

2024 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT



Black Bear Wilderness Area

SEMINOLE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
EXTENSION SERVICES | PARKS AND TRAILS | LIBRARIES | RECREATION







Lake Monroe Wayside Park

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Community Member,

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

2024 was a very busy and exciting year for us and the residents that we serve. The year began with our Department receiving our third National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) reaccreditation, meeting all the 154 national best-practices standards. We were officially named the 'Parks and Recreation Department', formerly known as the 'Leisure Services Department'. Last but not least, the county formally initiated our Seminole Forever land acquisition program. Working with the Board-appointed Acquisition and Restoration Committee, we completed a property selection criteria, launched a new web page at seminolecountyfl.gov/seminole-forever, and 'went live' with an online application.

We had many other accomplishments to celebrate this year. These highlights include but are not limited to:

- Crews completed several major trails projects funded by the third-generation One Cent Infrastructure Sales Tax (also known as the Penny Sales Tax). These included the new Sanlando Park and Seminole County Softball Complex loop trail, the new loop trail and boardwalks at Lake Mills Park, the installation of high visibility crosswalks, and many others.
- The Recreation Division received the "Excellence in Sports Tourism Award" in partnership with the Florida Sports Foundation during the Florida Recreation and Parks Association Annual Conference.
- Library Services successfully partnered with local historical organizations to provide the "Great Seminole County Adventure" activity, modeled after "The Amazing Race" television series.
- Extension Services agents were recognized at the state, regional, and national levels for excellence in their work.
- Lake Monroe Wayside Park was chosen for the Florida Recreation and Park Association's (FRPA) 2024 Facility Showcase. This project will be showcased in the Winter 2024 edition of the FRPA Journal Magazine and on the Public Spaces and Facilities Showcase webpage of frpa.org.
- The County opened a new neighborhood park, Lake Wildwood Park, in Sanford. Crews installed a sidewalk trail around the lake and added shade trees for the enjoyment of park users.
- The Board of County Commissioners approved the County's Parks and Recreation System 10-Year Plan.
- The BCC also adopted a master plan for the future redevelopment of the former Deer Run Golf Course site.

As we head into 2025 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 residents who support our libraries, extension services, parks, trails and wilderness areas through visitation and participation in programs.

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

Respectfully,
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:

