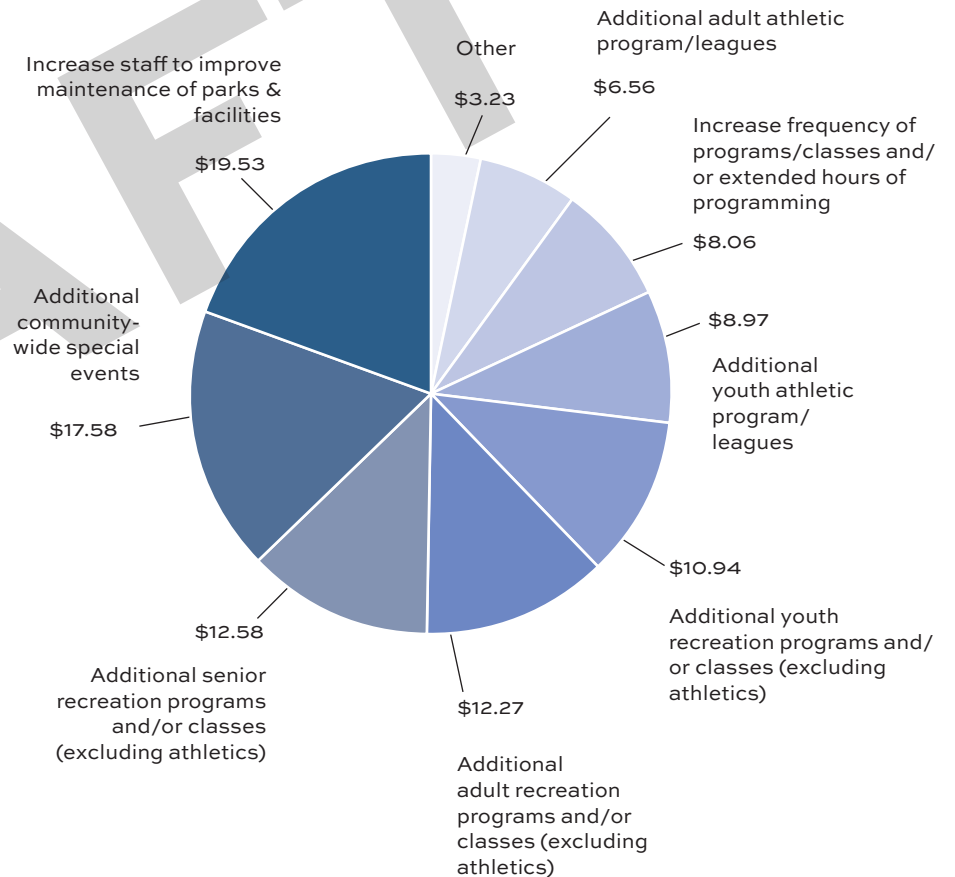


Figure 2.4f- Funding Allocation Towards Facilities and Capital Improvements



Recreation Facilities/Amenities Needs and Priorities

Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 37 recreation facilities and to rate how well their needs for each were currently being met.

The chart on the right quantifies the percentage sum of the importance that residents place on facilities and the amount of residents that have unmet needs for the facilities. These percentage sums are then organized into 90th Percentile, 75th Percentile, 50th Percentile, and below 50th Percentile.

Similar to the Statistically Valid Survey findings, following are the high-priority, 90th Percentile needs:

- Beach access
- Natural areas/Nature parks
- Unpaved walking and hiking trails
- Paved multi-purpose trails

The chart to the right shows the findings for each of the 37 amenities/facilities assessed on the survey.

Figure 2.4g - Percentile Rankings of Parks and Recreation Facility Needs in Destin



Recreation Programs/Activities Needs and Priorities

Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 35 recreation programs and to rate how well their needs for each were currently being met.

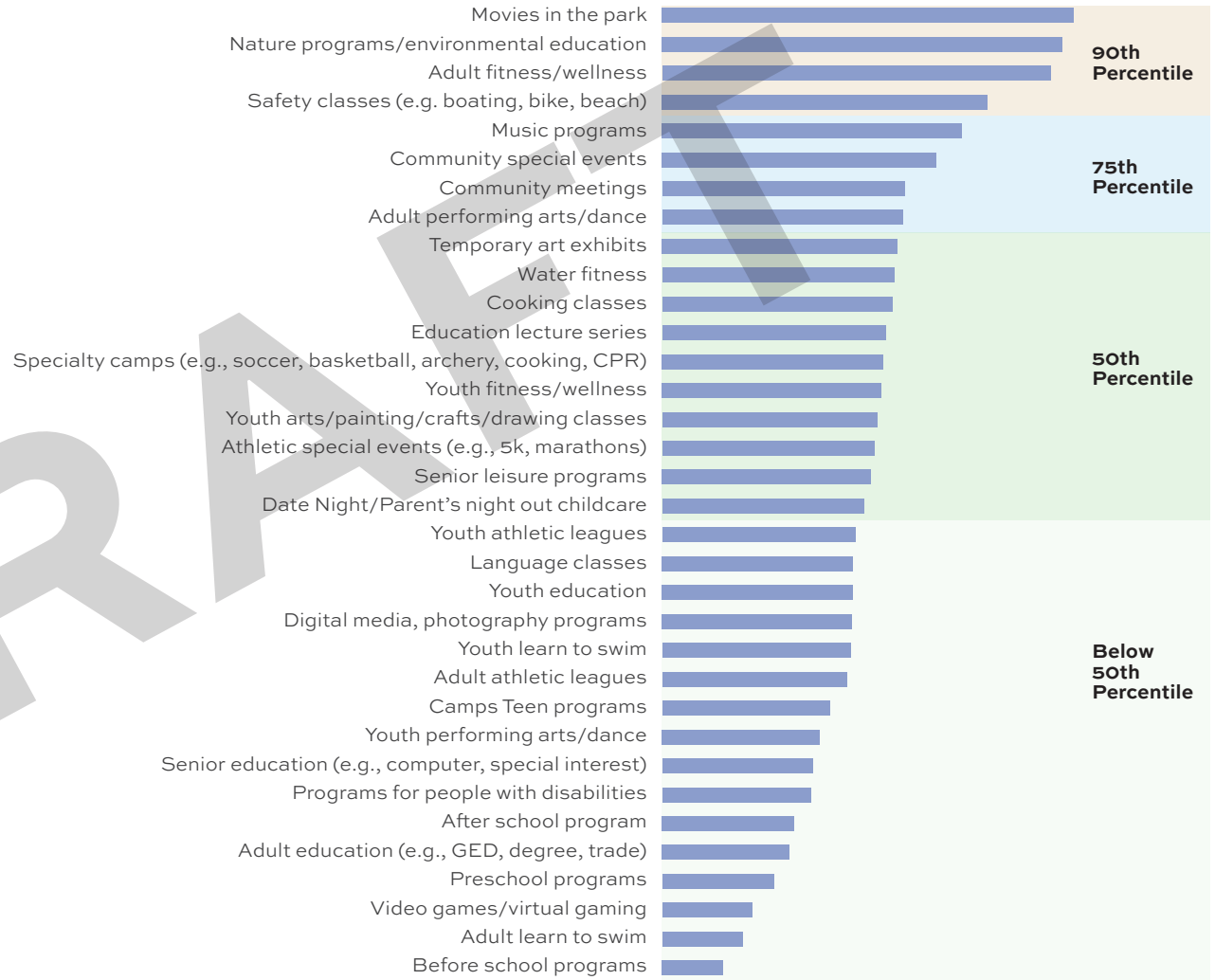
The chart on the right quantifies the percentage sum of the importance that residents place on programs and the amount of residents that have unmet needs for the programs. These percentage sums are then organized into 90th Percentile, 75th Percentile, 50th Percentile, and below 50th Percentile.

Similar to the Statistically Valid Survey findings, following are the high-priority, 90th Percentile needs:

- Movies in the park
- Nature programs/environmental education
- Adult fitness/wellness
- Safety classes

The chart to the right illustrates the Priority Investment Rating for each of the 35 programs assessed in the survey.

Figure 2.4h- Percentile Rankings of Parks and Recreation Programs in Destin



Decreasing Funds for Facilities/ Capital Improvements

Following are the top five areas where respondents were willing to decrease facilities and capital improvements funding in parks, if necessary.

1. None
2. Improvements/maintenance to Dog Park
3. Improvements/maintenance to Buck Destin Park (e.g. courts and facilities)
4. Improvements/maintenance of park landscaping and irrigation
5. Improvements/maintenance of athletic fields

Decreasing Funds for Programs and Operations

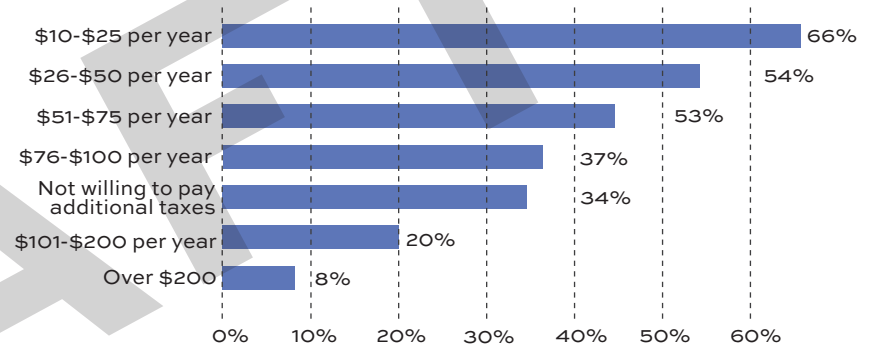
Following are the top five areas where respondents were willing to decrease programs and operations funding in parks, if necessary.

1. None
2. Adult recreation programs and/or classes (excluding athletics)
3. Frequency of programs/classes and/or hours of programming
4. Athletic program/leagues
5. Staffing for maintenance of parks and facilities

Taxes

Sixty-six percent of respondents are willing to pay \$10-\$25 of additional taxes per year to fund the parks and recreation improvements that are most important to their household, 54% are willing to pay \$26-\$50 per year, and 53% are willing to pay \$51-\$75 per year. Thirty-seven percent are not willing to pay additional taxes.

Figure 2.4g - Willingness to Pay Additional Annual Taxes for Park and Recreation Improvements



2.2.3 PUBLIC MEETING

Overview

On August 7, 2025 the Department and Project Team hosted a public meeting in the City Council Chambers for residents to provide their input regarding parks and recreation needs and priorities.

Attendees participated in eight structured exercises. They were also asked to share any other comments related to parks and recreation needs or specific park improvements. Following are the findings from the meeting.

Facilities Priorities

Based on a matrix with images and names of 40 facilities and amenities, participants were asked to place a dot on the facilities and amenities that they believed were important, but not adequately provided in the city. Following are the findings.

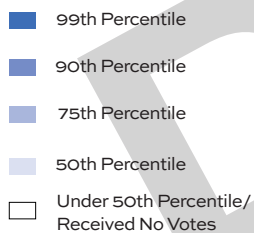
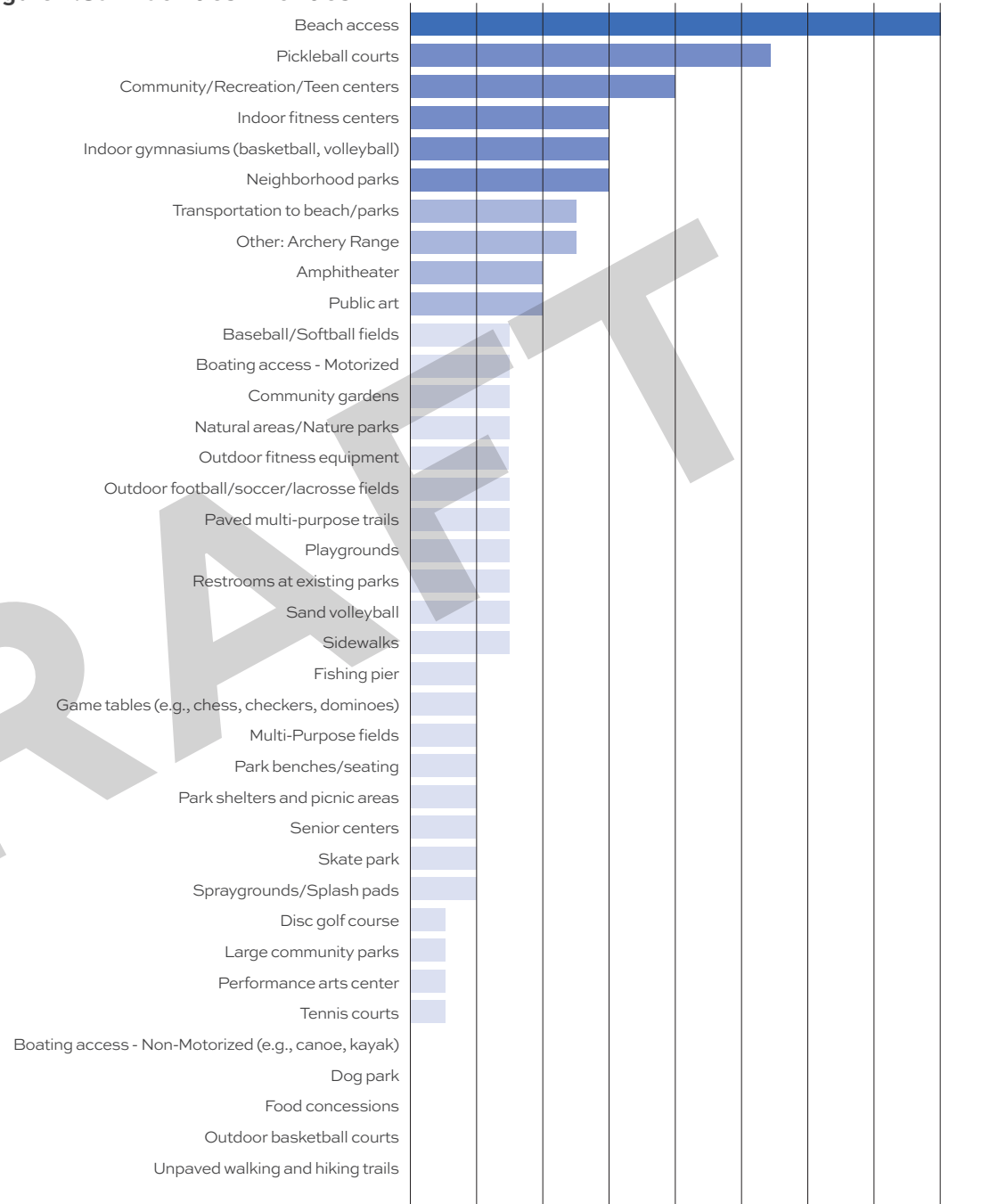


