

A **fish management area (FMA)** is a pond, lake or other body of water established for the management of freshwater fish as a cooperative effort with the local county. The FWC's Division of Freshwater Fisheries manages about 80 water bodies throughout the state that are designated as Fish Management Areas. Examples include most community-based fishing lakes and Commission-managed impoundments.

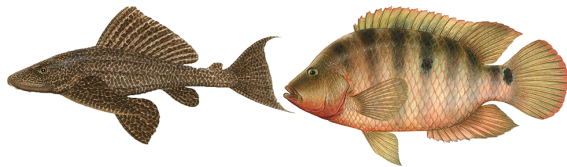
Edward Medard Reservoir is a 1,284 acre area owned by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). Located on what was once a phosphate mining site, the Park offers unique topography with elevation changes that have become very popular for fishing. Sunshine bass (striper hybrids) are stocked on a regular basis and channel catfish are very abundant.

### Stop the release and spread of non-native species

Many nonnative aquatic species are finding their way into Florida's coastal waters. When new animals and plants are introduced into an area, they often cannot survive there and die. However, if they can survive in the new area, they can begin to compete with native species and may end up displacing native plants and animals. This can result in major changes to the environment. For more information please visit [MyFWC.com/nonnatives/](http://MyFWC.com/nonnatives/) or visit <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/>

Pleco

Mayan cichlid



Fish images © Diane Rome Peebles

### Vegetation management



*Invasive plant species water lettuce.*

Control of undesirable plant species and introduction of beneficial plant species is practiced to enhance habitat for fish as well as to improve angler access within Edward Medard Park and Reservoir FMA. Designated bank access sites provide good opportunities for anglers on foot.

### Special regulations

In order to provide better angling, special regulations are in place to protect fish populations within Edward Medard Park and Reservoir FMA:

- No person shall use any gear other than hook and line or rod and reel to take and possess game fish and nongame fish species.
- Persons possessing a valid freshwater commercial fishing license may use cast nets to catch nongame fish other than channel catfish from 12:01 AM Tuesday to 12:01 AM Friday.
- Days and hours of operation, park entrance and other user fees shall be designated by Hillsborough County and posted at the park main entrance.

A fishing license is required for residents from 16 to 64 years of age, and for nonresidents 16 or more years of age, to fish by any method, including cane poles, on a Fish Management Area.

### Hours and Fees

**Hours:** Daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., November through February; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., March through October.

**Fee:** An entrance fee is required as well as a boating fee.

### Directions

**From St. Petersburg:** First, follow I-275 N and I-4 E to Branch Forbes Rd in Hillsborough County. Then take exit 17 from I-4 E. Then take N Turkey Creek Rd to Panther Loop .

**From Tampa:** First, take Hwy 618 Toll E/ FL-618 Toll E/Selmon Expressway and FL-60 E to Turkey Creek Rd. Then turn right onto Turkey Creek Rd .Then turn left onto Edward Medard Pkwy. Then turn left onto Panther Dr. Turn right onto Panther Loop. The destination will be on the left.

**From North:** First, turn left onto N. Turkey Creek Rd .Then turn left onto Edward Medard Pkwy. Then turn left onto Panther Dr. Then turn right onto Panther Loop. The destination will be on the left.

### Contact This Park

6140 Turkey Creek Road  
Plant City, FL 33567  
(813) 757-3802



Your Purchase of Fishing Equipment and Motorboat Fuels Supports Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Access Facilities.

