



St. Johns County Parks & Recreation

St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners | Resident & Visitor Guide

Contents

Meet the Team 4	St. Johns Golf Club 14
Who we are and our commitment to our community.	Elevate your game with this one-of-a-kind public golf experience.
Explore & Connect with Nature. 6	Fairgrounds & Equestrian Center 16
Join us in exploring the beauty and diversity of the St. Johns County parks system.	Celebrate our agricultural heritage at these multi-faceted rural destinations.
Get in the Game 8	Beyond the Ballfields. 17
From pickleball clinics to sports leagues, there's always a way to get in the game.	Play your way: skateboarding, disc golf, dog parks, and numerous unique playgrounds.
Sand, Surf, & Scenic Shores 10	Play, Learn, Discover 18
Unmatched opportunities to enjoy beach time, exploration, and adventure.	Our programs create a wide variety of ways to learn, play, and connect at every age.
SJC Ocean & Fishing Pier. 12	St. Johns County Parks Foundation 19
Always a favorite destination for residents and visitors alike!	Supporting Parks and Recreation for all!
Boat Ramps 12	The Future is Bright! 20
Free and easy access to our network of fresh and saltwater waterways.	Leading with a bold vision to expand opportunities for play, connection, and overall well being for generations to come.

Connect with Us Online

[SJ CPR Website](#) | [Parks Directory](#) | [Mobile App](#) | [Programming](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

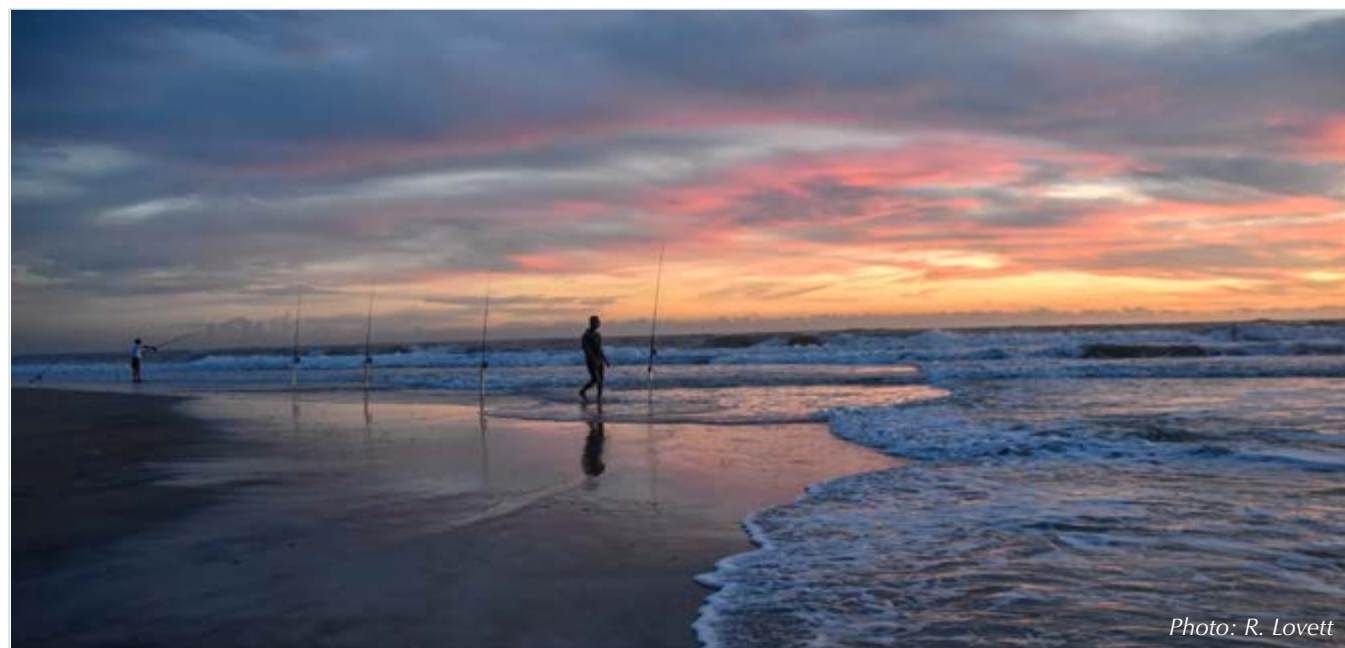


Photo: R. Lovett

Thank you to everyone whose images help tell the SJC Parks & Recreation story so beautifully, including our social media contributors.



