

A stylized blue graphic of a fruit, possibly an orange or grapefruit, with several leaves, set against a dark blue background. The fruit is rendered in a lighter shade of blue with a textured, dotted surface.

***Parks and Recreation Division***

# **Public Boat Ramps Work Session**

**September 18, 2018**



# Presentation Outline

- Purpose
- Background
- Draft Ordinance
- Next Steps





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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**



# Presentation Outline

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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



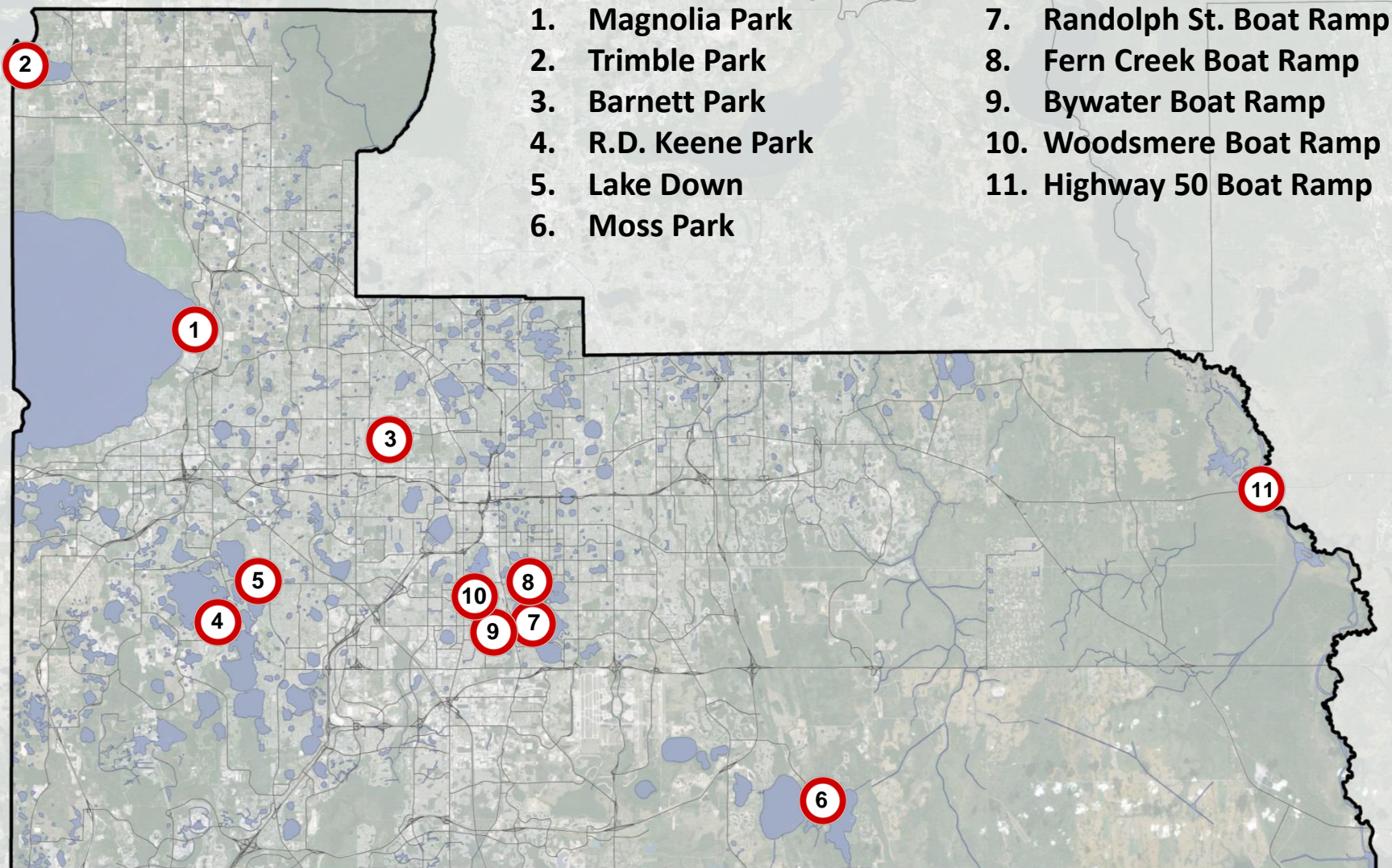
# Background

- 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



# 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 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 Comments (cont.)

- Small operators have been on the river for 20+ years or generations. Midway has only been in business for 10 years
- 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



# 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



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