

Public Access Lakes

Directory of Ramps and Canals



Polk County Board of County Commissioners
Parks and Natural Resources Division

Updated: Spring 2014

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DISCLAIMERS

- This directory contains locations of public access lakes in Polk County. Ramps and canals are owned by local, state, and private entities. Therefore, the hours of operation, fees, and maintenance will vary.
- This directory should not be considered an all-inclusive document and is for information only. Status of public access may have changed since publication.
- Ramp and canal conditions will vary due to water levels. Use them at your own risk.
- Polk County Board of County Commissioners assumes no responsibility for the condition of ramps other than their own.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

These agencies provided information used in this directory:

City of Lakeland
City of Winter Haven
Lake Region Lakes Management District
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Southwest Florida Water Management District
U.S. Geological Survey

LAKEs LISTED IN THE DIRECTORY

Click on the name of the lake below to view its report:

Agnes	Echo	Little Agnes	Parker
Alfred	Elbert	Little Bonny	Pierce
Annie	Eloise (WHCL)	Little Crooked	Reedy
Arbuckle	Eva	Little Eagle	Rochelle (WHCL)
Ariana	Fannie (WHCL)	Little Elbert	Rosalie
Banana	Ft Meade Pits	Little Eloise	Roy (WHCL)
Blue	Garfield	Little Hamilton	Saddle Creek Park
Bonny	Gibson	Little Winterset	Sears
Buckeye	Grassy	Lulu (WHCL)	Shipp (WHCL)
Buffum	Haines (WHCL)	Mariam	Silver
Cannon	Hamilton	Mariana	Smart (WHCL)
Carter Road X Pit	Hancock	Marie	Somerset
Carter Road Y Pit	Hartridge (WHCL)	Marion	Spring (WHCL)
Clinch	Hatchineha (KWCL)	Martha	Summit (WHCL)
Confusion	Hollingsworth	Mattie	Surveyors
Conine (WHCL)	Howard (WHCL)	Maude	Swoope
Crago	Hunter	May (WHCL)	Tennessee
Crooked	Idyl	McLeod	Thomas
Crystal	Idylwild (WHCL)	Menzie	Tiger
Daisy	Jessie (WHCL)	Middle Hamilton	Tracy
Davenport	John	Mirror (WHCL)	Twin East
Deer	Juliana	Mudd	Twin West
Deeson	Lena	Ned	Wailes
Eagle	Link	Otis	Weohyakapka
Easy	Livingston	Pansy	Winterset (WHCL)

DEFINITIONS

Canal Access Only – lake can only be reached by a canal.

Chain of Lakes – if checked, this lake is part of the Winter Haven Chain of Lakes.

FWC – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Lake Depth – lake depth varies depending on site of measurement and is affected by high and low lake levels.

Lake Type –

- Landlocked – no inflow or outflow on the lake.
- Inflow – some type of inflow into the lake, such as a stream or a ditch.
- Outflow – some type of outflow from the lake, such as a stream or a ditch.
- Inflow & Outflow – both inflow and outflow for the lake.

Lat/Lon – latitude / longitude for the approximate center of the lake.

Ramp Checked – month and year that the ramp was rated.

Ramp Directory Map Page – refers to the maps on pages 7-31 in this directory which provide a general location of the lake within the county.

Ramp Maint. Entity – party responsible for maintaining the boat ramp.

Ramp Rating – definitions for the ramp ratings.

Sport Fisheries and Rated by – rating of sport fishing in a particular lake and who conducted it.

S-T-R – stands for Section-Township-Range used on DOT maps.

Surface Area – historical surface area value, in acres, that will vary as lake levels change.

WHCL – Winter Haven Chain of Lakes.

Vessel Information – restrictions of vessel size or type for a lake.

BOAT RAMP RATING SYSTEM

This Rating System was developed to give boaters an idea of ramp conditions, which are always subject to change due to high or low waters or other unknown factors. It is possible that ramps have been upgraded as well, and may be in better condition than this directory reports. It is very important to inspect the ramp visually to confirm the condition.

FORMAT: (1) Relative Rating (2) (Problem Characteristics) (3) Construction

(1) Relative Rating Scale

Rating	Generalized Meaning
Excellent	4x4 vehicle not necessary, optimal launching depth, generally smooth surface, good parking
Good	4x4 vehicle not generally necessary, good launching depth, ramp surface fairly smooth, adequate parking
Fair	4x4 vehicle recommended, less than optimal launching depth, ramp surface may be rough, minimal parking area
Poor	4x4 vehicle needed, poor launching depth, ramp surface rough or uneven, may have potholes, minimal or no designated parking area

(2) Problem Characteristics

Rough Surface; Steep Ramp; Shallow Ramp; Drop Off; Potholes; Lack of Parking; Loose Dirt Around Ramp; Fee Required

(3) Construction

Paved; Sand; Clay; Unpaved (grass or dirt); Geoweb & railroad rock

EXAMPLES:

