

# 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 the most up-to-date information, visit [WaterMatters.org/Recreation](http://WaterMatters.org/Recreation).



Online: **[WaterMatters.org/Recreation](http://WaterMatters.org/Recreation)**  
Email: **[Recreation@WaterMatters.org](mailto:Recreation@WaterMatters.org)**  
Telephone: **(352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only), ext. 4470**  
U.S. Mail: **Land Resources**  
**Southwest Florida Water Management District**  
**2379 Broad Street**  
**Brooksville, FL 34604-6899**

# GET OUTSIDE!



## Why Does the District Buy Lands?

### 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 fire, 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, protects water resources while our partners develop parks with facilities such as picnic pavilions, nature trails, environmental education centers, restrooms and camping areas. The District usually provides the land and its partners build the facilities and provide the on-site staff to manage the parks on a daily basis.

## Recreational Opportunities Available

### Bicycling

From novice to 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 7.5-mile paved Starkey Trail winds through the 18,000-acre Starkey Wilderness Preserve and connects to the 42-mile paved 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 trail, off-road trails*



# Birding



## 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 and Wildlife Trail and are listed in the Recreation At A Glance. Maps of the sites can be obtained from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission website at [FloridaBirdingTrail.com](http://FloridaBirdingTrail.com).



## Best Opportunities

- **Brooker Creek Preserve**
- **Chassahowitzka River and Coastal Swamps**
- **Circle B Bar Reserve**
- **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
- **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

### 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, 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

District partners provide both full-service camp areas (water, electricity and restrooms) and primitive camp areas for traditional camping rigs on some District conservation lands. Information about reservations, fees, types of campers allowed and site availability can be obtained by contacting the partner directly (contact information in property descriptions).



### Equestrian 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.





# Camping



## 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.



## Best Opportunities

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

## 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.







## 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 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 15).



## 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



### 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 multiday 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 1,500-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 137,000 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 website at [MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com) or through its regional offices.

### **Best Opportunities**

- **Flying Eagle Preserve**
- **Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve** — East and West tracts
- **Lake Panasoffkee**
- **Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve** — Oakridge Equestrian Area
- **Potts Preserve**
- **Upper Hillsborough Preserve** — Upper Hillsborough Tract
- **Weekiwachee Preserve**





# Water Recreation



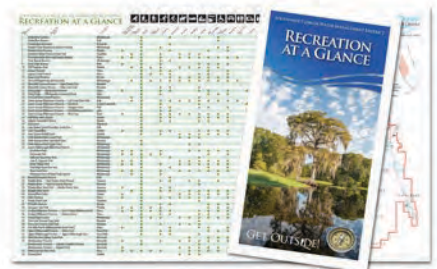
## Water Recreation

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.





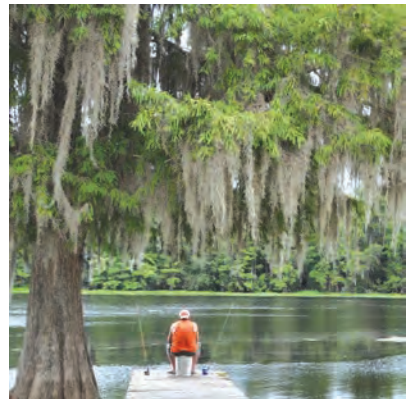
## Fishing

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 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission'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
- Terra Ceia Preserve State Park
- Weekiwachee Preserve
- Weekiwachee Preserve — Bayport Park
- Wysong Park (*Withlacoochee River*)



## Guidelines

### 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 natural 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.
- Visit [WaterMatters.org/Recreation](http://WaterMatters.org/Recreation) to find out 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.
- Know where you are — use of navigation devices suggested.

#### Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Campers are reminded to use designated camp areas 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***

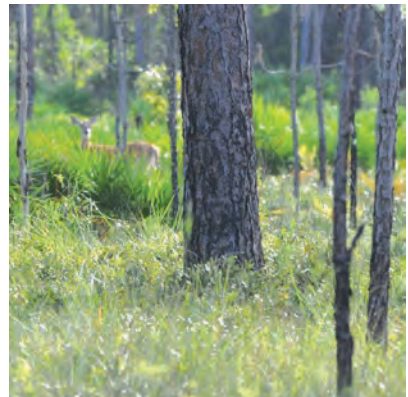
- Use established fire rings, grills or mound fires where fires are permitted.
- Keep fires small. Use only sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Do not cut down trees or bushes — dead or alive — for firewood.
- Put campfires out completely and then scatter cooled ashes.

## ***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.





# Guidelines

## 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.
- 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, blackwater, 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](http://WaterMatters.org/Recreation). Please allow 3-5 business days to process applications. Please abide by the following general camping rules and see individual property descriptions for site-specific camping information.



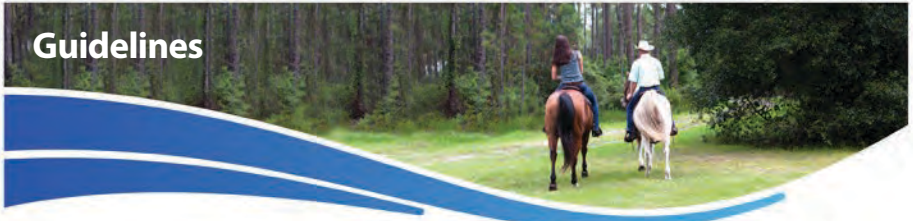
### General Rules

- 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 may include gate combinations for vehicle access where allowed.

- Reservations must be displayed or available at campsite.
- Personal automobiles are permitted into equestrian 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.



## Guidelines



- 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 free day-use reservation for buggy access behind locked gates.
- Day-use reservations are required to access the following equestrian parking areas: Conner Preserve — behind locked gate; Cypress Creek Preserve — Parkway Boulevard; Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve — Washburn gate; and Upper Hillsborough Preserve.



## Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) does not discriminate on the basis of disability. This non-discrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions, including access to and participation in the District's programs or activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should contact the District's Human Resources Bureau Chief, 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34604-6899; (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only), ext. 4703; or email [ADACoordinator@WaterMatters.org](mailto:ADACoordinator@WaterMatters.org). If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (Voice).

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.





## Guidelines

### **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 449,000 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. Volunteers may work on short-term projects or longer, multiday 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 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 have a desire to help and are 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, visit [WaterMatters.org/Recreation](http://WaterMatters.org/Recreation).



# 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-through on north side of parking area.
- Walk-through 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 Conservation and Environmental Lands Management Department.

### Equestrian Use

- 11.5 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-through or Alderman's Ford Park.
- Hiking allowed on equestrian trail.

### Picnic Facilities

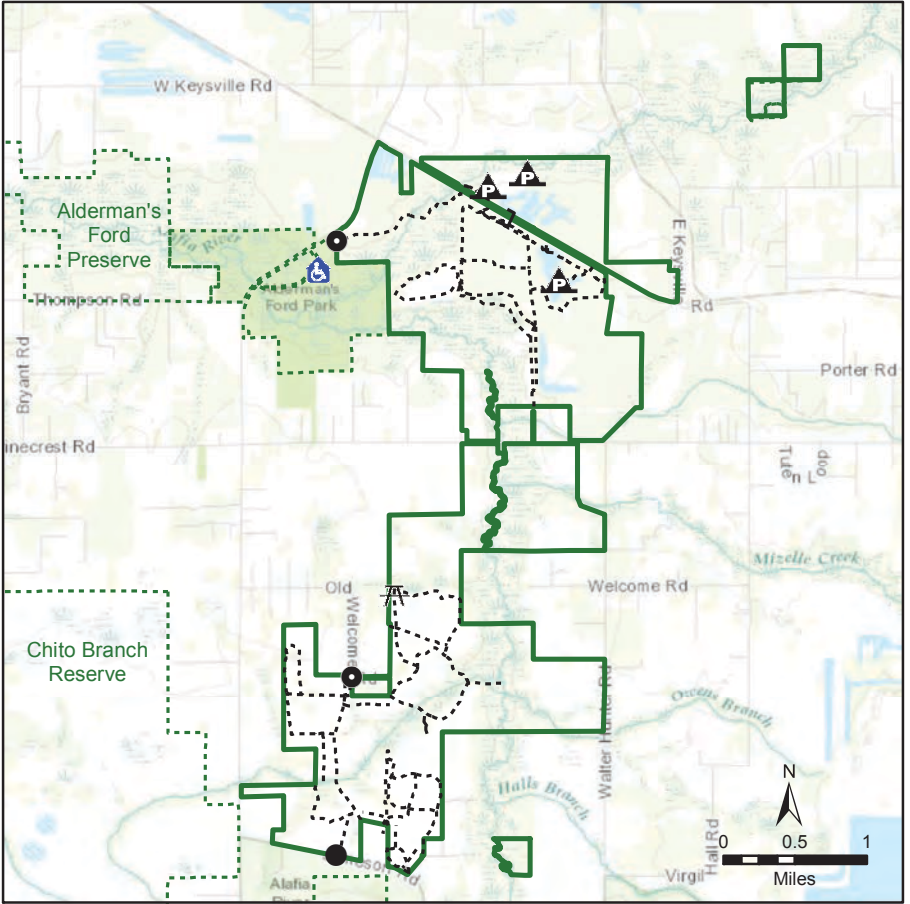
- Limited picnic facilities available on-site.

## 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

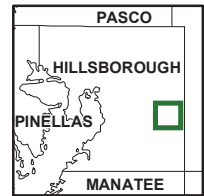
## For More Information

Hillsborough County Conservation and Environmental Lands Management Department,  
[HillsboroughCounty.org/Conservation](http://HillsboroughCounty.org/Conservation)



# Alafia River Corridor

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



General Location



# 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 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. during standard time and 5:30 a.m. to 8 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*

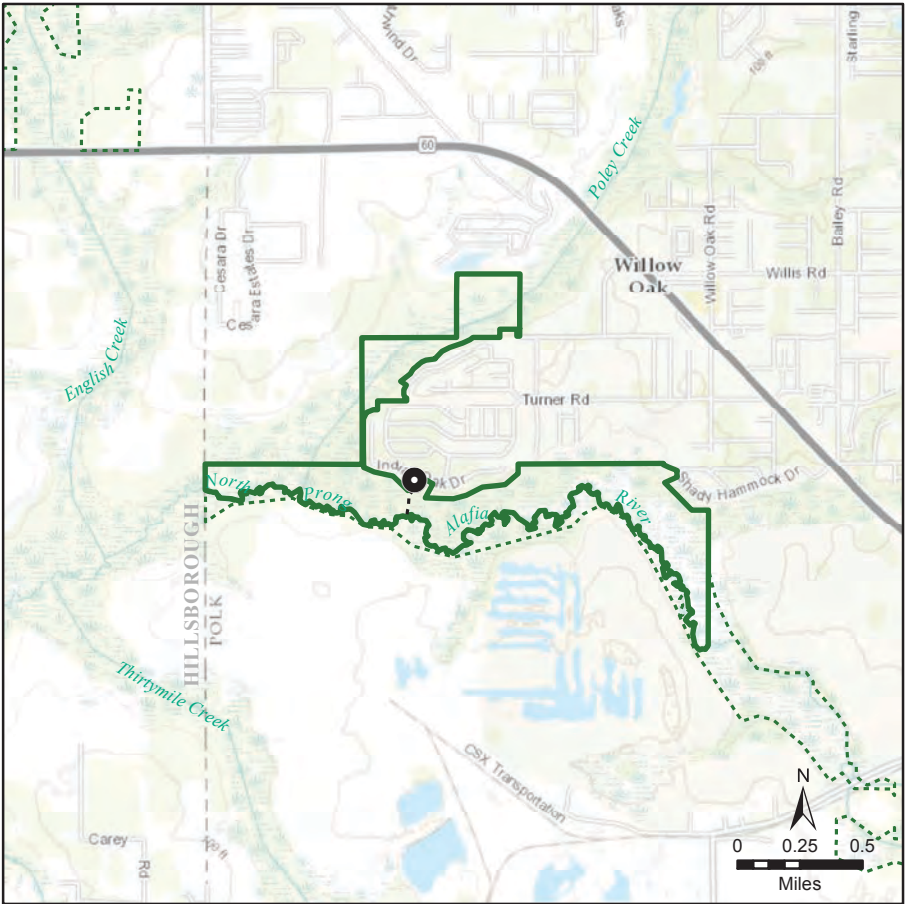
- Picnic tables adjacent to parking area.

## Nearby Recreation Lands

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

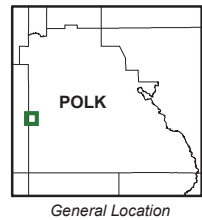
## For More Information

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



## Alafia River Reserve

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



# Annutteliga Hammock

11019 Centralia Road  
Weeki Wachee, FL 34614

## Size

570 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.

## 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-through 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.

***All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.***

## Recreational Opportunities

### *Equestrian Use*

- Approximately 8 miles of multiuse trails.
- Riders are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

### *Hiking*

- Approximately 8 miles of multiuse trails.

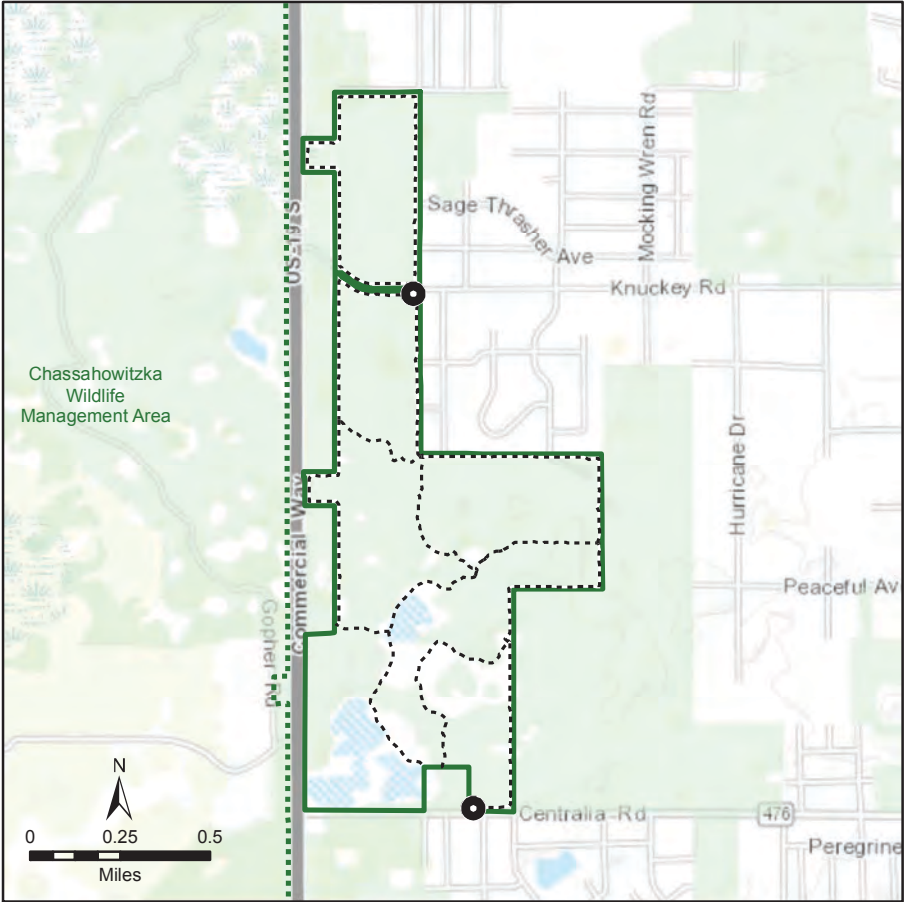
## Nearby Recreation Lands

- Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge
- Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area
- Weeki Wachee Springs State Park
- Withlacoochee State Forest, Homosassa Tract

## For More Information

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

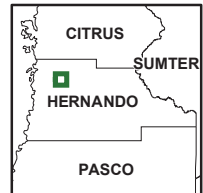




## Annutteliga Hammock

- highway/major road
- minor road
- - - designated trail
- other public lands
- property boundary
- - - 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. Biking is allowed on the paved trail. 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.
- Lutz Lake Fern Road Trailhead at 7020 Lutz Lake Fern Road has parking for a fee.
- Walk-through 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

Available at trailhead.

## Recreational Opportunities

### *Bicycling*

- Paved bike trail.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

### *Hiking*

- Several miles of unimproved interior roads.

### *Greenways and Trail Links*

- Upper Tampa Bay Trail (North) — 4.35-mile multiuse paved trail.
- Trailhead at 7020 Lutz Lake Fern Road — 53 parking spaces, restrooms and picnic shelter; connects to the Suncoast Trail.
- Suncoast Trail — 42 miles.
- Suncoast Trail information, (813) 801-6729.

### *Picnic Facilities*

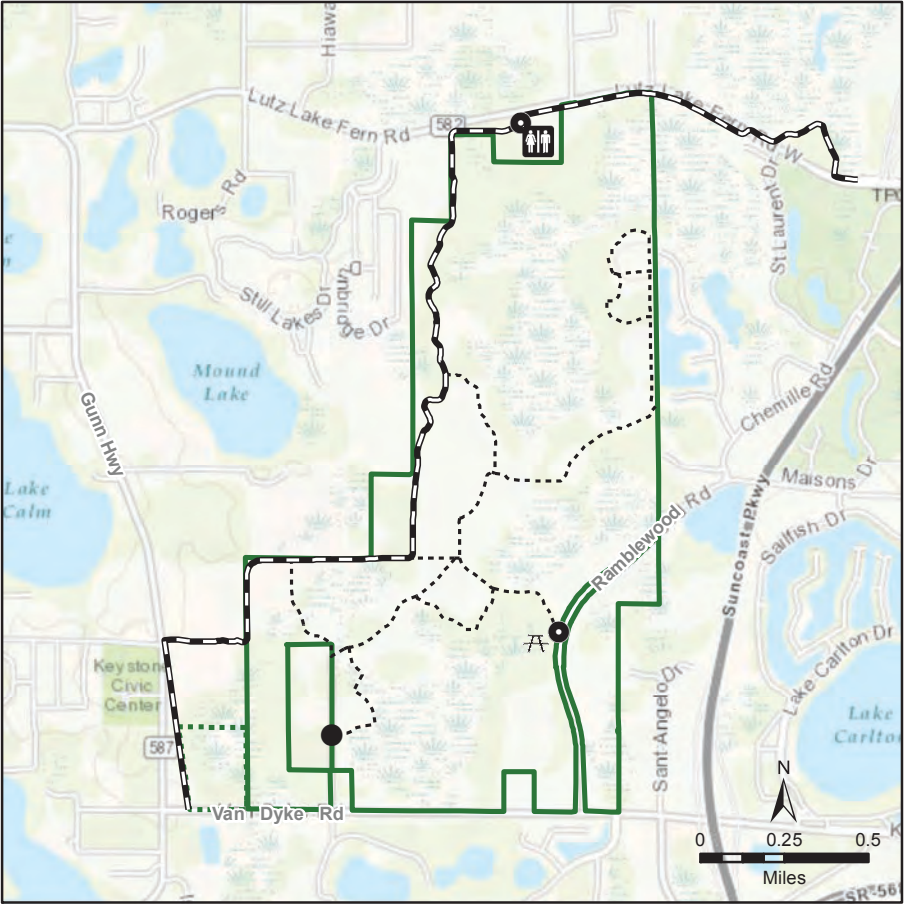
- Picnic facilities available.

## Nearby Recreation Lands

- Lake Park
- Lake Rogers Park
- Suncoast Trail
- Upper Tampa Bay Trail

## For More Information

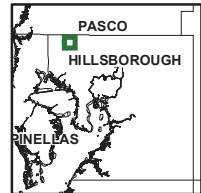
Hillsborough County Conservation and Environmental Lands Management Department,  
[HillsboroughCounty.org/Conservation](http://HillsboroughCounty.org/Conservation)



## Brooker Creek Headwaters Nature Preserve

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

- access point & parking
- walk-through
- ☰ picnic area
- ☼ restrooms
- Upper Tampa Bay Trail



General Location



# Brooker Creek Preserve

3940 Keystone Road  
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

## Size

8,700 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.

## 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

- Trails open daily from 7 a.m. to approximately one hour before sunset.
- Trails by education center closed day after Thanksgiving and December 25.
- Education center open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday – Saturday.
- Closed all county holidays.

## Restrooms and Water

Restrooms and potable water are available at environmental education center.

## Recreational Opportunities

### *Bird Watching*

- Site located on western section of Great Florida Birding and Wildlife 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*

- 5 miles of equestrian trails available at Old Keystone Road entrance. Parking for horse trailers provided. Not open to buggies or carts.
- 4 miles of horse exercise trail located at walk-through 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*

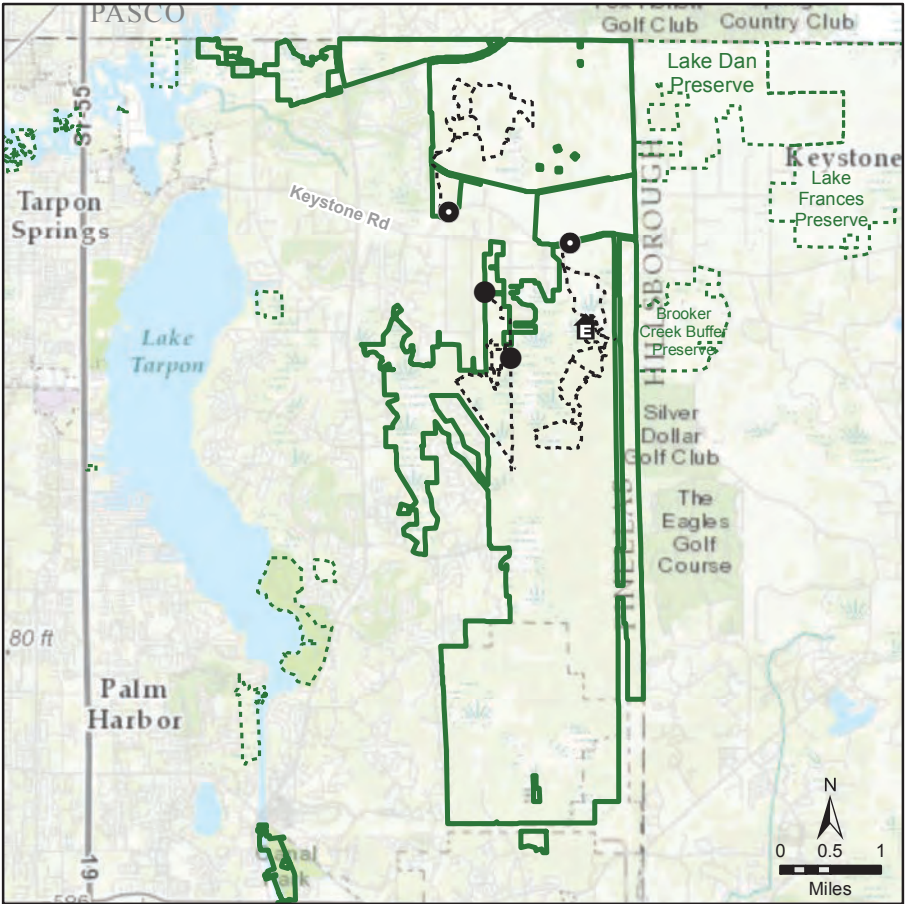
- Four loop trails are located near the education center ranging from 0.7 miles – 4 miles.
- Hikers are required to stay on marked trails.
- Portions of the trails may hold water during certain times of year.
- Scheduled guided hikes offered through education center.
- 1.75-mile interpretive trail located off Lora Lane.

## Nearby Recreation Lands

Lake Tarpon Outfall Canal

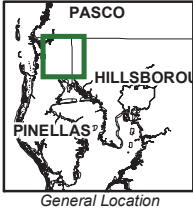
## For More Information

- Education Center, (727) 453-6800
- Parks and Conservation Resources, (727) 582-2100, [PinellasCounty.org/Park](http://PinellasCounty.org/Park)



## Brooker Creek Preserve

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> highway/major road</li> <li> minor road</li> <li> designated trail</li> <li> other public lands</li> <li> property boundary</li> <li> county line</li> <li> river/stream</li> <li> lake/pond</li> <li> forest</li> <li> wetland/swamp</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> access point &amp; parking</li> <li> walk-through</li> <li> environmental education center</li> </ul> |
|--|---|



# Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park

12301 Burnt Store Road (CR 765)

Punta Gorda, FL 33955

## Size

46,000 acres

## Location

Western 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 public use area in Punta Gorda is at the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center on Burnt Store Road (not shown on map).
- Access to public use area in Port Charlotte is through Charlotte County-owned Tippecanoe Environmental Park on SR 776.
- Access to public use areas in Cape Haze are through several walk-through gates, and parking areas are along the park boundary in the Rotonda neighborhood.

## 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

No restrooms or water available.

## Recreational Opportunities

### Bicycling

- Park trails are open for off-road biking unless otherwise posted.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

### Boating and Paddling

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

### Fishing

- Boat fishing throughout preserve.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for license requirements.

### Hiking

- Port Charlotte trailhead is at Tippecanoe Environmental Park.
- 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

- Cayo Costa State Park
- Cecil Webb Wildlife Management Area
- Don Pedro Island State Park
- Gasparilla Island State Park
- Gasparilla Sound/Charlotte Harbor and Cape Haze aquatic preserves
- Island Bay National Wildlife Refuge
- Myakka State Forest
- Pine Island and Matlacha Pass national wildlife refuges
- Stump Pass Beach State Park
- Yucca Pens Wildlife Management Area

## For More Information

- Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park, (941) 575-5816
- Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center, [checcflorida.org](http://checcflorida.org)





## Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park

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



General Location

# Chassahowitzka River and Coastal Swamps

8600 Miss Maggie Drive (County Park)

7940 Burnt Bridge Road (District)

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.

*All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.*

## Recreational Opportunities

### Bicycling

- Approximately 2 miles of multiuse trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

### Bird Watching

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

### Boating and Paddling

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

### Camping

#### Chassahowitzka Campground

- 78 full-service campsites with various levels of amenities, including electricity, sewer, water, tables, grills and fire rings. Group campsite also available.
- 52 RV and 26 tent sites.
- 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

- Approximately 2 miles of multiuse trails.
- Prepare for wet hiking; some trails are excessively wet during certain times of year.

### Picnic Facilities

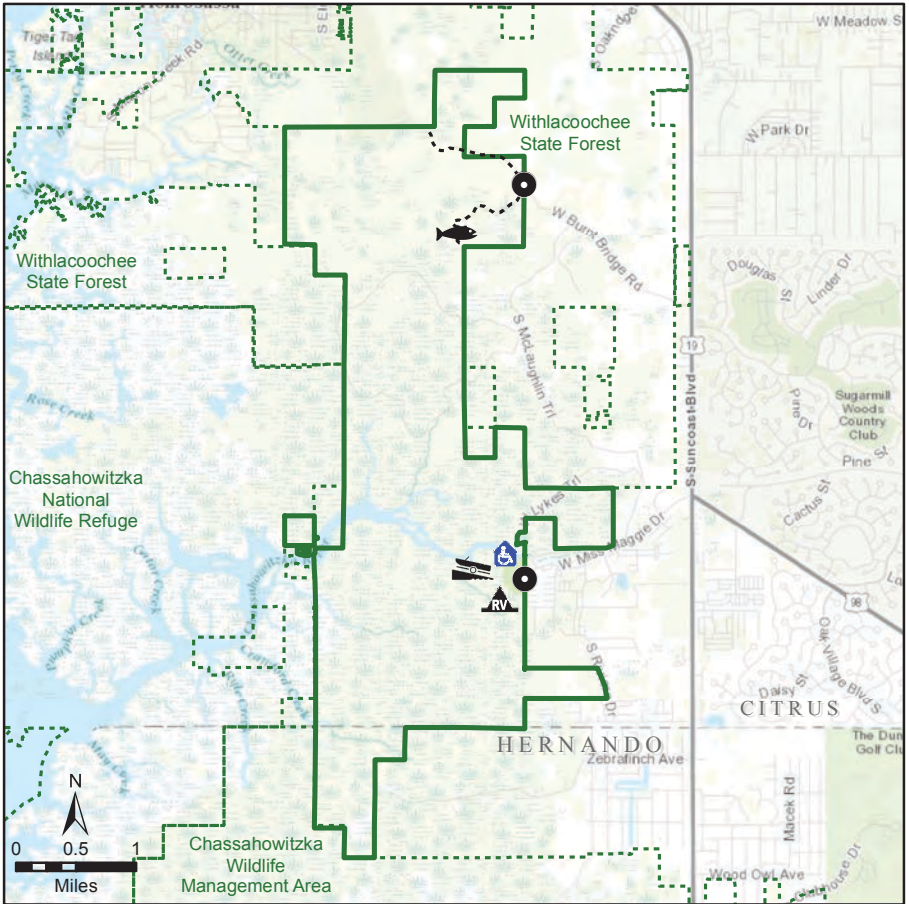
- Limited picnic facilities available at boat dock.

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



## Chassahowitzka River and Coastal River Swamps

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— highway/major road</li> <li>— minor road</li> <li>- - - designated trail</li> <li>· · · · · other public lands</li> <li>— property boundary</li> <li>- - - county line</li> <li>— river/stream</li> <li>— lake/pond</li> <li>— forest</li> <li>· · · · · wetland/swamp</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● access point &amp; parking</li> <li>♿ ADA accessible toilet</li> <li>🚤 boat ramp</li> <li>🐟 fishing spot</li> <li>🏠 RV recreational vehicle and tent camping</li> </ul>	<p><i>General Location</i></p>
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# 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.

## Limited Access Area

- Onsite reservoir is closed to public access and use.

## 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.

***All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.***

## Recreational Opportunities

### *Bicycling*

- Approximately 6 miles of multiuse trails.
- Bicyclists are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

### *Equestrian*

- Approximately 6 miles of multiuse trails.
- Riders are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Each horseback rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

### *Hiking*

Approximately 6 miles of designated or marked trails.

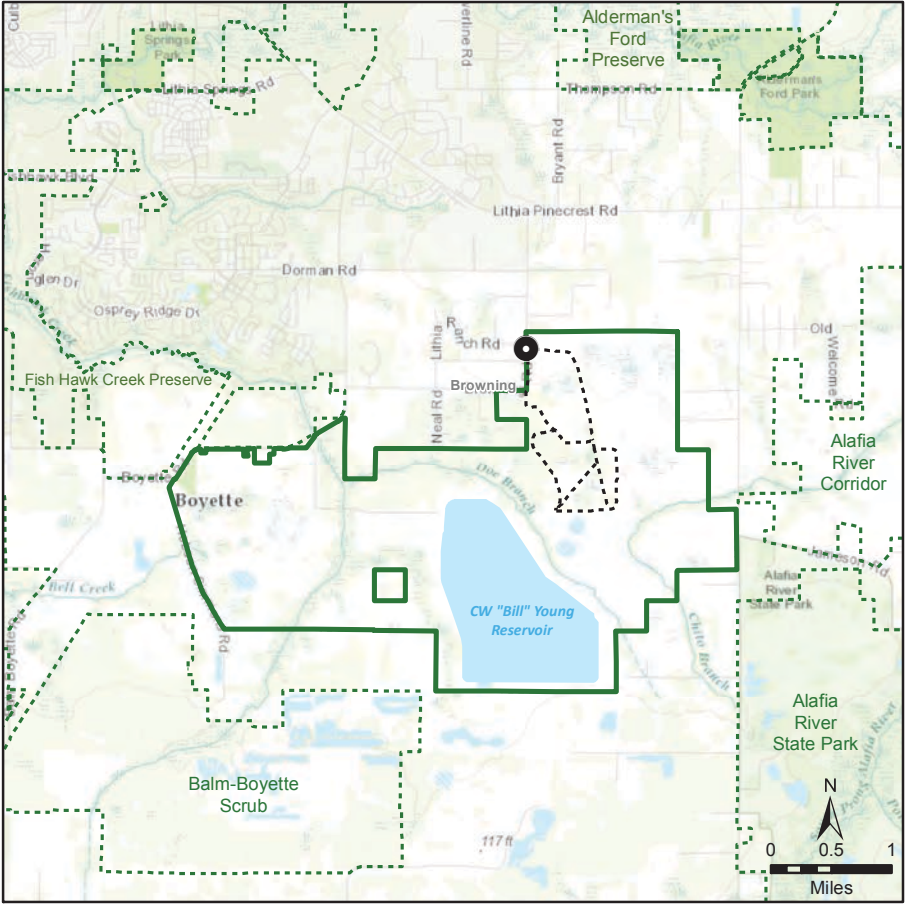
## Nearby Recreation Lands

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

## For More Information

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





# Chito Branch Reserve

- highway/major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- other public lands
- property boundary
- county line
- river/stream
- lake/pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- 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 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. during standard time and from 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. during daylight-saving time.

