

Gen. James A. Van Fleet State Trail

The Gen. James A. Van Fleet State Trail is one of Florida's most rural trails. The trail is named after an American veteran who was a distinguished combat commander in World War I, World War II and the Korean War. It runs through the Green Swamp, the headwaters for some of Florida's most frequently canoed rivers, the Withlacoochee, Hillsborough and Peace. Landscapes include the natural environments associated with the Green Swamp, former citrus lands, cattle ranches and wildlife management areas.

Historic mile marker 789 indicates the number of miles to Richmond, Virginia, hub for the railroad line and home to many of the workers.

With only one curve in its 29.2 miles, you can choose to go slowly and view the wildlife or enjoy it at a brisk pace. The trail has excellent wildlife viewing opportunities between Green Pond Road and Bay Lake Road.

There are four trailheads located along the trail for convenient access. An equestrian trail runs parallel to the entire length of the paved path.

Hunting occurs in the Green Swamp and Richloam Wildlife Management Areas, found on the western side of the northern half of the trail. The trail remains open during these seasons, so it is recommended that trail users display fluorescent orange while using the trail in those areas. General gun season: November to January. Small game season: January to February. Spring Turkey season: March to April.



Trail Safety and Etiquette

- Bicyclists and in-line skaters yield to other users; all trail users yield to equestrians.
- Obey all trail rules posted at trailheads.
- Stay to the right except when passing.
- Pass slower traffic on their left; yield to oncoming traffic when passing.
- Give a clear warning signal when passing.
- Always look ahead and behind when passing.
- Travel at a responsible speed.
- Keep pets on a leash.
- Do not trespass on private property.
- Move off the trail surface when stopped to allow others to pass.
- Yield to other trail users when entering and crossing the trail.
- Do not disturb the wildlife.
- Watch out for traffic when crossing the street.
- Obey all traffic signals.
- Helmets for children under 16 required, but recommended for everyone.

Local Contact Information:
General James A. Van Fleet
State Trail
P.O. Box 41
Mascotte, FL 34753
(352) 516-7384

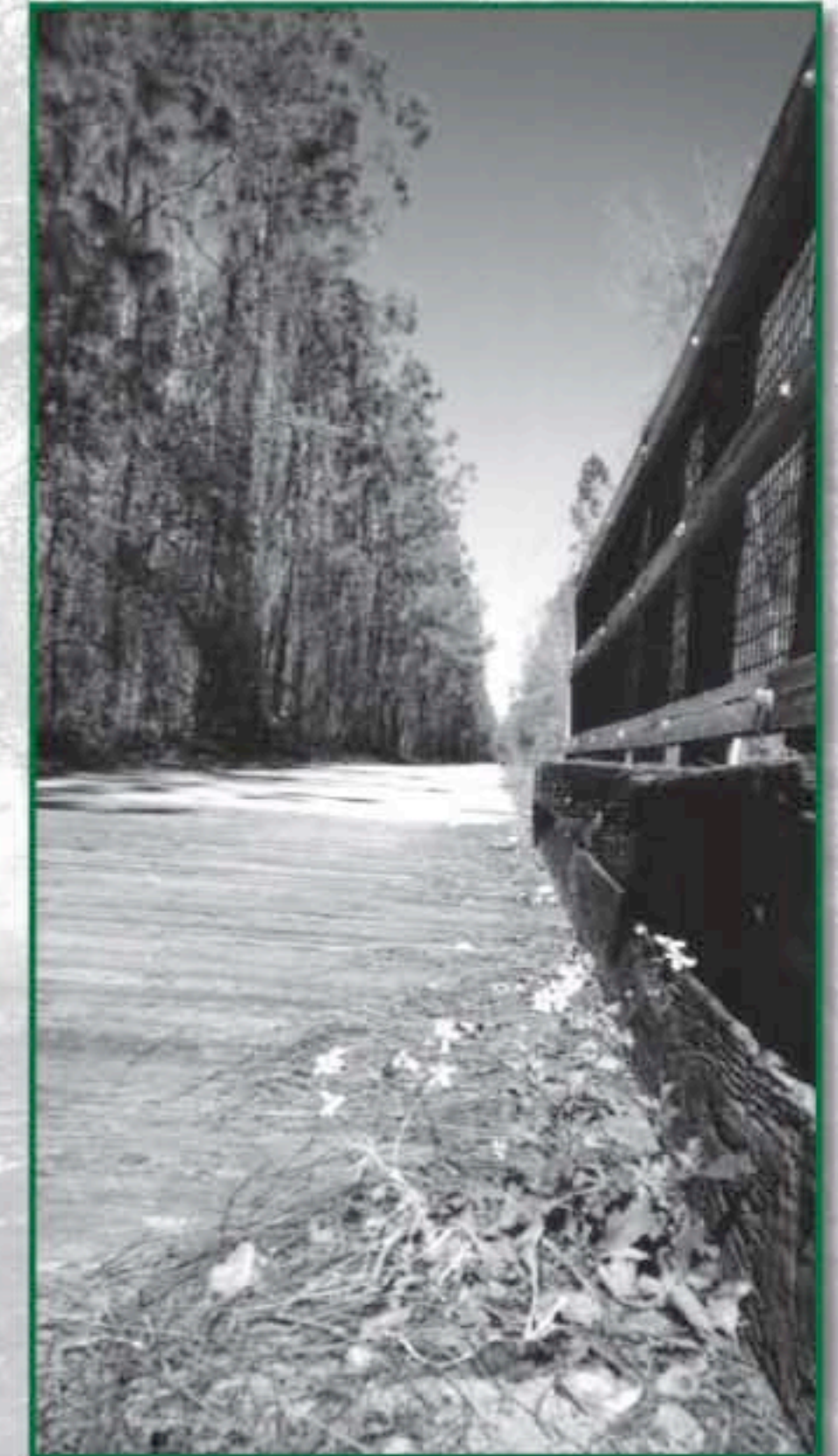
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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
GREENWAYS & TRAILS

FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com

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...one of Florida's
most rural trails

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Major Activities:

Walking, biking, in-line skating and horseback riding

Trail Length/Surface:

29.2 miles, paved

Fee: None

Counties:

Sumter, Lake, Polk

Nearby Towns:

Clermont, Polk City, Lakeland

Notes:

Some areas of the trail are quite remote and isolated. Be sure to bring plenty of water. Wheelchair accessible.

