#### WHAT IS RECREATION?

A Friend recently said - "My son, Randy,

learned to swim last year as a part of a regularly

scheduled class at the Fairlawn Elementary School.

The classes were held in the swimming pool provided

by the City in adjacent West End Park. Now, I have

no fear when he goes fishing in our rock pits or canals.

He can take care of himself in the water."

In this case, recreation has to do with the whole man. By teaching the skills and strengthening the muscles for swimming, Randy became self-reliant and without fear. He became strong in body, mind, and spirit.

Recreation provides activities for young and old alike, which aid the individual to live a wholesome existence. Not only does it provide leisure time activities for people, but it develops muscles; trains the brain; and frees the spirit from fear. Recreation develops the whole man. Recreational facilities, properly used under intelligent leadership, help to develop a healthy, well-adjusted, individual.

Recreation affects the physical, moral and spiritual being of the inhabitants of an area and thus the inhabitants and their environment make up the area. The relationship between groups of individuals and their physical environment characterizes an important element of the City's responsibility.

#### WHY DOES MIAMI NEED RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES?

Only one of man's needs is intangible - recreation. We easily discern the need for food, water, clothing and medical care. We also can understand his need for sleep. Recreation is as much a food for the benefit of man's health as bread. Man eats the bread. It is assimilated through the stomach. As a nutrient solution, it goes into the blood. Thus the body is restored.

This same bread can become a lump of sour dough in the stomach. It can be transformed into harmful acids and poisons. These can eat the lining of the stomach. Ulcers are the result. It all depends on man's state of mind. Work and worry not only uses up the bodily tissues, but it frays man's nerves. He must eat and sleep to restore the body. He needs restorative thoughts and actions to restore his mind and soul - he needs recreation - he needs food for his frayed nerves so that the stomach may digest the bread and transform it into nutritive liquids which the blood can carry to restore the worn-out tissues. If man's nerves are not restored or recreated, no amount of bread will restore the body.

Thus Miami needs recreation. Every community needs recreation.

It is provided by the individual, his family, his Church, his community.

Miami's recreational needs are greater than in a normal community. Miami depends on tourism for a large part of its income. People come to Miami to be recreated in its beneficial climate. So Miami must have the recreational facilities - public and private - to entice visitors here who might go elsewhere. Therefore, Miami's recreational facilities must be guilt-edge - to meet world-wide competition.

#### TYPES OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

#### (Suggested by National Recreation Association)

#### FOR ACTIVITIES PRIMARILY PHYSICAL: I.

A.	PLAYGROUNDS	AND	PLAYFIELDS	PROVIDING	SPACE F	OR
----	-------------	-----	------------	-----------	---------	----

(1) Archery (13)Softball

(2) Baseball (14)Swimming

Basket Ball (3)

(15)Tennis

(4) Badminton (16) Volley Ball

(5) Croquet (17) Soccer

(18)

(6) Football Group Games (Multiple Use Area)

(7) Handball (19) Equipment for young children, such as:

(8) Hockey

**Slides** a.

(9) Horseshoes

b. Swings

Shuffleboard (10)

Jungle Gyms c.

(11) Roller Skating

Spray Pools d.

- (12)Roque
- B. BASEBALL FIELDS WITH BLEACHERS.
- FOOTBALL FIELDS WITH BLEACHERS. C.
- D. BICYCLE TRAILS.
- HORSEBACK RIDING TRAILS. E.
- F. GOLF COURSES.
- G. BOATING AND WATER SPORTS.
- H. INDOOR FACILITIES FOR:
  - (1) Boxing & Wrestling
- (6) Ping Pong

(2) Gymnastics

(7) Games requiring small space:

(3) Basketball a. Darts

(4) Bowling Shuffleboard

(5) Badminton

#### II. FOR ACTIVITIES PRIMARILY SOCIAL:

- A. LARGE PARKS WITH -
  - (1) Arboretums
  - (2) Zoological Gardens
  - (3) Pleasure Drives for enjoyment of Natural Scenery
  - (4) Story Acting & Telling

- (5) Book and Current Events Clubs
- (6) Puppets
- (7) Debating
- (8) Music
- (9) Table Games

