



Florida Department of Environmental Protection South Florida Habitat Assessment Benchmark Sites

**Aquatic Ecology and Quality Assurance
November 2021**



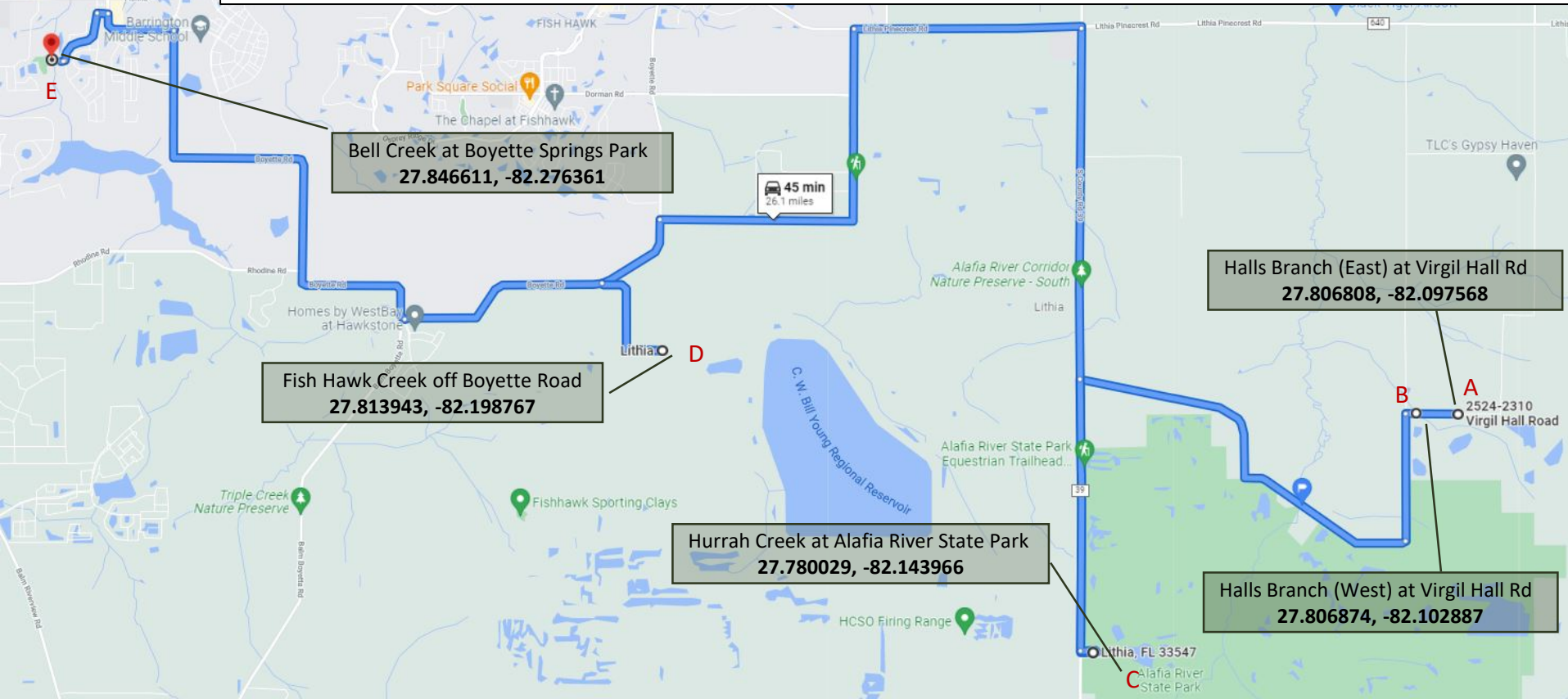
Procedure

- Evaluate each site per SOP FT3100, "Stream and River Habitat Assessment," using forms FD 9000-3, FD 9000-4, and FD 9000-5. It is recommended that you use the most current editions of the forms and the SOP, found here: <https://floridadep.gov/dear/quality-assurance/content/sop-forms>
- **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, etc.).
- Analysts must pass 3 Habitat Assessments every 2 years but should test at all 5 sites.
- 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.



Overview Map of the South Habitat Testing Sites

Sites can be completed in any order. Order shown start in the east and work back towards I-75 and Tampa/Brandon.



