

The West Orange Trail

In 1989, Parks and Recreation learned about the national rails-to-trails programs. Staff met with the Department of Natural Resources and Lake County. As a result of this positive meeting, the West Orange railway corridor was given priority. In March 1990, the vision of the West Orange Trail project was presented to and approved by Orange County Mayor Linda Chapin and the Board of County Commissioners. That summer, the municipalities of Apopka, Oakland, Ocoee and Winter Garden also passed resolutions of support.

In 1992 Orange County completed its acquisition from CSX Railroad, and in December 1993, Chapin proposed “West Orange Trail” as the project’s official title, confirming the name already used by local residents and businesses. In September 1994, a grand opening in Oakland kicked off Phase 1, which began at the Lake-Orange County line and ended at Park Avenue in Winter Garden, creating the first of Orange County’s trails.

In 1995 Governor Lawton Chiles recognized the West Orange Trail as an “official Florida Greenway in conjunction with the 150 Greenways Recognition Program and Florida’s sesquicentennial.” In 1997, shortly after the Bloom & Grow Garden Society was organized and started its “Path of Life Garden” project at Chapin Station on the trail.

Phase 2 of the trail, stretching from Winter Garden Station to Apopka and including a connection to Clarcona Horse Park, opened in August 1998. The bridge over U.S. 441 in Apopka was also added.

Trailheads (stations) were usually named after the towns in which they are located; in addition to Winter Garden Station, a second station in Winter Garden became Chapin Station, after the county mayor who championed the trail. The grand opening of Chapin Station took place in May 1999; it functions as the main park office for the West Orange Trail. Phase 3 added the Apopka Station in 2001 with the grand opening in November 2001.

In October 2022, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) began widening the Florida Turnpike from four to six lanes, requiring the demolition of the longstanding West Orange Trail Bridge. The new bridge was completed in 2023. At the completion of Phase 4, the trail will extend to Kelly Park and east of the Orange-Seminole County line to total 28-30 miles.

Today, this popular multipurpose recreational trail is 22.32 miles long, extending from the Lake-Orange County line to Apopka at Welch Road and including the spur into Clarcona Horse Park and a 10-mile equestrian segment.



1. Bicyclists, skaters, and skateboarders must be in control and yield to horseback riders, walkers and runners.
2. When meeting horseback riders, slow down and move along the side of the trail.
3. When passing horses from behind, speak in a normal voice and announce your presence.
4. Horseback riders must be in control at all times.
5. Horseback riders must yield before crossing a paved trail.
6. Stay on open trails and respect private property. Leave no trace and never scare animals.

Equestrian Trail Guidelines

ORANGE COUNTY FLORIDA **West Orange Trail**
Main Office, Chapin Station
501 Crown Point Cross Road
Winter Garden, FL 34787

Trails are open from sunrise to sunset.

West Orange Trail Web Page



Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive



Trailhead Addresses

- Killarney Station**
17914 SR 438 (Old SR 50)
Winter Garden, FL 34787
- Winter Garden Station**
455 E. Plant St.
Winter Garden, FL 34787
- Chapin Station**
501 Crown Point Cross Rd.
Winter Garden, FL 34787
- Apopka Station**
111 S. Forest Ave.
Apopka, FL 32703

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We embrace the power of diversity. Orange County Parks and Recreation does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of age, race, gender, national origin or disability. ANY SPECIAL NEEDS PLEASE CALL.

OCPR-MAP14 2/26



WEST ORANGE TRAIL & APOPKA LOOP TRAIL



Lake Apopka Loop Trail

The 30,000-acre Lake Apopka straddles Orange County on the east side and Lake County on the west, and thanks to the efforts of St Johns River Water Management District and numerous county and municipal partners, its ecological health is celebrated and draws visitors worldwide. The 20,000 acres of the North Shore, were once part of the lake itself and have been the focus rehabilitation efforts since 1987.

A unique and robust trail system circumnavigates Lake Apopka. The West Orange Trail, the South Lake Trail/Hancock Road Trail, and the gravel Lake Apopka Loop Trail provide visitors with an experience like no other.

