

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

Immokalee Oil Well Park

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Immokalee Oil Well Park

Where: State Rd 29 between I-75 and Immokalee.

Get There: Either:

1. Immokalee Rd to Oil Well Rd (10 miles East of I-75). Right on Oil Well Rd to SR-29 (16 miles). Right on SR-29.
2. I-75 to SR-29 (Exit 80). North on SR-29 for 9 miles.

When: Daily Dawn to Dusk.

Admission: Free.

What: 1940s oil derrick that pumped oil near Immokalee.

Oil was discovered in this area in early 1940s.

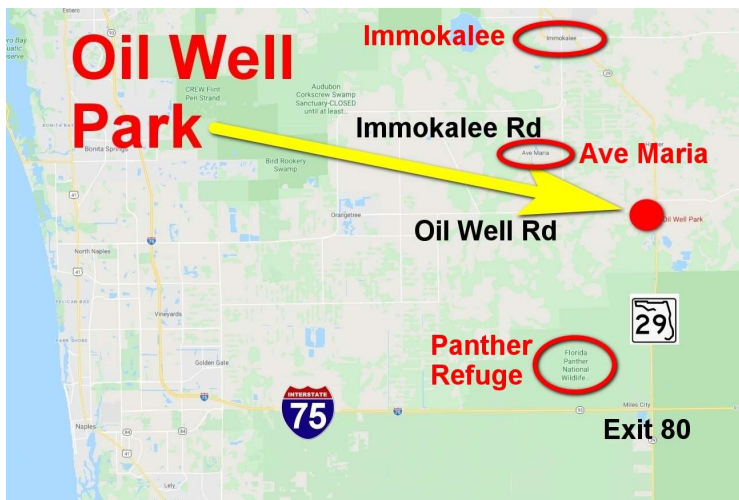
First well drilled 1943.

Wells were drilled by Sun Oil (Sunoco) and Humble Oil (Exxon).

Most success was in 1960s.

Oil Well Park is not a destination by itself. Combine with:

- Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge.
- Various activities in Immokalee (Museum, Casino, Farmers Market, Lunch).
- Ave Maria.



SR-29 through Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge Panther Fences



Oil Well Park



Oil Well Park 1940s Oil Derrick



Ft Myers News-Press, 1964 Story About Oil Drilling in Immokalee

Sun Oil map from the Ft. Myers News-Press, October 10, 1964.

Black Gold

The company had several diversified businesses, but the most important was "black gold." As early as the 1940s, oil companies were drilling test wells on Roberts land. The Sun Oil Company and the Humble Oil Refining Company both secured oil, gas and mineral leases on Roberts land. Most success came in 1964 when Sun City Well No. 2 was discovered. Known as "the Guahay," this well was capable of producing 450 barrels a day. The royalties from this well provided funds to help stabilize the RCC. The Roberts family always considered the impact the oil production had on the land. They created a "cattle guard" area to protect the cattle and wildlife in the area. Oil remained an important part of the RCC throughout the remainder of its existence.

Bob Roberts passed away in 1963; Sarah in 1966. Bob divided up the RCC among their nine "children" under different names and different brands. What each received was done by lottery. The land areas were color coded, and then matching colored strips of paper were placed in a hat. Each child drew a strip and the color determined the land they received. The RCC became rather small during the 1970s. The surviving children dissolved the company in 1980.

South Florida Sun Sentinel - Feb 3, 2019 "More oil drilling proposed for southern Florida".

Proposals. Not yet permitted. Photo of drilling in Big Cypress Preserve.

More oil drilling proposed for southern Florida

Proposed drilling sites

- Drawbridge Energy Company
- MKJ Xploration
- Trend Exploration LLC
- Tocala LLC
- Burnett Oil Company, Inc.
- Kanter Real Estate LLC

Be Extra-Careful Driving on SR-29.

