

State Lands

Conserving Florida Forever Protecting Our Future

Florida's initiatives to conserve environmentally-sensitive land and protect wildlife habitat are among the best in the nation. Since 2001, the Florida Forever land acquisition program has preserved more than a million acres of environmentally-sensitive land and protected more than 700 archaeological and historical sites. The acquisitions saved the habitats of 190 rare and endangered plants and animals, including eight species not previously protected anywhere on public land.

Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area

The only undammed tributary to Lake Okeechobee, Fisheating Creek flows through prairies and flatwoods dotted with numerous freshwater marshes. Preservation of Fisheating Creek is helping to secure the continued survival of native species, as well as many other rare animals and migratory birds. (Glades & Highlands counties)

MyFWC.com/recreation

St. Joseph Bay Buffer Preserve

This preserve is an area of pine flatwoods, freshwater marshes and forested wetlands that serves as a vital water recharge area and buffer to St. Joseph Bay Aquatic Preserve. (Gulf County)

www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal

www.dep.state.fl.us/lands

State of Florida's Nature & Heritage Tourism Center

The State of Florida's Nature & Heritage Tourism Center is on the banks of the world-famous Suwannee River in North Central Florida. The center has interactive kiosks, colorful exhibits and informative brochures showcasing Florida's natural, cultural and historic sites and events. The Center is located on the corner of Highway 136 and U.S. 41 in White Springs and is easily accessed off I-10 exit 301, or I-75 exit 439.

For more information call **(386) 397-4461**, or visit:

FloridaStateParks.org/information/natureandheritage

Office of Greenways & Trails

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Greenways & Trails works to establish a connected network of greenways and trails throughout Florida. Properties managed by the Office of Greenways & Trails include the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway and seven state trails.

1. Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway

The Cross Cross Florida Greenway stretches from the St. Johns River to the Gulf of Mexico. This 110-mile corridor encompasses a variety of natural habitats and offers an array of trails and recreation areas. (Cross Florida Region: Putnam, Marion, Citrus, Levy counties)

Hiking, biking and equestrian trails, visitor centers, boat ramps, campgrounds, picnic shelters and Florida's natural beauty make the Cross Florida Greenway an excellent playground for all ages.

On the east end of the greenway, in Palatka, Rodman Recreation Area and the Senator George

Kirkpatrick Dam offer places to camp, fish, watch wildlife and picnic.

In Central Florida, near Ocala, the Land Bridge over I-75 is a favorite destination for hikers, bikers and equestrians. Landscaped with native vegetation, the Land Bridge connects trails on the east and west sides of the interstate. The Santos area includes an equestrian-friendly campground and a mountain biking trail system that has been designated an “Epic Ride” by the International Mountain Biking Association. A barrier-free Boundless Playground® enables all children—including those with physical, developmental, cognitive and sensory disabilities—to actively and safely play with their peers without disabilities.

On the west end of the greenway, near Inglis, the Withlacoochee Bay Trail extends five miles west from the Felburn Park Trailhead to the Gulf of Mexico. The paved trail provides numerous opportunities to observe wildlife, picnic or fish along the route.

The Office of Greenways & Trails is also responsible for coordinating the Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail, Florida’s longest and most ambitious sea kayaking trail. Beginning at Big Lagoon State Park near Pensacola, the paddling

trail extends 1,500 miles around the Florida peninsula and Keys to Fort Clinch State Park near the Georgia border.

Multiple trailheads along each state trail provide access points. For trail maps, directions and descriptions, visit the Office of Greenways & Trails' website.

