

STATE FOREST SPOTLIGHT

Remnants of Historical Use

Starting in the late 1800s, pine trees were used for extracting large amounts of pine resin from long-leaf pines to make turpentine for the Naval stores industry. Great camps were established in wooded areas along rivers to capture this resource. Initially, large cavities were cut in the base of trees and a chop-box was used to collect the resin. The resin was eventually collected in terra cotta pots call Hertys.

The camps would distill the resin and make sure it didn't get too hot and spark embers. The resin was then transported by boat to other locations to be sold. Examples of the historic items can be seen in the forest office on Shell Drive.

Love the state forests? So do we!

The Friends of Florida State Forests is a direct-support organization of the Florida Forest Service dedicated to ensuring Florida's State Forests are available for future generations to enjoy. Make a difference by joining today to help protect Florida's State Forests.

Membership dues go to the forests for conservation and improvement projects. To join Friends of Florida State Forests or for more information, visit:

www.FloridaStateForests.org



Things to Know When Visiting Myakka State Forest

- Day use is from sunrise to sunset.
- Pets are welcome but must be on a leash at all times.
- State Forest Use Permits are required for any organized activity. They can be obtained at Myakka State Forest office.
- Trash and recycling receptacles are available at the Shell Drive parking lot.
- Drinking water is not provided in the forest.
- Plants and animals are protected. Please do not remove or destroy these natural resources.
- All trails are multi-use and are shared with bicycles, pedestrians and horses.
- The multiple-use trails offer visitors over 30 miles of natural pine flatwoods and depression marshes with many species of wildlife to observe. The North and South Loop trails are included in the Florida Forest Service's Trailwalker and Trailtrotter programs.
- Trail access is available from the main forest entrance on River Road, which is approximately 9.5 miles south of Interstate 75 (exit 191). Trails may be closed during wet periods or when certain management activities are taking place.
- Reservations for all campsites can be made by calling 877.879.3859 or go to www.FloridaStateForests.ReserveAmerica.com
- We encourage all visitors to check the Wildlife Management Area regulations and hunting season dates before visiting the forest. For further information visit: www.MyFWC.com.

For more information, visit:

www.FDACS.gov/FLStateForests

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Florida Forest Service

Myakka State Forest



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Commissioner Wilton Simpson

History

Myakka State Forest was purchased in 1995 as part of the Myakka Estuary Conservation and Recreation Lands project using Preservation 2000 and Save Our Rivers funds.

It currently includes 8,592 acres on three tracts of land. The Southwest Florida Water Management District provided a portion of the funding to purchase the state forest and is an important cooperator in the management of the property, especially in regards to hydrological management.

This area was historically managed as a ranch with cattle grazing and farming prior to its acquisition. The management plan of the Florida Forest Service guides the restoration of the forest using the multiple-use concept.

Forestry

The forest resources on Myakka State Forest are managed under a multiple-use concept using sound forest management practices. Sustainable timber and range management in conjunction with recreation, wildlife considerations and water quality are important in the restoration and maintenance of the forest ecosystems and provide a variety of socio-economic benefits to Floridians.

The primary management tool is the use of prescribed fire, an effective tool in controlling hardwoods, reducing wildfire hazards, maintaining diversity and promoting wiregrass flowering.

The Florida Forest Service protects known archaeological and cultural resources, along with maintaining and protecting various wetlands and aquatic natural communities. Multiple use management on Myakka State Forest ensures us that it will be there for future generations to enjoy.



Mesic flatwoods



Gator



River campsite

For more information contact:
Myakka State Forest
P.O. Box 491
Englewood, FL 34223
Phone (941) 398-3410
www.FDACS.gov/FLStateForests

Natural Resources

The Myakka River, designated as an Outstanding Florida Water, flows through the northeastern portion of the forest, dividing it into two tracts. Myakka State Forest also contains Myakkahatchee Creek which flows into the Myakka River within the forest boundaries. The southwest portion of the forest contains much of the headwaters for Ainger Creek.

The predominant ecosystem found on Myakka State Forest is mesic flatwoods, which is characterized by a relatively open canopy of trees with dense ground cover of grasses, herbaceous plant species and shrubs. Also, numerous depression marshes are scattered through the flatwoods.

Wildlife commonly seen on Myakka State Forest includes: gopher tortoise, eastern indigo snake, bald eagle, Florida sand hill crane, wood stork, pileated woodpecker, bobwhite quail, great egret, eastern cottontail rabbit, bobcat, mourning dove and red-tailed hawk. Other known inhabitants include Florida Scrub Jay, rattlesnake, alligator and a few deer.

Recreation

Recreational activities currently available on Myakka State Forest include primitive camping, hiking, off-road bicycling, wildlife viewing, geocaching, fishing and small game hunting opportunities. A shaded picnic area and a pavilion are also available to visitors.

Primitive camping is available at the Flying A Campground and four remote hike in sites located throughout the forest. Amenities at each site include a picnic table, fire ring and a grill.

Fishing and hunting in state forest are regulated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in cooperation with the Florida Forest Service, according to information published on their website (MyFWC.com) including seasons, license requirements and quantity limits.