

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

**Matanzas Pass Preserve**

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[www.paulvisits.com](http://www.paulvisits.com)

**Matanzas Pass Preserve**

**Website:** [www.leegov.com/parks](http://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.



**Blue = Boardwalk**  
**Red = Woods**  
**Total 1.25 miles**

**Matanzas Pass Preserve Boardwalk**



**Matanzas Pass Preserve Hiking Trail**





Matanzas Pass Preserve  
Red Mangroves



Matanzas Pass Preserve  
Red Mangroves

### Red mangroves



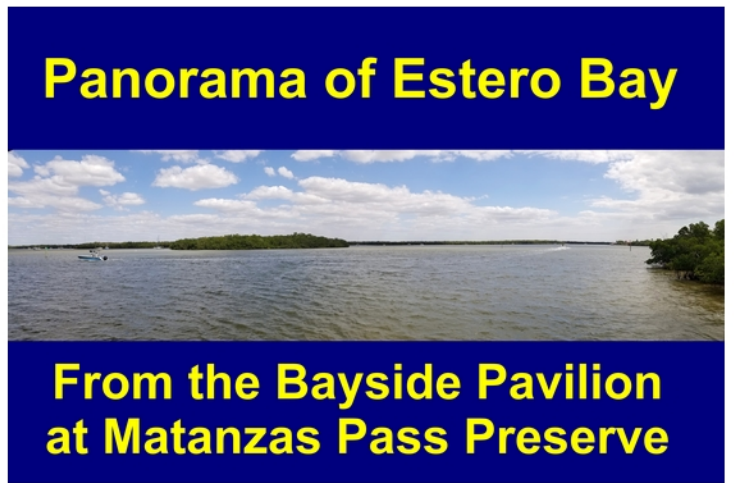
- Broad-leaved evergreen.
- Aboveground roots transport air to belowground roots.
- Shrub-like. Rarely > 20 feet.
- Important storm buffer.
- Submerged roots are habitat for fish, crustaceans, birds, reptiles.



Matanzas Pass Preserve  
Hiking Trail with White Mangroves



Matanzas Pass Preserve  
Estero Bay Viewing Pavilion



## Panorama of Estero Bay

From the Bayside Pavilion  
at Matanzas Pass Preserve



Estero Island Historical Society Museum  
at Matanzas Pass Preserve  
1921 Beach Cottage



Estero Island Historical Society Museum  
at Matanzas Pass Preserve  
Rainwater Collection Barrel – 1946

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



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