



THE CITY of
Pascagoula™
MISSISSIPPI'S FLAGSHIP CITY

Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan



FINAL

2012



2012 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Prepared by:



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Steering Committee

Interested Citizens of the Community



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SECTION 1

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Section 1: Introduction

Nestled along the banks of the Mississippi Sound at the mouth of the Pascagoula River – one of the longest free-flowing rivers in the United States, the City of Pascagoula is known as the *flagship city* of Mississippi. Pascagoula is Mississippi's 8th largest city and is home to 23,585 residents. As the seat of Jackson County, the city is a crossroads for various transportation routes of regional and national significance. This includes the Port of Pascagoula—the busiest port in the state, CSX and Mississippi Export Railroads, US Highway 90, MS Highway 63 and Interstate Highway 10. As a result of its unique location, Pascagoula serves as an economic hub, attracting resources from throughout the Mississippi and Alabama Gulf Coast region. Pascagoula is home to Ingalls Shipbuilding who employs over 10,000 workers, making them the largest private employer in the state. Two of the state's 50 largest employers, Singing River Hospital and the Chevron Pascagoula Refinery, are also located in Pascagoula. Pascagoula is known for its proud shipbuilding heritage, which has been refined over the last century. To this day, Pascagoula still remains the home of the most advanced conventional shipbuilding facility in the United States. The village of Pascagoula was incorporated in 1838 and merged with neighboring Scranton to become the City of Pascagoula in 1904. Throughout American history, Pascagoula has been the home, respite, or source of inspiration for a variety of notable historical figures. Presidents Andrew Jackson, Ulysses S. Grant and Zachary Taylor and diverse writers and artists like William Faulkner and Jimmy Buffett are all included in this group. Today, Pascagoula's allure continues to grow as the city is the home of America's maritime heritage, various flourishing industries, a pristine natural setting and a remarkable quality of life.

The city lies along a level plain to the east of North Mississippi Sound with access to several waterways of the Pascagoula River system that meander to the north. This includes several lakes and bayous such as Gurlie Bayou, Marsh Lake, North Bayou, Snake Bayou, and Big Lake. These waterways provide green corridors that contain an abundance of natural vegetation and wildlife and are integral to the overall environment of the area. Pascagoula is also surrounded by a variety of environments—ranging from beaches to salt marshes to wet pine savannahs—that provide a diverse range of recreation and conservation opportunities. There are also many cultural and historic sites that inform visitors and residents about the city's 300-year history. The city has already begun to take advantage of these natural and cultural resources by establishing a bike route that weaves through the historic heart of the city, passing notable sites that provide recreational opportunities to citizens. Recently, there has been a demand for a revitalization of the parks system, along with a need for new and updated facilities and programs.

In the fall of 2011, the city's Parks and Recreation Department recognized the city's need for an efficient, cohesive recreation system and sent out a request for proposals for a City Recreation and Parks Master Plan. The purpose of this Master Plan is to evaluate the

current system and submit recommendations in order to achieve a shared vision for meeting the City's recreation needs over the next ten years—from 2012 to 2022.

Lose & Associates, Inc.—a landscape architecture firm with offices in Nashville, Tennessee, and Atlanta, Georgia—was selected to conduct this Master Plan. Using demographics, population projections, assessments of current facilities, National Standards, and public input, Lose & Associates developed a 10-year Master Plan. This document serves as both a strategic plan and an action plan, providing the City of Pascagoula with guidelines for future program planning efforts and capital improvement projects.

Previous Planning Efforts

Previous planning efforts include planning and economic studies coordinated by the Pascagoula Community and Economic Development. Studies include the *Pascagoula Comprehensive Plan*, which contains the city's official policies on land use, transportation, housing, open space, business and economics, and community services. The plan was completed in 2010 and provides city goals and plans for future improvements. Regarding the city's parks and recreational needs, the Comprehensive Plan provides parks and public facilities information as well as tables including the "Recommended Acreage per Park Classification" and the "Facility Needs Analysis", which were reviewed as part of this study.

Another recently-completed study coordinated by the department is *The City of Pascagoula Strategic Plan*. This plan was completed in July 2010 and is updated approximately every five years. The Strategic Plan Committee, appointed by the City Council, oversees the process. Below are the top initiatives as listed in the plan.

1. Cleanliness and Beautification
2. Urban Revitalization and Community Development
3. Public Relations/Promotions/Communications
4. Cultural/Recreational
5. Small Business and Retail Shopping

The document lists several priorities that pertain to parks and recreation, including: improvements to the Riverfront, new bike path, and expansion of the parks.

The intent of this Park and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan is to review and consider recommendations made in previous planning efforts, combining them with a full analysis of the entire park system. This analysis will also examine the park system's funding, administration and capital improvements. In doing so, this document will produce a comprehensive guideline for revitalizing and streamlining the Pascagoula parks and recreation system over the next ten years.



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Section 2

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Section 2: Community Profile

A full analysis of a park and recreation system is not solely based on the inner workings of the department, but includes the community being served, as well. In providing a comprehensive parks and recreation master plan, researchers must analyze both current and projected demographics to determine the composition of the population and its needs. Understanding these trends is a critical component in planning the current and future delivery of recreation programs and facilities for Pascagoula.

To begin the demographic analysis, the planning team gathered information from multiple sources, including the U.S. Census, the Gulf Regional Planning Commission (GRPC), the *City of Pascagoula Comprehensive Plan for 2010*, and *DemographicsNow*, an online subscription-based resource. By assembling varying blocks of data within the city, the planning team is able to ascertain the needs of each area within the community and substantiate recommendations made throughout this master plan. In addition, Pascagoula's trends will be compared to that of similar cities, Jackson County, the State of Mississippi and the nation as a whole to provide a benchmark against which the city may be measured. Understanding where population growth will occur and the composite nature of that growth is the most effective way to determine the level of service required over the next decade.

Pascagoula Population Trends

Once an Indian settlement on the inland shores of the Gulf of Mexico, the city of Pascagoula has grown into a densely developed industrial center and now serves as the seat for Jackson County. Since its formal establishment in 1904, the city has grown several times its original size as a result of annexation. Today, the city encompasses just over twenty-seven square miles, including the Ingalls Shipyard, Singing River Island and a portion of Round Island.

Depending on which source is referenced, data for the City of Pascagoula shows that the population over the last two decades has either experienced minimal growth or an actual decrease in population. According to the *City of Pascagoula Comprehensive Plan for 2010*, a slow, almost static growth rate is typical for coastal communities in Mississippi due to the lack of land available for new development. Conversely, improved transportation corridors have allowed for development and growth in surrounding inland communities and the county, as a whole. An additional factor to consider when analyzing this data is the effects of Hurricane Katrina, which made landfall in nearby Hancock County in 2005. As a result of the storm, many communities along the gulf coast saw a dramatic drop in population levels in the years following. Today, these communities have made great strides and the area is growing once again, despite continued recovery efforts.

According to *DemographicsNow*, the city has a current estimated population of 23,585, which is a 5.8% increase over the number cited by the U.S. Census 2010, which is 22,289 residents. Although the current population is still well below the amount established in the U.S. Census 2000, current projections indicate the city will experience an increase in population of 11.6% over the next five years, which should effectively bring the city back to a pre-Katrina population level.

The city's population density is anticipated to grow at a similar rate. Current estimates show Pascagoula has a density of 1,446.9 residents per square mile. In keeping with projected population growth rates and the current amount of land within the city limits, this density should increase to 1,615.5 residents per square mile by 2017.

Since Pascagoula's Parks and Recreation Department continues to strive to be among the best in the area, it would be beneficial to compare it to other nationally recognized programs across the region. Comparing Pascagoula's demographic profile to that of cities such as Biloxi, MS; Slidell, LA; Hattiesburg, MS; and Southaven, MS provides researchers with insight as to how Pascagoula can reach its goals by adjusting service levels to accommodate a dynamic population. In order to place the city's demographic profile in further perspective, its data will be compared to larger populations such as Jackson County, the State of Mississippi and the nation as a whole.

Table 2.1: Pascagoula Benchmark Population Comparison

Location	1990 Census	2000 Census	Percent Change	2012 Estimate	Percent Change	2017 Projection	Percent Change
Pascagoula, MS	25,986	25,960	-0.1%	23,585	-9.1%	26,332	11.6%
Biloxi, MS	49,529	50,142	1.2%	45,112	-10.0%	46,840	3.8%
Slidell, LA	25,804	26,543	2.9%	28,014	5.5%	29,928	6.8%
Hattiesburg, MS	45,394	45,035	-0.8%	43,646	-3.1%	41,283	-5.4%
Southaven, MS	22,602	30,370	34.4%	47,923	57.8%	54,980	14.7%
Jackson Co.	115,241	131,420	14.0%	146,046	11.1%	160,076	9.6%
Mississippi	2,573,216	2,844,658	10.5%	3,004,013	5.6%	3,085,816	2.7%
United States	248,575,741	281,278,582	13.2%	314,435,777	11.8%	327,662,926	4.2%

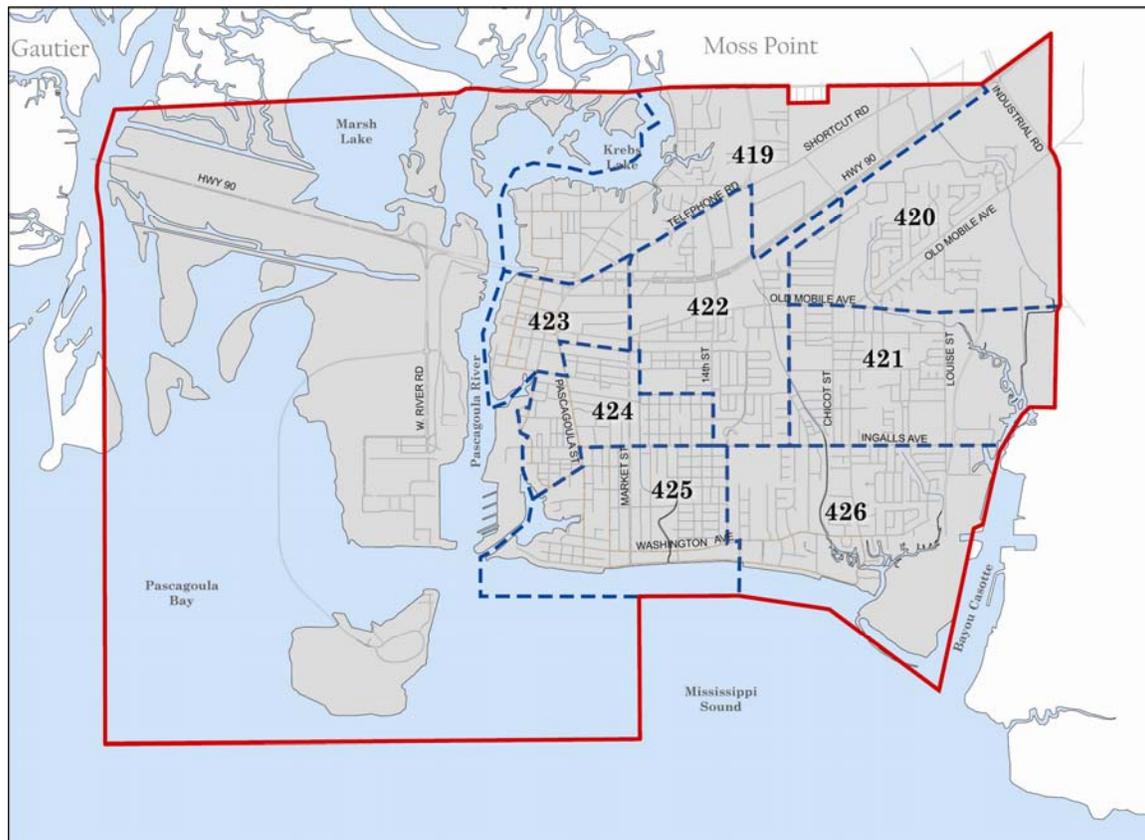
Data obtained from DemographicsNow

Table 2.1 shows Pascagoula’s growth compared to these benchmark communities. These statistics indicate that prior to Hurricane Katrina, Pascagoula and other coastal communities experienced a relatively slow rate of growth due to the lack of lands available for new development. Following Katrina, communities affected by the storm experienced a population recession from which they are still recovering. Future projections have Pascagoula among the fastest growing communities with expectations to exceed its pre-Katrina population within the next five years.

Population by Census Tracts

Breaking down growth patterns within Pascagoula allows researchers to isolate specific growth patterns within the city. To accomplish this breakdown, researchers analyzed data by census tract since these boundaries generally align with the city limits. A total of ten tracts cover the entire city; however, only eight will be reviewed due to their relevance to residential areas as opposed to industrial development. (See Figure 2.3 for Census Tract Map)

Figure 2.3: Census Tract Map



According to data obtained through *DemographicsNow*, there have been no consistent growth patterns in the eight sampled tracts over the last twenty years. As noted before, this is likely due to a combination of the population's expansion away from the city core into more rural areas in Jackson County and Hurricane Katrina. At the times of the 2000 Census, almost every tract was stagnant or decreasing in population, except for tract 420 in the northeast corner of the city, which still contains some of the only remaining undeveloped parcels.

Tract 422, which is located in the heart of the city, is already the most populated area in the city and is expected to have the largest amount of net growth over 1990. This area, along with tracts 419, 420, and 421 represent the most populated areas in the city and account for almost 70% of the city's total population. This trend is expected to continue over the coming decade.

Tracts 423 and 425, which are located along the western edge of the city and make up Old Scranton and Old Pascagoula, respectively, have experienced the most dramatic decreases in population over the last two decades. Although the populations in these areas were already declining, Hurricane Katrina forced a mass exodus in both of these areas. Data for these areas show that the population in both of these tracts decreased by over 30% from 2000 to 2010. Although these tracts are among the fastest growing areas in the city over the coming years, projected numbers still have them at almost 20% below their 1990 population.

Table 2.4: Census Tract Population Comparison

Tract	1990 Census	2000 Census	Percent Change	2012 Estimate	Percent Change	2017 Projection	Percent Change
419	2,473	2,358	-4.7%	2,427	2.9%	2,484	2.3%
420	5,369	5,544	3.3%	5,009	-9.7%	5,466	9.1%
421	3,701	3,655	-1.2%	3,503	-4.2%	4,087	16.7%
422	5,350	5,242	-2.0%	5,465	4.3%	6,170	12.9%
423	614	497	-19.1%	397	-20.1%	502	26.4%
424	2,055	1,944	-5.4%	1,756	-9.7%	1,859	5.9%
425	3,205	3,188	-0.5%	2,346	-26.4%	2,623	11.8%
426	3,210	3,194	-0.5%	2,829	-11.4%	3,292	16.4%

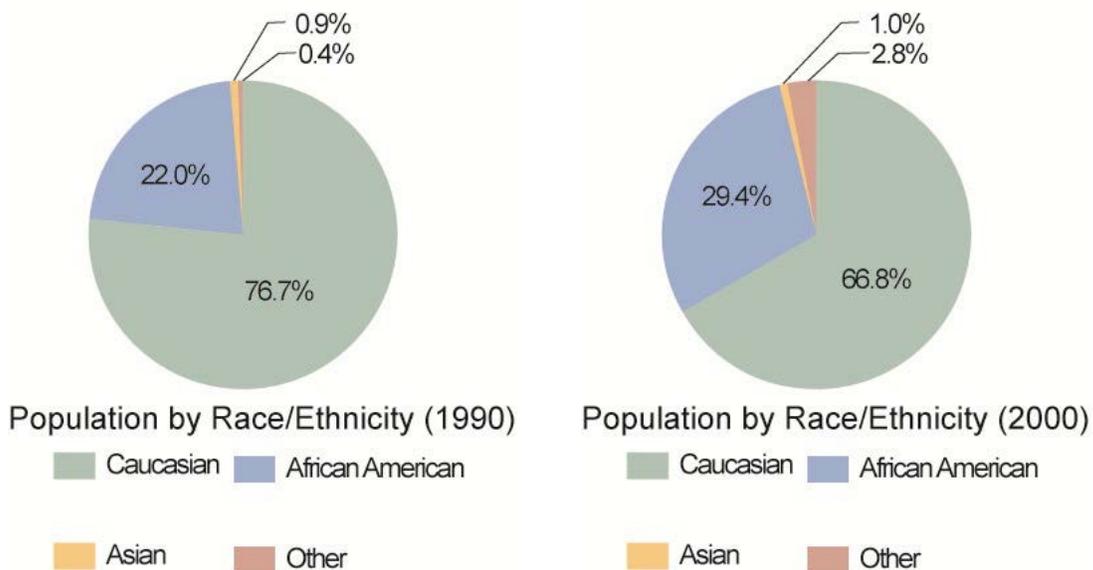
Data obtained from DemographicsNow

While identifying the amount of people served by a parks and recreation system is important, understanding the specific characteristics of that population is just as critical. Additional demographic features to consider include race, ethnicity, age and other community factors. An effective parks and recreation system takes all of these characteristics into consideration when customizing programs and facilities to meet community needs.

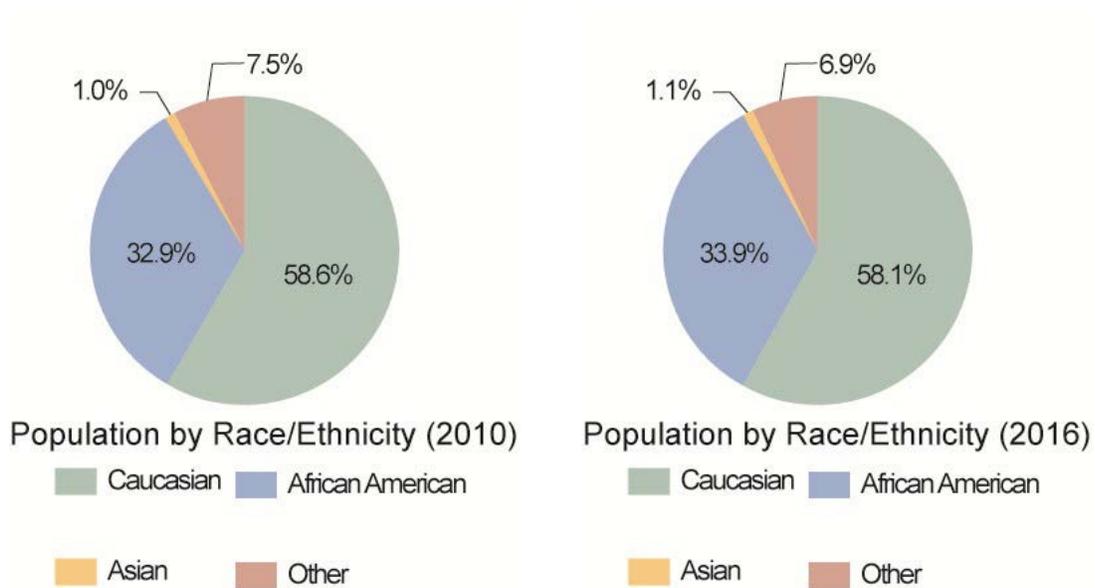
Population by Race/Ethnicity

After analyzing Pascagoula’s racial and ethnic profile, researchers noted that the trends within this data are beginning to normalize. Although a predominantly Caucasian population, the city has gradually become more diverse with increases in minority populations, especially African Americans. The data also shows that the rate of change across these demographics is gradually slowing as seen in Figures 2.5 -2.8.

Figures 2.5-2.6: Race 1990 and 2000

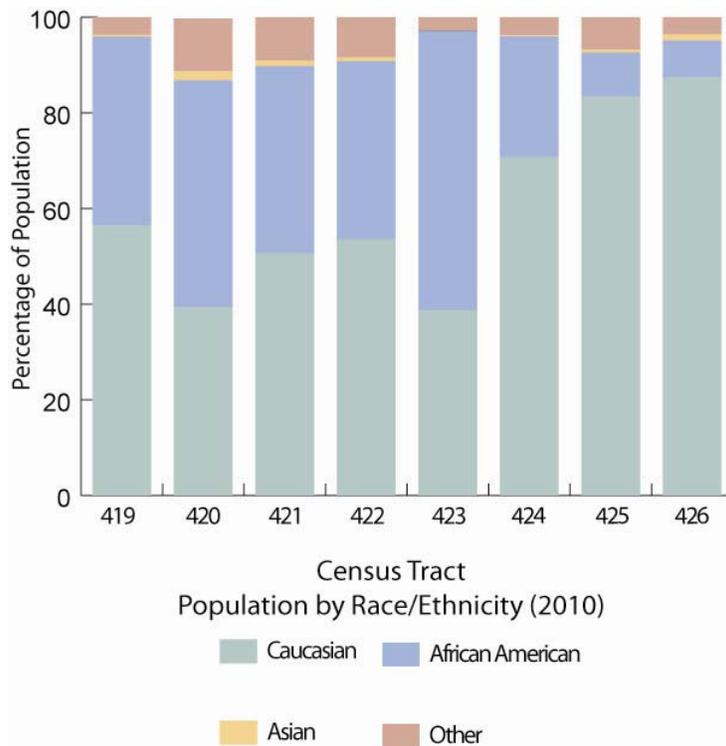


Figures 2.7-2.8: Race 2010 and 2016



A more detailed analysis of this data by census tract identifies the racial and cultural makeup of a particular area within the city. As shown in Figure 2.9, these numbers vary across each census tract. In general, all tracts except 420 and 423 are predominantly Caucasian and have a contingent of 50% or more. Both tracts 420 and 423 have a majority of African American citizens with a contingent of 48% or more. Another interesting note related to this data is that unlike other areas, southern portions of the city encompassed by tracts 425 and 426 are almost exclusively Caucasian having contingents of 84% and 88%, respectively.

Figure 2.9: Census Tract Population by Race/Ethnicity



Additionally, citizens reporting Hispanic ethnicity in their background are relatively low. A review of the census tract data shows that no particular area has a significantly high amount of Hispanic citizens. City-wide data, however, shows that this segment of the population is gradually growing and is expected to reach 12% in 2012 to 15% in 2017. Figures regarding Hispanic origins may seem misleading, since the data obtained from *DemographicsNow* separates these numbers from other ethnic data. Regardless, this information aids planners by providing the full spectrum of information on the population's ethnic background.

Population by Age

Another element to consider when planning parks and recreation services is the age of the population. This particular trend plays a critical role in determining the proper diversity of programs and facilities needed to accommodate particular age groups. For example, younger age groups tend to require more active and structured forms of recreation, such as football, soccer, baseball, and softball. Conversely, older populations, while still considered "active," tend to rank passive programming as a higher preference. However, a growing trend has begun across the nation, in which parks and recreation departments are realizing a growing demand for additional programs and services geared towards senior (55+) citizens.

The youngest of the population group known as the “Baby Boomer” generation have now entered into the 50 plus age group and join the older Baby Boomers commonly referred to as “senior citizens” in the active recreation community. However, recent studies have determined that this generation is anything but old. Researchers have noted an increase across the country in the design of Active Adult Communities (AAC) that caters to the empty-nest adults along with early and recent retirees. In general, Baby Boomers between 50 and 65 years of age are active participants in park and recreation activities and frequently request opportunities for additional activities such as wellness programs and facilities, tennis, swimming, golf, walking, hiking and running, in addition to classes and programs that are social and educational. They also like to travel in groups, so determining a city’s age profile related to this very large population group is critical.

William Parks of PDC in Scottsdale, Arizona, is a nationally recognized consultant for Active Adult Communities. According to him, the three most highly rated features of an AAC are natural greenways and trails, nature areas and golf. The additional demands placed on these programs by this growing senior population are an important element to consider when evaluating the 55+ age group.

Table 2.10 - Pascagoula by Age

	0-19	Percent Change	20-54	Percent Change	55+	Percent Change
1990 Census	8,125		12,588		5,184	
2000 Census	7,842	-3.5%	12,848	2.1%	5,270	1.7%
2012 Estimate	6,346	-19.1%	11,417	-11.1%	5,819	10.4%
2017 Projection	6,668	5.1%	12,402	8.6%	7,256	24.7%
Percent Change (2000-2017)		-15.0%		-3.5%		37.7%

Data obtained from DemographicsNow

From 1990-2000, the 0-19 age group was the only demographic to see a decrease in population. The large decrease in population shown for the 0-19 and 20-54 age groups from 2000-2012 is largely reflective of the younger population that relocated to other areas following the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Major increases in the senior population over the same time span, however, provide data supporting the Baby Boomer surge discussed



above. This trend is expected to continue over the coming years, making seniors the most rapidly growing demographic in Pascagoula, as shown in Table 2.11.

Table 2.11: Census Tract Age Comparison

Tract	1990 Census	2000 Census	Percent Change	2012 Estimate	Percent Change	2017 Projection	Percent Change
419							
0-19	724	595	-17.8%	734	23.4%	716	-2.5%
20-54	1,127	1,100	-2.4%	1,107	0.6%	1,098	-0.8%
55+	624	663	6.3%	586	-11.6%	670	14.3%
420							
0-19	1,929	1,948	1.0%	1,298	-33.4%	1,332	2.6%
20-54	2,887	2,864	-0.8%	2,479	-13.4%	2,648	6.8%
55+	553	732	32.4%	1,232	68.3%	1,486	20.6%
421							
0-19	1,243	1,229	-1.1%	970	-21.1%	1,042	7.4%
20-54	1,938	1,853	-4.4%	1,606	-13.3%	1,802	12.2%
55+	520	573	10.2%	927	61.8%	1,242	34.0%
422							
0-19	1,832	1,653	-9.8%	1,426	-13.7%	1,503	5.4%
20-54	2,380	2,524	6.1%	2,779	10.1%	3,067	10.4%
55+	1,139	1,065	-6.5%	1,260	18.3%	1,596	26.7%

Tract	1990 Census	2000 Census	Percent Change	2012 Estimate	Percent Change	2017 Projection	Percent Change
423							
0-19	117	118	0.9%	131	11.0%	159	21.4%
20-54	303	244	-19.5%	169	-30.7%	211	24.9%
55+	195	135	-30.8%	97	-28.1%	133	37.1%
424							
0-19	571	557	-2.5%	418	-25.0%	414	-1.0%
20-54	900	944	4.9%	989	4.8%	1,036	4.8%
55+	583	443	-24.0%	348	-21.4%	410	17.8%
425							
0-19	772	806	4.4%	615	-23.7%	643	4.6%
20-54	1,443	1,500	4.0%	1,195	-20.3%	1,298	8.6%
55+	990	882	-10.9%	535	-39.3%	680	27.1%
426							
0-19	969	906	-6.5%	891	-1.7%	987	10.8%
20-54	1,624	1,472	-9.4%	1,208	-17.9%	1,345	11.3%
55+	617	816	32.3%	729	-10.7%	960	31.7%

Data obtained from DemographicsNow

A deeper analysis of this trend was performed by looking at the changes in each age group by census tract. Table 2.11 contains data from the past three censuses, which was combined with current and future estimates to determine the nature of the age demographics within a particular area in the city. This data suggests that tract 423 is



experiencing the most dramatic change, where the 20-54 and 55+ age groups are decreasing greater than any other area in the city, while the 0-19 age group is growing faster than any other tract. Conversely, tract 420 in the northeast has the largest decrease in the child-age population, while also containing the largest increase in senior populations. In fact, this increase in senior population is the largest change of any age group in any given tract. Tract 422 has the largest increase in 20-54 year olds over the timeframe sampled. Given these results, the data suggests that a large senior population is developing in the northeastern part of the city while the younger population is expanding in the central and western areas of Pascagoula.

Table 2.12: Benchmark Comparison: Households with Children

Location	Households with Children	Households without Children
Pascagoula, MS	33.9%	66.1%
Biloxi, MS	27.9%	72.1%
Slidell, LA	33.5%	66.5%
Hattiesburg, MS	25.0%	75.0%
Southaven, MS	40.5%	59.5%
Jackson Co.	37.6%	62.4%
Mississippi	36.1%	63.9%
United States	33.3%	66.7%

Data obtained from DemographicsNow

Table 2.12 shows a comparison on households with children between Pascagoula and the benchmark communities. The data shows that Pascagoula sits in the middle of the pack and is almost at the same level as the rest of the county. When compared to Jackson County, the city is slightly below, which may support other findings that the city’s population is aging and younger families are located elsewhere in the County.

Education, Employment and Income Profiles

The education, employment and income levels of a population can have a wide range of effects on a parks and recreation system. In one aspect, these three statistics determine the economic health of the area, which play a critical role in a service provider’s ability to obtain adequate funding for both existing and proposed programs and facilities. Where one recreates is a personal choice that is often driven by one’s education and income level. Those with more disposable income have greater choices and often are less dependent on the public system than others that have less education and income who are dependent on a public system to meet their personal and family recreation needs. This trend has recently come to light in the wake of the recent economic downturn, where public parks and recreation providers across the country are being called on to meet their citizens’ needs.

Table 2.13: Benchmark Comparison: Education, Employment and Income

Location	Average Household Income	Employed Blue Collar	Employed White Collar	Did not graduate high school	High School Graduate	Education Beyond High School
Pascagoula, MS	\$55,061	46.6%	53.4%	17.5%	37.3%	44.8%
Biloxi, MS	\$65,780	44.9%	55.1%	14.7%	29.3%	56.0%
Slidell, LA	\$63,017	37.5%	62.5%	13.8%	27.4%	58.8%
Hattiesburg, MS	\$43,979	40.0%	60.0%	14.5%	23.0%	62.5%
Southaven, MS	\$62,680	41.2%	58.8%	11.4%	32.3%	56.3%
Jackson Co.	\$61,751	48.6%	51.4%	14.7%	35.2%	50.1%
Mississippi	\$53,119	47.7%	52.3%	19.2%	31.8%	49.0%
United States	\$73,444	39.7%	60.3%	14.2%	29.5%	56.3%

Data obtained from DemographicsNow

Currently, Pascagoula’s employment profile primarily consists of manufacturing industries, which include the city’s largest employers, Ingalls Shipyard and Chevron. Pascagoula was not exempt from the recent economic downturn; however, current indications show that the city is recovering, albeit slowly. When compared to the benchmark communities,



Pascagoula ranks in the bottom half in terms of average household income, but it is still higher than the state of Mississippi as a whole. The city also has the lowest post high school educational attainment level in comparison to these communities.

Table 2.14: Census Tract Comparison: Education, Employment and Income

Service Area	Average Household Income	Employed Blue Collar	Employed White Collar	Did not graduate high school	High School Graduate	Education Beyond High School
419	\$57,144	37.6%	62.4%	16.1%	33.6%	50.3%
420	\$46,376	49.8%	50.3%	13.2%	50.1%	36.7%
421	\$45,522	58.1%	41.9%	19.8%	37.0%	43.2%
422	\$42,115	57.1%	42.9%	31.3%	35.1%	33.6%
423	\$44,141	61.8%	38.2%	16.9%	27.4%	55.7%
424	\$48,872	52.3%	47.8%	13.3%	38.5%	48.2%
425	\$62,770	37.8%	62.2%	10.8%	29.1%	60.1%
426	\$100,797	29.4%	70.7%	4.4%	27.6%	68.0%

Data obtained from DemographicsNow

A breakdown of this data into the city’s census tracts helps researchers determine if and where there may be economic disparities within Pascagoula. As shown in Table 2.14, the northern and southern portions of the city have a substantially higher income profile than that of residents living in the city’s core. Educational attainment, as well, seems to be significantly higher in these areas. In general, residents within the city’s core are more likely to rely solely on the city’s parks and recreation department to meet their needs. Therefore, additional consideration should be given to provide ample facilities to serve residents in this area. These factors should be considered when developing facilities and setting policy with respect to fee levels and revenue generation from various park facilities. A one-size-fits-all fees and charges approach does not work well in a community when there are significant disparities in these three variables.

Summary

Following Hurricane Katrina, the city lost a significant contingent of its populations, particularly in the historic areas known as Old Scranton and Old Pascagoula. While the expectation is that both of these areas will be some of the fastest growing areas over the coming years, they are not expected to make a full recovery within the lifespan of this master plan. Researchers also found the northern and eastern edges of the city contain the vast majority of the population of Pascagoula, although these areas are not densely populated. This trend is expected to continue over the next decade. As a result, additional consideration should be given to this area to provide enough recreation amenities to support this contingent of the population.

Overall, data shows that the city's population is getting older and the demand for senior citizen services is growing. While senior citizen levels are on the rise across the city, the northeastern corner is expected to have a dramatic increase in the senior population and additional consideration should be given to this area to provide sufficient senior services. On the other side of the spectrum, Old Scranton is expected to have the largest gain in child-age residents. The under 19 age group will not grow significantly over the next 10 years so youth sports participation numbers will most likely remain near current levels.

The labor-intensive manufacturing industry is a major contributor to the city's economy and serves as the city's largest employers. Overall, average household income for Pascagoula is relatively low when compared to the rest of Jackson County. Additional analysis reveals a disparity in income within the city where residents in the city's core are more financially challenged. Since these citizens are more likely to rely heavily on the city for parks and recreation opportunities, proper planning is needed to make sure services are adequate.



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Section 3

SECTION 3

PUBLIC INPUT PUBLIC INPUT PUBLIC INPUT PUBLIC INPUT PUBLIC INPUT PUBLIC INPUT

Section 3: Public Input

Public input is the driving force behind all parks and recreation master plans. For the plan to be effective, it must accurately reflect the facilities and programs most desired by the citizens of the community. The citizens are the participants in and users of the parks system and recreation programs, and without strong support and usage by them, the parks system becomes ineffective. The recommendations contained later in this master plan were driven by public input gathered through a variety of forums—input recorded in interviews with City staff, key government employees, community leaders, other recreation providers, public meetings and a user survey. Quotes throughout this section are selected from the comments on the returned surveys.

One of the key objectives expressed by the City of Pascagoula for conducting a master plan was to gain a clear understanding of public opinion and desires regarding the programs and facilities offered through parks and recreation services. Gathering this public input was, by far, the most valuable component of the master planning process; it provided the planning team with a basis upon which they could formulate recommendations.

We used other methods of obtaining the necessary amount of public input, as well. A Steering Committee, comprised of city residents and stakeholders, volunteered to participate in an evening workshop to help planners determine a direction for the park system's future. In addition, a system-user survey was distributed on April 4, 2012, providing the opportunity for area residents to offer opinions about community parks and recreation. Furthermore, three public meetings were held on January 18th, February 28th, and 29th, 2012, offering residents the opportunity to come out and speak on issues that were important to them. The wealth of information gathered through these processes has been recorded and assimilated as follows:

Interviews

Interviews with parks staff, city officials, and government employees were conducted over a two-day period from January 18-19, 2012. Subsequent follow up interviews were conducted with park staff on February 28, 2012. These interviews and the subsequent follow-up conversations explored administrative, maintenance, and support staff responsibilities, as well as factors related to funding and park usage. These interviews served to provide an internal evaluation of the system as well as a historical perspective of the evolution of parks and recreation in the city. Additional information about relationships with leagues and organizations was also provided, as well as recommendations for existing and new facilities.

After interviewing the various staff, city council members, and parks commission members, the following were common notes or observations made on the comments given:

- All feel that the department's staff are dedicated and do a good job with what they have.
- The staff members do a good job in reaching out to the community.
- There is strong participation in youth recreation.
- The department is adequately funded for what it currently provides, but likely won't be able to expand and offer other programming without additional funding.
- The city's ability to fund additional programs or facilities is restricted.
- New ways of funding facilities and programs need to be considered.
- Special interest groups do not cooperate well to support each other's initiatives. Each group wants its needs met first.
- The distribution of park facilities is causing a strain on maintenance.
- There is a need for specialized maintenance staff (electricians, plumbers, etc.) or at least those with better knowledge in these areas.
- Consolidation of park facilities should be considered.
- There is a desire to see a tournament sports facility that will provide improved fields, but also have an economic impact.
- Of note, the 12th street ball fields need renovation, relocation, etc.
- There is desire among some elected officials to build a performing arts center, but most on the parks commission did not mention it.
- There is a desire to build a new recreation center and/or aquatic center to provide expanded programming and revenue generation.
- More boating facilities (slips, fueling, parking, etc.) need to be developed to serve a large boating population in the area.
- More access to the beach needs to be provided and beach activities need to be increased.
- There needs for more coordination with the school board in facility development.
- The associations are being subsidized by the city, but their facility demands are placing a strain on the department's ability to fund them. The associations charge a non-resident fee, but the city does not benefit.
- Commission members note that they are not fully aware of other plans, goals, etc. that the city council is pursuing and want to be included more often.
- A clear channel of communication between Council and the Commission needs to be formally adopted and honored.
- The hospital Healthplex is an example of a successful private recreation program which charges a fee, but provides a quality program.
- Finding ways to increase user fees should be investigated.
- Suitable practice fields and practice areas are not being utilized to their full potential.
- An outdoor recreation specialist would greatly increase the department's programming potential.
- There is a need for a dog park in the city.
- Finding ways to curb the homeless problem in the parks would increase park use.

A strategic planning session group interview with the Department's senior staff was held on February 28, 2012 to discuss further their ideas. The following is a summary of topics discussed.

Understanding of a mission statement for department

- Provide quality facilities and recreation to all
- Provide safe and clean family friendly facilities and activities
- Coordinate community activities
- Educational Aspect: after school programs, museums, athletics
- Steward of environment
- Promotion of community

Strengths and weaknesses of the department's organizational structure:

Strengths

1. Team work
2. On-line registration
3. Lack of micro-managing
4. They are allowed the freedom to succeed
5. Open-lines of communication
6. Professionalism
7. Supportive government and community
8. Relationship with community organizations
9. Volunteer structure
10. Economic development

Weaknesses

1. Understaffed
2. Lack of training
3. Long-term funding
4. Lack of promotion opportunities
5. Lack of professional marketing support

What changes are needed with respect to the organizational system to allow you to better execute your job?

- Better funding
- Skilled employees
- Professional marketing person
- More diversity on commission
- Term Limits for commissioners

What operating policies or directives should be changed in order to improve delivery of recreation services?

- Create a support organization for financial assistance
- Inability to spend monies on scholarships, food, etc. as determined by city attorney

- Donations should be used for specific items rather than going into general fund

Weaknesses of programs

- Educational staff for nature center
- Lack of athletic practice facilities
- Funding
- Balancing demand for special events

Weaknesses of facilities

- Nature center building condition
- ADA issues throughout
- Facilities are too spread out
- Lack of lighting: security and efficiency
- Funding
- Storage for event equipment
- Maintenance facility

Develop a list of park and recreation facilities (new and renovated)

- New administrative facility
- Renovate recreation center
- New nature center
- Aquatic center
- New restrooms at all facilities
- Tennis center
- Sports complex-new
- Dog park
- City wide trail system
- Renovate inner harbor
- Concessionaires for water access area
- Indoor water park
- Farmer's market (fish, seafood, vegetables, etc.)

Develop a list of programs needed

- Special populations programming (new and expanded)
- Athletic camps
- Water based activities
- Outdoor recreation programs
- Gardening
- Tennis

Observations from the Interviews

During our interviews, we discovered that community leaders are deeply divided over the direction of the parks and recreation system. In our discussions, some council/commission



members expressed concern regarding the need to invest and expressed the opinion that the city is doing what it should in regards to providing recreation for its citizen. We also found that many in this group were confident that the existing capital plan is sufficient and no more planning is necessary. In sharp contrast, we found other members actively seeking to fund new recreation programming and facilities. They expressed concern over not meeting the needs of the citizens and that the aging system is in critical need for improvements. They cited safety and accessibility issues in the system as well as the need to provide activities that will have a positive economic impact. These two conflicting opinions over the community needs appear to be preventing the advancement of the department.

Although many individuals are divided over the direction of the system, we believe that with the support of the Mayor, associated department heads and through this process, consensus within the community leaders can be reached. One idea that both agreed on was funding revenue-generating facilities. While there were different ideas on whether new facilities could be self-supportive, both groups were open to the idea and this may provide a common starting point for the two opposing views.

Ultimately, we need all sides working together to create a common goal. With the growing health concerns, unmet recreational needs, and budget concerns, Pascagoula is facing serious problems similar to many other communities across the country. By conducting this comprehensive study, we can examine the local issues and provide recommendations that not only create a blueprint to guide future leadership decisions, but can also help build consensus and maximize limited resources more effectively.

Meeting with Allied Community Agencies

On February 28, 2012, a meeting was held with other allied service providers to determine how they currently support the delivery of parks and recreation related services. Representatives from various groups such as The Singing River Health System and its new Healthplex, the Boys and Girls Club, The Pascagoula Main Street Program and the Singing River Soccer Club were present and the following ideas were discussed.

- Could the Healthplex offer a “jump start” package to introduce the public to their services?
- The Hospital provides sessions on healthy living at the schools, perhaps it could do so at parks facilities too.
- The soccer club, and other youth sports programs, could find ways to instruct coaches and others on benefits of healthy eating, exercise, etc. Hospital staff could make a presentation if desired.
- The Main Street Program offers an annual Health Fair.
- The Tennis Association offers a Quick-Start program to get children involved.
- The Healthplex provides swimming lessons for those younger than 12 and employs a trainer for triathletes. The department could find ways to direct participants to them for these services.
- The Bike Club is a growing organization that could be incorporated in the department’s programming.

- The department should consider summer sports programs for young adults, when they are home from school.
- The group agreed that year-round swimming should be increased.

Steering Committee Workshop

A steering committee workshop was held on February 29, 2012 at the Pascagoula Senior Center to obtain additional community input. This committee was comprised of approximately 25 community members selected for their involvement in parks and recreation activities and/or their ability to provide good representation for a particular segment of the population. As various committee members rotated in and out of the meeting, they were divided up into four teams and asked to work through a series of sessions lasting approximately four hours. Directions for this activity were, among others, that each member participate fully, listen to others and accept responsibility for making the meeting a success. Participants were encouraged to present fresh ideas, new perspectives and even crazy notions. The resulting information provided by the steering committee workshop helped identify specific focus areas for future public input and provided a basis for survey questions. The following are the results that were recorded the day of the workshop:

Question 1: *What are the five most critical issues facing the city of Pascagoula's Parks and Recreation Department?*

Group 1:

1. Lack revenue income
2. Security and available of use
3. Available land
4. Lack of waterfront development
5. Public support/lack of diversity in programming and facilities

Group 2

1. Funding
2. Have the vision to purchase land
3. Need a Sportsplex and a Performing Arts Center, need to convince elected officials
4. Scheduling of youth sports
5. Lack of signage to the parks
6. Every group sees their interests first, not the needs of other groups
7. Lack of lights at the soccer complex
8. Need to use the plan

Group 3:

1. Amount of maintenance the facilities receive
2. Limited resources for capital projects
3. Lack of collaboration between city, school board, recreation department
4. Need to finish projects that have been started
5. Programs need to be inclusive of the whole community



Question 2: *Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the Parks and Recreation Department's programs and facilities.*

Group 1:

Strengths

1. Staff
2. Well maintained facilities
3. Programs are diversified

Weaknesses

1. Facilities need updating, especially restrooms
2. Lack of cooperation with school board
3. Lack of water based activities

Group 2:

Strengths

1. Strong leadership, staff and willing volunteers
2. The department is growing stronger and is better at managing facilities
3. The department sets an excellent example of how a department should work
4. The senior program touches lives through daily programs
5. The quality of the parks
6. Strong programs in all youth and senior areas

Weaknesses

1. Lack of funding
2. No tennis pro or organized tennis program
3. Upgrades needed at parks
4. No lights on soccer fields
5. Lack of swimming programs
6. Lack of corporate sponsorships

Group 3:

Strengths

1. Good programs and staff
2. Good youth sports programs
3. Location-lots of access to the water and work

Weaknesses

1. Poorly maintained facilities
2. Lack of a tennis program
3. Fishing ponds are not well stocked

Group 4:

Strengths

1. Staff
2. The department does a lot with a little

3. The community
4. The department investigates new ideas

Weaknesses

1. Understaffing
2. Communication
3. Maintenance

Question 3: *If money and politics were not issues, what programs would you include in the ideal park system for Pascagoula? What facilities would you include?*

The groups were asked to identify their ideal facilities and programs and then as a group, the committee voted for their choices. The results are shown below, along with the number of votes they received.

The **top five facilities** desired are as follows:

1. Sportsplex (26)
2. Youth Center (recreation center) (14)
3. Soccer Lighting (14)
4. Performing Arts Center (11)
5. Restroom Upgrades (11)

Other facilities mentioned include:

- Inner Harbor Improvements (9)
- A Marina Store (9)
- A Community Center (8)
- Recreation Football Facility (8)
- Aquatic Center (6)
- Lease Existing Base Facilities (6)
- Upgrade All Existing Facilities (6)
- More Boat Ramps (3)
- Racquetball (3)
- Amphitheater (3)
- Community Garden (3)
- Bike Trails (2)

The **top five programs** desired are as follows:

1. Expand Youth Sports (21)
2. Other Water Based Activities (20)
3. Promote Eco Tourism (natural outdoor programming) (19)
4. Sailing (14)
5. Canoeing/Kayaking (13)
6. Adult Sports (13)

Other programs mentioned include:

- Racquetball (11)



- Golf (8)
- Tennis (7)
- Bicycling (6)
- Swimming (5)
- More Senior Programming (3)
- BMX (2)

Finally, the group collaborated on possible sources of funding for the previously discussed programs and facilities. The following is a list of suggested funding options:

1. Grants
2. Bonds
3. Industrial Support
4. Tax on Alcohol and Tobacco
5. Restaurant Tax
6. State Funding
7. Self-Funding Revenue (Boat Launch Fees, other Fees)
8. Increased Economic Impact
9. Tournament/Event Fees

Public Meetings

In conjunction with the research phase of this plan, three open public meetings were held in various locations across the city to gain input from the community about their needs and concerns regarding the city's parks and recreation services. Local city media sources were used to notify residents of the public meetings. During this time, citizens were given a presentation on the usefulness of a Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan and shown examples of what other parks and recreation providers are doing around the country. Following this presentation, participants were presented with specific questions, and the floor was then opened up to those present to answer these questions as well as to provide any additional comments. The following are notes gathered at the meetings:

Pascagoula Recreation Center

January 18th, 2012

After Chris Camp, with Lose & Associates, presented the overall outline of how the planning process will proceed, the following comments were provided by the 22 audience members, either verbally or written on comment cards gathered after the meeting.

- More use should be made of the beach
- Another pier should be built
- More parking should be provided near the beach
- The driveway into the senior center is dangerous due to oncoming traffic and roadway adjustments should be made
- Protected bike lanes should be highlighted on Beach Blvd
- Fire pits would be nice on the beach

- Volleyball courts should be added at the beach
- All facilities need some sort of first aid kit and/or heart defibrillator
- Senior center needs more staff
- More senior transportation to various facilities would be nice
- Dedicate more green space
- Create more dedicated biking & jogging trails-away from roads
- Create more canoeing & kayaking trails
- City ball fields should be renovated

Pascagoula Senior Center

February 28th, 2012

After Chris Camp, with Lose & Associates, presented the overall outline of how the planning process will proceed, the following comments were provided by the 21 audience members, either verbally or written on comment cards gathered after the meeting.

- Will historic markers be allowed on the bike trail?
- It is dangerous to ride bikes on the newly marked trail due to narrowness and cars
- Make bike trails go to all parks to increase accessibility
- Generally, make access to parks more accessible
- Will plan include a walkway along the beach?
- If Pascagoula was the site of an annual Pow-Wow, the economic impact would be tremendous
- Need to have a Ornithology Society Event in marsh area to draw large crowd as we have a tremendous variety of birds in the area
- Need tennis facility. The lighting is poor at I. G. Levy, people are scared to use the facility at night
- Need USTA Pro
- Litter needs to be picked up all over town, not just in parks
- Need to re-purpose some of the facilities used for recreation
- Need bowling alley
- Gym floor at Johnson Center needs to be replaced
- Are there any improvements planned for the baseball facilities?
- Signage needs to be improved at all recreation and park facilities
- Are there any plans to improve walking along the beach area?
- Need recycling facilities in parks
- Can survey be placed on-line?
- Good job, excellent plans
- Interested in bike/walking paths
- Historical society erecting historical and interpretative panels.
- Dog park is great idea, I would help. I would like to see more concentration on repurposing parks that aren't being utilized to become a dog park, for example.
- Points of interest at the Andrew Johnson facility; gym floor, restrooms, outside landscaping, scoreboard and rooms. These areas have been ongoing problems for



a number of years. If these areas are addressed the facility will be more inviting and will be used more frequently. New bleachers are needed, parking lot needs to be redone.

- More and bigger signs on the main roads leading to our parks, city hall etc.
- Safety is a concern. So is a lack of community pride, especially in some areas.
- Litter needs to be picked up on a regular (daily) basis by city workers on all streets.

Pascagoula Senior Center - Open House

February 29th, 2012

Representatives were on hand to meet face to face with residents who gave their input, either verbally or written on comment cards.

- 12th Street recreation complex needs to be renovated.
- Live Oak Street needs to be two way street. Older seniors don't need to drive on Hwy. 90
- Need more park space next to beach.
- Property next to horse farm and condos that were destroyed by hurricane needs to be purchased.
- Need to block off Beach Drive during the fireworks display for 8:00 to 9:30.
- Do not need amphitheater at Point Park. It will be destroyed by hurricanes.
- We are new to the use of the facility, Sr. Citizens Center, and are really enjoying it. One suggestion I have, please loosen the tension on the bathroom door by the exercise room. It is very difficult to open from both the outside and the inside.
- Andrew Johnson Recreation Center: physical upgrades needed for gym floor and roof, the pavilion over the walkway, more playground equipment and enhanced landscaping.

A copy of the workshop questionnaire is provided in the Appendix of this document.

Community Survey Findings

Community surveys were sent out on April 4, 2012. The survey was sent to a random sampling of 2,500 households in Pascagoula and had a returned cutoff date of April 30, 2012. For a population the size of Pascagoula, a sample of 250 surveys is desired to make estimates with a sampling error of $\pm 5\%$ (Salant and Dillman, *How to Conduct Your Own Survey*). With 175 returned surveys, our sampling provides a sampling error between 5 to 10% with at least a 90% level of confidence.

The survey contained questions assessing the types of programs that citizens are currently participating in and one that they show an interest in participating in if they were offered the opportunity. Questions also assessed the priority for future facility development and renovations, and possible options for funding the improvements. Survey results were intended to provide insight into the community's desires for public recreation.

The following charts and graphs illustrate some of the survey results and compare responses. Also included are selected comments from respondents. To see a copy of the mailed survey, refer to the Appendix.

Program and Activity Participation

The first question in the survey listed programs and activities typically offered by parks and recreation departments. The programs and activities were classified into six categories: Youth, Senior, Adult, Events, Classes and General Activities. Participants were asked to place a check next to the programs and activities that they or their family members have and/or would like to participate in.

In the six categories, the survey results revealed that the majority of the respondents and their family have participated in youth activities, such as baseball, football, and soccer, and general activities, such as walking on trails, visiting a playground, swimming, etc.

Figure 3.1: Participation Have participated in

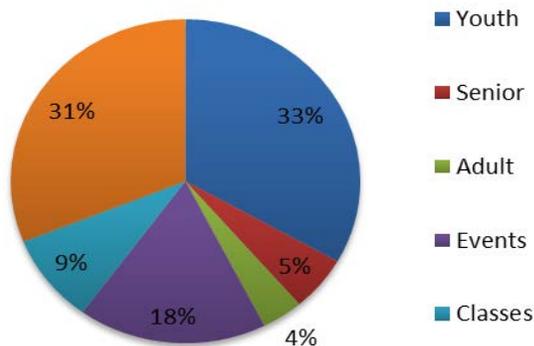
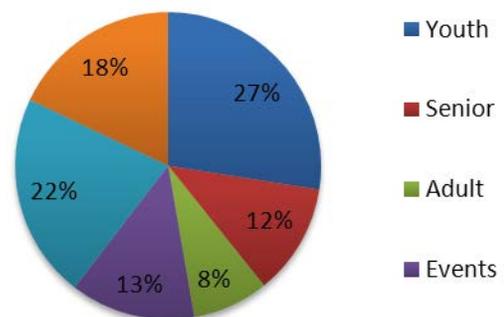


Figure 3.2: Participation Would like to





In analysis of the survey results, the following programs and activities are the top eight that respondents and their families have participated in:

Have participated in:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Events Fireworks on 4th of July | 104 responses |
| 2. Events Parades | 80 responses |
| 3. General: Walking on Trails | 86 responses |
| 4. Visiting a Playground Activities | 76 responses |
| 5. Picnic in the Park Activities | 68 responses |
| 6. Youth Sports: Rec Soccer Leagues | 62 responses |
| 7. Youth Sports: Rec Baseball Leagues | 58 responses |
| 8. Jogging/Running Activities | 50 responses |

When asked to identify the programs, activities and events that they and their families would like to participate in from the same list, respondents revealed a strong desire for events like Movies in the Park and Music in the Park. Next, we find that painting classes, cooking, and walking on trails were all highly ranked on the list. The following eight activities received the most responses:

Would like to participate in:

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Events Movies in the Park | 95 responses |
| 2. Events Music in the Park | 89 responses |
| 3. Painting Classes | 72 responses |
| 4. Cooking Classes | 71 responses |
| 5. Walking on Trails Activities | 71 responses |
| 6. Events Fireworks on 4th of July | 67 responses |
| 7. Youth Programs Art Classes | 67 responses |
| 8. Youth Programs Swimming Lessons
and Pottery Classes (tied with same number of responses) | 63 responses |

The response to special events is not surprising as it is consistent with the preferences of many other communities that the planning team has studied over the last three years. The information is valuable because it reveals what programs and activities respondents support. These activities should continue to receive support and other activities, which ranked high, should be considered for funding.

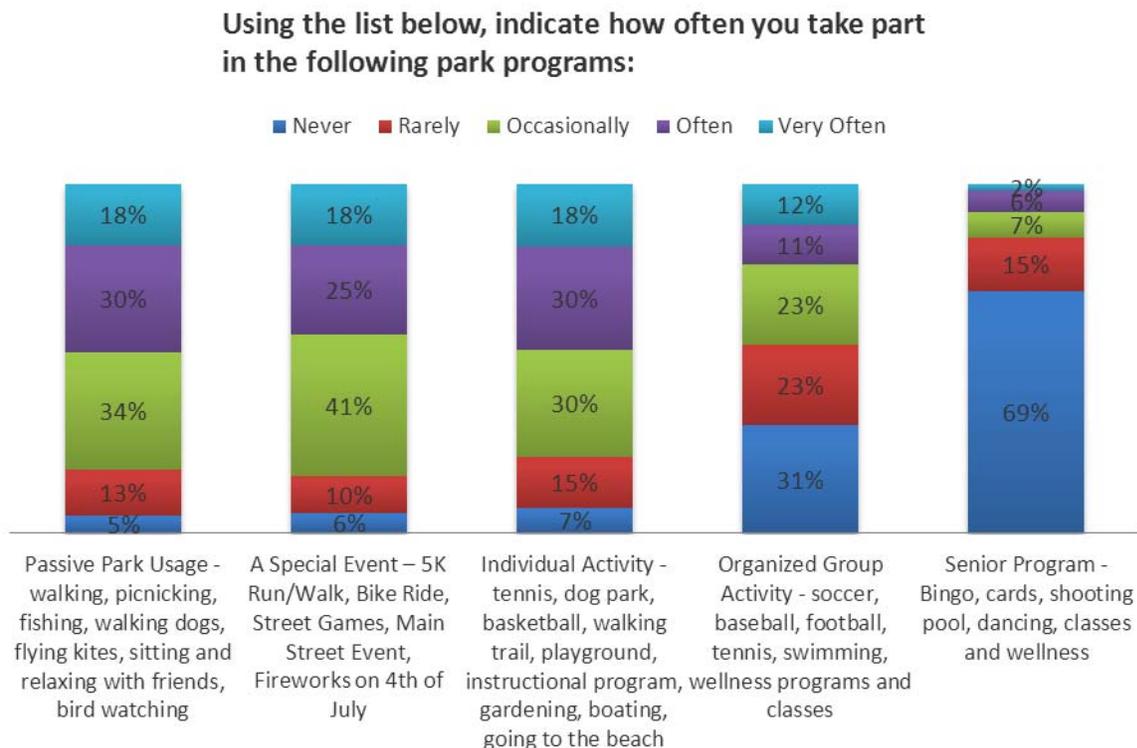
Note that the decrease in percentage of responses does not indicate that people would like to participate in these activities less; it does indicate that senior activities, adult sports, classes and special events are not offered at a level that people desire.

Park and Program Usage

Survey respondents were asked to describe how they use the park programs, if at all, and what park facilities they use most often (see figure 3.3). When asked how often they participate in passive park usage, a special event, an individual activity or an organized group activity, the majority of respondents indicated “occasionally.” The fifth category, Senior Programs, is listed and has a high number of non-participants, which is not surprising given the diverse age of the respondents; however, within the Senior Program column there is a low number of participants, which could mean these programs either do not exist or are not being utilized.

Passive park usage and special events received the highest “occasionally” response with 34% and 41%, respectively. When “very often” and “often” are combined, more respondents chose passive park usage with 48% with special events close behind at 43%. Organized group activities appear to have the lowest participation, as 31% have never participated.

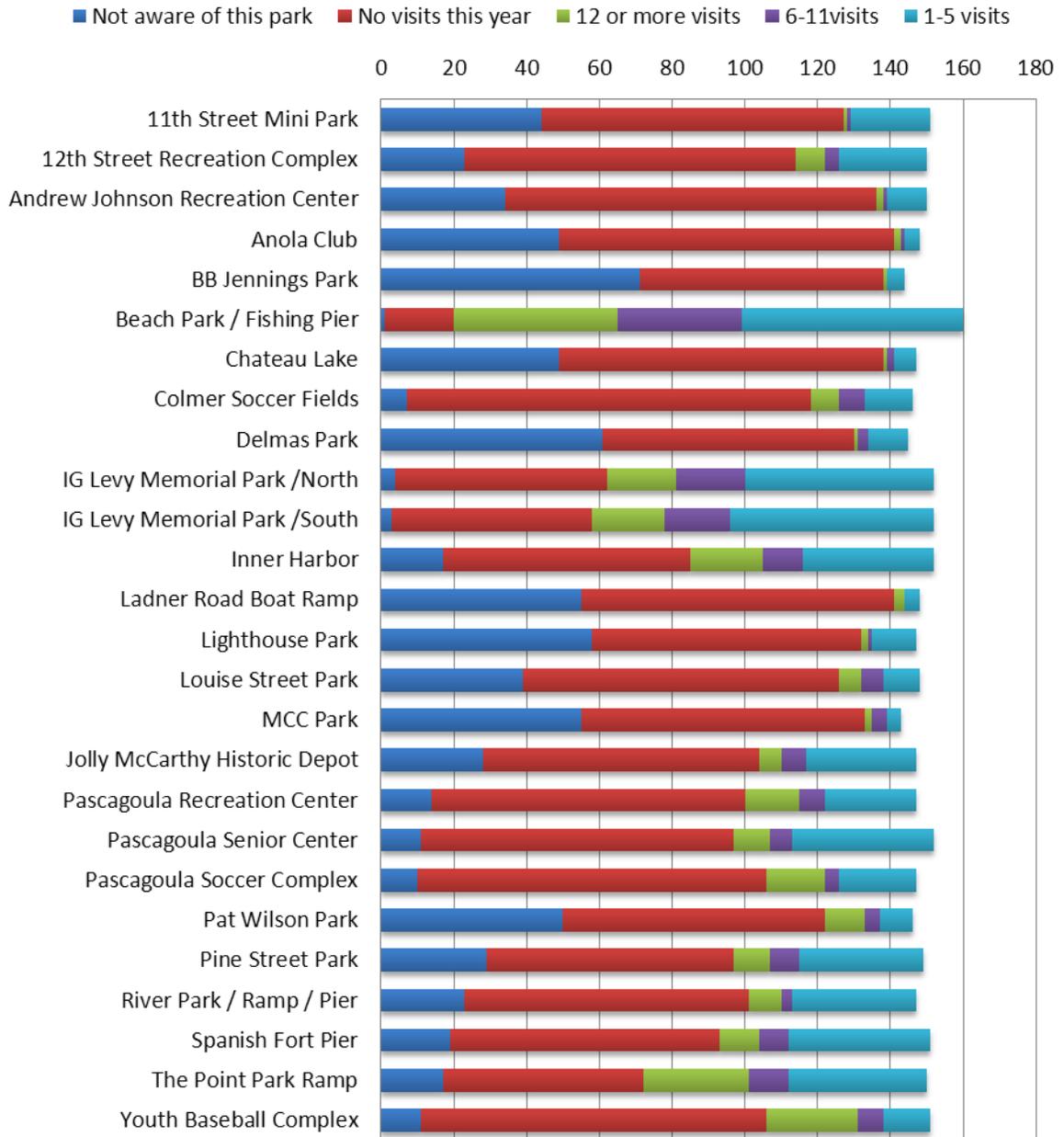
Figure 3.3: Participation



Next, we asked how often you or members of your household have visited various parks in the community. We listed each park and allowed multiple responses (see figure 3.4).

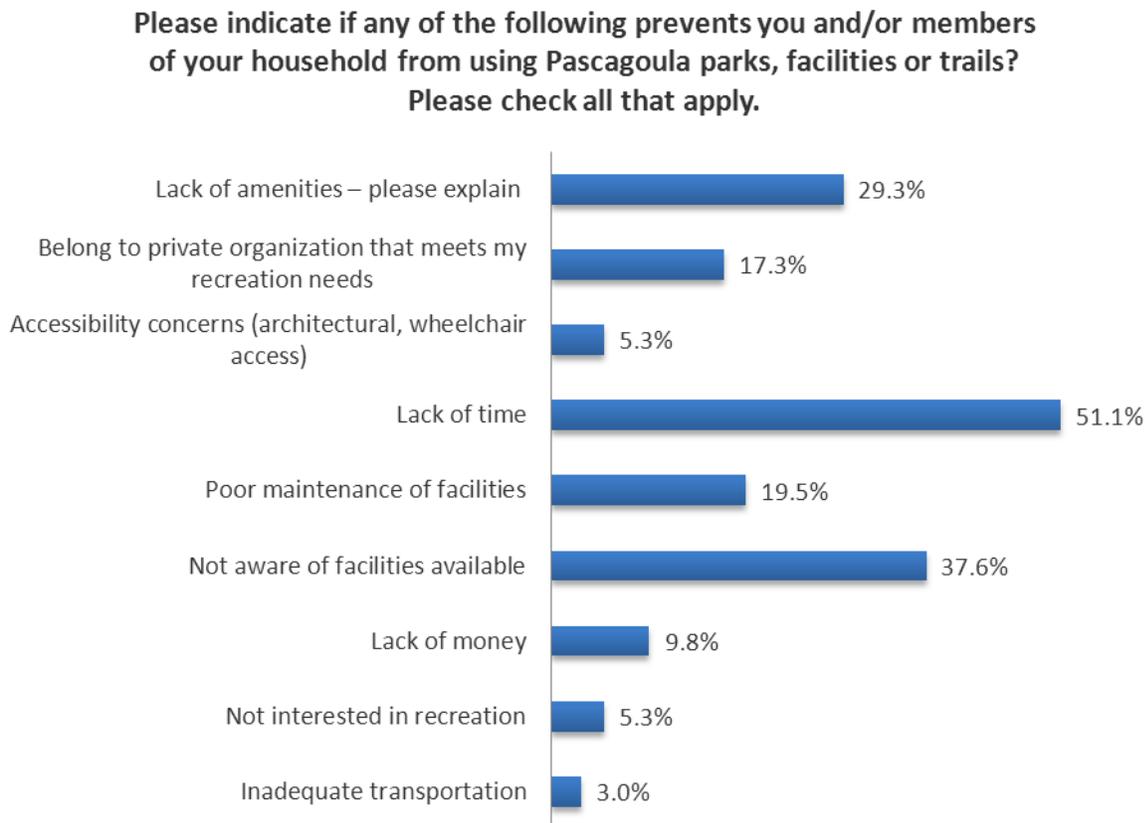
Respondents show higher participation and involvement in parks that offer general/passive park activities and special activities such as swimming, walking on trails, playgrounds, etc.

Figure 3.4: For each of the parks listed below, please indicate how often you and or members of your household have visited in the past year.



The survey asked residents to indicate what prevents them and their family from using parks, facilities, or trails. For this question, respondents could select multiple answers, which is why the percentages listed do not equal 100%. The most votes were given to “lack of time” with “not aware of facilities available” falling into second place. Next, we find “lack of amenities” as the third most chosen category. The reasons listed include poor maintenance, lack of bike racks at parks, need for trashcans and bathrooms at boat ramp, concern for safety and accessibility issue. Comments also included requests for more events and social activities as well as a need for exercise equipment in the parks.

