




Birding Hotspots

Putnam County, Florida



Welaka State Forest

<p>Description:</p>  <p>Mud Spring Trail</p>  <p>Forest Education Trail</p>  <p>Welaka SF Trail Map</p>	<p>The lovely Welaka State Forest contains two springs, and approximately 4 miles of river frontage on the St. Johns River. The Forest is divided by CR 309. The forest area west of CR 309 contains 1 educational trail and two hiking trails (Mud Spring and John's Landing). The forest trails east of CR 309 are designated as multiple use, although mainly used by equestrian riders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the parking area south of headquarters the (unpaved) Forest Education Trail provides a good interpretation of the forest's habitats and wildlife. • The John's Landing Trailhead is off of the Education Trail and leads south for more than 4 miles. Look for Wild Turkeys, Northern Bobwhites, migrating flocks of migrating warblers and Florida Sandhill Cranes nesting in the ephemeral wetlands. Bald Eagles nest nearby and frequently fly over the property. • The Mud Spring Trail is almost 2 miles long, and its entrance is north of the Forest Education Trail.
<p>Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail:</p>	<p>Yes: https://floridabirdingtrail.com/trail/trail-sections/east-section/welaka-state-forest/</p>
<p>Address:</p>	<p>County Road 309, Welaka, FL 32193</p>
<p>Phone Number:</p>	<p>(386) 292-2348</p>
<p>Fee:</p>	<p>Day pass \$2. Annual pass for all State Forests \$45.</p>
<p>Hours of Operation:</p>	<p>Dawn to dusk daily.</p>
<p>Handicap Accessibility:</p>	<p>Varies with trails.</p>
<p>Website:</p>	<p>https://www.fdacs.gov/Forest-Wildfire/Our-Forests/State-Forests/Welaka-State-Forest</p>
<p>Facilities Available:</p>	<p>Primitive camping along the St. Johns River and full RV hookup camping opportunities are available.</p>
<p>Types of Habitat:</p>	<p>Wetlands, flatwoods, sandhills, bayheads, and hardwood hammocks.</p>
<p>Other Information:</p>	
<p>Level of Difficulty:</p>	<p>Moderate.</p>
<p>Species:</p>	<p>105 species have been seen. During migration, Indigo Bunting, and various warblers, including Black-throated Green Warblers and Black-and-white Warblers. Also, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Bald Eagle, and Florida Sandhill Crane.</p>
<p>Checklist:</p>	<p>eBird: https://ebird.org/hotspot/L970187</p>