

In and Around Naples  
A Series of Presentations  
for the Collier County Library  
by Paul Pacter

Easy Nature Hikes  
In or Near Naples

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Easy walks where you can see some local  
flora and fauna in or very near Naples:

- Barefoot Beach
- Audubon Corkscrew Swamp
- Lovers Key State Park
- Gordon River Greenway
- Freedom Park
- Naples Preserve
- Rookery Bay - Shell Island
- Serenity Walk Park
- Eagle Lakes Park

By "easy" I mean:

1. Flat (no uphill).
2. Suitable for a one-mile walk.
  - Of course, there are usually opportunities for two- or three-mile walks.
3. No hazards like roots to trip on or water on the trail.
  - Well, in summer there might occasionally be water too deep to walk around in a few places.

Suggestions for all:

- Bring a hat.
- Bring insect repellent.
- Bring sunscreen.
- Bring water.



About the photos:

- I took virtually all of the photos.
- Any I didn't take are obvious or noted.

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Barefoot Beach  
County Preserve

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Barefoot Beach County Preserve

Website: <https://www.colliercountyfl.gov>

Then click on:

Parks and Beaches



Where: Bonita Springs.

Get There: Bonita Beach Rd West of US-41 then Left on Barefoot Beach Blvd past private housing to the park.

When: Daily 8am to 6pm.

Admission: Collier County Beach Permit (free) or \$10.

Barefoot Beach Preserve, continued

What:

- One of the last undeveloped barrier islands on Florida's southwest coast.
- 342 acres.
- 1-mile walking loop trail.
- 1.6 miles of beach on Gulf of Mexico.
- Lots of gopher tortoises, other wildlife.
- Exhibition center.

Barrier islands protect the mainland from coastal storms.

Barefoot Beach County Preserve



**When you first turn onto Barefoot Beach Blvd.  
Keep going 1.5 miles to park.**



**After the condos, you arrive at Barefoot Beach Preserve**



**Barefoot Beach County Preserve  
8,200 feet of beach on the Gulf**



**Barefoot Beach County Preserve  
8,200 feet of pristine Gulf beach**



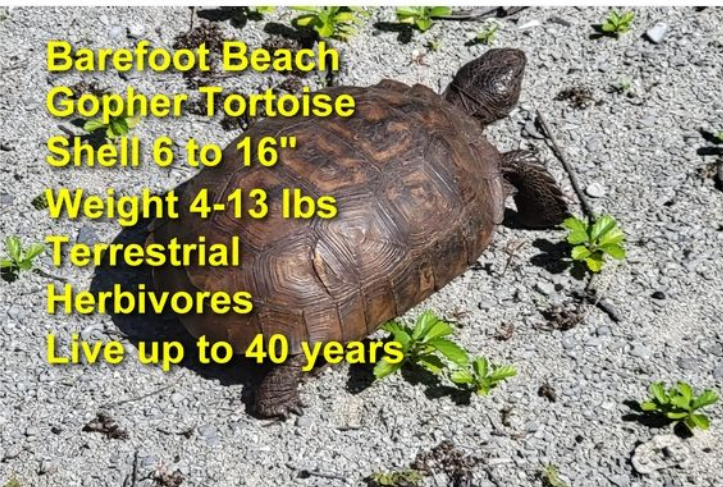
**Barefoot Beach - Saylor Nature Trail  
One-mile Loop  
Starts at Parking Lot #3**



**Lots of Gopher Tortoises at Barefoot Beach**



**Barefoot Beach  
Gopher Tortoise  
Shell 6 to 16"  
Weight 4-13 lbs  
Terrestrial  
Herbivores  
Live up to 40 years**



**Barefoot Beach – Gopher Tortoises  
Are Burrowing Reptiles**



**Burrows are up to 50 ft long**



Gopher tortoises cannot swim.  
They use their front legs for digging.



Lots of Shells at Barefoot Beach



Osprey with Fish  
Barefoot Beach

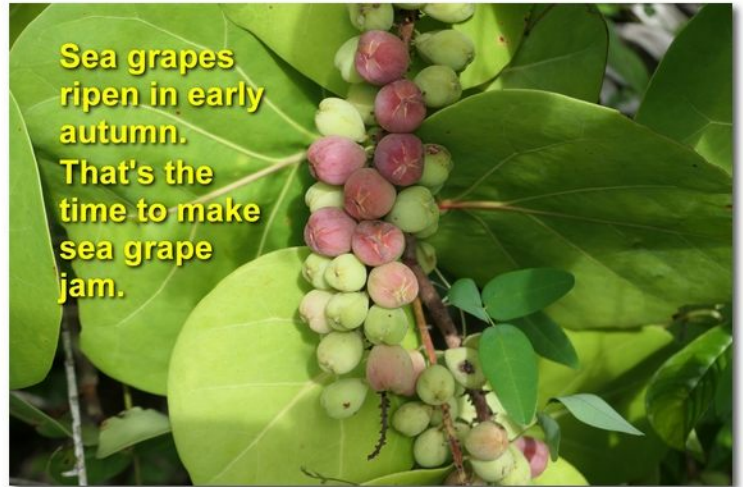


Gumbo Limbo Tree

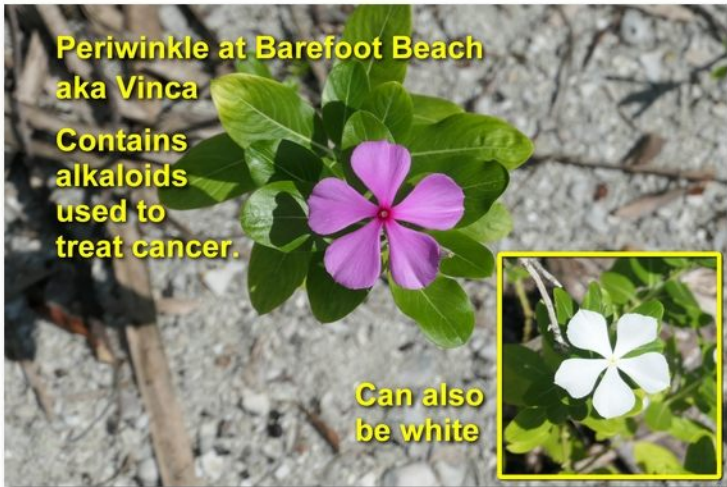
aka "Tourist Tree": Skin is red and peeling.



Seagrape Tree  
Caribbean and Southern Florida  
Grapes edible or make jam



Sea grapes ripen in early autumn.  
That's the time to make sea grape jam.



Periwinkle at Barefoot Beach  
aka Vinca

Contains alkaloids used to treat cancer.

Can also be white



Yellow Necklace Pod  
Nectar for Bees, Butterflies



**Cocoplum**  
Fruit and seed are edible



**Sea Turtles spawn at Barefoot Beach**



**Tracks of Sea Turtle**  
Crawling to Land to Spawn



**North Tip of Delnor-Wiggins State Park**

**Wiggins Pass**  
**Cocohatchee River**

**South Tip of Barefoot Beach Preserve**



**Sometimes you may have to share Barefoot Beach with others – such as terns and sandpipers**



**Abandoned boat at Barefoot Beach**

**Referred to as "derelict boats"**  
**Responsibility: Florida Wildlife Commission and Local**

**Derelict (Abandoned) Boats in Florida**  
– Obstruct waterways.  
– Leak fuel and fluids.  
– Destroy seagrass.  
**Total boat registrations in Florida: 985,000.**  
**Derelict boats under active investigation by FWC Aug 1, 2021: 643.**  
**State budget to remove: \$3,500,000 annually. Legal action.**  
**Early action needed: Very costly to remove if completely submerged.**



**Seven-Year Apples**

**Edible when blackish, NOT green.**  
**Many seeds, which are NOT edible.**

**Fungi found at Barefoot Beach Preserve include these:**



**Ganoderma curtisii**  
Not edible



**Orange peel fungus**  
Tasteless, edible

**False Sisal or Florida Agave**  
Native only to Florida coasts.



**Barefoot Beach Learning Center**



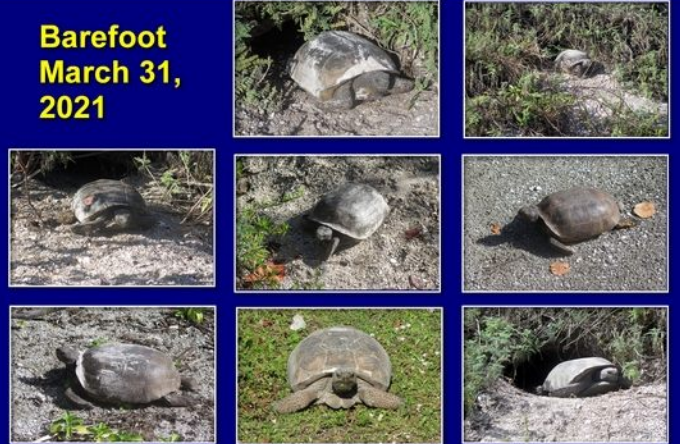
**Barefoot Beach Parking Lot**

**Look For  
Gopher Tortoises  
Under Your Car**

You really must look under your car



**Barefoot  
March 31,  
2021**



**Sunset at Barefoot Beach**



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**Audubon Corkscrew  
Swamp Sanctuary**

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## Corkscrew Swamp – “Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary”

**Website:** corkscrew.audubon.org/

**Where:** 375 Sanctuary Rd W, Naples 34120.

**Get There:** East on Immokalee Road. 15 miles East of I-75, turn left onto Sanctuary Rd. Follow signs. *Last entry*

**When:** Daily 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. *1:15pm*

**Admission:** \$17. College students \$10. Children 6-14 \$6. Book online. *Must*

**What:** Visitor center:

Exhibits, discovery film, cafe, shop.