Bell Creek at Boyette Springs Park
27.846611, -82.276361

Fish Hawk Creek off Boyette Road
27.813943, -82.198767

Hurrah Creek at Alafia River State Park
27.780029, -82.143966

Halls Branch (East) at Virgil Hall Rd
27.806808, -82.097568

Halls Branch (West) at Virgil Hall Rd
27.806874, -82.102887

A) Halls Branch (East) at Virgil Hall Rd
27.806808, -82.097568

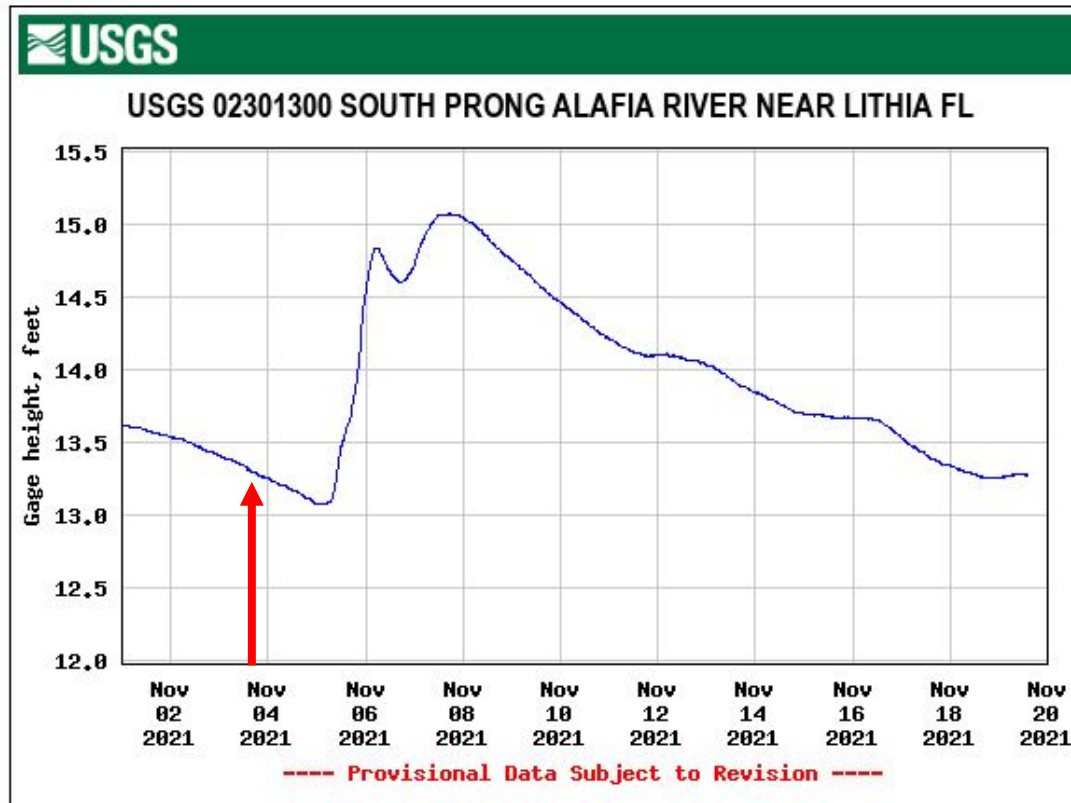
B) Halls Branch (West) at Virgil Hall Rd
27.806874, -82.102887

C) Hurrah Creek at Alafia River State Park
27.780029, -82.143966

D) Fish Hawk Creek off Boyette Road
27.813943, -82.198767
E) Bell Creek at Boyette Springs Park
27.846611, -82.276361



Area Hydrograph



The consensus scores for these sites were established on November 3 and 4, 2021. Above is the gage height data for streams in the area during that time period. If you conduct habitat assessment at these sites at different water levels, be sure to document the conditions.



Halls Branch (East) at Virgil Hall Rd

Coordinates:

