

City of Dunnellon Parks

The City of Dunnellon is located on the Rainbow and Withlacoochee Rivers. Both afford recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. The City also has six regional and neighborhood parks which are available for the public to enjoy fresh air, exercise, picnics, and a place to meet friends for a local outing,

Chaplin A. Dinkins Park, (12099 Palmetto Court) A swimming area on the Rainbow River, a small playground and an area for fishing are located in the park. Benches, picnic tables and restroom facilities are available. There is an entrance fee.



Chaplin Dinkins Park

Centennial Park and Boat Ramp (12196 South Williams Street) is located on the Withlacoochee River behind Dunnellon City Hall. This park includes a boat ramp and floating dock as well as picnic tables and restroom facilities. There is also a large deck with bench seating.



Boat Ramp at Centennial Park

Blue Run of Dunnellon Park (19680 East Pennsylvania Ave.) is the city's largest park at 32 acres. It has paved and unpaved trails, a river access ramp for paddlers and tuber take out and an interior spring-fed pond with fishing access points. Benches provide rest stops for the walkers, runners and cyclists. The tree lined paved Blue Run Trail connects to the Dunnellon Trail on the Cross Florida Greenway and leads one to a delightful bridge over the Withlacoochee River.



Blue Run of Dunnellon Park

Ernie Mills Park, L.O. Robinson Park and Datesman Park Playground equipment, swings and picnic tables are part of Ernie Mills Park. A swing set can be found at L.O. Robinson Park while overflow and event parking is available at Datesman Park.



Ernie Mills Park



L.O. Robinson Park



Datesman Park

City of Dunnellon Parks

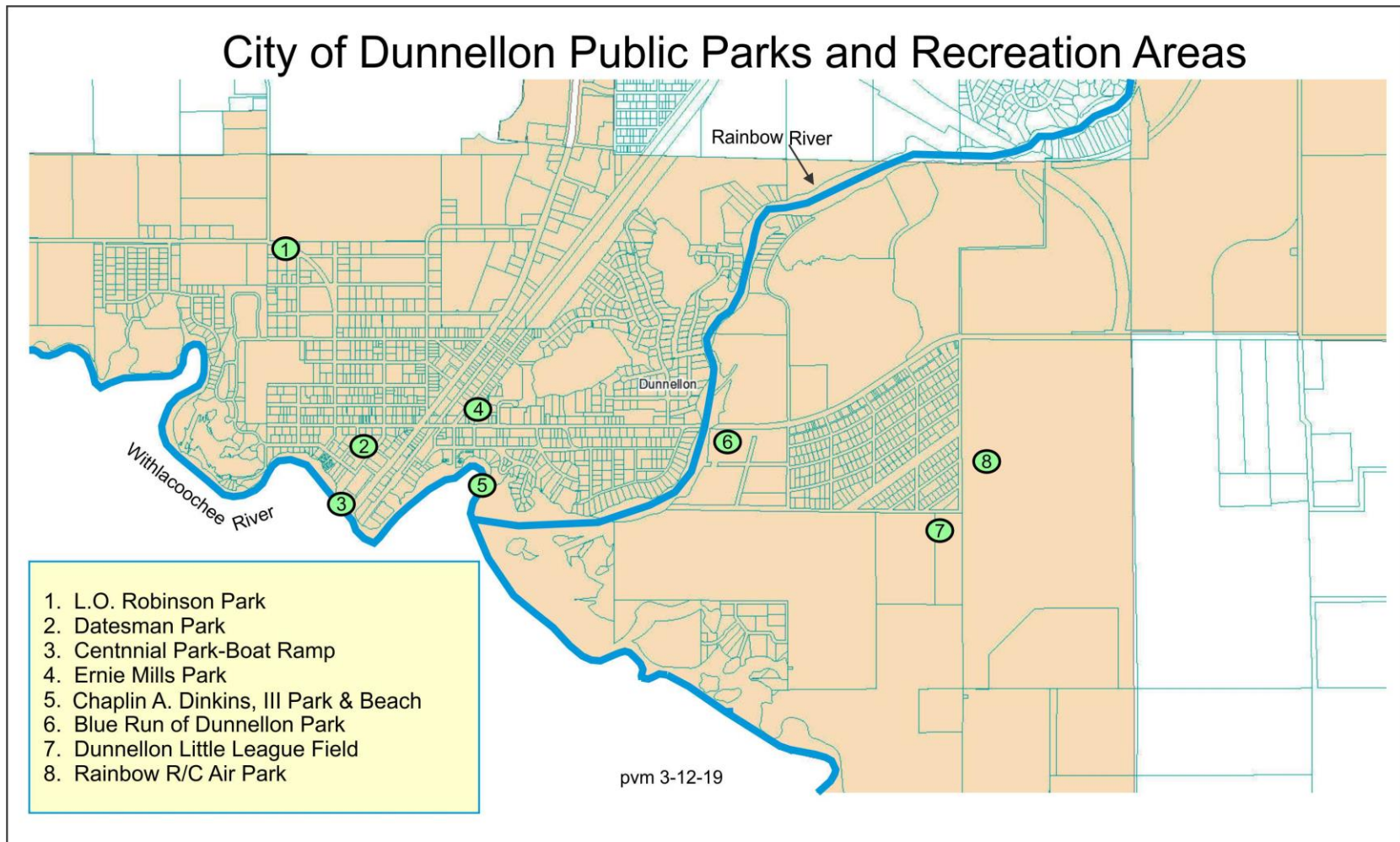
Dunnellon Little League Field, and the Tri-County Radio Controlled Airplane Club are available to the public. These are located on Bridges Road on the east side of the City Dunnellon.



