Parks and Recreation Division

Public Boat Ramps Work Session

September 18, 2018

Presentation Outline

- Purpose
- Background
- Draft Ordinance
- Next Steps

Presentation Outline

- Purpose
- Background
- Draft Ordinance
- Next Steps

Purpose

- Present recommendations for 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

Presentation Outline

- Purpose
- Background
- Draft Ordinance
- Next Steps

Background

- 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

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

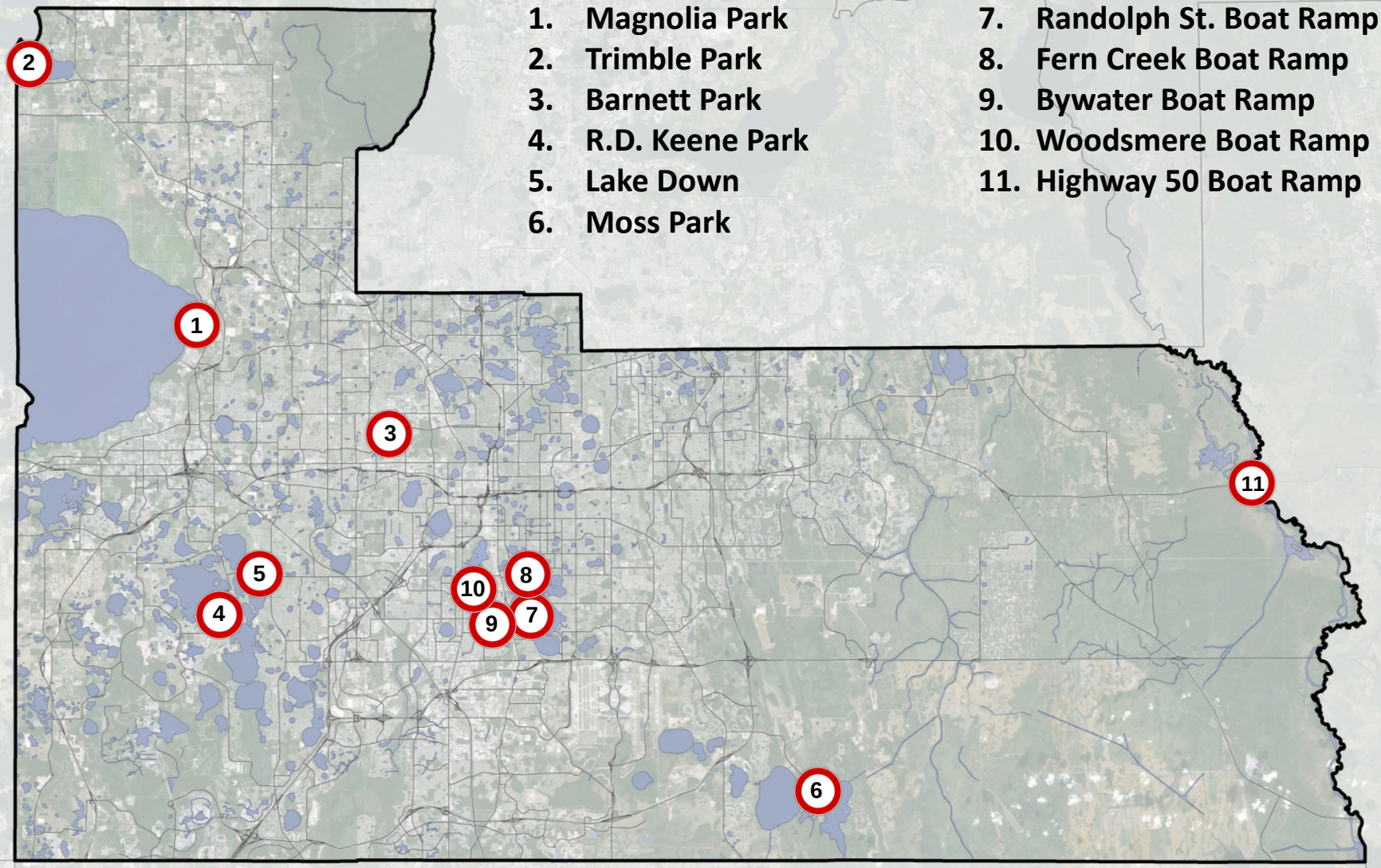
Background

- Numerous airboat businesses now advertise the County's Highway 50 boat ramp as their business address
- 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

