

LAKE COUNTY

Parks & Trails

EVENTS
GUIDE

2016



LAKE COUNTY PARKS & TRAILS

An abundance of passive and active recreation opportunities



The Lake County Public Resources Department, Parks & Trails Division, manages more than three dozen parks, preserves and boat ramps. With more than 1,100 acres of county parkland, over 2,700 acres of protected public lands, 20 miles of multi-use paved recreational trails and 162 miles of blueways, Lake County has a variety of options for both passive and active recreation.

Some of the most popular recreation spots in the county include North Lake Regional Park in Umatilla, Lake Idamere Park in Tavares, PEAR Park in Leesburg, Lake May Reserve in Eustis, as well as the South Lake Trail, Ferndale Preserve and the Green Mountain Scenic Overlook & Trailhead located in the southern region of the county.

Park staff lead regularly scheduled nature hikes and bird and butterfly surveys in a some of these parks. Participants

will enjoy seeing the diverse ecosystems and unique assortment of wildlife located at the parks. During the bird and butterfly surveys, novice and expert census-takers are invited to assist staff with tracking the bird and butterfly populations at the parks.

In addition to land-based events offered by the Lake County Parks & Trails Division, the staff teams up with the Lake County Water Authority for several guided paddling tours throughout the year. During these tours, canoeists and kayakers can trek through some of Lake County's many freshwater lakes and rivers.

For more information about the many Lake County parks, trails and boat ramps, call the Parks & Trails Division at 352-253-4950, visit www.lakecountyfl.gov/parks, email parksandtrails@lakecountyfl.gov or follow them at www.facebook.com/LakeCountyFLParks.

FEATURED LOCATIONS

MAP LEGEND

-  U.S. Highways
-  State Roads
-  County Roads
-  Lakes
-  Municipalities
-  Preservation Areas

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP INFO

-  Lake County Board of County Commissioners
-  Lake County Water Authority
-  Privately Owned
-  City of Tavares
-  City of Leesburg
-  St. Johns River Water Management District



- 1** CROOKED RIVER PRESERVE
- 2** ELLIS ACRES RESERVE
- 3** FERNDALE PRESERVE
- 4** GREEN MOUNTAIN SCENIC OVERLOOK AND TRAILHEAD
- 5** HICKORY POINT RECREATIONAL PARK
- 6** LAKE JEM PARK & BOAT RAMP
- 7** LAKE MAY RESERVE
- 8** LAKE NORRIS CONSERVATION AREA
- 9** MARSH PARK & BOAT RAMP
- 10** NEIGHBORHOOD LAKES RESERVE
- 11** PASTURE RESERVE
- 12** PEAR PARK (GATEWAY)
- 13** PEAR PARK (NATURE CENTER/WCA)
- 14** PINE MEADOWS CONSERVATION AREA
- 15** POWELL'S CAMPGROUND
- 16** TAVARES RECREATION PARK
- 17** VENETIAN GARDENS

FEATURED LOCATIONS



1 CROOKED RIVER PRESERVE

11121 Lake Louisa Road, Clermont

Located in the south end of Lake County, this 64-acre preserve protects a beautiful undisturbed section of waterfront on Lake Louisa, as well as frontage along the Palatka River. The preserve's trails allow for passive recreation and exploration of the remnant sandhill plant community and wetlands. This property is owned and operated by the Lake County Water Authority.

2 ELLIS ACRES RESERVE

25302 County Road 42, Paisley

The 417-acre reserve contains longleaf pine wooded pasture and forested wetlands and sits on the western shoreline of Lake Akron. Many species of wildlife can be found at the site including the Florida Black Bear, Florida Sandhill Crane, White-tailed Deer and Wild Turkey.

3 FERNDALE PRESERVE

19220 County Road 455, Ferndale

The 196-acre Ferndale Preserve is located off County Road 455 in South Lake County on the western shore of Lake Apopka. The preserve has a combined equestrian and hiking trail offering beautiful vistas of Lake Apopka and the surrounding area.

4 GREEN MOUNTAIN SCENIC OVERLOOK AND TRAILHEAD

20700 County Road 455, Ferndale

This beautiful site, offering views of the North Shore Restoration Area and Lake Apopka [sitting 132' above sea level], is just a short distance from Sugarloaf Mountain (the highest point in peninsular Florida at 312'), and located along the State Designated Green Mountain Scenic Byway. In addition to the scenic beauty, it is an amazing location for birding and butterfly watching, with over 100 species of birds and 20 species of butterflies. The site offers a connection to the Lake Apopka Loop Trail, allowing hikers and bikers to trek some 18 miles across the North Shore of Lake Apopka to Magnolia Park in Orange County.

5 HICKORY POINT RECREATIONAL PARK

27341 State Road 19, Tavares

Created as a unique, recreational waterfront park, the 68-acre facility is located along the shore of Lake Harris and features a two-story screened picnic pavilion, boardwalk nature trail, playground, sand volleyball and marina. This property is owned and operated by the Lake County Water Authority.

6 LAKE JEM PARK & BOAT RAMP

16141 County Road 448, Tavares

The 11-acre Lake Jem Park offers the opportunity to launch a boat, canoe or kayak into the Beauclair Canal, hike the 1/2-mile nature trail or fish from the banks of the canal. The park also features a playground and picnic pavilions with barbeque grills.

