



Islamorada, Village of Islands

Village Manager's Weekly Update

December 27, 2024

Founders Park Master Plan Survey

The next phase of the Founders Park Master Plan is in full swing – if you received one of the mailed surveys as part of the statistically valid sample, please be sure to complete and return it! If you weren't randomly selected to participate in the mailed survey, there will also be an opportunity for you to participate in the online version, which will be available in mid-January. Everyone's perspective is important.

The survey results will help identify and strategically respond to Founders Park strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities, and threats, and will shape priorities for potential improvements, inform decisions on how to grow our parks and recreation programs and facilities responsibly, and inform other key Founders Park planning decisions. Your feedback is critical to ensuring Founders Park's continued popularity and success.

Again, if you were not selected to participate in the statistically valid mailed survey, we encourage you to complete the online version in mid-January – all responses count!

Island Disposal Changes in Service – December Holidays

Attention residents, there will be no waste services on New Year's Day. Please note adjustments to scheduled pick-ups on our [website](#). For more information, please call Island Disposal at 305-393-3300.

Committee Positions Available

Islamorada has a strong tradition of volunteerism and civic engagement. Both our organization and community have benefited from selfless, dedicated residents willing to give their time to help shape the character and policies of our wonderful community. Please consider helping to continue this beneficial and rewarding tradition through appointed service on one of our citizen advisory committees.

We are currently accepting applications for appointments to the Local Planning Agency (LPA), Near Shore Water Regulation Committee, Workforce/Affordable Housing Citizens' Advisory Committee, and Land Acquisition Advisory Committee. Information about each committee, including how to apply, is available through our [employment portal](#).

Village Operating Hours – It's the Holiday Season!

Please note that our holiday operating schedule can be found on our [website](#).

Join Our Team! Multiple Positions Available!



The Village is seeking to fill vacancies across multiple departments. Positions include Senior Planner (Planning), Lifeguard (Parks & Recreation), Litter Removal (Public Works), and IFP Facility/Ground Worker (Parks & Recreation).

Job descriptions and links to apply can be found [here](#). Please share and encourage qualified candidates to apply!

Composting Around the Florida Keys

Did you know that organic matter makes up 36% of the trash in Florida landfills? Importantly, composting can help reduce the amount of food scraps, landscape waste, and other organic materials that end up in landfills. Are you interested in learning more about composting? Well, you're in luck! Monroe County will be hosting a free community workshop on Saturday, January 11, at the Key Largo Library to teach residents all about composting.

Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned pro, this event is perfect for anyone looking to learn more about turning kitchen scraps and yard waste into nutrient-rich soil for your garden. Their expert instructors will guide you through the process step-by-step so you can start composting right away. Bring your food scraps and a storage bin with a lid to create your own compost worm bin. Those interested in attending the workshop are encouraged to RSVP [here](#).

On a related note, Monroe County is sponsoring compost (nutrient-rich black dirt) giveaway to residents at the County's three transfer stations on the first Saturday of each month, beginning January 4, from 9am to 2pm or until it is gone. Residents can fill one 32-gallon trash can or six 5-gallon buckets with compost. Proof of residency is required in the form of a driver's license, utility bill, tax bill, etc. Residents are limited to one pick-up per household. You must bring your own shovel and be able to load the containers; no loading help will be provided.

Wounded Warrior Project Soldier Ride – January 10 and 11

The [Wounded Warrior Project Soldier Ride](#) takes place Friday, January 10, and Saturday, January 11, across the Keys. Residents and visitors are encouraged to cheer on and support the warriors as they cycle through the Florida Keys on U.S. 1! Interested parties may also join the soldiers for a guided community ride in Key West on Saturday, January 11.

The ride schedule is available [online](#) and includes a rider break at Coral Shores High School at 9:30 AM on Friday, January 10. Motorists are encouraged to take extra time to get to their destinations during the ride times, and it should be noted that there may be rolling lane shifts in traffic, managed by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office.

Upcoming Founders Park Events

BIRDING IN ISLAMORADA (NEXT CLASS JANUARY 6) – Enjoy a leisurely walk in the park and bird watching with Rachel! Classes will begin with a short introduction on the birds in the Islamorada area, followed by identification and discussing traits and habits of the birds that are observed. Binoculars and bird field guides are recommended! All adults 18+ are welcome to attend, classes are \$9.00 per person. Pre-registration is required; call 305-853-1685 or stop by the Founders Park Office to reserve your spot.

ISLAMORADA NATURE WALKS & TALKS (CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 13) – The goal of the series is to increase knowledge of Florida Keys and Everglades National Park flora and fauna while also promoting responsible stewardship of our natural resources. These walks involve a brief discussion on the history of the Upper Keys, as well as plant, butterfly, and bird traits. Sturdy shoes, sunscreen, water, binoculars, and/or a camera are recommended. All adults 18+ are welcome to attend, classes are \$9.00 per person. Pre-registration is required; call 305-853-1685 or stop by the Founders Park Office to reserve your spot.