

Myakka Wildlife Tours

Myakka River State Park is one of Florida's largest and most diverse natural areas. The "Florida Wild and Scenic" Myakka River flows through 58 square miles of wetlands, prairies, hammocks and pinelands. The river and its two shallow lakes attract a myriad of wetland creatures making birding, canoeing, fishing and wildlife observation popular activities.

A 7-mile scenic drive winds through shady oak-palm hammocks and along the shore of the Upper Myakka Lake. Over 39 miles of hiking trails and many miles of dirt roads provide access to the remote interior.

Large expanses of rare Florida dry prairie thrive here thanks to intense restoration efforts. This globally-imperiled community suffered many decades of fire exclusion before people realized how dependent these grasslands were on frequent fire.

Myakka River is one of the state's oldest parks. It was developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1934 and many of the original, historic buildings are still in use today, including five log rental cabins.

You'll find many opportunities to discover the uniqueness of Myakka. Brochures and information about park programs and tours are available at the Ranger Station. Try out CyberRanger at *Myakka Friends Gallery and Gifts* for native plant and wildlife facts. Stop by the Visitor Center for videos and exhibits of wildlife and their habitats, then discover how plants and animals adapt to survive flood, drought and shade at the nature trail. You can even explore the treetops on Myakka's canopy walkway, and climb the 70-foot tower for an awesome view of wetlands, forest, and prairie.

Hop aboard one of the world's two largest airboats, the "Myakka Maiden" or the "Gator Gal" for a scenic cruise on Upper Myakka Lake. Discover what makes the Myakka unique among America's freshwater lakes. Hear intriguing stories about the alligator, anhinga, and sandhill crane as you become acquainted with the variety of creatures that make their home here.



Charles Phillips

These air-powered vessels venture into shallow, grassy areas where traditional crafts of such size wouldn't dare to go. The leisurely ride is so safe and smooth you'll have no problem taking photographs to bring home.

Take a "Tram Safari" into the back country of the park to find out what life in old Florida was like without ever leaving your seat. Learn to detect clues of the presence of wildlife as you pass through shady hammocks, pine flatwoods, fertile marshes and sunny prairies. To gain an understanding of the intricate workings of a natural ecosystem in progress, you have to experience it for yourself.

Note: Arrive early for boarding. Boat & tram depart promptly at times posted.

Tram only runs Dec. 16 thru May 31.

Myakka Outpost Food, Giftshop & Rentals



Jim Watson

Summer Hours (June 1st - Dec. 15th)
 Mon - Fri: 10 am - 4 pm
 Sat & Sun: 8:30 am - 5 pm

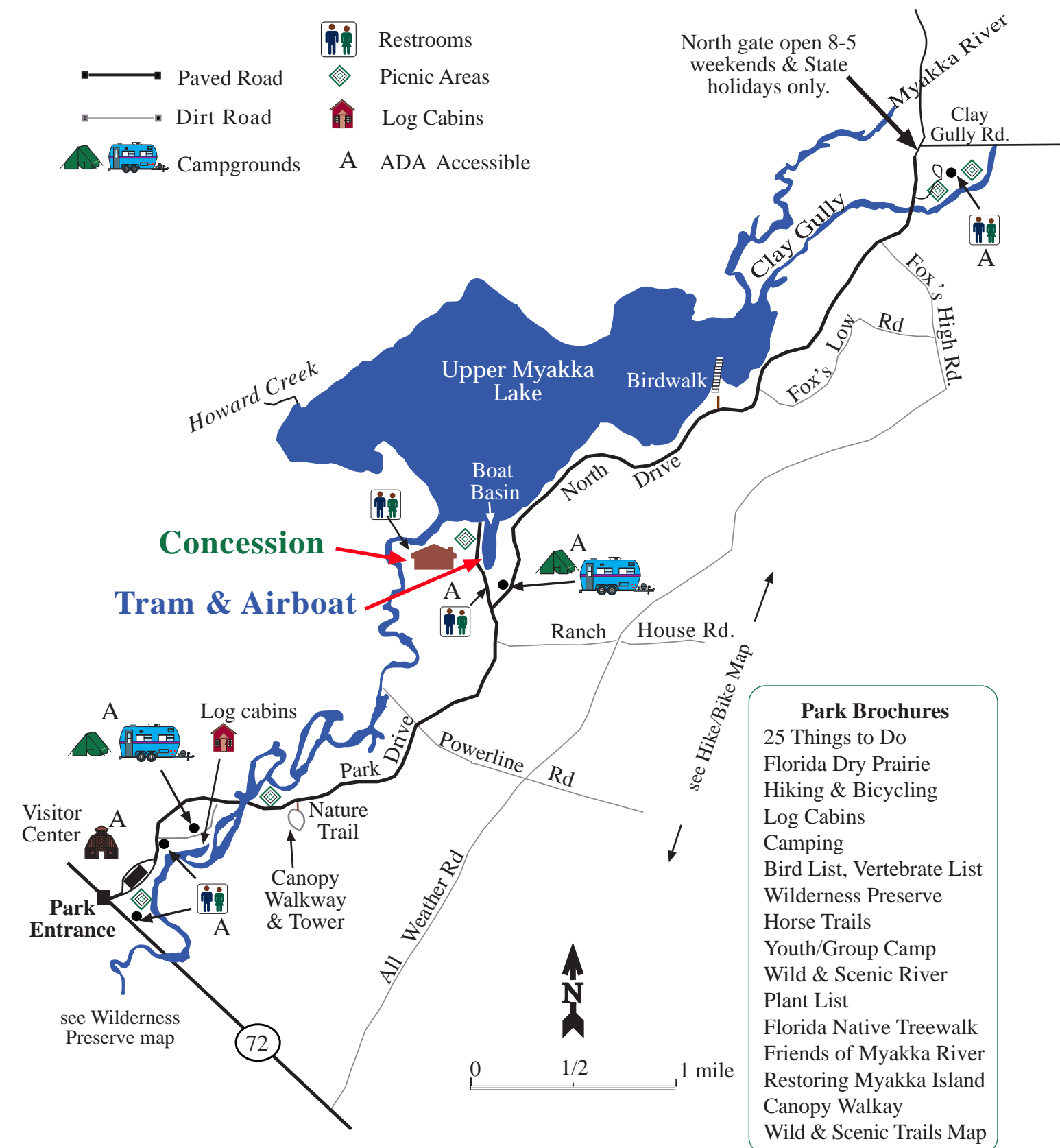
Winter Hours (Dec. 16th - May 31st)
 Mon - Fri: 9:30 am - 5 pm
 Sat & Sun: 8:30 am - 5 pm

