

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

Turner River Road

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Turner River Road

Website: None.

Where: Ochopee, Florida.

Get There: US-41 Tamiami Trail 30 miles east of Collier Blvd (6 miles past SR-29). Turn north on Turner River Road (CR-839).

Turner River Rd then runs 21 miles due North under and just past I-75. Then you turn around and drive back to US-41.

Admission: Free.

What: 21-mile rural wildlife drive. But you only need to do a mile or two. Road is mostly sand and crushed rock. Runs alongside a canal. Canal and its banks often have alligators, birds, other wildlife. Also kayaking or canoeing. Some hiking.

No not feed gators. Be very cautious getting out of your car.

At US-41 intersection is a small boardwalk and picnic area.

Map of Big Cypress National Preserve



You can choose to park next to the boardwalk and view wildlife from there.

Or, you can venture out on Turner River Road. The road is dirt and gravel and goes over 20 miles due north, with the river (canal) on the right as you drive north.

Where the State has posed "do not feed alligators" signs are usually good viewing places. Be careful if you leave your car!

Let's start with some boardwalk photos.

US-41 (Tamiami Trail) Intersection with Turner River Road

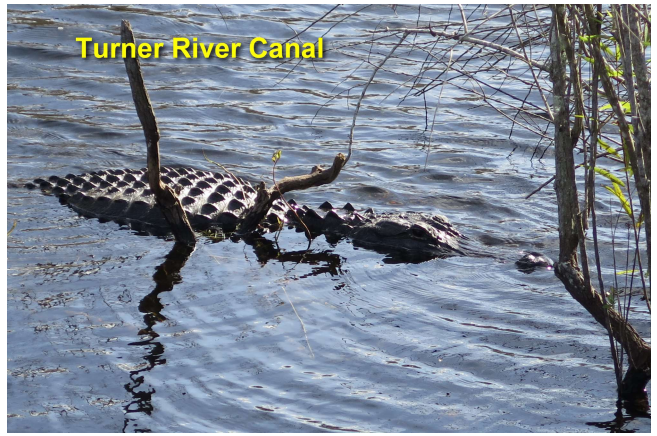


Small boardwalk overlooking beginning of the canal along Turner River Road





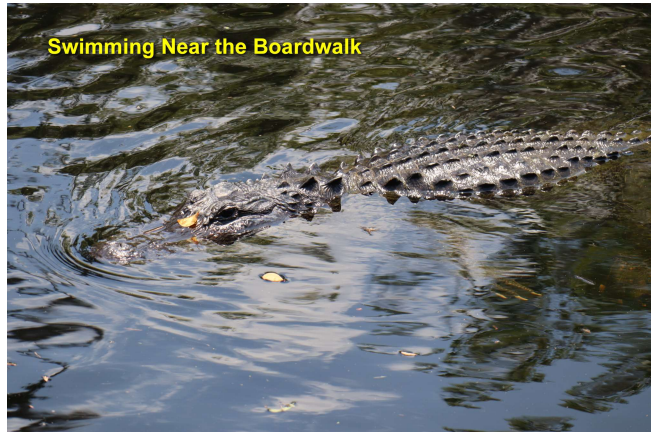
Turner River Canal



Turner River Canal



**Turner River
Near Boardwalk
and Picnic Area**



Swimming Near the Boardwalk



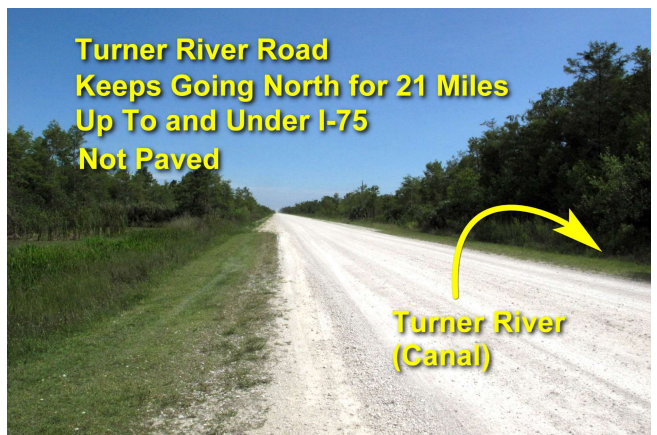
**Behind the bathrooms
next to the boardwalk**



