



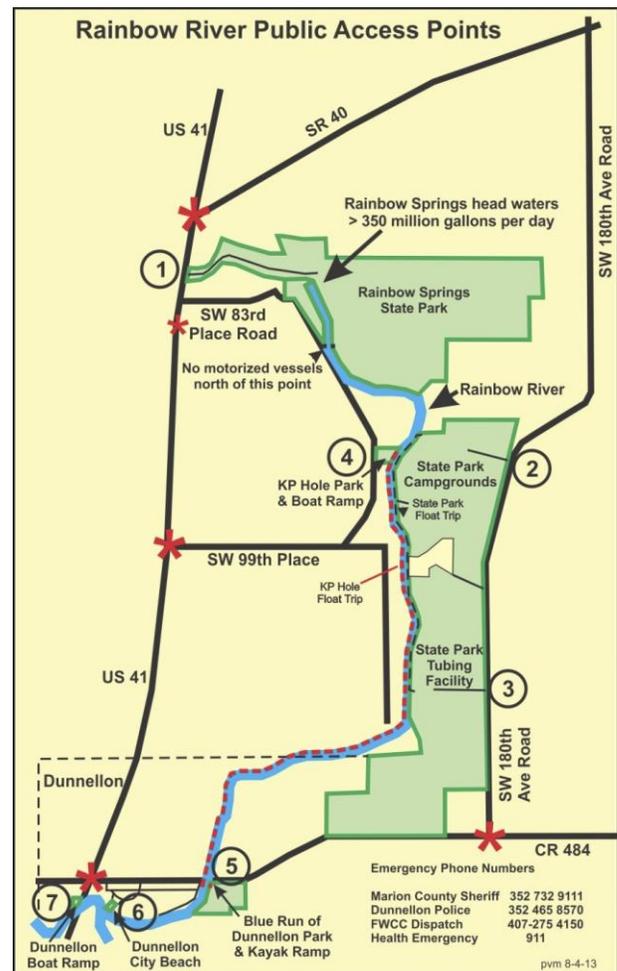
Enjoying Paddling the Rainbow

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.

- Paddling access to the Rainbow River is available at map locations 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7. You must be registered at the campground (2) to use this access point for paddling.
- 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.
- 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.
- Secure all items in your kayak or canoe to prevent them from going overboard.
- All boats, kayaks, canoes, paddle boards should be free of any 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.
- To enter the upper 1700 feet of the spring run, paddlecraft operators must meet the requirements of a lawful vessel and remain on their vessel. This means you must have in your possession a regulation type I, II, III or IV PFD (Personal Flotation Device), and a sound-producing device such as a whistle per state ordinance. Children under 6 yrs. in paddle craft are required to wear their PFD's at all times.





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- Wear a whistle (required by law) on wrist or neck lanyard should you require assistance. Use it only in case of emergency.
- Stay out of main traffic lanes to keep a navigable channel open for motorized boats.
- All vessels, both power boats and paddle crafts should attempt to avoid collisions. Except in the event of an emergency, it is unlawful for any person to anchor or operate a vessel in a manner that will unreasonably interfere with the navigation of other vessels.
- Back-paddle your paddlecraft to avoid collisions with boats and others in your vicinity.
- Vessels going up or down rivers always have right of way over vessels crossing the channels. Avoid spreading out across the width of the river or paddling sideways across the river if it blocks other boats.
- Pets must remain in your vessel. Small pets may attract alligators to your craft.
- Avoid paddling through a group of people displaying a dive flag, to avoid entanglement or colliding with divers surfacing below you.
- 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, either by the State of Florida, or as a volunteer of the annual Rainbow River Conservation, Inc. River Clean-up Day in May.
- Do not engage in loud behavior, disturb native wildlife or disrespect private property owners along the river.



Paddling on a quiet morning



Paddling the Rainbow offers views of nature



Rental canoes and kayaks are available from parks and outfitters

