

By "easy" I mean:

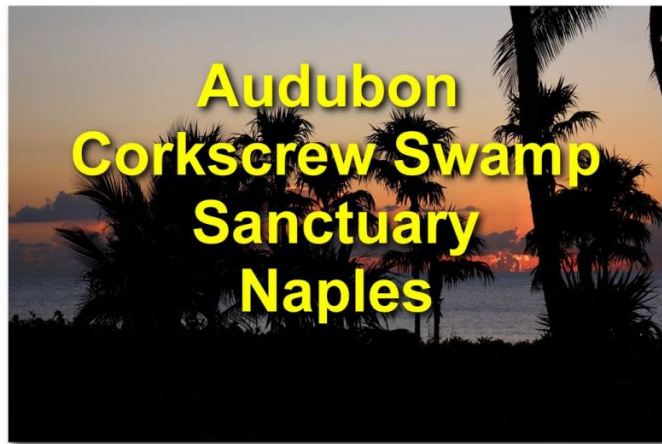
1. Flat (no uphill).
2. Suitable for a one-mile walk.
 - Of course, there are usually opportunities for two- or three-mile walks.
3. No hazards like roots to trip on or water on the trail.
 - Still, need to be alert.

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.



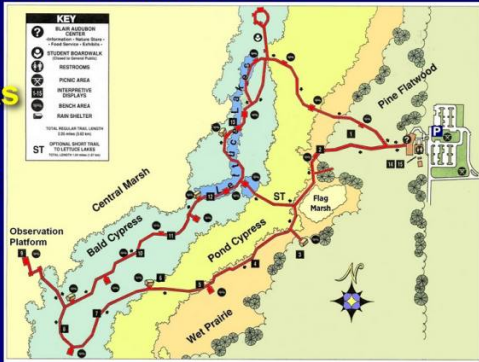
Corkscrew Swamp – “Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary”
Website: corkscrew.audubon.org/
Where: 375 Sanctuary Rd W, Naples
Get There: East on Immokalee Road. 15 miles East of I-75, turn left onto Sanctuary Rd. Follow signs.
When: Daily 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. *Close Spm In Season*
Admission: \$17. College students \$10. Children 6-14 \$6. Book online. *Recommended*

Visitors Center: Exhibits, shop, cafe (seasonal).
Managed Wetlands: 13,000 acres.
Boardwalk: 2.2 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

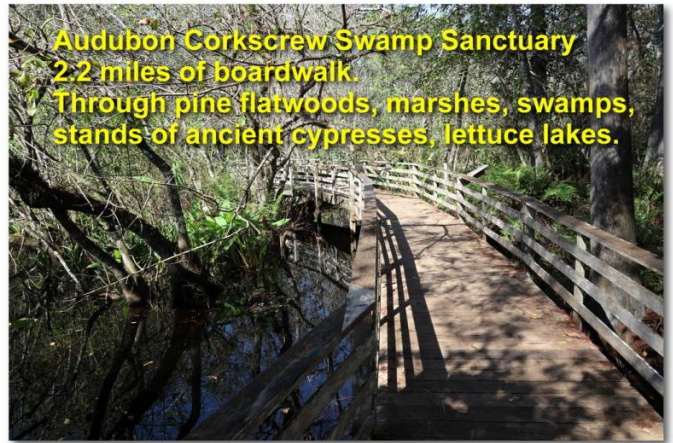
Benches
Overlooks
Rain
Shelters
Shortcut



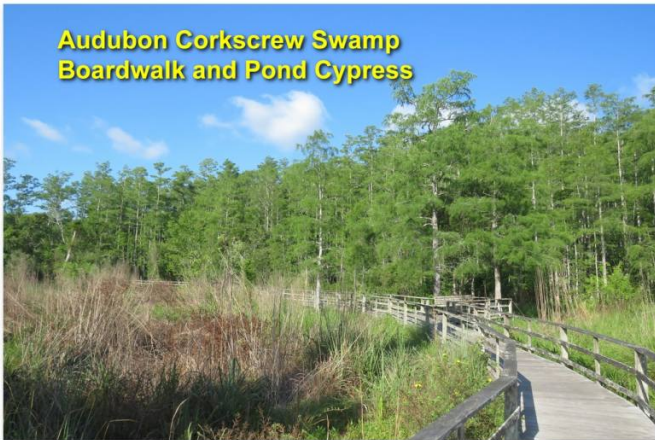
Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

2.2 miles of boardwalk

Through pine flatwoods, marshes, swamps, stands of ancient cypresses, lettuce lakes.



Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Boardwalk and Pond Cypress



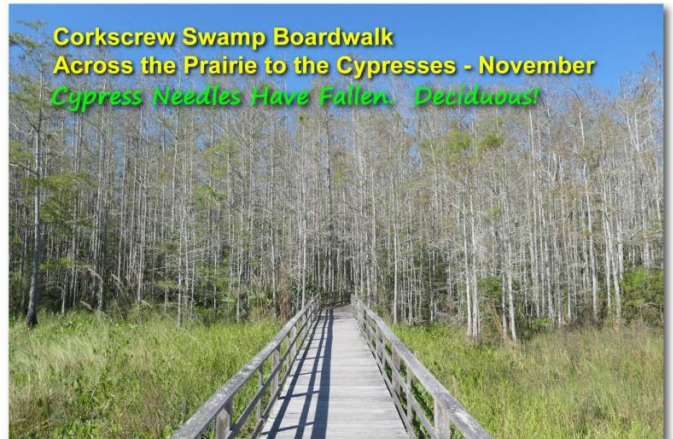
At that same place on the boardwalk in October, a spectacular sunflower display



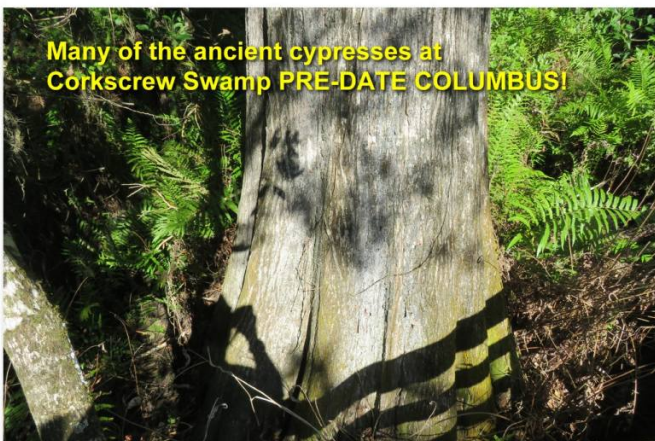
Corkscrew Swamp Boardwalk Across the Prairie to the Cypresses - May *Cypress Needles Are Green - Summer*



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

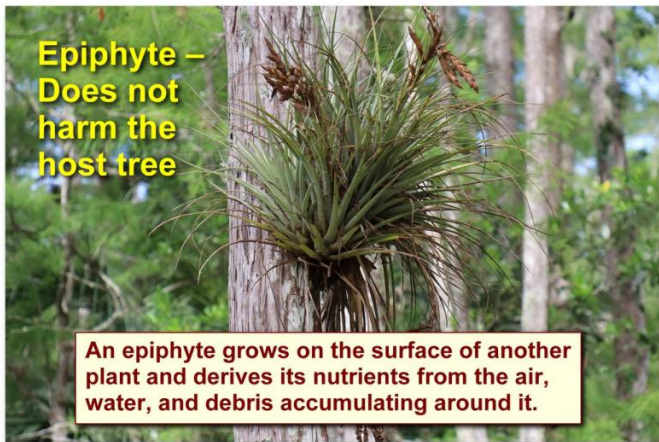


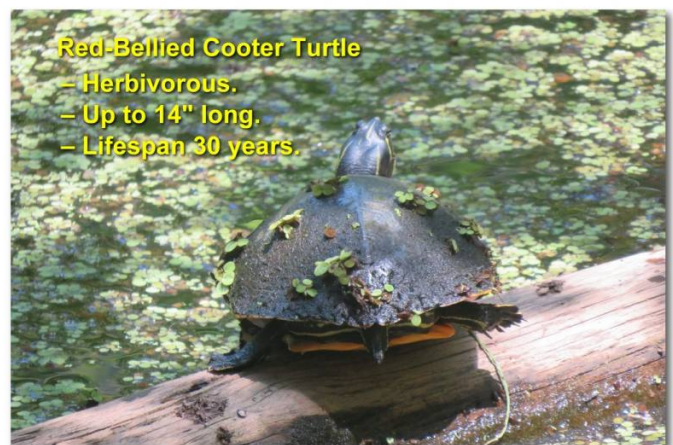
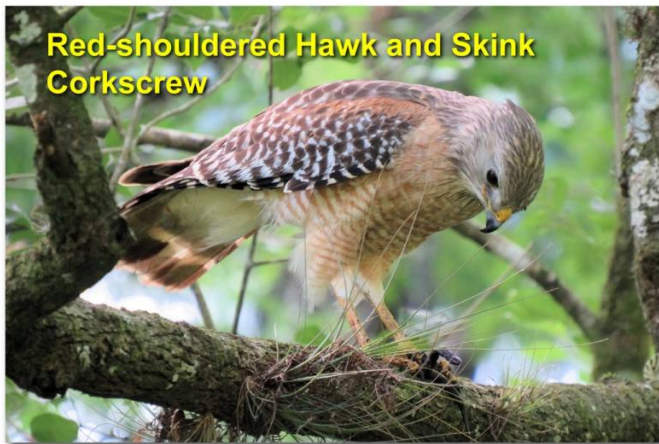
Many of the ancient cypresses at Corkscrew Swamp PRE-DATE COLUMBUS!