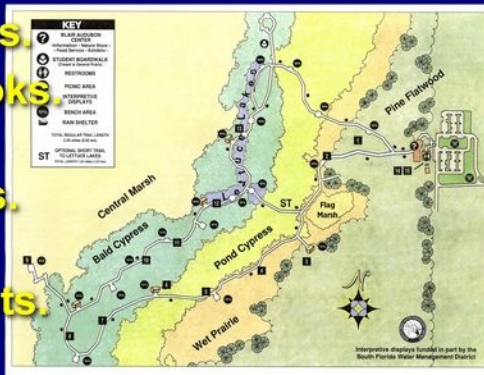


**Boardwalk:** 13,000 acres of wetlands. 2.25 miles of boardwalk through pine flatwood, wet prairie, marsh, and the largest old growth Bald Cypress forest in North America. Alligators, otters, deer, cottonmouth snakes, turtles, wading birds, owls, songbirds, raccoons, etc.



## 2.2 Miles of Boardwalk

- Benches
- Overlooks
- Rain shelters.
- Several shortcuts.



## Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Boardwalk and Pond Cypress



At that same place on the boardwalk in October, a spectacular sunflower display



Corkscrew Swamp Boardwalk Across the Prairie to the Cypresses - May Cypress Needles Are Green - Summer





**Corkscrew Swamp Boardwalk**  
**Across the Prairie to the Cypresses - November**  
*Cypress Needles Have Fallen. Deciduous!*



**Cypress is a conifer. But its needles change color and fall off each autumn.**

**Two kinds of cypress trees:**

<b>Pond cypress</b>	<b>Bald cypress</b>
40-80' tall, Max 20' wide, tapered shape.	70-130' tall, 20-30' wide, Oval shape.






**Many of the ancient cypresses at Corkscrew Swamp PRE-DATE COLUMBUS!**



**Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Wet Prairie (Marsh)**



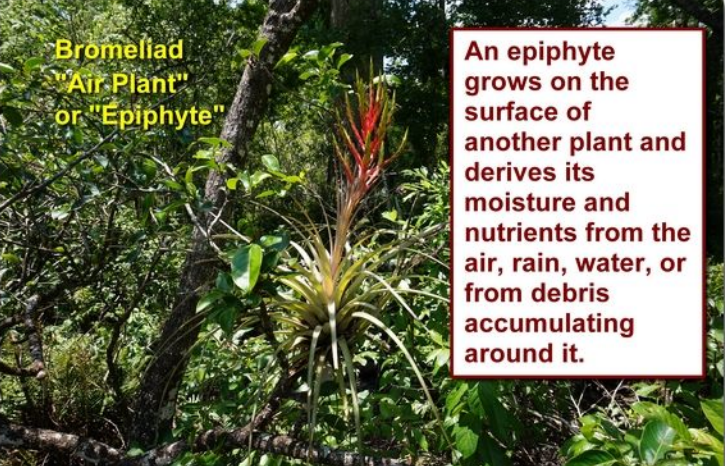
**Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Alligator Flag (Plant) Marsh**  
*Growing in water where gators can hide. These were a "flag" for early settlers.*

**Several of the Many Flowers at Corkscrew Swamp**

 <b>Swamp Lily</b>	 <b>Buttonbush</b>	 <b>Elderberry</b>
 <b>Virginia Iris</b>	 <b>Cardinal Airplant</b>	 <b>Pickerelweed</b>

**Bromeliad "Air Plant" or "Epiphyte"**

An epiphyte grows on the surface of another plant and derives its moisture and nutrients from the air, rain, water, or from debris accumulating around it.



**Corkscrew Swamp: Two Small Reptiles**



**Brown Anole**

Lizard.  
Native to Cuba, Bahamas.  
Invasive in US. Drives out  
native green lizard.  
7 to 8 inches.



**Skink**

Lizard.  
Big neck, small legs.  
About 5 inches.  
Can shed tail if predators  
grab them. Regrows.

**Eastern Lubber Grasshopper  
Cannot Fly - Harmless  
Up to 3 inches**



**Dolomedes  
Fishing Spider  
Pregnant -  
Green Egg Sac**



**Eastern gray squirrel.  
Scatter-hoarders.  
Several thousand  
caches per  
season,  
each location  
remembered!**



**Corkscrew Swamp  
Otter**



**Alligator at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary**



**Alligator Sunning - Corkscrew Swamp**



**Audubon Corkscrew Swamp  
Two Juvenile Alligators**





**Several of the Many Birds at Corkscrew Swamp**



Ibis



Yellow-crowned Night Heron



Sandhill Crane



Anhinga

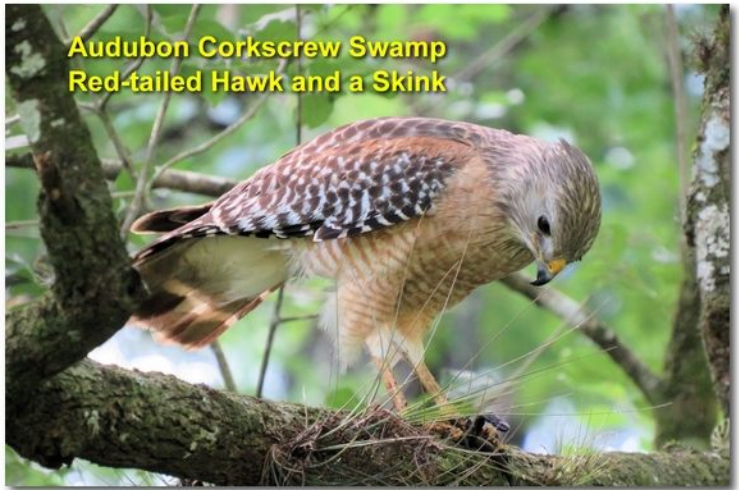


Roseate Spoonbill



Barn Owl

**Audubon Corkscrew Swamp  
Red-tailed Hawk and a Skink**



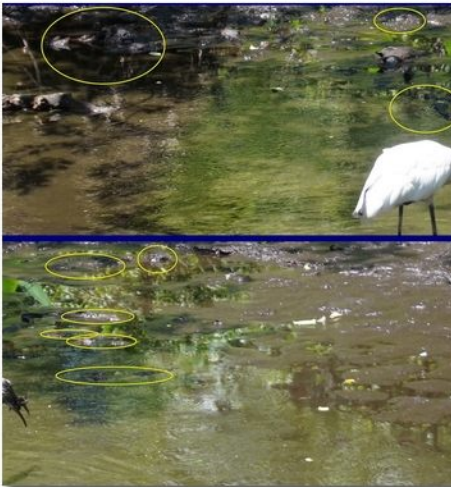
**Roseate Spoonbill**



**Several  
Gators**

**Wood Stork  
with a fish**

**Spoonbill**



**Actually,  
"several  
gators"  
on the  
last  
slide was an  
under-  
statement.**

**Audubon Corkscrew Swamp had a  
lot of damage from Hurricane Irma**

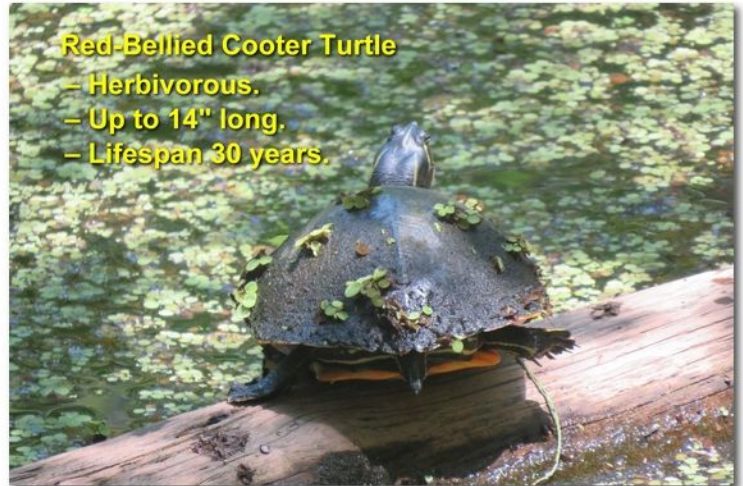
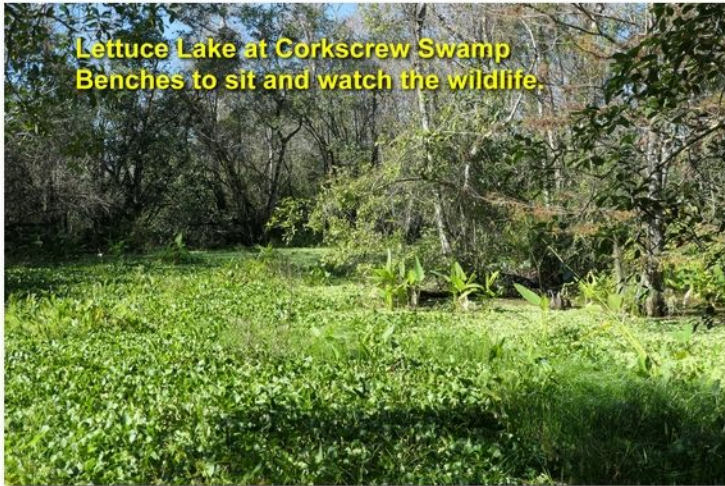


