

Melrose Bay Park

One of our community parks that has served as the local "swimming hole" for many years lies at the end of Quail Street on the banks of Melrose Bay, just off of Lake Santa Fe, an Outstanding Florida Water. This quiet corner of Melrose attracts families for swimming, picnicking, and other nature-based activities.

Wildlife also abounds in the area. Otters, turtles, and birds of all varieties frequent the beach. Yes, keep an eye out for alligators, too. Water access for canoes and kayaks to get out and paddle on Melrose Bay and Lake Santa Fe is available at the nearby boat ramp.

This Park is maintained by volunteers and operated on a very small budget. Facilities are sparse because the lake is usually what brings people to this tiny part of "Paradise" Therefore, we always welcome volunteers to assist us and monetary donations to facilitate reaching our goals of continued improvements, thereby making this an even more attractive place for relaxing and enjoying the natural beauty that is all around us.

History

For years, the Park was the private property of Ms. Maggie Steinart, affectionately known as "Aunt Maggie" who loved the children and wanted them to have a place where they and their families could swim on the lake.

Wanting it to remain available to the public, she sold it in 1959 to the Junior Woman's Club of Melrose for \$1,500.

The money was raised through donations and fund raising events.

In 1983, the Junior Woman's Club deeded the property to what would later become the Melrose Business & Community Association (MBCA), who owns and maintains the property to this day.

In March of 2003, the MBCA Board of Directors elected to organize a group to guide and support the activities and maintenance of the Park. Therefore, Melrose Bay Park, Inc. was organized as a Florida not-for-profit corporation on March 17, 2003.

Future Plans

To continue providing this facility for public use, the Park needs funding.

Funds allow us:

- To continue improving facilities
- To augment native landscaping
- To collect trash
- To maintain signage
- To maintain the gate and fence
- To improve or add benches & tables

Donations are always welcome to help us cover these costs.

Friends of Melrose Bay Park

Membership Application

Annual Dues: \$10.00

New: _____ Renewal: _____

Name: _____

Business or Organization: _____

County: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments: _____



Melrose Bay Park Rules

As a privately owned Park maintained by local volunteers for the benefit of the community, our rules are few, but are made for your enjoyment and safety. Follow our rules and enjoy your visit. For emergencies, or if you see any violation of these rules or area laws, call the Alachua Sheriff's Office at **352.955.1818**.

HOURS: 8:30 AM to Sundown

No Lifeguard – Swim At Your Own Risk!

Monitor Children & Poor Swimmers

Please Help us Keep the Park Clean!

- Deposit trash in barrels provided or take it with you when you leave.
- No alcoholic beverages on property (FL Statutes 856.011, 893.13/16, 562.11-111)
- No pets allowed in the Park.
- No profanity
- No glass containers
- No grills or open fires
- No power boats or personal watercraft within 100 ft of beach
- No Trespassing or Parking after dark and until dawn (FL Statute 810.09)
- For your own safety, the park will be closed while being mowed.



Friends of Melrose Bay Park
P.O. Box 1301
Melrose, FL 32666



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