

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Besides meeting the legal requirements, prudent boaters should carry additional safety equipment. The following additional items of equipment are suggested depending on the size, location and use of a boat.

- VHF radio
- Anchor
- Heaving line
- Fenders
- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Mirror
- Searchlight
- Sunscreen lotion
- Tool kit
- Ring buoy
- Spare fuel
- Spare anchor
- Chart and compass
- Boat hook
- Spare propeller
- Mooring line
- Food and water
- Binoculars
- Spare batteries
- Sunglasses
- Marine hardware
- Extra clothing
- Spare parts
- AM/FM radio
- Pump or bailer
- Paddles
- Whistle or horn
- Visual distress signal

PADDLING SAFETY TIPS

1. Avoid canoeing or kayaking alone, or at night.
2. Prepare a "float plan." Leave a paddling route and return time with a relative or friend.
3. When in a group, assign a lead and sweep boats. Preferably, both boats should be manned by experienced paddlers with no one in the group passing the lead boat or falling behind the sweep.
4. Never paddle farther from shore than you are prepared to swim.
5. Make mental notes as you pass trail markers - knowing the location of the closest marker will help emergency personnel should you need assistance.
6. Watch for motorboats. Stay to the right and turn your bow into the wake.
7. Secure your car and take keys with you. Remember to bring a cell phone to call emergency personnel at 9-1-1.
8. State Law requires all persons in vessels including canoes and kayaks to have a wearable personal flotation device (PFD) for every person on board. And a horn/whistle on the vessel.
9. Do not approach or harass alligators, as they can be dangerous. It is illegal to feed wildlife. Blueway trails are shared with alligators, nesting birds and other wildlife. Please observe, but do not disturb.

LAKE COUNTY BLUEWAYS

The Harris Chain features four blueway trails: Golden Triangle Run, Helena's Run, Lake Griffin Run and Lake Harris Run. The Golden Triangle Run is named after the three municipalities forming this unique area of Lake County — Mount Dora, Tavares and Eustis. All three cities feature quaint downtowns with boutiques and restaurants.

Helena's Run includes two outstanding natural amenities, Bugg Spring and Flat Island Preserve. Explore both areas for remarkable opportunities to view birds and wildlife.

A highlight of the Lake Griffin Run is the popular recreational spot, Lake Griffin State Park in Fruitland Park, which features a campground, picnic area and hiking trails.

The Lake Harris Run features four entry points: Singletary Park and Venetian Gardens in Leesburg, Hickory Point Recreational Facility in Tavares and Astatula Park. Each facility offers a variety of amenities for paddlers. For more information about Lake County's Blueways, visit www.paddlelake.com.

Navigating the Blueways
The Harris Chain of Lakes map denotes four suggested routes for canoes and kayaks with GPS-coordinates along the trail. The trail is marked with line of sight navigation markers. Markers are placed at every directional change in the trail. Always paddle safely and remember the trail crosses busy boating channels used by recreational and commercial powerboats.



Lake County is not only blessed with great natural resources, but a responsive Sheriff's Office Marine Unit. The unit routinely patrols the lakes, rivers and other bodies of water located within Lake County. These deputies conduct boating safety inspections, enforce boating laws and respond to routine and emergency calls occurring on the water. The Marine Unit offers the following general boating safety tips to help make every boating excursion a safe and fun one.

1. **Alcohol and boating don't mix** - Alcohol impairs a boater's judgment, balance and coordination. More than 50 percent of drownings result from boating incidents involving alcohol.
2. **Look for the label** - Use Coast Guard-approved life jackets when boating and fishing.
3. **Prepare for fire safety** - All motorboats less than 26 feet in length must carry at least one B-I, hand portable, readily accessible, Coast Guard-approved fire extinguisher.
4. **Bring noisemakers** - Boats less than 40 feet in length are required to carry a sound producing device.
5. **Develop a float plan** - Anytime you go out in a boat, give a responsible person details about where you are going, how long you will be gone and what your boat looks like. This is important because if the boat is delayed because of an emergency, becomes lost, or encounters other problems, you want help to be able to reach you.
6. **Watch the weather** - Know local weather conditions and prepare for electrical storms. Stop boating as soon as you see or hear a storm.

