

ParkLife

A MIAMI-DADE PARKS PUBLICATION



The Super Summer Issue

Summer 2009

www.miamidade.gov/parks

Enriching Your Life
Through Natural, Cultural and
Recreational Experiences

The New Get-Away
Tradition

With Access
for All





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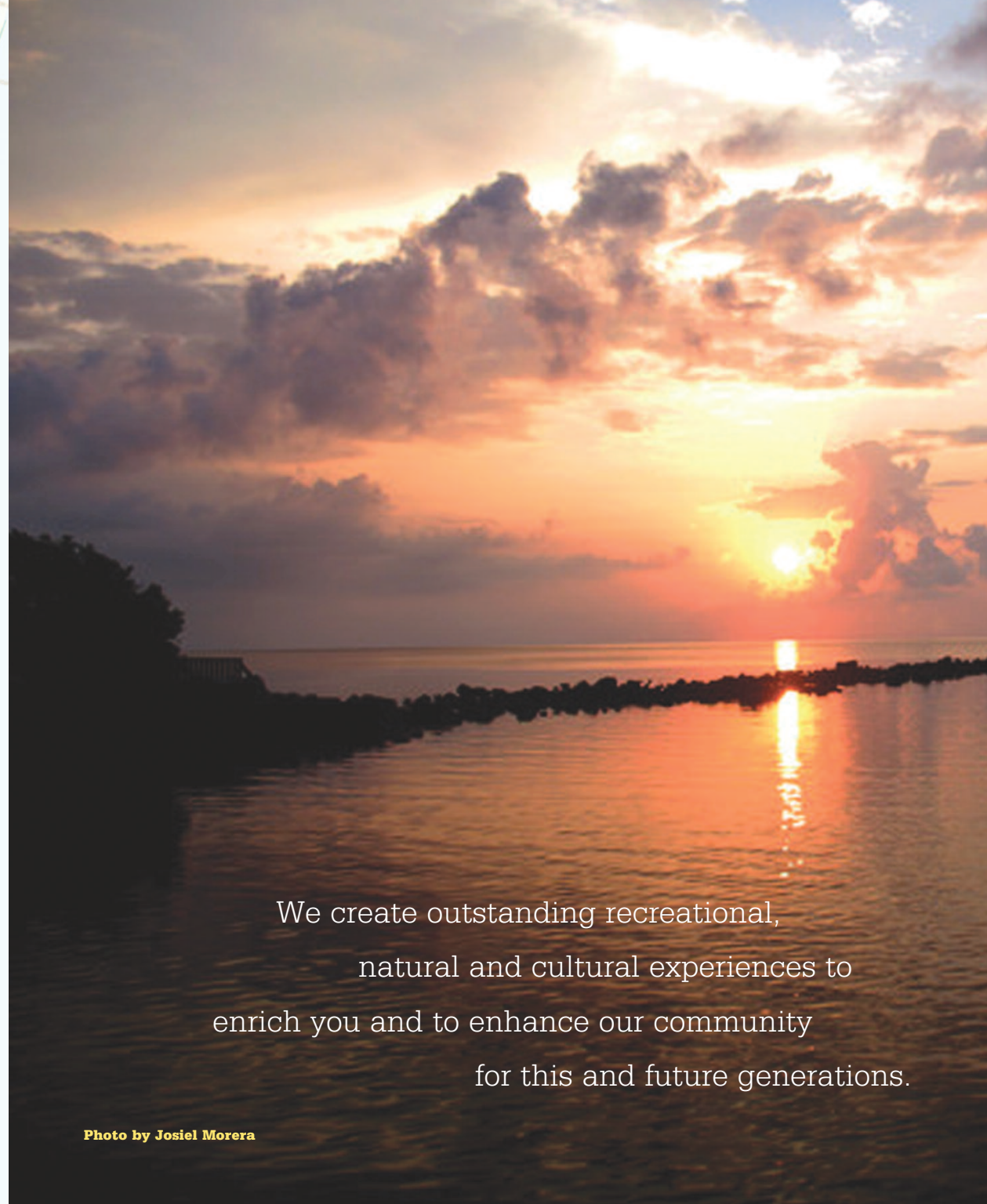


Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department has received accreditation from the Commission for the Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) of the National Recreation and Park Association.

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We create outstanding recreational,
natural and cultural experiences to
enrich you and to enhance our community
for this and future generations.

Photo by Josiel Morera

SUMMERTIME...

And the Living Should Be Easy

As this Parklife is published, it will officially be the start of summer. And during this time of too many economic stresses and the ripple effects thereof, we at Miami-Dade Parks & Recreation cordially invite you to escape and get away from it all for little or no cost.

Miami-Dade Parks has long provided some of the most affordable entertainment and recreational options in all of South Florida—and we are very proud of the quality of our attractions, as we strive to be the envy of our competitors and often are, just consider Miami MetroZoo, Crandon Golf Course and the Deering Estate for starters.

Enjoy this issue of Parklife, and use it as a guide to great *Staycation* opportunities available throughout our 12,600-acre park system, consisting of 258 parks conveniently located throughout the entire county.

In the spirit of Memorial Day and the Fourth of July, we quote a passage from our nation's Declaration of Independence:

"We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their CREATOR, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness."

And on that note, by all means this summer, kick back and relax, get outside, run, walk, learn, swim, dance, play, laugh, make friends, love your family, eat ice cream, go camping, and be happy. In short—*life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness*—GO FOR IT, and let us show you where and how!

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Air

Country Village skatepark

6550 NW 188 TERRACE
MIAMI, FLORIDA
305-622-2594

COMING
SOON:

SOUTH DADE PARK: MAY 2009
WESTWIND LAKES PARK: APRIL 2009
NORTH TRAIL PARK: AUGUST 2010
AMELIA EARHART PARK: FALL 2011



MEET A NATIVE:



A recurring article
by Roger L. Hammer

SPANISH NEEDLES



Photo by Paul Marcellini

If you've ever spent time outdoors in South Florida then you've probably seen Spanish needles (*Bidens alba* var. *radiata*). This ubiquitous member of the Aster Family is mostly known as a weed and annoying stick-like seeds that cling to clothing, fur and feathers. Although annoying, the seeds of this plant gave rise to the production of Velcro, which mimics the manner in which the seeds attach themselves to the clothing of passersby—a ploy by the plant to disperse its seeds.

I, for one, like Spanish needles. If you're looking for butterflies, you'll find plenty of them around the blossoms of this Florida native wildflower. And, besides being a superb source of nectar for butterflies, the leaves serve as larval food for the Dainty Sulphur butterfly (*Nathalis iole*) and painted buntings eat the seeds. The plant even has nutritious and medicinal properties. The leaves contain 50% more available iron than spinach. However, when cooked, the tender new leaves have a somewhat acrid taste, which soaking in cold water overnight helps to remedy. Also, if you have a small cut, the clear juice in the stems of Spanish needles will stop the bleeding almost instantly if applied to the cut.

So, the next time you're weeding your garden, take into consideration the many positive virtues of this so-called "weed."

GO DISCOVER

By Pam Rose

Camp Owaissa Bauer

One of Miami-Dade Parks' hidden treasures located just north of Homestead in the Redlands, Camp Owaissa Bauer is a special activity area designed for overnight and extended camping.

