



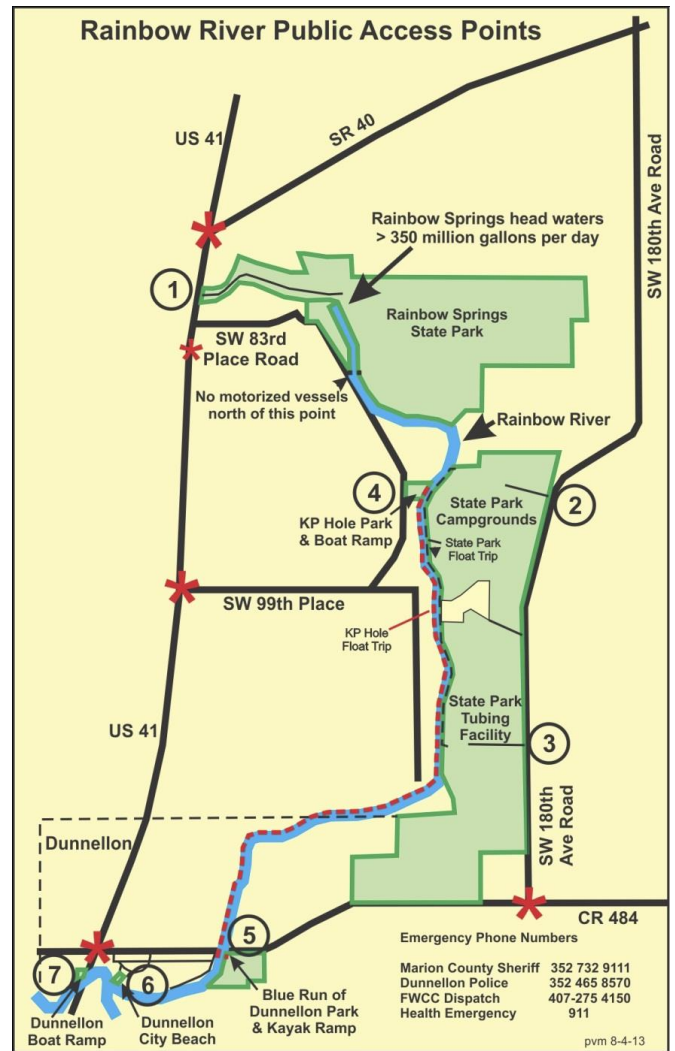
Enjoying Boating on the Rainbow

Keeping the Rainbow River Healthy and Beautiful



The Rainbow River is a first-magnitude, spring-fed river, designated by the State of Florida as an Outstanding Florida Waterway and Aquatic Preserve. Recreational users should access the river only from one of the 7 public access points shown in the map below. Because of the river's popularity, it is important that visitors follow proper etiquette so that all can have an enjoyable visitor experience and the resource will be preserved for generations to come.

- Access to the river is available from boat ramps at KP Hole and the Dunnellon Centennial Park (numbers 4 and 7 on the map.) The entire Rainbow River is a designated “Idle Speed/No Wake” zone. Any vessel operating in a speed zone posted as “Idle Speed-No Wake” must operate at the minimum speed that allows the vessel to maintain headway and steerageway.
- The main head springs are protected. Motorized vessels, anchoring, diving and fishing are not permitted upstream of the sign at the Rainbow Springs State Park southern boundary, which is the first 1700 feet of the spring run.
- It is your responsibility to abide by the laws of Florida waters, including the Rainbow and Withlacoochee Rivers. All laws are enforced by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), the Marion County Sheriff’s Department and the Dunnellon Police Department. <http://myfwc.com/boating/>
- Persons younger than 22 who operate a boat powered with a 10-horsepower or more motor must carry photographic identification and either a Florida Boating Safety Education Identification Card or Florida Boater Education Temporary Certificate from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- Taking any type of alcohol or disposables on the Rainbow River is prohibited by law. Acceptable containers include Tupperware, Rubbermaid or a thermos. Unlawful containers include: paper sacks, boxes, plastic water bottles, aluminum cans, breakable plastic utensils, paper napkins and towels. It is illegal in Florida to operate a boat while impaired by alcohol or other drugs.





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- All boats, boat trailers, boat motors, live wells, anchors and diving gear should be free of aquatic plants prior to entering or leaving the Rainbow River. Introductions of non-native, invasive aquatic plants can lead to the restriction of recreational activities such as boating, swimming and fishing.
- Use a “mushroom” anchor that grasps and releases the bottom or “power-pole” anchoring instead of “hooks” that destroy native vegetation.
- Monitor depths and trim (elevate) your motor when in shallow water to avoid destroying native vegetation and wildlife. Row or paddle until reaching deeper water.
- By statute, no one may water ski or use another aquaplaning device unless they are wearing a U.S. Coast Guard-approved non-inflatable Type I, II, III or V personal flotation device (PFD). A “spotter” to observe those being towed is recommended as an additional safety precaution.
- Motorized vessels shall disengage propeller and wait for swimmers and floaters to pass safely as opposed to moving into the shallow water and thereby creating propeller scars in the vegetation. Keep boat in neutral until divers have safely passed, since most boat motors, especially four strokes, cannot be heard until they are dangerously close to divers.
- Divers-Down flags displayed on vessels must be at least 20 inches by 24 inches, and a stiffener is required to keep the flag unfurled. Dive flags carried on floats must be at least 12 inches by 12 inches. Also, divers-down flags on vessels must be displayed above the vessel's highest point so that the flag's visibility is not obstructed in any direction.
- Boaters should stay at least 100 feet away from either stationary or moving dive flags in rivers to avoid entanglement with surfacing divers. Where the river isn't wide enough, remain as far away as possible without damaging vegetation.
- Drop divers off in rock-bottomed areas only, because divers tend to stand on the bottom while waiting for the rest of their group to get into the water. Keep float lines taut in the rapidly changing river depths to avoid entanglement in vegetation, root systems and submerged branches.
- Do not collect or harass wildlife or their eggs, or feed and harass alligators, all of which are against state law. Turtle poaching is prohibited. Don't remove or cut vegetation without proper permits. Do not dig up or remove any object from the river bottom unless you are properly authorized to do so by the State of Florida.



Drop divers off in rock-bottomed area only