PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Long Key Natural Area and Nature Center - January 5, 2024

A Little History:

Archaeology, history and ecology converge at Long Key Natural Area and Nature Center. The 170-acre site encompasses a large portion of what was once an island surrounded by the Everglades. Long Key hosts one of the oldest and largest intact hardwood hammocks in Broward County, and serves as an important refuge for native plants and wildlife. In addition to its ecological importance, Long Key also features a diverse and interesting historical past. Native Americans utilized the site for habitation for thousands of years prior to the arrival of Europeans in Florida. After the draining of the Everglades, settlers moved into the area around Long Key establishing cattle ranches, plant nurseries and orange groves. In the 1960's a wild west theme park called Pioneer City was built on the site, and in the 1970's and 1980's the site was home to the renowned Kapok Tree Inn Restaurant. The County then purchased the property and the nature center opened in 2008 and features an exhibit hall which outlines the site's importance as an archaeological, historical and ecological preserve. The building also houses a large rental hall and classroom. There are a variety of paved, primitive and multiuse trails throughout the site that allow patrons to enjoy the beauty of this urban oasis.



Acquisition:

The property was purchased with funds from the 1990 Environmentally Sensitive Land Bond Program and the nature center was built using funds from the 2000 Safe Parks and Land Preservation Bond Program. The site opened to the public in March 2008.

Status:

Long Key is well-known for the diversity of its birds, butterflies, moths, and other wildlife. The site is a popular destination for those wishing to unwind in nature, photograph wildlife, learn about the environment and utilize the trails for exercise. The Oak Hammock Hall is a sought-after wedding venue, but is also utilized for other types of parties, school concerts, corporate retreats, and government meetings. The environmental educators at Long Key offer public programming and volunteer opportunities for all ages throughout the year, including night hikes, scout programs, field trips and corporate workdays. The Friends of Long Key (F.O.L.K), a nonprofit friend's group, supports Long Key by volunteering their time and hosting special events.



Quick Facts:

- Park staff consists of 1 Park Manager, 1 Part-time Park Manager Associate, 1 Park Supervisor, 1 Park Naturalist, 1 Office Support Specialist, 1 Natural Resource Control Worker, 3 Full-time Park Aides, and 4 Part-time Park Aides.
- Rentals at Long Key in FY 2023 - 114 events
- Special Events at Long Key in FY 2023 – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Stakeholder Public Meeting, Broward Crime Commission Conference, South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils Joint Meeting, Commissioner Geller District 5 Roundtable Meetings, Broward County Parks Annual Meeting, Town of Davie Goal-setting Workshop, Broward Victims' Rights Coalition Annual Vigil, Special Populations Bowling Banquet, Everglades-Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area Conference, and FWC Python Challenge Awards Ceremony
- Park attendance in FY 2023 was 48,989 visitors
- Program attendance in FY 2023 was 3,688 participants
- FY 2023 Long Key provided the following educational programs and events: 10 Naturalist Led Night Hikes, 8 Nature Crafts for Families programs, 1 Photography Workshop and 5 Photo Walks, 13 Preschool Nature programs, 1 Beginning Birding program, 6 Fun Friday programs, 8 Free Guided Hikes, 2 Nature Journaling programs, 2 Owl Prowls, 2 Sunset Adventure Hikes, 1 Walk through Time program, 8 Environmental Organization Monthly Meetings, 1 Senior Program for the Southwest Focal Point Center, the FOLK Photo Contest and Reception, 1 Teddy Bear Picnic, a FOLK and Long Key Photo and Art display at Studio 18 in Pembroke Pines, Everglades Birding Festival Opening Reception and Presentation, National Moth Week, Butterfly Day, 7 EcoAction Days, National Public Lands Day, Family Volunteer Day, Publix Serves Corporate Workday, Pinecrest School Classroom without Walls Workday and Sagemont School Make a Difference Workday.



Recent Improvements:

- Addition of the Kapok Memory Garden area
- Acquisition of Aitken Property in 2020
- Resurfacing of the main parking lot
- Installation of security cameras at the gates and additional cameras at Maintenance
- Painting of the building exterior



Upcoming Improvements:

- Nature Center A/V upgrades
- Nature Center exterior refurbishment
- New drinking fountain with water bottle filler
- Artist in Residence program
- Replanting and repair at the *Island Garden* public artwork

PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION

PLANNING AND DESIGN SECTION

PROJECT UPDATE

January 2024

Improving Quality of Life One Park at a Time.


Everglades Holiday Park Site Improvements


Miramar Pineland Nature Center


Snake Warrior's Island Welcome Center

BOND FUNDED PROJECTS

Miramar Pineland Nature Center

Project description:
New nature center and office

Location: 3600 S. University Dr., Miramar

Estimated cost: $2,900,000

Design start date: Feb. 2018
Design end date: June 2019

Construction start date: July 2020
Construction end date: Nov. 2021

Project Manager: Nadine Levy
and Mauricio Sigal

Design Consultant: SRS Architects
Contractor: Shiff Construction
and Development

Status:
COMPLETE







Everglades Holiday Park Improvements

Project description:

Development and reconstruction of docks, ramps, parking, minor buildings, site lighting, and infrastructure

Location: 21940 Griffin Rd., Southwest Ranches

Estimated cost: $11,300,000

Design start date: April 2014

Construction end date: Jan. 2022

Project Manager: Martin Gross and Mauricio Sigal

Design Consultant: Keith & Associates

Contractor: MBR Construction

Status:

COMPLETE.









Snake Warrior's Island Nature Area Improvements

Project description:
Development of welcome center with restroom and a small office space.