27.806827, -82.100548

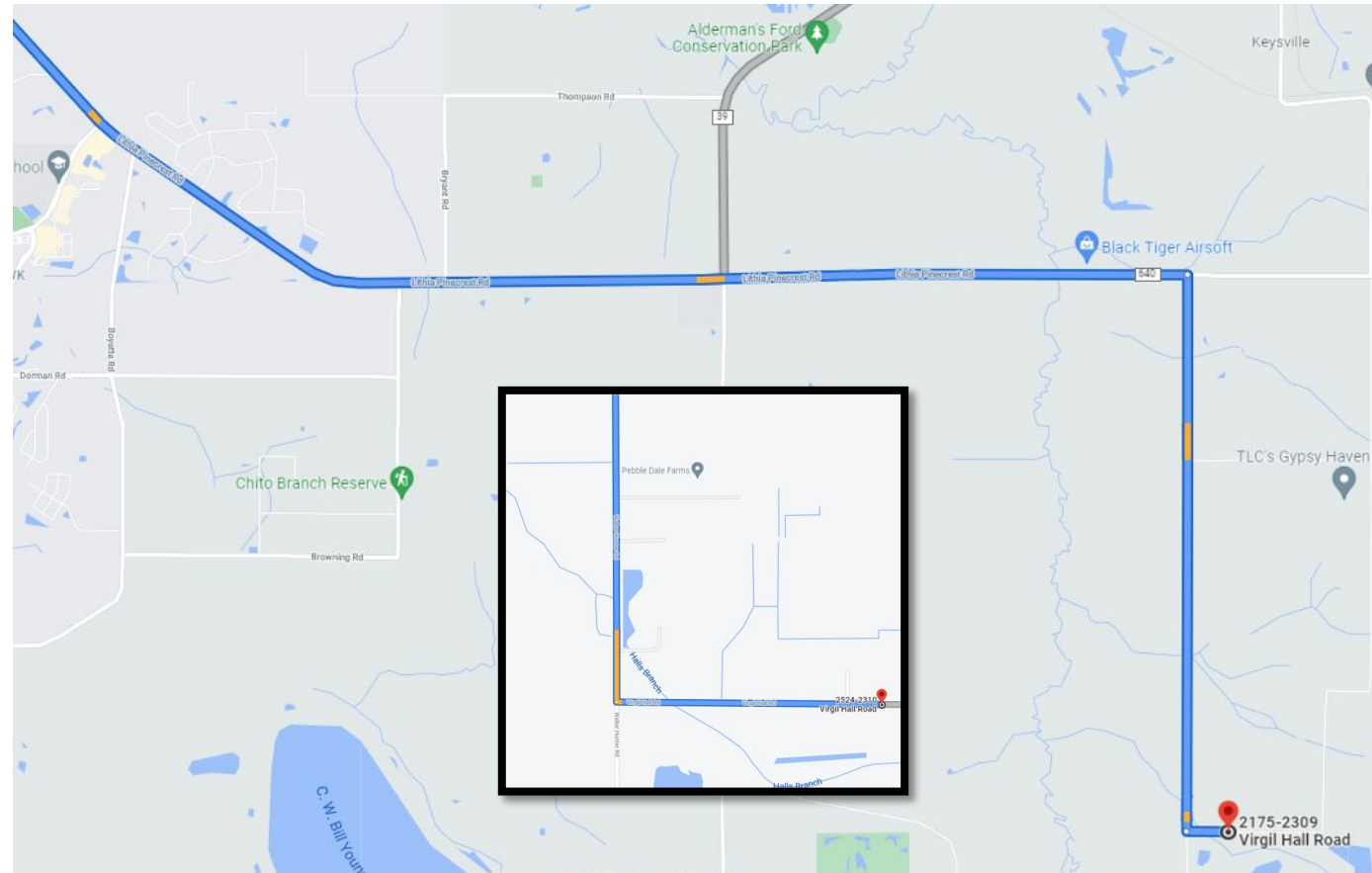
Region: South

County: Hillsborough

Date Analyzed:

11/03/2021

Directions: From I-75S, exit onto FL-60 E/Brandon, go E for 3.2 miles, turn R onto Lithia Pinecrest Rd, go 13.5 miles, turn R onto Walter Hunter Rd, go 3.0 miles, turn L onto Virgil Hall Rd, go 0.3 mi. Park along the right side of the road.





Halls Branch (East) at Virgil Hall Rd

Directions: 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 (West) at Virgil Hall Rd

