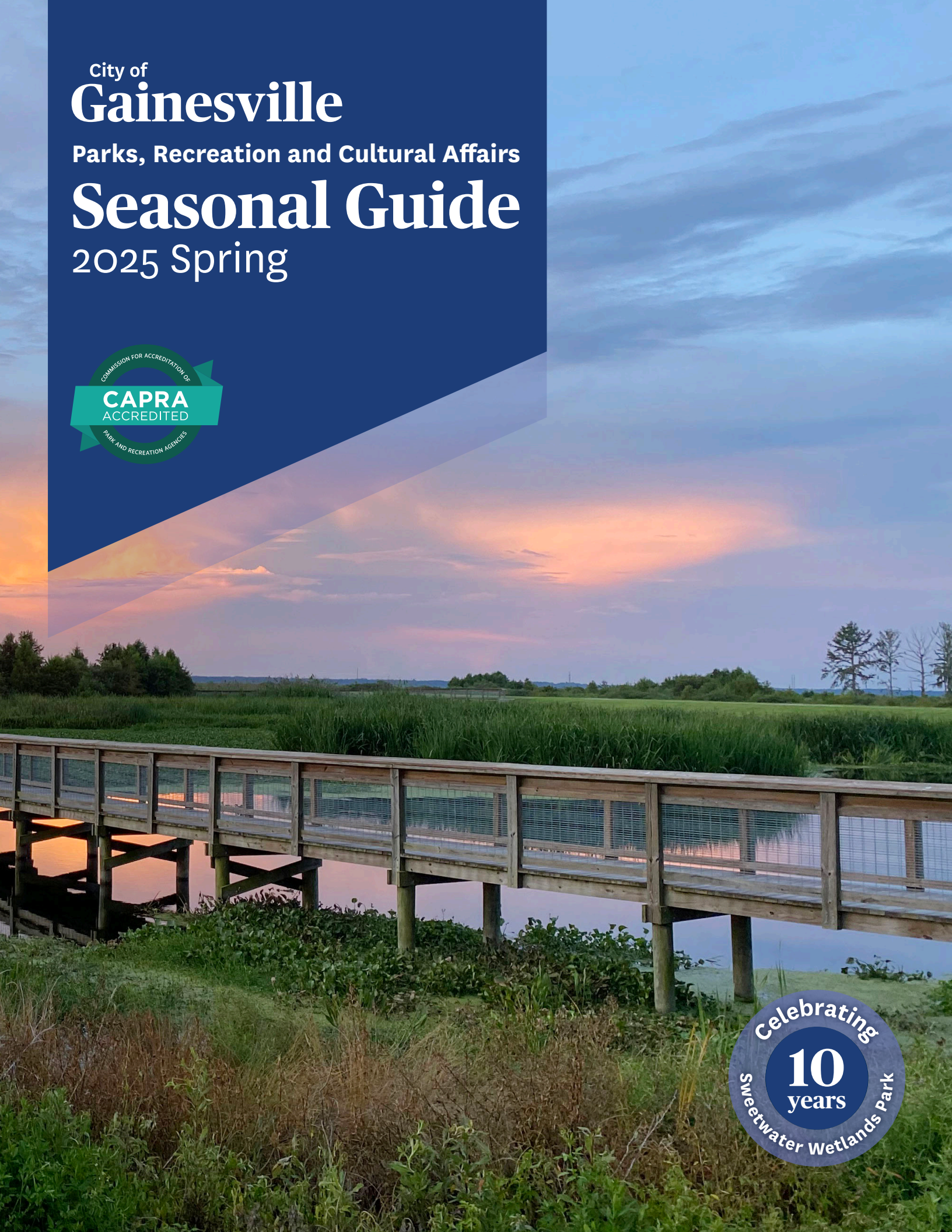


City of  
**Gainesville**

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

# Seasonal Guide

2025 Spring





# What's Inside

- 3 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs
- 4 Aquatic Programs
- 6 Pools
- 8 Athletic Programs
- 10 Camps and Afterschool Programs
- 14 Education Programs
- 16 Cultural Centers
- 18 GNV Arts
- 20 Nature Programs
- 24 Nature Centers
- 26 Special Events
- 30 Facility Reservations
- 32 Park Rules and Regulations
- 33 Special Events Permits
- 34 Featured Park: Reserve Park
- 36 Looking Ahead to Summer 2025

## City of Gainesville

### City Manager

Cynthia W. Curry

### Chief Operations Officer

Andrew Persons

### Executive Chief of Staff

Cintya Ramos

## Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department

Director Roxana Gonzalez

Assistant Director Leslie Ladendorf

### Contact us

Historic Thomas Center, Bldg. B,  
Third Floor, 306 NE Sixth Ave.

