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RECREATION & OPEN SPACE / FLORIDA -- SHELF

C

parks and open spaces

TAMPA BAY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

TAMPA BAY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

1969

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abstract

TITLE: Parks and Open Spaces Plan For the Tampa Bay Region

AUTHOR: Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

SUBJECT: Inventory of Existing Facilities
Analysis of Adequacy of Region Serving Parks and Open Spaces
Short-Range Program of Development of Region Serving Parks and Open Spaces
Long-Range Comprehensive Plan for Outdoor Recreational Use and Open Spaces

DATE: November, 1968

LOCAL PLANNING AGENCIES: Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
Hillsborough County Planning Commission
Manatee County Planning Department
Pinellas County Planning Department
St. Petersburg Planning Department
Clearwater Planning Department
Sarasota County Planning Department
City of Sarasota Planning Department

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HUD PROJECT NO.: UPA Fla. P-62

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ABSTRACT: This report examines the demands for region serving park and open space facilities in the Tampa Bay Region. Through analysis of existing demand, computation of standards, and determination of the adequacy of present recreational parks and open-spaces, it was possible to project potential demands for regional recreation to the years 1975 and 1985.

Analysis of existing region serving parks and open spaces revealed recreation to be a heavy generator of economic activity in the region. Both residents and tourists depend largely upon the climate and resource amenities of this area for pleasure or profit. Thus, for the four counties to maintain their full development potential, recreational parks and open spaces should continue to satisfy the demands placed upon them. Presently, despite inadequacies in freshwater facilities, boating access sites, and camping, existing parks and open spaces meet regional demands. Projection of future demand

(both tourist and resident), however, indicates that existing facilities will be woefully inadequate by 1975.

The projection of recreational demand for 1975 and 1985 disclosed the activities for which demand will be greatest, and the facilities and acreages necessary to meet this demand. The movement of urban development will bring a much greater need for recreation, and at the same time overtake a great deal of land suitable for use as parks or open spaces.

Thus, the primary purpose of this plan was to focus attention on the need for a short range program of acquisition to meet long range development demands. In this way a suitable base for future recreational parks and open spaces can be developed and the continued success of recreation in the region insured.

Florida And The Tampa Bay Region

THE PREPARATION OF THIS MAP WAS FINANCIALLY AIDED THROUGH A FEDERAL GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, UNDER THE URBAN PLANNING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 701 OF THE HOUSING ACT OF 1954, AS AMENDED

SUMMARY REPORT NUMBER SIX

parks and open spaces

TAMPA BAY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

NOVEMBER, 1968

THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT WAS FINANCIALLY AIDED THROUGH A FEDERAL GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, UNDER THE URBAN PLANNING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 701 OF THE HOUSING ACT OF 1954, AS AMENDED.

The following report is one of a series of eleven summary reports covering regional planning studies undertaken by the Council as part of our efforts to prepare a Preliminary Regional Development Plan. From the outset, our Council members and staff recognized the urgent need to develop within a relatively short time a sound and workable set of plans to guide regional decision making. Because of rapid growth and urbanization of our area and the increasing complexity of attendant problems, we had decided to prepare a preliminary or "sketch" plan during this year. This approach was greatly facilitated by making extensive use of existing data and study materials developed by the region's many local planning agencies.

As general statements of regional development policies, the sketch plan will enable the Council to deal with the more obvious and pressing issues facing the social, economic, and environmental well-being of our area. The sketch plan and its component plan elements will be progressively refined through more detailed studies. During the interim, the sketch plan will be discussed among local officials and citizens. As the Council's program advances and as the Region's goals come into clearer focus, alternate plans will be developed and tested. Through this procedure, the Council will be able to achieve a Comprehensive Regional Plan by 1972.

This report is a summary of one phase of our research and planning work. The reader who seeks additional, more technical information may wish to visit the Council's offices, where supporting documentation is available for inspection.

Bill Overton

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1 ...introduction

The estimated population growth in the Tampa Bay Region leaves little doubt that a concentrated effort is now required to increase the availability of a balanced recreation system for tomorrow's residents and visitors at minimum in similar proportion to today's facilities. By 1985, the total resident population of Pinellas, Hillsborough, Sarasota, and Manatee Counties is expected to reach 3,064,978; with approximately eight million tourists visiting the region annually. Although the problems of maintaining satisfactory recreational parks and open spaces are common to many areas, the unique socio-economic structure of the Tampa Bay Region makes the impact of these problems much more significant. A great deal of this lies in the fact that Florida has become synonymous with outdoor recreation. Consequently, the problem of providing parks and open spaces in the Tampa Bay Region must be attacked with two thoughts in mind: First, providing for a rapidly increasing resident population that has come to expect easy access to unique recreational opportunities; second, maintaining facilities to meet the demands of the huge tourist industry which is of such great importance to the Region's economy.

Today's recreation facilities are even now hardly adequate to serve the needs of today's population. In particular, there is a shortage of well distributed beach and shoreline recreation areas, as this report will show. Opportunities now still open may be lost forever if immediate action is not taken.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

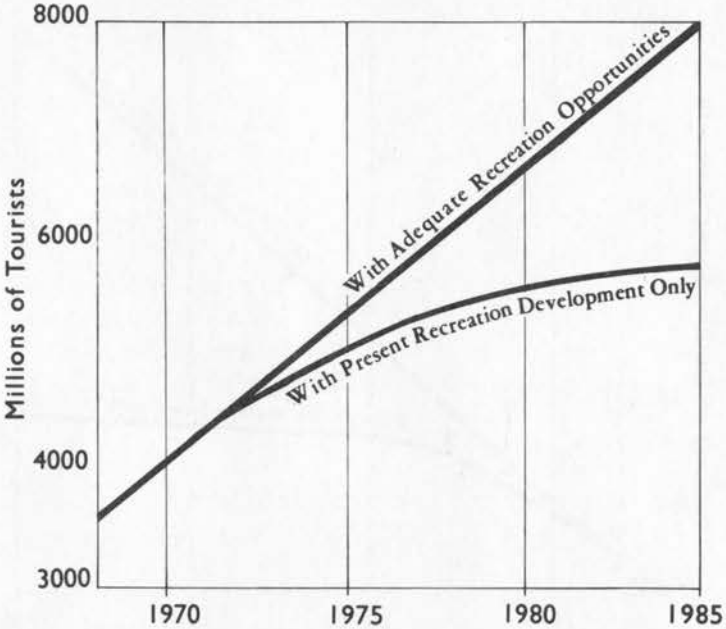
The economy of the region revolves basically around the climate and resource amenities, and the desire of large numbers of people to take advantage of these resources. The tourist industry initially generates a large demand for service oriented business. This has created a spiral of growth resulting in a larger population, industrial diversification, and an increasing awareness of the advantages of a Tampa Bay location. At the core of this economic spiral lies the desire to experience the natural resources common to this area.

The region owes much of its economic progress to the parks and open spaces which are enjoyed, to a great extent, all year round. Satisfaction with the environment has meant a great deal to this area, and any decrease in this satisfaction will be detrimental to the growth potential of the entire region. In the future, recreation will come to mean more and more to the average American. He will be drawn to those places which offer not only adequate employment, but also opportunity to enjoy increasing leisure time, higher incomes, and longer vacation periods. For an area such as the Tampa Bay Region, taking advantage of the natural resources is the most efficient means of recognizing full economic and cultural potential.

As the population and economy continue to spiral, rapid urbanization will take place throughout much of the region. Administering sufficient guidance to maintain adequate recreational and open space lands in the face of such urban dispersion has been a problem throughout the United States. Since the expected pattern of growth in the Tampa Bay Region can overwhelm many areas with a high potential for parks, open space, or other recreational uses, the four counties are in danger of losing resources that make them highly desirable places in which to live and to visit.

The dependence of the Tampa Bay Region upon tourism as a major economic generator is reflected in the income and employment resulting from tourist trade. In terms of money flow into the region, the average tourist spent over $255.00 per vacation period in 1968. This amounts to an annual cash in-flow of more than $850 million

Figure 1.1 Future Annual Number of Tourists Versus Recreation Opportunities Provided 1968-1985 Tampa Bay Region



Source: Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, 1968

dollars. By 1985, the number of residents involved in tourist related employment will increase by 250 per cent over the 1963 total. If overall economic development is to progress evenly in the future, each particular segment of the economy must maintain a consistent growth pattern. Thus, the economic significance of continued satisfaction with park and open space facilities in the Tampa Bay Region cannot be exaggerated. Lack of progress within the tourist oriented segment of the economy will have drastic effects on the entire regional economy. It should also be remembered that competition from other parts of the state will continue to increase, particularly after the completion of Disneyworld in Central Florida.

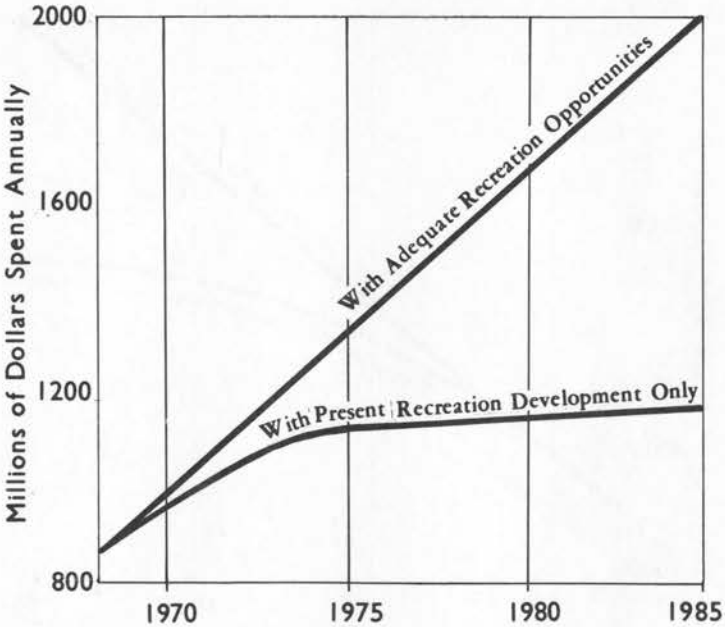
If parks and open space development is allowed to remain static, stagnation of a major regional employment and income generator will take place. Presently this leaves two choices: 1) maintaining adequate recreational facilities, with subsequent losses for both tourists and residents; 2) providing those areas necessary to meet recreational demand and to create an atmosphere favorable to the overall development of the region. Progress toward the latter goal must begin now. By 1975 existing region serving parks and open spaces will be totally inadequate, leaving only the former choice to tend with. Failure to realize the consequences of not providing

facilities to meet recreational demands could result in an actual money loss to the region approaching 1 billion dollars annually by 1985.

Figure 1.1 shows both the projection of tourists entering the region annually by 1985, assuming adequate facilities, and the possible number entering the region if facilities do not meet demand. Figures 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4, present projections of the dollars spent by tourists, employment generated by tourist services, and income derived from tourist oriented employment to 1985. These figures show projections based upon the existence of facilities adequate to meet demand, and the possible result of inadequate facilities. Failure to provide adequate facilities to meet projected 1985 demands will result in a chronic over-crowding of all region serving park and open space facilities. Thus, the only means of maintaining a completely satisfactory system for regional recreation is by total awareness of future regional needs and willingness to provide for these needs.

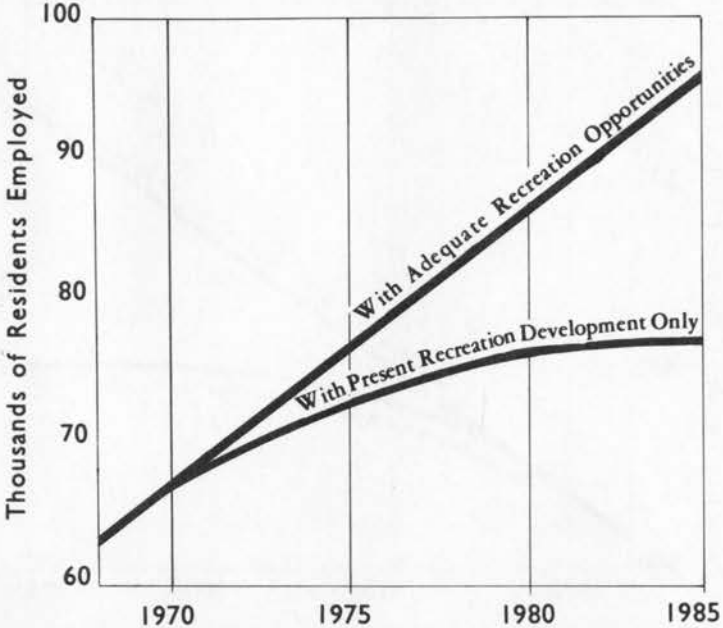
Existing region serving parks and open spaces offer total acreage sufficient to meet current demands of both tourists and residents. However, poor regional distribution of parks and inadequate provision for certain key activities makes such an evaluation of little use in analyz-

Figure 1.2 Future Annual Tourist Spending Versus Recreation Opportunities Provided Tampa Bay Region 1968-1985



Source: Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, 1968

Figure 1.3 Future Tourists Serving Employment Versus Recreation Opportunities Provided 1968-1985 Tampa Bay Region

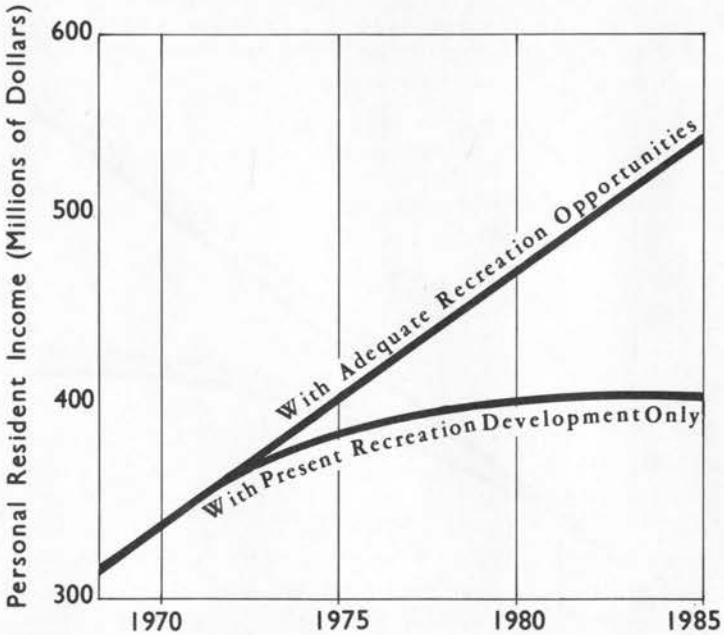


Source: Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, 1968

ing the adequacy of regional recreation. The impact of these inadequacies significantly lessens the overall status of regional parks and open spaces. The very existence of inadequacies implies that there is a definite need for concentration in these areas before the deficiencies become so pronounced as to detract from the overall recreational potential of the region.

A preliminary examination of projected population and economic growth facing the Tampa Bay Region reveals that by 1985 recreational needs will have tripled those of 1968. This overall demand will be due to significant increases in leisure time, income, and length of vacation periods, as well as the larger population. Coupled with the fact that a number of 1968 needs have not been met, recreation could face a dismal future in the region without proper action.

