

RECREATION GUIDE

TO
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT LANDS



GET OUTSIDE!

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Introduction

West-central Florida is a wonderful place to get outside. From the sandy beaches on the Gulf of Mexico to the wild beauty of the Green Swamp, there's something for everybody.

Every year about 2.5 million people visit public conservation lands obtained by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) and its partners to protect Florida's water resources. The District offers recreational activities that allow you to get fit and appreciate the environment while protecting the natural resources that make them such great places to visit. The lands are open to the public for family activities such as hiking, bicycling, hunting, horseback riding, fishing, camping, nature study, paddling and picnicking. Many District lands also have facilities that are accessible for the mobility-impaired.

Each of the areas owned by the District offers something unique. Learning as much as possible about a property before you visit will prepare you for what you are likely to experience. The property descriptions in this guide provide basic information about each property, such as location, access and parking, hours of operation, restroom and water availability, recreational opportunities, accessibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and contact information.

This guide is organized in three sections. The first section provides information about the District's land management program; overviews of recreational activities available, including recommended properties for each activity; and a list of guidelines to follow while on District lands. The second section consists of property descriptions for each property, a location map and activity icons. At the end of the guide is the Recreation At A Glance and map of all properties for quick reference.

We hope this guide will assist everyone seeking to get outside on District lands. For more information about the District's land resources program, please contact us.

Online: **WaterMatters.org/recreation**

Email: **Recreation@WaterMatters.org**

Telephone: **(352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only), ext. 4470**

U.S. Mail: **Land Resources Department
Southwest Florida Water
Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604-6899**

GET OUTSIDE!

Why Does the District Buy Lands?

The District was created in 1961 by the Florida Legislature to protect the water resources of the region. The District includes roughly 10,000 square miles in all or part of 16 counties in west-central Florida that are home to approximately 5 million people. The boundaries of the District extend north into Levy County, south into Charlotte County and inland into Polk and Highlands counties.

The region's lands and waters are forever linked by Florida's natural water cycles. Therefore, one of the main ways the District carries out its mission of balancing water needs and protecting the environment is by obtaining conservation lands around lakes, rivers, wetlands and estuaries. These lands serve as a natural buffer that filters out pollution from runoff before it reaches the nearest body of water. The District also buys lands to preserve and restore native Florida ecosystems that provide water resources benefits and water storage during hurricanes and other major storm events. The District's acquisition program has primarily been funded through state programs such as Save Our Rivers, Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever.

Land Management

The District manages its conservation lands to maintain and protect vital water functions and natural systems, which include Florida's unique plant and wildlife communities. Two

primary management tools include mimicking the natural fire cycle that historically shaped Florida's landscape and restoring areas that have been altered by previous activities. At any time, the public may encounter District staff using methods such as prescribed burns, mechanical mowing of vegetation, and seeding and planting of vegetation. These management techniques help to maintain healthy and abundant populations of game species, such as deer and turkey, and are important for most of Florida's threatened and endangered species.

Public Use and Recreation

While District lands vary in size and terrain, they all have at least one thing in common — they provide a variety of important benefits to the water and water-related resources within west-central Florida. Nearly all these lands are available for public use and recreation. Nature-friendly activities offer an easy and fun experience while making sure the land is protected. In keeping with the purpose for which these lands were acquired, your experience will be close to nature. That means mostly unpaved roads, portable restrooms and nature's beauty all around you.

District Partners

Did you know that many state and local parks and state forest areas are owned by the District? The District, in partnership with state and local governments, has developed parks with facilities such as picnic pavilions, nature trails, environmental education centers,



restrooms and camping areas. The District usually provides the land and funding to build most of the facilities, while the partner provides the on-site staff to manage the parks on a daily basis.

Recreational Opportunities Available

Bicycling

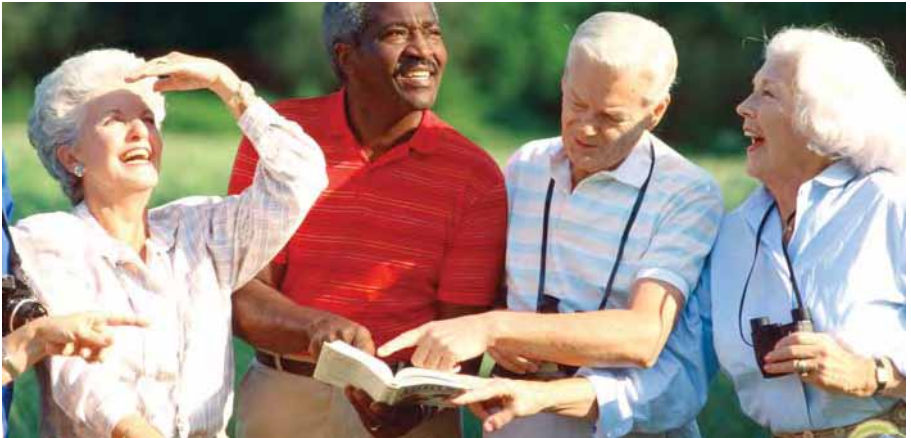
From the novice to the expert trails, many different types can be found on District lands. Bike trails are primarily double-track, multiuse trails located on old dirt roads that wind through pine flatwoods and around beautiful wetlands. For the more adventurous rider, off-road, single-track trails are available on cooperatively managed lands where user groups construct and maintain the trails.

Some tracts have paved multiuse trails that allow both on-road and off-road bicyclists to enjoy riding in

natural settings. The 6.7-mile Starkey Trail winds through the 18,000-acre Starkey Wilderness Preserve and connects to the 42-mile Suncoast Trail. These trails offer some of the best long-distance bicycling opportunities in west-central Florida.

Best Opportunities

- **Cypress Creek Preserve** — *Paved and double-track trail*
- **Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve** — Flatwoods Park — *Paved trail*
- **Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve** — Wilderness Park Off Road Trails System — *Single-track, off-road trail*
- **Myakka State Forest** — *Multiuse, off-road trail*
- **Starkey Wilderness Preserve** — Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park — *Paved trails*



Birding

Whether you are a casual viewer or an avid birder working on your life birding list, bird-watching opportunities abound on all District lands. Sites with the best bird-watching opportunities are part of the Great Florida Birding Trail and are listed in the Recreation At A Glance. Maps of the west coast portion of the trail can be obtained from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission web site at FloridaBirdingTrail.com/.

Best Opportunities

- **Brooker Creek Preserve**
- **Chassahowitzka River and Coastal Swamps**
- **Flying Eagle Preserve**
- **Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve — West Tract**
- **Lake Panasoffkee**
- **Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve — Dead River, Flatwoods, John B. Sargeant, Morris Bridge and Trout Creek parks**

- **Myakka State Forest**
- **Potts Preserve**
- **Sawgrass Lake Park**
- **Starkey Wilderness Preserve — Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park**
- **Two Mile Prairie (Withlacoochee State Forest)**
- **Weekiwachee Preserve**
- **Withlacoochee River Park**





Camping

Whether you enjoy camping with few facilities or in your home-away-from-home RV, the beauty of the great outdoors is waiting to be experienced. Full-service RV (found on some of our partners' sites), equestrian and/or group, primitive and remote backcountry sites are available on various lands. Trail-access backcountry camping is one of the special recreational opportunities offered. Larger District lands provide trails long enough for multiday hikes or bicycle rides and have campsites set up at various stopping points along the trail.

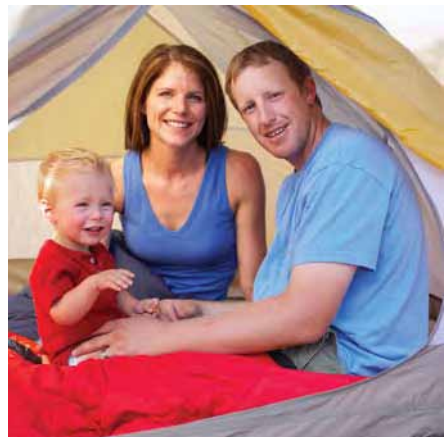
Full-Service RV Camp Areas

The District has partnered with local governments to provide both full-service camp areas (water, electricity and restrooms) and primitive camp areas for traditional camping rigs on some of its conservation lands. Information about reservations, fees, types of campers allowed and site availability can be obtained by

contacting the cooperator directly (contact information in property descriptions).

Equestrian and/or Group Camp Areas

Camping with tents or horse trailer camping rigs; campsites generally equipped with picnic tables, fire rings and/or grills; usually have nonpotable water and portable toilets available for use by campers; horse trailers may be driven into equestrian campsites; campsites are available to non-equestrian campers.





Primitive Camp Areas

Camping with tents; personal vehicles allowed in campsites only; campsites generally equipped with picnic tables, fire rings and/or grills; usually have portable toilets available for use by campers; campsites available to individuals and groups; equestrian use not permitted in these areas.

Backcountry Camp Areas

Small cleared areas that are accessible only by foot or from a water body; provide unique opportunities for visitors desiring a remote camping experience; generally have no amenities or water sources; visitors are expected to pack in/pack out all supplies.

Best Opportunities

- **Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve** — West Tract — *Equestrian, group, primitive and backcountry*
- **Lake Panasoffkee** — *Equestrian, group and primitive*
- **Starkey Wilderness Preserve** — Serenova Tract — *Equestrian, group and primitive*





Equestrian

Viewing the pine flatwoods, cypress ponds and wildlife-filled wetlands on horseback is one of the many great recreational experiences that can be enjoyed on District lands. Long-distance rides, multiday rides and overnight trail camping are some of the unique equestrian opportunities offered. Lands that have enough trail miles for a half-day ride or longer are generally open for equestrian use. Equestrian parking areas have been designed to provide ample space for horses to be easily unloaded from small and medium-sized horse trailers. Lands open for equestrian use that do not have equestrian parking areas accessible from a main road may require a free reservation for access through the security gates. Nonpotable water is provided on some lands, but visitors should always bring enough water to meet their horses' needs. To determine what facilities are available, check the individual property descriptions. Equestrian/group camping areas are

available and can be accessed by vehicles towing horse trailers. These areas have a nonpotable water source and portable restroom facilities available. A free camping reservation is required (see page 14).

Best Opportunities

- **Deep Creek Preserve**
- **Flying Eagle Preserve**
- **Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve** — Hampton and West tracts
- **Lake Panasoffkee**
- **Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve** — Oak Ridge Equestrian Area
- **Myakka State Forest**
- **Potts Preserve**
- **RV Griffin Reserve**
- **Starkey Wilderness Preserve** — Serenova Tract
- **Upper Hillsborough Preserve** — Alston Tract



Hiking

Enjoy the beauty of west-central Florida at its best by hiking on miles of natural trails. District lands are open for hiking and related activities that can be enjoyed on foot, such as nature study, bird watching, outdoor photography, jogging and backpacking. Most trails are located on old roadbeds and have a natural surface that changes constantly depending on weather and soil conditions. Hikers should expect trail conditions that may be seasonally wet, dry and sandy, or may even require fording shallow creeks.

Trails are primarily multiuse and are also open for horseback riding and bicycling. Some lands have single-track, hiking-only trails or paved trails that provide unique hiking experiences. Check the individual property descriptions for specific details.

The Florida National Scenic Trail, located in the Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve, is the premier hiking trail on District lands. This 35-mile, hiking-only trail provides opportunities for day

hikes and multiple-day backpacking trips through more than 110,000 acres of natural lands. Maintained by Florida Trail Association volunteers, information on the trail can be obtained by calling 1-877-HIKE-FLA or online at *FloridaTrail.org/*. The 1,400-mile Florida Trail network winds through District lands on its way from the Big Cypress National Preserve in south Florida to Gulf Islands National Seashore near Pensacola. These single-track, hiking-only trails provide great opportunities to see wildlife and enjoy a solitary experience in a natural setting.

Hunting

More than 132,000 acres of District lands are available for hunting as wildlife management areas. These areas are cooperatively managed by the District and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), with the District serving as the lead manager. Special District-managed hunts of various types are also periodically offered on lands that are not wildlife management areas. Many



District lands provide quality habitat for game species and contain abundant populations of deer, turkey and small game. A variety of hunting opportunities are available to the public. From regular quota, small game and special opportunity hunts to hunts for the mobility-impaired, almost everyone can enjoy hunting on District lands. All lands open for hunting are listed in the Recreation At A Glance at the end of this guide. Information on hunting seasons and regulations can be obtained from the FWC web site at *MyFWC.com* or through its regional offices.

Best Opportunities

- **Flying Eagle Preserve**
- **Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve** — East and West tracts
- **Lake Panasoffkee**
- **Potts Preserve**
- **Upper Hillsborough Tract**

Water Recreation

There are many recreational opportunities available on water bodies throughout the District including boating, canoeing, kayaking and fishing. All visitors taking part in water sports should keep safety first. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) regulates water vessels and should be consulted for safety requirements, registration and other regulations. All fishing on District lands is subject to FWC's license requirements and regulations.





Boating and Paddling

District lands preserve hundreds of miles of pristine shoreline along many of the beautiful rivers and lakes in the region. Whether it is a great blue heron stalking its prey, an alligator sunning on a log or a deer getting a drink from the cool, clear waters of a spring-fed river, there are endless opportunities to view wildlife in their native habitats while exploring these natural areas. Where possible, launch facilities are provided on adjacent water bodies. However, not all District lands provide boat access, as many areas already have launching facilities nearby. Lakes and ponds wholly within District lands that allow paddling and boating access are clearly posted as open for these activities. Check the Recreation At A Glance and individual property descriptions for more information.

Fishing

Fishing is allowed along the banks of District water bodies and by boat unless an area is posted closed to fishing. All

fishing on District lands is subject to FWC's license requirements and regulations.

Best Opportunities

- **Chassahowitzka River and Coastal Swamps**
- **Deep Creek Preserve** (*Peace River*)
- **Edward Medard Park and Reservoir**
- **Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve** — West Tract (*Withlacoochee River*)
- **Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve** (*Hillsborough River*)
- **Tampa Bypass Canal**
- **Wysong Park** (*Withlacoochee River*)





Guidelines for Use of District Lands

To make sure that we, as well as future generations, can enjoy quality outdoor experiences, each one of us must share the responsibility of protecting our environment. The District supports the Leave No Trace program, which educates people who enjoy the outdoors about the nature of their recreational impacts as well as techniques to prevent and minimize such impacts.



Leave No Trace

The following seven principles of Leave No Trace are for the safety of visitors and to protect our nature resources.

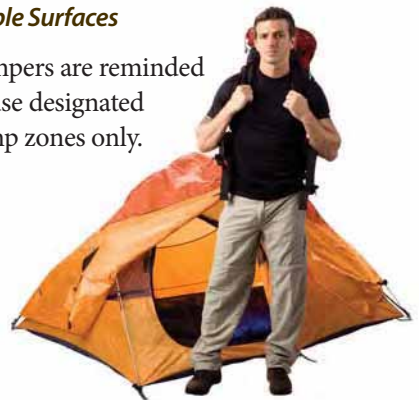
Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you will visit.

- Make sure you have reservations for activities or use areas, if required.
- Check with the District to see if an area is closed or access is limited due to weather conditions, management activities or hunting seasons.
- Check the weather forecast and plan for possible changes in weather.
- Bring plenty of water, sunscreen, insect repellent, a hat and good pair of sneakers or walking shoes.
- Carry a cell phone.
- Let a friend know where you are going and when you will return.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Campers are reminded to use designated camp zones only.





Dispose of Waste Properly

- Please remember to carry out everything used during your stay. Help us keep the areas clean and natural.

Leave What You Find

- Preserve the past. Examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Do not build structures, dig trenches or cut down trees or shrubs.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Use established fire rings, grills or mound fires where fires are permitted.
- Keep fires small. Use only sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Do not cut down trees or bushes — dead or alive — for firewood.
- Put campfires out completely and then scatter cooled ashes.

Respect Wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals. Feeding animals damages their health, alters natural behaviors and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Stay on marked trails or roads to avoid trampling habitat.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times such as mating and nesting seasons.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous, yield to other users.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices, music and noises.
- Use proper trail etiquette. Follow the trail right-of-way rule: bikers yield to hikers, both bikers and hikers yield to horses.





Activities Not Allowed

The District has set up the following rules to promote the proper use of its conservation lands. A complete listing of all rules that apply to public use of District lands can be found in Chapter 40D-9 of the Florida Administrative Code.

The following are not allowed:

- Alcoholic beverages or other intoxicants.
- Use of all-terrain, off-road or other motorized vehicles not licensed for Florida highway use.
- Motorized vehicles, horses or bicycles on roads not specifically open for these modes of transportation.
- Firearms or other similar equipment, unless during a District-authorized hunt or other District-authorized activities.
- Dogs not on a leash.
- Dogs in areas not designated for dogs.
- Destruction, collection or release of plants and wildlife.

- Destruction or looting of an archaeological site or artifacts.
- Accessing District lands at points other than designated access points.
- Fireworks and explosives; igniting fires, except in designated areas.
- Damaging or removing any facilities or equipment owned or leased by District, its designees, contractors or other public agencies.
- Littering and disposing of any waste products such as graywater, petroleum products, toxic materials, batteries, etc.
- Commercial fishing or any activities not approved by the District.





Camping Guidelines

Reservations

Reservations are free and required for camping, reserving a pavilion, horse-drawn buggy riding and for horseback riding on some properties. Check the reservation requirements for the property before you visit. Reservation applications can be obtained online at WaterMatters.org/recreation/. Applications are also available by contacting the District at (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only), ext. 4470. Please allow up to ten days to process applications. Please abide by the following general camping rules and see individual property descriptions for site-specific camping information.



General Rules

- Camping is allowed in designated campsites only and requires a free reservation.
- Reservations are based on availability and on a first-come, first-served basis.
- A new reservation is required for each camping trip.
- Reservations may be made up to three months prior to the requested camping date.





- Reservations will include gate combinations for vehicle access where allowed.
 - Reservations must be displayed on dashboard at campsite.
 - Personal automobiles are permitted into equestrian, group and primitive campsites. Vehicles may be driven from gate to campsite **ONLY**.
 - Dogs are permitted in designated campgrounds. They must be on a leash no more than six feet in length and be well-mannered at all times.
 - Dog owners are required to pick up after their dogs; do not allow your dog to wander outside your campsite. No other pets are permitted on District lands.
 - All trees, plants and wildlife are protected.
 - Generators are permitted to run from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and must be kept within your campsite. No generator is to be left unattended and running.
 - Quiet time is from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m.
- Camping is limited to seven consecutive days; a reservation is required for each visit.
 - Any additional rules and regulations will be provided on the reservation or posted at the campground kiosk.





Equestrian Camping

- Horses are not permitted in primitive sites.
- Tether stakes are not permitted on District property.
- Trees and their roots are to be protected at all times; do not tie or tether horses directly to trees.
- All manure is to be pulverized and spread out where your horse has been kept. Do not place manure in holes or pile around trees or plants.
- Fill in all holes and level out the site where your horse has been kept.
- All leftover hay should be removed from property.
- Horses are not permitted on hiking trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.

Equestrian Trailer Parking and Horse-Drawn Buggy Riding

- Horseback and buggy riding is allowed only on designated or marked trails.
- All horse-drawn buggy riding requires a reservation for access behind locked gates.
- Equestrian parking permits are required for access to parking areas behind locked Washburn gate at Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve — Oak Ridge Equestrian Area.





Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility

The District does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. This non-discrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions including one's access to, participation or treatment in its programs or activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should contact the Land Resources Department at (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only), ext. 4470; TDD only: 1-800-231-6103 (FL only); fax: (352) 754-6877.



The District provides recreational opportunities for the mobility-impaired. Many of the lands listed in this guide

have accessible facilities such as paved trails, boardwalks, fishing piers, picnic areas or restrooms that meet the standards established by the ADA. The District also provides opportunities for mobility-impaired fishing and hunting in some areas. To determine what areas provide universal access facilities, look for the symbol on the Recreation At A Glance and information in the individual property descriptions.





Notice of Statutory Limitation of Liability under Section 373.1395, Florida Statutes

By law, the District is not required to ensure that its parks or recreation lands are safe for use by members of the public or to warn the public of hazardous conditions, buildings or activities on District lands. Accordingly, the District makes no assurances as to the safety of any of its parks or recreation lands, including buildings, for any purpose or activity, and generally will not provide warnings of hazardous conditions. The District is not responsible for injury to persons or property caused by any act or omission of a person while at a District park or on District recreation lands. All visitors use District parks and lands at their own risk.



Volunteering on District Lands

To meet various water management needs, the District has protected more than 436,000 acres of land in southwest Florida.

The Volunteer Program was designed to help the District accomplish its goals and to give volunteers an opportunity to participate in and learn about the management of conservation lands within the District. The Volunteer Program depends upon the combined efforts of many individuals for its successful operation.

Projects are typically done in wilderness-type areas. The District provides all tools, safety equipment and other items needed to work in the outdoors. Safe practices and tool handling training is offered regularly. Volunteers may work on short-term projects or longer, several-day projects. Volunteers can participate as individuals or groups and will only need to provide appropriate clothing, time and transportation.



Why Volunteer?

Volunteering with the District's Land Resources Department is a great way to give back to your local community, make new friends, learn new skills and enjoy Florida's beautiful natural areas. Over the years, volunteers have contributed thousands of hours toward projects such as constructing and maintaining trails, establishing campsites, building picnic areas, cleaning up trash and debris, and many other important land improvement projects. So, whether you would like to

volunteer to work on an individual project or group project or become part of a citizen support organization, the District has opportunities to fit the needs and abilities of everyone.

Volunteer Benefits

Volunteers receive the personal satisfaction of helping out and seeing a job well done. In addition, the District provides volunteers with:

- Workers' compensation
- Liability protection
- Recognition and awards

What It Takes to Become a Volunteer

If you are in good health, have a desire to help, and are flexible and adaptable to a variety of working conditions, then you can become a volunteer. Whether you are a skilled tradesman or just handy with the hedge clippers, there is a project for you. To volunteer, please contact the Land Resources Department at 1-800-423-1476 (toll-free, FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470.



Alafia River Corridor

931 Old Welcome Road
Lithia, FL 33547

Size

2,963 acres

Location

Southeastern Hillsborough County, east of Lithia and south of Plant City

About the Property

The Alafia River is a major tributary of Tampa Bay. Conservation of the lands along the Alafia River will protect the river, its floodplain and wildlife habitat for future generations. The river's natural floodplain is a mixture of hardwood swamps and upland hammocks. Trails meander through natural areas as well as areas that were formerly phosphate mine pits, which are mostly revegetated. Jointly purchased by the District and Hillsborough County, the property is managed by the county.

Access and Parking

- Primary access for hiking trail is at the Pinecrest baseball field parking area next to Alderman's Ford Park. Walk-thru on north side of parking area.
- Walk-thru entrance located at 628 Jameson Road.
- Park gates close at night — check park hours to make sure vehicle will not be locked in parking area.
- Access to horse trails at Old Welcome Road parking area.

Hours of Operation

Daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for horse trail parking area on Old Welcome Road.

Restrooms and Water

There are no restroom facilities at the trailhead locations, but facilities are available in Alderman's Ford Park during park operating hours.

Recreational Opportunities

Camping

- Primitive camping only.
- Group areas available.
- Letter of authorization required from Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department.

Equestrian Use

- 8 miles of marked equestrian trails available on southern portion of property adjacent to Alafia River State Park.
- Trails offer quality ride through various areas of pasture, oak hammocks, sandhills and riverine swamps.
- During rainy season, creek crossings may be closed for safety reasons. At other times, portions of preserve may be closed temporarily due to wildfires, prescribed burns, environmental restoration or severe storms.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Fishing

- Shoreline fishing allowed from pits in northeast portion of property.
- Access via hiking trail.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for license requirements.

Hiking

- Access three-mile marked trail from Pinecrest baseball field walk-thru or Alderman's Ford Park.
- Hiking allowed on equestrian trail.

Picnic Facilities

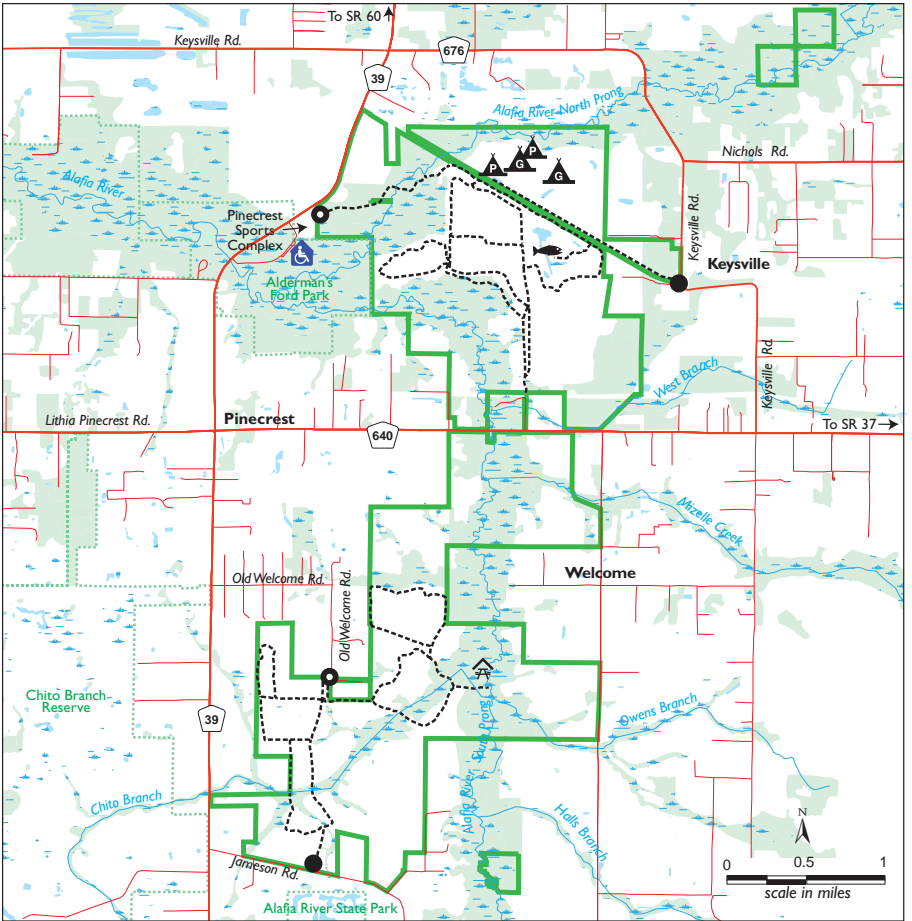
- Limited picnic facilities available on-site.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Alafia River State Park
- Alderman's Ford Park; Alderman's Ford Nature Preserve
- English Creek Environmental Studies Center
- Lithia Springs Park
- Medard Park

For More Information

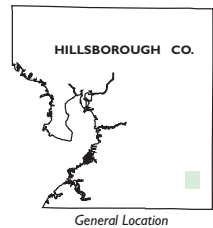
Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department, (813) 672-7876



Alafia River Corridor

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|------------------------|
| | highway, major road | | walk-thru |
| | minor road | | access point & parking |
| | designated trail | | fishing spot |
| | property boundary | | picnic shelter |
| | other public lands | | group camping |
| | county line | | primitive camping |
| | river, stream | | ADA accessible toilet |
| | lake, pond | | |
| | forest | | |
| | wetland/swamp | | |



Alafia River Reserve

4872 Indian Oak Drive
Mulberry, FL 33860

Size

334 acres

Location

West-central Polk County, west of Mulberry

About the Property

Purchased jointly by the District and Polk County to preserve the natural wetlands (90 percent) and uplands along the upper corridor of the Alafia River, this property is home to many species of wading birds and amphibians that require seasonally flooded areas free of predators to complete their life cycles. Forested hardwood wetlands are the primary natural community. Common trees include sweet gum, laurel oak, ironwood, hickory, sabal palms and bay. Ground cover is sparse due to extended periods of flooding.

Access and Parking

From Mulberry, take SR 60 west to Turner Road (approximately 3.5 miles). Turn left on Turner Road and follow to Y-intersection. Stay to left on North

Turner Road. Turn left on Indian Oak Boulevard until road dead-ends. Turn right on Indian Oak Drive and travel a few blocks. Parking area on left.

Hours of Operation

Daily 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. during standard time and 5 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. during daylight-saving time.

Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available.

Recreational Opportunities

Hiking

- Short hiking trail to river overlook.

Picnic Facilities

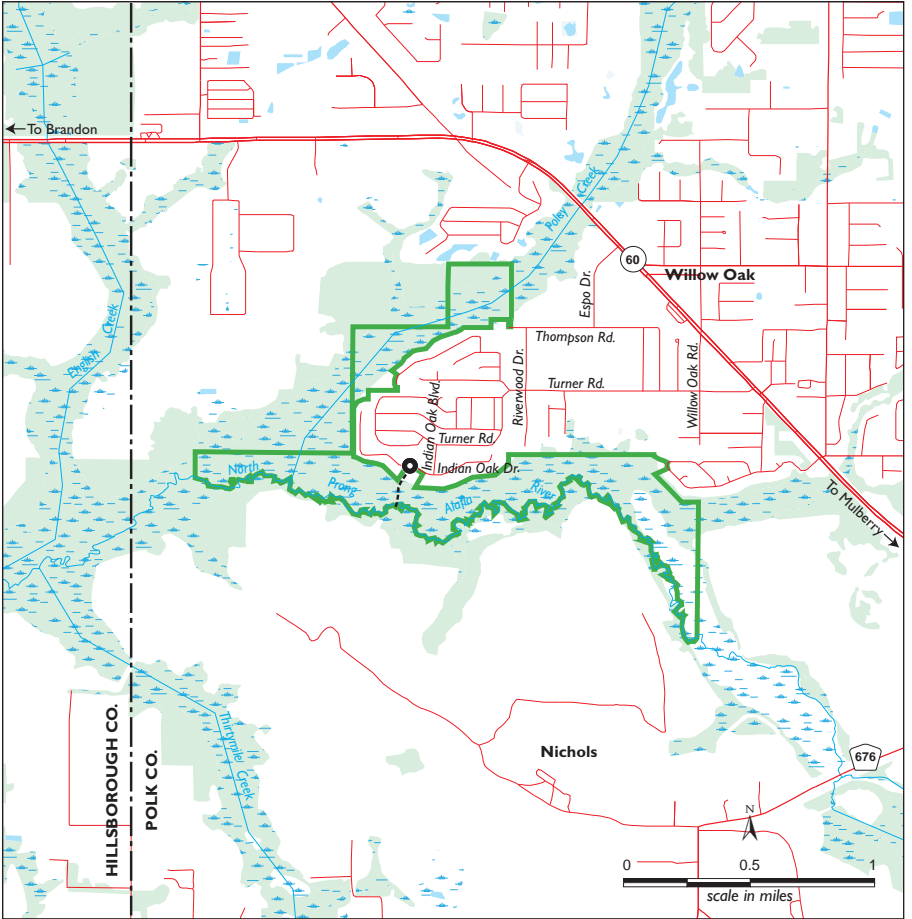
- Picnic tables adjacent to parking area.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Alafia River Corridor
- Alafia River State Park
- Alderman's Ford Park

For More Information

Polk County Natural Resources Department,
(863) 534-7377

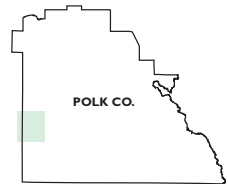


Alafia River Reserve

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- - - - - designated trail
- property boundary
- - - - - other public lands
- · - · - county line
- ~ ~ ~ river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- ~ ~ ~ wetland/swamp

- access point & parking



General Location

Annutteliga Hammock

11019 Centralia Road
Weeki Wachee, FL 34614

Size

2,200 acres

Location

Northwestern Hernando County, north of Weeki Wachee

About the Property

The Annutteliga Hammock is an important area for groundwater recharge into Florida's primary drinking water source, the Floridan aquifer system. Situated in the Brooksville Ridge, which runs from northern Citrus County down into central Pasco County, the lands are slightly higher in elevation than the adjacent coastal or central portions of the state. The area within the Brooksville Ridge typically has well-drained soils, karst limerock outcroppings and is dominated by sandhills, upland hardwood forests and scrub communities. Property links with the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area, which is a prime Florida black bear habitat area. Approximately 570 acres have been designated for trails and facilities for public use.

Access and Parking

- From US 19, north of Weeki Wachee, turn east on Centralia Road. Main parking area is on north side of Centralia Road.
- Walk-thru on north side of Knuckey Road.
- Access and parking on south side of Knuckey Road.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available.

Recreational Opportunities

Equestrian Use

- Several miles of marked trails.
- Riders are required to stay on marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Hiking

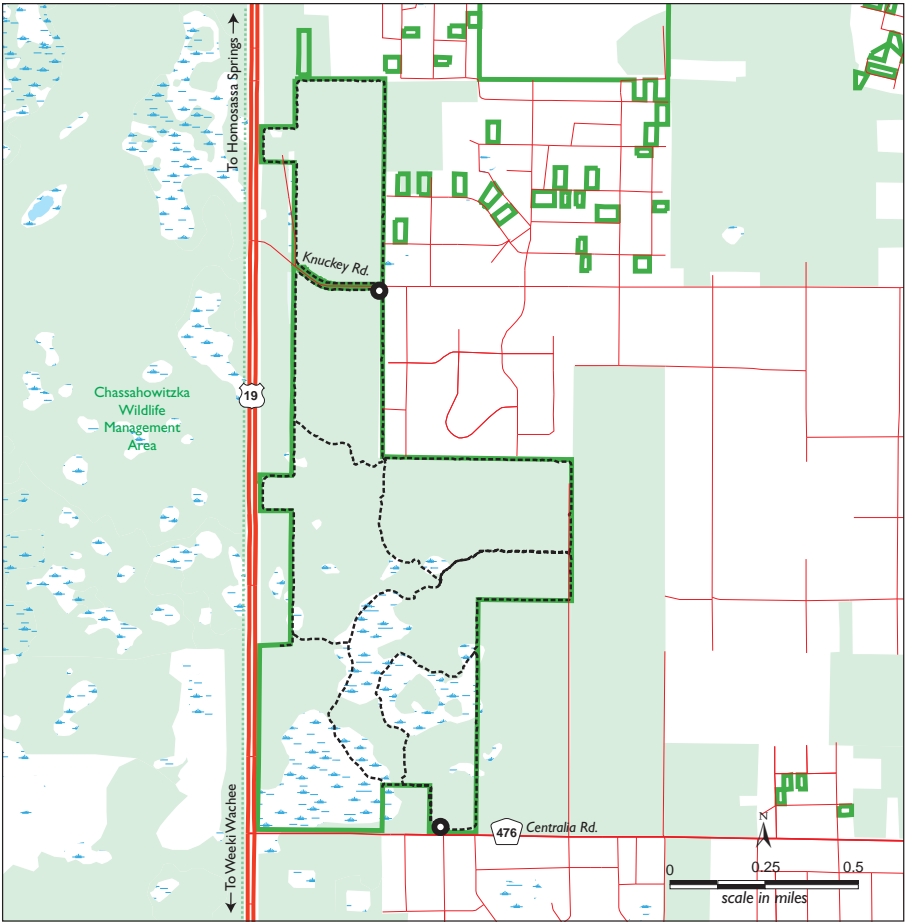
- Trails on interior roads.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge
- Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area
- Withlacoochee State Forest, Homosassa Tract

For More Information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470



Annutteliga Hammock

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- access point & parking



General Location

Brooker Creek Headwaters Nature Preserve

18102 Ramblewood Road
Lutz, FL 33558

Size

1,111 acres

Location

Northwest Hillsborough County, north of Van Dyke Road, south of Lutz-Lake Fern Road, west of Suncoast Parkway, and east of Gunn Highway

About the Property

Containing the largest area of contiguous natural habitat remaining in northwest Hillsborough County, public ownership of this preserve ensures protection of important wildlife habitat and the site's wetlands, which serve as the headwaters of the Brooker Creek system. This property includes a mosaic of forested swamps, floodplains and low-lying uplands. The uplands include pine flatwoods, xeric oak hammocks, and mixed hardwood and pine prairies.

Since 1993, Hillsborough County staff has performed a number of resource inventories that identified an abundance of wildlife and vegetation, some of which are considered threatened or endangered. For this reason, recreational activities on the property are limited to walking and hiking. Jointly acquired by the District and Hillsborough County, the property is managed by Hillsborough County.

Access and Parking

- Parking, kiosk and picnic table available at entrance on Ramblewood Road.
- Walk-thru gate on Lutz-Lake Fern Road; parking on road shoulder.
- Walk-thru gate on east side of Brown Road north of Van Dyke Road; parking on road shoulder.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available.

Recreational Opportunities

Hiking

- Several miles of unimproved interior roads.

Picnic Facilities

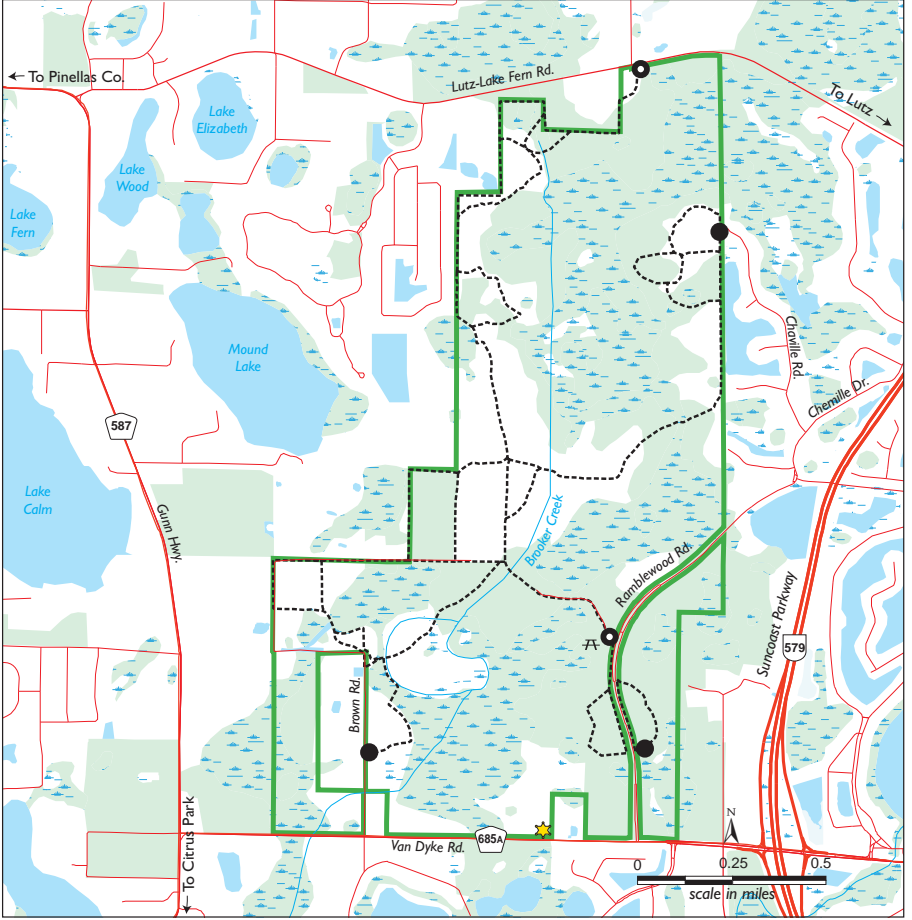
- Limited picnic facilities available.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Suncoast Trail
- Lake Rogers Park
- Lake Park

For More Information

Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department, (813) 672-7876



Brooker Creek Headwaters Nature Preserve

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- ~ river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- walk-thru (roadside parking)
- walk-thru
- ⛶ picnic area
- ★ security officer residence



General Location

Brooker Creek Preserve

3940 Keystone Road
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

Size

9,800 acres

Location

Northeast Pinellas County

About the Property

The Brooker Creek Preserve, managed by Pinellas County, is a valuable island of natural lands in an ever-increasing urban area. Pinellas County gave this property a special protection status and seeks to promote public awareness of the need to protect vital watersheds and natural areas in Florida. The property is a mixture of cypress and bottomland swamps, freshwater marshes and pine and oak hardwood forests. Most of the natural portions of Brooker Creek were disturbed by former land-use practices; however, some splendid intact natural sections of the creek just south of the Florida Power Corporation power line still exist and eventually flow into the property's vast riverine swamp.

Access and Parking

- Main entrance on south side of Keystone Road off CR 582.
- Horseback riding entrance with parking is located off Old Keystone Road.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset unless otherwise posted on information kiosks at designated public entrances.

Restrooms and Water

Restrooms and potable water are available at environmental education center.

Recreational Opportunities

Bird Watching

- Site 81 on western section of Great Florida Birding Trail.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for more information.

Environmental Education

- Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center open to public; call (727) 453-6800 for more information.
- Pinellas County and its volunteers conduct various public educational activities, hikes and tours.

