



*A sample of things to come*

The Parks & Trails Division unveiled a new team of park rangers in December 2006. The rangers are tasked with securing and promoting the County's 37 parks, boat ramps, trails and Blueways. The visibility of the park rangers has grown throughout the year as they developed activities including guided hikes, kayak trips and bird watching tours, for the public to enjoy while visiting the County's park system. Each ranger is trained in different disciplines, such as organizing recreational activities, hosting educational nature walks or directing informative wildlife and wildflower tours.

*“Although security is an important role for the rangers,”  
said Park Ranger Wendy Poag, “another aspect of our duties is public relations  
and making sure every park visitor is happy and well informed about all the  
amenities the park has to offer.”*

# Collection of fine works

## Stroke of genius

The County recently introduced three recreational additions to its parks system. First, the boundless playground opened in October 2006. Located at Lake Idamere Park, the playground ensures that children of all abilities will be able to play in a safe area created to meet their special needs. In April 2007, the Funding & Production Division of the Department of Public Works directed the completion of construction on the 4-mile South Lake Trail. The trail connects the Lake Minneola Scenic and West Orange trails creating more than 30 miles of continuous recreational trails. Opened in June 2007, the Arnold Brothers recreational facility at Brown's Ford, located in north Groveland on State Road 19, included a repaired boat ramp and new amenities, such as a 200-foot boardwalk and pavilion with picnic tables.

## Preserving a picturesque landscape

The Public Lands Management Program evaluated more than 30 properties during this fiscal year. A number of these properties were located in two recognized environmentally sensitive areas — the Green Swamp and the Wekiva River Protection Area. Through the efforts of property owners, the Public Land Acquisition Advisory Council, staff and the Board of County Commissioners, the County closed on seven properties and assisted in two other acquired properties with the assistance of multiple organizations and agencies. The creation of the Program was a direct result of Lake County voters approving a public-land acquisition referendum on Nov. 2, 2004.



### Purchased Public Lands

- |                        |                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Ellis Acres         | 6. Neighborhood Lakes*             |
| 2. Ellis Property      | 7. Helena Run                      |
| 3. Andrews (Lady Lake) | 8. Inland Groves*                  |
| 4. Dead River Estates  | 9. "The Pasture"<br>(aka Kuharske) |
| 5. Mount Plymouth Lake |                                    |

\* Lake County Acquired Property with Cooperative Efforts