Figure 1.4 Future Annual Personal Income from Tourist Serving Employment 1968-1985 Tampa Bay Region



Source: Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, 1968

OBJECTIVES

Through comprehensive planning, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council seeks to prevent the loss of valuable potential park and open space lands to the rapid urban development which is covering the region. Accordingly, this study contains:

- An analysis of the adequacy of major outdoor recreational lands and facilities.
- A short-range program for development.
- A long-range, comprehensive plan for recreational use and open space.

(The study analysis was limited to outdoor, active participation recreation, and did not include indoor activities, spectator sports, or any other passive activity). In view of the above, as well as maintaining consistency with acknowledged provisions for maintenance of regional parks and open space, the acquisition and development objectives of this plan are:

- Short Range Acquisition to provide land for long range open space and recreational development.

  Because of increasing urbanization, the availability of land will diminish appreciably after the year 1975. To avoid the loss of potential recreational lands it is necessary that significant acquisition of property take place during the short-range period in order to provide for long range demands. Such a program of acquisition is imperative both to supply needed recreational lands and guide the path of urban dispersion.

- Equal Opportunity for open space and recreation participation by both tourist and resident populations.

  As in other parts of Florida, the socio-economic structure of the region necessitates the provision of park and open space facilities to meet the demands of both tourists and residents. Inadequate provisions for either population would severely damage the economic and cultural appeal of the Tampa Bay Region.

- Multi-Use of Scarce Open Space to preserve both the environment and public investment.

  Making efficient use of public investment is one of the most important aspects of providing recreational parks and open space. Purchase and development of areas suitable for multi-use development takes utmost advantage of available acreage while at the same time insuring that the monetary commitment has the greatest possible effect on regional recreation.

- Guide the Pattern of Urban Growth

  Uncontrolled urban sprawl is a definite threat to the appearance of the Tampa Bay Region. Effective guidance of urban dispersion can provide valuable recreational facilities within the areas of most intensive urbanization as well as guide the pattern of development into a more satisfying environment. Such guidance should be a cooperative effort between the various legislative bodies concerned with the environmental well-being of the Region.

2 ...conclusions

The process for achieving the prescribed objectives involved an analysis of present adequacy and projection of future demand (1975 and 1985). By this method it was possible to draw conclusions concerning short and long-range needs, and arrive at a program to satisfy both.

Demands for all types of recreation will increase sharply by 1985 merely as a result of the increased population. The major inadequacies, however, were found to occur when increased population was coupled with shifts in demand. During the next two decades the Tampa Bay Region's residents and visitors will experience a shorter work week and longer vacation periods. Thus, leisure time, and what to do with it, will be of ever increasing importance to the average citizen. In addition, the average per capita income will become greater as the work week decreases. These changes will bring about upward shifts in demand for certain activities, and render a strong influence upon the recreational needs of the region. Population forecasts indicate that those age groups to which leisure time is more readily available (15 - 24.9 years of age . . . 65+ years of age) will increase significantly in relation to other age groups.

Preparation to cope with these expected demand shifts and population increases must begin now. What is accomplished in the short run will determine the success of any long range parks and open space plan for the Tampa Bay Region.

1975 REQUIREMENTS

Primary consideration for the year 1975 should be given to beach acquisition; boating access sites; camping sites; development of freshwater recreation facilities, and provision for access to natural scenery. In view of the projected urbanization and development of the Tampa Bay Region these activities and facilities were found to be either in greatest demand or in the most danger of being harmed by urban dispersion. Although priority activities and facilities should be of greatest concern, steps should also be taken to meet the increased demand for all other recreational facilities. If the projected needs for 1975 are not met, existing beach acreage will be totally inadequate, recreational waterways will become overcrowded, existing campsites will not meet demand, and accessible natural scenery will be available only to a minority of the residents and visitors.

The fact must be emphasized that short range acquisition through 1975 should provide sufficient acreage to meet a significant portion of the 1985 demand. Failure to make adequate provision for short range acquisition could lead to either the loss of valuable recreational lands to alternative development or increases in land values to such an extent that public purchase would not be feasible.

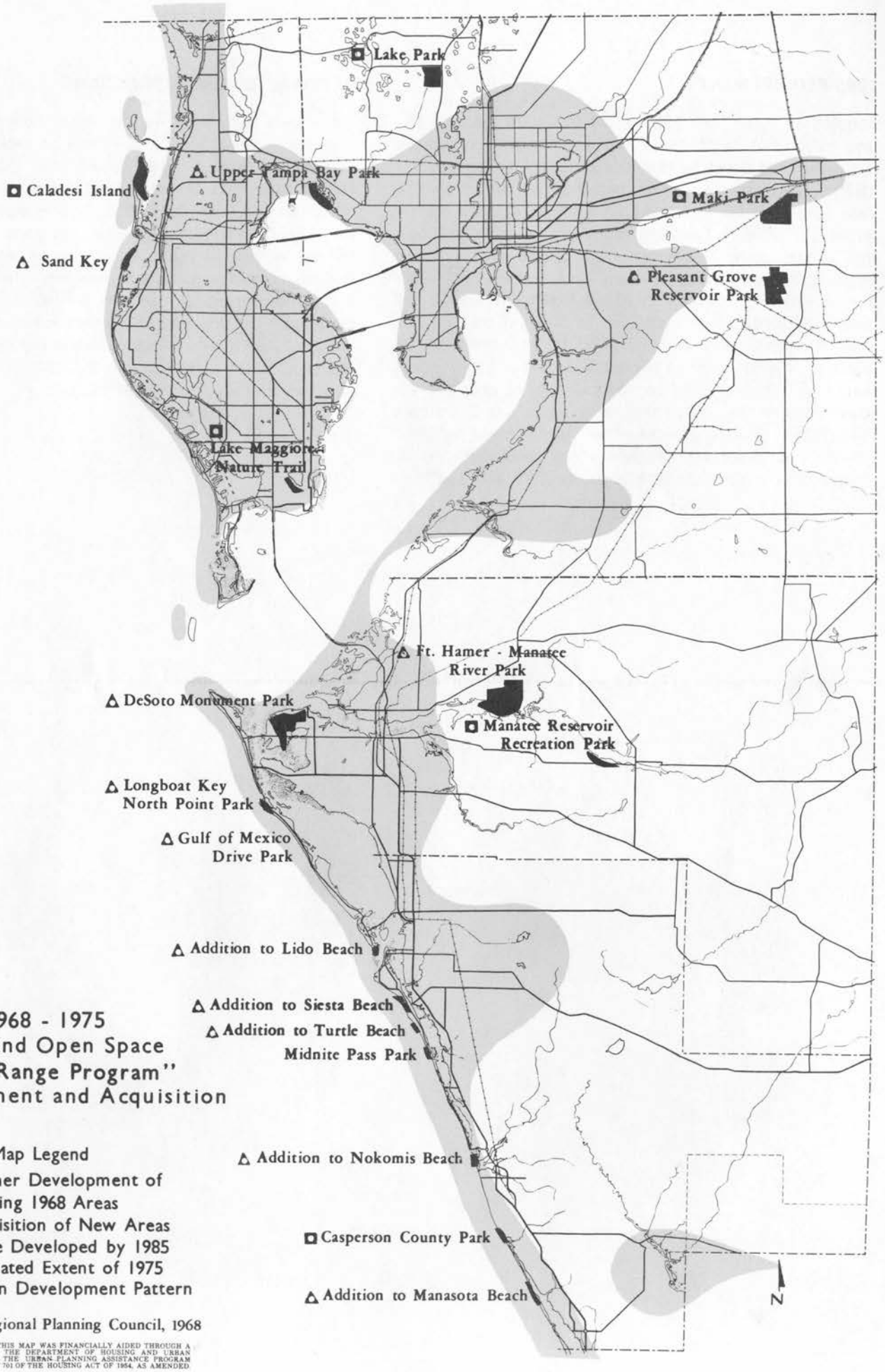
The pattern of most intense urban development by the year 1975 is shown on Map 2.1. Within and around the shaded pattern of development are located those recreation areas selected for short-range acquisition or further development.

Figure 2.1 Short Range 1975 Parks and Open Space Program Tampa Bay Region

MULTI-USE OBJECTIVES (Primary)

OPEN SPACE AREAS	Recreation Activity: Beach	Recreation Activity: Picnicking Camping	Recreation Activity: Nature Study	Recreation Activity: Scenic Drive	Conservation/Preservation: Erosion Control	Conservation/Preservation: Historic Site	Conservation/Preservation: Natural Habitat	Conservation/Preservation: Scenic	Conservation/Preservation: Water Shed	Environment Shaping: Urban Dispersion Guide	Environment Shaping: Transitional Buffer	Environment Shaping: Urban Relief	ACREAGE	ESTIMATED COST	OWNERSHIP
Areas For Acquisition															
Sand Key	●	●		●	●			●				●	158	3-4 million	Pinellas County
Sarasota County Beaches	●				●					●	●	●	50	2-2.5 million	Sarasota County
Manatee County Beaches	●				●					●	●		20	600-700 thous.	Manatee County
Ft. Hamer-Manatee River Park		●	●	●		●	●	●		●			1,200	700-thous.-1 mil.	Manatee County
Upper Tampa Bay Park		●					●	●		●		●	1,100		Hillsborough County
DeSoto National Monument Park			●	●			●	●		●	●	●	500	300-400 thous.	Manatee County
Pleasant Grove Reservoir Park		●	●	●					●		●	●	1,140	DONATION	Southwest Fla. Water Management District
Total													4,168		
Areas For Further Development															
Caladesi Island	●	●	●		●		●	●				●	653	As Designated	State of Florida
Casperson County Park	●	●	●		●		●	●		●		●	320		Sarasota County or State of Florida
Manatee Reservoir Recreation Park		●	●				●	●	●			●	553	By Local Development Programs	Manatee County or State of Florida
Lake Park		●	●									●	600		Hillsborough County
Maki Park		●	●				●	●		●	●		300		Hillsborough County
Lake Maggiore			●				●	●		●	●	●	390		St. Petersburg
Total													2,816		
Highway Connected Multi-Use Areas															
Parking Park, St. Petersburg		●									●	●		Acquisition 90% Fed.; 10% State	Florida State Road Department
Gateway to Pinellas County		●									●	●		Development 90% Fed.; 10% State	
Terra Ceia Gateway To Manatee Co.		●									●	●			

Map 2.1



1968 - 1975 Parks and Open Space "Short Range Program" of Development and Acquisition

Map Legend

- ◘ .....Further Development of Existing 1968 Areas
- Δ .....Acquisition of New Areas to be Developed by 1985
- .....Estimated Extent of 1975 Urban Development Pattern

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, 1968

THE PREPARATION OF THIS MAP WAS FINANCIALLY AIDED THROUGH A FEDERAL GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, UNDER THE URBAN PLANNING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 701 OF THE HOUSING ACT OF 1954, AS AMENDED.

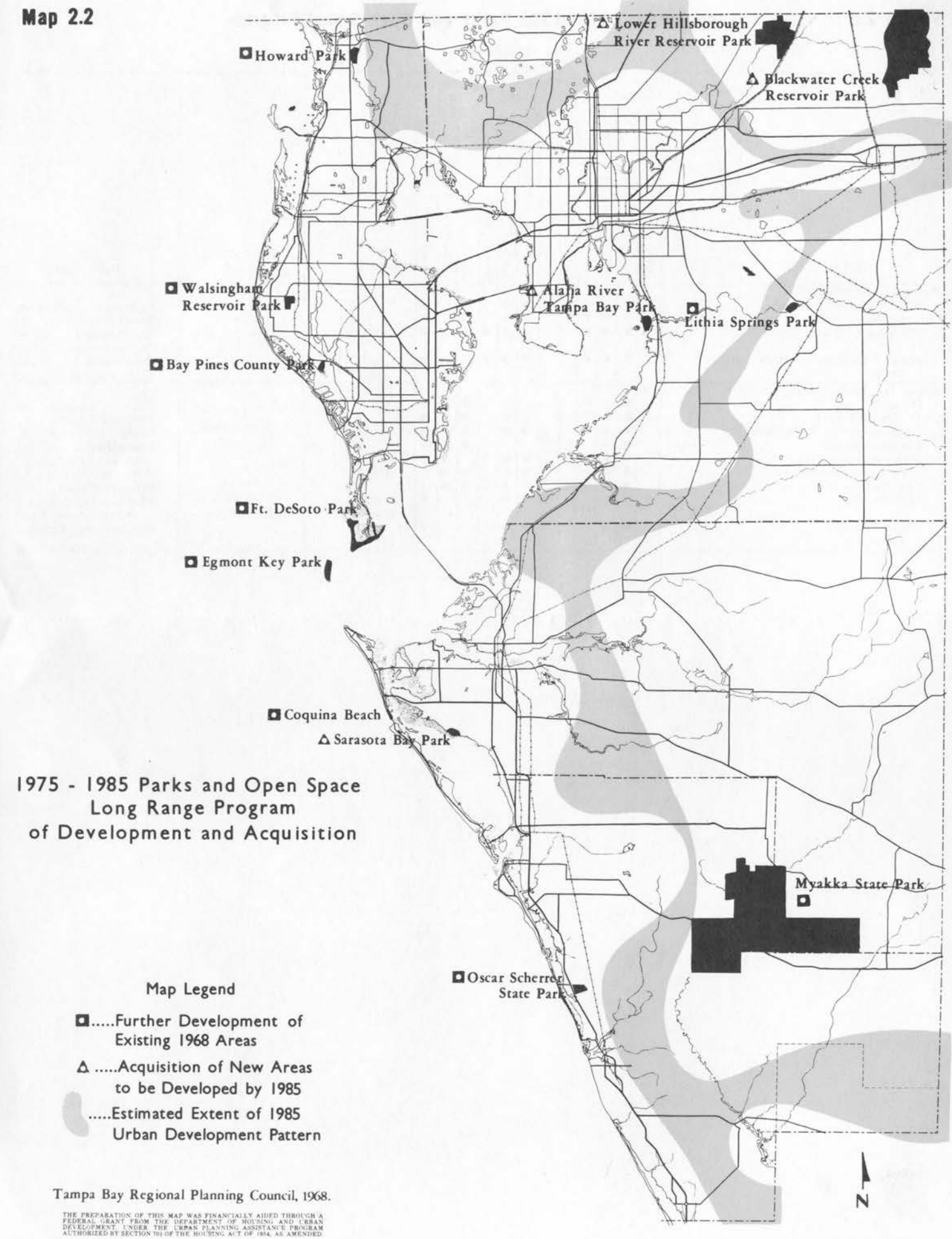
1985 REQUIREMENTS

Acquisition plans for 1985 should deal with lands in the less urbanized sections of the region for the simple reason that this will be the only property available after 1975. Demands for all recreational activities by the year 1985 will be tremendous. Shifting activity preferences will bring to the forefront such activities as boating, water skiing, enjoyment of natural scenery, and beach activities. The more traditional activities (picnicking, swimming, fishing, visiting historical sites). will also experience large increases in demand as the population grows. Any consideration of areas within the pattern of most intense urbanization after 1975 would necessarily be confined to development of property acquired under the short range program. Map 2.2 shows the pattern of most intense urban development by 1985, as well as those recreational areas recommended for acquisition or development between 1975 and 1985.

