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(Left to right): Robert S. Weinroth, Vice Mayor Dave Kerner, Hal R. Valeche, Mayor Mack Bernard, Mary Lou Berger, Melissa McKinlay, Gregg K. Weiss, County Administrator Verdenia C. Baker
Mission

We make the quality of life for Palm Beach County residents and visitors better by providing diverse, safe and affordable recreation services, welcoming parks, and enriching social and cultural experiences. We achieve this by promoting wellness, fostering environmental stewardship, contributing economic value, and by improving our community every day for this and future generations.

Vision

To be a nationally recognized parks and recreation leader that connects people and parks by:

- Engaging all members of our diverse community
- Ensuring safe, functional and innovative amenities now and in the future
- Continually developing professional, well trained staff that mirrors our community
- Being the premier outdoor recreation destination in South Florida
- Forming strategic relationships to ensure local access to green space
- Exceeding the national average of park land per capita
- Advancing services through the incorporation of new technologies

Core Services

- Ensure access to beaches and water bodies
- Facilitate health and wellness opportunities
- Provide for youth enrichment, sports/athletic programming and facilities
- Promote stewardship of natural, archaeological and cultural sites
- Provide for trails, open space and picnic facilities

Core Values

- Excellent customer service
- A culture of teamwork
- Fiscally responsible
- Demonstrating a high level of integrity and pride

We create opportunities for healthy, happy living!
Isn’t it wonderful knowing you live in “Paradise”?

But what is it that makes Palm Beach County such a wonderful place? If you ask me, chief among the reasons is the many healthy and happy opportunities afforded us through our parks, open spaces and recreation programs.

And nothing makes you more proud than to have your goals and aspirations accomplished and validated at the highest level possible. In 2018, the Parks and Recreation Department was awarded the National Gold Medal for excellence in Parks and Recreation Management by the American Academy for Parks and Recreation Administration. Being recognized as the best of the best on the national stage reflects our commitment to the highest standards of service to our residents and visitors to Palm Beach County. It is also a reflection of the dedicated men and women who deliver that service every day.

2018 in Parks and Recreation was truly extraordinary. Our Ocean Rescue Team captured first place honors at the United States Lifesaving Association Southeast Regional Competition. The internationally recognized Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens achieved re-accreditation with the American Alliance of Museums. Osprey Point Golf Course was one of nine courses in the world nominated as the World’s Best Eco Friendly Golf Facility by the World Golf Awards. Ten local athletes from our own Special Olympics Florida - Palm Beach County attended the USA Games in Seattle, WA and competed in bowling, swimming, track and field, golf and tennis. A very successful initiative, “Nature Ninja Warriors”, introduced underrepresented middle and high school youth to a diverse offering of outdoor experiences that taught life skills and broadened their knowledge and awareness of our environment and the natural world. We also implemented our “Parks2Work” Program that offered chronically homeless individuals paid jobs, wrap around social services and immediate housing to help end their cycle of homelessness and create contributing members of our community. We celebrated the opening of the “Orange Bowl Field” at Glades Pioneer Park in Belle Glade. This remarkable renovation of an existing football field was a collaboration between our department and the Orange Bowl Committee to create a state-of-the-art facility. These are only a few of the many accomplishments made by your Parks and Recreation Department that highlight the impact we make to improve the lives of those we serve.

I greatly appreciate the continued support we receive from the citizens of Palm Beach County and I hope you enjoy reading through the pages of the 2018 Parks and Recreation Annual Report. As always, it continues to be my honor to serve as Director of your Gold Medal Award-Winning Department.

Eric Call, Director
BEST PARK & RECREATION AGENCY IN THE U.S.A.

125 PLAYGROUNDS
396 CAMPSITES
31 BOAT RAMPS

49 MULTIPURPOSE FIELDS
72 BOAT SLIPS
5 NATURE/INTERPRETIVE CENTERS

83 BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELDS
93 CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF HOLES
7 SWIMMING POOLS

8 PERFORMING/VISUAL ARTS COMMUNITY CENTERS
Our commitment to the highest level of service in parks and recreation has earned Palm Beach County Parks the National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management, one of the highest achievements possible for Parks and Recreation agencies. The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA), in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), awarded this honor to PBC Parks at the 2018 NRPA Annual Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana on September 25.

Agencies are judged on their ability to address the social, recreational and wellness needs of those they serve through the collective energies of citizens, staff and elected officials. The award recognizes the department for its best practices and commitment to environmental sustainability, health, and community building. Together, we improve the lives of residents and visitors, regardless of age, gender or ability, through unique initiatives like The PlayMaker, the Parks to Work Program, and the Responsible Pier Initiative, among many others.

What makes your agency “outstanding”? Please cite 3 specific examples that capture the outstanding nature of your agency as you serve your unique community.

Best Practices
Selected as best park and recreation agency in Florida in 2016 and as finalist for NRPA’s Gold Medal Award in 2017, the department is continually recognized for its best practices in economic impact, environmental sustainability, health, and community building through a number of local, state, national, and international awards, including World’s Best Eco-Friendly Golf Facility and awards from NACo and NACPRO.

The PlayMaker
This department initiative brings recreational games and activities to people of all ages and abilities living in under-represented communities and areas identified as park deserts. The recreation
vehicle purposefully connects communities through mobile play and promotes a “Get out and Play” message.

**Ocean Rescue Watercraft Course**
Operating three dangerous inlets and experiencing frequent rough water conditions on 11 other beaches, the department’s rescue water craft (RWC) skills are critical to providing safety for more than 5,000,000 beach visitors. An in-depth, in-house, one-of-a-kind program in Florida on professional use of RWC in all conditions was developed with help from a California trainer. Seven employees, certified as trainers, are creating the manual used to train our staff.

**Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens**
This cultural facility preserves the region’s ties to Japanese history, greeting 200,000 guests annually, to experience world-class exhibitions, a variety of educational/wellness programs, year-round special events and six diverse garden settings.

**Growing the Game of Golf**
For a nominal fee of $50-$150/year, the Junior Golf Play Card program provides free walking access to the golf course; free range balls; and access to free golf events and activities. Free junior club rentals are available to anyone.

**Glades Family Fun Fest**
This free annual event serves underrepresented residents in the Glades area and offers a diverse compliment of activities/services that focus on healthy fitness, recreation and community resources.

**Outdoor Adventure Day**
This free event targets urban youth/adults introducing them to outdoor activities such as: canoeing, fishing, archery and rock climbing. Over 1,500 individuals participated in this year’s event, with a majority of participants experiencing these activities for the first time.

**Responsible Pier Initiative**
This program equips first responders at Juno Beach Fishing Pier with tools/training for responding to turtle and seabird injuries/strandings and spread to 64 piers worldwide include 380 turtle and 65 seabird rescues; 13,000+ pounds of debris removed and 150+ miles monofilament recycling.

Tell us your story about how your agency positively impacts the community you serve. Share with us 5 actions or activities your agency has been involved with or undertaken in the past three years.

There are few resources more critical than public support, citizen involvement, and staff engagement. Please identify one outstanding or innovative example for each of these three characteristics.

GEORGE LACOSTA  
Director, Parks Operations

REBECCA SCHNIRMAN  
Director, Financial & Support Services

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“I wanted to take this opportunity on behalf of everyone at PlayCore to congratulate you and your team on achieving the 2018 National Gold Medal Award of Excellence. Your dedication to parks, recreation, and providing spaces for people to gather, be healthy, and enjoy open space is admirable, and should be considered a model for all. Please share our heartfelt appreciation with everyone in your department.” –Anne-Marie Spencer

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Citizen Involvement
Volunteers saved taxpayers $3.7 million in 2017. More than 1500 permanent volunteers and 5000 special event volunteers contributed 153,417 service hours to support our programs and facilities, including 1,161 hours through our beach and park cleanup programs with more than 11,000 hours recorded and more than 100 cleanups by our Adopt-A-Park volunteers.

Staff Engagement
Staff engagement in emergency preparedness/response is key for our agency in hurricane territory. Staff each have essential emergency functions including staffing shelters, disaster recovery work, and leading six Emergency Operating Areas (EOAs) which function as mini Emergency Operating Centers ready to deploy throughout the entire county. Each multi-disciplinary EOA is trained year-round using National Incident Management System principles. Being trained and committed to serve your community in a time of tragedy is the highest level of engagement.

Economic Impact
Our park system is by design free/affordable to citizens, making this measure vital to our policy decision makers. Surveys indicate our beach parks are the number one tourist attraction. Our partners, The Palm Beach County Sports Commission and Palm Beach County Film Commission report parks generated $6.1 million (sports/aquatics tourism through parks) and $1.78 million (filming in parks) in local economic benefit last year.

Golf Frequent Player Card Program
PBC Golf Courses launched the Frequent Player Card program in 2007 to build loyalty among local golfers and encourage additional rounds played. Since then, card sales have increased by 5400 and account for over 123,000 rounds. The results of the program’s success is evident in Golf being a self-sustaining section that covers its operating expenses and capital repair and renovation expenses. No ad valorem funding is used for operations.

