

History & Nature

Forty-two million gallons of crystal clear water flow each day from Wekiwa Springs into Wekiwa Springs Run. The run joins with Rock Springs Run to form the beautiful upper Wekiva River.

Creeks, later called Seminoles, are the most recent Native Americans to have lived here. Wekiwa means “spring of water” and Wekiva means “flowing water” in the Creek language.

Within the park’s 7,800 acres, 19 distinct and diverse plant communities sustain an abundance of wildlife. A meandering walk from the low, wet river swamp up to the dry sandy ridges allows visitors the opportunity to experience several aspects of natural Florida.

The Wekiva River basin is home to more than 50 species of plants and animals that are listed as endangered, threatened or of special concern. The largest recognized population of the endangered star anise flourishes here. A myriad of trails through tall pines and majestic oaks allow visitors to observe some of the park’s more unusual plant life, like red buckeye, witch hazel and flowering dogwood. Visitors can find goldenrod, passion flower or

beautyberry in bloom. Thirty-two species of fish, including largemouth bass, blue gill, pickerel, gar, sunfish and mullet thrive in the river.

Visitors may catch a glimpse of some of the park’s beautiful birds—great blue herons, Florida scrub jays, ibis, egrets, moorhens, warblers, ospreys, kingfishers or limpkins. While it’s always possible to see a Florida black bear, alligator or American bald eagle, visitors are more likely to be greeted by white-tailed deer, gopher tortoises, wild turkeys or Sherman’s fox squirrels. Wildlife abounds in this natural haven.

Park Guidelines

- Hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is required.
- All plants, animals and park property are protected. Collection, destruction or disturbance 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.
- Fishing, boating, swimming and fires are allowed in designated areas only.
- Alcoholic beverage consumption is allowed in designated areas only.

Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection Division of Recreation and Parks

Wekiwa Springs State Park

1800 Wekiwa Circle
Apopka, Florida 32712
(407) 884-2008

FloridaStateParks.org

Park Guidelines (continued)

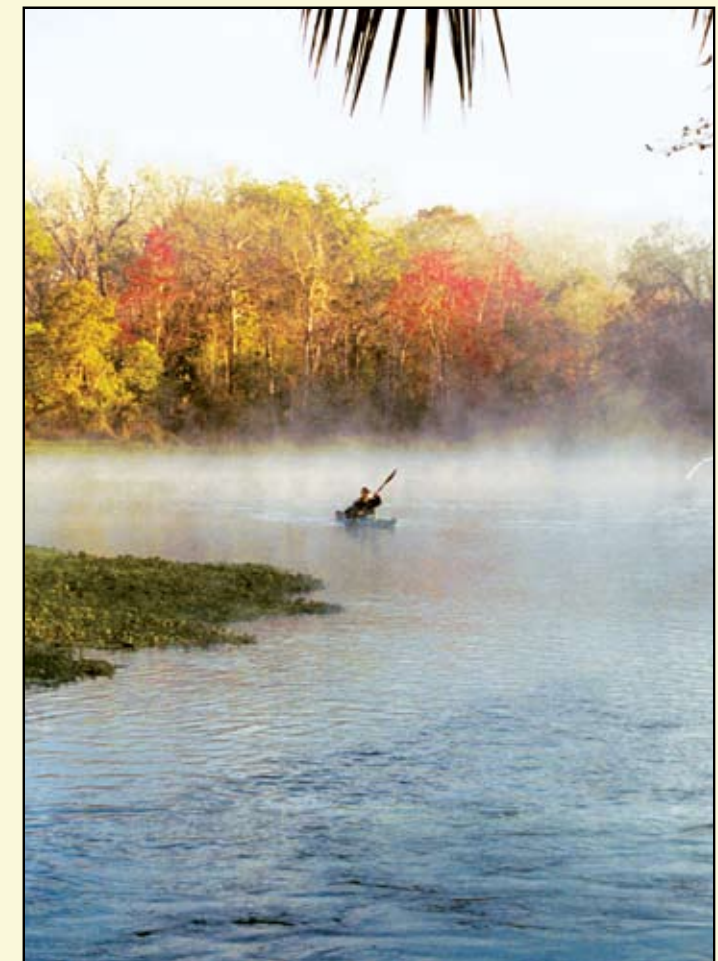
- Become a volunteer. Inquire at the ranger station.
- For camping information, contact Reserve America at (800) 326-3521 or (866) I CAMP FL or TDD (888) 433-0287 or visit ReserveAmerica.com.
- Florida’s state parks are committed to providing equal access to all facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact the ranger station.



Central Florida

Wekiwa Springs State Park

Headwaters of the Wekiva River
A National Wild and Scenic River



...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

Welcome to Wekiwa Springs State Park near Orlando—an escape from a fast-paced world to a world of natural beauty and fun. Visitors can experience the same scenic wild Florida that existed when early Indians speared fish in the spring-fed creeks and stalked deer in the uplands.

