

CITY OF FORT PIERCE

PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSIONERS

APRIL 8, 2019





Presented by Committee Members:

Charlene Adair

Joe Hayek

Patty Reconco

John Smith

Martha Wright

Mike Reals, Public Works Director

Kay Czarnecki, Support



Jaycee Park Utilization

***Our objective is to have parks that are relaxing,
welcoming, recreational, and SAFE
for all citizens to enjoy.***

City of Fort Pierce Parks Advisory Committee Report to the Mayor and City Commission

- **Overview of the present situation**
- **Recommendations**
- **Discussion and questions**

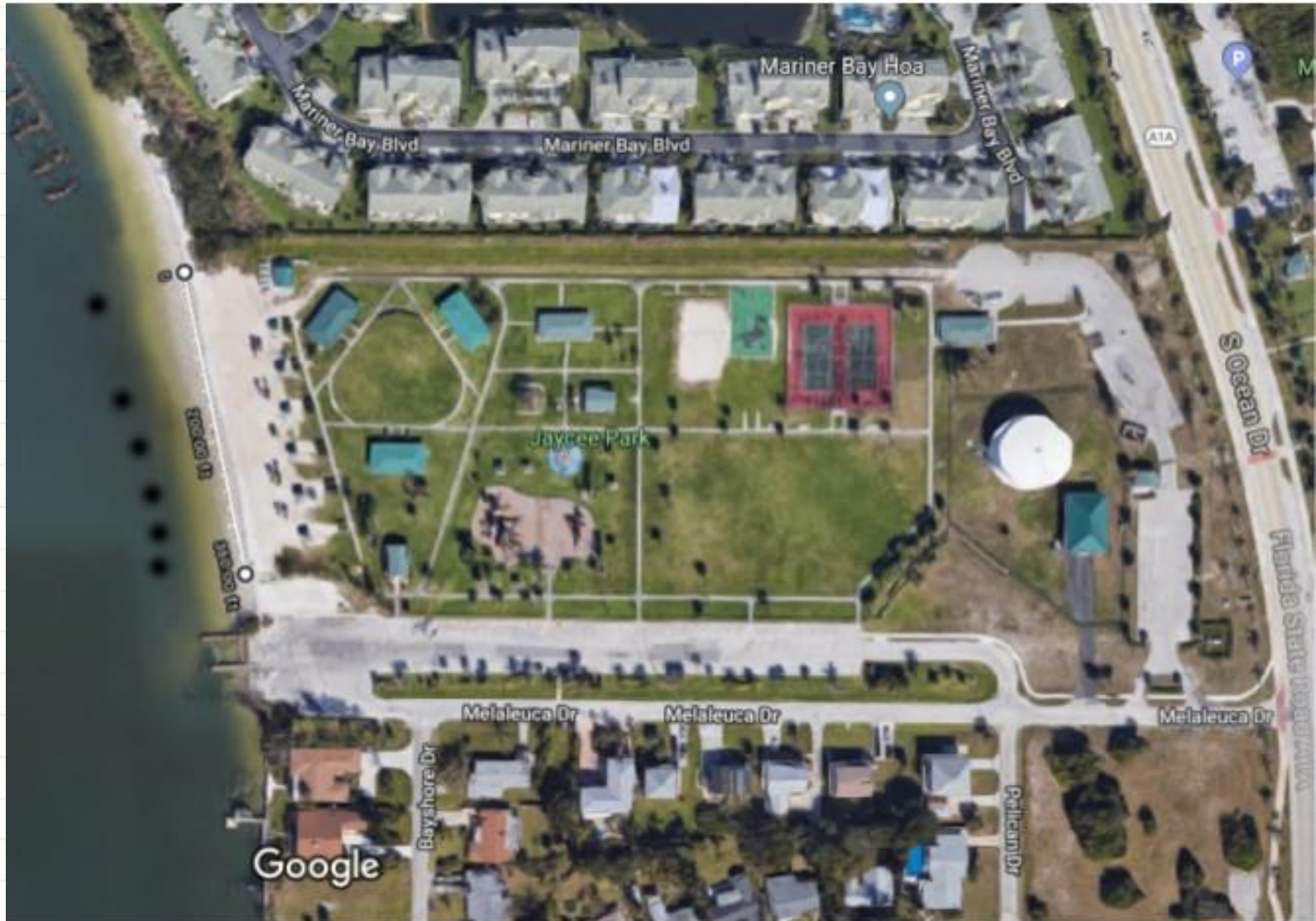
Overview of Present Situation

Jaycee Park Utilization

- **Overcrowded, many competing activities, such as kayaking, TCYSF, jet skis, boating, swimming, picnicking, tennis, pickle ball, and playground = not safe;**
- **Prime park for church groups, family reunions, community events, business picnics, etc. (with Special Event Permit);**
- **Parking for 53 cars & 25 boats (includes new improved grass area) with 74 additional car parking spaces on the east end;**
- **Two boat ramps for launching motorized watercraft;**
- **Small sandy area with beach (about 25') for launching non-motorized watercraft;**
- **Swim area with old buoys and faded signs – 4 are missing;**
- **Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Foundation (TCYSF) small beach area on the north side of the swim area for youth sailing activities & instruction;**
- **Vendors continue to sell, rent, deliver, & demonstrate, which violates Ordinance 18-031 Section 12-202 (z).**