In August 2011 Orange County Parks and Recreation broke ground for the Lake Apopka Loop Trail, a 7/10-mile segment of paved trail, providing a new connection to the North Shore Restoration Area from Magnolia Park. This segment features a picnic pavilion at the trailhead adjoining the St. Johns River Water Management District property. The Lake Apopka Loop Trail follows the lake’s edge, providing hiking, biking, and outstanding birding opportunities. There are four trailheads for the Loop Trail with restrooms at the Green Mountain, North Shore/McDonald Canal boat ramp and Magnolia Park trailheads and port-a-lets at the historic pump house. No drinking water is provided along the trail. The North Shore property also has a marked white trail suitable for hiking, biking and horseback riding (6-mile loop) on Clay Island, with four observation towers, including one overlooking the west shoreline of Lake Apopka. You’ll find an additional 2.6 miles trails (the red trail) for biking, hiking and horseback riding.

In 2021, the State Legislature funded Lake County to complete the design of the connection trail between Green Mountain Overlook and Hancock Road. Developers constructed the trail alongside new homes and in December 2025 the Green Mountain Connector trail opened to the public.

Development of the last section of the Orange County portion of the loop began in earnest in 2019. MetroPlan Orlando/FDOT and Orange County allocated funds to design and construct the Lake Apopka Connector Trail to bring the existing Lake Apopka Loop Trail at Magnolia Park to the existing West Orange Trail at Clarcona Horse Park. With the completion of the Lake Apopka Connector Trail in Orange County, nature lovers have a 47-mile safe cycling route around Florida’s 4th largest lake. Additionally, that Loop Trail sits on the backbone of the Florida Coast-to-Coast Trail. Riders from all over the country, who are traveling from Titusville to St Petersburg, make a point to spend a day doing the Loop Trail. The Lake Apopka Loop Trail is destined to be a national treasure.

Be Trail Smart! Follow these guidelines

1. Plan your route & inform others of your destination.
2. Buddy Up! Travel with a friend.
3. Carry a cell phone, so you can communicate and access trail maps.
4. Be aware of your surroundings.
5. Do not use head phones/ear buds.
6. Helmets are required by law for all bicyclists under age 16, and are recommended for everyone.
7. Bicycles must follow all traffic laws of the State of Florida and obey all traffic controls and signals (Florida Statutes 316.2065). All users must yield at crossings and intersections.
8. Give a clear warning signal when passing.
9. Stay to the right except when passing.
10. Use the nearest yellow Emergency Response System Marker to pinpoint your location. Call 911 for emergencies. Call 311 for information and to report non-emergency issues.
11. Bicyclists, skaters and skateboarders must maintain control and yield to walkers and runners. Using skateboards, bikes and skates on any fixture other than the trail is prohibited.
12. Pets must be controlled on a leash no greater than 6 feet. Owners are required to clean up after their pets.
13. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited. Notice of consent to inspection: Every person entering an Orange County Park, upon request by an enforcement officer shall exhibit the contents of any container. Compliance with such a request is a condition of entry to a Park (Orange County Code Sections 29-56 & 29-57).
14. No motorized vehicles except law enforcement, emergency responders and maintenance vehicles. Electric mobility devices are permitted by persons with mobility related disabilities.
15. Class 1 and Class 2 electric bikes (e-bikes) may be operated on Orange County paved trails. A Class 1 e-bike is equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the e-bike reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour; a Class 2 e-bike is equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the e-bike and that ceases to provide assistance when the e-bike reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour. **Class 3 e-bikes are prohibited from all Orange County trails; a Class 3 e-bike is equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the e-bike reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour.**
16. Traveling speeds in excess of 20 miles per hour, or any speeds beyond which a controlled and safe stop cannot be made within 10 feet, are discouraged.





Map Legend

- West Orange Trail
- Future Trail
- Equestrian Trail
- Apopka Loop Connector Trail
- Apopka Loop Trail
- South Lake/Lake Minneola Trail
- Lulu Creek Trail

- Air station
- Basketball courts
- Bench
- Bike concession
- Bike rack
- Butterfly garden
- Concession
- Equestrian facilities
- Informational kiosk
- Leashed pets allowed
- Parking
- Playground
- Picnic area
- Port-o-let
- Rental pavilion
- Restrooms
- Shelter
- Tennis
- Trail office
- Water
- Wooden bridge

Emergency

Emergency Response System Decals are located every one-tenth of a mile along the West Orange Trail. Each decal indicates the exact location in case of an emergency, as well as the distance between park amenities.

