

Small City Amphitheaters: *Edu-tainment al fresco.*

The Greeks.

Amphitheaters have been with us for a long time; perhaps since the beginning of human existence. Formal amphitheaters go back at least to the Greeks around 600 B.C. These ancient amphitheaters, like modern ones, held up to 15,000 people.

Contemporary capacities seem to fall into two ranges: 5,000 or 20,000 people with a combination of fixed and flexible seating. Costs for the 5,000 seat versions range upwards to a million dollars.

Modern Amphitheaters and Bandshells.

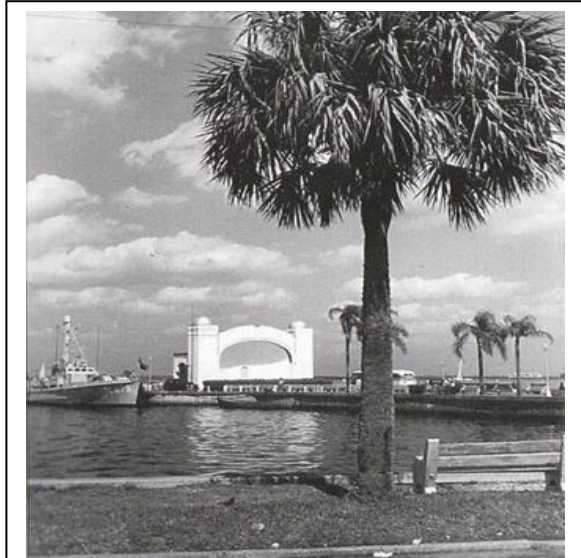
The 21st century amphitheaters have a variety of sizes, shapes and purposes; some are grassy mounds with a stage; others are magnificent structures. Either way, they are great downtown assets. Some, like the historic Daytona Beach Band Shell remain popular; some, like the Sanford Bandshell, have passed.

Outdoor Main Street Event Centers.

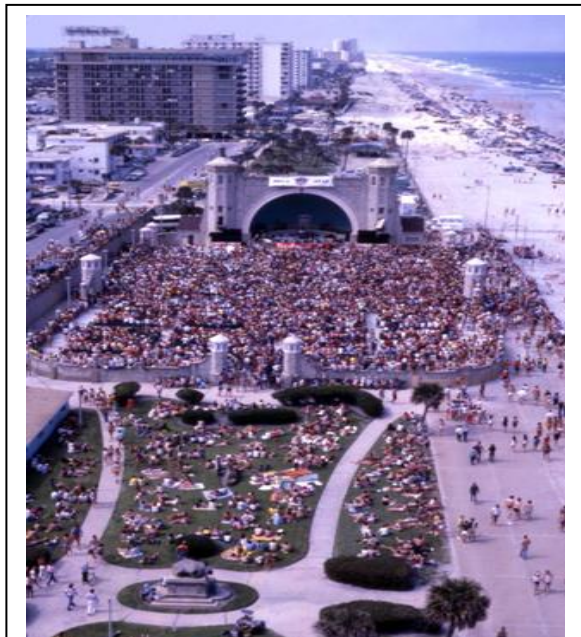
Modern amphitheaters are entertainment, educational, cultural and political venues.

- **Small and Informal.** The outdoor theaters in Oviedo FL and Joucas FR accommodate scheduled and spontaneous performances, amateur productions and community events. They are inexpensive, easy to site, manageable by the city and readily useful.
- **Small and Formal.** With capacities for 5,000 or so people, these facilities need a specific program to justify the cost of professional [city] management and technology.

- **Large and Professional.** Big amphitheaters are serious business. Expensive and hard to site, they require professional management to program large concerts, productions and many revenue producing events.