Equestrian Use

- 10 miles of equestrian trails available at Old Keystone Road entrance. Parking for horse trailers provided. Not open to buggies or carts.
- Horse exercise trail located at walk-thru off Lora Lane for ride-in access by residents that live adjacent to the preserve. No parking area provided.
- Riders are required to stay on marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Hiking

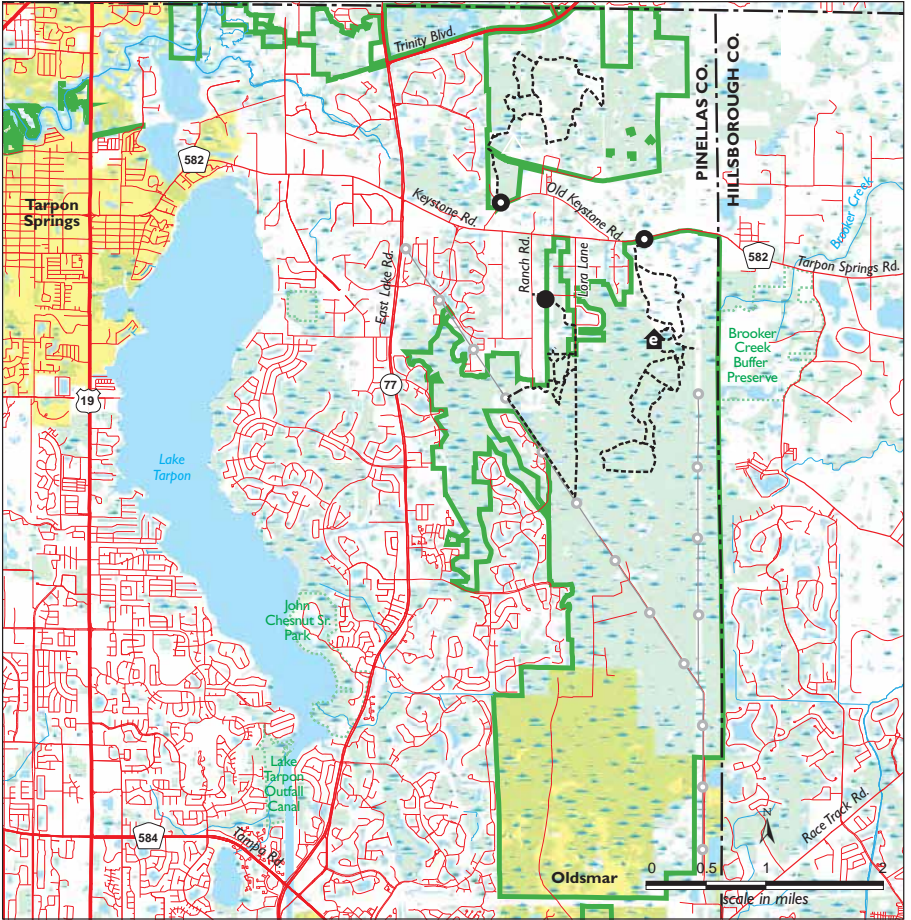
- Public hikes offered on Saturdays or through special arrangement with Pinellas County. For information, call (727) 453-6900.
- 1.75-mile interpretive trail located off Lora Lane. Interpretive brochures available at environmental education center.

Nearby Recreation Lands

Lake Tarpon Outfall Canal

For More Information

Brooker Creek Preserve, (727) 453-6800



Brooker Creek Preserve

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- city boundary

- walk-thru
- access point & parking
- environmental education center
- power line



General Location

Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park

12301 Burnt Store Road (CR 765)

Punta Gorda, FL 33955

Size

46,000 acres

Location

Eastern Charlotte County, west of Port Charlotte

About the Property

A joint acquisition effort between the District and the state, the preserve consists of various noncontiguous parcels that partially surround the Charlotte Harbor estuary and its major tributaries. All lands are managed as a state park.

The preserve is regionally important because it provides protection to the Gasparilla Sound/Charlotte Harbor, Cape Haze, Matlacha Pass and Pine Island Sound aquatic preserves. All these surface water features and their tributaries have been designated Outstanding Florida Waters. The preserve protects the water quality and natural resources in these adjacent sensitive areas and creates a continuity of habitats for wildlife.

The preserve contains vital mangrove and salt marsh wetlands with portions of freshwater marsh, coastal scrub, tropical hardwood hammocks and pinelands. The outstanding feature is its estuarine environment, which offers rich natural habitat and a diversity of wildlife. The preserve has an inspiring coastline with miles of open bay waters, tidal creeks and segments on the Myakka, Peace and Caloosahatchee rivers. Guided tours within the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center area are offered to the public from November to April.

Access and Parking

- Access to northern public use area in Punta Gorda Management Unit is off Burnt Store Road (not shown on map).
- Access to state park lands acquired by the District via a walk-thru gate off CR 776 and from the water.

Dogs

- Dogs must be on a leash no more than six feet in length.
- Owners are requested to pick up after dog.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

Punta Gorda Management Unit of preserve has restrooms with water and a visitor's center.

Recreational Opportunities

Bird Watching

- Site 22 on southern section of Great Florida Birding Trail.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for more information.

Boating and Paddling

- Available in open bay waters and along the Myakka, Peace and Caloosahatchee rivers.

Fishing

- Boat fishing throughout preserve.
- Contact FWC for license requirements.

Hiking

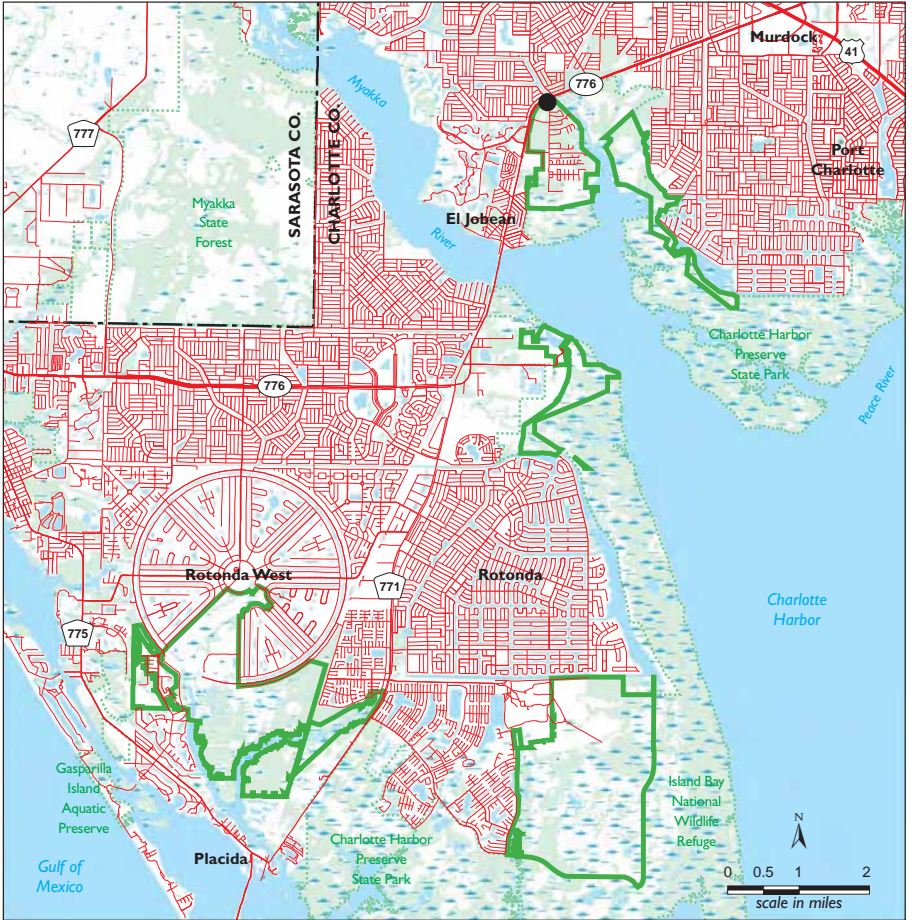
- Primary hiking trailhead off CR 776 with designated marked foot trail.
- Two designated hiking trails at Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center. One winds through pine flatwoods and one through salt marsh and mangrove forests.
- Contact preserve for trail maps.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Gasparilla Sound/Charlotte Harbor and Cape Haze aquatic preserves
- Island Bay National Wildlife Refuge
- Pine Island and Matlacha Pass national wildlife refuges

For More Information

Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park, (941) 575-5861



Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park

Legend

- highway, major road
- - - minor roads
- - - - designated trail
- property boundary
- - - - other public lands
- - - county line
- ~ river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamps
- walk-thru



General Location

Chassahowitzka River and Coastal Swamps

8600 Miss Maggie Drive (County Park)
7940 Burnt Bridge Road (SWFWMD)
Homosassa, FL 34448

Size

5,677 acres

Location

Southwestern Citrus County, south of Homosassa Springs

About the Property

Purchased in the early 1990s, this property is part of a large greenway of public lands that protects the Chassahowitzka Swamp ecosystem and wildlife resources. The Chassahowitzka River's headwaters, several tributaries and springs are within this tract and are known locally for their great sportfishing and crabbing. The vast expanse of salt marsh, hardwood swamps, crystal-clear springs and river are a canoeist's paradise. The river has been designated an Outstanding Florida Water by the state of Florida.

Camping, a boat launch, boat rental and a camp store are available at Chassahowitzka River Campground and Recreation Area, which is operated by Citrus County Parks and Recreation Department.

Access and Parking

- Access obtained from US 19 by traveling west on Miss Maggie Drive (CR 480) to campground and boat launch facilities at end of road. Day-use fee.
- Access also available at end of Burnt Bridge Road, a dirt road that goes through the Withlacoochee State Forest to the property. Parking available at access point.
- ADA access and facilities available. Contact campground office for information.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms, Water and Other Amenities

Restrooms, potable water and camp store available at campground.

Dogs

- Dogs allowed in county park only.
- Dogs must be on a leash no more than six feet in length at all times in campground.
- Proof of current vaccination required upon registration.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- Trails on unpaved roads.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Bird Watching

- Chassahowitzka River Trail is Site 51 on western section of Great Florida Birding Trail.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for more information.

Boating and Paddling

- Single-lane boat ramp located at campground. Canoe and jon boat rentals.
- River is shallow — use shallow draft boats and keep track of tides.
- Watch for manatees.

Camping

Chassahowitzka Campground

- 80 full-service campsites with various levels of amenities, including electricity, sewer, water, tables, grills and fire rings. Group campsite also available.
- Call campground office for reservations; fee for camping.
- Bathhouse with showers, laundry facilities, shuffleboard court and picnic pavilion available.

Fishing

- Saltwater fishing near gulf; freshwater fishing in springs.
- Contact FWC for license requirements.

Hiking

- Access to dense, forested wetland provided by two-mile network of old logging roads built above grade.
- Roads not maintained or marked — be prepared for wet crossings at several narrow washouts.

Picnic Facilities

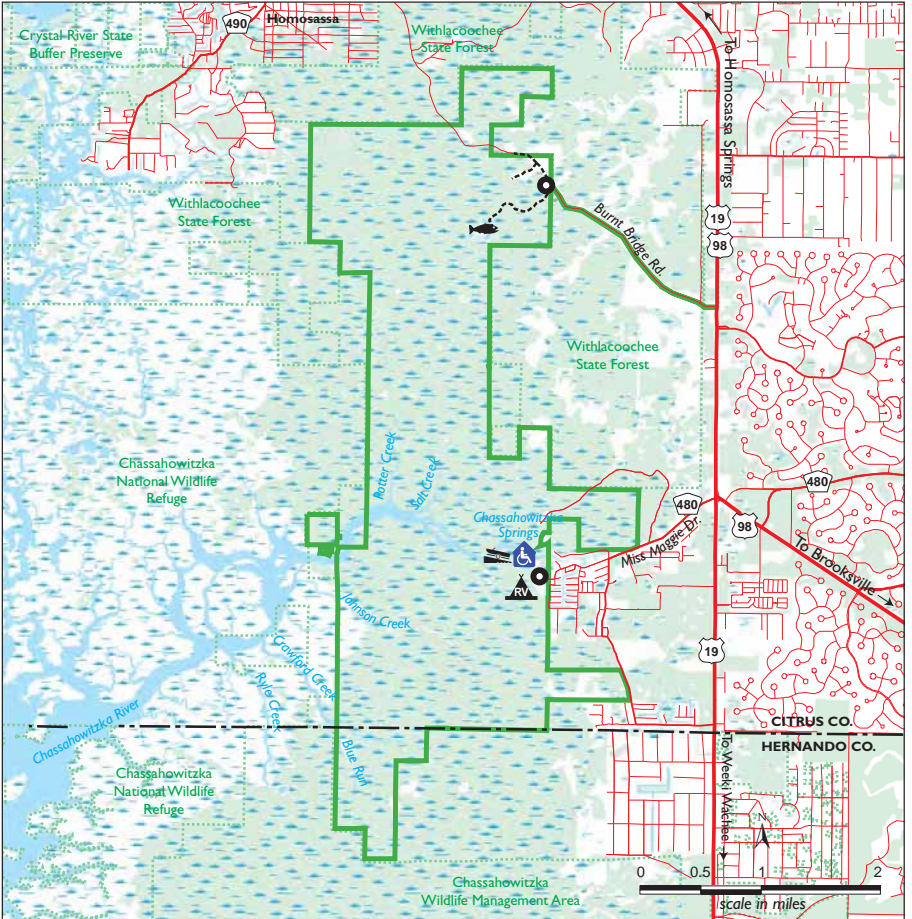
- Limited picnic facilities available at boat dock.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge
- Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area
- Withlacoochee State Forest, Homosassa Tract

For More Information

- Chassahowitzka River Campground and Recreation Area Office, (352) 382-2200 voice/TDD
- Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470



Chassahowitzka River and Coastal Swamps

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary (SWFWMD)
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp

- access point & parking
- boat ramp
- fishing spot
- recreational vehicle camping
- ADA accessible restrooms



Chito Branch Reserve

11254 Browning Road
Lithia, FL 33547

Size

5,515 Acres

Location

Southeastern Hillsborough County

About the Property

The Chito Branch Reserve is a unique natural sanctuary situated in the heart of rapidly developing southeastern Hillsborough County. As part of the greater Alafia River Corridor of public conservation lands, its natural habitats provide a haven for native Florida wildlife and plant life, many becoming increasingly rare in the region. Outdoor enthusiasts can observe fox squirrels, gopher tortoises, wading birds and other Florida wildlife interact in their natural environment. Whether enjoyed on a winding foot path, a bike trail or bridle path, Chito Branch Reserve is a quiet oasis in a fast-paced world.

The District purchased the 5,515-acre reserve in 2001, in cooperation with Tampa Bay Water, for the primary purpose of building the 15-billion-gallon C.W. "Bill" Young Regional Reservoir to collect and store drinking water. The reservoir is built on 1,100 acres. The remaining property consists of a variety of habitats, including wetlands, pine and scrubby flatwoods, scrub, freshwater marshes and improved pasture.

Access and Parking

South on Browning Road off CR 640.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available.

Recreational Opportunities

Biking, Equestrian and Hiking

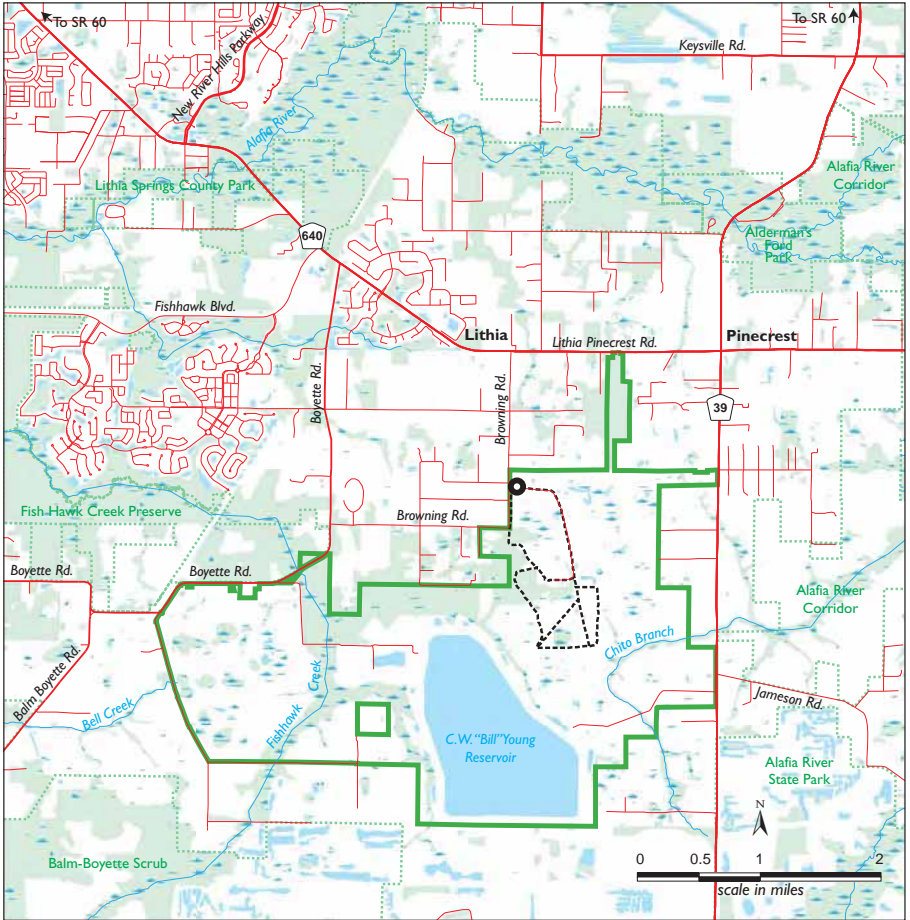
- 6 miles of unimproved interior roads.
- Florida law requires bicyclists and equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.
- Each horseback rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Alafia River State Park
- Little Manatee State Park
- Alderman's Ford Park
- Balm-Boyette Scrub Nature Preserve

For More Information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470



Chito Branch Reserve

Legend

- highway, major roads
- - - minor roads
- - - - - designated trail
- property boundary
- - - - - other public lands
- - - county line
- ~ river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- - - wetlands/swamps

● access point & parking



General Location

Circle B Bar Reserve

4399 Winter Lake Road (SR 540)

Lakeland, FL 33803

Size

1,267 acres

Location

Northwestern Polk County, south of Lakeland

About the Property

Named after a cattle ranch that once existed on this property, Circle B Bar Reserve was jointly acquired by the Polk County Environmental Lands Program and the District to protect the floodplain of the lake and to restore the Banana Creek marsh system. The property is maintained by Polk County. Much of the property had previously been converted to pasture, but in 2005 and 2006, restoration projects were completed to restore much of the original hydrologic function of the lands. As a result of the marsh system restoration project, Circle B is now home to some of the most impressive bird activity on District property. The tremendous bird population includes a variety of wading birds, waterfowl, ospreys and bald eagles. Alligators inhabit Lake Hancock and may be observed at a distance from shore or from a pier. Oak hammock, freshwater marsh, hardwood swamp and the lakeshore are among the unique characteristics of this property.

Polk County Nature Discovery Center

In November 2008, construction of the Polk County Nature Discovery Center was completed. Managed by the Polk County Natural Resources Department, the center provides educational opportunities for Polk County public schools and is open to the public. There are exhibits in the center that display environmental and hydrologic functions of Florida's natural resources. Nature trail, pavilion and information signs are available for public use on the grounds adjacent to the center.

Access and Parking

- South of Lakeland on SR 540, entrance to park is on south side of road.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

Daily from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. during standard time and from 5 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. during daylight-saving time.

Restrooms and Water

Restroom facility and water located at the Nature Discovery Center.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling and Equestrian

- Numerous trails and roads available throughout the property.
- Florida law requires bicyclists and equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.
- Each horseback rider must carry proof of horse's negative Coggins test.

Fishing

- Available along Lake Hancock.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for license requirements.

Hiking

- Oak Hammock Interpretative Trail (3.4-mile roundtrip) is an unpaved trail running from parking area to Lake Hancock.
- Lake View Trail (0.5-mile roundtrip from end of Oak Hammock Trail) is an unpaved spur trail running along the lake.
- Brochure describing trails available at trailhead.

Picnic Facilities

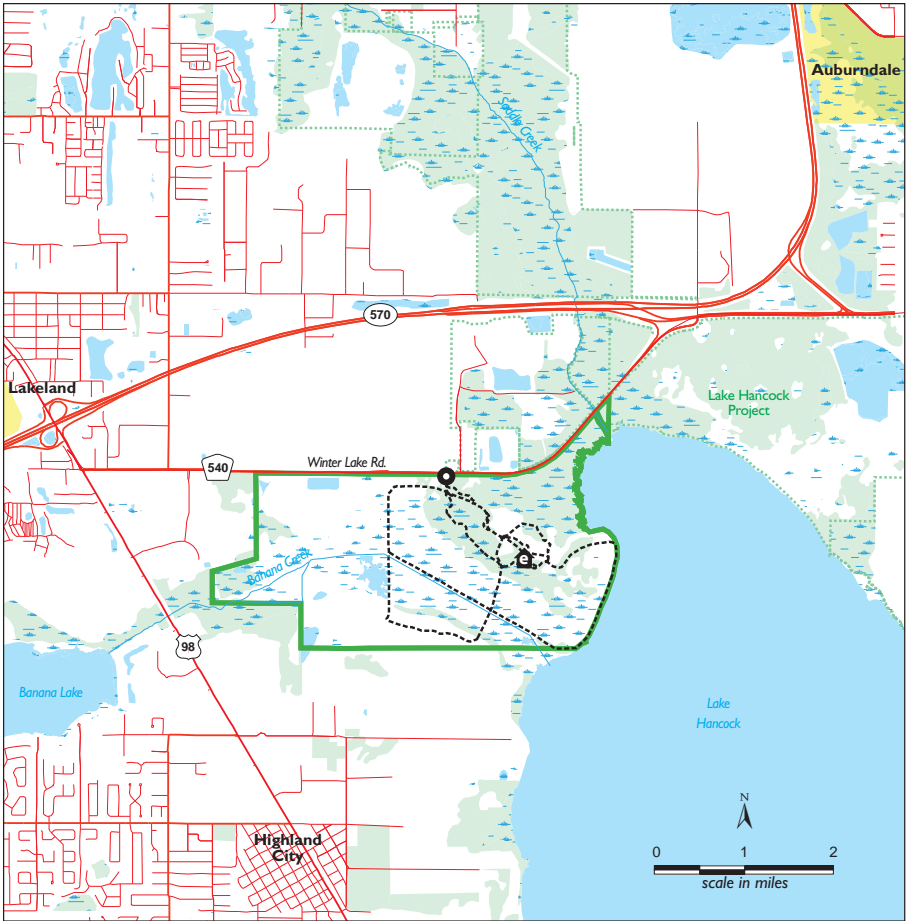
- Picnic tables are located along the road between the main entrance and the Nature Discovery Center.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Saddle Creek Park
- Tenoroc Fish Management Area

For More Information

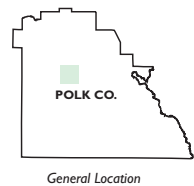
Polk County Natural Resources Department,
(863) 534-7377



Circle B Bar Reserve

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| | highway, major road | | access point & parking |
| | minor road | | environmental education center |
| | designated trail | | |
| | property boundary (SWFWMD) | | |
| | other public lands | | |
| | county line | | |
| | river, stream | | |
| | lake, pond | | |
| | forest | | |
| | wetland/swamp | | |
| | city boundary | | |



Cliff Stephens Park

600 Fairwood Avenue
Clearwater, FL 33759

Size

44 acres

Location

Central Pinellas County in Clearwater

About the Property

In 1980, the District and the city of Clearwater entered into an agreement for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the Alligator Creek Water Management Project. The District provided land and operates the water-control structure; the city operates and maintains Cliff Stephens Park. The project provides stormwater management and flood protection for the surrounding Clearwater area.

Access and Parking

- Access from US 19, turn east onto Drew Street and turn left on Fairwood Avenue. Park is located on both sides of Fairwood Avenue with main parking lot near the entrance sign.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

Daily from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available.

Dogs

- Dogs must be on a leash no more than six feet in length.
- Owners are requested to pick up after dog.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling, Hiking and Inline Skating

- Clearwater East-West Trail; a paved, multiuse trail travels through park.
- Paved walkway in picnic area for pedestrians only.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Boating and Paddling

- Small boat launch located in southeast section of park. Electric motors and paddles only.

Fishing

- Available along portions of Alligator Creek and from any of four docks.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for license requirements.

Park Facilities

- Disc (Frisbee) golf course near picnic area.
- 19-station exercise course in southwestern section of park.

Picnic Facilities

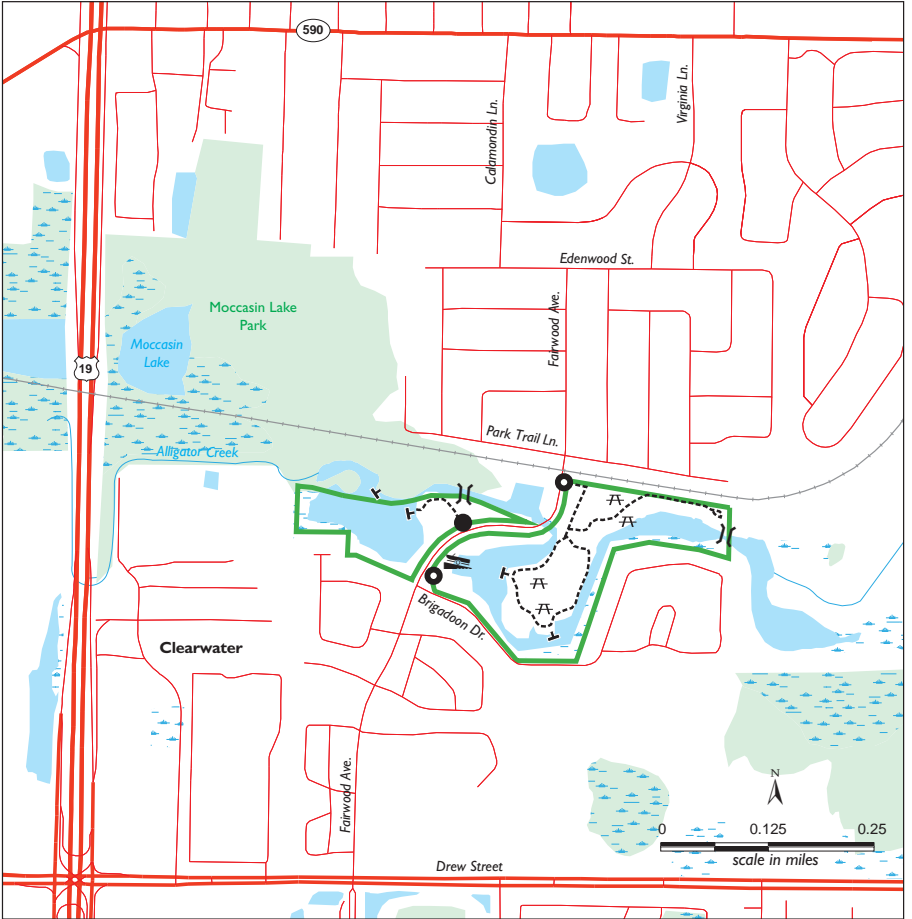
- Tables and grills available along paved walkway.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Clearwater East-West Trail
- Moccasin Lake Nature Park
- Wood Valley Recreation Center

For More Information

City of Clearwater Parks and Recreation
Department, (727) 562-4800



Cliff Stephens Park

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- railroad
- designated trail
- property boundary (SWFWMD)
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp

- walk-thru
- access point & parking
- boat ramp
- bridge
- picnic area
- fishing pier



Conner Preserve

22500 SR 52

Land O' Lakes, FL 34637

Size

2,980 acres

Location

Central Pasco County

About the Property

Acquired in 2003 for preservation of natural systems, groundwater recharge, water quality and flood protection, the preserve offers a stunning landscape of steep sandhill ridges, expansive marshes, dense cypress sloughs and lush pine flatwoods. The preserve is a vital part of a wildlife habitat corridor envisioned by Pasco County and the District that will eventually connect the Starkey Wilderness Preserve to the Cypress Creek Preserve, making a continuous corridor of several thousands of acres in this region.

The District manages the preserve's resources to protect and restore the natural and altered ecosystems when possible. This includes extensive restoration to areas that were converted to pasture when it was privately owned and managed as a ranch.

Limited Access Areas

Several areas of the preserve are being restored and are limited to foot access only.

Access and Parking

- Primary access is off SR 52 on south side of road about 3.5 miles east of US 41.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

- Portable toilet available at main entrance. No water available.
- Portable toilet and nonpotable water available at Bay City Flyers model airplane field.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- Use only marked trails.
- 12.5 miles of unpaved cycling on designated or marked trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Camping

- Primitive campsite equipped with picnic table and fire ring; off main trail in eastern portion of preserve.
- A free reservation is required and must be displayed on dashboard at campground.

Equestrian Use

- 5.2 miles of designated or marked trails from SR 52 access point.
- Day-use reservations required to access equestrian parking area.
- Riders are required to stay on marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Hiking

- 16 miles of hiking-only trails.
- Several miles of multiuse wooded roads available.

Model Airplane Flying Field

- Bay City Flyers Model Airplane Club.
- 25-acre site open to members and spectators.
- Anyone who wishes to fly must be licensed by the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA); please coordinate with the Bay City Flyers at www.BayCityFlyers.org/.

Picnic Facilities

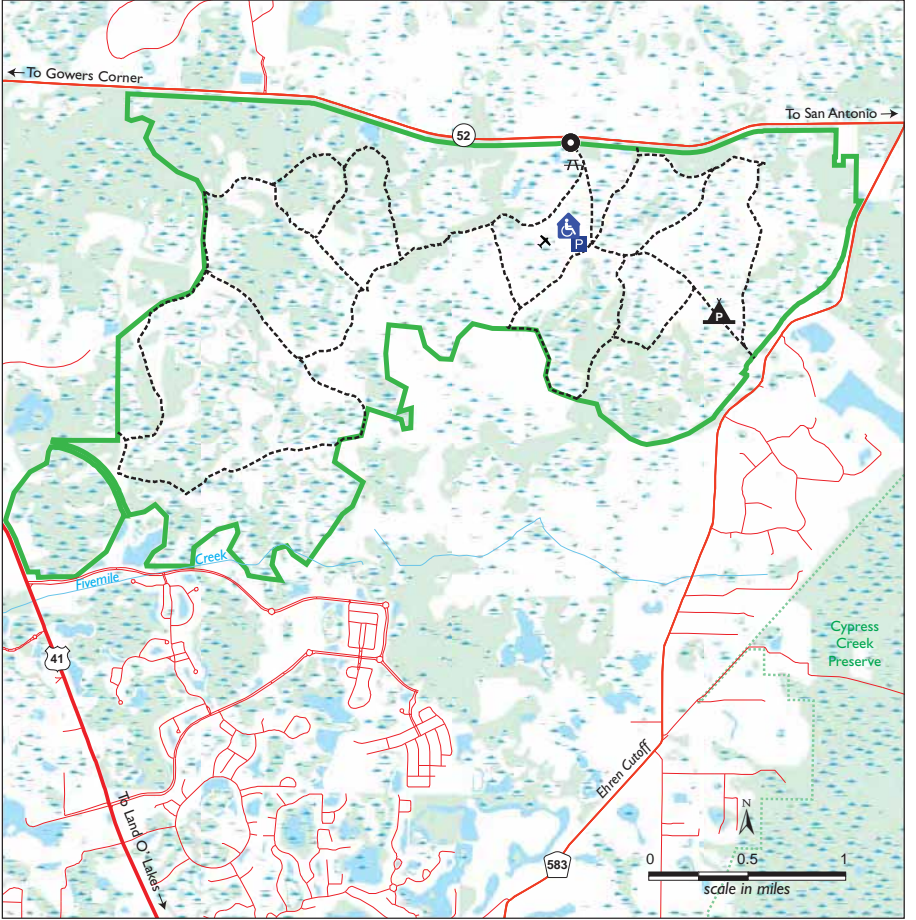
- One picnic table available at entrance.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Starkey Wilderness Preserve — Serenova Tract
- Cypress Creek Preserve

For More Information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470

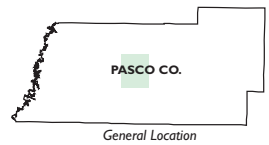


Conner Preserve

Legend

- highway, major roads
- minor roads
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetlands/swamps

- access point & parking
- parking
- picnic area
- ADA accessible toilet
- model airplane flying field
(www.baycityflyers.org for more info)
- primitive camping



Cypress Creek Preserve

8720 Pump Station Road
Land O' Lakes, FL 34639

Size

7,400 acres

Location

Central Pasco County, east of Land O' Lakes

About the Property

Purchased to provide flood protection and serve as a public water supply, Cypress Creek's floodplain helps filter nutrients in runoff waters. Cypress Creek Well Field serves as an important source of water for the surrounding region and is managed by Tampa Bay Water (TBW).

Cypress Creek is a tributary of the Hillsborough River. Within the property, the creek threads its way through an expanse of cypress and hardwood forests. Slash pine, longleaf pine and palmetto grow on the higher "ridges," which are collectively known as Florida flatwoods.

Limited Access Areas

- Restricted areas around water facilities.
- Paved road through the property continues northeast to adjoining property owned by TBW. Due to private land holdings, there is no public access beyond TBW to railroad tracks or SR 52.

Access and Parking

- Primary access is from Parkway Boulevard, 0.7 miles north of Pine View Middle School. Small day-use parking area outside gate.
- West gate at west end of Pump Station Road, which is accessed from Ehren Cutoff (CR 583), midway between SR 52 and US 41. Follow signs to Cypress Creek Well Field. Parking available. Sign in at registration station located inside gate.
- Walk-thru entrance on east side at end of Quail Hollow Boulevard. No parking available at this gate. Do not park on roadway or block gate.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

- No restrooms or water available at entrances.
- Portable toilets and nonpotable water available at equestrian and group campsites.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling and Inline Skating

- 5 miles of paved and unpaved cycling on designated or marked trails.
- Use only marked trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Camping

- Separate sites available for equestrian, group and primitive camping.
- Sites have picnic tables, fire rings and/or grills.
- Nonpotable water source available.
- Portable toilet available.
- A free reservation is required and must be displayed on dashboard at campground.

Equestrian Use

- 12 miles of marked trails from Parkway Boulevard access point.
- Riders are required to stay on marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Fishing

- Along Cypress Creek during high-water periods.
- Man-made impoundments located in southern portion of property.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for license requirements.

Hiking

- Paved road available (Pump Station Road).
- Several miles of wooded roads available.

Picnic Facilities

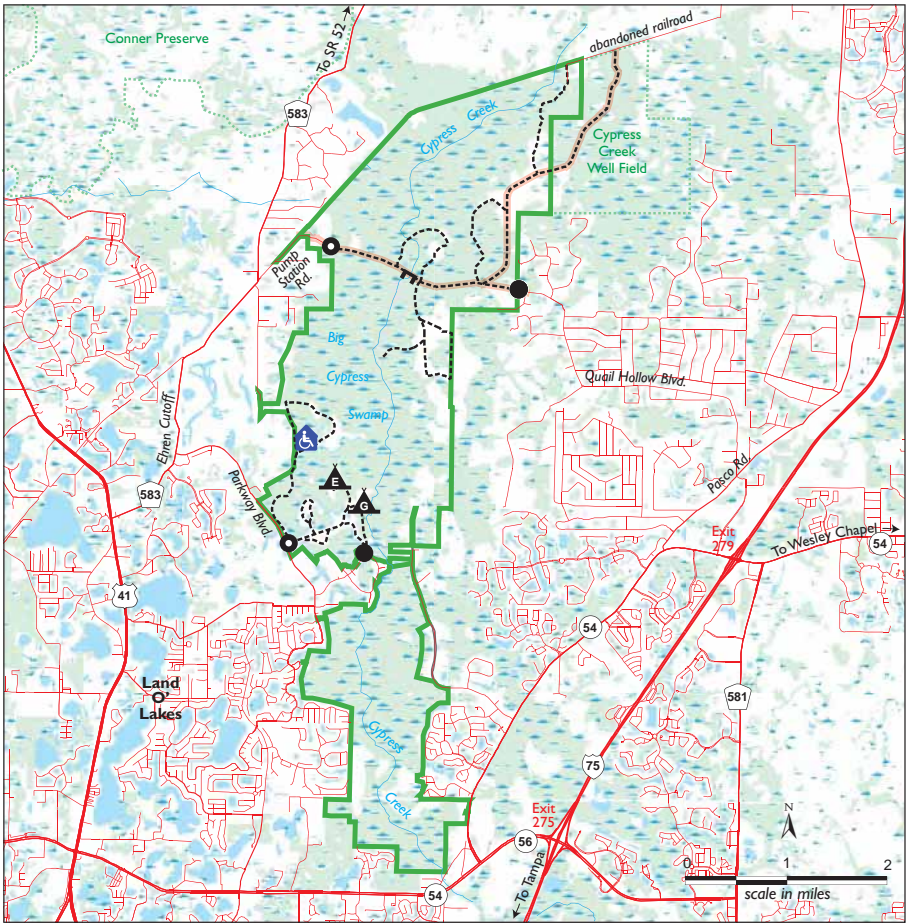
- Limited picnic tables in camp areas.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Conner Preserve
- Starkey Wilderness Preserve

For More Information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470

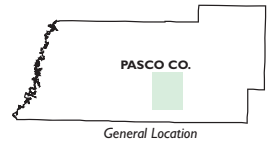


Cypress Creek Preserve

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- paved trail
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp

- walk-thru
- access point & parking
- equestrian camping*
- group camping*
- ADA accessible toilet
- control structure
- * primitive campsites



Deep Creek Preserve

10797 SW Peace River Street
Arcadia, FL 34269

Size

2,000 acres

Location

Southwestern DeSoto County, east of Port Charlotte

About the Property

Proximity to the Charlotte Harbor estuary is reflected in the tidal nature of the river and its associated floodplain wetlands. The Peace River is highly braided in these lower reaches and the name of the property is derived from a prominent branch of the river, known historically as "Deep Creek," which parallels the eastern boundary of the site.

About half of the property is pine flatwoods consisting of longleaf pines and a diverse mixture of native shrubs and herbs. A large number of freshwater marshes and wet prairies dot the landscape, and a series of intermittent streams discharge overflow from these wetland areas into Deep Creek during periods of high water. Narrow ridges of well-drained oak scrub and scrubby flatwoods line the margins of several of the creeks. Tidal swamp, bordered by small areas of salt marsh and mangrove forest, dominates the riverine floodplain.

A small area of improved pasture accounts for the only portion of the property that has been altered substantially from its natural state. The pasture's location, near the intersection of Kings Highway (CR 769) and SW Peace River Street, provides convenient access.

Access and Parking

- Access is from SW Peace River Street off Kings Highway (CR 769). Parking area and walk-thru available.
- Additional access available from Deep Creek Park, adjacent to public boat ramp.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

Portable toilet and nonpotable water available in equestrian and group campground. Restrooms available at Deep Creek Park.

Recreational Opportunities

Boating and Paddling

- Available at Deep Creek Park.

Camping

- Separate sites available for equestrian, group and primitive camping.
- Sites have a picnic table, fire ring and/or grill.
- Nonpotable water source available.
- Portable toilet available.
- A free reservation is required and must be displayed on dashboard at campground.

Backcountry

- This site has a picnic table, fire ring and/or grill.

Equestrian Use

- Approximately 9 miles of multiuse trails.
- Riders are required to stay on marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Fishing

- Bank fishing available along river.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for license requirements.

Hiking

- 9-mile network of multiuse trail roads.
- Prepare for wet hiking; some trails are excessively wet during certain times of year.
- Access to the District's trail network at Deep Creek Park.

