



South Florida Habitat Assessment Benchmark Sites

Pithlachascotee River at Jay B. Starkey
Wilderness Park

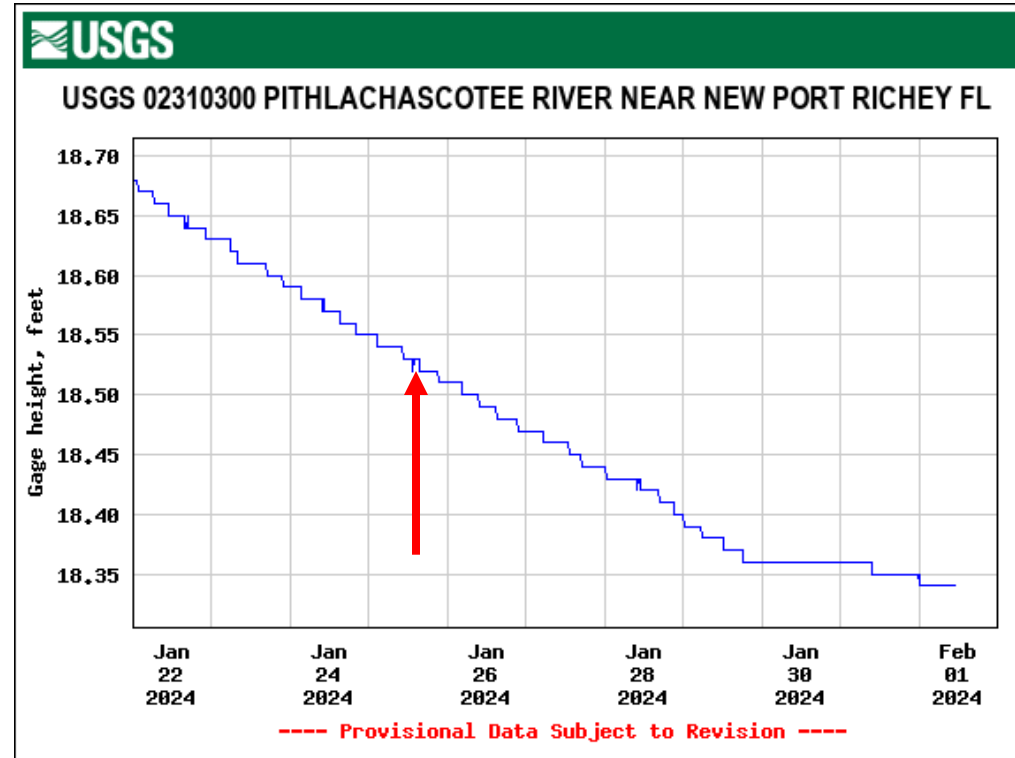


PROCEDURE

- Evaluate each site per SOP FT3100, “Stream and River Habitat Assessment”, using forms FD9000-3, FD9000-4, and FD9000-5. It is recommended that you use the most current editions of the forms and the SOP.
- **Work independently.**
- Submit all completed forms to the FDEP Aquatic Ecology and Quality Assurance (AEQA) Section in Tallahassee.
- The range for a passing score is +/- 10 points from the predetermined consensus score. However, consideration will be given to scores outside this range if they were legitimately caused by different conditions at the time of sampling compared to conditions when the consensus score was decided (i.e., higher/lower water level, velocity).
- Analysts must pass 2 out of 3 Habitat Assessments every 5 years.
- Once scores have been reviewed, analysts will receive notice of passing or failing from the AEQA Section.
- Analysts should take photos to document stream conditions at the time of assessment. Photos may be submitted to AEQA after initial determination of passing/failing if an analyst believes his/her score for a given site is out of the +/- 10-point range due to justifiable reasons.



