




**Lake Rogers Park**

-  Parking
-  Canoe Launch
-  Hiking Trails

## Lake Rogers County Park

### General Description

Size: 272 acres. This site is owned by the City of St. Petersburg, and is operated as a park by Hillsborough County through a lease agreement. It has qualified for purchase under the County's ELAP Program, but acquisition efforts have not been successful to date. The site contains two freshwater lakes: Lake Rogers, the larger, and Lake Raleigh. Until recently, both were suffering from low water levels, but are now being maintained at historic levels with groundwater augmentation. The site's uplands consist of heavily wooded forests of pine flatwoods and oak hammock.

### Location and Access

To reach the park, turn west from Gunn Highway onto North Mobley Road, and enter a small parking lot on the south side of the road.

### Environmental Significance

This site was acquired by the City of St. Petersburg and developed as a wellfield years ago. As a result, the upland habitat was protected from development, but the lakes and wetlands suffered from impacts to the water table, and surface water levels dropped far below historic levels. Fortunately, water managers have recently taken measures to address these impacts, with reductions in wellfield pumping and by actually pumping water into the lakes to maintain normal water levels, when necessary. As a result, this site now provides a combination of forested upland, shoreline wetland, and open water habitat that is extremely rare in a region where freshwater lakes are common but have been heavily impacted by shoreline development. Wildlife utilization and overall species diversity are expected to increase as time goes on.

### Recreational Opportunities

The site includes picnic shelters, picnic tables, and a group campsite (call (813) 264-3917 for information and to make a reservation). A wide, hardpacked dirt trail circles the larger lake for 2-1/2 miles, providing a scenic, meandering trek through shady forest with frequent views of the lake. Interpretive signs along the trail provide information about local plants and wildlife. A canoe launch facilitates non-motorized boating and fishing. A park brochure is available (see contact information below).

### Volunteer Opportunities

Although this site is a public park, it does not enjoy permanent protection as a conservation area. Public awareness and advocacy are needed to help ensure that the City of St. Petersburg does not convey ownership to the private sector. On site opportunities include general park maintenance, exotic removal, documenting native plants and recording wildlife observations.

### Contact Information

Lake Rogers Park, 9010 North Mobley Road, Odessa, FL 33556, (813) 264-3917.  
Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department, 1101 E. Rivercove Drive, Tampa, FL 33604. (813) 975-2160.