



PARKS GUIDE



Okaloosa County maintains more than three dozen parks that boast a diverse range of natural settings that play a vital role in fulfilling the recreational needs of Okaloosa residents and visitors. From the Blackwater, Yellow, and Shoal Rivers south to the Choctawhatchee Bay and the Gulf of Mexico, Okaloosa County's 935 square miles encompass opportunities for boaters, anglers, bird watchers, and the everyday outdoor enthusiast. Parks include small neighborhood parks, playground facilities, beach accessways, free boat ramps, and multipurpose sports fields. Bathroom and parking access is available at many locations.

This guide features each park, its location and a description of what makes each park unique and special.

We encourage you to also explore our interactive map by scanning the QR code below.



SCAN FOR INTERACTIVE PARKS GUIDE



From tree lines to shorelines, we hope you join us in our countywide LEAVE NO TRACE efforts. We must act to preserve the pristine beauty of our environment and respect the property of our friends, neighbors, communities, wildlife, and marine life. The natural wonders along our pristine beaches, parks, woodlands, lakes, rivers, and roadways deserve to be protected. Let's join together in a commitment to stay cognizant and focused on the impact we have on the environment.

Learn more about how you can help at
KeepOkaloosaBeautiful.com

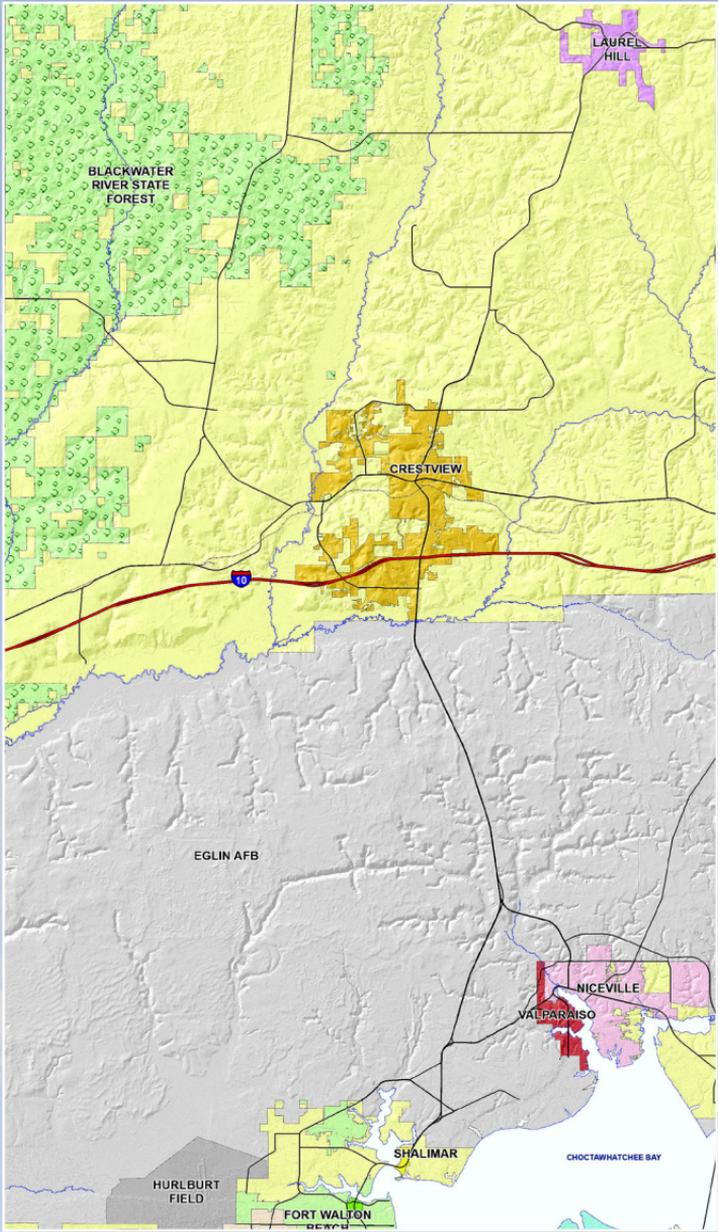


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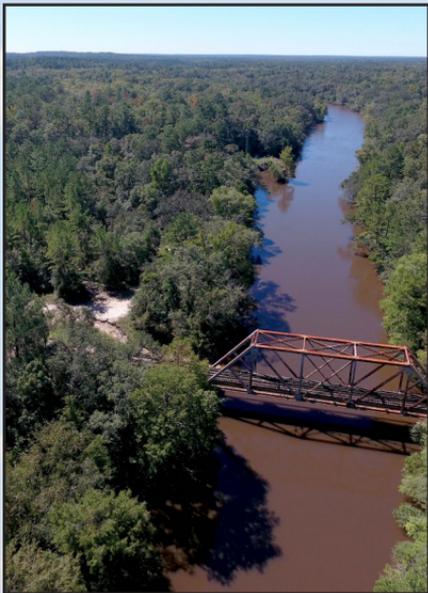