AREA HYDROGRAPH



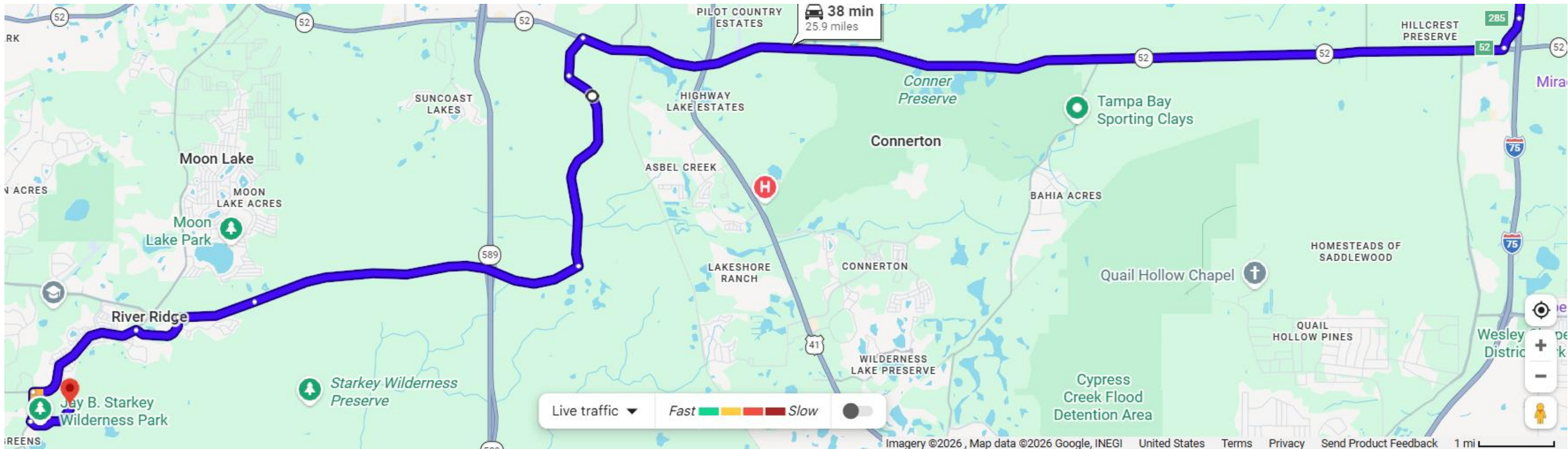
The consensus score for this site was established on January 25th, 2024, and was revisited on February 24th, 2026. The above graph shows the gage height data for a nearby Pithlachascotee River site during the original visit. If you conduct a habitat assessment at this site at different water levels, be sure to document the conditions.

Graph courtesy of the US Geological Survey.



PITHLACHASCOTEE RIVER AT JAY B. STARKEY WILDERNESS PARK

- **Region:** South
 - **County:** Pasco
 - **Lat/Long:** 28.256972, -82.642983
 - **Parking:** 28.255530, -82.642733
- **Directions:** From I-75 going south, take exit 285 and continue right onto Hwy 52, then drive W for 12.5 miles. Turn left onto N Sunlake Blvd and take the 2nd exit at the traffic circle. Continue for 2.9 miles and then turn right onto Ridge Rd. Continue W for 5.5 miles before turning left onto Town Center Rd. After 0.8 miles turn left onto Decubellis Rd, and after 1.8 miles turn left onto Starkey Blvd, and then turn left to enter the park on Wilderness Park Blvd. Continue down to the education center and park on the side.





PITHLACHASCOTEE RIVER AT JAY B. STARKEY WILDERNESS PARK

- **Accessing the site:** Park along the side of the education center. Do not block gate. Enter site through gate along dirt road on foot. Walk along dirt road and enter woods on the right just before the bridge. The 0m flags are about 30m upstream of the bridge.



Education Center

parking

Do not park in front of gate. Enter gate on foot and close it behind you to prevent visitors from driving on the road.

parking



PITHLACHASCOTEE RIVER AT JAY B. STARKEY WILDERNESS PARK



0m flags



100m flags



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

South Florida Habitat Assessment Benchmark Sites

Tributary To Cypress Creek @ Sandy Lane

Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration
Water Quality Standards Program