Picnic Facilities

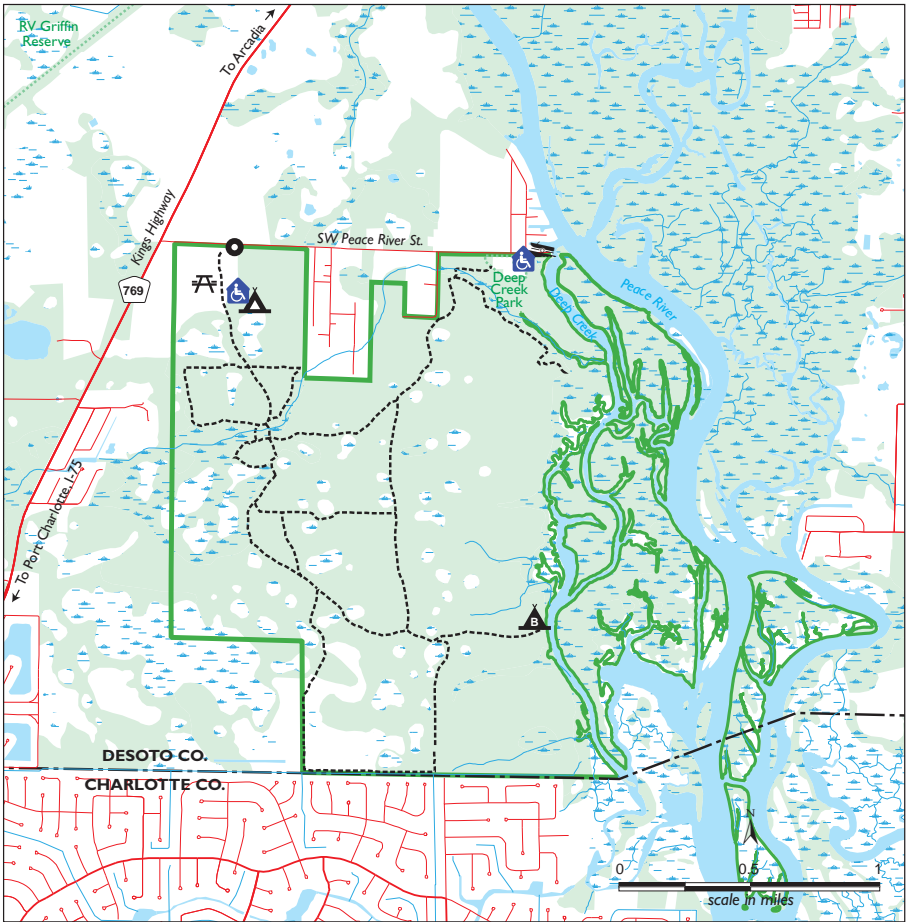
- Limited picnic facilities available at campsite.
- Pavilion available at Deep Creek Park.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park
- RV Griffin Reserve
- Prairie/Shell Creek

For More Information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470



Deep Creek Preserve

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp

- access point & parking
- picnic area
- boat ramp
- equestrian, group and primitive camping
- backcountry camping
- ADA accessible toilet



General Location

Edward Medard Park and Reservoir

5737 Turkey Creek Road
Plant City, FL 33567

Size

1,284 acres

Location

Eastern Hillsborough County, east of Brandon

About the Property

After mining phosphate in the 1960s, the American Cyanamid Company donated the majority of this property to the District in 1969. In 1970, a dike and a control structure were built to create the 700-acre reservoir, which offers some flood protection along the Alafia River. In 1972, under agreement with the District, Hillsborough County developed this site as one of its largest regional parks. Originally known as the Pleasant Grove Reservoir Park, the property was renamed the Edward Medard Park and Reservoir in 1977 to honor a District Governing Board member.

Edward Medard Park is a popular recreation area, hosting 500,000 visitors annually, with the 700-acre reservoir being the main attraction. A boardwalk fishing pier leads to an observation tower across the reservoir.

Access and Parking

- Entrance on Turkey Creek Road, 1 mile south of SR 60 (Brandon Boulevard).
- Admission fee.
- 12 parking areas distributed throughout park.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

Daily from 6 a.m. to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

Various restrooms and drinking water facilities located throughout park.

Dogs

- Dogs must be on a leash no more than six feet in length.
- Owners are requested to pick up after dog.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling and Inline Skating

- Paved park road.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Boating and Paddling

- Boating fee.
- Multilane boat ramp and docks.
- Reservoir is an idle speed, no-wake area to protect public safety and prevent erosion.

Camping

- Primitive camping available.
- Fee for camping. No reservations.
- 40 campsites — RV, tent and group sites.
- All campsites are full service — table, water, electricity and fire ring.
- Restrooms, showers and an RV dump station available.

Equestrian Use

- One-way, 3.25-mile bridle path.
- Water available in equestrian staging/parking area.
- Horses may be trailered in or rented at a stable adjacent to the northwest corner of property.
- Riders are required to stay on marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Fishing

- Available by boat, along the banks of reservoir, and on 730-foot pier/boardwalk, which is ADA accessible.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for license requirements. Special park policies may also apply.
- Permits for after-hours fishing available from park office.

Hiking

- Available on all roads and trails.

Park Facilities

- Playground equipment and horseshoe pits.

Picnic Facilities

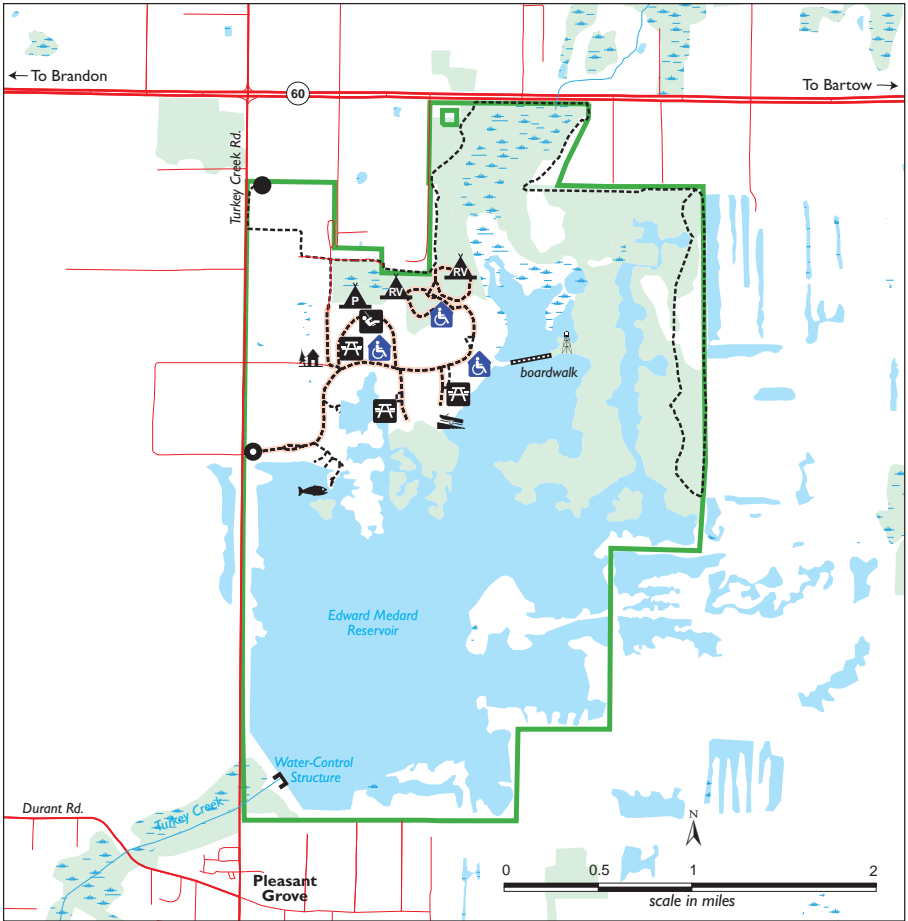
- 3 picnic areas with tables, grills and restrooms.
- Covered shelters available.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Alafia River State Park
- Alderman's Ford Park

For More Information

Edward Medard Park, (813) 757-3802



Edward Medard Park and Reservoir

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|------------------------|
| | highway, major road | | walk-thru |
| | minor road | | access point & parking |
| | paved trail | | RV camping |
| | designated trail | | primitive camping |
| | other public lands | | fishing spot |
| | property boundary | | observation tower |
| | county line | | playground |
| | river, stream | | ADA accessible toilet |
| | lake, pond | | park office |
| | forest | | boat ramps |
| | wetland/swamp | | picnic area |



Edward W. Chance Reserve — Coker Prairie Tract

34300 East SR 64
Myakka City, FL 34251

Size

2,100 acres

Location

Eastern Manatee County, east of Lake Manatee

About the Property

This property contains relatively unaltered natural land. The dominant natural communities are pine flatwoods, scrubby flatwoods, scrub, freshwater marsh and hardwood hammocks. The pine overstory in the flatwoods was logged by prior owners, but a high diversity of natural understory species remain. The northern portion of the tract has a higher elevation and drains into the Manatee River. The southern portion contains the freshwater marsh that gives the tract its name. The marsh retains surface water after rains and slowly releases it into the Myakka River through Coker Creek.

Access and Parking

Entrance approximately 7 miles east of Lake Manatee on SR 64, south side of road.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available.

Recreational Opportunities

Hiking

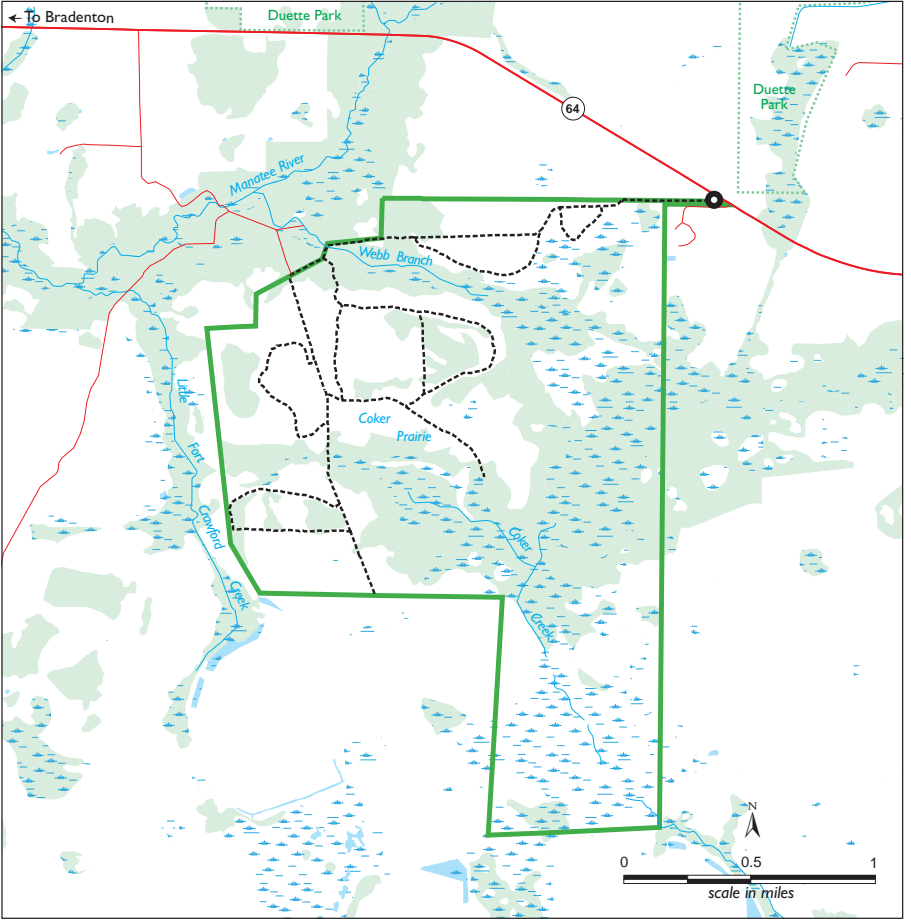
- Approximately 6 miles of interior roads.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Manatee County's Duette Park and Rye Wilderness Park
- Lake Manatee State Park

For More Information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470



Edward W. Chance Reserve — Coker Prairie Tract

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- access point & parking



General Location

Edward W. Chance Reserve — Gilley Creek Tract

22310 CR 675

Parrish, FL 34219

Size

5,800 acres

Location

Eastern Manatee County, east of Lake Manatee

About the Property

The Gilley Creek Tract protects the main branch of Gilley Creek, which is one of the main tributaries of the Manatee River. The creek flows into Lake Manatee, which serves as the primary drinking water source for Manatee County.

Formerly a cattle ranch and farm with row crops that had been converted to pasture, hardwood hammocks are still found along the creek channels and wetlands. Undisturbed areas of native habitats thrive in a natural condition, with regular reoccurrence of fire through the prescribed burn program, providing an example of historic Florida palmetto prairie, pine flatwoods and scrubby flatwoods communities.

Restoration efforts focus on reestablishing scrub habitats in fallow agricultural fields that will expand an existing population of the Florida scrub-jay, currently listed as threatened in the state and in the U.S., as well as a host of other species that depend on scrub communities.

The hydrology of the site will also be restored to the extent possible. These efforts will enhance the property's natural communities and improve water quality.

Access and Parking

Entrance north of Lake Manatee on CR 675. Parking area on east side of road.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

- Portable toilet available at main entrance.
- No water available.

Recreational Opportunities

Short sections of trails may go through area leased for cattle grazing. Exercise caution in these areas. Stay on marked trail at all times and remember that cattle serve a management function on the property and should not be disturbed.

Bicycling

- Loop trails on 12 miles of old roads.
- Use only marked trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Equestrian Use

- 12 miles of marked interior roads.
- Riders are required to stay on marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Fishing

- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for license requirements.

Hiking

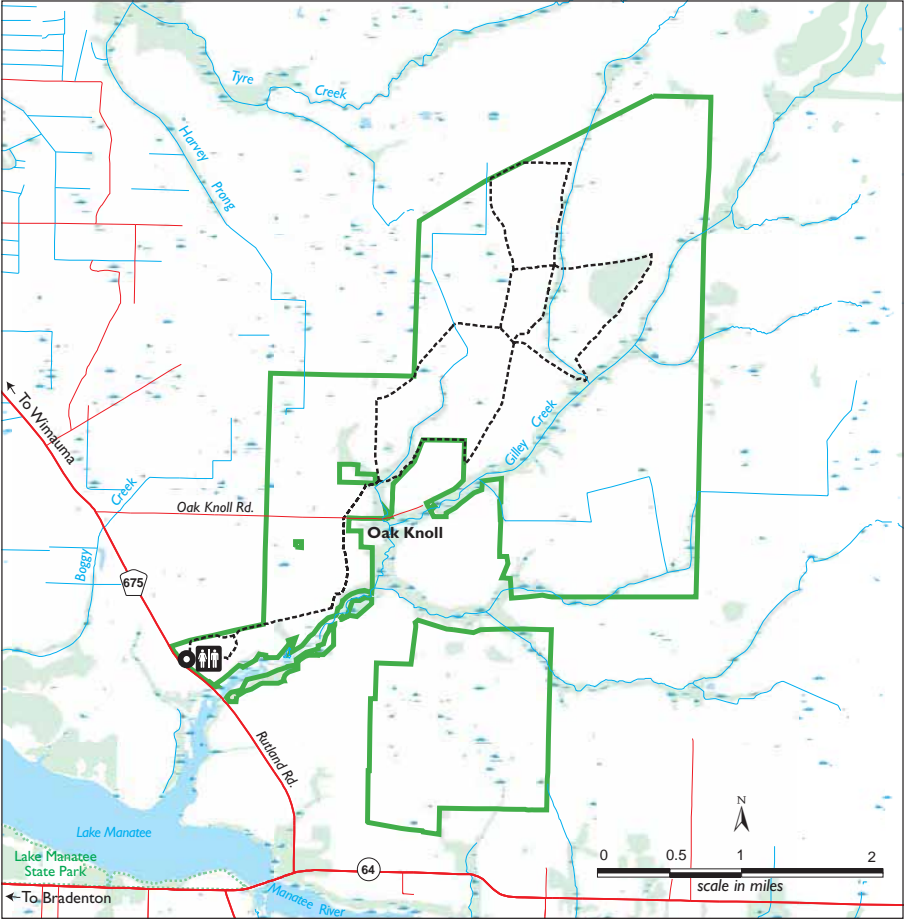
- 12 miles of multiuse trails.
- Prepare for wet hiking; some trails are excessively wet during certain times of year.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Lake Manatee State Park
- Manatee County's Duette Park and Rye Wilderness Park

For More Information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470



Edward W. Chance Reserve — Gilley Creek Tract

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp

- access point & parking
- restrooms



General Location

Flying Eagle Preserve

11080 East Moccasin Slough Road

Inverness, FL 34450

Size

10,950 acres

Location

Eastern Citrus County, east of Floral City

About the Property

The Tsalala Apopka Chain of Lakes, which surrounds most of this property, is connected to the Floridan aquifer's hydrologic system. The Withlacoochee River forms a portion of the eastern property boundary and is a vital component of regional drainage and flood conveyance. This property is a mosaic of small lakes, marshes and swamps, with numerous scattered islands of forested uplands. A broad mixture of hardwood and cypress swamps covers the floodplain of the Withlacoochee River.

Access and Parking

From US 41 in Inverness, head east on Eden Drive and continue east as the road changes to Moccasin Slough Road. There are two entrances on Moccasin Slough Road. Travel approximately three miles to the first entrance. The second entrance is within a mile from the first. Look for signage. Do not block gate.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

Portable toilets and nonpotable water available near the equestrian/group and primitive campgrounds.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- 13 miles of designated or marked multiuse, unpaved trails.
- Use only marked trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Bird Watching

- Site 56 of western section of Great Florida Birding Trail.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for more information.

Camping

- Separate sites available for equestrian/group and primitive camping.
- Sites have picnic tables, fire rings and/or grills.
- A free reservation is required and must be displayed on dashboard at campground.

Backcountry

- These sites are primitive and have no amenities.
- Mound fires — keep fires small, only use sticks found on the ground.
- Camping not permitted during hunts.

Equestrian Use

- Riders required to stay on 9 miles of marked or designated multiuse trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Equestrian use not permitted during hunts.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Fishing

- Moccasin Slough Bridge offers good fishing.
- Contact FWC for license requirements.

Hiking

- 16 miles of wooded roads.
- Prepare for wet hiking; some trails are excessively wet during certain times of year.

Hunting

- Contact FWC for information regarding license requirements and permits.
- FWC rules and regulations must be observed throughout the year.

Picnic Facilities

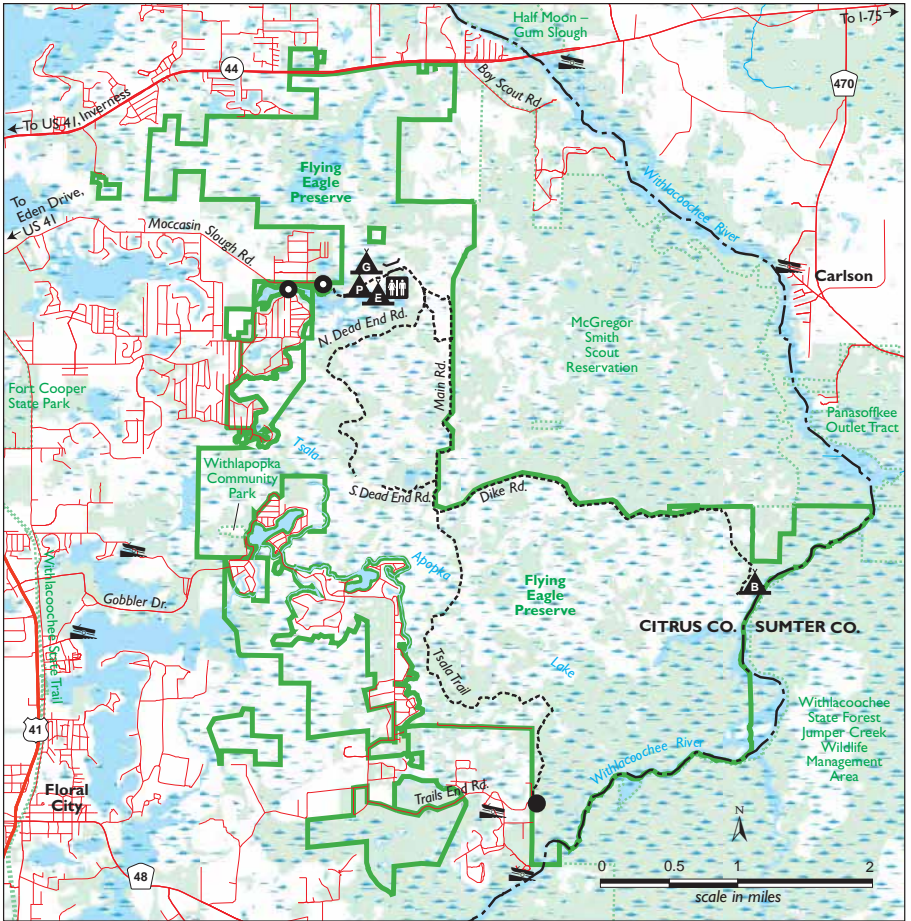
- One picnic table available at entrance.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Fort Cooper State Park
- Half Moon-Gum Slough
- Panasoffkee Outlet
- Potts Preserve
- Withlacoochee State Trail

For More Information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470



Flying Eagle Preserve

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp

- walk-thru
- access point & parking
- county boat ramp
- bridge
- restrooms
- equestrian camping
- group camping
- primitive camping
- backcountry camping



Flying Eagle Preserve — McGregor Smith Scout Reservation

12650 East Boy Scout Road
Inverness, FL 34450

Size

4,964 acres

Location

Eastern Citrus County

About the Property

This property was purchased from the South Florida Council, Inc., Boy Scouts of America in 2004 to preserve and protect water resources, ecological values and cultural and historical resources. This property is adjacent to the Flying Eagle Preserve that together encompasses 16,334 acres of protected lands. The property is heavily wooded with native vegetation and is composed of approximately 41 percent uplands and 59 percent wetlands and streams. The eastern portion of the property is bordered by the Withlacoochee River for approximately three miles.

In 2006, the District entered into a lease agreement with the Gulf Ridge Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Under the agreement, the Gulf Ridge Council manages 580 acres of the McGregor Smith tract. All recreational opportunities on the tract lie within this leased area. The Gulf Ridge Council uses the lands for compatible recreational opportunities and environmental education programs associated with the operation of a youth center.

Access and Parking

- From SR 44 east of Inverness, travel 6 miles and turn right on East Boy Scout Road; travel one-half mile to parking area on right.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

Portable toilet available; no water available.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- Several miles of unimproved roads.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Camping

- Separate group, primitive and backcountry camping areas available for individual camping. Small fee and reservations required. Contact Gulf Ridge Council of the Boy Scouts of America for reservations.
- Cabin rentals available.

Hiking

- Several miles of unimproved maintenance roads.
- Follow marked trails.

Picnic Facilities

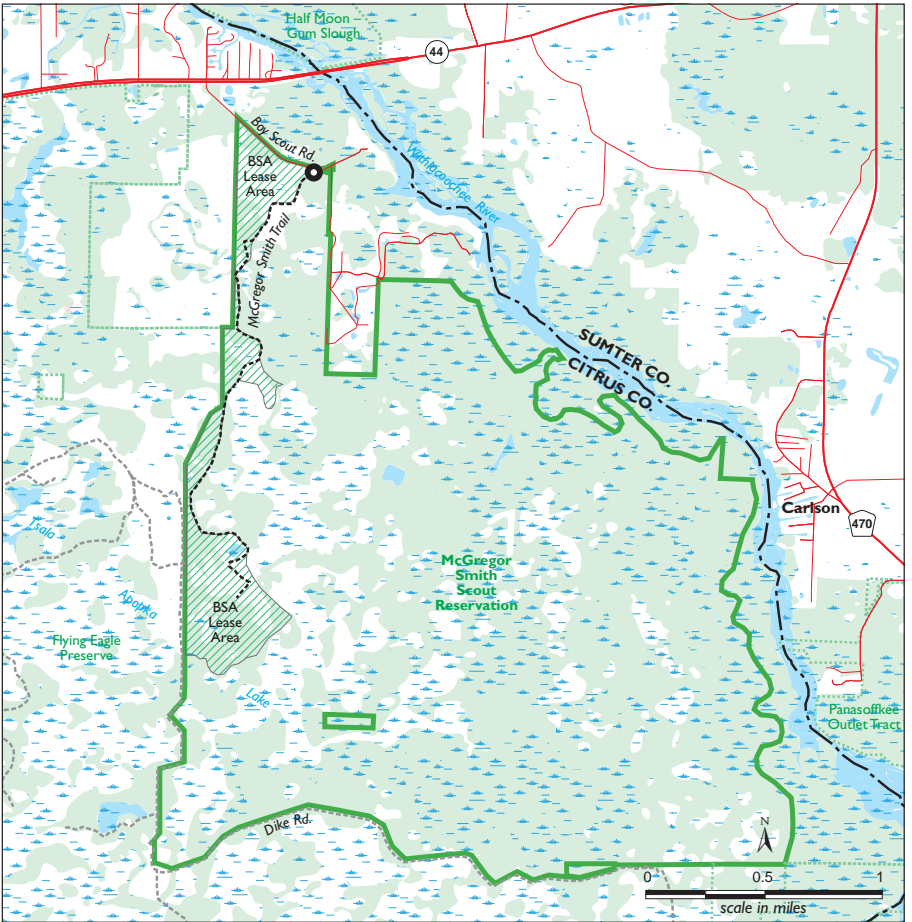
- Large picnic pavilion. Small fee and reservation required.
- Reservations can be made up to 30 days in advance.
- Picnic tables and grills available.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Flying Eagle Preserve
- Flying Eagle Preserve — Withlapopka Community Park
- Lake Panasoffkee

For More Information

Gulf Ridge Council of the Boy Scouts of America,
(813) 872-2691

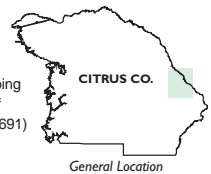


Flying Eagle Preserve — McGregor Smith Scout Reservation

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp

- access point & parking
- group, primitive and backcountry camping
(For info, contact Gulf Ridge Council of the Boy Scouts of America, 813-872-2691)



Flying Eagle Preserve — Withlapopka Community Park

10390 E. Gobbler Drive
Inverness, FL 34450

Size

50 acres

Location

Eastern Citrus County, east of Floral City

About the Property

The Withlapopka Community Park is approximately 50 acres located within the Flying Eagle Preserve. The preserve is a mosaic of small lakes, marshes and swamps with numerous scattered islands of forested uplands. The park site was used by Citrus County as a disposal site for spoil dredged from the county's canals.

The park is a result of a group of individuals approaching the District with a unique opportunity to work hand-in-hand to better the community. This group has spent countless hours constructing the park amenities.

Access and Parking

- From US 41 in Inverness, head east on Gobbler Drive, travel 3 miles to parking area on left.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

Portable toilet available; no water available.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- Small, unpaved loop trail.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Hiking

- Approximately 1-mile loop trail available with rest station benches.
- Follow marked trails.

Picnic Facilities

- Small picnic pavilion, picnic tables and grills.

Recreational Activities

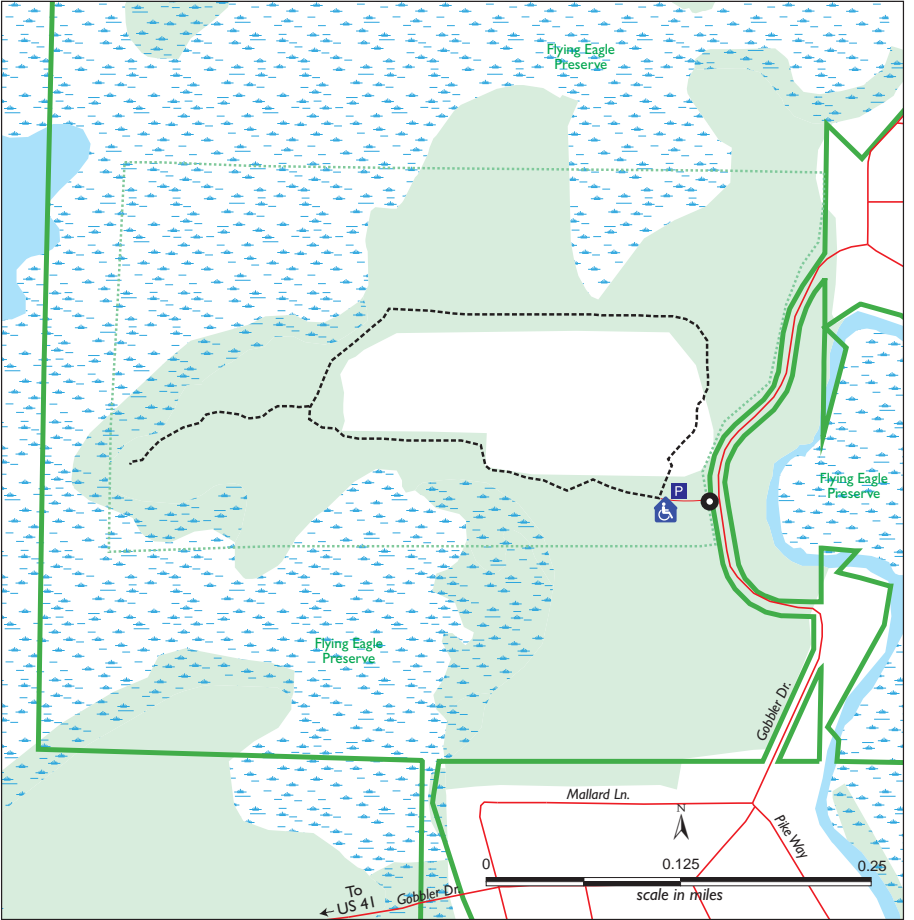
- Frisbee golf
- Golf — chipping and driving
- Horseshoes
- Swing and teeter-totter
- Tetherball
- Volleyball

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Flying Eagle Preserve
- Flying Eagle Preserve — McGregor Smith Scout Reservation

For More Information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470



Flying Eagle Preserve — Withlapopka Community Park

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- park boundary
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- access point
- parking
- ADA accessible toilet



Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve

(On following pages, see individual descriptions for Colt Creek State Park, and East, Hampton, Little Withlacoochee and West tracts.)

Size

110,000 acres

Location

Four-corner area of Lake, Pasco, Polk and Sumter counties, east of Dade City

About the Property

The area is an ideal place where visitors, from school groups to master birders, can visit and explore some of central Florida's flora and fauna found in a natural state that has had little modification by man. The area contains a variety of different habitat types with a wide diversity of plant life. These types include, but are not limited to, sandhills, flatwoods, oak hammocks, river swamp and cypress ponds. The characteristic cypress ponds that dot the landscape can only be found in central Florida. This intact ecosystem attracts many types of wildlife. The preserve is an excellent place for bird watching and observing other wildlife from mammals, amphibians, reptiles and butterfly species.

The preserve is divided into five management units: **Colt Creek State Park** — 5,067 acres; **East Tract** — 51,149 acres; **Hampton Tract** — 11,052 acres; **Little Withlacoochee Tract** — 4,446 acres; and **West Tract** — 37,350 acres. Nearly 36 miles of the Withlacoochee River's 110-mile length are protected as an Outstanding Florida Water within the Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve.

As a plateau above surrounding areas, the Green Swamp region is an important physiographic feature of Florida. Its 560,000 acres of wetlands, flatlands and low ridges are bounded by

prominent sandy ridgelines. Rainwater drains across the surface to create the headwaters of four major rivers: the Withlacoochee, the Ocklawaha, the Hillsborough and the Peace. Rainwater also trickles down through the soil to replenish the Floridan aquifer system, the primary source of drinking water for most Floridians. Because the Green Swamp region is elevated above outlying areas and the underground aquifer rises very close to the land surface, the region functions as the pressure head for the aquifer. Protecting the Green Swamp is vital to protecting the quality and quantity of Florida's water supply. Recognizing the statewide significance of this area, the state of Florida in 1974 designated 322,000 acres of the Green Swamp region as an Area of Critical State Concern.

Visitors can hike over the vast road network or hike the Florida National Scenic Trail, which bisects the area. Along the trail and road system in the area, observers will notice a land that has been preserved to keep its natural beauty. This is an illustration of central Florida's natural heritage.

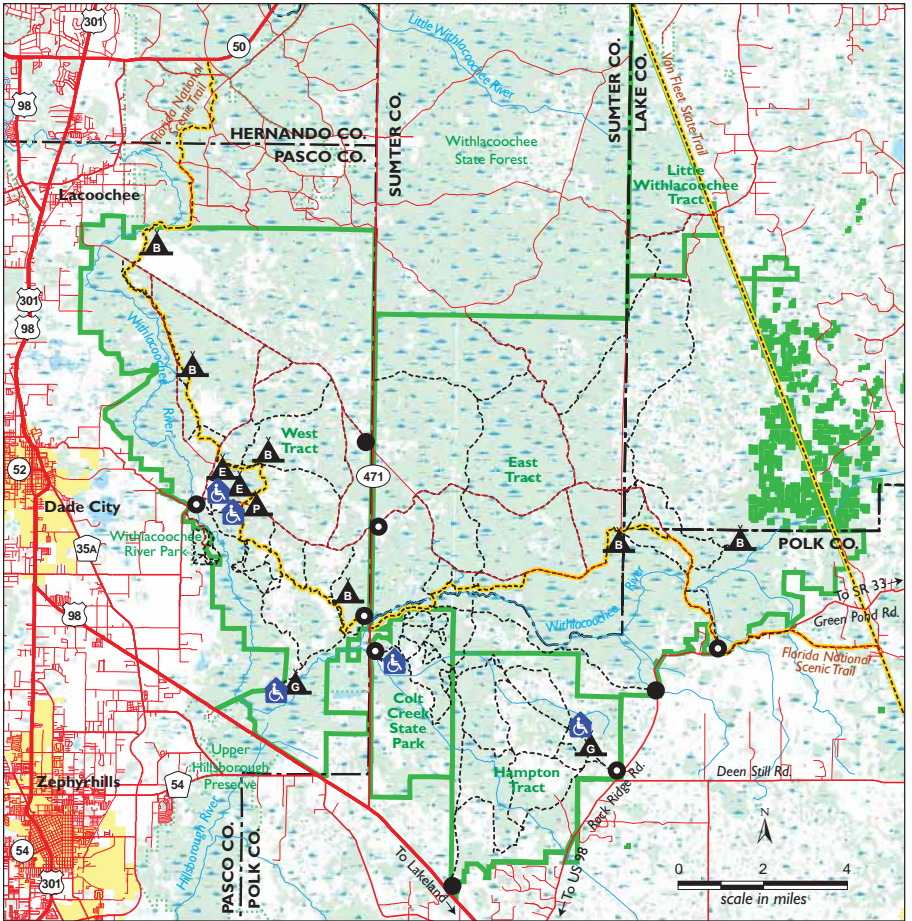
The District began purchasing the area in the early 1970s and is still carrying on acquisitions to protect the area's natural uniqueness, which will benefit current and future residents of southwest Florida.

Recreational Opportunities

On the following pages, see individual descriptions for Colt Creek State Park and East, Hampton, Little Withlacoochee and West tracts.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- District's Upper Hillsborough property
- Florida National Scenic Trail
- Pasco County — Withlacoochee River Park
- Richloam Tract of the Withlacoochee State Forest
- Withlacoochee State Trail
- Van Fleet State Trail

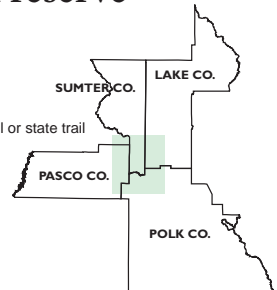


Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- city boundary

- walk-thru
- access point & parking
- Florida National Scenic Trail or state trail
- ADA accessible toilet
- group camping
- equestrian camping
- primitive camping
- backcountry camping



General Location

Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve Colt Creek State Park

(See *Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve* for overall information.)

16000 SR 471

Lakeland, FL 33809

Size

5,067 acres

Location

16 miles north of Lakeland just south of the Withlacoochee River off SR 471

About the Property

Purchased in May 2006 and opened to the public in January 2007, this 5,067-acre park is nestled within the Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve and named after one of the tributaries that flows through the property. Consisting mainly of pine flatwoods, cypress domes and open pastureland, this piece of pristine wilderness is home to many animal species including the American bald eagle, Sherman's fox squirrel, gopher tortoise, white-tailed deer, wild turkey and bobcat.

Access and Parking

- From US 98 south of Dade City, turn left on SR 471; park is 3.8 miles north on SR 471.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

Florida state parks are open from 8 a.m. until sundown, 365 days a year.

Restrooms and Water

- Accessible restrooms are available at the parking area.
- Water available at main parking area.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- Bicycling is currently permitted only on unmarked dirt (service) roads.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Camping (Youth)

- Primitive youth camping is available at the park for organized youth groups such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Indian Guides, church youth groups and others. There are two sites available, both of which can accommodate up to 20 people. The camp is nestled in an oak hammock with a fair amount of shade and is designed for tents only, with the exception of one small supply trailer per group. Pets other than service animals are not permitted. The primitive camp has no running water or electricity, so please pack accordingly. There is a fee for camping. Contact the park for details at (863) 815-6761.

Equestrian Use

- 12 miles of marked trails.
- Riders are required to stay on marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Fishing

- Freshwater bank fishing is available at three different lakes in the park.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for license requirements.

Hiking

- 12 miles of marked trails.
- Trail maps available at kiosk.

Picnic Facilities

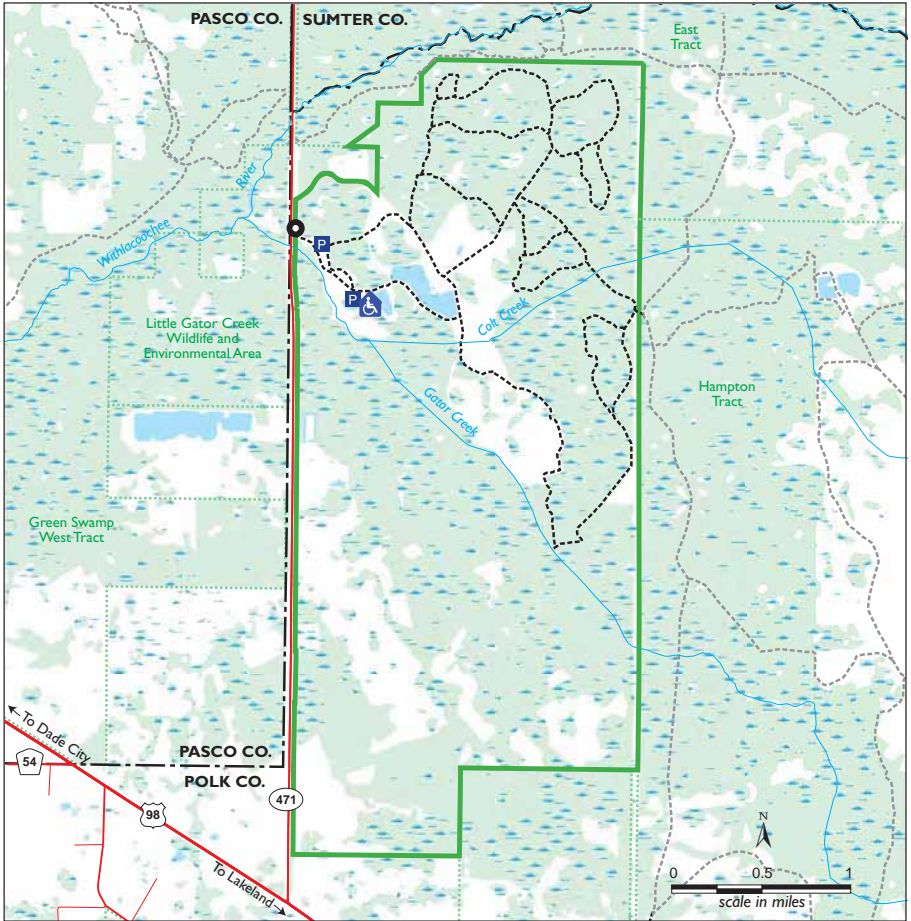
- Picnic areas available throughout the park.

Wildlife Viewing

- From January through December 2007, a monthly survey of birds and butterflies was conducted by the Lake Region Audubon Society and the North American Butterfly Association. At the end of the year-long survey, volunteers documented approximately 149 species of birds and 79 species of butterflies. Be sure to bring your binoculars along and pick up a checklist of birds and butterflies at the information kiosk.

For More Information

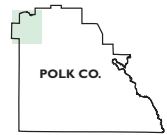
Colt Creek State Park, (863) 815-6761



Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve Colt Creek State Park

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | highway, major road | | access point |
| | minor road | | parking |
| | designated trail | | ADA accessible toilet |
| | property boundary | | |
| | other public lands | | |
| | county line | | |
| | river, stream | | |
| | lake, pond | | |
| | forest | | |
| | wetland/swamp | | |



General Location

Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve East Tract

(See *Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve* for overall information.)

28057 SR 471

Webster, FL 33597

Size

51,149 acres

Location

Southwestern Lake, northern Polk and southeastern Sumter counties

Access and Parking

- Main vehicle access on south side of Green Swamp on Rock Ridge Road, approximately 10 miles northeast of US 98 and 6 miles west of SR 33. Small day-use parking area at Rock Ridge gate.
- Parking also at Main Grade and SR 471.
- Several additional walk-thru gates throughout property.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- Over 71 miles of unpaved service roads.
- Use only marked trails
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Camping

- Camping not permitted during hunts.
- A free reservation is required and must be displayed on dashboard at campground.
- Backcountry sites include Trial Ford, Tillman Lake and Mott Prairie; sites have picnic tables, fire rings and/or grills.

