

**BALDWIN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2008 - 2025
PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT
DATA, INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS
SEPTEMBER, 2008**

In 1999 and 2000, County Planning and Zoning Department staff prepared a document entitled *Baldwin County Parks and Public Access Inventory and Assessment* (dated July 2000). This report provides an inventory of county, state, municipal and private resources available to the residents of Baldwin County. County parks and access points are categorized into seven (7) groups: Group A Well Developed; Group B Developed; Group C Limited Use; Group D Unusable/ Dangerous; Group E Unsuitable; Group F Unmarked/ Location Unknown; and Group G Obstructed. Table 1 and 3 from the report are provided below:

Table 1: Categorical Parks and Access List

Group A: Well Developed Parks/Accesses	
<p><u>Category 1 Well Maintained</u> Cliff's Landing Mary Ann Nelson Park Mullet Point Park Palmetto Creek Boat Ramp</p> <p><u>Category 2 Minor Improvements Needed</u> * Fort Mims Historic Marlow Ferry & Farragut's Basin Perdido Bay Recreational Beach The Springs</p>	<p>Orange Street Public Access Pensacola Avenue Public Access</p> <p><u>Category 2 Minor Improvements Needed</u> (continued) Public Boat Ramp #1 (Cock of the Walk) Public Boat Ramp #2 (Admiral Semmes Bridge) Sibley Street Public Access</p> <p><u>Category 3 Major Improvements Needed</u> Bohemian Park Josephine Park</p> <p><u>Category 4 Special Sites</u> (requiring little parking, but are well maintained) The Dipping Vat Propst Park Red Hill Spring</p>
Group B: Developed Parks/Accesses	
<p><u>Category 1 Well Maintained</u> Inspiration Park Kee Avenue Public Access * Red Eagle's Grave * Lillian Recreation Center</p> <p><u>Category 2 Minor Improvements Needed</u> Barclay Street Public Access Battles Road Public Access Bernard Court Public Access Burger Lane Public Access County Road 95 Public Access Cypress Avenue Public Access Escambia Street Public Access Fish Trap Public Access Franklin Street Public Access Honey Road Extension Mitigation Property Indian Lane Public Access Laine Court Park Latham Park Mac Donald Avenue Public Access Morgantown Park North Road Public Access Oak Street Public Access</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Group C: Limited Use Parks/Accesses</p> <p><u>Category 1 Severely Limited Parking</u> (but well maintained) Anderson Street Public Access Beach Boulevard Public Access Boykin Street Public Access Buchanan Road Public Access Choctaw Road Public Access Cedar Street Public Access Fish River Park Mobile Avenue Public Access Montgomery Avenue Public Access Navy Cove Entrance Public Access Palmetto Avenue Public Access Ponce de Leon Court East Public Access Ponce de Leon Court West Public Access Ponce de Leon Drive Public Access Three Mile Road Public Access</p>

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Category 2 Improvements Needed

Baldwin Street Public Access
Bay Avenue Public Access
Holly Avenue Public Access
Live Oak Public Access
Rice Creek Boat Launch
Rock Street Public Access
Seminole Boat Launch
Sunset Drive Public Access
Yupon Avenue Public Access
Zundall Lane Public Access

Group D: Unusable Parks/Accesses

Category 1 Dangerous Conditions Exist

Boone Lane Public Access
Byrnes Landing Public Boat Launch
Marlow Ferry West Public Access

Category 2 Undeveloped

Bay Avenue East Public Access
Cedar Street East Public Access
Holley Avenue Public Access
Juniper Avenue Public Access
Keeney Drive East Mitigation Property
Rester Park Public Access
State Street West Public Access
Carpenter Station

Group E: Other Facilities

Jill Hall Aerobic Trail

Group F: Unmarked Facilities

Category 1: Unmarked Sites

Angle Street
Bay Street (Magnolia Springs)
Bay Street (Perdido Beach)
Bell Street
Between Lots 18-19 Pamela Court
Between Lots 9-10 Pamela Court
Bobby Lane
Cedar State
Cherokee Road
Chickasaw Road
Choctaw Road North
Dell Street
Dickinson Lane
Dixie Highway
Feller's Lane
Gore Road
Government Road East
Government Road West