TABLES





BAKER AREA



BAKER BLOCK MUSEUM



1307 State Road 4
at the corner of
State Road 189
Baker, Florida



The Baker Block Museum is a local history and genealogy museum located in Baker, Florida, focused on the history of the Florida panhandle with an emphasis on Okaloosa County. The museum is operated under the non-profit North Okaloosa Historical Association, Inc.

More information can be found at bakerblockmuseum.org.

HOURS:

Tuesday-Friday
and every 3rd Saturday
10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
(closed Dec. 18)
Admission is FREE



The museum offers free access to Ancestry.com and Newspapers.com.



BAKER PARK



1450 Charlie Day Road
Baker, Florida



Baker Park offers six ball fields of various sizes, playground equipment, picnic areas, concession stand and restroom facilities.



A stop on the Florida, Alabama and Gulf Railroad, Baker was platted in 1910 and grew up around the timber and turpentine industries. To reserve or rent the ballfields call 850.689.5790.



BAKER RECREATION AREA AND COMMUNITY CENTER



5503 State Road 4
Baker, Florida



The Baker Area Recreation Association hosts the Baker Area Rodeo each spring. This park has two arenas, 196 stalls, concession stands, and 29 RV hookups with water and electricity for the rodeo crowd. In addition, there is a community center, walking path, playground equipment and picnic tables.



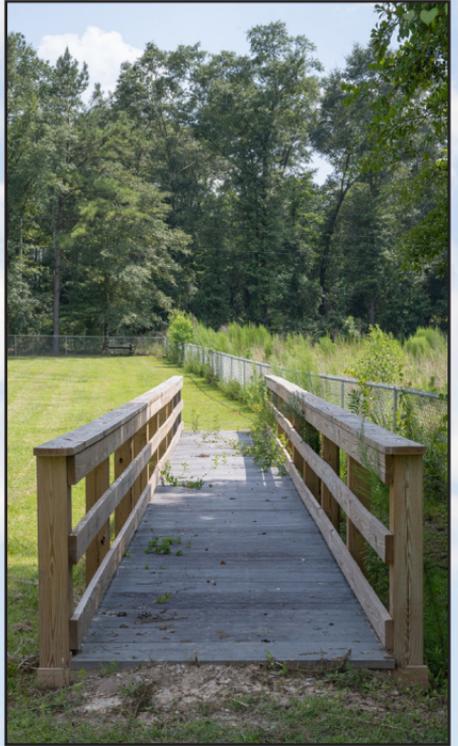
The Community Center is available for events. Reserve space by calling 850.689.5790 or via email at facinfo@myokaloosa.com.



BLACKMAN COMMUNITY CENTER



7590 State Road 189 N
Blackman, Florida



Blackman Community Center offers picnic areas, a large walking trail and a large open green space.



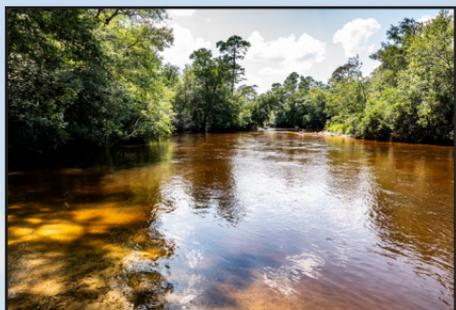
The film ZOMBEEZ was filmed on the Blackman Community Center property.



BRYANT BRIDGE BOAT RAMP



100 Bryant Bridge
Road
Holt, Florida



Bryant Bridge Boat Ramp is a small, secluded boat ramp site on the Blackwater River near the County line within the Blackwater River State Forest. Limited boat trailer parking is available.



DID YOU KNOW?

