

Intrinsic Resource and Designation Criteria



8 Designation Criteria

Universal Criteria 1: Resources Must be Visible from the Roadway.

The *American Guide Series, Florida, A Guide to the Southernmost State*, described what it was like to travel the Ridge Scenic Highway in 1939.

This route climbs the rolling hills of the ridge section, circles sparkling blue lakes, and for miles winds through large citrus groves. From the hilltops the land is a changing checkerboard of green trees, sapphire and silver water, and brown tilled fields.

This description still captures the scenic beauty that drivers experience as they travel the Ridge Scenic Highway today. Beyond capturing lakes and citrus groves, traveling the Ridge Scenic Highway offers an introduction to the ecology, history, and culture of Central Florida. Travelers and residents experience these resources through the many historic sites and structures preserved along the corridor, the natural and recreational lands, and the cultural and civic institutions and the unique attractions found throughout the Ridge Scenic Highway.

Resources located within the viewshed of the Ridge Scenic Highway are detailed under Universal Criteria 4.

Universal Criteria 2: The Corridor Must “Tell a Story” that Relates to Its Intrinsic Resources.

A trip along the Ridge Scenic Highway introduces travelers to historic, rural Florida.



The rolling terrain provides significant vistas to the SR 17 traveler.

The Corridor Story for the Ridge Scenic Highway is included in *Section 9: Corridor’s Story*.

Mechanisms by which to relay the Corridor Story are included in the Vision, Goals and Strategies and Action Plan. They include are detailed in *Section 3: Community Participation and Promotion*.

Universal Criteria 3: Must be a Public Road that Safely Accommodates Two-Wheel Drive Automobiles.

The Ridge Scenic Highway, known locally as Scenic Highway, is designated SR 17 by the Florida Department of Transportation. The two-lane urban collector serves between 2,700 Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) and 11,600 AADT, with the AADT lowest in the southern section of the corridor. Residents and commercial farmers use the roadway year round, with truck traffic ranging from 4 percent to 17 percent of the total traffic.

Universal Criteria 4: Corridor Must Exhibit Significant, Exceptional, and Distinctive Features of the Region it Traverses.

The Ridge Scenic Highway contains an abundance of archeological, historic, cultural, recreational, natural, and scenic resources. The intrinsic resources found along the Ridge Scenic Highway, taken as a whole, teach residents and guests of the unique and irreplaceable ecology and culture found along the Lake Wales Ridge.

Archeological Resources

Archeological sites preserving the unique history of the Lake Wales Ridge are located along The Ridge Scenic Highway. The City of Frostproof has identified one such site along SR 17 Scenic Highway. Early inhabitants of Frostproof became aware of a presemiole Indian burial mound, located at the corner of Lake Reedy Boulevard and Wall Street. The burial mound contained artifacts from the Calusa Indians. Originally, the size of the mound was 10 times greater than it is today. Today a monument

designates the mound. The City of Frostproof owns and maintains the site.

According to the State Historic Preservation Office in March 2003, 109 surveys of areas located in the viewshed have shown presence of archeological findings. These sites vary in type and integrity.

Due to the sensitive nature of archeological sites, the State Historic Preservation Office asks that archeological sites not be open to the public not be mapped or presented at open public events. Therefore, no map of archeological resources is provided.

Historic Resources

The Ridge Scenic Highway serves communities with long and rich histories. The cities, towns, and unincorporated communities have invested in preserving their historic structures and historic centers. The historic sites and centers identified by the National Register of Historic Places, the State Historic Preservation Office and the cities and towns are mapped on *Figure 23*.

Historic Districts

There are six historic districts located along the Ridge Scenic Highway.

Downtown Haines City Commercial District – Hinson Avenue, Ingraham Avenue, Fourth



SR 17 is a 2-lane roadway that accommodates all 2-wheel drive automobiles.

Street, and Seventh Street are the rough boundaries of the Downtown Haines City Commercial District. Constructed between 1913-1937, the Downtown Haines City Commercial District is the historic commercial area of downtown. It contains 25 buildings, 20 of historical interest. The architectural styles represented include Masonry Vernacular, Mediterranean Revival, and other Revival styles. The Downtown Haines City Commercial District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1994.

Chalet Suzanne – In 1931, Bertha Hinshaw and her family began entertaining weary travelers in their home a short distance from what was then US Highway 27 and today is know as SR 17. What started as a small country inn has slowly grown over the years (and generations) into a little village reminiscent of old Europe, including a restaurant, 30-guestroom inn, shops, airstrip, soup cannery, gardens, museum, family cemetery, citrus groves and vineyard, many of which have celebrated national and international acclaim. Chalet Suzanne is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and their homegrown gourmet soups and sauces have been served in many famous places, including the surface of the moon!

Mountain Lake Estates Historic District – Constructed in the early 1920s as a winter community for wealthy northerners, the Mountain Lake Estates Historic District contains 101 buildings, 65 of historical interest. The



This plaque denotes a listed property on 6th Street in the Downtown Haines City Commercial District.

Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, Massachusetts, designed the community. The Mountain Lake Estates Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1993. It contains two properties that are also listed by the National Register of Historic Places – El Retiro and the Colony House.

North Avenue Historic District – The North Avenue Historic District extends across nine acres and contains 12 contributing structures. It is located in the City of Lake Wales, north of the Lake Wales Historic Residential District, south of G Street and Winston Avenue is the eastern boundary. The prevalent architecture is frame vernacular.

Lake Wales Historic Residential District – The Seaboard Airline railroad grade, CSX railroad tracks, East Polk Avenue, and South and North Lake Shore Boulevards are the boundaries of the Lake Wales Historic Residential District. It contains 206 contributing historic buildings.

The Lake Wales Historic Residential District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1997.

Lake Wales Commercial Historic District – SR 17, Central Avenue, Market Street, and Orange Avenue are the rough borders of the Lake Wales Commercial Historic District. It was originally constructed between 1913 and 1928, the earliest phase of development of the City of Lake Wales. It contains 21 buildings, 16 of historical interest. The Lake Wales Commercial Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1990.

**National Register of Historic Places
Historic Sites and Structures**

According the State Historic Preservation Office, there are 19 historic sites and structures located within a mile of the Ridge Scenic Highway. These sites are shown on *Figure 23* and listed in *Table 9*.

Table 9: Buildings Listed on National Register within One Mile of the Ridge Scenic Highway

Name	National Register Reference Number	Address	City	Date of Construction	Architectural Style	Notes
St. Mark's Episcopal Church	94000159	102 N. 9th St.	Haines City	1890	Steeply pitched cross-gable roof	Oldest standing structure in Haines City
Landmark Baptist College and Christian Bookstore (Polk Hotel)	94000151	800--810 Hinson Ave.	Haines City	1926	Italian Renaissance Revival	First skyscraper built in Haines City and still one of the largest buildings
Central Grammar School, Old	94000160	801 Ledwith Ave.	Haines City	1925	Mission Revival	The first modern educational facility erected in Haines City; presently used as a cultural arts center
Haines City National Guard Armory, Old	94000158	226 S. 6th St.	Haines City	1932	Colonial Revival	The only historic facility in the community that is related to the state militia and U.S. National Guard
Dundee ACL Railroad Depot, Old	01000739	103 Main St.	Dundee	1911		Currently serves as a museum
Lake of the Hills Community Club	00000265	41 E. Starr Ave.	Lake Wales	1929		

DESIGNATION CRITERIA

Name	National Register Reference Number	Address	City	Date of Construction	Architectural Style	Notes
Mountain Lake Colony House	91000113	E of FL 17, on N shore of Mountain Lake	Lake Wales	1916	Mediterranean	Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. and Charles R. Wait; in its day one of Central Florida's most fashionable resort hotels
Historic Bok Sanctuary	72000350	1151 Tower Boulevard	Lake Wales	1929		
El Retiro/Pinewood Estate	8500333		Lake Wales	1930	Mediterranean Revival	Home of C. Austin Buck. Now part of Historic Bok Sanctuary
Roosevelt School	01000306	115 East St. N	Lake Wales			
Johnson, C. L., House	89001481	315 E. Sessoms Ave.	Lake Wales			
Tillman, G. V., House	90001276	301 E. Sessoms Ave.	Lake Wales			
Dixie Walesbilt Hotel	90001273	115 N. First St.	Lake Wales	1926	Vernacular masonry	One of the few historic skyscrapers in Florida
Lake Wales City Hall	90001274	152 E. Central Ave.	Lake Wales	1928	Masonry Vernacular with Mediterranean Revival elements	The first building in the town to serve a local government function
First Baptist Church	90001275	338 E. Central Ave.	Lake Wales	1923	Classical Revival	Considered an excellent example of its style
Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Depot	90001277	325 S. Scenic Hwy.	Lake Wales		Mediterranean Revival	
Bullard, B. K., House	90001272	644 S. Lakeshore Blvd.	Lake Wales			
Church of the Holy Spirit	90001271	1099 Hesperides Rd.	Lake Wales	1927	Spanish Mission	Currently serves as the Lake Wales Art Center.
Casa De Josefina	75000567	2 mi. SE of Lake Wales off U.S. 27	Lake Wales	1923	Florida Boom	Built as a residence for Polk County banker and realtor Irwin Arthur Yarnell
Babson Park Woman's Club	97001229	1300 N. Scenic Hwy	Babson Park		Mediterranean Revival	
Frostproof High School, Old/ Current City Hall	97001420	111 W. First St.	Frostproof		Mediterranean Revival	Renovated to serve as City Hall.

