Park Rules

**Liability** - Use caution during your activities; usage is at your own risk.

**Access** - Park will be open from dawn to dusk, with the exception of overnight camping reserved in advance.

**Pets** - Domestic animals are allowed, provided they are leashed at all times.

**Prohibited Activities** - The following activities are prohibited on park property, except where special approval has been granted by permit from Osceola County or in specific designated areas: Hunting, swimming, waste disposal, discharging firearms, fireworks, destruction of property, introduction or collection of plants or animals, feeding or disturbing wildlife, alcoholic beverages, sales or concessions and other uses not specifically referenced.

Please enjoy this natural area and allow others the same courtesy.

It is strongly recommended that you carry a cellular phone for emergency situations. In the event of an emergency, call 911.

All other inquiries call 407-742-0200 or visit our website at: www.osceola.org

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**Makinson Island Partners**

Osceola County
Natural Resources
1 Courthouse Square • Kissimmee, FL

Updated Sept 2013
Makinson Island is a historic island consisting of approximately 132 acres surrounded by Lake Tohopekaliga. It is believed to be the birthplace of Seminole Indian Chief Coacoochee in 1807. Coacoochee was a respected Seminole war leader, following the death of Chief Osceola, rallying troops to resist the U.S. Army and seek refuge in the swamps and islands of Lake Tohopekaliga. The name “Tohopekaliga” roughly translates to “fort site,” due to its provision of protection for the Seminoles.

Between 1843 and 1982, the island changed ownership several times, taking on different names to reflect its respective owners. In 1940, the well-drained sandy soils in the island’s upland area were cleared to allow for a citrus grove, in addition to other exotic vegetation being planted here. The current name was given to the island when the Makinson family, of Makinson Hardware, owned the island. More recently, the island was owned by R.H. Dickerman, who used the property as a wildlife sanctuary and tourist attraction to display more than 250 exotic animals from 1982 to 1995.

The island was acquired in 1999 by the State of Florida, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, using Preservation 2000 funding. Today, evidence of Makinson Island’s past is reflected in the exotic vegetation, such as bamboo, guava and oranges, and the occasional mara (cavy) and goat sightings from its past as a wildlife sanctuary. The island also hosts an impressive display of migratory birds, especially waterfowl.

The Makinson Island trail system offers guests an impressive 2 mile trail, which circumnavigates the island through oak hammock, cabbage hammock and forested wetlands. For shorter hikes, guests can choose to walk the cross island trail by taking the 1 mile trail through an upland prairie habitat.

Take nothing but pictures, kill nothing but time, leave nothing but footprints. Please remember that all plants and animals are protected and no hunting, harassment or removal of wildlife is permitted. Camping is by permitted reservation only; please call 407-742-0200 to reserve your stay.