



Advocating For Our Community

PARCELS FROM *Paradise*

KEEPING VENETIAN RESIDENTS CONNECTED...

Published by the VGRCCA as a service to our members and residents of the Venetian Golf and River Club.

SEPTEMBER 2024

Parcels from Paradise is the monthly publication of the VGRC Community Association. We thank those members who provide the financial resources for the costs associated with its publication. If you are reading this edition and are not a member of the Community Association, we would hope you would consider being one of the many members who financially supports its production.

INTRODUCTION: *Founded in 1920, The NFL begins its season in early September. With the opening game, many questions emerge. Will the Chiefs be a three-peat? Will NY Jets' Aaron Rodgers make it through the season without injury. Will the Patriots return as a NFL powerhouse even though they are Brady-less? Will Bengals' QB Joe Burrow make a certain VGRC resident proud. And finally, will the Pastor at your church cut his sermon short so you can make it to kickoff. The NFL is an American tradition. Enjoy the season!*

KICKOFF

Community Association Moves Technically Forward

The VGRCCA recently created a QR code to allow our residents to link to the organization's website with just their camera. To use the QR code, aim your device's camera at the code, click on the link and quickly you will be on www.vgrcca.org.

And do you know what "QR" stands for? The answer is at the bottom of this page.



Annual Candidate Forum

For over a decade, the Community Association has hosted a well-attended Candidate Forum open to all residents. Even during the Covid era, the Candidate Forum took place but without a live audience. This year's Candidate Forum will be held on October 7th beginning at 10:00 am.

The Forum will feature two races: one for Venice City Council, the other for our CDD. The Forum schedule is as follows:

- Venice City Council Seat 3 at 10:00 am
- Venice City Council Seat 4 at 11:00 am
- Venetian CDD Seat 3 at 1:00 pm
- Venetian CDD Seat 5 at 2:00 pm

As you can see, we have divided up the races by time. Therefore, you can choose which sessions you desire to attend. Once a session begins, we ask that audience members do not enter the dining room area. As you will note, there will be an appropriate break between sessions. Over the years, we have used various formats for this event. The one that appears to work well is where we focus on the key issues that the candidate will face if elected. We provide the same question to each candidate. Questions are provided by a moderator. If you have a suggestion for a question that will be given to both candidates, please send it to vgrcca@gmail.com no later than Wednesday, September 18th. Please put in the subject matter "Question for Candidate Forum". A small team from the Community Association will consider all suggested questions and develop the final version.

The Candidate Forum will be taped and placed on YouTube within 48 hours after the Forum has been completed. The link to YouTube will be placed on the Community Association's website at www.vgrcca.org (or use your QR code).

We look forward to another professionally run, well attended and comprehensive Candidate Forum.

QR code.....the code stands for "Quick Response"

This edition of Parcels has been financially supported by Dr. Steve & Marcia Hefler, proud residents of the VGRC since 2016.

Time To Put Your Socks On

As you may recall, we titled our full list of seminars and events last year “Knock Your Socks Off”. This colorful brochure was well received by our residents. Soon you will see Knock Your Socks Off II in your email. Pretty good stuff!!!



Election Information

There are articles on the website that relate to the recent August elections and the upcoming November elections. The first article lists the results of the August primaries. Most attention was directed to the Sarasota School Board of Education election. The second article contains information from Supervisor of Election, Ron Turner, about all you need to know as a voter for the November elections. Please note that on the November ballot you will see our own CDD elections. Voting for candidates to serve on the Venetian CDD Board is reserved for only Florida registered voters. Therefore, if you are not registered as a voter in Florida, you cannot participate in the CDD elections, even though the CDD serves the entire community.

