



VII. Implementation Strategy

The Implementation Strategy Section contains a list of specific projects and activities designed to move the City toward its vision of an interconnected, unique and sustainable Park System. This list of projects is divided into three implementation phases:

- Short Range
- Intermediate Range
- Long Range

Each project listing contains relevant information including a brief project description, the funding sources, and the anticipated completion date. This aggressive list of projects also provides a cohesive strategy for establishing a Park System that promotes the unique character and environment of Punta Gorda.



"A community that believes today's growth must not be achieved at tomorrow's expense."

-Governor's Commission for a Sustainable South Florida, Initial report, October 1995



Short Range



Ring Around the City Projects

Project Name	Description of Project	Location	Responsibility	Projected Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Project Year for Completion
Linear Park Development Phase I - III	Phase I: A 10' wide Right of way located between Retta Esplanade and Olympia Avenue	Alice Street ROW between Retta Esplanade and Olympia Avenue	Urban Design Public Works	\$577,468	ARRA Stimulus Funding	2010
	Phase II: Continuation of Phase I from Olympia Avenue to Shreve Street	Olympia Avenue to Shreve Street		\$177,000 design	ISS Funds & Grant Funding	2011
	Phase III: Continuation of Phase II from Shreve Street to US 41	Shreve Street to US 41		\$1,300,000 Construction	ISS Funds	
Bike Path & Multi Use Recreation Trail (MURT) Phase I-III	Design & Construction of a multi-use recreation trail (MURT) along the east side of US 41N from Airport Road to Taylor Road	Airport Road to Aqui Esta to Taylor Road	Urban Design Public Works	\$590,000	FDOT/LAP Grant	2010
	Construction of a MURT From Airport Road @ US 41 to Linear Park / Virginia	Airport Road @ US 41 to Linear Park / Virginia		\$350,000		2011
	Construction of MURT along an alternate route from Airport Road to Trabue Woods	Phase III East Loop TBD		\$350,000		2012

Project Name	Description of Project	Location	Responsibility	Projected Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Project Year for Completion
Harborwalk- Best Western to Fisherman's Village	Design of the Harborwalk for the area between Best Western to Fishermen's Village	Area between Best Western and Fisherman's Village	Urban Design Public Works	\$197,000 Design	ISS Funds	2010
	Best Western, US 41 S to Gilchrist Park	US 41 S Bridge to Gilchrist Park	Punta Gorda Hotel (Best Western)	\$200,000	Private Investments	2009
	Access Ramp from US 41 S to Harborwalk	US 41 S Bridge to Harborwalk	Public Works	TBD	ISS Funds	2010
	Construction of the Harborwalk between Best Western and Fisherman's Village	Area between Best Western and Fisherman's Village	Urban Design Public Works	TBD	ISS Funds	2013
Harborwalk – Patty Avenue Trail Head (Trabue Park)	Clean up invasive exotic species and begin mitigation process	East side of town along Harborwalk and Patti Avenue	Urban Design Public Works	\$580,000	ISS Funds and Contractual Services	2010
	Design & Contract the Patty Avenue trail from Cooper St. to Laishley Park Fishing Pier.					
Shreve Street Connector	An alternative route for a system of greenways connecting community parks, recreation areas to the Linear Park system (phase III) by means of a trail along the Rail Road Right-of-Way	Alternative Routes phase II Pompano (at Airport Rd.) to Shreve Street (US 41 to Linear @ Virginia	Urban Design Public Works	\$465,000	ISS Funds	2010

Associated Projects to the Ring Around the City

Project Name	Description of Project	Location	Responsibility	Projected Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Project Year for Completion
Waterfront Sports Activity Park	Proposed project to include boat storage for non-motorized boats (sailboats, kayaks, canoes) and a launching facility. Staff is to gather preliminary needs analysis and report back to Council.	TBD	Public Works Urban Design	TBD	TBD	2010
Park Safety Equipment	Implement provision of police patrol on paths, trails and other hard to access areas through the purchase of a T-3 electric 3 wheel vehicle.	City Wide	Police Department	TBD by Police	TBD	2010
Laishley Parking Improvements (Hardscape)	Improvements to Laishley Park to include grading, drainage & turf improvements to the Center Drive Circle	Laishley Park	Public Works	\$50,000	FSIF	2011
	Gazebo improvements at Marriage Point including site re-design		Urban Design Public Works	\$100,000		2013
Day Docks	Construction of docks for boaters and tourists allowing access to the downtown businesses, Harborwalk, Gilchrist and Laishley Parks and the Charlotte County Events Center.	Laishley Park	Public Works Urban Design	\$200,000	ISS Funds	2011
East Mooring Field	Creation of a 40 ball mooring field approximately 1,000 feet offshore (1100' X 1100' SF)	Laishley Park	Public Works Urban Design	\$50,000 \$150,000	Charlotte County Marine Advisory Committee (MAC) ISS	2011
Laishley Park	Rework the main Event Lawn, to include regrading, drainage, irrigation & turf management	Laishley Park	City of Punta Gorda Urban Design Public Works	\$500,000	TBD	2014



"Parks and recreation can improve the physical and mental health of every person, and that parks and recreation should be an essential public service of every community in America."

