

RECREATION & OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

City of Tarpon Springs

Prepared By

The City of Tarpon Springs
Planning & Zoning Division

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT
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THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

Effective Date:	March 2, 1999	Ordinance 98-20
Revision Date:	Aug 18, 2009	Ordinance 2008-32

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I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Recreation & Open Space Element as set forth in Section 163.3177(6)(e), Florida Statutes (F.S.), is to plan for a comprehensive system of public and private recreation sites and facilities. Public and private recreation sites and facilities may include natural reserves, parks and playgrounds, parkways, beaches and public access to them, open spaces, waterways, and other recreation facilities. Although Section 163.3177, F.S., lists the Recreation & Open Space Element as a required element within comprehensive plans, the data and analysis requirements have been deleted from Chapter 9J-5, Florida Administrative Code.

A. History

Tarpon Springs was incorporated in 1887 and was at that time a seaside town with a lot of wild areas and a small, but burgeoning sponging industry. The city began to grow rapidly after 1905 with the rapid growth of the sponging industry and two concurrent real estate booms. It was also at this time that Tarpon Springs created several parks and recreation facilities, many of which still survive. For recreation, most people wanted to be at the beach, so sunbathing, fishing and other similar activities became popular with tourists that “wintered” in the area.

In the 1920's Sisler Field (currently a ballfield/park of the same name) was built to serve as the spring training facility for the St. Louis Browns. The original field has been added to, to make the present day facility, which now has four Little League ball fields. Around the same time the Tarpon Springs 18-Hole Golf Course (formerly the Marshall Alworth Golf Course) was built, making it one of the first in Florida.

Many recreation facilities were built as a result of the 1933 New Deal that created the Work Program Administration, putting to work many unemployed people. Some of the projects included a children's playground at Rotary Park (this facility still exists) and improvements to Craig Park (formerly known as Coburn Park) as well as, for the first time, sanitary outdoor toilets for these facilities.

Some of the recreation activities that became popular in the 1930s included golf tournaments and football games as well as various community events held in the various park facilities.

Another facility, built with city funds and donations, was the Tourist Club at Craig Park. The Memorial Stadium was built with funds raised by local service clubs and later turned over to the Pinellas County School Board and used for the Tarpon Springs High School football team, the “Spongers”.

Some other early recreation facilities include the present Yacht Club, which was formed in 1949 and the Sunset Point recreation pier. The A. L. Anderson and Fred Howard County Parks are named after former mayors of Tarpon Springs.

B. Trends in Recreation

Approximately 120 years have passed since the first Tarponites and visitors to the area participated in recreation activities and in this time the need for facilities has mirrored the population growth of the area.

1. Regional Trends

According to 2000 figures from the “Outdoor Recreation in Florida” (2000) publication, the most popular resource-based activities (those that depend on natural resources) for the Tampa Bay Area include saltwater beach activities, bicycle riding, saltwater fishing and boating, picnicking, camping, and hiking. The most popular user-oriented activities (mostly sports) based on the surveys done were golf, basketball, and outdoor pool swimming.

Other figures for the Tampa Bay area derived from the 2000 report, show that additional resources and facilities are needed to meet the regional demand for hiking, pool swimming, bicycle riding, golfing and saltwater beach activities:

- 868.52 miles for bicycle riding
- 860.89 miles for hiking
- 12.78 miles for Saltwater beach activities,
- 2116.94 feet for Saltwater fishing,
- 60 courses for golfing,
- 312 pools for swimming pool use.

2. Local Trends

Many of the leisure activities in the city are dependent on the beach resources available to the citizens. Boating, sunbathing, and swimming are among these activities. Other popular activities are bicycling, roller-skating/blading, and walking. These observations mirror the results of the “Outdoor Recreation in Florida” handbook’s surveys of such activities throughout the state.

Other activities popular with Tarponites are baseball, softball, little league baseball, basketball, and various field games. Based on use statistics of the Recreation Department, there is an existing need for facilities to accommodate baseball & softball as well as basketball, which would indicate that these are some of the more popular ones.

As shown on the changing population demographics for Pinellas County in Tables RO 1A and 1B, Tarpon Springs residents are getting younger, therefore the need for more active recreation has risen. The Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) projects population increases of 1,527 persons through the year 2015 and 3,534 persons through the year 2030. Over the years more adults are seeking more active recreation and sport opportunities due to an increasing emphasis on health awareness. These data and recreation preferences signify that through the years 2015 and 2030 the deficits will only increase without a commitment from the City to increase the numbers of active and passive recreation facilities. In addition, the City may wish to evaluate and amend the LOS Standards for activities such as shuffleboard that have declined in popularity as the population continues to grow younger.

3. Population Trends

To some extent the population of Tarpon Springs itself has an influence on what the predominant recreational activities will be. Also, the prevailing health trends exert some influence, making people tend to get their exercise through various forms of recreation. That’s why looking at the population distribution is helpful in determining current and future recreational needs.

Table RO-1A
Pinellas County Population Distribution

1990

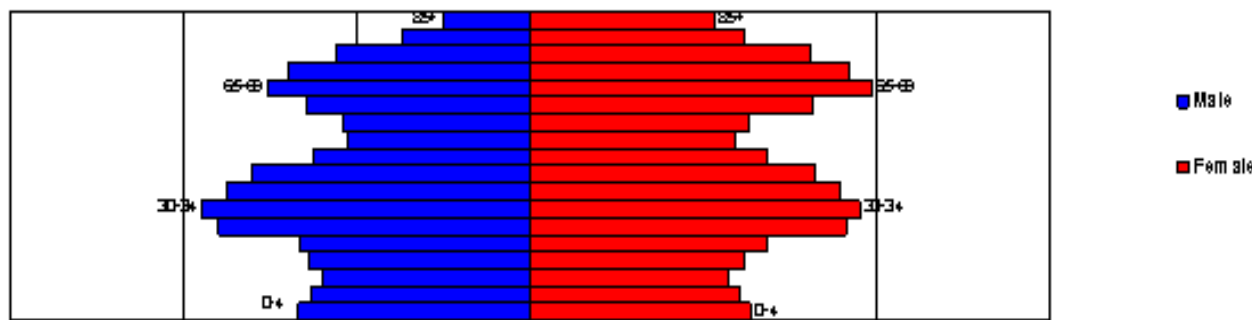
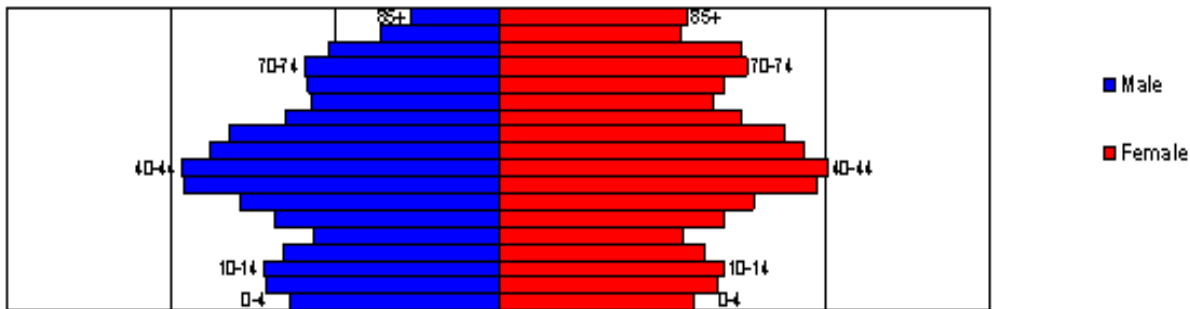


