

Wild and Scenic Loxahatchee River

The Loxahatchee River was the first Wild & Scenic River in Florida, receiving the federal designation on May 17, 1985. Nearly half of the river, from Riverbend Park to the Boy Scout camp, is designated "Wild & Scenic". This portion of the river is completely undeveloped and provides excellent habitat for Florida's native wildlife, such as turtles, alligators, raccoons, ospreys, and the endangered wood stork. "Loxahatchee" in Seminole means "turtle river" so be sure to look for the yellow-bellied slider turtles that give the river its name.

As you journey down this part of the river, you will take a trip back in time to see South Florida as it likely was over 100 years ago. The undeveloped landscape offers spectacular animal watching opportunities and breathtaking nature photography. The river current is slow and gentle. The Wild and Scenic part of the river is largely freshwater and supports native habitats such as cypress swamps, freshwater marshes, and hardwood hammocks. Near Kitching Creek, you will begin to notice mangroves dominating the landscape, signaling an increase in salinity to brackish water (part salt and part fresh water). Saltwater flows into the Loxahatchee River through its mouth at Jupiter Inlet.



American alligator



Coral snake (venomous)



Yellow-bellied slider (native)



Raccoon



Travel Time and Distance
Approximate travel times and distances from Riverbend Park canoe launch site

Location	Time	Distance
Lainhart Dam	20 min	0.5 miles
Masten Dam	1 hr	1.8 miles
Trapper Nelson's	3 hrs	4.8 miles
Jonathan Dickinson State Park (Boat Ramp)	6 hrs	8.9 miles

ENJOY THE RIVER!

This is your river! Enjoy it and protect it. A few things to remember while you are out on the river: always wear a life jacket while on the water, wear a hat and sunscreen, and bring drinking water.

Respect our wildlife - please do not feed the animals; their natural diet is not in your knapsack. Alligators, snakes, and raccoons are wild animals and could be dangerous if approached.

Remove your trash - Keep the river beautiful. Take only pictures, leave only footprints.

Volunteer - You can make a difference! Contact the River Center to learn how (561) 743-7123 or visit www.loxahatcheeriver.org/rivercenter.



Loxahatchee River Guide

This guide provided courtesy of the Loxahatchee River District



Preserving Nature by Design™

Dedicated to preserving the Loxahatchee River and its natural habitats by implementing innovative wastewater solutions, furthering river research efforts and fostering environmental stewardship.

Discover more of Florida's native wildlife at the Loxahatchee River District's Busch Wildlife Sanctuary. www.buschwildlife.org



RIVER CENTER

For more information about the Loxahatchee River visit the Loxahatchee River District's River Center
Located in Burt Reynolds Park
805 N. US Highway 1
Jupiter, FL 33477
(561) 743-7123
www.loxahatcheeriver.org

25th Anniversary
Wild and Scenic
May 17, 2010



Green heron*



White-tail deer*



Tilapia (invasive)



Osprey*



Great blue heron



Florida gar



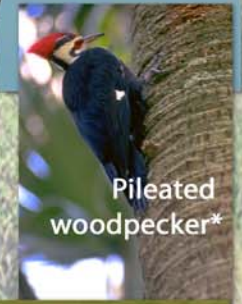
Kingfisher*



Anhinga



Little blue heron*



Pileated woodpecker*



Barred owl



Swamp lily



White ibis



Red shouldered hawk*



Snowy egret



Cypress tree

* Photo courtesy of SFWMD.gov