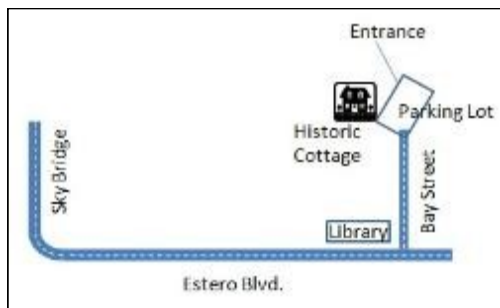


Matanzas Pass Preserve is one of the most unique places on Estero Island. Being one of the few undeveloped and protected areas left on the island, the preserve is home for a diversity of native plants and animals.

This 60 acre preserve has 1.25 miles of trails where you can watch osprey, stroll along the ADA compliant boardwalk, or relax at a trailside bench. A stop at the bayside pavilion will provide you with a panoramic view of the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve, designated Florida's first aquatic preserve in 1966. With a mix of plant communities, including maritime oak hammock, transitional wetlands and mangrove forest, the Preserve supports a diversity of wildlife including raccoons, rabbits, hawks, owls, turtles, snakes, herons, fish and songbirds. The Preserve is designated as a part of the Great Florida Birding & Wildlife Trail.

Matanzas Pass Preserve is located off Bay Road, behind the library and elementary school. The Fort Myers Beach Historic Cottage is also located at the Preserve entrance. The cottage is open from 10 until noon on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

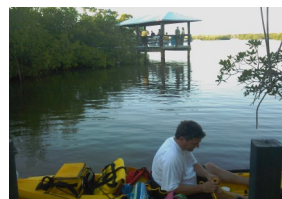


The origin of the name "Matanzas" is lost in time. The early inhabitants of this area were the Calusa or Calos (fierce people). The chronicles say that Ponce de Leon landed in Florida in 1513 and was killed by these natives in 1521.

Matanzas means "slaughter" in Spanish. It is a very illustrative name that probably describes the many battles fought in this area.

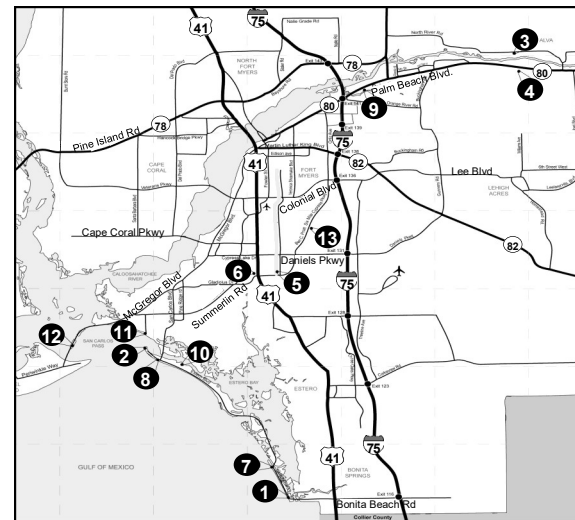
There is a paddle craft landing bayside at Matanzas Pass Preserve that is a part of the 190 mile long Great Calusa Blueway Paddling Trail. This trail meanders through Estero Bay, Pine Island Sound, and the Caloosahatchee River. The trail

provides recreational opportunities along with cultural and environmental awareness across Lee County's coastal waters and inland tributaries.



LEE COUNTY REGIONAL PARKS, BEACHES & PRESERVES:

- 1 - Bonita Beach Park
- 2 - Bowditch Point Regional Park
- 3 - Caloosahatchee Regional Park
- 4 - Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park
- 5 - John Yarbrough Linear Park
- 6 - Lakes Regional Park
- 7 - Little Hickory Island Beach Park
- 8 - Lynn Hall Beach Park
- 9 - Manatee Park
- 10 - Matanzas Pass Preserve
- 11 - Bunche Beach Preserve / San Carlos Bay/
- 12 - Causeway Islands
- 13 - Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- www.conservation2020.org
- www.calusablueway.com
- www.leeparks.org/volunteers/
- www.friendsofmatanzaspreserve.org
- www.esteroislandhistoricsociety.org
- www.moundhouse.org
- www.floridabirdingtrail.com



**Open from dawn to dusk
seven days a week**

Free - Limited Parking

**199 Bay Road
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931**



MATANZAS PASS PRESERVE SMART TRAIL



By using your smart phone or tablet and any free online QR Code app, view a guided tour of each unique section of the Matanzas Pass Preserve



1. Introduction



2. Maritime Hammock



3. Mangrove Swamp



4. Beach Ridge



5. Black Mangrove Forest



6. Your Guide

The "Friends" are dedicated to the preservation, protection and enhancement of the natural and fragile beauty of the Preserve to create a legacy for future generations. As a non-profit, citizens support organization, the Friends work with Lee County Parks and Recreation to:

