

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)





2023 Members

Nicole Everett - Member
Jana Gray - Member
Paul Jackomin - Vice Chair
Celeste Jameson - Chair
Mark Murphy - Member
Gail Stevens - Member
Burton Thomas - Member
Kaiden Rosa - Student
Vacant - Student
Joan Morgan - Alternate I
David Spisak - Alternate II





Board Roles and Responsibilities

THE PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD PROVIDES THIS REPORT TO CITY COMMISSION IN COMPLIANCE WITH CITY CODE, CHAPTER 4, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

Sec. 4-7. - Reports.

(a) All boards shall provide verbal or written reports to the city commission to include the previous fiscal year's activities and their goals for the following fiscal year in the first quarter of the calendar year each year. The city commission shall review the annual reports, duties, responsibilities and goals of the boards, and thereafter meet with the boards to address issues if necessary.

THE PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD WORKS WITH THE CITY OF NORTH PORT PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT IN SUPPORTING THEIR VISION AND MISSION BY:

- Making recommendations to the City Commission regarding public recreation facilities, programs and future projects.
- Exploring various sources of grant funding available for recreational programs/facilities.
- Supporting and promoting opportunities for play and play spaces in the community.
- Being ambassadors in the communication of ideas and projects to the public, and supporting the plans and desires of the City Commission.



2023 Initiatives

- Support for the Unified Land Development Code (ULDC) rewrite for Development and Parkland.
- Provided input on the AC7 Warm Mineral Springs Comprehensive Plan amendments.
- Focused on restoring North Port's natural habitats in public areas.
- Sought input on native planting in parks settings.
- Researched potential areas for a pilot project for a recommendation to commission on native plantings in parks.
- Gained understanding of the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), the Adopt-a-Park Program and the Smoking in Parks Regulations.

Events & Activities

- HOPE PARK - volunteer planting/ watering
- Poinsettia Parade - volunteer judges
- Ribbon cutting ceremony for McKibben Park playground and Myakkahatchee Greenway Trail.
- Appointed Celeste Jameson to the Sarasota County Parks Advisory and Recreation Council (PARC).
- Selected the theme for the 2023 Poinsettia Parade and Festival from public suggestions.

Pilot Project

On September 16, 2023 the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in collaboration with The Environmental Advisory Board, local volunteers, and friends and family completed a native planting at Hope Park. This pilot project encourages local wildlife habitat and is aimed at educating the public on native gardens.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommends an area in every park be retained for the purpose of native plantings that encourage habitat for native species.





Member Comments

“Having native plants in our parks and recreation areas offer many benefits. Plantings can be beautiful, valuable areas which can be sustainable, environmentally friendly additions to our parks and our homes. Once established they tend to be low maintenance reducing labor, supplies, and equipment costs. Additionally native plantings support local wildlife providing shelter and food supply which promotes biodiversity, conservation and responsible stewardship.”

Member Jana Gray

“Parks bring a sense of calmness, joy, recreational activity and comfort. Hope Park has a new look because of the added plants and flowers which is bringing additional joy to those who pass by the park and those who use it every day. Hope Park has a new bright and welcoming look with the addition of the plants around the park sign.”

Alternate I, Joan Morgan

“The park planting was important to me because we were able to begin a long term effort to increase environmental awareness through our parks.”

Student Member Kaiden Rosa



2024 GOALS

- Support Park System Planning.
- Promote the acquisition of lands for future community and neighborhood parks.
- Remain informed, involved and offer diverse perspective on Parks & Recreation programs, projects and initiatives.
- Increase collaboration with the Environmental Advisory Board for more sustainable parks.
- Increase awareness of Native plantings in Parks and their purpose.
- Support the community events and programs that our Parks & Recreation Department provide.
- Promote and support the Parks & Recreation Department in their reaccreditation.

