

A stylized, semi-transparent blue graphic of a fruit, possibly an orange or grapefruit, with several leaves, is centered in the background. The fruit has a dotted texture on its surface.

Parks and Recreation Division

Public Boat Ramps

August 29, 2017



Presentation Outline

- Purpose
- Background
- Options
- Summary





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Purpose

- **To discuss issues concerning business operations at public boat ramps**
 - **Conflicts between multiple operators and private businesses at the Highway 50 boat ramp in East Orange County**
 - **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



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Background

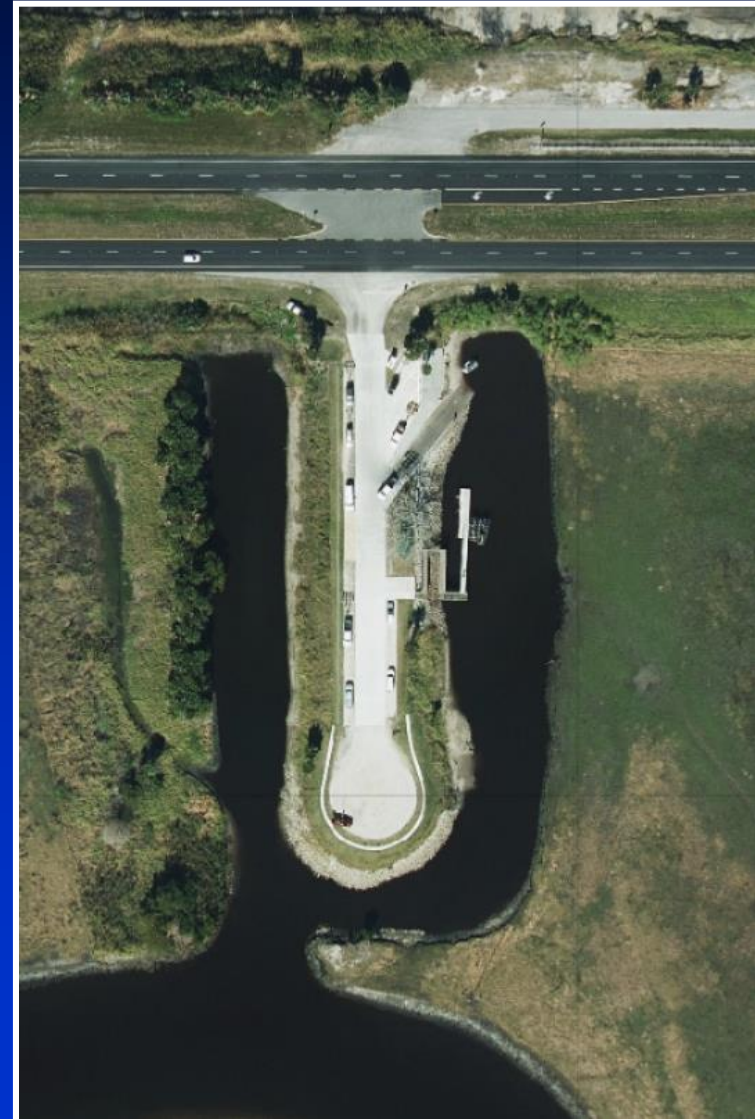
- Highway 50 Boat Ramp provides access to St. Johns River
- Limited public access





Background

- Significant capital improvements in 2013 and 2015
- 21 parking spaces or 11 spaces for trucks with trailers





NO SWIMMING AT BOAT RAMP
NO NADEN EN LA RAMPA

- Never enter the water if a storm is in the area.
- Avoid feeding or contact with wildlife.
- Baited traps may catch you at your own risk.
- Experienced swimmers only.
- Supervise children and always swim with a lifeline.
- NO Diving - Diving in shallow water can cause permanent injury or death.