Fishing

- Fishing and frogging allowed throughout year.
- Vehicle access from Rock Ridge Road for fishing is only permitted on weekends in May and June.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for license requirements.

Hiking

- Total 32.4 miles of Florida National Scenic Trail run through Green Swamp East and West tracts. This trail continues through Green Swamp West Tract and up to the Richloam Tract of the Withlacoochee State Forest.
- 13.9-mile overnight loop and a 7.7-mile day loop.
- Prepare for wet hiking; some trails are excessively wet during certain times of year.

Florida National Scenic Trail

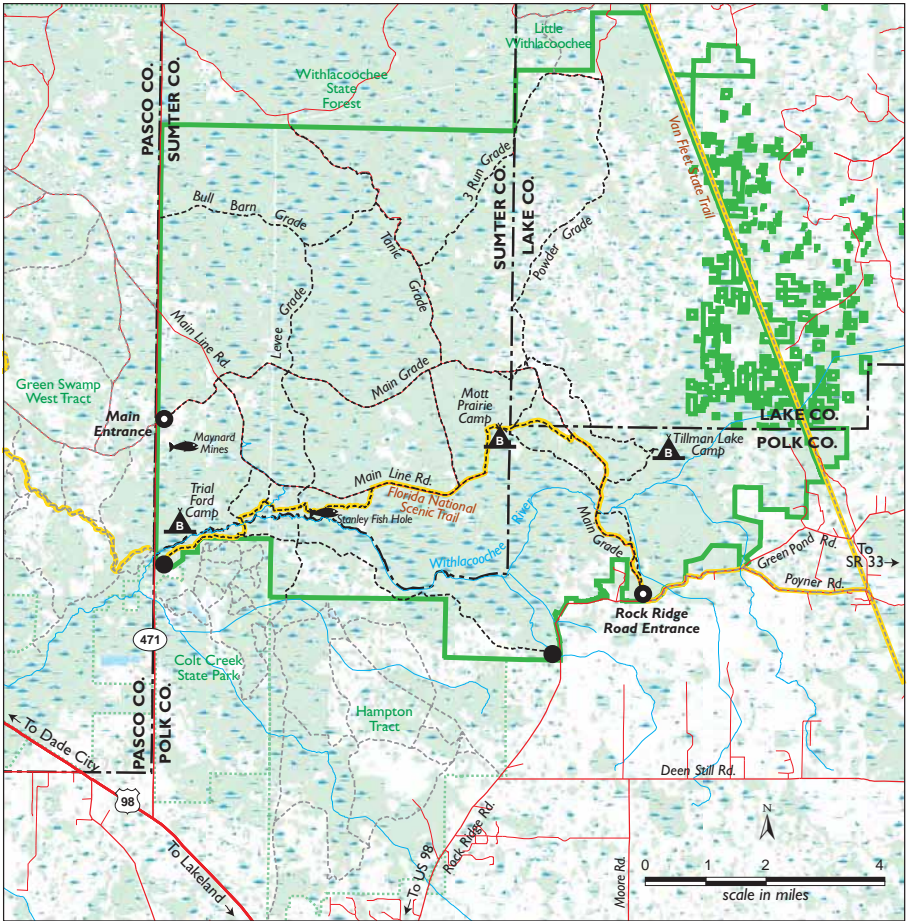
- The Florida National Scenic Trail is maintained by the Florida Trail Association.
- Orange blaze symbols indicate primary trail. Blue blaze symbols indicate side trails. White blaze symbols indicate overnight loop. Double blaze symbols indicate a sharp turn in trail.
- During hunts, hikers are encouraged to wear hunter orange or other bright color above the waist.
- For more information, contact Florida Trail Association at 1-877-445-3352 (FL only) or (352) 378-8823.

Hunting

- Contact FWC for information regarding license requirements and permits.
- FWC rules and regulations must be observed throughout the year.

For More Information

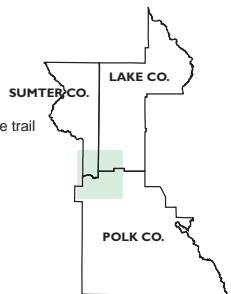
Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470



Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve East Tract

Legend

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| highway, major road | walk-thru |
| minor road | access point & parking |
| designated trail | Florida National Scenic Trail or state trail |
| property boundary | backcountry camping |
| other public lands | fishing spot |
| county line | |
| river, stream | |
| lake, pond | |
| forest | |
| wetland/swamp | |



Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve Hampton Tract

(See Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve for overall information.)

18490 Rock Ridge Road
Lakeland, FL 33809

Size

11,052 acres

Location

Northwestern Polk County

Access and Parking

- Main vehicle access on south side of Green Swamp on Rock Ridge Road, approximately 7 miles northeast of US 98.
- Day-use parking area at Hampton gate.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

- No restrooms or water available at entrance.
- Vault toilet and nonpotable water sources available at campground.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- Use only marked trails.
- Approximately 28 miles of multiuse trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Camping

- Equestrian, group and primitive camping available.
- Sites have picnic tables, fire rings and/or grills.
- Nonpotable water source available.
- A free reservation is required and must be displayed on dashboard at campground.
- Site has a picnic shelter — this is a common area, it cannot be reserved.

Equestrian Use

- Approximately 28 miles of multiuse trails.
- Riders are required to stay on marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Fishing

- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for license requirements.

Hiking

- Several miles of unimproved trails/roads available.
- Prepare for wet hiking; some trails are excessively wet during certain times of year.

Picnic Facilities

- Limited picnic facilities by entrance.

For More Information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470

Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve Little Withlacoochee Tract

(See *Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve* for overall information.)

Size

4,446 acres

Location

Southwestern Lake County

Access and Parking

- Vehicle access from SR 471 through Richloam.
- Roads, fire lines and gates cannot be blocked. Exercise caution.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available on site.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- Bicycling allowed on named or numbered roads.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Equestrian Use

- Horseback riding allowed only on designated named or numbered roads.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Hiking

- The eastern end of the trail leads to the Van Fleet State Trail.

Hunting

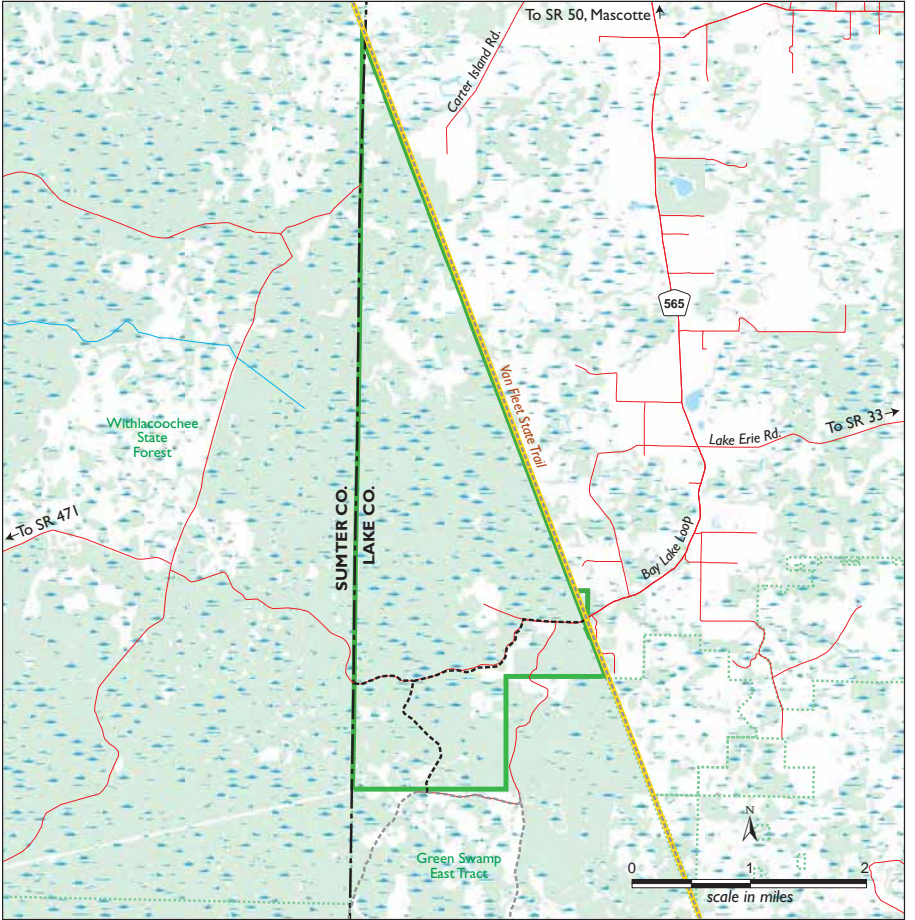
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for license requirements and permits.
- FWC rules and regulations must be observed throughout year.

Vehicle Access

- Vehicles allowed on designated named or numbered roads as authorized by Division of Forestry.
- Wooded roads may be in poor condition. Exercise caution when driving.

For More Information

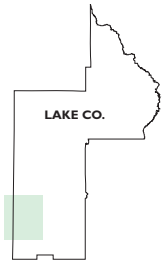
Florida Division of Forestry, (352) 754-6896



Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve Little Withlacoochee Tract

Legend

- highway, major road
- - - minor road
- - - - designated trail
- property boundary
- - - - other public lands
- · - · county line
- ~ river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- Van Fleet State Trail



General Location

Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve West Tract

(See *Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve* for overall information.)

13347 Ranch Road
Dade City, FL 33525

Size

37,350 acres

Location

Eastern edge of Pasco County, just south of Withlacoochee State Forest (Richloom Tract), between US 98/US 301 and SR 471.

Access and Parking

- From US 301 in Dade City, follow River Road east five miles. Parking for river access and hiking trail on left; equestrians and bicyclists park at main gate.
- Additional parking off SR 471 at Cumpressco and McNeil entrances.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

- Daily from sunrise to sunset.
- Open to public access year-round except during the special opportunity archery, general gun, hog-still and turkey seasons. For more information, visit the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) web site at MyFWC.com.

Restrooms and Water

- Restroom available at campground.
- Nonpotable water available at main entrance at River Road.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- 46 miles of marked multiuse trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Bird Watching

- Site 64 on western section of Great Florida Birding Trail.
- Contact FWC for more information.

Boating and Paddling

- Small boat ramp available on River Road.
- Withlacoochee River offers remote wilderness experience.

Camping

Equestrian, Group and Primitive Sites:

- Ashley campsite has vault toilet, nonpotable water, picnic tables, fire rings and/or grills.

- Cumpressco campsite has portable toilet, nonpotable water, picnic tables, fire rings and/or grills.
- McNeil group campsite has portable toilet, picnic tables and/or grills.
- Nonpotable water source available.
- A free reservation is required and must be displayed on dashboard at campground.

Backcountry Camping Sites:

- High Bluff, Foster Bridge, Concession Stand and Gator Hole.

Equestrian Use

- 60 miles of service roads.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Horse-drawn buggy riding only on marked trails; requires a free reservation.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Fishing

- Along Withlacoochee River; access best from River Road.
- Vehicle access from McNeil Road (SR 471) available by free reservation.
- Contact FWC for license requirements.

Hiking

- Total 32.4 miles of Florida National Scenic Trail run through Green Swamp East and West tracts.
- 60 miles of additional marked trails.
- 1.5-mile side trail connects to Withlacoochee River Park.

Florida National Scenic Trail

- The Florida National Scenic Trail is maintained by the Florida Trail Association.
- Orange blaze symbols indicate primary trail. Blue blaze symbols indicate side trails. White blaze symbols indicate overnight loop. Double blaze symbols indicate a sharp turn in trail.
- During hunts, hikers are encouraged to wear hunter orange or other bright color above the waist.

Hunting

- Contact FWC for information regarding license requirements and permits.
- FWC rules and regulations must be observed throughout the year.

Picnic Facilities

- Picnic tables available inside main gate.

For More Information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470

Half Moon-Gum Slough

8864 CR 247

Lake Panasoffkee, FL 33538

Size

9,480 acres — Half Moon Wildlife Management Area

Location

Northwestern Sumter County, northeast of Inverness

About the Property

This property was acquired to protect and preserve natural water resources and the water quality of the Withlacoochee River, Gum Slough and associated tributaries. The Withlacoochee River, Gum Slough and Gum Springs Run are located adjacent to the property and were designated Outstanding Florida Waters in 1989. Gum Slough is a four-mile-long spring run that flows into the Withlacoochee River. The water in Gum Slough comes from several springs, which makes it remarkably clear and appealing. For the most part, the riverine shores along the property are still natural and undeveloped. The upland areas of the property are a mixture of natural pine flatwoods and oak hammock.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) owns property along the eastern boundary of the District's property. These ownerships combined represent 9,480 acres of public lands known as the Half Moon Wildlife Management Area, which is managed by the FWC.

Access and Parking

- Travel west on SR 44 approximately 7 miles to CR 247. Head north on CR 247 to public entrance gate.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

Restrooms and water available at check station.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- 24 miles of designated or marked multiuse trails.
- Use only marked trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Equestrian Use

- 24 miles of marked or designated multiuse trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Equestrian use not permitted during hunting seasons.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Fishing

- Designated freshwater ponds open for fishing.
- Contact FWC for license requirements.

Hiking

- 24 miles of trails.
- During hunts, hikers are encouraged to wear hunter orange or other bright color above the waist.
- Wet crossings are present along tram road.

Hunting

- Contact FWC for information regarding license requirements and permits.
- FWC rules and regulations must be observed throughout the year.

Picnic Facilities

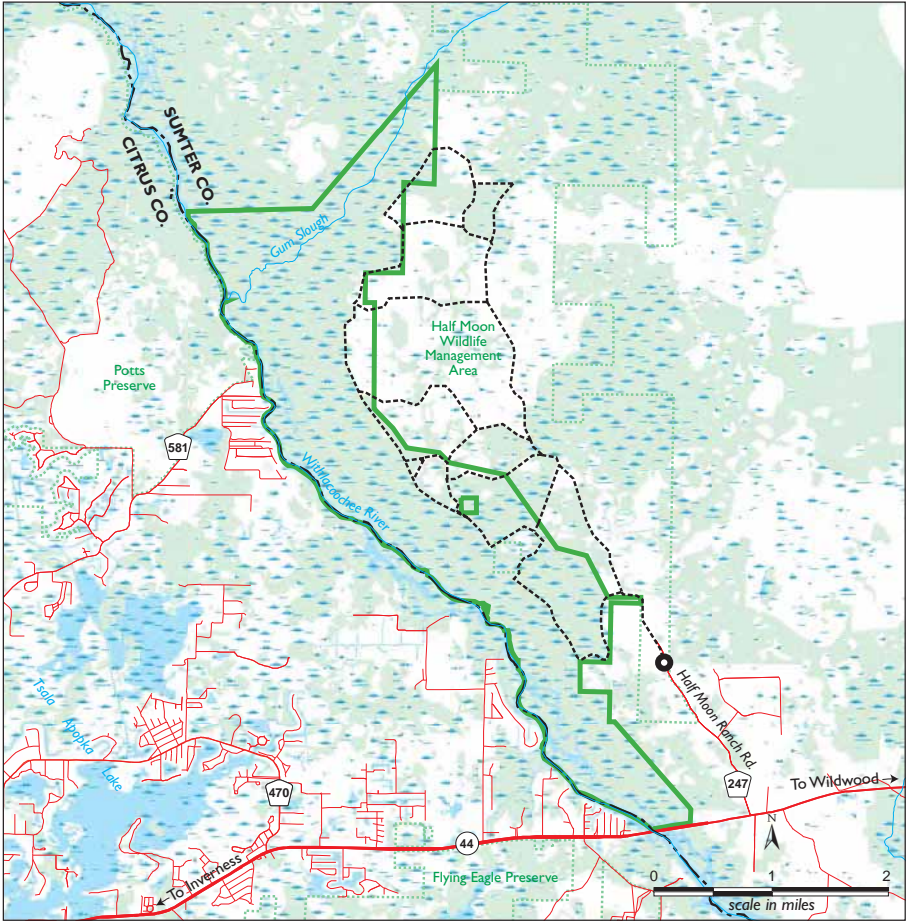
- Picnic facilities throughout property.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Flying Eagle Preserve
- Hálpata Tasthanaki Preserve
- Lake Panasoffkee
- Potts Preserve
- Two Mile Prairie
- Withlacoochee State Forest

For More Information

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, (352) 732-1225

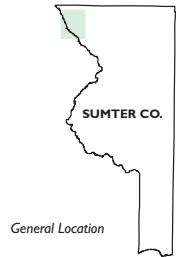


Half Moon-Gum Slough

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- ~ river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp

- access point & parking



Hálpata Tastanaki Preserve

15430 SW CR 484
Dunnellon, FL 34431

Size

8,146 acres

Location

Southwest Marion County, east of Dunnellon

About the Property

A variety of plant communities occur on the property, including floodplain swamp and oak scrub along the Withlacoochee River and longleaf pine turkey oak sandhills occurring in upland areas. Recovering stands of oak scrub scattered amid the sandhill support the threatened Florida scrub-jay.

In addition to natural resources, the property supported a rich historical past. The preserve is named after Seminole leader Hálpata Tastanaki (Chief Alligator) who, along with Osceola, Jumper and approximately 1,000 warriors, took part in the largest battle of the Second Seminole Indian War in 1836. Included within the property is the site of the community of Stockton, established shortly after the conclusion of the Second Seminole Indian War.

Public ownership of the property provides for the long-term protection and enhancement of floodplain forests along the Withlacoochee River, isolated wetland systems and extensive upland areas with high rates of aquifer recharge.

Limited Access Areas

Public access to sensitive areas such as restoration and archaeological sites, special protection zones for endangered species and species recovery facilities are restricted.

Access and Parking

- Public access off CR 484 at northern property boundary and along SR 200 on eastern property boundary.
- Pruitt trailhead accessible from CR 484 entrance.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

Portable toilets available at Pruitt Trailhead parking area. Nonpotable water available.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- 17 miles of marked multiuse trails.
- Use only marked trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Equestrian Use

- Two of three recreational trail loops designated for preserve are intended to serve as a multiuse system for equestrians, bicyclists and hikers.
- Riders are required to stay on marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Fishing

- Bank fishing on Withlacoochee River.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for license requirements.

Hiking

- Trail system provides a series of three loop trails that allow hikers to tailor their hike to their personal preference.

Picnic Facilities

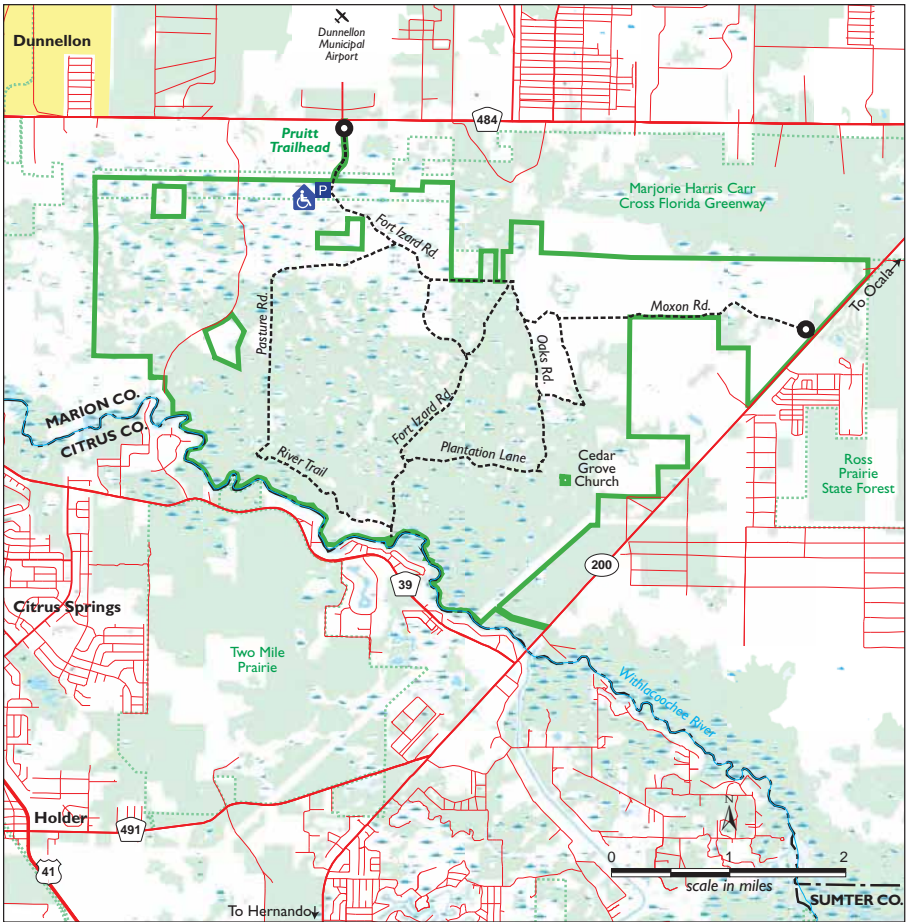
- Located at Pruitt Trailhead.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway
- Ross Prairie State Forest
- Two Mile Prairie

For More Information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470

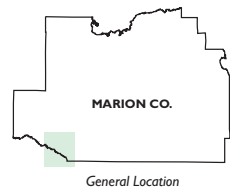


Hálpata Tastanaki Preserve

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- city boundary

- access point & parking
- parking
- ADA accessible toilet



Jack Creek

4501 Grand Concourse Road
Sebring, FL 33875

Size

1,286 acres

Location

Highlands County, south of Sebring

About the Property

The unique habitat found on this property includes bay swamp, cutthroat grass seeps, sand pine scrub, hardwood hammock and pine flatwoods. These habitats are rich in natural beauty. The bay swamp habitat dominates the property with abundant red bay, sweet bay and red maple trees. The Jack Creek tract is significant because it protects a large stand of Lake Wales Ridge scrub. This rare community provides habitat for one of the densest concentrations of endangered communities in the world. Cutthroat grass seep communities are also endangered and are restricted almost exclusively to Polk and Highlands counties.

Two key features of the property are Josephine and Jack creeks. Josephine Creek runs along the northern boundary of the property and intersects with Jack Creek, which runs along the eastern boundary. Josephine and Jack creeks and their surrounding swamps serve as the outlet for surface runoff from the Lake Placid West Chain-of-Lakes watershed. Overflow discharge from this watershed travels into Jack Creek, then into Josephine, and ultimately into Lake Istokpoga.

Public ownership of the property helps to preserve the floodwater conveyance characteristics of Jack and Josephine creeks and associated swamplands. The adjoining upland scrub areas will remain free from development and continue to retain natural water recharge characteristics.

Access and Parking

- Northern Boulevard — walk-thru with no parking.
- Hines Way — walk-thru with no parking.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available.

Recreational Opportunities

Hiking

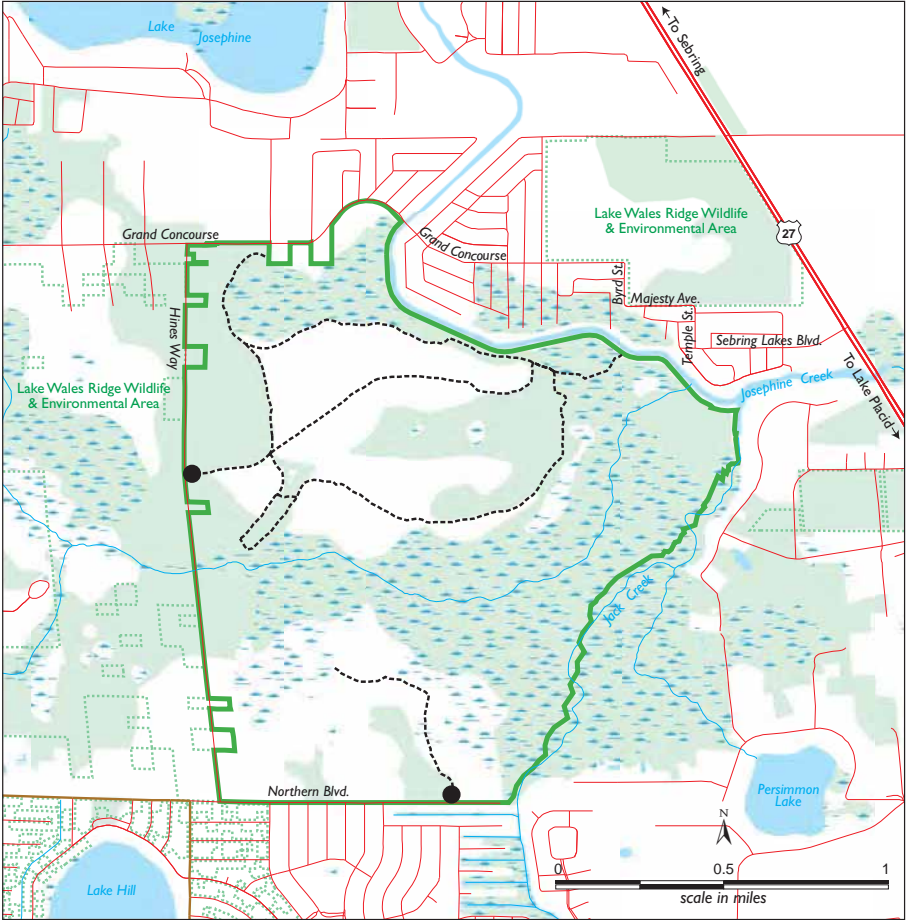
- 7 miles of unmarked interior roads.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Lake June-In-Winter Scrub State Park
- Lake Wales Ridge Wildlife and Environmental Area

For More Information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470

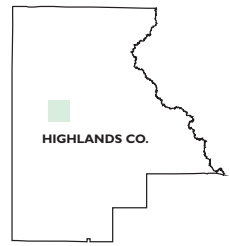


Jack Creek

Legend

- highway, major road
- - - minor road
- - - designated trail
- property boundary
- - - other public lands
- - - county line
- ~ river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp

● walk-thru



General Location

Lake Marion Creek Horseshoe Scrub Tract

Size

300 acres

Location

Northeastern Polk County, north of Haines City

About the Property

The 8,083-acre Lake Marion Creek Management Area is located on the Polk-Osceola county line east of Haines City off CR 580. Polk County, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the District acquired the lands within the area, which protect important headwater areas of Lake Marion and Reedy creeks. Water from these creeks is an important source of fresh water for the Kissimmee River, the Everglades and Florida Bay. The District has acquired approximately 300 acres within the Lake Marion area that are within its jurisdictional boundaries.

The SFWMD manages the area. Pine flatwoods, cypress swamps, hardwood swamps, oak hammock, scrubs and freshwater marshes are the dominant natural communities. Approximately 50 percent of the area is wetlands, most of which are in the 100-year floodplain of the Lake Marion, Snell and London creeks.

Access and Parking

Access from CR 580 or Horseshoe Creek Road, north of Haines City.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available.

Recreational Opportunities

Hiking

- Old roads available at each entrance.

Hunting

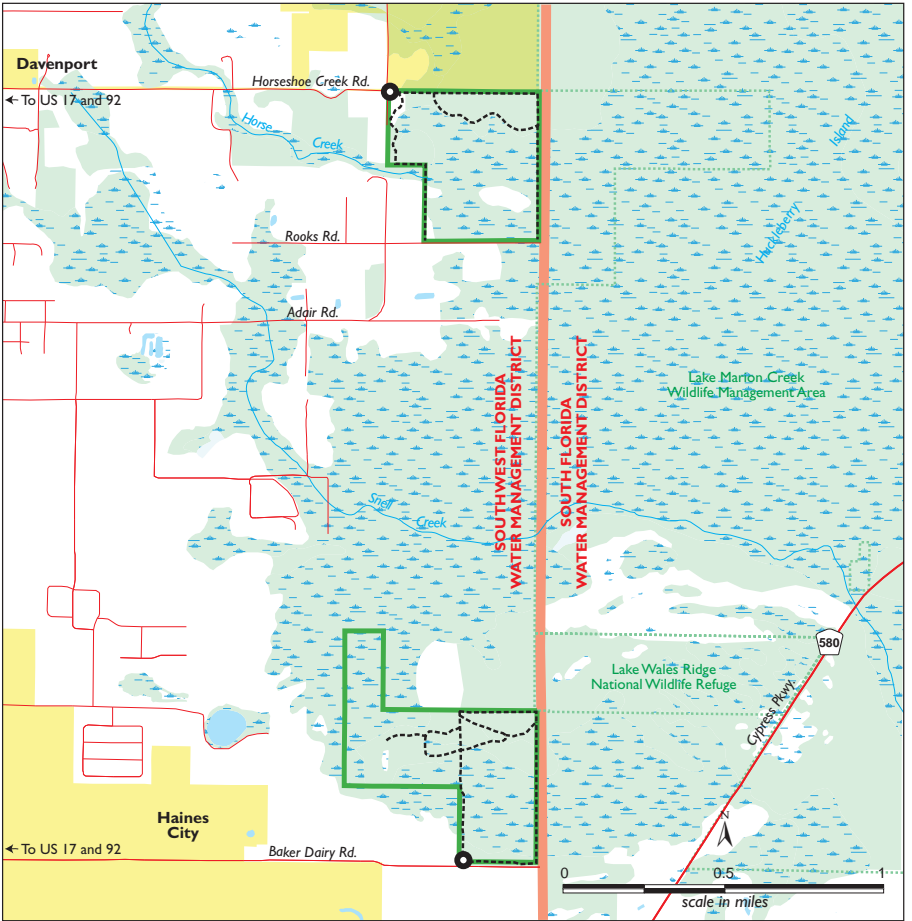
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for information regarding license requirements and permits.
- FWC rules and regulations must be observed throughout the year.

Nearby Recreation Lands

Catfish Creek Management Area

For More Information

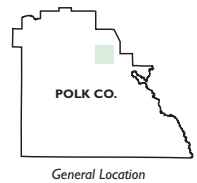
South Florida Water Management District, 1-800-250-4250 (FL only) or (561) 686-8800



Lake Marion Creek Horseshoe Scrub Tract

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- - - - designated trail
- property boundary
- - - - other public lands
- - - - county line
- ~ ~ ~ river, stream
- ■ ■ lake, pond
- ■ ■ forest
- ■ ■ wetland/swamp
- ■ ■ city boundary
- access point & parking



Lake Panasoffkee

7519 NW 18th Way
Wildwood, FL 34785

Size

9,911 acres

Location

West-central Sumter County, west of Wildwood

About the Property

Acquired to preserve Lake Panasoffkee's vast floodplain forest, the land also preserves pine flatwoods, freshwater marshes and oak scrub forest. As the land continues to rise, pines and scrub oaks of upland sandhills replace the wetland forest trees. A comprehensive restoration effort of Lake Panasoffkee has been completed to enhance both the water quality of the lake and recreational opportunities.

Access and Parking

- South side of SR 44, two miles west of I-75.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

- Daily from sunrise to sunset.
- Open to public access year-round except during special opportunity archery and turkey seasons. For more information, visit the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) web site at MyFWC.com.

Restrooms and Water

Restrooms adjacent to picnic pavilion.
Nonpotable water available.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- Eight miles of marked trails.
- Use only marked trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Bird Watching

- Site 54 on western section of Great Florida Birding Trail.
- Contact FWC for more information.

Camping

- Separate sites available for equestrian, group and primitive camping.
- Sites have picnic tables, fire rings and/or grills.
- Nonpotable water source available.
- Restroom facilities available.
- Eight horse stalls with water; free to campers on first-come, first-served basis. Users responsible for cleaning stalls.

- A free reservation is required and must be displayed on dashboard at campground.

Equestrian Use

- 18 miles of multiuse trails marked for horseback riding.
- Riders are required to stay on marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Horse-drawn buggy riding only on marked trails; requires a free reservation.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Fishing

- Little Jones Creek and two borrow pits on eastern side of property.
- Lake Panasoffkee inaccessible from property due to thick marsh vegetation.
- Contact FWC for license requirements.

Hiking

- 18 miles of multiuse trails.
- Prepare for wet hiking; some trails are excessively wet during certain times of year.

Hunting

- Contact FWC for information regarding license requirements and permits.
- FWC rules and regulations must be observed throughout the year.

Picnic Facilities

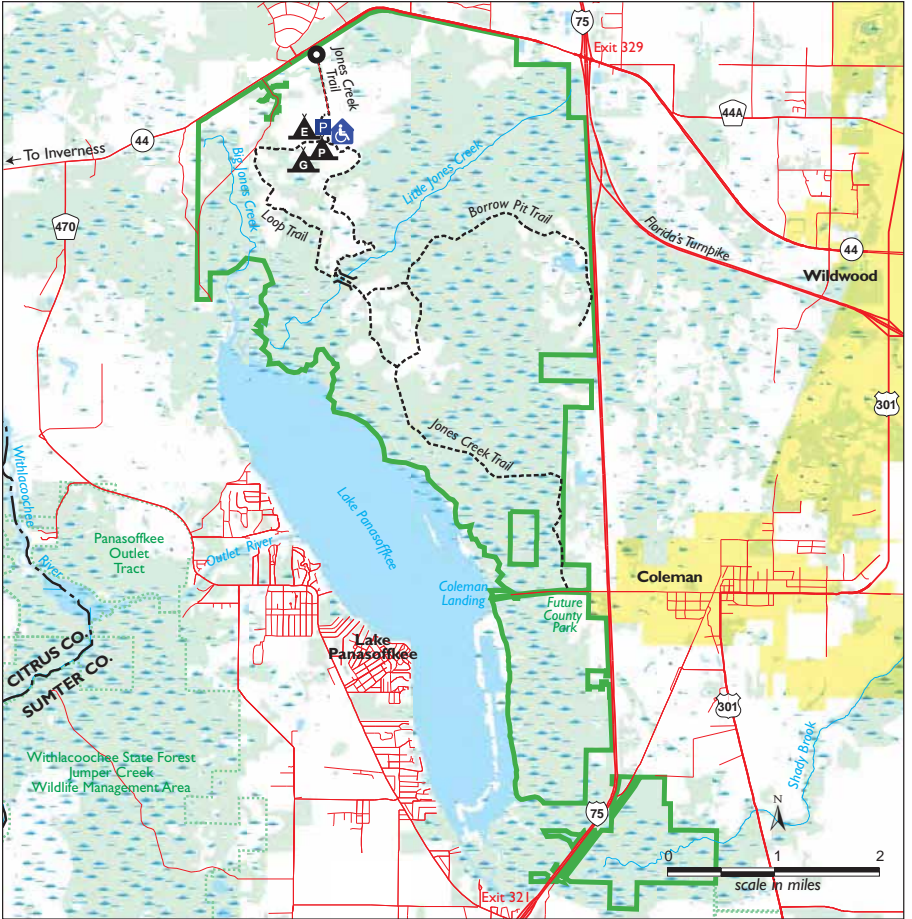
- Large pavilion with picnic tables and grills in day-use area. Pavilion may be reserved at no cost for group use by contacting the District.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Flying Eagle Preserve
- Half Moon-Gum Slough
- Half Moon Wildlife Management Area
- Jumper Creek Wildlife Management Area
- Panasoffkee Outlet

For More Information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470



Lake Panasoffkee

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- city boundary

- access point
- parking
- equestrian camping
- group camping
- primitive camping
- bridge
- ADA accessible toilet



General Location

Lake Tarpon Outfall Canal

3120 Tampa Road
Oldsmar, FL 34677

Size

185 acres

Location

Northeastern Pinellas County, north of Safety Harbor

About the Property

The canal and its water-control structure were completed in 1971 to help regulate flooding around Lake Tarpon and the lower sections of Brooker Creek. The structure prevents salt water from entering Lake Tarpon during high tides and protects the lake's freshwater ecology. The District donated 46 acres to the city of Oldsmar for the development of public recreational facilities and leased an additional 75 acres to enable the city to expand passive recreation to part of Canal Park.

Limited Access Areas

For your safety, please observe all restricted areas along canal, including water-control structure.

Access and Parking

- Vehicles use Tampa Road (SR 584) to Canal Park.
- Primary access to canal is by boat from Lake Tarpon or Safety Harbor. Access to canal from adjacent land is very limited due to development.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

Daily from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Restrooms, Water and Other Amenities

Restrooms, water, drink machines and pay telephones at Canal Park.

Recreational Opportunities

Canal Park

3120 Tampa Road

This sprawling 46-acre, state-of-the-art sports complex is home to Oldsmar Little League baseball and softball programs, the Oldsmar Falcons youth football and cheerleading program and the Oldsmar youth soccer program. It is also the home of the Oldsmar Leisure Services men's and coed softball leagues. The park features softball and baseball fields, batting cages, football/soccer fields, boardwalk, BMX track and playground.

Sheffield Park

1923 Cutty Bay Court

A newly renovated 12-acre neighborhood park located on the western edge of Harbor Palms Nature Park that features two tennis courts, a playground, two basketball courts, three picnic shelters, restrooms and baseball/softball fields.

Harbor Palms Nature Park

1820 Mapleleaf Boulevard

A 35-acre park bordering the Lake Tarpon Outfall Canal and the northernmost tip of Tampa Bay. Popular with walking enthusiasts, this park offers a beautiful view of plant and animal life. With entrances from both Harbor Palms and Bayside Meadows subdivisions, this park features a floating fishing dock, nature trail and a boardwalk.

Bicycling

- Allowed on paved park road.
- BMX track located in Canal Park. Contact City of Oldsmar Leisure Services Department for hours and rules.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Boating and Paddling

- Access north of water-control structure in the freshwater portion of canal is via Lake Tarpon. Public boat ramps located at Anderson and John Chesnut Sr. county parks.
- Access south of water-control structure in saltwater portion of canal is from Safety Harbor.

Fishing

- Boat fishing available in canal upstream and downstream of water-control structure.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for license requirements.

Hiking

- Unmarked trails available along canal.

Picnic Facilities

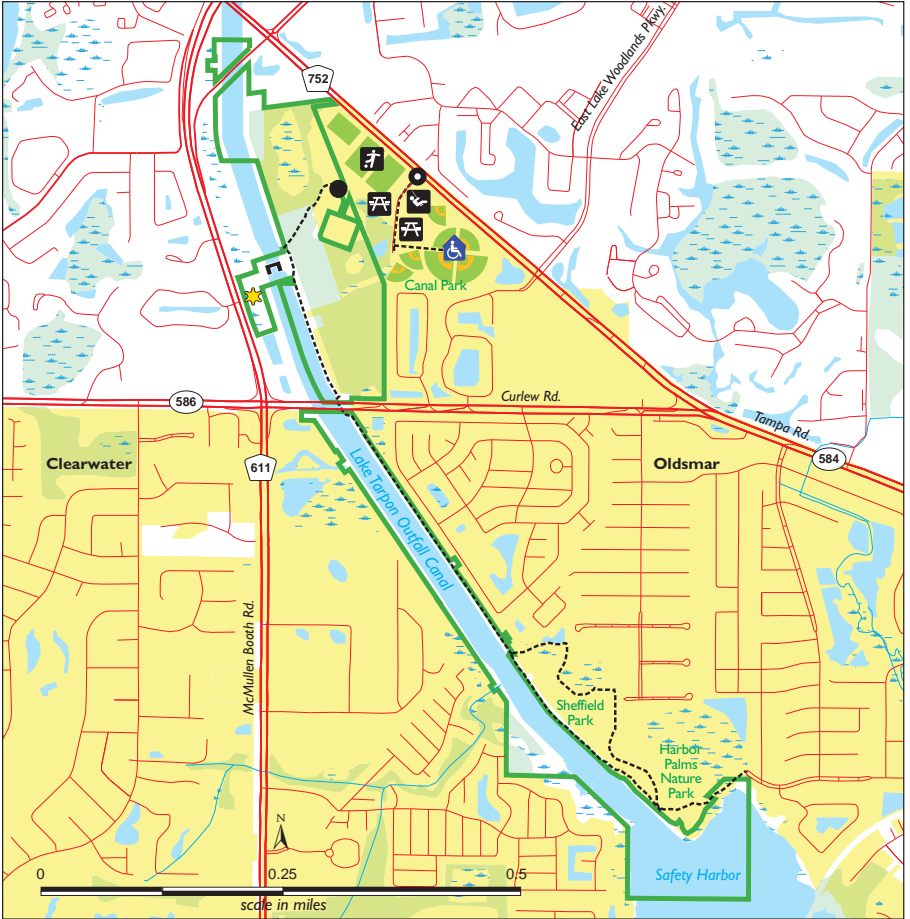
- Single-table picnic shelters at Canal Park with ADA facilities.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Anderson Park
- John Chesnut Sr. Park

For More Information

City of Oldsmar Leisure Services Department,
(813) 749-1260



Lake Tarpon Outfall Canal

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|----------------------------|
| | highway, major road | | walk-thru |
| | minor road | | access point |
| | designated trail | | water-control structure |
| | property boundary | | security officer residence |
| | other public lands | | picnic area |
| | county line | | ADA accessible restroom |
| | river, stream | | baseball complex |
| | lake, pond | | soccer/football field |
| | forest | | playground |
| | wetland/swamp | | |
| | city boundary | | |



Little Manatee River Lower Tract

River Access Only

Size

1,372 acres

Location

Southwestern Hillsborough County, southeast of Ruskin, east of Sun City

About the Property

Jointly purchased by the District and Hillsborough County, this property is significant to the protection of the Little Manatee River, a major tributary of Tampa Bay, and is designated an Outstanding Florida Water. The river is the third largest in Hillsborough County and has a dominating influence on the surrounding area, including the intertidal wetlands of the Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve. The lands purchased thus far contain some of the most pristine river frontage remaining in Hillsborough County. Together with the Little Manatee River State Park, six miles of river shoreline have been preserved to its natural state.