Figure 2.3a - Facilities Priorities

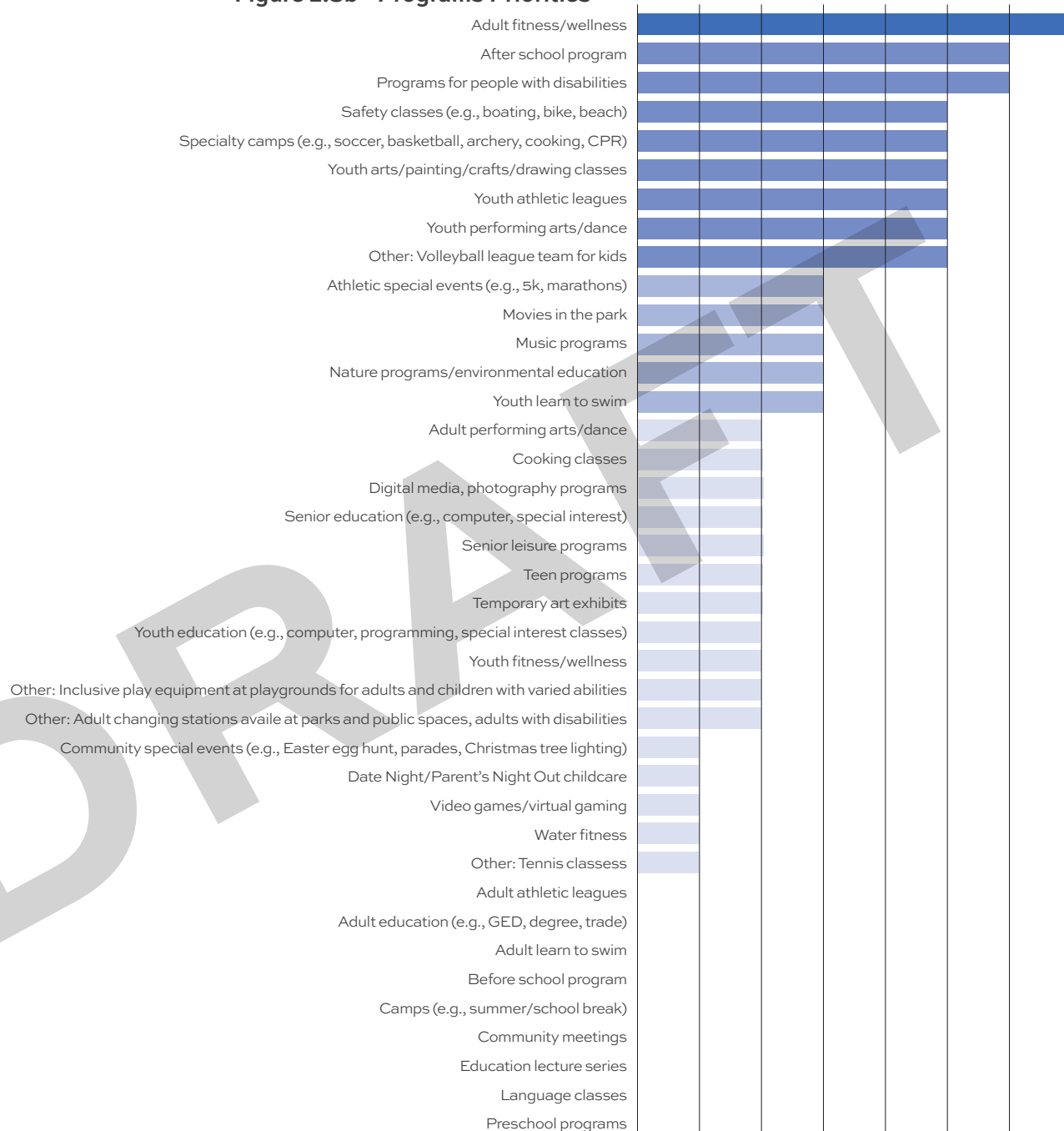


Programs Priorities

Based on a matrix with images and names of over 35 programs and activities, participants were asked to place a dot on the programs and activities that they believed were important, but not adequately provided in the city. Following are the findings.

- 99th Percentile
- 90th Percentile
- 75th Percentile
- 50th Percentile
- Under 50th Percentile/
Received No Votes

Figure 2.3b - Programs Priorities



Benefits of Parks & Recreation

Based on a list of 13 attributes of the city for which parks & recreation could provide a benefit, participants were asked to place a dot on those most important to them. Following are the findings.

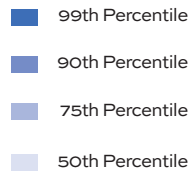
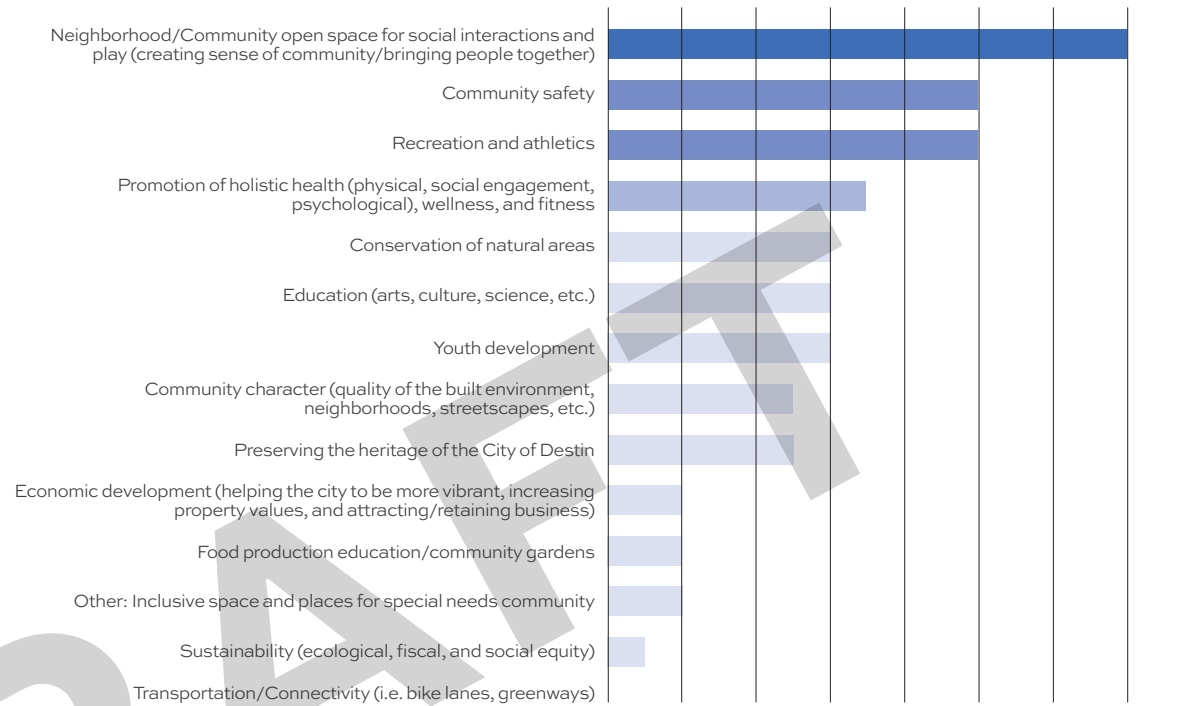


Figure 2.3c - Benefits of Parks & Recreation System



Decreasing Funds for Facilities/ Capital Improvements

Following are the top five areas where respondents were willing to decrease facilities and capital improvements funding in parks, if necessary.

1. None
2. Improvements/maintenance to Dog Park
3. Improvements/maintenance to Buck Destin Park (e.g. courts and facilities)
4. Improvements/maintenance of playgrounds
5. Improvements/maintenance of athletic fields

Decreasing Funds for Programs and Operations

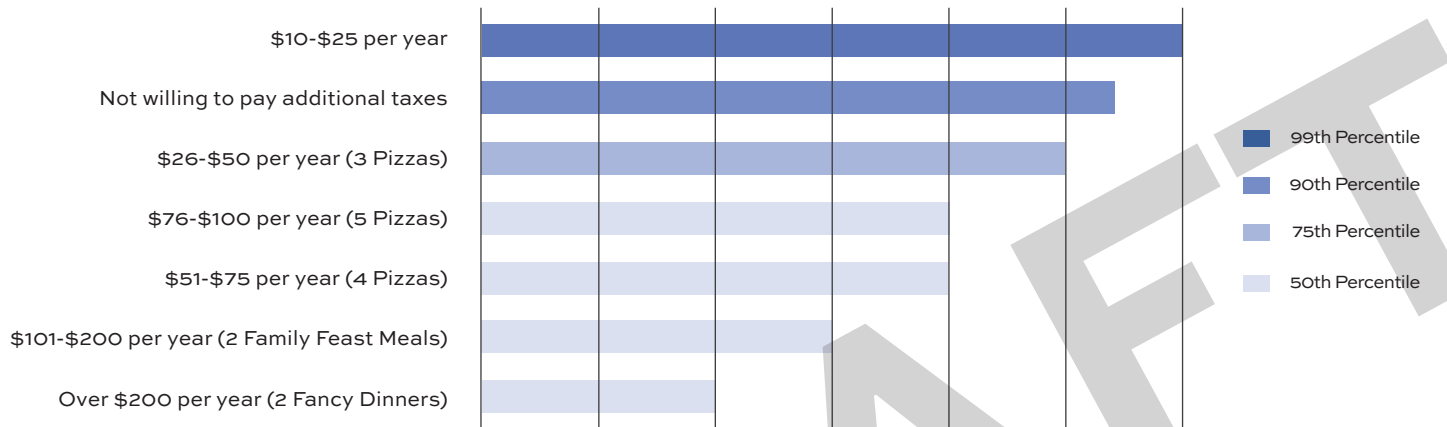
Following are the top five areas where respondents were willing to decrease programs and operations funding in parks, if necessary.

1. None
2. Community-wide special events (e.g., Easter egg hunt, parades, Christmas tree lighting)
3. Youth recreation programs and/or classes (excluding athletics)
4. Adult recreation programs and/or classes (excluding athletics)
5. Community Center hours of operation

Taxes

Respondents were asked to place a dot on one of eight options regarding their willingness to pay additional annual property taxes to fund parks and recreation improvements.

Figure 2.3d - Willingness to Pay Additional Annual Taxes for Park and Recreation Improvements



DRAFT

Funding Allocation Priorities for Parks and Recreation – Respondent-Based Budgeting of \$100

Attendees were asked to allocate a hypothetical \$100 towards Facilities and Capital Improvements, and then a separate \$100 towards Programs and Operations. For each exercise, they were given 10 coins each representing \$10 to allocate among the categories displayed.

Figure 2.3e - Funding Allocation Towards Facilities and Capital Improvements

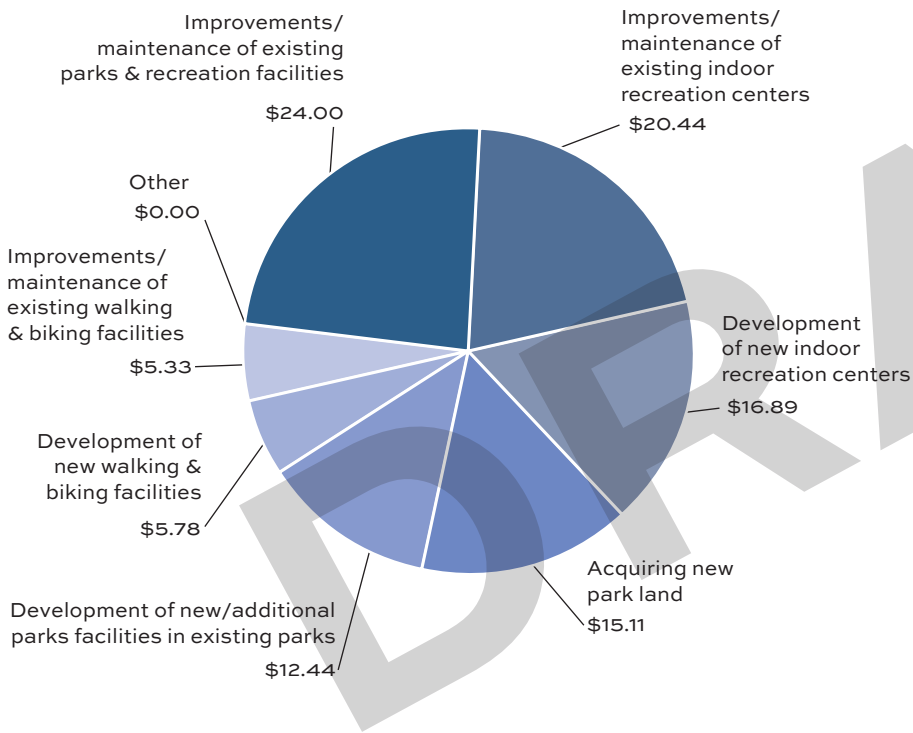
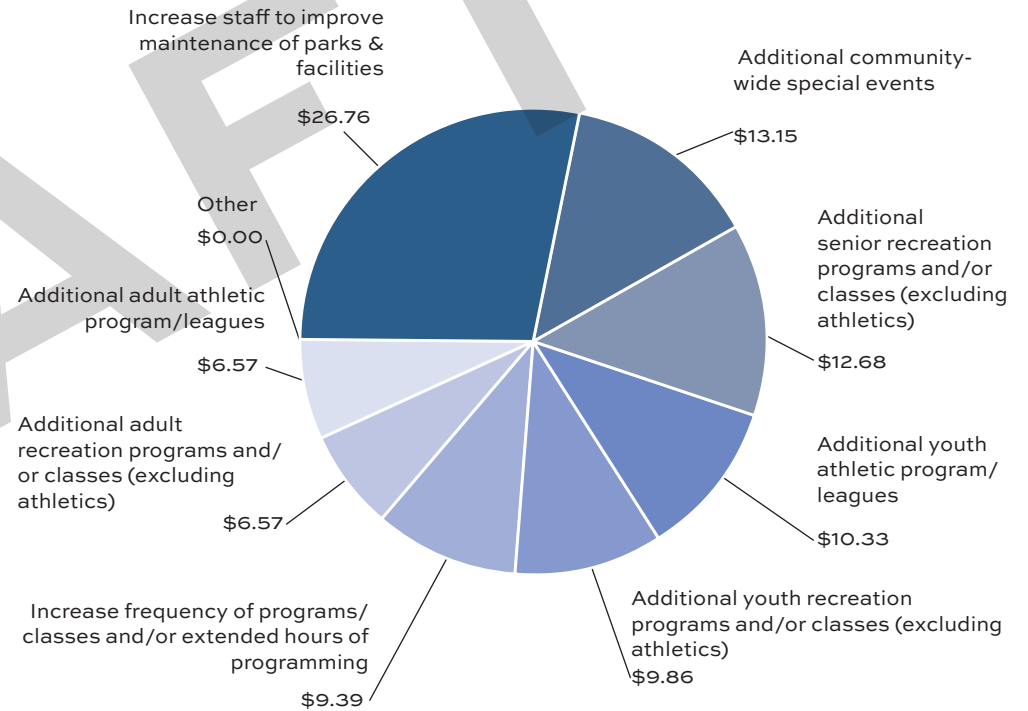


Figure 2.3f - Funding Allocation Towards Programs and Operations Improvements



2.2.4 PARKS & REC COMMITTEE MEETING

Overview

On August 8, 2025 the Department and Project Team joined the regularly scheduled meeting of Destin’s Parks and Recreation Committee in the City Council Chambers for the committee and residents to provide their input regarding parks and recreation needs and priorities.

Attendees participated in eight structured exercises. They were also asked to share any other comments related to parks and recreation needs or specific park improvements. Following are the findings from the meeting.

Facilities Priorities

Based on a matrix with images and names of 40 facilities and amenities, participants were asked to place a dot on the facilities and amenities that they believed were important, but not adequately provided in the city. Following are the findings.