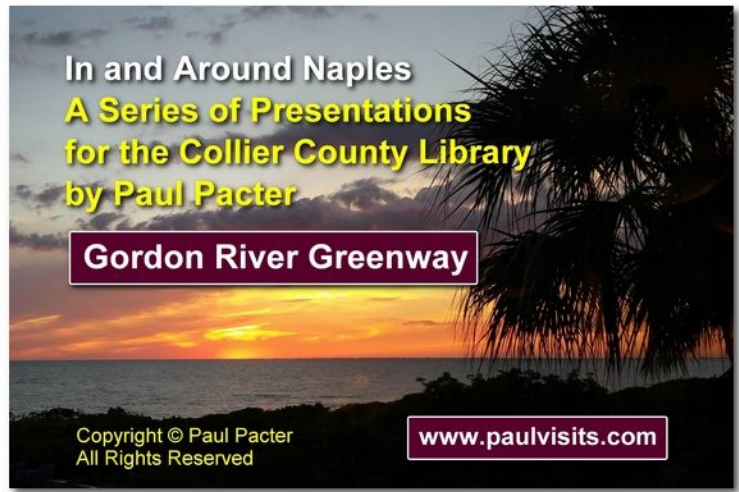
**Lookout Over the Central Marsh**



**View of Marshland from Lookout  
Audubon Corkscrew: 13,000 acres = 20 sq miles.  
Wetlands. Wildlife sanctuary.**

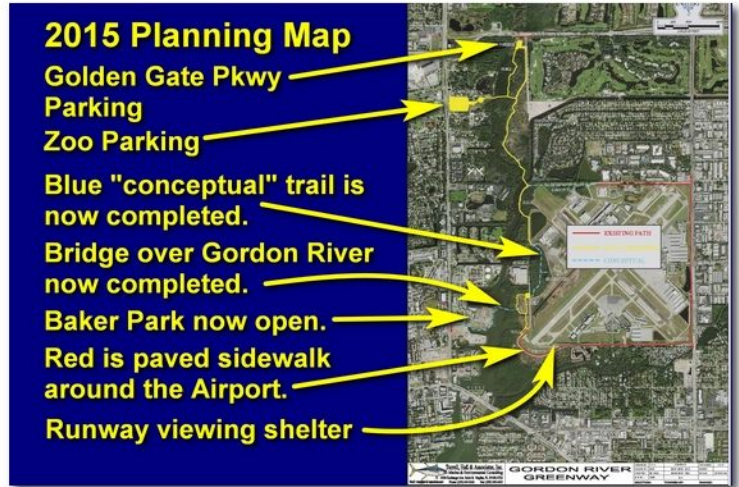






**Gordon River Greenway**  
**Website:** [www.gordonrivergreenway.org/](http://www.gordonrivergreenway.org/)  
**Where:** Two entrances and parking areas:  
**1590 Goodlette-Frank Road.** Main entrance for Naples Zoo. Back of zoo parking lot.  
**1596 Golden Gate Parkway.** South side of Golden Gate between Airport Rd and Goodlette-Frank Rd.  
**Admission:** Free.

**When:** 6:30 am to 10:00 pm 7 days.  
**What:** 2.5 miles of asphalt, mulch, and boardwalk trails with water access along the Gordon River, in the heart of Naples, Florida. Ideal for walkers, hikers, runners, cyclists, kayakers, birders.  
**2004 vote by Collier County residents to acquire most of the land.**  
 At southern end, can continue down North Rd (behind Airport) to connect to new Baker Park.





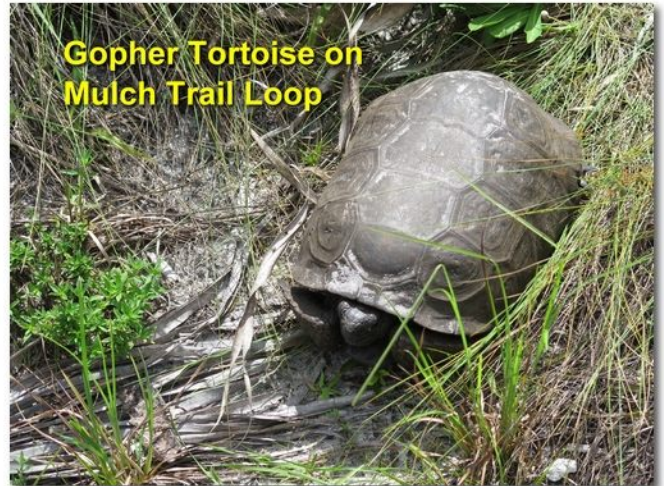
Mulch Trail  
1/4 Mile Side Loop off Main Trail



Gordon River Greenway  
Mulch Trail Pond - Wet Season



Gordon River Greenway  
Mulch Trail Pond - Dry Season



Gopher Tortoise on  
Mulch Trail Loop



Occasionally the Mulch Trail  
Loop Is Messy

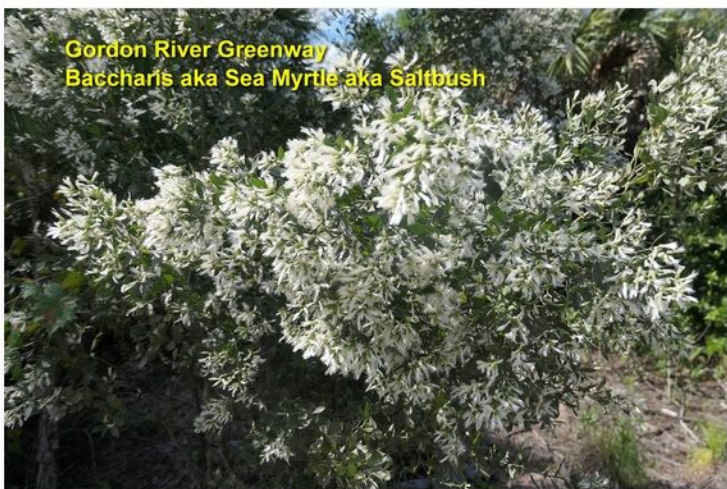
Gordon River Greenway - Wildflowers



Mimosa



Evening Primrose



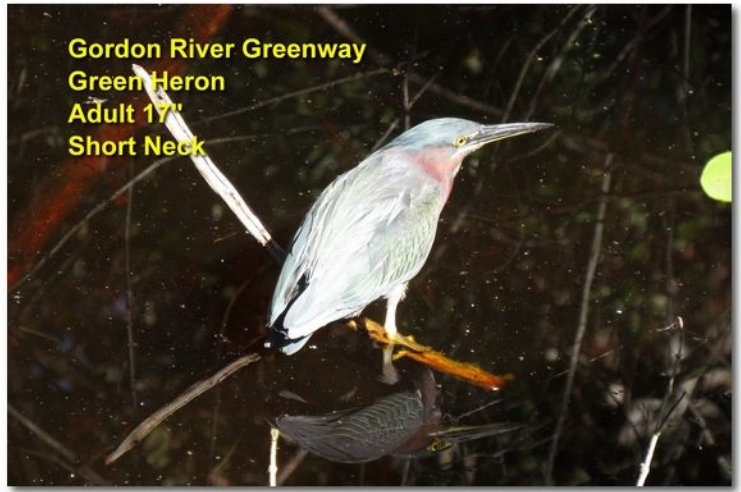
Gordon River Greenway  
Baccharis aka Sea Myrtle aka Saltbush



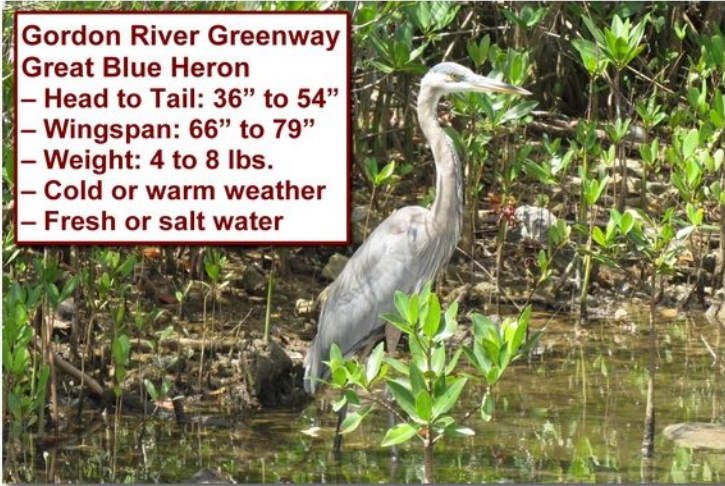
Gordon River Greenway  
Leather Ferns



The boardwalks go over marshes that are wet year round (more so, of course in rainy season)