Built in 1953, it originally served as a camping site for the local 4H Club, YMCA, Girl Scouts, and church-affiliated groups. Today, the camp offers group camping for many non-profit groups in a beautiful, natural, restful setting.

The camp is surrounded by pine rockland and well-developed tropical hardwood hammocks. A naturalist is based at the camp, and visitors are offered educational-outdoor nature experiences and wildlife exploration programs.

So, bring your church or scout group, athletic team or band, private or public school group to Camp Owaissa Bauer... your natural place to get away from it all and explore the green outdoors!

To ensure your camping experience is extra special and comfortable, Camp OB offers:

- ▶ Six dormitory-style cabins that sleep up to 150 campers; four have air conditioning and bathrooms.
- ▶ A large, newly upgraded air conditioned dining hall with a kitchen for cooking delicious meals for your group.
- ▶ A meeting room and recreation patio.
- ▶ A campfire circle, large playing fields with shade shelters, basketball and volleyball courts, and a large pool to cool off at the end of the day.

17001 SW 264 ST. MIAMI, FL 33031 ▶ (305) 247-6016 ▶ PAMR@MIAMIDADE.GOV

Pushing 80 Feeling 50

By
Cristie
Vidal

“I’m 82 years old and who would have thought that I’d be doing exercise everyday, learning new things like tai chi and fencing, and laughing and meeting new friends and going on field trips...”, so says one participant of Miami-Dade Park and Recreation’s Seniors Programs. Another senior participant claims, “since I have such bad back and arthritis problems, if it weren’t for the fact that I make the effort to get out of bed every day, get dressed and come to the program with my sister-in-law who drives us here, I don’t think I’d still be walking.”

One of the main goals of the Seniors Programs is to encourage participants to maintain healthy and active lives. In order to do this, Parks offers a variety of exercise and fitness programs, including tai chi, yoga, low impact aerobics, water exercise, and walking clubs. Parks has also established partnerships with organizations whose missions support the goals of Park’s Seniors Programs. One of our most successful partnerships is with Vista/Summit, a Coventry Health Care Plan dedicated to helping seniors improve their quality of life.

Vista/Summit encourages seniors to take advantage of the programs and services offered by Parks, and sponsors a variety of health care-related events



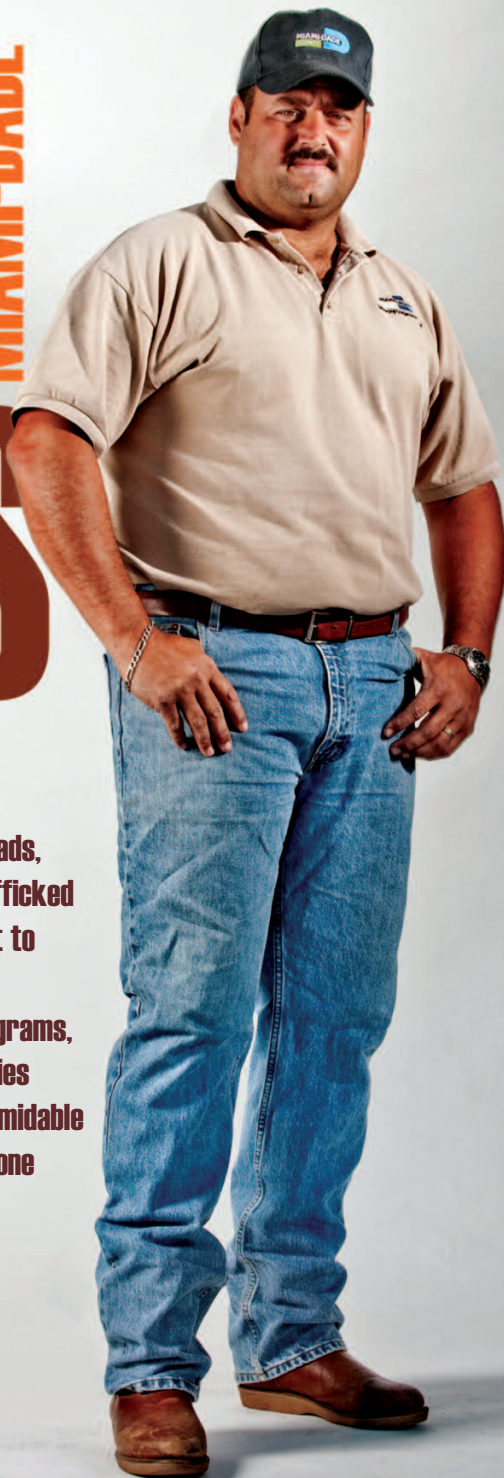
in our parks. Among the events that Summit/Vista has sponsored are the: Senior Olympics, Older Americans Month Banquet and Dance, the Senior Health and Fitness Fair, and countless special celebrations such as the St. Valentine’s Day Dance and other holiday events. Vista has also sponsored seminars that have educated seniors on diabetes, hypertension, osteoporosis, nutrition, and other health-related topics. According to Nery Linares, Community Relations Specialist, “Vista/Summit Healthplans is committed to improving the lives of seniors and our partnership with Miami-Dade Park and Recreation represents an opportunity to improve the quality of life that our seniors deserve.”

I AM PARKS

MIAMI-DADE

By Susana Cortázar

In the heart of Miami between Bird and Miller roads, adjacent to SR 826, is one of the most highly trafficked parks of all—Tropical Park. Recently playing host to more than 44,000 people in one weekend, this impressive park with seemingly a myriad of programs, services, activities, ballparks, courts, and facilities requires the attention and duty of an equally formidable management staff. Allow us to introduce you to one exemplary member of this impressive crew.



When asked to describe this man, complimentary descriptors roll off the tongues of fellow staffers and supervisors. In essence, he is the dependable workhorse with a big heart, who has the grit and determination of a bull, but the manner of a gentleman. About 6'4" and roughly the size of a football player, you'd expect this cowboy to come charging at you, but instead Pablo Tejeda is more likely to let out a big, "Hey! How are you?" followed by a teasing remark and an easy smile.

Currently a Recreation Specialist Supervisor, he began his career with Miami-Dade Parks as a high school junior more than 20 years ago and now oversees the Ronald Reagan Equestrian Center at Tropical Park.

His is no easy task. He is responsible for 66 acres, 298 stalls, one covered arena, two outdoor clay rings, two grass rings, the quarter-mile stretch of Santa's Enchanted Forest, a police memorial, a stocked fishing lake, 36 RV sites, and a staff of two park attendants. The Equestrian Center is home to 29 horse shows per year; dog agility and obedience classes; company picnics; Miami-Dade Parks' annual Summer Camp carnivals; and the renowned Miami International Agriculture & Cattle Show—the event that attracted the 44-thousand-plus crowd last March and corralled 400 head of cattle. If

a hurricane threatens, the facility becomes an animal shelter. Exhausted yet?

"My favorite part of my job is its diversity," says Tejeda. "But, the equestrian industry is my passion." He is just as passionate about his support, crediting staffers Raymond Mitchell and Baldomero Veloza as always being there for him, along with his "loving family—Isabel, my wife, and my sons Paul Anthony and Ruben Muñoz."

Asked about his biggest achievement, "It's the construction of the covered arena. People said

I would never see it built and they were wrong." In his third year at Barry University, he should also be proud of his pursuit of a bachelor's degree in public administration. "We'll see where it takes me..." I am definitely ready to rise to a new challenge."

Thanks for all you do, Pablo!

