



CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS

COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN

**RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE
ELEMENT**

DATA INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

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Prepared By:
The City of Miami Gardens
Planning and Zoning Department
1515 NW 167th Street, Building 5, Suite 200
Miami Gardens, Florida 33169

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CHAPTER V – RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

DATA AND ANALYSIS

A. INTRODUCTION

The Recreation and Open Space (ROS) Element provides an inventory and analysis of existing and future recreation and open space available in the City of Miami Gardens. The benefits of open space and related land uses are many and include development pattern, aesthetic, environmental and recreational benefits. These land uses provide a benefit to the City and will not only continue to be incorporated into the city-wide Parks Master Plan but will also address the city's needs through the development and redevelopment process. Areas of the City that are deficient of various types of parks will be prioritized through this master planning process and new recreation uses will be identified. Currently, 1.88% of the City's total land area falls under the existing land use classification of "recreation open space," and includes parks and preservation/environmental areas. The City residents have access to 18 city parks, 4 city pools and 2 county recreational facilities within the City's boundaries. See **Map ROS V – 1** for all park locations. A proposed linear park/ bike trail along Snake Creek Canal (Canal C-9) will allow residents to enjoy passive recreation activities. See **Map ROS V- 2** for detailed aerial photo.

B. DEFINITIONS

The existing and future City parks are classified into: Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, Special Activity Area, Natural Area Preserve, Linear Parks and Single Purpose Parks. A definition of each of these different park types follows below.

1. Community Park

Community parks are publicly owned lands, usually in the range of 25 to 50 acres in size. They provide for full public access and aim at providing recreation opportunities beyond those supplied by neighborhood parks. Community parks are larger in scale than neighborhood parks but smaller than regional parks. They usually feature many amenities, including but not limited to, swimming pools, ball fields, tennis courts, play areas, picnic areas, recreation buildings and sports fields. The following are the two (2) community parks located within the City: and Rolling Oaks Park.

2. Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood Parks serve the recreation needs of people living or working within a 1-mile area. Designed for intense and diverse recreational activities, these parks serve as a neighborhood's recreational and social focus. These parks are typically accessed by pedestrians and bicyclists, and are generally located on streets with sidewalks. The following fourteen (14) are the neighborhood parks located in the City: Andover Park, Brentwood Park, Brentwood Pool, Buccaneer Park, Bunche Park & Pool, Carol Park,

Cloverleaf Park, Lake Lucerne Park, Miami Carol City Park, Myrtle Grove Park & Pool, Norwood Park, Risco Park, Scott Park and Vista Verde Park.

3. Natural Area Preserve

Natural area preserve is a parcel or area of generally undeveloped land conserved in its natural state for the purpose of protecting flora, fauna, or other natural features for perpetuity. The City has one (1) natural area preserve park, namely the Scrub Oak Preserve at Dolphins Stadium.

4. Linear Parks

Linear parks are usually developed around a natural resource such as a creek, river or canal. These parks provide a natural environment for walking, jogging, and bicycling trails. They also represent a transportation corridor linking neighborhoods to parks, schools and shopping areas, and a variety of passive recreational opportunities that are relatively free from automobile interference. The City has one (1) linear park, the Library Walking Trail located just south of the Dolphins Stadium.

5. Single Purpose Parks

Single Purpose Parks are public recreation lands being used for a specialized or single-use activity that does not fit into any of the other categories. The City has one (1) single purpose park, namely North Dade Optimist Park.

6. Mini-Parks

Mini Parks are specialized facilities that serve a local population, or a specific user group such as very young children or senior citizens. Mini-parks are small in size typically less than one acre. Facilities are typically limited to a small open area, a children's playground, and a bench or picnic table. The City has one (1) mini park, namely Waterman Park.

C. EXISTING CONDITIONS

The City of Miami Gardens currently has 20 parks and recreational facilities serving its residents. A proposed citywide Parks and Recreation Master Plan will address the detailed redevelopment, prioritization and planning needs of all the city parks. Table ROS V-1 provides a detailed inventory of these parks, and includes their general address, size, classification and featured amenities. Currently, there are approximately 200.19 acres of improved parkland. Out of a total of 20 recreational facilities located within the city, there are two (2) Community Parks, fourteen (14) Neighborhood Parks, one (1) Natural Area Preserve (county park), one (1) Linear Park (county park), one (1) Mini Park and one (1) Single Purpose Park. In addition, one (1) Linear Park along Snake Creek Canal (C-9) that was proposed through the Miami-Dade MPO and Parks & Recreation Division is now approved for the Phase 1 Design (south side of the canal from NE Miami Gardens Drive to the Florida Turnpike).

