

# TIPS FOR ENJOYING THE CONSERVATION AREA

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

- Pine Meadows Conservation Area is open daily from 6:30 a.m. to dusk.
- Do not remove or disturb any natural resources from the habitat as natural and cultural resources on-site are protected.
- While public lands are an ideal place to view wildlife, refrain from approaching or feeding animals.
- Be aware that trails located on the property might have uneven or unstable terrain. Always remain on designated trails.
- Dispose of any litter in the proper receptacles.
- Swimming and hunting are prohibited.
- Dogs on a 6-foot leash or shorter are permitted on the designated Blue Blazed trail only.
- Visitors are encouraged to wear appropriate footwear, clothing and accessories, and bring insect repellent, sunscreen and water.



Blue Dasher

Photos provided by Rebecca Smith  
and the Office of Parks & Trails staff.

## PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

On Nov. 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 3,400 acres have been acquired through the Public Lands Management Program, which was established in September 2005. Five of the properties, Ellis Acres Reserve, Pasture Reserve, Lake May Reserve, Green Mountain Scenic Overlook & Trailhead, and Pine Meadows Conservation Area 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.

To view other educational pamphlets, please visit [www.lakecountyfl.gov/parks](http://www.lakecountyfl.gov/parks).



**LAKE COUNTY**  
FLORIDA  
OFFICE OF  
PARKS & TRAILS

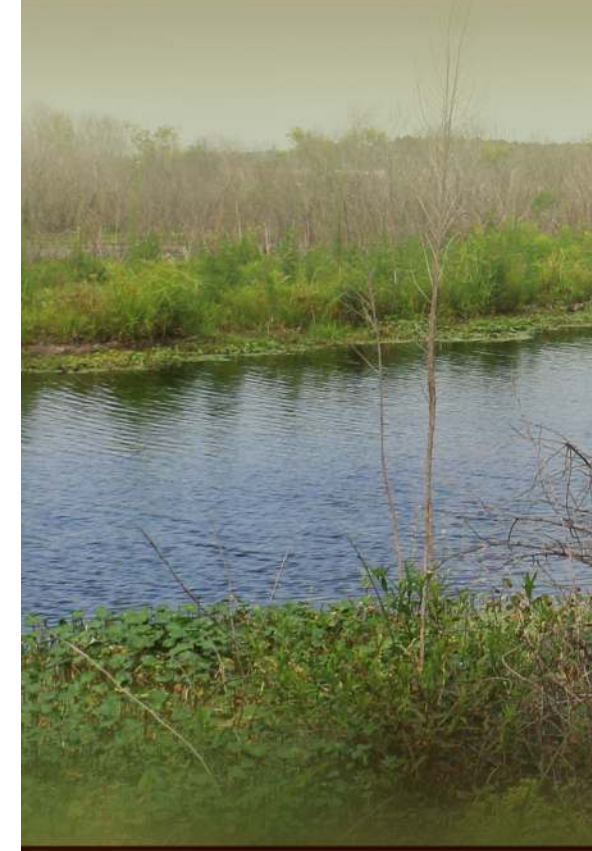
2401 Woodlea Road  
Tavares, FL 32778  
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V/1-06/18