Table RO-1B
Pinellas County Population Distribution
2000



Source: Census Scope, Pinellas County Economic Development

II. CLASSIFICATION OF RECREATION & OPEN SPACE FACILITIES

A. Inventoried Facilities Classified

Recreation and open space facilities are classified based on the service area, acreage and facility type. Following are the classifications used for the City of Tarpon Springs Recreation & Open Space Element. This classification system is essential to establish Level of Service Standards that determine existing deficiencies and future needs.

1. Mini-Park

Equipped play areas and tot lots are the most common form of mini-park and consist of open play areas with play equipment for preschool and school age children. The service area, measured by population, is around 2,500 people at 0.8 acre per 1,000 persons. The facility is on as little as a quarter of an acre (1/4) up to 2 acres.

2. Neighborhood Park

The neighborhood park is usually located where people can take low traffic streets to walk or bike to it. The Level of Service for a neighborhood park is 1.0 acres per 1,000 persons.

3. Community Park

Community Parks are considered “ride to” parks and are located near major streets or arterials. They usually serve 4-6 neighborhoods, or a “community”. The Level of Service for a Community Park is 1.5 acres per 1,000 persons. This type of facility provides a variety of program and facility opportunities to all individuals and families in the service area. Some of the types of facilities provided at these parks are ball fields, tennis courts, play areas, picnic areas, multipurpose courts, recreation buildings, sports fields, and nature walks (trails).

4. Water Access Site

With certain exceptions, all bodies of water including the Gulf, Anclote River, Lake Tarpon, and bayous are owned by the public, held in trust by the State of Florida through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Public-owned beach areas usually have access points either by footpath or boardwalks as well as some parking, although some beach areas may have no public parking available.

Access sites may be from 10 to 100 feet wide with parking areas from under an acre to 1 acre or more. The purpose of these access sites is to provide vistas to the waterfront. Other larger access sites may provide beach access, boat ramps and/or off-street parking facilities.

B. Other Facilities Classified

In addition to the above listed and classified facility types which correspond to the facilities on the Tarpon Springs inventory tables are those facilities provided at the county or state level. Tarpon Springs ~~if~~ is fortunate to have two urban regional parks within its boundaries.

1. Urban Open Space

These facilities are landscaped or natural open spaces usually within built-up areas. The area served can range from one neighborhood to an entire city. They serve mainly as a buffer area within urbanized settings. Size of these facilities ranges from 1/10-acre to several acres, depending on their use. Some specific examples of urban open space are linear, vest pocket or traffic circle parks, parkways, boulevard medians, plazas, malls courthouse squares, and promenades. Some features of them are benches, commemorative structures, trails and paths.

2. Urban District Park

The Urban District Park serves recreation needs of several communities, a city or a county, providing areas and facilities that are resource-based. Some areas and facilities include natural areas, campgrounds and play apparatus. Some may also contain a zoo, a golf course or a botanical garden. (these types of facilities are provided by the county and are not included in the inventory within this section)

Since these facilities are usually located at the periphery of large urban areas, the drive to these facilities can be up to 30 or 40 minutes. The usual population served by such a facility is around 50,000 people with an allocation of about 5 acres for every 1,000 people. The minimum size is around 100 acres but it is preferable to have at least 200 acres.

3. Urban Regional Park

These are large, resource-based areas serving two or more communities or counties, usually about an hour's maximum drive for the residents served. The suggested space allowance is 20 acres per 1,000 people, serving a population of over 100,000 with a range of 250 to as much as several thousand acres total for a facility. Since this type of facility is resource based the location will depend on available natural areas to be developed for outdoor recreation.

Some of the typical facilities found at such a park would include water dependent recreation sites, camping areas, hiking and nature trails, picnic areas, and other facilities with minimal impact on the land. The parking facilities also should be designed for minimal impact on the environment. The main feature of the regional park is that it provides an environment to participate in recreational activities and in which to enjoy nature in a serene setting.

III. THE PINELLAS TRAIL

The Pinellas Trail is a 34 mile long asphalt paved bicycle & pedestrian trail, which occupies an abandoned railway right of way throughout the entire County. It is an important element within Tarpon Springs, as it provides a safe, non-motorized way to access many of the parks and cultural features of the city. Another important function that the Trail serves is it provides a way for bicyclists and pedestrians to get across U.S. 19 by way of the culvert under it.

Besides making great use of an otherwise underutilized ribbon of land, the trail within the city provides a recreational as well as utilitarian way to get around town. Bicyclists, pedestrians, roller skaters, and rollerbladers use the trail. Schools, restaurants, retail shops, cultural centers as well as other amenities exist alongside the Trail and are accessible by this corridor.

Location: Within the city limits of Tarpon Springs, the Trail enters the city at it's southernmost boundary in the vicinity of the intersection of Alternate U.S. 19 and Klosterman Rd. and runs parallel to Alt. 19 on the east side until it reaches Live Oak Street where it veers off towards the northeast and ends where it meets with U.S. Hwy. Within the city limits the Trail, which is about 3 miles, crosses about 15 intersections.