## Restrooms and Water

Restroom facility and water located at Polk's Nature Discovery Center.

## Recreational Opportunities

### *Bicycling*

- Numerous trails and roads available throughout the property.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

### *Bird Watching*

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

### *Fishing*

- Available in Lake Hancock.
- Contact FWC for license requirements.

### *Hiking*

- Alligator Alley Trail (2.5-mile roundtrip) is an unpaved trail running from parking area to Lake Hancock.
- Marsh Rabbit Run is an unpaved trail that runs through Banana Creek Marsh.
- Brochure describing trails available at trailhead.

### *Picnic Facilities*

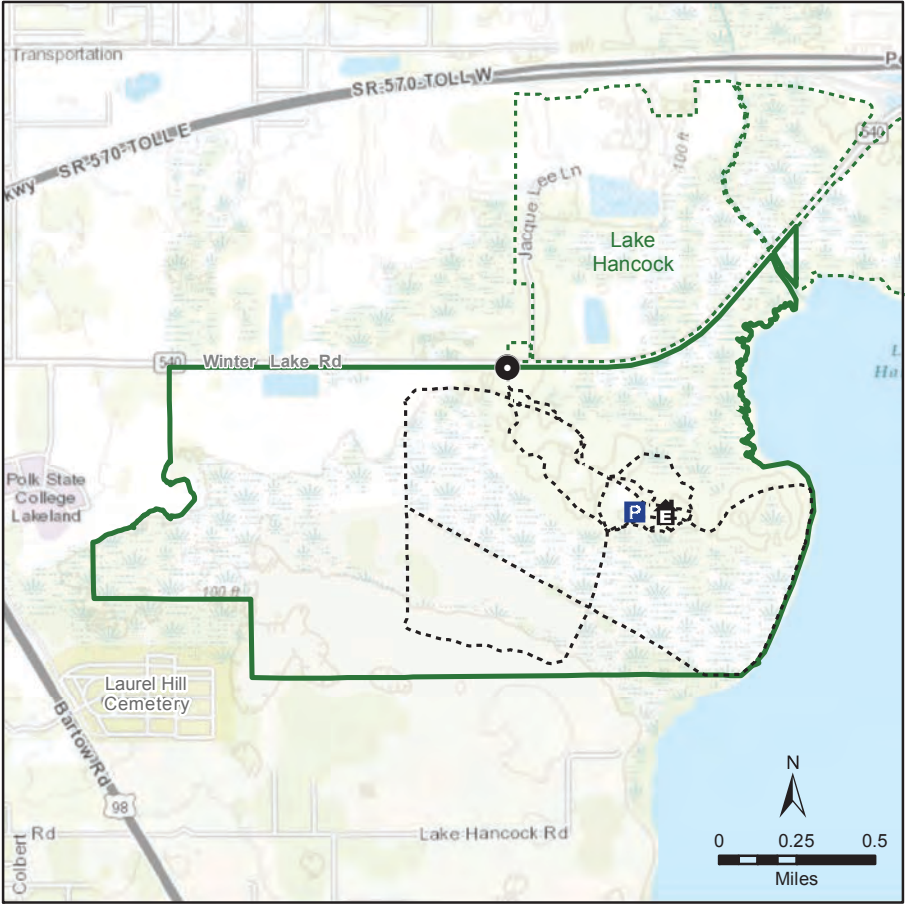
- Picnic tables are located along the road between the main entrance and the Nature Discovery Center.

## Nearby Recreation Lands

- Marshall Hampton Reserve
- Saddle Creek Park
- Tenoroc Fish Management Area

## For More Information

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



## Circle B Bar Reserve

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



*General Location*

# 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 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*

- Ream Wilson Clearwater 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

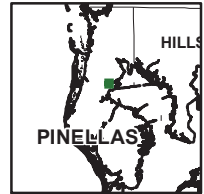




## Cliff Stephens Park

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

- access point & parking
- walk-through
- )) bridge
- ⚓ boat ramp
- ⚓ fishing pier
- ⛶ picnic area



General Location

# 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.

## Access and Parking

- Access is off SR 52 on south side of road about 3.5 miles east of US 41.

## Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

## Restrooms and Water

- No restrooms or water available at entrance.
- ADA accessible portable toilet and nonpotable water available at Bay City Flyers model airplane field.

***All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.***

## Recreational Opportunities

### ***Bicycling***

- Approximately 15 miles of multiuse trails.
- Bicyclists are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

### ***Equestrian Use***

- Approximately 6 miles of multiuse trails from SR 52 access point.
- Day-use reservations required to access equestrian parking area.
- Riders are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

### ***Hiking***

- Approximately 17 miles of hiking-only trails.
- Prepare for wet hiking; some trails are excessively wet during certain times of year.

### ***Model Airplane Flying Field***

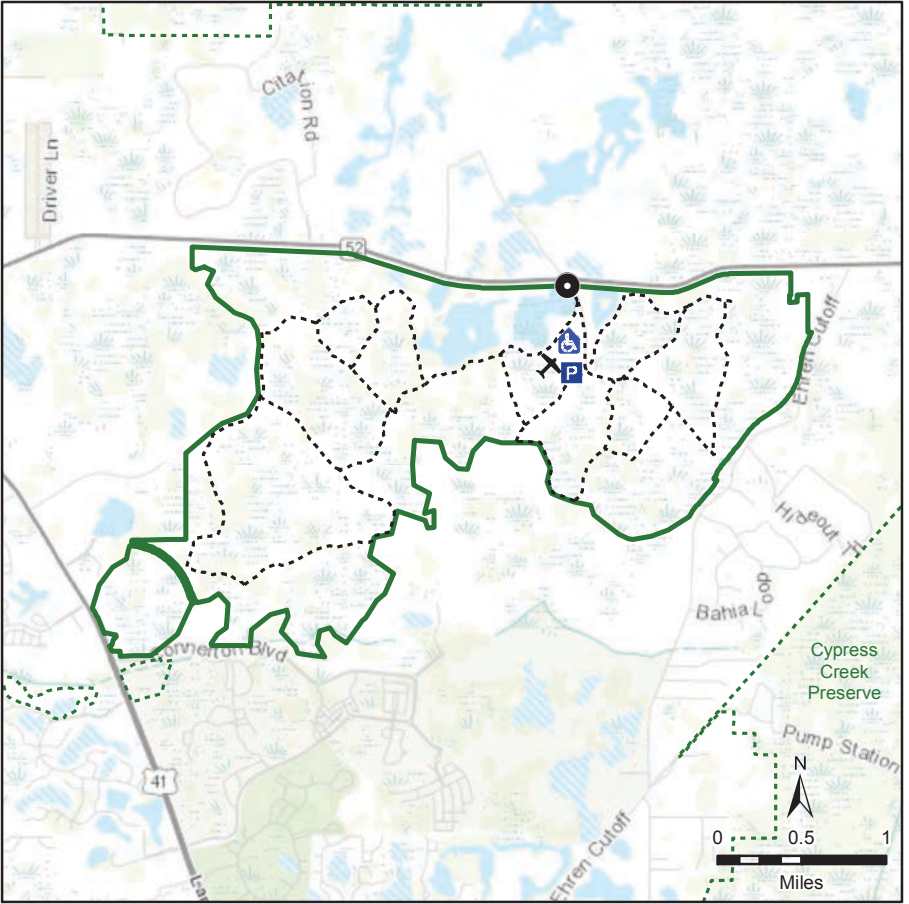
- Bay City Flyers Model Airplane Club.
- 25-acre site open to members and spectators.
- Anyone who wishes to fly must be licensed by the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA); please coordinate with the Bay City Flyers at [www.BayCityFlyers.org/](http://www.BayCityFlyers.org/).

## Nearby Recreation Lands

- Cypress Creek Preserve
- Starkey Wilderness Preserve — Serenova Tract

## For More Information

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



## Conner Preserve

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



# 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 and walk-through entrance on east side at end of Quail Hollow Boulevard.
- Walk-through entrance at end of Eagle Island Boulevard.

## Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

## Restrooms and Water

- No restrooms or water available at entrances.
- ADA accessible portable toilets available at equestrian and primitive campsites.

***All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.***

## Recreational Opportunities

### ***Bicycling and Inline Skating***

- Approximately 5 miles of paved multiuse trails available from Pump Station Road and 11 miles of unpaved multiuse trails.
- Bicyclists are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

### ***Camping***

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

### ***Equestrian Use***

- Approximately 14 miles of multiuse trails.
- Riders are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Day-use reservations are required to access equestrian parking area at Parkway Boulevard.
- 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***

- Approximately 19 miles of designated or marked trails.
- Prepare for wet hiking; some trails are excessively wet during certain times of year.

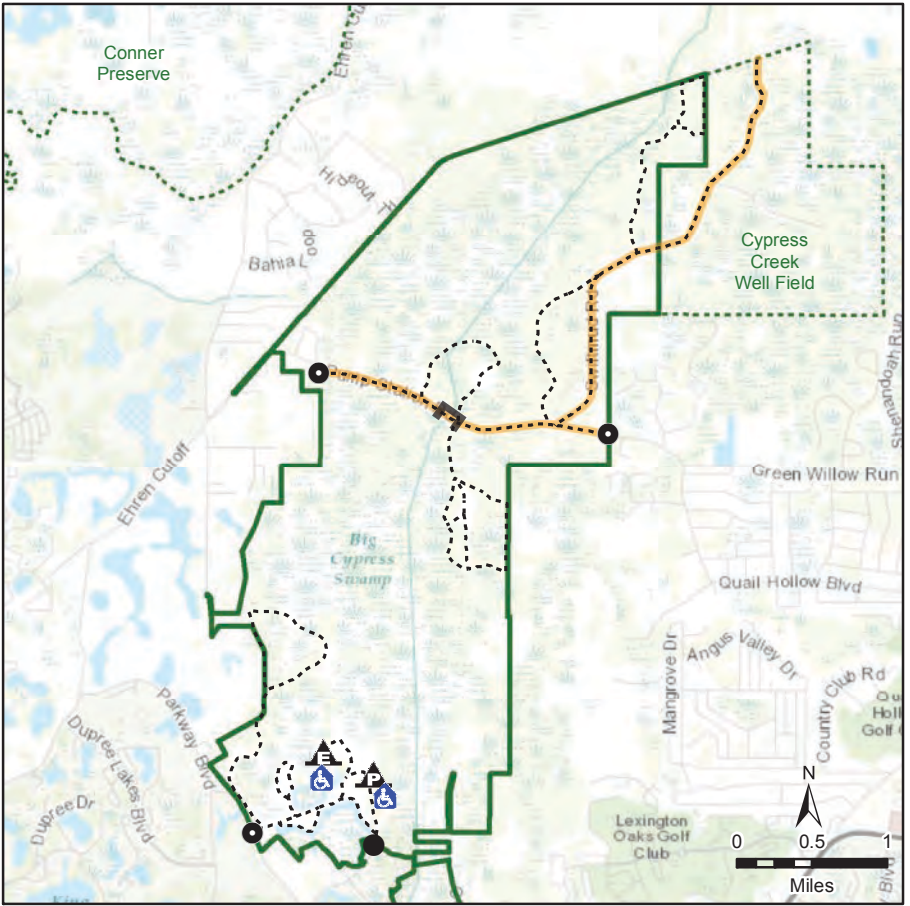
## Nearby Recreation Lands

- Conner Preserve
- Starkey Wilderness Preserve

## For More Information

- Reservations may be made at [WaterMatters.org/Reservation](http://WaterMatters.org/Reservation).
- Land Resources, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470





## Cypress Creek Preserve

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| highway/major road | access point & parking |
| minor road         | walk-through           |
| paved trail        | ADA accessible toilet  |
| designated trail   | control structure      |
| other public lands | equestrian camping     |
| property boundary  | primitive camping      |
| county line        |                        |
| river/stream       |                        |
| lake/pond          |                        |
| forest             |                        |
| wetland/swamp      |                        |



# 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-through available.
- Additional access available from Deep Creek Park, adjacent to public boat ramp.
- ADA access and facilities available at Deep Creek Park.

## Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

## Restrooms and Water

- No restrooms or water available at entrance.
- ADA accessible portable toilet and nonpotable water available in equestrian campground.
- Restrooms available at Deep Creek Park.

***All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.***

## Recreational Opportunities

### ***Boating and Paddling***

- Available at Deep Creek Park.

### ***Camping***

- Separate sites available for equestrian/primitive and backcountry camping.
- Sites have a picnic table, fire ring and/or grill.
- A free reservation is required and must be displayed or available at campground.

### **Backcountry**

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

### ***Equestrian Use***

- Approximately 7 miles of multiuse trails.
- Riders are required to stay on designated or 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***

- Approximately 9 miles of multiuse trails.
- Prepare for wet hiking; some trails are excessively wet during certain times of year.

### ***Picnic Facilities***

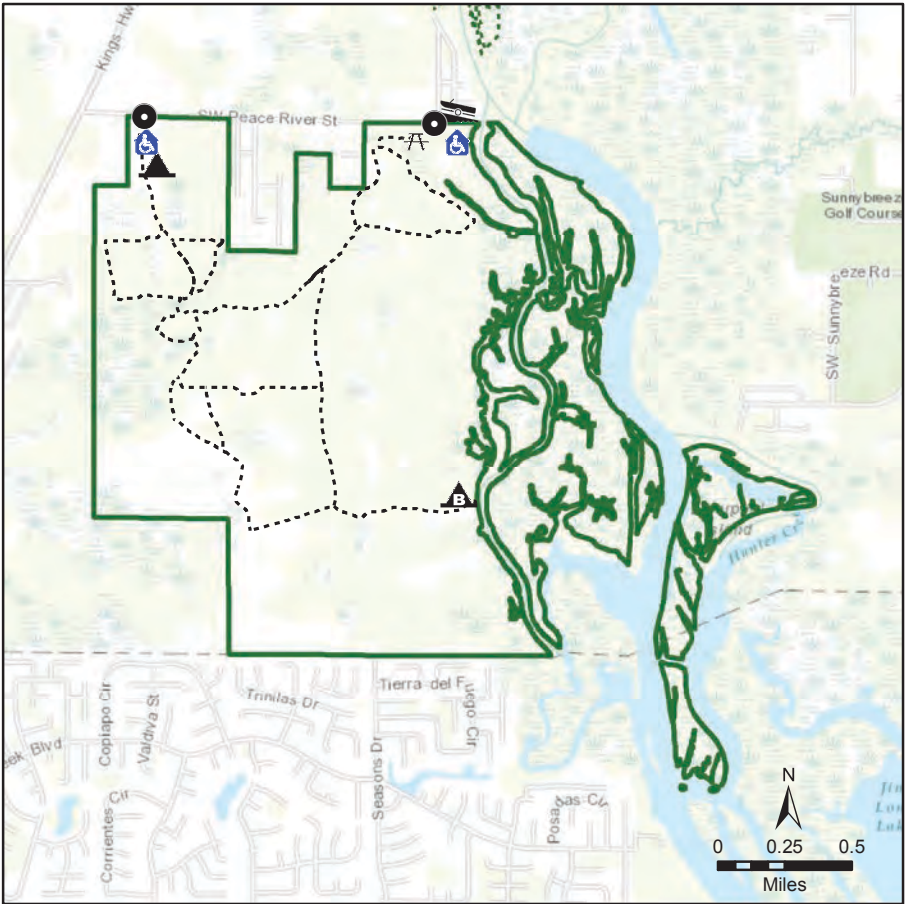
Pavilion available at Deep Creek Park.

## Nearby Recreation Lands

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

## For More Information

- Reservations may be made at [WaterMatters.org/Reservation](http://WaterMatters.org/Reservation).
- Land Resources, 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
- other public lands
- property boundary
- - - county line
- ~ river/stream
- lake/pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- access point & parking
- ♿ ADA accessible toilet
- 🚤 boat ramp
- 🍃 picnic area
- ⛺ backcountry camping
- ⚓ equestrian/primitive camping



# Edward Medard Park and Reservoir

6140 S. 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

Fall/Winter 6 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Spring/Summer 6 a.m. – 7 p.m.

## 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.
- Canoe rentals available at park office.

### *Camping*

- RV and tent (primitive) camping available.
- Fee for camping. No reservations.
- 40 campsites — RV, tent and youth (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.

### *Picnic Facilities*

- 3 picnic areas with tables, grills and restrooms.
- Covered shelters available.
- Shelter rentals also are available.

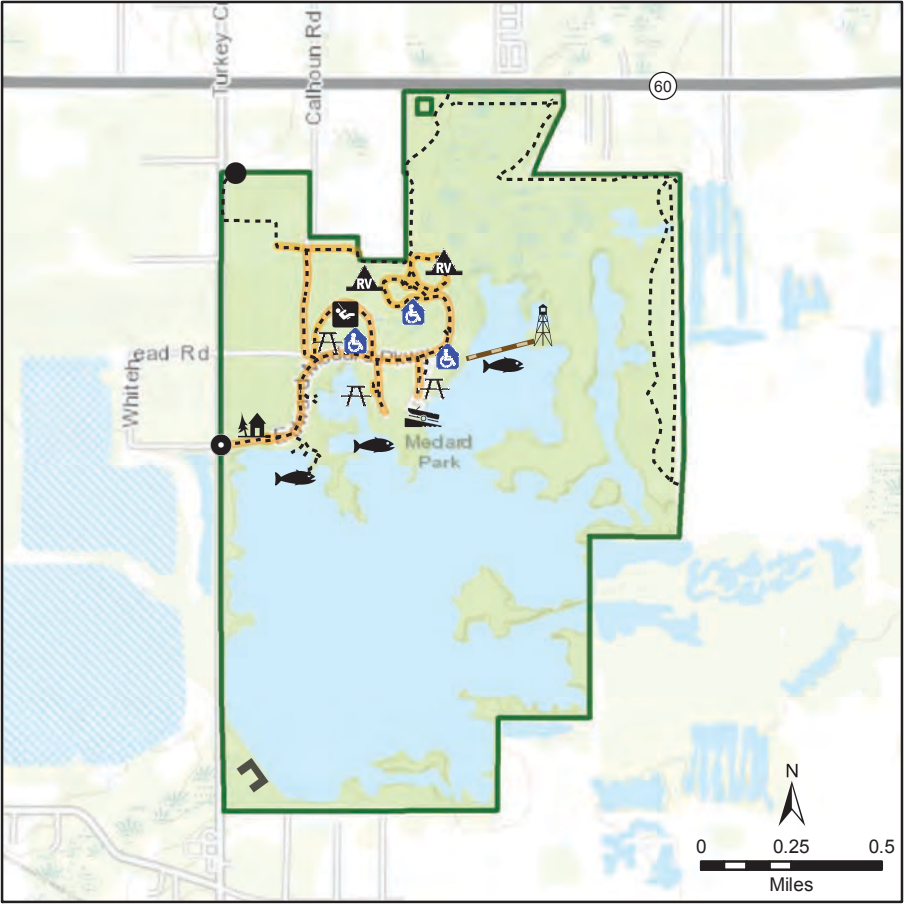
### *Nearby Recreation Lands*

- Alafia River State Park
- Alderman's Ford Park

### *For More Information*

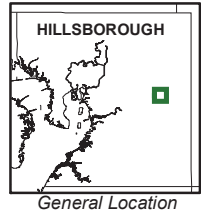
Edward Medard Park, (813) 757-3802





## Edward Medard Park and Reservoir

- |                    |                        |                                       |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| highway/major road | access point & parking | observation tower                     |
| minor road         | walk-through           | park office                           |
| paved trail        | ADA accessible toilet  | picnic area                           |
| designated trail   | boat ramp              | playground                            |
| other public lands | control structure      | recreational vehicle and tent camping |
| property boundary  | fishing spot           |                                       |
| county line        | boardwalk              |                                       |
| river/stream       |                        |                                       |
| lake/pond          |                        |                                       |
| forest             |                        |                                       |
| wetland/swamp      |                        |                                       |



# 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.

*All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.*

## Recreational Opportunities

### Hiking

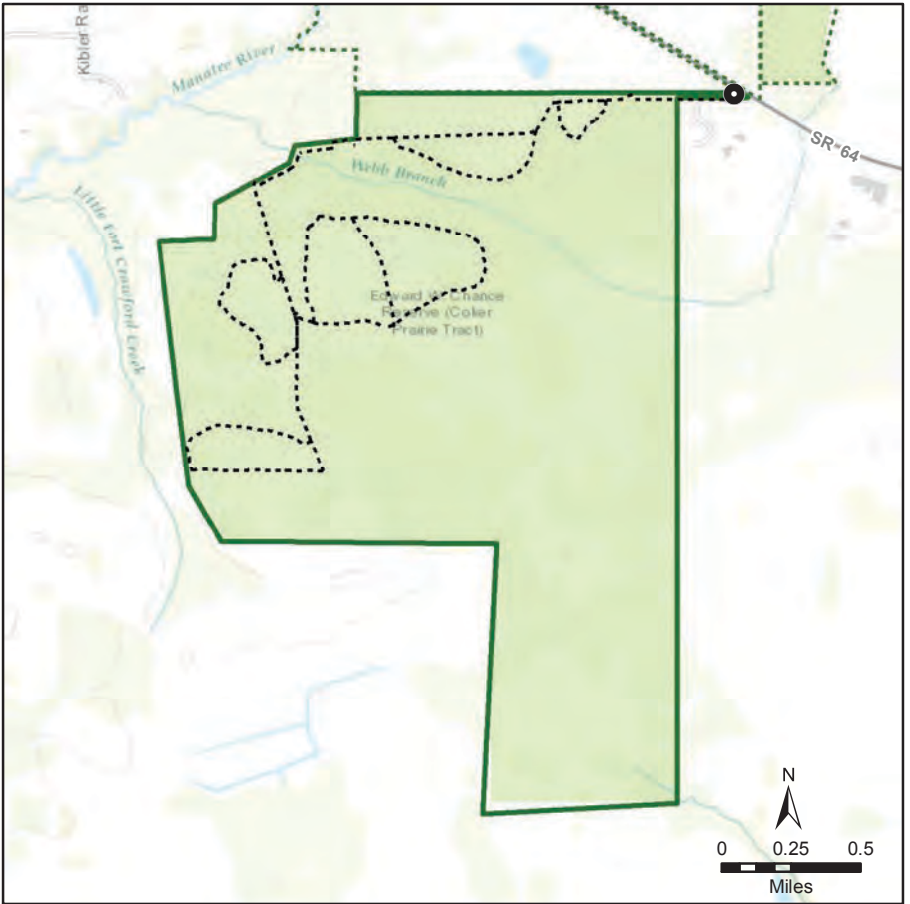
- Approximately 10 miles of designated or marked trails.

## Nearby Recreation Lands

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

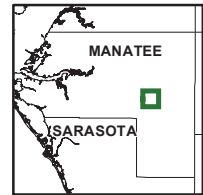
## For More Information

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



## Edward W. Chance Reserve — Coker Prairie Tract

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



# 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

No restrooms or water available.

***All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.***

## 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***

- Approximately 13 miles of multiuse trails.
- Bicyclists are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

### ***Equestrian Use***

- Approximately 13 miles of multiuse trails.
- Riders are required to stay on designated or 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***

- Approximately 13 miles of multiuse trails.
- Prepare for wet hiking; some trails are excessively wet during certain times of year.

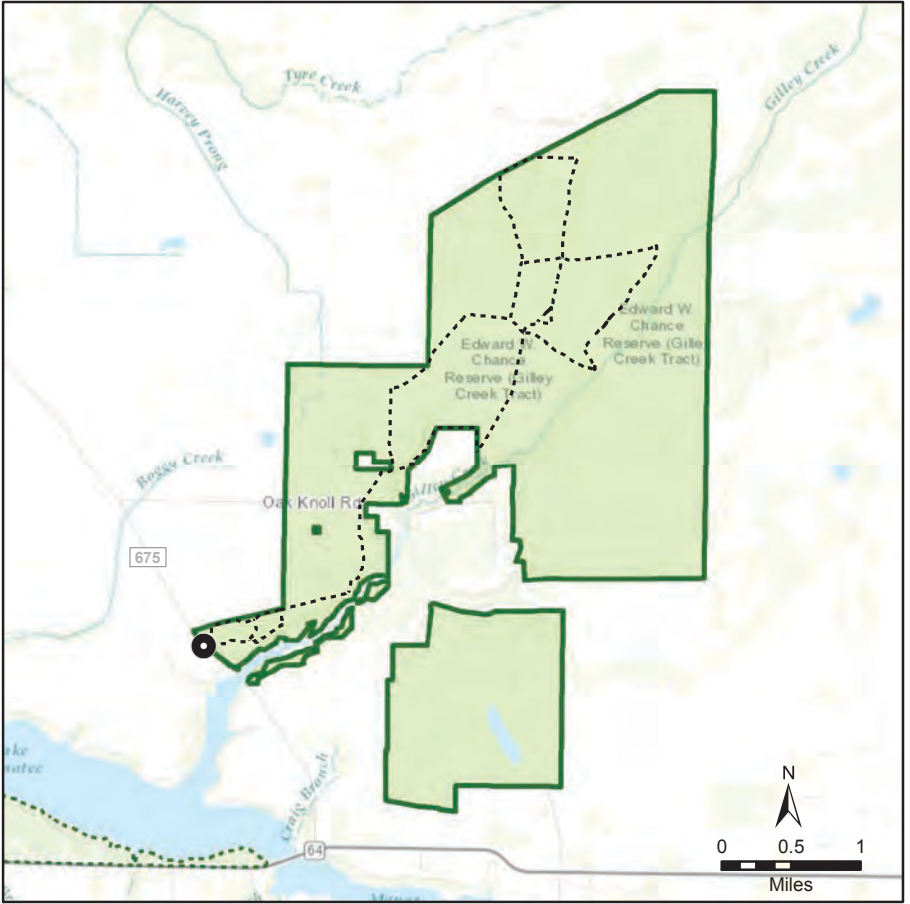
## Nearby Recreation Lands

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

## For More Information

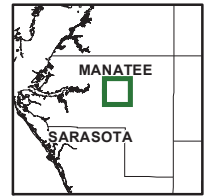
Land Resources, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470





## Edward W. Chance Reserve — Gilley Creek Tract

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



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.
- Look for signage.

## Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

## Restrooms and Water

- No restrooms or water available at entrances.
- ADA accessible portable toilets and nonpotable water available near the equestrian and primitive campgrounds.

***All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.***

## Recreational Opportunities

### ***Bicycling***

- Approximately 16 miles of multiuse trails.
- Bicyclists are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

### ***Bird Watching***

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

## ***Boating and Paddling***

- Public boat launches offered at adjoining park and East Trail's End Road.

## ***Camping***

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

## ***Equestrian Use***

- Approximately 16 miles of multiuse trails.
- Riders are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Horse-drawn buggy riding requires a free day-use reservation for buggy access behind locked gate.
- 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***

- Approximately 20 miles of multiuse trails.
- Prepare for wet hiking; some trails are excessively wet during certain times of year.

## ***Hunting***

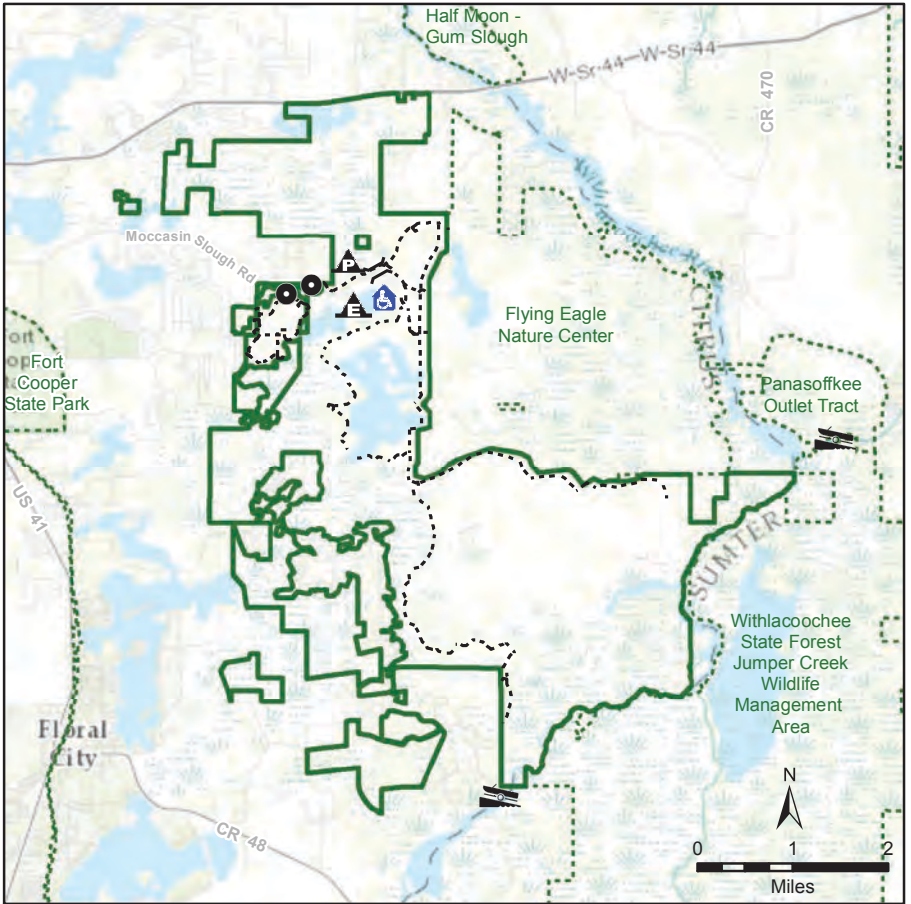
- Contact FWC for information regarding license requirements and permits.
- FWC rules and regulations must be observed throughout the year.

## ***Nearby Recreation Lands***

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

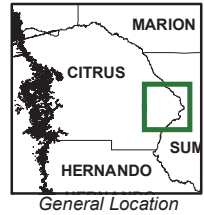
## ***For More Information***

- Reservations may be made at [WaterMatters.org/Reservation](http://WaterMatters.org/Reservation).
- Land Resources, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470



## Flying Eagle Preserve

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| highway/major road | access point & parking |
| minor road         | ADA accessible toilet  |
| designated trail   | bridge                 |
| other public lands | boat ramp              |
| property boundary  | equestrian camping     |
| county line        | primitive camping      |
| river/stream       |                        |
| lake/pond          |                        |
| forest             |                        |
| wetland/swamp      |                        |



# 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.

## Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

## Restrooms and Water

ADA accessible portable toilet available; no water available.

***All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.***

## Recreational Opportunities

### *Bicycling*

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

### *Hiking*

- Approximately 1.5-mile loop trail available with rest station benches.
- Follow marked trails.

### *Picnic Facilities*

- Small picnic pavilion, picnic tables and grills.