7. **Keep the ship in tiptop shape** - Make sure the boat is in top operating condition and there are no tripping hazards. The boat should be free of fire hazards and have clean bilges.
8. **Maintain a safe speed** - Develop a habit of boating slowly within 150 feet from shore. Remember to obey restricted zones such as "slow speed minimum wake" and "idle speed no wake." In Lake County, all public access man-made waterways that are connected to lakes and rivers are designated "idle speed no wake" unless otherwise posted.
9. **Ride carefully** - Do not ride on the bow, stern, seat back or sides of the boat when in motion.
10. **Anchor with caution** - Refrain from anchoring a boat in any heavily traveled area that would interfere with or create a navigation hazard for other boaters.

INTRODUCTION TO THE HARRIS CHAIN OF LAKES

HARRIS CHAIN OF LAKES STATISTICS

With a name like Lake County, it's no surprise that the area is a top notch location for fishing tournaments, boating competitions and kayaking. Featuring 1,400 named lakes and seven of the top 11 lakes for number and size of bass fish in Florida, Lake County is the place to catch big trophy fish. Anglers regard Lake County's glistening lakes as some of the most diverse and abundant fishing opportunities in the state. If Florida is the Fishing Capital of the World, Lake County is the crown jewel.

That's why popular tournaments such as the FLW Tour, Bass Pro Shop Big Bass Tour, Bassmaster Elite Series and Bassmaster Southern Open have all called Lake County home.

Lake County's moderate climate, 67 boat ramps and abundant fishing on lakes Harris, Eustis, Griffin and Dora, as well as Johns Lake and the St. Johns River, make it a year-round fishing destination.

Among the most popular of its hundreds of bodies of water are the 12 lakes that make up the Harris Chain. The most recognizable of these connecting waterways is the Dora Canal. Several boat cruises offer tours of this enchanting waterway with its towering cypress trees that are a safe haven for nesting ospreys, herons and egrets. For the casual boater, the chain of lakes offers multiple sightseeing stops, including the downtowns of Eustis, Mount Dora and Tavares. For more information on planning your next fishing trip, visit www.lakebigbass.com.

Number of lakes	12
Total acreage	75, 881
Boat ramps	31

Lake Griffin	9,327 acres
Lake Yale	4,013 acres
Lake Harris	15,088 acres
Little Lake Harris	3,359 acres
Lake Eustis	7,802 acres
Lake Dora	4,382 acres
Lake Beauclair	1,140 acres
Lake Carlton	376 acres
Lake Apopka	30,173 acres
Lake Denham	250 acres
Horseshoe Lake	33 acres
Trout Lake	111 acres

POINTS OF INTEREST

1 Ferran Park

One of the oldest parks in Lake County was constructed along Lake Eustis in 1923. Ferran Park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a centerpiece of the downtown district. Beautifully landscaped, with walking paths and benches throughout, the park includes slips for boaters. The park features a restored sea wall running along the lakefront to the Mediterranean-style bandshell. Other amenities include a playground, two gazebos and picnic tables. Immediately adjacent to the park is the city's aquatic center and Eustis Lake Walk. For more information, call 352-357-7969.

2 Hickory Point Park

This 68-acre recreational waterfront park is located near the City of Tavares at 27341 State Road 19. With 12 paved boat ramps and ample parking for vehicle and boat trailers, the park is most popular among boaters. Families often find the park as a perfect destination for a reunion, wedding or party because of the numerous facilities provided.

A highlight of Hickory Point is the two-story, screened picnic pavilion with first-floor picnic tables and barbecue grills, and a second floor with screened banquet rooms. The pavilion can accommodate small groups or large gatherings of up to 275 people. The park also features a swimming beach, fishing piers, day slips for boaters, nature boardwalk, outdoor picnic areas with barbecue grills, open-field play areas, playground, horseshoe pits and a sand volleyball court. For more information, call 352-324-6141.

3 Gilbert Park

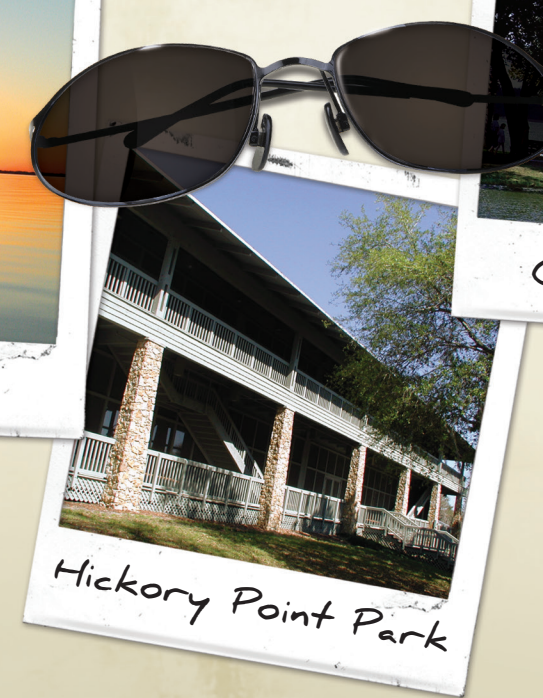
Located at the end of Liberty Avenue and south of Tremain Street on Lake Dora, this 8-acre park features eight picnic tables, three sheltered picnic areas, a four-lane boat ramp and a fishing dock. Distinct amenities of this recreational area include a 1,700-foot hiking trail and boardwalk and the 2,000-foot Grantham Point and Lighthouse Point, which is the only inland freshwater lighthouse in the state. Located across Tremain Street from Simpson Cove is Gilbert Park, which features a large playground, pavilion with kitchen area, 25 picnic tables and restroom. For more information, call 352-735-7183.

