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HISTORY AND NATURE

This area was inhabited by Paleo-Indians and their descendants at least 12,000 years ago. At the time of European contact 500 years ago, the Timucua, an agricultural group, lived here. Legend has it that these early natives, and later-arriving Seminoles, considered the headwaters sacred ground. In the 1700s, a band of Apalachee and Yamassees fleeing northern white encroachment joined the few remaining Timucua to create a village at the base of the Silver River.

In the 1820s, Indian Agent Gad Humphries arrived at nearby Fort King and named Silver Springs. The springs soon became a tourist attraction for adventurous visitors who poled their way along the narrow stream through overhanging cypress and Spanish moss.

With the invention of the paddlewheel, Silver River and Springs became a major distribution center for Central Florida. Plantations growing vegetables, tobacco and oranges sprang up along the banks as nearby Ocala grew.

In the late 1870s, an inventive young man named Phillip Morrell fixed a piece of glass in the bottom of a rowboat and a new enterprise began. Silver River's glass-bottom boat tours have been world famous for more than 100 years.



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SILVER SPRINGS STATE PARK

1425 N.E. 58th Avenue
Ocala, FL 34470
352-236-7148

FloridaStateParks.org/SilverSprings

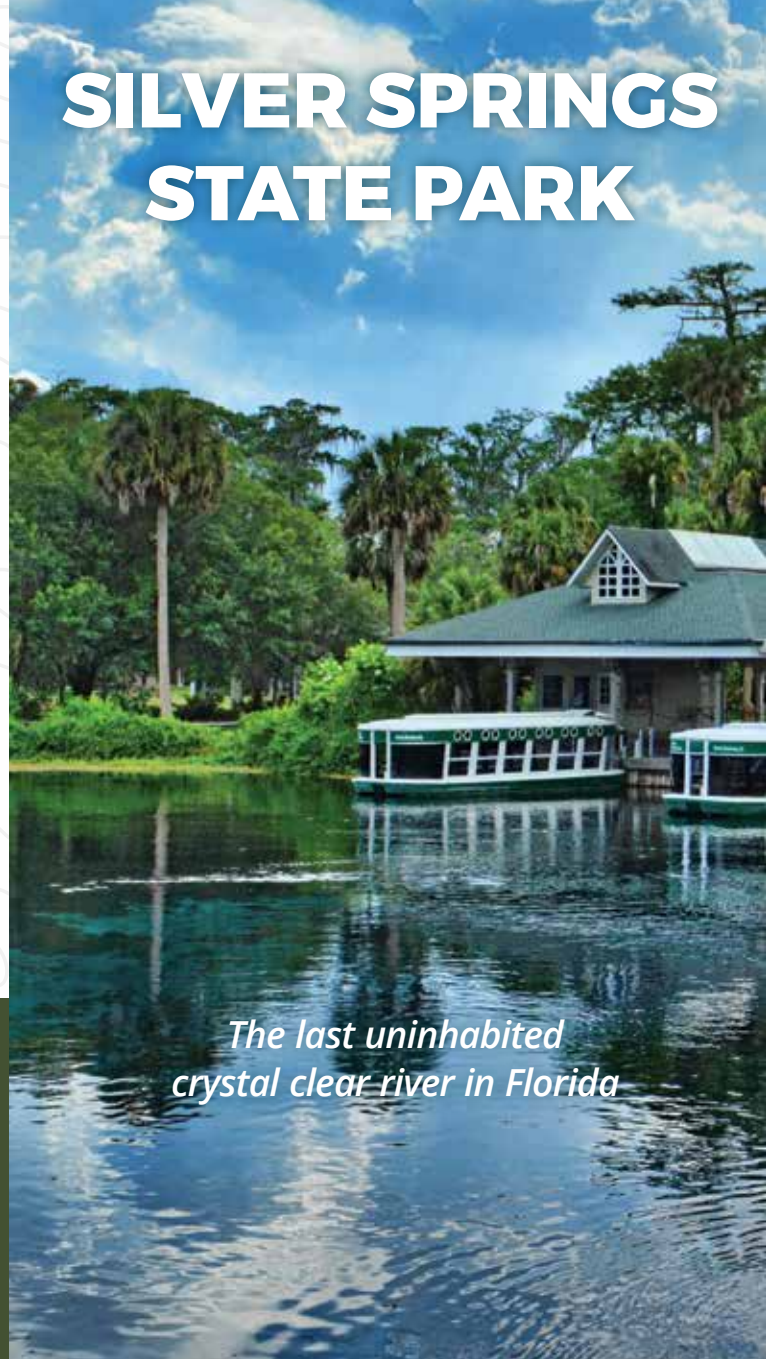
PARK GUIDELINES

- 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 leash no longer than 6 feet and well behaved at all times.
- Fishing, boating and fires are allowed in designated areas only. A Florida fishing license may be required.
- Fireworks, intoxicants and hunting are prohibited in all Florida state parks.
- Alcoholic beverage consumption is allowed in designated areas only.
- Become a volunteer. Inquire at the ranger station.
- 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.



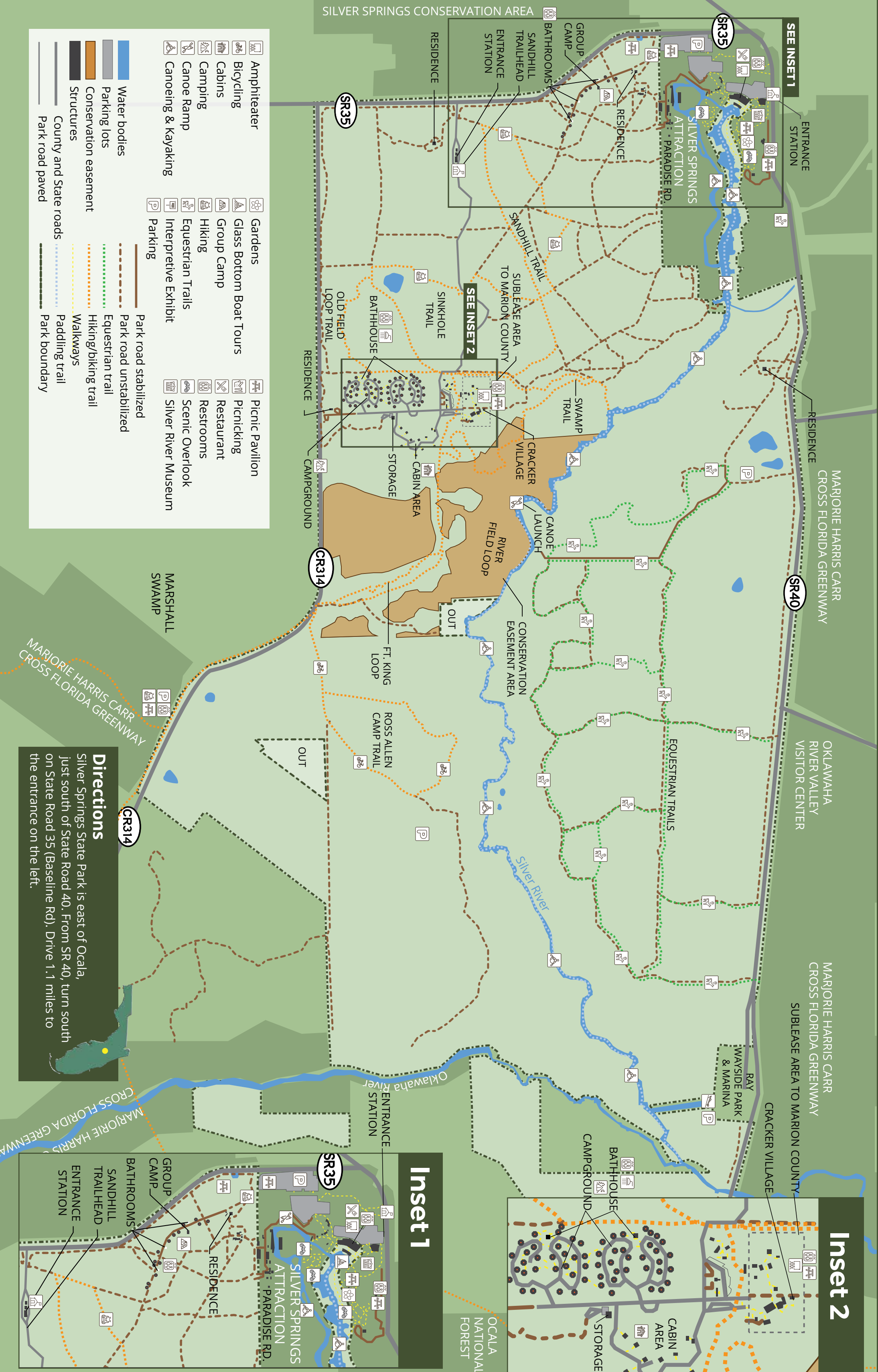
Visit us online at
FloridaStateParks.org
Follow us on social media

