



To protect and facilitate access to the County's natural resources; to provide recreational opportunities for residents and visitors; and contribute to the County's economic, social, and environmental sustainability and resiliency.

Parks & Recreation

Play Your Way!

Department Overview

**104
Parks**

Active and Passive Recreation Parks in
St. Johns County

PLAYGROUNDS

34



**COMMUNITY
CENTERS**

Provides space for social interaction,
education, and recreation within a
neighborhood



8

COURTS

97

Baseball, Pickleball, Paddle Tennis,
Volleyball, Tennis, and Multi Use

**ATHLETIC
FIELDS**



134

Baseball Fields, Soccer Fields, and
Multi Purpose Fields

BOAT RAMPS

13



**42 MILES
OF
BEACHES**

**1
GOLF
COURSE**



www.sjcfi.us/departments/parks-recreation/

ST. JOHNS COUNTY
PARKS AND RECREATION

Director | Ryan Kane

Assistant Director | Jamie Baccari

County Administrator | Brad Bradley, Deputy County Administrator

Recreation Advisory Board | Chair Lauren Watkins, Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month

Department Responsibilities include:

- Active Park Maintenance (Athletic playing fields, tennis courts, etc.)
- Passive Park Maintenance (Passive parks, boat ramps, Beachfront Parks, trash etc.)
- Beach Operations (Driving lanes, trash, walkovers, etc.)
- Fishing Pier's (SJC Pier, Vilano, Shands, Alpine Grove)
- Recreation Programming (Afterschool, Summer Camps, Adult Sports)
- St. Johns Golf Club



Strategic Priorities

We serve and invest in our community through innovative leadership, high-quality services, and preserving the County's history and natural beauty while enhancing economic vitality.

Community Trust

Foster community trust through public meetings for park projects, the SJC Citizens Academy, online registration, and program satisfaction surveys to ensure responsive services.

Organizational Excellence

Enhancing organizational excellence through new SOPs, aligned team goals, and preparation for CAPRA accreditation to ensure high standards and accountability.

Infrastructure

Strengthening infrastructure through the Parks & Recreation Replacement and Renewal Program, with ongoing facility assessments to ensure a proactive, sustainable approach to maintaining and improving parks.



Enhance Conservation

Enhancing conservation by expanding green space and trail miles, partnering through Rails to Trails maintenance agreements, and exploring new opportunities to improve access to natural resources.

Economic Prosperity

Promote economic growth by attracting events that drive visitor spending and partnering with local agriculture to highlight its community impact.

Community Well Being

Advancing community well-being by expanding programs and partnerships to ensure safe, fun, and accessible recreational opportunities that meet the growing needs of residents throughout the county Programs

NRPA Industry Standards

Residents per park:

2,386



Acres of parkland per
1,000 residents:

10.6



Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Employees
per 10,000 residents:

8.9



St. Johns County Numbers

Residents per park:

3,220



Acres of parkland per
1,000 residents:

5.9



Full Time Equivalent
(FTE) per 10,000
residents:

3.1



Acres of park
conservation land per
1,000 residents:

11.4



2026 CHALLENGES



County Growth

Ensuring that we keep pace with the County's growth, including expanding public spaces and enhancing programming.



Staff Retention

Addressing the ongoing challenges of staff retention.



Diverse Funding

Leveraging impact fees, grants, and Park Foundation donations to complete capital projects and expand the park system.

We aim to minimize challenges through proactive planning, strong partnerships, and efficient resource management.

THE FUTURE



OF PARKS & REC

Existing CIP Projects

District 1

- Field of Dreams
- Northwest District Park
- Rivertown 2 Park Phase II

District 2

- Al Wilkie Master Plan
- Shearwater Central Community Park
- Collier Blocker Puryear
- Pacetti Bay Park
- Riverdale Boat Parking Lot
- SJC Sportsplex
- Villages Outdoor Courts

District 3

- Solomon Calhoun Turf Field
- Disc Golf Course
- Rock Springs Farm Croquet
- Shore Drive Trail
- Shore Drive Resiliency Study