Location: 3600 SW 62nd Ave., Miramar

Estimated cost: $420,000

Design start date: July 2018
Design end date: July 2019

Construction start date: Dec. 2021
Construction end date: April 2023

Project Manager: Nadine Levy

Design Consultant: Parks P&D Staff/Thompson & Assoc.
Contractor: ENCO, LLC

Status:
COMPLETE.







Anne Kolb Nature Center at West Lake Park

- Exhibits and Aquarium

Project description:

(**A**) Replacement of the nature center exhibits and

(**B**) demolition and reconstruction of a new aquarium and associated improvements

Location: 751 Sheridan St., Hollywood

Estimated cost: $700,000

Design start date: May 2020

Construction end date: Dec 2023

Project Manager: Michael Goodman

Design Consultant: Parks P&D Staff

Contractor: Parks Maintenance Group (PMG) and others

Status:

COMPLETE









Tradewinds Park Educational Farm & Gardens

Project description:

Phase I- Underground utilities;

Phase II- Roadway and parking facilities;

Phase III- Redevelop farm area to include new barn, welcome center, Open Venue, shelters, water feature, play ground, and associated support facilities.

Location: 3601 W. Sample Rd., Coconut Creek

Estimated cost: $28,500,000

Design start date: May 2018
Construction end date: December 2025

Project Manager: Amanda Simmens and Mauricio Sigal
Design Consultant: multiple resources

Contractor: multiple contractors

Status:

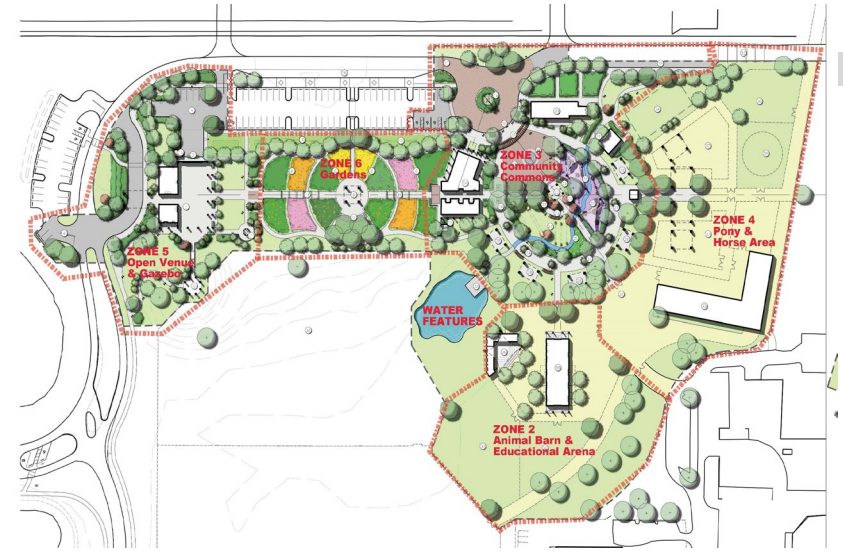
Phase I: Construction is in progress. Completion by 02/2024

Phase II: Construction is in progress., Completion by 02/2024

Phase III: **Construction contract award delayed by Bid Protest**.

Public Art : Artwork installed.











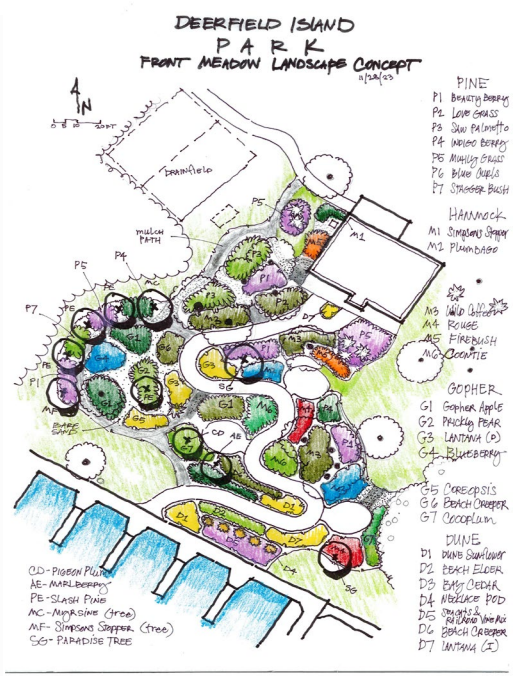
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION

PLANNING AND DESIGN SECTION

Improving Quality of Life One Park at a Time.

