

APRIL 17, 2024

City Manager's Update



Transformed Daisy Stocking Park to be unveiled Saturday, April 20

Midtown Music Concert Series kicks off at Grand Reopening celebration

When comparing Daisy Stocking Park from before its multi-million-dollar renovation to today, the only thing that looks remotely familiar is the park's signature outdoor amphitheater. The rest of the neighborhood park at 555 Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Blvd. has been completely transformed into an inviting, thoughtful and useful space for community gatherings or quiet reflection. Functional and aesthetic enhancements in the four-acre park will be unveiled to the public at a ribbon-cutting ceremony 5 p.m. Saturday, April 20.

The transformation of the public space and amphitheater, originally built in 1970, was made possible by the city's commitment to preserving its history and expanding its cultural programming. The last major improvements to the park were made in 1995. Thanks to grants from the Florida African American Cultural and Historical Grant program (\$1 million) and the Daytona Beach Racing and Recreational Facilities District (\$330,000), the \$2.6 million project was able to move forward.

Led by Mark Veenstra, a project manager in Public Works, construction began last summer with Paul Culver Construction, the same contractor who renovated the Dickerson Recreation Complex.

The park's namesake, Daisy Stocking, is not just a name on a sign. Her inspiring story as one of the city's foremost humanitarians and medical practitioners is told throughout the park, starting with two 15-foot-tall sculptures that greet visitors at the entrance and subtle silhouette images of a nurse adorning pavilions, picnic tables and signage. A timeline of her life and profound impact on the community is prominently featured along a seatwall, inviting parkgoers to learn and reflect.



What's new?

- 🌿 4,700-square-foot shade structure over the area in front of the amphitheater
- 🌿 Sidewalk connectivity throughout the park
- 🌿 Playground equipment for children ages 4 to 12 with an ADA-compliant wood fiber surface
- 🌿 Three pavilions and 18 concrete picnic tables with coquina accent bases
- 🌿 Seatwall featuring a timeline of Daisy Stocking's life and contributions to the community
- 🌿 Lush landscaping with thousands of new plantings and irrigation
- 🌿 Pedestrian-only connection between Daisy Stocking Park and nearby Joseph Harris Park
- 🌿 Benches and trash cans
- 🌿 Art features including musical notes and two oversized sculptures
- 🌿 LED bollard along pathways and overhead lighting on decorative light poles
- 🌿 Resurfaced parking lot
- 🌿 Removable safety bollards at the front and rear entrances to allow temporary access for event setup
- 🌿 Colorful murals painted on the three sides of the restroom facility
- 🌿 6-foot aluminum fencing around the park's perimeter



Read about Daisy Stocking on page 2

Who was Daisy Hardy Stocking?

Born in Florence, South Carolina, on Oct. 24, 1888, Daisy Hardy came to Daytona Beach in 1916 at Mary McLeod Bethune's behest. Having trained as a registered nurse in New York, Hardy supervised McLeod Hospital on the campus of Daytona Educational and Industrial Institute (now Bethune-Cookman University) from 1916 to 1918.



Daisy Stocking (1888-1968)

Contributions:

- She organized the Volusia County Tuberculosis Assoc.
- She served as a volunteer nurse for the Girl Scout camp and led the Girl Scout program for more than 15 years
- For 22 years, she chaired the board of directors of Sara Hunt Orphanage, which flourished from 1924 to 1970
- During World War II, she chaired the Negro Division War Bond Drive and served as nurse-in-charge of the first aid station
- She served on the board of directors of the Community Chest Fund and United Fund
- In 1963, the Chicago Committee of 100 presented her with the Good American Award to honor her decades of service to humanity
- In 1964, she was inducted into the Methodist Hall of Fame in philanthropy, and in that same year, the National Council of Negro Women named her Woman of the Year
- In 1967, Daisy Stocking was named the local Civitan Senior Citizen of the Year
- In 1971, three years after her death, the Daytona Beach City Commission dedicated Daisy T. Stocking Park in her honor



Public input opportunities for citywide Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Daytona Beach is home to nearly 30 parks, 5 community centers and numerous trails. The city is calling on residents to participate in shaping its Parks and Recreation Master Plan, a roadmap for the city's parks, recreation areas, trails and programs for the next decade and beyond. Community involvement is important to the Master Plan's success.

The Master Plan will identify opportunities to elevate indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities for youth and adults in our community. The plan will address current needs and identify opportunities for enhancements within our parks, facilities and programming to better meet our residents' evolving needs.