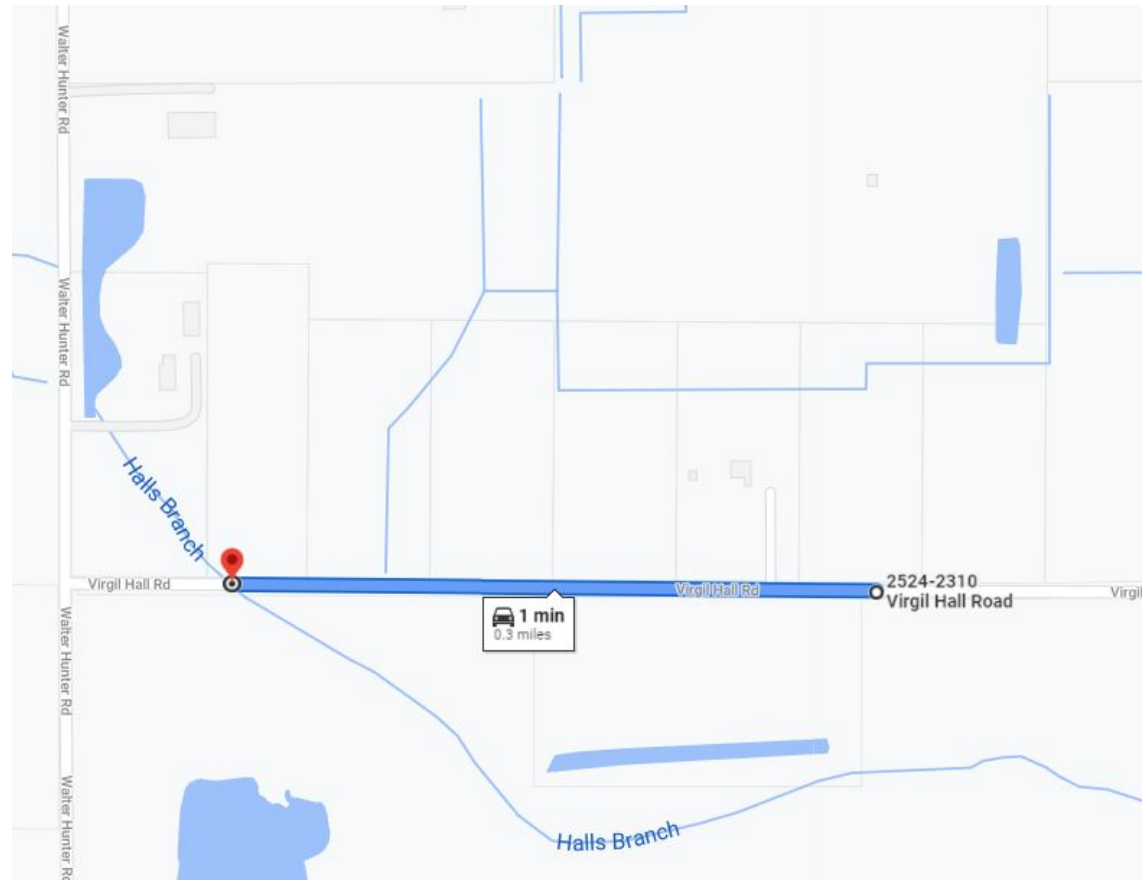
Coordinates: 27.806874,
-82.102887

Region: South

County: Hillsborough

Date Analyzed:
11/03/2021

Directions: From Halls Branch (West), turn around and head west for 0.3 mile. Park on the left side of the road and enter to the left the wooden foot bridge.



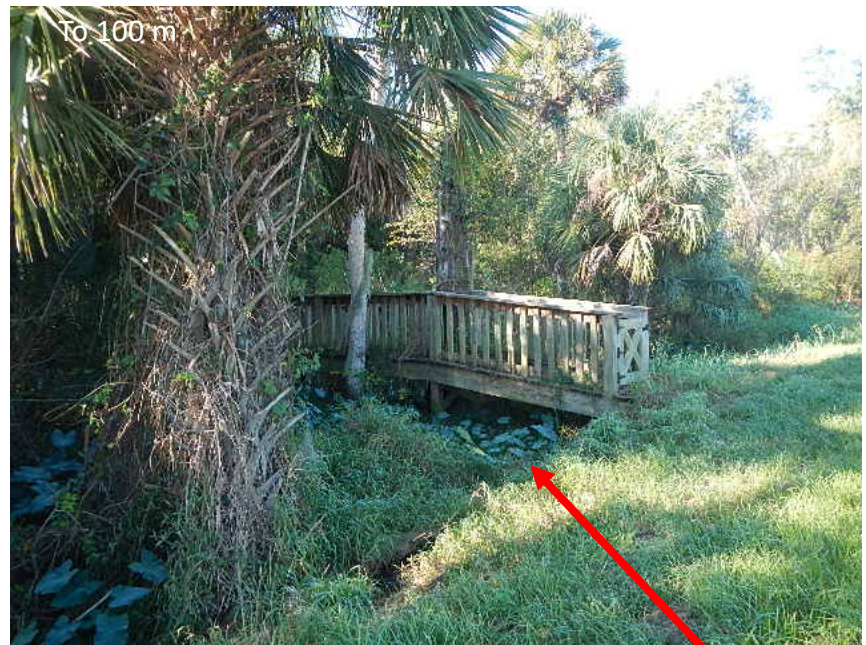


Halls Branch (West) at Virgil Hall Rd

- **Directions:** Park on the left side of the road and enter to the left of the wooden foot bridge. The 0m flags are about 3m above the bridge. This is a small system, if it does not have water at the time of testing, complete the other five sites.



Park across from wooden bridge



Enter system to the left of wooden bridge



Halls Branch (West) at Virgil Hall Rd



Enter system



Om flags



Hurrah Creek at Alafia River State Park

Coordinates: 27.780029, -82.143966 (coordinates are to park entrance – see next page for site coordinates and directions to site)