OTHER PROJECTS





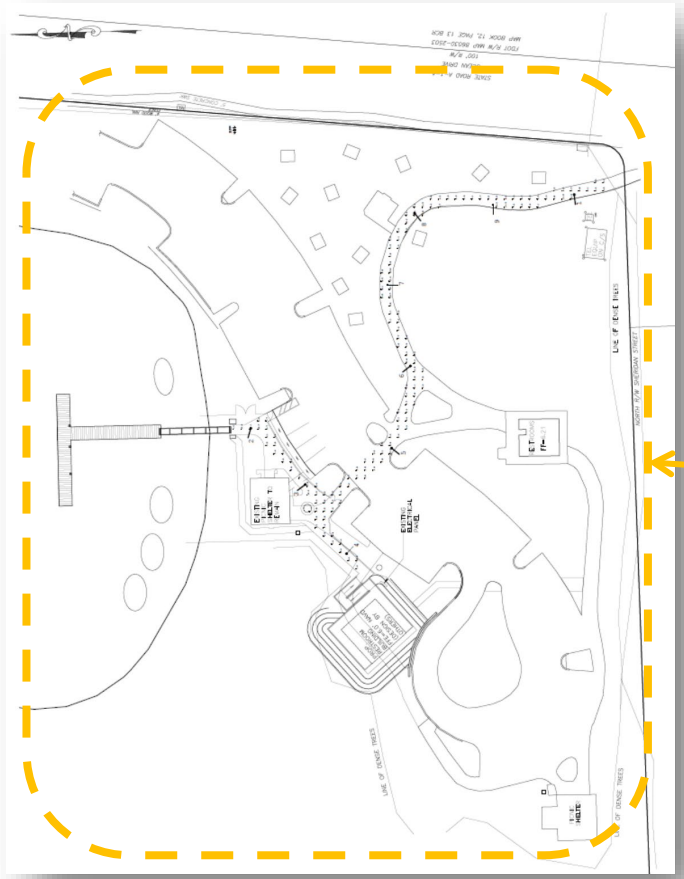


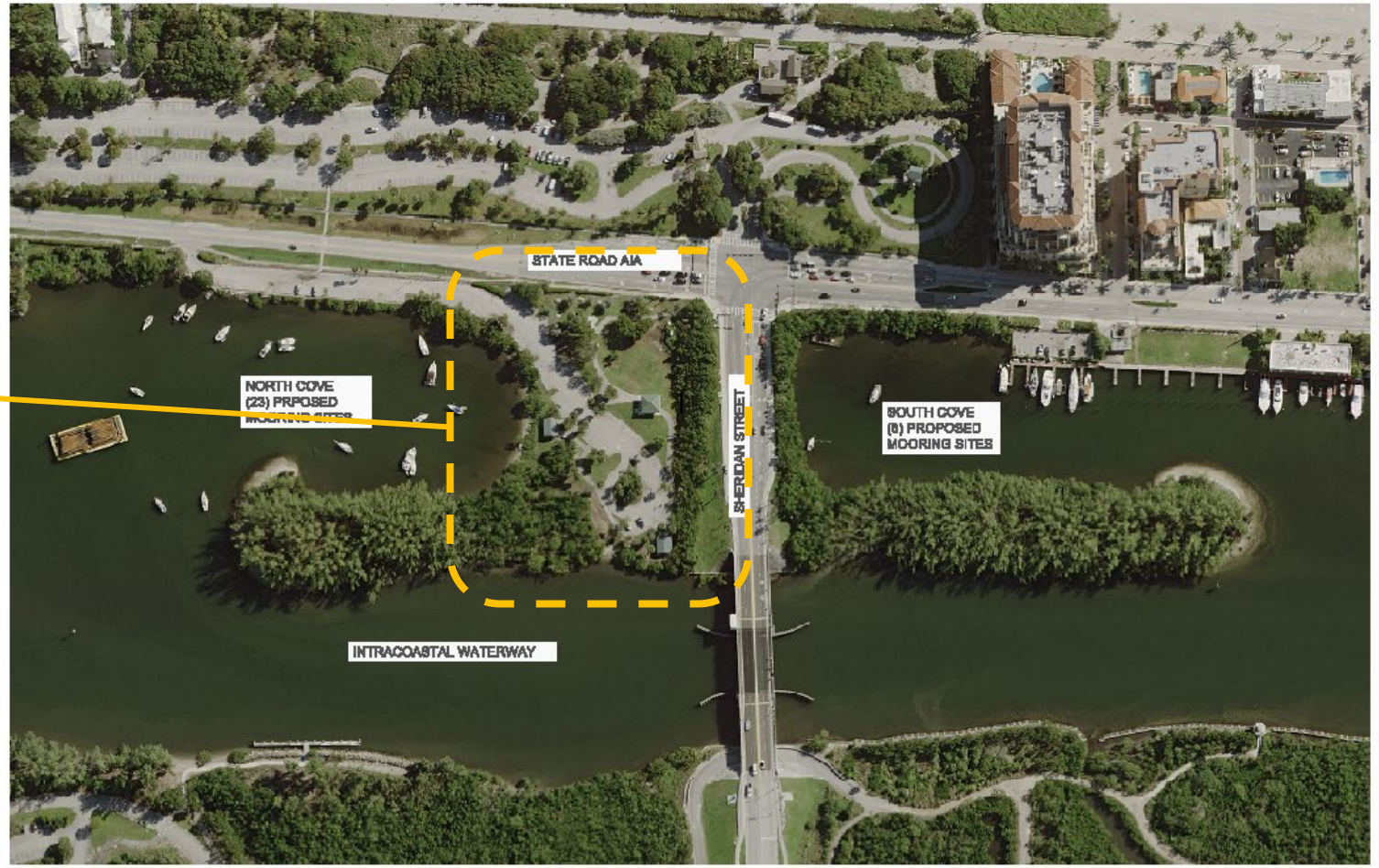


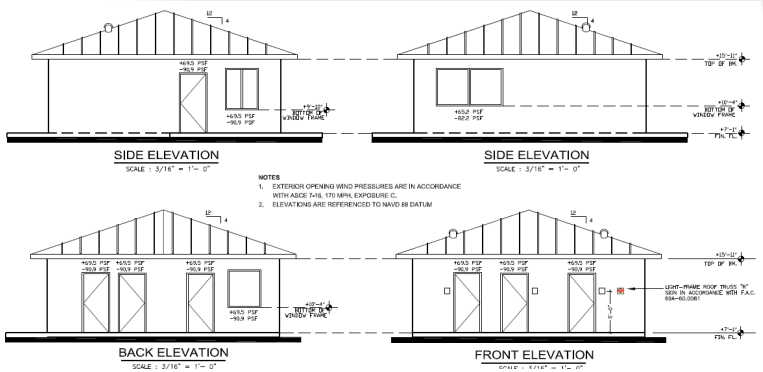


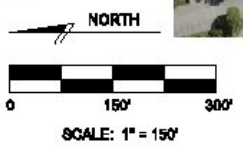
- Replacement Septic Tank system – Completed
- Creation/Expansion of Butterfly Garden - underway
- Upgraded Boardwalks – underway
- New ADA walkways from Docks to Existing Ranger Station – underway
- Interior and Exterior Improvements to Existing Ranger Station – upcoming
- Interior and Exterior improvements to Existing Restroom – upcoming

DEERFIELD ISLAND PARK – Site and Building Improvements



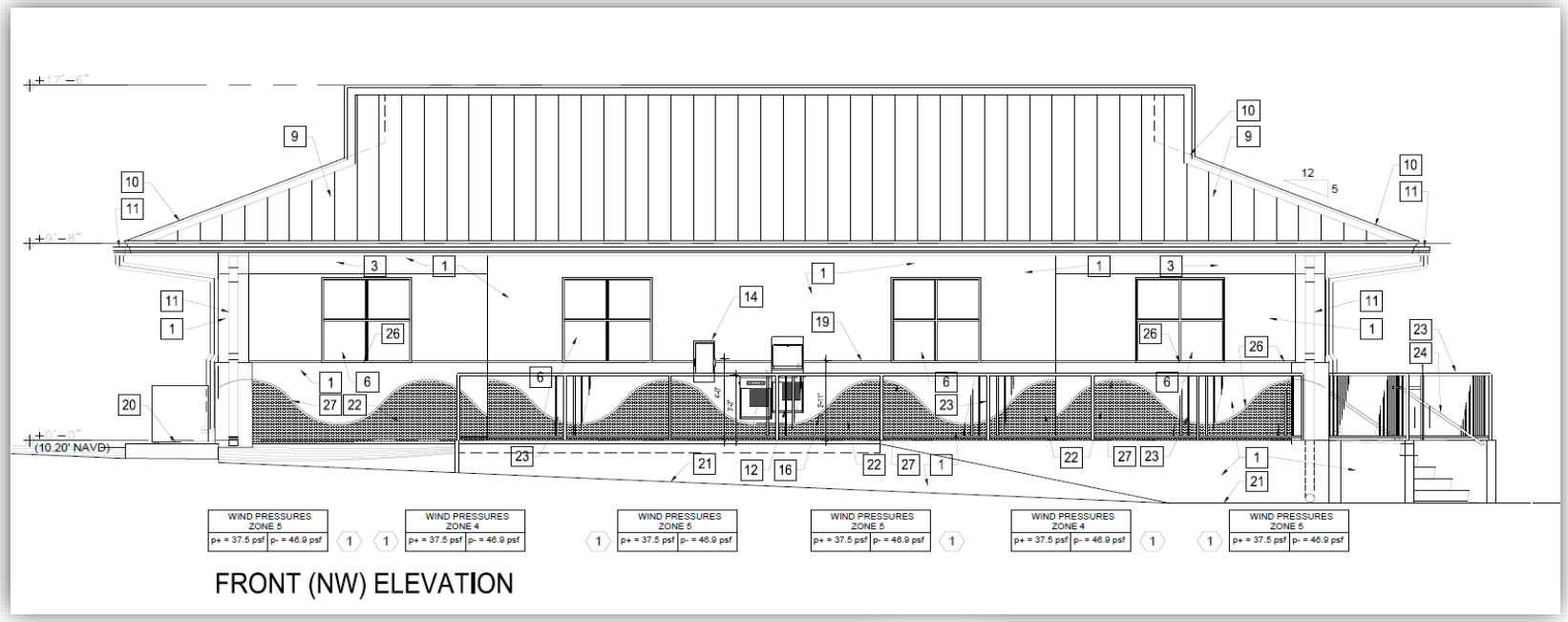




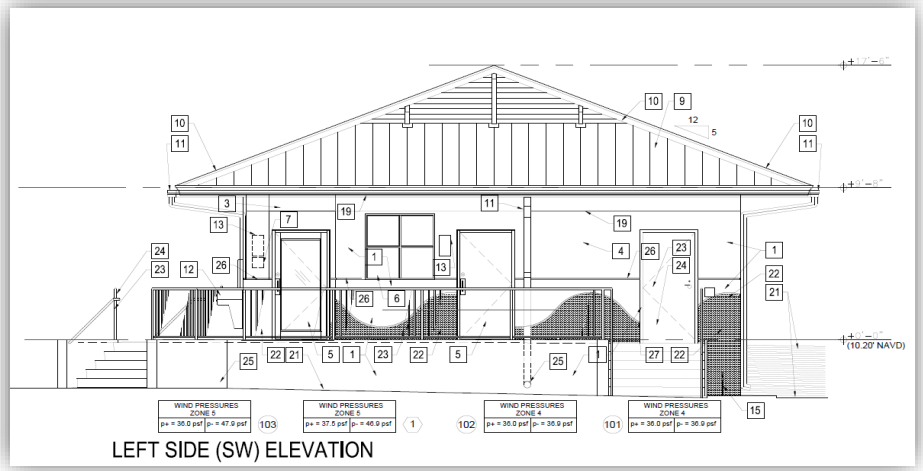


HOLLYWOOD NORTH BEACH PARK
MOORING FIELDS AREAS

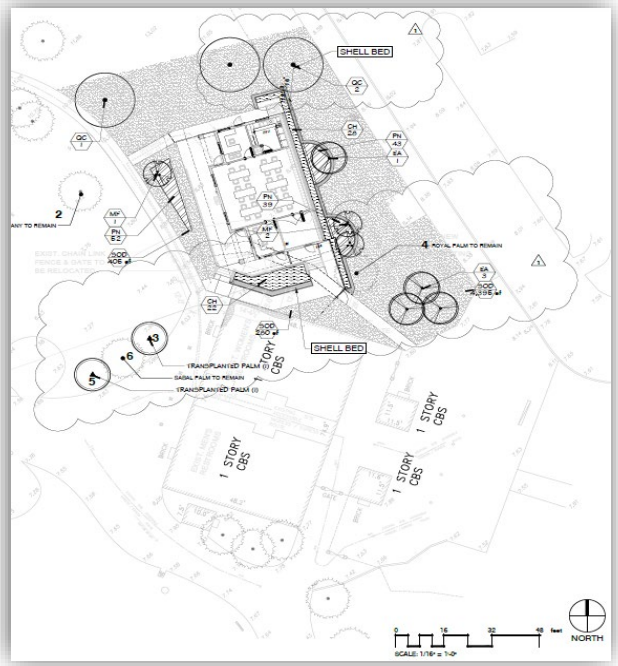
- New 800 sf Restroom & Laundry Building
- New Floating Dock area
- 20+ new vessel mooring sites
- **Project Bid. Awaiting Contract Award**



FRONT (NW) ELEVATION



LEFT SIDE (SW) ELEVATION



CB SMITH PARK AQUATICS BUILDING – Construction Contract
Awarded. Awaiting Permit issuance.

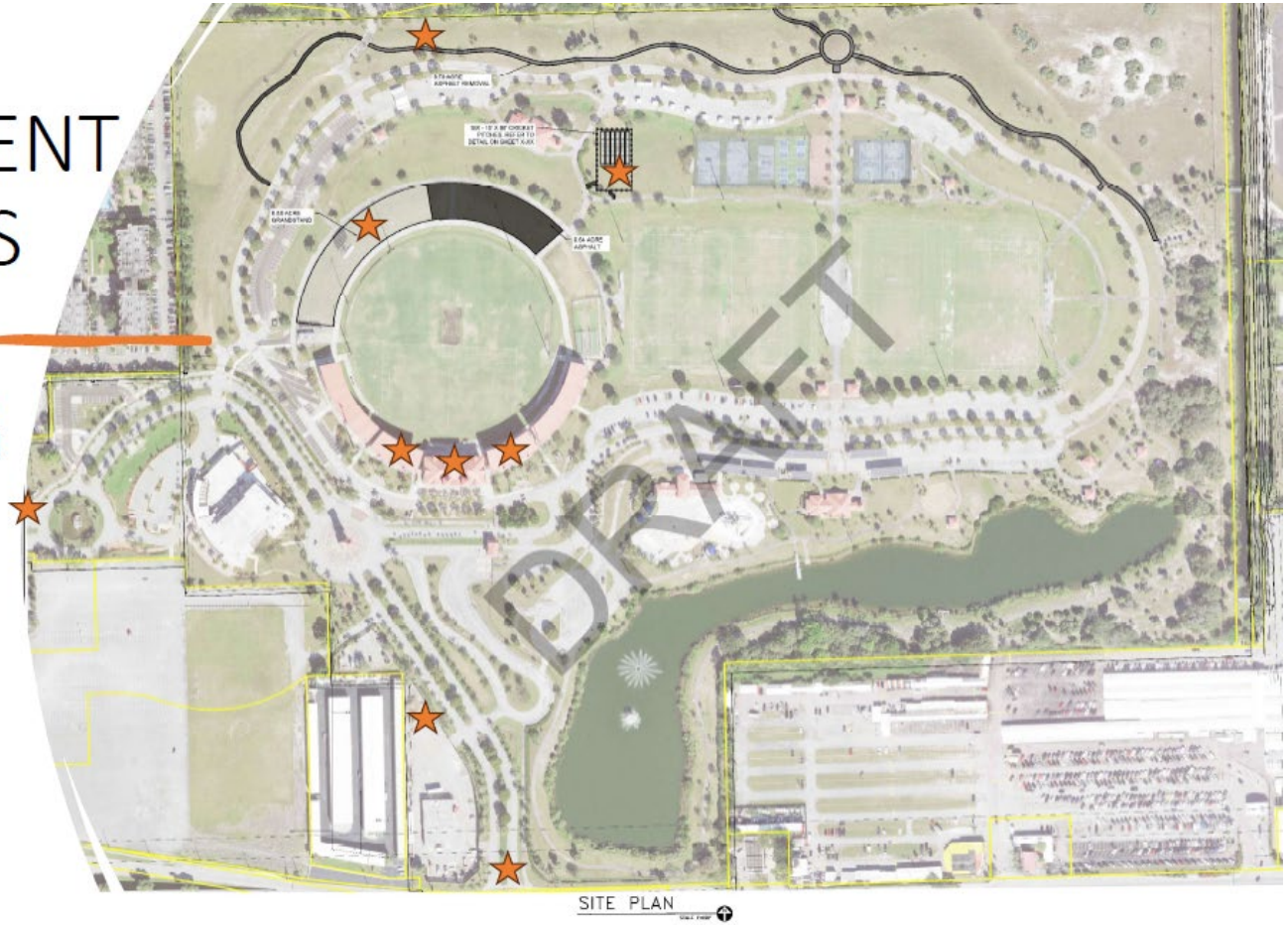
- New 1500 sf building with assembly/break room space for Park staff
- Building elevated to meet 100yr Future Conditions Flood Map

CENTRAL BROWARD REGIONAL PARK AND BROWARD COUNTY STADIUM – Proposed Improvements

PERMANENT FACILITIES

- Anticipated setup of ICC/ T20 World Cup 2024 permanent facilities

★ Project Areas



- New VIP, Media, Hospitality Grandstands area
- New Practice Facility and Pitches – design underway
- 2 Digital LED Signs at both main Park entrances – awaiting permit
- Exterior & Interior upgrades to Fieldhouse & Stadium Public Restrooms – awaiting permits
- Maintain/protect existing Environmental Conservation areas - ongoing



