HISTORY

The beauty of the river has drawn humans to its banks for centuries. As early as 500 BC, the river was home to the Tequesta Indians who camped along the river's shore. The estuary provided them with a rich and varied diet. When Spaniards first visited the area they encountered bear, deer, panther, bobcat, wolves, alligators, manatee and numerous birds and small animals.

In 1841, the river was named Big Snake Creek and was part of the route used by Federal troops in the Second Seminole War to travel south from Loxahatchee. In 1891, Captain William Hawkins Fulford explored the river and settled further inland in the area known today as North Miami Beach.

Once “discovered,” other settlers ventured north from Miami and by the 1890s, pineapple and vegetable farms had sprung up along the river in the newly formed town of Ojus. The river linked the Everglades with Biscayne Bay. An Indian trading post was established at what is now Greynolds Park. In 1922, Big Snake Creek was renamed the Oleta River. The historic Blue Marlin Fish House Restaurant was established in 1938 as a commercial fishing operation and evolved into a smokehouse until the 1990s.
EXPERIENCES AND AMENITIES

Situated along the scenic Oleta River and Biscayne Bay, Oleta River State Park offers visitors the perfect setting for doing everything from mountain biking and kayaking, to absolutely nothing at all! The 1,033-acre park is one of the largest urban parks in South Florida and is located within minutes of the hustle and bustle of North Miami Beach.

Because Miami is flat and coastal, most people are surprised to learn that the park is home to some of the best mountain bike trails in Florida, with 15 miles of trails for novice and experienced riders. Along twisting and turning trails, riders see a variety of birds and animals. Walkers and joggers enjoy three miles of paved trails that offer scenic views of the waterways through mangrove forests.

Dozens of picnic tables and grills are available on first-come-first-served basis. Nine covered pavilions are available by reservation. Please contact the office for availability, fees and reservations for the picnic pavilions. A playground is available for children.

Visitors can swim in the lagoon or fish from the pier or along the shore. Dolphins and manatees are frequently seen by kayakers. The Blue Moon Outdoor Center rents canoes, kayaks, stand-up paddle boards and bicycles. Snack items and sundries are available.

Try the smoked fish, sandwiches and wraps at the Blue Marlin Fish House Restaurant. An Interpretive Center features displays about the Oleta River ecosystem and local history. For overnight visits, the park has rustic, air-conditioned cabins and a youth campground for organized groups. While there are no kitchens or bathrooms in the cabins, a restroom, with hot showers, is centrally located.

Directions

Oleta River State Park is located at 3400 N.E. 163rd St., off I-95 in Miami.