



PARKS AND RECREATION

## MARION COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT YOURS TO DISCOVER

# Outdoor Times

It Starts  
in Parks

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### Inside this issue:

- Sustaining Florida's Communities: It Starts in Parks** 2
- Girl Scout "Silver Award" Brings Recycling to Wrigley Fields** 3
- VIP Seats Available for Annual Christmas Parade** 3
- Florida C2C Adventure Race a Success** 3
- Calendar of Events** 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](mailto:leah.hoffman@marioncountyfl.org)

## CONFEDERATE SOLDIER HAS A NEW HOME

Heather Danenhower

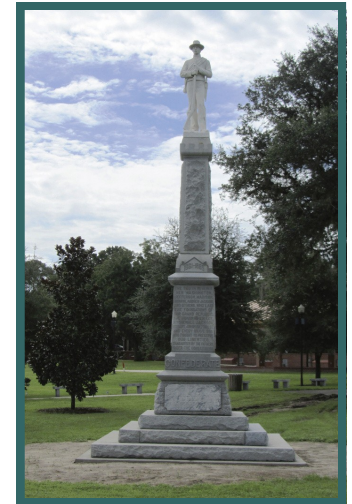
In late August, an Inverness company dismantled and moved a 23-foot-tall Confederate Civil War statue, commonly referred to as Johnny Reb, from the southside of the Marion County Judicial Center to the northwest corner of the Ocala-Marion County Veterans Memorial Park.

LaPerle Memorials also reconstructed the monument at its new location. Now Landscape Architect, Jim Couillard, will work to include seating areas, landscaping, sidewalks and lighting to create an appropriate set-

ting for the monument, which is more than 100 years old.

Instead of using tax dollars to move the statue, Commissioner Charlie Stone suggested setting up a separate account to accept donations. Landis Curry, a local citizen and lawyer, volunteered to organize the fundraising effort, raising more than \$34,000.

Several local companies donated labor and/or materials to the project. Commissioners made the decision to move the statue on Jan. 19, 2010.



## VETERANS HONORED DURING VETERANS' DAY EVENT

Jessica Briand



World War I, known at the time as "The Great War," officially ended on June 28, 1919 with the Treaty of Versailles. However, fighting ceased when an arm-

stice between the Allied Nations and Germany went into effect on Nov. 11, which President Wilson proclaimed as the first commemoration of Armistice Day.

Marion County Veterans Services will celebrate Veterans Day in partnership with the Marion County School Board on Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. at the Ocala-Marion County Veterans Memorial Park.

"It is estimated that more than 1,500 students will be

in attendance including various high school JROTC Drill Teams, bands, elementary school choruses and the Francis Marion Military Academy," stated Veterans Services Director, Jeffrey Askew.

Seating is limited so it is recommended that spectators arrive early.

For more information, please contact the Veterans Services Office at 352-671-8422.

## SUSTAINING FLORIDA'S COMMUNITIES: IT STARTS IN PARKS

Michael Stavres, CPRP (Adapted from Florida League of Cities—July/August 2010)

Community is a group of people, it is a geographic area and it is rooted in a common interest. But it is the state and condition in which these things occur that takes an otherwise ordinary, bland populace and turns it into a *community*.

Over the past several years, communities across the nation have sought to align themselves with the buzzword of the green movement, "sustainability." So what does a sustainable community have to do with parks? Everything.

### Parks and a Community Environmental Sustainability

More and more, we are seeing urban parks used to enhance the surrounding community by incorporating initiatives such as stormwater management. Benefits not only include reduced facility costs stemming from shared space but also a more educated and informed citizenry as a result of their incidental exposure to these facilities. Parks incorporate some of the most precious environmental areas in Florida, including the Everglades, thousands of miles of irreplaceable coastlines, and countless acres of forests and open space that continually help ensure our clean air and water supplies. It is estimated that Florida's forests absorb 5.8 million tons of carbon each year. Without the designation of these public spaces, the sustainability of Florida's environment becomes suspect.



### Parks and a Community's Economic Sustainability

The effect that parks have on economic sustainability of Florida's communities can be tied to multiple areas, including residential property values and marketability, commercial development and, perhaps most obviously, tourism.

Several cities nationwide have undertaken efforts to determine the effects that park proximity have on residential property values. Perhaps most heavily studied by John Crompton, distinguished professor of recreation, park and tourism sciences at Texas A & M University, the theory of the proximity principal has been legitimized based on some of these individual case studies. Crompton suggests an impact as high as 20 percent on property values for houses in direct proximity to passive parks.