Hurricane Season Continues: September Lookout

We are now into that time of the year when the threat becomes greater for tropical storms and hurricanes. September can be the most active of months for severe storms. We can all recall the more recent hurricanes that made landfall in Florida in September; namely Irma, (cat 4) on Sept. 10, 2017; and Ian (Cat. 4) on Sept. 28, 2022. It is important to continue to remain aware of what is happening weather-wise in the Atlantic and the Caribbean and to continue to be hurricane prepared. You may recall that the Hurricane Corner (<https://vgrcca.org/hurricane-corner>) offers helpful information in hurricane preparedness. The Hurricane Response Team and Ray Juan, the General Manager of POA Property Management, will communicate through the community email should there be a threat of a hurricane. Remember our suggested motto: Don't Panic: Be Prepared.



2nd QUARTER

Thinking about Her...and Her Mom

A few years ago, one of the VGRCCA events featured a great American Astronaut, Sunita “Suni” Williams. Suni is also the proud daughter of one of our fine residents. Today Suni is in the news as one of the two NASA astronauts who have remained on board the International Space Station since the beginning of June. Her expected return will be no earlier than February 2025. We are certainly thinking about Astronaut Williams in our daily thoughts and prayers and looking forward to her safe return to earth to rejoin her family, especially her wonderful mom!



Tightening the Belt

Like any strong organization, leadership must occasionally put their finances under the microscope to determine how they can be even more cost effective. The Community Association did just that at their recent retreat in June in which all Board members participated. The Board is working on the following cost cutting and increasing revenue initiatives:

- Financial support from an advertiser for each edition of Parcels
- Voluntary donation requests from residents
- Encouraging our many new residents to join
- Voluntary donation requests at various seminars and events
- Soliciting an RFP for insurance coverage. we are paying annually approximately \$9,000 for insurance premiums
- Suspending the print version of Parcels from May – September that are placed at the River Club

Advertising in Parcels

As part of the VGRCCA's cost containment program, we are seeking advertisers for each edition of Parcels. The advertisement will be placed on the footer of each written page of Parcels. The first advertisement appears with this edition. Parcels is sent to approximately 2,100 email addresses and has a remarkable opening rate of approximately 85 percent per edition. The cost to advertise is \$99.00 per edition. No political ads are accepted but individual/family recognition or a business ad are acceptable. For more information or to express your interest, reply to vgrcca@gmail.com

Scoreboard

Have you been to the Wall of Something either as a viewer or as a "poster"? The Wall is a great source of information for just VGRC residents. Click on <https://vgrccawall.ning.com/>



HALFTIME

Music to my Ears

Strike up the.....Symphony. The Venice Symphony begins its 2024-25 season on **Friday October 11th with "A Symphonic Spooktacular."** The Symphony performs at the Venice Performing Arts Center located on the grounds of Venice High School. There are usually three concerts in a weekend series, with one being a Saturday matinee. The orchestra is led by the dynamic and audience-engaging Maestro, Troy Quinn. Once you attend, you will see why tickets go fast. For more information go to <https://www.thevenicesymphony.org/>. The Venice Symphony is just one of many cultural events we are fortunate to have in our fine city.



Friday Under the Lights

Friday night high school football, "under the lights," takes place in practically every community...urban, suburban, and rural... throughout the country. It's fun and part of Americana, especially with so many high school kids getting involved...the players, the cheerleaders, the drill team, the flag corps, the football trainers and managers, the marching band and we can't overlook a whole bunch of parents staffing the concession booth. Tickets are inexpensive and we're fortunate to have a high school football team in Venice that has a remarkable winning record. Looking for something to do on a Friday night...take in a wonderful high school game...it may also bring back some old memories.



3rd QUARTER

Northeast Park on Laurel Rd.

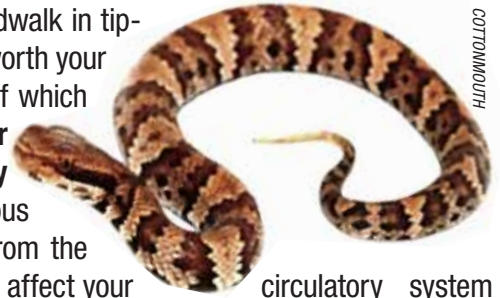
It's moving along...but not fast enough for our residents. The City took another step forward with the park at the August Planning Commission meeting with a unanimous approval of the projects. Two members of the Community Association spoke in favor of the park. Perhaps in December 2024, we will see the park under construction and the reality of pickleball courts, a dog park, a kid's playground and much more will become a long-awaited reality.