Discover St. Johns County



Dear Friends,

Welcome to St. Johns County Parks and Recreation—where nature, history, and community come together to create Florida at First Sight. Our department is proud to offer a dynamic and diverse park system that supports healthy, active lifestyles while preserving the natural beauty that defines our county. Whether you're a resident, new to the area, or visiting for the season, we invite you to explore our many parks, programs, and special events.

No matter what the season, it's always the perfect time to experience all that our parks have to offer—from sunset beach walks and paddling adventures to splash pads, youth camps, outdoor concerts, and family-friendly festivals. The Northeast Florida sun drenched days and warm evenings provide the perfect backdrop to get outside, stay active, and enjoy everything that makes St. Johns County special.

This guide is your invitation to connect with the outdoors, discover new adventures, and make lasting memories with friends and loved ones. We are committed to building a happier, healthier, community and look forward to welcoming you to our parks. Come see for yourself why so many people fall in love with St. Johns County—at first sight.

Sincerely,

Ryan Kane, Director

St. Johns County Parks and Recreation

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Meet the Team



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Many of our staff members have proudly served St. Johns County for over 20 years, building strong relationships and a deep commitment to the people we serve. Together, we work tirelessly to enhance our parks, develop new programs, and ensure that every resident has access to safe, welcoming spaces for recreation and connection.

We are proud to serve this community and look forward to continuing to grow, innovate, and deliver exceptional experiences for generations to come.

Explore the Outdoors

A Look at Our Living Landscapes

Discover our diverse network of passive parks offering opportunities to enjoy natural landscapes, scenic waterways, and places rich in history. Unlike traditional athletic parks, passive parks focus on quiet recreation such as walking, wildlife observation, photography, picnicking, playgrounds, and environmental education. These parks preserve important natural habitats while giving residents and visitors places to relax, explore nature, and experience the unique character of Northeast Florida.

From riverfront vistas and maritime forests to coastal scrub habitats, St. Johns County's passive parks offer a peaceful escape while supporting conservation and stewardship of the county's natural resources. Find your destination with our [Parks Directory](#).

