

Welcome to Palm Beach County's largest natural area! Pine flatwoods cover over 50% of the Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area. The flatwoods have an open canopy of slash pines and a dense groundcover of saw palmettos. Wet prairies are also found in the natural area. This type of habitat typically has few trees and lots of standing water. Wet prairies contain a wide variety of grasses and herbs.

The Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area is one of those rare pieces of property in Palm Beach County that has not been heavily altered by people. The Box F Ranch was established in the northwestern part of the Slough in 1950 for cattle grazing. It was sold to the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in 1967. The Foundation leased the ranch and adjacent lands in 1971 to the Luckey family. They operated the Luckey Buck Ranch until the County purchased 10,391 acres of the Slough from the MacArthur Foundation in October 1996. The County acquired an additional 624 acres of the Slough during the period from 2000 to 2005. The South Florida Water Management District transferred ownership of the adjacent 1,485-acre Sandhill Crane tract to the County in 2007 and leased an additional 257 acres to the County in 2008.



The Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area is home to hundreds of plant and animal species. One of the more unusual-looking inhabitants is the Florida softshell turtle. Like its name implies, this turtle lacks a hard protective shell. Females can reach up to 16 inches in length, while males are usually half that size.



This natural area is located in the Northeast Everglades Natural Area (NENA). NENA stretches from Southern Boulevard in Palm Beach County northward to Bridge Road in Martin County and from Lake Okeechobee to the Atlantic Ocean. NENA contains approximately 165,000 acres of conservation lands providing residents and visitors a wide range of nature-based outdoor recreational opportunities. For more information, visit www.pbcgov.com/erm/nena.



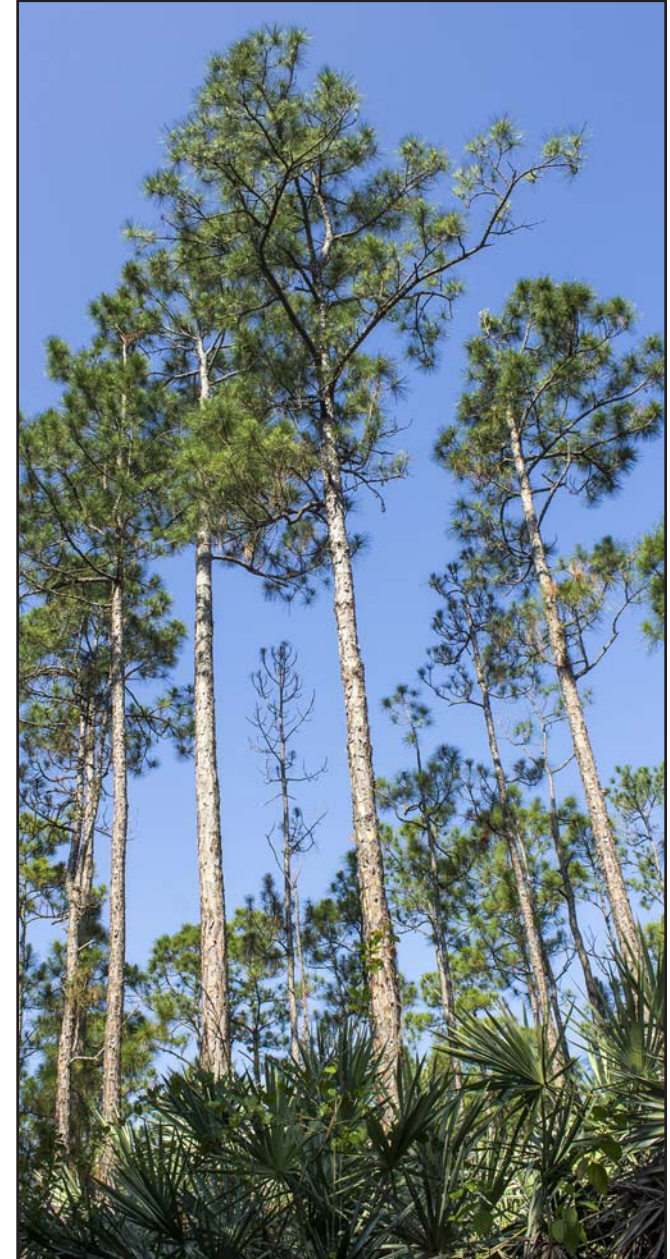
Connect with the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management and download our natural areas mobile map.



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Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area Trail Guide



Riding Trail Rules

1. Equestrian use of this natural area is authorized by a general permit. All riders must comply with these rules. Permit information is available online at www.pbcgov.com/erm/downloads/equestrian.htm.
2. Stay on the designated riding trails. Lands adjacent to the trails are environmentally sensitive and can be easily damaged.
3. Equestrians have the right of way if hikers, bicycles, or maintenance vehicles are present.
4. Do not tie or hitch horses to trees or shrubs, or allow horses to graze on or otherwise damage vegetation.
5. Horses must be under control at all times. No galloping, running, or racing. Ride at your own risk. For your protection, a riding helmet is recommended.
6. All horses must walk when approaching or passing others. If riding abreast, one horse must yield to a passing horse. Horses known to kick must wear red ribbons in their tails.
7. Carry proof of a negative Coggins test and present it upon request.

This is a "no trash" area. All items taken in must be taken out.

If you see unauthorized vehicles or activities on the site, please contact the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office at 561-688-3000.

The natural area is open from sunrise to sunset, seven days a week, including holidays.

Refer to County Ordinance 94-13, as amended, for additional information.

Prohibited on the Site:

- Fires ☒ Smoking ☒ Hunting ☒ Littering
- Feeding Wildlife ☒ Alcoholic Beverages
- Pets or Domestic Animals
- (Horses allowed on designated equestrian trails)
- Bicycles or Other Vehicles
- (Bicycles allowed on multiuse trails)
- Collecting Plants or Animals ☒ Weapons
- ☒ Fireworks ☒ Use of Audio Devices
- Discharging of Firearms, per F.S. 790.15



Loxahatchee Slough Trail Map

	Ranch Trail	2.2 miles				Pântano Trail (multiuse)			
	Western Trail	1.1 miles				Ocean to Lake Hiking Trail		Information	
	Central Trail	1 mile				Natural Area Boundary	Shade Shelter		