7 LAKE MAY RESERVE

36300 County Road 44A, Eustis

N 28°52'20.05" W 81°37'47.62"

Lake May Reserve totals approximately 136 acres. The landscape consists of xeric oak hammock and a mix of upland scrub, pine and hardwood forested areas. The property also features Lake May, a 20-acre lake, along with the associated wetlands.

8 LAKE NORRIS CONSERVATION AREA

38343 Lake Norris Road, Eustis

N 28°54'32.5764" W 81°32'55.0212"

This 2,228-acre property was purchased by the St. Johns River Water Management District to provide protection for Lake Norris's hardwood swamp and Blackwater Creek, a major tributary of the Wekiva River. The Lake County Water Authority manages the primitive camping and paddling opportunities year-round for the property.

9 MARSH PARK & BOAT RAMP

36545 Yale Retreat Road, Eustis

Marsh Park offers access to Lake Yale for boaters and showcases a two-acre restoration area with a short hiking trail that features many native plants. The playground, basketball court and other amenities are available to enjoy under the shade of the many live oaks.

FEATURED LOCATIONS



10 NEIGHBORHOOD LAKES RESERVE

Fenimore St., Sorrento
N 28°47'32.00" W 81°31'36.26"

Lake County maintains a total of 210 acres of this 1,550 acre parcel of land. The area contains many different sizes and types of habitats, including freshwater marsh, improved pasture, xeric hammock and pine flatwoods. The property has a high recharge value for the Floridan aquifer and is located in the Wekiva Springshed Protection Area and is adjacent to Rock Springs Run State Reserve. Public access to this property is only allowed during events.

11 PASTURE RESERVE

5144 Lake Erie Road, Groveland
N 28°28'43.80" W 81°52'42.19"

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. The 810-acre property is home to white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, American alligators and gopher tortoises, among others.

12 PEAR PARK (GATEWAY)

26701 U.S. Highway 27, Leesburg

The "Gateway" is the front 50 acres of PEAR Park and represents the active use area, offering softball fields, a multi-use field, pickleball, tennis and basketball courts, pavilions with grills, playground, dog park and hiking trails that connect to the Wildlife Conservation Area.

13 PEAR PARK – NATURE CENTER & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREA (WCA)

4800 University Ave., Leesburg

PEAR Park's Wildlife Conservation Area consists of 268 acres located at the end of University Avenue. The focus of this area of the park centers on conservation and restoration of historic ecosystems, threatened and endangered species and passive outdoor recreational opportunities, like bird watching and wildlife viewing. This facility includes a nature center, and the Wildlife Watch Post, Lake County's newest destination for birders, native plant enthusiasts and nature photographers.

14 PINE MEADOWS CONSERVATION AREA

N 28°88'40.33 W-81°66'30.54

Pine Meadows is a 770-acre property acquired as surplus from the St. Johns River Water Management District, with the property eyed as a central hub between Trout Lake and the Lake May Reserve Trail. When the park opens in late 2016, it will feature an entry road, boat ramp and parking area. Future plans for the conservation area could include pavilions, restrooms and a playground.

15 POWELL'S CAMPGROUND

25716 Powell Drive, Astor

Situated along the banks of the beautiful St. Johns River, and surrounded by the Ocala National Forest, this campground features shaded camp sites and some of the best bass fishing in Lake County. The quaint setting is also teeming with wildlife like river otter, black bear and numerous wading birds along the river bank.

16 TAVARES RECREATION PARK

2030 W. Burleigh Blvd., Tavares

Also known locally as "Buzzard's Beach," this 4-acre park is owned and managed by the City of Tavares. Two large boat ramps provide access to Lake Eustis and a pier offers fishing opportunities.

17 VENETIAN GARDENS

201 E. Dixie Ave., Leesburg

Venetian Gardens will serve as the main grounds for the Fifth Annual Wings & Wildflowers Festival. Various shows, exhibits, presentations and workshops will be held at the park during the Festival. This 65-acre park features a large boat ramp, day use swimming beach, boardwalks, outdoor picnic areas, walking paths and playground. This property is owned and operated by the City of Leesburg.

INFORMATION

WHAT TO BRING

Staff encourages participants of the regularly scheduled nature hikes and bird and butterfly surveys to wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Hikers should also bring binoculars, field guides, cameras, sunscreen, insect repellent, water and snacks. In partnership with the Lake County Water Authority, participants for the guided paddling adventures can bring their own canoes or kayaks, life vests and paddles, or the items will be provided.

PADDLING ADVENTURES

The Lake County Water Authority coordinates most paddling adventures. For more information on these guided tours, contact the Lake County Water Authority at 352-324-6141. All participants will be asked to sign a liability waiver for the paddling trips and those who attend can bring their own canoe or kayak and related equipment. Reservations are required for all paddle trips.

RESERVATIONS

Hikes, Surveys and Classes

Most hikes are limited to the first 20 individuals to place reservations. To make reservations for the guided hikes, classes and bird & butterfly surveys, complete the online reservation form at www.lakecountyfl.gov/parks/event_reservations.aspx. For additional information call the Lake County Parks & Trails Division at 352-253-4950 during normal business hours, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or email parksandtrails@lakecountyfl.gov

Paddling Adventures

Reservations are required for all paddling adventures. For the safety of those participating in guided paddling adventures, most are limited to 15 vessels. To make reservations for the paddling adventures, call the Lake County Water Authority at 352-324-6141, ext. 0, during normal business hours, Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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RATING

PADDLING DIFFICULTY RATING SYSTEM



These paddling adventures offer an easy pace and an average-to-sedentary level of fitness. Paddling may be on local creeks or shorelines. Time is usually two hours or less and distance is typically one mile or less, depending on currents.



