

A large, stylized blue fruit, possibly an orange or grapefruit, with several leaves, is centered in the background. The fruit has a textured surface with small dots. The leaves are also blue and have a simple, stylized shape.

***Parks and Recreation Division***

# **Public Boat Ramps**

**January 9, 2018**



# Presentation Outline

- Purpose
- Background
- Recommendations
- Next Steps
- Summary





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# Purpose

- **Present recommendations for a 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

- On August 29, 2017 staff conducted a presentation to the BCC concerning business operations at public boat ramps



# Background

- **Conflicts between multiple operators and private businesses at the Highway 50 boat ramp**
- **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

# Background

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

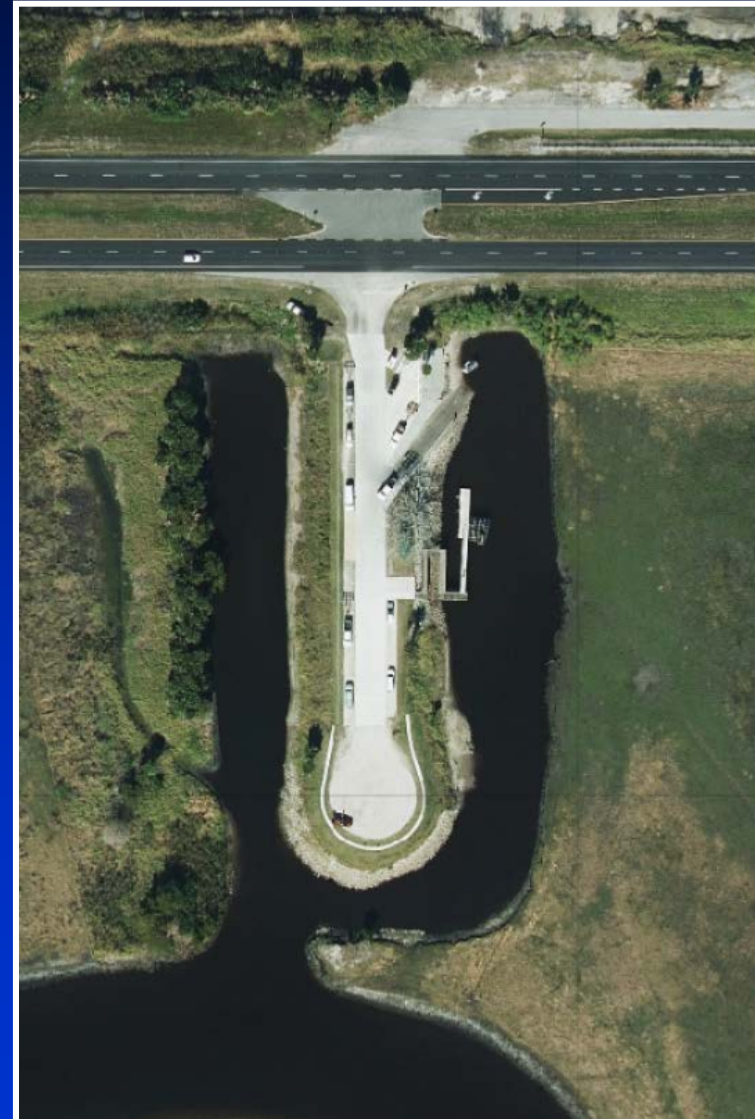






# Background

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





# 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





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





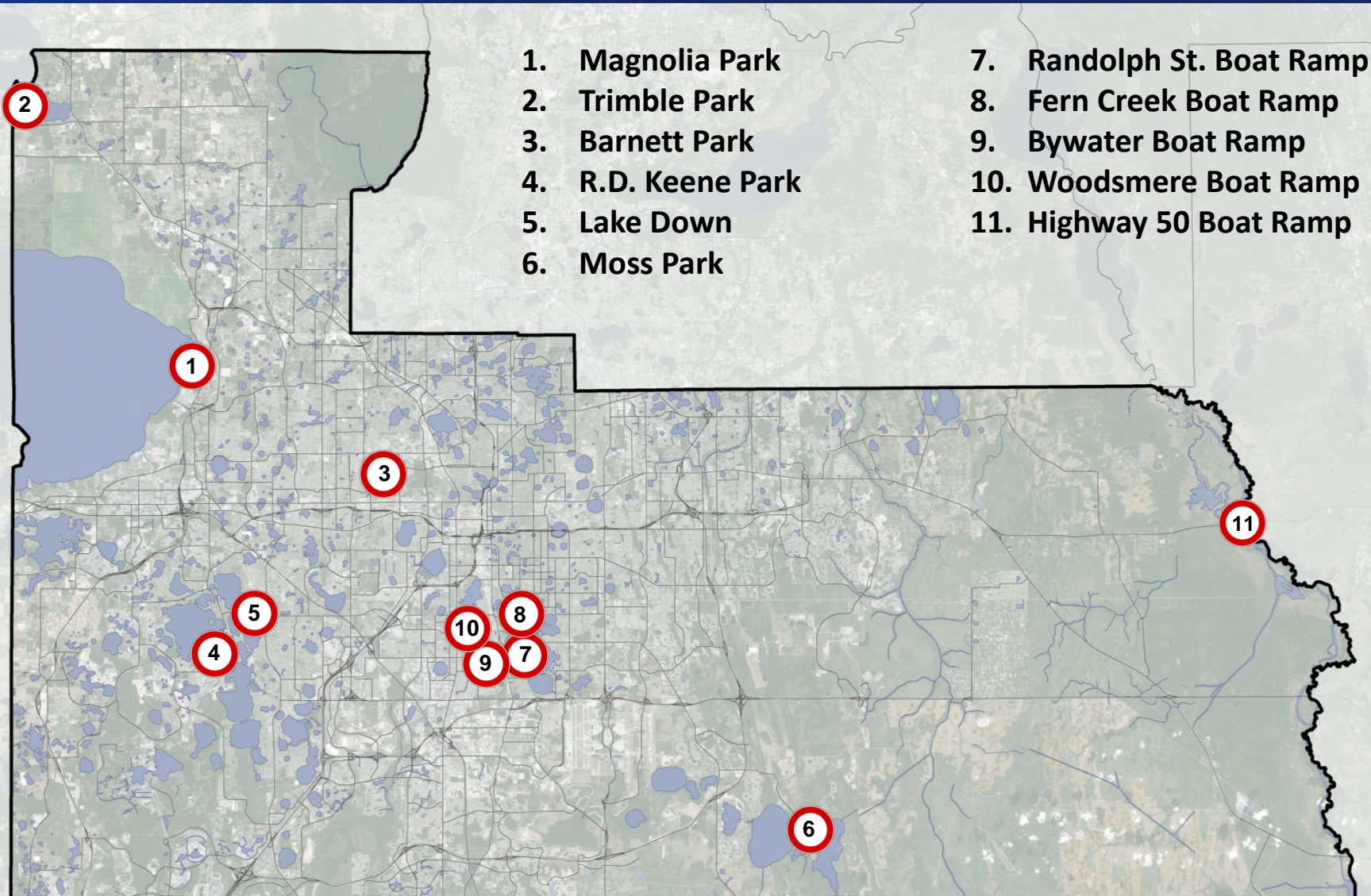
# Background

- 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





# Boat Ramp Locations





# 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**





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# Recommendations

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







# Recommendations

- **Implement an ordinance similar to adjoining Counties**
  - Establishing hours of operation
  - Establishing time limits on docking and anchoring
  - Prohibiting commercial activities:
    - 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



# Recommendations

- **Implement an ordinance similar to adjoining Counties**
  - **Not included in commercial activity prohibition:**
    - Licensed commercial fishing guides picking up or dropping off passengers with County permit
