

## Apopka Trails

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### Lake Apopka North Shore Loop or Gators for breakfast, 17.5 miles (28 km)

#### Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive

While in the area and tired from biking you could do a visit to the beautiful wildlife drive on the north shore, it is 5 miles from Apopka station. For cars it is a 11 mile one way track through wetlands. You'll see lots of birds and alligators.



Entrance is at 2850 Lust Road, Apopka, no fee. Open Friday to Sunday for cars.

There is also a gravel bike trail partly intersecting and sharing with the drive. This is the ultimate trail with plenty of wildlife viewing and there is no guarantee that no alligator is blocking your path. See map p. 81.

#### Magnolia Park

2929 S. Binion Rd, N28 38.004 W81 32.992, has a pond, camping, restrooms, playground, picnic areas, parking. But for the loop don't park there but on the other side of the road. There is a trailhead just at Lake Apopka with playground and restrooms, where the loop begins, N28 38.134 W81 33.030.

The trail has markers every half mile. The only place to get restrooms and water is at the old Pump House, so bring water. The area is open and sunny, bring a hat and sunscreen. Recommended is a start early in the morning, because you have better light for photos. And if you do this for the first time plan double of your usual time, because there is just too much to see and take pictures.

<b>Start:</b> Magnolia Trailhead	N28 38.134 W81 33.030
Pump House	N28 40.075 W81 35.630
<b>End:</b> Green Mountain Trailhead	N28 38.815 W81 42.586

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**M 0 Magnolia Trailhead.** The first part of the loop is paved and follows the road, but soon turns left into the wetland. There gravel path on an elevated dam. And immediately you will see all the wildlife, birds, even otters, and lots of alligators. The osprey watches out for a little fish to catch, anhingas dry their wings. **M 2** at N28 38.892 W81 34.504

**Mi 4 The Old Pump House** with restroom and water, N28 40.075 W81 35.630. From here share the trail with cars until just after the 5 mile marker.



**Mi 6.5** At this marker the trail separates from the shoreline, N28 40.699 W81 37.751. The loop is white blazed and very well marked to Green Mountain.

**Mi 7.1** the loop turns left, N28 41.049 W81 38.047. **Mi 8** is the last marker I noticed, N28 40.957 W81 38.628. **Mi 8.7** Picnic shelter N28 41.164 W81 39.067

**Mi 13.7 Flow Way Tower Clay Island**, N28 40.467 W81 41.526.

**Mi 14.5** N28 40.446 W81 42.358. The loop turns left, on the right is **Clay Island Trailhead**. At **Mi 15** picnic shelter, N28 40.001 W81 42.351. Old pavement now on the trail, it looks like an old runway. After the runway we turn right, through shady hammock. The loop winds slowly to the Green Mountain, underground a little rough.

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**Mi 17** Gate to Green Mountain overlook, N28 38.901 W81 42.629. In serpentine it now goes up to the overlook.

**Mi 17.5** Green Mountain Overlook and Trailhead, N28 38.815 W81 42.586. Parking, restroom with water and maintenance, picnic shelter.



My best friend



Flow Way Tower



Green Mountain Overlook