

# Crooked Lake Wildlife & Env. Area



[www.friendsoftheparks.net](http://www.friendsoftheparks.net)

**GPS Coordinates:**  
N 27° 44.133 W 081° 37.266



**SCRAPBOOKERS:**  
Place your souvenir stamp in this circle!

## DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From Polk Parkway and US 98 head south on US-98 to Bartow Rd, 7.5 miles. In Bartow turn left onto Van Fleet Dr/ SR 60 .8 mile. Turn right onto U.S 17S/US-98 and continue to follow U.S 17 S/US-98 south for 10.9 mi. In Ft. Meade, turn left onto US-98, continue to follow US-98 east for 12.0 mi. Turn left onto Rhoden Meyer Rd/Turtle Run, the parking area is 500 feet on the right.

## THINGS TO SEE

13 different natural communities occur in the WEA including uplands such as dry prairie, upland mixed forest and scrub, as well as wetland communities like basin marsh and cypress swamp. It is home to two imperiled plant species, cutthroat grass and Britton's beargrass, as well as several imperiled animal species including the gopher tortoise, wood stork and sandhill crane.



## FIND THE CACHE WITHOUT GPS:

From the parking area pass through the walk through and follow the fence line to the gate. At the gate begin following the two track, hiking signs will appear, pass the hiking sign that points west and south, a short distance another hiking sign will point NE on the north side of to two track. Follow this trail, the trail will be marked with yellow blazes and an occasional hiking sign. When you cross the two track again look for the double yellow blazed pine; a short distance off the trail is an oak tree. The geocache is at the base of the tree. Follow yellow blazes and hiking signs back to parking. Loop trail 1 mile hike. 1 mile RT



**TREK TEN CACHE COORDINATES:**  
N 27° 44.109 W 081° 37.022



## Crooked Lake WEA

The 1,147 acre site was acquired as a gopher tortoise mitigation park under FWC's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Program in order to manage the habitat important to the protection of listed wildlife, contribute to attainment of goals of the FWC's Gopher Tortoise Management Plan, and assist completion of the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Florida Forever Project. The WEA lies within the Crooked Lake Unit of the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Florida Forever Project.