

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Hiking and biking are the approved activities to explore and enjoy on this property (see inside map). This trailhead provides access to three miles of hiking and biking trails, with views of the marsh, cypress stands and creek.

In the future, the area will have a picnic shelter, boardwalk and picnic tables where people can spend their day picnicking.

What Can You Do?

- Hike on the levee trail and see a variety of wildlife in the treatment area.
- Bicycle on the three miles of levee trail around the treatment area.
- Or simply enjoy nature with your binoculars and cameras.

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

The Taylor Creek Stormwater Treatment Area consists of 170 acres and is located in Okeechobee County. The goal for the stormwater treatment area is to provide water quality treatment by reducing phosphorus to the maximum extent possible. The public access provides opportunities for the public to learn about this stormwater treatment area and enjoy the site.

Prior to being channelized, Taylor Creek was a much wider system that flowed south toward Lake Okeechobee. Today you can see many of the remnant cypress trees and other wetland tree species where the creek historically flowed. The treatment area now attracts a variety of migratory and resident birds. Commonly observed birds are sandhill cranes, crested caracara, wood storks, great blue and tricolored herons, roseate spoonbills, black-necked stilts, white and glossy ibises, a variety of egrets and many songbirds. In addition, deer, wild turkey, and American alligators are occasionally seen here.

VISITOR GUIDELINES

Hours of Operation:

This area is open from sunrise to sunset.

- Stay on top of levee.
- This is a "No Trash Area" - Please take with you any trash you brought in.
- The removal of plants, animals, geological or cultural resources is prohibited.
- Camping, fishing in the treatment area, firearms, and hunting are prohibited.
- Motorized vehicles, motorized and non-motorized vessels in interior waters, horses, and pets (except for service animals) are prohibited.
- Please report wildlife violations to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 1-888-404-FWCC (3922).
- For all emergencies, please call 911.

For more information on this area, please call the Okeechobee County Parks and Recreation Department at (863) 763-6950 or the South Florida Water Management District Okeechobee Service Center at 1-800-250-4200.

Current recreational news and special events on District lands can be obtained by calling our recreation hotline at 1-866-433-6312 or by visiting our web site at www.sfwmd.gov and proceeding to the recreation section.



Enjoy Your Visit!



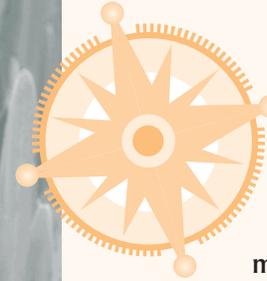
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TAYLOR CREEK STORMWATER TREATMENT AREA



Historically, the lands that Taylor Creek Stormwater Treatment Area encompasses were part of an extensive Taylor Creek Nubbin Slough floodplain. It included a mosaic of habitats, which maintained itself through a series of natural processes. Today,

urban development and agriculture have fragmented the habitats considerably and affected those natural processes. The District now takes great strides to implement various management practices to restore water quality and maintain the land in its more natural state and condition.

A regularly prescribed fire regime, an aggressive exotic plant control program, and restoring an appropriate hydroperiod through the wetlands are some of the top priorities in the District's program.

