

Discover Park History

1842-1865

- James P. McMullen, better known as Captain Jim, came to Tampa in 1842. When he found a bit of shoreline where the trees were large and the shrubbery was abundant, he knew at once Bayview was where he wanted to make his home. James took a short hiatus to Georgia and returned back to this area with his family in 1848. Here, he found land suitable for growing citrus. Their home was built in 1850 after finding the perfect parcel of land and is still standing in Pinellas County today.
- In 1861, the population of this area had grown to such an extent that there were enough men available to form a company of 100 men to help fight in the Civil War.



Workers in the citrus groves of Captain James P. McMullen

1865-1880

- In 1865, the first schoolhouse in Bayview was erected, but was later replaced in 1880, with a small log building.
- Soon after the Civil War, Captain Jim established the settlement of Bayview and by 1874, Bayview had officially become a flourishing town with two stores, a wharf allowing trade to take place, and a post office. Mail came across the bay by boat to this post office that served all of Pinellas County.



McMullen-Coachman Log Cabin, built around 1852

1880-1890

- In 1880, to ease difficulty of traveling through this area, a bridge was built across Alligator Creek. Also during that time, a road known today as Haines Road, was constructed. It was the first road in Pinellas County.
- Dr. Bethel McMullen and Dan C. McMullen, the oldest sons of James P. McMullen, built the first homes in Bayview.

1890-present

- From 1890, until it was incorporated into the City of Clearwater, Bayview grew into a prosperous town.
- In 2005, this park was named for one of Clearwater's first pioneers, Myron A. Smith, who helped to create the Courtney Campbell Causeway and preserve the oak hammock of Bayview.



The seven McMullen brothers:
back row (L-R) John Fain, David, Malcolm,
front row (L-R) William, Thomas Fain, James, and Daniel



Homestead of Daniel McMullen and groves of grapefruit and oranges