Remembering 9/11

We must never forget as we enter this month, the tragic September 11th, 2001, event where airplanes under the control of Al Qaeda terrorists crashed two airplanes into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in NYC, one airplane struck the Pentagon in Washington, DC and a fourth plane crashed in rural Pennsylvania during a passenger revolt. In total, almost 3,000 people were killed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Many recall where they were when news came out about the terrorist activity. In Venice's Patriots Park, just past the north bridge near the bypass, there stands a 2-ton steel beam from the World Trade Center wreckage on 9/11 and a piece of rubble from the attack on the Pentagon. May we never forget this horrible event in our history.

Know your Snakes!

We asked the outstanding resident who volunteers his time to keeping the Boardwalk in tip-top shape to tell us more about snakes that one may encounter on property. It's worth your time to go to YouTube TV and view "Top 6 venomous snakes in Florida" -- 3 of which can be found right here in our community. **Of the many snakes around our community, most are harmless but the 3 to keep an eye out for are pygmy rattlers, diamondbacks and cottonmouths.** Being able to identify venomous snakes is important for the safety of you, your family and pets. The venom from the majority of rattlesnake bites and other venomous snakes will damage tissue and affect your circulatory system by destroying skin tissues and blood cells and by causing you to hemorrhage internally. If tagged by a venomous snake, seek immediate medical attention but do not panic or run which will only spread the venom through your bloodstream faster. When you seek medical attention, you will probably be asked if you can identify the snake so as to better treat the bite and administer the appropriate anti-venom.



- Pygmy rattlers are generally not life-threatening to adults, but their bite can be very painful and cause serious injuries to children and small pets.
- Diamondbacks are the largest, most dangerous and most feared venomous Florida snake. A 6-foot diamondback can strike from a distance of 4 feet. A bite untreated can lead to organ failure and death.
- Cottonmouths, also known as water moccasins, are venomous pit vipers with a bite that is dangerous and potentially fatal.

Pygmy rattlers and diamondbacks have been spotted around our community and boardwalk. Cottonmouths have been spotted in and near the river, but river flood water can bring them inland. Rattle snakes will normally give a rattle to warn you when getting too close but if you are wearing ear buds you might not hear the warning. Keep your dog on a leash so you can pull your dog away from any snakes (many times dogs will attack a snake not knowing the danger). You can click on www.vgrcca.org or even use the QR code to see pictures of the above snakes to possibly download on your own phone.

Just to Keep You Up to Date

- Laurel Rd. Widening - No Significant News
- The Welcome Center at the VGRC - No Significant News
- Northeast Park - See previous article
- Shopping Center - Commission will hear the suggested stipulations most likely either this month or in October.
- Clean Up Laurel - A great way to help the VGRC. Report at 8:30 am to the front gate area on **Monday, September, September 16th**. We need willing volunteers to participate with this valuable project.

It looks like the horses at Fox Lea Equestrian Farm will have some new neighbors to the north. Cassata Oaks will contain 60 estate home properties on the southeast corner of Auburn and Border Roads. Approval was recently granted to the developer by the Venice Planning Commission.

It has been recently reported that a 122 room Hyatt Studios hotel will be built on Pinebrook across from the hospital and Currie Ln. Groundbreaking is about a year away.

Learning for All Ages

Many of us recently received a rather plain catalogue announcing the Adult and Community Enrichment Classes or ACE. If you browse through the catalogue you will see a long list of classes addressing the learning needs of adults. The cost for each class is minimal and many of the classes are short term. If you did not receive the catalogue, go to <https://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/o/ace>

FINAL QUARTER

The Game from the Press Box

In about all high school, college and pro football games, assistant coaches sit in the press box looking down on the field in order to get a different perspective of the game. They send information often to sideline coaches to aid in defensive and offensive strategy. The following article is from the perspective of looking at a certain situation from above.