- 99th Percentile
- 90th Percentile
- 75th Percentile
- 50th Percentile
- Under 50th Percentile/
Received No Votes

Figure 2.4a - Facilities Priorities



Figure 2.4b - Programs Priorities

Programs Priorities

Based on a matrix with images and names of over 35 programs and activities, participants were asked to place a dot on the programs and activities that they believed were important, but not adequately provided in the city. Following are the findings.

- 99th Percentile
- 90th Percentile
- 75th Percentile
- 50th Percentile
- Under 50th Percentile/
Received No Votes

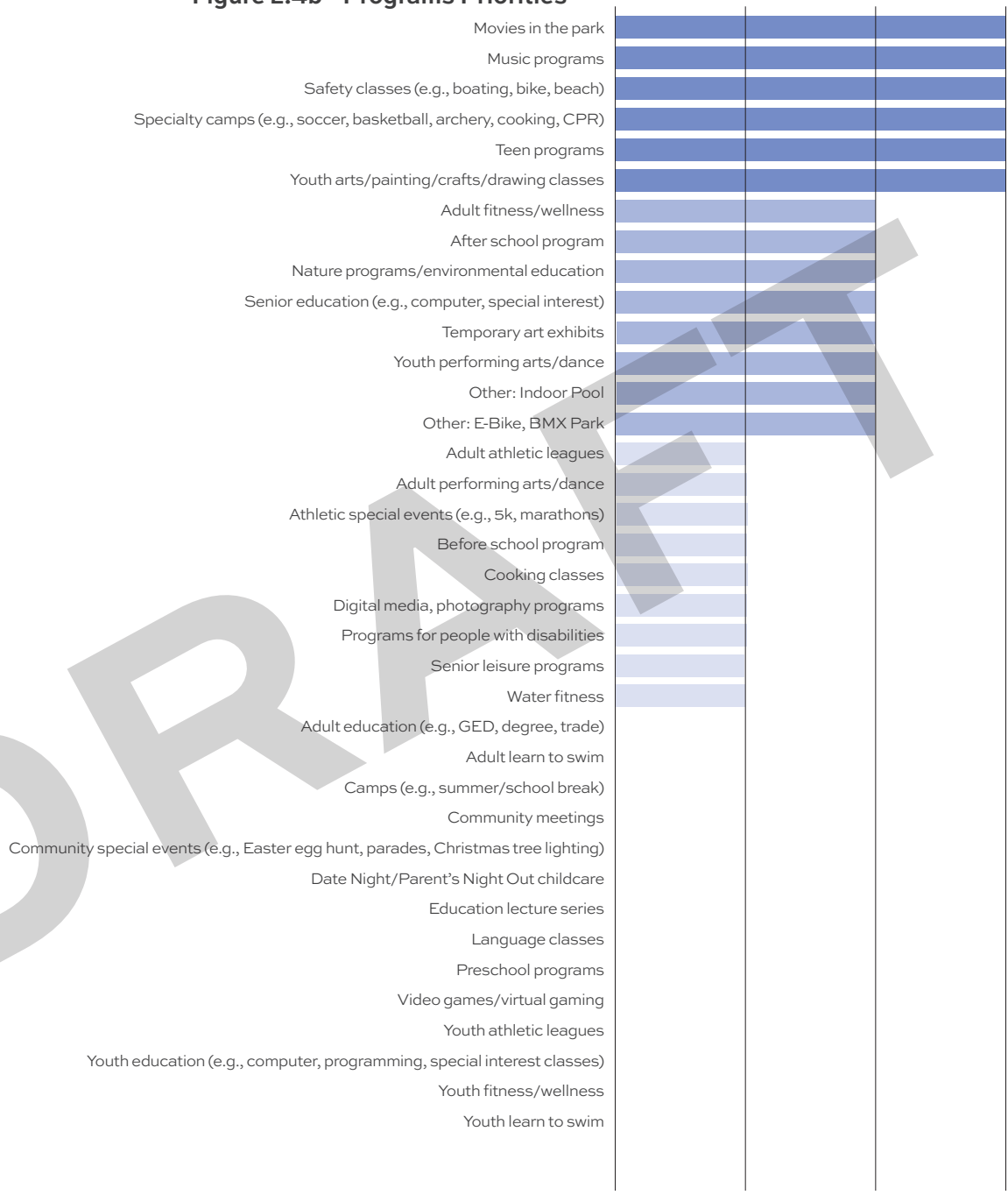
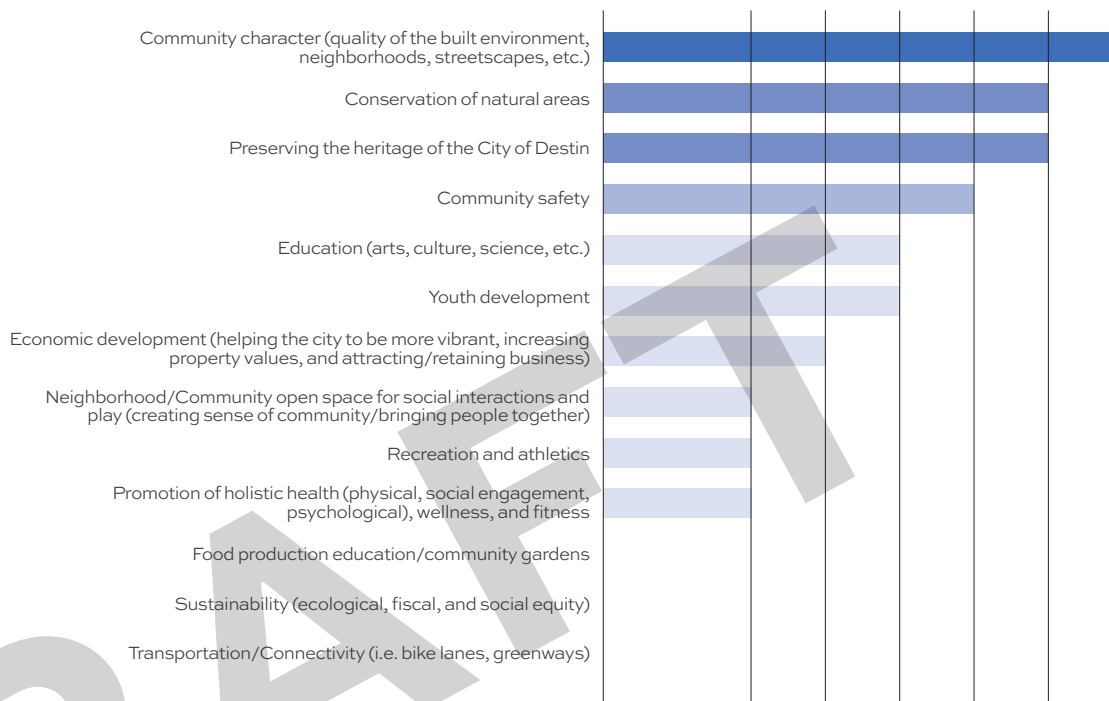
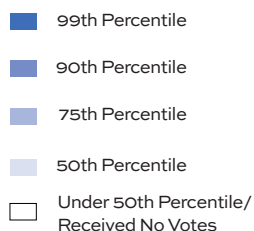


Figure 2.4c - Benefits of Parks & Recreation System

Benefits of Parks & Recreation

Based on a list of 13 attributes of the city for which parks & recreation could provide a benefit, participants were asked to place a dot on those most important to them. Following are the findings.



Decreasing Funds for Facilities/ Capital Improvements

Following are the top five areas where respondents were willing to decrease facilities and capital improvements funding in parks, if necessary.

1. None
2. Improvements/maintenance of athletic fields
3. Improvements/maintenance of park landscaping and irrigation
4. Improvements/maintenance to Buck Destin Park (e.g. courts and facilities)
5. Improvements/maintenance of existing indoor recreation centers

Decreasing Funds for Programs and Operations

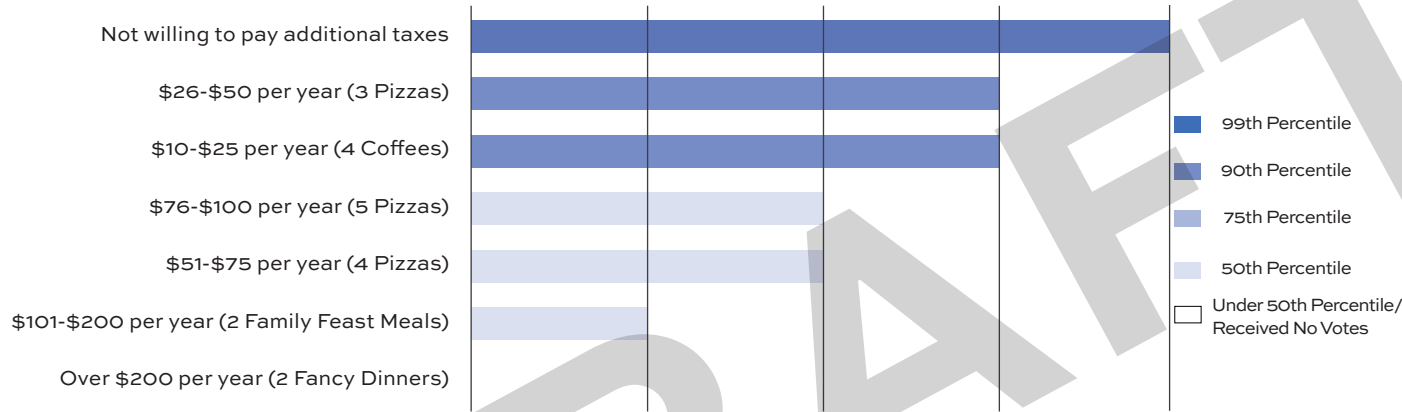
Following are the top five areas where respondents were willing to decrease programs and operations funding in parks, if necessary.

1. None
2. (No other responses)
3. (No other responses)
4. (No other responses)
5. (No other responses)

Taxes

Respondents were asked to place a dot on one of eight options regarding their willingness to pay additional annual property taxes to fund parks and recreation improvements.

Figure 2.4d - Willingness to Pay Additional Annual Taxes for Park and Recreation Improvements



Funding Allocation Priorities for Parks and Recreation – Respondent-Based Budgeting of \$100

Attendees were asked to allocate a hypothetical \$100 towards Facilities and Capital Improvements, and then a separate \$100 towards Programs and Operations. For each exercise, they were given 10 coins each representing \$10 to allocate among the categories displayed.

Figure 2.4e - Funding Allocation Towards Facilities and Capital Improvements

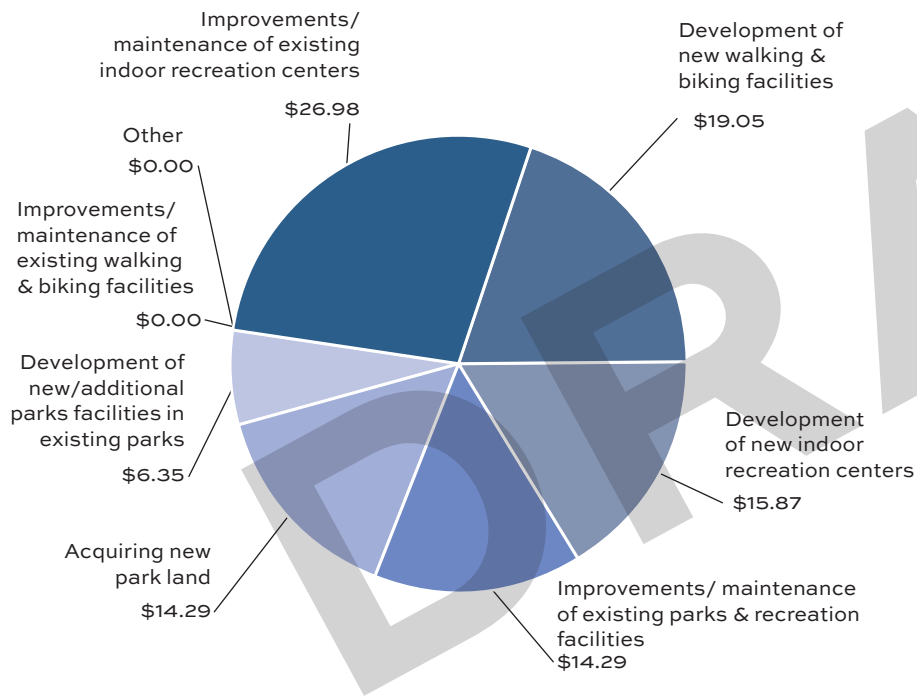
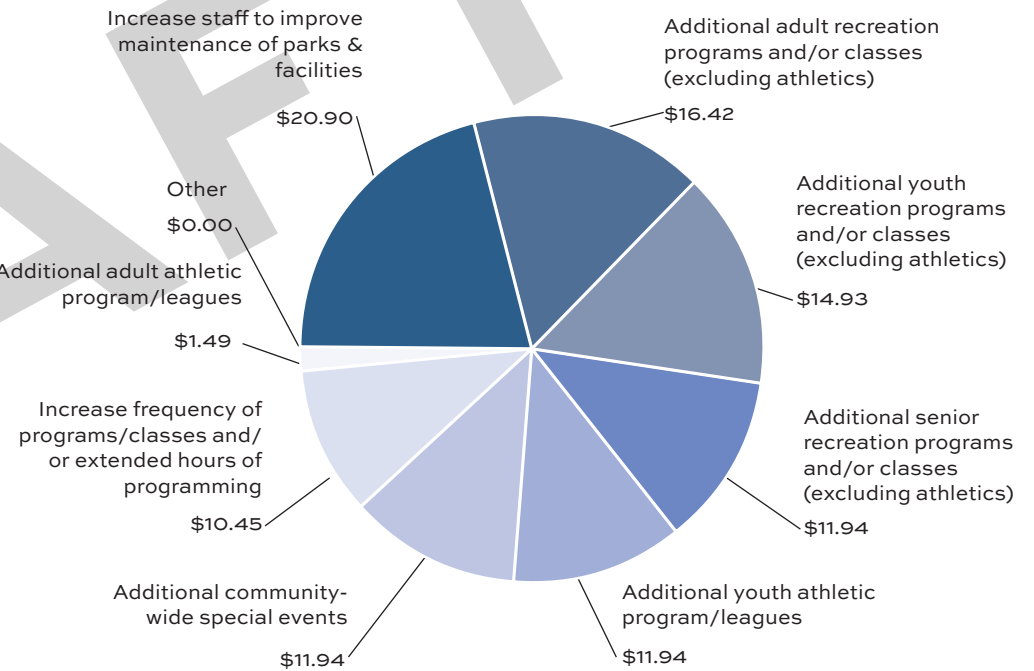


Figure 2.4f - Funding Allocation Towards Programs and Operations Improvements



2.2.5 CITY LEADERSHIP INTERVIEWS

Seven interviews were conducted with City leadership and elected officials during the master planning process. Interviewees were asked six questions. Following is a summary of the responses to each question. The number in parenthesis after the comments represents the number of times a comment was heard from the interviewees.

1. Review of Scope/ Schedule: Do you have any questions about the project scope/ methodology?

- None.

2. Parks and Recreation Needs: Based on what you know, see, and hear about your community, what do you believe are the top priority parks and recreation needs including physical improvements and programming?

- Parks need to be upgraded, modernized, and renovated. (5)
 - Need a repair and replacement schedule.
 - Need more things to do in parks.
 - Need to improve facilities and furnishings.
 - Need more fields/ field time.
 - Need to balance field time with field recuperation time to ensure high-quality fields.
 - Need more shade.

