

Recreational guide

come
out
and
play

sfwmd.gov





Welcome

The South Florida Water Management District invites you to 'come out and play' on public lands. Hike, fish, camp, hunt, study nature, ride horses or bicycles, or just relax - what's your pleasure?

We cooperate with other state agencies, the federal government, counties, municipalities, and the private sector to develop recreational access sites and facilities. Traditionally, the District encouraged recreational use of its canals and water storage areas. However, over the years we have taken great strides to expand public use opportunities. And it just keeps on getting better.

Recreational use of public lands is rooted in the 1931 Florida Resource Rivers Act, more commonly known as "Save Our Rivers." This enabled water management districts to begin major land acquisition programs to secure and protect vital water resource lands for the benefit of existing and future generations. Today, we are the steward for around 375,000 acres in 16 counties.

Public use rules govern recreational use. This is necessary to protect the natural and cultural resources of the land and avoid conflict between users and user groups. This recreational guide gives you the location of designated management areas, authorized public uses, and the general rules and regulations.

Managing public lands is a big job, and the District relies on other agencies and the private sector to help manage selected lands. Cooperative agreements set forth the type and extent of management assistance to be provided. Where cooperating entities, such as the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission or the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, have their own rules for a tract of land, the District's regulations will supplement those.

For online information about the Land Stewardship Public Use Program go to: www.sfwmd.gov/recreation



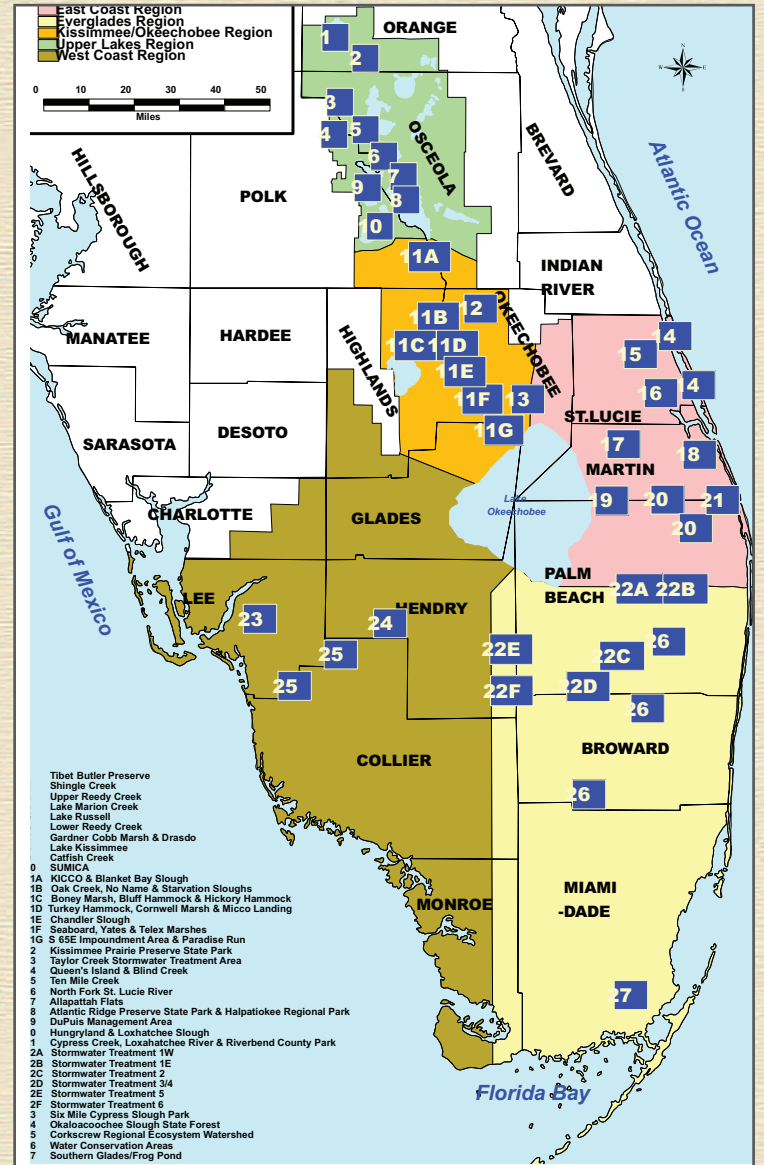
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General Locator Map S.F.W.M.D. Recreational Opportunities



RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Upper Lakes Management Region

Page #	Unit	County	Airboating	Bicycling	Canoeing
12	Shingle Creek	Orange		✓	✓
14	Tibet-Butler Preserve (Vera Carter Environmental Center)	Orange			
18	Lake Marion Creek Wildlife Management Area				
	Huckleberry Island	Osceola & Polk		✓	
	Snell Creek	Polk			
	Horse Creek	Polk			
	Baltic Court	Polk			
	Lake Marion	Polk			
22	Upper Reedy Creek				
	Intercession City	Osceola			
	Reedy Creek	Osceola			
	Lake Russell	Osceola			
24	Lower Reedy Creek				
	Rough Island North	Osceola	✓		✓
	Rough Island South	Osceola	✓		✓
	Johnson Island	Osceola	✓		✓
26	Catfish Creek	Polk	✓		✓
28	Kissimmee Chain of Lakes				
	Drasdo	Osceola	✓		✓
	Gardner-Cobb Marsh	Osceola	✓		✓
	Westshore	Polk	✓	✓	✓
	Eastshore	Osceola			
	Sturm Island	Osceola	✓		✓
	Rabbit Island	Osceola	✓		✓
	Bird Island	Osceola	✓		✓
30	SUMICA	Polk		✓	

Camping	Education Visitor Center	Equestrian	Fishing	Hiking	Hunting	Picnic Tables	Trailhead/Parking/Kiosk
			✓	✓			✓
	✓			✓			✓
✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
				✓	✓		✓
				✓	✓	✓	✓
			✓	✓			✓
			✓	✓			✓
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✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
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✓		✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓	
✓			✓	✓	✓*		
✓			✓	✓	✓*		
✓			✓	✓	✓*		
✓			✓	✓			
✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

* Anticipated open for hunting Fall 2009

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Kissimmee Management Region

Page #	Unit	County	Airboating	Bicycling	Canoeing
36	KICCO Wildlife Management Area (Quota hunt)	Polk		✓	✓
36	Blanket Bay Slough	Osceola	✓		✓
38	Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park	Okeechobee		✓	
42	Boney Marsh	Okeechobee & Highlands	✓		✓
42	Bluff Hammock	Okeechobee & Highlands	✓		✓
42	Hickory Hammock Wildlife Management Area (Quota hunt)	Highlands	✓	✓	✓
46	No Name Slough	Okeechobee	✓	✓	✓
46	Starvation Slough	Okeechobee	✓	✓	✓
46	Oak Creek	Okeechobee	✓		✓
50	Turkey Hammock West	Highlands	✓		✓
50	Turkey Hammock East	Okeechobee			✓
50	Cornwell Marsh West	Highlands			✓
50	Cornwell Marsh East	Okeechobee			
50	Micco Landing	Okeechobee	✓	✓	✓
50	Chandler Slough	Okeechobee	✓	✓	✓
54	Seaboard Marsh North	Okeechobee & Highlands	✓		✓
54	Seaboard Marsh South	Okeechobee & Highlands	✓		✓
54	Yates Marsh	Okeechobee & Highlands		✓	
54	Telex Marsh	Okeechobee & Highlands			✓
56	S-65E Impoundment	Okeechobee	✓		✓
56	Paradise Run	Okeechobee & Highlands		✓	✓
58	Taylor Creek Stormwater Treatment Area	Okeechobee		✓	

Camping	Education Visitor Center	Equestrian	Fishing	Hiking	Hunting	Picnic Tables	Trailhead/Parking/Kiosk
✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓			✓		✓	✓	
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
✓			✓	✓	✓		✓
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			✓	✓	✓		
				✓		✓	✓

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

East Coast Management Region

Page #	Unit	County	Airboating	Bicycling	Canoeing
62	DuPuis Management Area	Martin & Palm Beach		✓	✓
64	Atlantic Ridge Preserve State Park	Martin		✓	
66	Halpatiokee Regional	Martin		✓	✓
70	Hungryland	Martin & Palm Beach			✓
70	Loxahatchee Slough	Martin & Palm Beach			
72	Miller/Wild	St. Lucie			
74	North Fork St. Lucie River (Oxbow Eco-Center)	St. Lucie			
76	Riverbend Park	Palm Beach		✓	✓
78	Blind Creek	St. Lucie			
78	Queen's Island	St. Lucie			✓
80	Spruce Bluff	St. Lucie			
82	Gordy Road Recreation Area (Frisbee golf available)	St. Lucie		✓	✓
84	Three Scrub Sites	St. Lucie			
86	Allapattah Flats	Martin		✓	

Camping	Education Visitor Center	Equestrian	Fishing	Hiking	Hunting	Picnic Tables	Trailhead/Parking/Kiosk
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		✓		✓			
✓			✓	✓		✓	✓
✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
				✓			
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	✓			✓			
		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
			✓	✓			
				✓		✓	
		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
				✓			
✓		✓		✓	✓		✓

West Coast Management Region

88	CREW Management Area	Lee & Collier			
90	Okaloachoochee Slough State Forest and Wildlife Management Area	Hendry & Collier		✓	
92	Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve	Lee			

✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	✓			✓		✓	✓

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Everglades Management Region

Page #	Unit	County	Airboating	Bicycling	Canoeing
98	Water Conservation Areas				
98	Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (Water Conservation Area 1)	Palm Beach		✓	✓
102	Everglades and Francis S. Taylor Wildlife Management Area (Water Conservation Areas 2 & 3)	Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade	✓	✓	✓
106	Southern Glades Wildlife and Environmental Area	Miami-Dade	✓	✓	✓
106	Frog Pond	Miami-Dade			
108	Stormwater Treatment Areas				
110	Stormwater Treatment Area 1 East	Palm Beach		✓	
112	Stormwater Treatment Area 1 West	Palm Beach		✓	
114	Stormwater Treatment Area 3/4	Palm Beach		✓	
116	Stormwater Treatment Area 2, 5, & 6	Palm Beach & Hendry			

Camping	Education Visitor Center	Equestrian	Fishing	Hiking	Hunting	Picnic Tables	Trailhead/Parking/Kiosk
	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
			✓	✓	✓		✓
			✓	✓	✓		
					✓		✓
			✓	✓			✓
				✓	✓		✓
				✓	✓		✓
					✓		

Shingle Creek

Shingle Creek is the last remaining natural area of its size in southwest Orange and northwest Osceola counties. The District has restored portions of the swamp with mitigation funding provided to offset wetland impacts due to Orlando Beltway construction. Because of the land's significance to the Everglades, the creek is part of Florida's Everglades Trail.

Hikers and bicyclists will find several access points to Shingle Creek, including three miles of trails found along the canal, and power line roads. There is another access point open during non-school hours at Hunter's Creek Middle School. Visitors may also launch canoes and kayaks into the creek from the west bank.

Cypress trees, gum trees and wet prairies that ring Shingle Creek's pine islands are evidence that the land is wet for most of the year. A variety of other wildlife, such as white-tailed deer, alligators, turkey and birds, also thrive in Shingle Creek Management Area.

For More Information:

South Florida Water Management District Orlando Service Center, (407) 858-6100, or FL 1-800-250-4250. Florida's Everglades Trail, www.evergladestrail.com.

How to Get There:

The Marriott Trail entrance: about ½ mile south from the Central Florida Parkway on International Drive.

Hunter's Creek Middle School entrance: ½ mile down Town Loop Blvd. from John Young Parkway in Hunter's Creek.

Power line entrance: Behind Hunter's Vista of the Vistas subdivision, approximately 1 mile west on Town Center Blvd. from John Young Parkway.



Orange County
1,650 Acres
Manager: SFWMD

Tibet Butler Preserve

In the busy Orlando area, the Tibet Butler Preserve offers an oasis for wildlife and outdoor enthusiasts. The property borders the Tibet Butler Chain of Lakes.

Visitors to the Vera Carter Environmental Center can experience more than four miles of interpretive hiking trails and elevated boardwalks through bay and cypress swamps, freshwater marshes and scrub and pine flatwoods. A pavilion at the end of Osprey Overlook Trail offers an excellent post for bird-watching.

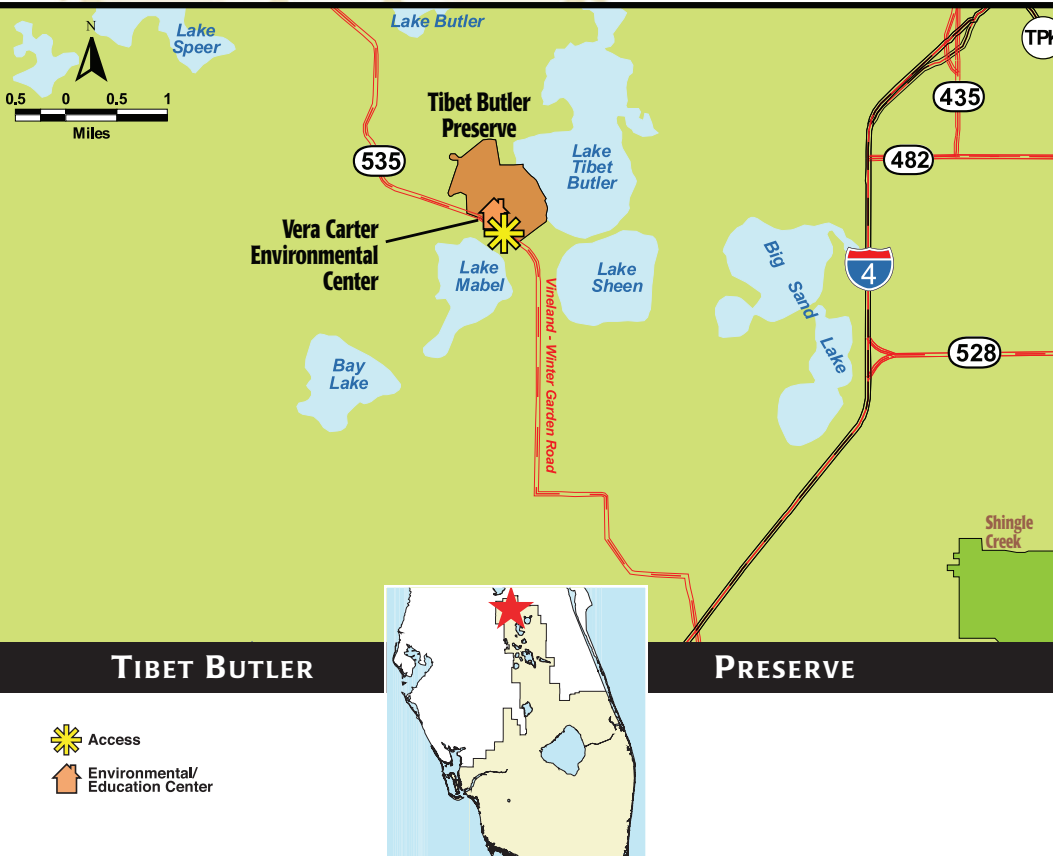
Bobcats, foxes, swallow-tailed kites, gopher tortoises and bald eagles are just a few of Florida's native species making their home in the preserve. The environmental center features live exhibits for visitors who aren't fortunate enough to spot some of these preserve residents in the wild.

For More Information:

Vera Carter Environmental Center, (407) 876-6696, for details on guided hikes, presentations and center hours. The center is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

How to Get There:

From Interstate-4: At exit 68, turn onto C.R. 535 (Winter Garden-Vineland Road). Travel north on C.R. 535 for about 5 miles. The preserve entrance is on the right side of the road.



Lake Marion Creek Wildlife Management Area

Sand hills, pine flatwoods and riverine swamp forests provide habitat for a variety of Florida's native plant and animal species at Lake Marion Creek Wildlife Management Area.

At the Baltic Road Unit, you can take an aerobic hike in sugar-sand hills where quiet bird-watchers may see a rare scrub jay. Look for doodle-bug depressions in the sand and running sand skinks. At lower elevations, wanderers will find shady, fern-carpeted tree hammocks.

At the Huckleberry Island Unit, hikers and bicyclists frequently travel a one-way trail that stretches through three miles of open flatwoods and shady swamps. At the two-mile mark, visitors will find primitive camping sites and picnic tables. Insect repellent is a must-have during the warm spring and summer months, but the sight of wildflower meadows and cabbage palms up to 60 feet tall make it worth the trip.

For More Information:

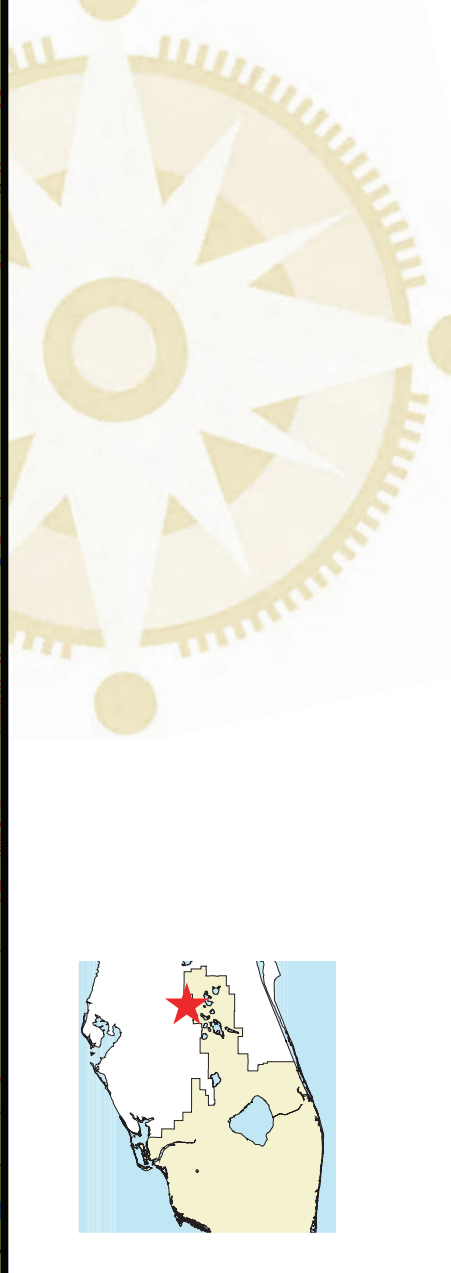
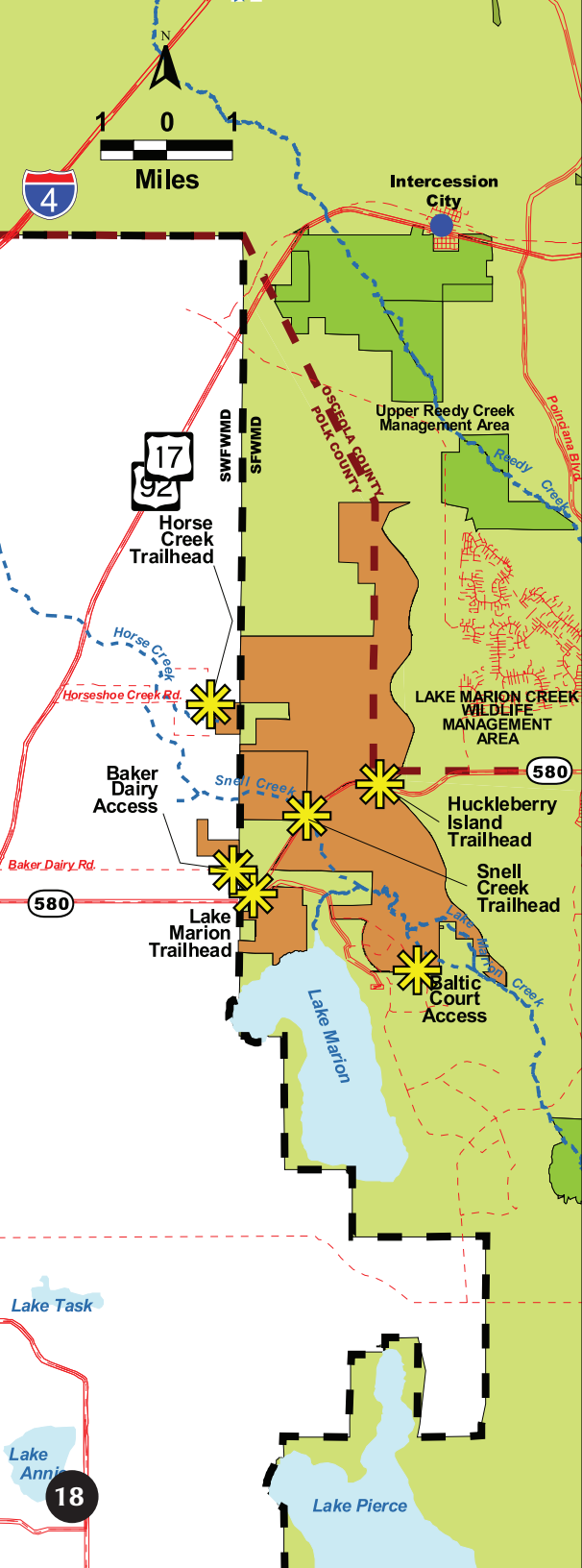
South Florida Water Management District Orlando Service Center, (407) 858-6100, or FL 1-800-250-4250. Online at: www.sfwmd.gov/recreation.

How To Get There:

Parking and trail access are available at six public entry points.

There are three access points about three miles west of Poinciana on C.R. 580. One is at Huckleberry Island Road. The second and third are on the north and south sides of C.R. 580, about ½ mile west of the Huckleberry Island Road access point.

From Haines City: From U.S. Hwy. 27, exit to U.S. Hwy. 17/92. Turn right on Johnson Ave., which becomes C.R. 580, and travel about 5 miles to reach the access points.



Lake Marion Creek Wildlife Management Area *con't.*

How to Get There:

From Kissimmee: Travel south on U.S. Hwy. 17/92 (Orange Blossom Trail/John Young Parkway), and turn left onto Pleasant Hill Road. Travel about 15 miles on Pleasant Hill Road, which becomes Cypress Parkway, then C.R. 580. Access points are off C.R. 580.

The Lake Marion Creek Road access point is also off C.R. 580. From Haines City: From U.S. Hwy. 27, exit to U.S. Hwy. 17/92. Turn right onto Johnson Ave., which becomes C.R. 580. Travel about 4 miles to the access point.

From Kissimmee: Travel south on U.S. Hwy. 17/92 (Orange Blossom Trail), and turn left onto Pleasant Hill Road. Travel about 16 miles on Pleasant Hill Road, which becomes Cypress Parkway, then C.R. 580, to reach the access point.

The Horse Creek Road access point is in Davenport off U.S. Hwy. 17/92. From U.S. Hwy. 27, exit to U.S. Hwy. 17/92 in Haines City. Travel about 5 miles on U.S. Hwy. 17/92 to Horse Creek Road. Turn right and travel about 2½ miles east on Horse Creek Road. After the road takes a 90-degree turn to the left, the entrance is on the right.

The Baltic Road access point is off Caspian Road. From Kissimmee: Travel south on U.S. Hwy 17/92 (Orange Blossom Trail). Turn left onto Pleasant Hill Road. Travel about 9 miles and turn left onto Marigold. Travel about 3 miles on Marigold, which takes a 90-degree turn to the right and becomes Poinciana Parkway. Travel about 3 miles then turn right on Lake Marion Creek Drive. Travel about 3 miles then turn right onto Caspian Road. Travel about ½ mile then turn left on Baltic Road. The access point is at the end of Baltic Road.

LAKE MARION CREEK WILDLIFE MGT. AREA

Osceola & Polk Counties
7,035 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC



Access

Upper Reedy Creek: Intercession City, Reedy Creek and Lake Russell

Upper Reedy Creek is a dense basin swamp filled with several varieties of trees including cypress, red maple, bay and slash pine. There are no established trails at Intercession City, and intrepid hikers who decide to challenge the wet forest will need waders. Daring photographers will be rewarded with an opportunity to capture the area's unique contrasts and textures.

