Deeply involved in his adopted community of Apalachicola, serving as postmaster, city treasurer, town councilman, and bank director. Concern for his yellow fever patients motivated Gorrie to invent a method for cooling their sick rooms. In 1841 he became a pioneer in the field of air conditioning and refrigeration by inventing a mechanical device that produced ice.

Dr. Gorrie received the first U.S. Patent for mechanical refrigeration in 1851. Today, a replica of his ice-making machine and other Gorrie artifacts are on display at the museum. The park is also proud to showcase temporary exhibits chronicling the history of The Florida Park Service, which plays a vital role in preserving and interpreting the Real Florida!
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

FY 2023-22 Statewide Economic Data

- 175 Florida State Parks and Trails
  (164 Parks / 11 Trails) comprising nearly 800,000 acres
- $3.6 billion direct economic impact
- $241 million in sales tax revenue
- 50,427 jobs supported
- Over 28 million visitors served

Our organization is made up of park volunteers and people like you who have a love of our State parks and a desire to support their recreational, environmental and economic value to the community. As a member of our organization you will be promoting the mission of the Park Service to preserve and protect our parks’ natural and cultural resources and to provide recreational opportunities to area visitors and residents. FOFCSP is the official Citizen Support Organization of the State parks in Franklin County. Membership dues and other funds raised by this organization are for the exclusive use of the State Parks in Franklin County, Florida.

Find out more - get involved
Friends of Franklin County State Parks

This information fact sheet was produced by the Florida State Parks Foundation (FloridaStateParksFoundation.org)