

2023 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT



SEMINOLE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
EXTENSION SERVICES | GREENWAYS AND NATURAL LANDS | LIBRARIES | PARKS AND RECREATION







TABLE OF CONTENTS

6	LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR
8	PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT MISSION
9	CAPRA DESIGNATION
10	DEPARTMENT PROFILE
11	CONDENSED FINANCIAL REPORT FY 2022/2023
12 - 17	EXTENSION SERVICES
18 - 27	GREENWAYS AND NATURAL LANDS
28 - 35	LIBRARY SERVICES
36 - 51	PARKS AND RECREATION

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Community Member,

Welcome to the Seminole County Parks and Recreation Department's Annual Community Impact Report.

This year has been a very busy and exciting year for us and the citizens that we serve. Significantly, we completed a number of projects including the renovation of Sunland Park and the Lake Mills Park trail loop. Red Bug Lake Park hosted an event with the Posh Rock Tennis Foundation, which provides tennis lessons to special needs children. Library Services completed their Public Library Services Master Plan, and, once again, Extension Services agents were recognized both on the state, regional, and national levels.

We had many accomplishments to celebrate this year:

- The Parks and Recreation Division hosted 92 events, resulting in \$64 million in economic impact to our County.
- The Extension Services Division added four new Partners in Excellence, including Seminole County Young Farmers and Ranchers.
- The Natural Lands Program partnered with Volunteer University of Central Florida (VUCF) and the Seminole Education, Restoration, Volunteer (SERV) program to remove invasive plant species and trash at Spring Hammock Preserve. The volunteer event helped protect local biodiversity and water quality in Soldiers Creek.
- Lake Dot Park was chosen for the Florida Recreation and Park Association's (FRPA) 2023 Facility Showcase. This project was showcased in the Winter 2023 edition of the FRPA Journal and on the Public Spaces and Facilities Showcase webpage of frpa.org.
- Library Services unveiled six language learning pods that were funded through a \$90,000 gift made by Mr. and Mrs. William Goodman.

As we head into 2024 with continuing and new projects and programs, I would like to thank our staff for their outstanding work and dedication, and our County Manager's Office and County Commissioners for their very much appreciated leadership and support. Thank you, also, to our citizens who support our libraries, extension office, parks, and wilderness areas through visitation and participation in programs.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Durr, Jr.'.

Richard E. Durr, Jr., CPRP, PLA, AICP
Director of Parks and Recreation



PARKS AND RECREATION MISSION

Enriching lives through outstanding cultural, educational, environmental and recreational experiences.

OUR GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Community Building & Social Equity:

Ensure that the community has access to the benefits of local parks, libraries, extension, and natural lands experiences and opportunities.

Economic Impact:

Create opportunities and experiences that provide for economic growth and sustainability in the community.

Environmental Sustainability:

Create recreational, conservation, preservation, and educational opportunities within the community that maintain healthy, vibrant, and balanced natural surroundings.

Health & Wellness:

Provide facilities and learning environments for the community to create and maintain healthy lifestyles through wellness opportunities.

Financial Sustainability:

Provide sound financial management in the Department to ensure fiscal sustainability and effective decision making by providing staff with the necessary resources and tools for success.

CAPRA DESIGNATION



Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) accredits park and recreation agencies for excellence in operation and service.

Evaluation is on 154 Standards of Excellence.

SEMINOLE COUNTY'S AGENCY ACCREDITATION IS ONE OF:

205 Agencies Nationally

26 in Florida

One of only 8 Counties in Florida

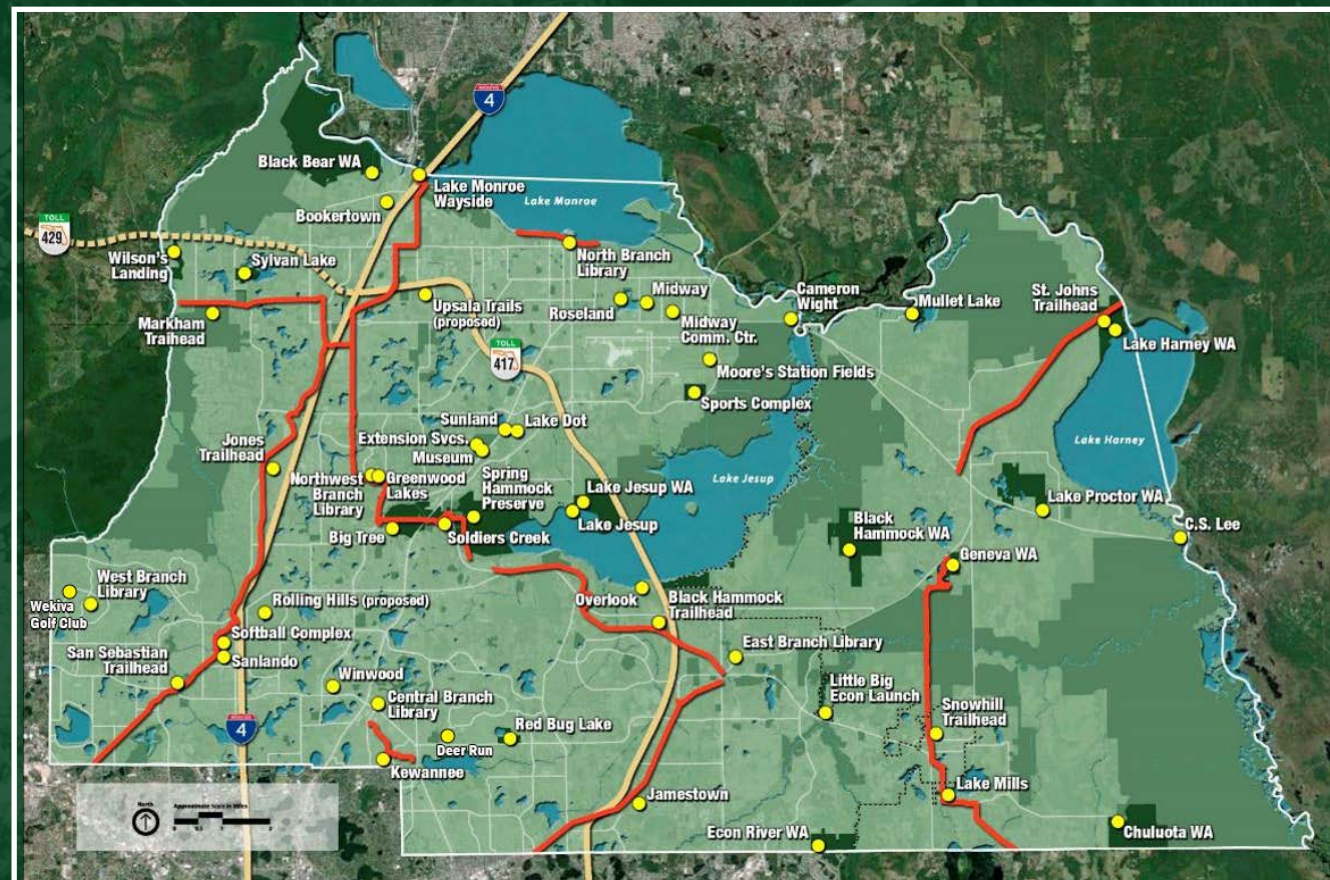
The Seminole County Parks and Recreation Department was **first accredited in 2009**, **re-accredited in 2014** and **re-accredited in 2019**.

The agency is currently in the re-accreditation process for 2024

DEPARTMENT PROFILE

- **7,632** Acres of Parks and Natural Lands
- **6** Staffed Parks
- **25** Unstaffed Parks and Trailheads
- **11** Natural Lands Areas Open for Use
- **5** Library Branches
- **51** Miles of Paved Trails
- **85** Miles of Unpaved and Wilderness Trails
- **60** Miscellaneous Facilities and Public Grounds
- **50** Miles of County Roadway Medians
- **1** Golf Course in Operation

Facility Map



CONDENSED FINANCIAL REPORT FY 2022/2023

REVENUES

General Fund	24,657,709
Parks and Recreation/Library Fees	2,452,747
Boating Fees	7,581
Library Impact Fees	97,705
Natural Land Endowment Fees	230,370
Tourist Development Tax Fund	407,808
Donations/Grants	126,336
Natural Lands Trails	77,242
Infrastructure Surtax	1,537,693
Rolling Hills MSBU	2,603
CARES/ARPA	661,452
Wekiva Golf Course Fund*	8,834,771
Total	\$39,094,016

*Includes General Fund Transfer

EXPENDITURES

Personal Services	10,347,187
Operating	8,300,615
Capital Outlay	19,030,216
Grants and Aid	142,515
Internal Charges	1,273,483
Total	\$39,094,016

USES BY DIVISION

Business Office*	1,525,506
Extension	492,930
Greenways and Natural Lands**	13,899,031
Libraries	7,004,505
Parks and Recreation ***	16,172,044
Total	\$39,094,016

*Includes ARPA & CARES Expenditures

**Includes purchase of Deer Run property and expenditures

***Includes purchase of Wekiva property and expenditures

EXTENSION SERVICES **UF** IFAS Extension

UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Providing Solutions for Your Life

DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

UF/IFAS Extension Seminole County administered **116** pesticide certification exams.

