

District Lands Protect Water Resources

West-central Florida is a wonderful place to get outside. From the sandy beaches on the Gulf of Mexico to the wild beauty of the Green Swamp, there's something for everybody.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) is responsible for managing water resources for approximately 5 million residents living within a 10,000-square-mile area of west-central Florida. To help accomplish this mission, the District has protected more than 449,000 acres of land within its boundaries through land acquisitions and conservation easements.

District lands include natural floodplains, areas that replenish the aquifer, and areas around lakes, rivers, wetlands and estuaries that naturally filter out pollutants before they reach the nearest water body. These lands not only give people a chance to experience nature at its finest, they also play a vital role in Florida's water cycle.

While District lands vary in size and terrain, they all have at least one thing in common — they provide a variety of important benefits to the water and water-related resources within west-central Florida. The majority of these lands are available for public use and recreation. Nature-friendly activities offer a healthy, fun and educational experience while making sure the land is protected. In keeping with the purpose of these lands — protection of the environment — your experience will be close to nature. That means mostly unpaved trails, portable restrooms and nature's beauty all around you.

Ready to get outside? Here's the gear you'll need:

- Water bottle
- Sunscreen and hat
- Bug spray
- Good pair of sneakers or walking shoes
- Cell phone
- Map (available at WaterMatters.org/Recreation)

GET OUTSIDE!

Every year, about 2.5 million people visit public conservation lands acquired by the District and its partners to protect Florida's water resources. The lands are open to the public for activities such as hiking, bicycling, hunting, horseback riding, fishing, paddling, camping, nature study and picnicking. The District provides opportunities for these recreational activities to highlight the uniqueness of conservation lands while protecting the natural resources that make them such great places to visit.

Our ***Recreation Guide to Southwest Florida Water Management District Lands*** provides you with the information you need to start exploring District lands for yourself. To view online or to order a free printed booklet, contact us:

Online: ***WaterMatters.org/Recreation***

Email: ***Recreation@WaterMatters.org***

Telephone: ***(352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only), ext. 4470***

U.S. Mail: ***Land Resources
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604-6899***



The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) does not discriminate on the basis of disability. This nondiscrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions, including access to and participation in the District's programs and activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the District's Human Resources Bureau Chief, 2379 Broad St., Brooksville, FL 34604-6899; telephone (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only), ext. 4703; or email ADACoordinator@WaterMatters.org. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (Voice).

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SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
RECREATION AT A GLANCE

Map Reference	Recreation Area	County(ies)	Great Florida Birding Trail	Dogs Allowed	Hiking	Inline Skating	Bicycling	Equestrian	Boating	Paddling	Fishing	ADA Accessible	Picnic Facilities	Restrooms	Full-Service RV	Hunting	Equestrian Camping	Group Camping	Primitive Camping	Backcountry Camping
1	Alafia River Corridor	Hillsborough																		
2	Alafia River Reserve	Polk																		
3	Annettella Hammock	Hernando																		
4	Brooker Creek Headwaters Nature Preserve	Hillsborough																		
5	Brooker Creek Preserve	Pinellas																		
6	Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park	Charlotte																		
7	Chassahowitzka River and Coastal Swamps	Citrus																		
8	Chito Branch Reserve	Hillsborough																		
9	Circle B Bar Reserve	Polk																		
10	Cliff Stephens Park	Pinellas																		
11	Conner Preserve	Pasco																		
12	Cypress Creek Preserve	Pasco																		
13	Deep Creek Preserve	DeSoto																		
14	Edward Medard Park and Reservoir	Hillsborough																		
15	Edward W. Chance Reserve — Coker Prairie Tract	Manatee																		
16	Edward W. Chance Reserve — Gilley Creek Tract	Manatee																		
17	Flying Eagle — Flying Eagle Preserve	Citrus																		
18	Flying Eagle — Withlapopka Community Park	Citrus																		
19	Fred and Idah Schultz Preserve	Hillsborough																		
20	Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve — Colt Creek State Park	Polk																		
21	Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve — East Tract	Sumter/Lake/Polk																		
22	Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve — Hampton Tract	Polk																		
23	Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve — Little Withlacoochee Tract	Lake																		
24	Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve — West Tract	Pasco																		
25	Half Moon-Gum Slough	Sumter																		
26	Hálpata Tastanaki Preserve	Marion																		
27	Jack Creek	Highlands																		
28	Lake Marion Creek Horseshoe Scrub Tract	Polk																		
29	Lake Panasoffkee	Sumter																		
30	Lake Tarpon Outfall Canal	Pinellas																		
31	Little Manatee River Lower Tract	Hillsborough																		
32	Little Manatee River Southfork Tract	Manatee																		
33	Little Manatee River Upper Tract	Hillsborough																		
34	Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve	Hillsborough																		
	Dead River Park	Hillsborough																		
	Flatwoods Park	Hillsborough																		
	Jefferson Equestrian Area	Hillsborough																		
	John B. Sargeant Park	Hillsborough																		
	Morris Bridge Park	Hillsborough																		
	Oak Ridge Equestrian Area	Hillsborough																		
	Trout Creek Park	Hillsborough																		
	Wilderness Park Off Road Trails System	Hillsborough																		
35	Marshall Hampton Reserve	Polk																		
36	Myakka River — Deer Prairie Creek Preserve	Sarasota																		
37	Myakka River — Flatford Swamp Preserve	Manatee																		
38	Myakka River State Park — Myakka Prairie Tract	Sarasota																		
39	Myakka State Forest	Sarasota																		
40	Panasoffkee Outlet	Sumter																		
41	Potts Preserve	Citrus																		
42	Prairie/Shell Creek	Charlotte																		
43	RV Griffin Reserve	DeSoto																		
44	Sawgrass Lake Park	Pinellas																		
45	Starkey Wilderness Preserve — Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park	Pasco																		
46	Starkey Wilderness Preserve — Serenova Tract	Pasco																		
47	Tampa Bypass Canal	Hillsborough																		
48	Terra Ceia Preserve Frog Creek	Manatee																		
49	Terra Ceia Preserve State Park	Manatee																		
50	Two Mile Prairie (Withlacoochee State Forest)	Citrus																		
51	Upper Hillsborough Preserve — Alston Tract	Pasco/Polk																		
52	Upper Hillsborough Preserve — Upper Hillsborough Tract	Pasco/Polk																		
53	Weeki Wachee Springs State Park	Hernando																		
54	Weeki wachee Preserve	Hernando																		
	Weeki wachee Preserve — Aripeka Sandhills Preserve	Hernando																		
	Weeki wachee Preserve — Bayport Park	Hernando																		
55	Withlacoochee River Park	Pasco																		
56	Wysong Park	Sumter																		

