

JUNE 7, 2023

City Manager's Update



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Parks & Rec team tour facilities in Polk County

Team gains insights into creating venues to attract large sporting events

City Manager Deric C. Feacher and Parks & Recreation staff visited several signature sporting facilities and parks in Polk County to gather inspiration for improving city-owned properties. During the tour, staff explored key venues like the AdventHealth Fieldhouse and Conference Center in Winter Haven, Lake Myrtle Sports Complex in Auburndale, Lake Crago Recreation Complex and Common Ground Playground in Lakeland and Lake Eva Community Park in Haines City.

Available for residents and rentals, the AdventHealth Fieldhouse and Conference Center, which opened in 2020 and is owned by the City of Winter Haven, is a major destination for youth sports competitions. The iconic facility features a 58,400-square-foot multi-use gymnasium with six regulation basketball courts, 12 volleyball courts, one NBA regulation court, a walking track above the courts, fitness center and outdoor swimming pool.

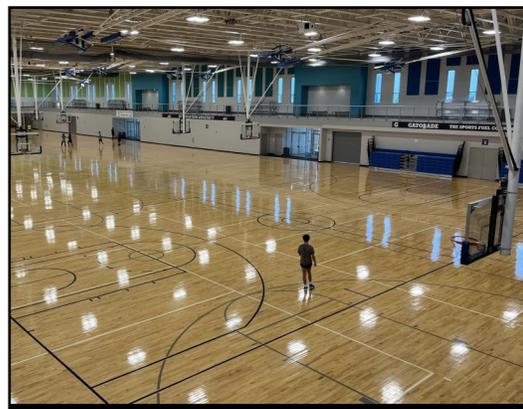
Lake Myrtle Sports Complex, owned and managed by the City of Auburndale, showcases 11 soccer fields, nine colligate baseball fields, five youth baseball fields and a five-mile walking trail. This premier sports complex is home of the Russ Matt



Parks & Rec staff talk with Bob Donahay, Lakeland's Parks and Recreation Director.

Central Florida Baseball Invitational, which is the largest collegiate baseball tournament in the country with more than 250 colligate baseball teams competing over a 15-day period.

With 600 acres of undeveloped land owned by the city west of I-95, there's an opportunity to establish a first-class sports complex with amenities to attract residents and large-scale sporting competitions. By surveying several thriving sports complexes throughout Polk County, Parks & Rec staff got an opportunity to discuss how the various municipalities successfully designed, operate and maintain multi-use facilities through securing funding partners and selling sponsorships and naming rights.



AdventHealth Fieldhouse & Conference Center



Lake Myrtle Sports Complex

Book vending machines encourage kids to develop a love of reading

Thanks to an initiative led by Zone 5 Commissioner Dannette Henry, book vending machines are making their way into local elementary schools. By earning tokens from teachers in class, students are able to “purchase” a book of their choice from the vending machine to take home. Commissioner Henry purchased book vending machines for Palm Terrace and Westside elementary schools. In May, Zone 4 Commissioner Stacy Cantu purchased a book vending machine for Champion Elementary School, which was filled with donated books from the Fire Department and Latitude Margaritaville.



Mayor Derrick Henry and Commissioner Dannette Henry at the unveiling of a book vending machine at Westside Elementary School.

Daytona Beach named to the top 50 places to live in the country

U.S. News analyzed 150 metro areas in the U.S. to find the best places to live based on the quality of life and job market in each metro area, as well as the value of living there and people's desire to live there. In addition to great weather being a factor, they added "life in Daytona Beach is balanced by museums, theaters, performing arts centers, antique markets, restaurants, malls and colleges that combine to make Daytona Beach one of Florida's most well-rounded metro areas."

- #49 in Best Places to Live
- #7 in Best Places to Retire
- #7 in Best Places to Live in Florida
- #8 in Fastest-Growing Places
- #9 in Safest Places to Live

Staff train for natural disasters

Last week senior staff participated in a training exercise to identify critical issues and better define personnel roles in the event of a natural disaster. The refresher course simulated a large-scale fire throughout Daytona Beach's rural and residential areas, damaging 30% of the city. In the scenario, the water plant, major arterial roadways and interstates, the airport and electric service were affected and residents were evacuated. The tabletop drill was coordinated by Daytona Beach Police Captain Byron Williams, the city's Emergency Operations Center manager, and allowed staff to talk through the city's response, recovery, communication and coordination of resources.





