

In and Around Naples

# Big Cypress Bend

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**Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park**  
**Largest State Park in Florida (175 parks).**

**Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk is one feature of the Park.**

- Currently, the Boardwalk is 2.3-mile round trip walk from parking at US-41.
- An additional 1.6 mile Boardwalk is planned.
- Eventually will be a 2.7 mile loop.

**Map on next slide...**

## Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk

When the planned boardwalk is completed, will be a 2.7-mile loop. Part of the yellow is planned as a canopy walk.



## Big Cypress Bend – More Info

**Website:**

<https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/fakahatchee-strand-preserve-state-park>

**Where:** US-41, Copeland, FL.

**Get There:** US-41 East 17 miles from Collier Blvd. 7 miles West of SR-29.

**When:** 8am to sunset.

**Admission:** \$3.

## Big Cypress Bend Bridge from Parking to Visitor Center



## Big Cypress Bend Start of Boardwalk from Parking Often wading birds and gators in water



## Big Cypress Bend



## Florida Spotted Gar (Fish)



**Sunning Under the Boardwalk**



**Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk**



**Big Cypress Bend Savanna**



**After first Boardwalk is a gravel path around part of Green Heron Lake.**



**CAUTION**



Alligators are present along the trails and waterways of this park. They usually eat fish, turtles and other small animals but may attack larger animals such as deer. Alligators have been known to attack humans.

**FOR YOUR SAFETY**

Alligators are dangerous. Do not approach, frighten or feed by state law 372.667FS.

**Green Heron Lake  
Big Cypress Bend**



**Snowy Egret at Green Heron Lake**



**After lake, gravel path continues alongside Miccosukee village. Canal on right.**





Canal alongside gravel path leading to "new old Boardwalk"



Mama and 2 baby gators

I got much too close taking this photo. Didn't see babies.



New boardwalk opened November 2025  
Replaces part destroyed by Ian, which was closed for 3 years.



Five Baby Alligators  
2 or 3 months



New (2025) boardwalk from Miccosukee village to alligator pond.



Pond at end of new (2025) boardwalk.  
Lots of wildlife: Alligators, birds, etc.

Tricolored Heron  
Blue Heron  
Two Gators



Big Cypress Bend Pond



Big Cypress Bend Pond



**Barred Owl Looking Down on the Pond**



**Two Barred Owls**



**Great Blue Heron**



**Banded Water Snake**



**(Ignore the misspelling of capital.)**



**Old (abandoned) Eagle's Nest**



**Great White Egret**

