

SADDLE CREEK PARK NATURE TRAIL

SADDLE CREEK II (TENEROC FISH MANAGEMENT AREA)

3716 Morgan Combee Road, Lakeland, FL 33801

Trail Entrance GPS Coordinates: N 28° 03.856 W 081° 52.889

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From I-4 Tampa approximately 28 miles to SR546 east via Exit 28 toward US 92 Lakeland for 5.9 miles. Continue onto US 92 east (Memorial Blvd.,) for 2.6 miles and turn left onto Saddle Creek Park Road. Follow Saddle Creek Park Road past the Polk County Leisure Services Maintenance Office about 500 yards.

From I-4 Orlando travel 44 miles to SR 33 south, Exit 38. Turn left onto SR 33 south for 1.6 miles and then a slight left onto SR 659 (Combee Road / CR 33A) for 3.2 miles. Turn left onto Saddle Creek Road (.7 miles), then right onto Fish Hatchery (.7 miles), then left onto Morgan Combee Road past the Polk County Leisure Services Maintenance Office about 500 yards.

Saddle Creek Park has facilities for the whole family to enjoy on its 734 acres - boating, fishing, camping and of course, hiking. Part of the Great Florida Birding Trail, the park is a well-known stopping point for more than 150 migratory bird species. The trail-head to its (Saddle Creek I) Nature Trail also accesses the Teneroc Trail (Saddle Creek II). **There is a day-use fee of \$3 per person to trek Saddle Creek II, which is only open Friday through Monday.** (Children under 16, adults 65 and over fee exempt.) No fee for anyone to trek Saddle Creek I.

ATTRIBUTES:        



The Saddle Creek Nature Trail is 1.2 miles in length. Since it dead-ends and does not loop, the full hike is more like 2.4 miles. The trail is very broad, well maintained and an easy trek which will take approximately one hour to complete. An informational kiosk marks the entrance access to Saddle Creek II (Teneroc FMA).



Things to See Limpkins, large spotted waders standing about 28 inches tall are found in Saddle Creek's open freshwater marshes and along the shorelines. Often heard at dawn, at night and on cloudy days, the limpkin's cry is a piercing, banshee wail. Other animals that inhabit the park include alligators, turtles, snakes, aquatic reptiles, amphibians and many species of fish and insects as well as a variety of mammals including deer, otters, raccoons and foxes.

SADDLE CREEK NATURE TRAIL CACHE COORDINATES: N 28° 03.130 W 081° 52.949

SADDLE CREEK II (Tenoroc Fish Management Area) CACHE COORDINATES: N 28° 04.248 W 081° 52.738

SADDLE CREEK II NEW CACHE LOCATION for "Trek Ten Again in 2009"

FIND THE CACHE WITHOUT GPS: **Saddle Creek I** - Head south down the trail past the Observation Tower. You will pass three benches along the trail. Look for the vehicle turnaround area on the north side of the trail, just past the third bench. Turn into the turnaround and look behind the first large tree on the east side. **Saddle Creek II** - From the trailhead follow the blue/orange blaze trail until the trail intersection. Follow the trail to the west (clockwise) and cross two footbridges. At the "Strenuous/Easy" trail signs you can follow the white blazed trail to an observation tower with scenic views. After visiting the observation tower backtrack to the "Strenuous/Easy" trail sign. You can take either trail, they will merge back into one trail after a short distance. A short distance past the merge the trail will intersect with the orange/blue blazed trail. Follow the orange blaze trail across the Saddle Creek footbridge. At the "Loop" and "Tenoroc" trail signs follow the trail to the west (left) and look for the large oak covered in moss on the south side of the trail, about half way between the "Loop" and "Tenoroc" trail signs and the first orange/blue blaze pine tree. The geocache is as the base of the oak tree.