The Central District Pesticide Trainers also collaborated to offer over **1,622** Continuing Education Units (CEUs) to pesticide applicators to maintain their licenses.

Based on a 2020 University of Florida study, certified pesticide applicators have the potential to earn more money by being certified. On average, certified individuals' annual wage is **\$6,448** higher than unlicensed landscape workers.

2,883 youth ages 5 through 18 participated in public speaking, financial literacy, agriculture, STEM, and healthy living through the Seminole County 4-H Youth Development program.

371 adult and youth volunteers donated approximately **9,790** hours of their time, which is equivalent to **4.7** full time employees or a savings of approximately **\$287,923*** annually to County residents.

**2022 FL Data from the Independent Sector*

448 Educational classes were provided on economic, environmental, or social issues to **14,638** participants.



EXTENSION SERVICES UF IFAS

Providing Solutions for Your Life

UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

AGRICULTURE IN SEMINOLE COUNTY

403 Farms

34,926 acres of Land in Farms

87 acres Average Size of Farm

\$21,345,000 Market Value of Products Sold

2017 Census of Agriculture

For every **\$1** spent on locally grown produce, there is a **\$2.40** economic multiplier to the local economy. It is estimated that for every **\$1** invested in agricultural research and extension, there is a return of **\$20** to the community.

2019 University of Florida study

EXTENSION SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Rita Law

Nitza Sanchez

Jennifer Mitchell

Linda White

Tom Minter

GiGi Rivadeneyra

Clay Archey

Rick Durr

Mark Catelli

Sarafaith Pekor

Other Advisory Boards Include:

Board of County Commissioners
Agriculture Advisory Board

Florida Friendly Landscaping
Advisory Board

4-H Association

Family & Consumer Sciences
Advisory Board

Urban Horticulture & Master
Gardener Advisory Board

PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE



EXTENSION SERVICES

Above and Beyond Children and Community Services Inc; All Souls Catholic School; Altamonte Christian School; Ampersand School; Bavarian Motor Sports; Bay Head Eye Care; Bear Lake Elementary School; Black Hammock Bee Farm; Bok Towers; Bud Martin; Casselberry EarthFest; Central Florida Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area; Chuluota Feed; Chuluota Veterinary Hospital; Citizens Bank; City of Altamonte Springs; City of Casselberry; City of Casselberry Youth Summer Camp; City of Lake Mary; City of Longwood; City of Maitland; City of Oviedo; City of Sanford; City of Winter Springs; Clarcona Horse Park; ; Design Environmental Kreaions, LLC; Doctor of Plant Medicine Program; Double R Private School; Duda Farm Fresh Foods, Inc.; Dutch Mill Nursery; Dyna Gro; Earthwork Seeds; East Central Florida Regional Planning Council; Farm Credit of Central Florida; Fifth Third Bank; Florida 4-H/Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Florida 4-H; United Healthcare Foundation; Florida Department of Corrections Circuit 18; Florida Department of Health; Florida Native Plant Society, Cuplet Fern Chapter; Florida Food Policy Council; Florida Power and Light, Franklin Legacy Financial; Friends of the Wekiva River; Galileo School for Gifted Learning; Geneva Beef Company; Geneva Elementary School, Geneva Village Homemakers; Goldsboro Front Porch Group; Goldsboro Elementary School; Greenwood Lakes Middle School; Greenwood Pharmacy; Hagerty High School; Happy Bee; Head Start Program (Sanford, Altamonte Springs); Helpful Hands, Inc.; Holy Cross Lutheran Academy; Hope Helps Resource Center; Horsepower Ranch; Horseservices, Inc.; I; Jackson Heights Middle School; Jesus Christ Church of Latter Day Saints; Jett Printworks; John E. Polk Correctional Facility; Johnny's Seeds; Lake Howell High School; Lake Mary Life Magazine; UF/IFAS Lakewatch; Lawton Chiles Middle School; Lommerse Honey; Long- wood Elementary School; Lukas Nursery; Markham Woods Middle School; Meriweather Farms; Millennium Middle School; Morris Family Farms; Mr. & Mrs. Richard Ashby; National 4-H Council/Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund; National Community Reinvestment Coalition; ; Old Red Barn of Geneva; Old State Stables; Orangewood Christian School; Orlando North; Orlando Sentinel; Oviedo Crosslife Church ESOL Program; Pappy's Patch U-Pick; Park Maitland Middle School; Pet Bow-Tique; Publix Supermarkets, Inc.; Randy Cutlip Farrier Services; Redeeming Life Outreach Ministry; Rega Mental Health; Rest Haven Farm; Sabel Point Elementary School, Sanford Ace Hardware; Sanford Community Garden; Sanford Flower Shop; Seed 2 Source; Seminole County Beekeepers Association; Seminole County Cattleman's Association; Seminole County Community Services Department; Seminole County Department of Public Safety; Seminole County Farm Bureau; Seminole County Government Television; Seminole County Greenways and Natural Lands; Seminole County HCE Council; Seminole County Department of Health ; Seminole County Libraries; Seminole County Parks Division; Leisure Services; Seminole County Public Schools Administration; Seminole County School Board Dividends and Retired Senior Volunteer Program; Seminole County Public Schools Employee Wellness Program; Seminole County Watershed Division; Seminole State College; Seminole State College English as a Second Language (ESOL) Program (Altamonte Springs, Lake Mary/Sanford), Oviedo); Seminole County Sheriff's Office Child Protective Services; Silver Sands Bridle Club Inc.; Soggy Acres Pomelo Grove; Solid Rock Realty; South Seminole Farm and Nursery; South Seminole Middle School; Spring Lake Elementary School; St. John's River Water Management District; State of Harmony Farm; Stockman's Harness and Saddle Shop; Sundew Gardens; Sunniland; Sunrise Acres Oviedo; Sweetwater Oaks Garden Fair; T.G. Lee Foundation; Track Shack; The Garden Club of Sanford; The Masters Academy; The Mortgage Firm, LLC; The Sharing Center, Tropicana, Inc.; Tuskawilla Middle School; Tyton Construction, Inc.; United States Department of Agriculture; Walker Elementary School; Wayne Densch Performing Arts Center; Wekiva Island; ; White's Red Hill Grove; Wild Horse Rescue Center; Williams Agency; Wilson Elementary School; Winter Springs Elementary School; Yarborough Ranch, Florida Nursery Growers & Landscapers Association (FNGLA), Florida Turfgrass Association, Deland Garden Club; Quest Camp Thunderbird; Seeds of Inclusion; Village on the Green Senior Living; Florida Department of Transportation Seminole County Young Farmers and Ranchers; BigDaddys Organic Farm; Lake Mills U Pick; Central Florida Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area,

GREENWAYS AND NATURAL LANDS

Unstaffed Parks, Trails, Boat Ramps, Natural Lands, and Medians



DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

Greenways and Natural Lands provided education and outreach programs to **10,127** participants of all ages. Three new program offerings were added in 2023: Learn and Burn, featuring a prescribed burn demonstration; Nature Lovers, a special Valentine's Day wildlife program; and Crazy Cool Craniums, a look at identifying animals by their skulls and skeletons.

Natural Lands educators also hosted **22** field trips at the Geneva Wilderness Area and Ed Yarborough Nature Center, an increase from 17 in 2022.

The Division appreciates the hard work and dedication of the volunteers that maintain and enhance public lands. Volunteers provided **1,920** hours of service in various areas, including removing **196** feral hogs from County properties.

Greenways and Natural Lands teamed up with the Seminole Education, Restoration, and Volunteer (SERV) Program on several projects in passive parks. SERV's projects focus on protecting Seminole County's waterways and natural resources. One large volunteer group assisted with freshening up the bioretention garden at Wilson's Landing, another planted aquatic plants along the water in Overlook Park to help with shoreline stabilization, and another removed invasive plants and trash at Lake Mills Park.

The Division's commitment to providing outstanding public parks earned recognition from the Florida Recreation and Park Association (FRPA). Lake Dot Park was awarded a spot in FRPA's 2023 Facility Showcase, highlighting improvements to the walking trail, lake, and fishing pier.