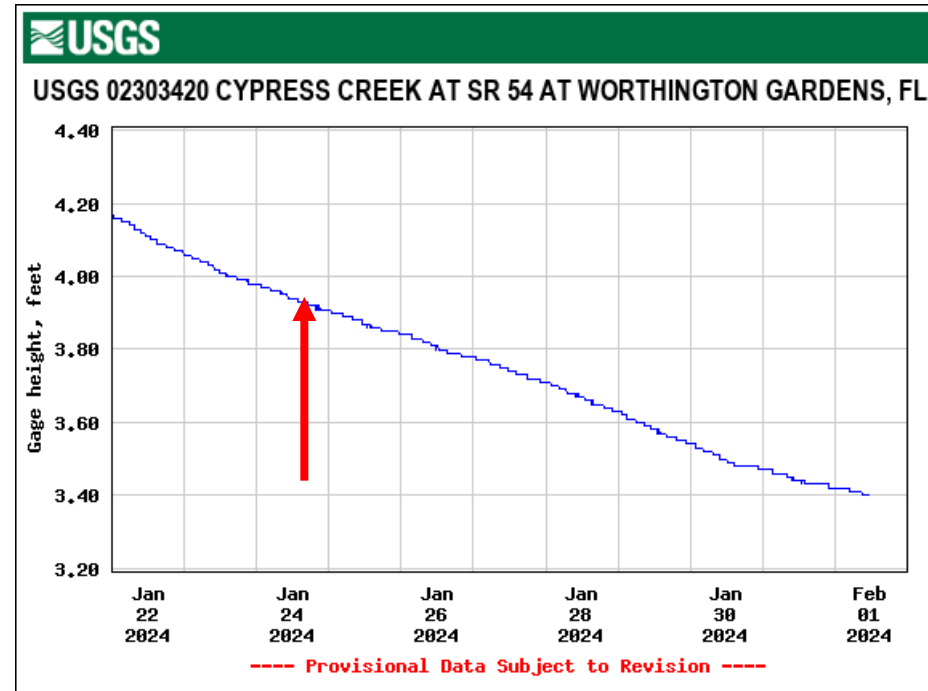


PROCEDURE

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AREA HYDROGRAPH



The consensus score for this site was established on January 25th, 2024, and was revisited on February 24th, 2026. The above graph shows the gage height data for a nearby Cypress Creek site during the original visit. If you conduct a habitat assessment at this site at different water levels, be sure to document the conditions.

Graph courtesy of the US Geological Survey.

