



BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISPATCH

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



Mizner Provides The Bark That Binds

The women gathered in a large group tucked within a shaded area of Mizner Bark dog park don't have all that much in common, yet almost all share a story similar to Jan Waddick's.

About a year ago Waddick brought her French Bulldog named Star to Mizner Bark for the first time. Upon entering the park she saw the gathering sitting on benches.

"They just said, 'Hey, come sit here,'" Waddick said.

She's been part of those Boca Barkers ever since.

Six days each week (more on that seventh day in a moment) a group that can swell to nearly 20 friends bring their small dogs to Mizner Bark dog park. Nearly all of them first met at the dog park, developing a familial bond.

[MORE ABOUT THE MIZNER BARK COMMUNITY](#)



Sugar Sand's Sweet History

The current sweetness that is Sugar Sand Park belies some of the bitter battles District Commissioners fought to ensure the creation of one of Florida's iconic parks.

In the 1980s development company Bramalea LTD owned the 132 acres located at the southeast corner of Military Trail and Palmetto Park Rd. that, for three months in the 1920s, served as a golf course for the Ritz Carlton hotel (now The Boca Raton).

After plans to develop the land into, first, high density housing, then a shopping mall/performance arts center failed to receive city approval, Bramalea elected to sell the land parcel.

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Golden Anniversary Celebration

District Commissioners would like to thank the hundreds of Boca Raton children, parents and grandparents who joined us at Sugar Sand Park on April 21 to celebrate the District's 50th Anniversary. The party included music, games and food trucks, but the free carousel rides elicited the biggest smiles. To view pictures from the event, click the link below. And be sure to join us again on July 13 at Patch Reef Park for a free tree giveaway.

[PHOTO GALLERY](#)



'Carousel Lady' Rides Again

The smiles beaming from the faces of dozens of children about to take a free carousel ride couldn't match the one on Elaine Kleinman's face.

In their bliss, it's unlikely that any of those children realized they were about to take a spin with the woman most responsible for bringing the carousel to Sugar Sand Park.

"What I dreamed of really came true!" said Kleinman, pictured with husband Hank.

Appointed in 1981 by then governor Bob Graham, Kleinman played a major role in the District's purchase (1988), development and opening (1995) of Sugar Sand Park.

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Year Of The Month: 1983

February of 1983 launched a new era for the District. That's when crews broke ground on Patch Reef Park, enabling the District to meet its goal of opening the park by the end of the year. The project's first phase included baseball fields, a football/soccer field and a press box. A few days after the Patch Reef groundbreaking, crews broke ground on the District-funded Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, which opened in early 1984. Patch Reef and Gumbo Limbo would become two of the Boca Raton community's most recognizable features.



Clearing North Park

A landscaping crew began clearing invasive plants from North Park earlier this month. The crew started on the east end of the property beyond the Jeffery St. cul-de-sac, pulling invasive Hollies, Brazilian Peppers and other plants from the area near the railroad tracks. The removal is designed to return the park to its natural state. Walking and riding trails will ultimately be added to the park. Boca Paddle is also in the permitting process of creating an indoor/outdoor pickleball facility within the park.



Exhibit On The Move

The exhibit at Sugar Sand Park's community center celebrating the District's first 50 years is entering its final days – but it's not going away. The exhibit closes at Sugar Sand during Memorial Day weekend, but will then relocate to the Boca Raton Historical Society, where it will open on May 29. The entire exhibit of photos, documents and even the Native American relics will make the move, and the Historical Society will augment the display with some of its own items as well.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MONDAY JUNE 3

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

MONDAY JUNE. 17

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

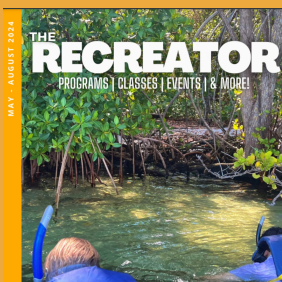
MONDAY JULY 1

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

“The richness I achieve comes from Nature, the source of my inspiration.”
– *Claude Monet, artist*



LINKED INTO BOCA RATON

The Recreator is loaded with lists of summer camps, cultural events, athletic offerings, and more. Check it out.

[The Recreator](#)

**GREATER BOCA RATON
BEACH & PARK DISTRICT**
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