GENERAL INFORMATION

SARASOTA COUNTY COMMISSION

Michael A. Moran
District 1 Commissioner

Christian Ziegler
District 2 Commissioner

Nancy C. Detert
District 3 Commissioner

Alan Maio
District 4 Commissioner

Charles D. Hines
District 5 Commissioner

Jonathan Lewis
County Administrator

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (ESLOC)

Tony Clements
Raymond Loraine
Tina Powell

James DeNiro
Jono Miller
Chris Simmons

Helen Helks King
Donald Neu
Ellie Winer

Barbara Lockhart

PARKS ADVISORY AND RECREATION COUNCIL (PARC)

Lynn Brock
Leo Gordon
Matt Scarborough

Ryan Brown
Maryellin Kirkwood
Robin Short

Shelby Connett
Jono Miller
Michelle Stanley

Victor Dobrin
Joan Piper

PARKS, RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT TEAM

Nicole Rissler, Director

Kim Heuberger, Senior Manager, Park Development, Planning and Maintenance

Shawn Yeager, Senior Manager, Parks, Programming and Stewardship

Reba Cline, Operations Coordinator

Rob LaDue, Park Planning and Development Manager

Frank Moritz, Maintenance Services Manager

Ryan Murphy, Operations Coordinator

Steve Rauh, Sports Development and Athletics Manager

Shelia Roberson, Business Operations Manager

Jon Robinson, Natural Areas and Trails Manager

Cindy Turner, Beaches and Water Access Manager

Jim Wormley, Recreation and Neighborhood Parks Manager

PARKS, RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Sarasota County Administration Center
1660 Ringling Blvd., 5th floor
Sarasota, FL 34236
941-861-5000
scgov.net/parks  I  facebook.com/SRQCountyPlay

ADA COMPLIANCE POLICY

Sarasota County prohibits discrimination in all services, programs and activities. View the complete policy at scgov.net (keywords ADA compliance). Persons with disabilities who require assistance or alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.), or who wish to file a complaint, should contact: Sarasota County ADA/Civil Rights Coordinator 1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34236 Phone: 941-861-5000; TTY 7-1-1 or 1-800-955-8771 Email: adacoordinator@scgov.net

CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS

Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources accepts major credit and debit cards (MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover) for payment of programs and services. The charge will appear on your statement as “Sarasota County Parks and Recreation.”

REFUNDS

Rental refund requests must be made in writing and submitted to Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources prior to 60 days before the date of the reservation. Each refund request is subject to a $25 administrative fee. No refunds will be granted if the request is received fewer than 60 days prior to the reservation date. Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources may reschedule the reservation if adverse environmental conditions occur, including local advisory for a tornado, hurricane watch or warning, imminent flood warning or red tide. Refund requests due to inclement weather that do not result in warnings/watches will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Some programs may not allow refunds or may not allow refunds after a certain date; refer to specific program information. There is a $25 administration fee for program refunds where applicable. Programs whose total cost is less than $25 are not eligible for a refund. There are no refunds on passes.

DOG PARKS AND DOG-FRIENDLY PARKS

A dog park is a park for dogs to exercise and play off-leash under their owner’s supervision. At a dog-friendly park, dog owners can enjoy walking their dogs in designated areas, but they must be on a maximum 6-foot hand-held leash. For a list of Sarasota County dog parks and dog-friendly parks, visit scgov.net (keywords dog park).

PHOTO POLICY

Photographs taken at Sarasota County parks, facilities and programs often are used in presentations, brochures and other county publications. If you do not wish to have your picture or a family member’s picture taken, let the photographer know in advance.

MISSION

To provide a premier parks system that enriches our community through participation, learning and stewardship.

VISION


Events and activities are subject to change. Please call 941-861-5000 to confirm dates and times.
Welcome From the Director

Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources invites you to explore more than 160 parks, including diverse natural areas, unique sporting venues and safe places for people of all ages and abilities to play, learn and grow. Whether your idea of recreation is toes in the sand, cycling, running, fishing or enjoying a nature walk, our park system offers something for everyone.

This Events and Activities Guide is organized into three parts: Recreation and Athletics, Beaches and Water Access, and Natural Areas and Trails. Each area has a wide range of events and activities where you and your family can enjoy quality leisure time together. Our playgrounds, beaches, trails, natural areas, athletic facilities, recreation centers and water access parks support Sarasota County residents through environmental and sports tourism, health and wellness, as well as improving overall quality of life.

Please enjoy the many events and activities that the Sarasota County park system has to offer. I hope to see you at our 43rd annual Sandy Claws Beach Run on Dec. 14 at Siesta Beach or perhaps at our annual Say ‘I Do’ Again event on Feb. 14.

Our recreation and community centers are available to rent for your next event. With rental spaces both inside and out, we can accommodate everything from a small private party to a business expo, sports tournament, wedding reception or a concert seating for up to 900 guests. To view and request reservations at all our reservable facilities, including this pavilion at Siesta Beach, visit scgov.net/parks, or call 941-861-7275 (PARK).

Nicole Rissler
Director
Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources

Join Our Incredible Volunteers

There are many opportunities to volunteer with Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources. You are invited to connect with others in our community for a good cause!

To find the right opportunity for you, visit scgov.net (keyword volunteer).
ABOUT THIS EVENT GUIDE

Want to get active?
Enjoy running on the beach?
Want to walk in nature?

Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources has the right activities for you! Check out all we have to offer and join in on the fun.

To help you find your favorite things to do, this guide is divided into three parts:
1) Recreation and Athletics (pages 8-27)
2) Beaches and Water Access (pages 28-34)
3) Natural Areas and Trails (pages 35-49)

Tables of Contents by activity, park and location are provided on the following pages.

This event guide is published twice a year and distributed throughout Sarasota County at key locations and posted online at scgov.net/parks. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Email us at parksonline@scgov.net, or contact the Sarasota County Contact Center at 941-861-5000.

AT-A-GLANCE SYMBOLS

Bait Shop
Baseball Field
Basketball
Beach Access
Bicycling
Birding/Wildlife Viewing
Boat Ramp
Camping
Canoe/Kayak Launch
Community Garden
Concession Stand/Restaurant
Dog-friendly (Leash required)
Dog Park
Fishing
Fishing Pier
Fitness Center
Fitness Equipment (Outdoor)
Gymnasium
Historical/Cultural Resource
Horseshoes
Indoor Rental
Lifeguard
Nature Center
Pickleball
Picnic Shelter/Pavilion
Picnicking
Playground
Racquetball
Recreation Building
Restrooms
Rowing Facility
Shooting Range
Soccer Field
Softball Field
Swimming
Tennis
Tennis Practice Wall
Trailhead (The Legacy Trail)
Trails-Equestrian
Trails-Paved
Trails-Unpaved
Volleyball
TABLE OF CONTENTS BY TYPE OF PARK
Recreation and Athletics.................................................................................................................8-27
Beaches and Water Access.........................................................................................................28-34
Natural Areas and Trails..............................................................................................................35-49

TABLE OF CONTENTS BY ACTIVITY
Baseball/Softball......................................................................................................................10, 13, 19
Basketball .................................................................................................................................10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 26, 46
Bicycling ...................................................................................................................................13, 16, 18, 25, 26, 37, 45, 46
Birding/Wildlife Viewing .......................................................................................................18, 21, 26, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 37, 38, 39,
.................................................................................................................................40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49
Camping ...................................................................................................................................15, 34, 37
Canoeing/Kayaking ...............................................................................................................18, 20, 21, 30, 31, 34, 37, 39, 40
Concession/Restaurant ..................................................................................................30, 31, 32, 34
Fishing/Fishing Pier ...........................................................................................................13, 18, 20, 21, 30, 31, 33, 34, 40, 44, 47, 49
Fitness Equipment (Outdoor) ......................................................................................16, 20, 45, 49
Horseshoes ...............................................................................................................................10, 19, 26, 31, 34
Pickleball ................................................................................................................................11, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 26, 32
Playground ..............................................................................................................................10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22,
..............................................................................................................................................26, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 44, 45, 46, 49
Soccer ......................................................................................................................................13, 22
Special Olympics ......................................................................................................................13
Tennis .........................................................................................................................................11, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 26, 32, 46
Trails-Equestrian ..................................................................................................................37, 47
Trails-Paved ..............................................................................................................................13, 16, 18, 21, 22, 26, 32, 40, 45, 46, 49
Trails-Unpaved ......................................................................................................................11, 13, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 30, 33, 37,
..............................................................................................................................................38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49
Volleyball .................................................................................................................................10, 16, 19, 20, 30, 32, 34

DIVISION INTRODUCTIONS
Recreation and Athletics ...........................................................................................................8
Beaches and Water Access ......................................................................................................28
Natural Areas and Trails .........................................................................................................35

ATHLETIC LEAGUES
Contacts .................................................................................................................................9

For more information and registration, visit scgov.net/parks, or call 941-861-5000.
* This map does not indicate all of Sarasota County parks that are available. To learn about all of our great parks, go to scgov.net/parks.
## AT-A-GLANCE ACTIVITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Number</th>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Baseball/Softball</th>
<th>Basketball</th>
<th>Bicycling</th>
<th>Birding/Wildlife Viewing</th>
<th>Camping</th>
<th>Canoeing/Kayaking</th>
<th>Concession/Restaurant</th>
<th>Fishing/Fishing Pier</th>
<th>Fitness Equipment (Outdoor)</th>
<th>Horseshoes</th>
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<th>Playground</th>
<th>Soccer</th>
<th>Tennis</th>
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<th>Trails-Unpaved</th>
<th>The Legacy Trail - Trailhead</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bee Ridge Park</td>
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<td>Turtle Beach Campground/ Turtle Beach Park</td>
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<td>Venice Community Center</td>
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<td>Venice Train Depot</td>
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<td>Woodmere Park</td>
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For more information and registration, visit scgov.net/parks, or call 941-861-5000.
## Featured Events and Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 4–April 29</td>
<td>Phillippi Farmhouse Market</td>
<td>Phillippi Estate Park</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 4–April 29</td>
<td>North Jetty Park Food Truck Rally</td>
<td>North Jetty Park</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 7, Jan. 18, March 21</td>
<td>Craft Show</td>
<td>Englewood Sports Complex</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 8, Jan. 5</td>
<td>Afternoons at the Mansion</td>
<td>Phillippi Estate Park</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 12</td>
<td>Full Moon Walk</td>
<td>Red Bug Slough Preserve</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 14</td>
<td>43rd annual Sandy Claws Beach Run</td>
<td>Siesta Beach</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 21</td>
<td>Breakfast with Santa</td>
<td>Newtown Estates Park</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 23, 26-27, 30-31, Jan. 2-3</td>
<td>Winter Vacation in the Parks</td>
<td>Colonial Oaks Park, Newtown Estates Park</td>
<td>12, 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 7</td>
<td>Community Garage Sale</td>
<td>Woodmere Park</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 14-April 15</td>
<td>Surrey Rides on The Legacy Trail</td>
<td>Laurel Park</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 23</td>
<td>The Role of Fire in Florida’s Ecosystem</td>
<td>Old Mauka Preserve</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 25</td>
<td>Fire Fest 2020</td>
<td>T. Mabry Carlton, Jr. Memorial Reserve</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 1-9</td>
<td>Gulf Coast Games for Life (Senior Games)</td>
<td>Multiple locations</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 4-March 31</td>
<td>Sunrise Beach Walks</td>
<td>South Lido Beach, Nokomis Beach, Siesta Beach</td>
<td>31, 32, 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 6-March 26</td>
<td>Tunes, Trucks and Treasures</td>
<td>Phillippi Estate Park</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 14</td>
<td>Say ‘I Do’ Again</td>
<td>Nokomis Beach, Siesta Beach</td>
<td>31, 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 21-23</td>
<td>Sarasota Invitational</td>
<td>Nathan Benderson Park</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 28-March 1</td>
<td>AAU Chill Blast Pickleball Tournament</td>
<td>Englewood Sports Complex</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 5, 12, 14, 19, 26, 28</td>
<td>Beach University</td>
<td>Siesta Beach</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 14-15</td>
<td>Sarasota-Bradenton ITU Triathlon</td>
<td>Nathan Benderson Park</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 16-20</td>
<td>Spring Vacation in the Parks</td>
<td>Colonial Oaks Park</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>FIRA Championships</td>
<td>Nathan Benderson Park</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 3-5</td>
<td>28th annual Venice Sharks Tooth Festival</td>
<td>Venice Airport Festival Grounds</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 4-5</td>
<td>FSRA Sculling</td>
<td>Nathan Benderson Park</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>24th annual Big Truck Day Eggstravaganza</td>
<td>Nathan Benderson Park</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt</td>
<td>Nokomis Community Park</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 13-18</td>
<td>USRowing Olympic Trials</td>
<td>Nathan Benderson Park</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 25-26</td>
<td>FSRA Sweeps</td>
<td>Nathan Benderson Park</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>48th annual Amateur Sand Sculpture Contest</td>
<td>Siesta Beach</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1-Aug. 7</td>
<td>Summer Camp Programs</td>
<td>Multiple locations</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2-July 28</td>
<td>Kids’ Summer Beach Runs</td>
<td>Siesta Beach</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 3-July 29</td>
<td>Kids’ Summer Beach Runs</td>
<td>Brohard Beach</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 11-14</td>
<td>USRowing Youth Nationals</td>
<td>Nathan Benderson Park</td>
<td>18</td>
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</table>
Try your hand at

PICKLEBALL
The fastest growing sport in America!

INDOOR PICKLEBALL
Colonial Oaks Park
5300 Colonial Oaks Blvd., Sarasota • *2 courts
(October-May)
Advanced – Monday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Beginner/Intermediate – Wednesday, 1-4 p.m.

Englewood Sports Complex
1300 S. River Road, Englewood • 6 courts
(Year-round)
Open Play – Tuesday/Thursday, 1-4 p.m.
Beginner – Friday, noon to 2 p.m.
Intermediate – Wednesday, 1-4 p.m.

Laurel Park
509 Collins Road, Laurel • 2 courts
(October-May)
Advanced – Monday, 9 a.m. to noon
Beginner/Intermediate – Wednesday, 9 a.m. to noon
Open Play – Friday, 9 a.m. to noon

Longwood Park
6050 Longwood Run Blvd., Sarasota • 3 courts
(October-May)
Beginner – Wednesday, 9 a.m. to noon
Open Play – Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday, 9 a.m. to noon

Venice Community Center
326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice • 4 courts
(Year-round)
Intermediate – Monday, 9 a.m. to noon
Beginner – Monday, 1-4 p.m.
Open Play – Monday, 4-7 p.m.

Woodmere Park
3951 Woodmere Park Blvd., Venice • 2 courts
(October-May)
Open Play – Wednesday/Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

OUTDOOR PICKLEBALL
Bypass Park/Foxworthy Campus
1101 Gulf Coast Blvd., Venice • 8 courts

Colonial Oaks Park
5300 Colonial Oaks Blvd., Sarasota • 2 courts

Englewood Sports Complex
1300 S. River Road, Englewood • 12 courts

Fruitville Park
5151 Richardson Road, Sarasota • *4 courts

Hecksher Park
450 W. Venice Ave., Venice • *2 courts

Laurel Park
509 Collins Road, Nokomis • *4 courts

Longwood Park
6050 Longwood Run Blvd., Sarasota • 1 court

Newtown Estates Park
2800 Newtown Blvd., Sarasota • *4 courts

Nokomis Community Park
234 E. Nippino Trail, Nokomis • *4 courts

Pinebrook/Wellfield Park
1251 Pinebrook Road, Venice • 2 courts

Siesta Beach
948 Beach Road, Siesta Key • *4 courts

Twin Lakes Park
6700 Clark Road, Sarasota • *4 courts

Youth Athletic Complex
2810 17th St., Sarasota • 1 court

Woodmere Park
3951 Woodmere Park Blvd., Venice • *4 courts

*Nontraditional courts - bring your own net!

