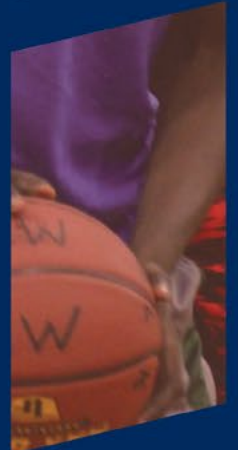
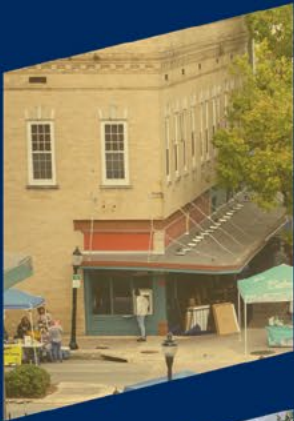


City of  
**Gainesville**

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

# Seasonal Guide

2024 Fall/Winter





Above and cover photos of Downtown Festival & Art Show: Quincy Masters

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## City of Gainesville City Commission

Harvey Ward Jr., Mayor

Reina Saco,  
Commissioner At-large, Seat A

Cynthia Chestnut, Mayor Pro-Tem,  
Commissioner At-large, Seat B

Desmon Duncan-Walker,  
District I Commissioner

Ed Book,  
District II Commissioner

Casey Willits,  
District III Commissioner

Bryan Eastman,  
District IV Commissioner

## City Manager

Cynthia W. Curry

## Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department

Director Roxana Gonzalez

Assistant Director Leslie Ladendorf

306 NE Sixth Ave.  
Gainesville, FL 32601  
352-334-5067

# Thank you for being a part of our city programs!





## Contact us:

Historic Thomas Center, Bldg. B,  
Third Floor, 306 NE Sixth Ave.  
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

352-334-5067

[gainesvillefl.gov/PRCA](http://gainesvillefl.gov/PRCA)

Facebook: GainesvillePRCA

# City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

## Department Mission:

We create meaningful experiences and a feeling of connection and belonging for all through exceptional programs and services with well-maintained parks, public places, natural resources and historic sites.

## Department Vision:

– Our Passion –  
Engaging – Connecting – Building  
Community

## Department Accreditation:

The City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department is proud to be CAPRA Accredited since 2008.

The National Recreation and Parks Association's Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) delivers quality assurance and improvement to accredited park and recreation departments throughout the United States. This operational management system improves infrastructures; increases efficiency in all activities and demonstrates accountability within their communities. Implementation of this system strengthens teamwork among department staff, imbeds all aspects of CAPRA into the department's internal culture, and establishes a continuous improvement mindset for all department activities.

CAPRA is the only national accreditation of park and recreation departments and is a valuable measure of a department's overall quality of operation, management, and service to the community. Achieving CAPRA accreditation is the best way to demonstrate that our department and our staff provide our community with the highest level of service.



# Aquatic Programs

## Fall Swim Lessons

Make a splash at one of our many city pools this fall by registering for swim lessons taught by certified swim instructors. Swim lessons provide a safe and comfortable environment to strengthen water knowledge and swimming skills.

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Day/Date(s):</b>  | Tuesdays and Thursdays  |
| <b>Time(s):</b>      | 4-7 p.m.  |
| <b>Registration:</b> | Opens July 1 and closes before the start of each session                          |
| <b>Location(s):</b>  | Dwight Hunter Pool<br>H. Spurgeon Cherry Pool                                     |
| <b>Fee(s):</b>       | City residents \$57<br>Non-city residents \$70                                    |
| <b>Ages:</b>         | 3 and up  |
| <b>Call:</b>         | 352-334-5067  |
| <b>Online:</b>       | <a href="https://gainesvillefl.gov/SwimLessons">gainesvillefl.gov/SwimLessons</a> |



## Season Pool Passes

Seasonal pool passes are valid for six months from the date of purchase and may be used for admission to any city pool. Please note that Mickle Pool is not a year-round pool. Dwight H. Hunter and H. Spurgeon Cherry are open year-round.

Purchase passes in person at our office, which is located at the Historic Thomas Center, Bldg. B, third floor, 306 NE Sixth Ave. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the office will be closed on weekends and city designated holidays. For questions, contact us at 352-334-5067.

| Pool Passes                   | City Resident* | Non-City Resident* |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Adult (18-49)                 | \$154.25       | \$192.50           |
| Child (3-17)                  | \$69.25        | \$86.50            |
| Senior (50+)                  | \$69.25        | \$86.50            |
| Persons with disabilities     | \$69.25        | \$86.50            |
| Family of four or less        | \$340          | \$424.75           |
| Each additional family member | \$13.25        | \$16.50            |

\*Prices effective Oct. 1, 2023

## Lightning Policy

City of Gainesville pools use a lightning detection service to monitor severe weather. When there is lightning within 20 miles of the facility staff will inform patrons of the inclement weather before they pay the entrance fee, and remind them that there will be no refunds.

A **lightning warning** is received when there is lightning within 10 miles of the facility; staff are required to close

due to severe weather in the area. Patrons will be cleared from the pool deck and shower use will be prohibited.

An **all clear** notification is received once severe weather has left the area. At this time, staff will reopen and resume operating hours.

Weather information provided by the alert system supersedes all other weather information sources.

# Pools

GainesvilleFL.gov/Pools  
352-334-5067

## H. Spurgeon Cherry Pool

1001 NW 31st Drive 352-334-2187



## Dwight H. Hunter Pool

1100 NE 14th Street 352-334-2191



## Andrew R. Mickle, Sr. Pool

1717 SE 15th St 352-334-2190



### Fall Hours

Morning Lap Swim: 50-meters

**Monday–Friday** lap swim: 6–10 a.m.  
lap/open swim: 11 a.m.–8 p.m.

**Saturday** lap/open swim: 12–5 p.m.

**Sunday** lap/open swim: 12–5 p.m.

**Labor Day** lap: 6–10 a.m.;  
lap/open: 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Lap Swim: 25-yards

**Monday–Friday** lap swim: 6–10 a.m.  
lap/open swim: 11 a.m.–8 p.m.

**Saturday** lap/open swim: 12–5 p.m.

**Sunday** lap/open swim: 12–5 p.m.

**Labor Day** lap: 6–10 a.m.;  
lap/open: 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Lap Swim: 25-yards

**Aug. 12–Sept. 2**

**Saturday** lap/open swim: 12–5 p.m.

**Sunday–Friday** closed

**Labor Day** 12 p.m.–5 p.m.

**Weekday Lap Lane Advisory:** Lap lane availability may be limited after 4 p.m. due to youth programming. Staff will request sharing lanes when needed. Please be considerate of others.