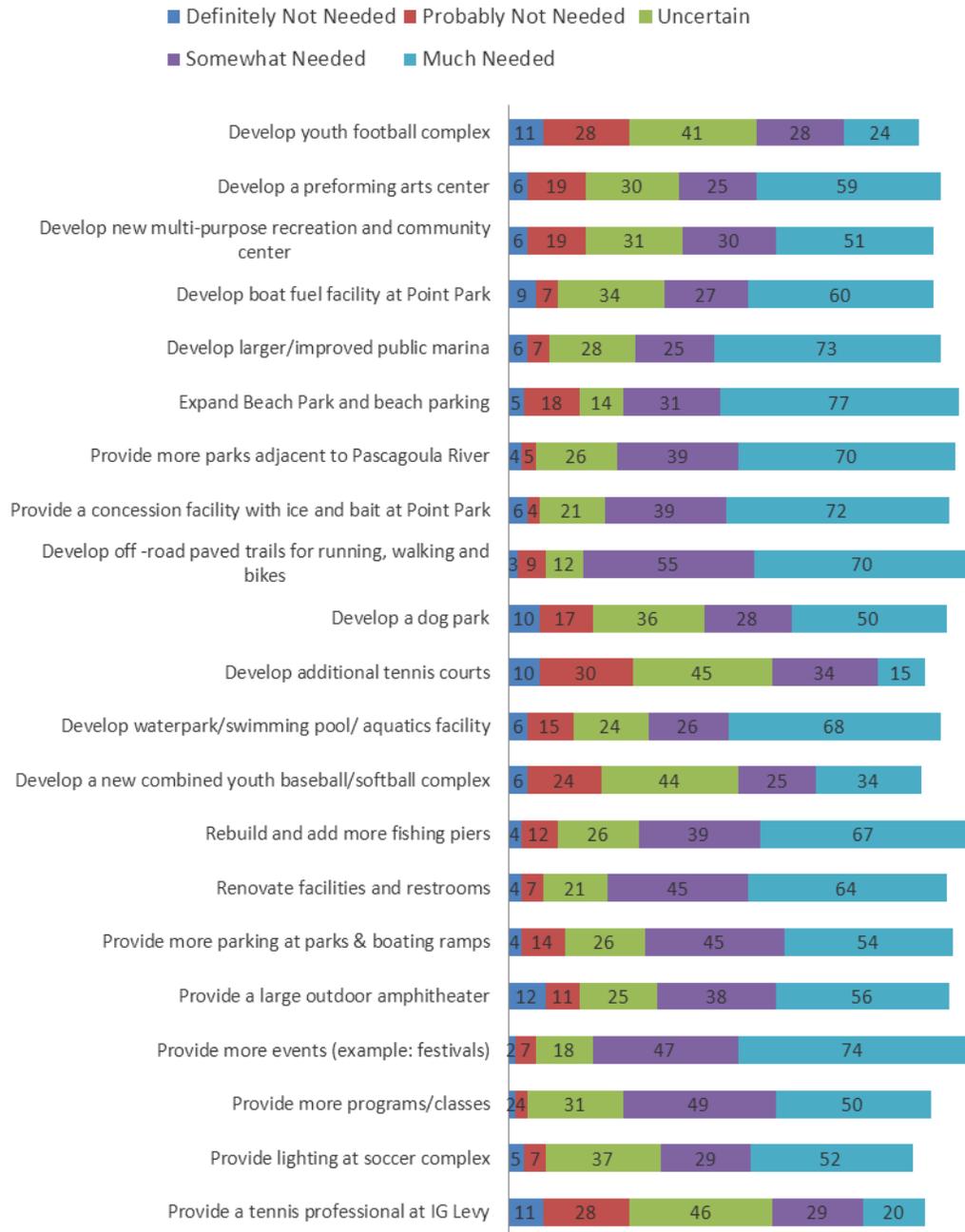
Figure 3.5: Barriers to Park Usage



Facility Priorities

In order to get a better understand of the facilities priorities, we asked respondents to help prioritize funding improvements (see figure 3.6).

Figure 3.6: Facility Priorities
 Listed below are some projects which PPRD may consider funding. Please rank the following projects based on need.



Responses for this question ranked expanding beach park, provide more events and improve public marina high. The preference for these types of improvements is not surprising because they support activities that are usually free, do not require any special skills, or knowledge of a sport, and appeal to a broader audience. Organized team sports and athletics, while they may be needed, generally rank lower - whereas general or passive park activities generally rank higher.

Below are the top five selected as “most needed” and five “definitely not needed” items.

Top five most needed:

- Expand Beach Park and beach parking 77 votes
- Provide more events (example: festivals) 74 votes
- Develop larger/improved public marina 73 votes
- Provide concession facility at Point Park 72 votes
- Develop off-road paved trails for running, walking and bikes and Provide more parks adjacent to Pascagoula River (tied with same number of responses) 70 votes

Top five somewhat and much needed:

- Develop off -road paved trails for running, walking and bikes 125 votes
- Provide more events (example: festivals) 121 votes
- Provide a concession facility with ice and bait at Point Park 111 votes
- Renovate facilities and restrooms 109 votes
- Provide more parks adjacent to Pascagoula River 109 votes

Top five definitely not needed:

- Provide a large outdoor amphitheater 12 votes
- Provide a tennis professional at IG Levy 11 votes
- Develop youth football complex 11 votes
- Develop additional tennis courts 10 votes
- Develop a dog park 10 votes

The next question (see figure 3.7) focused again on a list of projects the respondent considers being a top priority. While respondents may not have chosen the following as their number one choice in the ranking exercise, these projects received the most votes overall:



Top five most votes overall:

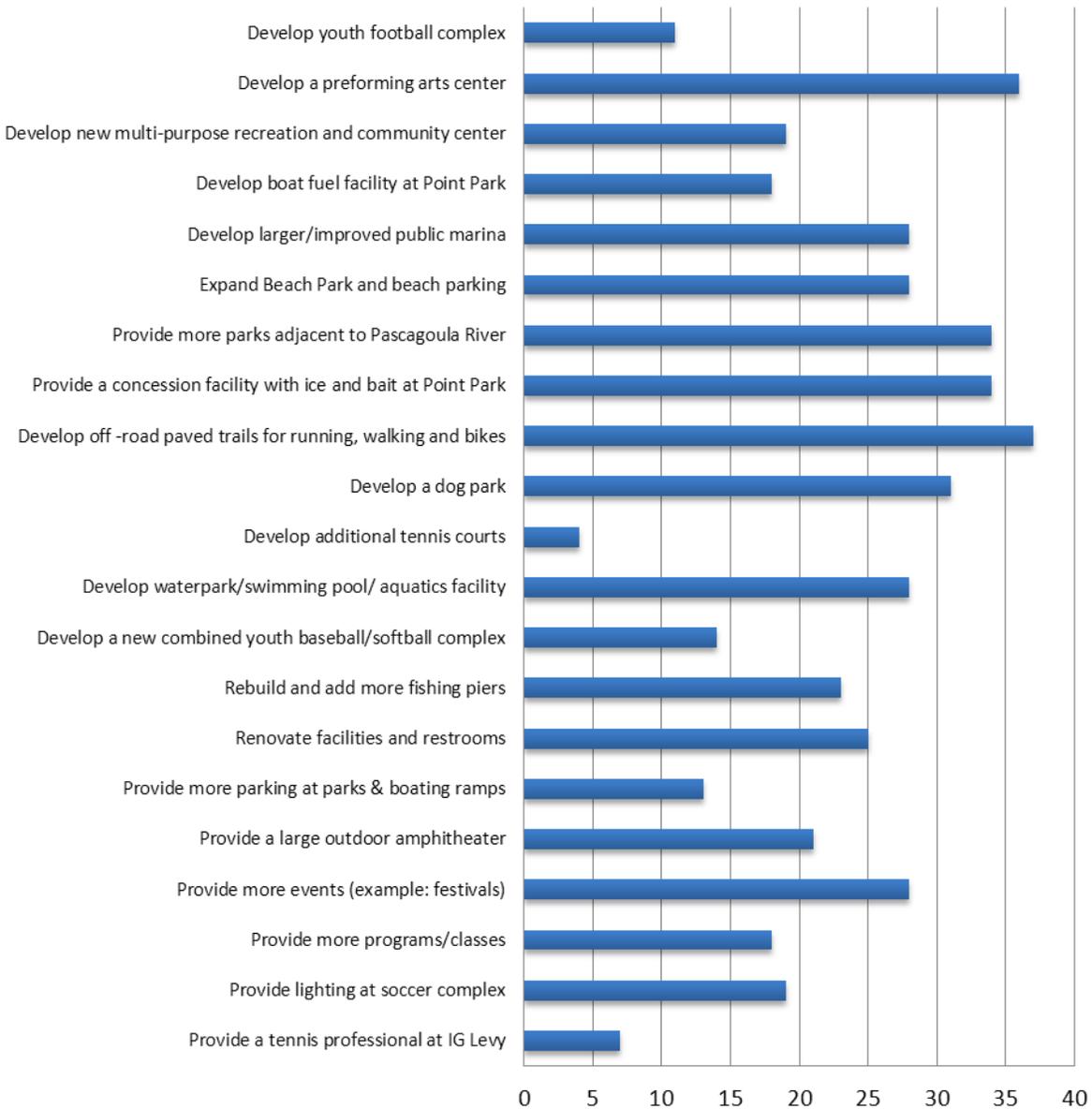
- Develop off-road paved trails for running, walking and bikes
- Develop a performing arts center
- Provide a concession facility with ice and bait at Point Park
- Provide more parks adjacent to Pascagoula River
- Develop a dog park

Scoring the most number 1s:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| • Develop a performing arts center | 12 votes |
| • Develop off -road paved trails for running, walking and bikes | 10 votes |
| • Develop waterpark/swimming pool/ aquatics facility | 9 votes |
| • Provide lighting at soccer complex | 9 votes |
| • Renovate facilities and restrooms, develop a new combined youth baseball/softball complex, develop a dog park and develop larger/improved public marina (all four tied for fifth place) | 7 votes |

Figure 3.7 Scoring Most Votes Overall

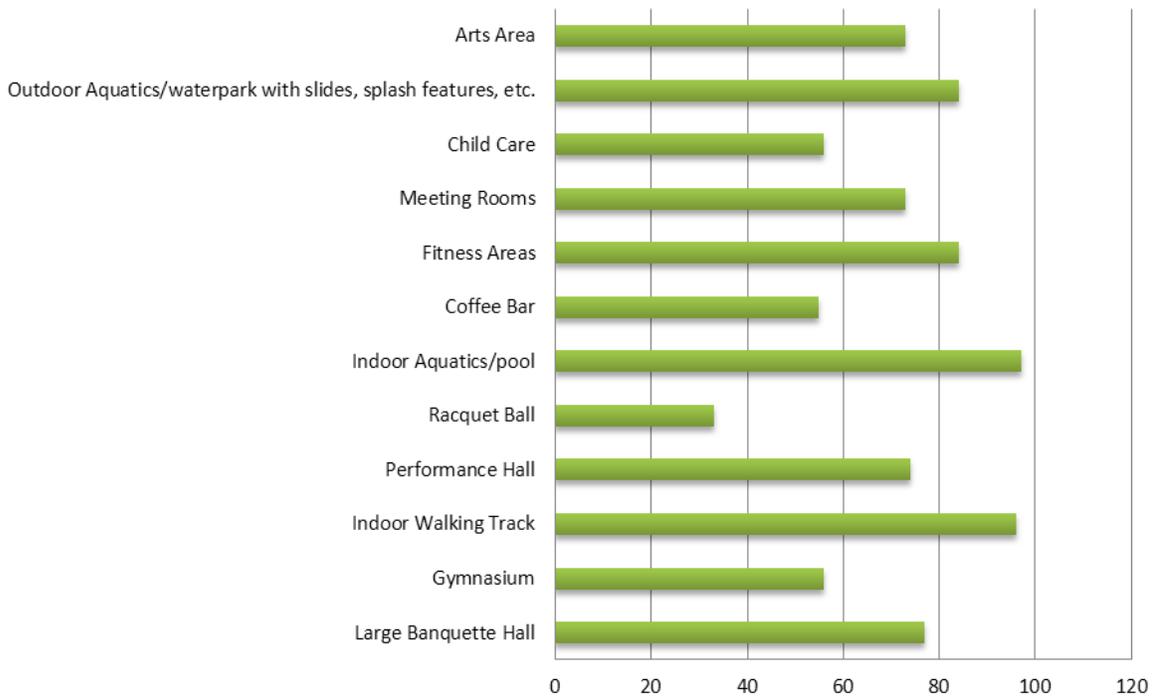
Relating to the list of projects which projects do you consider being a top five priority, write 1 - 5 in the ranking column.



Additionally, we wanted to know which of the components should be included if the city were to build a multi-purpose community center. The top five choices included, indoor aquatics/pool, indoor walking track, fitness center, and outdoor aquatics/waterpark with slides, splash features, etc and performance hall.

Figure 3.8 Multi-Purpose Community Center

If the City were to build a multi-purpose community center, which of the components listed below should be included? Please check all components you want included



Access to the Parks

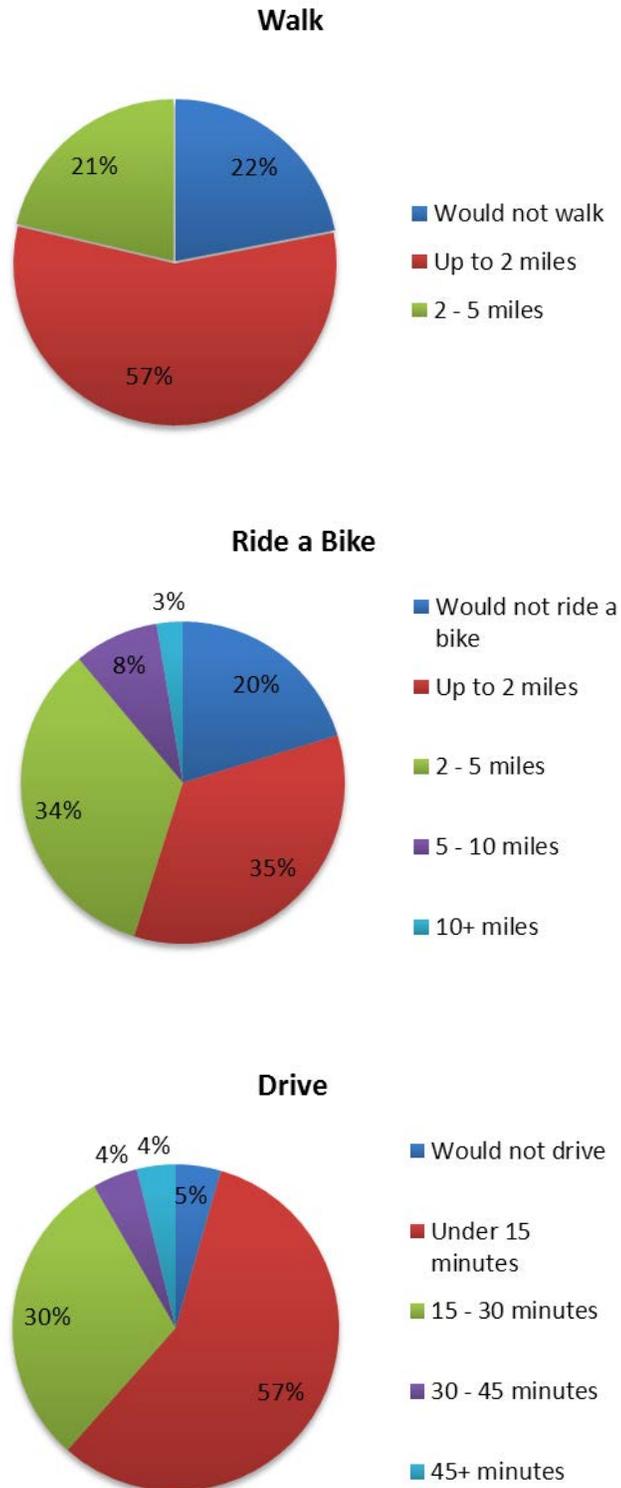
As part of the survey, respondents were asked how far they would be willing to walk, drive or bike to parks and recreation facilities.

Only 22% said they would not walk, but 78% indicated they would walk up to two miles or two-five miles to reach parks. The reason for those who would not walk could be influenced by perceptions of safety along the roadways or sidewalks, the distance of their homes from existing parks, or preference for vehicular travel.

Biking yielded only three percent of respondents who would not bike, which leaves ninety-seven percent willing to bike. This high number is encouraging and could mean that, with more bike racks at parks and the addition of other safety improvements such as bike lanes, Pascagoula could see an increase in bike usage.

When asked about drive times, a large percentage of people prefer a drive under 15 minutes (57%). The high response for keeping drive times under 15 minutes could indicate that respondents would like for parks, trails, and facilities to be located closer to their home. However, it appears that people are willing to drive 15 to 30 minutes (30%), which may be for specific facilities such as the beach or to participate in certain leagues.

Figure 3.9 Walk, Bike or Drive



Next, the survey asked if respondents use recreation facilities. The responses were roughly split in half (see figure 3.10). The follow-up question asked where respondents travel. It appears distance is not necessarily the main concern and the respondents were willing to travel to other facilities if they offered facilities and programs not found in Pascagoula. Comments listed under “other” included several mentioning the splash pad in Oceans Springs and some traveling to places for boat ramps, tennis courts and biking events/trails.

Figure 3.10: Other Providers

Do you use recreation facilities offered by a church or other private providers?

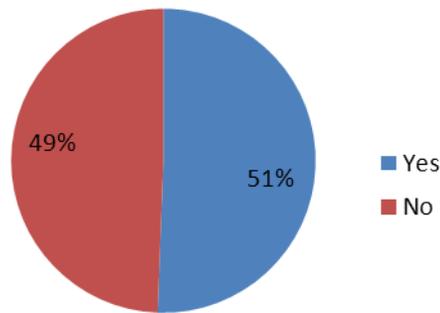
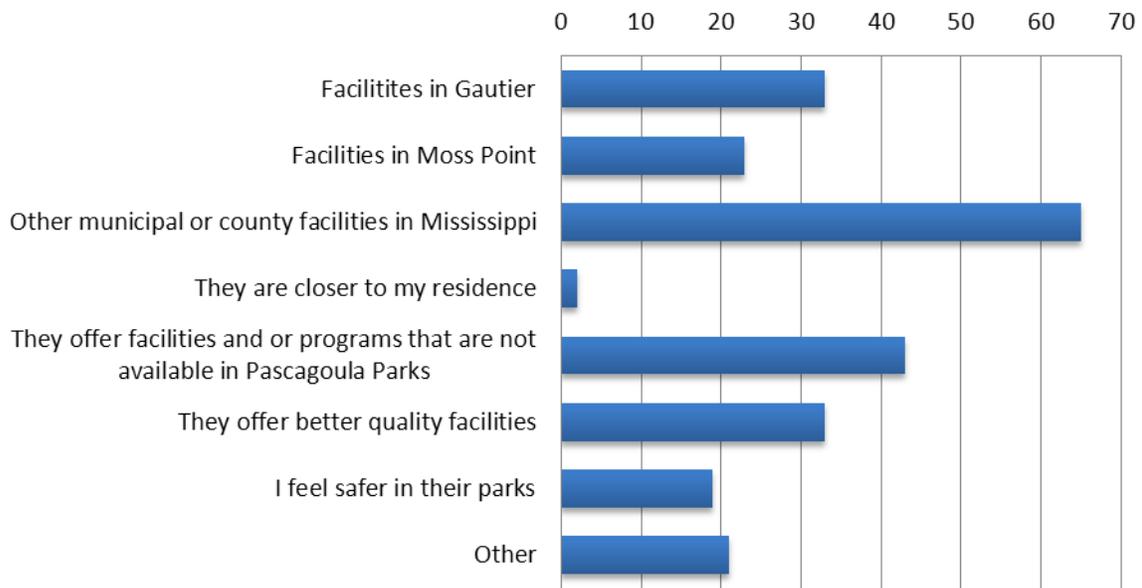


Figure 3.11: Other Providers

If so, where do you travel?



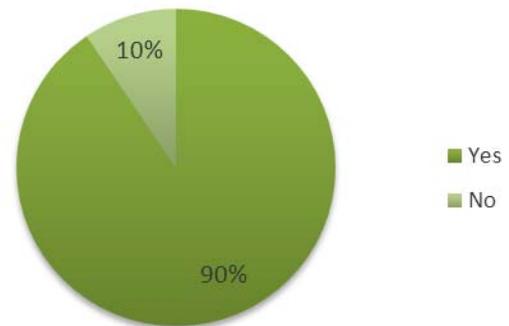
In order to understand what other providers they are using and why, we asked, “do you use recreation facilities offered by a church or other private providers?” 51% of the respondents said yes. Then we asked, “if yes, check providers”. Most chose their Church, Pascagoula Country Club and Yacht Club, and the Healthplex. We found that a majority of the responses indicated that these providers offer better quality facilities and/or these other providers have facilities that are not available by Pascagoula Parks and Recreation.

Funding and Willingness to Contribute

With the current economic conditions, parks and recreation departments are seeing more of their budgets cut and tax payers resisting any increase. Our next set of questions, we asked respondents of Pascagoula about their willingness to contribute.

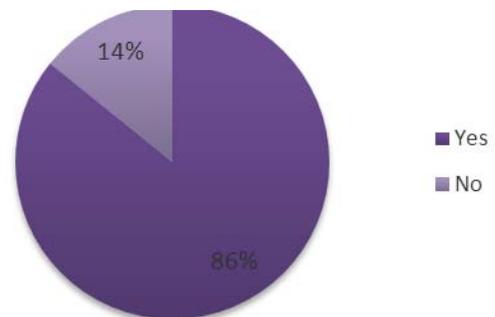
We first asked, “Would you support the development of greenways with multi-use trails for pedestrians and bicyclists to connect parks, schools, and neighborhood facilities throughout the city and along the waterfront?” A surprising 90% of the respondents said “yes” (see figure 3.12).

Figure 3.12: Support for Building New Greenways



We see overwhelming support also when we asked, “would you like the city to invest more money on boating, and waterfront facilities including parks, marina, and trails? Again, we were surprised with the results with 86% of the respondents indicating “yes” (see figure 3.13).

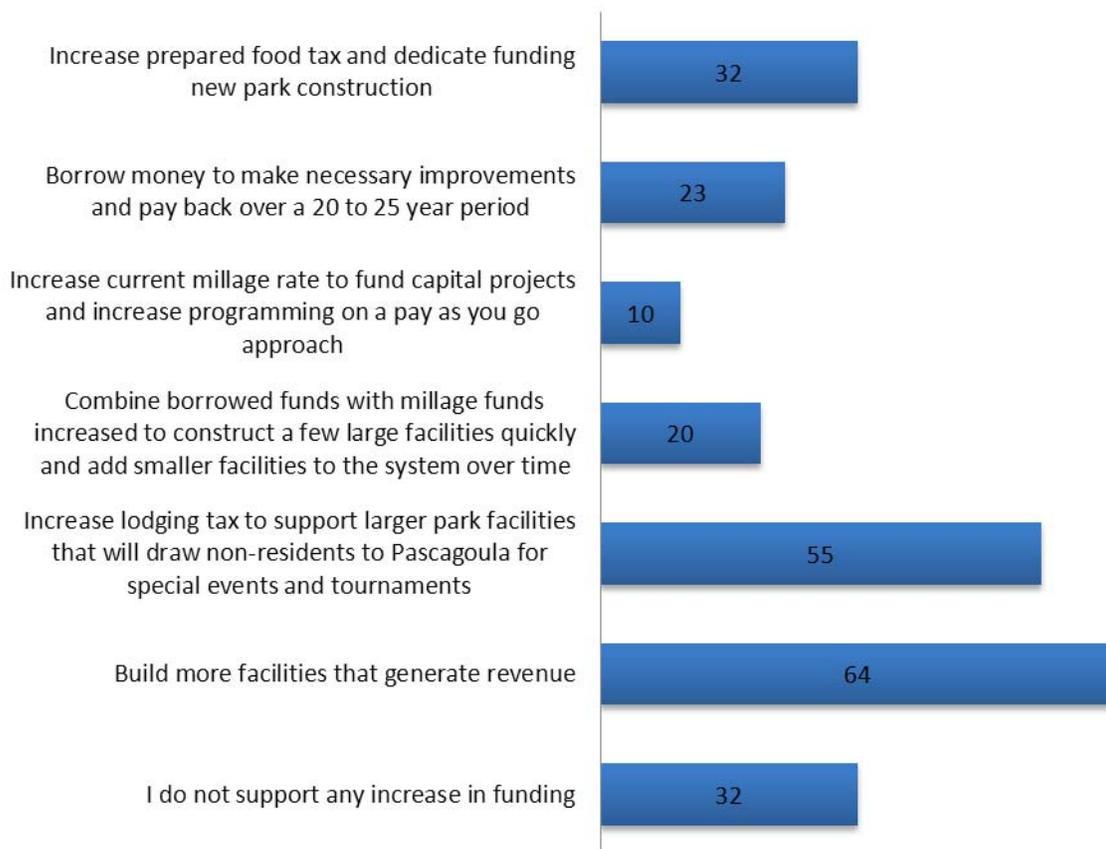
Figure 3.13: Support for Boating and Waterfront Improvements



These results show that many residents see a need for improvements and they are supportive of the city investing in these types of projects.

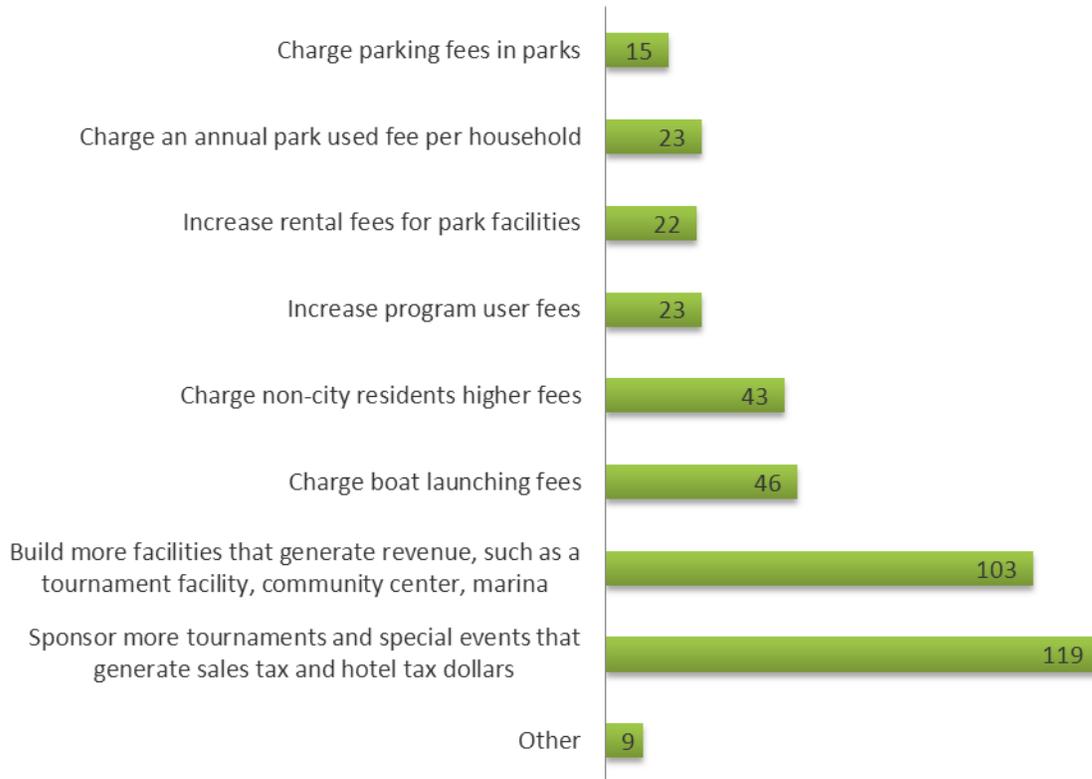
The surveys then asked respondents what methods of funding they prefer for parkland acquisition, greenway and park facility renovation and development. Respondents were asked to indicate all funding options that they would support. The strongest support was for building more facilities that generate revenue (64%), followed by “increase lodging tax to support larger park facilities that will draw non-residents to Pascagoula for special events and tournaments” (55%). Respondents also supported the option to increase rental fees for park facilities (42%). Charging parking fees at parks was the least favorable option.

Figure 3.14: Which method of funding for park land acquisition, greenway and park facility renovation and development would you prefer?



In other funding related questions, respondents were asked their preference to generate needed revenue to improve park maintenance and recreation programs and whether they would support a recreation authority that could access a dedicated millage. The majority of respondents chose the option for the Parks and Recreation Department to sponsor more tournaments and special events that generate sales tax and hotel tax dollars (30%) and build more facilities that generate revenue, such as a tournament facility, community center, marina, etc. (26%).

Figure 3.15: In order to generate needed revenue to improve park maintenance and recreation programs offered in Pascagoula, please indicate all options that you would support for increasing funding for parks:



When asked what other ideas that respondents had for generating revenue, they suggested several tournament ideas as well as the following (note: some answers combined and/or paraphrased).

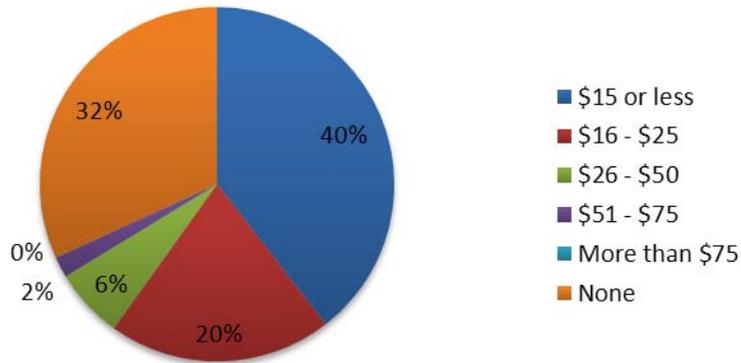
- Parks Department to sell fuel for boats to buy at dock
- Use inmates/prisoners to do all upkeep throughout the City of Pascagoula
- Sell permits like hunters have to buy to hunt Wildlife Management Areas(WMA) but let WMA permits be approved as park permits as well.
- Swimming fee, etc.

The surveys went on to ask how much respondents would be willing to spend per household per month to support new and/or improved park programs and facilities. The source of these funds was unspecified but they could come from park user fees, program

fees, or a dedicated recreation tax or millage. The mail survey indicated that 40% would be willing to spend \$15 or less, followed by \$16-\$25, per month at 32%. The next highest response (20%), were those not willing to contribute.

With 10,534 households in Pascagoula (2006-2010 US Census Bureau estimate), a \$10 per month per household fee would generate over \$1,264,080 per year.

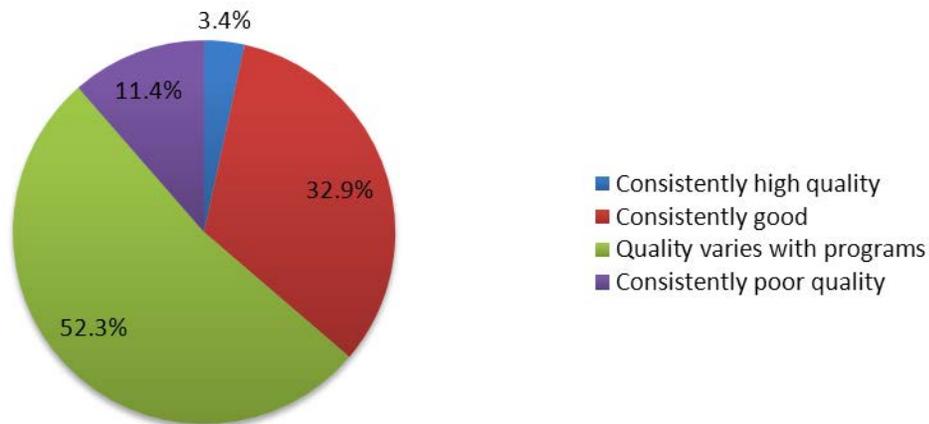
Figure 3.16: How much would you be willing to spend per month per household to support improved park maintenance and recreation services?



Overall Performance

Respondents were asked to give the Pascagoula Parks and Recreation Department and their partnering associations an overall grade as to the overall quality of the parks and recreation programs and activities. 52.3% percent said the quality varies with programs and 11.4% rated them as consistently poor quality. We found an average response for rating the programs and activities consistently good. The low number rating “consistently high quality” indicates that there is room for improvement in the opinion of the respondents. Poor facility conditions may also be influencing how participants view program quality.

Figure 3.17: How would you rate Pascagoula Parks and Recreation programs and activities?



We then asked, “please indicate with the appropriate number if you (1) agree, (2) disagree or (3) do not know about the following statements (see figure 3:18).

The top five “Agree” choices were:

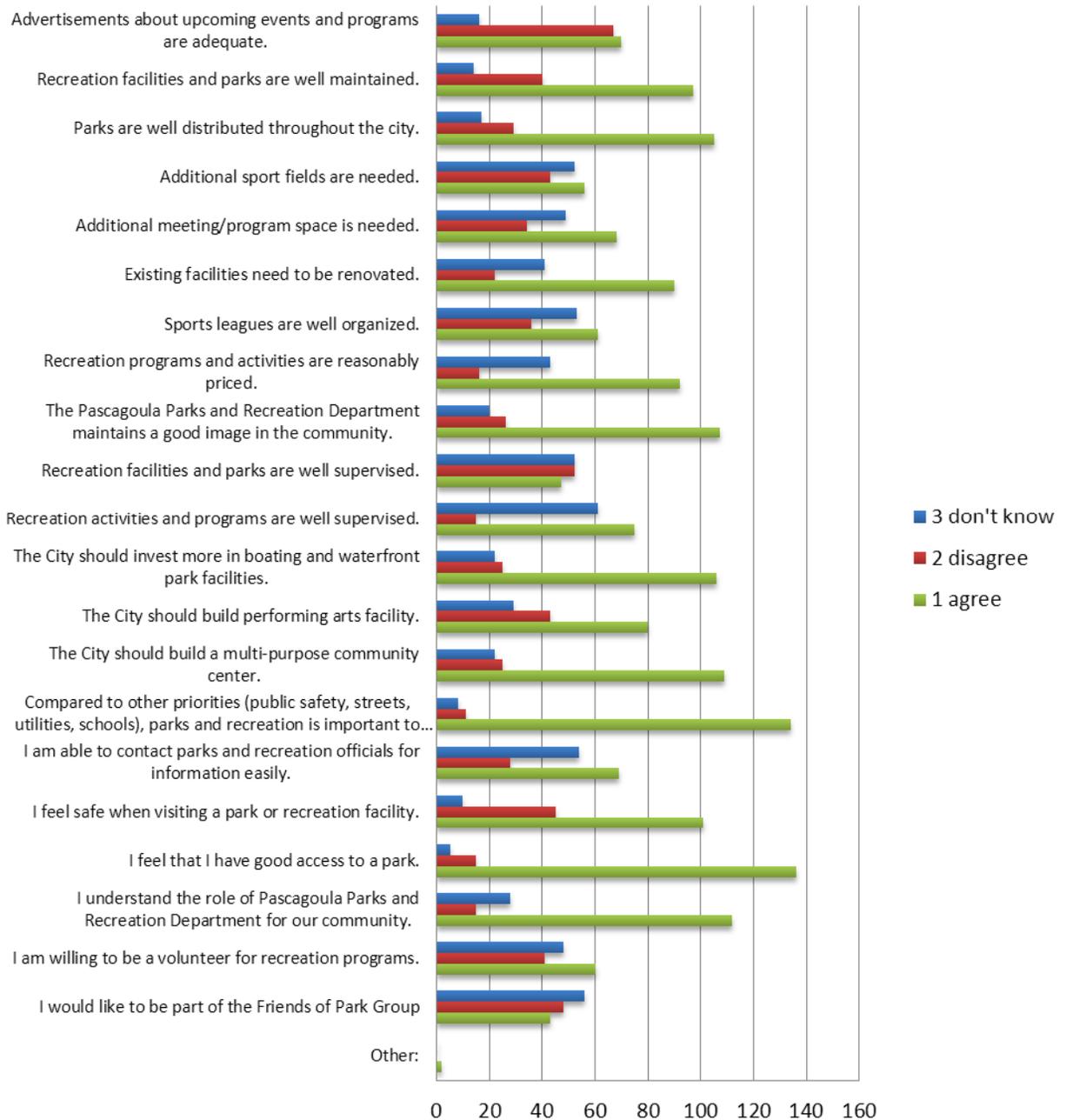
- I feel that I have good access to a park (136 responses)
- Compared to other priorities (public safety, streets, utilities, schools), parks and recreation is important to a community (134 responses)
- I understand the role of Pascagoula Parks and Recreation Department for our community (112 responses)
- The City should build a multi-purpose community center (109 responses)
- The Pascagoula Parks and Recreation Department maintains a good image in the community (107 responses)

The top five “Disagree” choices were:

- Advertisements about upcoming events and programs are adequate (67 responses)
- Recreation facilities and parks are well supervised (52 responses)
- I would like to be part of the Friends of Park Group (48 responses)
- I feel safe when visiting a park or recreation facility (45 responses)
- Additional sport fields are needed and the city should build performing arts facility (tied with 43 responses)

The survey results indicate that citizens value the department and understand their role in the community. Results also indicate a need to improve marketing for programs and improve safety in the parks.

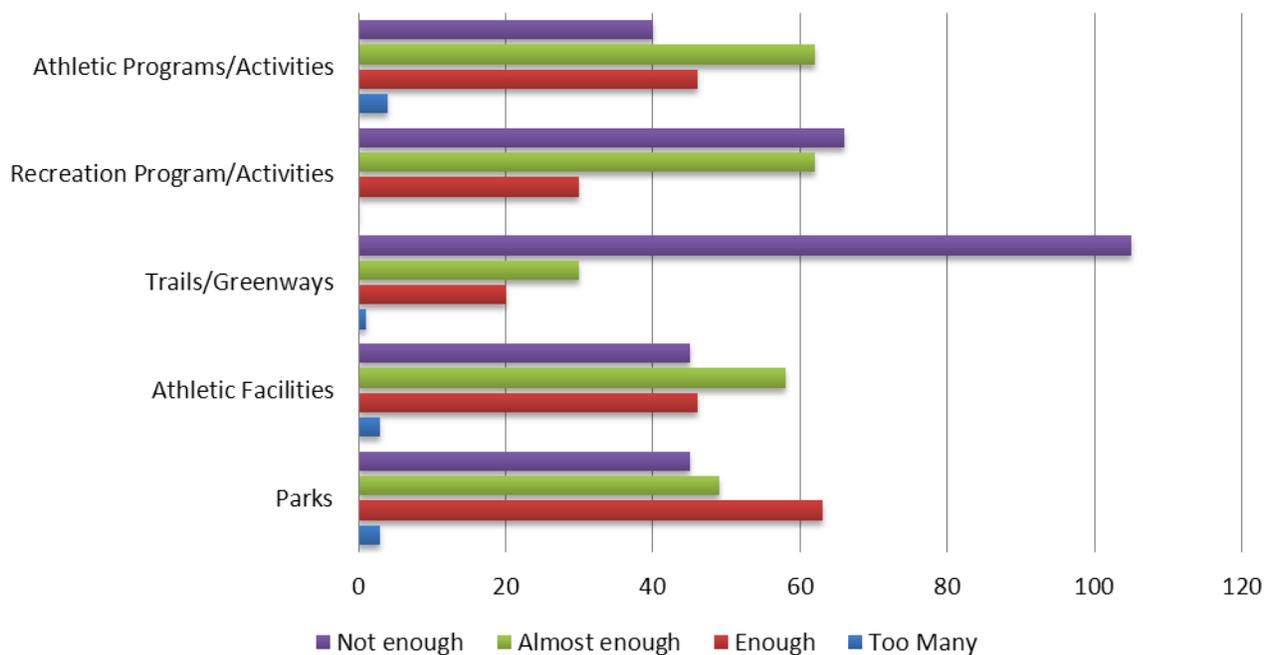
Figure 3.18: Please indicate with the appropriate number if you (1) agree, (2) disagree or (3) do not know about the following statements:



To understand if activities such as recreation program/activities and athletic facilities are meeting the needs of the community, the following question was asked (see figure 3:19).

We found that the respondents feel they have good access to parks but see a need for more recreation programs and activities and we see from figure 3.19 that there is an overwhelming demand for trails and greenways within the community.

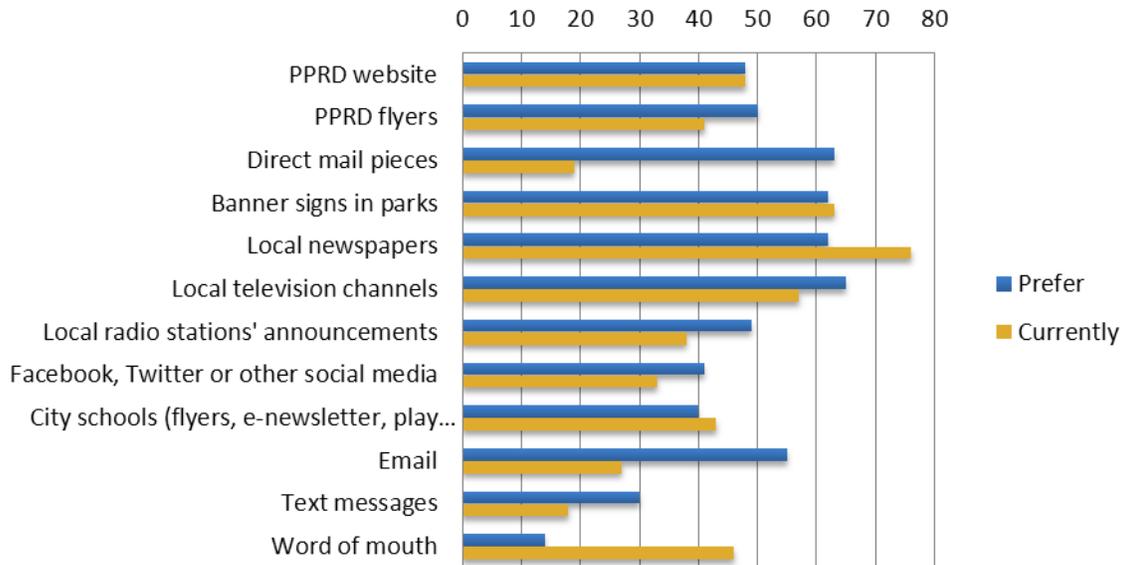
Figure 3.19: Overall, how well do you think the following facilities, programs and activities provided by Pascagoula Parks and Recreation are currently meeting the needs of the community



Marketing

In an attempt to determine how individuals find out about upcoming activities, the survey asked respondents to indicate the most common method for obtaining information about Pascagoula’s recreation events and programs. The most common information dissemination methods were through local newspapers (15%), banners in parks (13%) and next, local television stations (11%). When asked how the public “prefers” to get information on recreation events and programs, the respondents answers were split between local newspapers, television stations, banners in parks and direct mail pieces, which were all at 11%. Email was just below those methods at 9%. In other communities, we have seen email and social media rank higher when surveys have been conducted online.

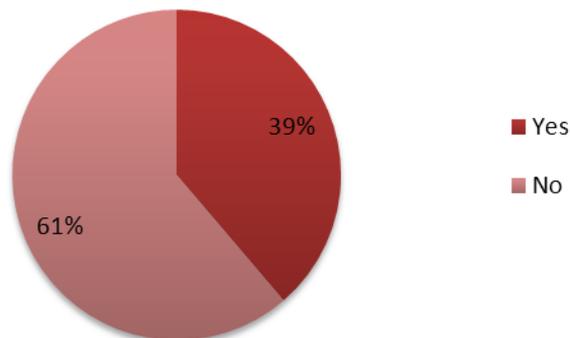
Figure 3.20: Please indicate which of the following ways you 'currently' as well as 'prefer' to get information about Pascagoula Parks and Recreation department events and programs?



When asked, “would you like to receive a monthly or quarterly newsletter via email to inform you and your family of upcoming programs and special events,” the response was high with 72% preferring a monthly newsletter and 64% preferring a quarterly newsletter.

We also found that the majority of respondents did not feel the current marketing efforts are keeping them informed (see figure 3.21).

Figure 3.21: Do you feel current marketing efforts by the Pascagoula parks and Recreation Department keep you and your family informed on the recreation program opportunities?

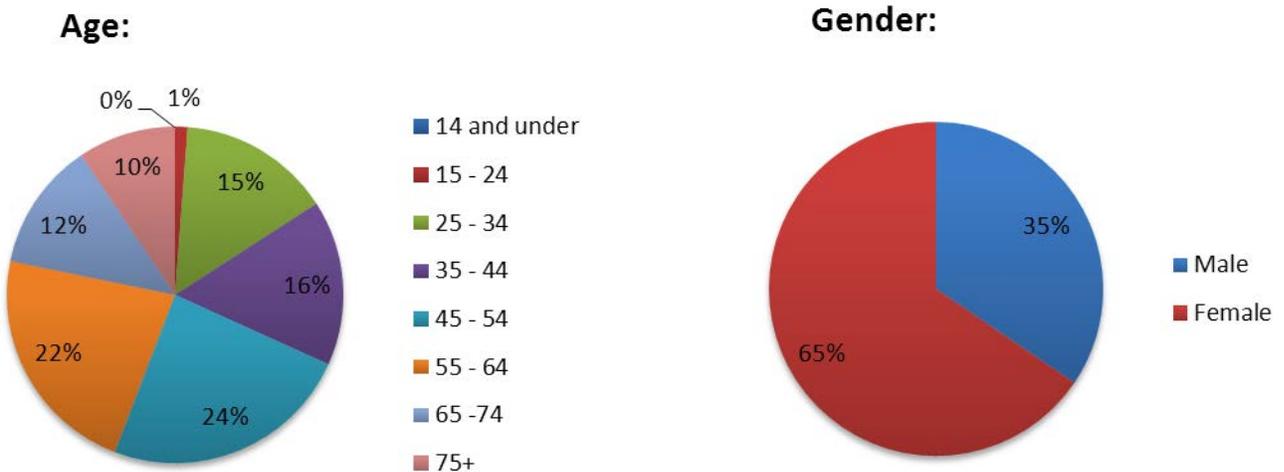


Respondents' Demographics

We found that for the gender and age groups of respondents (see figure 3.22); females represented the majority of respondents in the surveys (65%), which is typically the case in the surveys we have conducted. The 45 to 54 age group was the most responsive with 24% of the surveys and close behind was the 55 to 64 age group.

Researchers were pleased with the overall diversity of respondents' age groups.

Figure 3.22: Respondent Gender and Age



In addition, the vast majority of the responses to the survey have lived in Pascagoula over 20 years.

Figure 3.23: How long have you lived in Pascagoula?

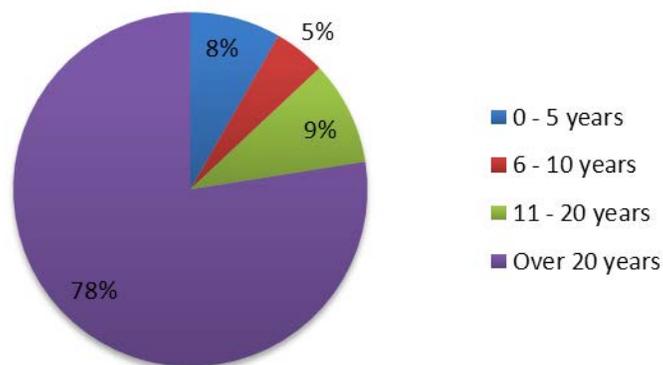
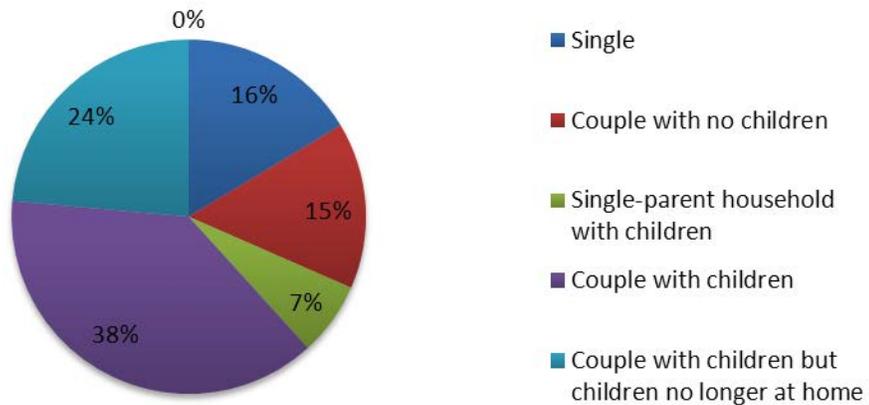


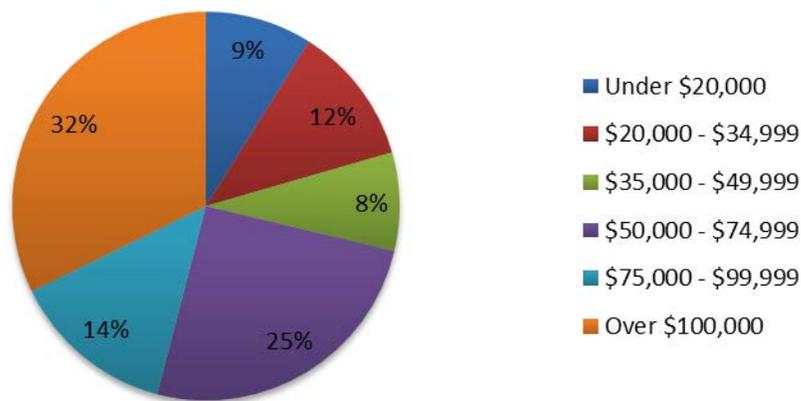
Figure 3.24 is a chart of the respondents' household types. The majority of respondents were couples with children (38%). Of those respondents that had children in their homes, most had children ages 5 to 11 (37%). The next most common household for the respondents was couples with children but children no longer at home (24%).

Figure 3.24: Which of the following best describes your household?



Lastly, our researchers wanted to get a better understanding of the economic status of the respondents to the survey. We found that a majority of them are homeowners (87.5%) and 32% of them have a total annual household income of over \$100,000.

Figure 3.25: What is your total annual household income?



Summary

Public input is a critical part of any planning process. Through public meetings, we gathered information from residents who generally represent current park users. The mail surveys include a mixture of both users and non-users, which is why it is such an important component of the overall response. While some had stronger desires for specific facilities over others, the overall direction for future improvements was relatively parallel among all the groups. The priorities were also consistent with the deficiencies noted during the planning team's analysis of the current parks and recreation system.

In conclusion, the public input process brought forward consistent themes. Below highlights some of the insight gained during the process:

- Renovation of existing facilities
- Provide more park safety
- Willingness to walk and bike to parks; desire for trails to connect to parks
- Desire for a greater variety of programs and facilities that the whole family can enjoy (need more activities for teens)
- Develop more water based parks and activities
- Provide more aquatic facilities
- Provide new recreation center
- Self-generate more revenue
- Use parks to attract tourists and generate tax revenue
- Need more communication and information about Pascagoula Parks and Recreation

The residents and stakeholders realize that there are costs associated with these improvements. The survey found a willingness by many residents to help with funding to make these improvements; however, the Parks and Recreation Department will need to continue to build support for funding. One of the best ways to build support is gathering and incorporating public input, which will guide decisions to benefit the entire community.



SECTION 4

OPERATIONS, STAFF
ANALYSIS
AND PROGRAM
STAFF ANALYSIS
PROGRAM OPERATIONS

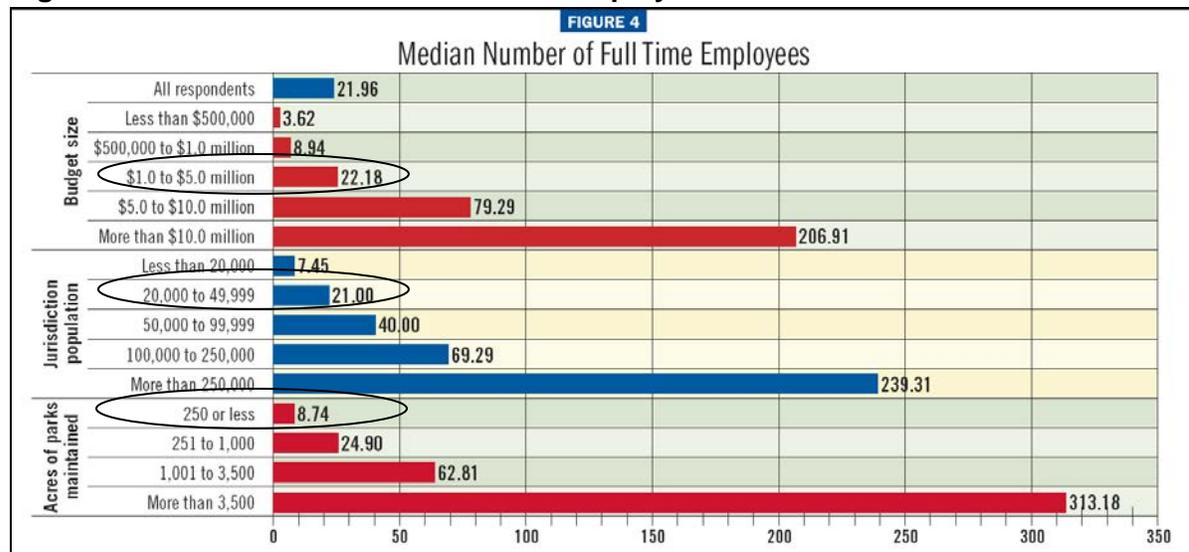
Section 4: Operations, Staff and Program Analysis

Operations and Staffing Assessment

The Pascagoula Parks and Recreation Department, PPRD, is a governmental entity of the City of Pascagoula, Mississippi. The department is managed by a director who oversees five division directors and the administration of the entire department. As of the publication of this master plan, the department has 16 full time authorized work force positions. In addition, there are 23 part-time positions and 15 seasonal positions approved plus contract employees who serve as program instructors. The department contracts out some right of way mowing activities but these contract employees do not have a role in providing parks and recreation services.

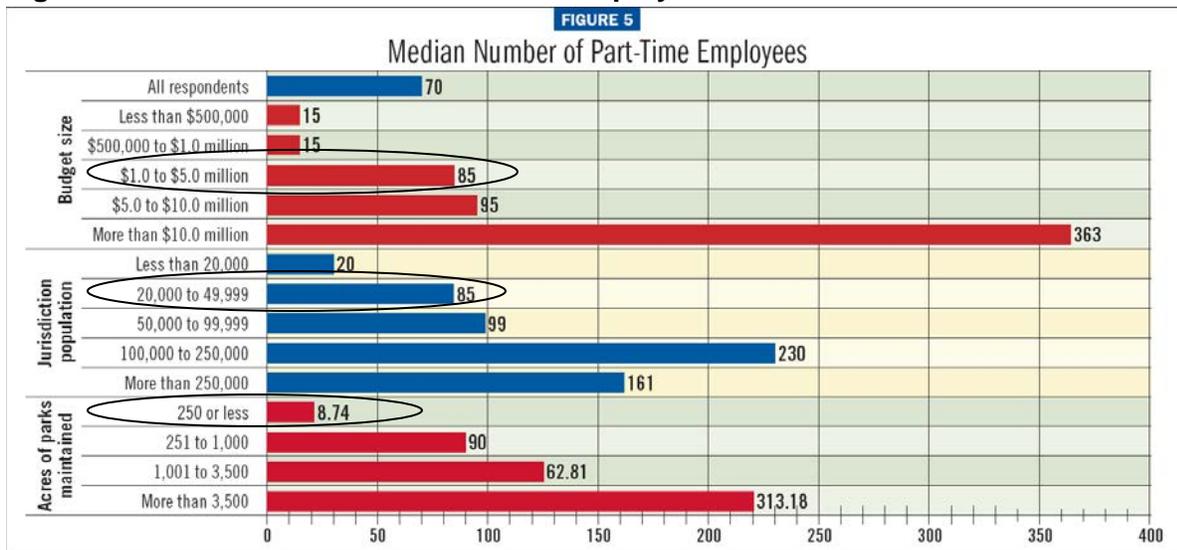
A recent study published by the *National Parks and Recreation Association in titled 2012 Parks Recreation National Database Report*, provide some good comparison data on employees for communities of different sizes across the country. In collecting employee information the report makes comparisons for full and part-time employees based on budget size, population and acres of maintained parks. With a 2012 population estimated by the US Census at 23,585, a 2012 budget of \$1,829,001 and approximately 195 acres of parkland, it is possible to see how Pascagoula compares with national averages in the charts below.

Figure 4.1: Median Number of Full Time Employees



Source: 2012 Parks and Recreation Special Report www.nrpa.org

Figure 4.2: Median Number of Part-Time Employees



Source: 2012 Parks and Recreation Special Report www.nrpa.org

PPRD is well under the national averages for both full and part-time employees when evaluating both the agency budget and population of the community comparison data. The median full time staffing levels in these categories are 22.18 and 21 employees (see figure 4.1) compared to the 16 full time employees at PPRD. Only when property acreage is taken into account, does the PPRD exceed the full time employee ratio - when comparing part-time employees, we find the same results. The median part-time employee number, based on budget and population, is both 85 employees compared to the 38 part-time and seasonal employees at PPRD. Again, only the acreage category median employee number is below PPRD staffing levels.

In spite of these low staffing levels of employees, the department is doing a good job operating existing programs but the low number of employees has affected and will continue to affect the department's ability to perform as well as the quality of the services they provide. The Maintenance and Beautification Division and the Programming Division, in particular, have been seriously impacted by the low staffing levels. While the parks are fairly well maintained, crews struggle to keep up with the maintenance demands on a weekly basis and the low staff count stretches them even further. The low staffing levels greatest impact can be felt when maintenance staff is pulled off regular duties to assist with major community-wide special events. While their ability to continue to provide services despite low staffing levels illustrates one of the division's strengths, it also leads to increased deferred maintenance and has a negative impact on staff morale.

The department's marketing staff is allocated from the city administration's office as a way to brand and market all government information with a common theme. The centralized marketing staff tasks involve serving all divisions of government, including assisting the Department of Parks and Recreation with outreach efforts and program marketing. It is important to maintain close lines of communications between the department and the



centralized marketing staff to be sure that the proper parks messages are presented. Staff must be cognizant to the fact that issues and announcements are disseminated to media outlets. Follow-up should be maintained to ensure that misinformation is not given out and correct information is produced and provided in a timely matter.

Division Overview

A review of the existing structure reveals that while there are currently six listed department divisions (Administration, Maintenance and Beautification, Athletics, Special Events/Museum Curator, Programming, and Senior Center); there are actually five functional divisions within the department excluding the Administration Division:

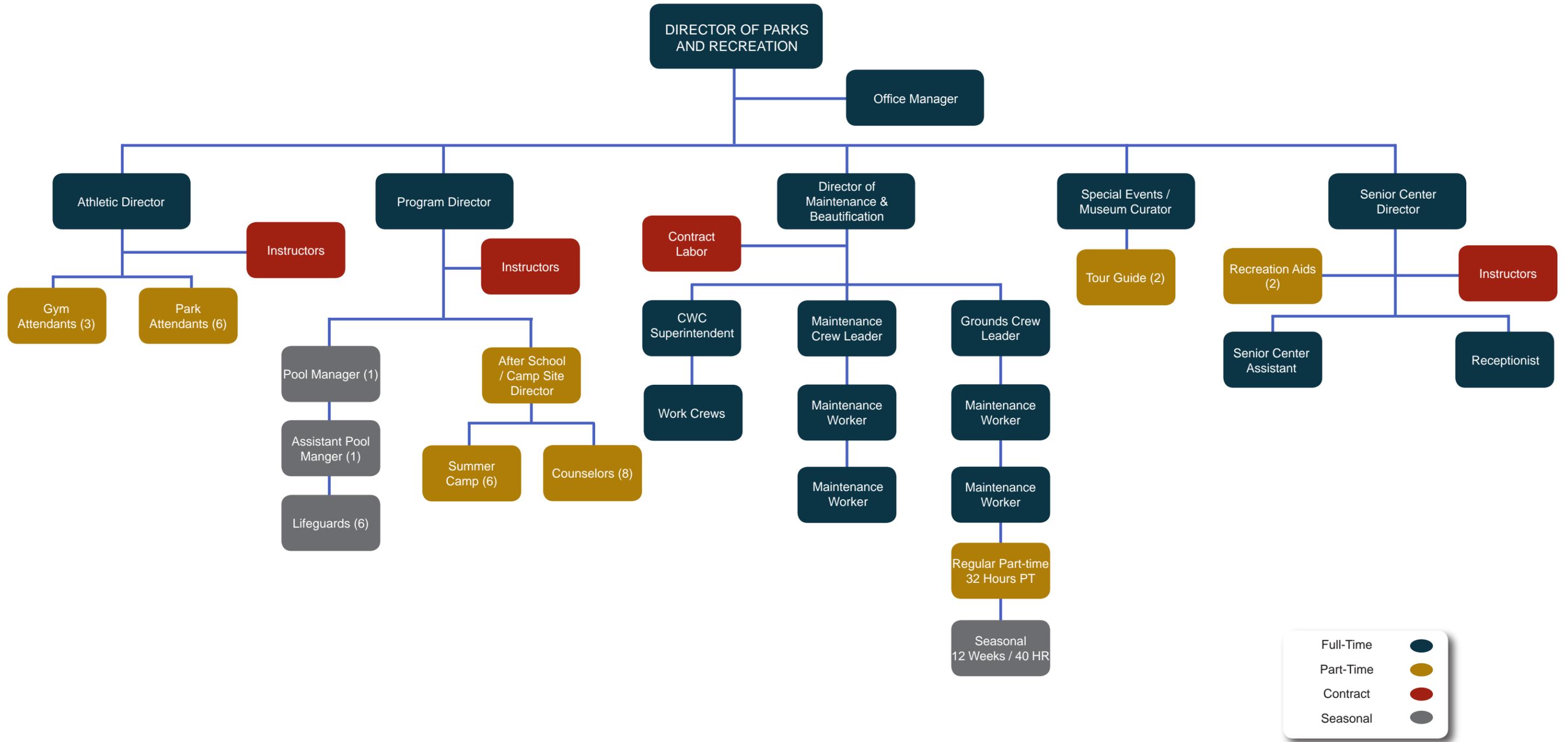
- Athletics
- Maintenance and Beautification
- Programming
- Special Events/Museum Curator
- Senior Center

See figure 4.3 for the existing organization structure within the department.

Organization charts for each of these divisions can be found in the analysis and recommendations narratives for each. These five functional divisions and their roles are summarized in the following narrative.

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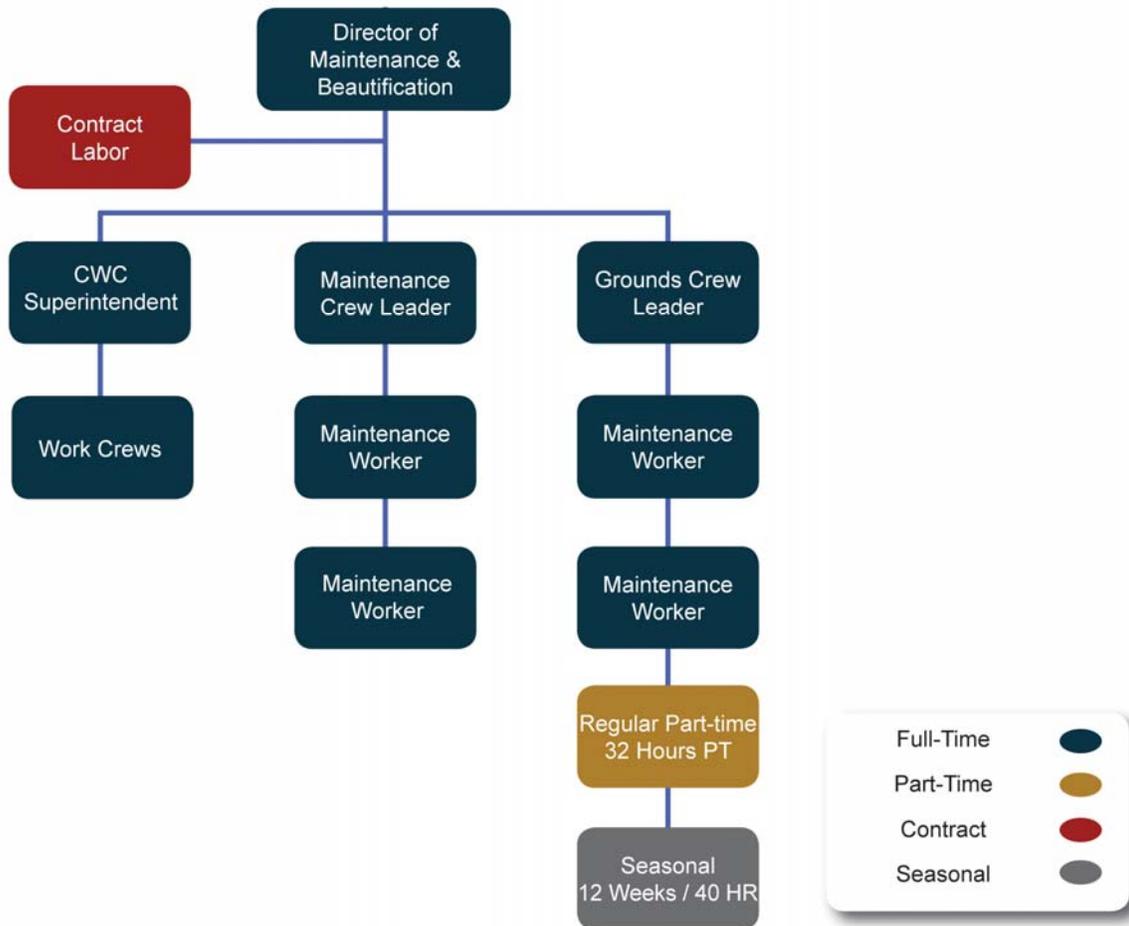
Figure 4.3: Existing Overall Pascagoula Parks and Recreation Organization



Maintenance and Beautification Division

Maintenance and Beautification staff is tasked with maintaining park facilities, some light construction activities in parks, beautification efforts, tree maintenance and being the backbone of the special events programs offered by the department, Main Street Program and other citywide functions. The Maintenance and Beautification Division has three work groups. The grounds maintenance work group is responsible for trash collection, landscaping, field maintenance and regular daily maintenance functions. The maintenance work group, which includes general maintenance workers that perform basic electrical, plumbing, and carpentry skills as needed to maintain buildings, mechanical systems, playgrounds and the other facilities found in the parks. The divisions third work group includes correctional work details that perform maintenance duties as assigned. See below for figure 4.4: Existing Maintenance and Beautification Division.

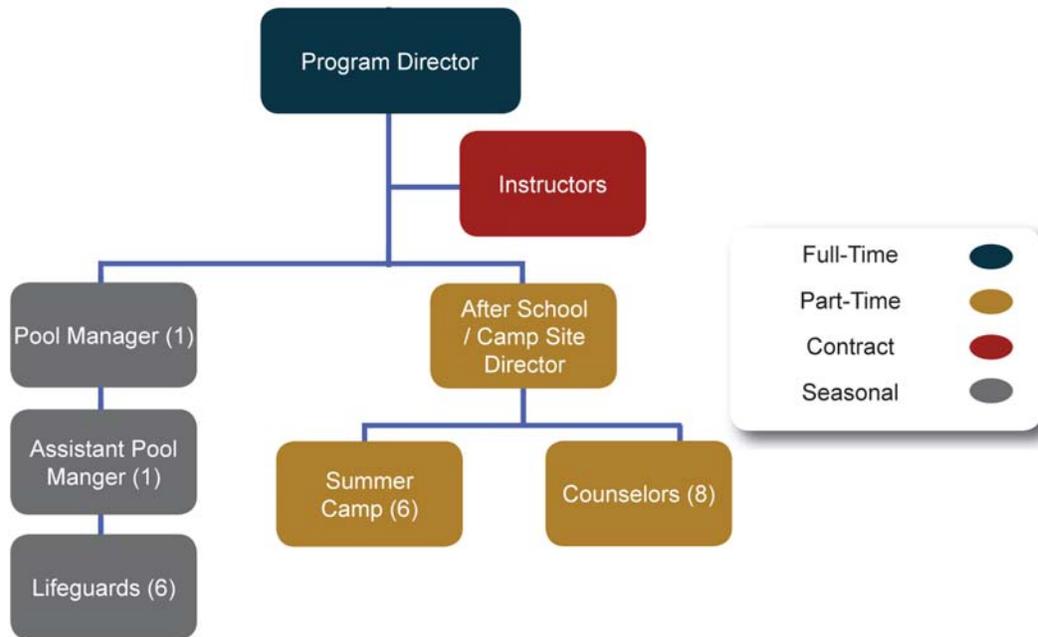
Figure 4.4: Existing Maintenance and Beautification Division



Programming Division

Programming Division handles the management and operations related to after school programs, day camps, some special events, both in a support role and as the primary facilitator of the events as well as contract programs such as Zumba. This division oversees pools, summer programs in the parks, summer camps and delivery of all the core recreation programs offered by the division including youth cheerleading. This division has only one full-time employee.

