

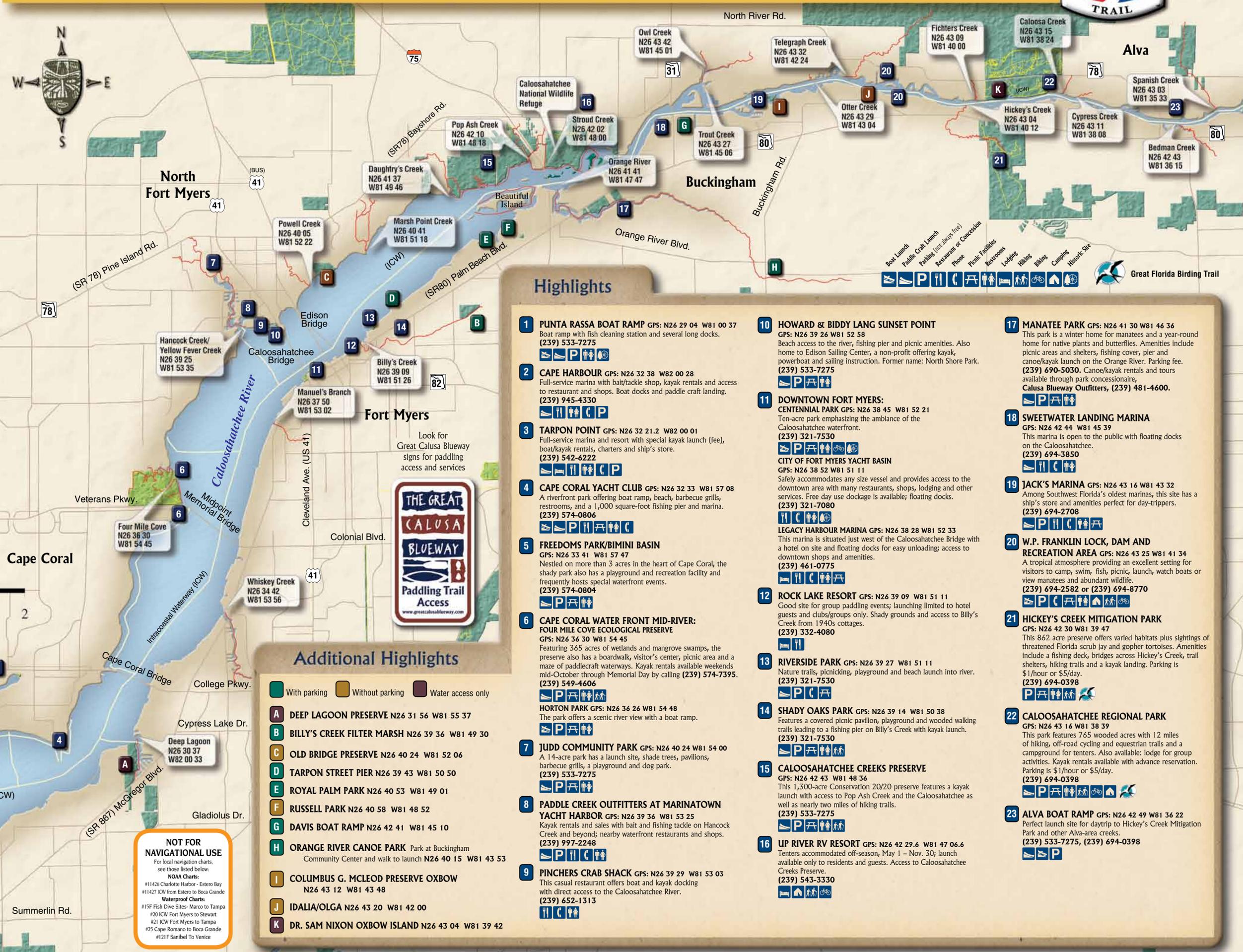
The Great Calusa Blueway - Caloosahatchee River & tributaries



THE GREAT CALUSA BLUEWAY

3

- Tributary Trails
- Major Boating Channels
- Hiking Trails
- Accessible Public Lands
- County Sites
- Municipal Park Sites