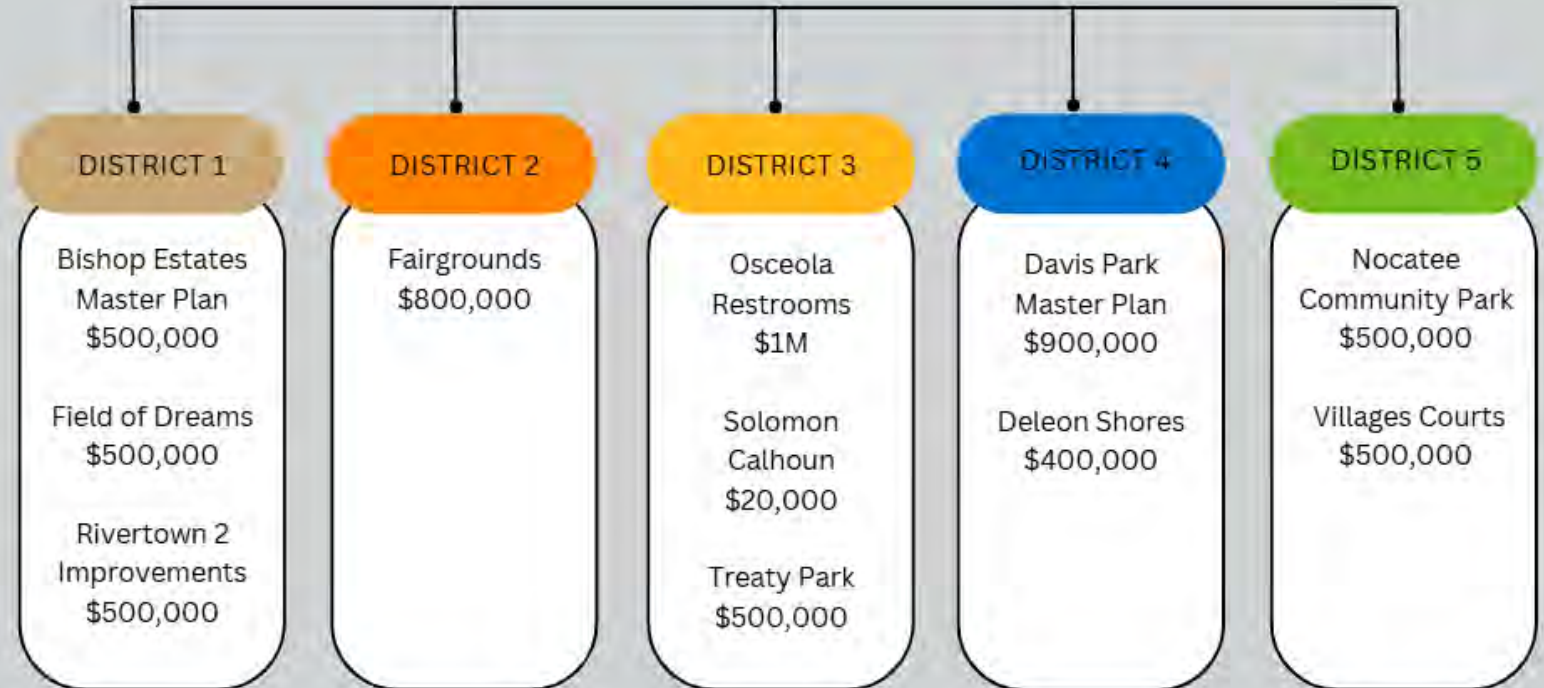
District 4

- Davis Park Expansion
- Deleon Shores Park
- Micklers Restroom Expansion
- Northeast District Park
- Palm Valley East
- Pier Master Plan

District 5

- North Beach Park
- San Sebastian Boat Ramp
- Ocean Pier Master Plan
- Porpoise Point Access Ramp
- North Shores/Ron Parker Drainage study
- Vilano Floating Dock Expansion

FY26 New CIP Funding Requests



Funding Sources:

Impact Fees \$5,620,000 • TDT \$500,000

FY25/26 Personnel Requests

Central Sportsplex & Central Community Park

0079 – Recreation Supervisor (17)

0079 – Recreation Coordinator (14)

0080 – Parks Maintenance Supervisor (17)

0080 – Maintenance Parks Crew Leader (12)

