



BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISPATCH

February 2026 | Official Newsletter of the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District



SAFETY AND SMILES AT TRAFFIC GARDEN

Six-year-old Jake Prieto knew exactly which helmet he wanted as soon as he saw it.

"He liked it because it's the same one I had as a kid." Jake's father, Joe, said. "When he saw it, he said he loved it."

Jake received his free new bicycle helmet shortly after entering the Kids Safety Fair at North Park's Traffic Garden in mid-February – the first major event held at the District-owned venue.

Nearly 100 children received new helmets provided by the Florida Department of Transportation on that Wednesday morning. They were able to attend the free event because the day served as a teacher work day in Palm Beach County.

"It's so convenient that it happened on a day off from school so that we have something to do," Joe Prieto said.

Created by the City of Boca Raton's Traffic Department, organizers encouraged kids aged 5-10 to bring their bicycles or push scooters.

[READ MORE ABOUT THE KIDS SAFETY FAIR](#)



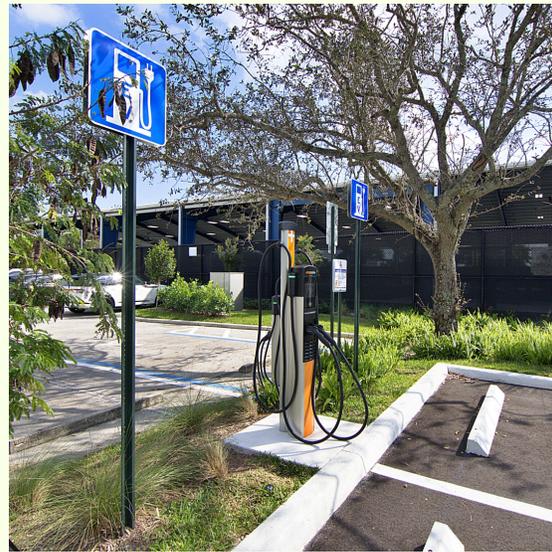
Wildly Creative At Sugar Sand

Visitors to Sugar Sand Park's Science Explorium now have the opportunity to see how Mother Nature might have already solved some of the problems currently facing humans.

Traveling exhibit Wild Creativity recently opened at the Science Explorium, teaching visitors about biomimicry – applying solutions already employed by nature in other situations to solve everyday problems.

Created by the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, the exhibit promises that "Audiences will experience the diversity and wonder of nature, be introduced to the fundamentals of biomimicry, and look to the natural world for inspiration in solving engineering design challenges through more than 10 hands-on interactives."

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Recharge at Patch Reef Park

There's a new way to get a charge out of Patch Reef Park.

Several weeks ago the six new electric car charging stations came online at Patch Reef.

Workers installed the chargers as part of the covered pickleball complex project.

"With electric cars becoming more prevalent, we wanted to ensure that park visitors have a place to recharge while recreating or relaxing," District Commissioner Erin Wright said.

Within an hour of activation, one of the charging stations was already in use.

The charging stations are located adjacent to the covered pickleball courts.

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Junior Picklers Have Their Time

Pickleball didn't become the fastest growing sport in America simply by catering to retirees. More and more youth players are discovering the sport's fun and camaraderie. To foster youth pickleball development, the Patch Reef Paddle and Racquet Club now conducts youth programs. Two of them occur on Wednesdays, beginning with a 4 p.m. clinic geared toward skill development of players aged 6-15. That's followed by a 5:30 program designed for more advanced players. Saturdays' 10:30 a.m. program also caters to advanced youths, offering drills and play. The programs cost \$30 for residents, \$37.50 for non-residents. Sign up via PlayByPoint or call 561-367-7090.



Improving Patch's Pro Shop

Now that the new covered pickleball complex at Patch Reef has become a destination for local pickleball players, District Commissioners are turning their focus to upgrading a different part of the facility. Commissioners voted to pursue designs for renovation of the Patch Reef Paddle and Racquet Club's pro shop. The current building dates back to the 1987 opening of Patch Reef's tennis courts and has never undergone major renovations. The 18-court covered pickleball complex has increased use and general traffic within the pro-shop. The redesign will evaluate the current facility to create a more efficient experience for players and generally improve the flow through the building.



All Courts To See The Light

Boca Raton tennis players will soon find it even more convenient to play after dark. District Commissioners recently voted to install lights over the remainder of the



Rock Around The Croc Clock

What would a crocodile eat if it had unlimited choices? That's the question imaged by the Huw Lewis-Jones book *Croc O'clock*, currently featured on Patch

non-lit courts at the Boca Raton Racquet Center. The District last added lights in 2023, bringing the total number of Racquet Center lit courts to 20. The Racquet Center features 26 Har Tru clay courts that are considered some of South Florida's best. The new project will bring light to the remaining six courts. In 2021 the USTA named the Racquet Center a Facility of the Year. It offers leagues, single's ladders and tournament play.

Reef Park's StoryWalk. Children taking the walk will wonder whether the crocodile can really eat one mountain of macaroni at 1 o'clock or 12 syrup sundaes at 12 o'clock. The book's rhythm is set to mimic the Christmas carol "The 12 Days of Christmas," and children are encouraged to sing as they move from station to station while the croc devours five donut rings, four pumpkin pies, three French fries, two cups of tea and the aforementioned macaroni.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MONDAY MARCH 2

**Commissioners' General
Public Meeting, 5:15 p.m.**

MONDAY MARCH 23

**Commissioners' General
Public Meeting, 5:15 p.m.**

MONDAY APRIL 6

**Commissioners' General
Public Meeting, 5:15 p.m.**

**Meetings at Boca Raton Swim & Racquet Center
21618 St. Andrews Boulevard Boca Raton, FL**

Ode To Open Space

"If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them something more than the miracles of technology." - former President Lyndon Johnson.



LINKED INTO BOCA RATON



District-owned or funded parks offer some spring break solutions for parents looking to keep their kids entertained. Gumbo Limbo is the site of Spring Break Nature Days. The Spring Break Blast Camp is at Sugar Sand's Science Explorium. Patch Reef is holding junior tennis and pickleball camps. Click the link below for a complete list of Boca spring camps.

[View Boca Raton Spring Camps](#)

**GREATER BOCA RATON
BEACH & PARK DISTRICT**
Phone: (561) 417-4599

[Send Us A Message](#)

Keep in Touch!





Greater Boca Raton Beach and Parks District | 21618 St Andrews Blvd | Boca Raton, FL 33433 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)