

picnic, and scenic trails area, were deeded to Polk County by American Cyanamid Co. The many lakes in the Saddle Creek Park make it an ideal spot for the fishing enthusiast.

A large public recreational area south of Lakeland, known as Christina Park, is leased (rent free) to the community by Mobil Chemical Co. This land was once mined hydraulically, but because of the poor recovery methods then available, enough mineral value still remains in the area to warrant mining it over some time in the future. Until then, it will be used as a public park and, eventually, it will be mined, reclaimed, and afterwards made available again for public use on a permanent basis.

Just east of Tampa, on a mined-over tract of land is the Pleasant Grove Fish Management area, which is under the supervision of the Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission. This area, partially owned by Continental Oil Co. and American Cyanamid Co. is extremely popular.

Education has been a recipient of the benefits of phosphate mining too. Armour Agricultural Chemical Co. deeded the Polk County school board a piece of property built-up from mineral exhausted land, on which an elementary school is presently located.

In 1966, Armour Agricultural Chemical Co. deeded the Florida State Road Dept. a tract of land along the Bartow city limits. This property will serve as a roadway connecting state Highways 60 and 555, and will allow travelers going south to bypass Bartow. More important, it keeps heavy truck traffic off city streets.

Armour has also reclaimed 169-acres within Bartow city limits, and will soon deed the property to a local development company that participated in the reclamation project. This is land much needed by Bartow for residential building.

Also completed in 1966 is a new road built by International Minerals & Chemical Corp. upon old tailing deposits left from one of its plants. After county engineers found the new road conformed to government specifications, the public road it replaced was closed.

Especially noteworthy for its cultural value is the gift of a 10-acre site by International Minerals & Chemical Corp. to the city of Bartow for a \$1.0-million civic center. Ground was broken for the start of this project in October 1966 (to be opened in July), and the 10-acres—which were just outside of Bartow—have now been incorporated within city limits. Bartow city manager and other officials plan a 40-acre recreational complex in this area, involving the civic center, swimming pools, tennis courts, plus football and baseball fields.

The additional 30-acres needed to complete the complex are now owned by Mobil Chemical Co., and a section of it is being mined.

Agrico Chemical Co. has some 45,000-acres of forest preserve, which are actively managed and improved.

Recently, Agrico in cooperation with the Gulf Ridge Council of the Boy Scouts of America, has made available more than 10,000-acres of forest area for hiking and camping. Five camp grounds have been built along some 20 miles of marked hiking trails. Agrico officials say the campsites are booked solid every weekend.

RECLAIMED LAND SERVING THE INDUSTRY

On the profit side of the picture, diverse enterprises have been formed to take advantage of reclaimed phosphate land, and the products derived from the effort bring in important sums of money, which help pay taxes on the large land holdings retained by each company.

Since Lakeland represents the hub of the citrus area, it is natural that reclaimed land in this section should be tested for growing orange and grapefruit crops.

More than 5,500-acres of citrus groves are owned by the phosphate companies, and most of them are operated commercially by their own personnel.

Reclaimed land is proving to be ideal ground for grove sites, and Mobil Chemical Co. leads in citrus plantings on reclaimed land, although Continental Oil Co. also has substantial orange and grapefruit trees on restored mined-out property.

Mobil alone has 825-acres under test in its Phosmico reclamation area. Approximately 325-acres of this total are in citrus plantings. Besides this, about 350-acres outside of this area are also planted with citrus trees.

Feeding the needs of the groves for tree stock requires a nursery, and Mobil grows its own citrus trees for use in its expanded program for reclaimed land.