

Catfish Creek Preserve State Park

The Allen David Broussard Catfish Creek Preserve State Park is located along the beautiful Lake Wales Ridge and covers more than 8,000 acres of scrub, sandhill, flatwoods, in addition to 65 acres of submerged land. The preserve offers six miles of hiking trails, seven miles of equestrian trails, a covered pavilion, fishing, and excellent wildlife viewing opportunities. When you visit the preserve, please make sure you are prepared for rugged conditions typical of scrub habitat. Bring plenty of water and be prepared for challenging trails at the park.

TRAIL ENTRANCE:

4335 Firetower Road,
Haines City, FL 33844

PARKING COORDINATES:

N 27° 59.040 W 081° 29.814



TREK TEN CACHE COORDINATES:

N 27° 58.847 W 081° 29.527



DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From US 27 in Dundee, follow CR 542 east to Hatchineha Rd. Turn right and continue 8 miles to Firetower Rd. Turn right. Continue 3 miles. The park trailhead is on the left before the FFA Leadership Camp entrance. If you reach their gate, turn around and come back—Firetower Road dead-ends at the camp.

THINGS TO SEE

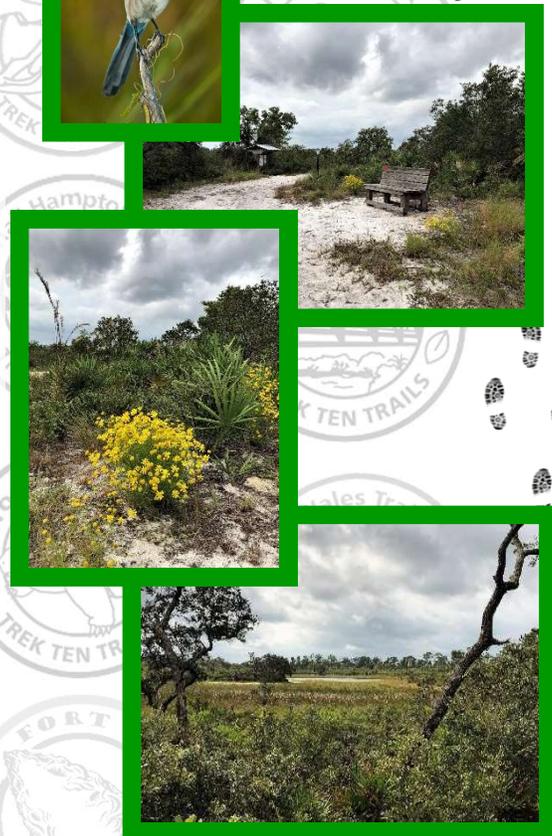
The preserve is home to numerous rare plants, such as scrub morning glory, scrub plum, pygmy fringe tree and cutthroat grass and several protected animal species including Florida scrub-jays, bald eagles, gopher tortoises and Florida scrub lizards. When you visit the preserve make sure you are prepared for the rugged conditions typical of the scrub habitat.

FIND THE CACHE WITHOUT GPS:

Use the walk-thru on the south side of the parking area and follow the trail which turns to the left. Continue walking until you see 3 trail markers (poles) and a mailbox (**get a trail map**). Turn right at the **red/white (R/W) marker 2** at the mailbox and follow the trail until you see the "Restricted Area" sign. Turn left at **R/W 3** and follow the trail over a small hill. At the bottom of the hill turn right onto the first trail past **R/W 4**. The trail will bend to the right at **R/W 5** around the wetland. Look for the large oak tree on the left side of the trail. The cache is at the base of the tree. You can return the way you came OR take a longer hike by continuing on the R/W trail around the wetland. At **R/W 12** keep straight then curve left past **R/W 11** to **R/W 10**, then keep straight onto the **white blaze** trail downhill towards the pond. Just past **marker 9** on the right there will be a **white blazed** pole. Turn left to follow the **blue blaze** trail around a long pond. At the north end of the pond you will pass **marker 9** on the left, a **blue blazed** pole and **marker 7** on the right. At **marker 7** turn left onto the **white blaze** trail going up the hill past a bench and kiosk. Go down the hill back to **R/W 5**, past **R/W 4** to **R/W 3**. Turn right, then left at **R/W 2** (mailbox) to return to the parking area. (**HIKE: 2.0 Mile Loop**)



Photo Courtesy:
Reinier Munguia



TREK 10 TRAILS 2019

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