Excellent Paved

Good Clay Ramp

Fair (shallow ramp, loose dirt, potholes) paved

Good (steep ramp) paved

Good (loose dirt) paved

Poor (shallow ramp, drop off, pot holes) unpaved grass or “generic” dirt

Fair (lack of parking, pot holes, loose dirt) geoweb & railroad rock

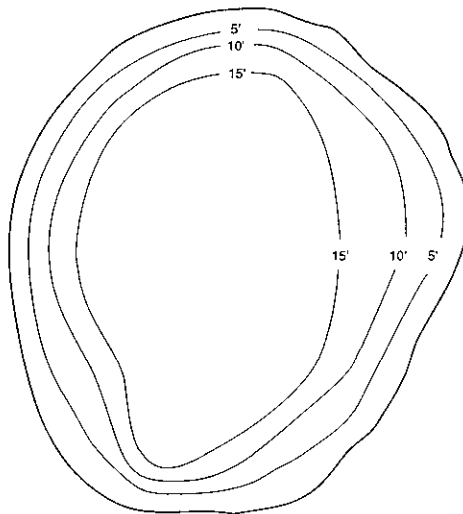
Fair (shallow ramp) sand

BOTTOM CONTOUR MAPS

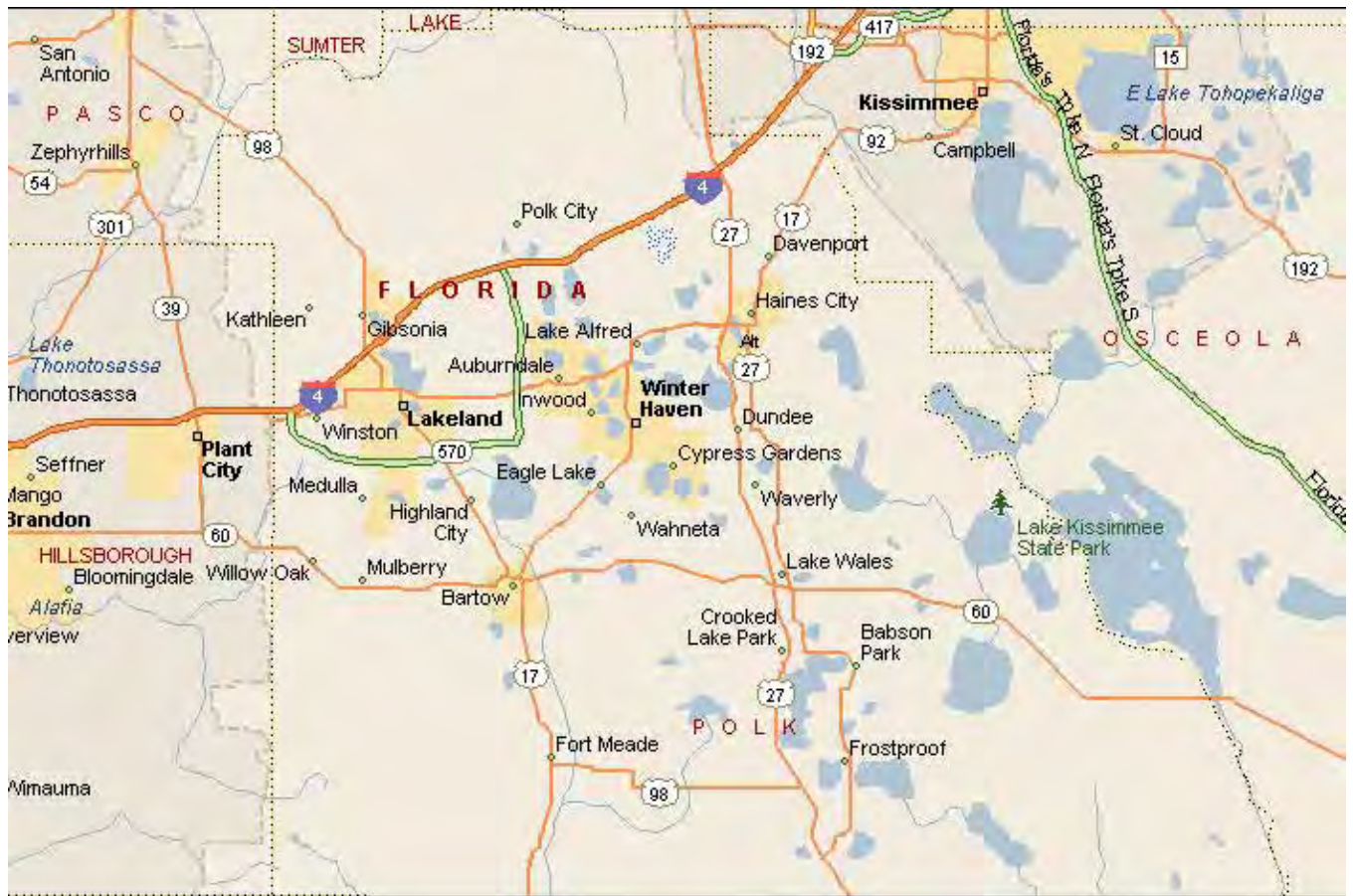
Bathymetric maps were gathered from projects and reports of the following agencies:

Polk County Parks and Natural Resources Division
City of Lakeland Lakes Program
University of South Florida
Southwest Florida Water Management District
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
U.S. Geological Survey
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Bromwell & Carrier, Inc.

For lakes that do not have contour maps, outlines have been provided to give the user an idea of the shape of the lake.



