

Volusia County
FLORIDA
Parks, Recreation and Culture


Citizens Academy
September 22, 2015



Mission statement

Provide quality Ecological, Cultural, Historical, and Outdoor experiences through a wide variety of parks, trails and unique resources to our community and visitors.


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Overview

- **\$10.6 million** annual park operating budget
- **42 facilities** covering more than **11,083 acres**, **33.4 miles** of paved trails
- **38,000 acres** of conservation lands
- **79 fulltime, 200 part time** staff, many dedicated volunteers
- **24/7-365** coverage
- Recreation programs: Adult, youth, senior, sports, school breaks, summer, special events, eco tours and clinics
- Cultural/historical: Liaison to advisory boards, art in public places, community cultural grant, management of historic sites, and outreach programs

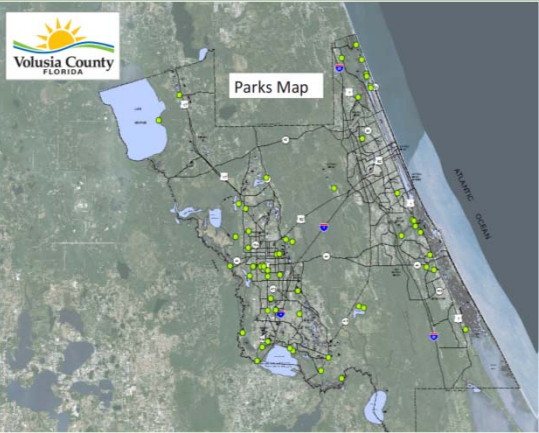
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Volusia County
FLORIDA

Parks Map



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Facilities/sites

- 3 multipurpose parks
- 6 local parks
- 8 ecological/nature parks
- 1 river to sea park


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Facilities/sites

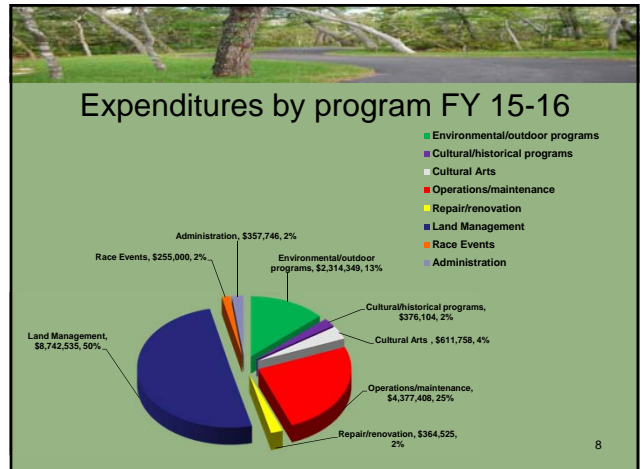
- 12 boat ramps
- 6 fishing docks/piers
- 2 specialty parks
- 4 heritage/historical parks

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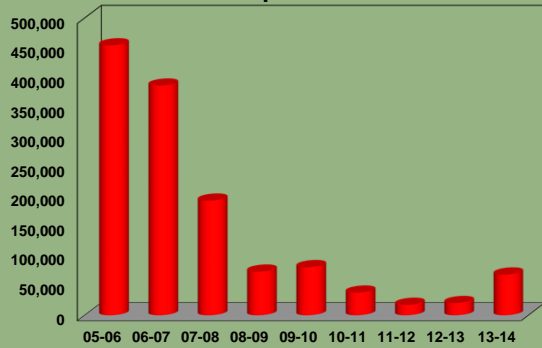


Budget overview

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Park impact fees



Steps taken to meet challenges

- Downsized work force.
- Implemented Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS)
- Reduced bus costs related to field trips by 50%.
- Reduced recreation staff.
- Implemented cost recovery program. Only operate recreational programs that recover direct expenses.
- Eliminated the After school program.
- Modified mowing contract and reduced mowing frequency by 25%.
- Eliminated almost all brochure production and minimized flyers.
- Reduced overtime by 77%.
- Reduced capital outlay by 71%.
- Reduced repair and renovation by 16%.

Steps taken to meet challenges

- Eliminated all new park facility development, except for the Beck Ranch.
- Reduced Cultural Grants by 16%.
- Reduced part-time recreation staff by 107 positions.
- Downsized fleet
- Adjusted fees to competitive market rates.
- Eliminated joint use agreement at various school sites
- Eliminated maintenance agreement with Oak Hill
- Eliminated all recreation special events
- Implemented an automated work order system to streamline and track repairs and improvements.
- Developed a complete asset inventory to utilize in house GIS capabilities.
- Established annual work plans for each crew to ensure compliance with service level requirements and completion of identified projects.
- Installed GPS equipment on all vehicles to develop verifiable site location, speed, and idling.
- Shifted staff to 5 @ 8 work week from 4 @ 10 work week.



DeBary Hall Historic Site

Programs - ECHO Rangers, Lemonade Lectures, Hunter Safety Courses, Master Gardner Series, Specialty Tours, Outreaches, Public Workshops and Special Events.





