

# **Park Visitor Welcome Kit**

## **2011-2012**

Image: Official Logo: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Image: Official Logo: Florida Park Service

Image: Florida State Parks ... the Real Florida (sm)

Image: Three people paddle a canoe at Rainbow Springs State Park.

## **ACTIVITY GUIDE**

There's something fun for everyone!

### **ON FOOT**

Image: Two hikers walk the trail at Collier Seminole State Park.

**HIKING** Most state parks offer short nature trails or longer hiking trails. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes and bring

water to drink. Some of the most challenging hiking trails can be found at Torreya State Park in northwest Florida, boasting more than 16 miles of trails.

**BIRDWATCHING** Many delight in adding birds to their life list. Bring along the binoculars but at Oscar Scherer State Park in Osprey, the Florida scrub jays will come to you. A threatened species, these bold and curious birds like the scrubby flatwoods habitat found at this park.

Image: A Florida scrub-jay perched on a dead tree at Cedar Key Scrub State Reserve.

Image: This cell phone has built in GPS abilities.

**GEOCACHING** Geocaching is a high-tech version of hide-and-seek. Use your GPS for a family-friendly adventure at most of Florida's state parks. Look at Tomoka State Park in Ormond Beach or Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Hobe Sound.

## ON WHEELS

Image: Bicycles in the bike rack at Grayton Beach State Park.

**BICYCLING** Bring your bike or rent one at Grayton Beach State Park in Santa Rosa Beach. Enjoy four miles of off-road trails through acres of natural communities or hop on Walton County's 10-mile path along Scenic Highway 30-A and enjoy this picturesque area.

**MOUNTAIN BIKING** in Miami? Yes. Ten miles of mountain biking trails provide a surprise challenge to the most experienced riders at Oleta River State Park. More than 18 miles of off-road trails can also be found at Alafia River State Park, south of Tampa. Wear a helmet!

Image: Five mountain bikers ride the trails at Oleta River State Park.

**SEGWAY** For an eco-friendly experience, sign up for a guided Segway tour of Fort George Island State Park in Jacksonville. This two-hour, cross-terrain tour travels more than three miles through diverse scenery. Reservations recommended.

Image: A group of people line up on their Segways for the tour.

## ON WATER

Image: A young man fishes at O'Leno State Park.

**FISHING** Freshwater and saltwater fishing is abundant in Florida. There are few better locations than Sebastian Inlet State Park in Melbourne Beach. Impressive catches come from the beach, the river and the inlet. The boat ramp is always open.

**PADDLING** Most state parks feature water: lakes, rivers, bays and oceans. If you seek

adventure, try paddling all or part of the Suwannee River Wilderness Trail, stretching 170 miles from White Springs to the Gulf of Mexico. Outfitters are eager to help with rentals.

Image: A man and woman paddle a canoe at Faver-Dykes State Park.

Image: Several boats in the marina at Caladesi Island State Park.

**BOATING** Try the 108-slip marina at Caladesi Island State Park in Dunedin or mooring in No Name Harbor at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park in Key Biscayne. Caladesi Island was best beach in 2008, and Cape Florida is in the top 10.

**INSIDER TIPS: Northwest Region**

Park rangers are the experts on the best places to go and most fun experiences in state parks. From sugar white sand beaches and nature trails to living history reenactments and ranger-guided tours, these recommendations will guide you to an abundance of wildlife, natural communities and cultural heritage at our award-winning state parks. Florida's state parks have provided recreation opportunities and scenic beauty that helps to strengthen families, educate children, expand local economies and foster community pride.

Image: Map depicting northwest region of Florida

Deer Lake State Park M3

Chosen by Patrick Hartsfield, Ranger

Deer Lake State Park offers spectacular views of the sugar white beaches of the Emerald Coast. The park's quarter-mile dune boardwalk offers some of the best vistas of the dynamic dune ecosystem to be found on the Gulf coast.

