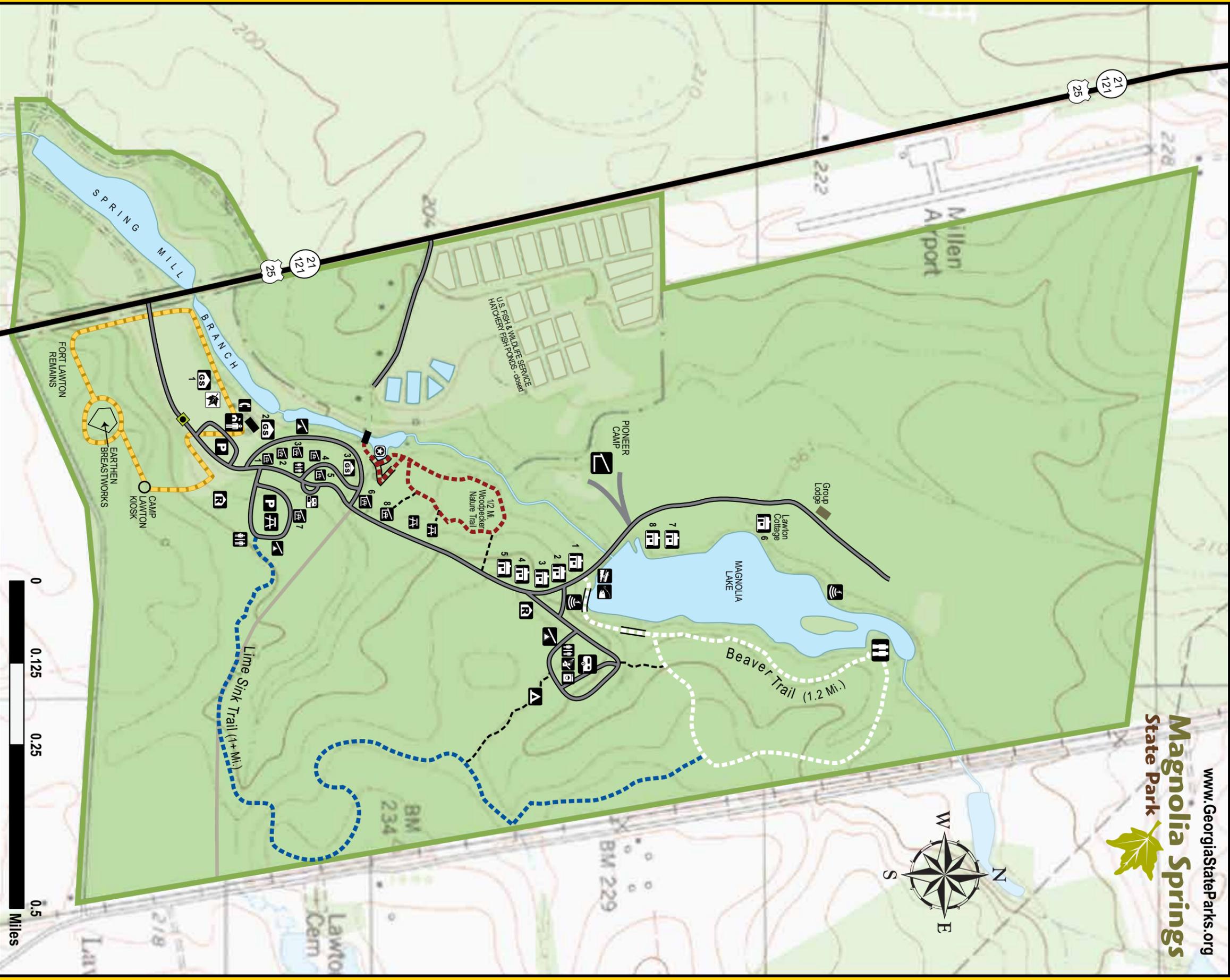


# Magnolia Springs State Park Trail Map

1053 Magnolia Springs Drive, Millen, Georgia 30442 • Park: 478-982-1660 • Emergency: 478-982-4901 or 911 • Reservations: 1-800-864-7275

www.GeorgiaStateParks.org  
**Magnolia Springs**  
 State Park



## LEGEND

- |  |  |  |                 |  |  |
|--|--|--|-----------------|--|--|
|  | Fort Lawton Historic Trail<br>(.75 mile)   |  | Park Office     |  | Tent/RV Camping                                  |
|  | Lime Sink Trail<br>(1+ mile)               |  | ParkPass Booth  |  | Walk-in Camping                                  |
|  | Beaver Trail<br>(1.2 miles)                |  | Group Shelter   |  | Cottage  |
|  | Woodpecker Woods<br>Nature Trail (.5 mile) |  | Pay Telephone   |  | Bathhouse  |
|  | Trail Spur                                 |  | Parking         |  | Laundry  |
|  |  |  | Museum          |  | Boat Ramp  |
|  |  |  | Staff Residence |  | Fishing Dock                                     |
|  |  |  | Restroom        |  | Amphitheater                                     |
|  |  |  | Picnic Shelter  |  | Pioneer Camp                                     |
|  |  |  | Picnic Area     |  | Beaver Trail Boardwalk                           |
|  |  |  | Spring          |  | Woodpecker Woods Trail<br>Interpretive Boardwalk |
|  |  |  | Playground      |  |  |
|  |  |  | Dump Station    |  |  |