#### DESIRABLE STANDARDS FOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

- I. NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYGROUNDS FOR CHILDREN 6 TO 12 YEARS OF AGE.
  - A. SIZE, LOCATIONS AND SERVICE AREA.
    - (1) One acre of playground area for each 125 children (age 6 to 12) or for each 1,000 population or 4.75 sq.ft.for children present and playing.
    - (2) Minimum size 3 acres.
    - (3) Maximum number 60% of total child population within radius of 3/8 mile.
    - (4) At or adjoining elementary school site or near center of child population.
    - (5) Children will come from 1/4 to 3/8 of a mile radius, depending on the general neighborhood development and lack of physical barriers.
  - B. NECESSARY FACILITIES.
    - (1) Pre-School area
    - (2) Apparatus area
    - (3) Hard-surfaced multiple use area
    - (4) Open area for mass games and for informal play.
    - (5) Shelter house with toilet facilities.
    - (6) Spray Slabs
    - (7) Table Game area
- II. PLAYFIELDS A multi-purpose area for young people and adults serving several neighborhoods.
  - A. SIZE AND LOCATION:
    - (1) One acre for each 800 of total population (minimum of one field per 20,000 persons)
    - (2) Minimum area 12 acres, preferably 20 acres in size.
    - (3) Within 1/2 to 1 mile of all of the resident population, depending upon population density and ease of access.
  - B. SUGGESTED FACILITIES
    - (1) Baseball
    - (2) Softball
    - (3) Football

#### III. COMMUNITY RECREATION BUILDINGS.

#### A. SIZE AND LOCATION

- (1) At least one per 20,000 persons.
- (2) Minimum size 12,500 sq.ft.
- (3) Within one mile of all resident population.
- (4) Located in playfield or neighborhood park.

#### B. RECOMMENDED FACILITIES.

- (1) Gymnasium with:
  - a. Removable seats for spectators
  - b. Locker and Showers
- (2) Assembly Hall or Auditorium, with:
  - a. Stage
  - b. Preferably removable seats
- (3) Room for informal reading and quiet table games
- (4) Room equipped for arts and crafts
- (5) Social or playroom for small parties
- (6) Room for active games, such as:
  - a. Table Tennis
  - b. Billiards
  - c. Darts
  - d. Shuffleboard
- (7) Two or more club or multiple use rooms
- (8) Office for the Director
- (9) Refreshment stand or snack bar
- (10) Kitchen for preparing meals or light refreshments
- (11) Essential service rooms and facilities, including ample storage spaces for equipment and supplies.

#### IV. LARGE PARKS

- A. SIZE
  - (1) One for each 40,000 persons
  - (2) Each park about 25 acres or more in size

#### V. OUTDOOR FACILITIES TO BE LOCATED IN PLAYFIELDS AND IN PARKS

- A. BASEBALL DIAMONDS One for each 6,000 persons.
- B. SOFTBALL DIAMONDS One for each 3,000 persons.
- C. GOLF COURSES One 18-hole course for each 54,000 persons.
- D. SWIMMING POOLS Capable of serving 3% of population at one time.
- E. TENNIS COURTS One for each 2,000 persons.

#### VI. INDOOR FACILITIES TO BE MAINTAINED IN COMMUNITY CENTERS\*

- A. GYMNASIUM One for each 10,000 people
- B. AUDITORIUM One for each 20,000 people
- C. SOCIAL OR PLAYROOM- One for each 10,000 people
- D. READING AND QUIET GAMES ROOM One for each 10,000 people
- E. GAME ROOM One for each 10,000 people
- F. ARTS & CRAFTS WORK SHOP One for each 10,000 people
- G. CLUB OR MULTIPLE USE ROOM One for each 4,000 people
- H. SWIMMING POOL One for each 50,000 people
- I. GARDEN CENTERS One for each 50,000 population

<sup>\*</sup> The existing facilities in schools, churches, and buildings of private recreational agencies must be evaluated and included in using the above standards.

#### RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AVAILABLE IN MIAMI

A survey was made to catalog the currently available recreational facilities in Miami. The following agencies offer recreational facilities and activities.

