



BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISPATCH

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Sugar Sand Tale Of The Trails

A 19-year-old self-described “hobbyist” and “perfectionist” spent his summer vacation making Sugar Sand Park’s nature trails more user friendly.

Operating under the philosophy the “ Visitor Should Never Have To Guess,” Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District intern Nick Schwartz walked Sugar Sand's trails to map them using a GPS program; then designed and proposed signage that will provide users with informational and directional indicators.

“The District doesn't normally use interns, so we didn't exactly know what to expect from Nick,” Executive Director Briann Harms said. “No matter how high we would have set our expectations, Nick would have exceeded them. He did a truly exceptional job.”

When District Commissioner Craig Ehrnst learned that Schwartz was looking for a summer project, he suggested Nick contact Harms.

On a mid-August Monday, days before his scheduled return to Virginia Tech University for the start of his sophomore year, Schwartz presented the results of his Sugar Sand Trail Wayfinding and Signage project at the District's public meeting.

Commissioners unanimously voted to move forward with Schwartz's recommendations.

[READ MORE ABOUT SUGAR SAND TRAIL UPGRADES](#)



Ranger Gets Her Shot

Brook Beuchert knew one of her favorite nature spots would someday yield something special.

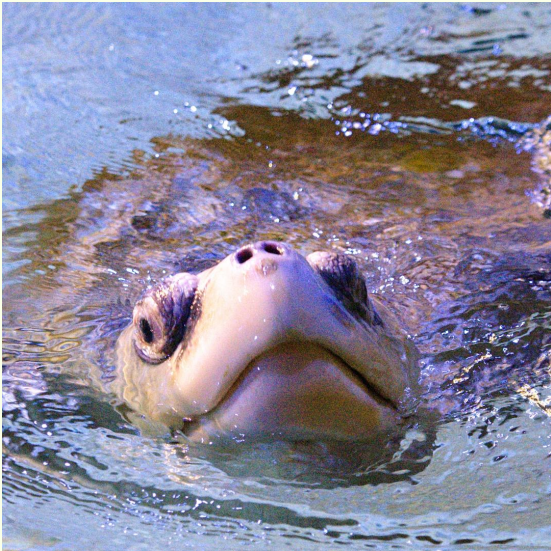
During her many walks along the city-owned Rutherford Park trails she'd see a tree with a hole in it – a perfect spot for nesting critters.

"I was like, something's got to live in here, but nothing's ever in it," Beuchert said.

Nothing, until finally something.

One day as she neared the tree she noticed a couple of masked eyes peering at her from within the hole.

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Record Boca Turtle Nesting

Leatherback and loggerhead sea turtles nested on the five miles of Boca Raton beach monitored by the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in record numbers this season. Loggerhead turtles nearly outnumbered tourists, with 1,117 females nesting on Boca beaches, eclipsing the old mark of 1,075 set in 1990. Leatherbacks also broke the Boca record, with 43 creating their nests – 10 more than the previous record set in 2012. In addition, 148 green turtles nested in Boca. The leatherback nesting season is finished, but a few more loggerheads and green turtles could still lay their eggs in Boca. Nesting season officially ends on Oct. 31. Gumbo Limbo estimates that about 600 nests are still incubating on



North Park Groundbreaking Set

Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District Commissioners invite the Boca Raton community to join them on Sept. 3 at 9:30 a.m. for a groundbreaking ceremony signifying the beginning of development on North Park's east side.

The event will occur at the corner of NW 2nd Ave. and Jeffrey St., in the southeast parking lot near Boca Paddle.

"We are excited to take a big step toward providing the Boca Raton community with another example of the kind of high-level recreational facility they have come to expect from the District," Chair Bob Rollins said.

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Bob Rollins Re-Elected

The District's longest sitting Commissioner will serve another term. Boca Raton voters re-elected Bob Rollins to the District Seat 2 on Aug. 18. First elected in 1994, Rollins initially ran, in large part, to ensure Sugar Sand Park – still in development at the time – opened quickly. During his time as Commissioner he achieved that goal, saw the opening of the Swim and Racquet Center, the opening of Ocean Strand Park, and the purchase of Ocean Breeze Golf Course – now under development as North Park. During his more than three decades as Commissioner, Rollins championed the addition and upkeep of athletic facilities. Commissioner Suzi Vogelgesang will also return, having run unopposed for District

Boca beaches. Those nests will continue to hatch throughout the season.

Seat 4. She has served as a Commissioner since 2011.



More Award Nominations

A couple months after USA Today readers named the Sugar Sand Park Science Playground one of America's best public playgrounds, the park itself has potential for more awards. The Boca Raton Observer nominated the District-owned park in the Best Park category of its [Readers' Choice Awards](#). District-owned Patch Reef, and District-funded Red Reef and Gumbo Limbo are also nominated in that category. Gumbo Limbo is nominated in four categories. Sugar Sand as a whole and the Science Explorium are nominated in the Kid Friendly Entertainment category. Patch Reef also secured a couple nominations. Nominees extend from Boynton Beach into Broward County. Voting runs through Aug. 30.

Mamba No. 2 Extended

Mamba Day is now Mamba week. A severe thunderstorm prompted the suspension of Sunday's second annual Mamba Day Pickleball Tournament at Patch Reef Park. Rather than cancel the tournament, organizers elected to play the final matches on Sunday. The tournament draws its name from Kobe Bryant's nickname "Black Mamba" - an African snake known for its speed and deadly venom. Mamba Day is officially celebrated on August 24, the date representing the numbers - 8 and 24 - Bryant wore with the L.A. Lakers. Nearly 50 players participated in one of four divisions: Mixed Doubles All Ages, Co-Ed All Ages, Mixed Doubles 55 and Over, and Women's Doubles 55 and over.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

TUESDAY SEPT. 8 Commissioners' General Public Meeting, 5:15 p.m.	TUESDAY SEPT. 8 First Public Budget Meeting, 6 p.m.	TUESDAY SEPT. 22 Commissioners' General Public Meeting, 5:15 p.m.
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**Meetings at Boca Raton Swim & Racquet Center
21618 St. Andrews Boulevard Boca Raton, FL**

Ode To Open Space

"Whatever the cost, however financed, the benefits for park visitors in health and happiness - virtually unknown to statisticians - would be immeasurable." - *Edward Abbey, Writer*



LINKED INTO BOCA RATON



Boca Raton wants to create a more wildlife-friendly community and you can help. The National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat™ program encourages residents, schools, and businesses to create outdoor spaces that support native wildlife by providing food, water, shelter, and places to raise young. Follow the link below to learn more.

[View Program Details](#)

**GREATER BOCA RATON
BEACH & PARK DISTRICT**
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