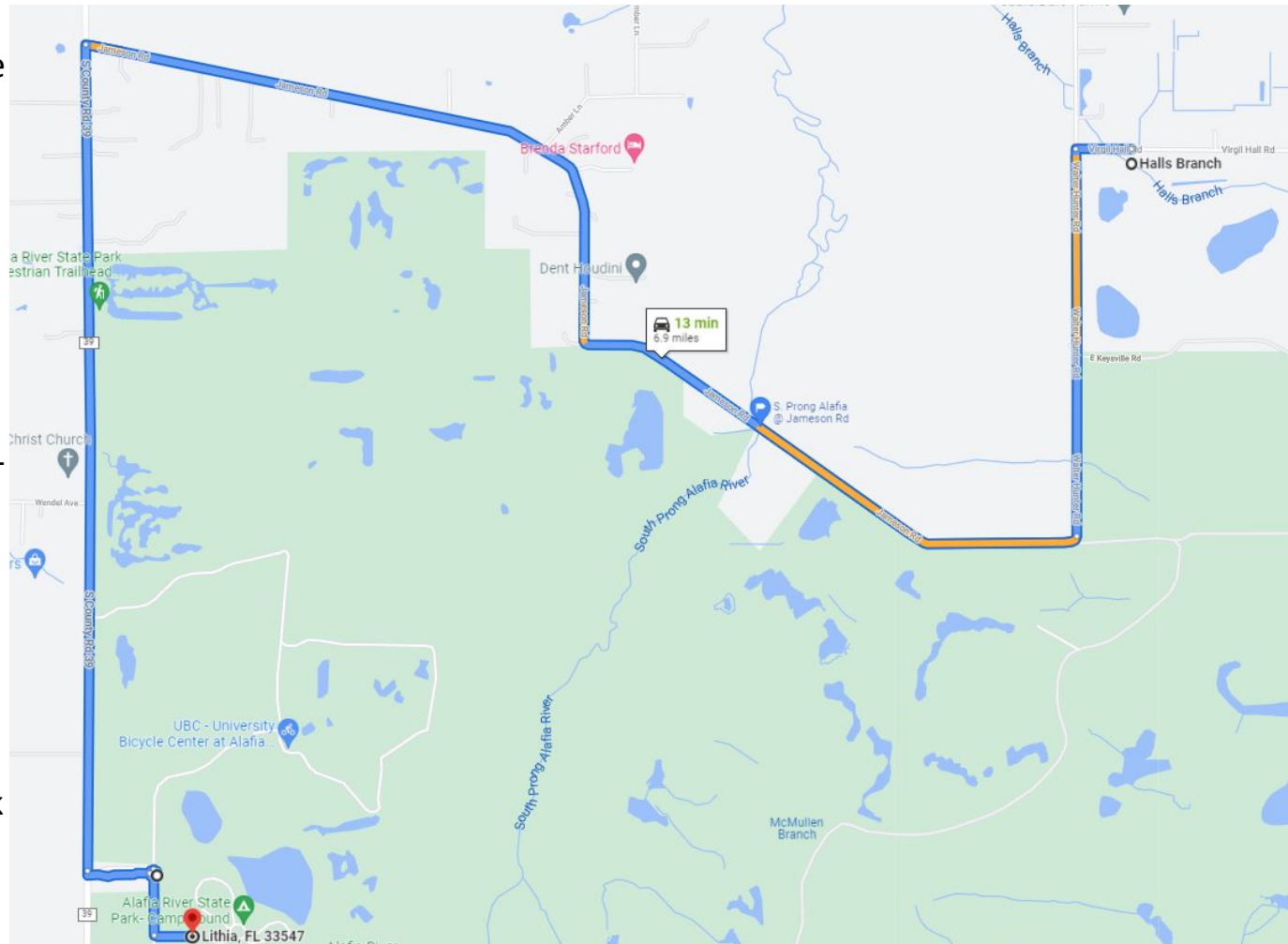
*** Site may require 4-wheel drive**

Region: South

County: Hillsborough

Date Analyzed: 11/03/2021

Directions: Head west on Virgil Hall Rd, turn L onto Walter Hunter Rd, which turns into Jameson Rd, turn L onto CR 39 and in 2.1 miles enter the state park. Stop at the gate and tell them you are conducting Habitat Testing for DEP. Park Manager, Dustin Allen, was made aware of this activity.



