

Photo by Mark Corbett



## OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS

*Even as the Fort Lauderdale skyline rises and expands outward, there are several spots in the metro where you can find a slice of quiet Old Florida to get lost in nature.*

**B**egin by heading to **Hugh Taylor Birch State Park**, a gem of nearly untouched wilderness. There are views of the Intra-coastal, undeveloped ocean and a loop road in the center perfect for walkers and cyclists. Wash down the adventure at the oceanfront Park & Ocean brewpub.

In the heart of the city, **Holiday Park** is a playground for urban-dwellers, with a playground, tennis courts and fields for football, baseball and soccer. Cutting through it all are parallel paved and gravel tracks that meander below stately oaks and pines.

At **Dr. Von D. Mizell-Eula Johnson State Park** (formerly John U. Lloyd Beach State Park), take a paddleboard up Whiskey Creek, where rumrunners used to hide in the swamps, or picnic under the trees along the 2.5-mile beachfront.

Find the best dog swimming spot around at **Snyder Park**, where pups have their own lakefront beach and a fenced play area nearby. For hikers, hit the **Fern Forest Nature Center**, for a trip into what qualifies as South Florida highland, with trails that change from swamp to fern cover to old-growth forest in a matter of feet.



(top) Hugh Taylor Birch State Park