# Magnolia Springs State Park



This park is best known for its crystal-clear springs flowing 7 to 9 million gallons each day, with the water eventually flowing into the Ogeechee River. A pretty boardwalk spans the 67-degree springs where visitors may watch for alligators, turtles, birds and other wildlife. A 28-acre lake with accessible dock is available for fishing and boating. Numerous picnic shelters and tables are perfect locations for reunions and parties. During the Civil War, this site was called Camp Lawton and served as “the world’s largest prison.” Today, little remains of the stockade; however, the earthen breastworks may still be seen.

## Activities & Facilities

**Camping:** The campground has 26 tent/trailer/RV sites with water and electrical hookups, picnic tables and grills. Three walk-in tent sites have water but no electrical hookups. A centrally located comfort station provides hot showers and flush toilets. A sanitary disposal station is located in the picnic area. All campers must register before setting up. Reservations are accepted up to 11 months in advance.

**Cottages:** Five fully equipped cottages (two three-bedroom and three two-bedroom) feature fireplaces, utensils, linens, heat and air conditioning. Dogs are allowed only in select units with advance reservations. Reservations are accepted up to 11 months in advance.

**Picnicking:** More than 50 tables and eight covered shelters encourage visitors to enjoy picnicking in the park. Shelters may be reserved in advance. Please clean your area and use nearby trash cans when leaving the park.

**Group Shelters:** Three enclosed shelters seat 40 to 100 and are perfect for parties, reunions and meetings. Kitchens and restrooms are provided. These must be reserved in advance.

**Group Lodge:** Available during off season for groups of 16 or less. Reservations are required.

**Pioneer Campground:** Facility include a large area for tents (no RVs), water, a pit toilet, cold water showers and Adirondack style shelters. Reservations are required.

**Boating & Fishing:** A 28-acre lake with accessible dock is open for boating and fishing for largemouth bass, bream, crappie, catfish, red breast and other fish. Private boats are permitted and must comply with the Georgia Boating Safety Law. Horsepower limits are in effect only before 11 a.m. and after 6 p.m. Anglers 16 and older must have a valid resident/non-resident fishing license. Swimming is not allowed in the lake.

**Canoe & Boat Rental:** Park visitors may rent canoes and fishing boats to explore the 28-acre lake. This park is one of six in the Park Paddlers Club where canoers can earn a bragging-rights t-shirt. Membership cards may be purchased at the park office.

**Camp Lawton Museum:** Open by request during office hours, the museum includes a diorama, drawings and 10-minute video about the largest Civil War prison, Camp Lawton.

## Trail Descriptions & Other Information



### Woodpecker Woods Nature Trail

This trail’s most striking feature is the boardwalk that spans the spring. The crystal-clear water makes it easy to spot turtles, eels, bass, bream and other fish. Some turtles have harmless algae growing on their shells. Alligators can often be seen sunning at the water’s edge. Do not feed or harass alligators or any other wildlife within the park. Unlike crocodiles found in other parts of the world, the American alligator is generally non-aggressive but can become dangerous if approached.

These woods are filled with the sounds of birds, particularly woodpeckers. The most common woodpeckers are the downy (small red dot on the back of the head), red-headed (red head and neck) and pileated (very large with red-crested head). Endangered wood storks can be seen roosting near this trail, and sapsuckers are common winter visitors. Other birds include nuthatches, titmice, chickadees, towhees, mockingbirds, cardinals and bluejays. Park staff can provide a bird-watcher’s checklist upon request that lists the species that might be commonly encountered while visiting the park. Large fox squirrels and common gray squirrels are frequently seen throughout the park.

The lime-rich spring creates an aquatic garden filled with bright green beds of lacy parrot-feather, pennywort, pond lilies and floating duckweed. The swamp’s edge is filled with willows, elderberry, buttonbush, dogwood and red maple. Otters have occasionally been spotted along the stream.