- Need improvements in parks to happen faster so parks can be used as soon as possible.
- More family-friendly parks for outdoor enjoyment. (4)
 - More Pocket Parks. Rights of ways that lead to water provide an opportunity to address this need.
- More beach areas. (4)
- Highlight the beauty of Destin through parks that overlook the water. (3)
- New Community Center/ Indoor Facility. (4)
 - Include basketball and volleyball.
- More funding for capital improvements (2).
 - Need someone to help pursue grants.
- Improve programming
- Provide different types of programming.
- Schedule programming that does not overlap.
- Better promotion of programming.
- More educational programming.
- Lighting in parks.
- A place for dogs on the beach.

3. Decrease in Parks and Recreation: Based on what you know, see, and hear about the community, what do you believe are the areas where the City of Destin can decrease in parks and recreation capital improvements, programs, and operations spending?

- Nothing (3).
- Don't decrease programming. Charge more for programming, especially for non City of Destin residents. (3)
 - Look for efficiencies in government services (e.g. operations, maintenance, and personnel).
- Don't know. (1)
- Defer maintenance as much as possible.
- Stop purchasing park land

4. Priorities: Of the needs and decreases discussed, what are your top 3 parks and recreation and priorities?

- Modernize and renovate parks. (2)
 - Renovate Morgan Sports Complex.
 - Make parks easily accessible.
- Develop a New Community Center. (2)
- Provide more parks (pocket parks). (2)

- Provide more education. (2)
 - Educate park users and stakeholders on the parks operations and management needs and cost implications of the parks and recreation system.
 - Educate the community and visitors on the history and natural environment of Destin through the parks and recreation system to encourage a conservation stewardship.
- Provide proper CIP funding for parks. (2)
- Provide proper maintenance funding for parks. (2)
 - Especially restrooms
- Allow partners to provide programming.
- Provide recreation for active adults.
- Provide connectivity to parks.
- Family friendly
- Low maintenance
- Lighting in parks.

5. Park Benefits: Parks and recreation systems provide multiple benefits. Which do you believe are the top 3 most important for the City of Destin? (Refer to the list on page 3, if necessary).

- Community character (3)
- Neighborhood open space for social interactions and play (3)
- Local and tourism nexus (2)
- Conservation of natural areas (2)
- Recreation Athletics (2)
- Youth development
- Affordable housing
- Community connections
- Health and wellness
- Community history
- Economic development

6. Funding/ Implementation:

Considering that this plan may identify millions of dollars in desired/ needed improvements, what funding source(s) would you support?

- Grants (4)
- More Tourism Development Council (TDC) dollars. (4)
- Other funding (4)
 - Parks Foundation
 - Partnerships
 - Utility fees
 - Sponsorships
 - Concessions
 - Enforcing short-term rental penalties.
- More Sales Tax dollars from the County. (3)
- No borrowing. (2)
- Explore all funding sources (2), especially those that allow the City to implement quicker.
- User fees, increase user fees.
 - Especially for non-City residents.
- The City should have enough money to do what we need.

2.2.6 FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEWS

Two interviews were conducted with groups of residents active in the parks and recreation community during the master planning process. Interviewees were asked six questions. Following is a summary of the responses to each question.

1. Review of Scope/ Schedule: Do you have any questions about the project scope/ methodology?

- None.

2. Parks and Recreation Needs: Based on what you know, see, and hear about your community, what do you believe are the top priority parks and recreation needs including physical improvements and programming?

Facilities & Infrastructure

- Need to upgrade aging parks (Taylor Park, Joe's Bayou, Clement Taylor), while also creating new parks.
- Significant shortage of sports facilities: only 2 tennis courts, 1 basketball court, 4 softball fields, 1 sand volleyball court for the entire city.
- Community Center and Morgan Sports Complex are dated and require renovation or redevelopment.
- Hidden pocket parks and city-owned easements could be enhanced for public use.
- Restroom upgrades needed across

parks; some facilities previously had restrooms that have closed.

- More docks and fishing access (Clement Taylor, Mattie Kelly, Norriego Point, One Harbor Way).
- Need for interactive arts & music amenities.
- Shaded, family-friendly amenities are a priority.

Programs & Recreation Activities

- City does not adequately advertise programs; calendars not synced, PIO emails don't include parks/news.
- Recreation programs perceived as "check-the-box"—short seasons, limited practice time.
- Gaps in programming for middle school/teen ages.
- Desired programs: Senior Olympics revival, fishing club, dragon boat race, cardboard boat race, more volleyball, archery expansion, cooking programs for teens, storytime in parks, mentoring programs.

Need to know if new initiatives (e.g., Paint in the Park) are multi-age or adult only.

Accessibility & Equity

- Need equitable distribution of sports courts/fields across the city.
- Improve parking availability and reduce high costs.
- Improve beach and water access, especially compared to neighboring Walton County.

3. Broader City Needs: Thinking more broadly about your community, what do you believe are the top priority social, economic, and environmental needs of the community?

Transportation & Safety

- Congestion due to reliance on a single main road.
- Support for public transportation, shuttle loops, and improved pedestrian/bike safety (bollards for e-bikes/scooters).
- Improve and complete the linear trail.

Project Completion & Governance

- City struggles to finish projects (campground, purchased beach access points).
- Need for a clear master plan and stronger follow-through.

Environmental & Public Space Issues

- Improve lighting ordinance and reduce impacts on sea turtles.

- Need for more trash management, especially on weekends; June White Decker beach cited as particularly dirty.
- Expand Leave No Trace, “Share Your Float,” and Borrow Bin initiatives.
- Homeless presence noted near beaches and encampments along linear trail routes.

4. Priorities: Of the needs and decreases discussed, what are your top 3 parks and recreation and priorities?

Parks & Recreation Priorities

- Beach access (including bayous)
- Ballfields and sport courts, distributed equitably
- Community Center upgrades
- Expanded sidewalks/shared-use paths
- Maintain and improve existing parks before building new
- Shaded, family-friendly amenities

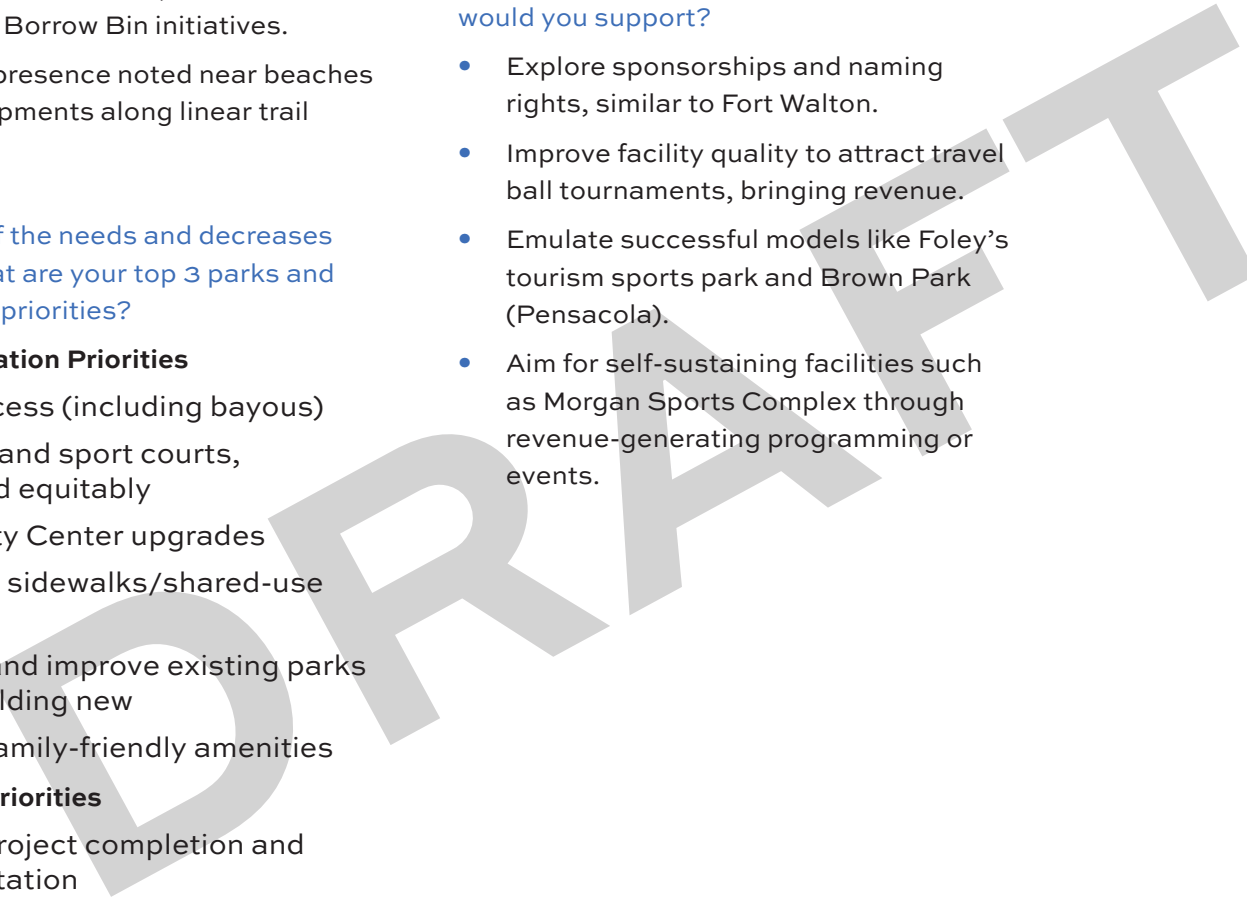
Broader City Priorities

- Improve project completion and implementation
- Address transportation issues (roads, shuttles, trail network)
- Enhance trash management, cleanup, and public space maintenance

5. Funding/ Implementation:

Considering that this plan may identify millions of dollars in desired/ needed improvements, what funding source(s) would you support?

- Explore sponsorships and naming rights, similar to Fort Walton.
- Improve facility quality to attract travel ball tournaments, bringing revenue.
- Emulate successful models like Foley’s tourism sports park and Brown Park (Pensacola).
- Aim for self-sustaining facilities such as Morgan Sports Complex through revenue-generating programming or events.



2.3 LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS

Unlike other major public infrastructure, such as roadway design guidelines, there are no industry standards or regulations for establishing Levels of Service (LOS) for parks and recreation services. Neither the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) nor the Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) publish traditional population-based LOS standards such as park acres and facilities per 1,000 residents.

Instead, communities are encouraged to conduct community-wide needs assessments and benchmark themselves against other similar communities in order to establish their own LOS standards.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has developed its benchmarking website Park Metrics, “the most comprehensive source of data standards and insights for park and recreation agencies” to help municipalities develop LOS metrics. Destin’s LOS findings were benchmarked against communities that have a similar population and population density as Destin.

Five different LOS methods were used to determine how well the City’s parks and recreation system is meeting residents’ needs:

- Access LOS: Measures the geographic areas (and population) served by parks or recreation facilities.
- Acreage LOS: Measures the quantity of parkland acreage that is available for every 1,000 residents.
- Indoor Center Space LOS: Measures the quantity of indoor recreation space available per resident.
- Facilities LOS: Measures the number of recreation facilities available per resident.
- Financial LOS: Measures the Department’s budget expenditures (Capital and Operations & Maintenance) per capita.

It is important to note that these LOS Analyses are just one tool for determining the community’s needs. The findings alone may not be indicative of residents’ needs and priorities. LOS analyses are based on the gross population of a community, not preferences or priorities based on unique community demographics, lifestyles, or values. The findings from the LOS analyses must be compared to the findings from the other needs assessment techniques in order to verify parks and recreation needs and priorities.

2.3.1 ACCESS LOS

Access LOS measures the distance residents have to travel to access parks and recreation facilities. It is used to understand how park access varies between different neighborhoods in a city. The distance used in the calculation of LOS is important; for example, should a City aim for all residents to have a park within 1 mile of their homes, within 1/2 mile, or even less?

Informed by industry best practices, the following distances were used to analyze Access LOS for Destin's park system.

- All City Parks - 1/2 mile, 1 mile
- All City Parks + Other Parks (County, State) - 1 mile, 2 mile, 3 mile
- City Parks (excluding Beach Access) - 1/2 mile, 1 mile
- City Community Parks - 2 miles, 3 miles
- Indoor Centers – 2 miles, 3 miles

Pages 152-157 provide the results from this mapping analysis while the table (right) provides a summary of these findings.

Park Type Analyzed	1/2 Mile	1 Mile	2 Miles	3 Miles
All City Parks	●	●		
All City Parks + Other Parks		●	●	+
City Parks (excluding Mini Parks)	●	●		
City Beach + Water Access	●	●		●
City Parks - Community		●		●
Indoor Centers		●		●

● Partial-Coverage

+ Full-Coverage

ALL CITY PARKS

Beach Trail/Mini Park

1. Barracuda Beach Trail
2. Calhoun Beach Trail
3. Crystal Beach Trail
4. O'Steen Beach Trail
5. Tarpon Beach Trail

Beach Access/Mini Park

1. Pompano Street Beach Access
2. Shirah Street Beach Access

Beach Park/Mini Park

1. June White Decker Beach Park
2. Shore at Crystal Beach Park

Mini Park

1. Buck Destin Park
2. Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park
3. First & Fourth Streets Park
4. Harbor Lane Park
5. Harbor View Park
6. Jewel Melvin Park
7. Kell-Aire Gardens (North)
8. Kell-Aire Nature Walk (South)
9. Kelly Street Duck Pond
10. Main Street Park

Neighborhood Park

1. Captain Leonard Destin Park
2. Clement Taylor Park

Community Parks

1. Destin Community Center
2. Destin Elementary School Park
3. Morgan Sports Complex

Natural Area Park

1. Norriego Point

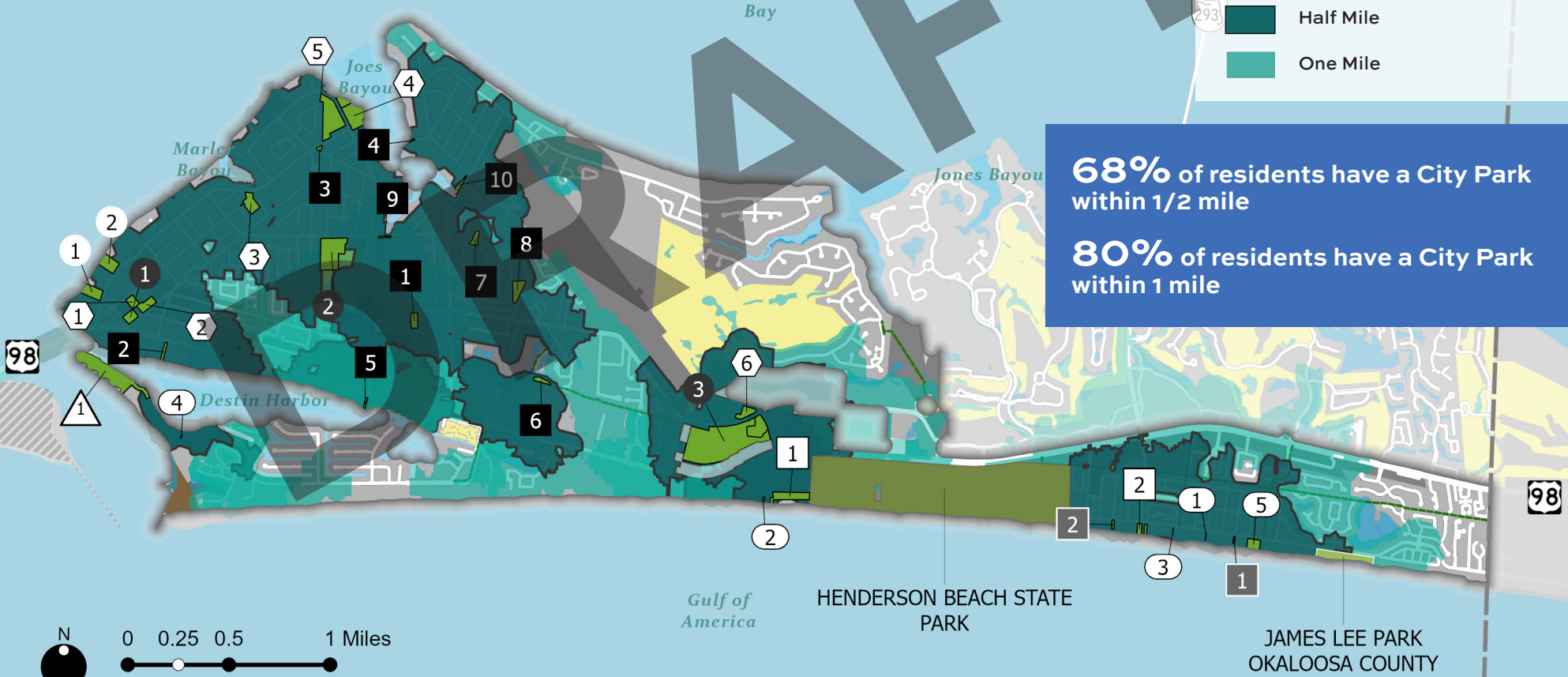
Special Purpose Park

1. Cemetery - Sibert Avenue
2. Cemetery - Stahlman Avenue
3. Dalton Threadgill Park
4. Joe's Bayou Boat Ramp
5. Mattie Kelly Park
6. Nancy Weidenhamer Dog Park

