

**Lakes Regional Park  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q: What time does the park open and close?**

**A: We are open 7 a.m. to Dusk. 365 day's a year.**

**Q: What are the hours for the Splash Pad Water Park?**

**A: Summer hours are 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily and Winter hours are 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**They may close some days from 12 p.m. – 1p.m. or may be down longer for maintenance issues or if the water temperature is below 65 degrees in the winter (the water is not heated). Each water feature is equipped with a lightning detector so that the water does shut off if lightning is nearby.**

**Q: Is there a fee to come to the park?**

**A: No. The only fee is for parking. \$1 an hour or \$5.00 per day. You may pay this at the Pay Station Kiosk located in one of the 3 parking lots. Pay stations will take credit cards with the exception of American Express which is not accepted. The Pay Stations do not give change. Only 1 vehicle per transaction You will need \$1.00 bills if paying the hourly rate or you may use a \$5.00 bill to pay for the daily rate.**

**Q: Do you have to pay for another parking pass if you locate to another parking lot in the park?**

**A: No. Your pass is good for all 3 parking lots.**

**The Train Village and Train are Private Vendors located in the park if you want to ride the train the price is \$5.00 for ages 6 – adult. You may contact the Train Village by calling 239-267-1905 or visit their website <http://rrmsf.org/>**

**Wheel Fun Rentals is another private vendor In the park. If you want to rent a Bike the price is from \$7.00 an hour up to \$28.00 or a Boat the price is from \$12.00 up to \$38.00 for an hour. Please call 239-332-2453 or visit their website <https://wheelfunrentals.com/fl/fort-myers/lakes-regional-park/>**

**Q: How big is the park?**

**A: The park is a 279 acres facility, which the lake is 158 acres of it.**

**Q: Can I fish in the lake?**

**A: Yes. A fresh water fishing license is required, unless you are a Florida Resident aged 65 or older (with) proof of age and residency), Florida resident certified as totally and permanently disabled or a child age 16 or younger. You may contact FWC <https://public.myfwc.com> for more information on licenses needed and bag limits.**

**Fishing is permitted at the park except on the causeway bridges. You can take home what you catch, but catch and release is preferred.**

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**Q: What kind of fish are in the lake?**

**A: Snook, Mullet, Tilapia, Bass, Bluegill, Tarpon and Catfish to name a few.**

**Q: Can I bring my own boat?**

**A: Yes. As long as you do not have a motor. We do not allow motors to be used. However you may use a trolling motor. The Lake is shallow in areas and there are a lot of rocks as the park was an old Rock Quarry in the 1960's. The boat slip is located at the North end of parking lot #1 we do have a sign out and in sheet located at Shelter D -1 for you to log out and in. Please do not forget to use the log sheet.**

**Q: Are Pets allowed in the park?**

**A: No. Only registered certified service animal are permitted in the park.**

**Q: Where is my dog allowed to go that is close to the park?**

**A: The closest Dog park is JOHN YARBROUGH LINEAR PARK Located from Six Mile Cypress to Crystal Drive this is a dog friendly facility where dogs must remain on leash. There is no parking lot available for Phase two or three. Public parking is available at several nearby recreational facilities (parking fees may apply): Lakes Regional Park (1.5 mi.), the Lee County Sports Complex (1 mi.) and the City of Fort Myers Neighborhood Trailhead Park (2.1 mi.). View JY Linear location map [https://www.leegov.com/parks/Documents/JY\\_LinearLocationMap.pdf](https://www.leegov.com/parks/Documents/JY_LinearLocationMap.pdf) Or WA-KE HATCHEE COMMUNITY PARK located at 16760 Bass Road. <https://www.leegov.com/parks/dog-parks/facility?fid=0190>**

**Q: Does this park offer Wi-Fi for park patrons?**

**A: Yes, the public can access the Wi-Fi connection in the areas around and between parking lot 2 by the Water Park area and 3 parking lot near the Train Village area.**

**Q: What programs and events does the park have?**

**A: We have Programs & Events for all ages.**

**•Story Time In the Children's Garden: the 3rd Wednesday of the Month (October - April). Content is appropriate for infants through 3rd Graders.**