Dates and times subject to change
For more information, call
941-861-5000

PICKLEBALL PUNCH PASSES
Sold and accepted at all Sarasota County indoor pickleball sites.
10 plays for $15
25 plays for $37.50
Daily drop-in fees are currently $2.

Sarasota County prohibits discrimination in all services, programs or activities. View the complete policy at scgov.net (keywords ADA compliance).
Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources provides a variety of recreational opportunities throughout Sarasota County. Residents and visitors may enjoy attending one of the many special events throughout the year, such as the 43rd annual Sandy Claws Beach Run at Siesta Beach, Gulf Coast Games for Life (Senior Games) and Big Truck Day Eggstravaganza at Nathan Benderson Park.

The county also offers Summer in the Parks, an 11-week program offering fun and safe summer recreation for children entering grades one through 12. Summer programs include Day Camp, Adventure Camp, Counselor-in-Training Program, Therapeutic Camp and a variety of specialty camps.

Those looking for recreational programming more convenient to home may enjoy exercise classes, pickleball programs, community gardens, music shows, community garage sales, volleyball, table tennis, badminton, basketball, tennis and more located at the 12 recreation and community centers throughout Sarasota County. There are also specialty parks that offer shows, concerts, target shooting facilities and historical tours.

In addition, the county’s athletic opportunities range from traditional sports such as baseball, football, softball and soccer, which are offered in more than 100 leagues, to sports like BMX, croquet and rowing, which are offered at world-class sporting facilities including Nathan Benderson Park, Sarasota BMX and Sarasota County Croquet Club courts. Travel ball tournaments are also held at county facilities year-round as well as the athletic leagues’ training, tryouts and league championship tournaments. The county is excited to announce a new partnership with the Sarasota Sharks located at the Selby Aquatic Center. Please refer to the Potter Park section of this guide for a list of aquatic programs offered.

Sarasota County is proud to offer sporting activities for all ages from youth to senior league programs. Working with Visit Sarasota County, there are several sporting events for everyone to enjoy throughout the county on an annual basis.

We invite you to come take part in all Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources has to offer!
ATHLETIC LEAGUES

NORTH COUNTY LEAGUES

BASEBALL
Cal Ripken Baseball
Central Sarasota Little League
Sarasota Babe Ruth League

BMX
SRQ BMX

FOOTBALL
Sarasota Ringling Redskins (football and lacrosse)
Sun Devils (football and cheerleading)

LACROSSE
Sarasota Seahawks Lacrosse

SOCCER
FC Sarasota Soccer League (youth)
Sarasota Football Club (adult)
Suncoast Soccer (youth)
Suncoast Sports Inc.

SOFTBALL
17th Street Softball (Sunday League)
Miss Sarasota Softball
Sarasota Coed Softball (adult)
Sarasota Senior Softball Association
SoCo Club Sport (softball, soccer, kickball)

SOUTH COUNTY LEAGUES

BASEBALL
Englewood Area Youth Baseball
North Port Little League
Venice Little League

CROQUET
Sarasota County Croquet Club

FOOTBALL AND CHEERLEADING
North Port Huskies
North Port Mustangs Pop Warner
Venice Vikings Pop Warner Football

LACROSSE
Sarasota Seahawks Lacrosse

SOCCER
Englewood Youth Soccer
North Port Youth Soccer League
Venice Area Youth Soccer

SOFTBALL
Englewood Senior Softball League
Englewood Adult Softball
Miss Englewood Fast Pitch
Miss North Port Fast Pitch
Miss Venice Fast Pitch Softball
Englewood Senior Women's Legends League
Venice Senior Gold
Venice Senior Silver

For all athletic league and athletic field use inquiries, please contact 941-861-PARK (7275).

scott@permacastwalls.com
info@srlittleleague.com
caluer@mote.org
srqbmx1974@gmail.com/sarasotabmx.com
sarasotaringlingredskins.com
sarasotasundevils.us
info@seahawkslacrosse.com
mmixon@fcsarasota.com
david_l_rhodes@fpl.com
info@mysuncoastsoccer.com
sweeks111@verizon.net
17thstreetsoccer@gmail.com
misssarasotasoftball.org
coedballbeeridge@gmail.com/coedball.com
srqchuckcason@verizon.net
info@sococlub.com

For all athletic league and athletic field use inquiries, please contact 941-861-PARK (7275).

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npall.com
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rw lentz@comcast.net
northporthuskies.com
northportmustangs1@gmail.com
venicevikings.com
info@seahawkslacrosse.com
englewoodrays@outlook.com
vitosmobiledetailing@gmail.com
venicesoccer.org
ed8508@comcast.net
keith.r.ledford@gmail.com
missenglewoodsoftball@gmail.com
missnorthportfastpitch.com
missvenicefp.leagueapps.com
womenssoftball.org
jmilesj24@gmail.com
seniorsoftball.webs.com

For more information and registration, visit scgov.net/parks, or call 941-861-5000.
BEE RIDGE PARK

4430 S. Lockwood Ridge Road, Sarasota

Also features: sand volleyball. This park offers indoor and outdoor reservable space. Visit scgov.net (keyword reservations) or contact 941-861-PARK (7275).

ACTIVITIES

4-H LIVESTOCK CLUB

Year-round / Ages: 5-17 / Fee: Contact instructor / Room B / Every Tuesday, 7-8:30 p.m.

This club focuses on the development of leadership skills through the care and handling of steer, beef breeding, dairy cattle, swine, goats, poultry and rabbits, as well as crafts and plant projects. For details, email 4Hlivestockclubsarasota@gmail.com.

COED SAND VOLLEYBALL

Year-round / Ages: 18 and up / Fee: Contact league / Sand volleyball courts / Dates and times vary

For play opportunities, cost and schedule, contact league representatives at info@sococlubsport.com.

COED SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Year-round / Ages: 18-50 / Fee: Varies / Softball fields / Sunday–Wednesday, 6:30-10 p.m.

Contact league representatives at coedballbeeridge@gmail.com for opportunities, cost and schedule.

COMMUNITY GARDENS IN PARKS

Year-round / Ages: 18 and up (under 18 must have adult supervision) / Garden / Daily, sunrise - sunset

Community gardens provide a place for individuals to grow vegetables, fruits and herbs. Gardeners can improve their families’ health and nutrition while reducing food costs. Community gardens also benefit the neighborhoods where they are located by utilizing open space and promoting a sense of community pride. For a $25 membership fee, gardeners receive a garden plot, basic gardening tools, soil testing, compost and water. If you are interested in reserving a plot in one of our parks’ community gardens, contact UF/IFAS Extension at Twin Lakes Park or call 941-861-5000.

FOREVER FRIENDS FUN DAYS (T-REC)

Year-round / Ages: 10 and up / Fee: Free / Room B / Third Saturday, 1-3 p.m.

Join the volunteers of Forever Friends for an afternoon of fun, inspiration and activities. These events vary and may include music, crafts, snacks, games, special visitors and more. All individuals aged 10 and up with disabilities are invited to this free event. Family and caregivers are also welcome. For details, call Denise Rizzo at 941-480-9390, email ForeverFriendsInc@yahoo.com or visit foreverfriendsinc.org.

SAND VOLLEYBALL

Year-round / Ages: 10 and up / Fee: Free / Sand volleyball courts / Daily, 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Open play on five lighted courts. For details, call 941-861-PARK (7275).

GUIDED TOUR OF COMMUNITY GARDEN AT BEE RIDGE PARK

Dec. 7 / All ages (youth under 18 must be supervised by adult garden members) / Fee: Free / Garden / Saturday, open 10-11:30 a.m. with tours starting at 10 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11 a.m.

Enjoy a guided walking tour of the Bee Ridge Community Garden. Learn more about the community garden while you enjoy seeing what vegetables flourish here in sunny Florida. Tours last 20-30 minutes. Preregistration preferred. Learn more and register at ufsarasotaext.eventbrite.com or sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/Sarasota.

31st Annual Gulf Coast Games for Life

Feb. 1-9, 2020

Sponsored by Humana/Elite Health, The Florida Senior Games Series is a multi-sport event program for adults 50 and over. The series consists of events throughout Florida leading up to the Florida Senior Games in December. For information or to register, call 941-861-PARK (7275).

Bag Toss (Corn Hole) / Basketball Shooting / Bocce Ball / Bowling / Cribbage / Cycling / Golf / Horseshoes / Pickleball / Race Walk and Power Walk / Racquetball / 5K Road Race / Rowing and Paddle / Shuffleboard / Swimming / Table Tennis / Target Shooting / Track and Field / Volleyball

Registration Deadline: Jan. 13, 2020

For more information and registration, visit scgov.net/parks, or call 941-861-5000.
COLONIAL OAKS PARK
5300 Colonial Oaks Blvd., Sarasota

Also features: community garden, Little Free Library. This park offers indoor and outdoor reservable space. Visit scgov.net (keyword reservations) or contact 941-861-PARK (7275).

KINGS AND QUEENS BASKETBALL
Year-round / Ages: 6-12 / Fee: Contact instructor / Gymnasium / Saturday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Learn fun skills and the fundamentals of basketball. Camp has limited availability. For more information, email kingsandqueensofbasketball@yahoo.com.

SOCCER SHOTS
Year-round / Ages: 2-5 / Fee: Varies / Sunday morning and Friday evening options, call for times
Fun, age appropriate intro to soccer classes for children ages 2-5. Classes focus on: soccer skills and coordination development (age 2); skill development and character development in a noncompetitive environment (age 3-5). Parent participation is required for age 2 groups. For details, call 727-308-1200, or visit sarasota@soccershots.org.

SUNCOAST SANDFLEAS UKULELE CLUB
Year-round / Ages: 18 and up / Fee: Free / Room A / First Sunday, 2-4 p.m.
The Sandfleas is a group of amateur musicians of all levels who get together to play ukuleles, mostly, and sing songs of all eras from Tin Pan Alley to the ‘70s. The group works primarily out of the two songbooks from the Daily Ukulele series and takes a social break in the middle so people can get acquainted. For more information, go to meetup.com/suncoastsandfleasukuleleclub.

TABLE TENNIS
Year-round / Ages: 7 and up (Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.) / Fee: $5 per day, monthly rates available / Gymnasium / Monday, Wednesday, 7-10 p.m., Saturday, 2-5 p.m.
Increase agility and coordination while enjoying an excellent cardiovascular workout. All skill levels are welcome. For details, call 941-739-1045.

TRADITIONAL JAPANESE KARATE - SARASOTA KARATE CLUB
Year-round / Ages: 6 and up / Fee: Contact instructor / Room A / Tuesday, Thursday, Youth 5-5:45 p.m., Adult 6:15-7:25 p.m.
Classes focus on the fundamentals of traditional karate-do as well as strength and flexibility training, balance, discipline and focus through character improvement. Family discounts available; no contracts required. Start times change during camp programs. See instructor for details. For more information, contact Sensei April Noss at 407-489-1147 or email at senseiapril@gmail.com. Club website is Sarasotakarateclub.com.

OUTDOOR EXERCISE EQUIPMENT
The following parks have a series of outdoor exercise stations along the trails or within the parks.
- Caspersen Beach
- Fruitville Park
- Laurel Park
- Nokomis Community Park
- Pinebrook Park
- Rothenbach Park
- Urfer Family Park
Tai Chi and Qigong are ancient mind-body practices to help maintain or regain health, relieve stress and increase strength, flexibility, mind focus, clarity and creativity. Tai Chi is one of the most frequently recommended practices to increase balance. For details, contact Gail at 941-685-9050, or email gailpettit47@gmail.com.

Drama Kids
December-May / Ages: 5-11 / Fee: $64 per month plus $25 registration fee / Room C / Wednesday, 4:15-5:15 p.m.

Children can explore the world of creative dramatics with classes designed to build verbal communication skills, acting ability and self-esteem. For details, call Tamara at 941-922-8121 or visit dramakids.com/fl1.

Pickleball
December-May / Ages: 18 and up / Fee: $2 (Passes available) / Gymnasium / Advanced: Monday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Beginner/Intermediate: Wednesday, 1-4 p.m.

Nets, paddles and balls provided. Bring a partner or group. Singles also welcome. Sessions are suspended during camp programs. For details, call 941-316-1330.

Rise Above Theatre Training
December-May / Ages: 11-17 / Fee: Free / Rooms A, B and C / Tuesday, Friday and Sunday (Schedule varies)

Rise Above will have rehearsals for full-length theatrical productions. Students will be active in music, acting and choreography instruction. Participation is by audition only. Auditions are held in January, May and September. If interested, please contact info@riseabovearts.com.

Winter Vacation in the Parks – School Break Program
Dec. 23, 26-27, 30-31, Jan. 2-3 / Ages: Kindergarten-fifth grade / Fee: $9 per session or $117 for seven full days / Camp rooms / Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to noon and 1-5:30 p.m.

This program offers fun, recreational and instructional activities with daily themes for children during the school break. A supervised lunch time is provided to those attending both daily sessions. No camp on Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1. Preregistration is required. Register at scgov.net/parks. For details, call 941-861-PARK (7275).
ENGLEWOOD SPORTS COMPLEX
1300 S. River Road, Englewood

Also features: fitness equipment, Little Free Library. This park offers indoor and outdoor reservable space. Visit scgov.net (keyword reservations) or contact 941-861-PARK (7275).

ACTIVITIES

BADMINTON
Year-round / Ages: 18 and up / Fee: $2 / Gymnasium / Tuesday, Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon
Bring your racquet and join us each week for a fun game of indoor badminton. Program is open to all skill levels. Loaner equipment is available. For information, call 941-861-1980.

DYNAMIC WALKING FITNESS
Year-round / Ages: 18 and up / Fee: $5 per class, $24 for eight classes / Gymnasium / Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Join this new adult fitness class that mixes walking with unique techniques and a variety of exercises incorporating cardio, balance, flexibility, coordination, core and upper body strength. Walk at your own pace in the air conditioned gym. Chairs are available along with modified exercises, if needed. Contact instructor Dyan Beyer for more details at 941-626-2399.

FITNESS TRAINING
Year-round / Ages: 18 and up / Fee: $4 per day, $26.75 per month / Fitness Room / Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Fitness room is equipped with a variety of cardio equipment including treadmills, recumbent bike, elliptical and rowing machine. The room also houses several freestanding weightlifting stations along with a complete range of free weight equipment to meet your training and fitness needs.

OPEN BASKETBALL
Year-round / All ages / Fee: Free / Gymnasium / Monday-Friday, 4-5:30 p.m.
Open gym basketball is available every weekday afternoon at no charge unless there is a facility rental. Basketballs are available. Participants must wear shirt and sneakers and sign-in at front desk.

PICKLEBALL
Year-round / Ages: 18 and up / Fee: $2 (Passes available) / Gymnasium / Tuesday-Thursday, 1-4 p.m.
Join us for an afternoon of open-play indoor pickleball on six new pickleball courts. Nets, paddles and balls are provided. Come and see what the craze is all about! For details, call 941-861-1980.

TABLE TENNIS
Year-round / Ages: 18 and up / Fee: $2 (Passes available) / Activity Room / Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m. to noon
Bring your paddle and join us each week for a fun game of table tennis. All sessions are open to all skill levels. Loaner equipment is available. For information, call 941-861-1980.

TAE KWON DO
Year-round / Ages: 7-15 / Fee: Free / Activity Room / Tuesday, Thursday, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Free martial arts class with instructor Captain Ron Blago. For details, call 941-861-1980.

