

Crew's Lake Park



ABOUT

Crews Lake Wilderness Park is located in central Pasco and covers 113 acres. The park is on the west side of Crews Lake, and has a 3 mile hiking loop. The lake itself varies considerably in depth, and has even been known to dry up completely. Most of the time, however, the lake has considerable areas of lily pads that provide a welcome habitat for Common and Purple Gallinule, and American Coots, along with a large complement of waders. The boardwalk makes an excellent place to watch birds and enjoy your camera.

BIRDS

Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Wood Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Purple Gallinule, Swallow-tailed Kite, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Towhee, Black-and-white Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Parula

eBird hotspot link:
<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L228436>

DIRECTIONS

From I75 go west on Hwy 52 for 13 miles to Shady Hills Road. Go right 3 miles to park.

FACILITIES

Parking, restrooms, small boat launch, boardwalk, butterfly garden, and trails

<https://www.pascocountyfl.net/305/Crews-Lake-Wilderness-Park>

Pasco Audubon's Hotspot Highlights

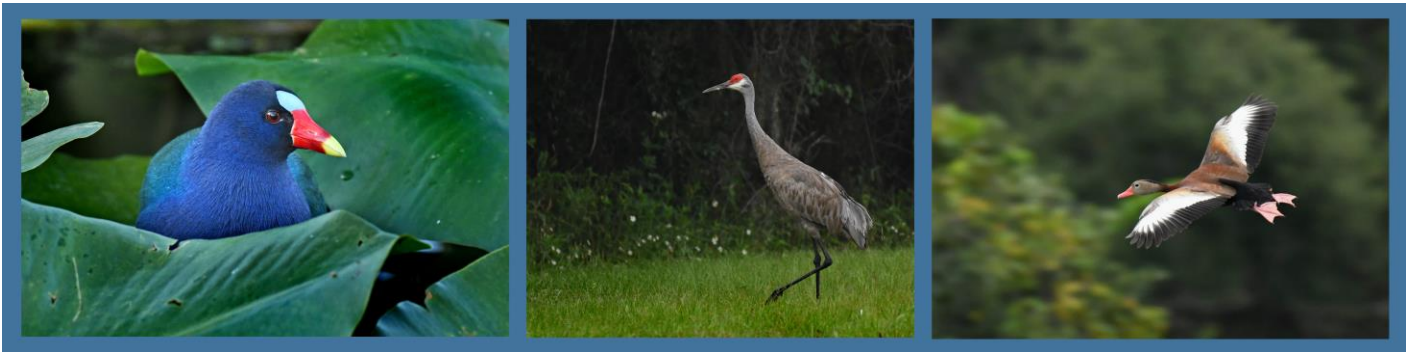


TIPS:

Walk the edge of the lake from the boat ramp along past the boardwalk. Canoe the lake to bird the southern and northern edges of the lake. When the lake level is low, check vegetation for sparrows and wrens. Hummingbirds can be found on blooming orange Trumpet Vines and Northern Parula and White-eyed Vireo are easily found around the oaks surrounding the picnic pavilions in the summer. When lake levels are normal, winter ducks are abundant. An updated birding checklist is available through the Crews Lake Wilderness Park hotspot on eBird (see the link on page one).

The boardwalk provides good access to the lake, and a scope will be helpful for reaching the distant shores and for viewing the roost located in the southwest of the lake.

A previously available viewing tower was removed, but as of writing a new one is anticipated to be completed by Pasco County in 2022.



A short drive from Crews Lake are the ponds at the intersection of Hays and Hudson roads, and then about a half mile down Hays Road, there is another pond/wet field area. These spots can be useful for spotting assorted ducks, waterfowl and sandpipers. Parking is by the side of Hudson for the intersection ponds and in a field entrance spot for the Hays Road spot. The Hays Road spot requires a spotting scope for the farther pond. Both areas are privately owned and no trespassing, but can be viewed well from roadside viewing spots.

Jumping Gully Preserve connects with Crews Lake on its westerly side, but there is no access between them at this point in time, although we hear it is planned for the near future. Jumping Gully is currently restricted access, but will be a significant and important birding location when it is opened to the public.