

Seminole County Leisure Services Mission Statement

We enhance the quality of life for citizens and visitors by providing excellent parks, recreation, greenways, natural lands and preservation of heritage for present and future generations.



Recreational Activities

In addition to their important environmental benefits, wilderness areas also provide wonderful opportunities for outdoor recreation. Visitors can experience this natural side of Seminole County while hiking, biking or horseback riding.

Primitive Camping

Group camping (Up to 40) is available by permit at the Geneva Wilderness Area.

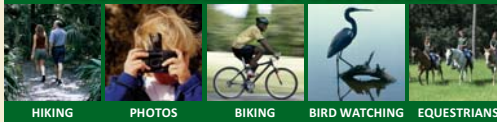
Education

The Natural Lands Program provides many opportunities for environmental education. The Ed Yarborough Nature Center at Geneva Wilderness Area offers Environmental Education classes for schools and community groups. We also offer community-based education programs throughout Seminole County for everyone to enjoy:

- Guided Nature Hikes
- Eco Adventures Classes
- Outdoor Adventure Series Classes
- Native Florida Series Classes
- Go Green Series Classes
- Summer Day Camp
- Open House at the Ed Yarborough Nature Center



RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



HIKING PHOTOS BIKING BIRD WATCHING EQUESTRIANS

Facility Rental & Retreat Services

The Ed Yarborough Nature Center is perfect for groups of 35 or less who are looking for a unique setting for their next meeting or retreat. We offer an air-conditioned space for your next event with a unique twist. AV equipment, table, and chairs are available.



Group Teambuilding

Enrich your next meeting with Group Teambuilding to help build your best team. These team-building activities can support your goals of better communication, appreciating the value in the team, and working together.

Birthday Party in the Nature Center

Celebrate your next birthday with us at the Ed Yarborough Nature Center! This unique experience is sure to be one you won't forget.

Volunteers

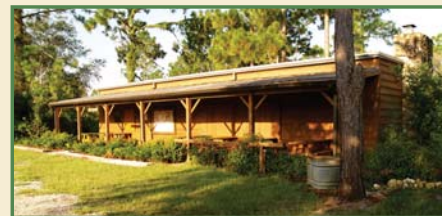
The Natural Lands Program is as much about community as it is about nature. The Natural Lands Program offers a variety of volunteer experiences which include trail clearing, wildlife study, and special event assistance.



Education Programs are held at the Ed Yarborough Nature Center

located at the Geneva Wilderness Area
3485 N. County Rd. 426 Geneva, FL 32732
407-349-0959

Only minutes from Oviedo and Sanford!



For more information on
Seminole County's Wilderness Areas
call (407) 349-0959 or
visit our Web site at
www.seminolecountyfl.gov/natland

A Guide to Seminole County's Wilderness Areas

Black Bear
Black Hammock
Chuluota
Econ River
Geneva
Lake Harney
Lake Jesup
Lake Proctor

Conservation of our
natural treasures

A connection to Nature

Florida's Future **It Starts in Parks**



Experience Seminole County Naturally at our
eight beautiful Wilderness Areas!



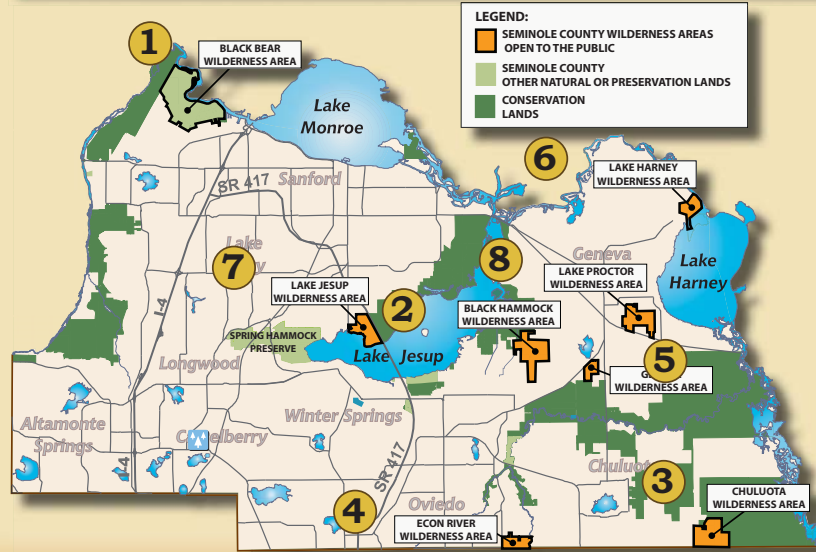
Leisure Services Department
Greenways and Natural Lands

