

**Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center**

# Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center

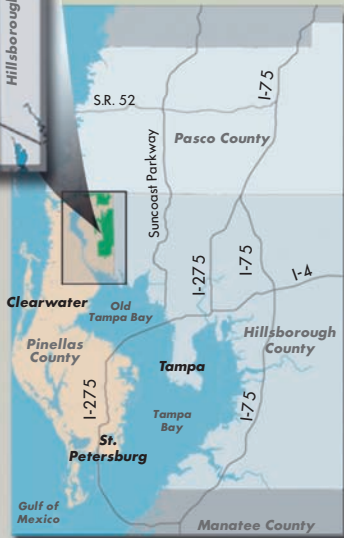
## What is the Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center?

The Center is a beautiful, 25,000 square foot, three building complex designed in the old Florida Pioneer-style architecture.



Boardwalks and trails provide opportunities for guided or self-guided hikes and outdoor learning experiences for all ages.

**Center Hours**  
**Wednesday - Sunday**  
 Wednesday - 9:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
 Thursday - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
 Friday - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
 Saturday - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
 Sunday - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
**Closed Holidays**  
**Mondays & Tuesdays**  
**Nature Store**  
 Wednesday - Sunday  
 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



## What is There to Do?

**Programs:** Indoor and outdoor programs, led by staff or guest presenters, featuring a broad range of natural history and other environmental topics.

**Hikes:** General guided, self-guided as well as specialty hikes featuring specific animal, plant, or other specialized topics.

**Exhibits:** Permanent exhibits feature 22 discovery-oriented experiences revolving around natural Florida and our local history. Crawl through a gopher tortoise burrow, wander around an exhibit that illustrates a year of seasonal changes and natural processes in Florida, or step into the Theater's barn and journey into the past. Rotating exhibits featuring paintings, photography, sculpture and more can also be experienced.

**Special Events:** Several times a year, a variety of events will be offered that combine environmental topics with music, theater, history, and the arts.

**Workshops:** Single and multiple day workshops highlighting environmental topics key to the region.

**Resource Center:** A searchable database and library aimed at helping visitors research a variety of environmental projects for their backyards or community.

**Picnic Facilities:** Screened dining area, picnic shelter, and outdoor pavilions.

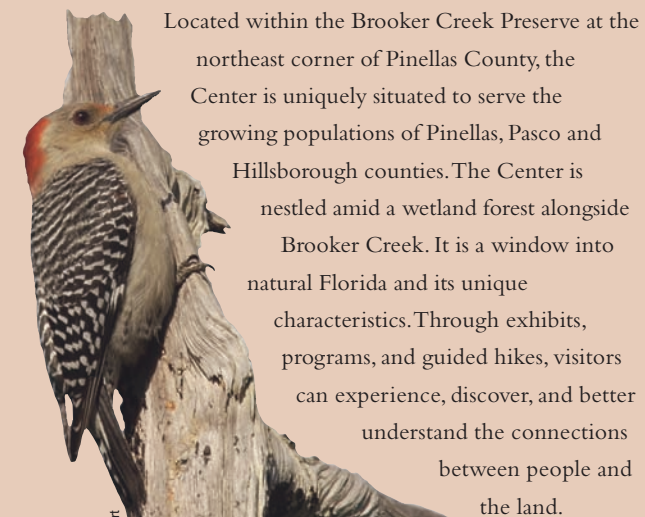
**Research:** Classrooms and equipment available for use by visiting scientists and students.

**Nature Store:** A great variety of books, naturalist tools, binoculars/telescopes, bird feeders, children's section and more. Special gifts can be found here.



It includes a 6,000 square foot exhibit area, three classrooms, an auditorium with seating for 200 and over 2.5 miles of trails.

Located within the Brooker Creek Preserve at the northeast corner of Pinellas County, the Center is uniquely situated to serve the growing populations of Pinellas, Pasco and Hillsborough counties. The Center is nestled amid a wetland forest alongside Brooker Creek. It is a window into natural Florida and its unique characteristics. Through exhibits, programs, and guided hikes, visitors can experience, discover, and better understand the connections between people and the land.



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For additional information, please call us at (727) 453-6800

Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center  
 3940 Keystone Road  
 Tarpon Springs, FL 34688



[www.pinellascounty.org/environment](http://www.pinellascounty.org/environment)

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## What is Brooker Creek Preserve and Who Manages It?

At over 8,000 acres, the Preserve is the largest natural area in Pinellas County. Established in 1992 by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, it is managed by Pinellas County's Environmental Management Department, Environmental Lands Division. The Preserve consists primarily of pine flatwoods and forested wetlands. It protects a significant portion of the Brooker Creek Watershed, which is crucial to protecting Lake Tarpon.

Purchasing the land for the Preserve was just the first step. A team of environmental professionals, which includes research and land

management staff, work in concert to better understand, manage and restore the natural systems of Brooker Creek. The support and involvement of the community for projects such as prescribed fires and restoration of natural water flow are essential to our success. The Center is designed to help the

**Visit the Object Theater to learn more about the history of the Preserve.**



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community better understand why it is important to protect this special place.

There are many opportunities for exploring the Preserve that include the Center's trails, over 10 miles of equestrian trails and a 1.75-mile self-guided hiking trail called the Friends Trail. Come visit us and experience "Our Wildest Place."

## Want to Get Involved?

### Become a Volunteer for the Center.

**There are many opportunities:**

- Hike guide and roaming naturalist
- Exhibits/Theater
- Education and outreach
- Information desk
- Animal care
- Resource Center
- Costume design



**"Metamorphosis" sculpture on boardwalk by Colorado artist Tim Upham**



The purchase of the Brooker Creek Preserve and the establishment of the Center was possible thanks to the foresight of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners and the citizens of Pinellas County.

## Become a Volunteer for the Preserve.

**You can assist with many projects including:**

- Trail maintenance
- Bird and butterfly counts
- Checking nest boxes
- Monitoring fence-lines
- Restoration plantings
- Assisting researchers in both the field and office
- Call for more information about volunteering at (727) 453-6900



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## Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve, Inc.

**The Friends organization supports the Preserve and informs the public about its importance. As a member, you can:**

- Help recruit sponsors for the Preserve and the Center's needs
- Assist in publicizing and promoting community involvement
- Work closely with Preserve staff and elected officials in decision-making processes
- Attend member special events and presentations
- Receive discounts for programs

Visit [www.friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org](http://www.friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org) to learn more about the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve, Inc.