Special Olympics Sarasota County provides year-round sports training and competition to children and adults 8 years old and up with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For more information about Special Olympics, please call 941-412-0402.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS EQUESTRIAN TRAINING
DECEMBER-MARCH / InStride

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SUMMER SPORTS TRAINING
JANUARY-MAY / Various locations

SPECIAL OLYMPICS BASKETBALL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT
JAN. 11 / Various locations

28TH ANNUAL VENICE SHARKS TOOTH FESTIVAL
APRIL 3, 4, 5 / Venice Airport Festival Grounds

SPECIAL OLYMPICS GOLF TRAINING
MAY-SEPTEMBER / Bent Tree County Club/Lake Venice Golf Course

SPECIAL OLYMPICS STANDUP PADDLE
MAY-AUGUST / Blackburn Point Ramp - Osprey

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SWIMMING
JUNE-OCTOBER / Arlington Park Pool / YMCA - Venice

For more information and registration, visit scgov.net/parks, or call 941-861-5000.
YOGA CLASS
Year-round / Ages: 18 and up / Fee: $5 / Conference Room / Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9-10 a.m.
This Hatha Yoga class is open to all levels and will explore posture, breathing and alignment. Create physical and mental strength and increase your range of motion, flexibility and stamina. Learn to deal with stress, release tension and relax. To register, contact instructor Denise Manguse at 941-475-1180.

ZUMBA
Year-round / Ages: 18 and up / Fee: $7 per class or $50 for 10 classes / Gymnasium / Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9:15-10:15 a.m.
Dance your way to a fitter you in this calorie burning workout led by certified Zumba instructor Terri Josephson. For details, call 941-406-6986 or visit englewoodzumba.com.

BALLROOM DANCE LESSONS
Nov. 4-March 16 / Ages: 18 and up / Fee: $43 per person, $85 per couple for six-week session / Conference Room / Monday, 4-5 p.m.
Dance like the stars while you learn the waltz, fox-trot, swing, cha-cha and rumba. Lessons are open to all levels. For details, call Vito or Marilyn at 941-496-9692 or email thecarcioppolos@hotmail.com.

BEGINNER PICKLEBALL
December-April / Ages: 18 and up / Fee: $2 (Passes available) / Gymnasium / Friday, noon to 2 p.m.
Want to practice your skills in a less competitive setting? Learn the fundamentals of the game from our volunteer instructors. Nets, paddles and balls are provided. For details, call 941-861-1980.

SPECIAL EVENTS
HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW
Dec. 7 / All ages / Fee: Free / Gymnasium / Conference and Activity Rooms / Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Shop for that special holiday gift at the sold-out, eighth annual Holiday Craft Show with more than 120 indoor tables.

AAU NEW YEAR’S SLAM PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT
Dec. 27-29 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: $30 + $10 for each additional event / Outdoor Pickleball Courts / Friday-Sunday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Double elimination tournament open to all skill levels. AAU membership required. Register at pickleballtournaments.com. Contact Sindee Snow for more info at 407-466-9009, email orlvb@aol.com or visit centralfloridapickleball.com.

WINTER CRAFT SHOW
Jan. 18 / All ages / Fee: Free / Gymnasium, Conference and Activity Rooms / Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Find a gift at the eighth annual Winter Craft Show with more than 120 indoor tables.

AAU BATTLE OF THE PADDLE PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT
Jan. 31-Feb. 2 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: $35 + $10 for each additional event / Outdoor Pickleball Courts / Friday-Sunday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Double elimination tournament open to all skill levels. Register at pickleballtournaments.com. AAU membership required. Contact Sindee Snow for more info at 407-466-9009, email orlvb@aol.com or visit centralfloridapickleball.com.

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE
Feb. 15 / All ages / Fee: $15 indoor space, $10 outdoor space; free admission for shoppers / Gymnasium and outside parking lot / Saturday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
The ninth annual Community Garage Sale will have indoor and outdoor booth spaces for vendors. Cost is $15 for an indoor booth, with table and chairs, and outdoor space is $10 (vendor must provide own table outside). Indoor setup will be available from 1-5 p.m. Friday before sale. Booth space is limited, so reserve early by calling 941-861-1980 or emailing waldrigd@scgov.net.

AAU CHILL BLAST PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT
Feb. 28-March 1 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: $35 + $10 for each additional event / Outdoor Pickleball Courts / Friday-Sunday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Double elimination tournament open to all skill levels. Register at pickleballtournaments.com. AAU membership required. Contact Sindee Snow for more info at 407-466-9009, email orlvb@aol.com or visit centralfloridapickleball.com.

SPRING CRAFT SHOW
March 21 / All ages / Fee: Free / Gymnasium, Conference and Activity Rooms / Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Find a gift at the eighth annual Spring Craft Show with more than 120 indoor tables.

3-D SHAMROCK SLAM PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT
March 27-29 / Ages: 16 and up / Fee: $40 / Outdoor Pickleball Courts / Friday-Sunday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Double elimination tournament open to all skill levels. Register at pickleballtournaments.com. Contact Dominic Catalan for more info at 847-922-4012 or email team3dpickleball@yahoo.com.
KNIGHT TRAIL PARK
3445 Rustic Road, Nokomis

Also features: youth group camping. This park offers outdoor reservable space. Visit scgov.net (keyword reservations) or contact 941-861-PARK (7275).

ACTIVITIES

TRAP, SKEET AND CLAY RANGE
Year-round / All ages / Fee: Varies / Trap, Skeet and Clay Range / Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sarasota Trap, Skeet and Clay Range is located at Knight Trail Park and includes four trap fields, three skeet fields and two clay courses. The range is home to the Scholastic Clay Target Program, which is designed to get school-aged boys and girls involved in shooting sports. For more information, visit sarasotatrapskeetandclays.com or call 941-488-3223.

LEKATCHKA ARCHERY CLUB
Year-round / All ages / Fee: Varies / Archery range / Member hours: Daily, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Public hours: second and fourth Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Lekatchka Archery Club is a 50-acre family archery range located at Knight Trail Park. For more information, visit lekatchkaarchers.com or email LekatchkaArchery@yahoo.com.

OUTDOOR PISTOL AND RIFLE RANGE
Year-round / All ages / Fees: Adults - $13.11; Youth (under 17) - $9 / Public pistol/rifle range / Wednesday-Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Range distances:
12 yards – Handguns only
25 yards – Handguns, rifles and shotguns (slugs only in shotguns)
50 yards – Handguns, rifles and shotguns (slugs only in shotguns)
100 yards – Rifles and shotguns (slugs only in shotguns)

Fees are subject to change. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Adults other than parents/guardians, who are accompanying minors to the range, must have a signed FWC release form for each visit. For more information, including range rules and minor release forms, visit scgov.net (keywords Knight Trail).

NATHAN BENDERSON PARK OFFERS YEAR-ROUND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES.

- Boat ramp for small, non-motorized watercraft, rowboats and kayaks
- Running/biking trail encircling the picturesque 400-acre lake
- A full calendar of championship events, community causes and more
- Equipment rentals
- Picnic areas
- Dog-friendly (leash required)

Visit NathanBendersonPark.org or call 941-358-7275 for more information.

For more information and registration, visit scgov.net/parks, or call 941-861-5000.
LAUREL PARK
AND SANDRA SIMS TERRY COMMUNITY CENTER, 509 Collins Road, Nokomis

Also features: fitness equipment (outdoor), Little Free Library, open area playing field. This park offers indoor and outdoor reservable space. Visit scgov.net (keyword reservations) or contact 941-861-PARK (7275).

SURREY RIDES ON THE LEGACY TRAIL
Jan. 14-April 15 / Ages: 5 and up / Fee: Free / Meet inside the lobby / Every Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon

Ride the surrey with the fringe on top! Join The Friends of The Legacy Trail on a 45-minute guided tour of the history, plants and wildlife of The Legacy Trail! Advanced registration is required. Call the Laurel Park office at 941-486-2757.

SUMMER DAY CAMP
June-August / Ages: Entering first-sixth grade / Fee: Varies / Community Center / Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.

The 2020 Summer Camp Guide includes more information about this and other county camps. For more information, visit scgov.net/parks.

T-REC SUMMER DANCE
June 27 / Ages: 13 and up / Fee: Free / Gymnasium / Saturday, 7-9 p.m.

All individuals with disabilities, families and caregivers are invited to dance the night away with friends, snacks and fun! To RSVP or for more information, please call 941-486-2753.

Table Tennis
December-May / Ages: 18 and up / Fee: $2 / Room A / Wednesday, Friday, 9-11 a.m.

This is not your kid’s ping pong. Bring your paddle for a morning of fun, competitive games. Open to all skill levels. No table tennis the third Wednesday of every month. For details, call 941-486-2753.

Volleyball
December-May / Ages: 18 and up / Fee: $2 / Gymnasium / Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30-11:30 a.m. / June, Tuesday, 6-8 p.m.

Join us for this recreational drop-in volleyball program. Open to all skill levels. For details, call 941-486-2753.
LONGWOOD PARK
6050 Longwood Run Blvd., Sarasota

Also features: Miracle League Baseball Field. This park offers indoor and outdoor reservable space.
Visit scgov.net (keyword reservations) or contact 941-861-PARK (7275).

ACTIVITIES

GULF COAST CLOGGERS
Year-round / Ages: 18 and up / Fee: $10 per month / Room B / Monday, June-August 6-7 p.m., December-May 3-4 p.m.
American clogging is a dance form that began in the Appalachian Mountains, but is now popular throughout the world. All levels welcome. For details, call 941-920-1922 or email cloggingpole@aol.com.

UNIVERSITY TAI CHI CLUB
Year-round / Ages: 18 and up / Fee: $50 per month; $75 per couple; $6 per class (First month trial option) / Room B / Tuesday, Thursday, 6-7 p.m.
Traditional Yang Style Tai Chi is a slow-movement, internal martial art form that focuses on balance, energy, relaxation and breath control. For details, call 941-358-6447 or email universitytaichi@yahoo.com. Sifu Richard Cummings has been teaching at the park for 20 seasons.

DRAMA KIDS
December-May / Ages: 5-18 / Fee: $64 per month plus $25 registration fee / Room B / Friday, Kindergarten-second grade: 4:30-5:30 p.m., Third-fifth grade: 5:30-6:30 p.m., Sixth-12th grade: 6:30-7:45 p.m.
Classes are designed to build verbal communication and acting skills as well as self-esteem. Classes are formed by age. For details, call 941-922-8121 or visit dramakids.com/fl1.

MEN’S BASKETBALL LEAGUES
December-May (Multiple sessions) / Ages: 40+ (Mondays) 50+ (Thursdays) / Fee: $85 per session plus $75 uniform fee (one time) / Gymnasium / Monday, Thursday, times vary
Four-on-four men’s basketball leagues. Equipment, team uniforms and certified referees provided. For details, contact Dennis Bunker at 941-704-8838 or dennisrbunker@aol.com.

NO LIMITS CROCHET
December-May / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Room B / Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Bring your needle and some yarn to see what you can do. No experience necessary. Come willing to learn and share. For details, call 941-316-1383.

PICKLEBALL
December-May / Ages: 16 and up / Fee: $2 (Passes available) / Gymnasium / Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m. to noon / Wednesday (beginners only), 9 a.m. to noon
Join us for a day of indoor pickleball and see what the excitement is all about. Open to all skill levels. For details, call 941-316-1383.

MIRACLE LEAGUE OF MANASOTA
March-May (Spring) / All ages / Miracle League Field / Saturday, times vary
This baseball league is for individuals with special needs and all ability levels. For details, call 941-255-2966 or visit miracleleaguemanasota.org.

SUMMER DAY CAMP
June-August / Ages: Entering first-fifth grade / Fee: Varies / All rooms / Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.
The 2020 Summer Camp Guide includes more information about county camps. For more information, visit scgov.net/parks.

SUPPORT THE PARKS YOU LOVE WITH FRIENDS OF SARASOTA COUNTY PARKS
No one can do it alone, and the Friends of Sarasota County Parks organization is certainly no exception. Established in 2003, the Friends is a 501(c)(3) organization founded to support the efforts of Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources with maintaining and increasing the value and importance of our parks as places of natural beauty, recreation and education for all. For more information, visit foscp.org or email president@foscp.org.

For more information and registration, visit scgov.net/parks, or call 941-861-5000.
NATHAN BENDERSON PARK
5851 Nathan Benderson Circle, Sarasota

This park offers indoor and outdoor reservable space. To reserve space or equipment, visit NathanBendersonPark.org, contact info@sanca.us or call 941-358-7275.

ACTIVITIES

DRAGON BOAT PADDLING: 101 AND TEAM
Year-round / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: $80 / Private lessons: $55-85 / Regatta Island / Days and times vary

Learn the fundamentals of paddling. Participants can expect to get the basic strokes as well as on-the-water experience in the boat. Dragon boat paddling 101 is the prerequisite for joining our community team. Community team paddling will consist of practicing three days a week and competing in tournaments. For details, call 941-358-7275 or email programs@sanca.us.

EQUIPMENT RENTALS
Year-round / All ages (under 18 must be accompanied by an adult) / Fee: Starting at $15 per hour, package pricing also available / Regatta Island / Daily

Pontoon pedal boat, single and double sit-on-top kayaks, stand up paddleboard (SUP) rentals and single scull rentals. For more information or to reserve equipment, visit NathanBendersonPark.org, email programs@sanca.us or call 941-358-7275.

FITNESS CLASSES
Year-round / All ages / Fee: Varies / Location, days and times vary

Throughout the year, NBP offers a variety of different fitness groups and classes from ChiWalking to yoga to stand up paddleboard fitness. For more information, visit NathanBendersonPark.org.

INDOOR ROWING FITNESS
Monday-Friday / Ages: 14 and up / Fee: Various / Third floor of the finish tower / Morning and afternoon times available; check schedule online

This brand-new program uses Concept 2 rowing machines to teach the basics of the rowing stroke on a stable platform inside our state-of-the-art finish tower. No experience is required for this full body workout! For more information, visit NathanBendersonPark.org.

LEARN TO ROW: 101 AND PRIVATE LESSONS
Year-round / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Classes: $120; Private lessons: $55-110 / Regatta Island / Days and times vary

Learn to Row 101 focuses on the fundamentals of sculling, or rowing with two oars. Individuals will be taken step-by-step through nomenclature, safety maneuvers and independent boat handling skills. The eight-hour course will provide you with the skill set to safely row a single skull. For details, call 941-358-7275 or email programs@sanca.us.

TEAM BUILDING
Year-round / All ages / Fee: Varies / Location, days and times vary

Let NBP lead your team-building event. Whether you are corporate, family, youth or adults, we can tailor the experience to the specific needs of your group. Call 941-358-7275 or email programs@sanca.us.

SPECIAL EVENTS

THE FENCE - AN OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION SERIES
Nov. 8-Feb. 8 / All ages / Fee: Free / Location: Park entrance

The FENCE is a traveling photography exhibition, reaching more than 6 million visitors annually through open-air exhibitions. This year’s exhibition will feature the Gulf Coast Regional Showcase with works from local and regional photographers. The photographic narratives reflect seven thematic categories; home, streets, people, creatures, nature, play and food.

24TH ANNUAL BIG TRUCK DAY EGGSTRAVAGANZA
April 11 / Ages: 12 and under / Fee: Free / Pavilion and grounds / Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Children are invited to climb into more than 20 vehicles, including a fire truck, dump truck, construction equipment and more! Egg hunts begin at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Bring a bag or basket. Games and other children’s activities, too. Food and beverage vendors will be available. For more information, call 941-861-5000.

USROWING YOUTH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
June 11-14

The championship serves as the premier youth rowing event in the United States with approximately 1,500 athletes competing in more than 350 crews, representing some 150 teams from across the country – all vying for national titles in 18 boat classes.

