

2014 Legislative Priorities



Priorities At A Glance

- ♦ Support full funding of the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP).
- ♦ Support full funding of the Florida Forever Program.
- ♦ Support measures that assure Florida's youth are as protected as possible while participating in parks and recreation programs.
- ♦ Support measures that fund programs that increase healthy lifestyles and physical activity.

IT STARTS IN
PARKS
Coaching. Connecting. Community.

The Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP)

The FRDAP program leverages local investment in recreation development with state dollars to maximize the provision of vital recreational opportunities.



Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation—John Prince Park and Boundless Playground

The program funds development of greenways and trails, playgrounds, ball fields, passive recreation amenities, and other items that make Florida's communities attractive places for citizens and visitors to affordably enjoy the State's natural resources.

FRDAP is a public partnership that:

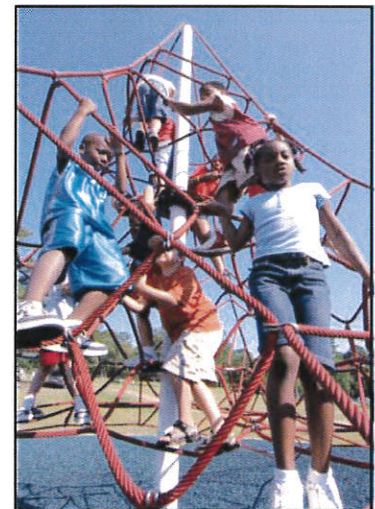
- ▲ Allows the public to enjoy and safely access public parks and environmental lands, connecting with nature and the out-of-doors;
- ▲ Provides a high return on the investment in parks and environmental lands by providing a natural framework that protects our



*Polk County Parks and Recreation
Peace River Park*

environmental resources, supports clean air, and reduces green house gasses;

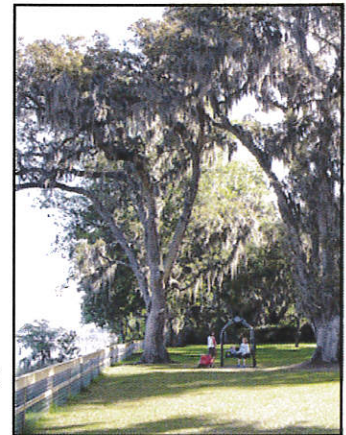
- ▲ Provides close to home, easily accessible space for the public to exercise and live a healthy lifestyle;
- ▲ Assures that Floridians of all abilities have access to quality recreational opportunities.



*Tallahassee Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Affairs
Tom Brown Park*

Full Funding of Florida Forever is a Must

Florida's legacy land acquisition and development program, Florida Forever, has not been fully funded in several years. As a result, we are losing ground in our efforts to assure we preserve and protect conservation lands for future generations of Floridians. Florida Forever, which was authorized to spend \$300 million a year, was interrupted because of declines in state revenues and shifts in priorities related to the economic recovery. With the economy recovering, it is time again to invest in the highest priority conservation lands. The FY 2014 state budget provides an opportunity to invest in public lands, as the Preservation 2000 bonds will be paid off, freeing more than \$250 million in recurring state revenue.



*Alpine Groves Park
St. Johns County*

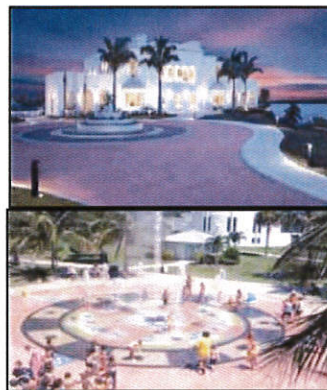
Fully funding this program is vital because:



- ▲ Park development stimulates local economies by employing professional services and local contractors;
- ▲ Land acquisition programs allow for the strategic purchase of open space to provide for recreation, and the protection of critical water resources for future generations;
- ▲ Historical and cultural heritage sites require preservation and restoration assistance;
- ▲ The ability to leverage local, state and federal funding mechanisms that provide for open space and clean water, assures ample protection exists for wildlife to prosper and regenerate.



