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## TREK 10 TRAILS

# Crooked Lake Sandhill

Owned and managed by Polk County through the Environmental Lands Program, this site was acquired in 1999. At only 25 acres, Crooked Lake Sandhill is one of the best remaining examples of the sandhill ecosystem in Polk County and shelters an impressive number of rare species. The property appears to have escaped logging and is considered "old growth," with some trees thought to be over 200 years old. Elevation of the trail ranges from 165 to 215 feet above sea level, providing a treat from the typical flat Florida landscape.

### TRAIL ENTRANCE:

1399 Hollister Road, Babson Park,  
FL 33827

### PARKING COORDINATES:

N 27° 48.843' W 081° 32.866'



### DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

From US 27, turn east on CR 640. Continue south on SR 17 through Babson Park. Turn right onto Hollister Road. The entrance is located at the intersection of Wes Mann Road and Hollister Road.

### THINGS TO SEE

This open landscape is dominated by grasses and wildflowers and features a scattered overstory of longleaf pine and turkey oak. The yellow sand soils and high elevation contain many endangered plant species.

The trail travels beneath turkey oaks and through the sandhill savanna where the trail loops down into the depression of an old sinkhole and back up to a spectacular vantage point overlooking Crooked Lake. Four rare animals thrive here: gopher tortoises, eastern indigo snakes, sand skinks and scrub lizards.



### FIND THE CACHE WITHOUT GPS:

From the walk-through fence, follow the trail to the T intersection. Go left (see the trail marker) and continue until you reach the picnic table. The cache is about 50 feet from the trail behind the picnic table at the base of the third small oak tree. To complete the Sandhill Trail loop, continue on the marked trail opposite the picnic table which will loop back to the picnic table area and parking lot. **(HIKE: 0.8 miles loop trail)**

### TREK TEN CACHE COORDINATES:

N 27° 48.759' W 081° 32.912'

### NOTE:

Trail is moderately difficult with some shade. No facilities.