I am Miami-Dade Parks is a recurring article that will highlight volunteers, staff and participants in our recreational, natural and cultural programs.



WITH ACCESS

Kids getting help with homework and smiling broadly when praised for doing good work ... buses dropping off students from around the area ... children excited to see friends and happily greeting their buds out loud as each enters the room ... *"Abraham's here!"*

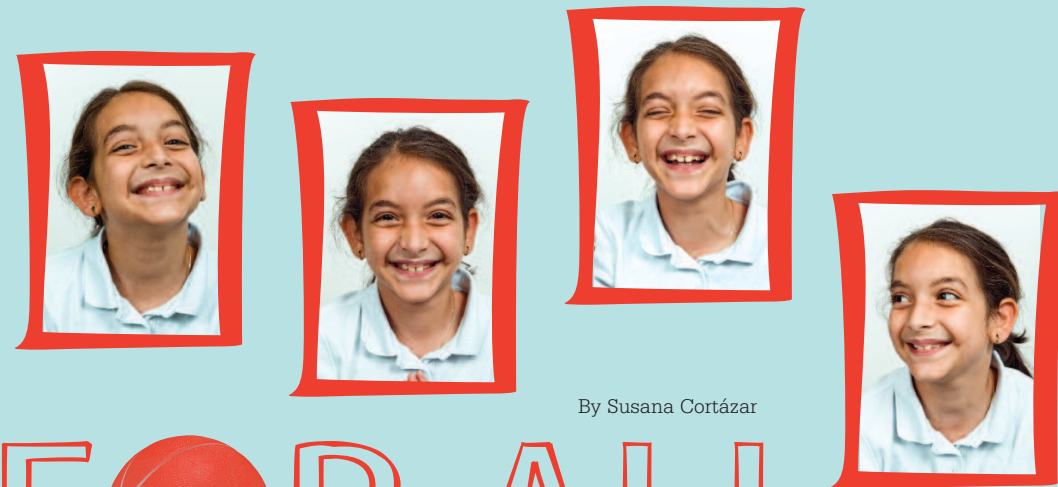
Sounds like a typical after-school classroom, doesn't it? It is and it's not. The difference being that this after-school setting at the Coral Estates Park after-school

On this day, we meet Kimberly Fowler, therapeutic recreational specialist certified 12 years, who worked with adults before she joined the department a year ago and is enjoying her first time working with kids. How do both groups compare? "I enjoy working with children much more, because you are building their framework, helping to mold them," she says. "They don't realize they have a disability, and we focus on working with their abilities and ensuring they can go as far as their abilities allow."

"It's very hard to find someone willing or able to care for special-needs kids and deal with their behavioral and emotional needs. This program is a blessing. What would I do without it?"

program is specially designed to meet the unique needs of children with physical and developmental disabilities. It does so with care and the keen dedication of highly trained staff like Recreational Leaders Jennifer Rivero and Max Patricio. Such is the nature of the Leisure Access mission, a division of the Miami-Dade Parks & Recreation Department, which operates a wide variety of programs and services for people with disabilities.

Across the way as snacks are served, a teacher from Tropical Elementary, who assists three days a week, is working with a group on reading and oral fluency, a literacy component required by the Children's Trust, the program's vital sponsor. She describes how work produced by students is evaluated for progress and audited. Meanwhile, another group is outside with Max and Jennifer, engaged in sports activities.



By Susana Cortázar

FOR ALL

Jose Guillermo, severely autistic, is playing soccer. As Jennifer explains, "We are teaching him how to kick the ball, focus, make eye-contact, and improve motor coordination." Guillermo's mom, Gladys Mendez, drives all the way from Little Havana to ensure he is part of this unique program. She values how it is an "integrated program for socialization, coordination, following instructions, and getting rid of the excess energy he has and channeling it properly."

Nimia Evora has a son in the program, Angel Luis, 13, and another child with a disability at home. She says the program has helped Angel Luis to communicate better, and his behavior at home has improved. But what's crucially important for her is that the program is open every day, and she doesn't have to miss work when school lets out. "It's very hard to find someone willing or able to care for special-needs kids and deal with their behavioral and emotional needs," says Nimia. "This program is a blessing. What would I do without it?"

The kids enjoy the variety of activities and have a sense of the program's positive impact



in their lives. Priscilla, 9, says it makes her happy, “because I do homework, go outside and play in the park. We have a dance teacher who’s fun.” Abraham, a sixth grader, likes to play football and “get help with my homework that my mom can’t do, because she doesn’t speak English.”

A few miles away at A.D. Barnes Park, another integral program takes place, the Adult Day Training (ADT) program for adults 18 years and older with disabilities.

ADT Recreational Leaders Carolina Perez and Alida Ortega keep their participants busy with learning exercises, as well as daily activities on safety, fitness, hygiene, self-help, and motor coordination. They take field trips twice a week to social centers, including the movies, bowling, shopping malls, and restaurants. They teach clients skills, such as watering plants and washing dishes, all according to each person’s developmental skill and abilities. Going for walks through the park is a favorite.

Carolina has worked in the program for four years and is grateful “for the opportunity of making a difference for them and their families” and feels fortunate for the “trust the Parks Department and the participants’ families have bestowed upon me when dealing with their family members.”

Alida, more seasoned with 10 years experience, sees the participants as part of her extended family. “This,

for me, isn’t a job...they are like my family,” she says. “I can usually tell the mood they are in as they walk in the door. Sometimes I feel as if I know them better than their own family does.”

Back at Coral Estates Park, before going home, the after-school program students kiss and hug Kim, Max and Jennifer goodbye—a testament to the commitment Leisure Access leaders devote to their responsibilities and the beneficiaries of the services they provide. Max, who’s worked in the program three years and is studying to become a park manager reacts, “It makes me feel good working with these kids. They show their appreciation and thrive on positive reinforcement.”

While children and adults are welcome in all Park Department programs and events, the Leisure Access Division offers many more programs exclusively for persons with disabilities other than the two described above. Those include wheelchair sports, fencing, learn-to-swim and water exercise, Autism Sports, and seasonal camps.

The division recently became both a BlazeSport America Club and a Paralympics Sport Club. These clubs designate Miami-Dade Parks as a service provider for athletes with physical and visual disabilities who want to train and compete in adapted sports. For a complete list of Leisure Access programs for persons with disabilities, or for inclusion services, call 305.361.2345 and visit www.miamidade.gov/parks/fun-leisure-access.asp.



Making a Difference in the Life of Someone Special

If you would like to become involved in helping this worthy program, you may do so by donating to the Leisure Access Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit agency, through volunteering, monetary gifts, in-kind donations such as sports and recreation equipment. For more information, 305-361-2345. You will be making a difference not only in the life of someone special, but in yours as well.

THE MIAMI-DADE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED THE 2009 GOVERNOR’S STERLING AWARD. THE AWARD, PRESENTED BY GOVERNOR CHARLIE CRIST AND THE FLORIDA STERLING COUNCIL, RECOGNIZES ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESSES IN FLORIDA THAT HAVE SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVED PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE WITHIN THEIR MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS.