Image: Mike Kennett, Ranger

Orman House Historic State Park M3

*Chosen by Mike Kinnett, Ranger*

Mike enjoys sharing the history of Apalachicola. His favorite activity is giving guided tours of Orman House Historic State Park and getting visitors to imagine themselves as a steamboat captain, a cotton merchant, a storekeeper or resident of Apalachicola during the 1800s.

Blackwater River State Park M3

*Chosen by Daryl Hatfield, Ranger*

Paddling the serene waters of the Blackwater River is a favored way to unwind and relax. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy a day on the river with friends and family.

Image: *Rich Robenhorst*, Ranger

Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park M3

*Chosen by Rich Robenhorst, Ranger*

This park is a natural wonder that has been a protected sanctuary since the 1930s. While on board the river boat tour it's not uncommon to see hawks, great blue herons, alligators, deer, manatees and numerous other species. There are few places in the world where you can encounter wildlife so close and in their natural habitat.

### Lake Talquin State Park M3

*Chosen by Catherine Collins, Ranger*

Take a 20-minute walk around our new ravine interpretative trail. This trail will lead you along the bluffs that overlook Lake Talquin. It is common to see bald eagles, osprey, owls, woodpeckers, hawks, bobcat or deer. You will also see some of the deepest ravines on the east side of Lake Talquin as you walk along this trail.

### San Marcos de Apalache Historic State Park G3

*Chosen by Catherine Collins, Ranger*

Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the view of the St. Marks and Wakulla rivers. Walk the grounds to see historic fortification ruins or explore the exhibits and artifacts in the

visitor center. The site has a rich history of New World travelers who have staked their claim. The visitor center is open for 9am to 5pm Thursday through Monday.

Image: Catherine Collins, Ranger

Eden Gardens State Park M3

*Chosen by Curt Moore, Ranger*

Curt loves to go fishing off the pier on Tucker Bayou. He catches sea trout, red fish, and catfish to take home for fresh seafood dinners.

Image: Curt Moore, Ranger

Perdido Key State Park M3

*Chosen by Kiersten Wilson, Ranger*

Perdido Key State Park is a wonderful spot for bird watching. There are several species of native shore birds to see such as herons, plovers and gulls. The park also boasts many winter visitors that can include black skimmers, mergansers and loons.

Tarkiln Bayou Preserve State Park M3

*Chosen by Kiersten Wilson, Ranger*

My favorite activity at Tarkiln is walking the half-mile Tarkiln Bayou Trail, looking at wildflowers. There are several species to catch your eye - white-topped pitcher plants, hatpins, false foxglove, pink sundews and blazing star just to name a few.

Image: Kiersten Wilson, Ranger

Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park M3

*Chosen by Dallas Cox, Ranger*

Here are a few things I enjoy about this park. It's a 357-acre park that offers family camping, enchanting hiking trails, a children's playground and one of the best boat ramps around including kayak and canoe rentals on Choctawhatchee Bay with year round fishing opportunities.

Image: Dallas Cox, Ranger

## **INSIDER TIPS: Northeast Region**

Known for its beautiful beaches, slow lazy rivers and bountiful springs for swimming and tubing; history, culture and folklife abound in the Northeast. We asked our park rangers to share some of their favorite places to go within this region. Here's what they say.

Image: Map depicting northeast region of Florida

Rainbow Springs State Park M3

*Chosen by Paul Milette, Ranger*

As a former professional photographer, I always try and talk with our camera carrying visitors at Rainbow Springs State Park. The overlooks on the Rainbow River can be breathtaking, especially in the early morning or late afternoon, but I always make sure they visit our stunning waterfalls and nature trails. The falls are so unusual for

Florida that the visitors are often awestruck and it's a pleasure to watch the camera bugs spend hours around our three falls shooting away.

### Little Talbot Island State Park M3

*Chosen by Kara Brooker, Ranger*

At Little Talbot Island State Park, visitors can hike or bike a beautiful two-mile trail through sand dunes and maritime forest. At the end of the trail, the rhythmic sound of crashing waves and the chattering of laughing gulls greet you as the salt spray brushes gently across your face.