It should also be noted that City of Miami Gardens public schools are adjacent to these parks to allow for shared use during and after school activities as well as other public and recreational activities. For detailed school locations, please see **Map FLU I-12**, the Public Facilities Map.

D. RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ANALYSIS

The inventory of recreational and open space lands indicates that the City of Miami Gardens contains approximately 200.19 acres of such lands. With the Miami-Dade 2004 BEBR population count of 105,414, the City of Miami Gardens provides approximately 2.0 acres of open space and recreational lands per 1,000 residents. See **Table ROS V-2** for further information.

In order to accommodate the future needs of the residents, the City shall adopt the following level of service standard for recreation and open space:

1.0 Acre of public park per 1,000 residents

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Miami-Dade County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Miami-Dade County Park and Recreation Department (MDPR), South Florida Water Management District and City of Miami Gardens are currently working on a proposed linear park/bike trail project along the Snake Creek Canal (C-9 Canal). The proposed approximately 7 mile long Snake Creek Bike Trail will extend from NE Miami Gardens Drive to the Florida Turnpike. It will also provide connections to regional parks such as Greynolds Park and Oleta River State Recreation Area, improve the existing bicycle/pedestrian underpass, improve the aesthetics of the currently underutilized right-of-way and provide appropriate bicycle facilities that will encourage short trips to be made on a bicycle instead of in an automobile and contributes to a healthy citizenry. See the Transportation Element for further details.

The first phase will construct 3.4 miles along the south side of the Canal, from NE Miami Gardens Drive to the Turnpike with an estimated cost of \$2,490,500. See **Table ROS V-1** for a detailed description of these amenities.

One of the goals of the ROS is to continually upgrade these existing public parks and recreational/open space facilities and, whenever possible and feasible, add to the supply of parkland available for recreation. The recognizes that the City has limited vacant land.

E. AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES AND FACILITIES

1. Future Park Improvements

The City recently developed site-specific master plans for two (2) city parks that will be funded by grants from the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP), GOE Bonds and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bonds. They are Rolling Oaks Park and Bunche Park, which includes construction of major improvements over the next five years. The City also recently proposed a citywide Parks and Recreation Master Plan as an overall part of detailed redevelopment master plans for each of the additional City parks. With the completion of the master plans for the parks and creation of new parks as

private development occurs, the City will have adequate park space to service its residents well into the future.

In order to address the recreational needs of its citizens, the City is promoting a “garden” theme inclusive of pocket parks, dedicated meaningful open space for developments, a butterfly garden etc. facilitated through the City’s Keep Miami Gardens Beautiful (KMGB) Program.

The City has committed to support and participate with State and County agencies in the development and implementation of a citywide Recreational Trails Master Plan along canal and water bodies’ right-of-ways. The said master plan was adopted by the City Council in April 2006 and its goals will be incorporated into the City’s Transportation Master Plan & Element, Conservation Element, Future Land Use Element and Recreation and Open Space Element.

Table ROS V- 3 shows a total of 1,414 acres of open space that will be available for passive recreation. The citywide Recreational Trails Master Plan will look at the feasibility of providing opportunities primarily for recreation, health and transportation through a variety of trails for pedestrians and non-motorized vehicles and phase the implementation process accordingly.

Parks demand for the two planning timeframes is anticipated to be as follows:

Year	Population	Park Land Needed per 1,000 Residents – With Linear Parks and Snake Creek Bikeway	Park Land Needed per 1,000 Residents – Without Linear Parks and Snake Creek Bikeway
2011	111,103	12.7	1.8
2016	112,389	12.6	1.8

As such, there will be sufficient parkland per 1,000 residents available to accommodate the needs of the City’s residents through the long range planning period, with or without the Snake Creek Bikeway and linear park bikeway projects. See **Table ROS -2** for more detailed information.

The U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers and SFWMD are also involved with an environmental restoration project for the Snake Creek Canal (C-9) from the Florida Turnpike, west to NW 42nd Avenue.

