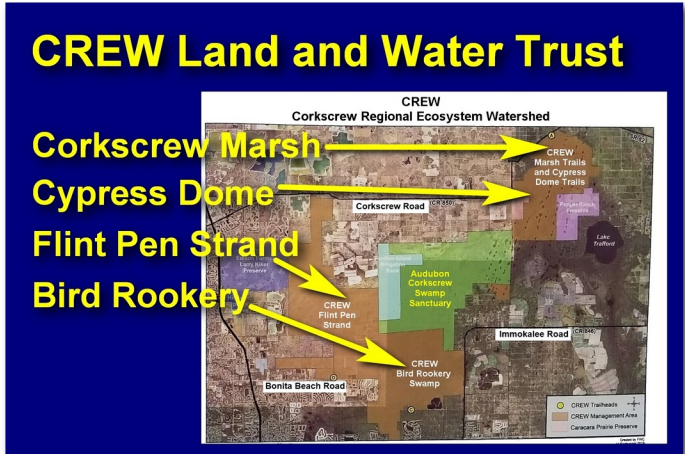


Crew Bird Rookery Swamp Trail
 (CREW = Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed)
Website: <https://crewtrust.org/bird-rookery-swamp-trail/>
Where: 1295 Shady Hollow Blvd W, Naples 34120.
Get There: Immokalee Road then left (shortly past County Fair Grounds) on Shady Hollow Blvd. On the right shortly after Shady Hollow becomes gravel.

When: One hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.
Admission: Free. Don't walk dogs even on leashes.
What: 12 miles of hiking and biking on nature trails, including a 1,500-foot boardwalk with wheelchair access. The trails are actually old logging tram roads.
 Alligators likely, otters, deer, more. Lots of birds, including songbirds, raptors, barred owls, and kites.



CREW Bird Rookery Swamp Trails

P to A 1.25 mi
Entire loop P and back 12 m

Segment	Distance (miles)
A to B	1.25
B to C	1.25
C to D	2.04
D to E	2.04
E to P	1.25

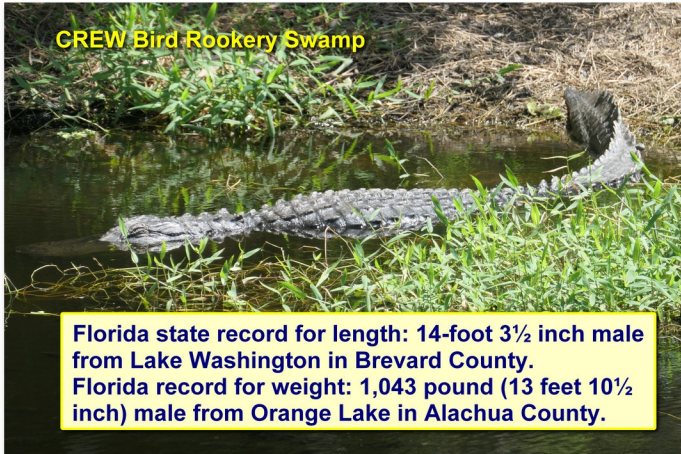




CREW Bird Rookery Swamp Pond Next to Parking



Sometimes, one or more large gators on far side of the pond



CREW Bird Rookery Swamp

**Florida state record for length: 14-foot 3½ inch male from Lake Washington in Brevard County.
Florida record for weight: 1,043 pound (13 feet 10½ inch) male from Orange Lake in Alachua County.**



They don't get much bigger than this!



Before you start walking on the trail, read...

Sharing the Trail with Alligators
American Alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*)

If you come across this great species, enjoy the moment. Not everyone gets to see alligators in the wild. The alligator is a large carnivorous reptile related to crocodiles. Florida, including this swamp and its tributial system, consider yourself lucky if you get an alligator here at Bird Rookery Swamp and please remember to keep a safe distance and never try to interact with or feed one.

Keep You and the Alligators Safe

- Do not feed or provoke alligators or other wildlife.
- Alligators are a natural part of our environment and can be dangerous.
- A Alligator is a dead gator. If fed, alligators can lose their natural fear of humans. Over time, alligators may become habituated, tamed and domesticated.
- Children and pregnant women may have extra difficulties.
- Respect their space as you would like yours to be respected.

Did you know?

- Alligators are a natural part of our environment and can be dangerous.
- A Alligator is a dead gator. If fed, alligators can lose their natural fear of humans. Over time, alligators may become habituated, tamed and domesticated.
- Children and pregnant women may have extra difficulties.
- Respect their space as you would like yours to be respected.

CAUTION
The walking of dogs and pets is not recommended along the trail due to the presence of

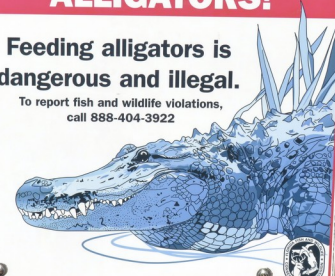


... and obey.

DON'T FEED ALLIGATORS!

Feeding alligators is dangerous and illegal.

To report fish and wildlife violations, call 888-404-3922



CREW Bird Rookery Swamp Trail From Parking to Boardwalk
Sometimes small gators and turtles in the marsh on the left



Hard to see in the marsh



Florida Red-bellied Turtle
aka Florida Red-bellied Cooter.
Shell up to 15"
Weight up to 9 lbs.