    - Vendors under contract with County providing services (rentals, vending, etc.)
    - Those commercial activities permitted by County in accordance with Parks Division Operational Guidelines



# Recommendations

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



# Recommendations

## ■ Operational Guidelines established to regulate commercial activity

### —Boat Tours

- Number of boat tour operators determined by size of park
- Must be established business in Orange County for 3 years
- Business may not use subcontractors

### ✓ R.D. Keene Park Boat Ramp

- One proposal at this time issued to current tour boat company

### ✓ Highway 50 Boat Ramp

- Conduct a Request For Proposals for maximum of 3 vendors



# Recommendations

- **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



# Recommendations

- **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



# Recommendations

- Operational Guidelines established to regulate commercial activity
  - Boat Tours
  - Fishing Tournaments
  - Fishing Guides
  - Rentals (power boats & Jet Skies)
    - A Request For Proposals to select one vendor will be offered at Moss Park only





# Recommendations

- **Operational Guidelines established to regulate commercial activity**
  - Boat Tours
  - Fishing Tournaments
  - Fishing Guides
  - Rentals (power boats & Jet Skies)
  - Paddle Sports
    - Concessionaire Agreements will be issued on a case-by-case basis





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## Next Steps

- **Conduct community stakeholder meetings in February/March**
- **Present proposed Ordinance and Operational Guidelines to the Board at a Public Hearing in April/May**



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# Summary

- Airboat and commercial operations have increased at public boat ramps
- Ordinance and operating guidelines will provide framework for permits and allow for enforcement
- Staff recommendation 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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