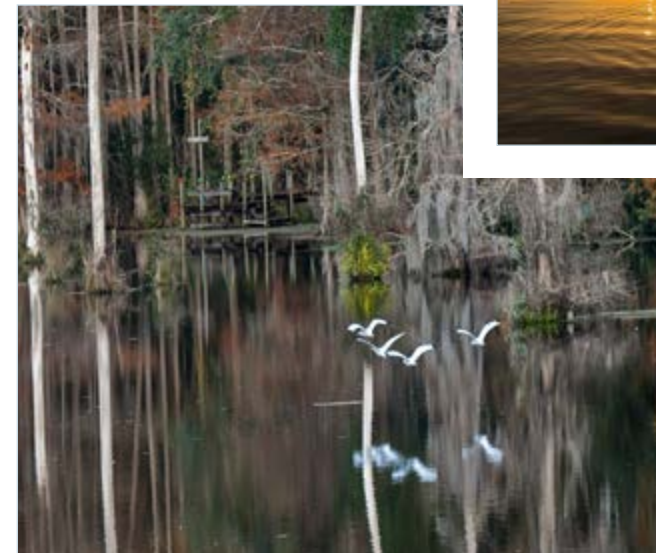
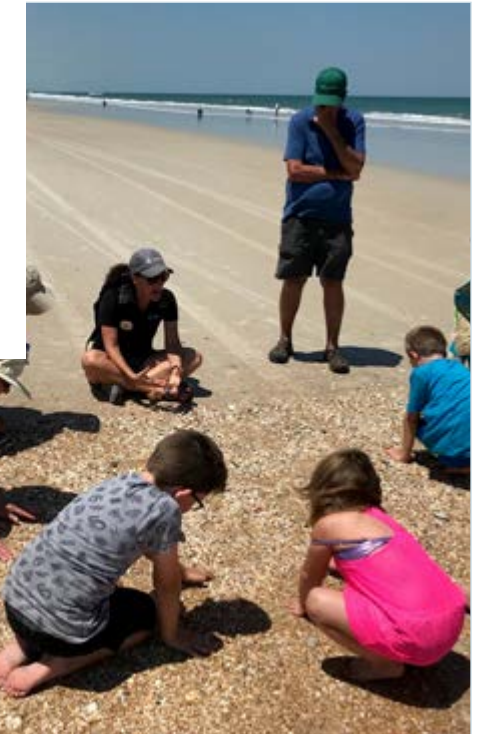
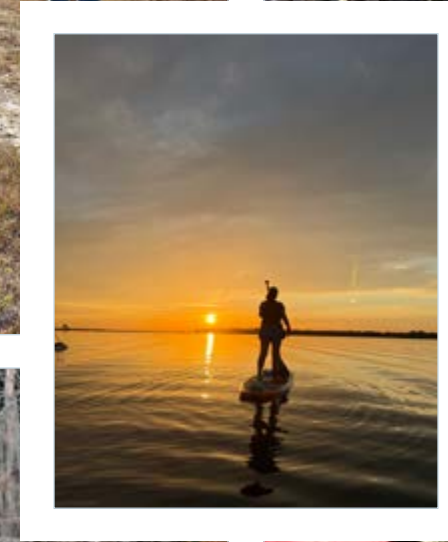
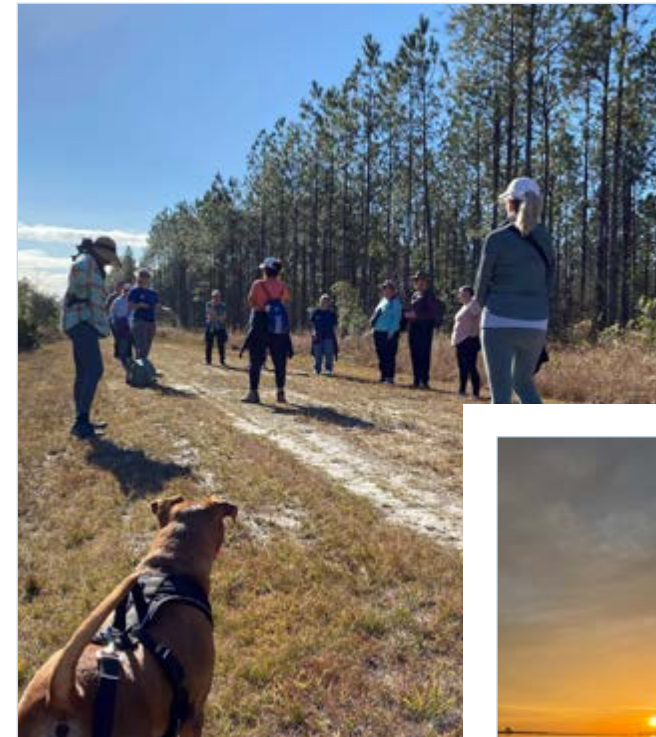


Connect with Nature



Connect to nature through hands-on outdoor programs with our Explore SJC team. From hiking shaded trails and paddling local waterways to fishing clinics and guided nature walks, each program is led by knowledgeable staff with backgrounds in parks, recreation, and environmental education.

Our team brings their real-world experience and passion for the outdoors to the creation of programs that are not only fun, but meaningful and educational. Designed for all ages and abilities, Explore SJC helps people better understand, appreciate, and enjoy the unique ecosystems that make our community special. Find your next adventure with our [Explore Programs](#).



St. Johns County is home to some of Florida's most beautiful and tranquil natural spaces—places where the landscape itself invites you to slow down, breathe deep, and reconnect with the world around you. Here, nature is not just a backdrop—it's the main attraction.



Get in the Game

Sports & Recreation in St. Johns County

From pickleball open play and clinics, to seasonal leagues in basketball, softball, and both indoor and beach volleyball, there's something for every age and skill level.

