

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

Manager's Updates: Recreation Division– September 2020

I. Sports Section (Aquatics & Athletics)

1. Attendance at city pools for the month of February was 6,261, compared to 15,495 for the same period last year. Recreational swim has still not been allowed, and lap swim and teams are the only users at this time due to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines.
2. The RFP to replace the **PVC vinyl pool liner at Mickle Pool** is waiting contract execution pending warranty discussions. The expected installation is January/February timeframe.
3. H. Spurgeon Cherry Pool House renovation designs are moving along well with expected renovations occurring fall/winter 2021.
4. **Citywide Tennis Services:** USTA-FL staff continues to set programming and add events and activities to their website. For court reservations, program information, and other general information, patrons can visit www.playtennisgainesville.com.
5. **Youth Basketball** season feasibility is being explored with the ACTFOR organization to offer possible programming beginning in January.

II. Education Section

1. **After School Program** has been running since school has resumed.
2. **Out of School days** registration has begun and mostly replicates the SBAC's calendar.
3. We are again in the process of filling a Recreation Aide II position that was vacated over the summer. Applications are currently in review.

III. Facilities Section

1. The MLK Multipurpose Center and Albert Ray Massey Recreation Center are currently undergoing facility networking upgrades to
2. We are currently still reviewing applications for the Temp Facility assistant positions.
3. Park Permits have resumed on a limited basis. Facility rentals have not resumed.

IV. Wild Spaces Public Places Updates

1. The Wild Spaces and Public Places webpages are active on the City's website: <http://www.cityofgainesville.org/WildSpacesandPublicPlaces.aspx>.

2. This month's WSPP Project Updates:

Albert “Ray” Massey (Westside) Park Improvements: The City of Gainesville’s Wild Spaces & Public Places program, in conjunction with the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department, is pleased to announce that improvements at Westside Park, located at 1001 NW 34th St., began in February and continue through fall 2020. The Westside Park project includes upgrades to baseball fields 1 and 2. Improvements include field regrading, new turf, reconstruction of ramps to the scorer’s platform, a new ADA accessible viewing area over field 1 and erosion stabilization. Access to fields 1 and 2 will be limited during construction. Final walkthrough is expected October/November at latest.

Northside Park Improvements: The City of Gainesville’s Wild Spaces & Public Places program, in conjunction with the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department and the Rotary Clubs of Gainesville Foundation, is pleased to announce that a large park renovation project is underway at Northside Park, located at 5701 NW 34th Blvd.

Improvements include the addition of 40 parking spaces, a new playground and construction of a new multi-generational play area, the “Generations Play Zone”. The Generations Play Zone was designed to provide activities for all ages and will include outdoor games such as bocce ball, pickleball/tennis courts, pétanque, table tennis, checkers and chess. It will also include an outdoor patio, a large pavilion with grills, shaded seating and viewing areas and a walking path with outdoor exercise equipment. Final walkthrough of park is expected in late October of 2020. The approximate construction cost of the project is \$2 million. Scherer Construction of North Florida is facilitating the work. For more details about the project, [click here](#). For more information, please contact Betsy Waite, project manager, at 352-393-8187 or waiteed@cityofgainesville.org.

Oakview Park Improvements: The City of Gainesville’s Wild Spaces & Public Places program, in conjunction with the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department, is pleased to announce that work has begun at Oakview Park (formerly named Kiwanis Girl Scout Park), located at 810 NW 8th Ave. Improvements include updating the nearly 64-year-old building, a new modern playground, new plants, removing invasive species and adding parking. Completion of the project is estimated for October of 2020. The approximate construction cost of the project is \$998,000. To allow for improvements, the existing playground at Oakview Park will be unavailable to the public during construction. Park patrons are encouraged to utilize other parks while this work is taking place. For information on other nearby parks, please [click here](#). For more information, please contact Betsy Waite, project manager, at 352-393-8187 or waiteed@cityofgainesville.org.