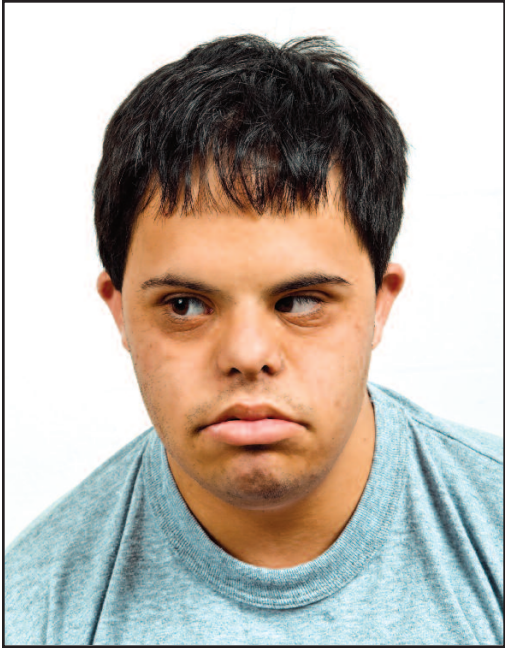
Parks in Focus

Photography by Peter Dooling

The Many Faces of
Leisure Access









The **GET-AWAY** Tradition

By Esther Reyes & Damarys Isler



**THIS SUMMER, BECOME A
TOURIST IN YOUR OWN TOWN
AND DISCOVER THESE FUN,
“NEW” ADVENTURES YOU
PROBABLY NEVER EVEN KNEW
EXISTED—HERE ARE JUST A FEW:**

EcoAdventures

Get out and get eco active! Let EcoAdventures naturalist-guides take you out on unforgettable excursions into the nature wilds of Miami, the Oleta River and even the Everglades. Kayaking, canoeing, snorkeling, camping, swamp tromping, backcountry fishing, bird watching, trail biking... There's something exciting for everyone! Like nothing you've ever done. In places you need to discover. Take it outside! Call 305.365.3018 or visit www.MiamiEcoAdventures.org.

Miami MetroZoo

“Miami's top rated attraction” by Zagat Survey is among the top zoos in the country. Immerse yourself in its new “Amazon and Beyond” exhibit, featuring over 100 astonishing species, with more than 600 new animals, like giant river otters, jaguars and harpy eagles. Visit **The Oasis Grill**, too, offering indoor seating next to a beautiful lake and an array of great food. Located at 12400 SW 152 Street, call 305.251.0400 for more info or visit: www.MiamiMetroZoo.com.

Palmetto Mini-Golf

Kids from five to 105+ love coming out for a fun putt-putt on this colorful course. It's a “hole” lotta fun for just \$6-\$7 in a beautiful, plush, tropical setting with music to bop to. Throw a birthday party for kids or friends in the covered picnic area. Discover plants and trees from abroad, a waterfall cascading into pools, and misters to keep you cool. Located at 9300 SW 152 Street (U.S. 1 & Coral Reef Drive) at the Palmetto Golf Course. Call 305.235.1069.

Deering Estate

Along Biscayne Bay is the intriguing 444-acre Deering Estate at Cutler, an environmental, archeological, historical, and cultural preserve. Featuring canoe rides, butterfly hikes, nature tours, and events. Enjoy daily tours of the historic Stone House and Richmond Cottage. There are even themed summer camps for kids! Call 305.235.1668 or visit www.DeeringEstate.org.

Fruit & Spice Park

A horticulturist's dream, it's the only tropical, botanical garden of its kind in the United States. It grows more than 500 varieties of fruits, vegetables, spices, herbs, nuts, and plant specimens from around the world. Visit the Zen garden for some quiet meditation. Enjoy the gift shop and a delicious bite at the soon-to-open **Mango Café**. Located at 24801 S.W. 187th Avenue in Homestead. Call 305.247.5727 or visit: www.MiamiFruitAndSpicePark.com.

Beaches & Islands

Crandon Park Beach, consistently rated among the top 10 beaches in the U.S., has bicycle and walking paths weaving throughout and picnic areas parkside. Its white sand, coastal dunes, palm trees, and mangroves make for a perfect escape! Rent cabanas, available daily, monthly or yearly. Each has its own private shower. Pamper yourself! Located at 4000 Crandon Blvd., on Key Biscayne. Call 305.361.5421 for more info!

Matheson Hammock Park Beach features a unique atoll pool flushed with the tidal action from Biscayne Bay. Located at 9610 Old Cutler Rd., Miami. Call 305.665.5475.

Haulover Park Beach is an Atlantic Ocean beachfront, popular with surfers and families. Hang loose or catch a killer wave, dude! Located at 10800 Collins Ave., Miami Beach. Call 305.947.3525.

Explore our islands, too: **Pelican Island**, a short, breezy boat ride away from Pelican Marina, ideal for beach picnics. Call 305.754.9330. Or visit Amelia Earhart Park's **Tom Sawyer Island**, a magnet for kids, reachable only by a swinging rope-bridge, located at 401 East 65 Street in Hialeah. Call 305.685.8389.

Marinas & Waterfront Restaurants

From waterfront restaurants to picnic areas and sand beaches, our marinas have plenty of amenities to please your every mood. Here's a brief sampling:

Near Biscayne National Park, **Black Point Marina** has a dockside restaurant and bar, **The Ocean Grill**, where you can enjoy casual dining, bird watch and spot manatees. There are also bikeways, jogging trails and a jetty into Biscayne Bay, allowing fishing enthusiasts to cast from shore. Call 305.258.4092.

Herbert Hoover Marina at Homestead Bayfront Park offers swimming in an atoll pool, a playground and it's only 8.5 miles by boat from Elliot Key. Call 305.230.3033.

