



**Marion
County**
FLORIDA

PARKS AND RECREATION

**MARION COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
YOURS TO DISCOVER**

Outdoor Times

**It Starts
in Parks**

Volume 51, Issue 1

January 2012

Inside this issue:

Forest Community Center Dedicated	2
KP Hole Day Use Fee to Change Jan. 1	2
Donation Provides Improvements at Veterans Park	2
River Access Project Underway at the Blue Run of Dunnelon Park	3
Calendar of Events	3-4

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

Any questions related to this publication can be directed to Leah Hoffman, Administrative Manager, in writing at Marion County Parks and Recreation, 111 SE 25 Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471, by telephone at 352-671-8560 or via email at leah.hoffman@marioncountyfl.org

PARK PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM IS WIN-WIN FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Leah Hoffman

The Park Partnership grant program was established in 1995 to assist local not-for-profit groups with providing recreation facilities at public park areas county-wide.

“Originally, the program was known as the Sweat Equity Program with the County funding 100 percent of the improvements,” stated County Administrator, Lee Niblock. “However, the department changed the funding formula for the program a number of years ago requiring a 50 percent cash and / or in-kind match.

That change made the program a true private / public partnership while instilling a sense of ownership to the citizens with their parks and the improvements.”

Over the past 16 years, more than \$961,000 has been awarded to nearly 65 organizations. The program is limited to fixed capital improvements that are open and available to all Marion

County citizens. The grant cannot cover maintenance or operating equipment such as uniforms, balls and bats, or mowing equipment. Eligible groups include non-profit organizations who operate recreation facilities, Municipal Services Taxing Units, Municipalities and community centered public school sites.

County Commissioner’s approved program, the Sportsplex Board was granted funding for a playground unit several years ago and an open air pavilion during this last grant cycle. This new pavilion will not only protect families from the sun and rain, but will provide a meeting area for our players, coaches and volunteers,” stated Harvey Vandeven, Rotary Sportsplex Board Treasurer.

Big Sun Youth Soccer President, Brian Behan reported, “The county’s Park Partnership program provided a new concession stand and indoor meeting room...We were able to complete our project without compromising quality or our player’s safety.”

The grant cycle is opened from June 1 through July 31 of each year. The application can be obtained on line at www.marioncountyfl.org/parks or by contacting the Parks and Recreation Department at 352-671-8560.



In 2011, five community groups were awarded funding including Big Sun Youth Soccer, Blue Sink Community Club, Cal Ripken, Mike Giffin Memorial Park and the Rotary Sportsplex of Marion County.

“The Rotary Sportsplex is home to more than 1,000 players who participate in baseball and soccer each year. Through this Board of

FOREST COMMUNITY CENTER DEDICATED

Gina Peebles

After many months of anticipation, the Forest Community Center at Sandhill Park was dedicated by the Board of County Commissioners on Nov. 19, 2011.

The Marion County Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with the Forest Advisory Council, coordinated the days festivities including arts and crafts activities, light refreshments and the ceremony. The community center, formerly home to the Forest Public Library, offers daily

public meeting room access, a variety of adult and youth recreation programs and a youth room equipped with billiard, foosball and ping-pong tables. One of the ping-pong tables was donated by Steve Allen, owner of Tallen Builders, who renovated and expanded the center.

Outdoor enthusiasts visiting the adjacent Sandhill Park can enjoy a playground, picnic pavilion and self-guided interpretive trail along a raised boardwalk

connecting to the library's new location.

Construction of the Forest Community Center at Sandhill Park was completed in October. A U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department Community Development Block Grant funded the project.

The Forest Community Center is located at 777 S. Hwy. 314A in Ocklawaha.



For more information about upcoming programs, to reserve a room, or to learn about volunteer opportunities at the center, please call 352-438-2841.

KP HOLE DAY USE FEE TO CHANGE JAN. 1

Barbra Herndandez

Effective Jan. 1, 2012, the day use fee at KP Hole Park will change from \$3 to \$5.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Council had recommended the fee change to offset park expenses and

assist with managing park capacity.

The costs for annual individual and family passes remain unchanged, at \$35 and \$50 respectively.

KP Hole Park is located at

9435 SW 190th Ave. Road in Dunnellon.

For more information on this or other county parks, contact Marion County Parks and Recreation at 352-671-8560.

