

City of  
**Gainesville**

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

# Seasonal Guide

2025 Summer



# City of Gainesville

## City Commission

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James Ingle,  
Commissioner At-large, Seat A

Cynthia Chestnut,  
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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](http://gainesvillefl.gov/PRCA)

Facebook: GainesvillePRCA

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



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

# City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

## Mission

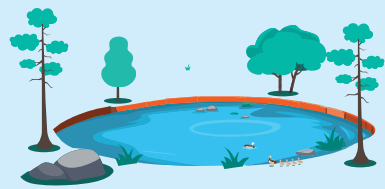
We create meaningful experiences and a feeling of connection and belonging for all through exceptional programs and services with well-maintained:



**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

## Summer 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):** **Mornings Lessons at Cherry Pool**  
**Two-week sessions Monday-Thursday**  
Fridays set aside for weather-related make-ups.

Session 1: June 4-13

Session 2: June 16-26

Session 3: July 7-17

Session 4: July 21-31

**Afternoon Lessons at Hunter Pool**  
**Two-week sessions Monday-Friday**

The fee is based on an eight-lesson schedule. In the summer, we add two extra Friday lessons to make up lessons missed due to weather. If more lessons are missed, we will schedule up to two make up lessons.

Session 1: June 2-13

Session 2: June 16-27

Session 3: July 7-18

Session 4: July 21-Aug 1

**Time(s):** Varies

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

**Location(s):** **Morning lessons:**  
H. Spurgeon Cherry Pool  
(946 NW 31st Dr.)  
**Afternoon lessons:**  
Dwight H. Hunter Pool  
(1100 NE 14th St.)

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

**Ages:** 6 mos. through adults

**Call:** 352-334-5067

**Online:** [gainesvillefl.gov/SwimLessons](http://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 3: June 7, 14, 21, 28  
Session 4: July 12, 19, 26, Aug. 2  
Session 5: Aug. 9, 16, 23, 30  
Session 6: Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27

**Time(s):** Varies

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

**Location(s):** **Sessions 3 and 5:**  
H. Spurgeon Cherry Pool  
(946 NW 31st Dr.)  
**Sessions 4 and 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](http://gainesvillefl.gov/SwimLessons)





## Junior Lifeguard Camp

Campers will learn a wide range of skills including first aid, CPR and rescue techniques. The program encourages campers to take on leadership roles as well as challenging them mentally and physically. Besides learning the primary responsibilities of a lifeguard, this course is action packed with fun activities, games, free swim and field trips!

**Day/Date(s):** Monday-Friday  
 Camp Session 1: June 16-20  
 (No camp on June 19.)  
 Camp Session 2: June 23-27  
 Camp Session 3: July 7-11  
 Camp Session 4: July 14-18

**Time(s):** 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.  
 (Please do not drop students off earlier than 7:45 a.m.)

**Registration:** Opens Thursday, May 1

**Location(s):** H. Spurgeon Cherry Pool  
 (946 NW 31st Dr.)

**Fee(s):** City residents \$100.50  
 Non-city residents \$125.50  
 \$25 field trip fees may apply for weeks 2 and 3

**Ages:** 11-14

**Call:** 352-334-5067

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



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

# Pools

GainesvilleFL.gov/Pools  
352-334-5067

## Summer Hours

June 4 - Aug. 10

### H. Spurgeon Cherry Pool

946 NW 31st Dr. 352-334-2187



Morning Lap Swim: 50-meters

#### Monday–Friday

lap swim: 6–9 a.m.

lap/open swim: 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

**Saturday–Sunday** 12–6 p.m.

#### Holiday Hours

**Memorial Day, May 26**

11 a.m.–6 p.m.

**Juneteenth** Regular hours

**Fourth of July** 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

### Dwight H. Hunter Pool

1100 NE 14th St. 352-334-2191



Lap Swim: 25-yards

#### Monday–Friday

lap swim: 6–9 a.m.

lap/open swim: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

lap swim: 5–8 p.m.