Source: <http://www.freac.fsu.edu/HistoricPlaces/Counties/Polk.html> (April 2003), The State Historic Preservation Office

Potential Historic Sites and Structures

The State Historic Preservation Office maintains a list of sites and structures that may be of

historic significance. This list is based on a windshield survey of an area, and contains many, but not all, sites and structures that could be of historic significance.

Table 10: Buildings Listed on State Historic Site File within 500 feet of the Ridge Scenic Highway

Site Name	Address	Year Built	Style	Structure Use
10 N 10th Street	10 N 10th Street	1920c	Frame Vernacular	Residence
1003 10th Street	1003 10th Street	1917	Frame Vernacular	Residence
1014 Jones Avenue	1014 Jones Ave	1924c	Georgian Revival	Residence
1019 Elizabeth Avenue	1019 Elizabeth Ave	1938c	Frame Vernacular	Residence
1020 Marion Street	1020 Marion Street	1925c	Frame Vernacular	Residence
1037 Elizabeth Avenue	1037 Elizabeth Ave	1925c	Bungalow	Residence
1045 Elizabeth Avenue	1045 Elizabeth Ave	1925c	Bungalow	Residence
108 E Seminole Ave	108 E Seminole Ave	C1924	Frame Vernacular	Agricultural
114 E Seminole Ave	114 E Seminole Ave	C1925	Industrial Vernacular	Agricultural
114 S 10th Street	114 S 10th Street	1925c	Bungalow	Residence
146 E Osceola Ave	146 E Osceola Ave	1920c	Frame Vernacular	Residence
1515 Lake Eva Circle	1515 Lake Eva Circle	1925c	Georgian Revival	Residence
1619 10th Street	1619 10th Street	1924c	Mediterranean Revival	Residence
1629 10th Street	1629 10th Street	1925c	Frame Vernacular	Residence
1670 10th Street	1670 10th Street	1926c	Mediterranean Revival	Residence
1690 10th Street	1690 10th Street	1926c	Mediterranean Revival	Residence
17 N Third St	17 N Third St	1924c	Frame Vernacular	Residence
18 N Third St	18 N Third St	1928c	Bungalow	Residence
200 E Crystal Ave	200 E Crystal Ave	1920c	Masonry Vernacular	Retail Establishment
200 E Tillman Ave	200 E Tillman Ave	1930c	Bungalow	Residence
211 N Scenic Hwy	211 N Scenic Hwy	1924c	Masonry Vernacular	Residence
218 E Seminole Ave	218 E Seminole Ave	1920c	Bungalow	Residence
219 E Sessoms Ave	219 E Sessoms Ave	1928c	Bungalow	Retail Establishment
221 E Stuart Ave	221 E Stuart Ave	1930c	Masonry Vernacular	Retail Establishment
222 E North Ave	222 E North Ave	1920c	Bungalow	Residence
222 E Stuart Ave	222 E Stuart Ave	1928c	Masonry Vernacular	Retail Establishment
224 E Park Ave	224 E Park Ave	1920c	Masonry Vernacular	Retail Establishment
224 E Seminole Ave	224 E Seminole Ave	1924c	Frame Vernacular	Residence
225 E Sessoms Ave	225 E Sessoms Ave	1920c	Frame Vernacular	Residence
229 E Sessoms Ave	229 E Sessoms Ave	1930c	Frame Vernacular	Residence
230 E Seminole Ave	230 E Seminole Ave	1924c	Frame Vernacular	Residence
234 S 10th Street	234 S 10th Street	1925	Georgian Revival	Residence
236 E Seminole Ave	236 E Seminole Ave	1924c	Bungalow	Residence
237 E Stuart Ave	237 E Stuart Ave	1928c	Masonry Vernacular	Retail Establishment
240 E Park Ave	240 E Park Ave	1920c	Mission	Residence
247 E Park Ave	247 E Park Ave	1920c	Masonry Vernacular	Residence
28 N 10th Street	28 N 10th Street	1922c	Frame Vernacular	Residence
282 E Park Ave	282 E Park Ave	1928c	Mission	Apartment
303 E Central Ave	303 E Central Ave	1920c	Bungalow	Residence

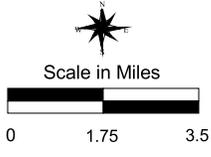
DESIGNATION CRITERIA

Site Name	Address	Year Built	Style	Structure Use
307 Florida Avenue	307 Florida Avenue	1930c	Frame Vernacular	Residence
308 E Central Ave	308 E Central Ave	1924c	Frame Vernacular	Residence
310 E Polk Ave	310 E Polk Ave	1928c	Frame Vernacular	Residence
311 E Polk Ave	311 E Polk Ave	1924c	Bungalow	Residence
315 E Polk Ave	315 E Polk Ave	1928c	Bungalow	Commercial/Residence
316 E Polk Ave	316 E Polk Ave	1930c	Bungalow	Residence
316 E Tillman Ave	316 E Tillman Ave	1928c	Frame Vernacular	Residence
319 E Johnson Ave	319 E Johnson Ave	1930c	Bungalow	Residence
32 N 10th Street	32 N 10th Street	1925c	Bungalow	Residence
320 E Polk Ave	320 E Polk Ave	1930c	Bungalow	Residence
322 E Polk Ave	322 E Polk Ave	1930c	Frame Vernacular	Residence
322 E Tillman Ave	322 E Tillman Ave	1928c	Bungalow	Residence
325 E Johnson Ave	325 E Johnson Ave	1920c	Bungalow	Residence
332 E Polk Ave	332 E Polk Ave	1920c	Bungalow	Residence
333 E Johnson Ave	333 E Johnson Ave	1930c	Shingle	Residence
336 E Polk Ave	336 E Polk Ave	1928c	Frame Vernacular	Residence
338 E Tillman Ave	338 E Tillman Ave	1928c	Mediterranean Revival	Residence
342 E Tillman Ave	342 E Tillman Ave	1928c	Frame Vernacular	Residence
37 N 10th Street	37 N 10th Street	1925	Bungalow	Residence
400 C Street	400 C Street	1930c	Bungalow	Residence
408 E Bullard Ave	408 E Bullard Ave	1928c	Mediterranean Revival	Residence
425 C Street	425 C Street	1930c	Frame Vernacular	Residence
427 C Street	427 C Street	1930c	Frame Vernacular	Residence
427 E Bullard Ave	427 E Bullard Ave	1928c	Bungalow	Residence
428 E Bullard Ave	428 E Bullard Ave	1928c	Bungalow	Residence
432 E Bullard Ave	432 E Bullard Ave	1928c	Mediterranean Revival	Residence
433 E Bullard Ave	433 E Bullard Ave	1928c	Mediterranean Revival	Residence
438 E Polk Ave	438 E Polk Ave	1925c	Frame Vernacular	Residence
450 N Scenic Hwy	450 N Scenic Hwy	1920c	Mission	Residence
502 E Polk Ave	502 E Polk Ave	1925c	Bungalow	Residence
529 N Scenic Hwy	529 N Scenic Hwy	1920c	Frame Vernacular	Residence
533 N Scenic Hwy	533 N Scenic Hwy	1920c	Frame Vernacular	Residence
620 N Scenic Hwy	620 N Scenic Hwy	1928c	Mission	Retail Establishment
701 Oak Avenue	701 Oak Avenue	1938c	Frame Vernacular	Apartment
709 Oak Avenue	709 Oak Avenue	1938c	Mediterranean Revival	Residence
802 S 10th Street	802 S 10th Street	1927c	Mediterranean Revival	Residence
912 Jones Avenue	912 Jones Avenue	1920c	Bungalow	Residence
Alexander, B H House	314 E Central Ave	1919	Bungalow	Residence
Babson Park Elementary School	SR 17	1916c	Mediterranean Revival	Unknown
Babson Park Garage	SR 17	1916c	Mediterranean Revival	Unknown
Babson Park Woman's Club	1300 N Scenic Hwy	1931	Mediterranean Revival	Lodge (Club) Building
Boyle Auto Supply	122 E Crystal Ave	1928c	Mission	Retail Establishment
Bullard, B K Building	247 E Stuart Ave	1919	Masonry Vernacular	Retail Establishment
Burns Arcade	260 E Stuart Ave	1917	Masonry Vernacular	Commercial
Chevrolet Dealership	318 S Scenic Hwy		Mediterranean Revival	Commercial
Citizen's Bank Of Frostproof	Wall St And Scenic Hwy	1925	Neo-Classical Revival	Commercial
Citizens Bank Of Lake Wales	251 E Park Ave	1921	Masonry Vernacular	Bank

