

# 2025 LEGISLATIVE STATE PARKS



While rural Florida offers a serene and picturesque environment, the range of activities available for entertainment and recreation is limited compared to urban areas. Most of **FLORIDA'S STATE PARKS** are located in rural areas and these parks often showcase the state's natural beauty while providing a range of outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, fishing, and wildlife viewing. As part of the "Rural Renaissance," this bill would grant free access to **FLORIDA'S STATE PARKS** for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) who qualify for the iBudget Waiver.



✓ **Benefits of Free **FLORIDA'S STATE PARKS** Access:** Access to nature and outdoor activities has been shown to improve physical and mental health. For those with I/DD, spending time in nature can reduce stress, improve mood, and provide opportunities for physical exercise. State parks offer a space for social interaction and community engagement. Free access would encourage families and caregivers to visit these parks more frequently, fostering a sense of belonging and inclusion. Additionally, **FLORIDA'S STATE PARKS** provide educational programs and activities that can be particularly beneficial for those with I/DD. These programs can enhance learning experiences and provide hands-on opportunities to explore nature.

✓ **Proposed Language: 258.xxx:** Home and Community Based Care iBudget Waiver and Waiting List State Park Fee Discounts. Promote equal access to natural resources, but also provide significant benefits to the well-being of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities on the iBudget Waiver or the Waiting List. The Division of Recreation and Parks shall provide the free annual pass entrance pass at no charge to those who qualify for the iBudget waiver. They would also be permitted to bring in their caregiver or Direct Support Professional as a guest. The qualified person would present satisfactory documentation to the division which evidences their eligibility to receive their free annual pass entrance.



Granting free access to Florida's State Parks for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) is a compassionate and forward-thinking policy that aligns with our state's commitment to inclusively and equal access. The benefits to the well-being of this population and their families far outweigh the minimal costs, if any, involved.