



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

# NEWS RELEASE

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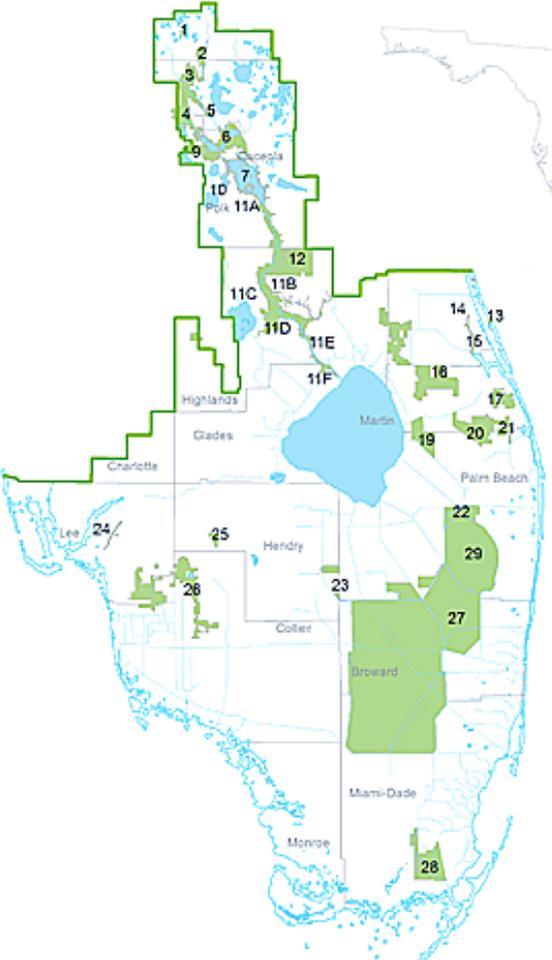
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## Take a Hike on SFWMD Public Lands

*Hundreds of miles of trails are open for Florida Hiking Trails Month this February*

	<p><b><u>Hiking/Recreational Opportunities</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 Tibet Butler Preserve</li><li>2 Shingle Creek</li><li>3 Reedy Creek</li><li>4 Baltic Road</li><li>5 Lake Russell</li><li>6 Johnson Island</li><li>7 Rabbit Island</li><li>9 Catfish Creek</li><li>10 SUMICA</li><li>11A KICCO</li><li>11B Oak Creek</li><li>11C Boney Marsh, Bluff Hammock Units and Hickory Hammock Wildlife Management Area</li><li>11D MICCO Landing</li><li>11E Seaboard Marsh, Telex Marsh and Yates Marsh</li><li>11F Paradise Run and S-65E Impoundment</li><li>12 Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park</li><li>13 Queen's Island and Blind Creek</li><li>14 Ten Mile Creek Recreation Area</li><li>15 Miller/Wild Property</li><li>16 Allapattah Flats</li><li>17 Halpatiokee Regional Park</li><li>19 DuPuis Management Area</li><li>20 Hungryland Wildlife and Environmental Area</li><li>21 Loxahatchee River</li><li>22 Stormwater Treatment Areas</li><li>23 Stormwater Treatment Areas</li><li>24 Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve</li><li>25 Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area</li><li>26 Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed</li><li>27 Water Conservation Areas 2 &amp; 3</li><li>28 Southern Glades/Frog Pond Areas</li><li>29 Water Conservation Area 1</li></ol>
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*(Click on the map for a link to the SFWMD online recreation guide to plan a trip.)*

**West Palm Beach, FL** – With more than 800 miles of dedicated hiking trails on public lands managed by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), Florida

Hiking Trails Month this February is the perfect opportunity to see the beauty of the environment right here at home in South Florida.

“District lands are a part of Florida’s extensive trail system, offering outstanding natural views and free access for residents and visitors alike,” said SFWMD Executive Director Melissa Meeker. “Integrating recreation with our restoration and water management missions provides significant value to 7.7 million residents from Orlando to the Florida Keys.”

Several trailheads have been added in recent years to public lands managed by the District. Highlights include:

- A new trailhead at the Istokpoga Boat Ramp Park provides access to the Hickory Hammock Wildlife Management Area northwest of Lake Okeechobee. The Hickory Hammock campground provides access to the Florida National Scenic Trail.
- With access enhancements to the Bird Rookery Swamp, bird watchers and outdoor enthusiasts alike have a new gateway into the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) management area in Southwest Florida.
- A trailhead at the Taylor Creek Stormwater Treatment Area provides access to a trail in the area with excellent bird watching and wildlife viewing.
- The recently expanded Nine Gems (Pal Mar) trailhead in Martin County will feature a hike on Saturday, February 18, hosted by the Tropical Trekkers chapter of the Florida Trail Association. For more information, visit [www.trekkers.floridatrail.org](http://www.trekkers.floridatrail.org).

February 2012 has been proclaimed by Governor Rick Scott as [Florida Hiking Trails Month](#), with support from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), to emphasize fun and fitness along the state’s scenic and diverse trails. Florida has a vast network of trails that includes more than 2,500 miles of dedicated hiking trails and several thousand more miles of multi-use, recreational trails. Hiking opportunities range from urban trails in the midst of cityscapes to wilderness trails that run through Florida’s award-winning state parks.

In South Florida, the District provides a variety of recreational opportunities on public lands while continuing to manage the lands for environmental restoration, water supply, water quality and flood control missions. At present, the District has opened 621,000 acres of land to the public. Many of these properties are in their natural state or have enhancements such as picnic tables, informational kiosks, campsites and hiking trails.

For more information:

- [SFWMD Recreation Guide](#)
- [Florida State Parks](#)
- [Florida Trail Association](#)

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**About the South Florida Water Management District**

*The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state’s five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.*