

# Outdoor Times



MARION COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION  
IT STARTS IN PARKS

Volume 20, Issue 1

June 2009

## Marion County: Get Outdoors



National Get Outdoors Day is a new annual event to encourage healthy, active outdoor fun. The Marion

County Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with the City of Ocala Recreation Department, will offer opportunities for Marion County families to experience traditional and non-traditional types of outdoor activities. Prime goals of the day are reaching first-time visitors to public lands and reconnecting our youth to the great outdoors.

Clinics for geo-caching, spelunking (a.k.a. caving), birding, how to pitch a tent, children's craft activities, how to make smore's and

many more outdoor activities are planned.

The event will be held at Brick City Adventure Park on Saturday, June 13 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The Park is located at 1211 SE 22 Road in Ocala.

For more information, please contact the Marion County Parks & Recreation Department at 352-671-8560 or visit the National Get Outdoors website at [www.nationalgetoutdoorsday.org](http://www.nationalgetoutdoorsday.org)

Outdoor Times is a monthly newsletter provided as a public service to park visitors and guests.

Any questions related to this publication may be directed to Gina Peebles, Acting Director, in writing at Marion County Parks & Recreation, 111 SE 25 Ave, Ocala, FL 34471, by telephone at 352-671-8560 or via e-mail at [gina.peebles@marioncountyfl.org](mailto:gina.peebles@marioncountyfl.org)

## Summer Park Explorers for Teens

The Marion County Parks and Recreation Department is offering a "Summer Park Explorers" program for youth ages 12-16. The group will meet the first and third Friday of each month from June 19 until August 21.

Whether hiking a trail, kayaking or participating in a number of other outdoor activities, the Explorers will discover a park in Marion County, learning about the natural habitat and wildlife located there. Participants will de-



part from Brick City Adventure Park at 8 a.m. and return to the park at 4 p.m.

The park is located at 1211 SE 22 Road in Ocala. The cost is only \$12 per outing.

The program is limited in size and pre-registration is required.

For additional information, or to pre-register, please contact the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department at 352-671-8560 or stop by our office located at 111 SE 25 Avenue in Ocala.

### Inside this issue:

FISHING FOR RIVER TRASH	2
REVISED FEE RESOLUTION APPROVED	2
COMMUNITY ASKED TO NAME SR 200 PARK	2
KP HOLE - THE TUBER RIDE OF GENERATIONS	3
PARK PARTNERSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE	3
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	4
BIRDING CLASSES NOW AVAILABLE	4

## Outdoor Times

---

### Fishing for River Trash

The St. Johns River Water Management District's Watershed Action Volunteers (WAV) offers citizens in 14 counties the opportunity to volunteer while protecting our natural resources. Volunteers are trained to use field test kits for monitoring water quality, survey streams for sources of pollutants, participate in revegetation projects and shoreline cleanups, and help out in the field, in laborato-

ries and in offices. WAVs are also trained to prepare and give educational presentations.



The WAV's fished for trash at Moss Bluff on Saturday, May 16. Three full bags of trash were collected and

then separated to recycle the plastic, glass and aluminum. A total of 20 community service hours were attributed to this project.

After the cleanup, they enjoyed lunch and cane pole fishing, compliments of the Florida Fish and Wildlife

Conservation Commission and Lewis' Bait and Tackle. The WAV's will schedule another cleanup at Moss Bluff early next year. Moss Bluff is located at 9677 SE Hwy 464C in Ocklawaha.

To learn more about WAV's, please contact Ellie Falbo at 352-304-6324 or via e-mail at WAVMarion@sjrwm.com.

### Revised Fee Resolution Approved

At the May 5, 2009 Board of County Commissioners Meeting, the Board unanimously voted to approve several changes to the Department's Fee Resolution including a two week cancellation clause to receive a full refund for rentals.

Also, non-Marion County residents can purchase an annual pass for only \$70 and Marion County residents can purchase a two-year pass for the same price. An annual pass for Marion County residents remains \$35. New changes

also include a \$10 discount for 100 percent disabled residents and active military personnel is now offered.

Up to two passes can be purchased per household.

For more information, to make a reservation or to

purchase a pass, please contact us at 352-671-8560 or stop by our office located at 111 SE 25 Avenue in Ocala.

### Community Asked to Name SR 200 Park



The Marion County Parks & Recreation Department is looking for suggestions to name the newly acquired

40-acre park in the SR 200 area. "In keeping with the theme of the area, a patriotic name is desired," stated Commission Chairman, Jim Payton, whose district the park is located.

While suggestions are welcome by mail, an on-line survey is also available. The survey asks only three questions, your name, your e-mail address and your suggested name. The link for the survey is:

[www.marioncountyfl.org/Parks.htm](http://www.marioncountyfl.org/Parks.htm)

After the contest closes on June 30, a five person committee comprised of a representative of the Commissioner whose district the facility is located, a representative of the County Administrator's Office, a representative of the Interested Department who will act as chair and secretary, a representative of the Historical Commission and an interested citizen will meet to review the submissions and make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration.

In partnership with the South Marion Citizen, the winner will receive a gift basket including an annual park pass and the opportunity to participate in the sign unveiling.

For additional information, please contact the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department at 352-671-8560 or stop by our office located at 111 SE 25 Avenue in Ocala.

## KP Hole Park - The Tuber Ride of Generations

KP Hole Park is your family destination for spending the day on the Rainbow River. The park is open daily and offers swimming, picnicking, a boat ramp, canoeing and kayaking. Tube rentals are available on a seasonal basis.

The park is open from Mid-May to September 30 from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. and from October 1 to Mid-May between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. (or until all available parking is full). The daily user fee is only \$3 per person and children under five are free.

