

WILTON
MANORS

OAKLAND
PARK

LAZY
LAKE

explore

GREATER FORT LAUDERDALE



CONTENTS

- 1** Welcome
- 2** The Rundown
- 4** Attractions
- 8** Live Like a Local
- 10** Uniques & Antiques:
A Little of This, A Little of That
- 16** Photo Journal:
The Many Faces of Wilton Manors
- 20** The Ale Trail
- 22** Restaurants
- 27** Lazy Lake
- 28** Developments: Luxe Living
- 30** On the Marquee
- 31** The Great Outdoors
- 32** Resources

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WELCOME TO

Wilton Manors, Oakland Park & Lazy Lake

For the free spirited, the road to everything whimsical and wonderful runs right through the neighborhoods of Oakland Park, Wilton Manors and Lazy Lake. On the northern outskirts of Fort Lauderdale, these three tight-knit communities are never cookie-cutter.

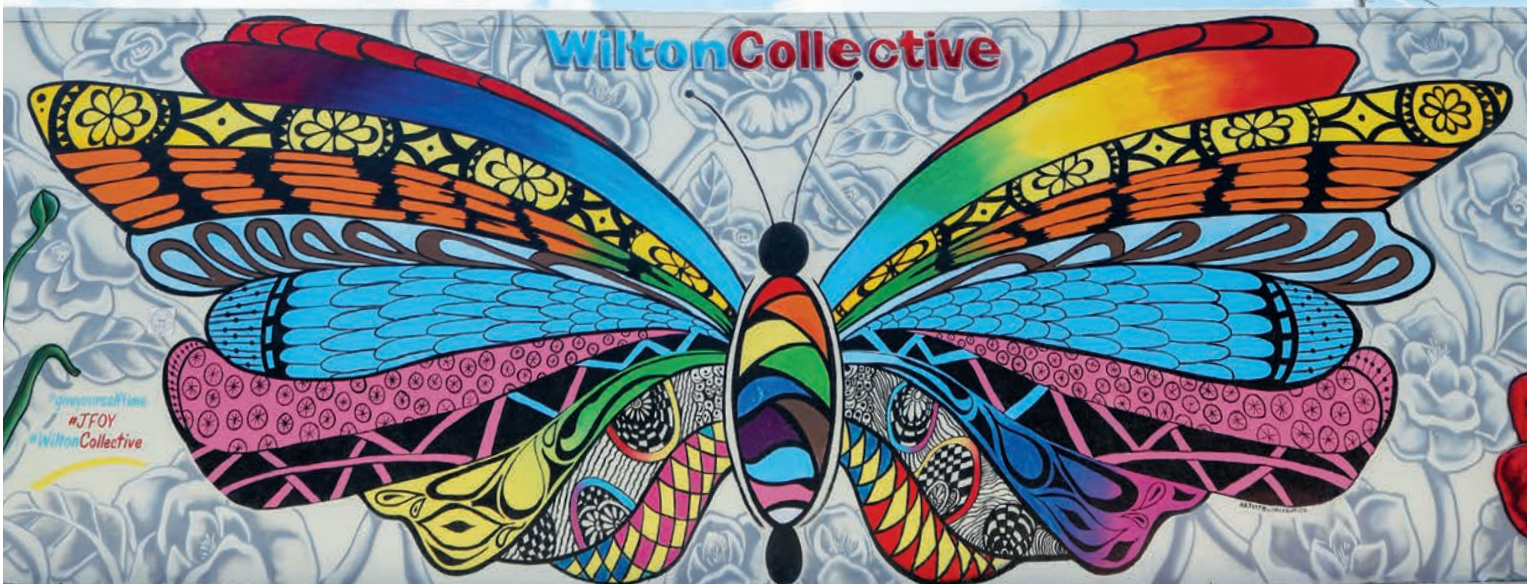
First stop is Wilton Manors, a suburban haven proud of its vibrant LGBT+ community. It's also a candidate for the most charming, populated with many colorful thrift shops, restaurants, bars and clubs. Discover adorable mom-and-pop cafes then explore specialty boutiques packed with antiques and handcrafted finds.

Tucked away within the boundaries of Wilton Manors, visitors might stumble across the ficus-laden village of Lazy Lake – the county's smallest municipality with only 24 residents.

And in the city of Oakland Park, residents and visitors alike can enjoy a bevy of community festivities, from the family-friendly Youth Parade (the oldest parade in the county) to a joyous Oktoberfest, where one can sample locally made, awarded craft beer.

In these pages, we'll introduce you to favorite nooks and crannies, giving you insider insight into the people and places that make this area truly special.

Whether you are a first-time visitor searching to add something unexpected to your itinerary or a South Florida native looking for new adventures right in your backyard, we invite you to experience the unique treasures tucked away in these small towns with big hearts.



THE Rundown



▲ Jaco Pastorius Park in the city of Oakland Park

The quaint communities of Wilton Manors, Oakland Park and Lazy Lake are known by locals for their cozy character, but there's so much more to love.

OAKLAND PARK

▲ A small but mighty city of 41,000 residents, Oakland Park is full of diverse offerings. Once an agricultural community, the area was first incorporated in 1925 as Floranada. Following a devastating hurricane, undeterred locals re-incorporated four years later as Oakland Park.

A long way from its farming roots, the city retains close-knit camaraderie. From jogging paths to picnic areas, there is plenty for outdoor enthusiasts. Whether it's a rousing Oktoberfest or cool family-friendly movie night, something is always happening at Jaco Pastorius Park, named for the famed jazz bass player and native son. The city's welcoming events, artsy vibe, vintage aesthetic, affinity for great beer and international curiosities all add to its eclectic flair.



▲ This vignette is part of a sprawling mural by artist Steven Teller on the walls of The Pride Center at Equality Park in Wilton Manors.

WILTON MANORS

▲ Occupying a modest two square miles between the North and South Forks of the Middle River, Wilton Manors is fondly called "The Island City." The area was first envisioned as a playground for the wealthy, but these dreams went bust following the Great Depression. Today, the Richardson Historic Park and Nature Preserve recalls the city's past grandeur, with a manor house and 5.4 acre park.

