



Palm Bay Regional Park to be Renamed

PALM BAY, Fla. - On May 3, 2016 the Palm Bay Recreation Advisory Board, at its regular meeting, unanimously voted in favor of renaming Palm Bay Regional Park after Fred Poppe. Palm Bay City Council unanimously approved their recommendation at the November 3 council meeting. Mr. Poppe is the current Director of the Palm Bay Parks & Recreation Department. He began his career with the City of Palm Bay in 1974 as a volunteer. He worked for the department as a maintenance worker for 18 months before becoming the first Recreation Assistant in the Parks & Recreation Department. In 1977, Mr. Poppe was named the Parks & Recreation Department's Assistant Director. He served in that capacity for 28 years. During that time, Poppe was responsible for many milestones that the City reached, especially the operation of the Palm Bay Community Center which was recently re-named after Mr. Poppe's mentor and first Palm Bay Parks & Recreation Department Director, Tony Rosa.

Fred Poppe has been instrumental in the growth of the Parks & Recreation Department over the past 42 years. Besides being a dedicated Parks and Recreation professional, he served as a volunteer coach for youth softball and soccer for many years. He is responsible for numerous park land acquisitions and park developments, including Palm Bay Regional Park, as well as the implementation of various special events, athletic programs, and classes which continue to serve the recreational needs of the local community. Mr. Poppe continues to be as passionate about Parks and Recreation today as he was in 1974.

In addition to his Parks and Recreation accomplishments, Mr. Poppe was selected by Congressman Lawton Chiles, Congressman Lou Frey, and

Senator Ed Gurney as 1 of the 4 finalists to receive a scholarship for both the Air Force and Naval Academies. Poppe was selected to receive an Air Force scholarship as a pilot candidate and was the first cadet from a Brevard County High School to receive the prestigious rank of Colonel. He is a mentor to many current employees within the Parks & Recreation Department and has instilled in them the passion to make Parks & Recreation their chosen profession.

A ceremony to officially rename the park as Fred Poppe Regional Park will be held on Wednesday, November 23 at 11 a.m. at Palm Bay Regional Park, 1951 Malabar Rd NW. Light refreshments will be served following the ceremony. The public is invited to attend. For more information please call the Parks & Recreation Administration office at (321) 953-8912.