Therapeutic Recreation
We enhance the lives of over 5,000 persons with disabilities annually through aquatics, visual/performing arts, life skills, fitness, Special Olympics, Paralympic Sports, and social/inclusive programs. Participants increase their independence, acceptance in the community and improve physical health, cognitive status, gross/fine motor skills, cooperation/coping abilities, mobility and life satisfaction. The environment is safe and ensures people of all abilities have access to the benefits of parks and recreation.

Public entities have been increasingly called upon to demonstrate the results of their services and practices to decision-makers and the general public. Please share with us 3 results, impacts, or outcomes you have measured and brief background about the benefit and how the results were secured.

Park and recreation agencies have long been known for creativity and innovation. One of the desirable outcomes of the Gold Medal program is to identify these valuable efforts and approaches. Please identify and briefly explain 3 innovations implemented by your agency within the last 3 years.

PAUL CONNELL
Director, Special Facilities

“I’m writing to congratulate you [Eric Call, George Lacosta, David Salvador, Kim Potter] on Peanut Island. My wife and I went there on Sunday. Neither of us had been for a very long time, and we couldn’t get over what an exceptionally beautiful place Peanut Island has become. You and the County have done an incredible job. The park is spectacular—well developed and well maintained. From the campsites to the snorkeling trail, it is a remarkable, pristine destination for residents and guests—a largely undiscovered jewel. We loved it and can’t wait to go back. You and your staff deserve our thanks.” –Ned B.
In what ways has your agency addressed the NRPA Pillar of Social Equity in the last 3 years?

Video Marketing
Our video series “Destination Recreation” mimics the format of a television travel series, with a title introduction, host, interviews, music and exciting visuals and voiceovers. The episodes are short and visually attractive to keep the viewers interested. Staff worked with a student intern to create 60-second animated PSAs, which have been translated into Spanish and Haitian Creole in order to reach all segments of our community. The videos are professional, vibrant, entertaining stories about our park system.

Drone
While the department’s original intended use of a drone was to capture images to help market its facilities, our licensed operators quickly expanded its use to include: monitoring of contractually maintained areas and changes to conditions over time; determination and documentation of damage caused by hurricanes; determination of the scope of work needed to restore overgrown natural areas; assessment of construction progress for beach renourishment projects; and monitoring illegal mooring buoys.

Parks to Work Program
In January 2018 we collaborated with several governmental and private partners to implement a pilot Parks to Work (P2W) program. This program’s objectives are to: reduce the number of homeless persons residing in and around county owned parks; promote respect and self-confidence in homeless persons; provide a means of employment to homeless persons who are difficult to employ; provide resources that will end their homelessness including, but not limited to, job training, linkage with appropriate social services and mainstream resources, permanent housing, and healthcare.

NRPA’s Healthy Aging in Parks
Walk With Ease-certified staff will implement a multi-component, low-impact structured walking program for older adults that teaches participants how to safely and comfortably incorporate physical activity into their everyday lifestyle.

10-Minute Walk
Through GIS plotting our department has identified residents, inclusive of the under-represented populations that live within a 10-minute walk of all of our parks. By having this information we are able better able to plan and provide for needed park access and amenities.

PAL Program
Partnered with Sheriff to provide community outreach/programming for youth and implement an enrichment program that connects youth, law enforcement, and the community through programs designed to encourage, enhance and develop good citizenship, and improve the quality of life.

In what ways has your agency addressed the NRPA Pillar of Health and Wellness in the last 3 years?

Providing free/affordable health and wellness opportunities is a core service of the department and we encourage residents/visitors to be physically active and interact with nature to prevent chronic disease and improve mental wellbeing. Aside from the miles of bicycling/walking trails, 15 exercise courses and outdoor gyms, we’ve partnered with the

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What challenges has your community and/or agency experienced over the past 3 years and what steps or actions have you taken to resolve these challenges. Include agency role with the challenge, types of actions/steps taken, and effectiveness of approach.

In what ways has your agency addressed the NRPA Pillar of Conservation in the last 3 years?

Florida Department of Health, Florida Atlantic University and the School District to create employee wellness programs, community gardens and events that provide education, health screenings, and fitness activities for all ages and abilities. In addition, several doctors prescribe custom park prescriptions and distribute our publications and we’ve implemented HEPA standards in Summer Camp and Afterschool programs while producing a variety of PSAs and other outreach efforts.

What challenges has your community and/or agency experienced over the past 3 years and what steps or actions have you taken to resolve these challenges. Include agency role with the challenge, types of actions/steps taken, and effectiveness of approach.

Hurricane Irma/Emergency Response
Department staff worked diligently during the recovery phase for Hurricane Irma coordinating clearing, removal and hauling of storm debris generated by the storm. The debris field spanned throughout the park system. Large, uprooted trees were processed and piled in designated areas for pick up. Trees that could be saved were pruned, up-righted and staked. A combination of heavy and light equipment was utilized to effectively accomplish this operation. Parks staff also assisted the Road and Bridge Division with re-establishing county roadways identified as lifeline arteries. Major roadways were cleared to allow access for Police, fire, hospitals and schools. Glades Pioneer Park was one of three park staging locations for the D-SNAP Hurricane Irma Federal Disaster Relief Program, aka Food for Families. Large tents, storage pods, equipment and port-a-lets were set up to accommodate tens of thousands of people who visited the park in need of assistance. A post event assessment revealed damage to the overall park site as a result of this event. Parks staff worked tirelessly to restore event-damaged areas. Deep rutting from heavy equipment and foot-traffic worn athletic field turf had to be completely stripped, regraded and replaced. 220 tons of fill and 116,000 sq ft of sod was needed to repair the damage.

Green Infrastructure
Green Generation lighting systems, green landscaping and irrigation best practices, integrated pest management control, trend-setting chemical controllers and pump systems, and pervious pavement and retention areas all help to reduce our carbon footprint considerably over existing systems and standards by nearly 50%.

Shaping Tomorrow’s Environmental Stewards Today
Curriculum based environmental education programming is provided to approximately 5,000 school children annually at our three nature centers and Riverbend Park. The future stewards of the environment are shaped through these opportunities.

Protecting Open Space
Over 100 park properties totaling over 8,200 acres provide opportunities for wildlife in a variety of ecosystems to flourish and visitors to connect with nature and create a sense of ownership in our parks.
Osprey Point Golf Course nominated as one of 2018’s World’s Best Eco-Friendly Golf Facility

Osprey Point Golf Course was one of nine golf courses in the world to be nominated once again as the World’s Best Eco Friendly Golf Facility by the World Golf Awards. Osprey Point Golf Course won the award in 2016. Celebrating excellence in golf tourism, the World Golf Awards serves to celebrate and reward excellence in golf tourism through their annual awards program.

Ocean Rescue

- Lt. Chase Robertson was the only East Coast lifeguard selected to participate on Team USA for the International Lifeguard Championships where the team finished third overall and where Chase earned a spot in the top 10 in the world for paddling.

- Ocean Rescue’s Competition Team, made up of Jessica Ventura, Lead Guard Tiffany Lacasse-Johnson, Lieutenant Phil Harris, Chase Harris, Matt Lynskey, Tracey Matuszka, Lieutenant Dan Barnickel, Russ Gehweiler, Jessie Stevens, Training Officer Steve Kaes, Kira Shoemaker, Mitchell Irwin, Hanna Forrest and Lex May, won first place at the United States Lifesaving South East Regional Competition.

Five members of the team competed in the National Competition, placing tenth overall out of 32 teams, a remarkable feat for such a small number of competitors. Tiffany LaCasse-Johnson placed first in her age group (America Ironwoman) and Larry Russell placed first in his age group (Men’s Board Race, Men’s Beach Flags and Men’s Ironguard). The other team members, Chase Robertson, Matt Lynskey and Kim Robertson, all placed between second and fifth in their events providing Palm Beach County with the tenth place ranking.

“Late one day the power at our site [South Bay RV Campground] went out. I called campground attendant Joyce [Johnson] who was very nice and quick to send in a report. She couldn’t promise the electrician could come out since it was the end of the work day, and said that he would probably come the next morning. I completely understood and did not expect him to come that evening; however, around 7:30 p.m. he arrived, trouble shot the issue and fixed it. Thanks to Joyce, the campground manager [John Sautter] and the electrician [Chris Lee]. We are thankful for the pleasant customer service and quick response to the issue.” –Doug G.
Morikami Museum & Japanese Gardens Achieves Re-Accreditation

The American Alliance of Museums awarded the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens reaccreditation. This award indicates that the Morikami Museum continues to meet and exceed all national standards and best practices for U.S. museums and remains a member of a community of institutions that have chosen to hold themselves publicly accountable to excellence. Established through a rigorous process of self-assessment and review by museum peers from like institutions, the Morikami Museum has demonstrated itself to be a good steward of its resources and is committed to a philosophy of continuous institutional growth.

