

HISTORY AND NATURE

In the early 1900s, private owners extensively timbered the area that is now Blackwater River State Park. The state of Florida obtained the property in 1938 and conveyed it for use as a state park in 1968.

The park and adjoining Blackwater River State Forest are known for their historic trams, sawmills and timber industry, especially near Milton. It is interesting to note the geographical distribution of mills along the streams and watersheds. Rivers have been major transportation corridors in Florida for more than 10,000 years, and it is probable that human activity occurred here long ago.

Today, the park provides many recreational opportunities along the sandy banks of the Blackwater River. In 1980 the park was certified as a Registered State Natural Feature for its exceptional illustration of Florida's natural history. One of Florida's oldest and largest Atlantic white cedars stands among the many that line the river.

The 636-acre park provides habitat for a variety of wildlife and a number of imperiled plant and animal species. Birds including warblers and Mississippi kites live here, and the red-cockaded woodpecker has successfully been reintroduced into the park's pinelands. White-tailed deer, bobcats, gopher tortoise and turkeys are common, while river otters and alligators are occasionally seen.



BLACKWATER RIVER STATE PARK

7720 Deaton Bridge Road
Holt, FL 32564
850-983-5363

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.
- Pets are permitted in designated areas only. Pets must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet and be well-behaved at all times.
- Fishing, boating, swimming and fires are allowed in designated areas only. A Florida fishing license is required.
- Fireworks, drones and hunting are prohibited.
- Alcoholic beverage consumption is allowed in designated areas only.

MORE INFORMATION

- To become a park volunteer, inquire at the ranger station.
- For camping information, call 800-326-3521 or visit reserve.floridastateparks.org
- State Parks are committed to providing every visitor with equal access to facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact the ranger station.

FloridaStateParks.org

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BLACKWATER RIVER STATE PARK

*Float under the pines
on a pristine river
and timeless shifting sands*



**FLORIDA
STATE PARKS**

...the Real FloridaSM

EXPERIENCES AND AMENITIES

The swiftly flowing Blackwater River, with clear tea-dark waters that curve around brilliant white sandbars, provides one of the finest paddling experiences in the state. The wild and natural river with its unusual shifting sandy bottom is a designated Florida Paddling Trail, protected by the state forest that surrounds it.

Swim, paddle or tube in the cool waters of the Blackwater River – all great family activities. Canoes can be rented from outfitters in the area. Three **day-use areas** with **restrooms, outdoor showers** and **picnic tables** are within short walking distance of the **beaches**. **Pavilion rentals** are available by contacting the ranger station.

The river usually flows 2 to 3 miles per hour with an average depth of 2.5 feet. Depending on rainfall, water levels can fluctuate rapidly. Contact the ranger station for updated water levels.

Hikers on the Chain of Lakes Nature Trail or Juniper Lake Nature Trail will encounter small crescent-shaped lakes called oxbows that are created when the river changes course. The side trail of the Florida National Scenic Trail runs along the west side of the park.

Situated among longleaf pines are two campground loops with 30 **campsites** that offer water, electricity, sewer, picnic tables and a playground. Campsites accommodate tents to 40-foot RVs. A **bathhouse** in the center of the two camping loops has hot showers and clean restrooms. A dump station is located on the campground entrance road. Juniper Lake Nature Trail leads from the campground down to the water for swimming and relaxing.