L A K E  
C O U N T Y

## PINE MEADOWS CONSERVATION AREA

## TRAIL MAP



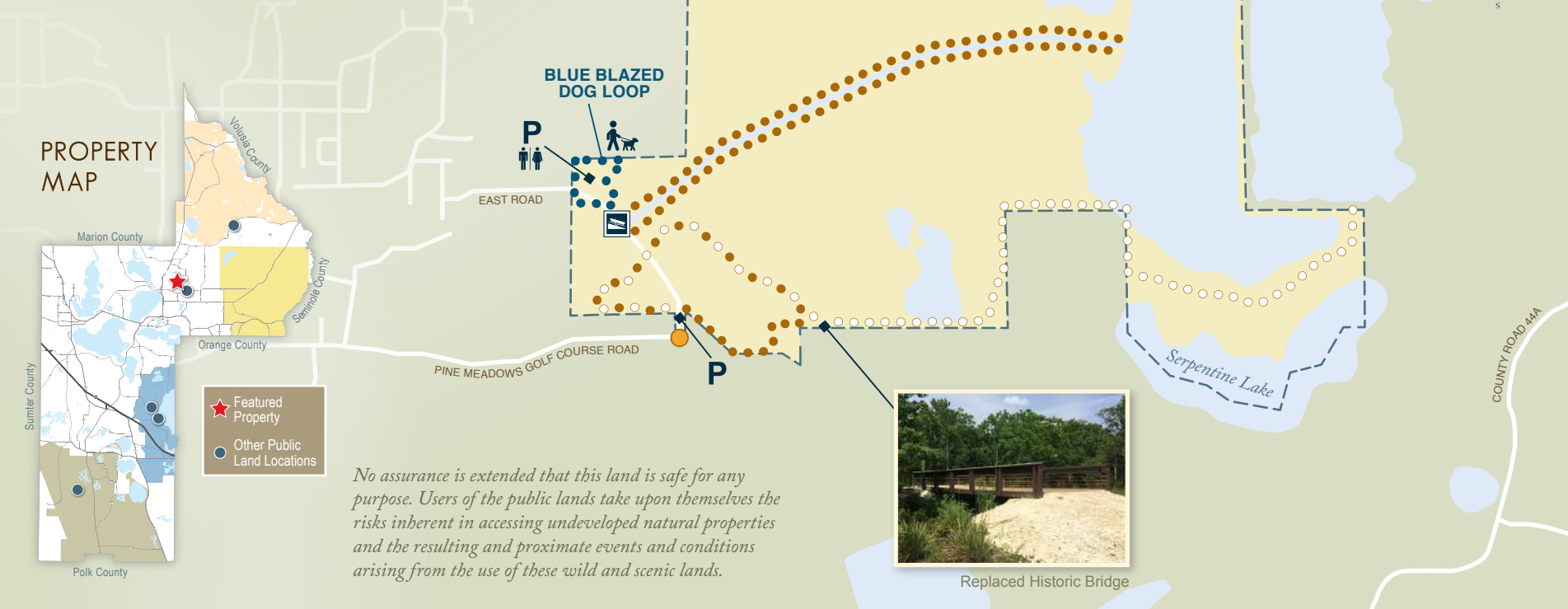
2280 PINE MEADOWS GOLF COURSE ROAD  
EUSTIS, FL

Pine Meadows Conservation Area is a 770-acre public land which features more than six miles of passive recreational trails. Lake County has provided native landscaping, restrooms, picnic tables, a canoe and kayak launch area, gravel boat ramp and a dog-friendly loop trail.

The improved site offers residents and visitors with quality fishing, non-motorized boating and wildlife-viewing while providing sustainability of natural resources. The property is a popular destination for birders due to the nearly 120 species viewed there, including the Henslow's sparrow, blue-winged warbler, bald eagle and swallow-tailed kite. Pine Meadows consists of open water, wetlands, wet meadow, and a small upland area of Pine Flatwoods. Habitat restoration continues to improve the wetlands, uplands and meadows to increase biodiversity of fish, birds and other animals.

Pine Meadows is also the center point for the Trout Lake Nature Center-Pine Meadows Conservation Area-Lake May Reserve Loop Trail. Hiking and biking opportunities are available, with several miles of trails allowing for a variety of passive activities.

Lake County acquired the property in 2014 from the St. Johns River Water Management District. Together, SJRWMD and Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission contributed funds towards removing and replacing water control structures, enhancing fish and wildlife habitat and creating new recreational opportunities.



# FEATURED WILDLIFE

## Wood Duck *(Aix sponsa)*

### QUICK FACTS :

Wood Ducks have a unique shape among ducks—a boxy, crested head, a thin neck, and a long, broad tail. In flight, they hold their head up high, sometimes bobbing it. Overall, their silhouette shows a skinny neck, long body, thick tail, and short wings.

### SIZE :

18.5–21.3 in.  
Wingspan 26.0–28.7 in.

### WEIGHT :

16.0–30.4 oz.

### DIET :

Berries, nuts, seeds, insects and invertebrates.