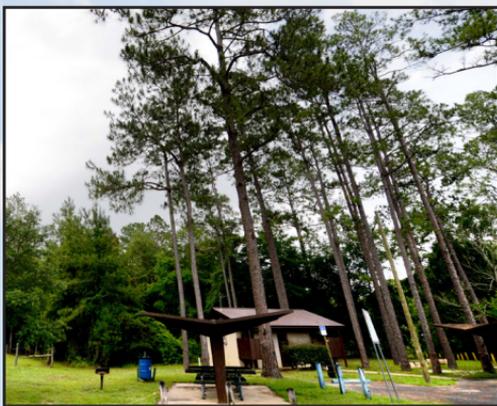
The Blackwater River of Florida is a 56.6-mile river rising in southern Alabama and flowing through the Florida Panhandle to the Gulf of Mexico.



COTTON BRIDGE PARK



6301 State Road 4 W
Baker, Florida



Cotton Bridge sits on the Blackwater River in North Okaloosa County. The park offers swimming, fishing, a playground, several pavilions, picnic tables and restrooms. A large sandbar sits on the edge of the river which provides a beach area that is a favorite among the locals.



Cotton Bridge Park is upstream from nearby Wilderness Landing on the Blackwater River.



GUEST LAKE PARK BOAT RAMP



3850 Yellow River
Log Lake Road
Holt, Florida



The park offers a boat ramp with access to the Yellow River, swimming, fishing, several pavilions, picnic tables, grills and ample parking space.



Guest Lake Park Boat Ramp sits on the north side of the Yellow River. The Army's 6th Ranger Training Battalion at Camp Rudder is on the south side of the river.



HOLT PARK



620 U.S. Highway 90 W
Holt, Florida



Holt Park features plenty of shade and green space along with a playground, picnic tables and a pavilion. A portable toilet is also available.



Holt, Florida has roots in the timber industry. According to many, the first pioneers to come to the Holt area settled along the Yellow River.



MILLIGAN / YELLOW RIVER PARK



5100 Ellis Road
Baker, Florida



Milligan/ Yellow River Park provides boat access to the Yellow River. This quiet park is a great place to relax or fish from the shore. There is limited boat trailer parking. Picnic tables and grills are also available.



DID YOU KNOW?

Milligan was Okaloosa County's first county seat when the legislature created the county in 1915.



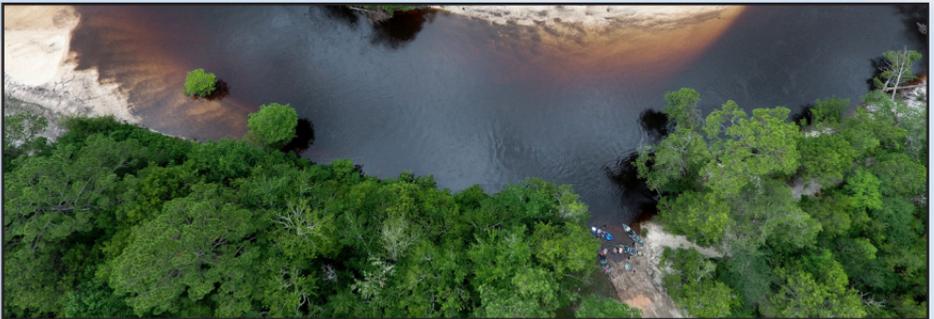
WILDERNESS LANDING PARK

5700 Wilderness
Landing Road
Baker, Florida



This 25-acre park offers a boat ramp, camping with primitive RV and tent sites (first come-first serve), picnic areas, restrooms, hiking, and fishing. The park sits along the Blackwater River and is perfect for a day of paddleboarding or kayaking.

Visitors can find access to the park off State Road 4 from Barton Road, left on Corduroy Road, then left again onto Wilderness Landing Road.



DID YOU KNOW?

Wilderness Landing is down stream from nearby Cotton Bridge Park.





CRESTVIEW



CLEO PARK



2099 Cleo Lane
Crestview, Florida



This neighborhood park offers a playground and pavilion that is perfect for the whole family to enjoy.



Crestview was largely an outgrowth from the railroad service to the west Panhandle of Florida.



GARDEN CITY PARK

6330 Garden City Road
Crestview, Florida



The park has five ballfields, a playground, two pavilions with picnic areas, a concession stand, restrooms and a very large green space. To reserve or rent the ballfields call 850.689.5790.



Crestview's name was chosen because it is located on the peak of a long woodland range between the Yellow and Shoal rivers.



