

## More Information

Named by the Seminole Indians, Weeki Wachee means "little spring" or "winding river." More than 170 million gallons of water flow from the subterranean caverns daily. The spring's basin is 100 feet wide with limestone sides. Sixteen to 20 feet below the surface, the current runs a strong five miles per hour, posing a challenge for the mermaids to stay in one place.

In 1946, Newton Perry purchased Weeki Wachee. He hired and trained the 'mermaids' to perform synchronized ballet moves underwater using hidden air hoses.

An 18-seat theater which opened in 1947, was built into the limestone, six feet below the spring's surface, allowing viewers to see the natural beauty of the ancient spring. Weeki Wachee's heyday began in 1959, when the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) purchased the springs. ABC built the current theater and developed themes for the shows, with elaborate props, music and story lines. In the 1960s, girls came from as far away as Tokyo for tryouts to become a mermaid. They performed eight shows per day to sold-out crowds, entertaining nearly half a million people annually.

The Weeki Wachee Springs State Park's Water Park, Florida's only spring-fed water park, opened in 1982. In 1997, former mermaids returned to perform in the Mermaids of Yesteryear shows, which play to standing room only crowds.

The City of Weeki Wachee incorporated in 1966. With a population of nine, it is still one of the nation's smallest cities. The mayor of Weeki Wachee is a former mermaid. Weeki Wachee Springs became a state park on November 1, 2008.



## Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

### Weeki Wachee Springs State Park

6131 Commercial Way  
Spring Hill, FL 34606  
(352) 592-5656

[FloridaStateParks.org](http://FloridaStateParks.org)

[WeekiWachee.com](http://WeekiWachee.com)

## Park Guidelines

- Park hours are 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., 365 days a year. An entrance fee is required.
- The water slides at the Weeki Wachee Springs State Park's Water Park operate on a seasonal basis. The slides are generally open weekends from April to early June, daily from June-August and weekends through September. To verify operating hours for the water slides, contact the park in advance.
- Pets are not permitted. Service animals are welcome in all areas of Florida's state parks.
- Scuba diving and snorkeling are permitted in the main spring area by reservation only and if accompanied by a park-authorized dive shop or organization.
- Become a volunteer! Inquire at Guest Relations.
- 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 Guest Relations.

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Florida state park.

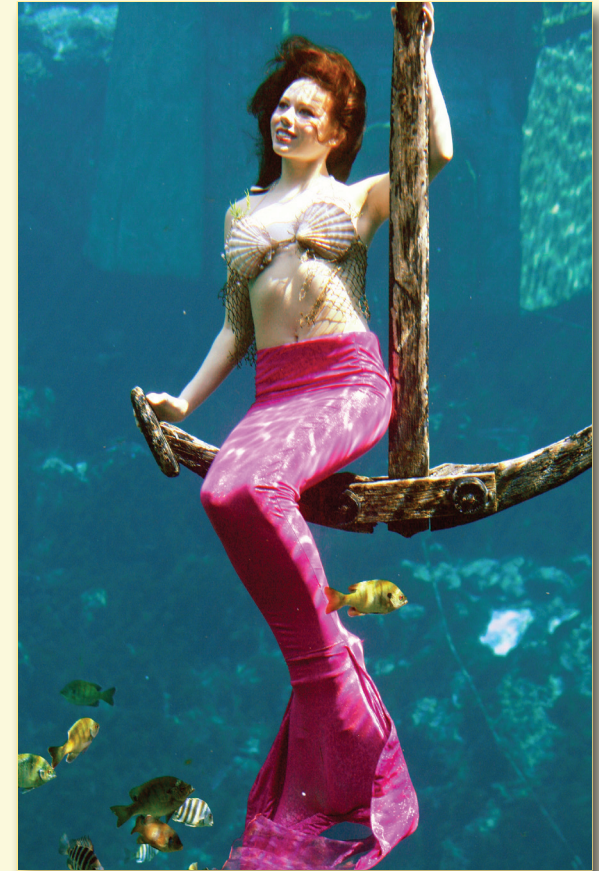


**FLORIDA**  
State Parks  
*...the Real Florida*<sup>SM</sup>  
Created on 11/14



**Weeki Wachee  
Springs State Park**  
Southwest  
Florida

*The City of Mermaids*



*...the Real Florida*<sup>SM</sup>



**National Gold Medal Winner**

Florida State Parks - "America's First Three-Time Winner"



## Real Fun in ...the Real Florida<sup>SM</sup>

As one of Florida's original roadside attractions, the mermaids of Weeki Wachee Springs have entertained visitors since 1947. The famous springhead is a first magnitude spring supplying the 12-mile Weeki Wachee River. Whether your adventure begins on a River Boat Cruise, or in a kayak or canoe, you are bound to see West Indian manatees, alligators, otters or a variety of fish, snakes and birds.

The 538-acre park features a 400-seat submerged theater for watching the live mermaid show. Wildlife shows also occur at the Riverside Theater.

A river boat cruise offers a tranquil view of the Weeki Wachee River. Discover Florida's natural wildlife and various points of interest along the way. For one of the best views of the river and its wildlife, consider canoeing or kayaking for a peaceful, yet exciting journey. Canoes and kayaks are available for rent.

The Weeki Wachee Springs State Park's Water Park at Weeki Wachee offers a fun-filled, flume ride for thrill seekers of all ages. Swim in the crystal-clear spring waters of Weeki Wachee Springs. A white sandy beach area and covered picnic pavilions with tables provide a relaxing day for your entire family. Outdoor showers are available.


There are several concession areas throughout the park for purchasing memorabilia, food and drink.



### Directions

Weeki Wachee Springs is located at the intersection of State Road 50 and Highway 19, just north of Spring Hill and south of Homosassa Springs.



 Amphitheater

 Concession/Restaurant


 Scuba Diving


 Tubing

 Birding

 Parking

 Showers


 Water Slide

 Boat Tours


 Pavilion

 Snorkeling


 Sidewalk

 Canoe Launch

 Picnic Area

 Swimming

 Unpaved

 Canoeing/Kayaking

 Restrooms

 Theater