Image: Kara Brooker, Ranger

### Fort George Island Cultural State Park M3

*Chosen by Kim Curtis, Ranger*

Hiking trails lead to Native American shell mounds, tranquil salt marshes and abundant wildlife at Fort George Island Cultural State Park. The inland waters are a great place to launch a kayak or fish before picnicking at the Ribault Club, built in 1928 for affluent leisure enthusiasts.

Image: Kim Curtis, Ranger

Troy Spring State Park M3

*Chosen by Rik Hammers, Ranger*

Ranger Rik Hammers at Troy Spring State Park, an avid photographer, loves interpreting the Madison, a sunken Civil War ship, to park visitors through his camera. In this photo you can see the ribs of the ship. The spring is often browned out and you can't see the ship, but in very clear conditions you will find Ranger Rik taking photos to share with park visitors.

Image: Ranger Rik Hammer photographs the Suwannee River.

Wes Skiles Peacock Springs State Park M3

*Chosen by Richard West, Ranger*

A favorite activity at Wes Skiles Peacock Springs State Park is wildlife viewing, especially around the spring and sinkholes. It is possible on some days to view mammals,

reptiles, birds and fish all while standing at one location. We also have a one-mile nature trail to get into other good areas for viewing.

Image: Ranger Rick West looks through binoculars for a bird.

Madison Blue Spring State Park M3

*Chosen by Margaret Polino, Ranger*

The best activity we have at Madison Blue Spring State Park is swimming. The spring is 72 degrees year round and crystal clear surrounded by limestone. It's breathtaking just to look at. The best thing is the look on our new visitors' faces when seeing it for the first time. The amazement, the expressions and questions, from visitors and even from other park staff, make me love what I do.

Image: Margaret Polino, Ranger

Lafayette Blue Spring State Park M3

*Chosen by Larry Arrant, Ranger*

The beauty of the natural springs at Lafayette Blue Spring State Park is such a wonderful source of nature. These springs have been around for thousands of years and hopefully for thousands more. Let's keep these gifts that are given to us clean and natural for all to enjoy for current and future generations.

Image: Larry Arrant, Ranger

Cedar Key Museum State Park M3

*Chosen by Charles Neese, Ranger*

I enjoy seeing families come to visit Cedar Key Museum State Park. My favorite activity to share with visitors is a short walk on the Whitman Trail that leads to the Gulf of Mexico. It has a terrific view especially at sunset.

Image: Charles Neese, Ranger

**INSIDER TIPS: CENTRAL REGION**

Florida's Atlantic coastal beaches offer a variety of water activities and lots of sunshine. Inland, you'll find great camping, hiking and canoeing. There's plenty of history too. Here our rangers share their favorite experiences throughout the region.

Image: Map depicting central region of Florida

Fort Mose Historic State Park M3

*Chosen by Charles Corry, Ranger*

Fort Mose Historic State Park is an absolutely beautiful park brimming with history. My favorite activity has to be the living history reenactments, ranging from colonial cooking to historic weapons demonstrations, presented throughout the year.

Image: Ranger Charles Corry, dressed in period attire, talks with two girls about the history of the park.

Faver-Dykes State Park N4

*Chosen by Dennis Pope, Ranger*

As a park ranger I have many favorite activities. The one that gives me the most satisfaction is taking photos of... the Real Florida© at Faver-Dykes State Park. Come visit us and stop by the ranger station to see our photos on display.

Lower Wekiva River Preserve State Park M6

*Chosen by Melissa Padgett, Ranger*

Katie's Landing is a great new addition to the Wekiva River Basin state parks. I enjoy launching my kayak from this peaceful location to explore some of the Wekiva River and to do a little fishing. The park is always a great place to enjoy quiet, river scenery and wildlife.

Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park N5

*Chosen by Nicky Makruski, Ranger*

What I like most at this park is bird watching along the creek and pine flatwoods during the fall and spring migration. Because of the varied habitat there is a good variety of warblers, wading birds and birds of prey. The best time of day for birdwatching here is the early morning

or late afternoon when I try and spend a couple minutes each day checking out the creek and picnic areas. The park is nice and quiet which attracts the migrating birds looking for food and rest before they continue on their migratory flights.

#### Lake Louisa State Park M7

*Chosen by Jenny Kehlenbeck, Ranger*

Canoeing is a fantastic way to see Lake Louisa State Park's lakes. You're afforded a different view of the habitat from a canoe and every time you go out on the water you see something different. It's also great way to bird watch too!

Image: Ranger Jenny Kellenbeck paddles a canoe.

#### Washington Oaks Gardens State Park N4

*Chosen by Joseph Woodbury, Ranger*

Every summer Washington Oaks Gardens State Park holds a saltwater fishing program, and I love to be involved! Visitors are taught correct angling techniques

and I get to see the look of joy on their faces as they catch their first fish!

Image: Ranger Joseph Woodbury shows two boys a fishing lure.

Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park N9

*Chosen by Jennifer Benson, Ranger*

This park provides many opportunities for birding in its unique ecosystem. I enjoy walking through the dense grasses, trying to catch glimpses of obscure sparrows and other birds. I can spend hours in the prairie; exploring the natural curves of the landscape, taking photos of the awesome plants, watching the little creatures fulfill their day, connecting with land and all its wonder, which renews my soul!

Image: Ranger Jennifer Benson looks through binoculars.

Lake Griffin State Park L6

*Chosen by Tina L. Miller, Ranger*

One of my favorite activities at Lake Griffin State Park is canoeing and doing guided canoe tours. The vegetation is beautiful and you can almost always count on seeing a nice variety of birds and some fish activity. If you are lucky you might just catch a glimpse of an alligator or two. It is relaxing and there is always something new to see.

Image: Ranger Tina Miller paddles a canoe.

Silver River State Park L5

*Chosen by Bob LaMont, Ranger*

I enjoy canoeing the Silver River during work to check on exotics and in my off time for the pure enjoyment and tranquility. The Silver River is popular spot for canoes and kayaks, and at the crack of dawn you can observe an abundance of wild life.

Lake Kissimmee State Park N8

*Chosen by Andi Henry, Ranger*

My favorite activity here is to go out on Lake Kissimmee in my boat. The boat ramp at the park leads you out to

Florida's third largest lake which covers 35,000 acres. I usually stop and bass fish for a while then I take my boat for a lap around the lake to cool off and get a glimpse of wildlife in the beautiful oak tree hammocks along the shore line.

## **INSIDER TIPS: Southwest Region**

The southwest region has great sun and sand. Fishing and water sports making it a prime destination. Adventure junkies and history buffs will also find plenty to do here. Our rangers offer a few suggestions to get you started on the right foot!

Image: Map depicting southwest region of Florida

Oscar Scherer State Park K10

*Chosen by Chris Koster, Ranger*

I enjoy canoeing down South Creek at Oscar Scherer State Park while watching the schools of mullet skim the

calm waters, or conducting a prescribed burn to keep fire dependent habitats healthy and then, taking a refreshing swim in Lake Osprey.

Image: Ranger Chris Koster wearing fire gear during a prescribed fire.

Highlands Hammock State Park M9

*Chosen by George Molinaro, Ranger*

My favorite activities at Highlands Hammock State Park are jogging and hiking along the shaded trails. The tranquility of the park makes me appreciate where I work.

Image: Ranger George Molinaro

Anclote Key Preserve State Park K8

*Chosen by Chris Berner, Ranger*

One of my favorite activities on Anclote Key is interacting with visitors and interpreting the natural and cultural resources that this remote island has to offer. The working 19th century lighthouse draws a lot of attention.

Image: Ranger Chris Berner stands by the Anclote Key lighthouse.

Lake Manatee State Park K9

*Chosen by Ed Alaniz, Ranger*

I enjoy fishing on Lake Manatee. I try to get there before a cold front so I can catch a limit of crappie. Early spring I work the grass line for largemouth bass. Hope to see you out on the lake.

