

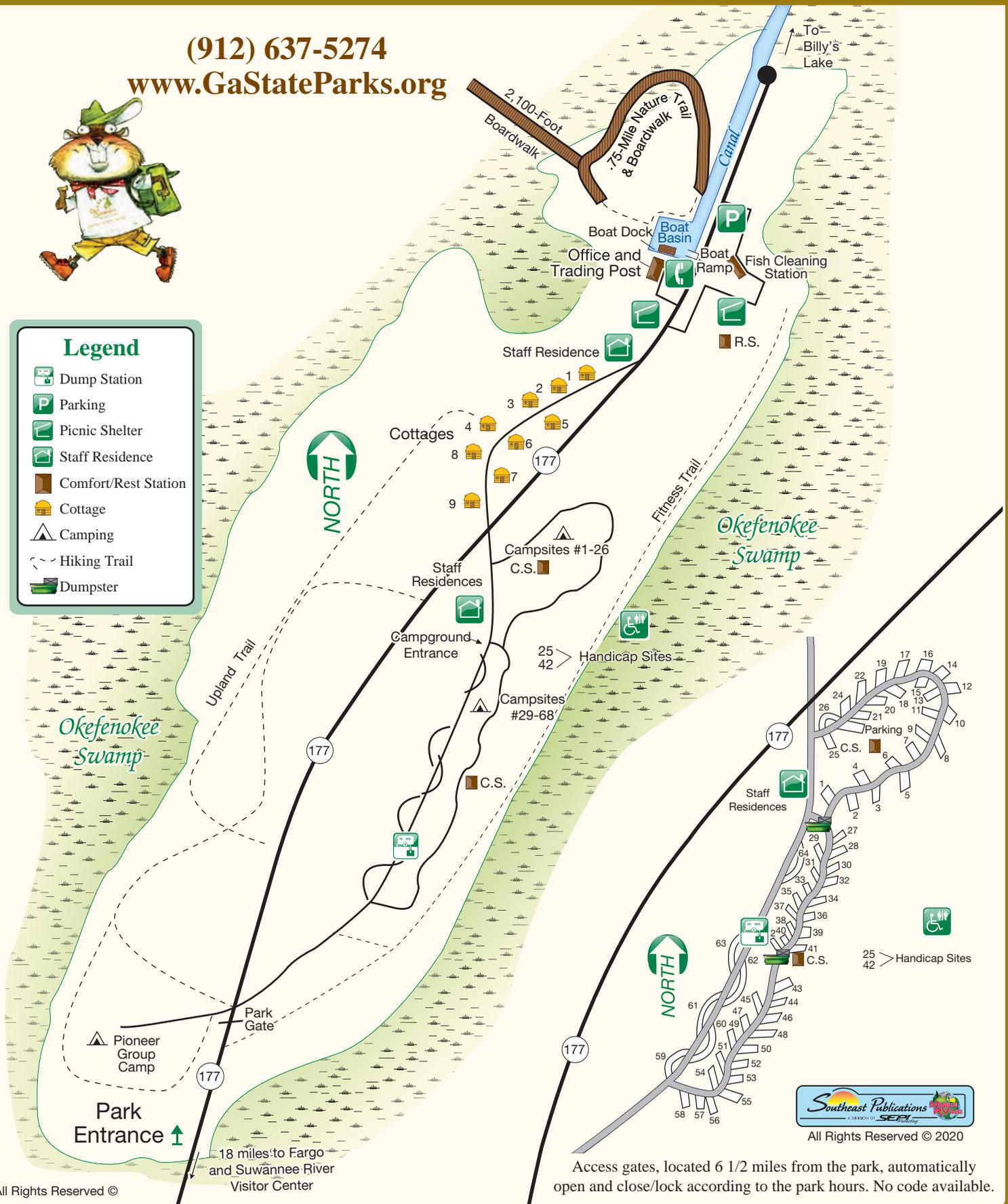
# Stephen C. Foster State Park

(912) 637-5274  
www.GaStateParks.org



**Legend**

- Dump Station
- Parking
- Picnic Shelter
- Staff Residence
- Comfort/Rest Station
- Cottage
- Camping
- Hiking Trail
- Dumpster



Named after songwriter Stephen C. Foster, this remote park is a primary entrance to the famed Okefenokee Swamp and is one of the most intriguing areas in Georgia. Moss-laced cypress trees reflect off the black swamp waters, providing breathtaking scenery. Visitors can look for alligators, turtles, raccoons, black bears, deer, 223 species of birds and numerous other creatures while on the park's boardwalk or on a guided boat trip. More adventurous visitors may rent motorized boats, canoes and kayaks for further exploration, including a trip to historic Billy's Island. The park sells drinks, snacks, ice, books and t-shirts. Because the park is located within a National Wildlife Refuge, gates are locked at closing time and an entrance fee is charged.

### Park Information

Gates Open.....7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
Gates are located 6.5 miles from the park and open/close automatically. No after-hour entry is allowed.  
Park Office Hours .....8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Address ..... 17515 Hwy. 177, Fargo, GA 31631  
Location ..... 18 Miles N.E. of Fargo off GA Hwy. 177  
Park Telephone ..... (912) 637-5274  
Reservations..... GaStateParks.org or 1-800-864-7275  
Website .....GaStateParks.org  
Wi-Fi available at trading post.

