



South Florida Habitat Assessment Benchmark Sites

Phillipi Creek @ Colonial Oaks Park

Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration
Water Quality Standards Program

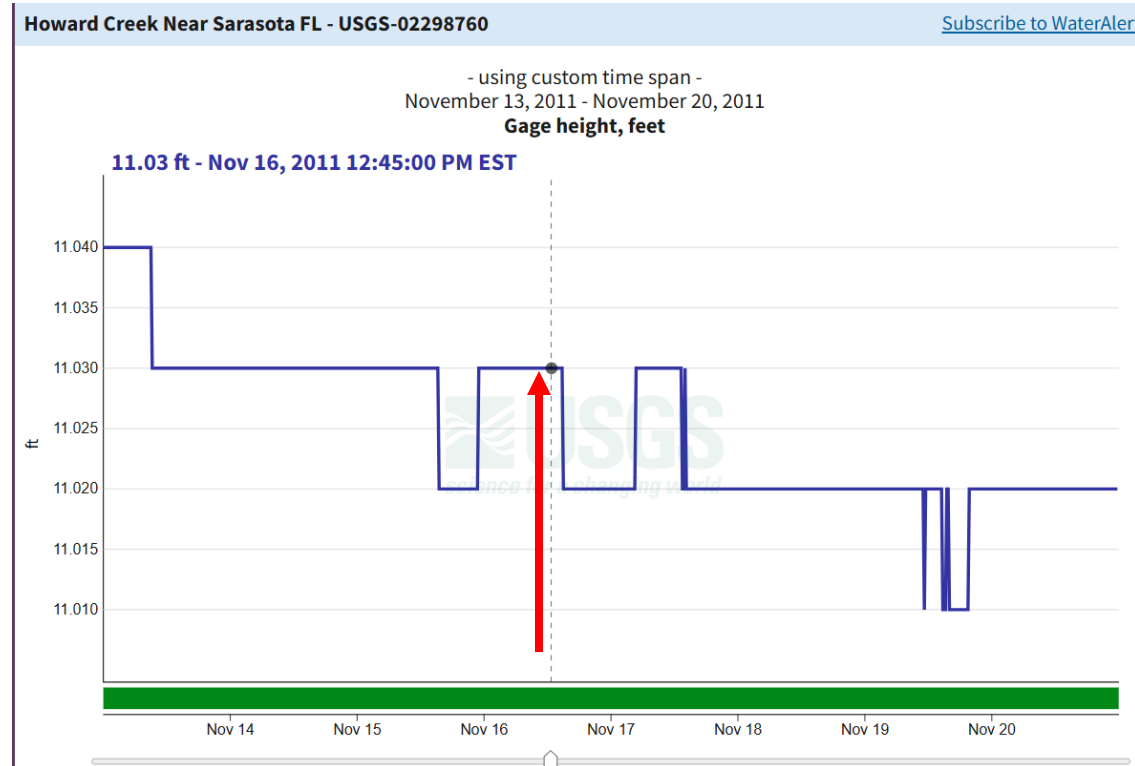


PROCEDURE

- 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 November 16th, 2011, and was revisited on April 9th, 2026. The above graph shows the gage height data for a nearby Howard 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.