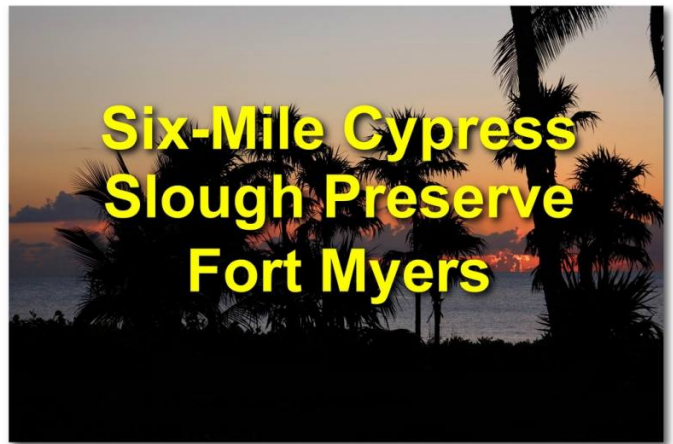
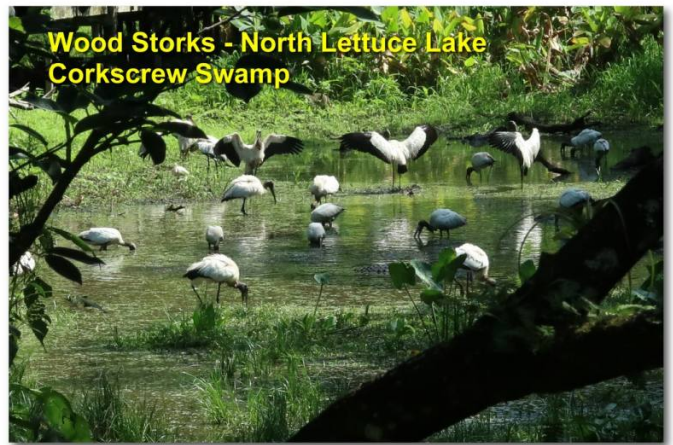


Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Wet Prairie (Marsh)









Six Mile Slough Preserve "Sloo"
Website: www.leegov.com/parks/preserves/sixmilecypress
Friends of Six Mile Slough:
www.sloughpreserve.org/
Where: 7751 Penzance Blvd at 6 Mile Cypress Pkwy, Fort Myers, FL. 33966.
Get There: I-75 Exit 131 Daniels Pkwy. West 2.7 mi to 6 Mile Cypress Pkwy. Right onto 6 Mile Cypress Pkwy. Then 1.8 mi to entrance, on right.



Admission: Free. Parking is \$1 per hour max \$5.

Trail hours: Daily dawn to dusk.

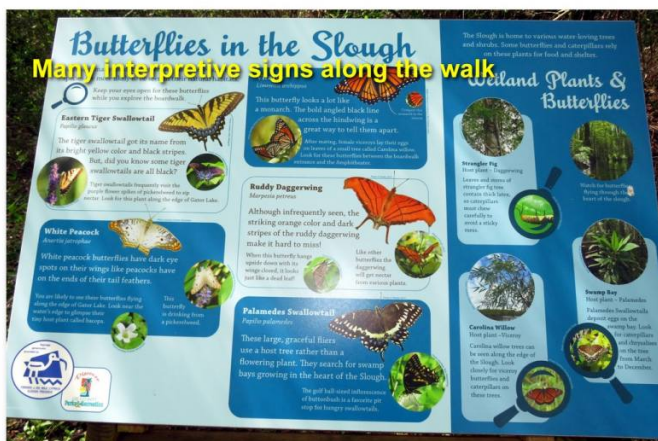
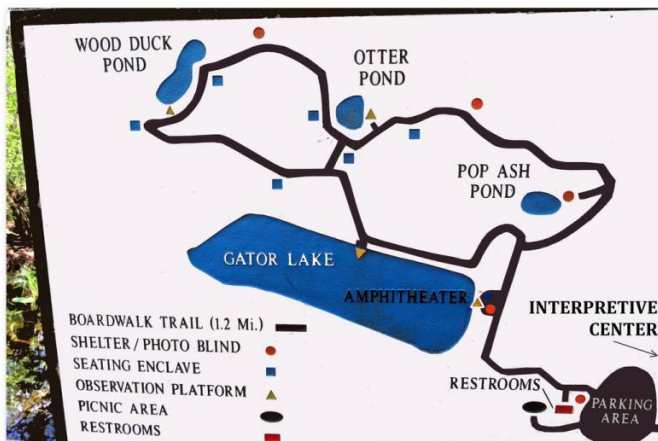
Interpretive Center: Tues-Sun 10-4.
Closed Mondays. *But trails still open.*

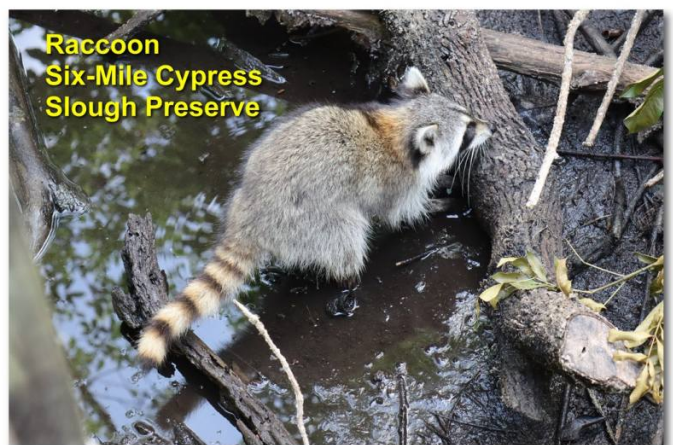
Guided nature walks:

- Twice daily Jan-Mar.
- Daily Apr, Nov, Dec.
- Approx. once a week in other months.
- Check calendar on Friends' website.