**\*Note:** Winter pool hours begin in November and will be posted at a later date. Please visit the pools website [gainesvillefl.gov/pools](http://gainesvillefl.gov/pools) or call the pool for details.

## Pool Admission Daily Prices

|                           | D.H. Hunter / H.S. Cherry |                   | A.R. Mickle Sr. |                   |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
|                           | City Resident             | Non-City Resident | City Resident   | Non-City Resident |
| Adult (18–49)             | \$4.50                    | \$5.00            | \$3.25          | \$3.75            |
| Lap swimmer               | \$3.00                    | \$3.50            | \$2.00          | \$2.25            |
| Child (3–17)              | \$2.50                    | \$2.75            | \$1.75          | \$2.00            |
| Seniors (50+)             | \$2.50                    | \$2.75            | \$1.75          | \$2.00            |
| Persons with disabilities | \$2.50                    | \$2.75            | \$1.75          | \$2.00            |
| Non-swimmer               | \$2.50                    | \$2.75            | \$1.75          | \$2.00            |

# Athletic Programs

## Pop Warner Football and Cheer

Stand up and holler for Pop Warner Football and Cheer. Pop Warner provides a fun and athletic opportunity for youth, while emphasizing the importance of life skills and academic success. Participants receive instruction on the fundamentals of football and cheer, and participate in games, playoffs and competitions. Join our team and be a Baby Gator.

**Day/Date(s):** Aug. 1-Dec. 10

**Time(s):** Aug. 1-Labor Day  
Monday-Sunday, 6-8 p.m.  
Maximum 10 hours per week; after  
Labor Day six hours per week

**Registration:** Opens in April. Closed for  
the 2024 season.

**Location(s):** Practice at Martin Luther King  
Jr. Center (1028 NE 14th St.)  
Games at Citizen's Field  
and neighboring cities.

**Fee(s):** Football City residents \$116.50  
Non-city residents \$174.50  
Cheer City residents \$78.75  
Non-city residents \$116.50

**Ages:** Football 5-14  
Cheer 3-17

**Call:** 352-316-5640

**Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/PopWarner](https://gainesvillefl.gov/PopWarner)



## Youth Basketball

Join our youth basketball league, designed to improve skills, teamwork and sportsmanship through coaching and positive interactions. Participants receive instruction on the fundamentals of basketball, work together as a team and play in competitive games.

**Day/Date(s):** Practice Mondays-Fridays  
Games on Saturdays

**Time(s):** Varies

**Registration:** Oct. 1 to Dec. 16

**Location(s):** Practice at Martin Luther King Jr.  
Center (1028 NE 14th St.) or local court.  
Games at MLK and neighboring cities.

**Fee(s):** Ages 5-6-years old  
City residents \$82.75  
Non-city residents \$103.25  
Ages 7-14-years old  
City residents \$104.75  
Non-city residents \$130.75

**Ages:** 5-13

**Call:** 352-316-5640

**Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/YouthBasketball](https://gainesvillefl.gov/YouthBasketball)

## Adult Fall Softball League

Get your team together and come play ball with us in the City of Gainesville Adult Softball League. Adult Softball provides those 18 and older with a safe structured environment to enjoy physical activity, improve on softball skills and promotes sense of well-being through social connection and competition.

**Day/Date(s):** Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays

**Time(s):** 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.,  
8:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

**Registration:** Monday, Aug. 5

**Location(s):** Greentree Park, Albert "Ray" Massey  
Park, Tom Petty Park and Lincoln Park

**Fee(s):** City residents \$235.75  
Non-city residents \$294.50

**Ages:** 18 and up

**Call:** 352-316-5640

**Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/Softball](https://gainesvillefl.gov/Softball)

## Start Smart Basketball

Interested in providing your preschool-aged child the foundations in sports? Register for our Start Smart Basketball. This developmentally appropriate introductory program prepares youth and parents for organized sports in a fun and engaging way.

**Day/Date(s):** Six sessions total  
 Monday, Oct. 14  
 Monday, Oct. 21  
 Monday, Oct. 28  
 Monday, Nov. 4  
 Monday, Nov. 18  
 Monday, Nov. 25

**Time(s):** 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**Registration:** **Opens**  
 City residents Monday, Sept. 2  
 All residents Monday, Sept. 16  
**Open until filled.**

**Location(s):** Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose Center (1028 NE 14th St.)

**Fee(s):** City residents \$45  
 Non-city residents \$56.25

**Ages:** 3-5, with an adult

**Call:** 352-393-8438

**Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/StartSmart](http://gainesvillefl.gov/StartSmart)



## Wellness Center Membership

The wellness center is located at Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose facility (1028 NE 14th St.) and offers a variety of cardiovascular equipment, cable and free weights.

### Hours

Monday–Friday: 7 a.m.–9 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Sunday: 2-6 p.m.

| Membership Fees           | 6 mos.  | 1 year   |
|---------------------------|---------|----------|
| Adult (18–49)             | \$60.75 | \$102.25 |
| Senior (50+)              | \$26.25 | \$51.75  |
| Persons with disabilities | \$26.25 | \$51.75  |

\*Prices effective Oct. 1, 2023

The application form is available online. Memberships may be purchased at our office which is located at the Historic Thomas Center, Bldg. B, third floor, 306 NE Sixth Ave. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the office will be closed on weekends and city designated holidays. For questions, contact us at 352-334-5067.



# Education Programs

## Lil' Cooking Club

Do you have an aspiring chef in your family? Join our Lil' Cooking Club for preschool-aged children and have a positive lasting impact on your child and family through teaching the joy and value of cooking in a welcoming environment that encourages discovery and creativity. This interactive preschool cooking program gives children the opportunity to develop a life-long love for the culinary arts.

Children must participate with an adult.