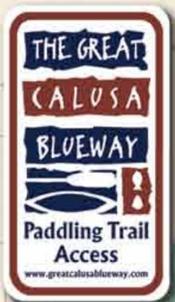
Highlights

- PUNTA RASSA BOAT RAMP** GPS: N26 29 04 W81 00 37
Boat ramp with fish cleaning station and several long docks. (239) 533-7275
- CAPE HARBOUR** GPS: N26 32 38 W82 00 28
Full-service marina with bait/tackle shop, kayak rentals and access to restaurant and shops. Boat docks and paddle craft landing. (239) 945-4330
- TARPON POINT** GPS: N26 32 21.2 W82 00 01
Full-service marina and resort with special kayak launch (fee), boat/kayak rentals, charters and ship's store. (239) 542-6222
- CAPE CORAL YACHT CLUB** GPS: N26 32 33 W81 57 08
A riverfront park offering boat ramp, beach, barbecue grills, restrooms, and a 1,000 square-foot fishing pier and marina. (239) 574-0806
- FREEDOMS PARK/BIMINI BASIN** GPS: N26 33 41 W81 57 47
Nestled on more than 3 acres in the heart of Cape Coral, the shady park also has a playground and recreation facility and frequently hosts special waterfront events. (239) 574-0804
- CAPE CORAL WATER FRONT MID-RIVER: FOUR MILE COVE ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE** GPS: N26 36 30 W81 54 45
Featuring 365 acres of wetlands and mangrove swamps, the preserve also has a boardwalk, visitor's center, picnic area and a maze of paddlecraft waterways. Kayak rentals available weekends mid-October through Memorial Day by calling (239) 574-7395. (239) 549-4606
- JUDD COMMUNITY PARK** GPS: N26 40 24 W81 54 00
A 14-acre park has a launch site, shade trees, pavilions, barbecue grills, a playground and dog park. (239) 533-7275
- PADDLE CREEK OUTFITTERS AT MARINATOWN YACHT HARBOR** GPS: N26 39 36 W81 53 25
Kayak rentals and sales with bait and fishing tackle on Hancock Creek and beyond; nearby waterfront restaurants and shops. (239) 997-2248
- PINCHERS CRAB SHACK** GPS: N26 39 29 W81 53 03
This casual restaurant offers boat and kayak docking with direct access to the Caloosahatchee River. (239) 652-1313
- HOWARD & BIDDY LANG SUNSET POINT** GPS: N26 39 26 W81 52 58
Beach access to the river, fishing pier and picnic amenities. Also home to Edison Sailing Center, a non-profit offering kayak, powerboat and sailing instruction. Former name: North Shore Park. (239) 533-7275
- DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS: CENTENNIAL PARK** GPS: N26 38 45 W81 52 21
Ten-acre park emphasizing the ambiance of the Caloosahatchee waterfront. (239) 321-7530
CITY OF FORT MYERS YACHT BASIN GPS: N26 38 52 W81 51 11
Safely accommodates any size vessel and provides access to the downtown area with many restaurants, shops, lodging and other services. Free day use dockage is available; floating docks. (239) 321-7080
LEGACY HARBOUR MARINA GPS: N26 38 28 W81 52 33
This marina is situated just west of the Caloosahatchee Bridge with a hotel on site and floating docks for easy unloading; access to downtown shops and amenities. (239) 461-0775
- ROCK LAKE RESORT** GPS: N26 39 09 W81 51 11
Good site for group paddling events; launching limited to hotel guests and clubs/groups only. Shady grounds and access to Billy's Creek from 1940s cottages. (239) 332-4080
- RIVERSIDE PARK** GPS: N26 39 27 W81 51 11
Nature trails, picnicking, playground and beach launch into river. (239) 321-7530
- SHADY OAKS PARK** GPS: N26 39 14 W81 50 38
Features a covered picnic pavilion, playground and wooded walking trails leading to a fishing pier on Billy's Creek with kayak launch. (239) 321-7530
- CALOOSAHATCHEE CREEKS PRESERVE** GPS: N26 42 43 W81 48 36
This 1,300-acre Conservation 20/20 preserve features a kayak launch with access to Pop Ash Creek and the Caloosahatchee as well as nearly two miles of hiking trails. (239) 533-7275
- UP RIVER RV RESORT** GPS: N26 42 29.6 W81 47 06.6
Tenters accommodated off-season, May 1 - Nov. 30; launch available only to residents and guests. Access to Caloosahatchee Creeks Preserve. (239) 543-3330
- MANATEE PARK** GPS: N26 41 30 W81 46 36
This park is a winter home for manatees and a year-round home for native plants and butterflies. Amenities include picnic areas and shelters, fishing cover, pier and canoe/kayak launch on the Orange River. Parking fee. (239) 690-5030. Canoe/kayak rentals and tours available through park concessionaire, Calusa Blueway Outfitters, (239) 481-4600.
- SWEETWATER LANDING MARINA** GPS: N26 42 44 W81 45 39
This marina is open to the public with floating docks on the Caloosahatchee. (239) 694-3850
- JACK'S MARINA** GPS: N26 43 16 W81 43 32
Among Southwest Florida's oldest marinas, this site has a ship's store and amenities perfect for day-trippers. (239) 694-2708
- W.P. FRANKLIN LOCK, DAM AND RECREATION AREA** GPS: N26 43 25 W81 41 34
A tropical atmosphere providing an excellent setting for visitors to camp, swim, fish, picnic, launch, watch boats or view manatees and abundant wildlife. (239) 694-2582 or (239) 694-8770
- HICKEY'S CREEK MITIGATION PARK** GPS: N26 42 30 W81 39 47
This 862 acre preserve offers varied habitats plus sightings of threatened Florida scrub jay and gopher tortoises. Amenities include a fishing deck, bridges across Hickey's Creek, trail shelters, hiking trails and a kayak landing. Parking is \$1/hour or \$5/day. (239) 694-0398
- CALOOSAHATCHEE REGIONAL PARK** GPS: N26 43 16 W81 38 39
This park features 765 wooded acres with 12 miles of hiking, off-road cycling and equestrian trails and a campground for tenters. Also available: lodge for group activities. Kayak rentals available with advance reservation. Parking is \$1/hour or \$5/day. (239) 694-0398
- ALVA BOAT RAMP** GPS: N26 42 49 W81 36 22
Perfect launch site for daytrip to Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park and other Alva-area creeks. (239) 533-7275, (239) 694-0398

