











10 THINGS

YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT FLORIDA SPRINGS

Florida is home to more first- and second-magnitude springs than any other state in the nation. Florida's communities rely on healthy springs for fresh drinking water, diverse ecosystems and exciting recreational opportunities that attract visitors from all over the world. DEP is nationally recognized for its water-quality assessment and restoration programs that incorporate science, planning, partnerships and funding so that Florida's future generations may continue to enjoy these unique natural treasures.

-  Florida is home to 27 first-magnitude and 70 second-magnitude springs, more than any other state in the nation.
-  Springs are the window into the health of our groundwater, which is the source of 90 percent of drinking water for Floridians.
-  Thirty percent of the nation's water quality data comes from Florida- that's more than double the next highest state.
-  Geologists estimate that there are more than 1,000 springs in the state of Florida, representing what may be the largest concentration of freshwater springs on Earth – and we continue to discover even more. Last year, DEP's Florida Geological Survey verified 27 new springs in the Florida panhandle!
-  Since 1947, Weeki Wachee Springs State Park has been dazzling visitors with its beautiful, mesmerizing mermaids. That's more than seven decades of family fun in one of Florida's most beautiful natural resources!
-  The Florida Department of Environmental Protection employs nearly 3,000 dedicated and knowledgeable staff, including biologists, geologists, chemists and other scientists and professionals who work tirelessly to protect Florida's springs and natural resources so future Floridians can continue to enjoy them.
-  Most springs in Florida average a year-round water temperature of about 70 to 75°F. In the winter months, manatees will migrate into the springs to stay warm as water temperature drops in the Gulf of Mexico.
-  Florida's sparkling springs are world-renowned for their beauty. In fact, there are 19 state parks named for springs in Florida, which attract millions of visitors a year.
-  Several classic old Hollywood films were shot at Florida springs, including *The Creature from the Black Lagoon*, *Mr. Peabody and the Mermaid*, and multiple *Tarzan* movies.
-  Since Governor Rick Scott took office, approximately \$360 million has been invested in protecting and preserving Florida's springs through DEP and matching water management district and local funds, the highest amount of funding in Florida's history.



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