Recreation


- Athletics – Adult softball, Co-ed Softball, Senior Softball, Adult Flag Football, Kickball, Softball Tournaments, racquet ball courts and tennis courts.
- Programs – Summer Recreation Camps, Oak Hill After-School Program, Teacher Duty Day Field Trips, Teen Trips, Spring and Winter Break Camps.
- Open Solicitation Programming









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All Programs Must Recover Program Operating Expenses




Cultural/Historical

- Cultural Council of Volusia County
- Designated local arts agency
- Community cultural grant
- Art in public places
- Arts/education
- Historic Preservation Board
- Implement historic regulatory issues
- Assist with historic site capital improvements
- Provide historic preservation outreach services

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Trails program overview

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Trails program

33.4 miles completed
27.6 miles funded
9.5 miles unfunded
70.5 miles total system



To Titusville



Trails program



Trails categories

- Showcase Multi-use Trails
- On Road Bicycle Trails
- Hiking and Equestrian Trails
- Paddling Trails

Volusia County is currently focusing on the development of 3 major trail systems:


- Bike the Beach Trail (35+ miles)
- Spring-to-Spring Trail (16.7 miles)
- East Central Regional Rail Trail (8.3 miles)

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Spring to Spring Trail

- 27 miles of trail from Deleon Springs to Green Springs. Approximately 17 miles are complete.
- Multiple trail head locations:
 - Debary Hall Historic Site
 - Gemini Springs Park
 - Lake Monroe Park
 - Lake Beresford Park
 - Blue Spring State Park
 - Thornby Park
 - Green Springs



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East Central Regional Rail Trail

- 50.8 mile trail corridor purchased by OGT
- Nearly 40 miles in Volusia County
- Management Plan approved by ARC 2010
- \$581,864 per mile to build paved trail
- First segment (5.7 miles) completed Fall 2011
- Second segment (2.6 miles) completed Aug. 2015
- Third segment (3.8 miles) completed Sept. 2015

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Trails program maintenance

- Level of service
 - Mowing
 - Cut as needed – grass at 6 - 8 inches before cut. Estimated average cost: \$80.91 per mile with a 61-inch cut on each side of trail
 - Paving repairs as needed
 - Roll and seal pavement as needed
 - Striping as needed
 - Tree trimming for safety as needed
 - Signage
 - Benches/trash cans every mile
 - Kiosks at each trailhead to include trail system map
 - Remove debris as needed
 - Trash collection once per week
- **Current cost estimate: \$6,586 per mile per year**

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Program Activities

- Management Plan Development
- Habitat Maintenance & Restoration
 - Prescribed Fire
 - Sustainable Forestry
 - Mechanical Techniques
- Upland Ecosystem Restoration Project
- Faunal and Flora Assessment
 - Inventory
 - Monitoring
- Exotic Plant & Animal Control
- Security & Maintenance



Land Management Provision of Services

Outreach

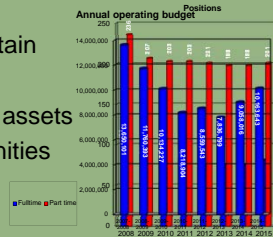
- Biking
- Camping
- Equestrian
- Hiking
- Hunting
- Nature observation
- Education Programs
 - Tours
 - Interpretative Signage & Brochures
- Volunteers

Education

- Self-interpretive trail signage
- Guided tours
- K-12 educational programs
- Adult educational programs
- Brochures
- Internet

Challenges of providing park services

- Increasing assets to maintain with existing staff
- Maintaining current aging assets
- Diminished grant opportunities
- Increased park use

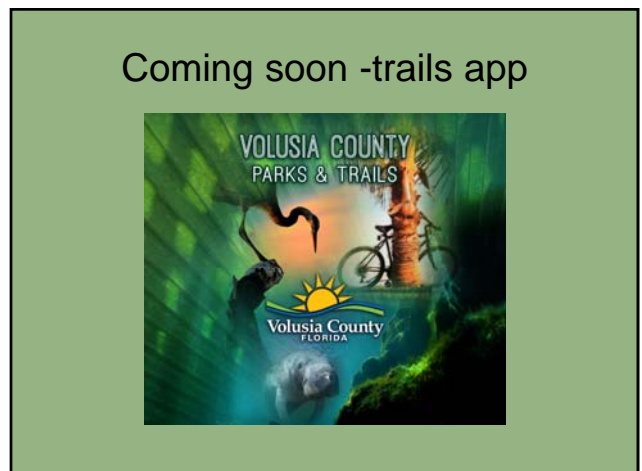
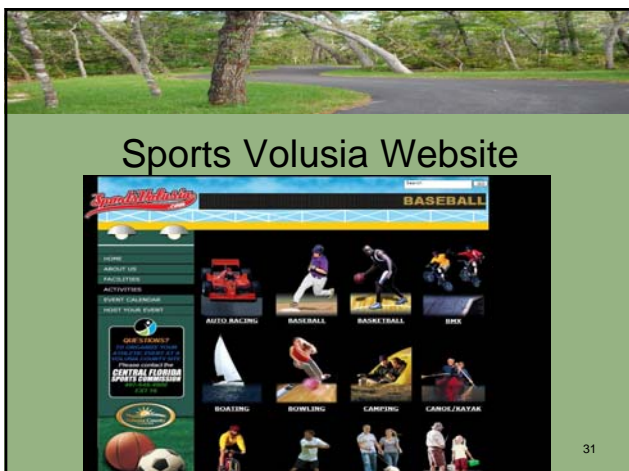


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Capital projects

- Trails – Additional 9 miles of trails
- Strickland Shooting Range Firing Line Improvements
- Blue Lake Boat Ramp Improvements
- Sugar Mill Ruins bathroom replacement – ADA Compliant
- Gemini Springs Park Playground replacement
- Gemini Springs OK Corral Pavilion Replacement
- Beck Ranch Park Entrance

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Questions?

Thank you

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