**Day/Date(s):** **Fall Session A:**

Tuesday, Nov. 12  
Tuesday, Nov. 19  
Tuesday, Dec. 3  
Tuesday, Dec. 10

**Fall Session B:**

Thursday, Nov. 14  
Thursday, Nov. 21  
Thursday, Dec. 5  
Thursday, Dec. 12

**Time(s):** 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**Registration:** **Opens**

City residents Monday, Sept. 2  
All residents Monday, Sept. 16

**Last day to register**

Fall Session A: Monday, Nov. 11  
Fall Session B: Wednesday, Nov. 13

**Location(s):** Albert "Ray" Massey Recreation Center (1001 NW 34th St.)

**Fee(s):** City residents \$30  
Non-city residents \$37.50

**Ages:** 3-5, with an adult

**Call:** 352-393-8768

**Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/CulinaryArts](http://gainesvillefl.gov/CulinaryArts)



## Grillers International

The earlier youth discover the finer points of food, the richer and more nutritional lives they will lead. Learn essential cooking techniques and work alongside peers to gain and develop new culinary skills. This interactive youth cooking program gives children the opportunity to develop a life-long love for the culinary arts.

**Day/Date(s):** **Mini Grillers (6-9)**

Monday, Sept. 23  
Monday, Sept. 30  
Monday, Oct. 7  
Monday, Oct. 14

**Junior Grillers (10-12)**

Monday, Sept. 26  
Monday, Oct. 3  
Monday, Oct. 10  
Monday, Oct. 17

**Time(s):** 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**Registration:** **Opens**

City residents Thursday, Aug. 1  
All residents Thursday, Aug. 15

**Last day to register**

In-person Friday, Sept. 20  
Online Sunday, Sept. 22

**Location(s):** Eastside Community Center (2841 E. University Ave.)

**Fee(s):** City residents \$35  
Non-city residents \$43.75

**Ages:** 6-12

**Call:** 352-393-8768

**Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/CulinaryArts](http://gainesvillefl.gov/CulinaryArts)





## Bilingual Story Time at the Park

Join us for stories and songs in Spanish and English. Perfect for toddlers and preschoolers. In partnership with the Millhopper Branch of the Alachua County Library District. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Day/Date(s):** Second Thursday of the month

**Time(s):** June–September, 11 a.m.  
October–May, 3 p.m.

**Registration:** Not required

**Location(s):** Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Center (1500 NW 45th Ave.)

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** 1-5, with an adult

**Call:** 352-451-4908

**Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/HogtownCreek](http://gainesvillefl.gov/HogtownCreek)

## Music and Movement at the Park

Sing, dance and make music at our Music and Movement program. Perfect for toddlers and preschoolers. In partnership with the Millhopper Branch of the Alachua County Library District. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Day/Date(s):** Fourth Thursday of the month

**Time(s):** June–September, 11 a.m.  
October–May, 3 p.m.

**Registration:** Not required

**Location(s):** Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Center (1500 NW 45th Ave.)

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** 1-5, with an adult

**Call:** 352-451-4908

**Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/HogtownCreek](http://gainesvillefl.gov/HogtownCreek)

## Perspectives in the Park

Enjoy a new perspective monthly at the Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Center with this exciting and engaging program. Learn from experts in their field sharing information on a variety of topics including science, nature, history and art.

**Day/Date(s):** First Sunday of the month

**Time(s):** 1 p.m.

**Registration:** Not required

**Location(s):** Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Center (1500 NW 45th Ave.)

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** Adults

**Call:** 352-451-4908

**Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/HogtownCreek](http://gainesvillefl.gov/HogtownCreek)



# Nature Programs

## Barnyard Buddies

Come down to the Living History Farm at Morningside Nature Center to say moo, cluck, baa, and oink to our cows, chickens, sheep and pigs. Children, accompanied by their adult, can meet and learn about all of our farm animals while helping to give them their afternoon snacks. This program is free, but the animals love donations of carrots, squash, apples, sweet potatoes and melons (please give produce donations to a staff member and not directly to the animals).

- Day/Date(s):** September 2024-May 2025, weekly on Wednesdays
- Time(s):** 3 p.m.
- Registration:** Not required
- Location(s):** Morningside Nature Center Living History Farm (3540 E. University Ave.)
- Fee(s):** Free
- Ages:** Recommended for families with young children, but all are welcome.
- Call:** 352-393-8240
- Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/Morningside](http://gainesvillefl.gov/Morningside)



## Living History Saturday

Step back in time at the Morningside Nature Center Living History Farm. The farm comes to life with costumed living history guides cooking at the wood stove or blacksmithing in the forge. You can participate by planting a seed in the garden or using period tools in the wood shop. Don't forget to say "hi" to the animals at the farm while you are there.

- Day/Date(s):** September 2024-May 2025, first Saturday of each month
- Time(s):** 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- Registration:** Not required
- Location(s):** Morningside Nature Center Living History Farm (3540 E. University Ave.)
- Fee(s):** Free
- Ages:** All ages
- Call:** 352-393-8240
- Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/Morningside](http://gainesvillefl.gov/Morningside)

## Gainesville Greenway Challenge

Help protect our natural environment. Volunteer with our city staff to remove invasive plants from nature parks throughout the city on a weekly basis. To celebrate the yearlong efforts volunteers are invited to come to the Great Invader Raider Rally in February.

- Day/Date(s):** Thursdays
- Time(s):** 9-11:30 a.m.
- Registration:** Not required
- Location(s):** Various nature parks
- Fee(s):** Free
- Ages:** All ages
- Call:** 352-318-0049 or 352-231-2572
- Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/GGC](http://gainesvillefl.gov/GGC)



## Frogs and Friends Fridays

See what slithers, ponder what pounces, and fancy what flies above us. Join our nature interpreters as they guide you through exploratory learning, from short, I-Spy hikes to hands-on activities. Your child will love learning about the nature around us.

Program may include live animals.

**Day/Date(s):** September 2024-May 2025, first Friday of each month

**Time(s):** 2 p.m.

**Registration:** Not required

**Location(s):** Pavilion at Morningside Nature Center (3540 E. University Ave.), or the Education Building if there are heavy rains

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** All ages, with a focus on K-2. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Call:** 352-393-8240

**Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/Morningside](http://gainesvillefl.gov/Morningside)

## Fall Wildflower Walks

When the air becomes cool and crisp, find what blooms among the pines. Put on your comfortable walking shoes and join our nature interpreters for a guided walk among the purples, yellows and pinks.