The property includes undeveloped uplands and wetlands associated with the Little Manatee River system. The uplands include pine flatwoods, dry prairie, sand pine scrub, mixed hardwood and pine forest areas, and coastal hammocks on numerous riverine islands. The riverine areas range from estuarine to freshwater systems. Conservation of the lands protects the river and its floodplain and wildlife habitat for future generations.

Access and Parking

Access from river only; no parking.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available.

Recreational Opportunities

Boating and Paddling

- Boaters can view and access property by using nearby boat ramp at Little Manatee River State Park or the canoe launch at the Camp Bayou Outdoor Learning Center.

Camping

- Two backcountry campsites along river — letter of authorization needed for camping from the Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department.
- No water or other facilities available.
- Limited campsite maintenance due to fluctuating water levels. Expect conditions to be somewhat overgrown following periods of high water.
- Pack out all supplies, trash and equipment that were packed in.

Fishing

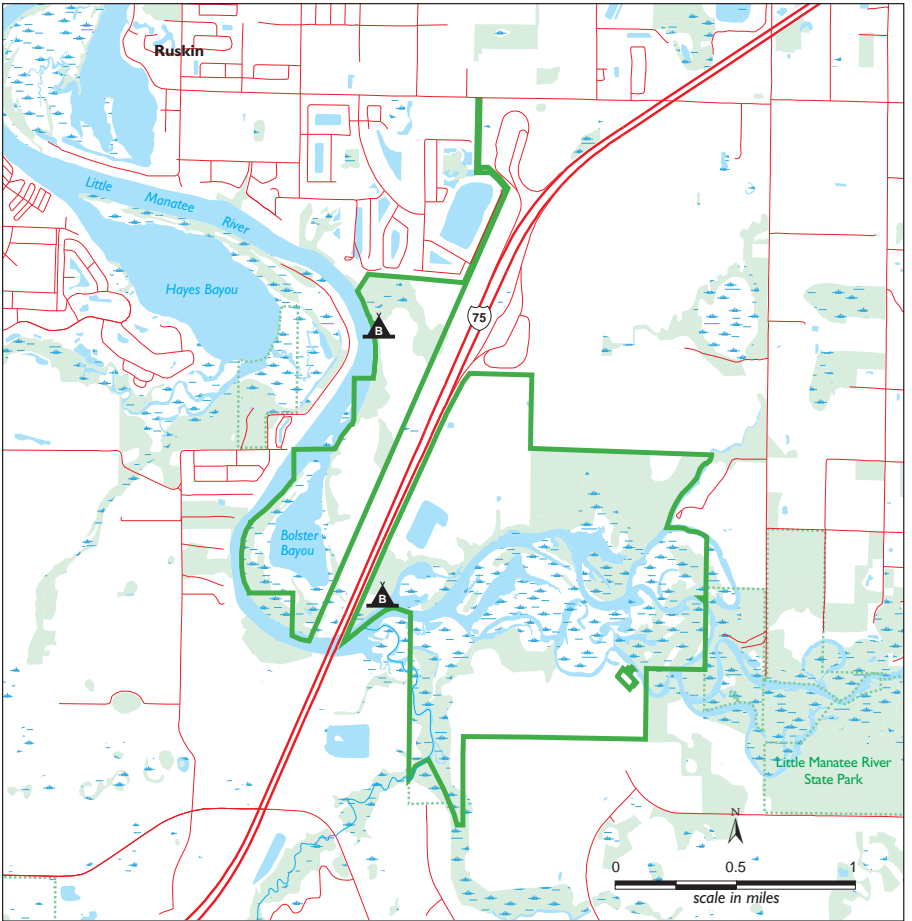
- All water bodies open for fishing, unless posted closed.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for license requirements.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Camp Bayou Outdoor Learning Center
- Cockroach Creek Greenway Nature Preserve
- Little Manatee River State Park
- E. G. Simmons County Park

For More Information

Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department, (813) 672-7876



Little Manatee River Lower Tract

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp

backcountry camping



General Location

Little Manatee River Southfork Tract

29400 SR 62

Duette, FL 33834

Size

970 acres

Location

Northeastern Manatee County, east of Parrish

About the Property

As part of the District's Little Manatee River project, this property protects the watershed of the river. The primary natural communities on the tract are pine flatwoods in the uplands and bottomland hardwood forests. Prior to District ownership, like many areas in central Florida, the site was converted into rangeland for raising cattle.

The high-quality scrub and scrubby flatwoods habitats have been restored for native species. The reintroduction of fire helps maintain the habitat.

Access and Parking

Entrance approximately 12 miles east of Parrish off SR 62 on north side of road.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available.

Recreational Opportunities

Hiking

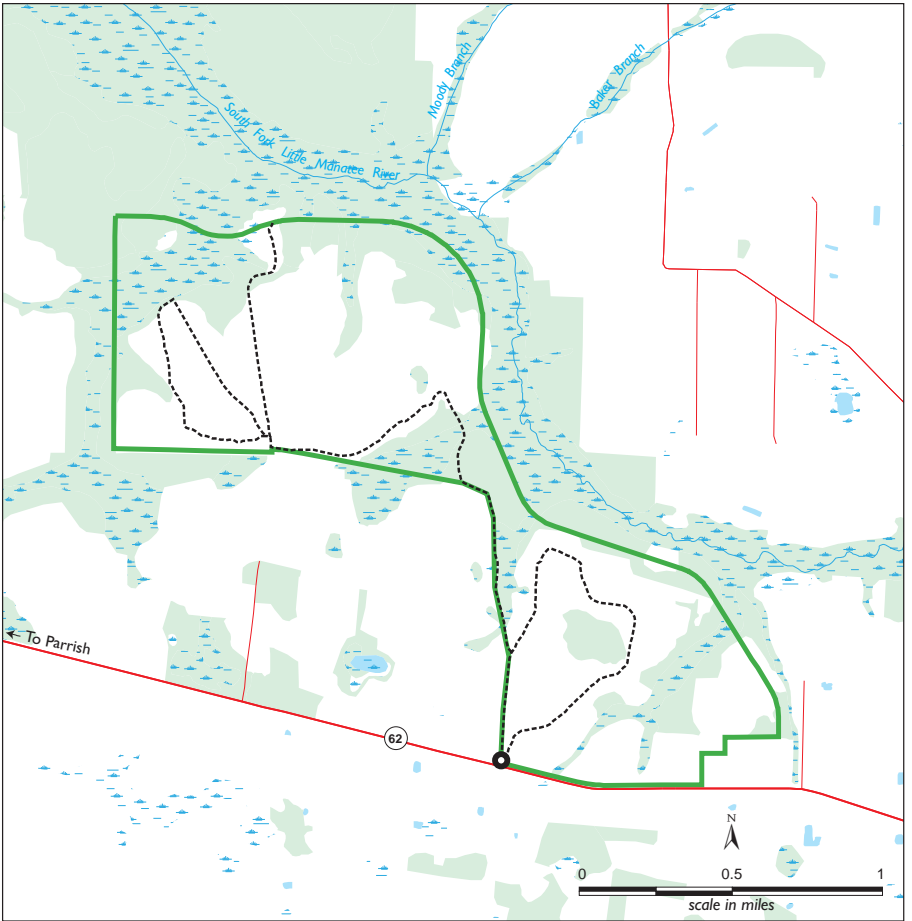
- Available on interior roads.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Lake Manatee State Park
- Little Manatee River State Park
- Manatee County's Duette Park

For More Information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470

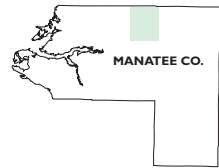


Little Manatee River Southfork Tract

Legend

- highway, major road
- - - minor roads
- - - designated trail
- property boundary
- · · other public lands
- - - county line
- ~ river, stream
- ▲ lake, pond
- forest
- ▲ wetland/swamps

● access & parking



General Location

Little Manatee River Upper Tract

3398 CR 579

Wimauma, FL 33598

Size

4,364 acres

Location

Southern Hillsborough County, south of Wimauma, southeast of Ruskin

About the Property

Acquired jointly between the District and Hillsborough County, this property is managed by the Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department. The natural communities on the property include freshwater marshes, riverine floodplains, pine flatwoods, sand pine scrub and oak hammocks. The property supports a variety of wildlife species due to the diversity and quality of the natural communities.

Access and Parking

- Primary access is walk-thru gates on CR 579, south of SR 674 and Saffold Road.
- Additional access provided through walk-thru gates on perimeter of property; parking on road shoulder.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available.

Recreational Opportunities

Fishing

- All water bodies open for fishing, unless posted closed.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for license requirements.

Hiking

- Network of old trail roads available.

Paddling

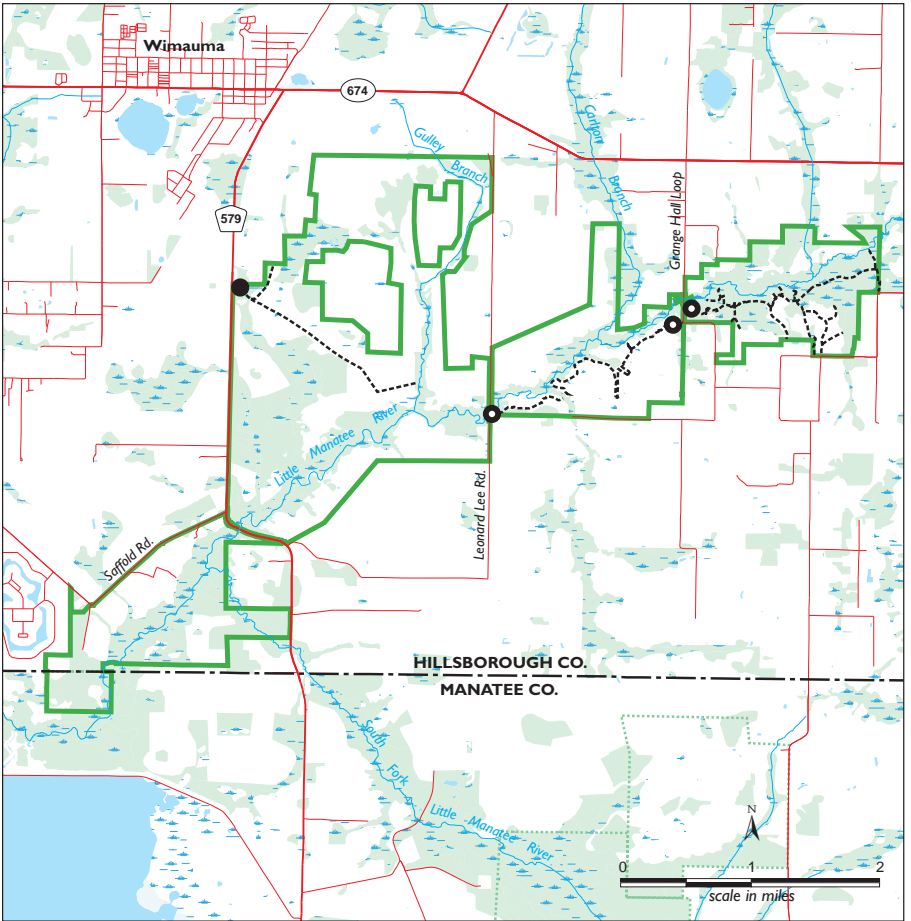
- Little Manatee River has a striking beauty, which makes it exceptionally popular for paddling when water conditions are right.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Balm-Boyette Scrub Nature Preserve
- Cockroach Creek Greenway Nature Preserve
- Little Manatee River State Park

For More Information

Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department, (813) 672-7876

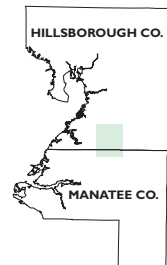


Little Manatee River Upper Tract

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp

- access & parking
- walk-thru



General Location

Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve

The Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve (LHWP) contains one of the largest premier contiguous recreation areas in Hillsborough County. Within the LHWP are park sites managed by the Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department: **Dead River Park, Flatwoods Park, John B. Sargeant Park, Morris Bridge Park, Trout Creek Park and Wilderness Park Off Road Trails System.** The District manages the following recreation sites in the LHWP that have minimal recreational facilities: **Jefferson Equestrian Area and Oak Ridge Equestrian Area.** (See following pages for individual property descriptions on these parks and recreation sites.)

Size

16,000 acres

Location

Northeast of Tampa, east of I-75 and north of US 301

About the Property

The multiple purposes of the LHWP are easily overlooked while enjoying the natural beauty of this suburban woodland. Here one can paddle waters of the Hillsborough River amongst wading birds, turtles, alligators, lilies and cypress swamps; explore over 60 miles of forest trails; fish from riverside boardwalks; or enjoy a relaxing picnic or cookout.

As important as this site has become to the Tampa Bay area in providing recreation, its primary purpose is water storage and water supply. Following severe floods from Hurricane Donna in 1960, the Four River Basins, Florida Project was initiated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to prevent flooding in Tampa and Temple Terrace. The LHWP was designed for temporary impoundment of floodwaters by constructing a levee on its western boundary, a dam on the Hillsborough River and the Tampa Bypass Canal to reroute floodwaters. A structural reservoir was part of the original plan but was later abandoned as the value of natural wetlands for flood storage came to be understood. In the 1970s, the Morris Bridge well field was developed as a source of drinking water for the city of Tampa. Tampa Bay Water manages 20 wells that pump water from the Floridan aquifer system. A water treatment plant is located west of the well field and the levee.

Natural resource conservation is another important purpose of the LHWP. The area's outstanding natural feature is 13 miles of the Hillsborough River, one-fourth the river's length. Land cover consists mostly of riverine forests and pine flatwoods, which are managed by the District to promote biodiversity. The forested wetlands are essential for filtering rainwater before it flows into the river and for storing floodwaters. Significant ecological features include a wood stork rookery, a sawgrass marsh, a sphagnum bog and two sinkholes. Hillsborough County school children learn about the environment at Nature's Classroom Environmental Education Center located within LHWP. The 320-acre site is managed by the Hillsborough County School Board and was developed in conjunction with the District.

Adjoining the LHWP is the 3,000-acre Hillsborough River State Park, which contains an area of beauty and tranquility known as the Seventeen Runs of the Hillsborough River. Access to this broad hardwood swamp is very difficult whether by foot or boat. A primitive canoe trail has been marked, but obstacles may be frequent.

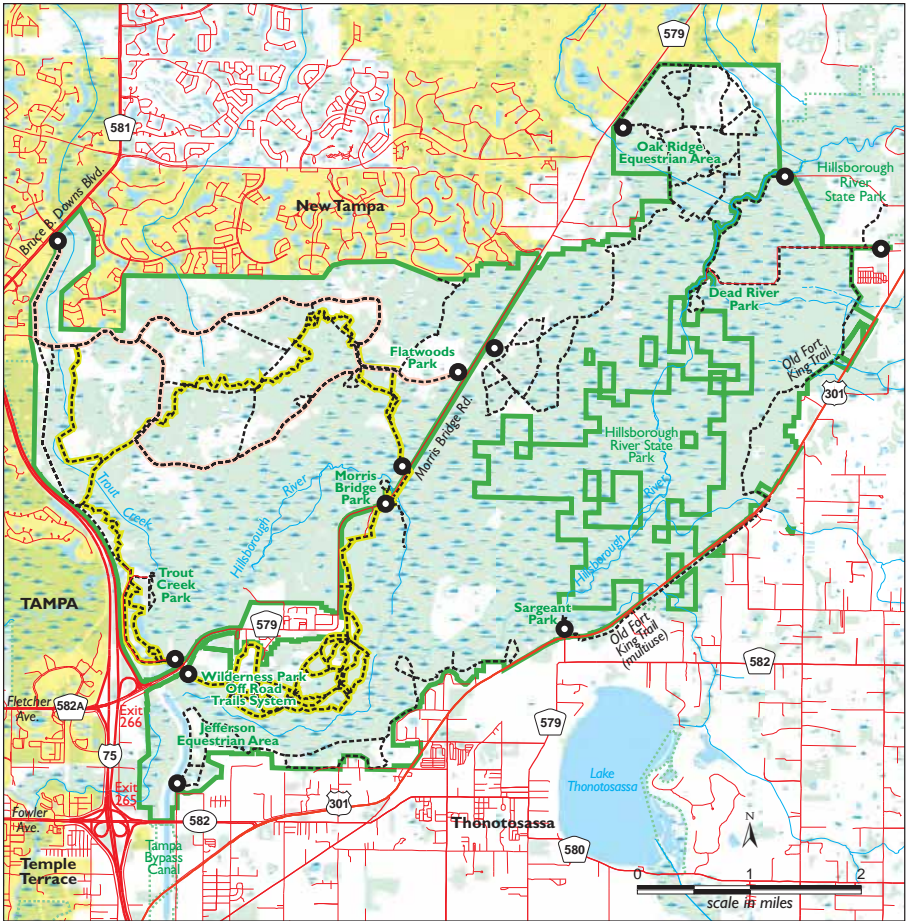
Human occupation of the area has had a long history. Past generations of Native Americans took advantage of flint along area rivers to make tools. American industrialists began harvesting pine, cypress and hardwood trees on the property in the 1840s. Elevated tram roads, built to haul timber through forested wetlands, now serve as recreational trails. The Old Fort King Trail was a supply route from Tampa to Ocala used to support U.S. troops during the Seminole wars and was later used during the Civil War. A portion of this historic route is a multiuse trail that connects the LHWP to the Hillsborough River State Park. The trailhead is located in John B. Sargeant Park.

Access and Parking

See following individual property description pages for access information.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Hillsborough River State Park
- Hillsborough River Canoe Trail
- Hillsborough County's Lettuce Lake Park
- Old Fort King Trail



Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- paved trail
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- city boundary

- access point
- Wilderness Park
- Off Road Trails System



Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve

Dead River Park

(See Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve for more information.)

15098 Dead River Road
Thonotosassa, FL 33592

Size

21 acres

About the Property

Situated at the confluence of Dead River and the Hillsborough River, this park is a pleasant place to unwind. Nature lovers appreciate a scenic two-mile trail alongside the Hillsborough River.

Access and Parking

- About nine miles northeast of I-75. From I-75, exit at Fowler Avenue, travel east for 1.5 miles. Turn left onto US 301, heading north. Drive about 8 miles and look for Dead River Road on left. Follow this road 0.75 miles to a gate. If open, drive to parking lot at end of road — about 2 miles.
- Admission fee.
- Visitors may drive scenic entrance road to main parking area during normal operating hours on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

- Daily from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for bicycle and pedestrian access.
- Vehicle access allowed on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Restrooms and Water

Restroom, water fountain and telephone located by picnic area.

Dogs

- Dogs must be on a leash no more than six feet in length.
- Owners are requested to pick up after dog.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- 2-mile unpaved, elevated single-lane road.
- Bicycles allowed on river trail.
- Always yield to foot travelers.
- Do not skid.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Bird Watching

- Site 104 on western section of Great Florida Birding Trail.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for more information.

Camping

- Camping fee.
- Campsite available to youth groups by reservation only. Minimum of 6 and maximum of 30 campers allowed. Groups must have their own insurance.
- A 0.25-mile hiking trail for use by campers located adjacent to campground.
- Bathhouse and picnic facilities provided.

Fishing

- Available on Hillsborough River.
- Contact FWC for license requirements.

Hiking

- 2-mile entrance road.
- 2-mile natural surface river trail.

Paddling

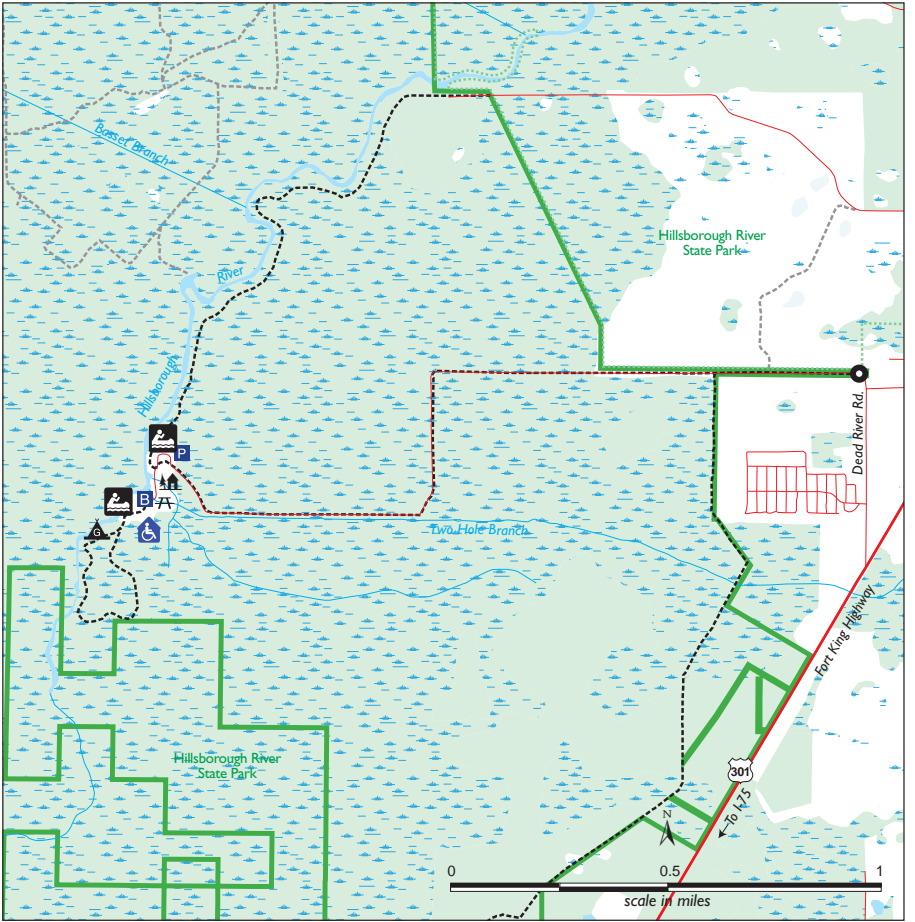
- Canoe launch is a short portage from parking area.
- Canoe landing upstream one mile at old Reagan home site.
- Hillsborough River State Park located further upstream.
- Downstream is Seventeen Runs. This portion of Hillsborough River Canoe Trail is designated as a primitive trail. Experienced paddlers only. Deadfall obstacles are frequent, dry ground for rest breaks is hard to find and the many forking channels can easily disorient paddlers. Pay close attention to flow of river and look for trail markers.

Picnic Facilities

- Picnic tables located a short walk from parking area.
- Disabled individuals may contact park in advance for special vehicle access.

For More Information

- Hillsborough County's Dead River Wilderness Park, (813) 987-6210
- Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department, (813) 672-7876
- Hillsborough River Canoe Trail maps available from Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Greenways & Trails, 1-877-822-5208 (toll-free) or (850) 245-2052



Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve Dead River Park

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | highway, major road | | access point |
| | minor road | | parking |
| | designated trail | | bus parking |
| | property boundary | | picnic area |
| | other public lands | | ADA accessible toilet |
| | county line | | canoe launch |
| | river, stream | | group camping |
| | lake, pond | | county ranger |
| | forest | | |
| | wetland/swamp | | |



General Location

Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve

Flatwoods Park

(See Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve for more information.)

14302 Morris Bridge Road
Thonotosassa, FL 33592

Size

5,400 acres

About the Property

Best known for its seven-mile paved loop road, which serves as a multiuse trail, Flatwoods Park provides a welcome getaway from Tampa's developed landscape. The Morris Bridge well field is located within the park, and well houses can be observed along the trail. A two-mile paved extension connects Bruce B. Downs Boulevard with the loop road. Flatwoods Park Trail is a paved 1-mile connection between Morris Bridge Road and the loop road.

Access and Parking

- Main entrance about 5 miles northeast of I-75 on Morris Bridge Road (CR 579) at Flatwoods Park Trail. Flatwoods Visitor Center located 0.5 miles inside entrance. Additional parking available 0.5 miles further west where the loop trail begins.
- Bruce B. Downs Boulevard (CR 581) entrance 1 mile northeast of I-75.
- Admission fee.
- Personal vehicles allowed in park at designated points.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms, Water and Other Amenities

Restrooms, water, pay telephone, cold drinks, bike wash and picnic tables at Flatwoods Visitor Center. Four rest shelters with water coolers and paper cups interspersed along loop road. Restrooms at Bruce B. Downs Boulevard entrance.

Dogs

- Dogs must be on a leash no more than six feet in length.
- Owners are requested to pick up after dog.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling and Inline Skating

- Loop road gives bicyclists a woods experience.
- Off-road cyclists enjoy the Wilderness Park Off Road Trails System (see pp. 104–105).
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.
- Beware of pronounced lip on loop road shoulder and use extreme care when entering or exiting pavement.
- Use proper trail etiquette on and off pavement. Warn others when passing from behind. When stopping, move completely off trail. Use caution at blind corners and make your presence known. Pack out litter. Avoid muddy trails. Do not skid.

Bird Watching

- Site 102 on western section of Great Florida Birding Trail.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for more information.

Hiking

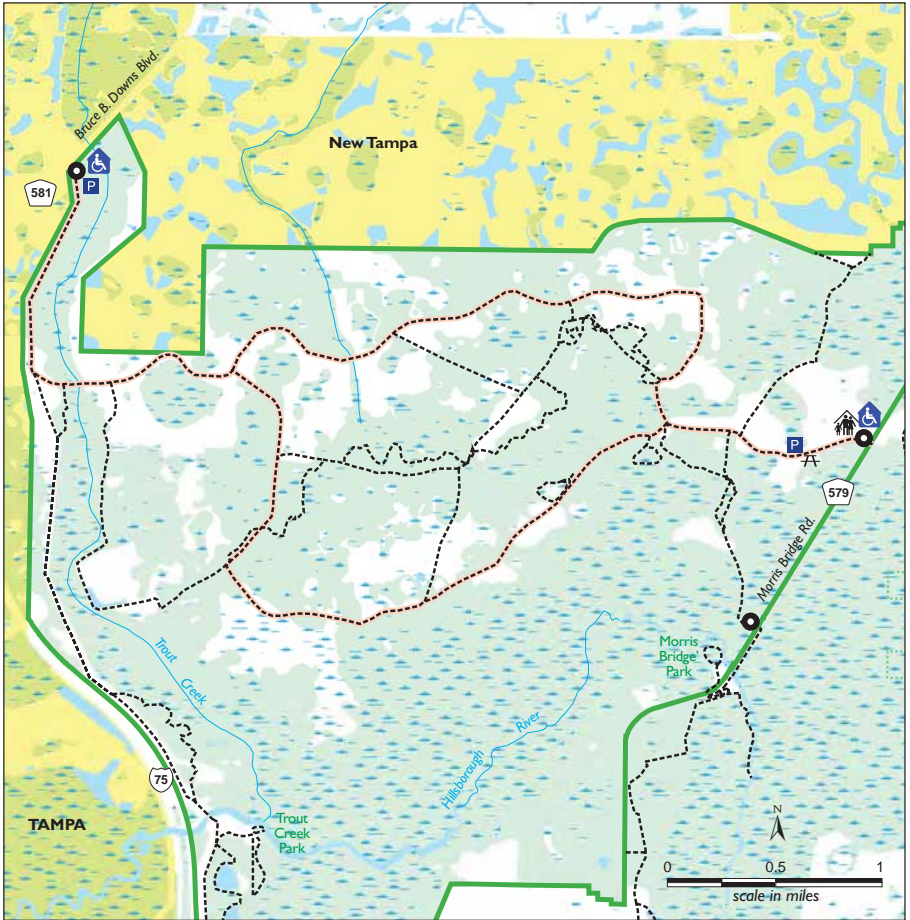
- Dogs and their owners favor 1-mile segment of Levee Road from Bruce B. Downs Boulevard to north end of loop road.
- Nature trails are short, easy walks.
- Long-distance runners and triathletes train on loop road.
- Cross-country runners and hikers enjoy the Wilderness Park Off Road Trails System (see pp. 104–105). Beware of fast-moving bicycles.

Picnic Facilities

- Picnic shelters, grills and tables available at several well houses.
- Shelter reservation fee.

For More Information

- Hillsborough County's Flatwoods Park, (813) 987-6211
- Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department, (813) 672-7876



Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve Flatwoods Park

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | highway, major road | | access point |
| | minor road | | parking |
| | paved trail | | visitor center |
| | designated trail | | picnic area |
| | property boundary | | ADA accessible toilet |
| | other public lands | | |
| | river, stream | | |
| | lake, pond | | |
| | forest | | |
| | wetland/swamp | | |
| | city boundary | | |



General Location

Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve

Jefferson Equestrian Area

(See Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve for more information.)

11891 Jefferson Road
Thonotosassa, FL 33592

Size
1,500 acres

About the Property

Located in the southwest corner of the Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve, the Jefferson Equestrian Area is surrounded by urban development. The trail roughly parallels Cow House Creek, a tributary of the Hillsborough River, and offers canopied riding for local horse enthusiasts. Interestingly, water in this creek can flow east or west, depending on water levels in the Hillsborough River and the Tampa Bypass Canal.

Limited Access Areas

Horses must remain south of Cow House Creek to avoid eroding the creek bed and entering the Morris Bridge bicycle area. Observe posted signs.

Access and Parking

Travel approximately 0.25 miles east of I-75 on Fowler Avenue; turn north onto Jefferson Road (immediately east of Tampa Bypass Canal); travel one block to entrance gate.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset unless closed due to high water.

Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available.

Recreational Opportunities

Equestrian Use

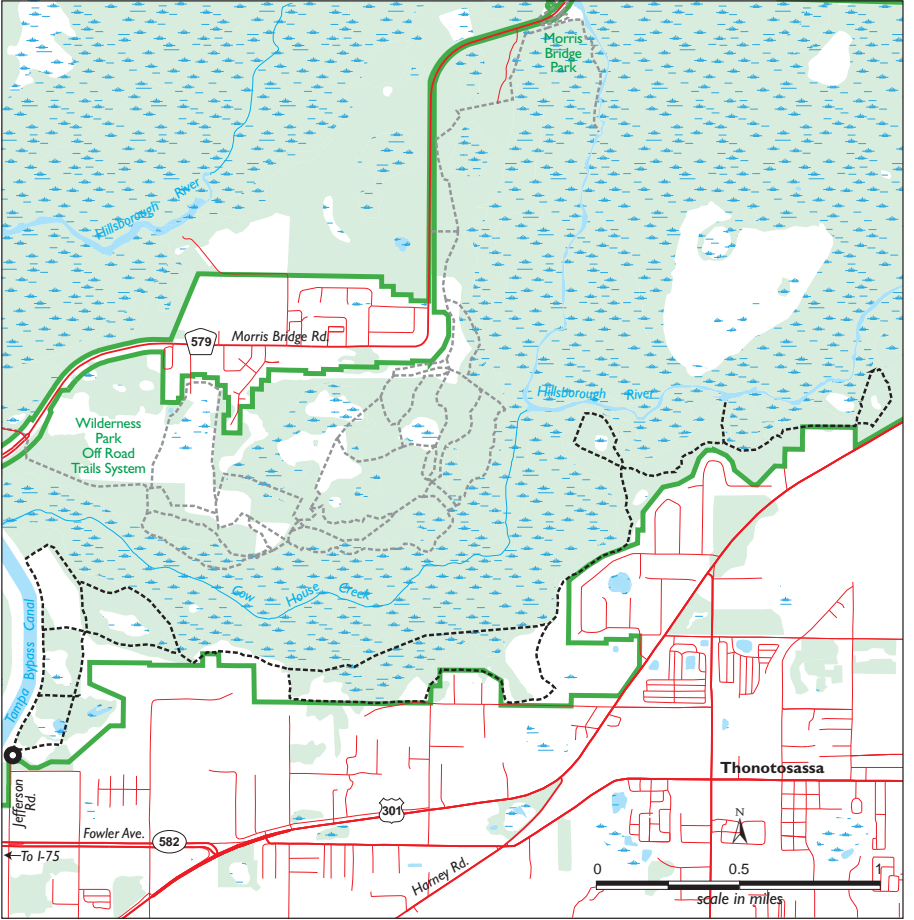
- 10 miles of marked trails.
- For safety and erosion control, do not ride on canal bank or berm.
- Riders are required to stay on marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Hiking

- 10 miles of multiuse trails.

For More Information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470



Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve Jefferson Equestrian Area

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- ~ river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- access point & parking



Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve

John B. Sargeant Park

(See Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve for more information.)

12702 US 301

Thonotosassa, FL 33592

Size

23 acres

About the Property

The confluence of Flint Creek and the Hillsborough River provides a beautiful setting for John B. Sargeant Park. The park is best known for boating access to the river. Downriver, the Hillsborough River Canoe Trail is a winding, verdant jungle of hardwood trees, lilies and birds. Upstream, the river widens to flow through the broad hardwood swamp known as the Seventeen Runs. In 1989, Flint Creek Park was renamed in memory of John B. Sargeant, Sr., who served as a member of the Hillsborough River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Access and Parking

- On north side of US 301 about 5 miles east of I-75. From I-75, exit onto Fowler Avenue and head east for 1.5 miles. Turn left onto US 301 and head north about 3 miles. Park entrance on left.
- Admission fee.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

- Daily from sunrise to sunset.
- Call for current hours.

Restrooms, Water and Other Amenities

Restroom, water fountain and pay telephone located in park.

Dogs

- Dogs must be on a leash no more than six feet in length.
- Owners are requested to pick up after dog.

Recreational Opportunities

Bird Watching

- Site 103 on western section of Great Florida Birding Trail.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for more information.

Boating and Paddling

- Boating fee.
- Boat ramp, boat dock, canoe launch and trailer parking provided.
- 2-hour trip downriver to Morris Bridge Park.
- 4-hour trip downstream to Trout Creek Park.
- Experienced paddlers ready for a challenge will enjoy remote wilderness of Seventeen Runs. This portion of Hillsborough River Canoe Trail designated as a primitive trail. From the canoe launch, follow feeder creek and continue straight across open water to upriver portion of Hillsborough River. Be prepared for carryovers and duck-unders. Pay close attention to flow of river and look for trail markers — it is easy to become disoriented among the many channels.

Fishing

- From boats on river or from fishing dock at end of boardwalk trail.
- Contact FWC for license requirements.

Hiking

- Quarter-mile boardwalk takes visitors through a wetland forest to a rest area on river. From this overlook one can see Flint Creek flowing in from the east, the Hillsborough River straight across on its way out of Seventeen Runs and the merging of the two flowing off to the west.

Old Fort King Trail

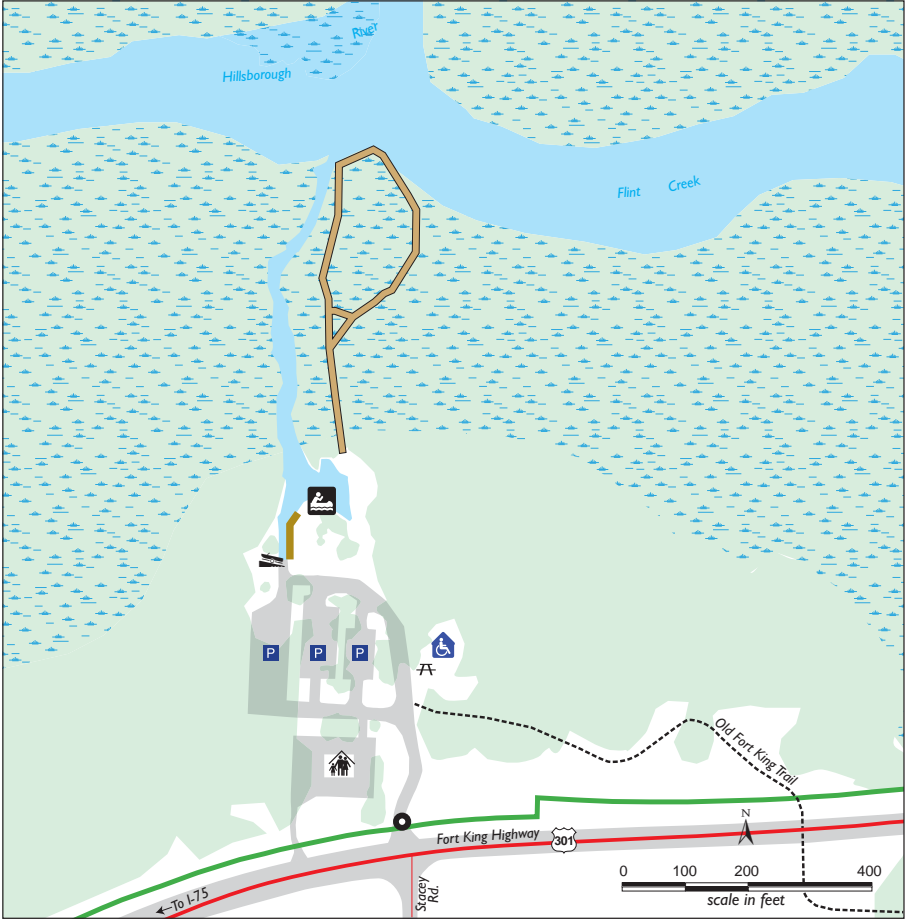
- 6.7-mile trail from John B. Sargeant Park trailhead to Model Dairy trailhead at Hillsborough River State Park.

Picnic Facilities

- Picnic tables and a covered pavilion provided.
- Shelter reservation fee.

For More Information

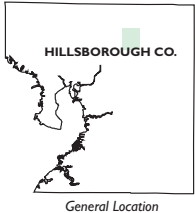
- John B. Sargeant Park, (813) 987-6208
- Hillsborough River Canoe Trail maps available from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Greenways and Trails, 1-877-822-5208 (toll free) or (850) 245-2052
- Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department, (813) 672-7876



Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve John B. Sargeant Park

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | highway, major road | | access point |
| | minor road | | parking |
| | designated trail | | visitor center |
| | property boundary | | picnic area |
| | other public lands | | ADA accessible toilet |
| | county line | | boat ramp |
| | river, stream | | canoe launch |
| | lake, pond | | boardwalk/dock |
| | forest | | |
| | wetland/swamp | | |



Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve

Morris Bridge Park

(See Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve for more information.)

13330 Morris Bridge Road
Thonotosassa, FL 33592

Size

106 acres

About the Property

Alligators, turtles, water snakes, frogs, fish, hawks and wading birds are commonly seen on this property. Located on the Hillsborough River, the park is best known for its river fishing.

Access and Parking

- 3.5 miles northeast of I-75 on Morris Bridge Road (CR 579). From I-75, exit at Fletcher Avenue. Morris Bridge Road bisects the park. Parking available on both sides of the road.
- Admission fee.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

- Open daily from sunrise to sunset.
- Park is subject to closure during high water.

Restrooms, Water and Other Amenities

Restroom, water fountain, pay telephone and bike wash on north side of park.

Dogs

- Dogs must be on a leash no more than six feet in length.
- Owners are requested to pick up after dog.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- Off-road cyclists enjoy the Wilderness Park Off Road Trails System (see pp. 104–105).
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Bird Watching

- Site 101 on western section of Great Florida Birding Trail.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for more information.

Boating and Paddling

- Boating fee.
- Boat ramp, canoe launch, boat dock and trailer parking on north side of park.
- This section of the Hillsborough River Canoe Trail immerses one in a native habitat rich with wildlife and large bald cypress trees.

Fishing

- Fishing docks on each side of park, including two covered shelters.
- Boardwalk under Morris Bridge Road along Hillsborough River connects two sides of park and provides access for fishing.
- Fishing available from boardwalk on north side of park.
- Primitive fishing trail runs south of park along river.
- Contact FWC for license requirements.

