



OCALA WETLAND Recharge Park

Frequently Asked Questions

2105 NW 21ST ST., OCALA, FL 34475



WHAT IS THE RECHARGE PARK, AND WHERE IS IT LOCATED?

The Ocala Wetland Recharge Park is an innovative water resource and environmental education facility operated by the City of Ocala Water Resources. The park supports groundwater recharge by allowing treated reclaimed water and stormwater to filter through wetland systems where plants, microorganisms and soil naturally remove nutrients before water reaches the aquifer.

The park is located on a city-owned, 60-acre site. The site features preserved oak hammocks, shallow and deep marshes, open-water ponds, wet prairies, and a paved trail system. Former golf course fairways and irrigation ponds have been transformed into functioning wetlands that support groundwater recharge and wildlife habitat.

WHAT EFFECT DOES THE PARK HAVE ON THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS?

Wetland recharge parks across the state have shown positive impacts on surrounding communities, including enhanced aesthetics, recreational opportunities and stable or increased property values. Community feedback on the Wetland Groundwater Recharge Park has been overwhelmingly positive, with residents expressing appreciation for its environmental, educational and recreational benefits.

WHY DID THE CITY CREATE THIS PARK?

- To protect water resources and meet regulatory requirements. The City of Ocala relies on the Upper Floridan Aquifer for its drinking water supply, which also feeds the Silver Springs system. Increasing regulatory requirements related to spring protection and water quality prompted the city to take a proactive, sustainable approach. The recharge park improves water quality while helping replenish groundwater supplies.
- To provide an educational and community-focused amenity.
- The park serves as a living classroom, offering educational signage, observation areas, and opportunities to learn about groundwater recharge, wetland ecosystems, native plants, and wildlife. More than two miles of paved trails allow visitors to experience the park and enjoy scenic views beneath mature oak canopies.

HOW DOES THE PARK FUNCTION?

The Ocala Wetland Recharge Park was designed to:

- Recharge the Upper Floridan Aquifer using treated reclaimed water and stormwater.
- Reduce nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus before water reaches groundwater and nearby springs.
- Create wetland and upland habitats that support wildlife.
- Integrate recreation and education while preserving existing natural features.

The park's design weaves trails through a diverse landscape of deep and shallow marshes, wet prairies, open water ponds and upland oak hammocks.

IS THE PARK OPEN TO THE PUBLIC?

