

History & Nature

Myakka River State Park covers approximately 58 square miles. Twelve miles of Florida's "Wild and Scenic" Myakka River twines through a mosaic of pinelands, prairies and shady hammocks, bejeweled with thousands of assorted wetlands. Add two sand-bottomed shallow lakes and the mixture of habitats is a perfect recipe for diversity of birds and other wildlife. The Florida dry prairie was once widely distributed, but only remnant patches of this rare, fire-dependent community remain, making it one of America's most endangered habitats. There are 7,500 acres designated as a wilderness preserve.

Many of the facilities at Myakka River State Park were built in the 1930s by the men of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The five historic log cabins were constructed with hand-hewn pine and oak, and with the trunks of cabbage palms, and then chinked with tar and sawdust. Modern conveniences such as air conditioning, stove, refrigerator and bathroom with shower have been added over the years. One cabin has been modified to accommodate persons with limited mobility.

The main park drive winds through oak and palm hammocks which opens to give a view of grassy marshes, sloughs and Upper Myakka Lake.



Park Guidelines

- Hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is required.
- Plants, animals and park property are protected.
- 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.

Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection Division of Recreation and Parks

Myakka River State Park

13208 State Road 72
Sarasota, FL 34241
(941) 361-6511

FloridaStateParks.org

Park Guidelines (continued)

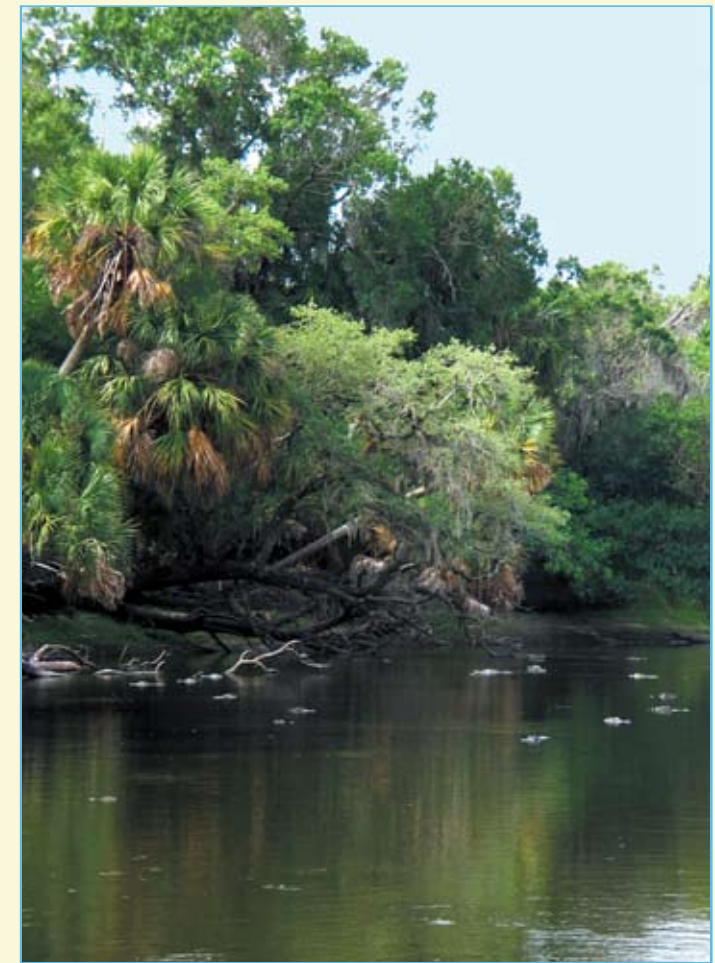
- For information about joining Friends of Myakka River Inc., call (941) 316-8139 or visit www.MyakkaRiver.org.
- For camping information, contact Reserve America at (800) 326-3521 or (866) I CAMP FL or TDD (888) 433-0287 or visit ReserveAmerica.com.
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing equal access to all facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact the ranger station.



Southwest Florida

Myakka River State Park

Where People Play on Florida's Prairie



...the Real FloridaSM

National Gold Medal Winner

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



FLORIDA State Parks
...the Real FloridaSM



Real Fun in ...the Real FloridaSM

Tour Upper Myakka Lake, hike through the dry prairie, or walk through the treetops on an elevated walkway. At Myakka River State Park, visitors can camp or rent a cabin to enjoy the park's many activities.

Stop at the visitor center where wildlife and habitat displays explain opportunities for exploring this natural playground.

Walk through the treetops on the 85-foot-long suspension bridge and climb a 74-foot tower for an eagle's-eye view of hammocks and wetlands. Board the Myakka Maiden or Gator Gal, the world's biggest airboats, for a scenic cruise of Upper Myakka Lake. Take a "Tram Safari" into the backcountry.

A 39-mile portion of the Florida Trail winds through pinelands, around wetland edges, through hammock islands and across the Florida prairie. Visitors can see alligators, deer, raccoons, red-shouldered hawks, wild turkeys and barred owls. The wheelchair-accessible pier, with partly roofed platform, enhances fishing opportunities where the Myakka River joins Upper Myakka Lake. Equestrians may bring their horses with proof of negative Coggins test.

Myakka Outpost sells supplies, souvenirs and snacks such as gator stew and ice cream. They also rent bicycles, canoes and kayaks. Ranger tours are Saturdays at 9 a.m., campfire programs Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. (Thanksgiving to Easter).

Tents and RVs are welcome at 76 campsites which have water and electric hookups. Five historic log cabins are available for rent. Three group camps accommodate up to 20 people each. Six primitive campgrounds are located along the 39 miles of trails.

