



City of Marco Island

Date: November 2025

From: Samantha Malloy-Manager of Parks, Culture & Recreation

Re: Parks & Recreation Monthly Report

Mackle Park

- Attendance for our Fit Over 50 class continues to grow. We began the month averaging 10–12 participants and ended averaging 23–25. Based on prior years, this number is expected to increase to 50+ participants per class as the season progresses.
 - Yoga with Soul classes average 2–5 participants weekly.
 - Line Dancing currently averages 10 participants per class. Sessions are held once weekly but will expand to two days per week in January due to seasonal demand.
 - Our new Meditation class had a slow start with just two participants. We will enhance advertising efforts and include a short feature about the instructor to boost enrollment.
 - Park guests continue to utilize our free equipment lending program for basketballs, bocce, footballs, volleyballs, shuffleboard, kickballs, and soccer balls in exchange for collateral. Equipment checkout logs show consistent use; in September, we recorded 11 pages (18 lines per page), and in October this increased to 14 pages.
 - We do not document usage of our indoor game room activities but on most days we have regular usage of pool and ping pond, with some foosball and chess games that take place.
 - Room rentals for local organizations remain strong, particularly on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Weekend rentals primarily consist of birthday parties and sports gatherings.
 - We've had positive feedback on the Spray Park renovation. The Spray Park is used daily.
 - We continue to have a steady group of middle school students at the park most afternoons after school. They make use of the game room and teen room, and are often active outside on the basketball court, volleyball court, or field.
 - We are still experiencing some challenges with youth riding e-bikes in the park, particularly at high speeds and on the basketball courts. Staff continue to monitor the situation and provide reminders about safety and proper bike use.
 - The Audubon has placed a new Starter Burrow near the gazebo at the Pond in hopes that the Burrowing Owls that were on our neighbors property will make a new home there.
 - Field rentals occur almost daily, with larger sports gatherings on select Saturdays.
 - Our Movie in the Park event featuring Hocus Pocus 2 had approximately 75 attendees. The Marco Island Optimist Club joined us by selling snacks, drinks, and hot dogs.
 - The Halloween Spooktacular drew approximately 250 attendees, slightly lower than in previous years, likely due to competing events that weekend.
 - Our next Movie in the Park is on Friday, November 14th, featuring LUCA, at 5:50pm.
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Veterans Community Park

- The Home Depot Foundation's volunteer project was completed successfully, followed by a well-attended community event on October 21st. A local resident produced a video capturing the entire project, showcasing the volunteers' work and the families receiving the playhouses.
 - Park reservations are increasing as we move into the busy season.
 - Our first City-run event of the season, A Tribute to Veterans Performance, takes place November 7th.
 - The Veterans Day Ceremony, organized by the American Legion and supported by City staff, will be held November 11th.
 - The Farmers Market begins November 12th, featuring 82 vendors across 99 spaces and two nonprofit booths.
 - 2 new bike racks have been purchased and will be utilized for the Farmers Market once delivered.
 - Preparations are underway for the Christmas Island Style Tree Lighting event (event is on Saturday, December 6th), with tree installation scheduled for the first week of December.
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Winterberry Park

- The fields are being actively used for youth and adult softball and some soccer practices.
 - The Home Depot Foundation's renovation of the batting cage received excellent community feedback.
 - The drainage improvement project around the main diamond, also led by the Home Depot Foundation, has not yet been completed.
 - Irrigation work continues, with assistance from the Public Works Department temporarily handling watering for new plantings. A temporary sprinkler has also been installed.
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Racquet Center

- Daily activity continues to increase at the Racquet Center.
 - We've had some challenges with people trying to play without paying.
 - The Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee's ongoing discussion on Pickleball continues to involve significant staff coordination, data collection, and budget preparation. Our next PRAC meeting is on Tuesday, November 18th, 3:30pm.
 - We have a PRAC workshop scheduled for Wednesday, December 10th, 5:30pm – 7pm, Mackle Park.
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Department Highlights

- Parks staff assisted with the Employee Luncheon on October 23rd, attended by 108 employees.
- The Parks team continues to process and coordinate Community Special Event applications for outside organizations. Staff provide guidance, review logistics, and facilitate communication with the City's Special Events Team.
- Planning has begun for the City's annual holiday programs, including Santa's Workshop, Cookies and Milk with Santa (featuring Santa's helicopter arrival coordinated with Christmas Island Style), and the Holiday Movie in the Park, also sponsored by Christmas Island Style.
- We're updating our field use process to improve coordination, reduce scheduling conflicts, and strengthen communication with both applicants and our facilities team.
- Two Parks team members attended the HR Department's Nutrition Seminar, while others maintained facility coverage.
- Additional staff participated in a GIS training session hosted by the IT Department.
- Staff are working on updates to the Parks & Recreation section of the website and learning to operate the new electronic message board at Veterans Community Park.