

Welcome to one of Palm Beach County's natural treasures! 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 MacArthur Foundation leased the ranch and adjacent lands in 1971 to the Luckey family. They operated the Luckey Buck Ranch for cattle grazing until the County purchased 10,389 acres of the Slough from the MacArthur Foundation in October 1996 for \$12.7 million.

The County acquired an additional 624 acres of the Slough during the period from 2000 to 2005. The South Florida Water Management District will transfer ownership of the 1,485-acre Sandhill Crane tract adjacent to the natural area to the County in the near future.



**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 11,013-acre natural area is part of a countywide system of natural areas, protected to maintain the diversity of biological communities and species in Palm Beach County. The natural areas are open to the public for educational use and passive recreational activities such as hiking, nature photography, and bird watching.



Palm Beach County  
Board of County Commissioners

In accordance with the provisions of ADA,  
this brochure may be requested in an alternate format.

Palm Beach County  
Dept. of Environmental Resources Management  
2300 N. Jog Road - Fourth Floor  
West Palm Beach, FL 33411-2743  
Phone: 561-233-2400  
[www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/erm](http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/erm)

## 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.co.palm-beach.fl.us/erm](http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/erm).
2. Stay on the designated riding trails. Lands adjacent to the trails are environmentally sensitive and can be easily damaged.
3. Riders have the right of way if hikers 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 for additional information.

### Prohibited on the Site:

- Fires
- Smoking
- Hunting
- Littering
- Feeding Wildlife
- Alcoholic Beverages
- Pets or Domestic Animals
- Bicycles or Other Vehicles
- Collecting Plants or Animals
- Firearms, Weapons, Fireworks
- Use of Musical Devices - Unless Earphones are Used



## Loxahatchee Slough Trail Map

- Ranch Trail 2.2 miles
- Western Trail 1.1 miles
- Central Trail 1 mile
- C-18 Canal Right-of-Way

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

- Ocean to Lake Trail (HIKING ONLY)
- Natural Area Boundary
- Information Kiosk



## Regional Trail Map (Open to Equestrians)

- Riverbend Park (Palm Beach County) to J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area (State of Florida)
- Riverbend Park (Palm Beach County) to Sandhill Crane Park (City of Palm Beach Gardens)

