

Recreation

Web Resources:

Area Parks
<http://parks.orangecountyfl.net>

State Parks in Florida
www.funandsun.com/parks

Apopka Recreation News
www.apopka.net

Apopka Area Parks & Recreation

Visitors and locals alike sing the praises of Apopka's outdoor recreation. Some of the best bass fishing in the world is within minutes of the downtown area. Golfing, biking, hunting, swimming, boating and water skiing are all enjoyed close by.



Apopka is surrounded by natural springs. Three miles east of town is Wekiwa Springs State Park. Its large expanse of unspoiled woodland makes it the largest park in Central Florida. The beautiful main springhead, where swimming and canoeing are enjoyed, bubbles up 48 million gallons of crystal clear water daily.

Six miles north of Apopka is Rock Springs. Historic Kelly Park surrounds this natural, free-flowing spring, from which flows 26,000 gallons of water per minute. Magnificent oaks and hickory trees drench the 204-acre park in shade.

Camping, picnicking and swimming are all available in both of these wonderful natural attractions. The combined parks in the Wekiva Geo-basin total approximately 40,000 acres. The Wekiva River begins in the basin and flows into the St. Johns River in Sanford to the northeast.

In addition to these natural wonders, the Apopka area offers man-made fun as well. Nearby Apopka you will find excellent golf courses, trails, and activities for both children and adults.



Golf

If you like golf, Central Florida abounds with outstanding golf courses, including some of the top-rated courses in the nation. Northwest Orange County and the Apopka area are no exception. The Rock Springs Ridge Golf Club, Forest Lake Golf Club

and the Diamond Players clubs are within ten miles of town, where you can enjoy the outdoors while getting in a great round of golf. Over 65 courses are within driving distance, including semi-private Errol Estates Country Club, Zellwood Station Country Club and Sabal Point Golf and Country Club.

Trails

Families can spend an afternoon walking, biking, or roller blading together on the West Orange Trail. The West Orange Trail is currently 19 miles long and paved for the enjoyment of walkers, joggers, bikers, skaters, and physically-challenged individuals. The West Orange Trail also offers a parallel equestrian path that extends for 10 miles for the enjoyment of horseback riders. The Trail has picnic areas, restrooms and vending machines available at various rest stops and extends from south of Apopka to Colonial Drive. The Trail also extends north from downtown to Welch Road. Over 55,000 people enjoy the trail each month making it one of Apopka's favorite recreational activities. For more information, call 407-654-1108.

Park Facilities

In addition to the area's natural springs, excellent golf courses, and the West Orange Trail, Apopka offers wonderful park facilities for your family's enjoyment. All Apopka recreation parks are open to the public.



Area parks and facilities include:

Apopka Athletic Complex
797 North Wells Street
407-703-1778

Two lighted softball fields, three lighted multi-purpose fields, and a playground.

Buchan Pond and Dream Lake
Relaxing lakeside parks.

Fran Carlton Center
11 North Forest Avenue
407-703-1741
Community center with capacity for 300 people.

Kelly Park
400 E. Kelly Park Road
407-889-4179
Features a free-flowing natural spring, full-service concession, camping, picnic pavilions, and playground.

Kit Land Nelson Park
105 East First Street
407-703-1741
Two lighted tennis courts, two racquetball courts, gazebo, picnic and playground areas.

Lake Avenue Park
Playground and picnic area.

Northwest Recreation Complex
3200 Recreation Way
407-703-1784
Six lighted Soccer Fields, a multi-purpose field, four lighted softball fields, four practice ball fields, a playground, pavilions and picnic areas.

Alonzo Williams' Park
515 South Hawthorne Ave.
407-703-1742
Community center with a capacity of 80 people. Playground, lighted softball fields, and multi-purpose fields. Plus, two basketball courts are available.

Wekiwa Springs State Park
1800 Wekiwa Circle
407-884-2008
Popular choice for camping, biking, canoeing, hiking and swimming in cool natural spring.

The Fran Carlton Center, Williams' Park Community Center, and the Kit Land Nelson Park and Gazebo are available for rental. In addition, four picnic pavilions at the Northwest Recreation Complex are available. These facilities can be booked for your next corporate seminar, wedding, family reunion, birthday party, or any other special occasion. Kit Land Nelson Park includes many shade trees and a beautiful gazebo which is perfect for weddings or parties. The community centers are open to private functions, civic and community organizations and non-profit organizations. For further information on these facilities and to learn how affordable they are, please call 407-703-1741.



Youth Activities

The Apopka area also offers some wonderful programs for children and young adults.

Little League Baseball

The Apopka Little League organization helps to develop young athletes through competitive baseball. The League serves children from "T" ball through their early teen years, emphasizing skill building and achievement. The Apopka Little League "All Star" team competed in the 2001 Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, winning the United States Championship.

The Apopka team represented the entire country in the World Championship game, but lost a close contest to a talented team from Japan.