Scheduled Improvements: Within the city limits the Pinellas Trail is scheduled to be extended from where it currently stops at U.S. Highway 19. It will continue across Hwy. 19 via a culvert. It will proceed south along Jasmine then southeasterly adjacent to the Tarpon Sports Complex. Leaving the city limits it will proceed east along Keystone Road, then southerly along East Lake Road, terminating at John Chesnut Park.

Another scheduled project, the Howard Park Trail, will begin at the Pinellas Trail and Tarpon Avenue. Then it will extend due west until it meets Fred Howard Park, then continue across Fred Howard Parkway to the Fred Howard Public Beach. The exact alignment has not been determined at this time.

A. Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities (on-road)

The on-road bicycle & pedestrian facilities within Tarpon Springs consist mostly of sidewalks. There is no city ordinance prohibiting riding bicycles on sidewalks. There is one road that has a designated bicycle lane on it (Live Oak St. from where it intersects Safford to where it intersects Pinellas Ave. or Alt. 19).

Other than that, bicycle lanes will be retrofitted on county roads within the city limits in conjunction with repaving, wherever right-of-way is available and it is feasible to do so. These bicycle lane improvements are funded through the Pathways Program with funds from the Penny for Pinellas Tax.

IV. LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Level of Service Standards are used to quantify the supply of facilities and demand for facilities. This standard way to measure the need for each facility has been established as shown in Table RO-2. This level of service is then applied to the population of Tarpon Springs to calculate the number or amount of each type of facility needed to provide a sufficient level of service for the populace. When the needs are calculated, based on the current population (as well as projected future population) they can be compared to the current inventory to existing deficiencies and future needs.

Table RO-2
Level of Service for Recreational Facilities

FACILITY	LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARD
Baseball	1 Diamond / 6,750 Persons
Basketball	1 Court / 2,600
Boat Launching	1 Boat Ramp / 6,750 Persons
Football/Soccer	1 Field / 3,333 Persons
General Play	1 Equipped Play Area / 1,250 Persons
Little League Baseball	1 Field / 5,000 Persons
Nature Study	1 Mile of Trail / 10,000 Persons
Softball	1 Field / 10,000 Persons
Tennis	1 Court / 2,000 Persons
Volleyball	1 Court / 6,000 Persons
Mini-Park	0.8 Acres / 1,000 Persons
Neighborhood Park	1.0 Acre / 1,000 Persons
Community Park	1.5 Acres / 1,000 Persons

A. Service Radii

Another aspect of each facility to consider when evaluating the Level of Service of park facilities is the service radius. Each type of facility is assigned a radius to which the facility provides service. The radius for each facility defined in the section “Classification of Recreation & Open Space Facilities” is indicated in its respective paragraph. It is also provided in Table RO-3 below:

**Table RO-3
PARK FACILITIES LEVEL OF SERVICE INFORMATION**

FACILITY TYPE	SERVICE RADIUS	ACREAGE RANGE	ACRES PER 1,000 IN POPULATION	POPULATION SERVED
Mini-Park, Equipped Play Area or Tot Lot	Under 1/2 mile	1/4 to 2 acres	0.8 PER 1,000	500 to 2,500 people
Neighborhood Park	1/2 mile	2-10 acres	1.0 PER 1,000	5,000 people
Community Park	3 miles	10 + acres	1.5 PER 1,000	12,500 people

V. EXISTING INVENTORY

An important process in planning for recreation and open space facilities involves inventorying the existing facilities. The tables that follow provide an inventory of each category of facility inventoried for this plan. The tables of most concern to this plan are the first two, which depict the City owned parks & open space facilities and the recreational buildings & facilities.

A. City Owned Inventory - Tables Explained

The existing recreation & open space facilities of the City of Tarpon Springs area are inventoried in Tables RO-5 and RO-6. Table RO-5 lists the parks & open space facilities and Table RO-6 shows recreational buildings & facilities. All of these city owned facilities are depicted on map RO-1.

B. Other Jurisdictions & Privately Owned Facilities - Tables Explained

Tables RO-7 and RO-8 cover the facilities handled by other jurisdictions. Although not all inclusive, Table RO-7 lists parks & open space owned and managed by other jurisdictions such as the State of Florida, Pinellas County, Pasco County as well as the Pinellas County School Board. Table RO-8, also not all inclusive, lists some of the private recreation facilities contained within various planned communities such as subdivisions, mobile home parks, apartment complexes and condominiums.

C. Water Access Sites - Table Explained

In addition to the public parks identified in Tables RO-5 and RO-6, an inventory of water access sites or Rights-of-Way, done recently by the Planning & Zoning Department, is listed in Table RO-4. The information included in this table shows the street name, brief description and the water body accessed by the location. Additional information regarding water access sites can be found in the Coastal and Conservation Element.

**TABLE RO-4
INVENTORY OF WATER ACCESS SITES**

STREET NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	WATER BODY ACCESSED
Athens Street	30' of ROW	Sponge Docks
Beach Drive	60' of ROW	Gulf of Mexico
Beekman Lane	40' of ROW	Craig Park
Cleveland Place	35' of ROW	Inness Bayou
Coburn Drive	25' of ROW	Gulf of Mexico
Disston Avenue	60' of ROW	Anclote River
Dodecanese Blvd.	50' of ROW	Sponge Docks
Florida Avenue	63' of ROW	Anclote River
Grand Central Drive	45' of ROW	Gulf of Mexico
Grand View Drive	60' of ROW	Lake Tarpon
Gulf Beach Blvd.	50' of ROW	Gulf of Mexico
Gulf Road	33' of ROW	Contains a paved City street.
Hibiscus Avenue	40' of ROW	Sponge Docks
Hope Street	50' of ROW	Sponge Docks, waterfront viewing.
Imperial Drive	30' of ROW	Kreamer Bayou and Anclote River
Lagoon Road	60' of ROW	Lake Tarpon
Lake Blvd.	40' of ROW	Tarpon Bayou
Lake Tarpon Ave.	50' of ROW	Lake Tarpon
Lucille Drive	60' of ROW	Kreamer Bayou
Meyer Lane	16' of ROW / 20' of ROW	Lake Tarpon
Phillips Road	60' of ROW	Anclote River
Riverview Drive	15' of ROW	Anclote River
Roosevelt Blvd.	50' of ROW	Sponge Docks
Safford Ave.	60' of ROW	Anclote River
Sunset Drive	40' of ROW	Gulf of Mexico
Tallahassee Drive	20' of ROW	Gulf of Mexico
TOTAL		27 ACCESS SITES