Figure 4.5: Existing Programming Division



Special Events/Museum Curator Division

The special events are coordinated throughout the year by this division. Many of the events are ecologically or environmental awareness themes such as river clean up and Keep America Beautiful events. Other programs have holiday or seasonal themes and most are geared toward younger children. The largest special event coordinated by special events is the Fourth of July fireworks celebration at the beach. Additionally, the division is responsible for the Scranton Nature Center a wildlife/nature center. Other facilities that are a part of this division are the Art Gallery and the Scranton “Shrimp Boat” Museum.

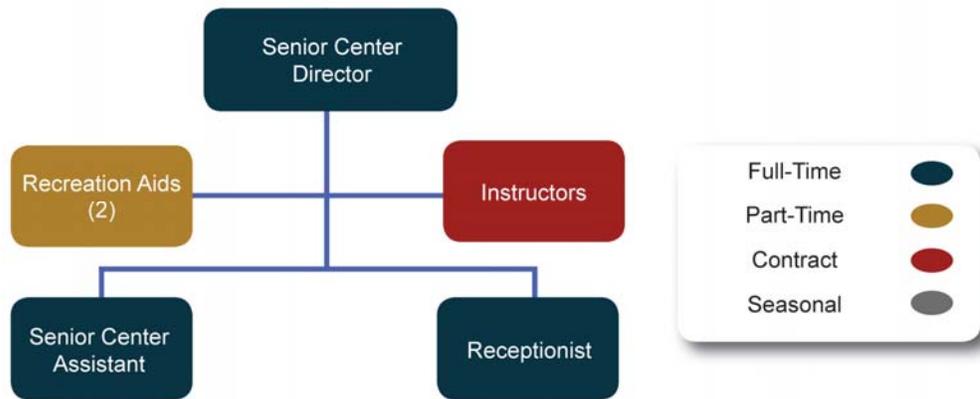
Figure 4.6: Existing Special Events/Museum Curator Division



Senior Center Programming Division

The Senior Programming Division operates independently from the other parks and recreation programming staff. It is housed in a new center that is capable of carrying out a wide variety of programs within its ample programming space. Presently, staff consists of a center director, a center assistant, a receptionist and two recreation aides (part-time). Programming consists of “Seniors on the Go” senior travel; line dancing, table games, arts and crafts classes, yoga, health and fitness programs and computer stations. A golden age club meets at the center the second Thursday of each month for lunch and games.

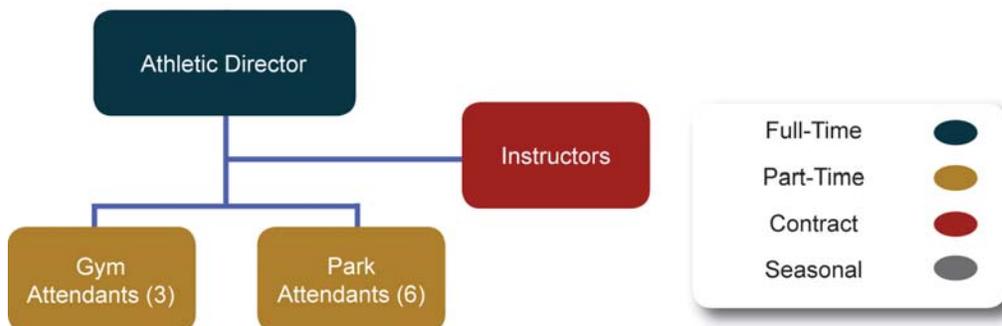
Figure 4.7: Existing Senior Center Programming Division



Athletics Division

The Athletics Division serves primarily as a facilitator for youth organizations that provide athletics programs such as Dixie Youth Baseball, Girl’s Youth Softball and Youth Soccer. Each of these programs are administered by independent associations and there is no local sport authority that works to unify the league activities and tournaments. The division does operate the youth football and basketball program for the department. Additional programs under athletics’ staff include tennis instructions by contract employees and the track programs. There are very few adult athletic activities planned by the division. No evidence was presented as to any advertisement or registration data for adult athletic programs. Fields maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department are used for adult softball programs operated through local churches. The athletic director also serves as the Harbor Master. The Athletic Division staff consists of the athletic director, three part-time gym attendants and six part-time park attendants.

Figure 4.8: Existing Athletics Division



Administration Division

Current staff, who make up the senior leadership within the Administrative Division include the Director, Administrative Assistant, Athletics, Programs, Senior Center, Special Event /Museum Curator as well as Maintenance and Beautification. The director provides oversight of the entire department in addition to working with the city manager, other Pascagoula department heads, recreation advisory board members and elected officials. Key functions of this division include financial and human resource management, risk management, purchasing and oversight of planning and park construction activities. It also provides oversight of the delivery of recreation services and beautification services. The director reports directly to the city manager. The city manager is a mayor/ council appointee and is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the city.

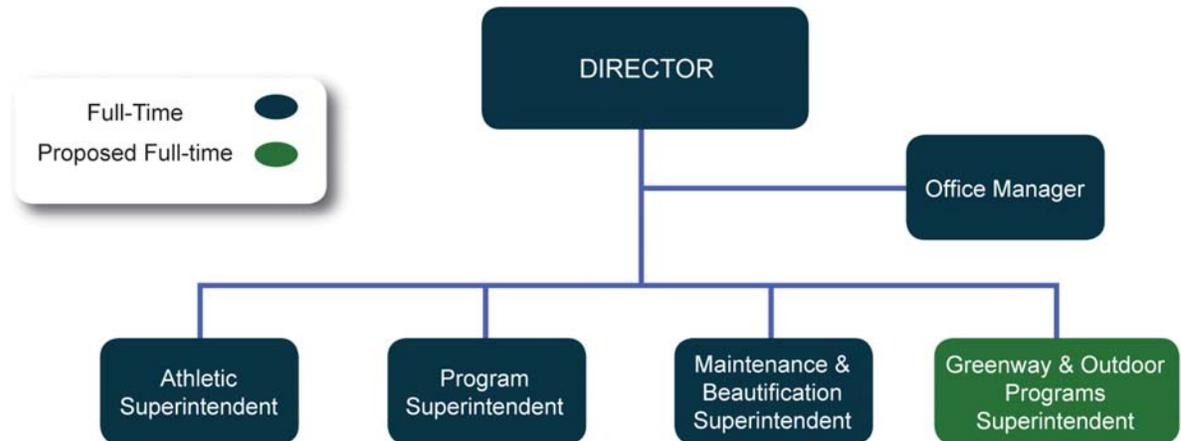
Administration Analysis

The director of a parks and recreation department needs to be the visionary leader who is out in front “telling the story” of the benefits that the parks and recreation agency brings to a community. The director should discuss how parks and recreation programs and facilities improve the quality of life for citizens and visitors to the community, the value of open space protection, environmental stewardship and how parks impact the local economy by attracting tourist to the community. This effort by the director takes time and resources and the support of the entire staff but, most importantly, the senior leadership team of the department. Senior leadership needs to be committed to overseeing the daily operations of their divisions in order to allow the department director to be a delegator and not a micro-manager. The major benefit of strong senior staff leadership is that it allows the department director the time to plan for new programs, assess the effectiveness of existing programs and to work with department members on issues critical to moving the agency forward. Adequate planning time will also allow the director to create an environment within the agency that is pro-active rather than reactive in terms of daily operations. It will also minimize the number of direct reports to the director.

Administration Recommendations

In the following narrative, the planning team has outlined changes in staffing assignments, job duties and overall department organization. This change starts with the Administrative Division of the department, which is depicted in figure 4.9 Proposed Administrative Division.

Figure 4.9: Proposed Administration Division



The planning team is recommending that the Administrative Division be composed of the parks director, athletic superintendent, program superintendent, maintenance and beautification superintendent and a new position of greenways and outdoor program superintendent. This arrangement reduces the total number of direct reports to the director by one and moves the senior center director and special events/museum curator into a consolidated Programming Division.

The new Administrative Division would oversee the day-to-day planning and implementation functions within the department and have direct communication up to the director and down to other full and part-time staff who oversee implementation of activities within their work groups. In this new organization structure, the senior staff members under the director would have the title of superintendents, which is the common title for these positions within the parks and recreation industry for smaller agencies that do not have assistant directors that manage large division. Superintendents then oversee staff including facility managers, program coordinators, crew leaders and similar positions that has subordinate staff beneath them. Throughout the division recommendations, we have used these standardized job titles to illuminate confusion relating to the hierarchy of staff. The department should now be able to reach out to other departments in the region and do benchmarking of positions and salaries to determine if current pay levels in the city are competitive with other communities.

These superintendents should have greater responsibility to manage their division and be held accountable for formulating a budget each year and then maintaining a checks and balance system throughout the year to be sure they are staying on budget. They should work with the director to establish revenue goals each year for the programs and facilities they oversee and then work to achieve these goals. Where programming is part of the staff member's responsibility, they shall be tasks to develop new programs each year and to improve on current programs. Because senior staff will be tasks with more responsibility and duties, there title and pay grade should be adjusted to be consistent with their roles. Based on the new organization structure we would expect the superintendent salaries to be

in the \$50,000 to 60,000.00 based on years of experience. By elevating these titles, the department should be able to attract and retain quality staff and more effectively compete with other agencies in the region.

Marketing and Fund Raising

The importance of marketing the benefits of parks and recreation and developing a fundraising strategy is vital to program success throughout the department. A marketing coordinator within the department can work with the city's overall marketing coordinator to enhance the branding of the department to the entire community. This staff person would also be tasked with leading fund raising efforts and coordinating tournament activities.

The current fundraising activities are primarily focused on sponsorships and capital funding raised by athletic associations. Many departments across the country bring in much larger amounts of money through friends groups, activities of the parks board and by fostering long-term relationships with philanthropic foundations. As the department transitions into finding more outside partnerships and attempts to garner more funding, a staff person should be dedicated to focus on these efforts. This position should actively work with the Park Commission and all friends groups to develop annual fundraising goals and strategies, as well as assist with special activities. In addition, this position should seek and obtain larger benefactors and foundation support - not just the usual team sponsors. Chattanooga, Tennessee is a great example of a city that has developed strong ties with local foundations and brought in millions of dollars to help construct public projects. More emphasis on developing larger and sustainable fundraising efforts is needed and should be led by the director and the assigned staff member skilled in such activity.

Communications, funding raising, developing partnerships and branding of the department must advance beyond current practices if the department is to remain a leading department in the state and local region. Growing new programs that can generate revenue requires proper facilities and a strong understanding by the community of the benefits these new programs offer. It is important to communicate to the community the health and wellness aspects of programs for all ages. It is also important to promote the social and leadership benefits of youth sports and camps as well as the family and community benefits of special events. The current staff lacks the time to promote these benefits adequately and is further hampered by aging facilities that are in need of replacement. With the lone exception of the new senior center and a few post-Katrina replacement facilities the balance of the facilities are old, which makes successfully branding the department's programs and activities a challenge.

Many agencies when adding a marketing/fundraising position will fund the position fully the first year and then set up fund raising goals that must be met over the next few years include securing sufficient donations and grants to cover the cost of the staff position. Another possible approach for this position would be to combine the parks and recreation marketing duties with the Main Street Program coordinator duties and move the Main Street Program under PPRD. There are numerous overlaps in special events between parks and



main street events. A review of the current special events offered reveal a range of events from very small events with budgets of a few hundred dollars to the large Fourth of July fireworks event costing thousands of dollars. Even with the demands of coordinating these special events, there should be time for marketing and fund raising activities, if the positions were combined.

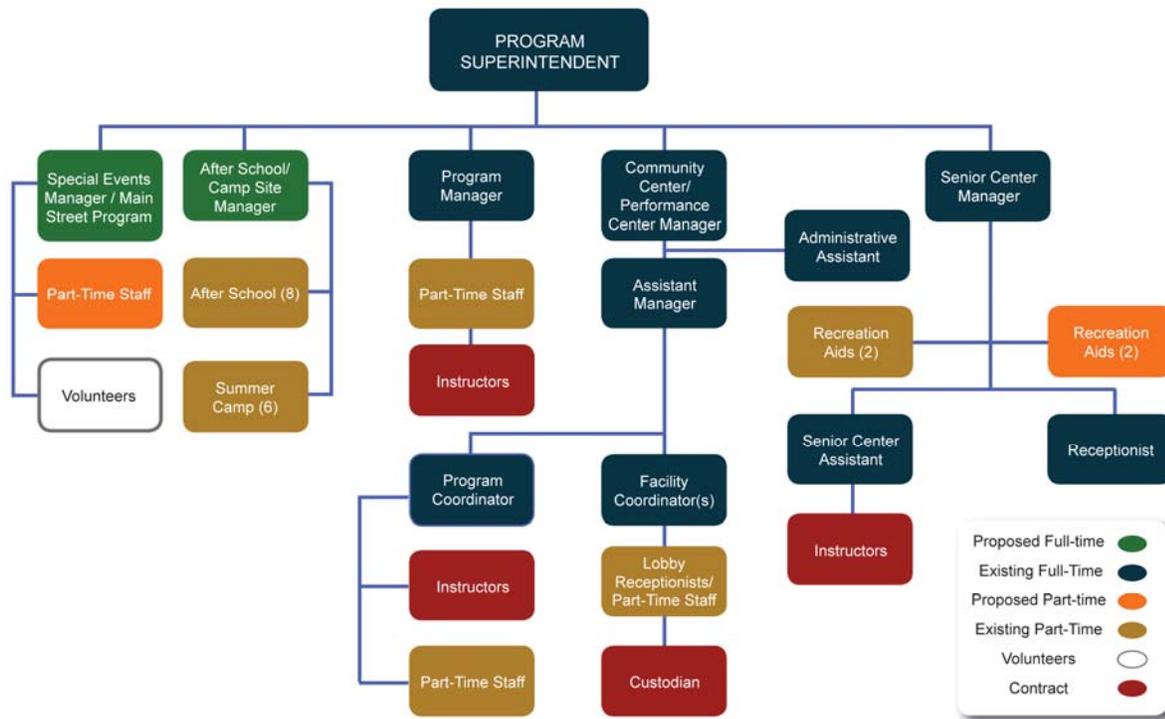
No matter how the city decides to fund the position, a marketing/fund raising coordinator is needed to expand programs, brand the park and improve the overall community image of Pascagoula.

Programming

We recommend that the current program and special events/museum curator and senior center director positions be redefined as manager positions. With the recommended merger of the parks and Main Street Program special events positions, this would allow the current special events/museum curator position to be redefined and focus on programming the nature center. The Scranton Nature Center is currently under programmed and has tremendous potential for expanding programs and activities that are nature based. There is also more opportunity for programs and special event activities at the senior center. Current Senior Center staff is working at capacity and this leaves little time to plan for and explore new programs. By shifting the Senior Center programming component to the overall Program Division and shifting implementation to the current staff, additional part-time staff and volunteers seniors will be given more program opportunities. We recommend two new part-time recreation aids.

Under the new proposed structure, the Senior Center manager would report to the new superintendent of programs and the Scranton Nature Center Manager would report to a new superintendent of Greenways and Outdoor Programs. See figure 4.10 for Proposed Programming Division Organization. More discussion on improved outdoor programming is discussed later in this master plan. The program superintendent would oversee the delivery of the core recreation programs and would work with the managers to see that new programs, as well as long-standing programs are executed at centers they direct. At the manager level, there should be regular communication among managers to ensure that there is program diversity that reflects the make-up of the community. The superintendent will work with all managers to prepare annual budgets, set goals and objectives for each work group, and to review the success of programs in order to evaluate all activities under their direct supervision. The superintendent will work with the director to establish the Program Division's budget on an annual basis. Part-time staff should be used to improve implementation of bigger and new special events. We are recommending that strong consideration be given for making the after school and summer camp coordinator a full-time position in order to grow the program, which is the largest enterprise program of the department. New partnerships and program locations should be sought for expansion of the program.

Figure 4.10: Proposed Programing Division



Special Programs Analysis

The Special Programs are those offered outside what some would consider core recreation programs. An example of this is the after school program, another area would be programming for special populations. Senior programs are sometimes grouped into this category.

Special Populations/Therapeutic Programs

This work group provides recreation, leisure and outdoor opportunities to enhance the physical, social and emotional well-being for citizens with or without disabilities. Programs should be offered year-round and include some of the following activities: wheelchair tennis clinics, therapeutic recreation fun camps, dances, bocce, wheelchair basketball, gymnastics and adult summer bowling. The Pascagoula Parks and Recreation Department does not offer any of these programs. The absence of a certified therapeutic recreation professional staff member should not prevent the department from offering services to such clients and this programming deficiency should be addressed. Additionally, as each park is renovated, a park-by-park ADA assessment should be conducted to determine if there are ADA needs in addition to those identified in this master plan. While special population programs are an unmet program area, the department offers a variety of programs in other categories. The main challenge for expanding programs is the lack of facilities.

Many agencies across the country are enhancing the programs they provide to special population groups. A national program, the “Miracle League” has formed to provide athletic opportunities to those with special needs just like Dixie Youth and other national youth



sports organizations focus on youth baseball. It should be the goal of every community to offer balanced programs for all citizens.

After School Program

This program offers summer camps/out of school camps and after-school programming at the Pascagoula Recreation Center (PRC) and for children in kindergarten through the eighth grade. This program is one of the best organized and attended programs of the department. It also is the largest revenue generator. The program has grown in popularity and is one of the shining stars in the system. The program is well run and with additional part-time staff. The program could grow even more; however, the lack of programming space has forced the department to limit the current enrolment.

The After School Program is one of the few programs for youth that have the potential to cover operating expenses. Program managers should attempt to strive for 100% cost-recovery of operational expenses and look for state and federal grant programs to help with program cost. Fees should be reviewed annually and - as long as the camp is operating at capacity and or has a waiting list - rates should be adjusted to increase cost recovery.

Currently, children are being transported from several schools to the PRC. The After School Program manager should work to maintain a strong presence in the schools and seek support from city and school officials to expand the program into city schools. The After School Program is a proven program and receives high marks from the community. Because the schools have the necessary space and facilities required to operate the program, the city would maximize access to the program while at the same time maximizing the use of city funds. If it is a goal of Pascagoula Parks and Recreation to promote partnerships, this is one that certainly should be explored and promoted.

The After School Program and the allied out school camps and summer camp program is currently directed by a part-time staff member. For this program to expand and increase revenue generation for the department, it will need to be directed by a full-time staff member. It is the recommendation of this planning team that the current part-time staff member become full-time so they can focus on growing the program and seeking grant funding to improve both educational and recreation components of the program.

Special Events/Nature Center Management

The special events/museum curator in the department is tasked with marketing and coordinating most of the department's special events throughout the community. The special events manager is responsible on a regular basis for the promotion of numerous special events sponsored by the department and the city. Special events are offered year-round. The size and scope of these events range from small neighborhood center events to larger galas that host thousands. In addition, this staff person is task with developing programs for the Scranton Nature Center and operations of the center.

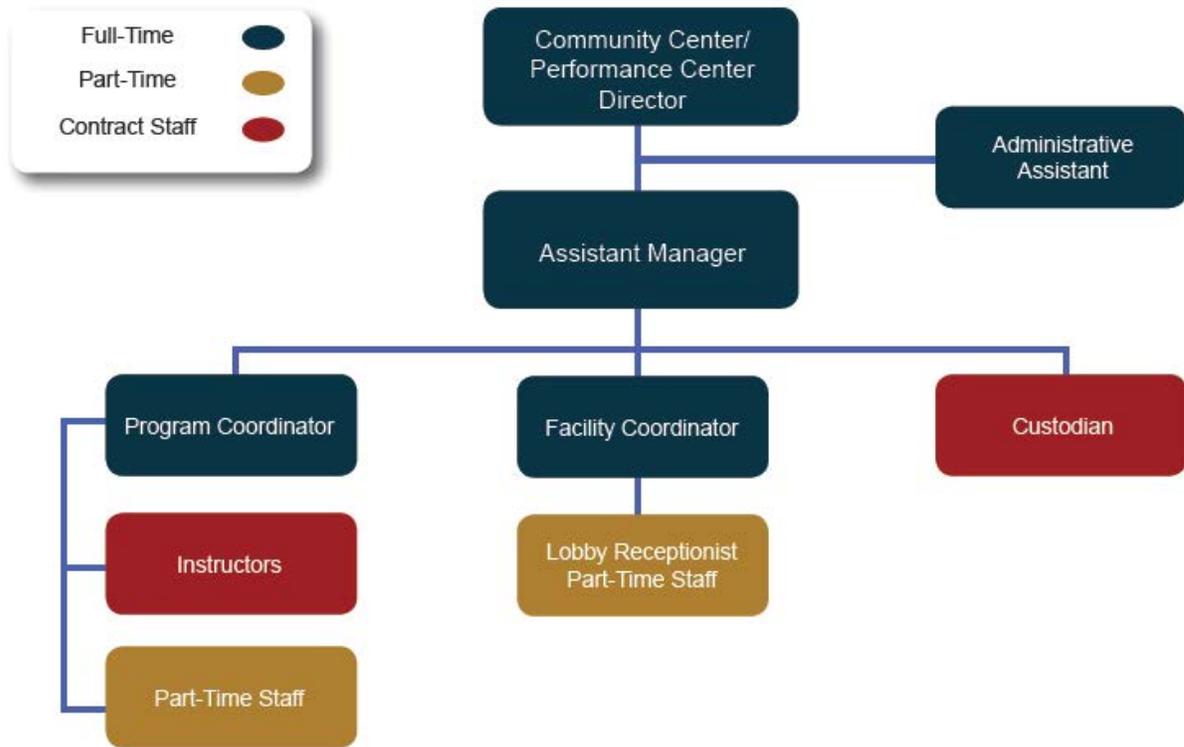
The divergent nature of these two tasks is impacting both the special events and nature center operations. Many of the special events have remained the same for many years and funding levels have not increased. Special events are one of the best ways to publicize a community and it takes adequate planning time and funding to create truly spectacular events. Conversely, operating a nature center takes a completely different set of job skills. Most nature center operators have taken a different education track in college and have a natural disposition for outdoor recreation programming. In order for both of these programs areas to improve, the job should be split. The nature center manager would be shifted to a new division within the department that is directed by the superintendent of Greenways and Outdoor Programs. The nature center manager would work with the superintendent to develop an expanded menu of outdoor programs that take place at the nature center or are based out of the nature center. With the variety of water bodies, plant communities and wildlife viewing opportunities available in the park system, many programs can be offered that start at the nature center but utilize other park resources in the system. It will take time to build these programs but there are many local colleges that can provide instructors for classes and activities as contract employees. Programs should be developed for all age groups. Program pricing should be consistent with the department's revenue goals. Special programs that offer greater learning experiences or more adventure should have higher fees and boost cost recovery. Nature centers often have strong friends groups who help raise money and create a pool of program volunteers. Establishing a Scranton Nature Center friends groups is also recommended.

The overall management philosophy of the nature center needs to shift from operating as a museum to operating more as a program center. Most nature centers have a small collection of artifacts and unique items for teaching but focus more on getting outdoors and experiencing what nature has to offer, rather than building large collections.

Community Center/Performance Center

During the development of the master plan, the city has looked at funding for a community center/performance center. While the facility program has yet to be completed, development of such a facility will have major staffing implications. If the facility is developed as a more traditional community center with meeting rooms, gymnasium, program space and an auditorium or performance venue, it will require a large staff to operate and program the center on a seven-day a week basis. The typical staff is shown in figure 4.11:

Figure 4.11: New Facility (facility chart, example only)



The center manager would be a full-time staff person responsible for the overall management of the facility and be an 8 AM to 5 PM employee. The center manager would oversee human resource issues at the center, financial matters, and booking the facility and programs. The assistant manager would work a flex schedule that includes oversight of the center on weekends and some evening work.

Facility coordinators would be responsible for opening and closing staff that make sure that the facility is operated in a safe and secure manner and that operating policies and procedures are followed in the absence of the center manager and assistant center manager. Facility coordinators would also oversee lobby receptionist staff and other part-time staff including custodians. If there is a performance component, facility coordinators should have the background necessary to operate and maintain necessary performance equipment.

Program coordinators would oversee the execution and planning of programs. They would direct contract instructors and part-time staff as needed to deliver programs.

Greenways and Outdoor Recreation Programs

Greenways

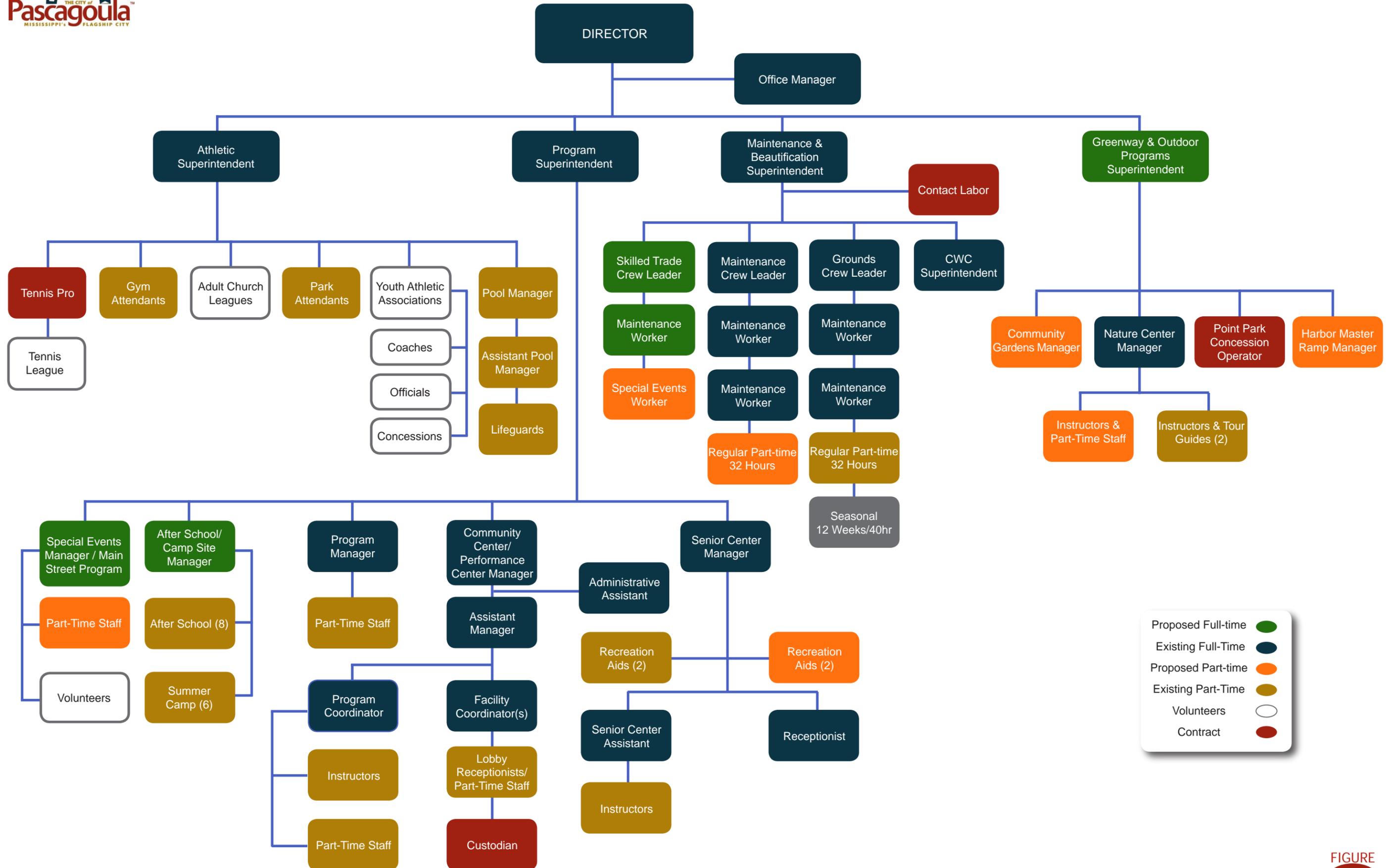
Nationally, greenways and trails are growing in popularity and it was the highest rated desirable facility in the needs assessment survey completed with this master plan. In Pascagoula, the current administration has embraced the demand to provide new connections throughout the city. Funding has been made available to create a new greenway system to promote walking, jogging and bicycling for all to enjoy. There is a need to increase the rate of development of alternative transportation systems that provide pedestrian and bicycle trail system connection to the parks, schools, business centers and the beach throughout the city. Creating a greenway system that truly provides an interconnected park system will expand recreation opportunities and greatly increase health and wellness opportunities for all. In addition, greenways will provide those with limited transportation options greater access to parks of all types. To meet this need, Pascagoula needs staff to oversee greenway planning, advocacy and fundraising. As the Pascagoula Parks and Recreation Department currently oversees operations and maintenance of the city's green space and open lands, it makes sense for greenways development to be overseen by parks.

Centralizing greenway planning within a single division of the city should lead to improved communications and result in bringing projects on line at a quicker pace. The consolidation of community-wide green space/open space and parks/greenways into one department within Pascagoula government will greatly improve public access to staff and will reduce overlapping and confusing information being delivered to citizens. It should also enhance programming for greenways as parks staff are engaged in programming recreation resources on a daily basis where Community Development and Planning Departments seldom are task with programming facilities. Greenway planning would move into a recommend new division within parks organization known as Greenways and Outdoor Recreation Programs. See figure 4.12 for the Proposed Division Organization Structure.

This division should be overseen by a professional with a planning background that understands proper park and greenway planning techniques but also has practical experience in park management and or park planning. Many parks agencies across the country fill this senior level position with landscape architects who have spent a large portion of the career doing public sector parks and planning work. The leader of this division would work with other city planning and transportation staff to seek funding for greenways and secure other multi-model resources to increase greenway development. They would also assist support staff with planning and organizing park programs that are outdoor or nature based, develop blueways plans for water based trail system and assist the director of parks and recreation with overall open space and resource management issues.



Figure 4.12: Proposed Overall Pascagoula Parks and Recreation Organization





Nature Based Programs and Resource Management

Nationally, nature-based programs and environmental interpretive areas are growing in prominence and demand. As cities grow, people are seeking more passive areas to connect with nature. All ages enjoy this type of programming and the benefits to them include becoming more aware of the environment and becoming better stewards of community resources. Pascagoula is blessed with an abundance of natural resources and its protection should be enhanced through the department.

Public meetings and survey results indicate that there is also a demand for more bike and hiking trails, facilities and programs, as well as aquatic and environmental activities. Of particular concern is the fact that with all of the natural resource available there are no programs such as kayaking, boating, sailing, fishing, bird watching, etc.

By creating a new division within the department to focus on natural resource programs, the planning team feels recreation opportunities will be expanded and there is a great potential to expand revenue generation. At public input sessions citizens repeatedly asked for improvements to boat launching facilities and access point to the water for all types of crafts. Repeated request were made for providing fuel at Point Park or at a new marina. There is a need to improve the city's current harbor and create water front walking paths throughout the city. The current staff focus is not water based in part because it is not their background and also because they do not have time to focus on these activities. These issues can be overcome by developing a new division within the department with the responsibility for developing these types of programs and facilities and by adding staff with the appropriate backgrounds.

The Superintendent of Greenways and Outdoor programs will be tasked with leading planning and development of these new facilities and programs along with other new staff. As previously discussed, the Scranton Nature Center Manager will have a large role in excursion of new outdoor and nature based programs. Contract instructors, program leaders and other part-time staff will be needed to conduct programs. In addition to programming duties, the city needs to become more active in managing the inner harbor and launching facilities.

Harbor Master and Point Park Concessionaire

The planning team is recommending that the department establish a harbor master program and concessioner at Point Park to improve oversight of water based activities. The harbor master program would operate much like a rangers program on public golf course. The harbor master program would be staffed with part-time staff person who would travel between the various parks that have launching facilities and they would enforce park rules and check to see that boaters have launching permits. They would issue parking tickets to boaters who do not have launching permits displayed and also notify boaters who are not following rules what is required to use the public launch and parking facilities. They would also monitor the city harbor and notify boaters if there are any problems with their boats or

the harbor. They would also collect parking funds fees based on seasonal schedules and prepare deposits and receipts needed to monitor the collecting of launching fees.

The Point Park concessionaire would be contract staff that would operate the bait, ice and food service facility that is recommended for the park. They would be required to be at the Point Park on a year round basis. Hours of operations would be established in the concessionaire agreement and would vary with the seasonal use patterns. They would be required to collect trash in the park and transfer trash from individual receptacles to a central dumpster throughout the day during peak use periods and special events in the park.

Community Garden Manager

The last recommended position in the outdoor programs area is the position of community gardens manager. Many parks agencies across the country are leading the effort to grow healthy food products and teach gardening skills by setting aside an area of public land for a community garden. It is recommended that the department identify one to two acres of land for a community garden and hire a part-time staff member to oversee gardening programs and activities. It is recommended that a portion of the garden be established and certified as an organic garden with the balance being a regular garden. A portion of the food raised should go back to the local food pantry. City owned property near the new senior center would be a potential location for the garden as many seniors expressed an interest in gardening. The department could also conduct programs on canning and preserving food. Depending on the success of the program, additional gardens could be added in the future based. See figure 4.13 for Proposed Greenways and Outdoor Recreation Division Organization

Figure 4.13: Proposed Greenways & Outdoor Programming



Administrative, Recreation, Greenways and Outdoor Programs Recommendations

Overview

Good communications is vital to the effective delivery of recreation programs. This means good communications between staff planning programs and staff who actually deliver the programs. It also requires good communication to market and advertise the programs between the department and other city staff who are assisting with the efforts. Lastly, it requires effective communications between program staff and maintenance staff who have to assist with the set up and delivery of programs.

To improve the flow of program information throughout the department we have recommended organization and job duty changes. We have also recommended new full-time and part-time positions in areas where the planning team felt the greatest program and revenue expansion opportunities exist. See figure 4.12 for proposed organization chart for the parks and recreation department.

The proposed realignment should support improved communications and allow for better communications between the superintendents and the program managers who oversee daily operations.

Position reclassifications are also recommended for all the manager level positions and some of the supervisor positions. These new titles/reclassifications are noted throughout the following narratives and associated organization charts.

Recommended Actions Programming Division: Establish a position of Programming Superintendent

Recommended Actions:

The Superintendent of Programming will manage five groups, which will be overseen by managers. These groups and new manager titles/reclassifications include:

- Senior Center Director (Senior Program Manager)
- Special Events/Museum Curator (Special Events/Main Street Program Manager)
- Program Director (Program Manager)
- After School Director/Camp Site Director (After School Manager)
- Community Center/Performance Center staff to be determined upon final programming of the proposed

Other Actions:

- Create a new program manager to oversee all general programming activities including programs for special populations
- Provide more training, continuing education and conference opportunities for staff
- Expand the after school programs and look to school facilities for sites for expansion
- Make the after school and summer camp manager position a full-time position
- Analyze facilities and programs for ADA compliance
- Move Scranton Nature Center to new Greenways and Outdoor Programs Division

Recommended Actions Greenways and Outdoor Programming Division

Establish a position of Greenways and Outdoor Programs Superintendent

Recommended Actions:

The Superintendent of Greenways and Outdoor Programs will manage four groups which will be overseen by managers. These groups and new manager titles/reclassifications include:

- Community Garden Manager
- Nature Center Manger
- Harbor Master
- Point Park Concessioner

Other Actions

- Transfer duties of Harbor Master to this division and out of Athletics
- Develop job descriptions for new positions
- House outdoor staff offices at Scranton Nature Center
- Develop RFP for concessionaire to operate Point Park concessions, bait/ice/food service
- Establish ticketing process for patrons that do not pay parking fee at Point Park and other launch facilities
- Increase outdoor programs
- Define Harbor Master duties
- Change management approach of Scranton Nature Center
- Create a community garden program
- Increase rate of greenway development city-wide
- Increase utilization of natural areas as programming space
- Increase all types of water resource activities
- Develop feasibility study for the best location to provide gas for boaters on the water

The Athletic Programs Division oversees a diverse mix of activities including management of athletics program, the inner harbor and community centers. According to staff, the division partners with others organizations (e.g., Dixie Youth Baseball League, Singing River Youth Soccer Association, Pascagoula Girls Softball Association, etc.) in the provision of some athletic activities.

Athletic Analysis

The Athletic Division offers many programs at parks, schools and community center. The delivery of programs is a major function of the division and, according to survey responses; there are not enough program opportunities. There are concerns that some of the programming has become dated and lacks diversity to reflect the current needs and desires of the community - particularly adults. More emphasis should be given to marketing the athletic programs offered by the department. The number of participants in department-run programs is low compared to volunteer association-run programs. A contributing factor that is impacting the delivery of programs is that neither of the two community centers in the system is available on a full time basis. Some patrons have even stated that they are antiquated and are not a place they would like to visit. The following discussion is an overview of key program areas the division facilitates and manages - followed by an analysis of issues relating to the programs.

Athletics

Athletics provides typical sports programming to youth. The youth focus areas include football, track and basketball by the department and soccer, baseball and softball by associations where the department simply serves as facilitators. Tennis camps are provided under contract instructors. Adult athletic programs are operated by churches on park property. Church operated programs include softball and volleyball. Adult athletics include tennis clinics and leagues organized by a local tennis club. There is tremendous potential to expand youth and adult athletic program offerings in team sports. Agencies across the country are now operating adult soccer, flag football, ultimate Frisbee, and kickball leagues among other individual activities such as organizing walking and running clubs. These same programs can be provided for youth along with others such as sand volleyball leagues, youth fitness training specialized sports camps and water sports training. Adding these programs will also provide the department an opportunity to increase revenue generation.

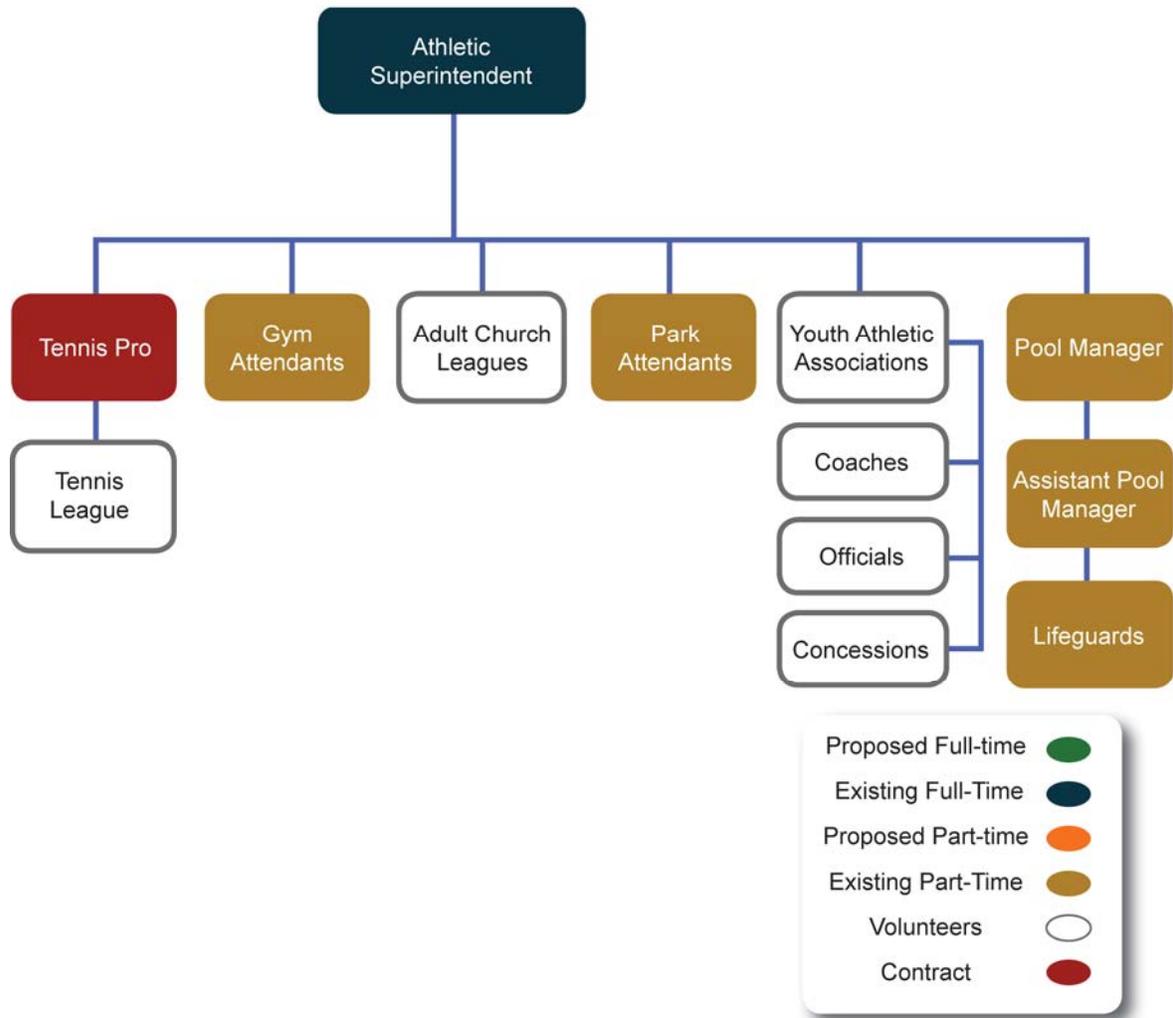
Athletic program offerings have been limited due to the lack of facilities, funding and staff. Many programs are extremely popular and well received by the community but inferior class and field spaces are a concern. For example, youth baseball and softball continue to be strong programs but there is a lack of field space to allow the programs to grow. Additionally, the fields are not up to the standards of surrounding communities and new sports complexes around the state. Many of the facilities are antiquated and do not meet current field size standards. Furthermore, there is no single park or sports complex that

could host a large-scale regional or national tournament. These types of tournaments have proven to be large money makers for the local economy.

Economic development officials across the nation have recognized the impact of large-scale invitational tournaments that host up to 200 teams. For example, Park City, Utah, hosts Triple Crown Girls Softball tournaments for eight weeks during the summer. Tournament data shows that the under-14 invitational brought in nearly \$900,000 in direct economic impact to the community. Carrollton, Georgia a community of less than 25,000, has hosted 3 v 3 soccer tournaments where as much as \$750,000 direct economic impact has been generated in one weekend. Additionally, they have hosted swim meets with as many as 875 participants in a two-day period that generated over \$500,000 direct economic impact with an indirect impact of \$1.5 million. Murfreesboro, Tennessee invested 12 million dollars to build a tournament soccer complex at Richard Siege Park. In June of 2011, the park was the site of the U.S. Youth Soccer Southern Regional Championships. The regional tournament attracted 184 teams and approximately 11,000 people to Middle Tennessee from 11 states. *The Tennessean* newspaper reported that these people spent an estimated \$8.5 million on hotel rooms, food and other amenities - much of it in Rutherford County. For Pascagoula to have any hopes of hosting a future national tournaments total replacement of existing baseball and softball facilities will be required.

Utilization of volunteers and leagues is a valuable tool for recreation agencies. The key to maximizing the benefit is to determine how best to use staff and how best to use volunteer groups. The planning team has seen very successful agency run youth sports programs and very successful association run programs. The key to either approach is good communications between the department and the league. A sound registration process and a fair draft are a must for balanced competition in the leagues. It is also important for all teams to have adequate access to practice facilities. To provide balanced access to fields, the planning team recommends a strong link between the department and the associations. The department has the ability to provide input on scheduling for games and practices, provide improved coaches training and general oversight of the leagues to insure the programs are truly meeting the needs of all the citizens of Pascagoula. The Superintendent of Athletics should lead the effort to improve league oversight and training.

Figure 4.14: Proposed Athletic Division



Community Centers

The PPRD features two community centers that offer programs year-round to varying degrees. One center, the Andrew Johnson Center, is leased out to the Boys and Girls Club of Jackson County and is available to the Park and Recreation Department only when they are not conducting activities or renting it out. The city also provides funding for the operation of the Boys and Girls Club programs and maintains the center. During the public input process, numerous citizens raised concerns about the condition of the gym floor at the Boys and Girls Club and the overall condition of the building.

The second center is the Pascagoula Recreation Center. This center is a converted school gymnasium and classroom space. The spaces that have been renovated are functional but not organized the way a center—designed specifically for a recreation—would be arranged. Some of the locker room space has not been renovated and is primarily being used for storage. The lobby space is poorly organized and there is virtually no community gathering space in the lobby. Another factor that limits use of the center is it cannot be used for other activities when the after school program is in session. The After School Program uses the

primary program space and the gym for its program. Other activities at the PRC include summer camp programs of various types, fitness classes, basketball leagues and special programs. The center also has a computer lab and art room.

The lack of modern recreation centers in the community is affecting both program diversity and the ability to offer more programs simultaneously. Community center staff (both full-time and part-time) need to be challenged to introduce fresh and new program ideas. Staff and the public indicated that many programs are popular but there are some that have been in the system because “they’ve always been offered.” Introducing more contracted programs in the centers would alleviate the need to hire staff and incentivize the instructor to enroll more people. The contract could be based on a 70%/30% or 80%/20% charge with the city receiving the smaller percent of gross receipts from the class and the instructor receiving the balance. Staff should work with contract staff to schedule classes and assist in the registration to maximize the number of classes offered in current facilities for the short term. In the long-term, a new recreation center with modern facilities and equipment would allow for increased programming.

Aquatics Facilities

Currently, oversight of aquatics facilities is under the program director. In order to balance the number of direct reports, the planning team is recommending that aquatics oversight be moved to the Athletic Division and out of the Program Division. This would include shifting oversight of swimming leagues to athletics.

The development of additional aquatics facilities scored very high in several of the needs assessment survey questions. The expansion of both indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities would result in the need for year round aquatic staff. This staff would fit well in the Athletics Division and be tasked with growing competitive swimming for all ages, increasing swimming lessons and other water based training courses.

Recommended Actions:

- Change current title of athletic director to superintendent of athletics
- Expand role of athletic staff in programming and managing all department athletic resources.
- Athletic superintendent should become more involved in the oversight and training of sports associations
- More programming for adults should be developed
- Superintendent should be more proactive in marketing existing department managed youth athletic programs by the department and expanding youth programs
- Athletics Division needs to expand and diversify programs at recreation centers
- Hire a part-time tennis pro on a percentage plus contract to build tennis program
- Put present aquatics programs under this division
- Expand overall mix of youth and adult programs
- Manage practice facilities

Parks Maintenance Analysis

Maintenance and Beautification

Maintenance and Beautification is one of the Department's five divisions and is overseen by a director. This division serves the department and the community in many ways. This division is made up of full-time and seasonal positions and provides the following services:

- Mowing of sports fields, park areas and other city properties (by contract)
- Contracts for maintenance and mowing of other city properties
- Special event set-up for both parks and other city agency events
- Tree care (fertilization, pruning, aeration, etc.) of trees on public property
- Maintaining sports fields and facilities
- Playground inspection
- Restroom and facility cleaning
- Small construction/renovation projects
- Special projects
- Downtown landscape maintenance and watering of seasonal baskets
- Other beautification plantings and maintenance

Some activities are done by internal staff, and some maintenance (common area mowing and right-of-ways) is done through contracts. The full-time contingent is made up of eight (8) permanent employees, directed by three (3) full time crew leaders one (1) full time seasonal worker who works for 12 weeks in the summer. Interviews indicated that the overall communication within the maintenance work group is good.

Level of Maintenance

The total park acreage in the system is approximately 195 acres of which it is estimated that approximately 90% or 175 acres are developed as maintained park space. Using the developed park acres and the current full-time equivalent personnel of 8.8 employees available to maintain these areas, the division currently has a ratio of 19.94 acres per person to maintain. Within the industry, this number falls within accepted norms for maintained acres per staff person. A ratio of 18-20:1 is the desired target with best practice agencies falling in the area of 12:1, according to the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). Based on the fact that the division is doing work outside of parks, task with special event work and well above the best practices ratio, this division needs additional workers during peak periods of the year if maintenance levels are to be completed at what would be considered high quality maintenance. The division is also faced with the challenge of not having a dedicated skilled labor work group. With the number of building, mechanical and electrical systems to maintain, having a skilled work group would improve safety for the public and allow for quicker response times when systems go down.

Another issue within the division is there are noticeably different levels of maintenance throughout the system. The parks near the beach and sports complexes are maintained at

a much higher level than the balance of the park system. This is typical for a park system that is understaffed. Highly used and highly visible parks often get more maintenance to insure they are safe and look good. This type of unbalanced maintenance can lead neighborhoods within the city to feel their parks are being neglected or that they are receiving less service because they are not living in neighborhoods that are more expensive.

Parks with lower maintenance standards tend to have increased vandalism and higher repair cost as normal maintenance functions such as painting go undone.

Another factor contributing to the lack of balanced maintenance in the parks is the lack of park maintenance standards. While there are many individual maintenance checklists, there is no written manual to be followed in all parks. If there were a written maintenance manual, it would be much easier to determine required staffing levels. If parks were not being maintained up to the required standards, then there is either a staffing shortage or employee issues.

The planning team also found a big difference in the maintenance level of sports fields that are receiving additional maintenance and care from the athletic associations. Fields that are being rented or used as practice only facilities are maintained at lower levels, which can result in safety concerns. While the associations are investing some money in the facilities they use, this can create the perception of preferential treatment for those who can afford to pay higher fees than those who participate in department run programs.

A concern expressed by parks staff is the desire to grow the greenway system. They understand the value of greenways and support their development but they are concerned that they will be asked to maintain the greenway system without receiving additional staff. If they are asked to maintain the greenway with their current staffing levels, it will further impact their park acreage ratio and their ability to maintain park facilities.

Maintenance Standards

Analysis shows that there are currently no written maintenance standards or guidelines, although in practice there are checklists that are followed with respect to reporting safety concerns, playground inspections and mowing schedules. In addition, there are regular schedules for winterizing park facilities and then reactivating them in the spring. Many of the practices are known and followed because large contingents of the supervisory staff are long-term employees. The loss of this institutional knowledge through retirements will have a major impact on the division if policy and procedures manuals are not developed.

Scheduling and Travel Time

Crews currently have daily work schedules that address routine maintenance and any work orders. The daily work schedule is a good tool for staff to use to determine what needs to be done within each park and facility. At times, the crews have to alter their schedule to address reactive maintenance that may be health and safety related. Crews estimate their reactive time in the range of 2 to 4 days; this varies based upon the season, severity of problem and activity level in parks. Crews stated that there is no true protocol that prioritizes what task takes priority when it is called in or placed in a work order. There should be a priority system that balances safety, loss of use to the public, potential for additional facility damage and similar criteria that would be applied to each work order or requested task in order to better schedule limited staff resources.

Special Events

Maintenance crews provide support to many events in the system, including supplying bleachers to events, tournaments, etc. Additional maintenance staff is often assigned to help with special events as well. The issue with the special events is that they over-tax parks maintenance resources. Staff indicated that routine tasks are delayed when maintenance crews have to react to events that were not scheduled or have a short turnaround time. Taking these crews off routine tasks creates a backlog of regular duties that affects league play, programs and other activities held at the division's facilities.

The division is not set up to address these larger activities. For example, special events crews can only transport one bleacher unit at a time due to the limits of the bleacher trailer. At times, large numbers of bleachers are set up at events like the Fourth of July, and hauling one bleacher at a time is not an efficient use of labor, fuel or equipment. After big events, they also have to clean up the parks or special event sites resulting in days of regular maintenance being lost.

Equipment and Uniforms

Equipment within the Maintenance and Beautification Division varies from weed eaters to tractors. According to staff, there is some equipment that is old and these pieces are being repaired constantly. Some are no longer in use and have not been replaced. Some equipment is so antiquated that it is too costly to use. One of the best methods to improve output of park maintenance crews is to provide high quality specialized equipment designed for grounds maintenance. There should be at least one infield groomer at each park with multiple baseball fields to care for the infields. The need for a new trailer for transporting bleachers has been identified as a critical need. Other equipment for trash collections should be purchased based on the overall equipment needs identified by the Maintenance and Beautification Division superintendent. Equipment should be put on a rotation basis so that equipment is replaced on a five-year cycle. In order to insure equipment is well-maintained daily equipment checklist should be developed and all staff should receiving basic in training in operating the equipment.

Park maintenance employees spend more time in the parks than any other department staff member. For many citizens, they view the parks maintenance staff as the front line staff and know them on a first name basis. Many departments understand this issue of visibility in the parks and require their staff to dress a certain way and in many cases provide uniforms for maintenance staff. The planning team recommends the department establish a dress code for maintenance staff and either provide a uniform allowance above the worker current salaries or provide a fixed number of shirt, jackets, and pants per year as a base set of clothing. In addition, the department should require that maintenance staff use proper safety equipment including but not limited to safety glasses, hearing protection and steel toed boots when appropriate.

Safety

Staff and the public have stated that safety is a concern within the parks. People within the city perceive some parks to be unsafe, which makes them unsure of visiting parks and facilities. Public and staff concerns about a need for safe parks have been established throughout this process. Staff indicates that vandalism is an ongoing problem in parks and they are making every effort to control and mitigate it. At the public workshops, participants indicated that some people have an apprehension for visiting certain parks. Whether this is unwarranted perception or not, the department needs a highly visible presence within its parks to ensure that patrons can visit and enjoy the amenities within the system.

Park safety can be compromised by many factors including unmet maintenance needs. During site visits by the team many walking paths with uneven surfaces from root damage were observed. Other common items include broken electrical conduits, unsecured electrical boxes, soccer goals that were not properly anchored and inadequate playground surfaces maintenance. All of these issues reflect the lack of adequate staff to both identify safety hazards and then correct the problems. The lack of understanding that - small things can be a hazard - is also evident and staff training on creating safe park environments should also be provided.

Parks Maintenance Recommendations

More than any of the other divisions within the department, the Maintenance and Beautification Division is a support division that works daily with other division within the department. As such, this division needs strong leadership and good communications with the other divisions' senior staff. Weekly planning session should be scheduled to review the upcoming week's activities. At these meeting, work for the Maintenance and Beautification Division that is outside normal maintenance activities should be schedule and for big events scheduling should be set 30 days in advance of the event. Working with the director of the department, the division superintendent will determine when additional part-time staff will be scheduled to meet the demands of support services to other divisions.

The Maintenance and Beautification Superintendent will be the person who oversees the day-to-day activities of park maintenance and works with the crew leaders to carry out park maintenance system wide. The superintendent will work to develop annual operating



budgets for the Maintenance and Beautification Division and provide these to the director as part of the overall budgeting process. As the senior member of the division, he/she will also be responsible for all staff evaluations and personnel issues within the division. The superintendent should work to establish standard operating procedures and policies with performance levels established in order to create accountability for work performed with the division.

Level of Maintenance

Another issue that needs to be resolved is who will maintain greenways. Greenways are highly visible areas that must be maintained. Parks crews are set up for this type of maintenance but with the current low number of employees, greenway maintenance will be almost impossible when it is added to their list of duties. Greenway maintenance standards should be developed on a per mile basis. Once standards are established, staffing levels can be determined and staff can be added to parks or another department of the city to maintain new greenways.

Time and Motion Study

A time and motion study is recommended in order to determine how much time is spent driving to parks, weeding, cleaning, removing trash, etc. This study tracks all time and gives recommendations that may allow for decreased windshield time, provide better maintenance practices and give managers the tools to create operational standards. This study will allow for the division to better position crews for routine maintenance as well as for reactive issues that may arise.

Maintenance Standards

Standards need to be developed and implemented throughout the parks system. These standards will provide guidance to crews regarding maintenance of the natural and built environment in parks. For example, standards will define how often a sports field is mowed and to what height the turf shall be kept. It will further prescribe how often the turf is watered, when it should be aerated, and when pesticides/herbicides are applied. From interviews, it was apparent that many individuals in the parks system know what to do and when to do it but this information is not in any written form. Maintenance standards should cover all parks and facilities including those maintained through outside contractors who mow parks.

Outsourcing

Tied to the goal of reducing ratios of park acreage per worker, the division needs to look to outsource more activities. Areas that may be considered include:

- Central Business District landscape and hanging basket care
- Restroom janitorial services in the parks system-wide
- Special event set-up and clean-up for large events
- Trash collection

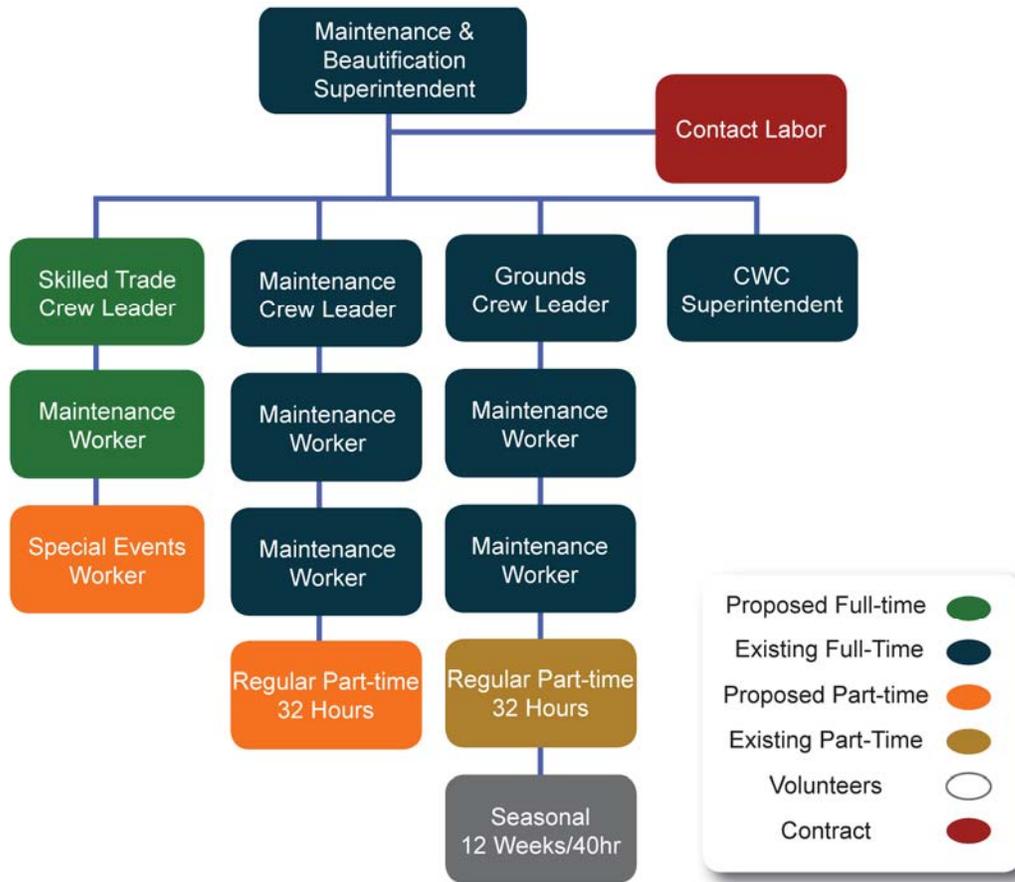
Special Events

A tiered system needs to be developed for special event setup within the department. The current structure is too reactive and takes parks maintenance crews off their regular duties. The planning team recommends that larger special event set-up and takedown should be contracted out. With events of more than 500 attendees, contracts should be arranged with companies that specialize in this type of support services. Another option would be to develop a pool of part-time staff that is brought in to set up the large special events. For events with less than 500, the current special events crews should be used.

Maintenance crews also need to have an additional trailer that can haul more bleachers or bleachers need to be equipped with removable or retractable wheels. Furthermore, the department needs to invest in a pool of bleachers for special events and leave the existing inventory at their regular park location. Hauling of bleachers decreases the life span and hauling bleachers from a single location will save time.

To gauge the time demand for special events, the director and superintendents who oversee the special events and maintenance operations should review the past 12 months special events. As part of the review, maintenance staff time for setup, takedown and support services such as extra litter pickup, placing tents, chairs and similar activities should be documented. Cost of these activities should be estimated based on current staff salaries. This will allow the department to determine how much money to budget for contracted labor. It will also create a fee schedule for events that can be charged when the city is asked to support other community groups with special events.

Figure 4.15: Proposed Maintenance Division



Equipment

A five-year equipment replacement schedule needs to be developed as new equipment is purchased to replace current outdated and non-functional equipment. The division has many pieces of equipment that need replacement and updating. The superintendent of Maintenance and Beautification should work with the director and City Comptroller to develop depreciation schedules for equipment and develop a capital funding plan to pay for retooling the division. Once the capital plan is funded equipment should be purchased. An option to purchasing equipment is enter into multi-year lease agreements for the needed equipment. Many agencies have found this to be more desirable as they do not have to maintain large repair shops to work on the equipment, and the equipment is replaced at the end of each lease agreement.

Park Safety

Safety concerns and vandalism are issues within some parks. Special efforts should be made to involve the police department in monitoring parks and facilities on a regularly scheduled basis. This schedule should change periodically to ensure that persons causing problems do not become aware of the routine patrols. Another way to have a police

presence in the parks is to have officers work on administration tasks in parks, given that their vehicles are outfitted with computers. This allows different officers to take advantage of the space and create a consistent presence in the parks.

Some survey responses indicated a high presence of police in the park in a negative tone. Complaints about the number of parking tickets and arrests at Beach Park were noted in the comment section on surveys. It was felt that these actions were driving people away from Beach Park. Balance in police activities is needed to ensure the desired safety results are being met in a positive manner.

Training and Conferences

Staff throughout the department needs to attend national park and recreation conferences to learn about new opportunities happening in the profession. Staff indicated they sometimes attend state training and conferences but need the ability to learn from national leaders in the field of parks and recreation. The National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA) provides many excellent courses, workshops, on-line resources, webinars and a national conference. Many of the training opportunities provide information in specific work areas such as park maintenance, programming, aquatics, therapeutics and general park financial management. State conferences also offer useful training opportunities.

Purchasing Procedures

Ensure that the department bundles equipment to maximize efficiency or generate saving through volume discounts. Confirm that all staff is aware of purchases in order that they might group orders for potential cost savings. In many respects, companies that provide services and equipment to governmental agencies provide price breaks if a bulk purchase is made.

Recommended Actions Summary

Below is a summary of recommendations.

- Reclassify the Maintenance and Beautification director position to a superintendent level position.
- Conduct a Time and Motion Study to create a baseline for time allocated for routine parks maintenance and confirm time spent providing reactive maintenance, include contract grass maintenance in this study to ensure that cost is appropriate.
- Purchase software that enables the division to track time per project.
- After conducting the time and motion study, create parks maintenance standards system-wide.
- Develop a central base for the Maintenance and Beautification Division including office, workshop, chemical storage, paint storage, training room, equipment storage, vehicle and tractor storage.
- Include a safety shower and eye wash equipment at the central base.



- Develop a staffing standard of 15 acres of parks maintained per person (actual field parks personnel) by 2017. Long-term reduce staffing standard to 12 acres maintained per person.
- Determine where outsourcing of services is in the best interest of the Division. Begin with the downtown landscaping and watering activities.
- Work with city administration to determine whether greenway/trail maintenance will fall under Department of Parks and Recreation. If so, adequately staff positions and create greenway/trail maintenance standards as well as hire maintenance crews.
- Larger special event set-up and take down should be contracted out to private providers. Existing special events crews will facilitate smaller special events (less than 500 people).
- Work with the director and city comptroller to create an equipment replacement schedule; evaluate rental vs. purchase and obtain new equipment.
- Create a working relationship with police department to enhance surveillance of parks.
- Develop park maintenance staff dress code and provide uniform allowance or provide uniforms.
- Purchase special events bleachers and trailer to transport bleachers.
- Add new skilled trades crew and part-time special events staff and one additional 32 hour part-time staff member.

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SECTION 5

ASSESSMENT

PROGRAMMING

ASSESSMENT AND

BUDGET ANALYSIS

BUDGET

ANALYSIS

PROGRAMMING

Section 5

Section 5: Programming Assessment and Budget Analysis

Programming Assessment is an important component of the success of any parks and recreation department. With a good balance of both athletic and non-athletic offerings, programming greatly benefits the people of the community by enhancing their quality of life. To function as a truly modern parks and recreation department, the department must be committed to providing a variety of recreation programming options. Unlike most other government departments, park and recreation staff engage and interact with the public daily on a more personal level. Programming encourages people to interact with one another and, depending on the type of program, can also promote teamwork and self-improvement. The Pascagoula Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing quality parks, recreational facilities and programs. The department currently provides a myriad of recreation opportunities and facilities and they are developing additional water access opportunities.

An analysis of existing recreation programming is one of the basic components of this master plan. The department offers programs for all ages, from youth to senior citizens. A diversified program offering creates the opportunity to include citizens who may never have participated in recreation activities before. Having reviewed the program opportunities, constraints faced by the department, community concerns and desires and staff opinions on programs, we have identified several issues and opportunities and provided recommendations on future programming efforts.

Community Programming Benefits

A well-rounded and diverse parks and recreation department provides many benefits to the community it serves. As discussed in the insightful 1995 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) publication, *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*, the four categories of benefits—personal, economic, social and environmental—are listed below.

- *Personal Benefits* of a comprehensive delivery system include a full and meaningful life, good health, stress management, self-esteem, positive self-image, a balanced life, achieving full potential, gaining life satisfaction, human development, positive lifestyle choices and improved quality of life.
- *Economic Benefits* include preventive health care, a productive work force, big economic returns on small investments, business relocation and expansion, reduction in high cost vandalism and criminal activity, tourism growth and environmental investments that pay for themselves.



- *Social Benefits* include building strong communities, reducing alienation, loneliness, and anti-social behavior; promoting ethnic and cultural harmony; building strong families; increasing opportunity for community involvement, shared management and ownership of resources; and providing a foundation for community pride.
- *Environmental Benefits* include promoting environmental health, protection and rehabilitation; offering environmental education opportunities; and stimulating environmental investment that increases property values and helps ensure a continued healthy future for the environment.

