

Circle B Bar Reserve

is named after a cattle ranch that once existed on the 1,267-acres. Purchased to protect the floodplain of Lake Hancock and to restore the Banana Creek marsh system, it also offers large natural communities of oak hammocks and various forested wetlands in the northeast corner of the property. Lake Hancock, Polk County's 4th largest lake, sits at the headwaters of the Peace River.

TRAIL ENTRANCE:

4399 Winter Lake Road,
Lakeland, FL 33812

PARKING COORDINATES:

N 27° 59.367 W 081° 51.513



TREK TEN CACHE COORDINATES:

N 27° 59.469 W 081° 51.053



FIND THE CACHE WITHOUT GPS:

From the Discovery Center parking lot, enter the boardwalk towards the buildings. Turn right to head towards the trail map kiosk and follow the blacktop trail to the Shady Oak Trail sign. Take the trail to the left to the next trail sign then bear left onto the Lake Trek. At the management road continue on the Lake Trek going right following the trail towards Lake Hancock. When you see clusters of tall sabal palms, take the turnaround loop on your right. The cache is at the base of 2 oaks and a sabal palm on the right at the half-way point of the loop. Continue following the loop around back to the maintenance road and turn right. Before reaching the sign at the lake, bear right (west) onto the mowed grass path between the sabal palms. When you reach the crushed rock trail, turn left onto Shady Oak Trail and follow it back to the blacktop trail taking a right back to your starting point. **(HIKE: 1.4 mile round trip)**

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From I-4 east or west, take the Polk Parkway (Toll Road 570) and exit at US Hwy 98 south, exit 10. Turn left at Winter Lake Road (SR 540). The entrance to the Reserve is two miles east of US 98.

THINGS TO SEE

While hiking the trails you may see a variety of birds, including sandhill cranes, bald eagles, wood storks, great blue herons and many other wading birds, as well as vistas across Lake Hancock and Banana Creek Marsh. Take a walk along the banks of Lake Hancock and you will see many alligators.



POLK'S NATURE DISCOVERY CENTER:

Provides Information and many discovery opportunities about the unique water, wildlife and wilderness resources, as well as the associated cultural heritage and nature-based recreation opportunities on environmental lands in Polk County. The Nature Discovery Center includes picnic pavilions, wildlife observation viewing platforms, boardwalks and multi-use trails. The Reserve is open daily, year-round, from 5:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. Standard Time and until 8:30 P.M. during Daylight Savings Time. This area may become wet during the rainy season. Don't forget the insect repellent and water. Be careful and enjoy the area. Horses are also allowed on trails.

TREK 10 TRAILS 2020



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