- County Boundaries
- Destin City Boundary
- Eglin AFB
- Roads
- DPR Parks
- County Parks
- State Parks
- Golf Courses

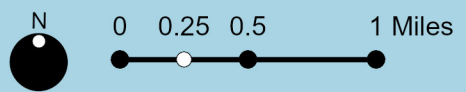
ACCESS LOS STANDARDS

- Half Mile
- One Mile



68% of residents have a City Park within 1/2 mile

80% of residents have a City Park within 1 mile



HENDERSON BEACH STATE PARK

JAMES LEE PARK OKALOOSA COUNTY

ALL CITY PARKS + OTHER PARKS

Beach Trail/Mini Park

1. Barracuda Beach Trail
2. Calhoun Beach Trail
3. Crystal Beach Trail
4. O'Steen Beach Trail
5. Tarpon Beach Trail

Beach Access/Mini Park

1. Pompano Street Beach Access
2. Shirah Street Beach Access

Beach Park/Mini Park

1. June White Decker Beach Park
2. Shore at Crystal Beach Park

Mini Park

1. Buck Destin Park
2. Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park
3. First & Fourth Streets Park
4. Harbor Lane Park
5. Harbor View Park
6. Jewel Melvin Park
7. Kell-Aire Gardens (North)
8. Kell-Aire Nature Walk (South)
9. Kelly Street Duck Pond
10. Main Street Park

Neighborhood Park

1. Captain Leonard Destin Park
2. Clement Taylor Park

Community Parks

1. Destin Community Center
2. Destin Elementary School Park
3. Morgan Sports Complex

Natural Area Park

1. Norriego Point

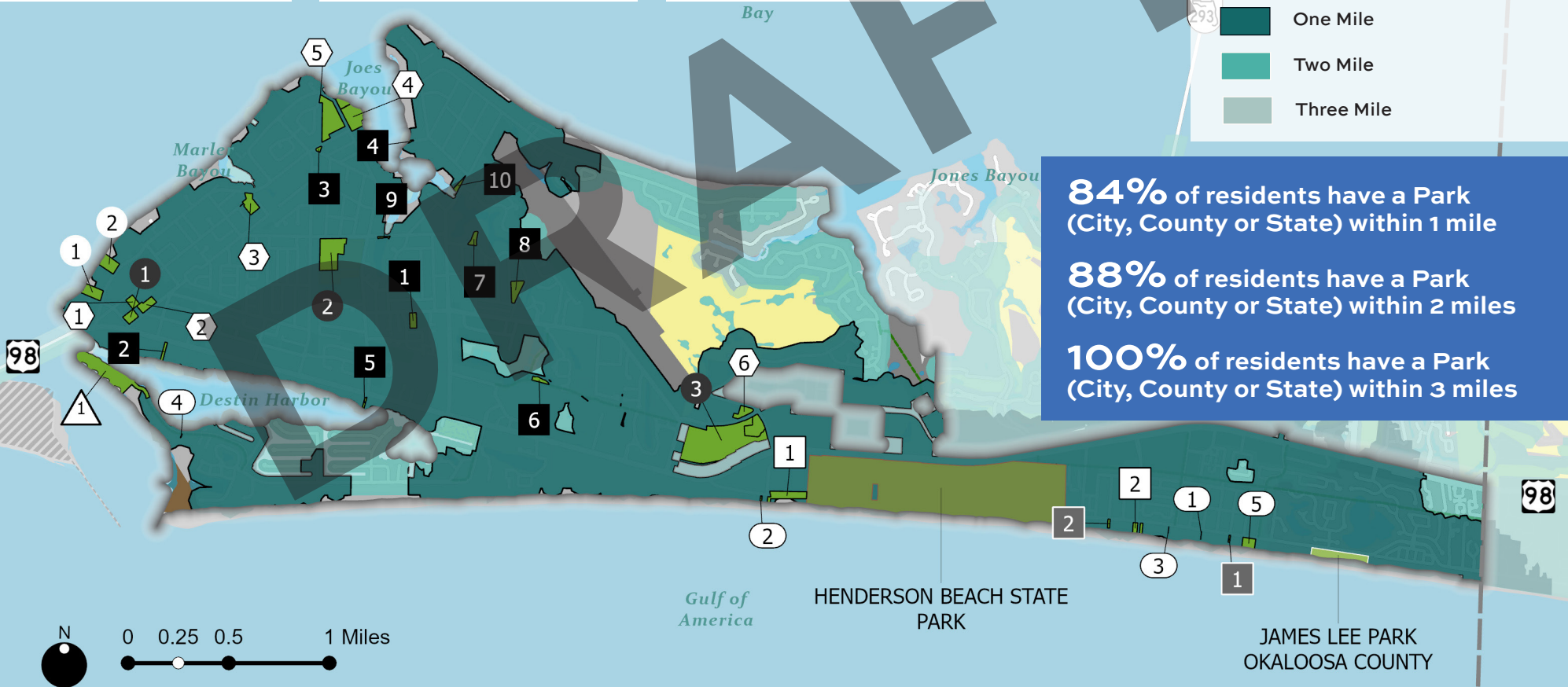
Special Purpose Park

1. Cemetery - Sibert Avenue
2. Cemetery - Stahlman Avenue
3. Dalton Threadgill Park
4. Joe's Bayou Boat Ramp
5. Mattie Kelly Park
6. Nancy Weidenhamer Dog Park

- County Boundaries
- Destin City Boundary
- Eglin AFB
- Roads
- DPR Parks
- County Parks
- State Parks
- Golf Courses

ACCESS LOS STANDARDS

- One Mile
- Two Mile
- Three Mile



84% of residents have a Park (City, County or State) within 1 mile

88% of residents have a Park (City, County or State) within 2 miles

100% of residents have a Park (City, County or State) within 3 miles

CITY PARKS (EXC. BEACH ACCESS PARKS)

Beach Trail/Mini Park

1. Barracuda Beach Trail
2. Calhoun Beach Trail
3. Crystal Beach Trail
4. O'Steen Beach Trail
5. Tarpon Beach Trail

Beach Access/Mini Park

1. Pompano Street Beach Access
2. Shirah Street Beach Access

Beach Park/Mini Park

1. June White Decker Beach Park
2. Shore at Crystal Beach Park

Mini Park

1. Buck Destin Park
2. Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park
3. First & Fourth Streets Park
4. Harbor Lane Park
5. Harbor View Park
6. Jewel Melvin Park
7. Kell-Aire Gardens (North)
8. Kell-Aire Nature Walk (South)
9. Kelly Street Duck Pond
10. Main Street Park

Neighborhood Park

1. Captain Leonard Destin Park
2. Clement Taylor Park

Community Parks

1. Destin Community Center
2. Destin Elementary School Park
3. Morgan Sports Complex

Natural Area Park

1. Norriego Point

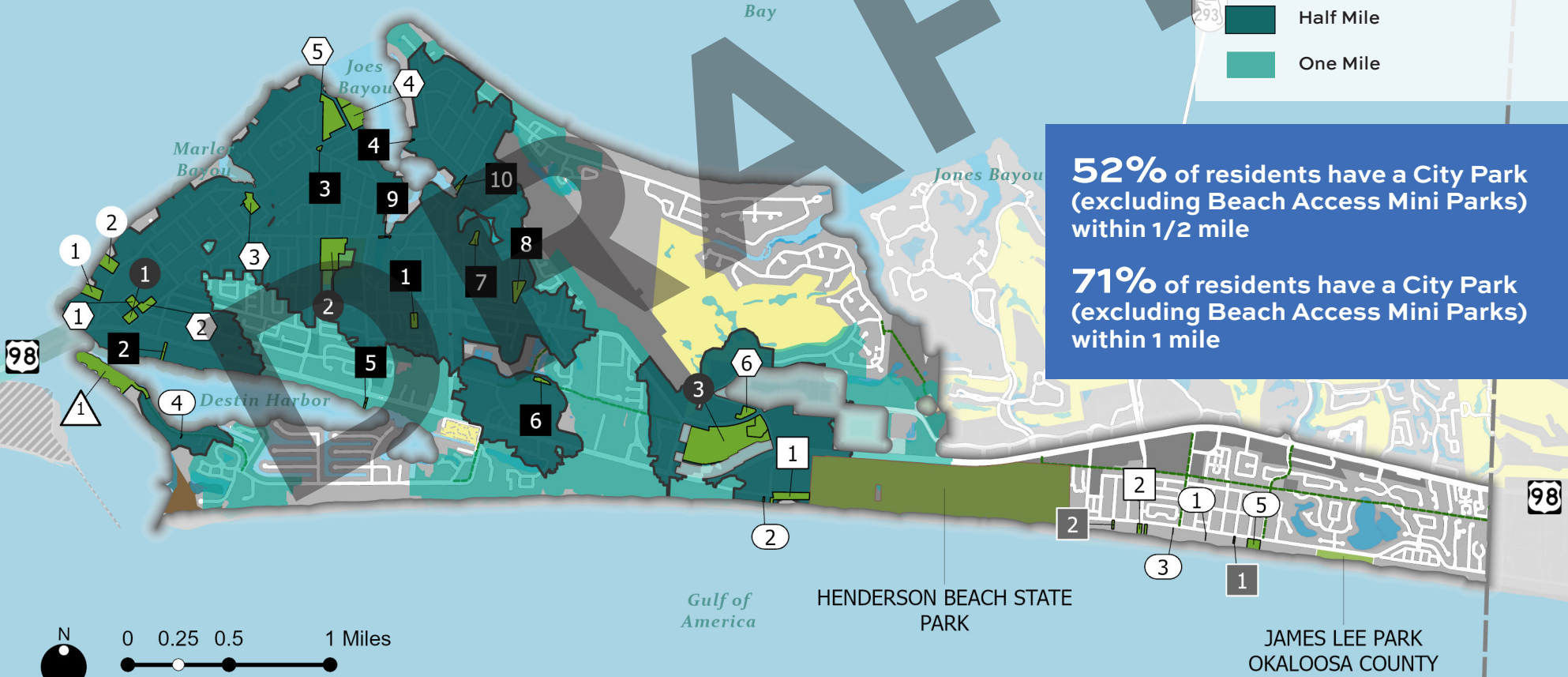
Special Purpose Park

1. Cemetery - Sibert Avenue
2. Cemetery - Stahlman Avenue
3. Dalton Threadgill Park
4. Joe's Bayou Boat Ramp
5. Mattie Kelly Park
6. Nancy Weidenhamer Dog Park

- County Boundaries
- Destin City Boundary
- Eglin AFB
- Roads
- DPR Parks
- County Parks
- State Parks
- Golf Courses

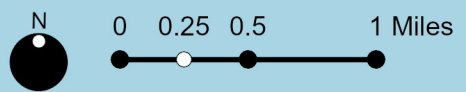
ACCESS LOS STANDARDS

- Half Mile
- One Mile



52% of residents have a City Park (excluding Beach Access Mini Parks) within 1/2 mile

71% of residents have a City Park (excluding Beach Access Mini Parks) within 1 mile



CITY BEACH + WATER ACCESS

Beach Trail/Mini Park

1. Barracuda Beach Trail
2. Calhoun Beach Trail
3. Crystal Beach Trail
4. O'Steen Beach Trail
5. Tarpon Beach Trail

Beach Access/Mini Park

1. Pompano Street Beach Access
2. Shirah Street Beach Access

Beach Park/Mini Park

1. June White Decker Beach Park
2. Shore at Crystal Beach Park

Mini Park

1. Buck Destin Park
2. Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park
3. First & Fourth Streets Park
4. Harbor Lane Park
5. Harbor View Park
6. Jewel Melvin Park
7. Kell-Aire Gardens (North)
8. Kell-Aire Nature Walk (South)
9. Kelly Street Duck Pond
10. Main Street Park