NATIONAL SEASHORE PROGRAM

The varied pattern of ownership of existing public Gulf Shoreline, as well as the shoreline recommended for acquisition in this study, makes the establishment of certain segments of regional Gulf frontage as part of a National Seashore Area a distinct possibility. In this way rapidly disappearing Gulf beaches could be preserved without continued strain on local governing bodies, accessibility to these beaches could be increased, and a more practical means of controlling beach erosion provided. Local governing bodies would not be responsible for the maintenance of Federally owned property, but would still possess the benefits of having these beaches available to the public.

Map 2.2



1975 - 1985 Parks and Open Space
Long Range Program
of Development and Acquisition

Map Legend

□.....Further Development of Existing 1968 Areas

△.....Acquisition of New Areas to be Developed by 1985

.....Estimated Extent of 1985 Urban Development Pattern

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, 1968.

THE PREPARATION OF THIS MAP WAS FINANCIALLY AIDED THROUGH A FEDERAL GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, UNDER THE URBAN PLANNING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 701 OF THE HOUSING ACT OF 1954, AS AMENDED.

Figure 2.2 Long Range 1975–1985 Parks and Open Space Program

OPEN SPACE AREAS	MULTI-USE OBJECTIVES (Primary): Recreation Activity				Conservation/Preservation				Environment Shaping			ACREAGE	ESTIMATED COST	OWNERSHIP
	Beach	Picnicking/Camping	Nature Study	Scenic Drive	Erosion Control	Historic Site	Natural Habitat	Scenic	Water Shed	Urban Dispersion Guide	Transitional Buffer	Urban Relief		
Areas For Acquisition														
Mouth of Alafia River		●	●	●			●	●		●		●	350	Hillsborough County
Long Bar Point		●	●	●			●	●		●		●	300	Sarasota County
Blackwater Creek Reservoir		●	●	●			●	●	●	●		●	6,000	Southwest Fla. Water Management District
Lower Hillsborough River Reservoir		●	●	●			●	●	●	●		●	16,000	Southwest Fla. Water Management District
Total													22,650	
Areas For Further Development														
Howard Park		●								●		●		Pinellas County
Ft. DeSoto Park		●	●					●		●		●	900	Pinellas County
Oscar Scherrer State Park		●	●	●			●	●		●		●	487	State of Florida
Coquina Beach		●								●		●	96	Manatee County
Myakka State Park		●	●	●			●	●				●	28,875	State of Florida
Walsingham Reservoir		●	●	●			●	●		●	●		380-527	Pinellas County
Bay Pines Park		●	●	●			●	●		●	●		380	Pinellas County
Egmont Key	●	●	●		●	●	●	●				●	Not Available	Pinellas County or Hillsborough Co.
Lithia Springs		●	●				●	●				●		Hillsborough County
Total														

ESTIMATED COST: DONATION; As Designated; By Local Development Programs

3 ...analysis of existing regional recreation

INVENTORY

Preliminary to an overall analysis and development program for the Tampa Bay Region it was necessary to conduct an inventory of major outdoor recreational areas and open spaces. The purpose of such an inventory was to provide data for analysis of current adequacy and to determine the additional acreage, activities, and facilities necessary to meet future demands. Both public and private facilities were inventoried according to:

- Wildlife and Natural Resource Conservation Areas
- Multi-Use Facilities
- Beaches
- Recreational Water Courses
- Historic Sites

Further breakdown of existing facilities and activities was afforded through cross categorization as to type of facility, size, usage, location, ownership, and other pertinent characteristics (see Figures 3.1 and 3.2). Thus it was possible to examine each recreation activity provided by region serving parks and open spaces, analyze them as

Figure 3.1 Inventory and Classification of Outdoor Recreation Areas

Classification	Acreage	Activities: Swimming	Salt	Fresh	Fishing	Salt	Fresh	Camping	Picnicking	Boating	Hunting	Golf	Natural	Science	Hiking	Wildlife	Football	Baseball	Public Ownership	Private Ownership
Multi-Use Facilities	33,102	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●			●		●	●			C;S	
Beach	303	●	●		●	●													Cy;C	
Historical Sites	37												●		●				S;F	
Wildlife & Natural Resurce Conservation Areas	707													●	●	●			S	
Recreational Water Courses	5,510	●		●	●		●													
Other Recreation Areas	3,500											●	●		●	●	●			●
Total	42,159																			

to current adequacy and determine the additional raw acreages needed to provide for future use (see appendix, pg. 58).

PRESENT ADEQUACY

Analysis of present adequacy of Parks and Open Space in the Tampa Bay Region was achieved basically by:

1) Measuring the percentage of both tourist and resident populations participating in each activity;

2) Compiling the average number of times each tourist or resident participated in each activity in a year's time;

3) From this computing the number of people demanding the individual activities per weekend day.

Once computed, the daily participation rate revealed the total number of people (both tourist and resident) demanding each recreation activity on an "average peak day" (see appendix, pg. 72). With the application of minimum standards based upon recognized state and national standards, as well as local climate, natural environment, and other pertinent factors, it was possible to determine current regional deficiencies (For further information see appendix, pg. 65).

Freshwater Facilities. The region is definitely lacking in opportunities for freshwater fishing, swimming, boating, and skiing. There are three major lakes (Tarpon, Seminole, and Manatee Reservoir) serving the four counties as well as five rivers (Hillsborough, Myakka, Manatee, Alafia, and Little Manatee). Access to the rivers is limited, with little provision for swimming facilities and few boat ramp lanes. The 45 miles of lake shoreline are not sufficiently accessible to provide adequate fishing. Available boat ramp lanes are also too few and poorly located. There is need for 25-30 strategically located boat ramp lanes (on both rivers and lakes), development of water acreage to meet swimming and skiing demands, and an overall awareness that accessibility is one of the major aspects of satisfactory recreation facilities.

Saltwater Facilities. The close proximity of all four counties to Gulf and Bay waters made saltwater acreage of no problem to those desiring to take advantage of this natural resource. Access to these waters, however, was found to be a problem. Existing boat ramp lanes were found to number 200 in response to a demand adequate to make use of twice that number. In addition,

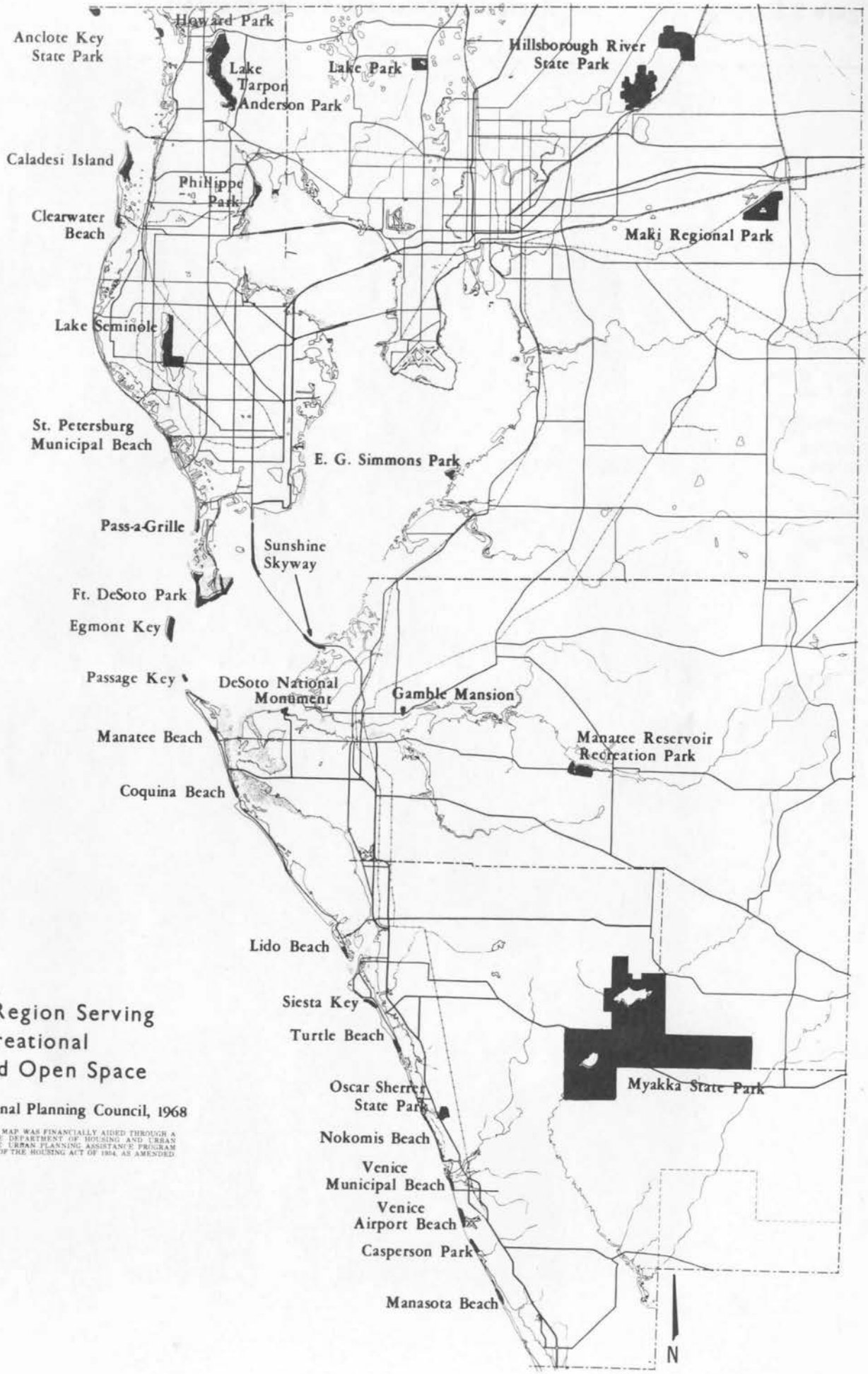
there has often been little provision for parking facilities in close proximity to existing boat ramps. Marinas supplement public ramps all along the coastline, offering fuel and storage facilities. However, their somewhat prohibitive cost and inconvenience make additional ramps a necessity.

In the Tampa Bay Region the major inland water body, the Bay itself, has not yet developed its full potential for pleasure boating as compared to Chesapeake Bay or Long Island Sound for example. Three of our four counties have jurisdiction over portions of the Bay with boundary lines over which the boatsman travels unawares. The quality of the waters in the Tampa Bay are a matter of concern to the recreational boatsman as well as the maintenance of channels. Pollution from any one source in any one political jurisdiction may adversely affect the others and can seriously damage the existing and future recreational opportunities of this great Bay.

Gulf Beaches. Gulf beaches provide the most valuable recreational asset of three of the four counties in the Tampa Bay Region. For this reason it is imperative that beach acreage be sufficient to meet demand. Existing footage is capable of meeting reasonable demand, but this situation will not last into the future. Of approximately 90 miles of Gulf frontage in the region, only nine miles of suitable beach was regionally accessible to the public. While square footage is sufficient, the lack of adequate distribution throughout the region has resulted in less than optimal use of beaches. As the tourist and resident populations grow, existing acreage will quickly become inadequate. The present regional beaches are of such economic and esthetic value to the area that evaluation of their adequacy should be a continuous process.

Outdoor Camping. The popularity of outdoor camping has been felt in the Tampa Bay Region, as elsewhere. As this, and other areas of the United States, become more highly urbanized, the outdoor appeal of camping will increase. The climate and resource amenities were again found to be major factors affecting the extreme popularity of an outdoor recreational activity. Consequently, seasonal demand has had a relatively minor influence on camping in the Tampa Bay Region. Existing camping spaces in the region were found to be insufficient to meet reasonable peak demands, even during winter months. An additional 1,000 campsites would be a minimum provision to meet existing demand.

Map 3.1



Existing Region Serving Recreational Parks and Open Space

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, 1968

THE PREPARATION OF THIS MAP WAS FINANCIALLY AIDED THROUGH A FEDERAL GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, UNDER THE URBAN PLANNING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 701 OF THE HOUSING ACT OF 1954, AS AMENDED

Figure 3.2 Recreation Service Facilities Available

Facilities

	Picnic Shelters	No. of Tables	Length of Beach	Boat Ramp Lanes	Barbecue Pits	Bath House	Rest Rooms	Concessions	Food	Bait	Fishing Pier Length	Restaurant Capacity	Cabins	Trailer or Tent Camp Spaces	Parking (Cars)	Rental	Boats	Horses	Bicycles	Sun Shelters	Marinas	Shuffleboard Equipment	Other
Recreational Water Courses				10																			
Wildlife & Nat. Res. Cons. Areas Conservation																							
Multi-Use Facilities	20	1,376	70,000*	74	521	1	24	6		5	1,500		5	433	3,535		2	2					Horse Show Arena
Beaches			34,230	3	72	7	5	6		0	1,200				2,245								
Historical Sites							2																

Summary. Regional recreation facilities were found to be generally sufficient to meet the demands placed upon them. The number of areas considered inadequate or marginal, however, indicated a need for quick, comprehensive action on the part of local, state and Federal authorities to both maintain and improve existing conditions. The combined facilities for recreation provided in the Tampa Bay Region constitutes a vast recreational resource and potential which needs to be studied and planned as part of an interjurisdictional, recreational program. Those using these facilities do so without knowledge of or concern with political boundaries. Serious consideration should be given to the establishment of a region-wide recreation and park commission similar to those found elsewhere in the country. Such regional commissions date back many years in the United States. The one for the Boston region dates back to the early 1900's as do those for Chicago, Philadelphia and Cleveland. We must assume that all of our parks, beaches and water bodies are going to be used by residents and tourists in the region regardless of where they live or where they are staying and that for balance, a total recreational system requires both the plan, the promotion, and the financing which can only be achieved by a coordinated, cooperative, area-wide endeavor.

4 ...long-range plan

The long-range plan was designed to provide a continuous program of development and acquisition to meet regional recreation and open space demands by the year 1985. In order to concur with the long-range recommendations presented here, it is imperative that the concerned governmental agencies realize the importance of providing for future demand now. The process of achieving 1985 goals should progress uniformly throughout the entire period of years up to that time. Uncoordinated acquisition and/or development will not provide for the recreation demand placed upon this region. Plans for acquisition or development to meet long-range demands should reflect continuous refinements of the comprehensive plan and maintain compatibility with it to insure overall success.

PROJECTION OF 1985 DEMAND

The method of determining projected participation for 1985 was arrived at by:

1) Projecting the percentage of 1985 tourist and resident populations desiring to participate in each recreation activity;

2) Projecting the average number of times each tourist or resident would participate in each activity in one year's time;

3) Computing the number of people demanding the individual activities per weekend day for the year 1985. (For further information see appendix, pg. 68).

The factors influencing these projections were population growth, increased income, shorter work week, and longer vacation periods.

Each of the above mentioned factors influenced to a great extent the preference for activities and the rate of participation. This influence was most evident in the projected increases in demand for boating, camping, water skiing, and natural scenery oriented activities. With larger incomes and more leisure time, the more expensive and time consuming activities such as boating and water skiing exhibit wider appeal to regional residents and visitors. Population growth and increasing urbanization gave root to the desire to gain relief from the hustle and bustle of city life. For this reason, camping and natural scenery appreciation were projected to gain larger percentages of followers.