2. Blackwater Heritage State Trail

The Blackwater Heritage State Trail, the westernmost rail-trail in the state, extends eight miles from Milton to Whiting Field Naval Air Station. The trail passes through pine woods, a cypress/bay swamp and an area of white-topped pitcher plants. Several wooden bridges cross quiet creeks along the trail. An equestrian trail parallels a segment of the paved trail. (West Panhandle Region: Santa Rosa County)

3. Tallahassee-St. Marks Historic Railroad State Trail

The Tallahassee-St. Marks Historic Railroad State Trail runs 16 miles from Florida's capital city to the coastal town of St. Marks. The paved trail provides an excellent workout for bicyclists, walkers and skaters and features a barrier-free Boundless Playground®. The trail also offers opportunities for horseback riding on the adjacent unpaved trail and

access to the Munson Hills Off-Road Trail in the Apalachicola National Forest. (East Panhandle Region: Leon, Wakulla counties)

4. Palatka-Lake Butler State Trail – In Development

The 47-mile Palatka-Lake Butler State Trail is being constructed in phases along the former Norfolk-Southern Railroad right-of-way. When completed, this 12'-wide, paved, multi-use recreational trail will traverse Putnam, Union, Clay and Bradford counties. The 5.2-mile Clay County segment of the trail opened in 2008 and the trailhead is located at Twin Lake Park in Keystone Heights. (Cross Florida Region: Putnam, Union, Clay, Bradford counties)

5. Nature Coast State Trail

The 32-mile long Nature Coast State Trail connects Cross City, Trenton, Fanning Springs and Chiefland. Among the trail's highlights is an historic train trestle crossing the Suwannee River. Trail users can take advantage of the cooling springs at nearby Fanning Springs State Park or watch for wildlife at Andrews Wildlife Management Area. (Cross Florida Region: Dixie, Levy, Gilchrist counties)

6. Withlacoochee State Trail

The Withlacoochee State Trail, 46-miles long, runs through small towns, ranches and the Withlacoochee State Forest. Concrete mileage and whistle markers, the Lake Henderson Trestle and the Inverness Depot serve as reminders of Florida's railroad history. Springtime brings an abundance of wildflowers. An equestrian trail parallels portions of the paved trail. (Cross Florida and West Central Regions: Citrus, Hernando, Pasco counties)

7. General James A. Van Fleet State Trail

The General James A. Van Fleet State Trail runs through the Green Swamp, headwaters for some of Florida's most frequently canoed rivers - the Withlacoochee, Hillsborough and Peace. Landscapes include former citrus lands and cattle ranches. With only one curve in its 29.2 miles, distance bicyclists find the paved trail an excellent place to train. (West Central Region: Sumter, Lake, Polk counties)

8. Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail

Managed in partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers, the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail, a segment of the Florida National Scenic Trail, circles the second largest freshwater lake in the contiguous United States. Located atop the Herbert Hoover Dike, the trail provides views ranging from

scenic lakeside to agricultural landscapes. The area affords opportunities for viewing wildlife, particularly in fall and winter, when birds such as herons, egrets and a variety of wintering waterfowl are abundant. And of course, fishing opportunities are endless. (South Region: Okeechobee, Martin, Palm Beach, Hendry, Glades counties)

9. Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail

The Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail links Everglades National Park, Biscayne National Park, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, the Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuge, Key Deer National Wildlife Refuge, Crocodile Lakes National Wildlife Refuge and ten state parks. The 106-mile trail parallels U.S. 1 from Key Largo to Key West. (South Region: Monroe County).

Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA)

Most of Florida's distinctive character lies in the beauty of its coastline. More than 4 million acres of our best coastal areas have been set aside for protection as Aquatic Preserves, National Estuarine Research Reserves or the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Protection of these sites help ensure that there will always be a home for bird

rookeries, fish nurseries and other wildlife among Florida's springs, salt marshes, seagrass meadows, mangrove forests and coral reefs, a diversity of ecosystems unmatched in the continental United States.

To learn more about these varied and fascinating areas, public programs offered at the sites and to find out about volunteer opportunities, contact the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA), at Sunset on St. Joseph Bay (850) 245-2094 or visit www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal .

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Gift Shop

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Memorial Day Weekend

The Annual Florida Folk Festival

Music. Heritage. Legend.

Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park

White Springs, Florida

Three Days with the Best Folks in America!

Information

1-877-6FL-FOLK

FloridaFolkFestival.com

The Annual Folk Festival is brought to you by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks

Return Address:

Department of Environmental Protection

Florida State Parks

3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 535

Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

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 state park directly. Alternate format available upon request at any Florida state park.

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