



Monroe County Parks & Beaches Dot Fun Newsletter

JULY PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH

On Saturday, July 19th, in celebration of **JULY PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH**, we held a small celebration to unveil the 2025 Parks & Beaches art contest winner and contestants artwork! The judges shared how difficult it was to choose a winner, as all the submissions were outstanding. The creativity and talent shown by the kids across the Florida Keys were truly impressive. This event was a wonderful way to highlight the creativity in our community! Their work will be featured at Higgs Beach, Big Pine & Key Largo Parks. Stop by to check it the local talent.



CONGRATULATIONS!



Old Settlers Park - Clean UP

Keeping our shorelines and oceans clean.



“This cleanup was powered entirely by volunteers, people who care deeply about our environment and are willing to take action to protect it.”
Megan Rumbaugh

12 volunteers collect over 140 pounds of trash

- 677 plastic bottle caps
- 181 cigarette butts
- 100 plastic water bottles
- 60 plastic utensils
- 45 cafecito cups
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- 350 plastic fragments (smaller than a dime)
- 332 plastic fragments (larger than a dime)
- 90 yards of rope
- ...and much much more

Independence Day Celebration

This year's Independence Day celebrations were nothing short of magical! We cherish the opportunity to come together as a community, and this year was especially memorable as we proudly unveiled the brand-new amphitheater at Big Pine Key Community Park. The evening concluded with a stunning fireworks display, thanks once again to the incredible dedication of the Lower Keys Rotary—whose efforts continue to make this event unforgettable year after year. We're also deeply grateful to the Key Largo Chamber of Commerce for their ongoing support and for organizing the Upper Keys Independence Day celebration each year at Key Largo Community Park.



Parks & Beaches

Current Events

Mike Forster Boat Ramp

Lobster Mini Season
Boat ramp
Wed., 7/30 and Thurs. 7/31

Harry Harris Park

Lobster Mini Season
Boat ramp closes when full
Wed., 7/30 and Thurs. 7/31

Key Largo Park

Jacobs Aquatic Center
Summer Camp
Ends 8/12 (fees & age vary)

National Night Out
8/5

Plantation Key Community Center

JOY Group Classes
Tuesdays and Wednesdays
8am-5pm

Specialty Summer Camps
9am-5pm
7/28-8/1 and 8/4-8/8

Big Pine Community Center

Social Services Senior Citizen
Center/Meal Site
Weekdays
12:00 pm-1:00 pm

Bernstein Park

Summer Camp
9am-5pm
7/28-8/1

English Classes for
Creole Speakers - MONTHLY
3rd Tuesday and Wednesday
6-8pm



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Blue Heron Pickleball Courts

The Blue Heron Courts Grand Opening was a great success, with a strong turnout from the community—especially our local pickleball enthusiasts, who came out to enjoy the new courts. It was a fun and lively event that celebrated the new courts and brought neighbors together. We're excited to see this space becoming a new hub for recreation and connection! A huge thank you to the Project Management Team and Facilities — this wouldn't have been possible without their support and dedication.



Summer



Summer Camp 2025



Thank you for these wonderful camps this summer! They were our favorite camps of the season, and we're already planning to attend more weeks next year. The BP Park location is fantastic—please keep it going. The weekly field trips were a highlight, with each one offering something new and fun. The pacing was great too; having 2 to 4 trips per week worked really well. The staff, especially Mr. Mike and the counselors, made a big impression. We also appreciated that campers had a say in some of the activities, like the talent show—it made the experience even more meaningful.

Thanks again for an amazing summer! - Amber S

Other completed projects:

- Higgs Dog Park water line repaired
- Harry Harris Park deep cleaned fish tables
- Harry Harris Park repaired men's restroom faucet
- Higgs pickleball courts installed new nets
- Higgs Beachside repair damaged concrete table
- Bernstein Park repaired ceiling leak in kitchen
- Higgs Beach cut tree limbs and coconuts
- Higgs Beach installed new picnic tables
- Big Pine Park installed new benches
- Big Pine Park opened new amphitheater

Upcoming projects:

- Big Pine Park Scoreboard replacement
- Big Pine Park Install new restrooms doors
- Big Pine Park activity room ac replacement
- Key Largo Park pavilion roof repairs (in progress)
- Watson ice maker repairs
- Bay Point Park install delineator
- Bernstein Park add new water fountain
- Bernstein Park Security camera repairs
- Harry Harris Park install new grills at pavilions
- Wilhelmina Park replace damaged slide
- Bernstein Park repair fire sprinkler
- Resurfacing courts throughout
- Blue Heron & Higgs Beach new tiki huts