

BENEFITS OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY PARKS & NATURAL RESOURCES

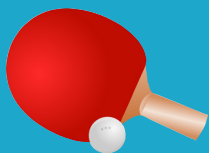
COMMUNITY COHESION



Over 73,000 annual facility maintenance hours ensure visitor safety



Green spaces allow interaction with the natural habitat



Parks and Natural Resources provides 64 parks for Charlotte County residents of all ages to meet and play



Families have the chance to socialize, build connections, and create a sense of belonging and pride in their community

ECONOMICAL BENEFITS



\$875 in taxes saved by each Charlotte County household as a result of ecotourism



10,752 local jobs supported



Fishermen and divers who launch from Charlotte County boat ramps to utilize our artificial reef sites spend almost \$28 million in the county annually



Charlotte County Parks and Natural Resources facilities increase residential property value within 2,000 feet of facilities by \$7–8,000

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS



One acre of wetlands can store up to 1.5 million gallons of stormwater. Charlotte County's Parks and Preserves have over 1,600 acres of wetland totaling over 24,000,000 gallons of available stormwater storage



Green spaces allow for stormwater to infiltrate the ground rather than collect on paved surfaces such as roads



Green spaces cool the environment, resulting in temperature reductions of 20-45°F (11-25°C) during peak temperatures of shaded materials compared to unshaded materials



Over 5,200 acres of parkland absorb the CO₂ produced by driving 57,200,000 miles, contributing to improved air quality

HEALTH & WELLNESS



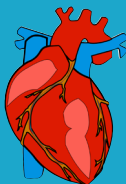
Residents living less than half a mile from a park or green space have a 50% less chance of experiencing stress when visiting those spaces 2-3 times a week



Parks and Natural Resources facilities make exercise more accessible with over 8 miles of bike trails, 20 miles of multipurpose trails, and 40 pieces of outdoor fitness equipment



Outdoor activities, such as kayaking, fishing, and using meditation stations, has been shown to reduce anxiety and depression; nature can also increase your sense of balance, self-esteem, and connection to your community



Meeting recommended physical activity minimums increases life expectancy by 70-80%