

# HISTORY AND NATURE

The park was established in 1982 with land acquired by Florida's Conservation and Recreational Lands program. Now 2,421 acres on the northern third of the island of Key Largo, the park was named for Dagny Johnson, a local environmental activist, approximately one year before her death in 2003. Throughout the 1970s, '80s and '90s, Johnson led the Upper Keys Citizens Association, the Izaak Walton League and other environmental organizations that fought to stop the development that was planned for much of north Key Largo.

Preservation of onshore communities was not the only purpose for protecting north Key Largo. These environmental activists also wanted to protect the coral reefs offshore from the adverse impacts of land development.

North Key Largo is best known for its botanical attributes. The diversity of trees per acre is as high as it is anywhere in the United States. More than 80 species are found in the park; more tree species than many states can claim.

The park contains the largest remaining contiguous tracts of subtropical West Indian hardwood hammock still found in the continental United States. Once, a more common habitat type in the Florida Keys and the southern tip of Florida's peninsula, this plant community developed after sea level exposed the ancient coral reefs leaving the land dry. Seeds were transported by wind, wave action and birds (most notably the white-crowned pigeon) migrating from the Caribbean and West Indies. Much of the hardwood hammock in the Keys has been lost to development.



# Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park

County Road 905, Mile Marker 106  
Key Largo, FL 33037  
305-451-1202

[FloridaStateParks.org/DagnyJohnson](http://FloridaStateParks.org/DagnyJohnson)

## PARK GUIDELINES

- Hours are 8:00 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is \$2.50.
- Collection, destruction or disturbance of plants, animals or park property is prohibited.
- Motorized vehicles are prohibited inside the park. Park in designated areas.
- Visitors are required to stay on paved roadways and designated trails to minimize natural resource damage.
- Access beyond the marked trail requires a backcountry permit. Contact the park office for details.
- Pets are permitted on the nature trail. Pets must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet and well-behaved at all times. Please do not leave your pet unattended in parked vehicles at any time.
- Please pack out your trash.
- Alcohol, fireworks and hunting are prohibited.
- Become a volunteer. Inquire at the ranger station.
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing equal access to all facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact staff at any ranger station or call 850-245-3076 (Voice) or 711 (Florida Relay Service).



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# DAGNY JOHNSON KEY LARGO HAMMOCK BOTANICAL STATE PARK

*Savor this tropical paradise with miles of shady trails through lush Florida landscape*



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# EXPERIENCES AND AMENITIES

Stroll through a tropical forest and discover the quiet that nature brings at Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park. Many visitors to Key Largo enjoy discovering the coral reefs, but often miss this gem.

Once slated for development, the park contains the largest tract of West Indian tropical hardwood hammock in the United States and is home to 84 protected species of plants and animals, including wild cotton, mahogany mistletoe, the Key Largo woodrat, the Schaus' swallowtail butterfly, semaphore cactus and the American crocodile.

A **self-guided nature trail** has signage providing botanical information. Check with the park office for availability of **ranger-guided tours** along the half-mile wooded boulevard. In the main area of the park, the trail is paved and accessible to pedestrians, bicycles and wheelchairs. Visitors may explore additional miles of trails by obtaining a backcountry permit at nearby John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park.

**Birding** is a popular activity as resident and migratory species may be observed throughout the year, including the white-crowned pigeon, white-eyed vireo, black-whiskered vireo, yellow-billed cuckoo, numerous warblers, an occasional Bahama mockingbird, La Sagra's flycatcher and smooth-billed Ani.

**Butterfly-watching** is another popular pastime. The park features an incredible diversity of species including the Schaus' swallowtail, silver-banded hairstreak, and both hammock and mangrove skippers. Rare tree snails feed on the lichens and bark of the tropical trees, and are easily observed.

**Picnic facilities** are available for a leisurely lunch in the park. Please pack out your trash.

## DIRECTIONS

Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park is located on the east side of County Road 905, approximately one-quarter mile north of its intersection with U.S. Highway 1 at Mile Marker 106.



# Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park

- Bicycling
- Birding
- Hiking
- Parking
- Picnicking
- Restrooms
- Wildlife Viewing



Full Loop - 2.1 Miles  
Half Loop - 1.0 Miles