For a moment, step back from all the controversy regarding land use and the role developers play in northeast Venice and focus for a moment on the many household dwellings which have been built or are on schedule to be built in northeast Venice. We have included at the end of Parcels an eye-opening map of the area that was distributed to residents attending the 2024 Community Association's Town Hall Meeting. Although we all have our opinions of developers, one thing we do know about their strategy is that they will attempt to build in an area where individuals or families will rent or buy. They come; we build. That business principle is surely self-evident in northeast Venice. Think about it. ...if you were planning to move to Florida, northeast Venice is a wonderful, quality of life site with its proximity to a variety of cultural opportunities, recreational sites including a new park, top rate medical services including an award-winning hospital, inviting climate most of the year, no state taxes, beaches in close proximity, all of which are located in an area basically free of many of the ills of an urban area. Trailing right behind the moving vans are businesses ready to serve the domestic migration. This area is especially ripe for business opportunities, especially retail, partially due to the income level of those renting or purchasing a home.

The challenges northeast Venice is facing are not geared to only this area. It is spreading to other cities like Ft. Myers and Naples and Sarasota's adjoining county of Manatee. The Herald recently ran a story that Manatee County has approved a housing community of 6,000 residences spreading across the county.

How "the game" will end is to be seen. Will there be an economic downturn as there was previously slowing down the building efforts? Will local officials listen to many of the community members to retard the growth? Will state legislators enact new laws and regulations to control this massive Florida building effort? Will the migration to the Sunshine State slow down? What is certain in the coming years for those in northeast Venice and Sarasota County is that the view from the "press box" as we know it today will most likely be quite different.



“Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much”
~ H. Keller



Membership Enrollment Form

Your Venetian Golf and River Club Community Association membership demonstrates the value you place on living in this community. For more information, visit our informative website, www.vgrcca.org

Your membership will provide the necessary financial support providing for the:

- Publication of the monthly Parcels from Paradise distributed to all Venetian households
- Continuation of the Hurricane Response Team, activated during an approaching hurricane
- Support for the Wall of Something, an electronic messaging board for members
- Scheduling of exciting seminars and events including Shredfest, Bike-O-Rama, CPR training and a host of presentations made by local experts

Quick Facts about the VGRCCA:

- Formed in 2008, the Community Association has a long and successful record of community engagement
- Managed by a volunteer Board of up to 11 members
- A history of approximately 60-70% of the Venetian residents who join
- Board meetings once a month, open to residents and accessible on Zoom
- Strong emphasis on communications to residents

There are two ways to join:

1. On-line at <http://www.vgrcca.org/membership>
We accept credit cards and use Pay Pal as our secure server.
2. Write a check, payable to **VGRC Community Association** and mail with this form to:
Treasurer
230 Padova Way
North Venice, FL 34275

Membership Dues Per Household

(Please Check Appropriate Line):

SIGN UP

TERM DUES

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Three Years (best deal) | \$70 (\$20 discount) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Two Years | \$50 (\$10 discount) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One Year | \$30 |

MEMBER INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT AND PROVIDE ALL INFORMATION):