2. Towards a Central or Regional Park.

The City desires, even needs, a large central park or regional park facility that would be a community focal point for both active and passive recreation programs and open space activities. Such a facility would ideally be about one hundred (100) acres. While recognizing that the majority of land in the City is either developed or committed, the City is committed to pursuing the establishment of a regional park and recognizes that such an undertaking would constitute a long-term effort. The first step to realizing the

dream of a regional park will be to perform a feasibility analysis. Such an analysis should consider but not be limited to the following:

- Analysis of facility needs including community input;
- Survey of available properties that could be aggregated;
- Review of existing park sites and potential additional lands that could be incorporated to existing park sites;
- Joint park development project with adjacent jurisdictions;

At the present time there are no foreseeable changes needed to the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) regarding expansions and/or additional public and/or private parks.

Table ROS V- 1: Miami Gardens Recreation and Open Space Inventory

Park No.	Park Name	Property Address	Acreage	Existing Amenities	Planned Amenities
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS			144.41		
1	Andover Park	NW 209 St. & 1 Av.	2.87	1 Basketball Court- No Lights 1 Park Sign 1 Pump/Power Building 1 Tot Lot (Small)	No Planned Amenities
2	Brentwood Park	NW 195 St. & NW 32 Av.	10.00	No Facilities For This Property	Construction of a Field Center 65 Car Lighted Parking Lot
3	Brentwood Pool	18800 NW 28 Place	4.50	1 Basketball Court- No Lights 1 Miscellaneous Small Bldgs. 1 Park Perimeter Fence 1 Park Sign 34 Parking Spaces, Standard 1 Storage Building 1 Swimming Pool/Bathhouse - Large (Over 40 M) 2 Tennis Court -No Lights 1 Tennis Practice Wall	No Planned Amenities
4	Buccaneer Park	3100 NW 207 St.	5.50	1 Baseball Field – Lighted 2 Basketball Court-Lighted 1 Park Perimeter Fence 1 Park Sign 50 Parking Spaces, Standard 1 Pump/Power Building 1 Recreation Center-(Small<5000 sf) 1 Roller Skating Rink-Not Lighted 2 Tennis Court - Lighted 1 Tot Lot (Small)	No Planned Amenities

Park No.	Park Name	Property Address	Acreage	Existing Amenities	Planned Amenities
5	Bunche Park & Pool	15600 Bunche Park Dr. West	7.11	1 Baseball Field - Lighted 4 Basketball Court-Lighted 1 Park Perimeter Fence 1 Park Sign 33 Parking Spaces, Standard 1 Recreation/Youth League Field Center 1 Swimming Pool/Bathhouse - Large (Over 40 M) 1 Tot Lot (Small)	No Planned Amenities
7	Miami Carol City Park	3201 NW 185 St.	16.61	1 Baseball / Football / Soccer Overlay – No Lights 2 Basketball Court- No Lights 1 Football Field - No Lights 1 Park Administrative Bldgs. 1 Park Furniture 1 Park Perimeter Fence 1 Park Sign 12 Parking Spaces, Handicapped 74 Parking Spaces, Standard 1 Restroom 1 Shelter-(Medium 400-900 sf) 1 Tot Lot (Medium)	No Planned Amenities
8	Carol Park	4250 NW 178 St.	5.66	1 Baseball Field – Lighted 1 Park Perimeter Fence 1 Park Sign 1 Pump/Power Building 1 Restroom 1 Tot Lot (Small)	Small Recreation Building (4,022 Sq. Ft) Parking Lot Lighting
9	Cloverleaf Park	303 NW 191 St.	1.27	1 Basketball Court- No Lights 1 Park Perimeter Fence 1 Park Sign 20 Parking Spaces, Standard 1 Recreation Center-(Small<5000 sf)	No Planned Amenities
10	Lake Lucerne Park	20701 NW 22 Av.	2.00	1 Basketball Court-Lighted 9 Parking Spaces, Standard 1 Recreation Center-(Small<5000 sf) 1 Shelter-(Large>900sf)	1 Shelter (Replacement)

