



April 11, 2023

Commissioner Ron Cutsinger  
1660 Ringling Blvd.  
Sarasota, FL 34236

Re: Parks Interlocal Agreement

Dear Commissioner Cutsinger:

The City of Venice is honored to be in partnership with Sarasota County for the Parks Interlocal Agreement. This intergovernmental partnership has allowed for the efficient delivery of quality parks and recreational services to both Sarasota County and City of Venice residents for over 30 years. For the past several years, City and County staff have been diligently working towards an updated framework for the future renewal of this agreement. On March 10, 2021, the City transmitted an updated Parks Interlocal framework based on the County's desire to designate "regional" and "local" park facilities (attached). This plan had been negotiated in good faith by City and County staff, however we understand that funding reservations resulted in the decision to delay the implementation of that proposal and alternatively allow the 5-year default renewal of the current agreement to occur.

The County Commission has adopted the strategic initiative in FY23 for the planning of a regional athletic complex in South County. The City of Venice is strongly in support of offering Wellfield Park as the premier location for such a facility. This 80-acre park facility operates today as a regional athletic complex, serving as the home for both adult and youth sports leagues with County wide impacts. This athletic facility is a significant community asset to South County and has supported athletics in Sarasota County for over 60 years. With the recent approval of the One-Cent-Sales-Tax referendum, the City believes this location would be widely supported as part of the County's regional athletic complex system. As part of an updated interlocal agreement, the City is committed to partnering in the redevelopment of Wellfield Park, and the renewal of the Parks Interlocal Agreement, for the overall benefit to the regional park users.

As part of the 2021 Parks Interlocal framework, the City committed to transfer the deed of ownership for Wellfield Park to Sarasota County in order to allow for the future capital investment into the property. In addition, the City would be privileged to provide financial support for this project including funding for up to 50% of a park masterplan project and up to \$2 million in Venice area Park Impact Fees to support redevelopment of the park. This project has the potential to have a significant positive impact on the South County athletic community and bring an already stellar athletic system to the next level.

**Office of the Mayor**

401 West Venice Avenue \* Venice, Florida 34285 \* [www.venicegov.com](http://www.venicegov.com)

The City acknowledges the continued due diligence efforts that must be undertaken to explore all options for this future regional sports complex. We propose that the utilization of Wellfield Park is the most appropriate and economical option to achieve this important strategic initiative. The City appreciates the commitment of the County Commission to South County athletics and we look forward to collaborating further on this initiative.

Sincerely,

Nick Pachota  
Mayor  
941-882-7407  
npachota@venicefl.gov

Enclosure

cc: Edward Lavalley, ICMA-CM, City Manager  
James Clinch, PE, Assistant City Manager  
City Council  
Jonathan R. Lewis, ICMA-CM, Sarasota County Administrator



# CITY OF VENICE FLORIDA

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**Edward F. Lavallee**  
*City Manager*

## OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

March 10, 2021

Mr. Jonathan R. Lewis, ICMA - CM  
Sarasota County Administrator  
1660 Ringling Blvd.  
Sarasota, FL 34236

Dear Mr. Lewis:

The City of Venice continues to work in partnership with the Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Department to provide high quality park and recreational services to the users of our park facilities. The City truly appreciates and values the staff time and resources that are provided through the existing Inter-local Parks Agreement (Contract No. 2011-421). This partnership has allowed for the delivery of top-notch service and a mutual benefit to all the park users within the City of Venice.

Enclosed you will find a proposal (Attachment A) with updated terms for a new Inter-local Parks Agreement between the City of Venice and Sarasota County. This proposal framework was coordinated between City and County staff and was approved unanimously by the City of Venice Council on March 9, 2021. The goal of this proposal is to better align the agreement with the regional parks model while supporting the common objective of providing these important public services in the most economical manner. The intent is to include "regional" park facilities within the new agreement for County operation and maintenance, and to transfer the "non-regional" facilities out of the agreement. The existing Inter-Local Agreement is scheduled for an automatic 5-year renewal effective October 1, 2021, to extend the current term to October 1, 2026. Alternatively, the City would propose updating the agreement per the attached proposal, effective October 1, 2021.

