RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

Per Chapter 163, F.S. the recreation and open space element provides for a comprehensive system of public and private sites for recreation, including, but not limited to, natural reservations, parks and playgrounds, parkways, beaches and public access to beaches, open spaces, waterways, and other recreational facilities. The City of Port St. Lucie Recreation and Open Space Element also includes a level of service standard for parks to ensure there is sufficient park space for existing and future development and to ensure a high quality of life.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

City of Port St. Lucie 10-Year Parks and Recreation System Master Plan

The Parks and Recreation Department administers the development and maintenance of parks. The Department is responsible for planning and developing public parks and recreation facilities within the City and managing a variety of recreation and leisure programs throughout the City. The department's mission is to enhance the quality of life in Port St. Lucie by providing the programs and facilities that will facilitate the residents' pursuit of culture and recreation in a safe and enjoyable setting. This is pursued with the understanding of contributing to the attractiveness of the community, conservation of the environment, and the social and economic health of the City.

In July 2019, the City contracted with Barth Associates to develop a 10-Year Parks and Recreation System Master Plan. In addition to identifying existing conditions and planning for future endeavors, the plan includes community health/wellness activities and community education opportunities.

The Plan conducted an inventory of 1,514.68 acres of developed City recreation facilities and 1,472 acres of County and State-owned public recreation land. Strategies for acquiring new parkland included the dedication of park and recreation land as part of the annexation agreements for the western annexed lands; utilization of the City's Conservation Trust Fund, which is funded by mitigation fees paid by developers in lieu of on-site preservation; and through annexation agreements with property owners to set aside land for parks and open space.

Thewever, the current Level of Service (LOS) for developed pable parkland is only approximately 7.52 acres per 1,000 residents based on the estimated 2020 population. If no additional parkland is acquired, the existing parkland will meet the established LOS of 5 acres per 1,000 through the long-term planning period. The population in 2040 is estimated to be is 302,261 resulting in a LOS of 5.01 acres per 1,000 residents. will decrease to only about 3.8 acres per 1,000 residents by the time the City reaches its total estimated total population of 360,000 (source: 2017 Update to the Water Supply Facility Work Plan Update). Therefore, additional parkland will be needed to meet residents' needs

Classification System for Parks and Open Space

The following six areas comprise the City's classification system for parks and open space. Park acquisition and development requirements are not based on this system, but it is provided as a system to inventory and monitor existing or future facilities and sites.

City of Port St. Lucie 7-1 Adopted
Comprehensive Plan: 202012-204035
September 10, 2012

- 1. Small Neighborhood Parks (SNP): These are sites less than 5 acres in size and designed to provide small tracts of green open space within residential areas. They are generally passive recreational areas but may include limited active recreational opportunities. Each site serves residents in a 1/2 to 3/4 mile radius. These areas typically are not developed and have a land use designation of OSR (Open Space Recreation) and were originally set aside as passive or active recreation when the City was first designed by General Development Corporation with the intent to be dedicated to the City for parks or neighborhood preserve areas. They are limited in use in accordance with similar zoning restrictions.
- 2. <u>Large Neighborhood Parks</u> (LNP): Typically 6-14 acres in size, these parks are designed to provide play fields for baseball, soccer, and football, playgrounds, courts, and picnic areas. Each park would serve residents in a 1 to 1 1/2 mile radius.
- 3. Community Parks (CP): Typically a minimum of 15 acres that may be associated with a park-school combination. They can contain lighted athletic facilities for night time play, large playgrounds, recreation center, picnic area, and a swimming pool. They are designed to serve several neighborhoods and the population of a 1 to 3 mile radius.
- 4. <u>Citywide/Regional Park or Facility</u> (CRPF): A park typically designed as a one of a kind facility such as a stadium or auditorium or a large natural resource. These types of areas are large facilities which serve residents within a 30 minute driving radius.

5.

- 5. ——Specialized Facility (SF): These sites will vary widely in size and in the number of residents that were served. Examples of such sites would include marinas, swimming pools, and publicly owned golf courses. The County swimming pool located within the City limits is one such facility.
- 6. <u>Preservation Areas</u> (PA): These open space areas of various sizes will remain, to a large extent, in a natural setting. They are used for conservation purposes, drainage and natural waterways, and platted greenway areas. They generally have a land use of Open Space Conservation (OSC) and are restricted by similar zoning.

