The Bay Park's Free 10-Day Grand Opening Begins This **Friday**

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People & Business

By Sarasota Scene |

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The Bay Park will officially open on Friday, October 14, kicking off 10 Days at The Bay, a free ten-day grand opening.

The entire community is invited to attend and experience the opening of Sarasota's newest gathering place along Sarasota Bay. A signature public park designed to be "one park for all," The Bay's 10 Days at The Bay schedule of events will provide free, exciting, and diverse programming for the entire community to enjoy.

The Grand Opening begins on Friday, October 14, and runs through Sunday, October 23.

Highlights of the opening weekend include:

- A family-friendly **Sunrise Fun Run & Walk** (Saturday, October 15)
- A family fun day in the park called **Have a Ball at The Bay** (Saturday, October 15)

- A homecoming concert by **We The Kings**, a globally-renowned band originally from Bradenton(Saturday, October 15)
- The **Taste of The Bay food festival** in partnership with the **Sarasota-Manatee Originals** (Sunday, October 16)
- A bayside concert featuring **The Long Run**, **America's best Eagles tribute band** (Sunday, October 16)
- A showcase of **CoreSRQ**'s best fitness classes (Saturday, October 15)
- Zumba, daily yoga, walking tours, Ride & Paddle kayak tours and rentals (daily)

A full schedule of free events will continue through the following week including: daily yoga, fitness classes, and nature walks, live musical performances every evening around sunset, as well as Salsa dancing and Zumba.

The second weekend includes a **RADD Night** of music, art and food; **Boo! at The Bay** Halloween festivities; a **Multicultural Festival** in partnership with UnidosNow, the City of Sarasota and University of South Florida; an **Oktoberfest** celebration; and wraps up with a waterfront concert featuring two-time grammy-nominated **Etana** and local favorite, **Jah Movement**.

Throughout the ten days, a number of local performing arts organizations will make an appearance including Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, Sarasota Orchestra, and the Sarasota Youth Opera.

"10 Days at The Bay provides unlimited opportunities for guests to experience and enjoy the breadth of what the park has to offer," says AG Lafley, Founding CEO of The Bay Park Conservancy. "After the challenges of the past couple of weeks, we hope that The Bay offers a place where family, friends and neighbors can get outside, experience the natural beauty of the park, and gather together as one community."

The park, which has been in development since 2019, includes more than 14 acres of revitalized greenspace, a larger-than-life Ibis playground, Common Ground lawns, a Fountain Garden, multiple walkways, an outdoor Reading Room, an ADA-accessible paddle launch, restored and preserved mangroves and shorelines, and spectacular sunset views.

10 Days at The Bay is sponsored by One Park Sarasota, Jody Beresford and Bob Mayer, Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation, the City of Sarasota, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, DreamLarge, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Michael and Terri Klauber, AG Lafley, Cathy Layton and Pete Russell, UnidosNow, the Van Wezel Foundation, and generous Friends of The Bay.

For more information about 10 Days at The Bay, visit the website at www.10DaysatTheBay.org. For more information about The Bay and The Bay Park Conservancy, visit www.thebaysarasota.org

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