

Armory Building

851 North Market Street [Mapit](#)
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Amenities offered at this park:

Qty.	Amenity
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- 1 Basketball Lighted
- 146 Car Parking
- Yes Gymnasium
- Yes Perimeter Site Fencing
- Yes Security Lighting

Acres: 3.12

Park Type: Community

**Council
Person:** [Dr. Johnny Gaffney](#)

History: The Armory Building is situated in downtown Jacksonville, at the northeast corner of State and Market Streets. Built in 1915-1916 to house the local National Guard of Florida, the three-story, Gothic-Revival style building (with basement) contained a drill hall/auditorium with a stage and balcony. Other amenities included a swimming pool, gymnasium, bowling alleys, finely appointed reception rooms, a kitchen and mess hall, along with a rifle/pistol range, a billiard/pool room, and a library. For over forty years, the building also served as the City's principal public facility for entertainment/social events, such as an address by first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, dances, boxing matches, and concerts by well-known singers. After the Guard moved to a new facility, the Department of Recreation and Public Affairs took over the building in 1973, and since that time it has been the headquarters for the City's parks and recreation system.

Bay and Broad Pocket Park

529 Bay St. West [Mapit](#)

Jacksonville, FL 32202

Amenities offered at this park:

Qty.	Amenity
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4	Benches
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3	Trash Barrels
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Acres: 0.25

Park Type: Neighborhood

**Council
Person:** [Warren A. Jones](#)

History: This park is located on the northeast corner of Bay and Broad St. The park is a .25 acre landscaped plaza with benches.

Flossie Brunson Eastside Park

1050 Franklin Street [Mapit](#)
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Amenities offered at this park:

Qty.	Amenity
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- | | |
|-----|------------------------|
| 1 | Baseball Adult Lighted |
| 2 | Basketball Lighted |
| 4 | Benches |
| 2 | Bleachers |
| 27 | Car Parking |
| 3 | Grills |
| 1 | Multiuse Field |
| 2 | Picnic shelters |
| 4 | Picnic Tables |
| 6 | Playground Equipment |
| 1 | Restrooms |
| 2 | Tennis Hard Lighted |
| 0.5 | Trails Paved (Miles) |
| 4 | Trash Barrels |
| 1 | Water Feature |
| Yes | Community Center |
| Yes | Drinking Fountain |
| Yes | Perimeter Site Fencing |
| Yes | Security Lighting |

Acres: 7.38

Park Type: Community

**Council
Person:** [Dr. Johnny Gaffney](#)

History: In 1974, the city acquired approximately 7 acres from The Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. After acquiring the property, the City requested that bordering sections of Van Buren Street, Roland Street, and Foster Lane be closed for park construction. Later in the spring of 1974, construction started on basketball courts and a playground. In May 1974, Ordinance 74-445-191 was signed, changing the zoning of the property from RM to GU. In August 1974, ordinance 74-860-392, dedicated the property from the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development to the City for the use as a local public park. In 1977, Resolution 77-111-85 and Ordinance 77-112-27 were signed, giving the authority to execute a lease between the City and Community Television, Inc. for the

construction and operation of a community facility. Also during this time tennis courts, a baseball field and a t-ball field were constructed (City of Jacksonville Legislation). In October 1982, Resolution 82-941-330 renamed NDP Park to Eastside Community Park. Mayor Hazouri and CW Darling held the Eastside Community Center dedication 10 April 1990 (PRE Media Division Files). A fire damaged the community center in February 1996 and renovations were designed in the process (Letter dated 4/10/96 from Chief Park Maint. to Risk Management). Lease agreements between the City of Jacksonville and The 100 Black Men of Jacksonville and the Jacksonville International Longshoremen`s Association of Retirees were signed for the groups to provide a place to devise life enrichment programs for the Eastside Community (City of Jacksonville Lease Agreement). In 1999, Ordinance 1999-464-W was signed, naming the tennis courts after Flossie Brunson. She has been a resident of the lower Eastside since she was five years old, having moved from Georgia. After her retirement in 1976 from the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, she organized the Lower Eastside Neighborhood Development Corporation to improve and stabilize the neighborhood. She has been actively involved in neighborhood improvement projects ever since. Also in 1999, Ordinance 1999-462-W renamed First Street Park/Eastside Park after Ed Holt. Mr. Holt is a long time grocery proprietor and community leader, who was raised on a farm in Georgia. He has served on numerous boards of community organizations and has received numerous awards for public service (PRE Media Division Files). In August 2001, a groundbreaking ceremony was held to celebrate the upcoming renovation for the park, consisting of lighting, landscaping, a walk path, water feature, fencing, benches, and irrigation. This project was completed April 2002. In May 2003, the park was renamed by City Council Resolution to Flossie Brunson-Eastside Community Center & Playground to honor Ms. Brunson`s life and many contributions to the citizens of Jacksonville.