- 1. <u>SEMI-PUBLIC AGENCIES</u>, including the Miami Art League, Museum of Natural History, and the Dade County Council of Garden Club Presidents.
- 2. <u>VOLUNTARY RECREATIONAL AGENCIES</u>, such as the Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., Salvation Army, Neighborhood and Community Center Agencies affiliated with the Dade County Council of Social Agencies.
- 3. <u>CHURCHES</u>, furnishing facilities such as game rooms and meeting rooms for parties, movies, classes, sports, vocation schools, and for use of youth organizations such as Boy and Girl Scouts.
- 4. THE MIAMI PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM, furnishing recreational reading, circulation of recordings of music, auditorium programs of movies, lectures by authors, great book series, classes in music, art and landscape design, and a complete children's program. Also special radio and T.V. programs.
- 5. BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL FIRMS, several of which have specific recreational programs and private club rooms and athletic leagues for young and old.
- 6. PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS, such as social and athletic clubs offering facilities for fishing, boating, swimming, golf, tennis, riding, dancing, picnicking, as well as meeting rooms and gymnasiums.
- 7. SERVICE CLUBS, such as Civitan, Rotary, Lions, Kewanis, etc., sponsor three types of recreational programs: (1) public boy's club and drum corps; (2) for children in institutions and from poor homes; (3) athletic programs and social events for their members.
- 8. PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATIONS, such as the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars sponsor extensive recreational programs.
- 9. CAMPING, BEACHES, AND RESORTS in addition there are other facilities, such as: organized camps for boys and girls; public beaches; picnic areas; zoos; botanical gardens, museums, etc. Recreational facilities include swimming, boating, fishing, picnicking, hunting, golf, dancing, and musical programs.
- 10. COMMERCIAL RECREATION, includes such facilities as bowling, baseball, football, jai-alai, skating, swimming, riding, boxing, golf, dancing, billiards and pool, taverns, carnivals, road shows, miniature golf, penny arcades, movies, and events such as home-garden- and flower shows, plays, orchestral concerts, etc., held at the Municipal Auditoriums at Bayfront Park and Dinner Key and the Dade County Auditorium on West Flagler Street.
- 11. THE METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY PARKS maintains a system of major parks with facilities for bathing, swimming, boating, hiking, picknicking, fishing, camping, refreshments, a zoo, etc. This system supplements the City Park system.

- 12. THE RECREATION DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION provides organized leadership for games and recreational activity (see Page #4) on existing Playgrounds (see Map #2) and Playfields (see Map #3).

  19 Community Centers are maintained on various Parks and Playgrounds. Adult Centers are maintained at 4 locations. Pre-School programs are conducted at 12 Parks.
- 13. THE BOARD OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION OF DADE COUNTY uses 8 Park areas for their athletic and physical fitness programs. This includes swimming instructions at several pool locations. None of the buildings and grounds of the Board are available for other than school activities.

#### MAJOR RECREATION DEFICIENCIES

#### 1. STANDARDS (See Map #4)

The following table lists the desirable standards (1) for each type of recreational area and activity, the existing number or acreage of such facilities in the City of Miami, and the major recreational deficiencies in accordance with standards previously presented. Location plays such a great part when determining exact facilities needed. A more detailed study using the neighborhood idea will be presented later.

#### 2. DEFICIENCIES

The deficiencies are based upon an estimated population of 282,000. Some estimates place Miami's growth at 350,000 in the next few years. Because of the outdoor character of the area, formal facilities are not so heavily taxed, thus the conservative approach. We estimate these facilities to care for needs through 1970.

#### 3. PROJECTED CHILD POPULATION

Projection of number of children present and playing was estimated based on a percentage increase predicted by Dr. Reinhold P.Wolff on School population. (See Page 284 of Public Schools of Dade County, Florida). A survey report, division of surveys and field services, George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tenn., 1952, pages 284, 285 and 286. Total population in school year 1950-51 was 66,185. Dr. Wolff predicts a population of 105,341 in 1959-60 or increase of 59.2%. This percentage was applied to 1950 census figures on a neighborhood basis.