Neighborhood Park

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Community Parks

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Natural Area Park

1. Norriego Point

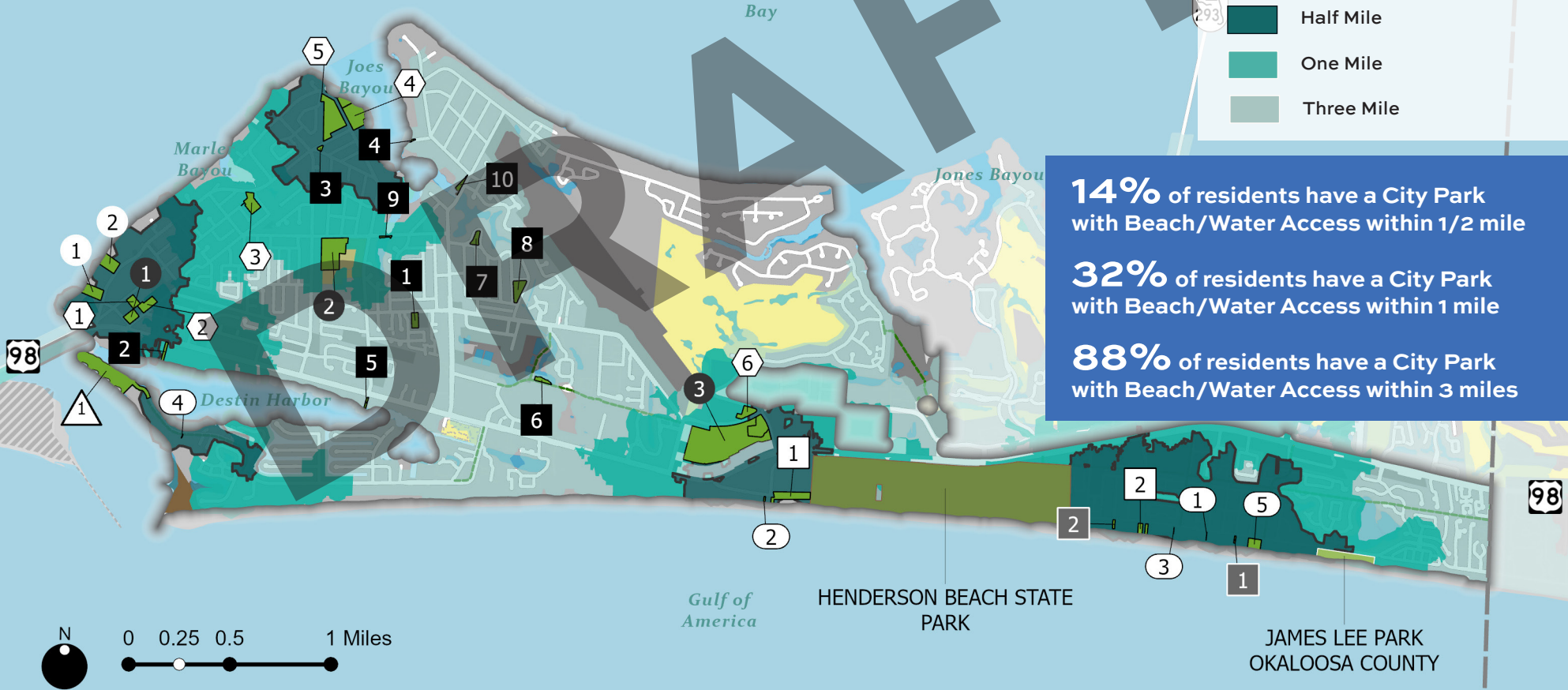
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- County Boundaries
- Destin City Boundary
- Eglin AFB
- Roads
- DPR Parks
- County Parks
- State Parks
- Golf Courses

ACCESS LOS STANDARDS

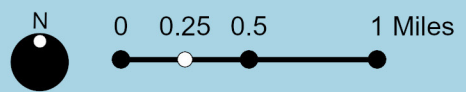
- Half Mile
- One Mile
- Three Mile



14% of residents have a City Park with Beach/Water Access within 1/2 mile

32% of residents have a City Park with Beach/Water Access within 1 mile

88% of residents have a City Park with Beach/Water Access within 3 miles



Gulf of America
 HENDERSON BEACH STATE PARK
 JAMES LEE PARK OKALOOSA COUNTY

CITY PARKS - COMMUNITY

Beach Trail/Mini Park

1. Barracuda Beach Trail
2. Calhoun Beach Trail
3. Crystal Beach Trail
4. O'Steen Beach Trail
5. Tarpon Beach Trail

Beach Access/Mini Park

1. Pompano Street Beach Access
2. Shirah Street Beach Access

Beach Park/Mini Park

1. June White Decker Beach Park
2. Shore at Crystal Beach Park

Mini Park

1. Buck Destin Park
2. Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park
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Neighborhood Park

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Community Parks

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2. Destin Elementary School Park
3. Morgan Sports Complex

Natural Area Park

1. Norriego Point

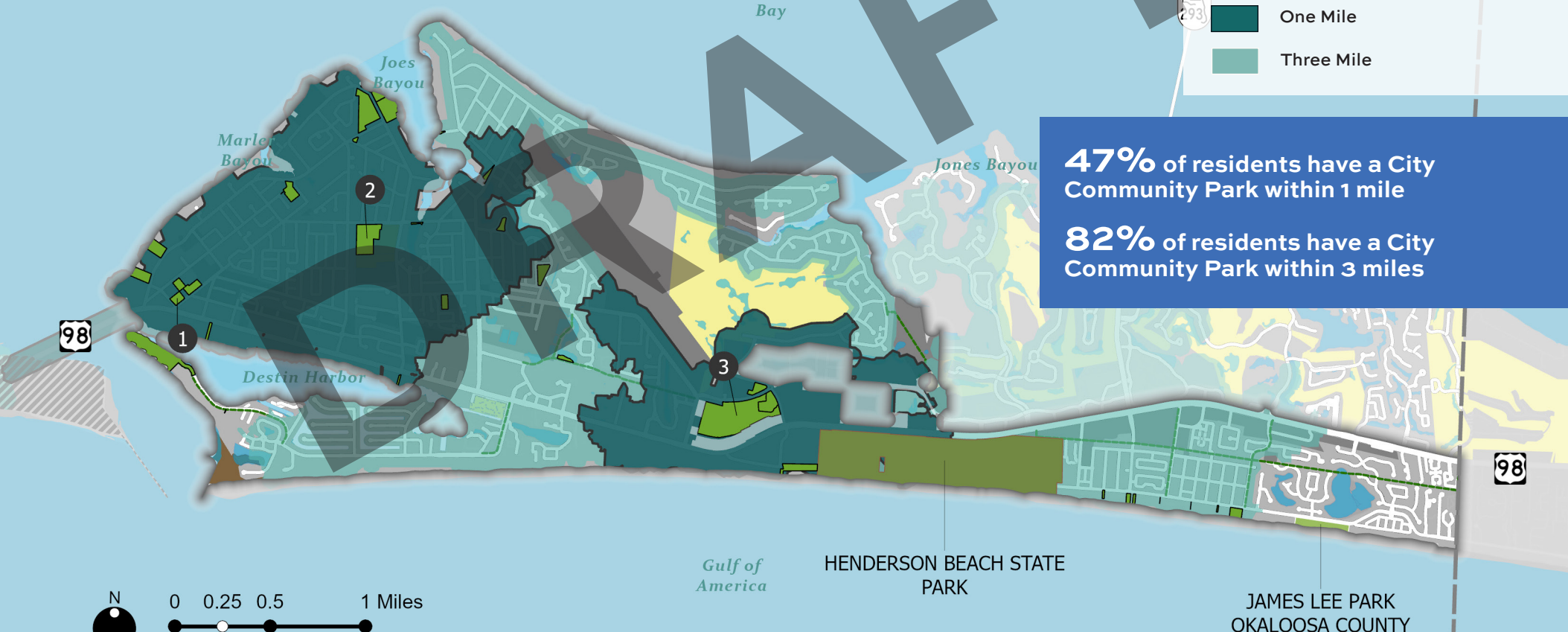
Special Purpose Park

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- County Boundaries
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- Eglin AFB
- Roads
- DPR Parks
- County Parks
- State Parks
- Golf Courses

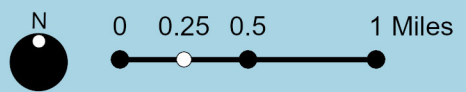
ACCESS LOS STANDARDS

- One Mile
- Three Mile



47% of residents have a City Community Park within 1 mile

82% of residents have a City Community Park within 3 miles



CITY COMMUNITY CENTERS

Beach Trail/Mini Park

1. Barracuda Beach Trail
2. Calhoun Beach Trail
3. Crystal Beach Trail
4. O'Steen Beach Trail
5. Tarpon Beach Trail

Beach Access/Mini Park

1. Pompano Street Beach Access
2. Shirah Street Beach Access

Beach Park/Mini Park

1. June White Decker Beach Park
2. Shore at Crystal Beach Park

Mini Park

1. Buck Destin Park
2. Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park
3. First & Fourth Streets Park
4. Harbor Lane Park
5. Harbor View Park
6. Jewel Melvin Park
7. Kell-Aire Gardens (North)
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Natural Area Park

1. Norriego Point

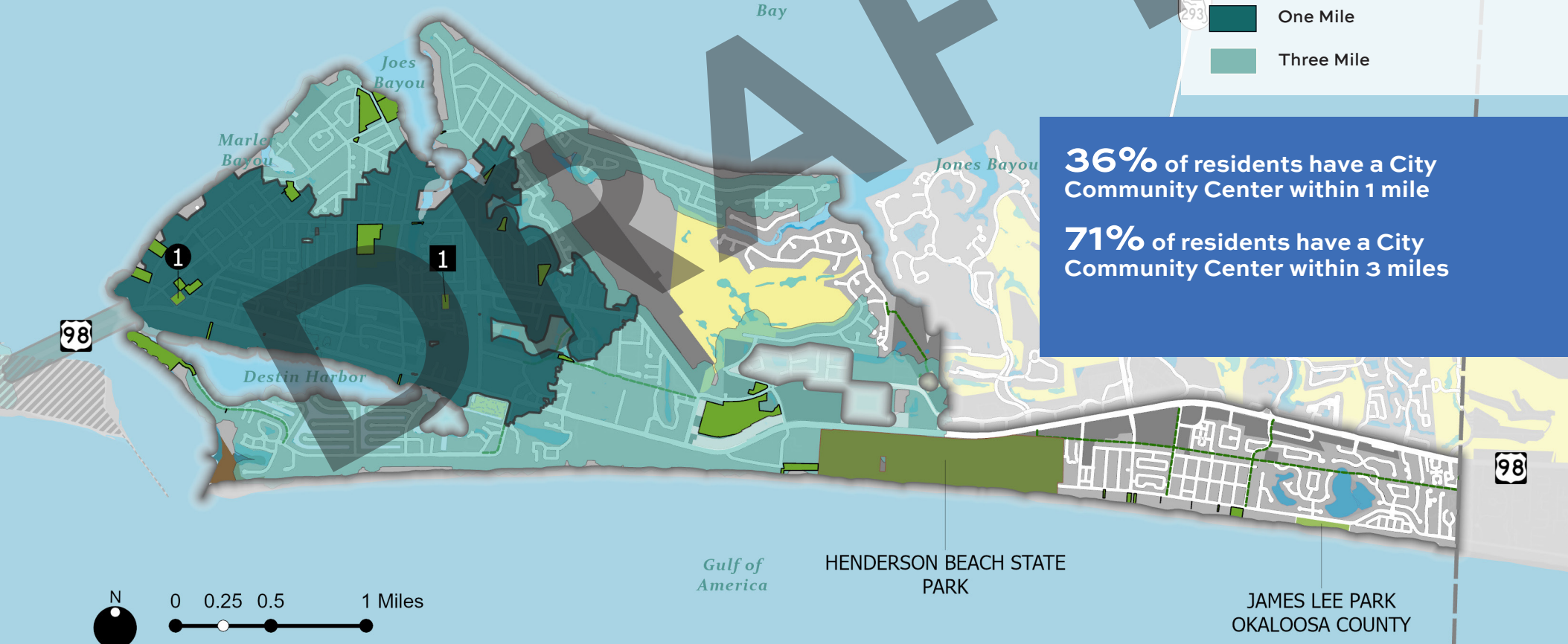
Special Purpose Park

1. Cemetery - Sibert Avenue
2. Cemetery - Stahlman Avenue
3. Dalton Threadgill Park
4. Joe's Bayou Boat Ramp
5. Mattie Kelly Park
6. Nancy Weidenhamer Dog Park

- County Boundaries
- Destin City Boundary
- Eglin AFB
- Roads
- DPR Parks
- County Parks
- State Parks
- Golf Courses

ACCESS LOS STANDARDS

- One Mile
- Three Mile



36% of residents have a City Community Center within 1 mile

71% of residents have a City Community Center within 3 miles



2.3.2 ACREAGE LOS

Acreage LOS measures the total park acreage available for every 1,000 members of the population.

Park Acreage LOS was analyzed using three different acreage considerations:

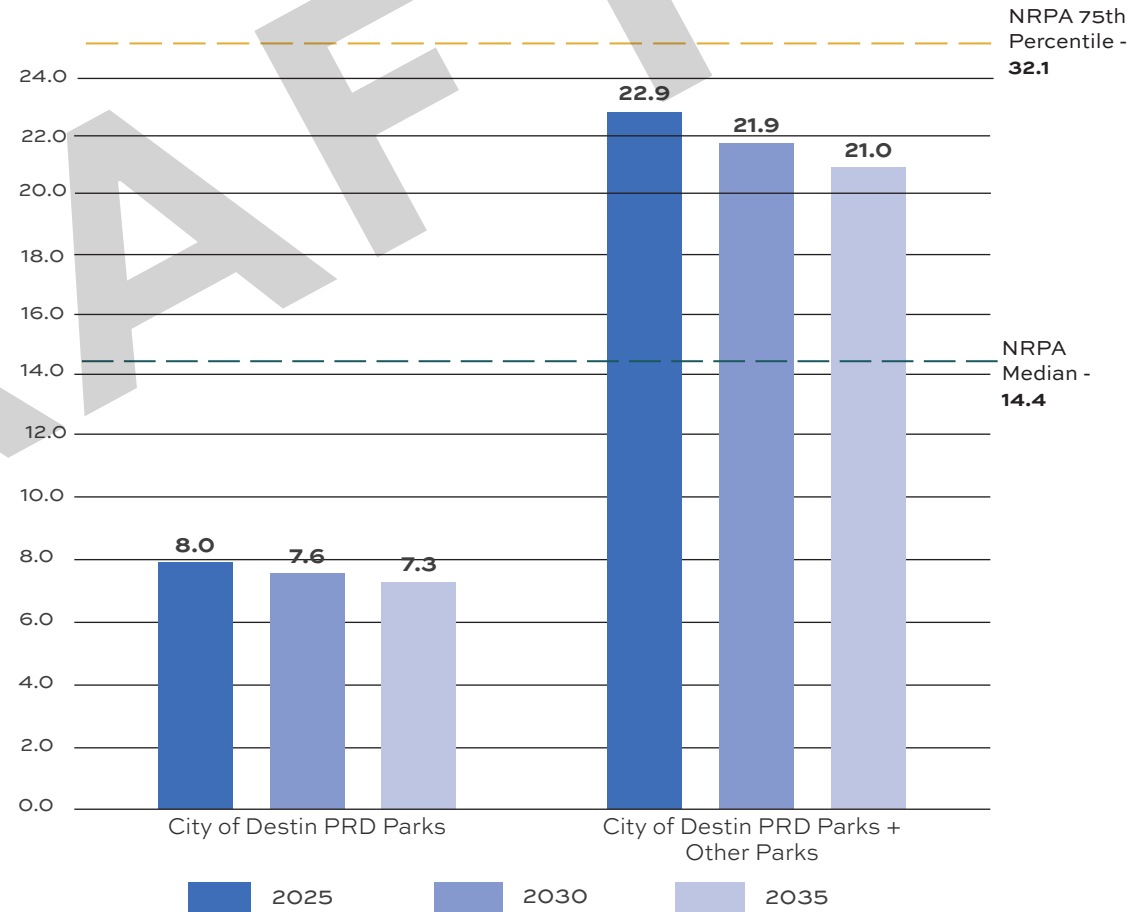
- City of Destin PRD Parks
- City of Destin PRD Parks + Other Publicly-owned Parks (County/State)

Acreage amounts were divided by the population estimates for the years 2025, 2030, and 2035. Figure 3.2.1 illustrates the findings from these analyses and compares the City's 2025 Acreage LOS to NRPA benchmarks for cities with a similar population and population density as Destin.

Based on the Acreage LOS analyses, Destin's Acreage LOS in 2025 ranges from **8.0 to 22.9** acres per 1,000 population, depending on whether other parks and greenspaces are included. This broad range reflects the opportunity to maximize available publicly owned lands for recreation opportunities.

If the Department does not acquire or open any additional park land by the year 2035, park acreage LOS would decline to a range between **7.3 and 21.0** acres per 1,000 population. Considering strictly Destin PRD parks, this would be well below the median. However, when including all parks, this would be well above the Median percentile benchmarks.