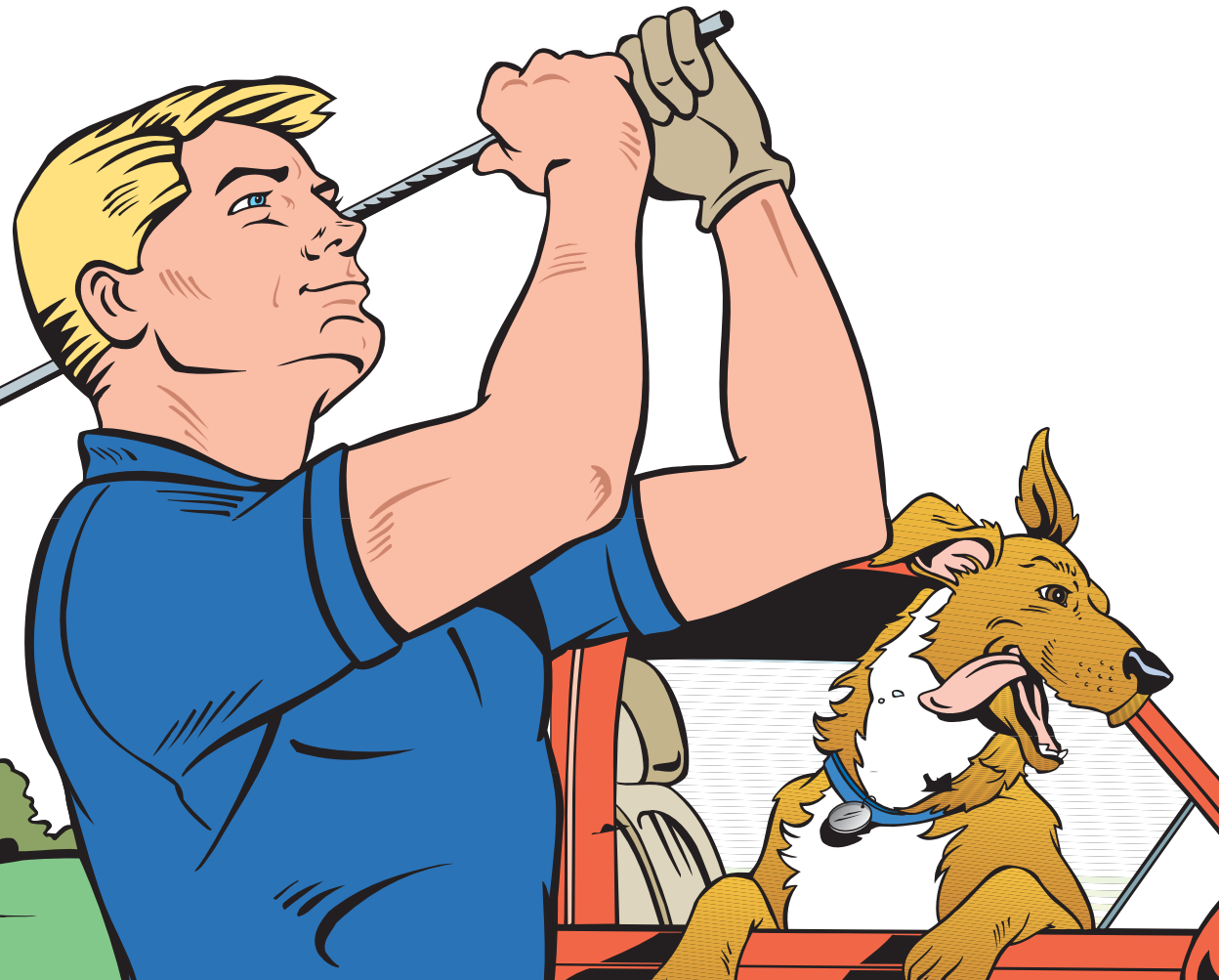
Matheson Hammock Park makes **Matheson Hammock Marina** one of our most popular. Enjoy a tropical hammock, sailing with the pros at Castle Harbor Sailing School, a sandy beach and natural atoll pool, and a first-class restaurant—**The Red Fish Grill**, on the beach. Call 305.665.5475.

Crandon Marina on Key Biscayne offers spectacular fishing and an artificial reef near by. Charter a fishing boat, join a dive trip or rent your own power boat. Call 305.361.1281.

In Haulover Beach Park, between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway, lies **Bill Bird Marina**, home to one of the largest charter and drift-fishing fleets in South Florida. Buy fresh-caught fish, bicycle or fly kites at the kite rental stand, and more. Check out delicious **Café Azul** or enjoy the nearby nine-hole golf course, too. Call 305.947.3525.

Pelican Harbor Marina has a 10-acre island just 400 yards offshore—Pelican Island—only accessible by boat. It has barbecue grills, picnic tables and a “chickee” hut that can be reserved for special occasions. Take your own boat or a water taxi. Call 305.754.9330.

For more details on these fun attractions visit www.MiamiDade.gov/Parks. Now get going! There's too much fun and wonder waiting for you to explore it all!



THE SUPER SUSTAINABLE SAGA OF PARKMAN

EPISODE 2: THE SPAWN OF SPRAWL





Parks at a Glance

- 1 Miami International Agriculture & Cattle Show**
The 2nd Annual Miami International Agriculture & Cattle Show stamped into Miami on March 20, 2009. It drew 45,000 people, potential buyers from 22 countries and 397 head-of-cattle representing 15 breeds from 12 states.
- 2 Dedication at Camp Owaissa Bauer**
Several improvements at the Camp including: the dining hall, cabins, bath house and pathways were dedicated on March 27, 2009, with Miami-Dade Commissioner Katy Sorenson, District 8.
- 3 Lynyrd Skynyrd's Artimus Pyle at Fruit & Spice Park**
Miami-Dade Park's Fruit and Spice Park hosted 2006 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee Artimus Pyle, legendary drummer from the popular rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd, in concert March 28, 2009.



- 4 2009 Sony Ericsson Open**
Miami-Dade Parks' Grandon Tennis Center hosted the 2009 Sony Ericsson Open Tennis Tournament March 25 – April 7, 2009. In its 25th year, the event drew a total attendance of over 293,000 people.
- 5 Building the Public Realm**
Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez addresses the audience at the Northeast Partnership Summit at Barry University on March 12, 2009. Topics included creating a model park system—an exceptional community that sustains government, businesses and universities and provides residents and visitors with a greener, healthier place to live, work and play.
- 6 All You Need is Love-In**
Fans enjoy the music and festivities at the 6th Annual Greynolds Park Love-In on May 17, 2009, featuring Mitch Ryder and the Detroit Wheels.

There's No Can't in Camps

By Edith Torres



MAKING MEMORIES TO LAST A LIFETIME AT SUMMER CAMPS

Miami-Dade Parks has been offering affordable summer camps programs throughout the County for decades and these camps have helped shape the lives of countless youth. Summer camp programs have even helped guide kids to a career in sports, arts, and even within the park and recreation industry. For some, their summer camp experience helped change their life as was the case with the

Santos kids, a family of five who all attended summer camps when they were growing up.

Svetlana Santos, the only girl in the family, began attending summer camps when she was 10 years old. Now at age 24, a student and a paralegal, she reflects on the impact that the summer camps program had on her life.



"Before registering for summer camps, I was very anti-social and had very low self-esteem. Growing up with four brothers I inevitably wanted to play sports, but NEVER saw any of the girls in my classes want to play anything. When my older brother joined a Miami-Dade Parks softball team at Kendall Indian Hammocks Park, I saw a woman (Igna Portilla, Parks and Recreation Manager) coaching the boys team.



I thought, wow, a woman coaching boys. So, I decided to join the team."

That was a springboard for Svetlana Santos who continued playing softball and eventually became an all-star catcher.

Throughout her years growing up, she attended camps at Kendall Indian Hammocks, A.D. Barnes Park, took part in end-of-summer camp dance shows, participated in swimming, overnight camping, and joined the annual Fashion Show at A.D. Barnes Park alongside kids with disabilities.

"A leader like Igna who would introduce us to different programs, and participating in all these things, pushed me to open up and make friends, and helped me to become a confident person." She adds, "The woman I am now is because of all the lessons I've learned through life, and some of the greatest lessons I've learned have been through experiences at my summer camps. I've also learned, specifically from the time I played in the boy's team, that a woman can

do anything a man can do, and I use that lesson now as an adult."

Summer camps helped her to continue playing softball in school, as well as be a part of her middle and high-school swim teams. Both of these activities she continues to do regularly which helps her to relax, stay in shape and focused.

Her brother Ilich, 21, also started playing baseball through Miami-Dade Parks' summer camp program and later in the sports development program. He went on to play three years of baseball in his high school

the love of sports in him that he carries to this day.

The Santos family is just one example of the thousands of families and children that have grown up at a Miami-Dade Parks summer camps program. We invite you to come and experience the fun.

This year's Miami-Dade Parks Summer Camps program is titled **FIT TO PLAY, GREEN IT UP**

"A leader like Igna who would introduce us to different programs, and participating in all these things, pushed me to open up and make friends, and helped me to become a confident person."

and later in his college team. He too credits the Miami-Dade Parks summer camp program with instilling

teaching children how to be fit and healthy, as well as about the health benefits of "going green."