More traditional hiking access is available further south at an Osceola County education center adjacent to the Reedy Creek Unit. The center and its trails are open to the public only on weekends, but the Pine Woods Trail at Reedy Creek is accessible anytime from a small trailhead on Poinciana Boulevard. The two-mile trail includes a stretch of rebuilt logging railroad track at the swamp's edge. The education center at Reedy Creek is open to the public only from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

Reedy Creek flows into Lake Russell and is part of the Northern Everglades ecosystem. Three miles south of the Reedy Creek Unit, scrub lands mark the beginning of the Lake Russell Unit. The area transitions to flatwoods and a floodplain forest along the edge of Lake Russell. These diverse habitats are frequently explored by students of all ages who are participating in environmental education programs. Osceola County also operates an education center at Lake Russell, but the facility is open to the public only for special events and scheduled programs.



Upper Reedy Creek: Intercession City, Reedy Creek and Lake Russell *con't.*

For More Information:

Osceola County Schools, (407) 847-9108. Leave a message to request information on each center's programs and hours of operation.

How to Get There:

Intercession City:

From Kissimmee: Travel west on U.S. Hwy. 17/92 to Wiley Avenue, which is about 1 mile west of Poinciana Blvd.

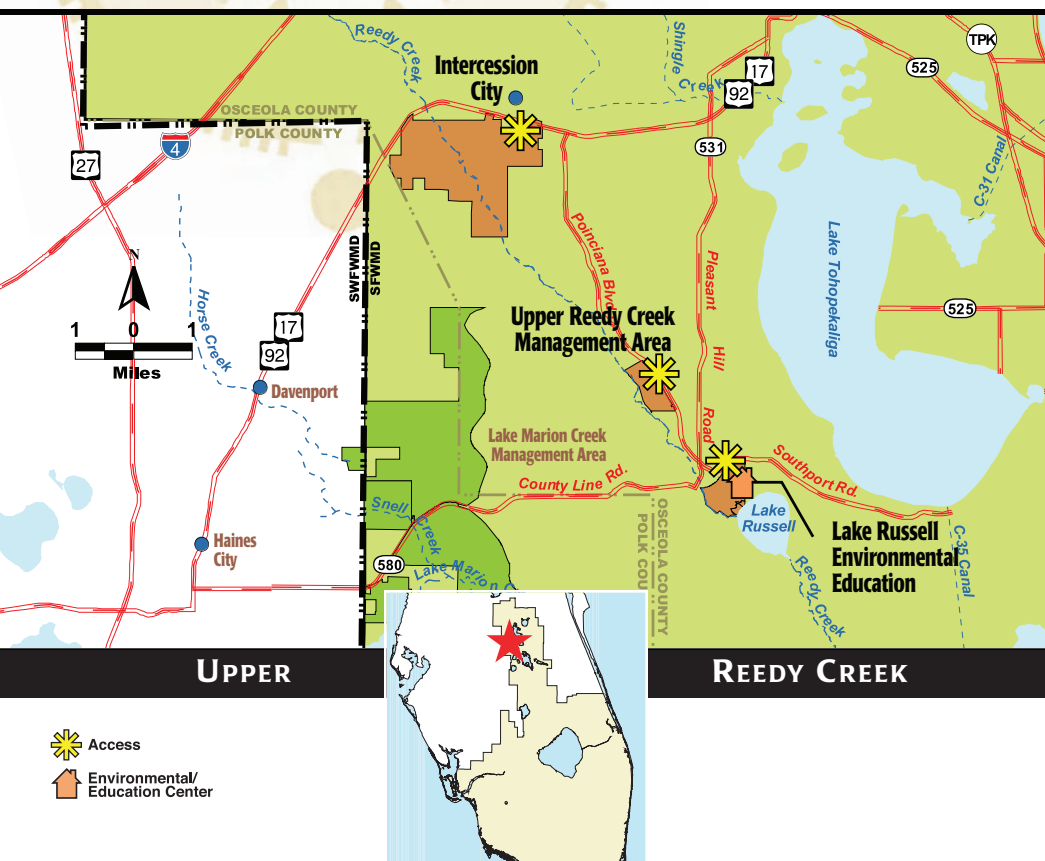
Reedy Creek Unit:

From Interstate-4 in the Orlando area: Take exit 68 and travel south about 3 miles on S.R. 535. Turn right onto Poinciana Blvd and travel south 14 miles, crossing both U.S. Hwy. 192 and U.S. Hwy. 17/92. The trailhead is on Poinciana Blvd. across from Horse World. Parking is limited.

From Interstate-4 east of Orlando: Take exit 24 and travel south toward Kissimmee. Turn left onto U.S. Hwy. 17/92, then right onto Poinciana Blvd. The trailhead is on Poinciana Blvd. across from Horse World. Parking is limited.

Lake Russell Education Center:

Follow directions to Reedy Creek Unit shown above. From Poinciana Blvd. travel 4 miles south of Horse World. The entrance is on Southport Road, ½ mile east of the intersection at Pleasant Hill.



Osceola County
4,070 Acres

Manager: SFWMD & Osceola County School District

Lower Reedy Creek: Rough Island North and South, and Johnson Island

The Reedy Creek watershed is one of the most diverse and intact watercourses in the area, featuring 13 habitats including dry prairie, mesic flatwoods and scrub.

The watershed is accessible by boat from the Cypress Lake boat ramp at the southernmost end of a seasonally fluctuating stream. The stream flows south for 25 miles from its headwaters in Lake County, through Orange, Osceola and Polk counties. Reedy Creek connects Lake Russell to Cypress Lake and Lake Hatchineha.

Traveling north through the watershed, visitors will pass marshy pasture before reaching the canopied creek. Cypress forests and cypress domes are another prominent feature. There are no established hiking trails, but oak-shaded picnic tables are available on Rough Island South, found one-quarter mile from Dead River, and on Rough Island North, three-quarters of a mile from Reedy Creek. There is an additional picnic area at the southern end of Johnson Island.

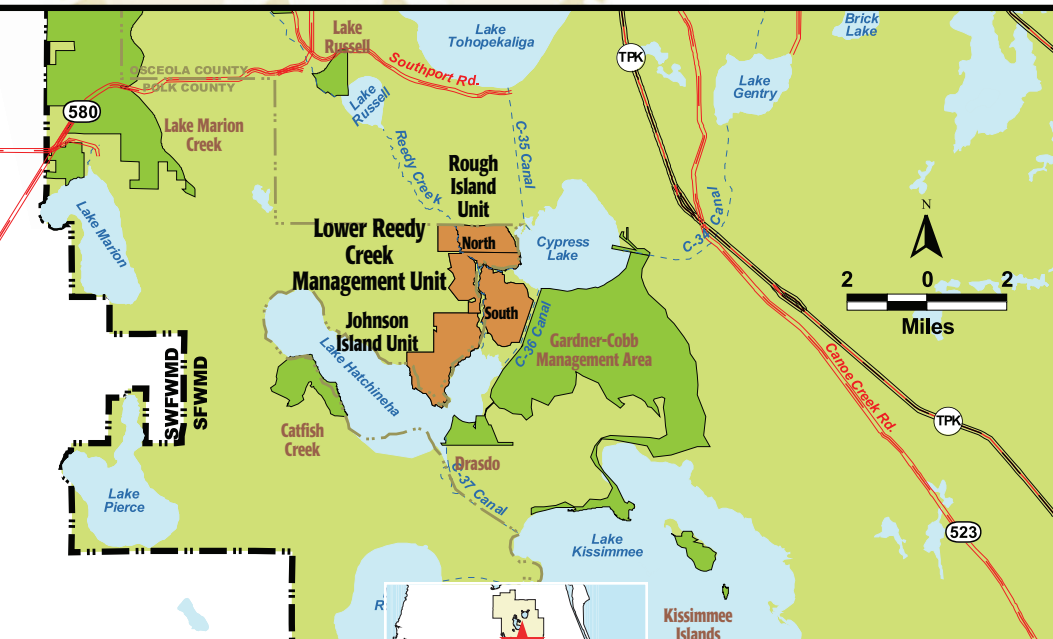
An area that is off-limits during the wood stork breeding and nesting season is four miles south of Reedy Creek's headwaters. The water level in Reedy Creek's lower reaches can be very shallow during the dry season, so boaters should check on water conditions before launching.

For More Information:

South Florida Water Management District Orlando Service Center, (407) 858-6100, or FL 1-800-250-4250. Online at: www.sfwmd.gov/recreation.

How to Get There:

Access is from the Lake Cypress boat ramp. From St. Cloud: Travel 11 miles south on C.R. 523 (Canoe Creek Road). Turn onto Lake Cypress Road. The boat launch is at the end of the road.



LOWER

REEDY CREEK

Osceola & Polk Counties
5,039 Acres
Manager: SFWMD

Catfish Creek

Bordered on one side by stately cypress trees in Lake Hatchineha, Catfish Creek offers an unusually scenic destination for airboaters and paddlers. Ancient oaks with bench-sized roots on the lake's edge can also be seen from the creek's waters. Canoeists and kayakers will find the area more accessible when the water level is above 50 inches.

Grassy roads also lead into the area, which can be too soggy for hikers. Still, Catfish Creek shelters an abundance of wildlife including birds, deer, turkey, alligators, bald eagles and turtles. This is a popular nesting spot for freshwater turtles that leave their eggs buried in the sand, tempting raccoons to dig for a quick meal.

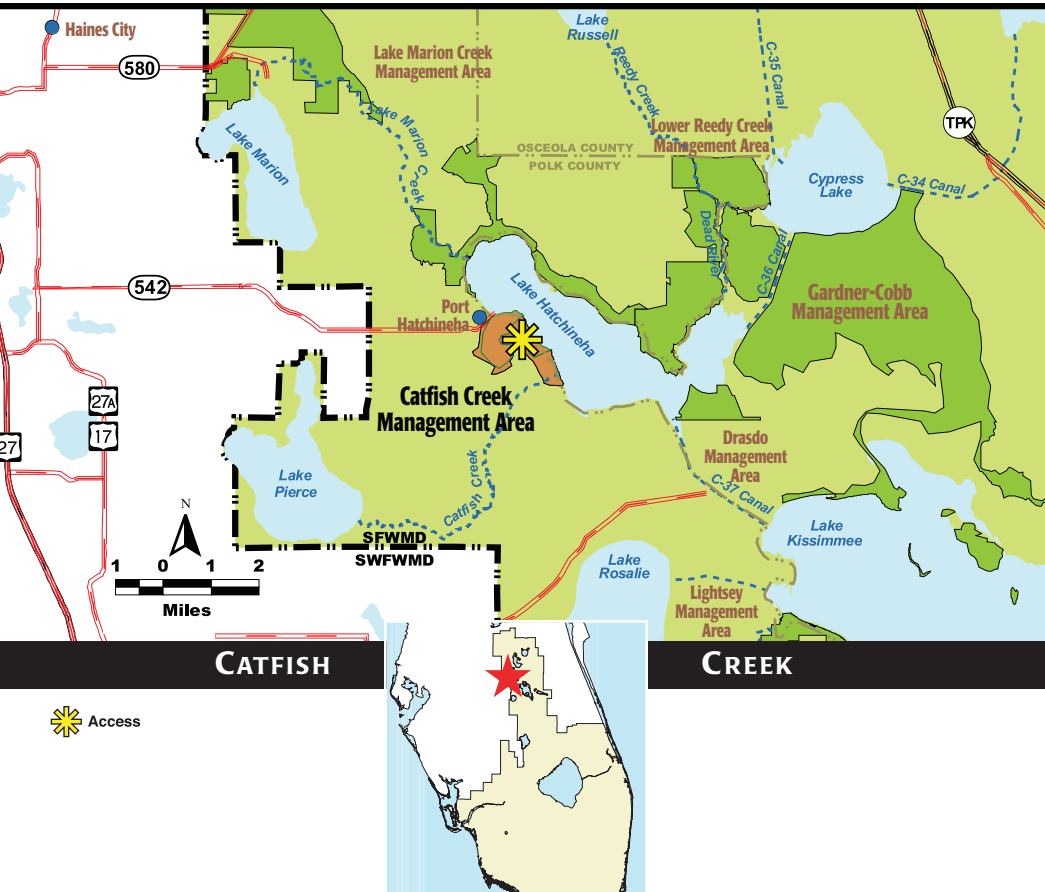
For More Information:

South Florida Water Management District Orlando Service Center, (407) 858-6100, or FL 1-800-250-4250. Online at: www.sfwmd.gov/recreation.

How to Get There:

To reach Catfish Creek on the west bank of Lake Hatchineha, launch from the boat ramp at Camp Mack on the C-37 Canal. Travel north in the canal to Lake Hatchineha.

To Camp Mack from Lake Wales: From the intersection of S.R. 60 and U.S. Hwy. 27, travel about 7 miles east on S.R. 60. Turn left onto Boy Scout Camp Road, and travel until the road ends at Camp Mack Road. Turn right, and the access is at the end of Camp Mack Road.



Polk County
958 Acres
Manager: SFWMD

Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Management Area

The largest District property in the Upper Chain of Lakes Region is Gardner-Cobb Marsh on Lake Kissimmee. The area is dominated by swamps, pine flatwoods and wet prairie, which are only accessible by boat or airboat. Hikers and campers will find a designated primitive campsite along the sandy shoreline. Airboaters call this popular landing "the yacht club." Hunters find deer and turkey in the marsh.

The neighboring Drasdo property is accessible on foot from a berm at the lake's edge. By boat, the property is accessible from the lake. Bird watchers find that this area is one of the few that has the right habitat to support Florida's native scrub jays. Fishing enthusiasts can drop a line into the lake or anywhere else that looks promising.

Other popular destinations on Lake Kissimmee include Eastshore, Westshore and Bird and Sturm Islands. Johnson Island is accessible from Lake Hatchineha.

For More Information:

South Florida Water Management District Orlando Service Center, (407) 858-6100, or FL 1-800-250-4250. Online at: www.sfwmd.gov/recreation.

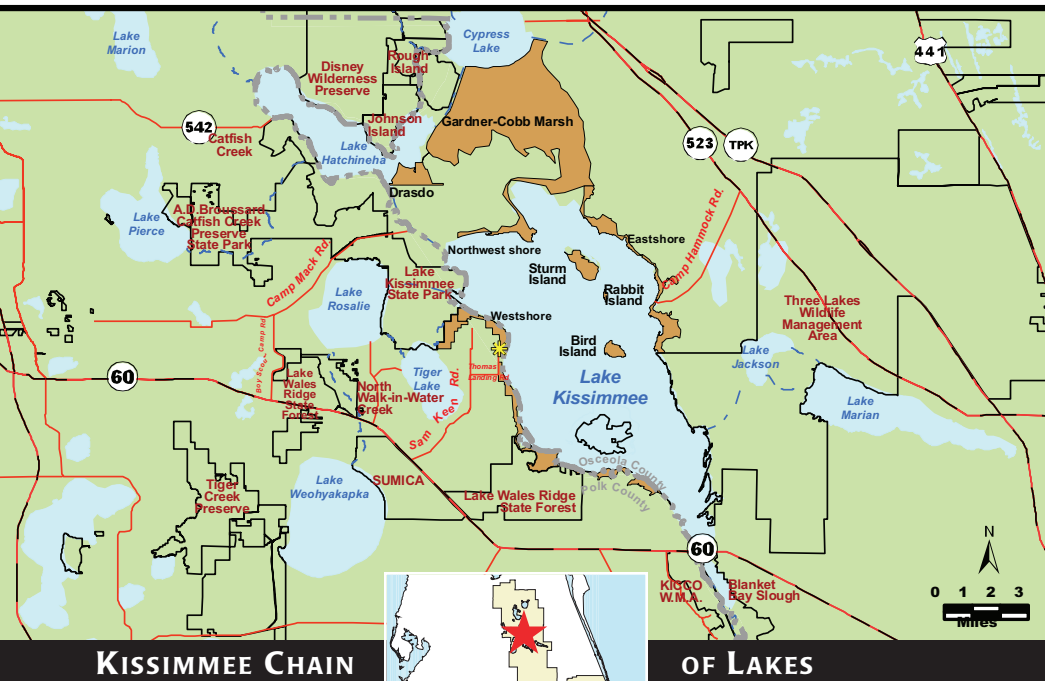
For hunting information: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (352) 732-1225.

How to Get There:

Gardner-Cobb Marsh and Drasdo are on the east side of Lake Hatchineha between the C-37 and C-36 Canals. Launch from the boat ramp at Camp Mack on the C-37 Canal and travel north in the canal to Lake Hatchineha.

To Camp Mack from Lake Wales: From the intersection of S.R. 60 and U.S. Hwy. 27, travel about 7 miles east on S.R. 60. Turn left onto Boy Scout Camp Road, and travel until the road ends at Camp Mack Road. Turn right, and the access is at the end of Camp Mack Road.

Boat ramps at Lake Cypress and Lake Kissimmee.
From St. Cloud: Travel about 10 miles south on Canoe Creek Road to Lake Cypress Road boat launch, or travel 20 miles to Joe Overstreet Road to Lake Kissimmee boat launch.



Osceola & Polk Counties
14,116 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC

SUMICA

SUMICA is next to Lake Walk-in-Water, a 7,500-acre water body also known as Lake Weohyakapka. Pine flatwoods, marshes and a picturesque oak hammock offer a variety of habitats to explore. The area's name is the acronym for a French company that once ran a logging operation here.

Hikers will find a short boardwalk and observation deck in the sawgrass marsh. A unique feature near the lake is an old-growth oak tree with the likeness of a woman carved into the trunk. The relief is about three feet tall. In addition, four miles of hiking trails and seven miles of horseback riding trails are on the property. Primitive camping and bicycling are also allowed.

Lake Walk-in-Water is a popular fishing spot with shallow but clear waters. Stands of bulrush and eelgrass shelter many fish species. The lake is accessible by boat from several ramps.

Polk County periodically arranges special opportunity hog hunts.

For More Information:

South Florida Water Management District Orlando Service Center
(407) 858-6100, or FL 1-800-432-2045. Online at:
www.sfwmd.gov/recreation.

Polk County, Environmental Lands Program, (863) 534-7377.

How to Get There:

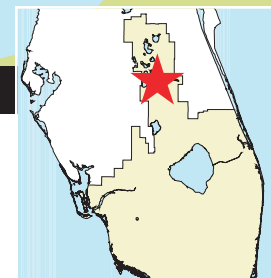
From Lake Wales: Travel 10 miles east on S.R. 60. SUMICA is north of the Indian Lakes Estates subdivision. Parking is $\frac{3}{4}$ mile southeast of Tiger Lake Road, or $\frac{1}{4}$ mile northwest of Sam Keene Road on the southwest side of S.R. 60.



SUMICA

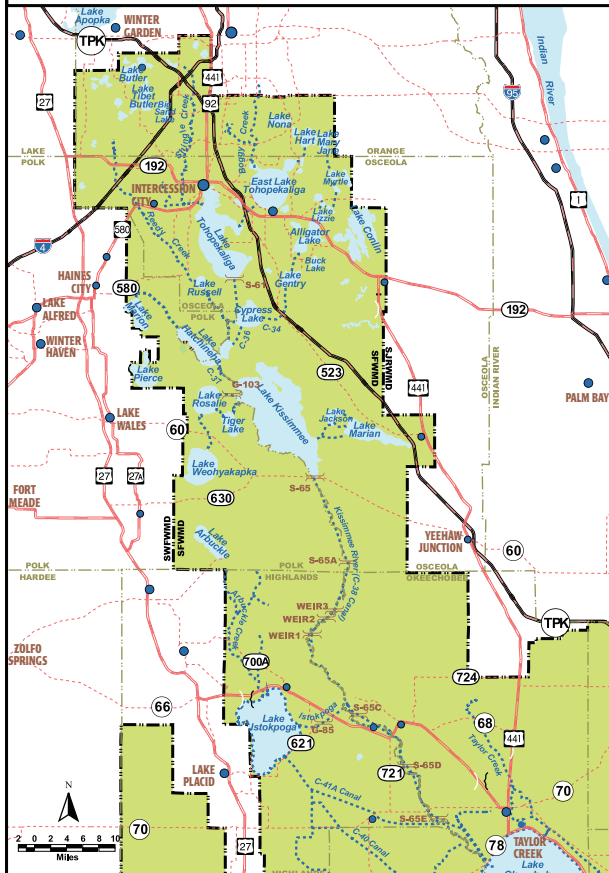


Access

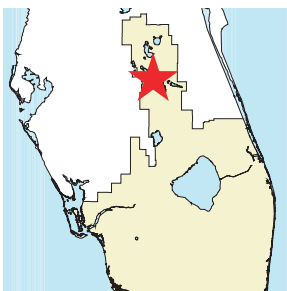


Polk County
4,109 Acres
Manager: Polk County

Kissimmee River Restoration (Upper & Lower Basins)



KISSIMMEE RIVER RESTORATION



Polk, Osceola, Highlands, Okeechobee and Glades Counties

Kissimmee River Restoration will improve this unique ecosystem by reestablishing 40 square miles of river and floodplain habitat, including 27,000 acres of wetland and 43 continuous miles of meandering river channel. The segment of restored river will flow southward from the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park through Seaboard Marsh.

Some of the Chain of Lakes and Kissimmee River properties are still used for cattle ranching. The District grants interim leases until the land can be used for restoration. Meanwhile, cattle help manage unwanted vegetation on the property. Cattle trails crisscross the properties, and cattle lounge in waterways, lakes and ponds to stay cool. Cows with calves are very protective, so give them a wide berth.

Group boat tours to see the restored Kissimmee River are available. For information, call Florida Atlantic University's Center for Environmental Studies at (561) 686-8800, ext. 3190. Tours usually stop three miles upstream from S-65C at the Micco Run Shelter. You can also take this trip on your own by boat.

Kissimmee River Restoration

Did you know that you're viewing the world's largest river restoration project when you visit lands along the Kissimmee River and the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes? The District has purchased nearly all of the 110,000 acres of land needed to store water and restore the river's edge wetlands and headwater lakes. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a partner in the restoration and is helping to fund the project.

Background: The historic Kissimmee River meandered 103 miles within a floodplain one-quarter mile to two miles wide until the 1960s when the natural river system was channelized. To alleviate flooding in the upper basin, the system was altered to move excess water quickly south from the Chain of Lakes. Water control structures regulated a series of five impounded reservoirs, known as Pools A through E, in the created canal. Channelization dried up the historic floodplain, where the population of wading birds declined by 90 percent.

Completed Restoration: Water was forced back into the original riverbed after spoil material was used to re-fill seven-and-a-half miles of canal between 1999 and 2001. This created 15 miles of continuous, reconnected river and 11,000 acres of wetland between Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park and Cornwell Marsh.

Plans in the Works: The remainder of the restoration will take place in two phases and will be finished in 2012.

Phases Two and Three: Work will include removing the S-65C lock and filling in the canal northward from the Seaboard Railroad to the southern end of the Phase One backfill. Areas included in restoration are Seaboard Marsh North, Micco Landing, Cornwell Marsh East and West, and Turkey Hammock East and West.

Phase Four: The canal from Boney Marsh and No Name Slough to the southern end of Kissimmee River Prairie Preserve State Park's western boundary will be filled. Work started in 2006, and areas included in restoration are No Name Slough, Boney Marsh, parts of the southern Avon Park Air Force Range and Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park.

KICCO and Blanket Bay Marsh

On the west side of the Kissimmee River is the KICCO property. Pronounced KISS-oh, the area takes its name from the Kissimmee Island Cattle Company that operated here from 1915 through the late 1920s. KICCO contributed to the development of several central Florida towns that depended on beef production and river trade, including Kissimmee and Sebring. At one time, the KICCO settlement had homes, a bunkhouse, mess hall, company store, icehouse, power plant, schoolhouse and even its own steamboat landing.

Nature and time have reclaimed the area, making KICCO a place where visitors can experience "old Florida." In this region you will see a rich patchwork of habitat extremes, from scrub to marsh.