GENERALIZED MAP OF POLK COUNTY



Map 1



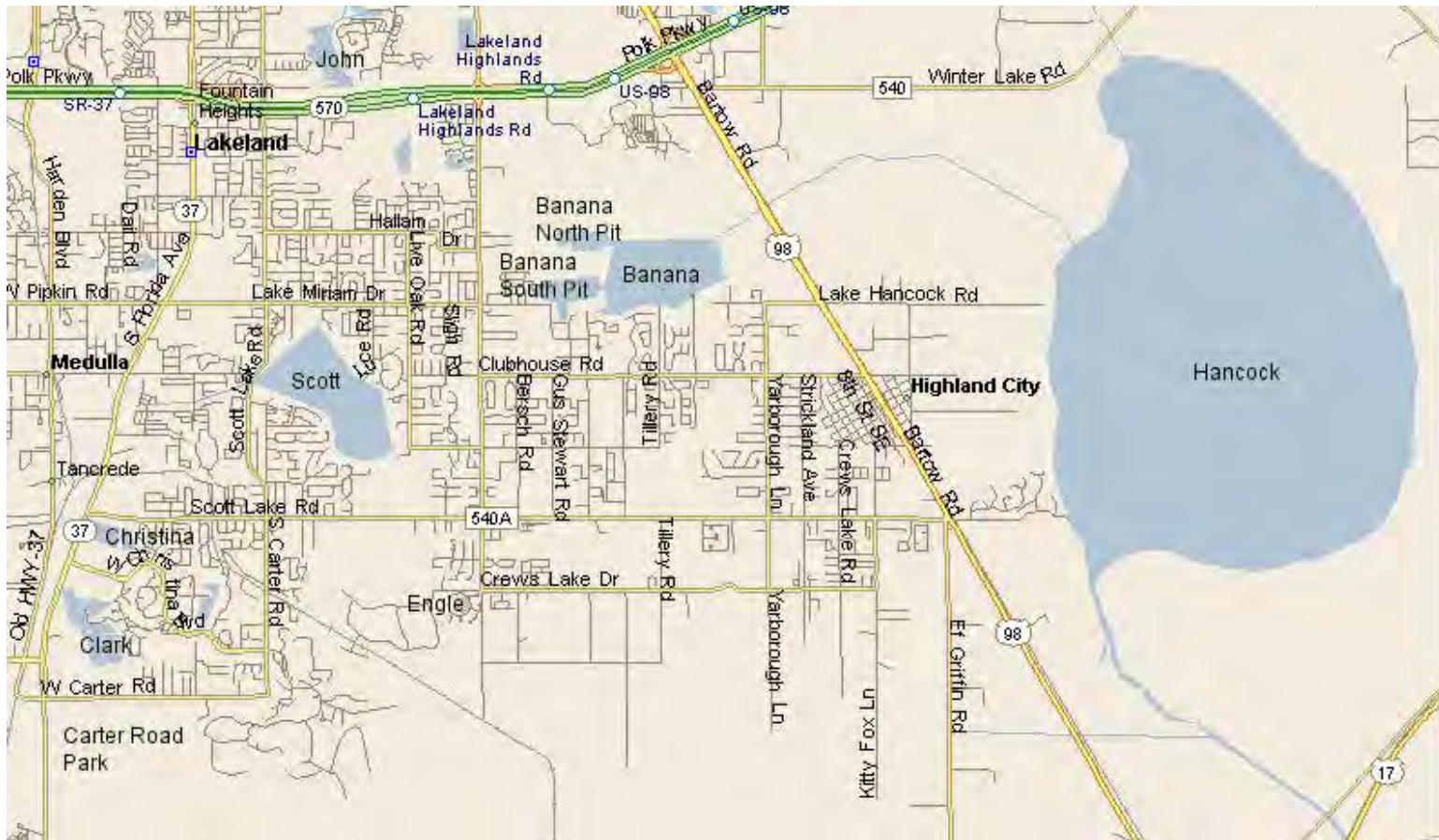
Map 2



Map 3



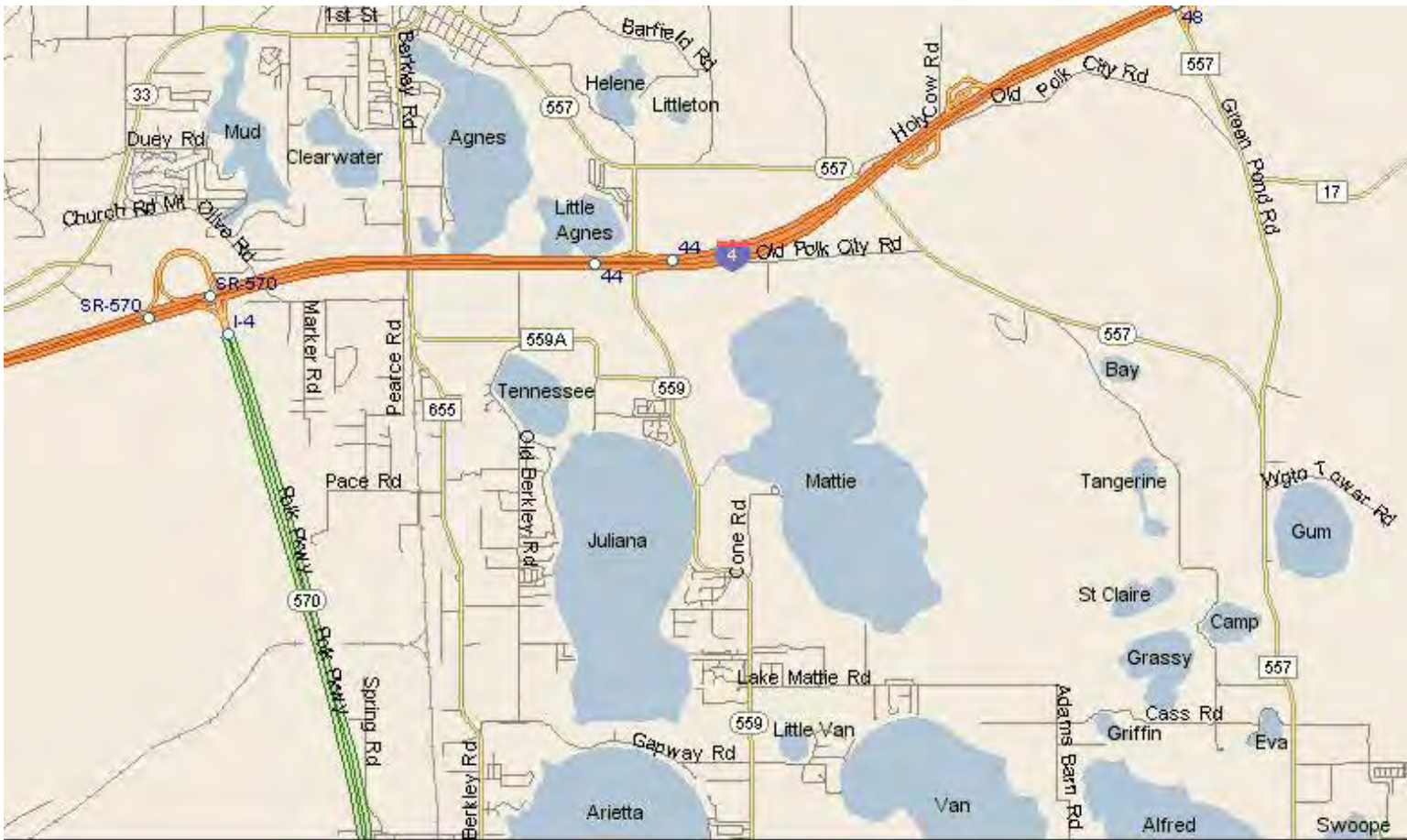
Map 4



Map 5



Map 6



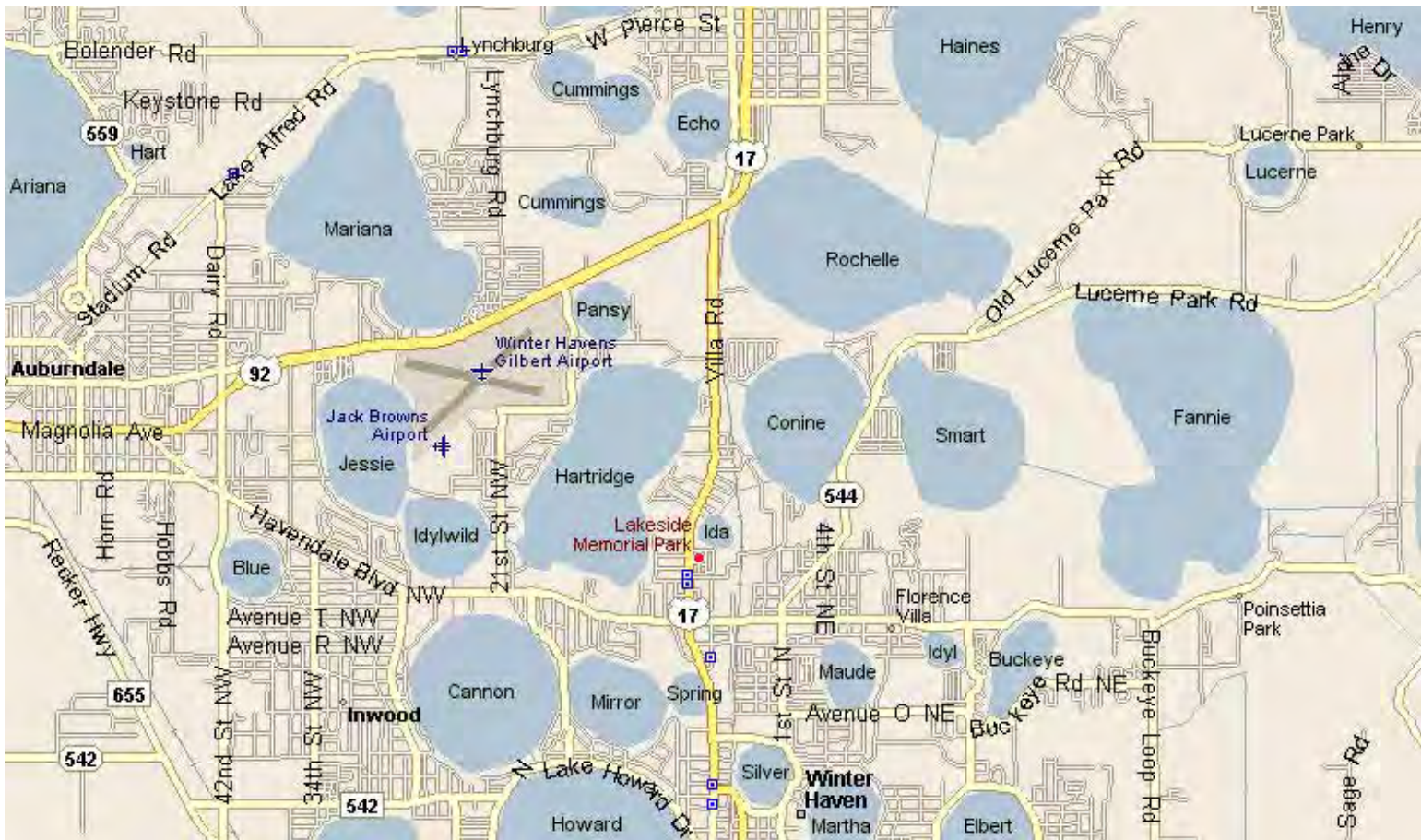
Map 7



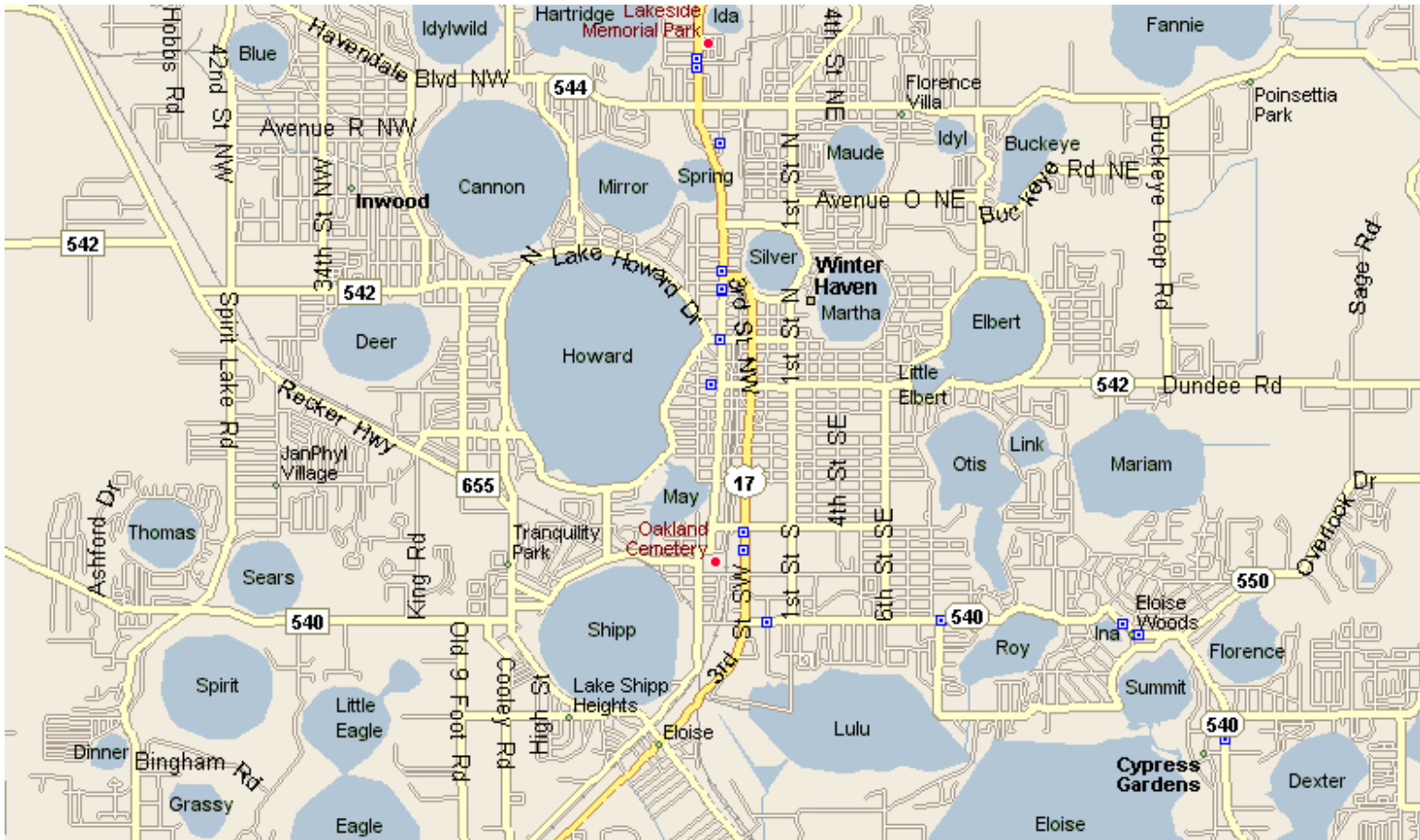
Map 8



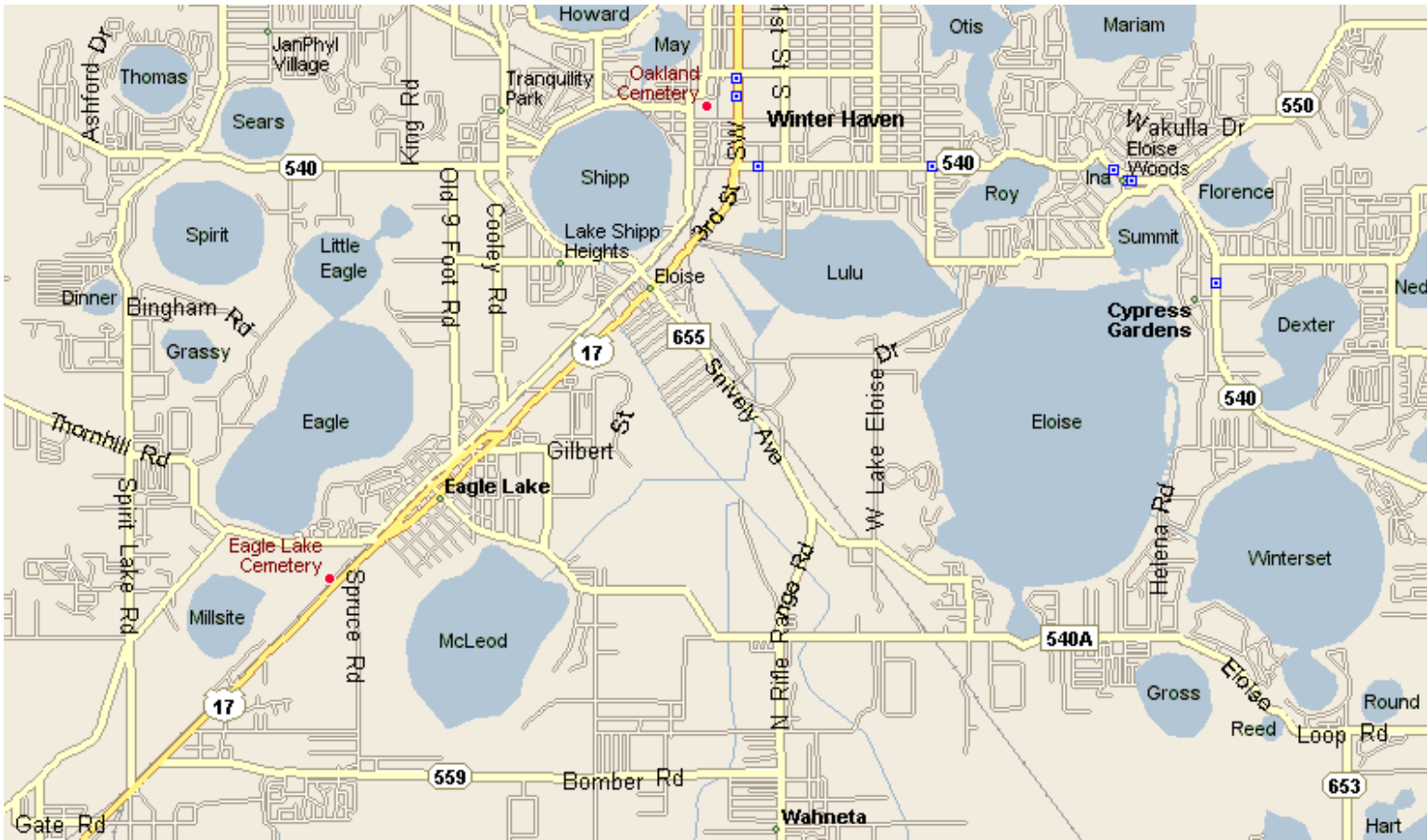
Map 9



Map 10



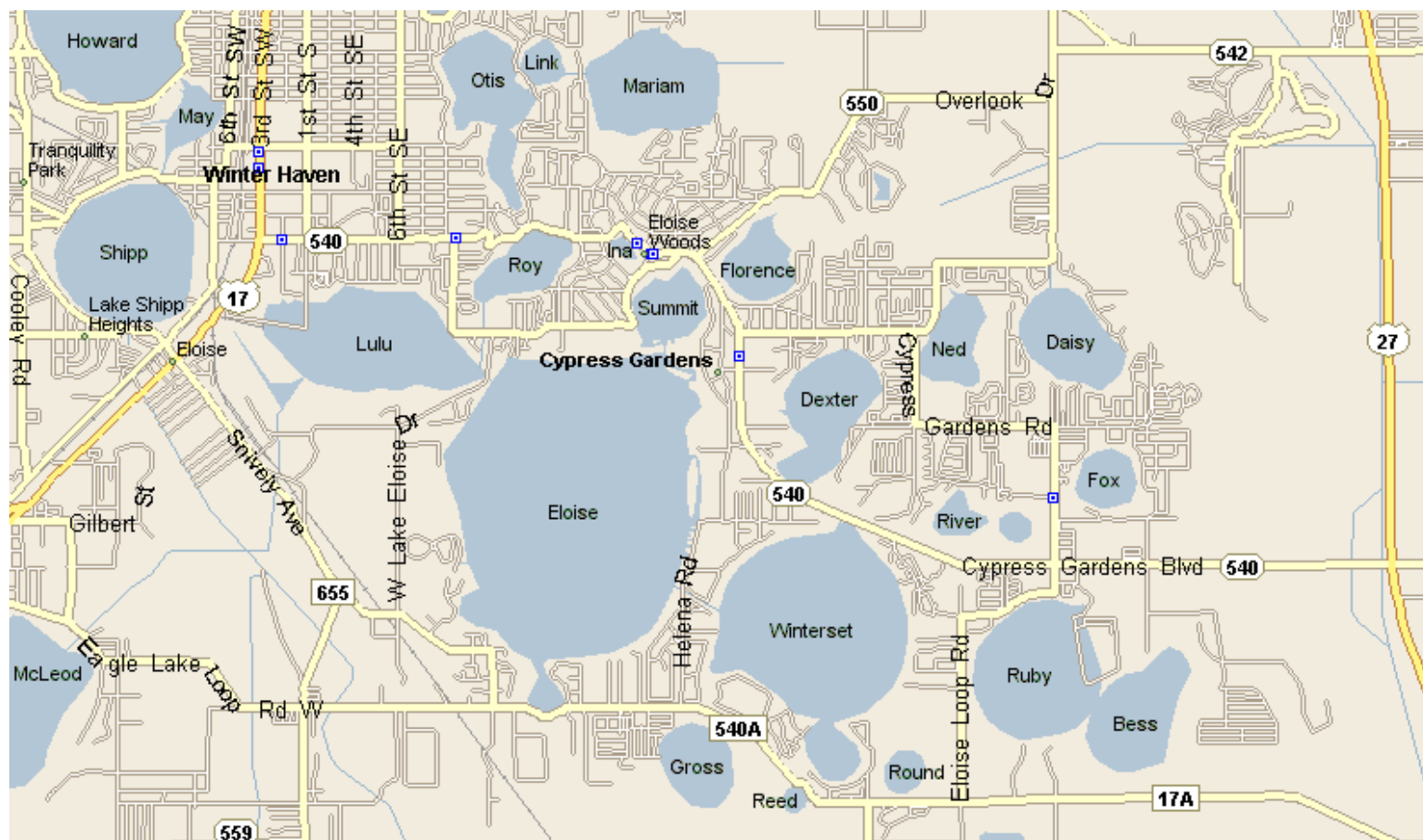
Map 11



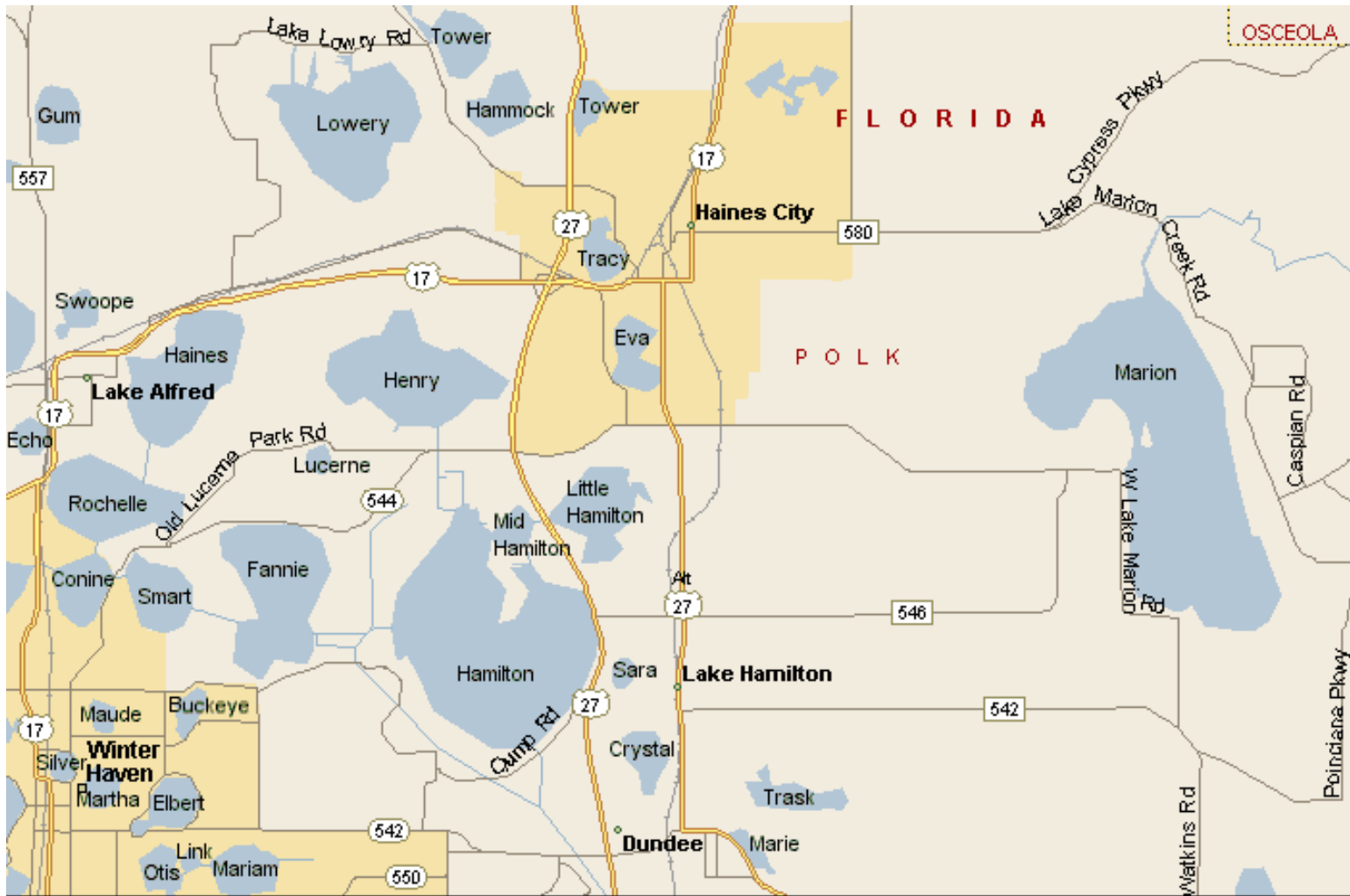
