



## CT Overnight Parking Guide

This guide has been put together with the assistance of several volunteers with the Florida Paddling Trails Association and with the cooperation of marinas, county parks and state parks. It is useful for those who are paddling the trail in segments. Even if state parks are not listed here, many parks allow for overnight parking for a daily entrance fee per day, unless otherwise stated below. While parking at a state park would be considered more secure than most, there are still no guarantees. Ensure that valuables are not visible through a window and any watercraft should be locked onto racks. Leave a visible float plan in the window or with a responsible person and notify park or marina personnel of your intentions before leaving a vehicle.

If you are a long-distance CT paddler, it is recommended that you [register with the Florida Paddling Trails Association](#). You can become eligible for assistance along with valuable parking advice from the volunteer Trail Angel Network.

Please help us keep this guide current by reporting any changes or new information to: [doug.alderson@floridadep.gov](mailto:doug.alderson@floridadep.gov).

### Big Lagoon State Park

Paddlers will either call ahead or just show up wishing to start the circumnavigational paddling trail. The park offers a small primitive camp site near the trailhead as well as long term parking for them.

When they arrive at the park, whether they are camping or not, the park has long distance paddlers fill out a “camper card” with all of their information and gives them a camper hangtag for their vehicle. This identifies them as kayak campers to other staff

and helps late shift Rangers identify that the vehicle is permitted to be in the park after hours. The park typically charges normal entry fees for those just wishing to leave a vehicle and Primitive Group Camp fees for those wishing to overnight at the campsite.

### **Walton County**

No overnight parking allowed at county ramps, although some exceptions can be made for coordinated events. Contact the Parks Department at 850-892-8700.

### **Gulf County**

[Highland View Park and Boat Ramp](#), 110 Angel Fish St., Port St. Joe, 32456. Free overnight parking and good launch on the north side of St. Joe Bay.

[Indian Pass Beach Public Boat Ramp](#) at the East end of Indian Pass Road (SR 30-B), 32456. This is a good ramp for access to the St. Vincent's Island region. Free parking.

[White City Public Boat Ramp](#) along the Intracoastal Waterway (Highway 71 in White City, 32465) is free and overnight parking is allowed, but no camping.

Contact: Gulf County Tourism – 850-229-7800

### **Wakulla County**

The [Mashes Sands Public Boat Ramp](#) on Ochlockonee Bay (848 Mashes Sands Road, CR 372, 32346) is open until midnight, but not for overnight parking.

### **Big Bend Coast/Suwannee**

Overnight parking is allowed at Econfinia River State Park near the boat ramp area. It may also be possible to receive permission to park at the camp store

There is free parking at the town of Suwannee at the Suwannee Community Center.

Anderson's Landing in Suwannee (otherwise known as [Bill's Fish Camp and Motel](#)) has a \$5 per day charge for overnight parking.

No overnight parking allowed at Levy County ramps.

### **Citrus County**

All [Citrus County ramps](#) are open for overnight parking, although they are not patrolled and it is not encouraged. A \$10 launch fee is required for Ft. Island, Gulf Beach, Ft. Island Trail Park, Hernando Beach and MacRae's of Homosassa. Other ramps are free. Contact: Parks and Recreation, 352-527-7540.

### **Hernando County**

In the Bayport area, trail angel Julie Flynt allows long distance paddlers to park at her house or at an empty lot on a canal by Rogers Park. Contact her at [Kayakjulie@Hotmail.com](mailto:Kayakjulie@Hotmail.com); cell: 813-695-2786.

## **Pasco County**

Four county parks are open for launching: Anclote River, Anclote Gulf, Strickland and Eagle Point, but not for overnight parking. Contact: Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources – 813-929-2760.