Overview of Present Situation

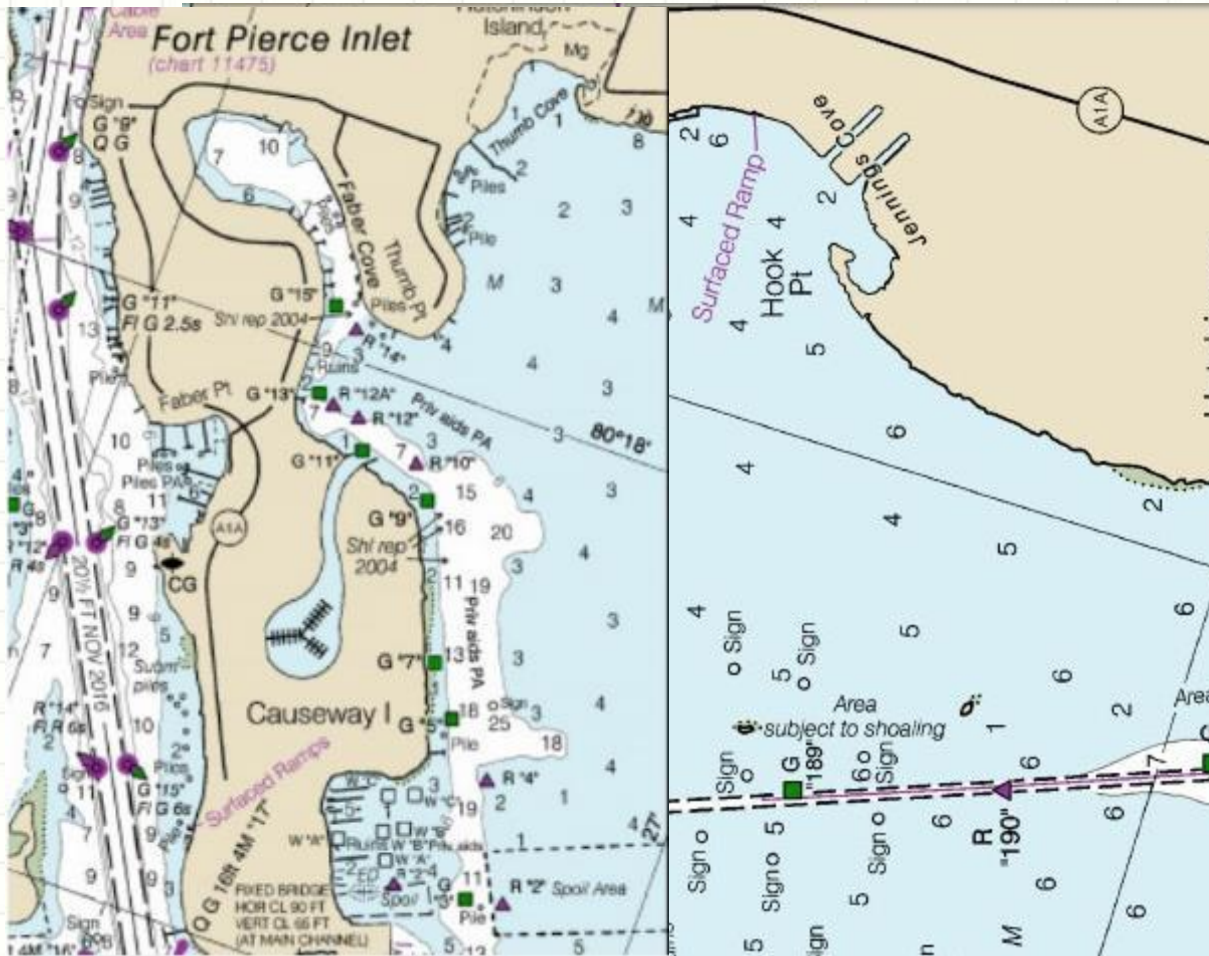
Jaycee Park Utilization



Overview of Present Situation

Jaycee Park Utilization

Depths 3-4' throughout large area

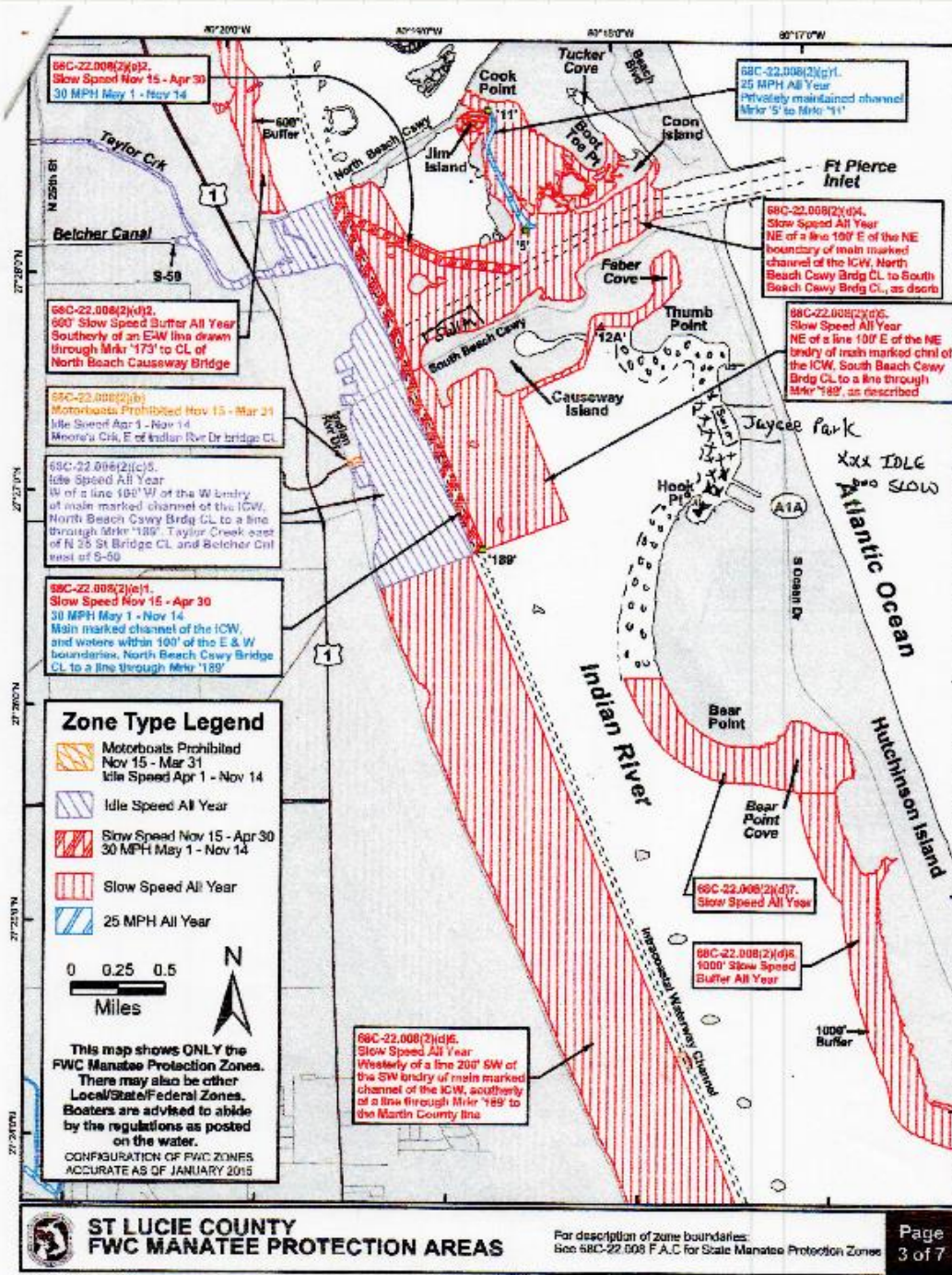


Overview of Present Situation

Jaycee Park Utilization

- **Many citizen photos, emails, videos, and testimonies at Commission meetings have confirmed the dangerous situation at Jaycee Park.**
- **FPPD officers speak of personal motorized watercraft circling the swim buoys at very fast speeds while small children swim only feet away.**
- **Citizens have witnessed personal motorized watercraft zooming behind boats as they put boats in the water at the boat ramp.**
- **Personal motorized watercraft frequently do donuts and spray swimmers at high rates of speed.**
- **“It’s only a matter of time before a citizen is killed or badly injured at Jaycee Park.” (quote from citizen)**
- **Motorized watercraft frequently travel through the non-motorized watercraft launch area, the swim area, & the TCYSF area – sometimes at a high rate of speed.**

Overview of Present Situation Jaycee Park Utilization



The shoreline between Faber Cove and Bear Point is the ONLY river shoreline with no speed buffer from Herman Bay north to the north side of the North Causeway. An enforced no-wake buffer zone would alleviate many of the safety issues.