**Saturday–Sunday** 12–6 p.m.

#### Holiday Hours

**Memorial Day, May 26**

lap: 6–10 a.m., 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

**Sunshine State Games**

Dwight H. Hunter Pool will  
be closed June 6–8

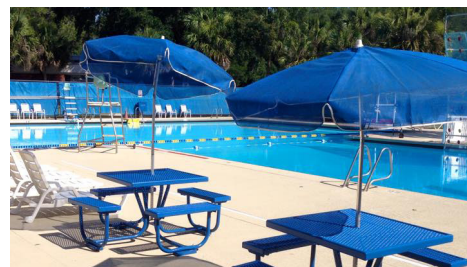
**Juneteenth** Regular hours

**Fourth of July** lap 6–9 a.m.,

lap/open 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

### Andrew R. Mickle, Sr. Pool

1717 SE 15th St. 352-334-2190



Lap Swim: 25-yards

#### Monday–Friday

11 a.m.–7 p.m.

**Saturday** 12–5 p.m.

**Sunday** Closed

#### Holiday Hours

**Memorial Day weekend hours:**

**Saturday, May 24** 12–5 p.m.

**Sunday, May 25** Closed

**Monday, May 26** 12–5 p.m.

**Juneteenth** Regular hours

**Fourth of July** 12–5 p.m.

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

**\*Note:** Fall pool hours begin Monday, Aug. 11 and will be posted at a later date.

Pool hours are subject to change. Please visit [gainesvillefl.gov/Pools](https://gainesvillefl.gov/Pools) or call the pool for details.

## Pool Admission Prices

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

## 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.



# Athletic Programs

## Midnight Basketball

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

<b>Day/Date(s):</b>	Friday, April 11 Friday, May 2 Friday, June 6 Friday, July 11 Friday, Aug. 1
<b>Time(s):</b>	8 p.m.–12 a.m.
<b>Registration:</b>	Opens Monday, March 10. Same day registrations welcome.
<b>Location(s):</b>	Martin Luther King Jr. Center (1028 NE 14th St.)
<b>Fee(s):</b>	Free
<b>Ages:</b>	11-18
<b>Call:</b>	352-393-8542
<b>Online:</b>	<a href="http://gainesvillefl.gov/MidnightBasketball">gainesvillefl.gov/MidnightBasketball</a>



## Pop-Up Basketball

Dribble, shoot, score! Get ready for exciting 3-on-3 tournaments coming to your local parks! We're creating a fun, welcoming and safe space for players and spectators to connect, compete and enjoy the game. Join us at one of four parks for an unforgettable experience that brings community together through basketball!

<b>Date(s) and Location(s):</b>	<b>Friday, May 9</b> Clarence R. Kelly Community Center (1700 NE Eighth Ave.) <b>Friday, June 13</b> Unity Park (1700 NE 31st Ave.) <b>Friday, July 18</b> Fred Cone Park (2801 E. University Ave.) <b>Friday, Aug. 15</b> Abby Wambach Park (4501 SW 20th Ave.)
<b>Time(s):</b>	5-7 p.m.
<b>Registration:</b>	No registration required.
<b>Fee(s):</b>	Free
<b>Ages:</b>	11-18
<b>Call:</b>	352-393-8542



## Summer Hoops

The courts are calling for a summer of fun and competition! Come join our coed basketball program to build character and leadership by “Pursuing Victory with Honor” for life skills to use on and off the court.

<b>Day/Date(s):</b>	Monday, June 9 - Thursday, July 17
<b>Time(s):</b>	Varies
<b>Registration:</b>	Monday, May 12 – Thursday, June 12
<b>Location(s):</b>	Martin Luther King Jr. Center (1028 NE 14th St.) Lincoln Middle School (1001 SE 12th St.)
<b>Fee(s):</b>	Free
<b>Ages:</b>	Grades 6-8
<b>Call:</b>	352-393-8542
<b>Online:</b>	<a href="http://gainesvillefl.gov/SummerHoops">gainesvillefl.gov/SummerHoops</a>



## 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:** April 14-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.

<b>Fee(s):</b>	<b>Football</b>	<b>Ages 5-6</b>
		City residents \$82.75 Non-city residents \$103.25
	<b>Cheer</b>	<b>Ages 7-12</b>
		City residents \$122.25 Non-city residents \$152.75
		City residents \$78.75 Non-city residents \$116.50

**Ages:** Football 5-14  
Cheer 3-15

**Call:** 352-393-8542

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

# Camps and After-School Programs

## Summer Day Camp

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

**Day/Date(s):** Eight, one-week sessions:  
Monday, June 9 through Friday, Aug. 1.  
There will be no camp on Thursday,  
June 19 and Friday, July 4.