## **Pinellas County**

Overnight parking allowed at ramps open 24 hours a day for daily fee of \$6 with trailer and \$2 without trailer, but overnight parking is generally not allowed for vehicles without trailers. They include [Belleair Causeway Boat Ramp](#) (3900 W. Bay Dr., Belleair Bluffs, 34640), [Park Blvd. Boat Ramp](#) (18651 Gulf Blvd., Indian Shores, 34635), [Fort De Soto Park](#) (3500 Pinellas Bayway S., Tierra Verde, 33715), [Sutherland Bayou Boat Ramp](#) (2119 U.S. Alt 19 North, Palm Harbor, 34683), and [War Veterans' Memorial Park](#) (9600 Bay Pines Blvd., St. Petersburg, 33708). Overnight parking for a vehicle without a trailer is allowed at Fort De Soto Park for a \$5 daily fee. <https://pinellas.gov/boat-ramp-parking>.

## **Charlotte County**

[Charlotte County ramps](#) are open 24 hours a day but many charge a .75 per hour for parking, making overnight parking prohibitive. However, kayak groups doing CT segments can request special passes for overnight parking by contacting [pamela.bird@charlottecountyfl.gov](mailto:pamela.bird@charlottecountyfl.gov); 941-235-5004 from 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. Monday through Friday or Mike Koenig at 941-235-5003 if Pamela is not available. Advance notice is recommended.

## **Sarasota County**

County ramps close at 10 p.m. except for the ramps at Nokomis Beach and Manasota Beach, which are open 24 hours. Contact is Luke Thema, [lthema@scgov.net](mailto:lthema@scgov.net); 941-275-9157.

## **Lee County**

For multiple nights, the Lee County Blueway Coordinator, Mike Hammond, has offered to be the go-between in contacting park staff in making special arrangements for extended parking. His contact information is [MHammond@leegov.com](mailto:MHammond@leegov.com); 239-707-7981. Advance notice is recommended.

- **Pine Island**

The Lee County [Lavender's Landing](#) (7290 Barrancas Ave. N.W. Bokeelia, 33922, 239-283-0015) charges a \$10 daily fee, although overnight parking is not allowed.

[Pineland Marina](#) (13921 Waterfront Dr., Bokeelia, 33922, 239-283-3593, N 26.6605, - 82.1538) charges a launch fee and per night parking fee.

Knights Landing (16489 Porto Bello St., Bokeelia, FL 33922) on the northern tip of Pine Island. \$5 Parking fee. Open 24 hours. (760) 505-2703

- **Punta Rassa**

The Lee County [Punta Rassa Boat Ramp](#) (15001 Punta Rassa Road in Fort Myers) remains closed due to Hurricane Ian.

## **Collier County**

North end: [Delnor-Wiggins State Park](#), 11135 Gulfshore Drive Naples, Florida 34108; phone (239) 597-6196. To park overnight, fill out an after-hours permit and call the office.

Mid-County: [Goodland Boating Park](#), 740 Palm Point Drive Goodland, Florida 34140; phone (239) 389-4247. No overnight parking allowed.

South end: [Everglades National Park Gulf Coast Visitor Center](#), 815 Oyster Bar Lane, Everglades City, Florida 34139; phone (239) 232-0057. Overnight parking is allowed.

## **Florida Keys**

Vehicles can be left overnight for a fee (\$20 a day in 2024) near the ramp at the [Caribbean Club](#) adjacent to Florida Bay Outfitters in Key Largo; 104080 Overseas Hwy., 33037; (305) 451-4466.

[John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park](#) charges an overnight fee since there is limited space and a high demand for overnight parking from boaters, especially during winter and spring. Call ahead to see if space is available.

[Long Key State Park](#) allows for multi-day overnight parking for park entry fee for each day. Vehicles must have a dashboard tag and be parked in the nature trail parking lot near building 10. Owners cannot sleep in vehicle.

No overnight parking is allowed at Fort Taylor State Park in Key West.

## **East Coast State Parks**

Most state parks along the East Coast will allow for overnight parking in appropriate areas for \$8 per night. This does not include camping. Persons should call ahead to a specific park and make arrangements. The [Seabrook Preserve State Park](#) parking area is available for free if park personnel are notified ahead of time.

## **Miami-Dade County**

No overnight parking is allowed in any of the county parks, beaches or marina locations.