KICCO has five primitive campsites equipped with picnic tables, a one-way bicycling path that extends for 10 miles on an old dirt road and 11 miles of the Florida National Scenic Trail. Horseback riders are also welcome, while fishing enthusiasts are likely to find bass lurking in the C-38 canal and the old Kissimmee River oxbows.

A sheltered campsite, accessible only by boat, is available on the opposite side of the river at Blanket Bay Marsh. There are no hiking trails on Blanket Bay, which is mainly wetland. In the dry season from November through March, you can hike along the scenic river's edge.

For More Information:

DuPuis Management Area, (561) 924-5310, for camping and horseback riding permits, or request a special use license online at: www.sfwmd.gov/sul.

South Florida Water Management District Okeechobee Service Center, (863) 462-5260, or FL 1-800-250-4200.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Southwest Regional Office (863) 648-3200, or 24-hour Law Enforcement (813) 558-5050.



KICCO and Blanket Bay Marsh *con't.*

How to Get There:

KICCO:

Access is by foot, bicycle or horse. There are entrances at the public boat ramp off S.R. 60, and at two trailhead/parking areas.

The first entrance is on the east side of River Ranch Blvd. about 3 miles south of the junction with S.R. 60.

The second entrance is at the north end of KICCO Road, about ¼ mile past the Westgate River Ranch Resort.

From Lake Wales: Travel 21 miles east on S.R. 60 to Westgate River Ranch Resort.

From Yeehaw Junction: From the intersection of U.S. 441 and S.R. 60, travel west 19 miles on S.R. 60 to Westgate River Ranch Resort.

KICCO is a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Wildlife Management Area.

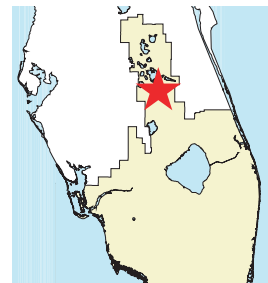
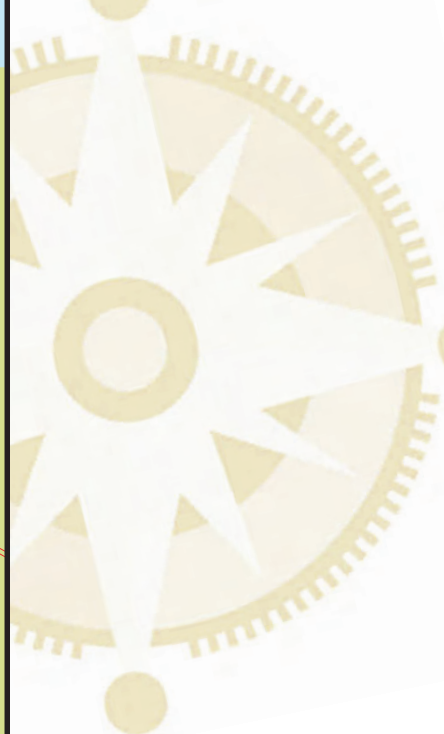
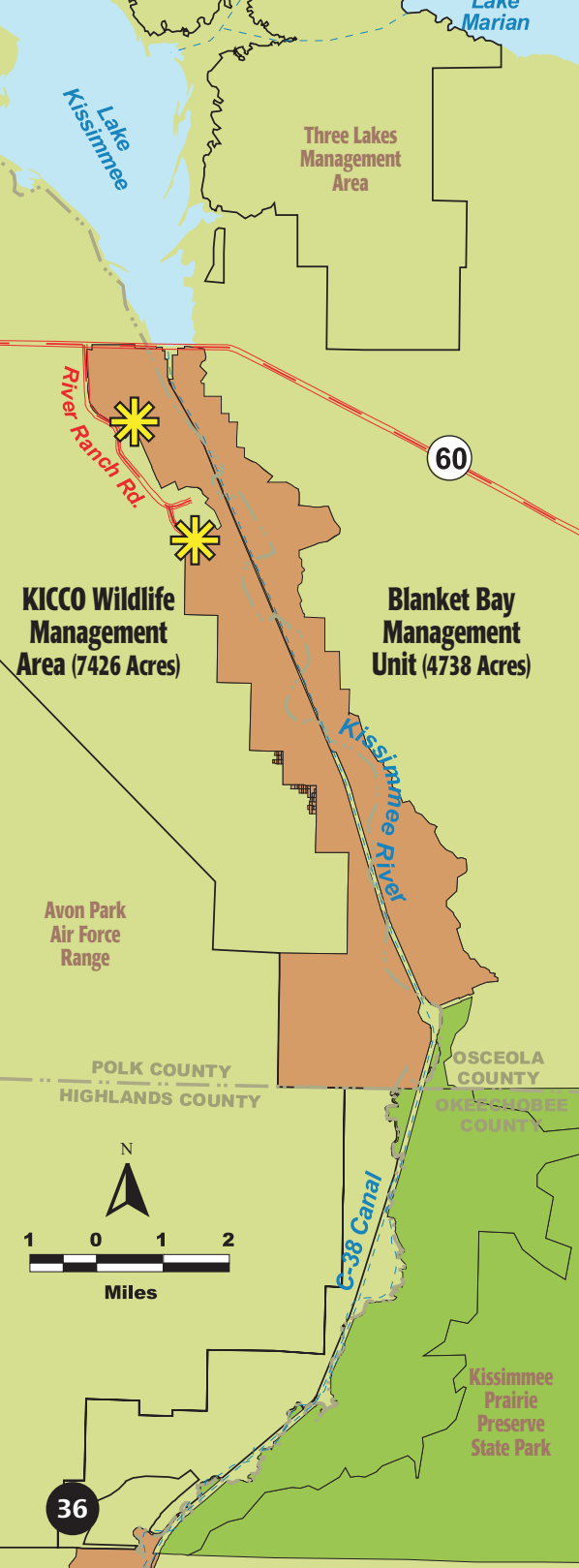
Blanket Bay Marsh:

Access is by boat only. Launch from the west side of the C-38 canal, just west of the Disston Bridge on S.R. 60, spanning the junction of the northern Kissimmee River and southern Lake Kissimmee.

From Lake Wales: Travel 21 miles east on S.R. 60.

From Yeehaw Junction: Travel 19 miles west on S.R. 60.

Blanket Bay Marsh is part of the Kissimmee River Public Use Area.



KICCO AND BLANKET BAY MARSH

Osceola & Polk Counties
12,164 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC



Access

Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park

Dry prairie habitat is the highlight of this state park. The dry prairie is home to several rare and endangered species, including the Florida grasshopper sparrow, burrowing owl and the crested caracara. Seventy-nine species of butterflies have been documented here, more than at any other location in Florida.

A park office and gift shop serve as the gateway to Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park. From here, visitors can find information on 116 miles of multi-use trails for hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking. Ask about the next opportunity for astronomy enthusiasts to stay after dark for some stargazing. Swamp buggy tours are also offered on weekends and national holidays throughout the fall, winter and spring. Butterfly and bird checklists are available at the park office for visitors who like to keep track of the sights.

History buffs will enjoy the preserve, too. Military Trail, a dirt road on the property leading to the Kissimmee River, once connected Fort Drum and Fort Kissimmee. The Peavine Trail follows an old railroad bed built in 1910. Alligators often gather in Seven Mile Slough, which is a short walk from the parking area at the corner of the Military and Peavine trails.

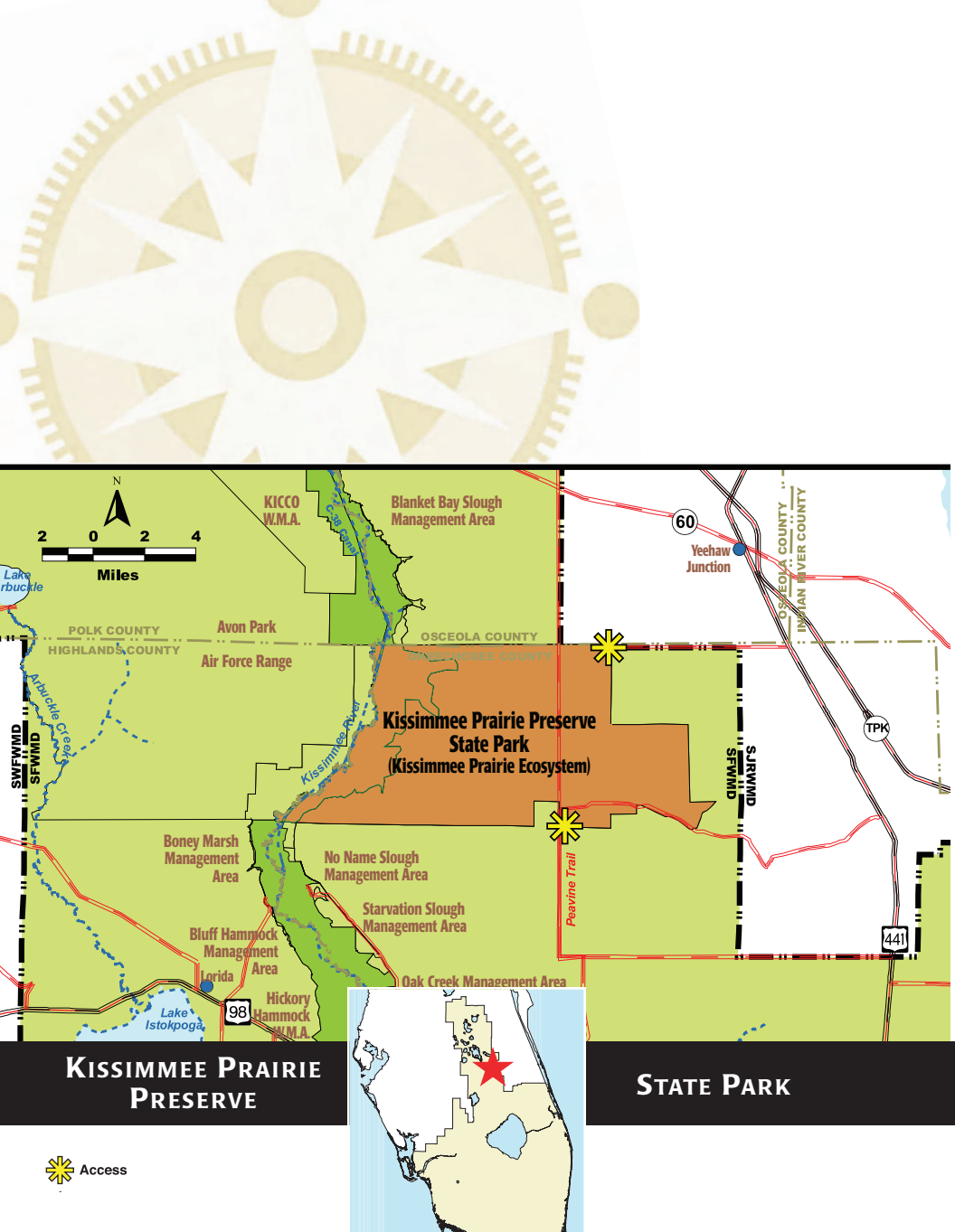
For More Information:

Kissimmee Prairie State Preserve, (863) 462-5360.
Online at: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/>.

How to Get There:

From Okeechobee: Travel north on U.S. Hwy. 98 to C.R. 700A (NW 176th Ave.). Turn right on 700A and travel to C.R. 724 (NW 240th Street/Eagle Island Road). Turn left on C.R. 724 and travel to Peavine Road (192nd Rd.). Turn right on Peavine Road and follow signs to the park entrance.

From southeast or northeast: Follow Interstate-95 to exit 131B in Fort Pierce. Travel west on S.R. 68 (Orange Ave) to U.S. Hwy. 441. Turn right on U.S. Hwy. 441 and travel to C.R. 724 (NW 240th Street/Eagle Island Road). Turn left on C.R. 724 and travel to Peavine Road (192nd Road). Turn right on Peavine Road and follow signs to the park entrance.



Okeechobee County
55,000 Acres
Manager: Florida Park Service

Boney Marsh, Bluff Hammock Units and Hickory Hammock Wildlife Management Area

Majestic live oaks welcome visitors to Hickory Hammock's hiking trail. From there, explorers can see marshes, patches of scrub and oak, hickory and cabbage palm hammocks. Remnants of the Istokpoga Slough provide cool relief to the landscape. Hikers and bird-watchers are often led to this diverse area by following the Great Florida Birding Trail and the Everglades Trail.

A section of the Florida National Scenic Trail winds for 11 miles through this area where visitors can also find primitive campsites. Visitors who travel three miles north of Hickory Hammock are rewarded by views of the restored Kissimmee River from a footbridge 25 feet high. The trail north through Boney Marsh offers a spectacular walk among live oaks, palms, bay and holly trees on the edge of the Kissimmee floodplain. The Florida National Scenic Trail continues north through the Avon Park Air Force Range. Hikers are encouraged to check with the South Florida Water Management District web site for trail closures before entering the range.

Horseback riding is popular at Hickory Hammock and Bluff Hammock. An equestrian center with stables, restrooms, night lighting, non-potable water and primitive campsites is available. Ten miles of marked equestrian trails, interior dirt roads and fire breaks offer riders a varied landscape.

Bicycling enthusiasts will enjoy riding on a two-mile section of the old Sebring Grade in the southern half of Hickory Hammock. Canopied by overhanging tree limbs, the road connected Sebring and Basinger before U.S. Hwy. 98 was built in 1949. You can also enjoy bike riding on the interior "woods road," an old ranch road through the hammocks.

Boney Marsh and Bluff Hammock units are part of the Kissimmee River Public Use Area. Hickory Hammock is a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Wildlife Management Area.



Boney Marsh, Bluff Hammock Units and Hickory Hammock Wildlife Management Area *con't.*

For More Information:

DuPuis Management Area, (561) 924-5310, for camping, horseback riding permits and trail closings. Online at: www.sfwmd.gov/recreation.

South Florida Water Management District Okeechobee Service Center, (863) 462-5260, or FL 1-800-250-4200.

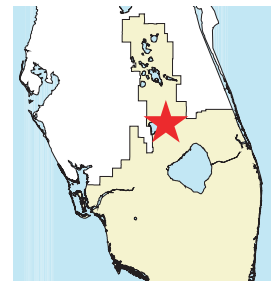
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Southwest Regional Office (863) 648-3200, or 24-hour Law Enforcement (813) 558-5050.

How to Get There:

Enter on foot, bicycle or horseback. There are three access points on the east side of U.S. Hwy. 98, which runs between Sebring and Okeechobee.

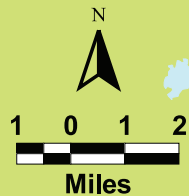
- Bluff Hammock hiking trailhead is at the end of Bluff Hammock Road. Bluff Hammock Road is 14 miles south of Sebring and 32 miles north of Okeechobee.
- Equestrian access is at the end of McArthur Road, 30 miles north of the main Hickory Hammock trailhead.
- Main trailhead at Hickory Hammock is 8 miles southeast of Lorida, and about 1/2 mile northwest of the Istokpoga Canal (18 miles south of Sebring and 27 miles north of Okeechobee on U.S. Hwy. 98).

A new boat ramp on the Lake Istokpoga Canal is expected to open in 2009.



BONEY MARSH, BLUFF HAMMOCK AND HICKORY HAMMOCK MANAGEMENT AREA

Okeechobee & Highlands Counties
9,060 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC



Oak Creek, No Name and Starvation Slough Management Units

Oak Creek features many majestic old-growth oaks, some nearly five feet in diameter, along the eastern edge of the Kissimmee River floodplain. This is a great spot to enjoy the shade or watch the spring butterflies.

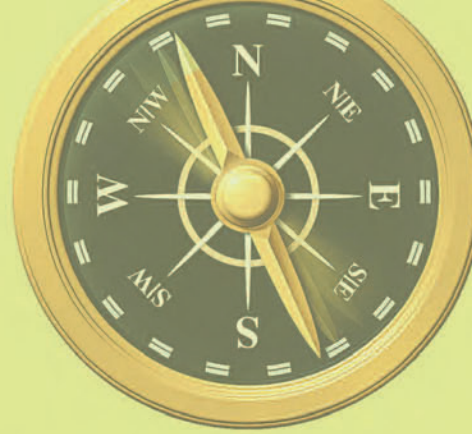
Here, the creek's floodplain merges into the restored Kissimmee River, so hikers can only use the area during the drier winter months. Visitors will find several bay heads with trees up to 30 feet tall at the eastern end of the creek. Enter through the walk-through gate and travel one mile to visit the secluded campsite. Primitive camping is available at sites with fire rings and picnic tables.

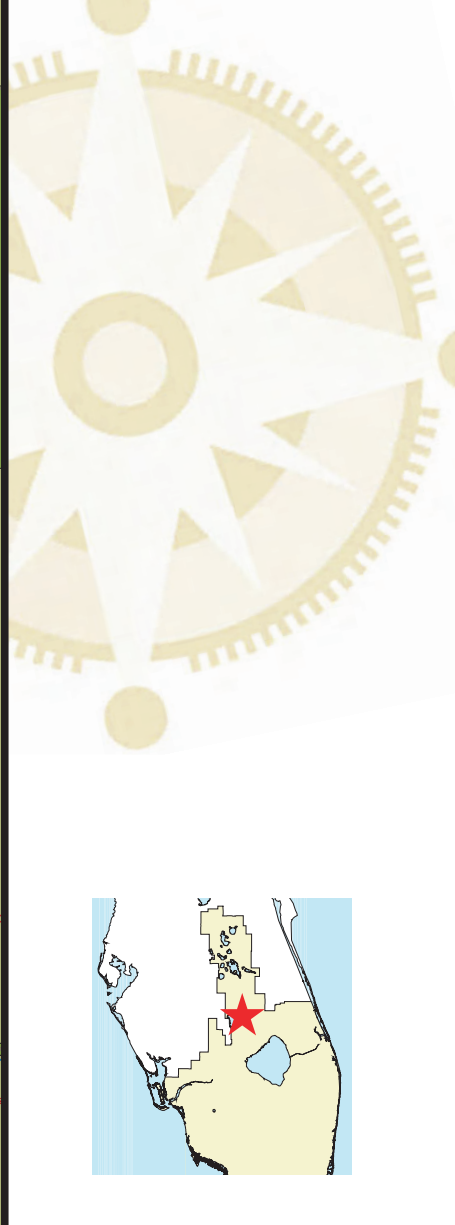
Fishing is allowed in the restored section of the Kissimmee River. During the wet season, the best access is by airboat, canoe or kayak from the Starvation Slough Boat Launch. Access is through the north entrance.

The Starvation Slough Boat Launch also provides access to Starvation Slough and No Name Slough. If you walk west into the floodplain along No Name Slough, you will see a filled section of the canal.

Horseback riding is allowed at both sloughs. An old woods road winds for about three miles through the hammock from the parking area at the north entrance to Starvation Slough. The road continues across the old S-65B tie-back levee along fire breaks into No Name Slough.

These management units are part of the Kissimmee River Valley Public Use Area.





OAK CREEK, NO NAME AND STARVATION SLOUGH MANAGEMENT AREAS

Okeechobee County
4,106 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC



Access

No Name, Starvation and Oak Creek Slough Management Units *con't.*

For More Information:

DuPuis Management Area, (561) 924-5310, for camping and horseback riding permits, or request a special use license online at: www.sfwmd.gov/sul.

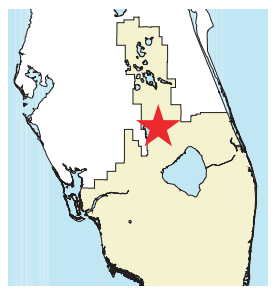
South Florida Water Management District Okeechobee Service Center, (863) 462-5260, or recreation line, (866) 433-6312, or FL 1-800-250-4200.

How to Get There:

There are two entrances, about 1 1/2 miles apart, to Oak Creek on Micco Bluff Road.

- The north entrance is at Starvation Slough and boat launch. Access is by foot or shallow-drift boat (airboat, canoe or kayak). Parking is next to the boat launch and walk-through gate.
- The south entrance, south of the creek, includes parking and an information kiosk. Walk one mile from the parking area to the picnic and primitive campsite area.

Micco Bluff Road is off U.S. Hwy. 98 in Ft. Basinger, about 28 miles southeast of Sebring, and about 15 miles north of Okeechobee. Travel north on NW 203rd Ave., next to the white block Basinger Community Center. Travel to the stop sign and turn left onto Micco Bluff Road (160th Street). Veer right at NW 285th Street. The south entrance is 7 1/2 miles from U.S. Hwy. 98, and the north entrance is about 9 miles from U.S. Hwy. 98. Both entrances are on the left.



Turkey Hammock and Cornwell Marshes; MICCO Landing and Chandler Slough

Turkey Hammock and Cornwell marshes are former floodplains converted to pasture. The property features a boat ramp, oak trees, a cypress dome and cabbage palms.

Traveling north from the S-65C boat ramp, you can see a borrow ditch on the south side of Turkey Hammock West. The mile-long ditch resembles a narrow stream, and almost every flowering Florida marsh plant grows here. Pink marshmallow "hibiscus," purple pickerelweed, creamy water hemlock and buttonbush flowers are on display. Hard-to-spot native water spider orchids, with humble yellowish-purple flowers, peek through the thick grasses. Bonnet worms found burrowing into spatterdock leaves are good fish bait.

Airboats, canoes and kayaks can be used on the waterway, but be certain to flag your boat. Enjoy this spot while you can, as the S-65C lock and access road will be removed in a future river restoration phase. Flooding this area is an important part of Kissimmee River restoration.

You can also put in at the new Istokpoga Canal boat ramp and travel east, or travel north past unusually large cypress trees about halfway to the C-38 Canal.

To the south, the Cornwell Marsh offers a non-motorized boat ramp off U.S. Hwy. 98. A brown sign marks the 4-E's entrance. Until the late 1970s, the area was a stop on the historic Kissimmee Boat-A-Cade. Today's visitors will find only remnant dock timbers from an old wooden bridge that used to cross the Kissimmee River at Fort Basinger. This area's most striking asset is a beautiful oak hammock. A short road serves as a half-mile nature trail.

Chandler Slough is a 3,722-acre tract added to the Kissimmee River Public Use Area. The area is managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Boating, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, hiking, camping and other activities that don't interfere with Kissimmee River restoration are allowed.



Turkey Hammock and Cornwell Marshes; MICCO Landing and Chandler Slough *con't.*

Hunting and horseback riding are popular activities at Micco Landing, where visitors will find a parking area large enough to accommodate horse trailers. Equestrians and hikers can enjoy the woods road trail. This 1,440-acre tract is also part of the Kissimmee River Public Use Area. It is managed by the South Florida Water Management District in partnership with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Hunting, boating, fishing, horseback riding, hiking, camping and other activities that don't interfere with Kissimmee River restoration are allowed.

These four locations are accessible from the Kissimmee River and from part of the Kissimmee River Public Use Area.

