

Backpacking/Hiking at the DuPuis Management Area

Welcome to the DuPuis Management Area. The DuPuis property is 21, 875 acres and includes four (4) hiking loop trails, Loops 1 thru 4, and one linear trail; The Ocean to Lake Trail that traverses through DuPuis. The DuPuis trails is a system of hiking trails that provide hikes of various lengths.

The DuPuis main hiking trailhead is located at the Gate 2 entrance. There you will find an established parking area with informational kiosks and brochures.

No permit is required to access these trails or to camp overnight. There is no vehicle access directly to these trails. You may access the property by parking at Gate 1, or park at the Governor's house, or park at the Cypress Trail trailhead to begin your hike/backpacking. Please be sure that you do not park on or block any roadways, hiking trails, fire breaks or gate entrances.

If camping at one of the backpacking campsites overnight, it is advisable that you place a document on your vehicle dashboard that simply reads: Backpacking, and include the departure date of your hike and your expected arrival date back to your vehicle. No personal information should be added to this document.

This is a multi-use property that is open for access year-round and does allow seasonal hunting. Please check the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation website for scheduled hunt dates:

<http://myfwc.com/hunting/wma-brochures/>

The amenities are minimal at each of the three (3) backpacking campsites but the loop 4 site does provide a fire ring, picnic table and a **NON**-potable well with a hand pump. **YOU MUST TREAT THIS WATER BEFORE USE.** Potable water can be obtained prior to your hike or backpacking at the DuPuis Equestrian Campground at Gate 3.

All belongings must be removed, and **all trash packed** out upon your departure from the backpacking campsites. There are no trash receptacles available.

- Camping is prohibited in any parking area or any place other than a designated District campsite.
- Only dead and downed wood may be collected and used for firewood.
- Campfires are permitted only in designated fire rings or fire pits provided. Check that your fire is properly and FULLY extinguished upon your departure.
- Please bury human waste and toilet paper at least 6 inches deep and away from the campsite and water sources.
- Dogs must be on a leash and under control while within camping areas. Please consult the FWC hunting brochure regarding rules and regulations for hunting with dogs.
- Generators are prohibited.
- Between the hours of 11 pm and 7:00 am loud music, barking dogs, or any other activities causing excessive noise are prohibited in camping areas.
- Collection of any plant, animal or mineral on District lands is strictly prohibited.

Links and information:

<https://www.sfwmd.gov/dupuis>

<http://www.floridatrail.org/hiker-safety/> <http://www.loxfltrail.org/Ocean2LakeHikingTrail.html>