Formally incorporated in 1947, the town would eventually emerge as a major LGBT+ community and is currently home to the second highest concentration of same-sex couples in the country.

Outdoor enthusiasts will enjoy exploring the riverfront parks that boast canoe trails, a mangrove preserve, and community centers that host intimate cultural and performing arts events. The pride of Wilton Manors, though, is its dedication to diversity and commitment to being a destination for people of all races, sexualities and cultures to live, work and play.

LAZY LAKE

► The Village of Lazy Lake remains a lovingly preserved corner of subtropical wild, doggedly protected by passionate locals. In 1925, the area was a simple limestone quarry supplying the construction of Wilton Manors. Water soon filled the rock pit, creating its storybook lake. Not much for fanfare, or even visitors, Lazy Lake is more of a closely held secret than a tourism attraction.



▼ An old world sign welcomes invited guests to the small village of Lazy Lake.



ESSENTIAL

ATTRACTIONS



Artists, foodies and entertainment seekers will find much to love about the Wilton Manors Arts and Entertainment District on Wilton Drive.

It is walkable, features an array of shops for those unique mementos and one-of-a-kind pieces, diverse restaurants and art galleries, as well as some of the top-rated entertainment venues in South Florida.

In nearby Oakland Park, find everything from beer to bees. Visit two stops on the Greater Fort Lauderdale Ale Trail – Funky Buddha Brewery and Tenth Level Tavern – then buzz around the beautiful hydroponic community garden. Independent businesses purveying antiques, curiosities from around the world and new age crystals add to the city's eclectic flair.

THE YARD

Wilton Manors

► The Yard at Wilton Manors is an eclectic collection of boutiques, restaurants and vintage Airstream trailers set against the backdrop of colorful murals and painted trees. Well known in the LGBT+ community for its vibe of independence and creativity, The Yard is an escape from the urban crush of the surrounding city. Plenty of open work space makes this a hot choice for freelancers and entrepreneurs looking to escape home offices. Formerly known as Eucalyptus Gardens, The Yard has culinary offerings to satisfy the gluten-free, vegetarian, as well as the seeker of authentic Mexican fare. The Yard is dog-friendly, ever-evolving with pop-up shops, and perfect for those Instagram snaps. It is open every day 8 a.m.-9 p.m. for your coffee-drinking, remote-working, treasure-hunting, and general pleasure.

👉 2430 N.E. 13th Ave.
facebook.com/theyardatwiltonmanors



HUNTERS NIGHTCLUB

Wilton Manors

◀ If you are longing for the days of Studio 54, Hunters has you covered. If you love karaoke, Hunters is your place. If dancing is what you seek, whether it is country-and-western line style or cabaret, Hunters has it. Their mission is to be "fun and friendly," and they are delivering on that promise. Located on Wilton Drive, the renovated space features a large dance floor with video screen, a video bar with eight screens and an upstairs lounge overlooking the dance floor. Hunters Nightclub serves up "Spirits Elevated" cocktails, daily drink specials and high-octane entertainment for over-21, predominantly gay patrons. It is not just about the cocktail experience, though that is paramount. It is also about bettering the community through consistent charitable events that benefit their local neighborhoods.

👉 2232 Wilton Drive | huntersftlauderdale.com

DRYNK BAR AND LOUNGE

Wilton Manors

► Behind flower-filled planter boxes and an unassuming facade lies the chic, decadent interior of Drynk. Luxurious gold couches, dark velvet walls and a hanging bull head adorn this trendy cocktail bar and lounge deemed one of South Florida's gay go-to hang out spots.

While their craft cocktail menu featuring filthy dirty martinis, smoked old fashioned and more is seriously impressive, beer, wine and vodka connoisseurs will also find suitable selections. And if you work up an appetite dancing the night away, Drynk has you covered. Indulge in a charcuterie board or an order of their house made chips and salsa. Happy hour specials run daily.

► 2255 Wilton Drive | drynkftl.com

More to see:

Claudia Castillo Art Studio

Provides: Art exhibitions | Special events | Guest artists | Individual and group art classes | Art collectables | Jewelry | Art framing



PHOTOGRAPHY: GEORGE HORTON

LIPS

Oakland Park

◀ Indulge in the glitz and glamor of a night out at Lips – the ultimate drag dining experience. Hidden in a small plaza off Oakland Park Boulevard, Lips offers an experience complete with over the top shows, glamorous costumes, a three-course dinner menu and fabulous drinks with cheeky names. Hailed as the country's largest cabaret show chain, Lips was founded in New York by prominent drag queen Miss Yvonne Lane over 25 years ago. Since 2007, it has been a popular South Florida venue for birthday parties, bachelorette parties or the casual walk-in. Each night, from Thursday to Sunday, you can expect engaging live entertainment that's heavy on the audience interaction. They even host a gospel brunch on Sundays, offering a special menu with bottomless mimosas and bloody marys. Reservations are encouraged but not required.

► 1421 E. Oakland Park Blvd. | fladragshow.com



PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF LIPS FORT LAUDERDALE

THE URBAN BEEKEEPERS

Oakland Park

► There is a lot of buzz about bees. The decline in numbers has set off alarms around the world as food shortages and environmental issues become more prevalent. Bees help pollinate the bulk of the globe's flowering plants, including about one-third of the food we eat. Micro apiaries, like the one at the Discovery Farm and Marketplace in Jaco Pastorius Park, offer people an opportunity to see the everyday work of the mighty bee. A visit to The Urban Beekeepers includes a tour of the property, including the butterfly garden, and discussion of the permaculture and pollinator programs. Then comes the real fun. Visitors of all ages don protective gear and go inside the beehive to observe the bees at work. Of course, you get a taste of their golden elixir. All surfaces are wheelchair accessible, and service animals are allowed.