Jim Watson



Cafe
 Ice Cream Parlor
 Nature Gift Shop
 * Green Gifts
 * Local Artists
 * Souvenirs
 * Florida Books
 * T-shirts & Hats
 * Kids Section
 Rentals & Store
 * Canoes/kayaks
 * Bicycle rentals
 * Camp supplies
 * Ice & firewood
 ATM in Gift Shop

- Paved Road
- Dirt Road
- Campgrounds
- Restrooms
- Picnic Areas
- Log Cabins
- ADA Accessible



Canoe & Kayak Rentals

Explore 14 miles of the "Wild & Scenic" Myakka River and the Upper and Lower Myakka Lakes.



Summer Tour Schedule Nina Arlet

June 1st - Dec. 15th

Boat Tour: 10:00 am, 11:30 am, & 1:00 pm

Tram Tour: Not available

Winter Tour Schedule

Dec. 16th - May 31st

Boat Tour: 10:00 am, 11:30 am,
1:00 pm, 2:30 pm

Tram Tour: 1:00 & 2:30 pm

Arrive at least 30 min prior to tour time for boarding. Additional tours may be added during peak season. To inquire about group rates, call (941) 365-0100.

Tickets sold aboard tours

Adults: \$12.00 per person

Children 6 -12 yrs: \$6.00
(Children 5 & under free in adult's lap)

Tickets sold on boat or tram prior to departure.
Tours run daily & last approximately 1 hour.

Schedules & fares subject to change.



Rental Information

A deposit of cash or credit card, and driver's license required for all Rentals. Rate Information available at Myakka Outpost. Call (941)923-1120.

Information

Birdwalk--A boardwalk on Upper Lake.

Boat Ramp--At the boat basin of Upper Lake.

Canopy Walkway & Tower-- A walkway through the treetops, at the Nature Trail.

Concession--3 miles north of S.R. 72 entrance.

Entrance Fees--Collected at Ranger Station.

Fishing--Bass, bream, catfish. A fishing license is required for those 16 and older.

Canoes, Kayaks & Bicycles--Bring your own or rent from the park concession.

Horse Trails--For those who bring their own horses. Proof of negative Coggins is required.

Log Cabins--See cabin brochure.

Nature Trail--Wheelchair accessible.

Lower Myakka Lake--South of SR 72 in the Wilderness Preserve. Permit required.

Park Programs--Schedule at Ranger Station.

Picnic Areas & 4 Pavilions

Primitive Campsites--6 campgrounds located along hiking trails. See Hike/Bike brochure.

Reservations--Call Reserve America for cabins, campsites w/ electric; call the park for all others.

Swimming--No swimming in park.

Tours (Airboat & Tram)--During peak season (Jan - Mar) and holidays, tickets may sell out hours in advance. Tours may be cancelled due to weather conditions.

Visitor Center--Exhibits and "Myakka Movies" near SR 72 park entrance.

Webpages: <http://www.MyakkaRiver.org> & <http://www.FloridaStateParks.org/MyakkaRiver>

Florida State Parks are managed as natural systems, to appear as they would had the environment not been altered by people.

Myakka River State Park
13208 S.R. 72
Sarasota, FL 34241

Park Office: 941 361-6511
Concession: 941 923-1120
Wildlife Tours: 941 365-0100
Reserve America: 800 326-3521

Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

Myakka River State Park

13208 State Road 72
Sarasota, FL 34241
941 361-6511

FloridaStateParks.org

Park Guidelines

This park is open from 8 a.m. until sundown 365 days a year via the south entrance. The north entrance is only open weekends and State holidays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Alligators are abundant. Do not approach, tease, frighten or feed them. It is dangerous and causes them to lose their fear of people, requiring their destruction.

Plant and animal life are protected. Do not feed or attempt to touch any animals.

Pets must be kept on a six-foot, hand-held leash and well-behaved at all times. They are not allowed in concession areas, primitive camps, cabins or other buildings.

Florida State Parks are committed to providing equal access to all facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact the Ranger Station.

To discover and experience all of the Real Florida, pick up a copy of the Florida State Parks Guide or visit our homepage at:

<http://www.FloridaStateParks.org>

**Large
Print**

Alternate format
available upon
request at this
Florida State Park



Southwest
Florida

Myakka River
State Park

Where River and Prairie
meet the sky



...the Real FloridaSM

National Gold Medal Winner
Florida State Parks - "America's First Two-Time Winner"