



Welcome to the 2022 FRPA Conference!
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Environmental Sustainability and Education in Parks





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Introduction

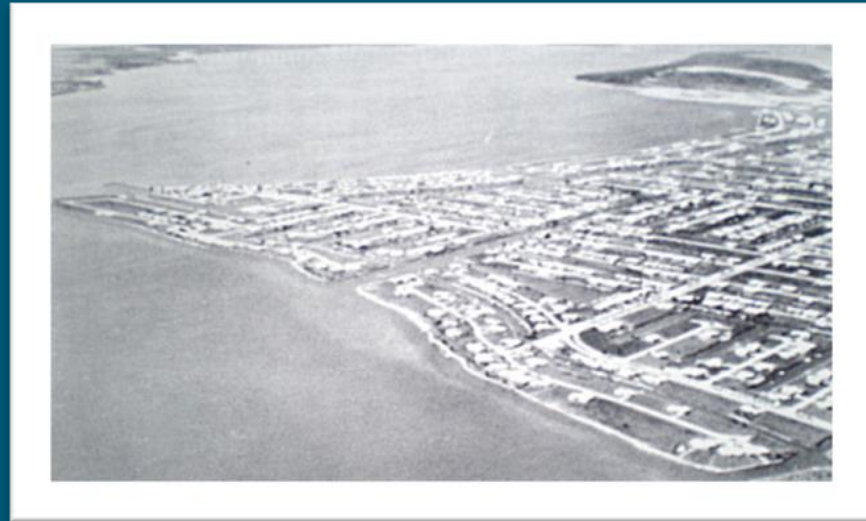
About Me:

- BA Environmental Studies
- MS Environmental Science
- Senior Recreation Specialist- City of Cape Coral
13 years
- Adjunct Professor Florida Gulf Coast University
- STEM Advisory Board- Cape Coral Charter Schools
- CROW- Care and Rehabilitation of Wildlife
Volunteer
- Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife
- Cape Coral Wildlife Trust



History of Cape Coral

Jack and Leonard Rosen spent two weeks flying around South Florida looking for the perfect spot to develop in 1957.





Learning Objectives

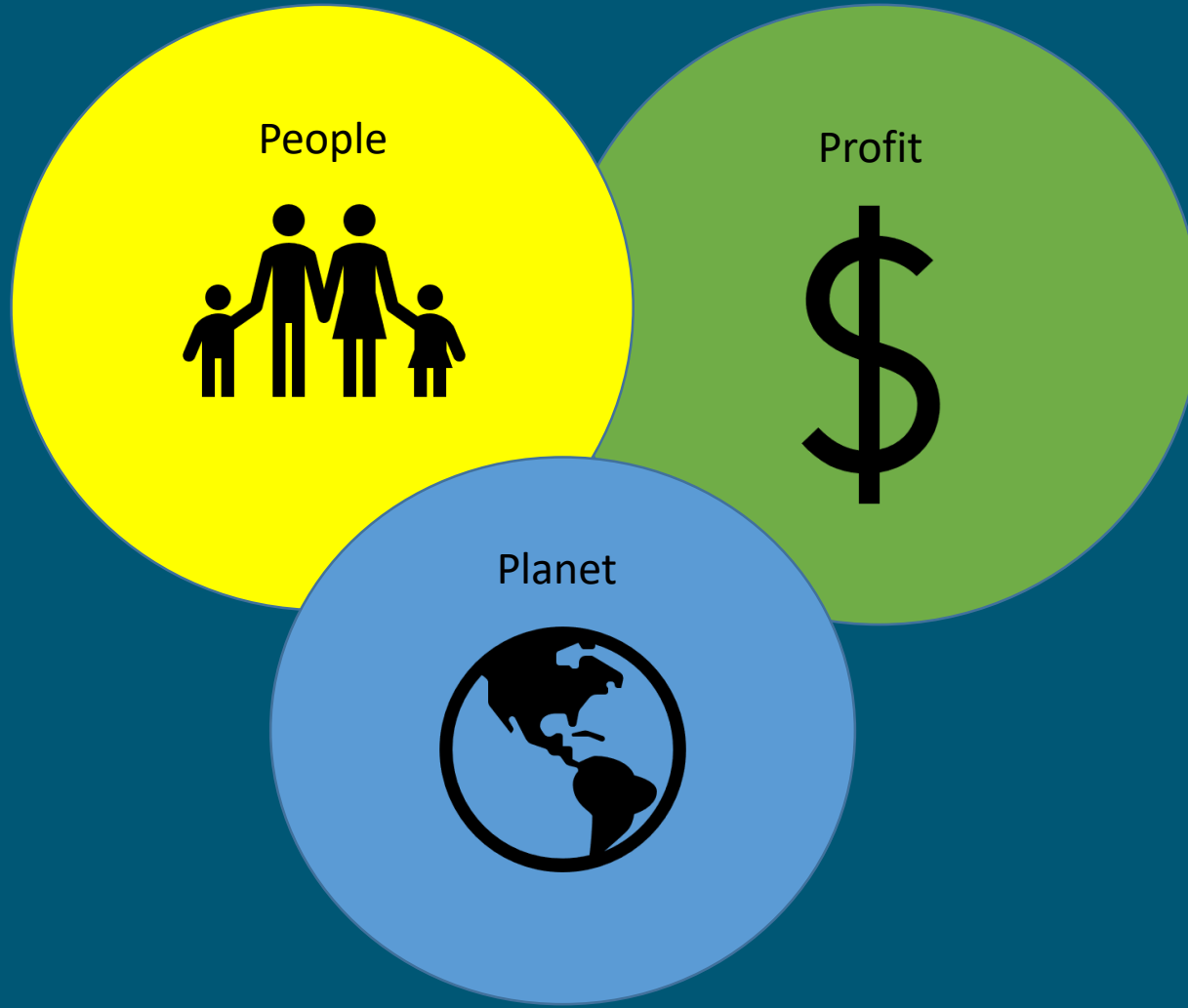
1. Identify sustainability needs within your parks and recreation division
2. Discuss how to incorporate environmental education, natural habitats, or sustainable practices into your park or facility
3. Describe projects you would like to incorporate in your parks