Additional Highlights

- With parking
- Without parking
- Water access only
- A DEEP LAGOON PRESERVE** N26 31 56 W81 55 37
- B BILLY'S CREEK FILTER MARSH** N26 39 36 W81 49 30
- C OLD BRIDGE PRESERVE** N26 40 24 W81 52 06
- D TARPON STREET PIER** N26 39 43 W81 50 50
- E ROYAL PALM PARK** N26 40 53 W81 49 01
- F RUSSELL PARK** N26 40 58 W81 48 52
- G DAVIS BOAT RAMP** N26 42 41 W81 45 10
- H ORANGE RIVER CANOE PARK** Park at Buckingham Community Center and walk to launch N26 40 15 W81 43 53
- I COLUMBUS G. MCLEOD PRESERVE OXBOW** N26 43 12 W81 43 48
- J IDALIA/OLGA** N26 43 20 W81 42 00
- K DR. SAM NIXON OXBOW ISLAND** N26 43 04 W81 39 42

NOT FOR NAVIGATIONAL USE
For local navigation charts, see those listed below:
NOAA Charts:
#11426 Charlotte Harbor - Estero Bay
#11427 ICW from Estero to Boca Grande
Waterproof Charts:
#15F Fish Dive Sites- Marco to Tampa
#20 ICW Fort Myers to Stewart
#21 ICW Fort Myers to Tampa
#25 Cape Romano to Boca Grande
#121F Sanibel To Venice



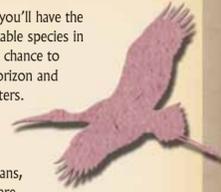
Look for Great Calusa Blueway signs for paddling access and services





Observing Wildlife

Along the Great Calusa Blueway, you'll have the opportunity to observe many remarkable species in their natural habitats. You'll have the chance to witness dolphins racing across the horizon and manatees gliding through the backwaters. Bird watching is big here, and best of all, birds can be spotted just about anytime and anywhere. Bald eagles, herons, egrets, ospreys, pelicans, roseate spoonbills and wood storks are just a few of the more than 300 species you can find here.



Unspoiled, Undisturbed, Uninterrupted

During your visit, we hope you will find time to enjoy many of the wonderful experiences there are to be found in our diverse ecosystem. It is an environment that is as beautiful as it is fragile. It is up to all of us – residents and guests alike – to protect it, and leave the same wonders we enjoy today preserved for generations to come.

Help Our Wildlife

- Please dispose of trash and food items properly.
- Observe all wildlife from a safe distance. When on board a vessel, stay at a distance of at least 50 yards (150 feet or 45 meters) and use binoculars or a telephoto lens to get a good view.
- Feeding wildlife is illegal and causes animals to lose their natural fear of humans, and increases their vulnerability to injuries and death.
- Seagrasses are a valuable part of Florida's marine environment. Please use caution at low tide, so as not to impact the fragile sea grass beds and marine life nurseries.
- Pick up fishing line and debris – leave the scene cleaner than you found it.