DONATION PROVIDES IMPROVEMENTS FOR VETERANS PARK

Leah Hoffman

An unexpected gift was recently received at the Ocala/Marion County Veterans Memorial Park. Bonnie Saupe left \$200,000 in her will for improvements to the park which honors Marion County's service men and women and the many wars in which they served with memorial benches and bricks.

One of the slated improvements includes the replacement of several laurel oak

trees which line the north east boundary of the park and have come to the end of their life expectancy.

Landscape Architect, Jim Couillard, is overseeing the project and commented that, "after having several professionals, including a certified arborist, evaluate the trees, it was confirmed they are failing fast and creating a public safety hazard."

"While it is always a difficult decision to replace historic oak trees, the safety of park users and those driving by must be taken into consideration."

"However, the trees will be replaced with live oak trees, which have a life expectancy of several hundred years providing shade and enjoyment for generations," added Couillard.

Other improvements planned with the donation

"Achievement,
A sense of Community,
Conservation of our Natural Treasures,
Bestows an Economic Impact,
Imparts Good Health,
Incorporates Heritage,
Respect for Nature,
Florida's Future... It Starts in Parks."

included the replacement of the chairs for special events, sound system and lighting improvements among other improvements. The Veterans Park is located at 2601 SE Ft. King St. in Ocala.

For information on making a donation to the park, purchasing a memorial bench or brick, or to volunteer, please contact the Ocala/Marion County Veterans Memorial Park Office at 352-401-5346.

RIVER ACCESS PROJECT UNDERWAY AT THE BLUE RUN OF DUNNELLON PARK

Jim Couillard



The Rainbow River will soon have a dedicated access point as the River Access Project at Blue Run of Dunnellon Park (a/k/a Tuber's Exit) got underway on Monday, Dec. 5 2011. Cloud 9 Services, Inc. from Orlando mobilized and began laying out the alignment of the

ramp system that day and is scheduled to be complete by the end of January, 2012. This project will feature a 12' wide universally accessible ramp which will provide ingress/egress into the Rainbow

River for paddle craft and tubers.

The total cost of this project is \$118,400.00 and is fully funded by the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Withlacoochee Basin Board, as a Cooperative Funding Initiative. This is Phase II of construction at

the park following the recently completed Stormwater Management Project in partnership with the Office of the County Engineer, who designed the project and managed construction. The third and final phase includes the installation of an information kiosk and other interpretive exhibits which explain the features and habitats included in the 32.44 acre park. All three phases have a goal of protecting the river from stormwater runoff and providing for public education regarding the importance of protecting this unique resource.

For public safety, the river access area will be closed to visitors during construction. Visitors will be able to access all other park areas as the main parking area and the San Jose Blvd. parking area will remain open. Access to the river is available at the Dunnellon boat ramp (US 41 adjacent to City Hall) and at the KP Hole Park (9435 SW 190 Ave. Rd, Dunnellon). The Blue Run of Dunnellon Park is located at 19680 E Pennsylvania Avenue in Dunnellon.

For additional information please contact Jim Couillard at (352) 671-8560.

Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Jan 4	10 am - 10:55 am	HPER Club ART (Ages 9-14)	Brick City Adventure Park
	10 am - 10:55 am	HPER Club PE (Ages 5-8)	Brick City Adventure Park
	11 am - 11:55 am	HPER Club ART (Ages 5-8)	Brick City Adventure Park
	11 am - 11:55 am	HPER Club PE (Ages 9-14)	Brick City Adventure Park
Jan 5	9:30 am & 12:30 pm	Kayak and Koffee - Rainbow River	KP Hole Park
Jan 7	9:30 am & 12:30 pm	Kayak 101 (ages 10 & up)	Carney Island
	10 am	Art Van Go	Baseline Road Trailhead
	Noon	Art Van Go	Liberty Community Park
	2 pm	Art Van Go	Wrigley Fields
Jan 8	8:30 am	Kayak Outing (Experienced)-Ocklawaha River	Gores Landing to Eureka
Jan 9	9:30 - 10:30 am	Nature Buddies (ages 4-5)	Brick City Adventure Park
	10:45 am - Noon	Nature Club for Home School (ages 6-12)	Brick City Adventure Park
Jan 10	8:30 am	Explore Marion County - Land Bridge	Brick City Adventure Park
	3:15 pm	Beginner Tennis (ages 6-14)	Bellevue Sportsplex
	4:14 pm	Advanced Beginner Tennis (ages 6-14)	Bellevue Sportsplex
Jan 11	10 am - 10:55 am	HPER Club ART (Ages 9-14)	Brick City Adventure Park
	10 am - 10:55 am	HPER Club PE (Ages 5-8)	Brick City Adventure Park
	11 am - 11:55 am	HPER Club ART (Ages 5-8)	Brick City Adventure Park

Calendar of Events (cont.)