There will be three public input meetings:

Tuesday, June 11 at 6 p.m.

Peninsula Club

415 S. Peninsula Drive

Thursday, June 13 at 6 p.m.

Dickerson Recreation Complex

308 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Saturday, June 22 at 10 a.m.

Cherry Cultural & Educational Center

925 George W. Engram Blvd.



FDOT project aims to clean Nova Canal

This week, the Florida Department of Transportation started the Nova Canal Drainage System Restoration Project. Working from north to south on a 7.5 mile stretch along Nova Road from Holly Hill to Port Orange, crews will make their way to Daytona Beach where they will work on the Nova Canal's open segments from Orange Avenue to Beville Road.

The \$875,000 project includes restoring the width and depth of the Nova Canal and cleaning, reshaping, clearing and grubbing, removing trees and vegetation, applying herbicide and hydroseeding slopes. Motorists can expect intermittent lane closures throughout the project, which is expected to be completed late this year.



IN THE WORKS



Cedar Highlands Park (upcoming): Beautification upgrades will start soon in Cedar Highlands Park, 1601 Attucks Court.

Enhancements to the neighborhood park include landscape and irrigation improvements and the installation of new sod around the property. Demolition and prep work is being done by city crews, and the project is expected to be finished by the end of the summer.

Throughout the improvement project, the park will remain open from sunrise to sunset.



Community Center Gymnasium Floors (completed):

Restoration to the indoor basketball courts at the Dickerson Community Center and YSG Cultural & Educational Center is complete. Both gymnasiums are open to the public from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (upcoming): Level 2 electric vehicle charging stations have been ordered, and once they arrive, will be installed at City Hall, Breakers Environmental Learning Center, Cherry Cultural & Educational Center, Florida Tennis Center and on the corner of Magnolia Avenue and Beach Street. Each unit will have two chargers. The \$24,700 project is anticipated to be finished by the end of the summer.



Daisy Stocking Park Mural (completed): A colorful mural can be found at Daisy Stocking Park, 555 Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Blvd. Created by artist Tiff Urquhart, artwork incorporates symbols about Stocking's life and anticipated performances at the park. Urquhart's other large-scale murals can be seen at Dickerson Recreation Complex, Joe Harris Park and underneath the Daytona Beach Pier.



Seabreeze Boat Ramp (in design): To stay level with the Halifax River's fluctuating tides, a new floating dock system will replace the fixed concrete docks at this public boat ramp. The project is currently in the design phase and is expected to begin in spring 2025.



Prescription Drug Take Back, April 27

Residents can safely dispose unwanted, unused or expired prescription drugs between **10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, April 27**, in the lobby of the Daytona Beach Police Department's headquarters, 129 Valor Blvd.

The drop-off is part of National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, which is organized by the Drug Enforcement Agency.

The service is free of charge with no questions asked.



Family fun & fresh fare at the Crab & Seafood Festival, April 27



The Daytona Beach Crab & Seafood Festival will be from **11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, April 27**, on Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Boulevard between Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Charles Street. This annual event is hosted by Zone 6 City Commissioner Paula R. Reed. For a full list of vendors, visit www.CODB.us/CrabandSeafood.

FREE Live Entertainment:

- ChiTown DJ
- The Love Band
- Palm Terrace Elementary School Band
- Royal Elite Dolls
- Line Dancing with Eddra
- DJ Chester

FREE Activities in the Kids Zone:

11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- Three-play sports inflated carnival games
- Giant trikes and inflatable race track
- Other children's games

Noon - 3 p.m.

- Face painting & caricature artist

3 - 5 p.m.

- Trackless train rides

APRIL IS WATER CONSERVATION MONTH



CODB.us/ConservationTips



Jeep Beach 2024, a premier event for Jeep enthusiasts, is **April 19-28**. While the festivities span various locations across the city, they primarily center around Daytona International Speedway where attendees can test their skills on obstacle courses and see an impressive showcase of customized Jeeps.

The family-friendly event is full of engaging activities designed to unite Jeep lovers and celebrate their shared passion for adventure and automotive culture. For more information and full schedule of events, visit www.JeepBeach.com.

Earth Day tree planting at Schnebly

In a hands-on celebration of Earth Day, children in the after-school program at Schnebly Recreation Center will plant a tree at **3 p.m. April 19**.

This activity offers children a chance to learn about the importance of environmental preservation while contributing positively to their community.