The 10-week summer camp will feature daily exercise and nutrition education components, that have comprised the popular summer camp program for the past five years. This year, Miami-Dade Parks is also adding an environment-friendly component where children will learn how a healthy planet is essential for a healthy child. Children will learn the basics of recycling, water conservation and other eco-friendly behaviors that are beneficial for the life of this planet.

In addition to the **FIT TO PLAY, GREEN IT UP** general camp, Miami-Dade Parks offers a variety of specialty camps including

performing arts camps at African Heritage Cultural Arts Center and Raices Hispanic Heritage Cultural Arts Center, camps for children with disabilities, EcoAdventures nature camps, and numerous sports camps such as golf, tennis,



cheerleading, football, sailing, basketball, soccer, and mountain bike, as well as camps at The Deering Estate at Cutler and Miami MetroZoo.

General and specialty camps also feature exciting field trips to sites such as Miami MetroZoo, Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center, Deering Estate at Cutler, Pelican Island, and Joseph Caleb Auditorium for theatre and film programs. Campers will also enjoy an end-of-summer carnival with rides and games, scheduled for July 21-24 at

Tropical Park. Miami-Dade Parks also offers Learn-to-Swim programs at all of its parks with pools, taught by American Red Cross-certified water-safety instructors.

Financial assistance is available for qualified families.

The fun at Miami-Dade Parks doesn't have to end when summer ends. Kids can attend the Miami-Dade Parks After-school program at many of the same parks where they went to summer camps. Transportation is available at select sites for an additional fee.

Join in the unforgettable experience at a Miami-Dade Park summer camp and after-school program.



FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE VISIT OUR
WEBSITE AT
WWW.MIAMIDADE.GOV/PARKS.



AMELIA EARHART A PARK FOR ALL SEASONS

Amelia Earhart Park in Hialeah was named after famous aviatrix Amelia Earhart, whose doomed final flight took off from a nearby Army airfield on June 1, 1937. Opened in 1984, amenities abound at this 515-acre park.

There is a special events area for concerts and a large soccer complex with a concession stand that can be used by schools for tournaments and private rentals. Corporations can host events in Amelia's large corporate shelter. Families can rent shelters for birthday parties, graduation celebrations or wedding receptions.

Amelia is the only park in Miami with a genuine farm village. Families, schools and camps bring children on field trips to experience a working farm, go on a hayride and pet farm animals. There's also a general store where you can enjoy some ice cream or candy.

Are you the athletic type? Rent a water bike or bicycle. Maybe you're just longing to find a place where you can enjoy a nice, relaxing walk along tree-lined pathways with birds chirping and wide open green spaces. Come along and take that stroll.

Also, Amelia's Bark Park with spray fountains is a great place for your dog to get some exercise and improve its social skills!



By
Sheri Gornito

Three camps are offered in the summer:

A farm village camp that teaches children about where their food comes from and what type of farmer grew it. The mountain bike camp, with three courses set for different skill levels, and for the first time this year, an aquatic camp is being offered.

There's even a Junior Sailing Program for kids age 9-15. Administered through the U.S. Sailing Association, the program provides hands-on boating instruction, including navigation, docking, sail trimming, knot tying, and safe boating practices.

So, take a break and visit this fun getaway:

Address 401 East 65th Street, Miami, Florida 33013

Phone Number 305-685-8389

Hours of Operation Sunrise to Sunset

By Karen Cheney &
W. Howard Gregg

REDLAND FRUIT AND SPICE PARK: NEW LAKE FEATURE

HISTORY

The property that comprises the Preston B. Bird and Mary Heinlein Fruit and Spice Park has a rich history. It was the first homestead in the Redland area, homesteaded by early pioneer Dan Roberts. The property also served as a 1915 agricultural research station established to find a cure for citrus canker; a Red Cross outpost for volunteers who rolled bandages for wounded World War I troops; the site of the first public school house in the area; and, for a time in the 1920s, served as the location of the Redland post office.

It was not until 1935 that action was taken by County Commissioner J.D. Redd to create a park on the property. Commissioner Redd was also responsible for the acquisition of the Bauer

Hammock, now known as Camp Owaissa Bauer. In 1943, the county received the deed to the property and Commissioner Preston B. Bird appointed Mary Heinlein the park supervisor. William Lyman Phillips, renowned landscape architect and consultant to the Parks Department completed landscape plans for the park in 1944. The Parks Department bought additional land in 1946 and 1947, creating a park of 20 acres. Subsequent acquisitions in 1981, 1998, 2006, and 2007 have enlarged the park to its current 38.27 acres.

THE LAKE

Originally designed as a quiet botanical sanctuary, the park was significantly changed as the result of Hurricane Andrew in 1992. A new Master Plan was developed a year later that recognized the park and

its heritage as an important piece of the Miami-Dade County community. The new Plan was designed to: 1) retain the focus on tropical agricultural practices; 2) incorporate the additional land purchased; 3) organize the botanical collection for scientific and recreational purposes; 4) relocate and restore storm damaged historic buildings; 5) improve accessibility and maximize potential links to the existing CSX rail line as a greenway connection; and, 6) create a more interesting interpretive and events program to attract residents and tourists.

The lake design became a central part of the Master Plan as an important landscape feature, conceived as a thematic anchor for the park. It became a way to demonstrate a variety of aquatic agricultural practices common to the tropics and provided a visual link between the diverse plant collections. Before the lake design was finalized, more than 200 mature trees were relocated into five botanical areas representing tropical Asia, America, Pacific, Africa, South Florida, and the Mediterranean.

Excavation of the two-acre lake, which was carved out of the native limestone substrate, began in Summer 2008. It is linked physically and visually to the park's Mediterranean area by a fountain and by a cascading stream.

The fountain is situated at the terminus of an axis that begins in the tropical America- and continues through the Mediterranean-themed herb garden. The lakeside experience begins here and finishes at an open lawn and scenic overlook, located at the hub of the park. Soon to be completed, the lake provides park visitors with a pleasant walk, experiencing and enjoying exhibits of rural cultivation, semi-rural cultivation; plantation; and economic forests from each part of the globe.

Owner:	Miami-Dade County Park and Recreation Department Karen Cheney, Landscape Architectural Design Manager LaTonya Hudson, Construction Project Manager
Contractor:	American Earth Movers, Inc.
Design Consultant:	Burns & McDonnell
Funding Sources:	Safe Neighborhood Parks Bonds Building Better Communities Bonds
Project Cost:	\$1,055,000



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▶▶ **JUN 6, 8 PM**

►► **JUN 6 & 20, 7 AM – 5 PM**

►► **JUN 6, 5:30 – 8 PM**

» JUN 8 – AUG 21,
9 AM – 4:30 PM

▶▶ **JUN 8 – AUG 21,**

9 AM – 4:30 PM
DEERING CREATIVE
ECO-ART CAMP

» JUN 8 – AUG 21,
9 AM – 4:30 PM

CAMP IKANA OKEE
\$375/ten-day session; \$188/five-day session (ages 11 and up). In Camp Ikana Okee (Sea & Land), science, education and adventure are the focus as campers explore the natural and marine world through unique and innovative hands-on activities above, beside and below the water's surface. Five 10-day sessions from June 8—August 14 and one five-day session from August 17—21.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668

(NOTE: Dates and times are subject to change.)