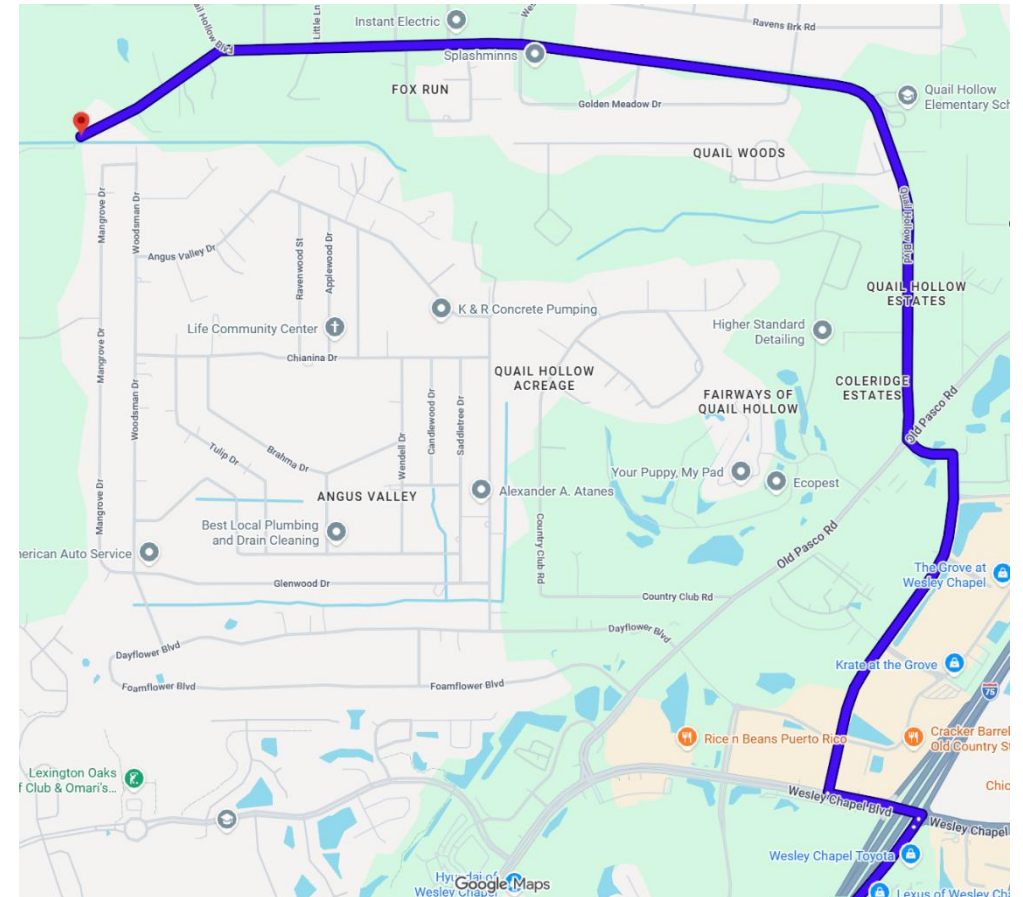


TRIBUTARY TO CYPRESS CREEK AT SANDY LANE

- **Region:** South
- **County:** Pasco
- **Lat/Longs:**

Parking:	28.259528, -82.385972
0m	28.25939, -82.38583
100m	28.2594, -82.3844

- **Directions:** From I-75 going north, take exit 279 and turn left onto Wesley Chapel Blvd. After 0.2 miles turn right onto Oakley Blvd. Drive for 1 mile and then continue to Quail Hollow Blvd for another 2.3 miles. Sandy Ln will then be a spur off to the left, turn there and drive for 0.4 miles. Park along the left side of the road in front of the green dumpster. If you get to the bridge, you've gone too far.





TRIBUTARY TO CYPRESS CREEK AT SANDY LANE

- **Accessing the site:** Park on the left side of the road in front of the green dumpster. Enter system at the USGS gage, which is the 0m.





TRIBUTARY TO CYPRESS CREEK AT SANDY LANE



0m flags: 28.25939, -82.38583
0m flags are on the water gauge



100m flags: 28.2594, -82.3844



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

South Florida Habitat Assessment Benchmark Sites

Trout Creek @ Chancey Rd

Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration
Water Quality Standards Program

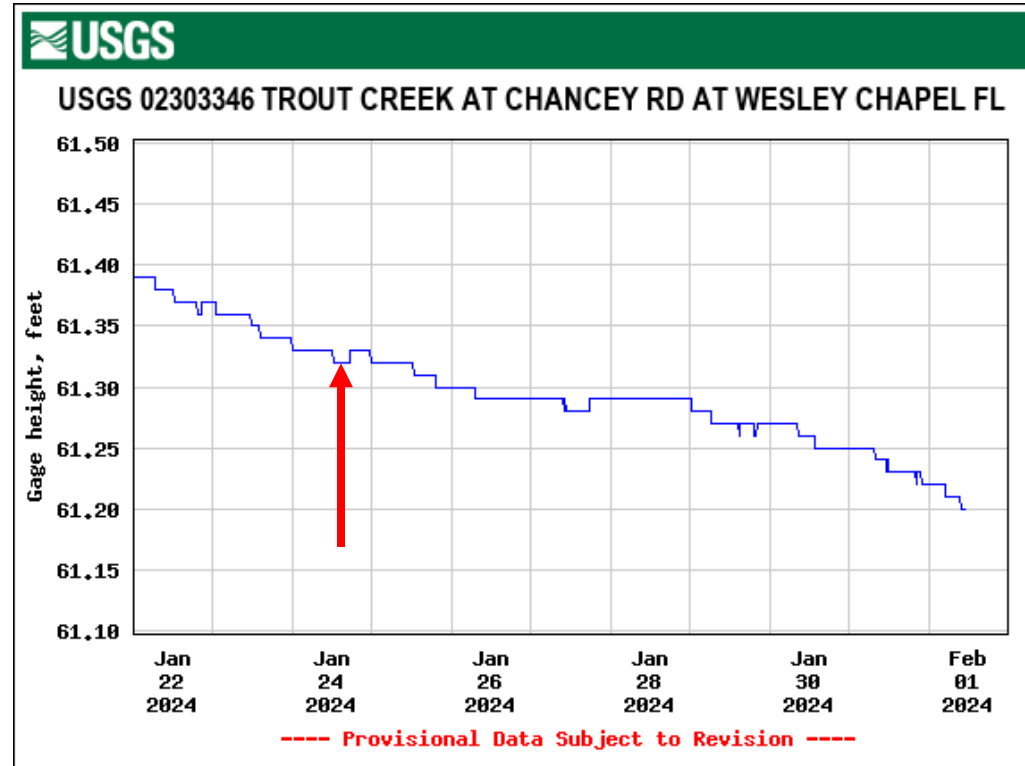


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AREA HYDROGRAPH



The consensus score for this site was established on January 24th, 2024 and revisited on February 24th, 2026. The above graph shows the gage height data from the USGS gage near this site during the original visit. If you conduct a habitat assessment at this site at different water levels, be sure to document the conditions.

Graph courtesy of the US Geological Survey.