## Recreational Activities

### *Large open field available for activities such as:*

- Frisbee golf
- Golf — chipping and driving
- Swing and teeter-totter

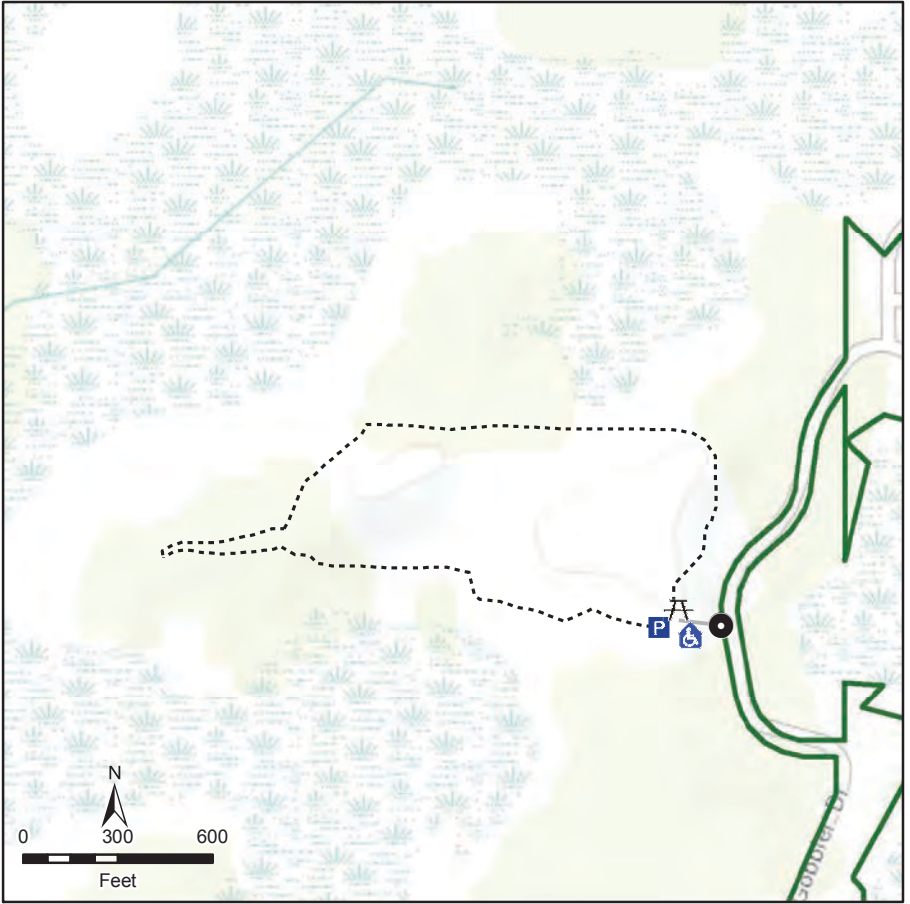
## Nearby Recreation Lands

- Flying Eagle Preserve
- Fort Cooper State Park

## For More Information

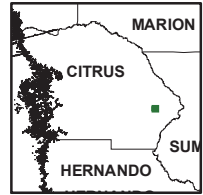
Land Resources, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470





## Flying Eagle Preserve Withlapopka Community Park

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



# Fred and Idah Schultz Preserve

5906 Kracker Avenue  
Gibsonton, FL 33534

## Size

134 acres

## Location

Southern Hillsborough County, west of Highway 41, north of Big Bend Road, south of Gibsonton Drive

## About the Property

In 1995, the Schultz Preserve was purchased with funding from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) and Hillsborough County through its Jan K. Platt Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection program. This 134-acre tract is currently managed by the Hillsborough County Conservation and Environmental Lands Management Department. Formerly used to deposit dredge material, the Schultz Preserve was restored to mangrove forest, coastal and freshwater marsh, coastal dunes and uplands. It provides important habitat for fisheries, shorebirds, mangrove species and upland wildlife, including bobcats and migrating neotropical songbirds.

## Access and Parking

Parking area on Kracker Avenue

## Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

## Restrooms and Water

No restroom or water available.

## Dogs

- Dogs must be on a leash no more than six feet in length.
- Owners are required by law to pick up after dogs.

## Recreational Opportunities

### Fishing

Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for license requirements.

### Hiking

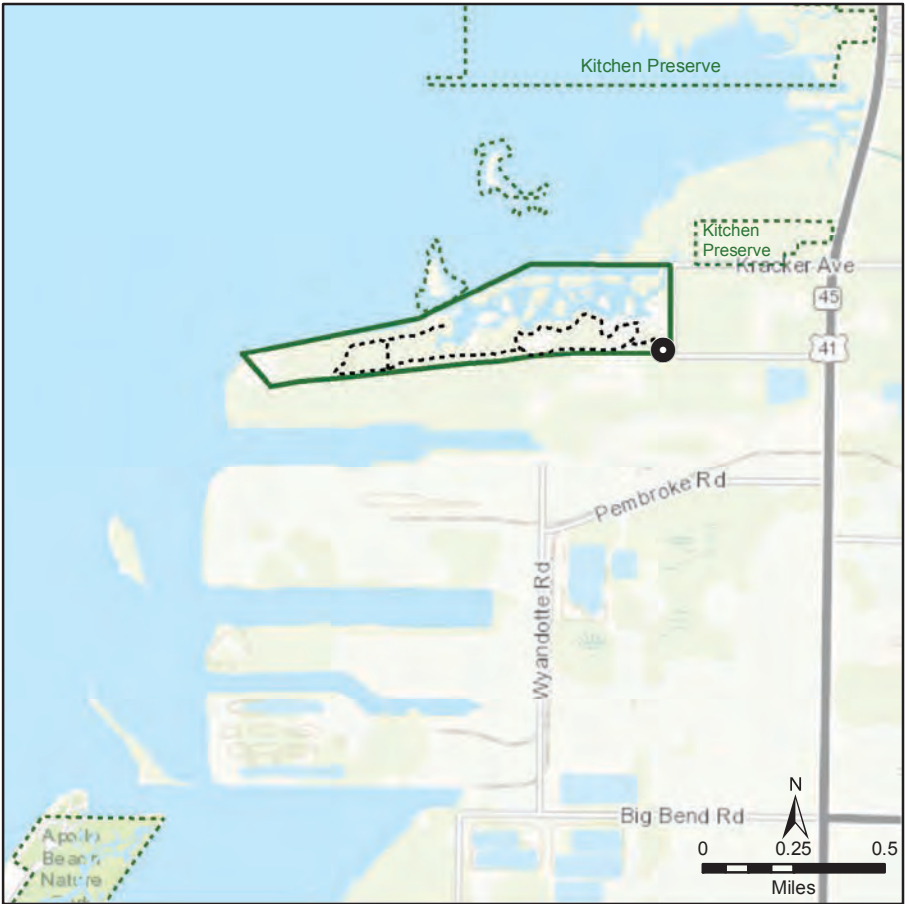
- Trails have two one-mile loops.
- Hikers are asked to stay on designated trails to protect restoration plantings.

## Nearby Recreational Lands

- Cockroach Creek Greenway Nature Preserve
- E. G. Simmons County Park

## For More Information

Hillsborough County Conservation and Environmental Lands Management Department,  
[HillsboroughCounty.org/Conservation](http://HillsboroughCounty.org/Conservation)



## Fred and Idah Schultz Preserve

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



# 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 and reptiles to 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.

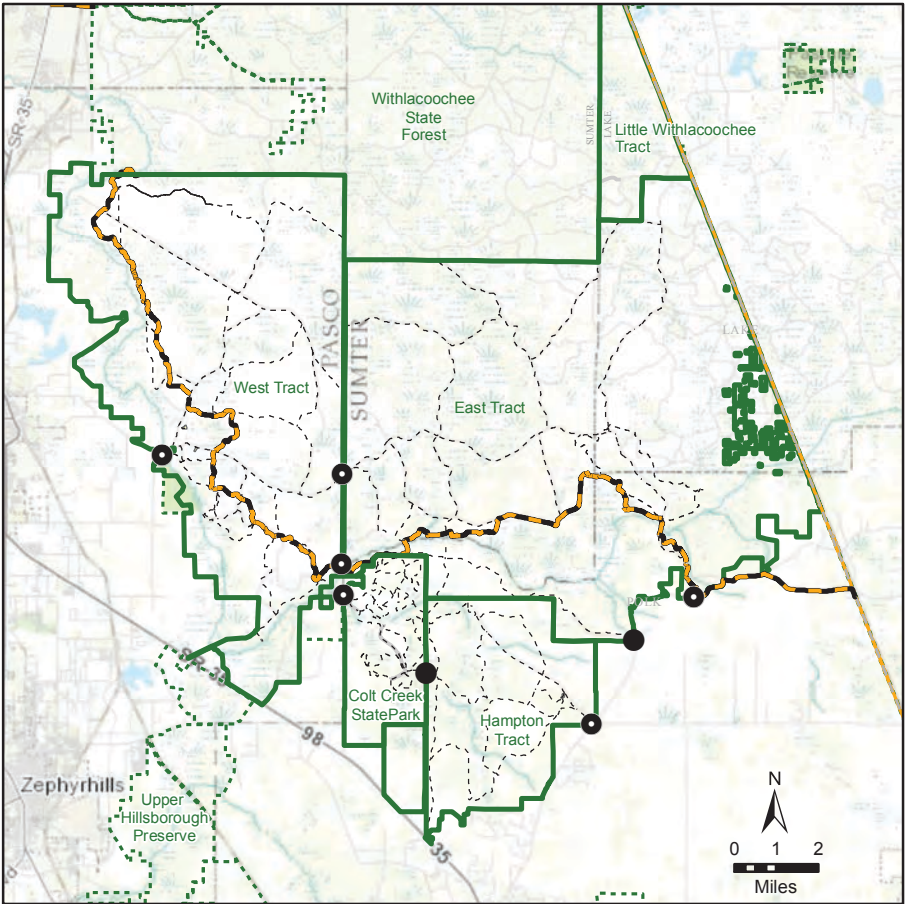
## Recreational Opportunities

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

## Nearby Recreation Lands

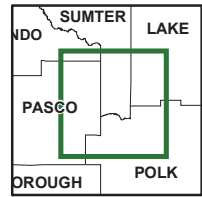
- District's Upper Hillsborough property
- Florida National Scenic Trail
- Pasco County — Withlacoochee River Park
- Richloam Tract of the Withlacoochee State Forest
- Van Fleet State Trail
- Withlacoochee State Trail





## Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve

- highway/major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- other public lands
- property boundary
- county line
- river/stream
- lake/pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- access point & parking
- walk-through
- Van Fleet State Trail
- Florida National Scenic Trail



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.
- Accessible facilities available.
- Fees apply.
- Connecting walk-through, accessing Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve Hampton Tract. Approximately 28 miles of designated or marked multiuse trails.

## Hours of Operation

Daily from 8 a.m. until sunset.

## Restrooms and Water

- Accessible restrooms and water are available at the parking areas.

## Recreational Opportunities

### Bicycling

- Bicycling is permitted on trails and roads.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

### Boating and Paddling

- Small jon boats can be carried down to the water and launched.
- Gas powered motors are prohibited; however, electric trolling motors may be used.
- Canoes and kayaks may be rented from the park ranger station and launched at Mac Lake.

## Camping

- Separate campgrounds available for equestrians, families, groups and primitive sites.
- Sites have picnic tables, fire rings and/or grills.
- A reservation is recommended. Contact park ranger station for more information, reservations and fees.

## Dogs

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

## Equestrian Campground

- 10 sites that will accommodate horse trailers.
- Allowed up to 8 people and 1 trailer per site.
- Limited amenities.
- Owners are requested to rake out after horses.

## Family Campground

- 30 RV/tent sites.
- Electric and water available at sites.

## Group Campground

- Campsite is available for organized groups and can accommodate up to 60 people.

## Primitive Campsites

- These campsites are only accessible by foot, horseback or mountain bike.

## Equestrian Use

- 12 miles of designated or 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.
- Accessible fishing pier.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for license requirements.

## Hiking

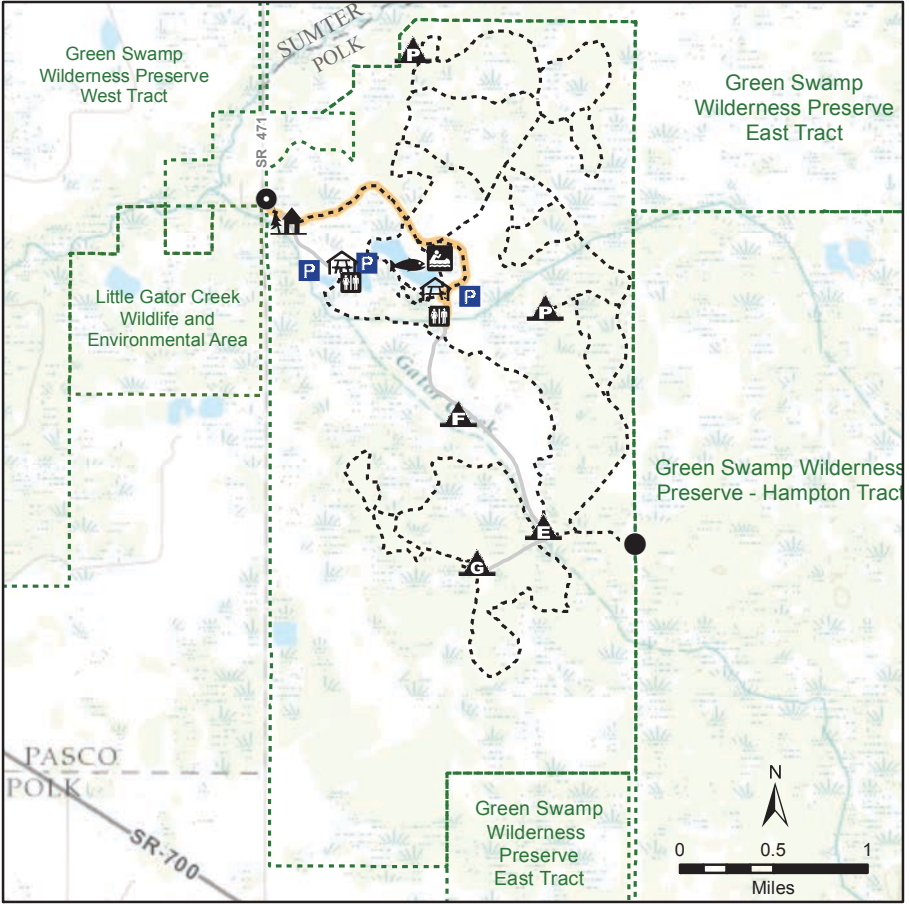
- 24 miles of marked trails.
- Mac Lake nature trail accessible.
- Trail maps available at kiosk.

## Picnic Facilities

- Picnic areas available throughout the park.
- Four pavilions at picnic areas accommodate 40–108 people. Three can be reserved in advance by calling the park. If not rented, they are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Fees apply.

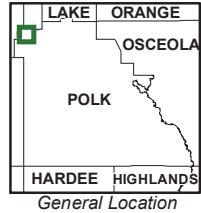
## For More Information

Colt Creek State Park, (863) 815-6761



## Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve Colt Creek State Park

- |                    |                        |                                     |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| highway/major road | access point & parking | ranger office, parking and restroom |
| minor road         | walk-through           | restrooms                           |
| paved trail        | canoe launch           | equestrian camping                  |
| designated trail   | fishing spot           | family/RV camping                   |
| other public lands | parking                | group camping                       |
| property boundary  | pavilion               | primitive camping                   |
| county line        |                        |                                     |
| river/stream       |                        |                                     |
| lake/pond          |                        |                                     |
| forest             |                        |                                     |
| wetland/swamp      |                        |                                     |



# 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-through gates throughout property.

## Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

## Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available.

***All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.***

## Recreational Opportunities

### *Bicycling*

- Approximately 60 miles of multiuse trails.
- Bicyclists are required to stay on designated or 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 or available at campground.
- Backcountry sites include Trial Ford, Tillman Lake and Mott Hammock; 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*

- Approximately 60 miles of multiuse trails.
- Approximately 31 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.
- Approximately 15-mile overnight loop and 8-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.

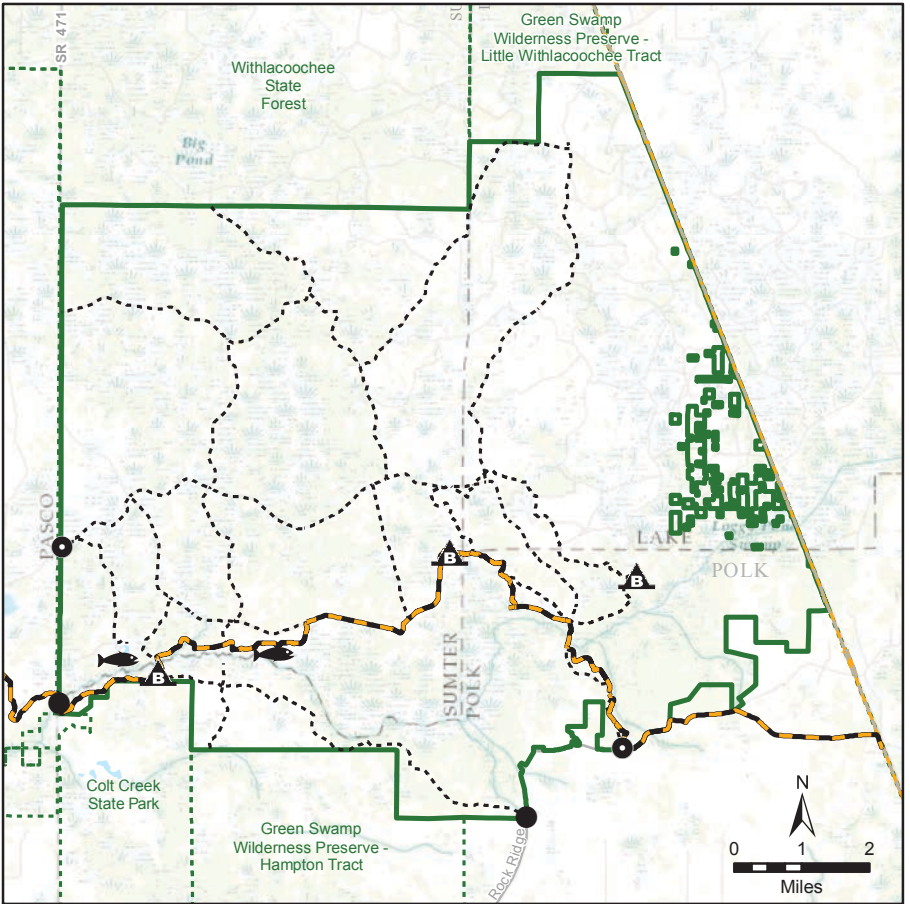
## *Hunting*

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

## **For More Information**

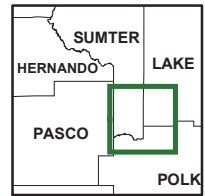
- Reservations may be made at [WaterMatters.org/Reservation](http://WaterMatters.org/Reservation).
- Land Resources, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470





## Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve East Tract

- |                    |                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| highway/major road | access point & parking        |
| minor road         | walk-through                  |
| designated trail   | fishing spot                  |
| other public lands | backcountry camping           |
| property boundary  | Florida National Scenic Trail |
| county line        | Van Fleet State Trail         |
| river/stream       | Streets selection             |
| lake/pond          |                               |
| forest             |                               |
| wetland/swamp      |                               |



*General Location*

# 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.

## Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

## Restrooms and Water

ADA accessible portable toilet.

***All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.***

## Recreational Opportunities

### *Bicycling*

- Approximately 30 miles of multiuse trails.
- Bicyclists are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

### *Camping*

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

### *Equestrian Use*

- Approximately 30 miles of multiuse trails.
- Riders are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Horse-drawn buggy riding requires a free day-use reservation for buggy access behind locked gate.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

### *Fishing*

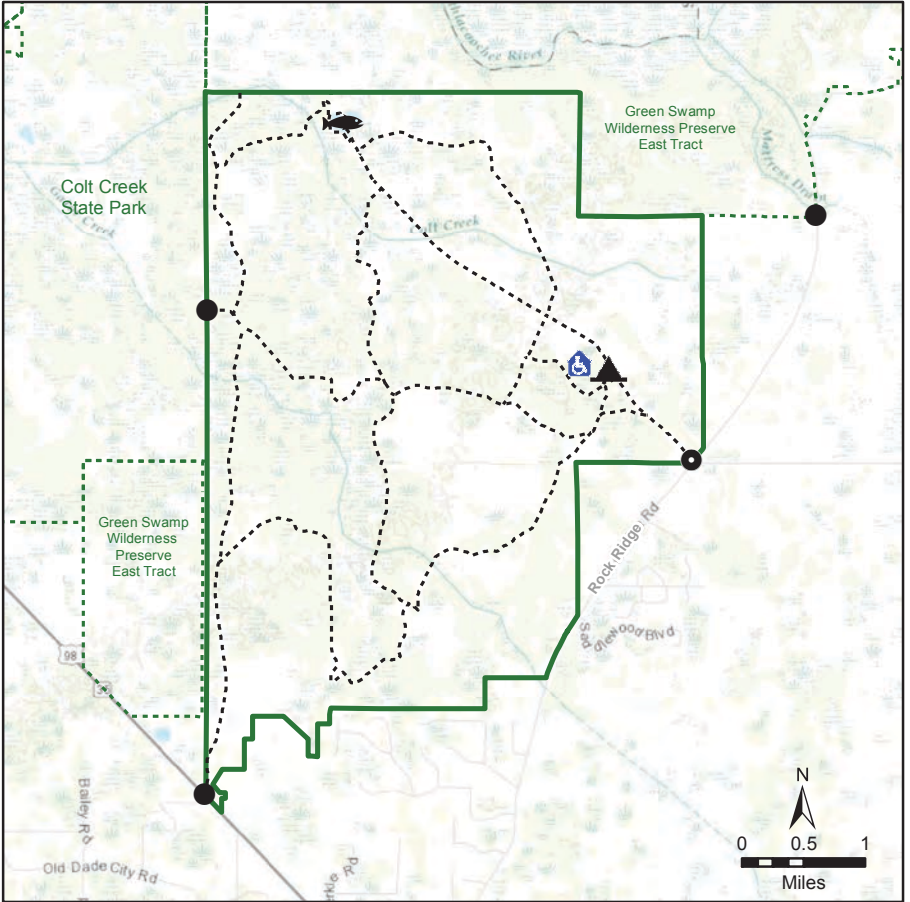
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for license requirements.

### *Hiking*

- Approximately 30 miles of multiuse trails.
- Prepare for wet hiking; some trails are excessively wet during certain times of year.

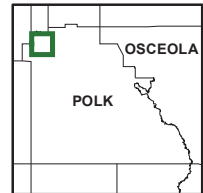
## For More Information

- Reservations may be made at [WaterMatters.org/Reservation](http://WaterMatters.org/Reservation).
- Land Resources, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470



## Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve Hampton Tract

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



General Location

# 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*

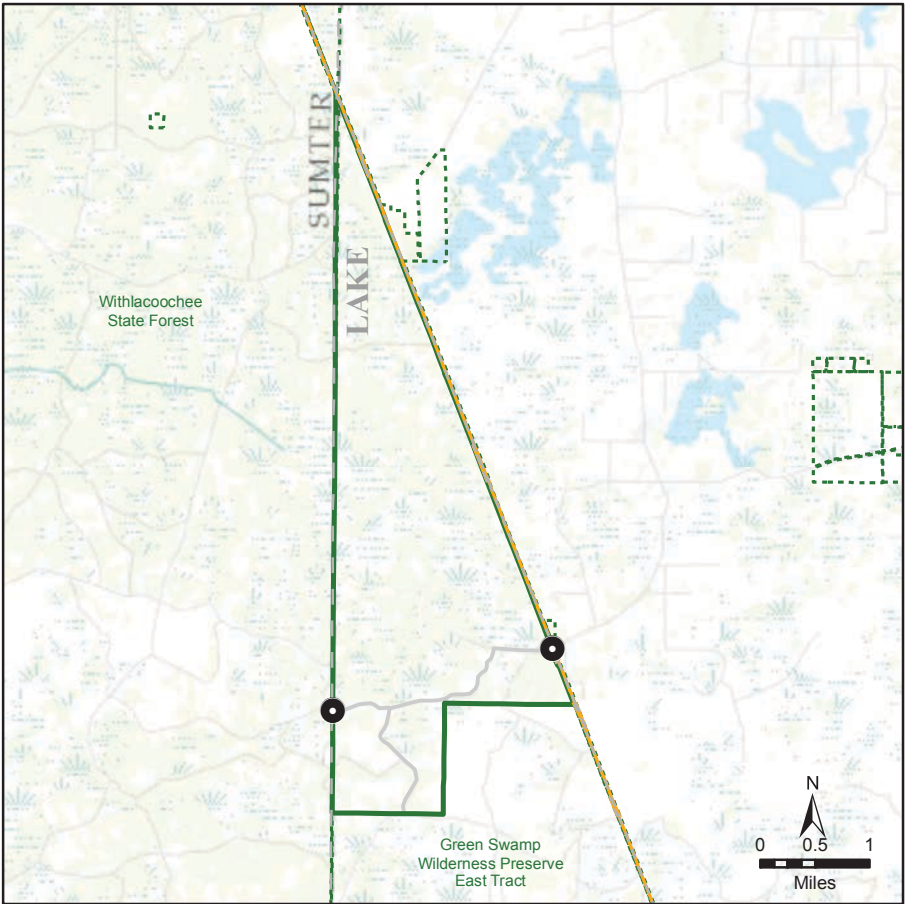
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for license requirements and permits.
- FWC rules and regulations must be observed throughout year.

### *Vehicle Access*

- Vehicles allowed on designated named or numbered roads as authorized by Florida Forest Service.
- Wooded roads may be in poor condition. Exercise caution when driving.

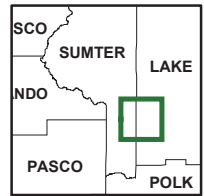
## For More Information

Florida Forest Service, (352) 797-4140



## Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve Little Withlacochee Tract

- highway/major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- other public lands
- property boundary
- county line
- river/stream
- lake/pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- access
- 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 (Richloam 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 Cumpresco and McNeil entrances.

## 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) website at [MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com).

## Restrooms and Water

- ADA accessible portable toilets available at campgrounds.
- Nonpotable water available at River Road entrance and equestrian and primitive campgrounds.

***All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.***

## Recreational Opportunities

### ***Bicycling***

- Approximately 65 miles of multiuse trails.
- Bicyclists are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

### ***Bird Watching***

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

### ***Boating and Paddling***

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

## ***Camping***

### **Equestrian and Primitive Sites:**

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

### **Backcountry Camping Sites:**

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

## ***Equestrian Use***

- Approximately 63 miles of multiuse trails.
- Riders are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Horse-drawn buggy riding requires a free day-use reservation for buggy access behind locked gate.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

## ***Fishing***

- Along Withlacoochee River; access from River Road and State Road 471.
- Contact FWC for license requirements.

## ***Hiking***

- Approximately 65 miles of multiuse trails.
- Approximately 31 miles of Florida National Scenic Trail run through Green Swamp East and West tracts.

### **Florida National Scenic Trail**

- The Florida National Scenic Trail is maintained by the Florida Trail Association.
- During hunts, hikers are encouraged to wear hunter orange or other bright color above the waist.

## ***Hunting***

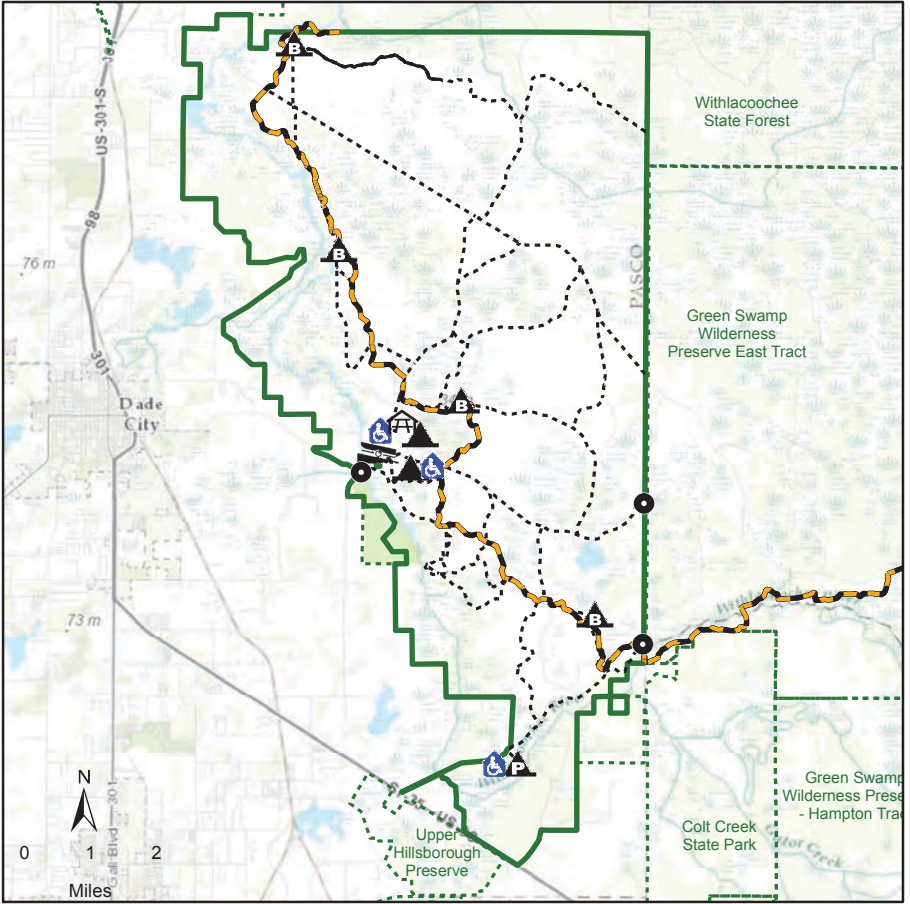
- Contact FWC for information regarding license requirements and permits.
- FWC rules and regulations must be observed throughout the year.

## ***Picnic Facilities***

- Picnic tables available inside main gate.
- A free reservation is required to reserve the pavilion.

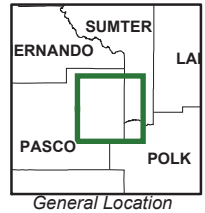
## **For More Information**

- Reservations may be made at [WaterMatters.org/Reservation](http://WaterMatters.org/Reservation).
- Land Resources, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470



## Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve West Tract

- |                    |                                  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| highway/major road | access point & parking           |
| minor road         | ADA accessible toilet            |
| designated trail   | boat ramp                        |
| other public lands | pavilion                         |
| property boundary  | backcountry camping              |
| county line        | equestrian and primitive camping |
| river/stream       | primitive camping                |
| lake/pond          | Florida National Scenic Trail    |
| forest             |                                  |
| wetland/swamp      |                                  |



# Half Moon-Gum Slough

8864 CR 247

Lake Panasoffkee, FL 33538

## Size

9,554 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.
- 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*

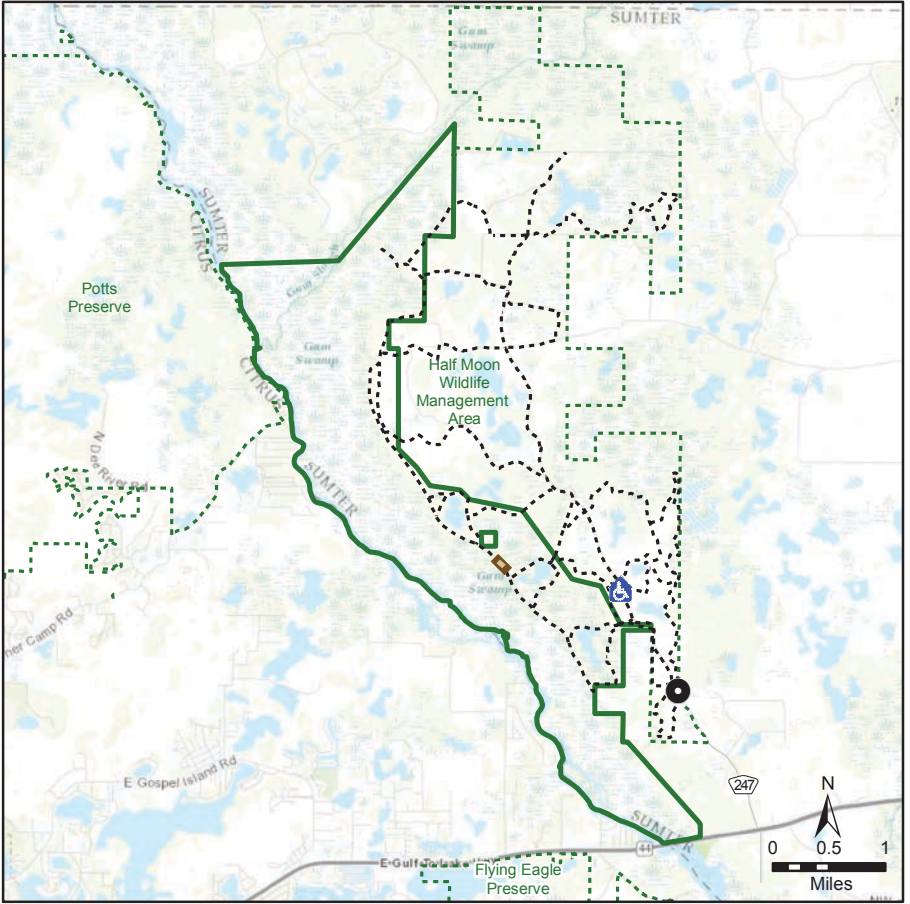
- Picnic facilities throughout property.