Date	Time	Event	Location
	11 am - 11:55 am	HPER Club PE (Ages 9-14)	Brick City Adventure Park
Jan 12	9am & 11:30 am	Eco Tram Tours	Sunnyhill
	3:15 pm	Beginner Tennis (ages 6-14)	Coehadjoe Park
	4:14 pm	Advanced Beginner Tennis (ages 6-14)	Coehadjoe Park
Jan 13	8:30 am	Kayak Outing- Rainbow River	KP Hole Park
Jan 14	8:30 am	Explore Marion County - Yearling Trail	Brick City Adventure Park
	9 am - 2 pm	Basic Wild Caving (age 8+)	Brick City Adventure Park
Jan 15	9am & 11:30 am	Eco Tram Tours	Sunnyhill
Jan 17	9:30 am & 12:30 pm	Kayak 101 (Adult)	Carney Island
	3:15 pm	Beginner Tennis (ages 6-14)	Bellevue Sportsplex
	4:14 pm	Advanced Beginner Tennis (ages 6-14)	Bellevue Sportsplex
Jan 18	10 am - 10:55 am	HPER Club ART (Ages 9-14)	Brick City Adventure Park
	10 am - 10:55 am	HPER Club PE (Ages 5-8)	Brick City Adventure Park
	11 am - 11:55 am	HPER Club ART (Ages 5-8)	Brick City Adventure Park
	11 am - 11:55 am	HPER Club PE (Ages 9-14)	Brick City Adventure Park
Jan 19	9:30 am & 12:30pm	Kayak and Koffee - Silver River	Ray Wayside Park
	3:15 pm	Beginner Tennis (ages 6-14)	Coehadjoe Park
	4:14 pm	Advanced Beginner Tennis (ages 6-14)	Coehadjoe Park
Jan 21	8:30 am	Kayak Outing (Experienced)-Silver River	Ray Wayside Park
Jan 22	8:30 am	Kayak Outing (Experienced)-Ocklawaka River	Ray Wayside to Gores Landing
Jan 23	9:30 - 10:30 am	Nature Buddies (ages 4-5)	Brick City Adventure Park
	10:45 am - Noon	Nature Club for Home School (ages 6-12)	Brick City Adventure Park
Jan 24	8:30 am	Explore Marion County - Marshal Swamp	Brick City Adventure Park
	3:15 pm	Beginner Tennis (ages 6-14)	Bellevue Sportsplex
	4:14 pm	Advanced Beginner Tennis (ages 6-14)	Bellevue Sportsplex
Jan 26	9am & 11:30 am	Eco Tram Tours	Carney Island
	3:15 pm	Beginner Tennis (ages 6-14)	Coehadjoe Park
	4:14 pm	Advanced Beginner Tennis (ages 6-14)	Coehadjoe Park
Jan 27	8:30 am	Explore Marion County - Blue Run/VanDuuren	Brick City Adventure Park
Jan 27-28	6:30pm to 8:30pm	Family Fish Camp (day 1)	Brick City Adventure Park
	9:00am to 4:00pm	Family Fish Camp (day 2)	Brick City Adventure Park
Jan 28	10 am - 10:55 am	HPER Club ART (Ages 9-14)	Brick City Adventure Park
	10 am - 10:55 am	HPER Club PE (Ages 5-8)	Brick City Adventure Park
	11 am - 11:55 am	HPER Club ART (Ages 5-8)	Brick City Adventure Park
	11 am - 11:55 am	HPER Club PE (Ages 9-14)	Brick City Adventure Park
Jan 29	9am & 11:30 am	Eco Tram Tours	Carney Island
Jan 30	9am - 2pm	Outdoor Adventure Camp (Ages 8-14)	Brick City Adventure
Jan 31	3:15 pm	Beginner Tennis (ages 6-14)	Bellevue Sportsplex
	4:14 pm	Advanced Beginner Tennis (ages 6-14)	Bellevue Sportsplex