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

**Registration: Opens**  
City residents Monday, March 3  
All residents Monday, March 18  
**Last day to register**  
In-person - the Friday before  
each session starts  
Online - the Sunday before  
each session starts

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

### Teen Life Camp (Grades 6-8)

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

**Fee(s):** City residents \$61 weekly  
Non-city residents \$76 weekly  
  
Reduced rate discounts  
available based on income.  
Please visit our website for more  
information on how to qualify.

**Ages:** Grades 1-8

**Call:** 353-393-8438

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



## Earth Academy Day Camp

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

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

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

**Registration:** Registration opens March 1.

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

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

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

**Call:** 353-393-8240

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

## Junior Naturalist Program

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

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

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

**Registration:** Application period is closed for this summer. Check back in January 2026 for next summer.

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

**Fee(s):** Free

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

**Call:** 352-393-8240

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



## Summer Junior Golf Camp

Tee up for an unforgettable summer on the greens! More than just a game, golf teaches teamwork, perseverance and respect for others. By introducing kids to the game early, we're helping them connect with their community and create lasting friendships. Let's swing into fun and growth this summer!

**Day/Date(s):** Tuesday through Friday  
Session 1: June 24-27  
Session 2: July 22-25

**Time(s):** 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**Registration:** Opens Wednesday, May 28

**Location(s):** Ironwood Golf Course  
(2100 NE 39th Ave.)

**Fee(s):** \$150 per student, per week.  
No multi-child discounts.

**Ages:** 6-17

**Call:** 353-393-8502

**Online:** [ironwoodgolfcourse.org/  
junior-programs](http://ironwoodgolfcourse.org/junior-programs)



## The After-School Program

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

**Day/Date(s):** Monday through Friday  
(Aug. 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](http://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 Friday, March 27, 2026  
Online Sunday, March 29, 2026

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

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



# Education Programs

## Bilingual Story Time at the Park

Join us for stories and songs in Spanish and English. Perfect for toddlers and preschoolers.

In partnership with the Millhopper Branch of the Alachua County Library District. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



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

**Time(s):** June–September, 11-11:30 a.m.  
October–May, 3-3:30 p.m.

**Registration:** Not required

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

**Fee(s):** Free

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

**Call:** 352-451-4908

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



## Music and Movement at the Park

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

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

**Time(s):** June–September, 11-11:30 a.m.  
October–May, 3-3:30 p.m.

**Registration:** Not required

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

**Fee(s):** Free

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

**Call:** 352-451-4908

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





Perspectives in the Park

## 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.

<b>Day/Date(s):</b>	First Sunday of each month
<b>Time(s):</b>	1 p.m.
<b>Registration:</b>	Not required
<b>Location(s):</b>	Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Center (1500 NW 45th Ave.)
<b>Fee(s):</b>	Free
<b>Ages:</b>	Adults
<b>Call:</b>	352-451-4908
<b>Online:</b>	<a href="http://gainesvillefl.gov/HogtownCreek">gainesvillefl.gov/HogtownCreek</a>

## Youth Steering Committee - GNV

The Youth Steering Committee 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 how we can solve youth gun violence, while also helping us find ways we can help youth in our community be successful. Our steering committee meets once per month, and youth are paid for their time. Our committee aims to have youth representation from each Gainesville high school.

<b>Day/Date(s):</b>	Every third Wednesday of the month
<b>Time(s):</b>	4-5:30 p.m.
<b>Registration:</b>	Rolling applications as space is available on the committee.
<b>Location(s):</b>	Project Youthbuild (635 NW Sixth St.)
<b>Fee(s):</b>	None
<b>Ages:</b>	16-24
<b>Call:</b>	352-393-8514
<b>Online:</b>	<a href="http://gainesvillefl.gov/YouthSteeringCommittee">gainesvillefl.gov/YouthSteeringCommittee</a>

## Dance Camp: Dances of the Balkans

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

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

**Time(s):** 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):** Tuesday and Thursday

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

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

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** High school and up

## Gainesville International Folk Dance

Learn and dance ethnic dances from around the world.