**Day/Date(s):** Saturdays in October

**Time(s):** 9-10:30 a.m.

**Registration:** Not required

**Location(s):** Morningside Nature Center (3540 E. University Ave.)

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-393-8240

**Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/Morningside](http://gainesvillefl.gov/Morningside)

## SOAR: Science-Oriented Activities and Recreation

SOAR to discover science through this interactive program. On the second Thursday of the month during the school year, our nature interpreters provide fun, nature-based activities or fun team games at the Cone Park Branch of the Alachua County Library District.

**Day/Date(s):** September 2024-May 1, 2025, second Thursday of each month

**Time(s):** 3:30-4:30 p.m.

**Registration:** Not required

**Location(s):** Cone Park Library (2801 E. University Ave.)

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** 6-11

**Call:** 352-393-8240 or 352-334-0720



## Wednesday Bird Walks at the Wetlands

Calling all birders! Join us as we look for and learn about the marvelous and various birds at Sweetwater Wetlands Park. Co-hosted with Alachua Audubon Society, these weekly walks are great for birders of all levels.

**Day/Date(s):** Wednesdays September-May

**Time(s):** 8:30-11 a.m.

**Registration:** Not required

**Location(s):** Sweetwater Wetlands Park  
(325 SW Williston Rd.)

**Fee(s):** \$5 per vehicle (entrance fee for park); no additional fee for tour

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-554-5871

## Sweetwater Wetlands Park Guided Walking Tours

Discover the natural beauty of Sweetwater Wetlands Park. Join experienced rangers on a guided hike, to learn about the park's history, what we do to protect this special area and about the plants and animals that call it home.

**Day/Date(s):** Monthly October-June  
First Sundays and second Saturdays  
or by request for private groups

**Time(s):** First Sunday at 8:30 a.m.  
Second Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

**Registration:** Not required

**Location(s):** Sweetwater Wetlands Park  
(325 SW Williston Rd.)

**Fee(s):** \$5 per vehicle (entrance fee for park); no additional fee for tour

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-554-5871



## Sweetwater Wetlands Park Guided Tram Tours (Accessible)

Discover the natural beauty of Sweetwater Wetlands Park on our new accessible tram. Visitors with mobility challenges and their companions can join experienced rangers on a guided tour to learn about the park's history, what we do to protect this special area and about the plants and animals that call it home.

**Day/Date(s):** Scheduled monthly on Eventbrite  
or by calling 352-554-5871

**Time(s):** Varies depending on requests

**Registration:** Eventbrite.com

**Location(s):** Sweetwater Wetlands Park  
(325 SW Williston Rd.)

**Fee(s):** \$5 per vehicle (entrance fee for park); no additional fee for tour

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-554-5871



## Sweetwater Wetlands Park Night Guided Walking Tour

Discover the natural beauty of Sweetwater Wetlands Park at *night*. Join experienced rangers on a guided nighttime hike, to learn about the park's history, what we do to protect this special area and about the nocturnal animals that call it home.

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Day/Date(s):</b>  | October-March   |
| <b>Time(s):</b>      | 30 minutes after sunset, lasts 1.5 hours                      |
| <b>Registration:</b> | Eventbrite.com  |
| <b>Location(s):</b>  | Sweetwater Wetlands Park (325 SW Williston Rd.)               |
| <b>Fee(s):</b>       | \$5 per person  |
| <b>Ages:</b>         | 12 and up. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. |
| <b>Call:</b>         | 352-554-5871  |

## Sweetwater Wetlands Park Night Tram Tours (Accessible)

Discover the natural beauty of Sweetwater Wetlands Park at *night*. Visitors with mobility challenges and their companions can join experienced rangers on our new tram, to learn about the park's history, what we do to protect this special area and about the nocturnal animals that call it home.

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Day/Date(s):</b>  | October-March                                   |
| <b>Time(s):</b>      | 30 minutes after sunset, lasts 1 hour           |
| <b>Registration:</b> | Eventbrite.com                                  |
| <b>Location(s):</b>  | Sweetwater Wetlands Park (325 SW Williston Rd.) |
| <b>Fee(s):</b>       | \$5 per person                                  |
| <b>Ages:</b>         | All ages  |
| <b>Call:</b>         | 352-554-5871                                    |

Sweetwater Wetlands Park online: [gainesvillefl.gov/SweetwaterWetlands](http://gainesvillefl.gov/SweetwaterWetlands)



# Nature Centers



## Morningside Nature Center

Come out to Morningside Nature Center and explore the trails, go birding, enjoy the blooms of the sandhills and more. There is something for everyone to discover.

**Hours:** Open every day  
March-September from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.  
October-March from 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

**Location:** Morningside Nature Center  
(3540 E. University Ave.)

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-393-8240

**Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/Morningside](http://gainesvillefl.gov/Morningside)



## Living History Farm at Morningside

The Living History Farm at Morningside Nature Center is open for you to explore. Meet farm animals, stroll through the garden or simply enjoy sitting on the porch of our 1870s cabin.

**Hours:** Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**Location:** Morningside Nature Center  
Living History Farm  
(3540 E. University Ave.)

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-393-8240

**Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/MorningsidePrograms](http://gainesvillefl.gov/MorningsidePrograms)





## Sweetwater Wetlands Park

Sweetwater Wetlands Park is a place where nature and innovation meet. Come enjoy the wildlife, views, programs and the rangers, as you explore all this park offers. Pets and bikes are prohibited.

- Hours:** 7 a.m.-sunset
- Location:** Sweetwater Wetlands Park (325 SW Williston Rd.)
- Fee(s):** \$5 per vehicle (cash at the park, or via Passport Parking app)
- Ages:** All ages, children under 16 accompanied by an adult
- Call:** 352-554-5871
- Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/SweetwaterWetlands](http://gainesvillefl.gov/SweetwaterWetlands)

## Sweetwater Wetlands Park Annual Pass

Enjoy the park everyday with an annual pass to Sweetwater wetlands Park! Passes are available for \$60 and may be purchased in the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs office, which is located at the Historic Thomas Center, Bldg. B, Third Floor, 306 NE Sixth Ave. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the office will be closed on weekends and city designated holidays. For questions, contact us at 352-334-5067.



## Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Center

The nature center contains exhibit space that visitors can enjoy during regular center hours. Throughout the exhibit area, visitors learn about Gainesville’s creeks and watershed, natural and cultural history, and flora and fauna of the area. Groups larger than 15 will need to take turns viewing the exhibit.

- Hours:** Sundays (year round): 10 a.m.–3 p.m.  
Tuesdays-Thursdays (October–May): 12 noon–5 p.m.  
Tuesdays-Thursdays (June–September): 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.
- Location:** Hogtown Creek Headwaters (1500 NW 45th Ave.)
- Fee(s):** Free
- Ages:** All ages
- Call:** 352-451-4908
- Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/HogtownCreek](http://gainesvillefl.gov/HogtownCreek)

# Camps and Afterschool Programs



## The After-School Program

Join us for a fun, educating and stimulating experience at our after-school enrichment program. Your child will receive a groundwork for success in the areas of academics, health, emotional well-being, social skills and more.

**Day/Date(s):** Monday through Friday (Aug. 12-June 3 based on the Alachua County Public Schools' calendar for 2024-2025). The After-School Program only operates on school days.

**Time(s):** 2-6 p.m. (1-6 p.m. on early release days)

**Registration: Opens**  
City residents Monday, July 1  
All residents Monday, July 15  
**Last day to register**  
In-person Friday, May 23, 2025  
Online Monday, May 26, 2025

**Location(s):** Albert "Ray" Massey Recreation Center  
Clarence R. Kelly Community Center  
Eastside Community Center  
Porters Community Center

**Fee(s):** City residents \$21.50 weekly  
Non-city residents \$26.75 weekly

Families may qualify for discounts based on income and family size (there are no multi-child discounts), please call for more information.

**Ages:** Grades 1-8

**Call:** 352-393-8438

**Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/AfterSchool](https://gainesvillefl.gov/AfterSchool)





## Out of School Days

Out of School Days provides youth with a safe and engaging environment that incorporates hands-on activities. Activities are designed to engage a variety of needs of youth including small and large group activities, academic, enrichment, field trips, health and more.

**Day/Date(s):** Friday, Oct. 18 through Monday, March 31 (based on the 10-month Alachua County Public Schools' calendar for 2024-2025)

**Time(s):** 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

**Registration: Opens**

City residents Monday, July 1

All residents Monday, July 15

**Last day to register**

In-person Friday, Mar. 28, 2025

Online Sunday, May 30, 2025

**Location(s):** Albert "Ray" Massey Recreation Center  
Eastside Community Center

**Fee(s):** City residents \$6.75 per day  
Non-city residents \$8.50 per day

**Ages:** Grades 1-8

**Call:** 352-393-8438

**Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/OutofSchoolDays](https://gainesvillefl.gov/OutofSchoolDays)

**Out of School Days operates on the following dates:**

- Friday, Oct. 18
- Monday, Oct. 21
- Monday, Nov. 25
- Tuesday, Nov. 26
- Friday, Dec. 20
- Monday, Dec. 23
- Thursday, Dec. 26
- Friday, Dec. 27
- Monday, Jan. 6, 2025
- Friday, Jan. 17, 2025
- Friday, Feb. 14, 2025
- Monday, Feb. 17, 2025
- Monday, Mar. 31, 2025



## Winter Break Camp

Winter Break Camp provides youth with a safe and engaging environment that incorporates hands-on activities. Our camp is designed to engage a variety of needs of youth including small and large group activities, academic, enrichment, field trips, health and more.

**Day/Date(s):** Monday, Dec. 30 through Friday, Jan. 3, 2025 (4 days total):  
Monday, Dec. 30  
Tuesday, Dec. 31  
No camp on Wednesday, Jan. 1  
Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025  
Friday, Jan. 3, 2025

**Time(s):** 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

**Registration: Opens**

City residents Monday, July 1

All residents Monday, July 15

**Last day to register**

In-person Friday, Dec. 27

Online Sunday, Dec. 29

**Location(s):** Albert "Ray" Massey Recreation Center  
Eastside Community Center

**Fee(s):** City residents \$61  
Non-city residents \$76

**Ages:** Grades 1-8

**Call:** 353-393-8438

**Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/OutofSchoolDays](https://gainesvillefl.gov/OutofSchoolDays)

# Cultural Centers



## A. Quinn Jones Museum & Cultural Center

The A. Quinn Jones Museum & Cultural Center, housed in the former Jones homestead at 1013 NW Seventh Ave. in Gainesville, serves as a tribute to one of Gainesville's most influential educators in the history of Alachua County. The museum features a permanent exhibit on "Prof Jones," the people and places of Fifth Avenue/Pleasant Street Historic District. The U.S. Secretary of Interior listed the house on the National Registry of Historic Places in 2010. The museum houses a collection of oral histories and rotating exhibits. It also features live music, art, and workshops and lectures.

**Hours:** Tuesday-Thursday, 1-5 p.m.  
and by appointment

**Location:** 1013 NW Seventh Ave.

**Email:** [aquinnjones@gainesvillefl.gov](mailto:aquinnjones@gainesvillefl.gov)

**Call:** 352-334-2010

**Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/AQJ](http://gainesvillefl.gov/AQJ)



## Bo Diddley Plaza

The beautiful Bo Diddley Community Plaza is located at 111 E. University Ave. on the corner of Southeast First Street and East University Avenue in the heart of historic downtown Gainesville. The plaza is available to rent for concerts, festivals, church gatherings and more throughout the year; offering a covered stage as well as a picnic and park area. Bo Diddley Plaza also features a restaurant and a café on-site. It was renamed in 2008 in honor of local treasure, legendary Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee, singer, guitarist and songwriter Bo Diddley.

**Location:** 111 E. University Ave.

**Email:** [hammn1@gainesvillefl.gov](mailto:hammn1@gainesvillefl.gov)

**Call:** 352-393-8202

**Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/BoDiddleyPlaza](http://gainesvillefl.gov/BoDiddleyPlaza)



## Evergreen Cemetery

Evergreen Cemetery was established as a private cemetery in 1856. The City of Gainesville assumed ownership in 1944, and it remains the only municipal cemetery in Gainesville. This historic site also functions as an outdoor museum with stories of local historic developmental importance unfolding at every turn on the more than 50 acres of land.

