



Everglades Boating Regulations

Navigable waters cover one third of the park, creating excellent fishing and boating opportunities. Please remember to exercise caution while boating in the Everglades. Here are some guidelines to follow:

- Know Florida State Boating Regulations.
- Carry all United States Coast Guard required items, including personal floatation devices, on board your boat.
- Always carry a nautical chart and compass as it is easy to become lost or to run aground in park waters.
- Check weather and tide predictions before leaving shore and always be prepared for mosquitoes.
- The bottom of Everglades waterways are protected wilderness. Propeller damage to seagrass beds is harmful to the marine ecosystem and is illegal. Use caution when navigating in shallow waters. Push-poles and paddles are a necessity.
- Avoid propeller damage by using marked channels and other navigational aids.
- Remember that collecting plants and animals is prohibited. This includes orchids, air plants, sea horses, starfish, marine snails (live or dead), tropical fish, lobster, coral, sponges and driftwood.

Boat Ramps

Boat ramps within Everglades National Park are located at West Lake and Flamingo.

Several commercial boat ramps are located in Everglades City and Chokoloskee.

Closed Areas

(Closed areas represent less than one percent of the total park area.)

Florida Bay Keys

- All keys (islands) in Florida Bay are closed to protect bird nesting areas (see exceptions below).
- Wading within 100 feet of any closed area is prohibited.
- Moats and internal creeks associated with Buchanan Keys.
- Exceptions: Landing and camping is permitted on North Nest Key, Little Rabbit Key and Cape Sable. Carl Ross Key is open for summer day use. Bradley Key is open for day use all year. Permits are required for camping.

Creek, Mud Creek, Mud Bay, Davis Creek, Joe Bay and its easternmost portion

- Snag Bay, and all creeks and bays inland from the northern shoreline of Long Sound to US 1.

Other Areas

- Rodgers Bay Rookery
- The small groups of islands at the southeast entrance to Gaskin Bay, known as Indian Key Rookery.
- Cuthbert Lakes and Rookery
- Other areas may be posted by order of the Park Superintendent

Northeast Florida Bay

- Little Madeira Bay, Taylor River, East

Motor Prohibited

(In all No Motor areas engine must be removed from transom)

- All freshwater lakes, including Paurotis and Nine Mile Pond.
- Noble Hammock and Hells Bay Canoe Trail (from the road to Lard Can).
- Long Lake to the mouth of Garfield Bight. *Note * Watercraft with engines of 6 hp or less are permitted on West Lake, but not beyond.
- Little Henry, Henry, Monroe, Middle and Seven Palm Lakes.

- All inland creeks and lakes north of Long Sound, Joe Bay and Little Madeira Bay except for the ponds and lakes associated with Taylor River.
- Coot Bay Pond, Mud Lake and Bear Lake.
- The Homestead Canal and all small lakes along the canal.
- All associated small lakes on Cape Sable inland from Lake Ingraham.

Motor Restrictions

(Operation of a vessel in excess of 5 mph prohibited)

Everglades City Area

- Alligator Creek, Plate Creek, Halfway Creek, Gopher Key Creek where marked, and between Wilderness Waterway Markers 86 & 87.

Key Largo Area

- Marker 42 Creek, the Boggies, Shell Creek, Nest Key as posted and McCormick Creek.

Flamingo Area

- Florida Bay and Whitewater Bay boat basins.
- Tarpon, Avocado, and North Prong Creeks.
- Buttonwood and East Cape Canals were marked.
- Shoreline of Florida Bay east of the marina as posted.

Prohibited Craft

- Water skis: The towing of persons by vessels utilizing water skis, hydra slides, knee boards, or other similar types of equipment.
- Personal Watercraft: The operation of

personal watercraft, also known as "Wet Bikes", "Jet Skis", and other trade names.

- Submersibles: The use of manned and unmanned submersible watercraft.

Remember...

Unprepared boaters risk getting lost, running aground, damaging their boats, expensive

towing fees, and hefty fines for damaging park resources!