



Mobbly Bayou Wilderness Preserve

General Description

Size: 383 acres. This preserve is owned and operated as a partnership between the City of Oldsmar and Pinellas County. The city owns and manages the recreational resources, some of which were still under development at the time of this writing. Pinellas County owns and manages most of the environmentally sensitive areas of the preserve, which comprise the vast majority of the site. The preserve is located at the north end of Upper Tampa Bay, just west of the Hillsborough County line.

Location and Access

The main entrance of the preserve is located at 423 Lafayette Blvd. in southeast Oldsmar. Following a dirt road past the ball fields leads to a small picnic area on a lake with a shelter and playground. Continuing west on Lafayette Blvd. approximately 1/4 mile, then turning south on National Orange Avenue will lead to a dirt boat ramp, providing access to the water for small boats. The preserve can also be reached by following the shallow and unmarked channel of Mobbly Bayou upstream from the bay.

Environmental Significance

The preserve consists of natural coastal wetlands and uplands, including mangrove swamp, salt barrens, salt marsh, pine flatwoods, oak hammock, mesic hardwood hammock and freshwater marsh. Both uplands and wetlands have been impacted to a degree by past activities including mosquito ditching, excavation of borrow pit lakes, fire suppression and invasion by exotic plants. In spite of these impacts, the preserve still contains natural habitat that is very rare in this area. The management plan for the preserve includes restoration plans that are intended to improve the habitat through wetland creation, mosquito ditch repair, reintroduction of fire, and removal of exotic plant species.

Recreational Opportunities

Recreational facilities are under development by the City of Oldsmar and include a small picnic area with restrooms, a shelter, playground, hiking trails, canoe launch, fishing areas and possibly a nature center. The park is open during construction. While fishing is possible from the shoreline in both fresh and brackish water lakes, small boats provide access to a much larger area of open water and tidal creeks.

Volunteer Opportunities

The City of Oldsmar will have opportunities available once the nature center is open to the public. Pinellas County has a very active volunteer program through its Environmental Lands Division. Volunteers can undergo training to assist with research, land management, trail development and much more.

Contact Information

City of Oldsmar, Parks Division, 300 Commerce Blvd., Oldsmar, FL 34677. (813) 749-1263.
 Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management, Environmental Lands Division, Field Research Assistants: (727) 453-6930.
 Land Management Assistants: (727) 453-6924.
 Trail Blazers: (727) 453-6922.
 General Volunteer Information: (727) 453-6900.