213 Agencies Nationally

27 in Florida

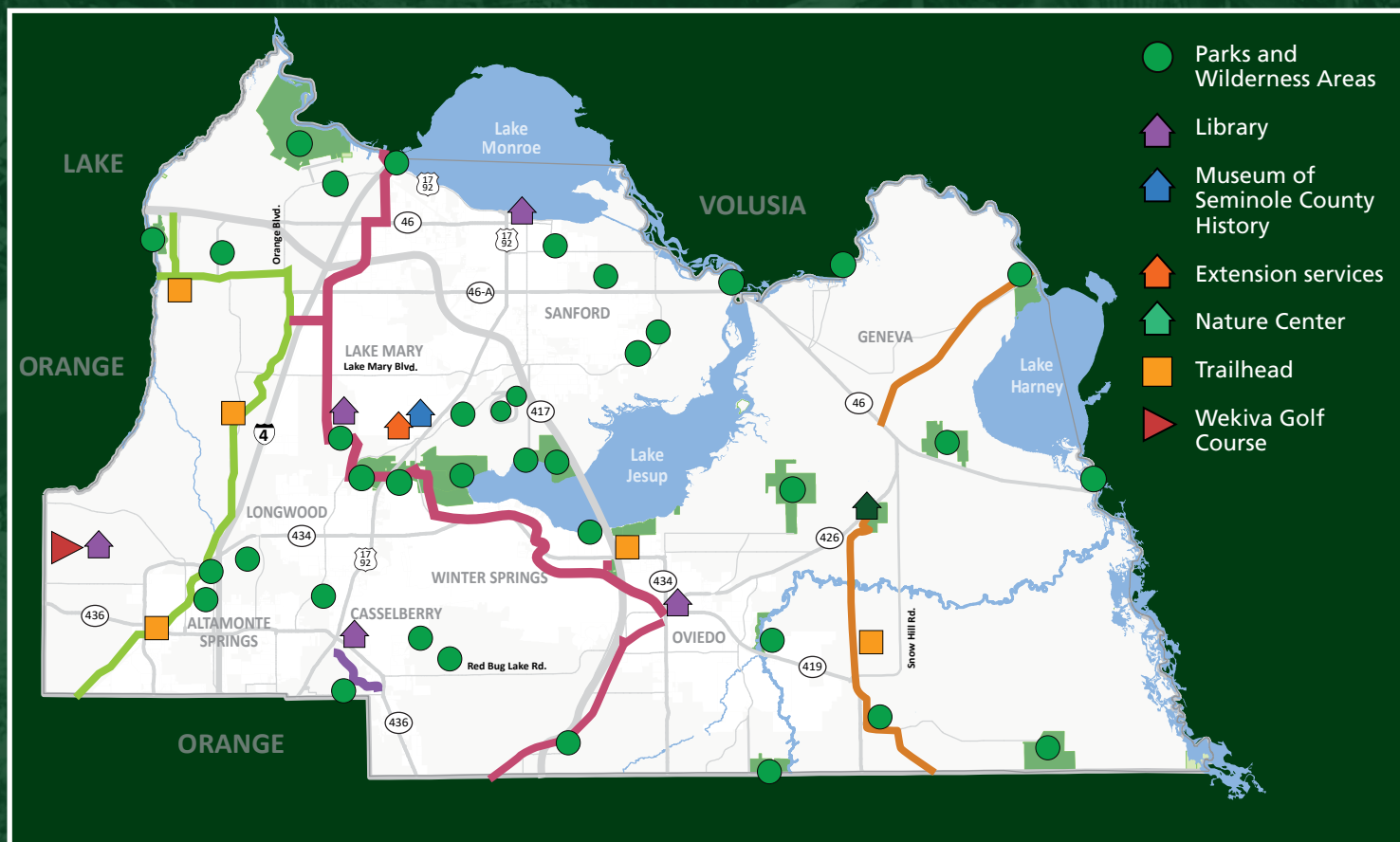
One of only 9 Counties in Florida

The Seminole County Parks and Recreation Department was **first accredited in 2009,** **re-accredited in 2014,** **re-accredited in 2019,** and **re-accredited in 2024.**

DEPARTMENT PROFILE

- **7,632** Acres of Parks and Natural Lands
- **6** Staffed Parks
- **26** Unstaffed Parks and Trailheads
- **11** Natural Lands Areas Open for Use
- **5** Library Branches
- **53.5** 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 2023/2024

REVENUES

General Fund	23,000,133
Parks and Recreation/Library Fees	2,721,305
Boating Fees	27,044
Library Impact Fees	328,514
Natural Land Endowment Fees	51,886
Tourist Development Tax Fund	385,664
Donations/Grants	390,834
Natural Lands Trails	17,761
Infrastructure Surtax	2,413,159
MSBU (Rolling Hills/Deer Run)	142,589
00112 Major Projects Fund	93,482
Wekiva Golf Course Fund*	1,489,157
Transportation Trust Fund	93,482

Total **\$31,158,831**

*Includes General Fund Transfer

EXPENDITURES

Personal Services	12,473,164
Operating	9,704,659
Capital Outlay	7,159,812
Internal Charges	1,821,196

Total **\$31,158,831**

USES BY DIVISION

Business Office	1,067,707
Extension	-720,439
Trails & Parks	8,707,524
Libraries	8,598,977
Recreation	12,064,184

Total **\$31,158,831**

EXTENSION SERVICES **UF** IFAS Extension

UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Providing Solutions for Your Life

DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

Continuing Education

UF/IFAS Extension Seminole County administered **145** pesticide certification exams.

The agents collaborated to offer over **1,646** Continuing Education Units (CEUs) to professionals 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.