TABLE RO-5
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS OWNED
PARKS & OPEN SPACE FACILITIES

	Name of Facility	Acres	Category	Location	Amenities/Facilities
1	Chesapeake Park	0.25	Mini-Park	Royal Dr. & Chesapeake Dr.	Undeveloped, no facilities.
2	Cops & Kids Youth Center Playground	0.5	Mini-Park	555 E. Harrison St.	1 Bicycle Rack, 1 Equipped Play Area, Mini-gym with Basketball Half-Court.
3	Craig Park	6.8	Neighborhood Park	102 S. Spring Blvd.	1 Equipped Play Area, 10 Picnic Tables, 1 Recreation Bldg., 1/3 Miles Scenic Walkway, 1 Saltwater Boat Ramp w/1 Lane, 6 Shuffleboard Courts, 2 Lighted Tennis Courts, Restrooms.
4	Ed Dorsett Park	4.5	Neighborhood Park	500 E. Harrison St.	2 Full-Court Basketball Courts, 2 Bike Racks, 1 Equipped Play Area, 8 Picnic Tables, 1 Lighted Softball Field, 1 Tennis Court, 1 Practice Athletic Field, Concession stand with kitchen facilities, Restrooms, Cooking grills.
5	Highland Nature Park	6.95	Neighborhood Park	530 Highland Ave	1 Bicycle Rack, 1 Equipped Play Area, 1/2 Mile Nature Trail, 1 Pedestrian Pier, 3 Picnic Tables, Restrooms, 325 feet of scenic boardwalk to lake.
6	Legion Park	0.8	Scenic Open Space	North of Ashland Ave.	Undeveloped Wetland Area
7	North Anclote Nature Park	77	Community Park	off Dixie Highway	2 Equipped Play Areas, 3 Bike Racks, Nature Walk Trails, 2 Restroom Areas, 1 Overlooking Fishing Area, 1 Lookout Platform, Pinellas Co. Bike Trail, 1 Canoe Landing Area, 15 Picnic Tables, Parking Facilities, ADA Accessible.
8	Oak Leaf Village Playground	1.05	Mini-Park	Vermont Ave.	1 Equipped Play Area, 5 Picnic Tables
9	Richard Ervin Park	0.86	Mini-Park	1700 Richard Ervin Pkwy.	4 Picnic Tables, 2 Shelters, Freshwater Boat Ramp (ramp currently closed indefinitely)
10	Riverside park	4.9	Neighborhood Park	833 Riverside Dr.	1 Equipped Play Area, 1 Football/Soccer Lighted Field, 2 Picnic Tables, 4 Lighted Tennis Courts, Restrooms, Concession
11	Rotary Park	2.88	Community Park	400 S. Banana St.	1 Lighted Softball Field, Restroom, Concession

12	Sissler Field	7.5	Community Park	711 Meres Blvd.	3 Lighted Little League Baseball Fields, 1 T-Ball Field, 2 Concession areas, Batting cages, Restrooms
13	Sunset Beach Park	11.3	Neighborhood Park	1800 Gulf Rd.	2 Bike Racks, 320' Saltwater Beach Area, 9 Shelters, 23 Picnic Tables, 1 Beach Volleyball Court, Boat Ramp, Cooking grills, Scenic-overlooking Platform
14	*Tarpon Springs Elementary	2.6	Neighborhood Park	525 N. Disston Ave.	1 Basketball Court, 1 Equipped Play Area
15	*Tarpon Springs High School	9.85	Neighborhood Park	1411 Gulf Rd.	1 Lighted Baseball Field, 2 Basketball Courts, 1 Football/Soccer Field, 3 Tennis Courts, open play field/area
16	*Tarpon Springs Middle School	6	Neighborhood Park	500 Florida Ave. N.	2 Basketball Courts, 1 Bicycle Rack (compound) 1 Playground Field
17	Tarpon Springs Sports Complex/Discovery Playground	22.7	Community Park	150 Jasmine Ave.	3.5 Soccer/Football Fields, 2 sets of Restrooms, Concession, Bleachers, Announcer's booth. Discovery Playground - 2 Equipped Play Areas (1 for tots, 1 for older children), 5 Picnic Tables.
18	Dog Park/Live Oak	1.3	Dog Park	Live Oak/Safford St.	5 Benches, Dog Water Fountain, Fire Hydrant, Dog waste bag stations, separate fenced areas for large and small dogs.
19	Lime St. Playground	0.75	Mini-Park	Lime St.	1 Equipped Play Area, 2 Benches
20	Lake Tarpon Dock	100 FT	Fish/Lake Viewing Dock	Lake Tarpon Ave.	Lake Fishing/Viewing Pier, Pedestrian Pier
21	Trentwood Playground	0.195	Mini-Park	1104 Windsor Hill Way	1 Equipped Play Area, Picnic Table
22	Gulf Beach Park	1.54	Scenic Open Space	West end of Gulf Beach Blvd.	Scenic gulf waterfront area.
23	Phillips Road Water Access	0.25	Future Boat Launch	Phillips Road and Riverside Drive	Vacated right-of-way with Anclote River (shallow water) access
	Total Acreage	170.475			
		+.100 ft.			

*Facilities shared with City through leases.

Source: Information from Various City Departments, Pinellas County GIS
Acreages estimated using Pinellas County GIS aerial data

TABLE RO-6
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS OWNED
RECREATIONAL BUILDINGS & FACILITIES

Loc No	Name of Facility	Acres or Square Ft	Category	Location	Amenities/Facilities
2	Cops & Kids Youth Center	7,250 sq. ft.	Special Purpose/Mini Park	555 E. Harrison St.	1/2 Basketball Court, Kitchen, Conference Room, Equipped Play Area, Bicycle Rack, Restrooms
3	Craig Park	6.8	Special Purpose	5 Craig Park Cr.	Recreation Center, Bandshell, Restrooms
25	Tarpon Springs Marina	0.9	Special Purpose	100 Dodecanese Blvd.	21 Saltwater Slips
26	Tarpon Springs Cultural Center	0.22	Special Purpose	101 S. Pinellas Avenue	Historical and Cultural Exhibit, Meeting Rooms, Auditorium, Restrooms
27	Tarpon Springs Golf Course	112.89	Special Purpose	1310 S. Pinellas Avenue	1 18-hole Regulation Public Golf Course, Driving Range, Concessions Building, Clubhouse, Chipping and Putting Practice Areas, Restrooms
28	Tarpon Springs Library	24,000 sq ft.	Special Purpose	138 E. Lemon St	Meeting Rooms, Educational Resources, Internet Access, Restrooms.
29	Union Academy	1.06	Special Purpose	401 MLK, Jr. Dr. E	Citizens Alliance for Progress (CAP) Headquarters, Social & Educational Programs, After School Care, Meeting Rooms, Restrooms
30	Walton Ave Community Center	2.2	Special Purpose	400 S Walton Ave	Meeting Rooms, Hall, Kitchen, Restrooms
31	Gymnasium at Community Center	11,000 sq. ft	Special Purpose	400 S Walton Ave	Gym (Basketball, volleyball, work-out) and Weightroom. Built in 2001

