

# Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

## Manager's Updates: Recreation Division– March 2021

### I. Sports Section (Aquatics & Athletics)

1. *Attendance at city pools for the month of March was 5,644. Recreational swim has still not been allowed, and lap swim and teams are the only users at this time due to COVID-19 restrictions.*
2. *High School water polo season ends April 17. Practices for GHS and BHS are being held at Hunter pool.*
3. *The shade structures at Cherry Pool have been installed by Creative Shade Solutions. They look great and were installed in just 6 days.*
4. *H. Spurgeon Cherry Pool House renovation designs are moving along well with expected renovations occurring November 2021.*
5. *H. Spurgeon Cherry Pool parking lot and pool liner have been added to the WSPP list for next fiscal year. These projects will go out to bid in the coming months.*
6. *Lifeguard classes are scheduled for the week of April 12 and 26.*
7. **Pickle Ball:** Pick-up play continues in the spring at the MLK Center, in the mornings.
8. **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](http://www.playtennisgainesville.com).*
9. *Summer Heatwave is in the planning stages. We have confirmed use of Lincoln Middle School gym for the summer.*
10. *Adult Softball championship games will be played the week of April 12. Summer league will begin in May.*
11. **Gainesville Youth Sports:** Information on the spring season can be found at [www.gainesvilleyouthsports.com](http://www.gainesvilleyouthsports.com). Gainesville Youth Sports provides both youth baseball and girls fast-pitch softball programs, utilizing Albert Ray Massey Park, Greentree Park, and Tom Petty Park.
12. **National Flag Football:** Begins April 11 at Possum Creek park and will continue every Sunday through May.

### II. Education Section - MARCH

#### 1. **Staffing Report.**

Panel interviews for the vacant Recreation Aide II position took place on March 15, 2021. A candidate was not selected and the job will be advertised again.

In total, there are still two vacancies in the Education Section (Recreation Leader position and a Recreation Aide II position).

2. **Net Revenue Report.**

ARM: Spring Break Camp - \$1,323.75

ARM: Out of School Days - \$9.75

MLK: Start Smart Baseball - \$405.00

3. **Attendance Report.**

ARM: Foundations Academy After-School Program - 224

ARM: Spring Break Camp - 119

ESRC: Foundations Academy After-School Program - 203

PTS: Foundations Academy After-School Program - 107

PHX: Foundations Academy After-School Program - 67

4. **Programming: Spring Break Camp.**

ARM: Spring Break Camp at Albert “Ray” Massey operated over a five day period - program dates were March 22-26, 2020. There were 27 total enrolled, the fill rate was 90%.

*-Amongst the many activities, a highlight was the collaborative programming with the Nature Operations Division and the Environmental Education staff; campers participated in two field trips, to Morningside Nature Center and Sweetwater Wetlands Park.*

ESRC: Spring Break Camp at Eastside was cancelled due to low enrollment. Registration was closed on March 18, 2021.

5. **Programming: Foundations Academy After-School Program.**

The Foundation Academy After-School Program is ongoing through June 16, 2021.

*-On Wednesday, March 10, after-school participants at Eastside Recreation Center participated in a field trip to The Florida Museum of Natural History and focused on touring the Butterfly Rainforest and Indoor Butterfly Exhibits. This was an extension of the existing virtual programming partnership with The Florida Museum of Natural History.*

### **III. Facilities Section**

1. Although the MLK Center is being used to provide vaccines for our community we are still experiencing steady pickle ball play when the facility is open. Spring break also brought in an increase of open gym users mainly youth and teenagers accessing the building to play basketball and train together.
2. We are currently preparing to start interviews for the facility assistant position. We are seeking to add more staff before the city opens back up to full capacity.
3. Through efforts of the county the MLK center is currently a main hub for vaccinations. Hosting sometimes up to 4 vaccinations days a week until mid- June. It has been a great pleasure for our staff and myself to apart of the efforts to protect our community.

4. Facility staff is continuing to work hard. They have started power washing the outsides off our recreation centers, and continuing to work to improve the levels of service we provide through having the proper information to give to our patrons when needed. We are also continuing to work on creating a facility brochure that will consist of rental information and information regarding all of our recreation center.

#### **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:*

#### **Current Projects:**

**Clarence R. Kelly Community Center and Park:** 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 construction of the new **Clarence R. Kelly Community Center and Park, located at 1701 NE 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, is anticipated to begin the week of April 12<sup>th</sup>.** Improvements include the construction of a new 4,180 sf community center and neighborhood park. The park will have a new playground, adult fitness equipment, a basketball court, a fenced community garden and much more. Blackwater Construction Services, LLC, a small, local business, is the general contractor for the project. The approximate project cost is \$2,292,276.00 and work should be complete in the spring of 2022. For more information, please contact Pete McNiece, project manager, at 352-393-8544 or [mcniecepr@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:mcniecepr@cityofgainesville.org).

**Cedar Grove Park Playground:** 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 renovation of the Cedar Grove Playground, **located at 1200 NE 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, is anticipated to begin in mid-April.** Miracle Recreation Equipment Company will be performing the work and the project should be complete by the end of May. For more information, please contact John Weber, project manager, at 352-393-8186 or [weberjf@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:weberjf@cityofgainesville.org).

**Unity Park and Flatwoods Conservation Area Trailhead 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 is underway at Unity Park, a new neighborhood park located at 1700 NE 31st Ave. Improvements to the park include two new basketball courts, a community garden, playground equipment, sidewalk games, a pavilion, grill and a walking loop with fitness stations. The Flatwoods Conservation Area Trailhead, located nearby at 2010 NE 31st Ave., will also be renovated. The approximate project cost is \$1,043,721 and work should be complete in the spring of 2021. AKEA, Inc. a local, minority, certified service-disabled veteran owned small business, is the general contractor for the project. For more information, please contact Pete McNiece, project manager, at 352-393-8544 or [mcniecepr@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:mcniecepr@cityofgainesville.org).

**Dwight H. Hunter Pool – Men's Locker Room Renovations:** 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 Elevated Design & Construction, LLC will be renovating the men's locker room at the Dwight H. Hunter Pool located at 1100 NE 14th St. The locker room will get new privacy partitions in the bathroom area, upgraded LED lighting throughout, and the addition of wall-mounted mirrors. The project cost is \$19,675.00 and work is anticipated to complete by mid-April 2021. For more information, please contact Pete McNiece, project manager, at 352-393-8544 or [mcniecepr@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:mcniecepr@cityofgainesville.org).

Recently Completed:

**H. Spurgeon Cherry Pool – Sun Shades:** 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 Creative Shade Solutions installed four 20'x 30' shade structures at the H. Spurgeon Cherry Pool located at 1001 NW 31st Drive in March 2021. The project cost was \$30,300.00. For more information, please contact Pete McNiece, project manager, at 352-393-8544 or [mcniecepr@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:mcniecepr@cityofgainesville.org).