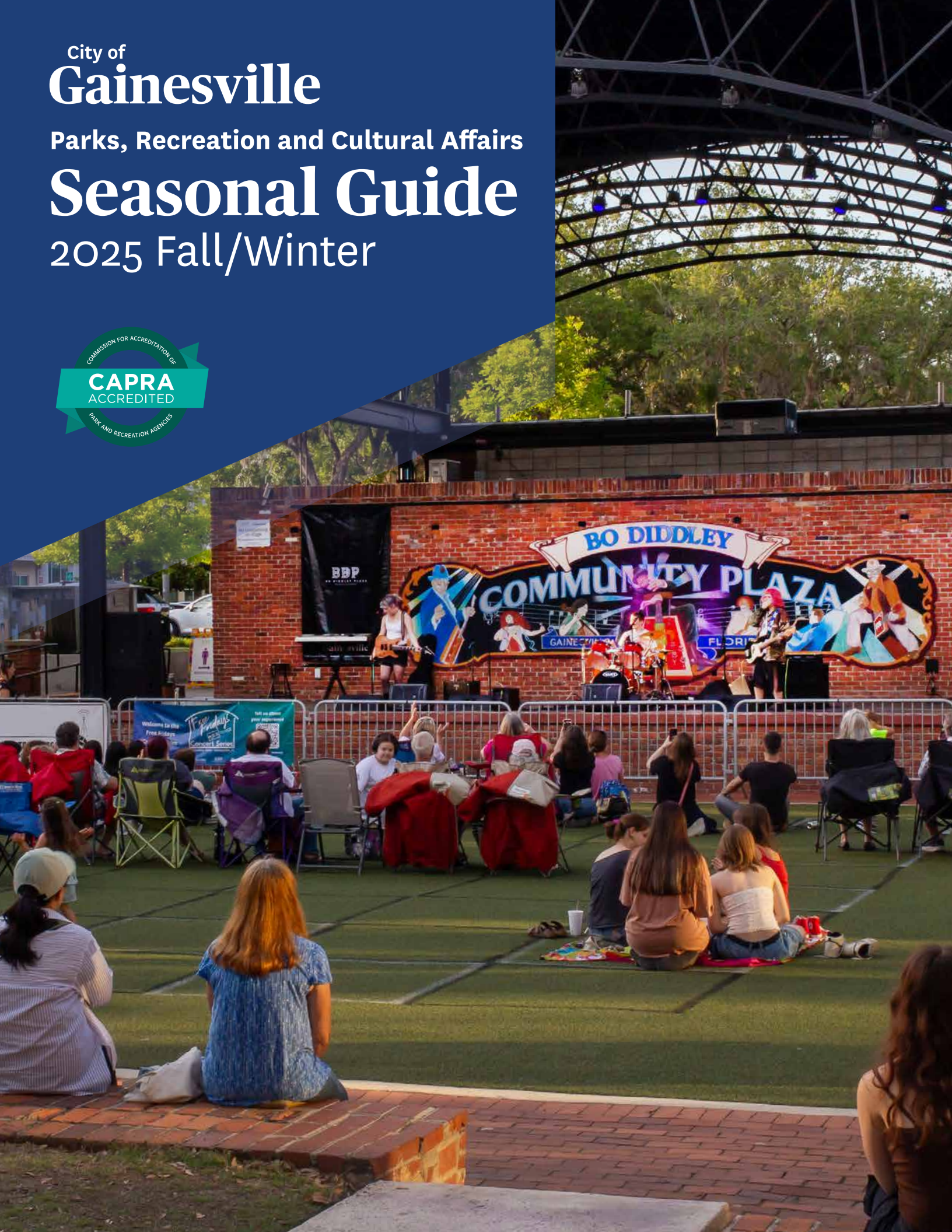


City of
Gainesville

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

Seasonal Guide

2025 Fall/Winter



City of Gainesville

City Commission

Harvey Ward Jr. Mayor

James Ingle,
Commissioner At-large, Seat A

Cynthia Chestnut,
Commissioner At-large, Seat B

Desmon Duncan-Walker,
District I Commissioner

Ed Book,
District II Commissioner

Casey Willits,
District III Commissioner

Bryan Eastman, Mayor Pro-Tem,
District IV Commissioner

City Manager

Cynthia W. Curry

Chief Operating 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

Facebook: GainesvillePRCA

What's Inside

3	Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs
4	Aquatic Programs
5	Pools
8	Athletic Programs
10	Camps and After-School Programs
12	Education Programs
14	Cultural Centers
16	GNV Arts
18	Nature Programs
22	Nature Centers
24	Special Events
30	Facility Reservations
32	Park Rules and Regulations
33	Special Events Permits
34	Featured Park: Abby Wambach Park
36	Looking Ahead to Spring 2026

Find this guide online:
gainesvillefl.gov/Guide



Current rates are good through Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025. On Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025 the City of Gainesville's fiscal year 2026 (FY26) begins and all rates are subject to change.



City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

Mission

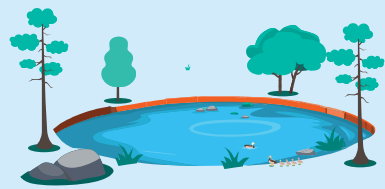
We create meaningful experiences and a feeling of connection and belonging for all through exceptional programs and services with well-maintained:



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) guides quality assurance and improvement to accredited park and recreation agencies throughout the United States. This operational management system improves infrastructures; increases efficiency in all activities and demonstrates accountability within 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

Fall 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.

Day/Date(s): **Tuesdays and Thursdays**
Session 1: Aug. 19, 21, 26, 28,
Sept. 2, 4, 9, 11
Session 2: Sept. 16, 18, 23, 25, 30,
Oct. 2, 7, 9

Time(s): Varies