► 4354 N.E. 5th Terrace | theurbanbeekeepers.com



CHAINBRIDGE DISTILLERY

Oakland Park

◀ Family-owned and operated, the award-winning ChainBridge Distillery carries on the tradition of previous generations as they craft innovative spirits from fruits, vegetables and herbs. Transplant Bela Nahori, along with his wife, sister and parents opened the Oakland Park distillery in 2019. Inspired by the brandies from their native Hungary, ChainBridge is a small batch distillery specializing in fruit brandies, vodka, gin and specialty spirits with adventurous ingredients like carrot and beet. They also have a new silver rum with aged rum on the horizon for your favorite mojito recipe or just to pair with some cola and a wedge of lime. All brandies are distilled from 100% hand-picked fruit. Each batch is rested for at least three months before it is processed, hand-bottled and hand-labeled. Their Florida Basil Vodka features two types of native basil and the process starts the day the farmer picks it. Visitors can enjoy ChainBridge Distillery tours, tasting room offerings and venue rental for those over 21.

► 3500 N.E. 11th Ave. | chainbridgedistillery.com



Live Like a Local



Debbie Ann
HAMILTON
Oakland Park

Stats: I'm a married 40-something who is outgoing, likes to engage with people, enjoys fitness and I love the beach.

To sweat, shop or stroll: I enjoy working out at LA Fitness on Federal and Oakland Park Boulevard. I also like visiting the Coral Ridge Mall. It's spacious, never crowded and it has everything I need. Royal Palm Park is one of the best parks to take a walk or cycle, and it is centered between two beautiful lakes.

Where to chill: Funky Buddha is a great spot for hanging out and enjoying local beers. Also a must visit is Beg for More Thai restaurant. They have great food and a great environment.

Casual dining: My personal favorite restaurant is Phat Boy Sushi. It's small, has a mom-and-pop vibe and the food is amazing. The ambiance is intimate and friendly.

Bonus share: Oakland Park is less than a 10-minute drive to the beach and everything is central. It has lots of history and is a very easy city to get around.



▲ Alberte's Restaurant offers the best in Haitian and Caribbean cuisine.

Belvit
JORDAN
Oakland Park



Stats: I'm 56 and a social butterfly looking for cultural events of all kinds to edify my life. I am a producer here in Fort Lauderdale and I love all things to do with the arts. That's my passion.

Those summer nights: I must do the outdoor concerts with live bands that they have in the summer downtown. They run every Friday night for about two months. I try to attend at least three or four of them per summer. It's easy parking and it's families that come out. It's really a spot to go dance, get some grub and listen to some good live music.

Where to chill: I like to hang out at the tracks near Funky Buddha. Sometimes they have food trucks and the experience with the outdoor space is nice.

Try the Caribbean food: The Haitian restaurant right next door to the Funky Buddha, Alberte's Restaurant, is good. I like the service of the staff; I think they go over and above to offer you really good service. I recommend the fish.

Bonus share: Oakland Park has nice parks if you want to do some family activities in some quiet park spaces.



▲ Fun times at Funky Buddha Brewery.



Chris CAPUTO Wilton Manors

Stats: I'm 39 years old, passionate about community involvement, running, cycling, swimming, food, travel, theater and my dogs. I love our city so much, I decided to become a public servant and am now city commissioner.

Ticket to ride: Whether someone is joining us on a weekend bike ride for the Wilton Collective, the monthly Art Walk, or just dining and drinks, Wilton Manors is a remarkably welcoming community.

Where to chill: On any given Friday or Saturday night, you're likely to find me on the Drive. I might stop by DrYnk or Infinity for a cocktail before checking out the local theater scene. I love catching a play at Island City Stage or the Foundry and then heading out to Hunters afterwards to dance the night away. For something really special, don't miss Wicked Manors. It's one of Florida's largest annual Halloween parties and typically attracts more than 25,000 people. The costumes are just phenomenal.

Can't choose just one: Every Monday, Bona Italian gives a portion of their proceeds to a different charity. On the weekends, it's all about Rosie's for the burgers and lively atmosphere. On the occasional Friday or Saturday I conclude my night at New York Grilled Cheese. The Buffalo chicken grilled cheese sandwich is out of this world. I'd be remiss if I didn't mention one of the latest hotspots, Tulio's Taco and Tequila Bar. It's all the rage.



▲ Wilton Collective offers shopping and activities.



▲ In Wilton Manors neighborhoods, curiosities like a wooden pegasus perch atop modern homes.

David JOBIN Wilton Manors



Stats: I'm 58 years old and thrilled by diversity of all types. As a cis-gender gay white man, I don't embody a lot of diversity myself, but I love living my life in the middle of it.

To feel fancy free: I love walking Wilton Drive from one end to the other on a busy night. There's always activity spilling out onto the sidewalk from the bars, restaurants and shops. Having lived the first 20 years of my life largely in the closet, it is still euphoric to be surrounded by my people in an open and welcoming environment.

Where to chill: My coming out experience was largely bar-related, so being in a gay bar brings back that comfort and familiarity. I also love to people-watch, especially at the Alibi on Wilton Drive. Alibi was the first bar I ever visited in Greater Fort Lauderdale. What I remember most, that still thrills me about Wilton Manors, was watching old men enjoy life to its fullest.

Burgers and pizza: You MUST experience Rosie's Bar & Grill. Comfort food galore, attentive servers, and kitschy decor create an experience like no other. The menu has something for everyone, but they are most known for their burgers. Also try Bona Italian Restaurant and Pizza across the street.

Bonus Share: Venture off of the Drive to walk through the neighborhoods of Wilton Manors. There is a little bit of everything to see.

UNIQUES & ANTIQUES

A Little of This, A Little of That



▲ Pre-loved designer items at Worth Repeating in Wilton Manors.

For those with time (and money) to spare in Wilton Manors and Oakland Park, there is no shortage of great shopping. With a massive range of boutique, antique and unique shops to choose from, those who love shopping small, pre-loved or vintage will not be disappointed. Find everything from specialty furniture and vintage clothing to nostalgic treats from the past and perfectly original gifts.

THRIFT STORES

WORTH REPEATING

Wilton Manors

▼ Beyond the charming, white facade are racks of pre-loved consignment clothes. There's something for everyone here, as the location stocks a huge range of sizes and styles. The shop focuses particularly on designer items, including shoes and accessories, for incredibly affordable prices. And, best yet, you can bring in your own designer items to offer the shop on consignment.