Check the Parks website for added events and cancellations or call prior to attending.)

www.miamidade.gov/parks



» **JUN 8, 7 – 11 PM**

MOONLIGHT CANOE TOUR

\$40/Person (ages 18 and up). Guided canoe tour across Biscayne Bay under the light of the full moon. A Deering education and interpretive staff member will accompany you to Chicken Key while sharing ecological facts of the bay. Includes a campfire and light snacks on the island. Space is limited.

Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668

» **JUN 13, 10 AM – 1 PM**

MANGO MANIA

\$35/Person. Instructor: Chris Rollins. It's everything you want to know about mangos: how to grow them, their insect and disease problems, recipes, and the many varieties. Sample fruits until the juice drips from your elbows, and taste luscious sticky rice with mango.

Fruit & Spice Park
24801 SW 187 Ave.
(305) 247-5727

» **JUN 14, 8 AM**

AAU DISTRICT TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP

Free. Track and field championship. Tropical Park Stadium
7900 SW 40 St.
(786) 315-5225

» **JUN 14 & 28, 8 – 11 AM**

CHICKEN KEY CANOE TOUR

\$25/Adult; \$15/Child (ages 9—14). Canoe to Chicken Key, a seven-acre mangrove island and restored bird rookery. The program is designed for beginners and experts alike. Please bring closed-toe shoes, comfortable clothes, water, a hat, and sunscreen. Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668

» **JUN 15 – JUL 31, MON – FRI**

BANK OF AMERICA ZOOFARI SUMMER CAMP

This fun-filled learning adventure for children includes live animal presentations, craft projects, special zookeeper talks, wildlife enrichment activities, visits to exhibits, recreational games and more! Pre-registration is required. For more information, call the Zoological Society of Florida at (305) 255-5551.

Miami MetroZoo
12400 SW 152 St.
(305) 255-5551

» **JUN 15, 2 – 4 PM**

BAY CRUISE

\$35/Person. Take a relaxing trip on the Pelican Island Skipper Pontoon boat and discover South Florida's nature and history. The boat will depart from the Deering Estate and explore Biscayne Bay.

Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668

» **JUN 20, 1 – 3 PM**

LYCHEE & LONGAN WORKSHOP

\$25/Person. Instructor: Chris Rollins. Learn about these revered Chinese fruits, from their ancient cultivation to modern mania. Growing needs, problems, and varieties will be covered. Fruit & Spice Park
24801 SW 187 Ave.
(305) 247-5727

» **JUN 20 & 21, 10 AM – 5 PM**

REDLAND SUMMER FRUIT FESTIVAL

\$6/Person (Children under 11 admitted free). This annual event showcases local agriculture and tropical fruits. Vendor booths featuring local wines, yummy foods and rare fruit samplings will be available. Fruit & Spice Park
24801 SW 187 Ave.
(305) 247-5727

» **JUN 21, 5 – 7:30 PM**

ECOADVENTURES: KEY BISCAYNE SUNSET BOAT TOUR

\$35/Person. Board the Pelican Skipper for a sunset boat cruise around the island of Key Biscayne with our knowledgeable naturalist staff on a 40-passenger catamaran boat. Enjoy breathtaking views of Biscayne Bay and historical landmarks such as Stiltsville and the Cape Florida Lighthouse. Reservations required. Crandon Park Marina
4000 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne
(305) 365-3018

» **JUN 27, 8 PM
(GATE OPENS AT 7 PM)**

SUMMER CABARET CONCERT SERIES

\$20/Person/concert; \$55 for the three-concert series. The Summer Cabaret Concert Series features eclectic world music artists in an intimate setting during the summer months. The June concert will feature jazz trio Cindy Curtis & Company. Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668

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www.MiamiEcoAdventures.org
EcoAdventures@MiamiDade.gov

» JUL 1, 8:30 – 10 PM

ECOADVENTURES: SEA TURTLE AWARENESS PROGRAM

\$6/Person. This summer, journey into the world of sea turtles! Help save these creatures by participating in a lecture presentation and sea turtle hatchling release during the height of the hatchling season. Participate in programs at Crandon Park Visitors & Nature Center and at Haulover Beach Park. Reservations required and begin July 1. Spaces are limited. Crandon Park Visitors & Nature Center 6767 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne Parking Lot #1, North Beach Entrance (305) 365-3018

» JUL 4, 8 PM

SOUL IN DA CITY

\$20/Person in advance; \$25 day of show. See the hottest and freshest artists in Neo-Soul music at the Caleb Auditorium. Joseph Caleb Auditorium 5400 NW 22 Ave. (305) 636-2350

» JUL 7, 7 – 11 PM

MOONLIGHT CANOE TOUR

\$40/Person (ages 18 and up). Guided canoe tour across Biscayne Bay under the light of the full moon. A Deering education and interpretive staff member will accompany you to Chicken Key while sharing ecological facts of the bay. Includes a campfire and light snacks on the island. Space is limited. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72 Ave. (305) 235-1668

» JUL 11 & 12, 8 AM – 11 PM

FLORIDA PASO FINO HORSE SHOW FREE.

Tropical Park Equestrian Center
7900 SW 40 St.
(954) 775-4043

» JUL 11, 5:30 – 8 PM

ECOADVENTURES: CRANDON PARK'S SUNSET & MOONLIGHT KAYAK ADVENTURE

\$40/Person (ages 9 and up). Every month there's a full moon you can view a spectacular South Florida sunset from the seat of a kayak as we paddle through the waters of Bear Cut and explore the forgotten and secret part of Key Biscayne by light of the rising full moon. Wear closed-toe water shoes. Reservations required. Crandon Park Visitors & Biscayne Nature Center 6767 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne Parking Lot #1, North Beach Entrance (305) 365-3018

» JUL 18, 7 AM – 5 PM

ECOADVENTURES: INDIAN KEY CANOE & SNORKEL ADVENTURE

\$50/Person (ages 9 and up). Jump in our Eco-van with your naturalist-guide as we make our way to Indian Key. Explore the island by canoe. Snorkel in the clear waters and surrounding coral reefs teeming with wildlife! Join us as we retell historic events and spend the day exploring the island on foot. Wear closed-toe water shoes. Bring your own lunch. Trip leaves from A.D. Barnes Park Sense of Wonder Nature Center. Reservations required. A.D. Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center 3401 SW 72 Ave. (305) 365-3018

» JUL 25, 8 PM

(GATE OPENS AT 7 PM) SUMMER CABARET CONCERT SERIES

\$20/Person/concert; \$55 for the three-concert series. The Summer Cabaret Concert Series features eclectic world music artists in an intimate setting during the summer months. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72 Ave. (305) 235-1668

» JUL 25, 5 – 7:30 PM

ECOADVENTURES: KEY BISCAINE SUNSET BOAT TOUR

\$35/Person. Board the Pelican Skipper for a sunset boat cruise around the island of Key Biscayne with our knowledgeable naturalist staff on a 40-passenger catamaran boat. Enjoy breathtaking views of Biscayne Bay and historical landmarks such as Stiltsville and the Cape Florida Lighthouse. Reservations required. Crandon Park Marina 4000 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne (305) 365-3018

» AUG 1, 8 PM

SOUL IN DA CITY

\$20/Person in advance; \$25 day of show. See the hottest and freshest artists in Neo-Soul music at the Caleb Auditorium. Joseph Caleb Auditorium 5400 NW 22 Ave. (305) 636-2350



