

Waters Park Historical Background

Purchased in 1989 by the City of Atlantic Beach for use as a public park, the wooded area between 16th Street, Ocean Boulevard, and Seminole Road remained unnamed until 1997 when the City Commission designated it as “Mandalay Park.” This name was recommended by the Parks and Recreation Board, which was chaired by Desmond Waters at the time, and came from Mandalay Avenue which was a part of what is now Ocean Boulevard. The street was originally named after the Mandalay Company, which in 1938, deeded various streets to the Town of Atlantic Beach. Soon after this designation, trails, benches, and a water fountain were added to the park.

Years later in 2011, the park was renamed “Waters Park” in memory of J. Desmond Waters, III for his many years of devotion and service to the City of Atlantic Beach and its citizens. Mr. Waters was elected to serve as City Commissioner from 1991 to 1995, 1999 to 2003, and from 2003 through 2007. Additionally, he served on numerous boards and committees including as Chairman of the Atlantic Beach Parks and Recreation Board, Community Development Board, Chairman of the Atlantic Beach Zoning Committee, First Night Committee, President of the Town Center Agency, Founding member and Chairman of the Atlantic Beach Beautification Committee, President of the North Duval Beaches Association, Chairman of the Atlantic Beach Tree Conservation Board, and Member of the Beaches Resource Center.