**Gainesville, FL 32601**

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

352-334-5067

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

Facebook: GainesvillePRCA

Find this guide online:  
[gainesvillefl.gov/Guide](http://gainesvillefl.gov/Guide)



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



# City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

## Mission

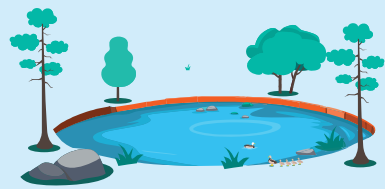
We create meaningful experiences and a feeling of connection and belonging for all through exceptional programs and services with well-maintained:



**Parks**



**Public Places**



**Natural Resources**



**Historic Sites**

## Vision

Our passion is to engage, connect and build community.



**Engaging Community**



**Connecting Community**



**Building Community**

## Department Accreditation

The City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department is proud to be CAPRA Accredited since 2013.

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.



# Aquatic Programs

## Spring Swim Lessons

Teaching confidence, one lesson at a time. Come make a splash at one of our city pools this year by learning or practicing your swimming skills. Classes fill up fast so register early.

<b>Day/Date(s):</b>	Tuesdays and Thursdays Session 1: April 1-24 Session 2: April 29-May 22
<b>Time(s):</b>	Varies
<b>Registration:</b>	Opens March 1 and closes before the start of each session
<b>Location(s):</b>	Session 1: Dwight Hunter Pool (1100 NE 14th St.) Session 2: H. Spurgeon Cherry Pool (1001 NW 31st Dr.)
<b>Fee(s):</b>	City residents \$57 Non-city residents \$70
<b>Ages:</b>	3 through adults
<b>Call:</b>	352-334-5067
<b>Online:</b>	<a href="http://gainesvillefl.gov/SwimLessons">gainesvillefl.gov/SwimLessons</a>

## Private Swim Lessons

Need a little more individualized swimming attention? Come make a splash at one of our city pools this year by learning or practicing your swimming skills one-on-one with an instructor.

<b>Day/Date(s):</b>	Saturday Lessons Session 1: April 5, 12, 19, 26 Session 2: May 3, 10, 17, 31
<b>Time(s):</b>	Varies
<b>Registration:</b>	Opens March 1 and closes before the start of each session
<b>Location(s):</b>	Session 1: H. Spurgeon Cherry Pool (1001 NW 31st Dr.) Session 2: Dwight Hunter Pool (1100 NE 14th St.)
<b>Fee(s):</b>	City residents \$57 Non-city residents \$70
<b>Ages:</b>	3 through adults
<b>Call:</b>	352-334-5067
<b>Online:</b>	<a href="http://gainesvillefl.gov/SwimLessons">gainesvillefl.gov/SwimLessons</a>





## Lifeguard Classes

Interested in a great summer job as a lifeguard? Through videos, lecture and hands-on practice, you'll learn what it takes to be a professional lifeguard. Your certification will include lifeguarding, CPR/AED for the professional rescuer, AED and first aid.

<b>Day/Date(s):</b>	March - May
<b>Time(s):</b>	Varies
<b>Registration:</b>	Opens Feb. 1 and closes before the start of each session
<b>Location(s):</b>	H. Spurgeon Cherry Pool
<b>Fee(s):</b>	\$225
<b>Ages:</b>	15 and up
<b>Call:</b>	352-334-5067
<b>Online:</b>	<a href="http://gainesvillefl.gov/Lifeguard">gainesvillefl.gov/Lifeguard</a>



## Winter Hours

### H. Spurgeon Cherry Pool

1001 NW 31st Dr. 352-334-2187



Morning Lap Swim: 50-meters

**Monday–Friday** lap swim: 6 a.m.–2 p.m.  
lap/open swim: 3–8 p.m.

**Saturday** lap/open swim: 12–5 p.m.

**Sunday** Closed

#### Holiday Hours

**Thanksgiving** Nov. 28 - Dec. 1: Closed

**Christmas** Dec. 24-25: Closed

**New Year's** Dec. 31: lap swim 6 a.m.–2 p.m.  
Jan. 1: Closed

### Dwight H. Hunter Pool

1100 NE 14th St. 352-334-2191



Lap Swim: 25-yards

**Monday–Friday** lap swim: 6–10 a.m.  
lap/open swim: 3–8 p.m.

**Saturday** lap/open swim: 12–5 p.m.

**Sunday** Closed

#### Holiday Hours

**Thanksgiving** Nov. 28 - Dec. 1: Closed

**Christmas** Dec. 24-25: Closed

**New Year's** Dec. 31 - Jan. 1: Closed

### Andrew R. Mickle, Sr. Pool

**Closed for the season.**

**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:** Spring pool hours begin Saturday, March 15 and will be posted at a later date.  
Pool hours are subject to change. Please visit [gainesvillefl.gov/Pools](http://gainesvillefl.gov/Pools) or call the pool for details.

