

PARKS AND RECREATION

Public Works Division

OVERVIEW



Marion County Parks and Recreation is a department of the Marion County Board of County Commissioners that provides recreational opportunities and park facilities to residents and visitors of Marion County.

The department manages 40 parks throughout the county, with amenities including boat ramps, cabin rentals, hiking trails, playgrounds, swim areas, a community center, sports facilities and more.

Staff also manages resource-based outdoor recreational activities, including guided hikes, kayaking, canoeing, paddleboarding, archery, tubing and team sports. In line with countywide efforts, Parks and Recreation works to effectively manage and protect local natural resources through land management partnerships for environmentally-sensitive areas.

KEY SERVICES



- Active and passive park locations.
- Cabin, meeting room and pavilion rentals.
- Community center.
- Natural resource management.
- Paved and unpaved trails for hiking, biking and walking.
- Quality, safe, resource-based recreational activities and programs for adults, youth and families.

FUNDING



Funding sources include:

- General revenue (property tax, state shared sales tax and other state shared revenues).
- Fees (program/rental fees and maintenance of other sports parks).
- Grants and shared revenue (property tax, state shared sales tax and other state shared revenues).

MARION COUNTY

- 1,652 square miles.
- Population: 345,749.
- Florida's fifth largest county; larger than the state of Rhode Island.
- Known as the "Horse Capital of the World," the county's rich equine and agricultural heritage is internationally renowned.
- Comprises thousands of acres of national forest, 32,000 acres of lakes, 92 miles of rivers and more than 40 springs, including Silver Springs, which is recognized as one of the largest artesian spring formations in the world.

By the Numbers*

2,140,876 Park visitors

\$1.9 Million economic impact from sports complexes

2,002 Acres of park land managed

*FY 15-16



Updated 11-16