Gordon River Greenway  
Green Heron  
Adult 17"  
Short Neck



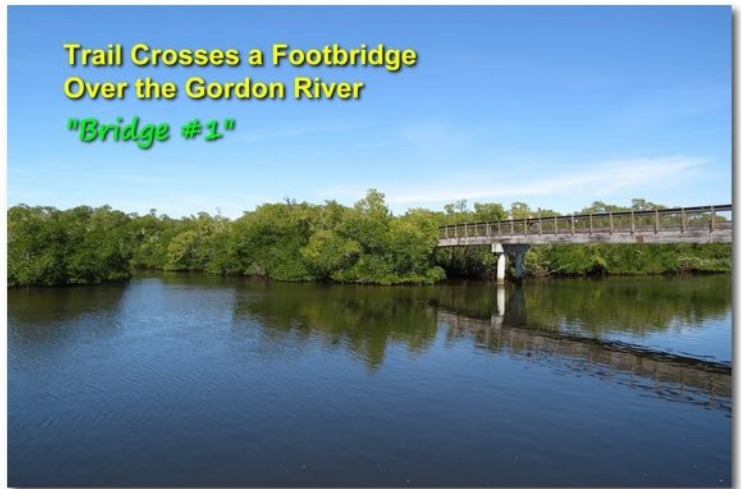
Gordon River Greenway  
Great Blue Heron  
- Head to Tail: 36" to 54"  
- Wingspan: 66" to 79"  
- Weight: 4 to 8 lbs.  
- Cold or warm weather  
- Fresh or salt water



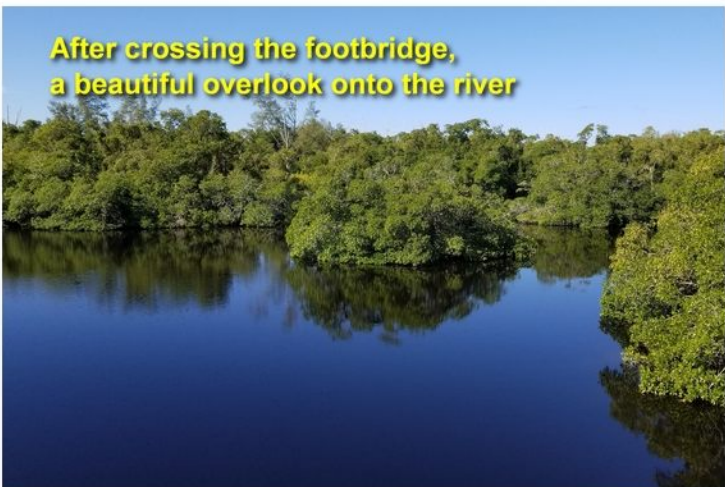
Gordon River Greenway  
Mangroves



Gordon River Greenway  
Bushy Bluestem Grass



Trail Crosses a Footbridge  
Over the Gordon River  
"Bridge #1"



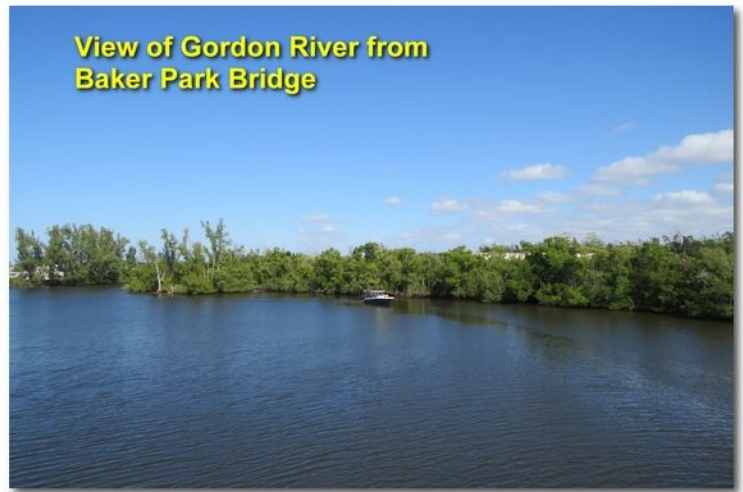
After crossing the footbridge,  
a beautiful overlook onto the river



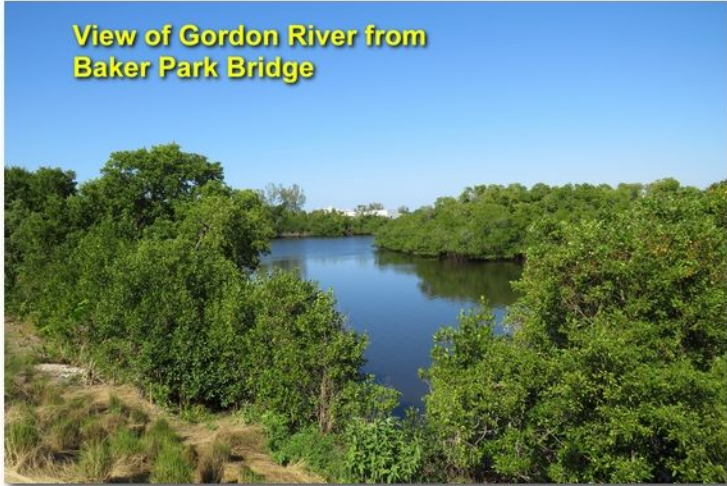
Bridge Across Gordon River  
From the Airport to Baker Park  
"Bridge #2"



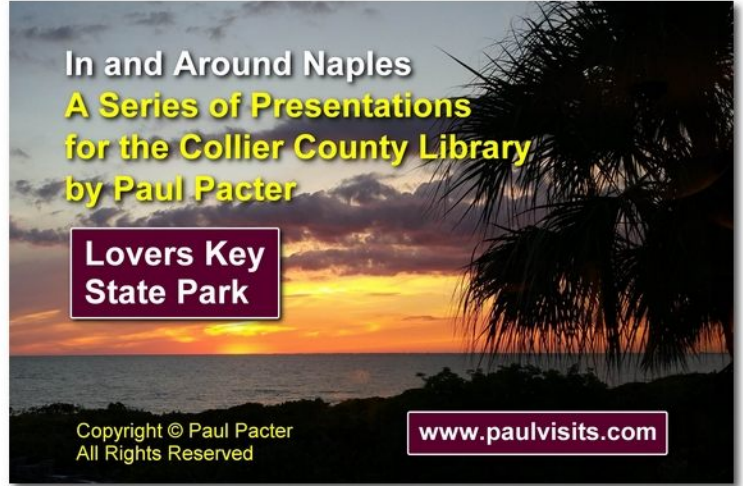
Bridge Across Gordon River  
Into Baker Park  
"Bridge #3"



View of Gordon River from  
Baker Park Bridge



View of Gordon River from  
Baker Park Bridge



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Lovers Key  
State Park

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**Lovers Key State Park – Trails and Beaches**  
**Website:** [www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/lovers-key-state-park](http://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/lovers-key-state-park)  
**Where:** 8700 Estero Blvd, Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931.  
**Get There:** West on Bonita Beach Rd to Gulf. Curve right onto Hickory Blvd. About 5 miles to Lovers Key.  
**Admission:** \$8 per vehicle. 1 person \$4.  
**When:** 8am to sunset, daily.



Lovers Key  
State Park

**What:** Two miles of Gulf Beaches. Miles of hiking trails. Kayaking, canoeing, shells. Dolphins, manatees, birds, gopher tortoises, maybe an alligator.

**Two trails at Lovers Key:**  
**Black Island Trail and Eagle Trail.**  
 Each about 2.5 miles long (with shortcuts). They follow estuaries originally dredged to make way for residential development. That was stopped by the State.

**Black Island Trail** offers a view into secluded estuaries full of wildlife. Home to manatees, dolphins, great variety of coastal birds, fish, insects, and reptiles.

**Eagle Trail** brings walkers through maritime hammock dominated by cabbage palms, Jamaica dogwoods, strangler figs, gumbo limbos, catclaws, buttonwoods, seagrapes, and black and red mangroves.

**RED is Eagle Trail**  
**BLUE is Black Is. Trail**

**P** Drive PAST first (beach) parking lot.  
**P2** For trails use SECOND parking lot.



Trails at Lovers Key Are Mostly Like This  
 Some More Shaded  
 Some Alongside Estuaries



Gopher Tortoises Burrow on Black Island.  
 You are likely to see some tortoises on your hike.  
 Here are two.



Gopher Tortoise Live on land.  
 Eat plants.  
 Avg weight 9 lbs.  
 Length of shell up to 16 inches.