## Pool Admission Prices

	D.H. Hunter / H.S. Cherry		A.R. Mickle Sr.		Pool Passes	
	City Resident	Non-City Resident	City Resident	Non-City Resident	City Resident	Non-City Resident
Adult (18-49)	\$4.50	\$5.00	\$3.25	\$3.75	\$154.25	\$192.50
Lap swimmer	\$3.00	\$3.50	\$2.00	\$2.25	-	-
Child (3-17)	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$1.75	\$2.00	\$69.25	\$86.50
Seniors (50+)	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$1.75	\$2.00	\$69.25	\$86.50
Persons with disabilities	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$1.75	\$2.00	\$69.25	\$86.50
Non-swimmer	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$1.75	\$2.00	-	-
Family of four or less	-	-	-	-	\$340	\$424.75
Each additional family member	-	-	-	-	\$13.25	\$16.50

## Cold Weather Policy

During winter months, the city covers the pools with thermal blankets to help retain heat and conserve energy. The covers are usually taken off the pool each morning at opening. If the temperature is 32°F or below staff will not take the covers off the pool, delaying the opening of the pool until the temperature reaches at least 33°F. If forecasts call for freezing conditions staff may announce a delayed opening in advance. Ask staff at the pools how to receive notifications about pool updates.

## 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.



# Athletic Programs



## 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):** Monday, Dec. 16 – Sunday, March 2

**Time(s):** Varies

**Registration:** Oct. 14 to Dec. 6, 2024

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

**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:** 352-393-8527

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

## Adult Softball League

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

**Day/Date(s):** March 10 - May 24

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

**Registration:** Jan. 6 - March 7

**Location(s):** Greentree Park, Albert “Ray”  
Massey Park and Tom Petty Park

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

**Ages:** 18 and up

**Call:** 352-393-8527

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







## Start Smart Baseball

Interested in providing your preschool-aged child the foundations in sports? Register for our Start Smart Baseball. 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, March 10 through  
Monday, April 14  
  
Monday, March 10  
Monday, March 17  
Monday, March 24  
Monday, March 31  
Monday, April 7  
Monday, April 14
- Time(s):** 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Registration:** **Opens**  
City residents Thursday, Jan. 2  
All residents Thursday, Jan. 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.

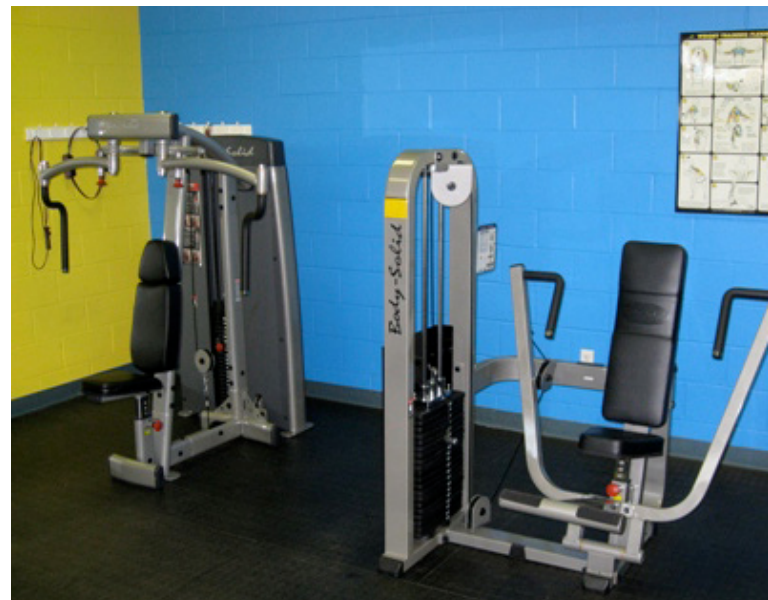
Saturday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Sunday: 2-6 p.m.