Park No.	Park Name	Property Address	Acreage	Existing Amenities	Planned Amenities
				2 Shelter-(Small<400 sf) 2 Tennis Court -No Lights 1 Tot Lot (Small)	
11	Myrtle Grove Park & Pool	3030 NW 179 St.	7.69	1 Basketball Court-Lighted 1 Maintenance Yard 1 Multi-Purpose Field - Lighted 1 Park Perimeter Fence 1 Park Sign 30 Parking Spaces, Standard 1 Recreation/Youth League Field Center 1 Swimming Pool/Bathhouse – Small (Under 25 M) 2 Tennis Court - Lighted 1 Tot Lot (Medium)	No Planned Amenities
13	Norwood Park & Pool	19401 NW 14 Ave	4.94	1 Baseball Field - No Lights 1 Park Perimeter Fence 44 Parking Spaces, Standard 1 Recreation Center-(Small<5000 Sf) 1 Shelter-(Medium 400-900 Sf) 1 Swimming Pool/Bathhouse – Medium (25-40m) 4 Tennis Court - Lighted 1 Tot Lot (Small)	No Planned Amenities
14	Risco Park (Miami-Dade School Board)	19000 NW 37 Ave	16.40	2 Baseball Field – Lighted 1 Baseball Field - No Lights 5 Basketball Court- No Lights 2 Basketball Court-Lighted 1 Commemorative Structure 1 Park Furniture 1 Park Perimeter Fence 1 Park Sign 200 Parking Spaces, Standard 1 Pump/Power Building 1 Recreation Center-(Small<5000 Sf) 1 Restroom/Concession 2 Tennis Court - Lighted	No Planned Amenities

Park No.	Park Name	Property Address	Acreage	Existing Amenities	Planned Amenities
16	Scott Park	17710 NW 15 Court	9.70	1 Baseball /Football /Soccer Overlay -Lighted 2 Basketball Court-Lighted 1 Park Perimeter Fence 1 Park Sign 1 Pump/Power Building 1 Recreation Center-(Small<5000 Sf) 1 Tot Lot (Small)	No Planned Amenities
17	Vista Verde Park	21001 NW 39 Av.	4.82	1 Basketball Court-Lighted 1 Park Perimeter Fence 1 Pathway-Not Lighted (Miles) 3 Pine Rockland (Acres) 1 Shelter/Restroom 1 Tot Lot (Small)	No Planned Amenities
COMMUNITY PARKS			24.78		
6	Carol City Community Center Park	NW 199 St. & 27 Av.	24.00	No Facilities For This Property	Community Center
15	Rolling Oaks Park	18701 NW 17 Av.	39.53	2 Basketball Court- No Lights 3 Hammock (Acres) 1 Park Perimeter Fence 1 Park Sign 20 Pine Rockland (Acres) 1 Restroom 1 Shelter-(Medium 400-900 sf) 1 Shelter-(Small<400 sf) 2 Tennis Court -No Lights 1 Tot Lot (Small)	No Planned Amenities
NATURAL AREA PRESERVE			6.28		
20	Scrub Oak Preserve	At Dolphin Stadium	6.28	Natural Preserve Area.	No Planned Amenities
LINEAR PARKS			26.18		
19	Library Walking Trail	East of North-Dade Regional Library and South of Dolphin Stadium	26.18	Walking Trail (21/2 miles)	
SINGLE PURPOSE PARKS			4.13		

Park No.	Park Name	Property Address	Acreage	Existing Amenities	Planned Amenities
12	North Dade Optimist Park	19455 NW 12 Av.	4.13	2 Baseball Field – Lighted Concession Bldg. 1 Park Furniture 1 Storage Building	1 Recreation Building
MINI PARKS			1.0		
18	Watermen Park		1.0	None	TBA
Total Acres.			200.19		

Source: City of Miami Gardens Development Services Department, April 2005

Table ROS V- 2: Current Recreation Level of Service

MAP REF. #	PARK NAME	ACREAGE	ACRES/1,000 PERSONS
Total Community		63.53	0.60 acres
6	Carol City Community Center Park	24.00	
15	Rolling Oaks Park	39.53	
Total Neighborhood		99.07	1.0 acres
1	Andover Park	2.87	
2	Brentwood Park	10.00	
3	Brentwood Pool	4.50	
4	Buccaneer Park	5.50	
5	Bunche Park & Pool	7.11	
7	Miami Carol City Park	16.61	
8	Carol Park	5.66	
9	Cloverleaf Park	1.27	
10	Lake Lucerne Park	2.00	
11	Myrtle Grove Park & Pool	7.69	
13	Norwood Park & Pool	4.94	
14	Risco Park (Miami-Dade School Board)	16.40	
16	Scott Park	9.70	
17	Vista Verde Park	4.82	
Natural Area Preserve		6.28	0.06 acres
20	Scrub Oak Preserve	6.28	
Linear Parks		26.18	0.25 acres
19	Library Walking Trail	26.18	
Single Purpose Parks		4.13	0.04 acres
12	North Dade Optimist Club	4.13	
Mini Parks		1.0	0.01 acres
18	Waterman Park	1.00	
GRAND TOTAL		200.19	1.96 acres