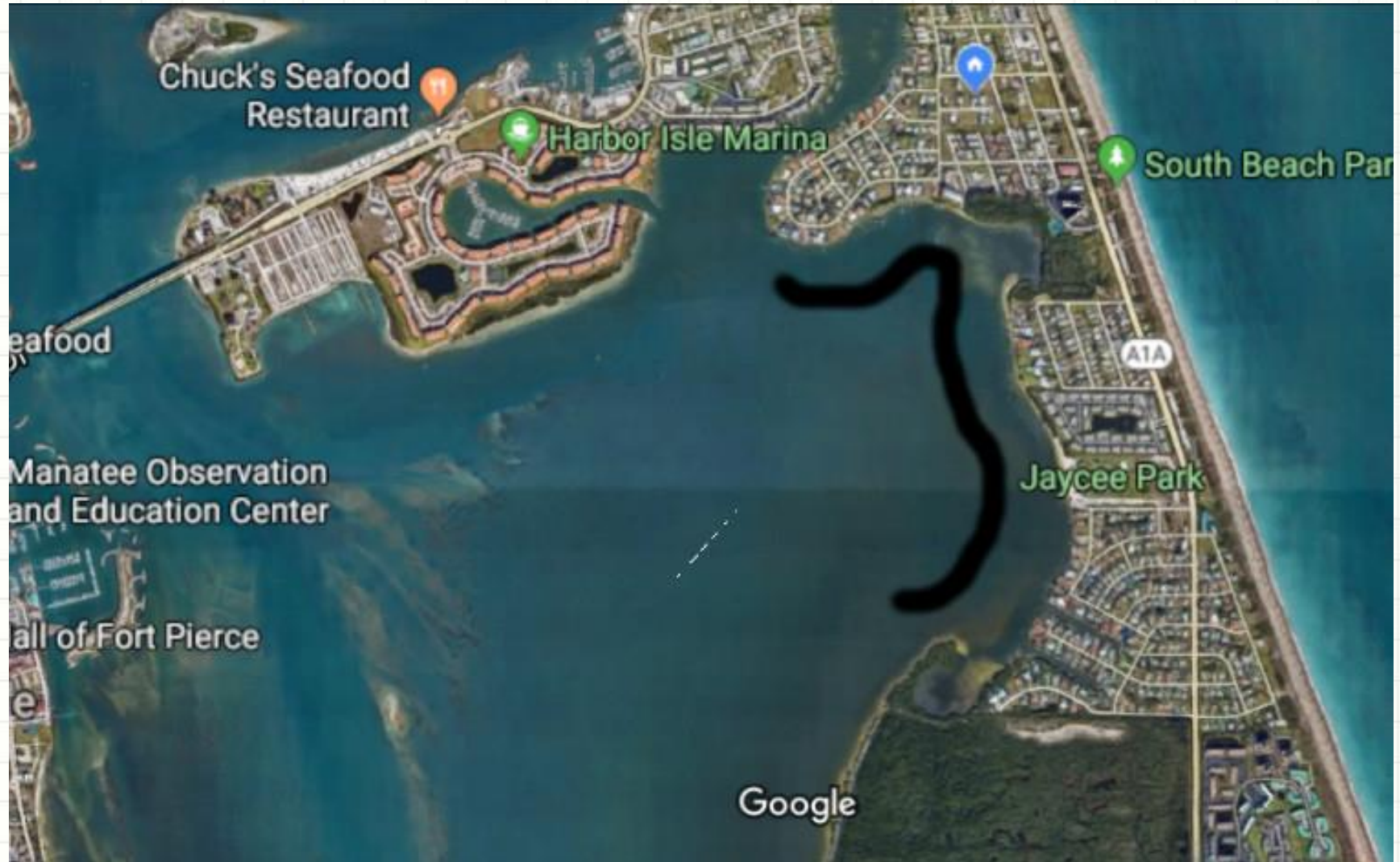


Recommendations

Jaycee Park Utilization

- **Long term solution: FWC designate this area as either a slow (X's) or idle (O's) speed zone due to imperiled species. The City has very little influence on this happening.**
- **Intermediate solution: City Ordinance with FWC approval for idle speed 500' from the shoreline for public safety. The City has the ability to draft and approve this Ordinance change now. FWC will definitely approve installing signs out from Jaycee Park. As you can see on the next slide, this allows a large area for motorized watercraft to travel at higher speeds avoiding safety & annoyance issues while enjoying their watercraft.**
- **Immediate solution: Signs and enforcement on the shore to:**
 - ✓ **Re-enforce the lighted sign by FPPD, and to say:
"All motorized watercraft: no wake within 500' of beach"**
 - ✓ **Protect beach launch area north of the boat ramps for drop off & pickup of non-motorized watercraft.**
 - ✓ **Continue effort to quickly install new swim buoys as planned.**
 - ✓ **Do not allow any watercraft in the designated swim area.**
 - ✓ **Allow motorized watercraft to anchor off the non-motorized watercraft launch beach.**

Recommendations Jaycee Park Utilization



Recommendations Jaycee Park Utilization

We also recommend considering completing the change to Ordinance 18-031 Section 12-202 to include an option for vendors to apply for a Special Use Permit as previously presented to deliver & demonstrate in specific parks.



Discussion and Questions