## Nearby Recreation Lands

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

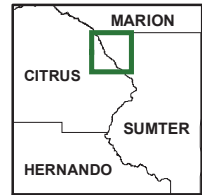
## For More Information

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



## Half Moon-Gum Slough

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



General Location

# 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.

## Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

## Restrooms and Water

ADA accessible portable toilets available at Pruitt Trailhead parking area. Nonpotable water available.

***All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.***

## Recreational Opportunities

### *Bicycling*

- Approximately 13 miles of multiuse trails.
- Bicyclists are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

### *Equestrian Use*

- Approximately 13 miles of multiuse trails.
- Riders are required to stay on designated or 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*

- Approximately 17 miles of multiuse trails.
- Prepare for wet hiking; some trails are excessively wet during certain times of year.

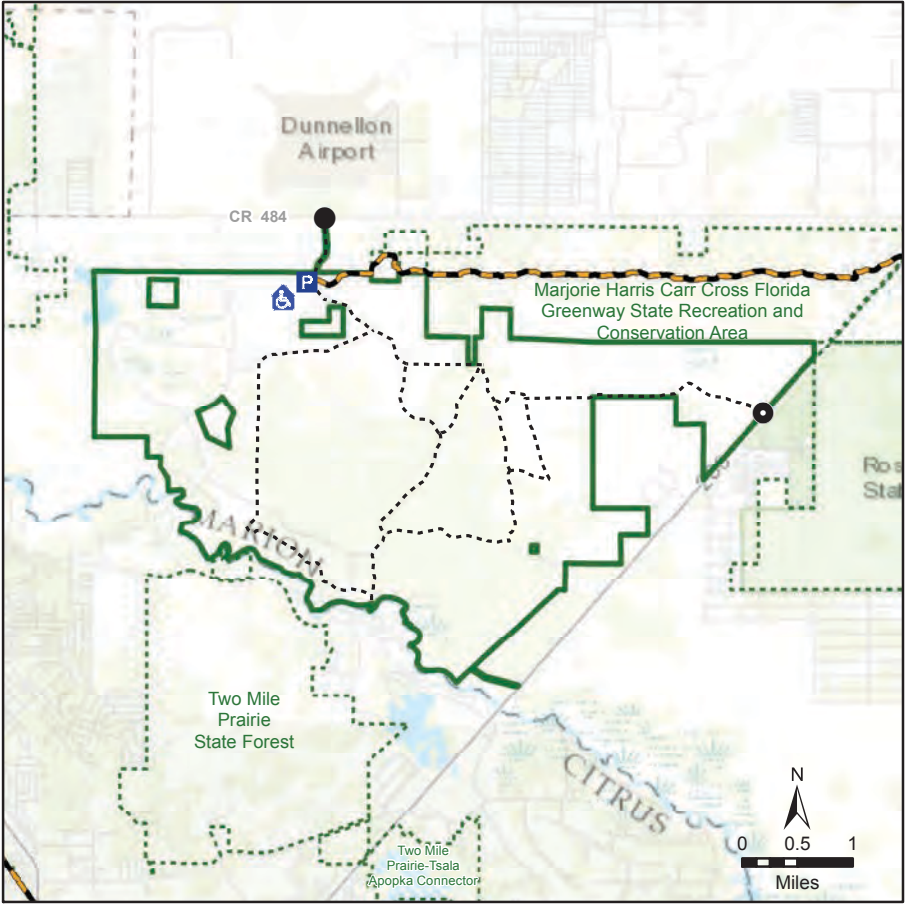
## Nearby Recreation Lands

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

## For More Information

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





## Hálpata Tastanaki Preserve

- highway/major road
- - - minor road
- · - · - · designated trail
- · · · · other public lands
- property boundary
- - - county line
- ~ river/stream
- ▭ lake/pond
- ▭ forest
- ▭ wetland/swamp
- access point
- access point & parking
- ♿ ADA accessible toilet
- P parking
- Florida National Scenic Trail



General Location

# 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

- Grand Concourse — walk-through with parking.

## Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

## Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available.

***All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.***

## Recreational Opportunities

### Hiking

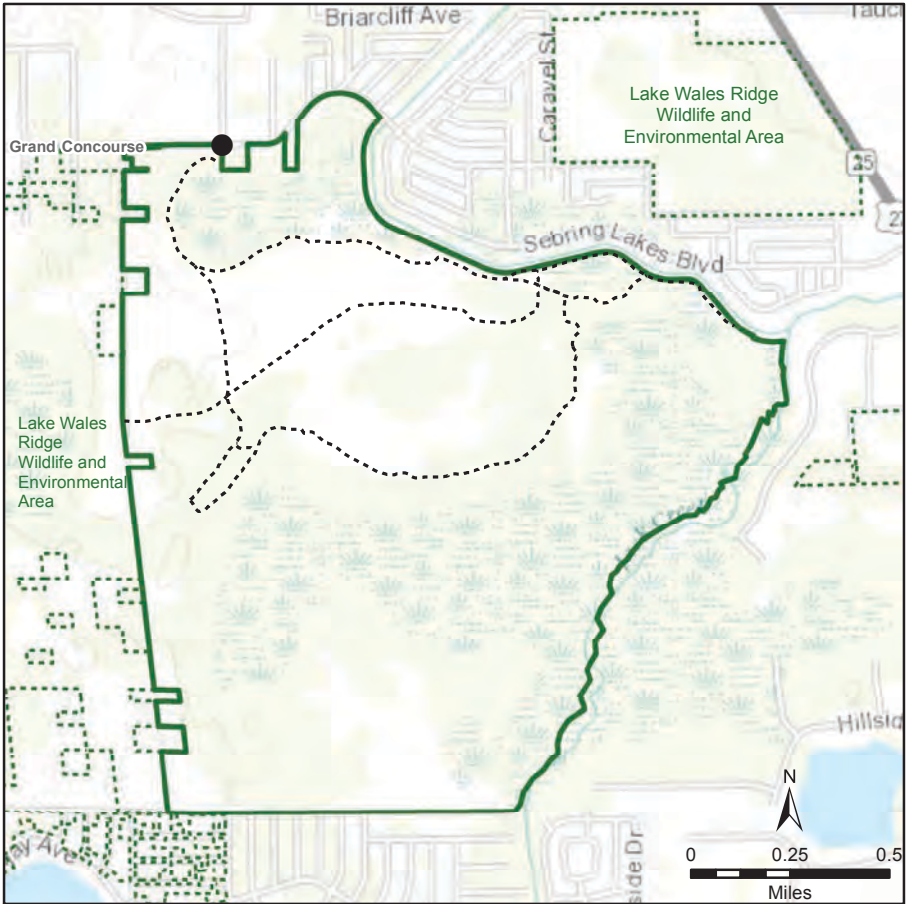
- Approximately 7 miles of unmarked interior roads.

## Nearby Recreation Lands

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

## For More Information

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



## Jack Creek

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



# 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

North property access from CR 580 or Horseshoe Creek Road, north of Haines City. South property access from Baker Dairy Road.

## 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

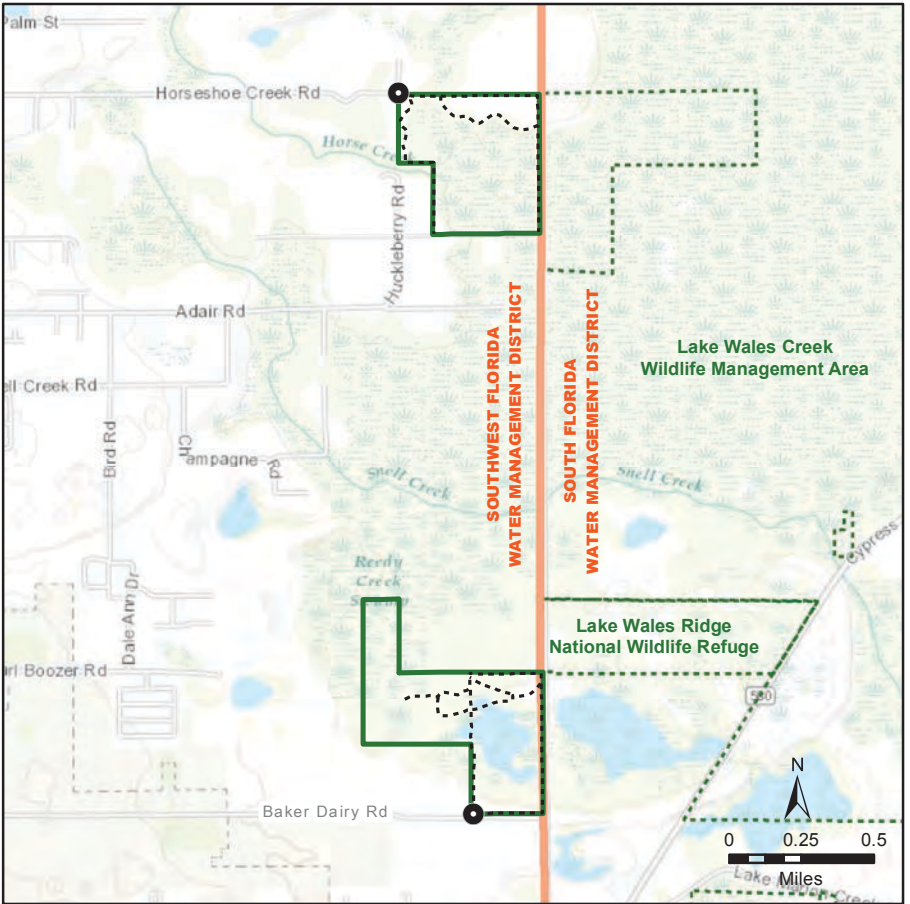
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for information regarding license requirements and permits.
- FWC rules and regulations must be observed throughout the year.

## Nearby Recreation Lands

- Allen David Broussard Catfish Creek Preserve State Park
- Sherwood L. Stokes Preserve

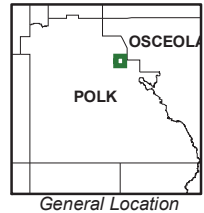
## For More Information

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



## Lake Marion Creek Horseshoe Scrub Tract

- highway/major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- other public lands
- property boundary
- county line
- river/stream
- lake/pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- 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.
- South side of Warm Springs Avenue.

## Hours of Operation

- Daily from sunrise to sunset.
- Open to public access year-round except during special opportunity hunts. For more information, visit the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) at [MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com).

## Restrooms and Water

- ADA accessible toilet available.
- Restrooms adjacent to picnic pavilion.
- Nonpotable water available at equestrian and primitive campgrounds.

***All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.***

## Recreational Opportunities

### Bicycling

- Approximately 18 miles of multiuse trails.
- Bicyclists are required to stay on designated and marked trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

### Bird Watching

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

### Boating and Paddling

- Available at nearby Coleman Landing Public Boat Ramp.

## Camping

- Separate sites available for equestrian and primitive camping.
- Sites have picnic tables, fire rings and/or grills.
- 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 or available at campground.

## Equestrian Use

- Approximately 18 miles of multiuse trails.
- Riders are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Horse-drawn buggy riding requires a free day-use reservation for buggy access behind locked gate.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

## Fishing

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

## Hiking

- Approximately 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

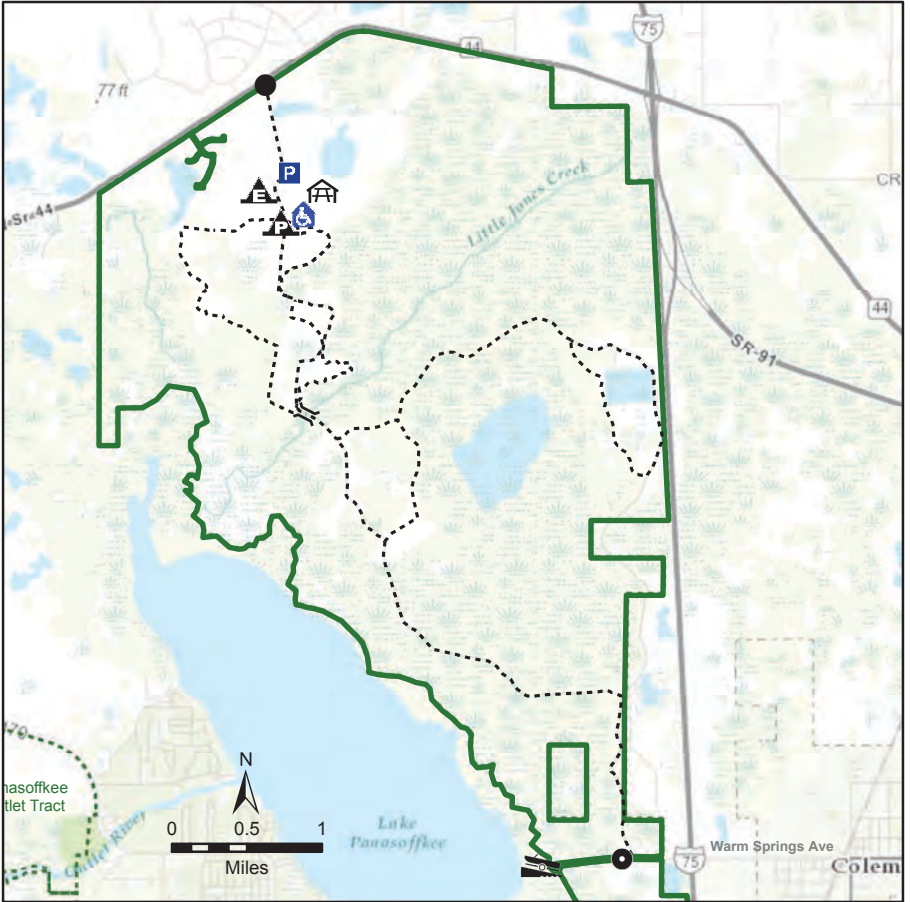
- Large pavilion with picnic tables and grills in day-use area. A free reservation is required to reserve the pavilion.

## Nearby Recreation Lands

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

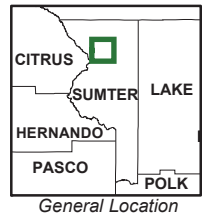
## For More Information

- Reservations may be made at [WaterMatters.org/Reservation](http://WaterMatters.org/Reservation).
- Land Resources, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470



## Lake Panasoffkee

- |                    |                        |                    |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| highway/major road | access point           | parking            |
| minor road         | access point & parking | pavilion           |
| designated trail   | ADA accessible toilet  | equestrian camping |
| other public lands | bridge                 | primitive camping  |
| property boundary  | boat ramp              |                    |
| county line        |                        |                    |
| river/stream       |                        |                    |
| lake/pond          |                        |                    |
| forest             |                        |                    |
| wetland/swamp      |                        |                    |



# 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

- 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

- 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 provided from Canal Park.
- ADA access and facilities available.

## Hours of Operation

Daily from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

## Restrooms, Water and Other Amenities

Restrooms and water at Canal Park.

## Recreational Opportunities

### Canal Park

#### 3120 Tampa Road

A 46-acre sports complex that offers a state-of-the-art BMX supercross track, and baseball, softball, football and soccer fields. In addition, trails access the canal and boardwalk.

### Sheffield Park

#### 1923 Cutty Bay Court

A 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, baseball/softball fields and trail access.

## 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 and trails.
- 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

- Improved asphalt trails available along canal.

## Picnic Facilities

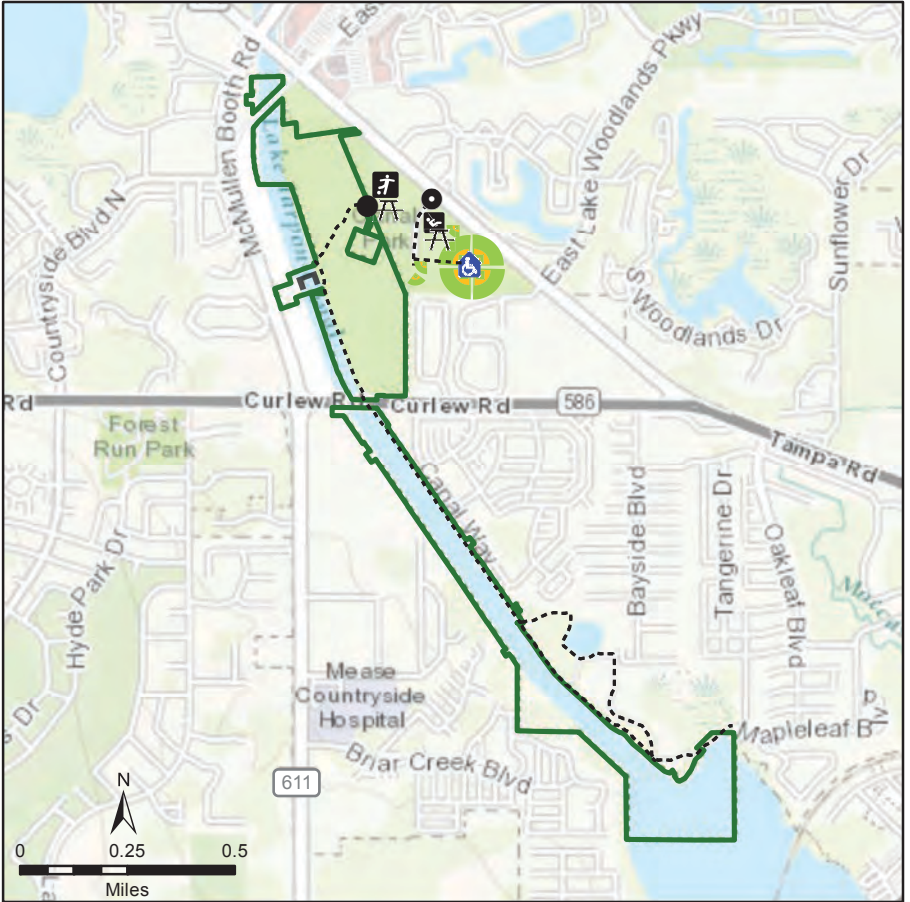
- Single-table picnic shelters at Canal Park with ADA facilities.

## Nearby Recreation Lands

- Anderson Park
- John Chesnut Sr. Park

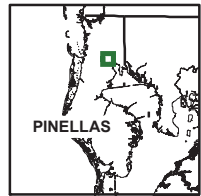
## For More Information

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



## Lake Tarpon Outfall Canal

- |                    |                        |                       |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| highway/major road | access point & parking | control structure     |
| minor road         | walk-through           | picnic area           |
| designated trail   | ADA accessible         | playground            |
| other public lands | baseball complex       | soccer/football field |
| property boundary  |                        |                       |
| county line        |                        |                       |
| river/stream       |                        |                       |
| lake/pond          |                        |                       |
| forest             |                        |                       |
| wetland/swamp      |                        |                       |



General Location

# 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*

- One backcountry campsite along river — letter of authorization needed for camping from the Hillsborough County Conservation and Environmental Lands Management 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.

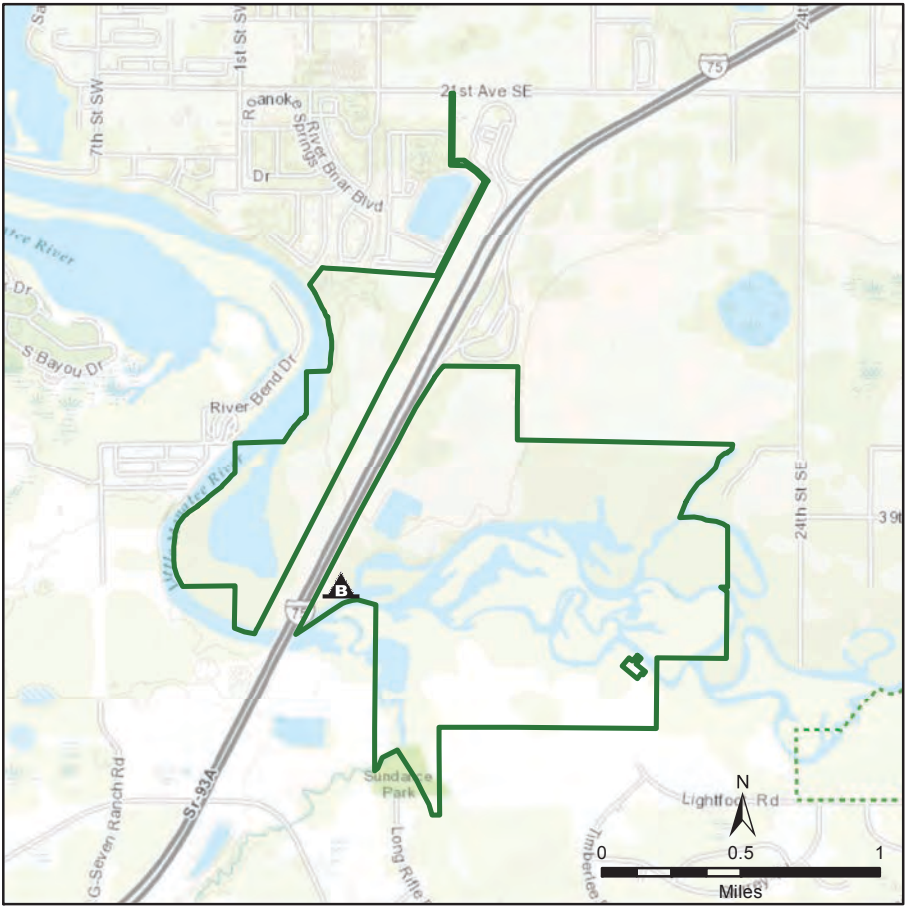
## Nearby Recreation Lands

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

## For More Information

Hillsborough County Conservation and Environmental Lands Management Department, [HillsboroughCounty.org/Conservation](http://HillsboroughCounty.org/Conservation).

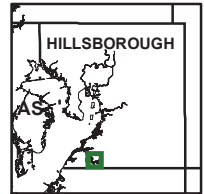




## Little Manatee River Lower Tract

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

- backcountry camping  
(river access camping only)



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.

***All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.***

## Recreational Opportunities

### Hiking

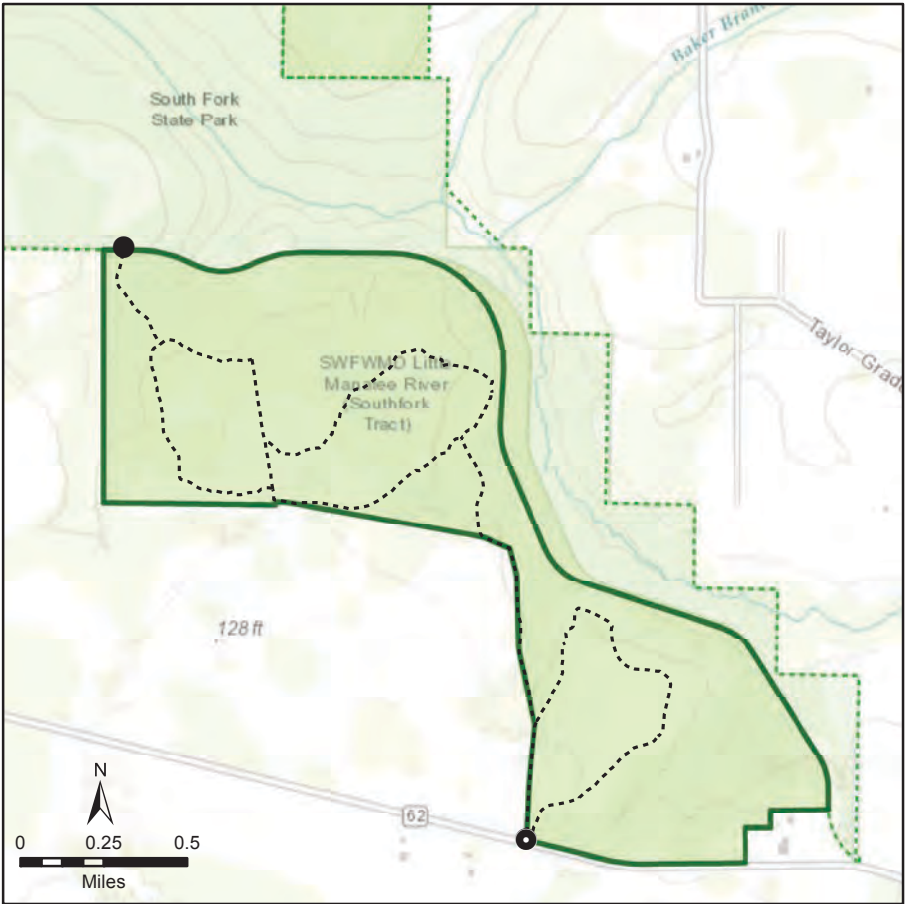
- Approximately 6 miles of trails.

### Nearby Recreation Lands

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

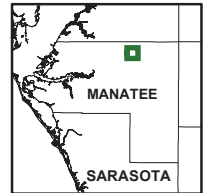
### For More Information

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



## Little Manatee River Southfork Tract

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



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 Conservation and Environmental Lands Management 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 and parking located on CR 579, south of the river on the left side of the road.
- Additional access and parking on the south side of the river between CR 579 and Leonard Lee Road.

## 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

- Approximately 11 miles of trails available.

### Paddling

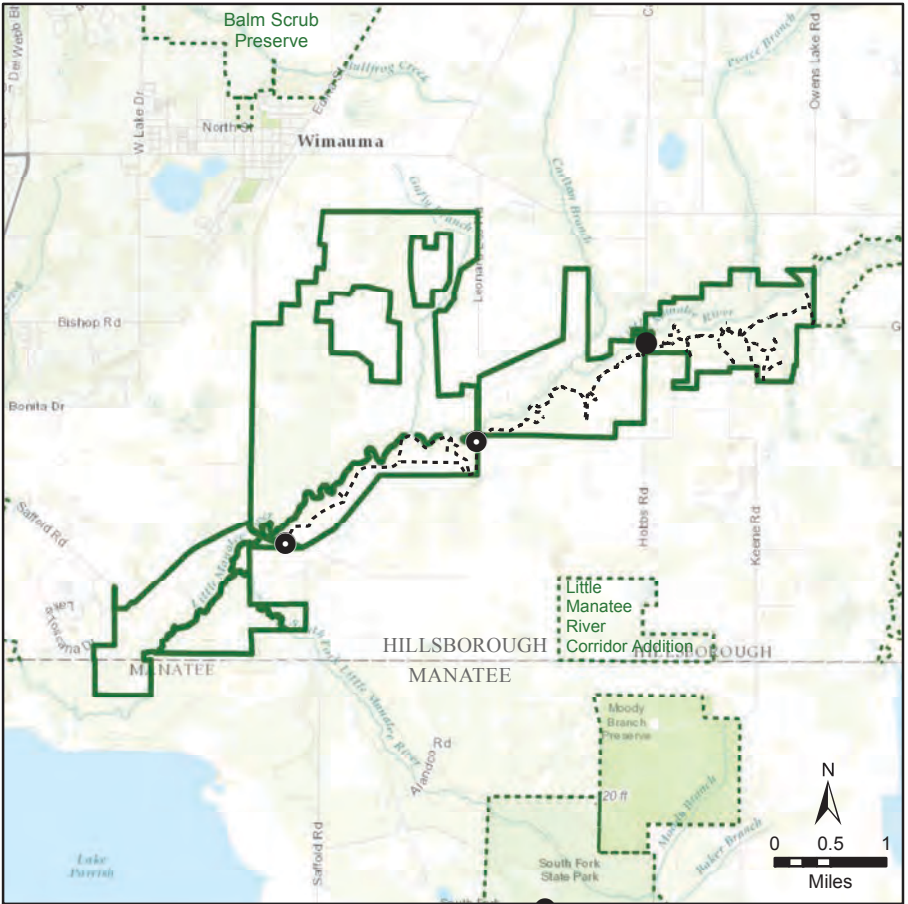
- Little Manatee River has a striking beauty, which makes it exceptionally popular for paddling when water conditions are right.

## Nearby Recreation Lands

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

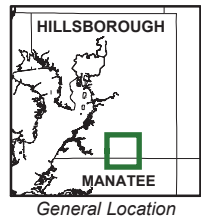
## For More Information

Hillsborough County Conservation and Environmental Lands Management Department,  
[HillsboroughCounty.org/Conservation](http://HillsboroughCounty.org/Conservation)



## Little Manatee River Upper Tract

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





# 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 Conservation and Environmental Lands Management 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 more than 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 365-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.

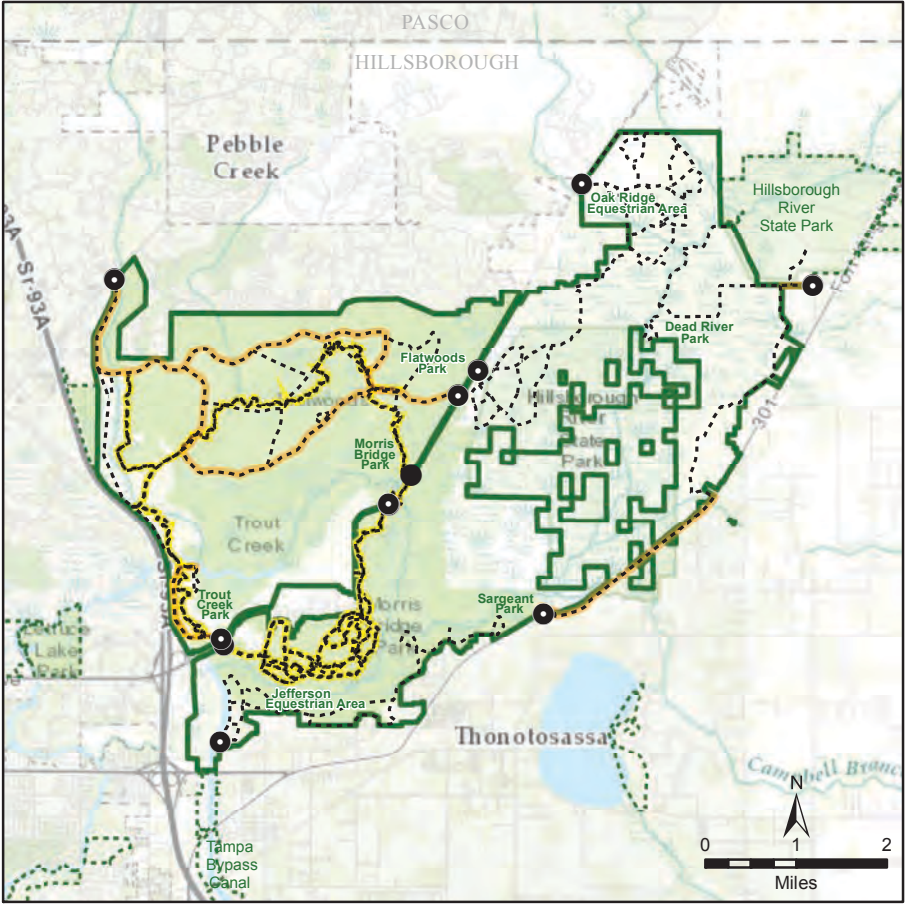
Human occupation of the area has had a long history. Past generations of Native Americans took advantage of flint along area rivers to make tools. American industrialists began harvesting pine, cypress and hardwood trees on the property in the 1840s. Elevated tram roads, built to haul timber through 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.

