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## TREK 10 TRAILS

# Gator Creek Reserve

Gator Creek Reserve is located in the Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern. Gator Creek Reserve lets you experience a mosaic of cypress swamps, hardwood forests and marshes interspersed with slightly elevated areas including pine flatwoods. With a series of adjoining loop trails, one of which is paved, this 2,700-acre reserve offers easy short walks or longer treks through several unique habitats.



### TRAIL ENTRANCE:

9725 US Hwy 98  
Lakeland, FL 33809

### DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

From 1-4 east or west, exit at US Hwy. 98 north (Exit 32) and continue north for 6. Drive 7 miles. The entrance is on the right.

### PARK GPS COORDINATES:

N 28° 10.707' W 081° 59.153'

### THINGS TO SEE

Wildlife that may be observed includes deer, turkey, fox squirrels, and gopher tortoises. If you come across a deer track in the wet sand or mud, look for the dew claws - they will show up along with the hooves in the substrate.



### TREK TEN CACHE COORDINATES:

N 28° 10.456' W 081° 58.696'

### FIND THE CACHE WITHOUT GPS:

Start your journey on the paved trail to the right of the locked gate. Continue straight down the Piney Wood Trail. Pass over 2 small dry culverts. Pass information sign with log benches on the right. On the paved track, there is a trail marker on the right side of the trail that says 0.2 miles. Pass a bench on the left side of the trail. Continue straight. The tree cover opens into scrub land. There is a large fallen tree with exposed vertical roots on the left side of the trail approximately 8 feet high. There is a crossway with caution tape on a pine on the far left. Continue straight. The trail cuts back to the left and is paved. Continue straight. (If you pass a survey benchmark monument\* on the left just before the road splits you've gone too far.) The tree canopy opens into scrub land with a few pine trees. One of the oak trees has caution tape wrapped around it. There's a small crosstrail barely noticeable that crosses the path. The trail curves to the right and there is a small stand of tree is 2 pines and an oak. As the trail curves slightly to the right, there is a very large pine tree on the right. Just beyond the large oak on the right is a fallen tree trunk in a V shape. Good for taking a rest. After approximately 200 paces, the trail curves slightly to the left, and there is a large oak tree on the right with a branch about 8 feet up that sweeps to the ground. Twenty-five paces from the large pine tree on the right side of the trail is a sawed-off dead oak that has been debarked. Immediately ahead on the left is a large pine tree. Thirty paces from the large oak, there is another large oak, leaning over the trail with a vine hanging from it. There is an oak tree with multiple branches stemming from one trunk. Behind it, there is a tree that has been struck by lightning. The cache is behind that tree.

\*Survey benchmark monuments are brass or metal disks in the ground that provide latitude, longitude, or orthometric height. **(Hike approximately 2 miles round trip)**