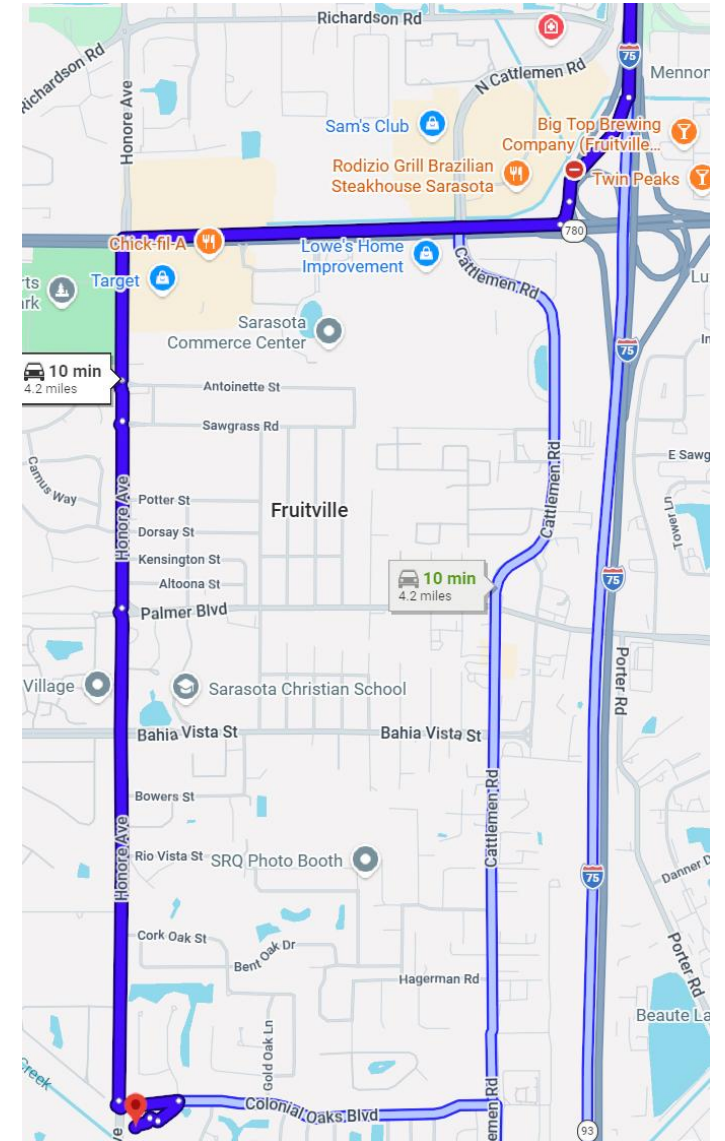


PHILLIPI CREEK @ COLONIAL OAKS PARK

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

Parking:	27.311217, -82.463490
0m	27.31052, -82.46382
100m	27.31002, -82.46297

- **Directions:** From I-75 going south, take exit 210 and turn right onto FL-780. In 0.9 miles turn left onto Honore Ave. Continue straight through the three traffic circles, and then at the fourth traffic circle take the second exit onto Colonial Oaks Blvd. In 0.1 miles turn right into Colonial Oaks Park and park by the building.





PHILLIPI CREEK @ COLONIAL OAKS PARK

- **Accessing the site:** Walk past the picnic pavilions to the “No Swimming” sign, which indicates the 0m mark of the stream stretch. Turn left (East) to head upstream.