Image: Ranger Ed Alaniz guides students on a hike.

Cayo Costa State Park L11

*Chosen by Mike Kwoka, Ranger*

I enjoy Cayo Costa State Park's seven plus miles of unspoiled beach, which offers the visitor shelling, birding and spectacular sunsets at no extra cost. This park's beauty must be seen to be appreciated.

Image: Mike Kwoka, Ranger

Ybor City Museum State Park K8

*Chosen by Alex Kinder, Ranger*

A visit to Ybor City Museum State Park would not be complete without a tour of *La Casita* (the small house).

The casita, built in 1895, provides a glimpse into a worker's life when Ybor City was the 'Cigar Capital of the World'.

Image: Ranger Alex Kinder leads of tour of La Casita.

Lovers Key State Park M12

*Chosen by Gloria Beauchamp, Ranger*

My favorite activity is paddling around Black Island at Lovers Key State Park and watching the manatees swim by while the bald eagles soar overhead. The serenity of the canal provides an opportunity to reconnect with nature.

Image: Ranger Gloria Beauchamp paddles an orange kayak.

Hillsborough River State Park L8

*Chosen by Kate Smithson, Ranger*

Listen to the soothing sound of the rapids while exploring the river by canoe or riverside trail at Hillsborough River State Park. Travel back in time to the 1830s on a Fort Foster tour and enjoy one of Florida's oldest state parks built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s.

Image: Ranger Kate Smithson stands in front of the Fort Foster museum.

## **INSIDER TIPS: Southeast Region**

Enjoy the lush green southeast of Florida from the luxury of your kayak or relax on the beaches of the area. There's so much to do, whether you want to keep busy for an afternoon, a whole day or weekend! Here are our rangers' suggestions.

Image: Map depicting northwest region of Florida

Curry Hammock State Park N16

*Chosen by David Hunt, Ranger*

I enjoy opportunities like walking the nature trail which is home to one of the largest thatch palm hammocks in the U.S. or picnicking at one of the Curry Hammock State Park's pavilions overlooking the ocean and sandy shore. One of my favorite activities is exploring the park by kayak. Exploring by water you can see a diverse seagrass community supporting an abundance of marine life.

Bahia Honda State Park M16

*Chosen by Artie Engler, Ranger*

As a member of the 'Bahia Honda Players,' I love bringing the story of Henry Flagler and the history of the Overseas Railroad to life for park visitors. We dress in period clothing and through first-person interpretation create the illusion that the historic figures have returned to life.

Image: Ranger Artie Engler dressed as Henry Flagler during a reenactment.

Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park P14

*Chosen by Erica Hernandez and Liz Golden, Rangers*

Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park is a great place to bird watch in the fall and spring. Enjoy our sea breezes, songbirds and the occasional Caribbean bird seldom seen in the United States. You never know what you'll see at Cape Florida!

Image: Rangers Erica Hernandez and Liz Golden birding.

Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park L16

*Chosen by Kip Blevin, Ranger*

I really enjoy bringing history alive for tour audiences at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park. With stories of life at the 166-year-old fort, through four wars and a missile crisis, I am able to present a colorful and informative program.

Image: Ranger Kip Blevin

Fort Pierce Inlet State Park P9

*Chosen by Terry Stough, Ranger*

Training and working alongside park volunteers to save Florida's red bay trees from the devastating laurel wilt disease is a rewarding experience and one that I enjoy at Fort Pierce Inlet State Park. Volunteers are always needed in Florida's state parks. Ask how you can help.

Savannas Preserve State Park P10

*Chosen by Tessa Sheridan, Ranger*

One of my favorite things to do in Florida's state parks is making new friends. Savannas Preserve State Park is a great place for this with a wealth of special events and an award-winning Environmental Education Center full of life and a 'family' of wonderful volunteers.