Experience
Seminole County
Naturally



in our
Wilderness
Areas

Seminole County Wilderness Area LOCATION MAP



The **Black Bear Wilderness Area's** approximately 1,600 acres in northwest Seminole County features a variety of wetland habitats within the floodplain of the St. John's River. Wet prairie, Hydric Hammock and Cypress swamps form a mosaic of habitat diversity which host wildlife such as the White-tailed Deer, Swallow-tailed Kite and Florida Black Bear. Its large size and proximity to other public lands, make this site an important piece in a puzzle connecting natural areas between the Wekiva/St. John's basins and the Ocala National Forest. Open for guided hikes only.



The **Black Hammock Wilderness Area** is a 600+ acre wooded site located in east Seminole County, on the southeast side of Lake Jesup. A joint purchase with the St. Johns River Water Management District, this land was acquired as part of a comprehensive effort to preserve significant habitat along the shores of Lake Jesup. A walk on the trails will take you through habitats such as hydric hammock, mixed hardwood swamp, pine flatwoods and sand pine scrub. Wildlife observed on this site includes the barred owl, white-tailed deer, bobcat and eastern coral snake.



The **Chuluota Wilderness Area** is a 625 acre site located to the east of the town of Chuluota in the southeast corner of Seminole County. The Chuluota site has extensive and diverse natural communities such as pond pine flatwoods, sand pine scrub, and bayhead swamp. This site's remote location and variety of habitats make it an excellent destination for bird watching, wildlife study and nature photography. The trail system consists of two main loop trails offering visitors the chance to view an abundance of wildlife. See white-tailed deer, gopher tortoise, Sherman's fox squirrel and the eastern diamondback rattlesnake.



The **Econ River Wilderness Area** is a 240 acre wooded site located on the Seminole/Orange County line, south of the city of Oviedo, on the west side of the Econlockhatchee River. A scenic walking trail of approximately 3 miles leads visitors through habitats such as pine flatwoods, sandhill and river swamp. Wildlife observed on this site includes the great horned owl, white-tailed deer and golden mouse. Benches are provided at a bend in the river so you can rest and enjoy the quiet, serenity of this little piece of natural Florida.



The **Geneva Wilderness Area** is a 180 acre property south of the Geneva community in east Seminole County. This site features a beautiful mosaic of flatwoods, ponds, sand pine scrub and bayhead swamp, all supporting an equally diverse collection of wildlife. A hike through approximately two miles of trails can reward visitors with sightings of gopher tortoise, white-tailed deer, wild turkey and gray fox. Located on the property, the Ed Yarbrough Nature Center features exhibits, displays and special programs that highlight the diverse ecology of Central Florida. This facility hosts both school programs and public classes. The Nature Center is open for Open Houses and by appointment only.



Spring Hammock Preserve is another natural place in the heart of Seminole County. This 1,500 acre site, in the midst of a rapidly growing urban area, is the location for Big Tree Park and Soldier's Creek Park, both managed by Seminole County's Parks and Recreation. The Preserve is accessible by US 17-92, CR 427, General Hutchison Parkway and SR 419. For information contact Natural Lands at (407) 349-0959 or for educational programs at the Environmental Studies Center, call (407) 320-0467.

The **Lake Harney's Wilderness Area** is approximately 300 acres located on the St. Johns River and the northwest shore of Lake Harney. This site is home to a historic crossing of the Flagler Railroad, Native American shell middens, several bald eagle's nests, oak hammocks and mixed hardwood swamps. This site also contains extensive floodplain marshes associated with Lake Harney which serve as important feeding grounds for wading birds and as a natural filter improving water quality.



The **Lake Jesup Wilderness Area** is a 490 acre site located on the north shore of Lake Jesup, west of Highway 417. Purchased in cooperation with the St. Johns River Water Management District for the purpose of preserving significant habitat to aid in the restoration of Lake Jesup. Visitors can walk, ride their horse or mountain bike on approximately 3 miles of trails to view the extensive flood plain of this lake. Countless species of wildlife call this site home including the anhinga, bald eagle, and American alligator.



The **Lake Proctor Wilderness Area** is a 475 acre wooded site located near the town of Geneva in east Seminole County. A hike on approximately six miles of trail through habitats such as sand pine scrub, pine flatwoods, sandhill and bayhead swamp can reward visitors with sightings of wood duck, white-tailed deer, red fox and Florida worm lizard. The yellow trail provides the best opportunity for viewing a variety of wild flower species.