Each benefit is consequential to the community and has specific rewards. When evaluating and promoting parks and recreation services, these elements should be considered as they all impact the overall quality of life in a community.

Pascagoula Parks and Recreation Department Programs

PPRD offers programs in four basic categories: athletics, senior programs, special events and community programs. These programs are provided in parks and facilities throughout the city and cover all age groups. The department makes effective use of its existing facilities, which range from beaches to pools, sports fields to natural areas and small pavilions to recreation centers. However, other than the Pascagoula Recreation Center and the Senior Citizens Center, adequate indoor facilities like gymnasiums and activity rooms are lacking and limit the expansion of certain programs. The planning team found that facility staffing levels and funding are low compared to the departments that offer broader programming opportunities. However, the department is able to deliver a wide variety of programs because of partnerships, joint ventures, athletic associations, contract instructors and volunteers.

Structured programs are provided for the community at some of the department's facilities and, occasionally, in local schools. These programs include a variety of activities, ranging from afterschool and summer camps to wellness and youth athletics programs. While we found activities for youth, adults have a limited amount of programmed activities. Exercise classes and programs offered at the new senior center for adults over the age of 55 were the most prevalent. A limited amount of athletic activities are available to adults and, according to interview comments, the participation numbers have dropped significantly from past years.

Athletics

Based on public input, it appears that the youth sports and athletic needs are being met fairly well; however, the athletic associations implementing the programs expressed many concerns with the facilities' conditions. Facility issues that are limiting programming and tournament opportunities include: field conditions, field locations, lack of lighting and the condition of restrooms. Without facility upgrades, improving current program opportunities will be difficult.

The new senior center is a good example of how facility upgrades benefit a department. With the development of the new senior center, the recreation needs of the senior population are being met much better than they have been previously, as more people are able to participate



and the recreation experience is enhanced by the improved setting. The partnership with The Singing River Healthplex System has improved the wellness activities at the senior center and there is opportunity to further expand this partnership. The art classes offered at the senior center are very popular and the number of participants is increasing.

Senior Programs

During the past ten years, the senior population of Pascagoula has decreased along with the total population. However, the percentage of seniors has increased from 20.88% to 22.8%. This is based on a total population decrease from 26,200 to 22,392 - a total decrease of 14.5%. The decrease in the senior population was 175 persons.

The PPRD opened a new senior center in 2011, which has significantly increased their program offerings to seniors. At the facility, seniors can participate in a variety of programs and activities such as arts and crafts, table games, luncheons, travel, exercise programs and special events (such dances and other activities) that are scheduled throughout the year. The seniors have embraced their new center and public input confirms that they feel staff is doing a good job programming the center.

Special Event

Special event programming is provided by the department, in addition to the support they provide the city's Main Street Program—another special events provider. Special events help shape a community's identity and the entire community benefits from these activities. Several special events (many of which are free) that are provided and supported by the department include: Arbor Day activities, A Home for Bunny, Backyard Bird Count, the Mardi Gras Parade, Easter egg hunts, music events and many more. Like many other parks agencies around the country, Pascagoula's department staff view special events as both an opportunity to serve the community and a major burden due to the extra work required to execute the events. Special event setup and takedown activities require many hours of work and, frequently, this means regular maintenance and programming duties go unmet until the special event work is complete. Interviews indicate that some specialized event equipment is needed to reduce the burden on staff and there is a need for additional part-time staff for some of the larger events.

Community Programs

Individual and unstructured recreation opportunities are provided to Pascagoula residents through the use of the city's park system. The parks offer sport fields and open areas for free play outside of scheduled activities. Court games, picnic shelters, a splash pad, walking trails and playgrounds are offered for the casual park user. The beach area offers access to water along with a place for volleyball, fishing and people watching. Numerous boat ramps are located throughout the city to provide boats access to both the Pascagoula River and the Mississippi Sound. The planning team also found that the city has recently marked its first bicycle route and constructed the city's first blueway. These new facilities will provide new recreation opportunities citizens requested in recent city community planning efforts.

Figure 5.1 illustrates the programs and events currently being conducted by the department.



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The department has expressed a desire to expand programming options, but a lack of funding and facilities, staff shortages and a hesitancy to “think outside of the box” has limited program growth. These challenges are not unique to Pascagoula, but, if citizen’s desires for improved recreation opportunities are to be met, then structural and operational changes will be required in the management strategies. Staff additions and increased funding will be needed to improve the number and diversity of programs the department is able to provide. A new management structure, with established evaluation and reporting processes and the identification of strong department leadership positions, will help to create the accountability necessary for the development of new programs and improving the quality of services. More discussion on organization recommendations is provided in Section 4 of this master plan.

Individual programming areas are discussed in greater detail in the following paragraphs.

Individual Programming:

Youth Athletics

The department's athletic programs include ongoing leagues, camps and one day events that are offered to participants ages 4 and older. Children, particularly boys, are the best served group. With the exception of a youth football and basketball, all traditional youth athletic programs are run by local athletic associations that use the department's facilities. These associations provide youth baseball, girls' softball and soccer. The associations oversee the recruitment of coaches, sponsors and direct the practice and game activities associated with running the leagues. They manage concessions facilities and do a small amount of field work, in addition to the maintenance provided by staff. These associations are stable, with many having longtime volunteer support. During the public input process, there were no major issues raised concerning the operations of the associations. In addition to regular league activities, the associations also sponsor some sports camps and conduct tournaments at the various athletic facilities. Participation numbers have been steady in youth baseball; softball and soccer enjoyed an increase in participation this year.

Participation in the department's programs has shown a moderate increase each year in youth activities and contracted programs. Current participation is at the level of 385 (soccer), 300 (girls softball) and 520 (baseball). All three of these programs are offered by outside organizations that utilize department facilities.

Youth basketball and football programs fall under the direction of park staff. The youth basketball league has proven to be only slightly successful, with only 121 participants last season. In contrast, the football program had 219 participants. The basketball program, which is available to ages 6-13, utilizes the Pascagoula Recreation Center gymnasium and volunteer coaches. The football program also relies on volunteers and is played at Pascagoula High School. Tennis is another program offered to children as young as 7 via two camps a year. Girls and boys 9-14 are also offered the opportunity to participate in the Hershey’s Track and Field Games, and competitors can advance to regional and national finals. The athletics and



programming sections also organize summer sports camps either in-house or through associations. Boys and girls ages 6-15 can take part in six different camps or classes: skateboarding, football, cheerleading, basketball and baseball/softball. Each sports camp lasts one week and is offered for all skill levels, but age groups vary by sport.

These three programs are department organized and operated and would appear to have growth potential based on other youth sport participation levels. A review of the basketball operations should be undertaken, since its participation level is so far below all other sports.

Youth Non-Athletic Programs

Several camps and camp-outs are available to Pascagoula youth. The Beach Overnight Camp is held at Beach Park where participants bring their own tent. Other camps are Spring Break Camp, Thanksgiving Camp and Christmas Camp all of which are held during school holidays. Ages 6-12 are eligible for day camps during the summer.

The department has a well-organized After-School program for children K5-8th grade. The children are picked up from school and transported to the Pascagoula Recreation Center. They are monitored while completing their homework and have an opportunity for structured play.

Friday Fun Night 1 (ages 6-13) and Friday Fun Night 2 (ages 6-13) are two ongoing events geared toward Pascagoula youth. Parents drop off their children at the Pascagoula Recreation Center and then participants are transported to an event. Snacks are provided, but participants are asked to bring additional money for dinner. They take various field trips to events such as Mississippi Surge games and Monster Jam motorsport shows.

Adults Athletics

The department offers few athletic options for adults ages 18 and over. One program is the basketball league, but it is limited. Tennis is another athletic option for adults. The local tennis association coordinates the program, which includes private and group tennis lessons and league play. Many of the adult tennis programs are offered on weekdays during the day with league play offered in the evening hours. Participation in the tennis program has dropped from historic highs when the pro shop was operated at the tennis complex. Other reasons cited include participants' safety concerns due to other groups loitering adjacent to the courts and parking areas. Offering individual lessons only during the day also limits participation by those who work during the day. League players have also expressed a need for more lighting in the park and the need for a full-time tennis staff member. On a positive note, participation in the tennis program has increase in 2012.

Local churches use the adult softball fields to run a co-ed softball league and conduct a volleyball league at church facilities. The Yacht Club operates a large adult tennis program and boating activities. Overall, the adult team athletic opportunities are much fewer than seen in other agencies.

Unfortunately, interest in adult programs in athletics has waned over the years, which resulted in the programs no longer being offered. The department's contract programs for other types of adult activities continue to increase. Much of this increase can be attributed to the promotion of



these activities through the department's website and the following public outreach efforts undertaken by the department: annual program guide, brochures and flyers. The planning team recommends that the department continue to introduce new instructional classes and seek additional revenue from these classes.

Aquatics

The department has a limited aquatics program. Swim lessons are taught in three 10-day sessions during June and July. Other opportunities are open swim at the Andrew Johnson Center pool, a splash pad at Beach Park and the gulf waters at Beach Park. A private swim club is available in Pascagoula and the Singing River Healthplex offers swim lessons for those under the age of 12. There are no indoor competition pools available in the city for swim leagues or master swimming programs. Swimming opportunities are lower than what is anticipated for a coastal community.

Community Programs and Special Events

The department offers several community programs and special events, including: camps, art classes, dance instruction, Easter egg hunts and a fishing rodeo. Some events—like Backyard Bird Count, Arbor Day, Great American Cleanup and Sounds of the Sea—are one-day events that are open to all ages. Other one day events—like the A Home for the Bunny, Friday Fun Night 1 and various Easter egg hunts—are geared toward children under the age of 13. The department works closely with the Main Street Program to conduct special events. The Nature Center conducts programs that are open for all ages year-round. In the area of special events and specialty programming, the city is doing a good job. There are opportunities for expanded programming at the nature center, as well as other nature-based programs that utilize the natural areas surrounding the city.

Instructional Classes

The department contracts jazz and technique dance instruction courses for ages 8 -13. Other instructional classes for which the department contracts with local instructors include: skateboard lessons, tennis lessons, Zumba fitness classes and art classes. The Zumba classes are taught twice a week at the Pascagoula Recreation Center and are open to adults. The art lessons are held at the Community Arts Center and include hands-on classes in pottery, photography, drawing, acrylics, children's art and paint parties. When compared to other agencies, the number and variety of instructional classes for youth and adults in Pascagoula is notably less.

Outdoor Programs

Outdoor programming opportunities are limited within the city. Currently, only the overnight camping event on the beach is offered. However, with the new marked bicycle path, organized rides are planned. The planning team found that special interest groups use the parks and natural areas and organize activities themselves; however, there are opportunities for the department to become more involved with those groups and to program those facilities with



department-operated activities. Water-based programming has tremendous potential to expand recreation and education-based classes and self-directed activities. For example, the Scranton Nature Center has major potential for additional outdoor programs, especially those that focus on the wide variety of water and land-based natural resources found in and around the city. Other cultural or heritage-based programs should also be considered. The Maintenance and Beautification Division could assist with community gardens at the nature center or other locations. Several of the areas in the city are well-suited for water activity programs like sailing, kayaking, boating, fishing, camping and various other outdoor activities. The shortage of staff results in these type programs not being offered.

Senior Programs

The new Senior Citizens Center is the home for the department's senior programs, which are offered to citizens age 55 and older. The center requires registration at the center to participate in programs, but membership is free for Pascagoula residents. The center does not function as a food service site for seniors.

Dozens of programs, ranging from fitness classes to arts and crafts, are offered at the center each month. Many of the programs are free but some are fee-based, \$35 typically being the highest fee—except for the 50-90 senior travels program (which charges higher fees). Instructional programs include pottery (beginner to advanced), line dancing, computer classes, yoga and fitness training. Dances and other special events are also quite popular at the center. There is a fitness area for seniors, a game room and a large meeting hall that are available for programming. There is also a good partnership in place with Singing River Healthplex (SRHP), who provides the fitness equipment at the center. SRHP also provides health screening to clear seniors to use the fitness equipment.

Overall, staff and citizens indicated that they were pleased with the senior program offerings; however, the center is in a location where many more instructional classes, organized programs and rentals could be provided—particularly in the wellness and gardening categories. Another program type that should be addressed is social services to needy senior populations. The facility is new and has ample space indoors and outside to host activities. The current staffing level at the center is not adequate to carry out many more programs, but most of these activities can be offered by outside contract or volunteer organizations. The current staff level consists of a director, two part-time aides, a senior center assistant and a receptionist. Another staff concern is that many employees have reached an age where they cannot physically perform more duties or work longer hours. The Senior Citizens Center is organized in such a way that many more activities could be offered without interfering with the current operation.

Therapeutic Recreation

The department currently does not offer organized therapeutic programs. Again, we can examine the National Parks and Recreation Association *2012 Parks Recreation National Database Report* to see how many agencies across the country offer therapeutic programs. In this report, 57% of the agencies that completed the survey offer therapeutic programs. There are many opportunities to serve the physically and mentally challenged citizens of the city with



the current facilities through partnerships with other agencies. A good working relationship should be formulated between the schools, the local hospital, social agencies and the recreation department to provide activities. A great inroad for the department is to serve as a catalyst for the Special Olympics program in the community.

Partnerships Analysis

The department's programming is supplemented by partnerships between the department, other agencies and organizations and by other recreation programming providers within the community. The following narrative discusses these partnerships and alternative providers and summarizes their role in providing recreation programs to the community. The department currently has agreements with community organizations and agencies, though the formality of these agreements varies. The agreements are different for athletic facilities and other memorandum of understandings (MOU's), rental agreements and contracts. Existing agreements are in place with the Pascagoula School System and several athletic associations. The agreements need to be revisited or revised annually, at a minimum, to accommodate changing circumstances and to ensure equity among parties.

Partnership Recommendations

The purpose of developing cooperative service agreements, partnerships, volunteer opportunities and collaborations is to: promote community involvement in department activities, increase services offered to the public, reduce the expense of providing services, increase the visibility of the department, develop a sense of community, create leadership and encourage new resources in the community. To provide for the growing and changing demands of the community, seeking out and utilizing official partnerships and increasing volunteer efforts may help to provide for the community's desires for increased recreation programming. The recommendations are delineated under each following category.

Athletic Associations/Franchise Leagues

The department partners with several athletic associations that provide youth athletic programs at department's facilities. These leagues offer baseball, softball, tee ball and soccer for ages ranging from 3 to <19. The following stipulates the responsibilities of both parties when using the department facilities as outlined in the current agreement formed between the leagues and the department:

- Provide department with all rosters.
- Provide a league officials contact list prior to registration and prior to the season.
- Provide a copy of constitution/by-laws, a copy of the playing rules for all ages. If any changes are made they must be provided to the department.
- The league shall notify the department of all registration dates, times, etc. at least two weeks prior to the start of registration. All schedules for league play and tournaments shall be provided to PPRD as soon as they are available. Changes must be provided in writing to PPRD.

- The league shall be responsible for all daily clean-up of concession areas, storage facilities, etc. The city's cleaning contractor will clean the restrooms daily. Extra play and tournaments are not covered. The league must also maintain their own cleaning supplies with the exception of paper towels and toilet paper for the restrooms.
- The league shall report any maintenance problems the morning after the problem was noted by the league. A work order will then be placed for the problem to be corrected as soon as possible.
- Any changes or improvements made to facilities must be requested in writing and approved by the PPRD Director prior to any action being taken by the league.
- Disciplinary problems shall be handled in accordance with the by-laws. Any disciplinary problems involving fighting, physical altercations or any time the police are called, the league must notify the PPRD in writing within 48 hours.
- The league shall provide accident insurance for participants. All accidents or injuries requiring medical assistance must be reported within 48 hours.
- All signs placed on fences or buildings must meet the city ordinance and be approved by PPRD.
- Inclement weather that may cause the fields to be unplayable will be decided by PPRD by 2 P.M. on the day of play. The league must contact the department for such ruling.
- Any league meetings shall be considered public meetings and the public shall be notified at least one week prior to such meetings. Also, the department must be notified as soon as a meeting is called.
- All coaches shall complete an application annually and undergo a criminal background check prior to being assigned to a team. It is recommended that all coaches be NYSCA certified. PPRD will provide training upon request.
- The league is responsible for all liter generated by concessions. This includes, but is not limited to, peanut hulls and paper from straws. All boxes will be placed in a dumpster located on site.

PPRD is responsible for the following:

- Safe playing fields for games and practices.
- Mowing fields and lining for scheduled games. PPRD will construct pitchers mounds, repair dugouts, and handle all general maintenance such as plumbing and electrical repairs.
- The league shall be allowed to use facilities for meetings and registration at no cost. Facilities will be available based on availability.
- PPRD will provide a portion of the official's fees according to the league's schedule. This will be done on a scheduled basis, not in a lump sum.



- PPRD will empty trash at regularly scheduled games. Extra games and tournament trash pick-up must be approved by PPRD.
- All utilities are paid by the department. The department will furnish and maintain all lights at fields and make repairs, as necessary. PPRD will furnish bases, home plates, pitching rubbers, goals, nets and etc.
- The department will assist the league with scheduling, clerical assistance, team organization, etc.
- PPRD will schedule NYSCA training at a convenient time, if requested.
- The department may charge the league a fee for negligent damage to any facility caused by the league or board members. The league may be charged for items lost (i.e.; locks or PPRD equipment).

Athletic Associations Recommendations

Currently, Parks and Recreation Athletic Use Agreements between the department and the athletic associations are not legally binding contracts. The current agreements lack typical language on penalties or repercussions when a party to the agreement fails to uphold stipulations contained in the agreement. A more formal contract is recommended. While the current agreement requests the associations' bylaws, player information and contact information, it does not cover critical issues like required national background checks on officials. In addition, the agreement gives all revenue to the association including tournament revenue. Conversely, the department maintains the facilities, pays all utilities and pays a portion of the official's fees without receiving any revenue. Greater controls are needed to regulate the amount of revenue retained by the associations. The athletic associations provide a very valuable service to the community and invest a great deal of time and money in facility improvements, but the relationship between the associations need to improve. Interviews indicated that, at times, there is a lack of communication between the department and the associations. The associations feel that the department is not always amiable to their requests. The agreements should be revised so that, at a minimum, there should be provisions within the agreement for the department to recoup a portion of their direct expenses for items, such as the following:

- Lighting/electric bills and any other utilities expenses.
- Maintenance costs for work performed by department staff and administrative fees (cost for processing agreements, enforcement, etc.).
- Impacts on infrastructure (parking, field lighting, fencing, park roads, etc.).

The agreements should also clearly define the roles of both parties, and the department should not provide any services not defined in the agreement. Additionally, the department should define penalties for not following the agreement.

Tournament activities and roles of both the department and associations should be defined with respect to when tournaments are held, including who will provide what service during tournaments and how revenues will be split.



The current rental agreements for the Senior Center and recreation centers is a much better document and would serve as a good model to be used in reshaping the athletic agreement.

Pascagoula School System

The department uses the schools' football stadium and some common areas for their football league and track, but no other facilities. The school system and other private schools utilize several of the department's properties such as softball facilities, soccer facilities and gymnasiums, at various times.

The department participates with the school system on Super Saturdays at the Family Interactive Center (FIC). They also participate at the Easter Extravaganza at the FIC, as well as have a few resource tables set up for the Recreation Department and the Scranton Nature Center. In addition to the public schools, some of the private schools utilize the department's facilities.

The governing document for the use of school and park facilities is the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Pascagoula and the Pascagoula School District dated July 6, 2009. The agreement was developed when the school system transferred several school properties to the city. In return, there are use stipulations that allow several school teams to use park facilities at no cost. The only real issue with the agreement is that it is open-ended with respect the use of park facilities. At some point, the monetary value of the school properties that were deeded to the city will be exceeded. PPRD will be left maintaining facilities that have periods of exclusive use by the school system.

As discussed in this report, there is a need to gain access to more school properties for before and after school programs operated by PPRD. The planning team recommends that the agreement be amended to reflect more access to schools, specifically, for before- and after-school programs. This will add more balance to the agreement.

Recommendation

As stated previously in the master plan, partnering with the school system to expand afterschool programs at school sites would benefit the community. In addition, more jointly sponsored outdoor and environmental programs at FIC will promote greater environmental awareness.

Boys and Girls Club of Jackson County

Boys and Girls Club of Jackson County (BGCJC) operate out of Andrew Johnson Recreation Center (AJRC), a city-owned facility. The BGCJC receives \$30,000 in operating funds each year, paid in quarterly increments of \$7,500 from PPRD. These funds are to offer programs for teens of Jackson County who live in the neighborhoods around the facility. The BGCJC has exclusive control over the management and disbursement of such funds paid by the city. The funds received shall be used only for the purpose of operating the center and grounds, including the playground and parking lot. In order to carry out the purpose and intent of the contract, the contractor agrees to do the following:

- Provide supervision of the AJRC and grounds during its use by the contractor.

- Provide its own cleaning supplies and to provide proper care and cleaning of the AJRC.
- Provide productive programs during the contractor's hours of operation for youth 6-18 years.
- Provide flag football for its members.
- Provide a summer camp for the same age youth during the weeks that school is not in session.
- Provide holiday day camps for its members during holiday breaks.
- To provide that the hours of operation for the contractor's programs shall be from Noon to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday while school is in session and from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday when schools are not in session.
- Be responsible for damage to the AJRC and grounds during the hours of operation.
- Notify the department of any changes in the schedule of activities. Changes must be made at least 30 days in advance and approved by the Director of Parks and Recreation.
- To exercise reasonable care in securing the AJRC against theft and vandalism and to maintain the center and grounds in good order.
- To not alter, renovate, enlarge or remodel the AJRC or grounds without written approval of the city.
- To provide worker's compensation insurance as required by law for the term of the contract.
- Upon request, to provide the city with an account of all sums received and disbursed pursuant to this contract.
- Not to allow any other organization to use any part of the AJRC or grounds without permission of the city.
- To charge patrons a fee for use of the AJRC for special events only—such as tournaments, dances, and charitable fund-raising activities. This does not affect the contractor's right to charge regular membership fees. Charges for use of the center are within the discretion of the contractor, which shall not be unreasonable and the collection of such shall be for the sole purpose of defraying expenses of maintenance of equipment, to purchase equipment and to expand programs.
- To purchase or accept donations of additional equipment for use at the AJRC, e.g., pool tables, weight apparatus and the like.
- To conduct a concession stand at events, ball games, dances.
- During the term of the contract, the contractor must maintain liability and comprehensive insurance which shall name the city as additionally insured.

As a part of the contract the city will perform the following:



- Pay all utility bills.
- Provide proper supervision of the AJRC and grounds for general use at the city's discretion.
- Provide routine maintenance, including grass cutting and other work, repair walls, doors, restrooms and floors.
- Permit the use of the AJRC by private groups during the hours that the contractor is not operating the center.
- Manage all facets of the swimming pool operation, including staffing and proper water treatment.
- Make any alteration to the AJRC that the city deems to be necessary.
- Maintain insurance coverage on the AJRC.
- To permit the contractor to use the city-owned equipment at the AJRC, including but not limited to mats, foosball, and table tennis tables, basketball goals, televisions and television rooms.

Alternative Providers

In addition to the department's partnerships, there are a number of alternative recreation providers in the area, including private and nonprofit organizations. These providers include private instructional facilities (e.g., martial arts, dance, gymnastics, etc.), youth nonprofits and the local school district. These include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Boy and Girl Scouts
- Private Instructional Facilities (dance schools, martial arts, gymnastics, etc.)
- Private Fitness Clubs
- Local Churches
- Private Schools
- Neighborhood/Homeowners Associations
- Golf Courses and Country Clubs (public and private)
- Singing River Health System and Healthplex (fund new walking tracks)
- State and federal park properties and preserves

Alternative Provider Recommendations

It is important to monitor participation levels in department-run programs and those of other providers to ensure that programs are keeping pace with local community demand and changing recreation preferences. It is also important to keep up-to-date on programming trends nationwide by participating in national conferences, programming webinars, reviewing parks and recreation publications and speaking to recreation providers in other communities about their successes. The department must work to communicate and collaborate with these providers in order to avoid duplication of services, but, at the same time, it does not want to limit opportunities by cutting services just because some other provider also has the program. In many cases, there is duplication because there is a great demand for a service or the user

prefers one provider over another. In addition, these programs vary between providers with regard to cost, age groups, skill levels, recreation vs. competition, etc. The department already fills some of these gaps with their program offerings but could expand to provide more. For example, there are very limited program options for teens city-wide. Teens are often a difficult age group to attract to a program, but the department should consider offering the following programming types that are typically popular among teens: extreme sports programs, outdoor programs, cultural programs and more social activities.

Recreation Trends

Recreation programming must remain flexible to respond to the changing needs of a community. Many factors impact the type of recreation programs desired in a community, including individual factors, collective community and national factors. While many traditional programs continue to be offered by agencies across the country, new programs are being implemented to adapt to the current desires of citizens and changing lifestyles. Figures 5.2 and 5.3 below show the latest programming results from NRPA.

Figure 5.2: Responding Agencies Offering the Following Programs or Classes

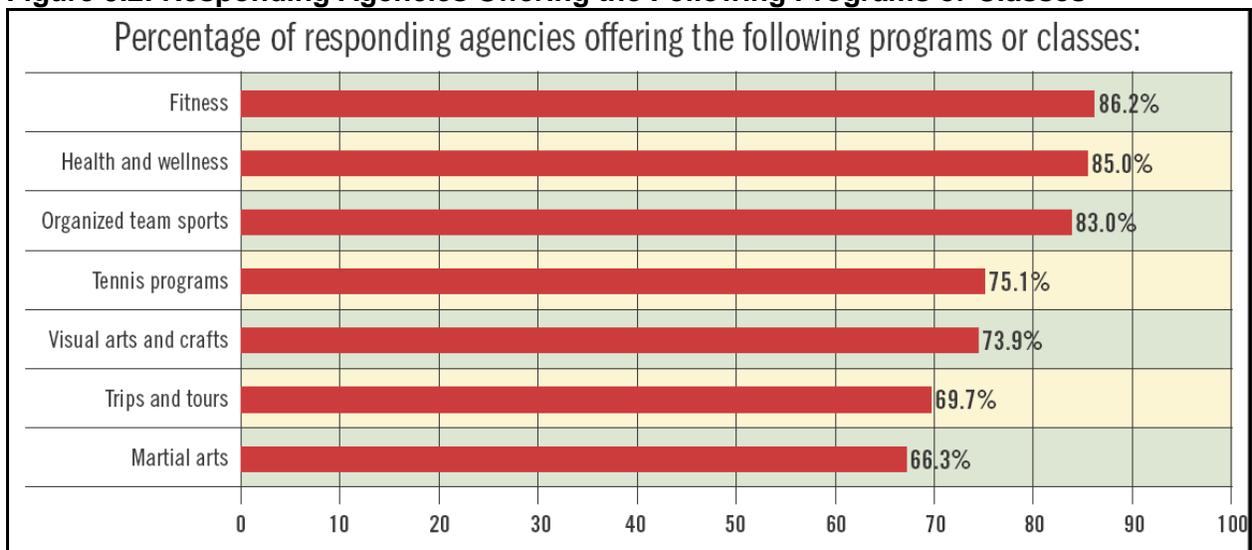
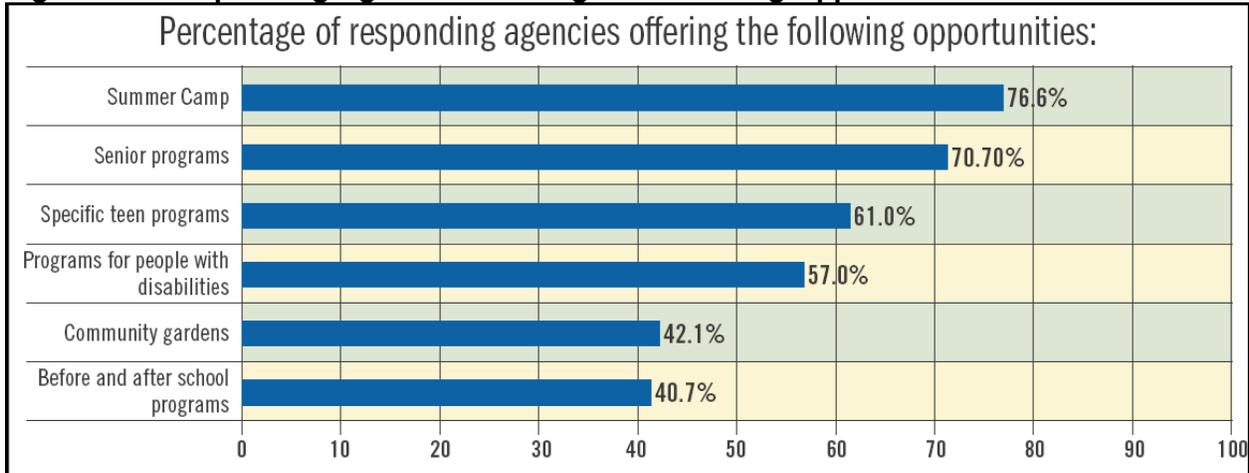


Figure 5.3: Responding Agencies Offering the Following Opportunities



Please Note: there are several areas of programming not currently offered by PPRD, including: teen-focused programs, martial arts, community gardens, programs for those with disabilities and pre-school programs.

Other national trends and issues that other agencies across the country are experiencing in their communities are discussed in the following pages.

Population-Based Programming

Youth

Participation in out-of-school activities and programs offers support for youth and working families and benefits youth socially, emotionally and academically. After-school programs have been proven to decrease juvenile crime and violence, reduce drug use, cut smoking and alcohol abuse and decrease teen pregnancy. Many children prefer team sports—such as basketball, soccer and baseball—while others prefer individual activities provided in a group setting—such as painting, crafts and computer training. To be successful, a wide variety of programs should be included in the after-school program. Studies show reduced fitness activities at schools and organized after-school activities, extreme sports, club sports and programs targeted to school-age children in communities around the country could fill the fitness void.

The lack of physical education in schools and the increased sedentary lifestyle of children are leading to a growing number of children with health issues such as diabetes, high cholesterol and attention deficit disorder. Several publications have reported this frightening trend; USA Today ran a feature article on this topic in November 2008. There is growing concern from medical groups, the Center of Disease Control (CDC) and other organizations across the country that we must teach children to make better lifestyle choices. NRPA is working on several initiatives including "No Child Left Inside" legislation to fund more programs that get children outside and active. Additionally, as education funding for the arts is being cut, parents



and youth are looking to park and recreation agencies to fill this gap with enrichment programs that teach skills for life.

Older Adults

Older Americans' leisure time is increasingly being spent doing physical activities, in educational classes, partaking in adventure travel and attending sporting events. These trends may be the result of the fact that for many, retirement is starting earlier than it has in the past. Approximately 70% of the current retired population entered retirement before the age of 65. These new retirees are younger, healthier, and have more wealth to spend for the services they want. These trends may explain the changing demands, nationally, from traditional low-cost social services to more active programming for which older residents are willing to pay. Active seniors are looking for programs that allow them to interact with others from their generation, but, at the same time, they do not want programs that are not challenging or fun. Many senior centers now have competitive programs that are age-specific to meet the interests of today's active seniors.

Universal Recreation

Programs, as well as both indoor and outdoor facilities, should strive to be "universally" accessible. The physically and/or mentally challenged population is growing rapidly. Communities should reach out to increase awareness and opportunities for physical activity for individuals who may otherwise be overlooked.

Parks agencies across the country play a major role in providing opportunities for our country's adult special needs population since, once their school-age years have passed, there are fewer opportunities for recreation and interaction with the general populous. Investing in park and recreation renovation and updates that make facilities more user-friendly and allow for programming for individuals of all abilities will increase the recreation opportunities for the special needs segment of the community.

Activity-Based Programming

Less Time for Recreation

Americans have less leisure time now than ever before, which has led to changes in recreation patterns. People have less unstructured time after completing of their daily responsibilities, which means activities are moving toward unstructured, individual and drop-in programs. Participation in structured programmed activities has decreased, while programs such as boot camps with both indoor and outdoor exercise continue to increase in popularity.

Drop-in Programs

Several parks departments offer many programs on a drop-in basis. The term "drop-in sports" means that no registration is required and no additional fees are applied to the participant. This



type of programming allows people to participate in recreation activities without a consistent attendance and monetary commitment.

Extreme Sports and Activities

Participation in recreation has shifted over the past several years and the demand for "extreme" sports and activities has been on the increase. Sports such as in-line skating, skateboarding and BMX in skate parks are favorites because at least one or more of these activities are possible year-round. Demand for alternative amenities such as climbing walls, BMX tracks and indoor soccer are also on the increase. Many want riskier outdoor recreation opportunities like trail mountain biking, BMX courses and off-roading with vehicles. One activity in particular that is increasing in popularity nationally is geocaching. Geocaching is a high-tech adventure game that uses GPS technology and clues to locate hidden objects. This is merely one of many such creative mergers of the internet and outdoor recreation. Geocaching is an activity that can very easily be partnered with other agencies in the area.

Environmental, Outdoor and Nature-based Recreation

In recent years, there has been a heightened awareness of environmental issues in the United States and worldwide. Terms like "green" and "sustainable" are being used to describe maintenance and construction practices, development policies, household products and ways of living. These same terms and concepts are being applied to recreation as well, with a focus on environmental and outdoor recreation. The purpose of these programs is to educate the public, foster a sense of environmental stewardship, and to get people outdoors and in touch with nature.

Fitness and Obesity

Since Americans are spending less time exercising and participating in outdoor recreation, the number of overweight and obese citizens has increased drastically. In 1990, there were only ten states where less than 10% of the population was obese and the remaining states had 10-14% obesity rates. In 2007, not a single state has less than 10% obesity rate. In fact, only Colorado has less than 20%. Of the remaining states, 30 have an obesity rate of 25% or greater (U.S. Obesity Trends 1985-2007, Center for Disease Control (CDC)). In Mississippi, 32.5% of the population was considered to be obese in 2009, which led the Nation. These ominous statistics show the need for parks and recreation providers to reevaluate their programs and consider providing programs that teach our youth and young adults how to better integrate active and healthy recreation into their daily lives. With more than 50% of U.S. adults not getting enough physical activity to provide health benefits and 25% not doing any activities at all in their leisure time, the expenses of obesity-related health problems will only continue to grow.

The CDC recommends children and adolescents should do 60 minutes or more of physical activity each day. Adults should do (150) minutes each week of moderate-intensity aerobic activity (e.g., brisk walking) or 75 minutes each week of vigorous-intensity aerobic activity (e.g., jogging or running) or an equivalent mix of moderate- and vigorous-intensity aerobic activity. The number of people who meet these guidelines continues to decrease. In addition, the



number of people not meeting the recommended levels of activity, the number who are inactive and the number of people who do not participate in any leisure-time physical activity continues to increase with age. In 2005, the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association (TRPA) published an article in their quarterly newsletter titled "Active Living Behaviors: A Fact Sheet on Physical Activity, Obesity and the Role of Parks and Recreation." The article included results of a survey conducted in municipalities to find out what role parks and recreation has in addressing obesity. The following highlights the survey results:

- Nearly 67% said that physical activity opportunities, such as walking to work or playing in the park, were an important issue to residents in their community.
- Nearly 65% said it is very important for the local government to encourage and provide physical activity opportunities.
- Overall, respondents agreed that local parks and recreation departments should take the leading role in developing a community conducive to active living.
- Many of the departments are already supporting recreational programs that encourage active living in their community.
- 67% of respondents said that the primary barrier facing communities in promoting active living behaviors is lack of funding, staff or resources.

The article also states that "active living" is a way of life that integrates 30 minutes of physical activity into daily routines. This can be accomplished in many ways, such as walking or bicycling to work or school, playing in the park, utilizing greenways or working in the yard. The development of a Pascagoula greenway system, adding trails in existing parks, and providing more health fitness programs for all ages are critical to addressing this health crisis. A good step has been made with the new sidewalks, the marked bike path and the start of a greenway at Lighthouse Park.

Program Ideas from Other Communities

Across the country, parks and recreation departments are offering programs that meet the needs of the diverse populations they serve. These populations include singles and families, children, teens and adults, and those with special interests, needs and abilities. A look at what other departments are doing across the country reveals that many are addressing the trends discussed above while maximizing the recreation opportunities for their communities.

Some of these recreation programming trends may be similar to what the department currently offers, but they may also offer some ideas for the development of new programs. In developing a diverse recreation program, the department must be aware of the changing interests, needs and demands of the community. Providing a wide range of opportunities will engage more of the community in recreation.



Special Events

Every community has different reasons to celebrate, but some events are universal and can be shared by all communities. In the city of Roswell, Georgia, there is a Kid's Dog Show, where children ages 5 to 15 can show off their dogs for a variety of awards (e.g., most obedient, best trick, best costumed dog, etc.). Fishing Rodeos, which are offered by departments across the country, are also successful examples of taking advantage of natural resources in the area. In Denver, Colorado, celebrations are based around holidays like Halloween, with a community party and Thanksgiving with a Seniors' Luncheon. In Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, there is a Sports Challenge Day for children ages 10 and older. The event, held during a school break, allows participants to compete in passing, punting, kicking and other skills. In Carrollton, Georgia, there is an annual Baby Olympics where babies compete in the fastest crawl, parents are timed in the fastest baby change and the cutest photos are judged by a group of panelists.

Across the country, parks and recreation departments have used the popularity of reality television competitions like American Idol, Dancing with the Stars, The Amazing Race, Top Chef and America's Got Talent, etc. to create their own local competitions. Several communities have held competitions modeled after American Idol, only using their community's name instead. This format has been followed in Nashville, Tennessee. Competitions were held at several community centers, and semi-finalists were selected to perform at a final show at which a winner was selected. In Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, they have an event modeled after the show The Amazing Race where a team of two must use communication skills and teamwork to race through a series of mental and physical challenges. Capitalizing on popular competitions such as these examples can be an effective way to recruit new participation.

Youth Programs

In Carrollton, Georgia, youth can participate in boxing fundamentals, competitive boxing, wrestling, cross country running, dancing, art programs, drama and self-defense classes. Both Atlanta, Georgia, and Denver, Colorado, have a comprehensive selection of arts and culture programs such as pottery, ceramics, painting, figure drawing, photography, music lessons and dance. Denver also offers courses for youth wellness, including cooking and nutrition classes.

Programming for teenagers can be difficult and they are often an age group that gets left out of park programs. Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, has several programs geared specifically toward teens including: MeckTeens Chefs (cooking class), teen dance aerobics, teen talk sessions, college planning courses, dance competitions, fencing and a cooking competition. At their skate parks, the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation department offers skate tournaments (ages 10 to 21), a Skate with Santa event (ages 6 to 18), and skate and bike lessons (ages 6 + including adults). The department also organizes trips to visit other skate parks throughout the state.

Some departments are using youth's interest and skills in videogames to host tournaments. In Mecklenburg County, they host monthly Nintendo Wii tournaments.



Adult Programs

Many departments are offering adults a variety of leisure and fitness programming. These programs tend to change over time and vary based on location. Recent trends include a wide variety of martial arts, fitness classes, and other unique recreation opportunities like wine tasting, sign language, cake decorating and international cooking. In Nashville, Tennessee, the cultural arts program has several music programs including guitar and piano lessons, songwriting workshops and community band performances. In Carrollton, Georgia, a large program is offered in drama and community chorus. Dance programs include tap, Irish dancing, belly dancing and ballroom dance. Denver, Colorado, offers a wide variety of adult programs from yoga, to quilting and boot camp programs.

Senior programs are another area where options can be quite expansive. Denver offers computer classes, defensive driving, a "Geritol Gang" exercise group, drop-in Scrabble game day, a visiting nurse program and dancercise. In Mecklenburg County, the senior population can participate in regular day or overnight trips to shopping centers, museums, zoos and other attractions. The Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation department also offers senior basketball, cheerleading and chair aerobics. In Carrollton, Georgia, an opportunity to garden at the Senior Center is offered, in addition to other programs such as: a Hillbilly Band, health fairs, and periodic visits from social agencies to advise seniors of the latest rules and regulations and to check vital signs.

Therapeutic Recreation

Inclusion of people with or without disabilities is a high priority in many departments across the country. In Denver, there are recreation opportunities for special needs individuals aged six months to adults. Programs include hip hop dance off (ages 13 +), ceramics (ages 16 +), rock climbing (ages 8+), tumbling (ages 1 to 7), sports conditioning (ages 13 +) and circuit training (ages 18+). As previously stated, Pascagoula Parks and Recreation does not have a formal therapeutic program.

Environmental and Outdoor Programs

Interest in environmental and outdoor programs is growing and the department is fortunate to have a wide variety of natural resources on their parkland and throughout the region. Other cities such as Atlanta, Georgia, have several outdoor programs, including: introduction to canoeing and kayaking, introduction to camping, rock climbing, bouldering, hiking, orienteering, introduction to tree climbing and geocaching. Denver, a community known for its outdoor recreation, offers day trips to state parks, full moon hikes, an outdoor cooking and meal planning class and a camping gear essentials class. Mecklenburg County has several large nature preserves in their system where programs like basic birding, outdoor living skills, nature photography and tree identification are offered. Their Eco Trekkers program covers a variety of nature topics for children ages 6 to 10. Mecklenburg County has several special events that center around environmental and outdoor activities. Their Great Outdoors Festival includes fishing, canoeing and kayaking events along with local music and vendors. The department also hosts family-oriented outdoor events, including Family Health and Fitness Day, a Family



Scavenger Hunt and an event called the Big Sweep, which is a nationally-based program that cleans up lakes, rivers and streams and increases awareness about the protection of these resources. Volunteers help clean up the parks and waterways for a cooperative litter sweep. In Nashville, Tennessee, individuals can fill out a permit to hide caches in parks as part of their geocaching program. The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County Parks Department allows 50 caches to be placed in their parks system with limitations on what can be placed in the cache.

Trends Overview and Recommendations

In general, American society - including the Pascagoula community, is changing in many ways that are impacting parks and recreation. For example, there is a national trend of the population growing older, with the baby boomer generation now turning 65. The percentage of population that has reached senior status in Pascagoula has increased in the last ten years. Additionally, the population is becoming more diverse in terms of race and ethnicity. In terms of programming and participation, these trends provide both opportunities and challenges for park and recreation providers.

Americans' busy lifestyles and competition for leisure choices is changing how public recreation providers are meeting their clients' needs. The long-held practice of offering the same programs year after year in a highly structured environment is falling out of favor, while programs that offer different types of exercise and relaxation, specialized wellness and fitness training, and cultural and enrichment programs are growing for all ages.

Therefore, a "one-size-fits-all" approach to programming, facilities and organization will most likely not be successful. The park and recreation industry must remain flexible, participate in the planning process and think both creatively and strategically so that each agency can make a positive impact on the community and its residents' lives.

The planning team recommends that the department review the community data generated during the master planning process as a starting point for developing new programs. Targeted programs should be developed and planned to meet specific programming elements that are currently underdeveloped or absent from the current program roster. It should be noted that a combination of full-time staff, part-time staff, paid/contract instructors and volunteers will be required for each new program. Overall full-time staffing loads may require increases in certain programming positions.

Based on national trends, public input findings and the city's demographics, the department may want to focus on providing the following services:

- Age group specific health and wellness programs.
- Community gardening program.
- Nature based outdoor program.
- Non-traditional individual and team sports for adults.
- Diverse senior programs that offer activities for both young and older seniors.

- More activities and facilities for the aging baby boomers, such as increased fitness offerings, arts and crafts classes and dance programs.
- Youth and special needs mentoring programs.
- More outdoor activities.
- A diversified cultural program and active social programs from competitive sports to cards or game-type tournaments.
- Seniors events such as Senior Olympics and other event based activities that require year-round training.

Recommendations Summary

Citizens and staff voiced their preference for programs throughout the public input process. Their desires for recreation programming were more broad than program-specific. Citizens and staff expressed a need for more outdoor programming opportunities. This will require a modest improvement in outdoor facility development; expansion of existing outdoor programs (especially outdoor/environmental education programs); health, nutrition and wellness programs; cultural programming; and more activities for all age groups and abilities. Many of these programs are dependent upon facility renovations and new facility development. Although facility recommendations are discussed in another section, it is important to note that the development of new facilities such as recreation centers, outdoor aquatic facilities, cultural centers and dog parks will increase the potential programs that can be offered. Another comment repeatedly reported was that facilities needed to be consolidated, eliminated and renovated. Also, many mentioned the need to develop revenue-generating facilities.

Staffing levels are another key issue to expanding existing programs and providing new programs in the future. Hiring additional staff will be a high priority in the near and long-term. In the near-term, the department has several facilities that could be programmed now, but have limited programs due to the lack of staff. In the long-term, programming staff will be needed at new facilities and for new programs. In addition, certain programs popular nationally could be offered if additional staff was available. Additional staff and facilities would allow for growth in the after-school program and other programs that are prohibited from taking place due to restrictions on the center while after-school programs are being implemented.

Investments in staff, equipment and new facilities are necessary to make the department's programs even better and to reach more of the Pascagoula population; however, the investment will be returned by increased program revenues. The increased revenues can be used to offset the costs associated with expanded and/or new programs. The director and senior staff should regularly evaluate their current program offerings to determine which programs should be eliminated, which should expand and what new programs should be offered. The next step would be to determine what is needed (i.e., equipment, facilities, funding, staff, etc.) in order to expand or offer the new programs.



With the extreme abundance of natural resources in the Pascagoula area, it is highly recommended that an Outdoor Resource Specialist position be added to the staff. This person would be located at the Nature Center. His/her duties would include programming in the area of activities that utilize natural resources, such as: ornithological activities, kayaking, sailing, camping, nature preservation activities, and various other pursuits that take place in a natural setting.

Another recommended staff addition is that of a programmer. This person would be responsible for the coordination of expanded instructional programs and activities at the Senior Center.

In the area of beautification and maintenance, the planning team recommends that two additional staff members be added that specialize in plumbing and electricity. The need for such staff was identified in the meetings with beautification and maintenance staff, and by observation of the electrical problems on our tour of the facilities.

Development of New Programs

- Increase the number and variety of non-athletic/non-traditional programs for all age groups, including extreme sports (skateboarding programs, mountain biking, BMX, dodge ball and ropes course), aquatics, outdoor, all types of boating, cultural and health and wellness programs. Use existing facilities, like the skate park, to start programming extreme sports activities. (High Priority)
- Provide new programs in nature-based and outdoor recreation (day trips for kayaking, canoeing, sailing, fishing, hiking, environmental education, and wildlife viewing). Pascagoula's natural resources are not being utilized to their full potential. Some of this could be done at the department's existing facilities, such as Inner Harbor, I. G. Levy, and any of the many piers. (High Priority)
- Develop Therapeutic Recreation programming to include Special Olympics, job training programs and other programs per demand. (High Priority)
- Expand individual-based walking and running programs by developing greenway trails. (High Priority)
- Expand and develop adult programs such as ultimate Frisbee, flag football, soccer, disc golf leagues, beach volley ball, women's basketball, dodge ball, softball and basketball. (High Priority)
- Develop an aquatic center with swimming programs, swim team, therapeutic and aerobic water activities. (High Priority)
- Develop a revenue-producing facility that will include recreation center, cultural activities center, fitness center and aquatic center. (High Priority)
- Expand and develop new park-based special events that operate seasonally like music in the park and movies in the park (High Priority)

- Develop community gardening programs at parks throughout the city with the base of operations at the Nature Center. (Medium Priority)
- Expand Special Olympics and Paralympics programs as new parks and facilities are developed. (Medium Priority)
- Expand senior program offerings at the new senior citizens centers. (Medium Priority)
- Increase indoor fitness programs. Future indoor facilities should provide opportunities for more indoor programming. (Medium Priority)
- Implement new programs and events as new parks and facilities are developed. (Medium Priority)

Administrative

In order to provide more effective delivery of programs and services, some administrative procedures need to be reviewed and changed:

- Hold quarterly meetings within the department to increase communication, visioning, program evaluation and strategic planning. (High Priority)
- Hold staff accountable for the development of new programs, identify goals and establish performance measures. Management should approve and review these on a quarterly or bi-annual basis. (High Priority)
- Increase partnerships with public schools, private schools and allied providers to provide new and varied programming to the community. Better utilize school facilities. (High Priority)
- Create a new, legally binding agreement form to be used between the department and the groups/associations that use their facilities. The agreement form should ensure an equitable relationship for the city, including financial arrangements. (High Priority)
- Expand the program offerings at the Senior Citizens Center by hiring additional part-time staff to keep the center open seven days a week and to provide extended hours and programs. (High Priority)
- Track program participant satisfaction through user surveys or questionnaires completed at the end of all programs. (Medium Priority)

Budget Assessment

Recent economic pressures and changes in demographics have forced parks and recreation departments across the country to reassess how they serve the public. Additionally, many departments have had to learn how to operate following a more business-like model, rather than just viewing themselves as the traditional park and recreation benefits provider. This new model



relies on self-generated revenues, not just traditional tax sources. As part of this budget assessment, the planning team looked at the current funding level of PPRD as part of the city's overall budget, made both regional and national funding comparisons and looked at current revenue generation by the department. Additionally, the team evaluated what changes are necessary in order to best oversee the funds that are both allocated to and generated by the department. The first step in the analysis was to compare PPRD to other agencies in terms of overall funding.

Characteristics of Cities Benchmarked

The cities selected below have similar population numbers and diversity percentages when compared to Pascagoula. All of the cities are located in Mississippi except for Slidell, Louisiana. This city was selected because of its proximity and population size. All cities have established parks and recreation agencies.

From 2000 to 2010, population numbers in the benchmarked cities continued to grow. Projected population growth for 2012 is listed below.

Table 5.1: City Growth Statistics and Projections

CITY	Population 1990-2000 Percent Change	Population 2000-2012 Percent Change	Population 2012 Estimate
Pascagoula, MS	-0.1%	-9.1%	23,585
Biloxi, MS	1.2%	-10.0%	45,112
Slidell, LA	2.9%	5.5%	28,014
Hattiesburg, MS	-0.8%	-3.1%	43,646
Southaven, MS	34.4%	57.8%	47,923

Source: DemographicsNow



Economic Indicators

One way to determine the economic well-being of a community is to assess the per capita income of its counties. The table below shows per capita income levels from 2012.

Table 5.2: Per Capita Income

CITY	FY 2012 P&R Budget	P&R Per Capita	Deviation From Average	FY 2012 City Budget	City Per Capita	% P&R Of City Budget	Deviation From Average
Pascagoula, MS	\$1,829,001	\$77.55	\$3.82	\$81,715,534	\$3,464.72	2.2%	-0.4%
Biloxi, MS	\$4,994,972	\$110.72	\$36.99	\$541,713,798	\$12,008.20	0.9%	-1.7%
Slidell, LA	\$1,115,284	\$39.81	-\$33.92	\$80,860,765	\$2,886.44	1.4%	-1.3%
Hattiesburg, MS	\$3,117,339	\$71.42	-\$2.31	\$106,215,027	\$2,433.56	2.9%	0.3%
Southaven, MS	\$3,314,473	\$69.16	-\$4.57	\$57,973,927	\$1,209.73	5.7%	3.1%

Slidell, which is closest in population to Pascagoula, funds their department at 51% of the rate of Pascagoula. The average rate of funding for all the agencies is \$73.73 per capita; thus, Pascagoula is funding the department at a level similar to other agencies in the region. Another method of funding comparison that is broader than regional benchmarking is to look at NRPA's operating expenditure data to determine what funding levels are on a national basis. NRPA has developed funding comparisons based on population per square mile. Pascagoula has a population of 1,446 residents per square mile. In table 5.3 below, a comparison can be made between Pascagoula and other agencies of similar size.

Table 5.3: Total Operating Expenditures for the Year

What are your department's total operating expenditures for your fiscal year?					
	All Respondents	Jurisdiction Population per Square Mile			
		Less Than 500	500 to 1,500	1,501 to 2,500	More than 2,500
Number of Responses	156	34	25	34	39
Lower Quartile	\$1,027,201	\$390,051	\$1,034,033	\$2,335,266	\$1,854,444
Median	\$2,659,668	\$1,136,424	\$2,891,515	\$4,667,446	\$5,125,010
Upper Quartile	\$6,157,247	\$2,217,927	\$4,755,357	\$10,386,867	\$17,114,754



Twenty-five agencies from across the country with similar population densities to Pascagoula provided data for the NRPA comparison. At the current funding level, PPRD is below the median funding level of \$2,891,515 but ahead of communities in the lower quartile. Based on both a regional and national funding comparison, it would appear that PPRD is similar to other agencies in the region but below the nation median for funding the department.

Departmental Funding Overview

PPRD uses an incremental budget process, meaning that each year's budget is prepared using the previous period's budget or actual performance as a basis. Then, incremental amounts are added or subtracted from the new budget cycle. PPRD operates under an October 1 to September 30 fiscal year budget with the current budget year being 2011-12. PPRD does budget projections on a year-to-year basis, and the department's budget becomes a portion of the overall city budget—which is adopted by the city council. The budget projections include both operational cost and capital cost. The primary source of funding for PPRD is the city's general fund. Additional funding comes from donations, grants and fees charged by PPRD for programs and rentals.

The department leadership is currently working with division managers to focus on both expenses and revenue generation when evaluating program fees and program offerings. The focus on revenue generation has grown as the result of decreased revenues from programs and tax subsidies that are affecting expenses in the department. While a 100 % total cost-recovery policy has not been established for all programs offered, there is an increased emphasis on establishing fees that cover a higher percentage of the overall costs for more specialized and individual-benefit programs. At the same time, the department is trying to keep youth sports costs affordable.

Figure 5.5 shows a budget summary for the budget years of 2010-11 and 2011-12.



Table 5.4: Budget Summary

Budget Item	2010	2011	2012	2010 to 2012 Average	2010 to 2012 Increase
Park Personnel	\$ 747,468	\$ 804,342	\$ 898,466	\$ 801,560	+16.8%
Park Operations	\$ 547,900	\$ 618,100	\$ 673,950	\$ 628,516	+12.8%
Park Capital	\$ 50,000	\$ 184,500	\$ 67,200	\$ 100,566	N/A
Subtotal	\$ 1,345,368	\$ 1,606,942	\$ 1,639,616	\$ 1,530,642	17.9%
Seniors Personnel	\$ 129,752	\$ 141,522	\$ 169,955	\$ 147,076	23.6%
Seniors Operations	\$ 46,076	\$ 55,500	\$ 45,600	\$ 49,058	(.01%)
Seniors Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A
Subtotal	\$ 175,828	\$ 197,022	\$ 215,555	\$ 196,134	18.4%
Total	\$ 1,521,196	\$ 1,803,964	\$ 1,855,171	\$ 1,726,776	18%

A review of the adopted budgets for the past three years reveals that PPRD has received increased funding for the past two years. The overall budget has increased 18% from 2010-11 to 2012-13. The majority of this growth has been in personnel salaries and the associated taxes and benefit costs that accompany salary increase. Operational costs shown within the budgets are static for many categories, such as: supplies, field maintenance, building materials and contribution to JCBAGC. Other operation categories, such as utilities professional services, show greater variations from year to year. The budget increase is a positive for PPRD, particularly during a period when many agencies across the country have seen major budget cutbacks. However, as noted in the staffing analysis, PPRD is under staffed and, in order to advance the department, more funds will be needed to add additional staff to improve service delivery throughout the department.

Capital funding within the budget does not include funds from several grant agencies and federal funds that were provided as part of the Hurricane Katrina relief effort. These capital funds have gone into the renovation of park facilities damaged by the storm and the funding of Point Park—the development of which is now underway. The capital funding shown in the budget is funding that is coming out of the general budget. Capital funding has changed greatly during the three year period illustrated, with a low of \$50,000 in 2010-11, a high of \$184,500 in 2011-12 and a three year average of \$100,566. Based on site visits to facilities, greater funding is needed for preventative maintenance and replacement of ageing park facilities.

A review of the percentage of the budget that is dedicated to personnel cost, operations cost and capital cost is possible with the NRPA study. In the reporting agencies, 55.9 % of the overall budget goes to personnel service cost or personnel expenses. PPRD is currently spending 54.79% of the total budget on personnel cost. Reporting agencies spend 36.5% of their budget on operations—PPRD spends 41.1%. In terms of capital cost, reporting agencies spend 6.1% of their budget on capital projects, compared to 4% for PPRD in 2012-13. PPRD is in keeping with the overall average of reporting agencies in terms of fund allocations. However, when we look at reporting agencies within the same budget category as PPRD—which includes



agencies with budgets between 1.0 to 5.0 million dollars—PPRD is lagging behind in operating expenditures as a part of the overall budget.

While staff salaries have increased over the past three years, operational spending increases for utility cost and the cost to produce this master plan report have remained flat. The special event line item has remained at \$8,500.00 since 2010-11. This is an example of not understanding the value of special events, which can bring economic returns to a community and build community pride. A much higher funding rate for special events is needed, as is funding for general repairs at ballfields. Again, the funding level has not increased and, with the facilities growing older each year, more money must be set aside for repairs until new replacement facilities are constructed.

Again, we can look at the NRPA report to see what similar agencies around the country are spending on capital improvements each year. Table 5.5 reveals the wide range of spending for agencies serving populations between 20,000 and 49,999.

Table 5.5: Department’s Total Capital Budget

What is your department’s total capital budget?

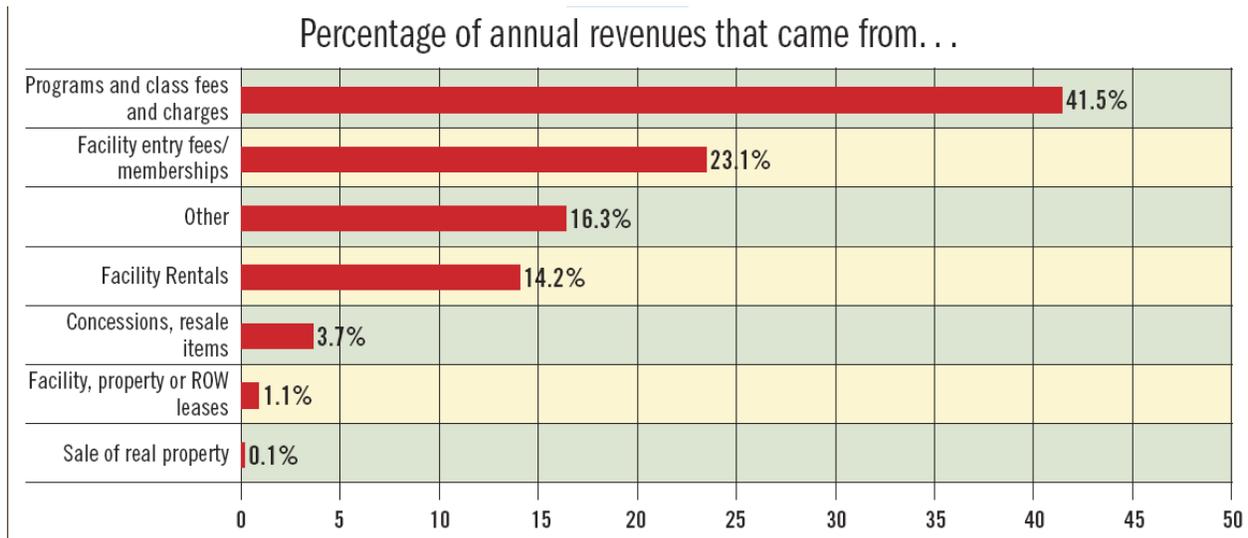
	All Respondents	Jurisdiction Population				
		Less Than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	50,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 250,000	More than 250,000
Number of Responses	126	30	39	23	9	15
Lower Quartile	\$8,125	\$750	\$36,000	\$15,750	\$263,700	\$1,381,150
Median	\$233,991	\$38,000	\$287,500	\$404,310	\$3,100,000	\$6,105,000
Upper Quartile	\$1,637,321	\$125,750	\$914,778	\$1,611,643	\$9,900,000	\$19,791,5636

Over the past three years PPRD has averaged just over 100,000 per year for capital projects out of the general fund. This is higher than the average for the lower quartile, but well under the median amount of \$287,500. Based on staff interviews, there may be additional funding coming to PPRD for capital projects from grant sources and hurricane Katrina relief funds. If there are other dollars being funneled to the department, these funds should be reflected in the PPRD budget so a true accounting of department funds can be developed.

Revenue Generation

Over the past decade, many parks and recreation agencies across the country have sought ways to expand programs and recreation opportunities through self-generated funding. Figure 5.4 from the NRPA report, documents where revenue is generated by parks and recreation departments.

Figure 5.4: Percentage of Annual Revenues Generated



As the figure above shows, the largest source of income comes from program and class fees—over 41% of the total revenue generated. In the 2010-11 budget year, the department self-generated revenue in the amount of \$299,630.68. Of this total amount, \$260,113.68 was in fees and \$39,490.00 was in donations. This represents a self-generation rate of 19.69% of the total budget in 2011-12 PPRD.

Based on other agencies for which we have recently completed comprehensive master plans, this self-generation rate is lower than what we have seen in high performing agencies. We have been seeing revenue generation rates in the 30 to 35 percent range. This is consistent with findings of Dr. John Crompton, a leading educator and researcher at Texas A & M University. Dr. Crompton has researched cost recovery and finds that agencies are now averaging approximately 34% cost recovery. The 2006 International City/County Managers Association (ICMA) Comparative Performance Measurement Data Report finds the average revenue generation for parks and recreation agencies, excluding golf revenues, to be \$45.96 per capita. This is compared to \$10.14 per capita revenue generation by PPRD. At the national mean rate, PPRD would be generating over one million dollars a year in fees and charges. Reaching this level of revenue is not likely, based on historically low rates charged in Pascagoula; however, setting goals for increased revenue generation should priority. As part of the goal setting, PPRD needs to develop a fees and charges policy.

One of the big differences we see with PPRD and other agencies is the lack of revenue-generating facilities and a fee structure that is extremely low. Pavilion rental rates of \$30.00 per day for a resident of the city are very low, as is the non-resident rate of \$45.00. While some of the pavilions are smaller and older, the right to have exclusive use of the pavilion for the entire day should be at a higher cost. At a minimum, the cost to rent a pavilion should be \$50.00 for a half-day and \$100.00 for a full day. For larger and newer pavilions, the rate should be even higher. For non-residents, the fee should be \$25.00 more than the resident fee. The entire



program rate schedule should be evaluated, and rates should be increased over time to help raise self-generated revenue to 25% in 3 years and 30% in five years.

Fees and Charges Policy

A fees and charges plan that establishes policies for developing program fees will be an important element in maximizing the PPRD budget. Most parks agencies use a three- or four-tier system for program fees. Each tier defines a type of service level expectation that the community desires for specific recreation services. In developing the tier system, the Commission and staff will need to work together to establish: the programs and facilities that should be provided as part of the core program offerings, the programs that should be offered primarily as revenue centers for the agency and all the programs that fall between these two categories.

As an example, tier-one programs are provided to the public at no or low cost and are not required to produce revenue to cover the full cost of their basic services. These are the basic programs that the community feels should be provided. Examples include: community events, open gyms, youth and senior group activities and activities that bring families to the park (e.g. outdoor movies or summer concerts). These programs normally cover 0-25% of their cost.

Tier-two programs are expected to cover 25-50% of their cost. These programs are also part of the core programs and facilities that provide basic services to the community. Programs that some communities place in this category are: group classes geared at seniors and youth, dances, special holiday programs, family programs or special events. While operating these activities involves more staff time, they are not specialized activities that require a higher degree of organization and highly-skilled staff members to execute.

Tier-three programs cover 50-75% of their cost and are reserved for expanded programs, reaching beyond the basic services the department supplies the community. These include: some youth sports programs and camps, classes that require more one-on-one time with the instructor (such as painting and pottery), youth field trips, senior wellness programs, water aerobics, swim teams, adult programs and other special programs that serve specific user groups and demographics in the community.

Tier four is for revenue centers and these are facilities and programs that should cover 75-100% of their cost. Programs that fall into this category include all wellness and fitness training classes for adults; specialized trips and travel programs; all adult sports programs; and all field, pool and shelter rentals. Other programs in this group include: dance classes, music classes of all types, any program with a special permit (or where alcohol is served) and any type of one-on-one sports or fitness training. For example, a rental of the gym would fall into this category, as would the rental of ballfield(s) by a group hosting a tournament.

In order to develop a fees and charges policy, the PPRD must start by defining the programs in each category. Historical data on program cost recovery is a good place to start. Another



recommendation is to collect several other agencies' fees and charges policies to see how they designate programs. Once PPRD has a basic distribution of programs, it has to develop a cost allocation standard for all facilities and programs. Cost allocation includes a square-foot cost for all buildings or fields that include all utility and maintenance costs. Maintenance costs include all in-house and contract labor for general upkeep, service contracts on mechanical systems, and trash collection and/or janitorial services. PPRD should calculate staffing costs involved in marketing the program and facility, staff costs for conducting and organizing the program and any overtime or holiday time paid to staff for working outside normal business hours. All materials and supplies necessary to operate the program must be included. All direct costs—such as the instructor cost—and all indirect cost—such as marketing and administrative costs—must be compiled for every program. Then, fees for programs, rentals and sports leagues can be set. Once a fees and charges policy has been established, it should be updated on an annual basis based upon expense fluctuations.

Developing a fees and charges policy and a review of how current programs are being operated should be a top priority for the PPRD in the next 12 months. As facility development is considered in the future, PPRD should look at the balance of facilities that are revenue generators versus open space and passive parks. Common revenue generating facilities include: large recreation centers, aquatic facilities, festival venues and rental facilities. Expanding program offerings, especially in the area of wellness and fitness programs, will also increase the potential for more revenue generation. Promoting the Senior Center as a rental facility would also be a good starting point for increased revenue generation.

Cease Subsidies to Sports Programs

A review of budget allocations indicates that the city is supplementing local athletic groups. Considering that these athletic groups keep all tournament and concessions revenues, further subsidies by the PPRD should not be needed. From our experience working with many agencies across the country, we find departments opposing subsidies to youth sports associations. Instead, we see the parks and recreation departments assessing a per player fee to help cover facility operating and maintenance cost, in addition to sharing in revenues from tournaments held at sports facilities. Eliminating subsidy will not be welcomed by the sports associations, but the money would be better spent on providing well-maintained facilities and/or purchasing additional amenities to enhance those facilities—like sports lighting for soccer fields. Eliminating subsidies would also allow the athletic associations to do away with donating back to the department, as they did in 2010 for a gator and infield conditioner, for example.

