



Crooked Lake Prairie

Protects more than two miles of shore line on Polk County's second largest lake, designated as an Outstanding Florida Water. Purchased by Polk County in 1997, much of the 525 acres is open with little shade. Prickly pear cactus is abundant on the property and care must be taken when hiking. The Prairie contains a variety of habitats, including wet and dry prairie, pine flatwoods, marsh, lakeshore and oak scrub.

TRAIL ENTRANCE:

985 Ohlinger Rd.
Babson Park, FL 33827

PARKING COORDINATES:

N 27° 48.385 W 081° 33.548

TREK TEN CACHE COORDINATES:

N 27° 48.419 W 081° 33.91



DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

From I-4 and US 27 (Haines City) take US 27 south 28 miles to CR 640 (Alturas Babson Park Cutoff), turn left and follow CR 640 east 1 mile to SR 17 south 5.3 miles to Cody Villa Road, turn right and follow Cody Villa Road west 1 mile to Crooked Lake on the left.



FIND THE CACHE WITHOUT GPS:

After parking, walk thru the entrance of the property and follow the Scrub Trail sign to the left. Follow this trail (orange blazes) past a picnic table and two benches. The trail turns into the orange and blue blazed trail. At the orange topped pole with two blue blazes continue straight on the trail. If you turn left (west) at this pole, a short trail will take you to another picnic table with views of the lake. You will pass several trail signs as you continue along the trail. When you reach a trail sign that points left at a 30 degree angle, the next trail sign will point left at a 45 degree angle. At this sign look on the left (west) side of the trail, the geocache is at the base of the largest scrub oak about 20 feet off the trail. After finding the geocache continue on the trail to return to the parking area.

(HIKE: 1.6 mile loop trail)



THINGS TO SEE

Wildlife that may be observed include bald eagles, deer, gopher tortoise, Florida scrub jays and an array of wading and migratory birds. As you venture through the scrub and scubby flatwoods, watch for evidence of wildlife including scat and tracks. Small differences in tracks will help you identify the animal. For example, the absence of claw marks in the sand help distinguish a bobcat track from that of a dog or fox.