RAY LYNN BARNES BOAT RAMP

 3390 U.S. Highway 90 E
Crestview, Florida



This boat ramp gives you access to the Shoal River. Limited boat trailer parking is available. This is one of two boat ramps in Crestview with access to the Shoal River. The other boat ramp is located off of State Road 85 at the Shoal River Wayside Park (Bill Duggan Jr. Park).



This park is named after Wildlife Officer Ray Barnes who lost his life in the line of duty while trying to apprehend someone for illegally hunting deer on the Shoal River.



SHOAL RIVER WAYSIDE PARK (BILL DUGGAN JR. PARK)



5999 State Road 85 S
Crestview, Florida

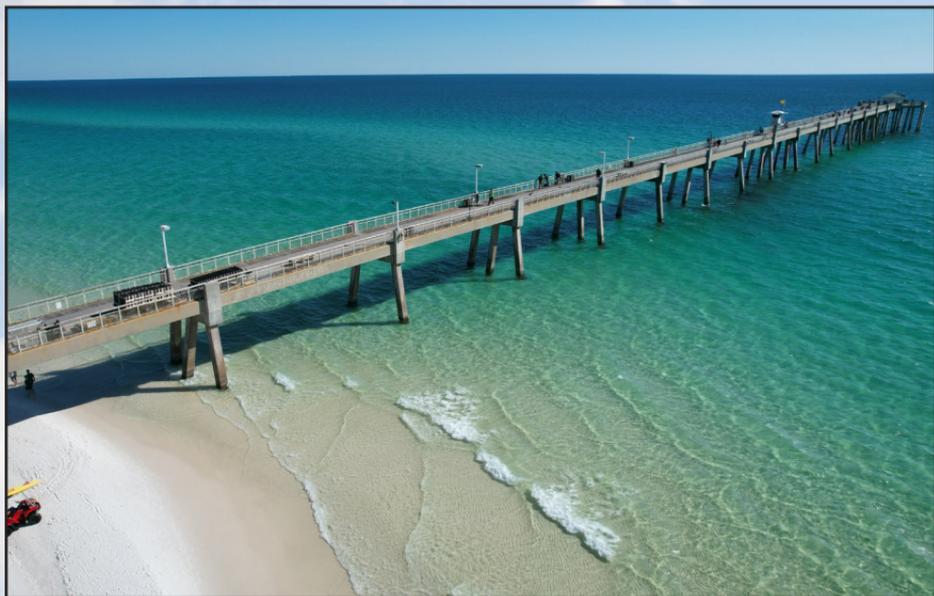


This 5.5-acre river park is located just south of Crestview off State Road 85. The park offers a playground, several pavilions, picnic tables, grills, a boat ramp with access to the Shoal River and restrooms.



The bridge over the Shoal River at this site is known as the Cox Bridge, named for the Cox family who lived on Shoal River and operated a ferry prior to the bridge being built.





DESTIN/OKALOOSA ISLAND



BEACH ACCESSES

OKALOOSA ISLAND



Santa Rosa Blvd.
Fort Walton Beach, Florida

There are seven main gulf-front beach accesses along Santa Rosa Boulevard on beautiful Okaloosa Island. The amenities include free parking, bathrooms, pavilions and many have grill access.

- #1, Blue Dolphin
Beachwalk- 372 Santa Rosa Boulevard
- #2, Emerald View
Beachwalk- 399 Santa Rosa Boulevard
- #3, Seashore Beachwalk- 530 Santa Rosa Boulevard
- #4, Jerry Melvin Beachwalk- 600 Santa Rosa Boulevard
- #5, Doris Jordan Freeway
Beachwalk - 700 Santa Rosa Boulevard
- #6, Mike Mitchell
Beachwalk- 820 Santa Rosa Boulevard
- #7, Emerald Promenade
Beachwalk- 900 Santa Rosa Boulevard



The streets along Santa Rosa Boulevard where these accesses are located, are all named alphabetically with a species of fish or other tropical themed names.



THE BOAT BASIN ON OKALOOSA ISLAND



410A Cobia Avenue
Fort Walton Beach, Florida



This unique park offers a kayak launch, floating dock and a fixed dock along with 17 parking spaces and two handicap parking spaces. This park sits on the Santa Rosa Sound directly across from Beach Access #2.



