Citrus County 2050

RECREATION & LEISURE

Recreation and Open Space & Library

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Introduction

The Recreations and Leisure (R & L) Chapter aims to ensure that Citrus County continues to provide high-quality recreational facilities and library services that meet the needs of existing and future populations. Parks, recreational areas, and open space are essential to community life in Citrus County, promoting residents' health and well-being while providing a range of environmental, social, psychological, and economic benefits. These benefits include reduced stress, higher property values, stronger community connections, improved air quality, and enhanced biodiversity. Libraries provide access to information and programs and play an important role in cultivating a sense of community by offering spaces for the residents to gather.

The data and analysis of this Chapter provides the factual basis for policies that guide future investments and improvements for these facilities. This Chapter will cover the County's existing inventory of recreational facilities and libraries, calculate the current and projected levels of service (LOS), and identify opportunities to improve the County's recreation, and library system.

Inventory and Analysis

Park Facilities

Public parks and open spaces in the County should be thoughtfully designed and maintained to support a variety of recreational activities for all residents. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), recreation generally falls into one of two categories:

> ***Active Recreation:*** Structured individual or team activities that require the use of special facilities, courses, fields, or equipment.
> ***Passive Recreation:*** Activities that do not require prepared facilities, such as sports field or pavilions. Passive recreational opportunities often provide ecosystem service benefits and are compatible and usually coupled with natural resource protection.

Citrus County currently owns, operates, and maintains a range of parks and recreation areas. An inventory of the County's parks and recreation facilities is provided in **Table R & L - 1**, and their locations are shown on **Map R & L - 1**. The calculation in this inventory only includes currently existing parks within the County, including incorporated areas.

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There are additional parks and open spaces that Citrus County residents may use that are operated by private development or municipalities, but they are not included in the Level of Service (LOS) analysis of this Chapter. Regional parks, including those that are State or Federally owned, as well as boat ramps, are discussed within this chapter, and are included in LOS calculations under a separate LOS standard.

Park Classification System

To more adequately meet community needs, Citrus County is currently in the process of aligning park classifications more closely with the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) classification system, which provides a park hierarchy based on size, service area, and function. Currently, the County has identified parks within the key classifications of Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, District Parks, Regional Parks, Piers/Boat Ramps, and Trailheads. Descriptions of each of these park types are listed below.

Neighborhood Parks: Neighborhood focused parks, typically 5-20 acres in size, serving a ½ mile radius with both active and passive recreation. Examples include Beverly Hills and the Central Ridge Community parks.

Community/District Parks: Large 20-75 acre parks serving 1-3 mile radius. They typically have diverse facilities, which may include sports fields and community centers.

Regional Parks: Large, specialized parks, typically 50-250+ acres in size with unique natural or recreational features serving the entire region. These parks are typically state or federally owned. These facilities are not counted toward the County's parks level of service standard.

Piers/Boat Ramps: Provide public access to shorelines and water related recreational activities. These sites may include improved or unimproved launch areas, piers, catwalks, boardwalks, and freshwater or saltwater beaches. They support a range of activities such as boating, fishing, hunting, water skiing, swimming, and wildlife viewing.

Trailheads: Access points to linear corridors which link neighborhoods and amenities.

Citrus County's previously used classification system included local parks, regional (state or federally owned) parks, boat ramps, special features, undeveloped parks, school sites, recreation centers, private recreation, and marinas. The associated levels of service for the previously used park types is listed below:

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- Local Parks: 3 acres per 1,000 persons
- Regional Parks: 10 acres per 1,000 persons
- Boat Ramps: 1 boat ramp lane per 5,000 persons

Since the early 2000s, the County Commission eliminated park concurrency to stimulate growth and to reduce impediments on development. Following recent discussions with County Commissioners, the County has decided to reestablish the park level of service (LOS) standard to 5 acres of County-owned park space per 1,000 people. This is a general level of service standard across all park types, except for boat ramps, which will have a LOS standard of 1 boat ramp lane per 5,000 people. A level of service analysis is provided later within this chapter.

Park Inventory

As shown in **Table R & L - 1**, Citrus County has 730 acres of County-owned parks, 116,361 acres of regional parks, and 13 boat ramp lanes. An inventory of parks within Citrus County are provided below.

Table R & L - 1: Neighborhood Park Inventory

Neighborhood Park Name	Acreage	Amenities
Alexander Family Park	1	**Active**: Basketball, Playground, Volleyball, Horseshoe Pits **Passive**: Grills/picnic, Pavillion **Other amenities:** Restrooms
Citronelle Park	18	**Active**: Playground, Sport field, Basketball Court, **Passive**: Picnic, Pavillion, **Other amenities:** Restrooms
Eagleton Park	2.2	**Passive:** Benches, walking trails
Eugene Martin Park	8	**Active**: Playground, Softball field **Passive**: Picnic, Pavillion, Saltwater Beach **Other amenities**: Restrooms
Fire Station Park	6.9	**Active**: Playground **Passive**: Picnic **Other amenities:** Restrooms
Bluebird Springs	5	**Active**: Playground, Volleyball **Passive**: Picnic **Other amenities:** Restroom
TOTAL ACREAGE	**41.1**	

Source: Citrus County Parks and Recreation, 2026

Table R & L - 2: Community Park Inventory

Community Park Name	Acreage	Amenities
Beverly Hills Community Park	19	**Active**: Sports fields, Playground, Pickleball, Softball Field, Horseshoe Pits, Skatepark **Passive**: Picnic, Pavillion, Walking Trails **Other amenities:** Restrooms
Floral Park	40	**Active**: Playground, Basketball, Sports Field, Disk Golf, Tennis, Racquetball, Shuffleboard, Volleyball, Horseshoe Pits, **Passive**: Picnic, Pavillion, Walking Trails **Other amenities**: Restrooms
Fort Island Trail Park	15	**Active**: Canoe/kayak, Saltwater Beach, Boat Ramp, Fishing Pier **Passive**: Grills/picnic, Fishing
Holden Community Park	41	**Active**: Disc Golf, Sports Field, Soccer Field **Passive:** Picnic **Other amenities**: Restrooms
Lecanto Community Park	20	**Active**: Fitness equipment, Multi-purpose facilities, Tennis, Basketball, Baseball/softball, Football/soccer/rugby, Handball/racquetball **Other amenities**: Restrooms
Fort Island Gulf Beach	15	**Active**: Canoe/kayak, Saltwater Beach, Boat Ramp, Boat Dock **Passive**: Grills/picnic, Fishing
Withlapopka Community Center	50	**Active:** Playground **Passive:** Picnic tables **Other amenities**: Restroom
Central Ridge Community Park	31	**Active:** Fitness Equipment, Pickleball Court, Shuffleboard **Passive:** Walking Trail **Other Amenities:** Restroom
Citrus Springs Tennis Courts	6.6	**Active**: Tennis **Other amenities**: Restroom
Eden Park East Side	7	**Active**: Playground