PLANS FOR ACQUISITION AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

The patterns of growth projected for the Tampa Bay Region, shown on Maps 2.1 and 2.2, reveal the areas in which urban development pressures are likely to be heaviest by 1975 and 1985. A great deal of this acreage will not be available for acquisition if long-range action is not facilitated by short-range acquisition. Long-range development should take into account acquisition of those areas not involved in immediate intensive growth and development of areas previously acquired to guide urban dispersion.

Consequently, the areas selected for acquisition or development by 1985 were generally outside the immediate path of intensive urbanization. They were as follows (in order of priority):

Acquisition

(1) 350 acres (water and land) at the mouth of the Alafia River, north and south shore. Acquisition: Hillsborough County.

(2) 700 acres at Long Bar Point, South of Bradenton on Sarasota Bay. Acquisition: Manatee County.

(3) 6,000 acres; Blackwater Creek Reservoir. Acquisition: Southwest Florida Water Management District.

(4) 16,000 acres, Lower Hillsborough River Reservoir. Acquisition: Southwest Florida Water Management District (acquisition already in progress).

Development

(1) Howard Park; Pinellas County
(2) Ft. DeSoto; Pinellas County
(3) Oscar Scherrer State Park; State of Florida
(4) Coquina Beach; Manatee County
(5) Myakka State Park; State of Florida
(6) Walsingham Reservoir; Pinellas County
(7) Bay Pines County Park; Pinellas County
(8) Egmont Key; Hillsborough or Pinellas County
(9) Lithia Springs; Hillsborough County

5 ...short-range plan

PURPOSE OF SHORT-RANGE PLAN

In formulating a short-range parks and open space plan for 1975, it was necessary to take into account not only acquisition and development of land to meet 1975 demands and correct 1968 deficiencies, but also acquisition of land to provide for 1985 needs. 1975 demand was determined by interpolation between land demand 1985 and land demand 1968. This plan should provide a solid base for parks and open space acquisition and development for the future. During this period deficiencies occurring in 1968 should be corrected and demand for recreational parks and open space for 1975 met. The key to this plan, however, was to provide for long-range open space and recreational development. Due to the rapid urbanization of the region, land suitable for recreational activities will be at a minimum after 1975. For this reason it was felt necessary to recommend the short-range acquisition of tracts of land in the direct path of urban dispersion, even though this acreage may not be necessary to meet regional demands until a later date.

In accordance with these ideas the following guidelines were adhered to:

(1) Correction of open space deficiencies.
(2) Immediate acquisition of lands to control or shape urban development.
(3) Acquisition of unique open space having no feasible alternative.
(4) Acquisition of tracts which are key elements of an open space program.
(5) The acquisition and development plans of all major bodies in the urban area, including state agencies and special districts, having responsibility for the acquisition and development of open space facilities.
(6) To the extent possible, consideration of the acquisition and development plans of major private open space bodies in the urban area, particularly from the standpoint of correcting deficiencies or through a combination of public and private reserves.

FINANCING OF SHORT-RANGE ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT

The sums involved in acquiring the 1975 priority areas were in many cases considered prohibitive for the recommended governing bodies to purchase without assistance. For this reason it was necessary to outline those assistance grants or loans for which major regional recreation and open space areas might qualify. Federal Assistance to Outdoor Recreation, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (1968), describes various programs as follows:

Federal grants and/or loans were found to be available from various Federal agencies. Probably the most applicable program for the acquisition and development purposes described in the Short-Range Plan was the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Open Space Land Program. Under "Title VII of the Housing Act of 1961" (as amended in 1965) assistance grants were made available in the sums of (1) 50% of cost to help public agencies preserve and provide urban open space land having value for park recreation, conservation, scenic, or historic purposes; (2) matching trends

to help communities develop lands which have been acquired with assistance under the Open Space Land Program; (3) assistance for the acquisition of predominately undeveloped land.

Under the Federal Water Project Recreation Act, Public Law 89-72 provides funds up to $100,000 to "assist in alleviating deficiencies in recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement facilities on existing projects where non-Federal Agencies have assumed responsibility for management."

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife provides financial assistance to states "in connection with the planning and construction of water resource development projects . . . so as to assure conservation of fish and wildlife." Applications for such assistance should be made through the Florida State Game and Fish Commission.

The Federal Water Pollution Control Administration makes grants available to " . . ., develop effective comprehensive water quality control and abatement plans for river basins . . . "

Farmers Home Administration loans are available for use in financing " . . . recreation developments in or adjacent to reservoirs, lakes, natural streams, or shorelines . . . "

The Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (Department of the Interior) " . . . provides grants to states, and through them to political subdivisions for planning, acquisition, and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities".

The possibility of public acquisition and subsequent leasing to private developers should be of major concern to the agencies involved in purchase of the recommended park and open space lands. By this method, public ownership could be maintained without the added financial burden of developing the area, and at the same time provide a possible source of income for the agency involved.

The Army Corps of Engineers provides financial aid for the restoration or development of beach area.

"Greenspan," under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture, maintains grants for acquisition of surplus farmland for use as open space, recreational, natural scenery, or wildlife conservation purposes.

PLANS FOR ACQUISITION AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

The importance of short-range acquisition and development necessitated a proposed program of acquisition, financing, and development. The specific location of recreation activities shown by the sketches, should be considered conceptual guidelines for the development of selected recreation areas, and are not so inflexible as to preclude alternative development. The selected areas were arranged in order of priority so as to create a comprehensive awareness of regional needs. It should be kept in mind, however, that each individual area was of highest priority within the context of the activities it provided.

Acquisition

Sand Key

Estimated Value: 3-4 million dollars
Acreage: 158
Acquisition: Pinellas County

One of the last stretches of virgin beach on the west coast, Sand Key could be of inestimable value as a park. It would provide 8,000 feet of Gulf Beach, and an equal amount of Bay frontage. In addition to beach frontage, there is enormous potential for a multi-use recreation area. Approximately 25 acres could be devoted to camping, 20 acres to picnicking, 5 acres to boat ramps, and the balance to beach area, fishing, parking, and roadway.

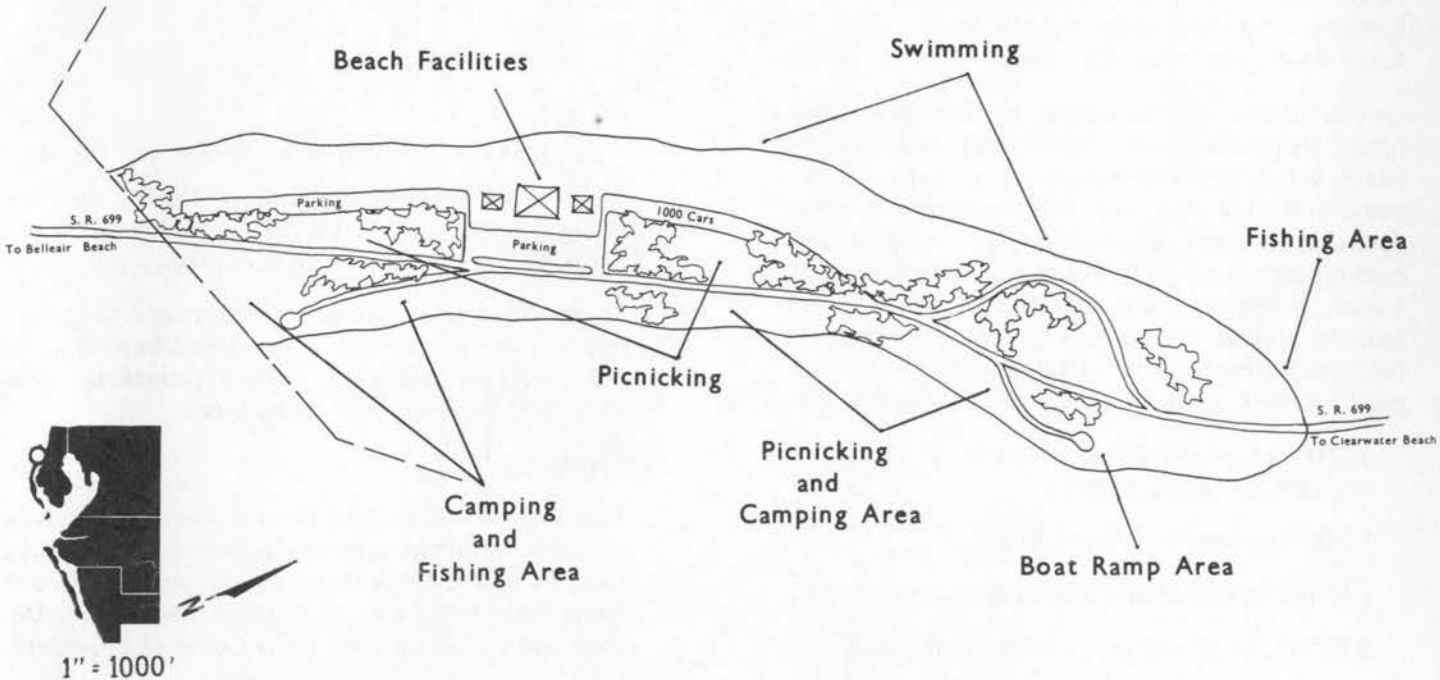
The value of this property for commercial development makes it imperative that the acreage be considered for acquisition as soon as possible. In all probability, Sand Key could be acquired for less than the estimated value of the land, with the stipulation that the area be used as a public park facility.

A study is recommended to determine the feasibility of public acquisition and subsequent leasing for private recreational development of the property.

Financing:

This area could qualify for Assistance Loans or Grants from the following agencies: Open-Space Land Program, Department of Housing and Urban Development; Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Department of the Interior; Army Corps of Engineers.

Sketch 5.1 **Conceptual Development Scheme of Sand Key Park**



Sarasota County Beaches

Value: In excess of 2 million dollars
Acreage: 50 (approximately)
Acquisition: Sarasota County

This additional beach footage is needed to meet future demands in the Tampa Bay Region. The beach/water oriented nature of recreational demand in the region makes these beach areas highly desirable for public acquisition. The value of such public beach acreage to the region cannot be overstated. If this area is to maintain its attraction for tourists and at the same time provide adequate facilities to meet resident demands, beach acreage must increase as much as is economically feasible.

1220 feet on the Gregg Property, south of and adjacent to Siesta Beach.

1,500 feet, north of Turtle Beach.

870 feet, south of and adjoining Nokomis Beach.

930 feet, north and south of Manasota Beach.

Undetermined length at south end of Lido Key.

25 acres between the Gulf of Mexico and the lagoon south of Turtle Beach to Midnite Pass (excepting the Cape Haze Laboratory property).

These areas were designated as beach property, and as such, should not be developed beyond parking, restroom-bathhouse, limited picnicking facilities, and possible boat ramp lanes.

Financing:

This area could qualify for the assistance grants or loans from the following agencies: Open-Space Land Program, Department of Housing and Urban Development; Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Department of the Interior; Army Corps of Engineers.

Manatee County Beaches

Value: 600,000 - 700,000 dollars
Acreage: 20
Acquisition: Manatee County

800 feet at north end of Longboat Key, directly south of Coquina Beach.

2,000 feet of beach on Longboat Key in Manatee County; slightly north of City of Longboat Key.

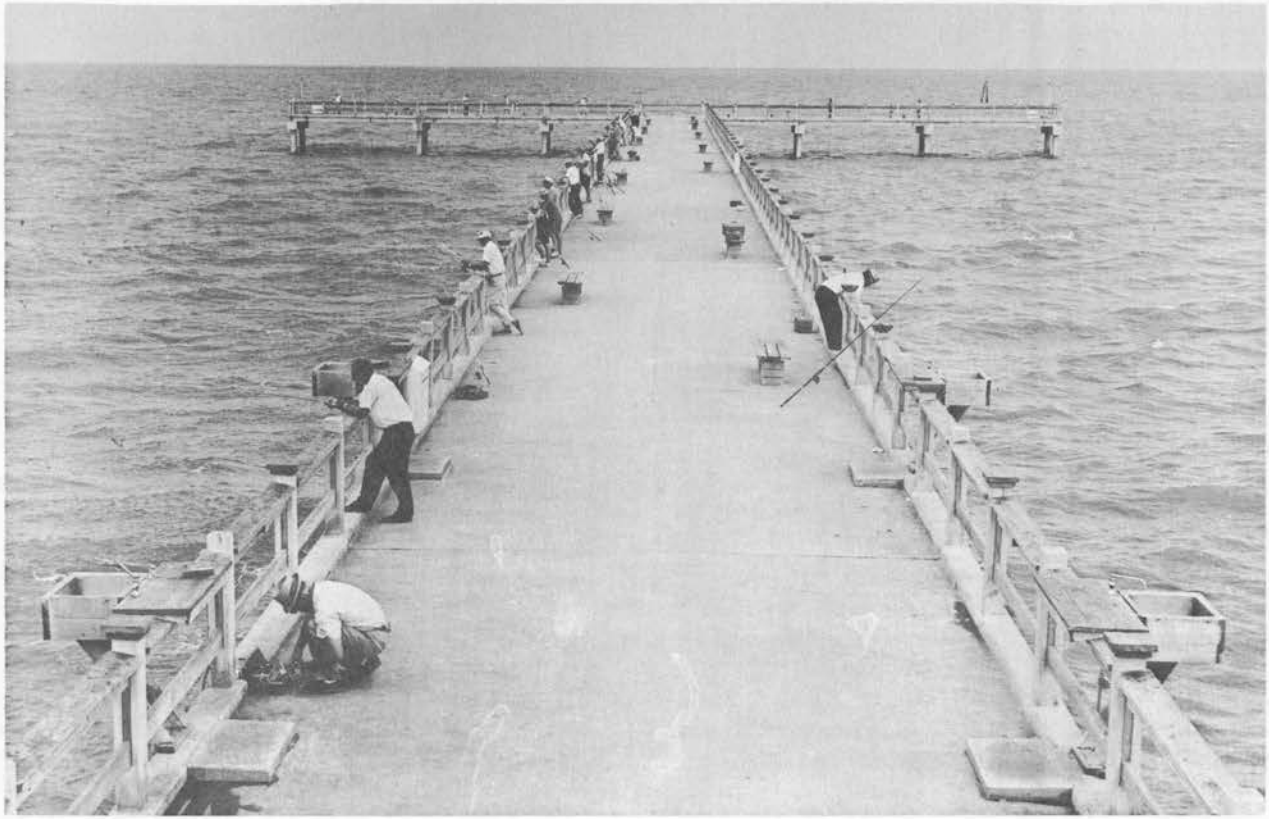
Limited facilities (parking, bathroom, picnicking, and boat ramp lanes).

This recommendation is made with knowledge of an ordinance prohibiting the maintenance of public beach within the environs of Longboat Key. In view of the long-range value of this land to the entire region, it is also recommended that this ordinance be reconsidered by the City Council of Longboat Key in the light of overall regional development. Such a review could lead to increased access and enjoyment by both local and regional residents.