0m flags behind “No Swimming” Sign



PHILLIPI CREEK @ COLONIAL OAKS PARK



0m flags: 28.25939, -82.38583, looking upstream



100m flags: 28.2594, -82.3844, looking downstream



South Florida Habitat Assessment Benchmark Sites

Manatee River @ Hwy 64

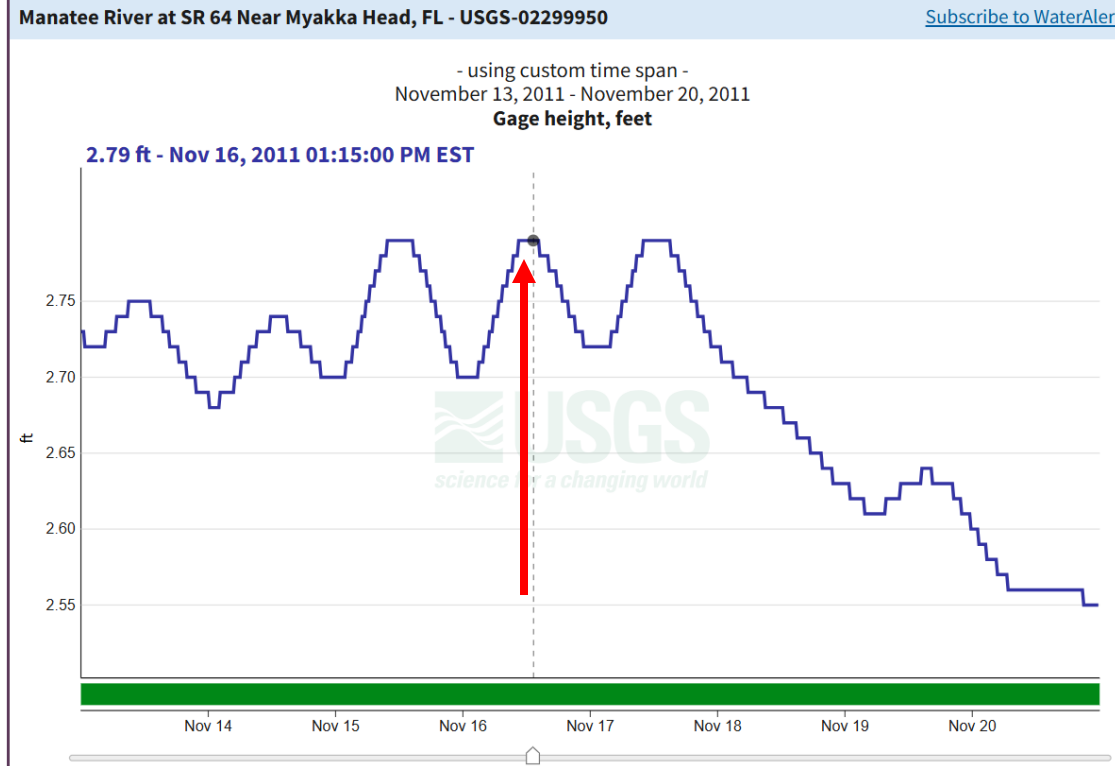


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Graph courtesy of the US Geological Survey.

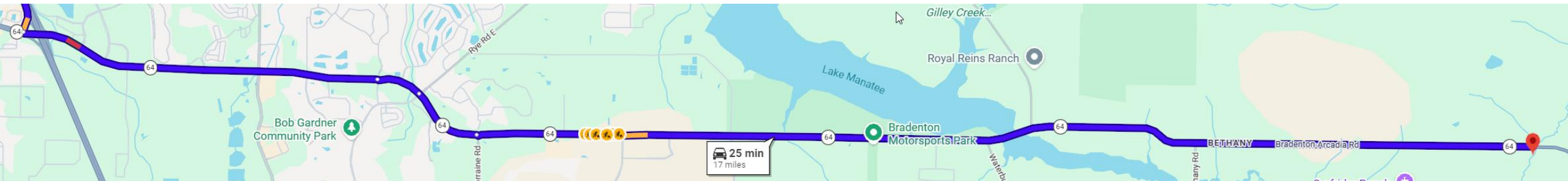


MANATEE RIVER @ HWY 64

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

Parking:	27.473530, -82.212237
0m	27.47214, -82.21143
100m	27.47289, -82.21101

- **Directions:** From I-75 going south, take exit 220 and turn left onto FL-64 E. Continue straight through all four traffic circles. After the fourth circle, drive another 9.8 miles to the bridge crossing of the Manatee River, and then park on the right side of the road. **Watch out for big trucks.**





MANATEE RIVER @ HWY 64

- **Accessing the site:** 100 m flags are approximately 60 m downstream (south) of the bridge.





MANATEE RIVER @ HWY 64



0m flags, looking downstream: 27.47214, -82.21143



100m flags, looking downstream: 27.47289, -82.21101



South Florida Habitat Assessment Benchmark Sites

Gamble Creek @ Golf Course Road

Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration
Water Quality Standards Program

