



## LEARNING OBJECTIVES



Learn about the history and revamp of the "It Starts In Parks" initiative.



Examine the impact that parks and recreation has on the areas of health, community building, the environment and economic impact.



Discuss ways to communicate this important information to your citizens, boards and commissions.

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# What is FRPA?

### Our Why

To inspire the heart of the professional so that we empower leaders to reach higher and achieve more for our communities.





PARKS

Coaching. Connecting. Community.

Initial rollout 2006

Refresh 2012

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## Why "It Starts In Parks"?

FRPA Strategic Plan Pillars

- **♦** COMMUNITY BUILDING
- **▲** HEALTH
- **▲** ECONOMIC IMPACT
- ENVIRONMENTAL
- **▲** SUSTAINABILITY



Who influences your community's budget?

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## Local Officials' Ranking of Important Issues Facing Their Communities

- 1. Attracting and Retaining Business
- 2. Preventing Youth Crime\*
- 3. Community Quality of Life\*
- 4. Growth Management
- 5. Community Health
- 6. Enhancing Real Estate Values
- 7. Environmental Stewardship
- 8. Social Equity/Social Justice

Local Government Officials' Perceptions of Parks and Recreation Report, NRPA, 2017

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What if 2008 happens again?

## What is "It Starts In Parks"?

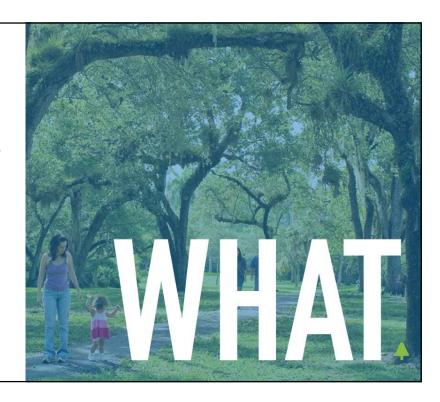
Healthy people start in parks by living active lifestyles.

The building of community starts in parks with each playground interaction.

Economic development through events and increases in property values start in parks.

Taking care of our environment for future generations to enjoy starts in parks.

In these and so many other ways, It Starts In Parks.



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### These guys Started In Parks



- Lynn Swann
- Chris Evert
- Emmitt Smith
- "Rowdy" Gaines
- Ernie Sims
- Carrie Englert Zimmerman

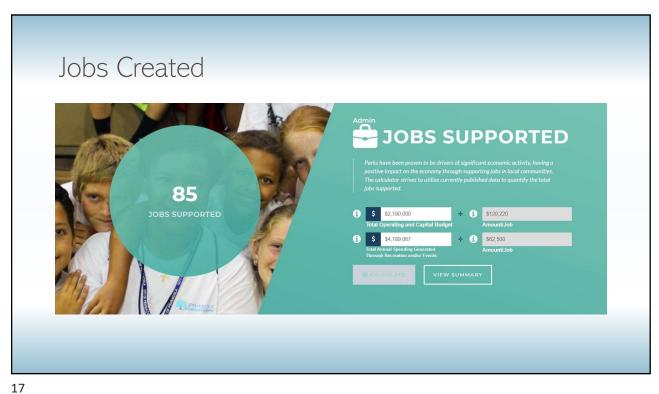
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How do you use "It Starts In Parks"?

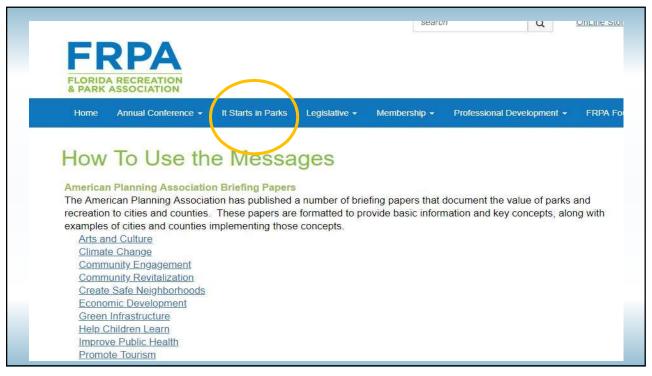
- Style Guide
- #ItStartsInParks



Use external resources to shape your message around a close-to-home story.



