

## History & Nature

In 1893, Hugh Taylor Birch, a Chicago attorney, came to South Florida in search of a secluded area for his home. He settled in a small village called Fort Lauderdale that included a store, a few houses and the remains of the old Ft. Lauderdale Army Post.

Purchasing ocean-front property for about a dollar per acre, he eventually owned a three-and-a-half mile stretch of land along the beach. In 1940, at age 90, he built his Art Deco-style home here. He called his 180-acre estate *Terramar* or "land to the sea."

Wishing to preserve his subtropical paradise from the development springing up around it, Birch donated his estate for use as a public park. On December 31, 1941, the Florida Board of Forestry and Parks obtained title to the property that became Hugh Taylor Birch State Park. It is now an island of trees and greenery in the middle of urban Fort Lauderdale. The park is located on a barrier island between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway.

Today, the park is one of the most unique features in Fort Lauderdale. It is frequently compared to Central Park in New York as both are seen as an island of peaceful green vegetation in the midst of a bustling city.



Photo: Gary H. Busch

### Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

#### Hugh Taylor Birch State Park

3109 East Sunrise Boulevard  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304  
(954) 564-4521

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

### Park Guidelines

- Hours are 8 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 permitted in designated areas only. Pets must be kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet and well behaved at all times.
- A Florida fishing license may be required.
- Fireworks and hunting are prohibited.
- Alcoholic beverage consumption is allowed in designated areas only.
- Become a volunteer. Inquire at the ranger station.
- Call the park to inquire about joining Friends of Birch State Park, a non-profit Citizen Support Organization.
- Contact the park for information about pavilion rental or group/youth campground facilities.
- 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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Florida state park



**FLORIDA**  
State Parks  
*...the Real Florida*<sup>SM</sup>



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## Hugh Taylor Birch State Park

Southeast  
Florida

*Paradise in urban Fort Lauderdale*



Photo: Mark Foley



*...the Real Florida*<sup>SM</sup>

*National Gold Medal Winner*

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

## Real Fun in ...the Real Florida<sup>SM</sup>

A short walk from beachside shops and condominiums, Hugh Taylor Birch State Park is an oasis of tropical hammocks and a gift from the late attorney Hugh Taylor Birch. His former estate preserves four distinct natural communities nestled between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway.

Visitors can rent a **canoe** and paddle along a mile-long freshwater lagoon to see turtles and ducks. Small sections of the mangroves provide habitat for herons, wading birds, raccoons, gray squirrels and marsh rabbits. The seawall along the Intracoastal Waterway offers **fishing**.

Nature lovers can **hike** two short trails and learn about local plants and wildlife. The park provides safe harbor to gopher tortoise and gray fox.

**Bicyclists** and **skaters** glide along the paved park drive.

Visitors can access the **beach** via the pedestrian tunnel under A1A. **Picnic** areas overlook the Intracoastal Waterway. Pavilions with water and electricity can be rented for family gatherings. Two **playgrounds** are available.

Birch's 2-story home, a combination of Spanish and Art Deco architecture serves as the **Terramar Visitor Center**. It features exhibits of the natural and cultural history of the park and South Florida. Visitors can watch a short video about the park.

Throughout the year, the park is also home to **Camp Live Oak**, an exciting environmental day camp for children ages 5 to 13.

A **group/youth campground** for up to 68 people is available to organized groups. It features six **cabins**, a meeting/dining room and fully equipped kitchen. Reservations are required.



### Directions

Hugh Taylor Birch State Park is located on East Sunrise Blvd. in Fort Lauderdale, off A1A.