Seek Title Sponsors and Naming Rights Partners More Aggressively

Revenue figures show that PPRD has not been successful in seeking major financial sponsors for events. Based on staff comments, this is mainly due to the lack of time. Many agencies nationally have been successful in having local corporations and groups become title sponsors for events. Some have been able to acquire naming rights sponsors for recreation centers and sports complexes. The City of Bakersfield, California, has developed a comprehensive naming rights and sponsorship package that has shown impressive results. This includes \$500,000 from



Bright House Networks for a five-year naming rights agreement on the City's amphitheater and naming Aera Park for a period of fifteen years for \$250,000. The PPRD should structure programs that could allow for the naming of its highly visible facilities, such as: the beach pier, sports complexes and the senior center at a rate that is suitable for the local market. As for programs, finding a corporate sponsor for the Fourth of July fireworks, summer music in the parks program and other large community events would free up money to cover operating expenses.

New Fees and Charges

Boat Launching Fees

PPRD has a tremendous opportunity to improve water access facilities through the introduction of a fee system for launching boats. This involves taking advantage of new automated parking lot payment systems and adapting it to cover launching cost and parking at Point Park, Lighthouse Park, River Park, Spanish Fort Boat Ramp and Ladner Road Boat Ramp. Recommended fees for launching would be as follows:

Launch and park 0 to 2 hours \$3.00
Launch and park 3 to 4 hours \$5.00
Launch and park 5 hours plus \$7.00

Parking 0 to 2 hours \$1.00
Parking 3 to 4 hours \$2.00
Parking 5 plus hours \$4.00

During the peak boating season, the launch facilities are overcrowded and many non-residents are using the facilities. There is a tremendous amount of trash generated and it requires extra maintenance efforts to keep the parks clean. By introducing access fees, some boaters may seek out other free launch sites, and that will help with overcrowding. During busy weekends, these fees could easily generate between \$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00.

As an option for boaters who use these launch sites more than 10 times a year, PPRD could offer an annual pass for \$75 residents and \$100 for non-residents. Boaters would place a sticker on their boat trailer to indicate they have purchased the annual pass. A pass would be required for each boat, if a resident or non-resident has multiple boats.

After-School and Summer Camp Program Fees

The after school and summer camp programs are the two highest grossing programs offered by PPRD. In 2011-12 budget year, these two programs brought in \$145,403.55—or 61% of all the revenue generated by the department. Expanding these two programs should be a high priority for the department. Based on staff interviews, the programs are full and there is a waiting list. Therefore, the cost of the programs should be increased by a small amount to help pay for additional staff in order to expand the programs.



Tennis League Fees

Tennis leagues are currently using the tennis courts at no cost. All other sports programs pay a registration fee and rental fees for non-league tournaments. The tennis leagues should pay a court fee of \$25.00 per player per season to help offset the cost of lighting the courts. In addition, anyone teaching tennis lessons should also pay an hourly court reservation fee of \$5.00 per hour. A per court fee of \$10.00 per hour should be charged for renting an entire tennis complex for a tournament outside of regular league tournaments.

Sports Facilities

At all sports facilities that have lighting amenities, an additional hourly fee should be charged on a per-field or per-court cost. The fee should be calculated for each facility based on the actual cost to light a field or court per hour.

A review of the current PPRD Vending Agreement exempts the city leagues, which currently have facility-use agreements, from paying the city money for vendors who set up on city property during tournaments. Most communities assess either a portion of the gross gate receipts or gross concessions in order to cover the additional cost of maintenance and cleanup associated with tournaments. Other agencies charge a flat fee per player. All of these charges are over and above the rental fees. Staff and the Recreation Commission should review the vendor policy and the tournament policy and make adjustments to begin to capture revenue from tournaments.

Senior Center

At the Senior Center Live Oak Room, the rental fee includes the cost of providing tables, chairs and the sound and audio equipment as part of the room lease. These items are provided at no additional cost, even though staff must setup the tables and chairs and show the renter how to use the sound and audio equipment. In comparison, we find that other agencies charge an additional fee for tables and chairs and room setup fees. The planning team recommends developing a flat fee for use of the tables and chairs, a flat room setup charge and an hourly charge for use of the sound and audio equipment. Fees should be developed based on local market fees for similar charges by other facility providers in the area.

Board and Friends Group Fundraising

Park departments across the country depend on their board and friends groups to raise funds for special projects and on-going community events. This function has not been a priority for the Pascagoula Recreation Commission. Establishing annual fundraising goals for the Commission should become a priority. Examples of fund raising programs include: special dinners, dances and festivals that become annual events and traditions throughout the community.

Nationally, friends groups have taken the primary advocacy position when bond measures or increased operations funding is sought. For example, DeKalb County, Georgia, established a friends group subsequent to its 2000 Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan. The group was tasked to build support within the community to back a large general obligation bond. The



friends group, made up of many corporate and education leaders, worked for over a year to build support that eventually led to a successful referendum that secured over \$100 million in park improvement funds. It is recommended that staff work to develop a friends group that will build support for important park initiatives.

Non-resident Fees

Past research performed by our planning team on other comprehensive master plans in the South has revealed no set pattern for charging non-resident fees. Some agencies charge a flat fee, while others charge a percentage increase over the base fee. The purpose of non-resident fees is to capture additional dollars to help operate and maintain facilities, as non-residents do not contribute to the property tax dollars generated within the municipal boundaries. Based on our review of the current non-resident fees, the planning team feels the fees are too low. Program fees in most states can be increased to double the resident fee. The PPRD staff should conduct research of other recreation agencies in the state to determine if there is a consistent pattern for increased fees with respect to non-residents. After doing this research, PPRD should propose new fees for non-residents for adoption by City Council.

Non-Traditional Revenue Opportunities

As noted in the community needs assessment, there is a high citizen desire to have a concessioner at Point Park. PPRD should develop a Request for Proposals (RFP)—similar to the current Beach Park Concession RFP—to provide a year round concession facility at Point Park. The RFP should state the type of portable concession building that must be provided along with the required materials for resale. The RFP should also include a line item for rent that the vendors will pay to PPRD for the privilege of operating at Point Park. As an enticement to attract more bidders, PPRD should consider packaging Beach Park concession and Point Park concession into a single agreement giving exclusive vending rights to single vendor.

Package Food Tax

The city has undertaken steps to implement a 2% tax on prepared food items. This would result in an additional \$848,000 available to PPRD to use for capital projects. Efforts should continue to enact this tax, as the current bond market for municipal bonds is at one of lowest rates in history. Borrowing money now to build much needed facilities and paying for them over time with this fund and additional revenues generated at the facilities, would immediately expand recreation opportunities for the citizens of Pascagoula.

Recommendations Summary

In summary, the planning team recommends the following:

- Complete the steps necessary to implement a 2% prepared food tax.
- Develop a fees and charges policy to guide program fees throughout the department.
- Raise specific fees and increase charges to coincide with programs self-sustaining goals (Tier 1, 2, 3 and 4).
- Increase non-resident fees to be more comparable to market rates with other agencies in the region.
- Review fee policy related to sports fields and sports tournaments.
- Discontinue sports league subsidies.
- Increase non-resident fees across the board.
- Establish annual fundraising goals for the parks commission and establish a friends group.
- Create a sponsorship packet that would allow for title sponsors for events and seek naming partners for premier activity centers. If PPRD staff or other city marketing staff resources do not allow for aggressive marketing, PPRP or other city marketing staff should consider soliciting a proposal for a professional marketing firm to assist with this venture.
- Develop new non-traditional funding sources, including park and launch fees at city boat ramps.
- Develop Point Park concessions RFP.
- Add additional rental fees at Live Oak Room of the Senior Center.
- Set higher revenue generation goals.
- Review budget allocations for special events and maintenance, and increase this budget to reflect needs on an annual basis (rather than using a flat rate from year to year).



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SECTION 6

PARK ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

ASSESSMENT

Section 6: Park and Facility Assessment and Recommendations

Individual site-based assessments and inventories were conducted by our planning team on all PPRD parks to determine diversity of facilities, distribution patterns, maintenance practices, age, condition and compliance with accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Our team also looked for design characteristics that either reduced or increased maintenance requirements and park functions. After completing site visits and inventories, recommendations were made based upon the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) guidelines for service areas and community needs, staff responses, public input and national trends. Our team also made recommendations for future park development patterns that will better serve citizens by providing improved access to parks and will reduce travel time for the staff that operates and maintains park facilities.

The NRPA guidelines, national trend comparisons and community-based standards were then used to identify deficiencies within the system in terms of acreage, facility type and distribution. Recommendations have been made for all existing park properties and new park construction to help reduce current deficiencies and provide more equitable park opportunities for all city residents. General park recommendations have also been made for issues that exist throughout the entire park system, particularly issues that deal with safety, ADA requirements and maintenance efficiency.

NRPA Guidelines

In 1995, the NRPA published *Park, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines* by James D. Mertes, Ph.D, CLP, and James R. Hall, CLP. The book outlined a template for typical park classifications, numbers of acres a system should have and recommended service levels based on population. Strictly intended as a guideline, the book does not take into account the unique character of a community. Local trends and popularity of some activities often dictate a greater need for particular facilities. The guidelines serve as a good baseline for determining a minimum standard. These guidelines, coupled with input received from the community, analysis of participation numbers for various activities and comparisons to similar communities were used to develop service standards for Pascagoula.

For public park providers, the guidelines suggest, "A park system, at a minimum, should be composed of a 'core' system of park lands, with a total of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population" (Mertes, 1995). Critical to the service delivery system of any department is the provision of the four basic park categories: mini, neighborhood, community and regional. Beyond these four basic park types are special-use parks, natural areas/preserves, greenways, school parks and private parks/recreation facilities. Each is

classified differently based upon the types of amenities, size, service area and how access is gained to the facility.

Mini Park

The smallest type of park, a mini park, is typically a site less than five acres. Another term, "pocket park", has been used in some instances to identify a mini park. It is designed primarily to attract residents who live within a quarter mile of the park. Generally a walk-to type park, mini parks will not have parking facilities available for vehicles. Mini parks' service levels are .25 to .5 acres per thousand residents.

Size normally prescribes these parks to be passive, limited-activity park facilities. Common elements include benches, playgrounds and tables in an attractively landscaped setting. The parks are sometimes themed to blend in with the surrounding neighborhood. Designs sometimes match the existing homes, fencing, sidewalk pavers, etc. A park of this size is not developed with sports fields for league play or community-wide events.

Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood parks are found in most city and county systems. These parks typically have 5 to 20 acres and serve a population living within a half mile of the park. Conceptually, neighborhood parks concentrate intense recreation activities and facilities into a limited amount of space. Facilities typical to this park include:

- Playing Fields
- Playgrounds
- Shelters
- Walking Paths
- Swimming Pools
- Parking Facilities
- Restrooms/Concessions

Parking is necessary for this type of facility due to its scope of activities and size. The standard for parking is a minimum of seven spaces for the first ten acres and one additional space for each additional acre. This may vary based upon the activities and appeal of the programs. If team sports facilities or special features such as swimming pools are included, parking spaces in the range of 40 per field, or greater, will be needed.

Although the park is classified as a neighborhood park, the scope of people served can vary based upon densities and the number of other parks available. Typically, one neighborhood park should serve between 10,000 to 20,000 residents, or one to two acres per 1,000 people.

Community Park

Community parks are needed within a system to ensure that all users' recreational needs and interests are addressed and included. This type of park expands beyond a local neighborhood and may sometimes include several neighborhoods. The concept behind community parks is to include an all-inclusive facility for recreation users. It should include a



mix of active and passive activities and attract users of all ages. From sports fields to a community center, the park should provide as many recreation and support services as possible. A park of this size and scope commonly consists of 20 to 75 acres; 60 acres is considered a good size for such expansive activities.

Community parks have both day and night activities. Large facilities, such as a large indoor fitness/recreation center or a multi-field sports complex, can be placed in such a facility because of the amount of space available and the ability to buffer from the surrounding community.

The service area for such a facility can vary based upon the size and scope of activities offered; however, a facility of this type may serve anywhere from 50,000 to 80,000 people, or 5 to 8 acres per 1,000 people. User analyses are often based upon a service radius, while others in more urban areas may be based upon drive times.

Regional Park

The largest park typically found within a system is a regional park. These parks are normally found in large park systems. The size of a regional park varies from 50 to 250 acres depending on the type of activities and the amount of use.

The service radius for this type of facility is based upon drive time and is typically within an hour's drive of most residents. Conceptually, the regional park is to provide large natural areas that can be accessed through a variety of means, from roadways to hiking and biking. Based upon the locale, it can have unique recreation areas, such as a water park or an equestrian facility coupled with natural areas.

Note: Regional parks are unique to the general area. Prototypical or preferred amenities vary.

Special-Use Park

Special-use parks are designed to meet the needs of a specific user group. An example of a special-use park would be an aquatic center, golf course, zoo or a museum. A typical feature of these parks is their ability to be good revenue generators. If maintained and properly staffed, they can provide a substantial cash flow.

These facilities can vary in size according to user demand. For example, a regulation size (par 72) golf course would need at least 140 acres, while an executive style (par 60) layout may only require 100 to 120 acres, based upon amenities such as driving range and practice facilities.

Sports Park

Sports parks are parks that are dominated by athletic facilities. Most sports park will have a small amount of support facilities such as a walking track, playground and picnic facilities, but the primary function of the park is to facilitate sports activities.

Natural Resource Area/Preserve

According to the NRPA, natural resource areas are defined as “lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering.”

These lands consist of:

- Individual sites exhibiting natural resources
- Lands unsuitable for development but offering natural resource potential (e.g.: parcels with steep slopes and natural vegetation, drainage ways and ravines, surface water management areas and utility easements)
- Protected land, such as wetlands, lowlands and shorelines along waterways, lakes and ponds

Acquisition of natural resource areas and preserves serves to enhance the quality of the community by maintaining a portion of its natural amenities.

Greenways

Greenways have become one of the most popular family recreation activities across the country. The value of greenways in terms of recreation, education and resource protection is invaluable. Greenways serve as linkages between cities, parks, schools, commercial areas and neighborhoods. They provide a safe mode of transportation that preserves the environment.

Typically, greenways can vary from 10 to 12 feet in width and can be paved or maintain a natural surface. When developing a greenway system, corridors should be identified where pedestrians will access the area easily and connect elements within the community and incorporate all the characteristics of the natural resource areas. Greenway corridors should be no less than 50 feet in width except in neighborhoods, where 25 feet may be acceptable. In his article published in 1995, Julius Fabos, a former professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Massachusetts, divides greenways into three categories: ecological, recreational and cultural.

Greenways can be located in a variety of settings and can be utilized for active and passive recreation activities. They are typically located along natural environments such as rivers, ridgelines and coastal areas. These trails provide connections to nature, protect and maintain biodiversity, minimize development, and provide for wildlife migration across natural and manmade boundaries.

Recreational greenways commonly link elements that have diverse and significant landscapes. Many link rural areas to more urban locales and range from local trails to larger systems. Most are paved trails that accommodate pedestrians, skaters and bicycles.

Another type of greenway is the cultural trail, which connects areas of significant historic value and culture. Economic benefits from these types of trails may be significant if linkages can be directed toward areas of commerce to provide an infrastructure for commuting.

School Park

School park sites are an excellent way to combine resources and provide accessible recreation amenities to the community. Depending on the school type (i.e. elementary, middle or high school) the size of the park will be dictated by the available land adjacent to the school. Typically, middle and high schools are constructed with youth athletic fields to support team sports. These facilities provide the basis for developing a community park or, at a minimum, youth athletic fields for recreation programs. The selection of school sites is determined by the school district and the countywide or citywide distribution of students. The school site selection criteria may or may not meet the needs for parkland distribution. When development of school parks is possible, guidelines for neighborhood/community parks should be followed to meet the needs of residents. When joint developments occur, features common to other parks in the city (e.g., signs, site furnishings) should be used to identify the property as a public facility.

Private Park/Recreation Facility

The private park and recreation facility, as described by the NRPA, meets one of the two following characteristics:

- Facilities within a residential area - such as swimming pools, golf courses, tennis courts and party houses, developed for the exclusive use of residents and maintained through a neighborhood association
- For-profit enterprises - such as health and fitness clubs, golf courses, water parks, amusement parks and sports facilities

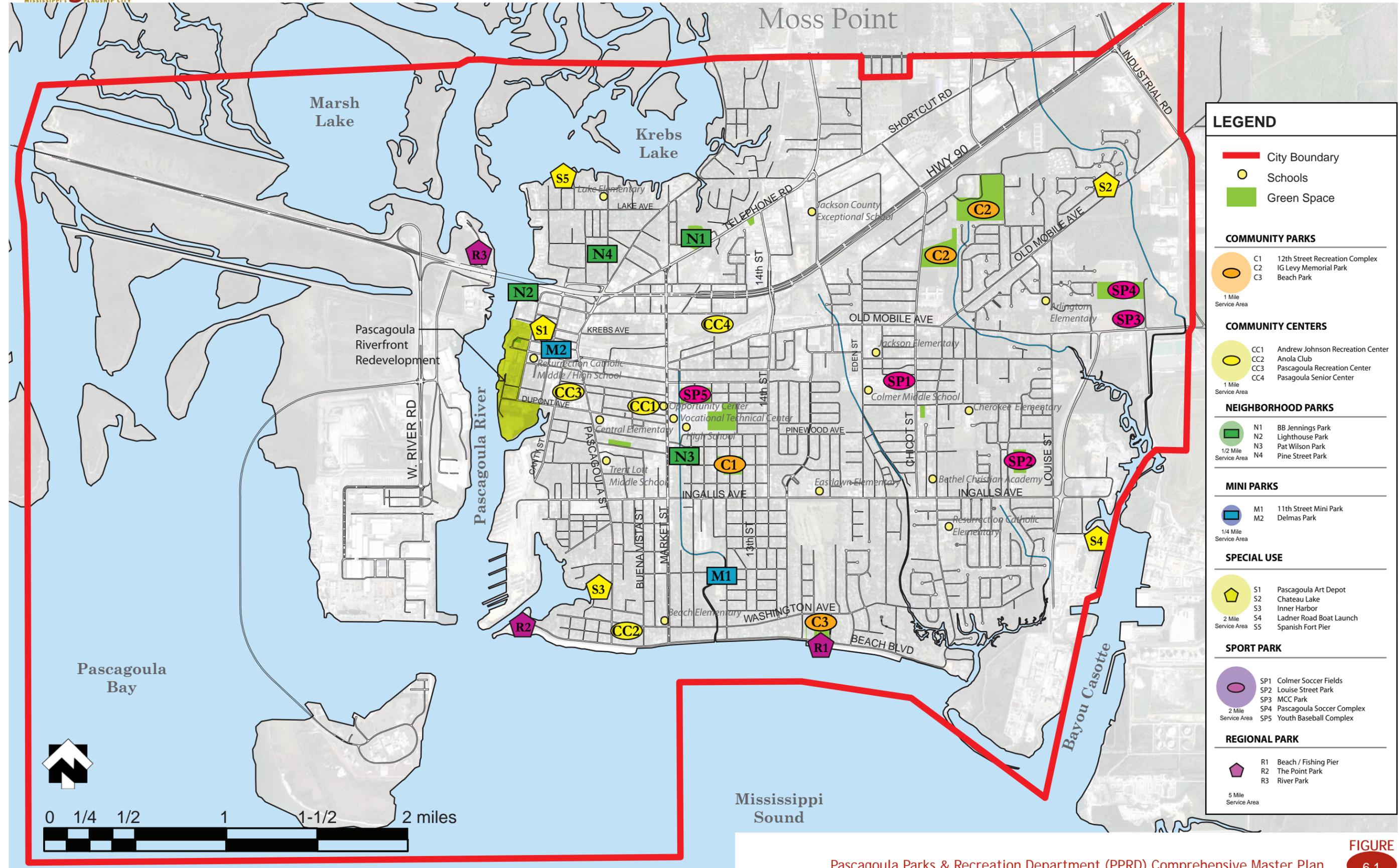
These facility types can be entirely private or, in many cases, be a joint venture between a public entity and a private organization. Partnerships of this kind allow for the provision of facilities and programs at a reduced cost to the public sector. Private parks and recreation facilities are not a substitute for public recreation space.

Pascagoula Park Providers

The largest provider of park and recreation services in Pascagoula is the Pascagoula Parks and Recreation Department. Figure 6.1 shows the locations of all existing city-owned and maintained parks and facilities. A full list of amenities offered in each park is detailed in the individual park assessments and shown in Table 6.1

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Figure 6.1: Existing Parks





City Providers in Jackson County

Pascagoula Parks and Recreation Department is not the only provider of parks and recreation facilities in Jackson County. The cities of Moss Point, Gautier and Ocean Springs also provide a variety of public park and recreation programs. Based on staff interviews, there does not seem to be a large overlap in services with these agencies and only a small number of youth sports participants come from outside of Pascagoula. Survey findings did indicate that some residents travel outside Pascagoula to use neighboring park facilities. Specific cities mentioned in survey comments were Gautier and Moss Point. The most common reason listed for using facilities outside of Pascagoula was that other communities had facilities that were not offered in Pascagoula.

State and Federal Lands

Within the city limits of Pascagoula, there are no state parks or federal parkland; however, there is one national historic site, called Longfellow House but it is no longer open to the public. In Jackson County, there is one state park, Shepard State Park, located just outside the city limits in Gautier. Within the county are also portions of several national forest and wildlife refuges, which include:

- De Soto National Forest
- Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge
- Gulf Islands National Seashore
- Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge

These facilities all provide many opportunities for outdoor recreation, wildlife viewing, and nature based outings to the public. They can also be trip destinations for programs organized by Pascagoula Parks and Recreation.

Pascagoula is located on the Pascagoula River and Mississippi Sound, which provides public access to both fresh water and salt-water fisheries and water sports activities. These waters are open to the public at no charge and provide other natural features like barrier islands that offer great beaches, fishing and shell collecting opportunities.

Private Providers

There are several private recreation providers located in Pascagoula. They include the Pascagoula Country Club, Singing River Yacht Club, and Singing River Healthplex. The Singing River Healthplex offers a variety of fitness equipment and programs, swimming and aqua therapy programs, weight training equipment and personal trainers to help members with health and fitness activities. This is a new modern facility that has been embraced by the community since it opened. The Singing River Yacht Club offers its members the opportunity to participate in many boating activities, tennis leagues and lessons and has a ladies auxiliary, which plans social events throughout the year. Located at the mouth of Singing River on the Mississippi Sound; facilities include a private launch, pier, tennis courts and clubhouse. The Pascagoula Country Club offers members a traditional country club experience with a 9-hole golf course, swimming pool and clubhouse with full food

service and banquet facilities. There are other smaller, private studios for dance, martial arts, and similar programs located throughout the city and Jackson County.

The Jackson County Boys and Girls Club offers programs for youth at the Andrew Johnson Recreation Center and several local churches offer recreation and sports programs. There is a church sponsored softball league that plays on PPRD property and a volleyball league plays at the churches.

Facility Standards and Distribution

One of the primary tasks of the parks assessment was to determine the level of service that is provided under the current system, as well as to make recommendations for future levels of service. An inventory was completed for all existing Pascagoula parks. This inventory was evaluated based on existing NRPA community baseline standards, which were provided in the 1995 publication, *Park, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines*. The planning team also developed community-based standards that were appropriate for Pascagoula based on community trends, desires and public input and by reviewing the 2012 Parks and Recreation National Database Report published by NRPA. The results of that evaluation are discussed later in this section and illustrated in Table 6.2.

Table 6.2: Standards for Park Facilities

Developed Standards for Park Facilities	NRPA Recommended Level of Service	Community-based Desired Level of Service Existing Number of Pascagoula Park Facilities	Existing Number of Pascagoula Park Facilities	NRPA Facility Recommendation Based on Current Estimated Population of 23,585	Current Facility Deficit/ Surplus (using NRPA Recommended Level of Service)	Community-based Desired Level of Service Pascagoula Estimated 2012 Population of 23,585	Current Facility Deficit/ Surplus (using Desired Level of Service)	NRPA Facility Recommendation Based on Pascagoula Estimated 2017 Population of 26,322	Future Facility Deficit/ Surplus (using NRPA Recommended Level of Service)	Community-based Desired Level of Service Based on Pascagoula Estimated 2017 Population 26,322	Future Facility Deficit/ Surplus (using Desired Level of Service)
Acreage	10.5/1,000	10.5/1000	195	248	-53	248	-53	276	-81	276	-81
Outdoor Basketball	1/5,000	1/75000	5	5	0	3	2	5	0	4	1
Tennis	1/2,000	1/4,000	10	12	-2	6	4	13	-3	7	3
Volleyball (outdoor)	1/5,000	1/5,000	4	5	-1	5	-1	5	-1	5	-1
Baseball/Softball	1/2,500	1/3,000	14	9	5	8	6	11	3	9	5
Football	1/20,000	1/20,000	0	1	-1	1	-1	1	-1	1	-1
Soccer/Multi-Use	1/10,000	1/4,000	12	2	10	6	6	3	9	7	5
Swimming Pool/Aquatics ¹	1/20,000	1/30,000	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Indoor Pool	n/a	1/42,000	0	0	0	1	-1	0	0	1	-1
Running Track	1/20,000	1/20,000	0	1	-1	1	-1	1	-1	1	-1
Trail System	1mile/3,000	1mile/3,000	3	8	-5	8	-5	9	-6	9	-6
Playground	1/1,000	1/5,000	14	24	-10	5	9	26	-12	5	9
Community Center	1/50,000	1/50,000	5	0	5	0	5	1	4	1	4
Picnic Pavilion	1/2,000	1/5,000	11	0	11	5	6	0	11	5	6
Dog Park	n/a	1/50,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-1
Community Garden	n/a	1/30,000	0	0	0	1	-1	0	0	1	-1
Skate Park	1/100,000	1/100,000	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1

¹Includes spraygrounds
Population Data Source for 2011 and 2017: *Demographics Now*

Community Standards

Our planning team developed a set of community-based standards unique to Pascagoula that are based on community input, a review of the open space and community goals outlined in the *2010 Pascagoula Comprehensive Plan*, several local factors and our experience in the parks and recreation industry. Table 6.2, along with the planning team's assessment of the distribution of facilities and amenities, was used in the development of recommendations for new facilities and renovation projects. Deficiencies in the current service patterns, facility distribution and community outcry for improved service have resulted in additional facility recommendations.

Facility Surplus/Deficit/Directional Change

Table 6.2 uses Pascagoula's 2012 estimated population to determine where deficiencies and surpluses in the park systems exist. Facility totals were derived from inventories of all existing city parks. The facility surplus/deficit calculations were based on the desired level of service as defined by the community-based standards.

The deficiencies shown in the table do not take into account those facilities found on school properties that are not open to the public (e.g. high school sports fields, indoor facilities, etc.), church properties or private recreation providers. If totals were included for the amenities found at these facilities, inadequacies throughout the city would be statistically less than shown; however, the actual availability of facilities to residents on a full-time basis would remain the same. Facilities found in residential developments, such as swimming pools and tennis courts, provide some additional recreational opportunities but they do not provide the same opportunities as public park facilities because they have restricted access.

A review of the older national standards and new community standards, based on recent national inventories collected by NRPA, reveals that Pascagoula has park acreage and facility deficits in many categories. According to the community-based standards of 10.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 people, Pascagoula has a 53-acre parkland deficit. Based on projected population growth, this deficit will grow to 82 acres by 2017. This deficiency is impaired because the current parks are too small for the activities being programmed in them. As noted earlier in this section, parks that serve a community function and include resources such as ball fields that serve the entire community should be between 25 and 70 acres. IG Levy Park, with a combined total of 45.2 acres, represents the largest park in the system followed by the Soccer Park at 40 acres. After these two parks, the next largest park is Beach Park at 14 acres. The youth baseball complex is built on a six-acre site and provides no onsite parking. 12th Street Park, which is home to the girls' softball league, is on 8.2 acres.

There is a clear need to purchase parkland of the appropriate size in order to change the overall direction of providing public access to parks and recreation facilities. A large parcel is needed to allow for the development of a sports complex for both boys baseball and girls softball and supporting parking and park amenities. The purchase of a large parcel and the relocation of baseball and softball facilities from current locations will free up land for other uses. Repurposing these parks is consistent with the goals for the *2010 Pascagoula*



Comprehensive Plan that seeks to use parks and neighborhood gathering and socialization areas and places to build community pride. The current uses of these two parks do just the opposite by relegating the use of the parks for one activity that dominates the use of these parks.

Large parcels of land without extensive wetlands are hard to find in Pascagoula but there is clear community support for the purchase of a large parcel as evidenced by the passage of a hotel tax in 2006 to purchase a large park. This acquisition has yet to occur and it is time to move forward. In addition, wetland mitigation and the associated cost of mitigation must be allocated in any capital plan for a new sports complex. It should also be noted that if a parcel(s) can be found near the soccer complex, it would reduce maintenance staff travel time between major sport facilities when performing field maintenance. A single parcel of adequate size for the sports complex may not be available; therefore, several contiguous parcels may be required to obtain the needed acreage for a new park.

Other areas where facility deficits are present include greenway trails, football fields, dog parks, community gardens, volleyball, tennis, indoor aquatics and running tracks. The trail deficit at five miles is the most significant deficit. Other facilities that are not currently provided in the system include an indoor aquatic facility, a dog park and a youth football field. Conversely, there are surpluses in the number of community centers provided, outdoor basketball courts, pavilions, soccer fields and baseball/softball fields when compared to NRPA standards. While some of these surpluses would be viewed by users as incorrect, much of the problem is associated with practice time rather than game time at sports fields. It is also the result of how the sports fields are currently constructed and how they are scattered throughout the park system rather than being all at one site. The development of a new centralized sports complex would allow for better scheduling, free up existing park land and allow for dedicated practice fields with lights. The surplus of community centers is also misleading. One of the current community centers is located in an old school gym and both have significant functional issues that reduce the ability to maximize programming. Andrew Johnson Recreation Center needs major renovations and it will still face functional challenges. Development of a new recreation center would change the way programs are offered, enhance the number of programs offered and provide an opportunity to build a modern aquatics facility for year round swimming.

The *2010 Pascagoula Comprehensive Plan* stresses the need to build trail and bicycle facilities to promote multi-modal access opportunities for transportation throughout the city. The current trail deficit clearly indicates the need for more emphasis on greenway and dedicated bicycle lane development if the city is going to respond to citizen's needs. The survey findings completed as part of this master planning effort clearly support increased funding for greenways, as it was one of the top three facilities desired in several of the survey questions. Numerous citizens raised concerns with respect to the lack of pedestrian and walking facilities along Beach Boulevard and the need for more beach parking. Starting development of sidewalks, greenway trails and bicycle lanes at the beach and working north to connect with other areas of the city is highly recommended. More detailed discussion on greenways follows later in this section of the report.

In addition to these deficiencies, many of the existing play fields and courts are in fair to poor condition, as expressed in the community input phase and determined by the planning team's park assessments. Much of the fencing, dugouts and hard surfaces throughout the park system are in need of replacement. Most of the existing facilities are old and were constructed gradually over time to address the needs of the community. Those needs have changed and the city is spending money to maintain more facilities than they can currently accommodate, and many are underutilized for the amount of maintenance attention they receive. To overcome the excess amount of deferred maintenance and to change directions how the park system operates, an infusion of capital dollars is needed, otherwise the citizens will be forced to continue to use outdated, unsafe and aesthetically unpleasant park facilities.

Park Classifications and Service Areas

After a review of existing parks overseen by PPRD and their facility inventories, the parks were given classifications based on the NRPA-recommended guidelines (see Table 6.2). The Parks and Recreation Department oversees 26 park properties, which are comprised of two mini parks, four neighborhood parks, two community parks, three regional parks, five special-use facilities, five sports parks and four community centers. The park classifications are based on existing acreage, populations served and recreation potential. The individual park assessments found later in this section provide a detailed description of the recreation facilities present at each park and the necessary improvements required to meet the classifications provided.

The park service area maps, figures 6.2-6.9, are a better representation of the parkland supply and demand ratio. These maps illustrate the parks' service areas and the city's population density. By graphically combining service areas atop population densities, one can see where the service gaps are and how many citizens live within those areas.

Figures 6.2-6.4 show the service areas of all city-owned and maintained mini, neighborhood and community parks (including the 5 sports parks). The mini parks have a ¼-mile service area, the neighborhood parks have a ½-mile service area and the community parks are shown with a 2-mile service area. The areas south of Highway 90 have the best access to parks. This area has more parks and all of the community centers and sports fields are located in the southern section of the city. The area with the lowest access to parkland is the northeast section of the city. While the service area of IG Levy Memorial Park extends into this area, Highway 90 with high traffic volumes makes walking or biking from north of the highway to IG Levy Memorial Park virtually impossible.

Figure 6.2: Mini Parks

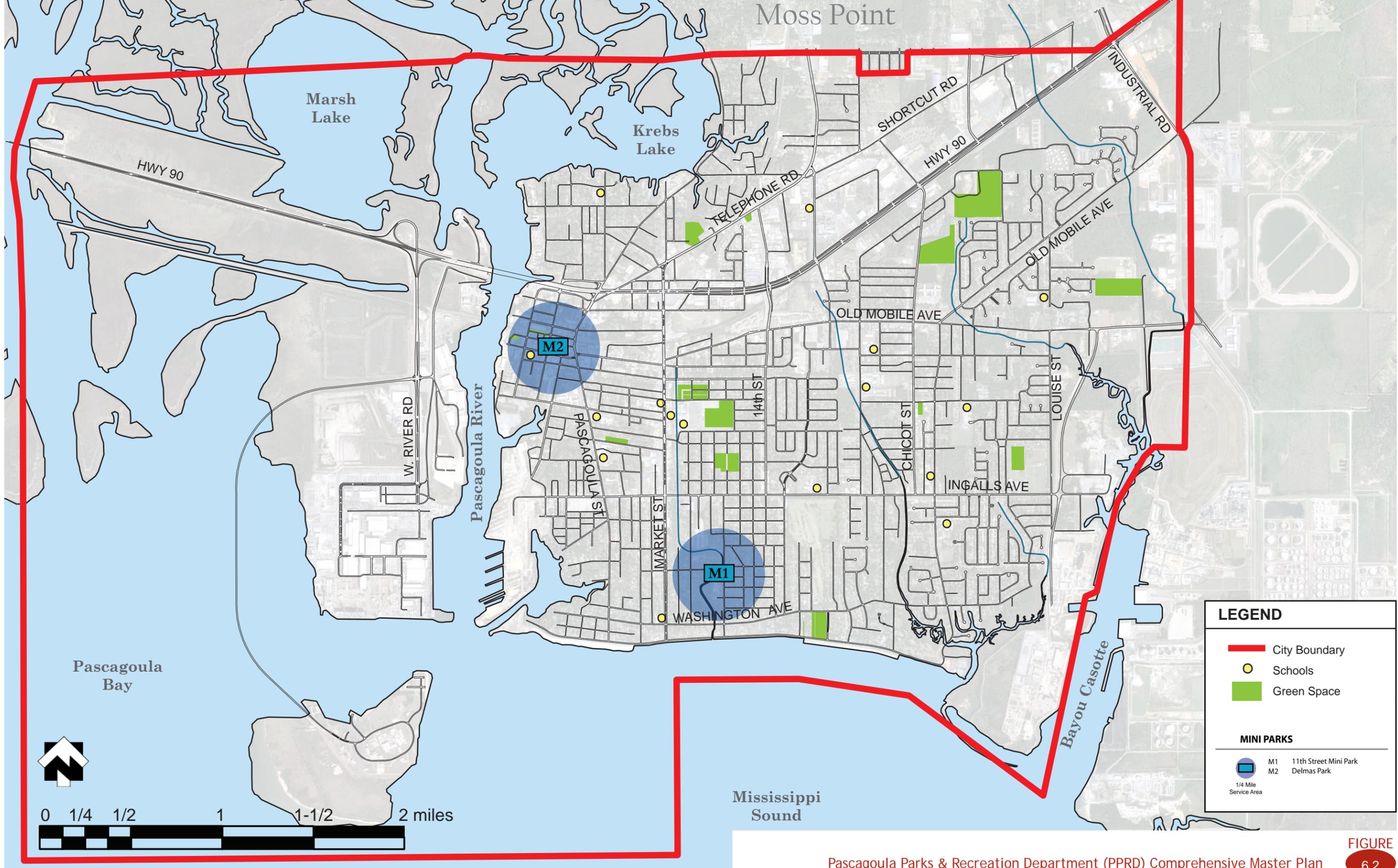
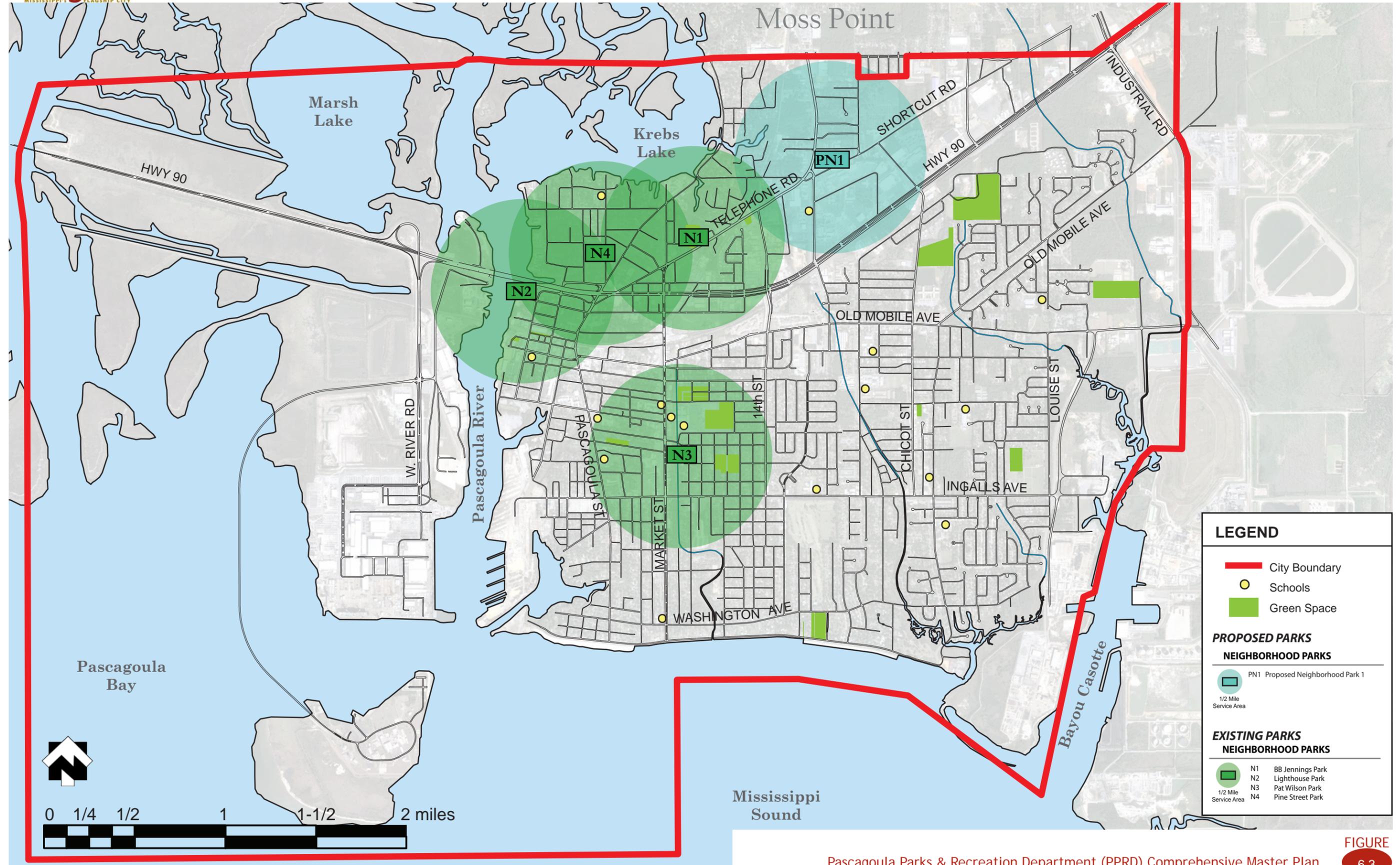


Figure 6.3: Neighborhood Parks



LEGEND

- City Boundary
- Schools
- Green Space

PROPOSED PARKS

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

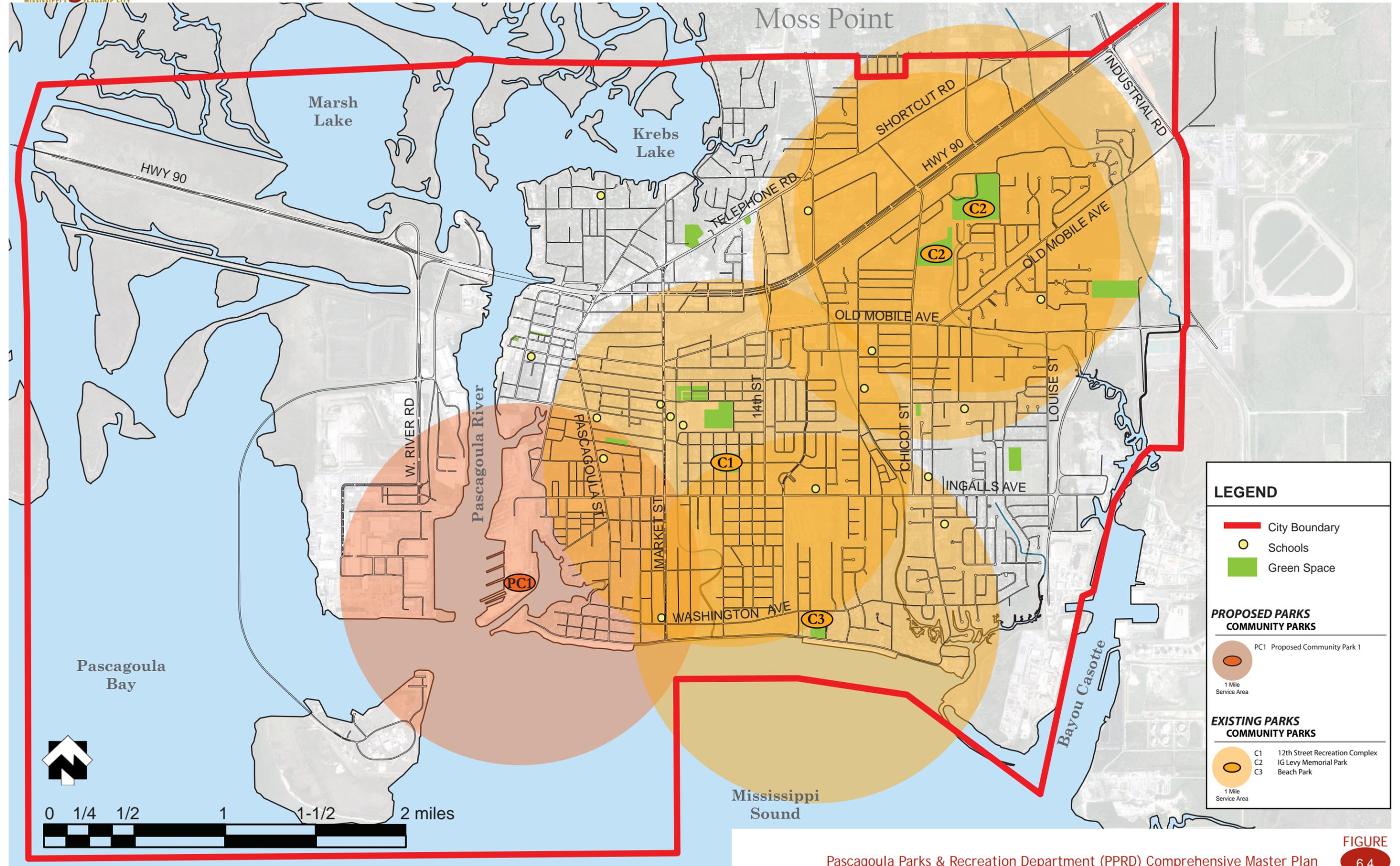
- PN1 PN1 Proposed Neighborhood Park 1
- 1/2 Mile Service Area

EXISTING PARKS

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

- N1 N1 BB Jennings Park
- N2 N2 Lighthouse Park
- N3 N3 Pat Wilson Park
- N4 N4 Pine Street Park
- 1/2 Mile Service Area

Figure 6.4: Community Parks





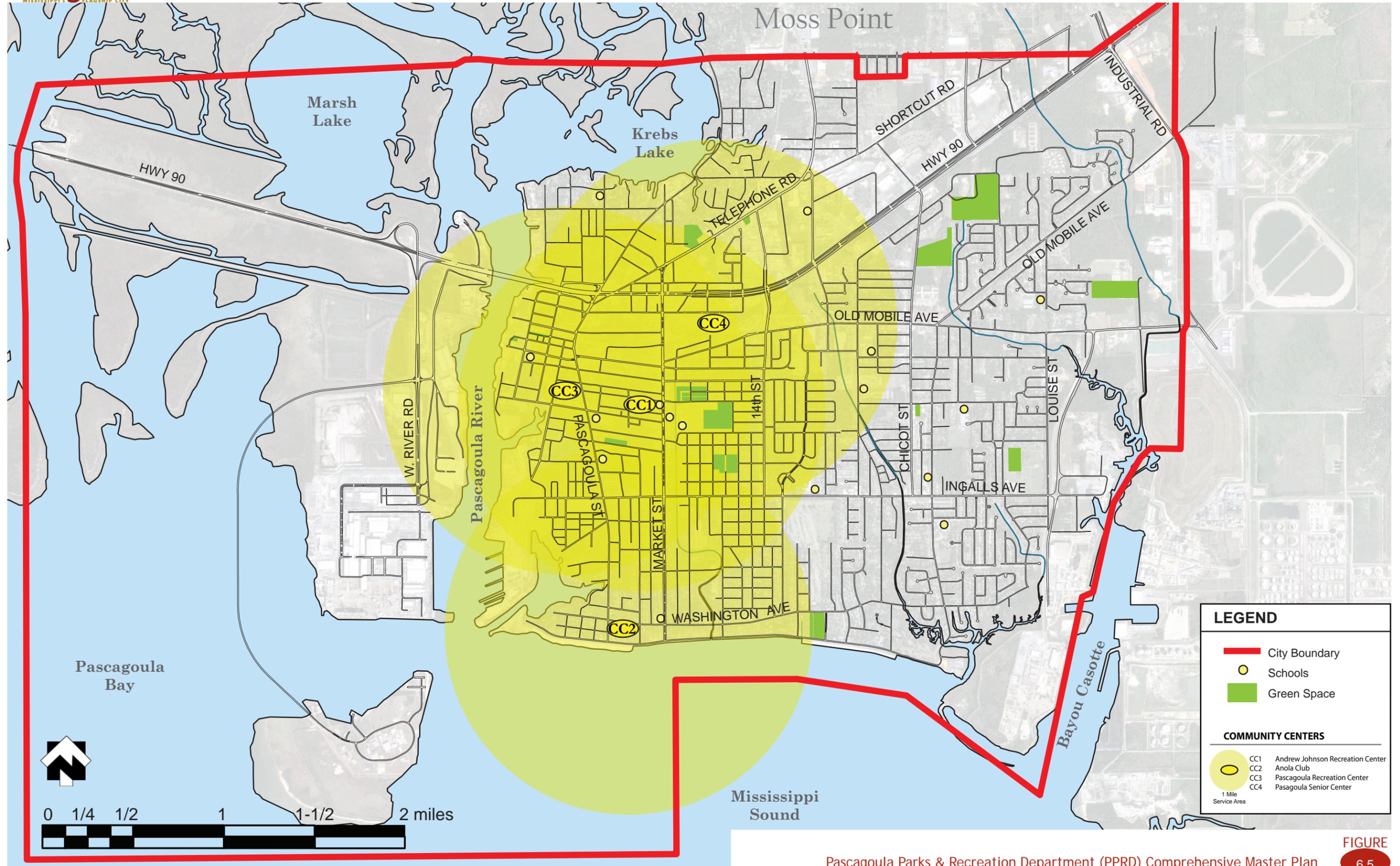
Pine Street and BB Jennings Parks are the only parks that serve the neighborhoods north of Highway 90 and together they only comprise 10.86 acres. They are also two of the parks that are in the poorest condition and need major renovations to offer a quality park experience. While population densities are lower on the north side of the city, as compared to the south and central sections of the city, more parkland near the Singing River Medical Complex would provide enhanced recreation opportunities.

Figures 6.5-6.7 show the service area for the city's community centers, special-use and sports facilities. Figure 6.5 shows city's community centers with a 1-mile service area and figures 6.6-6.7 show special-use and sports facilities with a 2-mile service area. These facilities are again concentrated on the south side of Highway 90 and are concentrated on the eastern side of the city. While accessible by bicycle and foot traffic from immediate neighborhoods, several facilities are too far east for most city residents to access without driving.

Figure 6.8 illustrates the service areas for the city's regional parks. These facilities have a 5-mile service radius, which translates to approximately a 15-minute drive time and reflects a threshold preferred by most individuals as found by the planning team's work in other communities. Those living within this 5-mile radius will have the best access to the parks in terms of drive time, but due to the size of the parks and their amenities, they will actually serve the entire city. With the lone exception of River Park, all other regional parks are located south of Highway 90 along the beach. Access to the beach properties are through residential neighborhoods and parking conflicts are a common problem at both Beach Park and Point Park. Access to River Park is very poor, with users of the park being forced to backtrack through and industrial park to reach the park.

Note: Figure 6.9 shows the combined service areas of all facilities.

Figure 6.5: Community Centers



LEGEND

- City Boundary
- Schools
- Green Space

COMMUNITY CENTERS

- CC1 Andrew Johnson Recreation Center
- CC2 Anola Club
- CC3 Pascagoula Recreation Center
- CC4 Pascagoula Senior Center

1 Mile Service Area

Figure 6.6: Special Use Facilities

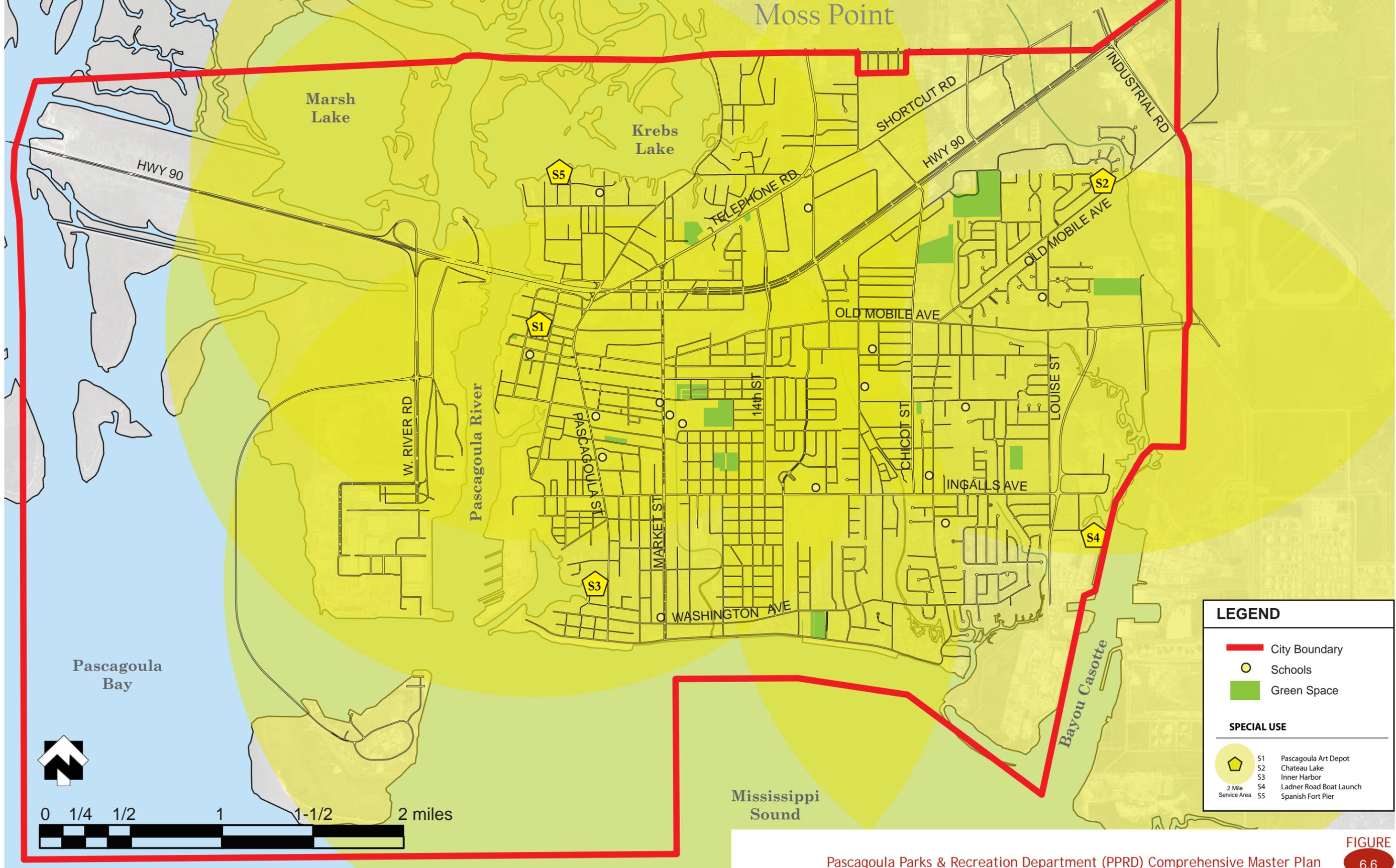
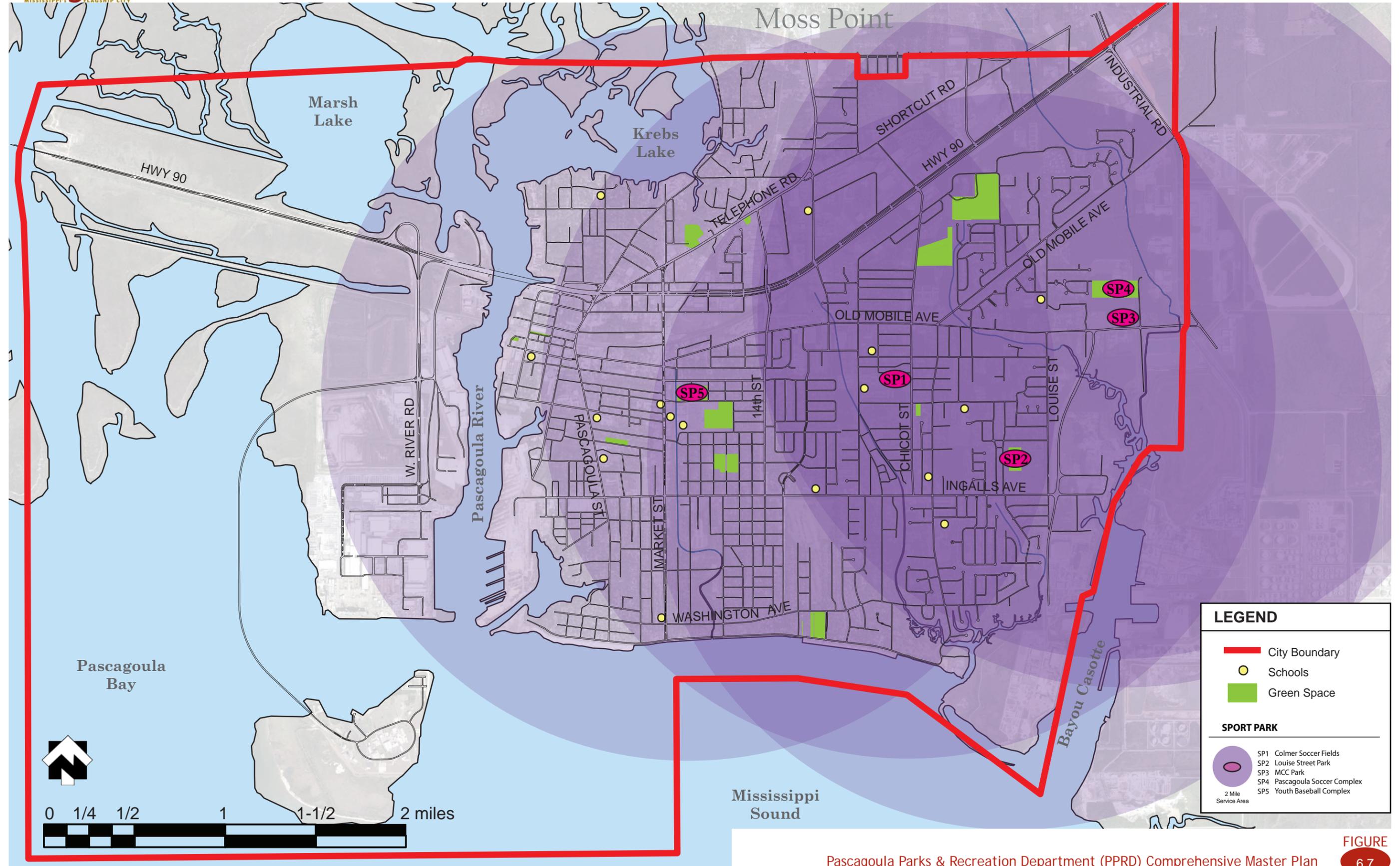


Figure 6.7: Sports Parks



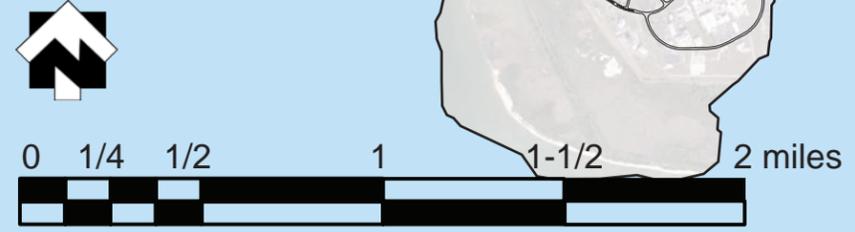
LEGEND

- City Boundary
- Schools
- Green Space

SPORT PARK

- SP1 Colmer Soccer Fields
- SP2 Louise Street Park
- SP3 MCC Park
- SP4 Pascagoula Soccer Complex
- SP5 Youth Baseball Complex

2 Mile Service Area



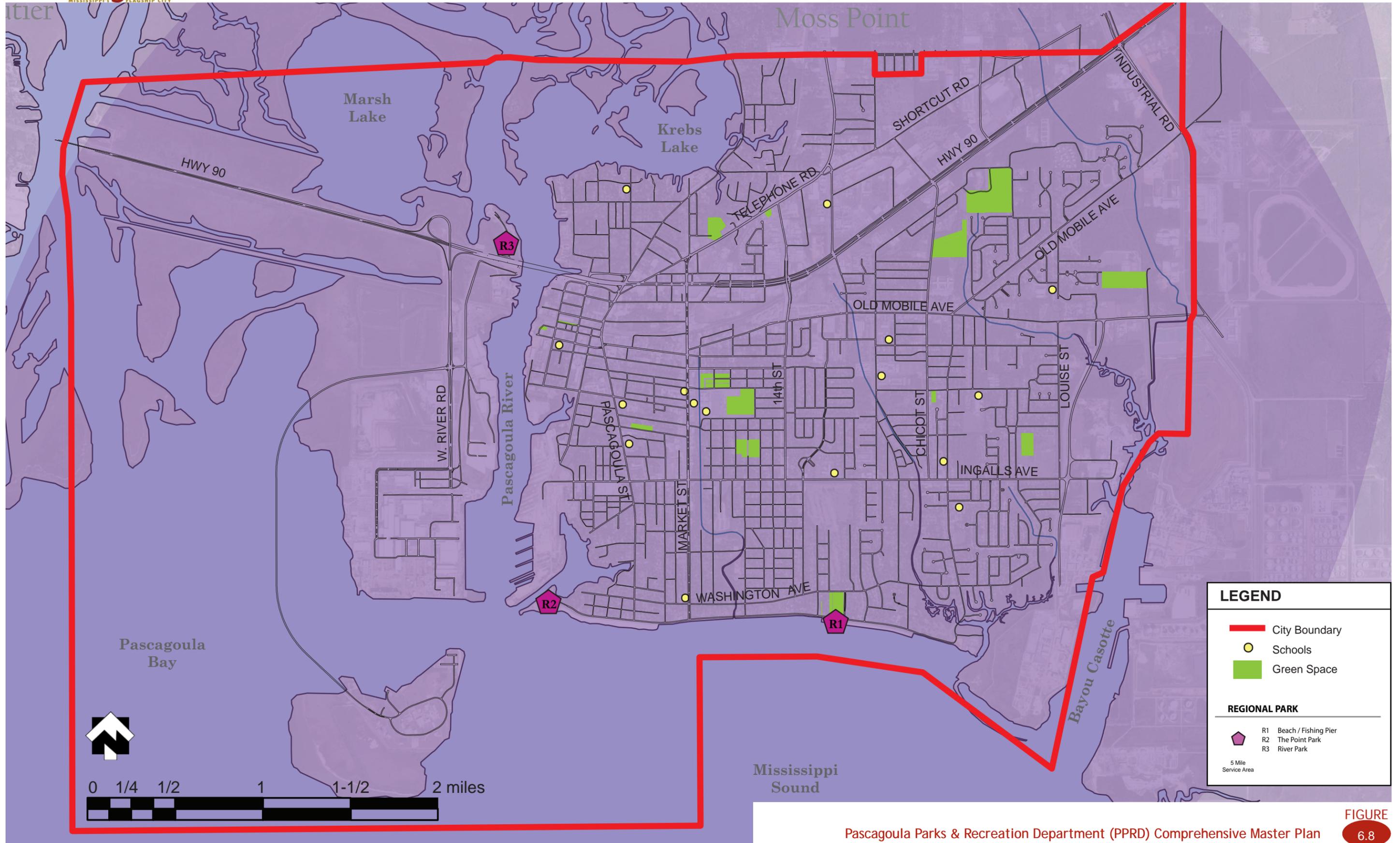
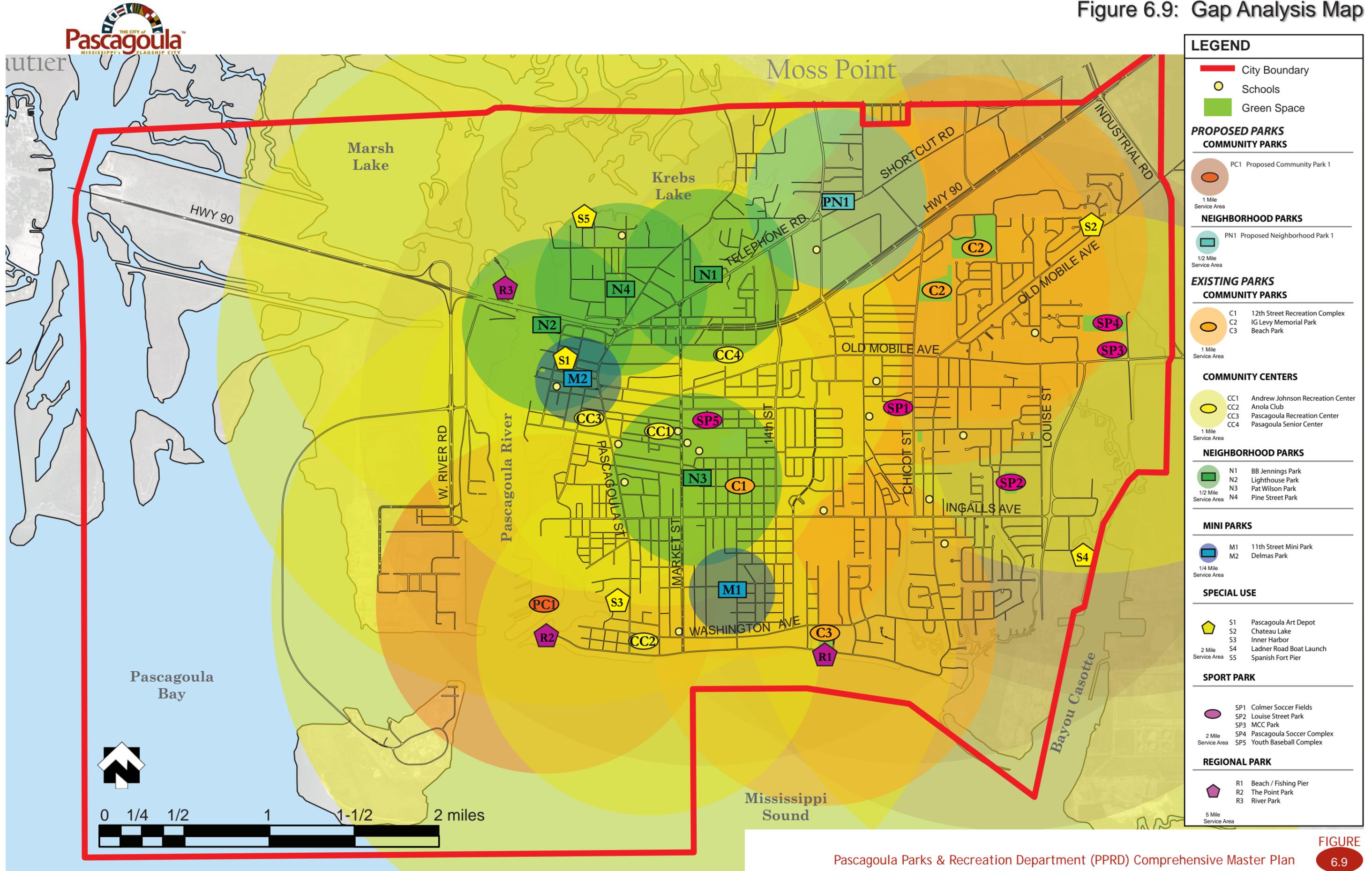


Figure 6.9: Gap Analysis Map



Service Area Limitations

When examining service areas, it is also important to consider features that limit access to parks. These barriers can be natural features, like water bodies, or man-made features, like roads. Pedestrians are most affected by these barriers, especially if safe crossings are not provided. In the case of Pascagoula, Highway 90 is a major barrier for pedestrian and bicycle access to parks located on the south side of the city. The Pascagoula River is a major barrier for employees in the ship yards and the industrial area located west of the river.

The planning team used the conventional service areas in our overall analysis of access to parks but we also considered these barriers when making recommendations for park renovations and new parks and greenway development. Greenways are the greatest tool in breaking down these barriers and providing better connectivity between neighborhoods and parks and throughout communities as a whole.

