

Lakeland Highlands Scrub

This 551 acre property features a 2.2 mile multi-use trail and a 0.6 mile walking trail. It contains one of the largest undeveloped scrub communities (140 acres) on the Lakeland Ridge. The natural communities in this ecosystem are very diverse and include sand live oak, scrub, dry prairie, pine flatwoods, depression marsh, basin marsh and basin swamp.

TRAIL ENTRANCE:

6998 Lakeland Highlands Road
Lakeland, FL 33813

PARK GPS COORDINATES:

N 27° 56.199 W 081° 55.414



THINGS TO SEE

Lakeland Highlands Scrub is home to at least five rare plant species, as well as gopher tortoises, eastern indigo snakes, Florida Scrub-jays and a number of wading bird species. The raccoon also calls the scrub community home and forages at night for food including crayfish, snails, frogs, turtles, insects, rodents, eggs, fruits and nuts.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From Polk Pkwy (SR 570) Exit 9, take Lakeland Highlands Blvd. (CR 37B) south. Reach CR 540A at 1.8 miles, and continue south another mile, crossing Crews Lake Rd.

Alternatively, take US 98 south from Lakeland or north from Bartow to 540A and head west. Turn left on Lakeland Highlands Rd. After crossing Crews Lake Road, Lakeland Highlands Blvd. becomes a dead-end road. Keep going to where the road ends at the trailhead.

FIND THE CACHE WITHOUT GPS:

After parking and entering the preserve, keep the pavilions and kiosk on your left and continue walking down the Scrub Flatwoods Trail. At the split of the Scrub Flatwoods Trail, follow the trail on the left. You will see a fence post with trail signs that read "to parking area" and "to boardwalk". Turn right (north) and walk to and cross the boardwalk. After exiting the boardwalk continue west (straight) along the trail, shortly after exiting the boardwalk you will see a trail that goes north (R) from the main trail you are walking on, pass this trail and continue west. You should walk on the north (R) side of the main trail as you head west. You will pass another trail that runs from the north (R) into the main east/west trail you are walking on. Continue walking west towards a large pine tree that is in the middle of the sand trails. About 200 feet past the first large pine you will see another large pine. When you reach the second large pine you will see a rustic bench on the right (north) side of the trail. Continue following the sandy trail into and through the wooded area. You will reach a sandy trail intersection with signs to Seven Wetlands and Scrub Flatwoods. There is a clump of oak trees on your right on the northwest corner of that intersection. The cache is at the base of these trees.

(HIKE: 2.0 mile round trip) Difficulty: Moderate due to a stretch of white sand.



TREK TEN CACHE COORDINATES:

N 27° 55.782 W 081° 56.125



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