

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° 59.072 W 081° 52.233



FIND THE CACHE WITHOUT GPS:

Park at the first pavilions near the entrance to the reserve and take the service road trail to the west. The trail curves to the left (south). Take a left at the fork just past the windmill and head down Wading Bird Way. Continue heading straight past Marsh Rabbit Run. Where the road splits going east/west on the Eagle Roost Trail look to your left. There is a small group of oak trees on the northeast corner of the intersection. The cache is chained to one of the small trees.
(HIKE: 1.0 miles one way)

You can either go back the way you came or continue east on the Eagle Roost Trail to connect with the Heron Hideout Trail and end at the Nature Discovery Center
(Hike 1.2 miles).

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.



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