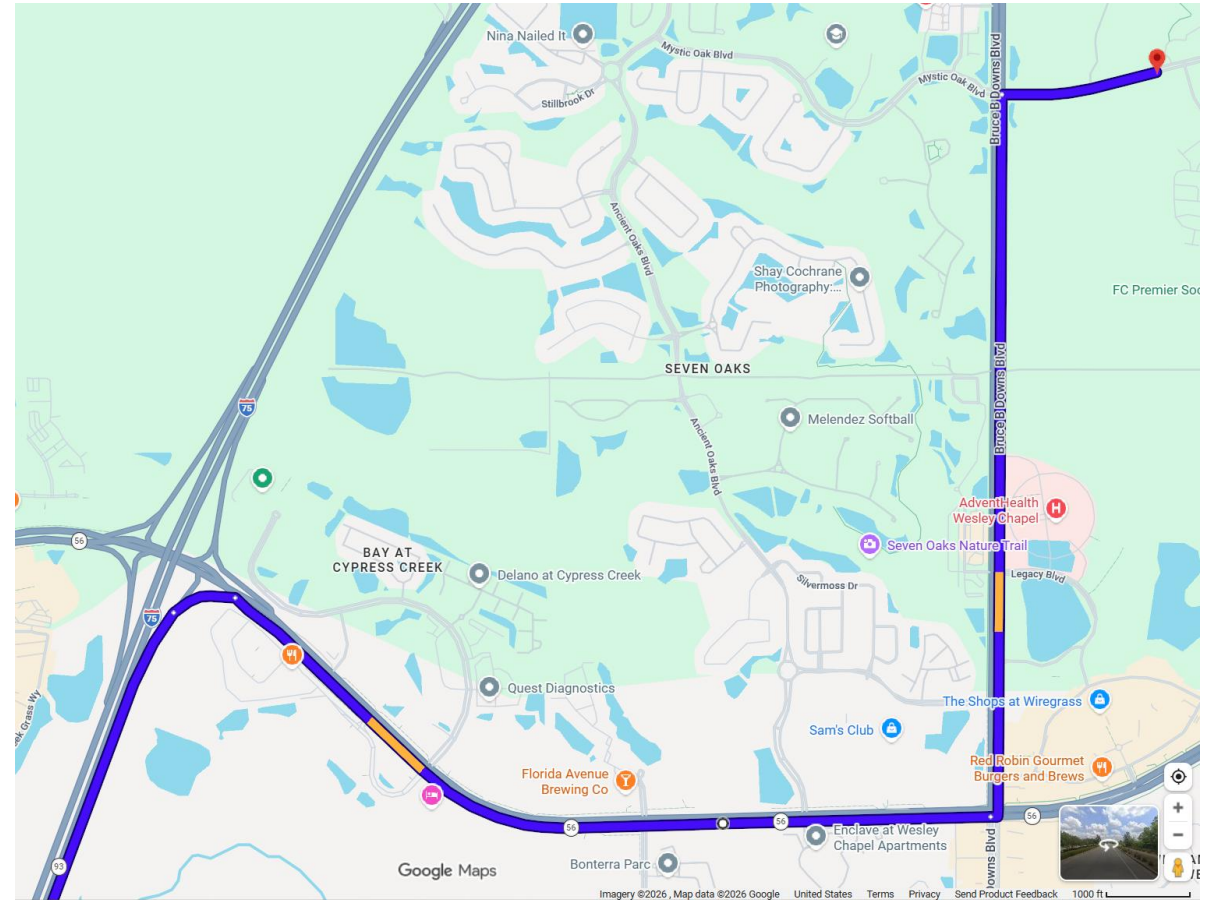


TROUT CREEK AT CHANCY ROAD

- **Region:** South
- **County:** Pasco
- **Lat/Longs:**

Parking:	28.209892, -82.347553
0m	28.20912, -82.34689
100m	28.20969, -82.34745

Directions: From I-75 going north, take exit 275 and turn right onto FL-56. Drive for 1.9 miles and turn left onto Bruce B Downs Blvd. After 1.6 miles, turn right onto Chancy Rd, and the site will be on the right in 0.4 miles. See next page for parking details.





TROUT CREEK AT CHANCEY ROAD

- **Parking:** There are two options for parking at this site. If you're in a high clearance vehicle and it's safe to do so, carefully cross over the sidewalk and park adjacent to the stormwater retention pond. Otherwise, park in the spur across from San Vito Drive and walk along the sidewalk 0.1 mi to the creek.



Drive across curb/sidewalk and park alongside stormwater retention pond. Enter woods, about 20m below the bridge. This is 100m flag.

