

Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park was established in 1982 with land acquired under Florida's Conservation and Recreational Lands Program. It was named for Dagny Johnson, a local environmental activist, approximately one year before her death in 2003.

The park now includes nearly 2,400 acres on the northern third of the island of Key Largo. Once slated to become a condominium development, it was set aside to preserve its unique ecosystems, as well as the adjacent John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park and Crocodile Lake Wildlife Refuge.

Once a dominant habitat type in the Florida Keys and southern tip of Florida's peninsula, this area has been designated by the State as an "Area of Critical Concern." Tropical hardwood hammocks form a low canopy beneath which is a dense, sometimes impenetrable tangle of shrubs and vines. Hidden in the hammocks are some of Florida's rarest and most beautiful animal life. It is home to 84 protected species of plants and animals, including some of the rarest in the United States: the Schaus' swallowtail butterfly, the Key Largo woodrat, and mahogany mistletoe.



Key Largo Woodrat

The park contains the largest remaining fragments of rockland hammock in the continental United States. The tropical hardwood hammock is a self-maintaining community that usually remains untouched by fire or flood.

These tiny "islands" of hammock support over 20 species of broad-leafed trees, shrubs, and vines, most of which are native to the West Indies. This West Indian plant community was originally established largely by migratory birds. Northbound migrant songbirds, having fed on the fruits of trees and shrubs in the Bahamas, Greater Antilles and Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico, often carry seeds in their digestive tract.

Many tropical species, including the white-crowned pigeon, mangrove cuckoo and black-whiskered vireo may be seen here. Tropical birds, including the thick-billed vireo and La Sagra's flycatcher, are frequently reported in the park.

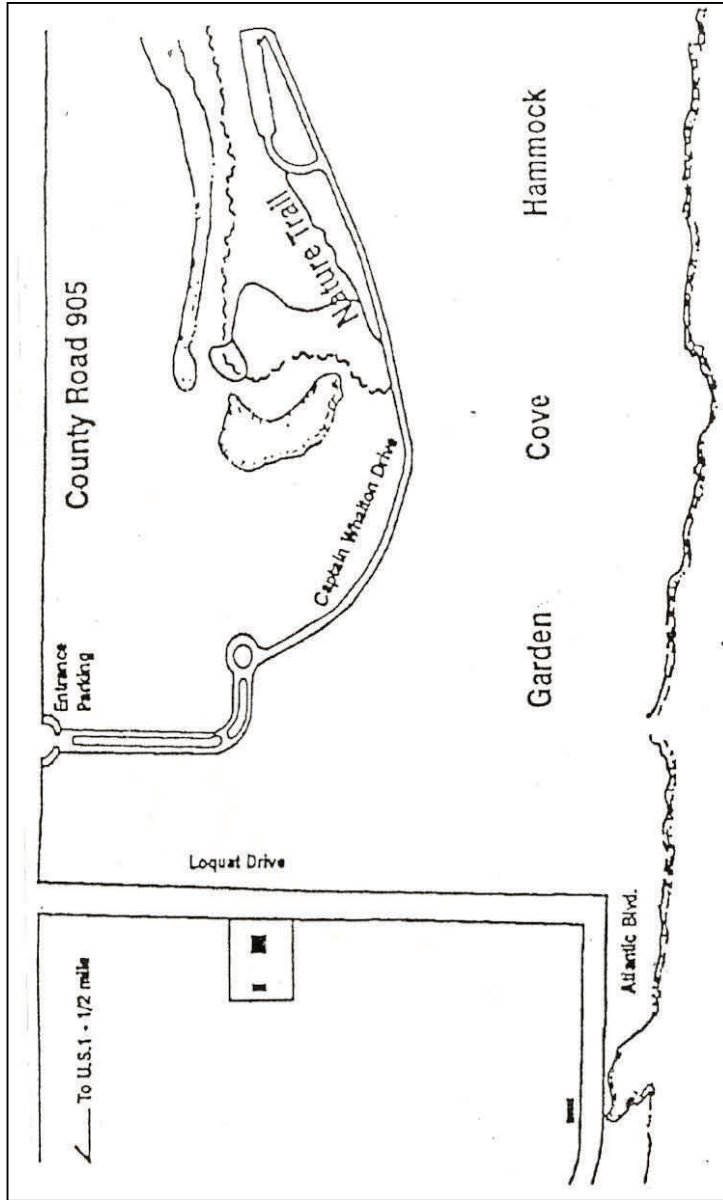


Julia Butterfly

Butterfly-watching has rapidly grown in popularity since the mid-1990s. 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 can be easily observed by park visitors.

Park Guidelines

- The park is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to sunset.
- Motorized vehicles are prohibited.
- Visitors are required to stay on paved roadways and the designated trail to minimize natural resource damage.
- Access beyond the marked trail requires a backcountry permit. Please contact the park office for details.
- All plant and animal life is protected and collecting is strictly prohibited.
- In order to enjoy your visit, you should wear supportive shoes. The use of an insect repellent may also be advisable, especially during the May-November rainy season.
- Pets are welcome on the nature trail but must be well-behaved and kept on a six-foot, hand-held leash at all times. Please do not leave your pet unattended in parked vehicles at any time.
- Florida State Parks are in various stages of accessibility and working to improve access to services and facilities. Should you need assistance to enable your full participation, please contact the park office as soon as possible. Sometimes as many as ten business days may be needed to schedule a particular accommodation.



Directions:

The main entrance, and marked nature trail at Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park, is located on Monroe County Road 905, approximately one-half mile north of CR 905's intersection with U.S. Highway 1 at Mile Marker 106.

Florida State Parks
 Department of Environmental Protection
 Division of Recreation and Parks

Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park
 P.O. Box 487
 Key Largo, FL 33037

Park Administrative Office located at:
 John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park
 Mile Marker 102.5 Oceanside
 Overseas Highway (U.S. 1)
 Key Largo, FL 33037
 (305) 451-1202

You Can Help!

For hands-on involvement, ask park staff about becoming a Volunteer.

The collection, destruction or disturbance of plants, animals or park property is prohibited. For your protection, and that of your natural heritage, please stay on designated trails and obey all park signs. Thank you.

For more information, please go to the website www.FloridaStateParks.org/KeyLargoHammock or call (305) 451-1202

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 the park at (305) 451-1202.

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Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park



White-crowned pigeon



Poisonwood



FLORIDA State Parks
...the Real Florida