Figure 3.2.1 - Acreage Level of Service Analysis



Need to Meet the Median

To meet the Median Percentile Acreage LOS benchmark of 14.4 acres per 1,000 population by the year 2035, **Destin would have to add approximately 113 acres, based on Department acreage alone (excluding other public lands).**

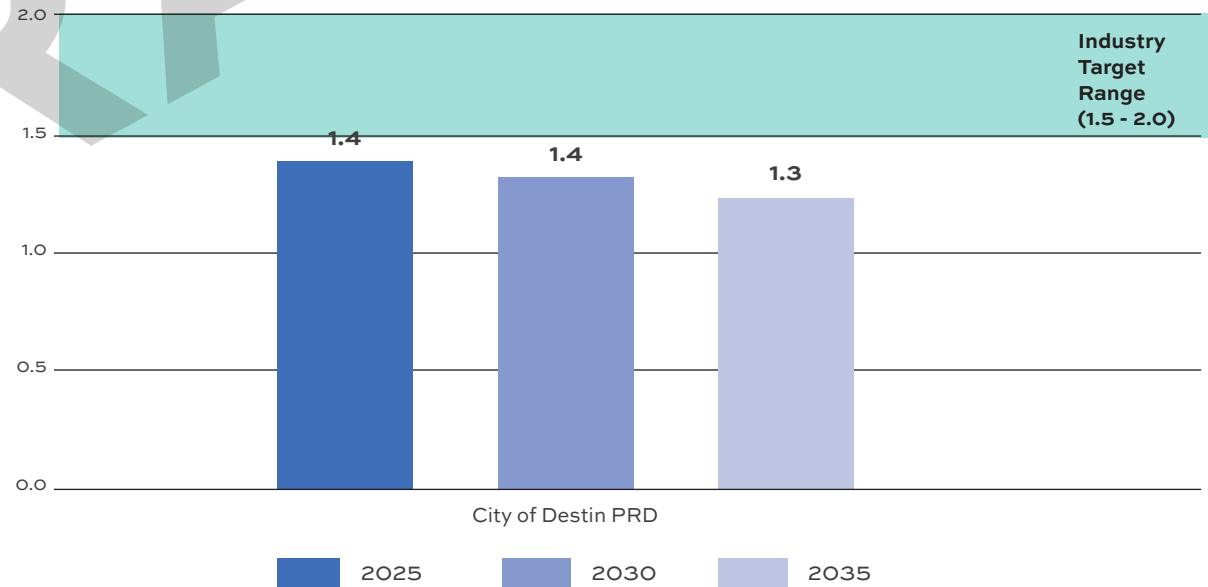
2.3.3 INDOOR CENTER SPACE LOS

Indoor Center Space LOS is measured by dividing the square footage of indoor community recreation center space available by the number of residents in the jurisdiction.

Destin PRD currently offers approximately 21,130 square feet of indoor recreation and community center space. This equates to approximately 1.44 square feet of indoor space per resident in 2025, 1.38 in 2030, and 1.33 in 2035.

Industry guidelines suggest that communities with high quality indoor recreation services should have a minimum of 1.5 square feet of space per resident, with 2.0 square feet considered a best practice. Figure 2.3e illustrates the findings from this analysis considering Destin’s 2025, 2030, and 2035 population estimates.

Figure 3.48 - Indoor Square Footage LOS



Need to Meet the Target

Based on this analysis, it appears that the City has a need of **830 square feet of indoor recreation center space to reach 1.5 square feet per resident by 2035, or 8,150 square feet to reach 2.0 square feet per resident by 2035.**

2.3.4 FACILITIES LOS

Facilities LOS is measured by dividing the number of residents by the number of parks and recreation facilities. The higher the number, the fewer facilities there are per resident, and the more of a need there may be for that particular recreation facility. The lower the number, the more facilities there are per resident, and the less of a need there may be for that particular recreation facility.

Population estimates for the years 2025 and 2030 were divided by the number of existing facilities to identify the Facilities LOS. The NRPA Median Facility LOS benchmarks were then used to calculate the need or surplus of facilities based on the projected 2034 population. Figure 2.3i illustrates the findings to this analysis.

Based on this analysis, it appears that the City may have a need for the following parks and recreation facilities:

- **Recreation Centers**
- **Stadiums**
- **Performance Amphitheaters**
- **Playgrounds**
- **Tot-lots**
- **Community Gardens**
- **Fitness Stations/Outdoor Gym**
- **Skate Parks**
- **Dog Parks**
- **Basketball Courts**
- **Multiuse courts - basketball, volleyball**
- **Diamond Fields: Total**
- **Multipurpose Synthetic Field**
- **Restrooms (Permanent & Semi-permanent)**
- **Splash Pads/Spraygrounds**
- **Golf Courses - 18-hole**
- **Golf Courses - 9-hole**
- **Aquatics Centers**
- **Swimming Pools (Outdoor)**
- **Swimming Pools (Indoor)**
- **Tennis Courts**
- **Pickleball**
- **Multi-use courts - Tennis, Pickleball**
- **Racquetball/handball/squash courts**

	Facilities	City of Destin			NRPA Park Metrics			Need/Surplus
					Aggregated Benchmarks (Pop. 10k-20k; Dens. 1,000-2,000/sq mi.)			Based on NRPA Median Benchmark
		Inventory	2025	2030	25th	Median	75th	2030
Indoor Facilities	Recreation Centers	0	-	-	8,400	17,125	18,265	-1
	Community Centers	1	14,640	15,327	11,081	16,141	18,575	1
	Senior Centers	1	-	-	15,454	17,125	18,563	1
	Teen Centers	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Stadiums	0	-	-	9,300	9,300	9,300	-2
	Performance Amphitheaters	0	-	-	12,590	15,000	16,750	-2
	Nature Centers	1	14,640	15,327	15,900	16,800	17,700	1
	Gyms	1	14,640	15,327	-	-	-	-
Outdoor Facilities	Playgrounds	6	2,440	2,555	1,425	1,964	2,557	-2
	Totlots	0	-	-	2,152	2,628	3,464	-6
	Community gardens	0	-	-	10,000	10,180	15,000	-2
	Fitness Stations/Outdoor Gym	0	-	-	3,377	6,535	16,016	-3
	Skate parks	0	-	-	17,494	17,863	18,231	-1
	Dog parks	1	14,640	15,327	8,170	11,981	17,321	-1
	Basketball courts	3	5,856	6,131	3,956	4,825	6,594	-1
	Multiuse courts - basketball, volleyball	1	-	-	3,361	5,000	7,590	-3
	Diamond fields: Total	8	1,830	1,916	881	1,667	2,254	-2
	Rectangular fields: Total	4	3,660	3,832	2,325	4,000	5,000	1
	Multipurpose synthetic field	0	-	-	18,600	18,600	18,600	-1
	Restrooms (Permanent & Semi-permanent)	2	7,320	7,664	1,764	2,530	5,033	-5
	Splash Pad/Sprayground	0	-	-	18,523	19,015	19,508	-1
Walking Loops/Running Tracks	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Golf	Regulation 18-hole courses	0	-	-	18,875	19,250	19,625	-1
	Regulation 9-hole courses	0	-	-	18,600	18,600	18,600	-1
Swimming/ Aquatics	Aquatics centers	0	-	-	20,000	20,000	20,000	-1
	Swimming pools (outdoor only)	0	-	-	18,523	19,015	19,508	-1
	Indoor competitive swimming pools	0	-	-	20,000	20,000	20,000	-1
Racquet Sports	Tennis courts (outdoor only)	2	7,320	7,664	3,526	3,750	9,275	-3
	Pickleball (outdoor)	0	-	-	3,446	5,000	6,167	-4
	Multiuse courts - Tennis, Pickleball (outdoor)	0	-	-	3,223	4,446	5,668	-4
	Racquetball/handball/squash courts (outdoor)	0	-	-	12,000	12,000	12,000	-2

2.3.5 FUNDING LOS

Funding LOS metrics are used to gauge whether a community is adequately funded to manage their parks and recreation system include:

- **Operations and Maintenance Spending Per Capita** - the amount of operations and maintenance dollars spent on parks and recreation services per resident
- **Capital Spending Per Capita** - the amount of capital dollars spent on parks and recreation services per resident
- **FTEs per 10,000 Population** - the amount of operations, maintenance, and capital dollars spent on parks and recreation services per resident

Funding LOS analyses were completed for FY 2020-2024 and compared to NRPA Benchmarks as well as nearby communities.

Figure 3.5a illustrates the 5-year average per capita Operations and Maintenance spending. Based on this analysis, Destin’s non-seasonal per capita spending of \$176.74 is above the Median of NRPA Benchmarks for cities with a similar population and density as the City of Destin. It is also above the nearby cities of Fort Walton Beach and Panama City Beach.

However, based on seasonal spending, Destin is below the nearby cities and the 25th percentile of NRPA Benchmarks.

Figure 3.5b illustrates 5-year average annual per capita spending for parks and recreation Capital Improvements. As compared to NRPA benchmarks and nearby cities, Destin’s non-seasonal spending is well above all others. When considering seasonal spending, Destin is below Panama City Beach and between the Median and 75th percentile.

Figure 3.5a - Operations and Maintenance Spending Per Capita (5-year average)

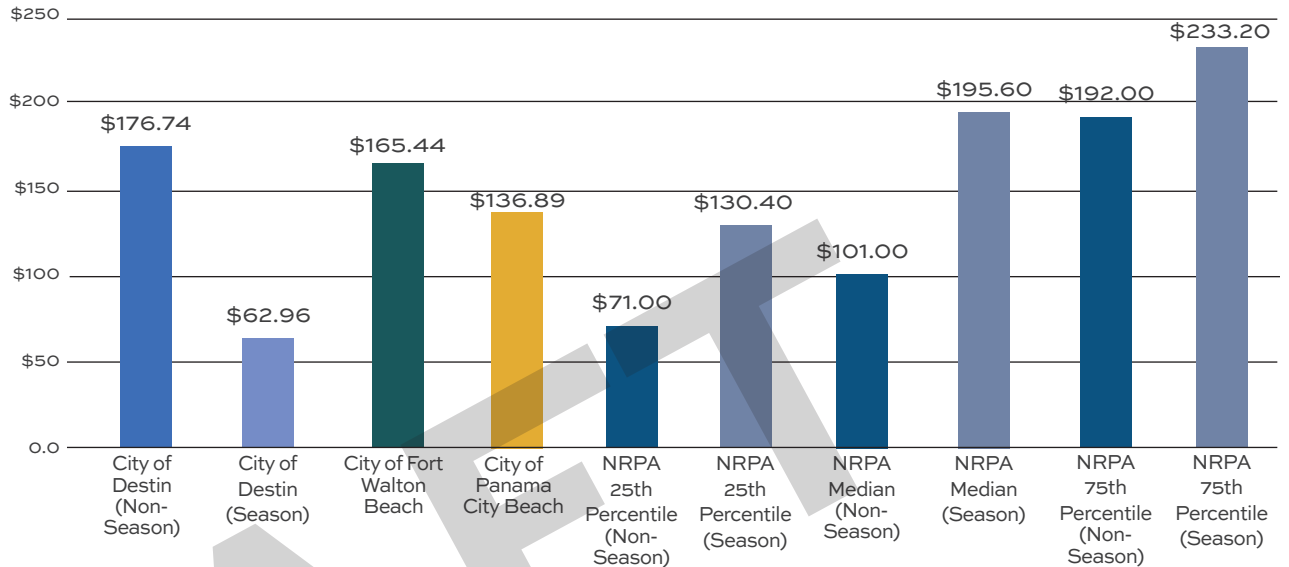


Figure 3.5b - Capital Spending Per Capita (5-year average)

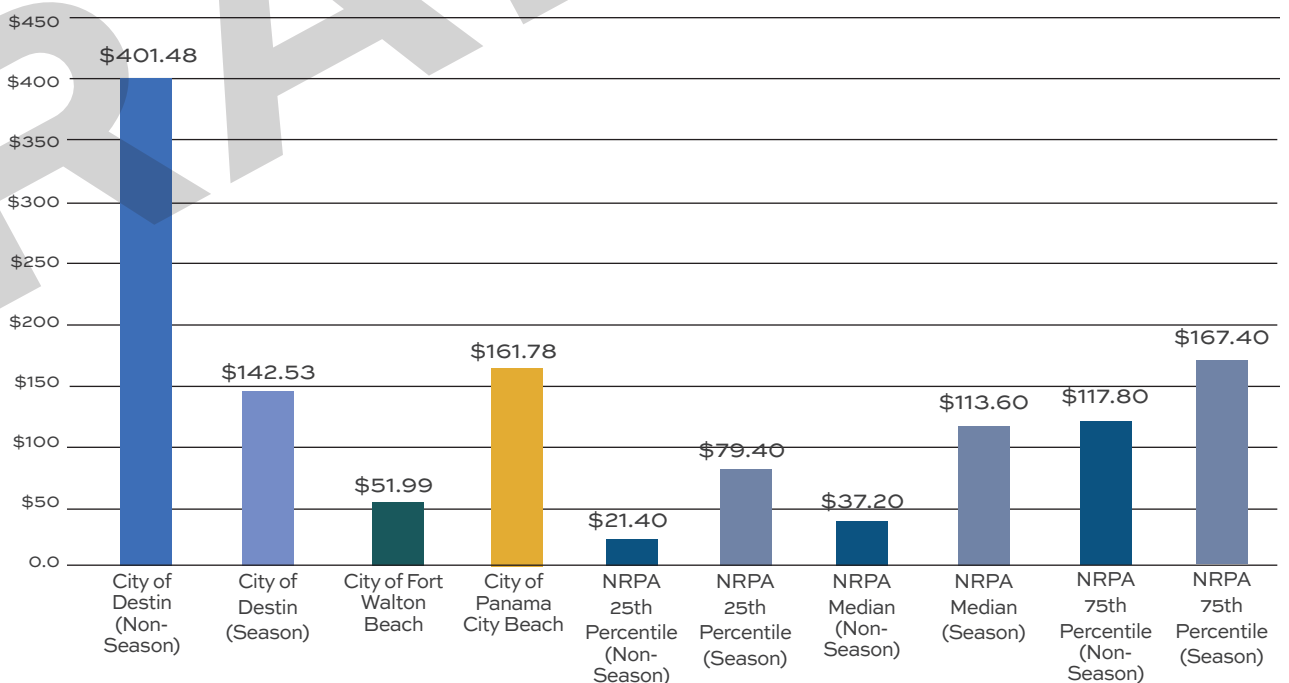
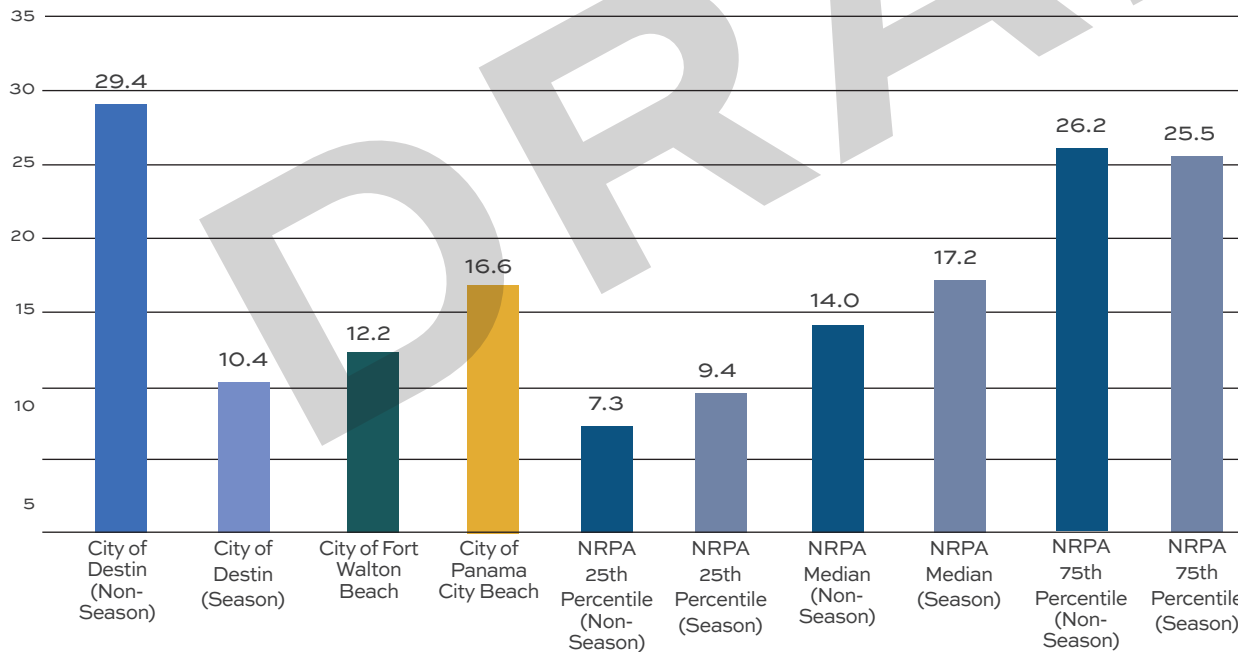


Figure 3.5c illustrates the 5-year average Full Time Employees (FTEs) per 10,000 population. Based on this analysis, Destin’s non-seasonal employee total of 29.4 is above the 75th percentile of NRPA Benchmarks for cities with a similar population and density as the City of Destin. It is also well above the nearby cities of Fort Walton Beach and Panama City Beach.