➡ 1732 N.E. 26th St.
worthrepeatingconsignments.com



OUT OF THE CLOSET

Wilton Manors

▲ While browsing row upon row of thrifted treasures at great prices, remember it's for a good cause, not just to stock your closet or home with new pieces. Out of the Closet is a thrift store with a mission. Proceeds from each of their locations around the country support local people with HIV and AIDS. Ninety-six cents of every dollar spent in the store goes directly to funding the "AIDS Healthcare Foundation's HIV/AIDS programs and their new housing services, as well as on-site pharmacies and free HIV testing." And if you have gently loved items in your home that need a new life, they also accept donations during store hours.

➡ 2097 Wilton Drive | outofthecloset.org

POVERELLO

Wilton Manors

Stepping into the doors of this spacious 11,000-square foot thrift shop, you're not just picking up some new-to-you treasures, you're supporting a mission of community betterment that has been in place since the '80s. This award-winning shop provides row after row of curated thrifting, all with the intent to raise funds that will feed, clothe and otherwise support those in South Florida with chronic medical conditions. Whether donating to the store, or spending at it, you're doing good for that community effort.

➡ 2056 N. Dixie Highway | poverello.org

UNIQUE FINDS



WILTON COLLECTIVE

Wilton Manors

▼ Think of Wilton Collective as an indoor creative market for the discerning, wrapped in a beautiful butterfly mural. The collection of artsy businesses range from thrift, home furnishings, accessories, fine art and other retail offerings to event space, catering, antiques, bike repairs and more. A nonprofit, all inclusive youth work program called Julian's Fountain of Treasures powers the collective, offering a safe space and work experience to young people of diverse backgrounds.

➡ 2365 Wilton Dr
facebook.com/wiltoncollective



ISLAND CITY TRADERS

Wilton Manors

▲ For those with a passion for interior design, Island City Traders is a must-stop shopping destination. This massive space is tastefully arranged with designer furniture for every room of the house, from lighting to bedding to massive furniture and tiny pieces of decor. This shop stocks it all, both in store and online, at affordable prices. And their knowledgeable interior design-aficionados can help point novices in the direction of a new style they'll love.

➡ 2450 Wilton Drive
islandcitytraders.com



TO THE MOON MARKETPLACE

Wilton Manors

▲ Owner and self-professed "chief candy-ologist" Antonio Dumas says the shop is most known for their incredible supply of sweets and snacks, stocked from 95 countries and representing more than 100 years of American history. Not only can you try treats from around the world, but you can grab nostalgic candies from your childhood and beyond, in addition to gifts, toys, cards and novelty items.

➡ 2205 Wilton Drive
tothemoonmarketplace.com

ALLIED KITCHEN AND BATH

Oakland Park

► This family-run business, co-owned by two brothers since 1984, offers incredible expertise and personalized service to anyone looking for bathroom or kitchen upgrades. Whether you're looking to modernize your tile and fixtures or want a top-to-bottom kitchen renovation, this team will have your space looking fresh and stunning.

► 616 W. Oakland Park Blvd. | alliedkitchenandbath.com

SNOOTY FOX CONSIGNMENTS

Oakland Park

This furniture reseller is best known as the biggest distributor of pre-owned AICO by Michael Amini pieces in the United States, offering great deals on the luxurious curved wooden furnishings. And if that's not your style, they also sell a huge range of other high-end, gently used furnishings, from bed frames and couches to dining tables and display pieces.

► 840 E. Oakland Park Blvd. | snootyfoxflorida.com



MONA'S FASHIONS

Oakland Park

◀ This specialty shop focuses exclusively on Indian fashions, both men's and women's, in all sizes and styles. They're experts on patterns, materials, tailoring and fitting. They also offer threading and customizations, perfect for wedding attire or speciality pieces that need alterations.

► 2712 W. Oakland Park Blvd.
facebook.com/monasfashionindianboutique

MYSTIK SISTERS

Oakland Park

Mystik Sisters Manager Amanda Jones says the store prides itself on carrying "everything for everyone." They have resources to offer those interested in Santeria, Wicca, Witchcraft, traditional religious practices, Paganism, or something else entirely. Those looking for more general metaphysical supplies will find candles, crystals, oils, books and gifts, among other items. "It's an amazing creative space, calm, and supportive," Jones says. "We have a family here."

► 3475 N. Dixie Highway #102 | mystiksisters.com



ANTIQUÉ WARES



ANTIQUES & MID-CENTURY FURNITURE

Wilton Manors

Inside their 10,000-square-foot store is a massive array of statement furniture pieces and decor from various eras. Amid more classic furnishings, they also have offerings like chandeliers and bric-a-brac. As a bonus, they do custom upholstery and repair work.

➡ 132 E. Oakland Park Blvd.
facebook.com/antiquesmidcentury

SHADES OF THE PAST ANTIQUES

Wilton Manors

Shades of the Past focuses primarily on vintage lighting. If you've ever been after the perfect antique lamp, lampshade, pendant light or hanging fixture, this shop is the place to hit. While lighting is their specialty, you'll also find an array of other antiques, including vintage art, furniture and home decor.

➡ 2360 Wilton Drive
shadesofthepastantiques.com

VINTAGE DIVERSITY

Oakland Park

◀ This spot specializes in vintage fashion and helping you find the perfect blast-from-the-past costume. Their inventory, both in store and online, covers a century of style, whether a '20s flapper dress or an '80s hair band stage outfit. They even offer custom costume styling if you want a personalized experience with a staff member.

➡ 236 Prospect Road
vintagediversity.com

DECORATIVE ARTS AND FINE ANTIQUES

Oakland Park

► One of America's leading purveyors, Decorative Arts & Fine Antiques has a name that says it all. Their large showrooms are updated daily with museum-quality antiques, decorative objects and original fine art. Founder Craig Mayor has been in the business for more than 40 years, becoming the go-to for collectors, designers and other dealers from around the globe. Their professionals promise to offer the perfect pieces for your home or antiques collection.

➡ 3263 N. Dixie Highway | dafainc.com



VINTAGE VAULT FURNITURE

Oakland Park

◀ The vault is lovingly decked out in vintage touches with the best of decades past. Meander around the shop for decor, memorabilia, antique furniture, jewelry, art and pre-owned curiosities. Each piece is hand-selected, featuring items from every time period and style. For those who prefer, browse the collection online from home.