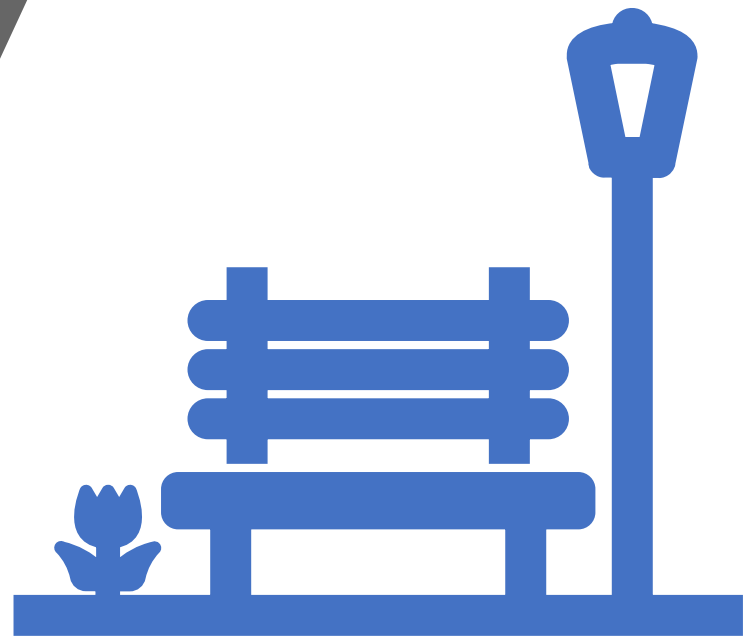
Historical events at the Broward County Stadium



PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION

PLANNING AND DESIGN SECTION

Thank you



Improving Quality of Life One Park at a Time.

PARK OPERATIONS UPDATE – DECEMBER 2023

DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

- On November 30, 2023, over 100 supervisors and managers from the Parks and Recreation Division came together for a wonderful team-building retreat at Markham Park. The day's event, called "Birds of a Feather: Survivor Parks and Rec," took its cue from the *Survivor* television show and was developed and put on by a team consisting of the Parks Superintendents, selected Parks Managers, Parks Naturalists, and other dedicated Parks and Recreation Division Employees.

  The day's team-building activities ranged from mental challenges like puzzles and riddles to physical challenges such as canoeing, mountain biking, archery, and shotgun shooting. All the day's challenges and activities led to a final challenge held at the "Tribal Council," where all attendees worked as a team to piece together a giant puzzle challenge. It was an excellent opportunity for the Division's entire management team to come together, exchange ideas, network, build team morale, improve communications, and remind us why we love the field of Parks and Recreation so much.

- Parks Administration announced the creation of a brand-new team within the Operations Group: the Operations Management Section. This exciting development marks a strategic shift towards greater synergy between operational and administrative functions.

  The Operations Management Section will help ensure seamless workflow and maximize efficiency across the entire division. They will be responsible for:
  - Conducting insightful operational assessments: Identifying areas for improvement and streamlining processes.
  - Crafting division-wide operational procedures: Translating administrative and Board policies into practical, field-ready guidelines.
  - Building robust business plans: Tailoring strategic plans for each regional park and nature center.
  - Safeguarding our accreditation: Maintaining compliance with rigorous standards to uphold our commitment to excellence.
  - Championing award submissions: Recognizing and celebrating the outstanding work of our teams.
  - Taking on diverse, high-impact tasks: Supporting field operations in a multitude of ways.

  This strategic restructuring paves the way for a more supportive and responsive system and is an exciting leap forward, propelling us toward efficiency and effectiveness.

REGIONAL PARKS

Brian Piccolo Sports Park

Facility renovation / major 1st impression improvements

- South Cricket Field Renovation ongoing.
- Parking Bumpers pressure washed.
- Added plants to Sheridan park entrance.
- Stump grinding throughout the park has begun.

Event/program highlights

- Adult Flag Football League Games Ongoing.
- Adult Softball League Games Ongoing.
- Food Truck Frenzy – 1/19/2024

C.B. Smith Park

Facility renovation / major 1st impression improvements

- The water park playground slides were repainted, and re-gel coated by Champion Specialty Services.
- Coast to Coast Garage Door company is replacing the office fence that was not installed per specifications. They anticipate being done in mid-January.

Awards/recognition

- All-Golf Family Fun Center was named Top Tracer Range of the Quarter by the Top Tracer Company.

Central Broward Park & Broward County Stadium

Facility renovation / major 1st impression improvements

- Irrigation system pump replacement in the purchase process, hopefully, completed in January.
- Marquee message boards' initial groundwork has started on both Sunrise and 441.
- The roadway and sidewalk edging project will start in January.
- Lobby TV replaced due to dead spots to better highlight upcoming programs/events.
- T20 Cricket World Cup preparations continue!
    - Site visit with contractor for new ADA/player ramp.
    - Intent to Award issued for new permanent grandstands project, expected to add an additional 3-4000 seats.
    - First large contingent of ICC and production staff for on-site planning visit.

Event/program highlights

- Cricket Council USA's 13th Annual US Open was completed successfully despite the rainy weather - 12/6-12/2023.
- Commissioner Roger's Farm Share Drive-thru Food Giveaway provided food to nearly 500 families for the holiday season - 12/15/2023.
- PSG will host their Winter Camp for approximately 100-150 kids in the stadium – 1/13/-15/2024.
- PSG will also host their PSG North America Cup welcoming teams from across the country in a large format tournament with approximately 1500 attendees.
- Lawrence Rowe Foundation Legends of Cricket tournament 1/20-21/2024.