However, based on seasonal employees, Destin’s 10.4 is below the nearby cities and the Median of NRPA Benchmarks.

Figure 3.5c - FTEs per 10,000 Population (5-year average)



2.4 SUMMARY FINDINGS

Based on the all the information collected, Figures 2.4.1 - 2.4.4 provide an overall comparison to indicate how the findings from the statistically-valid survey - the most reliable and credible of the needs assessment techniques, with the largest sample size - relate to the other techniques with regard to facilities/amenities, programs/activities, areas of community concern, actions, and funding allocation for facilities/capital improvements and programs/operations.

Following is a summary list of the priority rankings followed by the comparison matrices.

These findings can be summarized around the following four concepts:

- A need to **Upgrade** the existing parks and facilities, continuing to modernize and invest in the system as the City has done since its inception, and especially over the last five years.
- A need to better **Integrate** the parks and recreation system to the community, through new physical connections, like trails, and social outreach and awareness, like community events.
- A need to **Optimize**, working across City departments and with partners to maximize benefits with focused resources.

Should the mayor and council approve additional phases, Chapter 3: Vision of this report would discuss recommendations for responding to these concepts and the top priority parks and recreation needs.

TOP PRIORITY FACILITIES/ AMENITIES

- Beach access
- Natural areas/Nature parks
- Paved multi-purpose trails
- Unpaved walking and hiking trails
- Large community parks

TOP PRIORITY PROGRAMS/ ACTIVITIES

- Adult fitness/wellness
- Nature programs/environmental education
- Community special events
- Movies in the park
- Community meetings
- Water fitness
- Cooking classes
- Music programs
- Safety classes

Figure 2.4.a - Findings Summary and Comparison - Facilities/Amenities

NEEDS ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE:		1. Statistically Valid Survey	2. Online Survey	3. City Leadership Interviews	4. Public Meeting	5. Parks & Rec Committee Meeting	6. Focus Groups	7. Level-of-Service Analysis + Benchmarks
FACILITIES/AMENITIES PRIORITIES:								
SVS High Priority	Beach access	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Natural areas/Nature parks	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Paved multi-purpose trails	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Unpaved walking and hiking trails	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Large community parks	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
SVS Medium Priority	Restrooms at existing parks	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Fishing pier	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Neighborhood parks	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Indoor fitness centers	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Sidewalks	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Park shelters and picnic areas	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Amphitheater	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Community gardens	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Park benches/seating	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Pickleball courts	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Performance arts center	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Public art	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Boating access - Motorized	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Outdoor fitness equipment	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Transportation to beach/parks	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Playgrounds	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Boating access - Non-Motorized	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Community/Recreation/Teen centers	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Senior centers	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Spraygrounds/Splash pads	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Indoor gymnasiums (basketball, volleyball)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Food concessions	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Tennis courts	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
SVS Low Priority	Multi-Purpose fields	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Skate park	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Outdoor basketball courts	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Game tables (e.g., chess, checkers, dominoes)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Dog park	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Outdoor football/soccer/lacrosse fields	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Sand volleyball	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Baseball/Softball fields	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Disc golf course	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

- **High Priority**
(per SVS PIR rating, >90th Percentile in other Surveys, mention in interviews)
- **Medium Priority**
(per SVS PIR rating, >75th Percentile in Other techniques)
- **Low Priority**
(per SVS PIR rating, >50th Percentile in Other techniques)

Figure 2.4.b - Findings Summary and Comparison - Programs/Activities

NEEDS ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE:		1. Statistically Valid Survey	2. Online Survey	3. City Leadership Interviews	4. Public Meeting	5. Steering Committee Meeting	6. Focus Groups
PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES:							
SVS High Priority	Adult fitness/wellness	●	●	●	●	●	-
	Nature programs/environmental education	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Community special events	●	●	●	●	-	●
	Movies in the park	●	●	-	●	●	-
	Community meetings	●	●	-	-	-	-
	Water fitness	●	●	-	●	●	-
	Cooking classes	●	●	-	●	●	●
	Music programs	●	●	-	●	●	●
	Safety classes	●	●	-	●	●	-
SVS Medium Priority	Senior leisure programs	●	●	-	●	●	-
	Temporary art exhibits	●	●	-	●	●	●
	Athletic special events	●	●	-	●	●	-
	Senior education	●	●	●	-	●	-
	Education lecture series	●	●	●	-	●	●
	Specialty camps	●	●	-	●	●	-
	Adult athletic leagues	●	-	●	-	●	●
	Youth athletic leagues	●	-	●	●	-	-
	Adult performing arts/dance	●	●	-	●	●	-
	Youth arts/painting/crafts/drawing classes	●	●	-	●	●	●
	Language classes	●	-	-	-	-	-
	Camps	●	-	-	-	-	-
	Date Night/Parent's Night Out childcare	●	●	-	●	-	-
	Youth fitness/wellness	●	●	-	●	-	-
	Youth learn to swim	●	-	-	●	-	-
	Youth education	●	-	●	●	-	-
	Digital media, photography programs	●	-	-	●	-	●
	Adult education	●	-	●	-	-	-
	Teen programs	●	-	-	●	●	●
	Youth performing arts/dance	●	-	-	●	●	-
Adult learn to swim	●	-	-	-	-	-	
SVS Low Priority	Programs for people with disabilities	●	-	-	●	-	-
	After school program	●	-	-	●	●	●
	Preschool programs	●	-	-	-	-	-
	Before school program	●	-	-	-	●	-
	Video games/virtual gaming	●	-	-	-	-	-

- **High Priority**
(per SVS PIR rating, >90th Percentile in other Surveys, mention in interviews)
- **Medium Priority**
(per SVS PIR rating, >75th Percentile in Other techniques)
- **Low Priority**
(per SVS PIR rating, >50th Percentile in Other techniques)

Figure 2.4.c - Summary Findings for Willingness to Pay Additional Taxes

NEEDS ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE:	1. Statistically Valid Survey	2. Online Survey	3. Public Meeting	4. Parks & Rec Committee Meeting
INCREASED TAX AMOUNT				
\$10-25 per year	71%	66%	52%	43%
\$26-50 per year	61%	54%	43%	43%
\$51-75 per year	53%	53%	43%	43%
\$76-100 per year	47%	37%	34%	29%
I am not willing to pay additional taxes	29%	34%	48%	57%
\$101-200 per year	28%	20%	25%	14%
Over \$200 per year	15%	8%	7%	0%

The results demonstrate that based on the Statistically Valid Survey, and considering all other input methods, the majority of respondents are willing to pay increased taxes of \$51-75 per year.

Figure 2.4.d - Summary Findings for Categories to Decrease Funds for FACILITIES/CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

NEEDS ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE:	1. Statistically Valid Survey	2. Online Survey	3. Public Meeting	4. Parks & Rec Committee Meeting
DECREASED FUNDING CATEGORY				
Improvements/ maintenance to dog parks	52%	2	2	-
Improvements/ maintenance of existing indoor recreation centers	42%	-	-	5
Improvements/ maintenance of athletic fields	41%	5	5	2
Improvements/ maintenance of Buck Destin Park	41%	3	3	4
Improvements/ maintenance of park landscaping & irrigation	36%	4	-	3
None	32%	1	1	1
Improvements/ maintenance to playgrounds	28%	-	4	-

Figure 2.4.e - Summary Findings for Categories to Decrease Funds for PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES IMPROVEMENTS

NEEDS ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE:	1. Statistically Valid Survey	2. Online Survey	3. Public Meeting	4. Parks & Rec Committee Meeting
DECREASED FUNDING CATEGORY				
None	39%	1	1	1
Adult recreation programs/classes (excluding athletics)	36%	2	4	-
Frequency of programs/classes and / or hours of programs	36%	3	-	-
Athletic programs/leagues	26%	4	-	-
Community Center hours of operations	24%	-	5	-
After/ before school programs	23%	-	-	-
Community-wide special events	22%	-	2	-
Youth recreation programs and/ or classes (excluding athletics)	17%	-	3	-
Youth summer programs	13%	-	-	-
Staffing for maintenance of parks & facilities	11%	5	-	-

Figure 2.4.f - Findings Summary and Comparison - Funding Allocations for Facility/Capital Improvements and Programs/Activities

NEEDS ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE:	1. Statistically Valid Survey	2. Online Survey	3. Public Meeting	4. Parks & Rec Committee Meeting
FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR FACILITY/ CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:				
Improvements/maintenance of existing parks & recreation facilities	\$20.31	\$21.84	\$24.00	\$14.29
Acquiring new park land	\$18.47	\$21.15	\$15.11	\$14.29
Development of new/additional parks facilities in existing parks	\$15.04	\$15.37	\$12.44	\$6.35
Development of new walking & biking facilities	\$14.33	\$13.48	\$5.78	\$19.05
Development of new indoor recreation centers recreation centers	\$11.47	\$5.22	\$16.89	\$15.87
Improvements/maintenance of existing walking & biking facilities	\$8.30	\$4.85	\$5.33	\$0.00
Improvements/maintenance of existing indoor recreation centers	\$7.26	\$9.48	\$20.44	\$26.98
Other	\$4.81	\$7.61	\$0.00	\$0.00
FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR PROGRAMS/OPERATIONS:				
Increase staff to improve maintenance of parks & facilities	\$23.35	\$19.53	\$26.76	\$20.90
Additional community-wide special events	\$15.89	\$17.58	\$13.15	\$11.94
Additional youth athletic program/leagues	\$11.43	\$8.97	\$10.33	\$4.24
Additional adult recreation programs and/or classes	\$11.23	\$12.27	\$6.57	\$16.42
Additional youth recreation programs and/or classes	\$10.80	\$10.94	\$9.68	\$14.93
Additional senior recreation programs and/or classes	\$9.94	\$12.58	\$12.68	\$11.94
Increase frequency of programs/classes and/or extended hours of programming	\$6.96	\$8.06	\$9.39	\$10.45
Additional adult athletic program/leagues	\$6.22	\$5.56	\$6.57	\$1.49
Other	\$4.19	\$3.23	\$4.69	\$0.00



CITY OF DESTIN PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTATION 2025



AGENDA

- Committee Introductions
- Our Mission
- Ongoing Work Plans
- New & Returning Work Plans
- Measuring Our Impact
- Your Support



MEET THE COMMITTEE



Autumn Weidenhamer
Chairwoman
Appointed by: ____



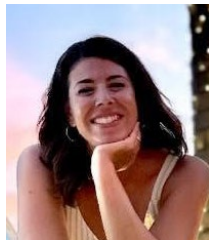
Aubrey Santucci
Appointed by: Schmidt



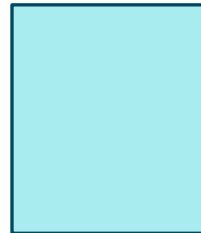
Matthew Sweetser
Vice Chairman
Appointed by: Braden



Andrea Ansley
Appointed by: ____



Ali Stephens
Appointed by: ____



Jan McGraw
Appointed by: Geile



Jessica Jullian
Appointed by: ____



Staff Liaisons: Lisa Firth – *Parks & Rec Director*, Ryan Reed – *Parks & Rec Deputy Director*, and Bryan Keller – *Recreation Manager*

OUR MISSION

To identify and recommend to the City Council projects relating to recreational matters, including the need for additional parks, recreational programs, facilitates for citizens and visitors to Destin.

The Committee's objectives are based on Chapter 7 Recreation and Open Space Element of the City Of Destin Comprehensive Plan 2010.

**We meet on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 4pm*



ONGOING WORK PLANS

- Nancy Weidenhamer Dog Park Adopt-A-Park – monthly (Andrea Ansley)
- Park, Trail, and Beach Access Inspections – semiannually (Ali Stephens)
- Tree City USA & Arbor Day Ceremony – annually (Aubrey Santucci)
- Community Adopt-A-Park/Tree/Bench – ongoing (Matt Sweetser)



NEW AND RETURNING WORK PLANS

- Pooch Palooza – annually (Autumn Weidenhamer)
- Playground/Park Updates – annually (Ali Stephens)
- Recreation Registration Calendar – annually (Ali Stephens)
- Little Free Libraries – annually (Autumn Weidenhamer)
- Destin Bike Helmet & Road Safety – annually (Andrea Ansley)
- Pickleball Courts Grand Opening – 2026 (Autumn W. & Jessica Julian)
- ADA Review – ongoing (Matt Sweetser)



IMPORTANT MOTIONS PASSED

- LIST



MEASURING OUR IMPACT

- Staff completed over numerous park improvements based on committee inspections
- Raised over \$1,000 for the Parks Foundation to support Nancy Weidenhamer Dog Park enhancements
- Contributed key input for the Master Plan and park/trail design phases
- Strengthened community engagement by participating in recreation events and Adopt-A-Park commitments
- Gathered resident feedback and championed advocacy for our parks and community
- Acted as a pre-council advisory resource to ensure well-developed proposals



WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT

- **City Funding Support** – Commitment of financial resources to enhance parks, trails, and community recreation initiatives
- **Empowerment of the Committee** – Providing authority and trust to influence decisions and shape the future of local parks and recreation
- **Collaborative & Consistent Process** – Ensuring all park & recreation-related initiatives are reviewed by the committee before reaching council, leveraging checks and balances and committee expertise to strengthen proposals
- **Evaluate and Advance Motions** – Align with the committee to polish and prepare motions for successful council adoption



QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU

