

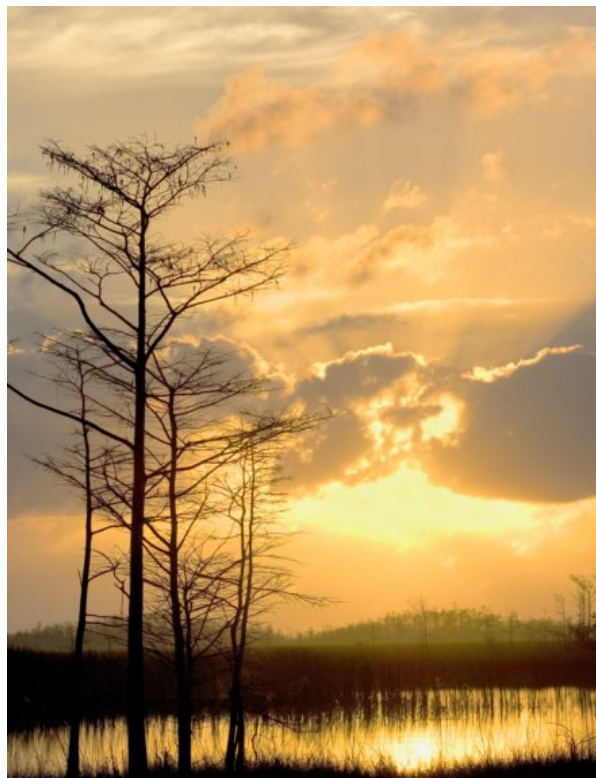
# **March for Parks**

## *Visitors Explore Hidden Treasures of Everglades National Park*

March for Parks is a free annual event, organized by the South Florida Community Partners that aims to expose South Florida's diverse communities to its local national park sites. This year, area residents will have the opportunity to explore the newly- opened Nike Missile Site located within Everglades National Park. In addition, local residents can experience the natural beauty of Everglades National Park. The event features free transportation, guided park tours, games, raffle drawings, and a demonstration of restoration efforts.

### **New Public Exhibit: Nike Missile Site**

March for the Parks participants will have the opportunity to experience the latest edition to Everglades National Park's rich cultural history: the Nike Missile Site, a historic Cold War missile defense site. Designed to protect the southern United States from a nuclear attack, the Nike Missile Site opened shortly after the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. About 100 members of U.S. military staffed and operated the site until 1979. After the site closed in 1979, the Park Service took it over, removed the missiles, and



Credit: South Florida Water Management District

opened the site to the public. The site is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a classroom of living history.

The Nike Missile Site offers park visitors a fascinating glimpse into the past. As one of four sites built in South Florida, the base includes 22 historic buildings and structures. March for Parks participants will tour the site's administration building, missile assembly building, missile storage barns, and surrounding protective earthen berms.

Already a popular draw for park visitors, the missile site will take on greater meaning this year, which marks the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution.

### **Long Pine Key: A Natural Wonder**

Located in the pinelands area of Everglades National Park, this natural treasure offers views of islands of tall pine trees that float on a sea of open prairie.



**National Parks Conservation Association®**

*Protecting Our National Parks for Future Generations®*

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Home to the shy and rare big cat, the Florida panther, this natural landscape represents the most diverse community of plants and wildlife in the park.

### **Celebrate Diversity in Our National Parks**

In 2000, the nonprofit National Parks Conservation Association and a group of local citizens formed the South Florida Community Partners. The group is dedicated to increasing ethnic representation among national park visitors and encouraging diverse users to become life-long advocates for our national parks. To recognize this need, the group created the annual March for Parks event, the first March for Parks in Florida was held in 2001.

**South Florida Community Partners (SFCP)** is a dynamic group of residents, entrepreneurs, students, professionals, activists and volunteers who join with the National Park Service staff to enhance cultural diversity in South Florida's national parks by providing programs, resources, and opportunities that are available to all. For information about or to support the SFCP, please call (877) 858.7337.

**National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA)** is a non-profit organization of 340,000 members working through its DC headquarters and 24 regional and field offices to "protect and enhance America's National Park System for present and future generations." For information about, or to support NPCA in Florida, which helps to or works to ensure South Floridians of all backgrounds experience, understand, and can help protect the unique national park eco-system we live next to, please call: 954.961.1280, ext. 201.

### **Event Details**

Date: March 28, 2009

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Everglades National Park  
40001 State Road 9336  
Homestead, Florida 33034

### **Free Transportation**

Buses will be available at the following locations:

- Ft. Lauderdale TriRail Station at 8:30 a.m.
- Hollywood TriRail Station at 8:30 a.m.
- Golden Glades Park & Ride at 8:30 a.m.
- MLK Metrorail Station at 9 a.m.
- Notre Dame Catholic Church at 8:30 a.m.
- Overtown NET Center at 9 a.m.
- Ada Merrit Elementary School at 9 a.m.
- Florida City, City Hall at 9:30 a.m.

### **For more information:**

To volunteer for the March for Parks event or for more information, contact the South Florida Community Partners at 877.858.7337.

### **Contacts:**

Jackie Crucet, National Parks Conservation Association, 954.961.1280, ext. 201, [jcrucet@npca.org](mailto:jcrucet@npca.org)

Nadine Patrice, South Florida Community Partners, 877.858.7337, [nadine44@netscape.com](mailto:nadine44@netscape.com)