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Data Inventory

At present, there are 828.32 acres of developed City recreation facilities and 1,472 acres of county and state owned public recreation land (St. Lucie County Spruce Bluff and Oxbow Center natural areas and Savannas Preserve State Park) which qualify to meet the level of service requirements. Table 7-1 lists the existing parks and open space areas within the City of Port St. Lucie. In addition, the City has required the dedication of park and recreation land as part of the annexation agreements for the western annexed lands.

In 2019, the final draft of the Ten-Year Master Plan was adopted. In 2002, the City adopted a Parks Projects Improvement Program & Six-Year Development Plan. In the years between 2002 and 2009, the City of Port St. Lucie invested over \$13.4 million dollars in its parks and recreation infrastructure. With these funds, the City has constructed two neighborhood parks, one community park, major facility expansions of a soccer park and tennis facility, renovation and expansion of a riverfront boardwalk, major park improvements at two existing neighborhood parks and two community parks. In addition, the City has designed a boat ramp facility that will provide ocean access and is actively seeking construction permits from the state and federal regulatory agencies.

The City's Conservation Trust Fund accumulates mitigation fees paid by developers who choose to make this payment in lieu of preserving a portion of their sites as required under the City's

Land Development Code. These fees can be used for preservation of conservation land. Funds from the Conservation Trust Fund have been used for the City parks such as the Port St. Lucie Botanical Garden, the City's first public garden opened in March 2010.

Additionally, the City has utilized annexation agreements with numerous property owners to set aside land for parks and open space. As the City continues to build out, it will be important to ensure that the existing level of service requirements adequately addresses the needs of the people. To improve and/or acquire open space, the City has utilized both Park Impact Fees and Upland Preservation Mitigation Fees.

Table 7-1
City Park Inventory

Name/Location [PT1]	Acreage	<u>Designation</u>
Apache Park	ACREAGE	Description
1449 SW Apache Avenue		
Apache Park LOCATION	<u>13.913.9</u>	SNP-PSNP
1449 SW Apache Avenue		
Botanical Gardens	20.19	SF- P
2410 S.E. Westmoreland Blvd. Parcel 1, Govt. Lot 8		
p/o S10, T37, R40E		
	6.949ACREAG	
C-24 Canal Park	<u>E</u>	SF-PDescription
<u>LOCATION</u> 500 SE Oakridge Dr.	<u>6.94</u>	<u>SF</u>
	0 =	1.100
Charles E. Ray Park	<u>8.7</u>	LNP-A
5626 N.W. Manville Drive		
MIDEL ODIDA E LO LOCAL OLA OLA		
MIDFLORIDA Event Center Civic Center Civic	40.44	CDDE A A
Center	10.11	CRPF <u>-A</u> A
9221 S.E. Civic Center Place City Center 1st Replat, Lot 37		
LUL 37		
Doat Street Park	2.44	SNP-P
425 S.E. S.E. Doat Street PSL Sec. 13, Blk 588 All	Z. 4-	OIVI -I
420 C.E. O.E. Dodt Otrecti GE Gee. 10, Bik 600 7th		
Fred Cook Park	5.5	SNP-P
400 S.E. Glenwood Ave. PSL Sec. 18, Tract C	0.0	0111
<u></u>		
Girl Scout Friendship Park	8.4	LNP-A/P
315 N.W. Heather Street PSL Sec. 25, Blk 7, Tract B		
Gulfs-Stream Park	5.85 8.5	SNP-P
210 N.E. Ardsley DriveFP Unit 1, Tract B		
Harborview Park	4.8	SNP-P
624 S.E. Harborview DrivePSL Sec. 6, Tract A		