Sustainability

17-Sustainable Development Goals set forth by the United Nations Member States



Three P's



Community Gardens

Community Gardens promote mental health, provide food, and give people a place to grow.



Food Forests

Permaculture techniques are often used in food forests, creating a natural, sustainable, system that produces food without the use of pesticides and fertilizer.

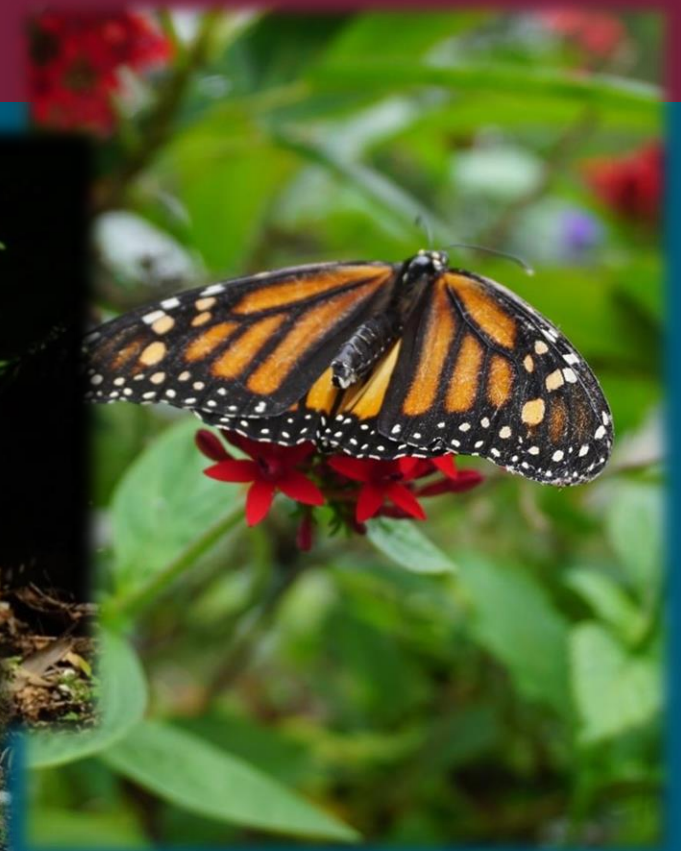


Native Landscaping

- Reduce water usage
- No fertilizer
- No pesticides
- Provides for wildlife



Pollinators



Rain Barrels

- Rain barrels can be used to water plants or gardens where water is not available
- Reduce run-off from roofs
- Water conservation



Wildlife Corridors

Not every inch needs to be manicured

- Greenspace is used to connect wildlife to habitats that are interrupted by development.
- Even small strips of land left in a natural state can provide cover and habitat that allows wildlife to safely travel from one area to the next.
- Provides places for migratory birds to feed and rest.