For More Information:

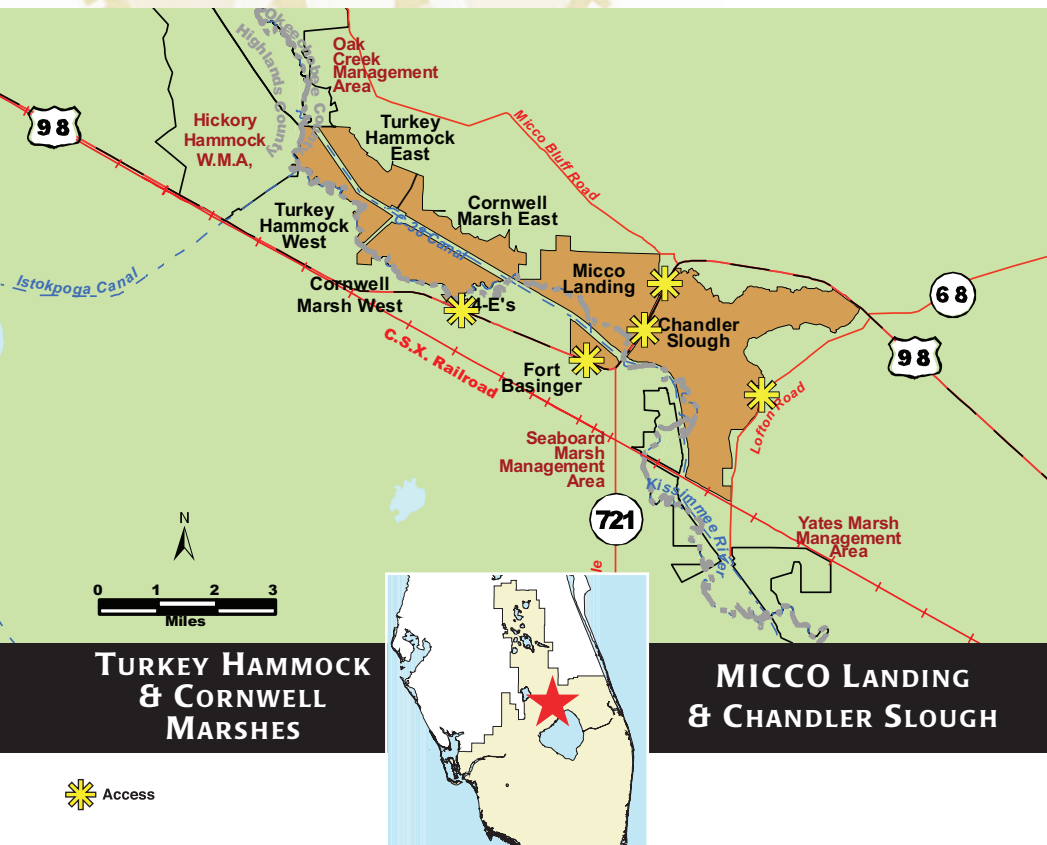
South Florida Water Management District Okeechobee Service Center, (863) 462-5260, or recreation line, (866) 433-6312, or FL 1-800-250-4200. Online at: www.sfwmd.gov/recreation.

How to Get There:

Turkey Hammock and Cornwell Marsh: Take U.S. Hwy. 98 north from Okeechobee or east from Sebring. About 6 miles northwest of Fort Basinger is the S-65C Access Road. There is a boat ramp at the end of the access road on the right. Both of these sites can also be reached by the boat ramp at the Istokpoga Canal on U.S. Hwy. 98.

Micco Landing: From the City of Okeechobee, travel 17½ miles north on U.S. Hwy. 98. A trailhead and parking are on the west side of the highway.

Chandler Slough: From the City of Okeechobee, travel about 15 miles north on U.S. Hwy. 98 to Lofton Road. Turn left on Lofton Road and travel about 1½ miles to the entrance on the west side of the road. Or travel about 18 miles north on U.S. Hwy. 98. A trailhead and parking are on the east side of the highway.



Okeechobee & Highlands Counties
8,437 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC

Seaboard Marsh, Telex Marsh and Yates Marsh

The scenic Kissimmee River serves as a gateway to these three marshes, with Seaboard and Telex marshes accessible only by boat.

When canoeing around Telex Marsh, savvy paddlers plan a downstream route on the C-38 Canal to avoid strong currents. Today, the banks look like miniature river bluffs and boast many mature oaks. These fern-lined spoil banks were created when the river was dredged for steamships.

Investigate Seaboard Marsh to the north by boat. To reach this marsh, travelers who put in at Platts Bluff will need to travel several miles north and go through the lock at S-65D. For a shorter trip, put in just upstream of the locks. In the spring and summer, watch for bluegill fish in the river's shallows. Old river cuts are ideal for airboat traffic and canoes, where accessible. North and South Seaboard marshes will be connected at the train trestle when that stretch of the C-38 Canal is backfilled and a new railroad bridge is built across the river and canal.

Yates Marsh is accessible by car, making it a prime spot for an afternoon hike on the marsh's eastern boundary. The Florida National Scenic Trail runs through Yates Marsh, and primitive campsites are available for visitors.

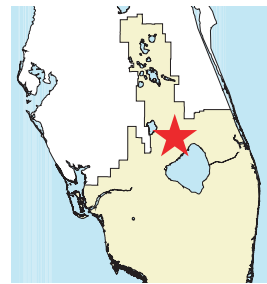
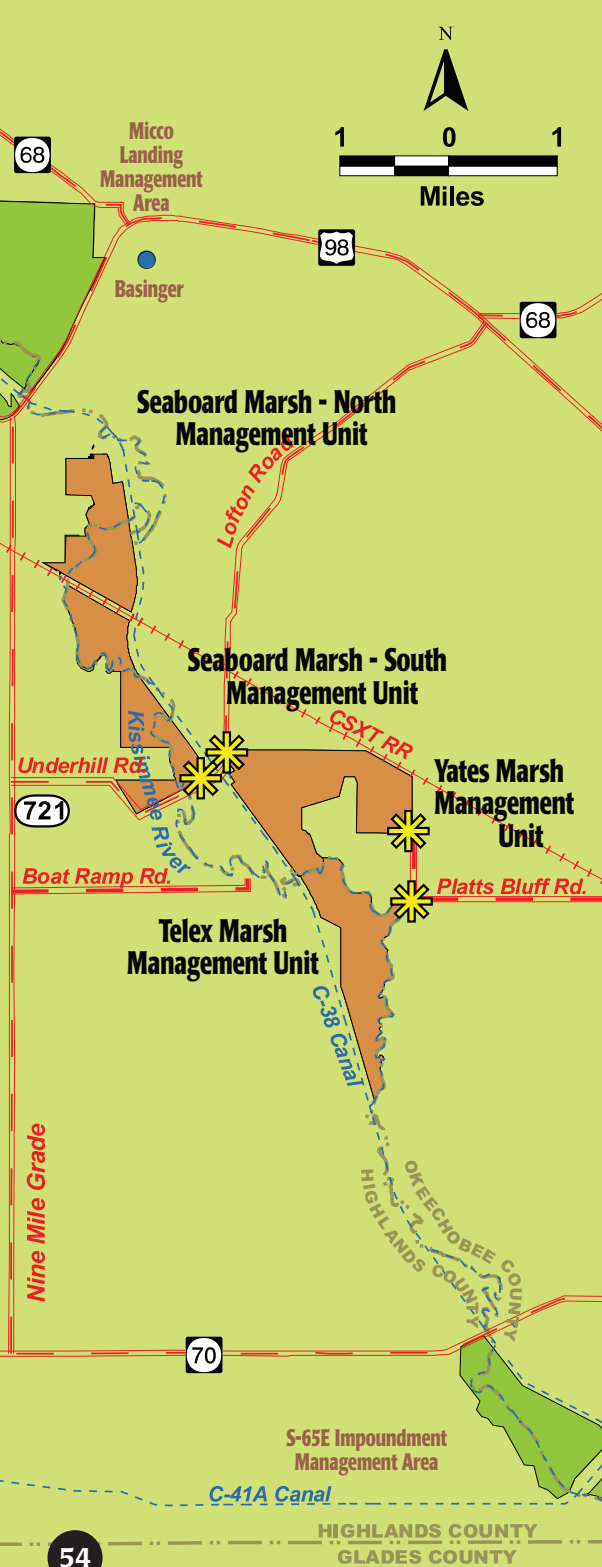
These marshes are part of the Kissimmee River Public Use Area.

For More Information:

DuPuis Management Area, for camping and horseback riding permits, (561) 924-5310, or request a special use license online at: www.sfwmd.gov/sul.

South Florida Water Management District Okeechobee Service Center, (863) 462-5260, recreation line, (866) 433-6312, or FL 1-800-250-4200.





**SEABOARD MARSH,
TELEX MARSH
AND YATES MARSH**

Okeechobee & Highlands
Counties
2,105 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC



**Seaboard Marsh, Telex Marsh
and Yates Marsh
*con't.***

How to Get There:

Seaboard Marsh: Accessible by boat from the C-38 Canal by an unimproved boat ramp on the north side of Underhill Road.

Underhill Road: Take C.R. 721 (Nine Mile Grade) north from U.S. Hwy. 70, or south from U.S. Hwy. 98, to Underhill Road. Turn east on Underhill Road near the Butler Oaks Dairy. S-65D and an unimproved boat ramp are at the end of Underhill Road on the C-38.

Yates Marsh: Accessible by boat from the C-38 Canal, Kissimmee River and Platts Bluff boat ramp. A trailhead with parking is on Lofton Road (NW 144th Trail) next to S-65D.

Platts Bluff: From Okeechobee, travel west on U.S. Hwy. 70 to Gache Road (NW 128th Drive). Turn right on Gache Road and travel north about 3½ miles to Platts Bluff Road. Turn left on Platts Bluff Road and travel west about 2 miles. The concrete boat ramp is at the end of Platts Bluff Road at a county park.

Lofton Road (NW 144th Trail): From Okeechobee, travel north on U.S. Hwy. 98 for about 14 miles. Lofton Road is on the left just before the intersection of U.S. Hwy. 98 and C.R. 68. From Sebring and the west, travel east on U.S. Hwy. 98 to Fort Basinger. Cross the double bridges of Chandler Slough. Lofton Road is on the right.

Telex Marsh: Telex Marsh is accessible from the Kissimmee River and C-38. Platts Bluff offers the most convenient boating access. Telex Marsh is directly across the water from the boat ramp.

S-65E Impoundment and Paradise Run

At the end of the Kissimmee River, on the north side of S-65E, you'll find an expanse of thick marsh. Boating access into the impoundment is limited, but more adventurous visitors might want to park by the marshy pasture at the north end and find a shady picnic spot on higher ground. This section of the river is a good place to canoe or kayak, but there is not much shade so pack accordingly. From a historical perspective, this is a good place to see where the old river dead-ends at the S-65E levee to the south. This levee and a canal separate the S-65E Impoundment and Paradise Run.

The snaking switchbacks on Paradise Run's border with the Kissimmee River beckon to fishing enthusiasts. Toward the C-38 Canal to the east, visitors can find marshy pasture and dredging spoil. Small game and waterfowl hunts managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission are especially popular in this area. Airboats are not allowed on the land at Paradise Run, but the area can be accessed on foot from the levee at the canal, or via the Kissimmee River from Buckhead Ridge.

These areas are part of the Kissimmee River Public Use Area.

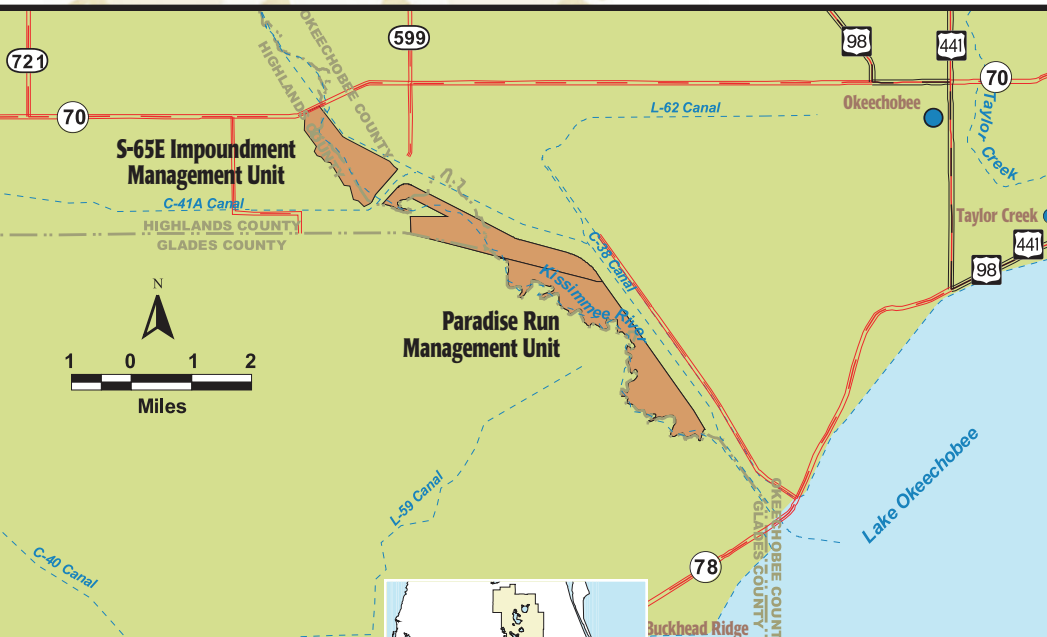
For More Information:

South Florida Water Management District Okeechobee Service Center, (863) 462-5260, recreation line, (866) 433-6312, or FL 1-800-250-4200. Online at: www.sfwmd.gov/recreation.

How to Get There:

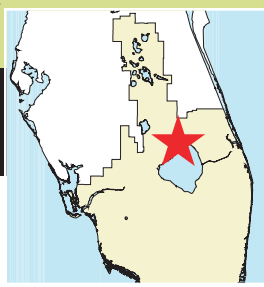
S-65E Impoundment: From Okeechobee, go west on U.S. Hwy. 70. Enter the private boat ramp on the north side of the road immediately after crossing the bridge, or launch from Okee-Tantie or Scott Driver boat ramps.

Paradise Run: Launch from the ramps at Okee-Tantie or Scott Driver boat ramp on the north side of U.S. Hwy. 78 at the Kissimmee River. Go upstream toward S-65E. Paradise Run is accessible from C-38 via an old portion of the river entering from the west. From the north you must pass through the S-65E boat lock. Paradise Run is on the right, and signs mark the boundary.



**S-65E
IMPOUNDMENT**

PARADISE RUN



Okeechobee & Highlands & Glades Counties
2,358 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC



Taylor Creek Stormwater Treatment Area

Taylor Creek Stormwater Treatment Area offers visitors a full range of outdoor activities and park-like amenities.

Picnic baskets can be set up on tables shaded by thatched-roof chickee huts built in the historic style used by Seminole Indians. Outdoor enthusiasts can also enjoy a three-mile levee trail that is ideal for walking, jogging, bicycling and bird-watching. Sandhill cranes, wood storks, roseate spoonbills and black-necked stilts are among the many bird species that have been spotted in the 170-acre footprint at Taylor Creek Stormwater Treatment Area.

An information kiosk with details about the stormwater treatment area and permitted activities is next to the gravel parking lot. A composting toilet is also available. Okeechobee County maintains the facilities in a cooperative agreement with the South Florida Water Management District. The area is open from sunrise to sunset, seven days a week.

Hunting and boating are not permitted.

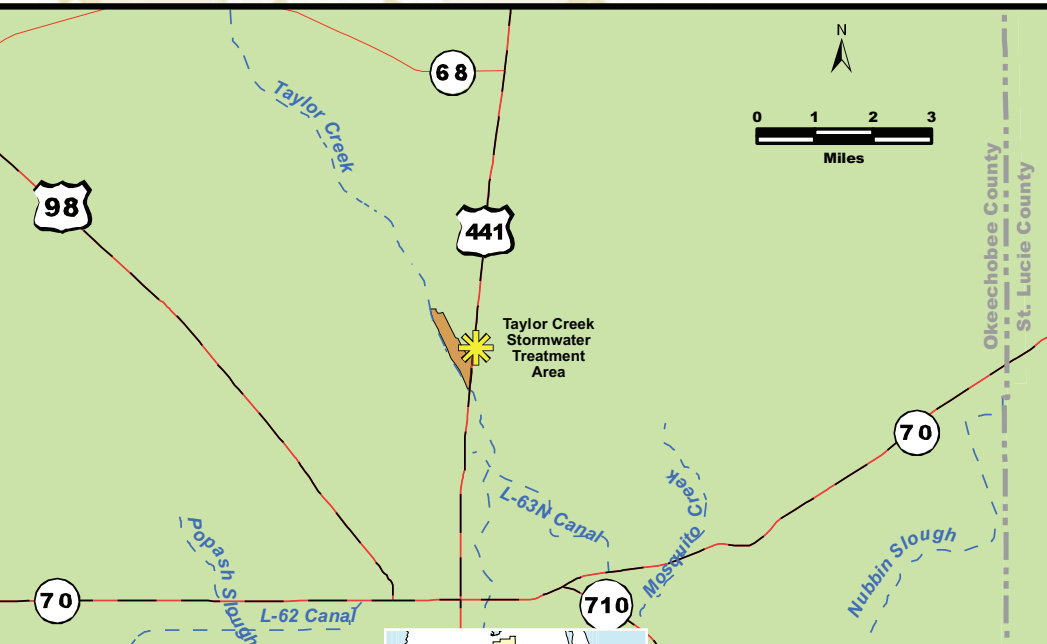
For More Information:

Contact the Okeechobee County Parks and Recreation Department at (863) 763-6950.

The site may be closed temporarily for maintenance activities. Please call the Okeechobee Service Center at 1-800-250-4200 before you visit the area.

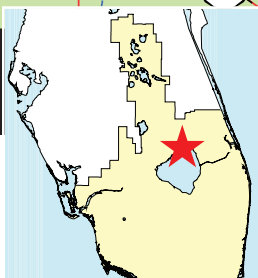
How To Get There:

From the intersection of U.S. Hwy. 441 and U.S. Hwy. 70 in Okeechobee: Travel about 4 miles north on U.S. Hwy. 441. Taylor Creek Stormwater Treatment Area is on the west side of U.S. Hwy. 441.



TAYLOR CREEK

STORMWATER TREATMENT AREA



Okeechobee County
170 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC

DuPuis Management Area

One of the most popular District properties, the DuPuis Management Area features a varied landscape of pine flatwoods, wet prairies, marshes and cypress domes. Hikers, horse enthusiasts, bicyclists, campers, hunters and casual day visitors frequent the area's more than 21,000 acres on the borders of Martin and Palm Beach counties.

Near Port Mayaca on Lake Okeechobee, DuPuis offers 22 miles of hiking trails, including a segment of the Ocean to Lake Trail, part of the Florida Trail. A new boardwalk trail off of DuPuis Grade Road was opened in 2008, providing a meandering path stretching 400 feet through the cypress swamp.

Horseback riders can enjoy 40 miles of trails and an equestrian campground. Educational programs are also occasionally offered at the visitor's center.

Patient bird-watchers may spot one of the red-cockaded woodpeckers that were re-introduced to the area in 2006 and 2007, following habitat restoration.

Since the District acquired DuPuis Management Area in 1986, land managers have worked to return the former ranch property to a more natural state. Improvements include restoring water flows, plugging old drainage ditches and removing thick stands of palmetto brush that pushed out other native plant species.

Archeological sites show that early American Indians lived in the DuPuis area more than 2,000 years ago. More recently, the Seminole Indians used the region as a refuge during the Seminole Indian War of 1835.



DuPuis Management Area con't.

For More Information:

For visitors center hours and events, and camping and horseback riding permits, contact DuPuis Management Area, (561) 924-5310, or request a special use license for group campsites online at: www.sfwmd.gov/sul.

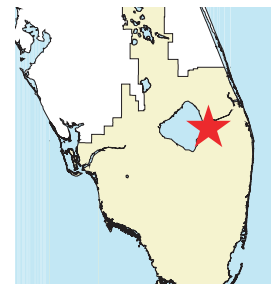
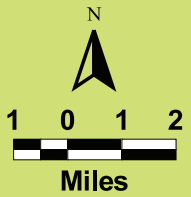
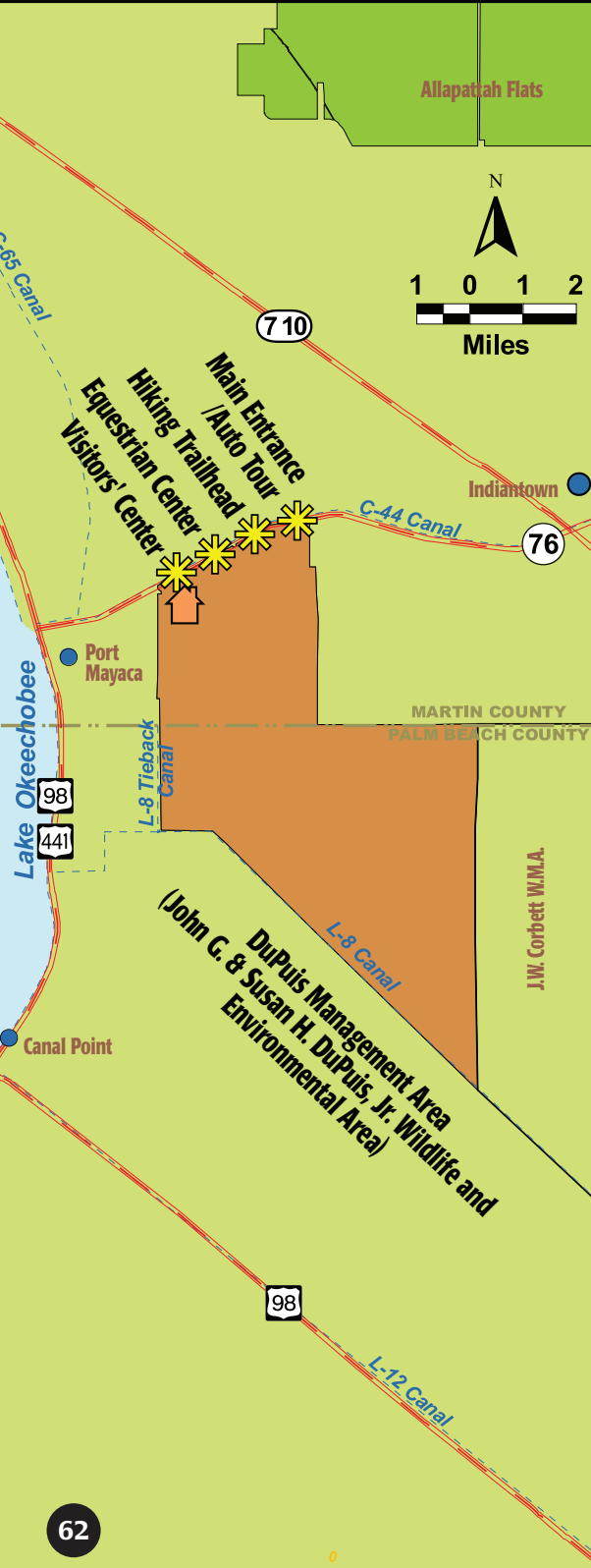
South Florida Water Management District recreation line, (866) 433-6312, or FL 1-800-432-2045. Online at: www.sfwmd.gov/recreation.

How to Get There:

Four gates provide access on the south side of S.R. 76 (Kanner Hwy.): Gate 1, main entrance and auto tour; Gate 2, hiking trail; Gate 3, equestrian paddocks and barns; Gate 5, visitors center.

From southeast Florida: Travel north on Interstate-95 to S.R. 786 (PGA Blvd.). Travel west on S.R. 786 to S.R. 710. Travel north on S.R. 710 for about 15 miles to S.R. 76 (Kanner Hwy.). Travel west on S.R. 76 for 7 miles to reach the DuPuis gates.

From Okeechobee, Pahokee and Belle Glade: Travel on U.S. Hwy. 441 to Port Mayaca. Turn onto S.R. 76 and travel east about 3 miles to reach the DuPuis gates.



DuPuis MANAGEMENT AREA

Martin & Palm Beach Counties
21,875 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC

-  Access
-  Environmental/Education Center

Atlantic Ridge Preserve State Park

Atlantic Ridge Preserve State Park is on the east side of the South Fork St. Lucie River. There are no facilities at the park, but visitors can use several dirt access roads as pathways and trails. Bird-watching, hiking and walking are allowed. The area is also popular with equestrian enthusiasts who arrive with their horses in trailers.

The park is accessible at a gated and locked entrance. Visitors must call ahead to receive the lock combination, which changes daily.