Gopher Tortoise Found in all 67 Florida counties

Originated in North America 60 million years ago.  
 They live up to 80 years.



Gopher tortoises dig burrows up to 48 feet long and 10 feet deep

Burrows protect the tortoise from heat, cold, fire, predators. Burrows are shared with over 300 other species.



Another Reptile at Lovers Key  
 Black Swamp Snake

Harmless



Lovers Key – Black Island Trails





**Gumbo Limbo "Tourist Tree"**  
Skin is red and peeling



**Wild Coffee**  
Scientific name: *Psychotria nervosa*  
Seeds look like coffee. But no caffeine.  
If roasted, "bad taste and terrible headaches."



**Lovers Key - Black Island Trails**



**Lovers Key**  
Kayak and Canoe Rentals



**Kayakers at Black Island – Lovers Key.**



**Manatee - Lovers Key Black Island**

Manatees live in water but come up for air every 5 to 20 minutes.



**Manatees visit Lovers Key**  
December through March

← Manatee

**Mammals. Herbivores. Eat more than one-tenth of their weight in food each day. Normally swim 5 mph. Weigh 900-1,200 lbs. 9 ft long.**



**2021 Manatee Starvation Crisis – 1**  
**Native to Florida: 6,000 in FL.**  
**Boat danger: 95% have boat propeller scars.**  
**Not tolerant to cold. Migrate:**  
– Summer range: Texas to N. Carolina.  
– Winter range: A few Florida locations.  
**2021 Starvation Crisis: 1,100 died. Only 637 in 2020, 607 in 2019.**



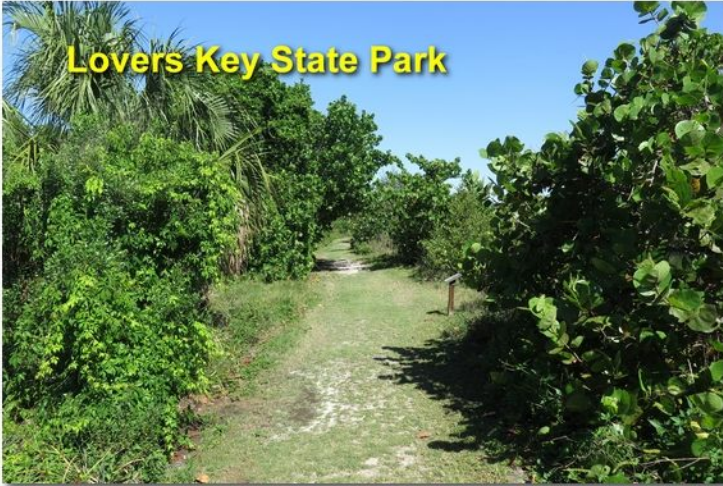
**2021 Manatee Starvation Crisis – 2**  
**Why the huge spike in deaths 2021?**  
 – Starvation!  
**Why starvation?** Lack of seagrass.  
 Seagrass grows underwater. Too  
 much algae on water surface.  
 Blocks sunlight.  
**Why too much algae?** Fertilizer and  
 septic tank runoff.

**Kayak Rentals - 4 Hours**  
**Singles \$41**  
**Doubles \$63**  
**Canoe \$52**  
**Guided tours also offered.**



*Near the new Education Center.*

**Lovers Key State Park**



**Sabal Palm or Cabbage Palm**  
 Florida's State Tree



**Prickly Pear Cactus and Its Flower**

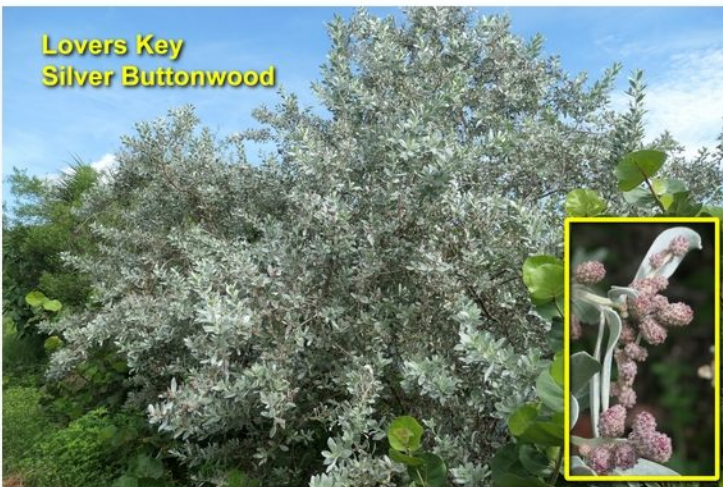


**Lovers Key - Prickly Pear Fruit**

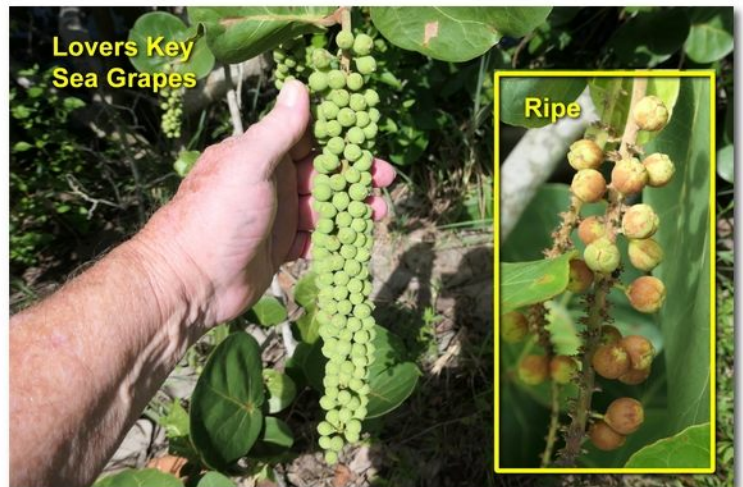


Both fruit and pads are edible  
 after carefully scraping spines.  
 Raw (salads) or cooked.  
 Can buy in Latino food shops.  
 Mexican: Nopales.

**Lovers Key**  
**Silver Buttonwood**



**Lovers Key**  
**Sea Grapes**



**Ripe**

Coontie aka Arrowroot aka Wild Sago  
Toxic to humans, dogs, and livestock if  
eaten raw.



Lovers Key State Park  
Eagle Trail



Dolphins - Lovers Key



Crab – Black Island Trails



Sea Grapes – Black Island Trails



Lovers Key State Park  
Black Island Trails



Lovers Key  
Passion Flower  
aka Apricot Vine  
aka Maypops  
Tennessee  
State Flower



Morning Glory – Black Island Trails



**White Morning Glory – Black Island Trails**



**Agave – Black Island Trails**



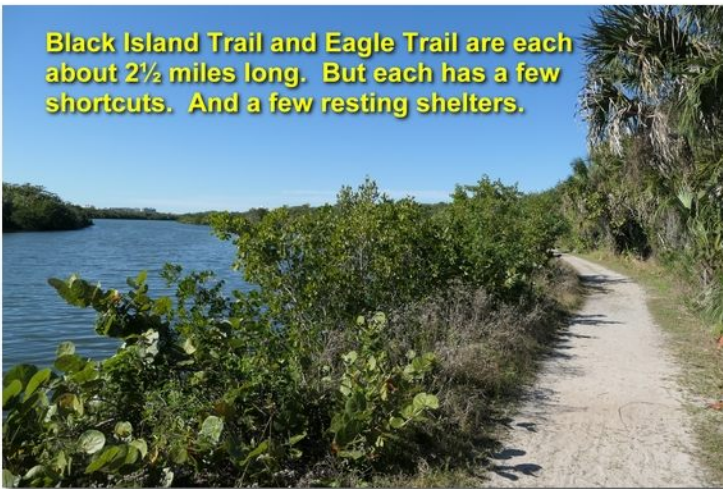
**Lovers Key - Spanish Bayonet**



**Starfish (Sea Star) from Black Island waters. They live only in salt water.**



**Black Island Trail and Eagle Trail are each about 2½ miles long. But each has a few shortcuts. And a few resting shelters.**



**Kayak dog is wearing a life jacket. Black Island – Lovers Key**



**Lovers Key  
Green Heron**



**Castor Seeds on Black Island. Hull and seeds are poisonous to humans, animals, insects. The main toxin is "ricin".**



"The outer coating (hull) may cause nausea; vomiting; diaharrea; abdominal pain; dehydration; shock; blood cell destruction; severe fluid and chemical disturbances; liver, kidney, and pancreas damage; and death." Wikipedia



In addition to trails, Lovers Key Has a Two-Mile Long Beach!  
Free tram to get you to the more remote end.



Even the walk to the beach is beautiful



Osprey at Lovers Key



This nest is near beach parking lot

Lovers Key New Education Center  
~~Nearing Completion~~ Now Open  
Exhibits. Programs.