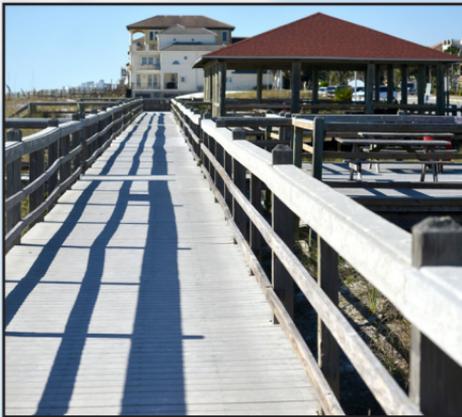
This boat basin underwent an extensive renovation using tourism revenue. Following the much-needed improvements, it was reopened to the public in September 2022.



JAMES LEE PARK



3510 Scenic Highway 98
Destin, Florida



This park is located near the Walton/Okaloosa County line. It offers swimming, fishing, a playground, multiple pavilions, restrooms and a beautiful beachfront that has multiple access points. The park has 170 parking spaces, six handicap parking spaces and limited golf cart-only parking spaces.



James Lee Park is the only Okaloosa County-maintained park in Destin. However, the City of Destin offers many other parks, both along the Gulf of Mexico and area waterways. Learn more about their parks at CityofDestin.com.



JOHN BEASLEY PARK



1550 Miracle Strip Parkway
(U.S. Highway 98)
Fort Walton Beach, Florida



John Beasley Park offers access to the beautiful white sandy beaches and emerald waters that our area has become known for. The park offers two pavilions, swimming, fishing, boardwalk access to the beach and restrooms. It also offers 200 parking spaces and eight handicap parking spaces. During peak season the parking lot will fill up at various times so we recommend car pooling when able.

The west pavilion is available for reservations in two-hour increments on a first-come, first-serve basis for a fee. Please contact the Facility & Parks Maintenance office for more information at 850.689.5790.



This park opened in 1960 and served as the only Black beach during segregation. It was named after John C. Beasley, also known as Red, who served in many civic organizations.



LITTLE MARLER PARK



1247 Siebert Drive
Fort Walton Beach, Florida

Little Marler Park is located on Okaloosa Island just west of nearby Ross Marler Park. It offers 2 pavilions, picnic tables, grills and a green space. The park offers dock space but this is for day use only and overnight mooring is not allowed.



Little Marler Park is located along the Santa Rosa Sound, a waterway that is part of the Intracoastal Waterway used for statewide marine commerce.



NEWMAN C. BRACKIN WAYSIDE (BOARDWALK) PARK



1460 Miracle Strip Parkway
(U.S. Highway 98)
Fort Walton Beach, Florida



This park is on Okaloosa Island adjacent to the fishing pier. It offers several pavilions, picnic tables, restrooms with changing rooms, volleyball nets, dune walkovers to the beach and plenty of parking.



Newman C. “Buddy” Brackin served as Okaloosa County’s Clerk of Court for 28 years.



OKALOOSA ISLAND FISHING PIER

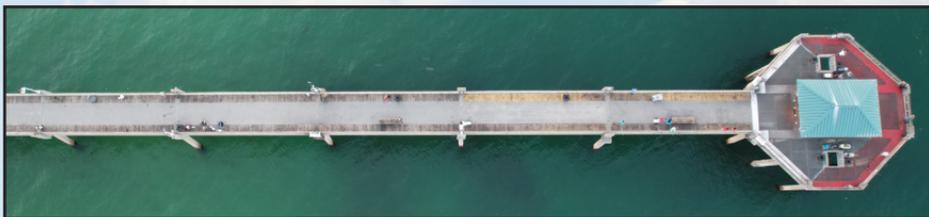


300 Pier Road
Fort Walton Beach, Florida



The pier is located on Okaloosa Island adjacent to The Boardwalk. Stretching over $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, the pier provides a platform over the Gulf of Mexico for fishing and stunning views of the water and marine life.

NOTE: Fees are charged by the leaseholder for use of the pier. For pricing and more information go to: <https://www.theislandpier.com/>.



The original Okaloosa Island Fishing Pier was built in 1972 and extended 962 feet into the Gulf of Mexico. Hurricane Erin destroyed the original pier in 1995. The current pier opened in 1998 and extends 1,262 feet out into the Gulf of Mexico.



ROSS MARLER PARK



1275 Santa Rosa Blvd.
Fort Walton Beach, Florida



Ross Marler Park is a stunning park that provides a wide variety of opportunities for everyone to enjoy, including boating, swimming and fishing access to the Choctawhatchee Bay. Amenities include a fishing pier with an ADA accessible fishing platform, two boat ramps, designated boat trailer parking, two sets of restrooms, a fenced in playground, several pavilions, grills, large green spaces and a walking trail with interpretive signage.