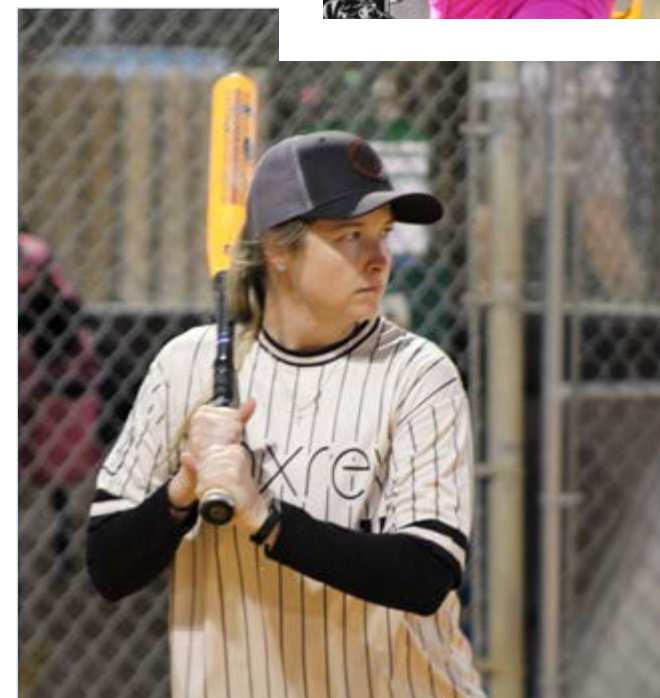
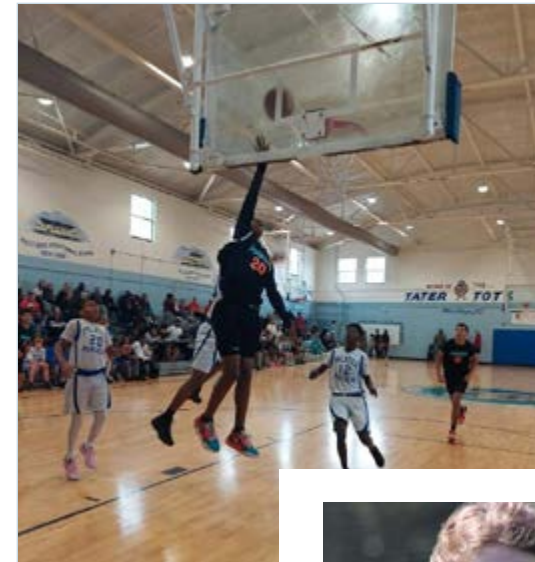
Our wide variety of recreation programs foster community connections, teamwork, and personal growth. They also provide opportunities to support good health, meet new people, and experience the joy of friendly competition in a fun and inclusive environment.

Our facilities are built for play—quality courts, fields, and a range of spaces that support everything from casual games to leagues and tournaments. Whether joining a team, learning a new sport, or enjoying a friendly game with friends, it's easy to get in the game and play your way.

Visit our [Program Catalog](#) to learn more and sign up for our Youth and Adult Programs.

“Our athletic parks bring communities together—families, friends, and athletes alike. We're proud to offer quality spaces where people can stay active, compete, and create lasting memories.”

- Ryan Kane, Director, St. Johns County Parks & Recreation



Whether joining a team, learning a sport, or enjoying a game with friends, we make it easy to get in the game.

Sand, Surf, & Scenic Shores

Plan, Park, and Play—Easy Access to Beaches



Discover why St. Johns County is known as a coastal paradise! With 42 miles of pristine Atlantic shoreline, breathtaking barrier islands, and effortless access to the scenic Intracoastal Waterway, you'll find unmatched opportunities for beach adventures, exploring nature, and discovering history.

In St. Johns County, some of the best things in life really are free. Residents and visitors alike enjoy complimentary off-beach parking and pedestrian access at all our beaches. Whether you're cruising on a bike, hiking with the kids, or lounging by the dunes, the coast is yours to explore and enjoy—no passes, no tags, no catch.

For more information about St. Johns County beaches, access points, and driving passes, visit us @ Beaches on our website sjcfl.us, [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Drive the Beach—An Experience Like No Other. St. Johns County is one of the few places in Florida where you can drive along 12 miles of shoreline, making beach days easier and more enjoyable. From March 1 through September 30, a daily or annual pass (available at access ramps) is required, offering a unique way to experience the coast without the hassle of hauling gear from a parking lot.

