

JTHS-MIAMI, a Division of the MIAMI Association of REALTORS®

# America's pastime powers Palm Beach: The dual impact of Spring Training on culture

Every spring, Palm Beach County is animated not just by the return of warmer weather but by a deeply rooted American tradition: Major League Baseball Spring Training. This event is far more than a series of preseason games; it's a celebration of Americana, drawing fans from across the nation and delivering a significant boost to Florida's economy, tourism, and community spirit.

The Treasure Coast transforms into a baseball mecca, hosting the St. Louis Cardinals, Miami Marlins, Washington Nationals, and Houston Astros, with the New York Mets stationed in nearby Port St. Lucie. This assembly sparks

an estimated \$70 million economic windfall, demonstrating the profound connection between baseball, community, and American culture.

Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter and the \$150 million Ballpark of the Palm Beaches, inaugurated in 2017, are central to the county's status as a premier sports destination. Beyond Spring Training, these venues enhance the community through short-term vacation rentals, retail, dining, and real estate investments in Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie Counties.

The Ballpark of the Palm Beaches, beyond its \$125 million annual economic impact, features a 6,500-seat stadium

and serves as a year-round community hub with amenities such as a walking trail, park, playground, and basketball courts. The stadiums are also venues for minor league games, amateur baseball tournaments, concerts, festivals, charity fundraisers, and corporate events, underscoring their role in fostering community engagement and spirit.

Baseball Spring Training, emblematic of the sport's lasting American legacy, not only stimulates economic growth but also strengthens communal ties and tradition. This annual celebration, coupled with the diverse events hosted at local stadiums, showcases sports' power to unite, celebrating

cultural heritage and bolstering community well-being – a cherished ritual that significantly enriches Palm Beach County's social and economic landscape.

**Courtney Smitheman**  
2024 JTHS-MIAMI President  
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■ **Conventional loan:** A fixed-rate, fixed-term mortgage loan not obtained under a government-insured program.

■ **Fixed-rate mortgage:** A mortgage whose interest rate does not change during the life of the loan.

■ **Index:** A statistic that indicates current economic or financial conditions. Adjustable-rate mortgages are based on the movement of a specific independent index.

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