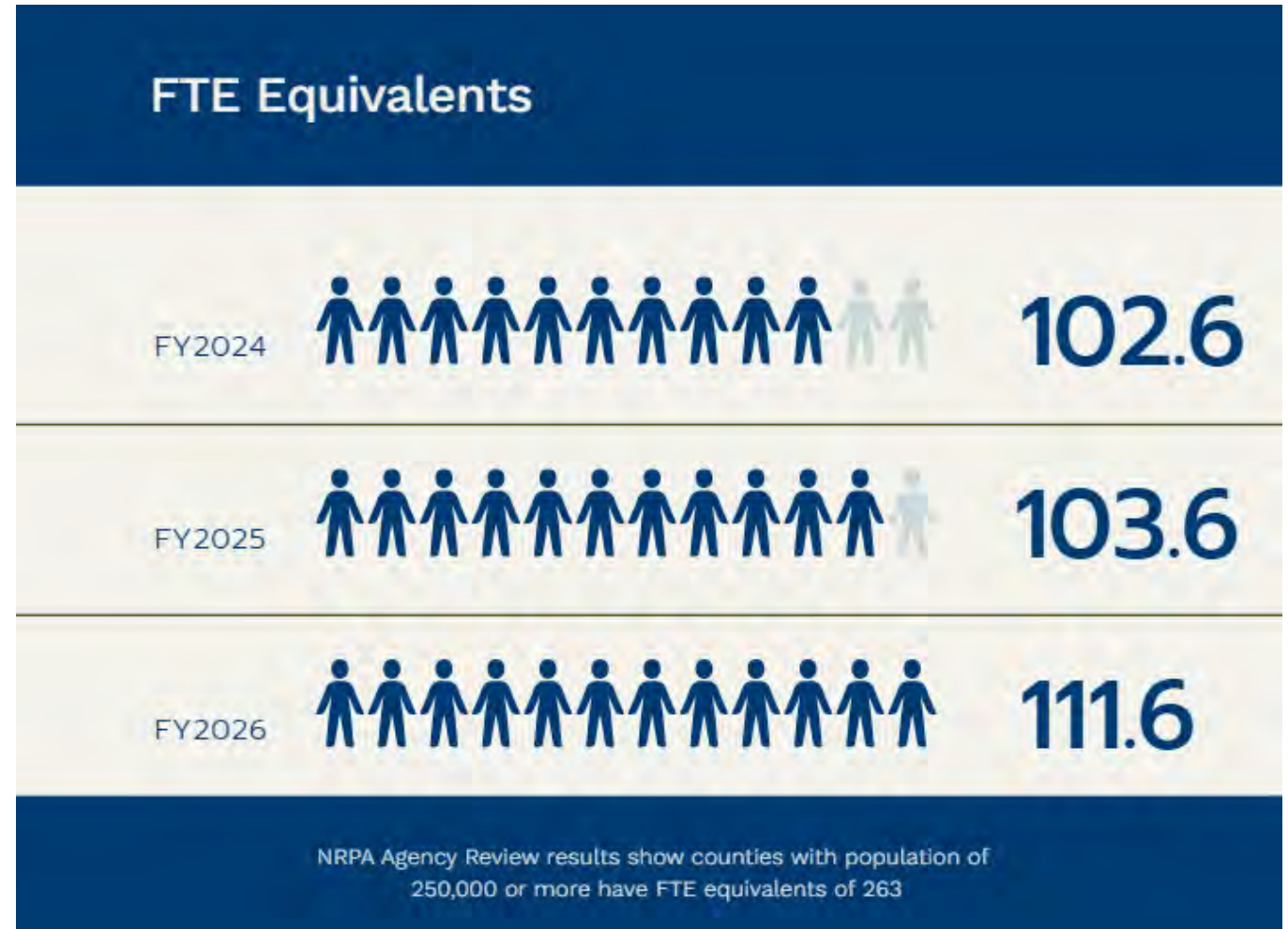
0080 – Maintenance Worker (8)

0080 – Maintenance Worker (8)

New Positions

0080 – Maintenance Worker (8)

1138 – Beach Toll Coordinator (14)



FY25/26 Reclass Requests

0079 – Recreation Assistant (9) to Recreation Coordinator (14)

This reclassification will ensure equity among staff, aligning and compensating with counterparts who perform the same level of work.

Impact \$4,558.59.

0079 – Part-Time Recreation Assistant (9) to Full-Time Recreation Assistant (9)

The need for this reclassification is driven by increased program demands, where additional staff hours are essential to maintain and expand our current level of service to the community. Upgrading this position to full-time will allow us to support new initiatives.

Impact \$19,921.41

0080 – Park Crew Leader (12) to Park Crew Leader (14)

This reclassification recognizes the position's key role in ensuring the safety, functionality, and appearance of our parks. Its combination of team leadership, technical skills, and environmental demands reflects responsibilities equal to or greater than those of the Maintenance Technician. Impact: \$79,309 (salary according to budget buddy)

1471 – Assistant Golf Professional (16) to Head Golf Professional (18)

The current staff member has assumed responsibilities that align closely with those of a Head Golf Professional, effectively leading the operational and administrative management of the golf course. Impact: \$6,396.60