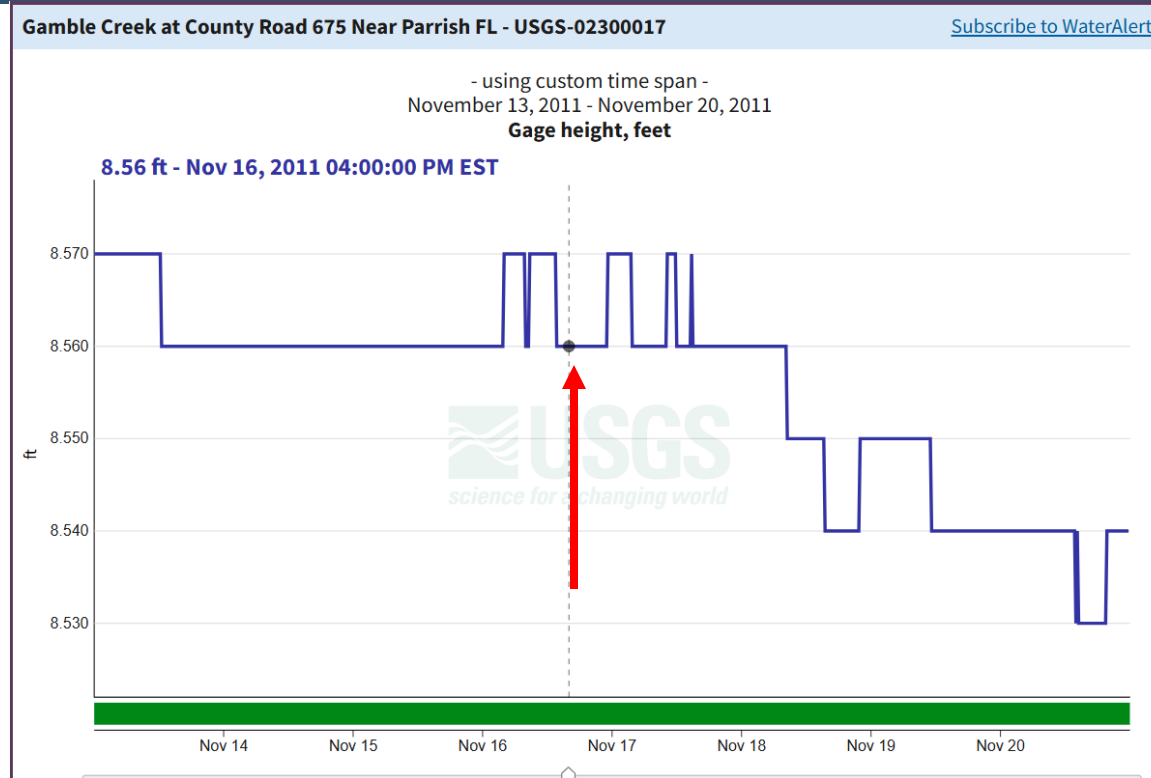


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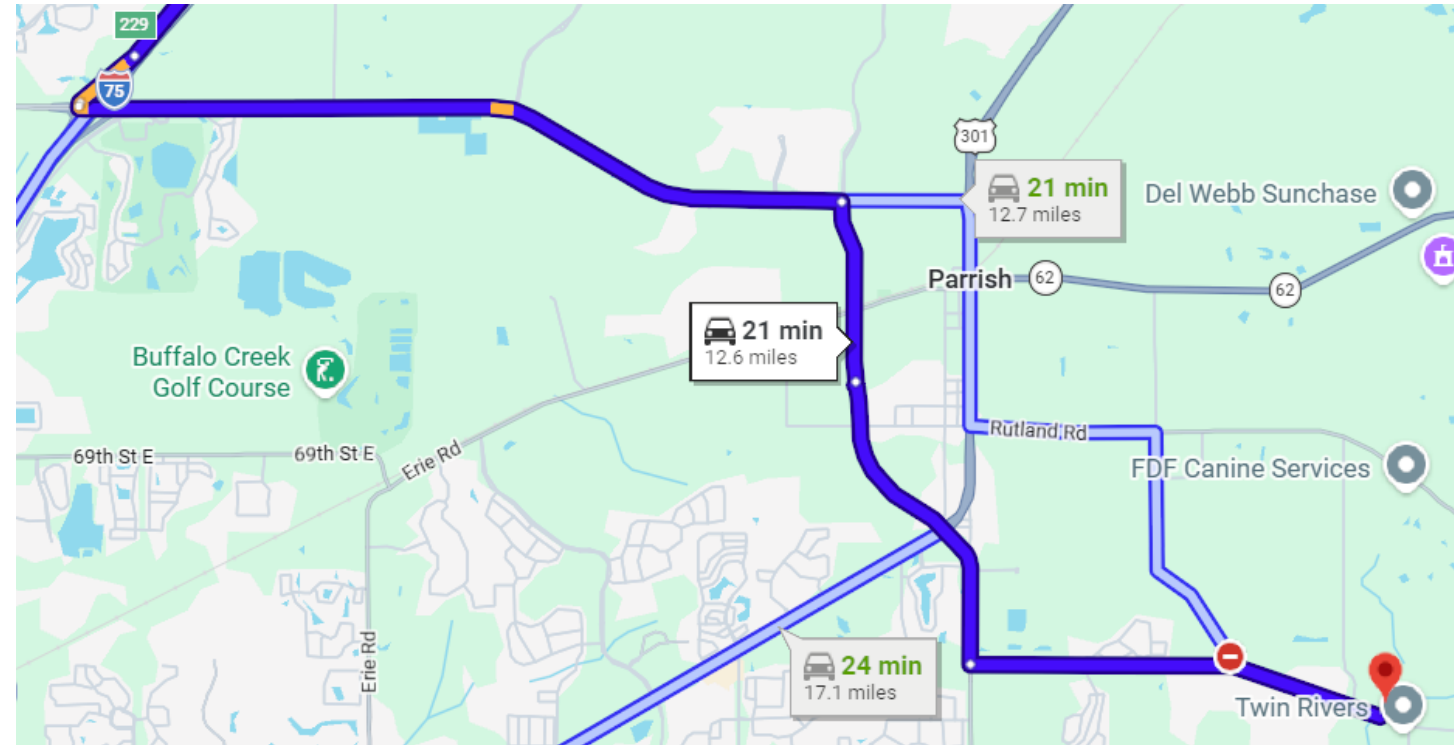
Graph courtesy of the US Geological Survey.



