



Matanzas Pass Preserve
Website: www.leegov.com/parks
Where: On Estero Island. 199 Bay Road, Ft Myers Beach, FL 33931.
Get there:

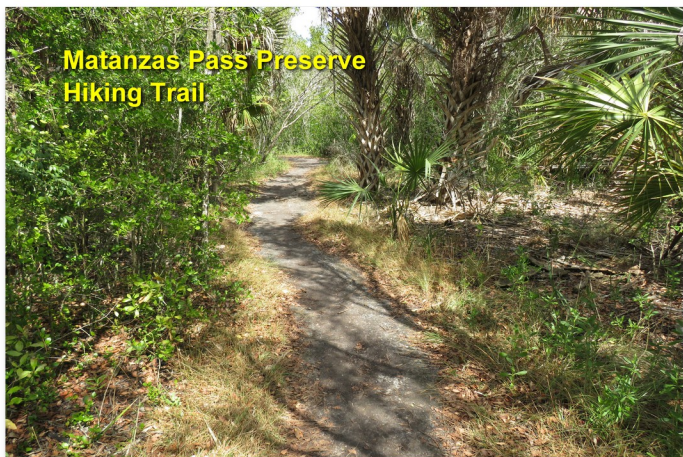
1. Bonita Beach Road becomes Hickory Blvd in Bonita, then Estero Blvd. 13 mi. from US 41 Bonita Beach Rd.
2. From US 41 in Ft Myers, same road as to Sanibel, but left on San Carlos Rd and over Matanzas Pass Bridge.



Can arrive by boat on Estero Bay.
 Small dock. No overnight.
Admission: Open 7 days dawn to dusk. Free.
What's there:

- 60 acres.
- 1.25 miles of trails. Part boardwalk. Part woods.
- Bayside pavilion with a panoramic view of Estero Bay.

Wetlands. Mangrove forest (red, black, and white mangroves). Oak hammock.
“Matanzas” means killings or massacre in Spanish. But why this area is called Matanzas Pass is not known. Possibly celebrates the killing of Ponce de Leon by the Calusa in 1521.
At entrance is Estero Island Historical Society Museum. In an original 1921 beachside cottage. Open most mornings.






Red mangroves

- Broad-leaved evergreen.
- Aboveground roots transport air to belowground roots.
- Shrub-like. Rarely > 20 feet.
- Important storm buffer.
- Submerged roots are habitat for fish, crustaceans, birds, reptiles.



Panorama of Estero Bay



**From the Bayside Pavilion
at Matanzas Pass Preserve**



Estero Island Historical Society Museum Exhibit
Question: How Did They Propagate?



My Answer: They've omitted half of the original settlers!