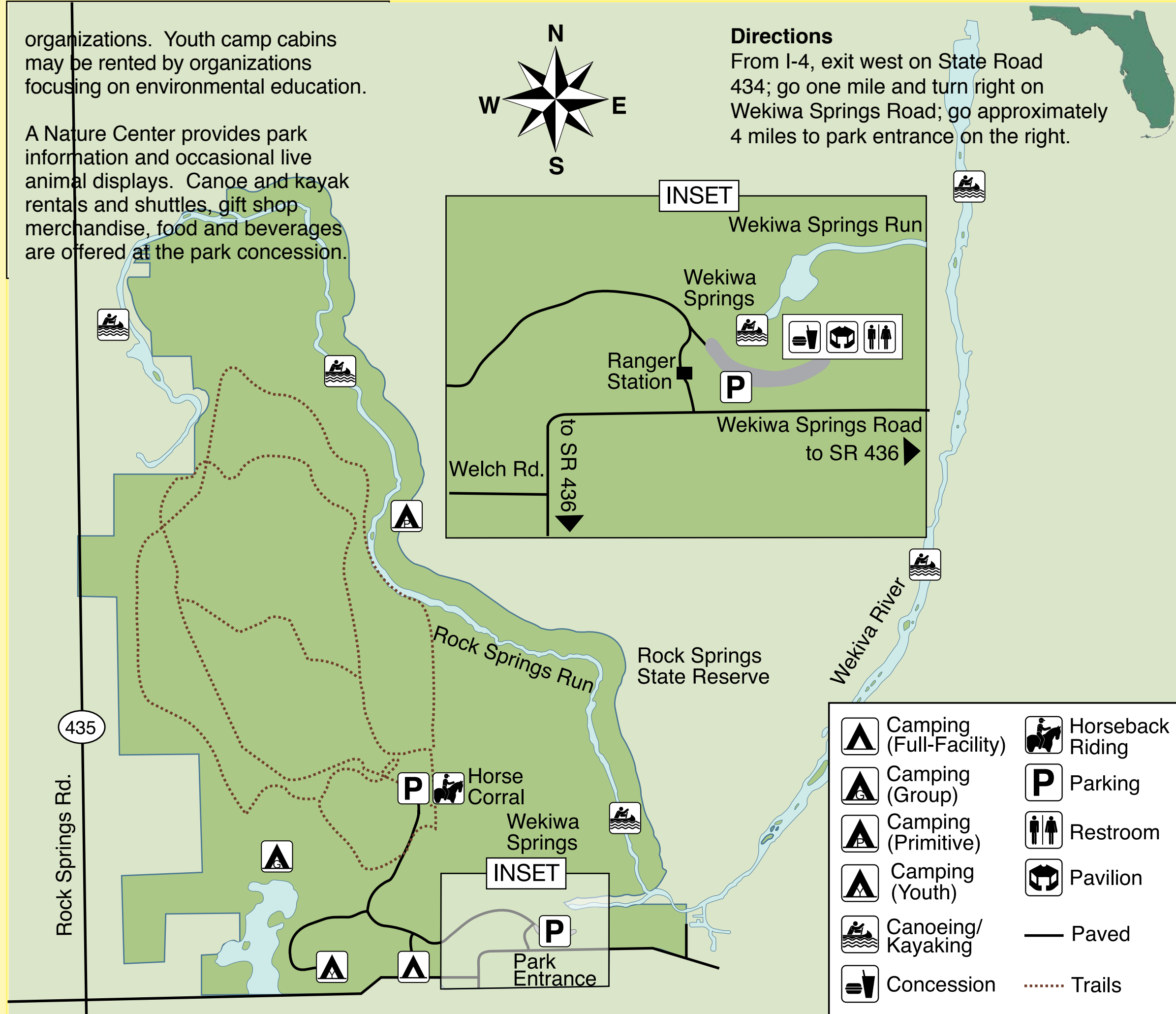
Visitors can swim or snorkel in the crystal clear waters of Wekiwa Springs, a constant 72 degrees, year round. Visitors can also canoe the 15-mile trail of the gentle Wekiva River between river banks edged with sabal palms, purple astors and an occasional orchid, among a myriad of other plants.

Picnic tables, grills and a playground are in a shady area east of the springhead. Two covered pavilions may be reserved. A 15-mile hiking trail winds through the flatwoods and past a backpacking campsite while a 2-mile trail links the springs and Sand Lake, a quiet fishing spot, and intersects the eight-mile horse trail. Approximately nine miles of multiuse trails can be used for bicycling. The trails can be confusing, so trail maps are available at the ranger station.

The Sandhill campground has 60 sites for RVs and tents. Visitors can hike or canoe to primitive campsites. The primitive youth camping area may be reserved by youth

organizations. Youth camp cabins may be rented by organizations focusing on environmental education.

A Nature Center provides park information and occasional live animal displays. Canoe and kayak rentals and shuttles, gift shop merchandise, food and beverages are offered at the park concession.



Directions

From I-4, exit west on State Road 434; go one mile and turn right on Wekiwa Springs Road; go approximately 4 miles to park entrance on the right.