Plant Trees

- Take up nutrients/clean water
- Stabilize soil
- Prevent wind damage from storms
- Provide shade
- Habitat and food for wildlife
- Oxygen
- Reduces temperatures
- Clean air
- Natural playground for children



Providing For Endangered Species

Park land is the perfect place to provide habitat for endangered species.



Educational Signs

From plants to animals, signs can help educate, and present important messages.

Photo-op boards and stations can have educational themes to help get your message across.



Pet Waste Stations

When pet waste is not disposed of properly, it can be picked up by stormwater runoff and washed into storm drains and nearby waterbodies **harming human health, wildlife and the environment.**

Microbial source tracking of bacteria in waterways have determined dog and cat waste is a **significant source of water pollution.**

Even small amounts of pet waste contain **millions of microorganisms** of bacteria that end up in surface waters or the aquifer, which is a source of drinking water for many that are on private wells.

Decomposition of pet waste **reduces oxygen levels** from water. By reducing the amount of dissolved oxygen available, often a fish kill is the result.

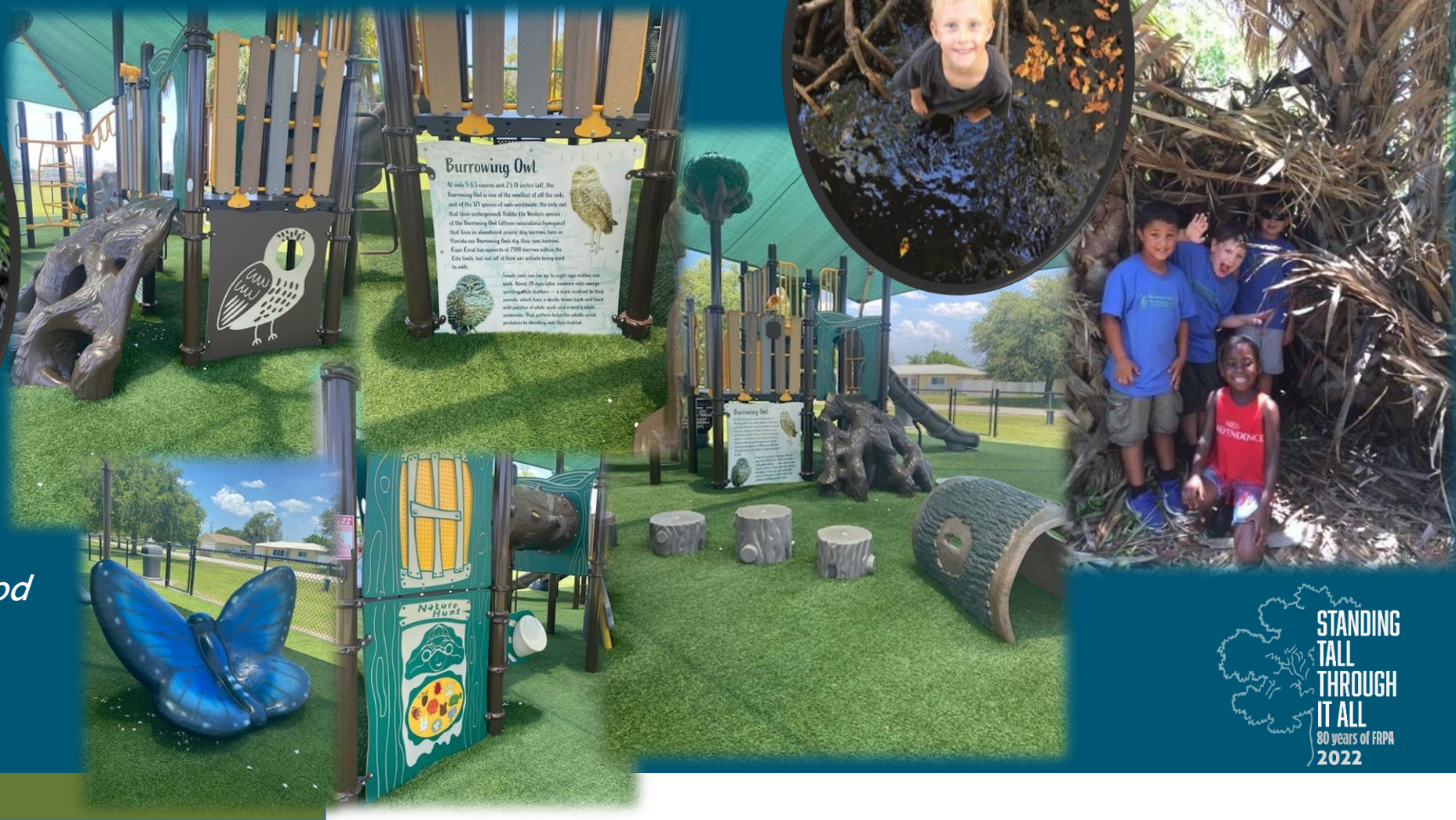
Additionally, pet waste adds excess nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus to receiving waterbodies, which **can result in an algae bloom.** When the algae decay, oxygen is depleted, and this can also cause a fish kill.