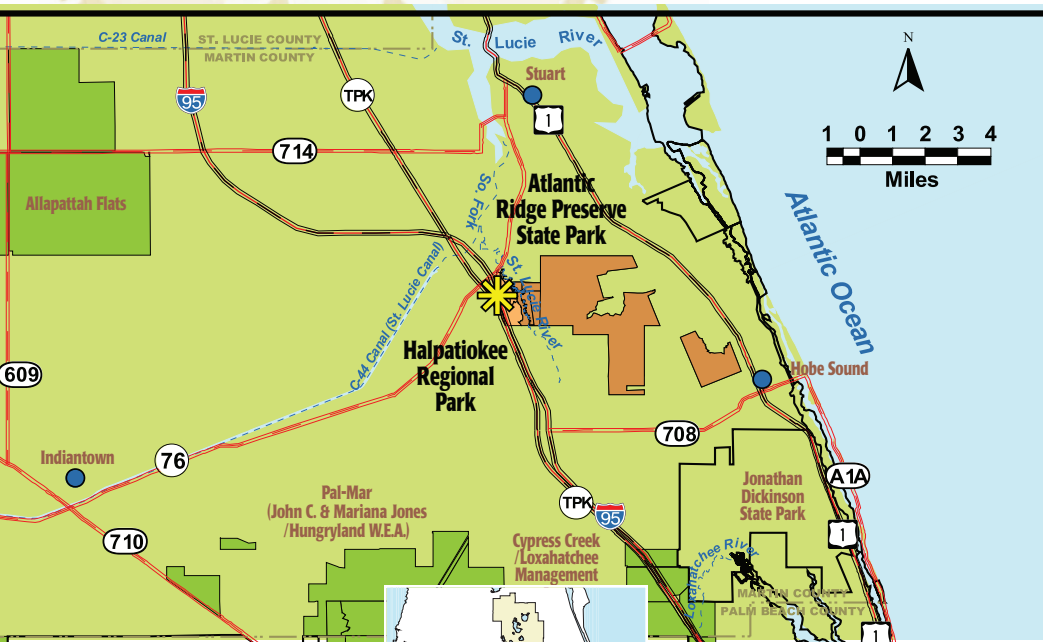
Fees are \$1 for walk-ins and bicycles, \$3 for one person in a car, and \$4 for two to eight people arriving in a single vehicle. There is no gate attendant, so only cash and state park access permits are accepted.

For More Information:

For the gate access combination to Atlantic Ridge Preserve State Park, call the ranger station at Jonathan Dickinson State Park, (772) 546-2771. Online at: www.floridastateparks.org.

How to Get There:

From Interstate-95: Take exit 101 at U.S. Hwy. 76 (Kanner Hwy). Travel ½ mile on U.S. Hwy. 76 to Cove Road. Turn right onto Cove Road and look for Gaines Blvd. immediately on the right. Turn right onto Gaines Blvd. and travel a short distance to Paulson Avenue. Turn left onto Paulson Avenue and travel ¾ mile to the parking lot.

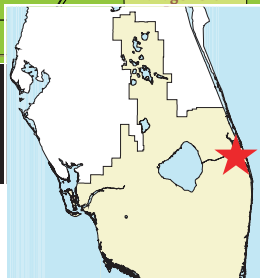


ATLANTIC RIDGE

PRESERVE STATE PARK



Access



Martin County
5,815 Acres

Manager: Jonathan Dickinson State Park

Halpatiokee Regional Park

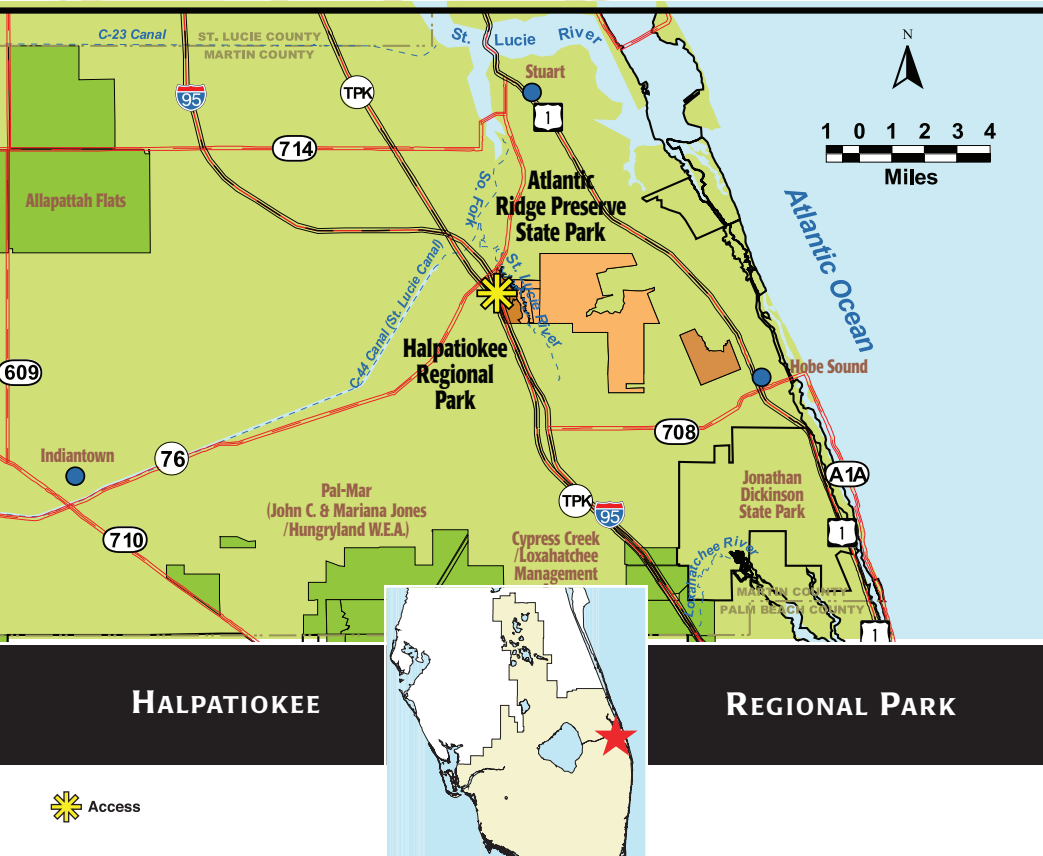
Martin County's Halpatiokee Regional Park welcomes visitors to explore the western bank of the South Fork St. Lucie River and its surrounding habitats. A seven-mile trail through cabbage palm, palmetto hammock and open scrub habitats offers views of the river. Primitive camping is permitted at the end of the one-way trail. The river's tannin-stained waters are dark but clear, and fishing enthusiasts are welcome to drop their lines here. Visitors are also welcome to explore Halpatiokee Regional Park's shorter nature trails and have lunch at the picnic tables, many offering spectacular views of the river. Canoe and kayak concessions are available nearby.

For More Information:

Martin County, (772) 288-5690, for Halpatiokee Regional Park camping permits and other park details.

How to Get There:

From Interstate-95: Take exit 101 at U.S. Hwy. 76 (Kanner Hwy.). Travel ½ mile east to Lost River Road. Turn right on Lost River Road and travel ½ mile to the park entrance.



Martin County
343 Acres

Manager: Martin County Parks and Recreation

John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland Wildlife and Environmental Area

John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland Wildlife and Environmental Area is managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. It is a popular destination for many types of outdoor adventurers, but it is particularly appealing to hunters. The state agency manages several types of hunts here, including for small game, hogs and deer. The area is usually wet, so hunters need to be prepared to wade through up to three feet of water while searching for the right spot to set up a tree stand.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission allows fishing in the area's extensive canal network and old borrow pits. Fishing enthusiasts look for a variety of popular pan and sport fish, including bass, in these waters.

The Old Jupiter-Indiantown Grade Trail stretches for several miles, and it attracts hikers, horseback riders and bicyclists during the drier winter months. Canal levees also make good paths from which observers may spot alligators, otters, wading birds, hawks and the occasional bobcat.

The area became known as "The Hungryland" when Seminole Indians found refuge here during the Seminole Indian War of 1835. They struggled to live off the land, and hundreds of starving Seminoles captured here were sent to Oklahoma.



John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland Wildlife and Environmental Area *con't.*

For More Information:

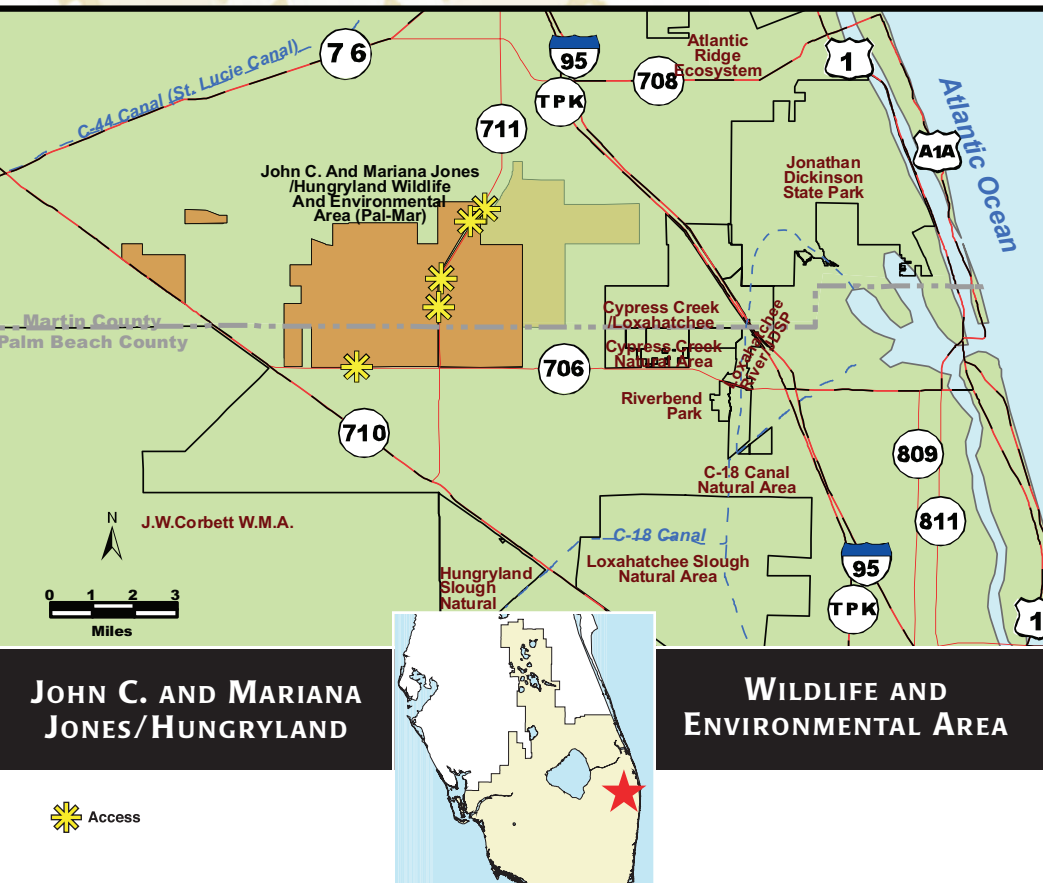
John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland Wildlife and Environmental Area, call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, (561) 625-5122.

How to Get There:

From West Palm Beach: Travel north on S.R. 710 (Beeline Hwy.) to C.R. 711 (Pratt-Whitney Road). Turn north on C.R. 711 and continue through the intersection at S.R. 706 (Indiantown Road). Travel 1½ miles past the intersection to the gate on the west side of C.R. 711. Brochure guides are available in a box inside the gate.

From Jupiter: From Interstate-95, take the exit for S.R. 706 (Indiantown Road). Travel west about 9 miles on S.R. 706 (Indiantown Road), then turn north onto C.R. 711. Travel about 1½ miles to the gate on the west side of C.R. 711. Brochure guides are available in a box inside the gate.

Other nearby destinations include: The Hungryland Slough Natural Area, on the south side of S.R. 710 (Bee Line Hwy.), Loxahatchee Slough on the north side of S.R. 710, and the Sweetbay Natural Area, each managed by Palm Beach County, (561) 233-2400; and Grassy Waters Preserve, which has a popular nature center, managed by the City of West Palm Beach, (561) 627-8831.



**JOHN C. AND MARIANA
JONES/HUNGRYLAND**

**WILDLIFE AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AREA**

Martin County & Palm Beach Counties
16,634 Acres
Manager: SFWMD, FWC & Palm Beach County

Miller/Wild Tract

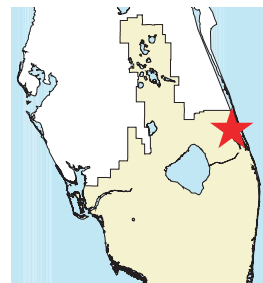
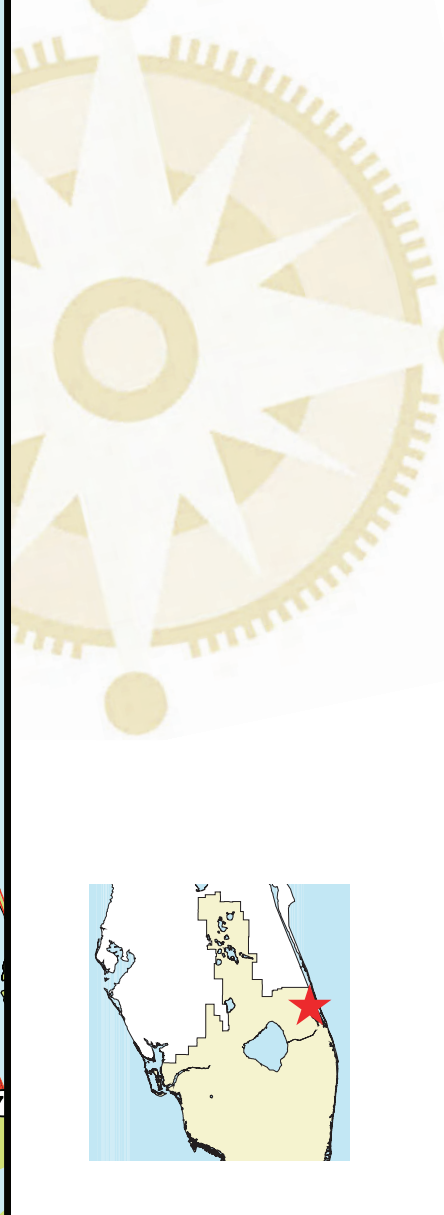
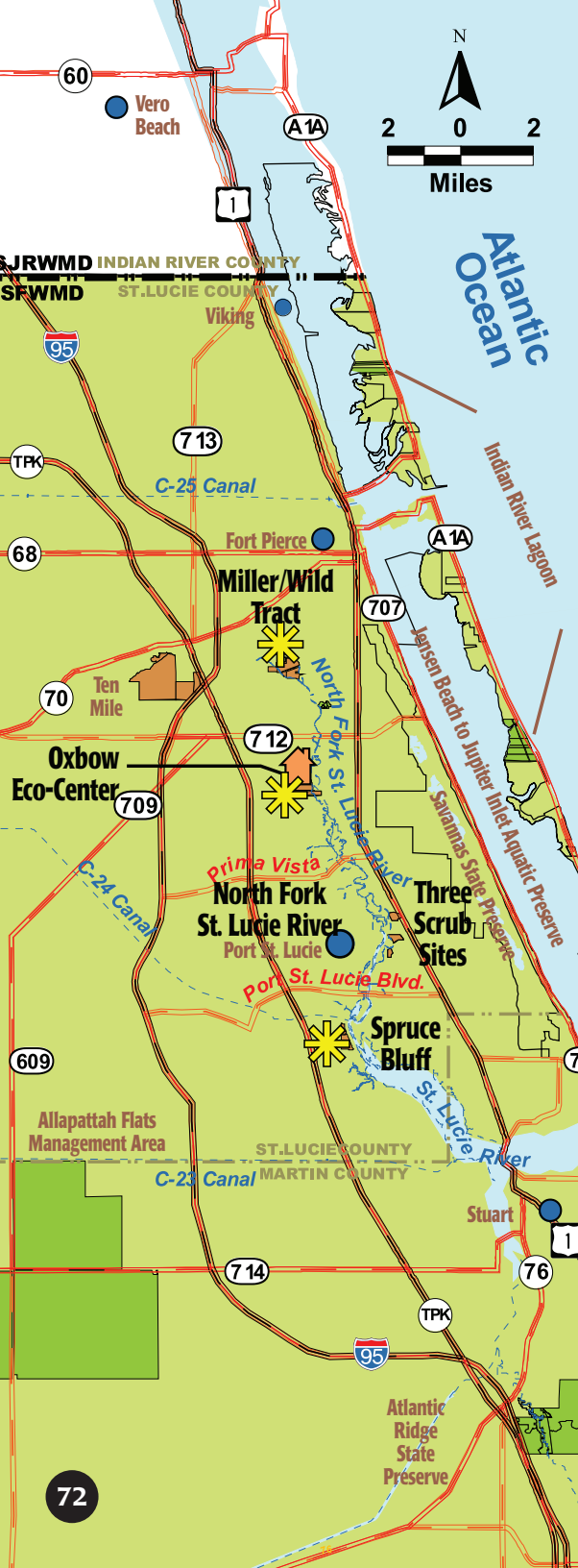
Hikers who visit the Miller/Wild Tract will find a loop trail with boardwalks leading to a rich, live oak hammock dotted with cabbage palm trees, water hickory trees, bay trees and red maple trees. The hammock borders Ten Mile Creek, a secluded spot for paddlers who can stop at the hammock's small observation platform. Visitors can put in their canoes or kayaks at the White City Park boat ramp, approximately three miles south of the observation platform.

For More Information:

St. Lucie County Parks and Recreation Department, (772) 462-1517.

How to Get There:

From Interstate-95: Exit at Midway Road in Fort Pierce. Travel east on Midway Road to Selvitz Road. Turn north on Selvitz Road and follow to the end at Edwards Road. Turn right onto Edwards Road and continue to Lewis Street, a local road on the right. Turn right onto Lewis Street and continue to the parking area.



MILLER/WILD TRACT

St. Lucie County
 1,665 Acres
 Manager: St. Lucie County &
 Florida Parks Service

-  Access
-  Environmental/Education Center

North Fork St. Lucie River

At the North Fork of the St. Lucie River, visitors can experience the unique habitats of floodplain forest, wetlands and scrub and pine flatwoods. A three-mile boardwalk and trail gives people access to these varied habitats without disrupting wildlife.

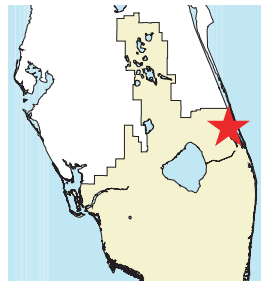
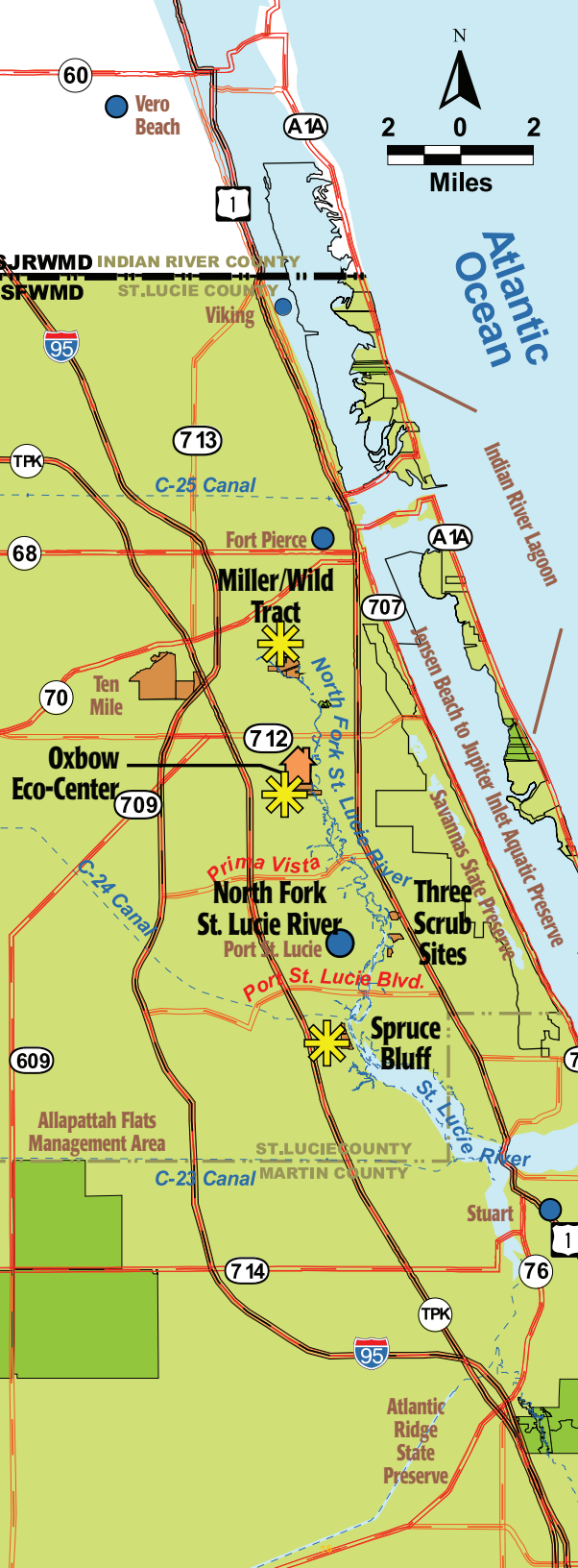
Starting at the Oxbow Eco-Center, hikers can find notices on trail conditions for solo adventures or join a guided hike. The center hosts several environmental events each year and offers adult and student programs. The center, managed by St. Lucie County, was constructed using "green" building technologies and is a model for sustainability. A cistern system captures rainfall to flush the toilets, and the floors are made from salvaged pine trees lost in the St. Johns River in the early logging days. The education center offers a special interpretive trail for the visually impaired. Don't miss the gift shop.

For More Information:

Oxbow-Eco Center, (772) 785-5833, or online at: www.stlucieco.gov/erd/oxbow for hours, daily activities and programs. Street address is 5400 N.E. St. James Drive, Port St. Lucie, FL 34983

How to Get There:

The nature center is on St. James Drive in Port St. Lucie. From Interstate-95, travel east about 3½ miles on Midway Road/C.R. 712 (exit 126). Turn onto S. 25th Street/St. James Drive (Note: Hanging street sign says S. 25th Street, smaller sign says St. James Drive with arrow) at the traffic light. Travel about 1½ miles to the Oxbow Eco-Center, on the left across from a Publix shopping center. From the south on St. James Drive, the center is 1½ miles north of Airoso Blvd.



NORTH FORK ST. LUCIE RIVER

St. Lucie County
1,665 Acres
Manager: St. Lucie County & Florida Parks Service

-  Access
-  Environmental/Education Center

Riverbend Park, Cypress Creek, Loxahatchee River

The Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee, one of Florida's two federally designated Wild and Scenic Rivers, begins its seven-mile journey at Riverbend Park. From there, explorers can canoe or kayak on the river through the nearby Jonathan Dickinson State Park. A restored slough at Riverbend Park gives visitors a chance to see an area that was part of the river's headwaters before the flow was diverted by a major drainage canal. Environmental restoration has improved the hydrologic system and the river's water quality.

