



DOT FUN TIMES

PARKS & BEACHES NEWSLETTER

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MAY 2025



Keys Kids Swim Program Expansion

The **Keys Kids Swim** program began its journey at Key Largo School in 2023. Fast forward to 2025, and it has successfully expanded to include Plantation Key School at an additional pool location.

During a recent two-week period, 67 Kindergarten students from Key Largo School traveled by bus to Jacobs Aquatic Center, while 61 students from Plantation Key School participated in the program at Founders Park. Each child received 45 minutes of swim lessons followed by 30 minutes of playtime.

This program is committed to serving the Keys community sustainably, and we have demonstrated this dedication over the past three years while continuing to grow. Many of these children have progressed from never having entered a pool to confidently swimming on their own.



New Fitness Equipment

www.ParksandBeaches.Fun 305-453-8748



P&B at Monroe County Leadership Graduation

Mike Piekenbrock represented Parks & Beaches at the 2025 Grad Fest, held at Marathon Community Park. The event celebrated Leadership Monroe's Class of 2025 with a fun-filled day of food, activities, and community spirit. Congratulations to Monroe County's three Leadership Monroe Class XXXII graduates: Suzi Rubio, Cory Schwisow, and Kelly Dugan! Throughout the day, Mike connected with the kids, handing out high fives and frisbees, and spreading smiles all around!



Watson Field

We're excited to see the new games at Watson Park already being enjoyed by the community! The recently added tetherball and cornhole sets have quickly become popular with kids and families alike.

Current Events

Key Largo Park

July 4th Community Picnic & Festival 11-3pm

Jacobs Aquatic

Summer Camp
6/2-8/12 (fees & age vary)

Harry Harris Park

Baseball Season
February to August 2025

Plantation Key Community Center

JOY Group Classes
Tuesdays & Wednesdays
8am-5pm
Specialty Summer Camps
9am - 5pm
7/28-8/1 & 8/4-8/8

Big Pine Community Center

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

Big Pine Key Park

Summer Camp
9am-5pm
6/2-6/6, 6/9-6/13 & 6/16-6/20

Sugarloaf School

Summer Camp
9am-5pm
6/23-6/27 (Volleyball camp) and 6/14-6/18

Bernstein Park

I Love Stock Island Event
6/14 4- 8pm
Summer Camp
9am-5pm
7/21-7/25 & 7/28-8/1
Special Olympics Camp
7/7-7/11 (fees & age vary)

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

PARKS & BEACHES



Harry Harris Park



Clean-up Efforts at Harry Harris Park

A community member uses the newly installed beach clean up station bucket and grabber to “grab” debris near the beach, while Dan, a staff member, diligently removes Sargassum from the boat ramp throughout the day for customer to enjoy boating.



“Protect Our Parks & Beaches” Art Contest

EXTENDED

Monroe County Parks & Beaches is pleased to invite all Florida Keys students in kindergarten through 12th grade to participate in the 2025 “Protect Our Parks & Beaches” art contest. In celebration of **July’s Parks and Recreation Month**, students are encouraged to submit a unique artwork or mascot design that raises awareness about protecting the environment and natural spaces in Monroe County. We’ve already received many impressive submission. Stay connected through our newsletter for the results! **Submission deadline extended to June 9th.**

Directors Message

A special thank you to all of our staff. **We have a terrific team that always goes above and beyond for our community.** Your commitment was clearly demonstrated—being there for the community Friday night at Harry Harris and then opening early the very next morning for another community gathering. This truly shows your dedication to meeting the needs of our residents. **I am extremely grateful for everything you do.**



Other completed projects:

- Big Pine Pk bathrooms re-painted
- Big Pine Pk new water fountain installed
- Big Pine Pk installed safety fences around AC
- Rowell’s Waterfront added new parking bumpers
- Rowell’s Waterfront re-stripped parking spaces
- Harry Harris Pk new beachside restroom doors
- Key Largo Pk new beachside restroom doors (in progress)
- Harry Harris Pk new bulletin & cleaning station installed
- Pine Channel Nature Pk docks cleaned
- Key Largo Pk installed new fitness equipment
- Watson Field irrigation (in progress)
- Higgs pickleball courts installed double-gates
- Big Pine Pk installed new chin-up bar

- Higgs fitness equipment repairs
- Big Pine Pk installed sod to repair patchy areas

Upcoming projects:

- Harry Harris Pk new beachside playground
- Harry Harris Pk additional water-fountain install
- Peace Park replace bike racks
- Big Pine Pk additional water-fountain install
- Peace Park replace shelter tables
- Key Laro Pk install new bike rack
- Bernstein Pk playground repairs
- New concrete trash cans
- Higgs Beachside releveling and reusing pavers
- Astro City installing new playground equipment
- New fence nets and post throughout