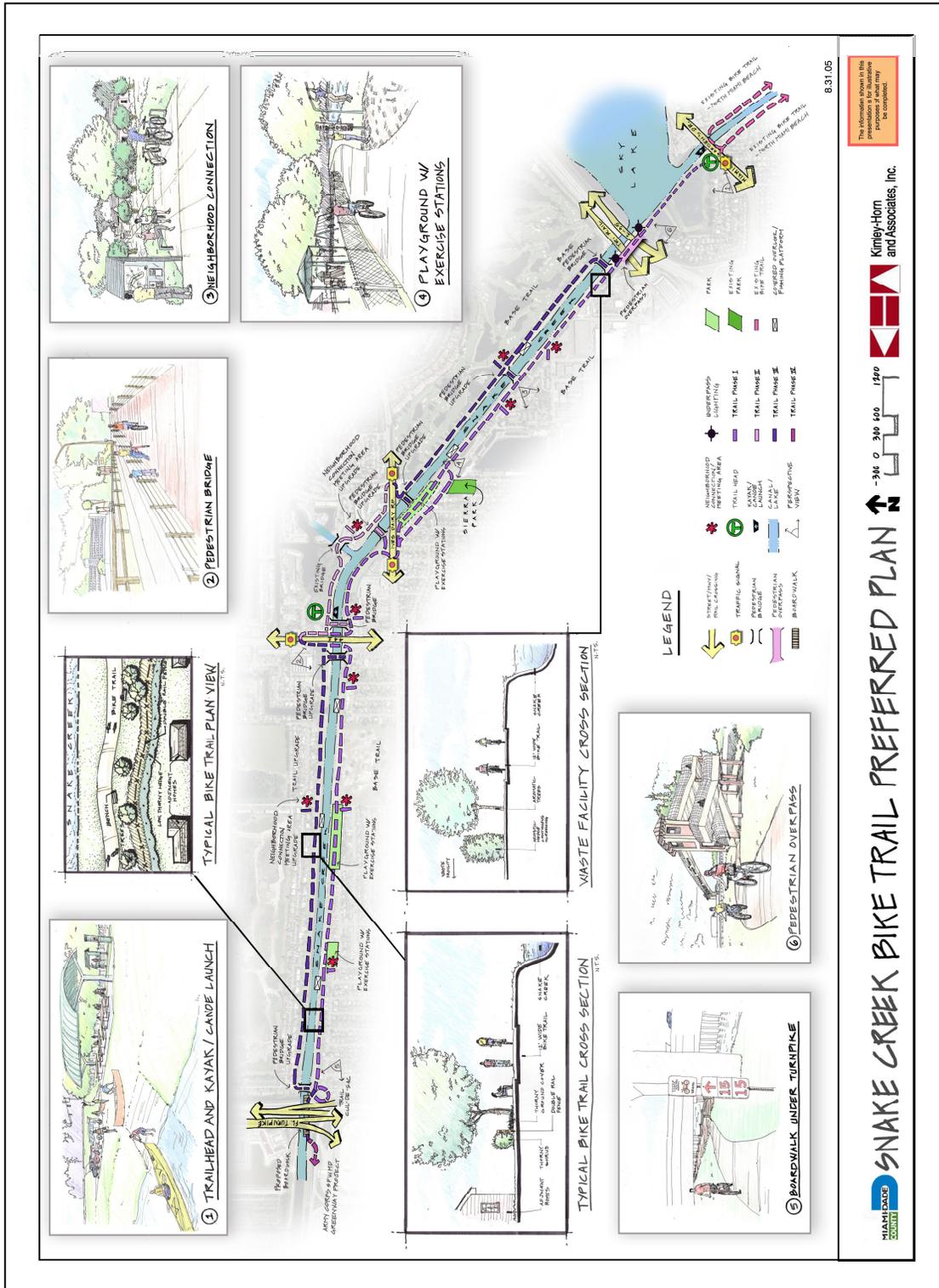
Sources: Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department, 2003

Table ROS V- 3: Future Recreation Level of Service (2020)