PBC Parks selected as finalist for the NRPA 2018 Park Champion of the Year Award

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) selected our Bert Winters Park Boating Amenities Ribbon-cutting ceremony with staff from Senator Bill Nelson’s office on July 27, 2018 as one of the best nominations. While the NRPA Public Policy Committee decided to recognize a different finalist as the top winner of this award, being recognized as a finalist is a great accomplishment. Our department’s work was mentioned during the Park Champion of the Year Award presentation at the Best of the Best Ceremony at NRPA’s Annual Conference in Indianapolis on Wednesday, September 26 where we were also vying for the National Gold Medal Award.

Office of Public Engagement earned Public Relations Award for showing impact of parks

The Florida Recreation and Park Association (FRPA) selected the department as the winner of the 2018 Public Relations Award for its animated video series which draws attention to the positive impacts parks and recreation makes in the areas of health, economic development, environmental sustainability, and community building.

The animated video campaign was produced in-house by the department’s Office of Public Engagement and includes animated videos with original hand-drawn animations and coordinating coloring booklets with information about each video. The videos were produced in English and Spanish with plans to record the audio tracks in Haitian Creole. The videos can be viewed on PBCParks TV: www.youtube.com/user/pbcparks.

The Public Relations Award is presented annually to the agency significantly impacting the public’s awareness and recognition of public parks, recreation and leisure services programs through marketing and public relations. Submissions may include printed material; electronic material; or a campaign/initiative that promotes a new program, facility, master plan, bond referendum, community assessment, or other effort to advance parks and recreation.

“This note is to commend Palm Beach County Parks on the absolutely splendid facility at Aqua Crest [Pool] in Delray Beach. For anyone who loves to swim, the Aqua Crest facility is a fantasy come true. Not only is the layout wonderful, but the facility itself is always maintained at the highest standard. The staff is always friendly and helpful and the locker rooms are always spotless. For us the daily swim at Aqua Crest is the highlight of our seasonal stays in Boynton Beach each year. Thank you!” – Ethel and Peter D.
Outreach material wins Health+Wellness Design Awards

Graphic Design USA (GDUSA) selected PBC Parks as the winner of the 2018 American Health+Wellness Design Awards for several of our printed, public communication tools.

The department’s Leisure Times and companion Park Guide brochure won in the Public Service+Pro Bono category. Several of our brochures won in the Brochures+Collateral category, including: Loxahatchee River Battlefield Park/Riverbend Park brochure; Loxahatchee River Battlefield Park/Riverbend Park School Field Trip brochure; Waterparks brochure; Okeeheelee Nature Center brochure; and Okeeheelee Nature Center School Field Trip guide.

The publications were designed in house by the department’s Office of Public Engagement, and serve to connect residents and visitors to opportunities for healthy, happy living to improve their quality of life. They were printed through the Public Affairs Department’s Graphics Division.

Palm Beach Master’s Swim Club

The Palm Beach Master’s Swim Club was awarded 2017 USMS Club of the year in December 2017 at the United States Aquatic Sports Convention.

Special Olympics USA Games

Special Olympics Florida-Palm Beach County Olympians had ten athletes and two coaches attend the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games in Seattle, Washington in July. Athletes competed in bowling, swimming, athletics (track & field), golf and tennis. PBC Olympians earned a total of twelve medals and nine ribbons.

Certificate of Excellence

Green Cay Nature Center and Riverbend Park received Trip Advisors 2018 Certificate of Excellence, while Okeeheelee Nature Center was featured in Resort Living Magazine.

Birding Adventures TV

In an issue of Palm Beach County Film and Television Commission’s monthly e-newsletter Focus on Film, Green Cay Nature Center was included as Birding Adventures TV host James Currie stopped at the wetlands, which he claims is “arguably the best birding photography site in all the United States” to film an episode.

Nature Centers receive esteemed certification

Daggerwing and Green Cay Nature Center butterfly gardens were certified by the North American Butterfly Association.

Golf facilities earn GRAA honors

The Golf Range Association of America (GRAA) recognized four county golf facilities on its annual “Top 50” lists. John Prince Golf Learning Center was named a Top 50 Stand-Alone Driving Range for the seventh straight year while Osprey Point was named as a Top 50 Public Driving Range for the fourth year in a row. Okeeheelee Golf Course and Park Ridge Golf Course were also named as a Top 50 Public Driving Range for the third consecutive year. In order to receive recognition by the GRAA, golf facilities must present an application that highlights not only a wide range of amenities, but also one that shows a wide variety of available programming that benefits all levels of skill and promotes the growth of the game of golf.

“I want to thank Parks and especially the staff members Juan Castro and Clive Dixon who groom the [Glades] Pioneer Park fields. The field looks especially great today. It’s nice and fluffy - not intimidating to someone who wants to slide.” –Coach Charles W.
Okeechobee Junior Golf Foundation Association Alumni, Brooks Koepka, Achieved World #1 player status in professional golf

For over 20 years, Palm Beach County Golf Courses have been home to some of the most accessible, junior friendly golf programs. Although many junior program participants do not ultimately end up with a career in golf, most attribute the values they learned in golf programs to their success as young adults. Past participant, Brooks Koepka, credits the unparalleled access to learn, practice and play golf to the Palm Beach County Junior Golf Card and Junior Golf Foundation Association programs to his golfing success achieving the rank of #1 professional golfer in the world.

Martha Stewart Visits Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens

Read about her trip to the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens on her blog: http://www.themarthablog.com/2018/01/morikami-museum-and-japanese-gardens.html

2018 Muse Awards

The Cultural Council of Palm Beach County 2018 Muse Awards Event took place on March 22, 2018 and celebrated the important role that art and culture plays in education, community development and quality of life in Palm Beach County. The 2018 Muse Award recipients were in attendance, including representatives from Loggerhead Marinelife Center (in Loggerhead Park, Jupiter) for the Outstanding Environmental and Science Organization award and Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens (Delray Beach) for The Legacy Award.

Phil Foster Park in Delta Sky Magazine

“Florida has more coastline than any other state, and these six off-the-beaten-path stretches are worth a special trip.” Phil Foster Park was listed at #4. View the list: https://view.imirus.com/209/document/12893/page/104

Director Eric Call appointed to NACPRO board

On Sunday, July 15, during the National Association of Counties (NACo) Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, Parks and Recreation Director Eric Call was appointed to the board of the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO).

NACPRO, an affiliate of NACo and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), is a non-profit professional organization that advances official policies that promote county and regional park and recreation issues while providing members with opportunities to network, exchange ideas and best practices, and enhance professional development.

Eric Call has served Palm Beach County and the Parks and Recreation Department for more than three decades and has been department director since 2010. He also serves as President of the Palm Beach County Sports Commission.

“I wanted to email you to let you know how amazing I think your staff and afterschool program at the West Jupiter Recreation Center is! I am a mom of 5 children (ages 10-23) and have been involved in MANY programs over the years and for the last 4 years my kids have thoroughly enjoyed Coach Rico [Adona] and his amazing staff! My daughter begs us to please not pick her up before 5 on a daily basis, if we do ever need to get her early she’s never happy about it! The staff here has truly become like family! This year’s Lights Out program was unbelievable! Miss Kenya [Berrick] really outdid herself! When we found out she wrote it herself over the summer, we were blown away! Isabella had one of the main roles and Miss Kenya really helped her come out and be a star, she totally embraced the part of Sharpe, they all worked so hard to make this a huge success! The friendships and life lessons we’ve had over these past several years will stay with our family always! Thank you so much to Coach Rico, Miss Kenya, Coach Jeff [Doherty], Renata [Watson] and of course the rest of the staff for always brightening our days, you all have blessed and impacted our lives for the better and we love each one of you to pieces!” –Amy Renee Gorzynski

“Growing up at Okeechobee was a blast! We would get dropped off at 7:30 every morning and get picked up at dark. I learned how to play the game there and it will always hold a special place in my heart.”
Two golf courses featured in Top Ten List

Osprey Point Golf Course ranked #1, and Park Ridge Golf Course ranked #5 in Best Things Florida’s 10 best public golf courses in Florida list. View the list: https://bestthingsfl.com/public-golf-courses/

Assistant Director Jennifer Cirillo reinstalled to FRPA’s Board of Directors

The installment ceremony took place on August 29, during the Florida Recreation and Park Association’s (FRPA) annual conference in Orlando. FRPA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion, preservation, and advocacy of the Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Services profession. Originally organized in 1942 and incorporated in 1983, the Association is directed by a volunteer Board of Directors, and an Executive Office based in Tallahassee.

Adopt-A-Park partner recognized with Blue Friend of the Year Award

We’re proud to announce that one of our dedicated Adopt-A-Park partners was the recipient of Loggerhead Marinelife Center’s Blue Friend Award. The award exemplifies significant contributions in marine conservation through work-related activities. Adopter of Gulfstream Park for the past three years, Jacquelyn Kingston is the founder of Sea Turtle Adventures (STA) and responsible for initiating the Responsible Pier Initiative partnership. Through STA, she launched iCare, a program designed for adults with special needs who enjoy nature and the marine environment.

