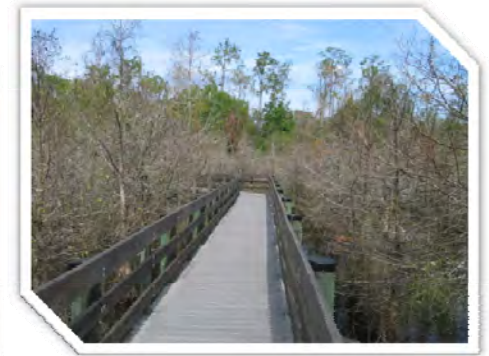


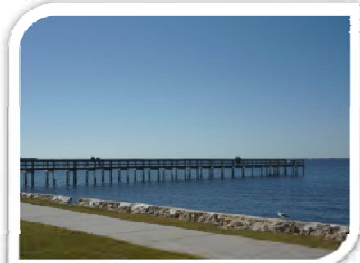
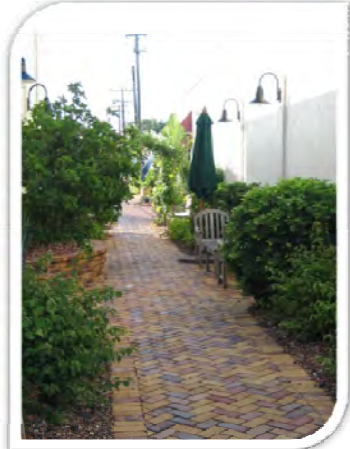
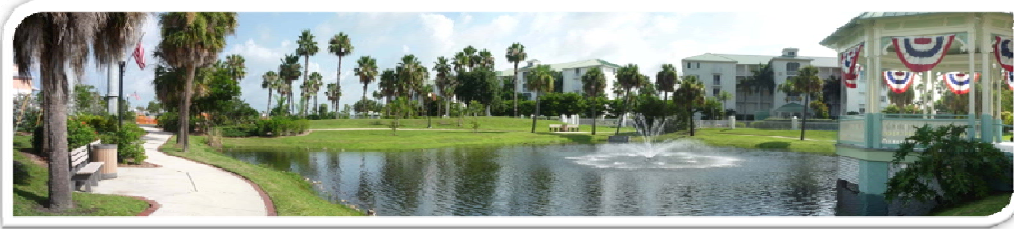
IV. Park Typologies



The City's Park System is currently composed of various distinct park types, Regional, Environmental, Urban, Waterfront, Linear, and Neighborhood. While each type is distinct in terms of how each park operates within the overall system, certain consistency of design standards are necessary to reinforce community character and understanding of the parks as pieces of the same vital system. Therefore, it is appropriate to formulate a comprehensive language of design features, materials, configurations, landscaping, and methods of construction which readily distinguish a City Park as interconnected, sustainable and unique.

This section briefly describes each park type and illustrates through images and plans the basic typologies. The design standards found in the appendix creates a menu of options to be utilized for the creation of any park type based on existing site conditions, natural environments, neighborhoods and historical context. This essential list of conditions and mixing of park typologies based on established community needs will form the actual park environments that are created in order to form an interconnected, sustainable, and unique Park System.

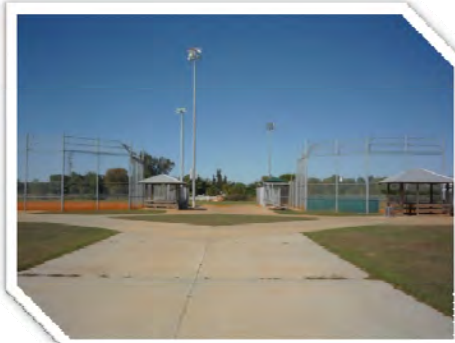




Regional Parks



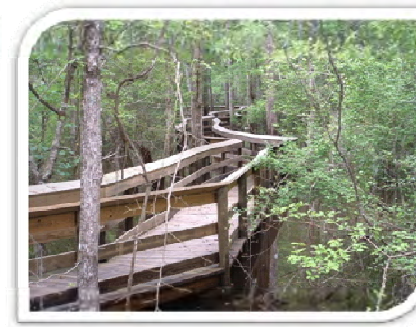
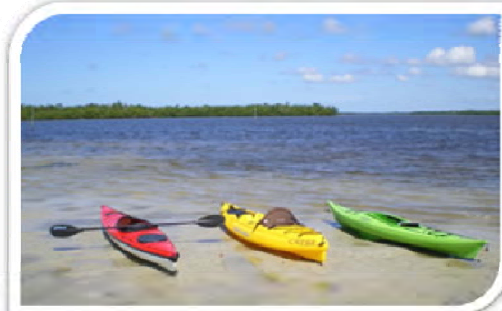
Regional Parks are designed, developed and built by local communities to serve a large population and provide a variety of recreational activities and facilities. They also enhance the region's quality of life, resulting in economic and social benefits. At this time the City of Punta Gorda relies on the Charlotte County Parks System for the provision of regional park facilities. As populations grow, future opportunities will need to be explored in order to maintain and improve level of service and to create specific design standards for the regional park typology.



Environmental Park



The City defines an Environmental Park as a park that is managed to preserve the natural ecological systems of a specific area. Features within the environmental parks will include accessible trails and boardwalks, enhanced by native landscaping for shade. Seating will include benches for resting and picnic tables to encourage family and neighborhood gatherings. Materials for these features will remain sensitive to the area and consist of natural materials like shell, wood, and rock. Interpretive panels, guideposts, and kiosks may be incorporated to provide information. Parking shall be designed to have a minimum impact on the surrounding environment with energy efficient lighting utilizing full cut off fixtures.