Name/Location [PT1]	Acreage	<u>Designation</u>
lan T. Zook Park	3.5	SNP-P
5600 N.W. Manville DriveSec. 43, Tract W	0.0	0111
Laura a Darlando VAAQA	0.0	LAID A/D
Jaycee Park w/& YMCA 1301 S.W. Bayshore Boulevard PSL Sec. 28, Blk 227,	6.2	LNP-A /P
Tract A		
Jessica Clinton Park	20	CP-A/P
3200 S.E. Southbend BoulevardSec. 39, Tract R	20	CF-A F
Kiwanis Park	3.8	SNP-A /P
1320 S.E. Floresta DrivePSL Section 3, Blk 426, Tract A		
Loyalty Park	0.782	SNP-P
SPSL Unit 1, Tract A 2810 S.E. Morningside	<u>.</u>	J
Boulevard		
Lyngate Park/Dog Park	16	CP-A/P
1301 S.E. Lyngate DriveSPSL Unit 16, Tracts B, C		
	19.75 ACREAG	PA-
Mariposa Cane Slough Preserve TRACT "C"	E	<u>PDescription</u>
<u>LOCATION</u> 2280 SE Mariposa Ave	<u>19.75</u>	
Mary Aann Cernuto Park/Plaza/NoRRm	0.88	SNP-P
2060 S.E. Grand Drive East Lake Village, Tract ES 1		
		PAP
McCarty Ranch Preserve	600ACREAGE	Description
LOCATION12525 Range Line Road	<u>3107</u>	
McChesney Park	24.5	SF (Soccer) CP-A
1585 S.W. Cashmere Boulevard	21.0	<u> </u>
Midport Lako	12	CP-P
Midport Lake 20101800 SE Veterans Memorial ParkwaySt. Lucie	12	CP-P
Gardens 02 37 40 BLK 3		
Milner Drive-Tot Lot	0.5	SNP-A
5160 NW Milner DriveSection 48 First Replat- Tract	0.0	5141 71
В		
Minksy Gym @ Whispering Pines Pk.	1	CPA
750 SW Darwin Blvd		

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September 10, 2012

Name/Location[PT1]	Acreage	Designation
-		
		<u>CP-PSF (Soccer)</u>
O.L. Peacock, Sr. ParkMcChesney Park	<u>110</u> 24.5	CP-A/P
1950 S.W. Dreyfuss Boulevard1585 S.W. Cashmere BoulevardSLW Parcel 18-A & Portions of 1-B & 3-A		
BOUIEVALUEL TO A & FOILIOTIS OF T-B & 3-A		
Minsky Gym	ACREAGE	Description
LOCATION750 SW Darwin Blvd.	FPT21	Description
	[112]	
Oak Hammock Park	48.7	CP-P
1982 S.W. Villanova RoadSec. 11, Tracts E&F		
DOL Owners its Ownter	4.0	ODDE
PSL Community Center	4.9	CRPF——-A
2195 SE Airoso Blvd.		
Port St. LuciePSL Elks Lodge #2658 Friendship		
Park	3.5	SNP-A
2264 S.E. West Blackwell DriveSec. 40, Blk 2840,		
Tract C		
Dayanawad ContorDaguethall Courts	1	SNP-A
Ravenswood CenterRacquetball Courts 400 S.W. Ravenswood LanePSL Sec. 60, Tract K	1	SINP-A
400 3.W. Naveriswood Laner GE GCG. 50, Tracerk		
River Place Park	7.75	LNP-A/P
690 N.W. Bayou Country Road Parcel D, River Place		
CDD		
Rotary Park - PAL	8.5	LNP-A /P
2101 S.E. Tiffany Avenue PSL Sec. 49, Tracts A, B	0.0	LIVI 7VI
Sandpiper Bay H.O.A. Park Sandhill Crane Park	<u>11.5</u> 19	LNP-PCP-A/P
1870 S.E. Westmoreland Blvd2355 S.E. Scenic Park		
DrivePSL Sec. 53, Tract B		
Saints Golf CourseSandpiper Bay Park	<u>185</u> 11.5	SF-A LNP-P
2601 SE Morningside Blvd.1878 S.E. Westmoreland		
<u>Blvd</u>		
Sandhill Crane Park	19	CP-A
2355 S.E. Scenic Park Drive	<u>13</u>	<u>UF-A</u>
2000 O.L. GOOTHO F GIR DITVE		
Sportsman's Park	16	SF (Football)-A
201 N.W. Prima Vista Boulevardp/o S29, T36, R 40		, ,—
Sportsman's Park	<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>LOCATION201 NW Prima Vista Blvd</u>	<u>16</u>	

