

Frequently Asked Questions

Florida's Outdoor Recreation Inventory (FORI)

What is in the FORI Inventory?

The FORI contains more than 14,000 records on Florida's recreation resources and facilities. It includes park unit names, locations, primary-agency (managing entity), acreage, category, resource-type and recreation facilities. The Inventory lists parks and recreation resource lands throughout the state managed by a wide range of public and private recreation providers. It covers federal, state, county and municipal parks and commercial properties as well as units managed or owned by nonprofits, clubs and special districts.

Who maintains the FORI?

The Division of Recreation and Parks maintains the database that it began in 1972. Formal updates are done every two year but the data is updated as the Division becomes aware of new recreation activities, new sites and enhancements at existing sites. Most of the data is self-reported. Before the advent of web-enabled applications, the Division would mail out "site sheets" every two years to all park managing agencies and request a formal update of the information. This approach is no longer practical or financially feasible. In addition to the "formal" biennial updates, the inventory is continually monitored and edited. For example, park systems that receive federal (LWCF) or state (FRDAP) grants for recreation facility development or acquisition are required to submit updated inventory information when the grant project is completed. This data is entered into the inventory as grants are closed. Additionally secondary data sources such as guidebooks, press clippings, newsletters and community and agency web sites are reviewed for park and recreation resource data.

Why does the Division of Recreation and Parks maintain an inventory?

The inventory has three primary functions:

- Assists in formulating Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan's (SCORP) statewide recreation needs assessment;
- Serves as a planning tool for outdoor recreation planners and land managers;
- Provides a central repository for data on all outdoor recreation resources in Florida.

What sort of information can I find in the Inventory?

The inventory includes data on a wide spectrum of resource-based and user-oriented recreation opportunities offered by public and private providers. The data includes, but is not limited to, park or site names, locations; reference county, primary managing agency, acreage, partner agencies, hunting acreage, camping facilities, types of constructed trails and length, boat ramps, playgrounds, playing fields, ball courts, beaches etc. However, it is not intended to include every type of activity. The inventory is not a promotional or marketing tool. It does not replace agency or community web sites or brochures that highlight recreation resource lands and programs. It does not contain maps or links to GIS databases.

Why is the Division of Recreation and Parks providing this inventory for public use?

The Division has two reasons for putting the FORI Inventory on-line. First, it wants to fulfill a public need for information. Besides the Florida State Park system, there are 67 county park systems and more than 400 municipal park systems. Then there are national parks, forests, wildlife and estuarine preserves. Added to those lands are recreation resources managed by several state agencies, five water management districts, numerous special districts and non-profit organization as well as commercial and club holdings. There is often confusion about who manages recreation property. The FORI on-line will let the public search by unit or park name to find out who manages the lands and what outdoor recreation resources exist on them.

The second reason for making the FORI available electronically is to update the data in preparation for the next SCORP. One of the first things done in preparing this report is a comprehensive inventory update and that process will begin with the on-line inventory review and edit. Primary agencies can review, correct, update, and delete facilities. Comments and facilities that are not listed for example, disc golf or "splash" or water playgrounds can be included under the "other" heading. New parks or resources can be added on the "new sites" form. Once the data is edited, a direct email selection button returns the data to Park Planning. The information presented in SCORP is only as good as the data provided by individual property managers.