



Aerial Photo: Existing conditions at the end of Arlington Road.

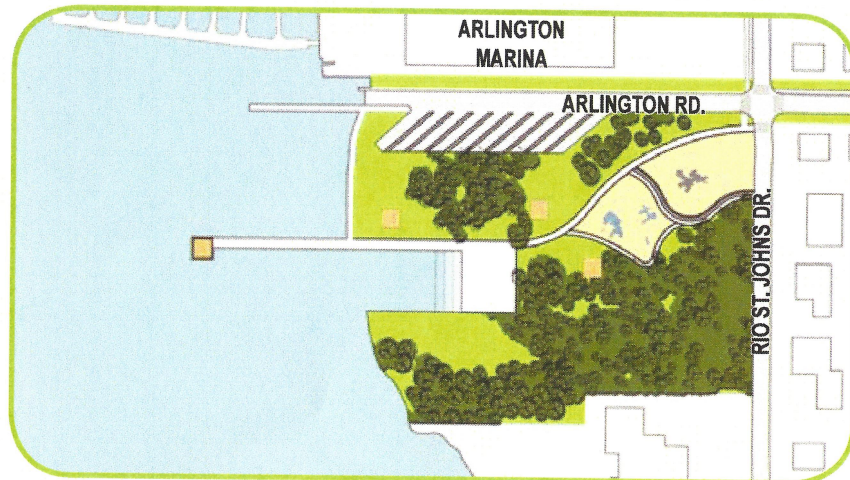


Diagram: The diagram above illustrates a potential new waterfront park at the end of Arlington Road. (Source: Zyscovich Architects)

Further, the diagram on page 88 begins to identify general locations for new parks and boat ramps to serve a broader distribution of the population. In addition, there is a need to improve existing facilities that are not adequately maintained. The City's Boat Ramp Master Plan identifies facilities that are in need of repair, as well as opportunities for expanding existing facilities and should be implemented to the greatest extent feasible.

Access to the river should meet specific goals and criteria and might utilize incentives to provide access on private property. For instance, the Comprehensive Plan may include an objective to provide public river access every "X" miles. Further, zoning may require that commercial redevelopment on the river provides some degree of public access. A detailed study should be commissioned to develop a waterfront access master plan and to identify specific properties that may be acquired by the City. Agencies such as the Trust for Public Land can be a tremendous help in conducting this type of analysis.

#### Objective 5.4.6: Encourage cooperation between the city and school board for common increased use of facilities.

There are a number of colleges and schools that have recreation facilities and open spaces which could be opened for public use especially on the weekends and in the evenings when the grounds are otherwise not being used by students. The City should meet with the Duval County School Board to evaluate this proposal's feasibility and consider developing an interlocal agreement to use school grounds. The agreement should include language to ensure additional surveillance and management during non-school hours for the public. Hours of operation, maintenance, and programming opportunities and expectations should also be included in the agreement.

The National Policy and Legal Analysis Network (NPLAN) for Preventing Childhood Obesity has conducted a survey of 50-states to assess the potential legal risks to public use of school property after hours. The findings show that the laws governing liability for after-hours recreational use of school facilities provide some governmental immunity from litigation especially because some states employ recreational users statutes. The survey resulted in two memos that suggest that when assessing a school's liability for risks, schools should consider limits on a school's legal obligations: limited legal duties as they relate to recreational use statutes; historical distinctions among entrants on land, or other grounds; requirements to indemnify school employees; defenses to liability; limitations on damages; and risk management strategies. The memos also provide insight regarding joint use agreements between school districts and schools.

The State of Florida authorizes use of public school facilities by the community and Florida Statute §1013.15 states that a board of education may lease any land, facilities, or educational plants to any person or entity on such terms as are in its best interests. Florida Statute §1013.1 states that a board of education may permit the use of educational facilities for any legal assembly or for community use centers. Neither statute addresses liability, insurance or joint use, but allows fees to be charged.

#### Action Items for Sub-Principle 5.4:

1. Enhance and improve existing parks and other recreational land and implement strategies for improved access to residents.
2. Create new neighborhood parks to provide greater distribution and improved accessibility. Modify access standards to include distance standards.
3. Program new parks to provide a wide range of activities and recreational opportunities.
4. Improve the awareness of parks through a coordinated and unique signage program.
5. Coordinate with JEA to utilize lands for low-impact recreation opportunities.
6. Implement the Boat Ramp Master Plan.
7. Provide increased access to the River and its tributaries. Create measurable goals and objectives for access in the Comprehensive Plan.
8. Coordinate with the School Board to develop strategies for use of recreational facilities by the public.