Recommended Safety Gear

- Flotation gear - Florida law requires a Coast Guard approved, readily accessible and wearable personal flotation device (PFD) for each occupant. PFDs must be worn by all occupants under age 6.
- Potable water - Be careful of dehydration
- Extra paddle
- Bow and stern line
- First aid kit
- Flashlight and whistle
- Insect repellent
- Sunglasses, sunscreen, covering and hats
- Binoculars, GPS system & compass
- Cell phone
- Water shoes, dry bag
- Map or chart



Lee County Paddling Trail
Caloosahatchee River & Tributaries



Lee County invites paddlers from around the world to explore the fabled bays, rivers, backwaters and shorelines of Southwest Florida. The Great Calusa Blueway paddling trail has been developed by Lee County Parks & Recreation and funded with tourist development tax dollars specifically dedicated to beach and shoreline enhancement projects.

Inspired by the indigenous Calusas, the Great Calusa Blueway encompasses three distinct regions of the Gulf of Mexico coast. The first portion of the trail meanders through Estero Bay, while the second segment centers on Pine Island Sound and Matlacha (pronounced Mat-lashay) Pass. A third leg of the trail takes paddlers inland to the Caloosahatchee and its tributaries.

This map shows all three regions, but covers only the Caloosahatchee River and its tributaries in detail. We hope it will serve as your guide to the natural and historic highlights of these protected waterways while also helping you locate amenities along the trail.



3410 Palm Beach Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33916
239-533-7275

For More Information:
Paddling Trail - www.CalusaBlueway.com
Area Information - www.FortMyers-Sanibel.com
Lee County Parks & Recreation - www.leeparks.org
Statewide Trails -
http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/paddling/saltwater.htm

Play It Safe

- Use caution at passes; strong currents exist.
- Watch for motorboats; stay to the right and turn your bow into the wake.
- Secure your car and take keys with you.
- Paddle in a group or with a buddy.
- Let someone know your plans – where you are going and when you plan to be back.
- Be careful with campfires; use cook stoves whenever possible.
- Access to private land should be by invitation only.
- Make mental notes as you pass trail markers – knowing the number of the closest marker will help emergency personnel should you need assistance.

Navigation

The enlarged map of the Caloosahatchee River shows tributaries that are suggested routes and destinations for canoeists and kayakers. There is no marked trail on the river itself, so explore as you please. But it's advisable for paddlers to avoid the powerboat channel. Also provided here are Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates for the mouth of each tributary as well as put-in spots and other land-accessible locations of interest to paddlers. For a complete list of GPS coordinates, you can also go online to www.calusablueway.com

Unlike the Estero Bay (Phase 1) and Pine Island Sound (Phase 2) legs of the blueway, on-water markers are not used on the Caloosahatchee (Phase 3). However, you will see Great Calusa Blueway Paddling Trail Access signs at various shore-access points. These signs serve to let paddlers know they are at a location that is also listed on the map and Web site.

Please note that creeks along the trail may be inaccessible during periods of low rainfall and/or extreme low tide. Note that as you traverse the river, you may have to cross the powerboat channel, which is busy and used by recreational and commercial vessels. Please paddle safely.

For a Boater's Guide with additional navigation information follow the online link at <http://lee-county.com/NaturalResources/Marine>.

As you explore the Great Calusa Blueway, we remind you to preserve this paddling paradise by leaving nothing behind and taking only photos.



THE GREAT
CALUSA
BLUEWAY



Lee County Paddling Trails

Estero Bay - Pine Island Sound - Matlacha Pass

For paddling opportunities in Charlotte County visit:
www.charlottecountyfl.com/parks/blueway.asp

Hendry & Glades counties / Okeechobee Waterway ▶



Eco Parks Guide

Parks with an emphasis on the ecology of Southwest Florida are identified by the numbers below. For detailed information on each of them, and a complete list of parks, visit www.FortMyers-Sanibel.com.

- 1 Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary
- 2 Bowditch Point Regional Park
- 3 Caloosahatchee Regional Park
- 4 Cayo Costa State Park
- 5 Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve
- 6 Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park
- 7 J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge
- 8 Kreshan State Historic Site
- 9 Lakes Regional Park
- 10 Lovers Key State Park
- 11 Manatee Park
- 12 Matanzas Pass Preserve
- 13 Rotary Park
- 14 Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
- 15 Mound House
- 16 Randell Research Center
- 17 Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation
- 18 Jaycee Park
- 19 Prarie Pines
- 20 Bob Janes Preserve

The Great Calusa Blueway

Phases 1 & 2:
Miles of marked trail..... 97

Phase 3:
Miles of tributaries..... 52
Miles of river..... 38

For more information, visit www.CalusaBlueway.com



0 1 2
MILES



For paddling opportunities in Collier County visit:
www.paradisecoastblueway.com