## **Broward County**

- **Ft. Lauderdale**

Parking is available at [Cox's Landing 15 St. Boat Ramp](#) for \$4 an hour, 48 hours max. [Marina at West Lake Park](#) (1200 Sheridan St., Hollywood, 33019) closes near sundown, but overnight parking is a possibility with park permission. To coordinate parking, contact Broward County Parks and Recreation at 954-357-5161. Advance notice of at least a week is required.

## **Palm Beach County**

- **Jupiter**

[Sawfish Bay Park](#) (1133 N. Alternate A1A - Southeast end of the bridge, (N26.94658, W80.0908). Call the police department's general non-emergency phone number 561-746-6201, leave your vehicle tag number, contact name, phone number and reason for leaving the vehicle overnight at Sawfish Bay Park. Kayakers need to be careful to not abuse this shuttle overnight parking process and should hold parking to one overnigher per kayaker/vehicle.

Overnight parking is allowed at [Phil Foster Park](#) and [Burt Reynolds Park](#) for a fee as long as vehicles are parked in the alternate parking location. Overnight parking is allowed at the Peanut Island Parking Over Flow Lot of the [Riviera Beach Marina Village](#) just west of Avenue C and south of old 13<sup>th</sup> Street. Signage is posted.

## **Martin County**

- **Stuart**

[Sandsprit Park](#), 3443 SE Lucie Blvd, Stuart, FL 34997 (N27.1637, W80.1929)  
E-mail Amanda Shearer ([ashearer@martin.fl.us](mailto:ashearer@martin.fl.us)) if you plan on staying more than one day.

## **St. Lucie County**

- **Ft. Pierce**

There are several [ramps in the Fort Pierce area](#). Contact the numbers listed for each ramp if desiring to park overnight.

## **Indian River County**

- **Vero Beach**

[McWilliams Park Boat Ramp](#), 3361 Bridge Plaza Drive (SR60 and Indian River Drive, North of Merrill P. Barber Bridge, East side of Bridge). Call Vero Beach Police Department General number 772-978-4600. Leave vehicle tag number and state you are leaving vehicle overnight for kayak shuttling.

- **Sebastian**

Park at the Boat Truck-trailer parking lot at Coolidge Street and Indian River Drive. The launch is across the street (Indian River Drive) next to the large blue 2-story building at [Mulligan's Beach House](#) restaurant. Park behind the Speedway gas station in the lot, as these are single non-boat trailer parking spots. Do not confuse

this Southern launch ramp with another smaller city ramp 1 mile north. From the water, look for the Blue 2-story Mulligan's Beach House.

### **Brevard County Parks**

Although some people have successfully parked at county parks and launches that are open 24 hours a day, the county does not officially allow for overnight parking due to liability issues. No overnight parking is allowed at the Titusville Marina.

### **Volusia County**

Free parking is available along the street at the [City Marina](#) in New Smyrna Beach (201 N Riverside Dr., 32168), but space is limited. Notify the marina if parking. If launching, use the city launch located on North Causeway (170 North Causeway) or the west causeway ramp (160 North Causeway). Both ramps charge a \$20 per day parking fee with no overnight parking allowed.

[River Breeze Park](#) (250 H.H. Burch Road, Oak Hill; 386-736-5953) and Highbridge Park (39 Highbridge Road, Ormond Beach) ramps are open 24 hours a day with no fees.

### **Duval County**

Overnight parking is available as [Sisters Creek Joe Carlucci Ramp](#) at the confluence of Sisters Creek and the St. Johns River on the main CT route, [Jim King Park and Boat Ramp at Sisters Creek Marina](#) on the CT route, and [McCue Park and Boat Ramp](#) along the Intracoastal Waterway on the CT in the southern part of the county.

### **Nassau County**

Overnight parking at no charge is available at these county ramps along the Intracoastal Waterway: [Goffinsville Nassau River Park and Ramp](#) and [Holly Point](#). These ramps are 2-3 miles from the main CT route along rivers and side creeks.

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