This park on the southern tip of Georgia’s coast offers campsite, cottages overlooking the river, a boat ramp, saltwater fishing, nature programs, mini-golf and picnicking. A large bird blind is popular with photographers and birders. Anglers 16 and older must have a valid fishing license. Private boats are permitted and there are no horsepower restrictions. Water skiing is not recommended due to the hazards in the river and tidal currents.

HIKING & NATURE TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

Palmetto Trail
This 1.5-mile trail highlights south Georgia’s pine flatwoods, one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world. Its plants and animals are well adapted to periodic fires that maintain a habitat dominated by longleaf pine, saw palmetto and wiregrass. The open woods are ideal for watching bluebirds, nuthatches, osprey, woodpeckers, warblers and other birds. Gopher tortoises and endangered indigo snakes depend on this habitat for survival. Look for fruit-bearing plants such as blueberries, muscadine grapes, sparkleberry, wax myrtle and gull berry.

Southern magnolia, red cedar, American basswood and yaupon holly. You may also see soapberry, myrtle oak, chapman oak, and Carolina holly. You may also see staggerbush lyonia, Florida soapberry, myrtle oak, chapman oak, and Carolina holly. Feral hogs and orb weaver spiders. A birding platform makes it easier to spot vireo and warblers.

Common trees and plants in the bay forest include loblolly bay, swamp bay, and golden marsh grasses which are famous to Georgia’s coast.

River Trail
This trail is short and sweet. Only a few hundred yards long it winds along the bluffs and down into the marsh. It is a beautiful spot for fishing and bird watching. Wood Storks and herons nest in the dead pines overlooking the river edge. Sheephead, Whiting, Trout, Black Drum, rays and small sharks can be caught from the shore. This quiet spot overlooks the Crooked River and golden marsh grasses which are famous to Georgia’s coast.

SAFETY TIPS & ETIQUETTE
Tell someone your itinerary and expected return time. Check back with them when you return.
- Take a map, water, Rocky, first aid kit, flashlight and whistle.
- Before boating, know the tidal schedule and understand how it will affect your trip.
- Be prepared for unexpected rain and wind which can lead to hypothermia, even during summer. Always carry quality rain gear and turn back in bad weather.
- Don’t count on cell phones to work in the wilderness, but if they do, be able to give details about your location.
- If you become wet or cold, it is important to get dry and warm as quickly as possible.
- Dress in layers and avoid cotton. Choose fabrics that wick moisture, dry quickly and conserve heat. Many experienced boaters and hikers wear a lightweight shirt that wicks moisture, while carrying a fleece pullover and rain jacket.
- Invest in good hiking socks such as those found at sporting good stores. Avoid blisters by carrying "moleskin" and applying it as soon as you feel hot spots on your feet. Available in the first-aid section of drug stores, moleskin is like felt that sticks to your skin.
- Keep pets on a leash at all times and clean up after them.
- Do not pack flowers, disturb wildlife or take anything off the park.
- Pack out all trash.

KAYAKING TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

Harriett’s Bluff Trail – 6.3 miles round-trip
Launch 90 minutes before high tide, then ride the outgoing tide back to the launch. Moderate difficulty.

Grover Island Trail – 8.4 miles round-trip
Launch 2 1/2 hours before high tide, then ride the outgoing tide back to the launch. Moderate difficulty.

Recommended paddle times take advantage of semilunars tides (two highs and two lows per day). Be safe. Paddle with a friend; take drinking water, snacks and sun protection; wear a pf, and leave your float plan with the park office. This map and a compass may help you find your way back during fog.

Watch for wildlife living in this tidal river. Dolphins travel in groups upriver to fish and are spotted frequently on all three trails. Once they corner a school of fish, they will surface often to breathe, so listen for their blow. River otter may also be seen swimming in the river.

A good place to look for birds is near the private dock opposite Marker 809. Please respect private property. More than a hundred gulls, cormorants, egrets and egrets often perch on the long boardwalk leading to the octagon-shaped shelter. Overhead you may see flocks of small birds flying in formation, during all stances to flash light bellies and dark backs, providing a dramatic visual effect.

River Trail
This trail boasts five Georgia Champion Trees: the staggerbush lyonia, Florida soapberry, myrtle oak, chapman oak, and Carolina holly. Feral hogs and orb weaver spiders. A birding platform makes it easier to spot vireo and warblers.

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