Registration: Opens Aug. 1 and closes before the start of each session

Location(s): **Session 1:**
Dwight H. Hunter Pool
(1100 NE 14th St.)
Session 2:
H. Spurgeon Cherry Pool
(946 NW 31st Dr.)

Fee(s): City residents \$57†
Non-city residents \$70†

Ages: 3 through adults

Call: 352-334-5067

Online: gainesvillefl.gov/SwimLessons

Private Swim Lessons

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

Day/Date(s): **Saturday Lessons**
Session 5: Aug. 9, 16, 23, 30
Session 6: Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27

Time(s): Varies

Registration: Opens May 1 and closes before the start of each session

Location(s): **Session 5:**
H. Spurgeon Cherry Pool
(946 NW 31st Dr.)
Sessions 6:
Dwight Hunter Pool
(1100 NE 14th St.)

Fee(s): City residents \$57†
Non-city residents \$70†

Ages: 3 through adults

Call: 352-334-5067

Online: gainesvillefl.gov/SwimLessons



Swim lessons have limited space and registration is handled on a first-come, first-served basis. If registration is filled, you may enroll on the waiting list.

† Current rates are good through Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025. On Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025 the City of Gainesville's fiscal year 2026 (FY26) begins and all rates are subject to change.



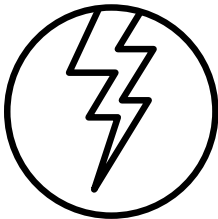
Pools

GainesvilleFL.gov/Pools
352-334-5067

Lightning Policy

Lightning warning: When there is lightning within **10 miles** of the facility, staff are required to close the pool. Patrons will be cleared from the pool deck and shower use will be prohibited. **There are no refunds.**

All clear: Once severe weather has left the area, staff will reopen and resume operating hours. Weather information provided by the alert system supersedes all other weather information sources. View the complete lightning policy online or inquire with staff at a city pool.



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 Andrew R. 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 is closed on weekends and city designated holidays. For questions, contact us at 352-334-5067.

See page 26 for information on how to reserve a pool pavilion for your special occasion.



