

historical timeline

1872	First National Park was created: Yellowstone National Park. Public Park or National Ground for Benefit and Enjoyment of the People
1886	First supervised public playground: Sand Gardens in Boston
1889	First Free Public, Equipped Outdoor Playground: Charlesbank Gymnasium
1906	Playground Association of America states: <i>Play under proper conditions is essential to the health and the physical, social, and moral wellbeing of the child, playgrounds are necessity for all children</i> Dr. Luther Gulick established and was first president of the Playground Association of America
1911	First state to pass an act permitting local recreation agencies: New Jersey
1916	Act to establish a National Park Service (“Organic Act”) signed by President Wilson creating a federal bureau in the Department of Interior responsible for protecting national parks and monuments
1925	State Legislature created “Florida State Park system” to provide free parks for the purpose of public recreation or for the preservation of natural beauty or historic association
1933	Creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Greatest impact on the development of the Florida State Parks system through the stimulus it provided for public land acquisition
1942	First Florida Association of Recreation Workers Convention in Orlando, FL
1948	Florida Association of Recreation Workers name was changed to Florida Recreation Association
1951	Recreation major was established at Florida State University
1953	First directory compiled, listing names and addresses of recreation workers throughout the state
1955	Four districts were established Recreation major was established at University of Miami
1958	Original charter of the Florida Recreation Association filed in Tallahassee. The primary purpose was to <i>unite in one organization, all recreational leaders in the State of Florida and develop and stimulate intelligent interest in the values and possibilities of Recreation</i>
1963	The Orange State Recreation Association, the association for black recreation professionals, was provided means to become part of the Certification program
1965	National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) established. NRPA is a merger of National Recreation Association, American Recreation Society, American Institute of Park Executives and the National Conference of State Parks
1968	Florida Conference registration fee approved at \$2 per day
1969	Governmental reorganization created the Division of Recreation and Parks by combining the old Board of Parks and Historic Memorials with the Florida Outdoor Recreation Development Council
1972	Florida Recreation Association changed name to Florida Recreation and Park Association
1974	Benchmark Paper produced by Gray and Greben. Commissioned by NRPA to compose the definition of Recreation: <i>Recreation is an emotional condition within an individual human being that flows from a feeling of mastery, achievement, exhilaration, acceptance, success, personal worth, and pleasure. It reinforces a positive self-image.</i> FRPA offices first established in Tallahassee; Administrative Assistant Sharon Sofford hired Membership database computerized
1975	Eight districts of FRPA formed National Certification program approved by board Jack Haskins becomes FRPA Administrative Assistant Therapeutic Recreation Interest Section established
1978	Florida Governor Ruben Askew declares June as Recreation and Parks Month First woman chairperson to the Southern Regional Council: Dottie Abrams from Dade County FRPA Administrative Assistant title changed to Executive Director (Jack Haskins)
1980	First official Leisure Research Symposium led by the Society of Park and Recreation Educators as a means of bringing practitioners together to review recent research findings and to attract more researchers to examine parks, recreation, and leisure events. Benefits: Parks and Recreation saw a shift from activity-based management to benefit-based management, where concern was on the benefits from those services that people received
1981	FRPA Director’s Conference. Three specific concerns by directors: more visibility; more initiative and stronger leadership; coordination Employment of the first full-time Executive Director of the FRPA: Nancy Francois The National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA) was created
1983	Incorporation of the FRPA, recognized as a non-profit corporation Fran Mainella hired as FRPA Executive Director
1984	First Annual National Therapeutic Recreation Week. -June 11-17 Resort and Commercial Recreation Interest Section established Ethnic Minority Interest Section established Arts and Humanities Interest Section established
1986	The NRPA Certification Plan was implemented
1990	Eleanor Warmack hired as FRPA Executive Director
1992	FRPA’s 50 years of quality service celebrated: <i>Dedicated to creating and promoting standard of excellence service, and leadership through its membership by recognizing the importance of parks and recreation services. Strive to be recognized as a leading authority and driving force for the Parks and Recreation</i> New FRPA logo unveiled at conference FRPA acquires its own office building in Tallahassee Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which makes public accommodations and services available to all which led to the motivation for Universal Design in parks and public facilities to ensure full and true access for all people
1995	FRPA Foundation established
1997	The Florida Park Service received a grant to establish the state’s first environmentally oriented AmeriCorps program
1998	The FRPA website is launched, www.frpa.org FRPA Foundation was created to support the “professional development and education of leisure professionals, students and citizen advocates”
2000	Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) replaced the Certified Leisure Professional Florida Park Service recognized for best state park system by the NRPA
2006	“It Starts in Parks” campaign was established
2008	Joe Abrahams Leadership Academy graduates its inaugural class
2011	The Emerging Leaders Institute commences NRPA launches the Certified Park and Recreation Executive (CPRE) program
2015	FRPA begins an aggressive Strategic Plan to address the areas of Health, Economic Impact, Environmental Stewardship and Community Building
2016	FRPA Member agencies sign the State of Health and Wellness Pledge and present it to the Florida Surgeon General

WORLD EVENTS
1898 Spanish-American War
1901 Theodore Roosevelt elected President
1908 FBI Established
1914 World War I begins
1917 US enters WWI
1930 The Great Depression descends upon the world
1932 Amelia Earhart flies across the Atlantic
1939 World War II begins
1941 Attack on Pearl Harbor; US enters WWII
1957 Civil Rights Act of 1957 established
1958 NASA formed
1960 50th State, Hawaii, admitted to the Union
1961 Vietnam War begins
1963 Martin Luther King Jr.’s I Have a Dream speech delivered
1969 Neil Armstrong walks on the moon
1974 President Richard Nixon resigns after Watergate scandal
1979 Three Mile Island Nuclear Incident
1980 Summer Olympics boycott
1981 Attempted assassination of President Ronald Reagan
1985 Live Aid concert held in Philadelphia
1986 Space Shuttle Challenger explosion
1990 Hubble Telescope placed in orbit
1991 Gulf War begins World Wide Web introduced
1992 Hurricane Andrew devastates Florida
1993 World Trade Center Bombing in New York City
2001 Terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and The Pentagon
2005 Hurricane Katrina causes chaos in Louisiana
2010 Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill
2011 Osama Bin Laden killed by US forces