GREENWAYS AND NATURAL LANDS

Unstaffed Parks, Trails, Boat Ramps, Natural Lands, and Medians



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

BOOKERTOWN PARK – Installed dugouts and new concrete slab and walkway

GREENWOOD LAKES PARK – Built trail stop pavilion with bike repair station

JAMESTOWN PARK and **KEWANNEE PARK** – Funded basketball court renovations using Community Development Block Grant

LAKE DOT PARK – Completed renovations to loop trail, fishing pier, and pavilion

LAKE JESUP PARK – Added new footbridge and shelter

LAKE MILLS PARK – Began construction of loop trail and boardwalk trail

LAKE MONROE WAYSIDE PARK – Expanded boat launch and added new docks and gangways

MARKHAM WOODS TRAILHEAD – Hosted grand opening event for new mountain bike skills course

MIDWAY AREA – Made Riverbend landscape improvements

MIDWAY PARK – Upgraded playground, basketball court, and other amenities

SOLDIERS CREEK PARK – Constructed overflow parking lot for use during special events

SUNLAND PARK – Completed new playground, walking path, courts, fitness station, and pavilion

WINWOOD PARK – Opened new restroom building



GREENWAYS AND NATURAL LANDS

Unstaffed Parks, Trails, Boat Ramps, Natural Lands, and Medians



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)

MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Greenways and Natural Lands continued developing master plans for three innovative park transformations.

ROLLING HILLS COMMUNITY PARK – Finished Phase 1 plans, with anticipated groundbreaking date in 2024

DEER RUN COMMUNITY PARK – Progressed with master plan design, with conceptual master plan expected in spring 2024

MIDWAY LOOP TRAIL – Designed and revised Phase 1 plans, with 100% design plans expected in late winter 2024

GREENWAYS AND NATURAL LANDS

Unstaffed Parks, Trails, Boat Ramps, Natural Lands, and Medians



TESTIMONIALS

“The knowledge of the presenters and the interactivity of the overall program was incredibly engaging and honestly, awe-inspiring”

- Learn & Burn participant

“This was absolutely great. My son loved it, the instructor was very knowledgeable, the insect “touch and feel” portion was great. THANK YOU!”

- Bug Bash participant

“Thank you so much for coming out again this year to give our students this awesome experience. We appreciate you!”

- In-School Program: Carillon Elementary 5th grade team

“Excellent camp experience, my kids look forward to it each year, they love to be outside with the knowledgeable counselors.”

- Eco Camp - Navigating Nature parent survey comment

“Each day the instructors were so nice and informative. My daughter absolutely loved it and the interaction with them. I can’t wait to send both of my daughters next summer”

- Eco Camp - Eco Artists parent survey comment

A photograph of hikers in a forest. In the foreground, there are tall, thin grasses. A hiker in a blue backpack and dark shorts is walking away from the camera. Another hiker in a black shirt and green pants is visible behind them. The background is a dense forest of tall trees under a clear blue sky.

ADOPT A PARK PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE

GREENWAYS AND NATURAL LANDS

Adventure Cycling

B.R.A.N.C.H, Inc.

EDR Technologies, Inc.

HBC Outdoors

Healing Hands by Teresa, RN, LMT

Invincible Troops

Lake Emma Animal Hospital

Lake Mary Prep National Jr. Honor Society

Markham Woods Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Save Rural Seminole

Scout Troop 631

Seminole Audubon Society

SORBA Orlando

St. Stephen Church

Sunshine State Seekers

The Scoular Foundation

Verizon

Youth Intervention Services, Seminole County
Sheriff's Office

LIBRARY SERVICES

MISSION

Enriching Lives, Engaging Minds, Empowering Community

OUR VISION

We envision a Seminole County where creativity and inspiration thrive, and where every person has the opportunity and resources to read, learn and grow.

OUR VALUES

We are guided by:

- Respect for our customers and for each other
- Belief in the transformational power of reading and learning
- Access for all and the freedom to read
- Belief that anything is possible with creativity, and optimism

DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

5,326,582 Virtual Library Visits

2,108,226 Customer Transactions

1,223,704 Annual In-person Visits

793,290 Reference and information requests answered online, in person, or over the phone

329,028 Library Cardholders

6,832 New Library Card registrations

2,149 Youth Programs attended by **82,658** children, a **46%** increase in program offerings and twice the number of attendees, compared to FY 2021-2022

818 Adult Programs attended by **16,183** people, a **25%** increase in program offerings and more than three times the number of attendees, compared to FY 2021-2022

96,725 eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and Videos

120,925 Self-Checkouts using the new Self-Checkout Kiosks

30,408 Items checked out from remote pick-up lockers

14,902 Volunteer Hours, equivalent to **11** full time employee positions or a savings of approximately **\$473,884*** annually to County Residents

**2023 FL Data from the Independent Sector*



LIBRARY SERVICES



LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

C. Sean Loosier (Chair)

Susan Kellicut
(Vice-Chair)

Jeanine Ellenson

Rosemary Closson

Christine Trevett

Raven Alcott

Sheeba West

FULFILLING OUR MISSION

Enriching Lives, Engaging Minds and Empowering Community

At the end of March, the Seminole County Public Library unveiled six language-learning pods: soundproof booths in which library cardholders can access custom language-learning software. The pods were funded by a \$90,000 gift from William and Gloria Goodman, who experienced firsthand the power of literacy and language.