“Dear [Eric] Call, July 11th was an outstanding day for the Orange Bowl, Palm Beach County, Belle Glade and the youth of South Florida, as we broke ground for the renovation of Orange Bowl Field at [Glades] Pioneer Park. Your contribution to making this project a reality was invaluable, and both the Orange Bowl and me personally, want to thank you for your support. It was important for us to bring our fifth Legacy Gift project to Palm Beach County and we could not have picked a more important or historic location than Pioneer Park. The county, and Belle Glade in particular, has a rich football history and tradition of raising superstar athletes who began their careers in the tri-cities. This park renovation is vitally needed to enable area youth to carry on this incredible legacy and serve as home base for the football legends who came before. If any area deserves a state of the art field, it’s the Glades community. I am very excited to see the finished product, as I am sure you are too. Thank you again for all that you do for the citizens and youth of Palm Beach County.” —Sean Pittman

“Dear [Eric] Call, July 11th was an outstanding day for the Orange Bowl, Palm Beach County, Belle Glade and the youth of South Florida, as we broke ground for the renovation of Orange Bowl Field at [Glades] Pioneer Park. Your contribution to making this project a reality was invaluable, and both the Orange Bowl and me personally, want to thank you for your support. It was important for us to bring our fifth Legacy Gift project to Palm Beach County and we could not have picked a more important or historic location than Pioneer Park. The county, and Belle Glade in particular, has a rich football history and tradition of raising superstar athletes who began their careers in the tri-cities. This park renovation is vitally needed to enable area youth to carry on this incredible legacy and serve as home base for the football legends who came before. If any area deserves a state of the art field, it’s the Glades community. I am very excited to see the finished product, as I am sure you are too. Thank you again for all that you do for the citizens and youth of Palm Beach County.” —Sean Pittman

“We wish to say thank you to everyone for attending the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Education Workshop on Friday. It was great to meet so many people that are working hard to make our communities safer! Let’s stay connected to help keep our communities safe. A HUGE THANK YOU to Enrique Villa and his team at the Parks and Recreation Therapeutic Recreation Complex for hosting our event at their beautiful facility!” —Kelly N.

—Kelly N.
2nd Annual Outdoor Adventure Day held in John Prince Park

The Parks and Recreation Department and Florida Fish and Wildlife collaborated to offer Outdoor Adventure Day. It was a day of “firsts” for over 1,500 individuals living in urban communities. Activities included canoeing, fishing, archery, rock climbing and more. For the majority of participants this was their first experience participating in these types of activities.

Parks 2 Work Program

The Parks Division, in collaboration with the Community Services Department, implemented a “Parks 2 Work” Program in March 2018 to offer chronically homeless individuals paid employment and housing opportunities. The program has been very successful and the department has benefited from the additional maintenance assistance, while countless lives have been improved through these efforts.

Nature Ninja Warriors

A new department initiative kicked off this year (Spring, 2018). The Nature Ninja Warrior Program provides underrepresented middle and high school youth with diverse experiences in parks and recreation. This free program highlights youth development opportunities in park and natural resource management, outdoor experiential learning and environmental recreation, with an emphasis on job and life skills development. As a result of the Nature Ninja Warrior program, participants not only broadened their access to the parks and recreation field, but also showed significant improvements in eight youth development outcomes. Teamwork, independence, responsibility, competency, problem solving, friendship, exploration and an affinity for nature were measured through pre and post testing standards developed by the American Camp Association.

“Dear Director [Eric] Call, Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County would like to thank Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation for hosting our water safety events for the fourth consecutive summer. This year’s events on July 14 at Lake Lytal Park and July 28 at [Glades] Pioneer Park drew a total of 1,700 children, parents and grandparents. We are consistently impressed with the professionalism of your Aquatics Division and the teams of lifeguards at Lake Lytal and Pioneer Park. We especially would like to thank Laurie Schobelock, Jimmy Davis, Kevin Downes, Tori Murphy and Kyle Pelham. Partners like you are critical to Children’s Services Council and the work we do on behalf of Palm Beach County’s children.” –Lisa W.
Third Annual Glades Family Fun Fest

Hundreds attended the third annual Glades Family Fun Fest, a free event for all ages and residents of the tri-city Glades area (Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay). The purpose of the event is to educate the residents of the many benefits offered through local agencies in the area and to promote health and wellness through a variety of games and activities. The Department was awarded the Healthy Safe and Strong Grant from Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County in the amount of $2,500 as well as $1,500 in sponsorships from US Sugar & The HE Hill Foundation. Our partner, PBSO, donated food, condiments, paper goods, water, bounce house, tables/chairs. Other partners who contributed to the success of this event included PBC Fire Rescue, UF/IFAS, and the PBC Food Bank.

Jupiter Seafood Festival attracted 20,000 at Carlin Park

The Jupiter Seafood Festival returned for a sixth year at the Seabreeze Amphitheater in Carlin Park. This popular event attracted over 20,000 visitors to our park during the two-day event. Festival attendees enjoyed a wide variety of locally caught fresh seafood, local arts and crafts and live music throughout both festival days and a large children’s area kept everyone entertained.

“PlayMaker” program is bringing mobile recreation to communities in need

PBC Parks and Recreation Department’s “PlayMaker” mobile recreation van has been visiting the San Castle and Gramercy communities providing recreation games and activities to people of all ages. The PlayMaker visits each community one weekend day per month and one week day per month (to start) and days when school is out early or not in session, August through May.

180th anniversary of two Second Seminole War Battles

Loxahatchee River Battlefield Park hosted an education day and re-enactment event commemorating the 180th anniversary of two Second Seminole War Battles. Over 400 4th graders attended an education day (January 26) to learn about the history of the Battle of Loxahatchee and over 2,000 visitors attended the Battlefield re-enactment event (January 27). The re-enactment included weapons demonstrations with canons and black powder rifles, speakers on archaeology and history, period music, and a battle re-enactment. These two events are designed to help promote stewardship of cultural, historical, and archaeological sites.
Goalball tournament drew participants from across the nation

The Therapeutic Recreation Section’s Community Programming staff held their first Goalball tournament on June 2 at the CMAA Therapeutic Recreation Complex in Lake Worth. Goalball teams and players attended from across the nation. The tournament structure used a unique method that allowed captains to draft players onto their teams. The tournament included a referee training to increase the number of officials in our region.

Jim Brandon Equestrian Center Hosts prestigious USHJA Gold Star Clinic

The Jim Brandon Equestrian Center hosted the inaugural USHJA Gold Star Clinic - East, which is the pinnacle of United States Hunter Jumper Association’s (USHJA) Emerging Jumper Rider Program. Riders earned the coveted spots in this clinic by winning individual medals in USHJA’s Zone Jumper Team Championships. The clinic brought the talented up-and-coming riders from across the East Coast and their trainers to work with top clinicians and presenters in the sport. The week culminated in a Nations Cup style competition, where the top athletes chosen for the clinic were able to put their learnings to the test. The event was such a success that USHJA has chosen to host the event at Jim Brandon Equestrian Center in the coming years.

Bringing the San Castle community together through sports programming

We partnered with Community Partners Organization to coordinate the second annual San Castle Classic, a free 3-on-3 Youth Basketball Tournament and community event held at San Castle Community Park. Over 100 youth and 10 volunteers came out during Palm Beach County School District’s Spring Break to enjoy a jam-packed day of teamwork, exercise, sports, entertainment, excitement, food and fun!

Seabreeze Amphitheater hosted 28th Shakespeare by the Sea

The Palm Beach Shakespeare Festival returned to Carlin Park for their 28th year of Shakespeare by the Sea. This year’s production hosted more than 5,500 patrons for a riveting performance of Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra.

Sunset Cove Amphitheater hosted Haitian Food Festival

The Haitian Food Festival returned for a third year and attracted over 5,000 attendees at Sunset Cove Amphitheater in Burt Aaronson South County Regional Park to enjoy Haitian cuisine and live music from Haiti and the Caribbean.

Big Bounce America at South County Regional Park

Over 3,000 participants came to Burt Aaronson South County Regional Park to experience Big Bounce America, named the biggest bounce house in the world by World Record Academy. The bounce house consists of 10,000 square feet of inflatable floor that includes a basketball court, an obstacle course, a giant slide, a ball and a professional disc jockey.

“Jim Brandon Equestrian Center

"My husband and I attended a talk that she [Jessica Andreasen] gave today on the wetlands held at the Hagen Ranch Road branch library. We were blown away by her presentation. Jessica is extremely enthusiastic about her work. That and her extensive knowledge made this presentation both educational and enjoyable. We commend her work!" –Naomi J.
“Carlin Park After Dark” concert series kicked off inaugural year at Seabreeze Amphitheater

Seabreeze Amphitheater hosted four FREE concerts in the first year of Carlin Park After Dark, with over 8,000 attendees throughout the concert series. The series featured tribute bands including Turnstiles—a Billy Joel tribute, Odyssey Road—a Journey Tribute, Solid Brass—a Chicago tribute, and The Boss Project—a Bruce Springsteen tribute.