Easterlin Park

Facility renovation /major 1st impression improvements

- B-Road Restroom & Laundry Facility (Completed Certificate of Substantial Completion, PMG & IT to complete additional add-ons (camera installation, Wi-Fi connection, washing machine drain correction, lock changes) & Bertolli Vending will deliver vending machine when we are closer to opening the facility)
- 99% completion of A, B & C Road Electrical/Plumbing Pedestal Upgrade
- PO for A-Road Electrical Panel has been issued.

New amenities

- Access Controls - The package has been resubmitted to Central Purchasing for what should be a competitive solicitation amongst SBE vendors from OESBD's Directory who are registered for Access Control Systems

Event/program highlights

- Family Hayride & Campfire – 12/22/23.

Fern Forest Nature Center

Facility renovation/major 1st impression improvements

- All external out-on-the-trails benches were cleaned.
- Nature Center and Park Office were decorated for the holiday season.

Event/program highlights

- Environmental programming: Nature Tots, Guided Night Walk, Intro to Birding, Stroll and Learn Guided Nature Walk.
- Dan Barrow Memorial Blue Grass Jammin'
- Evening with the Stars Astronomy Event
- Adult Coloring Hour
- Eco Action Workday

Long Key Natural Area and Nature Center

Facility renovation /major 1st impression improvements

- Trimmed trees around the nature center building and along the north multiuse trail from 130th to 136th

Event/program highlights

- Volunteers contributed 66 hours to exotic plant removal projects during the Eco Action Day on 12/2/2023.
- Hosted Family Success Divisions Annual Meeting 12/7/2023.
- Nature Crafts for Families – 12/9-10/2023.
- Blake School held its Holiday Pageant at Long Key – 12/14/2023.
- Winter Solstice Hike – 12/21/2023.
- Parks Advisory Board Meeting 1/5/24
- Eco Action Day – 1/6/2024
- Special Populations Winter Wonderland Event - 1/12/24
- Nature Journaling Program - 1/13/24
- Guided Bird Walk - 1/20/24
- North American Butterfly Association – Broward County Butterflies Chapter - 1/21/24
- Full Moon Hike - 1/26/24
- Knee-high Naturalist and Preschool Play 'n' Learn Programs will resume on Wednesdays in January

Markham Park

Event/program highlights

- Night Hike -12/2/2023.
- Butterfly Garden Cleanup Hands-on Broward – 12/9/2023.
- Aden Perry Foundation Event- walk/5k to honor the life of Aden Perry – 12/9/2023.
- Toy Drive Challenge RC Event – 12/9/2023.
- Bonfire/Night Hike Winter Wonderland- 12/15/2023.

Awards/recognition

- United Way Kickball Tournament Champions.

Miramar Pinelands

New amenities

- Construction of 20 additional parking spaces.

Event/program highlights

- Holiday Cars with Santa – 12/12/2023

Plantation Heritage Park

Facility renovation/major 1st impression improvements

- Removed vegetation from half of the fence line on the northern border of the west property. The other half to be completed after the holidays.
- Chipped 12yds of mulch from vegetation removed from the north fence line.
- Trimmed 14 trees.
- 64 trees base mulched inside the park and Duck Pond
- Touch up paint added to 3 shelters.
- Hedges at the park entrance lowered to improve cashier visibility from the gatehouse.
- New fascia installed on 4 shelters, 1 awaiting completion.

Event/program highlights

- Food Truck Frenzy – 12/28/2023

Quiet Waters Park

Facility renovation/major 1st impression improvements

- Parks Maintenance Group started the painting of the new office building.
- Park began major tree trimming around the park.
- Capital project installing the shade structure over the aquatics filter pit started.
- Parks Maintenance Group repaired 20 street and parking lot lights throughout the park.
- Structure repairs and painting started on the Splash Adventure structure.
- New sand donated from the Smugglers Run video shoot down at the Splash Beach.
- Reconstruction of a storage shed at Splash Adventure facility.
- Filter pit shade structure project started.
- Park started painting inside restroom 7 on shelter row.

Event/program highlights

- Mountain Bike Trail Maintenance Day – 12/9/2023.
- Mountain Bike Night Ride/BBQ 0 12/20/2023
- Woof N Hoof 5K – 1/6/2024
- Hayride and Campfire – 1/12/2024
- Bed and Breakfast – 1/12-14/24
- Mountain Bike Trail Maintenance Day – 1/13 & 27/2024
- Cool Wheels Car Show – 1/14/2024
- January 17, 2024, Mountain Bike Night Ride/BBQ – 1/17/2024
- Emergency Management RACES Field Day 1/27-28/2024.

Awards/recognition

- Holiday Luncheon for Quiet Waters Park & Deerfield Island Staff – 12/14/2023.

Secret Woods Nature Center

Facility renovation/major 1st impression improvements

- Park staff removed 30 feet of turbidity curtain, one job box, and loose debris and lumber from the eastern section of the construction area at the Manatee Observation Area on New River Trail.
- Park staff rebuilt two gates and secured the construction area at the Manatee Observation Area on New River Trail.
- 40 feet of Laurel Oak Trail were cleared from downed strangler fig following a high wind event.
- Shoe button ardisia, and Tropical almond removed from New River Trail.
- Hiptage vine removed from Laurel Oak Trail.
- Core samples were taken from a deceased large Laurel Oak tree on Laurel Oak Trail.
- Tree cookies made from large Strangler Fig on Laurel Oak Trail.
- New fuel cabinet installed.