Hemming Plaza

135 Monroe St. West [Mapit](#)
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Amenities offered at this park:

Qty.	Amenity
13	Benches
1	Bike racks
34	Picnic Tables
10	Trash Barrels

Acres: 1.54

Park Type: Neighborhood

**Council
Person:** [Don Redman](#)

History: Hemming Plaza is located across from City Hall in the heart of downtown Jacksonville. First established as a public square by the City's founder Isaiah D. Hart around 1857, it is Jacksonville's oldest park. Known first as City Park and then St. James Park, it was renamed Hemming Park in 1899 to honor Civil War veteran Charles C. Hemming, who donated the park's Confederate monument (the City's oldest and tallest) the previous year. At various times the park contained bandstands, fountains, comfort stations, and Tourist and Convention Bureau buildings, along with many beautiful trees. In 1978, the City converted the park into a brick-paved plaza, and completed additional work in 1986 that transformed the area into a single-level, pedestrian-oriented mall. Due to its centralized location, the plaza has long been a part of the downtown experiences for both tourists and local citizens.

Jesse B. Smith Memorial Plaza
133 Forsyth St. E. [Mapit](#)
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Amenities offered at this park:

Qty.	Amenity
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- 6 Benches
- 1 Trash Barrels

Acres: 0.13

Park Type: Neighborhood

**Council
Person:** [Don Redman](#)

History: Jesse B. Smith Memorial Plaza is a small pocket park situated across from the Florida Theatre in downtown Jacksonville. The movie theatre opened across from the park site in 1927, and after extensive restoration reopened as a performing arts center in 1983. In the early 1940's, Guaranty Life Company of Florida established its offices in a four-story building that included the park property. After fire destroyed most of the building in May 1995, the city acquired the land and created the park, which opened in July 1996. It is named for a long-time city employee who served in the fields of economic development and planning, and was Deputy Director of the Planning and Development Department (housed in the Florida Theatre building) when he died in 1996 at age 59. His dedicated work brought a host new businesses and thousands of jobs to Jacksonville, and his positive outlook influenced all who knew him.

Kids Kampus

1410 Gator Bowl Blvd [Mapit](#)
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Amenities offered at this park:

Qty.	Amenity
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30	Benches
2	Bike racks
8	Bleachers
10	Grills
10	Picnic shelters
17	Picnic Tables
1	Playground Equipment
1	Restrooms
1	Soccer
20	Trash Barrels
1	Water Feature
Yes	Drinking Fountain
Yes	Perimeter Site Fencing
Yes	Security Lighting

Acres: 8.67

Park Type: Special

**Council
Person:** [Dr. Johnny Gaffney](#)

History: Metropolitan Park has long been recognized as a regional attraction, primarily due to its entertainment pavilion and many special events held at this location. In the early 1990`s a group of community leaders recognized the Park`s potential to offer a greater recreation value, especially for children. The Metropolitan Park Kids Kampus Task Force was formed to provide vision for this new expanded learning and play area. (Kids kampus brochure) Kids Kampus is a 10-acre recreational facility with bright, colorful, climbing, digging, and sliding equipment with an educational twist. Developed with local educators, Kids Kampus allows children to indulge their natural curiosity while enjoying its engaging playscapes and mini-Jacksonville landmarks. The play and learning concepts were designed to help develop children physically, intellectually, and socially, and are based upon children`s natural curiosity - the need for exploration and to manipulate their physical environment. The Mission Statement for Kids Kampus: Jacksonville`s goal is to cooperatively create a kid-sized, interactive, experiential "town" connecting facts, figures, and suggestions for real-life use. One will find opportunities here to think, talk, and write about exciting activities.

Children and adults will connect in meaningful collaboration using their imaginations through creative play placing value on daily life experiences. The groundbreaking ceremony was held March 8, 2000, with Mayor Delaney presiding over the event.