UPCOMING ROWING EVENTS AT NATHAN BENDERSON PARK

SARASOTA INVITATIONAL Feb. 21-23
SARASOTA-BRADENTON ITU March 14-15
LUCKY LEPRECHAUN 5K March 2020
FIRA CHAMPIONSHIPS April 3
FSRA SCULLING April 4-5
USROWING OLYMPIC TRIALS April 13-18
FSRA SWEEPS April 25-26
SARASOTA DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL May 16
USROWING YOUTH NATIONALS June 11-14

Visit NathanBendersonPark.org or call 941-358-7275 for more information.
NEWTOWN ESTATES PARK
2800 Newtown Blvd., Sarasota

Also features: Little Free Library, weight room. This park offers indoor and outdoor reservable space. Visit scgov.net (keyword reservations) or contact 941-861-PARK (7275).

ACTIVITIES

OPEN GYM/WEIGHT ROOM
Year-round / Ages: 13 and up (gymnasium), 16 and up (weight room) / Fee: Free / Gymnasium: Monday, Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. / Weight Room: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. / Gymnasium and Weight Room: Monday-Friday, 7-9 p.m.

Indoor gymnasium and weight room available to use. They will be closed during rentals and summer camp hours.

PIGEBALL
December-May / Fee: $2 (Passes available) / Ages: 18 and up / Gymnasium / Wednesday, 9 a.m. to noon / Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

It’s contagious, fun and a great workout! Pickleball is a sport described as a combination of pingpong, tennis and badminton. For details, call 941-316-1161.

WINTER VACATION IN THE PARKS – SCHOOL BREAK PROGRAM
Dec. 23, 26-27, 30-31, Jan. 2-3 / Ages: Kindergarten-fifth grade / Fee: $15 week one, $20 week two / Camp rooms / Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

This program offers fun, recreational and instructional activities for children during the school break. No camp on Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1. Preregistration is required. Register at scgov.net/parks. For details, call 941-861-PARK (7275).

GARDENING WORKSHOP
February-May / All ages / Fee: Free / Game Room / Last Wednesday of each month, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Join us for this informative and fun gardening workshop series where you will learn all about how to successfully grow and care for your fruit and vegetable plants. Starter plants are provided for free (supplies and type available vary and are limited) and enjoy a healthy lunch on us! For details, call 941-316-1161.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB SUMMER CAMP
June / Closed the week of July 4 / Ages: 5-18 / Fee: TBD / Various rooms / Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Children will participate in a variety of activities including arts and crafts, athletic games, board games, reading and so much more. Breakfast, lunch and snack are provided. Must attend mandatory parent orientation. For details, call the Boys and Girls Club at 941-358-2878.

SPECIAL EVENTS

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
Dec. 21 / Ages: Infant-12 / Fee: Free (donations accepted) / Various rooms / Saturday, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Children and their families enjoy a holiday breakfast with Santa Claus and receive a gift. For details, call 941-316-1161.
NOKOMIS COMMUNITY PARK
234 Nippino Trail E., Nokomis

Also features: covered outdoor stage, fitness equipment (outdoor). This park offers indoor and outdoor reservable space. Visit scgov.net (keyword reservations) or contact 941-861-PARK (7275).

ACTIVITIES

HAPPY HEARTS FUN DAYS (T-REC)
Year-round / Ages: 16 and up / Fee: Free / Main Hall / Second Saturday, 1-3 p.m.

Inspiration, encouragement and fun for teens and adults with disabilities in a faith-based, nondenominational setting. Family and caregivers are welcome. Monthly meetings include fellowship, crafts, refreshments, praise, worship and fun activities. For details, call Stephanie Bartlett at 941-497-5419.

HOOLA-FIT
Year-round / Ages: 18 and up / Fee: Contact instructor / Main Hall, Monday, 7-8 p.m. / Game Room or covered basketball court, Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Hoop, dance and fitness come together in one great class. Join certified instructor Heather Kirkendall for this exciting class. For details, call 941-234-6808 or visit PeaceLoveandHoopiness.com.

LINE DANCE
Year-round / All ages / Fee: $5 / Main Hall / Thursday, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Learn the steps and moves to today’s popular line dances with Debbie Hornyak. All skill levels welcome. For details, call 941-493-2123.

SUNCOAST TROPICAL FRUIT/VEGETABLE CLUB
Year-round / All ages / Fee: Free / Main Hall / Second Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Join the Suncoast Tropical Fruit and Vegetable Club. You will enjoy a tasting table each month at 6:30 p.m. prior to the club meeting at 7 p.m. For details, contact suncoastfruitandveg@outlook.com.

TAI CHI
Year-round / Ages: 18 and up / Fee: Contact instructor / Main Hall / Thursday, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

This weekly class incorporates stretching and turning into a sequence of movements for a healthy body, mind and spirit. It can also reduce stress and improve balance. For details, call 941-365-0999.

THERAPEUTIC YOGA FOR WOMEN
Year-round / Ages: 18 and up / Fee: $10 / Main Hall, Tuesday, 10-11:30 a.m. / Game Room, Friday, 10-11:30 a.m.

This class is offered twice a week and will explore posture, breathing and alignment. Create physical and mental strength and increase range of motion, flexibility and stamina. For details, call 941-485-8904.

STAY STRONG CHAIR YOGA EXERCISE CLASS
December-June / All ages / Fee: $10 / Game Room / Wednesday, 10-11 a.m.

Especially beneficial for arthritis, this class offers a fun approach to staying strong. It includes stretching, fall prevention, chair yoga and relaxation. This class is taught by Phyllis, a registered nurse and certified exercise instructor. Call 203-676-5312 or email staystrongbyphyllis@gmail.com to register.

SPECIAL EVENTS

T-REC CANDY BAR BINGO
March 27, May 15 / Ages: 13 and up / Fee: Free / Main Hall / Friday, 6-7:30 p.m.

All teens and adults with disabilities are invited to come play our special version of Bingo. Please bring a full-size candy bar to exchange for each bingo card, up to four cards per person. Winners of each round will win a lot of candy! For more information, please call 941-486-2753.

EGGSTRAVAGANZA EGG HUNT
April 11 / Ages: 10 and under / Fee: Free / Outdoor area / Saturday, 10 a.m.

Free Easter egg hunt hosted by the Nokomis East Homeowners Association. Hunt starts promptly at 10 a.m. with prizes for all participants. Don’t forget your basket! Registration is not required. No rain date. For details, call 941-861-5000.
PHILLIPPI ESTATE PARK
5500 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota

Also features: gazebo, Little Free Library. This scenic heritage/nature park showcases the historic Edson Keith Mansion and Keith Farmhouse. For indoor and outdoor reservable space, visit scgov.net (keyword reservations) or contact 941-861-PARK (7275).

SPECIAL EVENTS

AFTERNOONS AT THE MANSION
Dec. 8, Jan. 5 / All ages / Fee: $20 / Edson Keith Mansion / Sunday, 2 p.m.

Enjoy an afternoon at the historic Edson Keith Mansion while learning about Sarasota history. December’s lecture features local favorite John McCarthy discussing the Manasota OffShore Archaeological burial site. In January, enjoy the rich multicultural history of the Newtown community with Newtown Alive, featuring Vickie Oldham and singer Troy Nichols. Light refreshments will be served. Call 941-861-7275 for reservations. Fees benefit the restoration of the historic Keith Farmhouse.

JINGLE PAWS JUBILEE
Dec. 8 / All ages / Fee: Free / Estate grounds / Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

This is Sarasota’s eighth annual holiday pet adoption and shopping festival. Animal adoptions, gifts for pets and animal lovers, holiday music, food and treats, holiday costume contest, raffle prizes and family fun. For information, visit JinglePawsJubileeSarasota.com.

TASTE OF CHANUKAH
Dec. 22 / All ages / Fee: Free / Gazebo / Sunday, 3-6 p.m.

Where else can you enjoy delicious kosher food, enjoy family-friendly entertainment and celebrate Chanukah with hundreds of your friends and neighbors? Don’t miss the ninth annual Community Chanukah Celebration! For details, visit ATasteofChanukah.com.

PHILLIPPI ARTS IN THE PARK - QUICK DRAW CONTEST
Jan. 8 / Ages: 18 and up / Fee: $20 / Estate grounds / Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Grab your paints! Everyone can paint at Phillippi Farmhouse Market Quick Draw. Registration required. For information, visit lightchasersinc.com.

MASTER ARTISTS AND LIGHT CHASERS SEVENTH ANNUAL ART SHOW AND SALE
Jan. 24-26 / Fee: Donation at the door, benefiting Historic Keith Farmhouse / Edson Keith Mansion / Friday and Saturday, 5-8 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.

All paintings are available for purchase with a portion of the proceeds going to the renovation of the 1916 historic Keith Farmhouse at Phillippi Estate Park. On Saturday, Jan. 25, the show expands to include the Paint Sarasota Paint Out! For details, email Lightchasersinc@gmail.com or call 941-861-5000.

For more information and registration, visit scgov.net/parks, or call 941-861-5000.
PHILLIPPI ESTATE PARK (continued)
5500 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota

WINTERFEST AT THE PARK
Feb. 1-2 / All ages / Fee: Free / Estate grounds / Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Large arts and crafts show featuring local and national artisans. Ample free parking with food and beverages available. For details, call 941-379-0951.

TUNES, TRUCKS AND TREASURES
Feb. 6-March 26 / All ages / Fee: Free / Gazebo / Thursday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
The former Brown Bag Lunch Concert series is back and better than ever! Your favorite musicians perform from noon to 1 p.m. but plan to arrive at 11 a.m. to join us for a fun-filled event complete with food trucks and fabulous arts and crafts treasures. Trucks and treasures are here until 2 p.m. For details, call 941-316-1309.

JAZZ IN THE PARK
March 8 / All ages / Fee: Free / Gazebo / Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.
Come to the kickoff concert celebrating Sarasota’s Jazz Festival and bring your lawn chair. The concert is free to the public. Donations to the Jazz Club of Sarasota are always welcome. For details, visit jazzclubsarasota.com.

SPRINGFEST IN THE PARK
March 28-29 / All ages / Fee: Free / Estate grounds / Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Large arts and crafts show featuring local and national artisans. Ample free parking with food and beverages available. For details, call 941-379-0951.

MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT
May 25 / All ages / Fee: $5, children free / Gazebo / Monday, 5-7 p.m.
Sarasota Concert Band presents its annual Memorial Day Concert. Bring your lawn chair. Food and beverage vendors will be available. For details, call 941-364-2263.

POTTER PARK
8587 Potter Park Drive, Sarasota

ACTIVITIES

OPEN SWIM
Ages: 18 and up / Fee: $70 per month, $7 per day / Monday-Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. / Contact vaycart@sarasotasharks.org

SWIM TEAM TRY-OUTS
Mondays and Tuesdays, 5-5:30 p.m.
The Sarasota Sharks offers age specific training for all of our athletes geared toward challenging each individual and developing them to reach their full potential. Sarasota Sharks also puts a special emphasis on the team. Swimmers learn how to become great teammates and help each other become their best resulting in sometimes lifelong friendships.
Sarasota Sharks training and swim groups are designed for swimmers of all ages and abilities. From athletes that only swim a few times a week to the elite swimmer with Olympic aspirations, our experienced coaching staff welcomes all swimmers with open arms!
No appointment is needed, just come to the pool, or for additional information, email kweyant@sarasotasharks.org.

JUNIOR SHARKS
Ages: 5-10 / Fee: $50 per session / Monday, Wednesday and Friday or Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 5-6 p.m. / Session One: Jan. 6-April 17 / Session Two: April 20-July 25 / Contact kweyant@sarasotasharks.org
The Junior Sharks is a session-based group for athletes that are new to the sport and/or are working toward learning how to swim all four competitive strokes. Our suggested age is 6-10 years old but will work with families on an individual basis as needed. In the Junior Sharks group, we will provide more intensive, curriculum-based teaching of the skills needed to be successful in competitive swimming. Our goal is to progress athletes into competitive swimming and ensure a great experience for all the athletes. After an athlete has completed at least one session, they will be evaluated for progression into the White (8 and Under) or Black (10 and Under) group by the coaching staff.
POTTER PARK (continued)
8587 Potter Park Drive, Sarasota

SWIM FIT
Ages: 11-15 / Fee: $350 per session / Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 5:30-6:30 p.m. / Session One: Jan. 6-April 17 / Session Two: April 20-July 25 / Contact kweyant@sarasotasharks.org

The Sarasota Sharks Swim team is excited to announce that we are adding a recreational swimming group titled SwimFit. The SwimFit group is for middle school aged children (fifth-eight grade) who are looking for a recreational or part-time swimming options. SwimFit provides a positive and fun swimming experience for those looking to develop their strokes and skills, while also improving their physical fitness with a less stringent commitment level than the competitive team. All of the SwimFit practice groups allow for progress in the water for those balancing several sports and activities, as well as for those looking for a way to maintain good physical fitness. Swimming is beneficial to both a child's physical health and wellness, but it is also a vehicle by which the child learns valuable life lessons and skills that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

SYNCHRO TEAM
Ages: 6-18 / Monday and Wednesday, 6-8 p.m.; Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. / Tryouts, Sunday, noon to 1 p.m.

Synchronized swimming is a hybrid of swimming, gymnastics and dance. It involves strength, endurance, flexibility, grace and artistry. The swimmers perform choreographed routines to music. There are several competitive levels of synchronized swimming. Contact 941-260-9107 or kweyant@sarasotasharks.org for more information.

WATER PARK
Fee: $12/adult, $9/child (3-16), children under 3 are free / The Water Park will be open to the public 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day / Contact vaycart@sarasotasharks.org

WATER PARK RENTALS
$350 semi-private rental during operational hours, Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. / $650 private rental during off hours, Friday-Sunday, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

VENICE COMMUNITY CENTER
326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice

Facility rental opportunities include a ballroom with a large stage, professional-grade theatrical lighting and sound, a commercial kitchen, nine meeting rooms and ample parking. Visit scgov.net (keyword reservations) or contact 941-861-1380.

ACTIVITIES

BALANCE AND STRENGTH CLASS
Year-round / Ages: Adult / Fee: Varies / Tuesday and Thursday, 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Increase your strength, mobility, flexibility, posture, stamina, balance and coordination in a comfortable, noncompetitive environment. For more information, contact Heather Koester at 941-539-0621, heatherkoester@yahoo.com or fit2beewell.com.

BALLROOM DANCING LESSONS
Year-round / Ages: Adult / Fee: $40 per person per six-week session / Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Wish you could dance like the competitors on “Dancing with the Stars?” Learn the waltz, fox-trot, swing, cha-cha and rumba. For details, call 941-496-9692.

MORNING ZUMBA
Year-round / Ages: Adult / Fee: Varies / Monday and Wednesday, 10-11 a.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 9-10 a.m.

Start your day dressed in something comfortable, including your shoes, and dance your way to a fitter you with exciting Latin moves and rhythms. For details, call 941-861-1380.

For more information and registration, visit scgov.net/parks, or call 941-861-5000.
ORCHID SOCIETY MEETINGS
Year-round / Ages: Adult / Fee: Varies / Second Wednesday, 7-10 p.m.
Everything you ever wanted to know about orchids is discussed at these monthly meetings. Beginner orchid fans welcome. For details, call 941-497-4995.

PICKLEBALL
Year-round / Ages: Adult / Fee: $15 for 10 plays or $37.50 for 25 plays / Monday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Join the pickleball craze. Intermediate/advanced players play 9 a.m. to noon, followed by beginner from 1-4 p.m., and open play from 4-7 p.m. Loaner paddles available. For details, call 941-861-1380.

TAI CHI FOR HEALTH
Year-round / Ages: Adult / Fee: Contact instructor / Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Tai Chi for Health is taught by certified instructor Nancy Dellamura. Improve balance, increase flexibility, lower your blood pressure, increase bone density, strengthen joints and boost brain function. Practiced at a slow to moderate speed, Tai Chi integrates the body, mind and spirit, promoting health, fitness and relaxation. Tai Chi is low impact and especially beneficial to individuals with arthritis. For details, call 941-492-2167 or email NDellamura@aol.com.

