

## WATER QUALITY

The health and biological productivity of the bay is dependent upon good water quality. Water quality depends on land use practices. If land use practices are such that runoff from the watershed contains pesticides, silt, fertilizers and oil, then the water quality in the bay will be degraded.

**Action tips:** Conserve water and be sure chemicals do not end up in your favorite lake, stream or river.



## CYCLES

Everything is recycled in nature as part of the energy flow from the sun, through living organisms from one stage of their life to the next. This boardwalk deck was constructed from recycled plastic containers. They were ground up, melted down and made into plastic "lumber" for the boardwalk.

**Action tips:** Reduce, reuse and recycle. Try to avoid purchasing goods with excessive packaging, reuse items and then recycle them.

## DIVERSITY

Many types of plants and animals are an indicator of the environmental health and stability of an area. Matanzas Pass Preserve has a mixture of tropical and temperate plants with a resulting high diversity of plant species.

**Action tips:** Do not remove plants or take animals as pets, in order to preserve diversity.



## COMMUNITY

The preserve has a diversity of plant community populations occupying a given area; such as maritime oak hammock, transitional wetlands and mangrove forest. Each of these communities has a variety of species occurring within them and support a diversity of wildlife including raccoons, rabbits, hawks, owls, turtles, snakes, herons, fish and songbirds.

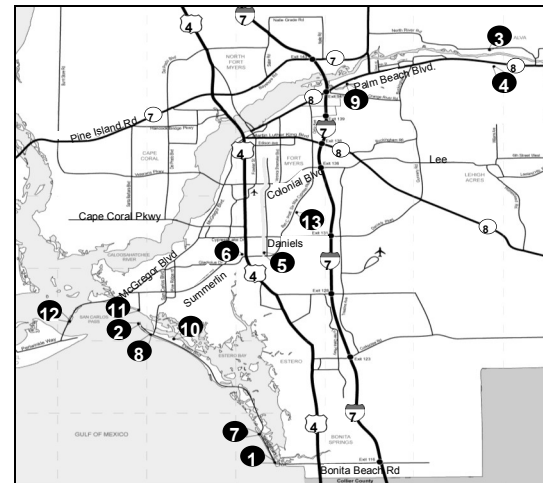
**Action tips:** Preservation and protection of plant communities is essential for a healthy ecosystem. Make sure natural areas are being preserved in your area.

## CHANGE

Change is constant in the natural world. The preserve is shaped by changes including tides, elevation, storms, hurricanes, sea level rise, and infrequent freezing temperatures. Tidal flow, elevation difference and different plant communities are observable.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Friends of Matanzas Pass Preserve  
Estero Island Historic Society  
Estero Garden Club  
The Town of Fort Myers Beach  
Lee County Parks & Recreation  
Community Resource Advisory Board/CRAB  
Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program  
The Nature Conservancy  
Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau  
Tourist Development Council  
FL Department of Environmental Protection  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Florida Division of Forestry  
Conservation 20/20  
Many other local volunteer groups



## 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 Park
- 13 - Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve



199 Bay Road  
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931  
239-533-7444

Open from Dawn to Dusk  
seven days a week

Limited Parking



Visit our website at:  
[FriendsofMatanzasPassPreserve.org](http://FriendsofMatanzasPassPreserve.org)

"Lee County Parks & Recreation...The Natural Place To Play"  
[WWW.LEEPARKS.ORG](http://WWW.LEEPARKS.ORG)



**INTRODUCTION**

Matanzas Pass Preserve is one of the most unique places in our area. Estero Island has undergone major changes since the 1940s. Urban development, hotels, condominiums and economic development, have resulted in the alteration of the natural landscape.

It is one of the few natural habitats left on the island, being a home for diverse fauna and flora.

The preserve is located parallel to Estero Blvd on the bay side between Bay Oaks and the Red Coconut resort. The main entrance is located at the Historic Cottage beside the Beach School on Bay Road. The preserve has 60 acres and 1.25 miles of trails and several stops where one can enjoy and admire this natural treasure.



**LEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION  
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- Pets prohibited on the property
- No alcoholic beverages or smoking in the preserve
- Live animals, shells, plants, artifacts, etc. are protected by county law, no collecting
- No bikes, motorized vehicles permitted
- Lee County Ordinance 06-26 enforced

**MATANZAS**

The origin of the name "Matanzas" is lost in time. The sources are few and insufficient but without being too pretentious maybe we can determine where the place name of "Matanzas" comes from.

The early inhabitants of this area were the Calusas or Calos (fierce people). Carlos was their chief. The chronicles say that Ponce de Leon landed in Florida in 1513 and was killed by the natives in 1521.

Matanzas means "slaughters" in Spanish. It is a very illustrative and meaningful name that probably describes the events that happened between the Calusas and first Castilians that disembarked in this land at the beginning of the sixteenth century.

**Volunteer Opportunities** are available. Please call Lee County Parks & Recreation Volunteer Services at 239-533-7422 or email [kcahill@leegov.com](mailto:kcahill@leegov.com) for more information.

**Lee County Parks and Recreation**  
3410 Palm Beach Blvd.  
Fort Myers, FL 33916  
Visit us at: [www.leeparks.org](http://www.leeparks.org)



**Friends of Matanzas Pass Preserve, Inc**  
A nonprofit 501(c)(3)

**JOIN THE "FRIENDS" and....**

- ~ Help maintain our beautiful 60 acre preserve located on beautiful Fort Myers Beach.
- ~ Volunteer by helping in the preserve with reforestation efforts, assist with administrative duties, public relations, tour guides and /or park beautification.
- ~ Attend meetings to help develop land stewardship priorities.
- ~ Enjoy the outdoors, meet new friends and learn about natural vegetation and importance to the island.
- ~ Members also register as Lee County Parks and Recreation volunteers and receive benefits including annual parking passes after volunteering 40 hours and much more!

Individual Memberships \$10.00 / Non Profit Membership \$30.00  
Business Membership \$50.00 / Life Membership \$100.00

For more information on the Friends of MPP visit us [www.FriendsofMatanzasPassPreserve.org](http://www.FriendsofMatanzasPassPreserve.org)

To join, fill out the membership application and return along with your annual dues to:

**Friends of Matanzas Pass Preserve, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 6561  
Ft. Myers Beach, FL 33932

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_