		Passive: Picnic, Grills
Floral City Town Center	0.5	**Passive**: Picnic
Highland Park	1.8	**Active**: Playground **Passive**: Picnic
Keating Park	1.5	**Active**: Volleyball **Passive:** Picnic
Ozello Community Park	3.5	**Active:** Saltwater Beach, Boat Ramp **Passive**: Picnic
Sportsman's Park	18	**Active:** Playground
Water Tower Park	5	**Active**: Playground **Passive**: Picnic, Walking Trail
Wesley Jones Park	5.3	**Active**: Playground, Disc Golf, Softball **Passive**: Picnic
Pirate's Cove Park	10	N/A
TOTAL ACREAGE	**290.2**	

Source: Citrus County Parks and Recreation, 2026

Table R & L - 3: District Park Inventory

District Park Name	Acreage	Amenities
Bicentennial Park	148	**Active**: Playground, Basketball, Softball, Baseball, Sports Field, Tennis, Racquetball, Volleyball, Swimming Pool, Stake Park **Passive**: Picnic, Pavillion **Other amenities:** Restrooms
Central Ridge District Park	133	**Active**: Playground, Softball, Baseball, Disc Golf **Passive**: Picnic, Grills, Walking Trail, Pavillion **Other amenities**: Restrooms
Homosassa Area Rec. Park	39	**Active**: Playground, Basketball, Softball, Sports Field, Soccer **Other amenities:** Restrooms
TOTAL ACREAGE	**320**	

Source: Citrus County Parks and Recreation, 2026

Table R & L - 4: Regional Park Inventory

Regional Park Name	Ownership	Acreage	Amenities
Panasoffkee/Outlet Tract	SWFWMD	2.85	**Passive:** Hiking trails

Regional Park Name	Ownership	Acreage	Amenities
Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park	State	200.85	**Passive**: Hiking trails, Wildlife viewing, Picnic, Pavilion **Active:** Visitor Center, Concession and Restaurant, Amphitheater **Other amenities:** Restrooms, Parking
Yulee Sugar Mill Ruins Historic State Park	State	4.60	**Passive:** Picnic pavilion, Interpretive exhibit **Other amenities:** Parking
Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge	Federal	137.22	N/A
Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area	State	4.62	**Passive:** Hiking trails, Wildlife viewing
Upper Coastal Mitigation Bank	EarthBalance	148.76	N/A
Gum Slough SWFWMD Conservation Easement	SWFWMD	39.78	N/A
Half Moon Wildlife Management Area	State	31.12	**Passive:** Hiking/biking/horseback riding trails; Wildlife viewing
Potts Preserve	SWFWMD	9,378.97	**Active**: Camping, Canoe/kayak, Multi-purpose facilities **Passive**: Grills/picnic, Fishing, Hiking, Nature trail, Horseback riding **Other amenities**: Parking, Restrooms
Flying Eagle Ranch	SWFWMD	16,415.97	**Active**: Camping, Canoe/kayak **Passive**: Grills/picnic, Fishing, Hiking, Nature trail, Horseback riding **Other amenities**: Parking, Restrooms

Regional Park Name	Ownership	Acreage	Amenities
Halpata Tastanaki Preserve	SWFWMD	0.05	**Passive:** Hiking/biking/horseback riding trails, Fishing **Other amenities:** Restrooms
Withlacoochee State Trail	State	430.85	**Active**: Bicycling/skating Passive: Hiking
Annutteliga Hammock	SWFWMD	0.08	**Passive:** Hiking/horseback riding trails
Chassahowitzka River and Coastal Swamps	SWFWMD	5,324.90	**Active**: Camping, Canoe/kayak **Passive**: Grills/picnic, Fishing, Hiking
Fort Cooper State Park	State	708.05	**Active**: Camping, Swimming pool, Playground, Bicycling/skating **Passive**: Historical/archaeological, Grills/picnic, Hiking, Nature trail **Other amenities**: Parking, Restrooms
Crystal River Archaeological State Park	State	61.44	**Passive:** Fishing, Hiking, Picincs, Wildlife viewing **Active:** Amphitheater, Museum, Interpretive exhibit **Other amenities:** Parking, restrooms
Cumming Preserve	Tampa Bay Conservancy	291.29	N/A
Tsala Apopka/Two-Mile Prairie Connector	SWFWMD	6.09	N/A
Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area	State	461.55	**Active**: Camping, Canoe/kayak, Bicycling/skating

Regional Park Name	Ownership	Acreage	Amenities
			Passive: Hiking, Nature trail, Horseback riding **Other amenities:** Parking, Restrooms
Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge	Federal	7,218.92	**Passive**: Grills/picnic, Fishing, Nature trail
Withlacoochee State Forest	State	16,542.27	**Passive:** Trails, Fishing **Active:** Camping, Paddling
Crystal River Preserve State Park	State	58,951.45	**Passive:** Trails, Fishing, Wildlife viewing, Picnic **Active:** Boat tours, Paddling, Canoe/Kayak launch **Other amenities:** Restrooms, parking
TOTAL ACREAGE		**116,361.68**	