**Entrance Fee** - The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service requires Stephen C. Foster State Park to collect \$5 per car entry fee into the Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge.

### Watch for Alligators

Be aware that alligators are not tame and can be dangerous. Do not feed or approach them. Keep pets leashed and away from the water's edge. Do not throw anything at them. Alligators have been known to attack dogs.

### In Case of Emergency - Dial 911

A telephone is located outside the park office, on the porch. It dials only 911. Cell phones rarely work inside the park. Park staff residences are indicated on the map.

Park Emergency Phone.....(912) 637-5323  
637-5282 or 637-5276  
Clinch County Sheriff.....(912) 487-5315  
Charlton County Sheriff.....(912) 496-2281  
E.M.T./Hospital (Homerville).....(912) 487-5211  
South Ga. Medical Center (Valdosta).....(229) 333-1110

The nearest medical/emergency facilities are located in Homerville, approximately 55 miles from the park on Hwy. 441 North, and in Valdosta at South Georgia Medical Center, approximately 65 miles from the park.

All park rules and regulations are posted for your convenience at the park office and must be observed by all park visitors.

Operated by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources,  
2600 Hwy. 155, Stockbridge, GA 30281, (770) 389-7286  
GaStateParks.org.

### Nearby Attractions

- Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge
- Suwannee Canal Recreation Area
- Fargo Golf Course
- Laura S. Walker State Park and Golf Course
- Okefenokee Swamp Park

### Activities and Facilities

**Camping** - Two camping areas provide 63 campsites with water and electrical hook-ups, picnic tables and grills. Each camping area has hot showers, flush toilets and laundry facilities. There is a sanitary disposal station at camping area #2. A pioneer camping area is available to organized groups.

**Cottages** - There are nine air-conditioned and heated cottages, each with two bedrooms, kitchen, utensils, towels and linens. Cottages may be reserved up to 13 months in advance, and the minimum stay is two nights. Ask about our pet policy.

**Picnicking** - Covered picnic shelters may be reserved and are available on a first-come, first-served basis at other times. Picnic tables are located throughout the park.

**Fishing** - National Wildlife Refuge waters are open for legal fishing year-round. A fishing dock and boat launching area are provided. Persons age 16 or older must have a valid resident/non-resident fishing license. Licenses are sold at the trading post.

**Boating** - Rental boats, canoes and motor boats are available when water levels are high. Private boats with a 10-horsepower limitation may launch at the park's ramp. All boating must comply with the Georgia Boating Safety Law.

**Swamp Tours** - 1 1/2-hour boat tours of the swamp are offered year-round. Group tours are available with advance reservations.

**Fires** - Fires are permitted in grills only.

**Swimming** - Swimming is prohibited in refuge waters.

### Suwannee River Eco-Lodge

Located 17 miles southwest of the park and 1/2 mile north of Fargo. The entrance is across from the Fargo Golf Course. Hours vary. (912) 637-5274

Operated by Stephen C. Foster State Park, this is a unique location for hunting retreats, paddling vacations, reunions, meeting and weddings. Surrounded by pine-scented forest, it offers exceptional privacy for individuals and groups. The Eco-lodge is made up of 10 rental cottages, a conference room, smaller meeting room, BBQ shelter and commercial kitchen. Guests may rent a portion or all of the facility. Reservations required.

### Astronomy

Stephen C. Foster has been recognized by the International Dark-Sky Association as a "Dark Sky Park", meaning minimal light pollution makes your star gazing experience exceptional. Ask park staff about astronomy programs.



# Day-Use Waterway Map

- 1 Stephen C. Foster State Park
- 2 Boating Canal (no-wake zone) | 0.30 miles long
- 3 Five Sisters | Five cypress trees located in a small cove
- 4 Bee Tree | Large hollow stump with two branches
- 5 Gator Cove
- 6 The Hollow Tree
- 7 Billy's Island Hiking Trail | 0.75 miles long
- 8 Turn Around Tree
- 9 Pinball Alley
- 10 Stump Field

## Rules & Regulations

**Fishing:** Valid Georgia fishing license required. All state regulations apply. No live minnows may be used as bait.

**Canoeing & Motor Boating:** Motors limited to 10 hp or less. Each boat occupant must have a coast guard approved life preserver.

**Swimming:** Prohibited in refuge waters.

**Pets:** Pets are not permitted in public buildings or boats.

**Disturbing or Collecting Plants or Animals:** Strictly prohibited. Do not feed or harass the wildlife in any way.

**Refuge Travel:** Restricted to day-use waterways (without an overnight permit).

# Stephen C. Foster State Park

## Wildlife Refuge Gate Hours:

7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Off-water times vary; please check at park office for current time.

End of Day-Use Trail  
(10.4 miles from park)

Big Water Lake  
(9 miles from park)

Minnie's Lake  
Rest Shelter  
(3.8 miles from park)

Billy's Lake  
(3 miles long)

End of Day-Use Trail

Dock  
(2 miles from park)

Stephen C. Foster State Park  
(camping and cabins)

Jones Island

Billy's Island

Mixon's Hammock  
(by permit only)

End of Day-Use Trail  
(1.7 miles from park)

River Sill  
(4.3 miles from park)

River Narrows

The Pocket



Map Not To Scale