

TICKET EDITOR: Great places to walk in Sarasota-Bradenton for safe distancing, sanity during coronavirus pandemic



🛒 BUY PHOTO

▲ HIDE CAPTION

The "Embracing Our Differences" exhibit is now on display at Bayfront Park in Sarasota. The exhibit will run through April. [Herald-Tribune archive]

By [Wade Tatangelo](#)
Entertainment Editor

Posted at 8:02 AM

Wade Tatangelo on his favorite local places to walk and more during COVID-19 disaster.

I'm all about social distancing, but I have to have my daily walk.

Which means traversing the 1.5-mile length of **Bradenton Riverwalk** each evening, perhaps stopping by **Pier 22 to pick up dinner or groceries** or maybe **Corwin's** for ice cream.

Or perhaps both. I am not dieting these days.

Another walk I highly recommend is the one I used to take when on break while working at our office in downtown Sarasota, before COVID-19 flipped the world upside down and started shaking it.

Bayfront Park is always a beautiful destination, but extra charming when hosting the Embracing Our Differences outdoor art exhibit, which has been extended through April.

“We’re thrilled that the exhibit will remain open to the public for the entire month of April,” said Sarah Wertheimer, in a statement. “This is one of the few arts and cultural activities people can safely enjoy during these difficult times of COVID-19. We offer our heartfelt gratitude to the city of Sarasota and to local government for their support and generosity to allow us to keep the exhibit open.”

If you have yet to visit **Embracing Our Differences**, it’s an annual, juried international outdoor art exhibition consisting of 50 billboard-sized works of art, each accompanied by an inspirational quote. Around since 2004, the response to the call for artwork and inspirational quotes was record-breaking this year, with 16,118 entries from 127 countries and 50 states. Students from nearly 400 schools around the world submitted artwork or quotes to the juried exhibit.

Practice social distancing while experiencing Embracing Our Differences, perhaps with a picnic of takeout food from nearby **O’Leary’s Tiki Bar & Grill** or **Marina Jack**.

And there’s one more walk I have to mention. One that I love, even if I don’t get to visit as often as others.

While **Nathan Benderson Park** has been forced to cancel various events and programs, it remains open for “casual use only,” which includes walks on paved and shell trails as well as lakes still open for fishing; electric motors only (gas motors must be tipped up, out of the water) and boaters must watch for any rowing activity and stay out of pattern. Again, social distancing is required and groups must be no larger than 10 people.

And after a walk around the lake at Nathan Benderson Park, consider stopping by one of the restaurants at **The Mall at UTC**, which are offering various specials for takeout and more. Participating restaurants include Brio Tuscan Grille, Kona Grill, Seasons 52, The Capital Grille and The Cheesecake Factory. Info: **mallatutc.com/restaurants**

So, please, remain safe and stay sane with some refreshing socially distanced walks, and a great meal made by a local restaurant.

Wade Tatangelo is the Herald-Tribune's entertainment editor, overseeing the weekly Ticket and Food & Wine publications. Email him at [**wade.tatangelo@heraldtribune.com**](mailto:wade.tatangelo@heraldtribune.com). You can also follow him on [**Facebook**](#), [**Twitter**](#) or [**Instagram**](#).