

HISTORY AND NATURE

In 1893, Hugh Taylor Birch, a Chicago attorney, came to South Florida in search of a secluded area for his home. He settled in a small village called Fort Lauderdale that included a store, a few houses and the remains of the old Fort Lauderdale Army Post.

Purchasing ocean-front property for about a dollar per acre, he eventually owned a three-and-a-half mile stretch of land along the beach. In 1940, at age 90, he built his Art Deco-style home here. He called his 180-acre estate Terramar or "land to the sea."

Wishing to preserve his subtropical paradise from the development springing up around it, Birch donated his estate for use as a public park. On December 31, 1941, the Florida Board of Forestry and Parks obtained title to the property that became Hugh Taylor Birch State Park. It is now an island of trees and greenery in the middle of urban Fort Lauderdale. The park is located on a barrier island between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway.

Today, the park is one of the most unique features in Fort Lauderdale. It is frequently compared to Central Park in New York as both are seen as an island of peaceful green vegetation in the midst of a bustling city.



HUGH TAYLOR BIRCH STATE PARK

3109 East Sunrise Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304
954-564-4521

PARK GUIDELINES

- Hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is required.
- All plants, animals and park property are protected.
- The collection, destruction or disturbance of plants, animals or park property is prohibited.
- Pets are not allowed on the beach. Where allowed, pets must be kept on a hand-held leash no longer than six feet and well-behaved at all times.
- A Florida fishing license may be required.
- Fireworks and hunting are prohibited
- Alcoholic beverage consumption is allowed in designated areas only.
- To become a volunteer, inquire at the ranger station. Call the park to inquire about joining Friends of Birch State Park, a non-profit Citizen Support Organization.
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing all visitors equal access to facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact the administrative office at any ranger station or call 954-564-4521.



FLORIDA STATE PARKS

...the Real FloridaSM

HUGH TAYLOR BIRCH STATE PARK



Paradise in urban Fort Lauderdale

[FloridaStateParks.org](https://www.floridastateparks.org)

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Hugh Taylor Birch State Park

EXPERIENCES AND AMENITIES

Hugh Taylor Birch State Park is only a short walk from beachside shops and condominiums, an oasis of tropical hammocks and a gift from the late attorney Hugh Taylor Birch. His former estate preserves four distinct natural communities nestled between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway.

Visitors can rent a **canoe** and paddle along a mile-long freshwater lagoon to see turtles and ducks. Small sections of the mangroves provide habitat for herons, wading birds, raccoons, gray squirrels and marsh rabbits. The seawall along the Intracoastal Waterway offers **fishing** opportunities.

Bicyclists and **skaters** glide along the paved park drive. Nature lovers can **hike** two short trails and learn about local plants and wildlife. The park provides safe harbor to the gopher tortoise and gray fox.

Visitors can access the **beach** via the pedestrian tunnel under A1A. **Picnic** areas overlook the Intracoastal Waterway. Pavilions with water and electricity can be rented for family gatherings. Two **playgrounds** are available.

Birch's 2-story home, a combination of Spanish and Art Deco architecture, serves as the **Terramar Visitor Center**. It features exhibits of the natural and cultural history of the park and South Florida. Throughout the year, the park is also home to **Camp Live Oak**, an exciting environmental day camp for children ages 5 to 13.

A **group/youth campground** for up to 68 people is available to organized groups. It features six **cabins**, a meeting/dining room and fully equipped kitchen. Reservations are required.



- Beach
- Biking
- Hiking
- Canoeing
- Canoe Ramp
- Cabins
- Group Camping
- Youth Camping
- Concessions
- Pavilion
- Parking
- Picnicking
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Showers

- Hiking Trail
- Hiking/Biking Trail
- Walkways

Directions

Hugh Taylor Birch State Park is located on East Sunrise Blvd. in Fort Lauderdale, off A1A.