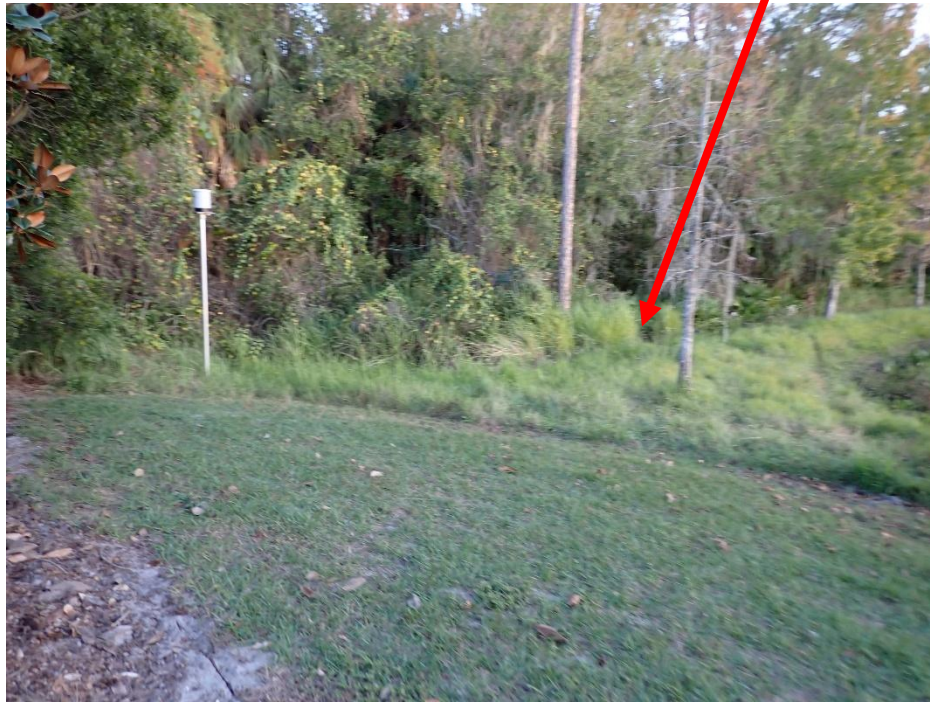


Park at spur across from San Vito Drive and walk 0.1 mi along sidewalk to creek.



TROUT CREEK AT CHANCY ROAD

- **To access the site:** Enter system about 20m downstream of bridge. This will bring you to about the 90m flag. Walk downstream to the 0m flags.



**0m flags (2026 flags are orange)
28.20912, -82.34689**



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

South Florida Habitat Assessment Benchmark Sites

Turkey Creek

Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration
Water Quality Standards Program



PROCEDURE

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AREA HYDROGRAPH



The consensus score for this site was established on June 11th, 2008, and was revisited on February 26th, 2026. The above graph shows the gage height data for a nearby Alafia River site during the original visit (2.58 ft). If you conduct a habitat assessment at this site at different water levels, be sure to document the conditions.

Graph courtesy of the US Geological Survey.

