



Promoting healthy and socially rewarding activities through the preservation of cultural resources and the provision of diverse high-quality parks and natural resources

# 2024 IMPACT REPORT

Oct. 2023 - Sep. 2024

[NorthPortFL.gov/ParksAndRecreation](http://NorthPortFL.gov/ParksAndRecreation)





1 - 2024 Engagement with Parks Report - [www.NRPA.org](http://www.NRPA.org)  
 2 - Parks and Recreation Is Essential - [www.NRPA.org](http://www.NRPA.org)

North Port Parks & Recreation is dedicated to building a strong, vibrant, and resilient community through the power of parks and recreation. **Our work enhances quality of life, fosters connection among residents and supports economic growth.**

According to the 2024 Engagement with Parks Report, **86% of U.S. adults prioritize access to quality parks** when choosing where to live, and **91% agree it's a key local government service.**<sup>1</sup> Economic research has consistently demonstrated that homes and properties located near parks have higher values than those further away. It is also reported by National Recreation and Parks Association that **90% of U.S. adults want their local park and recreation agency to provide job and volunteer opportunities for youth and young adults.**<sup>2</sup> North Port Parks & Recreation is a major employer of youth and a significant source for first time jobs through positions such as lifeguards (full-time and seasonal) and camp counselors. **With 96% of U.S. adults recognizing there are important benefits that teenagers and young adults gain from their first jobs and volunteer opportunities,**<sup>2</sup> our department plays a vital role in preparing the next generation for success.

**Over the past year, we have revitalized and enhanced our parks to better serve the community.** This includes upgrading existing park facilities and infrastructure to improve accessibility and working with stakeholders to develop a unique approach to renovating the historic buildings at Warm Mineral Springs Park. We continue to research and explore new areas to expand our offerings and ensure that our parks continue to meet the evolving needs of residents and visitors.

Our commitment to excellence is reflected in our national accreditation by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies, recognizing our dedication to outstanding service and operations. For more information, visit [NorthPortFL.gov/ParksAndRecreation](http://NorthPortFL.gov/ParksAndRecreation) or follow us on Facebook @NorthPortParksAndRec.

# RECOGNITION

- National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)**
- CAPRA Reaccreditation achieved
  - 2024 American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration National Gold Medal Award Program Finalist for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in Class III (population 75,001-150,000).

- Florida Recreation and Park Association (FRPA) Voluntary Service Award**
- Recipient, Joan Morgan

- Florida Festival & Events Association SUNSational Awards**
- Event Poster - Woofstock - 2nd Place
  - Event Risk Management Plan - Poinsettia Parade & Festival - 2nd Place
  - Green Program - Go Green with Parks - 2nd Place
  - 2023 Impact Report - 1st Place

- Counsilman-Hunsaker Aquatic Management Program**
- Received passing grade on all components of audit



Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation, Trish Sturgess and Director of Parks & Recreation, Sandy Pfundheller holding Gold Medal Finalist plaque.

- Florida Fish & Wildlife Youth Conservation Centers Network**
- 2023 Outstanding Partner

- Florida Trust for Historic Preservation**
- Warm Mineral Springs Park nominated to Florida's 11 to Save program

# PARKS & REC by the numbers\*

## RECREATION DIVISION

54,914



Daily drop-in/membership visits to Rec Centers

1,233

Active Achieve Anything members



4.9/5

Overall satisfaction for facility rentals

8,934

Group Exercise Visits to Recreation Centers

10,938

Reservations/Rentals processed by the Reservations team

32,776

Special Event attendees

\$500K+

Revenue generated from recreation programs, events and services

## PARK MAINTENANCE DIVISION

3,609

Athletic field reservations accommodated with associated field prep and maintenance

125

Non-recurring work orders completed related to routine repairs and park improvements

\*All revenue & expense data based off of preliminary FY24 year end information as of Jan. 2025.

## AQUATICS DIVISION

### North Port Aquatic Center

91,221



Number of visitors to the North Port Aquatic Center



4.3/5

Overall experience while visiting the Aquatic Center

25%

Increase in concession sales from 2023

4,687

Number of program visits to the Aquatic Center

11%

Reduction from budgeted operating deficit

725

Number of active passholders to the Aquatic Center



530

Swimming lessons to the community at large

679

No cost swim lessons to Sarasota County second grade students through a partnership with Sarasota County School Board & MONDA S.W.I.M. Foundation

\$1.1M+

Revenue generated from NPAC programs, events & services

### Warm Mineral Springs Park



126,698

visitors to WMSP

\$1.5M+

Revenue generated by WMSP

On Sept. 10, 2024, the City Commission unanimously approved a plan to preserve the unique legacy of the existing historic buildings. For project details, visit [NorthPortFL.gov/WarmMineralSpringsPark](http://NorthPortFL.gov/WarmMineralSpringsPark)

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## BUILDING COMMUNITY

- Processed 68 special event permits bringing an estimated 54,000 visitors to the City
- Performed over 300 hours of water safety education and life-saving skills instruction
- Participated in more than 100 hours of public outreach/education
- Provided 680 hours of complimentary meeting space in support of local Scout troops
- Extended \$16,177 in discounted facility rental fees in support of local not for profit organizations
- Facilitated the award of \$6,300 in Special Event Assistance in support of community events
- Actively engaged with a broad online audience of 573,383 and reached 552,217 through print and radio ads

## FOSTERING HEALTH & WELL BEING

- Provided full day, summer camp care to more than 300 youth
- Provided 24,609 youth with out of school time activities at our Community Centers
- Provided 533 middle and high school students with free access to our Community Centers through the Drug-Free Youth program
- Collaborated with local youth sports organizations to provide over 2,500 youth athletes with access to recreation facilities
- Awarded \$6,920 in Youth Scholarships to support equitable access to recreational activities
- Facilitated the provision of 1,109 free nutritious meals to elementary age youth through GMAC Summer Camp program
- Provided employees and their families/pets with essential resources and a safe space to shelter during declared emergencies
- Supported employee wellness initiatives through 79 Achieve Anything memberships valued at more than \$19,000

## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- Secured sponsorship commitments of \$13,000 in cash contributions and \$37,236 of in-kind value to offset expenses
- Collaborated with 49 volunteers contributing 455 hours in support of services and events.
- Collaborated with 30+ local organizations in the delivery of services
- Partnered with the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading to encourage a culture of reading and summer learning at GMAC Camp
- Partnered with Florida Recreation & Parks Association to present the SWFL Summer Games regional training
- Collaborated with Veterans Park Advisory Committee for design of the Circle of Honor Memorial
- Collaborated with local artist to create new mural for Aquatic Center sponsor wall
- Fostered youth development in aquatic sports by serving as homesite for North Port High School Bobcats swim team

## PARK INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

- Resurfaced tennis, pickleball and basketball courts at Highland Ridge Park
- Installed replacement playgrounds at McKibben Park, Dallas White Park and George Mullen Activity Center
- Resurfaced the Boundless Adventure Playground, Atwater Park Splashpad and Aquatic Center Pelican Playground
- Completed full turf renovation of Narramore Soccer Field #1
- Installed permanent Story Stroll display at the Garden of the Five Senses
- Implemented site refresh and improvements to hardscape and softscape at Warm Mineral Springs Park