

# Lake Marion Creek / Stokes Preserve

The 225-acre Sherwood L. Stokes property was acquired in 2002 as an addition to the Water management District's Lake Marion Creek "Save Our Rivers" Project. The site, which is managed by the Polk County Environmental Lands Program, was acquired to help protect the headwaters of Lake Marion Creek. The trail takes you through white sugar sand scrub, gradually transitioning to a lower elevation with moss covered ground and tall cabbage palms. At the end of the trail is a picnic shelter and views of Lake Marion Creek.

## PARK GPS COORDINATES:

N 28° 07.040' W 081° 32.511'

## TRAIL ENTRANCE:

Lake Marion Creek / Stokes Preserve  
7598 Lake Marion Creek Rd.  
Haines City, FL 33844



## TREK TEN CACHE COORDINATES:

N28° 06.822 W 081° 32.462

## DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From Haines City turn left onto US 17/92. In ½ mile, turn right on CR 580 and follow it for 3.9 miles to Lake Marion Creek Road. Turn right on Lake Marion Creek Road. Parking is on the right approximately 0.8 miles. Look for the Polk County Environmental Lands sign.

## FIND THE CACHE WITHOUT GPS:

Park at the trailhead and use the walk through to enter the preserve. Follow the footpath until you reach the two-track road. Turn south and walk down the road about 0.33 mile until you reach a post with a small arrow sign on it and a trail spur on your left. Take the spur on the left (NE) and walk about 80 feet until you see 2 large cabbage palms. The cache is behind the second palm.

To enjoy the creek/lake view, go back to the road and continue left (south) until you reach an opening with a picnic pavilion.

**(HIKE: 1.4 round trip)**

**NOTE:** Trails can be very wet after heavy rains.

Mosquito repellent is advisable in wet weather and beware of anthills.



## THINGS TO SEE

You can treat yourself to an aerobic hike in the sugar sand hills, possibly meet an inquisitive scrub jay and enjoy the great wildflower viewing. You will see numerous cone-shaped doodle bug depressions and the signature tracks of the rare sand skink. Reward yourself in the shady, lower elevations of fern-carpeted hammocks.



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