Dunnellon Little League Field



Rainbow Radio Control Air Park





The Blue Run of Dunnellon Park was acquired in 2008 through a grant from the Florida Communities Trust. The park was purchased to protect the flora and fauna of the Rainbow River corridor and to provide recreational and educational opportunities for local residents and visitors.

Blue Run Park allows access to the Rainbow River for kayaking, tubing and fishing, as well as the Great Florida Birding Trail and the Gum Slough State Canoe Trail. A three-acre spring-fed pond offers opportunities for wildlife observation and fishing.

Three trails include six Florida natural communities in the park including floodplain forest, hydric hammock, upland mixed forest, xeric hammock, sandhill, and spring run stream. There are two trailhead-parking areas, one at CR 484 and the second at San Jose Blvd. Connection



Kayaks enter river at access ramp in park

to the Withlacoochee Trail Extension is planned for the near future.

Blue Run Trail follows the Rainbow River, one of the clearest aquatic systems on earth. The Rainbow River is an Aquatic Preserve, a Outstanding Florida Water and a National Natural Landmark. The Rainbow River provides habitat for many species of wildlife including forty species of fish and ten turtle species. Look and listen for the numerous wading birds found along the river and wood ducks in the pond. Otters and raccoons are frequently seen along the shoreline feeding on bivalves or crayfish. The floodplain forest along the river contains an array of wetland plants including the stately bald cypress, bays, red maple, sweet gum, Florida elm and lush emergent vegetation.



Blue Run Trail looking south with pond on left

The Pond Trail enters a mature forest with stands of hickory, slash pine, water oak, live oak, sweet gum and sabal palm. The soil here is fertile and well-drained, supporting the diverse upland mixed forest community. White-tailed deer, gray fox, gray squirrel and turkey are frequently seen. Look up into the forest canopy for black vultures, red-shouldered hawks and noisy pileated woodpeckers. The pond supports several fish species and is home to American alligators that should never be fed and always treated with caution.

The Sandhill Loop Trail enters a natural community of sandy soil and low moisture. The sandhill community is very different from the rich habitats along the river and supports unique plants. Turkey oak, sand live oak, wiregrass, and prickly pear cactus can tolerate the dry, infertile soils. Look for the burrows of the gopher tortoise, a listed species that thrives here. **Enjoy your walk!**

For Your Safety

Poison ivy is found in the park. Remember "Leaves of three, leave it be". Proper footwear is always recommended as fire ants are found in the park. Feral hogs are sometimes present and should be avoided.

Some of the park rules are given below:

- Fires are prohibited
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited
- Motorized Vehicles are prohibited beyond the parking area
- Overnight use or camping is prohibited
- Pets must remain on a leash not longer than 8 feet
- Removal or cutting of vegetation is prohibited
- Collecting or harassing wildlife or their eggs is prohibited
- Discharging of any firearm is prohibited
- Trash must be placed in designated containers. Personal trash from off-site is prohibited.
- Damaging or defacing any park facility or sign is prohibited
- Park hours are from sunrise to dusk.



Blue Run Park frontage on Rainbow River



Blue Run of Dunnellon Park Trails and Amenities



To Withlacoochee River and CR 39 Trailhead
 To Bridges Road Trailhead
 Office of Greenways and Trails on Cross Florida Greenway



Dunnellon Trailhead Sign

The Dunnellon Trail is located in Marion and Citrus Counties and is part of the planned Heart of Florida 200-mile Bicycle Loop Trail. This 2.5 mile 12-foot wide multi-use paved trail offers wonderful views of the Rainbow River as it traverses through Blue Run of Dunnellon Park. The trail then connects to the Citrus County section with a bridge providing upstream and downstream views of the Withlacoochee River.

The trail is a popular destination for cyclists, walkers and runners and dogs are permitted along this mostly shaded trail. Several benches are available along the trail and the bridge has built-in sitting areas for rest and photo ops. Parking and trailheads are located at Blue Run of Dunnellon Park, Bridges Road in Dunnellon and County Route 39 in Citrus County.

Development plans are progressing to connect this trail to the Withlacoochee State Trail in Citrus County and the Cross Florida Greenway Trail in Marion County. The Heart of Florida planned Loop Trail is managed by the FDEP Office of Greenways and Trails.



Trailhead at Blue Run of Dunnellon Park next to CR 484. This is a hub to reach the Dunnellon Trail as well as access the kayak ramp for the Rainbow River.



Cycling and walking the trail.



Photo opportunities



Trail bridge over Withlacoochee River



Exercise and good conversation



Cypress forest and wetlands next to trail

Map of the Dunnellon Multi Use Trail