DESIGNATION CRITERIA

Site Name	Address	Year Built	Style	Structure Use
Crown Cafe	252 E Stuart Ave	1920	Mission	Restaurant
Former Frostproof City Hall	47 W Wall St	1928	Neo-Classical Revival	Private Business
Former Frostproof High School	111 W First	1926	Mediterranean Revival	City Hall
G W Wilson House	Wilson Rd @ SR27	1911		Residence
Gibson And Lilly Building	208-216 E Stuart Ave	1928c	Masonry Vernacular	Retail Establishment
Hotel Wales	318 N Scenic Way	1912	Frame Vernacular	Hotel, Motel, Inn
Johnson Funeral Home	322 N Scenic Hwy	1918	Tudor Revival	Residence
Johnson Motor Company	201 N Scenic Hwy	1922	Masonry Vernacular	Retail Establishment
Lake Eva Circle Apartments	1006 Marion Street	1925c	Georgian Revival	Residence
Lake Supply Company	111 E Seminole Ave	C1924	Industrial Vernacular	Agricultural
Lake Wales Children's Museum	290 Cypress Garden Lane	1920	Bungalow	Governmental Offices
Lake Wales Depot	Bullard Ave	1928	Mediterranean Revival	Terminal, Air/Bus/Rail
Lake Wales State Bank Building	250 E Park Ave	1915	Masonry Vernacular	Bank
Lake Wales Water & Ice Plant	330 Market St	1925	Masonry Vernacular	
Lee St (No Address)	Lee St (No Address)	1924c	Frame Vernacular	Residence
Log Cabin Tea Room	301 E Central Ave	1926	Log	Restaurant
Old Central Grammar School	801 Ledwith Avenue	1925	Mission	Education Related
Parker, L H Building	229 E Park Ave	1928	Masonry Vernacular	Retail Establishment
Parker, T J Building	235 E Park Ave	1920	Masonry Vernacular	Retail Establishment
Parker, T S Building	245 E Park Ave	1920	Masonry Vernacular	Retail Establishment
Rhodes Building, J T	242 Park Ave		Mediterranean Revival	Commercial
Rhodes, J T Building	233 E Park Ave	1920	Masonry Vernacular	Retail Establishment
Rhodesbilt Arcade	230 E Park Ave	1924	Masonry Vernacular	Retail Establishment
Ridge Motor Company Building	103 E Bullard Ave	1924	Mediterranean Revival	Retail Establishment
Scenic Theater	254 E Stuart Ave	1920	Masonry Vernacular	Theater
Smith, Dr. Jerry, Chiropractor	101 S 10th Street	1924	Bungalow	Residence
Southside Baptist Church	27A @ W Church St	1919c	Frame Vernacular	House Of Worship
St Mark's Episcopal Church	102 North 9th St	1892	Gothic Revival	House Of Worship
Thullberry House	344 E Park Ave	1913	Bungalow	Residence
Tillman, G.V. House	301 E Sessoms Ave	1916	Georgian Revival	Residence
Townsend Bungalow	Third St And Central	1916	Bungalow	Residence
Webber International University	SR 17	1916c	Mediterranean Revival	School, University, College
Webber International University	SR 17	1916c	Mediterranean Revival	School, University, College
Webber International University	SR 17	1916c	Mediterranean Revival	School, University, College
Webber International University	SR17	1916c	Mediterranean Revival	School, University, College
Woman's Club Of Lake Wales	275 E Park Ave	1935	Masonry Vernacular	Lodge (Club) Building
Yeoman's Feed & Farm Supply	201 E Orange Ave	1913	Frame Vernacular	Retail Establishment

Source: State Historic Site File, State Historic Preservation Office



LEGEND

- Sites Listed on National Register of Historic Places (1 mile of Corridor)
- Sites Listed on State Historic Site File (SHPO) (500 feet of Corridor)
- Historic Districts Listed on National Register of Historic Places (1 mile of Corridor)
- 🟩 SR 17 Scenic Highway
- 🟨 City Limits

Source:
State Historic Preservation
Office (SHPO)

Figure 23
Historic Resources Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

History Museums

There are four history museums located along the Ridge Scenic Highway.

Haines City Heritage Museum – Reopened in March 2002 for Haines City Heritage Days Sponsored by the Northeast Polk County Historical Society, the museum is currently only set up during the Haines City Heritage Days. The museum has an office in the Clay Cut Center that is open by appointment, and intends to open a permanent museum there.

Dundee Depot Museum – The Dundee Depot Museum was dedicated on November 18, 2001. The Dundee Depot Committee, a citizen lead volunteer organization, collects donations of historical artifacts and documented information to preserve the past for future generations.

Lake Wales Depot Museum - Lake Wales Depot Museum opened its doors in 1976. The Depot Museum serves as a resource center for the collection, conservation, exhibition, and study of materials pertaining to the history of Lake Wales.

Frostproof Historical Museum and Library – The Frostproof Historical Society was formed in 1978. The objectives of the Society are to establish and operate the Frostproof Historical Museum Library, to promote interest in the history of the Frostproof area, to preserve the historic monuments and buildings of the area and to collect, maintain and exhibit other items of historical value to visitors and the people of Frostproof (*Source: the Frostproof Historical Society Bylaws*).

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources are portions of the human environment that express aesthetics, traditions, values, and customs. The Ridge Scenic Highway serves the historic centers of Haines City, Lake Hamilton, Dundee, Lake Wales, Hillcrest Heights, and Frostproof, playing a significant role in the growth of the communities located along the Ridge. Therefore, community gathering places such as churches, government facilities, museums, schools, community centers

and art centers are found in large numbers along and near the Ridge Scenic Highway.

