

Metropolitan Park



Now there's a place in DOWNTOWN USA for family picnics in the shadow of a city skyline. A place where joggers can run, children can bike and roller skate, and lovers can stroll along the water's edge.

It's a place where kites can sail on March winds alongside seagulls above a northward flowing river.

It's where fishing is lazy and boating can be breathtaking.

It's where you can sit alone in an open meadow with private thoughts. Or lie under the stars with a festival crowd of thousands.

This place in DOWNTOWN USA is in Jacksonville, Florida. It's called METROPOLITAN PARK.

Once a vacant 27-acre field on the St. Johns River, METROPOLITAN PARK has been transformed by Willis and Veenstra, Architects and Planners, Inc./Register Engineers and Planners, Inc. into a vibrant, multi-faceted point for hundreds of individual, family and community activities.

This master plan brought together Jacksonville's beautiful downtown riverfront with long term, low-maintenance natural concrete, oyster shell, treated southern pine, aluminum roofing and indigenous landscaping.

The result is an environmental setting which features:

- Six covered family picnic shelters
- Three group picnic shelters to accommodate 240 people
- Three boat docks with over 800 feet of docking space
- Shoreline and dock fishing areas along a 1500-foot riverfront
- Children's playground with slides, swings, climbers and see-saws
- A 1600-square foot area for art, craft and food festivals shaded by the expressway
- Landscaped gardens with more than 60 plant species identified
- 150 benches with sun trellis covers

METROPOLITAN PARK adds a new punctuation mark to Jacksonville's downtown riverfront.

A luminous canopy performance pavilion rises dramatically from the park's eastern side, high above the grassy sloping lawn.

The pavilion accommodates over 2,000 under its cover and 1,500 on a bermed lawn. It features a reversible stage for performances to smaller, intimate beneath-the-canopy crowds or to tens of thousands sitting in the park.

The pavilion is the park's magnet, attracting high quality performers and bringing thousands of tourists to northeast Florida. It will be the stage for everything from the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra Pops concerts to country and western shows, ballet, opera, dramatic productions and special exhibitions.

A two-story river overlook shelter anchors the shoreline of the park. The river overlook accommodates 150 people and has telescope viewing to give visitors a good look at beautiful Jacksonville.

A large flowing fountain in the shelter's center links it to the river just at its edge.

METROPOLITAN PARK has been designed for people. Lots of people. It features:

- A park information, first aid and office building with public toilets and public telephones
- Drinking fountains and trash receptacles
- Night lighting for security and extended use
- A paved berm walkway for secondary circulation
- Two ticket and six vending kiosks

City parks serve many purposes. The two Jacksonville firms of Willis & Veenstra Architects and Planners, Inc. and Register Engineers and Planners, Inc. have made sure METROPOLITAN PARK serves Jacksonville. Well!!!

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An Urban Waterfront Park
City of Jacksonville, Florida