Hiking

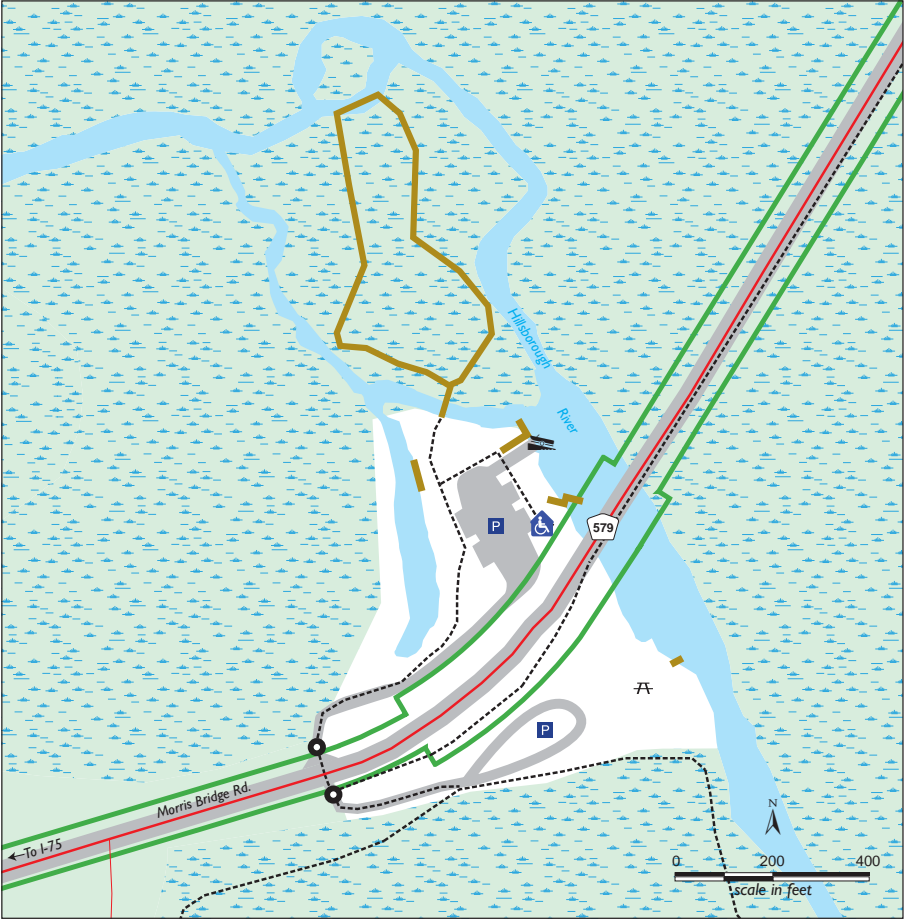
- On south side, a 0.75-mile shell trail along an old tram road. Rest shelter provided at halfway point on trail.
- On north side, a 0.25-mile boardwalk circumnavigates an island in Hillsborough River. Beware of slippery boards.
- Primitive trail heading south along river winds through a forest to gazebo.
- Trail runners and hikers enjoy the Wilderness Park Off Road Trails System (see pp. 104–105).

Picnic Facilities

- Picnic tables and pavilion on south side of park.
- Shelter reservation fee.

For More Information

- Morris Bridge Park, (813) 987-6209
- Hillsborough River Canoe Trail maps available from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Office of Greenways and Trails, 1-877-822-5208 (toll free) or (850) 245-2052
- Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department, (813) 672-7876

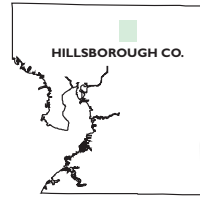


Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve Morris Bridge Park

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- ~ river, stream
- forest
- wetland/swamp

- access point
- P parking
- ⌘ picnic area
- ♿ ADA accessible toilet
- ⚓ boat ramp
- boardwalk/dock



General Location

Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve

Oak Ridge Equestrian Area

(See Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve for more information.)

15847 Morris Bridge Road
Thonotosassa, FL 33592

Size

1,000 acres

About the Property

The northeast corner of this property is the site of the Oak Ridge Equestrian Area. While still rural, this region of Hillsborough County is transitioning to suburban subdivisions. The trail is shaded within a forested wetland and open through pine flatwoods.

Access and Parking

- Primary access point about 7 miles northeast of I-75 on Morris Bridge Road (CR 579), 0.4 miles north of Branchton Park. Road marked with painted crossing stripes at driveway.
- Vehicle access to southern portion of trail is through Washburn gate. Free day-use reservation required.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset unless closed due to high water.

Restrooms and Water

Portable toilets and nonpotable water available at Oak Ridge campsite and Washburn parking area.

Recreational Opportunities

Camping

- Equestrian, group and primitive camping available.
- Sites have picnic tables, fire rings and/or grills.
- A portable toilet and nonpotable water source available.
- A free reservation is required and must be displayed on dashboard at campground.

Equestrian Use

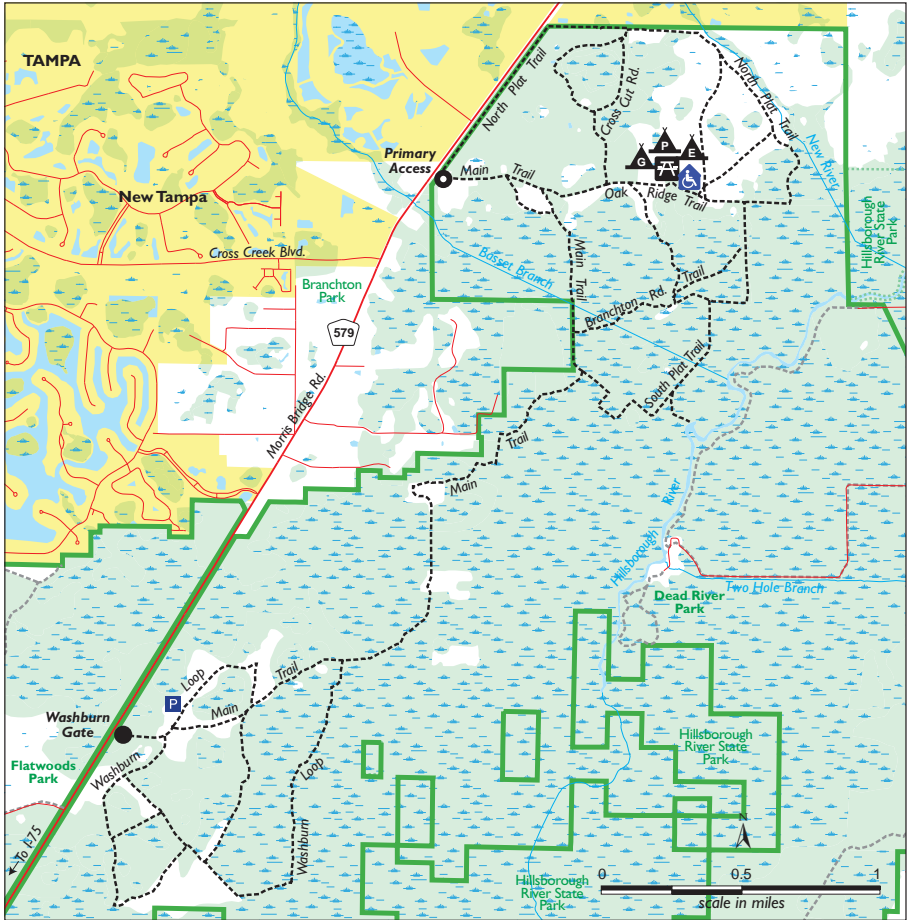
- 18 miles of trails
- Riders are required to stay on marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Horse-drawn buggy riding only on marked trails; requires a free reservation.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Hiking

- 18 miles of multiuse trails.

For More Information

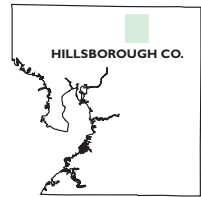
Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470



Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve Oak Ridge Equestrian Area

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | highway, major road | | access |
| | minor road | | access & parking |
| | designated trail | | parking |
| | property boundary | | picnic area |
| | other public lands | | ADA accessible toilet |
| | county line | | equestrian camping |
| | river, stream | | group camping |
| | lake, pond | | primitive camping |
| | forest | | |
| | wetland/swamp | | |
| | city boundary | | |



General Location

Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve

Trout Creek Park

(See *Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve* for more information.)

12550 Morris Bridge Road
Thonotosassa, FL 33592

Size

42 acres

About the Property

Located near the mouth of Trout Creek, this property on the Hillsborough River is popular for fishing, canoeing and group picnics. It is a pleasant place to get away for a midday break or to take small children for a mini-adventure.

Prior to District acquisition, development of a small housing subdivision had begun on the north side of the river. Concrete foundations and other artifacts remain for the astute observer. The lakes east of the entrance road are all man-made, either the result of borrow pits where fill dirt was removed to help build the levee and park facilities, or mitigation for road work that impacted wetlands.

The District operates an adjacent water-control structure on the Hillsborough River under agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Access and Parking

- From I-75 exit at Fletcher Avenue, head northeast on Morris Bridge Road for 0.5 miles. Look for park entrance on left. Follow road 1 mile to parking area.
- Canoe launch has separate parking.
- Watch for bicycles on road.
- Admission fee.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms, Water and Other Amenities

Restroom, water fountain, pay telephone, bike wash and recycling container.

Dogs

- Dogs must be on a leash no more than six feet in length.
- Owners are requested to pick up after dog.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- Off-road cyclists enjoy the Wilderness Park Off Road Trails System (see pp. 104–105).
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Bird Watching

- Site 100 on western section of Great Florida Birding Trail.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for more information.

Boating and Paddling

- Boating fee.
- Canoe launch provides access to Hillsborough River Canoe Trail.
- To get to Trout Creek, paddle upstream for a short distance to the opening. Water is usually not high enough to navigate far.

Fishing

- From river boardwalk, along riverbank, by boat on Hillsborough River or Trout Creek, and on banks of lakes.
- Contact FWC for license requirements.

Hiking

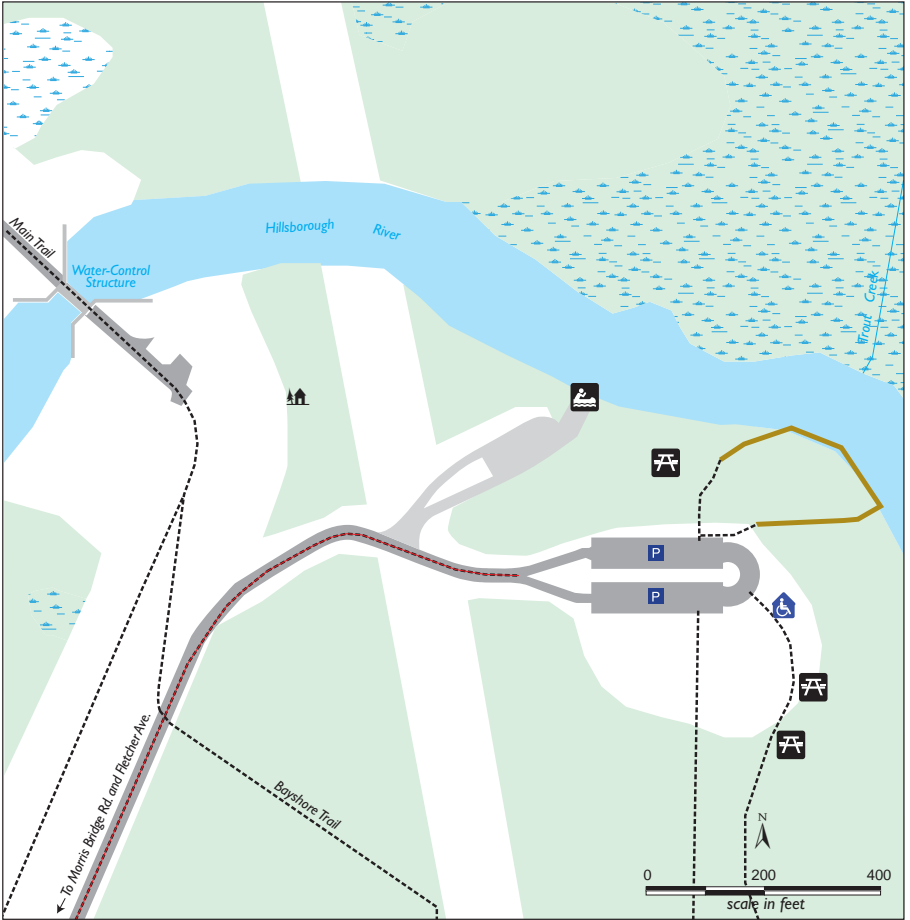
- Nature trail is a short, easy walk on a firm surface suitable for families and strollers. At the end of the trail, a primitive trail loops back through floodplain forest to parking area.
- Fishing trails around lakes. Beware of uneven terrain.
- Cross-country runners and hikers enjoy the Wilderness Park Off Road Trails System (see pp. 104–105). Beware of fast-moving bicycles.

Picnic Facilities

- Picnic tables and three pavilions with grills and electricity provided.
- Pavilions may be reserved in advance for a fee.

For More Information

- Trout Creek Park, (813) 987-6200
- Hillsborough River Canoe Trail maps available from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Greenways and Trails, 1-877-822-5208 (toll free) or (850) 245-2052
- Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department, (813) 672-7876



Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve Trout Creek Park

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- - - - designated trail
- property boundary
- - - - other public lands
- · - · county line
- ~ river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp

- P parking
- ⛺ picnic area
- ♿ ADA accessible toilet
- 🚣 canoe launch
- boardwalk
- 🏠 county ranger



Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve

Wilderness Park Off Road Trails System

(See *Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve* for more information.)

12573 Morris Bridge Road

Thonotosassa, FL 33592

Size

1,500 acres

About the Property

This popular single-track woods trail has a natural surface and shady canopy. The 20-mile main trail and 15 miles of side trails traverse the Trout Creek, Morris Bridge and Flatwoods areas.

Habitats along the trail vary from cypress swamp, hardwood floodplain forest, upland hardwood hammocks, pine flatwoods, oak scrub, dry prairie, wet prairie and lakes.

Navigation

Trail maps are available at kiosks in parking areas or by calling the Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department. The main trail is marked with wooden posts numbered 1 to 47.

Help

If you need assistance on-site, locate a park ranger or a volunteer trail steward. Stewards are identified by numbered placards on the front of their bikes. On weekends, rangers and stewards monitor FRS radio channel 1, code 0, for visitors carrying hand-held radios who need emergency help.

Limited Access Areas

- In Morris Bridge Bicycle Area, bicycles must remain north of Cow House Creek to avoid eroding creek bed and entering Jefferson Equestrian Area. Observe posted signs.
- Some trails are seasonal and subject to temporary closure during rainy season. Trails may also be closed for maintenance or restoration. Observe posted signs.
- Because this is a flood detention area, the dam on the Hillsborough River at Trout Creek Park is occasionally shut. Parks are subject to closure when the area impounds water.

Access and Parking

- Located east of I-75, south of New Tampa.
- Five major access points offer parking. Accessible from Morris Bridge Road are Trout Creek Park, Hole-in-the-Fence trailhead, Morris Bridge Park and Flatwoods Park. The other entrance is on Bruce B. Downs Boulevard.
- Admission fee.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms, Water and Other Amenities

Restrooms are not available on this property; however, restrooms, water fountains, bike washes and pay phones are available at Trout Creek, Morris Bridge and Flatwoods parks.

Dogs

- Dogs must be on a leash no more than six feet in length.
- Owners are requested to pick up after dog.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- Riders required to stay on marked trails.
- Watch for hikers and runners. Always yield the trail to pedestrians.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.
- Use proper trail etiquette on and off pavement. Make encounters with others pleasant. Warn others when passing from behind. When stopping, move completely off trail. Use caution at blind corners and make your presence known. Avoid muddy trails. Do not skid.
- Rules of the trail: ride on open trails only, leave no trace, control your bicycle, always yield the trail, never scare animals and plan ahead.

Hiking

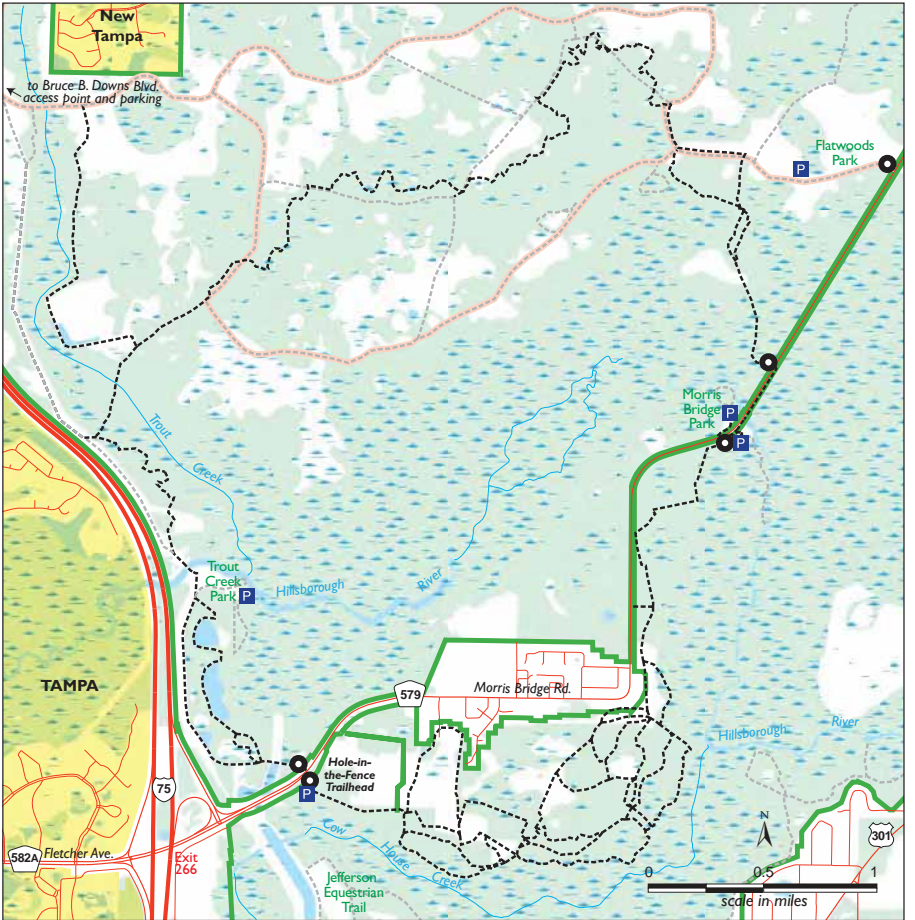
- Watch for uneven terrain and exposed roots.
- Beware of fast-moving bicycles. Use extra caution when approaching blind corners.

Picnic Facilities

- Picnic tables available at Trout Creek Park, the Hole-in-the-Fence trailhead, Morris Bridge Park and various locations in Flatwoods Park.

For More Information

- Flatwoods Park, (813) 987-6211
- Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department, (813) 672-7876



Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve Wilderness Park Off Road Trails System

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|--------------|
| | highway, major road | | access point |
| | minor road | | parking |
| | paved trail | | |
| | designated trail | | |
| | property boundary | | |
| | other public lands | | |
| | river, stream | | |
| | lake, pond | | |
| | forest | | |
| | wetland/swamp | | |
| | city boundary | | |



Myakka River — Deer Prairie Creek Preserve

7001 Forbes Trail
Venice, FL 34285

Size

10,128 acres

Location

South-central Sarasota County, west of the City of North Port

About the Property

Deer Prairie Creek Preserve was jointly acquired by the District and Sarasota County and lies between I-75 and US 41. The Schewe Tract, which lies both north and south of I-75, is managed by the District. The property was acquired to protect the floodplain of the river and the water quality of the water sources within the region.

The dominant natural communities are pine flatwoods, mixed hardwood and pine, and wetland hardwoods. A portion of the tract was utilized for cattle grazing and is being restored to a more natural condition through the reintroduction of fire on a periodic basis. Reintroduction of fire will stimulate the growth of the flatwoods species that require fire as part of their life cycle.

Access and Parking

Entrance to Deer Prairie Creek Preserve is at the end of Forbes Trail and can be reached by exiting to the north from I-75 at Exit 193, following Jacaranda Boulevard to the north to Border Road, proceeding east on Border Road to South Moon Drive, proceeding south on South Moon Drive until it intersects Forbes Trail and proceeding east on Forbes Trail.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- 75 miles of unpaved trails available.
- Trails may be flooded following heavy rains.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Equestrian Use

- 22 miles of designated equestrian trails available.
- Trails may be flooded following heavy rains.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Fishing

- All water bodies open for fishing unless posted closed.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for license requirements.

Hiking

- Available on interior roads.
- Trails may be flooded following heavy rains.

Paddling

- Along Myakka River and the adjacent Deer Prairie Creek (where available).

Picnic Facilities

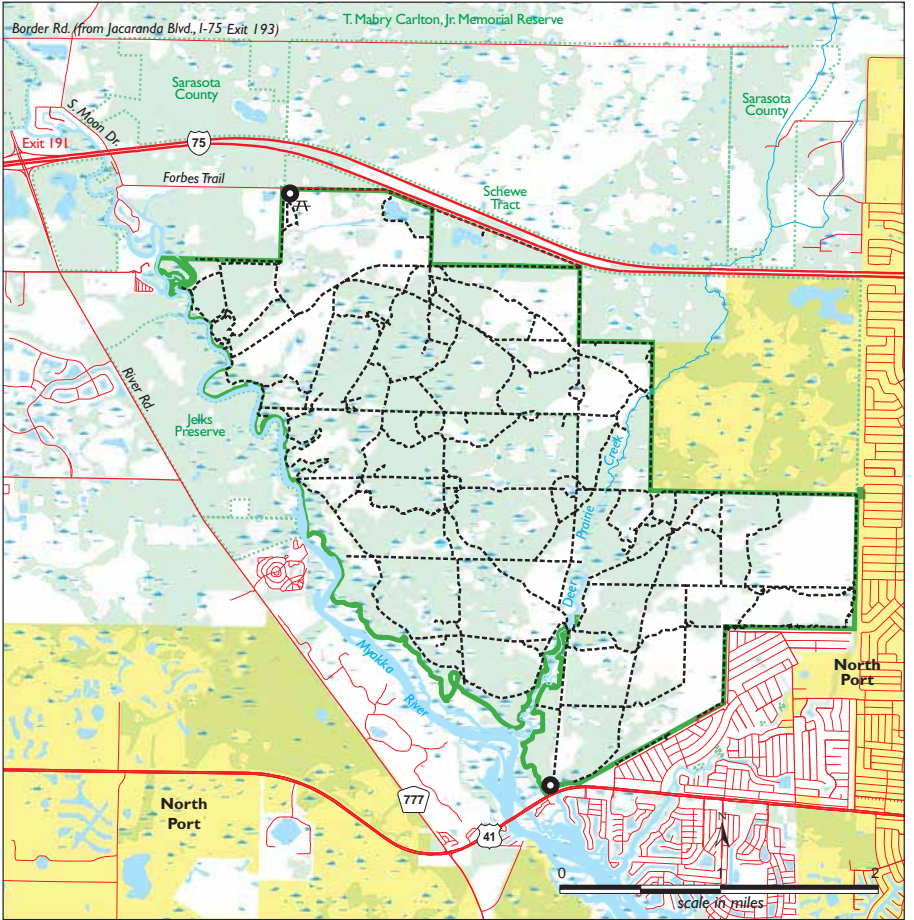
- Limited picnic tables available.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Jelks Preserve
- T. Mabry Carlton, Jr. Memorial Reserve
- Sleeping Turtles Preserve — North

For More Information

Sarasota County Natural Resources Department,
(941) 861-5000



Myakka River — Deer Prairie Creek Preserve

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- ~ river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- city boundary
- access & parking
- ⌘ picnic table and hitching post



Myakka River — Flatford Swamp Preserve

39450 Taylor Road
Myakka City, FL 34251

Size

2,357 acres

Location

Eastern Manatee County, north of Myakka City

About the Property

The Flatford Swamp tract encompasses nearly all of the Flatford Swamp wetland ecosystem and is the primary surface water feature in the Upper Myakka River watershed. These wetlands are a part of the headwaters of the Myakka River and have a major influence on the water flow and quality of the river, Upper Myakka Lake and the waters within Myakka River State Park. The upper reaches of the Myakka River flow through the swamp along with other major tributaries, including Long Creek, Sand Slough, Maple Creek, Coker Creek, Youngs Creek, Ogleby Creek and Boggy Creek.

The habitat within the property is mostly bottomland swamp and freshwater marsh. There are rangelands, hardwood forests and pine flatwoods scattered along the periphery of the property.

Limited Access Areas

Access is limited because property is generally flooded, which is not conducive to recreational trail development. Wauchula Road is located at the eastern edge of the property and provides the best access. There are narrow flatwoods roads and jeep trails that provide limited access to the central portion of the property but are flooded during the rainy season. Access is only feasible by foot, but those hardy enough to venture out will be rewarded with the uniqueness of unspoiled Florida.

Access and Parking

- From I-75; head east on SR 64 to Wauchula Road; head south to the intersection of Wauchula and Taylor roads.
- Walk-thru entrance at intersection of Taylor and Wauchula roads; parking to accommodate a limited number of visitors to property.
- Walk-thru off Wauchula Road in the southeast portion of property; does not provide parking.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available.

Recreational Opportunities

Fishing

- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for license requirements.

Hiking

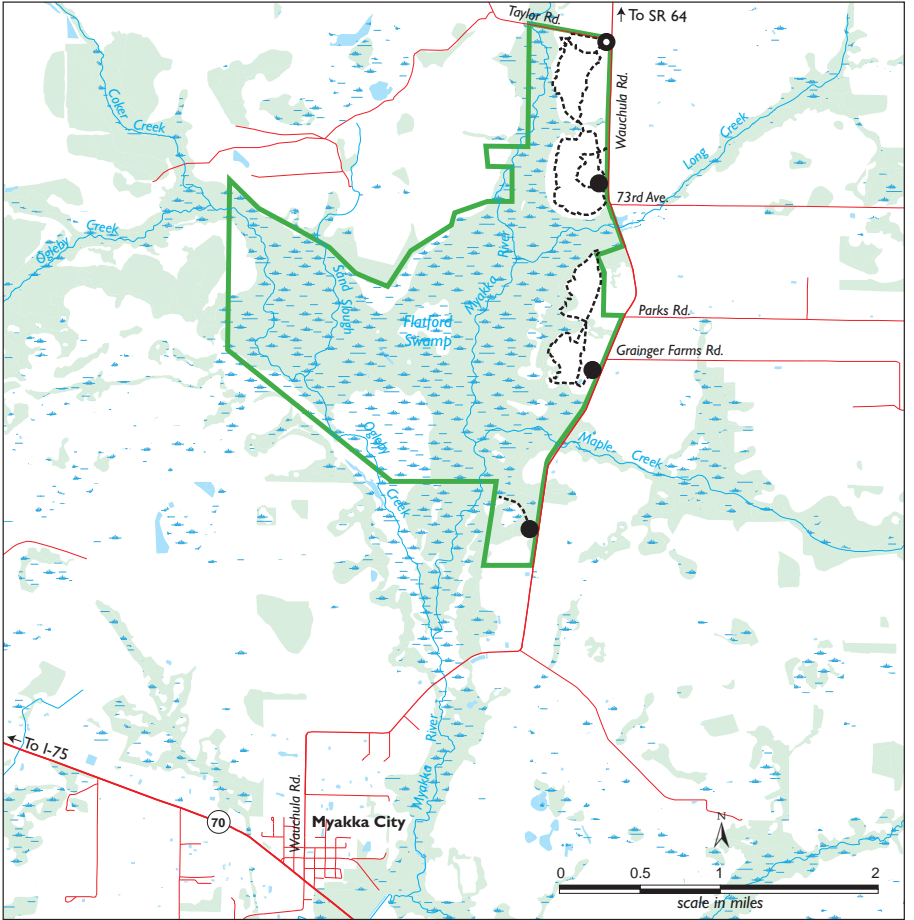
- Narrow flatwoods roads.
- Prepare for wet hiking; some trails are excessively wet during certain times of year.
- Unmarked trails — use of navigation devices suggested.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Manatee County's Duette Park
- Lake Manatee State Park

For more information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470



Myakka River — Flatford Swamp Preserve

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- - - - - designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- - - - - county line
- ~ river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp

- walk-thru
- access & parking



Myakka River State Park — Myakka Prairie Tract

13208 SR 72

Sarasota, FL 34241

Size

8,249 acres

Location

Central Sarasota County, east of Venice

About the Property

Myakka Prairie is managed as a part of the Myakka River State Park and is part of a 100-square-mile regional area of contiguous and natural publicly protected lands. The Myakka River State Park borders the property on the north and west, and Sarasota County's Carlton Reserve borders the property on the south. Myakka Prairie, in combination with the surrounding public lands, is regionally important to present and future conservation and protection of water resources and natural systems of the Myakka River watershed.

The property has large expanses of excellent dry prairie that are considered a globally imperiled habitat. The remainder of the property contains depressional marshes interspersed with pine flatwoods and hammocks. Deer Prairie Slough runs through the eastern portion of the property.

Access and Parking

- Primary access point at Martin's Gate, which is on south side of SR 72, just south of Myakka River State Park.
- Small public parking area provided.
- All recreational users required to register at main entrance at Myakka River State Park. No entry fees to enter Myakka Prairie.
- A multiuse trail that crosses the tract north to south can be accessed at Martin's Gate. Trail connects several tracts of public lands, including Carlton Reserve.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available at Myakka Prairie. Both available inside state park.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- Several miles of unpaved trails available.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Equestrian Use

- Available on existing roads within property.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Interior roads may be wet following heavy rains.
- Riders are required to stay on marked trails.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Hiking

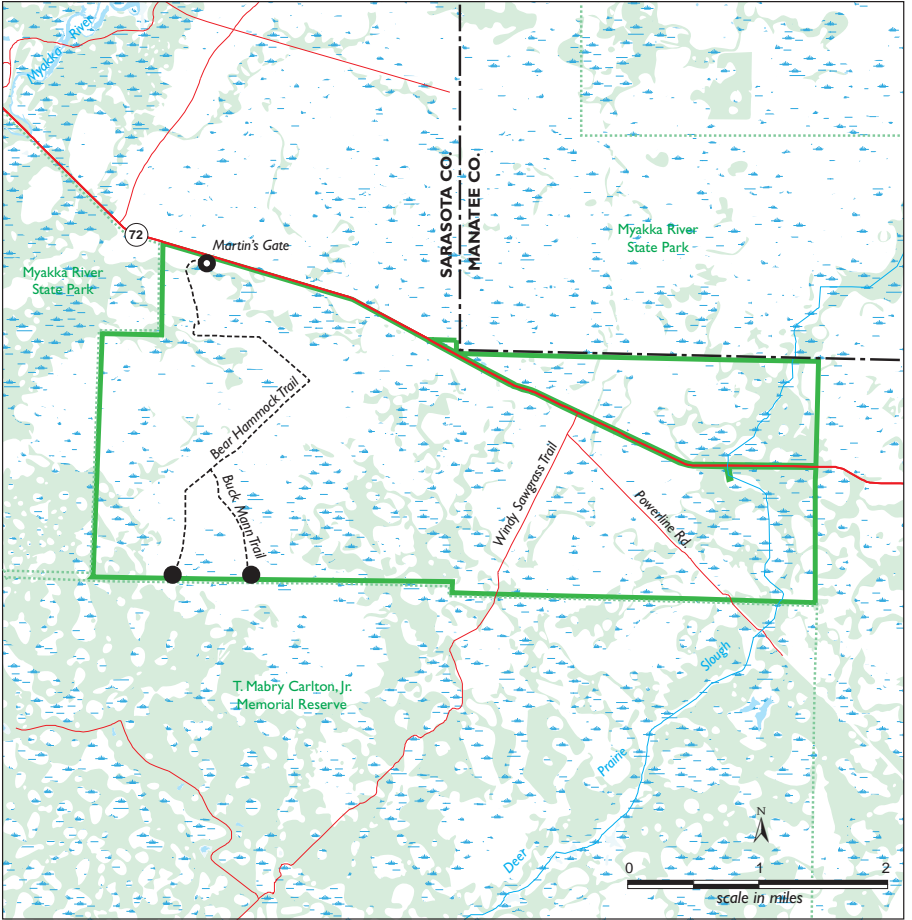
- Several miles of trails on existing roads.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- T. Mabry Carlton, Jr. Memorial Reserve
- Myakka River State Park
- Sarasota County's Pineland Reserve and Rocky Ford Preserve

For More Information

Myakka River State Park, (941) 361-6511



Myakka River State Park — Myakka Prairie Tract

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- walk-thru
- access point & parking



Myakka State Forest

2000 South River Road
Englewood, FL 34223

Size

8,532 acres

Location

Southwestern Sarasota County, east of Englewood

About the Property

The Myakka River, designated as an Outstanding Florida Water, flows through the northeast portion of the forest, dividing the forest into two tracts, with the larger portion on the west side of the river. Big Slough (also called Myakkahatchee Creek) enters the forest at the northeast and drains into the Myakka River. The western section of the property contains much of the headwaters of Rock Creek, a tributary to Lemon Bay, which is also part of the Charlotte Harbor estuarine system.

Jointly acquired by the District and the state of Florida, the property is managed by the Florida Division of Forestry (DOF). Public ownership of the property ensures the future protection of natural communities adjacent to the Myakka River.

Access and Parking

- Off CR 777 (River Road) and Jennings Boulevard.
- Motorized vehicles must enter from River Road gate.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

Portable toilets are available at the main parking lot off River Road and picnic area.

Dogs

Must be on leash no more than six feet in length.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- Allowed on all trails and roads.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Bird Watching

- Site 6 on southern section of Great Florida Birding Trail.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for more information.

Camping

- Primitive campsites available in various locations.

- Campsites accessible by park roads. Small campers and tents allowed. No electric or water available.
- Campers required to obtain a State Forest Use Permit from DOF in order to use primitive campsites.
- Portable toilets available at the Flying "A" campsite.

Equestrian Use

- More than 13 miles of marked trails are part of DOF's Trailtrotter program. Visitors completing rides on trails will get credit toward merit patches.
- Access trail system from main parking areas located approximately one mile past main entrance to forest off River Road.
- Riders are required to stay on marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Fishing

- All water bodies open for fishing, unless posted closed.
- Contact FWC for information regarding license requirements and permits.
- FWC rules and regulations must be observed throughout the year.

Hiking

- More than 13 miles of marked trails are part of DOF's Trailwalker program. Visitors completing hikes on trails will get credit toward merit patches.

Hunting

- Contact FWC for information and permits.
- FWC rules and regulations must be observed throughout the year.

Paddling

- Access to Myakka River from state forest.

Picnic Facilities

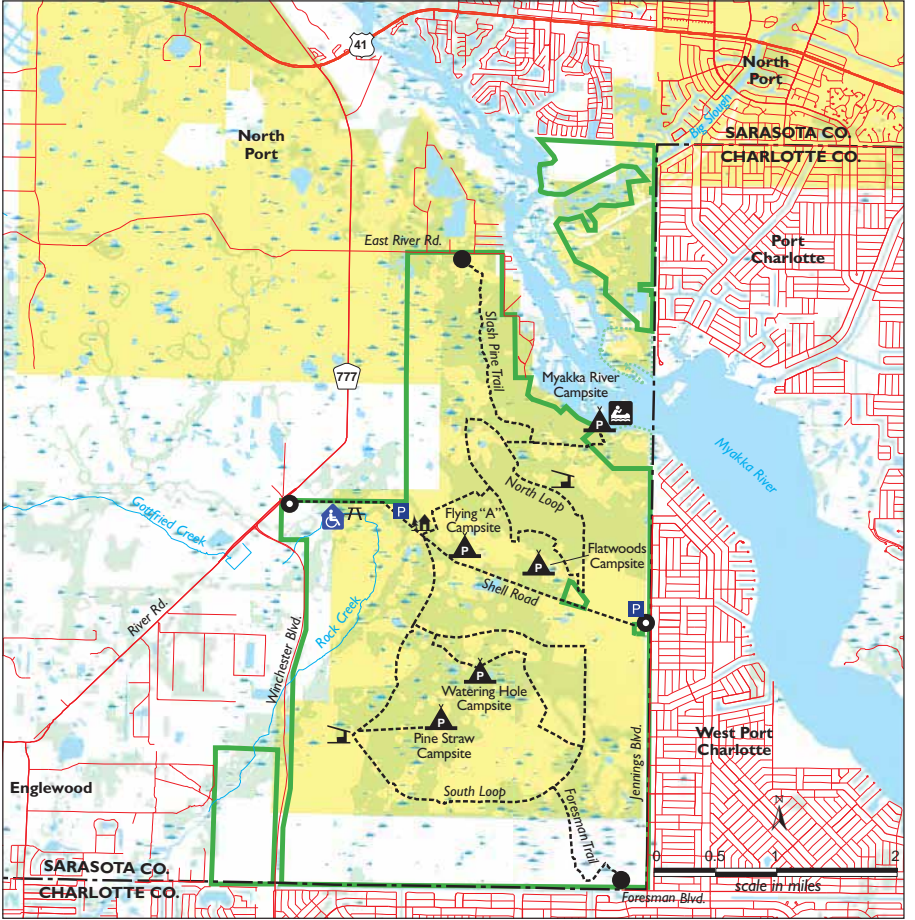
- Picnic areas available at several points along entrance road. Most have grills and picnic tables.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- T. Mabry Carlton, Jr. Memorial Reserve
- Charlotte Harbor Preserve
- Myakka River State Park

For More Information

Division of Forestry, Myakka State Forest,
(941) 460-1333



Myakka State Forest

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- city boundary

- trail access & parking
- vehicle access point
- parking
- picnic area
- canoe launch
- primitive camping
- trail shelter
- ranger office, parking, restroom
- ADA accessible toilet



Panasoffkee Outlet

3100 CR 413

Lake Panasoffkee, FL 33538

Size

1,118 acres

Location

Northwest Sumter County, west of Sumterville

About the Property

Still primarily natural, the property is a mixture of pine flatwoods, freshwater marshes and oak scrub forest. The western portions contain some of the oldest and largest trees in the area. The boundary of this property extends over three miles along the eastern floodplain of the Withlacoochee River.

The property was acquired to protect and preserve pristine river corridor along the Withlacoochee River and adjoining floodplain system. Preservation of this property protects forested swamps and adjoining upland buffers important to the water resources and water quality of the river system.

Access and Parking

- Day-use parking at Marsh Bend County Park adjacent to property.
- Walk-thru located off CR 315.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operations

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

- Restroom facilities available at Marsh Bend County Park.
- No water available.

Recreational Opportunities

Bird Watching

- Site 53 on western section of the Great Florida Birding Trail.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for more information.

Boating and Paddling

- Public boat launch and paved parking offered at adjoining park.

Fishing

- Available along Withlacoochee and Panasoffkee Outlet rivers.
- Contact FWC for license requirements.

Hiking

- Several miles of woods roads suitable for day hiking. Dry winter months most suitable for hiking since majority of lands are low and subject to seasonal flooding.
- No marked hiking trails or trail markers.