Pools



H. Spurgeon Cherry Pool

946 NW 31st Dr. 352-334-2187

Morning Lap Swim: 50-meters

Fall Hours (Aug. 11-Nov. 9)

Monday–Friday lap swim: 6-10 a.m.

lap/open swim: 3-8 p.m.

Saturday lap/open swim: 12-5 p.m.

Sunday lap/open swim: 12-5 p.m.

Labor Day lap: 6-10 a.m.;

lap/open: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.



Dwight H. Hunter Pool

1100 NE 14th St. 352-334-2191

Lap Swim: 25-yards

Fall Hours (Aug. 11-Nov. 9)

Monday–Friday lap swim: 6-10 a.m.

lap/open swim: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Saturday lap/open swim: 12-5 p.m.

Sunday lap/open swim: 12-5 p.m.

Labor Day lap: 6-10 a.m.;

lap/open: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

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

***Note:** Winter pool hours begin Monday, Nov. 10 and will be posted at a later date.

Pool hours are subject to change. Please visit gainesvillefl.gov/Pools or call the pool for details.



Andrew R. Mickle Sr. Pool

1717 SE 15th St. 352-334-2190

Lap Swim: 25-yards

Fall Hours (Aug. 11–Sept. 2)

Saturday lap/open swim: 12-5 p.m.

Sunday–Friday closed

Labor Day 12 p.m.–5 p.m.

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

† Current rates are good through Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025. On Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025 the City of Gainesville's fiscal year 2026 (FY26) begins and all rates are subject to change.

*Note: Winter pool hours begin Monday, Nov. 10 and will be posted at a later date.

Pool hours are subject to change. Please visit gainesvillefl.gov/Pools or call the pool for details.

Athletic Programs

Pop Warner Football and Cheer

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

Day/Date(s): July 15-Dec. 13

Time(s): Practices are held weekday evenings 6-8 p.m, maximum 10 hours per week; after Labor Day six hours per week. Games are held on Saturdays.

Registration: Monday, April 14-Friday, July 25

Location(s): Practice at Martin Luther King Jr. Center (1028 NE 14th St.)
Games at Citizens Field (next to MLK) and neighboring cities.

Fee(s):	Football	City residents \$122.25
		Non-city residents \$152.75
	Cheer	City residents \$82.75
		Non-city residents \$103.25

Ages: Football 5-14
Cheer 3-15

Call: 352-393-8542

Online: gainesvillefl.gov/PopWarner



Start Smart Soccer

Ready to kick-start your preschooler's love for sports? Sign up for Start Smart Soccer – a fun, age-appropriate program designed to introduce your little one to the world of sports while building essential skills.

Day/Date(s): Mondays (Aug. 11-Sept. 22)
Six sessions total
Monday, Aug. 11
Monday, Aug. 18
Monday, Aug. 25
Monday, Sept. 8
Monday, Sept. 15
Monday, Sept. 22

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

Registration: **Opens**
City residents Monday, June 2
All residents Monday, June 17
Last day to register
In-person Friday, Aug. 8
Online Sunday, Aug. 10

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

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

Ages: Ages 3-5, with an adult

Call: 352-393-8438

Online: gainesvillefl.gov/StartSmart



Adult Softball

Gather your team and hit the field! For players 18 and older, this co-ed league offers a fun, safe environment to sharpen their skills, stay active, and enjoy friendly competition—all while building connections and promoting overall well-being. Play ball!

Day/Date(s):	Tuesdays and Thursdays, Sept. 8-Dec. 5
Time(s):	Varies
Registration:	Opens Monday, Aug. 4 Last Day to register Friday, Aug. 29
Location(s):	Greentree Park (3700 NW 19th St.) Albert “Ray” Massey Park (1001 NW 34th St.) Tom Petty Park (400 NE 16th Ave.)
Fee(s):	City residents \$235.75 † Non-city residents \$294.50†
Ages:	18 and up
Call:	352-393-8527
Online:	gainesvillefl.gov/Softball

Start Smart Basketball

This exciting program not only prepares kids but also involves parents, creating the perfect foundation for a lifetime of active fun and teamwork!