Annual Veterans and Memorial Day Observances continued to draw crowds

In partnership with VFW Post 10556, we hosted the annual Veterans and Memorial Day programs at Veterans Memorial Park with over 350 combined participants, including veterans, military and ROTC. Activities included speeches from local and state officials, a procession of colors and patriotic music.

Canyon Amphitheater continued to delight with Saturday Night Concert Series and movie nights

In partnership with GL Commercial, we hosted ten concerts and ten movie nights throughout 2018. Over 4,000 attendees came out to enjoy the shows including performances by local artists such as The Fabulous Fleetwoods, The Whitestone Band, The Casey Raines Band and many more.

“I am writing to offer my commendations to Christian Harsin, a lifeguard whose actions served to save my life during an incident at Juno Beach last Sunday (Easter), April 1. My wife and I were swimming near the south side of the pier. As we were chatting I began floating on my back and closed my eyes. When I opened them a moment later I was surprised to see that I had been transported far from her and the shoreline. I attempted to swim and soon realized I was fighting a very strong riptide and could not possibly make my way back. After the initial panic subsided, I decided to stop my attempts at swimming, which would only serve to exhaust me more quickly, and try to summon help. I began shouting to the people on the pier and waving my arms as a sign of distress. After a few minutes, I heard Christian’s voice telling me he would soon reach me. With some difficulty (I’m a big guy), Christian succeeded in getting me onto the surfboard. He then attempted to paddle us back to shore, but it was not an easy matter fighting the current. Another lifeguard joined us on a second surfboard and gave us a boost. We soon arrived safely back to shore. During the entire incident Christian behaved with cool professionalism and expertise. I today feel as though I owe him my life. This letter is the least I can do to express my gratitude for his courageous actions. Words of thanks seem insufficient in a case like this, but kindly extend them to Christian nevertheless. His efforts succeeded in creating a true Easter Day miracle that I will remember for the rest of my life.”

–Peter W.

“Katie [Kollmeyer] and the Parks and Recreation Department, thank you so much for your help and support in the past few months for our 1st Annual FL 5K Walk! At our orphanage in Haiti, we are now better off thanks to the fundraising from our event. We look forward to working with you again!”

–Chloe R and the Gengel Family

“I wanted to send a big thank you for your efforts yesterday at our company’s health fair. The Parks and Recreation table that was set up for the Health Fair at our Facility was a big hit, and I wanted to thank you for attending and sharing what Palm Beach County Parks and Rec has to offer as well as helping to keep our employees healthy and safe while away from work.”

–Haley L.
PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Glades Pioneer Park

- On December 19, 2018, the opening celebration of Orange Bowl Field at Glades Pioneer Park in Belle Glade took place. The $2.1 million renovation of the existing football field at Glades Pioneer Park was the Orange Bowl’s fifth Legacy Gift to the South Florida community and first in Palm Beach County. Renovations include a synthetic turf field and maintenance, an electronic scoreboard, an entry monument, fencing, walkways and signage. Orange Bowl Field at Glades Pioneer Park serves as the playing site for several teams from the Glades Youth Football League, which is a current member of the Orange Bowl Youth Football Alliance (OBYFA) presented by Metro by T-Mobile. In addition, many current and former NFL players from the area have used the field to conduct youth football camps.

- The Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability awarded $295,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding to develop an outdoor fitness center with shade canopy. The design and specifications are complete and the project will be constructed by an annual contractor in 2019.

Okeeheelee Park

- The Cable Wake facility at Okeeheelee Park is a joint public-private project between Palm Beach County and JR Wake Parks, Inc. The site is located along Clearwater Lake, with the upland amenities situated near the Osceola Pavilion picnic area. Project elements include two independent wake board cable systems (one for beginner and another for professional), an aqua fun park, pro shop, concession building and restroom. Construction is well underway and expected to be complete by 2019.

- The Okeeheelee Park South Boating Center was completed in the fall of 2018. This new facility features a boat ramp designed for canoes, kayaks and small boats with non-combustible engines, car and car/trailer parking, a restroom and associated infrastructure. All improvements meet current ADA accessibility standards.

“When I started Walk with Ease I was not able to walk a long distance. Now I’m walking about 30 minutes and I would like to take this time to say thank you, because of you I’m able to walk and my knees don’t hurt. –Hilda D.”
Lake Lytal Park

- Two existing tennis courts were repurposed into six pickleball courts to help meet the growing demand for this sport.
- The County was awarded $221,120 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to renovate four regulation basketball courts and convert the courts from asphalt to concrete.
- The County was also awarded CDBG funding to replace the sand surfacing at the Armed Forces playground with engineered wood mulch and to pave the adjacent gravel parking lot with asphalt.
- CDBG funding provided the means to renovate the playground near the Activities Building at Lake Lytal Park. The new playground includes playground systems for ages 2-5, ages 5-12, and tot swings. Engineered playground mulch and a concrete walkway have drastically improved ADA accessibility to the playground and adjacent parking. New benches provide comfortable, shaded seating.
- We are working with the YMCA and a consultant to complete a master plan for a new aquatic center and 45,000 square-foot YMCA fitness center on the western portion of Lake Lytal Park. The new aquatic center will replace the existing pool and will be funded with $6 million in Infrastructure Sales Tax. The YMCA fitness center includes a teen program and will serve area residents.

Bert Winters Park
Renovation and Expansion

On July 25, 2018, the County held a ribbon cutting at Bert Winters Park to celebrate the completion of the park’s renovation and expansion. Improvements included construction of a second entrance road along the northern portion of the park to improve traffic flow and circulation, reconfiguring the layout of the existing 24 car/trailer parking spaces, building 45 new car/trailer parking spaces, a new restroom, three new floating staging docks, and renovation of the existing boat ramps. Construction of this project was completed using $1 million in Florida Inland Navigation District Funding and a $200,000 in Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission grant funding. The Bert Winters Park baseball field #2 was underutilized and this area has been repurposed into a multipurpose field and open play area.

Canyon District Park

The preliminary design for this future 52-acre district park is complete, and the final construction documents and specifications are 80% complete. This park will be developed in two phases, with Phase I including an access road, parking, three multipurpose fields, field lighting, a restroom/concession building, two small pavilions and a fitness trail. Construction of Phase I is expected to commence in the summer of 2019.
plans were developed addressing accessibly, parking, circulation and preservation of the Historic DuBois Pioneer Home and Pineapple Packing House. This project was paid for in full with a $48,000 State of Florida Division of Historic Resources grant.

**Haverhill Park**

Two regulation outdoor basketball courts were constructed. Additional improvements include ten new parking spaces, realignment of a portion of an asphalt path and new landscaping. This project was completed using ad valorem funds.

**Jupiter Beach Park**

Palm Beach County partnered with the Jupiter Inlet District to construct a 605 linear-foot ADA-compliant concrete and brick paver pathway from the DuBois Park Bridge to the Jupiter jetty. This 12-foot wide pathway features a roundabout displaying the San Miguel de Archangel Anchor on a custom made mount, the anchor was salvaged from a 1700s shipwreck off the Jupiter coast.

**Limestone Creek**

The Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability awarded $150,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding for renovation and expansion of the existing half-court basketball court to a full-court facility. The project is under design and construction will be completed in 2019.

**San Castle Community Park**

The Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability awarded $150,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding for renovation and expansion of the existing half-court basketball court to a full-court. The project is under design and construction will be completed in 2019.
South Bay – Cross Road Depot

The Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability awarded $150,000 in Community Development Block Grant for construction of a new playground. The design and specifications are complete and the project will be constructed in 2019.

ADA Master Plan

Staff visited and assessed every County park to determine if existing facilities, parking and amenities meet current ADA standards. All deficiencies have been noted and a plan to address the deficiencies has been developed. Many of the restroom and parking issues have been corrected, and additional projects are underway.

Countywide Sports Lighting Replacement Project

The County has budgeted $5.4 million in Infrastructure Sales Tax funding to replace the sports lighting on 16 athletic fields. Musco Lighting has been awarded $2.5 million to supply the equipment and an annual contractor will be hired to install the new high efficiency lights. Construction is expected to commence in mid-2019. The new lights use less energy and are remotely programmable saving the County both money and staff time.

“I would like to express my praise for the work done by the Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation Department in improving the parking, boat ramps and dock/walkway at Burt Reynolds Park on the Intracoastal Waterway. This functional and scenic area is a beneficial improvement for area residents and tourists alike.” –Bob W.

Burt Aaronson South County Regional Park

Bert Winters Park  Caloosa Park
Dyer Park  Glades Pioneer Park
Juno Park  Lake Charleston Park
Okeeheelee Park  Pinewoods Park
Westgate Recreation Center

The Parks Construction Coordinator supervised the completion of the following renovation projects:

Beach Access Boardwalks

Preventative safety checks revealed that due to age and exposure to the elements and heavy pedestrian traffic, beach access boardwalk #43 along Double Road in Jupiter Beach, #59 at Carlin Park and #75, #76 at Coral Cove Park were deteriorated and beyond repair. These beach access boardwalks were completely renovated with funding from the Infrastructure Sales Tax.