Youth Football Program

In 2000, Apopka's "Midget" Pop Warner Football team (9 – 11 year olds) were crowned World Champions. To join the excitement of youth football, call Ron Kirkland at 407-880-1483.

Dance Classes

Tap, Ballet, Jazz, Acrobatics, Pointe, Lyrical, Hip Hop and Romper Room are just some of the dance styles and activities offered. All of the classes offered are taught by highly qualified and certified instructors. The emphasis is on quality, proper technique, and training. For more information, please call 407-703-1741.



Flag Football and Cheerleading

Apopka Recreation Department's youth flag football league and cheerleading are designed for children 6-12. Games and practices are held at Williams' Park. To get involved with the flag football program, please call 407-703-1784.

Soccer

The Apopka youth soccer program is quickly becoming one of the most popular youth sports entities in the area. It is an instructional league that emphasizes skill building, fun and fitness over competition. Soccer is offered for girls and boys, ages 4-14. If you have any questions, please call 407-703-1784.



Apopka Adventure Camp

The Apopka Adventure Day Camp is the best in Central Florida! Activities at Adventure Camp include: sports, games, arts and crafts, movies, special events, contests and field trips. The Apopka Adventure Day Camp Program is for children ages 5 - 11. For more information, call 407-703-1741.



YMCA Camp Wewa

Through high adventure, discovery and friendship, the YMCA Wewa Outdoor Center offers children a camping experience with unique programs designed to build a strong foundation of spirit, mind and body. In addition to the development of traditional camping skills, Camp Wewa also offers participants activities such as archery, canoeing, swimming, soccer, tennis, basketball and art. Children ages 6-15 are invited to learn more about experiencing Camp Wewa!

For adults, Camp Wewa offers the "Best Teams" program for building and empowering successful teams. Team-building activities test your group's skills and help to strengthen communication, improve problem-solving skills, and increase individual and team performance. For more information, please call 407-886-1240.

Quarter Midget Racing

The Mid-Florida Quarter Midget Racing Association is located in Orange County's Clarcona Park in Northwest Orange County. Our racers are members ages 5-17 and their parents act as their handlers. For further information, please call 407-889-RACE (7223).

Adult Activities

In addition to all the programs available for children and young adults, Apopka also offers activities for adults and seniors.



A.A.R.P. Meetings

Monthly meetings are held at the Fran Carlton Center. The Apopka area A.A.R.P. is always looking for new members who want to get involved in their community!
407-886-1620

Ballroom Dancing

Come join the fun of Ballroom Dancing! Learn the Waltz, Cha-Cha, Salsa, Fox Trot and Swing!
407-703-1741

Cards and More

Weekly card play at the Fran Carlton Center. New players always welcome!
407-703-1741

Crafts and Chatter

Meet some of Apopka's finest ladies by coming to chat while making some of your favorite crafts. Ideas and projects are shared and everyone has a fun, enjoyable time.
407-703-1741

Karate

Learn the discipline and techniques of Karate each week.
407-703-1744

Line Dancing Classes

Classes are offered for both beginners and intermediate-level line dancers.
407-703-1741

Painting Class

Come join the fun and learn water-color, acrylic and oil painting techniques, and then show off your pieces to your friends and family.
407-703-1741

Round Dance

Apopka offers a phase 4-5 Round Dance Club which meets at the Fran Carlton Center.
407-889-2178

Social Bridge

Do you enjoy playing mid-level bridge, but lack the players? If so, then we have the group for you-- the Apopka Bridge Group.
407-884-8091

Softball

Adult softball leagues run 4 seasons a year. Men's league available with church league, senior league, women's and co-ed coming soon.
407-703-1784

Square Dancing

Drop anchor with the Pirates Square Dancing Club which meets at the Fran Carlton Center.
407-296-9947

Tai-Chi

Weekly classes available to learn the techniques and benefits of Tai-Chi.
407-703-1744

Tennis Lessons

Lessons for all levels of play run continuously. Lessons available for different age groups as well.
407-262-2170, ext. 4

Walking Club

Want to get outdoors and enjoy the fresh air as well as get some exercise? This is a great way to meet new friends.
407-703-1741

55 Alive Driving Class

Become a safe driver and receive a discount on your automobile insurance by attending this 2 day class.
407-703-1741

Additional activities are always being added. Call 407-703-1741 for more details!

Annual Events and Festivals

The Apopka area also offers numerous festivals and events throughout the year for family enjoyment. Come experience the City of Apopka's Annual Christmas Parade sponsored by the Sertoma Club in December, or the Annual Winter Wonderland festivities where you can see it snow in Apopka! In April, the Art and Foliage Festival brings local and national artists together with excellent prices on indoor foliage. In May, the nearby Zellwood Sweet Corn Festival draws thousands of families to the area. Call 407-703-1741 for details on upcoming events and festivals.