

# Camping and Recreational Permits

## Types of Camping Available

1. Group
  - For use by tent campers.
  - Personal automobiles are allowed into group campsites.
  - Sites are primitive. There may be a portable toilet.
  - Campsites are available to individual campers on a space available basis.
2. Equestrian
  - For use by horseback riders.
  - Horse trailers may be driven in to equestrian campsites.
  - No electricity is available.
  - Built-in generators are allowed to operate between the hours of 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Use of portable generators is not allowed.
  - Sites are primitive. There may be a portable toilet.
  - Campsites are available to non-equestrian campers if not reserved for equestrian users within five working days of a the desired camp date.
3. Backpack
  - These campsites are accessible only by foot and are reserved for backpackers.
  - Sites are primitive.
4. River
  - River campsites are accessible from the water for use by paddlers and boaters.
  - Sites are primitive. There may be a portable toilet.
5. Recreational Vehicle
  - These sites are in developed campgrounds managed by other agencies.
  - Water, electricity, and restrooms are available.
  - Tent and car camping are also welcome.
  - For reservations and information contact the managing agency.
  - Camping fees may apply.

## Camping Procedures

- Camping is allowed in designated campsites only.
- All camping is by permit except for campgrounds not managed by the District. District camping permits are free.
- A new permit is required for each camping trip.
- Reservations (permits) to camp are made on a first come, first served basis.
- Permit requests may be made up to three months prior to the requested camping date.
- There is a maximum number of occupants allowed for each camping area. Contact the District for specific information.
- Camping is limited to 7 consecutive days.
- Individual campers or leaders of small groups must obtain permits in advance by submitting an Individual Campsite Application. Forms are available by contacting the District, or may be printed from the District web site under the heading Recreation Guide. Completed forms may be mailed or faxed to us. Please allow 10 working days to process individual permits.
- Groups of 20 or more vehicles or 50 or more people must submit a request in writing for a special recreational use permit. Include in your letter where you want to camp, how many vehicles/trailers/horses will be arriving, and the dates and times of your arrival and departure. A limited number of weekends will be set aside for groups, so get your requests in early. Please allow 30 days to process group permits.
- Permits may be faxed or mailed to you, and will include gate combinations for vehicle access where allowed.
- Permits must be carried by the individual or group leader.
- Campfires must be contained within the fire rings provided. Cutting trees is prohibited.
- To protect the wilderness experience and as a courtesy to other visitors, no loud music is allowed. Built-in generators are allowed at equestrian and recreational vehicle campsites only.
- Any additional rules and regulations will be provided with the permit.

## Equestrian Trailer Parking

- Most equestrian trail areas have ample parking for day use. No permit is necessary.
- Permits for parking are required at Upper Hillsborough and the Jefferson Road Equestrian Area of the Lower Hillsborough F.D.A. due to the parking area being located behind a locked gate.
- Permits are not necessary for walk-in riders.
- Permits are obtained free of charge by submitting a Day-Use Recreation Application. Forms are available by contacting the District, or may be printed from the District web site under the heading Recreation Guide. Completed forms may be mailed or faxed to us.
- Permit requests should be made at least 10 working days prior to the first desired ride date.
- Individuals or group leaders can complete applications and receive permits.
- Permits may be faxed or mailed to you, and will include gate combinations.
- Permits are valid for three months coinciding with the calendar quarters beginning January, April, July, and October.
- Permits must be carried by the individual or group leader.
- Horseback riding is allowed only on designated or marked trails.
- Proof of current negative Coggins test must be carried by each rider.

## Horse-Drawn Buggy Riding

- Permits are obtained free of charge by submitting a Day-Use Recreation Application. Forms are available by contacting the District, or may be printed from the District web site under the heading Recreation Guide. Completed forms may be mailed or faxed to us.
- Individuals or group leaders can complete applications and receive permits.
- Permits may be faxed or mailed to you, and will include gate combinations.
- A new permit is required for each riding trip.
- Permit requests should be made at least 10 working days prior to the first desired ride date.
- Permits must be carried by the individual or group leader.
- Riding is allowed only on designated or marked trails.
- Proof of current negative Coggins test must be carried by each rider.

## How to contact us:

Land Use and Protection Section, LND  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
2379 Broad Street  
Brooksville, FL 34604-6899  
Telephone: (352)796-7211, ext. 4470  
Toll-free in FL: 1-800-423-1476, ext. 4470  
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