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 vendor agreements

Boat Ramp Locations



1. Magnolia Park
2. Trimble Park
3. Barnett Park
4. R.D. Keene Park
5. Lake Down
6. Moss Park
7. Randolph St. Boat Ramp
8. Fern Creek Boat Ramp
9. Bywater Boat Ramp
10. Woodsmere Boat Ramp
11. Highway 50 Boat Ramp

Background

- On August 29, 2017 concerns with business operations at public boat ramps were presented to the BCC
- January 9, 2018 staff presented recommendations to the BCC for the ordinance and operational guidelines for business use at all 11 boat ramps
- March 28, 2018 a stakeholder meeting was held

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**

Background

- **January 9, 2018 BCC Meeting**

  Board Comments

  – **Staff presented draft ordinance and operating guidelines**
    - **Board confirmed need for ordinance**
    - **Recognized challenges with accessibility at all boat ramps**

  – **The Board directed staff to conduct a stakeholder meeting**

Background

- **March 28, 2018 Stakeholder Meeting Comments**
  - Parking constraints and general public access was a big part of the discussion
  - Parking capacity is only a problem on the weekend during the boating season
  - Utilize SJRWMD boat ramp and property for overflow
  - Use FDOT ROW like Midway does for much of their parking
  - No actual data regarding parking utilization and needs

Background

- **March 28, 2018 Stakeholder Meeting Comments (cont.)**
  - Small operators have been on the river for 20+ years or generations. Midway has only been in business for 10 years
  - Enforcement concerns will still exist (Subcontractors, fishing guides, tour business as fishing guide, advertising, etc.)
  - Unfair limiting to Orange County businesses – only public ramp on the River for 40 miles
  - Ordinance does not consider maximum airboat passenger size and insurance availability

Presentation Outline

- Purpose
- Background
- Draft Ordinance
- Next Steps

Draft Ordinance

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

Draft Ordinance

- Implement an ordinance similar to adjoining counties
  - Establishing hours of operation
  - Establishing time limits on docking and anchoring
  - Prohibits unauthorized commercial activities at public boat ramps:
    - 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

Draft Ordinance

- Implement an ordinance similar to adjoining Counties
  - Exemptions from commercial activity prohibition:
    - Licensed commercial fishing guides picking up or dropping off passengers with County permit
    - Vendors under contract with County providing services (tours, rentals, vending, etc.)
    - Those commercial activities permitted by County in accordance with Parks Division Operational Guidelines

Draft Ordinance

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

Draft Ordinance

- Operational Guidelines established to regulate commercial activity
  - Boat Tours
    - R.D. Keene Park Boat Ramp & Highway 50 Boat Ramp
      - Issue permits to qualified boat businesses
      - $3000 annual permit fee
      - $1 million insurance requirement
      - Business may not use subcontractors

Draft Ordinance

- 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

Draft Ordinance

- 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

Draft Ordinance

- Operational Guidelines established to regulate commercial activity
  - Boat Tours
  - Fishing Tournaments
  - Fishing Guides
  - Rentals (power boats & jet skis)
    - Prohibited at all boat ramps

Draft Ordinance

- Operational Guidelines established to regulate commercial activity
  - Boat Tours
  - Fishing Tournaments
  - Fishing Guides
  - Rentals (power boats & jet skis)
  - Paddle Sports
    - Request For Proposal will be issued on a case-by-case basis

Presentation Outline

- Purpose
- Background
- Draft Ordinance
- **Next Steps**

Next Steps

- Finalize ordinance and operational guidelines
- Schedule public hearing

Parks and Recreation Division

Public Boat Ramps Work Session

September 18, 2018