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» **AUG 6, 7 – 11 PM**

MOONLIGHT CANOE TOUR

\$40/Person (ages 18 and up). Guided canoe tour across Biscayne Bay under the light of the full moon. A Deering education and interpretive staff member will accompany you to Chicken Key while sharing ecological facts of the bay. Includes a campfire and light snacks on the island. Space is limited. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72 Ave. (305) 235-1668

» **AUG 29, 5 – 7:30 PM**

ECOADVENTURES: KEY BISCAIYNE SUNSET BOAT TOUR

\$35/Person. Board the Pelican Skipper for a sunset boat cruise around the island of Key Biscayne with our knowledgeable naturalist staff on a 40-passenger catamaran boat. Enjoy breathtaking views of Biscayne Bay and historical landmarks such as Stiltsville and the Cape Florida Lighthouse. Reservations required. Crandon Park Marina 4000 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne (305) 365-3018

» **AUG 29, 8 PM (GATE OPENS AT 7 PM)**

SUMMER CABARET CONCERT SERIES

\$20/Person/concert; \$55 for the three-concert series. The Summer Cabaret Concert Series features eclectic world music artists in an intimate setting during the summer months. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72 Ave. (305) 235-1668

Ongoing Activities

» **MON – FRI, 7:30 AM – 1:30 PM; MON – FRI, 1:30 – 5:30 PM**
ADULT DAY TRAINING

\$81.25/week. Ongoing program for adults with developmental disabilities. Enjoy a rotating schedule of activities in fitness, arts & crafts, community trips, life, safety, & independence skills, decision making, and nutrition. A.D. Barnes Park 3401 SW 72 Ave. (305) 665-5319 / (305) 669-4052

» **MON, WED & FRI, 11 AM – 12 PM**

LOW IMPACT WATER EXERCISES

\$45/15 sessions. Water exercises that promote joint flexibility, muscle strength, coordination, and balance for adults. Tamiami Pool 11201 SW 24 St. (305) 222-2128 / (305) 222-2175 (TDD)

» **TUE & THU, 11 AM – 12 PM**
LOW IMPACT WATER EXERCISES

\$20/10 sessions. Aquatic exercise program for adults with physical limitations. Goulds Pool 21805 SW 114 Ave. (305) 382-8160 / (305) 385-6230 (TDD)

» **TUE & THU, 9:45 – 11 AM**
TAI CHI

FREE. Learn 12 slow flowing movements that will improve balance & flexibility and reduce stress for adults. Westwind Lakes 6805 SW 152 Ave. (305) 234-1673 / (305) 234-1712 (TDD)

» **TUE & THU, 8 – 9 AM (LOW IMPACT); 9 – 10 AM (HIGH IMPACT)**
AEROBIC AQUATICS

\$30/session. A variety of aquatic exercise techniques facilitated by a certified instructor. Improve your endurance, circulation, coordination, balance, and much more. Rockway Pool 9460 SW 27 Dr. (305) 752-4966 / (305) 385-6230

» **TUE & THU, 9 AM – 12 PM**
PLAYING TUNES BEFORE NOON

\$35/7 sessions (30-minute sessions). Keyboard lessons for adults of all abilities. Greynolds Park 18601 NE 22 Ave. (305) 945-3425

» **TUE & THU, 11 AM – 12 PM**
WATER EXERCISES

\$30/10 sessions. Low impact classes focusing on range of motion, strength, and endurance for adults. A.D. Barnes Pool 3401 SW 72 Ave. (305) 665-5319 / (305) 669-4052

» **WED, 3 – 4 PM**
FITNESS SWIMMING

\$30/10 sessions. Lap swimming for fun and exercise for adults with physical disabilities. Palm Springs North Pool 7901 NW 176 St. (305) 382-8160 / (305) 385-6230 (TDD)



» **FRI, 6 – 10:30 PM**

FUN ON FRIDAYS

\$40/weekly. Ongoing program for adults with developmental disabilities. Participate in social programs with community trips and indoor activities. Work on life and safety skills. A.D. Barnes Park
3401 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 665-5319 / (305) 669-4052

» **SAT, 10 AM – 12 PM**

BOOK NOOK BY THE BAY

\$10/Adult; \$5/Child (ages 4–14). On the first Saturday of each month, enjoy family story time, on-site eco-arts and crafts, science programs and more. There is a different topic each month! Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668

» **SAT, 10 AM – 12 PM**

JR. WHEELCHAIR SPORTS CLUB

\$40/session (ages 9 and up). Rotating wheelchair sports clinics to include basketball, tennis, fencing, cycling and golf. Camp Matecumbe
13841 SW 120 St.
(305) 382-8160 / (305) 385-6230 (TDD)

» **SAT, 9 – 11 AM**

WHEELCHAIR TENNIS

FREE (ages 9 and up). Tennis instruction by a professional for children and adults with physical disabilities. Big Five Tennis Club
600 SW 92 Ave.
(305) 382-8160 / (305) 385-6230 (TDD)

» **SAT, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

FITNESS SWIMMING

\$30/10 sessions (ages 9 – 20). Lap swimming for fun and exercises for individuals with physical disabilities. A.D. Barnes Pool
3401 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 382-8160 / (305) 385-6230 (TDD)

» **SAT, 9 AM – 4:30 PM**

SATURDAYS IN THE PARK

\$40/weekly. Ongoing program for adults with developmental disabilities. Participate in social programs with community trips and indoor activities. Work on life and safety skills. A.D. Barnes Park
3401 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 665-5319 / (305) 669-4052

» **SAT, 10 AM – 1 PM**

ECOADVENTURES: HISTORIC OLETA RIVER CANOE TRIP

\$28/Person (ages 7 and up). Every Saturday in June, July and August relive the river's historic past with park naturalists. The beauty of the Oleta River has drawn man to its shore for centuries. Explore this natural haven for wading birds, osprey, fish, and the endangered West Indian manatee. Reservations required. Meet at East Greynolds Park (Northeast Regional Dog Park)
16700 Biscayne Blvd.
(305) 365-3018

» **SAT, 6 – 10:30 PM**

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE

\$25/day. Special events for adults with developmental disabilities. Rotating special events include tai chi, dance classes, campfires and more. A.D. Barnes Park
3401 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 665-5319 / (305) 669-4052

» **SAT & SUN, 10 AM – 12 PM**

OR 4 – 6 PM

ECOADVENTURES: MATHESON BAY SHORE CANOE TREK

\$28/Person. This summer you can canoe through a mangrove forest and learn about the native wading birds and other bay animals and plants of this South Florida ecosystem. Launch every Saturday and Sunday from Matheson Hammock Park, 9610 Old Cutler Road (meet west of the Sailing School). Reservations are required. A.D. Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center
3401 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 365-3018

» **SUN, 9 AM – 1 PM OR**

9 AM – 3 PM

ECOADVENTURES: CORAL GABLES WATER WAY CANOE TOUR

\$33/Person. Every Sunday in June, July and August you can canoe the historic Coral Gables waterway as naturalist guides take you back in time to the days of George Merrick and the birth of Coral Gables and the famous Biltmore Hotel. Choose a half-day trip returning at 1 PM or a full-day trip returning at 3 PM. Reservations required.



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Noon burn gold into our hair
At night, we swim the laughin' sea
When summer's gone
Where will we be*

– “Summer’s Almost Gone”

