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## TREK 10 TRAILS

# Se7en Wetlands Park

The park was once a portion of the Bonny Lake Mine, a phosphate mining operation that began in 1947. The mine closed in 1984 and a few years later was purchased by the City of Lakeland for use as a Wetland Treatment System. Changes and upgrades to the site included changes to clay settling area berm elevations and slopes, installation of water control structures and pipes and the planting of wetland and upland vegetation. The wetland treatment system became operational in 1987. The new park is part of a 1,600-acre area comprised of marshes, swamps, and open water lakes designed to help naturally clean already treated wastewater as it meanders through the retention areas. Once completely treated in the wetlands, the water is either released to the Alafia River or used by Tampa Electric's Polk Power Station as a cooling agent.

### TRAIL ENTRANCE via:

Loyce Harpe Park  
500 W. Carter Road,  
Mulberry, FL 33860

### PARK GPS COORDINATES:

N 27° 56.08 W 081°57.891"



### TREK TEN CACHE COORDINATES:

N 27° 55.411' W 081° 56.478

### NOTE:

The trails have no shade, so wear a hat, sunscreen and protective clothing and closed toe shoes. Carry plenty of water. Drinking water is only available near the Gopher Tortoise and Wood Stork gates.

### FIND THE CACHE WITHOUT GPS:

From the parking area, head to the Gopher Tortoise Gate and educational kiosk at the trailhead. Take a photo of the trail map or load it to your phone with the QR Code on the kiosk. Follow the RED trail signs - numbers are on the silver post caps. Take the crushed rock path to 2A, then at 2B follow the blue Wood Stork trail marker straight (east) until you reach a signpost. Continue to follow Wood Stork (1) trail marker up the hill past the picnic pavilion and turn left. Walk approximately 0.4 miles to the trail marker. Turn right at the wood stork marker, continue for 0.3 miles along the concrete channel until you reach the influent waterfall, boardwalk, and picnic/restroom area (Post 1C). At the influent waterfall, take the concrete walkway across the channel. The cache is on the railing at the far side of the waterfall (south). You can continue straight for 0.8 miles around the cell following the Blue Heron trail. Make a right turn and continue for 0.7 miles to the hill (signpost 1D). Backtrack the way you came. **(HIKE: 2.0 mile round trip)** OR Turn right and go downhill and follow the red trail signs back to the Gopher Tortoise Gate entrance. **(HIKE: 3.0 mile round trip)**

### THINGS TO SEE

In addition to the treatment provided, the Wetland offers outstanding habitat for a diverse community of plant and animal species including birds, alligators, turtles, otters, bobcats, gopher tortoises and other animals.

