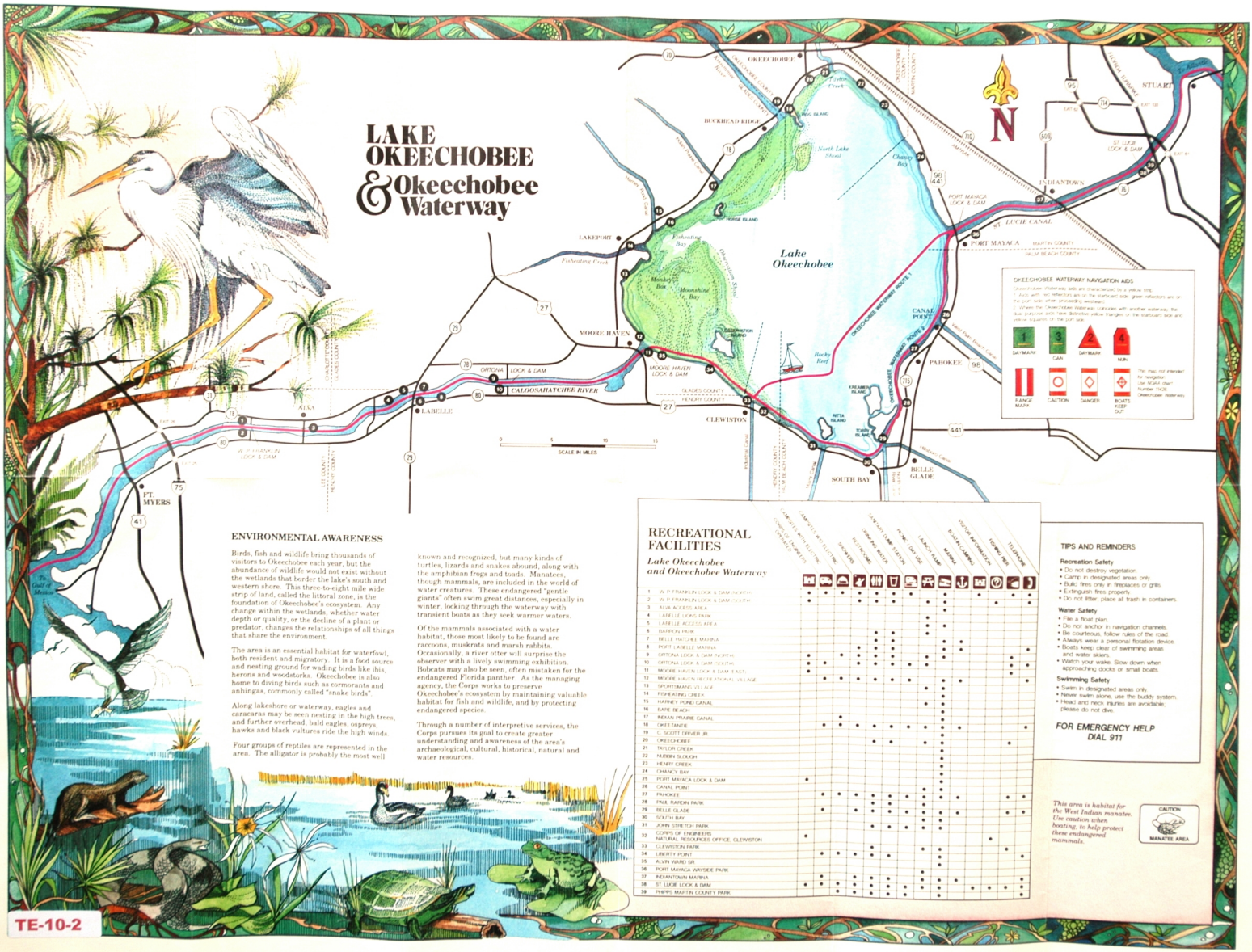
91

LAKE OKEECHOBEE & Okeechobee Waterway

US Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District

TE-10-2

LAKE OKEECHOBEE & Okeechobee Waterway



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Birds, fish and wildlife bring thousands of visitors to Okeechobee each year, but the abundance of wildlife would not exist without the wetlands that border the lake's south and western shore. This three-to-eight mile wide strip of land, called the littoral zone, is the foundation of Okeechobee's ecosystem. Any change within the wetlands, whether water depth or quality, or the decline of a plant or predator, changes the relationships of all things that share the environment.