IN THE WORKS



Drainage improvements (Ongoing): The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is cleaning, repairing, and lining the existing S.R. A1A underground storm drain pipe at Driftwood Avenue. This drainage outfall system carries excess rain and groundwater from S.R. A1A at Driftwood Avenue to the west end of Wilmans Boulevard, where it empties into the Halifax River. Additional enhancements include milling and paving at various locations throughout the project limits.



The \$2.4 million project is scheduled to be completed next spring.

Daytona Beach Pier (Under construction): Renovations to the Daytona Beach Pier are continuing with the replacement of pilings and decking at the east end. Work is scheduled to be completed in July.



City utility crews clean stormwater pipes in Fairway Estates

City crews have inspected and cleaned nearly two miles of underground stormwater pipes in the Fairway Estates neighborhood. The 225-acre subdivision, filled with more than 420 well-maintained ranch-style homes, has about 100 inlets and five major outfalls, which ultimately drain rainwater into the Nova Canal.

Concrete pipes, ranging in diameter from 15 to 68 inches, were inspected using a remote controlled camera. Although small amounts of sediment, trash and vegetative debris were removed, images revealed no major clogs or breaks, which would inhibit the flow of rainwater to the state-owned canal running parallel to Nova Road.

Three open conveyance ditches were inspected and are in the process of being cleared of debris. Annual maintenance of two of the ditches are the responsibility of adjacent property owners located on Nova Road and the “Shady Place ditch” is the city’s responsibility.

Flood mitigation specialists from Pegasus Engineering have been retained by the city to provide residents with flood prevention options to mitigate future water intrusion into homes. Grants may also be available to help cover the cost for homeowners. Dates for multiple meetings will be announced soon for Fairway Estates residents and residents from other impacted areas.



Crews video inspect pipes



Promenade ditch before



All Aboard Storage ditch before



Crews clean pipes



Promenade ditch after



All Aboard Storage ditch after

Colin's Park grand reopening, June 23

The public is invited to join Zone 2 Commissioner Ken Strickland and other city officials for a grand reopening celebration from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Friday, June 23**, at Colin's Park, 100 University Blvd.

Crews just completed improvements at the beachside park, including upgraded playground equipment and new connecting sidewalks and a dog park. Landscaping was also redone. The \$167,625 project was funded in part by a \$53,125 grant from the Daytona Beach Racing and Recreational Facilities District.

Attendees can enjoy games, music and refreshments at the grand reopening celebration.



Summer concerts & fireworks

Enjoy free concerts at the Bandshell starting at 7:15 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights this summer. VIP tickets are available for \$15 plus applicable surcharges.

The Saturday night concerts are followed by the "Bud Light - Lights Up Daytona" fireworks display at about 9:45 p.m. The Saturday night summer fireworks are sponsored in part by the City of Daytona Beach.

Visit www.DaytonaBandshell.com for the full schedule.



Free concert June 10 at Cypress Park

The free, city-sponsored *Midtown Music Concert Series* continues **Saturday, June 10**, with a performance by LA Robinson and the Streetlife Band. The concert starts at 7 p.m. and attendees can bring their own chairs; however, coolers are not allowed. Guests can enjoy Line Dancing with Eddra before the concert at 6:30 p.m. Food and drink vendors will be onsite. This year's *Midtown Music Concert Series* is sponsored by Humana and United Healthcare.



Juneteenth 5K, parade & festival

The inaugural Juneteenth Freedom Day 5K run/walk is at 8 a.m. **Saturday, June 17**, in the Riverfront Esplanade. Registration is at www.FreedomDay5K.com.

Parade entries are being taken for the Juneteenth Community Parade that starts at 10 a.m. **Saturday, June 17**. The parade will travel Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Boulevard, down Keech Street to George W. Engram Boulevard and end at Cypress Park, the location of the Juneteenth Festival.

The free, all-day festival will feature live music, food vendors, merchandise, sponsor interactive activity booths, dancing, children's games, educational activities and an annual Pound Cake Contest. In addition, proceeds will help support college scholarships for area youth.



For more details, visit www.JuneteenthDaytona.com, call (386) 227-7220 or email wilkinsonc@cookman.edu.