

Nature & History

Fanning Springs was occupied by aboriginal people for thousands of years. Approximately 14,000 years ago Paleo-Indian people first began to filter into the area. Over the next 2,000 years, the climate warmed and the natives subsisted on the animals, fish, shellfish and wild plants found in the Fanning Springs area. Several aboriginal sites have been found at the park.

Nearby Fort Fanning was built in 1838 during the Second Seminole War. Made of wood and situated in a warm, humid climate, remnants of the actual fort have long since disappeared. Originally called "Fort Palmetto," the fort was renamed to honor Colonel Alexander Campbell Wilder Fanning (1788-1846), who served under General Andrew Jackson in the First Seminole War. He was noted for his outstanding service as a lieutenant for leading a charge in a battle near the Withlacoochee River at the beginning of the Second Seminole War.

Fanning Springs served as the local landing for steamboats carrying products to and from local plantations until railroads crossed the Suwannee River in the early 1900s. The land has been used primarily for recreation since the mid-1900s. It was purchased by the state in 1993. In 1997 the Florida Park Service became the caretaker of this marvelous site.



Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

Fanning Springs State Park

18020 N.W. Highway 19
Fanning Springs, Florida 32693
(352) 463-3420

FloridaStateParks.org

Park Guidelines

- Hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is required.
- All plants, animals and park property are protected.
- 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 is allowed in designated areas. Boats are allowed up to the floating dock in the spring run. A Florida fishing license may be required.
- Become a volunteer. Call (352) 493-6736.
- For cabin information, contact Reserve America at (800) 326-3521 or (866) I CAMP FL or TDD (888) 433-0287 or visit ReserveAmerica.com.
- 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.

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Northeast
Florida

Fanning Springs State Park

Located on the Suwannee River Wilderness Trail



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National Gold Medal Winner

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

Real Fun in ...the Real FloridaSM

Fanning Springs is a very popular clear water spring. Located on the east bank of the historic Suwannee River in northern Levy county, this inviting source of cool, clear water has drawn people to it for thousands of years.

Located along the Suwannee River Wilderness Trail, Fanning Springs produces between 40 and 60 million gallons of water daily. **Swimming** or **snorkeling** in the spring is refreshing on a hot day. Visitors can enter the park by boat from the Suwannee River or by car. Many visitors enjoy the **picnic area**, **playground**, **volleyball court** or use the park's large open areas for frisbee, football, soccer or for special events. A **boardwalk** leads from the springs to a gazebo on the river. A 2/3 mile **trail** goes through a hardwood hammock where white-tailed deer, gray squirrels, red-shouldered hawks, pileated woodpeckers and barred owls may be seen. Manatees sometimes visit the springs during the winter months.

Cabins are available for overnight stays. Each cabin can accommodate up to six people. These two-bedroom, one bathroom cabins have centralized heating and cooling, an electric fireplace (seasonal use), screened-in porch and fully equipped kitchen. One of the cabins is ADA accessible.

Directions

Fanning Springs State Park is located on U.S. Highway 19/98 in the town of Fanning Springs.

