

March
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FRIENDS OF FLORIDA STATE PARKS

FFSP Supports Gov. Scott's 2017 Budget Proposal for Florida State Parks

Governor Scott's recommended budget of more than \$50 million for 2017 is a 17% increase over the last budget. More than \$50 million is requested for state park enhancements, management and facility improvements which include:

- \$40 million – State Park Facility Improvements
- \$4 million – ADA Repairs/Remove Access Barriers
- \$2.7 million – Fire Equipment
- \$1.9 million – Road Repairs for State Parks
- \$1 million – Parks and Community Trails Program (PACT)
- \$450,000 – Fire Trucks

Join us in support of this \$50 million budget by thanking Governor Scott for the proposed increase in funding for our treasured State Parks. And, just as important, urge your legislators to approve it.

Learn more [here](#).



Attention All You History Buffs

There are two Florida State Parks who are working hard to raise funds for special projects. These might be of interest to you and you may be able to help.

1. Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park
2. Fort Clinch State Park

Learn more about their projects [here](#).

You can send donations directly to the state parks, or make an online donation [here](#).



New Florida Guidebook Highlights Wheelchair-Accessible State Parks

If a trip to Florida is in your future, then pick up a copy of the newly released title, *Barrier-Free Travel; Favorite Florida State Parks for Wheelers and Slow Walkers*. Penned by accessible travel expert Candy B. Harrington, this new travel guide highlights trails, attractions, and lodging options for wheelchair-users and slow walkers in 12 of the author's favorite Florida State Parks.

Filled with updated access details, the book includes information about:

- Accessible Trails and Boardwalks
- An Accessible Glass Bottom Boat in the Florida Keys
- Accessible Wildlife Viewing Opportunities
- Barrier-Free Camping
- Access Details and Photos of Park Cabins
- A Crystal-Clear Spring with a Wheelchair Lift
- Accessible Auto, Tram and Boat Tours
- Discounts on Park Admissions, Tolls and Campsites
- Nearby Accessible Trails and Attractions

Read more [here](#).



The Florida Circumnavigational Trail

Soon after Scott Warren retired from the corporate world, he started paddling the entire Florida Circumnavigational Trail. He finished on February 19 after almost 4 months. Statistics include 1,562 miles, 94 paddling days, 19 no paddle days and an average paddle day of 16.6 miles with the shortest being four miles and the longest being 34 miles.

Read more [here](#).

Scott Warren completed the trail at Fort Clinch State Park on February 19, 2017, having begun at Big Lagoon State Park on October 30th, 2016. Several other CT veterans welcomed him, an estimated 22% of CT thru paddlers to date! "I'm honored to be part of such a great group of paddlers," he said. He is CT thru paddler #23. See [here](#).



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