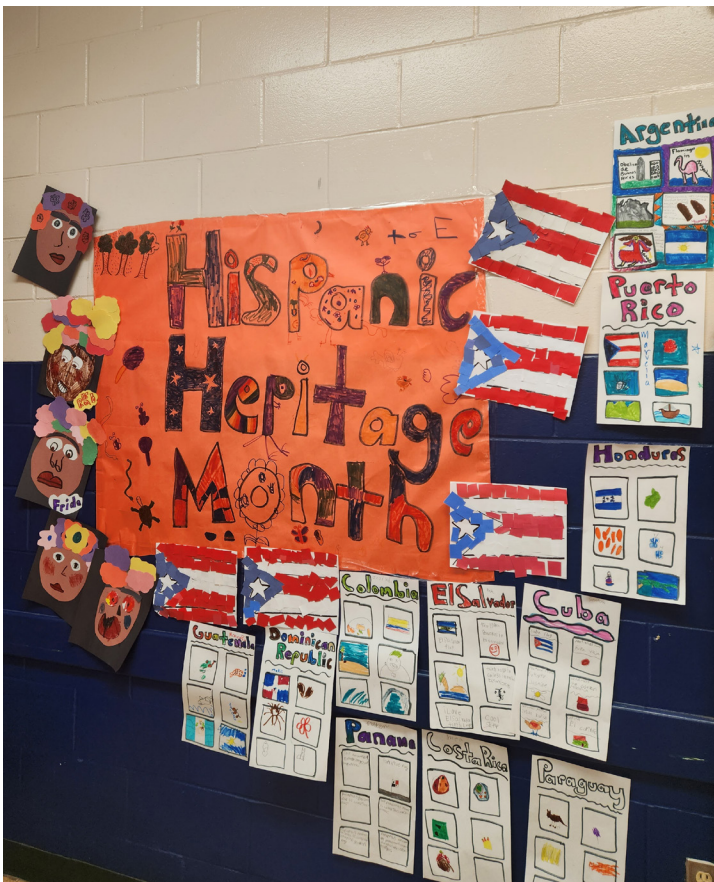
Membership Fees	6 mos.	1 year
Adult (18-49)	\$60.75	\$102.25
Senior (50+)	\$26.25	\$51.75
Persons with disabilities	\$26.25	\$51.75

\*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.



# Camps and After-School 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 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 (1001 NW 34th St.)  
Clarence R. Kelly Community Center (1700 NE Eighth Ave.)  
Eastside Community Center (2841 E. University Ave.)  
Porters Community Center (512 SW Second Ave.)

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

Families may qualify for 100% reduced rate discount based on income. Please call or visit the website for more information.

**Ages:** Grades 1-8

**Call:** 352-393-8438

**Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/AfterSchool](http://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 youth with 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)

Friday, Oct. 18  
 Monday, Oct. 21  
 Monday, Nov. 25  
 Tuesday, Nov. 26  
 Monday, Dec. 23  
 Thursday, Dec. 26  
 Friday, Dec. 27  
 Friday, Jan. 17, 2025  
 Monday, Feb. 17, 2025  
 Monday, March 31, 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, March 28, 2025  
 Online Sunday, March 30, 2025

**Location(s):** Albert "Ray" Massey Recreation Center (1001 NW 34th St.)  
 Eastside Community Center (2841 E. University Ave.)

**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](http://gainesvillefl.gov/OutofSchoolDays)

## Spring Break Camp

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

**Day/Date(s):** Monday, March 17 through Friday, March 21

**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, March 14  
 Online Sunday, March 16

**Location(s):** Albert "Ray" Massey Recreation Center (1001 NW 34th St.)  
 Eastside Community Center (2841 E. University Ave.)

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

**Ages:** Grades 1-8

**Call:** 353-393-8438

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



## Summer Camp

We are happy to offer the Adventures in Play and Teen Life Summer Day Camps at a variety of locations.

**Day/Date(s):** Beginning Monday, June 9.  
Ending will be based on the Alachua County Public Schools' calendar for 2025-2026.

**Time(s):** 7 a.m.-6 p.m. (8 a.m.-5 p.m. at satellite sites)

**Registration: Opens**  
City residents Monday, March 3  
All residents Monday, March 18  
**Last day to register to be determined.**

**Location(s):** **Adventures in Play Summer Day Camps (Grades 1-5)**  
Albert "Ray" Massey Recreation Center (1001 NW 34th St.)  
Eastside Community Center (2841 E. University Ave.)  
Clarence R. Kelly Community Center (1700 NE Eighth Ave.) (pick-up and drop-off satellite site)  
Phoenix Community Center (3113-B SW 26th Dr.) (pick-up and drop-off satellite site, must live in Phoenix Community)

**Teen Life Camp (Grades 6-8)**  
T.B. McPherson Center (1717 SE 15th St.)

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

Families may qualify for a scholarship or reduced rate discounts based on income. Please visit the website for an application and more information.

