

We feel that this beautiful Atlantic beach park is the perfect shaded setting for August so we're returning to

Andy Romano Beachfront Park in Ormond Beach

Monday, August 16 8:30 – 8:00

This sparkling community–designed 4–acre beachfront park built in 2012 offers free parking, a splash pad, picnic pavilions (first come–first served), a food concession with standard beach fare, outdoor showers, and restrooms. The reddish pink sand by the water's edge is caused by crushed coquina shells washing up during tide. As you can see below, the beach is narrow, making it easy to carry your beach gear just a short distance from the parking lot. Unfortunately, we learned that chairs and umbrellas are not available for rent here. (If you don't own any, borrow some from a friend or neighbor.)

In fact, if you prefer to keep your toes sand–free, you can simply relax in your chair on this walkway and enjoy the view. Or, you might get a kick out of watching these little darlings at play.

One of my favorite things about this beautiful park is sitting in the cool shade of the picnic pavilions and the below area while watching the waves roll in just a few hundred feet away. And the customary cool breezes make it so comfortable in this setting.

If the summer heat does get to you and you didn't find any treasures in the ocean, you might want to hop aboard our buses about 2:30 for a 7–minute drive to visit some unique small and huge consignment shops.

Dunn's Attic at 136 W. Granada Blvd.; Ormond Beach's best shopping experience. Come visit their 12,000 sq ft showroom and find unique items with character that you can't get anywhere else!

Miss Priss at 150 W. Granada Blvd.; An upscale consignment boutique featuring new and gently loved designer women's apparel, shoes, and accessories.

The Treasure Trove Consignment Shop at 139 W. Granada Blvd.; Offers a huge selection of name brand sportswear and carries top quality handbags and shoes. You'll also find stylish new jewelry.

We would return you to the beach in time for dinner.

For our guests of male persuasion who don't like to shop, you might enjoy a cool respite at the below Waves Sports Bar and Grill.

For your early-bird dining pleasure, the following six restaurants are either right across the street or within a two-block walk of the Romano Park located at 839 S. Atlantic Avenue. Note their proximity by their addresses.

Dimitri's Bar Deck & Grill (www.dimitrisbardeck.com) 790 S. Atlantic Ave.

Don Peper Mexican Grill Cantina (www.donpeppersomond.com) 794 S. Atlantic Ave.

Charlie Horse Restaurant (www.charliehorserestaurant.com) 810 S. Atlantic Ave.

Riptides Raw Bar and Grill (www.riptidesrawbar.com) 869 S. Atlantic Ave.

The Waves Sports Bar and Grill (www.wavesportsbarandgrill.com) 890 S. Atlantic Ave.

The Beach Bucket (www.thebeachbucket.com) 867 S. Atlantic Ave. (a favorite in a beach-front hotel)

Whichever you choose, just be back aboard our buses outside the Andy Romano Park at 5:45 p.m.

At the end of our last visit here, we heard comments like "Can you believe this is August in Florida?" And when we boarded our buses to return to The Villages, our members told us they could return here every month. Well, we hope we haven't kept you waiting too long!