## COMPARISON OF EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WITH DESIRABLE STANDARDS

TYPE STA	ANDARD (1) REQU	IRED	EXISTING NUMBER OF ACRES OR UNITS	DEFICIENCY (2)
	1 Acre per 28 1000 persons	2 acres	93.85 acres	Proposed at schools 33.00 acres Proposed at new sites 150.00 acres
	l acre per 22 300 persons	8 acres	164.16 acres	64 acres
	l acre per 41 40,000 persons	9 acres	163 acres	256 acres
Recreation ) Buildings (	l per 20,000 persons	14	18	-
JTDOOR FACILITIES Baseball Diamonds	s 1 per 6,000 persons	47	12 *	35
Softball Diamonds	s 1 per 3,000 persons	94	25 *	69
Golf Courses	1 per 54,000 persons	6	1	5
Swimming Pools	1 per 50,000 persons	6	7	
Spray or Wading Pools	Each Playground	94	0	94
Tennis Courts	1 per 2,000 persons	141	63 *	78
DOOR FACILITIES				
Gymnasium	1 per 10,000 persons	28	0	28
Auditoriums	1 per 20,000 persons	14	20	
Social or Play Roo	om 1 per 10,000 persons	28	26 **	2
Reading & Quiet Game Room	1 per 10,000 persons	28	26 **	2
Arts & Crafts Room	n 1 per 10,000 persons	28	26 **	2
Club or Multiple Use Room	1 per 4,000 persons	72	26 **	46

<sup>\*</sup> School facilities not open to public, excluded.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Not up to standard of 12,500 sq.ft.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

The application of these standards has been made according to proposed neighborhood boundaries (see Map #1).

There are five or six potential communities, such as Little River, Allapattah, West End, Coral Way and Coconut Grove, grouped around existing or potential business centers. These communities comprise several neighborhoods.

Within the neighborhoods, the playgrounds are ideally grouped around the elementary school with the playfields and larger open areas for athletics at convenient distances away.

The study of facilities available for recreational activities in the City of Miami has disclosed the existence of several major deficiencies which can be best met by the City. The City's urgent needs and suggestions for ways of providing them most economically are listed below:

- A. <u>PLAYGROUNDS</u>: In the development of the neighborhood idea, the playground and the elementary school are linked closely together. There is a close relation between recreation and education. Land and facilities for both purposes can be used jointly at great savings to the community. Accordingly, it is recommended.
  - 1. Land for playgrounds should be acquired adjacent to existing elementary schools. If the school site is not central in the neighborhood area, a more central site should be selected. Vacant land should be sought for this purpose if possible. There are 33 existing playgrounds comprising 93.85 acres; l1 are proposed at existing school sites, estimated to require 33 acres; 50 others are recommended to serve all residential neighborhoods; totalling 150 acres. (See Map #2.)
  - 2. Acquisition should be based on sites with a minimum of 3 to 5 acres or one acre of play space for each 1,000 of the total estimated future population.
  - 3. AN ORDER OF PRIORITY, PREDICATED ON THE DIRECTION OF GROWTH, SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN ORDER TO MEET THE NEEDS AS THEY ARISE.
  - 4. Arrangements should be made by the Department of Parks & Recreation and the Dade County Board of Public Instruction so that coordinated use of playground and the school property can be arranged.
- B. PLAYFIELDS: In the further development of the neighborhood facilities, play areas serving areas within a mile radius, or units of 20,000 population at the rate of 800 persons per acre, are known as playfields in the Miami plan. (See Map #3). They are about 12 to 15 acres in extent. There are 15 such playfields with more or less adequate facilities. Five additional areas are proposed with added acreage of 60 acres. With 160.26 acres in the existing fields, 19.74 acres proposed to raise the standards of existing areas, a total of 240 acres is recommended.

(Map #3 shows the proposed locations, tentatively selected to serve the areas of deficiency.)

Your attention is invited to Map #4 showing the playfield as the hub of play-school activities. It is recognized that this will not hold true in every neighborhood. Where it is not possible, it is recommended that the smaller playground be added to the school site instead.

It is recommended that undeveloped properties, which fit into the plan, be purchased as rapidly as possible.

