



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

October 2, 2015

MEDIA CONTACT:

Gabe Margasak

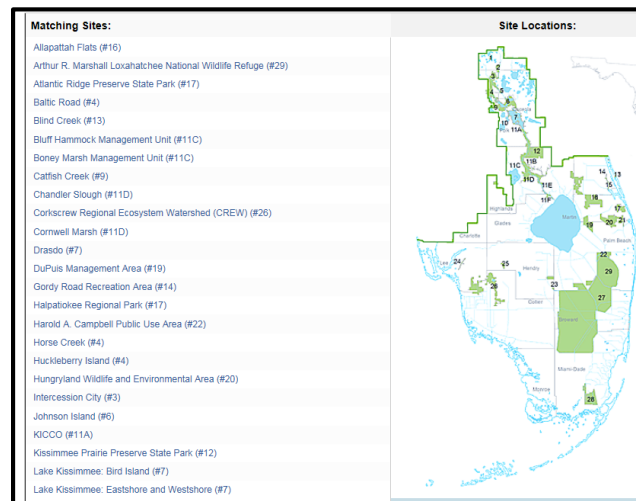
South Florida Water Management District

Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 682-2292

www.sfwmd.gov/news

follow us on 

Hiking Trails Abound in South Florida's Unique Ecosystems *Miles of paths meander through SFWMD conservation and restoration lands*



(Click on picture for an interactive map of hiking opportunities.)

West Palm Beach, FL – Opportunities abound to hike in one-of-a-kind Everglades ecosystems, alongside a kaleidoscope of wading birds, alligators, wildlife, trees and flowers, on thousands of acres of public land managed by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD).

This month, the District joins the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Governor Rick Scott in recognizing South Florida's environment during Florida Greenways and Trails Month.

In all, the SFWMD manages approximately 621,000 acres of land that are open to the public, including:

- 330 miles of trails
- 50 designated camping areas
- 66 trailhead/parking areas available for public use

Some of the most popular SFWMD trails – many of which also host bike riders and equestrians – are located in Shingle Creek (Orange County); Kissimmee River (Highlands County); Florida National Scenic Trail (Hendry, Palm Beach, Okeechobee and Osceola counties); Ocean to Lake Trail (Palm Beach and Martin counties); DuPuis Management Area (Martin County); Bird Rookery Trail (Collier County) and Levee trails (Broward and Miami-Dade counties).

In all of the state, Florida is home to more than 4,000 miles of paddling trails, 8,000 miles of land trails, 32 national Recreation Trails and 8 multi-use state trails.

The South Florida Water Management District continues increasing recreational access to its public lands while managing them to support environmental restoration, flood control, water supply and water quality missions. Many of these properties are in their natural state or have enhancements such as picnic tables, informational kiosks, campsites and hiking trails.

For More Information

- [SFWMD Recreation](#)
- DEP: [About Florida State Parks, Greenways and Trails](#)

#

About the South Florida Water Management District

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving flood control, water quality, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.