Source:

Updated: 12/28/07 Source:

TABLE RO-7
OTHER JURISDICTIONS
PARKS & OPEN SPACE
JUNE 1998

NAME OF FACILITY	ACRES OR SQ. FT.	CATEGORY	OWNED / MANAGED BY	LOCATION	AMENITIES/ FACILITIES
A.L Anderson Park	128.00	Urban Regional Park	City of Tarpon Springs	Between Tarpon Lake & U.S. 19 N. of Tookes Rd.	3 Equipped Play Areas, 500' Freshwater Boardwalk /Catwalk, 1 Freshwater Boat Ramp w/6 Lanes, 500' Nature Study/Walking Trail, 220 Picnic Tables, 9 Shelters.
Anclote Key State Park & Aquatic Preserve	567.00	Regional Park	State of Florida	Off the coast of Anclote/Holiday area. Accessible by boat only.	4-3/4 Miles Saltwater Beach Area, primitive campsite with grills, table & pit toilets.
Anclote River Park	29.00	Community Park	Pasco County	Pasco County	2 Historical/Archaeological Sites/ Structures, 400' Saltwater Beach Area, 1 Saltwater Boat Ramp w/4 Lanes, 2 Shelters.
Fred Howard Park	155.00	Urban Regional Park	Pinellas County	1700 Sunset Dr.	1 Baseball/Softball Field, 2 Equipped Play Areas, 175 Picnic Tables, 750' Saltwater Beach Area, 2,400' of Saltwater Causeway, 9 Shelters.
Lime Street Park	0.30	Mini-Park	T.S.H.A.	406 Lime St.	1 Equipped Play Area
Pinellas Trail	2.5 miles	Special Purpose /Linear Park	Pinellas County	N/A	3 Mile Recreation Trail for bicycle/walking/skating (asphalt paved old railroad right-of-way)
Pinellas Trail Extension(s)	N/A	Special Purpose /Linear Park	Pinellas County	N/A	Multiple Projects- "Elfers Spur", etc. (Proposed Facility)
Sunset Hills Elementary	3.67 acres	Neighborhood Park	Pinellas County School Board	1513 Gulf Road	1 Basketball Court, 1 Equipped Play Area.
Tarpon Springs Elementary		Neighborhood Park	Pinellas County School Board	525 N. Disston Ave.	1 Basketball Court, 1 Equipped Play Area.
Tarpon Springs High School		Community Park	Pinellas County School Board	1411 Gulf Rd.	2 Baseball/Softball Fields, 2 Basketball Courts, 1 Football/Soccer Field, 1 Multipurpose Playing Field, 3 Tennis Courts.
Tarpon Springs Middle School		Neighborhood Park	Pinellas County School Board	500 Florida Ave. N.	2 Basketball Courts, 1 Bicycle Rack (compound), 1 Softball Field, 1 Track.
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Baseball/Softball Fields • 10 Basketball Courts • 500' Boardwalk/Catwalk • 8 Equipped Play Areas • 3 Football/Soccer Fields • 1 Freshwater Boat Ramp w/6 Lanes • 2 Historical/Archaeological Sites/Structures • 1 Multi-Purpose Field • 500' Nature Trail • 395 Picnic Tables • 4.95 Miles Saltwater Beach Area • 1 Saltwater Boat Ramp w/4 Lanes • 20 Shelters • 3 Tennis Courts

Information obtained from various City of Tarpon Springs departmental reports/listings.

TABLE RO-8
OTHER JURISDICTIONS/PRIVATELY OWNED
RECREATIONAL BUILDINGS & FACILITIES
JUNE 1998

NAME OF FACILITY	SIZE IN ACRES	CATEGORY	OWNED / MANAGED BY	LOCATION	AMENITIES/ FACILITIES
Anclote Harbors Marina		Special Purpose	934-7616	523 Anclote Rd.	boat slips for live-aboards and transient slips
Anclote Isles Marina		Special Purpose	934-5503	331 Anclote Rd.	boat slips
Boys & Girls Club	N/A	Special Purpose	Private	Adjacent to Rotary Park	meeting room
Beckett Bay		Subdivision		654 Beckett Way	1 basketball court, 1 clubhouse pavilion, 1 playground, 1 pool, 1 racquetball court, 1 tennis court
Cypress Place Apartments		Apartments		825 E. Cypress	Clubhouse, Pool
Green Dolphin Condominiums		Condominiums		1250 S. Pinellas Ave.	
Gulfront Lagoon		Condominiums			Nature Walk (?)
Harbor Watch (Pt. Alexis North)		Subdivision			2 Shuffleboard Courts, 4 Tennis Courts.
Lake Tarpon Sail & Tennis		Condominiums		90 Highland Ave.	Clubhouse, Dock, Pool, Tennis.
Mariner Village/ Tarpon Cove		Condominiums		1531 W. Klosterman Rd.	1 Clubhouse, 1 Exercise Room, 1 Fishing Pier, 2 pools, 1 Spa / whirlpool, 2 Tennis Courts.
The Meadows		Mobile Home Park		505 Anclote Rd.	
The Moorings				450 Moorings Cove Dr.	1 pool.
Pace Apartments		Apartments			
Pt. Alexis South		Subdivision 937-9047		1000 S. Pt. Alexis Dr.	
Pointe Tarpon				1589 W. Klosterman Rd.	Resident boat slips, Pool
Railroad Station		Special Purpose	FDOT	160 Tarpon Ave.	Historic Society Offices.
River Watch		Subdivision			
Seascape Peninsula		Condominiums		1401 W. Curlew Pl.	1 clubhouse, 1 pool, poss. 2 tennis courts
Sunset Shores					
Windrush Bay		Condominiums		700 Windrush Bay Dr.	1 clubhouse, 1 pool.
Woods at Anderson Park				U.S. Highway 19	1 indoor pool

Information obtained from various City of Tarpon Springs departmental reports/listings.

