

Before You Adventure... ... Be Prepared!



• Please help keep the trail in pristine condition by *leaving only your footprints, and taking only pictures.*

- Bring plenty of water, sunscreen, insect repellent, and hat.



- There are no restrooms along any trails.
- The Black Island and Eagle trails surfaces vary from hard-packed sand to cut grass with some areas of softer sand.
- **Bike helmets can prevent serious injury** to riders of all ages. Florida state law requires riders under the age of 16 to wear helmets.
- Sheltered benches are situated along the trail. The trail is a mixture of shaded and open sunny areas.



What To Do If You See A Manatee...

- **Look, but don't touch manatees.**
- Don't feed manatees or give them water. If manatees become accustomed to being around people, they can alter their behavior in the wild, causing them to lose their natural fear of humans, which may make them more susceptible to harm. *Passive observation* is the best way to interact with manatees and all wildlife.
- Do not pursue or chase a manatee if you see one while you are paddling. If a manatee avoids you, you should avoid it.
- Give manatees space to move. Don't isolate or single out an individual manatee from its group, and never separate a cow and her calf.
- Keep hands and objects to yourself. Don't attempt to snag, hook, hold, grab, pinch or ride a manatee.
- Avoid excessive noise and splashing if a manatee appears near you.



History of Black Island

In the 1960s and 1970s, Black Island was slated for development. A road to connect Black Island to the mainland was constructed in 1965. Dredging destroyed most of the mangroves and created the canals you see today. This damaging development ended when the state acquired the islands in 1983.

A maritime hammock of palms and other plants is emerging. To hasten this growth process park rangers and volunteers are planting native plants and removing harmful exotic (non-native) plants.

Lovers Key Carl E. Johnson State Park
8700 Estero Boulevard
Ft. Myers Beach, FL 33931

Phone: (239) 463-4588

The park offers many recreational opportunities to visitors with disabilities and is working to improve access to all areas. Should you need assistance to enable your full participation, please contact the park office.



RECREATIONAL TRAILS

at
Lovers Key State Park

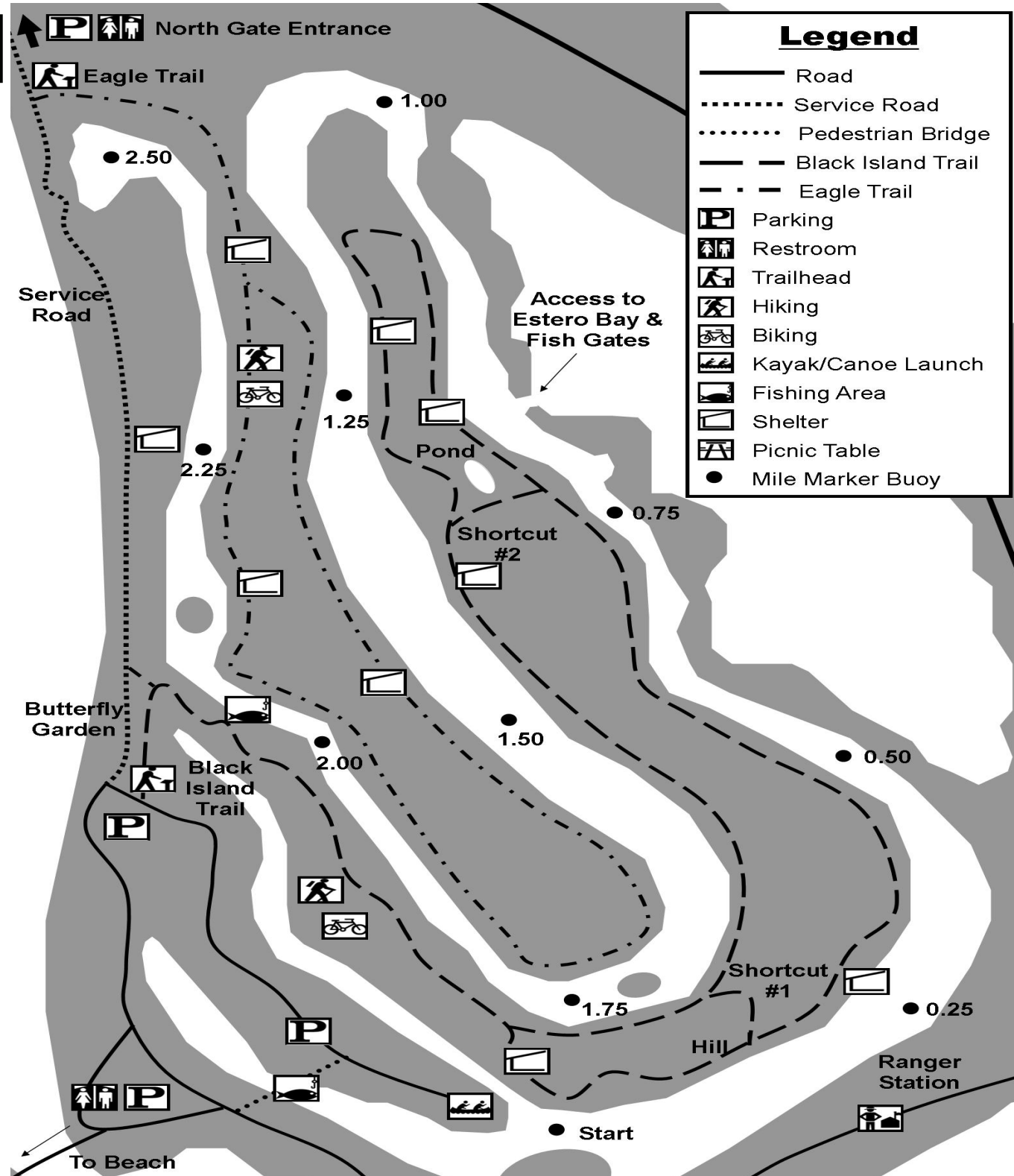


Adventure into
...the Real Florida!

Travel through a beautiful maritime hammock winding along the banks of canals offering many opportunities to view abundant wildlife.

Black Island Trail

- **Trail Distances:** The 2.6 mile trail has two shortcuts. Round trip through Shortcut #1 is 1.2 miles. Round trip through Shortcut #2 is 1.8 miles.
- **The Hill:** This hilltop is one of the highest points in Lee County! This hill was man made in the 1970s when the land was being developed for a resort community. The hill was built to replicate a Calusa Indian midden (or mound) and rises gradually to 30 feet.
- **Fish Gates:** After Shortcut #2 look across the canals, you may notice posts coming out of the water. These gates help keep out motorized watercraft, however, allow fish and mammals such as manatees to enter the canals.
- **Pond Wildlife Viewing Area:** This short path takes you to a freshwater pond, home to birds and alligators. The green plant covering the pond is called Duckweed.
- Along the island's trails you may see osprey, marsh rabbits, gray squirrels, gopher tortoises and wading birds. Numerous education signs will identify plants and animals along the trail.



Paddling Trail

- **Trail Distance:** The trail is 2.5 miles one way and 5 miles total. There are mile marker buoys stationed throughout the trail.
- Please wear a life jacket.
- Be prepared and bring plenty of water, sunscreen, insect repellent, and hat.
- Please do not abandon your canoe or kayak along the paddling trail.
- Swimming in canals is not permitted. Occasional alligators may be encountered.
- Give fishermen a wide berth.

Eagle Trail

- **Trail Distance:** The trail is 1.5 miles round trip.
- From the Black Island Trailhead, walk along the service road towards the north gate entrance.
- From the North Gate entrance, walk towards the main parking area.

If you have an emergency, please call the Ranger Station (239) 463-4588