

Panther Point on Lake Hancock

This 42 acre parcel, owned by the Green Horizon Land Trust, contains a mix of native and ornamental plants that are part of Polk County's horticultural heritage. Once a banana plantation, the site was donated to the Trust by Tal Lewis, who for over 40 years collected and planted ornamental plants from across the state in a landscape he designed. The arboretum features a large collection of Chinese fan palms as well as most palms that will grow in Central Florida.

TRAIL ENTRANCE via:

Marshall Hampton Reserve
3115 Thornhill Rd.
Winter Haven, FL 33880

PARK GPS COORDINATES:

N 28° 00.473 W 081° 49.259



TREK TEN CACHE COORDINATES:

N 27° 59.020 W 081° 49.304



DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From US 98 South turn east onto Winter Lake Road / FL-540 East. Turn right to stay on FL-540 East. Travel about 4 miles, then turn right onto Thornhill Road. The parking area is a short distance on the right side of the road.



FIND THE CACHE WITHOUT GPS:

From the parking area head west on the trail approximately 0.6 miles. At the point where you can see the trail forking to the east, go clock wise around the pit lake, follow the signs to Panther Point Trail. You will have to open two gates along this trail through a pasture. Push the button to open the gates, the gates will close behind you. The area between the two gates is an active cattle grazing area. Please DO NOT feed, chase or try and pet the cattle.

About 1 mile south of the second gate you will reach the cache. Just past the cache location you will see a large piece of concrete on the left side of the trail, you can use it as a bench. Before you reach the concrete look to your right (west) for a group of 4 pine trees. The cache is behind the second tree off the trail. (5.4 mile round trip) We recommend going past the cache another 0.3 miles to see the bridge.

(HIKE: 6.0 mile round trip)

THINGS TO SEE

The trail traverses a variety of habitats including open water via the bridge. You are almost guaranteed to see alligators and a good variety of birds especially during spring and fall migrations. There are impressive views of Lake Hancock and the vestiges of phosphate mining.

Work in progress:

The first 5 miles of the trail are open. Ultimately, it will run 10-miles and connect to the Fort Fraser Trail at US 98.



TREK 10 TRAILS 2019

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