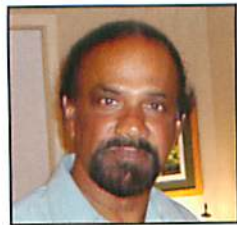


Central Broward Regional Park Update

Chandradath Singh



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With its warm tropical colors and luscious green fields Central Broward Regional Park (CBRP) is something to behold or rather to experience – if you love cricket, soccer, flag football, tennis, netball, basketball or some of the other outstanding features this park has to offer. Beckoned by the majestic clock tower, any passerby at the intersection of State Rd. 441 and Sunrise Boulevard cannot escape this imposing 110 acre park.

Once you enter the park, either through its Sunrise or 441 entrances, you are likely to be greeted by the musical chiming of the clock beckoning all to come and experience this jewel in Broward County's Park System. The drive towards the Main Field House immediately transports you into a different world of beauty and charm. Admission is free during the week, with a nominal charge of \$1.50 per person on weekends and public holidays. There are group rates and a season pass.

Your first stop at the Main Field House immediately sets the tone for your visit to this park. You are in the tropics, experiencing Broward's Caribbeaness in terms of its unique island type architectural design and its bright sunshine colors. But this is no ordinary clubhouse. As you approach the reception desk, your attention is drawn toward a spacious and well appointed hall where you can host wedding receptions, parties and corporate events. This hall is also designed to facilitate major sporting events with its spacious locker rooms and other features required by players, referees and other game officials. It is also equipped with broadcast capabilities for international press crews.

The upper level of the Main Field House is even more majestic and well appointed with VIP seating areas, a commentary box, internet facilities and a control room for the electronic scoreboard. This scoreboard has been designed with cutting edge technology to allow for the scoring of a variety of sporting events. The County has partnered with Daktronics, one of the biggest scoreboard companies in the USA, to develop this mixed-use scoreboard with capabilities for instant replay,

frozen shots, simultaneous display of scores, video reruns and other features that make the scoreboard a perfect fit for such an outstanding Main Event Field. With capabilities for up to five video inputs and carefully chosen pixel sizes and LEDs, the scores at CBRP will be clearly seen by each of our 25,000 spectators.

The Main Field House also allows you a panoramic view of the world class cricket oval, which was designed in such a manner so as to allow for soccer, Aussie rules football, and cricket among other games. We can even create a baseball diamond on this field. At the center of this oval there is an 80' x 50' cricket pitch-square, built by ICC recognized pitch builders, Terra Forma Construction from Trinidad and Tobago. Terra Forma built five of the cricket grounds used to play the recently concluded Cricket World Cup games in the Caribbean.

The outer field of this oval boasts of a 75 yard boundary with a 10 foot spill over to the fence. Although recently constructed, the Tiffany 419 Bermuda grass in the outer field has grown so beautiful it already looks like any other first class cricket ground in the world. The pitch square has been sprigged with the Celebration variety Bermuda grass because this variety has excellent rooting capabilities which is ideally suited to a cricket pitch. Celebration's bluish color will contrast beautifully with the 419 further enhancing the appearance of Broward County's prized cricket ground.

Cricket lovers in the USA who are eagerly awaiting the Lara's of the cricket world will be pleased to know that the pitch square has four cricket pitches with camera ducts already installed at eight points on the square, i.e. behind each middle stump on the north and south ends of the Square. With our comfortable 5,000 covered seating and capabilities to host 20,000 more spectators, Broward Cricket Ground is poised to make its mark in World Cricket. Let's go ICC, we are ready!!!

If you can afford to tear yourself away from the special ambiance of the Main Field House and the breathtaking view of this cricket gem of America, we invite you to take a stroll through the rest of the park where there are two other mixed-use fields, each comprising two soccer fields (also caters for flag football, Aussie rules football and other games). Each field also has an artificial cricket pitch imported from England. Following the successful experiment of a similar pitch installed at Brian Piccolo Park four years ago, and recognizing the growing demand for good quality cricket

pitches in South Florida, the County installed these artificial pitches with the aim of further developing the game not only among the established cricket leagues, but also among mainstream Americans.

As you approach the north eastern area of the Park you will witness an interesting intermingling of several structures including the tennis courts and two basketball courts. There is a colorful children's playground and another interesting structure which makes this park even more unique i.e. the netball courts which are perhaps the only professionally built ones in the USA. Netball is played mainly by women in Commonwealth countries. This sport is gaining popularity in South Florida and in keeping with its aim of making the park a mixed-use facility the County is pleased to introduce this unique feature to its patrons.

On the southern side of the park there is a ten acre lake (which will soon be stocked with edible fish) where kids will soon have the opportunity to learn to fish and throw them back. Meanwhile they can enjoy the boating facilities which have been opened to the public. Soon the "Kids World" at CBRP will be significantly enhanced with the opening of the aquatic center. No effort is spared in making this facility the best that one can offer.

For those who prefer the peace and quiet of the outdoors, CBRP has also kept you in mind by including a nature center at the eastern end of the park. Here you can mingle with our famous Burrowing Owls and other winged friends and animals.

There is also a properly built jogging path encircling the park for those who crave fitness or those who simply want to take a stroll in the park. But there is even more to capture your attention at CBRP: bring your friends and family for that special barbeque at any one of our seven sheds (two corporate and five small). If you enjoy cultural performances then keep your eyes on the CBRP's calendar of events because we are open for cultural events and we look forward to seeing you at one of our concerts.

Footnote - The Central Broward Regional Park is owned and operated exclusively by Broward County. The Superintendent of the Central District under which this Park falls is Mr. Chester Pruitt and the Park manager is Mr. Duncan Finch. They can be reached at (954) 321-1170. For reservations or to conduct any business with this Park you not have to go through any 3rd person or organization. Just call or take the opportunity to visit our offices located in the Main Field House at the Park and our friendly staff will help you to plan and execute your program.