### Beaver Trail

An observation deck above a pretty wetland is a good place to look for wildlife, including great blue herons and little green herons. Lucky visitors may spot beaver near their lodge home during late or early hours. The nesting boxes found throughout the lake are used by wood ducks. The eastern part of this trail winds through a pine/hickory forest where visitors may see grey fox, opossum, raccoon, wild turkey, and white tail deer. Common trees and shrubs throughout the park include buckeye, sparkleberry, dogwood, long-leaf pine, hickory, red and white oak, and red cedar. The gray Spanish moss seen hanging in trees is actually neither Spanish nor a moss, but is an epiphyte.

### Lime Sink Trail

This easy-to-moderate bike trail is open to hikers as well, so bikers should yield to hikers. Helmets are encouraged for all riders; children 16 and younger are required by law to wear helmets. Bikers may want to ask park staff about the Muddy Spokes Club sponsored by Georgia’s State Park System. This trail is one of 11 required to earn a “mud-splattered” t-shirt.

### Fort Lawton Historic Trail

During the Civil War, Camp Lawton Prison was constructed to ease overcrowding at Andersonville where the mortality rate was skyrocketing. Between August 5 and November 25, 1864, the Confederate Army planned, constructed, armed, used and abandoned its largest prison for Union troops. In those 113 days, 10,229 prisoners were received and 486 died of disease and exposure. Hikers will pass what was the prison hospital, stockade and burial ground (now removed). A museum near the office and kiosk near the beginning of the trail tell more of this sad story.

Confederate General John Winder chose this location for the 42-acre prison because of the plentiful supply of clean drinking water. Slopes above the spring allowed for gun batteries to protect the stockade, and the Augusta and Savannah Railroad was nearby. With the hasty construction complete, prisoners began arriving in October around the time that General Sherman had captured and burned Atlanta. By late November, prisoners had been evacuated to prevent Sherman’s troops from releasing them. Those who had died at the prison were eventually reburied in the Beaufort National Cemetery in South Carolina.



### Kayak/Canoe Trail

This less-than-a-mile kayak/canoe trail is a good beginner experience for those interested in becoming members of the Park Paddler’s Club. This trail is the shortest paddle of the 6 trails required to earn a “water-splattered” t-shirt. Be sure and ask park staff about this club sponsored by Georgia’s State Park System.



## Safety Tips & Etiquette

- Tell someone your itinerary and expected return time.
- Take a map, water, snacks, first aid kit, flashlight and whistle. Three short blasts on a whistle are known as a call for help.
- Do not stray from trails. If you become lost, stay in one location and wait for help. This will make it easier for rescuers to find you.
- Don’t count on cell phones to work in the wilderness, but if they do, be able to give details about your location.
- Invest in good hiking socks such as those found at sporting goods stores. Avoid blisters by carrying “moleskin” and applying it as soon as you feel hot spots on your feet. Available in the foot care section of drug stores, moleskin is like felt that sticks to your skin.
- Be prepared for unexpected rain and wind which can lead to hypothermia. Always carry quality rain gear and turn back in bad weather. If you become wet or cold, it is important to get dry and warm as quickly as possible.
- Dress in layers and avoid cotton. Today’s hikers can choose from numerous fabrics that wick moisture, dry quickly and conserve heat. Many experienced hikers wear a lightweight shirt that wicks moisture, while carrying a fleece pullover and rain jacket.
- Pack out all trash.
- Please keep pets on a leash at all times and clean up after them.
- Do not pick flowers, disturb wildlife or take anything off the park.
- Protect the park and help prevent erosion by staying on marked trails.

## Climate Data for Millen, Georgia

Month	Avg. High	Avg. Low	Avg. Mean	Avg. Precip.	Record High	Record Low
Jan	58°F	34°F	46°F	4.28 in	87°F (1949)	0°F (1985)
Feb	62°F	35°F	49°F	4.03 in	86°F (1956)	10°F (1996)
Mar	69°F	41°F	55°F	4.35 in	94°F (1935)	14°F (1980)
Apr	76°F	48°F	62°F	2.76 in	96°F (1986)	25°F (1983)
May	84°F	57°F	71°F	3.01 in	102°F (1941)	37°F (1997)
Jun	89°F	65°F	77°F	4.56 in	107°F (1952)	43°F (1984)
Jul	92°F	69°F	80°F	4.81 in	109°F (1952)	55°F (1983)
Aug	91°F	68°F	79°F	4.16 in	107°F (1954)	52°F (1997)
Sep	86°F	63°F	75°F	2.90 in	107°F (1931)	30°F (1967)
Oct	77°F	50°F	64°F	2.83 in	98°F (1933)	24°F (1976)
Nov	69°F	41°F	55°F	2.64 in	91°F (1961)	10°F (1970)
Dec	61°F	35°F	48°F	3.52 in	84°F (1931)	5°F (1962)