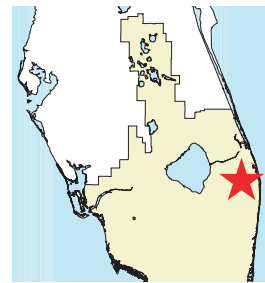
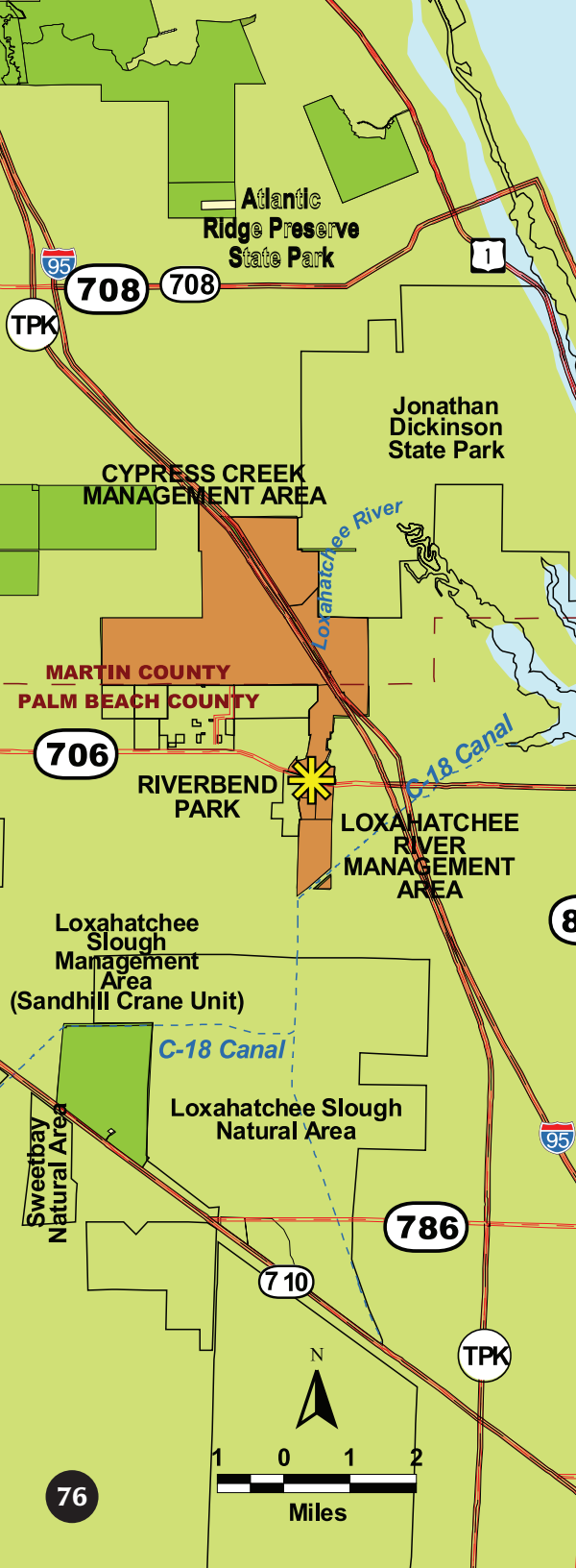
A marked, two-mile segment of the Ocean to Lake Trail travels through Riverbend Park. Bicycling, fishing and picnicking are permitted, and visitors can also see several exhibits on the Seminole Indians and their cultural heritage.

For More Information:

Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department, (561) 966-6600.

How To Get There:

From Interstate-95: Take exit 116 onto S.R. 706 (Indiantown Road) in Jupiter. Travel west on S.R. 706 for 1 mile. Entrance is on the left.



RIVERBEND PARK

Martin & Palm Beach
Counties
5,383 Acres
Manager: SFWMD,
Florida Parks Service &
Palm Beach County



Access

Queen's Island and Blind Creek

Queen's Island, on the west side of a coastal barrier island in St. Lucie County, features old-growth maritime hammocks with gumbo limbo trees. This native habitat was revealed during environmental restoration work undertaken by the county. Nature trails and impoundment levees are open to hikers, and there are many good fishing spots at Queen's Island. Paddlers can explore this and other small islands in the Indian River by canoe or kayak.

Blind Creek, about 10 miles south of Queen's Island, is a popular destination for surf fishers and beachcombers. Several distinctive habitats are found here, including coastal dune, coastal strand, maritime hammock and tidal swamp. Hikers can explore two-and-a-half miles of impoundment dikes. An unimproved boat ramp is available.

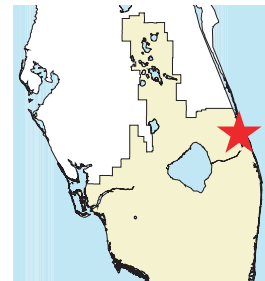
For More Information:

St. Lucie County Parks and Recreation Department, (772) 462-1517.

How to Get There:

Queen's Island is north of the Fort Pierce Inlet on North Hutchinson Island. From the North Bridge Causeway on A1A, travel about 2½ miles north. Access and parking are off A1A.

Blind Creek is north of Jensen Beach on South Hutchinson Island. From the bridge to South Hutchinson Island on A1A in Fort Pierce, travel about 7½ miles south. Access and parking are off A1A.



QUEEN'S ISLAND AND BLIND CREEK

St. Lucie County
606 Acres
Manager: St. Lucie
County Parks



Access

Spruce Bluff

Spruce Bluff in southern St. Lucie County offers 100 acres of diverse habitat nestled within a growing urban area. An interpretive trail provides environmental information about the surrounding scrub and marshlands, plus details on Spruce Bluff's colorful history.

As late as 1650, this area was within the home range of the Ais Indians, who burned wax myrtle and mangrove leaves to ward off mosquitoes, and used red bay leaves to treat headaches. In the early 1900s, pioneer settlers established a pineapple orchard, sawmill and other businesses at Spruce Bluff.

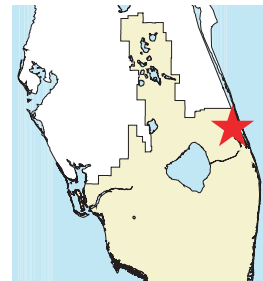
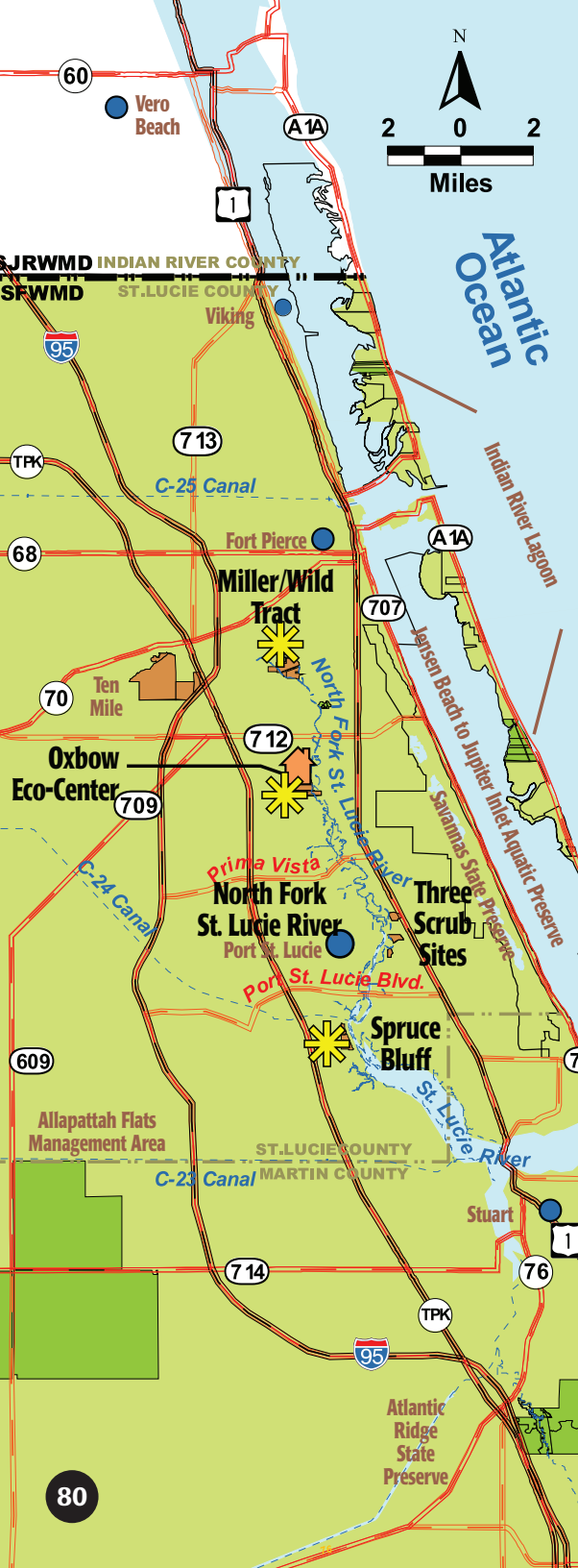
Visitors can see an ancient burial or ceremonial Indian mound on the site, or use boardwalks to take a dry stroll through the marshes. Endangered wood storks sometimes feed in the shallow waters.

For More Information:

St. Lucie County Parks and Recreation Department, (772) 462-1517, for details about guided walks offered November through May.

How to Get There:

From Interstate-95: Take exit 118 and travel east on Gatlin Blvd. Turn left at Port St. Lucie Blvd. Travel on Port St. Lucie Blvd. to Floresta Drive. Turn south on Floresta Drive and travel about ½ mile to Southbend Blvd. Turn left onto Southbend Blvd., and travel about ¼ mile. Cross the bridge on Southbend Blvd. and turn left onto Peru St. Dar Lane. Enter the parking area.



SPRUCE BLUFF

St. Lucie County
1,665 Acres
Manager: St. Lucie County &
Florida Parks Service



Gordy Road Recreation Area

The Gordy Road Recreation Area at Ten Mile Creek offers visitors a range of outdoor activities. Frisbee golf, picnic pavilions, nature trails and hiking and horseback riding trails are available here, along with a reclaimed borrow pit where fishing enthusiasts can drop their lines. Canoes are also welcome at this recreation area which is managed by St. Lucie County.

The park is adjacent to a major water preserve area designed to store water inland to reduce flood impacts on the coastal estuary.

For More Information:

St. Lucie County Environmentally Significant Lands Program,
(772) 462-2525, or online at: www.stlucieco.gov/erd.

How to Get There:

Gordy Road Recreation Area at Ten Mile Creek is near Ft. Pierce. From Interstate-95: take exit 65 at Okeechobee Road. Travel west on Okeechobee Road for about 1 mile to Gordy Road. Gordy Road is the first left past Kings Highway. Turn onto Gordy Road, and travel about 1 mile to the parking lot on the left.



St. Lucie County
929 Acres

Manager: SFWMD, Indian River County Parks & Recreation

Three Scrub Sites

Scrub oak and sand pines survive in the white sugar sands of three small properties within and adjacent to the floodplain of the North Fork St. Lucie River. The Three Scrub Site parcels are off U.S. 1, Midport Road and Lyngate Park in the Port St. Lucie area. Visitors in canoes and kayaks can use a trail stopover on the river north of U.S. 1. Hikers can explore fire breaks on the site.

For More Information:

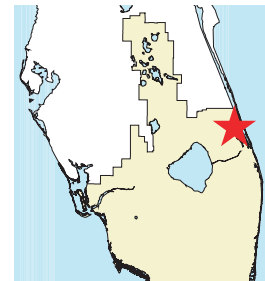
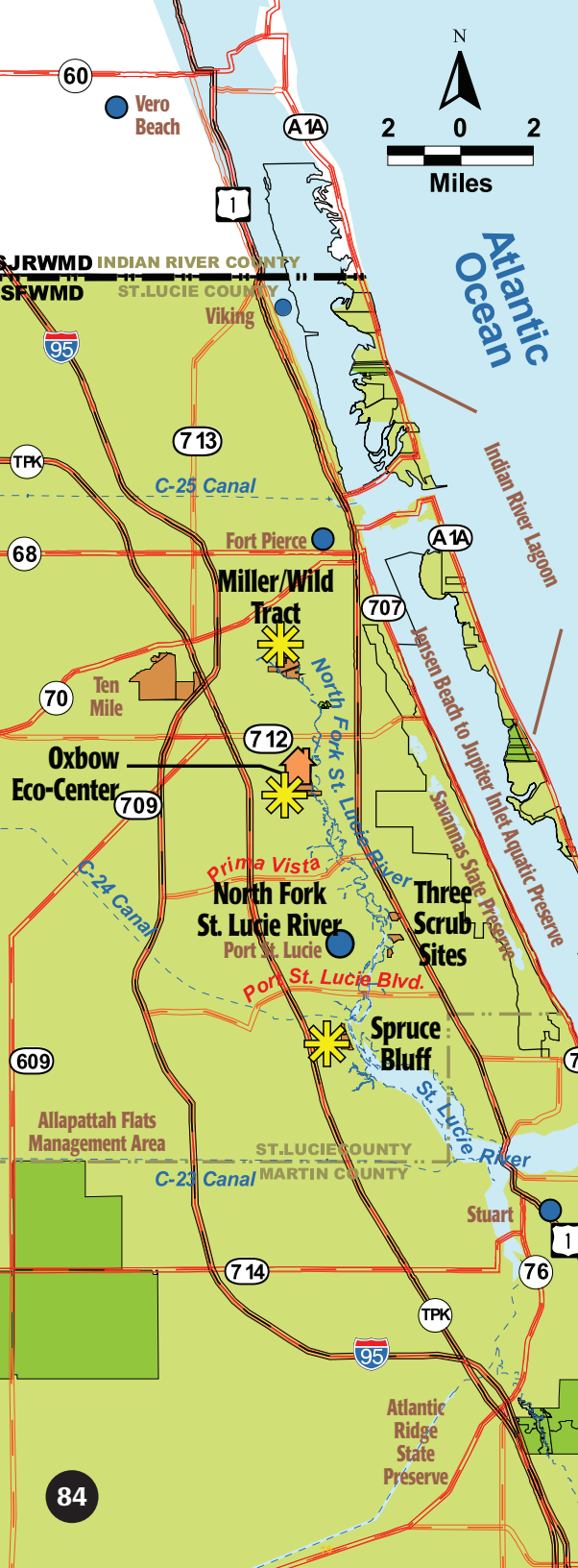
Florida Park Service, (772) 340-7530. Online at: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/>.

How to Get There:

U.S. 1 Parcel: About ½ mile north of Midport Road on the west side of U.S. 1 in Port St. Lucie.

Midport Road Parcel: From U.S. 1, travel southwest on Midport Road. The parcel is on the west side of Midport Road in Port St. Lucie.

Lyngate Park Parcel: From U.S. 1, travel southwest on Midport Road to Lyngate Drive at Lyngate Park. The parcel is on the west side of the road behind Lyngate Park in Port St. Lucie.



THREE SCRUB SITES

St. Lucie County
82 Acres

Manager: Florida Parks Service



Allapattah Flats

At Allapattah Flats, water managers are restoring wet flatwoods that were drained by cattle ranchers several decades ago. In time, much of the pastureland that visitors can still see today will be returned to a more natural state as old drainage ditches are filled in and pine trees are planted.

Horseback riders will find five miles of marked equestrian trail. Trailheads are off Fox Brown Road and C.R. 714. Bird-watchers and hikers can make their way to the open marsh where a wide variety of wading birds are often found. Trail guides are available at the information kiosk in the gravel parking lot. Allapattah Flats is managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a Wildlife Management Area where hunting and fishing are allowed.

For More Information:

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, (561) 625-5122

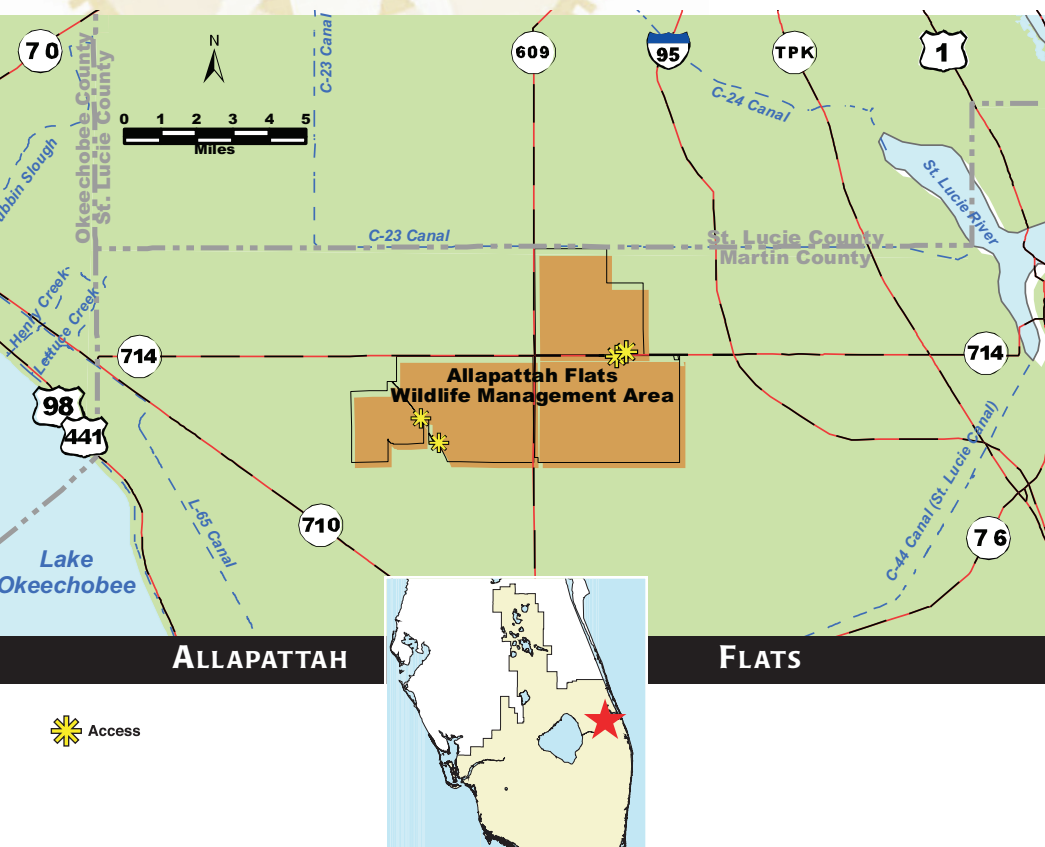
South Florida Water Management District recreation line, (866) 433-6312, or FL 1-800-432-2045. Online at: www.sfwmd.gov/recreation.

How to Get There:

From West Palm Beach: Travel north through Indiantown on S.R. 710 (the Beeline Hwy.). Travel about 1 mile north of Indiantown and turn right at C.R. 609. Travel 6 miles to C.R. 714. Turn right on C.R. 714 and travel about 1 mile to the entrance at a gated shellrock road on the left. To reach the north entrance, continue north on C.R. 609. The entrance is on the right about 2 miles beyond the intersection of C.R. 609 and C.R. 714.

From Stuart: Travel west on C.R. 714 for about 15 miles. The gated shellrock road entrance is on the right off C.R. 714.

From North or South: From Interstate-95, take exit 110 to C.R. 714 (Martin Hwy.). Travel west for 3 miles on C.R. 714. Entrances are on both sides of the road.



Martin County
20,859 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC

CREW Management Area

The Corkscrew Marsh trail system, part of the Great Florida Birding Trail, offers more than five miles of hiking trails through several habitats. The two and one-quarter mile trail loop meanders from the trailhead through pine flatwoods, seasonal ponds, hammocks, a 5,000-acre sawgrass marsh and a pop ash slough. Bird-watchers may be able to spot swallow-tailed kites, egrets, hawks and herons.

Trails are open from sunrise to sunset, seven days a week. Interpretive guides are available at trailheads, and guided hikes are offered the second Saturday of each month from November through April. Camping, hikes and programs for schools and community groups can also be arranged.

The 7,000-acre CREW Marsh is the headwaters for the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW). The area is managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as CREW Wildlife and Environmental Area.

The Bird Rookery and Flint Pen Strand units at CREW Management Area are also open for public recreation activities. The challenging trails appeal to experienced hikers. Bicycling is also allowed.

For More Information:

CREW Land and Water Trust, (239) 657-2253, or online at: www.crewtrust.org.

CREW Management Center, (239) 867-3230.

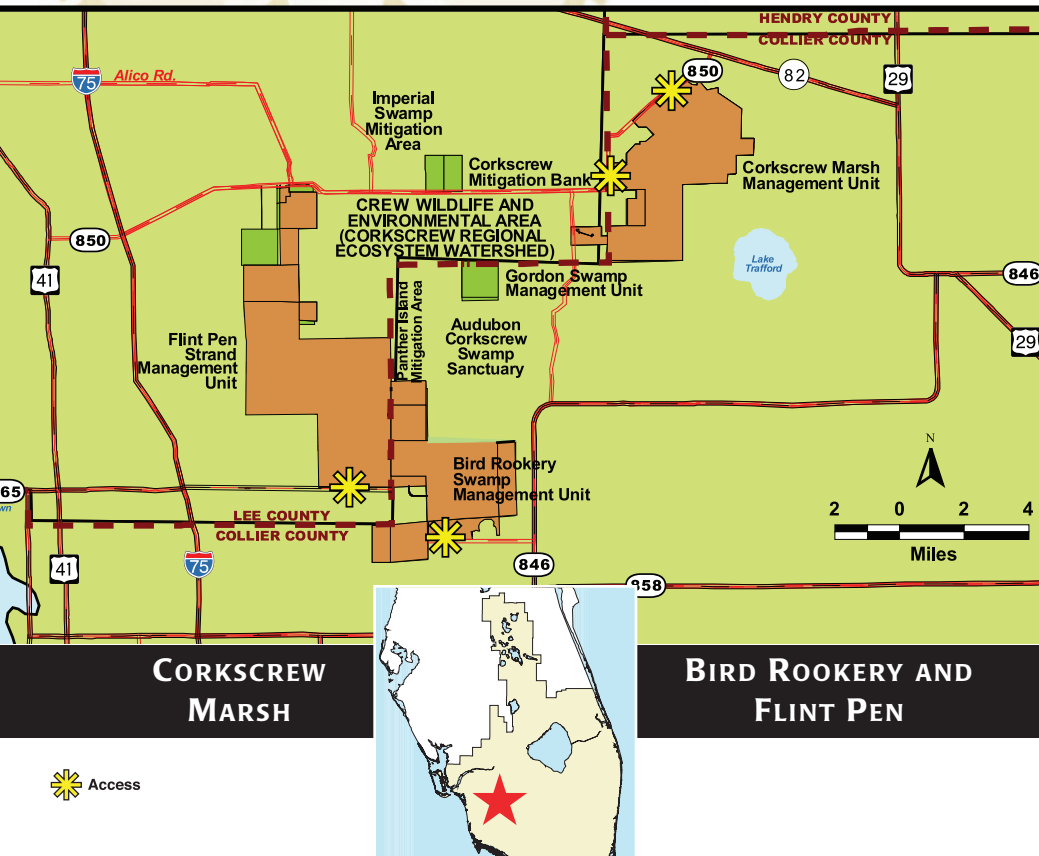
How to Get There:

Corkscrew Marsh is 30 miles south of downtown Ft. Myers.

From Interstate-75, exit 123, travel east on C.R. 850 (Corkscrew Road). Travel east about 18 miles. The trailhead parking area and entrance are on the right.

Or: From Interstate-75, exit 138, travel east on S.R. 82. Travel east about 20 miles. Turn right onto C.R. 850 (Corkscrew Road). Travel about 1½ miles to the entrance on the left.

The entrance is marked by a sign posted on a fence recessed from the road. Look for the CREW Marsh Trail sign painted in blue letters.



**CORKSCREW
MARSH**

**BIRD ROOKERY AND
FLINT PEN**



Access

Lee & Collier Counties
25,089 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC

Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest and Wildlife Management Area

The Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area covers more than 35,000 acres in Hendry County, providing important habitat for the endangered Florida panther, bald eagle, roseate spoonbill and the crested caracara. Its diverse natural communities include slough, marsh, cypress, wet prairie, pine flatwoods, oak hammocks and oak-palm hammocks.

The Division of Forestry manages the property as a state forest, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission manages hunts. The property was acquired by these agencies in partnership with the South Florida Water Management District.

Recreational opportunities include wildlife and bird-watching, hunting, camping, horseback riding, bicycling and hiking on 39 miles of trails. Small borrow pits and canals hold fish. There are no designated launch areas so paddling opportunities are limited.

There are six access points, three with parking areas, along C.R. 832. There is no potable water available, but port-o-lets can be found two miles south on Wild Cow Grade in the primitive camping area, one of which is handicapped accessible. The area is open from sunrise to sunset. Fees are \$1 per day for all activities or \$5 per person daily for camping.

For More Information:

Florida Division of Forestry, (863) 612-0776, or online at: <http://www.fl-dof.com/>.