**Ages:** Grades 1-8

**Call:** 353-393-8438

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



## Earth Academy Day Camp

Awaken your child's curiosity while encouraging an appreciation for the environment and a love of nature! This nature-based day camp uses hands-on fun to focus attention on natural and cultural history. Instructors are career educators and science professionals experienced in working with children.

**Day/Date(s):** Sessions begin June 9, June 16, June 23, July 14 and July 21

**Time(s):** 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Early drop-off begins at 8 a.m.  
Late pick-up available until 5 p.m.

**Registration:** Registration and scholarship applications open March 1.

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

**Fee(s):** City residents \$147.75 per session  
Non-city residents \$184.50

**Ages:** Rising 1st-6th graders

**Call:** 353-393-8240

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

## Junior Naturalist Program

The Junior Naturalist Program is a volunteer program for rising 7th-12th graders. Junior Naturalists will gain experience assisting campers in our Earth Academy Day Camp programs – from exciting team games to hands-on environmental learning in the great outdoors! Junior Naturalists are chosen after an interview process and a two-hour orientation on June 7.

**Day/Date(s):** Sessions begin June 9, June 16, June 23, July 14 and July 21

**Time(s):** 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Early drop-off begins at 8 a.m.  
Late pick-up available until 5 p.m.

**Registration:** Applications open in January and are due Friday, Feb. 28.

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

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** Rising 7th-12th graders

**Call:** 352-393-8240

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



# 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): Spring Session A

Tuesday, May 6  
 Tuesday, May 13  
 Tuesday, May 20  
 Tuesday, May 27

### Spring Session B

Thursday, May 8  
 Thursday, May 15  
 Thursday, May 22  
 Thursday, May 29

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

### Registration: Opens

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

**Open until filled.**

**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

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, Feb. 3  
 Monday, Feb. 10  
 Monday, Feb. 17  
 Monday, Feb. 24

### Junior Grillers (10-12)

Thursday, Feb. 6  
 Thursday, Feb. 13  
 Thursday, Feb. 20  
 Thursday, Feb. 27

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

### Registration: Opens

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

**Open until filled.**

**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, 11-11:30 a.m.  
October–May, 3-3:30 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, 11-11:30 a.m.  
October–May, 3-3:30 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 each 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)



# 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, 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

Beautiful Bo Diddley 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, greenroom 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.

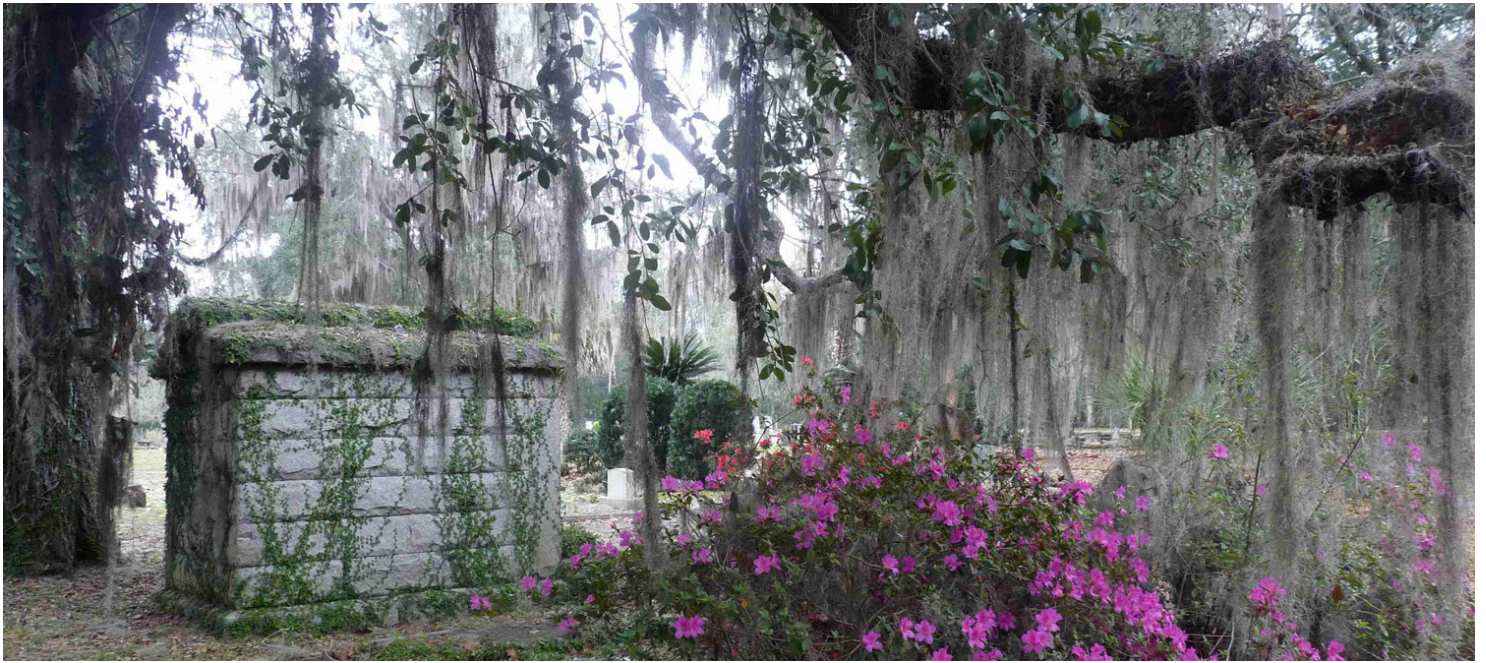
**Location:** 111 E. University Ave.