Source: Citrus County, 2025

Table R & L - 5: Pier/Boat Ramp Inventory

Pier/Boat Ramp Name	Acreage	Amenities
Chassahowitzka Boat Ramp	40	2 lanes
Duval Island	5.6	1 lane
Eden Park Boat Ramp	N/A	1 lane
Fort Island Gulf Beach Boat Ramp	N/A	1 lane
Fort Island Trail Park Boat Ramp	N/A	1 lane
Goldendale Boat Ramp	0.5	1 lane
Hernando Beach Boat Ramp	5	2 lanes
Mac Rae's of Homosassa Boat Ramp	1.5	1 lane
Mason Creek	0.3	1 lane
Ozello Fishing Pier	0.3	N/A
Pirates Cove Boat Ramp	N/A	1 lane
Trail's End Boat Ramp	1.2	1 lane
Spruce Drive Boat Ramp	1	1 lane
Turner Camp Boat Ramp	0.5	1 lane
John Brown Launch Area	0.3	1 lane
Withlapopka Boat Ramp	0.5	1 lane
TOTAL ACREAGE	**56.7**	**17 boat ramp lanes**

Source: Citrus County Parks and Recreation, 2026

Table R & L - 6: Trailhead Park Inventory

District Park Name	Acreage	Amenities
Crooked Branch Trailhead Park	1.5	**Passive**: Trail, Picnic, Grill, Pavillion
Hernando Trailhead Park	2	**Passive**: Trail, Picnic, Grills, Pavillion **Other amenities:** Restroom
Meadowcrest Trailhead Park	1	**Passive**: Trail, Pavillion **Other amenities:** Restroom
Suncoast Parkway Trail	19	**Passive:** Trail
TOTAL ACREAGE	**23.5**	

Source: Citrus County Parks and Recreation, 2026

Anticipated Parks

There are three new parks the County is planning and programming to be developed in the immediate future**.** These upcoming facilities include a 40-acre park in Homosassa, a 120-acre regional park in Beverly Hills, and a 10-acre community park in Floral City. Specific program elements, master plans, and facility design details are actively being finalized. **[STAFF TO CONFIRM NEW PARKS LIST]**

The County's Capital Improvements Plan identified over $32 million worth of improvement projects to the County's existing parks from 2026 to 2030. Most of the funding for these projects comes from impact fees, followed by general fund taxes and grants. The County's 30-month progress report, released in May 2025, identified multiple ongoing strategic initiatives, including the creation of a Parks & Recreation Master Plan and several new and upgraded facilities within existing parks.

Level of Service

Level of Service (LOS) standards provide a framework in comprehensive plans for determining how much park acreage and what types of facilities are needed to serve the community. In addition to acreage, LOS criteria may specify facility types and service area requirements based on population.

As discussed above, the County is using this update to evaluate a new level of service standard across all County-owned park types, except for piers/boat ramps. The new LOS standard for County-owned park types, including neighborhood, community, district, and trailhead parks is 5 acres per 1000 people. The LOS standard for boat ramps is 1 lane per 5,000 people.

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In 2025, unincorporated Citrus County had an estimated population of 180,545 permanent and seasonal residents. Citrus county's population is expected to increase to 248,968 by 2050, accounting for both permanent and seasonal residents. Using those population estimates, the County currently has a deficit of park acreage through the 2050 planning horizon. The County also has a deficit of piers/boat ramps.

Table R & L - 7 shows the deficit of park acreage based on the County's proposed level of service and the projected population into the year 2050. **Table R & L - 8** shows the deficit of boat ramps the County is currently experiencing and is projected to experience through 2050, unless more public boat ramps are provided.

Table R & L - 7: Park Level of Service Analysis

Year	Total Population	Demand (5 acres/1000 residents)	Acreage	Surplus/(Deficit)
2025 (est.)	180,545	902.73	556.56	(227.93)
2030	197,428	987.14	556.56	(312.34)
2035	212,217	1,061.09	556.56	(386.29)
2040	224,618	1,123.09	556.56	(448.29)
2045	236,947	1,184.74	556.56	(509.94)
2050	248,968	1,244.84	556.56	(570.04)

Table R & L - 8: Pier/Boat Ramp Level of Service Analysis z

Year	Total Population	Demand (1 boat ramp lane/5,000 residents)	# of Boat Ramp Lanes	Surplus/(Deficit)
2025 (est.)	180,545	36	17	(19.11)
2030	197,428	39	17	(22.49)
2035	212,217	42	17	(25.44)
2040	224,618	45	17	(27.92)
2045	236,947	47	17	(30.39)
2050	248,968	50	17	(32.79)

Park Service Areas

While the acreage level of service shows a deficit in the amount of parks and recreational facilities for the current population, it is also helpful to examine park

service areas to determine whether parks are adequately distributed and serve all residents. **Map R & L - 2** illustrates the general service areas of local (city and county) parks using half-mile and three-mile radii, overlaid with residential areas. The analysis shows that many neighborhoods are not located within a half-mile walking distance of a local park. When applying a three-mile service area, portions of the central and southern areas of the County also remain outside typical access ranges. In other areas, regional parks help fill these gaps, providing broader recreational opportunities where local park access is limited.

Impact Fees

The original 1986 park impact fee ordinance established four benefit districts within the County, with impact fee revenues collected in each district restricted for use on community parks within the same district. However, the impact fees are now collected and redistributed on a county-wide basis.

Trails

In addition to its park system, Citrus County maintains an extensive trail network, illustrated in **Map R & L - 3**. Trails are a key component of a connected and active community, providing safe and accessible opportunities for walking, bicycling, and other forms of outdoor recreation. They link neighborhoods, parks, schools, and commercial areas, supporting healthy lifestyles, alternative transportation options, and environmental stewardship. Beyond their recreational and mobility benefits, trails enhance community character, connect residents and visitors to natural and cultural resources, and contribute to economic vitality by attracting visitors and supporting local businesses.

Citrus County currently has approximately 40 miles of paved trails and 45 miles of unpaved trails, with an additional 19 miles proposed. One proposed trail would create an important east–west connection between the North-South Florida National Scenic Trail, which passes through Inverness, and the Suncoast Trail. Other conceptual trail projects would further strengthen regional connectivity by linking the Suncoast Trail to the Withlacoochee Bay Trail.

The trail system includes 20 existing trailheads and two proposed trailheads, both anticipated along the Suncoast Trail. Trailheads serve as primary access points to the trail network and typically include amenities such as parking, restrooms, drinking water, and shaded gathering areas.

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One of Citrus County's most significant trail assets is the Withlacoochee State Trail, developed through the Rails-to-Trails program as part of a regional Central Florida trail network. The trail repurposed 28 miles of abandoned railroad into a multi-use recreational corridor.

