

History & Nature

A pre-Columbian Native American shell midden dating back possibly to the Weedon Island Period 1,500 years ago sits along the shore of the Dead River. The midden was identified in 1998. Cat-faced pine trees scattered throughout the park serve as living exhibits and evidence of the late 1800s turpentine industry. Trees were scarred to release resin when processed into turpentine. In 1970, the property was acquired by the state and was renamed Ochlockonee River State Park.

Nestled in beautiful pine flatwoods, the park is the perfect area for nature studies. Of special interest is the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker that nests in the cavities of the park's mature pine trees. Small grass ponds, bayheads and oak thickets are diverse habitats for the park's wide variety of wildlife. Deer, fox squirrel, bobcat, gray fox and numerous species of birds are commonly seen. Patient park visitors may be rewarded with a glimpse of white squirrels, a rare color variant of the Eastern gray squirrel. Florida black bears, gopher tortoises, fox squirrels and snowy egrets are other threatened or endangered species that call the park home.

Rare plant species, such as wiregrass gentian and ladies tresses (a rare orchid with spiraling fragrant flowers), may be seen in the spring. Colorful wildflowers living in the pine flatwoods, such as meadow-beauty and yellow-eyed grass, depend on fires to survive and flourish.

The junction of the Ochlockonee and Dead rivers offers the ideal setting for a picnic. A boat ramp provides access to the Ochlockonee River, Ochlocknee Bay and the Gulf of Mexico.

Pine flatwoods, named for the flat monotonous topography shaped by fire, is the park's most significant natural community. A prescribed burning program mimics the natural fire cycle and provides healthy ecosystems.

Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

Ochlockonee River State Park

P. O. Box 5
Sopchoppy, FL 32358
(850) 962-2771

FloridaStateParks.org

Park Guidelines

- Hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is required. Additional user fees may apply.
- All plants, animals and park property are protected. Collection, destruction or disturbance is prohibited.
- Pets are permitted in designated areas only. Pets must be kept on a hand-held leash no longer than 6 feet and well behaved at all times.
- Fishing, boating, swimming and fires are allowed in designated areas only. A Florida fishing license may be required.
- Become a volunteer. Inquire at the ranger station.
- For camping information, contact Reserve America at (800) 326-3521 or (866) I CAMP FL or TDD (888) 433-0287 or visit ReserveAmerica.com.
- Florida's 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.

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Ochlockonee River State Park

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Ochlockonee River State Park is a scenic river park with more than 543 acres that offer vivid views of natural Florida along the Gulf Coast. Opportunities to enjoy outdoor activities on land and water abound – rivers and creeks to boat and fish, nature trails to hike and explore.

The peaceful atmosphere of this park makes every visit tranquil and relaxing. Thirty **campsites** are nestled in the shady, wooded forest - each with water and electric hookups. A dump station is also provided. A **youth campsite** is situated on the Dead River for youth organizations to use.

Nature trails run along the river and wind through picturesque pine flatwoods. **Ranger-guided walks** and **campfire programs** are offered during the summer months.

Water sports are popular on the river in the summer. The park is an excellent place to **swim, canoe** and **fish**. Fresh and saltwater fish are abundant. Largemouth bass, bream, catfish and speckled perch inhabit the fresh water, while redfish and speckled trout are common in the brackish water.



Directions

Ochlockonee River State Park is located four miles south of Sopchoppy on U.S. 319.