➡ 1510 E. Oakland Park Blvd. | vintagevaultfurniture.com



JASPER KANE VINTAGE FURNITURE & DECOR

Oakland Park

► From Hollywood regency and mid-century modern to faux bamboo and industrial, find it all at this vintage and antique furniture shop. Add to your chinoiserie collection or fill your new home with Palm Beach style pieces. Dream up a new interior plan by shopping online then shipping your finds worldwide.

➡ 4361 N. Dixie Highway
[instagram.com/jasperkanedesigns/](https://www.instagram.com/jasperkanedesigns/)



PHOTO JOURNAL

The Many Faces of Wilton Manors



The whimsical, eclectic vibe of Wilton Manors is most clearly manifest in the corridor along Wilton Drive. There, you'll find colorful, quirky storefronts offering amazing food, thrifted goodies, art, furnishings, club life and even a few standard business operations. Stop for soup and a sandwich beyond the yellow façade at New York Grilled Cheese then resist the temptation to pop the colorful balloons outside as you enter the Claudia Castillo Art Studio two doors down.

While pastel-painted eye candy abounds along the main strip, just down the street you can find more traditional iconic edifices like the simple, unchanged Dairy Queen that's been selling smiles since 1953, or the Association of Realtors building and Independence Hall Retirement Residence, both boasting two-story porticos and plantation-style shutters. Buildings like Gables Wilton Park and Wilton Station condos take the multifaceted character of this

▼ Colorful storefronts line the main retail strip on Wilton Drive.



▲ Claudia Castillo Art Studio



community full circle with modern lines and clean-concept design.

The Island City has mastered the art of seamlessly blending contemporary aesthetic and rainbow canvases with traditional, old-school charm. For the curious, it's always a good day to wander the wonder-filled streets of Wilton Manors.



▲ New York Grilled Cheese, home of signature The Waffled Grilled Cheese.



▼ Gables Wilton Park apartment building.



▼ Independence Hall Retirement Residence.



▼ Association of Realtors building.

THE Ale Trail

The Greater Fort Lauderdale area is the perfect up-and-coming spot for those who love beer. New craft breweries, artisan bars and beer gardens are popping up all the time in spots like Oakland Park and Wilton Manors. They are quickly becoming the place to be for a cold pint (followed by some excellent food, if you choose). With that, we introduce our upgrade to the bar crawl: the ale trail. Here are the stops we recommend if you want to make a day of it.



FUNKY BUDDHA BREWERY

Oakland Park

▶ If you live around Oakland Park, you're probably already familiar with Funky Buddha Brewery, brainchild of Ryan Sentz and now co-owned with his brother K.C. The sprawling brewery, bottling plant and taproom has been a staple of the area for going on eight years. Funky Buddha is a pioneer of the local craft beer scene with one of the largest spaces and a stand-out menu. While the brewery's beers are sold in stores across Florida and even beyond state lines, their taproom and signature flavors are what make them exceptional. Very early to this now-popular trend, Funky Buddha produces culinary-inspired beers with exclusively natural ingredients. Past special releases featured the flavors of maple bacon, french toast, and s'mores. And according to John Lynn, their head of marketing, the food menu is "an upscale take on pub food with a lot of South Florida-inspired ingredients."

▶ 1201 N.E. 38th St. | funkybuddhabrewery.com

TATTS AND TACOS BEER GARDEN

Oakland Park

► To round out your wandering and finish on a delicious high note, a stop at Tatts and Tacos is in order. This newer Oakland Park spot combines everything you look for in a great beer bar and then outdoes itself. With more than 40 brews on tap, this hot spot is definitely a beer garden at heart, but they also stock a full liquor bar and offer a huge menu of authentic Mexican meals and small plates. And did we mention the weekend brunch? So maybe you'll come for the beer, but you'll stick around for amazing tacos and lawn games under string lights.

► 3200 N.E. 12th Ave. | tattsandtacos.com



FAT TAP BEER BAR AND EATERY

Oakland Park

► Fat Tap, an Oakland Park staple, can suit any mood you might be in or need you might need met. Their massive list of bottled and canned beer and cider is a start, but the also-lengthy tap list adds to the appeal. Wine drinkers won't leave unsatisfied either, as there are a variety available for a casual evening drink. And to accompany those beverages, a hearty menu of upscale pub food awaits, decked out with plenty of shareable appetizers and a long list of homemade pizzas and flatbreads, each more mouthwatering than the last. Even vegans will leave happy, as the menu includes several plant-based selections. Start the ale trail early with Fat Taps weekend brunch menu, stacked with trendy twists on breakfast staples, like decadent waffles turned savory with a bit of spice, and an egg wrap loaded with Italian ingredients.

► 830 E. Oakland Park Blvd. Suite 101 | fattapbeerbar.com



TENTH LEVEL TAVERN

Oakland Park

► This bar is all about gathering and having a good time. Dozens of craft beers, ciders, and wines are available in bottles, cans and on tap. The walls are lined with arcade games, both from decades past and the more modern era. Regular events encourage meeting like-minded people, whether at a karaoke night, holiday party, or game night. And even if it's just any old evening, grabbing a pint of locally brewed beer and tackling a few rounds of Donkey Kong with your friends is never a bad way to pass the time.

► 1242 N.E. 38th St. | tenthleveltavern.com



WILTON MANORS, OAKLAND PARK & LAZY LAKE

RESTAURANTS

Diners will find a world of options in Oakland Park and Wilton Manors thanks to waves of immigrants from Europe to Africa to Latin America. You might encounter Japanese sushi, aromatic Thai food and Irish shepherd's pie. Explore curbside dining and restaurants overlooking picturesque waterways while savoring fresh Belgian Waffles or an Athenian omelette for breakfast. Indulge in lamb chops from New Zealand for dinner on Monday and Spanish tapas on Tuesday. Make sure to fit in interesting stops like To The Moon, where you'll find famous hard-to-find candies from as far back as 1806.

WILTON MANORS



STORK'S BAKERY & COFFEE HOUSE

▲ Opened in 1997 by a former mayor, Stork's has long been a local favorite. In 2007, the new owner expanded the menu. Now, it offers seven types of coffee in addition to teas, smoothies, fresh-baked pastries and seasonal desserts. Long-time chef Rose Klein's gift is apparent, whether you're enjoying a fluffy omelette, a vegetarian Tortellini salad or fresh grilled salmon. The gourmet Mediterranean fare can also be savored through their online, take out and catered services.