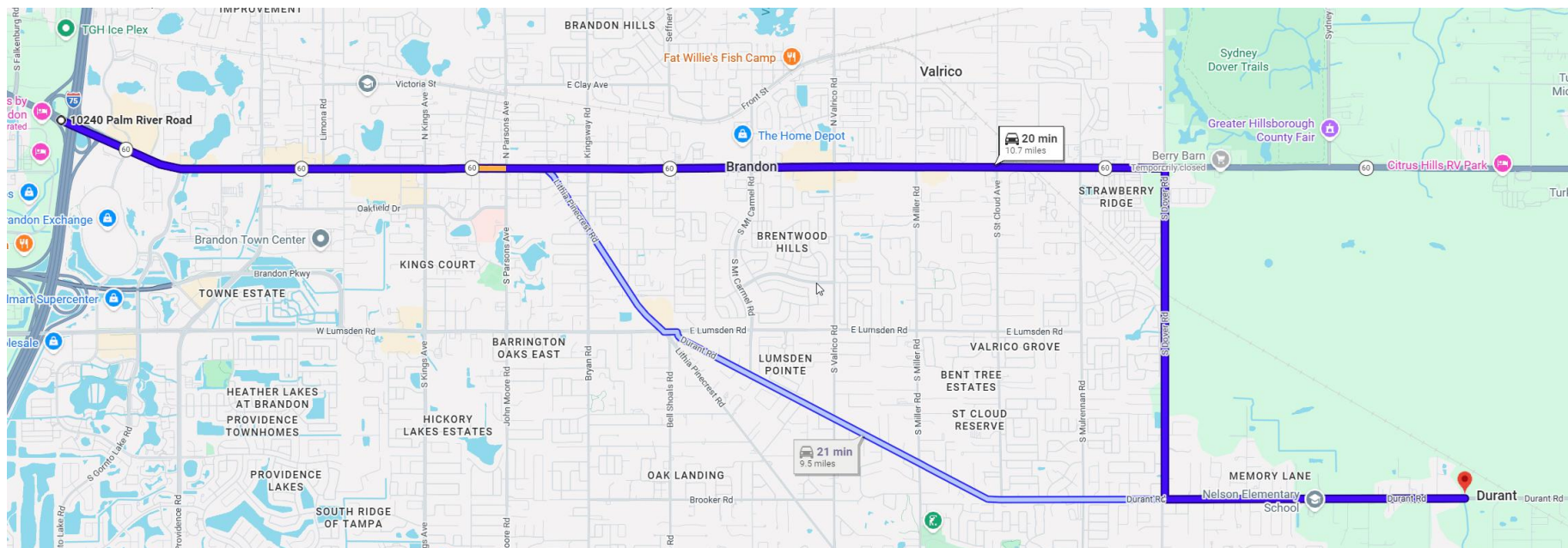


TURKEY CREEK

- **Region:** South
- **County:** Hillsborough
- **Lat/Longs:**

Parking: 27.908448, -82.188779
0m: 27.90871, -82.18936
100m: 27.90964, -82.18939

Directions: From I-75 going south, take exit 257 and turn left on to FL 60 and continue east for about 7 miles. Turn right onto S Dover Rd, and after 2 miles turn left onto Durant Rd. The site will be on the left after 1.8 miles. The 0 m flag is about 30 m upstream of the bridge.





TURKEY CREEK



0m flags: 27.90871, -82.18936
Photo is looking away from the reach at the 0m mark,
about 30 m from the bridge



100m: 27.90964, -82.18939



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

South Florida Habitat Assessment Benchmark Sites

Delaney Creek @ 78th St.

Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration
Water Quality Standards Program

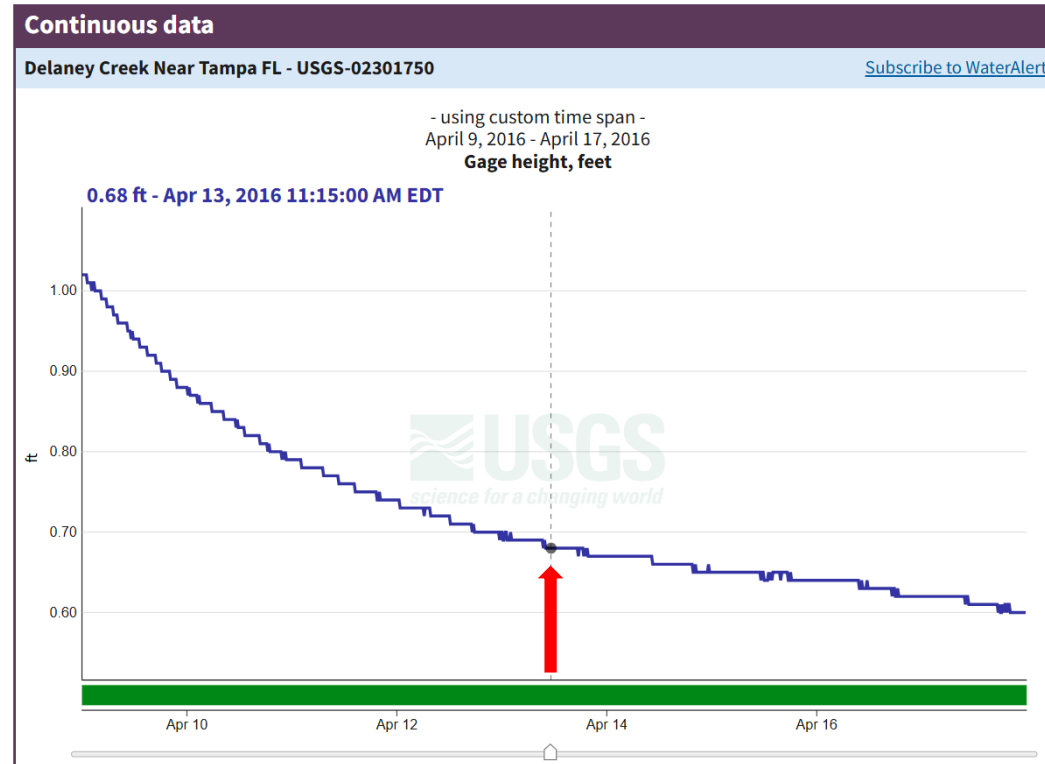


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AREA HYDROGRAPH



The consensus score for this site was established on April 13th, 2016, and was revisited on February 26th, 2026. The above graph shows the gage height data for a nearby Delaney Creek site during the original visit (0.68 ft). If you conduct a habitat assessment at this site at different water levels, be sure to document the conditions.