Division Budgets

0079 Recreation Programming

0080 Park Maintenance

0089 Aquatics

1137 Beaches Operations

1138 Beach Tolls

1140 St. Johns County Fishing Pier

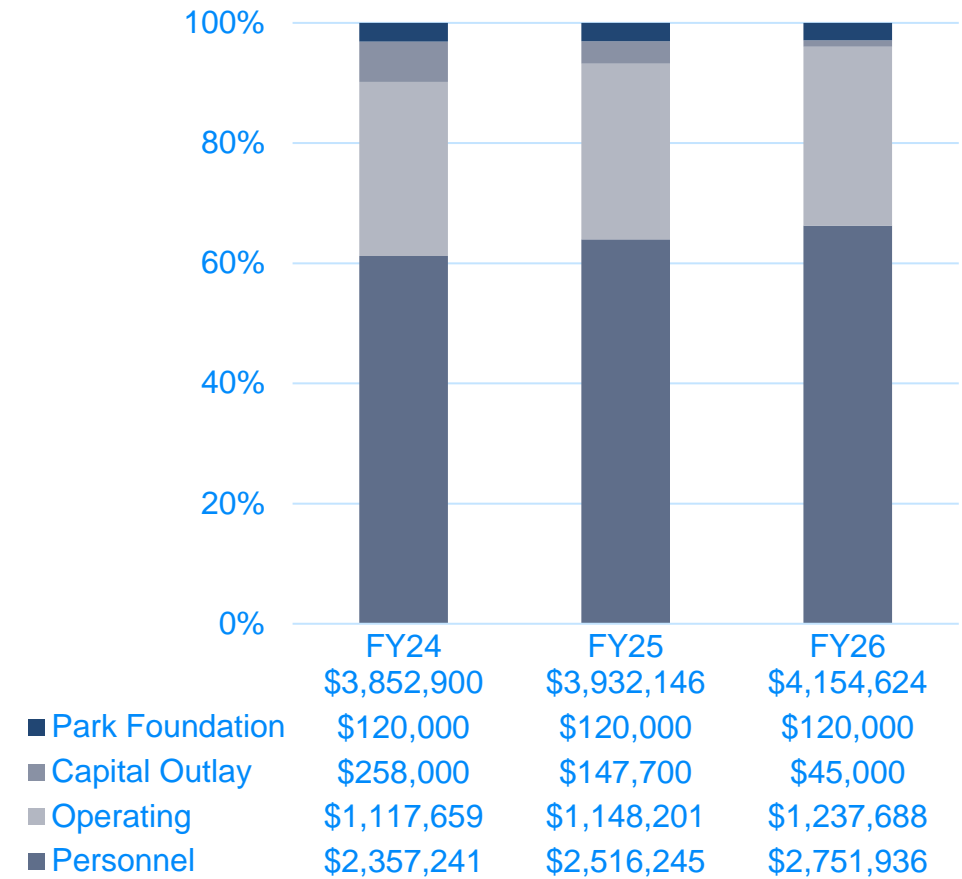
1471 St. Johns Golf Club



0079 Recreation Programming

Key Differences

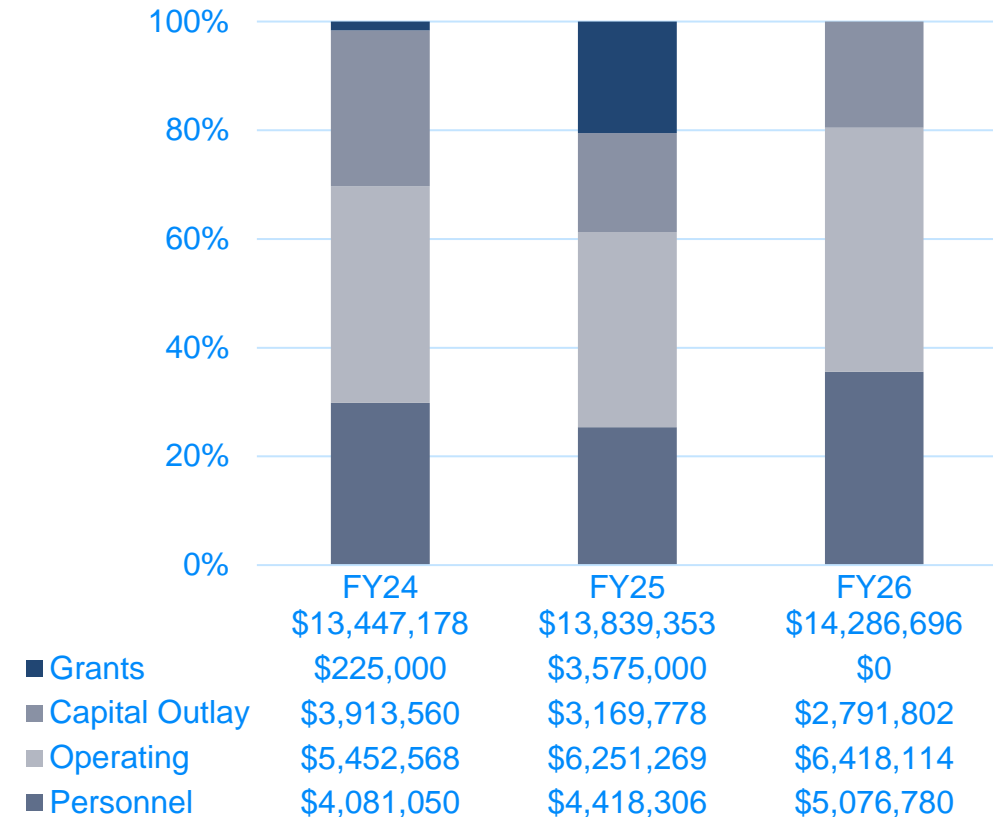
- Temp Employees are receiving a pay raise due to minimum wage increase
- Shearwater Central Community Center includes request for 2 FTE's



0080 Recreation Maintenance

Key Differences

- Increases in cost of Contractual Services, Refuse, and Utilities
- Sportsplex and Shearwater Parks request includes 4 FTE's and initial equipment
- Park Maximization program
 - \$500,000 for Trails
 - \$250,000 for Dredging
 - \$750,000 Park Improvements
 - \$250,000 Safety ADA
- Park Replace Renewal and Repair program Increase of \$187,000
 - \$300,000 Treaty Park Skate Park – new responsibility
 - \$250,000 Field of Dreams Artificial Turf – new responsibility