What's there:

- 3,500 acres of protected wetlands.
- Approx. 11 miles long, 1/3rd mile wide.
- 2-3 feet of water in wet season.
- Still mostly wet in dry season.
- 1.2-mile boardwalk over the water.
- Fully accessible.
- Four viewing platforms onto lakes.
- Many benches and shelters along the boardwalk.

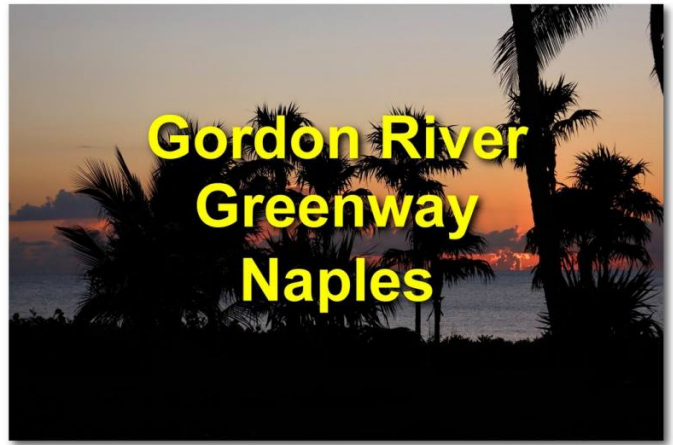








Alligator at Gator Lake



Gordon River
Greenway
Naples

Gordon River Greenway

Website: 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.

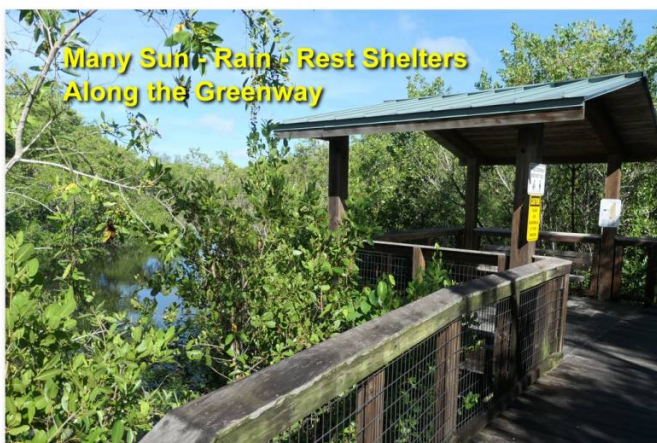
What: 2.5 miles of asphalt, mulch, and boardwalk trails with water access along the Gordon River, in the heart of Naples, Florida. Ideal for walkers, hikers, runners, cyclists, kayakers, birders.

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.



Gordon River Greenway
Trail is Partly Boardwalk
and Partly Asphalt

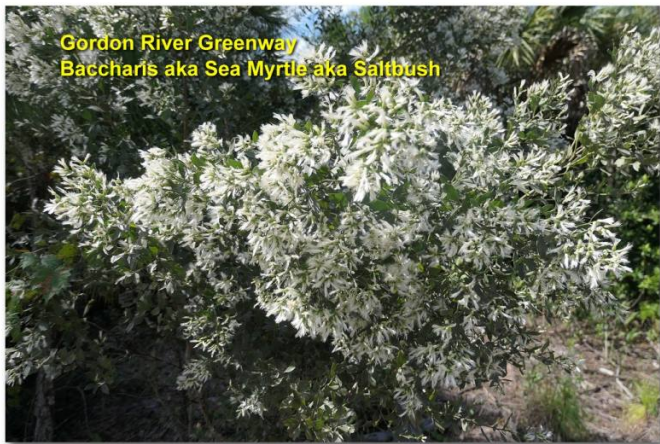
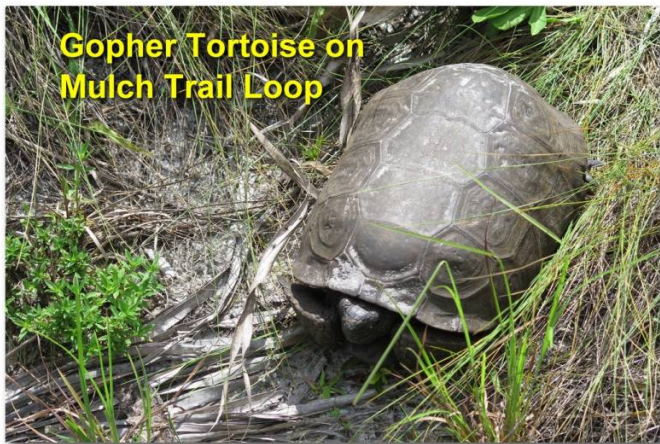


