

Outdoor Times



MARION COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
YOURS TO DISCOVER

Volume 22, Issue 1

August 2009

Recreation & Parks Month Proclamation Received



Pictured left to right: Comm. Mike Amsden, Comm. Stan McClain, Comm. Jim Payton, Pat Gabriel, Gina Peebles, Comm. Barbara Fitos and Comm. Charlie Stone

recreation Department Director, Gina Peebles.

The declaration emphasized the importance of our parks and recreation system stating that, "the use of

our parks add balance to life, teach vital life skills and provide safe places to play... boost the economy, enhance property values, attract new businesses, increase tourism, reduce crime, promote family values, make people happier and help residents live longer... provide space to enjoy nature, help maintain clean air and

water, and preserve plant and animal wildlife."

For more information on recreation programs, swimming, picnicking, tubing, boating, hiking and more, please contact the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department at (352) 671-8560, visit us **o n - l i n e** at www.marioncountyfl.org or stop by our office located at 111 SE 25 Avenue in Ocala.

A proponent of the many benefits of parks to our community, the Marion County Board of County Commissioners presented a proclamation in celebration of "Recreation and Parks Month" at their July 7 meeting. There to accept the proclamation were Parks and Recreation Advisory Council Chair, Pat Gabriel and Acting Parks and Rec-

Outdoor Times is a monthly newsletter provided as a public service to park visitors and guests.

Any questions related to this publication may be directed to Gina Peebles, Acting Director, in writing at Marion County Parks and Recreation, 111 SE 25 Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471, by telephone at (352) 671-8560 or via e-mail at gina.peebles@marioncountyfl.org

Family Fun Day at Carney Island

The Marion County Public Library, in partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department, hosted a Family Fun Day at Carney Island Park on Friday, July 24. More than 200 people enjoyed an old-fashioned day in the park with family entertainment including games, swimming, bucket races, crafts, "I Spy Nature Trail" and other activities.

Refreshments were provided for all participants who also received free admission to the park by showing a current Marion

County Public Library card.

"Families swam and played games together and were so complimentary..." stated Nancy Young, Children's Services Manager for the Marion County Public Library. "Another great summer in the park! Thank you to all who were there and the support team back at the library!"

Carney Island Park is located at 13275 SE 115 Avenue in Ocklawaha off of County Road 25.

For more information on children's activities offered by the Marion County Public Library, please call the Children's Services Division at (352) 671-8551.



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Outdoor Times

KP Hole Grass Parking Project Approved

The Marion County Commissioners recently approved an overflow parking project to ease parking problems at the KP Hole in Dunnellon.

This will allow the Department to convert just over one acre of the recently acquired 5.76 acres at SW 99 Place and SW 190 Avenue Road into grass parking for the KP Hole during the busiest times of the year.

Currently, parking for the KP Hole is so limited that visitors often park in the right-of-way, risk getting towed and even block residents in and out of their driveway. Once complete, the overflow parking project will relieve this, thus

improving safety and convenience.

Gina Peebles, Marion County's Acting Parks and Recreation Director, said the parking project is also neighborhood-friendly.

"We will assign an employee to monitor the parking area, direct traffic, answer questions and keep the property litter free," she said. "We will not allow people to play loud music or barbeque in the parking area. Visitors will simply park their cars and take a shuttle to and from the KP Hole."

The Department will also

preserve the natural beauty of the area. They will not pave the parking area with asphalt or destroy the landscape. Instead, they will maintain the grass in the parking area and preserve the majority of the trees. They will also landscape the perimeter to serve as a buffer between the parking area and its closest neighbors.

If citizens have questions about the KP Hole parking project, they should call Gina Peebles at (352) 671-8560 or gina.peebles@marioncountyyfl.org.

Forest Community Center at Sandhill Park

The Marion County Parks and Recreation Department was recently awarded a \$560,000 federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to renovate the current Forest Public Library building into a community center.

"Funding will be available after October 1, however construction will not commence until the library moves to its new location early next year," stated Marion County Commission Vice-Chair Barbara Fitos.

The community center, adjacent to the future public library, sheriff's substation, tax collectors office, recycling center, and fire department, complements the hub of public services of-

fered on adjacent parcels. The center will provide much needed space for the many activities and services offered to all ages by community groups throughout the area. Representatives from the Department will work closely with these groups to best accommodate their needs.

