

HISTORY

The beauty of the river has drawn humans to its banks for centuries. As early as 500 BC, the river was home to the Tequesta Indians who camped along the river's shore. The estuary provided them with a rich and varied diet. When Spaniards first visited the area they encountered bear, deer, panther, bobcat, wolves, alligators, manatee and numerous birds and small animals.

In 1841, the river was named Big Snake Creek and was part of the route used by Federal troops in the Second Seminole War to travel south from Loxahatchee. In 1891, Captain William Hawkins Fulford explored the river and settled further inland in the area known today as North Miami Beach.

Once "discovered," other settlers ventured north from Miami and by the 1890s, pineapple and vegetable farms had sprung up along the river in the newly formed town of Ojus. The river linked the Everglades with Biscayne Bay. An Indian trading post was established at what is now Greynolds Park. In 1922, Big Snake Creek was renamed the Oleta River.

The historic Blue Marlin Fish House Restaurant was established in 1938 as a commercial fishing operation and evolved into a smokehouse until the 1990s.



OLETA RIVER STATE PARK

3400 N. E. 163rd Street
North Miami, Florida 33160
305-919-1846

PARK GUIDELINES

- Hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is required.
- All plants, animals and park property are protected. Collection, destruction or disturbance is prohibited.
- Pets are not allowed on the beach. Where allowed, pets must be kept on a hand-held leash no longer than six feet and well-behaved at all times.
- Fishing, boating, swimming and fires are allowed in designate areas only. A Florida fishing license may be required.
- Alcohol, fireworks and hunting are prohibited.
- To become a volunteer, inquire at the ranger station.
- For information about Friends of Oleta River State Park, visit FriendsOfOletaRiverStatePark.org.
- For cabin information, contact Reserve America at 800-326-3521 or visit ReserveAmerica.com.
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing all visitors equal access to facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact the administrative office at any ranger station or call 850-245-3076 (Voice) or 711 (Florida Relay Service).

FloridaStateParks.org

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...the Real FloridaSM

**OLETA RIVER
STATE PARK**

*Return to nature . . .
leave the city behind*

Oleta River State Park

EXPERIENCES AND AMENITIES

Situated along the scenic Oleta River and Biscayne Bay, Oleta River State Park offers visitors the perfect setting for doing everything from mountain biking and kayaking, to absolutely nothing at all! The 1,033-acre park is one of the largest urban parks in South Florida and is located within minutes of the hustle and bustle of North Miami Beach.

Because Miami is flat and coastal, most people are surprised to learn that the park is home to some of the best **mountain bike trails** in Florida, with 15 miles of trails for novice and experienced riders. Along twisting and turning trails, riders see a variety of birds and animals. **Walkers** and **joggers** enjoy three miles of paved trails that offer scenic views of the waterways through mangrove forests.

Dozens of **picnic tables** and **grills** are available on first-come-first-served basis. Nine covered pavilions are available by reservation. Please contact the office for availability, fees and reservations for the picnic pavilions. A **playground** is available for children.