GAMBLE CREEK @ GOLF COURSE ROAD

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

Parking:	27.55378, -82.39006
0m	27.55396, -82.38929
100m	27.55432, -82.38869
- **Directions:** From I-75 going south, take exit 229 and turn left onto 97th St E. After 4.3 miles turn right onto Fort Hamer Rd. Take the second exit at the traffic circle and continue for another 1.8 miles, and then turn left onto Golf Course Rd. The site will be on the left in 2.3 miles.





GAMBLE CREEK @ GOLF COURSE ROAD



**0m flags: 27.55396, -82.38929,
just north of the bridge**



100m flags: 27.55432, -82.38869



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

South Florida Habitat Assessment Benchmark Sites

Halls Branch E. @ Virgil Hall Rd

Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration
Water Quality Standards Program

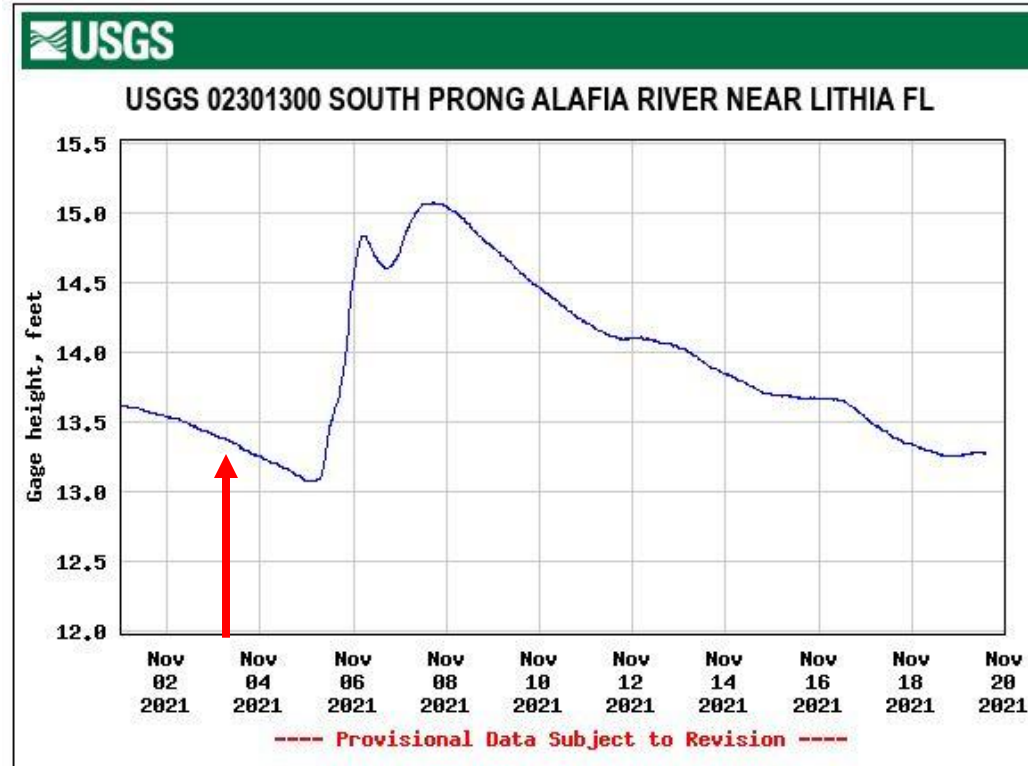


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AREA HYDROGRAPH



The consensus score for this site was established on November 3rd, 2021, 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. If you conduct a habitat assessment at this site at different water levels, be sure to document the conditions.

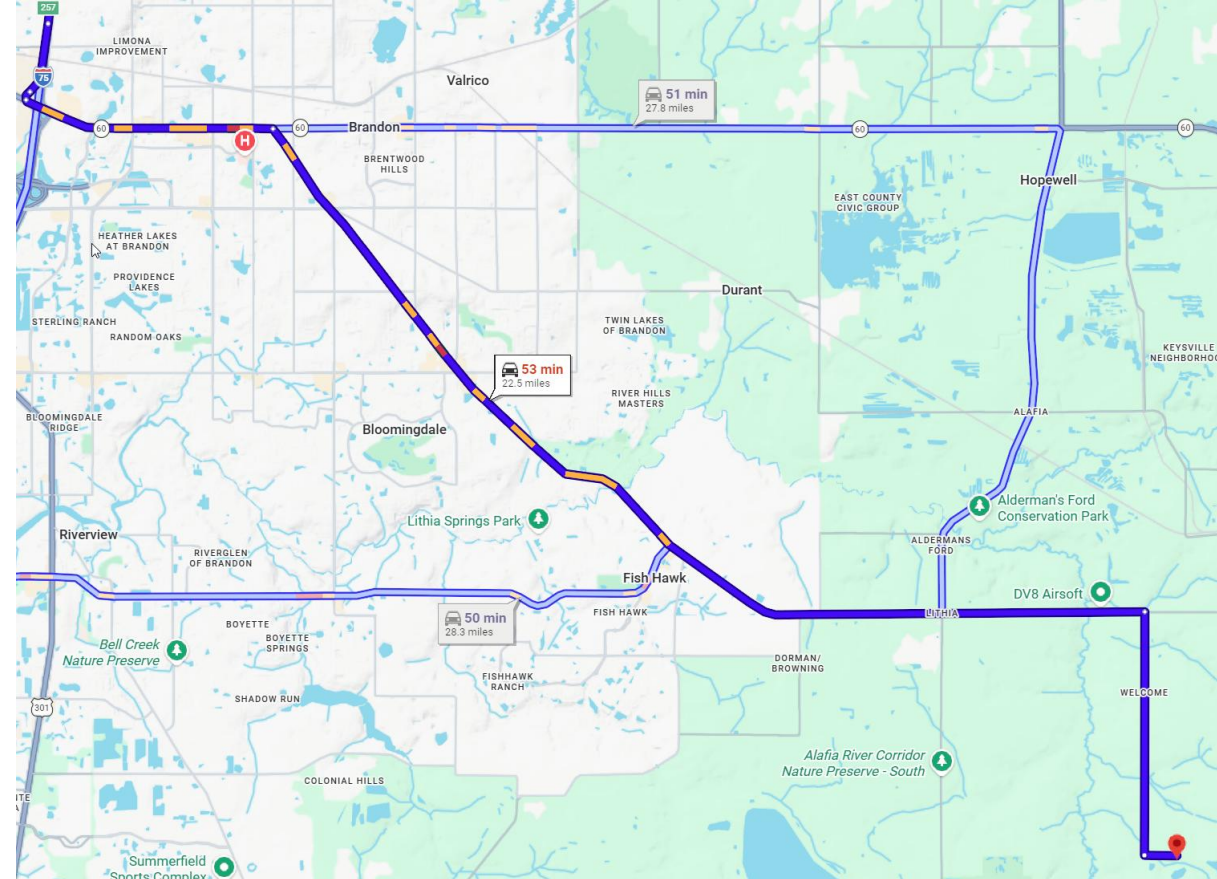
Graph courtesy of the US Geological Survey.



