

Senate President Wilton Simpson Tours Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park

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but economic generators as well*

TALLAHASSEE, UNITED STATES,
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EINPresswire.com/ -- Senate President
Wilton Simpson, who represents
District 10, visited the Ellie Schiller
Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park
yesterday as a guest of the Florida
State Parks Foundation and the Florida
Park Service.



Senator Simpson at Homosassa Springs

The visit, ahead of next January's
Legislative Session, was to brief President Simpson about new developments at the park and to
discuss issues affecting all of Florida's 175 award-winning parks and trails.

President Simpson has long made the environment a priority, especially the Everglades. In 2013,
he successfully introduced legislation dealing with the
restoration of the Everglades, which allocated \$880 million
for water quality restoration and \$32 million to be spent
annually on reducing the amount of phosphorus that flows
into the region.

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Senator Wilton Simpson

“We appreciate President Simpson spending time at
Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park today and for his
commitment to our state parks and trails,” said Florida
State Parks Foundation Vice President Don Philpott.

“It's always a great day when you get a chance to visit one of Florida's nationally-recognized,
award-winning state parks,” said President Simpson. “I am grateful to the dedicated women and
men within our state park system who work hard each and every day to welcome visitors from
around the state and across the country. Preserving the beautiful natural resources of our state
for future generations to enjoy has and will continue to be a priority for me and my colleagues in

the Florida Senate.”

“Not only are our parks natural treasures, but economic generators as well. Our award-winning state parks attract 24 million visitors from around the world, have an economic impact to the state of \$2.2 billion and support more than 31,000 jobs,” Philpott said. “And, as 2020 clearly demonstrated, Florida’s state parks play an important role in providing open spaces where people can recreate and exercise in a safe, socially distanced environment.”

The 200-acre Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park attracts more than 228,000 visitors a year and generates more than \$21.4 million to the state’s economy as well as supporting 300 local jobs.

The Foundation, founded in 1993 as Friends of Florida State Parks and renamed in 2018, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation whose mission is to support and help sustain the Florida Park Service, its 175 award-winning parks and trails, local Friends groups and more than 20,000 park volunteers.

It does this through programs that preserve and protect state parks, educate visitors about the value of state parks, encourage community engagement and active use of state parks, and advocacy.

The volunteer Board of Directors represents private and public sectors as well as local and statewide interests.

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