VI. LEVEL OF SERVICE NEEDS ANALYSIS

This section of the plan analyzes current inventory and future needs for parkland and recreational facilities within the city limits. It should be noted that non-residents (people residing in unincorporated Pinellas County) often use City facilities. Conversely, the County plans for and provides facilities that also service the city's residents. A review of the Planning Area provides for effective plan development and serves to advise the County as well as the Planning Area residents and property owners of this interrelationship and of the City's goals, objectives and policies. The City also enters into leases and cooperates with the School Board of Pinellas County for facility and program development. Private recreation facilities are important components of the totality of recreation and leisure activities available to residents however, they do not factor into this level of service needs analysis.

A. Existing Deficiencies

To determine existing deficiencies, the Level of Service standards established in Part IV of this element for various facilities and for park acreage are expressed in terms of units per 1,000 population, shown in Table RO-3. The existing population of the City, including seasonal residents then multiplies this standard. The resulting demand is subtracted from the existing supply of that particular facility. The resulting deficit or surplus is indicated in the left column of Table RO-9.

B. Service Radii Maps

To further assist in determining future needs and optimal placement of those needs (facilities) service radii established for this purpose, by a level of service, have been depicted on a map of the city, for analysis. Only the two smallest of the three types of facilities are being analyzed since the largest ones serve an area usually greater than the entire city itself. Map RO-2 depicts the mini-park and the neighborhood park facilities.

1. Future Needs

The Tarpon Springs Comprehensive Plan includes a short term planning period of 5 years and a long range period through the year 2030. As in the existing needs analysis, the Level of Service standards are expressed in terms of units per 1,000 population. This standard is then multiplied by the projections of the maximum seasonal population for years within each planning period to forecast any deficiency by type and at what point in the future. This process is carried out in Tables RO-9 and RO-10 with the resulting deficits summarized in the following table:

TABLE RO-9
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS
FUTURE PARKS AND RECREATION DEFICIENCIES

LOS Standards for Recreation Facilities in Tarpon Springs					
FACILITY	LOS STANDARDS	CURRENT STATUS	DEFICITS ⁽¹⁾		
			<u>2005</u> 23,660 Est. pop (2)	<u>2015</u> 25,187 Proj Pop (2)	<u>2030</u> 27,194 Proj Pop (2)
Baseball	1 Diamond / 6,750 Persons	1 Baseball Field	2.5 deficit	2.7 deficit	3.0 deficit
Basketball	1 Court / 2,600 Persons	9.5 Courts	+ 0.4	0.18 deficit	0.95 deficit
Boat Launching	1 Boat Ramp / 6,750 Persons.	2 launching areas	1.5 deficit	1.7 deficit	2.0 deficit
Football / Soccer	1 Field / 3,333 Persons	5.5 fields	1.5 deficit	2.0 deficit	2.65 deficit
General Play	1 Equipped Play Area / 1,250 Persons.	14 equipped play areas	4.9 deficit	6.0 deficit	7.7 deficit
Little League Baseball	1 Field / 5,000 Persons	4 Little League fields	1.7 deficit	2.0 deficit	2.4 deficit
Nature Study	1 Mile of Trail / 10,000 Persons	2.13 miles. This includes seawall at Craig Park	0.17 mile deficit	0.3 deficit	0.5 deficit
Softball	1 Field / 10,000 Persons	2 fields	0.3 deficit	0.5 deficit	0.7 deficit

Tennis	1 Court / 2,000 Persons	10 courts	1.83 deficit	2.5 deficit	3.5 deficit
Volleyball	1 Court / 6,000 Persons	2 courts	1.9 deficit	2.1 deficit	2.5 deficit

Data Source: Tarpon Springs Comprehensive Plan/ and Public Services Department
To calculate the required amount of facilities needed for the year, divide the population by the LOS Standard. To calculate the deficit, subtract the required need from the current status. BEBR estimated and projected population 2005-2030

TABLE RO-10
LOS Standards for Recreation Site Acreage Needs

SITE	LOS STANDARDS	CURRENT STATUS	DEFICITS ⁽¹⁾		
			<u>2005</u> 23,660 Est. pop (2)	<u>2015</u> 25,187 Proj Pop (2)	<u>2030</u> 27,194 Proj Pop (2)
Mini-Park	0.8 Acre/ 1,000 Persons	7.8 acres	10.43 acre deficit	11.65 acre deficit	13.26 acre deficit
Neighborhood Park	1.0 Acre/1,000 Persons	66.82 acres	No deficit	No deficit	No deficit
Community Park	1.5 Acre/ 1,000 Persons	94.46 acres	No deficit	No deficit	No deficit

Data Source: Tarpon Springs Comprehensive Plan/Public Services

1. To calculate the required amount of facilities needed for the year, divide the population by the LOS Standard. To calculate the deficit, subtract the required need from the current status.
2. BEBR estimated and projected population 2005-2030

2. Location of Future Facilities

In proposing the remedy of an existing or future deficit, the Capital Improvements element must consider availability of potential sites; funding, community input and location of a proposed facility vis-à-vis the service radii analysis performed in Part III of this element.

VII. SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Generally

In order to have recreational facilities keep pace with growth within the City, the Level of Service is applied to the population to determine what facilities are needed to satisfy existing and future needs. This process has been performed for the short term planning period as well as the long term (through) 2030.

The result of this forecasting of future needs is incorporated into the Goals, Objectives and Policies that will guide the direction the City's Recreation and Open Space development will take.

Facility Recommendations

B. Bicycle Related Facilities

Since the City of Tarpon Springs is fortunate enough to have a major bicycle trail, the Pinellas Trail, bisecting it's limits, there exists an exceptional opportunity to further develop this network to serve the entire bicycling community of Tarpon Springs. Following in line with this fact, policies are proposed to maximize the Trail's advantages serve the residents, visitors and business community.

