

Se7en Wetlands Park

The park was once a portion of the Bonny Lake Mine, a phosphate mining operation that began in 1947. The mine closed in 1984 and a few years later was purchased by the City of Lakeland for use as a Wetland Treatment System. Changes and upgrades to the site included changes to clay settling area berm elevations and slopes, installation of water control structures and pipes and the planting of wetland and upland vegetation. The wetland treatment system became operational in 1987. The new park is part of a 1,600-acre area comprised of marshes, swamps, and open water lakes designed to help naturally clean already treated wastewater as it meanders through the retention areas. Once completely treated in the wetlands, the water is either released to the Alafia River or used by Tampa Electric's Polk Power Station as a cooling agent.

TRAIL ENTRANCE via:

Loyce Harpe Park
500 W. Carter Road,
Mulberry, FL 33860

PARK GPS COORDINATES:

N 27° 56.08 W 081° 57.891"



TREK TEN CACHE COORDINATES:

N 27° 55.386 W 081° 56.466"



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.

THINGS TO SEE

In addition to the treatment provided, the Wetland offers outstanding habitat for a diverse community of plant and animal species including birds, alligators, turtles, otters, bobcats, gopher tortoises and other animals.

NOTE:

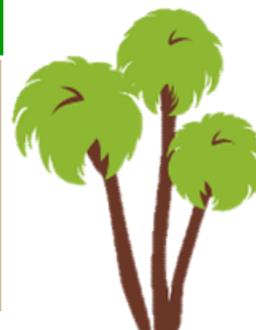
The trails have no shade, so wear a hat, sunscreen and protective clothing. Carry plenty of water. Drinking water is only available near the Gopher Tortoise and Wood Stork gates.



FIND THE CACHE WITHOUT GPS:

From the parking area, head to the Gopher Tortoise Gate and educational kiosk at the trailhead. Take a photo of the trail map or load it to your phone with the QR Code on the kiosk. Follow the trail signs: 2A, 2B, 2D, 1A, 1B to the Influent at 1C. You will see a large pine tree across the trail from the boardwalk. The cache is at the base of the pine tree.

(HIKE: 3.0 mile round trip)



TREK 10 TRAILS 2019

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