



An audio tour for this property gives visitors an overview of the District's restoration work on the former farmlands that make up the Lake Apopka North Shore, and the plants and animals that can be found here. The tour includes 11 points of interest along the wildlife drive and are indicated by numbered signs. A smartphone or other mobile device with an internet connection is needed to stream the audio. Standard carrier data rates apply. To join the audio tour at any time during your visit, go to sjrwmd.com/LANS or use this QR code.

AUDIO TOUR

Please respect wildlife and use caution while visiting District lands. Do not approach or feed any wild animals (*Florida Statute 379.412*).

The District continues to work to expand populations of listed and rare plants through management actions that include prescribed fire, planting and seeding, and managing public lands to protect natural habitats.

The Lake Apopka North Shore is widely known for its bird population. The annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) identified 174 species of birds here on the one-day count in 1998, which remains the highest species total for an inland count in the 119-year history of the CBC.

WILDLIFE AND PLANTS

WILDLIFE DRIVE SCHEDULE

The wildlife drive entrance gate is open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and federal holidays. All vehicles must exit the drive by 5 p.m.

ABOUT THIS PROPERTY

Lake Apopka is the headwaters of the Upper Ocklawaha River Basin Chain of Lakes (Harris Chain). At approximately 48.4 square miles in size, Lake Apopka is the fourth largest lake in Florida and receives water from spring flow, rainfall and stormwater runoff.

The Lake Apopka Restoration Act of 1985 and Florida's Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Act in 1987 paved the way for restoration of Apopka's former farmlands.

In 1996, the St. Johns River Water Management District purchased farms along the lake's north shore, which were identified as a major source of phosphorus loading. In 2003, an innovative 760-acre marsh flow-way system began operating, functioning as a natural filter that continuously removes algae, suspended solids (fine dirt and organic particles floating in the water), and excess nutrients from the water.

After nearly 40 years of "diet" to reduce phosphorus entering the lake and "exercise" to remove phosphorus already in the water, the lake is rebounding. Since restoration efforts began, total phosphorus, a major contributor to harmful algal blooms, has declined by 67 percent and water clarity has improved by 66 percent.

Today, the Lake Apopka North Shore helps protect water quality, cultural resources, native flora and fauna and provides water storage and natural resource-based recreation.

waterfowl. (permit required), <https://myfwc.com/hunting/> Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission a quota hunt managed through the Florida hunting are allowed. Waterfowl hunting is only area on the property where fishing and District's website. The West Marsh is the reservation permit is required through the fishing. A daily advance and catch-and-release Trail, for paddling located off Blackhorse Marsh Recreation Area, provides access to the West



- A canoe/kayak launch access the Apopka-Beaulair Canal.
- Motorboat, canoe and kayaking launching is available at the McDonald Canal Boat Ramp to

BOATING AND PADDLING

During the work week when the wildlife drive is closed to vehicles, visitors may still encounter District staff and contractor vehicles and heavy equipment on the property, as the Lake Apopka North Shore is an active restoration area. Please use caution.

The majority of the trails on District-owned and/or -managed lands are located on existing roads or fire lines, maintained primarily for land management activities. However, at the Lake Apopka North Shore, many trails are along levees. Maintenance activities may temporarily cause the surface of these areas to be uneven or to have unstable soils. During the work week when the wildlife drive is closed to vehicles, visitors may still encounter District staff and contractor vehicles and heavy equipment on the property, as the Lake Apopka North Shore is an active restoration area. Please use caution.

ONLINE DONATIONS

Like all District properties, the Lake Apopka North Shore, including the wildlife drive, is free to visit. However, many individuals express interest in contributing directly to the property's upkeep. The District welcomes online donations to support sanitation, recreational maintenance, security, and visitor brochures and maps. If you choose to give, thank you! You may visit the donation page at sjrwmd.com/LANS or by using this QR code.



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

- 24-hour recorded information: (386) 329-4404
- Land Resources: (386) 329-4401 (Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.)
- FWC wildlife violations: (888) 404-3922
- Non-emergency after hours: (407) 620-8215
- Emergency: 911

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the District's work at Lake Apopka North Shore and recreational opportunities, visit the District's website.

Restoration work: sjrwmd.com

Recreation: sjrwmd.com/lands/recreation



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All trails are designated "multiple use" for hiking, bicycling and horseback riding unless otherwise noted. Multiple trails will be marked with a 4-inch diamond, with double diamonds indicating a change in direction.

TRAIL USE

Part of the wildlife drive overlaps with the Lake Apopka Loop Trail. Please watch carefully for hikers, bicycle riders and other users who will be sharing the road.

The Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive and trail system use existing farm roads and levees on the North Shore. The wildlife drive is a one-way 11-mile drive that begins at Just Road in Apopka and ends on Jones Road in Mount Dora, meandering through the eastern portion of the property.

LAKE APOPKA WILDLIFE DRIVE

TRAIL AND WILDLIFE DRIVE GUIDE

Lake Apopka NORTH SHORE