An average level of fitness is recommended for these moderate paddles, which may be on a waterway with obstructions or currents. Time is usually three hours or less and distance is typically two to four miles.



These paddling adventures are generally more challenging, depending on an individual's experience and level of fitness. Paddling is more difficult due to the length of the trip and paddling conditions. Time is more than three hours and distance is typically more than four miles.

HIKING DIFFICULTY RATING SYSTEM



These hikes offer an easy pace and are recommended for average-to-sedentary level of fitness. Hikes are usually on a paved trail or boardwalk. Distance is typically one mile or less.



An average level of fitness is recommended as these moderate hikes may be on a trail of uneven terrain with a distance of two miles or less.



These hikes are generally more challenging, depending on an individual's experience and level of fitness. Hikes are more difficult due to hills and distances of greater than two miles.

JANUARY

■ Nature Event
■ Paddling Event

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Friday, January 8

AOPKA-BEAUCLAIR CANAL PADDLING ADVENTURE

Lake Jem Park & Boat Ramp / 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



PADDLE

Experienced or novice paddlers are invited to join park rangers as they paddle through the Apopka-Lake Beauclair Canal during this waterway adventure. There will be a stop off at the LCWA NuRF facility to learn about efforts to reduce the nutrient levels of Lake Apopka.

Saturday, January 9

QUARTERLY BIRD & BUTTERFLY SURVEY

PEAR Park - WCA / 7:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



SURVEY

Volunteers are needed to assist in surveying the park's birds and butterflies. Experience is a plus but not required. Bring binoculars and field guides.

Saturday, January 9

PEAR NATURE CENTER OPEN HOUSE

PEAR Park - WCA / 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails

EDUCATIONAL / FAMILY FRIENDLY

Explore the nature center, which features a collection of rocks, minerals, fossils, sand and shells.

Saturday, January 9

HANDS-ON MINI COURSE ON IDENTIFYING MINERALS

PEAR Park - WCA / 10 a.m. - noon

Lake County Parks & Trails

EDUCATIONAL / FAMILY FRIENDLY

Hands-on mini course on identifying minerals for students 10 years old and up accompanied by a parent.

Saturday, January 16

FERNDALE PRESERVE ECOLOGY HIKE

Ferndale Preserve / 9-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



HIKE

Learn about the restoration efforts on this 192-acre preserve on the western shore of Lake Apopka and the plants and animals of its past and present ecosystems.

Saturday, January 23

QUARTERLY BIRD & BUTTERFLY SURVEY

Ferndale Preserve / 7:30-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



SURVEY

Volunteers are needed to assist in surveying the park's birds and butterflies. Experience is a plus but not required. Bring binoculars and field guides.

Sunday, January 31

ELLIS ACRES RESERVE NATURE HIKE

Ellis Acres Reserve / 9-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



HIKE

Ellis Acres Reserve is home to black bears, sandhill cranes, wild turkeys and white-tailed deer. Enjoy a hike exploring the ecology of the uplands and wetlands.

All events are subject to change due to staffing limitations or weather. For up-to-date information and reservations, call the Lake County Parks & Trails Division at (352) 253-4950.

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FEBRUARY

Nature Event
 Paddling Event

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Sunday, February 7
HISTORY HIKE: WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF FLORIDA'S PIONEERS
 Ferndale Preserve / 9-11 a.m.
Lake County Parks & Trails



HIKE

Walk in the footsteps of Native Americans during a slow-paced, approximately two-mile hike on uneven, hilly terrain.

Friday, February 12
QUARTERLY BIRD & BUTTERFLY SURVEY
 Ellis Acres Reserve / 7:30 a.m. -11 a.m.
Lake County Parks & Trails



SURVEY

Volunteers are needed to assist in surveying the park's birds and butterflies. Experience is a plus but not required. Bring binoculars and field guides.

Saturday, February 13
BEGINNING BIRDER FIELD CLASS
 PEAR Park – Gateway / 8-11 a.m.
Lake County Parks & Trails



HIKE

Opportunity to get hands-on knowledge of the basics of birding, including tips on binoculars, field guides, ethics and more.

Saturday, February 13
PEAR NATURE CENTER OPEN HOUSE
 PEAR Park – WCA / 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lake County Parks & Trails

EDUCATIONAL / FAMILY FRIENDLY

Explore the nature center, which features a collection of rocks, minerals, fossils, sand, and shells.

Saturday, February 13
HANDS-ON MINI COURSE ON IDENTIFYING ROCKS
 PEAR Park – WCA / 10 a.m. - noon
Lake County Parks & Trails

EDUCATIONAL / FAMILY FRIENDLY

A hands-on mini course on identifying rocks is offered for students ages 10 and up, accompanied by an adult.

