

Tide Views Preserve Historical Background

Efforts by the City of Atlantic Beach to acquire the Tide Views Preserve property began in the 1980's with hopes to develop the land into a regional park. However, initial efforts were unsuccessful as agreements could not be reached to purchase the property. Several years later, James Tresca agreed to sell roughly 7 acres of marsh front property to the City in 1994. The city was later reimbursed for the purchase through grants from the Florida Communities Trust (FCL) and the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND). Shortly after the purchase, the city hired Dames and Moore, Inc. to plan and design the future park. The final plan for the park which included a canoe launch, a large picnic area, signage, nature trails, a boardwalk, and restrooms was approved by the City Commission in December 1996.

The park remained unnamed until October 11, 1999, when the City Commission agreed to name it "Tide Views Nature Preserve" and to name the park in honor of Carl Walker, the longtime Beautification Coordinator for the city who passed away earlier that year. The park was then opened to the public with a ribbon cutting ceremony held on October 30, 1999. Around the same time, the park was expanded by roughly one acre with the purchase of additional land on the corner of West First Street and Begonia Street. Within the next few years, the city closed off a portion of Begonia Street which was then sold to the Jacksonville Transportation Authority to allow them to construct a retention pond in connection with the Mayport Flyover construction.

In 2009, the city received a grant from the Florida Inland Navigation District for the construction of a pier and a kayak/canoe launch. Two years later, the pier was completed and officially named "Sunset Pier." In 2015, the park was again expanded with the purchase of 280 Camelia Street, which created a new access point to the park for neighborhood residents.