

History & Nature

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings came to rural Cross Creek in 1928 to find a home and a place to write. "I do not know how any one can live without some small place of enchantment to turn to," she later wrote in Cross Creek. Rawlings found that place on her small Florida farmstead and orange grove, and in the nearby wilderness bordered by lakes and Cross Creek. Her experiences were woven into the classic stories that continue to inspire others to live in harmony with the land.

Rawlings' cracker farmhouse has original furnishings and is interpreted by park staff in 1930s clothing. Near the house are ornamental plants of the varieties Rawlings cultivated and a seasonal kitchen garden with herbs, flowers and vegetables. A citrus grove of orange, grapefruit and tangerine trees surrounds the house. At the edge of the farm yard is the tenant house, a reminder of the many who worked the land and whose stories she told.

In the magic of the grove, Rawlings found her greatest pleasure: "Enchantment lies in different things for each of us. For me, it is in this: to step out of the bright sunlight into the shade of orange trees; to walk under the arched canopy of their jadelike leaves; to see the long aisles of lichened trunks stretch ahead in a geometric rhythm; to feel the mystery of a seclusion that yet has shafts of light striking through it. This is the essence of an ancient and secret magic."



Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park

18700 S. County Road 325
Cross Creek, FL 32640
(352) 466-3672

FloridaStateParks.org

Park Guidelines

- Hours are 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is required.
- The farm yard and trails are open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The farmhouse can be easily viewed from the outside. For an additional fee, guided walks are given Thursday through Sunday at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and each hour from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tours are not offered on Thanksgiving or Christmas. Tours are not offered during August and September.
- All plants, animals and park property are protected.
- Pets must be kept on a hand-held leash no longer than 6 feet and well behaved at all times.
- Become a volunteer. Ask any park ranger.
- 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**



**Marjorie Kinnan
Rawlings
Historic State Park**
Northeast
Florida

An inspirational literary landmark



*...the Real Florida*SM

National Gold Medal Winner

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



**FLORIDA
State Parks**
*...the Real Florida*SM



Created on 3/08

Real Fun in ...the Real FloridaSM

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park is the homestead where visitors can experience the farm life and Florida landscape that inspired Rawlings to write *Cross Creek* and the Pulitzer-prize winning book, *The Yearling*. In 2006, the park was designated a National Historic Landmark.

Walk through the grove and **visit** the farm yard to experience rural life as Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings did in the 1930s. **Discover** the seasonal life of the garden and fruit trees. Take the **guided tour** inside the farmhouse to see and hear more about Rawlings' experiences and life at Cross Creek. **Explore** the two trails that lead from the farm yard into the wooded lands surrounding the farm. In the right season, bald eagles, sand hill cranes or deer can be seen. Look for the footprints of the many smaller creatures that inhabit the area.

Cross Creek ends with these words: "It seems to me that the earth may be borrowed but not bought. It may be used but not owned. It gives itself in response to love and tending, offers its seasonal flowering and fruiting. But we are tenants and not possessors, lovers and not masters. Cross Creek belongs to the wind and the rain, to the sun and the seasons, to the secrecy of seed, and beyond all, to time."

Adjacent to the park are a **county boat ramp** and **picnic area**. From here, visitors can explore the lakes and creek that are featured in Rawlings'



Directions

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park is located in Cross Creek, southwest of Gainesville, on County Road 325.