Wednesday, February 17
BEGINNING BIRDER CLASS I
 PEAR Park – WCA / 9-11:30 a.m.
Lake County Parks & Trails

EDUCATIONAL

Experienced birder Peg Lindsay will teach Birding 101 for anyone curious about how to identify birds in their backyard or elsewhere. The program will cover ethics, binocular basics, and other information for the beginner.

Saturday, February 20
QUARTERLY BIRD & BUTTERFLY SURVEY
 Lake May Reserve / 7:30-11 a.m.
Lake County Parks & Trails



SURVEY

Volunteers are needed to assist in surveying the park's birds and butterflies. Experience is a plus but not required. Bring binoculars and field guides.

Saturday, February 20
BLACKWATER CREEK PADDLING ADVENTURE
 Lake Norris Conservation Area / 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
SJRWMD & LCWA



PADDLE

Considered one of the best paddles in Lake County, staff will guide participants on a tour of the renowned blackwater creek, part of the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River system. Paddlers can expect to see woodstorks, ibis, osprey, robins and warblers along shorelines featuring cypress trees adorned with native orchids and bromeliads.

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- Nature Event
- Paddling Event



MARCH

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Wednesday, February 24
BEGINNING BIRDER CLASS II
 PEAR Park – WCA / 9-11:30 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails

EDUCATIONAL

Part II of birder Peg Lindsay's Beginning Birder Class will discuss bird calls and songs, note taking, and emerging technology in bird watching.

Saturday, February 27
AFTER DARK AT PEAR PARK
 PEAR Park – Gateway / 6-8 p.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



HIKE / FAMILY FRIENDLY

Join staff on an adventure to see wildlife as the sun sets in PEAR Park.

Wednesday, March 2
BEGINNING BIRDER CLASS III
 PEAR Park – WCA / 9-11:30 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



EDUCATIONAL

Part III of birder Peg Lindsay's Beginning Birder Class will discuss the basics of migration, taxonomy and molt cycles.

Saturday, March 5
BEGINNING BIRDER CLASS WRAP UP FIELD TRIP
 PEAR Park – WCA / 8-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



HIKE / EDUCATIONAL

Graduates of Peg Lindsay's Beginning Birder Class will participate in a hike around PEAR Park to practice their new birding skills.

Saturday, March 5
ECOLOGY HIKE AT LAKE MAY RESERVE

Lake May Reserve / 9-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



HIKE

Learn about the systems and processes of Lake May Reserve, the wildlife that live there and what's being done to protect native habitat and convert exotic invasive species encroachment.

Saturday, March 12
QUARTERLY BIRD & BUTTERFLY SURVEY

Pasture Reserve / 7:30-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



SURVEY

Volunteers are needed to assist in surveying the park's birds and butterflies. Experience is a plus but not required. Bring binoculars and field guides.

All events are subject to change due to staffing limitations or weather. For up-to-date information and reservations, call the Lake County Parks & Trails Division at (352) 253-4950.





Saturday, March 12

PEAR NATURE CENTER OPEN HOUSE

PEAR Park – Nature Center / 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails

EDUCATIONAL / FAMILY FRIENDLY

Explore the nature center, which features a collection of rocks, minerals, fossils, sand and shells that can be viewed under a microscope. PEAR volunteer and former science teacher Gene Bouley will help answer questions.

Saturday, March 12

HANDS ON MINI COURSE ON THE FLOW OF ENERGY

PEAR Park – WCA / 10 a.m. - noon

Lake County Parks & Trails

EDUCATIONAL / FAMILY FRIENDLY

A hands-on mini course on the Flow of Energy will be offered for students ages 10 and up, accompanied by a parent.

Sunday, March 13

WHO LAYS EGGS?

PEAR Park – WCA / 9-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



EDUCATIONAL / FAMILY FRIENDLY

Join staff on a learning adventure to discover that more than just birds lay eggs.

Friday, March 18

STAGGER MUD RUN PADDLING ADVENTURE

Powell's Campgrounds / 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Privately Owned Business



PADDLING / \$3 LAUNCH FEE PER VEHICLE

Launching from Powell's Campground in Astor, this guided trip will take paddlers into Lake Dexter and Stagger Mud Lake. The shorelines offer scenic vistas and opportunities for wetland animal species observation. Manatees are known to frequent this peaceful area. Bring a packed lunch.

Saturday, March 19

NATIVE PLANT HIKE

PEAR Park – WCA / 9-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



HIKE

Learn about Florida's native plants, how to cultivate them and the important roles they play in our landscapes.

Sunday, March 20

INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES ID AND REMOVAL

Ferndale Preserve / 9-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



EDUCATIONAL

Pull on your work gloves and learn plant identification while joining Lake County park staff in Florida's battle against invasive plants.

Saturday, March 26

HISTORY HIKE: WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF FLORIDA'S PIONEERS

PEAR Park – Gateway / 9-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



HIKE

This hike delves into the history of Lake County's first residents. Participants will learn what Leesburg was like 100 years ago on this staff-led hike focusing on the history of Lake County and its first residents.

Sunday, March 27

MOUNTAIN BIKE THE PASTURE RESERVE

Pasture Reserve / 9 a.m. - noon

Lake County Parks & Trails



BIKE

Get some exercise while biking 4-5 miles through the Green Swamp on the trails of the Pasture Reserve. Staff will provide information about the wetland system and will be available to answer questions. Participants must bring their own bikes and equipment.