Building re-roofing

Reroofing was completed at the following locations:
- Caloosa Park pressbox
- Pinewoods Park pressbox
- Dyer Park concession

Playground resurfacing

With funding from Infrastructure Sales Tax (IST) and FY-2018 Parks Capital Improvement, the following playground surfacing projects were completed:
- John Prince Park Boundless Playground
- West Boynton Park
- Duncan Padgett Park
- Loggers Run Park swing set

Paul Rardin Park Monument and Picnic Shelters Renovation

Preventative safety checks revealed that the park’s rock monument and some of the family picnic shelters, #5, #6, #15, were severely eroded and dangerously leaning. Parks Construction and Parks Maintenance staff worked together to remove the rock monument and picnic shelters. The Paul Rardin dedication plaque was refurbished, framed and relocated to the existing freestanding restroom. Picnic shelters were removed and reconstructed thereby eliminating the safety concern.

“On behalf of our professor, Dr. Bryan Nichols, and my fellow students, I just wanted to thank you for introducing us to Daggerwing and for taking the time to share your considerable experience working with the nature centers of PBC Parks & Rec. Thanks for talking with us about everything from chelonians to human resources! You provided us with a perfect beginning to our Advanced Methods in Environmental Education class this semester and gave us an important reminder that, as committed as we may be to working for wildlife and the environment, ultimately it’s about working skillfully with other people!” –Lauren B.
Carlin Park East and Bert Winters Park, fabrication and installation of park’s entrance gates

New metal entrance gates were fabricated and installed at Carlin East and Bert Winters Parks. The gates provide added security to Natural Area at Carlin Park and boat ramp parking lot at Bert Winters Park.

Boardwalk/Docks/ Dune Crossover Repair/ Renovations

Trades/Construction staff completed the following Boardwalk/Docks/Dune Crossover Renovations:

- Juno Pier – repaired T-section of the pier damaged by high surf conditions
- Juno Park boat ramp finger docks
- Peanut Island Park lagoon area docks – re-deck dock with fiber grate
- Ocean Reef Park dune boardwalk

Entrance Sign refurbishing

Park entrance signs were refurbished and painted at the following park locations:

- Okeeheelee Park North
- Okeeheelee Park South
- Okeeheelee Golf Course
- John Prince Park – Congress Avenue Entrance
- John Prince Park – 6th Avenue Entrance
- Burt Aaronson South County Regional Park – Yamato Road Entrance
- Burt Aaronson South County Regional Park – Pumphouse Road Entrance
- Burt Aaronson South County Regional Park – Glades Rd. Entrance
- Osprey Point Golf Course Entrance
- Park Ridge Golf Course Entrance
- DuBois Park Entrance
- Caloosa Park Entrance
- Lake Lytal Park Entrance

Athletic Field Renovations

This year field turf renovations were completed for all forty-six multi-purpose fields and the prioritized thirty-one baseball/softball fields. Baseball/softball infield clay renovations were completed at all eighty-one ball fields and two cricket fields. Field renovations decrease the chance for injury by improving the consistency of the playing surface.

Turf Sustainability Program

The Renovation Coordination Section’s turf sustainability plan, which focuses on the thirty-three most heavily used turf-worn multipurpose fields in our inventory, saw an additional decrease in sod replacement costs from last fiscal year. This cost savings has been accomplished through enhanced monitoring and scheduling, amending the soil profile, increased cultivation and nutrient practices. The savings in cost for sod is being used to supplement the cultivation and nutrient expense and has allowed the sustainability program to expand to now include eleven of the most turf worn baseball/softball infields.

Our sustainability plan provides a safer playing surface, decreases liability to the County, increases playability and appearance, and provides a more inviting facility with the intent to increase tourism/revenue through special event and tournament play.

Field Drainage Improvements

Drainage improvements were performed at County Pines Recreation Complex at Samuel Friedland Park on multipurpose fields #9, #10 & #11, West Boynton baseball #10 and Jupiter Farms baseball #2. Since completion, these fields have shown great results with water percolation/runoff, and an increase in their appearance, safety and playability.

Contractual Services

The Parks Contractual services section coordinated the asphalt overlay of eleven miles of pathway, three acres of parking lot paving and more than five miles of traffic striping.
Ocean Rescue:  

- New aluminum towers installed at DuBois and Ocean Reef Parks  
- New boat lift installed at DuBois Park  
- A national Rescue Watercraft (RWC) instructor trainer was brought in to help PBC Ocean Rescue develop a RWC training for all staff. Nine ocean lifeguards participated in the instructor course and the training officers developed a new RWC manual making way for Ocean Rescue to train all staff on safe, effective RWC use. This is a critical new program as Palm Beach County guards the south side of three inlets.  
- Developed a signage plan for unguarded County beach properties to inform visitors where to find guarded beaches, how to get out of a rip current and how to identify their location if emergency help is needed.

Natural Disasters:  

- **Strong winter winds and King tides** caused massive erosion on north county beaches resulting in some tower and boardwalk closures.  
- **Red Tide** was officially detected on September 30, ending the fiscal year with new challenges. Working closely with the Parks Division, Risk Management Department and fellow lifeguard agencies on the west coast of Florida, the Aquatics Division developed new protocols and procured personal protective gear for staff.  
- **Hurricane Irma** - In the aftermath of Hurricane Irma (2017), our facility and amenity repairs continued well into 2018. Parks staff worked with vendors to conduct necessary repairs to facilities and park amenities damaged by the storm. Division staff worked with Department Administration to catalogue all manner of repairs for FEMA reimbursement consideration.

“I am writing to you to tell you what an amazingly great job the facility crew are doing at the Lake Ida Park and Dog Park. I believe a special thank you and accolade should be given to Mr. Sam McLeod and Mr. Jorge Vega. I always see them doing their jobs with meticulous detail to doing them well. They make it a pleasure to use the park. Thank you for keeping this jewel of Delray in such great shape.” – Robin L.
Healthy Happenings throughout the County

Recreation Services Division received instructor training grants and program materials valued at $3,316 from NRPA to train and certify employees to implement evidence based physical activity programs for older adults of all abilities. These programs are designed to help people with a variety of chronic diseases to manage their conditions through physical activity engagement and health education. The Walk with Ease and Fit & Strong programs were launched in May of 2018. Fit and Strong is an exercise/behavior change program for older adults with lower extremity osteoarthritis. The program includes 60 minutes of exercise and 30 minutes of group discussion/health education. This program meets three times a week for 12 weeks. Walk with Ease is an exercise program that can reduce pain and improve overall health and is offered for one hour, twice a week for six weeks. Many of our program participants have reported an increased understanding of how to exercise safely, decreased joint pain and stiffness, improved flexibility, strength and stamina, reduced anxiety and depression and overall improvement in their health.

Morikami Museum & Japanese Gardens Received $482,000 from Freeman Foundation

The funds will be used for renovations at the Yamato-Kan, the original museum that houses two permanent exhibitions. Renovations include improving the interior features as well as adding fiber optics, in order to provide interactive activities and additional educational opportunities.

Summer Camp

• New and exciting initiatives were incorporated into summer camp 2018. Westgate Teen and Youth Camps partnered with UF/IFAS to offer a weekly cooking program for seven weeks. The campers learned how to prepare simple healthy food.
they can make for themselves and their family members. They also learned about food safety practices. The lessons covered topics such as basic cooking skills, good nutrition, healthy food choices, and physical activity.

- Summer Camp also partnered with the PBC Libraries to implement the Summer Reading Program. Books were provided by the Library Department and Summer Camps incorporated daily reading time to encourage the spirit of learning in a fun filled environment while preventing the summer slide.

- Westgate Teen Camp participated in a seven-week program with Vinceramos Therapeutic Riding Center. The program is based on academic standards, developmental assets and character education skills that make learning fun and successful. Lesson plans are designed to teach character education that coincide with 40 developmental assets. The developmental assets help young people grow up to be healthy, caring and responsible.

Aquatics

- Ocean Rescue provided training for Pier and Bridge rescues to the United States Lifesaving Association Training Officer Academy.

- All pools and waterparks were utilized by PBSO, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue and some municipal police and fire agencies for training and testing.

Eagle Scout Project at Daggerwing Nature Center

Special thank you to Justin Galin, who recently completed building and installing two purple martin houses and two bat houses at Daggerwing Nature Center to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. Justin started planning his project about a year ago. He installed the bird and bat houses to provide homes for wildlife and thus increase biodiversity around the nature center. He also completed his project with a presentation at the nature center about the benefits of birds and bats and how easy it is to provide habitat for native wildlife.
### Department hosted student interns

- The Planning, Research and Development Division enjoyed the services of two student interns, Austen Cabret and Jose Grisales Jimenez in 2018. The students assisted in community outreach, the development site plans, playground designs and GIS inventory work.
- The Office of Public Engagement hosted two student interns, Maria Latorre Sanchez and Ashley Huichaloff. The students assisted with public outreach in English and Spanish, document translation, graphic design, and video voiceovers.