A designated Outstanding Florida Waterway and Aquatic Preserve, the Rainbow River is a must-visit spot for nature lovers and fun seekers alike. The Rainbow River is home to a variety of freshwater fish and turtles. Heron, ibis, anhinga and cormorants are seen regularly, as is an occasional hawk searching for dinner. Many visitors have been entertained by the river otters or are excited by the spotting an occasional alligator.

In addition to providing a habitat for wildlife above

and below the water, native wetland plants produce oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide. Wetland plants improve water quality by removing fertilizers such as nitrogen and phosphorus and, by doing so, help control algal blooms that can cause fish kills. Wetland plants also filter storm water runoff, help control erosion, and contribute to the aesthetic beauty.

**Tube Rentals:** Tube rentals are \$9 plus tax which includes return shuttle service. Guests bringing their own floatation device may purchase a pre-paid return shuttle for only \$7, which includes tax.

**Tubing/Float Trips:** The average float trip from the KP Hole to the Blue Run of Dunnellon Park is approximately four hours. Your float time may vary based on weather and / or water levels. Tubing with return shuttle service is available daily April 1 through September 30.

**Canoe / Kayak Rentals:** Rentals require a credit card or \$50 cash deposit. Safety equipment is included. Each canoe can

accommodate up to three people. Prices are per hour / per vessel with a minimum one hour charge required.

**Down River Trips:** Explore the Rainbow River and be transported back to the Park from the Blue Run Park of Dunnellon Park. The average trip is two hours.

Single Kayak - \$25 plus tax which includes return shuttle service.

Double Kayak - \$35 plus tax which includes return shuttle service for two people.

Canoes - \$35 plus tax which includes return shuttle service for three people.

**Up River Trips:** Paddle upstream to the headsprings and drift back to KP Hole. The average trip is 1 1/2 to two hours.

### Park and Rainbow River Rules:

✦ Pets (excluding service animals) and alcohol are not permitted.

✦ Coolers are subject to search.



✦ Disposable containers (such as cans, plastics, glass, Styrofoam or paper) are not permitted on the Rainbow River.

✦ Divers and snorkelers are required to float a "diver-down" flag.

✦ The entire Rainbow River is a designated "Idle Speed / No Wake" zone.

✦ The main springs are protected. Motorized vessels, anchoring, diving and fishing are not permitted beyond the marker buoy.

✦ Exiting the Rainbow River at any point except the Blue Run of Dunnellon Park is considered unlawful trespassing and violators may be subject to arrest.

The Park is located at 9435 SW 190 Avenue Road in Dunnellon. For more information on your next family adventure, contact the park at 352-489-3055 or visit us on-line at [www.marioncountyfl.org/](http://www.marioncountyfl.org/)

## Park Partnership Applications Now Available

For 15 years, the Park Partnership Program has provided more than \$840,000 to non-profit groups interested in developing or upgrading recreation facilities for use by all the citizens of Marion County.

The Marion County Parks & Recreation Department is now accepting applications through July 30, 2009 for the FY 09/10 Park Partnership Program.

Facilities eligible to receive grants include parks, school

sites and MSTU's. Recipients will receive up to 50 percent in matching funds for their projects. A total of \$60,000 is available for the program this year.

Applications are available **o n - l i n e a t**

[www.marioncountyfl.org/parks.htm](http://www.marioncountyfl.org/parks.htm).

For additional information, please contact the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department at 352-671-8560 or stop by our office located at 111 SE 25 Avenue in Ocala.



## Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location	Time
June 12	Adult Kayak Outing	KP Hole	9:30 a.m.
June 13	Get Outdoors Day Event	Brick City Adventure Park	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
June 19	Summer Park Explorers	Brick City Adventure Park	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
June 20	Adult Kayak Outing	Ray Wayside	9:30 a.m.
June 26	Adult Kayak Outing	Ray Wayside	9:30 a.m.
June 27	Birding Class	Brick City Adventure Park	9 a.m. - 12 noon
June 30	SR 200 Naming Contest Closes	<a href="http://www.marioncountyfl.org/Parks.htm">www.marioncountyfl.org/Parks.htm</a>	
July 3	Summer Park Explorers	Brick City Adventure Park	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
July 10	Adult Kayak Outing	Ray Wayside	9:30 a.m.
July 17	Summer Park Explorers	Brick City Adventure Park	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
July 18	Adult Kayak Outing	Ray Wayside	9:30 a.m.
July 30	Park Partnership Appl. Due	Parks & Recreation Office	5 p.m.
August 7	Summer Park Explorers	Brick City Adventure Park	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
August 8	Adult Kayak Outing	TBD	9:30 a.m.
August 14	Adult Kayak Outing	Gores Landing	9:30 a.m.
August 21	Summer Park Explorers	Brick City Adventure Park	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
August 22	Adult Kayak Outing	Ray Wayside	9:30 a.m.
August 29	Birding Class	Brick City Adventure Park	9 a.m. - 12 noon

## Birding Classes Now Available

Are you curious about the little brown bird in your bird feeder? Can you identify the hawk on the power pole at the end of your driveway? Are you wondering about the woodpecker living in the hole in your palm tree? Join us to learn about birds native to Marion County by participating in our three hour class that will give you the basics to enjoy the fastest

growing outdoor activity in North America...bird watching.

Classes are offered monthly from 9 a.m. until 12 noon at Brick City Adventure Park located at 1211 SE 22 Road in Ocala. Upcoming classes are scheduled for May 30, June 27 and August 29. The program is only \$10 per person or \$15 per couple. Pre-registration is required.

For additional information, or to pre-register, please contact the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department at 352-671-8560 or stop by our office located at 111 SE 25 Avenue in Ocala.

