



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



## SUGAR SAND PLAYGROUND TOP 10 IN NATION

The nation now understands what the Boca Raton Community has known for decades: Sugar Sand Park's Science Playground is elite.

USA Today named the Science Playground one of the 10 Best Public Playgrounds in the country.

"The Science Playground is a unique, beloved feature of Boca Raton," District chair Bob Rollins said. "This is another great honor for our community."

USA Today nominated the playground at District-owned Sugar Sand along with 19 others from around the country for their Readers' Choice Award. Over roughly a four-week period visitors to USA Today's 10 Best page could vote once per day for their favorite park

The Science Playground beat playgrounds from parks in much larger cities, including New York, Los Angeles and Seattle.

[READ MORE ABOUT THE TOP 10 DESIGNATION](#)



### Gumbo Limbo Getting Wild

The Gumbo Limbo Nature Center is looking to get wild in the backyard.

This summer at Gumbo Limbo will feature a new attraction - and Florida's Wild Backyard promises to be an innovative exhibit that will afford visitors of all ages the opportunity to explore the plants and animals found in South Florida's diverse ecosystem.



### Family Style Served At Willow

The Willow Theatre, located in Sugar Sand Park, will once again be the place for family entertainment this summer.

One Saturday each month, Willow will host shows that community members of all ages can enjoy.

The Family-Friendly Summer Theatre Series series begins on June 13 with "Snow

Visitors will get to know native snake species, gopher tortoises, box turtles and marine animals. There will even be a scavenger hunt allowing visitors to help identify invasive species and learn about responsible pet ownership.

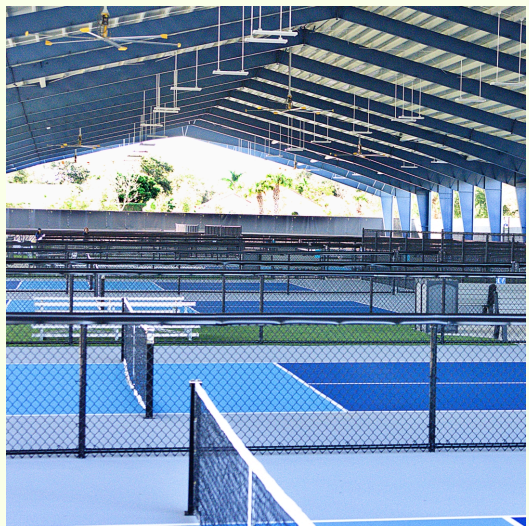
The collection of interactive activities and displays will further advance Gumbo Limbo's mission by showcasing the adaptive habits of animals that live – often unseen by most – on Boca Raton's barrier island. It will help visitors identify ways they can aid conservation efforts within the local ecosystem.

#### [CONTINUE READING](#)



### **Intracoastal Cleanup Coming**

The Gumbo Limbo Nature Center is preparing to remove the trash. Gumbo Limbo is offering the Boca Raton community an excellent opportunity to positively impact the barrier island ecosystem by inviting residents to an Intracoastal Cleanup on Thursday, April 30 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Volunteers 13 or older will have the opportunity to jump into a kayak and paddle as they collect garbage. Others have the option of remaining on land. Supplies will be provided and giveaways will be available. Participants can also accrue volunteer hours. Volunteers are asked to [register online](#). Check-in begins at 4 p.m.



### **Pickleball Improvement**

Patch Reef's new covered pickleball complex is about to get even better. Responding to concerns cited by frequent players, District Commissioners approved a plan to install a screen along the south side of the complex between the roof eaves and the ground fence. During daytime pickling, players reported glare coming primarily from the south side that affected their ability to track shots and ball spin. The new glare screen is similar windscreens already in place. It should be installed by the end of May.

White, Before The Dwarfs." The hour-long show is loaded with fun and songs, exploring Snow White's life before she met her seven little friends and Prince Charming. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$7 for kids 12 and under.

On July 11, "The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" hops its way into the Willow Theatre. The adaptation of the Mark Twain short story brings the California Gold Rush to life through puppetry, music and Twain's colorful characters. Tickets for the 45-minute show are \$12 for adults, \$9 for children 12 and under.

#### [CONTINUE READING](#)



### **Covering Sugar Sand's Rink**

Earlier this month District Commissioners approved a contract to have MBR Construction design and build a cover for the Sugar Sand Park multi-sport rink. Located between Sugar Sand's community center and its field house, the multi-sport rink is the site of basketball, roller hockey and futsal (pictured) games, as well as individual free skating. With the rink experiencing greater use than ever, the new cover will keep weather from interrupting scheduled play. Design is expected to be completed by the end of August. Permitting and construct follow. Project completion is scheduled for the summer of 2027.



### **Roofs Replaced and Ready**

The Sugar Sand roof replacement project has achieved substantial completion, with only minor touch-ups remaining. The current project replaced the roofs covering the field house, baseball press boxes and officials buildings, all picnic pavilions and the guard house. Crews are waiting on delivery of a new awning that will cover the field house entrance and match the color scheme. A few punch list items also remain. In a previous project, crews replaced the roof over Sugar Sand's community center.

# UPCOMING MEETINGS

**MONDAY MAY 4**

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

**MONDAY MAY 18**

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

**MONDAY JUNE 1**

**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

"The thing that concerns me is the amount of kids that stand on street corners, or go into pinball parlors, and call it recreation." – Rex Hunt, television personality.



## LINKED INTO BOCA RATON



Looking for fun ideas for the summer? This should help. The Summer Edition of the Recreator is now available. It's packed with upcoming programs, classes and events coming to Boca Raton. Follow the link to learn more.

[View The Recreator](#)

**GREATER BOCA RATON  
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