Name/Location [PT1]	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Designation</u>		
Sportsman's Park West	13	LNP-AA/P		
p/o S29 T36 R40, PSL Sec. 66 Tracts A-1, A-2 &				
Parcel 3D-C-1 220 N.W. Irving Street				
220 11111 111119 011001				
Swan Park	6.5	SF (Soccer)-A		
700 S.W. Carmelite Street PSL Sec. 27, Blk 80, Tract C				
Tom Hooper Family Park/NoRRm	2.6	SNP-P		
2340 S.E. Rivergate ParkwayLot 2 1st Replat of Rivergate Office Plaza				
Turtle Run Park	10	LNP-A/P		
1945 S.W. Cameo Boulevard Western Portion Sec. 9, Tract E				
Veterans @ Rivergate/ Boat Ramps	21.5	SNP-P		
2200 S.E. Veterans Memorial Parkway				
Veteran's Memorial Park	2.5	SNP-P		
2100 S.E. Veterans Memorial Parkway That Portion of Sec. 2, 3 & 10 Twp 37 S, Rg. 40E lying westerly of Midport Rd.				
Whispering Pines Parkk/Minsky Gym & Skate City	376	CP-A		
800 S.W. Darwin BoulevardPSL Sec. 42, Portion Tract F	_			
Whitemore Park	4.4	SNP-P		
474 S.E. Whitmore DriveSec. 13, Blk 612				
Wilderness Park	85	CP-P		
2701 S.E. Westmoreland Blvd., River Point PUD, First				
Replat Tract J				
Winterlakes Park	28ACREAGE	LNP——A		
5241 N.W. Jannebo StreetLOCATIONNW Jannebo	20			
<u>St.</u>	<u>28</u>			
Mandanda Turila Davidhai ahkarata Barib	40	LNP -A		
Woodlands Trails ParkNeighborhood Park LOCATION1485 SW Calmar Ave	<u>13</u>	NP NP		
Woodstork Trail/ Hilmoor Lake	7556ACREAG E	LNP——- PDescription		
TTOGGETORY THAIR THIRTIOG EARC	<u> </u>	- Doodription		

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Name/Location[PT1]	Acreage	<u>Designation</u>	
LOCATION 1957 SE Hillmoor Drive	56		
Total City Park Acreage	828.32 1,514.68		
Notes:			
SF=Specialized Facility	SNP = Small Neighborhood Park		
LNP = Large Neighborhood Park	P = Predominately Passive Recreation		
CP = Community Park	A = Active Recreation		

Source: City of Port St. Lucie, 2011 2020

Conservation Trust Fund

The purpose of the Port St. Lucie's Conservation lands program is to preserve and maintain native habitat. The City's Conservation Trust Fund accumulates mitigation fees paid by developers in lieu of onsite preservation of upland habitat as required by the City's Natural Resources Protection Code. In cases where the land cannot be preserved, the City can elect to accept a land donation or a monetary donation in lieu of preservation. Conservation land has also been acquired through the Florida Communities Trust land conservation program.

Florida Forever funds were used to purchase approximately 32 acres of land along the east shoreline of the North Fork of the St. Lucie River. The site includes the City's first public garden, the Port St. Lucie Botanical Garden which opened in March 2010. The gardens include a pond with a fountain, paved public paths, and a pavilion, as well as ample public parking. Conservation areas purchased or acquired by the City are listed in Table 7-2. With the exception of the Mariposa Preserve, city-owned conservation areas are not included in the inventory of available public parkland for level of service purposes. Management plans for these sites will be prepared as funding becomes available.

