

# Tropical Park Fact Sheet



## Historical Facts

- Tropical Park's historical significance stems from its location on the grounds of the former Tropical Park Racetrack.
- The Tropical Park Racetrack opened in December 1931 and closed in January 1972 after 40 years.
- The Tropical Park Racetrack was part of the Southern Florida circuit along with Hialeah Park and Gulfstream Park.
- Miami-Dade County purchased the property in 1976 and converted the facility into a public park in 1979.
- In recognition of its historical tie to horses and the horse-racing industry, today Tropical Park houses the Ronald Reagan Equestrian Center.
- Tropical Park's Equestrian Center hosts over thirty national and international Paso Fino horse shows every year, including the prestigious Spectrum International, hosted biennially in the U.S. by the Florida Paso Fino Horse Association, always at Tropical Park.

## Facility Facts

- Tropical Park consists of 283.2 acres.
- Tropical Park has 4.4 Acres of pineland under the Environmental Endangered Lands (EEL) Program, designated in 2005.
- Acquisition of the property, through the Decade of Progress Bond Program, cost approximately \$12.0 million dollars in 1974. This included the land and many existing structures.
- The \$3 million dollar stadium complex includes a 4,500-seat covered grandstand, and a 4,000-seat open air portable grandstand considered the largest portable grandstand in the world.

- The main covered grandstand was originally the old racetrack grandstand, renovated for use in the stadium complex at approximately \$1.2 million dollars.
- In addition to cutting-edge fitness zones, tennis, and track and field amenities, among many recent improvements throughout the park is the complete renovation of its four baseball fields, including reconditioning the infield clay, making drainage improvements, and regrading the outfield turf, in partnership with the Miami Marlins.
- The newest facility within Tropical Park is the Westchester Cultural Arts Center, a multipurpose recreational and cultural facility.