Photo: M. Paton-Jones

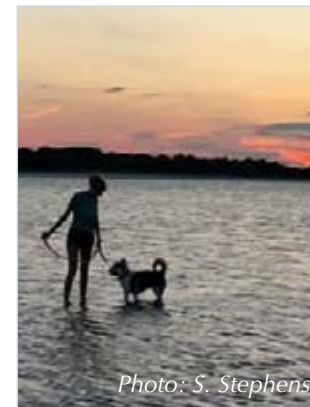
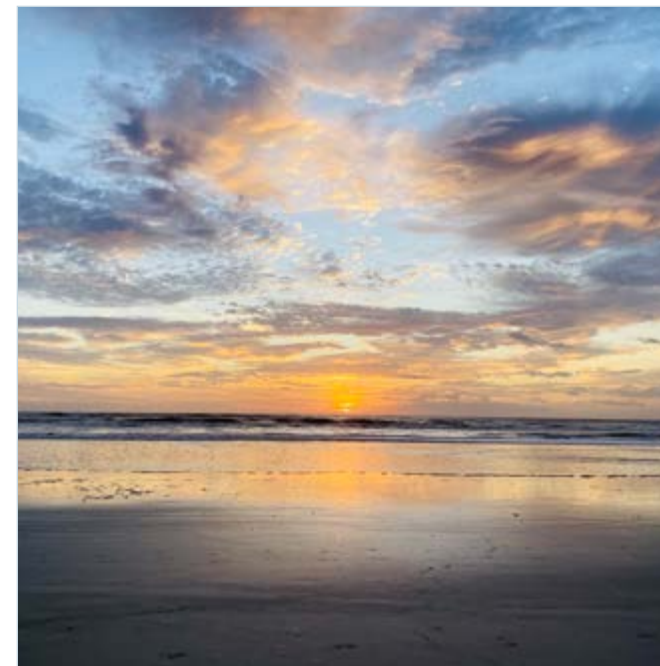
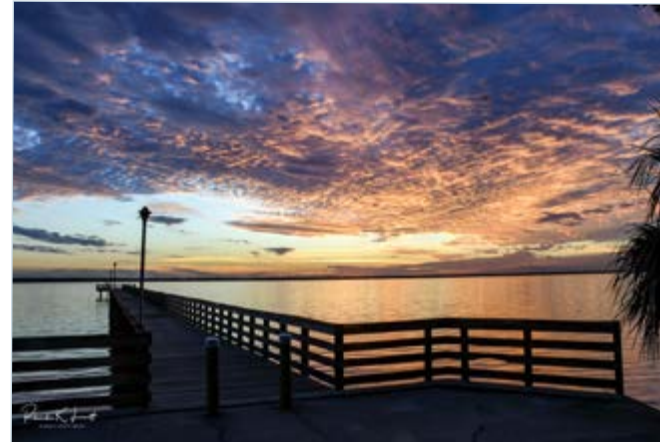


Photo: S. Stephens



Explore our 42 miles of pristine Atlantic shoreline, breathtaking barrier islands, and effortless access to the Intracoastal Waterway.





SJC Ocean & Fishing Pier

Fish, Surf, Play, and Relax by the Sea

Discover what makes the SJC Fishing Pier a favorite with residents and visitors alike! Cast a line, bump a volleyball, ride the waves, or simply kick back and soak in those endless Atlantic views—this St. Augustine Beach favorite has something for everyone.

The pier reaches 600 feet into the ocean and is framed by a scenic four-acre waterfront park where kids laugh at the splash pad and friends gather for pickup games on the Volleyball courts.

Forgot something? Pop into the gift shop for bait, beach gear, cold drinks, and quick snacks. Every Wednesday from 8 a.m. to noon, the Farmers Market brings fresh produce, local crafts, and coastal vibes—arrive hungry and browse at your leisure.

Afterwards, linger for fishing, seashell hunting, or a sun-splashed family day on the sand. Come early for pastel sunrises, stay late for postcard sunsets and let the ocean breeze do

the rest. Whether you're making memories or just making time, the pier is your easy, joyful escape by the sea.

Discover More St. Johns County Piers

Vilano Beach Fishing Pier: Located off Main St. in Vilano, this popular destination is known for its exceptional angling, sunset views, and retro Art Deco charm.

