



Parks and Recreation Division

**Public Boat Ramps
Work Session**

December 3, 2019



Presentation Outline

- Purpose
- Background
- Draft Ordinance
- Next Steps





Presentation Outline

- **Purpose**
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Purpose

- **Present recommendations for draft ordinance affecting use of public boat ramps and associated recreational areas and facilities**
- **Present operational guidelines for business use at each of the 11 boat ramps throughout the County**



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Background

- **Concerns with commercial use of boat ramps throughout the County**
 - No contractual relationship with operators
 - Possible liability for non-recreational use
 - Perception that commercial use is authorized by County and therefore meets safety requirements
 - Compliance with license and operating standards
 - Accessibility for citizens to use public boat ramps
- **Conflicts between multiple operators and private businesses at the Highway 50 boat ramp**



Background

- Numerous airboat businesses now advertise the County's Highway 50 boat ramp as their business address
- Midway, an adjacent airboat tour company, objects to the increased commercial use of County boat ramp citing unfair competition by private operators using a public facility

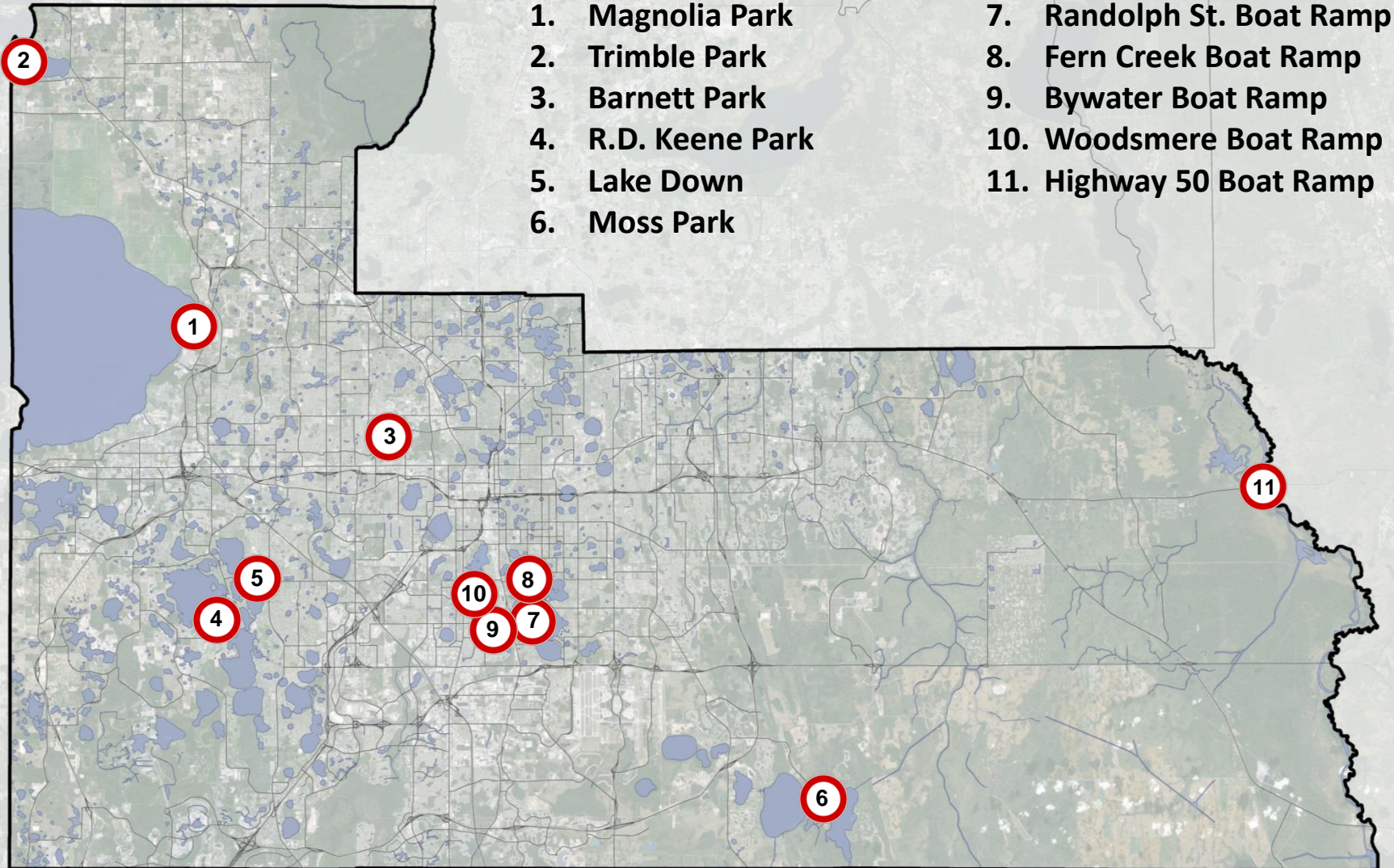


Background

- Existing Parks rules and regulations are not enforceable due to lack of ordinance
- Similar business operations may include fishing guide services, boat and jet ski rentals, etc.
- Adjacent Counties (Brevard & Osceola) regulate business operations through ordinances and vendor agreements