Barr Hammock—Alachua County



*Indian Riverside Park
Martin County*



*Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve
Volusia County*

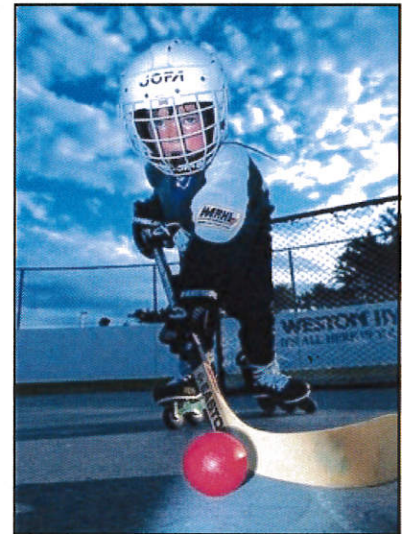
It's not just a playground. It's CONNECTING with each other... Florida's parks are key to connecting with our natural and historic treasures in order to preserve them. Connecting to everything around us and to each other we learn to value our environment, our heritage, and our place in the world. We grow in awareness of our responsibility to protect and cherish these things through green practices and gentle use, increasing our desire to conserve what we enjoy today for future generations.

It's not just teaching a game. It's COACHING for life...Florida's parks encourage healthy, active lifestyles as well as social development. Sound bodies and sound minds require physical activity and the chance to experience personal growth. Parks offer a wide range of activities suitable for all ages to get outdoors and get active – teaching positive lifestyle habits in all areas from nutrition to physical activities to sports and life skills.

Youth and Public Safety

During the time children are attending school, they are afforded more protection through Florida statute than when they attend local government parks and recreation programs which provide supervised care during non-school hours. We support any effort that will:

- ▲ Increase measures to protect youth from exposure to sexual predators and offenders, including their access to areas where children congregate, and identification through background screening;
- ▲ Establish funding for the fingerprinting and background screening of all volunteers and employees who work with youth;
- ▲ Establish a statewide clearinghouse of individuals who have cleared screening and fingerprint checks, to avoid duplicating these checks and increasing the costs of protecting youth in our communities, and the cost of providing quality youth programs;
- ▲ Provide boundaries for drugs, alcohol, tobacco products and weapons in areas where children are regularly present in organized programs such as schools, parks, libraries, sports fields and facilities.



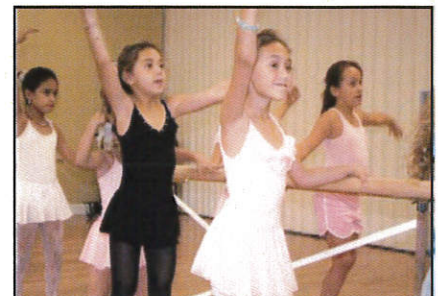
City of Weston



Marion County Parks & Recreation



Clearwater Parks and Recreation



Tampa Parks and Recreation

It's not just a walk in the park, or a place to jog. It's your COMMUNITY... Florida's parks have become an integral component of economic development as well as an investment in the arts and cultural growth within our communities. Parks provide the setting for social events large and small where people can connect with each other, and participate in classes and group activities for personal enrichment. Parks also provide an investment in infrastructure needed to accommodate revenue generating sporting events and tourism, benefitting the local economy and community as a whole.

Community Health and Wellness

The cost of caring for Floridians who are classified as obese, chronically ill, and at risk for health deficiencies, continues to increase. Local parks and recreation programs provide the opportunity for citizens to seek affordable and accessible options for their physical health and wellness. Increased funding for additional programs is necessary. Local parks



Broward County Parks and Recreation

and recreation agencies are often seen as an extension of our health care system. Partnering with private health care providers, hospitals, and rehabilitation facilities, parks and recreation agencies provide opportunities for citizens to achieve a healthy lifestyle through access to parks and facilities for physical activity. They also provide programs allowing citizens to maintain a network within their community that fosters a healthy state of mind and a connection to community resources.



Port St. Lucie Parks and Recreation



City of Pensacola

Nearly 300 children ages 6 to 14 enrolled in the Miami-Dade County Parks Fit2Play Program (with the University of Miami) maintained healthy weight and body mass index (BMI) throughout the school year. As a result of participation in the Fit2Play Program, those who started the program with high blood pressure, were able to lower their pressure. The school children also improved their physical health, fitness levels and knowledge about nutrition and healthy lifestyle behaviors.

For More Information Please Contact

Eleanor Warmack
FRPA Executive Director
 411 Office Plaza Drive
 Tallahassee, FL 32301
 (850) 878-3221
eleanor@frpa.org

Lester Abberger
Florida Lobby Associates
 PO Box 1168
 Tallahassee, FL 32303
 (850) 524-2779
lesterabberger@nettally.com