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## FRIENDS OF FLORIDA STATE PARKS

Discover All the Florida Wildlife at Homosassa Springs this Summer!

Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park showcases some of Florida's loveliest landscape surrounding the headwaters of the Homosassa River. The park is home to native Florida wildlife and one of the only places you can see a West Indian manatee up close 365 days a year. Three resident manatees live at the wildlife park which is part of an inter-agency partnership for the rehabilitation and release of injured and orphaned manatees.

Start your visit with a leisurely pontoon boat ride down Pepper Creek to the wildlife park. Along the way you may see ospreys nesting, limpkins, herons or egrets wading in the creek, wood ducks swimming along; not to mention turtles sunning on logs, fish, otter and, maybe even an alligator. Every day offers a new experience.



That's just the beginning. Now that you've arrived at the Wildlife Park, an elevated boardwalk provides great views of the wildlife, including bears, Red wolves, bobcats, deer, River otters, alligators, and a wide variety of wading birds, birds of prey, and more. A Reptile House allows close-up viewing of snakes and other reptiles.

The Park's resident manatees make the first-magnitude spring their home. Fresh and salt water fish also gather in the spring's year-round 74 degree F waters. The Fish Bowl, a floating underwater observatory, offers a below-water view of manatees and fish in the crystal clear spring environment. Three manatee programs, two Wildlife

Encounters, and an alligator/hippopotamus program are presented throughout the day, giving visitors an opportunity to learn more about Florida's wildlife.

The Homosassa River Walk and Manatee Interpretation area includes a boardwalk that wraps around the spring with a glass-fronted interpretation area with handicapped seating up front.

The Discovery Center was recently renovated to restore the historic building. A new Springs Timeline has been installed inside. Hands-on activities and exhibits that change monthly are displayed.

A picnic pavilion at the Visitor Center offers an opportunity to comfortably enjoy a picnic lunch. The Wildside Café, our snack bar at Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park, offers indoor and outdoor patio dining area.

This is a day you'll long remember. Leave your everyday worries behind you as you set out to explore the Real Florida at Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park and all our Florida State Parks.



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