CREW Bird Rookery Swamp Trail
Boardwalk



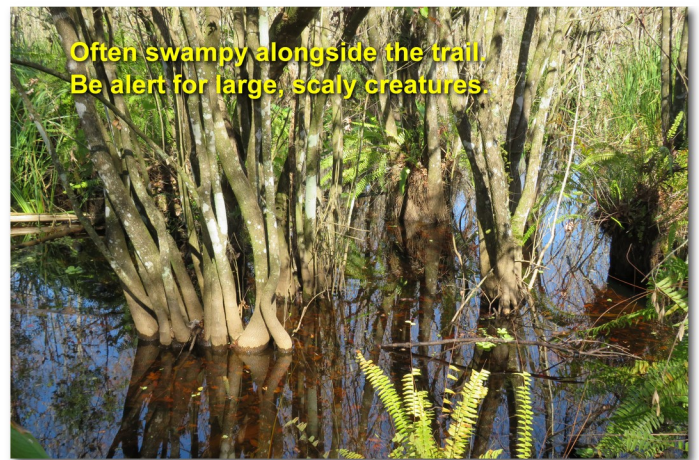
CREW Bird Rookery Swamp Trail Boardwalk



After boardwalk ends, the rest of
the trail is an old logging tram road.



Depending on the season, the path
may be dirt, or grass, or wet.



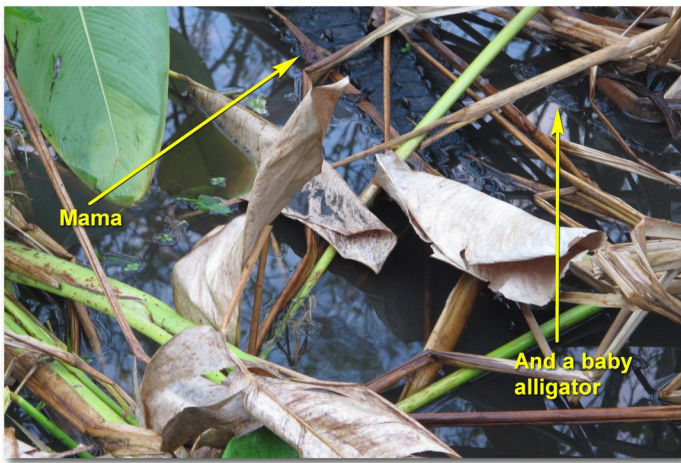
Often swampy alongside the trail
Be alert for large, scaly creatures.



It's called Bird Rookery SWAMP
for good reason



In a pond right next to the trail

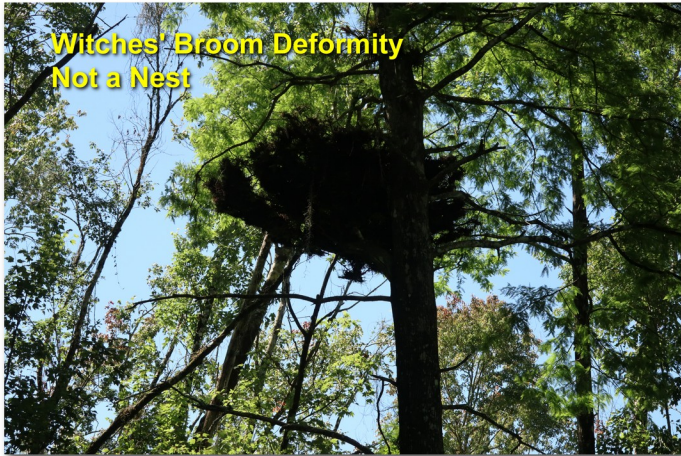


Witches' Broom Deformity

Witches' Broom

If you look into the Cypress Trees, about half way up, you will notice what looks like a nest. Although it looks like a nest, it's actually a tree mutation called Witches' Broom.

There are a variety of ways this can happen and one of the most common is by a bacterium called phytoplasma. This kind of bacteria is carried from plant to plant by sap-sucking insects. When a plant gets infected by the phytoplasma, the hormones that control the growth are interrupted. This causes the uncontrolled growth of the branches to produce a deformed mass of twigs that appear similar to a witch's broom. The plant will not get bigger in the area affected, creating the odd nest-like growth.





Bald Cypress Trees

- Coniferous (cones).
- Leaves are needle-like. → 
- Deciduous: Leaves turn brown and fall each autumn.
- Called "bald" because (unusually for conifers) the leaves fall, leaving tree bald.
- Flood and swamp tolerant.
- Huge: Up to 150 feet tall. Trunk diameter up to 10 feet (occasionally much bigger).
- Typically live 600 years, sometimes 1,000.

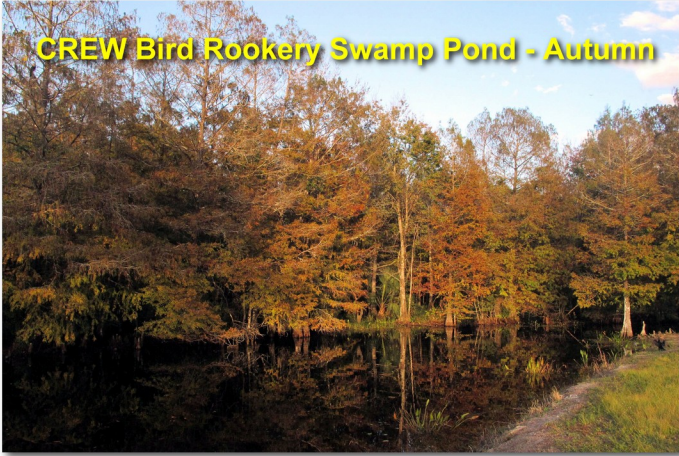
CREW Bird Rookery Swamp Pond - Spring



CREW Bird Rookery Swamp Pond - Late Summer



CREW Bird Rookery Swamp Pond - Autumn



**Crew Bird Rookery Swamp
Heron Caught a Fish**

