



From...

Tucker Ranch Recreational Park and Nature Preserve.

Where: 100 Avalon Road, Winter Garden, FL 34787

When: 8:00 am – 7:00 pm

What: Canoe/Kayak Launch, Leashed pets allowed, Nature Trail, Open Spaces, Picnic Areas, Playground, Facilities

LINK: <https://www.thewgmagazine.com/tucker-ranch/>

CT.org...The City of Winter Garden is the quintessential character town that continues to innovate and progress as a small city dedicated to being a place that is interesting, pleasant and prosperous for its residents, businesses and visitors. Development of the Tucker Ranch is another creative step in providing multiple benefits through a single action: The purchase of Tucker Ranch is a park and recreations site, an environmental preserve and potentially a place to grow food for consumption in the City.

Tucker Ranch: An Inside Look

(updated, from our July 2017 issue) Imagine

spending a breezy sunny afternoon meandering along a pristine trail, carpeted with lush green grass and surrounded with dense greenery and flowering foliage. A welcome shade offers a bit of cool from the Florida sun, graciously provided by the towering majestic Oaks stretching their arms out overhead. Just steps away you find the wetlands and marshes of a quiet nearby lake. Buildings that were once used on this nearly century-old cattle ranch are slowly being reclaimed by nature and melt into the beauty of the surrounding environment. You'll be able to experience this for yourselves very soon, in real life – and right here in Winter Garden.



We last looked at Tucker Ranch in our June 2017 issue, and were very excited to share the extensive plans for this 20+ year project, which includes a park and recreational areas, and eventually a working farm with a market and an educational outreach center.

The first phase of the **City of Winter Garden's** largest park opened in fall of 2018. Timelines had previously called for the park to have opened earlier in the year, but along came delays that were completely out of their hands.

“The damage we sustained from Hurricane Irma was unbelievably devastating. “The storm took out so much body out of these beautiful old Oaks, and now there are only a handful of Pines still standing, which were original to the property.” (Laura Coar, Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Winter Garden.)

Before the storm, the City had already cleared certain areas of the park of invasive species of plants and trees, allowing native, local ones to burgeon and thrive. Each section and phase of the park will go through a clearing and conservation period, then be put into maintenance mode to ensure its upkeep.



Overlay of the overall conception for the Tucker Ranch Complex

Countless branches and trees, some having been around for centuries, were lost or damaged during the storm. After clean up of the fallen debris, another entire examination of each tree was taken to again ensure the safety of both the park and to its visitors. During the same time, the developing park encountered material shortages, further lending to the extended delay.

Read more at: <https://www.thewgmagazine.com/tucker-ranch/>

www.facebook.com/TuckerRanchWG

Click here to view the current and past issues of The Winter Garden Magazine.

– Article by *Brett Dault*

For more details about Tucker Ranch Recreational Park and Nature Preserve, please contact the City of Winter Garden Parks & Recreation Department by calling 407-656-4155 or visiting the Jessie Brock Community Center at 310 North Dillard Street. For details on The Winter Garden Magazine, contact bdault@thewgmagazine.com.