Citrus County also includes designated canoe and kayak trails on the Homosassa River, Crystal River (Nature Coast Canoe and Kayak Trail), and the Withlacoochee River (Withlacoochee River South State Canoe Trail), shown on **Map R & L - 4**. Additional waterways, including the Chassahowitzka River and the Tsala Apopka Chain of Lakes, have the potential to support future canoe trails that connect coastal rivers and estuarine systems. These surface waters are vital to the County's tourism economy and provide important recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

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Libraries

Libraries are essential community assets that provide access to information, educational resources, technology, and lifelong learning opportunities while serving as welcoming gathering places that foster civic engagement and strengthen community connections. This section of the Data and Analysis evaluates the existing library system through an inventory of facilities, services, and demographic trends to establish a foundation for future planning. The findings presented herein will help inform the development of goals, objectives, and policies that support the continued enhancement of Citrus County's library system and its ability to meet the evolving needs of residents.

Inventory

Public libraries supply a wide range of opportunities for all users by providing:

- Accurate and reliable information in response to a specific need,
- Technology for fast and efficient access to information,
- Facilities and collections for educational growth,
- Education and outreach programs,
- Facilities for cultural activity, and
- Facilities and materials to supplement formal educational programs.

The Citrus County Library System currently consists of five libraries as shown on **Map R & L - 5**; Central Ridge Library, Coastal Region Library, Lakes Region Library, Homosassa Library, and Floral City Library. The Citrus Library system not only maintains a circulation of physical books but also provides the community with access to a digital library, community spaces to gather, and offers programs for all age groups. **Table R & L - 6** provides an inventory of the five libraries as well as a brief inventory of the facilities provided at each library.

Table R & L - 9: Library Facility Inventory

Library Facility	Square-Footage	Inventory
Central Ridge	20,492	• Community room for 55 • 2 study rooms • 5 study stations • Computers & Equipment • Seed Library
Coastal Region	15,702	• Community room for 75 • Meeting room for 24

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Library Facility	Square-Footage	Inventory
		• 4 study stations • Computers & Equipment • Seed Library
Floral City	4,304	• Computers & Equipment
Homosassa	16,591	• Community room for 55 • 2 Study Rooms • Computers & Equipment • Seed Library
Lakes Region	15,504	• Community room for 75 • Meeting room for 24 • Computers & Equipment • Seed Library
Total	72,593	

Source: Citrus County Library System, 2016

Level Of Service

According to the Florida Library Association, a population above 25,000 people should have a total gross square footage per capita or per annual attendance of 0.6 square feet. **Table R & L - 7** looks at the demand for libraries using 0.6 square feet per capita. Using this demand the County currently has a deficit of library space that will increase over time if no additional library space is added over the next twenty-five years.

Table R & L - 10: Library Facility Level of Service

Year	Population	Demand (.6 sq feet per capita)	Acreage	Surplus/(Deficit)
2025 Est.	180,545	108,327	72,593	**(35,734)**
2030	197,428	118,456.8	72,593	**(45,864)**
2035	212,217	127,330.2	72,593	**(54,737)**
2040	224,618	134,770.8	72,593	**(62,178)**
2045	236,947	142,168.2	72,593	**(69,575)**
2050	248,968	149,380.8	72,593	**(76,788)**

Source: Citrus County, 2025

Other Sources of Recreation and Open Space

Open spaces designated for recreation are essential for identifying and planning future parks and recreational facilities. Through the identification, dedication, and coordination of recreational open spaces, Citrus County can ensure that appropriate sites and amenities are provided to meet the needs of residents.

Significant open space in Citrus County generally falls into two categories: expansive open space and corridor open space. Expansive open spaces include large federally and state-owned lands that provide opportunities for both passive and active recreation and may accommodate future recreational facilities. These areas also play a critical role in preserving ecologically significant resources.

Corridor open spaces include linear features such as scenic roadways, canoe trails, and multi-use trails. These corridors enhance recreational access while preserving visual and environmental quality. Scenic roadways contribute to the County's aesthetic character and are partially protected through the County's Tree Preservation Ordinance. Additional measures, such as specialized signage and landscaping standards, may further protect and enhance the unique qualities of these open space corridors.

Private Sector Recreation

Citrus County's land development regulations require new residential developments to provide on-site open space and recreational facilities that serve the immediate needs of residents. These facilities must be functional and available at the time of subdivision to support active lifestyles and community well-being. Areas dedicated to recreation and open space must be suited for active use and may not include drainage, buffer, or other utilitarian areas. When recreation and open space areas are maintained under private ownership, the County requires that they be properly operated and maintained over time.

Future Considerations

As revealed by the LOS analysis the County has an existing deficit of approximately 227 acres of park land, if the new standard of 5 acres per 1,000 people is applied today. This deficit highlights the need for continued investment in parks, recreation, and open space facilities to meet current and future community needs. As the County plans for future growth and changing recreational demands, opportunities exist to strengthen and refine its long-term parks and recreation strategy. The following considerations can help guide the development of goals, objectives, and policies for this chapter and establish a framework for addressing identified deficiencies while enhancing the County's overall parks, recreation, and library systems.

1. **Reestablish Parks LOS Standard.** As discussed in the analysis, the County should consider reestablishing the park level of service (LOS) standard to

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provide a consistent framework for planning, acquiring, developing, and maintaining parks and recreational facilities. Reestablishing park LOS standards will improve the County's ability to identify existing and future deficiencies, prioritize park acquisitions and improvements, coordinate growth with recreation infrastructure, and support the long-term implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.

2. **Strengthen and Expand Trail Connectivity.** Continue improving and expanding the County's trail network to better connect parks, schools, libraries, neighborhoods, and other public facilities. Enhanced connectivity will improve walkability, alternative transportation options, and accessibility to recreational amenities while supporting overall quality of life.

3. **Expand and Enhance Water-Based Recreation Access.** Water-based recreation is a defining feature of Citrus County's identity and economy. Given the current deficit in boat ramps, the County shall consider expanding public access through additional boat ramps, kayak launches, boardwalks, and small craft access points. Improvements to existing facilities, including wayfinding and other amenities and support amenities shall be considered to enhance usability and safety.

