

# Marshall Hampton Reserve

The 1,100+ acre property was acquired by the Southwest Florida Water Management District in 2008. Polk County entered into an agreement with the Water Management District in 2010 to oversee the management of the property. The acquisition of this property also protected a significant amount of shoreline and floodplain swamp on the edge of Lake Hancock. Lake Hancock is often referred to as the headwaters of the Peace River.

## TRAIL ENTRANCE:

3115 Thornhill Rd.  
Winter Haven, FL 33880

## PARK GPS COORDINATES:

N 28° 00.473 W 081° 49.259

## TREK TEN CACHE COORDINATES:

N28 0.179 W081 49.663



## DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

From US 98 South turn east onto Winter Lake Road / CR 540 about 4 miles, then turn right on Thornhill Road. Parking area is on the right side of the road.



## THINGS TO SEE:

A variety of wildlife have been observed on the site, such as gators, bobcat, turkey and pileated woodpeckers. If you listen while you walk you may hear animals and insects moving about in the palmettos as this is a great place for them to hide.

## FIND THE CACHE WITHOUT GPS:

From the sign-in gate, follow the trail towards the lake, bearing left at each of the 2 forks. Make a left at the dead end at the lake, heading south. Continue to bear right around the lake, following the sign "To Panther Point Trail". Pass mile marker "0.5". Continue to loop around the lake to the right. The trail curves to the left and begins a gentle ascent. Pass mile marker "1". Trail veers back to the right. Pass the gate for Panther Point and continue to follow signs for Osprey Loop. Trail veers to the right again twice. Trail veers sharply to the left then curves back to the right. At the end of this last curve, there is a large palm tree on the right side of the trail. Cache is 100 feet down the trail. Look to your left, count three oak trees (only oaks!) along the left side of the trail. The cache is chained to the third one approximately 10 feet off the trail. There is another palm tree on the right side of trail just beyond the third oak. **(Hike 1.4 miles)**

## TRAIL OPTIONS

Nestled on the northeast edge of Lake Hancock, across from Circle B Bar Reserve, the Reserve has an interesting blend of oak hammock areas canopied over mesic flatwoods, hardwood forest wetlands and a 60-acre pond. The site is dominated by live oaks, slash pine, sweet gum and palmettos. All trails start on the western edge of the parking

area, and lead visitors through the equestrian parking area to the main trail head. Once past the main trail head, the trail quickly allows visitors to escape the open pasture and enter a small oak hammock. The trail then shortly exits the oak hammock and visitors can view the pond. Just a short distance to the west is where the trail splits, giving visitors two trail options. The two loop trails provide very different views of the property.



Continue north around the west side of the lake. At the northwest corner, continue to bear right around the lake. Pass the rock and sand/shell piles on your right. Make a left at the next fork and continue to bear right at the next 2 forks back to the sign-in gate. **(Hike 0.9 miles)**