405 Educational classes were provided on economic, environmental, or social issues to **12,295** participants.

4-H Youth Development

6,977 youth ages 5 through 18 participated in public speaking, financial literacy, agriculture, STEM, healthy living, and workforce skills through the Seminole County 4-H Youth Development program.

636 adult and youth volunteers donated approximately **9,381** hours of their time, which is equivalent to **4.75** full time employees or a savings of approximately **\$296,533.41*** annually to County residents.

**2023 FL Data from the Independent Sector*





AGRICULTURE IN SEMINOLE COUNTY

320 Farms

14,031 Acres of Land in Farms

53 Acres Average Size of Farm

\$16,087,000 Market Value of Products Sold

2022 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

Seminole County 4-H Association

Family & Consumer Sciences
 Advisory Board

Urban Horticulture & Master
 Gardener Advisory Board

PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE

EXTENSION SERVICES



UF IFAS Extension Services Auditorium

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 Kreation, 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; Farmer Rob's Vegetables; 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 Local Food Network; Florida Native Plant Society, Cuplet Fern Chapter; Florida Food Policy Council; Florida Power and Light, Franklin Legacy Financial; Friends of the Wekiva River; Gabriella's Plants; Galileo School for Gifted Learning; Geneva Beef Company; Geneva Elementary School, Geneva Email News, Geneva Village Homemakers; Goldsboro Front Porch Group; Goldsboro Elementary 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; Horservices, 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; ; 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 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 Office of Communications, including Seminole Government Television, Communications and Graphics; Seminole County Parks and Recreation Department including the Libraries Division, the Recreation Division and the Parks and Trails Division; Seminole County HCE Council; Seminole County Department of Health ;Seminole County Public Schools Administration; Seminole County School Board Dividends and Retired Senior Volunteer Program; Seminole County Public Schools Employee Wellness Program; Seminole County Environmental Services, including the Solid Waste, Water Policy and Watershed Divisions; 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.; 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

TRAILS AND PARKS

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



DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

NATURAL LANDS PROGRAMS

Total participants: **12,538**

Total education programs offered: **150**

NEW PROGRAMS:

NATURE BINGO HIKE: Fill in your BINGO board as you search for wild discoveries on the trails.

TRACKS & SCAT: Learn to read the clues of the forest and create your own plaster track.

ORIENTEERING: Find your direction through a compass course after learning the tricks to using a compass and reading maps.

Field trips: **42** (up from 22 the previous year), reaching **1,688** students

School Visits: **26**, reaching over **3,500** students

Community Events: **16**, including booth events, school STEM nights, and community organization projects

Total volunteer hours: **1,670**

NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT

Feral Hogs removed: **236**

Total area of restoration work, including invasive plant treatment, mechanical reduction, and prescribed burning: **265** acres

Acres of Natural Lands Program properties surveyed for invasive plants: **665** acres

Number of hazard trees (including hurricane-related damage) removed from trails and fire breaks: approximately **166**

Miles of trails that received regularly scheduled maintenance, including mowing, bush hogging, and trimming: approximately **38** miles.

TRAILS AND PARKS

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



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Developed a new park on existing County land in Sanford with Community Block Development Grant funds. Officially named **LAKE WILDWOOD PARK**, the property features sidewalks and a fence around the lake, as well as benches under shade structures.

Completed the **LOOP TRAILS AND BOARDWALKS** at Lake Mills Park, Sanlando Park, and Sylvan Lake Park.

Renovations were completed at **LAKE MONROE WAYSIDE PARK**. The facility was completed and was chosen for the Florida Recreation and Parks' Association (FRPA) 2024 Facility Showcase. This included being highlighted in the Winter 2024 edition of the FRPA Journal and on the Public Spaces and Facilities Showcase webpage of www.frpa.org.

Crews installed a new shade system over the **SUNLAND PARK** playground.