Category 1: Unmarked Sites (continued)

Haupt Road
Holly Street East
Island Avenue
Isle of Pines North
Isle of Pines South
Lafite Road
Laurel Avenue
Lot 34 Fernwood Heights
Lot 43 Fernwood Heights
Lot 51 Fernwood Heights
Lot 35 Ponce de Leon Court
Lot 50 Ponce de Leon
Lot 51 Ponce de Leon Court
Magnolia Street
Maple Lane
Marjon Lane
Mullet Lane
Myrtle State
Our Road
Perdido Beach Park
Riverside Drive
Shell Banks Road
Shore Drive 1
Shore Drive 2
Shore Drive 3
Todd Lane
Viola Road
Worchester Road
Wydell Street Public Access

Category 2: Sites Not Found

1st Avenue
2nd Street
Bay Front Road
Bay Shore Drive
Bay Side Drive
Bayou Drive
Bluff Street
Bon Bay Drive
Canal Street
Cedar Drive
County Road 24
Ferry Road
Fish River Acres Circle
Fish River Parkway
Jassamine Street
Keller Drive
Magnolia Avenue
Miflin Estates
Murphy Lane
Oak Street
Peed Place
Pinewoods Avenue

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Category 2: Sites Not Found (continued)

Pineywoods Road
Red Barn Road
Reo Vista Drive
River Road
Riverwood Drive
Roan Road
Rosala Avenue
Seabright Avenue
Seventh Street
Timney Drive
Virginia Street
Wenzels Lane
White Lane

Group G: Obstructed Accesses

Boykin Court North Access
Heritage Lane Access
Randolf Drive Access
Riverview Lane Park
Shore Drive/ Bay Road Access
State Street East Access
Yupon Lane Access

* Owned by others, maintenance by County for public use.

Table 3: Classification of Baldwin County Parks

Number of Parks	Classification of Parks	Parks in Classification
1	Connector trail	Jill Hall Aerobic Trail
12	Community Park	Bohemian Park, Cliff's Landing, Historic Marlow Ferry and Faragut's Basin, Josephine Park, Laine Court, Latham Park, Lillian Recreation Center*, Mary Anne Nelson Park, Mullet Point Park, Palmetto Creek Boat Launch, Perdido Bay Recreational Beach, and The Springs.
7	Special Use (other)	Carpenter Station, The Dipping Vat, Fort Mims*, Inspiration Park, Propst Park, Red Hill Spring, and Red Eagle's Grave*.
56	Special Use (water)	Anderson Street, Baldwin Street, Barclay Street, Battles Road, Bay Avenue, Bay Avenue East, Beach Boulevard, Bernard Court, Boone Lane, Boykin Street, Buchanan Road, Burger Lane, Byrne's Lake Boat Launch, Cedar Street Public Access, Cedar Street East Public Access, Choctaw Road, County Road 95 Public Access, Cypress Avenue, Escambia Street, Fish River Park, Fish Trap Public Access, Franklin Street, Holly Avenue, Honey Road Extension, Indian Lane, Juniper Avenue, Kee Avenue, Keeney Drive East, Live Oak Public Access, Macdonald Avenue, Marlow Ferry West, Mobile Avenue, Montgomery Avenue, Morgantown Park, Navy Cove Village Entrance, North Road, Oak Street, Orange Street, Palmetto Avenue, Pensacola Avenue, Ponce de Leon Court East, Ponce de Leon Court West, Ponce de Leon Drive, Public Boat Ramp #1 (Cock of the Walk), Public Boat Ramp #2 (Admiral Semmes), Rester Park Public Access, Rice Creek Boat Launch, Rock Street, Seminole Boat Launch, Sibley Street, State Street West, Sunset Drive, Three Mile Public Road, Wydell Street, Yupon Avenue, and Zundall Lane.
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The report also categorizes the facilities into four (4) park types: Connector Trail, Community Park, Special Use (other) and Special Use (water). For planning purposes, this classification system is useful in determining the County's park and recreation needs.

The following list is a compilation of information shown in the report and received from County staff. Those sites identified as "Obstructed", "Unmarked", or "Unable to Find" in the report have not been included.