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APRIL

Nature Event
Paddling Event

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Saturday, April 2

BLUE BIRD BLITZ

PEAR Park – WCA / 8:30-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



SURVEY

The Florida Bluebird Society's annual Spring Bluebird Blitz is a fun way to count and monitor Eastern Bluebirds in Florida.

Saturday, April 9

PEAR NATURE CENTER OPEN HOUSE

PEAR Park – WCA / 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails

EDUCATIONAL / FAMILY FRIENDLY

Explore the nature center, which features a collection of rocks, minerals, fossils, sand and shells.

Saturday, April 9

HANDS ON MINI COURSE ON FOSSILS

PEAR Park – WCA / 10 a.m. - noon

Lake County Parks & Trails

EDUCATIONAL / FAMILY FRIENDLY

A hands-on mini course on fossils is offered for students ages 10 and up, accompanied by an adult.

Saturday, April 16

PEAR OPEN HOUSE & NATIVE PLANT SALE

PEAR Park – WCA / 8 a.m. – noon

Lake County Parks & Trails

SPECIAL EVENT

This annual event helps promote the use of native plants in landscaping, with proceeds benefiting the PEAR Park Association, a volunteer group that supports conservation efforts at PEAR Park.

Saturday, April 16

AFTER DARK AT PEAR PARK

PEAR Park – Gateway / 7-9 p.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



HIKE / FAMILY FRIENDLY

Join staff on an adventure to see wildlife as the sun sets at PEAR Park.

Saturday, April 16

QUARTERLY BIRD & BUTTERFLY SURVEY

Ellis Acres Reserve / 7:30-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



SURVEY

Volunteers are needed to assist in surveying the park's birds and butterflies. Experience is a plus but not required. Bring binoculars and field guides.

Saturday, April 23

LAKE AKRON PADDLING ADVENTURE

Ellis Acres Reserve / 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



PADDLE

Join us for a paddle around the mostly forested lakeshore of Lake Akron. A nice mix of native aquatic and wetland vegetation provides plenty of opportunities for viewing wading bird species. Wildlife is abundant at Ellis Acres Reserve and participants are encouraged to bring a packed lunch.

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- Nature Event
- Paddling Event



MAY

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Sunday, April 24
EARTH DAY WORK DAY

Ferndale Preserve / 9-11 a.m.
Lake County Parks & Trails



HIKE

Celebrate Earth Day by providing some helping hands and learning plant identification at Ferndale Preserve.

Friday, April 29
QUARTERLY BIRD & BUTTERFLY SURVEY

Lake May Reserve / 7:30-11 a.m.
Lake County Parks & Trails



SURVEY

Volunteers are needed to assist in surveying the park's birds and butterflies. Experience is a plus but not required. Bring binoculars and field guides.

Saturday, April 30
QUARTERLY BIRD & BUTTERFLY SURVEY

Ferndale Preserve / 7:30-11 a.m.
Lake County Parks & Trails



SURVEY

Volunteers are needed to assist in surveying the park's birds and butterflies. Experience is a plus but not required. Bring binoculars and field guides.

Saturday, May 7
BIRDS NEST FOR KIDS

Ellis Acres Reserve / 9-11 a.m.
Lake County Parks & Trails



EDUCATIONAL / FAMILY FRIENDLY

Where do birds nest and what resources do they need to raise their young? Come find out in this fun and educational activity geared towards children.

Saturday, May 7
QUARTERLY BIRD & BUTTERFLY SURVEY

PEAR Park – WCA / 7:30-11 a.m.
Lake County Parks & Trails



SURVEY

Volunteers are needed to assist in surveying the park's birds and butterflies. Experience is a plus but not required. Bring binoculars and field guides.

Saturday, May 14
LAKE HARRIS RUN BEGINNER PADDLING ADVENTURE

Hickory Point Recreational Park / 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Lake County Water Authority



PADDLE

Canoes, kayaks and safety vests will be available for novice paddlers, as experienced staff will cover paddling basics and safety. Participants will then have an opportunity to practice what they have learned in a well supervised environment.

Saturday, May 14
NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT

Lake May Reserve / 7:30-11 a.m.
Lake County Parks & Trails



SURVEY

Held the second Saturday in May each year, this count provides a snapshot of bird migration across North America.

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- Nature Event
- Paddling Event



JUNE

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Saturday, May 14
PEAR NATURE CENTER OPEN HOUSE
 PEAR Park – WCA / 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Lake County Parks & Trails

EDUCATIONAL / FAMILY FRIENDLY
 Explore the nature center, which features a collection of rocks, minerals, fossils, sand and shells.

Monday, May 14
MINI COURSE ON THE FORMATION OF LANDFORMS BY FORCES IN THE EARTH
 PEAR Park – WCA / 10 a.m. - noon
Lake County Parks & Trails

EDUCATIONAL / FAMILY FRIENDLY
 For students 10 years and older. Must be accompanied by an adult.

Monday, May 21
NEIGHBORHOOD LAKES RESERVE PREVIEW
 Neighborhood Lakes Reserve / 9-11 a.m.
Lake County Parks & Trails

HIKE
 Get a sneak peek at this preserve not yet open to the public and join staff on a hike to survey the species that call it home.



