

Pear Pearls

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Have you visited the Lake County website?

The address is Lakecountyfl.gov/home. You must then go to the Parks and Trails segment of this site to learn about the parks and trails in Lake County. You might notice that Pear Park has more amenities indicated than any of the other parks on this site. Pear Park is a complete facility and offers many amenities.

Let's explore this gem in Lake County.

Quoting a popular tv show - "Please turn the page."

Pear Association Inc Statement of Mission/Purposes

Pear Association Inc is a 501 c 3 nonprofit corporation established as:

1. An exclusive charitable, scientific, literary and educational organization.
2. A means to provide a forum before which conservation and environmentally minded citizens may express their interests in the site.
3. A location to accept donations, gifts, grants, and contributions of services, materials, and money to enable our organization to carry on our operations.
4. A means to assist with maintenance and improvement of the property.
5. A source for development of coalitions with organizations concerned with conservation of our natural resources.
6. A "Friends of PEAR Park" organization, working with Lake County Parks and Trails to create, improve and maintain community gardens, demonstration gardens, public trails, wildlife habitat and a science and nature center.
7. A volunteer organization to assist events held at PEAR Park by Lake County Parks and Trails.

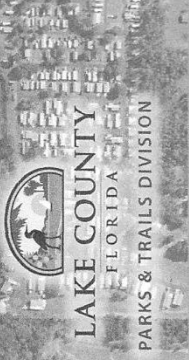
Pear Pearls is the newsletter of the Pear Association, Inc. George Wolf edits this publication. Any questions or comments are welcome. (352) 728 - 8956. Our web site has much more - www.pearassoc.org

P.E.A.R. PARK

Palatlakaha Environmental & Agricultural Reserve



TOTAL ACRES: 318



SITE DIRECTORY

- ▲ Kiosk
- ☆ Benches
- Trail Connector
- ▣ Picnic Pavilion
- ▲ Hiking Trail
- ▲ Multi-Use Trail
- ▲ Canoe Launch
- ▲ Exercise
- ▲ Dog Park
- ▲ Playground
- ▲ Softball Fields
- P Parking
- ▲ Restroom
- ▲ Active Recreation (Future)

Exploring Pear Park

The first thing we notice is that the park is 318 acres of land. Five acres more than previously reported in our newsletter. Pear Park is the largest regional park in Lake County.

Trails designed for hikers are shown. There is a perimeter trail identified as a Recreational Multi-Use Trail. This trail is 6.17 miles long. A pleasant hike. There is a second trail that borders the Palatlahaha River. This is mostly a shaded route with many large trees. This trail is 1.3 miles in length. Officially, it is named Dr. S. J. (Joe) Stephany Memorial River Trail. You access this trail from the entrance on SR 27. You will find benches on this trail where you may sit and enjoy the cool breezes. A smaller trail shown is the Meadow Trail. You access this from the paved road leading to the Overlook Pavilion.

Pear Park is designed in two sectors. The “Front 50” is the location of the Pickle Ball and Tennis Courts, the recreational stations (exercise areas), the ball field, and the Dog Park. The Dog Park sees the greatest activity. Access and parking are just off SR 27.

The “passive recreation” portion of Pear Park is accessed from University Avenue, across SR 27 from Southpoint Baptist Church. The area on the East side of SR27 is presently under development - more folks to enjoy Pear Park.

Just inside the University Ave. gate is the Heritage Memorial Grove. Here a collage of trees with bricks honoring individuals remembered. The Highlanders chapter of the Florida Trails Association has a special section here in memory of previous members.

The Community Gardens adjoining provide a special amenity not available to some nearby retirement communities.

The large building and parking lot and the special Observation pavilion are just ahead. The Pear Association has established a Nature Center here.

The map shows a paved road running from the University Avenue gate to the Overlook Pavilion. An improvement has been made - this road is no longer a straight drive but goes around the Nature Center building with added parking spaces.

The Butterfly Pavilion is another special place. It is accessed from the Perimeter Trail or from a trail near the Nature Center complex.

Lake County’s Parks and Trails personnel are on site daily. Your inquiries can be answered by contacting (352) 253 - 4950.

Parks and Trails of Lake County, Florida. A few statistics

30 Parks (3 are Sports Complexes), 75 miles of Trails (37 miles are paved),
62 miles of Blueway Trails (Boating)
30 Full Time employee's scheduled 7 days a week - 6:30am-10pm.
Advisory Board of 9 members.

Hats off to our Parks and Trails !
Bobby Bonilla performs miracles in managing
This vital department here in Florida.

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