Name	
Anderson Street Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Baldwin Street Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Barclay Street Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Battles Road Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Bay Avenue Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Bay Avenue East Access	Undeveloped
Bay Minette Creek	<i>Not specified</i>
Beach Blvd. Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Bernard Court Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Bicentennial Park	<i>Not specified</i>
Bohemian Park	Community Park
Boone Lane Access	Undeveloped
Boykin Street Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Buchanan Road Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Burger Lane Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Byrne's Lake Boat Launch	Special Use/ Water Access
Carpenter Station	Special Use/ Other
Cedar Street Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Cedar Street East Access	Undeveloped
Choctaw Road Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Cliff's Landing Boat Launch	Community Park
County Road 95 Boat Launch	Special Use/ Water Access
Cypress Avenue Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Dipping Vat, The	Special Use/ Other
Escambia Street Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Fish River Park	Special Use/ Water Access
Fish Trap Boat Launch	Special Use/ Water Access
Fort Mims	Special Use/ Other
Franklin Street Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Fuller's Park	Undeveloped
Historic Marlow Ferry & Farragut's Basin	Community Park
Holly Avenue Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Honey Road Extension Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Indian Lane Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Inspiration Oak Park	Special Use/ Other

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Jill Hall Aerobic Trail	Connector Trail
Josephine Park & Boat Launch	Community Park
Juniper Avenue Access	Undeveloped
Juniper Street	Undeveloped
Kee Avenue Park	Special Use/ Water Access
Keeney Drive East Access	Undeveloped
Laine Court Park	Community Park
Latham Park	Community Park
Lillian Recreation Center	Community Park
Live Oak Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Lots 34, 43, 51 - Fernwood Heights	Undeveloped
MacDonald Avenue	Special Use/ Water Access
Marlow Ferry West Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Mary Ann Nelson Park	Community Park
Mobile Avenue Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Montgomery Avenue Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Morgantown Park	Special Use/ Water Access
Mullet Point Park & Boat Launch	Community Park
Navy Cove Village Entrance Access	Special Use/ Water Access
North Road	Special Use/ Water Access
Oak Street Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Orange Street Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Palmetto Avenue Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Palmetto Creek Boat Launch	Community Park
Pensacola Avenue Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Perdido Bay Recreational Beach	Community Park
Ponce de Leon Court East Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Ponce de Leon Court West Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Ponce de Leon Drive Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Propst Park	Special Use/ Other
Public Boat Ramp #1	Special Use/ Water Access
Public Boat Ramp #2	Special Use/ Water Access
Red Eagle's Grave	Special Use/ Other
Red Hill Spring	Special Use/ Other
Rester Park	Special Use/ Water Access
Rice Creek Boat Launch	Special Use/ Water Access
Rock Street Access	Special Use/ Water Access
Seminole Boat Launch	Special Use/ Water Access
Sibley Street-Stedman's Landing Access	Special Use/ Water Access
The Springs	Community Park
State Street East Access	Special Use/ Water Access
State Street West Access	Undeveloped
Sunset Drive Access	Special Use/ Water Access

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	Three Mile Road Access	Special Use/ Water Access
	View Point Boat Launch	<i>Not specified</i>

Level of Service (LOS) Standards:

Volume I of the Baldwin County Comprehensive Plan references a park classification system and level of service (LOS) standards provided by the Baldwin County Planning Department staff. These references are primarily based on standards established by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and a publication entitled “Planner’s Estimating Guide: Projecting Land-Use and Facility Needs.”

In addition to the County facilities listed above, County residents have access to the following state, municipal and private resources:

- Alabama Point Public Beach (www.gulfshores.com)
- Bike Trail (www.gulfshores.com)
- Biophilia Nature Center & Native Nursery (www.biophilia.net)
- Blakely State Park (www.outdooralabama.com)
- Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge & Beach (NWR)
- Cotton Bayou Public Beach (www.gulfshores.com)
- Department of Conservation’s Marine Resource Center
- Garrett Park
- Gulf Shores Public Beach (www.gulfshores.com)
- Gulf State Park/ Lake Shelby Recreation Area (www.gulfshores.com, www.alapark.com)
- Gulf State Park & Nature Center (www.gulfshores.com)
- Holiday Park
- Knoll Park
- Lagoon Pass Park
- Meaher State Park (www.alapark.com, www.gulfshores.com)
- Melvin Roberts Cedar Street Park and Walking Trail
- Memorial Park
- Minamac Wildflower Bog (www.gulfshores.com)
- Perdido River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) (www.outdooralabama.com)
- Pier Street Boat Ramp
- Romar Public Beach (www.gulfshores.com)
- Soldier’s Creek Golf Course at Woerner’s Preserve (www.soldierscreekgolf.com)
- Timber Creek Golf Club (public)
- Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (www.outdooralabama.com)
- Wehle Nature Center at Blakely (www.outdooralabama.com)
- William L. Holland Wildlife Management Area (WMA)