However, enhanced property value is not the only benefit. There also is an enhanced desirability for the property tied directly to park proximity. A 2001 National Association of Realtors survey found that 50 percent of those responding would be willing to pay up to 10 percent more for a property located

near a park, and that they are more likely to seek housing in neighborhoods close to parks versus those not.

From a commercial standpoint, public spaces located in downtown urban areas frequently become the community's gathering spaces. The historic squares of Florida's cities are frequently the place for cultural celebrations and events and are inextricably tied to a community's history and heritage. In addition, Florida's year round playable climate has made it highly attractive for national athletic competitions on the amateur and professional levels. A 2005 study commissioned by the Florida Sports Foundation found that these activities provide a \$32 billion economic impact.



### Parks and a Community's Social Sustainability

Parks present an opportunity to experience culture and history in a open, posi-

tive environment through special events, structured recreational activity and casual encounters. Cultural celebrations, art festivals, health and wellness competitions, historical reenactments and themed special events all help maintain the social health of a community by bringing people together despite their individual differences. These experiences are most often self motivated, positive in nature, and typically result in a heightened awareness and understanding of differing points of view and beliefs. Furthermore, the engagement of residents through these positive experiences helps to further solidify a community's overall identity and encourages its members to help maintain and grow it.

### Summary

At a time when people are having to make hard personal sacrifices, the housing market remains strained and the overall economy is struggling to rebound, communities are once again discovering the value of their public spaces and parks. But as important as these areas are as traditional recreational outlets, their role in sustaining our environmental, economical and social health of Florida's communities must also be recognized. For without this most essential infrastructure, our community's landscape will remain blank.

## GIRL SCOUT “SILVER AWARD” BRINGS RECYCLING TO WRIGLEY FIELDS

Greg Wiley



Several months ago, Kelsey Bowman, 14, of Girl Scout Troop #778 approached the Parks and Recreation Department about installing recycling bins as a service project at Wrigley Fields to obtain her “Silver Award,” the highest award a Girl Scout can earn.

After consulting with park’s staff to locate the three recycle bins in the playground and picnic area, Kelsey worked with Park Ranger, Jeremy Harris, to determine the materials needed to complete the project.

Kelsey then contacted Sparr Building & Farm Supply and Lowes of East Ocala for donations. With the materials in hand, she then constructed the bins with members of her troop, “Papa Herman” and other family members.

“I am very proud of Kelsey and her fellow troop members for their leadership,

dedication and hard work to see the project through to its completion,” stated Jeremy Harris.

In a handwritten thank you letter, Kelsey noted that, “...it feels great to do something in my community. I hope I can do more in the future...”

For more information on conducting a community service project to earn a Girl or Boy Scout award, or to volunteer, please contact the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department at 352-671-8560.

“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.”

## VIP SEATS AVAILABLE FOR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE

Leah Hoffman

The annual Christmas Parade has been scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 11 beginning at 5 pm.

Join the Friends of Marion County Parks and Recreation, Inc. by listening to the bands, watching the floats and waiting for Santa Claus by purchasing a VIP

bleacher seat, parking and restroom access for only \$5 per person.

Bring a picnic dinner or have your dinner catered for an additional \$7 per person by the EEF Committee, which supports Marion County employees in need. EEF will cook your choice of a hamburger,

hotdog or Gilchrist sausage and cheesy nachos or French fries. A 12 oz. Coca-Cola beverage is also included.

Reserve your seat by Dec. 6 at 4 pm by contacting the Parks and Recreation Department at 352-671-8560.



## FLORIDA C2C ADVENTURE RACE A SUCCESS

Gina Peebles

Between Sept. 30 and Oct. 3, participants in a 200 mile adventure race began a bold undertaking in Crystal River and finished in Ormond Beach.

“Twenty-two teams kayaked, biked, trekked and tubed across the state,” stated Course Director, Den-

nis Godber. “Thank [you] for granting us permission to use KP Hole Park and tubing for the tenth edition of the Florida Coast to Coast Adventure Race (C2C).”

Of the 22 teams who started, 20 crossed the finish line with Pangea Adventure Racing, a Florida team,

finishing the race in 55 hours.

Organizers of the event are already planning next year’s event. For more information on C2C, please visit them on-line at [www.adventurousconcepts.com](http://www.adventurousconcepts.com).



## Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location	Time
November 2	Basic Beginner Tennis (ages 6-11)	Bellevue Sportsplex	3:15 pm – 4 pm
	Advanced Beginner Tennis (ages 6-11)	Bellevue Sportsplex	4:15 pm – 5 pm
	Kayak 101 (adult)	Carney Island	9:30 am and 12 noon
November 3	Home School Art Program (ages 10-14)	Brick City Adventure Park	10 am – 11 am
	Home School PE (ages 5-9)	Brick City Adventure Park	10 am – 11 am
	Home School Art Program (ages 4-9)	Brick City Adventure Park	11:15 am – 12:15 pm
	Home School PE (ages 10-17)	Brick City Adventure Park	11:15 am – 12:15 pm
November 4	Kayak and Koffee	Rainbow River / KP Hole	9:30 am
November 5	Kayak Outing (Kayak 101 preferred)	Silver River	9:30 am
November 6	Art Van-Go (ages 5-15)	Baseline Road Trailhead	10 am
		Liberty Community Park Wrigley Fields	12 noon 2 pm
	Fall Fling & Mini Conference	E.D. Croskey Center	10 am
	Kayak 101 (10 & up)	Carney Island	9:30 am and 12 noon
November 7	Kayak Outing (Experienced Adult)	Juniper Springs Creek	9:30 am
November 9	Basic Beginner Tennis (ages 6-11)	Bellevue Sportsplex	3:15 pm – 4 pm
	Advanced Beginner Tennis (ages 6-11)	Bellevue Sportsplex	4:15 pm – 5 pm
	Interpretive Outing – Ocklawaha Prairie	Brick City Adventure Park	8:30 am
November 10	Home School Art Program (ages 10-14)	Brick City Adventure Park	10 am – 11 am
	Home School PE (ages 5-9)	Brick City Adventure Park	10 am – 11 am
	Home School Art Program (ages 4-9)	Brick City Adventure Park	11:15 am – 12:15 pm
	Home School PE (ages 10-17)	Brick City Adventure Park	11:15 am – 12:15 pm
November 11	Veterans Day Celebration	Veterans Memorial Park	11 am
November 13	Basic Wild Caving Experience	Brick City Adventure Park	9 am – 2 pm
November 15	Outdoor Adventure for Home School	Brick City Adventure Park	9 am
November 16	Basic Beginner Tennis (ages 6-11)	Bellevue Sportsplex	3:15 pm – 4 pm
	Advanced Beginner Tennis (ages 6-11)	Bellevue Sportsplex	4:15 pm – 5 pm
November 17	Home School Art Program (ages 10-14)	Brick City Adventure Park	10 am – 11 am
	Home School PE (ages 5-9)	Brick City Adventure Park	10 am – 11 am
	Home School Art Program (ages 4-9)	Brick City Adventure Park	11:15 am – 12:15 pm
	Home School PE (ages 10-17)	Brick City Adventure Park	11:15 am – 12:15 pm
November 18	Kayak and Koffee (Adult)	Silver River	9:30 am
November 19	Kayak Outing (Kayak 101 preferred)	Rainbow River / KP Hole	9:30 am
November 20-21	Family Overnight Camp-Out	Carney Island	2 pm – 11 am
November 23	Basic Beginner Tennis (ages 6-11)	Bellevue Sportsplex	3:15 pm – 4 pm
	Advanced Beginner Tennis (ages 6-11)	Bellevue Sportsplex	4:15 pm – 5 pm
November 24	Home School Art Program (ages 10-14)	Brick City Adventure Park	10 am – 11 am
	Home School PE (ages 5-9)	Brick City Adventure Park	10 am – 11 am
November 24	Home School Art Program (ages 4-9)	Brick City Adventure Park	11:15 am – 12:15 pm
	Home School PE (ages 10-17)	Brick City Adventure Park	11:15 am – 12:15 pm
November 30	Basic Beginner Tennis (ages 6-11)	Bellevue Sportsplex	3:15 pm – 4 pm
	Advanced Beginner Tennis (ages 6-11)	Bellevue Sportsplex	4:15 pm – 5 pm
	Interpretive Outing – Marshall Swamp Trailhead	Brick City Adventure Park	8:30 am

**Pre-registration and payment (if applicable) is required to ensure a spot in each program. Please contact the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department at 352-671-8560 for more information.**