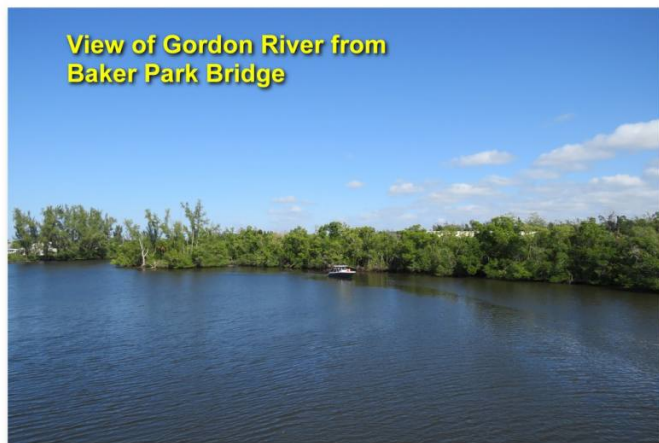
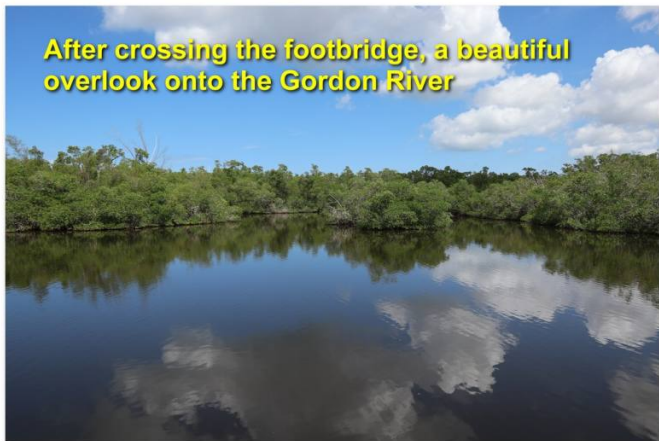
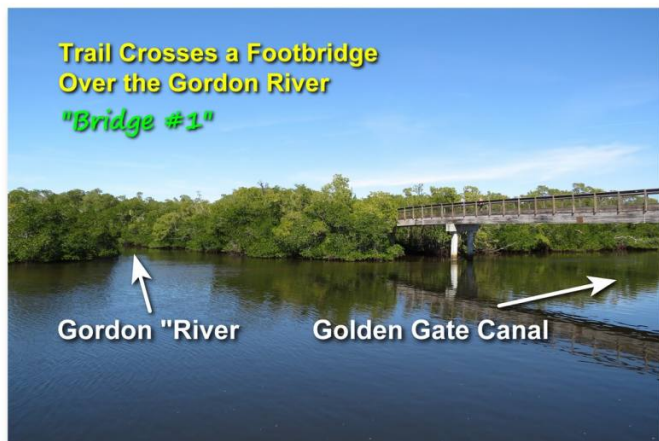
Many Sun - Rain - Rest Shelters
Along the Greenway



Mulch Trail
1/4-Mile Side Loop Off Main Trail

May get muddy after a rain







Lovers Key State Park – Trails and Beaches

Website: 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.

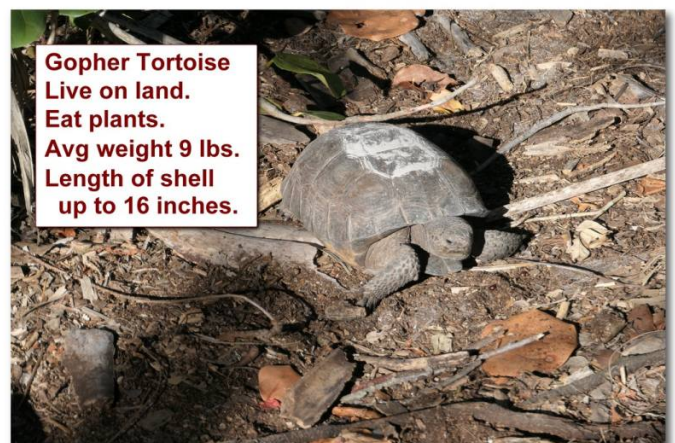
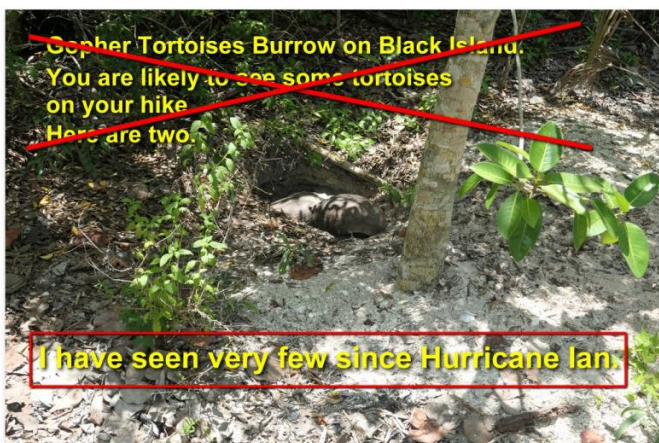


What: Two miles of Gulf Beaches. Miles of hiking trails. Kayaking, canoeing, shells. Dolphins, manatees, birds, gopher tortoises.