WARM WATER WARNING

- Bacteria and other harmful organisms such as amoebas thrive in warm water.
- Wear these caps or hats for areas when swimming or sunbathing to reduce your risk.
- Seek prompt medical attention if you become ill after swimming.

Orange County
Parks & Recreation Division

• Nunca entre al agua si hay una tormenta en el área.- Evite alimentar o tener contacto con la fauna.
- Nadar de embarcaciones bajo su propio riesgo.
- Nadadores con experiencia solamente.
- Supervise a los niños y nadar siempre con la línea de vida.
- NO ZAMBULLIDAS - Zambullir en aguas poco profundas puede causar daños permanentes o la muerte.

AVISO SOBRE AGUAS CALIENTES

- Las bacterias y otros organismos dañinos tales como la ameba crecen en aguas cálidas.
- Utilice un sombrero de náutilo o sombrero para reducir su riesgo.
- Busque atención médica de inmediato si se enferma después de nadar.

División de Parques y Recreación
del Condado de Orange

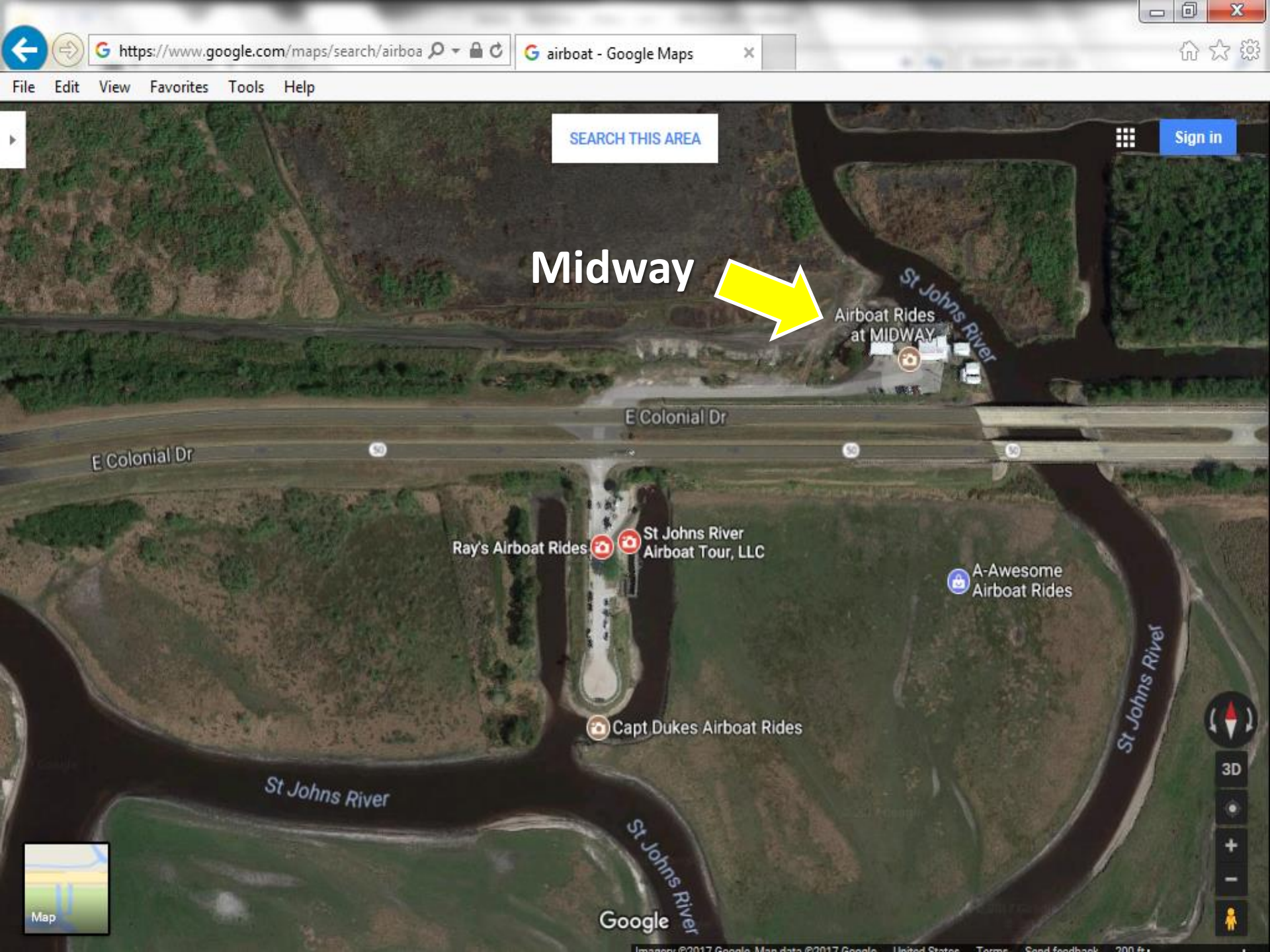




Background

- Numerous airboat businesses now advertise the County's Highway 50 boat ramp as their business address
- One airboat business has recently requested permits to use the Highway 50 boat ramp
- 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





SEARCH THIS AREA

Sign in

Midway

Airboat Rides
at MIDWAY

E Colonial Dr

E Colonial Dr

Ray's Airboat Rides

St Johns River
Airboat Tour, LLC

A-Awesome
Airboat Rides

Capt Dukes Airboat Rides

St Johns River

St Johns River

St Johns River

Google



Background

- BCC approved Parks Division Rules & Regulations in 2011 prohibiting any boat operating for hire except by special permit
- No permits have been issued
- In 2012, in response to requests from commercial operators, staff sent a letter allowing airboat businesses to utilize the Highway 50 boat ramp, provided:
 - They not advertise or market a business in the County Park
 - They not perform any business transactions on property