4. **Address the Recreation Needs of an Aging Population** With nearly 40 percent of residents over age 65, the recreation system must continue to accommodate older adults and individuals of all abilities. Policies should support expanded passive recreation amenities, such as shaded seating areas, walking loops, overlooks, and low-impact fitness equipment, while continuing to enhance ADA accessibility throughout the parks system.

5. **Integrate Resiliency and Hazard Mitigation into Park Design** Many of Citrus County's recreational activities revolve around its coastal amenities. As discussed in the *Coastal Management Chapter*, many of these areas are highly vulnerable to damage from hazards like sea level rise and storm surge. Future park planning should incorporate nature-based shoreline stabilization strategies, resilient construction techniques for waterfront facilities, long-term capital planning for post-storm restoration, and hazard mitigation strategies. Where appropriate, sponge park and green infrastructure strategies should be integrated to manage runoff and reduce flood risk.

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6. **Develop a Parks and Recreation Master Plan.** As identified in the County's 2024 Strategic Plan, Citrus County should prepare a comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan. A master plan would provide a long-term, data-driven roadmap aligned with community needs, including a detailed inventory and condition assessment of existing facilities. This effort would strengthen capital planning, prioritize investments, and ensure continued delivery of high-quality recreational services.
7. **Address the Library Deficit.** As Citrus County continues to grow, the County should evaluate opportunities to address existing and future library service needs by expanding, modernizing, or strategically locating library facilities to ensure access for all residents. In addition, libraries can serve as important community resilience assets by functioning as information centers, cooling or warming shelters, and support facilities during emergencies and disaster recovery. Planning for future library investments will help ensure the County's library system continues to meet the evolving educational, technological, and community needs of its growing population.

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PARKS AND RECREATION

MAP R & L - 1

0 2 4 6 8 Miles

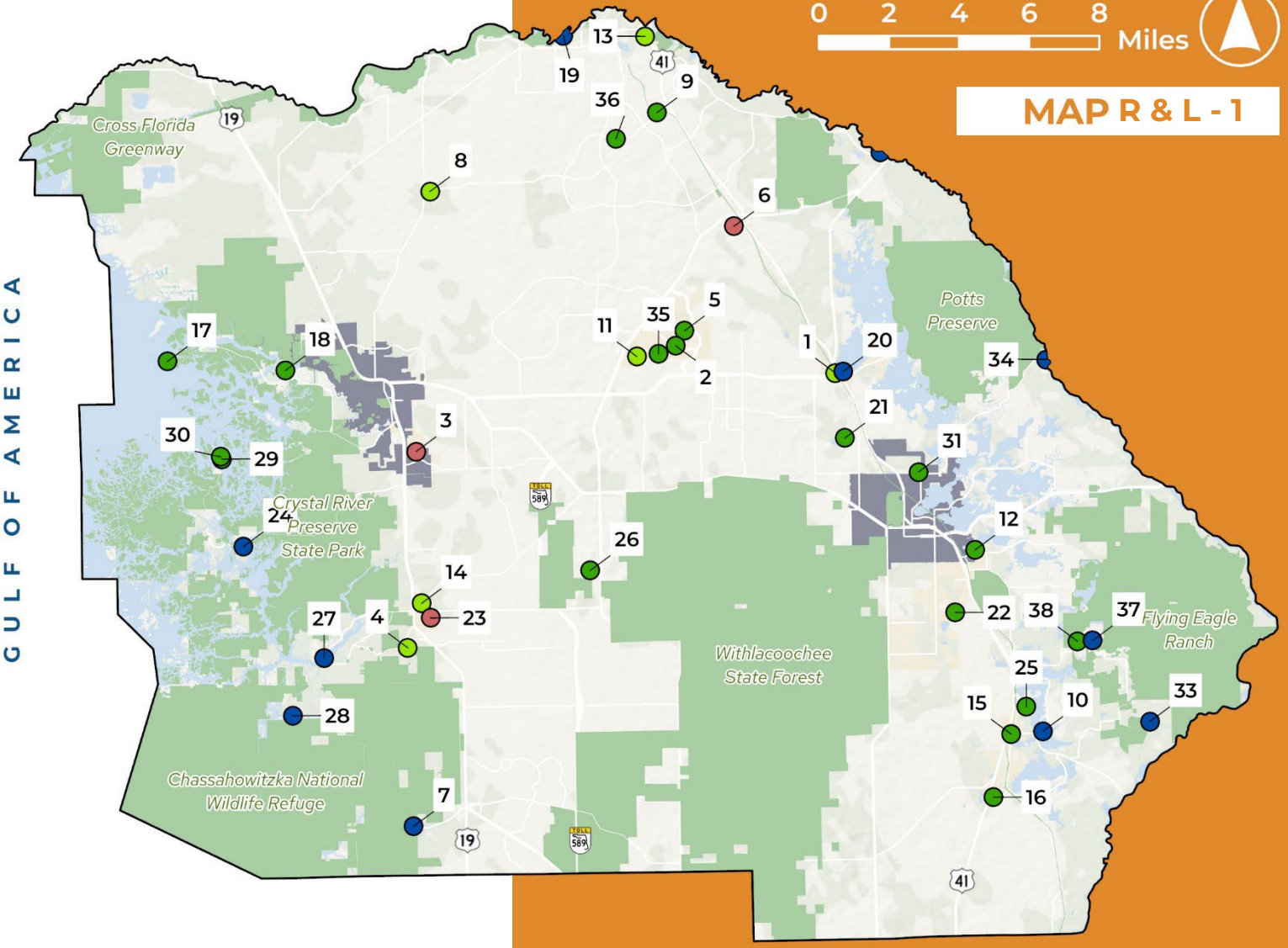
Legend

- Citrus County Boundary
- Incorporated Area
- Regional Park

County Parks

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- District Park
- Water Access