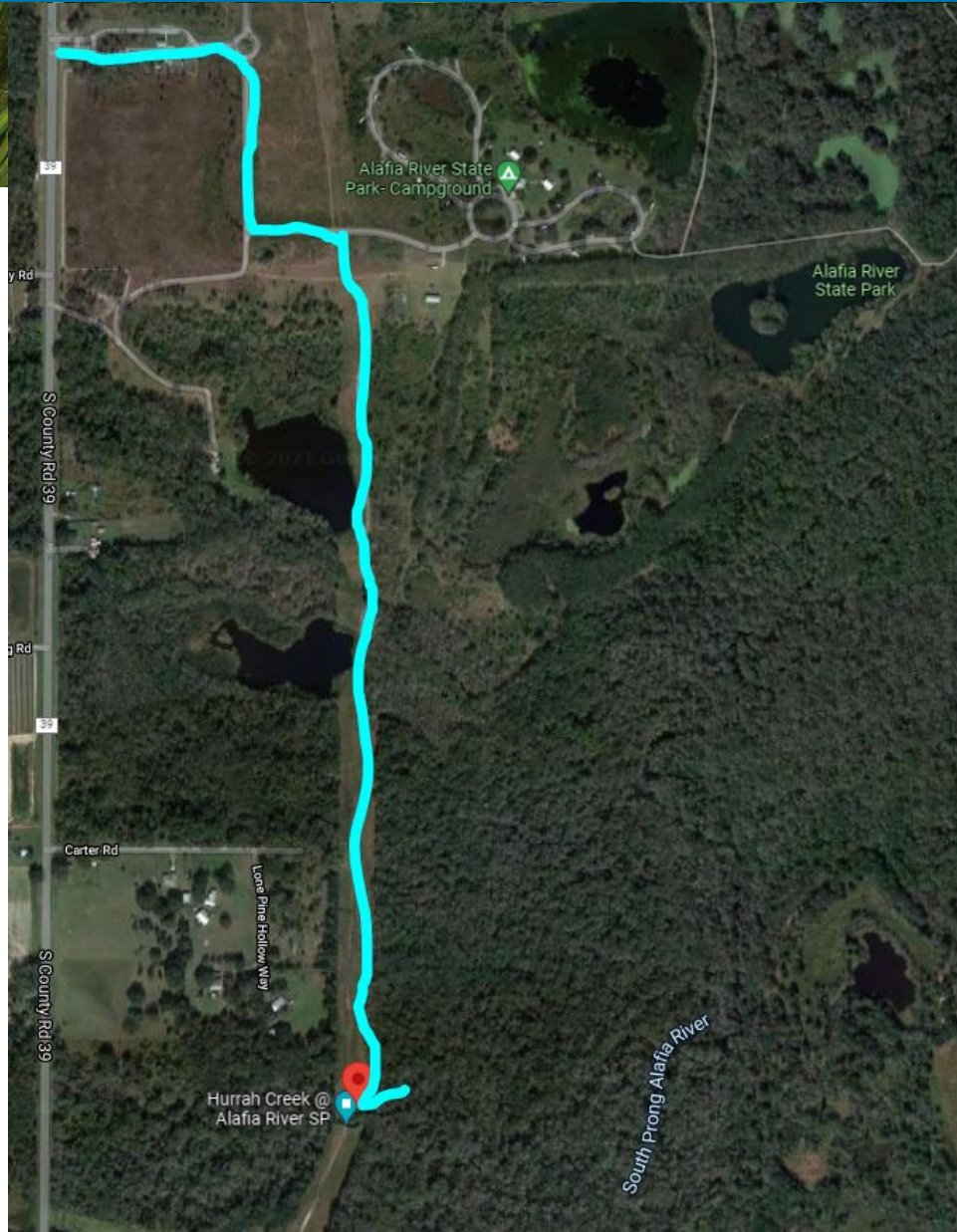


Hurrah Creek at Alafia River St. Park

Site Coordinates: 27.766675,
-82.141194

*** Site may require 4-wheel drive**

Directions: Once through the park kiosk, turn right and after about 0.2 miles turn right at roundabout and then R onto a gravel road along the powerline easement. (If you get to the campground, you've gone too far.) Pass two ponds on the right, go to the end of the cleared area.





Hurrah Creek at Alafia River St. Park

Directions: Park in front of brown signs. Look for blue and white flags on the left to enter woods, follow flags to stream.



Park in front of brown signs.



Look for blue and white flagging, follow flags to stream.