### FY 2018 Adopt-a-Park Partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group/Organization Name</th>
<th>Park</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boca High Environmental Club</td>
<td>South Inlet Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christa McAuliffe Middle School-NJHS</td>
<td>Gulfstream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conniston Middle School</td>
<td>Lake Lytal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends and Family of Samson Joseph</td>
<td>Lake Belvedere Estates</td>
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<td>Friends of Dyer Park</td>
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<td>Friends of Jupiter Beach</td>
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<td>Henderson F.A.C.T. Team</td>
<td>John Prince Park</td>
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<td>Jupiter Sharks Rugby Club- Sharks Field</td>
<td>Carlin Park</td>
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<td>Jupiter Outdoor Center</td>
<td>Fullerton Island</td>
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<td>L.C. Swain Middle School NJHS</td>
<td>Kreusler Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loggerhead Marine Life Center</td>
<td>Juno Beach</td>
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<td>NEA Team Inc.</td>
<td>DuBois</td>
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<td>New City Church</td>
<td>Juno Park</td>
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<td>Oxbridge Academy</td>
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<td>PACE Center for Girls</td>
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<td>Palm Beach State College Science Club</td>
<td>John Prince Park</td>
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<td>Palm Beach Rowing</td>
<td>Bert Winters Park</td>
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<td>Phil Foster</td>
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<td>Okeeheeleee Park</td>
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### Volunteer Stats FY2018

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<td>New Volunteer Applications Processed</td>
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</table>

“Volunteer Stats FY2018”

“Department hosted student interns”

“The Fit and Strong program has helped me immensely. The exercises done with a group help so much because I am not inspired to do what I should to ease my osteoarthritis on my own! Being part of the group is uplifting and encouraging. The coaches are kind and patient with those of us who require a little more time and attention.” – Jen M.

“I just wanted to say thank you so much for the absolutely beautiful brochures you set aside for me! I am so thankful for the time you shared with me, getting this material together and talking to me on the phone. I look forward to getting these beauties into the hands of South Florida parents and grandparents, and encouraging them to make the most of their family time this summer! I know these brochures don’t just represent the time you shared with me, but also the hard work and dedication your entire parks and recreation staff lavish on our community. Please share with them my appreciation for working tirelessly to make so many community parks, museums and water features lovely and engaging. You guys provide the spaces for families to have REAL conversations, develop new hobbies, and take steps to maintain and improve their health together. What you guys do every day is truly priceless and appreciated! As a seventh-generation Floridian, I take so much pride in sharing my city, county and state parks with family and visiting friends. And, like me and my parents and grandparents before me, my children are so beautifully shaded by the trees you plant and care for, day after day and year after year. What a precious thing to count on! Thank you for making that possible!” – Rachel S.
The department rebranded its customer service standards through a contest open to department employees to come up with the best name. The winning entry, W-E-C-A-R-E, was submitted by Ocean Lifeguard Larry Russell.

**Aquatics**

- **Ocean Rescue** staff provided protection for 5,104,904 people through preventative actions, bather assists and rescues, resulting in zero drownings on County guarded beaches during operational hours.

- **Pool, Waterpark and Ocean Rescue** staff provided water safety education for over 12,000 people through community events and school talks.

- **Swimming Lessons**: The four traditional swimming pools and two waterparks taught 3,996 youth and 138 adult swimming lessons. Our Drowning Prevention Coalition partnership provided free or reduced cost lessons for 916 children and the YMCA partnership provided 225 free lessons for day camp participants.

- **Lake Lytal Family Aquatic Center and Pioneer Pool** partnered with the Children Services Council (CSC) for the 5th year in a row to provide very successful free pool parties and water safety education events reaching more than 1,700 children and families.

**Ocean Mile Swim, Ocean Cay Park**

We are consistently impressed with the professionalism of your Aquatics Division and the teams of lifeguards at Lake Lytal and Pioneer Park.” letter from Lisa Williams-Taylor of the CSC

- **Ocean Rescue** entered into a contract for a medical director and updated all medical SOPs

- 19 full-time Ocean Rescue staff members participated in staff training/development programs
Pools & Waterparks:

- **Aqua Crest**
  Hosted nine visiting college teams during winter break
  Increased attendance and revenue, and the sale of passes and camp tickets
  Increased swimming lesson participants

- **Lake Lytal**
  Increased revenue by 16% which increased cost recovery from 34% to 42%
  Hosted five winter break college teams and is serving as the year round host pool for Keiser University.
  Partnered with Connections Education to provide swimming lessons for children on the Autism Spectrum
  Five staff members successfully earned their Lifeguarding Instructor certification

- **North County Aquatic**
  Hosted nine visiting college swim teams during winter break
  Increased revenue by 9% and attendance by 8% and recovered 47% of operating budget
  Initiated online payments through RecTrac for competitive program participants and swimming lessons.

- **Pioneer Pool**
  Opened the season by offering one free session of swimming lessons on a first-come, first-served basis, including one class for adults. All classes filled.
  Exceeded revenue goal by 7% or $3,429

- **Calypso Bay Waterpark**
  Received 100% satisfaction rating on swim lesson surveys
  Received 95% satisfaction rating on birthday party surveys
  Maintained revenue & attendance with only a slight decrease from 2017 in spite of inclement weather resulting in 42 early closure days and 7 days of not opening
  Utilized a new vendor resulting in lower food & beverage costs for concessions
  Hosted successful Waggin’ at the Waterpark dog event with 176 participants

- **Coconut Cove Waterpark**
  Received 100% satisfaction rating on both swim lesson & birthday party surveys
  Maintained revenue & attendance with only a slight decrease from 2017 in spite of inclement weather resulting in 37 early closure days and 3 days of not opening
  Increased swimming lesson program participation by 13%
  Maintained a safe waterpark environment with no rescues and minimal injuries
  Hosted an inaugural Waggin’ at the Waterpark dog event with 130 canine guests.
**Therapeutic Recreation**

The Recreation Services Division provided ongoing, diverse recreation programs and activities to youth and adults with disabilities through its Therapeutic Recreation Section. Staff served over 35,000 people with disabilities during FY18. Participants had the opportunity to choose from a variety of unique recreation programs based on abilities and personal interests: aquatics, visual and performing arts, life skills, fitness, Special Olympics, Paralympic Sports, social and inclusive programs.

- Arts4All provided school residencies/programs for 882 students in 85 classes at 22 schools for audiences totaling 1,540 people. Staff implemented a new special event, the first Talent Show, which was a huge success. This talent show allowed participants with disabilities an opportunity to run the program. This included an opportunity for the participants to perform on stage, help create the set, run the music and lights and open/close the stage curtain. Additionally, staff implemented three new performing arts programs: Line Dancing, Drama Club, and Literary Arts. Staff also implemented three new visual arts programs: Set Design, Multi-media Quilting, and Drawing.

**Parks Warehouse Section**

- The Parks Division entered over 7,500 work orders this year and closed more than 5,700. Data processors entered in excess of 11,000 employee time cards to the MainTrac database. This work is important for properly documenting personnel and materials by park or work order and for evidence in the event of litigation. Work order completion is tracked monthly.

- The Warehouse issued 51,235 items in FY 2018, exceeding the prior year by 4,345 items. The year end warehouse inventory audit of materials on hand was accepted without comment by auditors. Total required year end adjustments were just .0001% of the total issues for the year and continued to show a trend of improving accuracy by the Warehouse Team.

- The Warehouse team issued nearly 5,000 purchasing documents in FY18, a 9% increase over the previous fiscal year demonstrating increasing demand and high level of staff service to our customers. The team accomplished this achievement without any additional dedicated labor resources.

**Collaborating with over 180 partner organizations to facilitate athletic programming at County facilities**

The Recreation Services Division partnered with more than 189 Youth and Adult Sports Programs, comprised of over 4,000 teams, serving over 61,000 participants at various athletic facilities throughout Palm Beach County.

**$6.5 Million in economic impact to Palm Beach County through use of department sports facilities**

PBC Parks facilities served as a host site for Palm Beach County Sports Commission events. In FY 18, the economic impact to the county through Parks and Recreation was $6,510,920.

**Educating and shaping future stewards of our natural resources and environment**

Our nature centers and Riverbend Park provided curriculum-based science programming to over 4,600 school children and provided outdoor recreation opportunities (fishing, canoeing, archery) to over 600 individuals.

**South County Civic Center continued to be a popular meeting venue**

The civic center hosted 695 meetings/events in FY 18. Events included health fairs, community meetings and social gatherings which served nearly 63,000 people.

"Keep up the wonderful work up in Palm Beach County. Your programming/facilities for special populations are outstanding!" –David R.