➡ 2505 N.E. 15th St. | storksbakery.com

SHAWN & NICK'S COURTYARD CAFÉ

For over 50 years, this go-to café has dished up a breakfast menu with hearty helpings of pancakes, biscuits, hash browns, sausage patties and eggs almost any way you can imagine, along with delightful tropical mimosas. However, Monday Night Burger Madness, Prime Rib Tuesdays and other specials, along with late-night comfort food snacks like wings and pizza, make the café a local favorite. Not to worry: There are low calorie, vegetarian and heart healthy options available as well.

➡ 2211 Wilton Drive
wiltonmanorscourtyardcafe.com



ROSIE'S BAR AND GRILL

◀ From brunch to late night dining, Rosie's is a top choice in the area. Generous helpings from the extensive Americana menu cater to almost any craving. Chomp into the juicy Anita Mojito prime burger or Willy Cheesesteak; tackle a half pound of peel-and-eat shrimp; dive into the vegan friendly, cheesy Spin Art bread bowl; or go for the equally substantial lean and grilled options. The full bar and fun atmosphere makes for an exceptional Floridian dining experience.

➡ 2449 Wilton Drive
rosiesbng.com



BUBBLES & PEARLS

◀ This gem continually gets rave reviews, not just because of the menu crafted by a Top Chef contestant but for the five-star service every patron receives. The food, though, is the thing, and it's the oysters people come here for. However, from the roasted bone marrow, to the wild mushrooms, burrata toast and New Zealand lamb chops, every item is a gastronomic delight. And the setting is perfect for getting together with friends for a chill night over drinks.

➡ 2037 Wilton Drive
bubblesnpearls.com

THE ALCHEMIST CAFE

▶ The Alchemist offers up healthy fare with their signature open faced "slicers" sandwiches on traditional Tuscan or gluten-free bread, along with fresh salads. Also on the menu daily are 9-inch "pizzetas" and 12-inch focaccia pizzas, with toppings ranging from the vegetarian friendly mushroom trio to delicious, slow-cooked (10 hours!) BBQ pulled pork. Brunch here is meant to be savored and accompanied by the exceptional coffee. Treat yourself and ask for the Waffle Of The Day.

➡ 2430 N.E. 13th Ave. | thealchemist.cafe





PHOTOGRAPHY: HANNAH GULICS

LE PATIO

▲ Le Patio was opened in 2008 by two chefs, one Irish and the other French, and quickly became a top choice to explore European comfort cuisine in the heart of Florida. You'll savor every bite in an intimate outdoor setting, whether dining on caviar, lobster ravioli, shepherd's pie, or their homemade garlic butter atop escargot and famous gratin macaroni — an entrée not to be missed. All dishes are made to order, presented artfully and paired with the perfect wine.

➡ **2401 N.E. 11th Ave. | lepatiowiltonmanors.com**



PHOTOGRAPHY: HANNAH GULICS

CANDELA RESTAURANT

▲ Candela is located in a traditional Florida strip mall, however, once inside, you'll feel transported to Europe. For a delightful surprise, Cuban dishes are also on the menu. At breakfast, try the Cuban roasted Pork or Spanish serrano ham. The traditional Italian Lasagna makes a mouthwatering lunch. Try one of a variety of delectable paellas for dinner, perfect for sharing, or opt for wine at happy hour along with tapas like patatas bravas, chorizo and Mediterranean olives.

➡ **2909 N.E. 6th Ave. | candelarestaurant.com**

WILTON CREAMERY

▶ "He's Not Worth It!" is definitely worth every penny. The most popular of the signature ice creams at Wilton Creamery Dairy Bar heads a delightful menu of gourmet cold treats with numerous toppings, including non-dairy, gluten-free and even dog-friendly options. Rich Pecan Praline Dulce, Sea Salt Caramel and other staples, as well as rotating seasonal flavors of ice cream and sorbet, all made in house, take the experience of "going for ice cream" to a whole other level.

➡ **2301 Wilton Drive, Suite C4
wiltoncreamery.com**



OAKLAND PARK

PETER PAN DINER

► Traditional booths, along with a separate lounge and bar, help set the atmosphere at this family-owned diner which opened in 1979 with a menu heavily influenced by their Greek heritage. The famous Athenian omelette is as popular for breakfast as is traditional diner fare like silver dollar pancakes. Finger-licking-good BBQ baby back ribs or a chicken gyro with homemade tzatziki sauce are only two of many delicious offerings, including a range of tasty low-carb options.

► 1216 E. Oakland Park Blvd.
mypeterpandiner.com



PHOTOGRAPHY: HANNAH GULICS



BULEGREEN CAFÉ YARD

▲ This multiple-award-winning spot feels like your own neighbourhood coffee shop. It is the ideal place to gather with friends and chat for hours over the specialty coffee that is brewed in a "bule," which is what the café is named for. The traditional Brazilian coffee pot brews rich, aromatic coffee, a perfect accompaniment to the healthy menu of sandwiches, salads, bowls, frittatas and the more decadent options of waffles, French toast and pão de queijo, an addictive cheese bun.

► 3299 N. Dixie Highway | bulegreen.us

ESCARGOT BISTRO

Like the name suggests, one should dine here specifically to try the escargot. There is quite a variety offered on the menu, both as starters as well as main entrées. The crêpes are as distinctive as the individuals they are named for: famous French personalities like literary giant Victor Hugo and entertainer-and-resistance agent Josephine Baker. And yes, there is an escargot crêpe! The extensive wine list pairs beautifully with any choice.

► 1506 E. Commercial Blvd.
escargotbistro.com



PHOTOGRAPHY: HANNAH GULICS

EL GUANACO TAQUERIA Y ANTOJITOS

▲ This family-owned-and-operated restaurant has been serving up tried and true Mexican and Salvadoran favorites since 2009. With fresh ingredients and outstanding offers, it is next to impossible to not pick a truly delicious deal, no matter the time of day. Breakfast is served around the clock and the \$10 value menu has something for everyone, from grilled tilapia to chunky burritos, while weekday happy hour offers up tasty options for only \$5.