- C. <u>LARGE PARKS</u>: The City of Miami has eight parks or landscaped areas, which, while not of a major character, must be considered as significant. (See Map #5).
  - 1. BAYFRONT PARK 39 acres in downtown Miami just east of Biscayne Boulevard, along Miami Hotel skyline, is the location of the research center of Miami's Library system, a Bandshell with a seating capacity of 15,000; a Bayfront Auditorium; Fishing Piers; and Rock Garden.
  - 2. COCONUT GROVE BAYFRONT 15 acres including facilities for a playfield and playground; picnic shelters; a sailing club; and being adjacent to the Dinner Key Marina with facilities for launching and berthing pleasure boats makes the picturesque waterfront location an important link in Miami's park system. The sailing and boat launching facilities crowding the waterfront should be moved to a new location on the south mole. New picnic facilities for boating enthusiasts have been developed on Picnic Island No. 2 just east of the north mole.
  - 3. MORNINGSIDE PARK 45 acres including a playground, playfield, swimming pool, cabanas, boat launching ramps, refreshment stand, hibiscus garden and palmation. The location at N. E. 55th Terrace and the Bay provides a spectacular view of the Miami Beach skyline.
  - 4. WATSON PARK 65 acres, on the MacArthur Causeway enroute to Miami Beach, includes a garden of the Americas, with provisions for national plots for each of the 21 Pan American Republics. An international garden center, a Japanese Garden, Yacht Club, Motor Boat Club, Seaplane, Helicopter and Blimp bases.
  - 5. VIRGINIA KEY It is recommended that an additional large park be developed at Virginia Key. There are 406 acres available, adjacent to the sewage treatment plant area. The frontage on the ocean side is suitable for beach purposes. Service facilities, such as water, sewage, roads, trails, parking spaces, concessions, bath houses, and cabanas, could be provided. It is recommended that 256 acres be set aside for this purpose, which will allow 150 acres for a golf course considered elsewhere in this report.
  - 6. BLUE LAGOON This is an area just south of the Miami International Airport, just outside the City limits, extending generally from Le Jeune Road on the east to Milan Dairy Road on the west. The land has been excavated for fill creating several attractive, large, clear, blue lakes.
    - It is recommended that this area be acquired and developed by the Metropolitan Dade Park Department as an inland camping, picnicking, swimming and boating center. No other comparable facility exists in Dade County.
- D. <u>COMMUNITY CENTERS</u>: The distribution of Community Centers through the City appear to be more than adequate. The size in most cases is way below standards, 12,500 sq.ft. It is recommended that existing school facilities be utilized to relieve the deficiency. In any remodeling, alterations, or new school buildings, consideration should be given in the design of the building to provide one wing.

- E. BASEBALL DIAMONDS: Although the deficiencies (35) for baseball diamonds appear high, the actual deficiency could be much less if the school facilities, now not available for public play, could be included in the total. It is recommended that a workable program be arranged with the school authorities to alleviate the shortage. Locations not presently served by schools should be developed when funds are available in the capital improvement program.
- F. SOFTBALL FIELDS: Again the deficiencies (69) for softball fields does not reflect what could be added if school properties, now not available to the public, could be used. After an agreement has been reached for public use of the school facilities, it is recommended that the areas still without softball facilities, be so served.
- G. GOLF COURSES: The City of Miami currently maintains a golf course at Miami Springs. Development will soon be under way at the Le Jeune Road tract at N. W. 14th Street. (See Map #5). The Planning Board recommends the development of an additional course at Virginia Key. That leaves 3 courses needed. Land for additional courses should be purchased as vacant tracts become available. The built-up condition of the City shows only 3 large concentrations of vacant land (See Map #5), namely: The Le Jeune Road Tract; N. W. 42nd Avenue and 14th Street; north of N.W. 14th Street, between 52nd Avenue and 62nd Avenue; and Virginia Key. With both the Le Jeune Road Tract and Virginia Key committed to golf courses, the N. W. 14th Street tract is the only one available. It is not in public ownership. Possibly suitable locations must be sought outside the City limits at strategic locations.
- H. SWIMMING POOLS: Miami is favored with exceedingly efficient and adequate swimming pool program. The Department of Parks & Recreation recommends an olympic size pool at a suitable location. The Planning Board concurs. Selection of the site should be considered carefully in relation to traffic arteries, parking facilities, bleacher or stadium seating, etc.
- I. TENNIS COURTS: The deficiency in tennis courts (63) again reflects the need for use of existing school facilities. This will eliminate costly duplication in both land and facilities. If, after exhausting efforts to use school facilities, there is still a shortage, the Planning Board recommends that tennis courts be provided as an integral part of the capital improvements program.
- J. <u>INDOOR FACILITIES</u>: As the comparison shows, the indoor facilities reflect a lack of size in the existing community buildings. Most locations have some small facility which should be enlarged. This will be shown on the capital improvements list.