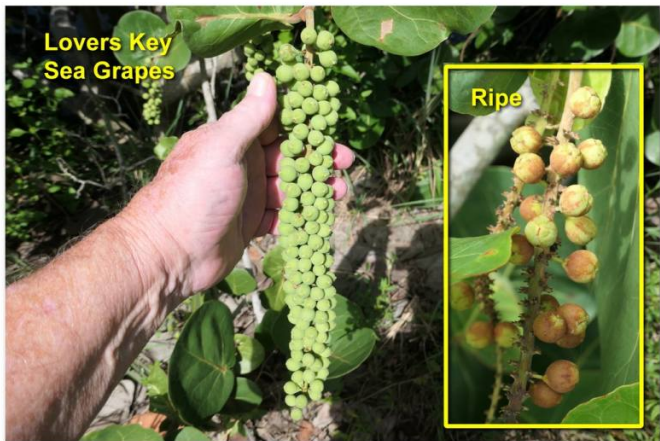
Two trails at Lovers Key:

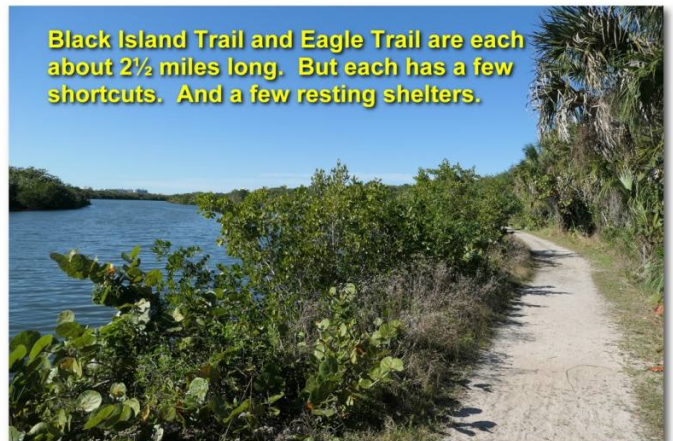
Black Island Trail and Eagle Trail.

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.











**Lovers Key Discovery Center
Exhibits and Programs**



**Freedom Park
Naples**

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. | – Alligators. |
| – Barred owls. | – Gallinules. |
| – Green herons. | – Marsh rabbits. |
| – Blue herons. | – Turtles and Snakes. |
| – Great white egrets. | – Iguanas. |
| – Limpkins. | – Raccoons. |



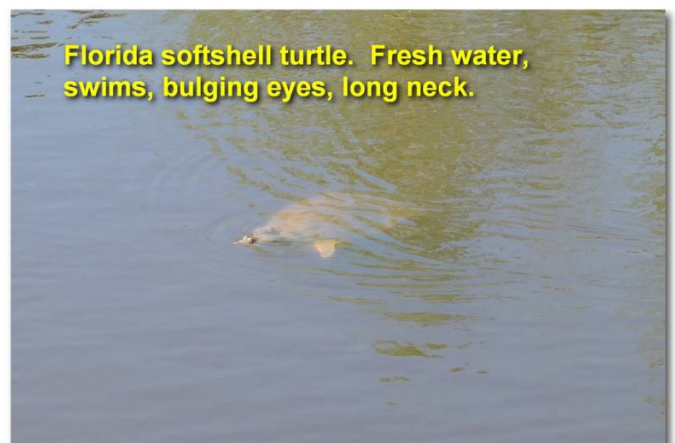
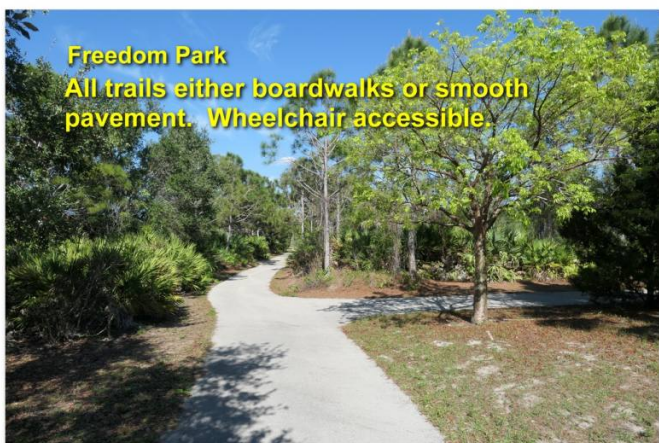
Freedom Park Education Center