Sunday, May 29
SNAKE SAFETY FOR KIDS
 PEAR Park – WCA / 9-11 a.m.
Lake County Parks & Trails

EDUCATIONAL / FAMILY FRIENDLY
 Snakes are a beneficial part in the balance of any ecosystem. Join park staff in learning to identify which snakes are venomous and what to do when you encounter them.



Saturday, June 4
ELLIS ACRES RESERVE NATURE HIKE
 Ellis Acres Reserve / 9-11 a.m.
Lake County Parks & Trails

HIKE
 Ellis Acres Reserve is home to black bears, sandhill cranes, wild turkeys and white-tailed deer. Come join us for a hike to explore the ecology of the uplands and wetlands.



Saturday, June 11
QUARTERLY BIRD & BUTTERFLY SURVEY
 Pasture Reserve / 7:30 - 11 a.m.
Lake County Parks & Trails

SURVEY
 Volunteers are needed to assist in surveying the park's birds and butterflies. Experience is a plus but not required. Bring binoculars and field guides.



Sunday, June 12
HERP HIKE AT FERNDALE PRESERVE
 Ferndale Preserve / 9-11 a.m.
Lake County Parks & Trails

HIKE
 Herpetology is the study of reptiles and amphibians. Join staff on a hike to look for these elusive creatures and learn the lifestyles.



All events are subject to change due to staffing limitations or weather. For up-to-date information and reservations, call the Lake County Parks & Trails Division at (352) 253-4950.

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JULY

Nature Event
 Paddling Event

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Friday, July 8

MAP AND COMPASS LESSON

Marsh Park & Boat Ramp / 9-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



EDUCATIONAL / FAMILY FRIENDLY

Eagle Scout John Cohoon will give kids a hands-on lesson on how to properly use a map and compass.

Saturday, July 16

QUARTERLY BIRD & BUTTERFLY SURVEY

PEAR Park – WCA / 7:30-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



SURVEY

Volunteers are needed to assist in surveying the park's birds and butterflies. Experience is a plus but not required. Bring binoculars and field guides.

Sunday, July 17

ANIMAL TRACKS AND SIGNS

Lake May Reserve / 9-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



HIKE / FAMILY FRIENDLY

Join staff on an adventure to discover evidence of the animal life that utilizes the park as their home range.

Saturday, July 23

QUARTERLY BIRD & BUTTERFLY SURVEY

Ferndale Preserve / 7:30-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



SURVEY

Volunteers are needed to assist in surveying the park's birds and butterflies. Experience is a plus but not required. Bring binoculars and field guides.

Saturday, July 30

QUARTERLY BIRD & BUTTERFLY SURVEY

Pasture Reserve / 7:30-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



SURVEY

Volunteers are needed to assist in surveying the park's birds and butterflies. Experience is a plus but not required. Bring binoculars and field guides.

All events are subject to change due to staffing limitations or weather. For up-to-date information and reservations, call the Lake County Parks & Trails Division at (352) 253-4950.



AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

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 Nature Event
 Paddling Event

Saturday, August 6

WILDFLOWER AND BUTTERFLY HIKE

PEAR Park – WCA / 9-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



HIKE

Join staff at PEAR Park as the butterflies and wildflowers are reaching their high points for the year. Learn some tips for how to attract them to your yard as well.

Sunday, September 11

RIVER TRAIL WORK DAY

PEAR Park – WCA / 9-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



EDUCATIONAL

Join staff in the maintenance and restoration of the native plant species along the PEAR Park river trail. Bring gloves, water and wear comfortable clothing.

Saturday, August 13

QUARTERLY BIRD & BUTTERFLY SURVEY

Lake May Reserve / 7:30-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



SURVEY

Volunteers are needed to assist in surveying the park's birds and butterflies. Experience is a plus but not required. Bring binoculars and field guides.

Saturday, September 17

NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT

PEAR Park – WCA / 7:30-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



SURVEY

Held the third Saturday in September every year to provide a snapshot of fall migration across North America.

Saturday, August 27

QUARTERLY BIRD & BUTTERFLY SURVEY

Ellis Acres Reserve / 7:30-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



SURVEY

Volunteers are needed to assist in surveying the park's birds and butterflies. Experience is a plus but not required. Bring binoculars and field guides.

Saturday, September 24

QUARTERLY BIRD & BUTTERFLY SURVEY

Ellis Acres Reserve / 7:30-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



SURVEY

Volunteers are needed to assist in surveying the park's birds and butterflies. Experience is a plus but not required. Bring binoculars and field guides.

Sunday, September 25

MOUNTAIN BIKE THE PASTURE RESERVE

Pasture Reserve / 9 a.m. - noon

Lake County Parks & Trails



BIKE

Get some exercise while biking 4-5 miles through the Green Swamp on the trails of the Pasture Reserve. Staff will provide information about the wetland systems and will be available to answer questions. Participants must bring their own bikes and equipment.

All events are subject to change due to staffing limitations or weather. For up-to-date information and reservations, call the Lake County Parks & Trails Division at (352) 253-4950.

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OCTOBER

■ Nature Event
■ Paddling Event

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Saturday, October 8

QUARTERLY BIRD & BUTTERFLY SURVEY

Ferndale Preserve / 7:30-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



SURVEY

Volunteers are needed to assist in surveying the park's birds and butterflies. Experience is a plus but not required. Bring binoculars and field guides.