The park is named after Ross Clinton Marler. He was the last “Marler” postmaster in Destin when he retired in 1972. The Marler family was instrumental in the early development of Destin.



WOMEN VETERANS MONUMENTS AT VETERANS PARK

1250 Miracle Strip Parkway
(U.S. Highway 98)
Fort Walton Beach, Florida



This park features life-sized bronze statues of women who have served in combat in U.S. military conflicts. The statues are positioned along an ADA accessible path with an honor wall, benches, landscaping and lighting. While paying homage to these heroes, the park also features native wildlife and plants, to include a robust great blue heron rookery nestled around a handful of wetland areas.



Second only to Washington, D.C., Florida is home to one of the largest populations of women veterans in the nation. This one-of-a-kind memorial pays tribute to women who have served throughout history.





FORT WALTON BEACH/ MARY ESTHER



COLONEL BUD DAY PARK



185 Woodland Park Circle
Mary Esther, Florida



This park offers a full basketball court, benches and is located within safe proximity to U.S. Highway 98, making it easily accessible for patrons that may be looking for a break from driving.



George Everette “Bud” Day was a United States Air Force officer, aviator, and veteran of World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War. He was also a prisoner of war, and recipient of the Medal of Honor and Air Force Cross.



DON & SUSAN STILLWELL PARK



710 Essex Road
Fort Walton Beach, Florida

This park provides an ADA compliant children's playground, basketball court, a paved walking trail, pavilions, picnic areas and a very large open green space. Stillwell Park was built after a wastewater treatment facility was demolished in 2011.



Don and Susan Stillwell, for whom the park is named, helped lead the effort in the transition of this land from a wastewater treatment facility to a neighborhood park.



ELDREDGE PARK



331 Eldredge Road
Fort Walton Beach, Florida



Eldredge Park is a small park on Garnier's Bayou offering swimming, fishing, picnic facilities and a pavilion. This is a perfect place to enjoy the sounds of nature or to launch a canoe or kayak.



Okaloosa County acquired the land for this park in 1966.



POCAHONTAS BOAT RAMP



565A Pocahontas Drive
Fort Walton Beach, Florida



Pocahontas Boat Ramp is great for launching small boats on Cinco Bayou. However, parking is not available.



DID YOU KNOW?

Cinco Bayou was originally called Five Mile Bayou. Locals will still refer to it by that name.



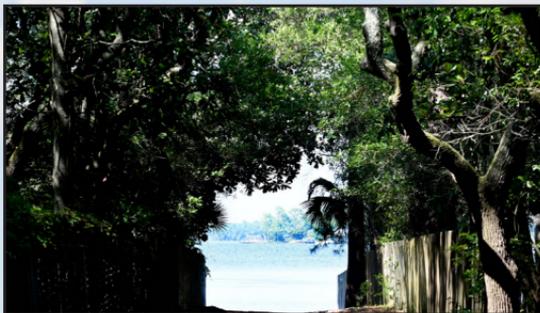
RICKEY AVENUE BOAT RAMP



165 Rickey Avenue
Fort Walton Beach, Florida



Rickey Avenue Boat Ramp provides a boat ramp for small boats. Limited boat trailer parking is available across the street from the entrance.



This boat ramp gives boaters access to Garnier Bayou. Almost the entire back half of Garnier Bayou is not developed because it is part of the Eglin Air Force Base reservation.



SUNSET PARK



627 Lang Road
Fort Walton Beach, Florida



This park is nestled in a quiet neighborhood on Lang Road and offers a playground with benches, a pavilion and a picnic area. A mowed green space is also available.



Many of Okaloosa County's parks are shaded by live oak trees. Live oak trees are a classic symbol of the "old Florida" look and can live up to 300 years.



SYLVANIA HEIGHTS PLAYGROUND



311 Shirley Drive
Fort Walton Beach, Florida

This neighborhood park offers two half-sized basketball courts with glass backboards and is perfect for small-sided games. The playground area offers benches and plenty of shade.



Sylvania Heights is a small community just north of Lovejoy Road in Fort Walton Beach with about 1,000 residents.



WATER STREET BOAT RAMP



99 Water Street
Fort Walton Beach, Florida



This boat ramp offers access to Cinco Bayou. Limited parking is available.