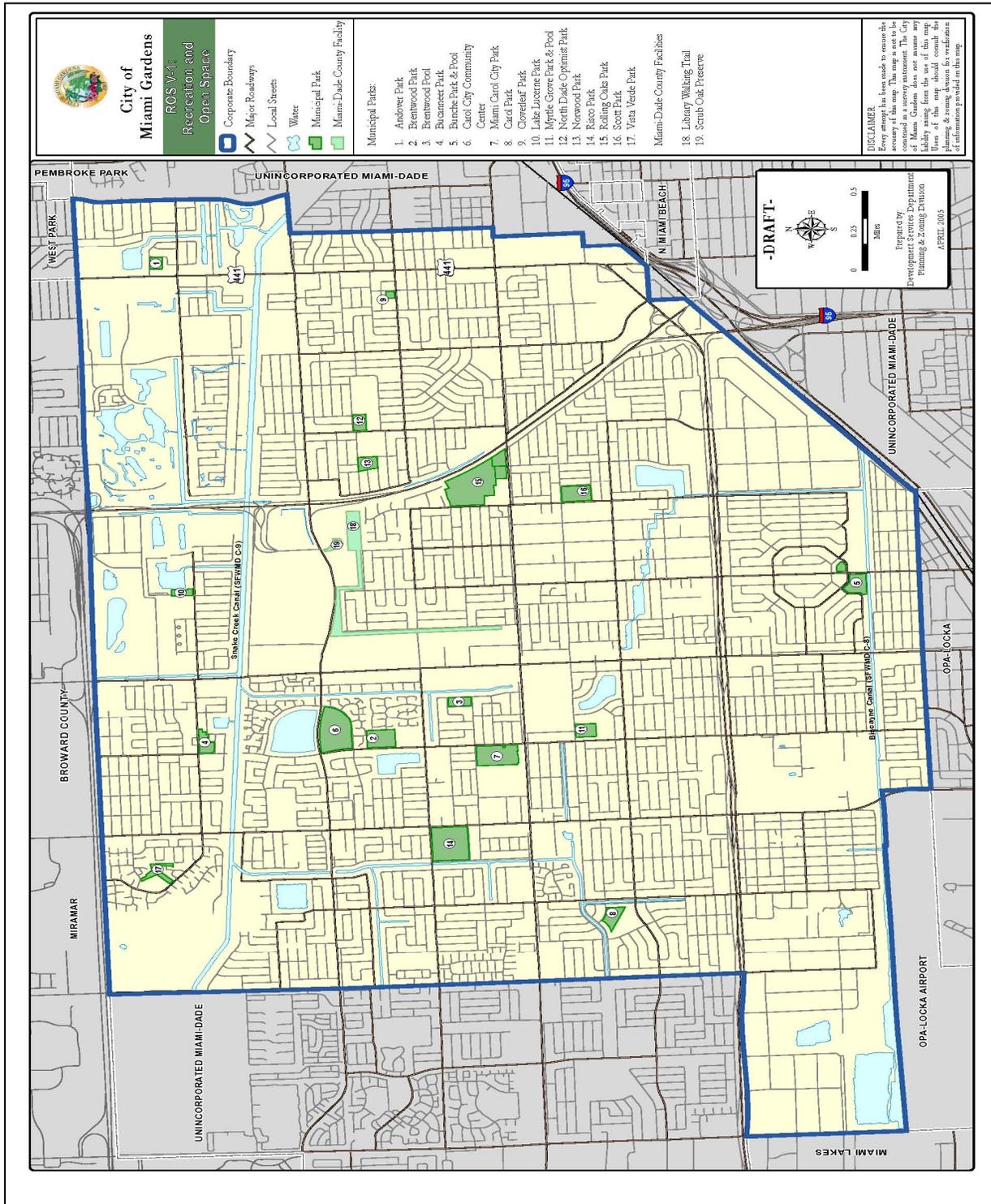
PARK TYPE	EXISTING ACRES	2016 LOS (ACRES/1,000 PEOPLE)
Neighborhood Park	99.07	--
Community Park	63.53	--
Special Activity Area	26.18	--
Natural Area Preserve	6.28	--
Single Purpose	4.13	--
Mini Park	1.00	--
<i>Subtotal:</i>	<u>200.19</u>	1.8
Linear parks along canals	1,114.00	--
Snake Creek Canal	100.00	--
<i>Subtotal:</i>	<u>1,214.00</u>	--
Total	<u>1,414.19</u>	<u>11.21</u>

Sources: City of Miami Gardens Planning and Zoning Department, 2006

Exhibit ROS V- 1: Snake Creek Bike Trail Preferred Plan



Map ROS V-1: Miami Gardens Recreation and Open Space Map



Map ROS V-2: Miami Gardens Snake Creek Bikeway Map Aerial

