

Nathan Benderson Park (NBP), located parallel to Interstate 75 between the University Parkway and Fruitville Road exits, is a 600-acre public park. NBP offers the community activities such as non-motorized boating, fishing, bird-watching, and trails for jogging, walking and related activities.

The public park is owned by Sarasota County and operated by Suncoast Aquatic Nature Center Associates (SANCA). The operating agreement between the county and SANCA took effect April 15, 2014.

Construction of the park, which began in 2010, is expected to be completed this year. Once completed, the park will feature, “pocket parks” with benches and playgrounds spaced appropriately along the western shoreline.

In addition to recreation activities NBP is also a venue for large specialty events including the 2017 World Rowing Championships. The world class recreational venue will offer opportunities for community rowing (youth, adults and seniors), adaptive rowing (disabled veterans, youth/adults with mental and physical disabilities), corporate events, training and practice for junior and collegiate crews, local, regional, national and international regattas.

Sarasota and Manatee counties are working in partnership to develop world class rowing and practice facilities. This regional approach, which includes practice facilities in Osprey on Little Sarasota Bay and at Fort Hammer Park in Manatee County, allows us to offer an all-inclusive destination for rowing programs from across the country and around the world. The regional approach to hosting practice and competition venues will provide economic benefits to Sarasota and Manatee counties as well as the entire state of Florida.

Operating Agreement Overview

Use and Operation

- The operation, management and maintenance of Nathan Benderson Park, including Regatta Island, all lakes and all the property, amenities and improvements, is the responsibility of SANCA.
- SANCA will develop and provide programming for the community and general public.

Term of the Agreement, Revenues and Payments

- The initial term of the agreement is April 15, 2014 through Sept. 30, 2019.
- If the finish tower, grand stands and safety improvements (all currently unfunded) are constructed by SANCA within six months of the end of the term, and if there has been no material breach of the agreement, the agreement will be extended for an additional 10 years.



For more information about Nathan Benderson Park, which received the 2014 Alliance for Innovation Award, visit the Sarasota County website at www.scgov.net.



FACT SHEET

- The agreement term may be extended three times for a period of 10 years each (up to 30 years) if there has been no material breach of the agreement.

County Rights and Obligations

- The county has the right to use the park without charge up to three times per year.
- Park Operating Expenses - The county will reimburse SANCA for a portion of the following operational expenses only, up to the stated amount: (expenses above the stated amounts will be SANCA responsibility)
 - \$200,000 per fiscal year (pro-rated to \$125,000 for FY14) for grounds maintenance.
 - \$213,722 per fiscal year (pro-rated to \$91,439 for FY14) for actual personnel expenses.
 - \$50,000 per fiscal year for operating and administrative expenses.
- The county will reimburse SANCA up to \$325,000 per fiscal year for the net cost of staging priority events.
- Budget for FY15 has been approved by the Sarasota County Commission. Budgets for FY16, FY17 and FY18, including any requests for increases, must be reviewed and approved by the Sarasota County Commission during the public budget workshop process.
- Beginning Oct. 1, 2018, the county shall no longer be responsible for reimbursing SANCA for personnel or event expenses.

Accountability

- On or before Feb. 28 of each year, SANCA shall provide the county an annual report and financial report (including the updated business plan) of the previous fiscal year ending Sept. 30.
- The annual and financial reports shall include:
 - Attendance, net cost of events, economic impact, sales tax generated and hotel room nights as verified by Visit Sarasota County for each event and the total for the year.
 - An audited statement of all revenue and expenditures related to NPB.
 - An updated business plan including projected versus actual revenues and expenses for the previous fiscal year as well as projections for the next four years.
- SANCA shall maintain auditable records for all donations, including documentation that all donations have been used in accordance with a written agreement with the donors.

For more information about [Nathan Benderson Park](#) and all related [SANCA Reports](#), visit www.scgov.net.