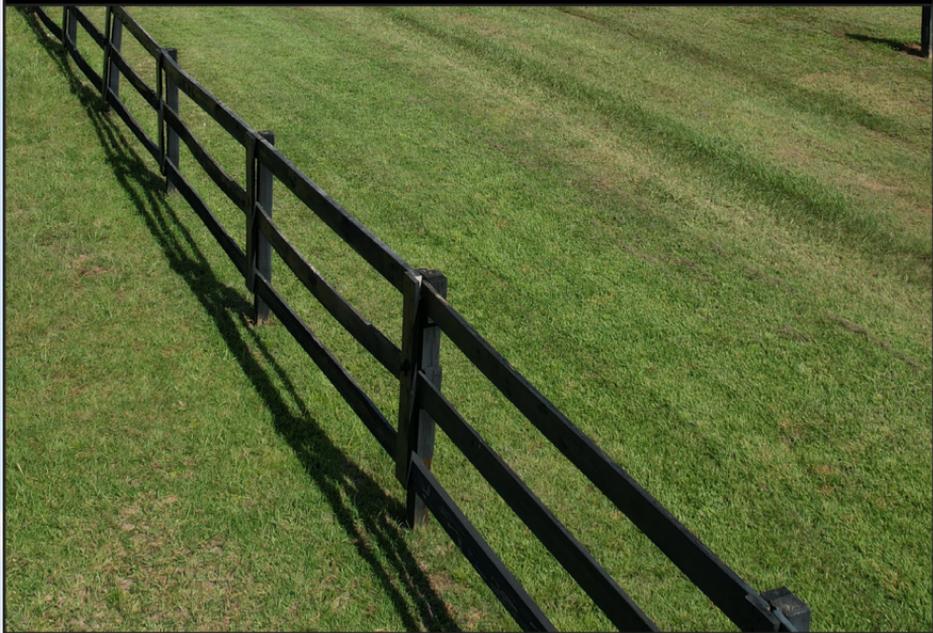


This boat ramp is accessible via Beal Parkway and is on the farthest western portion of Cinco Bayou. Nearby Gap Creek empties into the bayou.





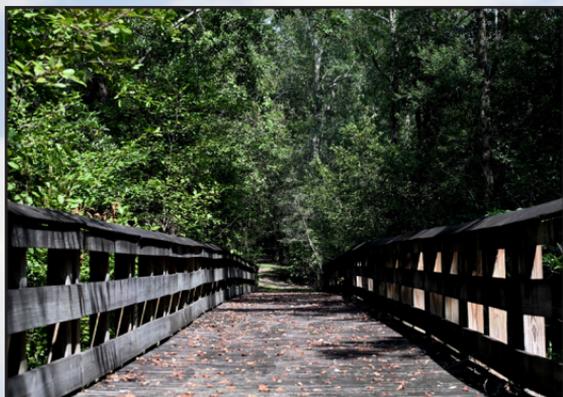
LAUREL HILL



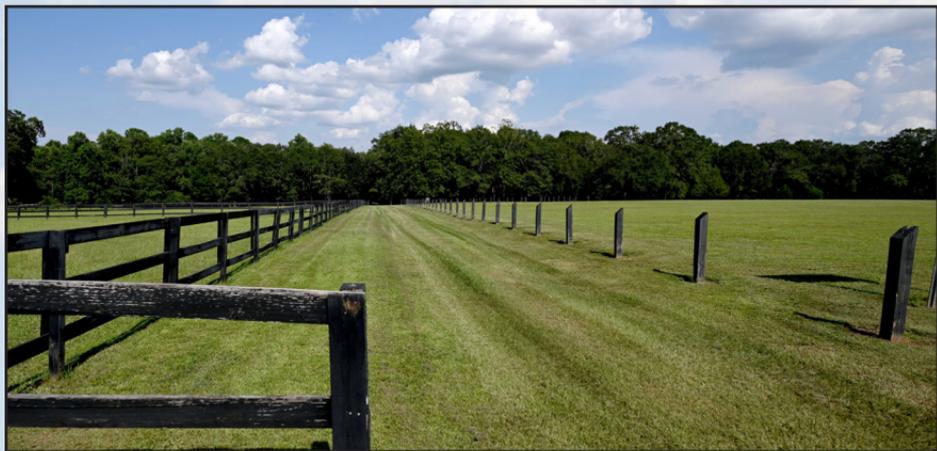
LAUREL HILL PARK



7651 County Road 393
Laurel Hill, Florida



This park is a former horse pasture and features pavilions and a short walking trail across a creek. This 10-acre park features a large lush grass field with a walking path, parking, two pavilions with grills, and a portable toilet.