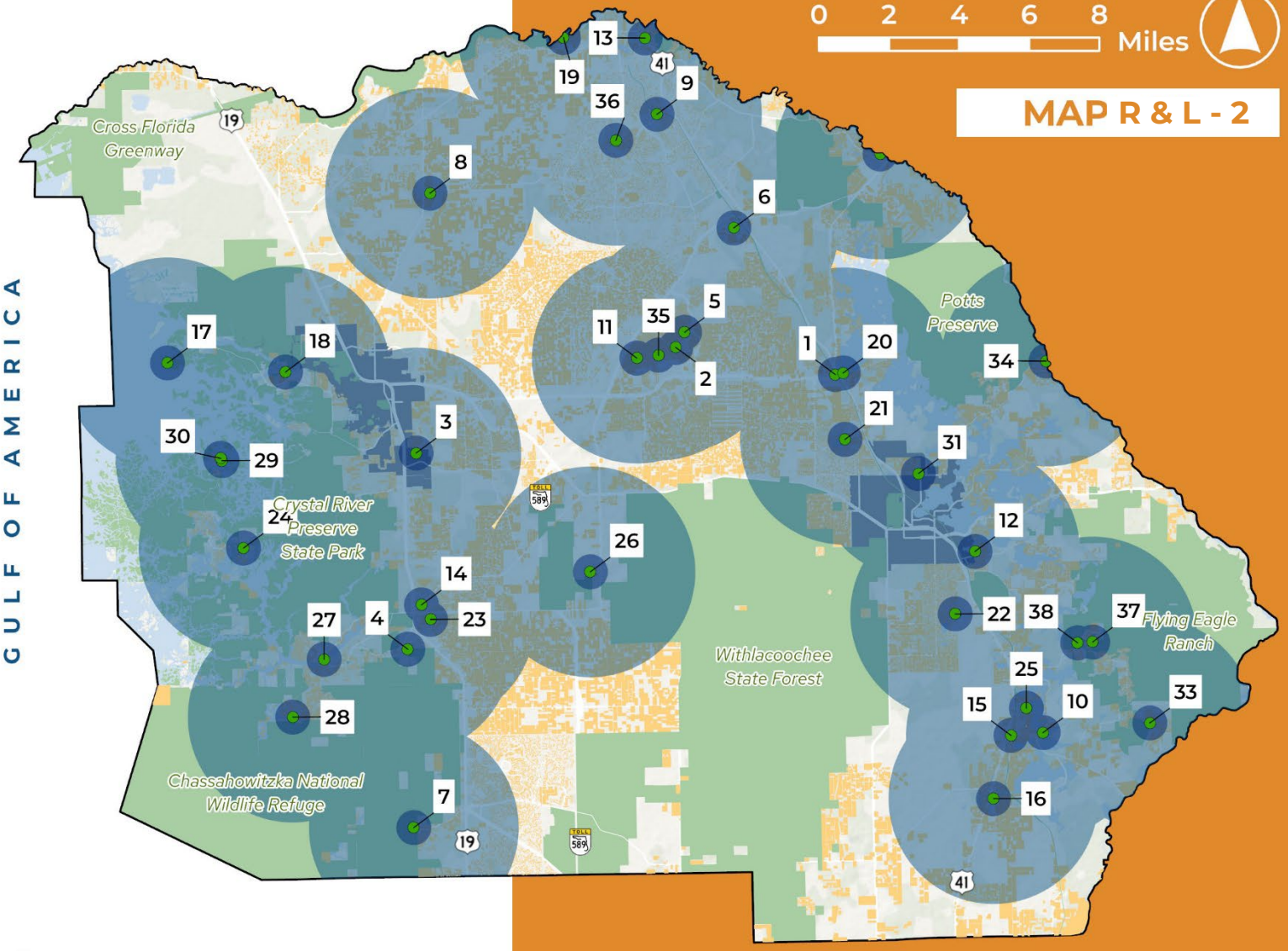
1. Alexander Family Park
2. Beverly Hills Park
3. Bicentennial Park
4. Bluebird Springs Park
5. Central Ridge Community Park
6. Central Ridge District Park
7. Chassahowitzka Boat Ramp
8. Citronelle Park
9. Citrus Springs Tennis Courts
10. Duval Island Boat Ramp
11. Eagleton Park
12. Eden Park
13. Eugene Martin Park
14. Fire Station Park
15. Floral City Town Center Park
16. Floral Park
17. Fort Island Gulf Beach
18. Fort Island Trail Park
19. Goldendale Boat Ramp
20. Hernando Beach
21. Highland Park
22. Holden Community Park
23. Homosassa Area Recreation Park
24. John Brown Pier & Boat Ramp
25. Keating Park
26. Lecanto Community Park
27. MacRae's Boat Ramp
28. Mason Creek Boat Ramp
29. Ozello Community Park
30. Pirates Cove Park
31. Sportsman's Park
32. Spruce Boat Ramp
33. Trails End Park
34. Turner Camp Boat Ramp
35. Water Tower Park
36. Wesley Jones Park
37. Withlapopka Boat Ramp
38. Withlapopka Park



Source: Citrus County Parks and Recreation, 2026

COUNTY PARK SERVICE AREAS

MAP R & L - 2



Legend

- Citrus County Boundary
- Incorporated Area
- Regional Park
- Residential Area
- 1/2 Mile Service Area
- 3 Mile Service Area
- County Park

1. Alexander Family Park
2. Beverly Hills Park
3. Bicentennial Park
4. Bluebird Springs Park
5. Central Ridge Community Park
6. Central Ridge District Park
7. Chassahowitzka Boat Ramp
8. Citronelle Park
9. Citrus Springs Tennis Courts
10. Duval Island Boat Ramp
11. Eagleton Park
12. Eden Park
13. Eugene Martin Park
14. Fire Station Park
15. Floral City Town Center Park
16. Floral Park
17. Fort Island Gulf Beach
18. Fort Island Trail Park
19. Goldendale Boat Ramp
20. Hernando Beach
21. Highland Park
22. Holden Community Park
23. Homosassa Area Recreation Park
24. John Brown Pier & Boat Ramp
25. Keating Park
26. Lecanto Community Park
27. MacRae's Boat Ramp
28. Mason Creek Boat Ramp
29. Ozello Community Park
30. Pirates Cove Park
31. Sportsman's Park
32. Spruce Boat Ramp
33. Trails End Park
34. Turner Camp Boat Ramp
35. Water Tower Park
36. Wesley Jones Park
37. Withlapopka Boat Ramp
38. Withlapopka Park