Park Distribution

After reviewing the surpluses/deficits of specific park amenities and the service areas of the parks, the planning team combined these two types of analysis to determine distribution. The surplus/deficit analysis indicated "what" and the service area analysis indicated "where." By analyzing the city's park distribution, the planning team can determine the diversity of parks throughout the city, the distribution of amenities and the need for more equitable recreation opportunities.

The distribution of parks throughout Pascagoula is primarily concentrated south of Highway 90 and east of Market Street. Four parks are clustered near the high school and are accessible by foot or by bicycle to the surrounding neighborhoods. Sports facilities are concentrated in these parks and are the predominate use leaving very little room for more general park opportunities. Chicot Street and Orchard Avenue border a second cluster of parks in the area. With the exception of the passive park areas in IG Levy Parks, these parks are overshadowed by sports fields.

Overall, the geographic distribution of parks within the city limits is appropriate; however, the distribution of park facilities within the parks is not as well distributed. The majority of the park space is dominated by sports fields. The parks offering major sports programs are too small for the programmed uses within them. In fact, only IG Levy Memorial Park and the Pascagoula Soccer Complex are the appropriate size for the programmed use. In order to allow the redevelopment of existing parks to serve as neighborhood parks, the city must acquire a large piece of property and develop a new sports complex.

The barrier created by Highway 90 and the lack of a park east of BB Jennings Park to serve residents in the northeast section of the city is a problem. Although Singing River Hospital provides a walking trail (approximately 1/8 of mile), additional property in the area around Hospital should be purchased to provide a neighborhood park. A park of 4 to 5 acres would provide residents and hospital visitors a place of rest and recreation.

The need for expanded bicycle and pedestrian facilities was identified as a need in the *2010 Pascagoula Comprehensive Plan*. Our planning team supports the recommendation



to build greenways, wide sidewalks and bicycle lanes throughout the city to begin linking parks, natural areas, schools and neighborhoods. Greenways, along with a new sports complex, will serve as the greatest instrument for changing how citizens recreate in Pascagoula.

Another area of unbalanced service is indoor programming space. The city has limited indoor programming space at this time with only one senior center, two community centers in close proximity to one another and one pool. There are a few small community rooms scattered elsewhere, but they are not conducive to the delivery of modern park programs. There is a great need in the city for gymnasiums, multi-use programming rooms and space for nature and cultural programs that are part of a modern recreation delivery system. This is one of the biggest needs that must be addressed by the city in order to expand programming opportunities and to provide more equity in travel time for residents throughout the city. Indoor programming space will also provide the Department with a greater opportunity to increase revenue generation over the next 10 years.

Another issue is the lack of diversity of the current park facilities for outdoor programs like heritage and nature-based programs. The city owns several park properties that would be ideal for these types of programs and expanded after school and summer day camp programs. In addition, there is not a Miracle League style field in the city with an accessible surface, which limits the ability to provide programs for the disabled populations.

General Park Evaluations, Observations and Recommendations

The completion of the existing facility assessments revealed a lack of funding and an aged park system in need of major renovations in order to meet current recreation trends. The overall condition of the parks is deteriorating. Years of heavy use and inadequate funding have left them in poor condition. With few exceptions, extensive renovations and replacement of existing facilities will be needed throughout the system. For most of the facilities, even routine maintenance will not promote a positive recreation experience for park users. The aging infrastructure is placing demands on the maintenance staff that cannot be met with existing staff levels and will only increase with time.

In almost all cases, available funding limits the city's ability to provide capital improvements. The older parks face many of the same issues confronting similar-aged facilities in parks across the country. A lack of sidewalks or paths connecting facilities do not provide ADA accessibility and contribute to worn turf and soil erosion. A lack of wheel stops or curb and gutter in parking lots allow vehicles to drive onto grassed surfaces, also causing wear and erosion. Because of heavy and sometimes unsupervised use, restrooms and concessions buildings tend to experience extreme wear and vandalism problems.

The planning team's park assessments revealed consistent problems throughout the parks system. These same problems are common among parks of a similar age and condition studied across the Southeast. The following observations summarize the issues observed in parks and provide general recommendations for improvement.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

A large issue facing both public and private recreation providers is the ability to enhance access for disabled patrons. Park and recreation departments are not exempt from this requirement, and legislation dictates that primary park amenities be barrier-free. In past years, since the Americans with Disabilities Act's (ADA) recommendations were considered more of a guideline, and repercussions for non-compliance were often limited; many communities addressed ADA issues on a case-by-case basis, often with varying degrees of compliance. However, now that ADA guidelines are fully enforceable in federal court, many communities are being selectively visited by agents of the US Department of Justice to identify areas of non-compliance and bind them with required improvements in accessibility.

When considering accessibility, it is important to remember that it covers not only wheelchair access, but also access for those with difficulty walking (the elderly, for instance), the seeing impaired, etc. There has been limited effort to bring Pascagoula's parks into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act's (ADA) access to recreation facility requirements. Although almost every facility requires some degree of improvement, with some requiring minor changes, and others requiring such significant changes that demolition/replacement is required. A few observations include the following items. Others are listed in the specific facility reviews.

- Almost all ball fields lack paved sidewalks from restrooms to spectator and player areas. Even the newly built improvements at the football field adjacent to Pascagoula High School are not fully compliant. The bleacher pad does not include dedicated space for those in wheelchairs and a simple matter like a grate that crosses the accessible sidewalk, but is not securable and has become loose, renders the spectator area non-compliant.
- Older restroom facilities and other buildings lack accessible dimensions and/or accessible fixtures.
- The pool at the Andrew Johnson Recreation Center needs permanent lift chairs to be compliant, which we learned have been purchased following our observation visit to the park.
- Varying degrees of ADA parking are provided at some of the facilities (but not all). Although sometimes provided, it is often not enough to meet required quantities based on the size of the parking lot, doesn't have proper signage, lanes are not properly sized, and do not lead to accessible walkways leading to other park facilities. A good example of this occurs at Beach Park's smaller parking lot, where the few ADA parking spaces do not have lanes and lead to a dirt path rather than a paved sidewalk. Beach Park's larger parking lot does lead to sidewalks, but does not have ADA parking spaces.
- With few exceptions, the boat launch courtesy piers have broken pavement where they join the land, creating inaccessible conditions.

- The newly installed playgrounds include required transfer stations and other ADA components, but often lack an accessible route to reach the playground area itself. Sometimes this will require a new sidewalk leading to a gap in the playground surface perimeter curb. In other areas where sidewalks exist, there is still a grade change from the sidewalk to the mulch surface (where the mulch has settled over time). A good example of this can be found at I.G. Levy Park. The addition of a small concrete pad that slopes into the mulch (while avoiding the playground fall zones) would provide accessibility in this condition.
- The grates that were added to the front of the Pascagoula Recreation Center have opening too large to be ADA compliant. At least one set of the grates replaced with grates with smaller openings per ADA standards.

Primary access routes, as described in the *Recommendations for Accessibility Guidelines: Recreation Facilities and Outdoor Developed Areas* by the U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (ATBCB), are defined in the following manner:

Outdoor recreation access routes are the paths that connect the primary developed spaces and elements that are basic to the recreation experience being offered at the site. For example, the outdoor recreation access routes at a picnic ground are the paths linking the parking area, restrooms, picnic units, and water hydrants. While many of these elements – parking area, restroom and water hydrant – are not the primary reason for a person to visit the site, they are basic developed elements that serve all visitors.

Designers and managers, in consultation with users, must determine which of the developed activities and elements at a recreation site are basic to the recreation experience being offered. Further, they must secure that there is a comprehensive system of outdoor recreation access routes that connect all primary elements and spaces with each other and with accessible parking spaces and facility entrances. This determination should be based upon visitor expectations as well as the level of development at the site.

The ADA regulations that govern design standards leave some room for interpretation for some park facilities; however, these regulations are specific for restroom and pathway design. Before renovation of existing facilities, or construction of new ones, the Department should seek counsel of the city legal department or ADA compliance staff to review and interpret the ADA legislation and develop a standard by which they will begin to create a system that is sensitive to the needs of all users.

Facility Design Standards

Pascagoula's parks lack a unified look that can be achieved through the use of standard site furnishings and architecture. A standard signage and site furnishings palette would create a consistent look and ease maintenance coordination. A unified site furnishings package, including trash receptacles, tables and benches, standardized fencing materials, water fountains, street and security light fixtures, internal park signage and other common

site equipment, should be established. The basis for creating a strong park facility image is the utilization of design guidelines and standards that allow a visitor to identify a park immediately by the elements that are present. It also simplifies maintenance from park to park. The following items should be considered and included in a set of design guidelines and standards for the Department.

Architectural

Architectural standards apply to the built structures within a park and dictate such elements as construction materials, roofing materials, paint colors, hardware selections and furnishings. While a strong system does not require every structure to look exactly the same, a combination of similar building materials and colors will serve to create an identity for the park structures. Using common hardware and building materials throughout the park system can reduce maintenance costs by increasing efficiency.

Athletic Amenity Standards

Athletic amenity standards relate to backstops/dugouts, bleachers, fencing gates, lighting, scorers' stands, irrigation requirements, spectator seating, concessions/restroom buildings and other elements that make up the athletic fields or complexes. Using the same fencing materials and dugout standards, etc. helps to strengthen a system's image further by creating uniformity at major components found in the interior of a park. Consistency of equipment and mechanical systems throughout the parks will aid the development of a uniform field maintenance standard, as well.

General Site Amenity Standards

General site amenity standards are the easiest and most cost feasible to implement. General site amenity standards may include fencing and gates, furniture, irrigation, landscape planting, trash receptacles, lighting and playgrounds. In developing a standardization package for park site amenities, a system should provide elements produced by the same supplier, of the same color scheme and used in similar fashions throughout the park system. These also provide a good opportunity to display the Department's logo for further branding of the parks.

Using the same plant materials at park entrances and around key park features, such as pavilions or restroom buildings, is another method of creating identity for the park system. By reducing inventory of replacement components, maintenance of these landscapes will be simplified. This will accelerate repairs and make scheduling easier allowing standards for repetitive repairs to be developed and tracked.

Parking and Circulation Standards

Parking and circulation standards relate to distances, parking, paving, roads and walks/trails. These standards help dictate the parameters for layout of new or redeveloped existing parks. Separating incompatible activities and locating compatible activities in close proximity should be a high priority.

Site Development

Site development factors to consider are:

- Shading picnic areas during 11:00 am and 5:00 pm
- Identifying maximum buildable slopes of 20% with 2-15% being most desirable
- Enhancing visual experience by coordinating all aspects of the park environment and all man-made elements relating to the site by either blending with it or enhancing it
- Maintaining proper balance of wooded and open lawn areas
- Minimizing offensive sounds and smells through careful site selection
- Enhancing pleasant smells with certain plant materials
- Locating large facilities in open areas and on flatter slopes to minimize removal of existing tree canopy
- Shading walking paths and playgrounds
- Providing a central restroom for several recreation facilities to share in more developed parks
- Locating facilities to be visible from the road
- Locating the park system's unique facilities in locations that are accessible for walkers and cyclists
- Locating parks along proposed greenway corridors

When reviewing parking lot layouts, the following should be considered:

- Minimize the visual impact of large parking lots with landscaping
- Utilize right-angled parking for the greatest space efficiency
- Provide overflow parking on stabilized turf or lawn areas
- Separate pedestrian and vehicular circulation routes
- Use wheel stops where parking spaces abut sidewalks
- Use porous pavements and bioswales to reduce and clean stormwater runoff

Signage and Promotional Materials Standards

A signage program is needed throughout the park system to identify different facilities within the parks, direct users within larger parks and provide other valuable information in a consistent style. Regulatory signs, rules signs, etc. are randomly placed in the parks due to many years of development, and often have conflicting information. For instance, some signs pronounce the parks close at 10 pm, but provide inadequate lighting for safety.

Directional signs, entry/identification signs and signs within parks are critical elements. Directional signs locating parks should be located on major thoroughfares to alert potential users to the presence of a park in the vicinity. Park sign programs can be implemented into an existing community-wide wayfinding program or as an independent program.

Park entry/identification signs are not always easy to find. In some cases, (even in the case of the new Lighthouse Park), they are located at park interiors, rather than along roads, where they are more useful. The major deficiency in signage exists within the parks. The

larger parks should have wayfinding maps and directional signs near parking areas to guide users to individual park facilities. Consistency in signage styles and materials should also be applied to the parks' internal signage. This helps reinforce a park's identity as a Pascagoula facility and reduces maintenance costs by standardizing the equipment and materials used to install and maintain the signs.

We recommend developing standard signage types for park entry/identification signs (large and small), directional and informational signs, and interpretive and regulatory signs. Providing a standard style of signage for every type of sign in the park will help strengthen the identity of the Pascagoula park system.

Playground Safety Standards

Another prominent issue is the non-compliance of playground equipment to safety standards by organizations such as the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the International Play Equipment Manufacturers' Association (IPEMA). The standards proposed by these organizations are meant to serve as a guideline to help create safe atmospheres and pose a minimal threat of injury. Studies have shown the majority of injuries sustained on public playgrounds are to the head—a result of falls from the play structure to the ground. For this reason, consideration has been given to what the critical fall height would be in which a fatal head injury might occur.

All of the recently constructed playgrounds in the parks have safety surfacing, but the older facilities have no surfacing. Some of the playgrounds were in need of additional mulch material at the time of the planning team's inspection, as it appears the original installation has not been augmented over time. Newer poured-in-place, rubber surfaces and artificial turf surfaces with cushioning are becoming more cost effective. They involve a higher initial cost but eliminate the need for daily maintenance and ongoing supplemental material costs.

Even with new playground developments, the greater safety issue is the lack of ADA accessibility to the playgrounds. They must be brought into compliance with safety requirements for proper fall zones and safety surfacing. In addition to new safety surfacing, some older playground equipment throughout the park system needs to be updated. The planning team's individual park recommendations have identified the playgrounds in need of remodeling; all other playgrounds should be brought into compliance with playground safety requirements. Playground equipment over ten years old should be replaced first. New equipment should be age appropriate and meet ADA requirements for access. As playgrounds are added to the system and older equipment is updated, poured-in-place rubber surfacing or artificial turf with proper cushioning should be considered as an alternative. Furthermore, one member of the staff should be required to maintain a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) certification and make regular inspections of play equipment to limit the city's liability by ensuring playgrounds are kept in compliance.

Vandalism

Individual park assessments and evaluations revealed minor issues with vandalism. Graffiti is a common problem in parks systems across the country. Many of the departments that the planning team has worked with have a zero graffiti policy. This policy requires any area with graffiti to be painted over within 24 hours of a report. It is recommended that the city adopt a policy to control graffiti in parks.

Other recommendations to reduce site-based problems that create atmospheres for criminal activity have been made to minimize the threat of vandalism and other illicit behaviors. The addition of lighting in parks to a uniform level, especially in parks programmed for night use, and the practice of clearing thick vegetative growth to improve visibility into and around the park are two methods that should be employed. In other parks, where no night programming has been planned, the elimination of all lighting should be considered to avoid an attractive nuisance. Whenever possible, parks should be oriented towards the road to allow maximum visibility into the park and eliminate areas where vandals can hide or congregate. Providing materials that are resistant to destruction reduces the frequency of repairs or replacement. Facilities that offer something for everyone increase the number of visitors to the park, thus reducing the potential actions of a criminal.

The Department should also consider installing security alarms and cameras at their facilities. The cost to install these items can be expensive but they will deter criminal activities that are costly to the Department. The highest priority for installation of security systems should be given to facilities that have vandalism and/or burglary problems. As new facilities are constructed, security systems should be included as part of the overall design.

Additional Observations and Recommendations

The following issues need to be addressed:

Numerous park buildings need to be replaced. Most old concessions, restroom buildings and pavilions do not meet ADA access requirements and are deteriorating. Several buildings within the parks were constructed by volunteer labor; therefore, a lack of a common architectural theme or unified system of mechanical equipment, door locks or building systems to simplify maintenance operations are present. Some parks contain buildings that are no longer needed. These buildings should be removed and converted to green space. Prototypes simple enough to be implemented by volunteer forces should be developed with standard fixtures and mechanical equipment. In addition, commercial concessions equipment meeting current fire and electrical codes needs to be installed at all parks. These efforts will give the parks a common appearance, help unify the park system and streamline maintenance efforts. Standard styles should also be applied to open air structures such as pavilions, dugouts and scorers' stands in order to create a clear identity for the Pascagoula Parks and Recreation Department facility.

The park system lacks viable revenue generating facilities and indoor programming space.

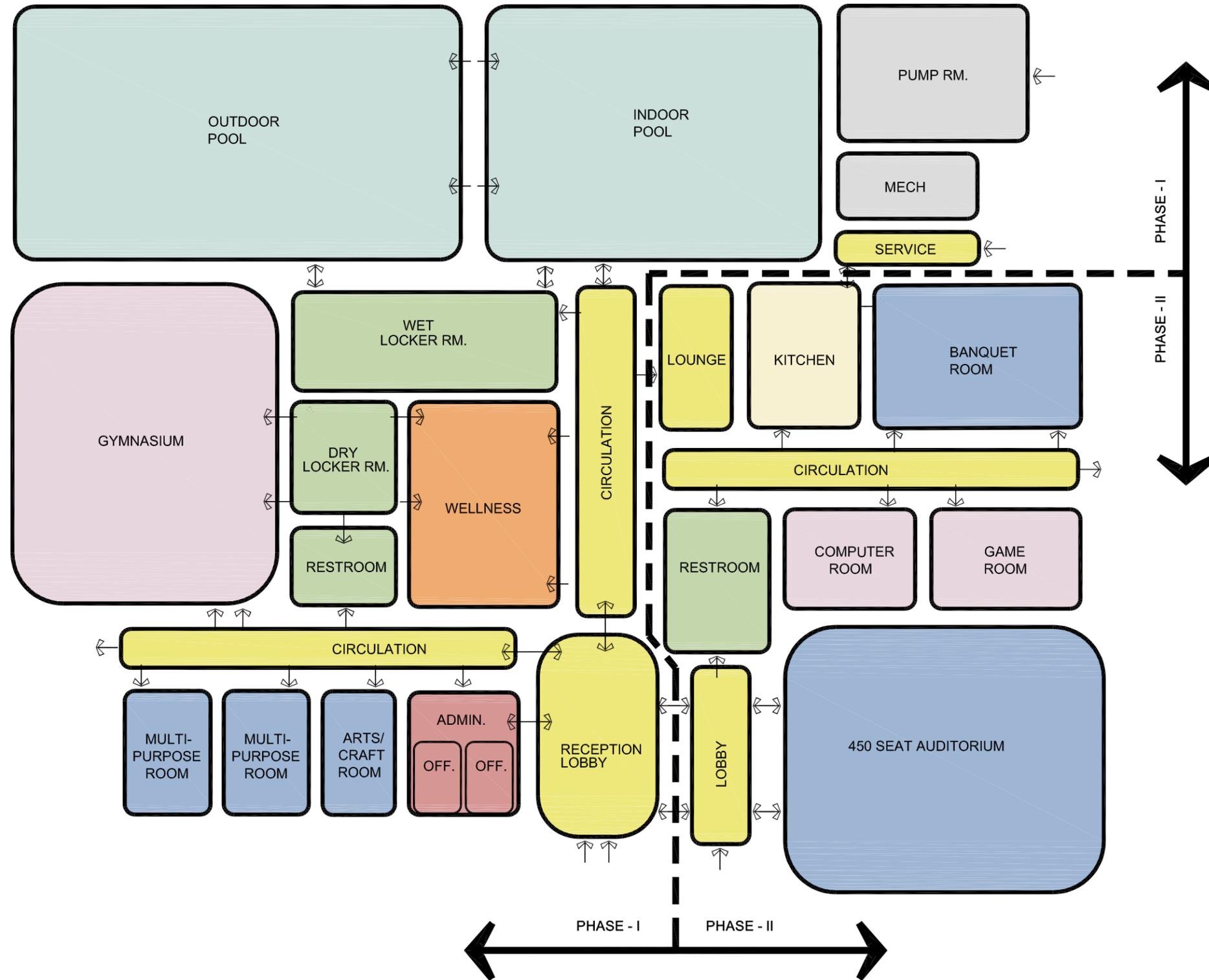
There are two types of facilities that will fill this need within the city:

- The first is a community building. A typical floor plan for such a facility includes restrooms, a small catering kitchen and a multi-purpose room. This room should be large enough to accommodate 150-200 people, but can be divided into smaller spaces to accommodate multiple groups at one time. The multi-purpose room should include a dance floor area so the space may be rented to the public for weddings or other large events. When the space is not rented, it may be used for a variety of park programs such as day camps, after school programs, dance classes, education sessions, senior activities, etc.
- The second type of facility is a community center, see figure 6.10. This facility includes active recreation opportunities such as a gymnasium, pools, fitness spaces and locker rooms. It may also be designed to incorporate a multi-purpose auditorium, banquet facilities and indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities. These facilities typically charge a usage fee for each visit or require a membership fee.

Picnic facilities, including shelters, tables, grills and trash receptacles, are in need of replacement throughout the park system. Use of wood should be discouraged due to ongoing maintenance concerns. The use of plastic barrels for trash receptacles requires the Department staff to often roughly spray-paint text on the barrels, looking like graffiti, further detracting from the parks' appearance. Other locations with newer furnishings and shelters can be found, but the majority of the equipment is deteriorating and has no uniformity. New ADA requirements mandate that if picnic facilities are provided, a portion of the equipment must meet ADA requirements. The planning team did not observe ADA accessible picnic tables at the majority of the parks, and several of the tables and pavilions did not have an accessible route connecting the parking areas.

Fencing throughout the park system is in fair to poor condition. Many gates no longer function; fencing is rusting and the fabric is often bent. New fencing should be provided at the facilities identified to remain. Vinyl-coated chain link fence of a heavy gauge with additional support bars is recommended to improve the overall aesthetic quality and durability of heavily used parks. Gates that secure parking lots should be replaced with uniform gates used throughout the system. Where fencing is installed to provide separation of activity areas, wooden three-rail fencing is an acceptable alternative to chain link fencing. It is less expensive and is more aesthetically pleasing than chain link.

Figure 6.10: Pascagoula Community Center Concept Plan



COLOR LEGEND

	SWIMMING POOL AREA
	ADMINISTRATION / STAFF / FOOD PREP.
	MULTIPURPOSE / MEETING
	PRIMARY CIRCULATION / LOUNGE
	RESTROOMS / LOCKER ROOMS
	MECHANICAL / STORAGE / JANITOR
	WELLNESS / SUPPORT
	GYMNASIUM
	FOOD SERVICE
	SECONDARY CIRCULATION

**PASCAGOULA COMMUNITY CENTER
CONCEPT PLAN**

Individual Park and Facility Assessments and Recommendations

The following are individual park assessments and recommendations. Information has been provided according to size, location and amenities provided within each park. Facilities were analyzed for their age, functionality and conditions, and recommendations were made accordingly.

Mini Parks

11th Street Recreation Complex

Location: 11th St. and Parsley Avenue

Size: 1.96 Acres

Classification: Mini Park

Overview: The park appears to only serve adjacent homes and does not appear well-used.

Review: Parking is not present and vehicles must park in the mud at the edge of the street. Grass is overgrown with large weeds and is in poor shape. The only features to the park include two sets of swings with rusting chains and an older-style slide, none of which have safety surfacing. A new chain-link fence adjacent to a nearby canal is intended to prevent children from access to the water. There is no signage present.



Recommendations:

- All amenities need to be removal and/or replaced and more site development is needed if the park is to remain in use.
- Comply with ADA and safety requirements.
- Provide standard assortment of rules signage, identification signage, other site furnishings, etc.
- As was identified in the Pascagoula Recreation Commission's Long Range Plan, this site could be converted to a small neighborhood dog park. A small pull-off parking lot should be added for convenience.

Delmas Park

Location: Delmas Avenue, north of city parking lot

Size: 0.67 Acres

Classification: Mini Park

Overview: The park contains a small ornamental fountain, benches, and landscaping and serves as a resting place for those visiting downtown businesses.

Review: The site is in generally good shape but has room for a few improvements to make it more inviting and easier to maintain.



Recommendations:

- Some protection for perimeter landscaping (curbing, fencing, etc.) is recommended to prevent foot traffic from creating maintenance problems.
- The small step pads leading to the fountain may want to be replaced with more substantial walkways to prevent maintenance problems and to provide better access.
- Shade would make a welcome addition.
- Provide standard assortment of rules signage, identification signage, other site furnishings, etc.

Neighborhood Parks

BB Jennings Park

Location: Dead end of Fair Street

Size: 6.36 Acres

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Overview: The park offers a playground, a backstop, and a paved basketball area with multiple goals.

Review: Paved parking is provided, but it is broken in places. Storm drains in the parking lot are clogged. ADA parking spaces are not present. ADA routes to park features are not available or are along broken sidewalks and the existing boardwalk is not up to current codes for railing. The playground is new, but ADA access to the playground is not available.



The basketball area is broken and has several tripping hazards. The backstop is fairly new and is in fair shape.

Other standard notes that apply to many of the department's facilities include a lack of uniform signage and rules, mismatched and scattered site furnishings in various states of repair/disrepair, weeds in lawn areas, site lighting, electrical components accessible to the public, and many ADA concerns.

Recommendations:

- Develop master plan to repurpose the park
- Provide paved and accessible parking
- Provide ADA access to all park amenities
- Upgrade all furnishings and signage
- Address safety concerns
- Provide standard assortment of rules signage, identification signage, other site furnishings, etc.
- Consider adding a dog park to this site.
- Replace existing boardwalk to provide wider access and address ADA concerns.

Pat Wilson Park

Location: Between Polk Avenue and Ingalls Avenue

Size: 9.09 Acres

Classification: Neighborhood Park (could also be considered Special Use due to lack of other walking trails in the system)

Overview: The park contains a 1/3 walking loop trail and appears well used by residents who drive from other parts of the city.

Review: Parking is available in the lot on the South side of the park, North of Ingalls Avenue. ADA access is not present. A portable restroom is provided, but is not ADA accessible. The trail is mulch surfaced and is not accessible. A small exercise station near parking is not accessible and is in poor shape. Accessible sidewalks do not exist in the park. A set of swings is provided at the center of the park, but safety surfacing is not present.



Trail lighting is on wooden poles but is not uniform along the trail and the drinking fountain is not accessible.

Other standard notes that apply to many of the department's facilities include a lack of uniform signage and rules, mismatched and scattered site furnishings in various states of repair/disrepair, weeds in lawn areas, site lighting, electrical components accessible to the public, and many ADA concerns.

It was noted in the Pascagoula Recreation Commission's Long Range Plan that a second skate park should be built at Pat Wilson Park. Due to potential conflicts between age and user groups, we feel this is not the ideal location.

Recommendations:

- Reduce trail length to ¼ mile to allow for further parking development
- Provide paved and accessible parking
- Relocate the new Boys & Girls Club playground to Pat Wilson following the relocation of the Boys and Girls Club to the Pascagoula Recreation Center.
- Either pave trail or ensure surfacing is accessible
- Provide ADA access to all park amenities
- Upgrade all furnishings and signage
- Per the Pascagoula Recreation Commission's Long Range Plan, add fitness stations along the trail
- Address safety concerns
- Provide standard assortment of rules signage, identification signage, other site furnishings, etc.

Pine Street Park

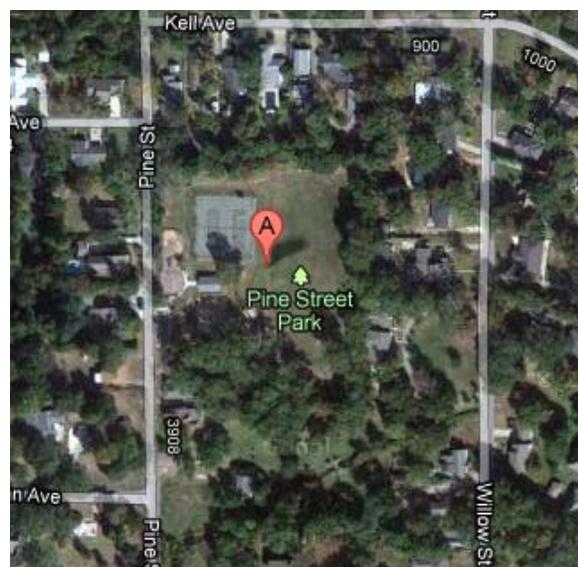
Location: 4014 Pine Street

Size: 4.5 Acres

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Overview: The park contains two lighted tennis courts, a playground, a pavilion and walking trails.

Review: Paved parking is provided, but it requires vehicles to back into Pine Street. ADA parking is not provided. ADA routes are not provided to various park amenities. The walking trail is wood chips but is not of the proper type to be ADA compliant.



At the time researchers observed the playground, we found that the surfacing is inadequate for access and the sand surfacing is not safe. Following the visit, we learned improvements have been made to the surface. Tennis fencing is in fair shape, but gates are not ADA compliant. The courts need to be resurfaced and the lighting is on wooden poles, which may not offer proper illumination. Park fencing is in fair to poor shape. It is not knuckled on top, presenting a hazard. The park pavilion is in poor condition.

Other standard notes that apply to many of the department's facilities include a lack of uniform signage and rules, mismatched and scattered site furnishings in various states of repair/disrepair, weeds in lawn areas, site lighting, electrical components accessible to the public, and many ADA concerns.

Recommendations:

- Develop a master plan for the park
- Provide proper surface for dinosaur dig playground
- Provide accessible walking surface for trail
- Refurbish and re-light tennis courts, if they are to stay
- Provide paved and accessible parking that doesn't require backing into Pine Street
- Provide ADA access to all park amenities
- Upgrade all furnishings and signage
- Address safety concerns
- Provide standard assortment of rules signage, identification signage, other site furnishings, etc.
- Remove perimeter fence

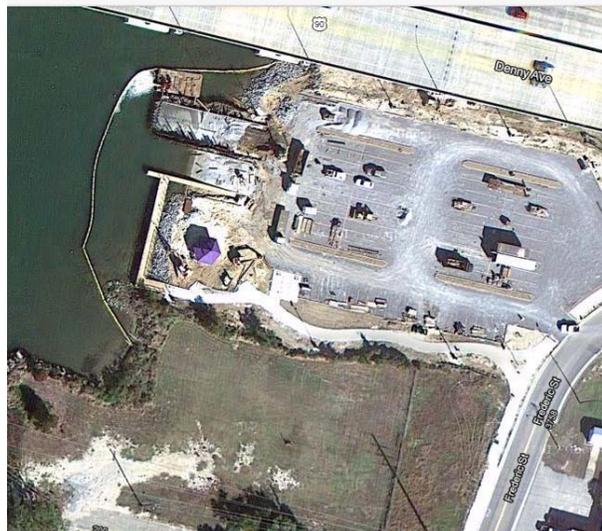
Lighthouse Park

Location: Along the Pascagoula River, near Frederic Street, Live Oak Street, and the Hwy 90 bridge

Size: 1.5 Acres

Classification: Neighborhood Park (Could also be considered Special Use, due to boat launch facilities)

Overview: The park is still under construction and is scheduled to be opened soon. In addition to new boat launch facilities, the park includes a fishing pier and a small pre-engineered picnic shelter. The park provides access



to the newly developed downtown bike sidewalk network. Long-term plans call for the addition of ornamental landscaping and walking trails.

Review: At the time of the review, the park was under construction and some amenities were not yet complete. It is unclear whether all standard park design considerations would be implemented. These design considerations should address maintenance as well as improve function in the park. Site furnishings were not evident at the time of the review, but should be considered if they are not currently planned for the park. Staff comments indicate solar lighting as installed is inadequate.

Recommendations:

- Place a main park sign near the road, rather than at the pavilion, to identify the park to visitors
- Ensure that a comprehensive signage program (rules, regulatory, etc.) is implemented
- Eliminate narrow landscape beds between curving walkway and edge of parking to reduce worn landscape areas as visitors leave their cars and access the sidewalk
- Additional solar LED lighting is needed to adequately cover the parking area
- Consider some adjustment to the layout of the trailer parking spaces. As currently designed, some of these will become inaccessible during peak use due to narrow travel lanes and tight turning radii
- Because of tight turning radii, ends of raised parking islands (constructed of landscape timbers) will become dislodged. These need to be constructed of more durable materials where traffic will likely strike them
- Fishing pier railing may not be fully compliant with new ADA guidelines and may need adjustment
- A desire path will likely be worn between the pavilion and the parking/launch area and needs a paved surface
- ADA warning strips were not evident at sidewalk/parking and road interfaces and may need to be installed
- Provide standard assortment of rules signage, identification signage, other site furnishings, etc.
- Complete construction of future park phases

Community Parks

12th Street Recreation Complex

Location: 2201 12th Street

Size: 8.2 Acres

Classification: Special Use Park (Sports Facility)

Overview: The park mainly serves as the home for girls' softball programs with four fields, but has other amenities such as a new playground and an existing building that at one time housed the parks and recreation administrative offices. Other features in the park include the department's two main maintenance workshops and storage facilities.



Review: Parking is not lighted and is split into lots that do not connect. Spectator and bleacher areas around many of the fields lack pavement and are not ADA compliant. Field lights are on wooden poles and are likely not meeting illumination standards. Dugouts and scorekeeper boxes are in poor shape and need replacement. Some field fencing is in fair shape, but backstops are not large enough for safety and batting cages are in poor shape. There is poor drainage in areas between the fields. Field sizes range from roughly 120 feet to approximately 200 feet; however, fence distances differ as some fields share common outfield fences. The fields have Bermuda turf and are irrigated, but field surfaces have some uneven areas. The central building is in disrepair with broken windows, broken or missing screens, water damage/rotten wood. Restroom facilities are not ADA compliant. Although the new playground itself is ADA compliant, there is not ADA access to its location.

Other standard notes that apply to many of the department's facilities include a lack of uniform signage and rules, mismatched and scattered site furnishings in various states of repair/disrepair, weeds in lawn areas, site lighting, electrical components accessible to the public, and many accessibility concerns.

The site's two maintenance shops are overcrowded with both working materials and storage materials occupying the same space. Researchers also found storage materials outdoors, which was exposure to the weather and to the public. Areas of the buildings are in disrepair. There is a lack of safety signage and safety measures, such as an eyewash stations and emergency showers. Restrooms are not ADA compliant. Indoor workspaces

lack proper ventilation. Researchers noted electrical concerns, such as of exposed wiring and overloaded outlets.

Recommendations:

- Rather than continuing to expend maintenance resources on a deteriorating facility that is not code compliant, relocate fields to a new Sportsplex
- Develop master plan for repurposing of the park into a passive neighborhood park.
- Consolidate maintenance operations to one location with a separate adjacent location for storage and provide a safe working environment
- Consider developing a larger skate park than that at IG Levy Park
- Provide standard assortment of rules signage, identification signage, other site furnishings, etc.
- Address safety issues in the short-term

I.G. Levy Park

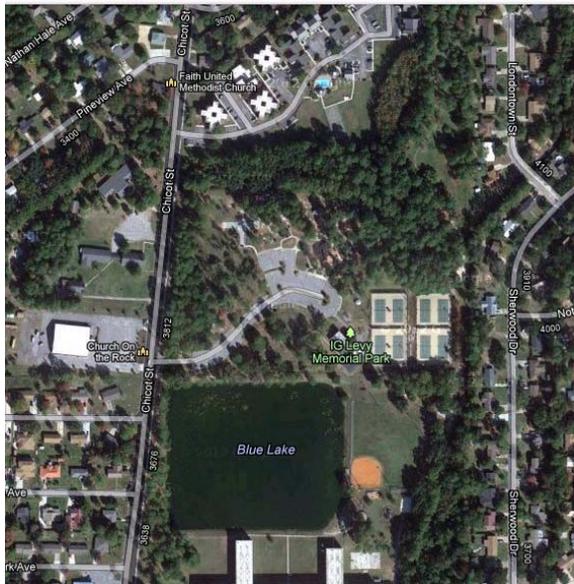
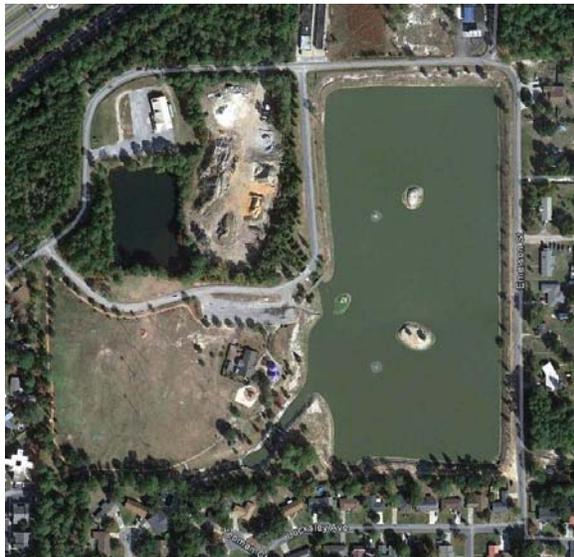
Location: 3928 Nathan Hale Avenue & 3900 Chicot Street

Size: 45.2 Acres

Classification: Community Park

Overview: The south side of the park, located off of Chicot Street, contains many facilities, including eight tennis courts, two concrete block racquetball courts, a tennis office/restroom structure, a concrete skate park, a large community playground with multiple structures, small pavilions and a restroom for the playground. The north side of the park, located off of Nathan Hale Avenue, contains the Scranton Nature Center, two picnic shelters, two lighted soccer fields which also have practice baseball backstops, a restroom, a disc golf course, and a lake. A mulch walking trail connects the two sites and has a small fitness station near the Scranton Nature Center.

Review: Paved parking is provided; however, there is not adequate ADA parking. Parking on the north side has drainage problems. ADA routes are provided to the playground area but ADA access is not provided into the play surface areas. Other ADA issues exist



elsewhere, such as benches that block access to the tennis courts, trails that are not accessible, bridges that do not have even approaches, etc. Swing areas need replenishment to be in compliance for safety surfacing. Outdoor racquetball courts provide an unsafe secluded enclosure adjacent to the tennis courts and playground. The tennis Pro Shop is closed. Restrooms need repair and need to be code compliant. Tennis courts need cracks repaired/refurbished, not just resurfacing. Lighting is on wooden poles and may not meet illumination standards. The Scranton Nature Center building's kitchen and restroom are not accessible. Storage of material around the Nature Center should be limited to secure areas. Maintain all fire exits in unlock position during operating hours. The playground near the Nature Center is not accessible. The lake edges have erosion problems that need stabilization. The walking trails have many accessibility issues with broken pavement, roots in trails, etc. The fitness station is not accessible. The bridge crossing the canal is a serious liability and does not meet code. The soccer fields are not irrigated and have poor turf. The goals are not properly anchored and some are damaged. The practice backstops are damaged and in poor condition. The lighting on the fields is old and does not likely meet illumination standards. Additionally, homeless residents are making this park their home and this discourages park use.

The skate park at IG Levy is approximately 4,300 SF. It is well designed; however, it is small compared to similar skate parks in other communities. The smaller size makes it better suited for beginners (with small stairs, grinding boxes, etc.) rather than for those seeking more challenging skating terrain such as bowls and large ramps. Typically, a skate park is not a good companion to a playground due to potential conflicts between the age groups; however, this small beginner skate park might offer older siblings a nearby place to play while parents are tending to smaller children on the playground.

The skate park site has expansion potential from a space perspective but adding facilities better suited for older, more expert skaters may not be a good fit immediately adjacent to the playground. For this reason, we recommend a larger skate park to be built elsewhere.

Other standard notes that apply to many of the department's facilities include a lack of uniform signage and rules, mismatched and scattered site furnishings in various states of repair/disrepair, weeds in lawn areas, site lighting, electrical components accessible to the public, and ADA concerns.

Recommendations:

- Correct drainage problems at north side of parking lot
- Repair eroded banks around the lake; consider irrigation around the lake for improved turf
- Repair tennis courts where cracking is occurring, refurbish pro shop and restrooms and provide times for the clubhouse to be open, perhaps with a membership card to those who pay for a higher level of service

- Tear down racquetball courts that present an unsafe environment. Racquetball can be relocated to the new community center, if it is still desired
- Refurbish all trails and replace bridges
- Consider relocating Nature Center to another site with a more natural setting for better educational programming (perhaps B.B. Jennings Park or River Park).
- Consider acquiring Naval facilities to expand park. If these are acquired, they should be done so to add open space. The ballfield should be demolished so that it does not stand alone drawing maintenance resources dedicated to the new sports complex
- Restripe parking and provide ADA access to all facilities
- Replace restrooms
- Provide standard assortment of rules signage, identification signage, other site furnishings, etc.
- Update plank benches, trash receptacles and site furnishings with new standardized equipment
- Repair wall and landscaping at pro shop plaza

Sport Parks

Colmer Soccer Fields

Location: Chicot Street, behind Colmer Middle School

Size: 3 Acres

Classification: Special Use Sports Facility

Overview: The park consists of a large expanse of open grass, divided into two soccer/football field areas by lighting. It is also used by the adjacent Colmer Middle School for school functions.

Review: Parking is not provided. The perimeter has a chain-link fence, which has been recently replaced. The turf is in poor condition; it is not irrigated and has inadequate drainage. Lighting is on wooden poles but not all grass areas have the same lighting level and are likely not meeting illumination standards. One of the fields has a rusted football goal post on one end. No signage or site furnishings are provided.



Recommendations:

- Develop master plan for the park
- Provide sidewalk connection from adjacent school parking into facility
- Provide a paved perimeter walking trail
- Lighting should be replaced if the complex is to be regularly used at night

- If fields are to be used for more than practice, upgraded turf, irrigation, and drainage should be considered
- Provide standard assortment of rules signage, identification signage, other site furnishings, etc.

Louise Street Park

Location: 2200 Louise Street

Size: 8.72 Acres

Classification: Special Use Sports Facility

Overview: The park contains two softball fields, each with approximately 270 feet to the outfield fences.

Review: The entry drive is not well marked and is in poor shape. Parking is on grass, across a ditch from the fields. Some parking areas are muddy and many tire ruts are present. ADA parking is not provided, nor is ADA access to the fields. Ballfield fencing, nets and dugouts are in poor shape. Field turf has many weeds, is not irrigated, is uneven in places and is poorly drained. Field lights are on wooden poles and likely not meeting illumination standards. Pavement is not present around the buildings, but sidewalks are poured from restroom doors back to the parking lot. Pavement is not provided around dugout and bleacher areas, causing added maintenance and a lack of ADA access. The small concession building and the small restroom building are not ADA compliant and are in poor shape. Scoreboards are in poor shape and may not be working. The drinking fountain is not ADA accessible.



Other standard notes that apply to many of the department's facilities include a lack of uniform signage and rules, mismatched and scattered site furnishings in various states of repair/disrepair, weeds in lawn areas, site lighting, electrical components accessible to the public, and many ADA concerns.

Recommendations:

- Rather than continuing to expend maintenance resources on a deteriorating facility that is not code compliant, relocate fields to a new Sportsplex.
- Provide standard assortment of rules signage, identification signage, other site furnishings, etc.

MCC Park

Location: 5725 Orchard Road

Size: 7.61 Acres

Classification: Special Use Sports Facility

Overview: The park contains a baseball field with a 300 ft outfield fence, a softball field with an irregular shape (300 ft at longest dimension), and a practice outdoor basketball court.

Review: Dedicated parking is not provided. There is an asphalt drive with a gravel area that is used for parking. ADA parking spaces are not provided.



Ballfield nets and dugouts are in poor shape. Some outfield fencing is new, but in other places, older fencing is in poor shape. Outfield turf has many weeds, is not irrigated, is uneven in places and is poorly drained. Field lights are on wooden poles and are likely not meeting illumination standards. A large wooden structure serves as a cover over the area between the fields and over some of the bleacher areas. It is rotten in some places and needs repair and painting. Pavement is not provided to other dugout and bleacher areas, causing added maintenance and a lack of ADA access. Pavement is not present around the concession and restroom buildings, but areas under the large pavilion are paved. The small concession building and the small restroom building are not ADA compliant and are in poor condition. The drinking fountain is not ADA accessible. The small basketball court does not have ADA access.

Other standard notes that apply to many of the department's facilities include a lack of uniform signage and rules, mismatched and scattered site furnishings in various states of repair/disrepair, weeds in lawn areas, site lighting, electrical components accessible to the public, and many ADA concerns.

Recommendations:

- Rather than continuing to expend maintenance resources on a deteriorating facility that is not code compliant, consider acquiring some adjacent property to expand the complex or relocate fields to a new Sportsplex on another site
- Develop a master plan for repurposing of the park or expansion to join to the adjacent Soccer Complex site
- The facilities should be updated as a practice facility only; requiring new parking, replacement of ballfields, replacement of bathrooms but no new concessions buildings
- Provide new sports lighting
- Provide standard assortment of rules signage, identification signage, other site furnishings, etc.

Pascagoula Soccer Complex

Location: 6001 Tillman Street

Size: 40 Acres

Classification: Sport Park

Overview: The park originally contained nine full sized soccer fields, but in recent years, the practice has been to divide some larger fields to create smaller fields. The park has a large concession building with a large pavilion, as well as two smaller pavilions between some of the fields.

Review: Parking driveways are paved, but parking spaces are gravel, and some gravel spaces have reverted to dirt. Soccer fields drain onto the parking areas contributing to maintenance problems. Sidewalks are not provided along parking areas - visitors must walk in traffic or in the muddy areas near the spaces.



Nine large soccer field areas have been graded. Fields vary in size, with the largest reaching a full 360 ft x 240 ft dimension. All fields are irrigated. Two metal pavilions offer a gathering place between some of the fields. Concrete sidewalks lead to most of the fields. Some field areas have been divided to create smaller fields, but because turf care only occurs on the playing surface, areas between the smaller fields have reverted to weeds. This makes the complex less flexible and limits tournament programming. Two of the large field areas (1 large field, 2 smaller fields) are lighted with a modern Musco lighting system, but as was noted in one of the public meetings, the need for lighting is more for the smaller fields where more teams play. Soccer goals are not secured from tipping over.

The concession restroom building is in fair condition but has a few maintenance concerns (rust, paint needs, etc.). The drinking fountain is not ADA compliant. The restrooms have changing areas, but no locker areas. The concession area has a cooking griddle, with a fire-suppression hood that needs to be checked for working condition. The first aid room is being used as additional storage.

The playground area has a play structure and several swings but ADA access is not provided. It is adjacent to the parking lot and does not have places for parents to sit.

There is a small concrete-block storage building near the concession stand that is in poor condition and needs painting and maintenance. Some materials are being stored in the open. At the far end of the parking lot is another storage area. Piles of debris, broken light fixtures, etc., are being stored here. The storage building and its fenced storage yard are in

poor shape. Many discarded soccer goals are scattered around the site, creating a safety hazard.

Other standard notes that apply to many of the department's facilities include a lack of uniform signage and rules, mismatched and scattered site furnishings in various states of repair/disrepair, and weeds in lawn areas.

Recommendations:

- Light additional fields
- Maintain turf in all area including the areas between the fields
- Secure the soccer goals
- Continue to maintain turf between fields, especially those on the same graded area, to increase programming flexibility
- Clean up storage areas and discard trash and used equipment. Consider building a larger, newer storage building, especially if the complex is expanded to include more fields, sports, etc. as it joins to MCC Park
- Replenish the gravel parking areas, create sidewalks along parking edges and manage stormwater before it enters parking areas
- Provide ADA access to the playground, along with shaded benches for parents and a fence to discourage children from running into the parking area
- Consider whether a drinking fountain is applicable adjacent to the concession window
- More parking is needed. Acquire additional property to the north for the development of a sports complex. The parking at this facility should be shared with the soccer complex
- Develop master plan for expansion of the park to join to MCC Park as well.
- Provide standard assortment of rules signage, identification signage, other site furnishings, etc.

Youth Baseball Complex

Location: 1803 Tucker Avenue

Size: 8 Acres

Classification: Special Use Sports Facility

Overview: The park contains six youth baseball fields of varying sizes (two at 200 ft, one at 190 ft, one at 170 ft, and two irregular fields at approximately 120 ft).



Review: Parking is shared with the adjacent Pascagoula High School. Visitors must cross the street to the ball field complex and pedestrian routes are not clearly marked with crosswalks. An ADA route is marked but is not fully compliant. Field lights are on wooden poles and are likely not meeting illumination standards. New scoreboards have been installed. Fencing is in fair shape but nets at some backstops area in poor condition. Most dugouts prohibit ADA access and have rust and rot problems. Bleacher pads are paved at most fields, but are not at the two smaller fields. Smaller scorekeeper boxes at the two smaller fields are in poor shape. Turf on the fields is maintained and irrigated. There are some uneven places, but most outfields are in good shape. Infields have accumulated dirt material for some time, creating an uneven playing surface. Most skinned base areas are significantly higher than the surrounding grass infield and grass base paths. Open areas and drainage outside the fields are not in as good condition. Researchers found maintenance issues in these areas. There are four lighted batting cages on concrete slabs, but ADA access is not provided. A wooden pavilion serving about 10 tables is provided between some of the fields.

A set of swings is provided in an open area, but safety surfacing is not present and ADA access is not provided. It is adjacent to a storage building that is usually left open during events.

The concession building/score tower and second score tower are in fair shape, but they do have a few paint issues. Upper floors are not ADA accessible. Interior spaces are in fair shape, but are crowded and overused. A separate restroom building is in fair shape and has similar maintenance matters to the other buildings.

Other standard notes that apply to many of the department's facilities include a lack of uniform signage and rules, mismatched and scattered site furnishings in various states of repair/disrepair, and weeds in lawn areas.

Recommendations:

- Rather than continuing to repair maintenance issues on a complex with fields that cannot be expanded to modern dimensions, relocate fields to a new Sportsplex.
- Develop a master plan for repurposing of the park into a football/multi-purpose facility to serve the expansion of those programs.

- As was noted for the 12th Street site, some of the property could also serve as a neighborhood park. Whichever of the dog park or larger skate park facilities is not added to 12th Street, should be added here.
- Provide standard assortment of rules signage, identification signage, other site furnishings, etc.

Regional Parks

Beach Park/Pascagoula Fishing Pier

Location: 600 City Park Street

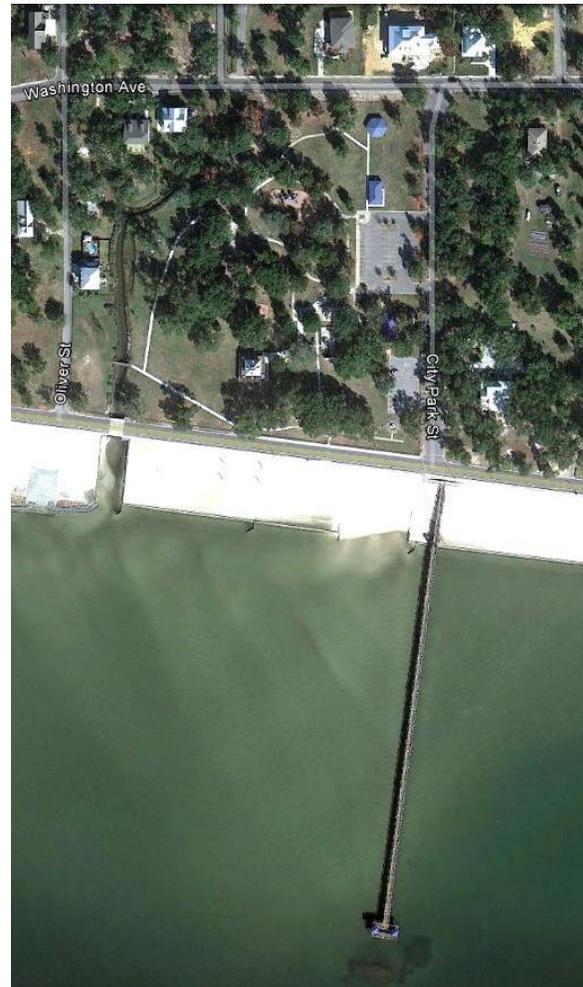
Size: 14 Acres

Classification: Regional Park (Classification due to unique setting and pier. Other amenities serve more as a neighborhood park).

Overview: The park contains many passive features and serves the local neighborhood as well as those who visit the area to enjoy the beach and fishing pier. It contains a large playground, two pre-engineered picnic pavilions, a concession building to serve beach and pier visitors, eating areas under its large shade trees, a restroom building, and parking. It also contains a 1,000 ft long pier extending into the Mississippi Sound.

Review: The one-way configuration of City Park Street makes circulation difficult and requires vehicles to travel through adjacent residential areas if full parking spaces are encountered. ADA parking is limited and although provided, some do not connect to the park's paved sidewalks.

Over time, the sidewalk network has evolved as some facilities have been added, removed, relocated, etc. The result is that circulation in the park is haphazard and does not always lead from parking to amenities in a logical way. For instance, there is a small ornamental fountain near the end of the parking lot, but there is no sidewalk leading to it. In fact, there is a barricade wire meant to prevent access, but instead is directing foot traffic around in a non-direct way. At the small splash pad, landscape beds surround the pad and separate it from immediately adjacent sidewalks, creating maintenance problems as foot traffic crosses the landscape bed. Another example is the lack of a direct route from the large parking lot



to the playground. Foot traffic coupled with large areas of shade have resulted in worn and bare turf areas.

The new raised concession building is in good shape. The pre-engineered pavilions are in good shape. The restroom is in fair shape but the ramp into the men's restroom prevents ADA access. Because interior spaces are constructed of wood, ongoing maintenance will be a concern.

A low decorative metal fence surrounds the park that looks nice while new but it will require maintenance in the future. Because it is low, it does not truly deter access outside hours of operation.

The park and parking areas are partially lit; however, the lighting does not cover all areas and creates safety concerns.

Parking for the fishing pier is in Beach Park; however, pedestrian access across Beach Boulevard is inadequate. There is a marked crosswalk but routes on both sides of Beach Boulevard are missing and portions of sidewalk are broken and have abrupt grade changes, which prohibit ADA access to the pier. The pier itself has several ramps and landings and the slopes of the ramps lack handrails. In addition, the spacing of the deck boards exceeds that of ADA required surfaces. Several wooden benches have been installed along the pier's length and most provide spaces adjacent to them that could accommodate a wheelchair, except these spaces are blocked with a trashcan. The railing at the end of the pier, which is lower for ADA purposes, does not meet the required length. New ADA guidelines for an ADA compliant fishing railing should be implemented. Researches also noted several vinyl caps on the pier pilings have been vandalized.

Researchers found a lack of uniform signage on the pier. In addition, some of the existing routed signs located on the piers marked "no diving" are causing the decking to rot as they hold water. Other notes that apply to many of the department's facilities include a lack of uniform signage and rules, mismatched and scattered site furnishings in various states of repair/disrepair, weeds in lawn areas, site lighting, lack of ADA access, etc.

Recommendations:

- Develop a master plan for the park
- Improve circulation routes not only for access, but to improve maintenance problems
- Provide ADA parking and an ADA access route to the pier. Improve pier conditions to meet ADA, including some lowered sections of railing
- If the park is to be used at night, improve lighting
- Provide open-air showers
- Provide standard assortment of rules signage, identification signage, other site furnishings, etc.
- Review traffic patterns around the park
- Provide more beach parking

The Pointe Park

Location: 500 Beach Boulevard

Size: 8 Acres

Classification: Regional Park (Due to its draw to surrounding communities. It could also be a Special Use Facility, but that may soon change as new uses are introduced if a new master plan is implemented).

Overview: The facility is a large boat launch providing four boat ramps with five courtesy docks and a separate fishing pier. It also has several open space areas that allow visitors direct access to the Mississippi Sound.



Review: The facility is currently planned for a major renovation. In its current condition, the parking is large, but is unorganized. Parking surfaces vary between asphalt, concrete, gravel and dirt. Surfaces are uneven and ADA parking is not provided. Lighting of the area is sparse and is provided by lights on wooden poles in a few scattered locations. Access to the wooden courtesy docks is on broken slabs of concrete which prohibit ADA access. A portable restroom is provided. Large slabs of concrete have been used as large scale rip-rap on the Sound, but there are also signs that others are dumping other construction debris here as well. Stabilization along the Pascagoula River side of the park is not always present and is causing erosion. “No Wake” signage and/or enforcement is not present, which is leading to increased erosion. A single ship’s mast flagpole stands near the open area, but is not used.

Recommendations:

- Implement portions of the new master plan
- Consider more un-programmed open space that can accommodate large events and not dedicate land to purely an amphitheater use. Consider providing utility connections and only purchasing a portable stage that can be used here and at other events in other parts of the city
- Considerations of developing a ship’s store and fueling center would be better suited for a larger marina to be developed as part of the waterfront redevelopment
- Implementing a paid system for launching boats
- Consider removable pre-engineered restroom buildings, rather than a permanent restroom. Consider fabric shade areas that can be furled during storms rather than permanent pavilions that can be damaged by wind
- To reduce costs and maintenance, consider fewer boardwalks than shown in the master plan and develop more land-based trails instead
- Create better park facilities in the site’s remaining open space. Connect them to the planned Beach Promenade

- Remove smaller construction debris and trash from rip-rap and create more uniform appearance
- Stabilize the banks along the Pascagoula River with bulkheads
- Ensure ADA access is provided to the courtesy docks and fishing piers
- Parking should be graded to be more uniform and travel lanes and parking spaces should be adequate for the size of the vehicle/trailers that will use the site
- Improve lighting on the site
- Provide standard assortment of rules signage, identification signage, other site furnishings, etc.

The River Park and Pier

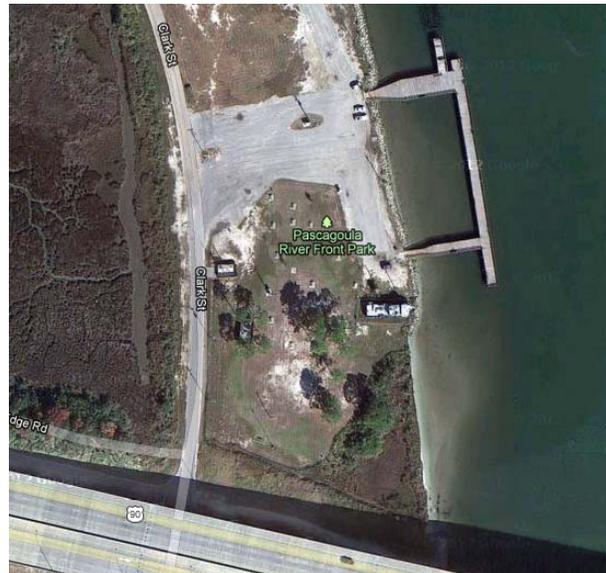
Location: 4100 Clark Street

Size: 8.6 Acres

Classification: Regional Park (but could be a Special Use Facility if a new master plan is implemented).

Overview: The facility offers a fishing pier and a double boat ramp with courtesy piers. It also contains the Scranton Museum, a retired shrimp boat, secured on land for tours.

Review: The facility is currently scheduled for a major renovation with a new marina. In its current condition, the parking is large, but is unorganized. Parking surfaces vary between asphalt, concrete, gravel and dirt. Surfaces are uneven and ADA parking is not provided. Lighting of the area is sparse and is provided by lights on wooden poles in a few scattered locations. Access to the wooden courtesy docks is on broken slabs of concrete which prohibit ADA access. The docks themselves have a step in them, preventing ADA access. A portable restroom is provided. ADA access needs to be provided to as much of the Scranton Museum as possible. The existing fishing pier has been burned in recent years.



Recommendations:

- Consider relocating the Scranton Nature Center to this site and make it the home of an outdoor recreation programming element for the department. The site could be the beginning of a kayaking/canoeing trail for the Pascagoula River, perhaps a private enterprise that pays revenue to the department

- Avoid a dedicated amphitheater as shown in the master plan and plan for more un-programmed open space
- Avoid the amount of boardwalks shown in the master plan, due to expense and maintenance considerations, and use the open areas for a small disc golf course, as suggested in the Pascagoula Recreation Commission's Long Range Plan
- Consider adding a rental pavilion(s) and restrooms
- Repair fishing pier and ensure ADA access railing for fishing
- Ensure ADA access is provided to the courtesy docks, fishing piers and Scranton Nature Center
- Parking should be graded to be more uniform and travel lanes and parking spaces should be adequate for the size of the vehicle/trailers that will use the site
- Improve lighting on the site
- Consider implementing a paid parking system for the remaining boat launches.
- Provide standard assortment of rules signage, identification signage, other site furnishings, etc.
- Upgrade boating ramps and support facilities shown on master plan (see plan in appendix)
- Work with the Mississippi Department of Transportation to provide direct access to the park from Highway 90

Special Use Facilities

Chateau Lake

Location: Old Mobile Highway, between Robinhood Drive and King James Drive.

Size: 8 Acres

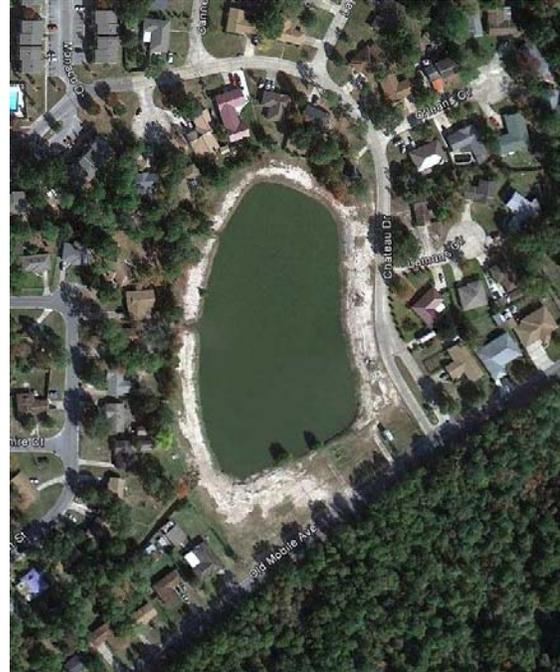
Classification: Special Use Park (Due to limited use for fishing)

Overview: The park contains a large pond and is primarily used for fishing.

Review: Dedicated parking is not provided. Vehicles must park in the dirt at the side of the road. Two benches are provided, but no accessible walkways lead to them. Grass is worn around the edges of the lake and there are many areas of bare dirt. Due to runoff from adjacent areas, there is quite a bit of trash in and around the lake.

Recommendations:

- Since this park is very close to IG Levy Park, it would not be efficient to duplicate many of the same facilities (fishing, playgrounds, walking trails, etc.) found there at Chateau Lake
- Consider allowing this site to naturalize to provide an aesthetic greenspace for the surrounding neighborhood
- Install trash racks on storm drains leading to pond
- Limit access to the pond's edges and re-vegetate



Inner Harbor

Location: 901 Pascagoula Street

Classification: Special Use Facility

Overview: The facility is a marina for sailboats and pleasure craft and has room for approximately 21 boat slips.

Review: Some parking is provided in a dedicated parking lot, but most parking is along the perimeter drive surrounding the marina. ADA parking is not provided.



Sidewalks adjacent to the parking lot do not have ramps, prohibiting ADA access, but also making loading of boats difficult. All boat slip piers are at a lower level than at the street. Only one pier has a ramp, but the ramp is not fully ADA compliant. The other piers have small staircases but the stairs are not code compliant. The harbor is shallow and needs dredging. However, the surrounding sheet pile sea wall is not deep enough to allow for dredging. The sheet pile seawall is rusting through in many places and is in poor condition. All slips have water and power access.

Recommendations:

- Instead of multiple staircases, provide a few ramps leading to the lower level docks
- Provide ADA parking and an accessible route to the ramps
- Make piers ADA compliant
- Replace seawall and dredge marina
- Consider offering other amenities such as cable TV
- Provide standard assortment of rules signage, identification signage, other site furnishings, etc.

Ladner Road Boat Launch

Location: East end of Ladner Road, where it meets Bayou Casotte

Size: 0.25 Acres

Classification: Special Use Facility

Overview: The facility is a boat launch and offers a fishing pier.

Review: Parking is provided, but since parking spaces are faded and were not adequately sized to begin with, parking is haphazard and inefficient. ADA parking is not provided. The parking lot is not lighted. Several surrounding marine-oriented businesses also share the lot as their main access and have resorted to their own painting and striping schemes to prohibit parking from blocking their entrances. Two concrete boat ramps, with three courtesy docks, are provided. The access walks to the courtesy docks are broken and thus not ADA compliant.



Recommendations:

- With heavy industrial surrounding uses, consider whether this facility needs to remain in the system or whether it could be sold to adjacent marine-oriented businesses

Spanish Fort Boat Launch

Location: North end of Hickory Street, where it meets Krebs Lake

Size: 0.25 Acres

Classification: Special Use Facility

Overview: The facility is a boat launch and offers a fishing pier.

Review: Parking is limited to the area where vehicles must turn around when launching boats and is not adequate for storage of many trailers. ADA parking is not provided. The parking lot is not lighted. The parking surface is broken and is comprised of several layers of asphalt, concrete, gravel, dirt, etc. Some slopes leading up to the adjacent cemetery are covered in this assortment of paving. A single boat ramp with a single courtesy dock/fishing pier is provided. ADA access is not provided to the pier. Erosion is occurring at the end of the boat launch, where it is near the adjacent property.



Recommendations:

- Consider whether this facility needs to remain in the system as a public facility once the facilities at the nearby River Park are improved. The launch could still be utilized for city purposes and secured from public use
- If it is to remain, parking needs improvement and the facility needs to be lighted
- Areas adjacent to the cemetery need to be cleaned up, perhaps with small retaining walls
- Provide ADA parking and provide accessible routes to the courtesy dock/fishing pier. Make pier ADA compliant
- Provide standard assortment of rules signage, identification signage, other site furnishings, etc.

Pascagoula Art Depot

Location: 504 Yon Street

Size: 0.50 Acres

Classification: Special Use Facility

Overview: This historic site once served as the city's train depot. It currently serves as the home of the Pascagoula Art Depot (offering works by local artists for sale) as



well as the offices of the Pascagoula Main Street program.

Review: Parking at the facility is limited. A smoother transition is needed from the brick plaza around the building down to the ADA parking spaces to provide true ADA access. Parking is lighted by cobra lights on wooden poles. There are some condition problems with the building with some areas experiencing rot and most areas needing painting. The adjacency of active railroad tracks makes for a dangerous environment. Chain link fencing separates some areas, but not all. Chain link fencing is in poor shape. Old water damage is present on the building's ceiling, but may not be active.

Recommendations:

- Complete ADA access from parking to building
- Secure depot area from the active tracks
- Consider more 'historic' treatment of lighting, fencing, etc.
- Provide standard assortment of rules signage, identification signage, other site furnishings, etc.