Alpine Groves Fishing Pier: Located on the St. Johns River and surrounded by 52 acres of serene, scenic, parkland. Cast your line for largemouth bass, enjoy stunning sunsets under the shaded pavilion, or simply enjoy taking in the view.

Shands Pier: A local favorite known for being a relaxed, family-friendly fishing spot with river views, stunning sunsets, bird and manatee watching.

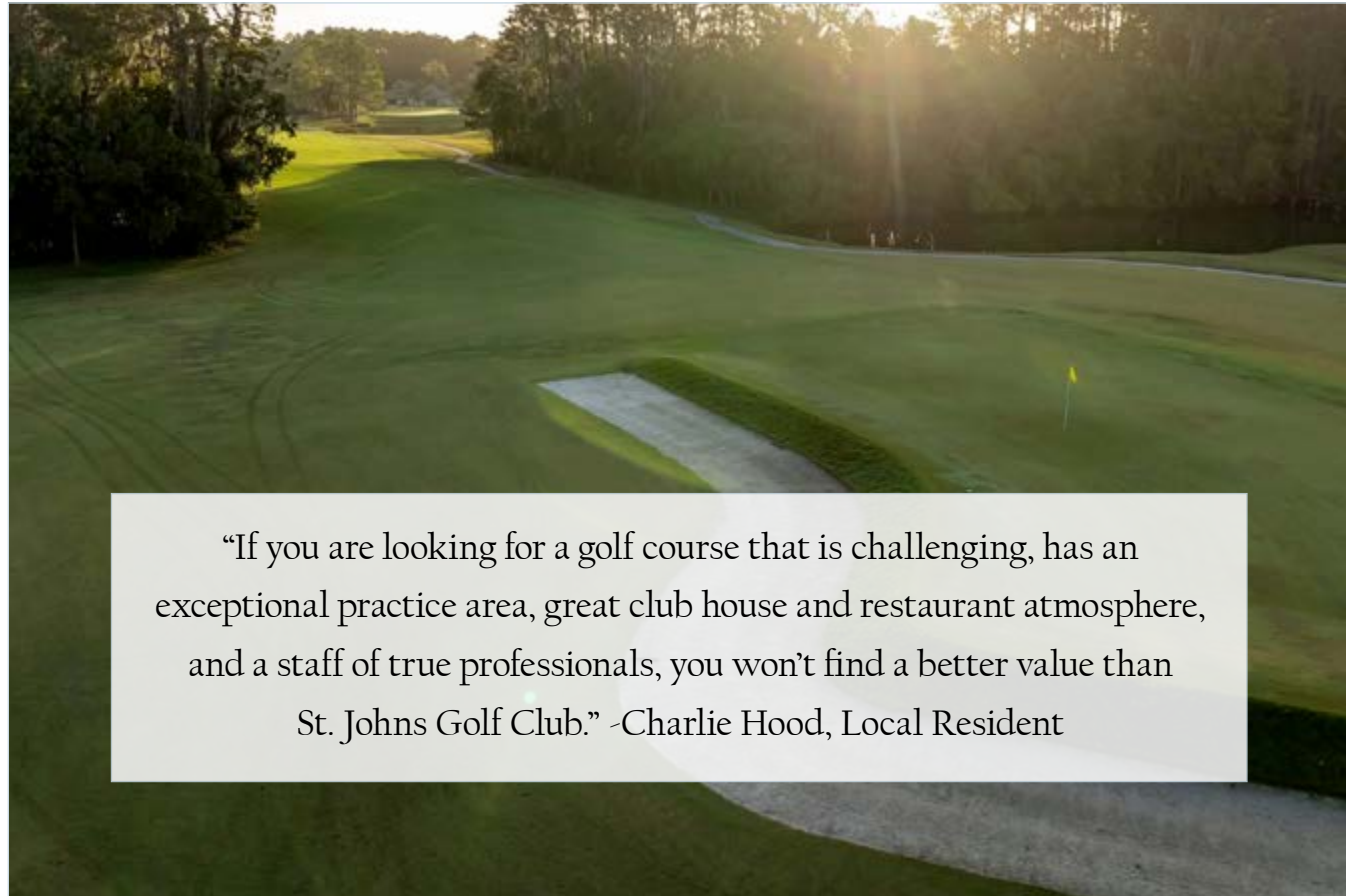
Visit our website for more information about St. Johns County Fishing Piers.