Citrus County 2050

Source: Citrus County Parks and Recreation, 2026

TRAILS SYSTEM

MAP R & L - 3

Legend

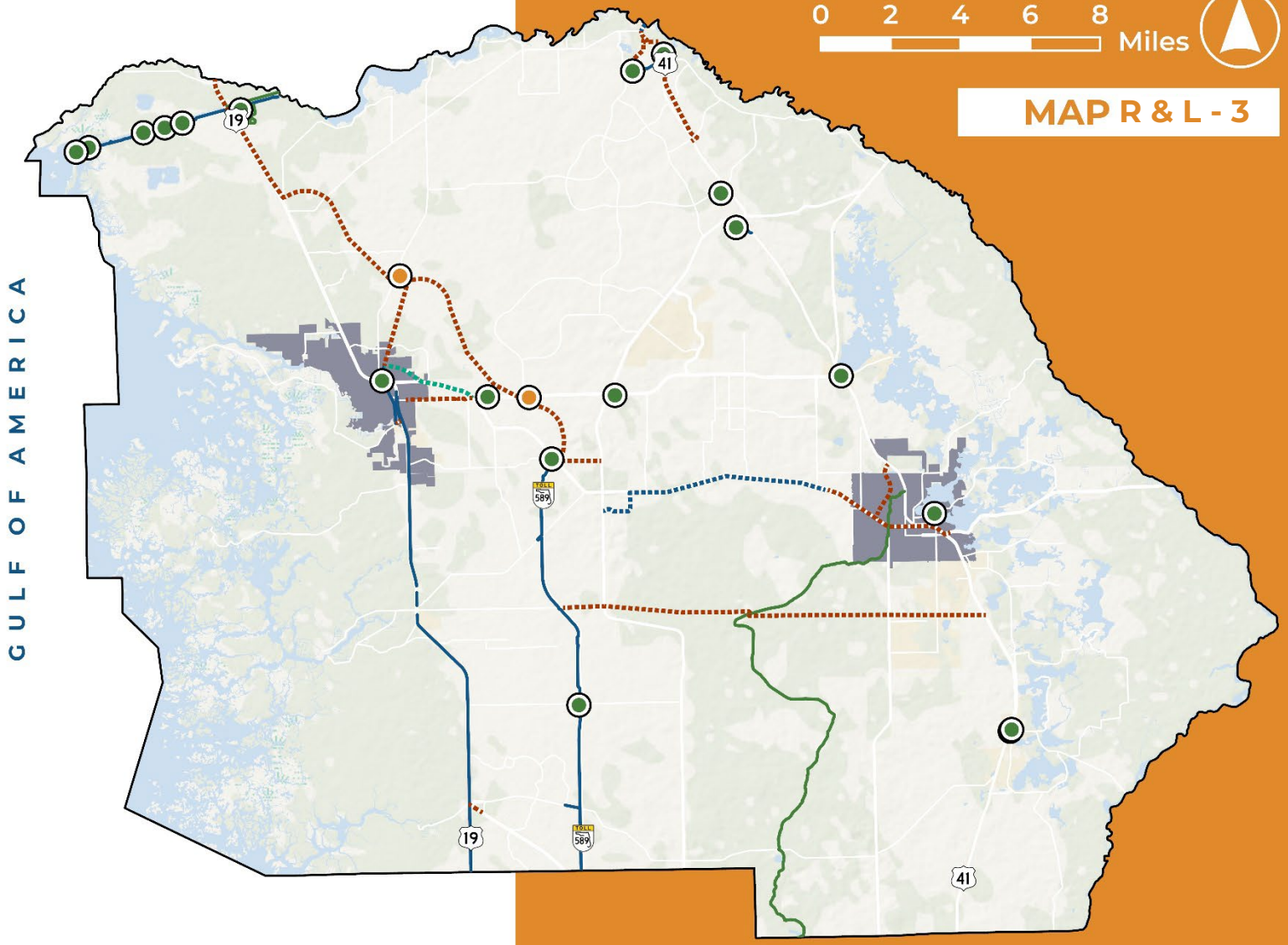
- Citrus County Boundary
- Incorporated Area

Trail

- Existing Paved
- Existing Unpaved
- Under Construction
- Proposed
- Unfunded
- Conceptual

