

LAKE WALES RIDGE STATE FOREST

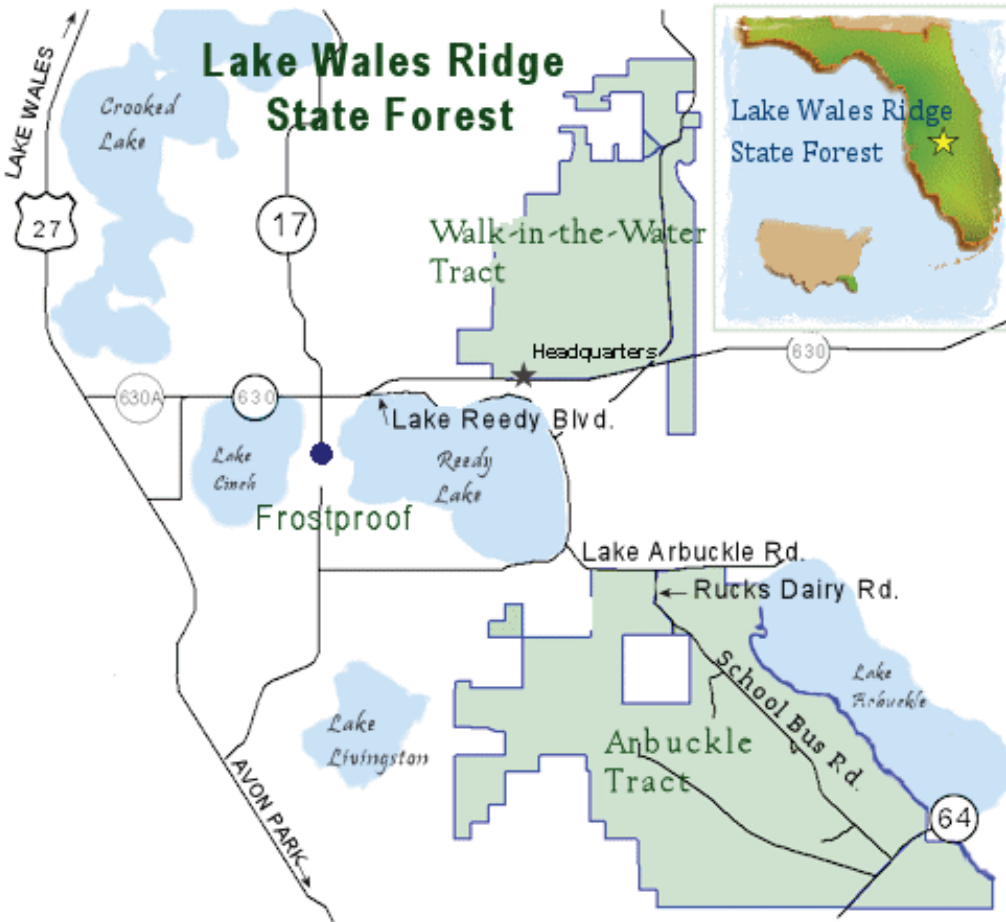
State Road 60, Lake Wales, FL

Trail Parking GPS Coordinates: N 27° 42.493 W 081° 26.760

DAY USE ENTRANCE FEE: There is a day use fee of \$1.00 per person, children under 6 admitted free. Deposit fee in the honor fee envelopes daily, and display the tear-away tab on the vehicle windshield or rear-view mirror.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From the intersection of US 27 and SR 60 in Lake Wales, take SR 60 E for 9.5 miles. Turn south onto Walk in the Water Rd. Go 9 miles to stop sign at the CR 630A intersection. Walk in the Water Rd. becomes Blue Jordan Rd. south of CR 630A. Go 2 miles to a flashing light at North Lake Reedy Blvd. Turn left onto North Lake Reedy Blvd. and go 1.6 miles to Lake Arbuckle Rd. Turn left onto Lake Arbuckle Rd. and go 1.5 miles to Rucks Dairy Rd. (a dirt road) and turn right. Paula Dockery/Reedy Creek Trail Kiosk is on the left at the fork in the road.



Lake Wales Ridge State Forest consists of four separate tracts which contain outstanding examples of naturally-functioning ecosystems. Division of Forestry utilizes a multiple use management system which allows outdoor recreation pursuits while managing the forest resources. Lake Wales Ridge State Forest, Arbuckle Tract is closed to recreational users during the hunting seasons EXCEPT for hikers on the Florida Trail. It is recommended that you wear 500 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange material above the waistline during hunting season.

Lake Wales Ridge State Forest derives its name from the narrow ridge which runs north and south through the Florida Peninsula. Many years ago ancient ocean levels rose and covered nearly all of the present-day Florida peninsula isolating the Ridge as an island upon which the plants and animals on this ridge continued to evolve in isolation. Today the scrub ecosystem that thrives on the ridge may have the highest concentration of rare and endangered plants in the continental United States.



Things to See Lake Wales Ridge State Forest provides a habitat for 24 plants and 19 animals currently having federal or state status as threatened or endangered. This list includes: the scrub jay (a bird found only in Florida's rare scrub areas) and the sand skink (found on high-elevation ridges, they swim through the sand leaving an S-shaped trail). Rare and endangered plants include the pygmy fringe tree, scrub plum, Carter's mustard, scrub-blazing star, and bear grass.

TREK TEN TRAILS CACHE COORDINATES: N 27° 42.992 W 081° 26.415

NEW CACHE LOCATION for "Trek Ten Again in 2009"

FIND THE CACHE WITHOUT GPS: The trailhead is just east of the parking and trail kiosk. Follow the blue blazed trail until it intersects with the orange blazed trail. Turn west and follow the orange blazed trail about 1000 feet until the trail meets the creek. Look for the large fallen pine tree that has been sawed in two for the trail. The geocache is located at the base of the fallen pine near some saw palmettos.