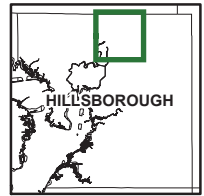
## Nearby Recreation Lands

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



## Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve

- highway/major road
- minor road
- paved trail
- designated trail
- other public lands
- property boundary
- county line
- river/stream
- lake/pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- access point & parking
- walk-through
- Wilderness Park Off Road Trails System



General Location

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

### Restrooms and Water

Restroom and water fountain located by picnic area.

### Dogs

- Dogs must be on a leash no more than six feet in length.
- Owners are required by law to pick up after dogs.

### 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 located on western section of Great Florida Birding and Wildlife 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

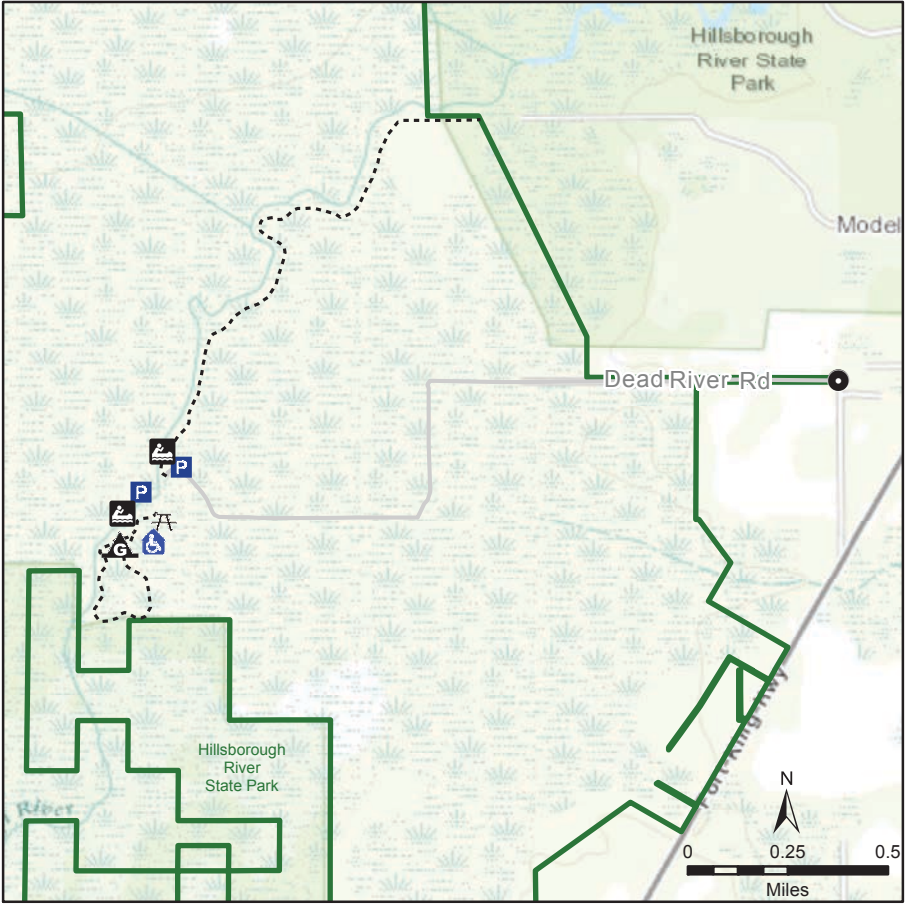
- Canoe launch is a short portage from parking area.
- Canoe landing upstream one mile at old Reagan homesite.
- Hillsborough River State Park located further upstream.
- Downstream is Seventeen Runs. This portion of Hillsborough River Canoe Trail is designated as a primitive trail. Experienced paddlers 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 Conservation and Environmental Lands Management Department, [HillsboroughCounty.org/Conservation](http://HillsboroughCounty.org/Conservation).
- Hillsborough River Canoe Trail maps available from Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Greenways & Trails, [FloridaGreenwaysandTrails.com](http://FloridaGreenwaysandTrails.com)



## Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve Dead River Park

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| highway/major road | access point & parking |
| minor road         | ADA accessible toilet  |
| designated trail   | canoe launch           |
| other public lands | parking                |
| property boundary  | picnic area            |
| county line        | group camping          |
| river/stream       |                        |
| lake/pond          |                        |
| 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. Parking at visitor center and first well house.
- 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, 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 required by law to pick up after dogs.

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

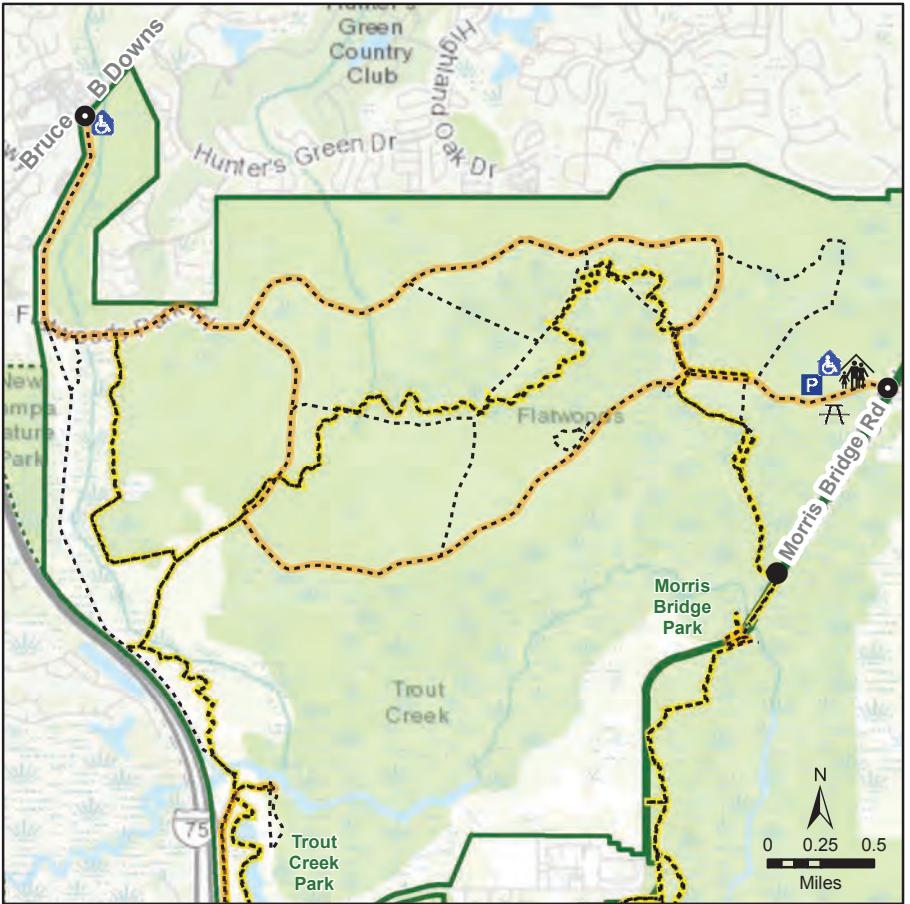
#### *Hiking*

- 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.
- Picnic tables available.
- 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.

### For More Information

- Hillsborough County's Flatwoods Park, (813) 987-6211
- Hillsborough County Conservation and Environmental Lands Management Department, [HillsboroughCounty.org/Conservation](http://HillsboroughCounty.org/Conservation).





## Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve Flatwoods Park

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| highway/major road | access point & parking                 |
| minor road         | walk-through                           |
| paved trail        | ADA accessible toilet                  |
| designated trail   | parking                                |
| other public lands | picnic area                            |
| property boundary  | visitor center                         |
| county line        | Wilderness Park Off Road Trails System |
| river/stream       |  |
| lake/pond          |  |
| forest             |  |
| wetland/swamp      |  |



*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.

### 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.

### Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available.

***All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.***

## Recreational Opportunities

### *Equestrian Use*

- Approximately 9 miles of multiuse trails.
- For safety and erosion control, do not ride on canal bank or berm.
- Riders are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

### *Fishing*

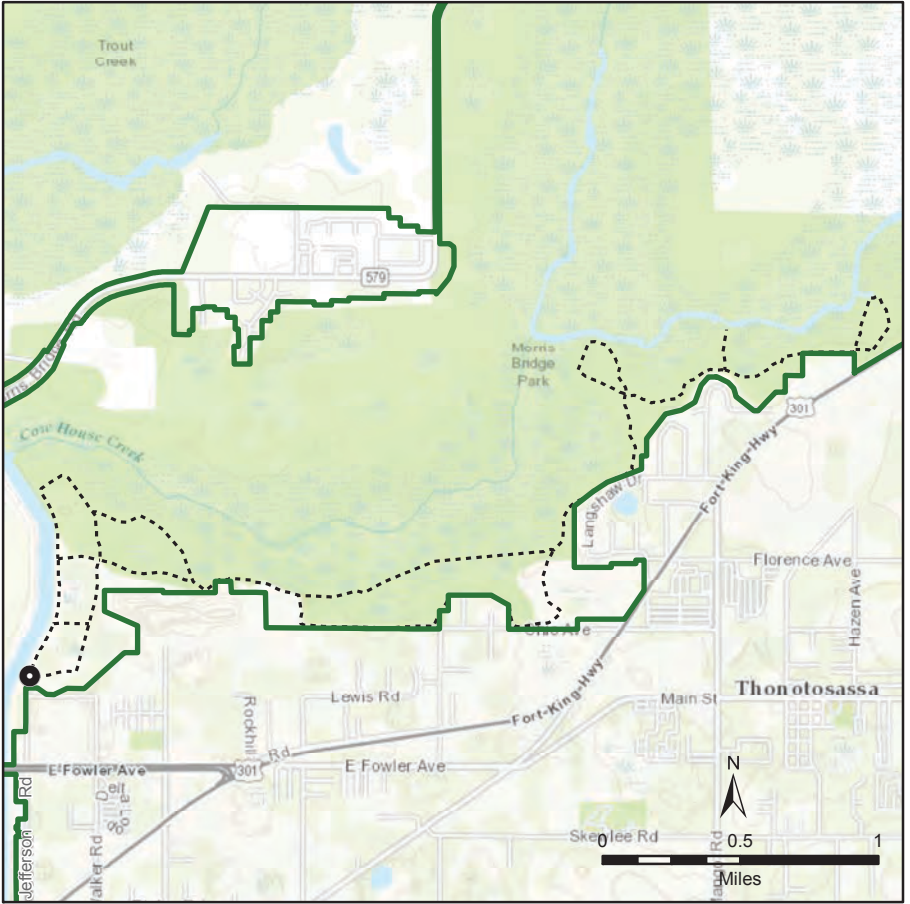
- Bank fishing from public access points.
- Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for license requirements.

### *Hiking*

- Approximately 9 miles of multiuse trails.

### For More Information

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



## Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve Jefferson Equestrian Area

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



*General Location*

## 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 and Water

Restroom located in park, no water.

### Dogs

- Dogs must be on a leash no more than six feet in length.
- Owners are required by law to pick up after dogs.

## Recreational Opportunities

### Bird Watching

- Site located on western section of Great Florida Birding and Wildlife 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

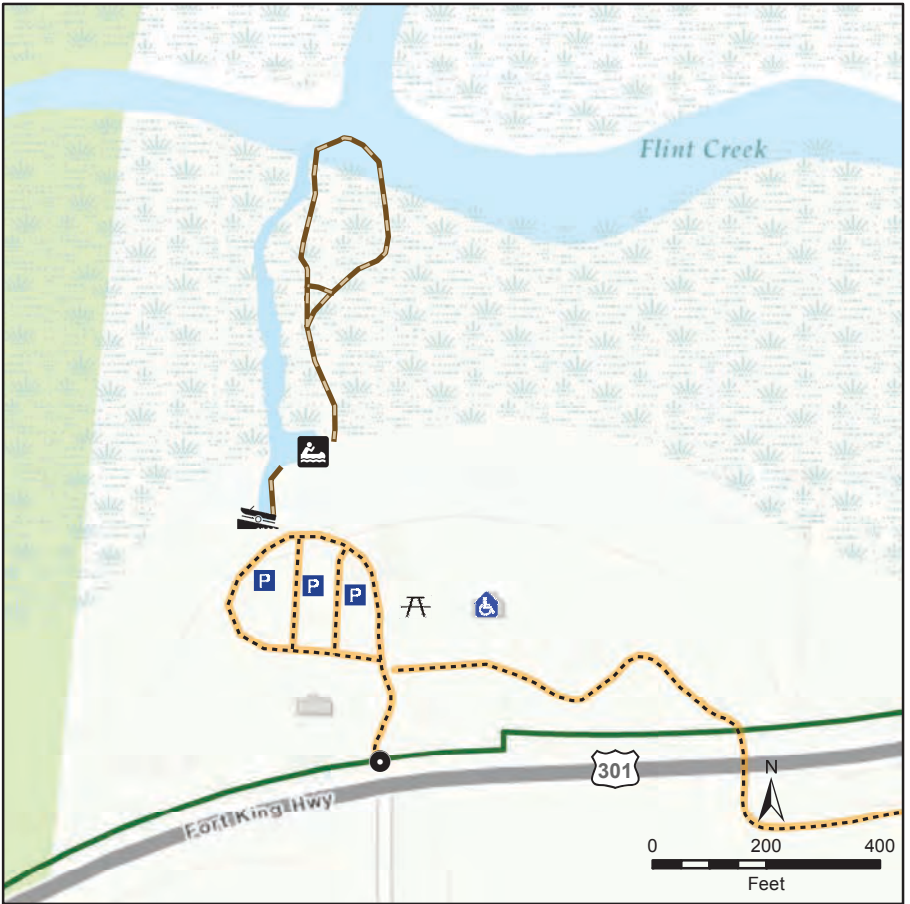
- 6.7-mile trail from John B. Sargeant Park trailhead to Model Dairy trailhead at Hillsborough River State Park.

### Picnic Facilities

- Picnic tables and a covered pavilion provided.
- Picnic shelters are first come, first served.

### 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, [FloridaGreenwaysandTrails.com](http://FloridaGreenwaysandTrails.com)
- Hillsborough County Conservation and Environmental Lands Management Department, [HillsboroughCounty.org/Conservation](http://HillsboroughCounty.org/Conservation).



## Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve John B. Sargeant Park

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



*General Location*



## 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 and bike wash on north side of park.

### Dogs

- Dogs must be on a leash no more than six feet in length.
- Owners are required by law to pick up after dogs.

### 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 located on western section of Great Florida Birding and Wildlife 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

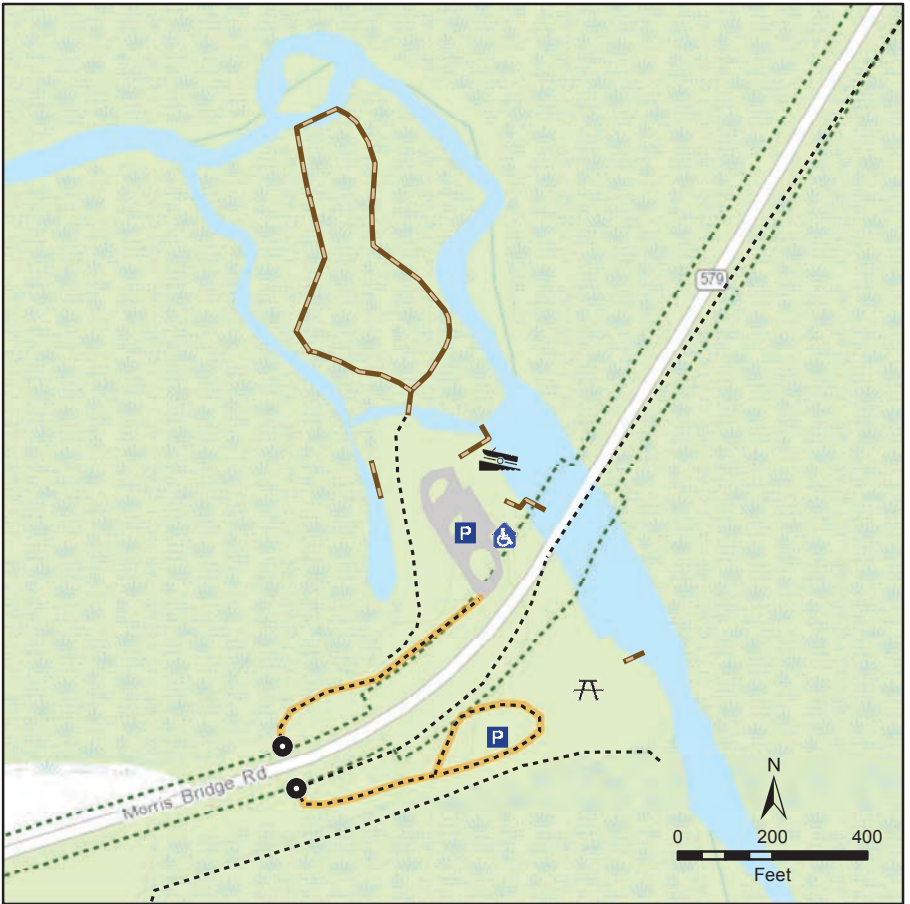
- On south side, a 0.75-mile shell trail along an old tram road. Rest shelter provided at halfway point on trail.
- On north side, a 0.25-mile boardwalk circumnavigates an island in Hillsborough River. Beware of slippery boards.
- Primitive trail heading south along river winds through a forest to gazebo.
- 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.

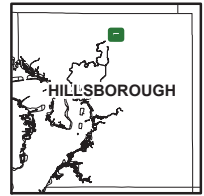
### For More Information

- Morris Bridge Park, (813) 987-6209
- Hillsborough River Canoe Trail maps available from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Greenways and Trails, [FloridaGreenwaysandTrails.com](http://FloridaGreenwaysandTrails.com)
- Hillsborough County Conservation and Environmental Lands Management Department, [HillsboroughCounty.org/Conservation](http://HillsboroughCounty.org/Conservation).



## Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve Morris Bridge Park

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



*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.
- Vehicle access to southern portion of trail is through Washburn gate. Day-use reservations required to access equestrian parking area.

### Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

### Restrooms and Water

ADA accessible portable toilets and nonpotable water available at equestrian campgrounds.

*All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.*

## Recreational Opportunities

### Camping

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

### Equestrian Use

- Approximately 16 miles of multiuse trails
- Riders are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Horse-drawn buggy riding requires a free day-use reservation for buggy access behind locked gate.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

### Hiking

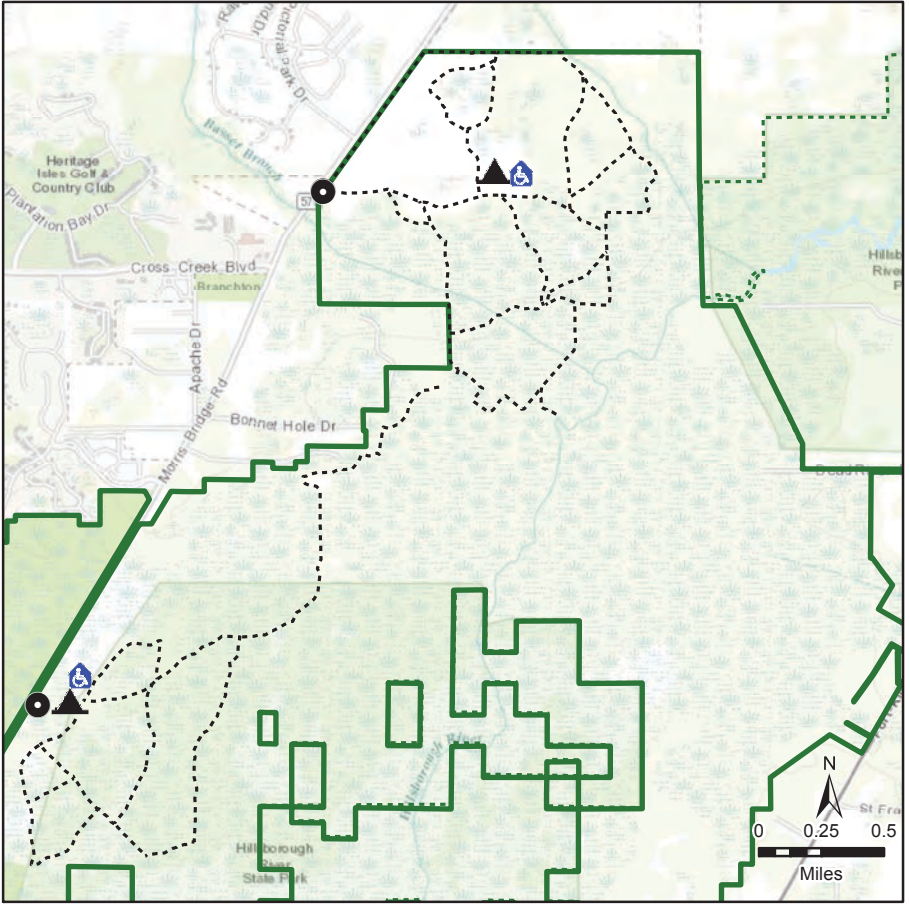
- Approximately 16 miles of multiuse trails.
- Prepare for wet hiking; some trails are excessively wet during certain times of the year.

### 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.

### For More Information

- Reservations may be made at [WaterMatters.org/Reservation](http://WaterMatters.org/Reservation).
- Land Resources, 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

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



*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, bike wash and recycling container.

### Dogs

- Dogs must be on a leash no more than six feet in length.
- Owners are required by law to pick up after dogs.

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

### Boating and Paddling

- Canoe or small boat must be hand carried to river.
- 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.

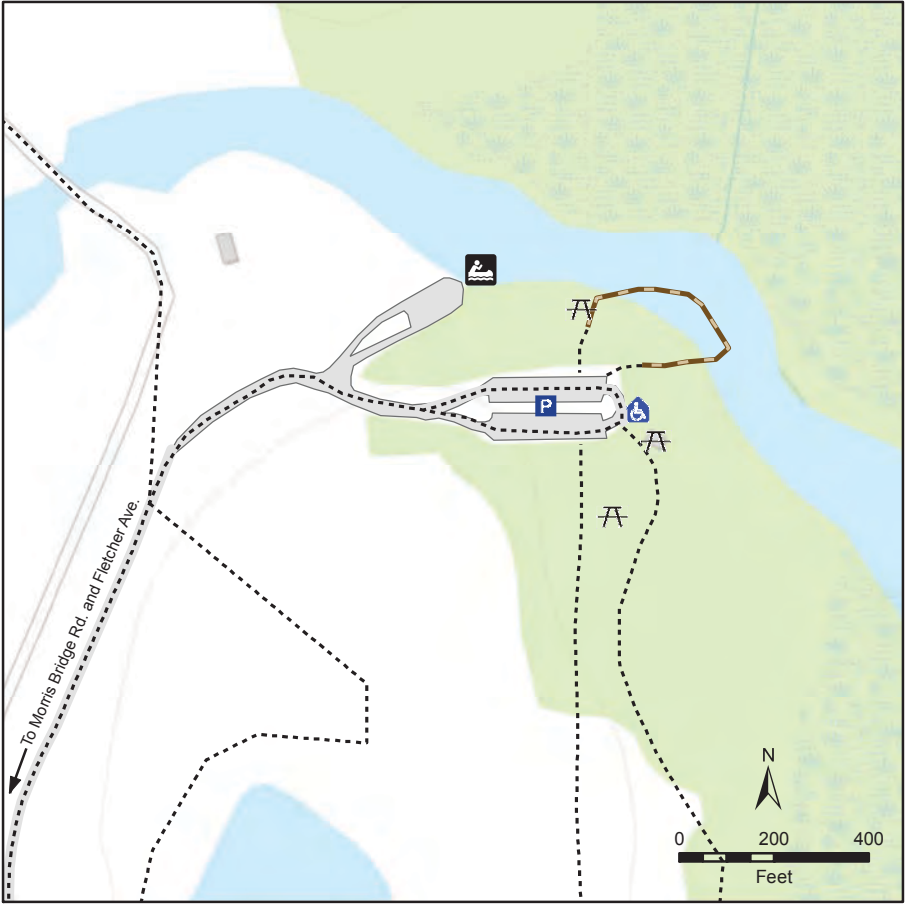
### Picnic Facilities

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

### For More Information

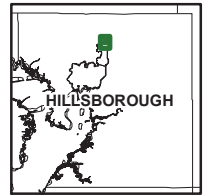
- Trout Creek Park, (813) 987-6200
- Hillsborough River Canoe Trail maps available from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Greenways and Trails, [FloridaGreenwaysandTrails.com](http://FloridaGreenwaysandTrails.com)
- Hillsborough County Conservation and Environmental Lands Management Department, [HillsboroughCounty.org/Conservation](http://HillsboroughCounty.org/Conservation).





## Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve Trout Creek Park

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



*General Location*

## 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 Conservation and Environmental Lands Management 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.

### 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 and bike washes 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 required by law to pick up after dogs.

### 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

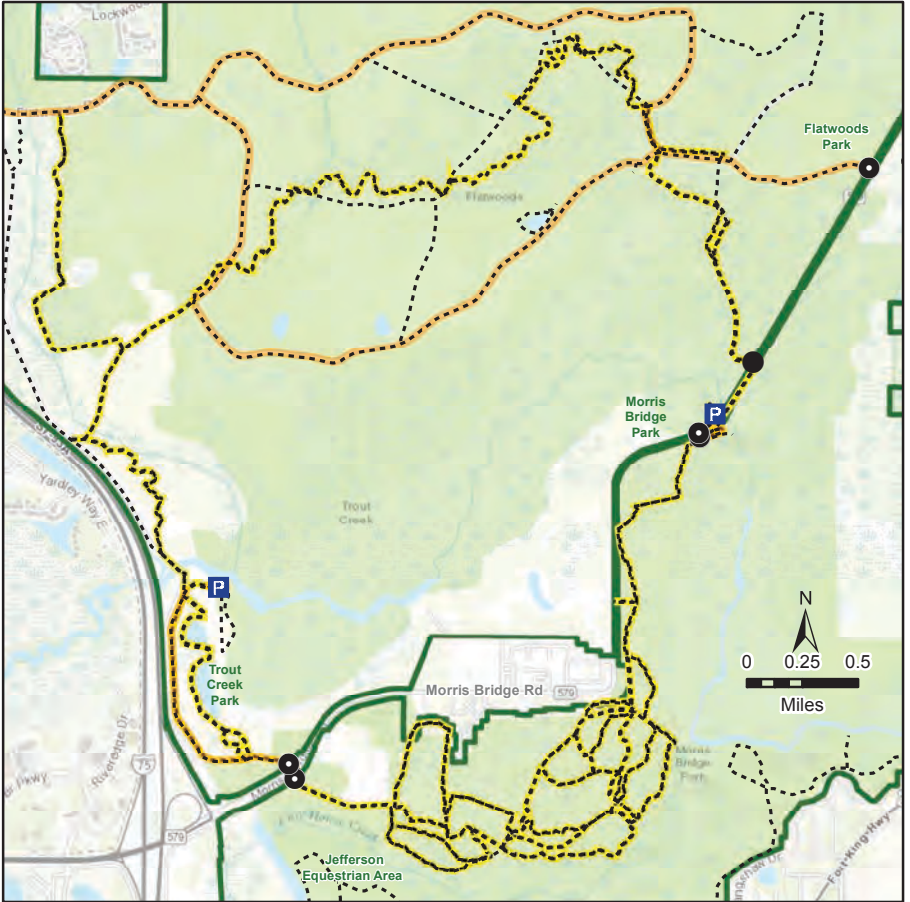
- Watch for uneven terrain and exposed roots.
- Beware of fast-moving bicycles. Use extra caution when approaching blind corners.

#### 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 Conservation and Environmental Lands Management Department, [HillsboroughCounty.org/Conservation](http://HillsboroughCounty.org/Conservation)



## Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve Wilderness Park Off Road Trails System

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| highway/major road | access point & parking                 |
| minor road         | walk-through                           |
| paved trail        | parking                                |
| designated trail   | Wilderness Park Off Road Trails System |
| other public lands |  |
| property boundary  |  |
| county line        |  |
| river/stream       |  |
| lake/pond          |  |
| forest             |  |
| wetland/swamp      |  |



# Marshall Hampton Reserve

3115 Thornhill Road  
Winter Haven, FL 33880

## Size

1,173 acres

## Location

Northwest/Central Polk County, between south Lakeland and Winter Haven

## About the Property

The Marshall Hampton Reserve was acquired by the District in 2008. The Polk County Environmental Lands Program entered into a management agreement with the District in 2010 to oversee the management of the property.

The acquisition of this property protected a significant amount of shoreline and floodplain swamp on the edge of Lake Hancock. Lake Hancock is often referred to as the headwaters of the Peace River.

At times the property can be extremely wet, often flooding entire portions of the property. Even some of the hammock areas will hold a significant amount of water for short periods. Visitors have a couple of multiuse trail options to explore the Marshall Hampton Reserve.

## Access and Parking

- Just off Thornhill Road, entrance is on west side of road.
- Parking and walk-through are provided for hikers.
- Equestrian parking is available after obtaining a special use permit.

## Hours of Operation

Daily from 6 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. during standard time and 5:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. during daylight savings time.

## Restrooms and Water

- No restrooms or water available.

## Recreational Opportunities

### *Equestrian Use*

- Horseback riding is available by special use permit. For free permit, contact Polk County.
- Approximately 7 miles of multiuse trails.
- Riders are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

### *Hiking*

- Approximately 7 miles of multiuse trails.
- Benches are scattered along the hammock trail.

### **Osprey Overlook Loop Trail**

- 2.5-mile multiuse trail.
- Trail is an elevated berm all the way around the 60-acre pond.
- Wildlife watchers will enjoy watching the ospreys, cormorants, coots and eagles.

### **Acorn Hammock Loop**

- 3.5-mile multiuse trail.
- Shaded trail through a scenic oak hammock that loops around through historic pine flatwoods.

### *Wildlife Viewing*

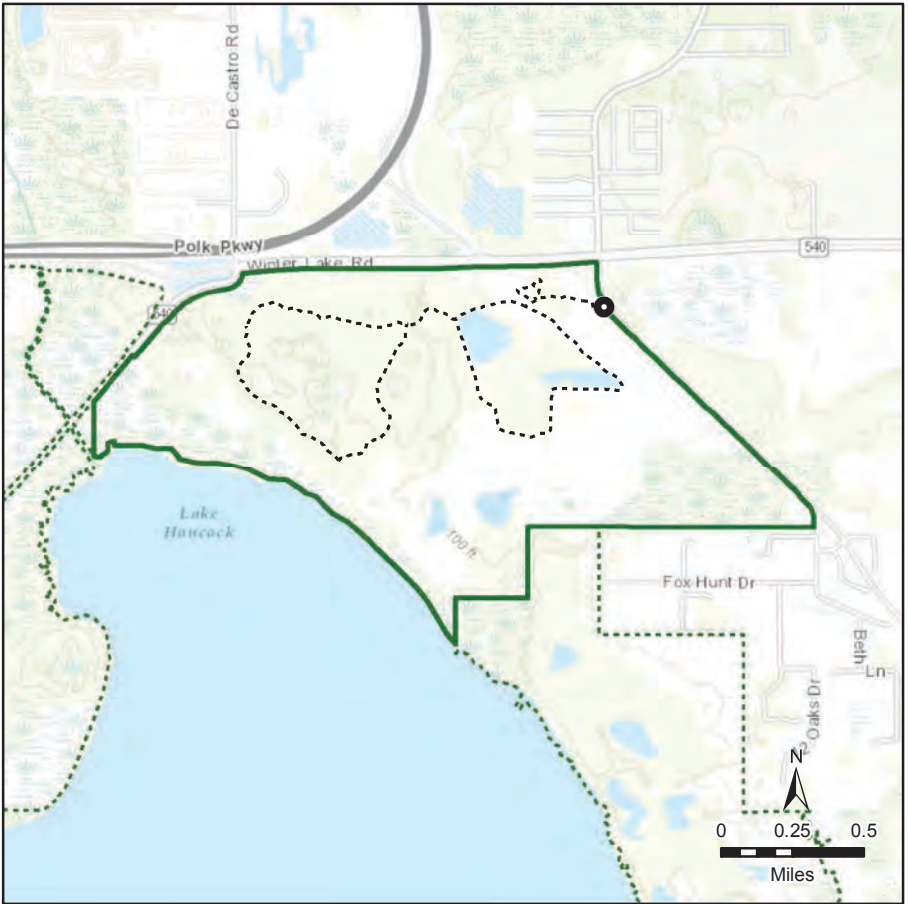
- A variety of wildlife have been observed on the site, such as gators, bobcat, turkey and pileated woodpeckers. If you listen while you walk, you may hear the animals moving about in the palmettos — as this is a great place for them to hide.