Map 12



Map 13



Map 14



Map 15



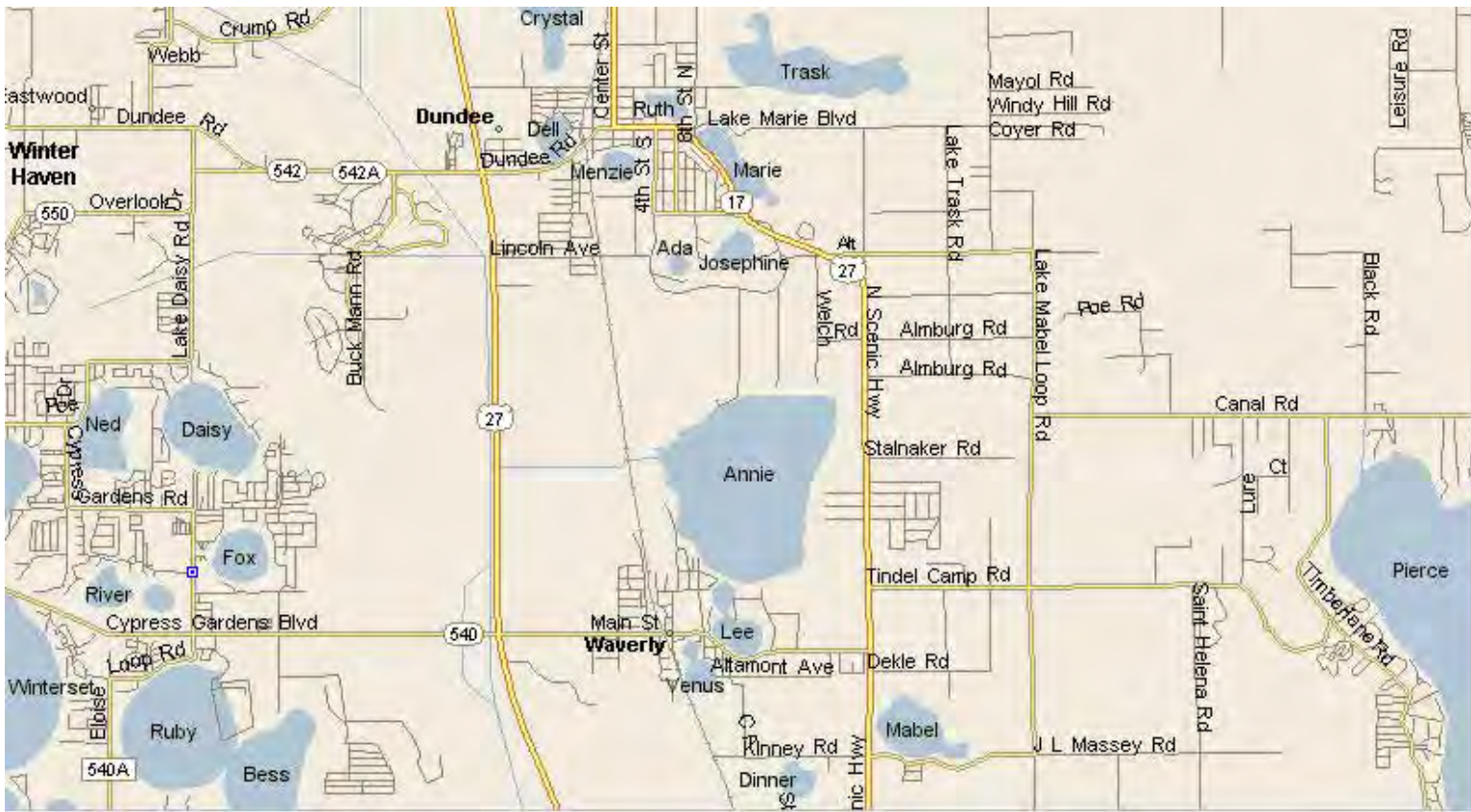
Map 16



Map 17



Map 18



Map 19



Map 20



Map 21



Map 22



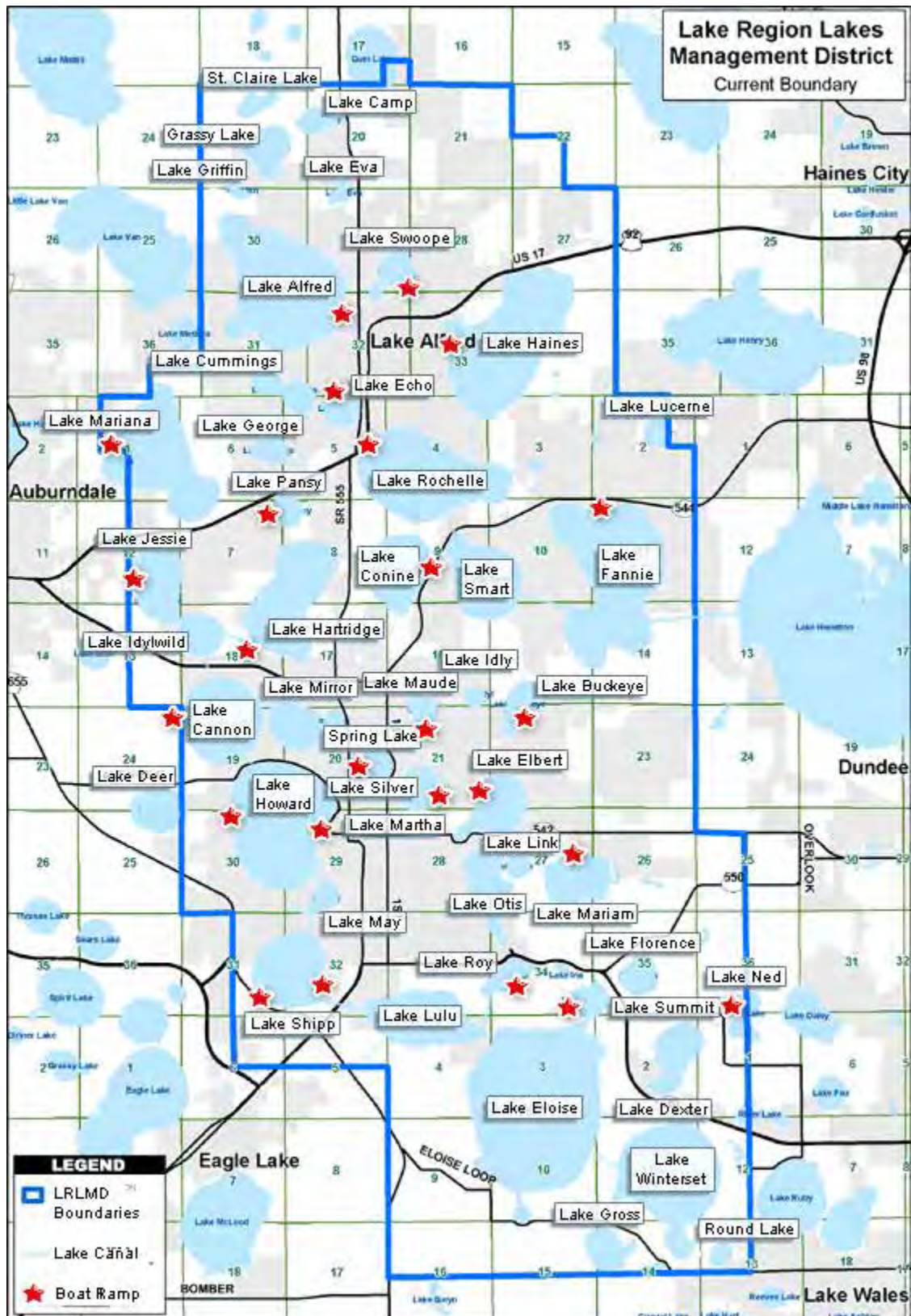
Map 23



Map 24



Lake Region Lakes Management District Current Boundary and Lakes



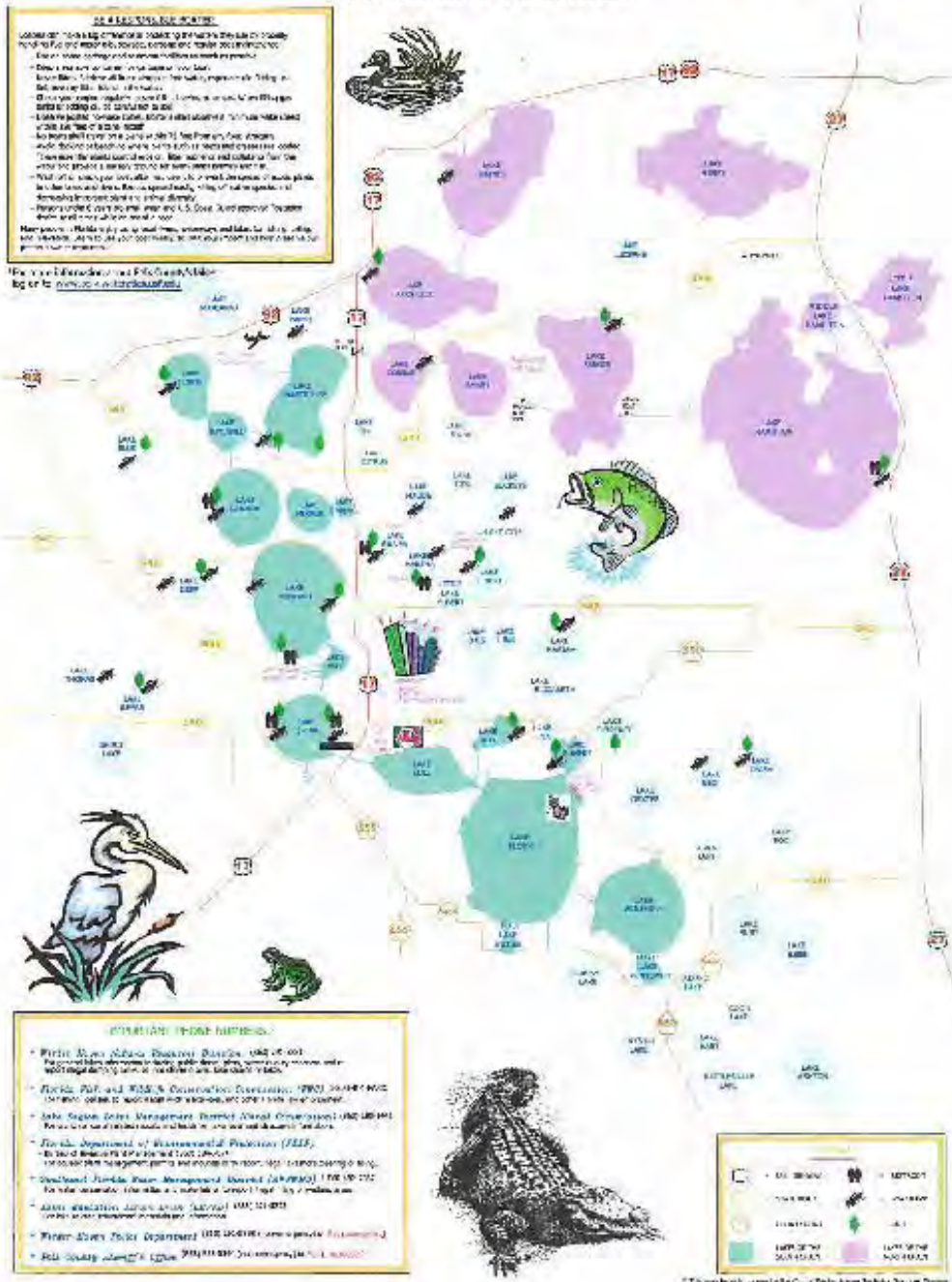
Winter Haven Chain of Lakes



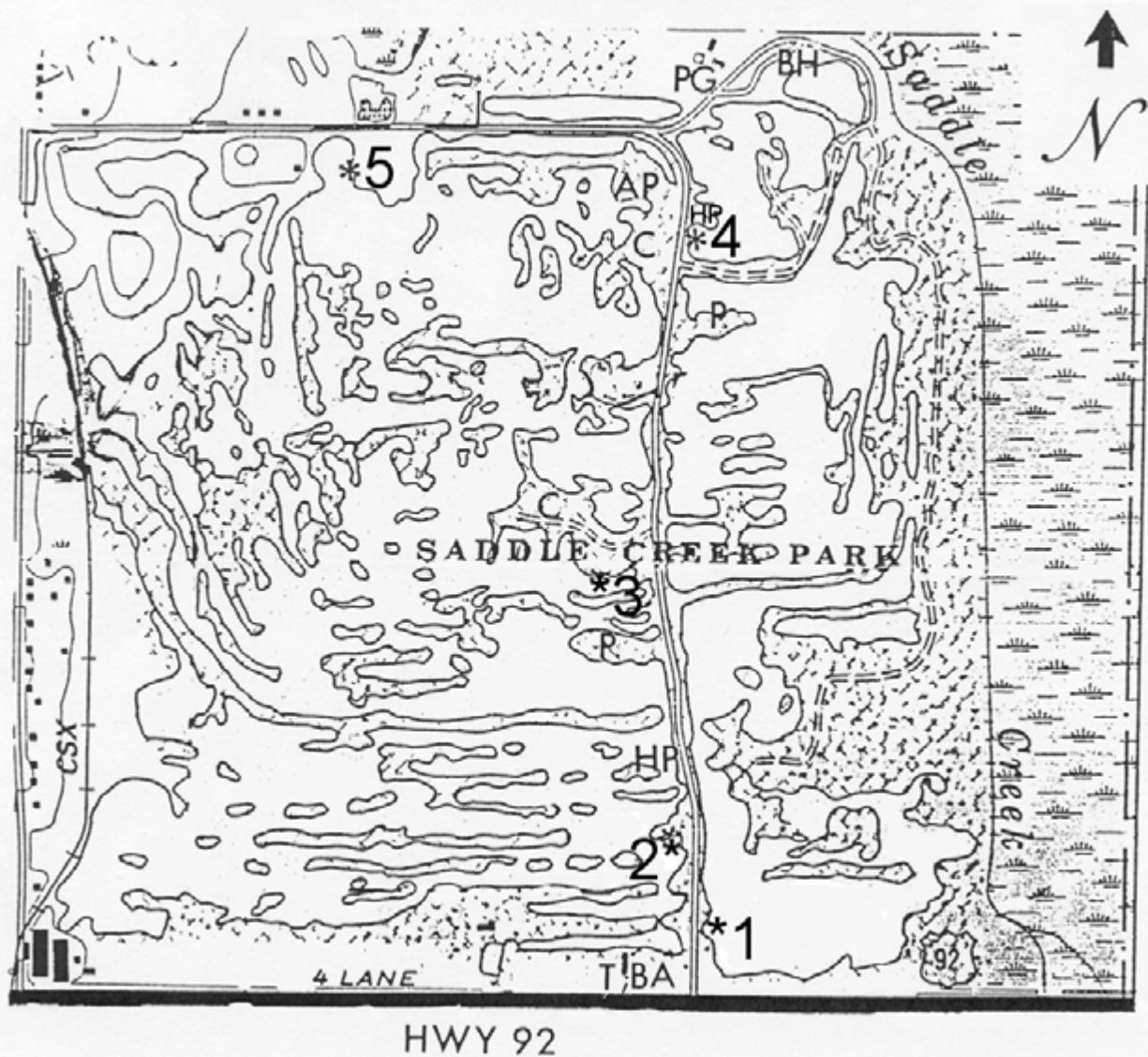
Access and Facilities