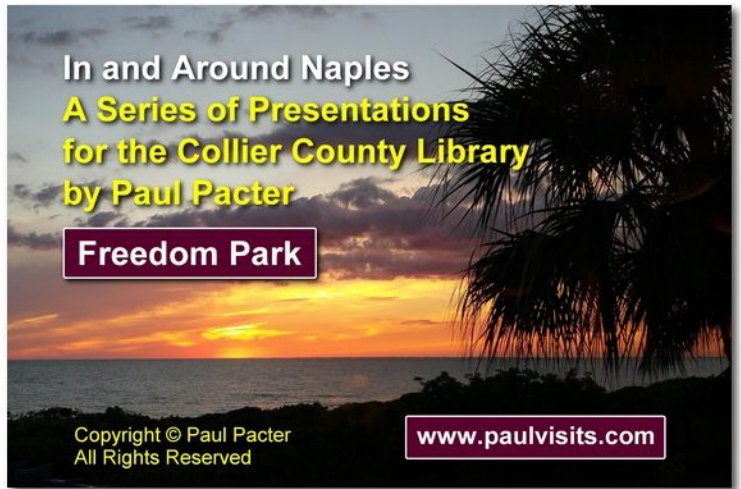


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Freedom Park

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### Freedom Park

Website: <https://www.colliercountyfl.gov>

Then click on:

Parks and Beaches



Where: 1515 Golden Gate Pkwy, Naples.  
Just east of the intersection of Golden Gate Parkway and Goodlette-Frank Road.

When: Daily 7am to sunset.  
Education Center 9am to 10pm Mon-Sat.

Admission: Free.

### What: 50 acre wetlands.

- 3,500-foot boardwalk over the eastern side of the park.
- Plus trails and six lookout pavilions around the lakes in the western side of the park.
- 2,500 square foot Education Center.
- Freedom Memorial – tribute to the lives lost on 9/11/01 in the terrorist attacks and to the heroes of past and present wars.

**Frequent wildlife sightings include:**  
Red shouldered hawks, barred owl,  
pileated woodpeckers, green herons,  
great blue herons, little blue herons,  
great white herons, racoons,  
gray squirrels, marsh rabbits,  
river otter, armadillos, alligators,  
turtles, snakes, and frogs.



**Freedom Park Education Center**



**Freedom Park has 3,500 feet of boardwalks.**



**Boardwalk loop around eastern side of Freedom Park.**



**Western side of the park has 4 lakes and 6 lookouts like this one.**



**One of the four lakes in Freedom Park**



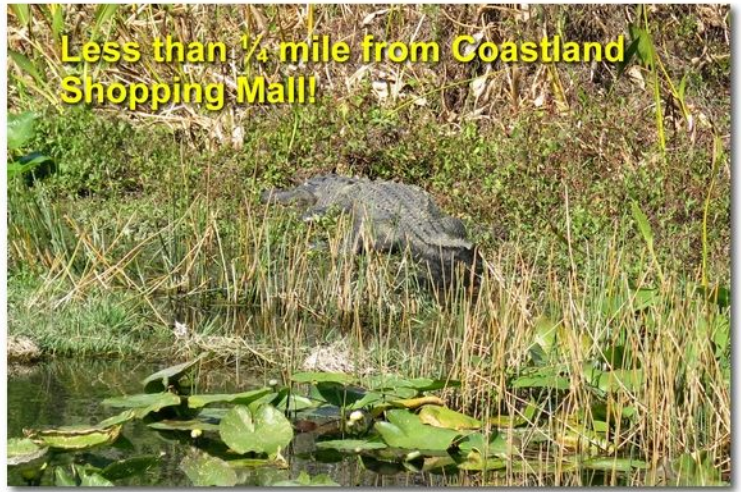
**Freedom Park**



**Freedom Park**



**Less than 1/4 mile from Coastland Shopping Mall!**



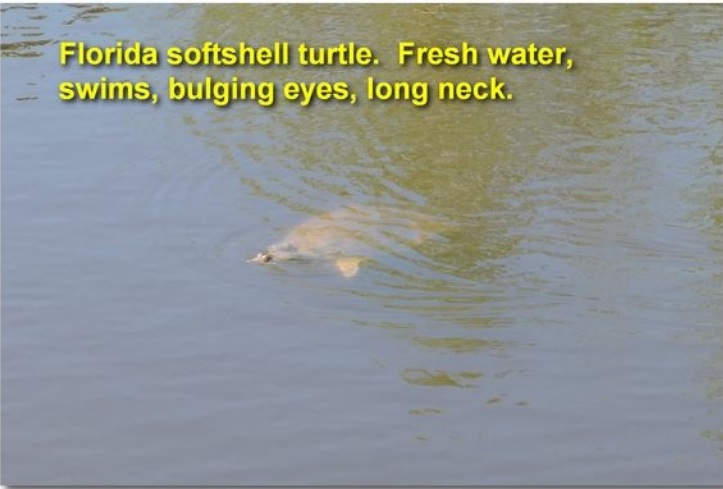
**All of the trails are either boardwalks or smooth pavement. All wheelchair accessible.**



**Freedom Park**



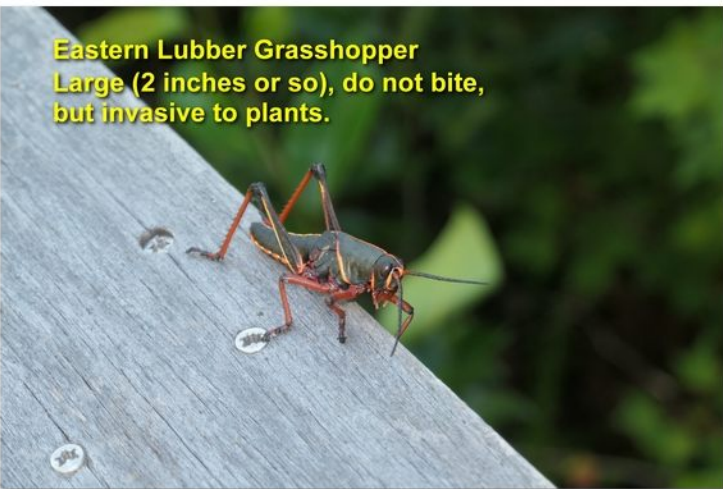
**Florida softshell turtle. Fresh water, swims, bulging eyes, long neck.**



**8 explanatory signs along the trails.**



**Eastern Lubber Grasshopper  
Large (2 inches or so), do not bite, but invasive to plants.**



**Much of the boardwalk goes over wetlands**



**Four famous prior owners of the park land**

The Naples you know today was once each of these entrepreneurial and unique Collier County land agents' estate.

**E.W. "Ed" Crayton (1870-1938)**  
*Shaping the Naples Community*  
 A successful land developer in Ohio and St. Petersburg, Ed Crayton acquired 8,600 acres of land (most of which is now the City of Naples) from Walter Hallerman in 1912. Four years later he subdivided some of the land, including the Freedom Park property, into the Naples Improvement Company's Little Farms Subdivision. Back Bay was renamed Crayton Cove in honor of Ed Crayton.

**Ed Frank (1900-1961)**  
*From making bargains to changing communities*  
 At age 13, Ed Frank worked as an apprentice machanic. In 1923, at age 23, he opened The Ed Frank Garage in the area that would become Tamiami Park. Completed in 1926, soon to follow was Frank's car wash, "The Wash," and the first commercial building in the Naples South. He is perhaps best known as "the creator of the swamp buggy" (at right). Ed Frank acquired the northern-most portion of Freedom Park in 1935.

**Stephen F. Briggs (1889-1976)**  
*A healthy Naples for humans and wildlife*  
 Stephen Briggs, co-founder of the Briggs and Stratton Motor Company, and his wife Bea became seasonal Naples residents in 1935. In 1947, Stephen co-founded the Naples Yacht Club. Bea was instrumental in the creation and growth of Naples Community Hospital, and both Stephen and Bea were noted supporters of The Conservancy - now known as The Conservancy of Southwest Florida. In 1943, the Briggses purchased a portion of Freedom Park from Lindray Crayton, and in 1944 the northern-most portion from Ed Frank.