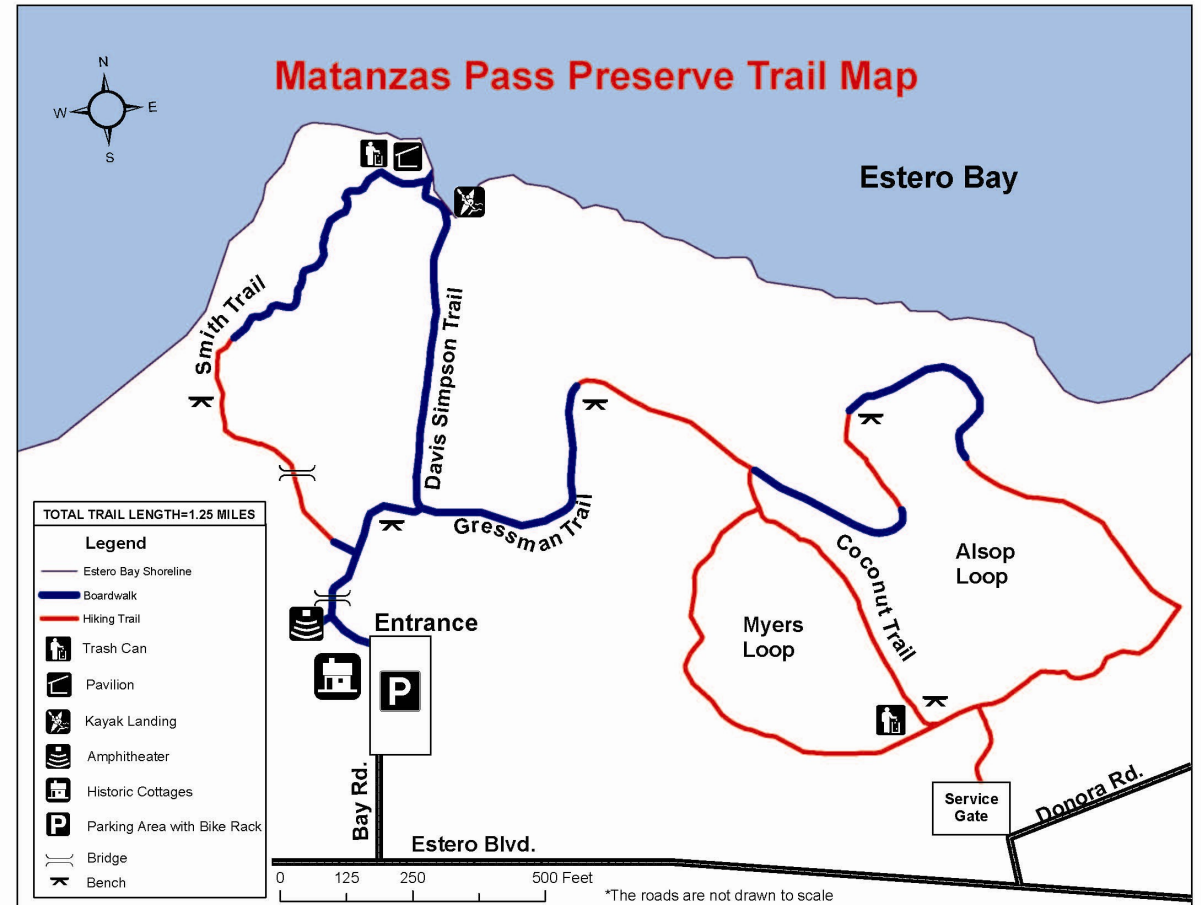
- Provide volunteers to assist in mitigation and restoration activities.
- Conduct interpretative walks, school programs, & public events in the Preserve.
- Engage in public speaking on matters regarding the Preserve.
- Promote the planting of native plants and trees on Estero Island.
- Pursue fund raising to support the Friends' mission.

To join the Friends group, get more information, volunteer, or make a monetary donation, email: MatanzasPass@gmail.com or call 239-770-1827. Follow us on Facebook.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

- Estero Island Historic Society
- Estero Garden Club
- The Town of Fort Myers Beach
- Community Resource Advisory Board/CRAB
- Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
- The Nature Conservancy
- Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau
- Tourist Development Council
- Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Florida Division of Forestry
- Many other local volunteer groups



Lee County Parks and Recreation is fortunate to have several Peace Poles for the public to enjoy!

The origin of the Peace Pole derives from the Peace Pole Project which was founded in Japan in 1955 by Masahisa Goi. The goal was to spread the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in response to the bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Since then, Peace Poles have been planted in 180 countries.

Locally you may visit them at Lakes Park, Manatee Park, and Matanzas Pass Preserve. We like to think of them as "Magic Spots." These are places where we can clear our minds (to achieve inner peace) and pay attention to what is happening, here and now, around us.