Churches

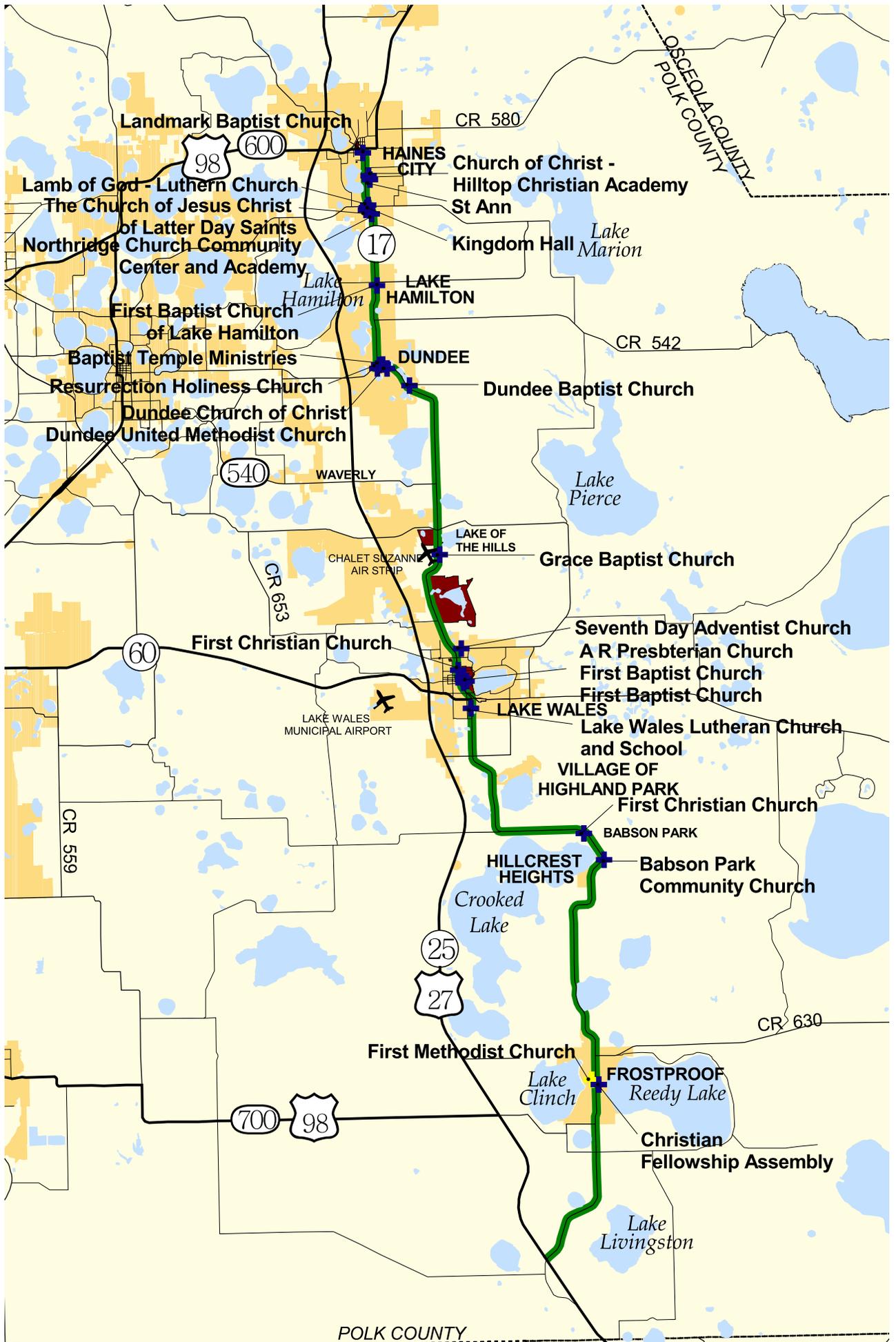
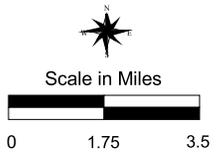
Churches are significant gathering places, serving as the foundation for civic life in many communities. There are 24 churches located immediately along, adjacent or within view of to the Ridge Scenic Highway. The churches found along the Ridge Scenic Highway are mapped on *Figure 24*.

Government Facilities

Government buildings and services, especially historic structures, represent the community to residents and travelers. The Lake Hamilton Town Hall, the Dundee Town Hall, and the Hillcrest Heights Town Hall are all located on SR 17. The Dundee library, police department, and Chamber of Commerce are also located on SR 17. *Figure 25* maps those City/Town Halls, post offices, schools, libraries, community centers, police departments, and fire departments located within the Ridge Scenic Highway viewshed.



The Town Hall of Dundee as well as the library, police department, and chamber of commerce are all located on SR 17.



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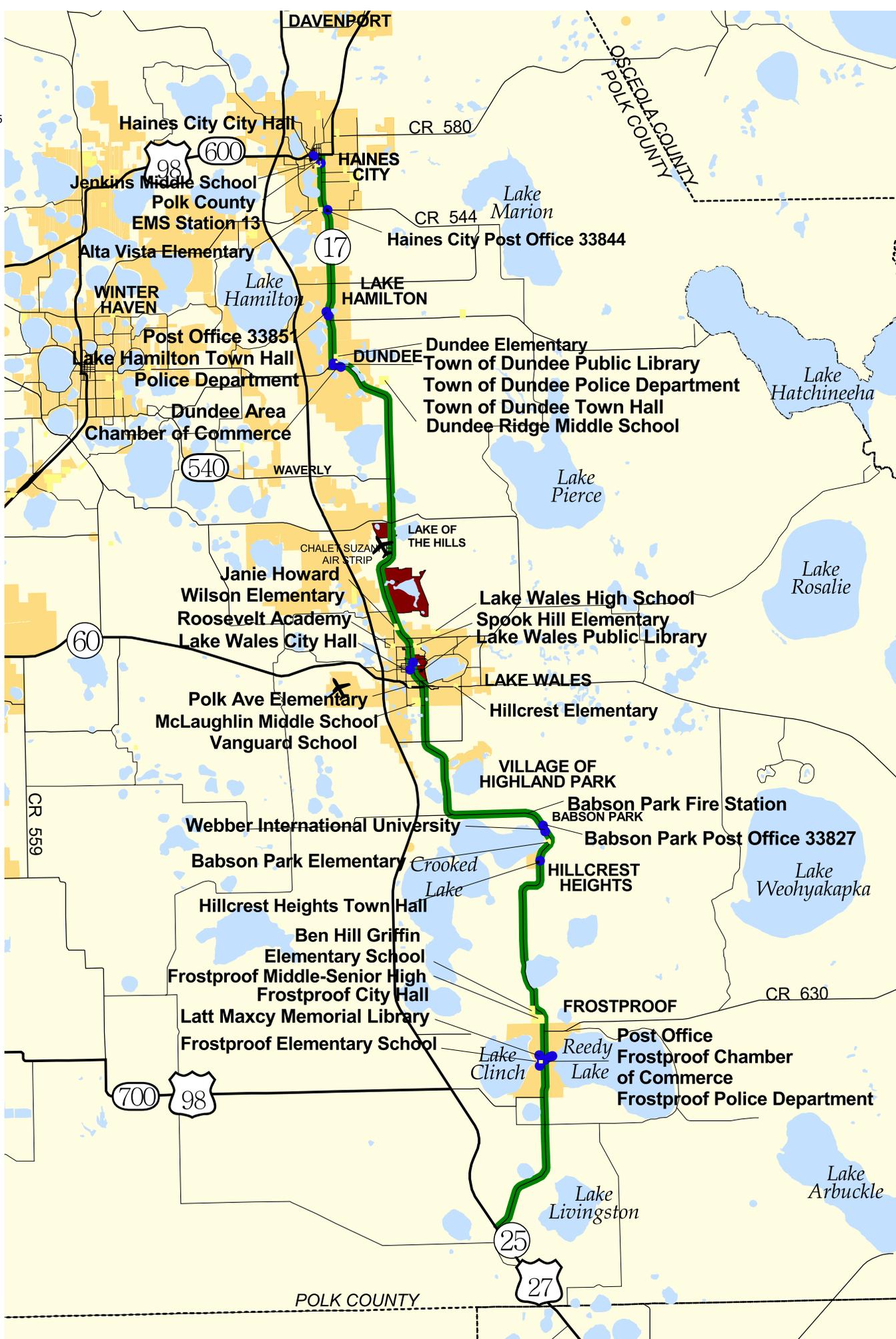
- ✚ Churches Adjacent to Corridor
- 🟩 SR 17 Scenic Highway
- 🟨 City Limits

Source: Glatting Jackson

Figure 24 Churches



Scale in Miles



LEGEND

- Cultural Resources Adjacent to Corridor
- School Boundaries
- ↗ SR 17 Scenic Highway
- City Limits

Source:
Polk County Transportation
Planning Organization,
Glattig Jackson

Figure 25
Government Facilities

Festivals and Events

Festivals and other community events allow residents to express and share their common history and values. Yearly events that occur along the Ridge Scenic Highway include:

Lake Wales Pioneer Days – An annual event since 1977, this event honors the founding fathers of Lake Wales. Activities include Pioneer Hour, which opens with the ringing of Tillman Bell and follows with the announcement of the Pioneer of the Year. The event draws an estimated 15,000 people each year (*Source: The Ledger, March 23, 2002*).

Lake Wales Art Show – First held in 1972, this annual event features many art mediums, including oils, acrylics, watercolors, clay, wood, glass, metal, and other materials. The event takes place on the shores of Lake Wailes.

Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social Saturday - The Lake of the Hills Community Club hosts the Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social. This event has occurred annually since 1965. Members and friends of the Lake of the Hills Garden Club dress in red and white vintage costumes and serve homemade cakes, pies, and ice cream. Proceeds from the event benefit further restoration work on the grounds and clubhouse.

Haines City Heritage Days – Held annually in March at Lake Eva Park, this event celebrates Haines City’s past. The event includes early century displays, arts and crafts of a by-gone era, country music, and food. The week is capped with the selection of Pioneer of the Year and on Saturday, a Heritage Days Parade featuring old cars, marching units of many kinds, bands, cloggers, VIPs, dancers, singers, and floats by civic and religious organizations.

International Carillon Festival - Historic Bok Sanctuary hosts the annual International Carillon Festival each year. Considered as the premier listening and performance setting, carillonneurs from around the world attend the annual festival.

Life of Christ Passion Play – The Life of Christ Passion Play, located south of Lake Wales at 970 Passion Play Road, presents a play depicting

the life of Jesus Christ. The play occurs through the Christmas and Easter seasons.

Museums, Theaters, Clubs, Colleges, and Community Centers

Museums, theaters, and community centers educate residents and guests of the history and culture of a community, allow residents to share their talents and experiences and help create a shared sense of community. Museums, theaters, and community centers located along the Ridge Scenic Highway are shown on *Figure 26*. A brief summary of these facilities is provided below.

Landmark Baptist College and Christian Bookstore – Landmark Baptists College is housed in the Polk Hotel, a building listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Founded in 1980, this old fashion Baptist college had approximately 160 students in 1999 (*Source: News Chief*).

Haines City Community Theatre – Jan Brungard, Tom King, and Nancy March founded the theater in 1981. The mission of the Haines City Community Theatre is to bring family entertainment to the community by providing live theater that can be enjoyed by the whole family, offer cultural advantages and improve the quality of life.



Lake Wales 2002 Pioneer of Year and CAG Member Vita Hinshaw of Chalet Suzanne.

Haines City Community Center – Located at Ledwith and Sixth Street, the Haines City Community Center is home to many of the recreational activities provided by Haines City and civic gatherings. The Community Center features a modern Nautilus exercise center, basketball court, aerobics center, a meeting/dining room, and a small kitchen.

Haines City Civic Center – The Haines City Civic Center, located adjacent to the Haines City Community Center, offers various activities held throughout the year including line dancing, clogging, musical jam sessions, and Tae Kwon Do classes.

Dundee Community Center – Located at 603 Main Street, the Dundee Community Center hosts activities, shows, and public meetings. The center contains a postal station

Dundee Chamber of Commerce – Located at 310 Main St. (SR17).

The Museum at Chalet Suzanne – Opened in 2003, the museum documents the evolution of Chalet Suzanne from its beginning in 1931 to the present using costumes, artifacts, photos and publications. The museum is located across the street from the Organic Vineyard.

Historic Bok Sanctuary - Historic Bok Sanctuary has a museum that features the life and legacy of Edward W. Bok, the world-famous carillon, endangered plants, and animals found on property as well as a topographical map of the Lake Wales Ridge.

Lake Wales Little Theatre - The Lake Wales Little Theatre is an independent, volunteer operated community theater company located at 411 North Third Street. The theater hosts fine dramatic, comedic, and musical productions for adult audiences, as well as an active program for young people and drama students.

Lake Wales Art Center - The Lake Wales Arts Center, constructed in 1927, originally housed the Holy Spirit Catholic Church. The Arts

Center is now home to art exhibitions, concerts, and arts education activities.

Lake Wales Model Railroad Club - Formed in 1989, the Railroad Club has served the Depot Museum by providing assistance with the restoration of the museum's three vintage railroad cars as well as providing educational tours and programs for area school, scout and community groups. The Railroad Club played an instrumental role in restoring the 1916 SAL Freight Depot in its new location in the CSX Historic Corridor. The Railroad Club also worked to restore the freight depot and establish a small railroad museum within it. In late 1995, the restoration was completed, and the 1916 SAL Freight Depot was dedicated on Pioneer Day of that same year.

Lake Wales Museum and Cultural Center - Since opening in 1976, the Depot Museum has evolved into a resource center for the collection, conservation, exhibition, and study of materials pertaining to the history of Lake Wales, Florida. The Lake Wales Museum and Cultural Center is popularly known as The Depot Museum. It strives to serve as the means by which historic



Entrance to Historic Bok Sanctuary

record of Lake Wales may be preserved and shared with the citizens of the community.

Highland Park Club – I.A. Yarnell, a partner of Harold F. Fairchild, formed the Highland Park Club in the early 1920’s. Membership was restricted to those who purchased a 10-acre grove with a right to purchase a building lot. The “Colony” was marketed towards well-to-do northerners who wanted to winter in Florida. The Highland Park Club continued as a private club until 1994, when the club dispersed and sold the property. In January of 1996, the present owners purchased the club. The building is currently known as the LeKarica Restaurant and Inn.

Webber International University – Originally founded as a women’s college in 1927, Webber College today is a private, non-profit, co-educational university of business. The university offers associate and bachelor degrees in business with ten different majors to its approximately 550 students. Webber also awards Master of Business Administration degrees with options in Accounting, Management, Marketing, and Sport Management.

Babson Park Woman’s Club – Originally the Literary and Sewing Society, the Babson Park Woman’s Club was founded in 1923 to further the development of highest ideals in the community. The Babson Park Woman’s Club building was constructed in 1931 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places on

October 17, 1997. The organization continues to be active in the community.

Frostproof Art League and Gallery – The Frostproof Art League and Gallery hosts shows and exhibits, organizes field trips, and offers classes and workshops on drawing, oil, watercolor, and acrylic painting.

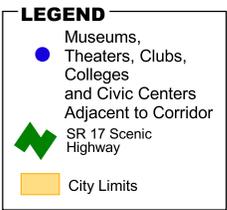
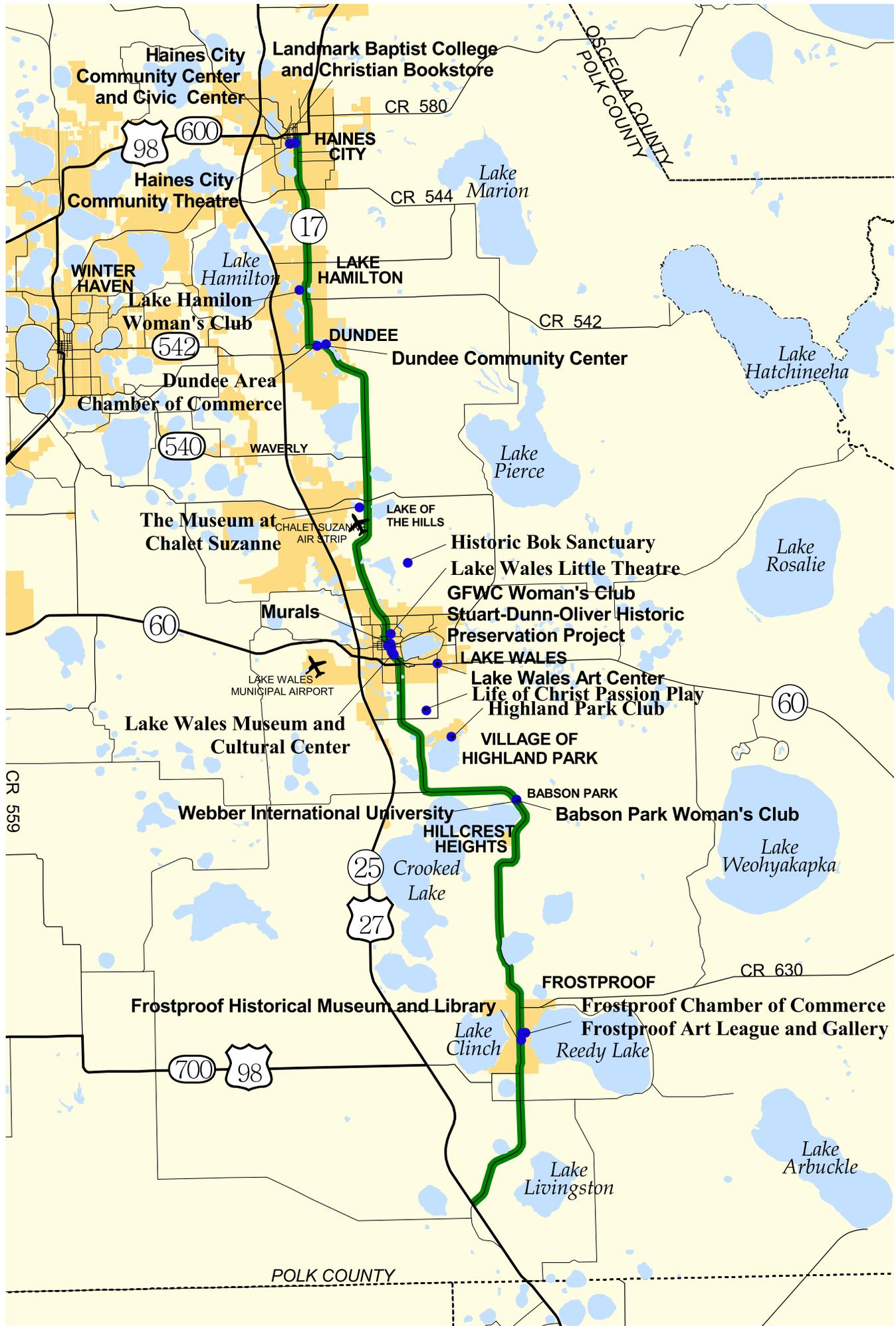
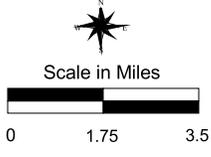
Frostproof Chamber of Commerce – The Frostproof Chamber of Commerce, located at 118 East Wall Street, promotes businesses and develops relationships between businesses in Frostproof through promotional efforts, chamber luncheons, networking opportunities and monthly newsletters. The Frostproof Chamber of Commerce recently purchased the historic theater on Wall Street and is slowly restoring the structure.