Event/program highlights

- Tot Walk, Nature's Explorer, Investigate It, and Nature Tots programs conducted at Boater's Park

Tradewinds Park

Facility renovation / major 1st impression improvements

- Pressure-washed office exterior.
- Edged south entrance road, medians, and Sample Rd fence line.
- Edged athletics parking lot.
- Edged and mowed all disc golf tee pads.
- Pressure-washed dirty disc golf pads.
- Mulched disc golf baskets.
- Mulch front entrance signs, shelter signs, and signs along the main road on the South side of the park.
- Installed new synthetic turf batter boxes for softball fields.

New amenities

- Soccer 5 Mini Fields have opened.
- Soccer 5 Soccer Concessions has opened.

Event/program highlights

- Holiday Fantasy of Lights Bicycle Nights (Weekend)- 11/18/2023-1/2/2024
- Holiday Fantasy of Lights Foundation Fundraiser Night- Employee Night- 12/1/2023
- Junior Farmers Winter Break Program
- Trailblazers Horse Camp

Awards/recognition

- Parks Manager AJ Jacoski filmed a highlight with Channel 10 program SoFLo Health showcasing Disc Golf at Tradewinds Park.

Tree Tops Park
Event/program highlights

- Food Truck Frenzy – 12/7/2023
- Food Truck Frenzy – 1/4/2024

TY (Topeekeegee Yugnee) Park
Facility renovation / major 1st impression improvements

- ZTI made final corrections to the Kiddie Pool resurfacing project, and the invoice has been submitted to the Administration for payment.
- Gel-coating of the slides at Castaway Island is currently in process, with one slide complete and three more to complete.
- Staff is waiting for a PO to be issued to Industrial Shadeports to replace one blue canopy over the Lagoon pool at Castaway Island.
- Painting of the concession building by PMG at Castaway Island began. Staff anticipate the work be completed by 12/22/23 pending the weather.
- A capital request is pending approval for a division-wide order of Funbrella replacement parts.

Event/program highlights

- The Friends of T.Y. Park hosted a concert featuring the Broward College Community Big Band on 12/2/23 with approximately 375 attendees. The next concert scheduled is on 1/20/24 featuring Honey Project: Sounds of Motown from 4-6 p.m.
- Family Campfire & Hayride - 12/29/23 & 1/26/24
- A tree trimming class is being offered for Parks and Recreation employees on 1/9/24 at T.Y. Park. Mike Orfanedes will teach the class from UF/IFAS.
- A ServSafe Food Manager Training will be held at T.Y. Park on 1/13/24 for management staff over concessions.
- The DEI Committee Chair is attending a team meeting at T.Y. Park on 1/18/24 to provide an overview of the program for staff.
- T.Y. Park hosted a Lifeguard Training Course in December; the next one is scheduled for 1/19-21/24.
- Synergy Series Dragon Boat Races are scheduled for 1/20/24.
- Victory Sports Management is hosting a 5k race on 1/27/24.
- The Marfan Foundation is hosting its annual meet and greet to raise awareness for Marfan Syndrome on 1/28/24.

Vista View Park
Event/program highlights

- Ugly Sweater 5K/Walk – 12/23/2023
- Ultra 360 Relay Race – 1/7/2024
- 5K in Honor of Max – 1/20/2024
- Kids in Distress Superhero 5K – 1/27/2024

West Lake Park & Anne Kolb Nature Center
Facility renovation/major 1st impression improvements

- Exhibit Hall Renovation is prat 80% completed.
- Sage 4 – Port Mitigation Project continues.
- Exhibit Hall fumigation completed.
- Reviewing roadway overlay and repair projects.

Event/program highlights

- Preparing for Sunsational Service video filming at Marina

SPECIALTY PARKS

Boaters Park
Event/program highlights

- Tot Walk, Nature's Explorer, Investigate It, and Nature Tots programs conducted by the Secret Woods Nature Center staff.

Deerfield Island Park
Facility renovation/major 1st impression improvements

- Installation of the rubberized surface continues.
- Restroom renovation funding has been approved.
- Butterfly Garden's initial planning and mapping have been completed. Park awarded a $50,000 grant from FRPA.
- Significant eradication was completed to the east of the "Ranger House."
- Business Master Plan in development.

Awards/recognition

- Holiday Luncheon for Quiet Waters Park & Deerfield Island Staff – 12/14/2023.

Everglades Holiday Park
Event/program highlights

- Everglades Explorers – 12/8/2023
- Everglades Scavenger Hunt 12/16/2023
- Bill Bone Gravel Cycling Series – 12/10/2023

Hollywood North Beach

Facility renovation / major 1st impression improvements

- Reviewing walkway repair projects

Event/program highlights

- Candy Cane Parade – 12/2/2023

Snake Warrior Island Nature Preserve
Facility renovation / major 1st impression improvements –

- A new Parks Aid position was hired and began.

SPECIAL POPULATIONS
Event/program highlights

- The Special Populations section held the following programs and events: 3Rs Art in the Park, Boccia, Bowling, CORES, Connecting with Others Recreationally Educationally and Socially, Disc Golf, Kickball, Nordic Pole Walking, Tandem and Yoga for the visually impaired.
- Coordinated the South Florida Hanger Clinic Picnic, which was held for individuals with amputees /limb loss, many of whom are currently participating in rehabilitation. The event also included their friends, families, and caretakers and helped to promote improved mental health, resilience, and a sense of belonging within the community.
- A social/ dance was held for adults with visual disabilities on December 15, 2023, at the City of Lauderdale Lakes. Sound Technique provided music, and refreshments were served. The event provided an environment where individuals with visual disabilities and their families could connect, enjoy music, and socialize with their peers.
- Assisted at an event with the City of Pompano Beach Dance Party on December 15, 2024, at the Herb Skolnick Center and provided various games, crafts, and a resource table.