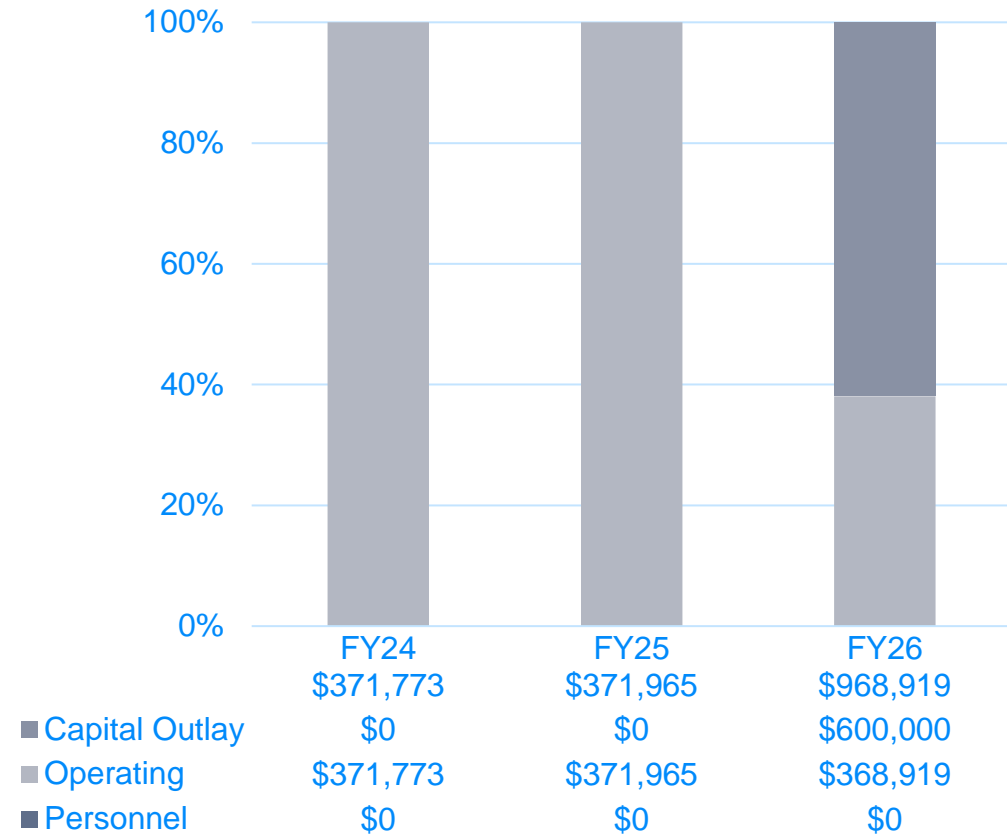


* Grants are excluded from total budget amount

0089 Aquatics

Overview

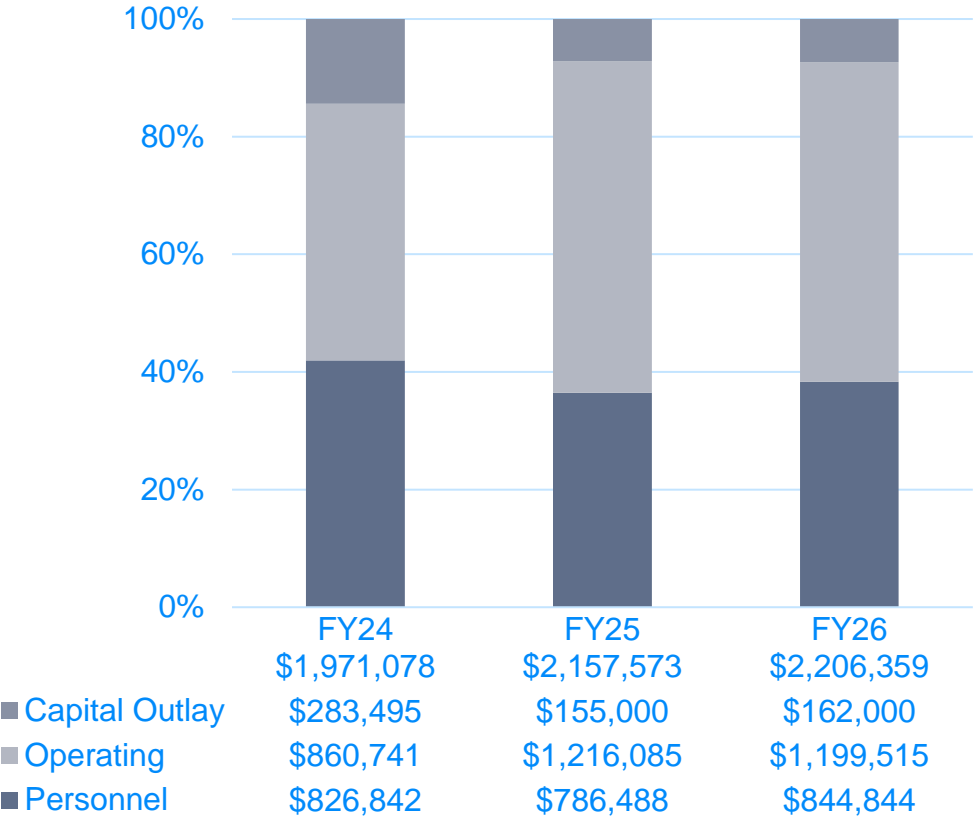
