



## THE SANDHILL CRANES OF WESTON REGIONAL PARK

Two of Weston's newest "residents" are located in the Weston Regional Park.

They are **Florida Sandhill Cranes**

Some important information to note about these very unique wild birds:

- They are protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and **it is illegal to feed them.**
- It is estimated that there are only about 5000 remaining.
- These large birds can be found in both rural and urban areas.
- The Florida Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis pratensis*) is a subspecies of the North American Sandhill Crane. Florida Sandhill Cranes are year round residents where as the North American Sandhill Cranes will migrate here for the winter.
- These cranes are omnivorous and will eat things like seeds, worms, insects, lizards, crayfish and mice.
- Sandhill Cranes will normally mate for life (monogamous) and will lay one or two eggs on their nest, which is often on the waters edge for protection from predators.



**A handsome couple** – Florida Sandhill Cranes which mate for life.

Because they mate for life they can be a bit protective. During mating season they can be aggressive if they perceive a threat of someone moving in on their mate.

**Another reason Weston is so special - Please help to maintain a healthy and respectful relationship with nature's inhabitants.**

*For more information on wildlife in Weston, please visit:*

<http://www.westonfl.org/Departments/Landscaping/Wildlife.aspx>