**Freedom Park has 3,500 feet of boardwalks.
Loop around Eastern side of Freedom Park.**



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





**Freedom Park
Peninsula Cooter
Turtle**



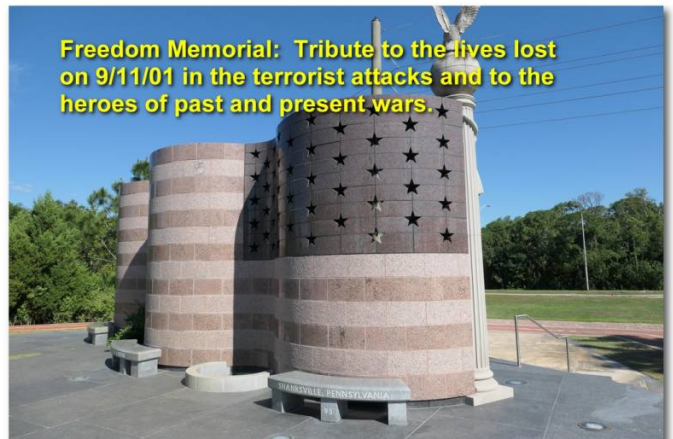
Limpkin - Freedom Park



**Tri-colored Heron
Freedom Park**



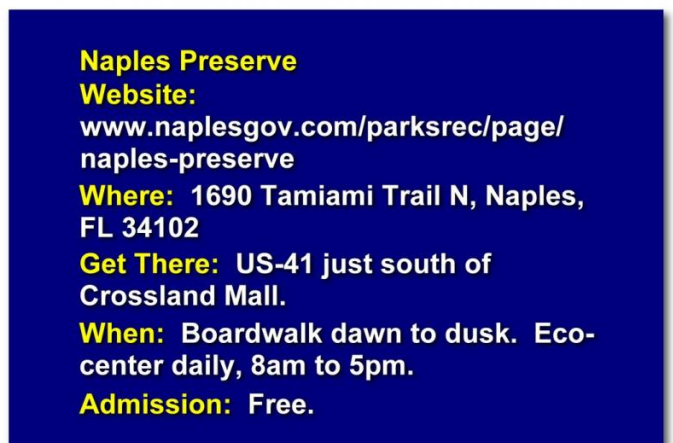
**Marsh Rabbit (Short Ears)
Freedom Park**



**Freedom Memorial: Tribute to the lives lost
on 9/11/01 in the terrorist attacks and to the
heroes of past and present wars.**



**Naples Preserve
Naples**



Naples Preserve

Website:

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!

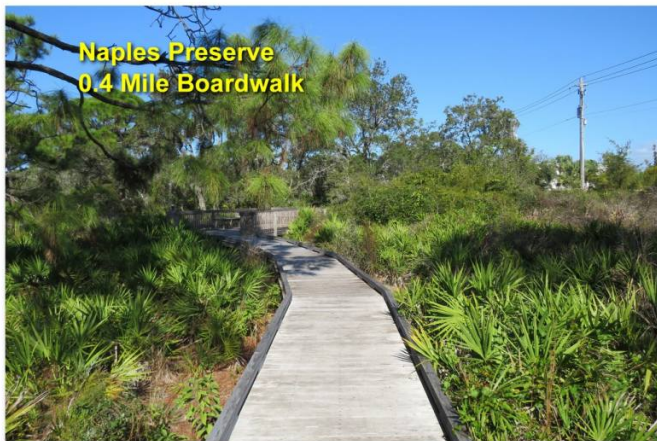
- **Nature Walk:** 0.4 mile-long boardwalk through dry scrub and flatwoods. You will likely see many gopher tortoises.
- **Hedges Family Eco-Center:** Exhibits. Programs. Conservation info.
- **Pollinator (Butterfly) Garden:** Temporarily closed for renovations.



Naples Preserve Eco-Center



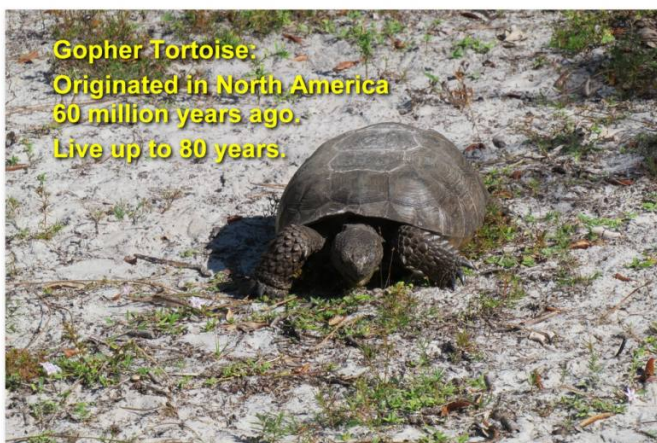
Naples Preserve Pine Flatwoods



Naples Preserve 0.4 Mile Boardwalk



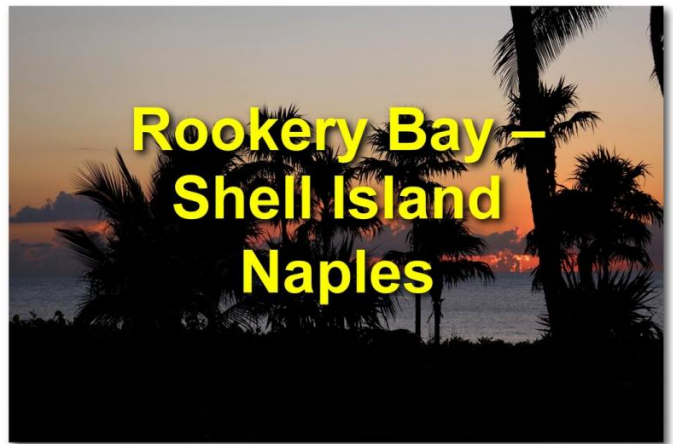
Naples Preserve - Gopher Tortoise
Found in all 67 Florida counties



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.