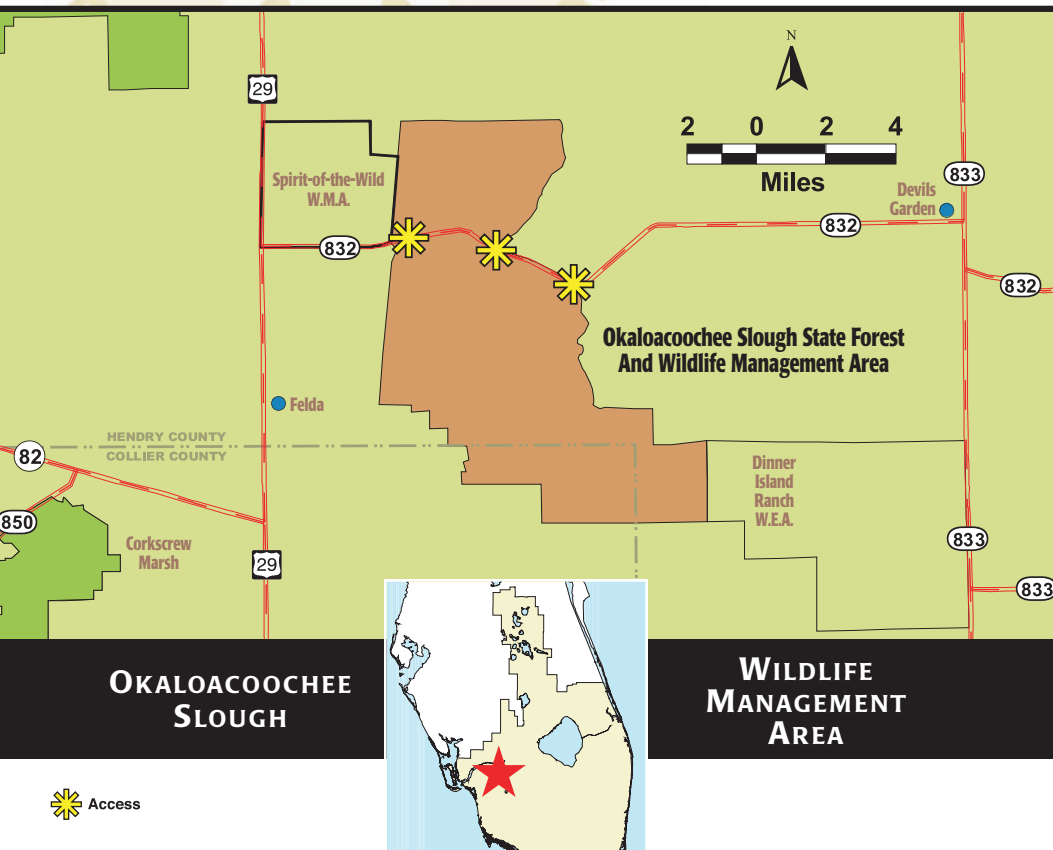
How to Get There:

Okaloacoochee Slough extends north and south across C.R. 832 in Hendry County.

From LaBelle: Travel 9 miles south on U.S. Hwy. 29 and turn east on C.R. 832. Travel 3 miles to the entrance areas.

From Immokalee: Travel 11 miles north on U.S. Hwy. 29 and turn east on C.R. 832. Travel 3 miles to the entrance areas.

From east or west: Travel on U.S. Hwy. 80 to LaBelle. Turn south on U.S. Hwy. 29 then turn east on C.R. 832. Travel 3 miles to the entrance areas.



Hendry & Collier Counties
34,229 Acres

Manager: FWC & Florida Division of Forestry

Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

The Six Mile Cypress Slough runs along a corridor just one-third of a mile wide, but it is on the receiving end of a 57-square-mile watershed. In the wet season, watershed flows turn the slough into wetlands resembling a wide, shallow stream. Water moving through the slough empties into the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve.

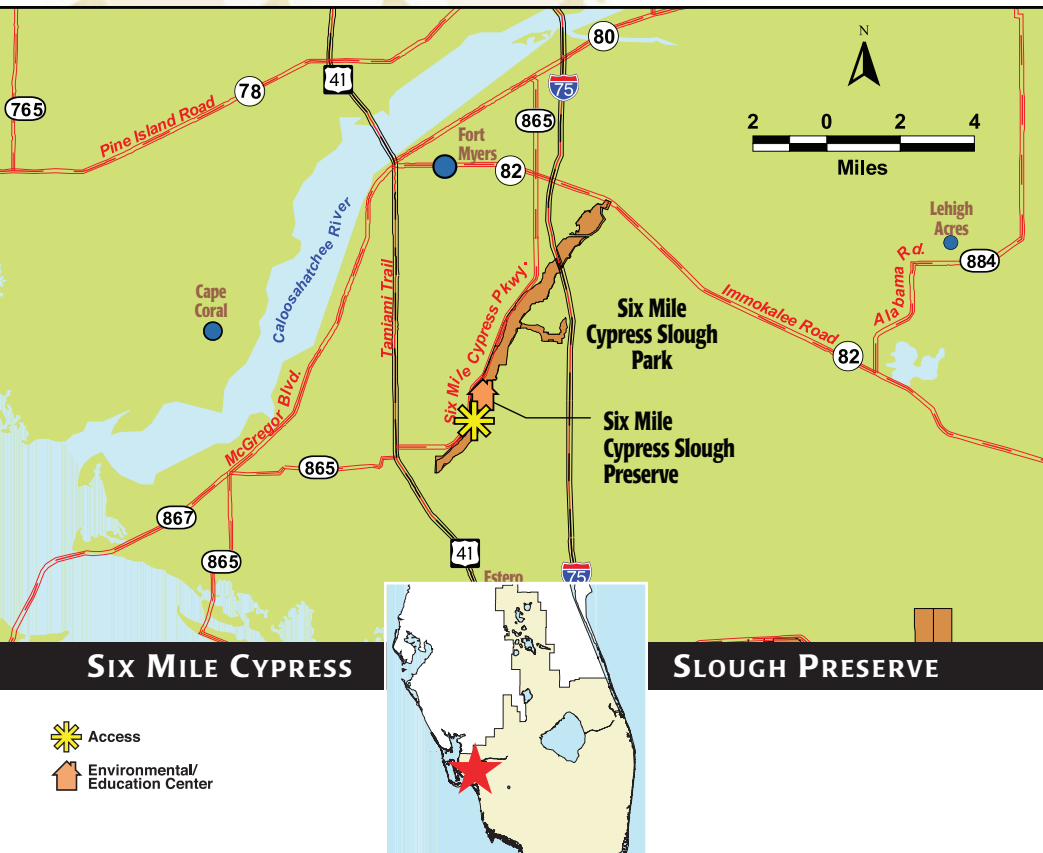
The slough shelters a variety of native plants and animals, including endangered species, and is a popular destination for hikers, bird-watchers and photographers. Wanderers can enjoy the boardwalk through the slough, which gives people a chance to experience this unique environment without damaging it. The site includes observation decks, a photo blind and picnic areas. An amphitheatre features environmental educational programs for students.

For More Information:

Lee County Parks and Recreation Department, (239) 432-2040 for admission fee, programs and tour details. Online at: www.leeparks.org/sixmile.

How to Get There:

From Fort Myers: Travel on U.S. Hwy. 41 to Colonial Blvd. Travel east on Colonial Blvd. to Six Mile Cypress Parkway. Turn right on Six Mile Cypress Parkway and travel about 1½ miles. Preserve entrance is on the left.



SIX MILE CYPRESS

SLOUGH PRESERVE



Lee County
1,876 Acres

Manager: Lee County Parks & Recreation

Overview: Water Conservation Areas

Spreading inland well beyond Florida's southern coastal ridge, remnants of the historic Everglades are found in 800,000 acres of Water Conservation Areas. These three areas store excess stormwater and help recharge the groundwater supply. They are also a component of the original Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project and still play an important role in regional flood protection. Flows through the Water Conservation Areas eventually make their way into Everglades National Park.

Water Conservation Areas include vast swaths of the iconic sawgrass and tree island landscapes that most people think of when imagining the historic Everglades. Some of the northern reaches of the Water Conservation Areas, however, have been overtaken by cattail, a native aquatic plant that is altering the delicate habitat. This unwelcome plant growth is promoted by excessive levels of phosphorus, a nutrient that the South Florida Water Management District is removing from flows into the Water Conservation Areas. This improves water quality and supports Everglades restoration.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas, the first defender of the Everglades, recognized the importance of restoring and maintaining this unique ecosystem. In *The Everglades: River of Grass*, she wrote:

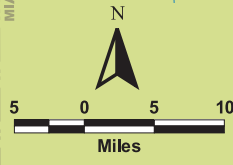
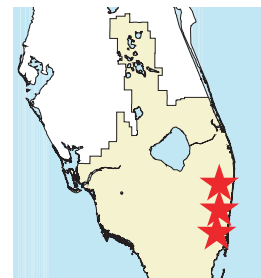
"Nothing anywhere else is like them; their vast glittering openness, wider than the enormous visible round of the horizon, the racing free saltiness and sweetness of their massive winds, under the dazzling blue heights of space."

OVERVIEW: WATER CONSERVATION AREAS

Palm Beach, Broward & Miami-Dade Counties
810,736 Acres
Manager: SFWMD, FWC & U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Access



Water Conservation Area 1

Water Conservation Area 1 is within the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. The South Florida Water Management District owns the conservation area, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages it as a refuge. The area is home to endangered snail kites, wood storks and bald eagles. Other wildlife, including alligators, bobcats, red-bellied turtles and river otters depend on this habitat. In any given year, as many as 257 species of birds may use the refuge's wetlands.

The main expanse of refuge covers more than 147,000 acres west of the L-40 Canal in south-central Palm Beach County. The refuge is accessible by car and attracts more than 300,000 visitors annually. Highlights include a visitors center and access to a 276-acre marsh where scientists are conducting experiments to improve Everglades water flows. Hikers and bird-watchers can use a one-mile trail.

In the refuge's main expanse, bicyclists can travel 12 miles along the L-40 Canal levee to the southern end of the refuge. Canoe trails also lead into the ridge and slough landscape where paddlers can see tree islands that may be merely inches in elevation above the surrounding waters. Tree islands often serve as bird rookeries.

For More Information:

Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge,
(561) 732-3684, for details on hours, admission and programs.
Online at: <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/>.



Water Conservation Area 1 *con't.*

How to Get There:

Visitors Center entrance.

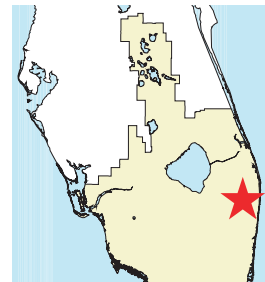
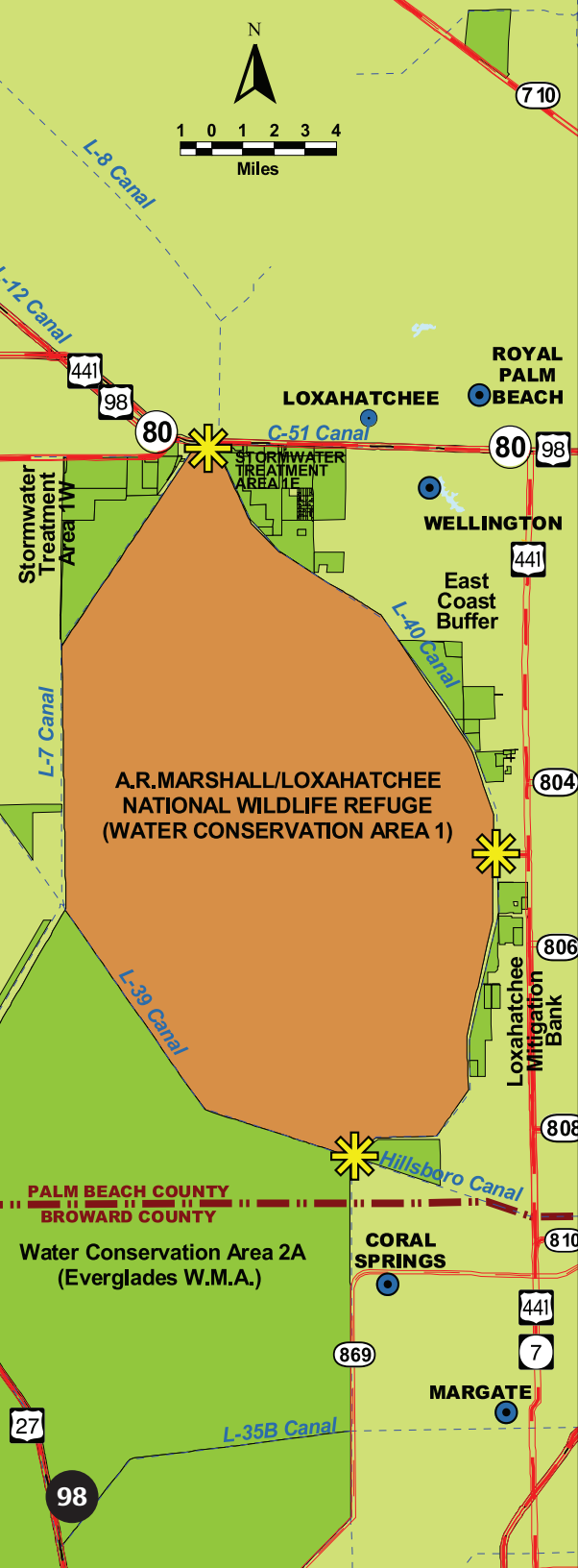
From Interstate-95 and the Florida Turnpike: Exit at Boynton Beach Blvd. and travel west to U.S. Hwy. 441/S.R. 7. Turn onto U.S. Hwy. 441/S.R. 7 and travel 2 miles south to Lee Road. Turn right onto Lee Road and continue to the entrance gate.

20-Mile Bend entrance and boat ramp west of Wellington.

From Interstate-95: Exit at S.R. 80 (Southern Blvd.) and travel west to S.R. 880. Turn left onto S.R. 880 and travel to a green steel bridge. Cross the bridge and turn left immediately onto 20-Mile Bend Road. Travel on 20-Mile Bend Road, then onto 20-Mile Bend Boat Ramp Road. An automatic gate opens from sunrise to sunset.

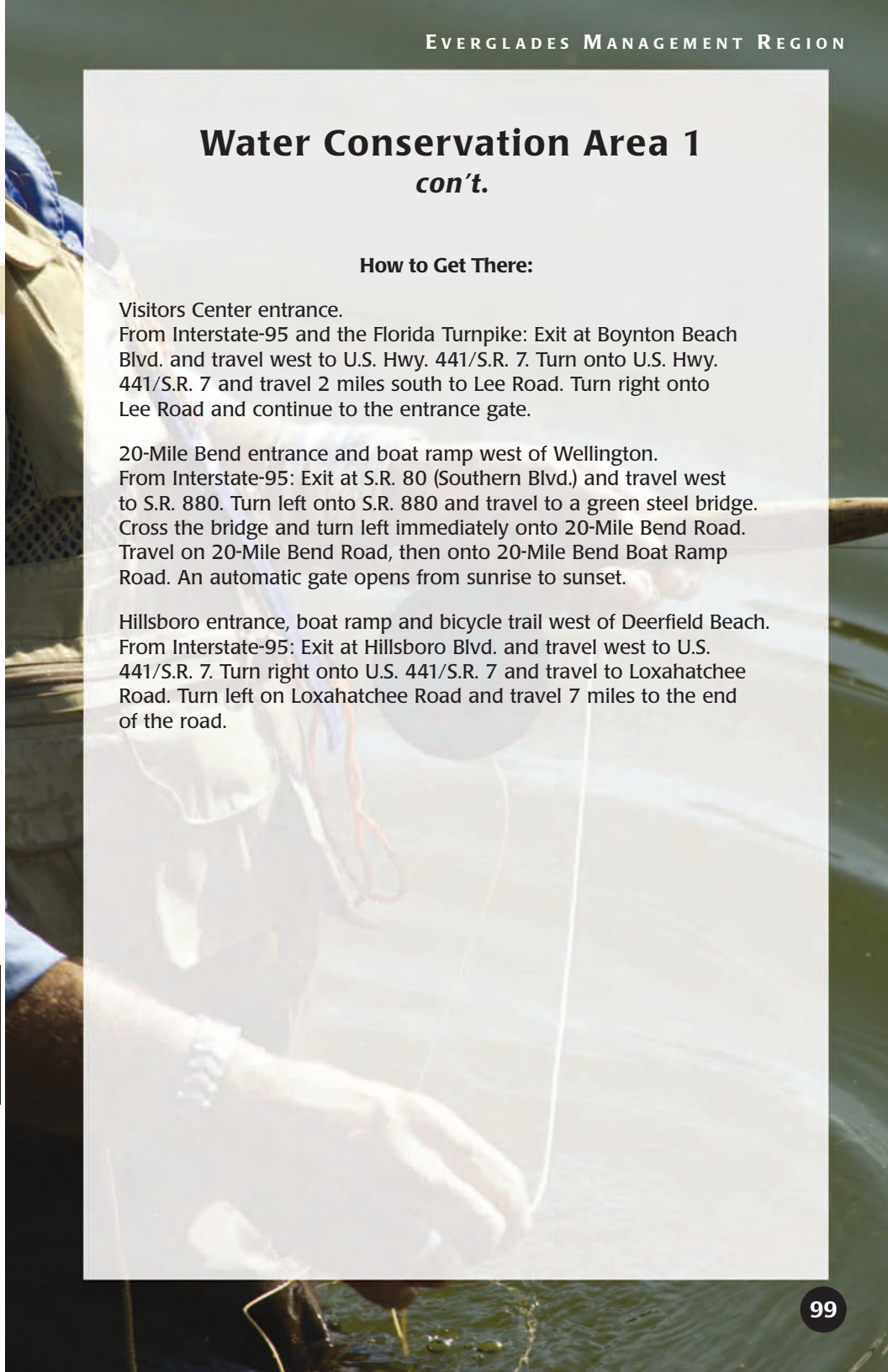
Hillsboro entrance, boat ramp and bicycle trail west of Deerfield Beach.

From Interstate-95: Exit at Hillsboro Blvd. and travel west to U.S. 441/S.R. 7. Turn right onto U.S. 441/S.R. 7 and travel to Loxahatchee Road. Turn left on Loxahatchee Road and travel 7 miles to the end of the road.



LOXAHATCHEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WATER CONSERVATION AREA 1

Palm Beach County
138,905 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & U.S. Fish
& Wildlife Service



Water Conservation Areas 2 and 3

Water Conservation Areas 2 and 3 are mainly signature Everglades sawgrass marsh, interspersed with tree islands. Ownership is mixed, with State, South Florida Water Management District and private ownership. The State leases portions of its land to the Miccosukee Indian Tribe. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission manages the areas and conducts hunts for waterfowl, deer and small game. You can access adjacent rim canals by boat, the interior marshes by airboat, and the levees by bicycle and hiking. Note that low water during the dry, winter season can hamper airboat access. Many boat ramps ring the areas for your use.

Scientists with the SFWMD monitor water quality in the areas and treat exotic vegetation to keep it under control. Other scientists conduct research on how to restore the Everglades ecosystems and protect endangered species and other wildlife. Because the conservation areas are cordoned off with water control levees and canals, which have affected the health of the Everglades, studies are under way to determine how to restore natural flow through these wetland expanses. Long-term plans contemplate removal of certain levees to encourage a more natural water flow pattern throughout the Everglades.

Some 75 private hunt camps dot the landscape, and many are under 20-year leases with the underlying land owner. Owners of the camps reach them mostly by airboat. Some of the camps are built on stilts over open water areas and others are situated on tree islands.



Water Conservation Areas 2 and 3 *con't.*

For More Information:

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, (561) 625-5122.

How to Get There:

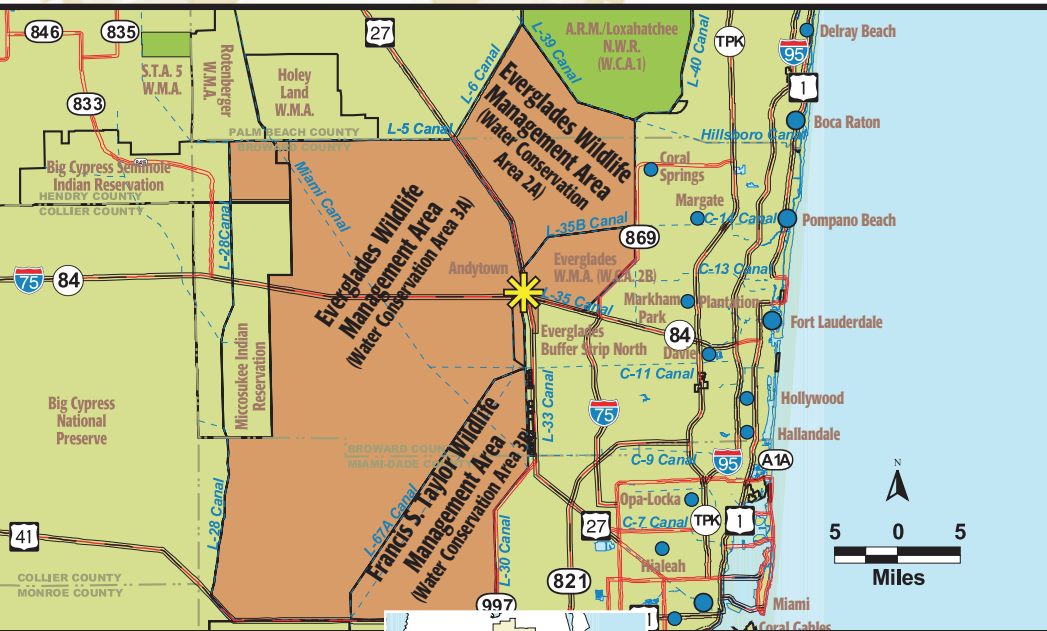
There are five boat ramps.

West of Deerfield Beach at the north side of Area 2A:
From Interstate-95, exit at Hillsboro Blvd. and travel west. Turn right onto U.S. Hwy. 441/S.R. 7. Travel on U.S. Hwy. 441/S.R. 7 to Loxahatchee Road. Turn left on Loxahatchee Road and travel 7 miles to the end of the road.

On the south side of Area 2B on canals L-38E and L-35B:
From the Sawgrass Expressway, exit onto Interstate-75. Travel north on Interstate-75 to U.S. Hwy. 27. Travel 2 miles north on U.S. Hwy. 27 to the first boat ramp at Sawgrass Recreational Area, or travel 4 miles north on U.S. Hwy. 27 to a second boat ramp.

On the north side of Area 3A:
Travel on U.S. Hwy. 27 to the L-5 access road. Travel west on the L-5 access road and look for signs to Holey Land and Rotenberger Wildlife Management Areas. There are three boat ramps on the south side of the levee. Parking is on the levee.

For north and south access to Areas 3A, including access to L-67A:
From the Sawgrass Expressway, exit onto Interstate-75. Travel 17 miles north on Interstate-75, and look for three boat ramps on each side of the interstate. Area 3A is also accessible from Everglades Holiday Park on Griffin Road off U.S. Hwy. 27, about 6 miles south of Interstate-75.

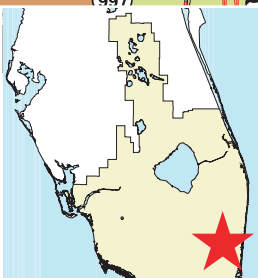


WATER CONSERVATION

AREAS 2 AND 3



Access



Palm Beach, Broward & Miami-Dade Counties
671,831 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC

Southern Glades and Frog Pond Wildlife Management Areas

The 32,000 acres at Southern Glades Wildlife and Environmental Area are dotted with tropical hardwood hammocks, cypress forests and wetlands. Southern Glades is part of the historic Greater Everglades, and it borders Everglades National Park to the west. The Cape Sable seaside sparrow and the American crocodile are among 24 plant and animal species found here that are identified as either threatened or endangered.

Outdoor enthusiasts will find several miles of hiking and bicycling trails at Southern Glades, and fishing is permitted at several platforms, including one that meets Americans with Disabilities Act standards. The South Dade Greenways Trail on the C-111 Canal offers bicyclists, horseback riders and hikers 13 miles of sightseeing opportunities. A three-mile paved trail for hiking and bicycling is on Aerojet Road, and a two-and-a-half-mile shellrock levee road is on the east side of L-31W. The area just east of the L-31W road is filled with plants that attract butterflies. A good spot for a picnic is nearby at Glenn Garrett Park.

