

W165. West Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility Wetlands (Indian River County)



SiteID: E165 (E120 old)

Region: East

County: Indian River

Nearest City: Vero Beach

Phone Number: 772-770-5045

Website: [W165. West Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility Wetlands \(Indian River County\)](#)

Amenities: Restrooms, Birding by foot/hiking, Best time of day: Morning, Recommended length of visit: a few hours

Habitats: Freshwater Marsh/Wetlands

Description:

Formerly known as the Indian River County Wetlands Treatment Facility, this bird- and birder-friendly site employs a unique technique to further clean its treated wastewater. After cleaning the water chemically, (which in the past would have been discharged into a river), the water flows instead through a created wetland. Plants like cattail and bulrush remove excess nutrients like phosphates and nitrates, which prevents harmful algae blooms downstream that choke out the native aquatic life. Needless to say, these wetlands are quite productive, and birds love them! Birders will appreciate the 0.25-mile boardwalk, covered pavilion and observation tower on the south side of the wetlands, as well as the 4.8 miles of diked impoundment trails, which allow easy viewing of wading birds (including Limpkin, Sandhill Crane, egrets, herons, ibises and both bitterns), ducks (Wood, Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal, Mottled, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon and Ring-necked) and associated water- and shorebirds (Common Gallinule, Purple Gallinule, King Rail, Sora, Wilson's Snipe, Black-necked Stilt and both yellowlegs, among others). Sign in at the entrance before birding. Summer birding is productive here, but arrive early, as little shade is available. Bring water and sun protection. Call ahead for boardwalk repair status.

Directions: From I-95 near Vero Beach, take exit 147 for SR 60. Head east on SR 60/20th St. for 0.5 mi. to the stop light at 90th Ave. Turn right (south) and proceed 1.5 mi. to 8th St. Turn left (east) and go 0.6 mi; the entrance is on

the right (south side).

Open 7 AM to 3:30 PM, Monday to Friday; 7 AM to 3:30 PM, weekends, by appointment only.

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