- Fy26 request is to Reshell the Pool



1137 Beaches

Key Differences Beaches

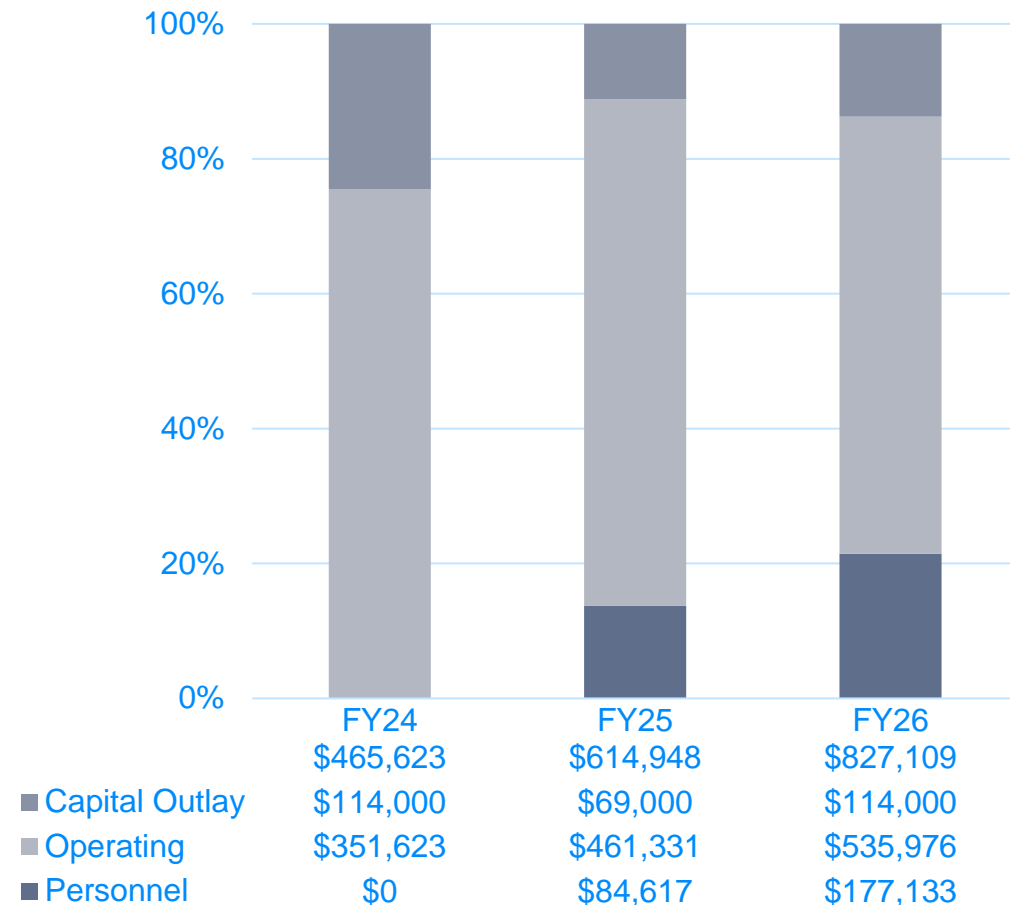
- Temp Employees are receiving a pay raise due to minimum wage increase



