

# TIPS FOR ENJOYING THE RESERVE

*The following information and tips can help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience while at the property:*

- The Pasture Reserve is open daily from dawn to dusk.
- Feel free to bring a camera, binoculars and field guides for observation of wildlife.
- Swimming is prohibited on the property.
- The trails located on the property might include uneven or unstable terrain, so wear appropriate footwear.
- Do not remove or disturb any of the landscape on the property.
- Fishing and hunting are prohibited on the property.
- Refrain from approaching or feeding any wildlife.
- Bring with you plenty of water to drink, but ensure that any litter is properly disposed of.
- Bring with you a hat, sunscreen and sunglasses, and wear appropriate clothing for the current weather conditions.
- Pets are not allowed on the property.



## PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

On November 2, 2004, Lake County voters approved a public-lands referendum by more than 70 percent of the vote. The referendum called for up to an additional one-third millage to allow the County to issue \$36 million in bonds for the acquisition and improvement of land to protect drinking water, improve water quality of rivers and lakes, protect open space and provide passive recreation areas.

To date, more than 2,000 acres have been acquired through the Public Lands Management Program, which was established in September 2005. Three of the properties, Ellis Acres Reserve, The Pasture Reserve and Lake May Reserve, have been opened to the public. The opened properties include passive trails and scenic views of a wide variety of wildlife and Florida native plants.



LAKE COUNTY  
FLORIDA

For more information about the Public Lands Management Program, contact the Lake County Parks & Trails Division at (352) 253-4950, email [publiclands@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:publiclands@lakecountyfl.gov) or log on to [www.lakecountyfl.gov/parks](http://www.lakecountyfl.gov/parks).

L A K E  
C O U N T Y

THE PASTURE  
RESERVE

TRAIL MAP



The Pasture Reserve is located in the Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern, the literal “heart” of the Floridan aquifer, and is a mosaic of uplands and wetlands. Wetlands include cypress strands, marsh and mixed-forested wetlands. Pasture, pine flatwoods and hardwood forest contribute to the upland areas. The property is home to deer, turkeys, alligators and gopher tortoises, among others.

At over 800 acres, the property contributes toward the restoration and conservation efforts of the Green Swamp by several government agencies, such as South West Florida Water Management District and Department of Environmental Protection. The Reserve is also within the Green Swamp Florida Forever project boundary, and is recognized and identified as part of the state-wide Ecological Greenways Network.

Activities proposed for the property will include restoration, management and passive recreation. Some suitable pasture areas will be restored to wet prairie and hydric flatwoods, while other areas will be restored to sandhill and managed for gopher tortoises. Routine controlled burns will be established for the fire-dependent communities, and exotic vegetation will be monitored and controlled. Future recreation opportunities will include picnic areas, primitive camping and wildlife observation areas.

Mill Stream Swamp

**LEGEND**

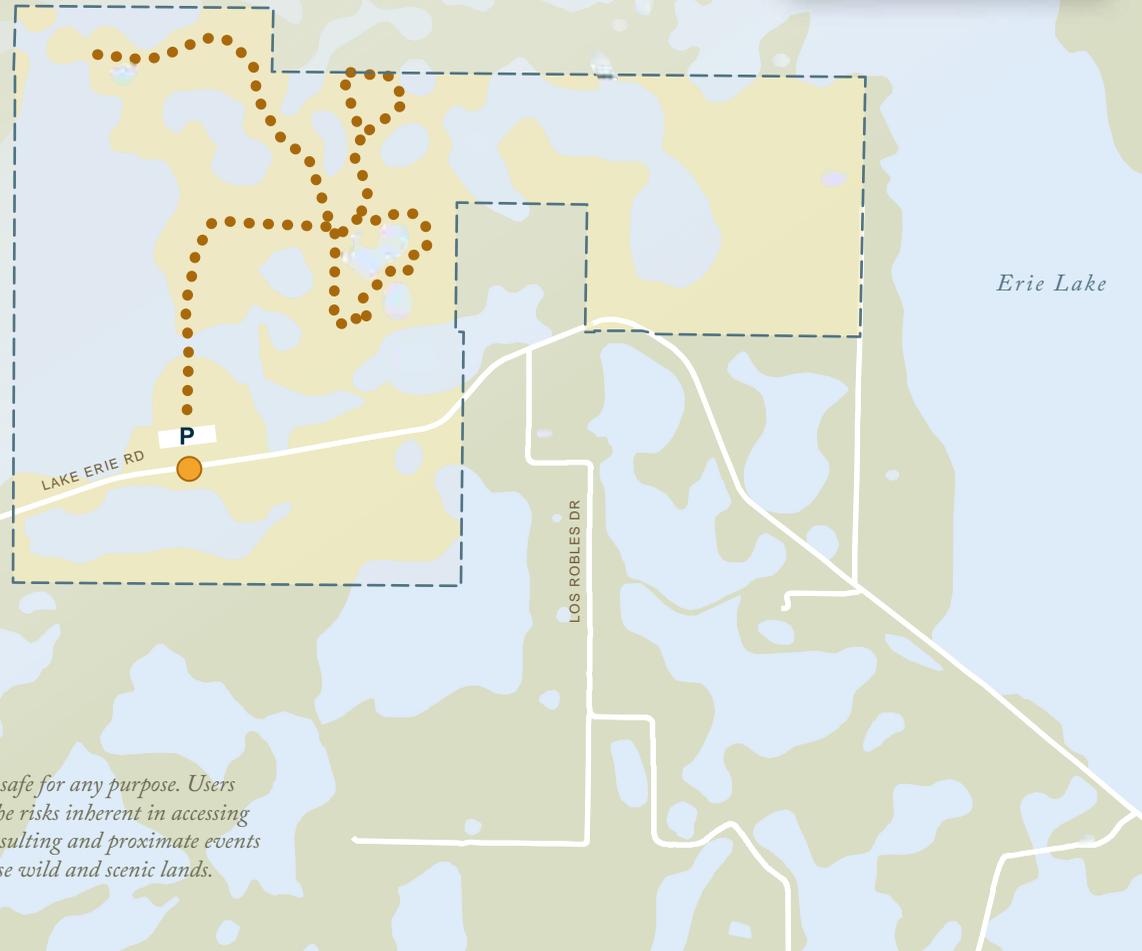
- Entry access
- P Parking area
- - - Property boundary
- Trail path

Total trail length = 2.7 Miles

2000 1000 0 2000  
Approximate Scale In Feet

Stump Lake

Erie Lake



**PROPERTY MAP**



*No assurance is extended that this land is safe for any purpose. Users of the public lands take upon themselves the risks inherent in accessing undeveloped natural properties and the resulting and proximate events and conditions arising from the use of these wild and scenic lands.*

**FEATURED WILDLIFE**

**Florida Sandhill Crane**  
*(Grus canadensis pratensis)*

**QUICK FACTS:**

Florida's Sandhill Cranes are a threatened subspecies of sandhill crane that are found in inland shallow freshwater marshes, prairies, pastures and farmlands. They can live up to 20 years.

**SIZE:**

Body can range from 31 to 47 inches tall. Wingspan from 5 to 6 feet.

**WEIGHT:**

6.5 to 14 lbs.

**DIET:**

Seeds, plant tubers, grains, berries, insects, earthworms, mice, snakes, lizards, frogs and crayfish.