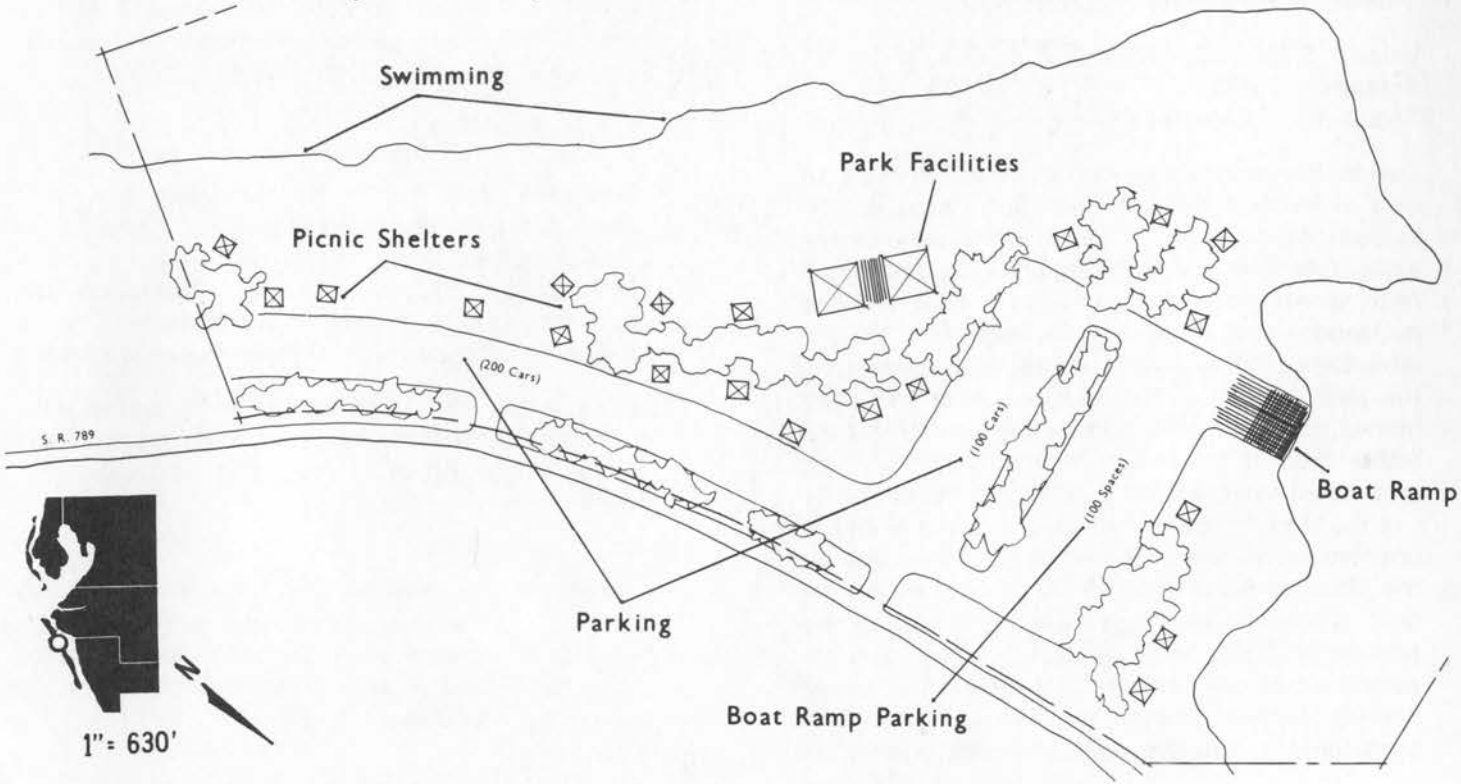
Financing:

This area could qualify for assistance grants or loans from the following agencies: Open-Space Land Program, Department of Housing and Urban Development; Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Department of the Interior; Army Corps of Engineers.

Due to the space required and the general similarity of all beach areas, only one conceptual sketch for beach acquisition was included. The sketch of Longboat Key - North Point Beach serves to illustrate the general development intended for all beach acquisition areas. The concept of minimal facilities as shown in the sketch should be similarly handled on all beaches.



Sketch 5.2 Conceptual Development Scheme of Longboat Key, North Point Park



Ft. Hamer - Manatee River Recreation Area

Value: $400,000 - $500,000
Acreage: 1,200
Acquisition: Manatee County

Due to the recreational opportunities provided by Gulf shoreline there has been little focus on the recreational potential of rivers in the region. Myakka State Park and Hillsborough River State Park have shown there is a demand for river oriented recreation, and action should begin now to take advantage of other rivers existing in the region. In the past, access to the Manatee River has been limited, with little consideration for recreational use (other than at the mouth of the river). Such an area would make available land for sufficient multi-use facilities to lessen the load on many saltwater oriented recreation facilities. A multi-use area on the Manatee River could easily provide freshwater boat ramps and parking (10 acres); camping and picnicking (250 acres); hiking (25 acres); and the remainder of the land area for parking, roadway, boating, fishing, swimming. This park should be considered a cohesive unit, providing a blend of activities sufficient to both meet demand and increase interests in parts of the region not ordinarily considered optimal for recreation.

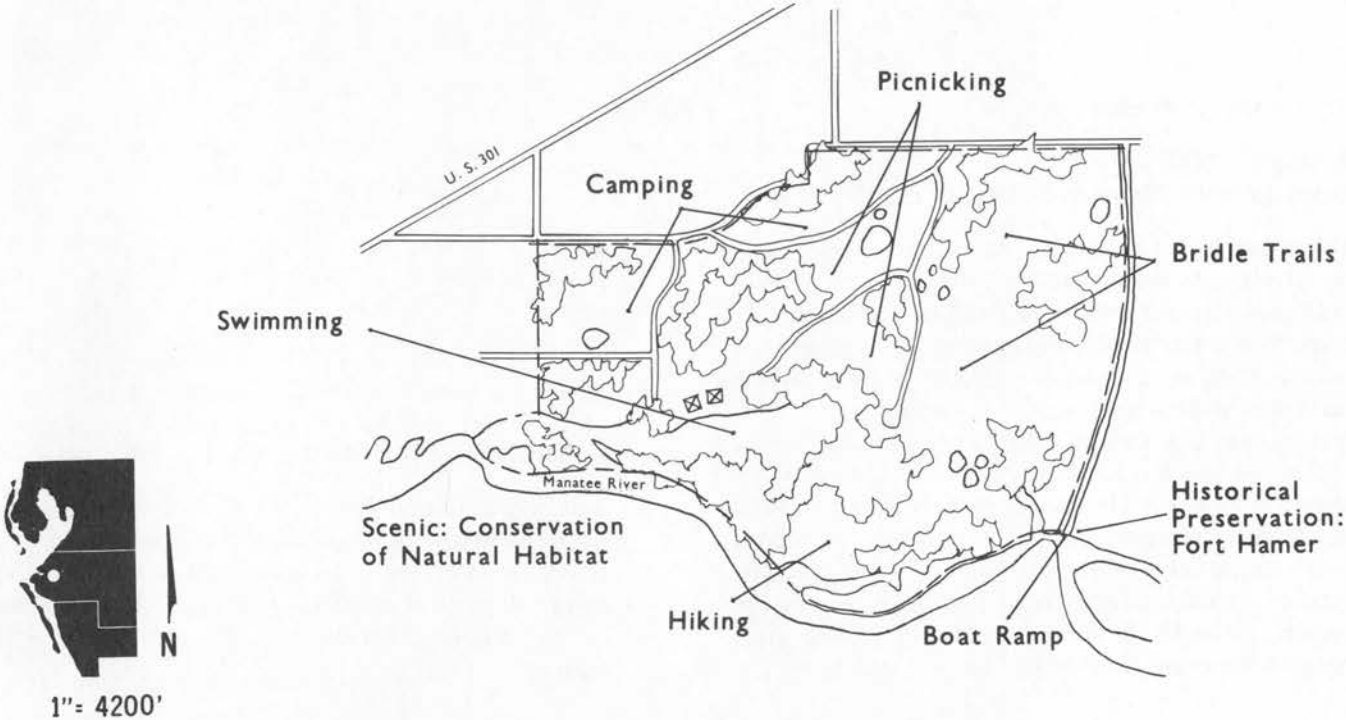
Financing:

This area could qualify for assistance grants or loans from the following Agencies: Open-Space Land Program, Department of Housing and Urban Development; Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Department of The Interior; Federal Water Project Recreation Act; and Federal Water Pollution Control.

Old Tampa Bay Park: As recommended by the Hillsborough County Planning Commission in application for a Department of Housing and Urban Development Grant.

Acreage: 1,100
Facilities: As outlined by Hillsborough County Planning Commission in their graphic presentation submitted to this office and HUD during the last week in December, 1968.

Sketch 5.3 **Conceptual Development Scheme of Fort Hamer-Manatee River Park**



DeSoto National Monument Park.

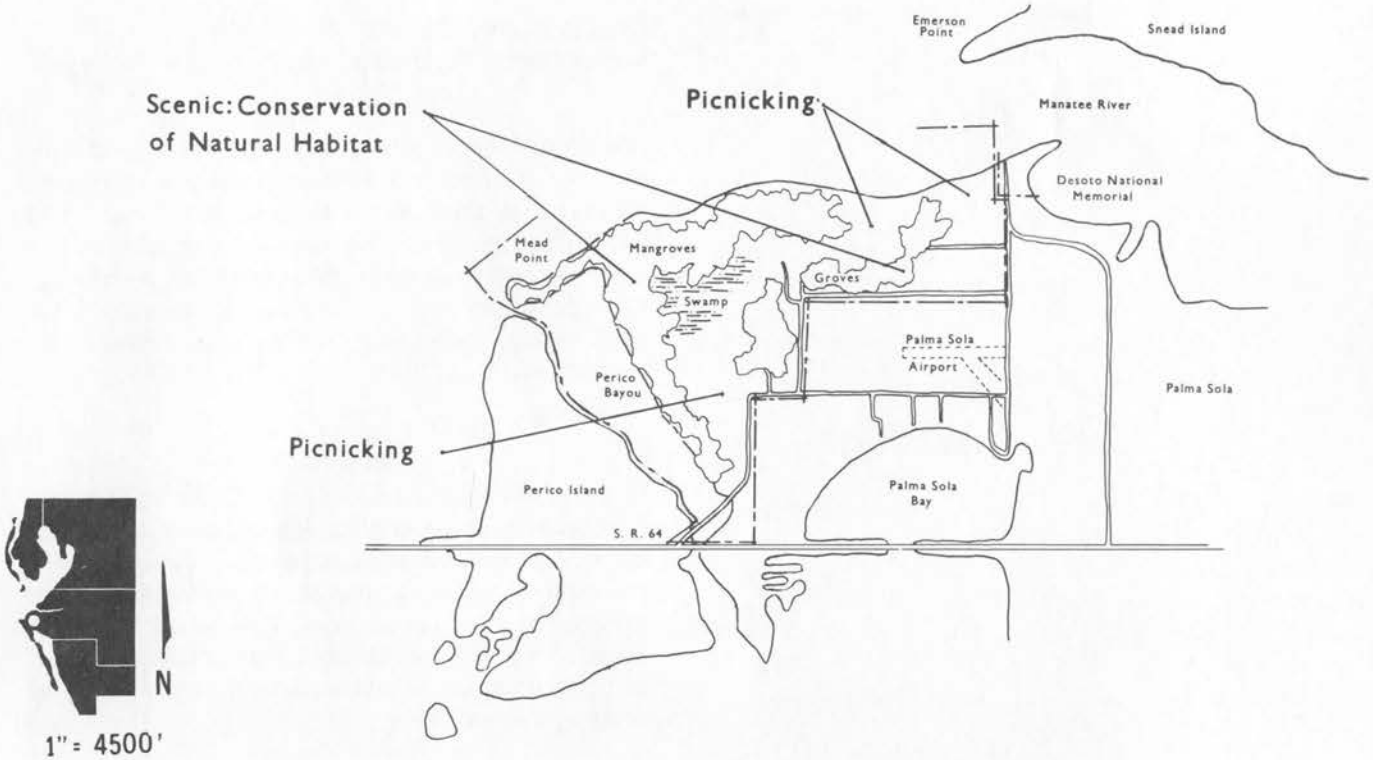
Acreage: 500
Development: Manatee County/or State of Florida.

The preservation of unique natural resources should be of utmost concern to an area with the growth potential of the Tampa Bay Region. Consideration of certain areas simply because of their value as a wildlife habitat, and an example of unique natural flora has a definite place in a regional plan. For this reason the DeSoto Monument Park has been recommended for acquisition. There should be no short-range plans for development of this property, but simply preservation for use as a wildlife habitat and natural scenery appreciation. Although this type of acreage is presently quite common in the region, after 1975 open spaces possessing such natural flora and wildlife will be at a minimum.

Financing:

This area could qualify for assistance loans or grant from the following agencies: Open Space Land Program, Department of Housing and Urban Development; Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Department of the Interior; "Greenspan", Department of Agriculture.

Sketch 5.4 Conceptual Development Scheme of Desoto Monument Park



Pleasant Grove Reservoir Recreation Area

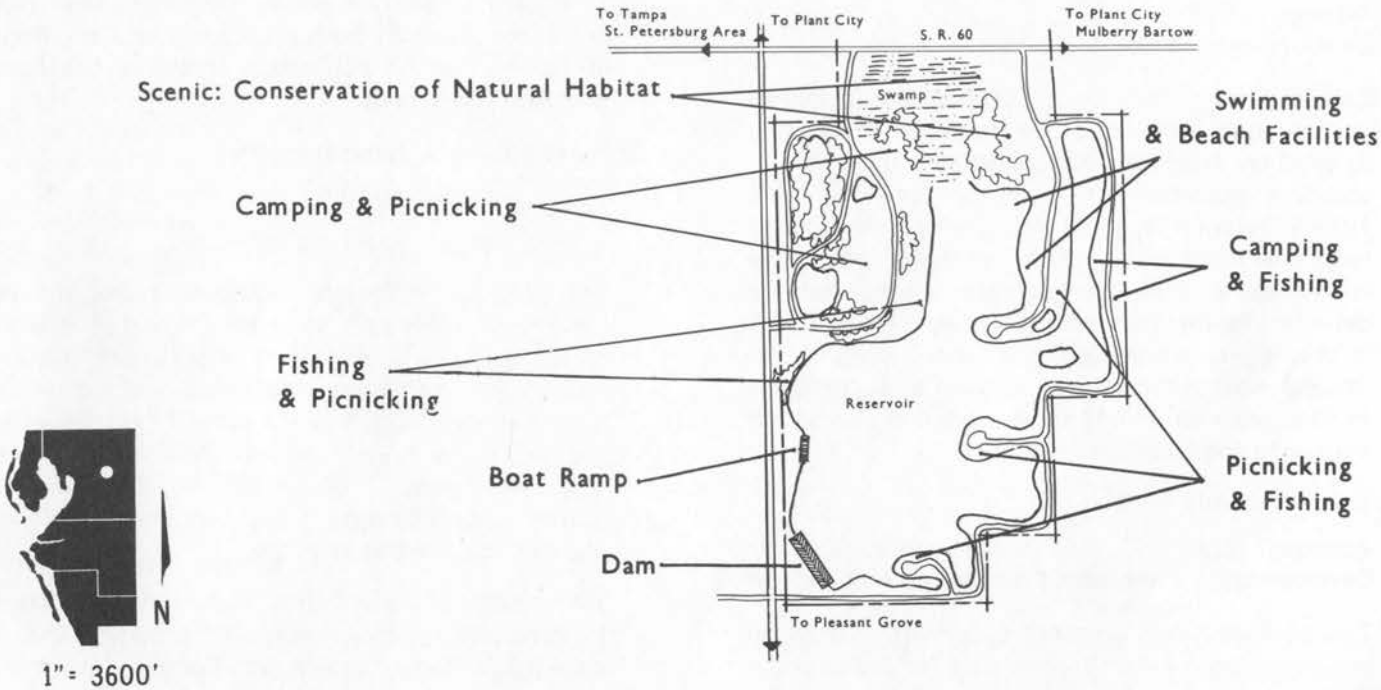
Acreage: 400 (land); 740 (water)
Acquisition: Southwest Florida Water Management District

The acquisition in Hillsborough County of land suitable for freshwater oriented, multi-use recreation will be a decided asset to both the Tampa Bay Region and bordering counties. There is adequate land and water acreage to provide for swimming, fishing, water skiing, boating, camping, horseback riding, picnicking and natural scenery appreciation.