The 470-acre Frog Pond Wildlife Management Area is adjacent to Southern Glades. Visitors to Frog Pond will find a unique tropical habitat that supports a variety of birds. Nearly 160 bird species have been documented at the area's "Lucky Hammock," a designation it earned after being spared from agricultural development. Land managers have removed exotic plant species from the area and replanted with native varieties that attract birds and butterflies.



Southern Glades and Frog Pond Wildlife Management Areas *con't.*

For More Information:

South Florida Water Management District recreation line, (866) 433-6312, or FL 1-800-432-2045. Online at: www.sfwmd.gov/recreation.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, (561) 625-5122.

How to Get There:

There are three access points east of Everglades National Park.

From Florida City or the Florida Turnpike: Travel west on S.R. 9336 (Ingraham Hwy.) toward Everglades National Park. Entrances are at Aerojet Road (SW 232 Ave.), along the C-111 Canal and at Glenn Garrett Park on the L-31W Canal.



SOUTHERN GLADES

FROG POND AREAS



Access

Miami-Dade County
33,938 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC

Stormwater Treatment Areas

Although their main purpose is to remove phosphorus from urban and agricultural runoff flowing into the Everglades, the 52,000 acres of stormwater treatment areas (STAs) in South Florida also provide habitat for native and non-native birds, fish, reptiles and plants. This makes stormwater treatment areas a great place for early morning bird-watching, an afternoon hike or bicycling. Seasonal hunting, some of the best in the state, is permitted at select locations.

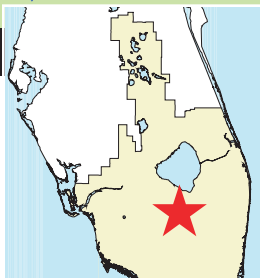
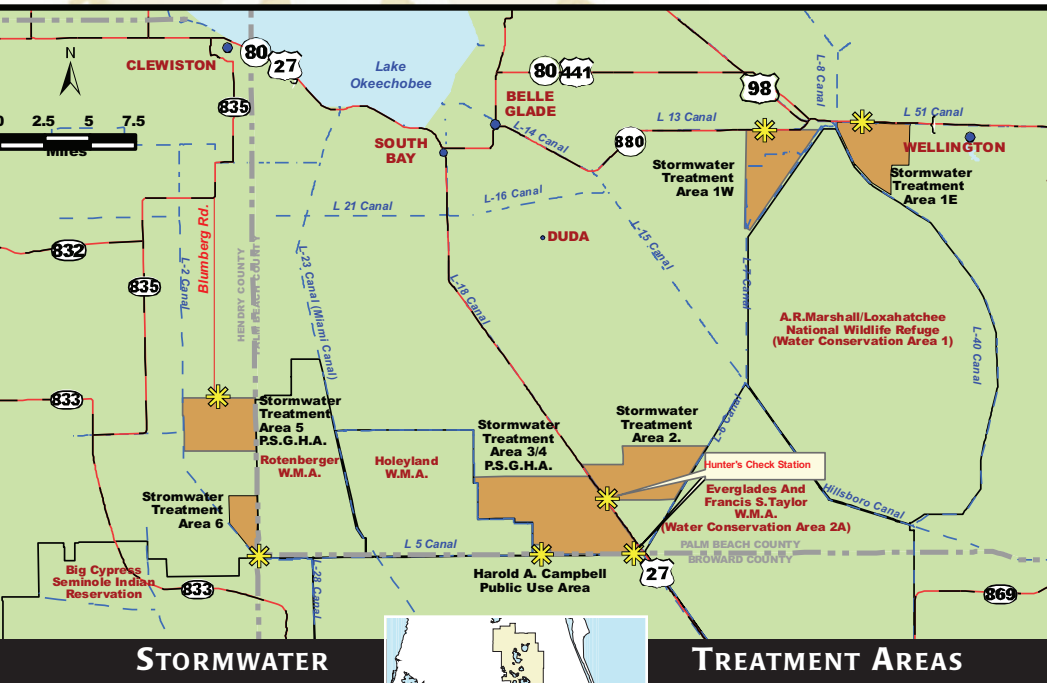
Stormwater treatment areas remove phosphorus from runoff water by channeling it through shallow marshes filled with aquatic plants. These plants take up phosphorus from water traveling through the STA, reducing to very low levels the amount of the nutrient reaching the Everglades.

Too much phosphorus promotes an overgrowth of plant life and alters native habitat. Stormwater treatment areas combined with improved farming practices have prevented more than 2,700 metric tons of phosphorus from entering the Everglades since 1994, reducing phosphorus loads by 70 percent.

For More Information:

South Florida Water Management District recreation line, (866) 433-6312, or online at: www.sfwmd.gov/recreation.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, (561) 625-5122 or (954) 746-1789.



Hendry & Palm Beach Counties
50,912 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & FWC

Stormwater Treatment Area 1 East

Visitors have a great opportunity to experience Florida's native wildlife in the midst of this 6,562-acre stormwater treatment area. This vast wetland site offers a public access point for hiking, bicycling, bird-watching and nature photography. It is also the first stormwater treatment area where "catch and release" bank fishing is allowed inside the levees. The facility features an information kiosk, directional signs, paved parking and a composting toilet.

The recreation area is open from sunrise to sunset on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays. Boating is not permitted.

For More Information:

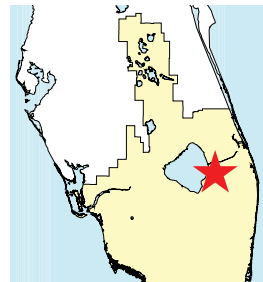
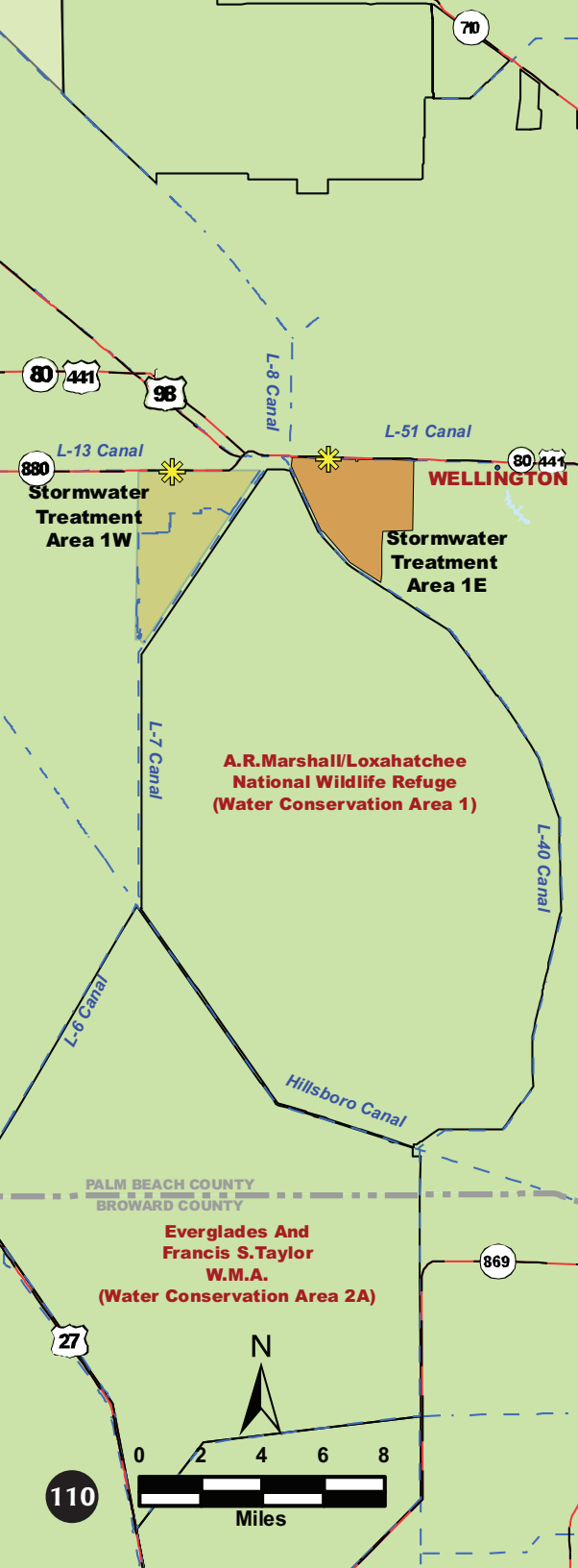
Contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for details about fishing licenses, (850) 488-4676 or (561) 625-5122, or on the web at <http://myfwc.com/fishingareas.html>.

South Florida Water Management District recreation line, (866) 433-6312, or FL 1-800-432-2045. Online at: www.sfwmd.gov/recreation.

How To Get There:

From Interstate-95: Travel about 18 miles west on S.R. 80/U.S. 441. It is the closest stormwater treatment area to urban Palm Beach County.

From the Florida Turnpike: Travel 11 miles west on S.R. 80/U.S. 441.



STORMWATER TREATMENT AREA 1 EAST

Palm Beach County
6,562 Acres
Manager: SFWMD



Access

Stormwater Treatment Area 1 West

Located in central Palm Beach County, Stormwater Treatment Area 1 West features a paved parking area leading to a 200-foot boardwalk with gazebos overlooking the wetland. A three-mile levee trail on the 6,670-acre stormwater treatment area can be used by hikers, bicyclists and photographers. Bird-watchers may be able to spot great blue herons, mottled ducks and black-bellied whistling ducks, along with roseate spoonbills, white pelicans and wood storks. There is a composting toilet available.

Hunting is allowed at Stormwater Treatment Area 1 West on designated weekends during managed waterfowl and alligator hunts. All hunts are managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Alligators can be hunted on foot from the levee banks or from non-motorized boats that can be paddled or poled. The restriction on motorized boats prevents these vehicles from stirring up plants and sediments in the treatment wetland.

The area is open from sunrise to sunset on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays.

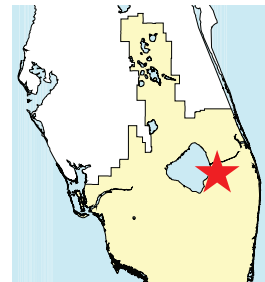
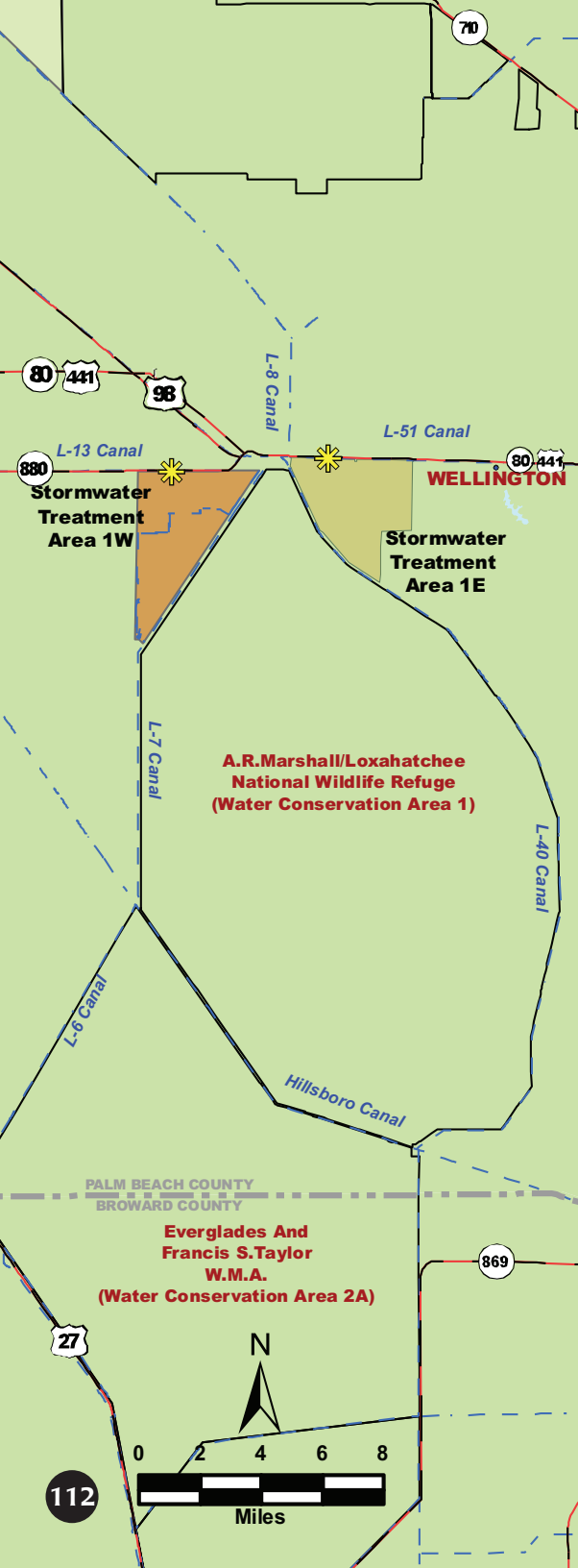
For More Information:

Contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for details about hunting, (850) 488-4676 or (561) 625-5122, or on the web at <http://myfwc.com/hunting/>.

South Florida Water Management District recreation line, (866) 433-6312, or FL 1-800-432-2045. Online at: www.sfwmd.gov/recreation.

How To Get There:

From West Palm Beach: Travel about 21 miles west on S.R. 80/U.S. 441. Look for a green metal bridge on the south side of the road. The public access entrance is on C.R. 880, 2 miles beyond the bridge.



STORMWATER TREATMENT AREA 1 WEST

Palm Beach County
6,670 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



Access

Harold A. Campbell Public Use Facility at Stormwater Treatment Area 3/4

This site in rural Palm Beach County covers 17,000 acres on the southern Palm Beach County border, making it the largest constructed wetland in the world. The accompanying public use area gives visitors access to vast wetland habitat where bicyclists, hikers and bird-watchers can see a variety of wildlife native to Florida. The facility features covered information kiosks, paved parking areas, concrete sidewalks and a composting toilet. This is the first stormwater treatment area with a public dual-lane boat ramp, and it serves as a gateway to 23 miles of perimeter canals. Waterfowl hunts here are managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

The public use facility is open from sunrise to sunset on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays. The boat ramp is open seven days a week.

A second entrance to Stormwater Treatment Area 3/4 features paved parking, a sidewalk path, composting toilet and educational kiosk. This entrance is closer to the highway, but there is no boat ramp.

For More Information:

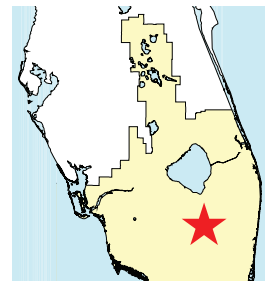
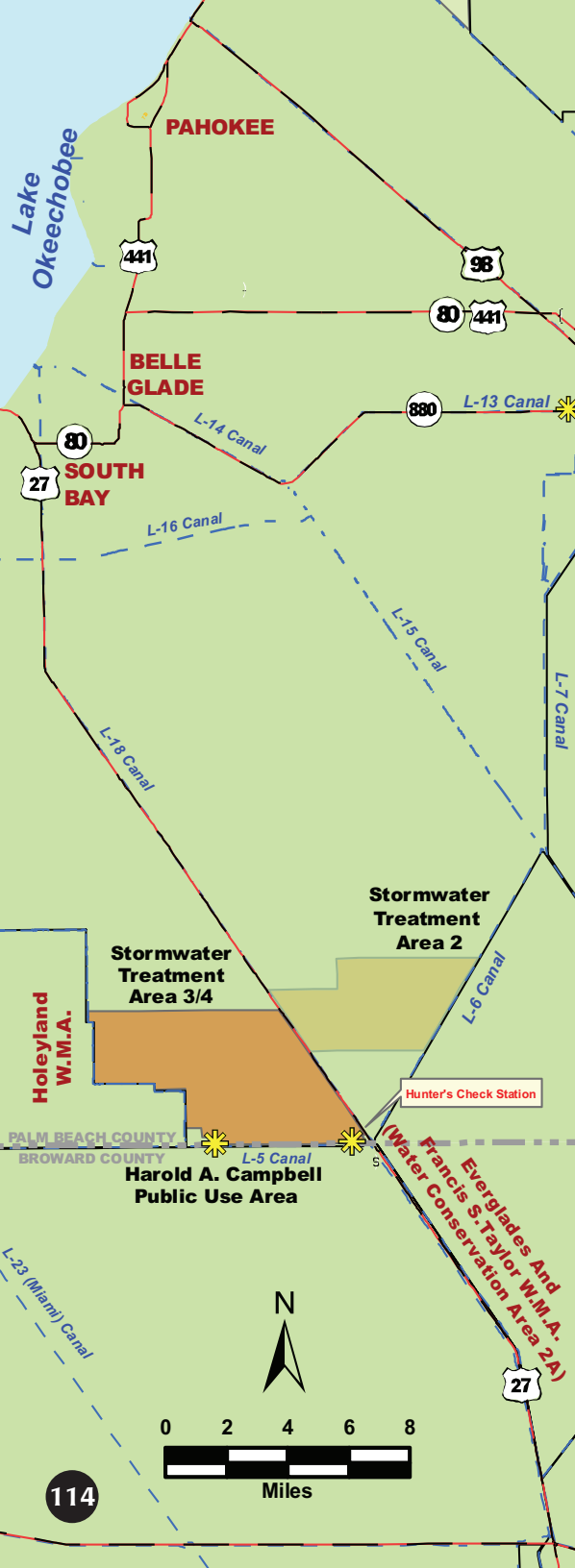
Contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for details about hunting, (850) 488-4676 or (561) 625-5122, or online at: <http://myfwc.com/hunting/>.

South Florida Water Management District recreation line, (866) 433-6312, or FL 1-800-432-2045. Online at: www.sfwmd.gov/recreation.

How To Get There:

Harold Campbell Public Use Facility: About 14 miles north of Interstate-75, or 25 miles south of South Bay, on the west side of U.S. Hwy. 27. From the STA entrance on U.S. Hwy. 27 at the L-5 Canal levee, travel west about 5 miles to the public use facility.

Second entrance: About 14 miles north of Interstate-75, or 25 miles south of South Bay, on the west side of U.S. Hwy. 27. From the STA entrance on U.S. Hwy. 27 at the L-5 Canal levee, travel west about 1/2 mile.



STORMWATER TREATMENT AREA 3/4

Palm Beach County
17,000 Acres
Manager: SFWMD &
Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission



Stormwater Treatment Areas (STA) 2, 5 and 6

STA-5: More than 7,500 acres of wetlands provide ideal habitat here for migratory waterfowl. The Hendry-Glades Audubon Society provides seasonal bird-watching tours. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission manages waterfowl and alligator hunts on designated weekends. The STA is not open for daily passive use.

STA-6: This 2,170-acre wetland is open for passive activities. However, at times this area may be closed for construction purposes. Please call before venturing out there.

STA-2: Access to this 8,445-acre area is limited to seasonal waterfowl hunts managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

For More Information:

Contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for details about hunting licenses, (850) 488-4676 or (561) 625-5122, or online, <http://myfwc.com/hunting/>.

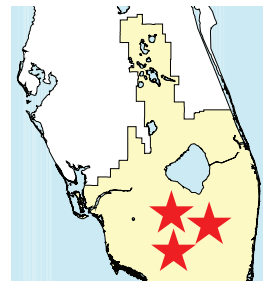
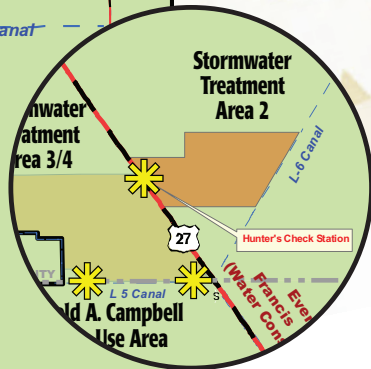
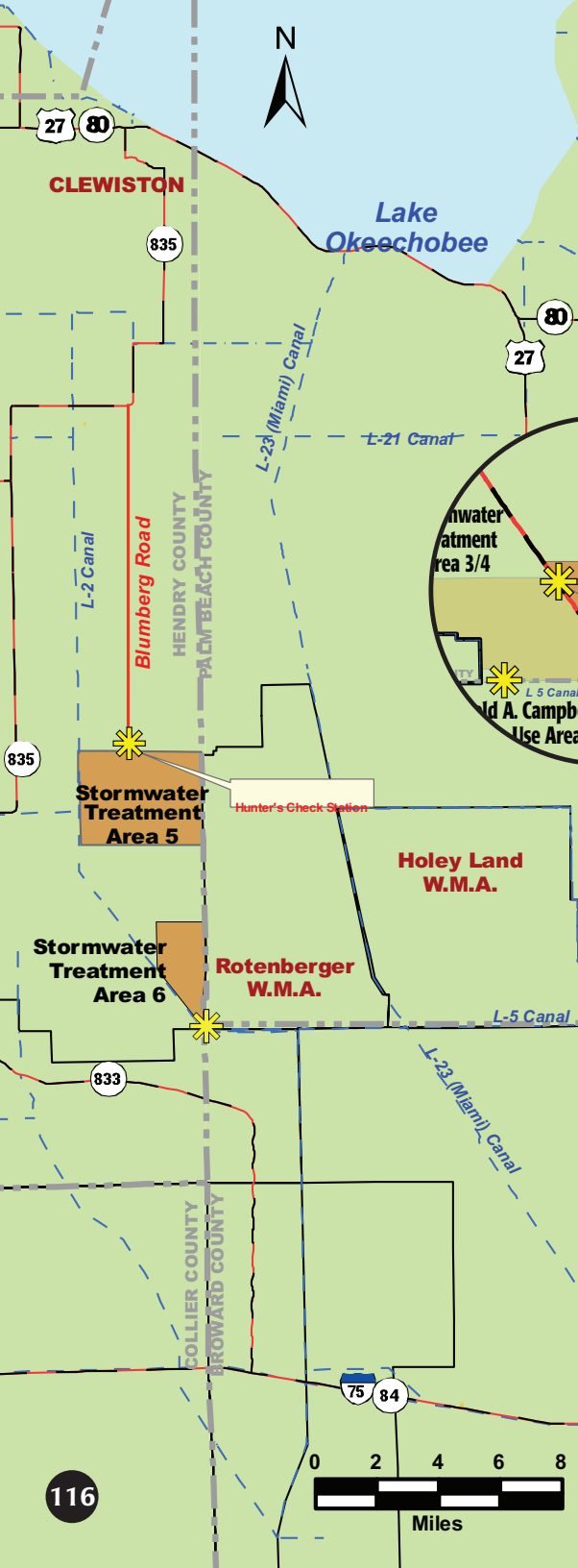
The Hendry-Glades Audubon Society, online at: <http://www.orgsites.com/fl/hgaudubon/>.

South Florida Water Management District recreation line, (866) 433-6312, or FL 1-800-432-2045. Online at: www.sfwmd.gov/recreation.

How To Get There:

STA-5: From South Bay, travel west on U.S. Hwy. 27 about 13½ miles to C.R. 835 (Evereane Road). Turn south on C.R. 835 and travel about 9½ miles to Blumberg Road at the second bend in the road. Turn left onto Blumberg Road and travel south about 9 miles to the unpaved STA turnoff road. Turn onto the unpaved road and travel about 2.5 miles to the entrance gate.

STA-6: On the west side of U.S. Hwy. 27, about 14 miles north of Interstate-75 or 25 miles south of South Bay. From the STA entrance at the L-5 Canal access road, travel 21 miles to the use area.



STORMWATER TREATMENT AREA 2, 5 AND 6

Palm Beach County
18,115 Acres
Manager: SFWMD & Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



Access

Notes



Notes



Notes



Notes





sfwmd.gov

South Florida Water Management District
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3rd Edition
January 2009

