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Lee County opens Buckingham Trails Preserve to the public

Fort Myers, FL, June 12, 2015 — The Lee County Conservation 20/20 program opened Buckingham Trails Preserve to the public Friday, June 12, adding another site within Lee County Parks & Recreation at which people can hike and ride horses.

The east Fort Myers site provides a newly built parking area and trail system totaling more than 7 miles. There are 2.3 miles of hiking trails and 4.8 miles for both horseback riding and hiking. Equestrian use is prohibited on the pedestrian hiking trails to prevent damage to the historic features of the property.

This 572-acre preserve features scrubby and mesic flatwoods along with several small wetland systems and cultural resources associated with the property's past military use. The trail system has several historic elements, including the remnants of trap ranges and two ground-moving target ranges. Additional educational signage will continue to be added to the site.

Wildlife species on site include the threatened gopher tortoise, Florida sandhill crane and the Cooper's hawk. Many invasive plant species have been removed.

The new preserve brings to 29 the number of Conservation 2020 preserves with nature-based recreation amenities for the public; the county has 44 Conservation 2020 preserves total.

The entrance to Buckingham Trails Preserve is on the north side of Buckingham Road at the intersection with Ada Avenue. The address is 8790 Buckingham Road. Visit www.Conservation2020.org or call 239-533-7275.

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Note to media: Photo available upon request; email bclayton@leegov.com.