The **E.E. WILLIAMSON ROAD TRAIL CONNECTION** officially opened this year. The trail is a 2.4-mile section connecting the Seminole Wekiva Trail to the Cross Seminole Trail in Longwood.

The Division assisted UF/IFAS Extension with the redevelopment of their garden area using Florida-Friendly Landscaping and Water Wise design principles that will be used as a hands-on educational tool for the Master Gardener's Program and the public.



TRAILS AND PARKS

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

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Redeveloped **WINWOOD PARK** with funding from the Community Block Development Grant funds. Improvements included basketball court replacement, LED light conversion, ball field sod replacement, and field laser-leveling for a smoother surface.

NEWLY REDESIGNED PARK ENTRANCE SIGNS were installed at Cameron Wight Park, C.S. Lee Park, Lake Monroe Wayside Park, Mullet Lake Park, and Lake Jesup Park.

MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT:
DEER RUN MASTER PLAN was finalized and adopted by the BCC in January 2024.

TRAILS AND PARKS

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



TESTIMONIALS

"Our guide was knowledgeable, funny and kept a great pace. I really enjoyed the hike and plan on doing another one soon."

- Full Moon Hike participant

"Thanks for putting on a great field! [My son] loved petting the turtles and he said the hike was super fun."

- Field trip parent comment

"Our guide was wonderful! Thank you very much for sharing your knowledge and information about the nature with us!!"

- Spring Foraging Hike participant

"This was my daughter's first time attending this camp and she LOVED it! I want to thank you and your staff for all that you do to make such a fun, engaging atmosphere for the children. It made my work days easier knowing she was enjoying her day exploring and learning new things. She hopes to attend all weeks next year!"

- Eco Camp- Plant Power week parent survey comment

"Our son loved his second week of Eco Camp. He's been trying different camps this summer and this has been his favorite! He'll be back for more weeks next summer!"

- Junior Birders Eco Camp parent survey

TRAILS AND PARKS

ADOPT A PARK PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE

Adventure Cycling

Black Girls Run!

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

Save Rural Seminole

Scout Troop 631

Seminole Audubon Society

SORBA Orlando

St. Stephen Catholic 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

5,469,840 Virtual Library Visits

2,264,803 Customer Transactions

1,175,326 Annual In-person Visits

885,444 Reference and information requests answered online, in person, or over the phone

327,360 Library Cardholders

2,416 Youth Programs attended by **102,557** individuals during FY 2023-2024. That's a **24%** increase in the number of attendees.

1,017 Adult Programs attended by **22,181** people in FY 2023-2024. That's a **37%** increase in attendance from the previous year and a **24%** increase in the number of programs offered.

492,245 eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and Video were checked out from the Library's streaming services

16,944 Volunteer Hours, equivalent to **9** full time employee positions or a savings of approximately **\$535,600*** annually to County Residents

**2024 FL Data from the Independent Sector*

LIBRARY SERVICES



LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

C. Sean Loosier (Chair)

Christine Trevett

Sheeba West

Jeanine Ellenson
(Vice-Chair)

Raven Alcott

Carole Henshaw

FULFILLING OUR MISSION

Enriching Lives, Engaging Minds and Empowering Community

Over the past year, the Seminole County Library has proudly amped up its offerings of local history programs. We've learned about Florida's first inhabitants, and we've discovered the history of organized crime rings in central Florida. We've delved into the story of Walt Disney, heard the fascinating history of local natural disasters, and learned how to get started in historical reenacting. Whether we're hearing from college professors, local historians, museum professionals, or the experts from the Florida Public Archaeology network, local residents haven't been able to get enough Florida history.

This past summer, however, the Library found a way to take some of our partnerships with historical organizations to the next level. We issued a special challenge to all ages called "The Great Seminole County Adventure," modeled loosely on The Amazing Race TV show. We worked with Seminole County museums (including our own Museum of Seminole County History) to send participating families from museum to museum to complete special activities at each location.