Graph courtesy of the US Geological Survey.

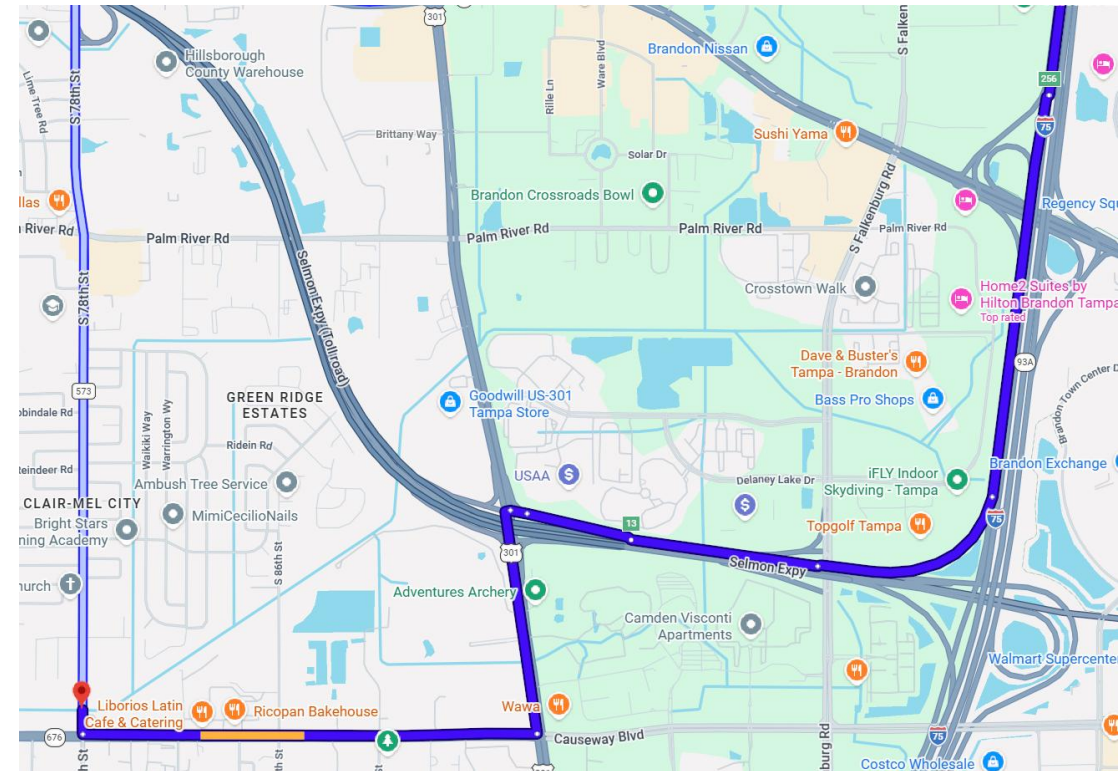


DELANEY CREEK AT 78TH STREET

- **Region:** South
- **County:** Pasco
- **Lat/Longs:**

Parking:	27.924054, -82.369069
0m	27.92383, -82.36996
100m	27.9238, -82.36893

- **Directions:** From I-75 going south, take exit 256 and take the slight right onto Selmon Expy. After 0.5 miles take exit 13 to US-301 and turn left. Then turn right onto Causeway Blvd after 0.6 miles. Drive 1 more mile to 78th St and turn right. Continue for 100 m and cross the creek. Turn left into driveway and park on left. Note SWFWMD restoration project sign. Segment begins 11 m downstream of bridge.





DELANEY CREEK AT 78TH STREET

- **Accessing the site:** Park on the left side of the driveway to keep the driveway clear. Enter the site and walk downstream, away from the bridge, to the 0m flags. This photo is looking east towards 78th St.





DELANEY CREEK AT 78TH STREET



0m flags: 27.92383, -82.36996



100m flags: 27.9238, -82.36893