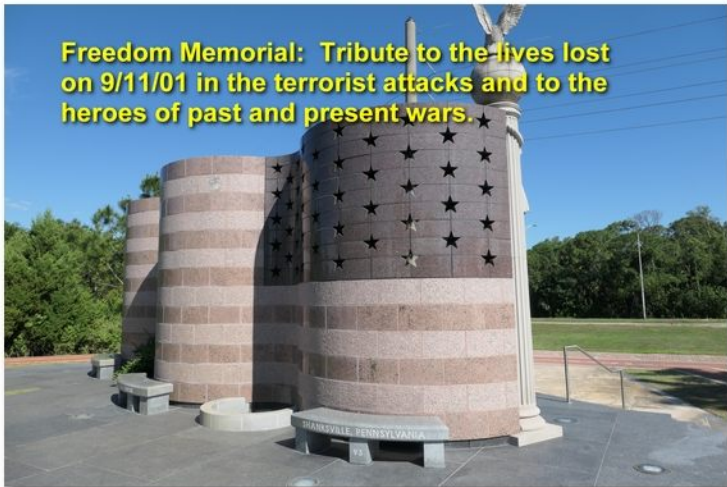
**Beatrice "Bea" Briggs (1893-1979)**

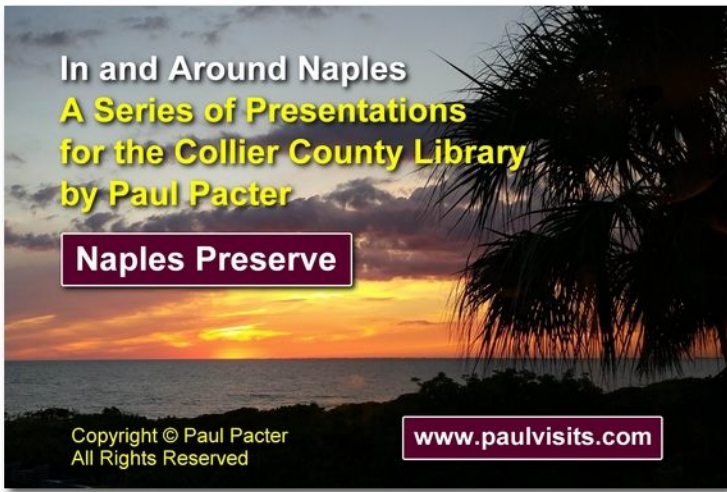
**Julius "Junkie" Fleischmann (1900-1966)**  
*From Vacationer to Naples Winemakers*  
 Julius K. Fleischmann, whose grandfather established Fleischmann Winery, came to Naples from Cincinnati as a winter visitor in 1948. This first visit led to his many notable projects throughout the city, such as the Third Street South Shopping District. Fleischmann received legendary Henry Hehrlich's attention in 1952, renaming it Caribbean Gardens (now The Naples Zoo). He added animal attractions to the Gardens, and his Vaudeville Ducky television appearances on the Ed Sullivan Show and Paris' famous Champ Elysees put Naples on the international map. Julius Fleischmann acquired the Freedom Park property in 1960. Collier County then acquired the land from his heirs in 2004.

CONSERVANCY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA



**Florida Blue Crabs**  
**Most common Florida crab.** Edible. Found throughout Florida. Coasts, rivers, back waters. Both salt and fresh water.  
**Season:** Year round.  
**Limit:** Roughly 20 a day. Some restrictions. Free on-line license.





In and Around Naples  
**A Series of Presentations**  
 for the Collier County Library  
 by Paul Pacter

**Naples Preserve**

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**Naples Preserve**  
**Website:**  
[www.naplesgov.com/parksrec/page/naples-preserve](http://www.naplesgov.com/parksrec/page/naples-preserve)  
**Where:** 1690 Tamiami Trail N, Naples, FL 34102  
**Get There:** US-41 just south of Crossland Mall.  
**When:** Boardwalk down to dusk. Eco-center daily, 8am to 5pm.  
**Admission:** Free.



**What:** 9-1/2 acres at the corner of US-41 and Fleischmann Blvd.  
**Right in the heart of Naples!**

- **Nature Walk:** 0.4 mile-long boardwalk through dry scrub and flatwoods. You will likely see many gopher tortoises.
- **Hedges Family Eco-Center:** Exhibits. Programs. Conservation info.
- **Pollinator (Butterfly) Garden:** Temporarily closed for renovations.







**Naples Preserve  
0.4 Mile Boardwalk**



**Naples Preserve - Gopher Tortoise  
Found in all 67  
Florida counties**



**Gopher Tortoise:  
Originated in North America  
60 million years ago.  
Live up to 80 years.**



**Gopher tortoises dig burrows up to  
33 feet long. Shared with rodents,  
snakes, frogs, mice, various insects.**



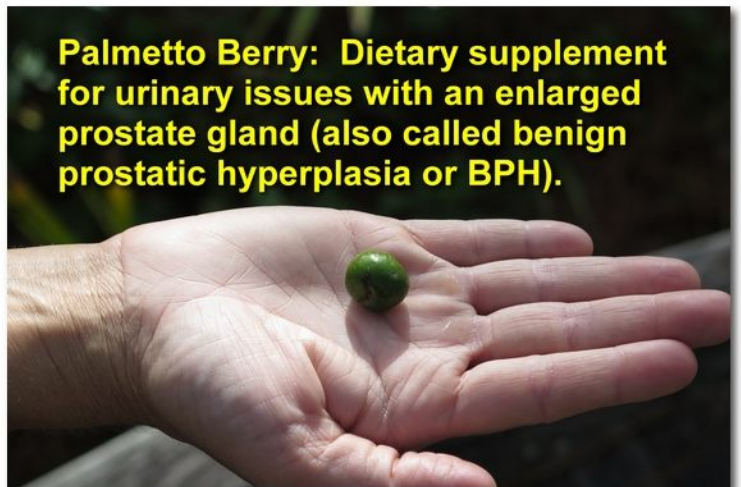
**American  
Beautyberry  
Eaten by  
birds and  
deer.**



**Naples Preserve - Prickly Pear**



**Chapman's Blazing Star  
A kind of aster.  
Naples Preserve.  
September**



**Palmetto Berry: Dietary supplement  
for urinary issues with an enlarged  
prostate gland (also called benign  
prostatic hyperplasia or BPH).**

**Some believe that saw palmetto berry extract is a remedy for enlarged prostate. Harvest season August to November. Cash crop in Florida. License required.**



**2021**



**2019**



**Many of us at Naples Preserve**

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**Rookery Bay  
Shell Island Road**

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**Rookery Bay - Shell Island  
Hiking, Boardwalk, Nature Cruises**

Collier Blvd. →  
US-41 3 Miles

**A Rookery Bay THE CONSERVANCY OF Southwest Florida  
Briggs Boardwalk**

**BRIGGS NATURE CENTER**

Scrub Jay  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
New-angled Armadillo  
Gulf Frigatebird  
Butterfly Orchid  
Lesser Blue Heron