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For more information, visit www.fishbase.org or log on to www.aquariumconservation.org



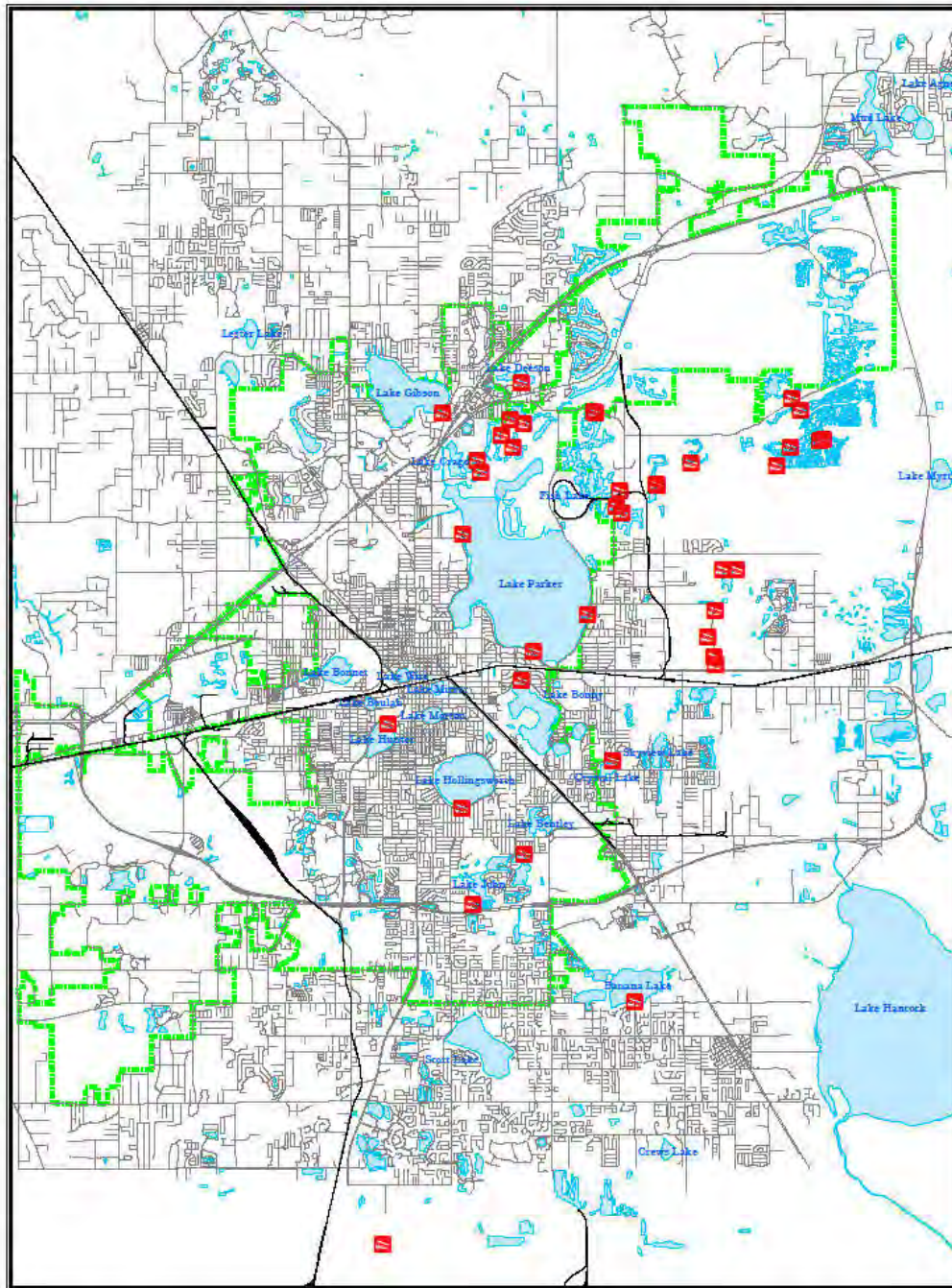
Map of Saddle Creek Park



- * - Approximate location of some of the boat ramps
- AP - Attended Park (trailer)
- HP - Handicapped fishing pier
- PG - Play ground
- BH - Beach
- P - Picnic area
- C - Camping
- T;BA - Tackle & Bait store

Lakeland Lakes

Public Boat Ramps in the City of Lakeland



Legend

 Lakeland City Limits

 Public Boat Ramps

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles



Contacts for Additional Information on Polk County lakes

Polk County Parks and Natural Resources Division

<http://www.polk-county.net/>

863-534-7377

County Ramps

863-499-2613

Lakes Education / Action Drive (LE/AD)

<http://www.le-ad.org/>

Lake Region Lakes Management District

<http://www.lakesmgmtdist.com/>

863-293-1441

Lake Watch

<http://lakewatch.ifas.ufl.edu/>

City of Lakeland

<http://www.lakelandgov.net/>

863-834-8439

City of Winter Haven

<http://www.mywinterhaven.com/>

863-291-5881

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (Fishing Licenses and other information)

<http://www.floridaconservation.org/>

Boating Information

http://myfwc.com/RECREATION/boat_index.htm

863-648-3203

Florida Lakes Management Society

<http://flms.net/index.html>

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/>

813-470-5700

Southwest Florida Water Management District

<http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/recreation/>

800-423-1476

South Florida Water Management District

<http://www.sfwmd.gov/>

800-432-2045