

- Re-align staff into new divisions with new titles;
- Reassign and hire new full and part-time staff to meet the needs of the Agency;
- Increase recreation programs at existing facilities with the addition of new staff;
- Bring staffing levels in line with other agencies across the country who serve similar populations;
- Expand programs countywide rather than focusing all programs in Valdosta; and
- Continue to expand revenue-generating program and special event opportunities.

## Programs & Budget Analysis

- All inter-agency agreements with all outside groups need to be formalized in order to avoid possible liability and ensure equitable use of facilities. A cost/benefit analysis should be done on each to determine whether the return on investment is adequate or if VLPRA staff could better facilitate and/or operate these activities internally.
- Per capita spending should be increased to \$80 per resident by 2014 and \$90 per resident by 2016. Much of this spending should be tied to enhancing parks maintenance, programming and marketing of programs and facilities.
- A fees and charges study should be initiated in the 2014 budget year. Findings from the survey in the master plan and other public engagements should provide the basis for the recommendations in the study. Cost recovery needs to be enhanced to 20% by 2015.
- Traditional funding, grants, and other types of funding mechanisms should be engaged in order to meet new facility, program, and organizational recommendations.

## Park Assessment & Recommendations

- **Assessment Method:** General and specific park recommendations were made based on NRPA guidelines for service areas and community needs, staff responses, public input and national trends after the planning team completed site visits and inventories. Parks were categorized as: Mini Park, Neighborhood Park, Community Park, Regional Park, Special-Use Park, Natural Resource Area/Preserve, Greenways, School Park, and Private Park/Recreation Facility.
- **General Park Recommendations:**
  - Lack of funding for capital improvements and an aged park system in need of renovations
  - Condition of many parks was fair to good, except boat launch facilities which were in consistently poor condition, and Scott Park and Freedom Park which were in very good condition
  - Need to renovate parks to comply with ADA standards
  - Noncompliance of playground equipment to meet safety standards, particularly in older parks
  - Significant and ongoing vandalism
  - Numerous park buildings needed to be replaced, such as old restroom buildings and pavilions; equipment was worn and lacked uniformity
  - Condition of fencing was poor in many parks
- **Individual Park Recommendations:** Forty-five (45) parks were assessed. Facilities for each park were analyzed for their age, functionality, and conditions. Specific recommendations are still relevant for most parks and are listed in **Appendix 1**.