## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Look at the vista of constructed wetlands.
- Bring your bicycle and ride on the levee trail for more than six miles while observing changing habitat types and a variety of birds and wildlife.
- Bring your fishing rod and try to catch largemouth bass and other fish in the distribution cells.
- Hike for several miles on the levees and observe emergent marsh and submerged aquatic vegetation habitats.
- Bring your binoculars to view wildlife and a wide variety of bird species.

# WHAT DO YOU SEE?

Around this site, you will see how an agricultural area was converted into a vast filtering marsh. You will see plants thriving from excess nutrients in the water, which they then store in the soil.

A variety of wading birds, ducks and birds of prey, including ospreys and hawks, can be viewed in and above the marsh. Look for ospreys with fish in their talons.

You will see various structures around the area. Some are collecting scientific data, and some are water flow structures. Automatic sampling equipment is installed at pump stations and other structures for the purpose of monitoring water quality.

Scientists and water managers are also collecting data about water quality and working to keep water flows moving at the best rates for phosphorus removal.

The area is open Friday through Monday and is closed the rest of the week for resource management purposes.

## **VISITOR GUIDELINES**

- Stay on designated trails.
- This is a natural area. Trash cans are not provided, so take out what you bring in. Please do not litter.
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission fishing and wildlife rules and regulations apply. Please report violations to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 1-800-404-FWCC (3922).
- To report rule violations or suspicious behavior, contact 1-800-432-2045, security extension 6449.
- For emergencies, please call 911.

Stormwater Treatment Area 1 East Public Use Facility is off SR 80 ten miles west of SR 7 or 17 miles west of I-95.

For more information, call our recreation hotline at 1-866-433-6312 or visit our web site at www.sfwmd.gov, and click the "recreation" link.

#### **Enjoy Your Visit**



**SFWMD-GOV** South Florida Water Management District

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### Stormwater Treatment Area 1 East

Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) 1 East is a 6,562-acre constructed wetland designed to reduce phosphorus entering the Everglades. The plants within this constructed wetland are consuming phosphorus as they grow, eventually depositing much of the nutrient in the soils. For many decades this land was used

for agriculture. Phosphorus from fertilizers and organic soils was carried into

the Everglades by stormwater runoff, causing an undesirable change in the Everglades ecosystem. Too much of this essential nutrient has allowed cattail to invade the River of Grass, reducing the



coverage of sawgrass and open water sloughs. Although cattail absorb large quantities of phosphorus, these plants do not provide the right habitat for many of the plant and animal species that are unique to the Everglades.

> STA 1 East is one of six STAs mandated by the State of Florida's Everglades Forever Act with a primary goal of reducing the amount of phosphorus that reaches the Everglades ecosystem.

Numerous levees, water control structures and monitoring equipment within the STA are critical to the success of the phosphorus control program. Any damage to these facilities because of public access could restrict the continued public use of the STA.



#### **Stormwater Treatment Area 1 East - Recreational Opportunities**

(With 2006 1/2 Meter Resolution Aerial Express 'True Color' Aerial Photography)