"This government complex will serve as the heart of this community located approximately 13 miles from Ocala, the nearest incorporated city," added Fitos.

In 2007, the Department was awarded \$350,000 in CDBG funding for picnic facilities, a playground unit and boardwalk trail to the new Forest Library building.

"This is the final phase of the Forest Library project," stated Cheryl Amey, Community Services Director.



Rendering of play unit for Sandhill Park.

Third Annual Summer Recreation Program a Success



More than 250 area youth participated in the Department's Third Annual Summer "Mini" Camps held at Bellevue Elementary, East Marion Elementary, Red-

dick-Collier Elementary and Wrigley Fields this summer. "The camps were coordinated for the area elementary students with the exception of Wrigley Fields which also included middle school students," stated Dan Burleigh, Recreation Specialist.

The camps not only offered breakfast and lunch through the Summer Feeding Program, but provided outdoor

activities and games including battle ball, capture the flag and water days. Inside activities consisted of board games, bingo and weekly arts & crafts sessions. Special guest such as the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, K-9 Unit, Marion County SWAT, Jiggleman, Library Storytime and the Marion County Fire Department made presentations to the groups.

The children also took a field trip to Carney Island or Horseshoe Lake which allowed them to canoe, swim, trail hike and learn about water conservation.

Camper parents stated, "This has to be one of the best deals in Marion County!" "My son loved [the] camp and has already asked about going again next year!"

Jim's Corner: Is Your Yard Certifiable?

Recently the State adopted Senate Bill 2080 into law. While this new law comes with its own controversy regarding water use permitting, the original content of the law focused on Florida-friendly landscaping and specifically changes the ability of Homeowner and Property Owner Associations from preventing residents within deed restricted communities from implementing Florida-friendly landscaping on their own property.

While this may be good for those types of communities, what about those of us who do not live in deed restricted neighborhoods? The Florida-friendly landscaping portion of the new law does not really impact us at all. We have the ability to do pretty much whatever we want in order to conserve water. We can stop irrigating our lawns. We can replant lawns with groundcovers. We can install rain barrels. We can create compost. We can do anything really.

But where should we start? One simple way of figuring out where you can start with this transition is to enlist the free help and guidance of the Marion County Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Coordinator, Kathleen Patterson, and the team of volunteers who are experts in this water conservation initiative.

Simply call the County Extension Service office at (352) 671-8400 and ask for Kathleen. She can get a team of FYN Certification experts scheduled to come over to your property (residential or commercial) to see how the site measures up to the state standards for Florida-friendly landscaping. The site visit usually takes about 30 minutes. During the tour you will also learn more about the nine principles of Florida-friendly:

- Right plant, right place
- Water efficiently
- Fertilize appropriately

- Mulch
- Attract wildlife
- Manage yard pests responsibly
- Recycle yard waste
- Reduce storm-water runoff

Protect the water-front

This is a free service! Your property can be deemed a "Florida-friendly Yard" and depending on the score you receive you can attain a higher status of award. A lot of landscapes may already qualify for the basic level of certification and with a little more work and education the higher levels of certification can be attained. Most importantly you will learn more about being environmentally responsible on your own property and doing so may make you the envy of your neighborhood.