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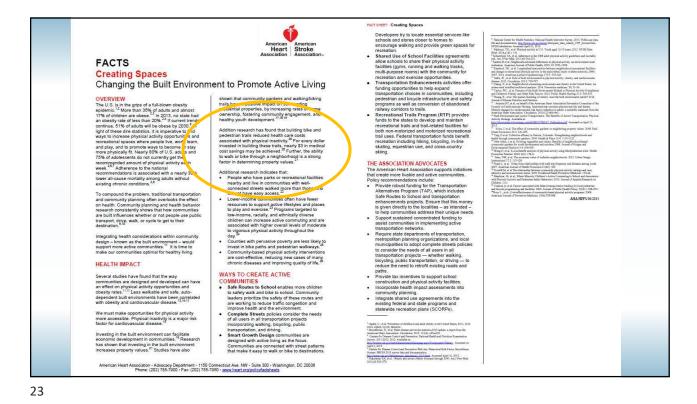
### Resources

- American Planning Association Whitepapers
  - Health
  - Community Building
  - Economic Impact
- Why America Needs More Parks
  - Environment



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# Who influences decisions made in your community?

#### **Group One**

 $business\ community-more\ business\ means\ more\ business,\ this\ should\ be\ space\ for\ another\ business.$ 

#### Group Two

neighbors – there are a few condo buildings right near this space and right now there's nothing bad happening there because it's so overgrown but when you open it up...

#### **Group Three**

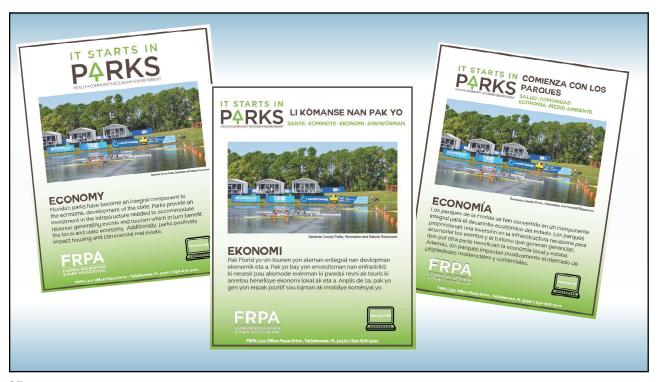
planning department/commission – why would we put public space here?

#### **Group Four**

public safety – we don't need ANOTHER place for crime.













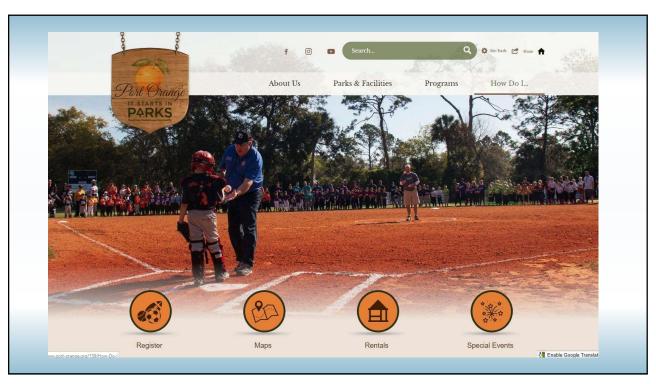




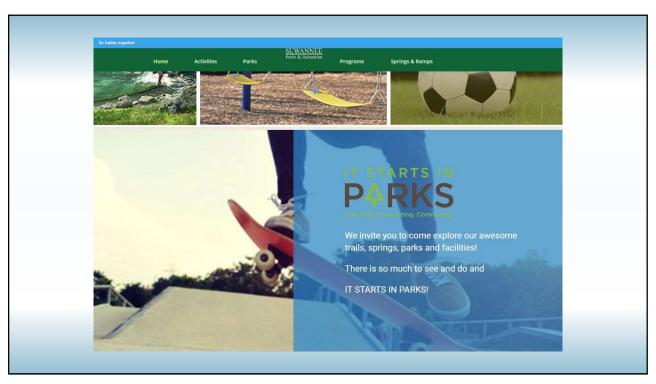




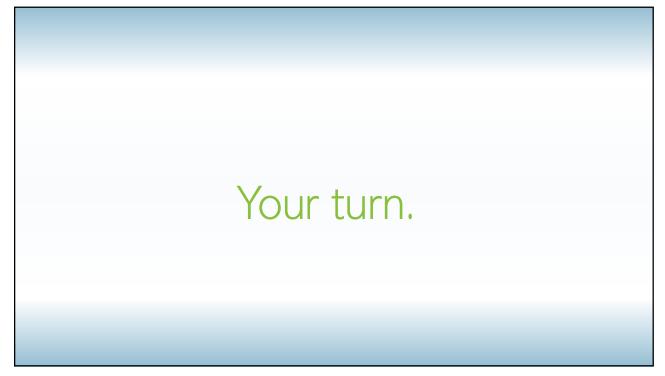














To help your surrounding community realize the importance of parks and recreation in their lives, the workgroup for the Community Building Pillar of the Strategic Plan has come up with a series of challenges. These challenges are meant to give you new ideas on how to reach your citizens. The Community Building Challenge is intended for an individual or an agency to work through together:



visit frpa.org/CommunityBuildingChallenge

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