Saturday, October 8

NOCTURNAL MIGRATION

Green Mountain Scenic Overlook & Trailhead / 6-9 p.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



EDUCATIONAL

A short hike to explore the property before sunset, and then weather permitting, participants will hear and see migratory birds flying past the full moon.

Sunday, October 9

KNOT TYING FOR KIDS

Lake May Reserve / 9-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



EDUCATIONAL / FAMILY FRIENDLY

Eagle Scout John Cohoon will teach kids to tie more than their shoes at this fun and informative class.

Friday through Saturday, October 14-16

LAKE COUNTY'S WINGS AND WILDFLOWERS FESTIVAL

Venetian Gardens / T.B.D.

Hosted by the Lake County Economic Development & Tourism Division in partnership with the City of Leesburg



EDUCATIONAL / HIKE / PADDLE / FAMILY FRIENDLY

Lake County's 5th Annual Wings & Wildflowers Festival showcases the beauty and significance of birds and wildflowers in the area through education and adventure. For more info, www.wingsandwildflowers.com.

Friday, October 21

DORA CANAL PADDLING ADVENTURE

Tavares Recreation Park / 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

City of Tavares



PADDLE

Known as "the most beautiful mile of water in the world," lined with towering cypress trees that are draped with Spanish moss, the Dora Canal is a safe haven for nesting ospreys, herons and egret. Staff will lead the group through the canal into Lake Dora to enjoy the views and wildlife.

Saturday, October 22

QUARTERLY BIRD & BUTTERFLY SURVEY

PEAR Park - WCA / 7:30-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



SURVEY

Volunteers are needed to assist in surveying the park's birds and butterflies. Experience is a plus but not required. Bring binoculars and field guides.

Saturday, October 29

PINE MEADOWS CONSERVATION AREA BIRD & WILDLIFE HIKE

Pine Meadows Conservation Area / 8-11 a.m.

Lake County Parks & Trails



HIKE

Opportunity to experience the birds and other wildlife of this newly acquired county conservation area.

All events are subject to change due to staffing limitations or weather. For up-to-date information and reservations, call the Lake County Parks & Trails Division at (352) 253-4950.

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NOVEMBER

■ Nature Event
■ Paddling Event

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Saturday, November 5
NEIGHBORHOOD LAKES RESERVE PREVIEW

Neighborhood Lakes Reserve / 9-11 a.m.
Lake County Parks & Trails



HIKE

Get a sneak peek at this reserve not yet open to the public as staff take participants on a guided hike to survey the species that call it home.

Saturday, November 12
QUARTERLY BIRD & BUTTERFLY SURVEY

Pasture Reserve / 7:30-11 a.m.
Lake County Parks & Trails



SURVEY

Volunteers are needed to assist in surveying the park's birds and butterflies. Experience is a plus but not required. Bring binoculars and field guides.

Saturday, November 12
PEAR NATURE CENTER OPEN HOUSE

PEAR Park – WCA / 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lake County Parks & Trails

EDUCATIONAL / FAMILY FRIENDLY

Explore the nature center, which features a collection of rocks, minerals, fossils, sand, and shells that can be viewed under a microscope. PEAR volunteer and former science teacher Gene Bouley will help answer questions.

Sunday, November 13
HISTORY HIKE: WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF FLORIDA'S PIONEERS

Ferndale Preserve / 9-11 a.m.
Lake County Parks & Trails



HIKE

Walk in the footsteps of Native Americans during a slow-paced, approximately two-mile hike on uneven, hilly terrain.

Friday, November 18
PALATLAKAHA RUN NIGHT PADDLING & CAMPFIRE ADVENTURE

Crooked River Preserve / 6-9 p.m.
Lake County Water Authority



PADDLE

Participants will launch from the Water Authority's Crooked River Preserve to explore this outstanding Florida waterway. Navigating by headlamp, rangers will lead paddlers downstream to Lake Susan to view nighttime critters. Staff will also be hosting a campfire with s'mores after the paddle. Paddlers are encouraged to bring a headlamp and camp chair.



All events are subject to change due to staffing limitations or weather. For up-to-date information and reservations, call the Lake County Parks & Trails Division at (352) 253-4950.

DECEMBER

■ Nature Event
■ Paddling Event

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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Saturday, December 3
QUARTERLY BIRD & BUTTERFLY SURVEY
 Lake May Reserve / 7:30-11 a.m.
 Lake County Parks & Trails



SURVEY
 Volunteers are needed to assist in surveying the park's birds and butterflies. Experience is a plus but not required. Bring binoculars and field guides.

Sunday, December 4
WILDLIFE HIKE AT ELLIS ACRES RESERVE
 Ellis Acres Reserve / 9-11 a.m.
 Lake County Parks & Trails



HIKE
 Hike and explore Ellis Acres Reserve ecosystems and learn about the species which call it home.

Saturday, December 10
PEAR NATURE CENTER OPEN HOUSE
 PEAR Park – WCA / 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Lake County Parks & Trails

EDUCATIONAL / FAMILY FRIENDLY
 Explore the nature center, which features a collection of rocks, minerals, fossils, sand, and shells that can be viewed under a microscope. PEAR volunteer and former science teacher Gene Bouley will help answer questions.