1138 Beach Tolls

Key Differences Tolls

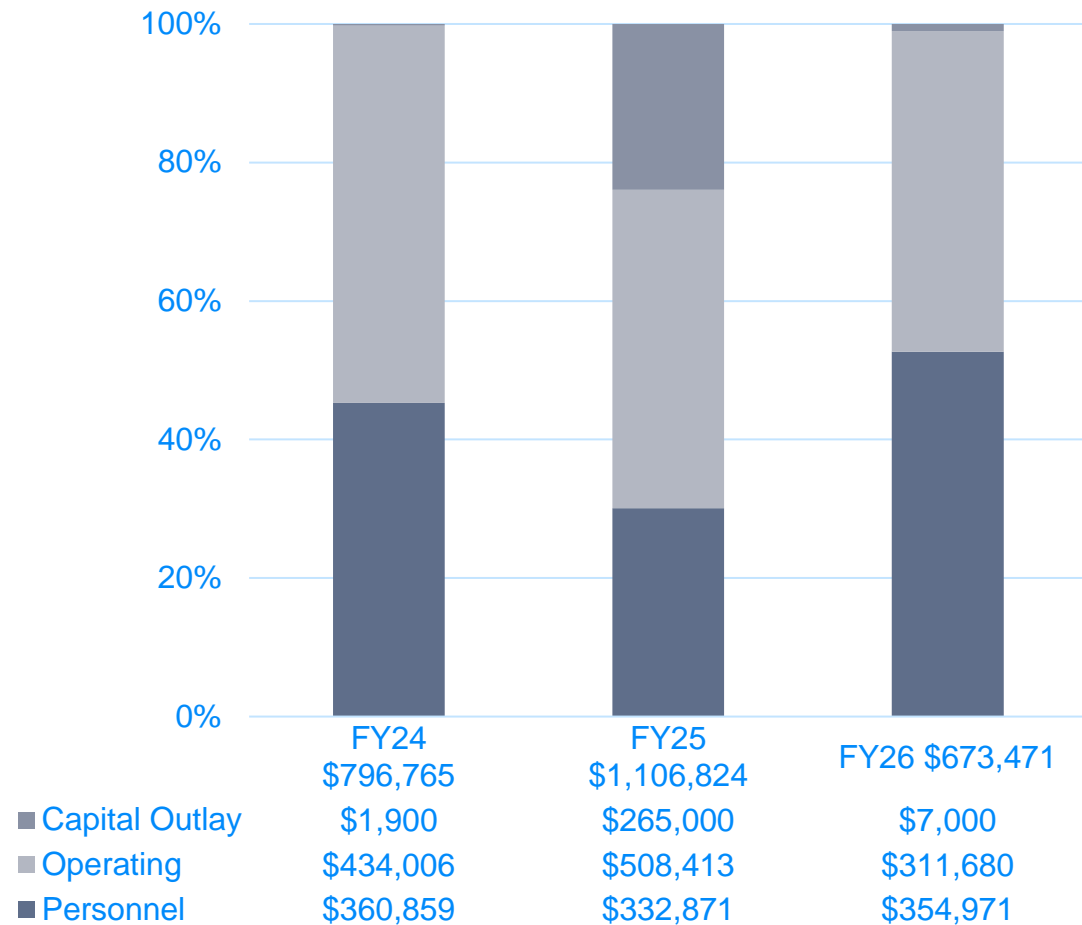
- Temp Employees are receiving a pay raise due to a minimum wage increase
- \$30,000 Temp Staff training program for new POS devices
- Utilize Point of Sale Devices to accept credit cards for beach passes
- Includes 1 FTE of a Beach Toll Coordinator



1140 St. Johns County Fishing Pier

Key Differences

- Completed interior renovation
- Electrical project that included upgrading outlets and sea turtle-approved parking lot lights



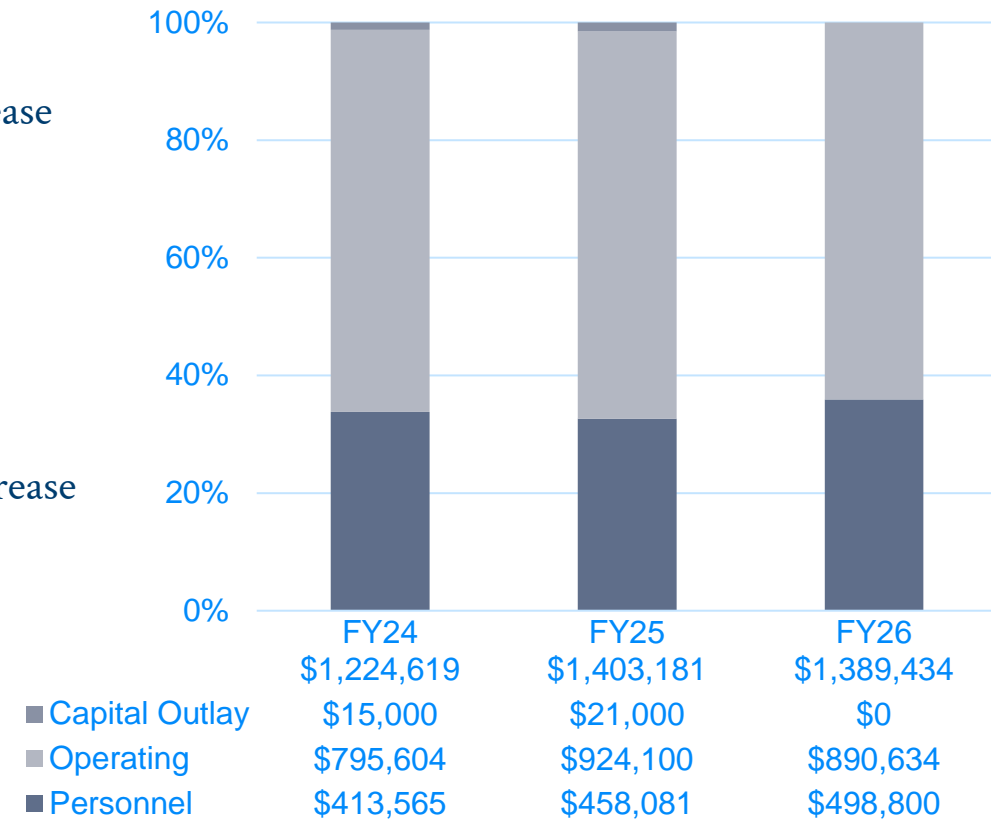
1471 Golf Admin & 1472 Carts

1471 Key Differences Golf Admin

- Temp Employees are receiving a pay raise due to minimum wage increase
- \$85,000 in Building Maintenance – patch, sand, coat metal beams at Maintenance Shop

