

In and Around Naples
A Series of Presentations
 for the Collier County Library
 by Paul Pacter

CREW Cypress Dome Hiking Trails

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www.paulvisits.com

Crew Cypress Dome Hiking Trails
 (CREW = Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed)

Website: crewtrust.org/cypress-dome-trails/

Where: 3980 CR 850 (Corkscrew Road), Immokalee, FL 34142.

Get There: I-75 Exit 123 Corkscrew Rd. East on Corkscrew 14 miles.

When: One hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.

Admission: Free. Donation box.

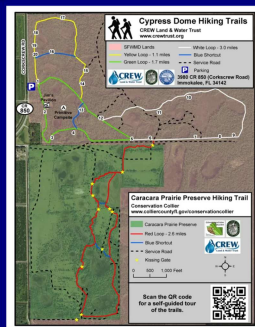
What: 5.8 miles of well-marked, flat hiking trails. Three loops:

Green: 1.1 miles.

Blue: 1.7 miles.

White: 3.0 miles.

Connects to Caracara Preserve Hiking Trail (Red, 2.6 miles), which is owned by Conservation Collier.



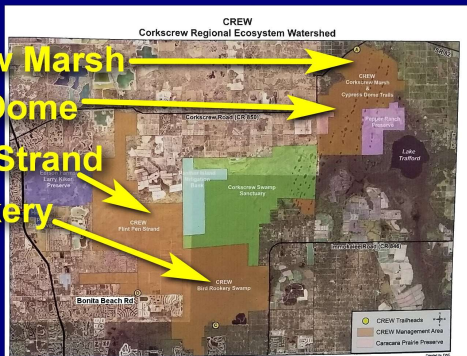
CREW Cypress Dome Hiking Trails - Immokalee

CREW Cypress Dome Corkscrew Road 14 Miles East of I-75 Exit 123

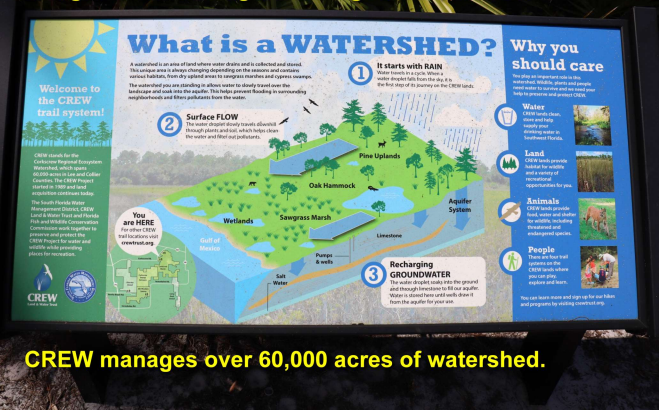


CREW Land and Water Trust

Corkscrew Marsh
Cypress Dome
Flint Pen Strand
Bird Rookery



Managed water storage, flow regulation, filtration



At Cypress Dome, the Hiking Trails Are Generally Wide and Well Maintained
A Few Benches Along the Way



The Hiking Trails Are Well Marked
Either On Poles or On Trees





The Hiking Trails Are Well Marked
Either On Poles or On Trees



Saw Palmettos - Cypress Dome



CREW Cypress Dome Hiking Trails

Green

Blue



Might Be a Bit Wet



Even More Than a Bit Wet
Proper Shoes + Bug Spray



Trails Are Obvious
Even If You Don't See a Marker



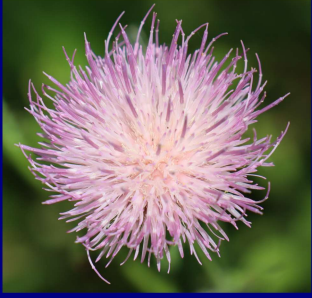
There Are Usually a Few Other Walkers
But Not Many



Slash Pine Tree
aka Southern Florida Pine

A "slash" a swamp
overgrown with trees.
Unusually high strength
(esp. for a pine).
Exceeds many hardwoods.
Uses:
- Timber for ship-building.
- Turpentine.
- Resin.

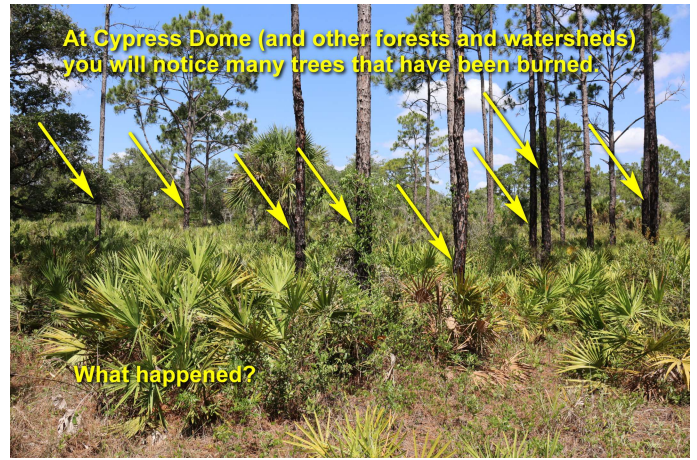
Two Common Wildflowers at Cypress Dome



Thistle



Morning Glory



At Cypress Dome (and other forests and watersheds) you will notice many trees that have been burned

What happened?

Controlled Burns at Cypress Dome. Why?



Controlled Burns Maintain Forest Health.

- Thin out undergrowth and flammable dead leaves and limbs to prevent a destructive wildfire.
- Reduce insect population.
- Destroy invasive plants.
- Return nutrients to the soil - much faster than decomposition.
- Let in sunlight for natural growth.

End of the Green Loop Back at Parking Area



Reminder #1 You are in Bear Country

Bears usually avoid people, but you should make noise to ensure your presence is known.

If you encounter a bear at close range

- Back away slowly.
- Raise your arms and speak in a calm voice.

If the bear approaches you

- Hold your ground, wave your arms and speak loudly.
- Do NOT play dead or climb a tree or run.

If the bear does not move away

- Be ready to use bear spray if approached within 20-30 ft.
- Spray low and be aware of wind direction.

If a black bear makes contact with you, fight back aggressively.

For more information about bear safety and bear spray, visit MyFWC.com/BearInfo.

Reminder #2

In the presence of panthers

CREW Wildlife and Environmental Area is special because it is one of the very few places where rare Florida panthers still live. This area was purchased in part to protect this panther habitat.

Panthers live here because these pine forests and hardwood hammocks provide the shelter and food deer and hogs, mostly they need to live and raise their kittens.

Unless you are very lucky, you will probably never see a panther in the wild. Panthers usually rest during the day hidden in thickets of palmetto. At dusk they begin to travel and hunt.

But, if you are very observant, you may be able to spot tracks and scrapes left behind by one of Florida's last panthers.

⚠️ Panthers are large, powerful cats. For safety's sake, when visiting, hike with a friend. If you should see a panther:

- Do not run
- Give the animal space to escape
- Look large; raise your arms and speak loudly
- Pick up small children
- In the unlikely event you are attacked, fight back!