



DATE and TIME: Monday, January 27 at 10:00am

ACTIVITY: Hike – Carney Island Conservation Area

RSVP REQUIRED: RSVP to Lyn McKenney at 920-858-4274 (text preferred)

DESCRIPTION: We'll be doing a 4 mile hike at Carney Island Recreation & Conservation Area. Most of the trails are wide, flat and shady. One section (Lemon Point) is narrow, singletrack and shady and has a lake view at the point. We'll see many grand old oaks, large wild orange trees, pines and magnolias. Carney Island also has beaches and picnic areas. Photos on last page.

LUNCH: Optional late lunch and cold beers after the hike at the Flying Boat Rap Room.

MEETING PLACE: Meet at the Stone Creek pickleball court parking lot between 10:00 and 10:10am. We will depart promptly at 10:10. Carpooling may be available.

TRAILHEAD ADDRESS: 13275 SE 115th Avenue, Ocklawaha, 32179

FEES: \$7 per car entrance fee paid at the entry kiosk. Exact change required. Each participant will pay for their own lunch or drinks at the Flying Boat Taproom.

ITEMS TO BRING: Water, snacks, \$7 exact change.

PETS: Pets are NOT allowed at Carney Island.

WEBSITES:

<https://www.marionfl.org/Home/Components/FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/24/>

See your doctor before swapping the TV remote control for hiking boots, bikes and kayaks. Then pick a hike, ride or other trip within your comfort zone and begin your adventure. Participants are personally responsible for all their decisions and risks associated with their participation in any Outdoor Adventure Club activity.

Additional information, maps and photos on next few pages➔

Carney Island Recreation & Conservation Area



ADDRESS:
[13275 SE 115th Ave.](#)
[Ocklawaha, FL 32179](#)

PHONE:
(352) 671-8560

CAPACITY:
100 +

AMENITIES:

- Beach
- Boat Ramps
- Hand Launch
- Hiking/Walking
- Horseshoes
- Monofilament
- Picnic Pavilion
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Swimming
- User Fee
- Volleyball
- Wildlife

CATEGORIES:

- Parks and Recreation

Hours of operation:
April - October | 7 a.m. -8 p.m.
November - March | 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

Daily user fee \$7/vehicle

**Pets and animals are NOT permitted
at Carney Island Recreation & Conservation Area.**

The Lake Weir area has a rich history. The property has historically supported agricultural uses dating back to the 1600s. When the Spanish missionaries first visited the Lake Weir region around 1600, the Timucuan Indians occupied Marion County. The diseases carried by the Europeans decimated the local tribes by mid-1600. Around 1700, the Creek Indians were forced into Florida by the British and swiftly became known as the Seminoles. Many Seminoles settled in the Lake Weir area where they farmed and raised livestock.

In the 1800s, the lake was named in honor of U.S. Army Lieutenant Weir, who was killed near the lake's banks by the Seminole Indians in the early 1800s. In 1875, Captain John L. Carney & his brother E.L. Carney purchased the land now known as Carney Island. They developed a 25-acre orange grove, which later grew in size. The Carneys were responsible for propagating several new varieties of citrus, including the Parson Brown variety. For most of the last century, the area surrounding the Carney groves flourished as a citrus-producing region. The citrus was shipped by steamboat from a packinghouse on the east shore of the property across Lake Weir to the railroad. Pilings still exist on the property today from this packinghouse.

A hard freeze in 1894 wiped out the citrus trees around Lake Weir. Most groves were re-established, & citrus groves remained an important agricultural industry until another widespread freeze in 1984.

Over the years, several fruit growing companies had interest in the Carney Island property, and it was eventually acquired by the Coca-Cola Company in 1960 when they purchased the Minute Maid Corporation. In 1990, officials with Coca-Cola agreed to sell the Carney Island property to Marion County at a price below market value. The property was acquired using funds from the "Pennies for Parks" program. The site, which includes over 750+ acres of sandhill islands, causeways, wetland systems and shoreline beaches was acquired by Marion County to protect its ecological character and to provide a resource-based recreation area.





Carney Island Recreation & Conservation Area

Provided by the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department for informational purposes. For more information, contact the Department at (352) 671-8560 or marioncountyfl.org/parks



Map Legend

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------|------------------|
| Beach | Hiking/Walking | Playground | Wildlife Viewing |
| Boat Ramp | Horseshoes | Restrooms | |
| Canoeing/Kayaking | Parking Area | Swimming | |
| Concession | Picnic Pavilion | Volleyball | |