4 Wooton Park

Located on the shores of Lake Dora, Wooton Park is the site of many City of Tavares-sponsored events, including the Central Florida Dragon Boat Festival. Held in May of each year, the festival features action packed contests beginning with a crew of 20 paddlers led by the loud, steady beat of a drummer and guided by the steers-person. Wooton Park also includes a large playground, gazebos, boat ramp and a picnic area with a pavilion and barbecue pit. For more information, call 352-742-6338.



Ferran Park



Hickory Point Park



Gilbert Park



Wooton Park

LCWA
Lake County
WATER AUTHORITY
27351 State Road 19,
Tavares, FL 32778
Phone: 352-324-6141
Fax: 352-324-6364
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LAKE COUNTY
FLORIDA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& TOURISM DEPARTMENT
315 W. Main St.
P.O. Box 7800
Tavares, FL 32778
Phone: 352-742-3918
www.VisitLakeFL.com



FREE WATERWAYS MAP



NAVIGATIONAL LOCKS

HOURS OF OPERATION

Haynes Creek Lock & Dam
Phone: 352-787-2611

- Feb. 15-Oct. 15
7 a.m.-12 p.m.; 1-7 p.m.
- Oct. 16-Feb. 14
7 a.m.-12 p.m.; 1-6 p.m.

Apopka-Beauclair Lock & Dam
Phone: 352-383-3986

- Feb. 15-Oct. 15
7 a.m.-12 p.m.; 1-7 p.m.
- Oct. 16-Feb. 14
8 a.m.-12 p.m.; 1-6 p.m.

DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

- Lake Griffin – Ocklawaha River**
Haynes Creek 175°
Herlong Park 190°
- Lake Griffin – Haynes Creek**
Ocklawaha River 000°
Eustis via Haynes Creek 090°
Treasure Island 195°
Leesburg 200°
Picciola Island 205°
- Lake Griffin – Herlong Park**
Ocklawaha River 010°
Haynes Creek 020°
Lake Griffin State Park 335°
- Lake Eustis – Haynes Creek**
Eustis 090°
Tavares 150°
Dora Canal 160°
Dead River 180°
Lake Griffin via Haynes Creek 270°
- Lake Eustis – Eustis**
Tavares 225°
Dora Canal 230°
Dead River 240°
Haynes Creek 270°
- Lake Eustis – Dead River**
Haynes Creek 005°
Eustis 060°
Tavares 095°
Dora Canal 110°
Lake Harris via Dead River 200°
- Lake Eustis – Dora Canal**
Eustis 050°
Tavares 090°
Lake Dora via Dora Canal 180°
Dead River 290°
Haynes Creek 345°
- Lake Harris – Helena Run**
Leesburg 010°
Johnson Point & Dead River 060°
Horseshoe Island 110°
Lake Denham via Helena Run 220°
Singletary Park 335°
- Lake Harris – Singletary Park**
Venetian Gardens 045°
Dead River 090°
Horseshoe Island 110°
Helena Run 155°
- Lake Harris – Venetian Gardens**
Dead River 085°
Horseshoe Island 125°
Helena Run 190°
Singletary Park 225°
- Lake Harris – Dead River**
Lake Eustis via Dead River 090°
Horseshoe Island 185°
Helena Run 240°
Singletary Park 270°
Leesburg 270°
- Lake Dora – Dora Canal**
Tavares 050°
Mount Dora 095°
Lake Beauclair 100°
Eustis via Dora Canal 330°
- Lake Dora – Wooten Park**
Mount Dora 090°
Lake Beauclair 105°
Dora Canal 240°
- Lake Beauclair Channel to Lake Dora**
Lake Dora 10°

