

STATE FOREST SPOTLIGHT

American Heritage River

The Charles H. Bronson State Forest's most notable feature is the St. Johns River, which makes up part of the forest's eastern boundary. It is designated as an American Heritage River and is the longest river in Florida at 310 miles long. It is from the Spanish name San Juan that the river received its current name of St. Johns.

Other notable features are the four creeks that flow through the Charles H. Bronson State Forest, which are Turkey Creek, Joshua Creek, Buscombe Creek and Christmas Creek.

Love the state forests? So do we!

The Friends of Florida State Forests is a direct-support organization of the Florida Forest Service dedicated to ensuring Florida's state forests are available for future generations to enjoy. Make a difference by joining today to help protect Florida's forests.

Membership dues go to the forests for conservation and improvement projects. To join Friends or for more information, visit:

www.FloridaStateForests.org



Things to Know When Visiting Charles H. Bronson State Forest

- Entrance fees are required in designated areas. Day or annual passes are available in the webstore at FloridaStateForests.ReserveAmerica.com. Special Use Permits (required for any organized group activity) may be obtained by calling 407-971-3500.
- For primitive camping reservations at Charles H. Bronson primitive campsites, visit FloridaStateForests.ReserveAmerica.com.
- Leashed pets are allowed with a leash no more than 10 feet in length.
- Use trash receptacles or take trash with you when you leave.
- Vehicles, motorcycles and ATVs (all-terrain vehicles) are not allowed on the forest.
- Hiking and horseback riding are welcome on trails designated for their use. Do not make new trails.
- All horses require proof of current negative Coggins test results.
- Hunting requires a license, management area permit and is allowed only in designated areas during appropriate seasons. We encourage all visitors to check the Wildlife Management Area regulations and hunting season dates before visiting the forest. For further information about the Charles H. Bronson Wildlife Management Area, visit MyFWC.com.



Florida Forest Service

Charles H. Bronson State Forest



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Commissioner Wilton Simpson

History

The Charles H. Bronson State Forest was established on July 1, 2008. Most of the land within the forest boundaries was purchased by St. Johns River Water Management District, Board of Trustees (Florida Forever Funds), Orange County Funds and Natural Resource Conservation Service Funds. The Forest is named after Charles H. Bronson, who served as the ninth Commissioner for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services from 2001 to 2011.

Historical uses included forestry, turpentine, agriculture and cattle grazing. Charles H. Bronson State Forest is adjacent to, and south of, Little Big Econ State Forest. Together, these two natural areas protect more than 10 miles of the St. Johns River.

Forestry

The Florida Forest Service's mission is to protect and manage the forest resources of Florida, ensuring that they are available for future generations. The Florida Forest Service manages more than 1 million acres of state forests for multiple public uses including timber, recreation and wildlife habitat.

The forest management at the Charles H. Bronson State Forest includes restoring and maintaining native ecosystems, protecting and managing species of plants and animals, protecting all archaeological and historical sites, protecting the quality and health of the rivers and its wetlands and practicing sustainable forest management activities. The application of prescribed fire is used to mimic the natural fire regime that historically maintained the natural communities on the forest. The natural communities on the forest, is another integral component of the management plan.



Scubby Flatwoods



Pitcher Plant



Roseate Spoonbill

For more information contact:
Charles H. Bronson / Little Big Econ State Forest
1350 Snow Hill Road, Geneva, FL 32732
(407)971-3500
www.FDACS.gov/FLStateForests

Natural Resources

The Charles H. Bronson State Forest is approximately 11,246 acres and is located in the southeastern portion of Seminole County and northeastern part of Orange County.

The forest provides a crucial source of protection for wetlands and associated natural communities within the floodplain of the St. Johns River. Other natural communities include wet prairie, pine flatwoods, sandhill and cypress swamp.

The natural communities found on the forest support a variety of wildlife which includes: alligator, Southern fox squirrel, gopher tortoise, bald eagle, roseate spoonbill, sandhill crane, wood stork and Florida panther.

Recreation

Charles H. Bronson State Forest is open during daylight hours for visitors to enjoy picnicking, hiking, fishing, wildlife viewing, and horseback riding. Access to Charles H. Bronson State Forest's trails is available at one main trailhead at the end of Phillips Road and at a shared trailhead at the Chuluota Wilderness Area at the end of Curryville Road. Overnight camping is allowed at Charles H. Bronson primitive campsites by reservations at FloridaStateForests.ReserveAmerica.com.

Fishing and hunting at the state forest is regulated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in cooperation with the Florida Forest Service. For more information about the Charles H. Bronson Wildlife Management Area, visit MyFWC.com.