VENICE FLORIDA CORVETTES MEETINGS
Year-round / Ages: Adult / Fee: Varies / First Tuesday, 7-9 p.m.
Join fellow Corvette enthusiasts the first Tuesday of every month. For details, call 941-966-6351.

VENICE SAILING SQUADRON MONTHLY MEETINGS
January-April / Ages: Adult / Fee: Varies / Second Wednesday, 6:30-9 p.m.
The Venice Sailing Squadron meets the second Wednesday of every month, December through April. For details, call 303-840-2029.

AARP FREE TAX PREPARATION
Feb. 4-April 14 / All ages / Fee: Free / Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Free tax preparation assistance for all ages. No appointments, first come, first serve. Please bring last year’s taxes with you.

SPECIAL EVENTS

OLDIES DOO WOP DANCES
Dec. 21, Jan. 18, Jan. 30, Feb. 15, March 27, April 18 / Ages: Adult / Fee: $17 / 7-10 p.m.
Music by Kim Jenkins. Bring your own beverages and snacks. For tickets or information, call 941-276-6194.

ANTIQUE SHOWS
Jan. 4 and 5, Feb. 22 and 23 / Ages: Adult / Fee: $5 / Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Find the best antiques all under one roof. Furniture, collectibles, jewelry, artwork and much more. For details, call 315-430-8296 or email steveallman@gisco.net.

SARASOTA INSTITUTE OF LIFETIME LEARNING (SILL) LECTURE SERIES
Jan. 7-March 27 / Ages: Adult / Fee: Varies / Tuesday, 2-4 p.m., Friday, 10 a.m. to noon
The SILL global issues lecture series features renowned speakers who are experts in their fields and cover a broad range of topics about important international and domestic issues. Visit sillsarasota.org or call 941-365-6404 for details. Program booklets available at the community center.

NXT WRESTLING
Jan. 10 / All ages / Fee: Visit website / Friday, 6 p.m.
WWE/NXT Wrestling brings the live action to the community center. Get tickets at wwe.com.

RAT PACK TOGETHER AGAIN CONCERT
Jan. 17 / Friday, 7 p.m.
A toast to The Rat Pack takes you on a musical journey featuring the greatest hits from the legendary Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr. This production will treat you to Sinatra classics including “Come Fly With Me,” “My Way,” and “New York, New York;” Martin classics like “Everybody Loves Somebody” and “That’s Amore;” and Davis classics like “Mr. Bojangles” and “The Candy Man.” After watching these performers, you will leave the show feeling as though The Rat Pack is still going strong after all these years. For tickets, visit brownpapertickets.com/event/4323843.

VENICE AREA ORCHID SHOW
Feb. 1-2 / All ages / Fee: Free / Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thousands of blooming orchids in 20 artistic displays. Plants, supplies and orchid art from 15 premier vendors presented by the Venice Area Orchid Society. Visit vaos.org for information.
VENICE COMMUNITY CENTER (continued)

326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice

OUR MOTHER’S HOUSE WINE TASTING, AUCTION AND DINNER DANCE
Feb. 27 / Fee: $85 per ticket / Thursday, 5:30-10 p.m.
Fundraiser to help homeless mothers and their children attain self-sufficiency. For more information, please contact Joyce Scott, Our Mother’s House Program Director, at 941-485-6264 or email to ourmothershouse@ccdis1.org.

HOME SHOW
Feb. 29-March 1 / All ages / Fee: $4 entry / Saturday-Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tons of vendors with everything for your home, including hurricane shutters, kitchen cabinets, Jacuzzis, tub enclosures, lighting and much, much more!

VENICE TRAIN DEPOT
AND ROLLINS W. COAKLEY RAILROAD PARK, 303 E. Venice Ave., Venice

Also features: historic railroad car. Neighboring complex of parks offer a boat ramp, playground and a canoe/kayak launch. This park offers indoor and outdoor reservable space. Visit scgov.net (keyword reservations) or contact 941-861-PARK (7275).

RENTALS
The Train Depot Platform has architectural appeal with its high arches and a large patio area. There is plenty of room for a large crowd, display space for vendors, band and dance area, tables and chairs. A beautiful setting overlooks the Intracoastal Waterway. The sunsets are nothing short of spectacular!

The depot is home to a caboose, built in 1974 for the Louisville & Nashville Railroad. The caboose has a large 1,920-square-foot attached patio. The patio is the perfect spot for birthday parties or small events. It’s been home to many wedding services and vow renewal ceremonies. Say your vows and have your reception just steps away on the platform or in the Freight Room. The patio is equipped with an elevator for guests with disabilities.

ACTIVITIES

VENICE TRAIN DEPOT TOURS
Year-round / All ages / Fee: Free / Lobby / Dates and times vary
The Venice Area Historical Society conducts tours of the Historic Venice Train Depot and Rollins W. Coakley Railroad Park. For details, visit veniceareahistoricalsociety.org, call 941-412-0151 or email depot@veniceareahistoricalsociety.org.

HOST YOUR NEXT SPECIAL EVENT AT THE HISTORIC VENICE TRAIN DEPOT!
The Venice Train Depot has a variety of reservable space available including the rustic Freight Room, the Train Depot Platform overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway or the patio of an authentic railroad caboose. View facilities and request reservations at scgov.net/parks, or call 941-861-1380.

For more information and registration, visit scgov.net/parks, or call 941-861-5000.
WOODMERE PARK
3951 Woodmere Park Blvd., Venice

Also features: reservable pavilion. This park offers indoor and outdoor reservable space. Visit scgov.net (keyword reservations) or contact 941-861-PARK (7275).

ACTIVITIES

ALLIGATOR CREEK TRAIL
Year-round / All ages / Fee: Free / Trail / Daily, sunrise to sunset
Enjoy Woodmere Park’s newest amenity, 1.6 miles of pedestrian/bicycle-friendly trail along Alligator Creek. This serene, nature lover’s paradise has abundant wildlife, including hawks and alligators. Bring a water bottle and take a break on the bench near a Florida-designated “grand” tree. For details, call 941-486-2780.

JAZZERCISE
Year-round / Ages: 15 and up / Fee: Per instructor / Gymnasium
Join this fun, high-intensity dance aerobic workout program, which offers a fusion of jazz dance, resistance training, yoga, Pilates and kickboxing movements. Benefits include increased cardiovascular endurance, strength and flexibility, as well as an overall “feel good” factor. For information and pricing, please contact instructor.
Tuesday/Thursday 6:15-7:15 p.m. Pam Bonsall 941-492-2084
Saturday 9-10 a.m. Pam Bonsall 941-492-2084
Tuesday/Thursday 9-10 a.m. Joy Simmonds 415-699-1672

MCMURY’S FAMILY TAEKWONDO
Year-round / All ages / Fee: Per instructor / Gymnasium / Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 6-7 p.m.
Taekwondo, which is one of the most systematic and scientific Korean traditional martial arts, teaches more than physical fighting skills. It is a discipline that shows ways of enhancing our spirit and life through training our body and mind. Classes for youth and adults. For more information, call Zackery McMurray at 941-800-7210.

PICKLEBALL
December-May / Ages: 15 and up / Fee: $15 for a 10-visit pass or $37.50 for a 25-visit pass. No cash or checks accepted. / Gymnasium / Wednesday and Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
This game is contagious, fun and a great workout. Pickleball is a sport described as a combination of pingpong, tennis and badminton.

TABLE TENNIS
December-May / Ages: 15 and up / Fee: $15 for a 10-visit pass or $37.50 for a 25-visit pass. No cash or checks accepted. / Gymnasium / Wednesday and Thursday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Increase your agility and coordination while enjoying an excellent cardiovascular workout. All skill levels are welcome. Drop-in sessions open to all skill levels.
WOODMERE PARK (continued)
3951 Woodmere Park Blvd., Venice

SQUARE DANCING
Nov. 18-April 10 / Ages: 18 and up / Fee: Varies / Gymnasium / Lessons Monday and Tuesday, 1-5 p.m., Friday, 10 a.m. to noon / Dances on Sundays, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Square dancing is fun, great physical and mental exercise. Square dancing is interactive and challenging, and dances are a great place to meet people and make new friends. Classes are taught by America's best, Gordon “Red” Bates. Classes and dances for many skill levels are offered. Call 941-223-0987 or email redbates@juno.com for prices and schedules. Dance dates are Jan. 6 and 20, Feb. 3 and 17, and March 3 and 17.

SLOW FLOW YOGA BY ALEXIS
Jan. 6-April 27 / Ages: 18 and up / Fee: Contact instructor for pricing / Room C / Mondays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Stretch, strengthen, relax and enjoy. This is a great class to learn yoga or to move forward in your personal practice. Contact certified instructor Alexis McErlain, RN, for information or consultation at 231-282-1716.

AARP FREE TAX PREPARATION
Feb. 4-April 14 / All ages / Fee: Free / Room B2 / Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

AARP volunteers provide free tax preparation assistance to all ages. No appointments are necessary, first come, first serve. Please bring last year’s taxes with you. Parks staff does not have blank tax forms and cannot answer tax inquiries. Call the IRS Tax Help Line 800-829-1040.

SUMMER DAY CAMP
June-August / Ages: Entering first-sixth grade / Fee: Varies / All rooms / Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.

The 2020 Summer Camp Guide includes more information about this and other county camps. For more information, visit scgov.net/parks.

SPECIAL EVENTS

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALES
Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 7 / All ages / Fee: Free admission, $25 indoor vendor space and $15 outdoor vendor space / Gymnasium and grounds / Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon

Clear your closets and make some cash at one of our community garage sales. Indoor participant space includes one 8-foot table and chair. Outdoor participant space includes an assigned area of approximately 100 square feet. Please bring your own tables and chairs.

- Purchase sale space for one or all garage sales, subject to availability. Every event is a sellout, so there are no rainchecks, exchanges or refunds available.
- This facility does not accept cash or checks.
- Purchase booth space with a credit card over the phone by calling 941-861-5000 and ask for Woodmere Park.

For details, call 941-861-5000, or visit scgov.net/parks.

VENICE DOLL CLUB SHOW
March 21 / Ages: Adult / Fee: Free / Gymnasium / Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Few artifacts reflect our history as accurately as dolls. Enjoy one of the largest hobby group's enthusiastic presentation. For information, contact Holly Hamm at hollyhamm70@gmail.com or 941-497-4633.

CALOOSA PLASTIC MODELERS SHOW
March 28 / All ages / Fee: Free / Gymnasium / Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Annual model show features planes, cars, military vehicles and figures. Contest for show participants. For more information, contact Doug Hamilton at 203-461-0534.
Welcome to the county’s Beaches and Water Access parks. With more than 35 miles of coastline with six lifeguarded beaches and 40 additional beaches and water accesses for motorized and non-motorized vessels, local visitors as well as those from all over the world are drawn here due to the biodiversity, beautiful vistas, fun activities and accessibility. If you’re looking for an adventure or just a place to recharge your batteries, Sarasota County Beaches and Water Access parks have it all!

Visit the world-famous Siesta Beach, the mangrove tunnels of Ted Sperling Nature Park or bring your pup to the beach at South Brohard Beach Paw Park. Beaches and Water Access offers activities including beach runs and walks, food truck rallies and Beach University as well as special events. For more than 40 years, the county has celebrated the holiday season with the Sandy Claws Beach Run, a 1-mile fun run or 5K. Renew your vows on Valentine’s Day at our Say ‘I Do’ Again event held at Nokomis and Siesta beaches. Try your hand at sand sculpting during our annual Amateur Sand Sculpture Contest at Siesta Beach now entering its 48th year! Come out and camp next to the Gulf of Mexico at Turtle Beach Campground featuring 39 RV and tent sites with full hook-ups.

We look forward to your visit with us. Please help preserve all natural areas by respecting wildlife and by packing out what you pack in.

We hope to see you soon!

BLUEWAYS PADDLING GUIDE
A GUIDE TO SARASOTA’S KAYAK AND CANOE TRAILS

Discover Sarasota County’s natural beauty, its unique wildlife and habitats as you explore the beautiful waterways of the county.

There are 11 area waterways to explore with suggested blueways (paddling trails) highlighted in this guide. The Sarasota Bay Trail, the Lido and South Lido Trails, the Phillippi Creek Trail, the Neville Marine Preserve Trail, the South Creek Trail, the Dona Bay/Roberts Bay Trails, the Caspersen Trail, the Lemon Bay Trail, the Myakka River/Carlton Trail and the Myakka River/Myakkahatchee Creek Trails.

Sarasota County has a diverse blend of natural areas to explore while paddling the blueways. Paddle through a mangrove forest and view the wildlife of the estuaries. Paddle along the bays, bayous, lagoons and creeks and explore the natural areas of Florida’s designated “Wild and Scenic” Myakka River.

To find a Blueways Paddling Guide, go to any Sarasota County recreation or nature center or view this publication online at scgov.net (keywords parks/blueways paddling guide).
REFRESHING FROZEN LEMONADE AND MORE CAN BE FOUND AT SIESTA BEACH!

Make sure to try the boom-boom popcorn shrimp with fries at the Siesta Beach Pavilion — a local favorite! Buffalo flatbread pizza is a close second. And don’t forget to try the frozen lemonade!

NORTH JETTY TAP & GRILL- GREAT FOOD JUST STEPS FROM THE BEACH!

What could be better on a hot beach day than an Oasis Smoothie or famous Jetty Hot Dog at North Jetty Tap & Grill? You will also find a full menu including breakfast, beverages, sandwiches, salads and even root beer floats!

BITES, BASKETS AND BOOGIE BOARDS AT VENICE BEACH!

Enjoy an icy cold beverage and choose from a variety of awesome food and quick bites under the shady awning at the Pilot House, just steps from Venice Beach. Boogie boards, umbrellas, beach mats and more are also available!

GOOD FOOD FAST, NOT FAST FOOD AT NOKOMIS BEACH!

Nokomis Beach Shark Tooth Beach Concession offers a variety of delectables including harmonious breakfast hash bowls and barbecue pulled pork sandwiches. Come back later for some banana split Dippin’ Dots!
ACTIVITIES

KIDS’ SUMMER BEACH RUNS
June 3-July 29 (no run on July 1) / Ages: 1-17 / Fee: Free / Venice Fishing Pier / Wednesday, 5:30-7 p.m.

This one-mile fun run for kids is a summer favorite and a great opportunity for families to exercise together and have fun at the beach! Weekly registration begins at 5:30 p.m. with race time at 6:30 p.m. Kids receive a participation ribbon at each run. Complete four runs and earn a free custom T-shirt.

MANASASOTA BEACH PARK
8570 Manasota Key Road, Englewood

ACTIVITY

BEACH YOGA
Year-round / All ages / Fee: Donations accepted / On sand – beach access near large pavilion / Daily, varying morning times

Start your day off right with yoga on the sand! Classes held daily at Manasota Beach. For more information, call 941-313-0358, visit yogamanasotabeach.com or call 941-586-7697.

For more information and registration, visit scgov.net/parks, or call 941-861-5000.
NOKOMIS BEACH PARK
100 Casey Key Road, Nokomis

Also features: sand volleyball. This park offers indoor reservable space. Visit scgov.net (keyword reservations) or contact 941-861-PARK (7275).

ACTIVITIES

BEACH YOGA
Year-round / All ages / Fee: Donations accepted / On sand – beach access near large parking lot / Tuesday, varying a.m. times
Visit historic Nokomis Beach for a relaxing yoga class on the beach. For more information, call 941-266-6962.

HOOLA-FIT
Year-round / All ages / Fee: Contact instructor / On sand – beach access near large parking lot / Monday-Sunday, 9-10 a.m.
Hoop, dance and fitness come together in one great class. Join certified instructor Heather Kirkendall for this exciting class. For details, call 941-234-6808 or visit peaceloveandhoopiness.com.

