

GENERAL

Ocala Recreation and Parks is conscientious in our efforts to ensure that our parks, facilities, programs and services are user-friendly for all citizens, including those with disabilities. We commit to provide access to as many individuals in our community as possible and to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 and the Florida Americans with Disabilities Accessibility Implementation Act, Sections 553.501-553.513, Fla. Stat. (2006). Ocala Recreation and Parks will not discriminate due to one's disability or impairment and will not exclude said persons from equitable access to any park/facility or from participation in any program/activity or event. Our goal is to provide equal access to parks, facilities, recreation programs and services within the City of Ocala and to treat each and every individual with dignity and respect.

FACILITIES

Ocala Recreation and Parks will strive to plan, build and manage all facilities/structures in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and standards, as well as within reasonable expectations, so they are accessible to and usable by all citizens, including those with disabilities. Our citizens are assured that new and renovated facilities/structures will comply with required design standards and that an adequate number of existing facilities/structures will be adapted to ensure that programs/activities are available in an accessible location.

Jervey Gantt Park and Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Recreation Complex each have aquatic centers onsite. The pools are equipped with water wheelchairs, lifts, gradual low steps, and zero depth entrances to make swimming and aquatic program opportunities more accessible.

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Ocala Recreation and Parks will make certain, to the best of our ability, that all participants, including those with disabilities, are provided the same program and activity opportunities. To provide effective communication for those with hearing and vision impairment/loss and for those with other daily life altering disabilities, Ocala Recreation and Parks will strive to offer reasonable access to necessary aids or other feasible methods, in order to successfully partake in and enjoy the benefits of our programs and activities. However, Ocala Recreation and Parks is not obligated to take measures or provide access that would affect the intended nature of a program or activity.

CULTURAL SITES

Ocala Recreation and Parks will provide individuals with disabilities the best possible level of physical access to cultural sites, historic facilities and grounds that are reasonable with perspective to the preservation of each sites' archaeological, historical and cultural aspects. Modifications of said sites for individuals with disabilities will be developed and implemented with the least possible effect on features that contribute to their significance. After all options are reviewed to make a site accessible and the required modifications of specific features are determined to impair a site's integrity and/or character, those modifications will not be made. In instances where access modifications are not possible, alternative methods of access to these sites and their programs will be researched and implemented.

PARKS

Ocala Recreation and Parks will provide persons with disabilities the highest possible level of physical access to our parks that is reasonable and consistent with the preservation of each property's significant natural features. Undeveloped areas, such as those outside the immediate influence of buildings and roads, will not normally be modified.

We will do our best to provide designated barrier-free parking, restroom accommodations, building access, accessible picnic tables, pavilions, benches, drinking fountains, fishing docks, walking paths/trails, playgrounds/children's play areas, athletic fields/courts and outdoor recreation programs. Each park is different in size, development, geographical location, historical and cultural aspects which determines the level of feasible accessibility.

Ocala City Council has adopted an ADA Transition Plan to guide development activities to remove barriers to park facilities over the next five years.

CONCERNS AND SUGGESTIONS

We welcome suggestions from our citizens on how we can better serve those with disabilities in our community. It is the policy of the City of Ocala that individuals with disabilities not be excluded from participation in; be denied the benefits of; or be subjected to discrimination in our facilities and parks and the programs, activities or services provided within. As a result, we will strive to address any concerns in a reasonable and timely manner.

To help us to get your information to the appropriate individual as quickly as possible, please provide your concern(s) in writing. A form is provided for your convenience. Click on the link to go to the form, download and send completed form by fax, email or mail to:

Ocala Recreation and Parks
828 NE 8th Ave,
Ocala, FL 34470
Phone: 352-368-5517
Fax: 352-368-5514 Attention: Recreation and Parks Director
Email: recpark@ocalafl.org

Alternative means of addressing concerns, such as a personal interview or a taped recording will be made available to persons with disabilities upon request.



American with Disabilities Act Concern/Suggestion Form

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____

Individual(s) involved in concern, if different than above (use additional pages if needed)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Please explain your relationship with the individual(s) indicated above: _____

Name of Park, Facility, Program or Service involved in concern: _____

Name(s) of individuals involved. If personnel of Recreation and Parks Department, include position or title (if known): _____

Date(s) of alleged incident or when issue was discovered: _____

Please explain in the space provided what occurred. Describe the actions taken if an incident and provide name(s) of witnesses and others involved. Attach additional sheets if necessary and provide written documents pertaining to the incident if available. If other than an incident, such as a barrier within a park or facility, please provide location and description:

What change do you wish to see that would be helpful in resolving the issue you encountered?

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

May we contact you? If so, please provide a phone number or email address where you can be reached during the day.

Home: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Thank You!