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 single vendor agreements



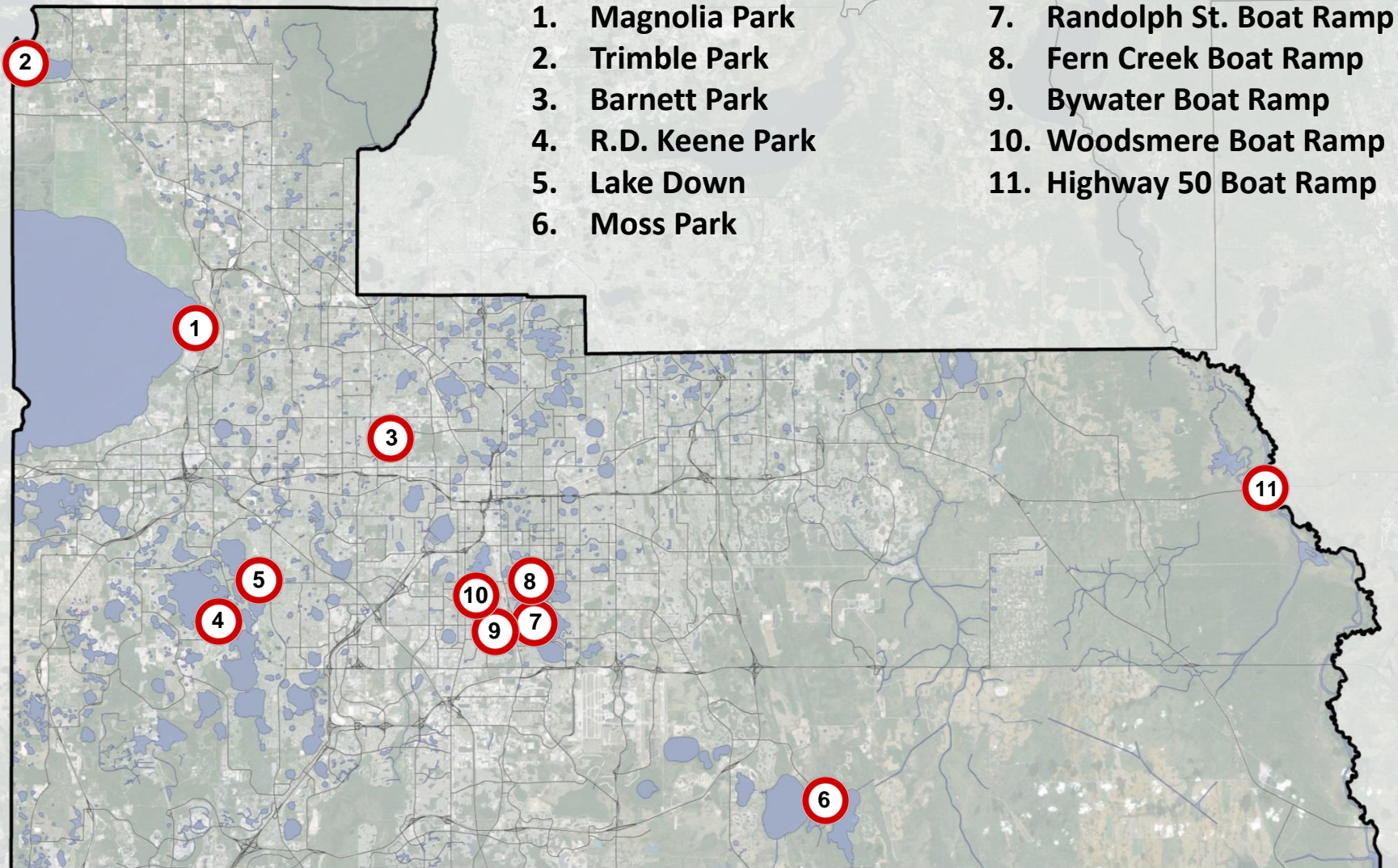


Background

- **Provisions of other local ordinances**
 - Hours of operation
 - Prohibits commercial use including:
 - Picking up or dropping off passengers
 - Soliciting commercial activity for hire
 - Designating county site as the physical address
 - Collecting compensation at site
 - Exempts fishing guides and approved vendors
 - Establishes code enforcement process and penalties



Boat Ramp Locations





Background

- In conjunction with a County-wide boat ramp ordinance, an RFP / vendor agreement would allow the County to:
 - Authorize limited commercial activity at select boat ramps
 - Require minimum levels of insurance and liability
 - Provide for revenue sharing and other value-added services



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Options

- **Implement an ordinance similar to adjoining Counties**
- **Regulate commercial activity utilizing one of the following options:**
 1. **Issue unlimited permits at boat ramps provided they meet all County requirements**
 2. **Prohibit businesses at boat ramps**
 3. **Issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to select one or more vendors to provide specified services at select boat ramps**





Options

- 1. Issue unlimited permits at boat ramps provided they meet all County requirements**
 - Mitigates liability concerns because of permit requirements
 - Allows operators to remain in business
 - Inconsistent with Parks and Rec vendor practices
 - Congested ramps stay congested



Options

2. Prohibit all businesses at boat ramps

- **Eliminates safety and liability concerns**
- **Ensures the County does not compete with private, tax paying businesses**
- **Existing businesses may be forced to relocate**



Options

- 3. Issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to select one or more vendors to provide specified services at select boat ramps**
 - Ensures vendors are certified, licensed, and carry County-required liability insurance
 - Provides limited competition without affecting viability of private tax-paying businesses operating their own facilities
 - Public access is improved at congested ramps



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Summary

- **Airboat and commercial operations have increased at public boat ramps**
- **Ordinance needed to protect County and citizens**
- **Ordinance will provide framework for permits and allow for enforcement**
- **Need Board direction on allowing commercial uses at specified County boat ramps**
 1. **Permits**
 2. **Prohibition**
 3. **RFP**