Day/Date(s):	Mondays, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27, Nov. 3, 17
Time(s):	6:30-7:30 p.m.
Registration:	Opens City residents Monday, Aug. 4 All residents Monday, Aug. 18 Last day to register In-person Friday, Oct. 3 Online Sunday, Oct. 5
Location(s):	Martin Luther King Jr. Center (1028 NE 14th St.)
Fee(s):	City residents \$45 † Non-city residents \$56.25 †
Ages:	Ages 3-5, with an adult
Call:	352-393-8438
Online:	gainesvillefl.gov/StartSmart

Youth Basketball

Dribble, pass, and score with our youth basketball league! Players build skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship through expert coaching, fun drills, and competitive games—all in a positive, supportive environment.

Day/Date(s):	Practice begins the week of Monday, Dec. 1.
Time(s):	Practice days and times will vary; Monday-Thursday, between 6-8:50 p.m. Exact days and times will be assigned depending on registration.
Registration:	Wednesday, Oct. 1.-Friday, Nov. 21.
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:	5-14
Call:	352-393-8527
Online:	gainesvillefl.gov/YouthBasketball



† Current rates are good through Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025. On Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025 the City of Gainesville’s fiscal year 2026 (FY26) begins and all rates are subject to change.

Camps and After-School Programs



The After-School Program

Join us for fun, educational and interactive after-school activities. This enriching program lays a foundation for academic success, health, well-being, social skills and more.

Day/Date(s): Monday through Friday
(Aug. 11-June 2 based on the Alachua County Public Schools' calendar for 2025-2026).
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 - the Friday before each session starts
Online - the Sunday before each session starts

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 our website for more information.

Ages: Grades 1-8

Call: 352-393-8438

Online: gainesvillefl.gov/AfterSchool

Camps and After-School Programs have limited space and registration is handled on a first-come, first-served basis. If registration is filled, you may enroll on the waiting list.

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. 17 through Monday, March 30 (based on the 10-month Alachua County Public Schools' calendar for 2025-2026)

Friday, Oct. 17
Monday, Oct. 20
Monday, Nov. 24
Tuesday, Nov. 25
Friday, Dec. 19
Monday, Dec. 22
Tuesday, Dec. 23
Friday, Dec. 26
Friday, Jan. 16, 2026
Friday, Feb. 13, 2026
Monday, Feb. 16, 2026
Monday, March 30, 2026

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

Registration: **Opens Wednesday, Oct. 1**
Last day to register
In-person - the Friday before each session starts
Online - the Sunday before each session starts

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

† Current rates are good through Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025. On Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025 the City of Gainesville's fiscal year 2026 (FY26) begins and all rates are subject to change.

Winter Break Camp

Come CHILL with us this holiday season during our Winter Break Camp! This seasonal camp provides youth in grades 1 through 8 with a safe and engaging environment through hands-on activities, sports, field trips, arts & crafts, and more!

Day/Date(s): Monday, Dec. 29
Tuesday, Dec. 30
Wednesday, Dec. 31
Friday, Jan. 2, 2026
No camp on Thursday, Jan. 1

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

Registration: **Opens**
City residents Wednesday, Oct. 1
All residents Wednesday, Oct. 15
Last day to register
In-person Wednesday, Dec. 24
Online Sunday, Dec. 28

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: 352-393-8438

Online: gainesvillefl.gov/OutofSchoolDays



Education Programs

Bilingual Story Time at the Park

Join us for stories and songs in Spanish and English in partnership with the Millhopper Library Branch. Perfect for toddlers and preschoolers. 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

Music and Movement at the Park

Sing, dance and make music at our Music and Movement program in partnership with the Millhopper Library Branch. Perfect for toddlers and preschoolers. 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



Perspectives in the Park

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

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

Time(s): 1 p.m.

