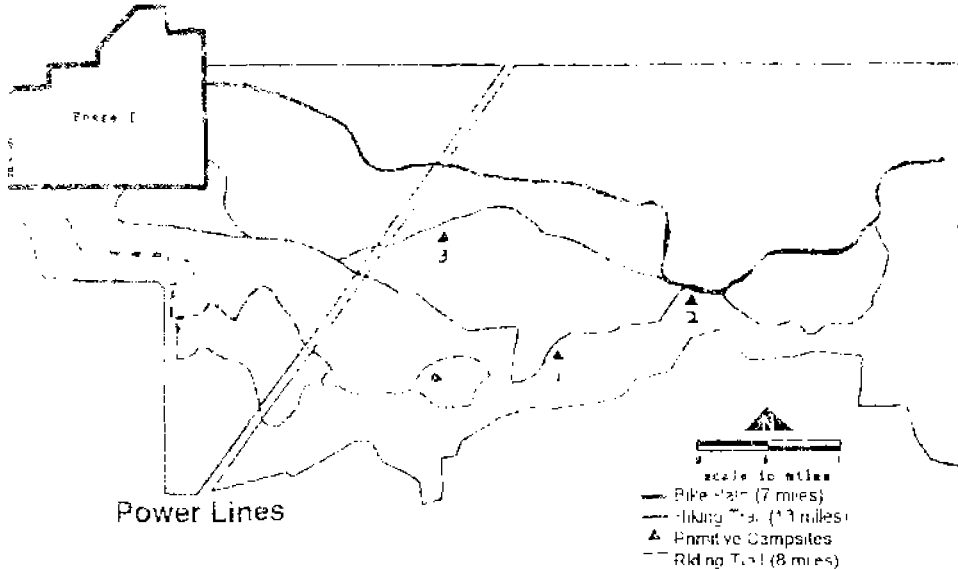


# PASCO COUNTY

## Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park



**In 1937**, Jay B. Starkey and three partners began buying the land known today as the Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park to use for cattle grazing. The virgin pine and cypress, which earlier covered the property, had been harvested, but second and third growth timber had already regenerated. Over the next 30 years, as the population grew along the Gulf Coast, even more forests were lost to development. To ensure that the land would be preserved in its natural state, Mr. Starkey approached the Southwest Florida Water Management District about public acquisition.

**In 1972**, Mr. Starkey donated 250 acres of property to the District. Since then, the District has purchased approximately 3,000 acres from the Starkey family. To guarantee that Mr. Starkey's vision for the property would be fulfilled, each deed agreement included several stipulations that the lands would remain in the present, natural state, except for water management purposes; that hunting would be prohibited, and that a public park would be developed.

**Since 1975**, the District and Pasco County have worked together to develop long-range water supply goals and recreational opportunities for the property. In November 1989, the District and Pasco County, owners of approximately 140 acres bordering the northwest portion of the District's property, entered into an agreement to develop the entire site into Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park, and on August 29, 1992, this park was opened to the public. Mr. Starkey's dream was fulfilled.

**Today**, this park not only provides a variety of passive recreation pursuits friendly to the environment, it also provides 14 productive well sites which serve the coastal communities in Pasco County.



**PASCO COUNTY**  
**JAY B. STARKEY WILDERNESS PARK**  
**General Park Information**  
**(727) 834-3247**

**Rules and Regulations**

Park hours are 6:00 a.m. until time posted.

Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

All types of weapons and firearms are prohibited.

All vehicles (cars, trucks, motorcycles) must stay on paved and shell roadways. Parking in designated parking areas only.

Bicycles are not allowed off paved or shell roadways.

Dogs must be on a six-foot leash at all times. No domestic animals allowed in Camping Area.

Tampering with or feeding wildlife is prohibited.

The speed limit throughout the park is 15 mph.

Horses must remain on designated riding trails.

Deep fryers and propane grills are prohibited.

**Day Use Area**

Provided here are two large picnic pavilions (seating 50-100 persons); five picnic shelters (seating up to 50 persons); four restroom buildings, one large playground; one open play area (approximately 90 feet X 240 feet); a 25-station, self-interpretive trail (1.6 miles long); access to 13 miles of hiking trails; and a series of short trails connecting facilities.

All pavilions, shelters, and restrooms are handicapped accessible.

Both pavilions and Shelters 2, 4, and 5 can be reserved up to 90 days in advance, including your arrive date, at one of our district offices. Cost is \$25.00 for a shelter and \$35.00 for a pavilion. Cost is \$40.00 for pavilions with power.

**Cabin Camping Area**

Provided here are eight primitive cabins, a restroom/shower building, picnic shelter (seating up to 50 persons), and a group fire pit. Cabin 6, the shelter, and restrooms are handicapped accessible.

Each cabin provides four bunk beds, a light activated by a switch, picnic table, grill, and fire ring. Cooking inside the cabins and use of generators are prohibited.

Reservations may be made for up to a total of 14 days within a 30-day period in any Pasco County park camping facility. After 14 days, campers must leave for 60 days. Reservations for up to a total of 14 days can be made at the Kiosk (Information Office) up to 30 days in advance. Groups reserving the entire cabin camping area may be made up to 90 days in advance. (Group and individual weekends alternate.) Handicapped individuals may reserve Cabin 6 up to 90 days in advance.

Cost is \$30.00 per night, up to eight persons total, in large cabins, and \$20.00 per night, up to four persons total, in small cabins. Money will be collected when reservations are made. There will be no refunds.

## Tent Camping Area

Provided here are 16 primitive tent camping sites, one group tent site, a restroom/shower building, a picnic shelter (seating up to 50 persons), and one group fire pit. The shelter and restroom are handicapped accessible.

Each campsite provides a grill, fire ring, picnic table, and access to water nearby. No sites provide electricity. No more than two tents are allowed per site. Generators and RVs are prohibited.

Reservations may be made for up to a total of 14 days within a 30-day period in any Pasco County park camping facility. After 14 days, campers must leave for 60 days. Reservations for up to a total of 14 days can be made at the Kiosk (Information Office) up to 30 days in advance. Groups reserving the entire tent camping area may be made up to 90 days in advance. (Group and individual weekends alternate.)

Cost is \$10.00 per night for eight persons. Money will be collected when reservations are made. There will be no refunds.

Group tent sites are available. Please discuss arrangements with the park staff as required.

## Back-Country Primitive Camping

Provided along the hiking trails are three back-country campsites—each has one picnic table, one grill, and one fire ring. Each individual site can accommodate a different amount of campers. Please discuss arrangements with the park attendant on duty at the Kiosk. Cost is \$5.00 per night.

Reservations may be made for up to a total of 14 days within a 30-day period in a Pasco County park camping facility. After 14 days, campers must leave for 60 days. Reservations for up to a total of 14 days can be made at the Kiosk (Information Office) up to 30 days in advance. Grill, fire ring, and picnic table are provided at the camp site.

## Corral Area

Provided here is a corral (80 feet X 100 feet), hitching posts, a watering trough, access to 13 miles of hiking trails with three primitive camp sites, access to ten miles of riding trails with one primitive camp site, and a large shell parking lot. This shell parking lot will be used for horse trailer parking and overnight parking for registered back-country campers.