**Lots of Spanish Moss Along the River
(At the Boardwalk)**



**Cypresses Have Shed Their Needles
(View from the Boardwalk)**



**Turner River Road
Keeps Going North for 21 Miles
Up To and Under I-75
Not Paved**

**Turner River
(Canal)**

- Found only in southeastern USA.
- Estimated 5 million total.
- Of that, 1.25 million in Florida.
- No longer endangered.
- Live in fresh water.
- Eat fish, turtles, snakes, birds, small mammals.
- Female lays 30-50 hard-shell eggs.
- Hatch 65 days.
- Young are prey to mammals.
- Adult alligators have no predators except man.



If you do decide to drive up Turner River Road to see wildlife, some tips:

- It's a dirt and gravel road. Dusty.
- River & wildlife on the right driving north.
- 2 or 3 miles is usually all you need.
- Be very careful if you get out of your car.
- Best to take photos from the car window.
- Good photo ops where you see these signs
- Obey the sign!



Often plenty of these to see



Often more than one

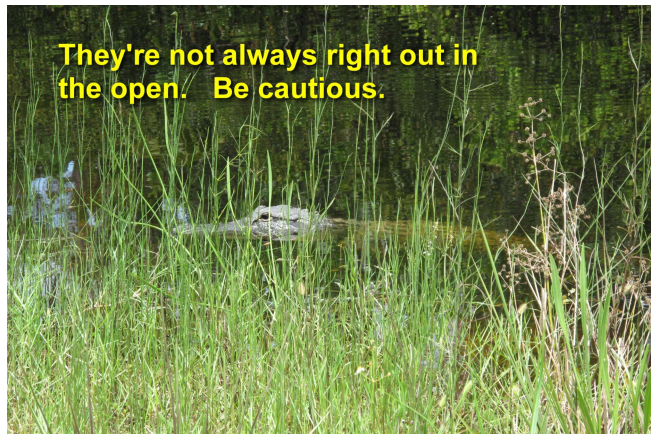
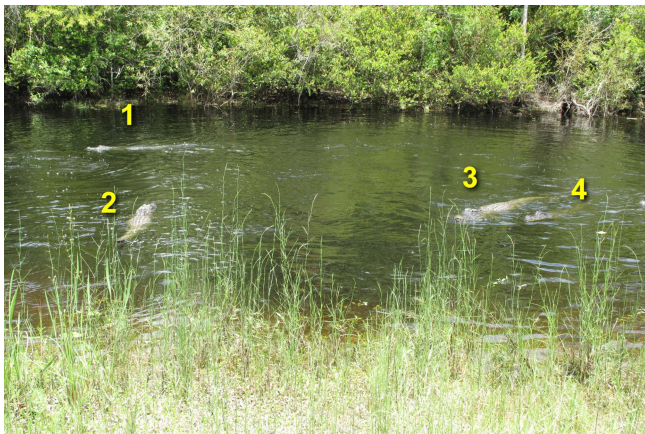
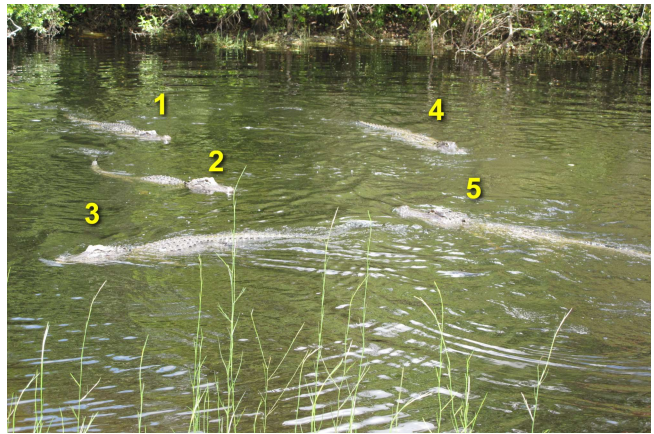


Turner River Road



Wallowing in the mud





Some gators seem to be smiling



Heron Swimming in Turner River



Side road off
Turner River Road



Smallest Post Office in USA
Ochopee, FL 34141
Mon-Sat