Follow flags to site



Fish Hawk Creek off Boyette Rd

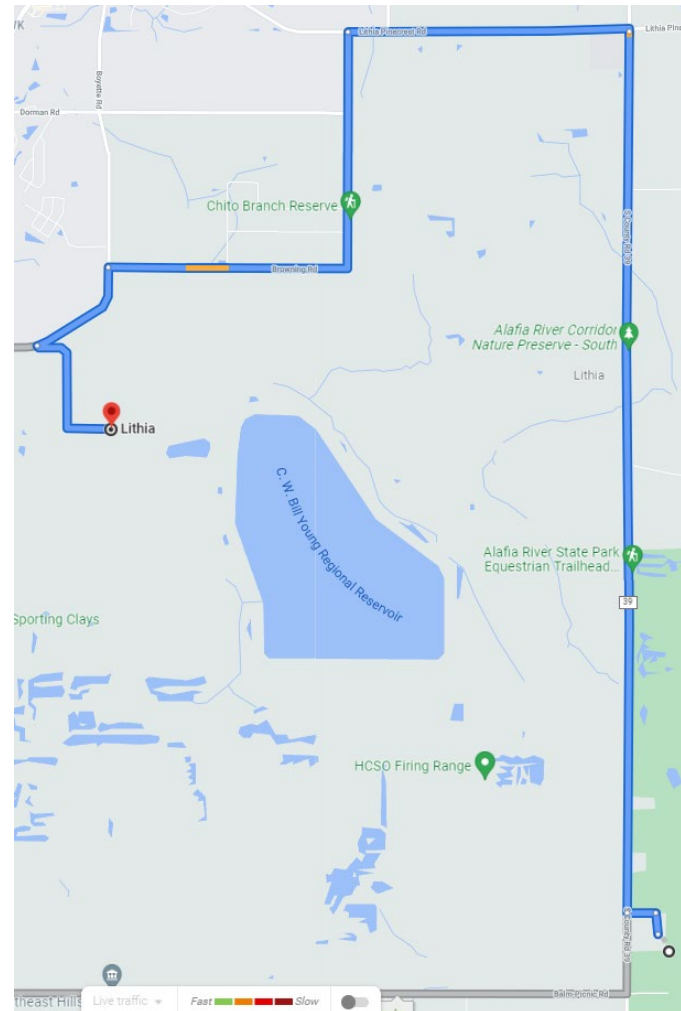
Coordinates: 27.813943, -82.198767

Region: South

County: Hillsborough

Date Analyzed: 11/03/2021

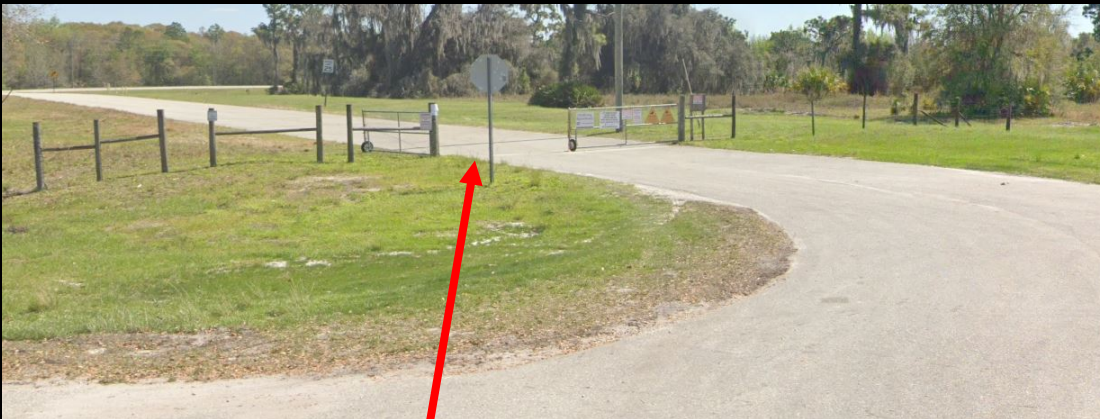
Directions: From Hurrah Creek, go N on Lone Pine Hollow Way (0.1 mi), turn L onto Carter Rd (0.2 mi), next turn R on CR 39N (5.5 mi), turn L on Lithia Pinecrest Rd (1.8 mi), L on Browning Rd (3.0 mi), and left onto Boyette Rd (0.7 mi). Gate is on the right and access if restricted to daytime hours only.





Fish Hawk Creek off Boyette Rd

- **Directions:** Follow paved road through gate for 1.0 mile. Park on the right after crossing bridge/waterworks.



Gate is open during daytime hours only



Park on right side of road

Bridge/waterworks

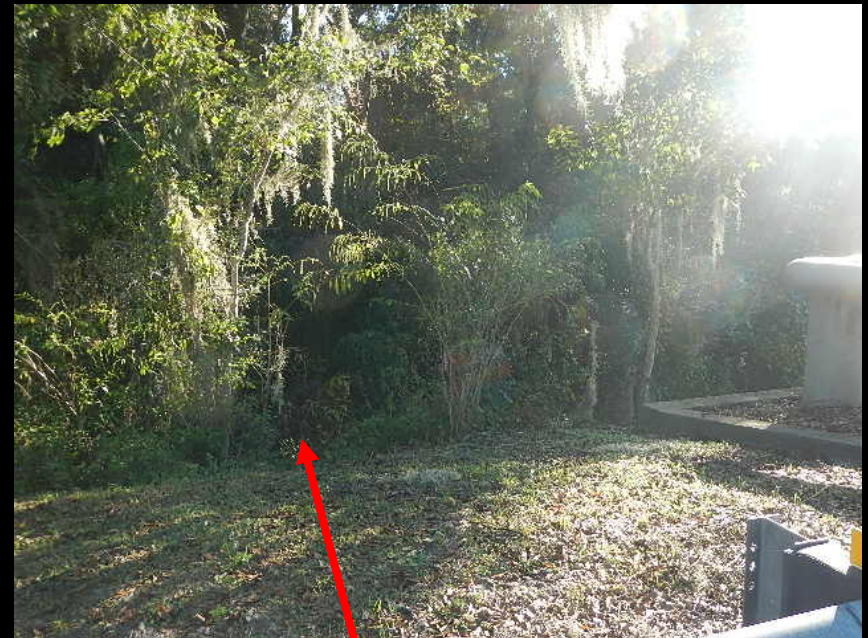


Fish Hawk Creek off Boyette Rd

- **Directions:** Enter on the left side of the creek. 0m flags are +/- 20 m above bridge.



