

Magnolia Springs State Park, located 5 miles north of Millen, GA, is known for its crystal-clear spring, which flows approximately 7 million gallons of water a day. During warmer months, visitors may watch for alligators, turtles, fish and birds from the boardwalk that spans the cool water. Many years before the park was built, a Civil War stockade prison was constructed here, housing as many as 10,000 Union soldiers before its abandonment in November of 1864. Parts of the earthen fort that guarded the prison may still be seen, and artifacts from recent archaeological excavations are on display in the park's History Center, which is open daily 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Park Information

Park HoursGates Open 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
 Office Hours 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Office Phone.....(478) 982-1660
 Address 1053 Magnolia Springs Dr.,
 Millen, GA 30442, Jenkins County
 Reservations.....GaStateParks.org or
 1-800-864-7275
 Website..... GaStateParks.org/MagnoliaSprings

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ParkPass - A parking fee is required and is valid for all parks visited that day. Proceeds go towards park maintenance. Frequent visitors can save money by purchasing an Annual ParkPass or membership in Friends of Georgia State Parks.

Nearby Attractions

- George L. Smith State Park
- City of Millen - Local Restaurants, Shopping, Train Depot
- City of Augusta - Riverwalk, Restaurants, Sports and Concert Venues
- City of Savannah - Wormsloe State Historic Site, Skidaway Island State Park, Dining, Shopping
- City of Louisville - Georgia's first capital
- City of Sylvania
- City of Statesboro - Georgia Southern University, Shopping, Dining
- City of Waynesboro - Dining, Shopping and History

In Case of Emergency

A courtesy phone is provided at the park office. Staff residences are located on the map, though it is suggested that you call the park office first. When the office is closed, the location of the ranger on duty will be given on the answering machine.

Park Office(478) 982-1660
 After Hours: (478) 351-0223
 (478) 982-4901

Medical emergencies should call 911 first, and then contact the park staff. There is a hospital in the town of Millen, less than 7 miles from the park. Directions: Turn left out of the park entrance gate; go five miles to Millen and turn left at the second traffic light (Winthrop Avenue); go one mile and the hospital will be on the left - Jenkins County Medical Center.

Operated by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources,
 2610 Highway 155, Stockbridge, GA 30281
 (770) 389-7286, GaStateParks.org.

Activities and Facilities

Camping — The RV/Tent campground offers 26 sites, all with water and electrical hookups, picnic tables, and fire rings. A comfort station providing flush toilets, hot showers, and a coin-operated laundry is located in the center of the campground loop. A sanitary disposal station is provided, located in the picnic area just off of the main park road. All campers must register at the park office. Leashed dogs are welcome.

Pioneer Camping — This area is provided for larger organized groups such as scouts or school groups who desire primitive camping. This area includes a cleared area for tents or event space, pit toilets, water taps, cold showers, and a shelter for equipment storage. Capacity is 50. Reservations must be made to ensure availability. Pioneer guests are only allowed to use the campground comfort station by making advance arrangements and payment at the park office.

Cottages — The park provides one 3-bedroom and eight 2-bedroom cottages for overnight use, complete with satellite TV, central heat and air, and a full kitchen. Wood-burning fireplaces are available in Cottages 1-5 only. Pets are not allowed in the cottages unless specifically designated as dog-friendly. No other pet types are allowed.

Picnicking — There are numerous picnic tables available at the park, as well as eight picnic shelters. These covered picnic pads can be reserved in advance, but are also available free of charge if they are not reserved on the day that you arrive. Trash receptacles are plentiful—please don't litter!

Fishing — The park has a 28-acre lake near the cottage and campground area. A small boat ramp and fishing dock are provided; guests 16 years of age or older must possess a valid Georgia fishing license. Fishing is not permitted in any other area of the park, including the spring and stream area behind the park office.

Boating — Private boats are permitted on the park lake. All boats must comply with the Georgia Boating Safety Law 10 horsepower only.

Trails — Four miles of multi-use trails wind through the park. There are four separate trails – Woodpecker Woods, Lime Sink, Beaver Trail and Fort Lawton. See the main map for locations, or pick up a trail map in the park office. All wildlife and plants are protected by state law – take out only what you brought in!

Magnolia Springs History Center — The Magnolia Springs History Center explores the story of Camp Lawton—"The World's Largest Prison," which operated here during the American Civil War. Camp Lawton was constructed by the Confederate Army to house Union prisoners of war, particularly those already housed at the infamous Camp Sumter, located in southwest Georgia. Camp Lawton was constructed, occupied, and abandoned over a period of three months, and housed nearly 11,000 prisoners. The prison was evacuated in advance of William T. Sherman's March to the Sea. Mostly ignored by the archaeological community for many years, the Camp Lawton site has become the focus of a long-term survey by Georgia Southern University's Department of Anthropology and Sociology after numerous artifacts were discovered by a graduate student in 2010. Findings include a wide variety of personal items such as pocket knives, coins and uniform accessories, but also include remnants of brick structures, animal bones, and small sections of the prison stockade timbers.

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Magnolia Springs State Park

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