## Nearby Recreational Lands

- Circle B Bar Reserve
- Fort Fraizer Trail

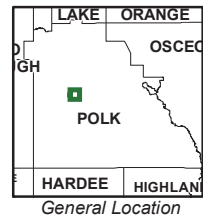
## For More Information

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



## Marshall Hampton Reserve

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





# 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

North Entrance — 7001 Forbes Trail. 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.

South Entrance — 10201 South Tamiami Trail. One mile east of River Road — US 41 (Tamiami Trail) intersection on South Tamiami Trail between Venice and North Port.

## Hours of Operation

April — October: 7:30 a.m.–8 p.m.

November — March: 7:30 a.m.–6 p.m.

## 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*

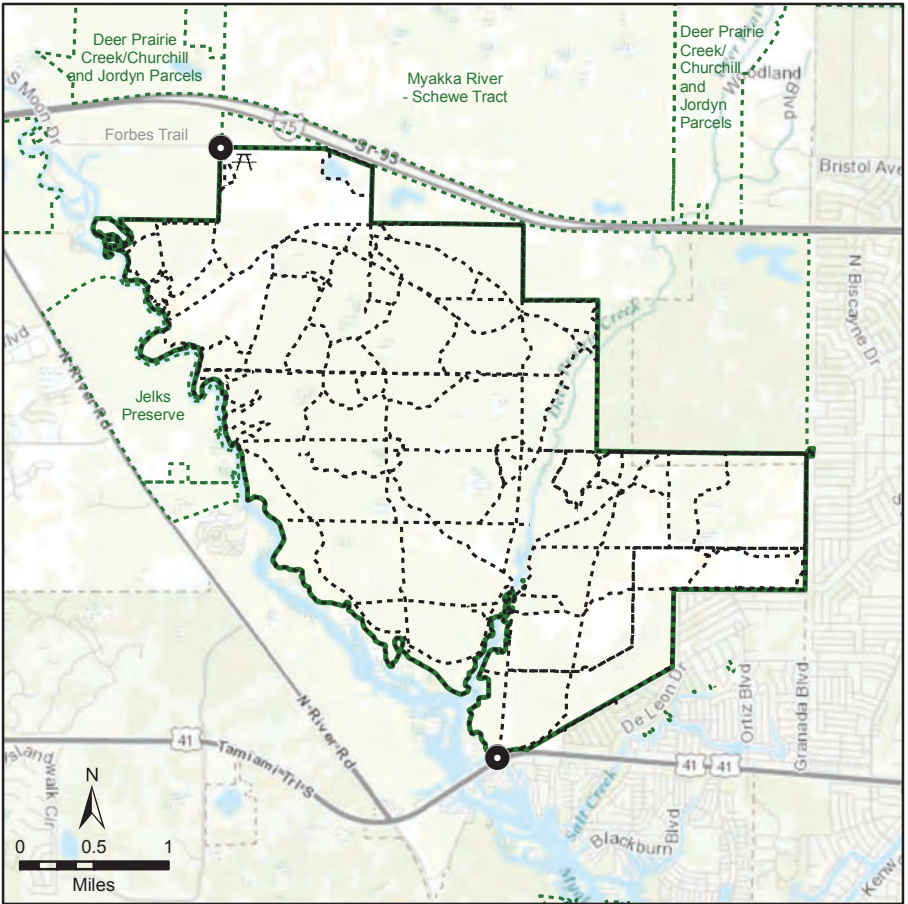
- Limited picnic tables available.

## Nearby Recreation Lands

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

## For More Information

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



## Myakka River — Deer Prairie Creek Preserve

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

## 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-through entrance at intersection of Taylor and Wauchula roads; parking to accommodate a limited number of visitors to property.
- Walk-through off Wauchula Road in the southeast portion of property; does not provide parking.

***All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.***

## 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*

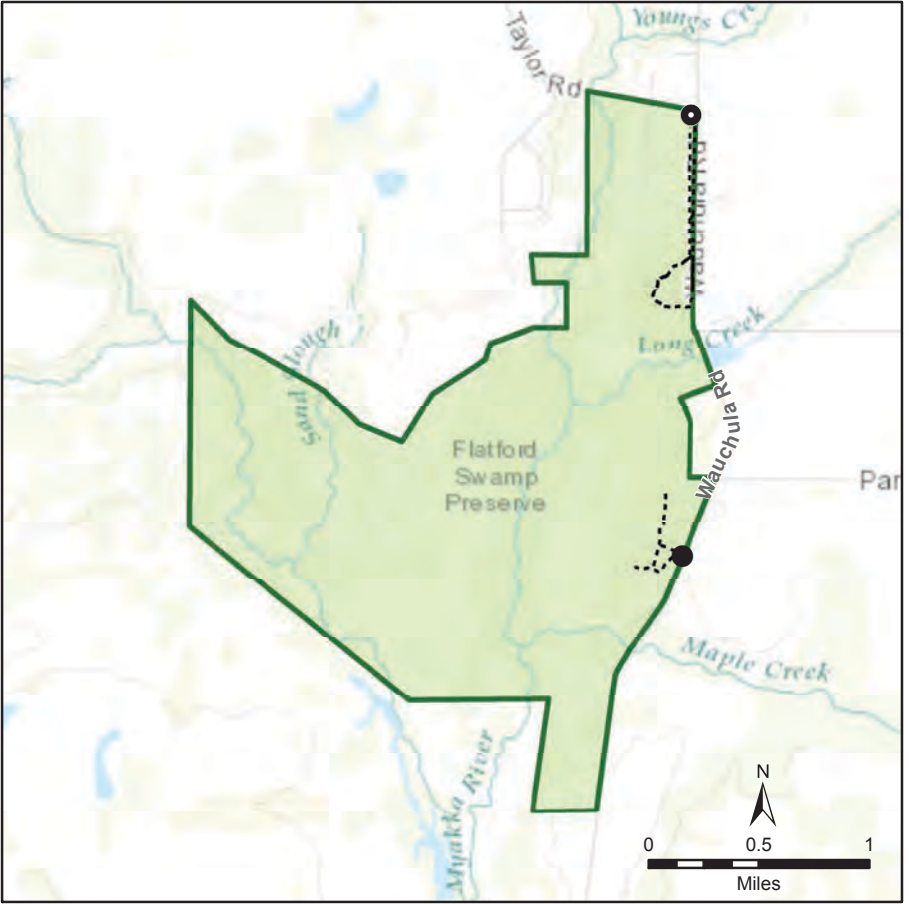
- Approximately 2 mile of trails.
- Prepare for wet hiking; some trails are excessively wet during certain times of year.

## Nearby Recreation Lands

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

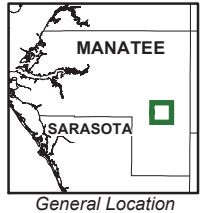
## For more information

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



# Myakka River — Flatford Swamp Preserve

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



# 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.
- Fees apply. Check in at main entrance to Myakka River State Park.
- 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.

### *Bird Watching*

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

### *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.

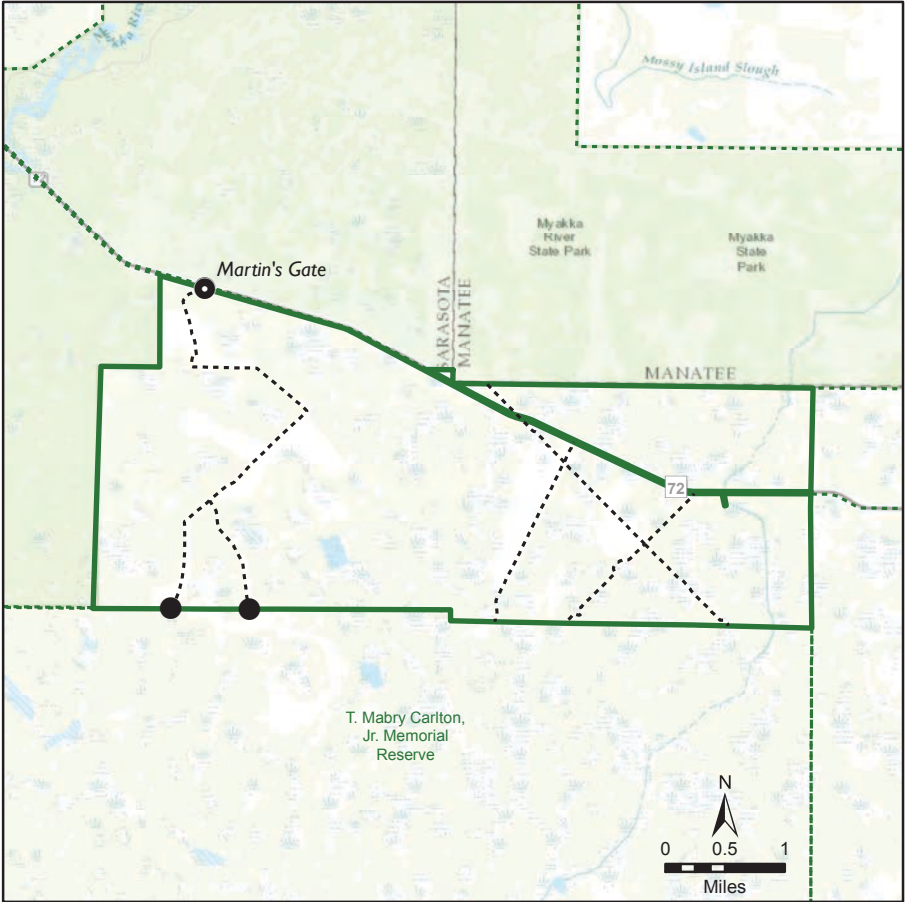
## Nearby Recreation Lands

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

## For More Information

Myakka River State Park, (941) 361-6511

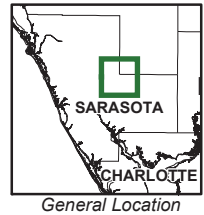




## Myakka River State Park — Myakka Prairie Tract

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

- access point & parking
- walk-through



# Myakka State Forest

2000 South River Road  
Englewood, FL 34295

## Size

8,592 acres

## Location

Southwestern Sarasota County, within the North Port City limits

## 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 Forest Service (FFS).

## Access and Parking

- Exit 191 on I-75, River Road (CR 777).
- Motorized vehicles may only enter at River Road gate (main entrance).
- ADA access and facilities available.

## Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

## Restrooms and Water

Portable toilets are available in the picnic area.

## Dogs

Must be on leash no more than 10 feet in length.

## Recreational Opportunities

### Bicycling

- Allowed on all trails and roads.
- The Palmetto Trail offers a challenging off-road ride as it snakes its way to the Myakka River and back (approximately 10 miles) from the East River Road parking area.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

### Camping

- Primitive campsites available in various locations.
- Flying "A" campground accessible by forest roads. Campers and tents allowed. No electric or water available.

- Campers required to obtain a Florida Forest Use Permit from FFS in order to use any primitive campsites.
- Toilets available for registered campers at the Flying "A" campground.

### Equestrian Use

- More than 40 miles of marked trails available, 13 of which are part of FFS'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 Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) for information regarding license requirements and permits.
- FWC rules and regulations must be observed throughout the year.

### Hiking

- More than 40 miles of marked trails available, 13 of which are part of FFS's Trailtrotter 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

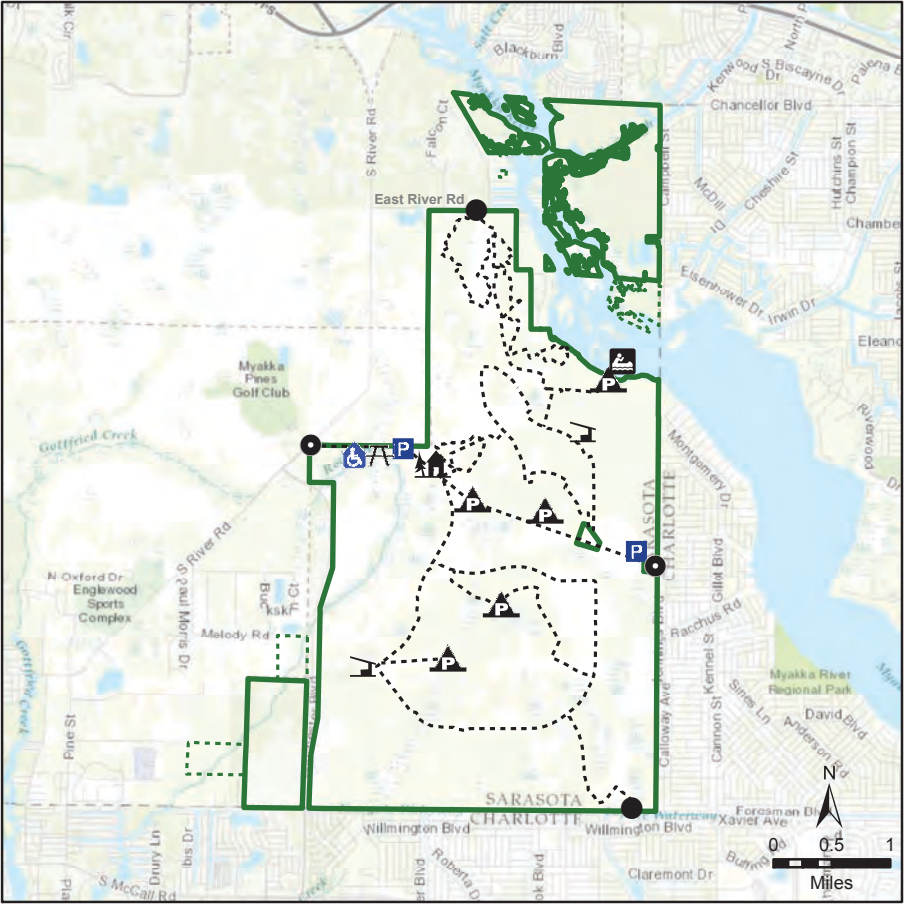
- Picnic areas available at several points along entrance road, some of which are covered. Most have grills and picnic tables.

### Nearby Recreation Lands

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

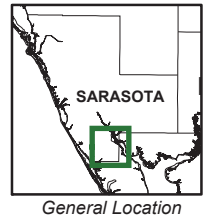
### For More Information

Florida Forest Service, Myakka State Forest,  
(941) 460-1333



## Myakka State Forest

- |                              |                                     |                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| — highway/major road         | ● access point & parking            | canoe launch                        |
| - - - minor road             | ● walk-through                      | parking                             |
| - · - · - designated trail   | primitive camping                   | picnic area                         |
| · · · · · other public lands | ranger office, parking and restroom | ranger office, parking and restroom |
| — property boundary          | ADA accessible toilet               |                                     |
| - - - county line            | trail shelter                       |                                     |
| — river/stream               |                                     |                                     |
| — lake/pond                  |                                     |                                     |
| — forest                     |                                     |                                     |
| · · · · · wetland/swamp      |                                     |                                     |



# 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 more than 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-through 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.

*All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.*

## Recreational Opportunities

### *Bird Watching*

- Site located on western section of the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife 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*

- Approximately 3 miles of hiking trails.
- Prepare for wet hiking; some trails are excessively wet during certain times of year.

### *Picnic Facilities*

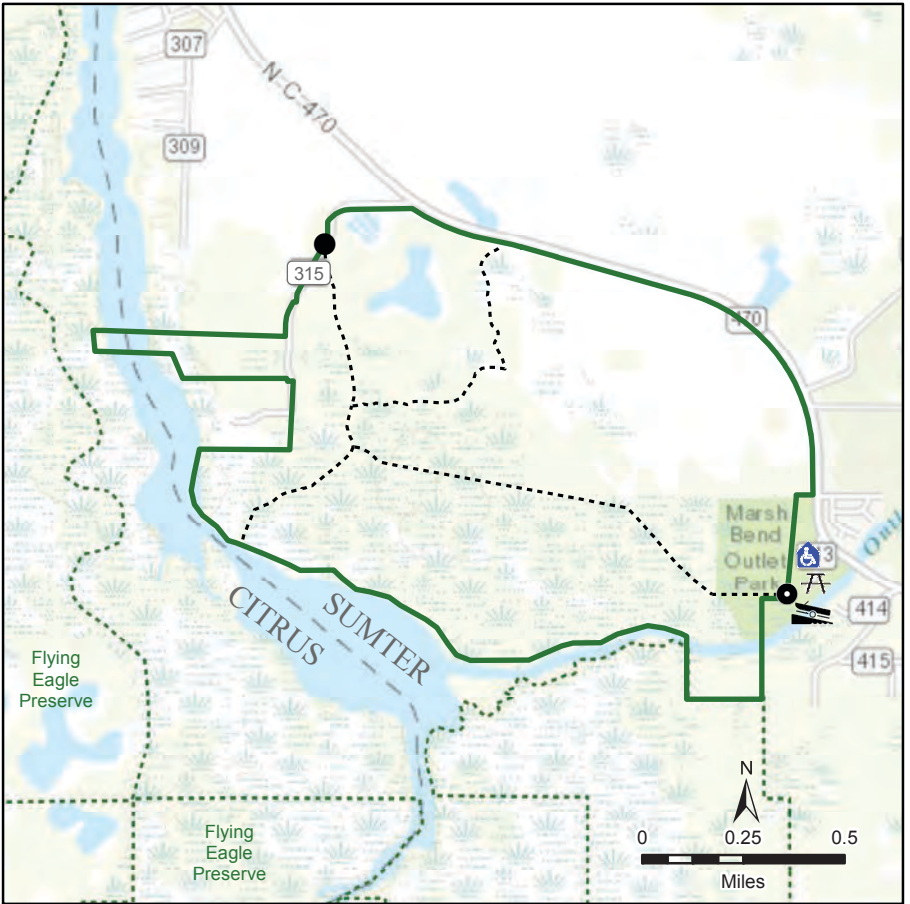
- Picnic tables offered at Marsh Bend County Park.

### *Nearby Recreation Lands*

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

### *For More Information*

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



## Panasoffkee Outlet

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

- access point & parking
- walk-through
- ♿ ADA accessible toilet
- 🚤 boat ramp
- ⛶ picnic area





# Potts Preserve

2700 Dee River Road —

Equestrian Camping

2988 North Hooty Point —

River Hiking Trail and Campground

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 and backcountry camp.
- Parking at Dee River Road gate for trails leading to upland and freshwater marsh communities. Equestrian parking available.

## Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

## Restrooms and Water

- ADA accessible portable toilets available at campgrounds.
- Nonpotable water available at equestrian area.

***All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.***

## Recreational Opportunities

### ***Bicycling***

- Approximately 9 miles of multiuse trails.
- Bicyclists are required to stay on designated or marked trails.

### ***Bird Watching***

- Site located on western section of Great Florida Birding and Wildlife 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, primitive and backcountry camping.
- Sites have picnic tables, fire rings and/or grills.
- A free reservation is required and must be displayed or available at campground.

## **Backcountry**

- This campsite is accessible only by foot.
- This site has a picnic table and fire ring.

## ***Equestrian Use***

- Approximately 9 miles of multiuse trails.
- Riders are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Horse-drawn buggy riding requires a free day-use reservation for buggy access behind locked gate.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

## ***Fishing***

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

## ***Hiking***

- Approximately 22 miles open for hiking, including a 4-mile river 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. Double blaze symbols indicate a sharp turn in trail.

## ***Hunting***

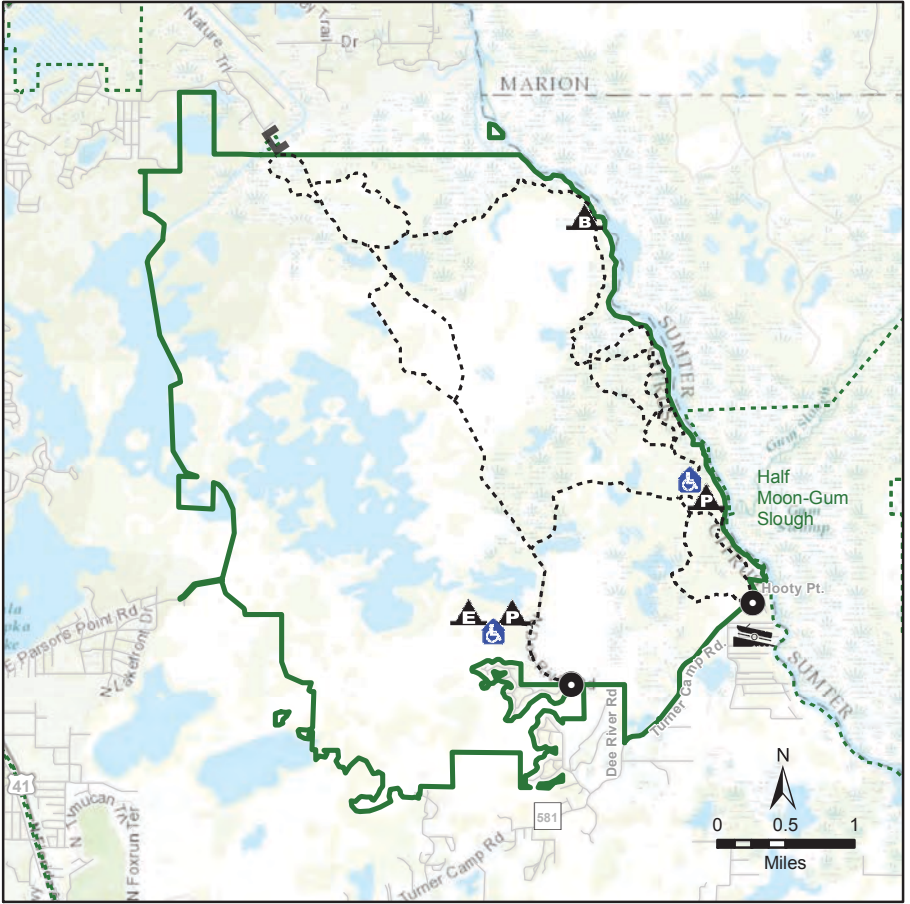
- Contact FWC for information regarding license requirements and permits.
- FWC rules and regulations must be observed throughout the year.
- Non-Wildlife Management Area Public Use Area hunting open year-round in occurrence with applicable state regulations.

## **Nearby Recreation Lands**

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

## **For More Information**

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



## Potts Preserve

- highway/major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- other public lands
- property boundary
- county line
- river/stream
- lake/pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- access point & parking
- ADA accessible toilet
- boat ramp
- control structure
- backcountry camping
- equestrian camping
- primitive camping



General Location

# 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

- On the west side of US 17 (Duncan Road) and north of the intersection of US 17 and CR 764.
- A walk-through 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.

*All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.*

## 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

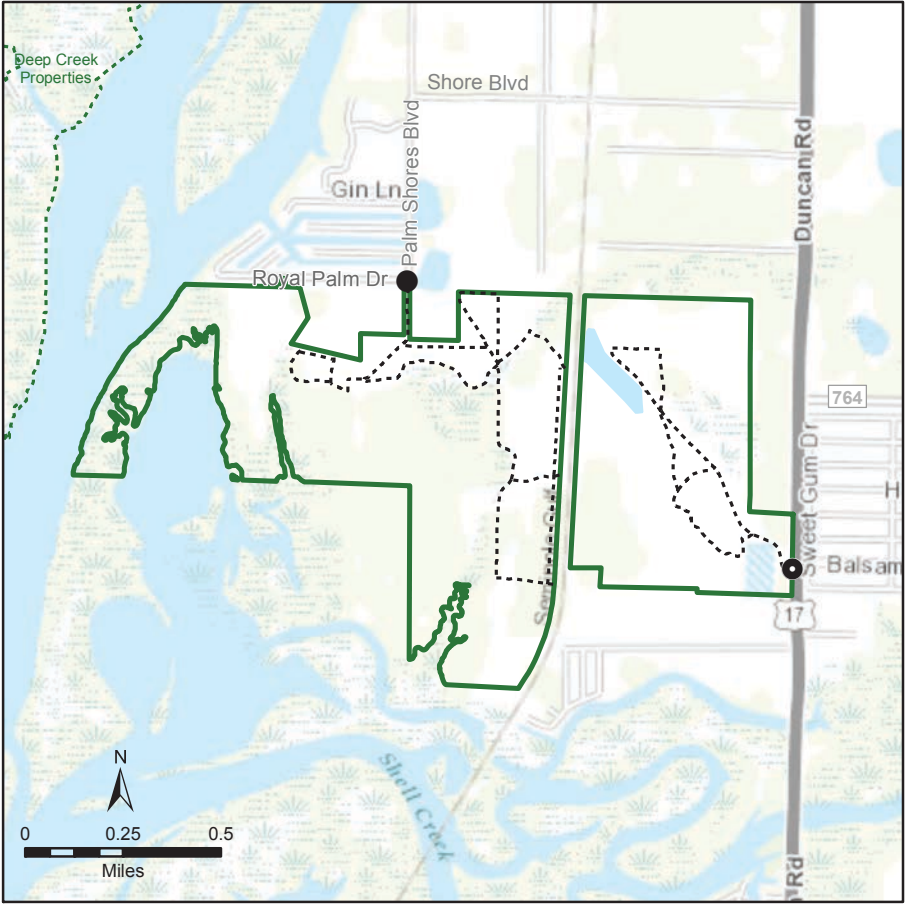
- Approximately 5 miles of trails.

## Nearby Recreation Lands

- Deep Creek Preserve
- RV Griffin Reserve

## For More Information

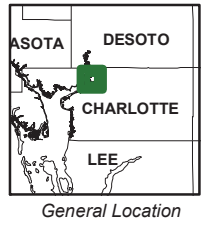
Land Resources, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470



## Prairie/Shell Creek

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

- access point & parking
- walk-through



# RV Griffin Reserve

9067 CR 769

Arcadia, FL 34269

## 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 a developer in anticipation of future 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 two reservoirs located on PRMRWSA property and RV Griffin Reserve. Pipes connect the reservoirs 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.

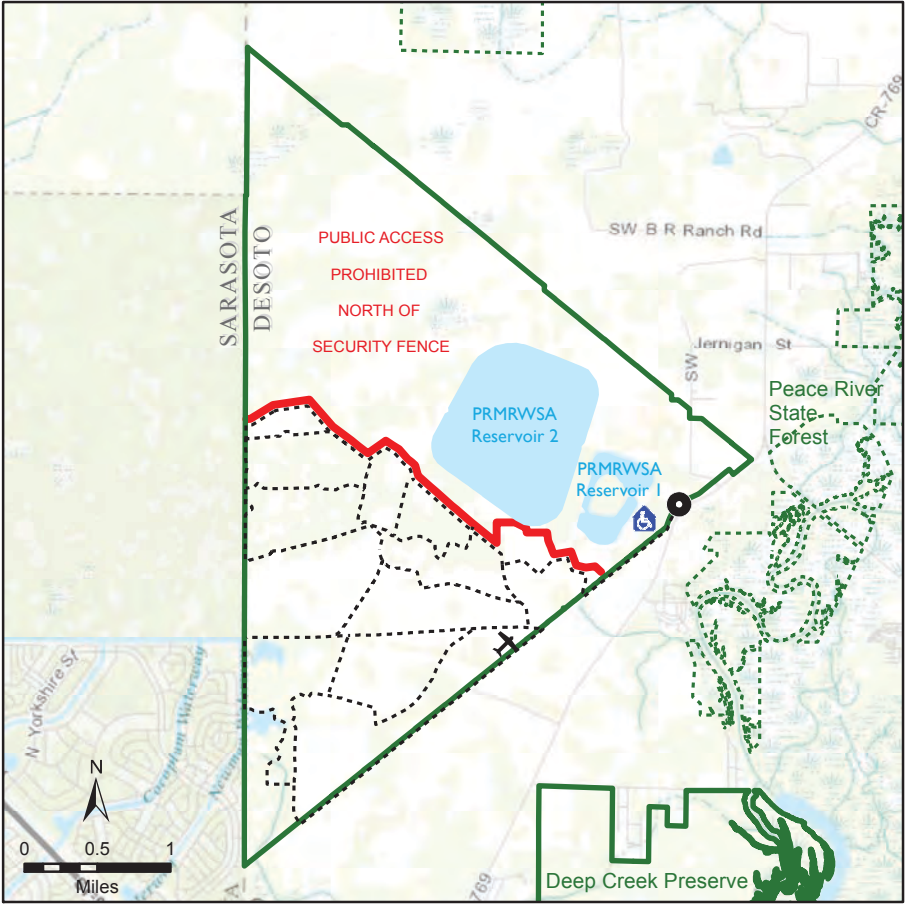
## Nearby Recreation Lands

Deep Creek Preserve

## For More Information

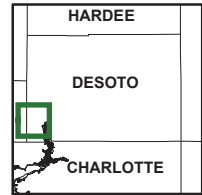
PRMRWSA Water Treatment Facility,  
(863) 491-7567  
(863) 993-4565





## RV Griffin Reserve

- highway/major road
- minor road
- designated trail
- other public lands
- property boundary
- county line
- river/stream
- lake/pond
- forest
- wetland/swamp
- access point & parking
- ADA accessible toilet
- model airplane flying field
- security fence



General Location

# 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.

## 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 available at park office.

## 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 located on western section of Great Florida Birding and Wildlife 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*

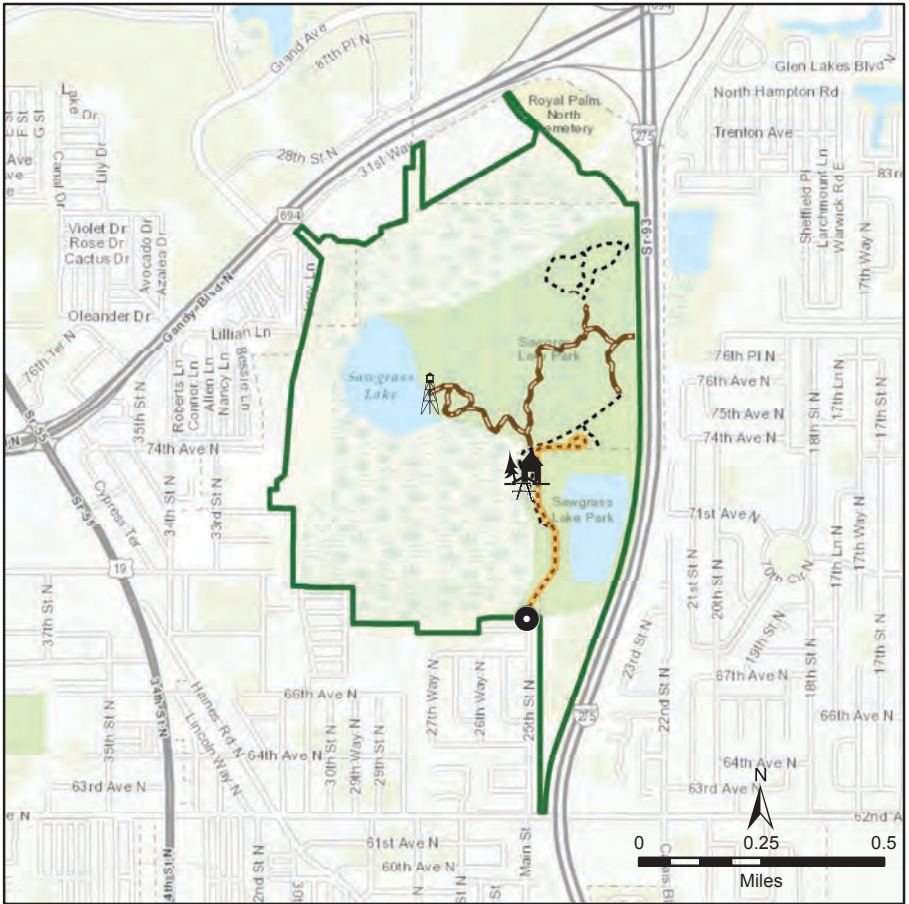
- Some picnic tables and large shelter available on first-come, first-served basis.