Mr. Goodman immigrated to the US from Poland at age 11 with his family as Nazi occupation of Poland became imminent. None of Mr. Goodman's family members spoke English when they arrived in the US, but Mr. Goodman set his mind to learning the language. He later served in the US Army during World War II and became a highly successful businessman in Seminole County. He and his wife wanted to help immigrants to the US learn English as well as help English-speakers broaden their linguistic horizons.

The Seminole County Public Library was proud to partner with the Goodmans on this project of promoting lifelong learning in Seminole County. Whether helping recent immigrants improve their English fluency so they can be competitive in the job market, or equipping English-speakers to make valuable connections abroad, the language-learning pods are a significant tool to fulfill the Library's mission of enriching lives, engaging minds, and empowering community.

In this same spirit of promoting lifelong learning and serving underserved populations, the Library is excited about the possibilities presented by the 2022 Long-Range Master Plan. Consulting firm Godfrey's & Associates recommended the construction of three new library buildings: one to serve the currently unserved Winter Springs area, a second to serve the Oviedo area that has decisively outgrown its current library building, and a third to serve the residents of Sanford – most of whom do not live near the current downtown library location. The residents of Sanford in particular deal with an array of socioeconomic challenges, and often need nearby access to a library in order to use the internet, pay bills, type up resumes, apply for jobs, or borrow books for their young children. Increased Library services will connect residents to more educational programs and opportunities for personal growth.

LIBRARY SERVICES



TESTIMONIALS

"I love Mother Goose Story Time. It is engaging and fun for the little ones. Bouncing babies with nursery rhymes, tapping their name on the tambourine, scarves, bells, bubbles, story board, etc. engage them. I like that they are back to back as well in case something delays us for one."

- Kerry W., Northwest Branch

"Libraries help the public in being up to date and aware. Freedom of speech is lost without public access."

- East Branch patron

"For my wife and I, this branch of the library is truly a life saver. The librarians go out of their way to serve you in any way they can. In my opinion all of them deserve raises. I would support a tax increase for all they do."

- Northwest Branch patron

"I value services provided by the library. I do not have access to a computer at home. I do not have necessary resources for printing files for the occasional work-related documents. It is good for libraries to keep adults in mind when considering the necessities and functions of a library."

- Central Branch patron

"I feel the library is one of the best use of hundreds of thousands of tax dollars I have paid. Libraries build better person, better community and better country. Access to library is one of the most cherished privileges that I admire in this country. The staff is amazing, and they are always very helpful and considerate. I cannot ask for a better library and the staff."

- West Branch patron

"Your employees are the most upbeat and friendly of any Seminole County Agency I know of!"

-North Branch patron

PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE



LIBRARY SERVICES

Adult Literacy League

Central Florida Genealogical Society

Asian Cultural Association

The Emil Buehler Perpetual Trust Planetarium at Seminole State College

Florida Native Plant Society – Lake Beautyberry & Cuplet Fern Chapter

League of Women Voters – Seminole County

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Seminole County Bar Association Legal Aid Society

Museum of Seminole County History

Sanford Genealogy Club

READING Paws

Seminole Audubon Society

Seminole County Greenways & Natural Lands

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Seminole County Fire Department

Gunner Martin foundation

The Sharing Center

Small Business Development Center at Seminole State College

Society for Historic Casselberry

Seminole County Public Schools

Tertulia Cuatro Gatos

WUCF & PBS Kids

Seminole County 4-H

Orlando Bal Vihar

Shradhalaya Dance Academy

Florida Wildflower Foundation

PARKS AND RECREATION

Staffed Parks



DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

Special events at Seminole County Active Parks score big in stimulating communitywide economic development.

BOOMBAH Sports Complex hosted **51** events over 180 tournament days, generating 22,000 hotel room nights and **\$43 MILLION** in economic impact.

In partnership with Perfect Game, Inc., more than **250** local youth participated in a free baseball clinic in February 2023. The event gave young players a chance to practice with current and former MLB players, including Riley Greene, Vaughn Grissom, Zach Eflin, DJ Stewart, Nick Gordon, Juan Hillman, and Tom "Flash" Gordon.

BOOMBAH Soldiers Creek Park and Seminole County Softball Complex hosted **27** events over 60 days, generating 6,600 hotel room nights and nearly **\$12 MILLION** in economic impact.