SUNRISE BEACH WALKS
Feb. 5-March 25 / Ages: Adult / Fee: $5 / Beach / Wednesday, 8-9:30 a.m.
Participate in this self-guided beach walk along our beautiful beach. Register before your one-mile minimum walk. Complete four walks and receive an event T-shirt. For details, call 941-861-5000.

SPECIAL EVENTS

SAY ‘I DO’ AGAIN
Feb. 14 / Ages: Adult / Fee: $15 per couple / Beach / Friday, 6 p.m.
Celebrate a renewal of wedding vows at sunset on beautiful Nokomis Beach. Event includes commemorative certificate, gift, flower, music and light refreshments. Check-in begins at 4:30 p.m. and activities begin at 5 p.m. The nondenominational service begins promptly at 6 p.m. Register by Friday, Feb. 7. For details, call 941-861-5000.

SUNRISE BEACH WALKS
Feb. 5-March 25 / Ages: Adult / Fee: $5 / Beach / Wednesday, 8-9:30 a.m.
Participate in this self-guided beach walk along our beautiful beach. Register before your one-mile minimum walk. Complete four walks and receive an event T-shirt. For details, call 941-861-5000.

T-REC BEACH PARTY
April 24 / Ages: 13 and up / Fee: Free / Pavilion / Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
All individuals with disabilities, families and caregivers are invited to a beach party! Bring your brown bag lunch. Beach wheelchairs, water and healthy snacks will be available. To RSVP or for more information, please call 941-486-2753.

NORTH JETTY PARK
1000 S. Casey Key Road, Nokomis

ACTIVITY

BEACH YOGA
Year-round / All ages / Fee: Donations accepted / On sand – beach access near large pavilion parking lot / Daily, varying morning time
Visit beautiful North Jetty Beach for a beach yoga class. For times and information, call 941-313-0358 or visit nokomisbeachyoga.com.

SPECIAL EVENTS

NORTH JETTY PARK FOOD TRUCK RALLY
Dec. 6, Jan. 10 / All ages / Free admission/parking / Friday, 5-9 p.m.
Come out to North Jetty Park for this family-friendly event series. We’ll have fun yard games, music and of course, plenty of food trucks. For details, call 941-861-5000.

T-REC BEACH PARTY
April 24 / Ages: 13 and up / Fee: Free / Pavilion / Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
All individuals with disabilities, families and caregivers are invited to a beach party! Bring your brown bag lunch. Beach wheelchairs, water and healthy snacks will be available. To RSVP or for more information, please call 941-486-2753.

For more information and registration, visit scgov.net/parks, or call 941-861-5000.
SIESTA BEACH
948 Beach Road, Siesta Key

BEACHES AND WATER ACCESS
Also features: sand volleyball. Relax and enjoy lunch on the Siesta Sundeck. This park offers outdoor reservable space/pavilions. Visit scgov.net (keyword reservations) or contact 941-861-PARK (7275).

ACTIVITIES

BEACH YOGA
Year-round / All ages / Fee: Donation / Beach / Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 9-10:30 a.m.
Exercise on one of the nation’s most beautiful beaches. Bring a towel or mat and drinking water. For details, visit yogaonsiestabeach.com.

BEACH UNIVERSITY
March 5, 12, 14, 19, 26, 28 / Ages: 10 and up / Fee: Free / Main Pavilion / Saturday, Thursday, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
The Siesta Beach Ambassadors present Beach University, a series of environmental education seminars about our beaches and coastal ecosystems.

SUNRISE BEACH WALKS
Feb. 5-March 25 / Ages: Adult / Fee: $5 / Beach / Wednesday, 8-9:30 a.m.
Participate in this self-guided beach walk along our beautiful beach. Register at the main pavilion before your one-mile minimum walk. Complete four walks and receive an event T-shirt. For details, call 941-861-5000.

KIDS’ SUMMER BEACH RUNS
June 2-July 28 (no run on June 30) / Ages: 1-17 / Fee: Free / Beach / Tuesday, 5:30-7 p.m.
This one-mile fun run for kids is a summer favorite and a great opportunity for families to exercise together and have fun at the beach! Weekly registration begins at 5:30 p.m. with race time at 6:30 p.m. Kids receive a participation ribbon at each run. Complete four runs and earn a free custom T-shirt. For details, call 941-861-5000.

SPECIAL EVENTS

4TH ANNUAL SEAFOOD AND MUSIC FESTIVAL
Dec. 6-8 / All ages / Fee: $5 per person (12 and under are free) / In the park / Friday, noon to 9 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
A blending of food, music and visual entertainment, affording attendees a potpourri of delectable seafood creations and delicious drinks prepared by the top restaurants in Siesta Key and Sarasota. Musical performances by local and regional musicians in a diversity of genres from rock-and-roll, jazz, calypso, R&B and Caribbean sounds. For details, call 941-861-5000 or visit seafoodfestivals.com.

43RD ANNUAL SANDY CLAWS BEACH RUN
Dec. 14 / Beach / Fee: $20 youth, $30 adult / Saturday, 7 a.m. registration, 8 a.m. fun run start, 8:20 a.m. 5K run start
Participate in this 5K or one-mile fun run. Register by Nov. 20 for best price (fee increases to $25 youth and $35 adult) and to guarantee your long sleeve performance event shirt. This event is sanctioned by the Manasota Track Club and presented by Dr. Heidi K. Anderson-DOCS. Register at scgov.net/parks. Call 941-861-5000 for more information.

SAY ‘I DO’ AGAIN
Feb. 14 / Ages: Adult / Fee: $15 per couple / Beach / Friday, 6 p.m.
Celebrate a renewal of wedding vows at sunset on beautiful Siesta Beach. Event includes commemorative certificate, gift, flower, music on the beach and light refreshments. Check-in begins at 4:30 p.m. and activities begin at 5 p.m. The nondenominational service begins promptly at 6 p.m. Register by Friday, Feb. 7. For details, call 941-861-5000.

BEACH WHEELCHAIRS
Beach wheelchairs are available to the public at no cost, year-round, for visitor use. To check availability, or to make special arrangements after the concessionaires or lifeguards have closed for the day, please call 941-861-5000.

Find beach wheelchairs at the following locations:
• Lido Beach
• Manasota Beach
• Nokomis Beach
• North Jetty Park
• Siesta Beach
• Venice Beach

Visiting Siesta Beach? Look for our Mobi-Mat, a nonslip semi-rigid and stable rollout pathway, perfect for wheelchair accessibility.
SIESTA BEACH (continued)
948 Beach Road, Siesta Key

48TH ANNUAL AMATEUR SAND SCULPTURE CONTEST
May 2 / All ages / Fee: Free / Beach near Yellow Lifeguard Stand / Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Join us for the 48th annual Amateur Sand Sculpture Contest at Siesta Beach. Children and adults compete in various categories for cash prizes, including People's Choice. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with sculpting lasting until 1 p.m. Come and build your own sand sculpture or vote for your favorite. For details, call 941-861-5000.

CHECK OUT THESE OTHER EXCITING EVENTS:
Jan. 5 Andrew Monroe Memorial Foundation Run
Feb. 1-2 East End Volleyball Tournament
April 4 Run for the Turtles
April 12 Pine Shores Easter Sunrise Service
May 9 Great Mother’s Day Race
June 20 Great Father’s Day Race

TED SPERLING PARK AT SOUTH LIDO BEACH
2201 Benjamin Franklin Drive, Sarasota

ACTIVITIES

SUNRISE BEACH WALKS
Feb. 4-March 31 / Ages: Adult / Fee: $5 / Beach / Tuesday, 8-9:30 a.m.

Participate in this self-guided beach walk along our beautiful beach. Register at the playground before your one-mile minimum walk. Complete four walks and receive an event T-shirt. For details, call 941-861-5000.

For more information and registration, visit scgov.net/parks, or call 941-861-5000.
VENICE BEACH
101 The Esplanade, Venice

Also features: sand volleyball, historic pavilion, shaded concession areas, popular destination for divers looking to explore the artificial reef in the area.

ACTIVITY

BEACH YOGA
Year-round / All ages / Fee: Donations accepted / On sand - main beach access / Daily – varying times, both morning and evening

Come out to Venice Beach yoga for a relaxing session on the sand. For times and more information, call 941-408-9642 or visit yogawithelin.us.

TURTLE BEACH PARK
8918 Midnight Pass Road, Siesta Key

The boat ramp at this park provides quick access to the beautiful waterways of Sarasota Bay. Contact 941-861-5000.

TURTLE BEACH CAMPGROUND
8862 Midnight Pass Road, Siesta Key

CAMP AT ONE OF FLORIDA’S FINEST BEACHES!

Year-round / Rates start at $42 per night

Turtle Beach Campground is Sarasota County’s premier beachfront campground on Siesta Key. From sunrise to sunset, there is nothing like camping next to the Gulf of Mexico. This boutique campground features 39 RV and tent sites with full hookups. The tree-lined campground has crushed shell padded campsites and a picnic table at each site. You are only a moment’s stroll to the beach and your own personal paradise. Camp just minutes away from Siesta Beach, one of the premier beaches in the U.S. Take the free, open-air trolley into town and visit all that Siesta Village and other parts of the key have to offer including restaurants, recreational rentals, sightseeing and more. To protect the natural areas, no pets are allowed (except service animals). Call 941-861-CAMP (2267) or visit turtlebeachcampground.com for more information or to book online. All amenities at neighboring Turtle Beach Park are also accessible to campground guests.

BEACHES AND WATER ACCESS

TURTLE BEACH PARK
8918 Midnight Pass Road, Siesta Key

The boat ramp at this park provides quick access to the beautiful waterways of Sarasota Bay. Contact 941-861-5000.
Natural Areas’ parks, preserves and trails are not only the perfect places to reconnect with nature, but they also offer an ideal backdrop to learn and gain new outdoor skills to get fit or simply relax and enjoy nature in all of its splendor. With more than 50,000 acres of managed natural areas, the opportunities are endless. Specialized nature walks address a wide range of interests, including plant and animal identification, coastal landscapes, birding, habitat management and even full moon walks! Natural Areas also provide an excellent place for fitness whether jogging or hiking through our trails, biking along The Legacy Trail or using outdoor exercise equipment found in several of our parks. One of our signature events is Fire Fest where families can learn how fire is used to manage natural lands through prescribed burn demos, games for kids, guided nature walks, helicopter drops and of course, free food!

Pick up one of our Natural Areas Guides and come get off the beaten path!
NATURAL AREAS AND TRAILS

Dog-friendly Parks, Natural Areas and Trails
Visit our dog-friendly areas, where dogs are welcome on a hand-held, maximum 6-foot leash.

Colonial Oaks Park
Englewood Sports Complex
Jelks Preserve
Lakeview Park
The Legacy Trail
Nathan Benderson Park
Nokomis Community Park
Phillippi Estate Park
Potter Park
Red Bug Slough Preserve
Scherer Thaxton Preserve
Shamrock Park
Sleeping Turtles Preserve North
Urfer Family Park
and many more!

For a complete list, visit scgov.net (keywords dog park).

COMMUNITY GARDENS
Bayou Oaks
Bee Ridge Park
Buchan Airport Community Park
Culverhouse Nature Park
Laurel Park
Nokomis Community Park
Warm Mineral Springs Park
Community gardens provide a place for individuals to grow vegetables, fruits and herbs. Gardeners can improve their families’ health and nutrition while reducing food costs. For details, please contact UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County at 941-861-5000 or sarasota@ifas.ufl.edu.

DID YOU KNOW?
The Legacy Trail and Venetian Waterway Park offer access to multiple Sarasota County parks including Shamrock Park and Caspersen Beach Park.

At more than 10 miles in length, The Legacy Trail is a popular asphalt-paved multi-use trail that connects to the Venetian Waterway Park (VWP) at the historic Venice Train Depot. Trail users can continue south on the VWP East approximately five miles to Shamrock Park and Nature Center, or cross the Intracoastal Waterway to the VWP West and travel south to Caspersen Beach Park.
CARMON RESERVE
T. MABRY CARLTON, JR. MEMORIAL RESERVE, 1800 Mabry Carlton Parkway, Venice

Also features: exceptional backcountry wilderness reserve with more than 100 miles of trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding.

ACTIVITIES

BIRDING OPPORTUNITIES VIA A WALKING TOUR
Jan. 11, Feb. 22, March 28, April 11 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Meet in the main parking lot / Saturday, 7:30 a.m.
For beginning birders to experienced birders, a 3-mile walking journey into the backcountry to locate, observe and identify the birds along the way. Perfect for walking and learning the area birds by sight and sound. Wear sturdy walking shoes, hat, sunscreen, bug spray and bring binoculars, field guide and your camera. If you do not have binoculars, we have a few extra binoculars to share. Join Sarasota County volunteer and experienced bird guide Charlie Sample for a journey into the Carlton Reserve. For more information, call 941-861-5000.

BIRDING DIVERSITY VIA A CAR TOUR
Jan. 18, Feb. 8, March 14, April 18 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Meet in the main parking lot / Saturday, 7:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Calling all birding enthusiasts! Join Sarasota County volunteer and experienced birder Charlie Sample as he leads you on a birding nature journey. For beginning birders to experts, the journey consists of a carpool trek into the Carlton backcountry with stops along the way to locate and identify birds. Perfect for persons with limited mobility. Wear sturdy walking shoes, hat, sunscreen, bug spray and bring binoculars, field bird guide and your camera. For details and to register, visit scgov.net/parks or call 941-861-5000.

A WINTER WANDER THROUGH THE RESERVE
Feb. 19 / All ages / Fee: Free / Wednesday, 9 a.m.
Join popular volunteer guide Al Squires for a walk through the Carlton Reserve in search of wintering plants. For details, call 941-861-5000.

SPECIAL EVENT

FIRE FEST 2020
Jan. 25 / All ages / Fee: Free / 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Fire Fest 2020 provides a firsthand look at how prescribed burns protect our communities and property from wildfires, as well as maintain Florida’s natural ecosystems for present and future generations. Event will feature prescribed burn demonstrations, helicopter water drops, guided nature walks, children activities and free food. For details, visit scgov.net/parks or call 941-861-5000.

Be sure to follow @SRQCountyPlay on Facebook for your one-stop shop to live, learn and play in Sarasota County! Stay up-to-date on all things happening countywide and when you’re there, check out #SRQCountyParks for upcoming park events.

For more information and registration, visit scgov.net/parks, or call 941-861-5000.
CELEBRating NATURAL AREAS

For more information and registration, visit scgov.net/parks, or call 941-861-5000.

CELERY FIELDS
REGIONAL STORMWATER FACILITY, 6893 Palmer Blvd., Sarasota

Also features: boardwalks with observation decks, Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail, Sarasota Audubon Nature Center.

ACTIVITIES

EXPLORE CELERY FIELDS
November-April / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Third Wednesday, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Why is it called “Celery Fields?” Why is Celery Fields so popular? And just what is that mountain made of? Learn the answers to these questions and more on a guided walk through the site. Participants should be prepared to walk approximately two miles along mostly unpaved and often uneven rocky or grassy surfaces, some of which will be uphill. For details, call 941-861-5000 or email parksonline@scgov.net.

GO BIRDING!
Visit Sarasota Audubon Nature Center at Celery Fields!

SUPPORT THE PARKS YOU LOVE WITH FRIENDS OF SARASOTA COUNTY PARKS

No one can do it alone, and the Friends of Sarasota County Parks organization is certainly no exception. Established in 2003, the Friends is a 501(c)(3) organization founded to support the efforts of Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources with maintaining and increasing the value and importance of our parks as places of natural beauty, recreation and education for all. For more information, visit foscp.org or email president@foscp.org.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT OUR PARKS?

