

magnolia, swamp chestnut oak, and pignut hickory trees provide for an open understory. This segment of trail is more rugged, with protruding roots and limestone rock. From the trailhead, it is 3 miles one-way to two more bridges that provide passage over the Northside Spring and McBride Spring Runs. Take time to enjoy the towering bald cypress trees and bright green leaves and white blooms of spider and swamp lilies.

The remaining 3 miles of trail are more level. In addition to hiking and cycling, horseback riding is allowed from Rock Road.

# **HAMMOCK SPUR TRAIL**

Explore the grandeur of a beech-magnolia hammock with its towering hardwoods and intermittent depressions where bald cypress trees dominate. These seasonal wetlands known as 'cypress domes' are the nursery of the park's amphibians. Differences in elevation of a few feet alter habitats.

It is not unusual to hear a frog chorus on a rainy day, glimpse a bounding white-tailed deer, or spy flocks of migrating songbirds in spring and fall.

This easy 45-60 minute loop walk is a favorite of park visitors.

#### CAUTIONS AND RESTRICTIONS:

- From April through October, ticks, chiggers, and mosquitoes are often very abundant.
   Please see the note to the right for recommended precautions for ticks.
- Poison ivy
- Portions of the trail may be flooded after heavy rainfall.
- Please stay on the designated trails.
- Please dispose of all litter properly.
- These trails are here for you to enjoy. Please leave the plants and animals as you found them, so others may enjoy their beauty.

### HOURS OF OPERATION

8:00 AM To Sundown

#### PRECAUTIONS FOR TICKS

Ticks, those small creatures that we at times find crawling up our legs, have now become a greater threat to our health.

Ticks are small bloodsucking pests found in vegetated areas throughout the United States. They have eight legs and are more closely related to spiders than insects. Sizes range from almost microscopic to several millimeters. At the nymph and adult stages, ticks cling to woody, brushy, or grassy vegetation. The ticks crawl onto passing animals or humans who come in contact with the vegetation.

#### Tick Bite Prevention Procedures:

- Don't walk barelegged in tall grass or woods.
   Walk the center of paths, trails, or cleared or mowed areas to minimize brushing against vegetation.
- Wear a long-sleeved shirt buttoned at the cuff and tucked in to pants; long pants tucked in to high socks; and closed shoes. Light colors will help you see the ticks more easily.
- Apply an insect repellent according to directions on the container. Preferably use one with a 30% Deet content on shoes, socks and pants.

Check yourself and companions regularly and remove any ticks. It usually takes several hours before a tick actually bites

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
Wakulla Springs State Park at 850/561-7276
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

http://www.floridastateparks.org/wakullasprings/

### WAKULLA SPRINGS STATE PARK TRAIL MAP

## **SALLY WARD TRAIL**

SKILL LEVEL: Easy, but please watch for tree roots and limestone rocks.

SUITABLE FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN? Yes

WHERE IS THE TRAILHEAD? The trail begins next to the lodge parking lot, at the white crosswalk painted on the Park Drive.

HOW LONG IS THE TRAIL? The trail is not a loop. The length of the trail is 6 miles one-way and 6 miles back.

IN ADDITION TO WALKING, MAY I RIDE A BICYCLE OR HORSE ON THE TRAIL? Walking and riding bicycles are allowed on the entire trail. Horse trailers may be parked in a small lot next to Rock Road. Horseback riding (where you provide the horses) is allowed from Rock Road along 4.9 miles of the 6-mile long trail.

Several hundred feet from the trail kiosk, you will arrive at two small sink holes. From a boardwalk next to these sinks, peer down into the shallow water. You may see white cave crayfish that have climbed up from the water filled caves deep below to forage for food.

Continue through a hardwood forest and on a boardwalk over a seasonally wet floodplain. In one-half mile you will arrive at a bridge over Sally Ward Spring Run. The water flows under the bridge to merge into the Wakulla River. It reaches the Gulf of Mexico 14 miles away.

The next three-quarter mile of trail beyond the Sally Ward Spring Run bridge weaves through a pristine and very beautiful hardwood forest. The thick canopies of American beech, southern (Continued on left panel of this brochure)

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