Outdoor Times

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location	Time
August 7	Summer Park Explorers	Brick City Adventure Park	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
August 8	Adult Kayak Outing	Withlacoochee River	9:30 a.m.
August 14	Adult Kayak Outing	Ocklawaha River	9:30 a.m.
August 21	Summer Park Explorers	Brick City Adventure Park	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
August 22	Adult Kayak Outing	Ocklawaha River	9:30 a.m.
August 29	Birding Class	Brick City Adventure Park	9 a.m. - 12 noon
September 2	Home-School PE & Rec	Brick City Adventure Park	10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
	Home-School Art Program	Brick City Adventure Park	10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
September 4	Adult Kayak Outing	Rainbow River	9:30 a.m.
September 9	Home-School PE & Rec	Brick City Adventure Park	10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
	Home-School Art Program	Brick City Adventure Park	10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
September 12	Adult Kayak Outing	Ocklawaha River	9:30 a.m.
	Art Van-Go	Baseline Road Trailhead	10 a.m.
		Liberty Community Park	12 noon
		Wrigley Fields	2 p.m.
September 16	Home-School PE & Rec	Brick City Adventure Park	10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
	Home-School Art Program	Brick City Adventure Park	10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
September 23	Home-School PE & Rec	Brick City Adventure Park	10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
	Home-School Art Program	Brick City Adventure Park	10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
September 28	Park Explorers for Tweens/Teens	Brick City Adventure Park	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
September 30	Home-School PE & Rec	Brick City Adventure Park	10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
	Home-School Art Program	Brick City Adventure Park	10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
October 2	SportsAbility	MLK Recreation Complex	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
October 3	SportsAbility	Carney Island	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
	Bird & Nature Walk	Marshall Swamp Trailhead	9:30 a.m.
	Art Van-Go	Baseline Road Trailhead	10 a.m.
		Liberty Community Park	12 noon
		Wrigley Fields	2 p.m.
October 8	Kayak & Koffee	Rainbow River	10 a.m.
October 16	Adult Kayak Outing	Silver River	9:30 a.m.
October 22	Kayak & Koffee	Silver River	10 a.m.
October 31	Adult Kayak Outing	Ocklawaha River	9:30 a.m.
	Birding Class	Brick City Adventure Park	9 a.m. - 12 noon

THE Fun TIMES

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A joint publication of the City of Ocala Recreation & Parks Department and the Marion County Parks & Recreation Department as a service to its residents and visitors.



www.ocalafl.org

www.marioncountyfl.org

■■■ CITY OF OCALA RECREATION & PARKS UPCOMING PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES ■■■

SCOOP ON READING AT THE DISCOVERY CENTER

701 NE Sanchez Avenue | 401-3900
8/31, 9/28, 10/26, 11/30 | 10-10:30 a.m.
Parents and children ages 2 to 5 are invited to get the scoop on reading as the Discovery Center, Altrusa International Inc. of Ocala and Blue Bell Creamery come together on the last Monday of every month, August through November, to read us a story as we enjoy a delicious scoop of Blue Bell ice cream. This activity is free but limited to the first 15 registered participants per week. Call to register in advance.

"COOL SCIENCE" AT THE DISCOVERY CENTER

701 NE Sanchez Avenue | 401-3900
Wednesday, September 16 | 1-5:30 p.m.
Don't let your minds go to mush on this Early Release Day. Spend the afternoon with us learning some "Cool Science". Youth 8-12 years old. \$15 per child. Limited to 25 participants. Preregister through September 8.

MODERN GIRLS AT THE DISCOVERY CENTER

701 NE Sanchez Avenue | 401-3900
Saturdays, Sept. 19-Oct. 17 | 10 a.m.- 12 p.m.
Girls ages 13 through 16 years old will be empowered as they have fun learning self improvement skills, proper etiquette and respect for themselves and others. \$30 per participant. Limited to 20 participants. Preregister through September 11.

LIFE 101 AT THE DISCOVERY CENTER

701 NE Sanchez Avenue | 401-3900
Thursdays, Sept. 17-Oct. 22 | 4-6 p.m.
Learn unique skills applicable to real life including automotive maintenance, household upkeep, voter registration, political processes, banking and more. It's the basic things in life that challenge us the most... These workshops will provide everyday life skills. Youth 13-16 years old. \$30 per participant. Limited to 25 participants. Preregister through September 8.

FUTURE PILOT FLIGHT ACADEMY AT THE DISCOVERY CENTER

701 NE Sanchez Avenue | 401-3900
Tuesdays, Sept. 1 - Oct. 27 | 6-7 p.m.
Learn the fundamentals of flight in this hands on aviation ground school. Taught by a real flight instructor! Youth 12 -15 years old. \$45 per participant. Limited to 30 participants. Preregister through September 1.

MIGHTY MITE T-BALL AT JERVEY GANTT PARK

2390 SE 36th Avenue | 401-3909
Saturdays, Oct. 3-Nov. 21 | 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Learn the fundamentals of baseball (hitting, running, catching and throwing). Youth 4-7 years old. \$40 per player. Preregistration required; call for details.

FLAG FOOTBALL AT LILLIAN BRYANT CENTER PARK

2200 NW 17th Place | 629-8389
Tuesdays & Thursdays, Sept. 15-Oct. 15 | 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Learn the basic skills and teamwork of flag football. Youth 8-13 years old. \$30 per participant. Preregister through September 8.

