



# Office of Greenways & Trails

## Overnight Parking along the CT

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 will especially be 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 or similar facility 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.

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.

For other options, check with regional trail angel Michael Thomas, [mike@feedbackhost.com](mailto:mike@feedbackhost.com).

### Walton County

No overnight parking allowed at county ramps, although some exceptions can be made for coordinated events. Contact Josh Ervin, Beach Maintenance Manager, [Josh@visitsouthwalton.com](mailto:Josh@visitsouthwalton.com) 850-267-4578.

### 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.

## **Wakulla County**

Overnight parking is allowed at the Mashes Sands Public Boat Ramp on Ochlockonee Bay (848 Mashes Sands Road, CR 372, 32346). There is a \$5 launch fee, but no additional fee for parking.

## **Big Bend Coast/Suwannee**

There is free parking at the town of Suwannee Community Center. For questions, check with trail angel Carol West: [cmckwest@bellsouth.net](mailto:cmckwest@bellsouth.net).

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.

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

## **Citrus County**

All Citrus County ramps are open for overnight parking, although they are not patrolled. There are no fees other than the county launch at Chassahowitzka.

Contact: Francine Nobles, Parks and Recreation Director, 352-527-7540;  
[Francine.nobles@citrusbocc.com](mailto:Francine.nobles@citrusbocc.com)

## **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 overnight parking: Anclote River, Anclote Gulf, Strickland and Eagle Point. There is a 10-day maximum for parking at the ramps and some charge a launch fee, but no extra charge for parking (see info covered in the links).

## **Pinellas County**

Overnight parking allowed at ramps open 24 hours a day for daily fee of \$6 with trailer and \$2 without trailer. 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).

## 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@charlottecountvfl.gov](mailto:pamela.bird@charlottecountvfl.gov); 941-235-5004 from 7 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Advance notice is recommended.

## Sarasota County

County ramps close at midnight, but the county is open to providing free passes for groups needing parking if they have advanced notice. Contact is Aaron Carson, [acarson@scgov.net](mailto:acarson@scgov.net); 941-315-4614.

## 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 \$10 for each 24 hours.

Pineland Marina (13921 Waterfront Dr., Bokeelia, 33922, 239-283-3593, N 26.6605, - 82.1538) charges \$15 kayak launch fee and \$11 per night parking.

Cap'n Con's Fish House (8421 Main Street, Bokeelia, 33922, 239-283-4300, 26.706025 | - 82.163788) charges \$5 kayak launch fee; \$5 per night parking.

Boat access is via beach from north on Charlotte Harbor & via boat ramp on Jug Creek from Pine Island Sound.

- **Punta Rassa**

The Lee County Punta Rassa Boat Ramp (15001 Punta Rassa Road in Fort Myers) charges parking fees of \$10 for 24 hours, \$20 for 48 hours and \$30 for 72 hours.

## 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 County Boating Park, 740 Palm Point Drive Goodland, Florida 34140; phone (239) 389-4247. Must go into Shipstore and speak with them to get receipt for windshield. (there is a launch fee)

South end: Everglades National Park Gulf Coast Visitor Center, 815 Oyster Bar Lane,

Everglades City, Florida 34139; phone (239) 695-3311

## Florida Keys

John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park charges \$15 per night since there is limited space and a high demand for overnight parking from boaters.

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.

## East Coast State Parks

Most state parks along the East Coast will allow for overnight parking in appropriate areas for an \$8 per night overflow camping fee. The Seabrook Preserve State Park parking area is available for free if park personnel is notified ahead of time.

## Miami-Dade County

**Herbert Hoover Marina in Homestead Bayfront Park** allows overnight parking. Get an overnight parking permit at the Marina. \$5/night weekdays, \$7/night weekends without a trailer.

- Silver Palm Park, 600 E Palmetto Park Road, Boca Raton, FL 33432 They allow a maximum 24-hour parking limit located under the bridge. **Note: as of June 2022, the park is temporarily closed.**
- Virginia Key Outdoor Center, 3801 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami, FL 33149. They allow parking with prior arrangement. Call (786) 224-4777. No trailer parking permitted.

## Broward County

- **Ft. Lauderdale**

Parking is available at Cox's Landing 15 St. Boat Ramp for \$2 an hour, 48 hours max., and at George English Park (1101 Bayview Drive) for \$1 an hour, 48 hours max. Marina at West Lake Park (1200 Sheridan St., Hollywood, 33019) closes near sundown, but overnight parking is a possibility. To coordinate parking, contact Steven Woytko, Senior Parks Manager, Broward County Parks and Recreation, 954-357-5173; [swovtko@broward.org](mailto:swovtko@broward.org).

## Palm Beach County

- **Jupiter**

Sawfish Bay Park (1133 N. Alternate A1A - South East end of the bridge, N26.94658, W80.0908), contact Captain Steve Drake of the police department via e-mail [StevenD@jupiter.fl.us](mailto:StevenD@jupiter.fl.us), or the police departments 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 John Prince Park, West Jupiter Recreation Center, Phil Foster Park and Burt Reynolds Park for \$10 a day, but it is limited to a 24-hour period. Overnight parking is allowed at the Peanut Island Parking Overflow 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**

Launch on northwest side of Seaway Drive A1A Bridge (N27.4561, W80.3242). Call or phone Michelle Kubitschek ([mkubitschek@city-ftpierce.com](mailto:mkubitschek@city-ftpierce.com), 772-467-3854) and give her the following: Name, emergency contact number, e-mail, tag number, date and times vehicle will be parked at the boat ramps. She will then give the car a permit to park overnight that must be picked up or she can e-mail it - this assumes one has access to a printer as the permit needs to be placed on the dashboard of the vehicle.

Note: Michelle is located just south of the Seaway Drive / A1A bridge (West side of bridge) within walking distance from the launch ramp at the West end North side of the bridge.

## **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**

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. Although some people have successfully parked at county parks and launches that are open 24 hours a day.

The county does allow for overnight parking at Brevard County Marina Park with prior permission. Brevard County Park Phone info (i.e. "Vehicle owner coordinated with Brevard County Parks and Rec (Annette Devlin) at (321-264-5037)."

Simply place a sign on your windshield with the following information:

YOUR NAME

CONTACT INFO

RETURN DATE/TIME

Make sure you park in a single car space and not the trailer section (unless you are trailering your paddlecraft).

### **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: Pam Payton, manager, 386-409-2042, [mpavton@citvofnsb.com](mailto:mpavton@citvofnsb.com). 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**

Bob Skalitzky, chief of Natural and Marine Resources, 904-255-7919, [RSkalitzky@coj.net](mailto:RSkalitzky@coj.net)

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**

William Stonebreaker, Building Maintenance Supervisor 904-530-6127

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.