Financing:

The means of acquisition of this area is unique in that it is to be turned over by the American Cynamid Corporation, at no charge, for use as a park. Formerly the site of a phosphate mine, the acreage is the first regional facility to be rehabilitated and donated by a private concern. It is hoped that other such areas will be utilized, thus making use of valuable acreage and at the same time rehabilitating mine-scarred areas.

Sketch 5.5 Conceptual Development Scheme of Pleasant Grove Reservoir Recreation Park



DEVELOPMENT

Caladesi Island

Acreage: 653
Development: State of Florida

Caladesi Island Provides 8,000 feet of Gulf Beach, and an equal amount of bay frontage. In addition to excellent beach access opportunity there is outstanding potential for multi-use facilities. The Florida Outdoor Recreational Development Council has considered plans for the development of this island as a multi-use recreation area, but no definite program has been formally presented. It is strongly recommended that such a program be implemented at the earliest possible date. Included in this program should be adequate provision for access to the island for motorists.

Casperson County Park

Acreage: 320
Development: Sarasota County; State of Florida

This acreage offers excellent opportunity for multi-use recreation. Facilities providing for beach activities, picnicking, camping, fishing, swimming and natural scenery appreciation should be considered. The land has been made available to Sarasota County, at no expense, until 1988, providing it be utilized as a park. Plans for permanent acquisition have been considered by both the County and the State of Florida, but no definite commitment has been made by either body.

Manatee Reservoir Recreation Park

Acreage: 553
Development: County; State

The need for freshwater recreation makes the development of this park an important part of regional recreation. The acreage is quite adequate to maintain a multi-use park to meet increasing freshwater access demands, and at the same time relieve the pressure on some saltwater recreation areas. Camping, picnicking, boating access, and natural scenery appreciation should all be developed significantly on this acreage.

While the site is presently owned by Manatee County, acquisition and development by the Florida Outdoor Recreational Development Council is a distinct possibility. The significance of this lies in the fact

that state ownership would remove the financial burden of development from Manatee County, allowing the County to use these funds for development or acquisition of alternative recreational areas.

Lake Park

Acreage: 600
Development: Hillsborough County

The further development of this park into a multi-use area providing picnicking, camping, and natural scenery appreciation is strongly recommended. The acreage is quite adequate to contribute significantly to recreation within the four counties of this region as well as bordering counties who depend upon the Tampa Bay Region for recreational purposes. The existence of a horse show ring could be complemented by addition of bridle paths, making the area useful for year-round riding, rather than seasonal shows, as is now the case.

Maki Park

Acreage: 300
Development: Hillsborough County

This park has been proposed as a regional recreation area by Hillsborough County. It should provide adequate multi-use facilities to meet not only demands from within the Tampa Bay Region, but also those of bordering counties.

Lake Maggiore

Acreage: 394
Development: City of St. Petersburg

The strategic location of this park and adjacent lake make the area well worth expanding into a region-serving, multi-use recreation facility. This strategic location, however, renders the acreage not already designated as park land highly desirable for alternative uses. There should be better provision for freshwater recreation, more boating access ramps, better shoreline access and additions to already existing nature trails.

OTHER PARKS AND OPEN SPACE AREAS

Highway Connected Multi-Use Areas. The compatibility of parks and open spaces to other public and private service systems and land uses is highly significant in shaping the design and resulting environ-

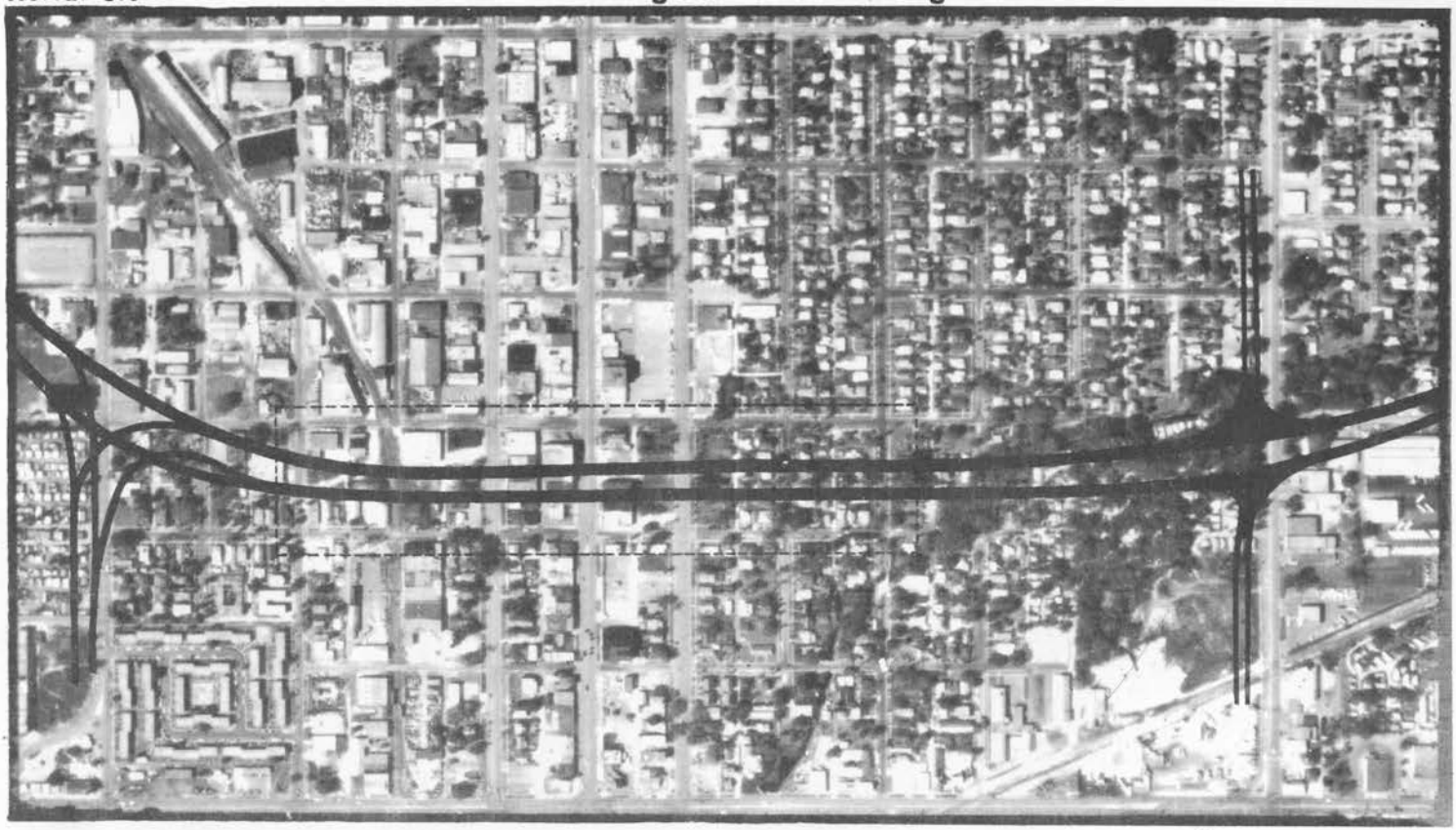
mental character of regional growth. In the past, the acquisition of highway right-of-way has not provided sufficient open space to develop a transitional buffer between impacting designs of urban and highway development. With the advent of new Bureau of Public Roads (BPR) acquisition policies, it is now possible for the state to acquire sub-standard lots that may be left as a result of righ-of-way acquisition, and utilize the lots to meet multi-use urban and transportation land use demands. Since acquisition of these multi-use areas is left to the State and Federal governments, only maintenance and development costs fall upon the local governments. However, the revision of existing state legislation and the introduction of new bills is necessary to allow the acquisition by the State Road Department of such multi-use areas for local development needs.

The Federal government makes available 90% of the funds necessary to purchase those highway connected multi-use areas, which provide recreational activities. The remaining 10% is paid by the State. Development of such areas can also be supported by 90% Federal funds, with the remaining 10% being provided by the concerned local authorities.

These multi-use open space areas should be developed locally so as to provide a designed area of transition between regional highway right-of-way, and existing or future urban development. Thus, both highway design and urban development are protected from undesirable environmental impacts. Local development of such multi-use areas should include designed open spaces which provide for playgrounds, walking parks, and planted buffers, as recommended by local and regional planning policies and objectives. Other public uses could include parking - - parks and possible shuttle bus terminals to support local and regional transportation system needs.

Potential multi-use highway and urban development areas within the Tampa Bay Region fall along I-75 as follows: designed gateway areas or parks near the West end of Howard Frankland Bridge in Pinellas County, and in the Terra Ceia area in Manatee County; a parking - - park for downtown St. Petersburg. As an example of the multi-use concept, Sketch 5.6 shows a conceptual development scheme of a St. Petersburg Parking - - Park between the 5th Avenue North and 5th Avenue South I-75 overpasses, and 18th and 19th Streets (as shown by Aerial 5.1). This development sketch illustrates the potential such areas possess for

Aerial 5.1 **Parking Park St. Petersburg**



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providing a compatible design of highway and urban development.

The existing general characteristics of the area selected as a Parking · · · Park, St. Petersburg (Sketch 5.6) were found to be:

- Predominantly retiree . . . residential adjacent land use to the East, Northeast, and West.
- The proposed joint-use area generally delimits the Eastern fringes of the Central Business District.
- The land use adjacent to and East of the proposed joint-use area is trending toward a mix of light industrial and commercial.
- The land adjacent to the southern segment of the proposed joint-use area is predominantly light industrial.
- Due to the intensity of land use in the general vicinity, on-street parking has begun to jeopardize the movement of traffic and off street parking is needed.
- As density and trip purposes to the Central Business District continues to increase, land in or near the C.B.D. will be needed for parking and for a possible shuttle bus terminal.
- Open space is needed to delimit the C.B.D. and to serve the retiree population in this general vicinity.

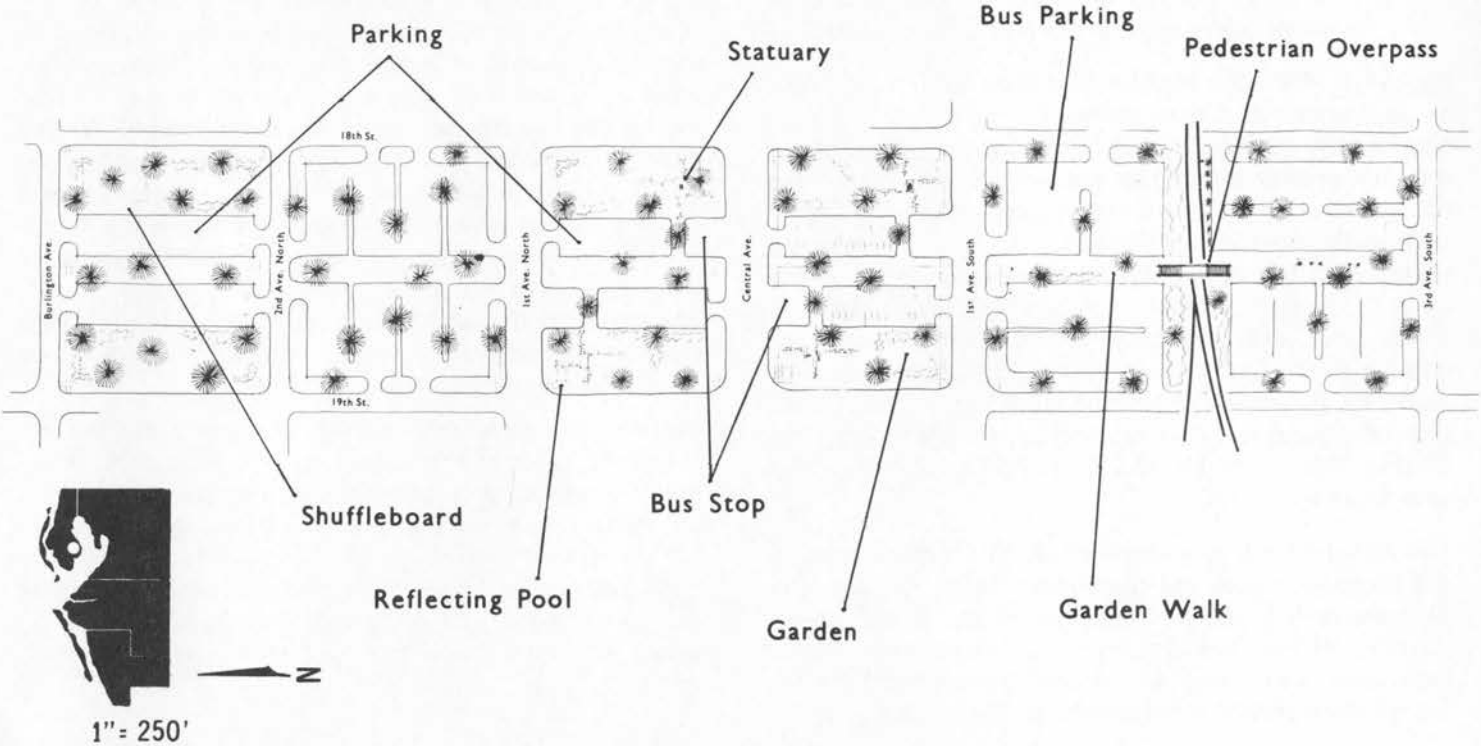
The primary objective in developing this area was to provide for immediate and future needs of regional importance. This should include region-serving transportation elements, recreational parks and open spaces, and provide a satisfactory overall regional design. The suggested development program should proceed as follows:

1970 (Projected completion date of 1-75 segment)

Completion of planting of park areas for Open Space Use.
Completion of necessary graveling of parking areas.

1975 Completion of Parking Park Development between 1st Avenue North and 1st Avenue South, providing a sub-regional, multi-purpose gateway to the Central Business District or Central Plaza. Continued general use of parking and open space.