BASIC ARCHERY PROGRAM AT LILLIAN BRYANT CENTER PARK

2200 NW 17th Place | 629-8389
Mondays, Sept. 21-Nov. 9 | 5-6 p.m.
Gain confidence, a greater attention span and a willingness to try other sports while learning basic archery skills. Youth 8-13 years old. FREE! Preregister through September 14.

STICKS FOR KIDS AT LILLIAN BRYANT CENTER PARK

2200 NW 17th Place | 629-8389
Tuesdays, Sept. 29-Nov. 17 | 4:30-6 p.m.
Kids will learn the basic fundamentals of golf to include swing, stance and posture. Youth 8-13 years old. FREE! Preregister through Sept. 22.

NFL PUNT PASS & KICK AT MLK RECREATION COMPLEX

1510 NW 4th Street | 401-3921
Saturday, August 29 | 5-7 p.m.
Children will participate in a competition of strength and accuracy. They will have a chance to compete in the State and possibly National Finals if they earn high scores. Youth 8-15 years old. FREE! Preregister through August 28.

CROSKEY SOCCER TRAINING CAMP AT MLK RECREATION COMPLEX

1510 NW 4th Street | 401-3921
Monday-Thursday, Aug. 31-Sept. 10 | 4:30-6 p.m.
Children will learn the basic fundamentals of soccer. Although this camp is geared for beginners it will also strengthen already acquired skills. Come have fun while learning to play soccer! Youth 6-13 years old. FREE! Limited to 40 participants. Preregister through Aug. 31.

GIRLS SOFTBALL CAMP AT MLK RECREATION COMPLEX

1510 NW 4th Street | 401-3921
Mon.-Thurs., Oct. 19-29 | 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Girls will have fun while learning the basic fundamentals of softball including the rules, playing techniques and strategies. Camp will be for beginners to intermediates. Youth 9-16 years old. FREE! Limited to 50 participants. Preregister through October 16.

JR. MAGIC BASKETBALL LEAGUE AT THE E.D. CROSKEY RECREATION CENTER

1510 NW 4th Street | 401-3921
Mon.-Thurs., Nov. 30-Dec. 17 & Jan. 4-21, 2010 | 5:30-8 p.m.
This league provides boys and girls the opportunity to participate with a team to learn and develop athletic and social skills while gaining an understanding of teamwork and cooperation with others. Youth 5-14 years old (participant can not be in high school). Limited to 160 participants. Registration begins Oct. 12. Sign up for a free basketball clinic when registering for this league.

■■■ ADULT PROGRAMS ■■■

LET'S GET GROWING AT THE DISCOVERY CENTER

701 NE Sanchez Avenue | 401-3900 |
Wednesdays, Sept. 16-Oct. 21 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Each week we will introduce the beginning gardener to a different facet of gardening to include vegetable, organic and water gardening. Open to adults 18+. \$10 per session plus supplies. Limited to 20 participants. Preregister up to one week prior to each session.



All programs are limited in size and require preregistration. For more information or to preregister, please call the designated center.

SIDEWALK ASTRONOMY AT THE DISCOVERY CENTER
701 NE Sanchez Avenue | 401-3900
Friday, Sept. 25 & Friday, Oct. 23 | 7-9:30 p.m.
Join us in celebrating the global International Year of Astronomy 2009! The whole family is invited as we introduce the night sky with telescope viewings, hands-on activities and a brief educational presentation. FREE!

SPORTSABILITY
Oct. 2 at MLK Rec Complex | 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Oct. 3 at Carney Island | 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Discover the latest in equipment, trends and resources and learn how to enhance the life of people with disabilities. Participate in activities such as sailing, jet skiing, wheelchair basketball, therapeutic horseback riding and much more. Call 401-3916 for details.

■■■ MARION COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION UPCOMING PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES ■■■

■■■ ADULT PROGRAMS ■■■

KAYAK OUTINGS FOR ADULTS
Rainbow River | Sept. 4 & Dec. 4 | 9:30 a.m.
\$20 per excursion plus park entrance fee.
Ocklawaha River | Sept. 12, Oct. 31 & Nov. 6 | 9:30 a.m.
\$25 per excursion plus park entrance fee.
Silver River | Oct. 16 & Dec. 19 | 9:30 a.m.
\$25 per excursion plus park entrance fee.