Trailhead

- EXISTING
- PROPOSED



Citrus County 2050

Source: Citrus County, 2025

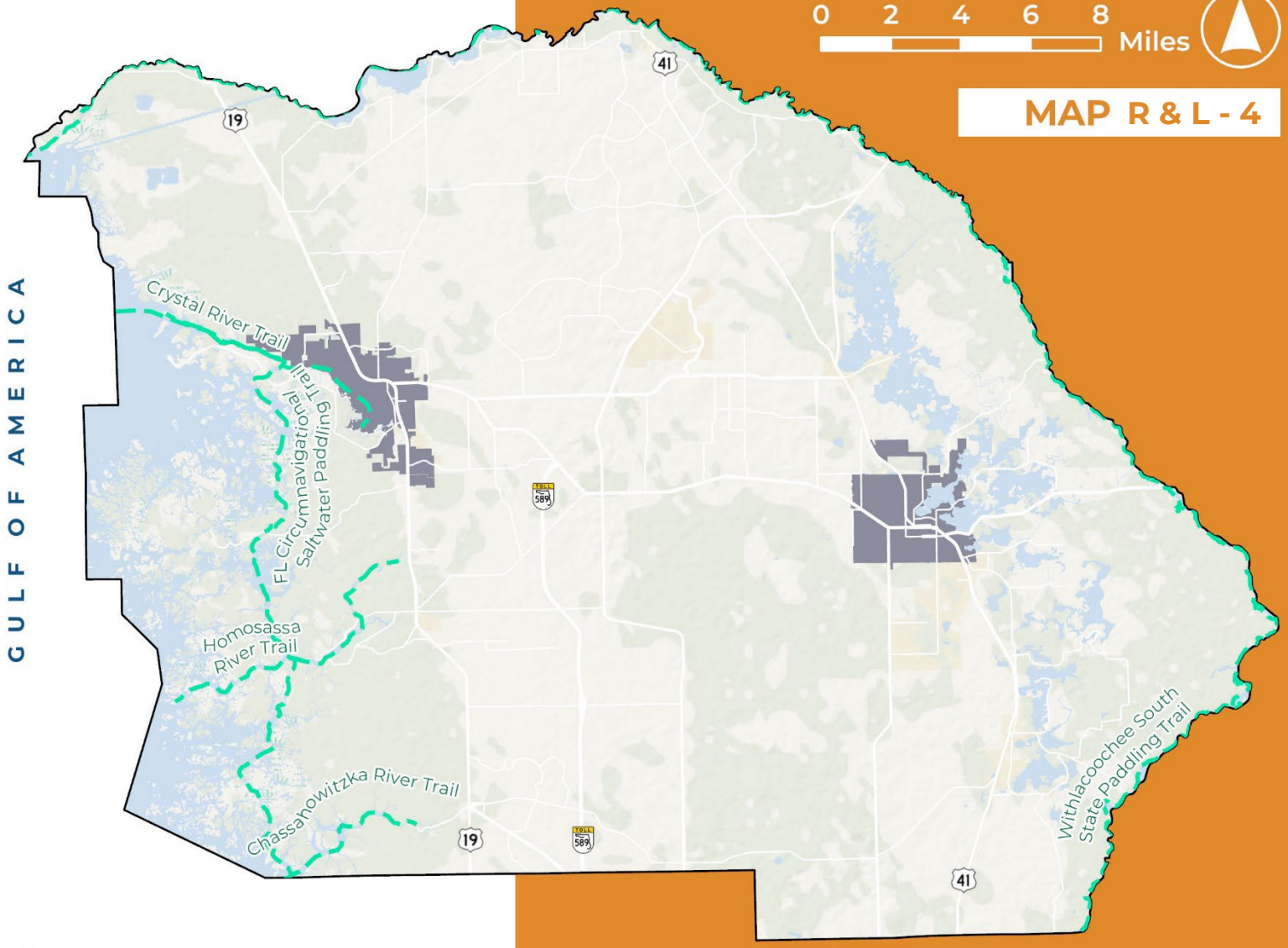
PADDLING TRAILS

Legend

- Citrus County Boundary
- Incorporated Area
- Paddling Trail

0 2 4 6 8 Miles

MAP R & L - 4



Source: Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), 2023

LIBRARY SERVICE AREAS

Legend

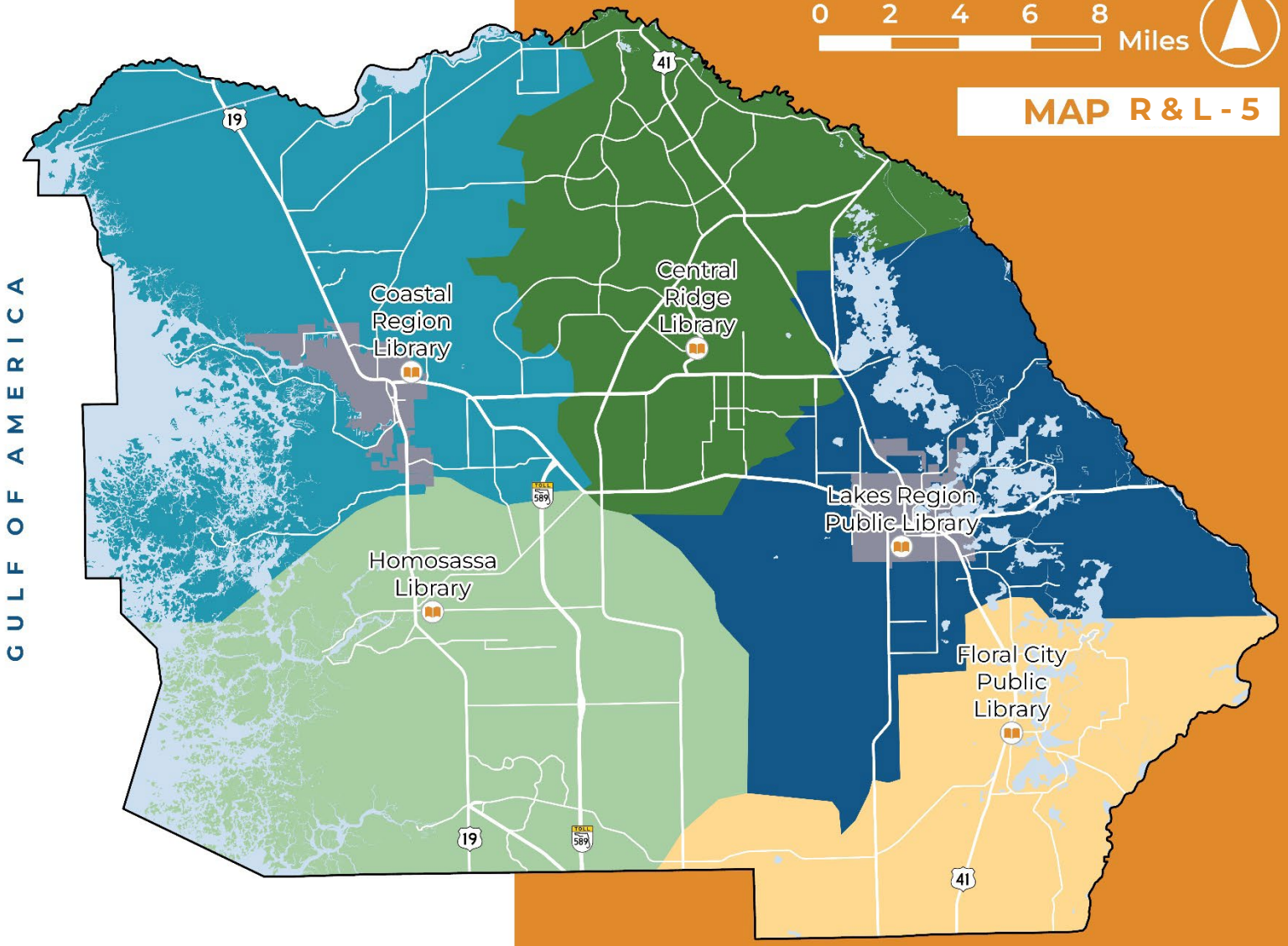
- Citrus County Boundary
- Incorporated Area
- Library Facility

Library Service Area

- Central Ridge
- Coastal Region
- Floral City
- Homosassa
- Lakes Region

0 2 4 6 8 Miles

MAP R & L - 5



Source: Citrus County, 2016