## Nearby Recreation Lands

Weedon Island Preserve

## For More Information

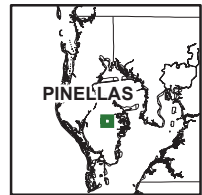
Sawgrass Lake Park, (727) 217-7256



## Sawgrass Lake Park

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

- access point & parking
- 🗿 observation tower
- 🏠 park office
- 🛖 picnic shelter
- 🚶 boardwalk



# 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 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 Serenova Tract is managed by the District for passive nature-based outdoor recreation activities. This tract has limited amenities and provides visitors a more rustic outdoor experience. The tract is a favorite for horseback riding with trails that wind through all major natural communities on the preserve. Equestrian and primitive camping are also available at Serenova.

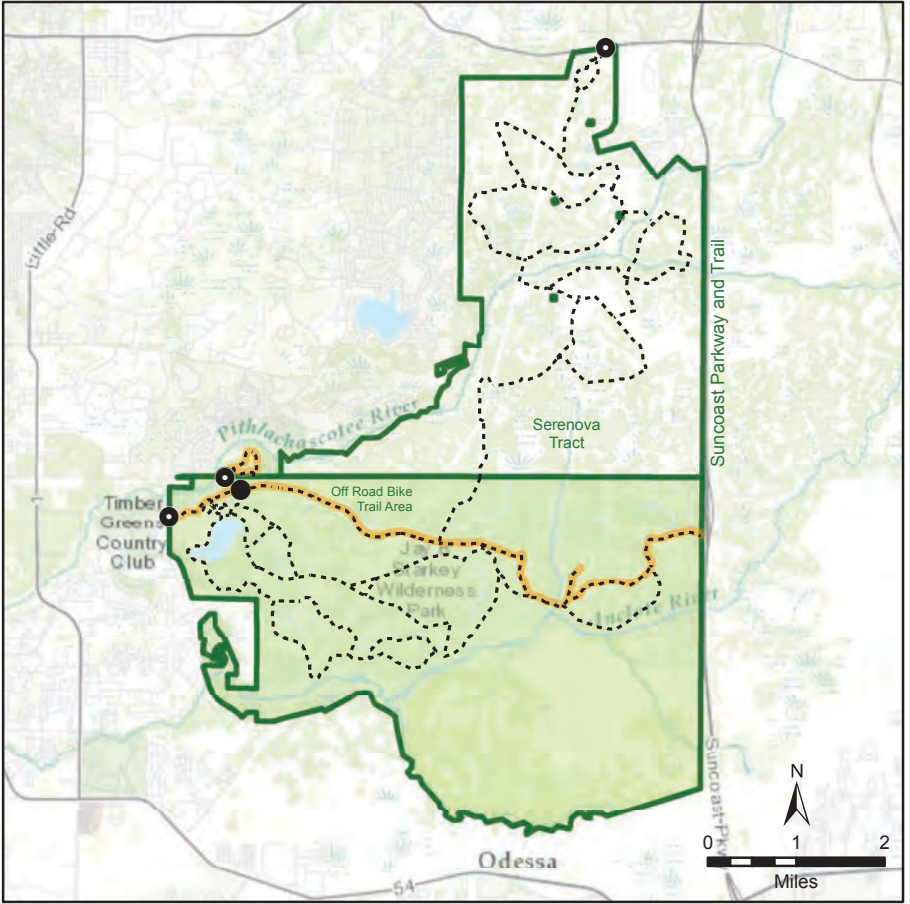
The prominent natural communities within the preserve are pine flatwoods, cypress domes, freshwater marshes, stream and lake swamps, sandhill and scrub. The 2,300 acres of wetland communities in Serenova combine with the wetlands in the Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park to form a connected 6,000-acre wetland 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

- Conner Preserve
- Suncoast Trail



## Starkey Wilderness Preserve

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





# 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 dawn to dusk.

### 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 7.5-mile paved trail.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.
- Riders must stay on marked trails.

#### *Bird Watching*

- Site located on western section of Great Florida Birding and Wildlife 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 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*

- 7.5 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*

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

### *Park Facilities*

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

### *Picnic Facilities*

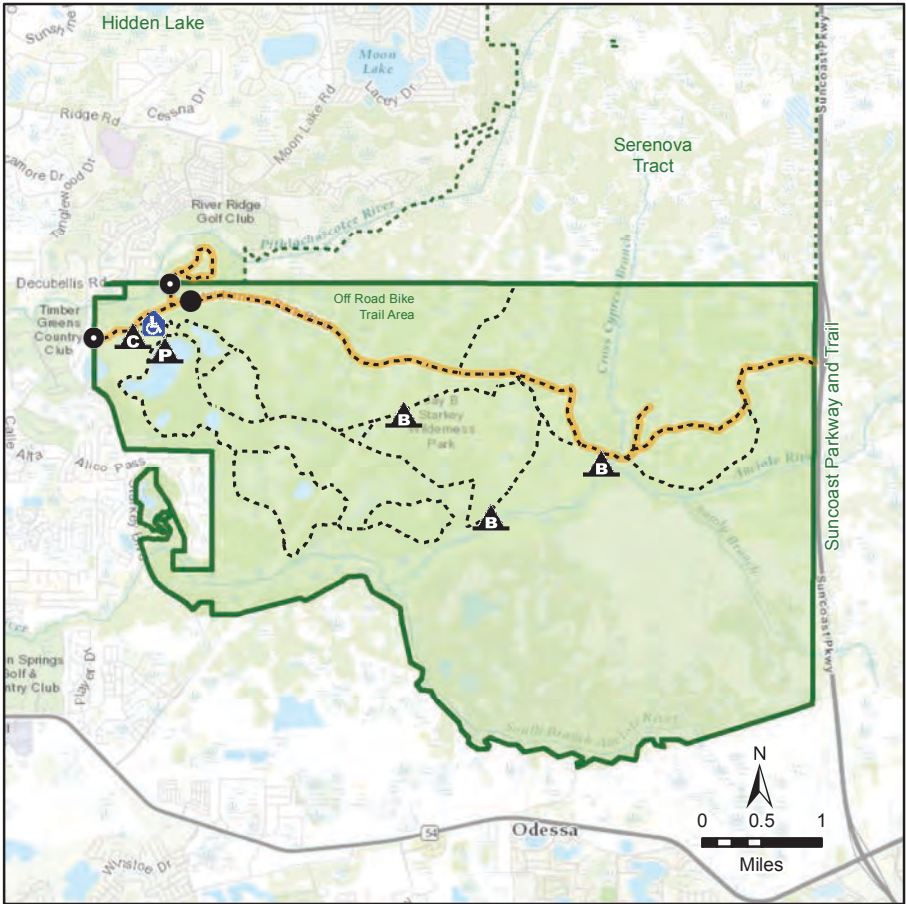
- 5 picnic shelters with grills. Each shelter seats up to 50 people. Rental fee.
- 2 large fee-rental pavilions seat up to 100 each and have large grill, running water and electricity.
- Reservations can be made up to 30 days in advance.

### *Nearby Recreation Lands*

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

### *For More Information*

- Tent, cabin, shelter and pavilion reservations: Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park, (727) 834-3247 (does not accept credit cards for payment)
- Shelter and pavilion reservations, (727) 934-4198
- Pasco County Parks & Recreation Department, (813) 929-2760



## Starkey Wilderness Preserve Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| highway/major road | access point & parking |
| minor road         | walk-through           |
| paved trail        | ADA accessible toilet  |
| designated trail   | backcountry camping    |
| other public lands | cabin camping          |
| property boundary  | primitive camping      |
| county line        |                        |
| 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.

## Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

## Restrooms and Water

ADA accessible portable toilet and nonpotable water near the equestrian and primitive campgrounds.

***All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.***

## Recreational Opportunities

### *Bicycling*

- Approximately 20 miles of multiuse trails.
- Bicyclists are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

### *Camping*

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

## *Equestrian Use*

- Approximately 18 miles of multiuse trails.
- Riders are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Horse-drawn buggy riding requires a free day-use reservation for buggy access behind locked gate.
- 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*

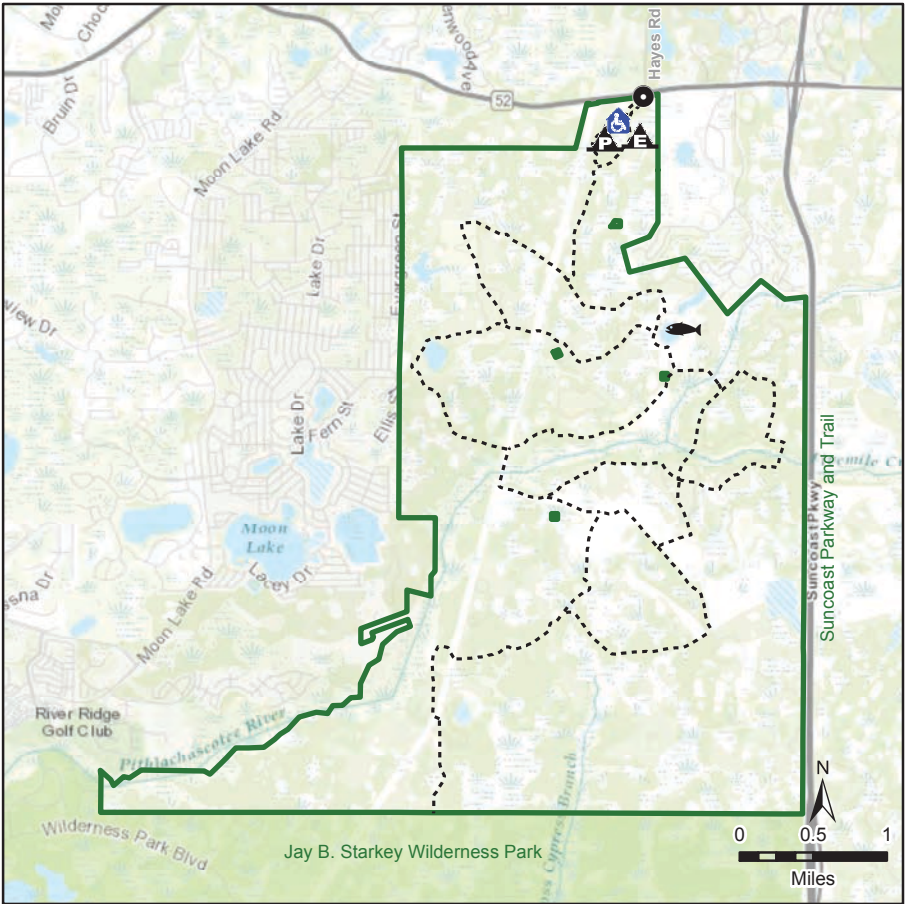
- Approximately 21 miles of multiuse trails.
- Prepare for wet hiking; some trails are excessively wet during certain times of year.

## Nearby Recreation Lands

- Conner Preserve
- Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park
- Suncoast Trail

## For More Information

- Reservations may be made at [WaterMatters.org/Reservation](http://WaterMatters.org/Reservation).
- Land Resources, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470



## Starkey Wilderness Preserve Serenova Tract

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

- access point & parking
- ADA accessible toilet
- fishing spot
- equestrian camping
- primitive camping



# 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.

***All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.***

## 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.

### ***Boating and Paddling***

- 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 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for license requirements.

## ***Hiking***

- Along grassy canal bank from designated access points.

### **Tampa Bypass/Harney Canal Park — 12 acres**

**7171 North US 301 • (813) 987-6200**

- Facilities include boat ramp, parking, fishing pier, portable toilets and picnic tables.
- Boat ramp fees.
- Summer: 7 a.m.–8 p.m.  
Winter: 7 a.m.–6 p.m.
- Fishing pier and portable toilets universally accessible.
- Operated by Hillsborough County Conservation and Environmental Lands Management Department (HCCCEL), [HillsboroughCounty.org/Conservation](http://HillsboroughCounty.org/Conservation)

### **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**

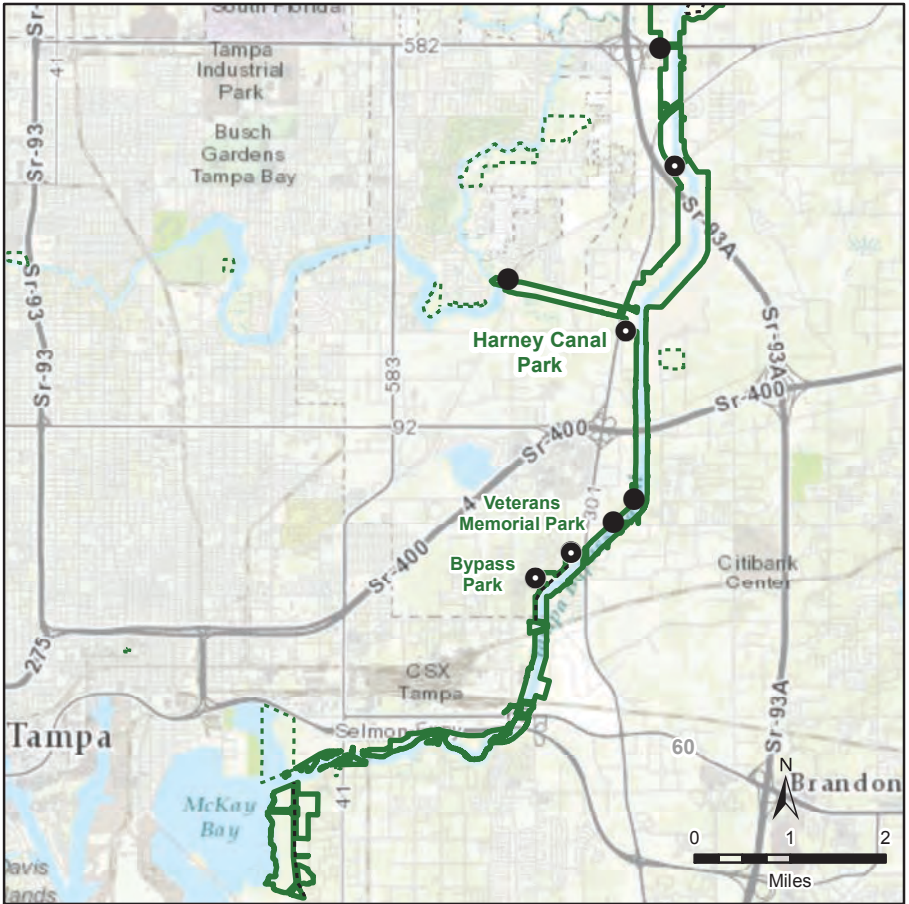
**3602 US 301 • (813) 744-5502**

- 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.
- Owners are required by law to pick up after dogs.
- Operated by HCCCEL, [HillsboroughCounty.org/Conservation](http://HillsboroughCounty.org/Conservation).

## **For More Information**

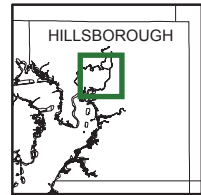
Land Resources, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470





## Tampa Bypass Canal

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



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.

*All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.*

## Recreational Opportunities

### Fishing

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

### Hiking

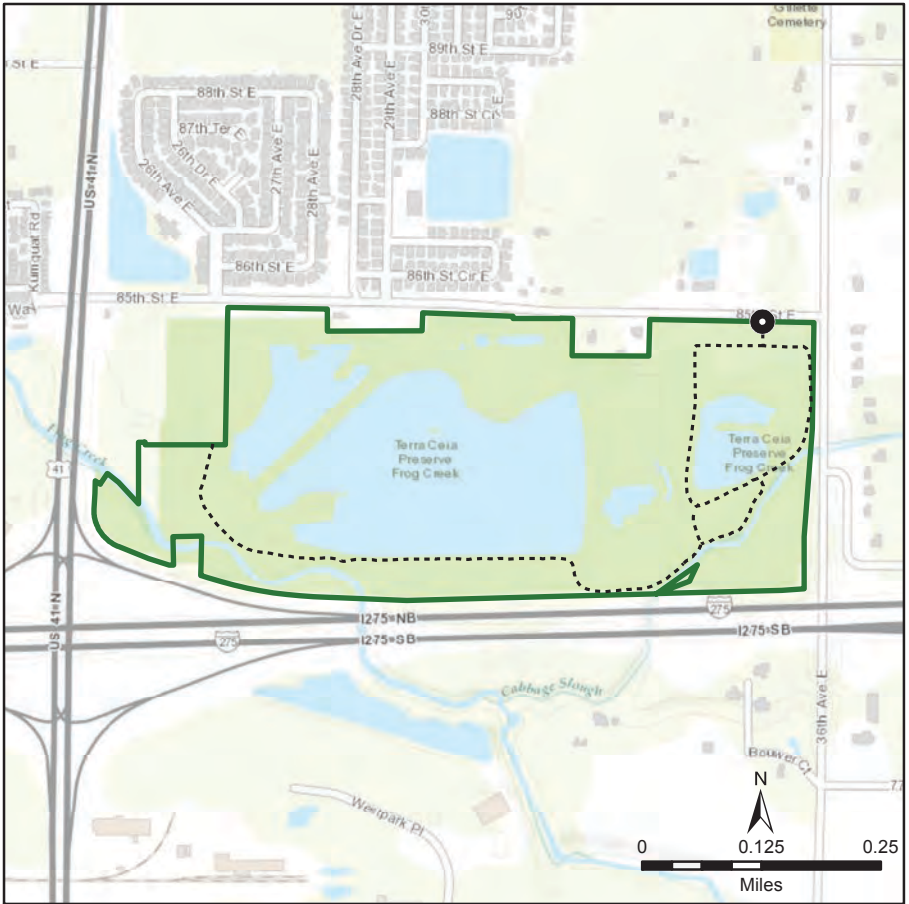
- Approximately one-mile trails around lakes.

## Nearby Recreation Lands

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

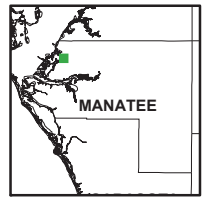
## For More Information

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



## Terra Ceia Preserve Frog Creek

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



General Location

# Terra Ceia Preserve State Park

130 77th Street East  
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

- Access from U.S. 19, go east on Terra Ceia Road, left on High Tower Road, follow under I-275, road ends at entrance.

## 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 at end of Moccasin Wallow Road, west of U.S. 41, on Bishop Harbor Road.
- Open 24 hours, 7 days a week.

### *Bicycling*

- 9 miles of unimproved marked trails.
- Use only marked trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists 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*

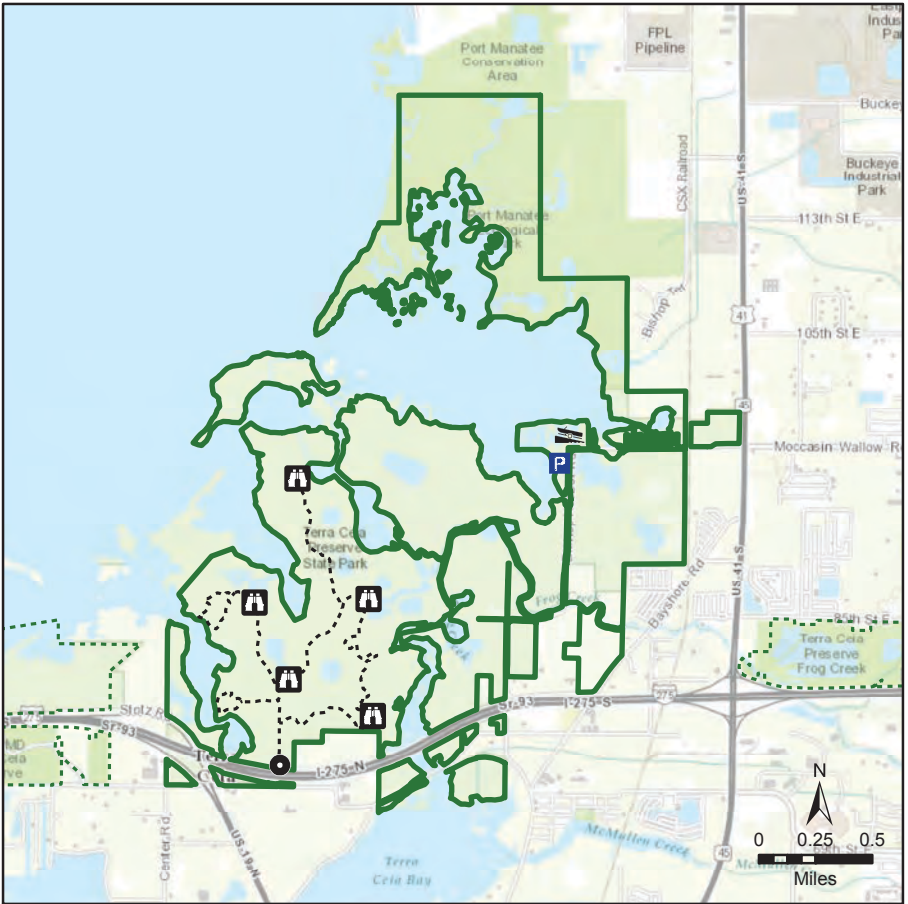
- Approximately 9 miles of trails.

## Nearby Recreation Lands

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

## For More Information

- Terra Ceia Preserve State Park, (941) 721-2068
- Gamble Plantation, (941) 723-4536



## Terra Ceia Preserve State Park

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



General Location



## Withlacoochee State Forest

# Two Mile Prairie

7112 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.

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 Florida Forest Service (FFS) manages the property as a part of the Withlacoochee State Forest.

### Access and Parking

- Primary access off CR 491/Lecanto Highway 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

ADA accessible portable toilet and water available at Bear Head Hammock Trailhead.

## Recreational Opportunities

### *Bird Watching*

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

### *Camping*

- Primitive canoe-in/hike-in camp along river at Oxbow Trailhead.
- Equestrian camp located at Bear Head Hammock.

### *Equestrian Use*

- 8.3-mile marked trail, part of FFS's Trailtrotter program, located at CR 491/Lecanto Highway access point.
- Parking area large enough to accommodate horse trailers.
- Water is 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*

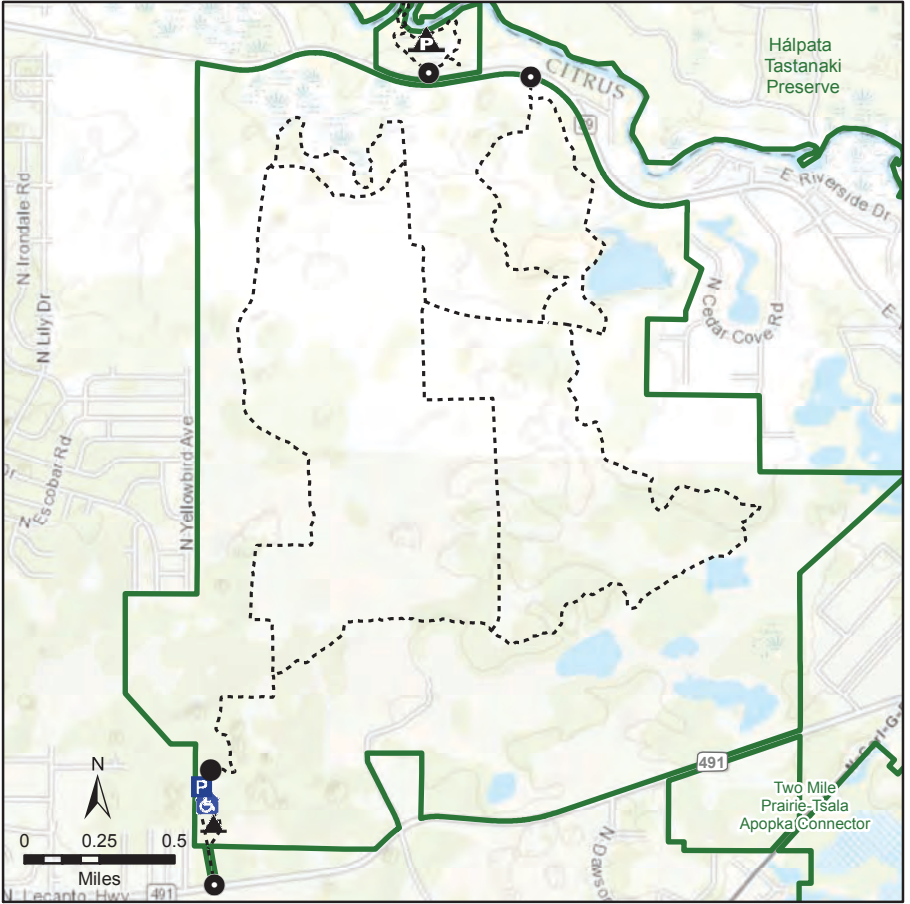
- Approximately 3-mile marked trail, part of FFS's Trailwalker program, located at access point off CR 491/Lecanto Highway.

### Nearby Recreation Lands

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

### For More Information

Florida Forest Service, Withlacoochee State Forest,  
(352) 797-4140



## Withlacoochee State Forest Two Mile Prairie

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> highway/major road</li> <li> minor road</li> <li> designated trail</li> <li> other public lands</li> <li> property boundary</li> <li> county line</li> <li> river/stream</li> <li> lake/pond</li> <li> forest</li> <li> wetland/swamp</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> walk-through</li> <li> access point &amp; parking</li> <li> ADA accessible toilet</li> <li> parking</li> <li> equestrian/primitive camping</li> <li> primitive camping</li> </ul>	<p><i>General Location</i></p>
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# 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.

***All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.***

## Access and Parking

See following individual property descriptions for access information.

## Hours of Operation

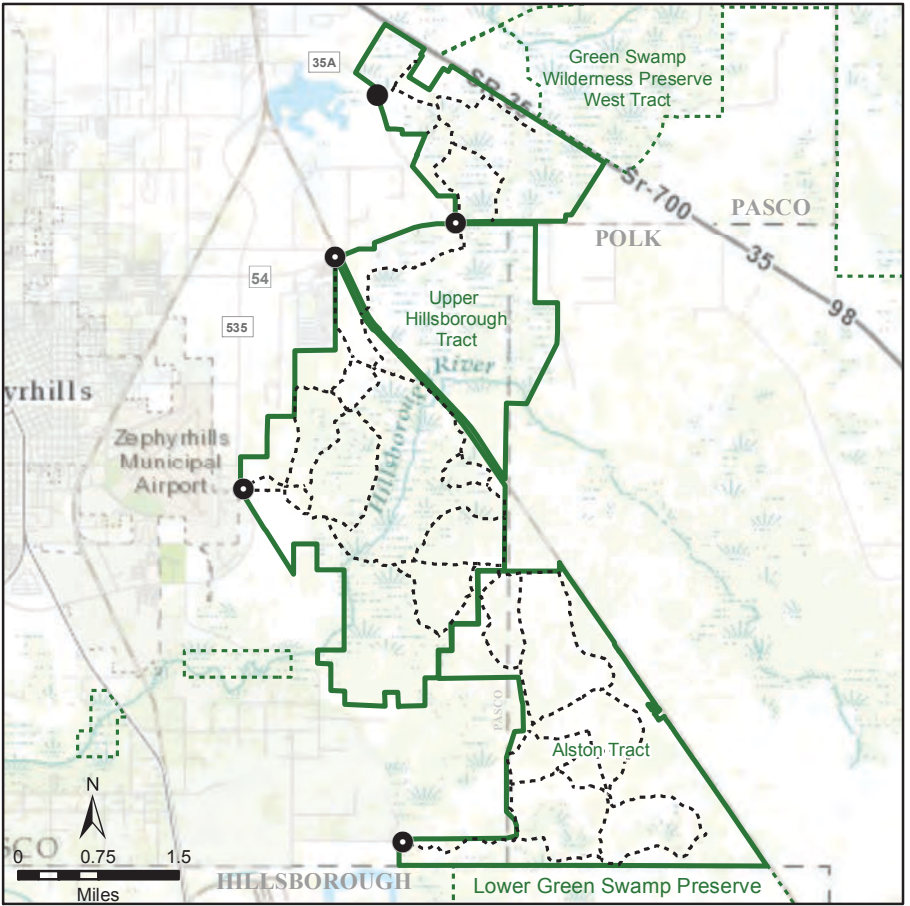
Daily from sunrise to sunset.

## Nearby Recreation Lands

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

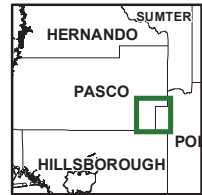
## For More Information

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



## Upper Hillsborough Preserve

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



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.

### Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

### Restrooms and Water

ADA accessible portable toilet and nonpotable water available in campground.

*All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.*

### Recreational Opportunities

#### ***Bicycling***

- Approximately 16 miles of multiuse trails.
- Bicyclists are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

#### ***Camping***

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

#### ***Equestrian Use***

- Approximately 16 miles of multiuse trails.
- Riders are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Horse-drawn buggy riding requires a free day-use reservation for buggy access behind locked gate.
- Each rider must carry proof of horse's current negative Coggins test.
- Florida law requires equestrians under 16 to wear helmets.

#### ***Hiking***

- Approximately 16 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 campground.
- A free reservation is required to reserve the pavilion.

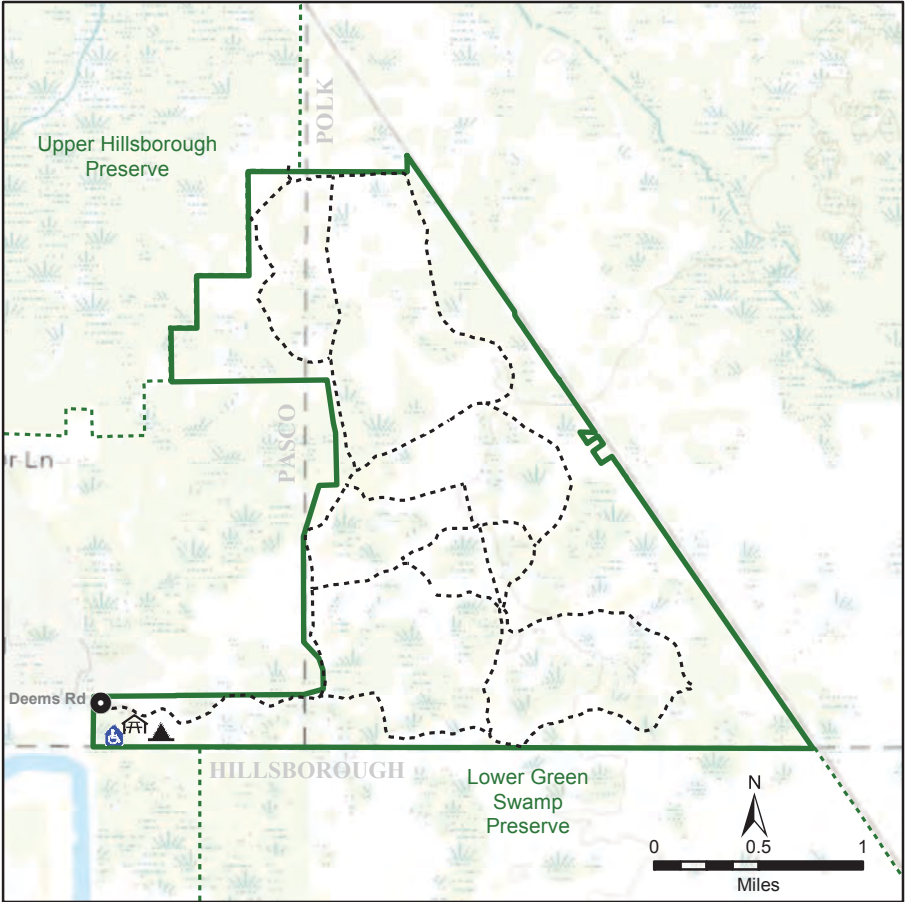
#### ***Nearby Recreation Lands***

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

#### ***For More Information***

- Reservations may be made at [WaterMatters.org/Reservation](http://WaterMatters.org/Reservation).
- Land Resources, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470





## Upper Hillsborough Preserve Alston Tract

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



*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.
- Additional access on CR 54 east of main entrance.

## Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

## Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available.

*All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.*

## Recreational Opportunities

### Bicycling

- Approximately 14 miles of multiuse trails.
- Bicyclists are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

### Camping

- Primitive and backcountry camping available.
- No amenities available.
- A free reservation is required and must be displayed or available at campground.

### Equestrian Use

- Approximately 14 miles of multiuse trails.
- Riders are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Horse-drawn buggy riding requires a free day-use reservation for buggy access behind locked gate.
- 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.
- Approximately 23 miles of multiuse trails.
- No bridges at Hillsborough River crossings. May be seasonally wet or flooded.

### Hunting

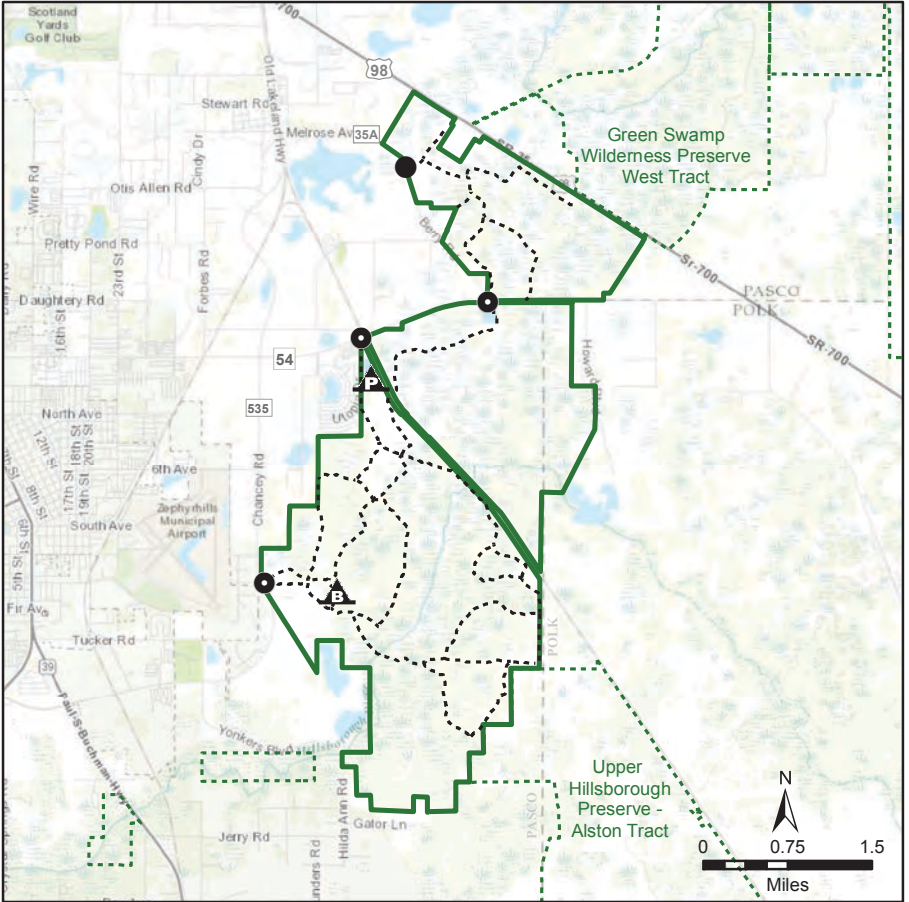
- Contact FWC for information regarding license requirements and permits.
- FWC rules and regulations must be observed throughout the year.

### Nearby Recreation Lands

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

### For More Information

- Reservations may be made at [WaterMatters.org/Reservation](http://WaterMatters.org/Reservation).
- Land Resources, Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4470



## Upper Hillsborough Preserve Upper Hillsborough Tract

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| highway/major road | walk-through           |
| minor road         | access point & parking |
| designated trail   | backcountry camping    |
| other public lands | primitive camping      |
| property boundary  |                        |
| county line        |                        |
| river/stream       |                        |
| lake/pond          |                        |
| forest             |                        |
| wetland/swamp      |                        |



*General Location*

# Weeki Wachee Springs State Park

6131 Commercial Way  
Weeki Wachee, FL 34606

## Size

538 acres

## Location

Western Hernando County

## About the Property

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.

Weeki Wachee Springs State Park is one of Florida's oldest roadside attractions. Founded in 1947 by Newton Perry, Weeki Wachee has been the mecca for mermaid enthusiasts. The magical allure of the mermaids swimming in a first-magnitude spring has drawn visitors from around the world. Today, visitors can still witness the magic of the mermaids, take a river boat cruise, and canoe or kayak on the Weeki Wachee River.

The 538-acre park features a first-magnitude spring and a 400-seat submerged theater to view the live mermaid show.

Buccaneer Bay offers a fun-filled flume ride for thrill seekers of all ages. The white sandy beach area and covered picnic pavilions provide a relaxing day for your entire family. Weeki Wachee's animal shows provide audiences with an entertaining and educational look at domesticated birds and reptiles.

## Access and Parking

Located at the intersection of SR 50 and Highway 19, just north of Spring Hill and south of Homosassa Springs.

## Hours of Operation

Daily from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

## Restrooms and Water

Four restrooms and water fountains; ADA accessible.

## Dogs

- Dogs are not allowed

## Recreational Opportunities

### Paddling

- Canoeing and kayaking rentals available through a concessioner.
- Boat tours are included in the price of admission.

### Picnic Facilities

- Picnic tables and covered pavilions are located at Buccaneer Bay.
- For more information on reservations for family reunions, meetings, retreats and weddings, contact staff at (352) 596-4949.

### Swimming

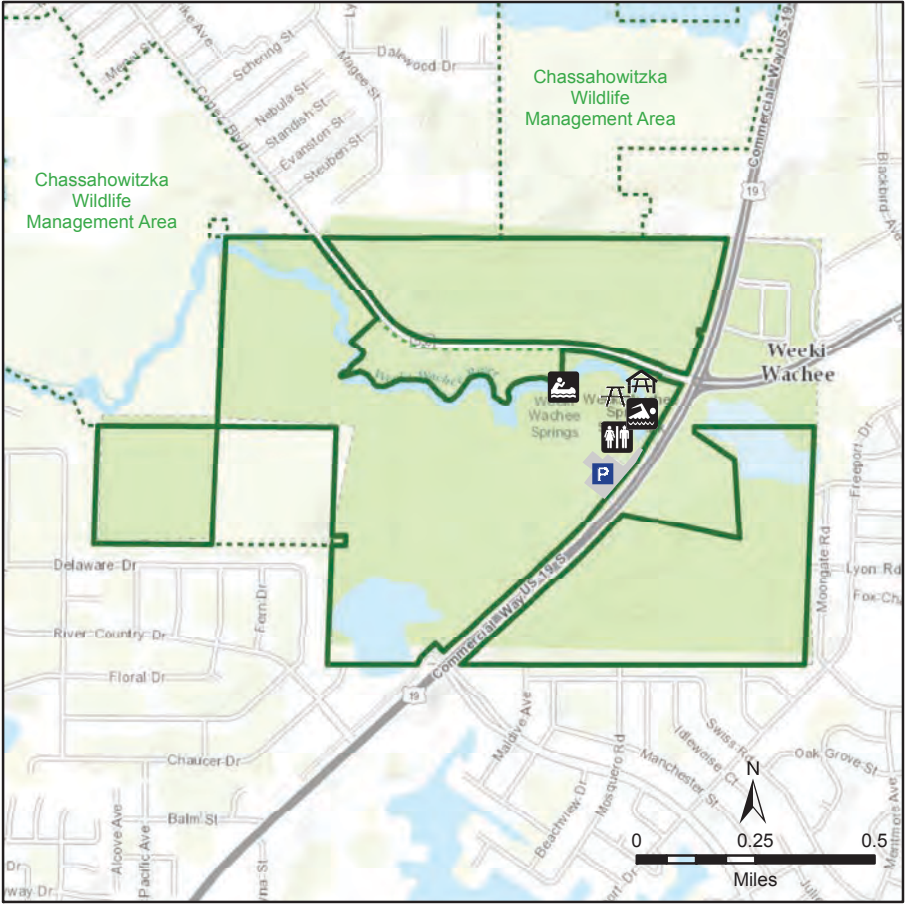
- Swim in the crystal-clear spring waters of the Weeki Wachee Springs at Buccaneer Bay.
- White sandy beach.
- Beach chairs are available for guests to use.

## Nearby Recreational Lands

- Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area
- Weekiwachee Preserve

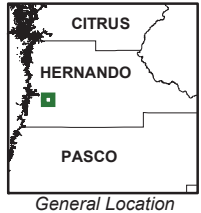
## For More Information

Weeki Wachee Springs State Park,  
(352) 592-5656



## Weeki Wachee Springs State Park

- |                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| highway/major road | canoe launch |
| minor road         | parking      |
| designated trail   | pavilion     |
| other public lands | picnic area  |
| property boundary  | restrooms    |
| county line        | swimming     |
| river/stream       |              |
| lake/pond          |              |
| forest             |              |
| wetland/swamp      |              |





# 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.

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.

## Limited Access Area

No swimming allowed in any of the lakes. 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

- Access from Osowaw Boulevard.

## 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 portable toilet available. No water available.

*All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.*

## Recreational Opportunities

### Bicycling

- Approximately 5.5 miles of bicycling on paved and unpaved trails.
- Bicyclists are required to stay on designated or marked trails.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

### Bird Watching

- Site located on west section of Great Florida Birding and Wildlife 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

- Approximately 5.5-miles of paved and unpaved trails.
- 4.3 miles of marked, scenic woods roads.

### Hunting

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

### Picnic Facilities

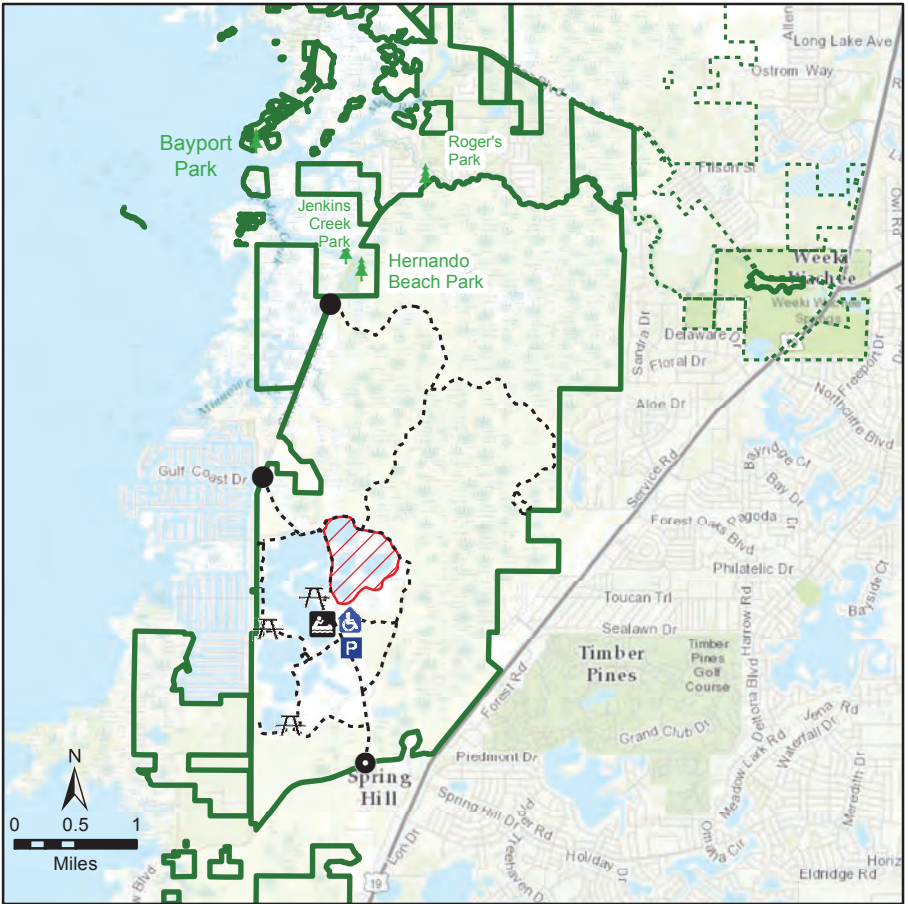
- Limited picnic facilities in park.

### Nearby Recreation Lands

- Aripeka Sandhills
- Bayport Park
- Hernando Beach Park
- Jenkins Creek Park
- Linda Pedersen Park
- Roger's Park
- Weeki Wachee Springs State Park

### For More Information

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



## Wekiwachee Preserve

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| highway/major road | access point & parking |
| minor road         | walk-through           |
| designated trail   | ADA accessible toilet  |
| other public lands | canoe launch           |
| property boundary  | parking                |
| county line        | picnic area            |
| river/stream       | county park            |
| lake/pond          | limited access area    |
| forest             |                        |
| wetland/swamp      |                        |



*General Location*

# Weekiwachee Preserve Aripeka Sandhills Preserve

18000 Aripeka Road  
Hudson, FL 34667

## Size

209 acres

## Location

Northwest Pasco County, west of US Highway 19, one-half mile on north side of the road

## About the Property

Aripeka Sandhills Preserve was acquired as part of the Weekiwachee Preserve on November 8, 2007. This was a joint acquisition with the District and Pasco County. Funding was provided by Penny for Pasco.

The preserve is part of a regional system of conservation lands that extends up to Crystal River Buffer Preserve, preserving the southernmost coastal hardwood hammock in western Florida. As part of this large preserve, Aripeka Sandhills preserves important habitat communities such as dense hardwood swamps and pine-covered sandhills.

## Access and Parking

Parking area on Aripeka Road, west of US Highway 19, one-half mile on north side of the road.

## Hours of Operation

- Daily from sunrise to sunset.

## Restrooms and Water

- No restroom or water available.

***All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.***

## Recreational Opportunities

### ***Fishing***

Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for license requirements.

### ***Hiking***

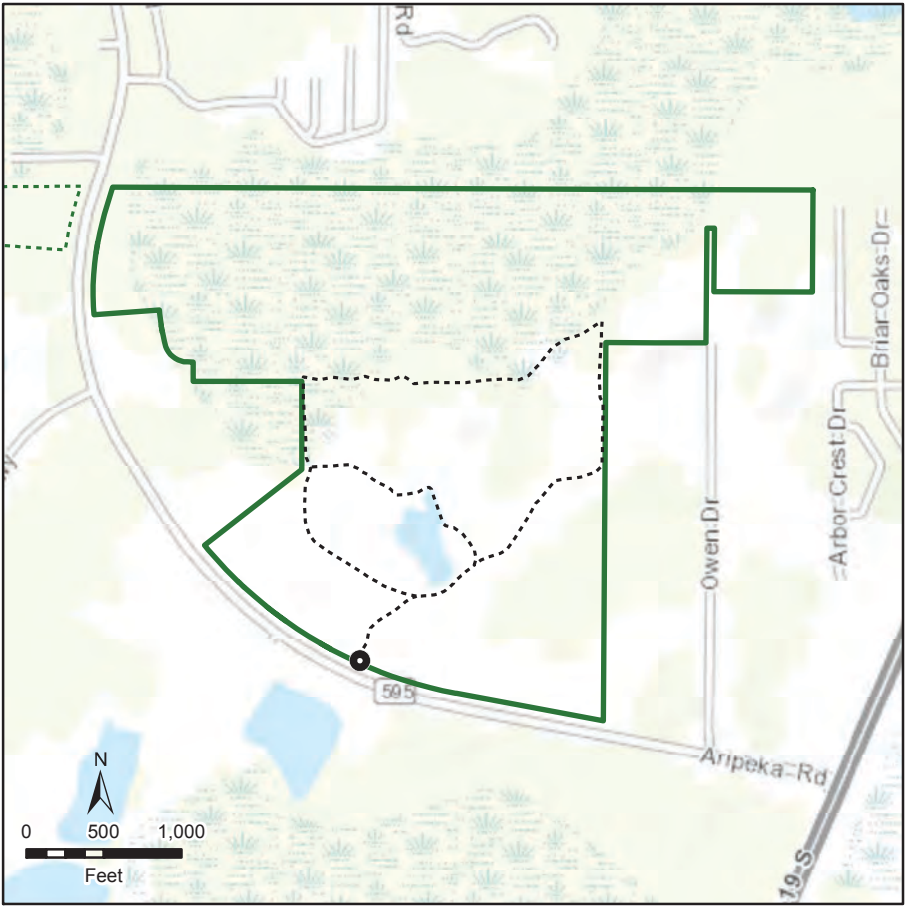
- Approximately 2 miles of trails.

## Nearby Recreational Lands

- Sunwest Park
- Weekiwachee Preserve

## For More Information

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



## Weekiwachee Preserve Aripeka Sandhills Preserve

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



*General Location*

## Weekiwachee Preserve

# Bayport Park

4141 Cortez Boulevard

Spring Hill, FL 34607

### Size

12.5 acres

### Location

Western Hernando County in Spring Hill

### About the Property

Bayport Park was originally developed in the 1950s with boat launch facilities and a fishing pier. The 1.5-acre historic park site, located at the tip of an upland peninsula, is owned by Hernando County. The western portion of the park borders a tract of land that was purchased by the District in 1999.

As part of a cooperative effort, the park has been expanded to include 10 acres of District-owned land. The entire park has undergone a renovation that includes a 144-foot scenic boardwalk along the coastline, nature trails, shelters, a pavilion, new restrooms, an upgraded boat ramp and additional parking for boat trailers.

Along with providing additional parking, the goal of the expansion was to create more areas for park patrons to experience the natural coastline and to protect the property's historical and cultural aspects.

### Access and Parking

US 19 to SR 50 - turn west on CR 550 and travel to end.

### Hours of Operation

Open 24 hours, 7 days a week.

### Restrooms and Water

- Restroom facilities and water available.
- ADA accessible.

### Dogs

- Dogs are not allowed.

### Recreational Opportunities

#### *Bird Watching*

- Site located on western section of Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail.

#### *Boating and Paddling*

- Canoeing, kayaking and powerboats allowed.
- ADA accessible ramps.

#### *Fishing*

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

#### *Picnic Facilities*

- Covered picnic table with grills.
- Large pavilion with grills.
- Pavilions and covered tables are available for reservations.

### Nearby Recreational Lands

- Alfred McKethan/Pine Island
- Jenkins Creek Park
- Linda Pedersen Park
- Roger's Park

### For More Information

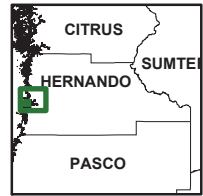
Hernando County Parks and Recreation,  
(352) 754-4027 or (352) 754-4031





## Weekiwachee Preserve Bayport Park

- |                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| highway/major road | boat ramp                |
| minor road         | canoe launch             |
| designated trail   | fishing pier             |
| other public lands | parking                  |
| property boundary  | picnic shelter           |
| county line        | ADA accessible restrooms |
| river/stream       | ADA boardwalk            |
| lake/pond          |                          |
| forest             |                          |
| wetland/swamp      |                          |



General Location

# Withlacoochee River Park

12449 Withlacoochee Boulevard  
Dade City, FL 33525

## Size

610 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 5 miles of hiking trails.

## 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 at shelters 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 and 1.7-mile paved trail in woods.
- Florida law requires bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets.

### *Bird Watching*

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

### *Camping*

- All reservations can be made online at [PascoCountyFL.net](http://PascoCountyFL.net) or in person at park office with cash or check only.
- All campers must be registered and set up prior to park closing time; times change with season.

### *Cabins*

- Pioneer cabin up to 6 people with electric and fan.
- Primitive cabin up to 4 people without electric.

### *Group Campground*

- 2 sites available, they can accommodate up to 40 people per site. No shower.

### *Primitive Campground*

- 8 primitive tent sites, access to compost toilet, no shower.
- 1 backwoods primitive campsite, 1.5-mile hike in, free of charge.

### *RV/Tent Campground*

- 15 RV sites are supplied with 20-, 30- and 50-amp electric and water. Restroom and shower available.
- 5 tent sites with electric in RV camp, with access to restroom and shower.
- 7 semi-primitive tent sites, no electric, with access to restroom and shower.

### *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.
- Additional 6 miles of trails in park, 1.7-mile paved trail.

### *Paddling*

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

### *Park Facilities*

- Park has playgrounds, observation tower, boardwalks, canoe dock and recreation field.

### *Picnic Facilities*

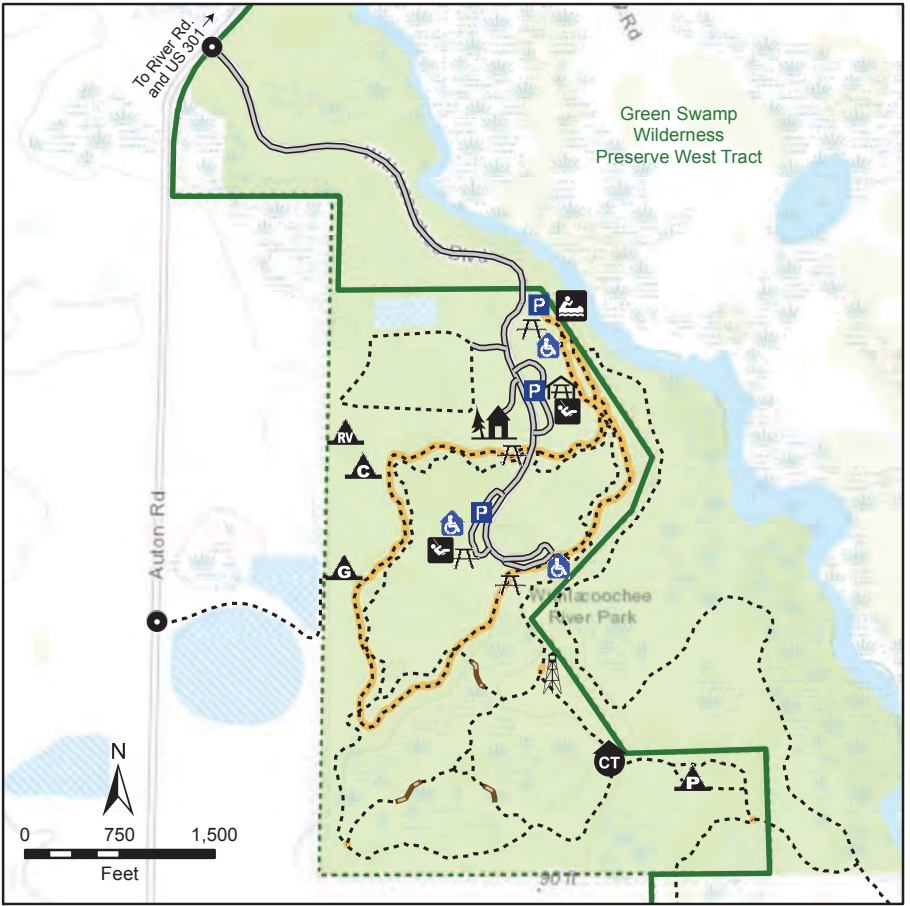
- One large pavilion — shelter #2 (18 tables), 9' grill and electric. May be reserved.
- Four small shelters — 6 tables and a small grill. Numbers 1, 3, 4 and 5, of which numbers 3 and 4 may be reserved.
- Reservations may be made online at [PascoCountyFL.net](http://PascoCountyFL.net) or in person at park office with cash or check only.

### *Nearby Recreation Lands*

Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve

### *For More Information*

- Withlacoochee River Park, (352) 567-0264
- [PascoCountyFL.net](http://PascoCountyFL.net)
- Pasco County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Office, (813) 929-2760

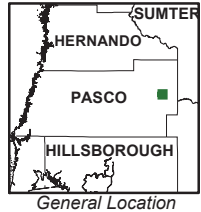


## Withlacoochee River Park

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

- access point & parking
- ♿ ADA accessible toilet
- P parking
- 🚤 canoe launch
- CT compost toilet
- 🏠 county ranger
- ⛖ cabin camping
- ⛖ group camping

- 🗿 observation tower
- 🪵 picnic area
- 🏠 pavilion
- 🎮 playground
- 🚶 boardwalk
- ⛖ primitive camping
- RV tent camping



# 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

- 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

- Park entrance off CR 300.
- No overnight parking.

## Hours of Operation

Daily from sunrise to sunset.

## Restrooms and Water

No restrooms or water available.

*All supplies, trash and equipment packed in must be packed out.*

## Recreational Opportunities

### Boating and Paddling

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

### Fishing

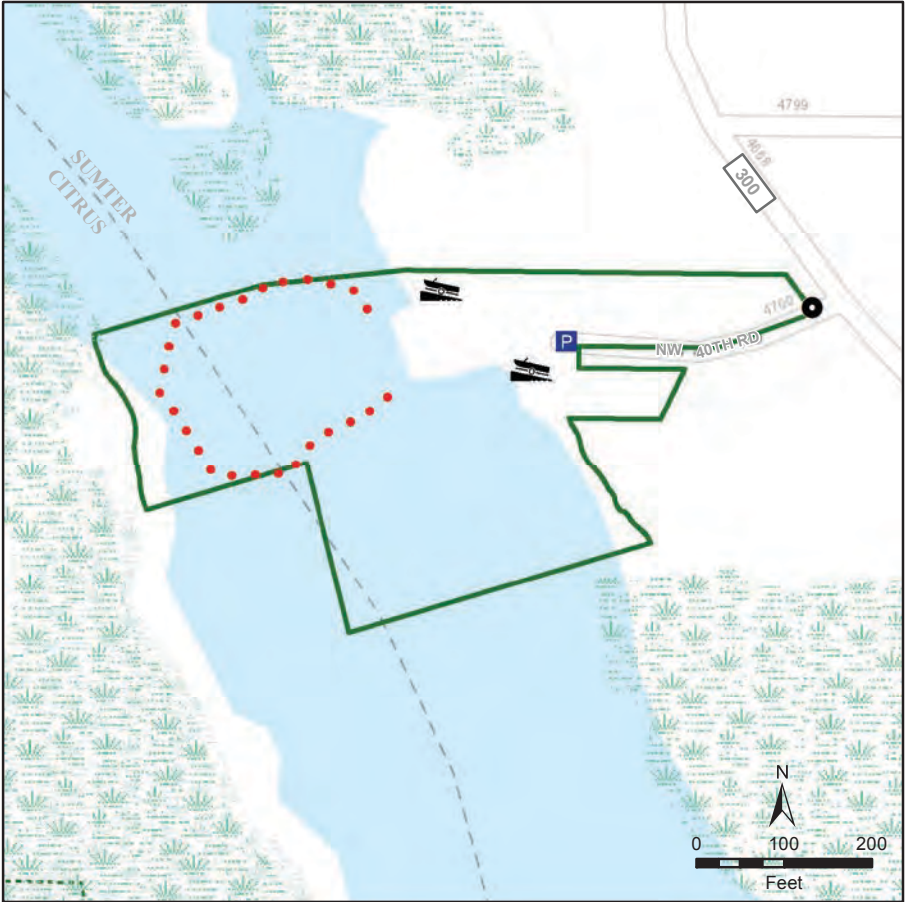
- Riverbank fishing.
- Contact FWC for license requirements.

## Nearby Recreation Lands

- Flying Eagle Preserve
- Lake Panasoffkee
- Potts Preserve

## For More Information

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



# Wysong Park

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

- access point & parking
- ⚓ boat ramp
- P parking





# 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).

<i>Map Reference</i>	<i>Recreation Area</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>County(ies)</i>
<b>1</b>	Alafia River Corridor	20	Hillsborough
<b>2</b>	Alafia River Reserve	22	Polk
<b>3</b>	Annutteliga Hammock	24	Hernando
<b>4</b>	Brooker Creek Headwaters Nature Preserve	26	Hillsborough
<b>5</b>	Brooker Creek Preserve	28	Pinellas
<b>6</b>	Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park	30	Charlotte
<b>7</b>	Chassahowitzka River and Coastal Swamps	32	Citrus
<b>8</b>	Chito Branch Reserve	34	Hillsborough
<b>9</b>	Circle B Bar Reserve	36	Polk
<b>10</b>	Cliff Stephens Park	38	Pinellas
<b>11</b>	Conner Preserve	40	Pasco
<b>12</b>	Cypress Creek Preserve	42	Pasco
<b>13</b>	Deep Creek Preserve	44	DeSoto
<b>14</b>	Edward Medard Park and Reservoir	46	Hillsborough
<b>15</b>	Edward W. Chance Reserve — Coker Prairie Tract	48	Manatee
<b>16</b>	Edward W. Chance Reserve — Gilley Creek Tract	50	Manatee
	Flying Eagle		Citrus
<b>17</b>	Flying Eagle Preserve	52	Citrus
<b>18</b>	Withlapopka Community Park	54	Citrus
<b>19</b>	Fred and Idah Schultz Preserve	56	Hillsborough
	Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve	58	Pasco/Sumter/Lake/Polk
<b>20</b>	Colt Creek State Park	60	Polk
<b>21</b>	East Tract	62	Sumter/Lake/Polk
<b>22</b>	Hampton Tract	64	Polk
<b>23</b>	Little Withlacoochee Tract	66	Lake
<b>24</b>	West Tract	68	Pasco
<b>25</b>	Half Moon-Gum Slough	70	Sumter
<b>26</b>	Hálpata Tastanaki Preserve	72	Marion
<b>27</b>	Jack Creek	74	Highlands
<b>28</b>	Lake Marion Creek Horseshoe Scrub Tract	76	Polk
<b>29</b>	Lake Panasoffkee	78	Sumter
<b>30</b>	Lake Tarpon Outfall Canal	80	Pinellas
<b>31</b>	Little Manatee River Lower Tract	82	Hillsborough
<b>32</b>	Little Manatee River Southfork Tract	84	Manatee
<b>33</b>	Little Manatee River Upper Tract	86	Hillsborough



# 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).

<i>Map Reference</i>	<i>Recreation Area</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>County(ies)</i>
<b>34</b>	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
<b>35</b>	Marshall Hampton Reserve	106	Polk
<b>36</b>	Myakka River — Deer Prairie Creek Preserve	108	Sarasota
<b>37</b>	Myakka River — Flatford Swamp Preserve	110	Manatee
<b>38</b>	Myakka River State Park — Myakka Prairie Tract	112	Sarasota
<b>39</b>	Myakka State Forest	114	Sarasota
<b>40</b>	Panasoffkee Outlet	116	Sumter
<b>41</b>	Potts Preserve	118	Citrus
<b>42</b>	Prairie/Shell Creek	120	Charlotte
<b>43</b>	RV Griffin Reserve	122	DeSoto
<b>44</b>	Sawgrass Lake Park	124	Pinellas
	Starkey Wilderness Preserve	126	Pasco
<b>45</b>	Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park	128	Pasco
<b>46</b>	Serenova Tract	130	Pasco
<b>47</b>	Tampa Bypass Canal	132	Hillsborough
<b>48</b>	Terra Ceia Preserve Frog Creek	134	Manatee
<b>49</b>	Terra Ceia Preserve State Park	136	Manatee
<b>50</b>	Two Mile Prairie (Withlacoochee State Forest)	138	Citrus
	Upper Hillsborough Preserve	140	Pasco/Polk
<b>51</b>	Alston Tract	142	Pasco/Polk
<b>52</b>	Upper Hillsborough Tract	144	Pasco/Polk
<b>53</b>	Weeki Wachee Springs State Park	146	Hernando
<b>54</b>	Weekiwachee Preserve	148	Hernando
	Weekiwachee Preserve — Aripeka Sandhills Preserve	150	Hernando
	Weekiwachee Preserve — Bayport Park	152	Hernando
<b>55</b>	Withlacoochee River Park	154	Pasco
<b>56</b>	Wysong Park	156	Sumter



# RECREATION AT A GLANCE

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