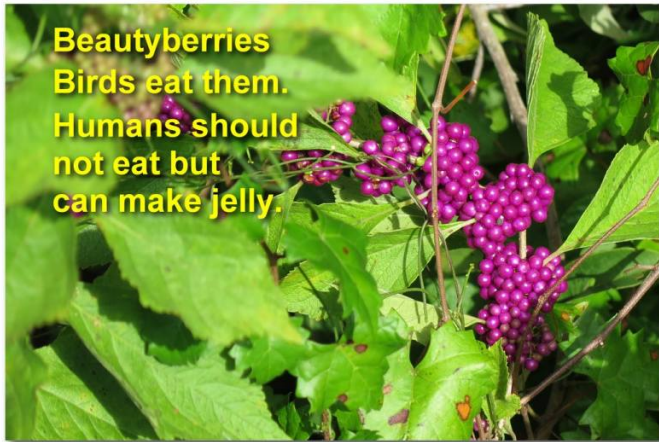




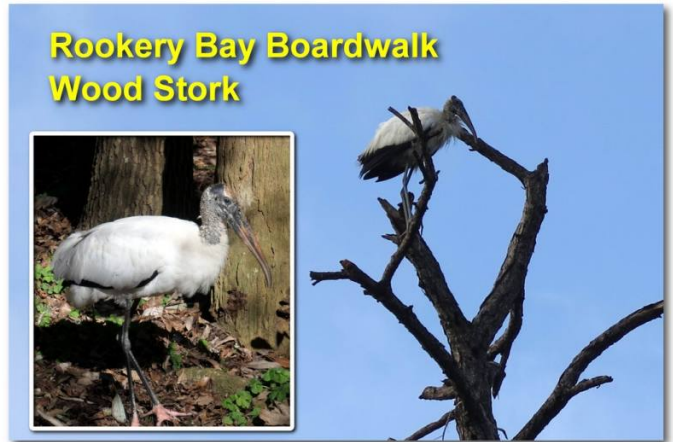
Rookery Bay
Dahoon Holly



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.



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



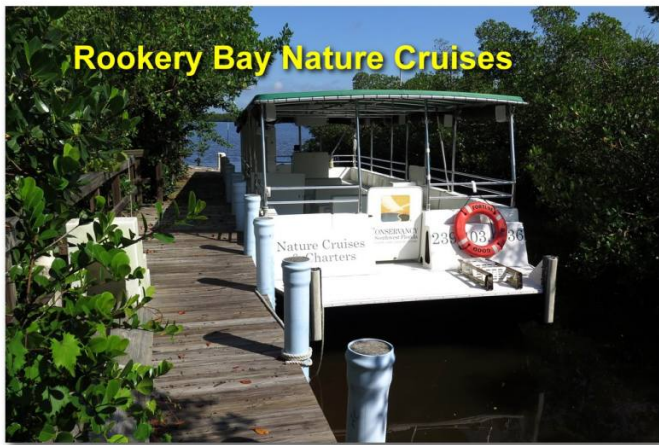
Old Graves on Shell Island
(Public Access Now Closed)

George Washington Kirkland
1832 to 1901



Old Graves on Shell Island
(Public Access
Now Closed)

Jesse James Jones
1900-1908



Rookery Bay Nature Cruises



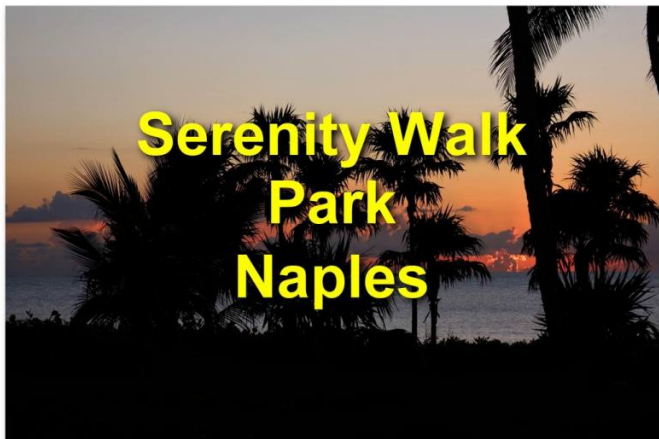
**Rookery Bay - Shell Island
Trail to Rena Point**



**Trail to Rena Point
Is NOT accessible at high tide!**



**Rookery Bay
Rena Point**



**Serenity Walk
Park
Naples**

Serenity Walk Park
Website: 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.



**Serenity Walk Park
One-Mile Loop Trail**

5-car parking



Serenity Walk Park
99-acre Collier County Park Preserve



Serenity Walk Park



Eagle Lakes Park
East Naples

Eagle Lakes Community Park
Website:
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.



Eagle Lakes Community Park

Red lines = 2.5 miles of walking and bike trails



Eagle Lakes Community Park



Eagle Lakes Community Park



<p>Six-mile Cypress</p>	<p>THE END Easy Nature Hikes In or Near Naples ppacter@gmail.com www.paulvisits.com © Copyright Paul Pacter All Rights Reserved</p>	<p>Gordon River</p>
<p>Corkscrew Swamp</p>		<p>Naples Preserve</p>
<p>Eagle Lakes Park</p>	<p>Lovers Key State Park</p>	<p>Rookery Bay</p>
<p>Freedom Park</p>		<p>Serenity Walk</p>