Community Centers

Anola Club

Location: 1111 Washington Avenue

Size: 0.5 Acres

Classification: Community Building
(meeting facility)

Overview: The facility is a historic school building which has been converted for meeting space.

Review: Parking is not provided on site, vehicles must park on the residential street. The stairs to the entrance are not up to current code. A ramp is provided to a side entrance door but access route signage is not provided. The interior of building could not be observed at time of the visit.



Recommendations:

- Provide standard assortment of rules signage, identification signage, other site furnishings, etc.
- Perform a complete ADA review of site and building

Andrew Johnson Recreation Center

Location: 1402 Tucker Avenue

Size: 1.6 Acres

Classification: Community Center

Overview: Interior spaces include a gymnasium, media room, office space, and storage. Exterior facilities include a swimming pool, practice basketball courts, and a playground area.

Review: A small amount of parking is provided, but is not adequate. ADA parking is not compliant and an ADA access route to the lobby from the parking is not provided. Interior finishes are in fair shape in some areas (media room, gym, lobby, office) and in poor shape in the restrooms. The roof over the gym is leaking. The gym floor is comprised of vinyl tiles which are slick and unsafe. The office area is crowded, but well used. The media room has several new computers and a small library. The restrooms need a good bit of work, with sinks not meeting ADA, an unlocked storage closet off of the boys' bathroom, and overall finish condition concerns (paint, toilet partitions, etc.). The restrooms are also meant to serve the outside pool via a set of stairs leading up to the pool deck. These are not ADA compliant and are not adequately lighted. An unsafe condition is present in that the boy's staircase to the pool is marked on a sign as an emergency exit, but the door is locked when the pool is not in use.



Outside, the pool deck seems in good shape and the pool seems in good shape. The shade arbor over the pool deck is in poor shape. The ramp leading up to the pool deck is not ADA compliant. ADA access into the pool at time of visit had not been installed. Additional depth markings for safety may be needed. The pool transitions from 3 ft to 8 ft deep. The pool pump house appears to be in good shape.

The outdoor basketball area is not well lighted, with one light placed on a wooden pole. The new playground is in good shape and is one of the few that has an ADA access point, but there are also older swings, which are not on a safety surface.

Other standard notes that apply to many of the department's facilities include a lack of uniform signage and rules, mismatched and scattered site furnishings in various states of repair/disrepair, weeds in lawn areas, site lighting, electrical components accessible to the public, and many ADA concerns.

Recommendations:

Due to its age, there are many significant code and condition issues. Consideration needs to be given to whether some parts of the facility need renovation or the building is removed

to create more green space at the current location. In the interim, the following items need to be addressed.

- The roof needs to be repaired and the gym floor needs replacement.
- If portions of the pool are upgraded, then more significant ADA costs will be incurred
- From interviews, we understand that some repairs to the pool grates occurred a few years ago. It needs to be confirmed whether these were fully compliant with the Virginia Graeme Baker Act. If not, addition repairs will need to be made to the requirements
- Improve ADA access from parking to the building
- Secure unlocked areas in the boy's bathroom and ensure ingress/egress meets codes
- Improve the outdoor basketball courts, including better lighting
- Provide standard assortment of rules signage, identification signage, other site furnishings, etc.
- Develop standard signage to match rules, materials, appearance, etc. at other facilities

Pascagoula Recreation Center

Location: 2935 Pascagoula Street

Size: 1.63 Acres

Classification: Community Center

Overview: This recreation center was recently partially renovated. It includes a gymnasium, several activity rooms, locker rooms, and department recreation offices.

Review: Recent renovations resolved many maintenance issues. Items that remain involve making the center ADA compliant. The parking spaces in the parking lot are not properly signed for ADA. No access route is marked to the building's front doors and the small ramp leading from the parking lot may not be fully compliant (slope, tactile warning surface, etc.). Grates, located at the front doors and fire exit doors at the rear of the building, are not ADA compliant (openings are too large). Handicapped seating is not marked in the gym. Lobby restrooms are compliant, but locker rooms are not. Lobby counter and computer keyboards are too high. There is no access route to the playground in the rear of the center. There is no elevator to the programmed second floor spaces.



Recommendations:

Many of the purposes for this center are planned to be relocated to the new

community/recreation/aquatic center. When that occurs, the following activities should be considered.

- Move concessions operations out of the lobby and re-orient the lobby counter to provide a registration center and seating for visitors
- Convert weight room and former locker room into programming space
- Convert event storage area into concession stand
- Renovate second locker room into storage facility
- Add elevator and emergency exit from second story program space.
- Provide accessible pathway to playground
- Repair damaged areas of fencing around rear of lot to prevent safety hazards.
- Add trees in rear lot to provide shade for playground
- Address other ADA issues mentioned
- Provide marquee signage for event promotions

Pascagoula Senior Center

Location: 1912 Live Oak Avenue

Size: 5 Acres

Classification: Community Center

Overview: The facility is the newest in the system and was opened in 2010. It is well maintained. Besides a large meeting hall area with a stage, there are smaller activity rooms, a pottery room, offices and a gift shop.



Review: Outside, there are a few drainage issues where rainfall drains from the vehicle drop-off across an access sidewalk and drain basins do not appear to be low enough to prevent standing water on sidewalks. Some landscaping has been installed, but due to its small size, is causing a maintenance hindrance for mowers. No crosswalks are provided from ADA parking areas and other parking areas across driveways.

Recommendations:

- Lower drains near entrance if possible and improve drainage patterns
- Stripe crosswalks from parking to the entrance area
- Consider sharing expanded parking if other facilities are built on adjoining land
- Consider converting Live Oak Avenue to a two-way street near its intersection with Market Street to improve conditions for the seniors driving to the center
- Add arbor pavilions suggested by the Pascagoula Recreation Committee's Long Range Plan

Proposed Park Facilities

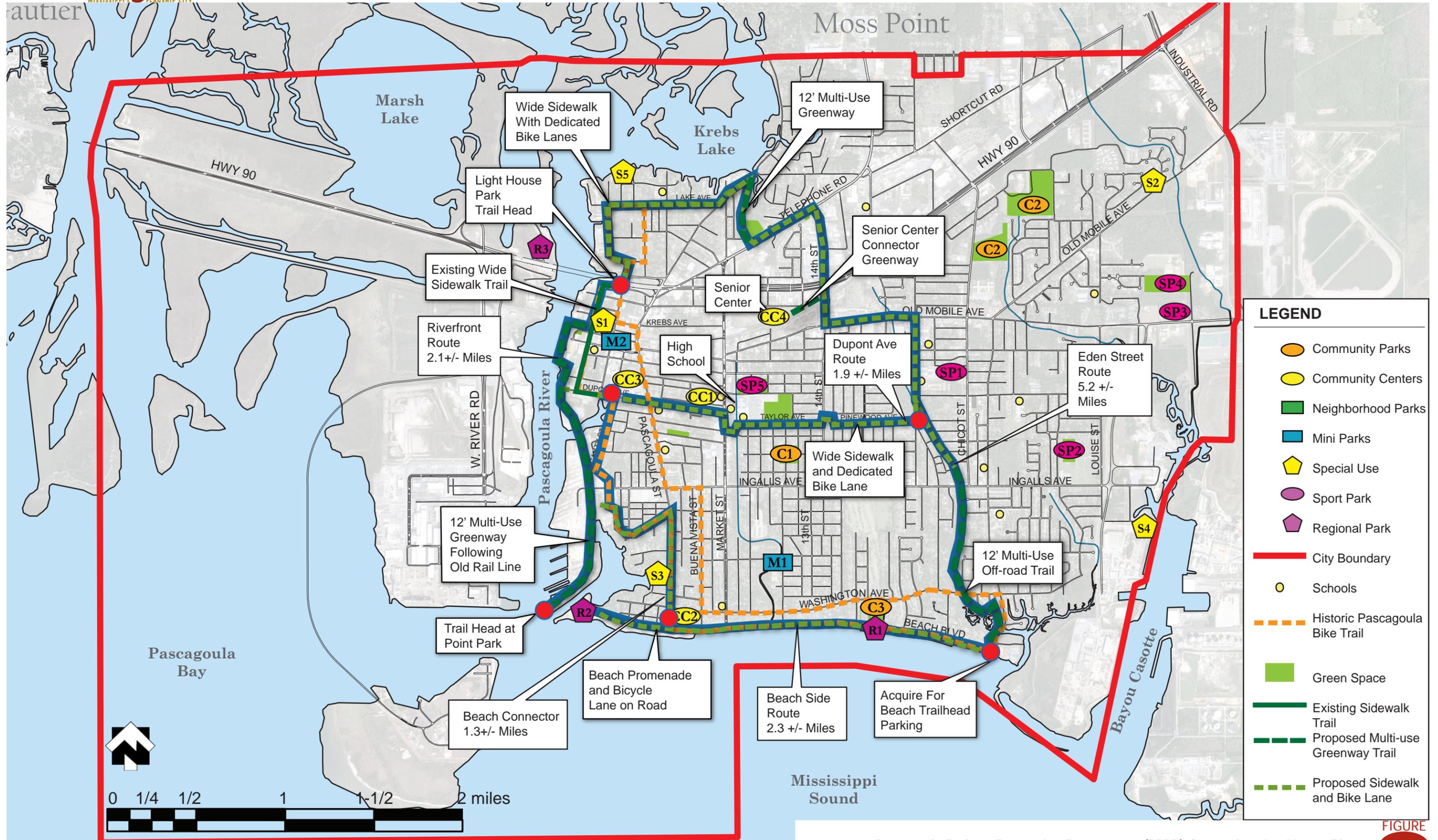
Greenways

The planning team recommends the development of greenway trails, sidewalk improvements and bicycle lanes as a priority item for the City of Pascagoula. With the temperate climate of the city and a major beach, numerous park and quiet neighborhoods, the development of greenway trails, wide sidewalks and bicycle lanes will provide transportation and recreation options to citizens while making it safer for bicycle riders. It will also promote healthy lifestyle opportunities that currently do not exist.

A greenway/ wide sidewalk and bicycle lane corridors are proposed from Lighthouse Park south through downtown and continuing along the east side of the abandoned ship yard to Lake Yazoo. A second corridor will branch off the downtown corridor just north of Ingalls Avenue and follow neighborhood streets connecting to the Inner Harbor and continuing to the beach. A beach corridor will connect Point Park to a new trailhead and parking area located on property adjacent to the Singing River Yacht Club. Another corridor will run northward from the beach along an existing drainage canal to Eden Street where it will continue along the street to Old Mobile Avenue turning west and following the street to the intersection of 14th Street. At 14th Street, the trail will turn north and continue to Telephone Road where it will turn east. The trail will exit Telephone Road and become an off road greenway and continue north to Lake Avenue. The trail will turn west and follow Lake Avenue and terminate at Lighthouse Park. The last corridor is an east west corridor that will run along Dupont, Taylor and Pinewood Avenues and connect the downtown corridor with the Eden Street corridor. A greenway will also connect the Senior Center with the Eden Street corridor. These corridors total 12.8 miles in length. See figure 6.11: Proposed Greenway Map.

Where adequate right of way is available, the trails should be built as multi-use pathways. Where there is not adequate right of way for off road trails, sidewalks should be widened as much as possible and on road bicycle lanes should be provided to continue both pedestrian and bicycle links. The development of these greenway trails should start with a well-defined set of greenway design standards.

Figure 6.11: Proposed Greenway Map



LEGEND

- Community Parks
- Community Centers
- Neighborhood Parks
- Mini Parks
- Special Use
- Sport Park
- Regional Park
- City Boundary
- Schools
- Historic Pascagoula Bike Trail
- Green Space
- Existing Sidewalk Trail
- Proposed Multi-use Greenway Trail
- Proposed Sidewalk and Bike Lane

Greenway Design Standards

Land Acquisition

When planning and locating greenways within an existing community, both connectivity of population centers and the natural features of the land must be considered. It is very common for greenways to be built in the riparian zone of rivers, streams and associated water courses adjacent to wetlands and costal marshes and along wooded corridors. Waterways are natural routes through the landscape, and they are often unsuitable for development due to periodic and natural flooding. Protecting wide riparian zones also preserves water quality and wildlife habitat. Acquisition of floodplains, wetlands or marshes and riparian zones is recommended even if they are not used in the short-term for public access greenways. Once these areas are under city ownership, they can be retrofitted with trails in the future.

Another corridor that presents an opportunity for a greenway is along existing roadways where excess public right-of-way exists. Many times greenway trails run parallel to roadway travel lanes and combine on-road bicycle lanes and wide sidewalks to provide both safe pedestrian and bicycle traffic. The preferred roadway based greenway trail design standard is to separate the trail and roadway with a landscaped buffer strip.

There are many avenues that can be pursued in the land acquisition process. Land acquisition can occur through purchase of land in fee simple, purchase of development rights, and acceptance of donations of land and development rights (i.e., conservation easements).

In the development of greenway trails, public access will be required. The process of mandating public access to private property is difficult at best and raises significant legal problems. The issue at hand is how the City of Pascagoula and Pascagoula Parks and Recreation can ensure that properties that are developed along a planned greenway trail cooperate in its construction and provide public access? The options are as follows:

- Acquire the greenway portion of the property in fee simple
- Acquire an easement for the greenway portion that stipulates public access as a condition
- Arrive at a mutual agreement between the developer and the city, in which creating the public access greenway is a condition of rezoning
- Provide incentives for developers to include public access greenways

Trail Design

In developing the proposed routing plan for the greenway routes, the routes were divided into two major groups: “on-road systems” and “off-road systems.” The “on-road systems” contain sidewalks, bike routes, bike lanes and off-road paths that are constructed within the right-of-way of a road. The “off-road systems” are multi-use paths that are developed in

rights-of-way that are shared with utilities or are acquired exclusively for the development of greenway trails. These “off-road systems” would fall within road rights-of-way only at points where they connect to road-based systems or cross a public street or to complete a loop of the trail where off-road routes were not available. The following standards for the design of vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian circulation are adapted from a number of sources, including AASHTO, and various state highway departments' planning and design guidelines.

Pedestrian Walks and Trails include the incorporation of both new sidewalks and existing sidewalks with needed repairs and improvements to provide safe connections and links between neighborhoods, schools, parks and other community activity centers. These routes should be developed to accommodate all pedestrians, including children, senior citizens and individuals with disabilities.

Vehicular/Pedestrian/Bicycle Routes include provisions for travel routes for pedestrians, pedestrian routes in combination with vehicular routes, and also bicycling routes in combination with vehicular routes. Designated bicycle routes identify a specific route that has been allocated for a bicyclist to get from a point of origin to a point of destination. Streets with standard 12-foot wide lanes do not necessarily have to be physically widened to become designated as a bike route if certain conditions are met. A designated and restricted segment of a shared street or roadway for use by cyclists can be indicated by the use of a colored stripe as separation between vehicles and bicycles. The stripe provides psychological rather than physical protection. However, where space is available, physical separation can be created through the use of plant materials, guardrails or low curbs. As an added reinforcement to the designated bicycle route, bicycle route signs should be posted at all areas where new traffic enters the roadway, denoting the multiple use of the shared street or roadway. The distance between signs should not be greater than two miles. In urban areas, directional arrows should be used at intersections to indicate whether the bicycle route continues through the intersection or turns right or left. Bicycle route signs help encourage use and warn motorists that bicyclists may be using the road. These signed routes are considered appropriate for basic and proficient bicyclists.

In a typical urban setting where bicycles share a single lane with vehicles, in conjunction with speed limits under 35 mph, and with traffic lanes between 11 and 12 feet, the bicycle lane is recommended to be a minimum of four feet wide from the back of the curb; however, a five-foot width is preferred. Where road rights-of-way are greater than the normal 40 to 50 feet or where land acquisition will be required for trail construction, bicycle lane widths should be expanded beyond minimum standards to increase safety. The actual bicycle lane width for specific locations should be determined after evaluating vehicular operating speeds, traffic volume and composition, on-street parking, number of turning movements, number of businesses and residences, and the degree of public awareness of the bicyclist presence.

An additional concern for safety within the bicycle lane is the potential problem caused by drainage grate inlets and utility covers. In new road construction, it is recommended that all inlets and covers should not be located within bicycle lanes; the use of curb inlets is suggested and would eliminate grate inlet safety issues. It is also recommended that grates and utility covers be installed flush with the road surface, whether in new road construction or resurfacing.

Existing parallel bar drainage grate inlets located within bicycle lanes are potential traps for the front wheel of a bicycle, which can slip between the bars, causing serious damage to the bicycle and bodily injury to the cyclist. It is highly recommended that these grates be replaced with bicycle-safe and hydraulically efficient grates.

Vehicular/Pedestrian/Bicycle Routes should be designed to accommodate pedestrians, including children and senior citizens with varying degrees of physical and mental capabilities, and individuals with disabilities.

Multi-use Off-road Trails are typically 12 feet wide to accommodate two-way travel and serve a variety of users, including walkers, joggers, runners, bicyclists, skateboarders and skaters. These trails are also serviceable by emergency and maintenance vehicles. It is recommended that trail surfaces be paved in order to ensure safety and access for all users, depending upon site-specific limitations. Pervious paving materials that are ADA-compliant and accommodate wheeled equipment should be used where it is appropriate. We have used pervious materials on past projects with good success.

In areas where trails coexist with jurisdictional wetlands, the trail should transition to a boardwalk to minimize its impact on the wetland. Where visual separation is required, such as along boardwalks located within jurisdictional wetlands, a three-rail wood fence, as illustrated in figure 6.12: Prototypical Trail Section Sketches, provides an appropriate separation. It is recommended that all on-grade trails provide a 2-foot cleared shoulder on both sides of the trail for maneuverability and safety. A painted centerline stripe to designate and separate travel direction should also be considered. Detailed design of the multi-use trails should follow AASHTO standards and criteria in order to accommodate bicycle, emergency and maintenance vehicular travel. Multi-use trails should be designed to serve all pedestrians as well as basic, novice and proficient cyclists.

Multi-use trails can be in the floodplain of rivers, streams and creeks. Such trails should avoid the state-required buffers and any wetlands. They provide access to and connections between historic and cultural sites, exceptional natural resources and other points of interest. Multi-use trails may follow roadways, but physical separation is established between motor vehicles and trail uses. Where physical and secure separation is required (i.e., multi-use trails along a highway right-of-way), the three-rail wood fence with wire mesh, as illustrated in the *Prototypical Trail Section Sketches*, will provide an aesthetically

pleasing and acceptable barrier between the heavy vehicular traffic roadway and the adjacent pedestrian/bicycle multi-use trail. Along portions of the trail, changes in elevation are required to conform to existing topography, avoid significant natural features such as rock outcroppings, or compensate for fill materials in floodplains. In these transition areas, porous or standard concrete ramped trails with supporting gabion walls should be used. Trails should not exceed a five percent (5%) vertical slope in order to comply with ADA guidelines for accessibility and to maximize user comfort. Any trails that exceed five percent are considered ramps and must conform to specific ADA requirements relevant to handrails, length of run, landings and other issues. ASHTO allows for steeper grades on trails than ADA but we have found that grades over 5% are difficult on seniors both walking and bicycling and are the maximum grade that small children and many adults can comfortably ride a bicycle. Therefore, we try to keep trails under this gradient.

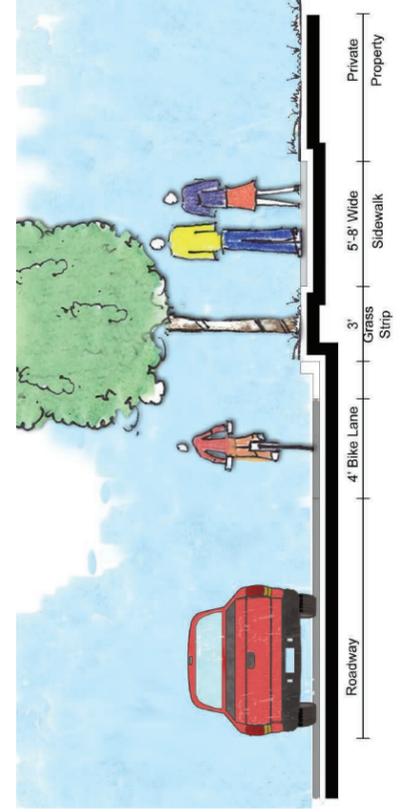
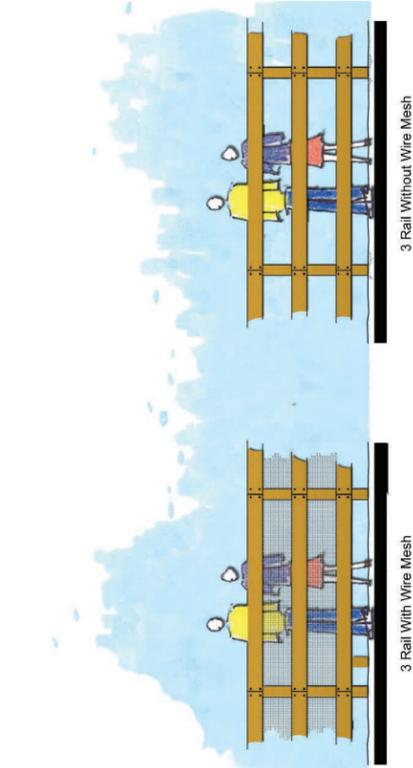
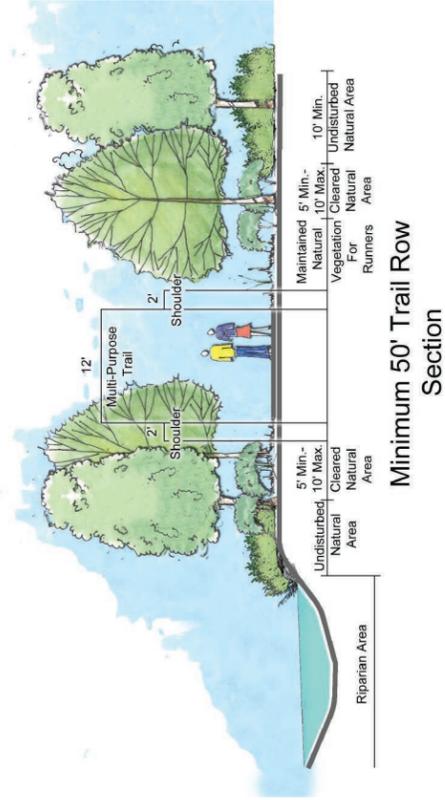
Trailhead Design

Simply stated, trailheads are trail access points for the general public. However, in terms of available facilities and amenities, the various types of trailheads can be extremely diverse. Trailheads will establish the trail user's first impression of the greenway system; therefore, attention to details of design will be critical as construction documents are developed. Where possible, trailheads should be located in or adjacent to existing or planned parks so that public amenities such as restrooms, parking, picnic pavilions, playgrounds and general recreation facilities are already available. In addition, educational facilities should also be considered as a prime location for trailheads. Frugal use of economic resources is a strong component in determining location. However, economy of means is not the only factor in this reasoning. By combining recreational opportunities, the Pascagoula community will have a greater range of choices to improve its health, quality of life and leisure time.

In general, trailhead design criteria should consist of the following components, regardless of the level of development:

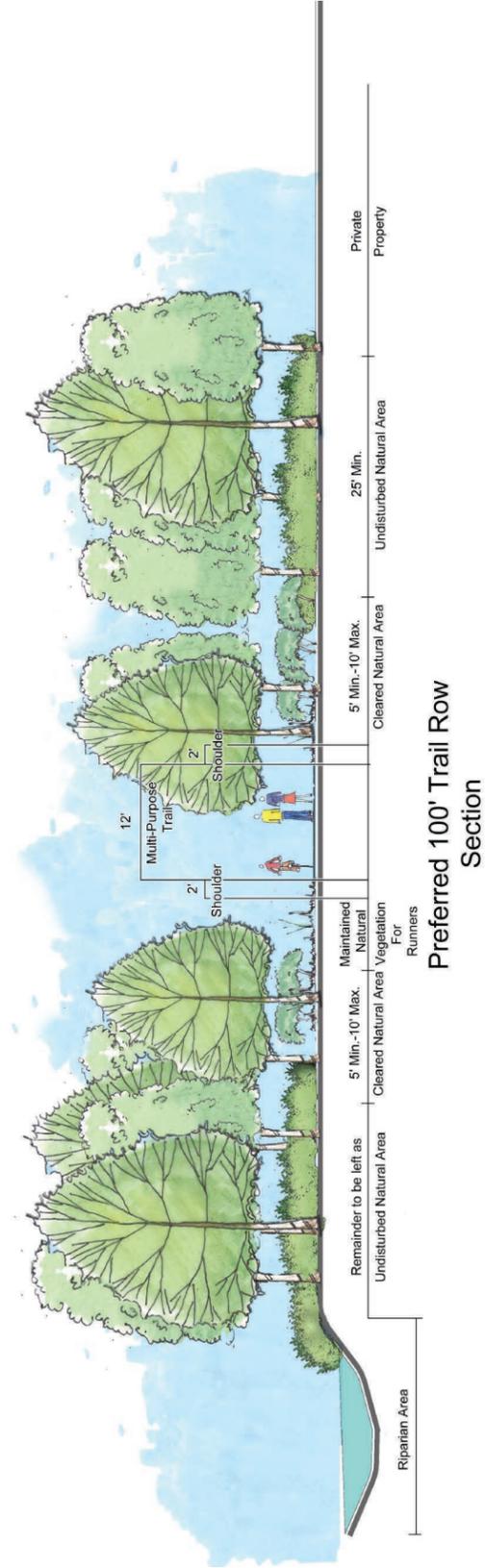
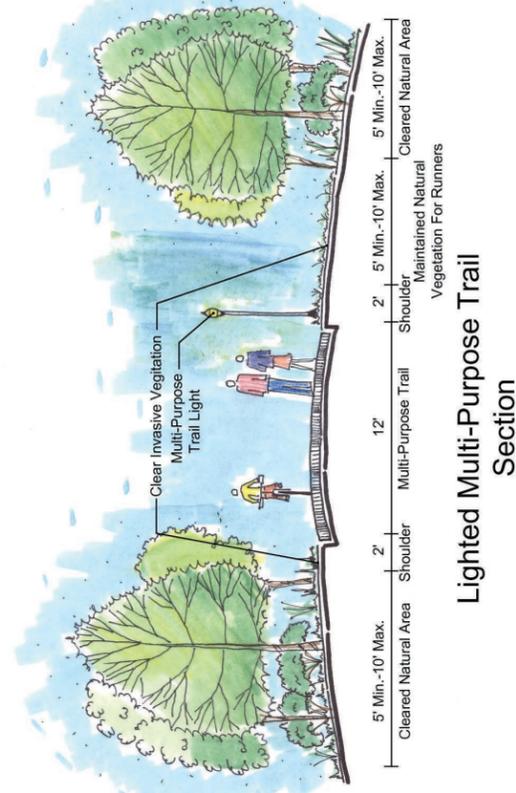
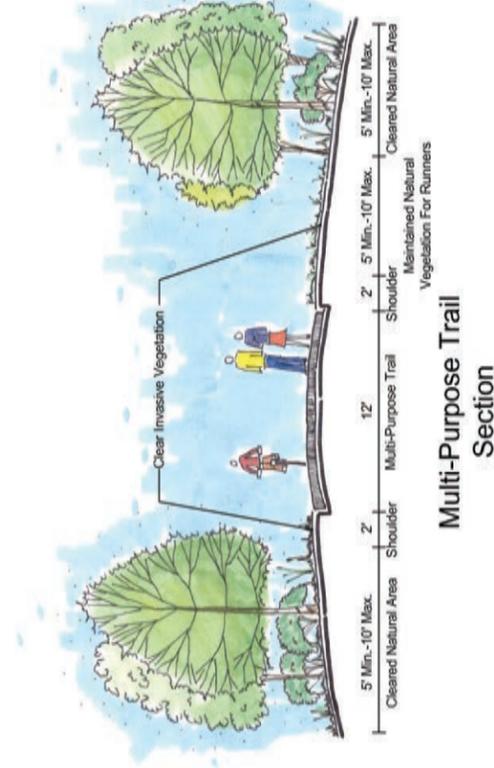
- Circulation: Adequate, efficient and safe space allocations must be provided for vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians to maneuver
- Parking: There must be an adequate number of parking spaces for the anticipated level of use of the particular facility including, where appropriate, spaces for RVs, small trailers for boats and canoes, buses and bicycles
- Structures: Again, depending upon the anticipated level of use, buildings may be required. Structures may include gazebos, picnic shelters or pavilions, restrooms, maintenance and storage facilities, information booths and kiosks.
- Site furnishings including benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, bike racks, bollards and playgrounds
- Signs
- Fences and lockable security gates
- Emergency telephones

Figure 6.12: Prototypical Trail Section Sketches



Fencing Options

Bike Lane and Sidewalk Section for Neighborhood Connector Trails



- Security lighting
- Landscaping
- Connector trails to the main trail
- River or waterway access where appropriate

Signage

The primary purpose of signage is to assist and instruct users of the greenway system to ensure that information, as it pertains to the safe and appropriate use of all facilities, is provided to all trail users. Signs fall into three categories: regulatory, warning and guidance.

- **Regulatory Signage:** Regulatory signs provide operational requirements and are used for traffic control. This category includes stop and yield signs, right-of-way signs, speed limit signs and exclusion signs. They are normally installed where specific regulations apply.
- **Warning Signage:** Warning signs identify existing or potentially hazardous conditions on or near the trail, and they caution users accordingly. They are typically used near intersections, bridges, crossings and tunnels. Warning signs should also be employed to indicate significant grade changes, upcoming traffic control devices and changes in surface conditions.
- **Guidance Signage:** Guidance signs provide trail-side instructional information and offer users geographical orientation. The typical "you are here" map is an excellent example of this category of sign. Guidance signs can be both directional and informational. Directional signs point out nearby community facilities or other points of interest such as historic sites and unique natural resources. This particular example of guidance signage is often referred to as interpretive signage.
- Greenways are transportation corridors; as such, the universal and standard recognizable transportation signs can be adapted for trail use. It is recommended that an overall comprehensive greenway-related signage "package" be developed in succeeding phases of the community-wide trail system design to coordinate and reinforce an overall aesthetic image that incorporates the greenway logo and colors. With a consistent application of greenway signage standards, trails will be more user friendly, easier to navigate and safer.
- As a supplement to the overall greenway signage package, it is recommended that wayside exhibits become an integral part of the package. Wayside exhibits are built adjacent to trails or at the terminus of a connecting trail. These areas contain interpretive signs that provide information on the natural environment or on cultural and historic points of interest in the vicinity. They are also well suited

for small areas where trail users can stop, sit and relax. It is recommended that all wayside exhibits be designed as per the National Park Service standards governing wayside exhibits.

Figure 6.13 shows the full range of signage that Lose & Associates, Inc. developed for the City of Cary, North Carolina. They use these signs on their greenway to both meet required regulatory sign requirements and educate and inform trail users.

Figure 6.13: City of Cary, North Carolina Greenway Signage Standards



Trail Rules and Regulations

Public safety is a key element for the success of a greenway system. It is important to establish and implement a standard set of trail rules and regulations to facilitate the safety of all trail users. The trail rules should identify both expected user conduct and actions that are in violation of trail policy. Public notification is key for trail user awareness of the trail rules and regulations, which should be posted at all major access points to the greenway and also be available in a handout form.

The following is a suggested list of rules and regulations:

- **Pascagoula Greenway Hours:** Pascagoula Greenway is open to the public from dawn until dusk.
- **Be Courteous:** All greenway users, including walkers, joggers, skaters, skateboarders, wheelchairs and bicyclists, must be respectful of other users, including their mode of travel, speed and level of skill. Respect the privacy of adjacent property owners and the existing wildlife living in their natural habitat; remember, greenway users are sharing community space.
- **Use the Buddy System:** Always use the greenway system with a friend!
- **Do Not Use This Trail Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs:** It is illegal to use this trail (public property) while under the influence of alcohol in excess of the State of Mississippi statutory limits or if you have consumed illegal drugs.

Trail users that are on prescribed medications should consult their doctor or pharmacist to ensure that their medications will not impair their abilities for safe usage of the greenway system.

- **Clean Up Your Litter:** Please keep our greenways clean and neat for other trail users. Dispose of all debris appropriately or pack out what you bring in. Remember to recycle whenever possible. Please clean up after your pets. Violations will result in fines.
- **Keep Pets on Leashes:** All pets must be kept on a secure and tethered leash. Violations will result in fines.
- **Keep to the Right:** Always keep to the right when using the trail, or stay in the lane that has been designated for your user group. An exception to this rule is when it becomes necessary to pass another user.
- **Pass on the Left:** When it becomes necessary to pass another user traveling in your direction, pass the user on their left. Verify that trail user traffic is clear prior to passing; remember, always yield to both slower and oncoming traffic.
- **Give Audible Signal When Passing:** All users should give a clear warning signal prior to passing. Common voice signals are “Passing on your left!” or “Cyclist on your left!” Be courteous and respectful with audible signals; profanity is not acceptable.
- **Be Predictable:** Travel in a consistent and predictable manner. Always look for traffic clearance prior to changing trail position.
- **Be Alert:** Inattention can cause disasters. Always stay alert. Maintain control of your bicycle, skateboard and skating travel.
- **Do Not Block the Trail:** When traveling in a group or with your pets, use no more than half of the trail. Do not block the flow of other trail users. If approached by trail users from both directions, oncoming and from behind, merge your group into a single line to the far right to allow the safe passage of others.
- **Yield When Entering or Crossing Trails:** When entering or crossing a trail at a non-controlled intersection, yield the right-of-way to traffic on the other trail.
- **Use of Lights:** When using a trail near dawn or dusk, or during inclement weather, be equipped with appropriate lights, and wear light or reflective clothing. Cyclists should be equipped with a white light in the front and a red or amber light in the rear of the bicycle, both visible from 500 feet in either direction. All other trail users should be equipped with a source of white lights capable of being seen from 250 feet to the front.
- **Trail Subject to Flash Flooding:** Sections of the Pascagoula Greenway are subject to flooding and the Greenway is officially closed during the times when trails are subjected to floodwater conditions. For your personal safety, please be prepared to leave the greenway immediately during periods of heavy rainfall.

The above rules and regulations represent an acknowledgement of basic concerns and are by no means final. They require review, modifications, additions per trail-unique conditions, and approval by the City of Pascagoula and Pascagoula Parks and Recreation Agency in the interest of public health, safety and well-being.

Safety and Security

Safety and security are fundamental for all public facilities, which include community greenways.

The greenway is being developed to accommodate the general public, with special emphasis given to pedestrians, including children and senior citizens with varying degrees of physical and mental capabilities, and individuals with disabilities. The main trail will also accommodate two-way travel, serving a variety of users, including walkers, joggers, runners, bicyclists, and skaters; it will also accommodate emergency and maintenance vehicles.

With the Pascagoula Greenway being a public facility developed for the general public, a basic level of safety must be maintained. This level of safety does not end in the design efforts of the greenway, but extends to the maintenance and security policies to be implemented by the city. These policies will require safety patrols, routine maintenance of the trails and be recognized as high priorities by the city. Signage, both temporary and permanent, must be immediately in place from the beginning of construction to its completion. The signage system must include regulatory, warning and guidance signage.

An emergency plan should be developed and put in place by the city. This plan can respond to emergency situations from the common to the most unlikely accidents. Public agencies that should be involved include, but are not limited to, Parks, Fire, Emergency Services and Police Departments, Utility and Public Works Department and any other group that is tasked with emergency planning for city facilities.

In addition to public agencies, support from private groups and/or adjacent property owners along the greenway could be formed and become a major resource in both policing and maintaining the greenway system. This resource will have a strong bond of public ownership and will make a special effort to see that the greenway, with its built facilities and natural resources, is protected and used as per city rules and regulations.

The following is a suggested list of additional components for the safety and security of the greenway:

- Installation of distance markers at .25 mile intervals to aid in identifying trail location in the event of an emergency
- Establishment of a safety committee or coordinator

- Preparation of a trail safety manual for employees and agencies
- Establishment of user rules and regulations
- Development of greenway and trails emergency procedures
- Preparation of a safety checklist
- Preparation of a trail user response form
- Development of a system for reporting accidents
- Development of a regular maintenance and inspection program
- Development of a site review program
- Development of a public information program
- Implementation of an employee training program for safety and emergency response
- Conducting ongoing research and evaluation of program objectives

Because the Pascagoula Greenway will be built in multiple phases, policies and emergency procedures should be expanded accordingly to deal with all of the greenway sections as a whole.

As construction phases are completed and opened for use by the public, a new construction phase will begin. It is highly recommended that public use not be allowed until the current construction phase is completed and that any use will be considered a violation of the posted rules and cited accordingly. This recommendation should minimize, if not avoid, unnecessary vandalism and damage to the greenway during construction. It will also reduce or prevent accidents during subsequent construction phases.

Greenway Conservation Easement Document

The potential for development of greenways throughout the city creates the need for a greenway conservation easement document. This document is a tool to gain access for greenways across private property without having to purchase the property or acquire the land at a reduced rate. A sample agreement is provided in the appendix. Parks staff should work with the city's legal counsel to construct a similar document to be used for greenway corridor acquisitions.

Sports Complex

Property needs to be acquired for the development of a new sports complex to replace the facilities located at Youth Baseball, 12th Street Complex, Louise Street and MCC Park. This facility should contain 6 youth baseball fields for children 12 and under and one field for youth 13 to 18. It should have five girls' softball fields and two adult softball fields. Louise Street and MCC Park fields should be upgraded to be safe and converted to dedicated practice facilities. This complex should include other park amenities including walking trails, a playground, picnic areas, pavilions and site furnishing to provide a true community park experience. A new maintenance complex should be developed at this site, as it will be the most labor-intensive park in the system. A concept master plan for this new park has been provided in the appendix.

Football Complex

The property currently occupied by the youth baseball facilities should be converted into a youth football complex with a game field and a practice field with restrooms. The balance of the property should be developed as a neighborhood park facility. A master plan should be developed with public input to determine what amenities should go in the park.

12th Street Park

A dog park of three acres in size should be developed at 12th Street Park as part of the redevelopment of the park. A master plan should be developed with community input to determine what other amenities should be added to the balance of the park property.

Multi-Purpose Community Center/Boys and Girls Club/Maintenance Compound

Pascagoula is currently operating two recreation centers. The city fully operates the Pascagoula Recreation Center with parks staff and maintains and partially funds the operation of the Boys and Girls Club at the Andrew Johnson Recreation Center. As noted in the individual evaluation, both of these facilities have functional and physical limitations. With the limitations of these two facilities and the fact that most communities the size of Pascagoula would only operate a single center, serious consideration should be given to consolidation of community center facilities to reduce the number of centers being programmed.

The city owns property adjacent to the Senior Center that would be a great site for a new modern community center, which would include administrative offices, a double gymnasium, indoor and outdoor aquatics complex, meeting and program space and auditorium/banquet facilities. The community desires to construct a performing arts facility could be rolled into the development of this community center facility, to capture efficiency in construction costs, shared parking, shared infrastructure, etc. Figure 6.10 illustrates a program for a typical community center and this type center is ideal for Pascagoula. A concept plan for how a community center could be developed adjacent to the Senior Center is provided in the Appendix.

Developing a new community center would then allow two other moves to occur. The city could stop subsidizing the Boys and Girls Club and begin to serve these children at the Pascagoula Recreation Center. The Pascagoula Recreation Center is in much better shape and has a better gym. With the relocation of the Boys and Girls Club out of the Andrew Johnson Center the city can determine the best course of action for the property. One is to determine if the building is suitable for some other city function and if the cost to renovate the building justifies renovating the building. If the cost benefit ratio of renovating the building is not suitable, then the building could be removed along with the swimming pool and new uses programmed at the site.

A new centralized maintenance compound is needed. Consideration should be given to building a new maintenance compound as part of the development of a new sports complex.

Lake Yazoo Park and Greenway

With the proposed redevelopment of the downtown waterfront into a mixed-use center with a marina, there is an opportunity to link downtown to the beach. As described earlier in this report, we are recommending a greenway to extend to Lake Yazoo. This route would follow the old rail line that accesses the shipyard. At the southern tip of the shipyard, the city should work with the state to have 10 to 20 acres of the shipyard transferred to the city for the development of a waterfront park. This park would be directly opposite Point Park and give the city a green gateway for boaters coming from the Gulf to the new marina. It would also provide an area for marina expansion in Lake Yazoo, which is under-utilized as a marina.

A court of flags should be developed in this park to provide a vertical element that can be viewed from the water and serve as a gateway focal point. A walking path and promenade should be developed along the perimeter of the property and courtesy docks should be provided to allow boaters access to the park. This park will become the anchor for future expansion of the mixed-use development from downtown all the way to Lake Yazoo.

This park should also include a large area for christening new naval vessels. At a recent christening with over 6,000 people attending, we find that the current shipyard facility does not have a good location to accommodate this type of crowd. The city should work with the shipyard to try to develop a facility in the park that can accommodate their needs and other special events on the water. A concept plan for how this park might be developed is provided in the appendix.

Park Development Priorities

The planning team has prioritized the projects recommended throughout this master plan. For a detailed phasing of these projects, including opinions of cost and the year in which they should be implemented, refer to *Opinions of Probable Cost and Phasing Plan*, in Section 7.

Tier One Priorities

Tier one priorities are the actions that should be taken and the park projects that should be funded in the next 24 months.

- Begin general repairs throughout the park system as noted on individual assessments
- Continue with the development of Magnolia Street Birding Pier
- Secure 10 to 20 acres of shipyard property at the southernmost tip of the shipyard and develop a new park

- Locate and purchase a piece of property to develop a new sports complex and provide additional parking for soccer
- Develop a master plan and construction documents for a new sports complex and begin development of the complex
- Initiate the process of obtaining greenway corridor properties or easement to allow for the development of a greenway connector to the beach
- Construct beach greenway section
- Determine the best location for a nature center and if not at IG Levy Park begin plan development for the new center at BB Jennings Park
- Continue the redevelopment of Point Park
- Begin renovations planned for River Park starting with pier repairs, boat ramps and parking improvements
- Develop Park and Greenway Design Standards
- Develop a new community center plan and conversion plans for Andrew Johnson Recreation Center and Pascagoula Recreation Center
- Install lighting at the soccer complex on all fields
- Determine the true cost for renovating the Andrew Johnson Center to determine if renovation of the facility is justifiable
- Develop dog park
- Add exercise equipment and parking at Pat Wilson Park
- Add showers at beach park
- Purchase property for beach greenway trailhead and parking lot
- Purchase and install electronic parking collection stations at boat launch facilities
- Replace bulkhead at Inner Harbor
- Repair River Park Pier and begin redevelopment of the park and construct marina
- Redevelop BB Jennings Park
- Develop an updated master plan for Pine Street Park



Tier Two Priorities

Tier two priorities are the actions that should be taken and the park project that should be funded in months 25-60 after adoption of the master plan

- Complete construction of the sport complex
- Develop master plans for the redevelopment of the Youth Baseball Complex and 12th Street Parks and redevelop as neighborhood parks
- Develop Phase 1 of the new community center with aquatics facilities
- Continue ADA improvement throughout the park system.
- Continue greenway development
- Develop new maintenance compound

Tier Three Priorities

Tier three priorities are the actions that should be taken and the park projects that should be funded in months 61-120 after adoption of the master plan.

- Modify beach pier and update Beach Park as noted in assessment
- Continue greenway development
- Install arbor at Senior Center
- Complete Phase 2 of Community Center
- Continue ADA and park renovations
- Renovate 11th Street Park
- Convert Chateau Lake to natural open space, remove all improvements
- Update Colmer Field
- Update Delmas Park
- Renovate I G Levy Memorial Park
- Renovate Louise Street
- Renovate MCC Park
- Complete renovation at Pascagoula Recreation Center
- Renovate Pine Street Park
- Update Soccer Complex

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SECTION 7

PROBABLE

OPINION OF

PROBABLE COST

PROBABLE COST

AND PHASING PLAN

PROBABLE COST

OPINION OF

Section 7: Opinions of Probable Cost and Phasing Plan

The planning team has outlined over \$72 million in capital improvement needs for the next ten years. Detailed opinions of probable cost are provided in the following pages, and a breakdown of the improvements is provided at the end. The phasing plan, found at the end of this section, provides a ten-year spending summary.

The totals shown for each facility in the phasing plan include a 15% contingency and architectural and engineering fees (i.e. 10% design fees). The planning team has prioritized funding based on the needs discussed throughout the master plan and in response to the priorities established through the community input phases of the project. Priority was given to completing the new parks that are currently under construction, parks that were recently master planned, adding new facilities that will provide new and unique park programming opportunities, and bringing existing parks into compliance with playground safety and ADA access requirements. Greenways, facility renovations and park redevelopment are important to the continued function and advancement of the Department. The development of new parks is also recommended in the first tier, which will allow several existing parks to be repurposed and redeveloped with uses that are more suitable to the acreage of the current parks. Tier two improvements include continued redevelopment of parks, Phase 1 development of a new community center and the redevelopment of 12th Street Park. Tier II projects were given second priority, knowing that within five to ten years the existing athletic facilities must be replaced in order for other projects to move forward and to allow adequate time to develop detailed plans for the new community center and aquatics facilities.

Over the first five years of the spending program, existing parks will begin to receive replacement equipment for playgrounds and site furnishings, ADA accessible pathways will be constructed, sports fields will be lit and piers reconditioned. New park property will need to be acquired for a sports complex as well as for a neighborhood park and greenways. Greenway and park design standards will also be developed. Existing park playgrounds will be brought into compliance.

There will be a balance of new park development and renovation over the next ten years, although completing the development of new facilities will happen within the first few years. Therefore, most park renovation projects were placed in the later phases of the master plan for funding, with the exception of playground and ADA improvements. Funds allocated for accessibility and safety improvements at playgrounds and throughout parks were included in the early years of the master plan, in addition to master plan studies for park expansions

and redevelopment. In most cases, safety and ADA access will require new playground surfacing and sidewalks to be built that will connect parking to facilities throughout existing parks. It may also require old playground equipment to be replaced.

During the second five years of the program, the remaining park renovations will be completed and the second phase of the community center constructed. Greenway development will continue until all areas of the city have access to trails. Within the first five years the transformation of existing parks along with the development of new parks will allow goals outlined in the 2010 Comprehensive Plan for the city to be realized. Existing neighborhood parks that have been over-developed as sports complexes will be redeveloped with appropriate uses and returned to surrounding neighborhoods as gathering spaces and areas for social interaction. New parks are planned to serve unmet needs and create a gateway to the city from the Pascagoula Sound. These park improvements along with proposed improvements to the riverfront should help transform neighborhoods throughout the city and provide an economic stimulus to the city. Increased revenue for the city will help fund the cost for the park projects. New athletic facilities will once again make it possible for Pascagoula to compete for sports tournaments and the tourist that they bring to a community.

The planning team feels that the approach of completing new and unique projects in the first five years will create more programming opportunities for the Department and more individual, un-organized park activities in which the public can participate. It will show citizens that the Department is serious about providing a high quality park system and will put the Department and the administration in a strong position to vote on future funding programs.

Funding Options

With the magnitude of the needs identified, it is clear a combination of funding sources will be needed to undertake an aggressive capital program to transform the parks and recreation facilities in Pascagoula. A bond program that will allow the city to borrow funds and move quickly to make needed repairs and improvements is recommended. As discussed in Section 8, a bond program of 25 to 30 million dollars is recommended. New revenue consisting of fees charged for programs and park access have been recommended along with new or increased excise taxes on prepared food, hotels, liquors and rentals. These combined sources which capture a substantial portion of their revenue from residents outside of the city, will grow as the city continues to offer new recreation opportunities, new tourist destinations and greater access to the Pascagoula River and Sound.



This plan is intended to guide the Parks and Recreation Commission and elected officials through the steps to transform a good park system into a great park system. The next step is to organize a committee of commission members, elected officials and staff and begin the process of reviewing funding options and formulating a funding plan. Once the funding plan is in place, it will have to move through the City Council process. Where community votes are required, the Parks and Recreation Commission should lead the way in generating public support for the project. With votes complete and funding in hand, the city will be able to begin implementation of this plan.

Existing Funding

Currently, the city has just over \$7 million for funding ongoing park projects. Funding by park project is outlined below.

Point Park	\$1,350,000
Promenade	\$1,685,000
River Park	\$3,500,000
Education trail	\$ 100,000
Birding Pier	\$ 300,000
Landscaping Grants	<u>\$ 60,000</u>
Total	\$6,995,000

Only the landscaping grants are not earmarked for specific projects.

Opinions of Probable Cost and Phasing Recommendations

On the following pages, we have developed opinions of probable cost for each park in the system and for the development of proposed greenways. We have included costs associated with property acquisition, where appropriate and associated soft cost for architectural and engineering fees. The individual park opinions of cost document by tier when the recommended improvements are scheduled within the 10-year capital pan. A ten-year spending summary is then provided. The spending summary documents existing funding, future grant dollars and the recommended funding level for a bond program that will allow for the completion of Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects.

Table 7.1

11th Street Mini Park					
Opinion of Probable Cost- 06-08-2012					
Site Acreage: 1.96 AC					
ITEM	QTY.	UNIT	COST/UNIT	COST	TIER
Site Development	1	ls	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	3
Demolition	1	ls	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	3
Paving					
Light duty concrete pavement	2000	sf	\$ 3.00	\$ 6,000.00	3
Post curb	50	lf	\$ 7.00	\$ 350.00	3
Asphalt parking	1500	sf	\$ 3.50	\$ 5,250.00	3
Curb and gutter	45	lf	\$ 15.00	\$ 675.00	3
Site Furnishings					
Bench	6	ea	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 7,200.00	3
Waste receptacle	4	ea	\$ 750.00	\$ 3,000.00	3
Drinking fountain	2	ea	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	3
Dog agility equipment	1	ls	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	3
Site Signage					
Vehicular & handicapped signs	2	ea	\$ 250.00	\$ 500.00	3
Entry sign	1	ea	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	3
Construction sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	3
Park rules sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	3
Fencing	550	lf	\$ 20.00	\$ 11,000.00	3
Landscape	1	ls	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	3
PARK DEVELOPMENT SUBTOTAL				\$ 82,475.00	

Table 7.2

12th Street Recreation Complex					
Opinion of Probable Cost- 06-08-2012					
Site Acreage: 8.20 AC					
ITEM	QTY.	UNIT	COST/UNIT	COST	TIER
Master Plan	1	ls	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	2
Site Redevelopment	1	ls	\$ 1,750,000.00	\$ 1,750,000.00	2
PARK DEVELOPMENT SUBTOTAL				\$ 1,770,000.00	
5% Mobilization, Bonds, Fees, etc. and 15% Contingency				\$ 354,000.00	
A&E Fees (10%)				\$ 212,400.00	
PROJECT TOTAL				\$ 2,336,400.00	

Table 7.3

Andrew Johnson Recreation Center					
Opinion of Probable Cost- 06-08-2012					
Site Acreage: 1.60 AC					
ITEM	QTY.	UNIT	COST/UNIT	COST	TIER
Renovation Plans	1	ls	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	1
ADA Renovations	1	ls	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	1
Building Renovations	1	ls	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 350,000.00	1
Maintenance Conversion					
Demolition (pool, basketball, playground)	1	ls	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	3
Fencing	360	lf	\$ 35.00	\$ 12,600.00	3
Building conversion (maintenance doors, etc.)	1	ls	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	3
ADA Renovations	1	ls	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	1
Paving					
Concrete pavement	2250	sf	\$ 3.50	\$ 7,875.00	1
Post curb	500	lf	\$ 15.00	\$ 7,500.00	1
Site Furnishings					
Bench	3	ea	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 3,600.00	1
Waste receptacle	4	ea	\$ 750.00	\$ 3,000.00	1
Site Signage					
Vehicular & handicapped signs	2	ea	\$ 250.00	\$ 500.00	1
Entry sign	1	ea	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	1
Park rules sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	1
Playground rules sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	1
PARK DEVELOPMENT SUBTOTAL				\$ 722,575.00	
5% Mobilization, Bonds, Fees, etc. and 15% Contingency				\$ 144,515.00	
A&E Fees (10%)				\$ 86,709.00	
PROJECT TOTAL				\$ 953,799.00	

Table 7.4

Anola Club					
Opinion of Probable Cost- 06-08-2012					
Site Acreage: 0.50 AC					
ITEM	QTY.	UNIT	COST/UNIT	COST	TIER
Demolition	1	ls	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	1
Paving					
Concrete pavement	500	sf	\$ 3.50	\$ 1,750.00	1
ADA Modifications	1	ls	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	1
Site Signage					
Vehicular & handicapped signs	2	ea	\$ 250.00	\$ 500.00	1
Entry sign	1	ea	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	1
Landscape	1	ls	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	1
PARK DEVELOPMENT SUBTOTAL				\$ 20,750.00	
5% Mobilization, Bonds, Fees, etc. and 15% Contingency				\$ 4,150.00	
A&E Fees				\$ 5,000.00	
PROJECT TOTAL				\$ 29,900.00	



Table 7.5

Pascagoula Art Depot					
Opinion of Probable Cost- 06-08-2012					
Site Acreage: 0.50 AC					
ITEM	QTY.	UNIT	COST/UNIT	COST	TIER
Demolition	1	ls	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	1
Paving					
Pavement striping	1	ls	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	1
Concrete pavement	500	sf	\$ 3.50	\$ 1,750.00	1
Site Furnishings					
Bench	6	ea	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 7,200.00	1
Waste receptacle	2	ea	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,500.00	1
Site Signage					
Vehicular & handicapped signs	3	ea	\$ 250.00	\$ 750.00	1
Entry sign	1	ea	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	1
Decorative Fencing	500	lf	\$ 70.00	\$ 35,000.00	1
PARK DEVELOPMENT SUBTOTAL				\$ 57,200.00	
5% Mobilization, Bonds, Fees, etc. and 15% Contingency				\$ 11,440.00	
A&E Fees (15%)				\$ 10,296.00	
PROJECT TOTAL				\$ 78,936.00	

Table 7.6

BB Jennings Park					
Opinion of Probable Cost- 06-08-2012					
Site Acreage: 6.36 AC					
ITEM	QTY.	UNIT	COST/UNIT	COST	TIER
Site Development	1	ls	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	1
Demolition	1	ls	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	1
Dog Park					
Fencing	350	lf	\$ 20.00	\$ 7,000.00	1
Dog agility equipment	1	ls	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	1
Paving					
Re-surface existing parking lot	8775	sf	\$ 3.00	\$ 26,325.00	1
Pavement striping	1	lf	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	1
Concrete pavement	4000	sf	\$ 3.50	\$ 14,000.00	1
Resurface basketball court	1600	sf	\$ 3.00	\$ 4,800.00	1
Asphalt trail- 8 wide	9000	sf	\$ 3.50	\$ 31,500.00	1
Site Furnishings					
Bench	10	ea	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 12,000.00	1
Waste receptacle	5	ea	\$ 750.00	\$ 3,750.00	1
Picnic table	3	ea	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	1
Group grill	1	ea	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	1
Drinking fountain	2	ea	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	1
Basketball goal	2	ea	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 5,000.00	1
Site Signage					
Vehicular & handicapped signs	2	ea	\$ 250.00	\$ 500.00	1
Entry sign	1	ea	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	1
Construction sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	1
Park rules sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	1
Playground rules sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	1
Site Lighting	1	ls	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	1
Boardwalk Replacement	1	ls	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	1
Landscape	1	ls	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	1
PARK DEVELOPMENT SUBTOTAL				\$ 312,625.00	
5% Mobilization, Bonds, Fees, etc. and 15% Contingency				\$ 62,525.00	
A&E Fees (15%)				\$ 56,272.50	
PROJECT TOTAL				\$ 431,422.50	

Table 7.7

Beach Park/ Pascagoula Fishing Pier					
Opinion of Probable Cost- 06-08-2012					
Site Acreage: 14.00 AC					
ITEM	QTY.	UNIT	COST/UNIT	COST	TIER
Master Plan	1	ls	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	1
Site Development	1	ls	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	3
Demolition	1	ls	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	1
ADA Renovations					
Pavement striping	1	ls	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	1
Concrete pavement	2000	sf	\$ 3.50	\$ 7,000.00	1
Paving					
Concrete pavement	7000	sf	\$ 3.50	\$ 24,500.00	3
Curb and gutter	1500	lf	\$ 15.00	\$ 22,500.00	3
Site Furnishings					
Bench	20	ea	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 24,000.00	3
Waste receptacle	12	ea	\$ 750.00	\$ 9,000.00	3
Picnic table	16	ea	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 24,000.00	3
Group grill	3	ea	\$ 750.00	\$ 2,250.00	3
Drinking fountain	1	ea	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	3
Outdoor shower	4	ea	\$ 750.00	\$ 3,000.00	1
Site Signage					
Vehicular & handicapped signs	3	ea	\$ 250.00	\$ 750.00	1
Entry sign	1	ea	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	1
Construction sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	1
Park rules sign	5	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	1
Playground rules sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	1
Site Lighting	1	ls	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	3
Pier Modifications	1	ls	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	1
Landscape	1	ls	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	3
PARK DEVELOPMENT SUBTOTAL				\$ 365,000.00	
5% Mobilization, Bonds, Fees, etc. and 15% Contingency				\$ 73,000.00	
A&E Fees (10%)				\$ 43,800.00	
PROJECT TOTAL				\$ 481,800.00	

Table 7.8

Chateau Lake					
Opinion of Probable Cost- 06-08-2012					
Site Acreage: 8.00 AC					
ITEM	QTY.	UNIT	COST/UNIT	COST	TIER
Site Cleanup/ Access Control					
Trash rack on storm drains	1	ls	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	3
Timber guardrails	875	lf	\$ 25.00	\$ 21,875.00	3
PARK DEVELOPMENT SUBTOTAL				\$ 26,875.00	
5% Mobilization, Bonds, Fees, etc. and 15% Contingency				\$ 5,375.00	
A&E Fees				\$ 5,000.00	
PROJECT TOTAL				\$ 37,250.00	

Table 7.9

Colmer Soccer Fields					
Opinion of Probable Cost- 06-08-2012					
Site Acreage: 3.00 AC					
ITEM	QTY.	UNIT	COST/UNIT	COST	TIER
Master Plan	1	ls	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	3
Site Development	1	ls	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	3
Demolition	1	ls	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	3
Paving					
Concrete pavement	2200	sf	\$ 3.00	\$ 6,600.00	3
Asphalt trail- 8 wide	14400	sf	\$ 3.50	\$ 50,400.00	3
Soccer Fields					
Perimeter fencing	1850	lf	\$ 24.00	\$ 44,400.00	3
Seed	175000	sf	\$ 0.10	\$ 17,500.00	3
Sports lighting	1	ls	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 180,000.00	3
Soccer equipment	1	ls	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	3
Architecture					
Restrooms	1	ls	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 125,000.00	3
Site Furnishings					
Waste receptacle	4	ea	\$ 750.00	\$ 3,000.00	3
Drinking fountain	1	ea	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	3
Site Signage					
Entry sign	1	ea	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	3
Construction sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	3
Park rules sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	3
Landscape	1	ls	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	3
PARK DEVELOPMENT SUBTOTAL				\$ 501,900.00	
5% Mobilization, Bonds, Fees, etc. and 15% Contingency				\$ 100,380.00	
A&E Fees (10%)				\$ 60,228.00	
PROJECT TOTAL				\$ 662,508.00	

Table 7.10

Delmas Park					
Opinion of Probable Cost- 06-08-2012					
Site Acreage: 0.67 AC					
ITEM	QTY.	UNIT	COST/UNIT	COST	TIER
Demolition	1	ls	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	3
Shade Canopies					
Decorative shade sails	1	ls	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	3
Paving					
Light duty concrete pavement	100	sf	\$ 3.00	\$ 300.00	3
Post curb	200	lf	\$ 7.00	\$ 1,400.00	3
Site Signage					
Vehicular & handicapped signs	1	ea	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	3
Entry sign	1	ea	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	3
Construction sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	3
Park rules sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	3
PARK DEVELOPMENT SUBTOTAL				\$ 37,450.00	
5% Mobilization, Bonds, Fees, etc. and 15% Contingency				\$ 7,490.00	
A&E Fees (15%)				\$ 6,741.00	
PROJECT TOTAL				\$ 51,681.00	

Table 7.11

I.G. Levy Park					
Opinion of Probable Cost- 06-08-2012					
Site Acreage: 45.20 AC					
ITEM	QTY.	UNIT	COST/UNIT	COST	TIER
Master Plan	1	ls	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	3
Site Development	1	ls	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	3
Demolition	1	ls	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	1
Electrical Repairs	1	ls	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	1
Tennis Courts					
Asphalt court with acrylic surfacing	57600	sf	\$ 5.00	\$ 288,000.00	3
Court striping	8	ea	\$ 750.00	\$ 6,000.00	3
Fencing	1700	lf	\$ 35.00	\$ 59,500.00	3
Tennis equipment	1	ls	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	3
Sports lighting	1	ls	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 120,000.00	3
Basketball Courts					
Asphalt court with acrylic surfacing	15000	sf	\$ 5.00	\$ 75,000.00	3
Court striping	2	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	3
Basketball goal	4	ea	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 10,000.00	3
Sports lighting	1	ls	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	3
Paving					
Light duty concrete pavement	12000	sf	\$ 3.00	\$ 36,000.00	1
Post curb	500	lf	\$ 7.00	\$ 3,500.00	1
Asphalt parking	7300	sf	\$ 3.50	\$ 25,550.00	3
Pavement striping	1	ls	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	3
Curb and gutter	125	lf	\$ 15.00	\$ 1,875.00	3
Asphalt trails- 8' wide (north loop, connection)	24000	sf	\$ 3.50	\$ 84,000.00	1
Asphalt trails- 8' wide	28000	sf	\$ 3.50	\$ 98,000.00	3
Bridge crossing	1	ea	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	1
Tennis plaza renovations	1	ls	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	1
Playgrounds					
Safety surfacing	13500	sf	\$ 5.00	\$ 67,500.00	1
Architecture					
Tennis building renovations	1	ls	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	1
Restrooms	2	ls	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	3
Site Furnishings					
Bench	30	ea	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 36,000.00	3
Waste receptacle	15	ea	\$ 750.00	\$ 11,250.00	3
Picnic table	12	ea	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 18,000.00	3
Drinking fountain	3	ea	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	3
Group grill	2	ea	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,500.00	3
Small bleacher- 3 row	8	ea	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	3
Site Signage					
Vehicular & handicapped signs	6	ea	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,500.00	3
Entry sign	2	ea	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 15,000.00	3
Construction sign	2	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	3
Park rules sign	3	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	3
Playground rules sign	2	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	3
Landscape & Irrigation					
Irrigate soccer fields	1	ls	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	3
Irrigate canal bank	1	ls	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	3
Resod soccer fields	135000	sf	\$ 0.35	\$ 47,250.00	3

Table 7.11 (continued)

Misc. landscape improvements	1	ls	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	3
PARK DEVELOPMENT SUBTOTAL				\$ 1,684,425.00	
5% Mobilization, Bonds, Fees, etc. and 15% Contingency				\$ 336,885.00	
A&E Fees (10%)				\$ 202,131.00	
PROJECT TOTAL				\$ 2,223,441.00	

Table 7.12

Inner Harbor					
Opinion of Probable Cost- 06-08-2012					
ITEM	QTY.	UNIT	COST/UNIT	COST	TIER
Site Development	1	ls	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	1
Demolition	1	ls	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	1
Paving					
Pavement striping	1	ls	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	1
Light duty concrete pavement	500	sf	\$ 3.50	\$ 1,750.00	1
Marina Redevelopment	1	ls	\$ 1,400,000.00	\$ 1,400,000.00	1
Site Signage					
Vehicular & handicapped signs	4	ea	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,000.00	1
Entry sign	1	ea	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	1
Construction sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	1
Park rules sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	1
PARK DEVELOPMENT SUBTOTAL				\$ 1,468,450.00	
5% Mobilization, Bonds, Fees, etc. and 15% Contingency				\$ 293,690.00	
A&E Fees (10%)				\$ 176,214.00	
PROJECT TOTAL				\$ 1,938,354.00	

Table 7.13

Lighthouse Park					
Opinion of Probable Cost- 06-08-2012					
Site Acreage: 2.50 AC					
ITEM	QTY.	UNIT	COST/UNIT	COST	TIER
Demolition	1	ls	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	1
Paving					
Light duty concrete pavement	300	sf	\$ 3.00	\$ 900.00	1
Post curb	760	lf	\$ 7.00	\$ 5,320.00	1
Site Signage					
Entry sign	1	ea	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	1
Park rules sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	1
Future Phase Development	1	ls		\$ -	3
PARK DEVELOPMENT SUBTOTAL				\$ 15,720.00	
5% Mobilization, Bonds, Fees, etc. and 15% Contingency				\$ 3,144.00	
A&E Fees (10%)				\$ 1,886.40	
PROJECT TOTAL				\$ 20,750.40	

Table 7.14

Louise Street Park					
Opinion of Probable Cost- 06-08-2012					
Site Acreage: 8.72 AC					
ITEM	QTY.	UNIT	COST/UNIT	COST	TIER
Site Development	1	ls	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	3
Demolition	1	ls	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	3
Paving					
Driveway renovation	18000	sf	\$ 3.50	\$ 63,000.00	3
Gravel parking	35000	sf	\$ 0.50	\$ 17,500.00	3
Pavement striping	1	ls	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	3
Curb and gutter	3000	lf	\$ 15.00	\$ 45,000.00	3
Concrete pavement	15000	sf	\$ 3.00	\$ 45,000.00	3
Wheelstops	100	ea	\$ 50.00	\$ 5,000.00	3
Baseball Fields					
300' Field (includes fencing, dugout, turf, irrigation, infield, score tower)	2	ea	\$ 165,000.00	\$ 330,000.00	3
Sports lighting	2	ls	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 180,000.00	3
Architecture					
Restroom/concessions	1	ls	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 225,000.00	3
Site Furnishings					
Bench	4	ea	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 4,800.00	3
Waste receptacle	4	ea	\$ 750.00	\$ 3,000.00	3
Team bench	4	ea	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 6,000.00	3
Drinking fountain	1	ea	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	3
Small bleacher- 5 row	4	ea	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	3
Site Signage					
Vehicular & handicapped signs	6	ea	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,500.00	3
Entry sign	1	ea	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	3
Construction sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	3
Park rules sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	3
Landscape	1	ls	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	3
PARK DEVELOPMENT SUBTOTAL				\$ 1,036,300.00	
5% Mobilization, Bonds, Fees, etc. and 15% Contingency				\$ 207,260.00	
A&E Fees (10%)				\$ 124,356.00	
PROJECT TOTAL				\$ 1,367,916.00	