Picnic Facilities

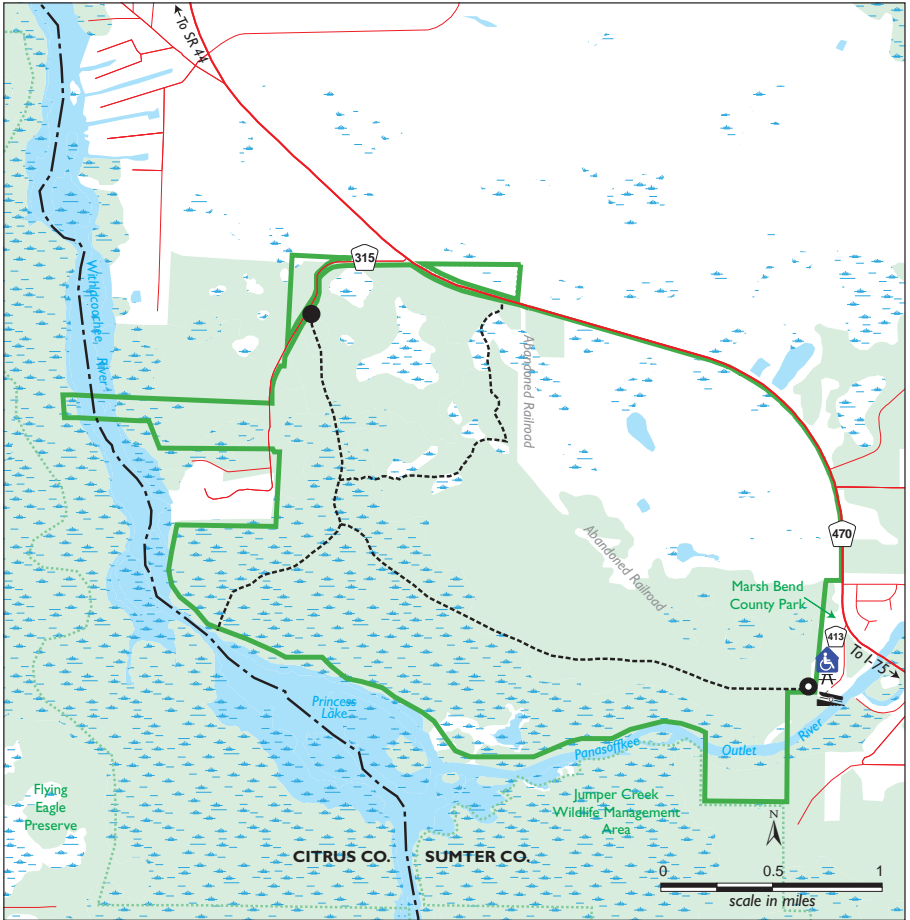
- Picnic tables offered at Marsh Bend County Park.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Flying Eagle Preserve
- Half Moon-Gum Slough
- Jumper Creek Wildlife Management Area
- Lake Panasoffkee

For More Information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470



Panasoffkee Outlet

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp

- walk-thru
- access point & parking
- boat ramp
- picnic area
- ADA accessible restrooms



General Location

Potts Preserve

2700 Dee River Road —

Equestrian Camping

2988 North Hooty Point —

River Hiking Trail • Inverness, FL 34453

Size

8,500 acres

Location

Northeastern Citrus County, east of Inverness

About the Property

The property was acquired for protection of the area's groundwater recharge, as well as important surface water features and wetland habitats. The preserve's wetlands play a role in both the Tsala Apopka Chain of Lakes and the Withlacoochee River systems, part of the Floridan aquifer's recharge/discharge system. Additionally, the site provides habitat to wildlife, including a small population of threatened Florida scrub-jays.

Access and Parking

- Day-use parking off Hooty Point gives access to river hiking trail.
- Parking at Dee River Road gate for trails leading to upland and freshwater marsh communities. Equestrian parking available.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

- Portable toilets located at equestrian/group and primitive campgrounds.
- Nonpotable water available at equestrian/group area.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- Multiuse trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Bird Watching

- Site 57 on western section of Great Florida Birding Trail.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for more information.

Boating and Paddling

- Nearest public boat ramp at end of CR 581.

Camping

- Separate sites available for equestrian, group, primitive and backcountry camping.
- Sites have picnic tables, fire rings and/or grills.
- Nonpotable water source available.
- A free reservation is required and must be displayed on dashboard at campground.

Backcountry

- These campsites are accessible only by foot or from a body of water.
- These sites have no amenities.
- Mound fires — keep fires small, only use sticks found on the ground.

Equestrian Use

- 12 miles of marked woods roads.
- Riders are required to stay on marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Horse-drawn buggy riding only on marked trails; requires a free reservation.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Fishing

- Fishing and frogging allowed throughout year along river.
- Contact FWC for license requirements.

Hiking

- 30 miles open for hiking, including a 4-mile river trail and 16-mile loop trail.
- Prepare for wet hiking; some trails are excessively wet during certain times of year.
- Orange blaze symbols indicate primary trail. Blue blazes indicate side trails. White blaze symbols indicate overnight loop. Double blaze symbols indicate a sharp turn in trail.

Hunting

- Contact FWC for information regarding license requirements and permits.
- FWC rules and regulations must be observed throughout the year.

Picnic Facilities

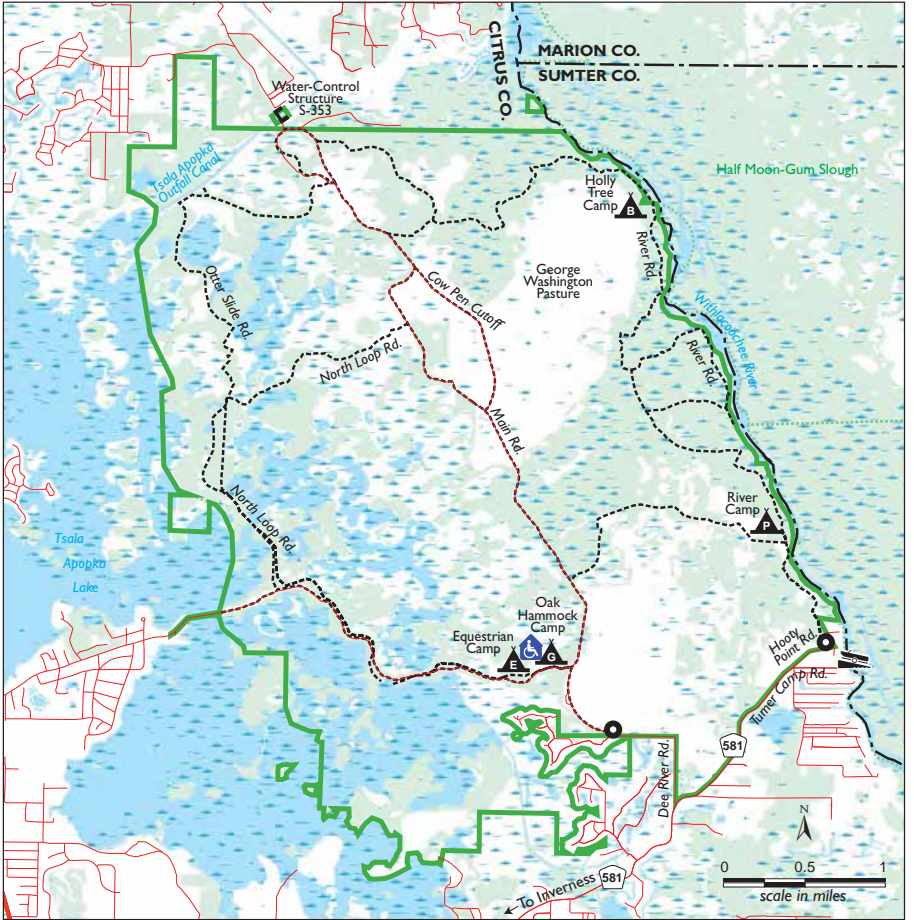
- Limited picnic facilities available at campsite.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Flying Eagle Preserve
- Two Mile Prairie
- Half Moon-Gum Slough

For More Information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470



Potts Preserve

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp

- access point & parking
- boat ramp
- water-control structure
- equestrian camping
- group camping
- primitive camping
- backcountry camping
- ADA accessible toilet



Prairie/Shell Creek

3081 Duncan Road
Punta Gorda, FL 33982

Size

609 acres

Location

Charlotte County, east of Charlotte Harbor

About the Property

This property is well known by the locals for having good scrub for the area. Several Florida scrub-jay families reside within the property. The mesic flatwoods and tidal marsh system provide a unique natural habitat.

Access and Parking

- A walk-thru is on the west side of US 17 (Duncan Road) and south of the intersection of US 17 and CR 764.
- A walk-thru is at the corner of Royal Palm Drive and Palm Shores Boulevard. Please do not block gate or neighbor's driveway.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available.

Recreational Opportunities

Fishing

- Man-made excavated pond located in northern portion of property.
- Property is adjacent to Shell Creek, Peace River and Hunter Creek.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for license requirements.

Hiking

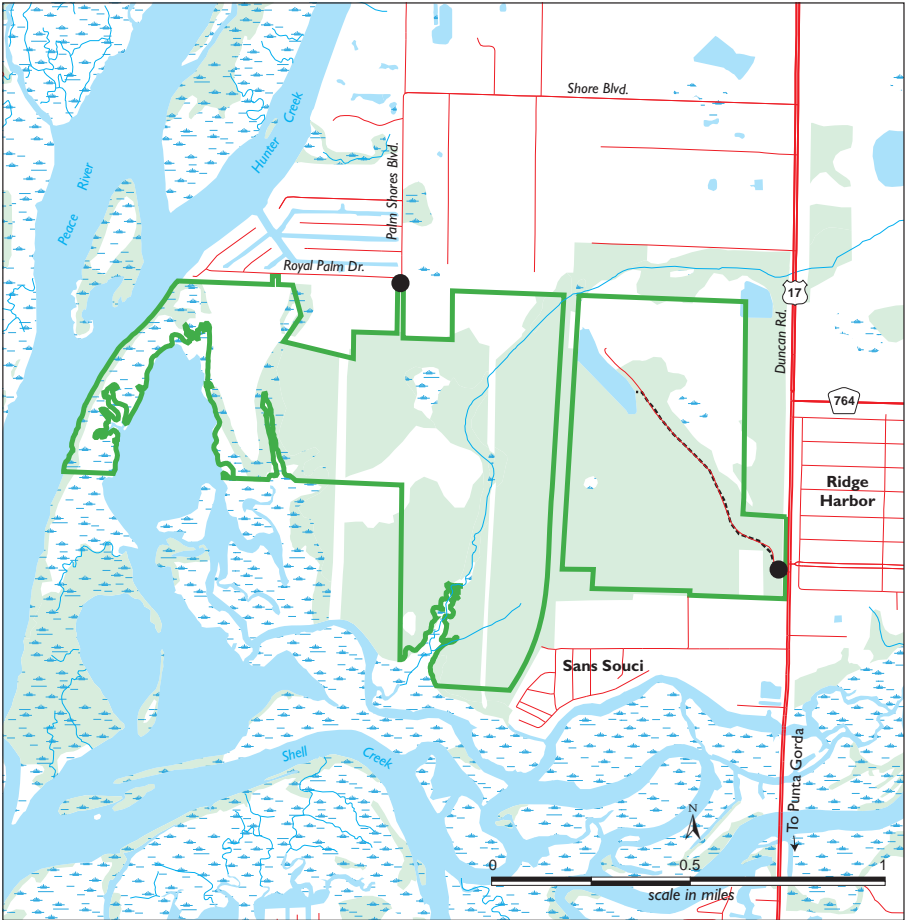
- Several miles of wooded roads available.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Deep Creek Preserve
- RV Griffin Reserve

For More Information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470



Prairie/Shell Creek

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp

walk-thru



General Location

RV Griffin Reserve

8910 Kings Highway
Arcadia, FL 35842

Size

6,000 acres

Location

Southwest DeSoto County, east of North Port

About the Property

Public water supply facilities, agriculture, wildlife habitat conservation and passive recreation characterize the diversity of the working landscape at the RV Griffin Reserve. The reserve offers vistas of pine flatwoods, freshwater marshes, wet prairies and glimpses of forested wetlands and oak hammocks. Much of the flatwoods have a sparse overstory of pines and resembles Florida dry prairie, one of North America's most imperiled ecosystems. The property is managed by the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (PRMRWSA).

The reserve was named in memory of DeSoto County Commissioner RV Griffin. The District purchased the property in 1992 to help meet future water supply needs of Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties. The PRMRWSA operates water supply facilities that were originally built by the developer in anticipation of its planned communities.

During the dry season, the amount of water flowing down the Peace River declines and is unable to supply all the water needed by the public. During times of high flow, river water is diverted for storage. Raw river water is held in a reservoir located on PRMRWSA property within the reserve. Pipes connect the reservoir to a treatment plant on neighboring land. For additional storage, treated water is injected into underground wells of the aquifer storage and recovery system.

Limited Access Areas

- 2,485-acre preserve area at the southwestern side of the property is open only for hiking, equestrian use and biking.
- Both onsite reservoirs are closed to public access and use.

Access and Parking

- From I-75, take Exit 170 at Kings Highway (CR 769). Drive north 5 miles; entrance on left.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

Portable toilet; no water available.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- 21 miles of multiuse trails.
- Use only marked trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Equestrian Use

- 21 miles of multiuse trails.
- Riders are required to stay on marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Hiking

- 21 miles of multiuse trails
- Prepare for wet hiking; some trails are excessively wet during certain times of year.

Picnic Facilities

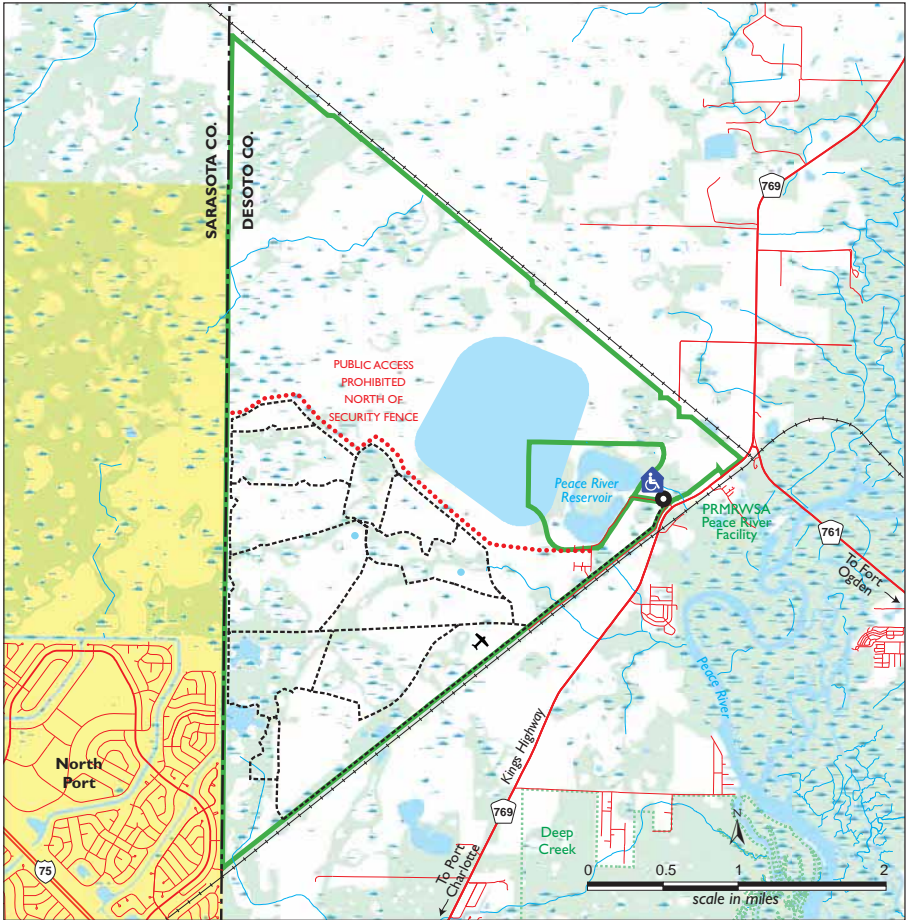
- Limited picnic facilities in parking lot.

Nearby Recreation Lands

Deep Creek Preserve

For More Information

PRMRWSA Water Treatment Facility,
(863) 993-4565



RV Griffin Reserve

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- city boundary

- access point & parking
- ADA accessible toilet
- model airplane flying field
(For info, go to www.csms-rc.org)



Sawgrass Lake Park

7400 25th Street N.

St. Petersburg, FL 33702

Size

333 acres

Location

Central Pinellas County in Pinellas Park

About the Property

Sawgrass Lake Park was designed for people interested in observing and learning about nature. The Sawgrass Lake project began in 1972 to provide flood protection to the city of Pinellas Park. A water-control structure was built to facilitate drainage canal improvements and to maintain desirable water level fluctuations in Sawgrass Lake and the surrounding swamp. The District retains responsibility for operating the water-control structure. The lake and swamp system also provide natural water treatment to enhance the quality of water draining to Tampa Bay.

The main emphasis at the park is environmental awareness and education. In 1976, the District, Pinellas County and the Pinellas County School Board cooperatively agreed to establish a county park and an environmental education center on the property. Environmental education for grades K–5 is offered to local students. Programs for grades 6–12 are available upon request. The John Anderson Environmental Education Center houses a laboratory, classroom and display facilities.

Access and Parking

- From 62nd Avenue, head north on 25th Street; park entrance at end of road.
- Vehicles allowed on paved entranceway into park.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

Daily from 7 a.m. until sunset.

Restrooms, Water and Other Amenities

- Restrooms and water inside environmental education center.
- Pay telephone and bike rack outside center.

Dogs

- Allowed in park, but not on boardwalk or in nature center.
- Dogs must be on leash no more than six feet in length.
- Owners are requested to pick up after dogs.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling and Inline Skating

- Allowed on paved park road.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Bird Watching

- Site 94 on western section of Great Florida Birding Trail.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for more information.

Hiking

- More than a mile of elevated boardwalk winds through a red maple swamp. An overlook tower provides panoramic view of Sawgrass Lake.
- Hammock Trail — 0.5-mile natural-surface trail.
- Paved park entrance road.

Picnic Facilities

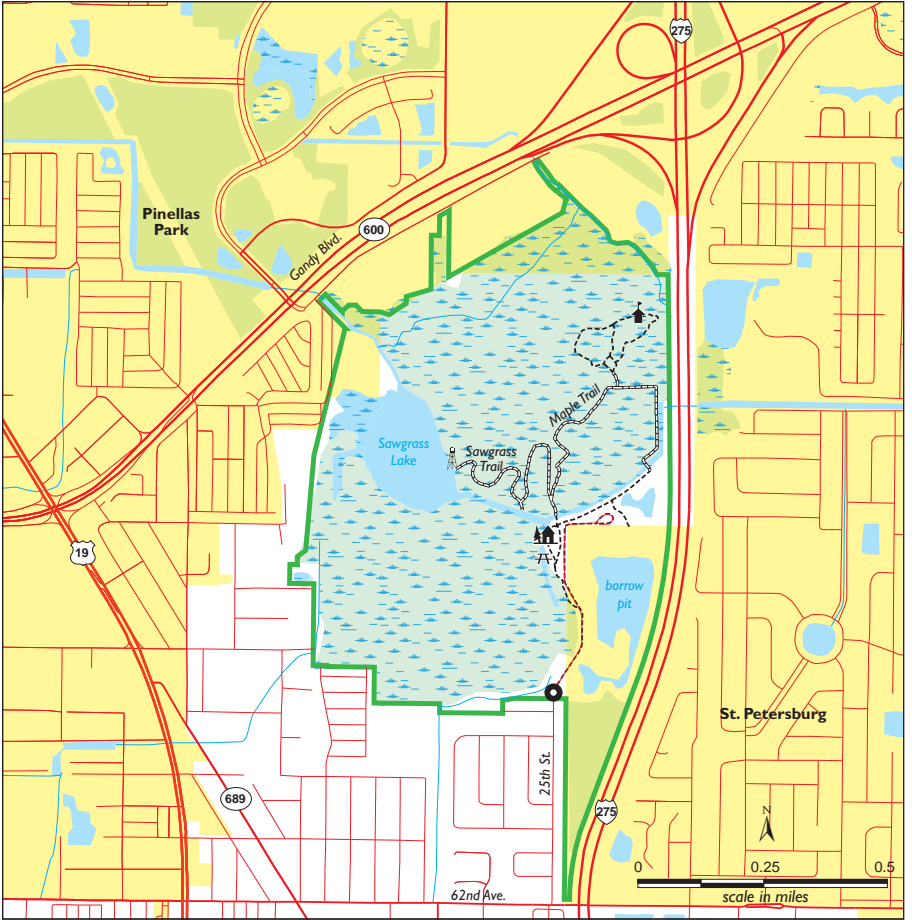
- Some picnic tables and large shelter available on first-come, first-served basis.

Nearby Recreation Lands

Weedon Island Preserve

For More Information

Sawgrass Lake Park, (727) 217-7256



Sawgrass Lake Park

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- city boundary

- access point & parking
- picnic shelter
- overlook tower
- outdoor classroom
- environmental education center & park office
- boardwalk



General Location

Starkey Wilderness Preserve

The Starkey Wilderness Preserve is one of the largest undeveloped tracts in Pasco County and protects sensitive environmental areas in the fast-growing western portion of Pasco County. The preserve consists of three tracts:

- Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park
- Serenova Tract
- Anclote River Ranch Tract

On the following pages, see individual property descriptions for the Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park and Serenova Tract.

Size

18,000 acres

Location

Western Pasco County, east of New Port Richey

About the Property

The preserve is the culmination of foresight and cooperative spirit of individuals and governmental agencies working to carry forth "one man's dream." The park is named after Jay B. Starkey, Sr., who purchased the land in 1937 and then developed a cattle ranch and timber operation. In 1975, Mr. Starkey donated several hundred acres to the District, initiating the concept of permanently protecting the land and its resources for future generations.

The Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park is a regional park managed by Pasco County that features a paved trail that connects to the 42-mile Suncoast Trail; picnic shelters; hiking, biking and equestrian trails; a primitive campground; and camping cabins.

The Serenova and Anclote River Ranch tracts are managed by the District for passive nature-based outdoor recreation activities. These tracts have limited amenities and provide visitors a more rustic outdoor experience.

The Serenova Tract is a favorite for horseback riding with trails that wind through all major natural communities on the preserve. Equestrian/group and primitive camping are also available at Serenova.

The Anclote River Ranch Tract can be accessed from the hiking trails in Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park and provides visitors the opportunity to experience the natural beauty of the preserve with little sign of human presence. No trails are marked on the Anclote River Ranch Tract, but visitors can hike on the existing unmarked trails and roads.

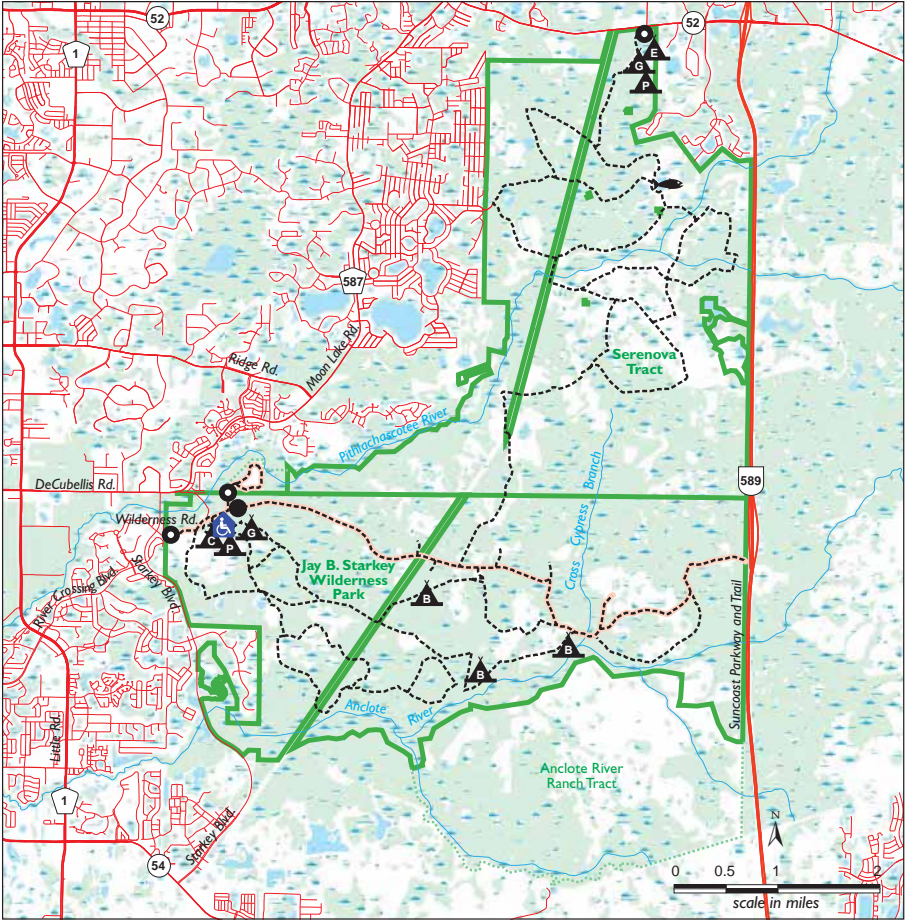
The prominent natural communities within the preserve are pine flatwoods, cypress domes, freshwater marshes, stream and lake swamps, sandhill and scrub. The 2,300 acres of wetland communities in Serenova combine with the wetlands in the Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park to form a connected 6,000-acre wetland ecosystem spread throughout approximately 18,000 acres of conservation lands. Public acquisition of these lands has maintained this large wetland system as a functioning intact ecosystem. This vast network of scattered wetlands become interconnected during periods of high water levels and serves as a vital life cycle linkage for many wetland-dependent species.

Like many District properties, the preserve serves as a natural buffer for one of the region's main freshwater resources, the Pithlachascotee River. The lands protect water quality by acting as a natural filter of surface water as it flows across the landscape into the Pithlachascotee River and its main tributary, the Anclote River. The Preserve also serves as a recharge area for a regional well field operated by Tampa Bay Water that is an essential component of the multi-county water supply system that supplies drinking water to the greater Tampa Bay area.

Another less visible benefit of these lands is the vital link they play in assuring that the Gulf of Mexico receives the clean fresh water that is needed to maintain the long-term health of the coastal estuaries. Without a source of clean fresh water, the estuaries could not serve as the vital link in the life cycle of numerous species of birds; aquatic plants, such as seagrass; and popular fish species, such as redfish, sea trout and mullet.

Nearby Recreation Lands

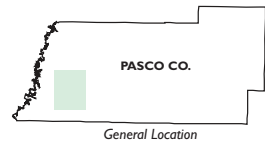
- Suncoast Trail
- Conner Preserve



Starkey Wilderness Preserve

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| | highway, major road | | walk-thru |
| | minor road | | access point & parking |
| | paved trail | | cabin camping |
| | designated trail | | group camping |
| | property boundary (SWFWMD) | | primitive camping |
| | other public lands | | backcountry camping |
| | county line | | ADA accessible fishing pier |
| | river, stream | | ADA accessible toilet |
| | lake, pond | | |
| | forest | | |
| | wetland/swamp | | |



Starkey Wilderness Preserve

Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park

(See *Starkey Wilderness Preserve* for overall information.)

10500 Wilderness Park Boulevard
New Port Richey, FL 34655

Size

8,000 acres

Location

Western Pasco County, east of New Port Richey

Access and Parking

- From SR 54, go north on Little Road (CR 1) 2.2 miles, right on River Crossing Boulevard for 1.3 miles, left on Starkey Boulevard for 0.3 miles, then right on Wilderness Road into park. From SR 52, go south on Moon Lake Road (CR 587) 6.8 miles, left on DeCubellis Road 0.3 miles, left on Starkey Boulevard, then left on Wilderness Road into park.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

Daily from 6 a.m. to sunset.

Dogs

- Allowed only in day-use area.
- Dogs must be on leash no more than six feet in length.
- Owners are requested to pick up after dogs.

Restrooms and Water

Four restrooms and water fountains; ADA accessible.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling and Inline Skating

- Park connects to 42-mile paved Suncoast Trail via the 6.7-mile paved trail.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.
- Riders must stay on marked trails.

Bird Watching

- Site 73 on western section of Great Florida Birding Trail, developed by local chapter of Audubon Society. Nearly 150 species of birds have been identified in park.
- Contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for more information.

Camping

- Separate primitive camping areas available for individual and equestrian camping.
- Backcountry camping available.
- Campsites for cars and primitive cabins available.
- Groups can reserve tent site or cabins up to 90 days in advance.
- Reservation and fee are required and can be made up to 30 days in advance.

Equestrian Use

- 10 miles of marked equestrian trails.
- Corral and watering trough located in equestrian parking/staging area.
- Equestrian camping allowed at some campsites. Supplies and provisions must be packed in.
- Riders are required to stay on marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Fishing

- Limited freshwater fishing available along Anclote and Pithlachascotee rivers.
- Contact FWC for license requirements.

Hiking

- 27 miles of marked trails.
- 3 primitive campsites off trails with picnic tables, grills and fire rings.
- 6.7-mile paved trail.

Park Facilities

- Large playground, volleyball courts, athletic field.
- Fire pits for bonfires.

Picnic Facilities

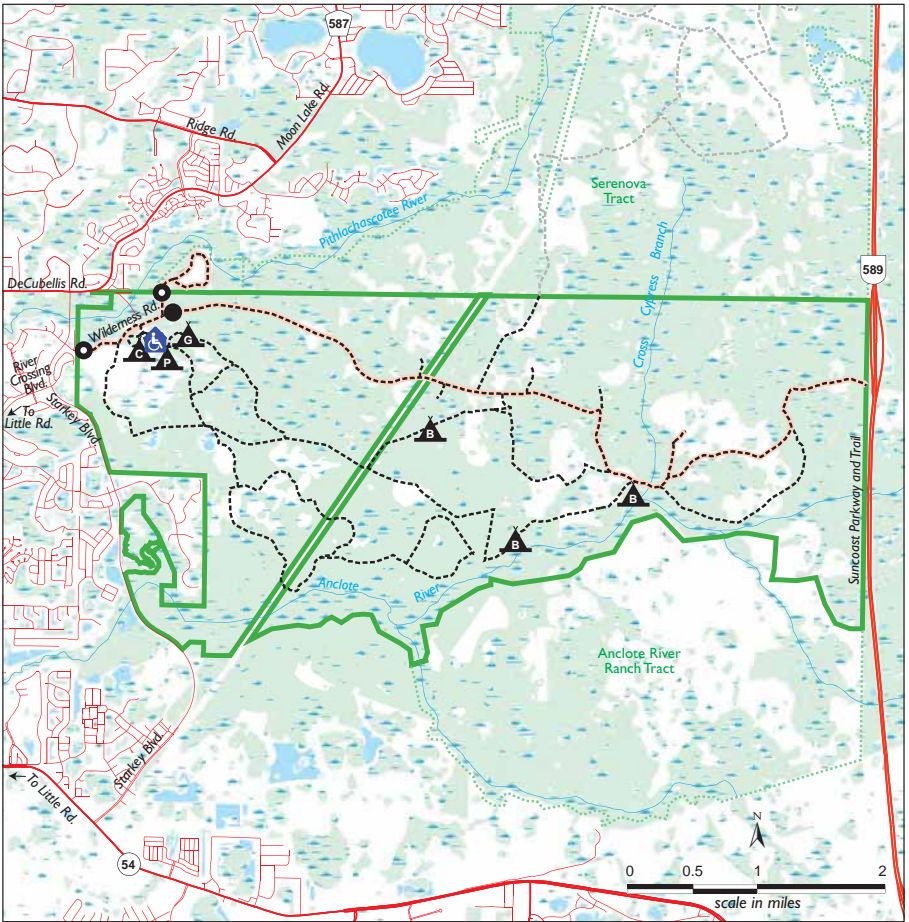
- 5 picnic shelters with grills. Each shelter seats up to 50 people. Rental fee.
- 2 large fee-rental pavilions seat up to 100 each and have large grill, running water and electricity.
- Reservations can be made up to 30 days in advance.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Conner Preserve
- Starkey Wilderness Preserve — Serenova Tract
- Suncoast Trail

For More Information

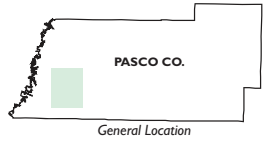
- Tent and cabin reservations: Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park, (727) 834-3247
- Shelter and pavilion reservations, (727) 934-4198
- Pasco County Parks & Recreation Department, (813) 929-2760



Starkey Wilderness Preserve Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|------------------------|
| | highway, major road | | walk-thru |
| | minor road | | access point & parking |
| | paved trail | | cabin camping |
| | designated trail | | group camping |
| | property boundary (SWFWMD) | | primitive camping |
| | other public lands | | backcountry camping |
| | county line | | ADA accessible toilet |
| | river, stream | | |
| | lake, pond | | |
| | forest | | |
| | wetland/swamp | | |



Starkey Wilderness Preserve Serenova Tract

(See Starkey Wilderness Preserve for overall information.)

14900 SR 52

Land O' Lakes, FL 34638

Size

6,533 acres

Location

Western Pasco County, east of New Port Richey

Access and Parking

- Entrance in central Pasco County off SR 52 just west of Suncoast Parkway across from Hayes Road. Entrance on south side of road.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

Vault toilet and nonpotable water near the equestrian, group and primitive campgrounds.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- 18 miles of multiuse trails available.
- Use only marked trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Camping

- Equestrian, group and primitive campsites.
- Sites have picnic tables, fire rings and/or grills.
- A free reservation is required and must be displayed on dashboard at campground.

Equestrian Use

- 18-mile multiuse trail available.
- Riders are required to stay on marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Horse-drawn buggy riding only on marked trails; requires a free reservation.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Fishing

- Fishing opportunities in various lakes.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for license requirements.

Hiking

- 18 miles of multiuse trails.
- Prepare for wet hiking; some trails are excessively wet during certain times of year.

Picnic Facilities

- Picnic tables available at campgrounds.

Nearby Recreation Lands

Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park

For More Information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470

Tampa Bypass Canal

(See each site listed below for specific address.)

Size

14-mile corridor

Location

East Tampa

About the Property

The Tampa Bypass Canal (TBC) is a 14-mile waterway that connects the Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve with McKay Bay. The canal provides flood protection for the cities of Temple Terrace and Tampa by diverting floodwaters from the Hillsborough River. The canal is also a water supply source for the city of Tampa.

Limited Access Areas

- No swimming allowed and no trespassing within barriers or fenced areas around water-control structures.
- For your safety, observe all restricted areas.

Access and Parking

- Various public access points as shown on map.
- Paved parking available at Veterans Memorial Park and Harney Canal Park.
- Parking at other access points are off the road or on grass. Do not block gates.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

Available at some developed park sites but not along canal.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling and Inline Skating

- Allowed on canal bank and 0.75-mile paved trail at Veterans Memorial Park.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Bird Watching

- Site 98 on western section of Great Florida Birding Trail.
- Contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for more information.

Boating and Paddling

- Boating fee.
- North of SR 60 (fresh water): Boating access from Harney Canal Park off US 301. Motors up to 10 HP allowed. This portion is a no-wake zone.
- South of SR 60 (salt water): Powerboating allowed with no restrictions. Access from McKay Bay or private ramps.

Fishing

- Bank fishing from public access points and parks along canal.
- Contact FWC for license requirements.

Hiking

- Along grassy canal bank from designated access points.

Tampa Bypass/Harney Canal Park — 12 acres 7171 North US 301 • (813) 989-7180

- Facilities include boat ramp, parking, fishing pier, portable toilets and picnic tables.
- Fishing pier and portable toilets universally accessible.
- Operated by Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department.

Temple Terrace Youth Sports Complex — 22 acres 10369 US 301 • (813) 989-7180

- Baseball and soccer complex open primarily for scheduled activities.
- Restrooms and water fountains universally accessible.
- Operated by Temple Terrace.

Veterans Memorial Park and Museum — 16 acres 36002 US 301 • (813) 744-5502

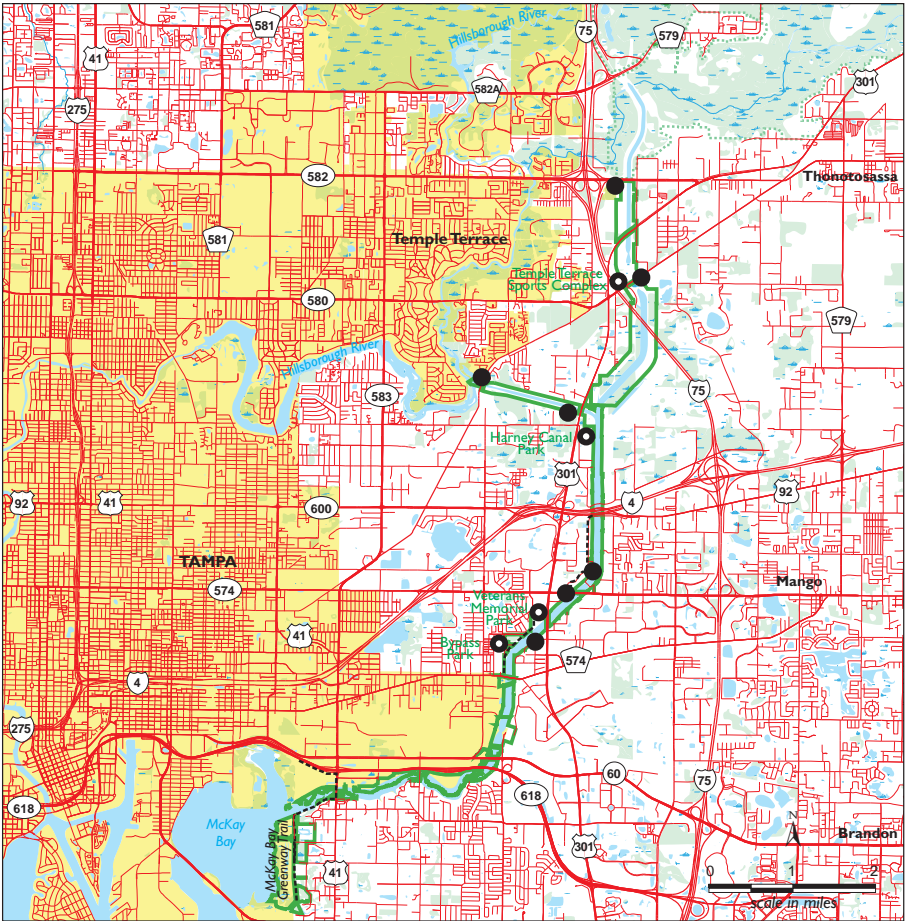
- Open daily and on weekends. Call for more information.
- Facilities include picnic shelters, tables, grills, restrooms and a 0.75-mile paved trail for walking, bicycling and inline skating.
- ADA access at park.
- Dogs allowed on leash no more than six feet in length.
- Operated by Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Bypass Park
- McKay Bay Bike Trail
- Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve

For More Information

For information about recreation along canal bank, please contact the Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470.



Tampa Bypass Canal

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- - - - - designated trail
- property boundary (SWFWMD)
- - - - - other public lands
- - - - - county line
- ~ river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- city boundary
- walk-thru
- access point & parking



General Location

Terra Ceia Preserve Frog Creek

2519 85th Street East
Palmetto, FL 34221

Size

128 acres

Location

Northeast Manatee County

About the Property

Prior to the District's acquisition, the upland portions of this property were used for cattle grazing. Former borrow pits used during construction of I-275 formed the four large man-made lakes that occupy the property. The natural areas fall into the mesic temperate hammock type with dominant plant species consisting of live oak, laurel oak and cabbage palms. These areas provide the shade needed by wildlife on open grassy plains. Mesic temperate hammocks are important habitat for wildlife and provide secondary habitat for a number of rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal species.

Access and Parking

Access is available on Rock Payne Road (85th Street East).

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available.

Recreational Opportunities

Fishing

- Bank fishing on lakes.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for license requirements.

Hiking

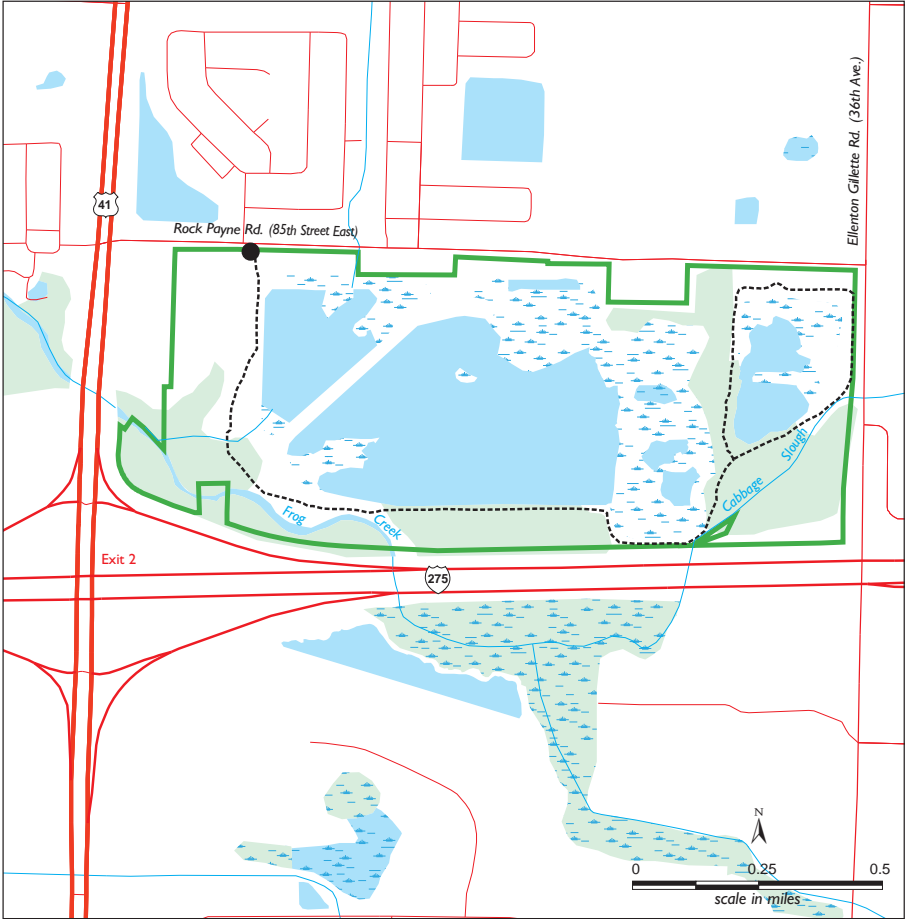
- Hiking is allowed on dirt trails around existing lakes.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Terra Ceia Park
- Emerson Point Park
- Terra Ceia Preserve State Park

For More Information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470



Terra Ceia Preserve Frog Creek

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- walk-thru



Terra Ceia Preserve State Park

130 Terra Ceia Road
Terra Ceia, FL 34250

Size

1,932 acres

Location

Manatee County, north of Palmetto

About the Property

Jointly acquired between the District and the state to protect the water resources of Tampa Bay, the Terra Ceia Preserve State Park is managed by the Florida State Parks system. The lands are mostly uplands of maritime hammocks and mangrove fringe forests. Various wetland communities such as freshwater creeks, freshwater marshes, karst tidal ponds and estuarine marshes are interspersed within the preserve.