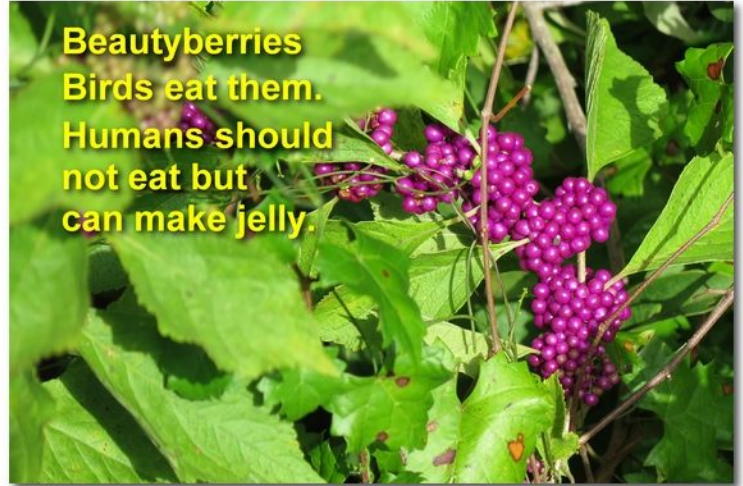




**Rookery Bay  
Dahoon Holly**



**Florida Myrsine  
aka Colicwood  
Native Only in Florida among 50 States  
Berries (aka Drupes) Not Edible**



**Beautyberries  
Birds eat them.  
Humans should  
not eat but  
can make jelly.**



**Unusual Spider Web on Boardwalk**



**Rookery Bay Boardwalk  
Wood Stork**



**Sabal Palm – Florida State Tree  
Can Grow to 65 Ft Height.  
aka Cabbage Palm,  
Swamp Cabbage.**




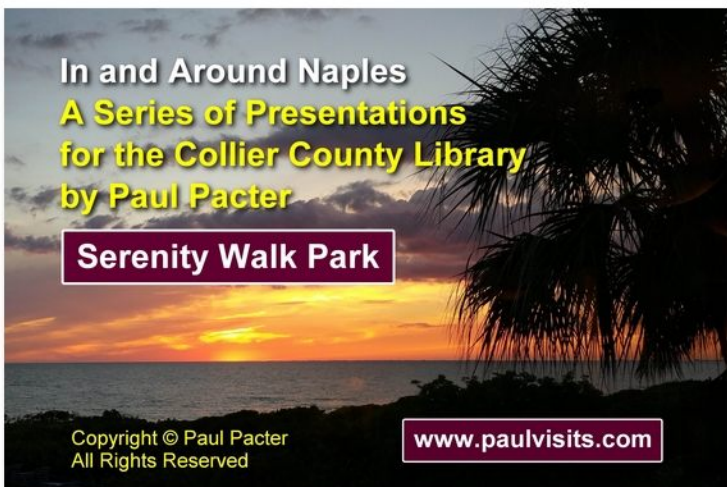
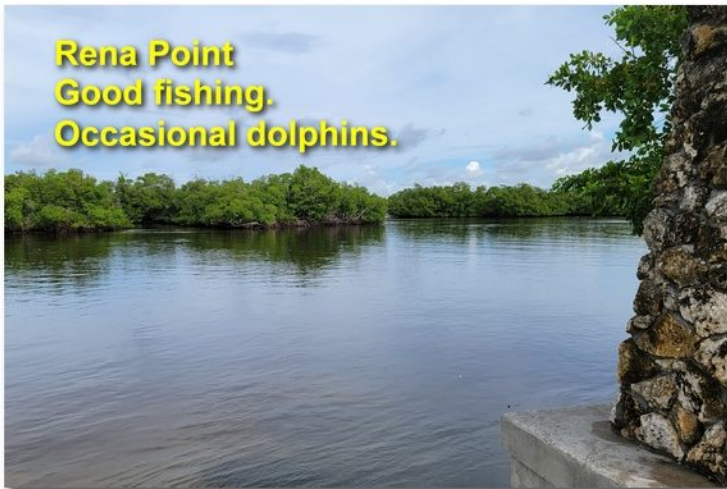
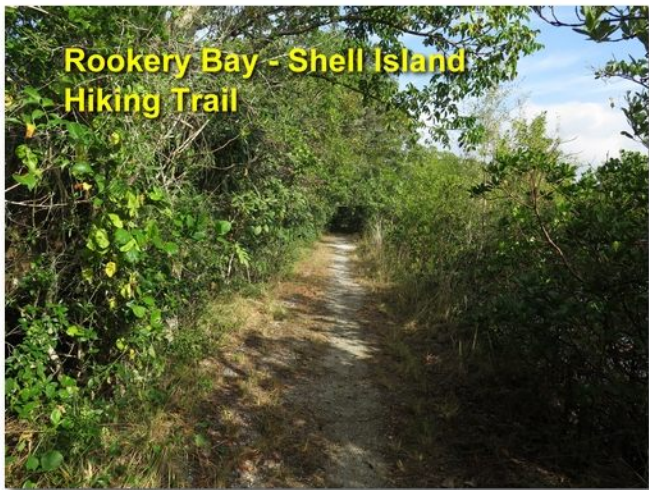
**Calusa Shell Mound  
1700s or earlier**



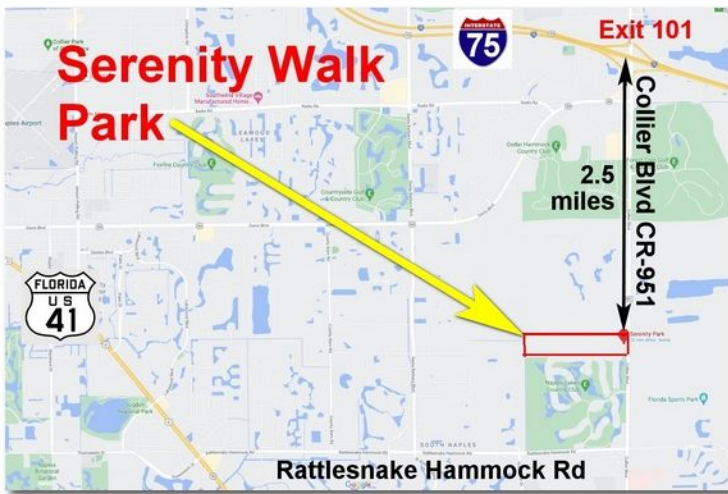
**National Geodetic Survey Marker  
On Shell Island <https://geodesy.noaa.gov/>  
Entire US Has Been Mapped.  
Used for:**

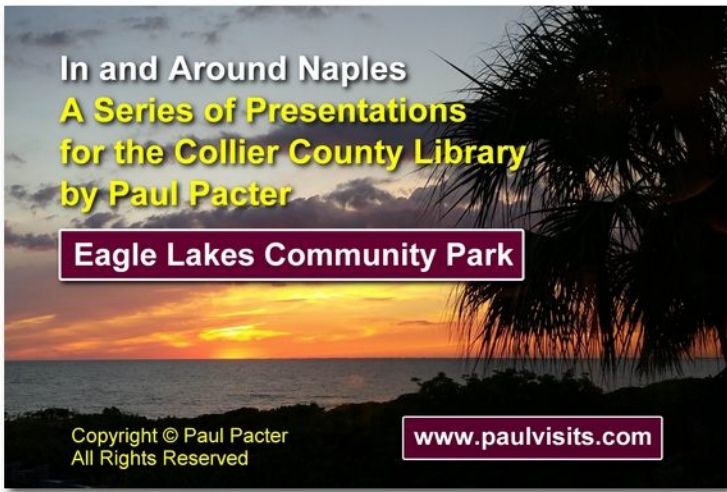
- Floodplain and shoreline mapping.
- Boundary determination.
- Construction engineering.
- Science: Hydrology, Plate tectonics.
- Shipping and transportation.





**Serenity Walk Park**  
**Website:** [www.collierparks.com/collier\\_park/serenity-walk-park/](http://www.collierparks.com/collier_park/serenity-walk-park/)  
**Where:** 8962 Collier Blvd, Naples, FL 34114.  
**Get there:** I-75 Exit 101 Collier Blvd CR-951. South 2.5 miles. On right.  
**Admission:** Daily 7am to dusk. Free.  
**What:** One-mile loop flat walking trail.  
**Problematic:** Only five parking spaces.





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**Eagle Lakes Community Park**

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**Eagle Lakes Community Park**

**Website:**

[https://www.collierparks.com/collier\\_park/donna-fiala-eagle-lakes-community-park/](https://www.collierparks.com/collier_park/donna-fiala-eagle-lakes-community-park/)

**Where:** 11565 Tamiami Trail East, Naples.

**Get There:** US-41 just north of Collier Blvd.

**When:** Mon-Sun 8 am-10 pm.

**Admission:** Free.

**What:** 2-1/2 miles of walking trails and ponds with alligators (sometimes).

- 2.5 Mile Nature Trail.
- 1 Mile (paved) Pathway for Walking/Running.
- Aquatic Complex (fee).
- Community Center.
- Fitness Center (fee).
- Meeting Room.
- Lighted Baseball and Softball Fields.
- 2 Lighted Soccer/Football Fields.
- Lighted Basketball Court.
- Picnic Shelter.
- Lighted Playground.



**Red lines = 2.5 miles of walking and bike trails**



**Eagle Lakes Community Park**



**Eagle Lakes Community Park**



**Eagle Lakes Community Park Alligator**



**Eagle Lakes Community Park Anhinga**



**Eagle Lakes Community Park  
Blue Heron**



**Eagle Lakes Community Park**



**Eagle Lakes Community Park**



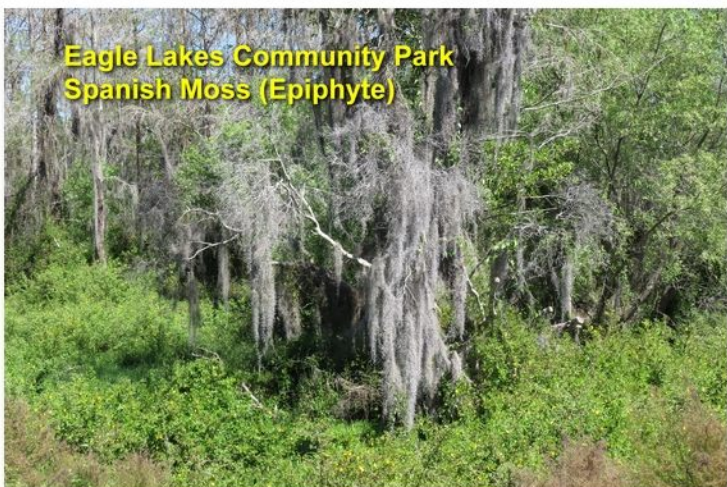
**Eagle Lakes Community Park  
Cormorants**



**Eagle Lakes Community Park  
Alligator**



**Eagle Lakes Community Park  
Blue Heron**



**Eagle Lakes Community Park  
Spanish Moss (Epiphyte)**

**My Upcoming 2022 Presentations. Find them on [www.paulvisits.com/library](http://www.paulvisits.com/library)**

**China: Qinghai Province**  
Wed Feb 9, 2022, 2:00-3:30pm.  
HQ Branch, 2385 Orange Blossom Drive, Naples.  
Tibetan, Uyghur, Mongolian, Sichuan, Han Chinese cultures in one.

**Great Nature Hikes Within an Hour from Naples**  
Wed March 2, 2022, 2:00-3:30pm.  
South Reg. Branch, 8065 Lely Cultural Pkwy, Naples.  
Nine different hikes.

**In and Around Naples: Everglades City and Chokoloskee**  
Wed March 16, 2022, 2:00-3:30pm.  
HQ Branch, 2385 Orange Blossom Drive, Naples.  
"Old Florida" including formation of Collier County, Everglades National Park, construction of the Tamiami Trail, early settlers, drug smuggling, and the murder of Edgar Watson.





Barefoot Beach



Corkscrew Swamp



Eagle Lakes Park



Freedom Park

**THE END**  
**Easy Nature Hikes**  
**In or Near Naples**  
**ppacter@gmail.com**  
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Lovers Key State Park



Gordon River



Naples Preserve



Rookery Bay



Serenity Walk