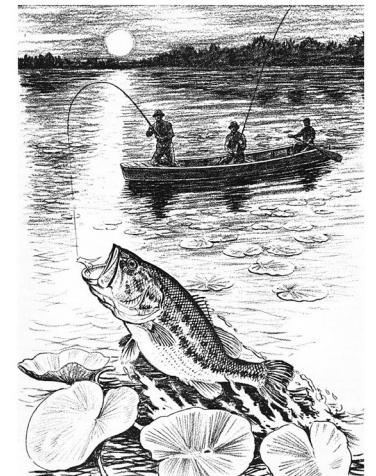


Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission  
MyFWC.com

# Edward Medard

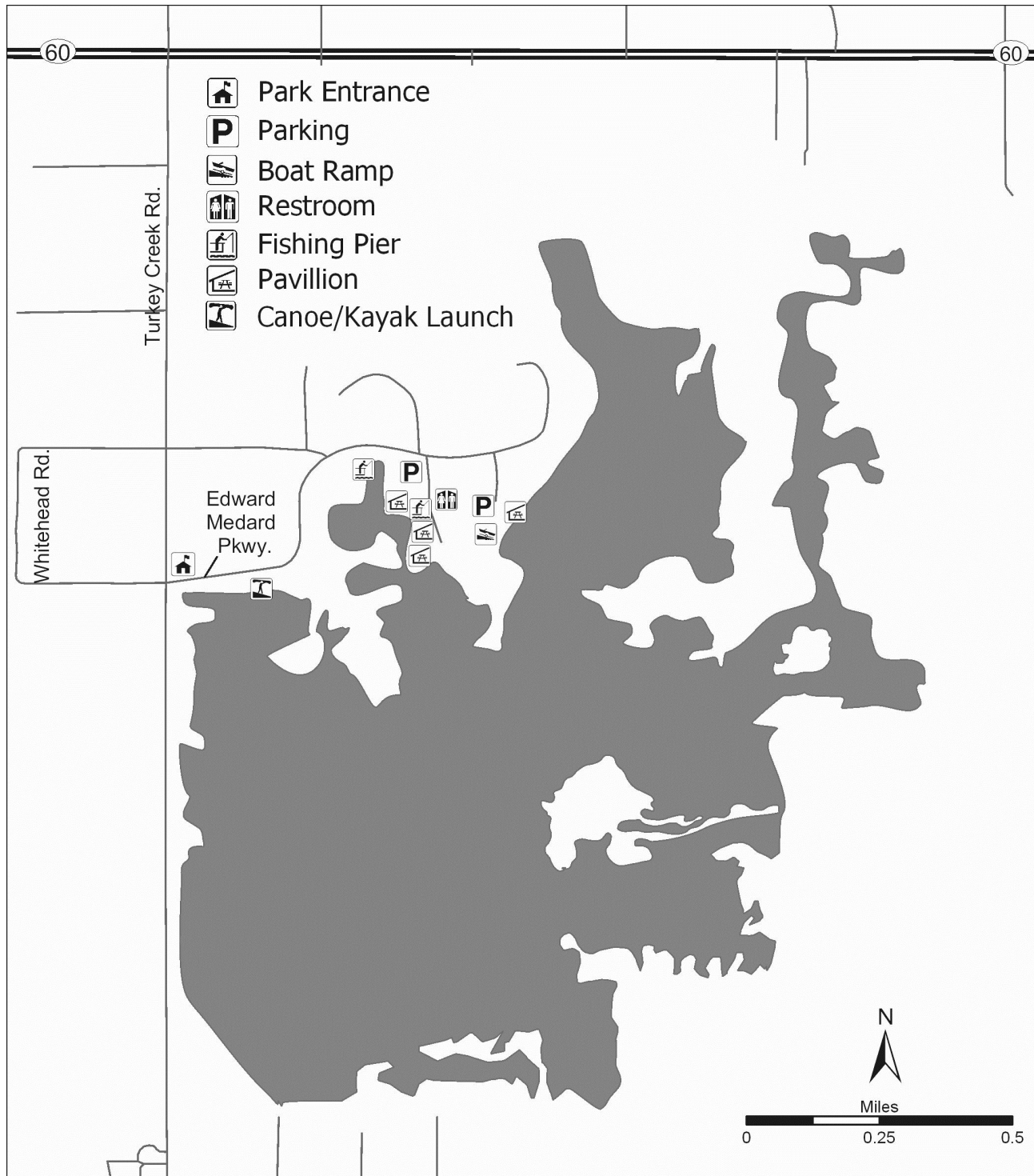
## Fish Management Area

### Hillsborough County



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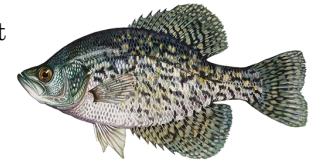
**Bluegill and redear sunfish**

These popular and cooperative panfish are found around the fish feeders and near vegetation or structure. Live worms or crickets fished a few feet under a small bobber are a sure bet. Doughballs and small pieces of cut hot dog also work well. Good lures include small jigs, beetle spins, and tiny spinners. Flyrod anglers can score with small popping bugs, wet flies, and nymphs.



using bait should set the hook quickly to prevent deep-hooked fish, as all bass caught must be released unharmed immediately.

**Black crappie** Black crappie (specks) fishing has slowed with the warmer water temperature. Try drifting live Missouri minnows, or trolling small jigs and spinners in open water to find the schools. The best bet is a small green tube jig drifted over grass beds.



**Channel catfish** Chicken and beef livers work well as baits, as well as commercial “stink baits” sold in bait and tackle shops. Fish directly on the bottom, or deep under a small bobber. Catfish are rarely taken on lures.



**Brown bullhead** Browns generally inhabit still or slowly-flowing warm waters in ponds, lakes, reservoirs, large rivers and sluggish streams. Fair fighters, they are easy to catch with baits such as worms, minnows, shrimp, chicken innards and stink baits. They bite throughout the day, but fishing is best at night.



Fish images © Duane Raver

**Largemouth and sunshine bass**

Anglers should use light tackle and smaller lures, including plastic worms, minnow imitations, and spinnerbaits. Medium-sized popping bugs and streamers will produce fish for flyrodders. Small shiners and live worms are the best baits. Use stealth to approach bass due to the very clear water. Anglers



**Fish and Wildlife Alert Reward**

**Program** Report fishing, boating or hunting law violations by calling toll-free 1-888-404-FWCC (3922); on cell phones, dial \*FWC or #FWC depending on service carrier; report violations online at MyFWC.com/Law or text: Tip@MyFWC.com.

**Fishing License** To purchase a fishing license using a credit card, call 1-888-FISH-FLORIDA or go to the FWC Web site listed below. www.MyFWC.com