

## History & Nature

The beach slopes upward, becoming sand dunes covered with sea oats. Behind the dunes is a coastal hammock, or hardwood forest. Much of the forest was once displaced by invasive plants such as Australian pines and Brazilian peppers. These aggressive species are being phased out, replaced by native trees and shrubs grown in the park nursery. Sea grapes, coco plums and seven-year apples are some of the interesting plants found in the hammock.

The bay side of the park is a mangrove swamp, habitat of the black-whiskered vireo, an abundant small bird in early summer. Its persistent call sounds like "grape jelly."

Offshore, bottle-nosed dolphins can be observed daily, and West Indian manatees are seen on occasion. Loggerhead turtles come ashore to nest on summer nights.

Long before today's visitors dined at nearby seaside restaurants, Calusa Indians thrived on this coast by harvesting the rich bounty of the Gulf and the bay waters. The Calusa built villages, raised large mounds and dug canals for their boats.

The written record of this area begins in the late 1800s with Joe Wiggins, the namesake of the pass. Wiggins, the first homesteader, ran an apiary and trading post where he traded goods with Seminole Indians and settlers.

Decades later, Collier County acquired the land through the philanthropic generosity of Lester J. and Dellora A. Norris—hence the name "Delnor." In 1970, the State of Florida purchased the land from Collier County for a state park. Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park opened in 1981.

### Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

### Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park

11135 Gulf Shore Drive North  
Naples, FL 34108  
(239) 597-6196

[FloridaStateParks.org](http://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.
- The collection, destruction or disturbance of plants, animals or park property is prohibited. This includes sand dollars and starfish.
- Pets are permitted in designated areas only. Pets must be kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet and well behaved at all times.
- Fishing, boating, swimming and fires are allowed in designated areas only. A Florida fishing license is required.
- Camping, fireworks and hunting are prohibited.
- 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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Florida state park



## Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park

*One of the most popular parks in Southwest Florida*



*...the Real Florida*<sup>SM</sup>

*National Gold Medal Winner*

*Florida State Parks - "America's First Two-Time Winner"*



**FLORIDA**  
State Parks  
*...the Real Florida*<sup>SM</sup>



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## Real Fun in ...the Real Florida<sup>SM</sup>

Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park welcomes visitors to Florida's southwest coast. Rest and relax and experience what has made this beach one of the nation's best rated. Take in the beauty of waves on white sand, tropical vegetation and abundant birdlife while strolling, beachcombing, swimming, fishing or picnicking in this 166-acre park.

The park occupies a mile of relatively undisturbed barrier island, one of a few such undeveloped gulf sites in this region preserved for public use. Beach activities are featured here. **Sunbathing** and **swimming** are the most popular. Soak up the warm Florida sunshine and then cool off in the Gulf of Mexico. Visitors can also stroll along the shore and hunt for **shells** or observe the various **bird species** along the water's edge. Collecting live shells is prohibited. This includes sand dollars and starfish. Test your angling skills at the pass where the Cocohatchee River empties into the Gulf. Catches of snook, red drum and sea trout are common. A ramp is available for launching boats, or use the **boat ramp** dock to enjoy **fishing** in the bay waters.

Tables and grills for **picnicking** are placed throughout the park. Enjoy a shaded lunch with a view of the Gulf to complement a perfect day at the beach. A **pavilion** may be reserved for parties or after-hour functions. *Please help keep your state parks clean; dispose of litter properly.*