These policies will facilitate the final design and construction of extensions to the Pinellas Trail to form a bikeway network; minimize traffic conflicts on the current trail facilities as well as on all future facilities; increase on road bicycle lanes through retrofitting of existing roads with expanded shoulders

where feasible; and encourage placement of bike racks, benches, rest facilities and lockers in appropriate locations throughout the City.

C. Policy Recommendations

1. Americans with Disabilities Act

The City must provide for disabled access to all existing parks and recreational facilities in accordance with the Florida ADA and ensure that all future facilities developed or built within the City will be accessible to disabled persons.

2. Cooperation with Pinellas County School Board

The City will maintain the existing leases the City has for dual use facilities and further developing such facilities.

3. Location Policy for Future Facilities

A general policy that will be adopted by the City regarding the location of future facilities will be to locate such facilities in areas lacking them, whenever it is feasible. Also, the location of privately owned and operated facilities will be considered in this location process.

4. Anticipated New Facilities

- The City is planning to redevelop the existing landfill site (capped) into a major recreational facility to accommodate required and needed ball fields for baseball, softball, soccer, etc.

5. Economic Development

A major objective of the City is to promote economic development through cultural tourism by way of partnerships between commercial recreation providers and the City. Among the ways to achieve this are programs, policies and partnerships between City and commercial recreation providers that assist in promoting economic development through tourism. All such efforts must be based upon public benefit and be consistent with the City Charter and applicable ordinances.

The City will also attempt to encourage provisions for effective private recreational facilities to be built within planned communities, subdivisions, condominiums and apartment complexes.

VIII. GOALS, OBJECTIVES & POLICIES

GOAL 1: THE CITY SHALL ENSURE THE PROVISION, PROTECTION, AND MAINTENANCE OF A COORDINATED, EFFICIENT AND ACCESSIBLE SYSTEM OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RECREATIONAL PARKS AND FACILITIES WHICH MEET THE NEEDS OF CURRENT AND FUTURE RESIDENTS, VISITORS AND TOURISTS.

SATISFY EXISTING DEMAND

Objective 1.1: Eliminate existing recreational deficiencies in order to provide a complete range of recreational opportunities.

Policy 1.1.1: Develop the North Anclote Nature Park in accordance with the North Anclote River Park Management Plan.

Policy 1.1.2: Provide additional facilities to meet the Level of Service standards adopted herein for existing residents and visitors.

Policy 1.1.3: The City shall maintain all existing parklands. The sale, lease or donation of parkland for any purpose other than recreation shall require approval through referendum.

Policy 1.1.4: Do not vacate any rights of way and/or easements that provide shoreline access or vistas.

Policy 1.1.5: Provide access for disabled persons at all existing public parks and recreational facilities in accordance with the Florida ADA.

CREATE NEW RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Objective 1.2: Provide a coordinated system of recreational opportunities that keeps pace with future population and economic growth.

Policy 1.2.1: Adopt the following Level of Service Standard for recreation facilities:

FACILITY	LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARD
Baseball	1 Diamond / 6,750 Persons
Basketball	1 Court / 2,600
Boat Launching	1 Boat Ramp / 6,750 Persons
Football/Soccer	1 Field / 3,333 Persons
General Play	1 Equipped Play Area / 1,250 Persons
Little League Baseball	1 Field / 5,000 Persons
Nature Study	1 Mile of Trail / 10,000 Persons
Shuffleboard	1 Court / 3,570 Persons
Softball	1 Field / 10,000 Persons
Tennis	1 Court / 2,000 Persons
Volleyball	1 Court / 6,000 Persons

Policy 1.2.2: Adopt the following Level of Service Standards for recreation site acreage needs:

RECREATION SITE	LEVEL OF SERVICE
Mini-Park	0.8 Acres / 1,000 Persons
Neighborhood Park	1.0 Acre / 1,000 Persons
Community Park	1.5 Acre / 1,000 Persons

Policy 1.2.3: Locate future facilities to provide service to all geographic portions of the City, taking into consideration private recreation facilities.

Policy 1.2.4: Update the Parks and Recreation Service impact fee to reflect amended Level of Service and needs analysis. This will be completed during the short range planning period.

Policy 1.2.5: Work with Pinellas County School Board to maintain existing leases and to develop dual use facilities.

Policy 1.2.6: Encourage provisions for private facilities to be built within planned communities, subdivisions, condominiums and apartment complexes.

Policy 1.2.7: All new public parks and recreation facilities shall be made accessible to disabled persons in accordance with the standards of the Florida ADA.

Policy 1.2.8: The City shall evaluate building a public aquatic facility within the next five years.

COMMUNITY TRAIL NETWORK

Objective 1.3: Maximize recreational opportunities for bicyclists, skaters and pedestrians by enhancing and expanding the Pinellas Trail and the sidewalk network within the city.

Policy 1.3.1: Work with Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in the final design and construction of extensions to the Pinellas Trail to form a bikeway network.

Policy 1.3.2: Reduce traffic conflicts on the Pinellas Trail.

Policy 1.3.3: Minimize traffic conflicts on all future extensions of the Pinellas Trail.

Policy 1.3.4: Encourage placement of bike racks, benches, rest facilities and lockers at appropriate locations within City.

Policy 1.3.5 The City shall require that bicycle lanes be constructed where technically feasible, as part of new road construction or resurfacing projects.

Policy 1.3.6 The City shall prepare and adopt a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian master plan by the year 2010.

PROMOTE TOURISM

Objective 1.4: Promote economic development through cultural tourism by way of partnerships between commercial recreation providers and the city.

Policy 1.4.1: Promote cultural tourism within the City through standards and procedures that encourage complimentary recreational activities.

Policy 1.4.2: Advocate programs, policies and partnerships between City and commercial recreation providers that assist in promoting economic development through tourism.

ENVIRONMENT AND PASSIVE RECREATION

Objective 1.5: Preserve environmentally sensitive and endangered lands for passive recreation.

Policy 1.5.1: The City shall promote preservation of environmentally sensitive and scenic areas for passive recreational uses.

Policy 1.5.2: Land designated as Recreation/Open Space by the Future Land Use Map shall be protected from the establishment or expansion of incompatible uses.

Policy 1.5.3: Preserve environmentally sensitive open spaces in perpetuity through conservation easements.

Policy 1.5.4: Kayak and canoe launches shall include stable paths to provide ease of access from launch areas to loading and unloading areas.

