

TRAIL ADVISORIES



- Restrooms are available at the picnic areas
- Wear good hiking shoes
- Bring drinking water for yourself AND your pet
- Wear a hat
- Use sunscreen
- Be safe and stay on trails
- Carry out any litter
- Sand wheelchair available
- Ranger Station telephone number on benches
- Dogs must be kept on a six-foot hand held leash


YELLOW TRAIL ● This trail takes about 2 1/2 hours to complete. It is 5 miles of mainly level and sandy trails. It passes the Mary Thaxton memorial and explores this remote part of the Park. It passes through mesic pine flatwoods, prairie hammocks, and scrubby flatwoods. Shorter hikes of 2 1/2 or 3 1/2 miles can be taken by following the shortcut indicated on the trail map. Many service roads intersect the trail allowing for other self-constructed routes. Benches are located along the trail. Biking is allowed but can be difficult in the soft sand.

BLUE TRAIL ● This is a 1 1/2 mile hike through Florida Scrub-Jay habitat. It passes through mesic pine flatwoods and scrubby flatwoods. It begins at the same trailhead as the Red Trail and then follows the fence line north along a housing development. It later joins the Yellow Trail parallel to the Rails-to-Trails before returning to the starting point. Much of the trail can be sandy in dry weather and provides little shade during the hike. Biking is allowed but can prove difficult in spots.

RED TRAIL ● The Red Trail can be either a 1 1/2 mile or 2 mile hike that explores the northwestern portion of the Park. It begins at the same trailhead as the Blue Trail and later splits off following the boundary of the Park along a housing development to the western boundary. Biking can be difficult in spots.

GREEN TRAIL ● The Green Trail begins behind the Nature Center. It can be either a 2 or a 3 mile hike by following the marked trails but several well marked service roads allow many self-determined routes through scrubby flatwoods and mesic pine flatwoods. It crosses South Creek over the bridge leading to the Campground. After passing by a few campsites it enters Florida Scrub-Jay habitat. The hike passes through sections of past controlled burns which are now restoring themselves to scrubby flatwoods. There is very little tree canopy cover in this area of the Park. The trail follows the boundary with a housing development which borders the Park on the south. It is the best biking trail in the Park.

LESTER FINLEY TRAIL ●   The Lester Finley Trail meanders through a hardwood hammock along a tidal reach of South Creek, a blackwater stream that eventually empties into Dryman Bay. This is a “barrier-free” trail offering superb hiking opportunities for those with disabilities. Round trip distance is about a 1/2 mile and takes about 20 minutes. There is an extensive tree canopy offering shade during the heat of mid-day. There is a handicapped equipped fishing pier, two butterfly gardens, several benches, two picnic tables, and a water fountain along the trail. Additionally, there are 5 audio boxes along the trail that explain various aspects of the different habitats. Foot traffic only is permitted on this trail.

SOUTH CREEK NATURE TRAIL ●  This is a 1/2 mile, one way trail, that can be started at either the picnic area across from the Nature Center or at the South Creek Parking Lot. It follows South Creek and crosses the road leading into the Campground. Several markers along the trail point out aspects of the natural environment. An extensive tree canopy provides shade during the mid-day heat. It can be combined with the Lester Finley Trail for an easy hike of 1 1/2 miles. Foot traffic only is permitted on this trail.