

History & Nature

Norwood pottery, the earliest known pottery in North America, helped archaeologists identify the park's oldest site, placing the earliest human activity 2,500 to 3,500 years before the Spanish arrived. These Native Americans hunted, fished, collected clams and oysters, and lived in relatively permanent settlements due to the abundant resources of the coast and forests.

In the mid-1800s and late 1900s, fishermen established seine yards at Bald Point. These usually primitive campsites included racks to hang, dry and repair nets. Evidence of the 19th to 20th century turpentine industry is seen on larger pine trees cut with "cat face" scars.

The park hosts more than 360 species of plants and 230 animal species. Seasonal wildflowers, including the endangered Godfrey's Blazing Star, may be seen blooming throughout the park. Bald eagles, osprey and migrating falcons are common sights in season. Deer, bear, raccoon, opossums, bobcats, foxes, birds, reptiles and amphibians inhabit the woods, while monarch butterflies pause here on their autumn flight to Mexico.

Tidal marshes, flat terrain of needle rush and sawgrass along the northwestern part of Bald Point provide breeding grounds for horseshoe crabs. The marshes are a valuable nursery for marine life and rich feeding ground for land and sea birds. Alligators also find the marsh a rich source of food.

The park participates in national monitoring programs for shore birds and sea turtles. In 2000, Bald Point had its first organized sea turtle survey. Twenty-two sea turtle crawls were documented and marked.

Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

Bald Point State Park

146 Box Cut
Alligator Point, Florida 32346
850-349-9146

FloridaStateParks.org

Park Guidelines

- Hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is required.
- All plants, animals and park property are protected.
- Pets are not allowed on the beach. Where allowed, pets must be kept on a hand-held leash no longer than 6 feet and well behaved at all times.
- Fishing, boating, swimming and fires are allowed in designated areas only. Swim at your own risk. No lifeguard is on duty at any time. A Florida fishing license may be required.
- Become a volunteer. Inquire at the ranger station.
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing equal access to all facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact the ranger station.

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Northwest
Florida

Bald Point State Park

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Real Fun in ...the Real FloridaSM

Bald Point State Park boasts more than 4,800 acres of coastal wilderness dotted with freshwater ponds and tidal marshes. Located in Franklin County where the Ochlockonee Bay meets the Apalachee Bay, the park offers visitors outdoor activities on land and water.

The park offers two picnic areas with pavilions, grills, restrooms and easy accessibility to the nearby beach. Surrounded by water, the park is a popular spot for canoeing and kayaking. A canoe launch ramp is available.

Swimming, sunbathing and windsurfing are popular activities on the sandy beach shores or along the Apalachee Bay coastline from the Sunrise Beach access. Surf-fish or wade out to oyster bars where a variety of saltwater fish are found in the brackish tidal waterway – among them redfish, trout, flounder and mackerel.

Discover the tidal marsh wildlife – jumping mullet, wading birds and an occasional alligator basking in the sun. Enjoy the many varieties of birds that migrate through or live here – shorebirds along the beach, warblers in the maritime hammocks, wading birds and birds of prey in and around the marsh areas.

Hike with a ranger or park volunteer along the nature trails to view the many local and migratory birds that frequent the area. Or walk along designated paths to enjoy seasonal wildflowers and wildlife. Tours are available upon request at least two weeks in advance.



Directions

From Tallahassee, travel 30 miles to Panacea on SR 363 S/CR 61/ US 319. Drive south on Hwy 98 about 5 miles; turn left on SR 370; proceed 5 miles and turn left on Bald Point Road and travel 3 miles to the park's entrance.