

# SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, September 26th • 10am-1pm

The Times  
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## HEALTHY AGING EXPO

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8-13-18

# Read a tale on the storybook trail

Stops along path off Wilshire Road help parents and kids make reading more interactive

**BY LAYNE SALIBA**  
lsaliba@gainesvilletimes.com

Gainesville Parks & Recreation is always looking for ways to improve parks throughout the city and make them more appealing to guests. Recently, there have been too many updates to count, but there have also been some additions, one of which is a new concept for the area.

A new storybook trail has been installed at Wilshire Trails, giving children and parents an opportunity to get outside and have fun reading a book. Numerous stops along the .5-mile trail off Wilshire Road have a page from the book "Over in the Forest: Come and Take a Peek," that teaches about animals and numbers. It has an English and Spanish translation and comes with all the illustrations, too.

"What makes this trail even more unique than the ones that are out there like it is the design," said Julie Butler, marketing and communications manager with Gainesville Parks. "After this book has been out six months to a year, and we have another book, we'll put another trail in another park and all we have to do is pull out the pages and take them to another trail."

Within the next few years, she hopes to have installations like this in at least five parks throughout the community. By partnering with United Way's Read Learn Succeed program, the Hall County Library System and the Gainesville City School System, she doesn't think that will be a problem.

Butler said Wilshire Trails is one of the busiest parks in the city, so she knew it was the best place to put the first storybook trail. She knew it would have a "huge audience" and hopes to see it thrive with all families stopping by the park.

"Read Learn Succeed, their focus is reaching readers at the earliest age possible, just to get them reading, no matter what the language is, to prepare them for school," Butler said. "We have so many young families that visit Wilshire Trails, it's a win-win situation for everyone."

Ruth Demby, coordinator for the Read Learn Succeed program, agrees.

To her, parks in the city are an "incredible resource," used by many families. Through her work with United Way, she hopes to give families the opportunity to get outdoors while helping guide children in their literacy learning.

Through that same work, she's seen that not every child is fortunate enough to have books in their home, an issue she said, "some of us can't conceive." That's why this project was so important to her.

"For kids who have very few books in their home ... those children and their families, they can have access to quality children's book, both in English and in Spanish now," Demby said. "That's just a great experience."

And it's an experience everyone involved hopes the community enjoys.

"We just wanted to be innovative, educational and add something more because families are going to be in Wilshire," Butler said. "So it's a great place to exercise and learn as a family."

**Storybook Trail**  
Where: 849 Wilshire  
Road, Gainesville

8/13/18



Photos by SCOTT ROGERS | The Times

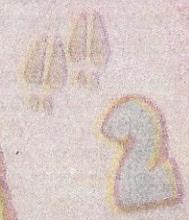
Memphis Parks and Recreation recently installed a reading trail at Wilshire Trails. The reading trail features easy-to-read signage at the perfect height for a child to read the simple story. The book is in English and Spanish.



Over in the forest  
In the early morning dew  
Lived a hungry mother deer  
And her little fawns *two*.  
"Graze," said the mother.  
"We graze," said the *two*.  
So they grazed in the grass  
In the early morning dew.



En el bosque  
En la mañana con el rocío  
Vivió una mamá ciervo hambriento  
Y sus pequeños cervatillos *dos*.  
"Pascen," dijo la mamá.  
"Nosotros pasamos," dijo el *dos*.  
Así que pasaron en la hierba  
En la mañana con el rocío.



The storybook along the Gainesville Parks and Recreation trail is presented in both English and Spanish.

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**10:30 AM**

Atlanta Gastroenterology

**11:00 AM**

Judy Paul - *KW Lanier Partners*

**11:30 AM**

The Vitamin Shoppe

**12:00 PM**

The Insurance Source

Frances Meadows Aquatic Center will be offering the following classes **FREE** during the event:

**Land Classes - Wellness Room**

10am-11am Zumba

11am-11:45am Strength in Motion

12pm-1pm Gentle Yoga

**Water Classes - Warm Pool**

10am-11am Water Works

11am-12pm Gentle Movements

12pm-1pm Aqua Moving & Grooving

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8-21-15

# Shore Sweep ready to celebrate work

Lake Lanier Association is holding '30 Years and 1,000 Tons of Fun' on Saturday, Aug. 25.

**BY JEFF GILL**

[jgill@gainesvilletimes.com](mailto:jgill@gainesvilletimes.com)

Shore Sweep began 30 years ago as a modest cleanup effort to pull Styrofoam and other floating debris from Lake Lanier.

"It was a tiny little thing," Bonny Putney, the event's chairwoman, said of the event. "We had trouble getting dumpsters (at cleanup sites).

"Today, it's grown to where we have to have huge roll-off dumpsters at every location and mechanized equipment, like Bobcats, because of the weight and size of the trash."

The Lake Lanier Association is holding "30 Years and 1,000 Tons of Fun" on Saturday, Aug. 25, to not only celebrate how much the event has grown, but to recognize volunteers and sign up volunteers for this year's Sept. 15 Shore Sweep.

The event is being held at Lake Lanier Olympic Park, 3105 Clarks Bridge Road, Gainesville, because 1,000 tons of trash — the amount pulled from Lanier over the years — "takes Olympic-level effort," the Lake Lanier Association says in an email.

"Imagine what Lake Lanier would be like had we not had that volunteer support over the past 30

## Shore Sweep Celebration

**What:** Party recognizing volunteers, event's 30th anniversary

**When:** 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 25

**Where:** Lake Lanier Olympic Park, 3105 Clarks Bridge Road, Gainesville

**How much:** Free

years," the group says.

The event, set for 1-4 p.m., features live music, food and prizes for people wearing vintage Shore Sweep T-shirts.

"I have a 2000 T-shirt, the oldest one I can find," Putney said. "But I may wear this year's (T-shirt) just to try to get people to (volunteer this year)."

The event is open to the public, not just volunteers.

"The more the merrier," said Joanna Cloud, Lake Lanier Association's executive director.

Shore Sweep itself is set for 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 15, with cleanup locations at Bald Ridge, Aqualand, Gainesville and Port Royale marinas; Lanier Islands

resort; Balus Creek and Big Creek boat ramps; Don Carter State Park; and Gwinnett, Longwood and War Hill parks.

"The only difference (this year) is that the Olympic Park will not be a site for us ... since they will be hosting" the International Canoe Federation Dragon Boat World Championships Sept. 12-16, Cloud said.

Otherwise, for Shore Sweep, "we need volunteers by land as well as by water," the Lake Lanier Association website says. "For our water volunteers, power boats, jet skis, pontoons, kayaks and canoes all have a place at this event."

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Rushton & Company

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