

Hilochee Wildlife Mang. Area – Osprey Unit

The Osprey Unit straddles I-4 between C.R. 557 and U.S. 27. Hilochee is within the Green Swamp, a critical hydrologic resource, encompassing the headwaters of the Withlacoochee, Little Withlacoochee, Ocklawaha, Hillsborough and Peace rivers and serving as a major recharge area for the Floridan aquifer. This 6,093 -acre property is open for wildlife viewing, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding and hunting. Hiking, biking and horseback riding is best on non-hunting days in the fall.

TRAIL ENTRANCE: PARK GPS COORDINATES:

N28 ° 10.125 W081 ° 42.889



TREK TEN CACHE COORDINATES:

N 28° 10.854 W 081° 42.349

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From I-4 take Exit 48 for County Road 557 towards Lake Alfred/Winter Haven. Turn onto CR 557 and travel south approximately 1.5 miles to the intersection of Old Polk City Road. Turn left onto Old Polk City Road and travel 1.4 miles to the entrance of the trailhead.

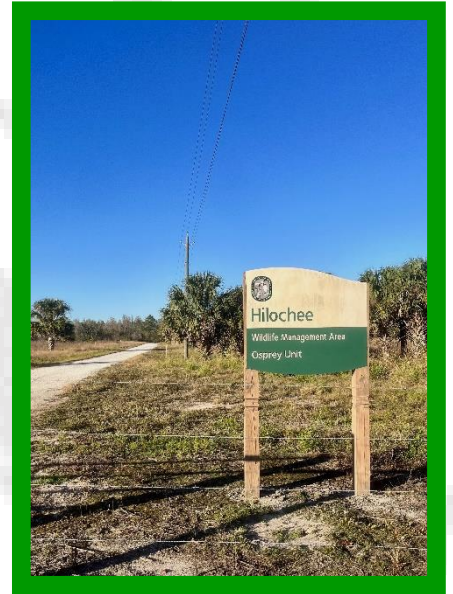
THE OSPREY UNIT:

This cache is located within the Hilochee WMA Osprey Unit. Visitors should be aware of seasonal hunting and must abide by all area regulations while on the area. No Daily-Use Fee.

Check the FWC Website for hunt dates:

<https://myfwc.com/recreation/lead/hilochee/planning-your-visit/>

NOTE: Trail may be flooded in wet weather.



FIND THE CACHE WITHOUT GPS:

Head straight through the gate down Tanner Grade Road. Make a right and continue down Tanner Grade Road. The road curves to the left. Continue straight passing the fork to the right for Old Grove Road. The road curves to the left then back to the right. The road will curve to the left once more and back to the right. One more curve to the left and look for a sign on the left that says "Attention Anglers". Take this side trail to the left. The cache is attached to the last tree on the left of the trail. **(Hike 2.2 miles round trip)**



THINGS TO SEE

Hilochee has offers excellent opportunities to view butterflies whose numbers peak in the fall. The best time to observe butterflies is between around 10:30 in the morning and 3:00 in the afternoon. You can also see a variety of birds including anhinga, great blue heron, great egret, little blue heron, green heron, wood stork, bald eagle and (of course) osprey. Early morning visitors will hear a choir of frogs.