Your feedback is valuable to us! Please go to this link http://tinyurl.com/PRNRcustomersurvey to take the survey to share your interests and let us know how we’re doing. This survey will only take about five minutes to complete. We greatly appreciate your time!
CURRY CREEK PRESERVE

1500 Pinebrook Road, Venice (east entrance) • 1075 Albee Farm Road, Venice (west entrance)

Also features: Dog-friendly area and kayak launch at west entrance.

ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCTION TO THE LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM

Jan. 23 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Meet at east entrance at the hiking trail / Tuesday, 9-11 a.m.

Join a parks naturalist on a hike through the beautiful longleaf pine flatwoods of Curry Creek Preserve. Along the way, you’ll learn about the interesting life history of longleaf pines, their historical uses, some of the common plants and animals that inhabit longleaf habitats and potential threats to this increasingly rare ecosystem. For details, call 941-861-5000 or email parksonline@scgov.net.

WILD SARASOTA: UNIQUE PRESERVES

March 4 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Meet at east entrance at the hiking trail / Wednesday, 9-11 a.m.

Join a UF/IFAS Sarasota County Extension educator and learn more about our amazing and unique Florida ecosystems. Take a leisurely stroll through some of our beautiful and environmentally sensitive lands that have been preserved in Sarasota County and learn more about what makes these areas unique and important, the plants and animals that inhabit them, how to be watershed wise, and the management issues faced when trying to preserve these lands for future generations. Appropriate for ages 12 and up. For details, call 941-861-5000 or email parksonline@scgov.net.

PLANT AND ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION

March 12 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Meet at east entrance at the hiking trail / Thursday, 9-11 a.m.

Explore a variety of natural habitats with Sarasota County Environmental Specialist Jeff Weber who will identify both native and non-native plants and resident wildlife inhabiting our preserves. No matter the season, there is always something beautiful in bloom or the potential to see interesting wildlife. For details, call 941-861-5000 or email parksonline@scgov.net.

Note: Activities listed below are located at east entrance.
LEMON BAY PARK
570 Bay Park Blvd., Englewood

Also features: nature trails and boardwalks overlooking the bay. This park offers indoor and outdoor reservable space/pavilions. Visit scgov.net (keyword reservations) or contact 941-861-PARK (7275).

ACTIVITIES

LEMON BAY F.I.S.H. PROJECT
December-June / Ages: 8 and up / Fee: Free / Park / Second Saturday, 9:30-11 a.m.

Calling all F.I.S.H. (Folks Interested in Submerged Habitats). Join American Littoral Society biologist Chuck Idelberger on a search for marine life in Lemon Bay. Using hand and seine nets, you will search shallow waters and seagrass beds, observing, collecting and discussing some of the many interesting fishes and other animals that inhabit Lemon Bay. Meet at the amphitheater. Preregistration is required. Contact Chuck Idelberger at 941-488-8998.

LUNCHTIME MUSIC SERIES
Dec. 20, Jan. 3, 17, 31, Feb. 14, 28, April 3 / Ages: Adult / Fee: Free / Nature Center / Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Bring a picnic and enjoy bluegrass and folk music by the bay featuring local favorite Gottfried Creek. For more information, call 941-861-5000.

LEARN TO KNOW THE WILD THINGS BIRD ID CLASS
Jan. 22, 24 / Ages: Adult / Fee: $20 donation is asked to cover class material and refreshment cost / Classroom, Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. / Field day, Friday, 8 a.m. to noon

Bird watching is the fastest growing outdoor activity in America. One of the classes will be held indoors and the final class will be outdoors to locate and identify birds in the park. Each participant will need a field guide and binoculars (loaners may be available). Classes will be taught by Charlie Sample from the Venice Area Audubon Society. Class size is limited. Reservations are required; contact Katie Balcerzak at cerzak2@yahoo.com.

GOPHER TORTOISE DAY CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES AND NATURE WALK
April 10 / Ages: 3-10 / Meet in the classroom / Friday, 2-4 p.m.

Bring out the kids for games, crafts and stories that are sure to educate and excite. Indoor activities will take place from 2-3 p.m. A children's nature walk will begin at 3 p.m. in search of a real-life gopher tortoise burrow. Learning will focus on the threatened gopher tortoise and why it serves as a keystone species. Participants should wear comfortable closed-toe footwear. Be prepared for limited shade and exposure to the outdoors. Water and sunscreen is recommended. Adult supervision and assistance is required. Call 941-861-5000 or email parksonline@scgov.net for more information.

GOPHER TORTOISE DAY - TORTOISE TREK
April 10 / Ages: 12 and up / Meet at Nature Center / Friday, 9-10:30 a.m.

Lemon Bay Park has more than 100 gopher tortoise burrows. Whether you live with tortoises in your backyard or have never seen a gopher tortoise, join us to learn more about what they eat, where they lay eggs, why they depend on fire and why the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has designated April 10 as Gopher Tortoise Day! Participants should wear comfortable closed-toe footwear. Be prepared for limited shade and exposure to the outdoors. Water and sunscreen is recommended. Call 941-861-5000 or email parksonline@scgov.net for more information.

SPECIAL EVENTS

WILD SARASOTA: FLORIDA’S FABULOUS PLANT HERITAGE
Jan. 13 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Classroom and guided walk / Monday, 2-4 p.m.

Ethnobotany is the study of how people and plants have interacted for thousands of years. Start out in the classroom and then weather permitting, take a leisurely walk to explore how native wild plants of Sarasota County have been used historically for food, medicine, and other aspects of daily life. The instructor is Katherine Clements, ecology and natural resources educator, Sarasota County UF/IFAS Extension & Sustainability. For details, call 941-861-5000.

A WALK IN THE SHADE
May 6 / All ages / Fee: Free / Wednesday, 9 a.m.

Join popular volunteer guide Al Squires for a mostly shady walk through Lemon Bay Park. Discover plants and animals unique to the park. For details, call 941-861-5000 or email parksonline@scgov.net.

Lemon Bay has trail steward opportunities available. This is a chance to give back and an opportunity to share your skills and knowledge. Please visit scgov.net (keyword volunteers) for more information.
MANASOTA SCRUB PRESERVE
2695 Bridge St., Englewood

Also features: Home to some of the county’s remaining scattered pockets of scrub habitat.

EVENTS

LAND MANAGEMENT IN AN URBAN SETTING
Jan. 22, March 25, April 15 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Meet at the Bridge Street parking area / 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Join Sarasota County Environmental Specialist Diana Donaghy to learn about strategies used by preserve managers when the preserves are in the midst of the suburbs. You will learn an introduction to some of the many plants and animals that are found in this natural area sandwiched within an urban setting. Get acquainted with special management practices and some of the challenges involved with managing fire-dependent habitats while strolling through them. Participants should wear comfortable, neutral-colored clothing, sunscreen and insect repellent and bring drinking water, camera (optional) and binoculars. To increase the possibility of seeing wildlife, pets will not be allowed on the walk. Sarasota County nature walks prohibit participants from smoking. Space for this walk is limited to 15. Reservations are required. Call 941-861-5000 or email parksonline@scgov.net.

WILD SARASOTA: UNIQUE PRESERVES
Feb. 13 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Meet at the Bridge Street parking area / Thursday, 9-11 a.m.

Join a UF/IFAS Sarasota County Extension educator and learn more about our amazing and unique Florida ecosystems. Take a leisurely stroll through some of our beautiful and environmentally sensitive lands that have been preserved in Sarasota County and learn more about what makes these areas unique and important, the plants and animals that inhabit them, how to be watershed wise, and the management issues faced when trying to preserve these lands for future generations. Participants should wear comfortable, neutral-colored clothing, sunscreen and insect repellent and bring drinking water, camera (optional) and binoculars. To increase the possibility of seeing wildlife, pets will not be allowed on the walk. Sarasota County nature walks prohibit participants from smoking. Space for this walk is limited to 15. Reservations are required. Call 941-861-5000 or email parksonline@scgov.net.

SARASOTA COUNTY’S FIRE FEST!
Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (rain or shine)
T. Mabry Carlton, Jr. Memorial Reserve
1800 Mabry Carlton Parkway, Venice

• Prescribed burn demos.
• Game zone for kids.
• Guided nature walks.
• Free food.

FREE fun for the whole family!

For more information, call 941-861-5000.

Due to the ecologically sensitive nature of the area, dogs are not permitted at this event.
OLD MIAKKA PRESERVE
251 Myakka Road, Sarasota

Also features: four miles of trails that provide wildlife viewing opportunities including gopher tortoises, butterflies and songbirds.

ACTIVITIES

THE ROLE OF FIRE IN FLORIDA’S ECOSYSTEMS
Jan. 23 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Picnic shelter / Thursday, 9–11 a.m.

Join Sarasota County Environmental Specialist Jeff Weber for a guided hike during Prescribed Fire Awareness Week. Learn about the history of fire in Florida and how Sarasota County uses prescribed burning to manage natural area parks and preserves. Explore recently burned areas and learn about how fire-dependent habitats and wildlife species have evolved to coexist with periodic fires and how they thrive after an area is burned. For details, call 941-861-5000 or email parksonline@scgov.net.

Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources

WHEN SCHOOL’S OUT, CAMP’S IN!

- Registration begins March 30.
- Camps to fit your family’s schedule.
- Summer camps that are affordable!
- Camps to suit your child’s interests.

Sarasota County’s trusted camp provider for more than 40 years!

Register online at scgov.net/parks or call 941-861-PARK (7275).

For more information and registration, visit scgov.net/parks, or call 941-861-5000.
POCONO TRAIL PRESERVE

189 Pocono Trail E., Nokomis

Also features: waterfront preserve on Shakett Creek, observation platform, shady trails.

ACTIVITIES

MANGROVES, ESTUARIES AND UPLANDS

Feb. 13 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Meet at east entrance picnic table / Friday, 9-10:30 a.m.

Join us to learn how to identify our native mangroves and the important role they play in the estuarine food web and in providing nesting area rookeries for a wide variety of wading bird species. Enjoy this shady hike and discover how slight changes in elevation lead from an oak/palm dominated forest to the mangrove fringe along the shoreline of Shakett Creek. Participants should wear comfortable closed-toe footwear. Water and sunscreen is recommended. For details, call 941-861-5000 or email parksonline@scgov.net.

FROM EARLY INHABITANTS TO POLLYANNA: THE HISTORY OF POCONO TRAIL PRESERVE

March 5 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Meet at Nokomis Community Center on Nippino Trail / Thursday, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Join local history buff and Sarasota County volunteer Nancy Eaton and discover the interesting history of the preserve and the surrounding towns of Venice and Nokomis. Learn about people of the Manasota Culture, the interesting stories of local pioneers, including Dr. Fred Albee, and the luxury hotel known as the Pollyanna Inn that once stood on this site. Along the way, enjoy the beautiful live oak and cabbage palm hammocks and occasional glimpses of Shakett Creek as you learn about the history of this interesting area. For details, call 941-861-5000 or email parksonline@scgov.net.

KIDS NATURE JOURNALING

March 26 / Ages: 4-12 / Fee: Free / Meet at east entrance picnic table / Thursday, 3-4 p.m.

Being outdoors and exploring nature has many benefits for children. Nature journaling provides kids with the opportunity to observe the natural world and document their discoveries. Each child will construct and decorate their own journal before exploring a nature trail in search of feathers, acorns and leaves. Adult supervision and assistance is required. Participants should wear comfortable closed-toe footwear. Be prepared for limited shade and exposure to the outdoors. Water and sunscreen is recommended. Call 941-861-5000 or email parksonline@scgov.net for more information.

Be sure to follow @SRQCountyPlay on Facebook for your one-stop shop to live, learn and play in Sarasota County! Stay up-to-date on all things happening countywide and when you’re there, check out #SRQCountyParks for upcoming park events.
RED BUG SLOUGH PRESERVE
5200 Beneva Road, Sarasota

Also features: Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail, shady trails, butterfly garden.

ACTIVITIES

FULL MOON WALK
Dec. 12 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Meet at information kiosk / Thursday, 6:15-7:15 p.m.

Join Sarasota County Environmental Specialist Jeff Weber on a special twilight hike to experience the mystery and intrigue of our natural areas after dark. Look and listen for the sights and sounds of early evening critters and learn about interesting legends and tales surrounding the full moon and other interesting lunar phenomena. Please be sure to bring a flashlight and insect spray. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. For details, call 941-861-5000 or email parksonline@scgov.net.

PLANT AND ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION WALK
Feb. 4 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Meet at information kiosk / Tuesday, 9-11 a.m.

Explore a variety of natural habitats with Sarasota County Environmental Specialist Jeff Weber who will identify both native and non-native plants and resident wildlife inhabiting our preserves. No matter the season, there is always something beautiful in bloom or the potential to see interesting wildlife. For details, call 941-861-5000 or email parksonline@scgov.net.

MEDITATION IN THE PARKS
Feb. 6, April 6, June 2 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Meet at information kiosk / 9-10 a.m.

Many traditions use some form of meditation, focus, contemplation, reflection or breathwork to quiet the mind and center the body and spirit. Recent scientific research has shown that Shinrin yoku (a form of “forest bathing” practiced in Japan) decreases levels of the stress hormone cortisol, lowers pulse rate and blood pressure, and decreases sympathetic nerve activity (our fight or flight response). Research also indicates being in nature increases brain alpha waves (relaxed awareness), improves concentration and problem-solving ability, improves self-esteem, and has immune system benefits that may decrease our risk for developing disease. Join us for an exploration of finding peace within nature. We will draw upon many traditions and cultures for a nondenominational approach to connecting with ourselves and nature and get healthier along the way!

No prior experience needed. Recommended to wear comfortable, loose clothing and bring water and a portable chair or blanket to sit upon as we will stop to sit along the trail. Be aware that there is limited parking at this location. Instructor: Dr. Katherine Clements, ecology and natural resources educator, Sarasota County UF/IFAS Extension and Sustainability, assisted by Noreen Delaney. For details, call 941-861-5000 or email parksonline@scgov.net.

LAND MANAGEMENT IN AN URBAN PRESERVE
March 6 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Meet at information kiosk / Friday, 9-11 a.m.

Join Sarasota County Environmental Specialist Jeff Weber to learn about interesting challenges land managers are faced with on sites where nature meets the suburbs and some of the innovative strategies used to manage these suburban natural areas. For details, call 941-861-5000 or email parksonline@scgov.net.

APRIL FOOL’S DAY AND THE GAMES MOTHER NATURE CAN PLAY
April 1 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Meet at information kiosk / Wednesday, 9-11 a.m.

Join Sarasota County Environmental Specialist Jeff Weber to learn about trickery and shenanigans in the natural world around us. Just when you think you’ve got Mother Nature figured out, she’s got something mysterious, interesting and sometimes unexpected up her sleeve! For details, call 941-861-5000 or email parksonline@scgov.net.

For more information and registration, visit scgov.net/parks, or call 941-861-5000.
ROTHENBACH PARK
8650 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota

Also features: fitness equipment (outdoor), reservable space/pavilions. Visit scgov.net (keyword reservations) or contact 941-861-PARK (7275).

EVENTS

SLITHER AND HISS: SNAKES OF FLORIDA
Feb. 15 / Ages: 6 and up / Fee: Free / Pavilion / Saturday, 9:30–10:30 a.m.
Snakes have long been the objects of fascination, fear and even revulsion. In the natural world, snakes perform valuable environmental services that benefit other species and even the human population. Grab a seat in the shade of the pavilion to learn about Florida’s snake species and how to live with snakes in your home landscape. Be prepared to see live snakes! For details, call 941-861-5000.

TRASH TO TREASURE: WELCOME TO ROTHENBACH PARK
May 27 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Pavilion / Wednesday, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Late spring is a beautiful time to take a leisurely guided walk along paved and mostly shaded trails through Rothenbach Park. Learn about the history of the site and the interesting blend of uses that make this site unique. Discuss the native and non-native plants and animals that live at the park and the techniques employed by the county to protect and preserve the habitat. Participants should meet at the pavilion and be prepared to walk approximately 2.75 miles. For details, call 941-861-5000 or email parksonline@scgov.net.