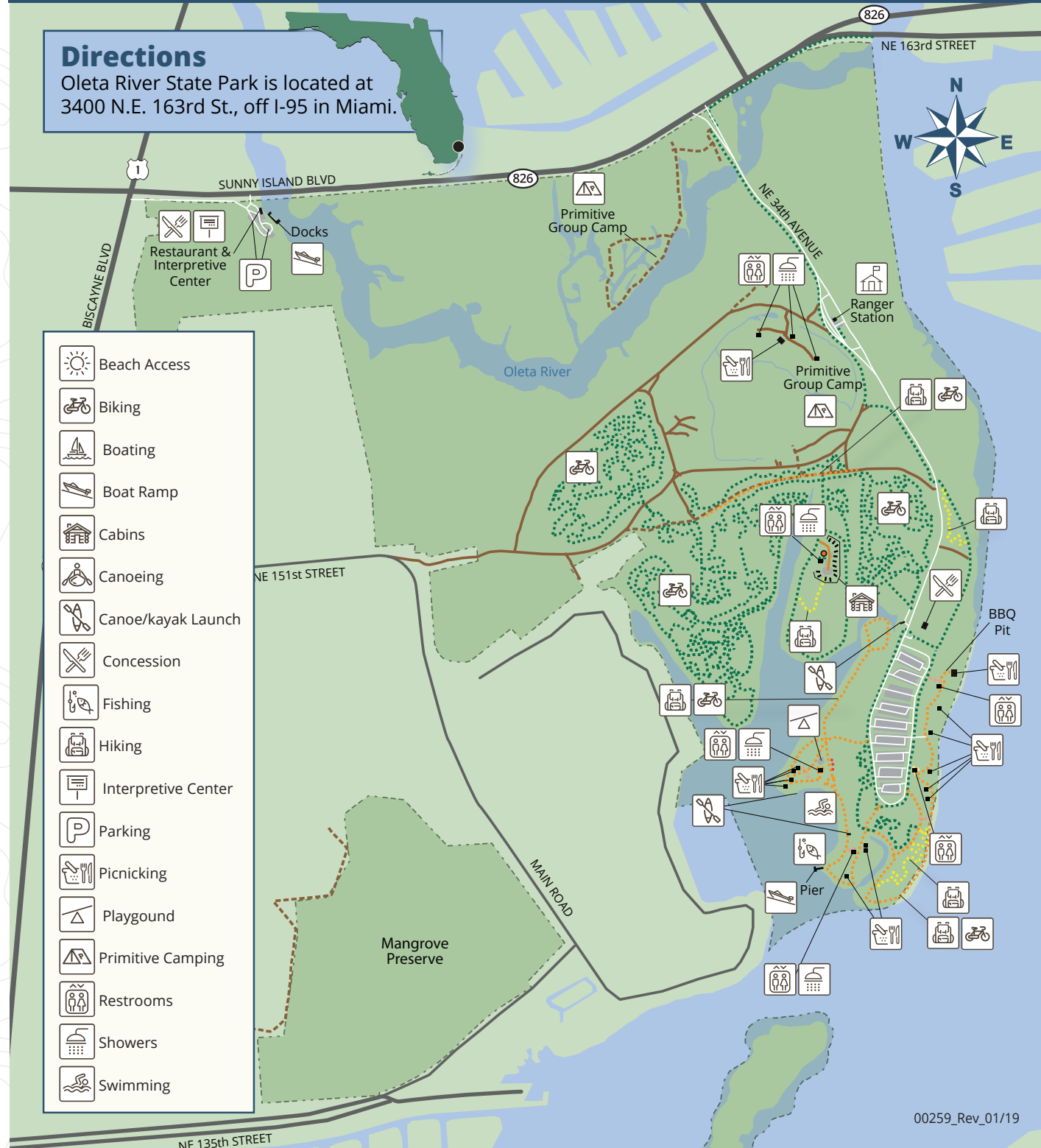
Visitors can **swim** in the lagoon or **fish** from the pier or along the shore. Dolphins and manatees are frequently seen by **kayakers**. The Blue Moon Outdoor Center rents canoes, kayaks, stand-up paddle boards and bicycles. Snack items and sundries are available.

Try the smoked fish, sandwiches and wraps at the **Blue Marlin Fish House Restaurant**. An Interpretive Center features displays about the Oleta River ecosystem and local history. For overnight visits, the park has rustic, air-conditioned **cabins** and a **youth campground** for organized groups. While there are no kitchens or bathrooms in the cabins, a restroom, with hot showers, is centrally located.



Directions

Oleta River State Park is located at 3400 N.E. 163rd St., off I-95 in Miami.



- Beach Access
- Biking
- Boating
- Boat Ramp
- Cabins
- Canoeing
- Canoe/kayak Launch
- Concession
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Interpretive Center
- Parking
- Picnicking
- Playground
- Primitive Camping
- Restrooms
- Showers
- Swimming