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- City of Bay Minette Facilities: Blackburn Park, Brownwood Park, George B. Halliday Park, John White Park, Lee Smith Park/ Imagination Station, O.C. Tuffy Waters Park, Rex Park, Sye Davis Park, Vincent Ulmer Park
- City of Daphne Facilities: Al Trione Sports Complex, Bayfront Park, Belrose Park, Centennial Park, Daphne Boys & Girls Club, D'Olive Boardwalk Park / Gator Alley, Joe Louis Patrick Park, McMillan Bluff Park, May Day Park & Boat Launch, Park City Park, S.B. Williams Park, Village Point Park, W.O. Lott Park
- Town of Elberta Facilities: Elberta Town Park
- City of Fairhope Facilities: Fairhope Municipal Pier, Founder's Park, Quail Creek Municipal Golf Course, Stimpson Field, Volanta Park/ Fairhope Municipal Park
- City of Foley Facilities: Aaronville Park, Beulah Heights Park, Evans Park, Foley Hike-Bike Trail, Foley Kids Park, Foley Soccer Park, John B. Foley Park, Heritage Park, Max Griffin Park, Melvin Roberts Park/ Cedar Street Park
- City of Gulf Shores Facilities: David L. Bodenhamer Recreation Center, Gulf Shores Kids Park, Gulf Shores Sportsplex, Gulf Shores Wetlands Nature Park, Lagoon Pass Park, Meyer Park, New Skate Park, Sims Park, Wade Ward Nature Park
- City of Orange Beach Facilities: Aquatic Center, Golf Center, Recreation Center, Sportsplex, Tennis Center, Waterfront Park

Needs Analysis:

The County has not established a level of service (LOS) standard for park and recreation facilities. This should be pursued in order to assess the adequacy of the amount and quality of park and recreation space. Typically, a LOS standard is measured in terms of park or recreation acres per population; therefore, this step will involve investigating how many acres of park or recreation acres currently exist, and whether or not this amount is considered adequate for Baldwin County residents.

The *Baldwin County Parks and Public Access Inventory and Assessment* provides the foundation for the above task. As stated in the Conclusion section of the document, next steps include continuing the process of identifying and maintaining the park and recreation site inventory, and completing a comprehensive Recreation Plan. This document does not identify any shortcomings in terms of acreage, but does describe needed improvements for existing sites.

The *Baldwin County Strategic Plan: 2006-2016* identifies the following needs: develop an infrastructure assessment (concurrency standard) program/ system for parks; provide parks, camping and playground areas at public accesses on water frontage, improve public access to 2 beaches, improve 2 current boat ramps, acquire 1 new boat ramp, and build 3 boat ramps on currently owned property by 2016; establish Bicentennial Park and Village by 2009; and ensure the County has adequate resources to maintain all County facilities in an efficient and effective manner by 2011. These needs have been incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan.

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Public Input:

Citizens who attended the two Public Workshops (Sept. 25th and 26th, 2007) ranked their list of County issues and comments by order of importance at the end of the each evening. Below are the results for this element, listed in order of importance:

Parks and Recreation

1. Conserve Greenways for Bike Trails/ Environmental Paths – Trails outside of road corridors
2. Protect Open Space for Parks/ Boating/ Picnic Areas
3. Connectivity to Residential via Trails – Bike/ Pedestrians/ Boat / Transit
4. Public Access: Safety and Trash
5. Repair and maintain park facilities on a regular basis
6. Baldwin County Trail Blazer Plans
7. International Trail Program
8. Creative Approaches to Adding/Purchasing Greenspace for Bike Trails/ Greenways/ Parks.