Together, Sylvan Lake Park, Sanlando Park, and Red Bug Lake Park hosted **14** economic impact events, generating 5,500 hotel room nights and nearly \$9 million in economic impact.

In its first year of County operations, Wekiva Golf Club hosted **35,336** rounds of golf and **26** events.

Nearly **7,000** adult players participated in the County's softball leagues, adding up to more than **22,900** hours of health and wellness programming through league offerings.

Over **21,205** youth and adult players registered in one of the County's **1,991** tennis programs, tournaments, or camps, totaling **97,250** hours of health and wellness participation.



WE ♥ OUR PARKS!



DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

Seminole County parks also bring residents and visitors together for play, learning, and community spirit.

More than **1,000** individuals toured the Museum of Seminole County History's "The Senator" mobile exhibit during the fiscal year. The educational trailer, featuring the history of the ancient cypress tree at Big Tree Park, was displayed at community events, regional historical events, summer camp groups, and local elementary schools.

In March, the Seminole County Softball Complex hosted its **Inaugural International Women's Month Tournament**. Over 3,000 toiletry items were collected and donated to SafeHouse of Seminole County to support women and families in transition.

Park and Recreation Month was celebrated in July with the 2nd Annual Park Poster Challenge, encouraging residents to visit more parks and win a special poster featuring nostalgic-looking designs of the Seminole County Softball Complex, Markham Woods Trailhead, and Black Bear Wilderness Area.

Sanlando Park hosted a free community event, Parks Are Poppin', to encourage families to enjoy our community park.

Softball teams from Red Bug Lake Park and the Seminole County Softball Complex hosted the **5th Annual Holiday Challenge** in December. Players in this charity softball tournament provided thousands of dollars' worth of toys which were donated to local families in need.

Parks and Recreation staff members David Lopez and Luis Rivera expanded their training and completed the inaugural **Parks Academy** program.

Through a partnership with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office Probation Office, citizens doing probation served **2,565** hours of community service at our parks.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Staffed Parks



TOP ECONOMIC IMPACTS

TOURNAMENTS AND EVENTS

- Elite Club National League Tournaments (ECNL Boys & Girls)
- Perfect Game, Inc. Summer Season: 59 Days of Tournament Play
- Perfect Game, Inc. World Series & Super National Championship Events
- 3 STEP Sports/NFHCA Winter Escape Showcase Field Hockey Event
- Hogan LAX Florida Team Training
- ISSA Senior Softball Winter Worlds & USA Championships
- Special Olympics FL Area 6 Softball Tournament
- Florida Half Century Softball Tournaments
- FL USSSA Select Super NIT Baseball Tournaments
- Orlando City Columbus Day Cup
- Champions Cup Games
- USSSA Fastpitch Elite and State Championships
- Seminole State College Invitational
- Proswings Battle of the Best
- Softball Factory Florida Elite
- Legacy Alex Wilcox Classic
- UAA (University Athletic Association) Championship
- OBTA National Championships
- NJCAA (National Junior College Athletic Association) Championship
- FHSAA (Florida High School Athletic Association) District and State Finals
- 20 USTA (United States Tennis Association) Youth Tournaments

Estimated Economic Benefit to Seminole County:
\$64 MILLION

PARKS AND RECREATION

Staffed Parks



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Wekiva Golf Club:

- Updated hole and on-course signage
- Installed new white PVC exterior fences
- Replaced iron gates with new steel gates
- Began irrigation improvement and septic-to-sewer project
- Improved fairway and green on Hole 18
- Made miscellaneous repairs in and around clubhouse

Boombah Soldiers Creek Park:

- Completed infield upgrades, including new moisture management system, renovated coach boxes, and laser-leveled fields
- Completed outfield upgrades, including new turf in worn areas, increased aeration, and removal of grass 'lips
- Installed Field Armor pitching devices in all 12 bullpens, backstop netting on two fields, and new park entrance signs
- Repaired damage to fence and windscreens from Hurricanes Ian and Nicole

Boombah Sports Complex:

- Replaced turf on turf pitching mounds
- Repaired field hockey goal netting, dugout and perimeter field fencing, and field pole lighting
- Installed sponsorship signs on scoreboards, new concession stand AC unit, and security cameras
- Revitalized and aerated all six natural grass fields
- Installed cables and network for Perfect Game, Inc. Live streaming
- Installed electrical hook-ups for Perfect Game, Inc. umpire trailers
- Put new DuraEdge infield material on Hubs C & D fields
- Received new soccer goals and more SportaFence portable outfield fencing
- Replaced maintenance building windscreens
- Repaired damage from Hurricane Ian