Frostproof Depot – Houses the Chamber of Commerce. Luncheons and meetings are held in the back of the facility.

Frostproof Historical Museum and Library - The Historical Museum is located at 210 Scenic Highway. The building, erected in 1922, originally served as the first public library in Frostproof. The Museum houses historical artifacts, photographs, maps, newspapers, books, records, audio, and video-taped interviews, genealogy, and history of many of the founding families of Frostproof. The Museum and Library provides tours for youth groups and school classes.



Webber International University, founded in 1927, offers 10 majors to its 550 students.



Source: Glatting Jackson

Figure 26
Museums, Theaters, Clubs, Colleges, and Civic Centers

Recreational Resources

Parks, trails, and recreational complexes are located along the length of the Ridge Scenic Highway, providing access to parks and natural areas, active recreation areas, and gathering opportunities. Recreational sites are mapped on *Figure 27*.

Railroad Park – Located on Jones Avenue in Haines City, Railroad Park is a mini park site with a gazebo.

Lake Eva Park and surrounding recreational facilities – Lake Eva Park, located in Haines City, provides beautiful views of Lake Eva. The park contains a boat launch, picnic facilities, swimming pool, and tennis courts. Shuffleboard courts and a children’s playground are located north of Lake Eva Park, across from the Haines City Community Center.

Yale Field – Located north of Lake Eva in Haines City, south of JD Daniel Academy of Technology Middle School, this complex contains football, baseball, and softball fields.

Park in Lake Hamilton – Located across from the town hall, this park contains a baseball field and a children’s playground.

Merrill Street Park – An athletic mini park located in Dundee.

Lake Marie Park - Located on the northwest edge of Lake Marie in Dundee, this park provides shuffleboards, a children’s playground and picnic area.

Lake Marie Bike Path - Lake Marie Bike Path is a 1.8 mile pedestrian and bicycle trail that circles Lake Marie in Dundee. Picnic facility and barbeque areas are available.

Lake Menzie Fitness Trail - The Lake Menzie Fitness Trail is 1.5 miles long and has eight fitness stations. The trail includes a boat ramp, picnic facility, and playground.

Johnson Park – An urban mini park located in Dundee.

East Central Park – East Central Park is a Polk County facility. This athletic park contains a fitness trail, baseball fields, concession stands, and a press box building. The park is open from sunrise to sunset.

Hardman Recreational and Cultural Complex – Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Hardman Recreational and Cultural Complex includes a skate park, cultural arts center, gym, weight room, and future aquatic center. The 1939 Gymnasium has been restored to its original architectural integrity. The 1920 Primary School, which will be used as a Boys and Girls Club, is undergoing renovations. The 1947 Cafeteria is also undergoing restoration as a community and activity center. The complex ties into the programmed rails-to-trails facility. The community is currently pursuing funds to restore the 1920 agricultural facility located adjacent to the CSX rail bed into a Trail Head Center.

Lake Wailes Park - Lake Wailes Park provides scenic views of Lake Wailes. A bicycle and pedestrian trail rings the lake edge. The park is open from 6 am to 10 pm.

Crystal Lake Park – Crystal Lake Park is a community park with playground facilities and a 120x120 bowling green.

Carson Park – This property, located north of Hillcrest Heights, is a stormwater retrofit project jointly funded by Polk County and the Peace River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida



Farmer’s market in Railroad Park in Haines City.

Management District. The park presents information on stormwater management. Covered picnic facilities are available.

Crooked Lake Park – Located at the southern end of Catherine Avenue in Hillcrest Heights, the pier provides views to the water and access to swim in the lake. Access to the pier is by permission only. The gate is locked at all times.

Friendship Park – Friendship Park is located along Wall Street at the railroad crossing and next to the Chamber of Commerce in the City of Frostproof. Friendship Park contains picnic facilities.

Frostproof Sports Complex – The sports complex contains softball fields, baseball fields, soccer fields, and tennis courts. Restroom facilities and full concession stands are available.

Fewox Park – This neighborhood park located at 101 F Street in Frostproof contains a fitness course.

Henderson Field – Located across from Reedy Lake on Lake Avenue, this facility contains baseball fields and concession stands.

Lake Reedy Park – Located on Lake Reedy Drive, this park contains two restrooms, one shelter, five tables, open play area, fishing, boat ramp, and canoe access.

Boardwalk at Reedy Lake - The boardwalk at Reedy Lake is located across from the Frostproof Little League on the west edge of Reedy Lake.

Frostproof Football Field – The Frostproof football field is located across from Frostproof Elementary School.

Wall Street Park – Wall Street Park is an athletic community park located at 110 West Wall Street in Frostproof.

Clinch Lake Park – Located at the terminus of West 1st Street, the park provides swimming facilities on Lake Clinch.

City Gymnasium – The Frostproof City Gymnasium is located at 150 South Oak Street.

Lake Clinch Public Boat Dock – The Lake Clinch public boat dock is located along S. Clinch Lake Boulevard, near Lauterbach Street.

Lake Livingston Boat Ramp – The Lake Livingston Boat Ramp is located on the west edge of Lake Livingston. Boaters may access it from SR17 along Livingston Lake Road.

Polk County Recreational Trails – There are a number of existing recreational trails along the Ridge Scenic Highway identified on the Polk County Recreational Trails map, including:

- Trail in Pine Ridge Nature Preserve,
- The Lake Wailes Trail, which follows the southern and eastern shore of Lake Wailes,
- The Lake Wales Trailways, a hiking trail that runs along the old east-west railroad tracks from east of SR 17 to the eastern city limits,
- Trails located in Tiger Creek Preserve,
- Trails in Crooked Lake Prairie, and
- Trail located in Hickory Lake Scrub.

The Polk County Recreational Trails map also shows committed and proposed trails that would directly serve the Ridge Scenic Highway. These are discussed in detail in *Section 7: Background Conditions Analysis*.



