



City of Marco Island

Date: January 2026

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

Re: Parks & Recreation Monthly Report

Department Overview & Staffing

- Staffing remains a challenge across our facilities. We are currently short one full-time and one part-time position. While interviews have been conducted, candidates have withdrawn due to the offered wage and required hours. Our facilities are open seven days a week: Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM Saturday 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM Sunday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Recruitment continues to be difficult given these hours and current pay structure. Some existing employees have expressed concerns about whether the workload and travel are worth the compensation. Many remain because they enjoy the work itself and the value of a strong team environment.
- Members of the public may occasionally perceive our facilities as quiet, however much of our work takes place behind the scenes, including program planning, event implementation, permitting, scheduling, rentals, security, customer service, and daily public correspondence.

Mackle Park

Many of our programs take place 1-3 times weekly, some occur daily, others on a monthly basis.

- Attendance for our Fit Over 50 class continues to grow. We began the month averaging 33 participants
 - Yoga with Soul classes average 15 participants
 - Line Dancing currently averages 14 participants per class.
 - Our new Meditation class remains slow with an average of 3 participants
 - Mah Jongg play remains consistent.
 - Our Dance Workshop program just began for the season, we had 8 participants at the first class and we expect it to increase. Last season we had 20 attendees at times.
 - Coffee Talk is our newest program that began the first week of January. We had 4 in attendance but we expect this to increase due to strong interest.
 - Our Bocce groups have returned. Although they are limited to 3 courts during the construction of the Airnasium, everyone seems to be enjoying themselves and are happy to be back at play after the summer season.
 - We continue to have room reservations Monday – Friday and occasionally on Saturday.
 - We’ve seen an increase in our monthly Movie in the Park events, we’ve had between 80-120 at each event.
 - Our next Movie in the Park is scheduled for Friday, January 16th, featuring MAMA MIA!
 - All the holiday events went really well. The community still enjoys seeing Santa Claus arrive at Mackle Park by helicopter, that is something that never gets old! We are so appreciative of all the support and effort from the members of Christmas Island Style, they truly make the holidays magical!
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Veterans Community Park

- The Farmers Market: Of course traffic remains a concern, but the event has had a strong start with positive feedback.
 - Law Enforcement Against Drugs has brought the Circus to Marco Island! People seem to be enjoying this new event.
 - We had our first Sunday Winter Concert Series of the season and it was well attended.
 - Our January Island Rocks Concert takes place on Saturday, January 17th, featuring Austin James and the Back Country Boys.
 - Other community events have been scheduled for January – April such as concerts, art shows, Cornhole event, and the annual Kiwanis Car Show.
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Winterberry Park

- Daily use of the fields are being actively used for youth and adult softball, soccer, and some lacrosse games.
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Racquet Center

- Activity has increased significantly.
- Members-only play remains in effect until 10:30am.
- Staff continue to manage competing interests from members, non-members, and neighbors.
- PRAC discussions and workshops continue, with a recommendation to City Council expected.

Department Highlights

- Overall attendance has increased across programs.
- Field rentals are increasing.
- New complimentary Astronomy programs are scheduled for February and March.
- Souper Bowl event relocated to Veterans Community Park.
- E-Bike usage and speed remains a concern among park patrons. Staff are continuing to educate and communicate with the riders as much as possible. PD has increased their outreach at the parks as well.