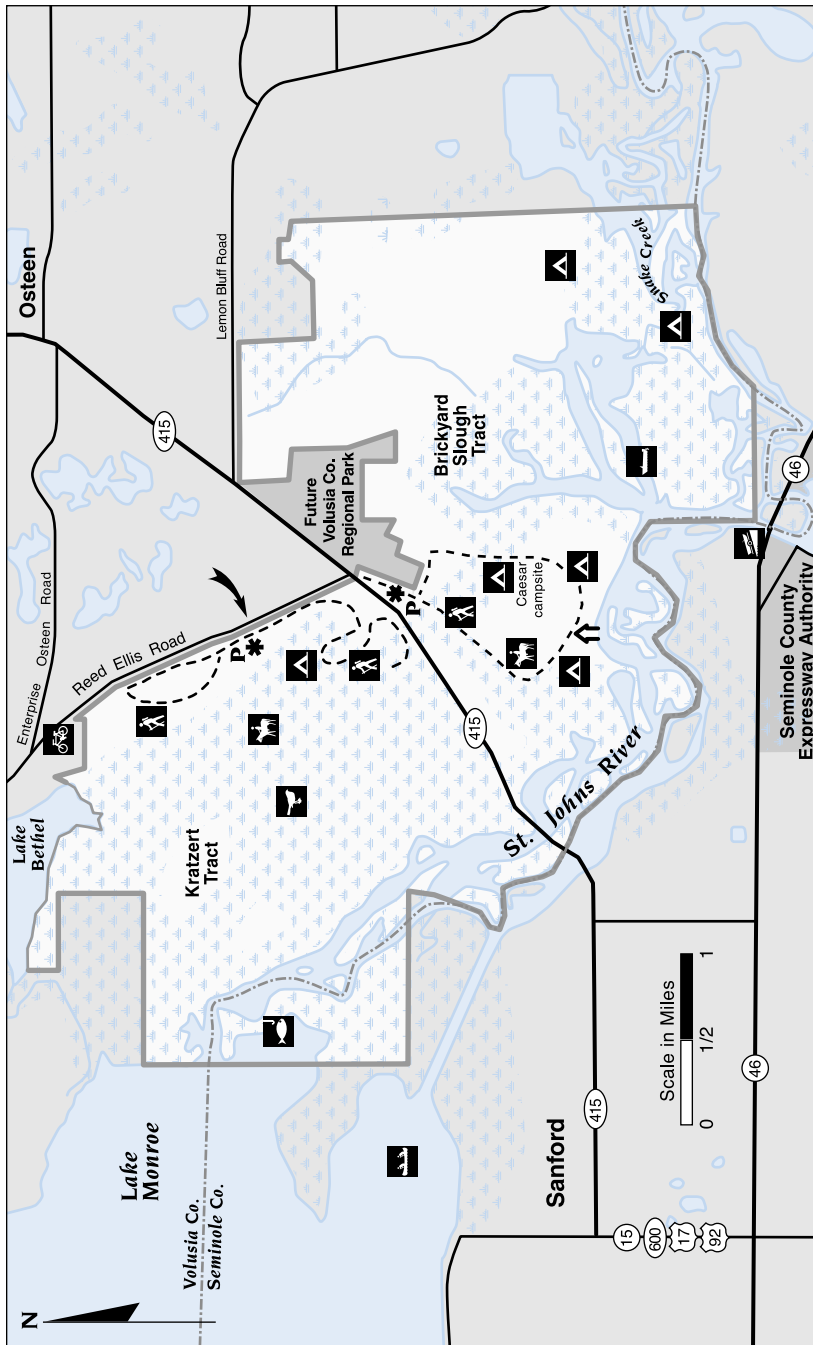


Lake Monroe

CONSERVATION AREA



Size: 7,390 acres.

Location: In southwestern Volusia County along the eastern shore of Lake Monroe, approximately four miles from Sanford and one mile south of Osteen.

Description: The conservation area contains 90 percent of the floodplain of Lake Monroe. Wetlands make up 94 percent of the conservation area. This provides flood protection, protection of water quality and more than three miles of Lake Monroe and St. Johns River shoreline. It also protects fish and wildlife habitat. The predominant natural communities are floodplain marsh/wet prairie and floodplain swamp/forest. Years ago, Native Americans hunted and fished in the area. Now, the western portion of the conservation area is dedicated to Minnie Beck Kratzer, whose family owned the property until it was sold to the District in 1987.

Wildlife viewing: The area provides excellent habitat for resident and migratory waterfowl, wood storks, wading birds and shorebirds. Other common sightings include sandhill cranes, bald eagles, turkeys, ospreys, deer and a large number of alligators.

Recreational activities: Fishing, hiking (nature trails and observation points), bicycling, horseback riding, primitive camping at designated sites, picnicking and bird-watching (see Using District Land section at the end of this document). Boating and canoeing on Lake Monroe and on the St. Johns River to the south.

Restrictions: Category 3 (see Restrictions section at the end of this document).

Access: Travel east from Sanford on SR 46 to the junction with CR 415. Turn north on CR 415 for about three miles. To access the western portion (the Kratzer tract), turn left on Reed Ellis Road and continue for about one mile to a parking area on the west side of the road. A parking area is located on the east side of CR 415 for access to the eastern portion of the conservation area (the Brickyard Slough tract).

For more information: Call the District's Division of Land Management at (407) 893-3127.