-National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) 2008

Other Miscellaneous Projects

Project Name	Description of Project	Location	Responsibility	Projected Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Project Year for Completion
Education of Public Regarding Tree Care	Provide public with proper tree plantings, species selection, fertilizing, pruning etc.	City Hall Annex 3rd floor	Urban Design	\$1,000	Grant Funding	2009
Land Development Regulations Updates	Update Article 12, Landscape Standards, of the Land Development Regulations to be consistent with the Parks & Recreation Master Plan.	N/A	Planning Commission Urban Design	N/A	City staff time	2010
	Update City Code of Ordinances to require Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Principles to be included in Article 12 (Landscape Standards) and Article 16.6 Application for Development Plan		Urban Design Police Department			
Park Location & Amenity Map Brochure	Produce map for residents & tourists use in locating city parks & amenities available in each park.	City wide	Urban Design	N/A	City staff time	2010
Parks & Grounds Maintenance Standards	Detailed needs analysis to determine level of service and staffing requirements for maintaining the City's Park System.	City Wide	Urban Design Facilities Maintenance Parks & Ground	\$10,000	Grant Funding	2010
Nature Park Management Plan	Review and revise the Nature Park Management Plan to allow for greater diversity of recreational activities	Nature Park	Urban Design	N/A	City Staff Time	2010
West Mooring Field	Creating of a mooring field and public access boardwalk assisting in establishing Punta Gorda as a boaters destination	West side of US 41 Bridge – Peace River @ best Western	Urban Design Public Works Partnership with Best Western	\$200,000	Private/Public Partnership	2012

Other Miscellaneous Projects

Project Name	Description of Project	Location	Responsibility	Projected Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Project Year for Completion
Cooper Street Recreational Center Playground	Replace the playground equipment at Cooper Street Learning Center	Cooper Street Recreational Center	Urban Design	\$180,000	Grant Funding	2010
City of Punta Gorda Comprehensive Plan, 2025 - Recreation & Open Space Element Update	Required per Florida Statute as evaluated through the Evaluation and Appraisal Report Process.	City Wide	Urban Design	\$ 25,000 - 30,000	Annual Budget	2011
Movies in the Park	Monthly Movies on the Laishley Park Event Lawn	Laishley Park	Urban Design Public Works Partnership Opportunity	TBD	Business Sponsorships CRA Operating Revenue	Ongoing
Yoga in the Park	Weekly yoga classes on the Laishley Park Event Lawn	Laishley Park	Urban Design Private Partnership Opportunity	TBD	Public Private Partnership Business Partnership	Ongoing
Partnership Development	As identified in the Future Opportunities Analysis of the Park and Recreation Master Plan, commercial lands are available for public & private partnerships for additional park facilities as development occurs.	N/A	Urban Design	N/A	City staff time	Ongoing
Interlocal Agreements	Explore agreements w/ local, state and federal agencies.	City wide	Public Works Urban Design	Determined at the time of agreement	Grant Funding and in kind services agreed upon between the agreement signees	Ongoing

Intermediate Range



Project Name	Description of Project	Location	Responsibility	Projected Budget	Potential Funding Sources	Project Year for Completion
Intersection Enhancements (Taylor & Herald Ct. /Maude & Marion)	To enhance pedestrian safety & access	Taylor & Herald Maude & Marion	Urban Design Public Works	\$100,000	ISS Funding & Grant Funding	2014
Retta Esplanade Improvements	To enhance street parking, sidewalks, & lighting and increase open space in Gilchrist Park along the north side of W. Retta Esplanade	W. Retta Esplanade from Harvey to Berry.	Urban Design Public Works	\$200,000	ISS Funding	2014
Intersection Enhancements (Retta & Taylor/ Olympia & Maude)	To enhance pedestrian safety & access	Retta & Taylor Olympia & Maude	Urban Design Public Works	\$200,000	ISS Funding & Grant Funding	2014
Tree Inventory	Update the existing tree inventory to include Historic Overlay District	Historic Overlay District	Urban Design Public Works	TBD	Grant Funding	2014
Parks & Recreation Master Plan	Review and update the Parks & Recreation Master Plan	City Wide	Urban Design	TBD	TBD	2014
Colony Point Drive	Community garden, small pavilion, on street parking	Dredge spoil site S Colony Point Dr.	Urban Design Public Works	\$75,000	Impact fees	2015
Nature Park Improvements	Restrooms, bus loop, parking, educational pavilion, and paddle craft launch	Nature Park	Urban Design Public Works	\$500,000	State & Local Funds CHNEP SWFWMD	2016