Registration: Not required

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

Fee(s): Free

Ages: Adults

Call: 352-451-4908

Online: gainesvillefl.gov/HogtownCreek

Youth Steering Committee - GNV

The Youth Steering Committee-GNV is part of the City of Gainesville's initiative to help stop youth gun violence in our community and elevate youth voices on important topics. We are looking for youth ages 16 - 24, to help guide us on these topics, while learning leadership skills. Our committee meets once per month, and youth are paid for their time. We aim to have youth representation from each Gainesville high school.

Day/Date(s): Third Wednesday of the month

Time(s): 4-5:30 p.m.

Registration: Rolling applications as space is available on the committee.

Location(s): Project Youthbuild (635 NW Sixth St.)

Fee(s): None

Ages: 16-24

Call: 352-393-8514

Online: gainesvillefl.gov/YouthSteeringCommittee





Lil' Cooking Club

Come be a part of our Lil Cooking Club, where preschoolers are introduced to cooking and the culinary arts through hands-on activities in a social and creative learning environment.

Parent/caregiver participation is required for this program.

Day/Date(s): **Fall Session A**
 Tuesday, Nov. 4
 Tuesday, Nov. 18
 Tuesday, Dec. 2
 Tuesday, Dec. 9

Fall Session B
 Thursday, Nov. 6
 Thursday, Nov. 20
 Thursday, Dec. 4
 Thursday, Dec. 11

*No session the week of Veterans Day or the week of Thanksgiving.

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

Registration: **Opens**
 City residents Tuesday, Sept. 16
 All residents Tuesday, Sept. 2
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



Grillers International

Do you have a young, aspiring culinary artist or want to inspire a love of cooking and nutrition? Then sign up today for our Mini Grillers (ages 6-9) and Junior Grillers (ages 10-12) programs! Children will learn essential cooking techniques, new recipes, and work alongside their peers to develop their skills.

Day/Date(s): **Mini Grillers (6-9)**
 Monday, Sept. 22
 Monday, Sept. 29
 Monday, Oct. 6
 Monday, Oct. 13

Junior Grillers (10-12)
 Thursday, Sept. 25
 Thursday, Oct. 2
 Thursday, Oct. 9
 Thursday, Oct. 16

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

Registration: **Opens**
 City residents Friday, Aug. 1
 All residents Friday, Aug. 15
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

Save the Date: Winter session of Grillers International coming in February 2026. Registration opens in December.



† Current rates are good through Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025. On Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025 the City of Gainesville's fiscal year 2026 (FY26) begins and all rates are subject to change.

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): Mondays

Time(s): 6:30-8 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): Tuesdays and Thursdays

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): Wednesdays

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

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

Fee(s): Free

Ages: Adults



Smooth Flava at Bo Diddley Plaza

Gainesville Swing Dance

Beginner and intermediate swing dance lessons followed by an evening of social dancing to lively vintage tunes—learn new moves, then dance the night away!

Day/Date(s): Thursdays

Time(s): 7:30-10:30 p.m.

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

Fee(s): Free

Ages: All ages



BLOCO GNV Drumming

Learn Afro-Brazilian rhythms and play samba-reggae!

Day/Date(s): Fridays

Time(s): 6-8 p.m.

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

Fee(s): \$10

Ages: Middle school through adults

Online: www.blocognv.com



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): Sundays

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

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

Fee(s): Free

Ages: High school and up

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



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," oral histories of Gainesville residents and special events throughout the year. 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

Call: 352-334-2010

Online: 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

Call: 352-393-8202

Online: 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



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

Call: 352-393-8539

Online: gainesvillefl.gov/GNVArts



Thomas Center Galleries & Museum

Step into Gainesville's rich history at the Historic Thomas Center, a centuries-old Mediterranean building that has served as a home, hotel and junior college. Today, it's a vibrant cultural hub with two art galleries, three period rooms, and captivating historical exhibits. Explore rotating art exhibitions and the beautifully restored 1920s period rooms, offering a glimpse into the city's past. Docent-led tours are available for groups, or enjoy a self-guided tour with brochures provided.