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

**Time(s):** 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):** Thursday

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

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

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** All ages



## Steppin' Into Dance

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

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

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

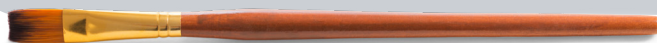
**Location(s):** Rosa B. Williams Center  
(524 NW First St.)

**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](https://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](mailto:aquinnjones@gainesvillefl.gov)

**Call:** 352-334-2010

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



## Bo Diddley Plaza

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

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

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

**Call:** 352-393-8202

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



## Evergreen Cemetery

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

**Hours:** Dawn to dusk

**Location:** 401 SE 21st Ave.

**Call:** 352-393-8535

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



## Rosa B. Williams Center

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

**Location:** 524 NW First St.

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

**Call:** 352-393-8539

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



## 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:** [velasques1@gainesvillefl.gov](mailto:velasques1@gainesvillefl.gov)

**Call:** 352-393-8532

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

# Nature Programs

## Eco Buddies

Come learn through play about the wonderful world of nature all around us! Rotating weekly stations themed around local flora, fauna and phenomena encourage hands-on exploration and a lifelong appreciation for nature.

**Day/Date(s):** Wednesdays in June, July and August

**Time(s):** 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

**Registration:** Not required

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

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** All ages, with a focus on 3-5. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Call:** 352-451-4908

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





## 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](http://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

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



# Nature Centers



## Morningside Nature Center

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

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

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

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-393-8240

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

**Temporarily closed**  
**Will reopen in Fall 2025**



## Living History Farm at Morningside

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

**Hours:** 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](http://gainesvillefl.gov/MorningsidePrograms)





## Sweetwater Wetlands Park

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

**Hours:** 7 a.m.-sunset

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

**Fee(s):** \$5 per vehicle, \$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](http://gainesvillefl.gov/SweetwaterWetlands)

## Sweetwater Wetlands Park Annual Pass

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



## Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Center

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

**Hours:** Sundays (year-round): 10 a.m.–3 p.m.  
Tuesdays-Thursdays (October–May): 12 noon–5 p.m.  
Tuesdays-Thursdays (June–September): 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

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

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-451-4908

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

# Partnership Programs



The work we do at Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs is supported by incredible partnerships that bring fresh ideas and innovative experiences—helping our guests feel welcome and have fun! Discover how these collaborations are shaping your parks and programs.

Visit our partners online to learn more!  
[gainesvillefl.gov/PartnershipPrograms](https://gainesvillefl.gov/PartnershipPrograms)

## Depot Park parkrun

Walk, jog, run, volunteer, or spectate - it is up to you! Join our free, weekly and timed 5k, a fun and friendly community event. All fitness levels and abilities are welcome.

**Days/Times:** Saturdays at 7:30 a.m.

**Ages:** All ages

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

**Fee(s):** Free

**Online:** [parkrun.us/DepotPark](https://parkrun.us/DepotPark)

## Peak Pulse Running Club

Run, walk or crawl - all paces are welcome. Enjoy an out and back run starting at Depot Park. Just show up and have fun!

**Days/Times:** Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.

**Ages:** All ages

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

**Fee(s):** Free

**Online:** [instagram.com/PeakPulseGville](https://instagram.com/PeakPulseGville)



## Gainesville Chain Hawks

We host weekly disc golf league events, keep things fresh with monthly basket changes and improve the course through volunteer stewardship at Florida's oldest disc golf course!

**Days/Times:** Weekly league events

**Ages:** All ages

**Location:** Northside Park  
(5701 34th Blvd.)

**Fee(s):** Varies

**Online:** [facebook.com/groups/GainesvilleChainHawks](https://facebook.com/groups/GainesvilleChainHawks)

## Gator Junior Golf

Enhancing the lives of youth by providing educational programs that build character, promote team-building and establish mentorship through the game of golf.

**Days/Times:** Varies

**Ages:** 4-17

**Location:** Ironwood Golf Course  
(2100 NE 39th Ave.)

**Fee(s):** Varies \$15 - \$300  
Financial assistance may be made available on a case-by-case basis.

**Online:** [GatorJuniorGolf.org](https://GatorJuniorGolf.org)

## USTA Florida

Programs, classes and events for tennis players of all ages and skill levels. Online reservations are open to the public and available across 20 courts at four local parks, including no cost use at most locations.



