



# Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park

## 2021 PARK FACTS

<u>VISITATION</u>	<u>ECONOMIC IMPACT</u>	<u>LOCAL JOBS SUPPORTED</u>	<u>STAFF</u>	<u>VOLUNTEERS</u>	<u>ACRES</u>
184,034	\$29,735,247	416	23	107	200



Discover the wild side of Florida with endangered Florida panther, red wolves, manatees and whooping cranes, plus black bears, bobcats, and, of course, alligators.

**Plan your visit at [FloridaStateParks.org](https://FloridaStateParks.org)**



This information fact sheet was produced by the Florida State Parks Foundation ([FloridaStateParksFoundation.org](https://FloridaStateParksFoundation.org))



# FLORIDA STATE PARKS

## A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO FLORIDA'S WELL-BEING!

The Florida State Parks and Trails system is one of the state's greatest success stories having won the prestigious National Gold Medal of Excellence a record four times. Florida residents and visitors from around the world are drawn to Florida's state parks and trails as *the places* to hike, bike, kayak, swim, fish, camp, lay on the beach, hunt for shells, learn about nature and Florida history, have family reunions, and even get married!

Plan your visit at [FloridaStateParks.org](http://FloridaStateParks.org).

### FY 2020-21 Statewide Economic Data

- **175 Florida State Parks and Trails**  
(164 Parks / 11 Trails) comprising nearly 800,000 acres
- **\$4.4 billion direct economic impact**
- **\$300 million in sales tax revenue**
- **61,983 jobs supported**
- **29 million visitors served**



The Friends of Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park is helping to make sure the wildlife of the park are taken care of, especially if a storm comes.

Thanks to the Friends group, the park's Citizen Support Organization comprised of local volunteers, the park streamlined the evacuation process for the park's non-releasable captive wildlife. The relocation of captive predators, such as alligators, Florida black bears and Florida panthers, can be challenging and requires special equipment.

The Friends of Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park raised over \$35,000 and graciously purchased seven transport crates. The rangers conditioned the animals to comfortably voluntarily enter the crates, which improves safety for the staff, a quicker response to storm readiness, but less stress on the animals during relocation prior to a hurricane.

**Find Out More - Get Involved at <http://friendshswp.org>**



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