Nature Play



*Outdoor play is
important for childhood
development and
mental health.*



Health & Wellness

Outdoors= Mental
health and
physical wellbeing

Vitamin “N”



Lighting

- Lighting can change the behavior of wildlife
- Reduce light pollution when possible or use dark sky friendly options
- Turn off lights or switch to LED to save energy



Recycling

City of Cape Coral's Recycling Programs

Environmental Resource Division collects monofilament in several city parks and promotes the mini-bin program.

Special Populations Recycling Enclaves collects office paper and newspaper from city and private office facilities in conjunction with Waste Pro for secure shredding.

Recycling Cans/Plastics Enclave collects co-mingled aluminum cans and plastics from city office facilities and public parks.



Little Free Libraries



Pervious Paving

Flooding and water quality issues stem from too much pavement and run-off

- Pavers
- Shell Paths
- Permeable Asphalt and Concrete



Building Community

Parks and Recreation is often the glue between partners, building stronger community bonds.



Community Partnerships

- Rotary Clubs of Cape Coral
- Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife
- CROW
- Florida Gulf Coast University
- Cape Coral Animal Shelter
- Hope Club House
- Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts
- Lee County Master Gardeners



Rotary Clubs Cape Coral



Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife



- Burrowing Owl Festival
- Nature Bus Tours
- Rotary Park Butterfly House
- Sirenia Vista Butterfly Garden
- Environmental Education Programs



C.R.O.W: Care and Rehabilitation of Wildlife

Knowing how to contact your local wildlife rehabilitation center can help save native wildlife in your area.

Often animals are injured or sick due to negative human interaction.

- Poison
- Car strikes
- Outdoor cats
- Dog attacks

Wildlife rehabilitation centers offer veterinary care for sick, injured or orphaned animals, so they can have a second chance in the wild.



Florida Gulf Coast University



Florida Gulf Coast University

- Service-Learning Program
- Internships



Cape Coral Animal Shelter



- Pet over population is major problem across the country.
- Stray animal also heavily impact native wildlife.
- Partnering with your local shelter can help combat those issues.



Hope Club House

Hope Clubhouse is a community of support for adults living with a mental illness which provides opportunities for paid employment and access to education, housing and wellness.



Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts



Scout projects are perfect for sustainability projects in parks.

Lee County Master Gardeners



- Teach Programs
- Maintain Park Gardens
- Educate the Public



STANDING
TALL
THROUGH
IT ALL
80 years of FRPA
2022

Volunteers

Volunteer groups can help maintain sustainability projects that require long-term care, like gardens.



Break Out Session

Break Out Session:

- How are your parks reaching sustainability goals?
- Are you hitting your mark?
- What areas need improvement?
- Where can you drive outside your lane?
- Grade your parks!





Thank You!

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FLORIDA RECREATION
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For more information about the
Florida Recreation and Park Association
visit frpa.org