

# MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION

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September 6, 2023

To our Donors, Supporters and Community,

It has been one week since Hurricane Idalia, and we would like to take the time to share what has transpired since the storm.

During Hurricane Idalia, Memorial Park sustained serious damage to the balustrade along the river. The day following the storm, the City of Jacksonville Director of Parks, Risk Management Team, Disaster Recovery Team, Construction Management Team, Design Team, and the Memorial Park Association Board met to assess the damage and determine the path forward.

As I surveyed the park last Thursday, I was heartbroken by the damage, but I was equally hopeful, witnessing the City of Jacksonville's quick response and upon hearing their plans to rebuild.

In 2017, the balustrade sustained severe damages from Hurricane Irma. In 2019, the City of Jacksonville, repaired the bulkhead, and in 2020 the City of Jacksonville and FEMA finished repairs to the balustrade. The City of Jacksonville took full responsibility for the repairs to the bulkhead and balustrade and will again accept responsibility for the most recent damages that occurred during Idalia.

During our visit, we were encouraged to see the Masterplan improvements MPA made to the park in 2022, fared exceptionally well. This is a testament to the Construction Committee team, who have commandeered the refurbishment of Memorial Park since 2013.

As stewards of the money raised for the SOV Campaign and Masterplan, it is of the utmost importance that our donors know that the money spent on the Masterplan restoration project, has not been spent in vain and there was no damage to the work completed last year through Memorial Park Association.

It is imperative to the MPA Board that all improvements in the park are of the highest quality. We thank you for your continued support and hope this clears up any questions or concerns you have. We also hope this mobilizes you to continue your support for Memorial Park, as we prepare for the 100-year anniversary next year.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly or anyone else on the board.

Best regards,

Patrick Emmet  
President  
Memorial Park Association