➡ 331 N.E. 44th St. | elguanaco-oaklandpark.com

RENDEZ-VOUS BAKERY AND BISTRO

Fresh ingredients and the know-how of Chef Pascal Zeimet, bring artisanal French baking to Oakland Park. His story started in the village of Marville, in the Champagne-Lorraine region, and continues to unfold after highly successful chapters in Dallas and D.C. Delicious, buttery baked goods are served alongside specialty coffees, sandwiches, salads and light-as-air crêpes. Lunch and dinner present savory French entrées, like boeuf bourguignon and duck à l'orange, along with surprising items like chicken marsala and fish and chips.

➡ 1576 E. Oakland Park Blvd.
rdvbakery.com

CYTH & CO.

► Not your usual coffee house, the Cyth & Co. coffee bar menu showcases a range of caffeine-infused beverages that go above and beyond any old "cup of joe." Names like Kalita, Flash Chill and Nitro conjure up a java adventure for your tastebuds. The "& Co." part refers to everything from baked goods, cocktails and multiple syrup flavors to a comprehensive menu to excite any vegan while still catering to those who like a little meat in every bite.

➡ 3446 N.E. 12th Ave.
cythco.com



PHOTOGRAPHY: MIKAELA SCHIPANI

Lazy Lake

THE TINY, TUCKED-AWAY VILLAGE YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF

If you've passed through Wilton Manors, or you live there, it's likely at one time or another you've found yourself briefly in the tiny village of Lazy Lake.



But it's also possible you didn't notice you were there. The quaint village consists of "fourteen homes surrounded entirely by the City of Wilton Manors," Lazy Lake City Councilor Richard Willard says. There's no main square, no shops, restaurants or parks. Yet, it somehow retains an innate fascination and appeal, simply by continuing to exist and remain independent.

The village was incorporated in the 1950s and, according to Willard, remains the smallest municipality in the entire state of Florida, giving it a unique interest right off the bat. However, the residents of Lazy Lake are almost more keen to remain unnoticed, preferring anonymity in their tranquil, tiny and independent swath of paradise.

Remaining separate from Wilton Manors and other neighboring towns allows Lazy Lake to elect its own mayor and city council, positions held and almost rotated among the residents of those fourteen homes.

But Lazy Lake's greatest appeals might be its unique history and pristine beauty. Originally, in 1925, the creator of Wilton Manors quarried Lazy Lake, creating a pit that would fill with water and amount to little for years. However, in 1946, Charles Lindfors, a purchaser, partnered with Hal Ratliff, a contractor, to create Lazy Lake, a subdivision with privacy and serenity for all of its residents. The first three homes built belonged to the founders of the village.

In 1953, the small group of Lazy Lake residents denied a request to join Wilton Manors. They vehemently voted themselves an independent entity to prevent ever being reclaimed into another town. Lindfors was elected mayor and served the first eight terms in the village's mayoral history. The lush greenery and natural beauty of the neighborhood continued to attract new residents until the final count of fourteen homes was reached.

Over time, people have moved in and out. The town was even briefly put up for sale, but never sold. After it all, Lazy Lake remains both independent and a sanctuary to fewer than 30 residents. And they love it that way.

DEVELOPMENTS

Luxe Living

Two towns north of Fort Lauderdale maintain their small-town feel despite recent developments that have created more immersive, urban-centered living.



Wilton Manors has become a destination for people seeking to balance city-like entertainment options with Florida resort living and a strong sense of community. Neighboring Oakland Park is just a few years behind in its transformation from another nice suburb into a lively but family-friendly city.

WILTON STATION

◀ Just east of the Five Points downtown area, this gated 10-acre community provides luxury living and on-site retail. The condominium association offers 272 apartments and townhomes that range in size from 1,000 to 2,400 square feet along with resort-style amenities, like a waterfront boardwalk, 19-seat movie theater, waterfront access with kayak storage, full gym, community center perfect for hosting private parties, and heated pool that includes a faux beach, rock waterfall and private cabanas. Village Lane, a cobblestone road shaded on each side by mature trees, cuts through the center of the development, creating a quiet, walkable corridor that makes the complex feel like its own town. Each of the six buildings has a grand entrance on this street, with the warm earth tones, clay tiles and clean lines typical of Moorish revival design.



PHOTOGRAPHY: GEORGE LORTON

OAKLAND PARK SQUARE

By its 2026 completion, Oakland Park Square will be the new heart of the city. Current plans for the mixed-use development include 114 apartments, 21 live-work units, 26,000 square feet of ground-floor retail, underground parking, and a new city hall. The modern-style construction will sit across the street from Funky Buddha Brewery and Jaco Pastorius Park, the home for numerous festivals and events throughout the year. The project's investor is a renowned Florida real estate investment firm.

THE VILLAGE AT WILTON MANORS

▲ Sharp lines, cool gray stucco and angled metal roofs mark the 14 three-story townhomes at The Village, located just a block off bustling Wilton Drive Arts and Entertainment District. After plugging in your electric car in the two-vehicle garage, walk up to one of your covered private balconies to look over the landscaped courtyard and community pool. Or, fix dinner in the gourmet kitchen, pulling spices from the European-style tall cabinets as you set your mise en place on the quartz counters. The park across the street includes tennis courts and another just a block away includes a waterfront where you can slip into a kayak.

ON THE Marquee

Throughout the year, events put on by the community for the community celebrate diverse cultures and all are welcome to enjoy the festivities.



PHOTOGRAPHY: ERIC GREAVES

STONEWALL PARADE & STREET FESTIVAL

Wilton Manors

Every June brings Wilton Manors' Stonewall Parade & Street Festival, held in honor of the Stonewall Riots of 1969 and resulting demonstrations that demanded equal rights for LGBT+ people. Celebrate Pride Month at this free, family-friendly event complete with a parade, live performances on multiple stages, food and drink trucks, street vendors and more. Walk Wilton Drive to take in all the street festival has to offer, and check out the music at the main entertainment stage on N.E. 6th Avenue.