Long Key State Park N16

*Chosen by RJ Simpson, Ranger*

Our shoreline water walk is my favorite element of Long Key State Park. I enjoy sharing my knowledge of our natural communities during interpretive programs. Visitors

take pleasure in seeing sea beans, crabs and fish among the seagrass while wading in the ocean.

John D. MacArthur Beach State Park P11

*Chosen by Art Carton, Ranger*

The guided nature walk gives visitors a chance to see and experience all four natural communities within John D. MacArthur Beach State Park, while learning about the park's storied history and abundant wildlife.

The Barnacle Historic State Park P14

*Chosen by Steve Dimse, Ranger*

My favorite thing to do at The Barnacle Historic State Park is time travel! Spend an hour exploring Miami's recent pioneer past by touring this beautiful reminder of "The Era of the Bay."

Jonathan Dickinson State Park P10

*Chosen by Christina Martinez, Ranger*

Biking in at Jonathan Dickinson State Park provides a wonderful opportunity for outdoor activity in a setting filled

with amazing views and wildlife. It's a great way to escape the daily routine and recharge your energy.

## **Road Trip: A Gainesville History Tour**

Tours of historic homes provide a look at the struggles and successes of past generations. Visit a working century farm and the homestead of a famous author. Gainesville features many places for lodging and restaurants.

Image: Water flows across Paynes Prairie Preserve.

### Day One

Dudley Farm Historic State Park is an authentic working farm demonstrating the evolution of Florida farming from the 1850s to the mid-1940s. The homestead consists of 18 buildings, including an 1880s kitchen outbuilding, a general store and a functional cane syrup complex. Park staff in period clothing perform daily chores. This park is

open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday – Sunday (it is closed Monday and Tuesday).

## DAY TWO

Pulitzer-prize winning author Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings lived in her cracker-style home and farm in Cross Creek for 25 years. Walk back in time to the 1930s where the author lived, worked and wrote her novel, *The Yearling*. Designated a National Historic Landmark, her homestead Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park, has been restored and preserved. Picnic facilities and a playground are nearby. Tours available October - July, Thursday-Sunday.

## BONUS TIP

Go to Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park in Micanopy for camping overnight. Explore the Visitor Center's exhibits and audio-visual program on the great Alachua Savanna and climb the observation tower for a look at the prairie.

Image: The visitor center at Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park.

Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park

**Camping/Cabin Reservations:**

Call (800) 326-3521

TDD (888) 433-0287

Or online at <http://FloridaStateParks.ReserveAmerica.com>

**Travel Times:**

Gainesville — 15 Min

Miami — 5.5 Hours

Jacksonville — 2 Hours

Tampa — 2.5 Hours

**PARK WILDLIFE:** Meet the locals on their own turf!

On the Land

## Florida Panther

The panther lives in the forests, prairies and swamps of Southwest Florida. As solitary and territorial animals, their home range is between 75 and 200 square miles.

Image: Florida Panther

## White-tailed Deer

Deer can be found from the Panhandle to the Keys. The name refers to the tail, which is brown above and white below. When alarmed, the tail is waved like a flag.

Image: White-tailed Deer

## Gopher Tortoise

Gopher tortoises are found in well-drained sandy areas. Superb earth-movers, they live in long burrows that protect from cold, heat, drought, forest fires and predators.

Image: Gopher tortoise

## In the Water

### Florida Manatee

These mammals eat plants and live in the coastal waters and rivers of Florida. They use their flippers and tails to steer through the water and move their tails up and down to go forward.

Image: Florida manatee

### American Alligator

Alligators are coldblooded reptiles found in freshwater. As a species of special concern, they are protected. Alligators eat fish, snakes, turtles, small mammals and birds. Never feed them.

Image: alligator

### Sea Turtle

Five species of sea turtles are found in Florida's waters: Loggerhead, green turtle, leatherback, Kemp's ridley and

hawksbill. They eat clams, crabs and fish. Never disturb turtles.

Image: sea turtle crawls towards ocean

In the Air

Scrub Jay

Bold and curious, the Florida scrub jay is a threatened species. Their habitat is scrub. They live in family groups of a breeding pair and offspring.