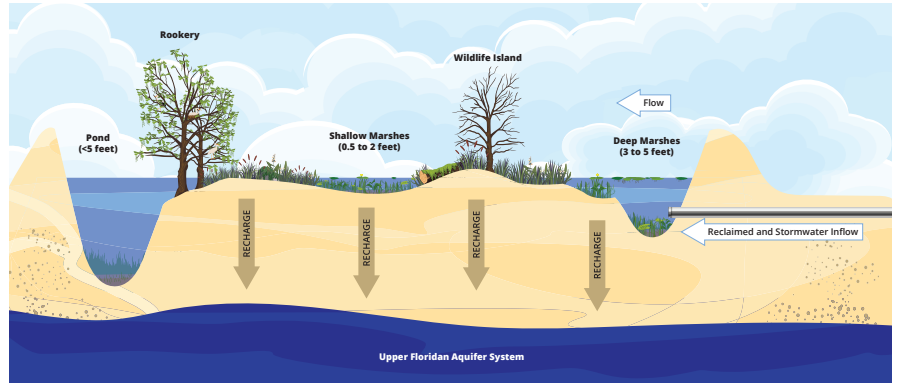
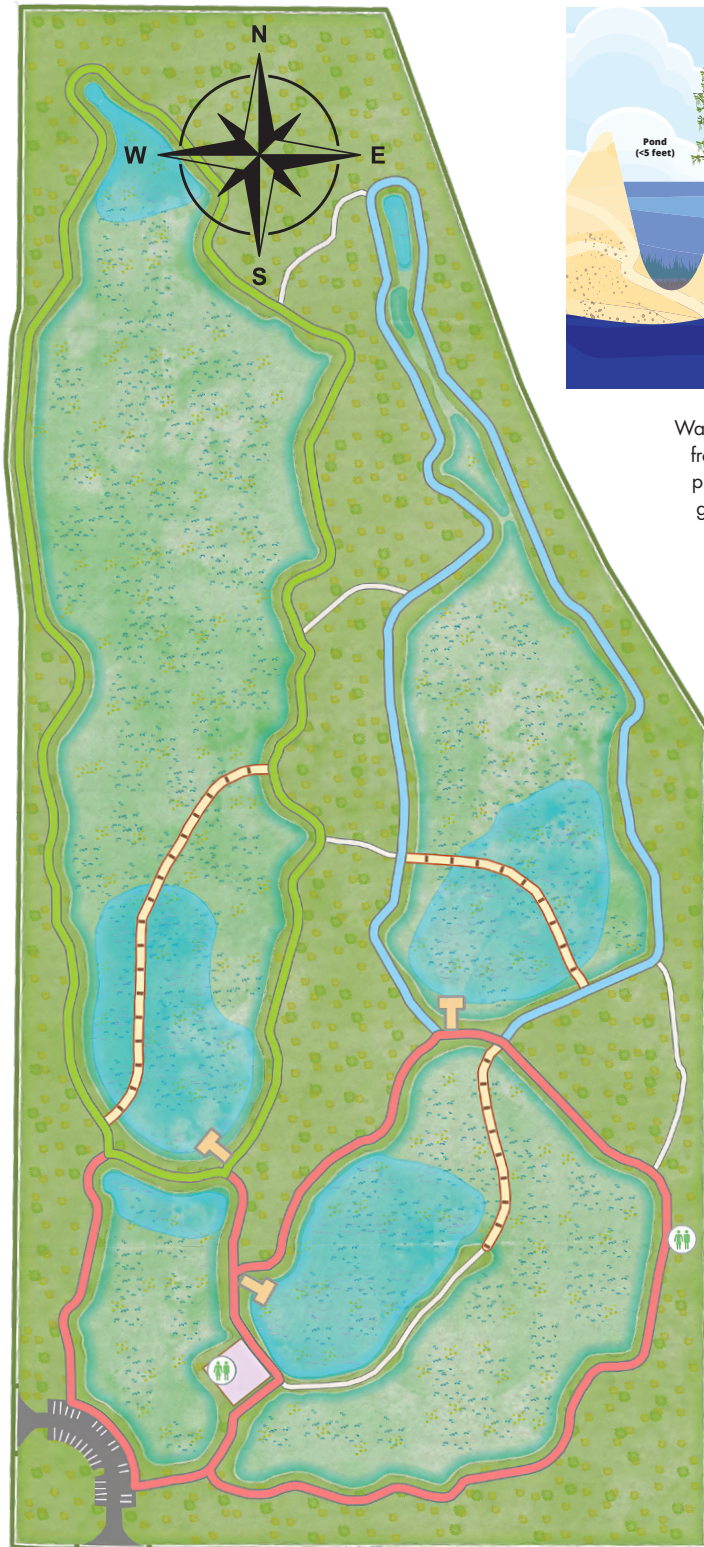
Yes. The Ocala Wetland Recharge Park is open and actively used by the community for walking, learning and enjoying nature. Visitors are encouraged to explore the trail system and educational features while respecting wildlife and natural areas.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE OR GET INVOLVED?

The City of Ocala Water Resources continues to engage the community through education, outreach, and partnerships connected to the Ocala Wetland Recharge Park. For current information, educational resources, tours and outreach opportunities please visit, ocalafl.gov/wetlands.



WETLAND PARK MAP & WATER TREATMENT PROCESS



Water that feeds into the Ocala Wetland Recharge Park (OWRP) is either treated wastewater from one of our water reclamation facilities or filtered stormwater from a nearby stormwater pond. The park can potentially receive five million gallons of water per day; however, it will generally receive less. The OWRP is comprised of three individual cells or trail loops, which receive water through the inflow pipe located near the north end of each trail loop. As water travels through the cells, nutrients and other contaminants are trapped and utilized by microorganisms, invertebrates and plants located within the wetlands. In the shallow marsh areas, the water will percolate through the soil and recharge the aquifer to assist in offsetting the water consumed by the City of Ocala and its residents.



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR PARK HOURS, LOCATION, AND VISITOR INFORMATION, OR CONTACT THE OCALA WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT AT 352-351-6772 FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.

LEGEND

POINTS OF INTEREST

BATHROOM / WATER STATION OVERLOOK

WALK PATH

ALLIGATOR LOOP - 0.86 MI
 APPLE SNAIL LOOP - 0.70 MI
 BULL FROG LOOP - 0.66 MI
 BRIDGE
 TRAIL

PARK AREA

MARSH
 PARK AREA
 PAVILION / WATER STATION
 WETLAND RECHARGE AREA
 PARKING LOT

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