Table 7-2
City-owned Conservation Lands

Name	Legal Description	General Location	Acreage
	2/3 37 39 From NE Cor Sec 3	SE Quadrant I-95 /	
Del Rio North	Run St Lucie West Plat #91	Crosstown Interchange	5.38
	3 37 39 From NE Cor Sec 3 Run	SE Quadrant I-95 /	
Del Rio South	Parcel 2 Govt. Lot 8	Crosstown Interchange	30.04
	Sec 15, Township 36S, Range	North of Commerce	
Reserve	39E	Center Dr.	94.5
Peacock Parcel	SLW Plat No. 91, Tract D	Peacock Blvd.	2.17
Westmoreland Park	Parcel 2 Govt. Lot 8	Westmoreland Blvd.	12.24
	Tract "C", First Replat of		
Mariposa Preserve	Lennard Square	Mariposa	19.77
Total			164.1

Source: City of Port St. Lucie Planning & Zoning Department, 2011

Table 7-3
Public Park Inventory

Total City Park Acreage	828.32 1,514.68
Total County Park Acreage-	
Oxbow Nature Center- 225 acres	322
Spruce Bluff- 97 acres	
Total State Park Acreage-	
Savannahs State Preserve	1,150
Total Park Acreage	2,300.32 <u>2,986.68</u>

Source: City of Port St. Lucie Planning & Zoning Department, 2011

Level of Service Standard for Recreation and Open Space

A level of service designed for a specific type of park or facility is considered to be too restrictive to meet changing demands of the public and fluctuating funding sources based in part on state grant funds. Therefore, the adopted level of service focuses on the overall need for developed public park facilities. Developed parks or recreation facilities level of service = 5.0 acres per 1,000 population.

This standard was developed by examining the past efforts of the City to provide parks, existing inventory data, and considers impact fees, other funding sources available, and improvements planned into the future. The following table projects future needs for parks based on projected population growth data.

Table 7-4
Level of Service (LOS)

Year	20 <u>16</u> 10	20 <u>20</u> 11	20 <u>25</u> 16	20 <u>30</u> 20	20 <u>35</u> 25	20 <u>40</u> 30
	178,092	201,787	230,816	<u>257,258</u>	280,529	302,261
Population	164,603	166,042	205,258	235,895	274,285	310,847
Level of Service (Acres Per 1,000 People)	11.218.5 13.97	7.5 <u>2*</u> 13.85	6.6 <u>5*</u> 11.21	5.97.40 9.75	5.46.71 8.39	7.40 <u>5.01</u>

Source: Shimberg Institute, Calvin, Giordano & Associates, Inc.

Source: Shimburg Institute, Population Projections (Permanent + Institutional) 2010-2040;

Note: *2019 Port St. Lucie Parks and Recreation 10 Year Master Plan

Based upon the existing 1,514.68 2,300.32 acres of park space, the City exceeds the park level of service for 2020 2011 providing approximately 14-7.5 acres of park space for every 1,000 population. The park level of service will be exceeded through the short term and long term planning periods.

Conclusion

The City of Port St. Lucie has invested in quality of life through the development of the <u>-MidFlorida</u> Event Center Civic Center, the Botanical Gardens, and ample park facilities. The City also supports

public art projects and community and cultural events such as City Fest, jazz concerts, and holiday events. The City wishes to capitalize on its ample recreational and community facilities, natural areas, and cultural events to attract visitors. The City also wishes to ensure that Port St. Lucie residents have equal access to parks and that the parks are located within a reasonable radius within all residential areas of the City.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