Location: 302 NE Sixth Ave. Building A

Email: velasquesc1@gainesvillefl.gov

Call: 352-393-8532

Online: historicthomascenter.org

Nature Programs



Farm and Forest Friends

Venture through the woods and onto the farm as we learn and explore! Begin your journey meeting one of our friendly classroom animals, then follow your guide as we learn about the birds, bugs, and plants on our way to help our farm animals with their morning feed!

Day/Date(s): Third Friday of the month, September-May

Time(s): 10-11 a.m.

Registration: Not required

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

Fee(s): \$5 first youth, \$2.50 for each additional youth in same group

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

Call: 352-393-8240

Online: gainesvillefl.gov/Morningside

Eco Rangers

Come learn about the exciting environment all around us! Rotating weekly lectures, activities, and hikes themed around local flora, fauna and phenomena encourage hands-on exploration and a lifelong appreciation for nature.

Day/Date(s): Tuesdays and Wednesdays, October-May

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

Registration: Not required

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

Fee(s): \$5 first youth, \$2.50 for each additional youth in same group

Ages: All ages welcome. Tuesdays recommended for toddler and pre-K. Wednesdays recommended for third through fifth graders. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Call: 352-451-4908

Online: gainesvillefl.gov/HogtownCreek

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): Wednesdays September-May

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



Living History Saturdays

Step into the past at Morningside Living History Farm—free fun for all ages! Tour the log cabin, try hands-on activities like gardening and woodworking, and meet heritage farm animals. Our costumed guides bring the 1800s farm to life!

Day/Date(s):	First Saturday of the month, September-May
Time(s):	9 a.m.-1 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



SOAR: Science-Oriented Activities and Recreation

SOAR to discover science through hands-on learning and games! Join the Nature Education team at Pine Meadows Community Center and learn how you can explore nature in your neighborhood. Use scientific tools, try nature-based activities, and play fun team games as we learn what lives beneath our feet and what soars above us all.

Day/Date(s):	Second Thursday of the month, September-May
Time(s):	3:30-4:30 p.m.
Registration:	Not required
Location(s):	Pine Meadows Community Center (2626 E. University Ave.)
Fee(s):	Free
Ages:	6-12
Call:	352-393-8240 or 352-334-0720
Online:	gainesvillefl.gov/Morningside

Fall Wildflower Walks

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

Day/Date(s):	Saturday, Sept. 27 Saturday, Oct. 4 Saturday, Oct. 11 Saturday, Oct. 18
Time(s):	9-10:30 a.m.
Registration:	Not required
Location(s):	Morningside Nature Center (3540 E. University Ave.)
Fee(s):	Free
Ages:	All ages
Call:	352-393-8240

Join us on Friday, Oct. 17, at 10 a.m. for a kid-friendly wildflower walk and an activity to follow!



Wednesday Bird Walks at the Wetlands

Calling all birders! Join us as we look for and learn about the marvelous 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, \$2 per pedestrian (entrance fee for park); no additional fee for tour †
Ages:	All ages
Call:	352-554-5871
Online:	gainesvillefl.gov/SweetwaterWetlands

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 area and about the plants and animals that call it home.

Day/Date(s):	Last Saturday of the month, September-May. Tours also available by request.
Time(s):	9 a.m.
Registration:	Not required
Location(s):	Sweetwater Wetlands Park (325 SW Williston Rd.)
Fee(s):	\$5 per vehicle, \$2 per pedestrian (entrance fee for park); no additional fee for tour †
Ages:	All ages
Call:	352-554-5871
Online:	gainesvillefl.gov/SweetwaterWetlands

† Current rates are good through Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025. On Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025 the City of Gainesville's fiscal year 2026 (FY26) begins and all rates are subject to change.