The Historic Sanford Bandshell [demolished]

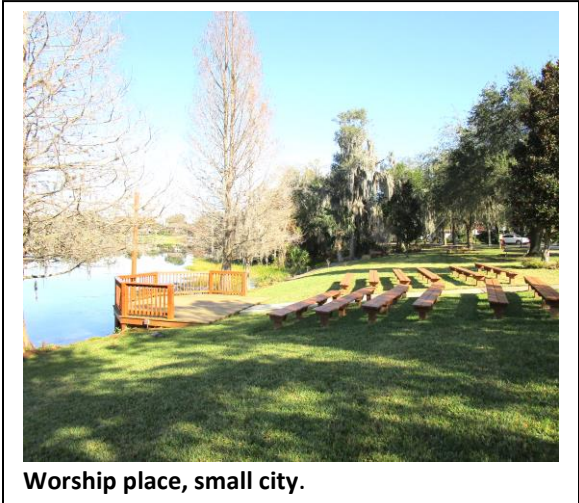


Daytona Beach, FL

Amphitheaters are wonderful community assets for small cities and towns. They accommodate a wide variety of activities from musical performances to lectures to outdoor classes to recitals of the local dance company to town celebrations. They are inexpensive, they are small and flexible to locate and guests can bring their own seats and refreshments. Every town should have one.



Oviedo, population 34,000, mini-bandshell.



Worship place, small city.



A simple stage, open air entertainment.



Jacksonville Beach, pop. 22,000, center of town.



Temporary stage, small city festival.



Attached to the community center.

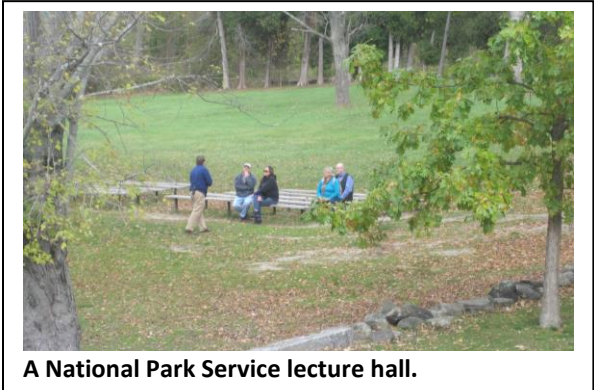
Selected Amphitheatres in Florida

<u>City</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Stage Type</u>	<u>Capacity</u>
Crystal River	Rock Crusher Canyon Amphitheater		5,000
Daytona Beach	Daytona Beach Bandshell	Shell	4,500
Orlando	Hollywood Hills Amphitheater – Walt Disney World Resort		10,000
Panama City Beach	Aaron Bessant Park Amphitheater		
Pensacola	Hunter Amphitheater at the Pensacola Maritime Park		5,000
Saint Augustine	St. Augustine Amphitheatre	Tent	4,100
Tampa	MidFlorida Credit Union Amphitheatre		20,000
West Palm Beach	Cruzan Amphitheatre	Roof only	19,000

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_contemporary_amphitheatres



Joucas FR. village center.



A National Park Service lecture hall.



Eustis, population 19,000, Downtown Lakefront Park and Amphitheater at the “foot” of main street.



25 JUNE, 2015 - 04:10 BRYAN HILL

Ancient Greek Theater and the Monumental Amphitheaters in Honor of Dionysus

To the Ancient Greeks, theater was a form of entertainment taken very seriously. People would come from all across the Greek world to attend the popular theaters held in open air amphitheaters. In their glory days, some amphitheaters could hold crowds of up to 15,000 people, and some were so acoustically precise that a coin dropped at the center of the performance circle could be heard perfectly in the back row. The theater was a place where politics, religion, the human condition, popular figures, and legends were all discussed and performed with great enthusiasm.

The origin of the dramatic arts in Greece can be found in Athens, where ancient hymns were sung in honor of their gods. These hymns were later adapted into choral processions where participants would dress up in costumes and masks. Eventually, certain members of the chorus evolved to take special roles within the procession, but they were not yet actors in the way we understand the term today. That development would come in the 6th century B.C., when the tyrant Pisistratus, who, at the time, ruled the city of Athens, established a series of public festivals.

Source: <http://www.ancient-origins.net/ancient-places-europe/ancient-greek-theater-and-monumental-amphitheaters-honor-dionysus-003292>