For example, at the Museum of Geneva History, participants went on a scavenger hunt to figure out what a wringer washer looked like, how the telephone with a crank worked, and what arrowheads were really for. When participants had visited all the museums and finished all the activities, they returned to the Library for their completion badges and had the chance to enter a raffle.

"The Great Seminole County Adventure" prompted at least 583 Library users to visit Seminole County museums this past summer. Museum of Seminole County History Coordinator Bennett Lloyd noticed that while many families would burst through the museum's doors, breathlessly excited to complete their next challenge, those same families would return later with genuine curiosity to look more closely at what they had missed during their first visit. These return visits were especially gratifying. "It was a fantastic program, a great way to build community and interconnectedness between institutions," Mr. Lloyd concluded.

The Museum of Seminole County History was recently grouped together under the same Division with the Seminole County Library. Staff at both locations are thrilled for even more upcoming opportunities to partner together and support our residents' interest in history.

LIBRARY SERVICES



TESTIMONIALS

"No suggestion – just a great big THANK YOU for the superior customer service at your help desk today. It is a pleasure to use this library."

- Joy M., Central Branch patron

"I am so pleased and relieved to see the large amount of children's books with diverse characters, written by diverse authors and with diverse themes. It is important for kids to have representation and see themselves in books they read. And even for kids who aren't a minority, it's important for them to be exposed to characters who aren't like themselves and realize that it's normal.... I am so lucky to live nearby to such a great library. Thank you to everyone involved in the upkeep of this library. Please know that the community deeply appreciates your efforts, and our kids are better with this library in their lives."

- Jenny B., East Branch patron

"My daughter and I had a BLAST at the kids' event, what a great way to get new-to-you books and support the Library. The kids crafts and activities were awesome, too! Can't wait for the next one!"

- Krystal S., Northwest Branch patron

"I would have been in tears for hours if it wasn't for the nice librarians at the West Branch helping me do my resume! Thank you all so much!!"

- Amy R., West Branch patron

"I love that the library is located downtown, but I wish there was more parking. Would love to see the library majorly expanded. This is the smallest library I've ever had!"

- Wendy N., North Branch patron

PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE



LIBRARY SERVICES

Adult Literacy League

Central Florida
Genealogical Society

Bradlee McIntyre House

The Emil Buehler Perpetual
Trust Planetarium at
Seminole State College

Florida Native Plant Society – Lake Beautyberry & Cuplet Fern Chapter

Sanford Museum

Picky Chics & Chaps

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

Prospera

Florida Humanities Council

Small Business Development Center at Seminole State College

Society for Historic
Casselberry

Seminole County Public Schools

Tertulia Cuatro Gatos

Seminole County 4-H

Henry Shelton Sanford
Memorial Library &
Museum

Longwood Historic Society

Zen Dogs Therapy Network

Lake Mary Museum

RECREATION

Staffed Parks



DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

Team Recognition

The Parks and Recreation Division was awarded the “Excellence in Sports Tourism Award” in partnership with the Florida Sports Foundation during the FRPA Annual Conference.

Community Engagement

BOOMBAH Sports Complex in partnership with Perfect Game, Inc. offered a free baseball clinic for local youth in February 2024. The event included current and former MLB players including Ryan Mountcastle, Riley Greene, Vaughn Grissom, Zach Eflin, DJ Stewart, Nick Gordon, Garrett Baumann, Daniel Vogelback, and Tom “Flash” Gordon. More than **250** youth came out to play with the “big leaguers”.

Seminole County celebrated National Park and Recreation Month in July, hosting the third annual Park Poster Challenge. This year’s posters were nostalgic-looking photographs of Boombah Soldiers Creek Park, Geneva Wilderness Area, and Lake Monroe Wayside Park. Red Bug Lake Park also hosted a free community event called “Parks are Poppin!” to encourage families to enjoy their community parks.

Program Participation

The Wekiva Golf Club had **31,034** rounds and hosted **44** events.

Over **21,300** participants registered in one of the county’s **1,883** tennis programs, tournaments, or camps, totaling **91,300** hours of health and wellness participation.