- Hours:** Dawn to dusk
- Location:** 401 SE 21st Ave.
- Call:** 352-393-8535
- Online:** [thiswondrousplace.org](http://thiswondrousplace.org)



## Rosa B. Williams Center

Join us in celebrating the value of community arts! Engage in diverse artistic expressions, build a sense of belonging, and enrich our community's vibrant culture. Be part of the creative journey with GNV Arts—a participatory arts experience at Rosa B where you get to join in for the fun. Learn to dance, sing, paint, sculpt, act, you name it. To find out about dates, times and locations visit our website. Let's create together!

- Location:** 524 NW First St.
- Email:** [tcevents@gainesvillefl.gov](mailto:tcevents@gainesvillefl.gov)
- Call:** 352-393-8539
- Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/GNVArts](http://gainesvillefl.gov/GNVArts)

# Special Events



Photo: Onna Maya Meyer

## Free Fridays Concert Series

Every Friday night through October, Bo Diddley Plaza bursts into life with electrifying free concerts featuring the hottest bands in the region. Join us for an unforgettable evening under the stars, as the music fills the air and the night comes alive in this must-attend outdoor concert series.

**Day/Date(s):** Friday nights from August-October

**Time(s):** 7-9 p.m.

**Location(s):** Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E. University Ave.)

**Fee(s):** Free and open to the public

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-393-8202

**Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/BoDiddleyPlaza](http://gainesvillefl.gov/BoDiddleyPlaza)



## Movie Nights at the Plaza

Movie Nights at the Plaza is the ultimate family-friendly event, featuring free movie screenings that everyone will love. Enjoy complimentary popcorn as you relax on your blanket or lawn chair. Don't miss out on these enchanting evenings under the stars.

**Day/Date(s):** Oct. 18: The Nightmare Before Christmas  
Dec. 13: Frozen

**Time(s):** 7-9 p.m.

**Location(s):** Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E. University Ave.)

**Fee(s):** Free and open to the public

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-393-8202

**Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/BoDiddleyPlaza](http://gainesvillefl.gov/BoDiddleyPlaza)

Photo: Quincy Masters





Photo: The Shakedown by Suzanna Mars



## Jazz at the Plaza

Get ready for an unforgettable afternoon with Jazz at the Plaza, featuring the incredible **United States Air Force Band**. Enjoy a free jazz concert that will uplift your spirits. Bring your blanket or lawn chair and join us for this spectacular outdoor event.

**Day/Date(s):** Sunday, Oct. 20

**Time(s):** 4 p.m.

**Location(s):** Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E. University Ave.)

**Fee(s):** Free and open to the public

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-393-8202

**Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/BoDiddleyPlaza](http://gainesvillefl.gov/BoDiddleyPlaza)



## Veterans Day Flag Placing

Join us in a reverent act of remembrance as volunteers honor the veterans buried at Evergreen Cemetery. Help place a flag on each of the 1,100 graves of veterans interred there. This meaningful tribute is open to all, with no fee to participate. Your presence and support are deeply appreciated.

**Day/Date(s):** Saturday, Nov. 2

**Time(s):** 9 a.m.

**Location(s):** Evergreen Cemetery (401 SE 21st Ave.)

**Fee(s):** Free and open to the public

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-393-8535

**Online:** [thiswondrousplace.org](http://thiswondrousplace.org)



Photo: Onna Maya Meyer

## Downtown Festival & Art Show

The 43rd Annual Downtown Festival & Art Show transforms the streets of historic downtown Gainesville into a celebration of art and creativity complete with 200+ artists, live music, performing arts and delicious culinary art experiences. It's a weekend of inspiration and fun you won't want to miss.

**Day/Date(s):** Saturday, Nov. 9 and Sunday, Nov. 10

**Time(s):** 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

**Location(s):** Streets of downtown Gainesville from Bo Diddley Plaza to the Hippodrome Theatre

**Fee(s):** Free and open to the public

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-393-8543

**Online:** [gainesvilledowntownartfest.net](http://gainesvilledowntownartfest.net)



Photo: Kana Handel by Onna Maya Meyer

## Cane Boil and Fiddle Fest

Join us at the Morningside Nature Center Living History Farm for music, fun and sugar cane syrup. Learn from our costumed Living History Guides how to make syrup the old-fashioned way while enjoying live old-time music. There will be craft demonstrations, kid's activities, vendors and guided nature walks. You can meet the farm animals, tour the log cabin and imagine classes in the one-room schoolhouse. Sugar cane syrup will be available for a donation, while supplies lasts.

**Day/Date(s):** Saturday, Nov. 23

**Time(s):** 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

**Location(s):** Morningside Nature Center Living History Farm (3540 E. University Ave.)

**Fee(s):** Free and open to the public

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-393-8240

**Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/CaneBoil](http://gainesvillefl.gov/CaneBoil)





## Holiday Kids' Dance Party

Let your heart dance at the Holiday Kids' Dance Party, a joyful event featuring fun dance beats, holiday lights and plenty of bubbles. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Day/Date(s):** Saturday, Dec. 7

**Time(s):** 1-3 p.m.

**Location(s):** Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E. University Ave.)

**Fee(s):** Free and open to the public

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-393-8202

**Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/BoDiddleyPlaza](http://gainesvillefl.gov/BoDiddleyPlaza)



## Holiday Lights Celebration at the Historic Thomas Center

Join your community as we usher in the season with the annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Historic Thomas Center. Enjoy luminaries, horse-drawn carriage rides, holiday caroling, festive music and a visit with Santa. Join us for an elegant evening of timeless charm and festive cheer.

**Day/Date(s):** Saturday, Dec. 7

**Time(s):** 5-8 p.m.

**Location(s):** Thomas Center (302 NE Sixth Ave.)

**Fee(s):** Free and open to the public

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-393-8543

**Online:** [historictomascenter.org](http://historictomascenter.org)





## The History of Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa, which started in 1966, celebrates African American culture with the seven principles: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. This annual event explores Kwanzaa customs, African influence and the significance of first fruits. Join us for an enriching, educational experience.

