Howell Park Historical Background

Howell Park is named after former mayor of Atlantic Beach William S. "Billy" Howell in 1976 for his dedicated service to the community. Mr. Howell was first elected mayor in 1957 and served two terms. After a brief hiatus, he again served as mayor from 1965 to 1981 and then one last term beginning in 1983. In total, Mr. Howell served as mayor of Atlantic Beach for 26 years, earning the designation as the city's "Perennial Mayor." In 1989, Mr. Howell received the E. Harris Drew Municipal Official of the year Award from the Florida League of Cities for his contributions to the city. Mr. Howell passed away in 2015, leaving behind a great legacy in Atlantic Beach.

Prior to becoming Howell Park, in the 1950's, efforts to turn the area north of the elementary school and between Sherry Drive and the Plaza into a public park began. Over the next two decades, the city worked to acquire the necessary land for the creation of both Howell and Jack Russell Parks. In the 1970's, the city received federal assistance for improvements to Howell Park that included trails, benches, bridges, landscaping and more.