1.3 DEMOGRAPHICS ANALYSIS & TRENDS

Overview of Demographic Analysis

Having established an understanding of the guiding documents for Valdosta-Lowndes County and how they might influence its CPRMP, the next step is to establish an understanding of the existing users of the park system. The following section provides an analysis of the past and, in certain cases, projected demographics for Valdosta-Lowndes County as provided by the County. It also discusses their relevance to the County's park system. Key demographics examined from the 2010, 2018, and 2023 US Census include:

- Population & Population Growth
- Ethnicity & Race
- Age Distribution
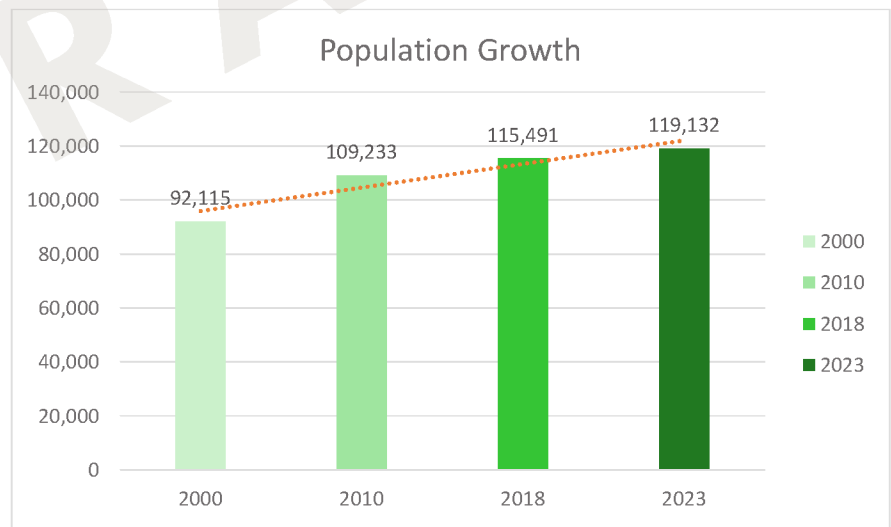- Household Income
- Educational Attainment

Population & Population Growth

Population and population growth are two important demographics to consider in parks system planning. The larger the population growth, the more need there may be to expand parks and recreation services in the future. **Figure 1.5** compares the past, existing, and projected population and population growth of Valdosta-Lowndes County.

As represented in the chart, Valdosta-Lowndes County added approximately 23,376 new residents and experienced a population growth rate of 25.4 percent between the years 2000 and 2018.

FIGURE 1.5 - POPULATION & POPULATION GROWTH

Source: ESRI Community Profile data

By the year 2023, Valdosta-Lowndes County is expected to add over 3,600 new residents to its current population. This increase in residents may suggest that more park acreage and facilities are needed to maintain the quality of life that residents currently enjoy.