

History & Nature

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.

Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

Oleta River State Park

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

FloridaStateParks.org

Park Guidelines

- Hours are 8:00 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is required.
- The collection, destruction or disturbance of plants, animals or park property is prohibited.
- Pets are not permitted in cabins or on the beach. Where permitted, pets must be kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet and well behaved at all times.
- Fishing, boating, swimming and fires are allowed in designated areas only. A Florida fishing license may be required.
- Alcohol, fireworks and hunting are prohibited.
- Become a volunteer. Inquire at the ranger station.
- For information about Oleta River Adventure Association, visit www.ora.info.
- For cabin information, contact Reserve America at (800) 326-3521 or (866) I CAMP FL or TDD (888) 433-0287 or visit ReserveAmerica.com.
- 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 ranger station.

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Oleta River
State Park

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Florida State Parks - "America's First Two-Time Winner"



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Real Fun in ...the Real FloridaSM

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 one 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. Bicycle helmets are available for loan. **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, along with nine covered picnic pavilions, on first-come-first-served basis or rented by reservation. 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 and bicycles. Snack items and sundries are also available.

Try the smoked fish, sandwiches and wraps at the **Blue Marlin Fish House Restaurant**. Its 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.