Access and Parking

- Primary access point on north side of Bishop Harbor Road. Go north on US 41 or north from I-75 and I-275 interchange to Bishop Harbor Road and then go west.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available.

Recreational Opportunities

Boating and Paddling

- 3-mile Bishop Harbor Blueway trail circles Bishop Harbor and provides access to Manatee County Terra Ceia paddling trail.
- Boat ramp and canoe and kayak launch located on north side of Bishop Harbor Road.

Fishing

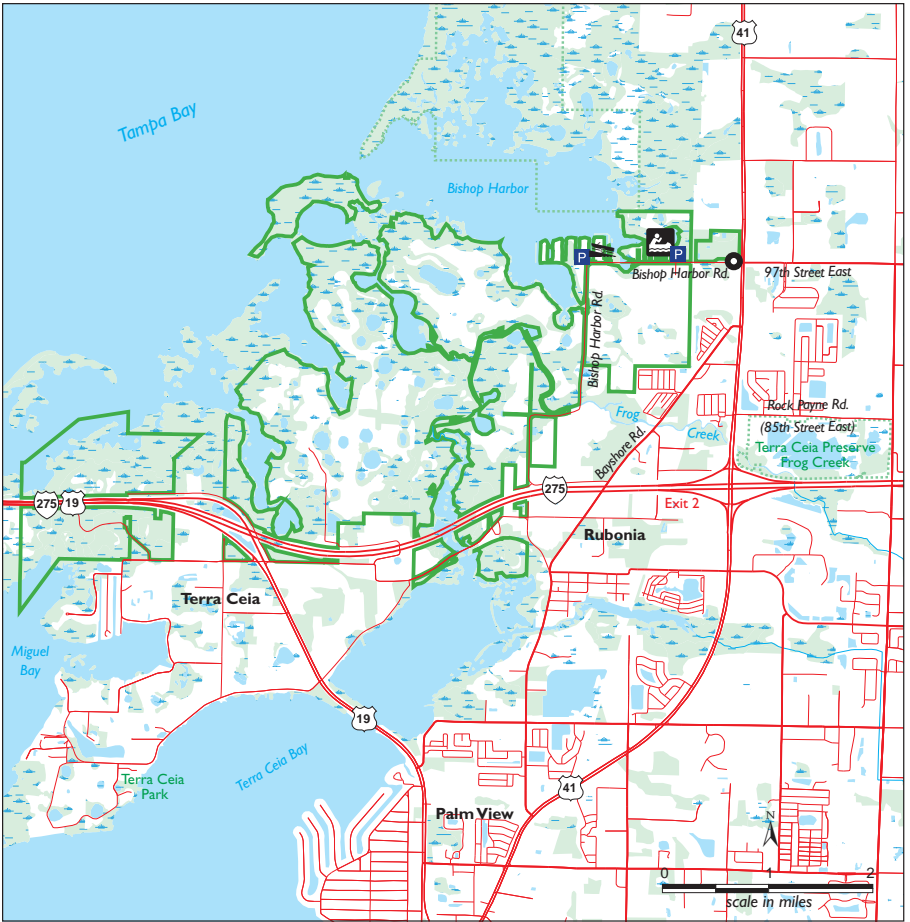
- All water bodies open for fishing, unless posted closed.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for license requirements.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Terra Ceia Park
- Emerson Point Park
- Terra Ceia Preserve Frog Creek

For More Information

Terra Ceia Preserve State Park, (941) 721-2068



Terra Ceia Preserve State Park

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp

- access point
- parking
- canoe launch
- boat ramp



General Location

Withlacoochee State Forest Two Mile Prairie

7160 N. Lecanto Highway
Hernando, FL 34442

Size

2,900 acres

Location

Northern Citrus County, east of Dunnellon

About the Property

This property lies along the southern bank of the Withlacoochee River at the northern end of the Tsala Apopka Lake system. The Withlacoochee River is designated as an Outstanding Florida Water, which makes the river highly suitable for recreation, fishing and wildlife. This location on the river is very attractive to recreation users seeking to experience a serene canoe ride or pleasurable hike along the riverbank.

The property has a variety of natural upland and wetland plant communities. Of particular interest is the mosaic of sandhill and xeric hammock/scrub communities and cypress swamps, which are quality habitat for a variety of wildlife. The large sandhill community on the property is an outstanding native landscape. Johnson Pond is a 24-acre sandhill upland lake in the northeast portion of the property that offers a vista of natural landscapes.

Purchased jointly by the state of Florida and the District, one of the primary purposes for acquisition of the property is its ability to provide significant water recharge and natural flood control. The District completed a hydrologic restoration project that allows excess waters from the Hernando Pool to be moved to storage and recharge areas in the Two Mile Prairie marsh system. Ecosystem benefits include wetland restoration, flood protection and increased groundwater recharge. The Division of Forestry (DOF) manages the property as a part of the Withlacoochee State Forest.

Access and Parking

- Primary access off CR 491 approximately one mile east of US 41. This entrance is for hiking, nature study and horseback riding.
- Two additional access points located off each side of CR 39. Access point on south side of road provides access to trails to Johnson Pond.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

Restrooms and water available at Bear Head Hammock Trailhead.

Recreational Opportunities

Bird Watching

- Site 59 on western section of Great Florida Birding Trail.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for more information.

Camping

- Primitive camp located at Oxbow Trailhead.
- Equestrian camp located at Bear Head Hammock.

Equestrian Use

- 8.3-mile marked trail, part of DOF's Trailtrotter program, located at CR 491 access point.
- Parking area large enough to accommodate horse trailers.
- No water available at access point or along trail.
- Riders are required to stay on marked trails.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Fishing

- Allowed on Withlacoochee River and Johnson Pond.
- Contact FWC for license requirements.

Hiking

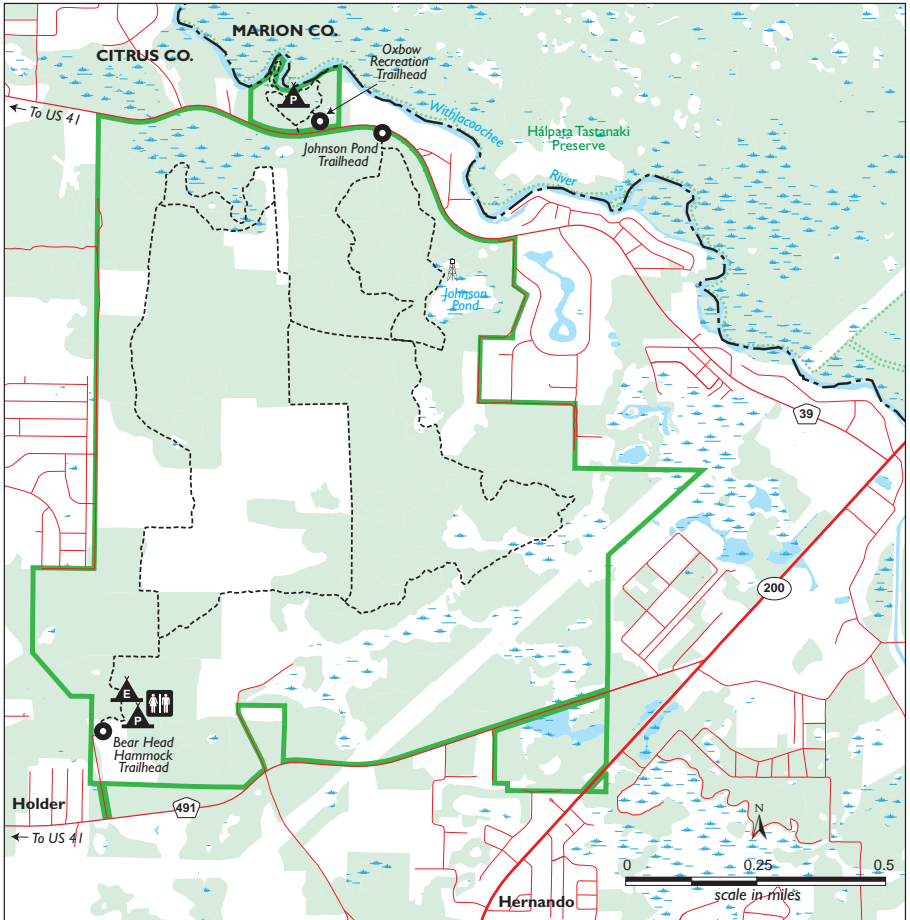
- 2.8 mile marked trail, part of DOF's Trailwalker program, located at access point off CR 491.
- Contact DOF for other possible hiking opportunities.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area
- Half Moon-Gum Slough
- Hálpata Tasthanaki Preserve
- Potts Preserve
- Withlacoochee State Trail

For More Information

Florida Division of Forestry, Withlacoochee State Forest, (352) 754-6896



Two Mile Prairie

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp

- access point & parking
- equestrian camping
- primitive camping
- observation tower
- restrooms



Upper Hillsborough Preserve

(On following pages, see individual property descriptions for Alston and Upper Hillsborough tracts.)

Size

9,961 acres

Location

East of Zephyrhills

About the Property

Protecting the upper reaches of the Hillsborough River, the river's floodplain provides natural storage of floodwaters and acts as a filtration system for runoff. The property also serves as an important link in protecting wildlife habitat in the Hillsborough River greenway corridor. The property's roads and trails meander through pine flatwoods, consisting of both slash and longleaf pine overstory, palmetto/gallberry understory and hydric hammock and floodplain swamp along the river.

Access and Parking

See following individual property descriptions for access information.

Hours of Operation

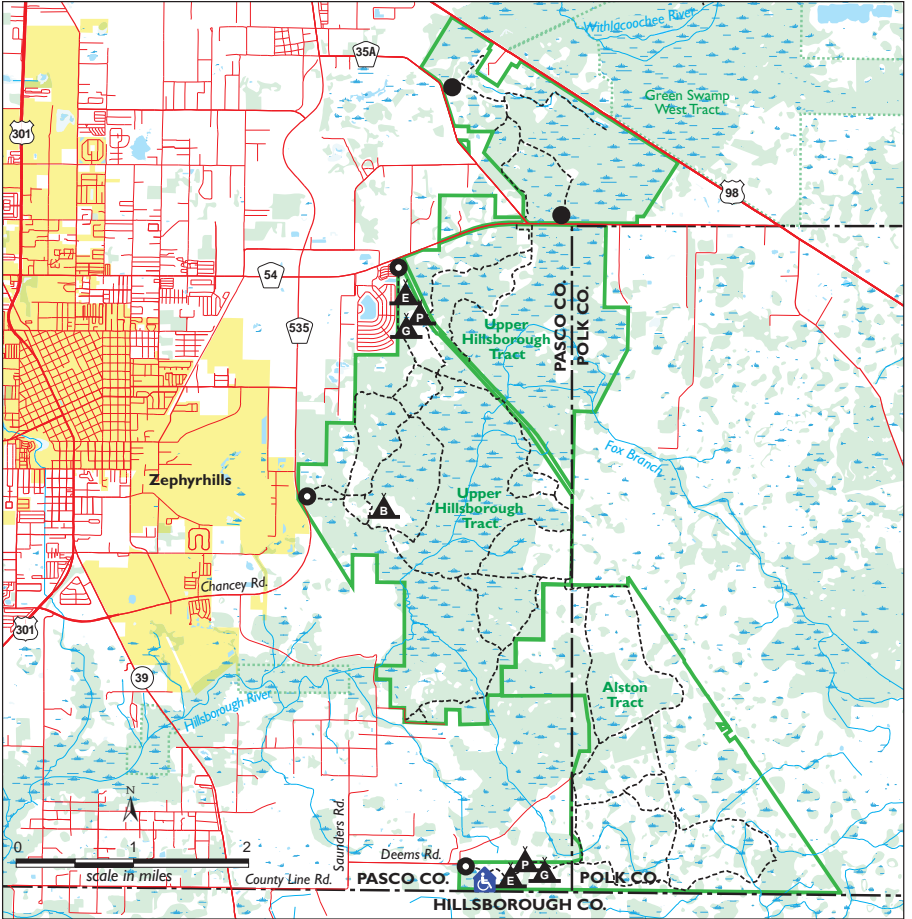
Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve
- Hillsborough County's Blackwater Creek Preserve

For More Information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470

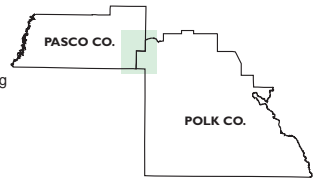


Upper Hillsborough Preserve

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- city boundary

- walk-thru
- access point & parking
- equestrian camping
- group camping
- primitive camping
- backcountry camping
- backcountry camping
- ADA accessible toilet



General Location

Upper Hillsborough Preserve

Alston Tract

42144 Deems Road
Zephyrhills, FL 33540

Size

2,983 acres

Location

East of Zephyrhills

Access and Parking

Primary access point is on Deems Road off SR 39 (via County Line Road and Saunders Road — see Upper Hillsborough Preserve map for detail).

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

Nonpotable water and restrooms available at entrance.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- 12 miles of woods roads marked for multiuse.
- Use only marked trails
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Camping

- Equestrian, group and primitive campsites.
- Sites have picnic tables, fire rings and/or grills.
- A portable toilet and nonpotable water source available.
- A free reservation is required and must be displayed on dashboard at campground.

Equestrian Use

- 12 miles of woods roads marked for multiuse recreation.
- Riders are required to stay on marked trails.
- Horse-drawn buggy riding only on marked trails; requires a free reservation.
- Alston gate open year-round for equestrian use.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Hiking

- 12 miles of multiuse trails.
- Prepare for wet hiking; some trails are excessively wet during certain times of year.

Picnic Facilities

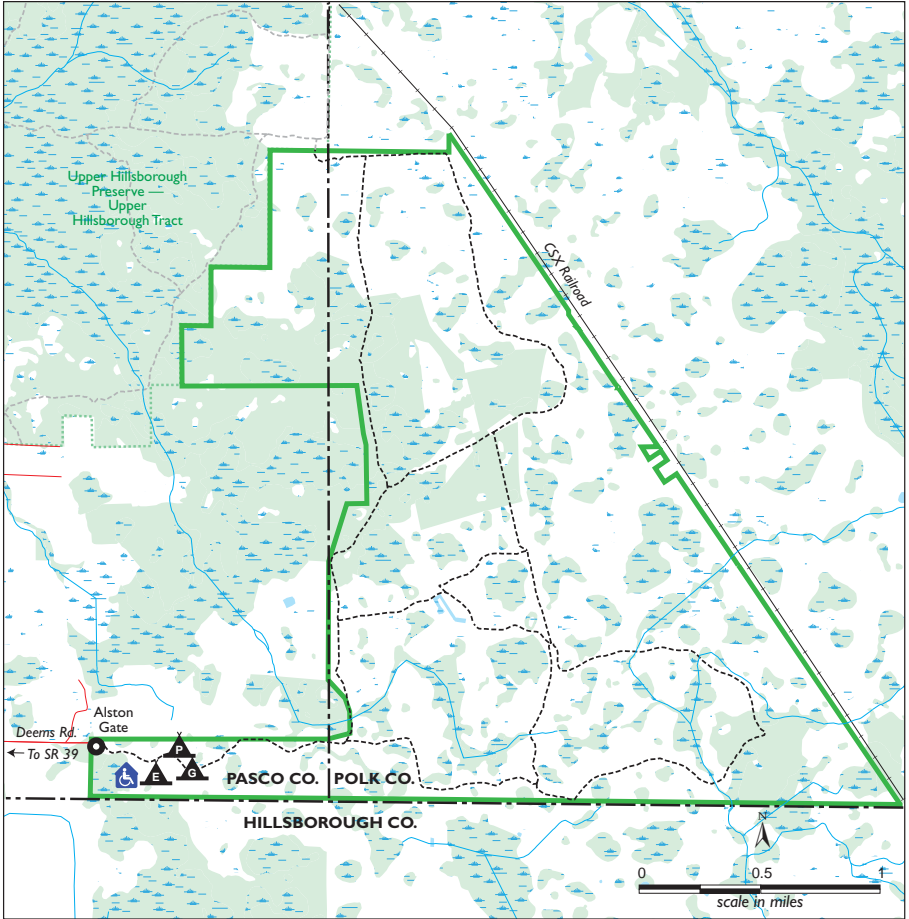
- Large pavilion with picnic tables and grills in day-use area.
- Pavilion may be reserved at no cost for group use by contacting the District.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve
- Hillsborough County's Blackwater Creek Preserve

For More Information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470

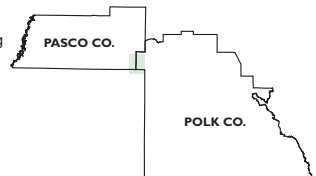


Upper Hillsborough Preserve Alston Tract

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp

- access point & parking
- equestrian camping
- group camping
- primitive camping
- primitive camping
- ADA accessible toilet



General Location

Upper Hillsborough Preserve Upper Hillsborough Tract

41404 CR 54

Zephyrhills, FL 33540

Size

6,978 acres

Location

East of Zephyrhills

Access and Parking

- Primary access point is on CR 54, about 3 miles east of Zephyrhills; equestrian access available.
- Additional access points are located off CR 35A and CR 535.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- 12 miles of woods roads marked for multiuse.
- Use only marked trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Camping

- Equestrian, group, primitive and backcountry camping available.
- No amenities available.
- A free reservation is required and must be displayed on dashboard at campground.

Equestrian Use

- 12 miles of woods roads marked for multiuse recreation.
- Riders are required to stay on marked trails.
- Horse-drawn buggy riding only on marked trails; requires a free reservation.
- Horseback riding allowed year-round on the Alston Tract.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

Fishing

- Fishing and frogging allowed throughout year.
- Access to Hillsborough River by foot only.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for license requirements.

Hiking

- Property north of CR 54 and the Alston Tract are not included in the wildlife management area boundary and are open year-round.
- Florida Trail Association maintains 3.5 miles of hiking trails.
- Orange blaze symbols denote primary trail; blue denotes side trails; double blaze denotes sharp turn.
- For more information, contact the Florida Trail Association at 1-877-445-3352 (in FL) or (352) 378-8823.
- Additional 24 miles of interior roads available.
- No bridges at Hillsborough River crossings. May be seasonally wet or flooded.

Hunting

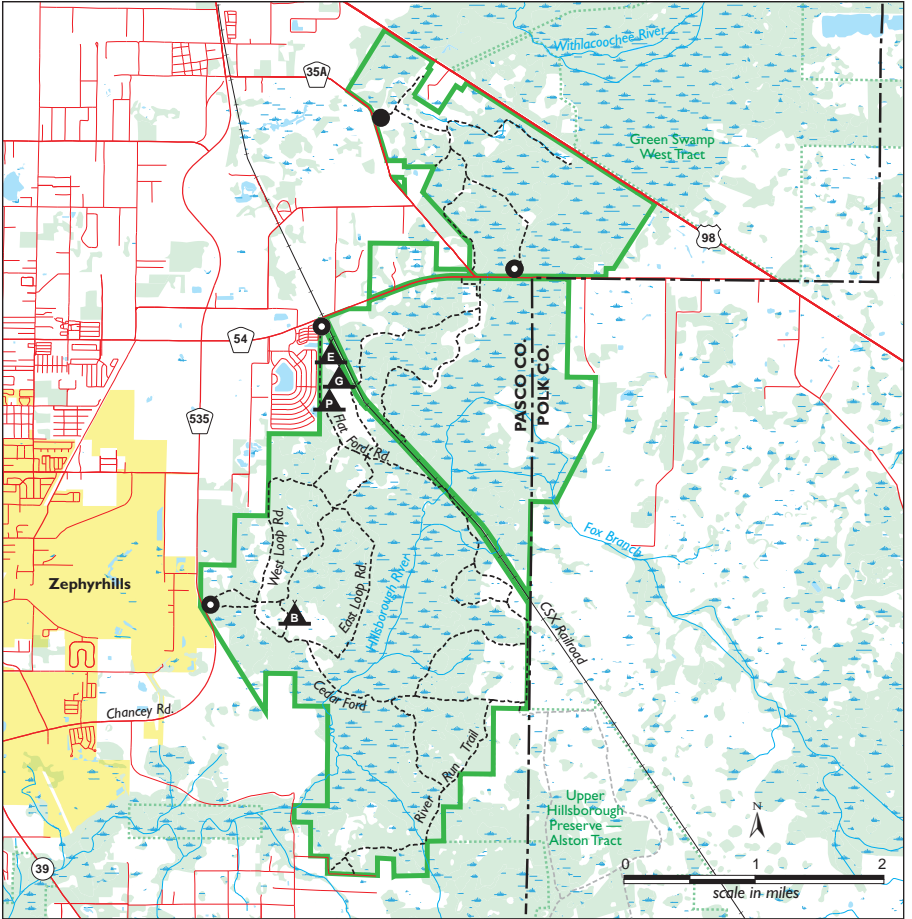
- FWC rules and regulations must be observed throughout the year.
- Contact FWC for information regarding license requirements and permits.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve
- Hillsborough County's Blackwater Creek Preserve

For More Information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470

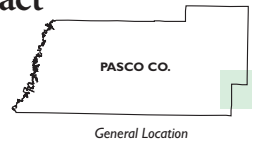


Upper Hillsborough Preserve Upper Hillsborough Tract

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- - - - - designated trail
- property boundary
- ⋯ other public lands
- - - - - county line
- ~ river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- city boundary

- walk-thru
- access point & parking
- ▲_E equestrian camping
- ▲_G group camping
- ▲_P primitive camping
- ▲_B backcountry camping



Weekiwachee Preserve

2345 Osowaw Boulevard
Spring Hill, FL 34607

Size

11,206 acres

Location

Hernando County coast, west of Weeki Wachee

About the Property

The Weekiwachee Preserve is part of a regional system of conservation lands that extend up to Crystal River Buffer Preserve, preserving the southernmost coastal hardwood hammock in western Florida. The preserve provides a rich mosaic of habitats including several miles of Weeki Wachee River frontage, portions of the Mud River, dense hardwood swamps, freshwater and saltwater marshes, and pine-covered sandhills. The preserve is best known for its Florida black bear population. The bears are shy, elusive and pose no threat to people, spending most of their time deep in the forest.

In 2001, the District purchased the property surrounding the first-magnitude Weeki Wachee Spring from the city of St. Petersburg. The acquisition was in support of former Governor Bush's "Springs Initiative," under which strategies were established for the protection and restoration of Florida's springs, including placing them in public ownership. On November 1, 2008, the District entered into a lease agreement with the Florida Parks Service for their management of the property as a state park.

Public ownership protects the wetlands' natural functions of conveying spring water to the gulf, cleansing surface water and providing flood protection, as well as buffering nearby residential communities from tropical storms.

Research/Limited Access Area

This area has been reopened to visitors. Boats are not allowed on the lakes in this area, but bank fishing is permitted. Visitors are asked to take special care in this sensitive area as it has become a significant bird roosting site. Hundreds of wading birds roost here every night and some nesting activity has been observed.

Access and Parking

- Enter on foot or bicycle from Shoal Line or Osowaw Boulevard main entrance.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

- Daily from sunrise to sunset.
- On second and fourth Saturday of each month, visitors may drive into preserve through the Osowaw Boulevard entrance and park at end of paved road.

Restrooms and Water

ADA accessible toilet available.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling

- 5.5 miles of bicycling on dirt lanes and paved road.
- 1.3-mile paved road adjoining the Osowaw Boulevard entrance.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Bird Watching

- Site 69 on west section of Great Florida Birding Trail.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for more information.

Boating and Paddling

- Lakes open to hand-launched boats, canoes and kayaks.
- Electric trolling motors allowed.
- Gas-powered outboards not allowed.
- Use caution launching boats — banks can be unstable. Do not back vehicles or trailers onto bank.
- Boats must be carried to the lake — there is no boat ramp.

Fishing

- Numerous lakes inhabited by both freshwater and saltwater species. Caution: banks can be unstable.
- Contact FWC for license requirements.

Hiking

- 5.5-mile unpaved trail and paved road.
- 4.3 miles of marked, scenic woods roads.

Picnic Facilities

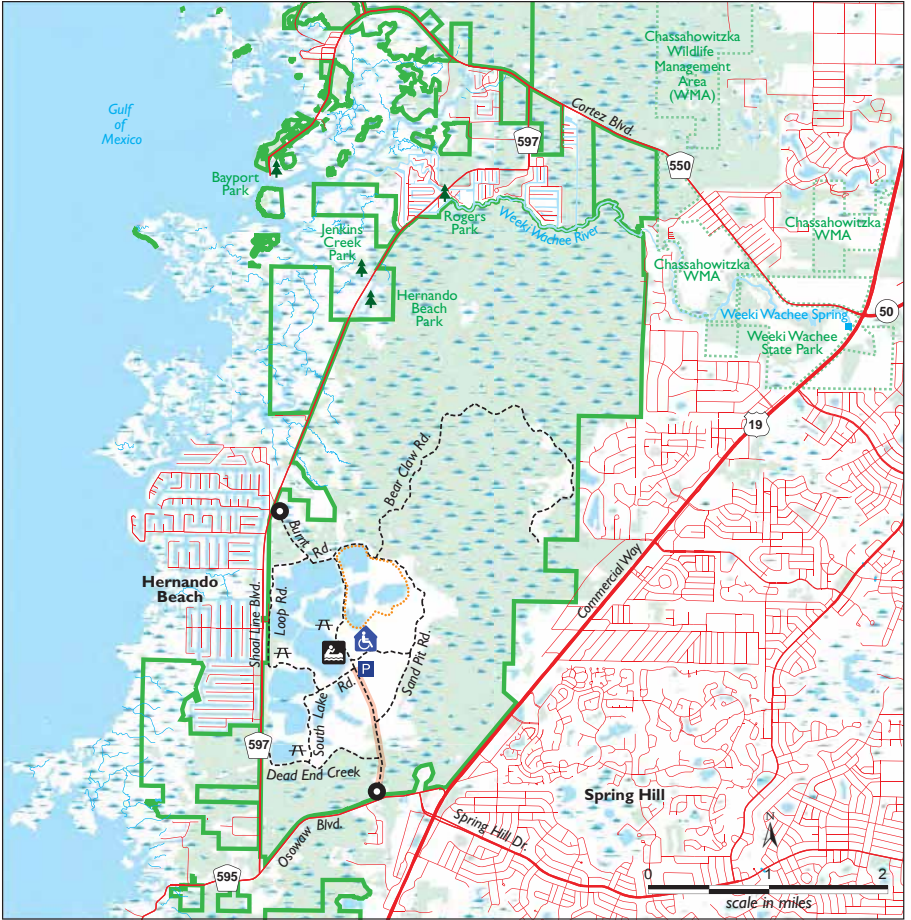
- Limited picnic facilities in park.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge
- Chassahowitzka River and Coastal Swamps
- Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area
- Crystal River Buffer Preserve

For More Information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470



Weekiwachee Preserve

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- paved trail
- designated trail
- property boundary
- other public lands
- ~ river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- city boundary
- access point & parking
- P parking
- small boat launch
- ⛱ picnic shelter
- county park
- ♿ ADA accessible toilet
- research/limited access area



General Location

Withlacoochee River Park

12449 Withlacoochee Boulevard
Dade City, FL 33525

Size

260 acres

Location

Pasco County, east of Dade City

About the Property

Pasco County operates this regional park near the Withlacoochee River. The District provides the county with the use of 146 acres of the Green Swamp – West Tract to accommodate riverfront access for the canoe launch, dock and 1.5 miles of hiking trails.

The Withlacoochee River Park offers visitors access to a wild and scenic portion of the river and a mosaic of habitat communities, from high sandhills to low riverine swamp.

Access and Parking

- From US 301 follow River Road east 5 miles. Follow pavement onto Auton Road. Park entrance 0.25 miles on left.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

Three restrooms, a compost toilet and drinking fountains available.

Dogs

- Dogs must be on a leash no more than six feet in length.
- Owners are requested to pick up after dog.

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling and Inline Skating

- Paved park road.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

Bird Watching

- Site 63 on western section of Great Florida Birding Trail.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for more information.

Camping

- Primitive campsites available in various locations around park; contact the Withlacoochee River Park for more information.
- Free permit required to camp. Obtain from park office.

Fishing

- Fishing pier located adjacent to canoe launch.
- Contact FWC for license requirements.

Hiking

- 5.2 miles of trail developed and maintained by Florida Trail Association. Orange blaze symbols denote primary trail. Blue blaze symbols denote side trails. Double blazes denote a sharp turn in trail.
- For more information, contact Florida Trail Association at 1-877-445-3352 (FL only) or (352) 378-8823.
- Several additional miles of perimeter trails open for hiking.

Paddling

Canoe launch (100-foot carry from parking area).

Park Facilities

- Park has playgrounds, 40-foot observation tower, boardwalks, recreation field and reconstructed 19th century fort.
- Authentic Native American villages constructed by Native American volunteers.
- ADA access and facilities available.

Picnic Facilities

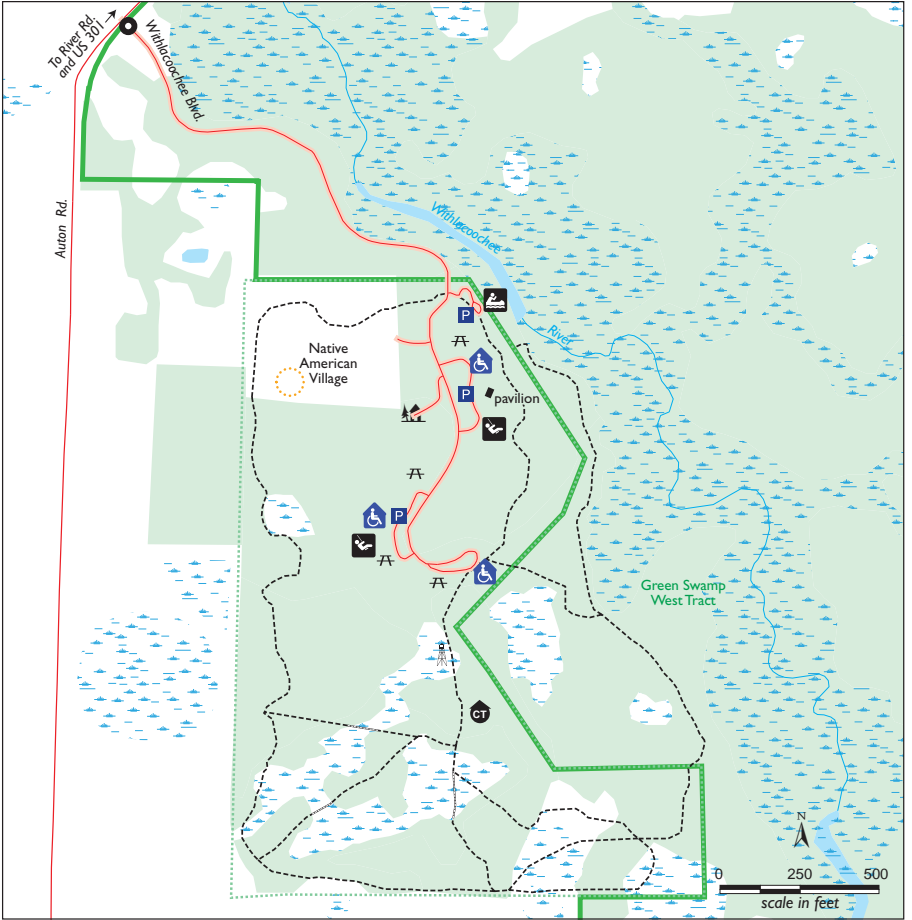
- Picnic shelters and large pavilion available.
- Reservations for southern shelter or pavilion made through park office.
- Other shelters available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Nearby Recreation Lands

Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve

For More Information

- Withlacoochee River Park, (352) 567-0264.
- East Pasco Parks and Recreation Department, (352) 521-4182
- Pasco County Parks and Recreation Department, (813) 929-1260

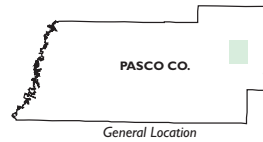


Withlacoochee River Park

Legend

- highway, major road
- minor road
- paved park road
- designated trail
- SWFWMD property boundary
- park boundary
- county line
- river, stream
- lake, pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp

- access point
- parking area
- picnic shelter
- canoe launch
- observation deck
- playground
- ADA accessible toilet
- county ranger
- compost toilet
- primitive camping



(telephone Withlacoochee River Park, 352-567-0264)

Wysong Park

4790 NW 46th Road

Lake Panasoffkee, FL 33538

Size

5 acres

Location

Northwest Sumter County

About the Property

This property is situated on the Withlacoochee River and is the site of the Wysong-Coogler Dam.

Limited Access Areas

Please observe restricted areas, including the old dam house.

Access and Parking

Park entrance off CR 300 in Carlson.

Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available.

Recreational Opportunities

Boating and Paddling

- Single-lane boat ramp and docking area built and maintained by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

Fishing

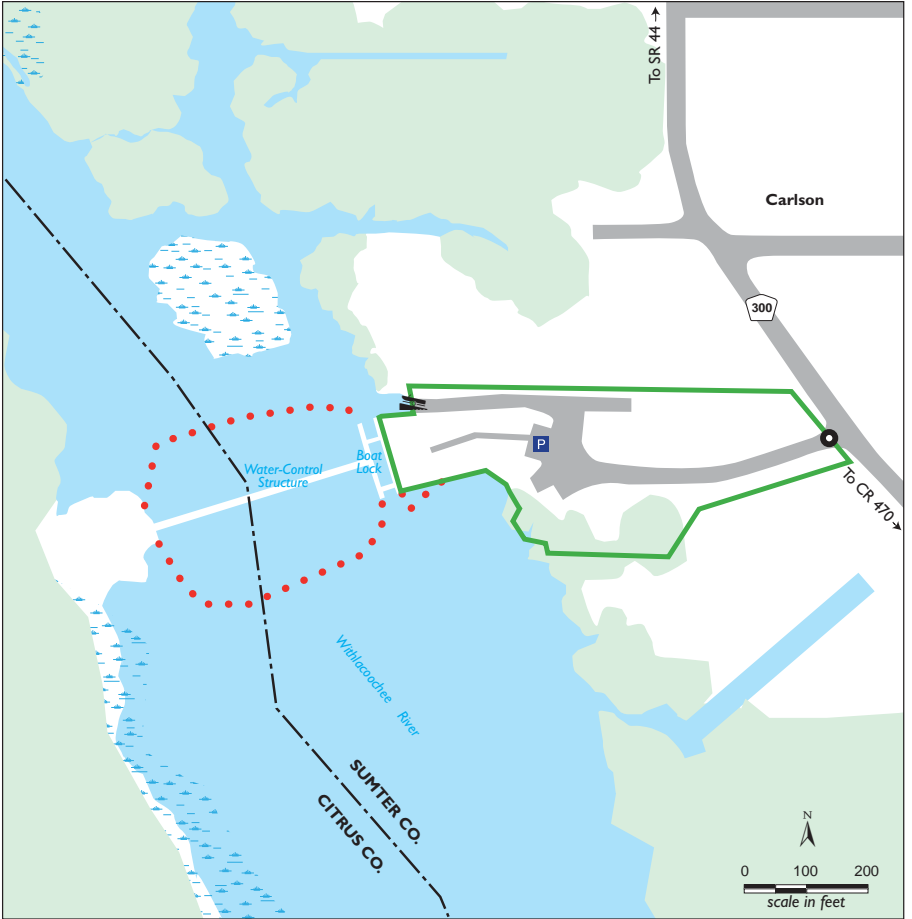
- Riverbank fishing.
- Contact FWC for license requirements.

Nearby Recreation Lands

- Flying Eagle Preserve
- Lake Panasoffkee
- Potts Preserve

For More Information

Land Resources Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470



Wysong Park

Legend

- minor roads
- property boundary
- county line
- river
- forest
- wetland/swamps
- navigation barrier

- access
- parking
- boat ramp



General Location

RECREATION AT A GLANCE

Match the
Map Reference
numbers in this
at-a-glance table
to locate
recreation areas
on the District map
(last page).

Map Reference	Recreation Area	Page	County(ies)
1	Alafia River Corridor	20	Hillsborough
2	Alafia River Reserve	22	Polk
3	Annettella Hammock	24	Hernando
4	Brooker Creek Headwaters Nature Preserve	26	Hillsborough
5	Brooker Creek Preserve	28	Pinellas
6	Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park	30	Charlotte
7	Chassahowitzka River and Coastal Swamps	32	Citrus
8	Chito Branch Reserve	34	Hillsborough
9	Circle B Bar Reserve	36	Polk
10	Cliff Stephens Park	38	Pinellas
11	Conner Preserve	40	Pasco
12	Cypress Creek Preserve	42	Pasco
13	Deep Creek Preserve	44	DeSoto
14	Edward Medard Park and Reservoir	46	Hillsborough
15	Edward W. Chance Reserve — Coker Prairie Tract	48	Manatee
16	Edward W. Chance Reserve — Gilley Creek Tract Flying Eagle	50	Manatee Citrus
17	Flying Eagle Preserve	52	Citrus
18	McGregor Smith Scout Reservation	54	Citrus
19	Withlapopka Community Park	56	Citrus
	Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve	58	Pasco/Sumter/Lake/Polk
20	Colt Creek State Park	60	Polk
21	East Tract	62	Sumter/Lake/Polk
22	Hampton Tract	64	Polk
23	Little Withlacoochee Tract (Withlacoochee State Forest)	66	Lake
24	West Tract	68	Pasco
25	Half Moon-Gum Slough	70	Sumter
26	Hálpata Tastanaki Preserve	72	Marion
27	Jack Creek	74	Highlands
28	Lake Marion Creek Horseshoe Scrub Tract	76	Polk
29	Lake Panasoffkee	78	Sumter
30	Lake Tarpon Outfall Canal	80	Pinellas
31	Little Manatee River Lower Tract	82	Hillsborough
32	Little Manatee River Southfork Tract	84	Manatee
33	Little Manatee River Upper Tract	86	Hillsborough
34	Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve	88	Hillsborough
	Dead River Park	90	Hillsborough
	Flatwoods Park	92	Hillsborough
	Jefferson Equestrian Area	94	Hillsborough
	John B. Sargeant Park	96	Hillsborough
	Morris Bridge Park	98	Hillsborough
	Oak Ridge Equestrian Area	100	Hillsborough
	Trout Creek Park	102	Hillsborough
	Wilderness Park Off Road Trails System	104	Hillsborough
35	Myakka River — Deer Prairie Creek Preserve	106	Sarasota
36	Myakka River — Flatford Swamp Preserve	108	Manatee
37	Myakka River State Park — Myakka Prairie Tract	110	Sarasota
38	Myakka State Forest	112	Sarasota
39	Panasoffkee Outlet	114	Sumter
40	Potts Preserve	116	Citrus
41	Prairie/Shell Creek	118	Charlotte
42	RV Griffin Reserve	120	DeSoto
43	Sawgrass Lake Park	122	Pinellas
	Starkey Wilderness Preserve	124	Pasco
44	Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park	126	Pasco
45	Serenova Tract	128	Pasco
46	Tampa Bypass Canal	130	Hillsborough
47	Terra Ceia Preserve Frog Creek	132	Manatee
48	Terra Ceia Preserve State Park	134	Manatee
49	Two Mile Prairie (Withlacoochee State Forest)	136	Citrus
	Upper Hillsborough Preserve	138	Pasco/Polk
50	Alston Tract	140	Pasco/Polk
51	Upper Hillsborough Tract	142	Pasco/Polk
52	Weekiwachee Preserve	144	Hernando
53	Withlacoochee River Park	146	Pasco
54	Wysong Park	148	Sumter

RECREATION AT A GLANCE

Match the Map Reference numbers on this District map to the at-a-glance table on the preceding page spread.