Sketch 5.6 **Conceptual Development Scheme of Parking Park, St. Petersburg**



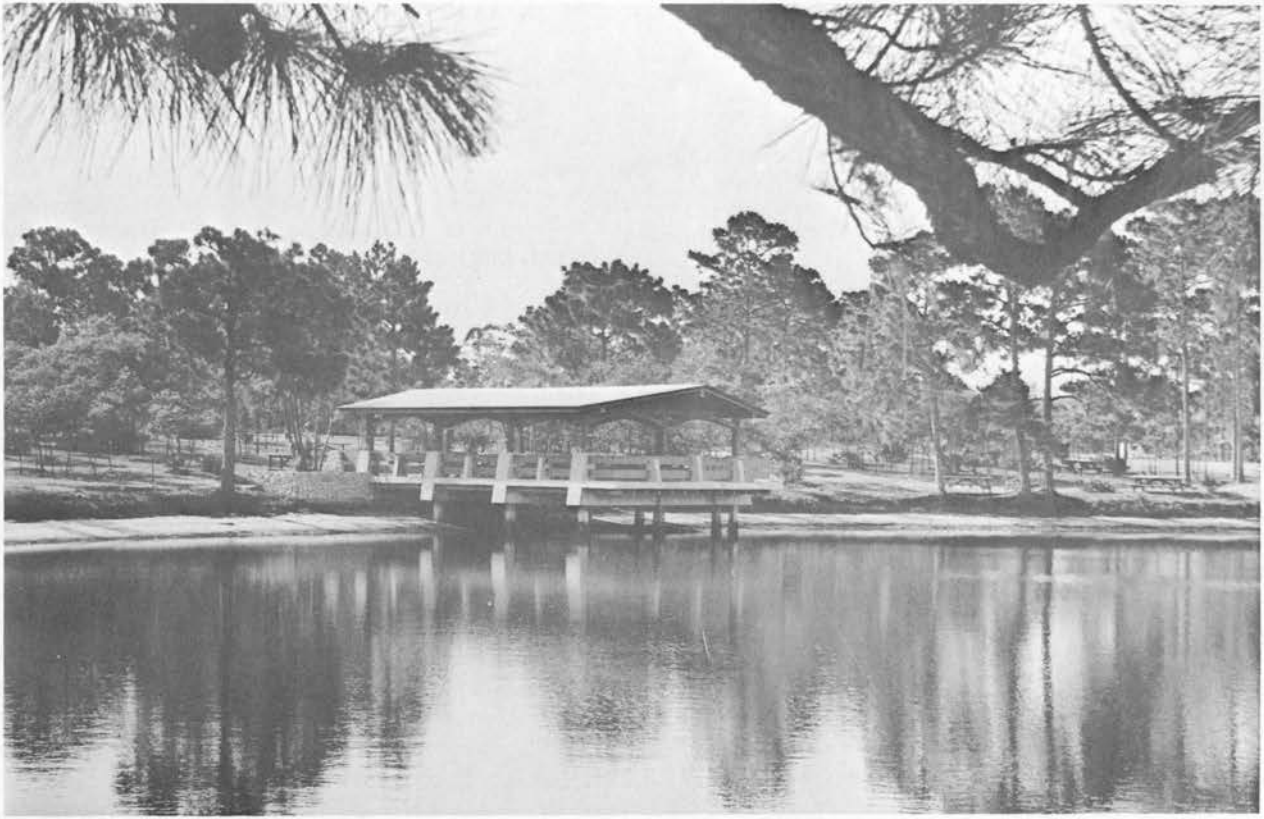
1980 Complete paving and design of Parking Park if recommended by future regional and local plans; development of shuttle bus service.

Parkways. Although regional statistics are not available, all indications are that pleasure driving will increase significantly during the next two decades. This, coupled with the greater interest in natural scenery, makes the possibility of one or more scenic parkways in the region well worth considering. Proposals have been made for the Spanish March Parkway to link with a further developed Cross Bayou Canal, in Pinellas County, creating a scenic boat and automobile corridor extending to the Pinellas-Pasco County Line. Another proposal has been made for a parkway extending from the vicinity of the Charlotte-Sarasota County line northward along the Myakka River into Myakka State Park and connecting with State Road 780.

The demand for high speed highway connectors throughout the region does not take into account the need for pleasure driving. Both of these proposals should receive further consideration due to the projected demand for them and their value as esthetic complements to the overall recreational development of the region.

Private Facilities. Although privately owned recreation facilities could not be considered for analysis in this study, their significance to recreational development in the region should be recognized. As the inventory (see appendix figure 6.1) indicates, there are varied outdoor recreational enterprises operating in the region. Among these, golf courses offer the widest appeal. The number of golf courses in the region is sufficient to meet present demand, but projected population growth should increase the demands placed upon them. Since there are only two municipally supported 18 hole golf courses in the region, it could possibly be of interest to the involved cities or counties to study the feasibility of building and maintaining such courses.

Certain privately maintained natural scenery facilities are a definite asset to the region, as are private recreation areas. The existence of such facilities, however, should not detract from the fact that it is primarily the responsibility of local governing bodies to provide and maintain public recreation areas. Privately maintained recreation can complement regional facilities, but rarely to such an extent as to become a dominant part of regional recreation.



Public Interests in the Shoreline

There is a substantial public investment in shoreline and beach areas in the Tampa Bay Region. Federal, State, County, and municipal governments all own portions of the waterfront and also certain islands, shoals and salt-water marshlands. There is no consistent pattern of ownership or of future acquisition and development.

In other parts of the country, the Federal government through the National Park Service has undertaken substantial acquisition of natural seashore areas for what is known as the National Seashore Program. On the West Gulf Coast, Padre Island running between Brownsville and Corpus Christi, Texas, is such a national seashore, a great beach island, permanently protected, open to everyone as are all national parks. On the Atlantic Coast at Cape Cod and Cape Hatteras are two other

such National Seashores. In Florida, two are under study, one from Pensacola west to the Alabama line in an effort to preserve the beautiful beaches in that area and the other in the East Central Florida Region from Cape Kennedy north to New Smyrna Beach. There are no plans for any such public beach preservation program on the Florida West Coast and it is not clear whether there are sufficient beaches remaining in the Tampa Bay Region to warrant consideration of such a program. It is now recognized by all recreation specialists that the immobilizing of beach fronts by selected private development limits total economic development of any area. It also prevents those who do not have beachfront property from access to and enjoyment of a vital natural resource. Therefore, today's planners are urging that remaining beaches on the coast are retained in public ownership with hotel and other tourist development oriented to the beaches and waterfront back from the shoreline, very much as it has been done so successfully in portions of Palm Beach and Ft. Lauderdale and along the central city waterfront of St. Petersburg and Sarasota.

If such a policy were adopted in the Tampa Bay Region then it might be possible to seek elsewhere for additional public funds for acquisition of those few remaining beach areas so badly needed for public recreation purposes in the Tampa Bay Region. Included in this consideration would also be a number of the natural mangrove swamp areas which still retain a primitive beauty and serve as wildlife sanctuaries and fishing grounds. Many of the waterfront parks which are currently in use are excellently maintained despite the heavy weekend loads. However, beach erosion is a serious menace all along the Tampa Bay Gulf Shores and is a matter of serious concern of the Federal Government as well as state and local government. Here again is an interjurisdictional planning problem which points to the need of a regional cooperative agency to work with Federal and State agencies on a common problem.

Table 6.1 Existing Recreation Inventory Key

Hillsborough County

Egmont Key	H-1
Old Tampa Bay Park	H-2
Maki Regional Park	H-3
E. G. Simmons Park	H-4
Lower Hillsborough Reservoir Park	H-5
Hillsborough River State Park	H-6
Lake Park	H-7

Pinellas County

Anclote Key State Park	P-1
Sand Key	P-2
Lake Seminole	P-3
Lake Tarpon (Anderson Park)	P-4
Ft. DeSoto Park	P-6
Sunshine Skyway	P-7
Pass-A-Grille	P-9
Phillippe Park	P-11
Clearwater Beach	P-12
Howard Park	P-13
St. Petersburg Municipal Beach	P-14

Manatee County

Manatee Reservoir Recreation	M-1
Manatee Beach	M-2
Coquina Beach	M-3
DeSoto National Monument	M-4
Gamble Mansion	M-5

Sarasota County

Lido Beach	S-1
Siesta Key	S-2
Turtle Beach	S-3
Myakka State Park	S-4
Casperson County Park	S-5
Manasota Beach	S-6
Nokomis Beach	S-7
Venice Municipal Beach	S-8
Oscar Scherrer State Park	S-9
Venice Airport Beach	S-10

Figure 6.1 Inventory of Region Serving Parks by Location and Activity

Classifications / Activities	Acreage	Swimming	Salt	Fresh	Fishing	Salt	Fresh	Camping	Picnicking	Boating	Hunting	Golf	Nature / Scenic	Hiking	Wildlife	Football Baseball	Public* Ownership	Private Ownership
Multi-Use Facilities																		
H - 2	undeveloped																C	
H - 3	250								X	X			X	X			C	
H - 4	1,810				X		X	X	X	X			X	X	X		S	
H - 5	600								X	X			X	X	X		C	
P - 3	100				X		X		X	X			X	X			C	
P - 4	900	X	X		X	X		X	X	X			X				C	
P - 7	125				X	X			X	X			X				C	
P - 8	88				X	X			X	X			X				C	
P - 10	57				X	X			X	X			X				S	
S - 4	28,875				X		X	X	X	X			X		X		S	
M - 1	undeveloped																C	
S - 9	487			X	X	X			X	X			X		X		S	
S - 5	327							undeveloped										
Wildlife & Natural Resource Cons. Area																		
H - 1																	S	
P - 1	54														X		S	
P - 6	653														X		S	
Historic Sites																		
M - 4	25												X	X				
M - 5	12												X	X				

* S - State owned
C - County owned
Cy - City owned
F - Federally owned

Figure 6.1 (Continued)

Classifications / Activities	Acreage	Swimming	Salt	Fresh	Fishing	Salt	Fresh	Camping	Picnicking	Boating	Hunting	Golf	Nature / Scenic	Hiking	Wildlife	Football Baseball	Public* Ownership	Private Ownership
Beaches																		
P - 14	12	X	X		X	X											Cy	
P - 9	10	X	X		X	X											Cy	
P - 11	17[1]	X	X		X	X											Cy	
M - 2	10	X	X		X	X											C	
M - 3	38[1]	X	X		X	X											C	
S - 1	15	X	X		X	X											Cy	
S - 2	10	X	X		X	X											C	
S - 3	10	X	X		X	X											C	
S - 7	10	X	X		X	X											C	
S - 8	2.8	X	X		X	X											Cy	
S - 10	30	X	X		X	X											Cy	
S - 6	1.4	X	X		X	X											C	
Recreational Water-Courses																		
P - 2	950	X		X	X		X			X								
P - 3a	2,560	X		X	X		X			X								
M - 1a	2,000	X		X	X		X			X								
Other Recreation Areas																		
Busch Gardens	200												X		X			X
Sunken Gardens	5.5												X		X			X
Tiki Gardens	12.5												X					X
Sarasota Jungle Gardens													X					X
St. Pete Aquatarium	N.A.														X			X
Spectator Sport Facilities	N.A.															1/6		X
Ringling Museum Complex*	68																S	
Golf Courses (25)	3,500 (approx)											X					C	X
Tampa Greyhound Track																		X
Derby Lane																		X
Florida Downs																		X

* Although the majority of facilities are indoor, this complex must be included in the inventory due to its unique appeal and volume of recreation generated.

1 - Usable Beach

a - Lake only

Figure 6.2 Recreation Service Facilities Available at Region Serving Parks

	Picnic Shelters	No. of Tables	Length of Beach	Boat Ramp Lanes	Barbecue Pits	Bath House	Rest Rooms	Concessions Food	Concessions Bait	Fishing Pier Length	Restaurant Capacity	Cabins	Trailer or Tent Camp Spaces	Parking (Cars)	Rental Boats Horses Bicycles Sun Shelters Marinas Shuffleboard Equipment	Other
Multi-Use Facilities																
H - 3	10	40		2	10		1									
H - 4		131			125		4	1								
H - 5				2												Horse Show Arena
P - 3	3	77		4	34		2							235		
P - 4	7/	1,008	15,000	60	347		12	5	2	1,000 & 500	120		168	3,300		
P - 7		25	55,000*			1			2		10					
P - 8	8	367		1	100		6		1					783		
P - 10	4	99			36		2							114		
H - 2								UNDEVELOPED								
S - 4		95		3	5		4		1			5	100	NA		
S - 5								UNDEVELOPED								
S - 9				1			1									
M - 1								UNDEVELOPED								
Beaches																
P - 14			5,000											300		
P - 9			5,000				1							285		
P - 11			3,500				1									
M - 2			1,200				3		1	460				300(est)		
M - 3		25	5,280	1	32	2			1					1,000		
S - 1			3,300			1			1		NA			NA		
S - 2			1,400		15	1			1					360		

Not suitable for beach activities.

Figure 6.2 (Continued)

	Picnic Shelters No. of Tables	Length of Beach	Boat Ramp Lanes	Barbecue Pits	Bath House	Rest Rooms	Concessions Food Bait	Fishing Pier Length	Restaurant Capacity	Cabins	Trailer or Tent Camp Spaces	Parking (Cars)	Rental Boats Horses Bicycles Sun Shelters Marinas Shuffleboard Equipment	Other
Beaches (cont.)														
S - 3		1,150	1	10	1		1					NA		
S - 7	8	800	1	10										
S - 8		1,100			1		1							
S - 10		6,000						740				NA		
S - 6	4	500		4	1							NA		
Recreational Water Courses														
P - 4			4											
M - 1														
P - 3			6											
Wildlife & Nat. Resources Conservation Area														
H - 1														Can Beach Boats
P - 1														Can Beach Boats
P - 6														Can Beach Boats
Historical Sites														
M - 4						1								
M - 5						1								