HALLS BRANCH E. @ VIRGIL HALL RD

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

Parking:	27.806777, -82.097617
0m	27.8054, -82.09832
100m	27.80576, -82.09763
- **Directions:** From I-75 going south, take exit 257 and turn left onto FL-60 E/Brandon. Go E for 3.1 miles, turn right onto Lithia Pinecrest Rd, and continue for 13.5 miles. Turn right onto Walter Hunter Rd and continue for 3.0 miles, then turn left onto Virgil Hall Rd and the site will be on the right in 0.4 mi. Park along the right side of the road.





HALLS BRANCH E. @ VIRGIL HALL RD

Accessing the site: Park on the south side of the road and enter to the left of the fence. Walk along the fence line to the creek, this will bring you to about the 80m flag. Go downstream and look for double flags at the 0m.



Park along the south side of the road.



Walk along fence until you come to the creek, go to your left (head downstream) about 80m to reach the 0m flags.



HALLS BRANCH E. @ VIRGIL HALL RD



0m flags: 27.8054, -82.09832



100m flags: 27.80576, -82.09763



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

South Florida Habitat Assessment Benchmark Sites

Halls Branch W. @ Virgil Hall Rd

Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration
Water Quality Standards Program

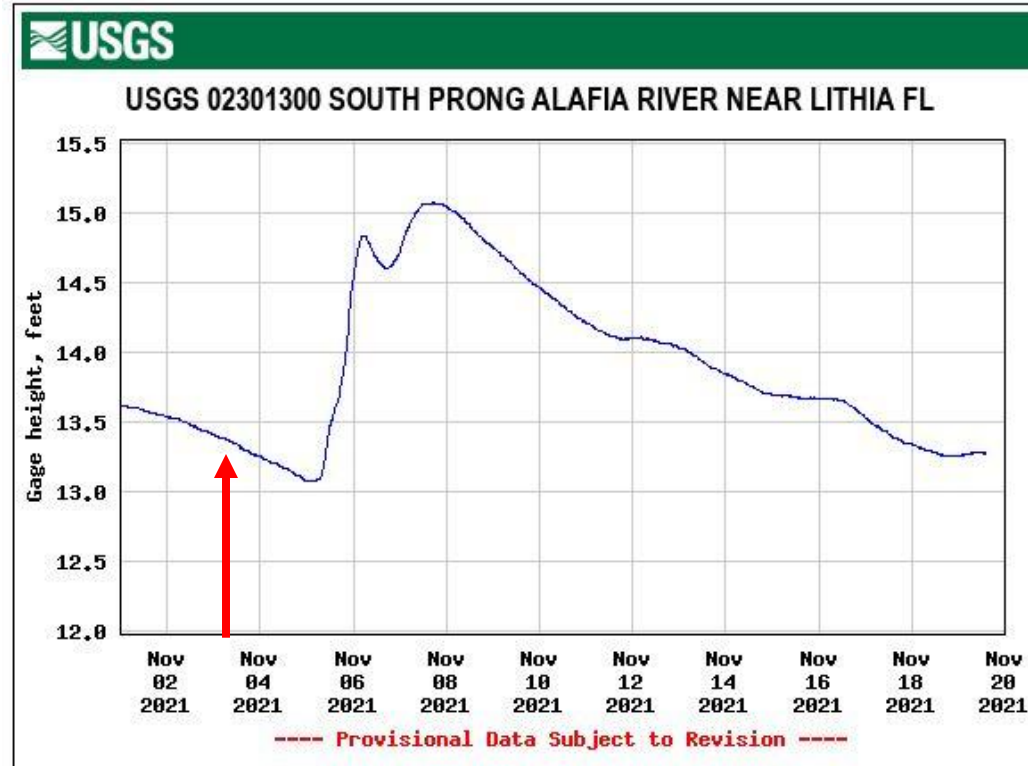


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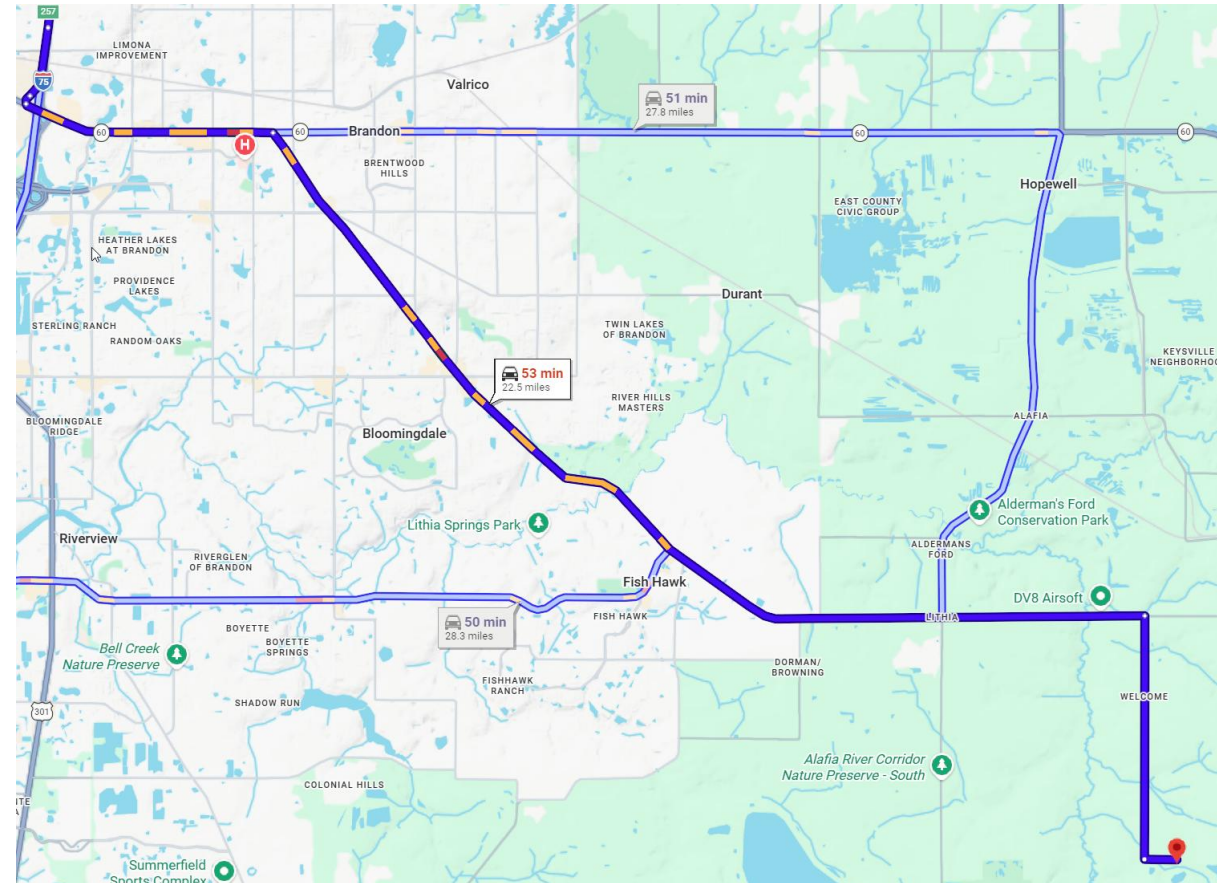
Graph courtesy of the US Geological Survey.



HALLS BRANCH W. @ VIRGIL HALL RD

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

Parking:	27.806920, -82.103019
0m:	27.8067, -82.10301
100m:	27.80652, -82.10213
- **Directions:** From I-75 going south, take exit 257 and turn left onto FL-60 E/Brandon. Go E for 3.1 miles, turn right onto Lithia Pinecrest Rd, and continue for 13.5 miles. Turn right onto Walter Hunter Rd and continue for 3.0 miles, then turn left onto Virgil Hall Rd and the site will be on the right in 0.1 mi. Park along the right side of the road near the wooden bridge.





HALLS BRANCH W. @ VIRGIL HALL RD

Accessing the site: Park on the right side of the road and enter to the left of the wooden foot bridge. The 0m flags are about 3m above the bridge.



Park near the wooden bridge



Enter system to the left of wooden bridge



HALLS BRANCH W. @ VIRGIL HALL RD



0m flags: 27.8067, -82.10301



100m flags: 27.80652, -82.10213