Kayak Outings for participants with paddling experience - kayaks, paddles, life jackets and ground transportation provided. Preregistration required.

KAYAK AND KOFFEE
Rainbow River | Oct. 8, Nov. 5 & Dec. 3 | 10 a.m.
Silver River | Oct. 22, Nov. 19 & Dec. 17 | 10 a.m.
Mini-outings on the river that are ideal for beginners - kayaks, paddles and life jackets provided. \$15 per excursion plus park entrance fee. Preregistration required.

OVERNIGHT KAYAK CAMPOUTS ON THE OCKLAWAHA RIVER
November 21-22 & December 12-13
This outdoor adventure on the Ocklawaha River provides great insight into the local history of the river and the Greenway habitat. Activities include a night hike and nocturnal wildlife observation. Camping will be at a primitive site. \$60 per person (per excursion) includes kayak, paddles, life jacket, camping gear and meals. Participants must supply their own sleeping bag. Limited to ten adults. Preregistration required.

BIRD AND NATURE WALKS AT MARION COUNTY PARKS
Oct 3 | Marshall Swamp Trailhead | 9:30 a.m.
Nov. 14 | Blue Run of Dunnellon | 9:30 a.m.
Dec. 5 | Carney Island | 9:30 a.m.
Whether you are a beginner or an experienced bird watcher, these outings promise to provide an enjoyable outdoor experience. Participants should bring a hat, insect repellent, binoculars (if you have them) and water. FREE! Preregistration required.

BRICK CITY ADVENTURE PARK BIRDING CLASS
1300 SE 22nd Road
October 31 | 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
\$10 per person or \$15 per couple.
Preregistration required.

■■■ YOUTH PROGRAMS ■■■

ART VAN-GO AT MARION COUNTY PARKS
Sept. 12 | Oct. 3 | Nov. 7 | Dec. 5
10 a.m. - Baseline Road Trailhead Park
12 p.m. - Liberty Community Park
2 p.m. - Wrigley Fields
Children ages 5-15 are invited to join us for our mobile art program featuring a new art activity each month. \$2 per child which covers art instruction and materials.

HOME-SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND RECREATION (HPER) CLUB
Brick City Adventure Park | 1300 SE 22nd Road
Wednesdays resuming September 2
Our "HPER Club" meets with 5-9 year olds from 10-11 a.m. and 10-17 year olds from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. \$10 per month for the first child and \$7 for each additional child within the same family. The program encourages teamwork, strategy and fair play in a social setting. Preregistration required.

HOME-SCHOOL ART PROGRAM AT BRICK CITY ADVENTURE PARK
1300 SE 22nd Road
Wednesdays resuming September 2
10-11 a.m. boys & girls 10-14 years old and 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. boys & girls 4-9 years old. \$10 per month for the first child and \$7 for each additional child within the same family. Preregistration required.

MARION COUNTY PARK EXPLORERS FOR TWEENS/TEENS
Sept. 28 & Oct. 30 | 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Learn about nature and wildlife in our community with activities that include hiking, kayaking and other activities. Youth ages 12-16. \$20 per date includes lunch. Preregistration required.

■■■ FAMILY PROGRAMS ■■■

OWL-WEEN AT CARNEY ISLAND
13275 SE 115th Avenue | Ocklawaha
October 24 | 2 p.m. & 4 p.m.
Celebrate Halloween with our nocturnal friends as we learn about owls and other raptor type birds during our wildlife education programs. \$5 per adult and \$3 per child (ages 8-17), which does not include the \$5 per car park fee. Preregistration required.

FAMILY CAMP-OUT AT CARNEY ISLAND
13275 SE 115th Avenue | Ocklawaha
November 7-8
An overnight camp-out for families that includes nature hikes, kayaking, storytelling, nature crafts, a cook-out dinner and breakfast on the grill. Children must be at least eight years old. \$30 for a family of two and \$10 for each additional family member; includes activities, tents, camping equipment (excluding sleeping bags), meals and snacks. Preregistration required.

All programs are limited in size and require preregistration. For more information, or to preregister, please call or stop by our office located at 111 SE 25th Avenue in Ocala.