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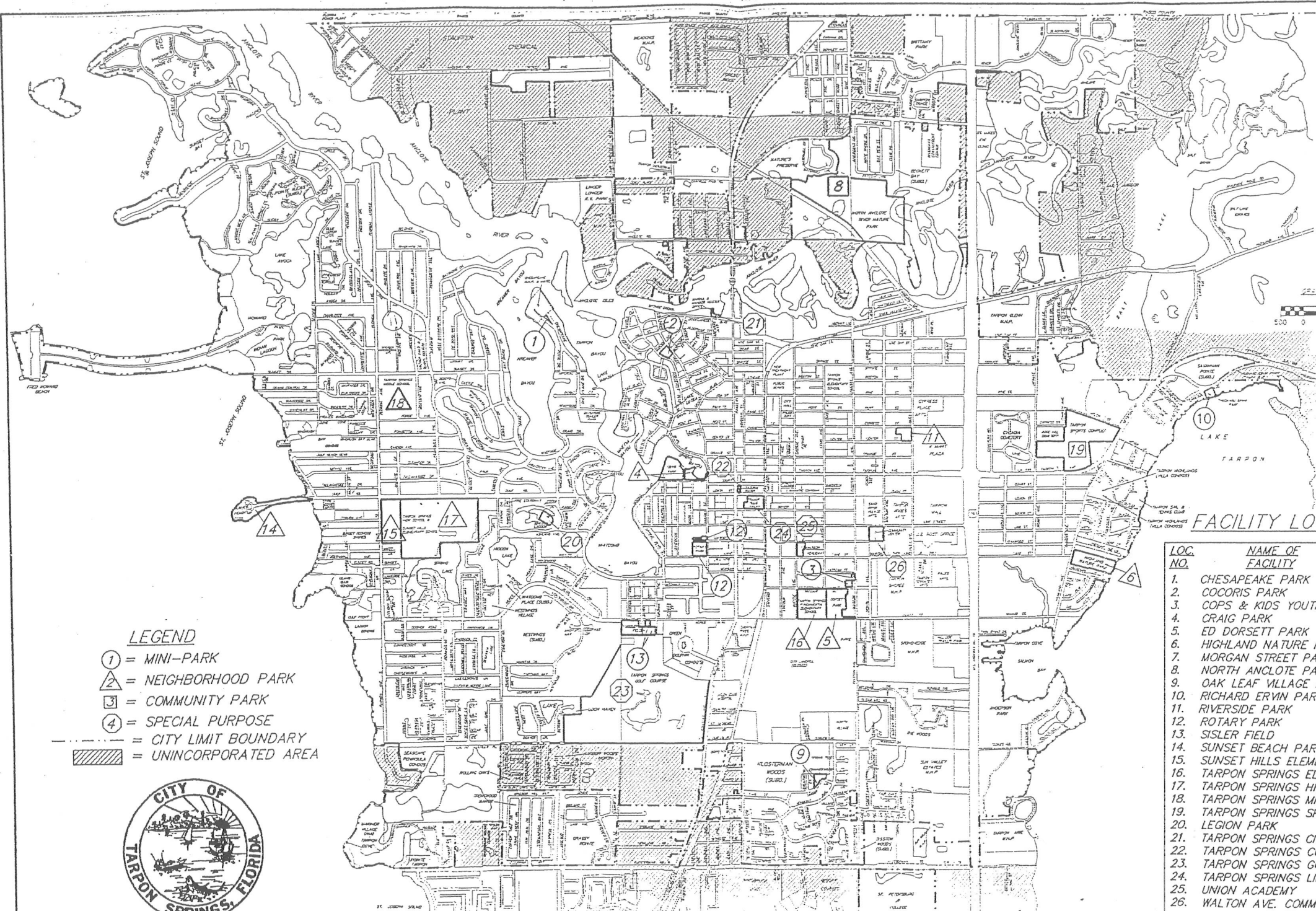
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FACILITY LOCATOR MAP

LOC. NO.	NAME OF FACILITY
1.	CHESAPEAKE PARK
2.	COCORIS PARK
3.	COPS & KIDS YOUTH CENTER PLAYGROUND
4.	CRAIG PARK
5.	ED DORSETT PARK
6.	HIGHLAND NATURE PARK
7.	MORGAN STREET PARK
8.	NORTH ANCLOTE PARK
9.	OAK LEAF VILLAGE PLAYGROUND
10.	RICHARD ERVIN PARK
11.	RIVERSIDE PARK
12.	ROTARY PARK
13.	SISLER FIELD
14.	SUNSET BEACH PARK
15.	SUNSET HILLS ELEMENTARY
16.	TARPON SPRINGS ELEMENTARY
17.	TARPON SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL
18.	TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL
19.	TARPON SPRINGS SPORTS COMPLEX
20.	LEGION PARK
21.	TARPON SPRINGS CITY MARINA
22.	TARPON SPRINGS CULTURAL CENTER
23.	TARPON SPRINGS GOLF COURSE
24.	TARPON SPRINGS LIBRARY
25.	UNION ACADEMY
26.	WALTON AVE. COMMUNITY CENTER



LEGEND

- ① = MINI-PARK
- ② = NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- ③ = COMMUNITY PARK
- ④ = SPECIAL PURPOSE
- = CITY LIMIT BOUNDARY
- /// = UNINCORPORATED AREA



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- ③ = COMMUNITY PARK
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1.	CHESAPEAKE PARK
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4.	CHAIK PARK
5.	ED DORSETT PARK
6.	HIGHLAND NATURE PARK
7.	MORGAN STREET PARK
8.	NORTH ANCLOTE PARK
9.	OAK LEAF VILLAGE PLAYGROUND
10.	RICHARD ERVIN PARK
11.	RIVERSIDE PARK
12.	ROTARY PARK
13.	SISLER FIELD
14.	SUNSET BEACH PARK
15.	SUNSET HILLS ELEMENTARY
16.	TARPON SPRINGS ELEMENTARY
17.	TARPON SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL
18.	TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL
19.	TARPON SPRINGS SPORTS COMPLEX
20.	LEGION PARK
21.	TARPON SPRINGS CITY MARINA
22.	TARPON SPRINGS CULTURAL CENTER
23.	TARPON SPRINGS GOLF COURSE
24.	TARPON SPRINGS LIBRARY
25.	UNION ACADEMY
26.	WALTON AVE. COMMUNITY CENTER