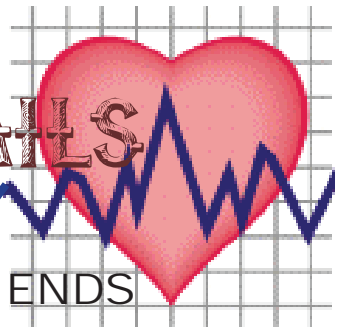


TREK TEN TRAILS

The Nature of Health



Crooked Lake Prairie

Crooked Lake Parking GPS Coordinates: N 27° 48.385 W 081° 33.548

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From 1-4 and US 27 (Haines City) take US 27 south 28 miles to CR 640 (Alturas Babson Park Cutoff), turn left and follow CR 640 east 1 mile to SR 17 south 5.3 miles to Cody Villa Road, turn right and follow Cody Villa Road west 1 mile to Crooked Lake on the left.



Crooked Lake Prairie protects more than two miles of shore line on Polk County's second largest lake, designated as an Outstanding Florida Water. Purchased by Polk County in 1997, much of the 525 acres is open with little shade. Prickly pear cactus is abundant on the property and care must be taken when hiking. The Prairie contains a variety of habitats, including wet and dry prairie, pine flatwoods, marsh, lakeshore and oak scrub.



Things to See

Wildlife that may be observed include bald eagles, deer, gopher tortoises, Florida scrub jays and an array of wading and migratory birds. As you venture through the scrub and scrubby flatwoods, watch for evidence of wildlife including scat and tracks. Determining small differences in tracks will help you identify the animal that left them. For example, the absence of claw marks in the sand help distinguish a bobcat track from that of a dog or fox. Catching a glimpse of a bobcat is rare since they are nocturnal and secretive.

ATTRIBUTES



SCRAPBOOKERS: Place your souvenir stamp in this circle!



TREK TEN CACHE COORDINATES: N 27° 48.584 W 081° 33.617



FIND THE CACHE WITHOUT GPS: From the trailhead, walk west down the broad path. Pass the restroom and follow the sign for the Lakeside Picnic Area. The trail begins by following a jeep trail and several blazed posts. Watch out for the cactus! Follow the trail to the "Short Lake View". You will come to a picnic table about ¼ mile past the sign. Just past the picnic table you will see a rustic bench. Go to the bench and look to the east for the large pine tree. The geocache is at the base of the tree.

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