

# 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: *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*  
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 *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*
- 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: *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.* 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: *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*  
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