**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)

## Steppin' Into Dance

Learn and dance a variety of dance styles including line dance, Chicago swing and urban ballroom Sundays at Rosa B. Williams Center.

**Day/Date(s):** Sunday

**Time(s):** 4-7:30 p.m.

**Location(s):** Rosa B. Williams Center  
(524 NW First St.)

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** High school and up

## Dance About: Let's Dance for Special Needs

Explore the joy of movement! Designed for youth with disabilities and special needs, these tailored classes focus on providing a fun and inclusive environment.

**Day/Date(s):** Tuesday

**Time(s):** 3:15 - 4:30 p.m. and 5 - 6:15 p.m.

**Location(s):** Oakview Community Center  
(810 NW Eighth Ave.)

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** K-12

## Dance Camp: Dances of the Balkans

Learn ethnic line dances mostly from the Balkans and the Middle East Mondays at Rosa B. Williams Center.

**Day/Date(s):** Monday

**Time(s):** 4-7:30 p.m.

**Location(s):** Rosa B. Williams Center  
(524 NW First St.)

**Fee(s):** \$6

**Ages:** All ages

## Smooth Flava Dance Parties

Get ready to groove to the beats of Smooth Flava, learn line dancing and have fun!

**Day/Date(s):** Tuesday and Thursday

**Time(s):** 5:45 - 6:45 p.m.

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

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** High school and up



## Gainesville International Folk Dance

Learn and dance ethnic dances from around the world.

**Day/Date(s):** Wednesday

**Time(s):** 5:45 - 6:45 p.m.

**Location(s):** Rosa B. Williams Center  
(524 NW First St.)

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** Adults



## Gainesville Swing Dance

Learn and dance swing dance to vintage and big band music.

**Day/Date(s):** Thursday

**Time(s):** 5:45 - 6:45 p.m.

**Location(s):** Rosa B. Williams Center  
(524 NW First St.)

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** All ages



## Expressive Song and Dance

Dance classes for youth in various styles including ballet and hip-hop.

**Day/Date(s):** Saturday

**Time(s):** 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Location(s):** Rosa B. Williams Center  
(524 NW First St.)

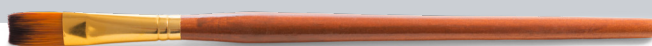
**Fee(s):** Donations accepted

**Ages:** Elementary school students  
through high school seniors



GNV Arts is a participatory arts program, bringing opportunities for neighbors to sing, dance, learn ceramics and make art. Learn more about these programs online.

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



# 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, every Wednesday

**Time(s):** 3-4 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.

<b>Day/Date(s):</b>	Every Thursday
<b>Time(s):</b>	9-11:30 a.m.
<b>Registration:</b>	Not required
<b>Location(s):</b>	Various nature parks
<b>Fee(s):</b>	Free
<b>Ages:</b>	All ages
<b>Call:</b>	352-318-0049 or 352-231-2572
<b>Online:</b>	<a href="http://gainesvillefl.gov/GGC">gainesvillefl.gov/GGC</a>



## 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.

<b>Day/Date(s):</b>	September 2024-May 2025, first Friday of each month
<b>Time(s):</b>	2 p.m.
<b>Registration:</b>	Not required
<b>Location(s):</b>	Morningside Nature Center Pavilion (3540 E. University Ave.)
<b>Fee(s):</b>	Free
<b>Ages:</b>	All ages, with a focus on K-2. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
<b>Call:</b>	352-393-8240
<b>Online:</b>	<a href="http://gainesvillefl.gov/Morningside">gainesvillefl.gov/Morningside</a>



