

# 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° 54.710 W 081° 57.168



## 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 RED trail signs - numbers are on the silver post caps. Take the crushed rock path to 2A, then at 2B turn right onto the grass trail and follow it to the LEFT heading SOUTH. There will be a concrete ditch on your right. Continue past the picnic shelter and the half-moon boardwalk on the left. At trail marker 2i turn right going down slope to another picnic shelter and half-moon boardwalk. The cache is under the LEFT side of the boardwalk at the entrance. Continue on the red loop bearing left (east); a lake will be on your right. WATCH OUT FOR ALLIGATORS! (This trail can possibly be closed for nesting season in summer.) At the edge of the lake bear left up slope past the picnic shelter. At marker 2G turn right (north). Continue past marker 2F on the low road. The trail parallels a concrete ditch on the left. At marker 2D turn left and follow the trail to marker 2C where you will continue following the gopher tortoise markers back your starting point at the Gopher Tortoise Gate. **(HIKE: 3.0 mile round trip)**

## 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 and closed toe shoes. Carry plenty of water. Drinking water is only available near the Gopher Tortoise and Wood Stork gates.



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