

Late fall, winter and early spring are ideal hiking seasons. Summer hiking, especially on the shadedless prairie, can be extremely hot and hikers should beware of heat exhaustion and stress. Insects may be a problem at any time. Trails are often flooded during rainy periods. Always carry water, a map and compass, cell phone, and wear appropriate sturdy footwear.

You can also hike, bike, or ride horses between the park and the Carlton Reserve (a Sarasota County park adjoining the south border of Myakka River State Park) via the Myakka Island Trail.

In addition to the Myakka Trail, there are many backcountry roads which crisscross the park. The horse trail is also open to hikers (marked with yellow blazes). You can combine portions of these trails and intersecting roads to form any desired hiking distance.

Millages on trails are indicated between dots. Millages on roads are indicated by square symbols. cross trails are blue blazed. Two vertical blazes or a vertical blaze with a directional pointer indicate a sharp turn in the trail. blazes, painted on trees or posts. Spur and identified by red vertical rectangles, or Trail Association. The Myakka Trail is loop trails and is maintained by the Florida The Myakka Trail includes 38.9 miles of



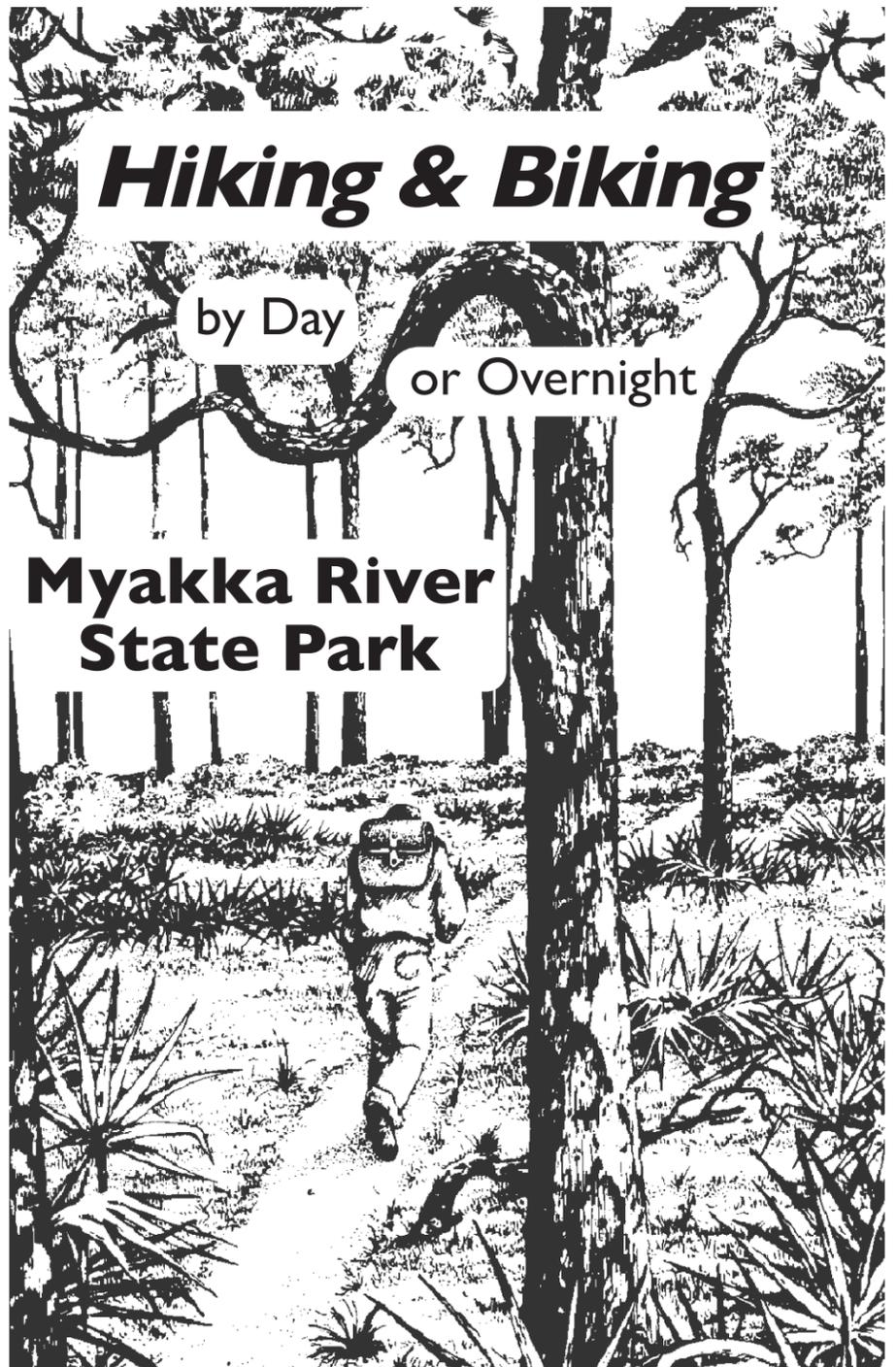
Hiking

The Myakka Wild and Scenic Trails map is now available at the Ranger Station. The large color aerial photo depicts the park, the Carlton Reserve and other public lands within the Myakka River watershed.