Nearly **5,600** players participated in the county’s softball leagues. This adds up to more than **24,700** hours of health and wellness programming through league offerings.

4,600 individuals attended one of the **40** outreach events offered by the Museum of Seminole County History. The Museum also hosted **17** events, totaling just over **100** hours of youth classroom education.

RECREATION

Staffed Parks



DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

Economic Impact

BOOMBAH Sports Complex hosted **49** events over **164** tournament days, generating **16,900** hotel nights and **\$37 Million** of economic impact.

BOOMBAH Soldiers Creek Park and Seminole County Softball Complex hosted **29** events over **90** days, generating **8,000** hotel nights and nearly **\$13 Million** of economic impact.

Sylvan Lake Park, Sanlando Park, and Red Bug Lake Park together hosted **11** economic impact events, generating **4,500** hotel nights and nearly **\$8.5 Million** of economic impact.

Red Bug Lake Park and the Seminole County Softball Complex hosted the **6th** annual Holiday Challenge in December. This charity softball tournament provided thousands of dollars of toys which were donated to local families for the holiday.

Team Spotlight

Park and Recreation staff members Cecilia Ortiz and Vitto Mazzini completed the **2nd Annual Parks Academy program.**

Lee Bradley, Crew Chief for Sanlando Park/Softball Complex retired after **38 years of service** with the parks.

RECREATION

Staffed Parks



TOP ECONOMIC IMPACTS

TOURNAMENTS AND EVENTS

- 2024 NCAA Division II Softball National Championships
- Elite Championship National League Tournaments (ECNL Boys & Girls)
- Perfect Game Summer Season: 59 out of 94 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- Lacrosse
- 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
- 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 Highschool Athletic Association) District Finals and State Finals
- 20 USTA (United States Tennis Association) Youth Tournaments

Estimated Economic Benefit to Seminole County:
\$58.5 Million

RECREATION

Staffed Parks

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

IMPROVEMENTS

Boombah Soldiers Creek Park:

- Unveiled new “North Parking Lot” with 97 paved spaces and a retention pond
- Installed beautification along the park entrance road with plants and wooden fencing
- Improved park entrance with retention wall and Seminole County-branded portal
- Upgraded PA system with enhanced surge protection, amplifiers, and new speakers
- Installed new drainage system and turf on Championship Field
- Completed outfield upgrades, including new turf in worn areas, increased aeration, and removal of grass “lips”
- Completed infield upgrades, including laser-leveling, mound renovations, and base upgrades
- Pressure washed all seating areas, dugouts, windscreens, playground, and hardscapes throughout the park
- Upgraded dugouts with new helmet racks and cleat cleaners

Boombah Sports Complex:

- Returfed 15 pitching mounds, batter’s boxes, and bases
- Repaired backstop netting
- Repaired shade structures damaged by hurricane
- Continued to improve natural grass turf with extensive maintenance
- Replaced field windscreen on all 15 fields which included adding the County logo for brand recognition
- Renovated Administration Building, including repainting and flooring replacement
- Repainted concession buildings
- Scoreboard backing installed with new advertisements
- Installed new playground sign
- Musco Lighting installed new 3rd generation light drivers
- Completed Annual G-Max Testing for synthetic fields
- Repaired concrete throughout park, including parking lot and field entrance areas

Sanlando Park:

- Resurfaced 5 tennis courts, plus the hitting wall and Ball Machine Court
- Pressured washed all walkways, bleacher pads, 27 tennis courts, playground bathrooms, and 6 pavilions
- Reinforced and repaved six major areas of the parking lot
- Installed four new bear-proof trash cans





ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Seminole County Softball Complex:

- Pressure-washed all sidewalks around the complex
- Replaced field fencing on several fields
- Repaired damaged shade coverings over spectator seating areas
- Completed several turf projects to improve playing surface and drainage
- Trimmed trees around the parking lot to improve safety
- Laser leveled all softball fields

Sylvan Lake Park:

- Resurfaced 3 tennis courts
- Installed Born Learning Trail with educational activities and games for kids
- Installed 8,000 feet of ADA-accessible sidewalk
- Replaced tennis fencing for 3 courts
- Added sod near Picnic Area C

Red Bug Lake Park:

- Regraded, leveled, or replaced grass on three fields
- Renovated Administration Building, including roof replacement, new gutters, and exterior and interior painting
- Installed new palm trees and flowering plants at park entrance
- Added new fencing near park entrance to protect underground infrastructure
- Replaced 12 sidewalk panels around the park
- Resurfaced 3 tennis courts
- Repainted all parking spots
- Laser leveled all 3 softball fields and instituted a new maintenance schedule to improve turf conditions.
- Installed new benches on the softball field dugouts, near the lake, and at the basketball courts
- Pressure washed playground equipment including shade coverings
- Repainted all softball foul poles

Wekiva Golf Course:

- Replaced entire golf course irrigation system
- Replaced two air conditioning units in clubhouse
- Made cosmetic upgrades to Clubhouse Banquet Room, including new lighting fixtures, new ceiling tiles, new paint, and window repairs
- Received a new fleet of 74 golf carts
- Completed maintenance shop repairs, including roof leaks, windows, and siding

RECREATION

Staffed Parks

TESTIMONIALS



“Wanted to take a minute to say thank you for last weekend. Your beautiful facilities, attention to detail, organization, professionalism, and communication throughout the process 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.”

– Jeromy Higdon, Team 1 Softball

“On behalf of GGS 05/06 Gold, thank you for the opportunity of playing in the Orlando City Cup. The fields at Sylvan Lake Park are top class and the facilities are clean and well kept. Please pass on to the Assignor his/her officials matched the quality of the tournament. Well Done!”

– Raymond Bornacelli

“I wanted to send you a message on behalf of my son Ezra Rosen, who participated in Mr. Lloyd’s “History of Board Games” Camp, along with several of his friends. The kids had the most amazing week under Mr. Lloyd’s tutelage. To quote my son, “I wish I could have camp with Bennett all summer!” Kudos to Bennett on his development and delivery of this program. They played with their creations all afternoon today and haven’t stopped talking about everything they learned. We are looking forward to what’s on the docket for next summer and hopeful for some more programming like this during the school year, perhaps? Thank you for all that you and other government employees like Mr. Lloyd do for our county. We are grateful.”

– Lisa Rosen

“Thank you so much for everything!” “We had a blast tonight!” “Beautiful (Boombah Sports Complex) Complex. Amazing, hard-working people!” “Very impressed!” “Would love to come back if you’ll have us!”

– Ali Higgs, FL USSSA Elite Softball

RECREATION

PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE

United States Tennis Association

AYLUS Orlando

Early Learning Coalition of Seminole County

Heart of Florida United Way

Orlando Sanford International Airport

Perfect Game, Inc.

Posh Rock Tennis Foundation

Through a partnership with our Probation Office, citizens doing probation served 8,769 hours of community service at our parks.



SPECIAL THANKS:

Historical Commission

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

Parks and Preservation Advisory Committee

- Chris Stevens
- Tom Boyko
- J. Reid Hillard
- James Dicks
- Joshua Memminger
- Nancy Dunn
- Angela Fleming
- Harrel Morgan
- Mark Brandenburg
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- Jeannine Ellenson
- Davion Hampton
- Kayla Mitchell
- Isaac Abdelmessih
- Doug Crenshaw

PARC'S Foundation

- Brandy Ioppolo
- Madison Wilkinson
- Channi Sodhi
- Andrea Mahoney
- Larissa Morgan
- John Horan
- Susie Dolan
- Meghan Gaborko
- John Gyllin
- Rob Dominica

Seminole Forever Acquisition and Restoration Committee

- Beverly Evans
- Jay Exum
- Tim Jackson
- David Bear
- Phyllis Hall
- Gabbie Milch
- Jeanette Schreiber



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2024 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