**Days/Times:** 7 days a week

**Ages:** All ages

**Location:** Albert "Ray" Massey Park  
(1001 NW 34th St.)  
Northside Park\*  
(5701 NW 34th Blvd.)  
Tom Petty Park\*  
(400 NE 16th Ave.)  
T.B. McPherson Park\*  
(1717 SE 15th St.)

**Fee(s):** Varies  
\*No cost reservations available at these courts.

**Online:** [PlayTennisGainesville.com](https://PlayTennisGainesville.com)



# Partnership Programs

## Gainesville Youth Baseball

Striving to develop and strengthen the virtues of respect, sportsmanship, teamwork and work ethic, while keeping baseball and softball fun for children and their families.

**Days/Times:** March-June

**Ages:** 5-15

**Location:** Albert "Ray" Massey Park  
(1001 NW 34th St.)  
Tom Petty Park  
(400 NE 16th Ave.)  
Greentree Park  
(3700 NW 19th St.)

**Fee(s):** \$90-\$175

**Online:** GainesvilleYouthSports.com



Purple martin nest

## Dolphin Flag Football

Our no-contact rule and team-oriented environment makes it easy for kids of all abilities and experience levels to come together, learn football fundamentals and, most importantly, have fun.

**Days/Times:** March-June

**Ages:** 4-14

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

**Fee(s):** Varies

**Online:** DolphinsFFL.com

## Alachua Audubon Society

We installed nesting boxes in Sweetwater Wetlands Park to help the local colony of purple martins thrive. Join our Wednesday bird walks at the park to learn more - perfect for birders of all levels.

**Days/Times:** Wednesdays September-May

**Ages:** All ages

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

**Fee(s):** \$5 per vehicle, \$2 per pedestrian  
(entrance fee for park)

**Online:** AlachuaAudubon.org



Sweetwater Wetlands Park

## UF Saving Smiles

Giving children the resources to maintain healthy smiles throughout life.

<b>Days/Times:</b>	Varies
<b>Ages:</b>	17 and under
<b>Location:</b>	T.B. McPherson Park (1717 SE 15th St.)
<b>Fee(s):</b>	Free
<b>Online:</b>	<a href="http://dental.ufl.edu/saving-smiles-program">dental.ufl.edu/saving-smiles-program</a>



## Greater Duval Neighborhood Association Summer Sling

Six-week summer program that helps students develop a plan for after high school while building leadership skills among their peers.

<b>Days/Times:</b>	Varies
<b>Ages:</b>	Grades 7-12
<b>Location:</b>	Clarence R. Kelly Community Center (1701 NE Eighth Ave.)
<b>Fee(s):</b>	\$300 per week. Scholarships are available for eligible qualified participants.
<b>Online:</b>	<a href="http://OutEastYouth.com/Summer-Sling">OutEastYouth.com/Summer-Sling</a>

## 1000 Voices of Florida

Creative arts opportunities for all ages. Indulge in arts and crafts, piano, voice, choral singing and senior dance.

<b>Days/Times:</b>	Varies
<b>Ages:</b>	All ages
<b>Location:</b>	T.B. McPherson Park (1717 SE 15th St.)
<b>Fee(s):</b>	Free
<b>Online:</b>	<a href="http://1000VoicesofFlorida.com">1000VoicesofFlorida.com</a>

## Dance Alive National Ballet

Let's Dance is designed specifically for students with any special needs or of any ability. It emphasizes having fun, while developing gross- and fine-motors skills, social skills, artistic skills, strength and flexibility.

<b>Days/Times:</b>	Varies
<b>Ages:</b>	K-12
<b>Location:</b>	Oakview Community Center (810 NW Eighth Ave.)
<b>Fee(s):</b>	Free
<b>Online:</b>	<a href="http://DanceAlive.org">DanceAlive.org</a>

## SPARC352 Artist-in-Residence

Artists gain technical and creative skills to turn their passion into profit with the artist-in-residence program.