➡ stonewallpride.lgbt

SUMMER NIGHTS

Oakland Park

Spend the second Friday of each summer month in Jaco Pastorius park at Summer Nights. The evening is split into two parts: a 90-minute Culinary Art Showcase followed by a movie screening. The community center offers 100 seats for the showcase, which features a cooking demo plus tastings and drink pairings. The movie screening features films appropriate and fun for all ages. Summer Nights begin at 6 p.m. and go until 10 p.m. and are free to all. This regular event is the perfect opportunity to spend time with family and friends this summer.

➡ oaklandparkfl.gov/573/summer-nights

OKTOBERFEST

Oakland Park

Every October, all are welcome at Jaco Pastorius Park for Oktoberfest, a celebration of fall, beer and Germanic culture. Take in all Oktoberfest has to offer, such as traditional music, dancing and authentic food and beer. This two-day festival is fun for the whole family. Watch performances from the Schuhplattler folk dancers and enjoy music from a lineup of live bands. Engage in friendly competitions such as stein races, beer barrel races, and the cutest of all: the dachshund races.

➡ oaklandparkfl.gov/228/oktoberfest



THE GREAT Outdoors



▲ Richardson Historic Park and Nature Preserve

WILTON MANORS

Colohatchee Park

8.5-acre community park with mangrove preserve, dog play area, asphalt walking trail, outdoor fitness zone and pavilion with picnic tables.
1975 N.E. 15th Ave.

Hagen Park

Features modern community center, playground, sand volleyball court, basketball courts, pavilion, walking trail and tennis courts.
2020 Wilton Drive

Island City Park Preserve

Enjoy the elevated walkway, walking trail, fishing pier, kayak and canoe launch, picnic pavilions, deck, basketball court and playground. Community center with full kitchen, meeting room, sound system and large multi-purpose room.
823 N.E. 28th St.

M.E. DePalma Park

10-acre garden with more than 100 varieties of wildflowers, trees, shrubs and plants that attract butterflies and birds.
641 N.E. 20th Drive

Mickel Park

Athletic park featuring lighted softball field, concessions, walking trail, concert pavilion, sand volleyball court, fitness equipment stations, shade canopies and a playground.
2675 N.W. 7th Ave.

Richardson Historic Park and Nature Preserve

5.4-acre park with river boardwalk, boat dock, observation pier, pavilion, nature trails, natural habitat areas, and the Historical Manor and Carriage House.
1937 Wilton Drive

OAKLAND PARK

Art Park

Event-friendly green area with seating wall and art installations.
1110 N.E. 34th Court

Easterlin Park

Open for walking, jogging, biking, RV camping with full hookups, disc golf, picnicking, and fishing.
1000 N.W. 38th St.

Jaco Pastorius Park

Home to the city's signature events, with modern community center and walking track.
4000 N. Dixie Highway

Lakeside Sand Pine Preserve

Five-acre nature park with walkways and educational signs.
2950-2998 N.W. 27th Terrace

Oakland Bark

Dog park with agility training, large and small dog areas.
971 N.W. 38th St.

Royal Palm Park

Facilities for soccer, basketball, tennis, youth football, cheerleading, senior fitness activities and golf.
1701 N.W. 38th St.

Spiher Recreation Center and Greenleaf Park

Shaded playground, basketball and two tennis courts plus picnic tables.
1246 N.E. 37 St.

Stevens Field

Lighted complex with pavilion and multi-purpose athletic facilities.
3881 N.E. 6th Ave.

Veteran's Park

Observation decks, M60 tank display and Purple Heart Monument.
N.W. 21st Ave.

Wimberley Athletic Field

Lighted complex for multi-purpose athletics, plus playground and pavilion.
4000 N.E. Third Ave.

Resources

ATM BANKS

ATM ES Reliable

2176 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Oakland Park

Bank of America ATM (Drive-thru)

1601 E. Oakland Park Blvd., Oakland Park

Citibank ATM at CVS

1150 N.E. 26th St., Wilton Manors

PNC Bank ATM

999 E. Commercial Blvd., Oakland Park

Presto! ATM at Publix

100 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Wilton Manors

SunTrust ATM

1431 N.E. 26th St., Wilton Manors

FITNESS

Bodytek Fitness

HIIT group workout program.
2216 N. Dixie Highway,
Wilton Manors
954-661-6696
bodytekfitness.com

Crunch Fitness

State of the art facilities with innovative classes.
3500 N. Andrews Ave.,
Oakland Park
954-652-1221
crunch.com

Eli's Fitness Studio

One on one personal training.
4199 N. Dixie Highway,
Oakland Park
954-229-2348
elisfitness.com

Island City Fitness Center @ Hagen Park

Treadmills, elliptical machines, stationary bikes, and various weight machines.
2020 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors
954-390-2130

The ZOO Health Club

A variety of cardio machines and more.
1427 E. Commercial Blvd.,
Oakland Park
954-306-6735
zoogymfortlauderdale.com

MARKETS

Bravo Supermarkets

International neighborhood grocery store.
3400 N. Andrews Ave.,
Oakland Park
bravosupermarkets.com

British Depot

Imported foods from Great Britain.
1322 E. Commercial Blvd.,
Oakland Park
britishdepotoaklandpark.com

Monterrey Farmers Market

Fresh produce, meats and groceries.
4930 N. Dixie Highway,
Oakland Park

Publix Super Market at Central Shopping Center

Groceries, deli & bakery. In-store shopping, curbside pickup & delivery.
100 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Wilton Manors
publix.com

Publix Super Market at Five Points Plaza

Groceries, deli & bakery. In-store shopping, curbside pickup & delivery.
2633 N. Dixie Highway,
Wilton Manors
publix.com

Publix Super Market at Northridge Shopping Center

Groceries, deli & bakery. In-store shopping, curbside pickup & delivery.
1003 E. Commercial Blvd.,
Oakland Park
publix.com

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Greater Fort Lauderdale LGBT Chamber of Commerce

Creating partnerships with organizations that promote the LGBT+ business community.
2300 N.E. 7th Ave.,
Wilton Manors
954-523-3500
gogayfortlauderdale.com



*Manor Pines Convalescent
Center, Wilton Manors*



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**VISIT
LAUDERDALE**
EVERYONE UNDER THE SUN