Image: Florida scrub-jay

Great Blue Heron

This large wading bird is common along the ocean shore or along the shores of inland lakes. Herons feast on fish. They walk slowly through the water waiting for the fish to get close.

Image: Great blue heron

## Roseate Spoonbill

This pale pink bird is a long-legged wader. As it sweeps its long bill from side to side through shallow water, the spoonbill swallows small fish, shrimp and more, which it snaps up.

Image: Roseate spoonbill

## HELP your parks

### INVASIVE SPECIES THREATEN PARKS

Numerous Florida State Parks are under attack by invasive plant species. These plants were either accidentally released or introduced without the knowledge of their being invasive. A plant is considered non-native if it was introduced after the point of Spanish occupation in the 1500s. Not all non-native plants are invasive. An

invasive plant is one that has no natural enemies, has a high rate of spread and rapid potential for growth.

You can help prevent the spread of invasive species.

Don't transport plants or firewood from other areas to your parks.

## PLANT A TREE

- They “clean” the air, absorbing greenhouse gases.
- An acre of trees provides enough oxygen for 18 people to live and breathe for a year.
- They keep cities and parks cooler.
- Trees prevent erosion.
- Trees provide food, shelter and protection for various wildlife species.
- Trees can shield you from harmful ultraviolet rays.

Image: Two people plant a tree.

## LEAVE NO TRACE

We encourage you to practice Leave No Trace when visiting your park or any outdoor trail or area. It is easy to do and allows others to enjoy the park, including animals that call it home. To learn more, visit: [LNT.org](http://LNT.org)

The Leave No Trace Seven Principles are:

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other visitors

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Friends Group

- The Friends of Florida State Parks is a nonprofit citizen organization formed in support of the entire Florida State Park system.
- “Friends” is recognized as the leading advocate of the Florida Park Service to ensure the existence of the Real Florida for future generations.
- It works to support the Florida State Parks mission.
- More info: [friendsoffloridastateparks.com](http://friendsoffloridastateparks.com)

Image: Official logo: Friends of Florida State Parks

Volunteer

Make an impact every day.

Volunteer opportunities are as diverse and numerous as the parks themselves. We need:

- Individual Volunteers
- Campground Hosts & Residential Volunteers
- Group Volunteers
- Youth Volunteers

For more information or to get involved, visit [www.floridastateparks.org](http://www.floridastateparks.org) and click on “Get Involved”

## WELCOME TO YOUR FLORIDA STATE PARKS!

We want you to have a safe and enjoyable visit. Please use this map to learn more about your state parks and all the great things they have to offer!

Image: Two chairs under an umbrella at Henderson Beach State Park.

Image: sample of the Annual Entrance Pass for Florida State Parks

**One Pass, Infinite Benefits!**

A Florida State Parks Annual Pass allows frequent visitors to enjoy parks for pennies a day. Annual Passes can be

purchased a variety of ways and are available for individuals or families (up to 8 people at most parks). Military Passes are also available. Passes can be purchased at any park or at [www.floridastateparks.org](http://www.floridastateparks.org)

## Partners Give Back

The Florida State Parks Welcome Map is created at no cost to Florida or taxpayers. Funding is generously provided by our partners, highlighted here in this map. In addition, 20% of the net proceeds are donated to directly benefit Florida State Parks. Supporting our partners is also a great way to say “thank you” for their contribution to your state parks.

For information about the partners, the 20% for Parks program and how to help your parks, please visit [www.parkvisitor.com](http://www.parkvisitor.com).

Official Logo: 20% for Parks

Official Logo: member of America’s State Parks

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Official Logo: Good Solutions Group

Official Logo: GEICO

Official Logo: Odwalla

Official Logo: The North Face

The *Park Visitor Welcome Map* is printed on recycled paper, which saves the valuable resources below.