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):	Tuesdays and Thursdays
Time(s):	9:30 a.m. Tours also available by request.
Registration:	gainesvillefl.gov/SweetwaterWetlands
Location(s):	Sweetwater Wetlands Park (325 SW Williston Rd.)
Fee(s):	\$5 per vehicle, \$2 per pedestrian (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.

Day/Date(s):	First and third Wednesdays, November-March
Time(s):	30 minutes after sunset, lasts 1.5 hours
Registration:	gainesvillefl.gov/SweetwaterWetlands
Location(s):	Sweetwater Wetlands Park (325 SW Williston Rd.)
Fee(s):	\$5 per person †
Ages:	12 and up. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.
Call:	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.

Day/Date(s):	Second and fourth Wednesdays, November-March
Time(s):	30 minutes after sunset, lasts 1 hour
Registration:	gainesvillefl.gov/SweetwaterWetlands
Location(s):	Sweetwater Wetlands Park (325 SW Williston Rd.)
Fee(s):	\$5 per person †
Ages:	All ages
Call:	352-554-5871



Gainesville Greenway Challenge

Help protect our natural environment. Volunteer with our city staff to remove invasive plants from nature parks September through May. Visit the GGC page online at gainesvillefl.gov/GGC for more information on dates, times and locations.

Fee(s):	Free
Ages:	All ages
Call:	352-393-8425
Online:	gainesvillefl.gov/GGC

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

Temporarily closed
Will reopen in Fall 2025



Living History Farm at Morningside

Meet farm animals, stroll through the garden or simply enjoy sitting on the porch of our 1870's cabin.

Hours: Temporarily closed due to Wild Spaces & Public Places improvements.

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





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, \$2 per pedestrian (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

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

Special Events



Free Fridays Concert Series

Gainesville's longest-running and largest free outdoor concert series continues through September 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



Bo Diddley Plaza Movie Nights

Movie Nights at the Plaza is the ultimate family-friendly event, featuring free movie screenings that everyone will love. Enjoy complimentary popcorn as you relax on your blanket or lawn chair.

Date/Time(s): Saturday, Sept. 13, 8-10 p.m.: Shrek
Friday, Oct. 10, 7-10 p.m.: Wicked with sing-along
Saturday, Dec. 17, 8-10 p.m.: Elf

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

Fee(s): Free

Ages: All ages

Call: 352-393-8202





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. Free community concerts every other month showcase solo acts, duos and bands in a relaxed outdoor setting.

Day/Date(s): Sunday, Sept. 28

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

The Great Pumpkin Bash Fall Festival

Celebrate fall at The Great Pumpkin Bash! Enjoy a cozy outdoor movie Friday night, then join Saturday's free festival with live music, food trucks, a pumpkin patch, costume contests, crafts, games and more at Bo Diddley Plaza. Fun for all ages with festive photo ops and local community vibes!

Date/Time(s): Friday, Oct. 10, 7-10 p.m.: Wicked with sing-along
Saturday, Oct. 11, 12-5 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





Veterans Day Flag Placing

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

Day/Date(s): Saturday, Nov. 8

Time(s): 9 a.m.

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

Fee(s): Free and open to the public

Ages: All ages

Call: 352-393-8535

Online: thiswondrousplace.org



Jazz at the Plaza

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

Day/Date(s): Sunday, Nov. 15

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

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

Fee(s): Free and open to the public

Ages: All ages

Call: 352-393-8202

Online: gainesvillefl.gov/BoDiddleyPlaza



Photo: Onna Maya Meyer

Downtown Festival & Art Show

The 44th Annual Downtown Festival & Art Show transforms the streets of historic downtown Gainesville into a celebration of art and creativity complete with 200+ artists, live music, performing arts and delicious culinary art experiences. It's a weekend of inspiration and fun you won't want to miss.