Lake Clinch Public Boat Dock, Frostproof

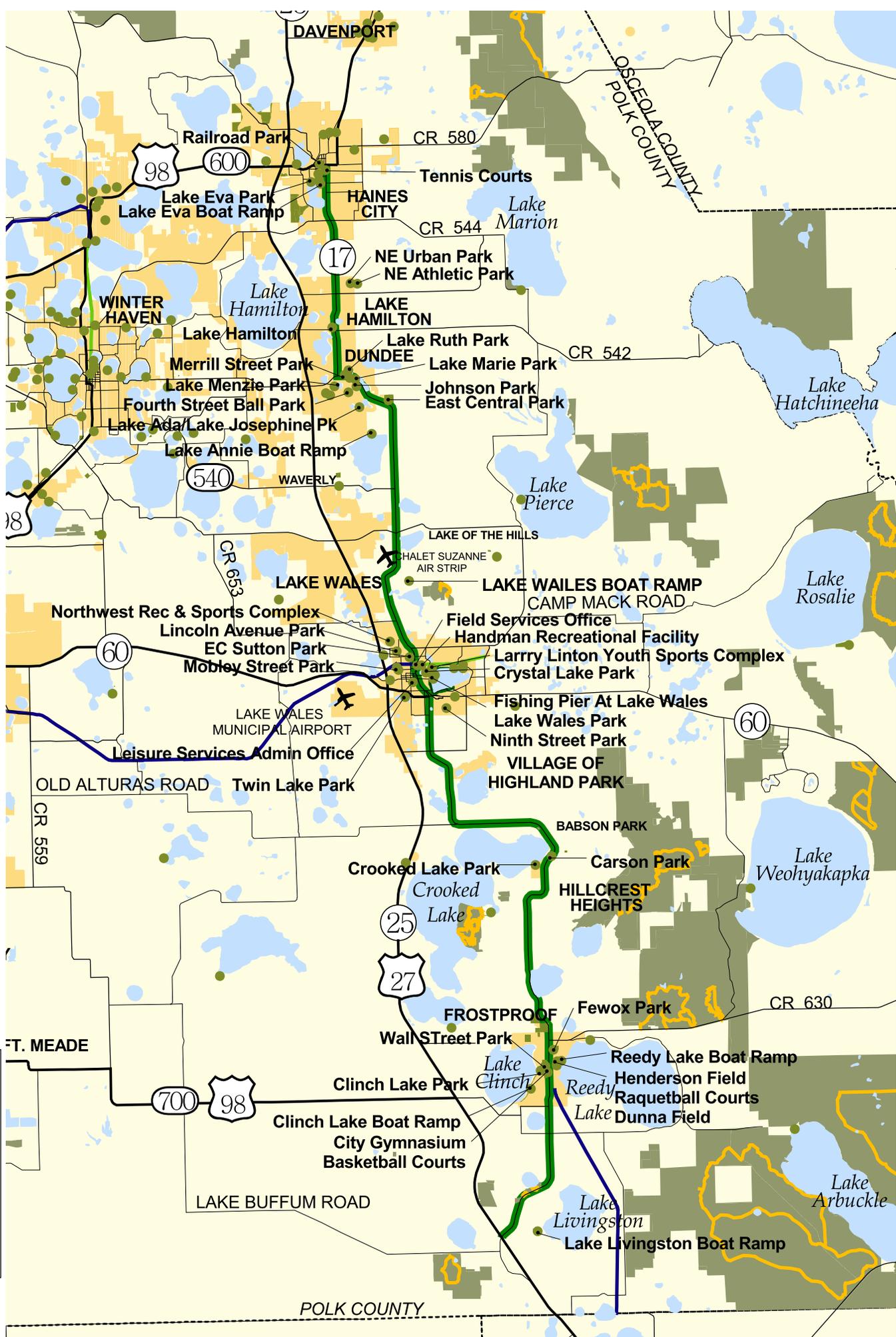
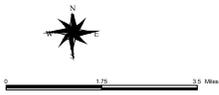
Water Access – Anglers have labeled Polk County the “Bass Capital of the World.” Crooked Lake, an Outstanding Florida Water, provides opportunity for good bass and bluegill

fishing. Peace River offers largemouth bass, bluegill and redear sunfish. *Table 11* lists sites along the Ridge Scenic Highway that provide fishing opportunities to the public.

Table 11: Water Access

	Fishing	Boat Ramp	Canoe Access	Camping
Lake Eva Park Fifth Street		X		
Lake Annie Boat Ramp	X	X	X	
Lake Pierce Boat Ramp Off Berkley Road	X	X	X	
Lake Marion Boat Ramp Jim Edwards Road	X	X	X	
Lake Wailes Boat Ramp	X	X	X	
Crooked Lake (Hillcrest Heights, at Catherine Avenue)		X		
Little Crooked Lake (Keene Landing) Off 630A at Keen Park Road	X	X	X	
Lake Walk-in-Water Park Lake Walk-in-Water Road	X	X	X	
Lake Arbuckle Park Lake Arbuckle Park Road	X	X	X	X
Lake Clinch Park	X	X		
Lake Reedy Park Lake Reedy Park Drive	X	X	X	
Lake Livingston Boat Ramp Lake Livingston Road	X	X		

Source: Central Florida’s Polk County “Bass Capital of the World” Fishing Secrets. Central Florida Visitors and Convention Bureau, Polk County Transportation Planning Organization, Glattig Jackson.



Source:
Polk County Transportation
Planning Organization,
City of Frostproof,
Haines City,

**Figure 27
Recreational Facilities**

Attractions

The Ridge Scenic Highway is home to some of the oldest, original tourist attractions in Florida. It is where tourists come to experience Old Florida. Within a one-hour drive of Disney World and west coast beaches, the Ridge Scenic Highway provides an educational, entertaining, and unique day trip or weekend family trip for vacationers.

Historic Districts and Structures - Historic districts, containing antique shops, boutiques, dining, and historic buildings (detailed in previous sections) educate and entertain.

Chalet Suzanne Soup Cannery – Owned and operated by the Hinshaw family since 1931, Chalet Suzanne is an internationally recognized restaurant and country inn. The Cannery produces more than a dozen varieties of soup as well as three sauces, and is the home of the “Soups that went to the Moon.” The actual freeze-dried soup in a pouch as served to the astronauts on Apollo flights is available for viewing. Educational tours are available for student groups with a reservation. Individual visitors are always welcome.

Historic Bok Sanctuary- Historic Bok Sanctuary, a National Historic Landmark located on peninsular Florida's highest point, offers abundant opportunities for aesthetic, cultural, and personal enrichment for people of all ages. In 1929, President Calvin Coolidge dedicated the Sanctuary as a gift to American from Edward W. Bok. Today, it encompasses more than 250-acres as a Sanctuary for people, plants, and animals. Historic Bok Sanctuary features stunning Olmsted-designed historic landscape gardens, a majestic 205-foot-tall marble and coquina belltower crafted by the foremost artisans in the 1920s, a 60-bell Taylor carillon renowned as one of the world's finest carillons and Pinewood Estate, a historic Mediterranean Revival mansion built in the early 1930s open for daily tours.

Historic Bok Sanctuary includes an award-winning visitor center and museum that gives a historical perspective on the life and legacy of Edward W. Bok. It also features the story of the

Sanctuary's creation, the artistry of its famous craftsmen and a fascinating overview of the habitat and topography of the Lake Wales Ridge. Music from the 60-bell carillon fills the Sanctuary daily. The Pine Ridge Nature Preserve Trail offers a unique 3/4-mile walking trail through a native scrub habitat to provide a glimpse of the native flora and delicate ecosystem of the Lake Wales Ridge.

Spook Hill – The legend of Spook Hill has entertained locals and tourists alike for generations. It is said that the tribal chief, Cufcowellax, battled a huge bull alligator that was harassing his tribe. The chief fought the gator for a moon and was victorious over the gator. The battle created a small lake near the large lake in which the battle had taken place. When the chief died, he was buried on the shore of the little lake, Ticowa. The legend was passed on through the generations. Later, citrus riders noticed that their horses labored while riding downhill towards the lake. They named the location Spook Hill. Years later, the road was paved and residents found that their cars would roll uphill by themselves.

Packing Plants - The Ridge Scenic Highway is home to some of Florida's largest citrus cooperatives and plants. Founded in 1924, the Dundee Citrus Growers Association (CGA) today has 325 growers whose groves produce 6.7 million 1-3/5 bushel boxes of fruit. Lake Wales CGA and Winter Haven CGA joined the



Members of the Corridor Advocacy Group exploring Pinewood Estate at Historic Bok Sanctuary

Dundee CGA fresh fruit family in 1999. In 2000, Dundee purchased Fruit Pack International (formerly Lykes Pasco) packinghouse. The Dundee CGA and its three packinghouses finished the 2000-2001 as the largest volume packing company in the state. The Dundee CGA is recognized as one of the most quality-minded progressive cooperatives in the state.