This park is north of the community of Dorcas. The name, Dorcas, has origins in the Bible and is mentioned in both the books of Acts and Peter as a woman known for her good works and acts of mercy.



OAK GROVE RIVER PARK



2751 County Road 2
Laurel Hill, Florida



Oak Grove River Park has a boat ramp on the Yellow River. The park also offers picnic tables, grills, pavilions and plenty of space for boat trailer parking.



Oak Grove River Park is situated on County Road 2 between State Roads 189 and 85.





NICEVILLE



ABRAM'S PARK



61490 Southwind Drive
Niceville, Florida



Abram's Park includes a play structure, picnic tables, bathrooms and a pavilion. This park was partially funded with donations.

It is named in honor of Abram, a young man who lost his life to a tragic traffic accident in the area.



Bluewater Bay was designed as a golf resort community. This park, honoring Abram, is unique to the area and sits on a former golf tee box.



SEMINOLE PARK



1534 Cat-Mar Street
Niceville, Florida



Seminole Park offers a ball field, playground, walking path, pavilion, picnic tables and restroom facilities. To reserve or rent the ballfields call 850.689.5790.



Niceville was originally named Boggy, Florida, due to its location on the Boggy Bayou. Boggy became “Niceville” on Nov. 5, 1910.



SWIFT BAYOU BOAT RAMP



213 Edrehi Avenue
Niceville, Florida



Swift Bayou Boat Ramp provides boat access to Rocky Bayou. Limited boat trailer parking is available.



Rocky Bayou is also home to Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park, which was a former World War II training site.



WOODLANDS PARK



333 Greenwood Way
Niceville, Florida



This beautiful neighborhood park offers swings, a pavilion, playground with shade cover, a large open green space and a portable restroom.



On average, Niceville sees 343 days of sunshine per year.





SHALIMAR



LONGWOOD/POQUITO BAYOU PARK



4 Bay Street
Shalimar, Florida



This location offers a boat ramp with access to the bayou, pavilions with picnic tables, grills, swimming and a portable restroom. The dock area provides ample space for boats to navigate around the boat ramp.



This park is located near Eglin Air Force Base and the Air Force Armament Museum which is free to the public. The museum features indoor and outdoor static displays of aircraft.



MEIGS BEACH PARK



45A Meigs Drive
Shalimar, Florida



Meigs Park has a boat ramp for small boats to access the Choctawhatchee Bay, as well as a sandy beach for sunbathing, swimming and fishing. Covered picnic tables and portable toilets are also available.



This park is named after Clifford Meigs, an early Shalimar developer. The nearby middle school is also named after him.



LEO NORRED PARK



48 Poplar Avenue
Shalimar, Florida



This neighborhood park offers a playground, benches, and a pavilion with tables. This park is located in the Poquito Bayou area.



The sign display at the front of the park was completed as an Eagle Scout project.



SHALIMAR / PORT DIXIE LITTLE LEAGUE BALL PARK



75 4th Avenue
Shalimar, Florida



This park is located in the middle of the Shalimar / Port Dixie residential area. It is the home of the Shalimar Little League Association. There are four ballfields and a concession stand with restrooms. To reserve or rent the ballfields call 850.689.5790.



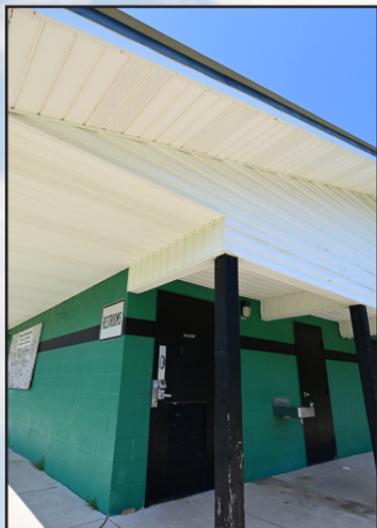
Port Dixie was a concept city developed in the 1920s with the hope of it becoming one of the largest port cities in the United States. The concept was later abandoned.



SHALIMAR ELEMENTARY PARK



1340 Joe Martin Circle
Shalimar, Florida



This park is located behind Shalimar Elementary School. It has very large green spaces, concession stand and restrooms. To reserve or rent the ballfields call 850.689.5790.



Clifford Meigs started the town of Shalimar in the early 1940s. He developed a community of 160 houses to be used as housing for military officers.



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