

ABOUT...

Constructed and operated by the Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department (PBCWUD) on 50 acres of previous wastewater utility property, the wetlands are a naturalized habitat for birds and animals, free from human intervention. Wakodahatchee, which means “Created Waters” in the Seminole language, features a three-quarter mile boardwalk that crosses between open-water pond areas and habitat islands with shrubs and trees to foster nesting and roosting.



The boardwalk is fully accessible and has interpretive signage as well as gazebos with benches along the way. This site is part of the Southern Section of the Great Florida Birding Trail and offers many chances to observe birds in their natural habitats. Over 178 bird species have been identified here, along with turtles, alligators, rabbits, fish, frogs, and raccoons.



Each day, PBCWUD’s Southern Region Water Reclamation Facility pumps approximately three-quarters of a million gallons of highly treated reclaimed water into the Wakodahatchee Wetlands, which in turn acts as a percolation pond, returning billions of gallons of fresh water back into the water table.



Free Admission

Open Daily, Sunrise to Sunset



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Palm Beach County
Water Utilities



Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners
Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department
pbcwater.com | 561-493-6000

WAKODAHATCHEE WETLANDS



WELCOME!

FOUR SEASONS AT WAKODAHATCHEE

WILDLIFE

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:

In order to enjoy your visit and to enable those around you to enjoy theirs, please observe these guidelines:

- Loose clothing, scarves, and hats that blow off or fall into the wetlands should not and cannot be retrieved due to the presence of alligators.
- Dispose of snack wrappers, bottles, and other garbage in the trash receptacles provided.
- Do not attempt to feed or lure the wildlife. Be respectful of their habitat and minimize loud devices and flash photography near nests.
- Park only in the available spaces. During peak visiting times, there may be a brief wait until a parking space becomes available.
- Restrooms and a water fountain are located opposite the boardwalk entrance.



The following are not permitted at Wakodahatchee Wetlands:



Service animals permitted

WINTER:

Migrating birds, including wood storks and herons, return to make nests, lay eggs, and welcome their hatchlings as spring approaches. This is a popular time for visitors who often return daily to see the hatchlings mature over the coming days and weeks.

SPRING:

Wood storks have established their rookeries, and their distinctive calls can be heard across the wetlands. In June, they begin to head north for cooler weather. Though they return to the same nesting area year after year, other birds will now move in, making use of their nests.

SUMMER:

These months still provide a bounty of wildlife-watching. Alligators and lizards can often be seen cooling off in the shady areas of the cypress and upland forest of the wetlands. Turtles and fish can be spotted swimming; water plants on the surface provide shade.

FALL:

The pond apple trees are in full foliage with their distinctive green fruit. Also called "alligator apple," it provides sustenance to many of the wetlands' wildlife. Wakodahatchee closes annually for upkeep late October to mid-November. Please check pbcwater.com for these dates.



ANHINGA



BLUE HERON



WOOD STORK



WHISTLING DUCKS



MARSH RABBIT



CATTLE EGRET



RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD



GRACKLE



ALLIGATOR