1472 Key Differences Golf Carts

- Temp Employees are receiving a pay raise due to minimum wage increase
- FY24 Budget: \$285,819
- FY25 Budget: \$302,730
- FY26 Budget: \$245,659 – decrease in temp staffing dollars



*Combined 1471 and 1472 budgets

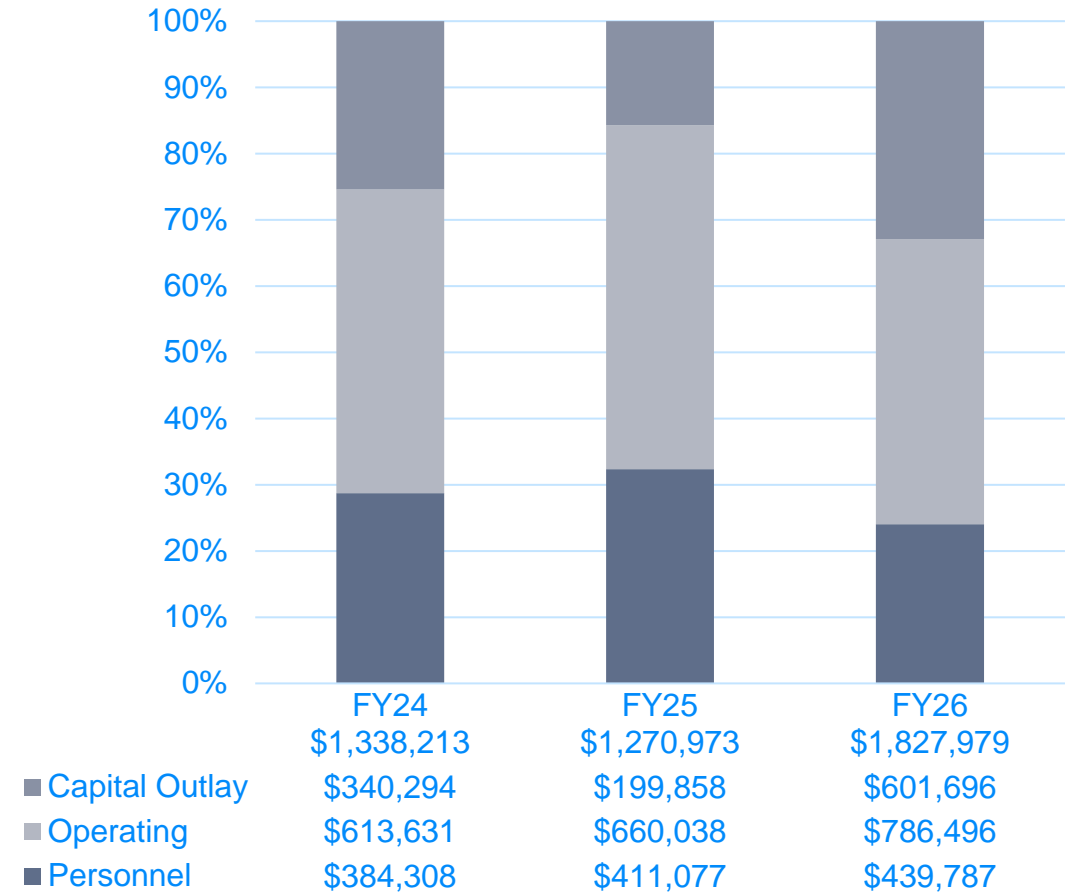
1473 Golf Maintenance

Key Differences

- Temp Employees are receiving a pay raise due to minimum wage increase

Capital Outlay Requests

- \$200,000 Bunker Face Grass Replacement
- \$135,000 for collapsed golf paths
- \$15,000 for drainage repairs



Community Desire for Parks & Recreation

Programs and Attendance

- 65,000 rounds of golf
- 78,000 Beach passes sold
- 86,000 Pier admissions
- 36,000 field rentals
- Hosted 300 programs and special events
- Summer Camp at full capacity

Park Program Survey Responses:

- “SJC Parks and Rec is the BEST! A real asset to the community!”
- “We love all the programs St. Johns County Parks and Recreation department offers! It is a great asset for the people living here.”
- “This is a major benefit to all the children in St Johns County wishing to participate.”