Table 7.15

MCC Park					
Opinion of Probable Cost- 06-08-2012					
Site Acreage: 7.61 AC					
ITEM	QTY.	UNIT	COST/UNIT	COST	TIER
Site Development	1	ls	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	3
Demolition	1	ls	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	3
Paving					
Gravel parking	34000	sf	\$ 0.50	\$ 17,000.00	3
Pavement striping	1	ls	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	3
Curb and gutter	1500	lf	\$ 15.00	\$ 22,500.00	3
Concrete pavement	15000	sf	\$ 3.00	\$ 45,000.00	3
Wheelstops	100	ea	\$ 50.00	\$ 5,000.00	3
Baseball Fields					
300' Field (includes fencing, dugout, turf, irrigation, infield)	1	ea	\$ 135,000.00	\$ 135,000.00	3
250' Field (includes fencing, dugout, turf, irrigation, infield)	1	ea	\$ 105,000.00	\$ 105,000.00	3
Sports lighting	1	ls	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	3
Architecture					
Restroom	1	ls	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 125,000.00	3
Site Furnishings					
Bench	2	ea	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 2,400.00	3
Waste receptacle	4	ea	\$ 750.00	\$ 3,000.00	3
Team bench	4	ea	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 6,000.00	3
Drinking fountain	1	ea	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	3
Site Signage					
Vehicular & handicapped signs	4	ea	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,000.00	3
Entry sign	1	ea	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	3
Construction sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	3
Park rules sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	3
Landscape	1	ls	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	3
PARK DEVELOPMENT SUBTOTAL				\$ 692,400.00	
5% Mobilization, Bonds, Fees, etc. and 15% Contingency				\$ 138,480.00	
A&E Fees (10%)				\$ 83,088.00	
PROJECT TOTAL				\$ 913,968.00	

Table 7.16

Pascagoula Recreation Center					
Opinion of Probable Cost- 06-08-2012					
Site Acreage: 1.63 AC					
ITEM	QTY.	UNIT	COST/UNIT	COST	TIER
Renovation Plans	1	ls	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	1
Demolition	1	ls	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	1
Building Renovations	1	ls	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	1
Site Development	1	ls	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	3
Fencing	500	lf	\$ 20.00	\$ 10,000.00	3
Splash Pad	1	ls	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	3
Paving					
Concrete pavement	2250	sf	\$ 3.50	\$ 7,875.00	1
Post curb	500	lf	\$ 15.00	\$ 7,500.00	1
Site Furnishings					
Bench	8	ea	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 9,600.00	3
Waste receptacle	4	ea	\$ 750.00	\$ 3,000.00	3
Drinking fountain	1	ea	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	3
Site Signage					
Vehicular & handicapped signs	3	ea	\$ 250.00	\$ 750.00	1
Entry sign	1	ea	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	3
Construction sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	3
Park rules sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	3
Playground rules sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	3
Landscape	1	ls	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	3
PARK DEVELOPMENT SUBTOTAL				\$ 802,225.00	
5% Mobilization, Bonds, Fees, etc. and 15% Contingency				\$ 160,445.00	
A&E Fees (10%)				\$ 96,267.00	
PROJECT TOTAL				\$ 1,058,937.00	



Table 7.17

Pascagoula Senior Center					
Opinion of Probable Cost- 06-08-2012					
Site Acreage: 5.00 AC					
ITEM	QTY.	UNIT	COST/UNIT	COST	TIER
Arbor Pavilion	2	ea	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	3
Paving					
Pavement striping	1	ls	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	3
Concrete pavement	1000	sf	\$ 3.50	\$ 3,500.00	3
Site Furnishings					
Bench	8	ea	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 9,600.00	3
Waste receptacle	4	ea	\$ 750.00	\$ 3,000.00	3
Site Signage					
Entry sign	1	ea	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	3
PARK DEVELOPMENT SUBTOTAL				\$ 125,100.00	
5% Mobilization, Bonds, Fees, etc. and 15% Contingency				\$ 25,020.00	
A&E Fees (15%)				\$ 22,518.00	
PROJECT TOTAL				\$ 172,638.00	

Table 7.18

Pat Wilson Park					
Opinion of Probable Cost- 06-08-2012					
Site Acreage: 9.09 AC					
ITEM	QTY.	UNIT	COST/UNIT	COST	TIER
Site Development	1	ls	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	1
Demolition	1	ls	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	1
Paving					
Asphalt parking	6500	sf	\$ 3.50	\$ 22,750.00	1
Pavement striping	1	ls	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	1
Light duty concrete pavement	750	sf	\$ 3.50	\$ 2,625.00	1
Asphalt trail- 8' wide	10560	sf	\$ 3.50	\$ 36,960.00	1
Curb and gutter	250	lf	\$ 15.00	\$ 3,750.00	1
Site Furnishings					
Bench	6	ea	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 7,200.00	1
Waste receptacle	6	ea	\$ 750.00	\$ 4,500.00	1
Drinking fountain	1	ea	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	1
Site Signage					
Vehicular & handicapped signs	2	ea	\$ 250.00	\$ 500.00	1
Entry sign	1	ea	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	1
Construction sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	1
Park rules sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	1
Playground rules sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	1
Site Lighting	1	ls	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	1
Fitness Stations	1	ls	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	1
Playground					
Relocate Boys & Girls Club playground	1	ls	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	3
Landscape	1	ls	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	1
PARK DEVELOPMENT SUBTOTAL				\$ 209,785.00	
5% Mobilization, Bonds, Fees, etc. and 15% Contingency				\$ 41,957.00	
A&E Fees (15%)				\$ 37,761.30	
PROJECT TOTAL				\$ 289,503.30	



Table 7.19

Pine Street Park					
Opinion of Probable Cost- 06-08-2012					
Site Acreage: 4.50 AC					
ITEM	QTY.	UNIT	COST/UNIT	COST	TIER
Master Plan	1	ls	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	1
ADA/ Electrical Renovations	1	ls	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	1
Site Development	1	ls	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	3
PARK DEVELOPMENT SUBTOTAL				\$ 1,068,000.00	
5% Mobilization, Bonds, Fees, etc. and 15% Contingency				\$ 213,600.00	
A&E Fees (10%)				\$ 128,160.00	
PROJECT TOTAL				\$ 1,409,760.00	

Table 7.20

The Pointe Park					
Opinion of Probable Cost- 06-08-2012					
Site Acreage: 8.00 AC					
ITEM	QTY.	UNIT	COST/UNIT	COST	TIER
Site Development	1	ls	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	1
PARK DEVELOPMENT SUBTOTAL				\$ 3,000,000.00	
5% Mobilization, Bonds, Fees, etc. and 15% Contingency				\$ 600,000.00	
A&E Fees (10%)				\$ 360,000.00	
PROJECT TOTAL				\$ 3,960,000.00	

Table 7.21

The River Park and Pier					
Opinion of Probable Cost- 06-08-2012					
Site Acreage: 8.00 AC					
ITEM	QTY.	UNIT	COST/UNIT	COST	TIER
Site Development	1	ls	\$ 2,650,000.00	\$ 2,650,000.00	3
PARK DEVELOPMENT SUBTOTAL				\$ 2,650,000.00	
5% Mobilization, Bonds, Fees, etc. and 15% Contingency				\$ 530,000.00	
A&E Fees (10%)				\$ 318,000.00	
PROJECT TOTAL				\$ 3,498,000.00	

Table 7.22

Pascagoula Soccer Complex					
Opinion of Probable Cost- 06-08-2012					
Site Acreage: 40.00 AC					
ITEM	QTY.	UNIT	COST/UNIT	COST	TIER
Site Development	1	ls	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	3
Demolition	1	ls	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	3
ADA Renovations	1	ls	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	1
Paving					
Resurface gravel parking	10000	sf	\$ 0.25	\$ 2,500.00	3
Concrete pavement	15000	sf	\$ 3.00	\$ 45,000.00	3
Wheelstops	230	ea	\$ 50.00	\$ 11,500.00	3
Soccer Fields					
Sports lighting	1	ls	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	1
Reseed fields	700000	sf	\$ 0.10	\$ 70,000.00	3
Playground					
New equipment, surfacing, etc.	1	ls	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 85,000.00	3
Safety fencing	110	lf	\$ 17.00	\$ 1,870.00	3
Architecture					
Restroom/concession renovations	1	ls	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	3
Storage building renovations	1	ls	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	3
Maintenance/storage building	1	ls	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 120,000.00	3
Site Furnishings					
Bench	4	ea	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 4,800.00	3
Waste receptacle	12	ea	\$ 750.00	\$ 9,000.00	3
Team bench	40	ea	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 60,000.00	3
Drinking fountain	1	ea	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	3
Small bleacher- 5 row	12	ea	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	3
Site Signage					
Vehicular & handicapped signs	9	ea	\$ 250.00	\$ 2,250.00	3
Entry sign	1	ea	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	3
Construction sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	3
Park rules sign	3	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	3
Playground rules sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	3
Landscape	1	ls	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	3
PARK DEVELOPMENT SUBTOTAL				\$ 1,624,420.00	
5% Mobilization, Bonds, Fees, etc. and 15% Contingency				\$ 324,884.00	
A&E Fees (10%)				\$ 194,930.40	
PROJECT TOTAL				\$ 2,144,234.40	

Table 7.23

Spanish Fort Boat Launch					
Opinion of Probable Cost- 06-08-2012					
Site Acreage: 0.25 AC					
ITEM	QTY.	UNIT	COST/UNIT	COST	TIER
Demolition	1	ls	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	1
Paving					
Asphalt parking	10000	sf	\$ 3.50	\$ 35,000.00	1
Pavement striping	1	ls	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	1
Concrete pavement	2500	sf	\$ 3.50	\$ 8,750.00	1
Curb and gutter	500	lf	\$ 15.00	\$ 7,500.00	1
Boat ramp renovation	1	ls	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	1
Site Furnishings					
Waste receptacle	2	ea	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,500.00	1
Entry gate	1	ls	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	1
Site Signage					
Vehicular & handicapped signs	2	ea	\$ 250.00	\$ 500.00	1
Entry sign	1	ea	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	1
Construction sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	1
Park rules sign	1	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	1
Pier Renovations	1	ls	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	1
PARK DEVELOPMENT SUBTOTAL				\$ 130,250.00	
5% Mobilization, Bonds, Fees, etc. and 15% Contingency				\$ 26,050.00	
A&E Fees (15%)				\$ 23,445.00	
PROJECT TOTAL				\$ 179,745.00	



Table 7.24

Youth Baseball Complex					
Opinion of Probable Cost- 06-08-2012					
Site Acreage: 8.00 AC					
ITEM	QTY.	UNIT	COST/UNIT	COST	TIER
Master Plan	1	ls	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	2
Site Re-Development	1	ls	\$ 1,750,000.00	\$ 1,750,000.00	2
PARK DEVELOPMENT SUBTOTAL				\$ 1,770,000.00	
5% Mobilization, Bonds, Fees, etc. and 15% Contingency				\$ 354,000.00	
A&E Fees (10%)				\$ 212,400.00	
PROJECT TOTAL				\$ 2,336,400.00	

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Table 7.25: Pascagoula 10-year Spending Plan

EXISTING PARK RENOVATIONS	TIER 1		TIER 2			TIER 3				TOTAL	
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021		2022
11th Street Mini									\$82,457		\$82,457
12th Street Complex			\$2,336,400								\$2,336,400
Andrew Johnson						\$293,040					\$293,040
Anola Club	\$29,290										\$29,290
Art Depot	\$78,936										\$78,936
BB Jennings	\$431,443										\$431,443
Beach Park	\$70,950								\$410,850		\$481,800
Chateau Lake							\$37,250				\$37,250
Colmer Field							\$662,508				\$662,508
Delmas Park									\$51,681		\$51,681
IG Levy	\$483,120										\$483,120
Inner Harbor	\$1,938,354										\$1,938,354
Ladner Road Pier	na										\$0
Lighthouse Park	\$200,000	\$300,000									\$500,000
Louise Street							\$1,367,916				\$1,367,916
MCC Park								\$913,968			\$913,968
Pascagoula Recreation Center	\$58,245					\$1,000,692					\$1,058,937
Pascagoula Senior Center									\$172,638		\$172,638
Pat Wilson Park	\$289,503										\$289,503
Pine Street								\$1,409,760			\$1,409,760
Point Park	\$1,350,000	\$2,610,000									\$3,960,000
River Park	\$2,500,000	\$1,000,000									\$3,500,000
Soccer Complex		\$1,353,000					\$79,123				\$1,432,123
Spanish Fort Pier	\$179,745										\$179,745
Youth Baseball				\$212,400	\$2,124,000						\$2,336,400
RENOVATIONS TOTAL	\$7,609,586	\$5,263,000	\$2,336,400	\$212,400	\$2,124,000	\$1,293,732	\$2,146,797	\$2,323,728	\$717,626	\$0	\$24,027,269
NEW PARK, FACILITY AND GREENWAY RECOMMENDATIONS											
Pier Park	\$10,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,685,000								\$6,695,000
Pier Park Marina	\$10,000					\$5,080,000					\$5,090,000
Northside Neighborhood Park											\$0
Sportsplex Park	\$25,000	\$4,150,000	\$3,000,000								\$7,175,000
Beach Greenway /Promenade	\$1,685,000										\$1,685,000
Riverside Greenway											\$0
Beach Greenway Trailhead											\$0
Beach Greenway Connector											\$0
Eden Street Greenway											\$0
Dupont Avenue Greenway											\$0
Community Center Phase 1 (recreation & aquatics)		\$50,000	\$1,250,000	\$8,500,000	\$8,500,000						\$18,300,000
Community Center Phase 2 (banquet and auditorium)									\$800,000	\$7,200,000	\$8,000,000
NEW PARK, FACILITY AND GREENWAY TOTAL	\$1,730,000	\$7,200,000	\$7,935,000	\$8,500,000	\$8,500,000	\$5,080,000	\$0	\$0	\$800,000	\$7,200,000	\$46,945,000
LAND ACQUISITION											
North Neighborhood Park 2 acres	\$50,000										\$50,000
Sportsplex (76 acres)	\$762,000										\$762,000
Beach Greenway Trailhead (2.8 acres)	\$350,000										\$350,000
Gateway Park (10 to 20 acres at shipyard)	\$0										\$0
LAND ACQUISITION	\$1,162,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,162,000
GENERAL DESIGN STANDARDS											
Park Design Standards	\$50,000										\$50,000
Greenway Design Standards	\$35,000										\$35,000
GENERAL PARK DESIGN TOTAL	\$85,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$85,000
YEARLY TOTAL	\$10,586,586	\$12,463,000	\$10,271,400	\$8,712,400	\$10,624,000	\$6,373,732	\$2,146,797	\$2,323,728	\$1,517,626	\$7,200,000	\$72,219,269
Tier1 and Tier 2 TOTAL	\$52,657,386										
Tier3 TOTAL	\$19,561,883										
TOTAL	\$72,219,269										
Existing Funding	\$ 6,995,000.00										
Future Grant Funds	\$ 10,000,000.00										
Total Funds Needed for Tier 1 and 2 Bond Program	\$35,662,386										
GRAND TOTAL											\$72,219,269

Ten Year Average Spending **\$7,221,926.85**
 Per Capita (23,585) Spending 2012-13
\$448.87
 Per Household (10,534) Spending 2012-13 **\$1,004.99**
 Monthly Spending Per Household **\$83.75**



SECTION 8

PTIONS FUNDING OPTIONS

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Section 8: Funding Options

As the city continues the process of expanding recreation opportunities over the next ten years, Pascagoula officials will have to provide new facilities, maintain existing facilities and operate a growing Recreation and Parks Department. In this section of the report, we have documented current funding practices, identified opportunities to gain additional funding and suggested tools for continued development of the department. Due to the condition of the national economy, funding the improvements outlined in this master plan will be more challenging for Pascagoula now than in past years. However, over the ten-year life of this master plan, economic conditions should improve, enabling the city to aggressively fund the renovation projects, new development and expanded programming opportunities that are needed to accommodate emerging trends in recreation.

As discussed in *Section 5: Programming Assessment and Budget Analysis*, the city currently collects funds from a variety of sources. While Section 5 primarily focused on operation funding, this section will focus on recommendations for funding capital improvements to the parks system. Historically, the main sources of capital funding for parks and recreation agencies in the state of Mississippi have been:

- General Obligation Bonds
- Program User Fees
- Impact or Other Development Fees
- General Fund Tax Dollars
- Tax Dollars from Special Excise Taxes such as Hotel, Liquor, Food and Rental Taxes
- State and Federal Grants

Traditional Primary Funding Methods

General Obligation Bonds

Cities across the country fund capital projects using general obligation bonds to build public facilities while spreading the facility cost over an extended period of time.

The use of a bond program would be a viable option to initiate a major capital program for parks and recreation facilities. The city could do a bond letting to fund a portion of the capital projects outlined in this master plan. The bond would be paid back over a 20 or 25-year period and would allow the city to begin to meet the facility needs of the community.

A bond program in the \$25-30 million range would allow the city to quickly complete approximately \$27.5 million in park projects. The \$2.5 million dollar variance allows for costs associated with design and permit fees, and is contingent upon the interest rate and payback period associated with the bond. The city has one existing funding source in the hotel tax, which brought in \$66,669 allocated for parks in the 2011-12 budget year. If this

were combined with the proposed prepared food tax that is estimated to generate \$848,000 per year, the city would have just over \$900,000 in non-general fund dollars to pay a portion of the bond cost. At an interest rate of 4%, \$900,000 would fund a bond of approximately \$12 million over a 20-year period. General fund dollars or the use of other fees and taxes could be used to fund the balance of a \$22.5 million bond program, which would address many of the needs identified in this master plan.

User Fees

User fees assessed by parks and recreation agencies vary widely across the county. Fees can be charged for facility maintenance, added to program registrations or required for park access on a daily or annual basis. Other user fees include memberships to special facilities and centers and program fees charged for instructional programs. The combination of these fees can generate major revenue for the city.

Program user fees are a collection of entry fees and program registrations. The funds collected are primarily used to offset the operating costs required to provide services to Pascagoula citizens. Currently, program fees and revenue generation are not a major focus for the PPRD. As new and redeveloped facilities are completed, self-generated revenue should be a high priority for PPRD. Two examples of how fees could impact funding for new development are provided below.

Boat Launching and Parking Fees

As outlined in the budget analysis in Section 5, development of a boat launch and parking fee at the beach and water access parks is recommended. These fees would bring in thousands of dollars annually. The money could be used to offset operating and capital costs at the facilities and go towards retiring bonds. According to the community needs survey, 44% of survey respondents indicated support for this type of fee.

Parks Access Fee

Some communities across the country assess their citizens with an annual park access fee. Butler County Metro Parks System in Ohio charges an annual access fee, requiring residents to place parking stickers on their cars to ensure that the fees have been paid. When responding to the community survey, 24% of respondents indicated they would use a park fee to improve park maintenance and recreation programs. If Pascagoula were to charge each of the city's 10,534 households a park access fee of \$10 per month, this would generate approximately \$1,264,080 per year. This figure would continue to grow as the population of the city grows. This would fund an additional \$10 million in bonds.

The implementation of a park access fee, boat launch and parking fees would require a few operational changes on-site. Staff would have to be hired to implement the fee program and to monitor the parks to make sure visitors have purchased the parking stickers. A system could also be implemented in which non-city residents must purchase an access pass for a higher cost. A local ordinance would have to be passed to address fines for those who leave their vehicles on park property without a parking pass. While these operational



changes would require an initial investment, the increased revenue generated by a park access fee would far exceed the start-up cost.

It is in PPRD's best interest to evaluate the existing pricing strategies, develop a cost recovery philosophy and set goals for both city-sponsored and association-sponsored programs that truly reflect the community's values regarding recreation and parks services. This will be critical to the future sustainability of the PPRD. The department should examine their current fee structure to identify where increases may be appropriate; factors such as inflation rates, rising energy costs, land values, increased maintenance provided by the city and new facility development should all be taken into account.

Dedicated Millage

In order to stabilize park funding from year to year, some communities pass a dedicated millage to fund their local parks and recreation agency. There are two ways this can be done. The first option is conducted internally by City Council's introduction of a memorandum of understanding that dedicates a fixed amount of existing property tax revenues to parks and recreation. The second method is to pass an ordinance that establishes a separate property assessment that is collected by the city to fund the department. Should this method of funding be selected, legal counsel for the city should research these options and provide guidance to the City Council.

Regulatory Funding or Development Sources

Unified Development Ordinance

In March of 2011, the City of Pascagoula officially adopted a new unified development ordinance, or UDO. This document consolidated the city's zoning and subdivision regulations into a single, unified instrument. Within the UDO, there are provisions for the preservation of open space within new developments. Section 6.6 *Open Space Set-Aside* contains standards that establish which portion of residential and mixed-use developments shall be set aside, as well as other requirements. As of the effective date of the ordinance, single-family detached dwellings, two-family dwellings and manufactured homes on existing lots are notably exempt from the open space set-aside requirements.

New developments in zoning districts SFR-1, SFR-6, SFR-8, and MR-3 are required to set-aside 20% of the development site area for open space. Districts NC, CC, RC, and GC are required to set-aside 10% open space while districts DT and WMU are required to set aside 5% for dedicated open space. Examples of open space include: natural features; habitat areas; required landscape areas; active use areas including swimming pools and playgrounds; and passive recreation areas such as plazas, fountains and roof gardens. Areas not counted towards required open space include private yards not in a conservation easement, rights-of-way, open parking areas and stormwater ponds—unless located and designed to be an amenity.

The UDO also includes design standards for open space set-asides. These standards primarily function to promote the connection of open spaces between adjacent developments and, as Pascagoula continues to grow, should result in a network of connected open spaces. If consistently enforced, the open space set-aside provisions in the UDO should be effective in preserving natural features, water features, heritage trees, buffers, and wildlife habitat corridors. The UDO states that, whenever possible, all open space set-aside areas shall be owned and maintained jointly or in common by the owners of the property through an owners association or similar mechanism. Alternatively, open space set-aside areas may also be conveyed to a nonprofit organization such as a land trust or maintained on individual lots through the use of a conservation easement. The owner or developer may also offer the open space set-aside area to the city to become dedicated park land. The City Council shall determine whether and to what extent they shall accept such an offer. This should allow the city the flexibility to consider all possible opportunities to acquire property for park lands as a part of new development projects without creating any obligation to accept a specific offer or offers. The UDO also includes a provision that allows developers the option to pay fees in lieu of providing required open space set-asides. The amount of the fees shall be based on the total value of the property being developed. Fees will be determined by a ratio of the required open space area as a percentage of the total property. Funds generated by fees paid in lieu of set-asides may only be used by the city to acquire and develop recreation and park facilities that will generally benefit the future occupants and/or users of the development that paid the fees. This policy preserves the spirit of the open space set-aside requirement while still allowing some flexibility; however it may be difficult to implement in practice.

Right-of-Way or Greenway Easement Dedication

Another tool Pascagoula could utilize is mandatory right-of-way dedication for multi-use greenway development that is outside of the roadway system. During this master planning effort, the city discussed doing a major annexation east of the city. Much of this property is undeveloped and would provide the city the opportunity to expand the greenway system. As new developments are planned along proposed greenways in Pascagoula, there is no provision for the mandatory dedication of right-of-ways or greenway easements for the expansion of the greenway system. If this area is annexed, a greenway plan for the area should be developed. Then, as new development occurs along the master planned routes, easements or right-of-ways should be dedicated as part of the development process.

Because much of Pascagoula is already developed, these mandatory dedications will primarily benefit the city in redevelopment districts initially. As other areas of the city transition over time, additional dedications should occur, aiding in the completion of the entire greenway system.

Lodging, Car Rentals and Liquor Excise Taxes

Many communities across the country are incorporating lodging taxes to pay for tourism-related programs, including parks and recreation improvements. Jurisdictions have



implemented or are considering instituting a lodging tax to fund future capital improvements that may lead to increased tourism.

Silverthorne, Colorado, for example, passed a 2% lodging tax in 1999. Total collections have been divided: 85% going towards capital projects relating to parks, trails, open space and recreation and 15% to help market the Town of Silverthorne and its amenities. Other communities from Washington to Texas have adopted similar funding measures that have helped develop large-scale recreation facilities that have attracted more visitors.

The city should review excise taxes on liquor, rentals and hotels and compare local fees with other coastal communities to determine if the city's rates are too low. If the rates are low, the city should explore establishing higher rates and dedicating the new income to capital projects in the parks.

A common element among all of these taxes is that they are paid by residents and non-residents, alike. The beach and other water-based activities are major attractions that draw many non-residents who purchase alcoholic beverages at restaurants and stay in hotels located in Pascagoula. In addition, many business travelers also stay in area hotels. Rental taxes could be generated on everything from rental cars to heavy equipment used by residents of Jackson County and beyond. These non-residents would be aiding in the development of park facilities if these taxes were increased.

Alternative Funding Sources

Grants

Transportation Grants/SAFETEA-LU

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) provides funds for various transportation projects, including greenways. Built upon the foundations of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), SAFETEA-LU was signed into law in August 2005.

Transportation Enhancements (TE)

The Transportation Enhancements (TE) program funds a wide variety of transportation-related community projects. This program is the largest source of funding for trails and related facilities. Transportation Enhancement projects must relate to surface transportation and compete against numerous other projects. Greenways and other recreational trails are eligible for TE funding, as long as the project has a transportation element being funded.

There are 12 eligible Transportation Enhancement categories. The three that most relate to greenways and recreational trails are: pedestrian and bicycle facilities; pedestrian and bicycle safety and educational activities; and conversion of abandoned railway corridors to

trails. The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) is the agency responsible for administering Transportation Enhancement funds in Mississippi. Pascagoula could possibly fund portions of the recommended greenway system through annual applications to MDOT. These grants are 80% federal and 20% local funding. Therefore, for every \$1.00 invested by the city, the city receives \$4.00 in grant funds.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program, which is also administered by MDOT, funds walking and bicycle facilities that connect residents to schools. The goals of the program are to: enable and encourage children to walk and bike to school safely; make walking and biking a safer and more appealing transportation choice; facilitate the planning and development of projects and activities that will improve safety; and to reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution in the vicinity of elementary and middle schools. This grant does not require a match, but grant funds are limited to \$500,000 per application per funding cycle. Applications received from a project sponsor may include multiple elements—including sidewalks, bike lanes and speed humps—but cannot exceed \$500,000.

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

This program was initiated through the TEA-21 legislation. Funds are awarded for the construction of trails and support facilities. Emphasis is on the construction of multi-use trails such as biking, hiking, equestrian, motorized, etc. In Mississippi, administration of this program is handled by staff of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

Community Development Block Grants

Although this program specifically funds housing, public facilities, economic development and community projects, recreation could be a minor component of the project seeking grant funding. The city has used these funds for streetscape, riverfront development and parking projects in the past—all projects that could support recreation activities. Other ways the funds might be used could include the construction of a mini-park on land purchased by a housing project that services primarily low- to moderate-income families. The program is administered through the Mississippi Development Authority

Coastal Impact Assistance Program

CIAP Funding is the Coastal Impact Assistance Program for coastal environmental protection. The city is using these funds on the Magnolia St. Birding Pier, the Templett property acquisition and the Point Park development projects. Coastal projects that can be shown to have environmental benefits, like improving water quality or other qualifying activities, are eligible to receive these funds. This program is overseen by the Department of the Interior and is funded by revenue generated by off-shore oil drilling.



Tidelands Trust Fund

This program was designed to conserve, reclaim and preserve tidelands in the state of Mississippi. Additionally, the Tidelands Trust Fund seeks to enhance existing public access areas in the best interest of the state's marine resources. Pascagoula is using this grant program to fund Point Park development, the Scranton Museum renovations, Lighthouse park boat ramps and the Promenade. These funds are administered by the Department of Marine Resources and the Secretary of State's Office.

Environmental Education Grants

This program is sponsored by the EPA's Environmental Education Division (EED), Office of Children's Health Protection and Environmental Education. It supports environmental education projects that enhance the public's awareness, knowledge and skills to help people make informed decisions that positively affect environmental quality. The EPA awards grants each year based on funding appropriated by Congress. Annual funding for the program ranges between \$2 and \$3 million. Most grants awarded will be in the \$15,000 to \$25,000 range.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Since the mid 1960s, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program has provided funds for outdoor recreation acquisition and development. However, over the last few years, funding has been extremely limited. In Mississippi, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks oversee this fund. Congress is responsible for setting the funding level each year. Should the state receive funds from the federal government, this would be another good source of funding for the city.

Hurricane Relief Funds

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) both provide funds to local communities for hurricane relief. These funds are in the form of grants to repair public infrastructure damaged by the storms. When FEMA funds do not cover the full cost of repairs, MEMA provides funding to make up the difference. While not an annual program, these organizations provide a major source of funds following damaging storms.

Private Grants

Local governments throughout the country are seeking funding for outdoor recreation projects from private philanthropic organizations, foundations and corporations. One private grant example is the American Greenways Kodak Awards Program. This program, administered by The Conservation Fund, provides grants of \$500 to \$2500 to local greenways projects. The purpose of the grants is to stimulate the planning, design and development of greenways. Information can be found at www.conservationfund.org.

Rehabilitation Service Programs

This program is available through the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. The intent of the program is to provide disabled individuals with recreational activities and related experiences that can aid in their employment, mobility, socialization, independence and community integration. Specific project activities may include swimming, wheelchair basketball, camping, hiking, water skiing, horseback riding, arts and sports. Historically, applications are due in September of each year.

Alternative Funding Methods

“Buy-A-Foot” Programs

"Buy-a-Foot" programs have been successful in raising funds and awareness for trail and greenway projects across the country. Under local initiatives, citizens are encouraged to purchase one linear foot of greenway by donating the cost of construction. An excellent example of a successful endeavor is the High Point Greenway "Buy-a-Foot" campaign in High Point, North Carolina. Linear greenway "feet" were sold at a cost of \$25 per foot. Those who donated were given a greenway T-shirt and a certificate. This project provided an estimated \$5,000 in funds.

Fundraising

Local fundraising is a mechanism that has worked effectively in communities across the country. Although a strong local effort is involved, this mechanism typically generates a vast amount of support and publicity. Local businesses, organizations and private individuals can pledge funding over a specific period of time.

In most communities, a recreation and parks advisory board plays an active role in fundraising for their department. Pascagoula has a parks commission and its members should play a vital role in providing guidance, expertise, advocacy, political support, fundraising support and representation of the agency's constituents. One of the primary responsibilities of a commission is to assist in the development, acquisition and management of department resources.

Commission members can be more proactive by initiating a variety of fundraising tasks. These activities could include collaborating with the “Friends of Parks” groups to send direct mail letters, promoting sponsorship of programs and naming rights, seeking in-kind donations, hosting special events (e.g. golf tournaments, fundraiser dinners, events to honor volunteers, silent auctions and themed socials) and soliciting charitable donations of money and lands.

Naming Rights

Naming rights became prominent in the 1990s, when larger sports venues and cultural spaces were named after a company or individual. Some examples of successful naming ventures that are well-known today, include: Dick's Sporting Goods Park in Denver (home of the Colorado Rapids soccer team), the American Airlines Arena in Miami (home of the



Miami Heat NBA team), and the multi-purpose American Airlines Center in Dallas.

Public naming rights have been increasing due to tighter agency budgets. The main attraction of utilizing these ventures at public venues is the varied tiers of naming rights that can be allowed. For example, in a large sports complex, agencies can solicit naming rights for the entire facility for a prescribed amount of money name a locker room within the facility for a lesser fee.

Agencies are creative in selling not only spaces but also product placement within the department to generate new revenues. In 2002, Los Angeles, California, city lifeguards sported Izod swimsuits as the “official swimwear of the Los Angeles City Beach Lifeguards.” Similarly, the Skokie, Illinois, Park District collected \$150,000 annually from Pepsi for being the district’s “exclusive soft drink provider.”

Funding Recommendations Summary

Survey responses indicated the highest support for funding park and recreation facilities through the development of revenue generating facilities and through sponsorships of more tournaments that generate revenues by bringing visitors to the city. Currently, the only facility in the system that attracts visitors is the beach. The remaining facilities are in such poor condition that the city is unable to compete with other communities who have invested in their park system for tournament bids. Facility recommendations have factored in the desire to attract visitors to the city and, thus, allow the city to begin to capture increased tax dollars. To achieve this goal, the city will have to approve a bond program to fund capital projects. Several sources of funding have been recommended to assist in retiring the bond debt. They include the following:

Develop a fees and charges policy. As discussed in Section 5, the department should develop a fees and charges policy that can be applied to all programs they offer. The fees and charges policy shall clearly define the various levels of general funds that will be used to fund each type of program. Revenue generating goals can be set for individual programs as well as the Department as a whole. This should be a high priority for the Department and should be completed in the first six months of fiscal year 2012-13. Increasing self-generated revenues will play a vital role in increasing funding for the department; however, this is dependent upon providing adequate park facilities, as discussed in Section 7.

Specific fees that have been recommended include:

- Boat launch and parking fees
- Annual or daily park access fee
- Increased non-resident fees
- Higher user fees

Pass a prepared food tax. In addition to the aforementioned fees, there is a need for another major source of revenue. The city has initiated the process of establishing a

prepared food tax. The successful passage of this tax will have a great impact on funding capital projects for the department.

Increase excise taxes. The city should evaluate the current excise taxes on liquor, hotels and rental equipment and determine if the current tax is low compared to other coastal communities. If the taxes are too low, then the city should raise these taxes and fund capital projects with the proceeds.

Implement regulatory tools for mandatory parkland and greenway rights-of-way or easements in the zoning code. This is one of the few no cost options for the city and is a standard requirement in many communities across the country.

Build on existing partnerships. Building stronger relationships with current non-profit groups and other organizations could allow the Department to provide services through allied providers and save operational costs in the future. A good example is the Friends of Warner Parks in Nashville, Tennessee. This group just raised over \$3 million to buy additional land for Nashville's largest park.

Any agreements with these partners should be in writing in the form of intergovernmental agreements (IGA), memorandums of understanding (MOU), memorandums of agreement (MOA) or other similar written agreement formats to ensure that all parties understand their roles and responsibilities.

Seek grants and leverage existing funds as potential matches. Expand the level of grant writing that is done by the department. Grants have been and will continue to be a credible funding source for special projects and plans. Grants should not be sought as a primary revenue source, but as a supplement to the department and capital funding. The Parks and Recreation Department should work closely with the city's Transportation Department to pursue MDOT grant funds for sidewalks, trails and bike lanes.



THE CITY of

Pascagoula™
MISSISSIPPI'S FLAGSHIP CITY

Appendix

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Survey



March 27, 2012

Dear Pascagoula Resident:

In an effort to improve services and to guide the future development of park and recreation programs and facilities, Pascagoula Parks and Recreation Department has hired Lose & Associates, Inc. to conduct a ten-year comprehensive master plan. Based in Nashville, Tennessee, with an office located in Lawrenceville, Georgia, Lose & Associates is a landscape architecture, architecture, engineering and planning firm with a long history of recreation-related planning and design.

The comprehensive master plan will be the blueprint for Pascagoula Parks and Recreation Department for development of new parks, renovations of existing parks and for program offerings for the next ten years. A major component of this process is an extensive public input process, including this community survey. You have been chosen to participate in the survey, and *your participation in this survey is crucial in determining the future direction and goals of your city park system.* Each survey will be counted and will help to determine:

- **Improvements to existing parks**
- **Additions to the parks and recreation system**
- **Scheduling of sports and cultural activities for all age groups**
- **Guide the purchase of land for new parks and greenway trails**

Even if you do not currently participate in any parks programs or utilize the park system in any way, your survey will be important. We may find that the activities or the programs that would be attractive to you are just the ones that we need to add.

Please take a moment to fill out the enclosed questionnaire and **return it by April 30, 2012**, in the postage-paid, pre-addressed envelope provided. Thank you, in advance, for helping to make your city parks even better places to play, relax and enjoy.

Sincerely,

LOSE & ASSOCIATES, INC.



Chris Camp
President

1314 5th Avenue North, Suite 200 • Nashville, Tennessee 37208 • 615.242.0040 • 615.242.1405 fax
220 W. Crogan Street, Suite 100 • Lawrenceville, Georgia 30045 • 770.338.0017 • 770.338.0397 fax



3. How would you rate Pascagoula Parks and Recreation programs and activities? Circle one answer below.
 Consistently high quality; Consistently good; Quality varies with programs; Consistently Poor Quality

4. Overall, how well do you think the following facilities, programs and activities provided by Pascagoula Parks and Recreation are currently meeting the needs of the community? Please check appropriate response.

	Not Enough	Almost Enough	Enough	Too Many
Parks	_____	_____	_____	_____
Athletic Facilities	_____	_____	_____	_____
Trails/Greenways	_____	_____	_____	_____
Recreation Programs/Activities	_____	_____	_____	_____
Athletic Programs/Activities	_____	_____	_____	_____

5. Using the list below, indicate how often you take part in the following parks and recreation programs:

	1 Very Often	2 Often	3 Occasionally	4 Rarely	5 Never
--	-----------------	------------	-------------------	-------------	------------

- _____ Passive Park Usage - walking, picnicking, fishing, walking dogs, flying kites, relaxing with friends, bird watching
- _____ A Special Event - 5K Run/Walk, Bike Ride, Street Games, Main Street Event, Fireworks on 4th of July,
- _____ Individual Activity - tennis, dog park, basketball, walking trail, playground, instructional program, gardening, boating, going to the beach
- _____ Organized Group Activity - soccer, baseball, football, tennis, swimming, wellness program and classes
- _____ Senior Program - Bingo, cards, shooting pool, dancing, classes and wellness

6. For each of the parks listed below, please indicate how often you and or members of your household have visited in the past year.

Parks & Facilities	1-5 visits	6-11visits	12 or more visits	No visits this year	Not aware of this park
11 th Street Mini Park	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
12 th Street Recreation Complex	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Andrew Johnson Recreation Center	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Anola Club	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
BB Jennings Park	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Beach Park / Fishing Pier	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Chateau Lake	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Colmer Soccer Fields	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Delmas Park	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
IG Levy Memorial Park /North	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
IG Levy Memorial Park /South	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Inner Harbor	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ladner Road Boat Ramp	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Lighthouse Park	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Louise Street Park	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
MCC Park	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Jolly McCarthy Historic Depot	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Pascagoula Recreation Center	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Pascagoula Senior Center	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Pascagoula Soccer Complex	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Pat Wilson Park	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Pine Street Park	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
River Park / Ramp / Pier	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Spanish Fort Pier	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
The Point Park Ramp	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Youth Baseball Complex	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

7. Please indicate if any of the following prevent you and/or members of your household from using Pascagoula parks, facilities or trails? Please check all that apply.

- Inadequate transportation _____ Not interested in recreation _____ Lack of money _____
- Not aware of facilities available _____ Poor maintenance of facilities _____ Lack of time _____
- Accessibility concerns (architectural, wheelchair access) _____
- Belong to private organization that meets my recreation needs _____
- Lack of amenities – please explain _____

8. Listed below are some projects which Pascagoula Parks and Recreation may consider funding. Please rank the following projects based on need. Check on level of need per project.

	Much Needed	Somewhat Needed	Uncertain	Probably Not Needed	Definitely Not Needed	Ranking
Provide a tennis professional at IG Levy	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Provide lighting at soccer complex	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Provide more programs/classes	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Provide more events (example: festivals)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Provide a large outdoor amphitheater	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Provide more parking at parks & boating ramps	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Renovate facilities and restrooms	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Rebuild and add more fishing piers	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Develop a new combined youth baseball/ Softball complex	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Develop waterpark / swimming pool aquatics facility	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Develop additional tennis courts	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Develop a dog park	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Develop off-road paved trails for running, walking and bikes	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Provide a concession facility with ice & bait at Point Park	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Provide more parks adjacent to Pascagoula River	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Expand Beach Park and beach parking	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Develop larger/improved public marina	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Develop boat fuel facility at Point Park	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Develop new multi-purpose recreation and community center	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Develop a performing arts center	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Develop youth football complex	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Relating to the list of projects, which projects do you consider being a top five priority? Please write 1st through 5th in the ranking column.

9. If the City were to build a multi-purpose community center, which of the components listed below should be included? Please check all components you want included.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large Banquette Hall | <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor Aquatics / Pool | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gymnasium | <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee Bar | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Aquatics/Waterpark with slides, splash features, etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor Walking Track | <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Arts Area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Performance Hall | <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Rooms | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Racquet Ball | | |

10. Please indicate below the use patterns that pertain to you and or your family.

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Use Pattern | Yes | No |
| I do not use PPRD parks | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I do use PPRD parks | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I use PPRD parks with my family | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Use Pattern | Yes | No |
| I use PPRD parks with my grandkids | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I use PPRD parks with friends | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I use PPRD parks by myself | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



11. Do you travel outside Pascagoula to use parks and recreation facilities? Yes () No ()

Please indicate where you travel.

Facilities in Gautier Yes () No ()

Facilities in Moss Point Yes () No ()

Other municipal or county facilities in Mississippi Yes () No ()

If you answered yes, please check the factors that influence your decision to use these other facilities:

- They are closer to my residence
- They offer facilities and/or programs that are not available in Pascagoula parks
- They offer better quality facilities
- I feel safer in their parks
- Other:

Which parks do you use in other communities? _____

12. How far would you be willing to walk, drive or ride a bike to parks and recreation facilities if safe multi-use trails, sidewalks and on road bicycle lanes were provided throughout the City? (Check ONE choice per category)

- | Walk | Drive | Ride a Bike |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Would not walk | <input type="checkbox"/> Would not drive | <input type="checkbox"/> Would not bike |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Up to 2 miles | <input type="checkbox"/> Under 15 minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> Up to 2 miles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2-5 miles | <input type="checkbox"/> 15-30 minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> 2-5 miles |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 30-45 minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> 5-10 miles |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 45+ minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> 10+ miles |

13. Do you use recreation facilities offered by a church or other private providers? Yes () No () If yes, check providers

- Church Health Plex Boys and Girls Club Military Private Pascagoula Yacht Club
- Pascagoula Country Club

If you answered yes, please check the factors that influence your decision to use these other facilities:

- They are closer to my residence
- They offer facilities that are not available in Pascagoula
- They offer better quality facilities
- Their programs are better operated than public recreation programs
- Other

14. Would you support the development of greenways with multi-use trails for pedestrians and bicyclists to connect parks, schools and neighborhood facilities throughout the City and along the waterfront? () Yes () No

15. Would you like the City to invest more money on boating and waterfront facilities including parks, marina and trails?

Yes () No ()

16. Which method of funding for park land acquisition, greenway and park facility renovation and development would you prefer?

- Increase prepared food tax and dedicate funding new park construction
- Borrow money to make necessary improvements and pay back over a 20- or 25-year period.
- Increase current millage rate to fund capital projects and increase programming on a pay as you go approach.
- Combine borrowed funds with millage fund increase to construct a few large facilities quickly and add smaller facilities to the system over time.
- Increase lodging tax to support larger park facilities that will draw non-residents to Pascagoula for special events and tournaments.
- Build more facilities that generate revenue
- I do not support any increase in funding.

17. In order to generate needed revenue to improve park maintenance and recreation programs offered in Pascagoula, please indicate all options that you would support for increasing funding for parks:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charge parking fees in parks | <input type="checkbox"/> Build more facilities that generate revenue, such as a tournament facility, community center, marina |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charge an annual park user fee per household | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor more tournaments and special events that generate sales tax and hotel tax dollars |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase rental fees for park facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase program user fees | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charge non-city residents higher fees | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charge boat launching fees | |

18. How much would you be willing to spend per month per household to support improved park maintenance and recreation services? (Check ONE)

- \$15 or less \$16-\$25 \$26-\$50 \$51-\$75 More than \$75 None

19. Please indicate with the appropriate number if you (1) agree, (2) disagree or (3) do not know about the following statements:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertisements about upcoming events and programs are adequate. | <input type="checkbox"/> The City should build a performing arts facility. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation facilities and parks are well maintained. | <input type="checkbox"/> The City should build a multi-purpose community center. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks are well distributed throughout the city. | <input type="checkbox"/> Compared to other priorities (public safety, streets, utilities, schools), parks and recreation is important to a community. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional sport fields are needed. | <input type="checkbox"/> I am able to contact parks and recreation officials for information easily. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional meeting/program space is needed. | <input type="checkbox"/> I feel safe when visiting a park or recreation facility. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Existing facilities need to be renovated. | <input type="checkbox"/> I feel that I have good access to a park. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports leagues are well organized. | <input type="checkbox"/> I understand the role of Pascagoula Parks and Recreation Department for our community. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation programs and activities are reasonably priced. | <input type="checkbox"/> I am willing to be a volunteer for recreation programs. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Pascagoula Parks and Recreation Department maintains a good image in the community. | <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to be part of the Friends of Park Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation facilities and parks are well supervised. | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation activities and programs are well supervised. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The City should invest more in boating and waterfront park facilities. | |

20. Please indicate which of the following ways you *currently* as well as *prefer* to get information about Pascagoula Parks and Recreation Department events and programs?

	<u>Currently</u>	<u>Prefer</u>
PPRD Website	()	()
PPRD flyers	()	()
Direct Mail Pieces	()	()
Banner Signs in Parks	()	()
Local Newspapers	()	()
Local Television Channels	()	()
Local Radio Stations' Announcements	()	()
Facebook, Twitter or other social media	()	()
City Schools (flyers, e-newsletter, play guide, etc.)	()	()
Email	()	()
Text Messages	()	()
Word of Mouth	()	()
Other: (Please describe) _____		

21. Do you feel current marketing efforts by the Pascagoula Parks and Recreation Department keeps you and your family informed on the recreation program opportunities?

Yes ___ or No ___

22. Would you like to receive a monthly or quarterly newsletter via email to inform you and your family of upcoming programs and special events?

Monthly Yes ___ or No ___ Quarterly Yes ___ or No ___



23. Would you assist with a community garden that raises produce for local food pantries or help teach children how to raise a vegetable garden?
Yes ___ or No ___

24. How long have you lived in Pascagoula?
 0 – 5 Years Over 20 Years
 6 – 10 Years
 11 – 20 Years

25. Please indicate your gender and age: Male Female
 14 and Under 25-34 45-54 65-74
 15 -24 35-44 55-64 75+

26. Which of the following best describes your household?
 Single Couple with children
 Couple with no children Couple with children but they do not live at household
 Single-parent household with children Other: _____

If you have children at home, how many children do you have in each of the following age groups?
_____ Under 5 years of age _____ 5 to 11 years of age _____ 12 to 19 years of age

27. What is your total annual household income?
 Under \$20,000
 \$20,000 - \$34,999
 \$35,000 - \$49,999
 \$50,000 - \$74,999
 \$75,000 - \$99,999
 Over \$100,000

28. Please check your correct housing status.
 Home Owner Renter

End of Survey

Example Agreement for Grant Easement for Greenway Conservation

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this the _____ day of _____, 2001, by and between **The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County**, acting by and through its Board of Parks and Recreation (herein referred to as "Metro"), and **The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County**, acting by and through the Water Services Department, property owner (herein referred to as Grantor).

WHEREAS, Metro recognizes the increasing benefit of protecting open spaces within the Metropolitan Government area; and

WHEREAS, greenways provide the general public with recreational opportunities in natural areas, preserve, and protect native plant and animal species and their habitat, and provide low-impact transportation routes for pedestrian and bicycle traffic; and

WHEREAS, Metro, by Ordinance No. 091-13, created a Greenways Commission to assist Metro in the development of a system of open space greenways; and

WHEREAS, Grantor is the sole owner in fee simple of certain real property in Davidson County, Tennessee, more particularly described in Exhibit A, Exhibit B, Exhibit C and Exhibit D attached hereto and incorporated by this reference (herein referred to as "the Property"); and

WHEREAS, the Property possesses natural, open space, and recreational values (collectively, "conservation values") of great importance to Grantor and the people of Nashville and Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, Grantor intends that the conservation values of the Property be preserved and made more accessible for public enjoyment by the anticipated incorporation and maintenance of the property as part of the Metro greenways system; and

WHEREAS, Grantor further intends, as owner of the Property, to convey to Metro the right to preserve and protect the conservation values of the Property in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, Metro has the authority to accept this grant pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 66-9-305(d), and Section 11.1002 of the Metropolitan Charter; and

WHEREAS, Metro agrees by accepting this grant to honor the intentions of Grantor stated herein, and to preserve and protect, in perpetuity, the conservation values of the Property for the benefit of the people of Tennessee and the public-at-large.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the above and the mutual covenants, terms, conditions, and restrictions contained herein, Grantor hereby voluntarily grants and conveys to Metro, its successors and assigns, an easement in perpetuity over the Property of the Grantor (herein referred to as "the Easement") to be located as more particularly shown on Exhibit A and Exhibit B attached hereto and incorporated by this reference.

1. Purpose. It is the purpose of this grant to allow Metro to utilize the Easement area for one or more of the following: a pathway for pedestrian or bicycle travel, nature trail, and/or natural area. Metro, at its discretion, shall design, construct, and maintain any pathway or physical structure in a manner that best preserves the open and natural condition of the Property. It is the intention of the parties hereby expressed that the granting of the Easement will not significantly interfere with the conservation values of the Property. Grantor



intends that the Easement will confine the use of the Property to such activities as are consistent with the purpose of the Easement.

2. Rights of Metro. To accomplish the purpose of the Easement, the following rights are conveyed to Metro by this grant:

- a. To preserve and protect the conservation values of the Property; and
- b. To construct and maintain a pathway to be located on the Easement, including, at the discretion of Metro, necessary trailheads, signage, benches, and other improvements consistent with the recreational and educational uses of the pathway and other conservation values; and
- c. To prevent any activity on or use of the Property that is inconsistent with the purpose of the Easement and to require the restoration of such areas or features of the Property that may be damaged by any inconsistent activity or use.

3. Metro Covenants. Metro, by accepting this grant, covenants and agrees, on behalf of itself, its successors and assigns, that the following shall constitute real covenants that shall attach to and run with the easement hereby granted and shall be binding upon anyone who may hereafter come into ownership of such Easement, whether by purchase, devise, descent, or succession, or to be authorized to use said Easement area:

- a. It will make the Easement area available for use by all members of the general public without distinction or illegal discrimination on the grounds of race, color, national origin, handicap, or age.
- b. It will adopt rules and regulations governing the use of the Easement area so as not to permit or suffer any use of the Easement by Grantor or others in violation of such rules and regulations. At a minimum, the rules and regulations will provide as follows:
 - i. That the hours of public access of the Easement shall be from sunrise to sunset.
 - ii. That all persons utilizing the Easement area must remain on the pathway.
 - iii. That all pets of persons utilizing the pathway must be on a leash at all times.
 - iv. That the following activities shall be strictly prohibited:
 1. consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages;
 2. horseback riding;
 3. unauthorized motor vehicles;
 4. collecting or distributing plants, animals or other natural features;
 5. littering or dumping;
 6. possession of firearms, weapons or projected objects;
 7. playing of radios, musical instruments or other devices in a manner that might disturb others;
 8. vending or other concessions without proper permits;
 9. advertising or posting of bills;
 10. trespassing on adjacent property of Grantor.

4. Other Prohibited Uses. Any activity on or use of the Property inconsistent with the purpose of the Easement is prohibited. The aforementioned express prohibitions shall not limit the generality of this paragraph.

5. Reserved Rights. Grantor reserves to itself, and to its personal representatives, heirs, successors, and assigns, all rights accruing from their ownership of the Property, including the right to engage in or permit or invite others to engage in all uses of the Property that are not expressly prohibited herein and are

not inconsistent with the purpose of the Easement. Further, Grantor reserves the right to maintain the subject property consistent with the purposes herein set forth and will maintain it in accordance with all local laws until improvements are made by Metro.

6. Metro's Remedies. If Metro determines that Grantor is in violation of the terms of this Agreement or that a violation is threatened, Metro shall give written notice to Grantor of such violation and demand corrective action sufficient to cure the violation and, where the violation involves injury to the Property resulting from any use or activity inconsistent with the purpose of the Easement, to restore the portion of the Property so injured. If Grantor fails to cure the violation within thirty (30) days after receipt of notice thereof from Metro or, under circumstances where the violation cannot reasonably be cured within a thirty (30) day period, fails to continue diligently to cure such violation until finally cured, Metro may bring an action in a court of competent jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Agreement to enjoin the violation by temporary or permanent injunction, and to recover any damages to which it may be entitled for violation of the terms of this Agreement or for injury to any conservation values protected by the Easement, including damages for the loss of scenic, aesthetic, or environmental values, and to require the restoration of the Property to the condition that existed prior to any such injury. If Metro, in its sole discretion, determines that circumstances require immediate action to prevent or mitigate significant damage to the conservation values of the Property, Metro may pursue its remedies under this paragraph without prior notice to Grantor or without waiting for the expiration of the period provided for cure. Metro's rights under this paragraph apply equally in the event of either actual or threatened violations of the terms of this Agreement. Metro's remedies described in this paragraph shall be cumulative and shall be in addition to all remedies now or hereafter existing at law or in equity.

7. Metro's Discretion. Enforcement of the terms of this Agreement shall be at the discretion of Metro, and any forbearance by Metro to exercise its rights under this Agreement in the event of any breach of any terms of this Agreement by Grantor shall not be deemed or construed to be a waiver by Metro of such term, or of any subsequent breach of the same, or any other term of this Agreement, or of any of Metro's rights under this Agreement. No delay or omission by Metro in the exercise of any right or remedy upon any breach by Grantor shall impair such right or remedy or be construed as a waiver.

8. Waiver of Certain Defenses. Grantor hereby waives any defense of laches, estoppel, or prescription.

9. Acts Beyond Grantor's Control. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed to entitle Metro to bring any action against Grantor for any injury to or change in the Property resulting from causes beyond Grantor's control, including, without limitation, fire, flood, storm, and earth movement, or from any prudent action taken by Grantor under emergency conditions to prevent, abate, or mitigate significant injury to the Property resulting from such causes.

10. Amendment. If circumstances arise under which an amendment to or modification of this Agreement is appropriate, the Grantor, or the then current owner of the Property, and Metro are free to jointly amend this Agreement without prior notice to any other party; provided that any amendment shall be in writing; shall be consistent with the purpose of the Easement; shall not affect its perpetual duration; and shall have the unanimous consent of the Metro Greenways Commission.

11. Extinguishment. If circumstances arise in the future that render the purpose of the Easement impossible to accomplish, the Easement can only be terminated or extinguished, whether in whole or in part, by judicial proceedings in a court of competent jurisdiction.



12. Assignment. The Easement is transferable, but Metro may assign its rights and obligations under this Agreement only to an organization that is a qualified organization at the time of transfer under Section 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, and the applicable regulations promulgated thereunder and authorized to acquire and hold conservation easements. As a condition of such transfer, Metro shall require that the conservation purposes which this grant is intended to advance continue to be carried out.

13. Subsequent Transfers. Grantor agrees to incorporate the terms of this Agreement in any deed or other legal instrument by which it divests itself of any interest in all or a portion of the Property, including, without limitation, a leasehold interest. Grantor further agrees to give written notice to Metro of the transfer of any interest at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of such transfer. The failure of Grantor to perform any act required by this paragraph shall not impair the validity of the Easement or limit its enforceability in any way.

14. General Provisions.

a. Controlling Law. The interpretation and performance of this Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Tennessee.

b. Liberal Construction. Any general rule of construction to the contrary notwithstanding, this Agreement shall be liberally construed in favor of the grant to effect the purpose of the Easement and the policy and purpose of Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 66-9-301 to 309. If any provision in this instrument is found to be ambiguous, an interpretation consistent with the purpose of the Easement that would render the provision valid shall be favored over any interpretation that would render it invalid.

c. Severability. If any provision of this Agreement, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is found to be invalid, the remainder of the provisions of this Agreement, or the application of such provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is found to be invalid, shall not be affected thereby.

d. Entire Agreement. This instrument sets forth the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the Easement and supersedes all prior discussions, negotiations, understandings, or agreements relating to the Easement, all of which are merged herein. No alteration or variation of this instrument shall be valid or binding unless contained in an amendment that complies with paragraph ten (10).

e. Successors. The covenants, terms, conditions, and restrictions of this Agreement shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the parties hereto and their respective personal representatives, heirs, successors, and assigns, and shall continue as a servitude running in perpetuity with the Property.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said Easement unto Metro, its successors, and assigns, forever.

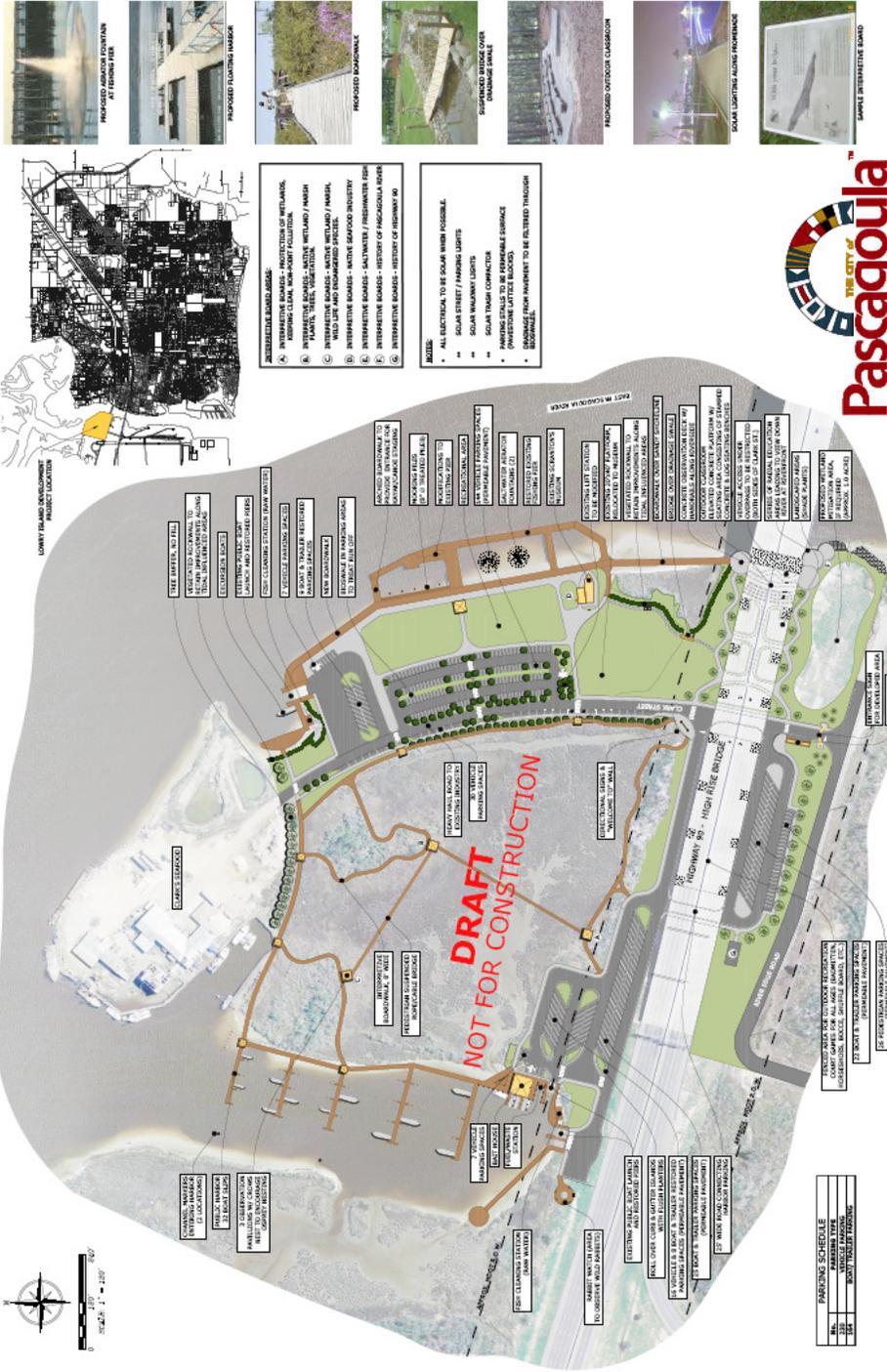
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have caused this instrument to be executed as of this _____ day of _____, 2001.

GRANTOR:

ACCEPTED:
THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF
NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

DIRECTOR, PARKS AND RECREATION

Preliminary Master Plan for Lowry Island Development - Revision 2



PREPARED BY:
COMPTON ENGINEERING, INC.
Engineering, Surveying, and Environmental Services

**PRELIMINARY MASTER PLAN FOR
LOWRY ISLAND DEVELOPMENT - REVISION 2**



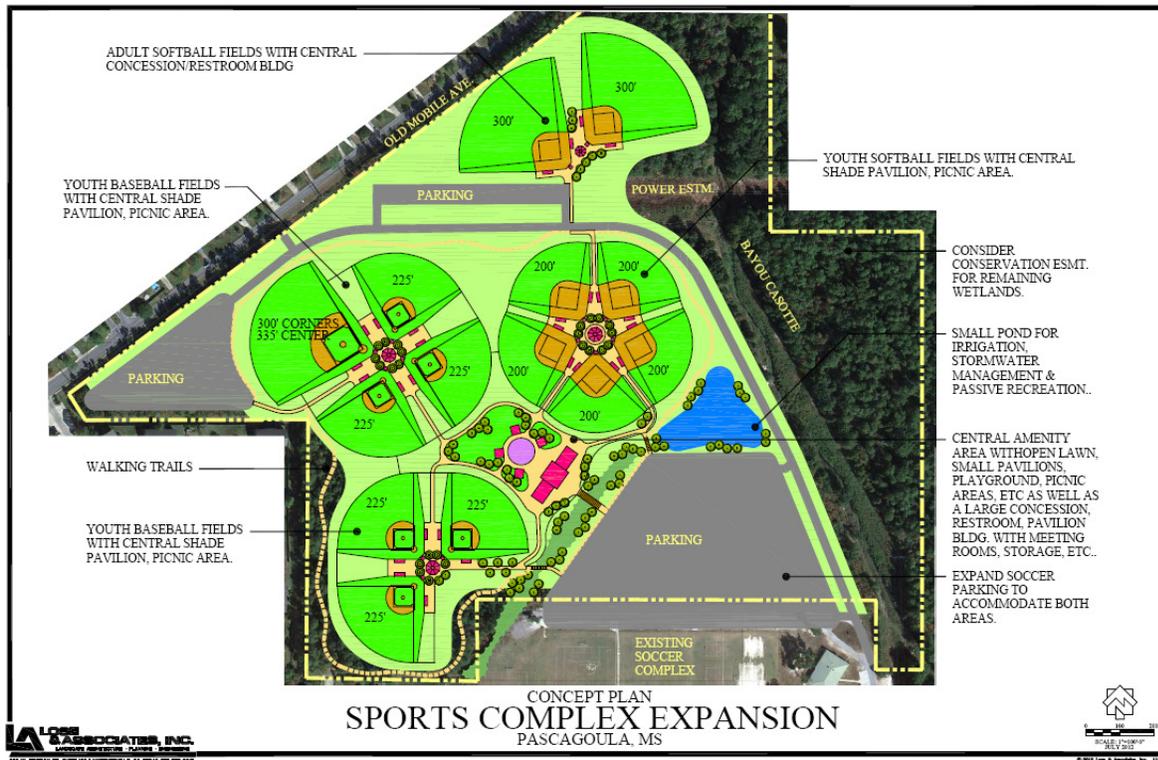
Concept Plan - Point Park



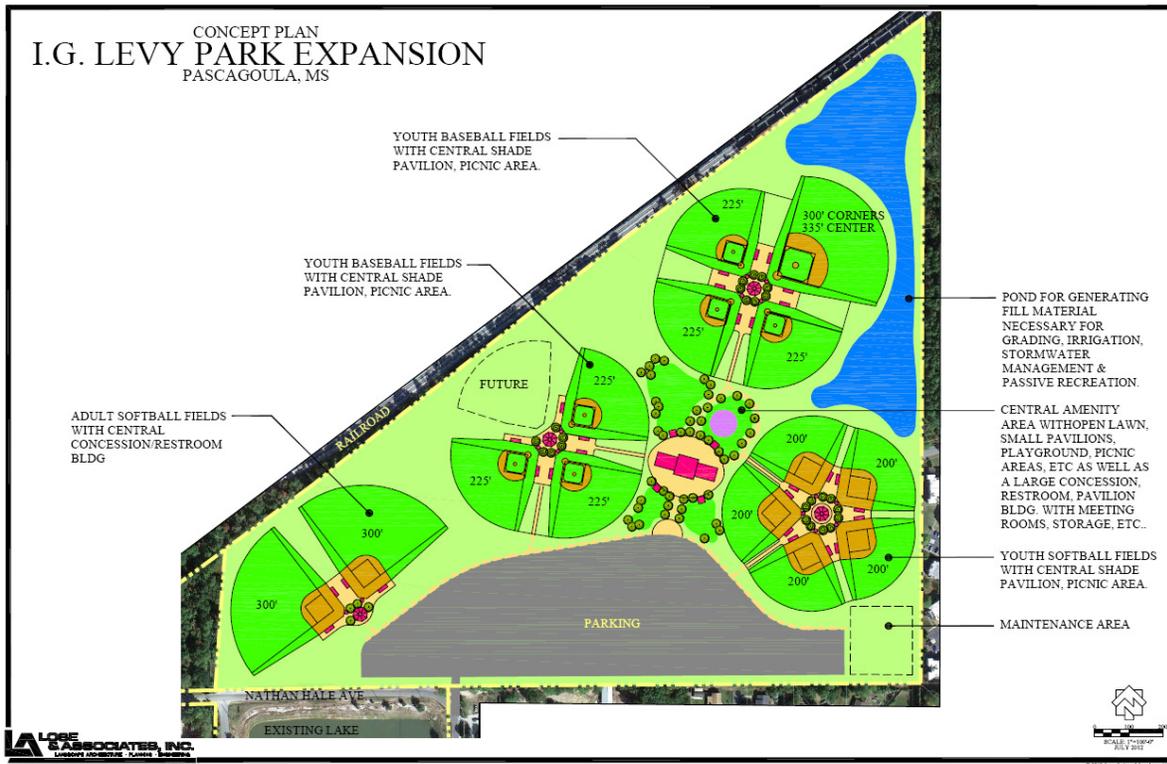
Concept Plan - Community Performing Arts



Concept Plan - Sports Complex Expansion



Concept Plan - I.G. Levy Park Expansion



Concept Plan - Pier Park Development



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