ROTHENBACH PARK FITNESS COURSE
ELEVATE fitness course at Rothenbach Park brings together a series of challenging physical obstacles that an individual or team can take on! Levels of challenge include options for beginners, intermediate and advanced fitness users ages 5 - 12 and 13 +.

For more information, visit scgov.net (keywords Rothenbach Park).
LEARN TO KNOW THE WILD THINGS
Feb. 5-6 / Ages: Adult / Fee: $20 donation is asked to cover class material and refreshment cost / Classroom, Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a one-hour lunch / Field day, Thursday, 8 a.m. to noon

Bird watching is the fastest growing outdoor activity in America. The first day of class will be held indoors and the final day will be outdoors to locate and identify birds in the park. Each participant will need a field guide and binoculars (loanser may be available). Classes will be taught by Charlie Sample from the Venice Area Audubon Society. Class size is limited. Reservations are required. For more information, call 941-861-5000.

OLD GROWTH FOREST
Feb. 29 / All ages / Fee: Free / Classroom / Saturday, 9-10 a.m.

Vast swaths of forest from American Chestnut to Longleaf Pine once covered America east of the Mississippi River, but most today have been felled for lumber or have succumbed to disease. We now understand that forests are not simply a commodity to be exploited but are, instead, complex ecosystems that are home to great biodiversity. Join master naturalist Kate Borduas as she explores the history of old growth forests and the efforts to compensate. For more information and to register, visit scgov.net/parks or call 941-861-5000.

WILD SARASOTA: ALIEN INVADERS NEAR YOU!
March 19 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Classroom followed by a short walk / Thursday, 2-4 p.m.

Non-native invasive plants and animals are among the leading threats to native biodiversity around the world. They can also negatively affect property values, agricultural productivity, public utilities, fisheries, tourism, outdoor recreation, and ecosystem function, and are estimated to cost the U.S. $120 billion in economic damages and control each year. Join a UF/IFAS Sarasota County Extension educator and learn how to identify many of these plants and animals, hear about how and when they were introduced to our region, and find out what you can do to be a responsible property owner. Start out in classroom, and weather permitting a short walk will be included. Appropriate for ages 12 and up. For more information and to register, visit scgov.net/parks or call 941-861-5000.

FLORIDA SCRUB-JAY IN PERIL
March 28 / All ages / Fee: Free / Classroom / Saturday, 9-10 a.m.

The state and federally threatened Florida scrub-jay is the only species of bird unique to Florida. Why have the numbers been on the decline and is there anything we can do to help? Join master naturalist Kate Borduas as she teaches us about Florida scrub-jays and their disappearing habitat. For more information and to register, please visit scgov.net/parks or call 941-861-5000.
SLEEPING TURTLES PRESERVE NORTH
3462 Border Road, Venice

Also features: Multiple passive recreation opportunities and preserves the character and quality of the Myakka River.

EVENTS

UNIQUE PRESERVES
Jan. 22 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Meet at the north side parking area / Wednesday, 9-11 a.m.

Join a UF/IFAS Sarasota County Extension educator and learn more about our amazing and unique Florida ecosystems. Take a leisurely stroll through some of our most beautiful and environmentally sensitive lands that have been preserved in Sarasota County and learn more about what makes these areas so unique and important, the plants and animals that inhabit them, how to be watershed wise, and the management issues faced when trying to preserve these lands for future generations. Participants should wear comfortable, neutral-colored clothing, sunscreen and insect repellent. Bring drinking water, camera (optional) and binoculars. To increase the possibility of seeing wildlife, pets will not be allowed on the walk. Sarasota County nature walks prohibit participants from smoking. Space for this walk is limited to 15. Reservations are required. Call 941-861-5000 or email parksonline@scgov.net.

With more than 55,000 acres of parks and preserves, Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources invites you to explore our beautiful county. For a complete list of parks and preserves, visit scgov.net/parks.

SLEEPING TURTLES PRESERVE SOUTH
2800 N. River Road, Venice

Also features: Provides shady hiking trails through oak hammocks and pine flatwoods.

EVENT

WILD SARASOTA: UNIQUE PRESERVES
Dec. 9, May 4 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Meet at the parking area at the intersection of Venice Avenue and North River Road / Monday, 9-11 a.m.

Join a UF/IFAS Sarasota County Extension educator Katherine Clements and learn more about our amazing and unique Florida ecosystems. Take a leisurely stroll through some of our most beautiful and environmentally sensitive lands that have been preserved in Sarasota County and learn more about what makes these areas so unique and important, the plants and animals that inhabit them, how to be watershed wise, and the management issues faced when trying to preserve these lands for future generations.

IN SEARCH OF SPARKLEBERRY
April 8 / All ages / Fee: Free / Wednesday, 9 a.m.

Join volunteer naturalist Al Squires as he searches for sparkleberry. Participants should wear comfortable, neutral-colored clothing, sunscreen and insect repellent. Bring drinking water, camera (optional) and binoculars. Reservations are required. Call 941-861-5000 or email parksonline@scgov.net for more information.

For more information and registration, visit scgov.net/parks, or call 941-861-5000.
NATURAL AREAS

For more information and registration, visit scgov.net/parks, or call 941-861-5000.

IN SEARCH OF SKYBLUE LUPINE
March 18 / All ages / Fee: Free / Wednesday, 9 a.m.

Join volunteer naturalist Al Squires as he explores the scrub habitat in search of one of the prettiest wildflowers, skyblue lupine. Participants should wear comfortable, neutral-colored clothing, sunscreen and insect repellent. Bring drinking water, camera (optional) and binoculars. Pets are not allowed in South Venice Lemon Bay Preserve. Sarasota County nature walks prohibit participants from smoking. Space for this walk is limited to 15. Reservations are required. Call 941-861-5000 or email parksonline@scgov.net.

WILD SARASOTA: SCRUB STROLL
March 31 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Meet at the Osprey Road parking area / Tuesday, 9-11 a.m.

Join Dr. Katherine Clements, ecology and natural resources educator with Sarasota County UF/IFAS Extension & Sustainability, for a stroll through the scrub, a unique environment in an ancient dune system. This habitat is home to a variety of plants and other animals. Learn about threatened, endemic and keystone species such as the Florida scrub-jay and gopher tortoise. Appreciate the wonders of the scrub and how we can help protect this dwindling habitat. Participants should wear comfortable footwear for walking in soft sand. Be prepared for limited shade. Participants should wear comfortable, neutral-colored clothing, sunscreen and insect repellent. Bring drinking water, camera (optional) and binoculars. Pets are not allowed in South Venice Lemon Bay Preserve. Sarasota County nature walks prohibit participants from smoking. Space for this walk is limited to 15. Reservations are required. Call 941-861-5000 or email parksonline@scgov.net.

SOUTH VENICE LEMON BAY PRESERVE
6200 Osprey Road, Venice

Also features: A peaceful retreat for visitors and a refuge for several protected animals and plants.

EVENTS

IN SEARCH OF SHINY LYONIA
Jan. 8 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Meet at the Osprey Road parking area / Wednesday, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Join volunteer naturalist Al Squires as he puts his investigative skills and plant knowledge to find shiny lyonia and other native plants found within the preserve. Participants should wear comfortable, neutral-colored clothing and footwear for walking in soft sand. Be prepared for limited shade and wear sunscreen. Please bring insect repellent, drinking water, camera (optional) and binoculars. Pets are not allowed in South Venice Lemon Bay Preserve. Sarasota County nature walks prohibit participants from smoking. Space for this walk is limited to 15. Reservations are required. Call 941-861-5000 or email parksonline@scgov.net.

LAND MANAGEMENT IN AN URBAN SETTING
Feb. 26 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Meet at the Osprey Road parking area / Wednesday, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Join Sarasota County Environmental Specialist Diana Donaghy to learn about strategies used by preserve managers when the preserves are in the midst of the suburbs. Get acquainted with special management practices and some of the challenges involved with managing fire-dependent habitats while strolling through them. Participants should wear comfortable, neutral-colored clothing, sunscreen and insect repellent. Bring drinking water, camera (optional) and binoculars. Pets are not allowed in South Venice Lemon Bay Preserve. Sarasota County nature walks prohibit participants from smoking. Space for this walk is limited to 15. Reservations are required. Call 941-861-5000 or email parksonline@scgov.net.

SNOOK HAVEN...GREAT FOOD, GREAT SERVICE AND THAT OLD FLORIDA FEEL!
Snook Haven is a historic county-owned park with a restaurant on the Myakka River. The 67-year-old restaurant and outdoor music venue features a smokehouse-style menu with barbecue and southern-style dishes. You can make it an all-day adventure with our canoe rentals and pontoon boat rides, live music and a welcoming atmosphere!

5000 E. Venice Ave., Venice, FL 34292
941-485-7221 • snookhaven.com
URFER FAMILY PARK

4012 Honore Ave., Sarasota

Also features: fitness equipment (outdoor), paved fitness trail, nature trail, boardwalk overlooking wetlands, historical Dr. C.B. Wilson House. This park offers outdoor reservable space/pavilions. Visit scgov.net (keyword reservations) or contact 941-861-PARK (7275).

ACTIVITIES

FITNESS IN THE PARK: FIT AS A FIDDLE FOR 50-PLUS

Year-round / Ages: Adult / Fee: Free / Pavilion / Friday, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Looking for an opportunity to get a little fresh air and meet new people? Increase your sense of well-being and quality of life through gentle exercise and companionship in a beautiful natural setting. This is a gentle workout and not for advanced fitness buffs. For details, call 941-861-5000.

HISTORY IN THE PARK: DR. C.B. WILSON HOUSE OPEN HOUSES

December-April / All ages / Fee: Free / C.B. Wilson House / Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to noon / May-June, Saturday, 10 a.m. to noon

Take a self-guided tour through the historic Dr. C.B. Wilson House to learn about the house, the Wilson family and other historical aspects of Sarasota County. Volunteer docents are onsite to guide you through the house and to answer your questions. For details, call 941-861-5000.

SPECIAL EVENTS

URFER FAMILY PARK HOLIDAY WALK WITH AL

Dec. 18 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Grounds / Wednesday, 9-11 a.m.

Join popular volunteer guide Al Squires for a magical park stroll to celebrate the holidays. Winter brings out few flowers but the shiny lyonia should be in bloom. Enjoy the meandering trails while sharing their boundless knowledge of botany. For details, call 941-861-5000.

HISTORY WALK

Feb. 26 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Pavilion / Wednesday, 9:30-11 a.m.

Sarasota County is a wonderful place to live, but did you know that at one time the county was largely agricultural? Cattle, turpentine, food crops and more are part of our rich history. Join a parks naturalist for a walk around the park to learn about some of the history of our area, culminating with a tour of the historic Dr. C.B. Wilson House. Be prepared to walk approximately 1.5 miles on paved trails. For details, call 941-861-5000.

CATTLE IN FLORIDA: FROM SPANISH IMPORTS TO FLORIDA CRACKERS

March 11 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Pavilion / Wednesday, 9:30-11 a.m.

Did you know that the first cattle in Florida were imported by Ponce de Leon in 1530? Learn how this meager beginning has grown into a $500 million industry. Take a leisurely stroll around the park while discussing this rich and interesting historical facet of Florida’s agricultural history. For details, call 941-861-5000.

PHOTO SAFARI: LEARNING TO SEE THE SMALL STUFF

April 8 / Ages: 12 and up / Fee: Free / Pavilion / Wednesday, 8:30-10 a.m.

There are no giraffes or manatees at Urfer, but if you look carefully, there is much beauty in the small stuff. Learn how to look for small and interesting things that you can turn into beautiful photos. You can also learn about how to compose and plan for better photos. For details, call 941-861-5000.

SLITHER AND HISS: SNAKES OF FLORIDA

March 28 / Ages: 6 and up / Fee: Free / Pavilion / Saturday, 9:30–10:30 a.m.

Snakes have long been the objects of fascination, fear and even revulsion. In the natural world, snakes perform valuable environmental services that benefit other species and even the human population. Grab a seat in the shade of the pavilion to learn about Florida’s snake species and how to live with snakes in your home landscape. Be prepared to see live snakes! For details, call 941-861-5000.

For more information and registration, visit scgov.net/parks, or call 941-861-5000.
T-REC COALITION PROGRAMS

The T-REC Coalition of Sarasota County is comprised of multiple local agencies working together to provide year-round recreational opportunities for teens and adults with disabilities.

For more information about T-REC, or about these therapeutic recreation programs, please call 941-861-5000 or email parksonline@scgov.net.

T-REC PLAY DAY IN NORTH PORT
Mondays, Dec. 16, Jan. 27, Feb. 24, March 16, April 20, May 18, 10 a.m. to noon
Ages: 13 and up
Fee: Free
George Mullen Activity Center
Activities may include pickleball, basketball, arts and crafts, board games and more. For details and directions, call 941-240-8125.

T-REC WELCOME 2020 DANCE PARTY
Saturday, Jan. 25, 7-9 p.m.
Ages: 13 and up
Fee: Free
Colonial Oaks Park, Gymnasium
All individuals with disabilities, families and caregivers are invited to welcome in the new year with dancing, music, friends and snacks. To RSVP or for more information, please call 941-486-2753.

T-REC WINTER WALK
Friday, Feb. 28, 11 a.m. to noon
Ages: 13 and up
Fee: Free
Twin Lakes Park, Pavilion
All teens and adults with disabilities are invited to participate in this day. Enjoy a walk around the lake and park. Wear walking shoes and bring your lunch to enjoy at the park. To RSVP or for more information, please call 941-486-2753.

T-REC CANDY BAR BINGO
Fridays, March 27, May 15, 6-7:30 p.m.
Ages: 13 and up
Fee: Free
Nokomis Community Park, Main hall
All teens and adults with disabilities are invited to come play our special version of Bingo. Please bring a full-size candy bar to exchange for each bingo card, up to four cards per person. Winners of each round will win a lot of candy! For more information, please call 941-486-2753.

T-REC BEACH PARTY
Friday, April 24, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Ages: 13 and up
Fee: Free
North Jetty, Pavilion
All individuals with disabilities, families and caregivers are invited to a beach party! Bring your brown bag lunch. Beach wheelchairs, water and healthy snacks will be available. To RSVP or for more information, please call 941-486-2753.

WATER EXERCISE CLASSES
Thursdays, June 11, June 25, 11-11:45 a.m.
Ages: 16 and up
Fee: Free
Arlington Park, Instructional pool
Each class will include a warm-up and cool down. Swim noodles will be used. For details, call 941-486-2753.

T-REC SUMMER DANCE
Saturday, June 27, 7-9 p.m.
Ages: 13 and up
Fee: Free
Laurel Park, Gymnasium
Come to dance the night away with your friends while requesting your favorite tunes. To RSVP or for more information, please call 941-486-2753.

HAPPY HEARTS
Year-round, second Saturday, 1-3 p.m.
Ages: 16 and up
Fee: Free
Nokomis Community Park, Main hall
Inspiration, encouragement and fun for teens and adults with disabilities in a faith-based, nondenominational setting. For details, call Stephanie Bartlett at 941-497-5419.

FOREVER FRIENDS
Year-round, third Saturday, 1-3 p.m.
Ages: 10 and up
Fee: Free
Bee Ridge Park, Room B
Join the volunteers of Forever Friends for an afternoon of fun, inspiration and activities. For details, call Denise Rizzo at 941-480-9390, email ForeverFriendsInc@yahoo.com or visit foreverfriendsinc.org.

Sarasota County prohibits discrimination in all services, programs or activities. View the complete policy at scgov.net (keywords ADA compliance).