

Mackay Gardens and Lakeside Preserve

The Mackay Estate was built by Alexander Mackay, a Scottish entrepreneur and investor who bought the property on Lake Rochelle in 1915 and began construction of the Mackay family estate which he called "La Rochelle." The estate's 8,000-squarefoot residence is an outstanding example of Craftsman style architecture, with sleeping porches and large porch columns, open interior spaces and a staircase in the main room. A walled arbor with arched openings is located west of the residence and a sunken garden with a fountain is on the east. A beautiful Gazebo has been added with a breathtaking view of the lake. The home has undergone only minor alterations over the years, and is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Our future plans call for part of the building to house the Lake Alfred Historical Society meeting room and museum.

TRAIL ENTRANCE:

900 Mackay Blvd.
Lake Alfred 33850

PARKING COORDINATES:

N 28° 04.835 W 81° 43.217

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From Lakeland follow US 92 about 12 miles to the intersection of US92 and US17. Continue north to Lake Alfred and turn right on Mackay Boulevard. Follow this road to the second set of black gates on the right and turn right, parking is inside gates on the right.

FIND THE CACHE WITHOUT GPS:

After parking go to the back (south side) of the Mackay house, find the blue trail past the gazebo on the right and trek west along the trail with blue blazes. When you reach the concrete sidewalk look for the post with two blue blazes and follow the trail. You will pass a foot bridge. About forty feet before you reach a bench on the right side of the trail, look on the left side of the trail for two trees laying on their side.

Go to the second tree and you will find the geocache at the base of the tree.

(HIKE: 0.6 mile loop)



THINGS TO SEE:

See the historic mansion and grounds including the walled arbor and sunken gardens. The lakeside trail offers lots of shade and views of Lake Rochelle. Rare native plant communities on site include cutthroat seeps and sandhills.

PUBLIC ACCESS:

The property is open to the public from dawn to dusk. The historic MacKay family home is open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The property includes a series of trails.



TREK TEN CACHE COORDINATES:

N 28° 04.838 W 081° 43.463



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