

RECREATION

The Homosassa Tract offers the following recreational opportunities for the outdoor enthusiast.

DESCRIPTION

The trails are dry, all-weather trails passing through hardwood hammocks, hardwood swamps, and longleaf pine forests. Wildlife found in the area include deer, turkey, feral hog and fox squirrel.

HUNTING & FISHING

Portions of the tract are managed as a Wildlife Management Area through the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. Access for hunting is only allowed from West Burnt Bridge Road, Hog Pond Road and Hancock Road.

Fishing is permitted on all waterways unless otherwise posted. A valid Florida fishing license is required. For additional information, contact FWC by visiting www.myfwc.com.

BIRDING

Rooks Trail is included in the *Great Florida Birding Trail Program*. Trailhead is located 1.8 miles west of U.S. 19 on West Burnt Bridge Road. Contact the Visitor Center or visit our website for more information.

LOCATION

The tract is located west of U.S. 19 and between the communities of Homosassa and Chassowitzka.

TRAILWALKERS

Rooks Trail is one of the Withlacoochee State Forest nature/hiking trails included in the *Trailwalker* program. This program offers recognition awards for hiking 10 to 30 trails in state forests all across Florida. Contact the Visitor Center for more information.

DESIGNATION

Rooks Trail is blazed with orange paint, remaining trails are not blazed. Trail intersections are marked.

We hope you enjoy the Homosassa Tract. Please follow good safety practices.

BIKING & HIKING

Unique to Homosassa, forest roads are restricted to bicycle and pedestrian use only, with the exception of Burnt Bridge Road. Vehicular traffic is only allowed on Burnt Bridge Road and at designated parking areas.

HOMOSASSA TRACT

This 5,675 acre forest was purchased by the State of Florida's Conservation and Recreation Lands Program and incorporated into the Withlacoochee State Forest.

The forest is managed using the multiple-use concept and offers many benefits to Florida's citizens and visitors. Management of the forest will promote recreation, wildlife, timber, endangered species, watersheds, environmental education and many other values. The goal of the Florida Forest Service is to protect and maintain the native biological diversity of the many ecosystems found on the state forest.

NATURAL COMMUNITIES

The distinctive character of the Homosassa Tract is its ecological diversity, which includes almost all naturally occurring vegetation found in Central Florida. There are 11 different natural communities, each with unique plants, animals, and physical characteristics. A few examples are flat-woods, scrubs, blackwater streams, and bottomland forests. The forest contains approximately 2,500 acres of hardwood swamp, the largest coastal swamp hardwood along the Gulf Coast of Florida south of the Suwannee River.

HOMOSASSA TRACT

Withlacoochee State Forest



Florida Forest Service management plans include prescribed burning most months of the year. For personal safety reasons, area users should contact the FFS for information and location of burn areas, (352) 797-4100.

Withlacoochee Visitor Center
15003 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34601
Phone: (352) 797-4140 Fax: (352) 797-4108
www.FDACS.GOV

STATE FOREST RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Day use is from sunrise to sunset.
2. Please take all garbage with you when you leave.
3. Motorcycles, ATV's and golf carts are prohibited on the forest. Only licensed street legal vehicles are allowed and are permitted only on designated open Forest Roads.
4. Pets must be under control and on a leash.
5. Swimming is not allowed.
6. Possession of alcoholic beverages is PROHIBITED.
7. Florida Forest Service is not responsible for articles lost, damaged or stolen in parking areas.
8. All rules and regulations administered by the Florida Forest Service and FWC pertaining to firearms, dogs, game and non-game animals, fishing and other management regulations must be observed.

www.FDACS.gov/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/Our-Forests/State-Forests/Withlacoochee-State-Forest