Best of all, Myakka offers relief from life's daily hassle and a chance to "get away from it all." Though many park visitors enjoy these natural wonders from an automobile, you can enhance your experience by venturing off the paved roads. Discover are miles of hiking trails and biking roads. Discover shady live oak/palm hammocks, sandy pine flatwoods, sunny dry prairies, and marshes teeming with life. is famed for scenic vistas and abundant wildlife. Though many park visitors enjoy these natural



Welcome



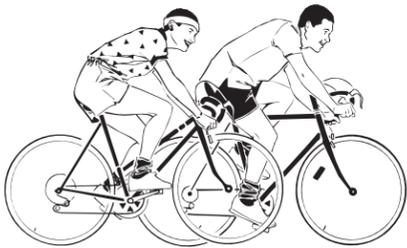
Hiking & Biking

by Day

or Overnight

Myakka River State Park

Biking



Myakka offers cyclers an opportunity to explore a diverse Florida natural system. Seven miles of paved road wind through shady hammocks, along grassy marshes and the Upper Lake shore.

The North Drive often has less traffic than the Main Drive. The hiking trails and nature trail are limited to foot traffic.

Bicycles are permitted on backcountry dirt roads north of S.R. 72 and also on the backcountry dirt roads south of S.R. 72, anywhere except the Wilderness Preserve, which is the shaded area. Some roads are hardpacked and grassed-over, others may be sandy, muddy, or dug up by feral pigs. Roads are often flooded in summer.

The Myakka Island Trail allows cyclers to travel between the park and the Carlton Reserve (Sarasota County park along the south border of Myakka River State Park). The trail begins at the north gate of MRSP. Though the north gate is only open weekends and state holidays, there is a walk-thru for hikers and bicyclists. Trail signs direct cyclers down the paved North Drive onto Fox's High Road, down All Weather Road, along S.R. 72, across the highway, through Myakka Prairie, and through the Carlton Reserve. The trail is 22 miles long. It is wise to call ahead and get information about trail conditions as trails may be tilled for firebreaks and are usually flooded in summer months.

Rental bikes, including tandems, are available from the concession. Helmets are provided for those 16 years and younger to comply with Florida law.

Primitive Camping by Bicycle

Three backcountry campgrounds are accessible by bike - Mossy Hammock, Bee Island and Oak Grove. Camping permits are required. Camp only in your designated campground. Please walk your bike if it is necessary to use a hiking trail to access a campground. The fee is \$5 per person per night.

Lightning fires and fires initiated by rangers for park management are common. Be sure to occupy your designated site so you can be contacted in case of emergency.

Use campstoves when possible and keep campfires small. Do not cut down trees or limbs. Burn only downed and dead wood and practice minimum impact camping. Leave your campsite cleaner than you found it.

There are six primitive campgrounds along the hiking trail, with three campsites at each campground. Camp areas are located in oak hammocks or pine islands offering shade as well as beauty. Two campsites at each area (up to 8 persons) can be reserved up to 11 months in advance. Four campers may occupy a site with a maximum occupancy of 12 at a campground. Pets are not permitted at campgrounds. Allow sufficient time to reach your designated campsite by sunset or you may be turned away at the ranger station. Camp fee is \$5 per person per night.