NAME: _____

PREFERRED TELEPHONE #: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

ADDITIONAL NAME: _____

PREFERRED TELEPHONE #: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

VENETIAN ADDRESS: _____

OTHER MAILING ADDRESS: _____

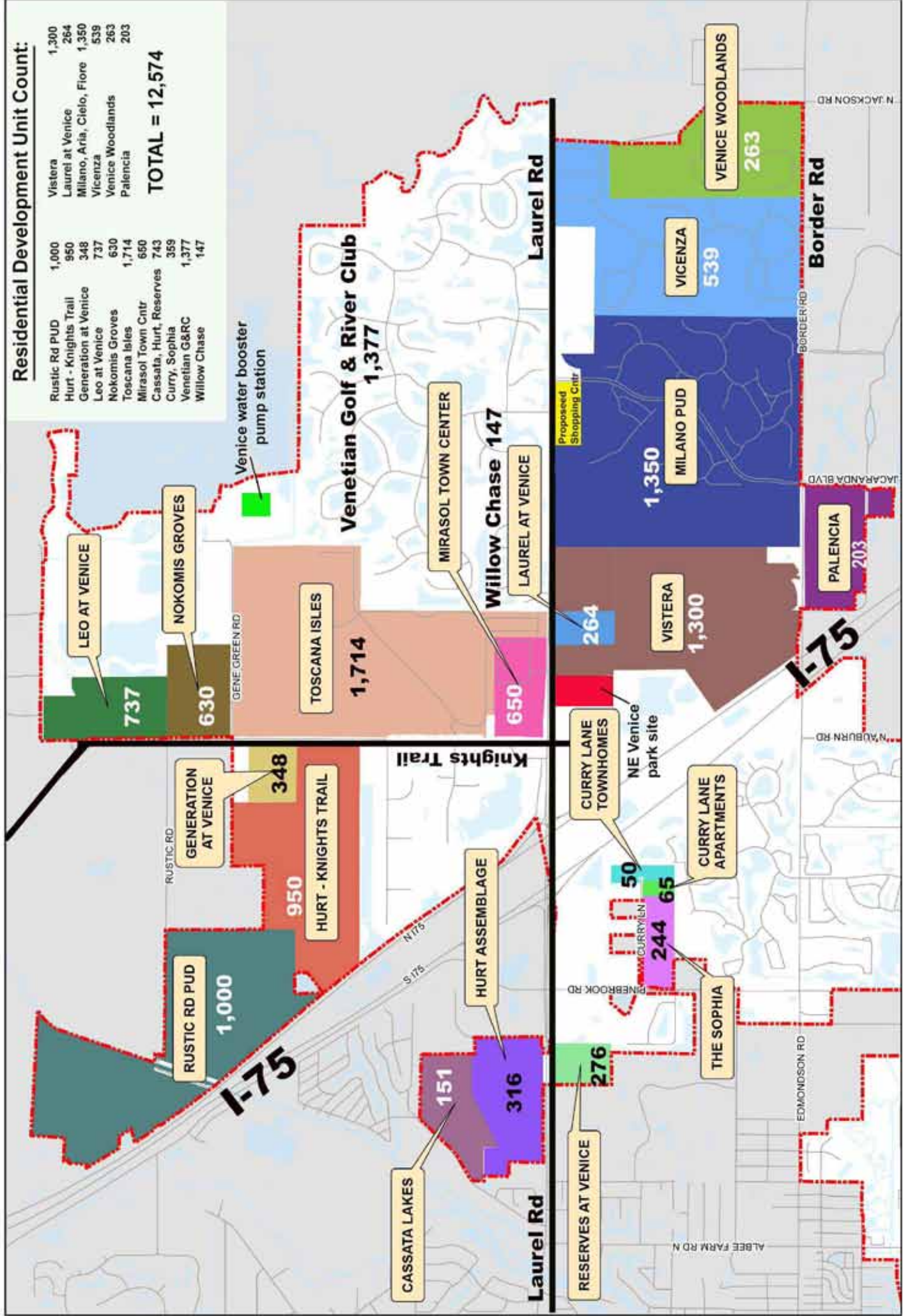


Northeast Venice Development Locations

Planning and Zoning Department

March 2024

Date: 3/6/2024 Document Path: K:\Planning and Zoning\Development Analysis\Development Locations.mxd



Residential Development Unit Count:

Rustic Rd PUD	1,000	Vistara	1,300
Hurt - Knights Trail	950	Laurel at Venice	264
Generation at Venice	348	Milano, Aria, Cielo, Fiore	1,350
Leo at Venice	737	Vicenza	539
Nokomis Groves	630	Venice Woodlands	263
Toscana Isles	1,714	Palencia	203
Mirasol Town Cntr	650		
Cassata, Hurt, Reserves	743		
Curry, Sophia	359		
Venetian G&RC	1,377		
Willow Chase	147		
TOTAL	= 12,574		

Venice water booster pump station

Proposed Shopping Cntr

NE Venice park site