Park on the right after crossing bridge



Enter here



Bell Creek at Boyette Springs Park

Coordinates:

27.846611, -82.276361

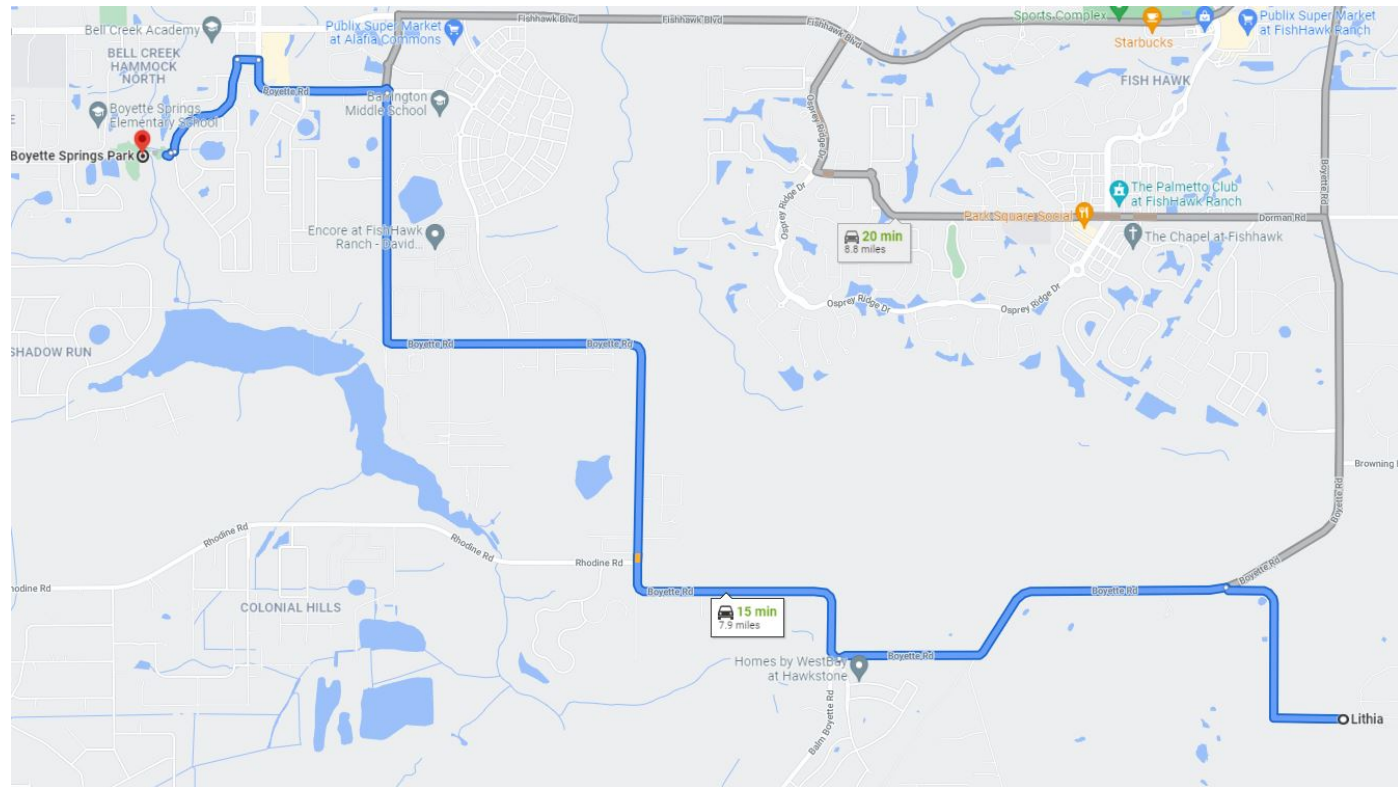
Region: South

County: Hillsborough

Date Analyzed:

11/04/2021

Directions: From Fish Hawk Ck go back to Boyette Rd, turn L and stay on Boyette to David Kulow Lane, turn L Deepbrook Drive for 0.6 mi, turn L into park. Take sidewalk to creek.





Bell Creek at Boyette Springs Park

- **Directions:** Yellow 0m flags are 10m above the wooden foot bridge. Enter creek from sandy area.



Yellow double flags 10m above wooden foot bridge



Enter at sandy area (30m flag) and walk downstream to start