## 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.

<b>Day/Date(s):</b>	September 2024-May 8, 2025, second Thursday of each month
<b>Time(s):</b>	3:30-4:30 p.m.
<b>Registration:</b>	Not required
<b>Location(s):</b>	Cone Park Library (2801 E. University Ave.)
<b>Fee(s):</b>	Free
<b>Ages:</b>	6-11
<b>Call:</b>	352-393-8240 or 352-334-0720
<b>Online:</b>	<a href="http://gainesvillefl.gov/Morningside">gainesvillefl.gov/Morningside</a>

Also see pages 12-13 for nature-oriented camps.

## 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):** November-May  
Mondays at 10 a.m. and  
Fridays at 2 p.m.  
Tours also available by request.

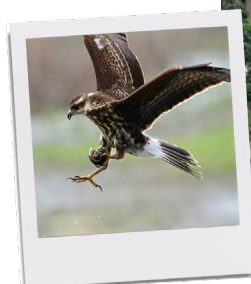
**Registration:** [gainesvillefl.gov/SweetwaterWetlands](http://gainesvillefl.gov/SweetwaterWetlands)

**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.

Note: Registration is required in advance.

<b>Day/Date(s):</b>	October-March Monday, Nov. 18 Thursday, Nov. 21 Monday, Dec. 16 Sunday, Dec. 22 Saturday, Dec. 28 Thursday, Jan. 9 Monday, Jan. 20 Friday, Feb. 14 Monday, Feb. 17 Thursday, Feb. 27 Monday, March 17 Thursday, March 20
<b>Time(s):</b>	30 minutes after sunset, lasts 1.5 hours
<b>Registration:</b>	<a href="http://gainesvillefl.gov/SweetwaterWetlands">gainesvillefl.gov/SweetwaterWetlands</a>
<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.

Note: Registration is required in advance.

<b>Day/Date(s):</b>	October-March Saturday, Nov. 2 Friday, Nov. 22 Sunday, Nov. 24 Saturday, Dec. 7 Thursday, Dec. 12 Saturday, Jan. 4 Sunday, Jan. 12 Saturday, Jan. 18 Saturday, Feb. 1 Thursday, Feb. 27 Saturday, March 1 Thursday, March 6
<b>Time(s):</b>	30 minutes after sunset, lasts 1 hour
<b>Registration:</b>	<a href="http://gainesvillefl.gov/SweetwaterWetlands">gainesvillefl.gov/SweetwaterWetlands</a>
<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 1870's 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 is closed on weekends and designated city 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)

# Special Events



## Great Invader Raider Rally Evolution

The Great Invader Raider Rally Evolution is for nature enthusiasts and helps support our environment through nature-based volunteering in our community such as the Gainesville Greenway Challenge (GGC) program and other ongoing volunteer opportunities. Experts in the field will be present and we'll celebrate the progress made in removing exotic invasive species from our community. Join us for workshops, crafts, educational tables and many ways to connect with the environment.

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

**Time(s):** 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

**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)



## 38th Hoggetowne Medieval Faire

For one magical weekend, Depot Park will transform into a bastion of medieval revelry during the Hoggetowne Medieval Faire as the kingdom of Hoggetowne opens its gates welcoming guests to enjoy merry entertainment on six stages and a medieval marketplace featuring original artwork, jewelry, fortune tellers, medieval clothing and more.

**Day/Date(s):** Saturday, Jan. 25 and and Sunday, Jan. 26

**Time(s):** 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-393-8536

**Online:** [www.HoggetowneMedFaire.com](http://www.HoggetowneMedFaire.com)





## Florida Invitational Step Show: The Stroll

Join us on Saturday, Feb. 15 from 12-3 p.m. at Bo Diddley Plaza for a free celebration featuring a Step Show/Stroll by Black Greek organizations from Florida and the southeast, local youth dance groups and music. Enjoy food trucks and community tabling by Divine Nine organizations. Hosted in partnership with the University of Florida's Black Student Union and Florida Invitational Step Show Committee.



**Day/Date(s):** Saturday, Feb. 22

**Time(s):** 12-3 p.m.

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

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-393-8202

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

## Free Fridays Concert Series

Gainesville's longest-running and largest free outdoor concert series returns on April 4 at Bo Diddley Plaza. Enjoy diverse musical acts—from rock and reggae to punk, R&B and more—every Friday night from 7-9 p.m. with a new band performing each week. Free Fridays: your ultimate Friday night destination!



