

In and Around Naples

Big Cypress Bend

Copyright © Paul Pacter

www.PaulVisits.com

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 East 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.



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

Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk ● is only a very small part of Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park → (entire park 5 mi x 20 mi).

- Janes Scenic Drive is a good gravel road.
- All the dotted red lines are hiking and wading trails.