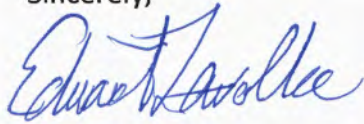
Mr. Jonathan R. Lewis

March 10, 2021

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The City looks forward to continuing to support a positive relationship with Sarasota County and believes this new agreement will provide a solid foundation for many years to come. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Edward Lavallee

City Manager

Enclosure

cc Nicole Rissler MBA, CPRP, Director, Sarasota County PRNR Dept.  
James Clinch PE, Director of Public Works, City of Venice  
Ricky Simpson, Asst. Director of Public Works, City of Venice

# ATTACHMENT A

## INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT PROPOSAL BETWEEN CITY OF VENICE and SARASOTA COUNTY REGARDING PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICE

### EXHIBIT A - PARKS INCLUDED IN NEW AGREEMENT

PARK NAME	SIZE (AC)	OWNERSHIP	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	JUSTIFICATION	NOTES
BROHARD PARK including:	-	CITY OF VENICE	SARASOTA COUNTY	Regional Use Beach Parks	Include maintenance of the recently constructed Pier Parking Area #3 within Brohard Park area.
* Service Club Park	7.75				
* Pier Parking Area (excluding the Fishing Pier and restaurant concession), Robert E. Clark Pavilion and associated parking lot	21.00				
* Maxine Barritt Park	23.00				
* Paw Park	2.00				
* South Brohard Park, and the remaining portions of Brohard Park	21.00				
CHAUNCY HOWARD PARK	0.88	CITY OF VENICE	SARASOTA COUNTY	Regional Use Beach Park	
MARINA PARK and BOAT RAMP (HATCHETT CREEK)	5.00	WCIND	SARASOTA COUNTY	Regional Use Marine Park & Boat Ramp	
PINEBROOK PARK	80.00	CITY OF VENICE	SARASOTA COUNTY	County to continue mowing services. Proximity to Wellfield Park creates efficiency of service.	City will continue to maintain ownership of this property and handle capital improvement costs.
VENICE MUNICIPAL BEACH	6.88	CITY OF VENICE	SARASOTA COUNTY	Regional Use Beach Park	
VENETIAN WATERWAY PARK (EAST)	11.00	WCIND	SARASOTA COUNTY / CITY OF VENICE	Regional Use Trail System which is designated in County Trail Master Plan. Park connects to other trail spurs including Legacy Trail and Shamrock Park.	County to continue trail management and maintenance and to include capital costs (east of intracoastal waterway).

# ATTACHMENT A

## EXHIBIT B - PARKS PHASED OUT OF NEW AGREEMENT

PARK NAME	SIZE (AC)	OWNERSHIP	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	JUSTIFICATION	NOTES
CHUCK REITER PARK (Athletic Field Complex)	9.16	CITY OF VENICE	SARASOTA COUNTY (Until Transfer Date)	Currently, there is regional use of this Sports Park, however the facility does not meet County definition of "Regional" due to limited size of complex.	Transfer of park to City operated and maintained after relocation of Venice Little League baseball and no longer than 5 years after execution of agreement.
VENICE COMMUNITY CENTER	10.25	CITY OF VENICE	SARASOTA COUNTY (Until Transfer Date)	Does not meet County definition of "Regional" facility due to size and use.	Transfer to City operated and maintained, 1 year after execution of agreement. Transitional payments to City of Venice = \$300,000 annually for three years

## EXHIBIT C - PARKS REMOVED FROM NEW AGREEMENT

PARK NAME	SIZE (AC)	OWNERSHIP	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	JUSTIFICATION	NOTES
HECKSHER	3.04	CITY OF VENICE	CITY OF VENICE	Non-regional park	City operated and maintained.
HIGEL MARINE PARK & BOAT RAMP	0.94	CITY OF VENICE	CITY OF VENICE	Non-regional park	City operated and maintained.
LEGACY PARK	10.20	CITY OF VENICE	CITY OF VENICE	Non-regional park	City operated and maintained.
VENETIAN WATERWAY PARK (WEST)	16.00	WCIND	CITY OF VENICE	Trail System on the island of Venice. Park connects to other trail spurs including Caspersen Beach.	City to assume Capital costs of trail and maintenance (west of intracoastal waterway).
VENICE MYAKKA RIVER PARK	11.00	CITY OF VENICE	CITY OF VENICE	Non-regional park	City operated and maintained.
VENICE WELLFIELD PARK (Athletic Field Complex)	80.00	TRANSFER TO SARASOTA COUNTY	SARASOTA COUNTY	Designate park as a Sarasota County owned and operated regional sports complex. City to transfer ownership of 80 Acre property to Sarasota County, with exception of Public Works facility. Sarasota County will masterplan facility to create a central county regional sports complex.	Transfer of property deed to include reversion clause to ensure future use as sports complex and redevelopment of facility. Property transfer will include the former Police and Fire training area and will exclude the Public Works facility (5 AC). Transfer will require the granting of easements for existing utilities infrastructure (booster station, wells, lift station, transmission lines).