**TREES** - 5 acres

**WATER** - 420,000 gallons

**GREENHOUSE GASES** - 152,000 pounds

The Park Visitor Welcome Map was created by Good Solutions Group in partnership with Florida State Parks at no cost to taxpayers. Nothing in the Park Visitor Welcome Map should be taken to imply endorsement of products, services, or activities of advertisers by any governmental agency. For advertising inquiries, call (626) 229-9991. For more information please visit [www.parkvisitor.com](http://www.parkvisitor.com).

**ADVERTISTEMENT**

## ODWALLA

Odwalla loves trees and has given \$350,000 to plant trees in state parks all across the United States! In 2011 you can “plant” more trees for your state at [www.odwalla.com/plantatree](http://www.odwalla.com/plantatree)

### **~ 2 0 1 0 O D W A L L A P L A N T A T R E E ~**

This park is about to get greener. Like our new bottles. Let Odwalla plant a tree for you.

Official Logo: Odwalla

Not only are we greening up state parks like this one by planting thousands of trees, but we’re also honoring the planet with our new PlantBottle™ packaging, which is made from up to 100% plant based HDPE plastic and sourced from sugarcane.

To help you take part in nourishing our environment, we'd like to plant a tree in your honor. Just visit [Odwalla.com/plantatree](http://Odwalla.com/plantatree), enter your code and choose where you'd like a tree planted – no strings attached. It's a chance to show your love for a greener world.

The Odwalla State Park Plant a Tree program is available May 25, 2010 through December 31, 2010. Find the code on the Odwalla Plant a Tree page in your Welcome Kit, then go to [www.odwalla.com/plantatree](http://www.odwalla.com/plantatree) and follow the instructions to enter your code and your email address, then pick your state where you want us to plant a tree. For each click, Odwalla will donate \$1 for the purchase of a tree to a state park in your chosen state. Participants pay NO money under this program. The cost of the donated trees will be paid solely by Odwalla, Inc., \$1 per tree up to \$25,000. Only one (1) click per code. If all 25,000 trees are not donated to states by consumers, the remaining money will be distributed evenly among the 13 state park systems who distribute the State Park Welcome Kit (CA, CO, DE, FL, GA, MD, NY, OH, PA, TX, UT, MI, VA).

YOUR CODE:

FLPV11

[WWW.ODWALLA.COM](http://WWW.ODWALLA.COM)

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# Florida State Parks

## ... the Real Florida (sm)

From the coastal sandy beaches to the lakes, rivers and streams in central Florida, each state park offers natural beauty, adventure and all that you need to enjoy time in the sunshine. Hundreds of miles of trails invite you to hike, bicycle or ride a horse. Rivers and lakes are perfect for canoeing and kayaking. Bring a tent, camper or RV for camping or rent a cabin for overnight stays. Explore. Enjoy. Bring the family.

Image: Map of Florida showing the location of each state park.

## Guidelines

We invite you to visit often and to join our efforts to preserve Florida's natural treasures so that they can be enjoyed for generations to come. Start by reviewing these guidelines.

- Park hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year. Museum hours may vary.
- Remember to use sunscreen and bug repellent. Drink lots of water.
- Fishing, boating, swimming and fires are allowed in designated areas only. A Florida fishing license may be required.
- Always hike on marked trails. It's easy to get lost.

- Pets must be confined, leashed or under your physical control at all times. Leashes may not exceed six feet in length. Please pick up after pets.
- A helmet is required for all bicycle riders younger than 16.
- All boaters under age 13 must wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket.
- Alcoholic beverages are allowed in designated areas only.
- Fireworks and hunting are prohibited.
- For a complete list of regulations, ask at any ranger station.

## **Contact information:**

**Emergency:** Call 911

### **Camping/Cabin Reservations:**

(800) 326-3521

TDD (888) 433-0287

FloridaStateParks.ReserveAmerica.com

**General Information:**

(850) 245-2157

**Web:**

FloridaStateParks.org

Twitter.com/FLStateParks

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## ADVERTISEMENT

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## ADVERTISEMENT

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\*up to \$500 per state