## \* CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS (through 1970)

### 1. LAND FOR RECREATIONAL USE

	A.	Playgrounds -	150 a	cres @ \$1	0,000.		\$ 1,500,000.00
	В.	Playfields -	64 a	cres @ \$1	0,000.		\$ 640,000.00
2.	OUTDOOR	FACILITIES					
	Λ.	Baseball Diamond	ls - 35	@ \$10,00	0. =		\$ 350,000.00
	в.	Softball Courts	- 69	@\$7,00	0. =		\$ 483,000.00
	C.	Golf Courses	- 4	@ \$90,00	0. =		\$ 360,000.00
	D.	Spray & Wading H	Pools -	94 @ \$1,0	00. =		\$ 94,000.00
	E.	Tennis Courts	- 63	@ \$10,00	0. =		\$ 630,000.00
	F.	Community Buildi Enlargement 26 x 182,000 sq.ft.		@ \$ 15.0	O sq.ft.		\$ 2,730,000.00
3.	DEVELOPME	ENT AT VIRGINIA K	KEY			=	\$ 750,000.00

4. MISCELLANEOUS - Deficiencies on existing areas - (See six year capital improvement = \$3,000,000.00 report 1959-60).

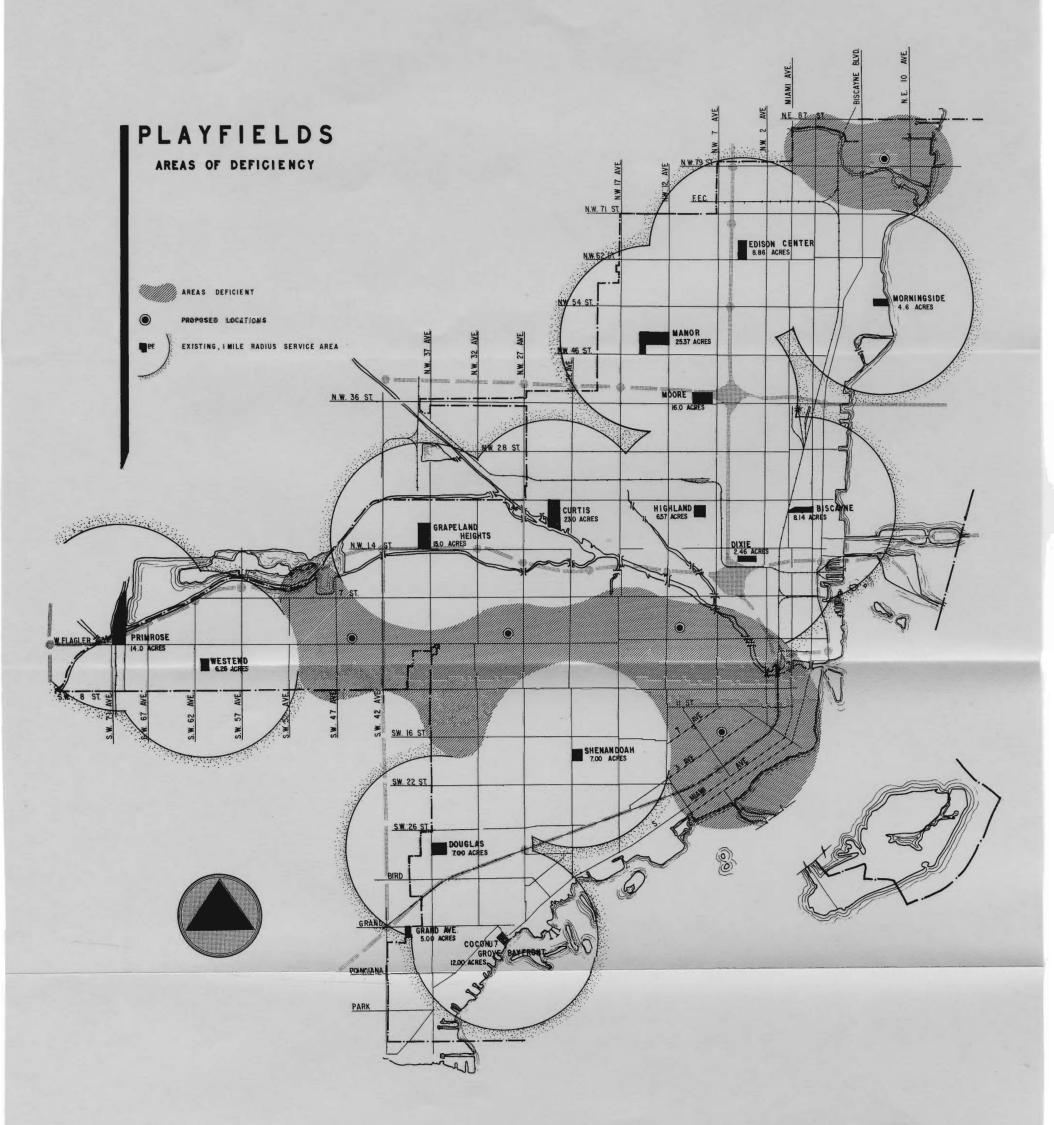
TOTAL \$10,537,000.00

\* NOTE: The details as to facilities are unimportant. For example, someone might say - "we don't need so many tennis courts" - but would suggest adding basketball courts, etc., this is a long-range generalized view and as such has much validity when simple nationally accepted standards are applied. A specific priority schedule, broken down to basic units, will be an important part of PHASE III, i.e. - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - Section on "Recreation".