Boat Ramp Locations





Background

- On August 29, 2017 concerns with business operations at public boat ramps were presented to the BCC
- January 9, 2018 staff presented recommendations to the BCC for the ordinance and operational guidelines for business use at all 11 boat ramps
- March 28, 2018 a stakeholder meeting was held
- September 18, 2018 staff presented results of the stakeholder meeting and recommendations



Background

- **August 29, 2017 BCC Meeting**
- **Board Comments**
 - **Ordinance provides clear regulation and enforcement**
 - **Each boat ramp has its own nuances**
 - **Allow guides and fishing tournaments**
 - **Priority given to Orange County residents**
 - **Ensure citizen access**
 - **Priority for public use not private**
 - **Directed staff to create a County-wide boat ramp ordinance**



Background

- **January 9, 2018 BCC Meeting**
- **Board Comments**
 - **Staff presented draft ordinance and operating guidelines**
 - **Board confirmed need for ordinance**
 - **Recognized challenges with accessibility at all boat ramps**
 - **The Board directed staff to conduct a stakeholder meeting**



Background

- **March 28, 2018 Stakeholder Meeting**
- **Citizen Comments**
 - Parking constraints and general public access was a big part of the discussion
 - Parking capacity is only a problem on the weekend during the boating season
 - Utilize SJRWMD boat ramp and property for overflow
 - Use FDOT ROW like Midway does for much of their parking
 - No actual data regarding parking utilization and needs



Background

- **March 28, 2018 Stakeholder Meeting**
- **Citizen Comments**
 - Small operators have been on the river for 20+ years or generations.
 - Enforcement concerns will still exist (Subcontractors, fishing guides, tour business as fishing guide, advertising, etc.)
 - Unfair limiting to Orange County businesses – only public ramp on the River for 40 miles
 - Ordinance does not consider maximum airboat passenger size and insurance availability



Background

- **September 18, 2018 BCC Meeting**
 - Staff presented results of the stakeholder meeting and recommendations

- **April 2019, Parking Study Completed for Hwy 50 Boat Ramp**
 - Study completed during Spring Break from March 6, 2019 to March 27, 2019
 - 95% of time there was sufficient parking



Presentation Outline

- Purpose
- Background
- **Draft Ordinance**
- Next Steps





Draft Ordinance

- **Implement an ordinance similar to adjoining Counties**
- **Operational Guidelines established to regulate commercial activity**





Draft Ordinance

- **Implement an ordinance similar to adjoining Counties**
 - Establishing hours of operation
 - Establishing time limits on docking and anchoring
 - Prohibits unauthorized commercial activities at public boat ramps:
 - No picking up or dropping off passengers
 - No soliciting or advertising commercial activity for hire
 - No designating county site as physical business address
 - No collecting compensation for any service
 - Authorizing code enforcement procedures and penalties



Draft Ordinance

- **Implement an ordinance similar to adjoining Counties**
 - **Exemptions from commercial activity prohibition:**
 - **Licensed commercial fishing guides picking up or dropping off passengers with County permit**
 - **Vendors under contract with County providing services (tours, rentals, vending, etc.)**
 - **Those commercial activities permitted by County in accordance with Parks Division Operational Guidelines**



Draft Ordinance

- **Operational Guidelines established to regulate commercial activity**
 - Boat Tours
 - Fishing Tournaments
 - Fishing Guides
 - Rentals (power boats & jet skis)
 - Paddle Sports



Draft Ordinance

- **Operational Guidelines established to regulate commercial activity**
 - **Boat Tours**
 - **R.D. Keene Park Boat Ramp & Highway 50 Boat Ramp**
 - Issue permits to qualified boat businesses
 - \$3000 annual permit fee
 - \$1 million insurance requirement
 - Business may not use subcontractors



Draft Ordinance

- **Operational Guidelines established to regulate commercial activity**
 - **Boat Tours**
 - **Fishing Tournaments**
 - **Only permitted at designated sites**
 - **Special Event Fees will apply for peak hour events**



Draft Ordinance

- **Operational Guidelines established to regulate commercial activity**
 - **Boat Tours**
 - **Fishing Tournaments**
 - **Fishing Guides**
 - **Each guide must purchase an annual pass**
 - **Sign agreement**
 - **Meet insurance requirements**



Draft Ordinance

- **Operational Guidelines established to regulate commercial activity**
 - Boat Tours
 - Fishing Tournaments
 - Fishing Guides
 - Rentals (power boats & jet skis)
 - Prohibited at all boat ramps





Draft Ordinance

- **Operational Guidelines established to regulate commercial activity**
 - Boat Tours
 - Fishing Tournaments
 - Fishing Guides
 - Rentals (power boats & jet skis)
 - Paddle Sports
 - Request For Proposal will be issued on a case-by-case basis



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Next Steps

- **Finalize ordinance and operational guidelines**
- **Schedule public hearing (January or February 2020)**



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