Sanlando Park:

- Renovated restrooms in main office and tennis area
- Resurfaced six tennis courts



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Sanlando Park (cont.):

- Reinforced and replaced washout areas on shell trail and basketball court for rainy season
- Repaired hazardous sidewalk areas and removed dying and dangerous trees around park
- Installed ramps to racquetball court entrances and ADA-compliant arm mechanism to main office door
- Installed new padding on basketball poles and new bolts on rims and backboards
- Replaced ice machine and main office drinking fountain

Sylvan Lake Park:

- Resurfaced four racquetball courts
- Soft washed all tennis courts and replaced windscreens on six courts
- Installed new playground mulch
- Improved sight lines by removing overgrown vegetation
- Replaced water fountains near soccer fields
- Integrated concrete millings with sand on trail near playground to reduce erosion

Red Bug Lake Park:

- Resurfaced four tennis courts and ball machine court
- Resodded tennis court area
- Repaired fencing on Softball Field 1
- Replaced damaged zipline on playground

PARKS AND RECREATION

Staffed Parks



TESTIMONIALS

"Thanks for everything you and your staff has done for us. It makes our jobs a lot easier knowing that we can all work as a well oil machine."

– Dave Borges, Umpire-In-Chief

"Your beautiful facilities, attention to detail, organization, professionalism, and communication are so greatly appreciated. We believe we were able to pull off one of the best first-year events in our industry in quite some time. We got great feedback from all involved and we look forward to coming back next year for a bigger and better event."

– Jeremy Higdon, Connect Sports

"Flawless weekend. Facilities, concessions, and staff were top-notch. No issues at all. Thank you for all you do and your continued support."

– Tonya Waters, USSSA Florida

"We greatly appreciate the partnership with the Sports Complex and Seminole County. We hope to continue for many years forward!"

-Steve Webster, Vice President Flight Operations Event Manager, Orlando Air and Space Show

"We would like to thank the Sports Complex for hosting our Area 6 Special Olympics Softball Event. You guys were so great to work with!"

-Charlotte Day, Sports Director, Area 6 Special Olympics Florida

"All the (tennis) coaches are amazing and we have recommended so many friends and neighbors to your park!"

-Sylvan Lake Park Tennis Participant

"Great program. As a Seminole County resident, we are lucky to have this program available to our kids. Coaches are so great. This should definitely continue."

– Sylvan Lake Park Tennis Participant

"I love playing at Red Bug, the classes are well organized, the pros are friendly and the prices affordable. My favorite teachers are Mick and John, but all the others are excellent too."

– Giorgio Turri



PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE

PARKS AND RECREATION

Clean Juice Heathrow

ClinCloud, LLC

Gator's Dockside

Greater Orlando Appliance Repair, LLC

Humana Insurance

KidsTown USA (Winter Springs location)

Lake Mary Prep National Jr. Honor Society

Publix Grocery Store, Winter Springs

St. Stephen's Catholic Church, Winter Springs

Tutor Doctor

United States Tennis Association

PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE

PARKS AND RECREATION

Historical Commission

- Paul Zuromski
- Eunice Mann
- Kathryn Townsend
- Robert Hughes
- Deborah Bauer
- Lynn Dictor
- Rosalie Cook
- Donna Bundy
- Carmen Bierman
- Imogene Yarborough
- Kim Carroll
- Marjorie Smith
- Beverly Mason

Parks and Preservation Advisory Committee

- Chris Stevens
- Tom Boyko
- J. Reid Hillard
- Pasha Baker
- Joshua Memminger
- Nancy Dunn
- Andrea Fleming
- Harrel Morgan
- Mark Brandenburg
- Ashlee Woodard
- Jeannine Ellenson
- Davion Hampton
- Kayla Mitchell
- Isaac Abdelmessih
- Doug Crenshaw

PARC'S Foundation

- Brandy Ioppolo
- Madison Wilkinson
- Channi Sodhi
- Andrea Mahoney
- Lieutenant Brad McDaniel
- Larissa Morgan
- John Horan
- Rob Dominica





SEMINOLE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

EXTENSION SERVICES | GREENWAYS AND NATURAL LANDS | LIBRARIES | PARKS AND RECREATION

Administrative Office:

100 E. 1st Street, Sanford, FL 32771 | 407-665-2001

Visit us on the web at:

www.seminolecountyfl.gov/leisure

2023 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