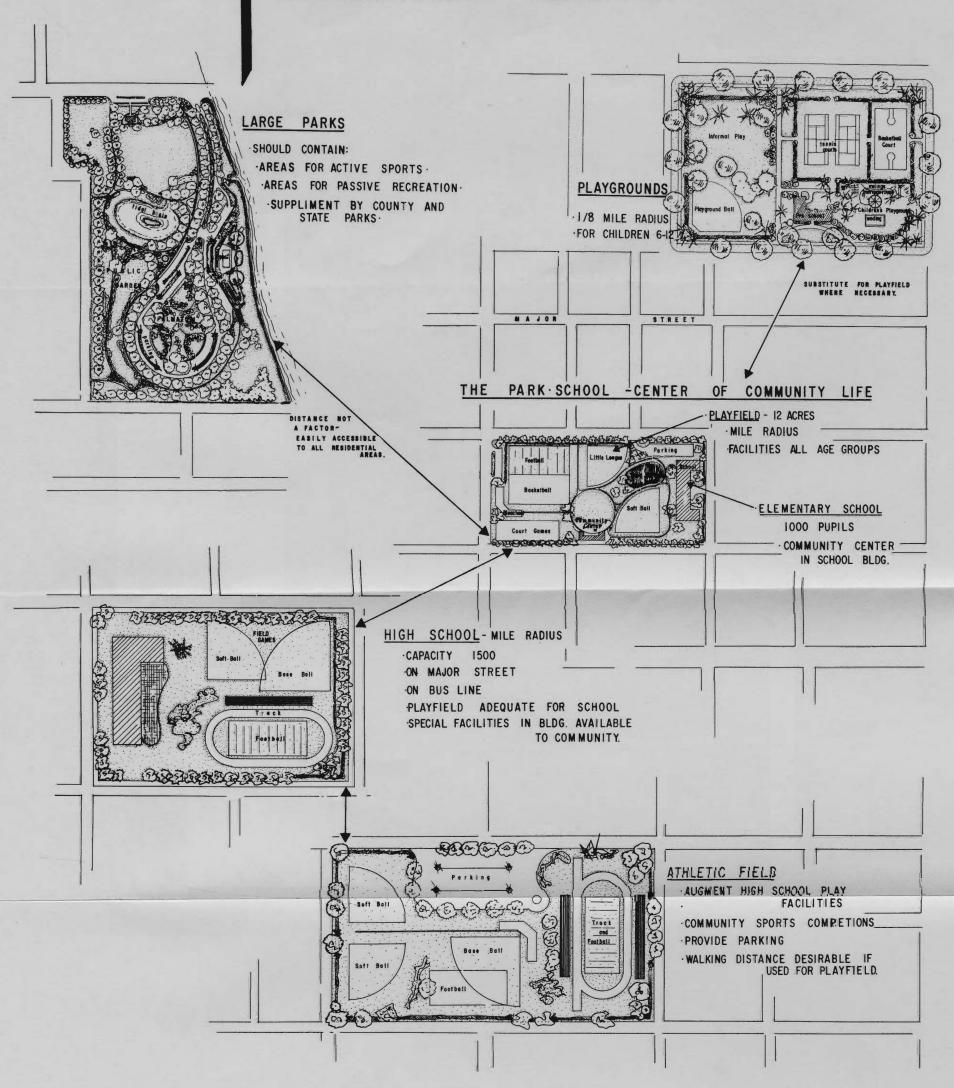
CITY OF MIAMI PLANNING BOARD - 1960



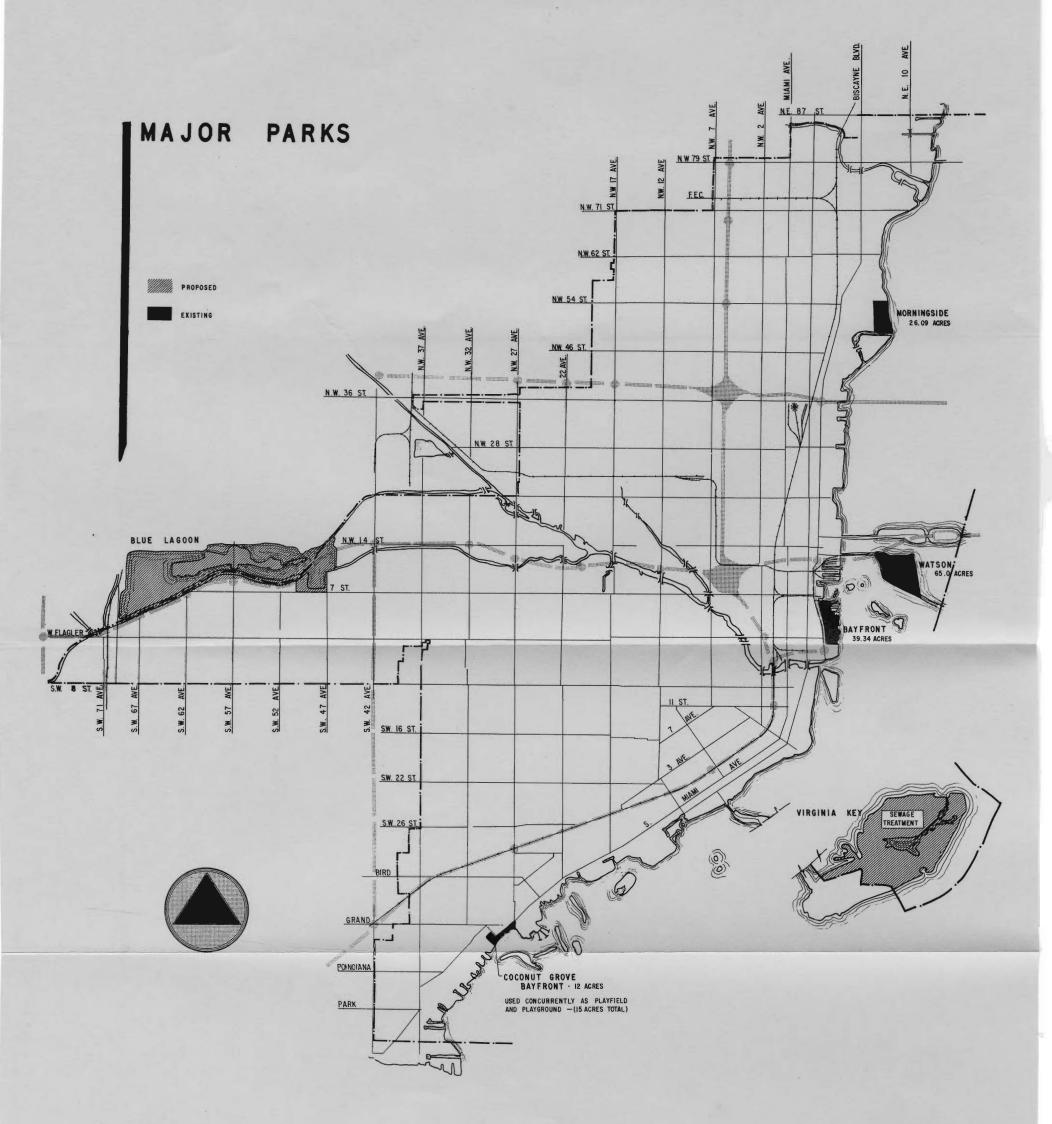


CITY OF MIAMI PLANNING BOARD - 1960

# GENERAL STANDARDS RECREATIONAL FACILITIES







CITY OF MIAMI PLANNING BOARD - 1960