Saturday, December 10
WINTER SPARROW ID CLASS
 PEAR Park – WCA / 8-11 a.m.
 Lake County Parks & Trails



EDUCATIONAL
 Expert local birder Gallus Quigley will cover the basics of identifying those "LBJs" (Little Brown Jobs)



WINGS & WILDFLOWERS FESTIVAL

Lake County will host the 5th Annual Wings & Wildflowers Festival Oct. 14-16, 2016. The festival showcases the beauty and significance of Lake County's birds and wildflowers through education and adventure. For the latest news and information about the festival, visit www.wingsandwildflowers.com.



LOOKING TO EXPLORE

the great outdoors?

The Lake County Parks Finder is a great source for those seeking outdoor recreation at any local park. The tool provides a list of parks in the area, and amenities available at each of the facilities. To get started finding your next outdoor adventure, visit <http://gis.lakecountyfl.gov/ParkFinder>.

Marsh Park And Boat Ramp ×

Address: 36545 Yale Retreat Road
Days Open: Sun-Sat
Hours of Operation: Daylight
Parking Spaces Available: 20

DISCOVER LAKE COUNTY'S

Blueways

Enjoy a series of recreational waterway trails, scenically located along the lakes, rivers and canals of Lake County for canoeists and kayakers.

Learn more about the area's eight blueways and download maps at www.paddlelake.com

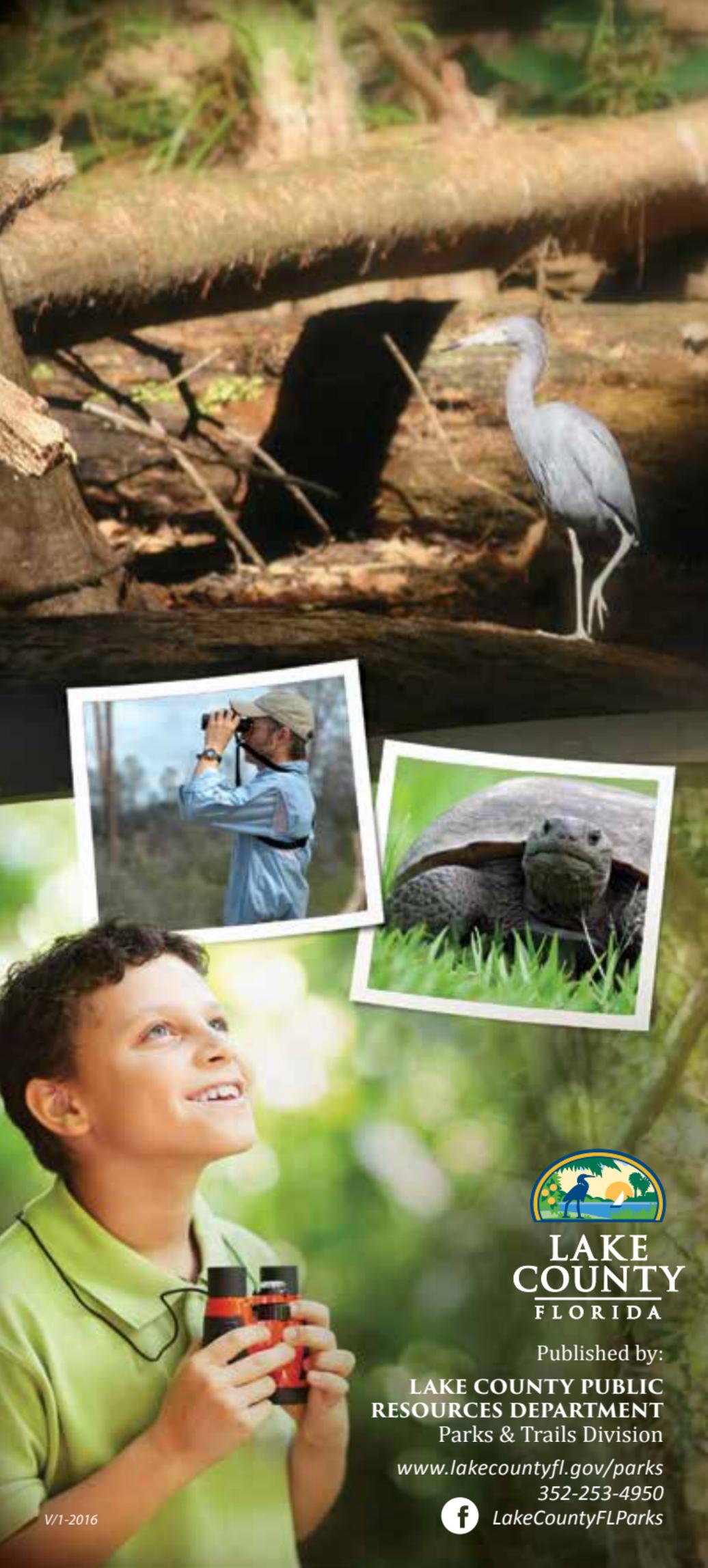
EXPLORING THE

South Lake Trail

Lake County's most popular multi-use trail

Visitors to the South Lake Trail can enjoy beautiful hilltop vistas, lovely lake scenery, varied elevations, perfect picnic spots and charming parks.

Download a trail map at
www.lakecountyfl.gov/SLT



**LAKE
COUNTY**
FLORIDA

Published by:

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Parks & Trails Division

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