Six local citrus growers founded the Haines City CGA as an agricultural cooperative by in 1909, and today it has 174 growers whose groves produce 2.8 million boxes of fruit annually. The packinghouse is still located at its original 7.5 acres in downtown Haines City, Florida. Haines City CGA is the second oldest citrus cooperative in Florida and the fifth largest packing operation in the state (out of 75 commercial packers).

The Florida's Natural Grove House, located off US 27, offers a gift shop, a museum, and a theater. The theater shows how Florida's Natural Brand juices develop from the tree to the glass. The Florida's Natural Grove House includes a meeting room that is made available for community organizations.

The Waverly Growers Cooperative, founded in the 1950's, originally transported the citrus of its members by horse-drawn wagons. By its 40th birthday, Waverly joined with five other citrus cooperatives to form Florida Canners Cooperative at Lake Wales.

Cargill Citro-America, also known as Cargill Juice Products, owns and operates an orange juice processing plant at 100 East 6th Street in Frostproof. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Cargill, an international marketer, processor, and distributor of agricultural, food, financial, and industrial products with some 79,000 employees in more than 1,000 locations in 72 countries and with business activities in 100 more. Latt Maxcy, Snow Crop, Ben Hill Griffin Inc, and Procter and Gamble were early owners of this plant. The plant was purchased in 1992 from Procter and Gamble.

The main office for Ben Hill Griffin Inc and the fresh fruit packinghouse, both built in 1983, are located along SR 17.

Great Florida Birding Trail - The Great Florida Birding Trail (GFBT) is a collection of sites throughout Florida selected for their excellent bird watching or bird education opportunities. Three sites included in the East Section Guide are located along the Ridge Scenic Highway: Historic Bok Sanctuary, Lake Wales, and the Ridge Audubon Nature Center. Birdwatchers can spot birds such as kestrels, nighthawks, pileater woodpeckers, and loggerhead shrikes at Historic Bok Sanctuary. Waders, anhingas, sandhill cranes, and wintering duck species can be seen around Lake Wales. Birds like eastern towhees, white-eyed vireos, ground doves, and nighthawks can be spotted at the Ridge Audubon Center.

Murals – The murals found in the Lake Wales Historic District and City of Frostproof capture the character and history of these towns. The “Crown Jewel of the Ridge” depicts one of the main business streets in downtown Lake Wales as it stood in 1931. The mural painted on One Scenic Central Building portrays the turpentine works and the Atlantic Coastline Railroad. The “Root of the Community” mural, located on the curved area of the Sullivan Real Estate office on North Scenic Highway in Frostproof, portrays the citrus industry in the Frostproof area.



Turpentine works depicted in one of two murals in Lake Wales

Natural Resources

The preservation of the Lake Wales Ridge's unique habitats is being undertaken through the collaborative efforts of private and public groups, including federal, state, and local government agencies, non-profit organizations, research groups, and citizen activists. *Figure 28* shows lands under conservation by Polk County, local municipalities, state agencies, and non-profit organizations (sources: *Haines City, Polk County, the Central Florida Regional Planning Council, The Nature Conservancy*). Natural or conservation sites open to the public located within the viewshed are detailed below.

Village of Highland Park – The Village of Highland Park is a designated bird and wildlife sanctuary.

Historic Bok Sanctuary Pine Ridge Nature Preserve Trail and Endangered Plant Nursery – The Historic Bok Sanctuary is a member of the Center for Plant Conservation, a national organization headquartered in the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis. The Historic Bok Sanctuary has a Rare and Endangered Plant Species program with a nursery where such plants are grown. The Historic Bok Sanctuary also participates in the National Seed Storage Laboratory Collections in Fort Collins.

The Pine Ridge Nature Preserve is a Longleaf Pine/Turkey Oak ecosystem. The site allows researchers and visitors to learn more about the sandhill ecosystem. The preserve is home to six listed plant species, including wide-leaf warea (*Warea amplexifolia*) and two endangered species such as the Indigo Snake and Gopher Tortoise. Habitat management projects include:

- The Fire and Management Plan for Historic Bok Sanctuary's Natural Areas (Babb, Carpenter, and Price, 1989)
- A Vegetation Management Plan for the Pine Ridge Preserve (Zander, 1998)
- Annual counts of endangered wide-leaf warea (*Warea amplexifolia*) and Letwon's polygala (*Polygala lewtonii*)
- Annual collection of seed, propagation, and reintroduction of native sandhill plants
- Annual use of prescribed fire

- Control of invasive species
- Archbold Biological Station, in conjunction with Historic Bok Sanctuary, is conducting experiments with ziziphus seed pollination and propagation.

Ridge Audubon Nature Trail – The Ridge Audubon Nature Trail contains two habitats, the sandhill and scrub communities and the oak dome habitat. The one-fourth mile trail with trail signs and self-guided tour maps allows travelers to learn about the plants and animals that inhabit these habitats.

Crooked Lake Sandhill – Crooked Lake Sandhill is owned and operated by the Polk County Board of County Commissioners through the Natural Resources Division, Environmental Lands Program. The 25-acre site made up of longleaf pines is home to a number of rare species. The site includes old growth canopy, with some trees approximately 200 years old. The site includes a 0.8-mile self-guided trail.

Crooked Lake – Crooked Lake, the second largest lake in Polk County, is designated an Outstanding Florida Water by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. An Outstanding Florida Water is a water designated worthy of special protection because of its natural attributes. This special designation is intended to protect existing good water quality.

Crooked Lake Prairie - Crooked Lake Prairie protects over 2 miles of Crooked Lake's



An informational kiosk in Crooked Lake Prairie describes the process of prescribed burns.

shoreline. Upland resources include 130 acres of scrub on the Lake Wales Ridge. A series of adjoining trails offer 1.3- to 3.6-mile walks through scrub and scrubby flatwood communities, pine forests, and marsh habitat.

The Peace Creek Canal System – The Peace Creek Canal system was dredged more than 50 years ago to regulate water levels in a broad area from Dundee to Bartow. It serves as a major contributing source to the Peace River, which begins at the confluence of the Peace Creek Canal system and Saddle Creek. The canal system and its surroundings provide limited habitat for a variety of wildlife species, including foraging habitat for wading birds such as the state-listed Florida sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis pratensis*), white ibis (*Eudocimus albus*), and little blue heron (*Egretta caerulea*).

Tiger Creek Preserve – Named after the pristine blackwater stream that forms the spine of this sanctuary, the preserve encompasses over 4,800 acres. The preserve includes most of Tiger Creek, its surrounding hardwood swamps, hammocks, oak scrub, pine flatwoods, sandhill, and longleaf pine/wiregrass habitat. Rare animals, such as skinks, gopher tortoises, the Florida mouse, indigo snakes, and gopher frogs, and plants, such as the scrub plum, pygmy fringe tree, and Carter’s mustard live in the preserve

The Nature Conservancy owns and manages Tiger Creek Preserve. The Nature Conservancy conducts rare species monitoring, prescribed burning, and hydrological monitoring at the preserve to maintain and improve habitat for rare species. It recently opened the Tiger Creek Center to educate the community about living safely in Florida’s flammable landscape.

Hickory Lake Scrub – This 57-acre preserve, owned and managed by Polk County, contains ancient scrub, lakeshore and a small stream, cutthroat seep and oak hammock. Wildlife that may be observed includes gopher tortoises, Florida scrub lizards, and wading birds.

Lake Wales Ridge State Forest – The Lake Wales Ridge State Forest consists of two separate tracts, the Arbuckle Tract and the Walk

in the Water Tract, both purchased under the Florida's Conservation and Recreation Lands Program. The Walk in the Water Tract is located 2 miles east of Frostproof on County Road 630. The Arbuckle Tract is located 5 miles south of Frostproof on Lake Arbuckle Road. The Lake Wales Ridge State Forest provides a habitat for 24 plants and 19 animals currently having federal or state status as threatened or endangered. This list includes the scrub jay and the sand skink. Rare and endangered plants include the pygmy fringe tree, scrub plum, Carter's mustard, scrub-blazing star, and bear grass.

Lake Kissimmee State Park - The 5,930-acre park is named for Lake Kissimmee, the third largest lake in the state. The park offers outstanding fishing, bird watching, picnicking, camping, boating, and hiking on 13 miles of beautiful trails and is home to a number of rare and endangered species.



Hickory Lake Scrub