The area is an essential habitat for waterfowl, both resident and migratory. It is a food source and nesting ground for wading birds like ibis, herons and woodstorks. Okeechobee is also home to diving birds such as cormorants and anhingas, commonly called "snake birds".

Along lakeshore or waterway, eagles and caracaras may be seen nesting in the high trees, and further overhead, bald eagles, ospreys, hawks and black vultures ride the high winds.

Four groups of reptiles are represented in the area. The alligator is probably the most well known and recognized, but many kinds of turtles, lizards and snakes abound, along with the amphibian frogs and toads. Manatees, though mammals, are included in the world of water creatures. These endangered "gentle giants" often swim great distances, especially in winter, locking through the waterway with transient boats as they seek warmer waters.

Of the mammals associated with a water habitat, those most likely to be found are raccoons, muskrats and marsh rabbits. Occasionally, a river otter will surprise the observer with a lively swimming exhibition. Bobcats may also be seen, often mistaken for the endangered Florida panther. As the managing agency, the Corps works to preserve Okeechobee's ecosystem by maintaining valuable habitat for fish and wildlife, and by protecting endangered species.

Through a number of interpretive services, the Corps pursues its goal to create greater understanding and awareness of the area's archaeological, cultural, historical, natural and water resources.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Lake Okeechobee and Okeechobee Waterway

	Campsites, Non-Electric	Campsites, Electric	Showers	Restrooms	Drinking Water	Swimming Area	Picnic Shelter	Picnic Tables	Launch Ramp	Marina	Boat Maintenance	Visitor Information	Fishing Pier	Telephone
1 W. P. FRANKLIN LOCK & DAM NORTH	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
2 W. P. FRANKLIN LOCK & DAM SOUTH									•			•	•	•
3 ALVA ACCESS AREA									•					
4 LABELLE LIONS PARK									•					
5 LABELLE ACCESS AREA									•					
6 BARRON PARK					•		•							
7 BELLE HATCHEE MARINA					•		•			•				
8 PORT LABELLE MARINA					•		•			•		•		
9 ORTONA LOCK & DAM NORTH	•			•	•									•
10 ORTONA LOCK & DAM SOUTH	•			•	•									•
11 MOORE HAVEN LOCK & DAM EAST	•			•	•									•
12 MOORE HAVEN RECREATIONAL VILLAGE					•					•				
13 SPORTSMANS VILLAGE									•					
14 FISHEATING CREEK									•					
15 HARNEY POND CANAL									•					
16 BARE BEACH									•					
17 INDIAN PRAIRIE CANAL									•					
18 OKEE-TANTIE									•					
19 C. SCOTT DRIVER JR									•					
20 OKEECHOBEE									•					
21 TAYLOR CREEK									•					
22 NUBBIN SLOUGH									•					
23 HENRY CREEK									•					
24 CHANCY BAY									•					
25 PORT MAYACA LOCK & DAM	•								•					
26 CANAL POINT									•					
27 PAHOKEE		•	•		•		•		•					
28 PAUL RAMSIN PARK		•			•		•		•					
29 BELLE GLADE		•			•		•		•			•		
30 SOUTH BAY					•		•		•					
31 JOHN STRETCH PARK					•		•		•					
32 CORPS OF ENGINEERS NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE, CLEWISTON	•												•	
33 CLEWISTON PARK									•					
34 LIBERTY POINT					•				•					
35 ALVIN WARD SR					•				•					
36 PORT MAYACA WAYSIDE PARK					•				•					
37 INDIANTOWN MARINA									•			•		
38 ST. LUCIE LOCK & DAM	•	•			•		•		•				•	
39 PHIPPS MARTIN COUNTY PARK	•	•			•		•		•				•	

TIPS AND REMINDERS

Recreation Safety

- Do not destroy vegetation.
- Camp in designated areas only.
- Build fires only in fireplaces or grills.
- Extinguish fires properly.
- Do not litter; place all trash in containers.

Water Safety

- File a float plan.
- Do not anchor in navigation channels.
- Be courteous, follow rules of the road.
- Always wear a personal flotation device.
- Boats keep clear of swimming areas and water skiers.
- Watch your wake. Slow down when approaching docks or small boats.

Swimming Safety

- Swim in designated areas only.
- Never swim alone; use the buddy system.
- Head and neck injuries are avoidable, please do not dive.

FOR EMERGENCY HELP DIAL 911

This area is habitat for the West Indian manatee. Use caution when boating, to help protect these endangered mammals.

CAUTION
MANATEE AREA

TE-10-2