Hours: 8:00 am -

Sunset, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Access/Directions:

Mabel Trailhead

From Clermont, take SR 50 west to the trailhead approximately 5 miles west of the intersection with CR 565/Bay Lake Road.

Bay Lake Trailhead

From Clermont, take SR 50 west to CR 565/Bay Lake Road. Turn left (heading south) and follow the road until you reach the intersection with the trail; the trailhead is on the left.

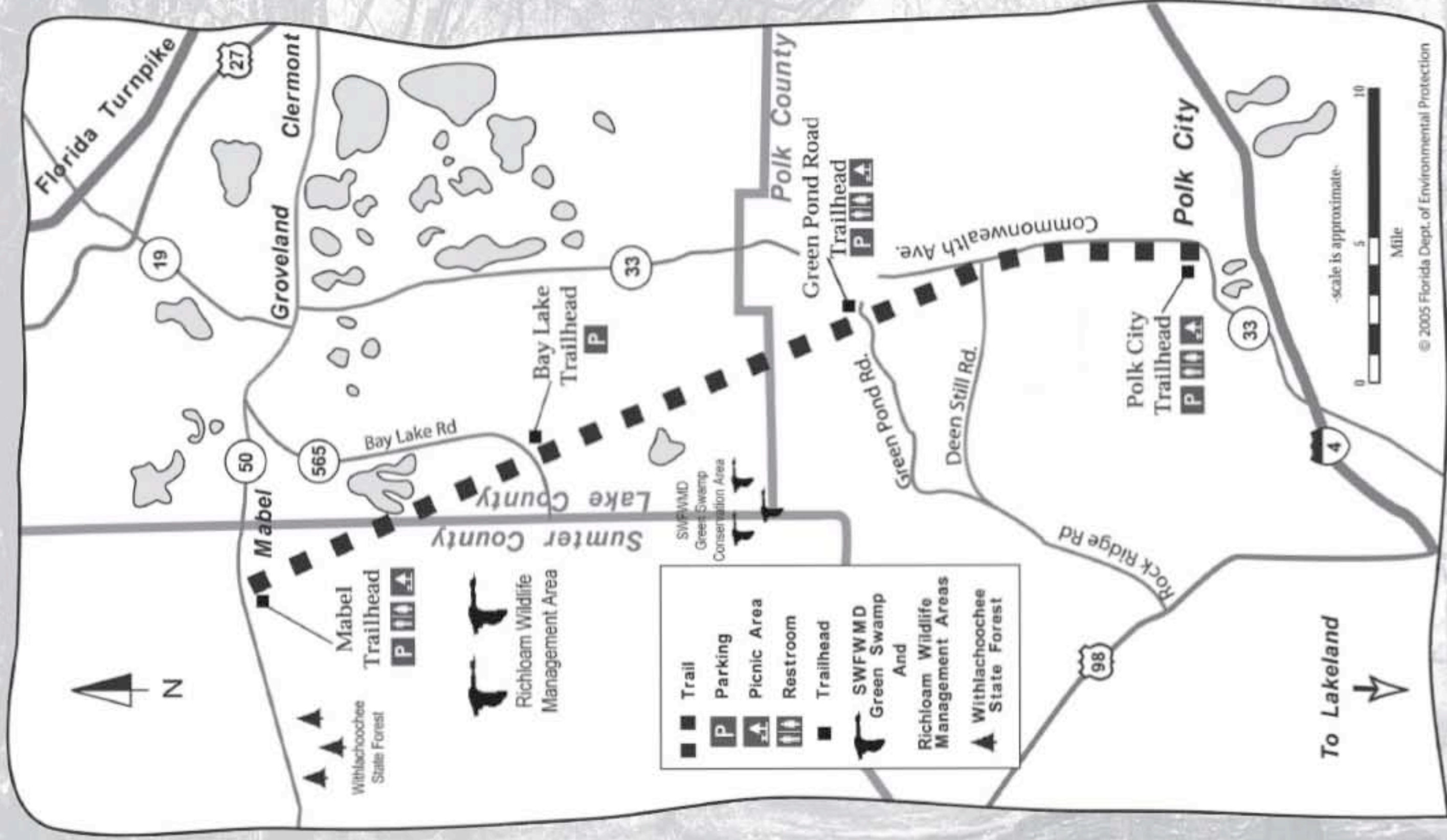
Green Pond Road Trailhead

From Clermont, take SR 50 west to SR 33. Turn left (heading south) and follow SR 33 until you reach Green Pond Road. Take a right (heading west) and continue until you reach the trailhead.

From Lakeland, take I-4 East to new Exit 38 for SR 33. Follow SR 33 north through Polk City and continue north to the intersection with Green Pond Rd. Turn left (heading west) and continue until you reach the trailhead.

Polk City Trailhead

From Lakeland, take I-4 East to new Exit 38 for SR 33 north. Follow SR 33 into Polk City and look for trailhead at intersection with CR 665 Berkley Road.



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