<b>Days/Times:</b>	Varies
<b>Ages:</b>	18+
<b>Location:</b>	Oakview Community Center (810 NW Eighth Ave.)
<b>Fee(s):</b>	Free
<b>Online:</b>	<a href="http://SPARC352.org">SPARC352.org</a>

# 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](http://gainesvillefl.gov/BoDiddleyPlaza)



## 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, May 25

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

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

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-393-8532



## Memorial Day

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

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

**Time(s):** 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

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

**Fee(s):** Free

**Ages:** All ages

**Call:** 352-393-8535

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

# Free Fridays Concert Series

Bo Diddley Plaza - Gainesville, FL

May 23	Boca Fiesta Showcase: The Interwaves, Chimes, Confession Kids
May 30	Crooked Counsel
June 6	Music GNV Live & Local Edition: The Nancys, Mike & The Nerve and Brooke Cooley
June 13	Friday the 13th Showcase: The Mermers, DJ Wild Creatrix, Supertwin
June 20	The Impostors (Beatles Tribute Band)
June 27	The Savants, Fakksonly
July 4	The Wire Birds, The Wandering Hours
July 11	MusicGNV Live & Local Edition: Singer Songwriter Showcase
July 18	Salvaged Records Showcase
July 25	Pet Detectives (90s Alt-Rock Covers)
Aug. 1	Uncle Mosie, Bad Dog Mama
Aug. 8	The Ox Showcase: Short Stack & Kevin PM Jamboree
Aug. 15	Sooza Brass Band, Displace
Aug. 22	Michael Claytor & Friends
Aug. 29	De Lions of Jah
Sept. 5	Alex Kaufman Big Band
Sept. 12	Fest 24 Showcase
Sept. 19	Uncle Morty's Rhythm Cream
Sept. 26	Morningbell

## GNV Film Festival

The annual GNV Film Festival features independent and national films crafted by local, regional and national filmmakers.

### When the Music Was Cheap and Darn Near Free

Executive Producer: Terri Bailey

<b>Day/Date(s):</b>	Saturday, June 7
<b>Time(s):</b>	6 p.m.
<b>Location(s):</b>	Hippodrome Cinema (25 SE Second Pl.)
<b>Fee(s):</b>	Free

### Bridging Troubled Waters: The Life of Coach Jessie Heard: Lincoln High and Buchholz High School

Executive Producer: Michael Gengler

<b>Day/Date(s):</b>	Saturday, June 7
<b>Time(s):</b>	6:30 p.m.
<b>Location(s):</b>	Hippodrome Cinema (25 SE Second Pl.)
<b>Fee(s):</b>	Free

### Black Panther

Marvel Studios

<b>Day/Date(s):</b>	Saturday, June 7
<b>Time(s):</b>	8 p.m.
<b>Location(s):</b>	Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E. University Ave.)
<b>Fee(s):</b>	Free



# Facility Reservations

## Recreation and Community Centers

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

Capacity: 200    Size: 8,000 sq. ft.

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

Capacity: 204    Size: 8,402 sq. ft.

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

Capacity: 50    Size: 1,750 sq. ft.

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

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

Capacity: 156    Size: 5,472 sq. ft.

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

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

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

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

## Pool Pavilions

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

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

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

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





## Historic Thomas Center

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

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

For rentals, contact the coordinator at 352-393-8539 or [tcevents@gainesvillefl.gov](mailto:tcevents@gainesvillefl.gov).

Learn more at [historicthomascenter.org](http://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-serve 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/Rentals](http://depotpark.org/Rentals) to get started.

# Park Rules and Regulations

Additional regulations, laws and ordinances may apply.

## Park Hours (unless otherwise posted)

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

Nature parks are open from dawn to dusk

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

## Prohibited Activities (unless specifically designated otherwise)

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

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

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





# Special Events Permits

Events bring our neighbors together. They help build a sense of belonging and community. Certain events require a special events permit. Special events include, but are not limited to, activities such as festivals, concerts, sporting events, parades, walks and runs. If you plan to use city streets or sidewalks, are requesting a noise permit, security or food vendors, you must complete a special event permit application. For a complete list of activities that require a permit, see [gainesvillefl.gov/SpecialEvent](http://gainesvillefl.gov/SpecialEvent). It takes three to four weeks to review and process a permit application once submitted. Some park venues require a reservation a minimum of 60 days in advance. We encourage you to apply for a permit as early as possible. This allows time to schedule inspections or site visits and to promote the event.