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The last uninhabited
crystal clear river in Florida

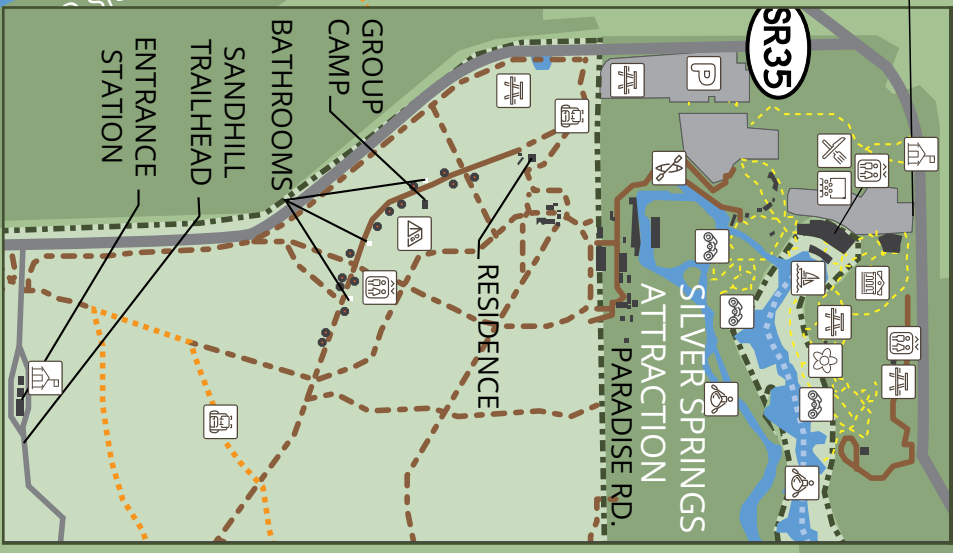
Silver Springs State Park



- | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|---------------------|
| | Amphitheater | | Gardens | | Picnic Pavilion |
| | Bicycling | | Glass Bottom Boat Tours | | Picnicking |
| | Cabins | | Group Camp | | Restaurant |
| | Camping | | Hiking | | Restrooms |
| | Canoe Ramp | | Equestrian Trails | | Scenic Overlook |
| | Canoeing & Kayaking | | Interpretive Exhibit | | Silver River Museum |
| | Water bodies | | Park road stabilized | | |
| | Parking lots | | Park road unstabilized | | |
| | Conservation easement | | Equestrian trail | | |
| | Structures | | Hiking/biking trail | | |
| | County and State roads | | Walkways | | |
| | Park road paved | | Paddling trail | | |
| | | | Park boundary | | |

Directions
 Silver Springs State Park is east of Ocala, just south of State Road 40. From SR 40, turn south on State Road 35 (Baseline Rd). Drive 1.1 miles to the entrance on the left.

Inset 1



Inset 2