Day/Date(s): Saturday, Nov. 15 and Sunday, Nov. 16

Time(s): 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Location(s): Downtown Gainesville

Fee(s): Free and open to the public

Ages: All ages

Call: 352-393-8543

Online: gainesvilledowntownartfest.net



Photo: Quincy Masters

Cane Boil and Fiddle Fest

Enjoy a day at the Living History Farm complete with sugar cane syrup making, live old-time music, kid's activities, vendors, craft demonstrators and nature walks. Meet the farm animals and visit the cabin and one-room school! Cane syrup is available for donation, while supplies last! This program is in cooperation with and supported by our partner organization Friends of Nature Parks.

Day/Date(s): Saturday, Nov. 22

Time(s): 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

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

Fee(s): Free and open to the public

Ages: All ages

Call: 352-393-8240

Online: gainesvillefl.gov/CaneBoil





Holiday Kids' Dance Party

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

Day/Date(s): Saturday, Dec. 6

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

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

Fee(s): Free and open to the public

Ages: All ages

Call: 352-393-8202

Online: gainesvillefl.gov/BoDiddleyPlaza



Holiday Lights Celebration at the Historic Thomas Center

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

Day/Date(s): Saturday, Dec. 6

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

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

Fee(s): Free and open to the public

Ages: All ages

Call: 352-393-8543

Online: historicthomascenter.org



Sparks in the Park

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

Day/Date(s): Wednesday, Dec. 31

Time(s): 5–7 p.m.

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

Fee(s): Free and open to the public

Ages: All ages

Call: 352-393-8510



Downtown Countdown

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

Day/Date(s): Wednesday, Dec. 31

Time(s): 8–10 p.m. Free, family-friendly dance party with a DJ
10:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. Live music with multiple bands
New Year's Eve countdown at midnight

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

Fee(s): Free and open to the public

Ages: All ages

Call: 352-393-8202



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 or by fax **352-334-3299**.

Learn more and download the form online at 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.





Historic Thomas Center

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

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

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

Learn more at historicthomascenter.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-served when not rented.

All rental requests for Depot Park are submitted online.

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 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

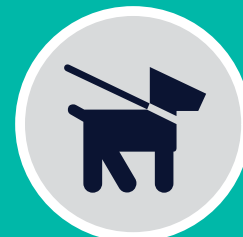
For individual park hour hours, please visit gainesvillefl.gov/Parks

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, vaping, alcohol 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





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. 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
- 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 your 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 †

† Current rates are good through Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025. On Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025 the City of Gainesville's fiscal year 2026 (FY26) begins and all rates are subject to change.

Featured Park



Abby Wambach Park 4501 SW 20th Ave.

Come play on one of the four multi-purpose fields or test your skills on the volleyball, basketball and pickleball courts. Allow your dog some active play in the dog park areas, or simply rest under a pavilion and enjoy the greenspace.



Features

- Picnic Tables
- Grills
- Restrooms
- Multipurpose Ball/Field(s)
- Volleyball Courts
- Pickleball Courts
- Basketball Courts
- Pavilions
- Bleachers
- Small Dog Park
- Large Dog Park



The City of Gainesville's Wild Spaces & Public Places program and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs reopened Forest Park in September 2023 after undergoing a major renovation.

The renovations feature:

Turf for its three full-sized multi-purpose fields, as well as for an additional two-thirds-sized multi-purpose field for younger players and senior athletes.

Two sand volleyball courts each with adjustable nets for competition-quality play.

Two basketball courts also striped for six pickleball courts.

Both small and large dog park areas with amenities.

Picnic tables, pavilions, grills and restrooms.

Outdoor lighting for evening play, eight player benches, 30 new bleachers, 13 shade structures and perimeter fencing.





Looking Ahead to Spring 2026

Start Smart Baseball

Registration opens Friday, Jan. 2, 2026

Hoggetowne Medieval Faire

Saturday, Jan. 24-Sunday, Jan. 25, 2026

Great Invader Raider Rally

TBD

Gainesville Asian Festival

TBD