Backpacking

Myakka River State Park
13208 S.R. 72
Sarasota, FL 34241
(941) 361-6511
<http://www.FloridaStateParks.org/MyakkaRiver>
<http://www.FriendsOfMyakkaRiver.org>
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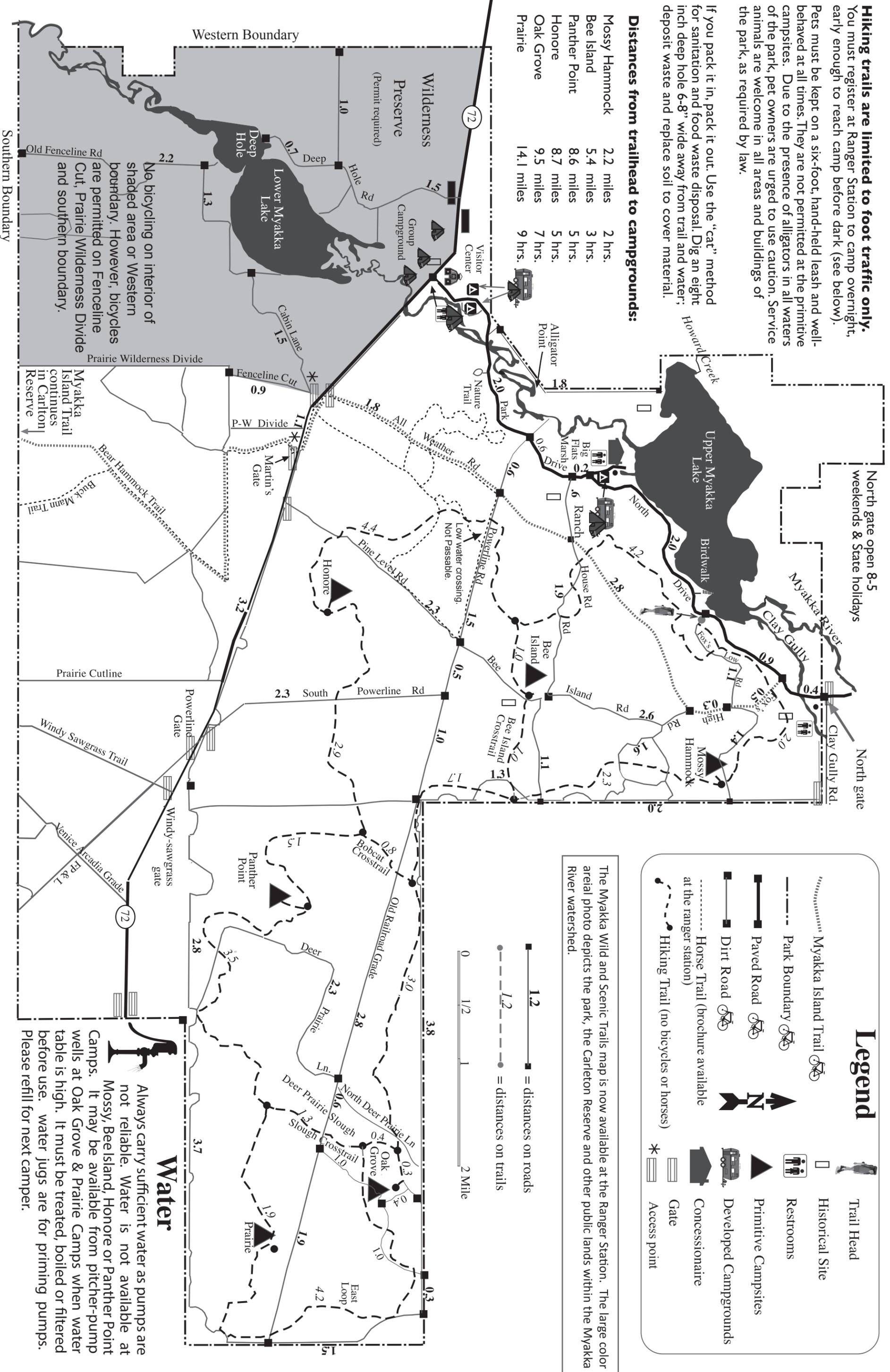
Hiking trails are limited to foot traffic only.
 You must register at Ranger Station to camp overnight, early enough to reach camp before dark (see below).

Pets must be kept on a six-foot, hand-held leash and well-behaved at all times. They are not permitted at the primitive campsites. Due to the presence of alligators in all waters of the park, pet owners are urged to use caution. Service animals are welcome in all areas and buildings of the park, as required by law.

If you pack it in, pack it out. Use the "cat" method for sanitation and food waste disposal. Dig an eight-inch deep hole 6-8" wide away from trail and water; deposit waste and replace soil to cover material.

Distances from trailhead to campgrounds:

Mossy Hammock	2.2 miles	2 hrs.
Bee Island	5.4 miles	3 hrs.
Panther Point	8.6 miles	5 hrs.
Honore	8.7 miles	5 hrs.
Oak Grove	9.5 miles	7 hrs.
Prairie	14.1 miles	9 hrs.



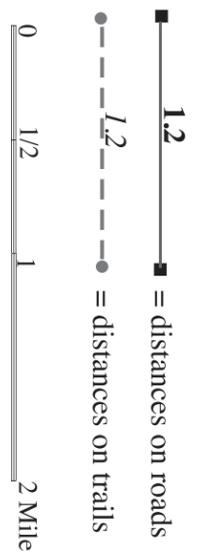
North gate open 8-5 weekends & State holidays

North gate

Legend

- Trail Head
- Historical Site
- Restrooms
- Primitive Campsites
- Developed Campgrounds
- Concessionaire
- Gate
- Access point
- Myakka Island Trail
- Park Boundary
- Paved Road
- Dirt Road
- Horse Trail (brochure available at the ranger station)
- Hiking Trail (no bicycles or horses)

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Water

Always carry sufficient water as pumps are not reliable. Water is not available at Mossy, Bee Island, Honore or Panther Point Camps. It may be available from pitcher-pump wells at Oak Grove & Prairie Camps when water table is high. It must be treated, boiled or filtered before use. Water jugs are for priming pumps. Please refill for next camper.

No bicycling on interior of shaded area or Western boundary. However, bicycles are permitted on Fenceline Cut, Prairie Wilderness Divide and southern boundary.

Southern Boundary

Western Boundary