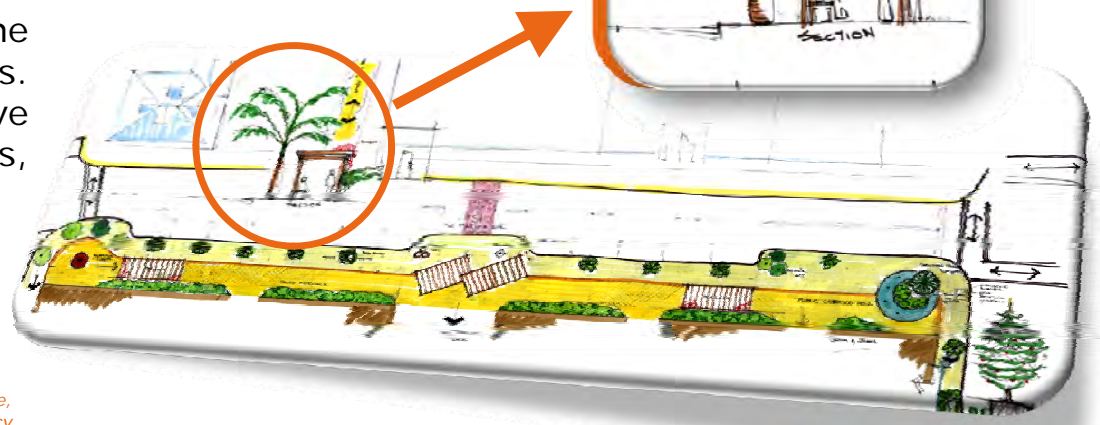
Urban Park



Urban parks or plazas are the public cornerstone of the urban environment which provide a green relief from the intensity and excitement of the urban landscape, while providing a public gathering place for the exchange of ideas and the random social interactions that are vital links between the community and the City. Urban Parks within the City shall be created through a combination of features which may include walkways that reinforce pedestrian connections to activity nodes, the creation of plaza space for social gatherings, green space for picnicking and small events.

Other features may include native trees for shade, benches and tables for reading, eating and resting, fountains for sound attenuation, signage for identification or distinction, small scale parking and pedestrian scale lighting for safety. These features will be constructed out of a variety of materials depending on the nature of the urban setting. Bricks may be used to reinforce the historic feel of an urban core.

Concrete may be used to define the transition from bricks to other areas. Metal will be used for decorative lighting, tree grates, trash receptacles, benches and other park furniture.



“Urban parks are especially good arenas for cooperation between municipal government and the citizenry.”

- Elizabeth Barlow Rogers President of Cityscape Institute, and former President of the Central Park Conservancy

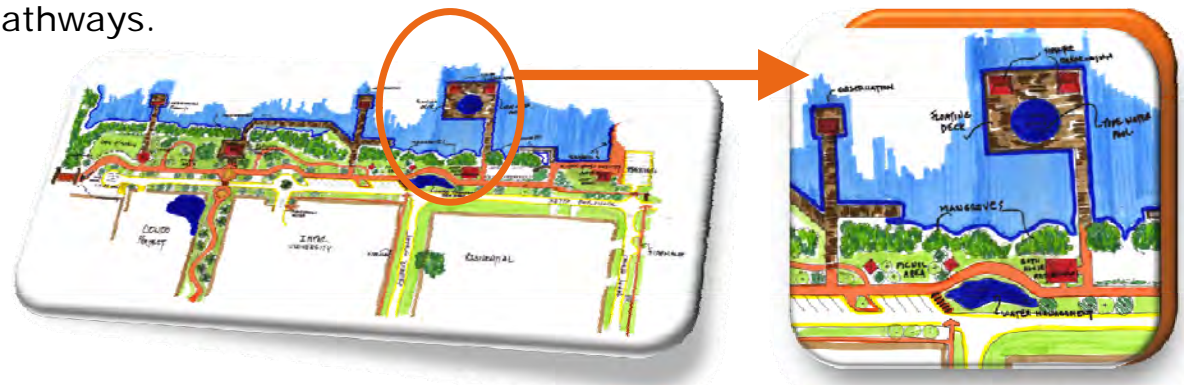
Waterfront Park



The primary goal of waterfront parks is to maximize the connection of citizens and visitors to the water. This connection will take place both visually and physically.

Enhancement features include native & drought tolerant landscaping for sustainability and shade, and flowering trees & plants for visual interest. Seating will include benches and tables for eating and resting. Other features may include Wayfinding and interpretive signage, a variety of parking on a larger scale to accommodate the population use, and decorative lighting including bollard and other pedestrian scale lighting.

The features will be made out of a variety of materials depending on the waterfront setting. Bricks and concrete will be utilized for walkways, promenades, and plazas, while metal will be used for most furniture. Areas susceptible to saltwater spray shall require concrete fixtures. Wood and stone may be utilized as natural elements within the setting of boardwalks and pathways.



Neighborhood Park



Neighborhood parks are rare within the context of the existing Punta Gorda Parks System. However, many of existing City Parks serve functions in part or in whole as neighborhood parks.

Design standards may be utilized in any other park type to include neighborhood specific components. Features such as walkways to connect pedestrians and activity nodes are needed. Activity areas may include a pavilion for small gatherings, a community garden, or a playground or fitness station depending on the area the park is serving. Plazas or small open green space may be included to provide neighborhood event space landscaped with native trees and plants for shade and sustainability, seating to include benches, seat-walls or fixed seating with tables. Special components of the Neighborhood Park should incorporate specific features to depict the surrounding area. These special components may include water features for sound and beauty, play surfaces for tots or older children, signage for identification or distinction, small scale parking and pedestrian scale lighting for safety.