## How to Host A Special Event

- Apply:** Fill out the special events permit application form at [gainesvillefl.gov/SpecialEvent](http://gainesvillefl.gov/SpecialEvent)
- Approval:** The special event coordinator will route your application for review and approvals. Sometimes, you will be asked to provide more information or to tweak your plans to ensure a safe event. Once you pay your fees, you will be given your permit number.
- Event:** Have an amazing event! All your hard work and planning pays off. Give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done.
- Settle:** After your event, it's time to settle up. If there are any outstanding balances, you will be sent an invoice for payment. Then start thinking about the next event you'd like to host!

## How much does a special event permit cost?

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

# Featured Park



## Ironwood Golf Course 2100 NE 39th Ave.

Ironwood Golf Course has an outstanding layout sculptured around century-old pines and shimmering lakes. Ironwood provides a welcoming environment for both recreational and competitive golfers. The course offers a challenging experience for golfers of all skill levels, with contoured fairways and strategically placed bunkers that test players' abilities. Additionally, Ironwood offers event hosting services, making it an ideal venue for various occasions, from intimate celebrations to large corporate meetings.



### Features

- 134 acres
- Par 72 layout
- 18 holes
- Four sets of playing tees
- Lighted driving range
- Clubhouse
- Pro shop
- Classy Chics concessions
- Events venue



# Classy Chics

## Event Planning & Catering

Classy Chics Event Planning & Catering is owned and operated by the dynamic mother and daughter team of Cookie Salter and La'Tasha Mann. Their business began as an amalgamation of their shared passions for cooking and decoration.

La'Tasha has always harbored a deep love for cooking, a passion nurtured by her grandmother who generously shared her cherished recipes. Cookie has always delighted in DIY projects, crafting and décor. Together, they combined their talents and enthusiasm to create Classy Chics Event Planning & Catering.

Classy Chics is now serving up delicious breakfast, lunch, dinner and snack options at Ironwood Golf Course. Whether you are grabbing a refreshing beverage before your tee time or refueling after the 18th hole, every dish is made with care and served with a smile—because great food should be part of every great round.



## Programs

Ironwood Golf Course offers a variety of programs for both junior and adult golfers throughout the year.

**Summer Youth Golf Camps** teach ages 6–17 the fundamentals of golf. See page 12.

Ironwood hosts various leagues, including a prominent Thursday night league that is open to players of all ages. This league runs from March through October.



## Booking

Book your tee time up to 10 days in advance:

[IronwoodGolfCourse.org](https://IronwoodGolfCourse.org)

# Looking Ahead to Fall/Winter 2025

Aug. 1 through Dec. 31

<b>Grillers - International</b>	Registration opens in August 2025
<b>Lil Cooking Club</b>	Registration opens in September 2025
<b>Start Smart Basketball</b>	Registration opens in September 2025
<b>Free Fridays Concert Series</b>	Every Friday night through Sept. 26, 2025
<b>Barnyard Buddies</b>	September 2025 - May 2026
<b>Living History Saturdays</b>	September 2025 - May 2026
<b>Sweetwater Wetlands Park Guided Walking Tours</b>	September 2025 - May 2026
<b>Movie Nights at Bo Diddley Plaza</b>	Saturday, Sept. 13, Friday, Oct. 10 and Saturday, Dec. 13
<b>Winter Break Camp</b>	Registration opens Oct. 1, 2025
<b>Eco Rangers</b>	October 2025 - May 2026
<b>The Great Pumpkin Bash Fall Festival</b>	Friday, Oct. 10 and Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025
<b>Wildflower Walks</b>	Saturdays in October 2025
<b>Downtown Festival &amp; Art Show</b>	Saturday, Nov. 15 and Sunday, Nov. 16, 2025
<b>Cane Boil and Fiddle Fest</b>	Saturday, Nov. 22, 2025
<b>Holiday Kids Dance Party</b>	Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025
<b>Holiday Lights Celebration at the Historic Thomas Center</b>	Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025
<b>The History of Kwanzaa</b>	Saturday, Dec. 27, 2025
<b>Downtown Countdown</b>	Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025