



BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISPATCH

April 2024 | *Official Newsletter of the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District*



Celebrate With Us 50 Great District Years

The Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District turned 50 this year and that's worth celebrating.

On Sunday, April 21, the District, in conjunction with the City of Boca Raton Recreation Services Department, is throwing a party and the entire Boca Raton community is invited.

“Whether it's preserving beaches, preserving green space, or creating some of the best parks in Florida, we've accomplished so much for the community in our first 50 years,” District Chair Erin Wright said. “We hope the community will celebrate with us.”

Fittingly, the 50th Anniversary Celebration will occur within one of the District's biggest accomplishments: Sugar Sand Park.

[MORE ABOUT OUR 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION](#)



Title Dreams at Patch Reef

Sitting at a courtside table and barely sweating after dismantling yet another overmatched opponent, Keiser's Soufiane El Mesbahi flashes a smile hinting at big things to come.

A few days earlier El Mesbahi learned he'd become the NAIA's No. 1-ranked men's player. He proceeded to show why on Saturday by easily dispatching Florida National's top player 6-0, 6-0.

That match was the final collegiate contest for El Masbahi at Keiser's home court – Boca Raton's Patch Reef Park.

"I love this facility," El Mesbahi said. "In fact, today I'm very emotional because this is my last home game. I've had great memories here - winning Regionals last year, winning a lot of matches."

[CONTINUE READING](#)



District's Green Space Mission

As the center of Boca Raton's population shifted westerly, so did the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District's focus.

The District's initial mission – retiring the debt the City of Boca Raton incurred when purchasing what is now Red Reef Park and the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center – grew to include preserving green space west of the Intracoastal.

In 1982, after years of negotiation, the District made its first major inland purchase. Responding to rising need for athletic fields, the District acquired 55 acres of land near the intersection of Military Trail and Yamato Rd. to create what is now Patch Reef Park.

When Patch Reef first opened in 1983 it offered the community baseball, softball and football/soccer fields.

[CONTINUE READING](#)



An View Unmatched In Boca

To the east, the Atlantic ocean waves. The Intracoastal and much of Boca Raton flow to west. Iconic The Boca Raton hotel rises from the land to the south. The above photograph offers a sneak peek at the view atop Jacob's Outlook within the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center. The ADA-compliant 40-foot tower, which can be climbed via a staircase or a series of ramps, is nearing completion. It offers one of the best views in Boca Raton. A grant from Boca Raton's Kosowsky family honoring their late son, Jacob, made the project possible. Read more about Jacob's Outlook [HERE](#). Jacob's Outlook tower replaces the original Gumbo Limbo observation tower that had to be dismantled after years of South Florida weather beating.



Pickleball Operator Selected

District Commissioners selected the City of Boca Raton's Recreation Services Department to handle the daily operations of the forthcoming covered pickleball complex at Patch Reef Park. Recreation Services already runs the operations at Patch Reef – including the tennis center, home of 12 pickleball courts. City of Boca Raton officials presented their vision for the complex at the Commissioners' April 1 meeting. Immediately following the presentation Commissioners voted unanimously to continue that relationship.

Year Of The Month: 1981

As a defining year, it's hard to argue against 1981 - a pivotal year for the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District and the Boca Raton community as a whole. Red Reef Park, purchased as part of the Schine Tract that was the impetus for the District's creation, opened in December of 1981. At its opening Red Reef included an extensive boardwalk system, a pavilion, restrooms, picnic tables and more. In the days that followed the District reached an agreement to buy 55 acres from Arvida for what would become Patch Reef Park (above). A Boca Raton News editorial lauded Commissioners as being “an uncelebrated but highly effective group of elected officials” noting the “District will become even more important to the city as the years pass.”



Bear Necessities

Talking like a bear is not as easy as one might think. That's the message from Charlie Grandy's How To Talk Like A Bear, the latest book to be installed along Patch Reef Park's StoryWalk. Children at the park are invited to move from station to station learning the intricacies of talking bruin. Children are instructed to hop, run, and tip-toe between stations, making for an active reading experience that engages young readers. The Boca Raton Library along with Friends of the Boca Raton Library make this roaring good time possible.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MONDAY MAY 6

**Commissioners' General
Public Meeting, 5:15 p.m.**

MONDAY MAY 20

**Commissioners' General
Public Meeting, 5:15 p.m.**

MONDAY JUNE 3

**Commissioners' General
Public Meeting, 5:15 p.m.**

**Meetings at Boca Raton Swim & Racquet Center
21618 St. Andrews Boulevard Boca Raton, FL**

Ode To Open Space

“Nature gives to every time
and season some beauties of
its own.”

– Charles Dickens, author.



LINKED INTO BOCA RATON

Registration for summer camps offered by the Boca Raton Recreation Services Department is now open. The camps run for a week, offering programs focusing on arts, culture, literature, science, nature, technology, sports and wellness. Camp season runs June 3 – August 16.

[Summer Camp Registration](#)

**GREATER BOCA RATON
BEACH & PARK DISTRICT**
Phone: (561) 417-4599

[Send Us A Message](#)

Keep in Touch!



Greater Boca Raton Beach and Parks District | 21618 St Andrews Blvd, Boca Raton, FL 33433

[Unsubscribe media@mybocaparks.org](mailto:media@mybocaparks.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data
Notice](#)

Sent by media@mybocaparks.org