Metropolitan Park

4110 Gator Bowl Drive [Mapit](#)
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Amenities offered at this park:

Qty.	Amenity
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136	Benches
12	Bike racks
78	Boat docks
15	Grills
1	Pedestrian Docks
6	Picnic shelters
43	Picnic Tables
1	Playground Equipment
3	Restrooms
45	Trash Barrels
Yes	Drinking Fountain
Yes	Perimeter Site Fencing
Yes	Security Lighting

Acres: 11.05

Park Type: Regional

**Council
Person:** [Dr. Johnny Gaffney](#)

History: Metropolitan Park is a 23-acre waterfront park that is located on what used to be an urban landfill, supported by a concrete bulkhead. The land was purchased by the Department of Housing and Urban Development for \$1,005,000 in May 1972. The beginning of this park started in 1982, with the first groundbreaking. The cost of this project was \$3.1 million dollars. The ground breaking was delivered by then Mayor Jake M. Godbold and then Governor Bob Graham, on December 8, 1982. The project was underwritten by the City of Jacksonville, U.S. Department of the Interior, State of Florida Department of Natural Resources, and the television station WJCT-TV (local public broadcasting system). The entire park project is planned to be completed in different phases. The first phase included an exhibition mall for arts and crafts shows, a family picnic area, playground areas, and the focal point of the park – the Performance Pavilion. This park was plan to be a multi-purpose park for family enjoyment that would include performances, concerts, plays, talent shows, and other group gatherings. On May 10, 1990, there was another ground breaking for the new entrance to Metropolitan Park. Mayor Tommy Hazouri presided over this event. At that time, the park underwent a \$1,079,000 construction project that included paved walkways,

lighting, landscaping, parking, and playground areas. Metropolitan Park was the winner of the 1986 Governor's Design Award. The Florida National Pavilion, located in Metropolitan Park, is the home for the Jacksonville Music Festival and the Jacksonville Jazz Festival at Metropolitan Park is a 23-acre multi-purpose family orientated urban Waterfront park under the direction of the Park, Recreation, Entertainment and Conservation Department. The park was a joint project between the City of Jacksonville, WJCT - Channel 7 television, The United States Department of the Interior, and the State Of Florida. The land for this park was started with the original purchase in May of 1972. The land area has been increased in size with various acquisitions since that time. The waterfront park is one of the focal points for Downtown Redevelopment. Located in the park is the Florida National Pavilion, home of the Jacksonville Musical Festival, and the Jacksonville Jazz Festival. This Pavilion has been host to numerous events that includes many famous entertainers.

Northbank Riverwalk - Jacksonville Landing

201 East Coastline Drive [Mapit](#)
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Amenities offered at this park:

Qty.	Amenity
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178	Benches
2	Picnic shelters
1	Restrooms
1.99	Trails Paved (Miles)
61	Trash Barrels
Yes	Drinking Fountain
Yes	Security Lighting

Acres: 8.6

Park Type: Special

**Council
Person:** [Don Redman](#)

History: With the completion of Berkman Plaza, the Northbank Riverwalk now extends from Berkman Plaza to I-95 in Riverside. The focus of many premier downtown events, the Northbank Riverwalk offers a fantastic view of the St. Johns River for you to stroll at your leisure. Completed in June 1987, the Jacksonville Landing, with its distinctive orange roof, retail stores, eateries and a courtyard, is the perfect entertainment venue. Mayor Delaney oversaw construction of the \$8.2 million dollar extension of the Northbank Riverwalk from the CSX Building to the Fuller Warren Bridge to increase the total length to approx. 2 miles.

Ritz Park

916 State St. West [Mapit](#)
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Amenities offered at this park:

Qty.	Amenity
10	Benches
3	Picnic Tables
2	Trash Barrels

Acres: 0.17

Park Type: Neighborhood

**Council
Person:** [Warren A. Jones](#)

History: This park is located in the Lavilla area of downtown. Ritz Theatre & LaVilla Museum celebrates the rich legacy of the African American community that thrived in LaVilla for more than 100 years. The theatre and museum are revered as the premiere cultural institution in Jacksonville showcasing art, music, drama, poetry, and African American history. The stories and legends of LaVilla, known as the "Harlem of the South," live on within the walls of the refurbished museum and theatre.

Water & Broad St. Pocket Park

663 Water St. South [Mapit](#)
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Amenities offered at this park:

Qty.	Amenity
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- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 2 | Benches |
| 1 | Trash Barrels |

Acres: 0.31

Park Type: Neighborhood

**Council
Person:** [Warren A. Jones](#)

History: This park is a passive landscaped park located under the Acosta Bridge ramp which merges into Broad St.