Project Name	Description of Project	Location	Responsibility	Projected Budget	Potential Funding Sources	Project Year for Completion
Trabue Park	US 17 S / Marion Ave streetscape, pavilions, restrooms, play area, environmental mitigation, observation pier	Adrienne to Mary	Urban Design Public Works	\$1,500,000	State Recreational Grants FDOT CDBG	2017
Gilchrist Park Park Improvements	Replace bathroom and picnic pavilion in Gilchrist Park	Gilchrist Park adjacent to the Best Western	Urban Design Public Works	\$250,000	TBD	2015
	Re-grading, drainage, irrigation & turf for event lawn	Gilchrist Park; between pavilions adjacent to the Best Western		\$250,000	TBD	2016
	New play ground equipment, play surface, restroom, pavilion, picnic area & fencing for Gilchrist park including ADA compliance	Gilchrist Park – Kiddie Land		\$500,000	Grant Funding TBD	2018
	“summer houses” gazebos in style of original pavilions associated with the Punta Gorda Hotel	Gazebo site at Gilchrist Park; Marina Entrance at Lashley		\$300,000	TBD	2019
Park Improvements	Carousel House	TBD	TBD	\$50,000	FSIF	2018
Develop Partnerships	As identified in the Future Opportunities Analysis, Commercial Lands are available for Public & Private Partnerships for additional park facilities as development occurs.	City wide	TBD	As agreed upon	As agreed upon on between partners	Ongoing

Long Range



Project Name	Description of Project	Location	Responsibility	Projected Budget	Potential Funding Sources	Project Year for Completion
Tree Inventory	Update and assess tree inventory to include streets & neighborhoods not included in the 2009 inventory	Miscellaneous City Right-of-Way	Urban Design Parks & Grounds	TBD	Grant Funding	2019
Royal Poinciana Avenue Improvements	Bicycle/pedestrian improvements, street trees, overhead utilities, drainage modifications – connects US 41 MURT to Burnt Store Road	Royal Poinciana US 41 to Burnt Store Road	Urban Design Public Works	\$600,000	TBD	2019
Burnt Store Meadow (BSM) Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood meetings and concept design, construction and permitting documents for neighborhood park	BSM	Urban Design Public Works	\$180,000	TBD	2019
Parks & Recreation Master Plan	Review and update the Parks & Recreation Master Plan	City Wide	Urban Design	TBD	TBD	2020
Burnt Store Meadow (BSM) Neighborhood Park	Construction of Playground area, picnic pavilion, parking and other improvements	BSM	Urban Design Public Works	\$600,000	TBD	2020

Project Name	Description of Project	Location	Responsibility	Projected Budget	Potential Funding Sources	Project Year for Completion
Monaco to Madrid Improvements	Bicycle/pedestrian improvements, street trees, overhead utilities, drainage modifications	BSI	Urban Design Public Works	\$600,000	TBD	2021
Bal Harbor Avenue Improvements	Bicycle/pedestrian improvements, street trees, overhead utilities, drainage modifications	PGI– Marion to Deborah	Urban Design Public Works	\$600,000	TBD	2022
Gilchrist Park Boat Club/ Bayfront Redesign and Construction	Concept design, construction & permitting design documents	Gilchrist Park Bayfront Center	Urban Design Public Works	\$100,000	TBD	2022
	Construction of community facilities, parking & site improvements	Old Boat Club / Bayfront Center Site	Urban Design Public Works	\$2,500,000	TBD	2025
Park Beach Circle Park	“Summer Houses” gazebo in style of original pavilions associated with the Punta Gorda Hotel, on street parking, landscape improvements	Park Beach Circle Park	Urban Design Public Works	\$500,000	TBD	2025
Alternative Transportation Study	As transit becomes available a study to provide access of surrounding communities to the Park System	City Wide	Urban Design Public Work MPO	TBD	MPO	TBD
Develop Partnerships	As identified in the Future Opportunities Analysis, commercial lands are available for public & private partnerships for additional park facilities as development occurs.	City wide	TBD	As agreed upon	As agreed upon on between partners	Ongoing

This comprehensive strategy list will be used as a tool to:

- Implement the vision of the City of Punta as directed by the Charette workshop and citizen input
- Create a focus point for the City to begin connecting the Parks System
- Provide City Council the information necessary to direct staff as to priority projects in light of fiscal matters and other constraints
- Evaluate annually the use and adequacy of the parkland, park facilities, and natural or historic protected lands;
- Update and outline future opportunities and implementation strategies

The wide selection of projects builds on the “Ring-Around-the City” theme and increases economic viability and sustainability through the connection of important pedestrian components such as the small businesses, restaurants, shops and stores, which service the local residents as well as the tourist community. The completion of the “Ring-Around-the City” will encourage events and activities in the parks to enliven the public realm and provide opportunities for continued economic and social development and sustainability.





"You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation"

-- Plato