**•Story Walk In the Children's Garden: This is a self guided walk with story on post in the Children's Garden.**

**•Children's Garden Book Exchange: Located at entrance to Children's Garden. Open daily.**

**•Fragrance Garden Plant Sale**

**9 a.m. - 1 p.m. the last Wednesday of the month (October-May)**

**•Farmers Market**

**Every Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. beginning October 3rd, 2018 and Ending April 24th, 2019**

**•Brick by Brick Picnic / Garden Gala: Held in the Spring Time TBA**

**•National Public Garden Day: Held in the Spring Time TBA**

**•Summer Camp June - August Dates TBA Summer Camp Registration Begins at the End of February**

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**Holiday Event Programs:**

- The Bunny Express: Held in the Spring TBA
- The Liberty Express: Presidents Day - July 4th
- Fall Festival and The Halloween Express: Mid October - October 30th.
- Holiday Express: Mid December - December 30th

**Tours**

- Lakes Park Walking Tour with Bird Patrol: 8:00 a.m. the first Saturday of every month at Shelter A-7
- E.Z. Rider Program is an assisted tour service by reservation. Call 239-533-7575 (ext. 5) and/or 239-533-7578 to schedule.

**Q: How can I reserve a shelter?**

**A: You may reserve any of our shelter by calling 239-533-7578 Monday – Friday. Best times to call would be from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. or by going online with the following hyperlink**

<https://webtrac.leegov.com/wbwsc/webtrac.wsc/splash.html>

**All rentals are for private parties only and each shelter is available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. The A shelters (A1, A2, A3, A4, A7 and A8) rent for \$25 and can hold up to 36 people. The B shelters (B1, B2, B3 and B4) rent for \$50 and can hold up to 90 people. The C and D shelters (C1 and D1) rent for \$50 and can hold up to 120 people. The shelters are very popular and are often reserved 4 to 6 months in advance. The Lodge, Amphitheater and Garden Gazebo must be done by calling the office.**

**The screened in lodge is available each day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and rents for \$150 per day with a \$250 refundable cleaning and damage deposit. Your event will need to be over and the lodge will need to be cleaned up and you will have to check out by 5 p.m. The cleaning and damage deposit will be refunded to you after your event if there is no damage and the lodge is returned in the same condition in which it was rented. The lodge features private restrooms, a fully equipped kitchen with a refrigerator, freezer, an oven with a cooktop stove, and an ice machine, ceiling fans, there are 15 5 foot round tables and 90 chairs. We do not allow any helium balloons or anything that will float in the Lodge.**

**Q: Is there a cancellation policy?**

**A: Yes. If you need to cancel or change your reservation, the person who made the reservation must call 239-533-7578 a minimum of 72 hours before the reservation date or no refund or reservation change will be granted. A \$10 cancellation or permit change fee will apply.**

**Q: How large is each shelter and the lodge?**

**A: The A shelters measure 20 feet by 20 feet. The B shelters measure 26 feet by 43 feet, the C shelter measures 53 feet by 32 feet, the D shelter measures 61 feet by 44 feet and the lodge measures 47 feet by 53 feet**

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**Q: I would like to host a 5K walk or run at your park. What do I need to do to make this happen?**

**A: Thank you for your interest in hosting a 5K race at this park. Many 5K races are held here each year, so here are some guidelines to explain the process of hosting one at the park. Entities looking at hosting a 5K should contact the park no more than 6 months prior to the intended date of the race. The 5K race must have prior approval from the park supervisor. Shelters A1 and D1 must be reserved and paid for (\$75 total) as part of the race, because the course will start and stop in this area. Since shelter rentals are very popular at this park, a race cannot be put on at the last minute. An additional \$250 fee is required for 50 pre-paid parking passes. More pre-paid parking passes may be purchased at \$5 per vehicle. The entity looking to host the race must be a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with FL. As of November 2014, You MUST apply for a Use of County Property Permit as required by Lee County Administration. The signed permit must be turned in to The Lee County Department of Community Development a minimum of 30 days prior to your event. The link to apply for the permit is as follows**

<http://www.leegov.com/dcd/BldPermitServ/AppsProcd/SpecEvent>

**Q: What kind of wildlife can be seen at the park?**

**A: Lakes Park is filled with wildlife viewing opportunities. The islands of Lakes Park are home to a great number of birds in Lee County. In fact, it is one of the most important nesting rookeries in the county. In nesting seasons, over one-thousand (1,000) nests are in the rookery. Nesting species include the white ibis, glossy ibis, great blue heron, little blue heron, green heron, anhinga, cattle egret, great egret, black crowned night heron and scarlet ibis. Non-rookery species include the red-shouldered hawk, northern mockingbird, northern cardinal, several warbler species and many other bird species. If you are interested in birding or learning more about birds, the Lee County Bird Patrol conducts monthly walks at the park. Besides birds, the park contains alligators, several snake species, raccoons, squirrels, marsh rabbits, bobcats, several fish species and many other wildlife species. Wildlife feeding is prohibited.**