

COUNTY MANAGER'S ANNUAL REPORT



DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2015

LEISURE SERVICES DEPT

JOE ABEL, DIRECTOR



Seminole County Leisure Services Department, is dedicated to enriching lives through outstanding cultural, educational, environmental and recreational experiences. The Department's vision is to be a nationally recognized agency for delivering excellence in leisure services. The Department is made up of four divisions representing: Extension Services, Library Services, Greenways & Natural Lands, and Parks & Recreation. Through these divisions the Leisure Services Department provides quality services to the entire community with diverse leisure programs for all ages and an integrated, efficient, and safe system of parks, trails, and recreational, extension, and library facilities.

The Leisure Services Department manages **7,100** acres of parks and natural lands including: **62** Acres of Trailhead Parks; **56** Miles of Trails; **54** Tennis Courts; **29** Campsites; **20** Baseball/Softball Fields; **18** Racquetball Courts; **13** Playgrounds/Basketball Courts; **12** Neighborhood Parks; **8** Special Use Parks; **6** Fishing Piers; **6** Football/ Soccer Fields; **5** Regional Parks; **5** Trailheads; **5** Boat Ramps; **5** Libraries; **4** Trail Systems; **4** Multi-Purpose Fields; **4** Volleyball Courts; **3** Wallyball Courts; **2** Canoe Launches; **1** Museum; **1** Nature Center; and **1** Skate Rink.

2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Seminole County Leisure Services Department had several major accomplishments in 2015. One of the Department's primary areas of focus was creating partnerships and building relationships within the Seminole County community. Extension Services worked with the Seminole County Health Department to develop vegetable gardening projects, with the ultimate goal of a Farmers Market and a demonstration garden. Library Services developed a highly successful partnership with the Seminole County Public Schools to register children for library cards to promote reading and support learning. The Greenways and Natural Lands Division was able to complete the construction of Moore's Stations Fields, thanks to funding received from the facility usage agreement with Orlando City Soccer Club. The Parks and Recreation Division installed the Richard Dominica Memorial Playground at Red Bug Park, an accomplishment made possible through a partnership with the PARC's Foundation, Dominica Recreation Products (DRP), Gametime and other nationwide vendors.

Other 2015 Accomplishments include:

- Completion of the Geneva Wilderness Wetlands Room;
- The Library System hosted nearly 1.5 million visitors, including 192,000 children, teens and adults who attended Library programs and events;
- Orlando City Soccer Club moved into the Sylvan Lake Park Training Center at the start of training camp;
- Extension Services hosted the Annual Farm Tour with 175 participants;
- Groundbreaking ceremony and start of construction at the Seminole County Sports Complex;
- Opening of the Senator Legacy Art exhibit and auction of artwork;
- Completion of the Black Bear Wilderness Area improvements;
- Completion of the C.S. Lee Park Renovations;
- Completion of the Geneva Wilderness Area improvements;
- Completion of the Mullet Lake Boat Ramp replacement project;
- Completion of the Seminole Wekiva Trail/Jones Trail Replacement/Improvements project;

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- *Celebrated the Natural Lands 25th Anniversary at Ed Yarborough Nature Center;*
- *Hosted the Great American Campout at Lake Mills Park;*
- *Completion of the Cameron Wight Boat Park Renovation;*
- *Completion of the Lake Harney Wilderness Area improvements; and*
- *Soldiers Creek Redevelopment conceptual design approved.*

LOOKING FORWARD

The Seminole County Leisure Services Department, is excited about all of the great opportunities for continued success in 2016. The Department looks forward to a year of continued success, through ensuring that the community has access to the benefits of local parks, libraries, extension, and natural lands experiences and opportunities, and plans to create opportunities and experiences that provide for economic growth and sustainability in the community. Recreational, conservation, preservation, and educational opportunities within the community will be enhanced to ensure maintenance of healthy, vibrant, and balanced natural surroundings.