Boat Ramps

With 14 free public boat ramps, residents and visitors can easily access both fresh and saltwater adventures across the county. Cruise along the St. Johns River, explore the Intracoastal Waterway, or launch into the Atlantic for a day of offshore excitement. Whether you're setting out for a relaxing

paddle, a fishing trip with friends, or a full day on the boat with family, our waterways connect you to unforgettable outdoor experiences. Enjoy breathtaking sunrises, abundant wildlife, and the freedom of open water all right here in Northeast Florida. **Boat Ramps and waterway access in St. Johns County.**

From tranquil rivers and scenic intracoastal waterways, to the vast beauty of the Atlantic Ocean, St. Johns County offers endless ways to experience your next adventure!



“If you are looking for a golf course that is challenging, has an exceptional practice area, great club house and restaurant atmosphere, and a staff of true professionals, you won’t find a better value than St. Johns Golf Club.” -Charlie Hood, Local Resident

St. Johns Golf Club

A New Era of Golf Excellence

Inspired Design, Unforgettable Play. Reimagined in 2022, St. Johns Golf Club offers a premier public experience for every skill level. Navigate sweeping fairways, signature bunkers, and immaculate greens set against breathtaking water views. It’s more than a round of golf—it’s a celebration of the game and the natural beauty of St. Johns County.

Elevate Your Game with Us

Elite Practice: The area’s largest all-grass range, putting green, & short-game complex.

Expert Coaching: Lessons, Jr. Programs, and clinics led by experienced PGA Professionals.

Pro Shop: The latest apparel, clubs, and accessories to keep you looking and playing your best.

More about our amenities and opportunities as well as Online Booking @ www.sjgc.com.





Fairgrounds & Equestrian Center

Where Agriculture & Community Come Together

Celebrate our agricultural traditions. Nestled in the heart of Elkton, the [St. Johns County Fairgrounds](#) spans more than 90 scenic acres, proudly showcasing our deep-rooted agricultural traditions. Generations of local farmers have cultivated this land and its surrounding fields, helping to shape our county into the thriving community it is today.

The Fairgrounds continues that legacy with rodeos, 4-H competitions, agriculture expos, and events that celebrate our rural heritage. With covered arenas, exhibit halls, vendor spaces, and RV hookups, it's an ideal setting for community festivals, concerts, weddings, and private gatherings of all sizes.

Disc Golf: Aim for Fun! Another feature of the Fairgrounds is Moccasin Creek's 25-hole disc golf course with challenges for players of all ages and skill levels.

A vibrant hub for our Equestrian community and inviting event space. Just down the road, the [St. Johns County Equestrian Center](#) adds another 20 acres for events, dressage, jumping, clinics, and educational programs.

Together, these facilities honor the county's proud farming history while offering modern venues where tradition meets celebration—inviting residents and visitors to experience the authentic charm of St. Johns County.

Honoring the county's proud farming history while offering modern venues where tradition meets celebration!

Beyond the Ballfields

Alternative Recreation in St. Johns County

Going beyond traditional sports. We're proud to offer our community exciting, alternative ways to stay active. From skateboarding to playgrounds and dog parks, our facilities are designed for all ages, abilities, and interests. Whether you're looking to spend time outdoors, enjoy activities with your pet, or find safe places for your family to play, we offer something for everyone.

Playgrounds: play meets imagination! Come explore some of our favorite parks across the county—Cornerstone, Alpine Groves, Aberdeen (ADA), Treaty, and Palencia—where kids can climb, slide, and have fun just being kids!

Dog Parks: Watch those tails wag! Bring your pups and enjoy the off-leash fun at Treaty, Veterans, DeLeon Shores, Davis, Ron Parker, and Nocatee, featuring areas perfect for both big and small dogs, shaded seating, and water stations.

Skate Parks: St. Johns County offers a diverse range of skate facilities that cater to everyone from toddlers on balance beams to seasoned pool riders. All of our skate parks are free to use and emphasize a fun, family-friendly atmosphere, as well as a safe experience for the local skating community.

Find your adventure in our [Parks Directory](#).

From local favorites to regional destinations, these unique spaces bring people together, inspire active living, and create lasting memories.