Figure 6.3 Flow Diagram of Procedure for Parks and Open Space Study

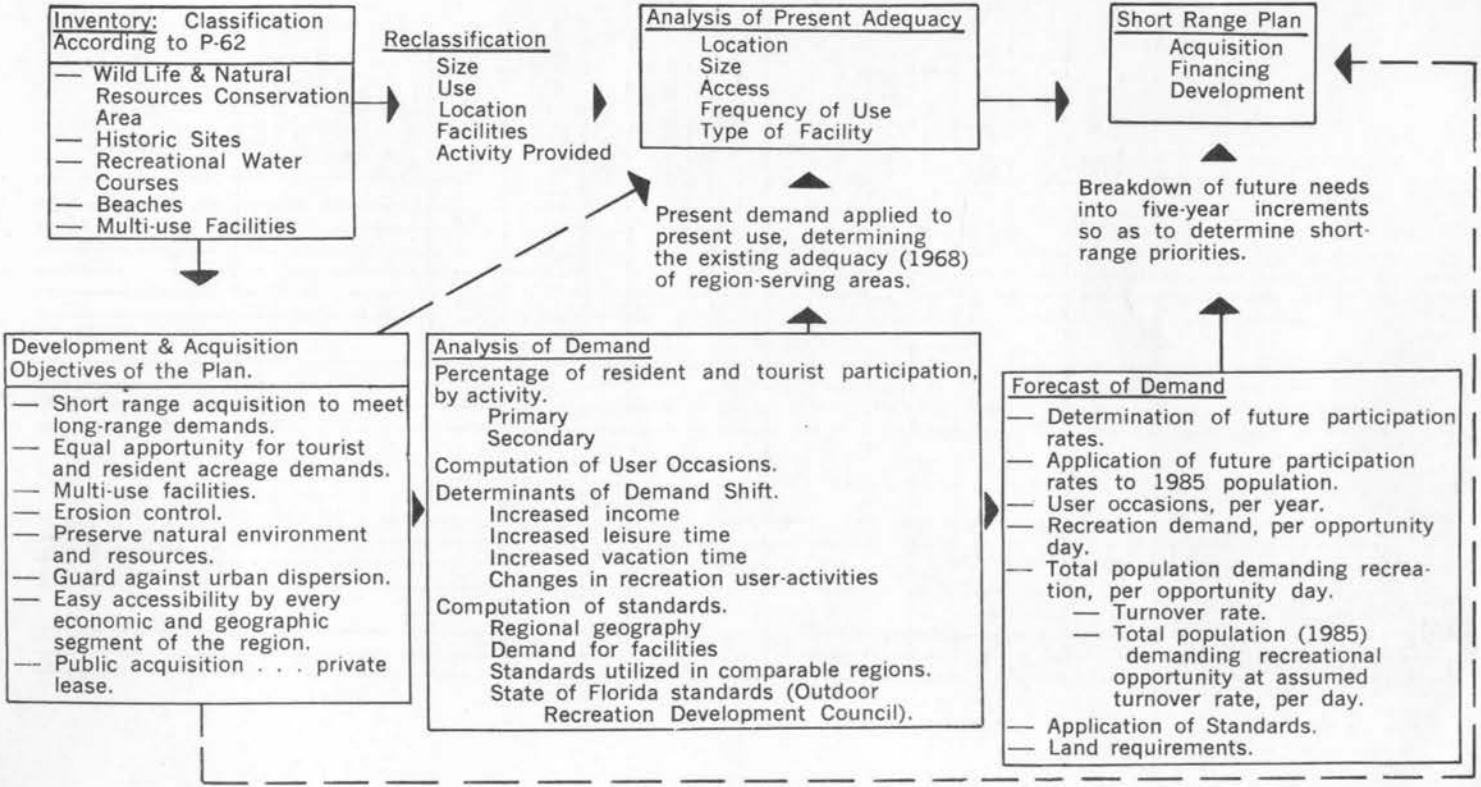
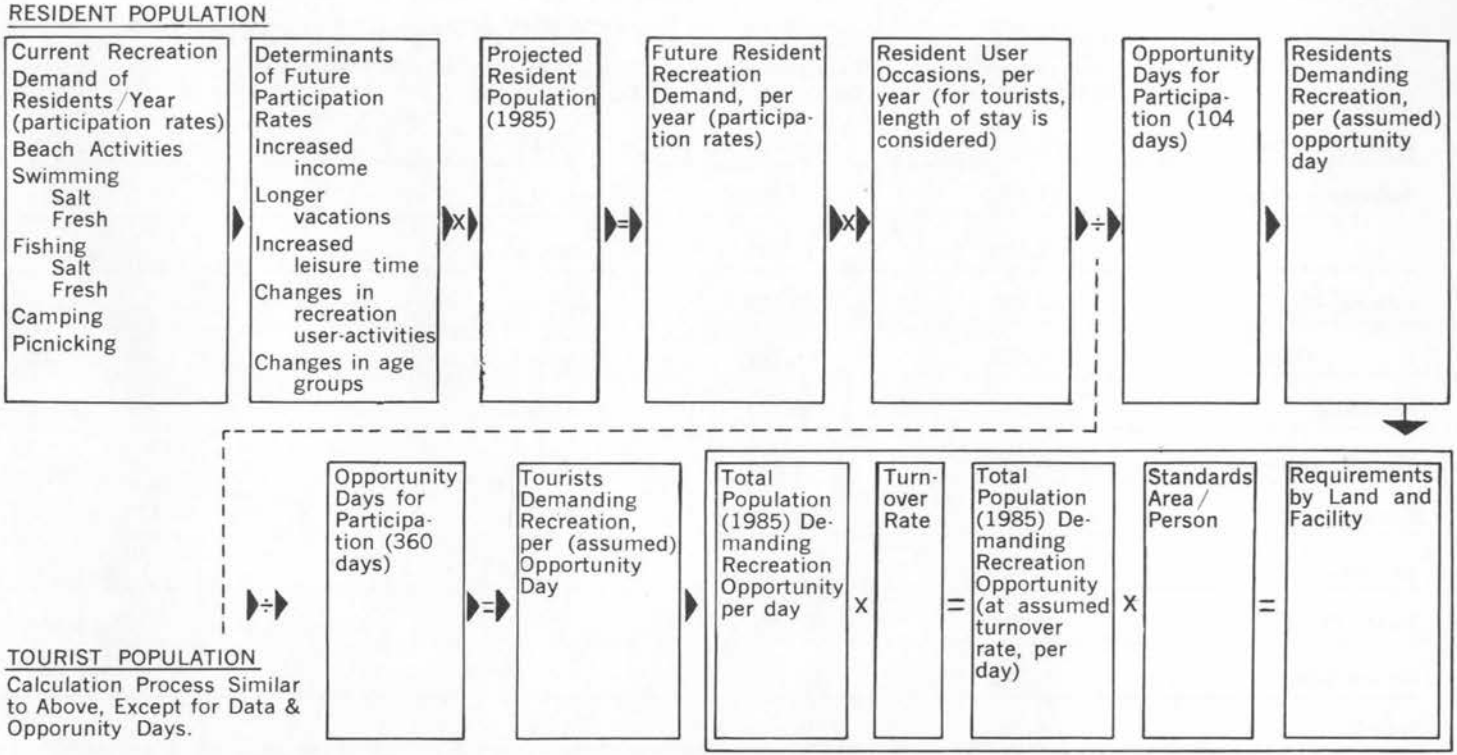


Figure 6.4 Recreation Demand Calculation Process by Activity



* The Calculation Process includes adjustment of Outdoor Recreation Development Council (Fla.) Factors for State Region 7, to Tampa Bay Regional Characteristics.

** 1968 recreation demand will be determined without this step... 1975 recreation demand will be determined by interpolation between Land Demand 1985 and Land Demand 1968.

Table 6.2 Total Tourist and Resident Demand 1968

	Tourists Demanding Recreation Per Opportunity Day	Residents Demanding Recreation Per Opportunity Day	Total Number Demanding Recreation Per Opportunity Day	Rate of Turnover	Total Demanding Recreation Opportunity at Any One Time
Beach Activities	35,701	151,726	187,427	2	93,713
Swimming—Salt	27,315	123,122	150,437	2	75,218
Fresh	7,495	32,335	39,830		39,830
Fishing—Salt	27,896	77,106	105,002	2	52,501
Fresh	6,239	44,771	51,030	2	25,515
Picnicking	12,232	54,720	66,952		66,952
Visiting Historical Sites	18,288	9,949	28,237		28,237
Boating	9,686	55,964	65,650	2	32,835
Camping	4,151	9,949	14,100		141,100
Water Skiing	2,214	28,604	30,818	2	15,409
Nature Study	5,258	11,192	16,450		16,450
Hiking	2,278	3,730	6,008		6,008

Table 6.3 Minimum Acreage Requirements 1968

Beach Activities	4,685,000 Square Feet
Swimming—Salt	1,112,000 Square Feet
Fresh	75 Standard Sites (not applicable to regional study)
Fishing—Salt	143 Access Sites (Boats)
Fresh	427,500 Feet of Shoreline; 11,400 Acres (Water); 60 Boat Access Sites
Picnicking	650 Acres
Historic Sites	Standards Not Applicable
Boating	82,060 Acres (Fresh and Salt); 656 Access Sites
Camping	1,500 — 2,000 Sites
Water Skiing	81 Boat Access Sites; 61,410 Water Acres
Nature Study	67,000 Acres
Hiking	300 Miles of Trails

Table 6.4 Existing Acreage 1968

Beach Activities	7,800,000 Square Feet (approximately)
Swimming—Salt	Due to Gulf of Mexico, Not Measurable
Fresh	Standards do not apply to regional studies
Picnicking	Not Measurable
Fishing—Salt	135 Boat Ramp Lanes
Fresh	350,000 - 375,000 Feet Shoreline; 11,000 12,000 Acres; 35 (Approximately) Boat Lanes
Historic Sites	Standards Not Applicable
Boating	Due to Gulf of Mexico, Water Acreage Not Measurable; 180 Boat Ramp Lanes
Camping	433 Publicly Owned Sites; 282 Privately Owned Sites; Total — 715
Water Skiing	315 Total Boat Ramp Lanes (Fresh and Salt)
Nature Study	Not Measurable
Hiking	Not Measurable

Table 6.5 Total Tourist and Resident Demand 1975

	Tourists Demanding Recreation Per Opportunity Day	Residents Demanding Recreation Per Opportunity Day	Total Number Demanding Recreation Per Opportunity Day	Rate of Turnover	Total Demanding Recreation Opportunity at Any One Time
Beach Activities	92,603	306,826	399,429	2	199,714
Swimming—Salt	68,438	242,697	311,135	2	155,567
Fresh	17,780	63,259	81,039		81,039
Fishing—Salt	66,082	174,867	240,949	2	120,474
Fresh	17,972	81,030	99,002	2	49,501
Picnicking	29,863	106,140	136,003		136,003
Visiting Historical Sites	45,753	59,212	104,965		104,965
Boating	25,972	118,777	144,749	2	72,374
Camping	10,739	26,578	37,317		37,317
Water Skiing	6,232	46,553	52,785	2	26,392
Nature Study	13,315	28,987	42,302		42,302
Hiking	6,652	11,784	18,436		18,436

Table 6.6 Minimum Acreage Requirements 1975

Beach Activities	9,985,700 sq. ft. of beach Area
Swimming—Salt	2,333,500 sq. ft. of shoreline (beach) access
Fresh	101 Standard Sites
Fishing—Salt	410 Boating Acess ramps; 381,500 feet of accessible shoreline
Fresh	742,000 feet of accessible shoreline; 100 access sites; 20,000 water acres
Picnicking	1,360 Acres
Visiting Historical Sites	Not Applicable
Boating	362 ramp sites; 180,930 Acres
Camping	7,000 Sites; 1,181 Acres
Water Skiing	131 Boating Access Sites; 99,000 water acres
Nature Study	211,525 Acres
Hiking	920 Miles of Trail

Table 6.7 Total Tourist and Resident Demand 1985

	Tourists Demanding Recreation Per Opportunity Day	Residents Demanding Recreation Per Opportunity Day	Total Number Demanding Recreation Per Opportunity Day	Rate of Turnover	Total Demanding Recreation Opportunity at Any One Time
Beach Activities	155,196	373,396	528,592	2	264,296
Picnicking	119,145	301,900	421,045	2	210,522
Swimming—Salt	40,570	81,310	121,880		121,880
Fresh	114,323	190,824	305,147	2	152,573
Fishing—Salt	33,876	111,400	145,276	2	72,638
Fresh	54,984	130,850	185,834		185,834
Visiting Historical Sites	78,409	23,517	101,926		101,926
Boating	70,855	262,556	335,411	2	167,706
Camping	35,033	36,000	71,033		71,033
Water Skiing	17,043	131,145	148,188	2	74,094
Nature Study	25,762	28,734	54,496		54,496
Hiking	14,290	10,904	25,194		25,194

Table 6.8 Minimum Acreage Requirements 1985

Beach Activities	13,214,000 sq. ft. of Beach Area
Swimming—Salt	
Fresh	152 Standard Sites (not applicable to regional study)
Fishing—Salt	518 Boat access ramps; 488,230 feet of shoreline
Fresh	1,080,000 feet of shoreline; 145 boating ramps; 29,056 water acres
Picnicking	1,858 Acres
Visiting Historical Sites	Standards Not Applicable
Boating	838 Acres ramps
Camping	2,500 Acres; 15,000 campsites
Water Skiing	370 Boating access ramps; 277,860 Acres (Water)
Nature Study	272,480 Acres
Hiking	1,000 miles of trail

Table 6.9 Regional Standards for Recreational Activities

1. Beach Activities

Turnover rate	=	2
Beach area	=	50 sq. ft. per person
Beach frontage	=	.5 ft. per person
Water area	=	50 sq. ft. per person

2. Boating

Turnover rate	=	2
User group	=	4 participants per boat
Access sites	=	1 site per 50 boats per day
Water area	=	10 acres per boat

3. Camping

95% designated site camping

User group	=	5 persons per site
Sites	=	6 per acre

5% primitive camping

Area	=	10 acres per person

4. Fishing in freshwater

Turnover rate	=	2

60% shore fishing

Shoreline access	=	25 ft. per person

40% boat fishing

User group	=	4 anglers per boat
Access sites	=	1 site per 50 boats per day
Water area	=	4 acres per boat

5. Fishing in saltwater

Turnover rate	=	2

68% Boat fishing

User group	=	4 anglers per boat
Access sites	=	1 site per 50 boats per day

32% Shore fishing

Shoreline access	=	10 ft. per person

6. Hunting

Turnover rate	=	2

Table 6.9 (Continued)

95% upland hunting

Area = 320 acres per hunter

5% waterfowl hunting

Area = 4 acres per hunter

7. Nature study

Area = 5 acres per person

8. Picnicking

User group = 5 persons per site

Area = 20 sites per acre

9. Swimming in natural freshwater

One standard unit (site) = 200 persons per 2 hour period, 4 times per day (capacity to accomodate 800 per day)

10. Swimming in saltwater

Turnover rate = 2

Shoreline access = 15 sq. ft. per person

11. Viewing historical sites

One standard unit (site) = 500 persons per 2 hour period, 4 periods per day (capacity to accommodate 2,000 per day)

12. Water Skiing

Turnover rate = 2

User group = 4 persons per boat

Access sites = 1 site per 50 boats per day

Water area = 15 acres per boat

13. Hiking

Trails = 1/20 mile per person

Area = 10 acres per person

Table 6.10 Definition of Terms

Definitions:

Major Outdoor Recreation Areas and Open Spaces: Those that are region serving areas, i. e., which meet the demands of both Tourist and Resident populations for parks and open space lands and facilities.

Recreation Activities: Those recreational resources for which there is sufficient demand to justify individual attention (see list below):

Activities

Beach Activities

Swimming — Salt
Fresh

Fishing — Salt
Fresh

Picnicking

Visiting Historical Sites

Boating

Camping

Water Skiing

Nature Study

Hiking

User-Occasion: One person participating in one activity, one time

Turnover Rate: Proportional estimate of the number of users participating in an activity at any one time.

Multi-Use Facilities: Those recreational areas with extensive provision for more than one activity.

Wildlife and Natural Resource Conservation Areas: Those areas set aside specifically for the conservation of natural scenery or the preservation of existing wildlife.

Beaches: Gulf frontage which maintains adequate width, safe water, and sufficient freedom from undergrowth to provide satisfactory beach activities.

Recreational Water Courses: Bodies of water (fresh or salt), supplying adequate acreage to support significant boating, water skiing, swimming, or fishing.

Historic Sites: Those areas universally recognized to possess some historic significance either locally or nationally.

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