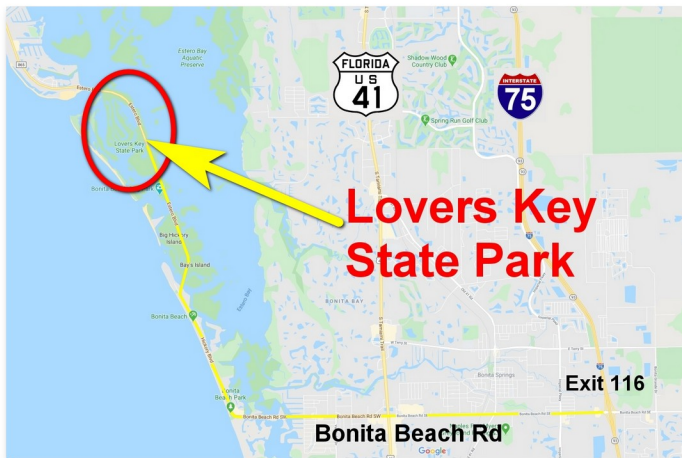




**Lovers Key State Park – Trails and Beaches**  
**Website:** [www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/lovers-key-state-park](http://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/lovers-key-state-park)  
**Where:** 8700 Estero Blvd, Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931.  
**Get There:** West on Bonita Beach Rd 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.



**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.

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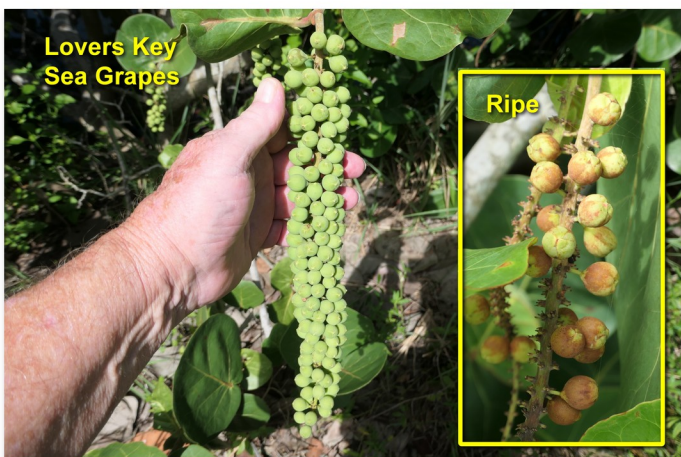






**2021 Manatee Starvation Crisis – 1**  
**Native to Florida: 6,000 in FL.**  
**Boat danger: 95% have boat propeller scars.**  
**Not tolerant to cold. Migrate:**  
 – Summer range: Texas to N. Carolina.  
 – Winter range: A few Florida locations.  
**2021 Starvation Crisis: 1,100 died.**  
 Only 637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





Lovers Key State Park  
Eagle Trail



Dolphins - Lovers Key



Crab - Black Island Trails



Sea Grapes - Black Island Trails

Young



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; diarrhea; 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.

