

Lake Beresford Park to Blue Spring State Park; and on to Debary

Nearest Towns: Deland, Orange City and Debary, Florida

County: All in Volusia County

A great part of the Spring-to-Spring Trail System – 6.2 miles



General description:

This great trail provides options from the start. At Lake Beresford Park you will find a two mile, paved, loop trail that surrounds the park. After that warm-up bike or hike, go under the railroad tunnel and it opens up into a whole new paved trail system that runs, crossroad free, all the way to Blue Spring State Park, (Think manatees in the winter), and beyond to the current end of the trail in Debary, FL.

What you may see:

The trail from Lake Beresford Park will head South through a variety of ecosystems from uplands to wetlands. Critters from Gopher Tortoises to Florida Black Bear and hogs may be seen on occasion. (Leave them alone and they will leave likely you alone.)

The biggest draw is that Manatees, (Sea Cows) tend to congregate at Blue Spring when the weather gets cold in Florida. The spring emits water at a constant 72 degrees year-round. They are big and cute vegetarians who congregate at the springs for warmth. Many other species of fish congregate there as well.

How to get there:

Physical address:

Lake Beresford Park – 2100 Fatio Road, Deland, FL

Directions:

From I-4 take Exit 116, Deland, and follow Orange Camp Road west for 4.9 miles. At that point it takes a right turn and becomes Fatio Road. Follow it an additional .4 miles and turn left into the park.

GPS readings:

Lake Beresford Park entrance:

N 28° 59.463'

W 081° 20.158'

1st Railroad Tunnel:

You have to go under this to access the main trail.

N 28° 59.431'

W 081° 20.342'

'Iron Ranger' to access Blue Spring State Park:

N 28° 56.734'

W 081° 19.998'

Current end of trail in Debary;

N 28° 54.525'

W 081° 19.405'

Trail notes:

Turn left after the 1st tunnel to head to Blue Springs State Park. At 2.7 miles you will reach a junction. Go straight to go into the main gate at Blue Spring, but expect delays during busy times. There is a \$2.00 fee for bikes to enter the park.



For hikers or bikers, there is simpler way to access the park. Go under the tunnel and an additional .5 miles on the trail to the 'Iron Ranger' access to the park. Grab an envelope from the Iron Ranger, fill it with 2 \$1.00 bills and keep the tear off receipt as proof you paid to get in to the park. Never any delays!

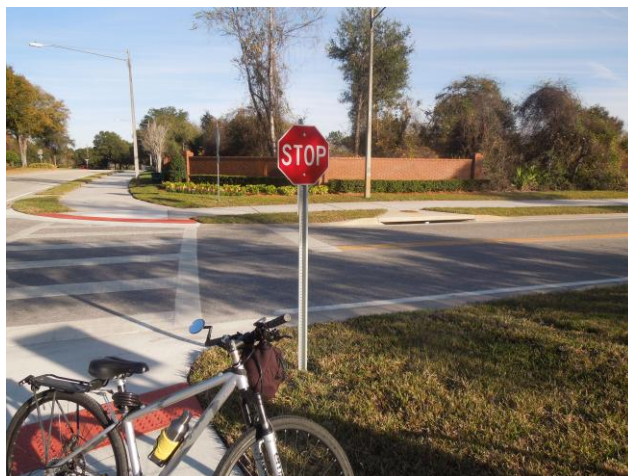


Then cross the main access road and turn left to enter the park. The main park is about a mile down that road. Lock up your bike and enjoy the views and interpretive markers.

Additional Trail note:

The main trail has recently been extended beyond the park on into Debary, Florida for an additional 3 miles if you so desire, and ends in a residential neighborhood at the corner of Donald E. Smith Boulevard and Debary Plantation Boulevard in Debary.

As you enter the Debary segment, you will pass a fenced-in area along the trail. Behind that fence is about a 400-acre “solar farm”. A massive collection of solar panels generating electricity for the local area. Marvel at the technology and keep riding on into Debary.



Season-Hours-Fees-Parking:

The actual trail is open year-round during daylight hours. There are no fees, unless you want to enter Blue Spring State Park and see the manatees, or use their facilities. There is parking for about 25 cars at Lake Beresford park, but they actually fill up during peak hours in the Winter. Vehicles tend to park roadside after that. We have never seen it “too” crowded.

Time:

Gauge the distance and time to your own capabilities and interests.

Pet Friendly:

Probably leave Fido at home on this one. Might be okay hiking if you keep them leashed and clean up after them, but not recommended.

Facilities:

At Lake Beresford Park -Well maintained restrooms and water. A picnic pavilion and a children's playground.

At Blue Spring State Park – A full-service state park after you pay your entrance fee. Restrooms, concessions, picnic tables and great views along the boardwalk.

What we found:

We travel this trail frequently because there are no crossroads and there are great accommodations initially at Lake Beresford Park. It is a nice, down-and-back ride by bike. We do occasionally lead a ride into Blue Spring as well.

Whatever you decide to do on your own outing, it'll be a great day.

****Times, fees, parking, and other information may have changed since this document was published.***

***** If you know of any updates to this write-up, please email Roger at Roger@RogerFulton.com***