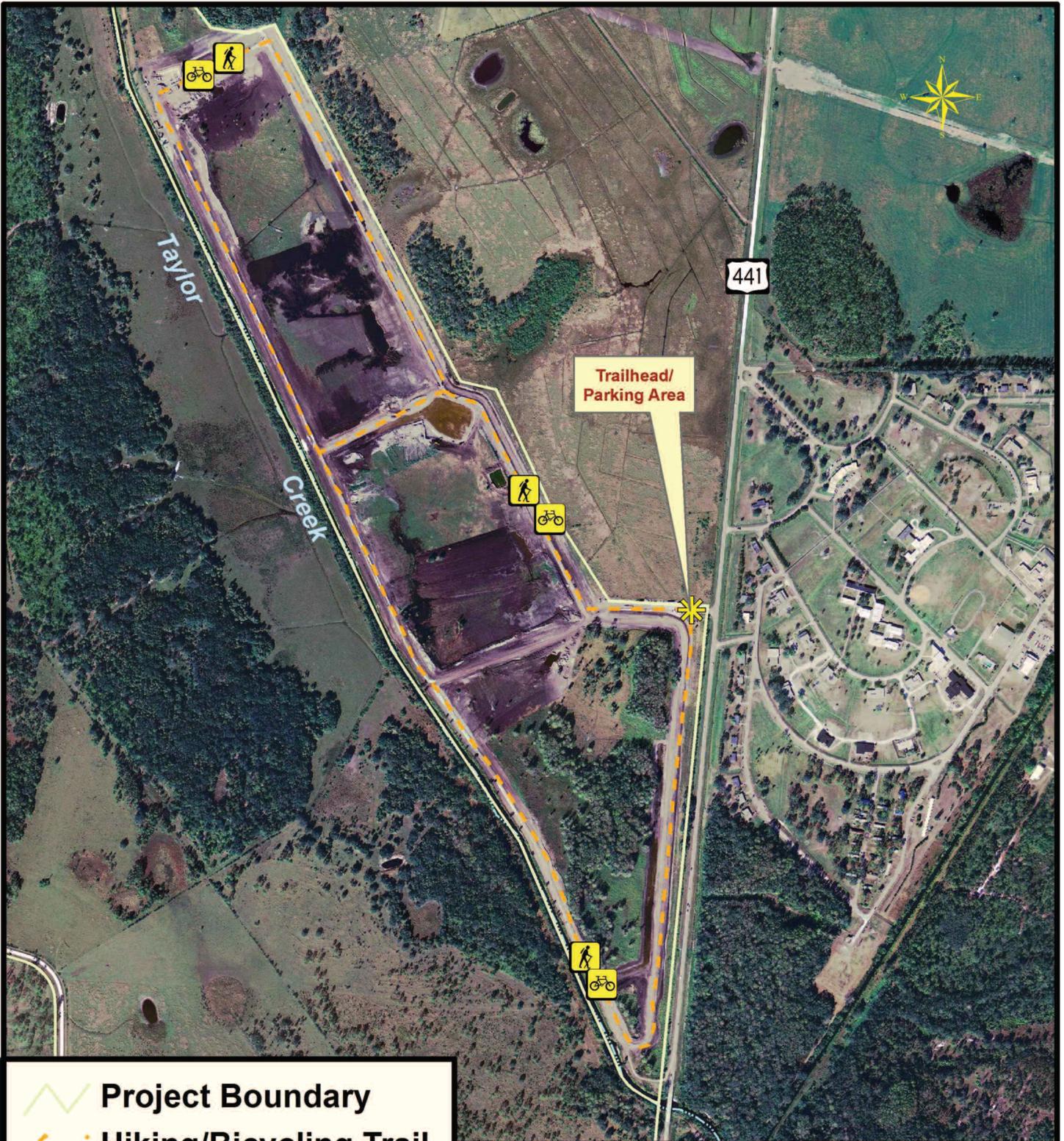
Come
out
and
play



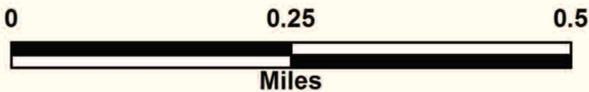
The key purpose of this stormwater treatment area is to remove phosphorus from runoff

flowing into Lake Okeechobee as a part of

the lake restoration program. The plants in the area take up or absorb phosphorus from water traveling through the stormwater treatment area, lowering the amount of nutrients eventually reaching the lake and the Everglades.



 **Project Boundary**
 **Hiking/Bicycling Trail**



Be advised that there are always risks associated with visiting natural areas. There are few, if any, amenities, such as shelters and no potable water. For your own comfort, please plan ahead.

Permitted Uses



Taylor Creek Stormwater Treatment Area Recreational Opportunities

(With 2004 1 Foot Resolution U.S.G.S. 'Natural Color' Digital Orthophotographic Quarter Quadrangles)