**Day/Date(s):** Friday, Dec. 27

**Time(s):** 7–8:30 p.m.

**Location(s):** A. Quinn Jones Museum and Cultural Center (1013 NW Seventh Ave.)

**Fee(s):** Free and open to the public

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-393-8532



## Sparks in the Park

Bring blankets and chairs to Depot Park and enjoy the last sunset of the year while a DJ hosts a family-friendly dance party throughout the park. After that, experience a 20-minute musically choreographed fireworks show over the main pond.

**Day/Date(s):** Tuesday, Dec. 31

**Time(s):** 5–7 p.m.

**Location(s):** Depot Park (874 SE Fourth St.)

**Fee(s):** Free and open to the public

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-393-8510

## Downtown Countdown

Join the excitement every New Year's Eve (Dec. 31) as downtown Gainesville comes alive to ring in the New Year at Bo Diddley Plaza. Enjoy live music from the area's most popular bands and count down to midnight with free noisemakers and dazzling streamer cannons. Don't miss this vibrant celebration—it's the perfect way to welcome in the new year.

**Day/Date(s):** Tuesday, Dec. 31

**Time(s):** 9 p.m.–12 a.m.

**Location(s):** Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E. University Ave.)

**Fee(s):** Free and open to the public

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-393-8202





# Park Rules and Regulations

Additional regulations, laws, and ordinances may apply.

## Park Hours (unless otherwise posted)

Lighted parks are open from 6 a.m. until 11:30 p.m.

Nature parks are open from dawn to dusk

For individual park hours, please visit [gainesvillefl.gov/Parks](http://gainesvillefl.gov/Parks)

## Prohibited Activities (unless specifically designated otherwise)

1. Tents or sunshades larger than 10ft x 10ft
2. Personal grills or fires
3. Hitting golf balls or shooting arrows
4. Roller skates, roller blades or skateboards (except at designated parks)
5. Fundraising, concessions or sales
6. Posting signs or advertisements
7. Dogs off-leash
8. Using metal detectors
9. Collection, destruction or disturbance of plants, animals or park property
10. Fishing (except at Palm Point Nature Park and Colclough Pond Nature Park)
11. Hiking or biking outside of designated trails, established roads and firebreaks
12. Swimming and water access (except at pools and splash pads)
13. Horseback riding (only permitted from the north parking area of Boulware Springs Nature Park to the Gainesville-Hawthorne State Trail)
14. Weapons, explosives or destructive devices
15. Smoking or Illegal drugs
16. Operating or parking any motorized vehicles
17. Using public restrooms to shave and/or shower
18. Bathing in a water or drinking fountain
19. Overnight use

View the **City of Gainesville Code of Ordinances Chapter 18-Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs** for detailed park rules and regulations.

**Online:** [library.municode.com](http://library.municode.com)



# Facility Reservations

## Recreation and Community Centers

**Eastside Community Center** (2841 E. University Ave.)

Capacity: 200 Size: 8,000 sq. ft.

**Albert “Ray” Massey Recreation Center** (1001 NW 34th St.)

Capacity: 204 Size: 8,402 sq. ft.

**Clarence R. Kelly Community Center** (1700 NE Eighth Ave.)

Capacity: 50 Size: 1,750 sq. ft.

**Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose Center** (1028 NE 14th St.)

**T.B McPherson Center** (1717 SE 15th St.)

Capacity: 156 Size: 5,472 sq. ft.

**Porters Community Center** (512 SW Second Ter.)

The City of Gainesville has a variety of recreation and community centers available for neighbors to reserve. Applications may be submitted up to one year in advance, but not less than 14 days prior to the event. You must meet all of your permit requirements and submit payment in full before your reservation is complete.

For more information on rentals, please call **352-393-8538**. Please review and complete the facility information form and submit by email to [PRCAreservations@gainesvillefl.gov](mailto:PRCAreservations@gainesvillefl.gov) or by fax **352-334-3299**.

Learn more and download the form online at [gainesvillefl.gov/Reservations](http://gainesvillefl.gov/Reservations).

## Pool Pavilions

Who doesn't want to make a splash on their special day? Pool pavilion reservations are great for birthday parties and other special events at all three city pools. The reservation fee of \$84.50 guarantees your group the use of the pavilion for two hours, access to the pool and its amenities and admission for up to eight children, including the birthday child. Regular entry fees to the pool are required for additional guests and will be collected on the day of the event.

All reservations should be made at least 10 business days in advance.

To reserve a pool pavilion, bring a completed form to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs office which is located at the Historic Thomas Center, Bldg. B, Third Floor, 306 NE Sixth Ave. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the office is closed on weekends and city designated holidays. For questions, contact us at **352-334-5067**.

Learn more and download the form online at [gainesvillefl.gov/PoolRental](http://gainesvillefl.gov/PoolRental).





## The Historic Thomas Center

What once was a private residence and hotel is now a cultural events center for the community and surrounding areas of Gainesville. The center is available to host bridal or baby showers, banquets, recitals, bar/bat mitzvahs, quinceañeras or your very special occasion. Wedding ceremonies can take place in the West Gardens under towering live oaks, surrounded by lush southern gardens, original fountain and rose, camellia and azalea plantings. The Turtle Court is a unique and secluded sunken courtyard perfect for weddings and intimate gatherings.

The Spanish Court, inside the heart of the Thomas Center, rises two-stories to a full skylight. It is surrounded by a colonnade and second story mezzanine area. This room is perfect for banquets, receptions or luncheons. The facility also offers two smaller, fully restored conference rooms for trainings or board retreats for fewer than 20 people.

For rentals, contact the coordinator at **352-393-8539** or **tcevents@gainesvillefl.gov**.

Learn more at **historictomascenter.org**



## Depot Park

Gainesville's most popular park has a playground and splash pad, a large pond, walkways and green space. There are two pavilions near the parking lot available to rent. Both pavilions will be available first-come, first-serve when not rented.

All rental requests for Depot Park are submitted online using AdobeSign.

### Special Events

Special event rental applications must be made at least 60 days in advance. Applications may be submitted up to one year in advance.

### Pavilion Rentals

Requests must be made at least seven days in advance. Applications may be submitted up to one year in advance. Please allow 72 hours for a response.