Play, Learn, Discover

Recreation Programs for All Ages

Welcome to the heart of community life with St. Johns County Parks & Recreation, where nature, history, and leisure come together to create vibrant experiences for residents and visitors alike.

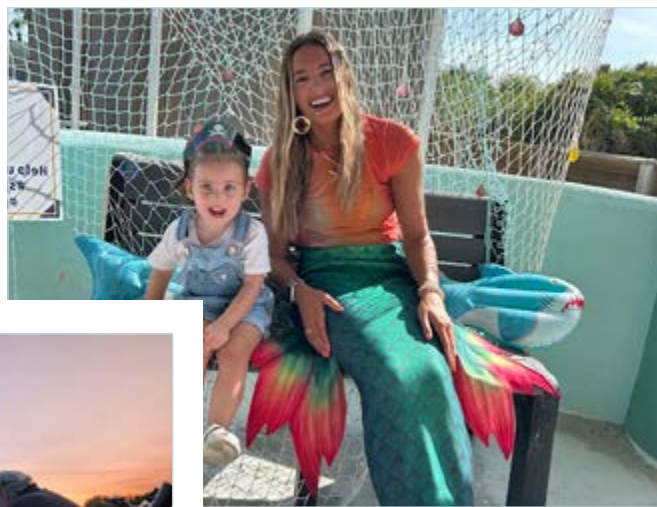
Through our community-based programs and outdoor experiences, including after-school care and summer camps; Parks & Recreation provides a variety of welcoming spaces and activities for residents and visitors to connect, be active, and engage in community.

Our programs and facilities are designed to bring people together by supporting active

lifestyles and encouraging community connections. Whether you're spending time with the family at a fishing clinic, participating in a 5K event, or attending community gatherings like the Alpine Groves River Reflection, there are a wide range of opportunities available for all ages and interests.

St. Johns County Parks & Recreation serves as a central part of community life, where nature, history, and recreation provide meaningful opportunities for residents and visitors.

Explore and register for events, activities, and programs with our online [Program Catalog](#).



St. Johns County Parks Foundation

Supporting Parks and Recreation for All

The St. Johns County Parks Foundation is the official philanthropic partner to St. Johns County Parks and Recreation, working behind the scenes to strengthen and support the department's mission of serving residents through quality parks, facilities, and programs.

The Foundation builds partnerships with local businesses, donors, and community members to provide additional funding and resources for projects that enhance the county's parks system—from accessible playgrounds and

adaptive recreation improvements to family friendly events and environmental initiatives.

By aligning community support with Parks and Recreation priorities, the Foundation helps to expand the reach and impact of county projects, ensuring that parks continue to enrich the lives of residents for generations to come.

Learn more about Parks Foundation events and initiatives on Facebook @ [St. Johns County Parks Foundation](#).

“Community programs strengthen the fabric of St. Johns County by bringing families together through shared experiences. Whether it's a recreation class, a family fun event, or a youth program, these opportunities help build connections, create lasting memories, and foster a true sense of belonging for everyone who calls our county home.”

- Jamie Baccari, Assistant Director, St. Johns County Parks & Recreation



The Future is Bright!

Investing in Community Recreation

Under the leadership of the Director and Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, St. Johns County is making an unprecedented investment in the future of community parks recreation.

Together, County Commissioners, Administration, and staff are leading a bold vision to expand opportunities for play, connection, and overall well-being for generations to come with four new regional parks.

In addition to these large-scale projects, we are also bringing new neighborhood parks to life and revitalizing existing facilities to ensure access in every part of our county.

More than a building project, this investment creates opportunities for recreation, wellness, and connection, helping bring residents together and build a stronger St. Johns County.

Project Highlights

- Four new regional parks and three new community centers
- Six new softball fields, two baseball fields, ten multipurpose fields
- Playgrounds, splash pad, running track, basketball courts, and pickleball court

To learn more, visit the [St. Johns County Capital Improvement Project Viewer](#).



UNLOCK ADVENTURE WITH OUR SJC PARKS & REC APP!

Explore St. Johns County parks and beaches with our app featuring maps, photos, and immersive audio tours. Available in the Apple App Store, Google Play, and via our website @ [Parks & Rec App](#)

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