"I was one of the race directors for the 42nd Annual “Shamrock 10 mile/5k Run” this past Saturday (St. Patrick’s Day). We had a very successful event partly due to the extreme cooperation and service that one of your employees, Katie Koelmeyer gave us. She is an asset to your organization. We also want to thank the Parks Department of Palm Beach County for their helping us secure this venue, John Prince Park for these past 42 years. It has become a tradition that we in the running community look forward to every year and are very proud to host.” –Jim W.
How we compared nationwide in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>National Avg.*</th>
<th>Palm Beach County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating expenditure per FTE</td>
<td>$92,916</td>
<td>$93,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating expenditure per capita</td>
<td>$78.26</td>
<td>$53.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating expense per acre of land managed</td>
<td>$6,589</td>
<td>$6,251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue as a percentage of total operating expense</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acreage of Parkland per 1,000 population</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue generated annually per capita</td>
<td>$19.36</td>
<td>$15.38</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Parks and Recreation is essential to quality of life

99% of the people surveyed stated Parks and Recreation programs or services are important to their overall quality of life.

Attendance at nature-based facilities continued to rise

Attendance at Department-operated Nature Centers and Riverbend Park exceeded 1,500,000 visitors.

Department Overview and Animated Videos produced in Spanish

The department’s Office of Public Engagement created the alternate language videos to meet the county’s growing Spanish-speaking population. Scripts have also been produced in Haitian Creole with plans to record in the upcoming year. The videos can be viewed on PBC Parks TV on YouTube:

- Video general del departamento: https://youtu.be/xQaEsHvndRs
- Sostenibilidad ambiental: https://youtu.be/whXWNBM1Ag0
- Desarrollando comunidades: https://youtu.be/gRPDrbEealo
- Desarrollo económico: https://youtu.be/nhU5gmdZK3U

Department launches new video series: Animal Encounters and What’s that Plant?

Episodes from each series can be viewed at PBC Parks TV on YouTube.
2018 ADOPTED BUDGET

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

2018

Non Ad-Valorem Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>Golf Courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8,803,236</td>
<td>9,896,312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9,347,750</td>
<td>11,990,692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9,483,842</td>
<td>12,912,468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9,149,460</td>
<td>14,364,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9,790,155.50</td>
<td>14,651,588</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INFRASTRUCTURE SURTAX PROJECTS 2017-2027: $129,339,050

- Athletic Field/Court Renovations & Lighting Replacement 31%
- Existing Park Redevelopment or Expansion 11%
- New Park Development to Meet Level of Service 18%
- Building/Restroom/Septic/Sewer/Pavilion/Bridge/Pathway/Fencing/Boardwalk Repair & Replacement 23%
- Aquatic Facility Repair and Replacement/Fresh Water Boat Ramp Repairs 15%
- Playground Replacement 2%

Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation Department 2018 Annual Report
VALUED PARTNERS

National Park Service
National Recreation & Parks Association (NRPA)
National Weather Service (NWS)
New City Church
North Palm Beach County Little League
North Everglades Trail Association (NETA)
North Palm Beach Rowing Club
Northern Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce
N-Zone Sports
Office Depot Foundation
Office of Greenways & Trails
Okeeheelee BMX Parents Council
Okeeheelee Disc Golf Club
Okeeheelee Senior Softball Association
Okeeheelee Youth Baseball, Inc.
Old School Square, Inc.
Pahokee Pride
Palm Beach Breakers
Palm Beach Broadcasting
Palm Beach Coralyes Synchronized Swim Team
Palm Beach County 4-H
Palm Beach County Astronomical Society
Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control
Palm Beach County Bee Keepers Association
Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Service
Palm Beach County Cultural Council
Palm Beach County Department of Community Services
Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management
Palm Beach County Drowning Prevention Coalition
Palm Beach County Film Commission
Palm Beach County Fire Rescue
Palm Beach County Health Department
Palm Beach County Horseman’s Association
Palm Beach County Library System
Palm Beach County Mounted Posse
Palm Beach County Office of Community Revitalization
Palm Beach County Officials Association
Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office
Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office Police Athletic League (PAL)
Palm Beach County Sports Commission
Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections
Palm Beach County Tourist Development Council
Palm Beach County Woodturners, Inc.
Palm Beach County Youth Football and Cheerleading
Palm Beach County Youth Services Department
Palm Beach Cricket Club
Palm Beach Elite Soccer
Palm Beach Gardens Predators

Soccer
Palm Beach Habilitation Center, Inc.
Palm Beach Hindu Mandir
Palm Beach Lacrosse
Palm Beach Lightning
Palm Beach Maritime Institute
Palm Beach Masters Swimming
Palm Beach Pack and Paddle
Palm Beach Panthers
Palm Beach Post
Palm Beach Predators
Palm Beach Premier FC
Palm Beach Radio Control Association
Palm Beach RC Power Boaters
Palm Beach Rugby Football
Palm Beach Senior Softball Association
Palm Beach Shakespeare Festival Inc.
Palm Beach State College
Palm Beach State College Science Club
Palm Beach Tiger Sharks
Palm Beach Tigers Sporting Club
Palm Beach Titans Cricket Club
Palm Beach Trykers
Palm Beach Vikings
Palm Beach Yard Dogs
Palms West Chamber of Commerce
Palm Tran
Partners for Environmental Education
Partnership for Environmental Education (JERFSA)
People to People - Palm Beach Delegation
Perfect Game USA
PGA of America
Plumosa Elementary School of the Arts
Port of Palm Beach
Power Soccer School
Prime Time Senior Softball
Prime Time Palm Beach County ProBall Baseball
Prospect Select, Inc.
PSG-Palm Beach
Puro Vida Divers
Punishers
Quality Sports Inc
Quantum Foundation
Race Time Sports
Rawlings Stealth
R.C. Bush Pilots
Regina Rodrigues, yoga instructor
Regulators
Renaissance Learning Center
Ridge Grand Prix
Rise and Grind
Riverbend Trail Riders
River Bridge Animal Hospital
Riviera Beach Gators
Pathfinders Club
Robert Caultlett, Karate Instructor
RPM Regulators
Royal Palm Beach Senior Softball Association
Rosarian Academy
Sally Welsh Chapela, Water Fitness Instructor
Sandoway House
Senior Saturday Softball Association
School District of Palm Beach County
Schulz Academy
Scorpions Baseball
Seagull Industries
Shelley Jensen, Dance Instructor
Shred Shed
Sideout Sand Volleyball
Sierra Club
Sister Cities
Ski Club of the Palm Beaches
SLAM
Society of Women Engineers
Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County
Somerset Academy Canyons Middle/High Schools
Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War
South Florida Collegiate Baseball League
South Florida Cricket Alliance
South Florida Directors of R.C. Inc.
South Florida Herpetological Society
South Florida Interagency Fire Management Council
South Florida Hitman
South Florida Lacrosse
South Florida Outlaws
South Florida Paddle
South Florida Petanque Club
South Florida Rattlers
South Florida Science Museum
South Florida Thunder
South Florida Water Management District
South Florida Wicked Fastpitch
South Florida Wildlife Care Center
South Florida Young Guns
South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD)
South Shore Cricket Club
South Shore Red Tide
Southeast Florida Invasive Plants Working Group
Special Olympics Florida, Palm Beach County
St. Mary’s Medical Center / Palm Beach Children’s Hospital
State of Florida (TIITF)
Stuart Scuba
Sun Sentinel
Swing with the King, Inc.
TAB Development, Inc.
Tailwaggers Learning Center
Tennis Insights, Inc.
Teresa Krellner, Basketball Official
The National Croquet Center
Titans Baseball
Town of Haverhill
Town of Juno
Town of Jupiter
Town of Lantana
Town of Manalapan
Town of Ocean Ridge
Town of Palm Beach
Town of Palm Beach Shores
Trash Free Vision for Ocean Conservation
Trinity Christian Academy
Trust for Public Land
UF/IFAS
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Coast Guard
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Firefighter Games
U.S. Forestry Service
U.S. Paralympics
U.S. Sailing
U.S. Synchronized Swimming
University of Florida
United Cerebral Palsy (UCP)
United South County Democratic Club
United States Association of Blind Athletes
United States Hunter Jumper Association
United States Lifesaving Association
United States Masters Swimming
United States Quad Rugby Association
United Way
United Way Emerging Leaders Society
USA Diving
USA Swimming
USA Track and Field
USA Wake Board
USA Water Ski
USSSA
Valarie Bell, Arts and Crafts Instructor
Vanya Allen, Dance Lessons
Veterans Coalition of South Florida
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post #10556
Village of Palm Springs
Village of Royal Palm Beach
Village of Tequesta
Village of Wellington
Villaggio Seniors Softball
Vincereamos Therapeutic Riding Center
Vipers Baseball Club
Voters Coalition
ArtsAll Florida – Palm Beach County
Walmart Foundation
Weinbaum Yeshiva High School
Wellington Classic Dressage
West Boca Athletic Association
West Boca Basketball League
West Boca Raton Community Council
West Boynton Flag Football
West Boynton Football League
West Boynton Girl’s Fastpitch Softball
West Boynton Lady Bandits
West Boynton Little League Baseball
West Boynton Travel Baseball League
Westgate/Belvedere Homes CRA
West Lantana Soccer Association
West Palm Beach Community College
West Palm Beach Football Club
White Foundation
World Adult Kickball Association
World Bonsai Friendship Federation
Yesteryear Village
YMCA of Boca Raton
YMCA of the Palm Beaches
Youth Empowerment Inc.