Pavilion A and B are available to rent for private events of fewer than 25 people per pavilion. If you wish to accommodate more than 25 people, please rent both Pavilion A and Pavilion B. If your event is open to the public, please complete a special event application.

Go to **depotpark.org/Rentals** to get started.



# Special Events Permits

Events bring our neighbors together. They help build a sense of belonging and community. Certain events require a special events permit. Special events include, but are not limited to, activities such as festivals, concerts, sporting events, parades, walks and runs. If you plan to use city streets or sidewalks, are requesting a noise permit, security or food vendors you must complete a special event permit application. For a complete list of activities that require a permit, see [gainesvillefl.gov/SpecialEvent](http://gainesvillefl.gov/SpecialEvent).

It takes three to four weeks to review and process a permit application once submitted. Some park venues require a reservation a minimum of 60 days in advance. We encourage you to apply for a permit as early as possible. This allows time to schedule inspections or site visits and to promote the event.

## How to Host A Special Event

**Apply:** Fill out the Special Events Permit application form at [gainesvillefl.gov/SpecialEvent](http://gainesvillefl.gov/SpecialEvent)

**Approval:** The special event coordinator will route your application for review and approvals. Sometimes, you will be asked to provide more information or to tweak your plans to ensure a safe event. Once you pay your fees, you will be given your permit number.

**Event:** Have an amazing event! All your hard work and planning pays off. Give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done.

**Settle:** After your event, it's time to settle up. If there are any outstanding balances, you will be sent an invoice for payment. Then start thinking about the next event you'd like to host!

## How much does a special event permit cost?

The base fee for a special event permit is \$67. Additional services may be applicable based on the activities at your event. Below is a sample of popular activity fees. Please refer to the Code of Ordinances Appendix A for all current fees. Each event will vary depending on the unique needs of the event.

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>Special Event Permit Application Fee</b> | \$67     |
| <b>Temporary Alcohol Fee</b>                | \$544.75 |
| <b>GFR Safety Inspection Fee</b>            | \$173.75 |
| <b>GFR Tent Inspection Fee</b>              | \$87     |
| <b>GPD Off-Duty Officer (three hours)</b>   | \$225    |
| <b>No Parking Signs</b>                     | \$67.50  |



Sat., Dec. 7

City of  
**Gainesville**  

**A Very GNV  
 Holiday Parade**

Embrace the holiday spirit with the City of Gainesville’s fantastic lineup of free, family-friendly events! A Very GNV Holiday Parade is an opportunity for families, neighborhoods and businesses to come together and celebrate the season. The procession starts at noon on Saturday, Dec. 7, and moves along University Avenue from West Sixth Street to 620 E. University Ave.

**Kickoff the holidays with the City of Gainesville!**

- 12 p.m.  
start
**A Very GNV Holiday Parade**
[gainesvillefl.gov/parade](http://gainesvillefl.gov/parade)
- 1-3 p.m.
**Holiday Kids’ Dance Party at Bo Diddley Plaza**
[page 21](#)
- 5-8 p.m.
**Holiday Lights Celebration at the Historic Thomas Center**
[page 21](#)



# Featured Park



## Albert "Ray" Massey Playground 1001 NW 34th St.

Come enjoy the newly renovated play area, inspired by the NW Eighth Avenue Solar Walk public art installation. The space-themed playground offers physical, social and sensory play experiences for children of all ages and abilities. The playground area now includes a restroom and lighting!



### Features

- Accessible
- Outdoor gym equipment
- Picnic tables with umbrellas
- Benches
- Charcoal grills
- Restrooms
- Electrical outlets

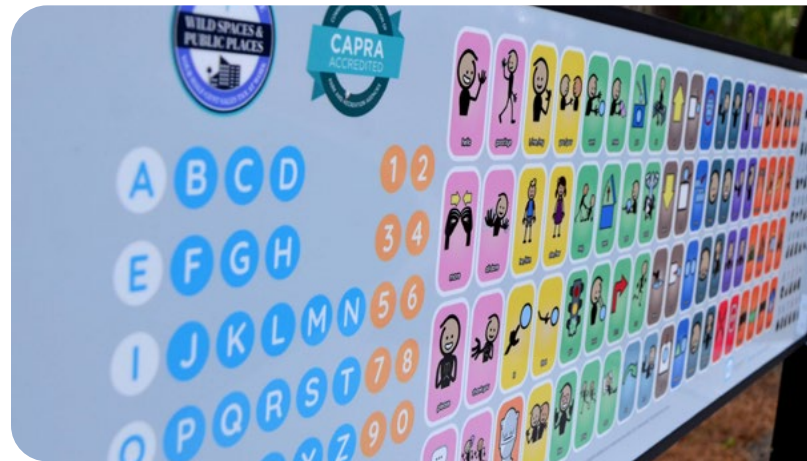


## Designed for Boundless Play

The Albert “Ray” Massey playground is Gainesville’s first “boundless” or fully inclusive playground that enables access for all ages and abilities. Its largest play feature, the “Space Station,” is designed with ramps and flat surfaces so that visitors requiring mobility supports, such as crutches or wheelchairs, may easily maneuver throughout the sprawling structure.

The swings, slides and spinners are designed for care providers to more easily assist those with varying levels of mobility. A colorful walkway at the south end of the playground features activity boards to help develop fine-motor skills. A variety of physical, social and sensory elements were also incorporated into the design, including a communication board to support the communication needs of visitors with differing abilities.

The Albert “Ray” Massey Park playground also is the city’s first fully lighted playground enabling visitors to use the play area after sunset in seasons with fewer daylight hours.





## Looking Ahead to Spring 2025

Jan. 4 through May 30

**Hoggetowne Medieval Faire**

**Great Invader Raider Rally**

**Live and Local Concert Series**

**Free Fridays Concert Series**

**Gainesville Asian Festival**

**May the Fourth Be With You Star Wars Celebration**

**Memorial Day Flag Placement**

**Memorial Day Program**

Saturday, Jan. 25 and Sunday, 26, 2025

Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025

Fridays in March 2025

April-May 2025

Saturday, April 12, 2025

Sunday, May 4, 2025

Saturday, May 24, 2025

Monday, May 26, 2025