- GOAL 7.1: TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES AND AREAS OFFERING A BROAD RANGE OF ACTIVITIES, CONVENIENT ACCESS, APPROPRIATE IMPROVEMENTS, AND SOUND MANAGEMENT TO PROVIDE ALL CITIZENS OF PORT ST. LUCIE WITH ACTIVE AND PASSIVE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF PERSONAL HEALTH, ENTERTAINMENT, AND CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF LEISURE TIME.
- <u>Objective 7.1.1</u>: Establish mechanisms necessary to provide active and passive recreation facilities and areas for residents of Port St. Lucie in a timely manner so as to comply with the level of service standards set forth by this element and to maintain such compliance in subsequent years.
- <u>Policy 7.1.1.1</u>: Achieve the level of service standards by utilizing parks impact fees, grant funds or other sources for purchase and/or development of park sites through an equitable and systematic land acquisition program.
- <u>Policy 7.1.1.2</u>: Maintain the City concurrency management regulations in accordance with revised level of service standards and definitions as related to provisions for recreation and open space.
- Policy 7.1.1.3: The level of service standard for recreation shall be as follows:
- Developed Public Park or Recreation Facilities = 5.0 acres per 1,000 population
- <u>Policy 7.1.1.4</u>: Based on level of service standards, document future needs for recreation facilities and correct or improve deficiencies in the City's Capital Improvements Element and capital improvements programs.
- <u>Objective 7.1.2</u>: Through the use of public funds, gifts and contributions, mandatory fees and/or dedications, and other means the City shall coordinate with other governmental agencies and the private sector to meet the recreation and open space needs of the residents.
- <u>Policy 7.1.2.1</u>: Utilize recreation impact fees, and other sources, for recreation land acquisition and development. Supplement needs through interlocal agreements, operational practices, user fees, incentives, and public/private cooperative efforts. Develop a comprehensive implementation program based on data and analysis and direction established in this plan element.
- <u>Policy 7.1.2.2</u>: Maintain a detailed recreation and open space inventory which indicates the general location of existing and potential sites and facilities.
- <u>Policy 7.1.2.3</u>: Continue to require the mandatory dedication of park sites designated by General Development Corporation on their original maps.
- <u>Policy 7.1.2.4</u>: Conservation Trust Funds shall only be used for acquisition and management of upland preserves, development of passive recreation facilities on such lands consistent with the permitted principal uses and structures of the Open Space Conservation Zoning District, and education pertaining to such lands.
- <u>Policy 7.1.2.5</u>: Define open space and enforce preservation and open space design standards through the City's land development codes.
- <u>Policy 7.1.2.6</u>: Provide and promote a balanced recreation system which offers a variety of high quality recreational opportunities for all residents.

- <u>Policy 7.1.2.7</u>: The City may preserve existing open space and recreation land by restricting its conversion to other uses and limiting encroachment from other uses.
- <u>Policy 7.1.2.8</u>: Encourage development of new parks to ensure all Port St. Lucie residents have access to park and recreational facilities within a maximum three mile radius.
- <u>Policy 7.1.2.9</u>: Encourage passive recreational activities and eco-tourism of natural areas within the City of Port St. Lucie.
- <u>Policy 7.1.2.10</u>: Promote partnerships with local arts/cultural organizations and sports organizations, and promote recreational tourism opportunities within the City of Port St. Lucie.
- <u>Objective 7.1.3</u>: Ensure that parks and recreation facilities are reasonably accessible to all categories of users, including the handicapped, elderly, and economically disadvantaged.
- <u>Policy 7.1.3.1</u>: Through the site plan review process, require development to provide access easements or rights-of-way as needed to provide adequate access ways (including beach access if appropriate) which are compatible with the character and needs of the facility, as well as being harmonious with surrounding development patterns.
- <u>Policy 7.1.3.2</u>: Coordinate with St. Lucie County's Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department to negotiate public access to Atlantic Ocean beaches through meetings and discussions.
- <u>Policy 7.1.3.3</u>: Continue to implement handicapped accessibility design standards into new recreation facility designs.
- <u>Policy 7.1.3.4:</u> The City should, in cooperation with St. Lucie County and other appropriate transportation providers, work to enhance physical access to park and recreation areas by automobile, bicycle, pedestrian, and public transportation.
- <u>Policy 7.1.3.5:</u> The City should strive to ensure that all public, active, recreation facilities shall be accessible to the disabled, and the elderly through proper design and continued maintenance.
- <u>Objective 7.1.4</u>: Coordinate with other government agencies and the private sector to implement park acquisition, construction, maintenance, and preservation plans.
- <u>Policy 7.1.4.1</u>: Through a joint use agreement coordinate with the State of Florida to open State owned lands along the North Fork of the St. Lucie River and the Savannas to public access.
- <u>Policy 7.1.4.2</u>: The City shall continue to work with the St. Lucie County School Board to provide recreation facilities and programs at schools located in the City through mutual use agreements.
- <u>Policy 7.1.4.3</u>: The City will seek intergovernmental agreements when necessary for joint projects with St. Lucie County in a cooperative effort to provide recreation facilities in the City.
- <u>Policy 7.1.4.4:</u> Develop and enhance the City's recreational trail system to tie into St. Lucie County's Greenways and Trails system, the trail system contained in the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan, and the trail system contained in the St. Lucie County TPO Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Greenways and Trails Study.