



February 13 - Friends of Silver Springs State Park (FOSSSP) Membership Meeting with Speaker

5:30 PM - Refreshments

6:00 PM - FOSSSP Meeting with Speaker:

Rachel Slocumb, Conservation Coordinator for the Water Resources Department at the City of Ocala

Topic: The Ocala Wetland Recharge Park @ Pine Oaks

Join the Friends of Silver Springs State Park at our monthly meeting to hear an update by Conservation Coordinator Rachel Slocumb on an exciting new project being developed by the city of Ocala to efficiently use its water resources. The Ocala Wetland Recharge Park will create a wetland ecosystem, improve water quality, and boost regional groundwater supplies. This project will include rapid infiltration basins that will replenish the Floridan Aquifer faster than current natural rates.

The project site is a 60-acre, City-owned parcel located next to the Pine Oaks Golf Course. This area already contains oak canopies, lined irrigation ponds, trails, and grassy fairways. The Wetland Groundwater Recharge Park will preserve the existing canopy, transform the ponds into deep marshes, and convert the fairways to wetlands. Additionally, a pavilion, boardwalks, trails, and wildlife overlooks will be constructed throughout the park. Above is a conceptual drawing of the recharge park. Anticipated opening of the Park is Spring 2020.

Water and wetland conservation is a topic near and dear to the Friends and Staff at Silver Springs State Park. Many of our volunteers dedicate their time working on projects such as water lettuce eradication,

river patrol, gardening and active involvement in the annual Florida Springs Festival which is designed to build awareness on the value of our unique water resources.

The meeting will be held in the Paradise Ballroom located at the end of the main building overlooking the headsprings. Simply mention at the Park ticket booth that you will be attending the “Friends” meeting to gain free admission to hear Rachel Slocumb’s presentation on this exciting topic. The meeting is open to FOSSSP Members, their Guests and anyone interested in hearing more about our organization and this exciting new project.