**Day/Date(s):** Every Friday from April 4-Sept. 26

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

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

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-393-8202

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



## Gainesville Asian Festival

Experience a day of vibrant Asian performances at Bo Diddley Plaza! Enjoy taiko drumming, fan dancing, lion dancing and more. Indulge in food trucks, explore craft vendors, and join cultural games and activities like henna and paper lantern making. Free and open to all!

**Day/Date(s):** Saturday, April 12

**Time(s):** 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

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

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-393-8185



## May the Fourth Be With You (Star Wars Celebration)

Feel the force at the May the Fourth Star Wars Celebration at Bo Diddley Plaza! Enjoy a public screening of *Star Wars: Empire Strikes Back*, a live theatrical show, kids' dance party, music and costume contests. Free and fun for all ages!

**Day/Date(s):** Saturday, May 3

**Time(s):** 6-10 p.m.

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

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-393-8185

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



## Memorial Day

Join us this Memorial Day for a special program honoring Gold Star families and our fallen heroes at the Veterans Monument. Hosted by the City of Gainesville, the two-hour ceremony features guest speakers, military honors, and a patriotic concert by the Gainesville Brass Quintet.

**Day/Date(s):** Monday, May 26

**Time(s):** 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

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

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-393-8535

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



## Blues on the Patio Music Series

Join the North Central Florida Blues Society for Blues on the Patio, featuring talented local and regional artists who share a passion for blues. We're offering free community concerts every other month, showcasing solo acts, duos and bands in a relaxed outdoor setting.

**Day/Date(s):** Sunday, March 30 and Sunday, May 25

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

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

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-393-8532



## Sweetwater Wetlands Park Turns 10!

Join us for a morning of celebration as you learn about the park's history, how it's changed in the last 10 years and where it's going from here.

**Day/Date(s):** Saturday, April 26

**Time(s):** 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

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

**Fee(s):** Park entry is \$5 per vehicle; \$2 for bicyclists and pedestrians; no additional fee for tour

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-554-5871



## Midnight Basketball

Join our teen Midnight Basketball program for epic games, friendly competition, and late-night fun! Bring your friends, showcase your skills, and enjoy a safe space to unwind and connect. Don't miss out on this thrilling way to shoot some hoops and make unforgettable memories—register now!

**Day/Date(s):** Friday, April 11  
Friday, May 2  
Friday, June 6  
Friday, July 11  
Friday, Aug. 1

**Time(s):** 9 p.m.-12 a.m.

**Registration:** Opens Monday, March 10.  
Same day registrations welcome.

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

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** 12-18

**Call:** 352-393-8527

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

# 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](mailto:tcevents@gainesvillefl.gov).

Learn more at [historictthomascenter.org](http://historictthomascenter.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.

Pavilions 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](http://depotpark.org/Rentals) to get started.

# 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)







# 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.

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

# Featured Park



## Reserve Park 700 NE 11th St.

This neighborhood park caters to all ages with a modern playground, community garden, traveling rings, an obstacle course, a walking loop and original art, picnic areas and a memorial to reserve soldiers.



### Features

- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Obstacle Course
- Grills
- Walking Paths
- Community Garden



Reserve Park honors service members from all branches of the military and their families. An original sculpture and service flags line the Eighth Avenue entry, while a fenced community garden with fruit trees and a garden shed sits at the park's 11th Street entry. Other amenities within the park include modern play equipment, traveling rings, an obstacle course, a pavilion, benches, picnic tables, grills, a walking path, open green space and landscaping with extensive tree and shrub plantings.

Reserve Park was built on the property that was once the C. R. Layton United States Army Reserve Center; the property was transformed into a neighborhood park in 2019. The 257th Movement Control Battalion – known as the Movers and Shakers – occupied this 6.8-acre site for nearly 60 years, from 1951 until 2009.

The Reserve Park project was funded through the Wild Spaces & Public Places half-cent sales tax, Reserve Park CIP fund and tree mitigation funding to support additional tree plantings in the park. Construction completed in January of 2020.



# Looking Ahead to Summer 2025

June 1 through Sept. 30

**Eco-Rangers Series Program**

**Teen Midnight Basketball**

**Summer Hoops**

**Pop-up Basketball Tournament**

**Pop Warner Cheer and Football**

Dates to be announced

June 6, July 11 and Aug. 1

June 9-July 24

June 27, July 25 and Aug. 8

Aug. 1-Dec. 12

