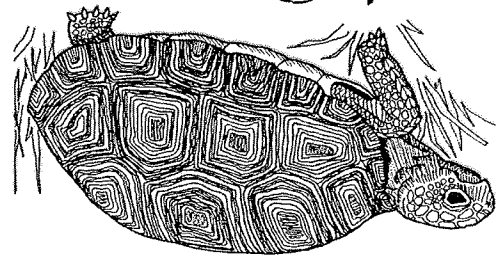


Lemon Bay Park & Environmental Center



Trail Guide

Natural Florida



Thank You For Visiting Us
We Appreciate Your Support
Please Come See Us Again

Sarasota County Parks and Recreation 24 Hour Information Line: (941) 861-5000
Visit our web site at: www.scgov.net



Lemon Bay Park and Environmental Center
Sarasota County Parks and Recreation
570 Bay Park Boulevard • Englewood, Florida 34223
941-474-3065 • Fax 941-475-2539



WELCOME. Lemon Bay Park is a nature-based facility of Sarasota County Parks and Recreation and the community of Englewood. We offer the opportunity to enjoy a part of natural Florida, to learn about the environment, and to meet and socialize. We offer nature trails with interpretive signs, nature displays, a butterfly garden, a daylily and rose garden, an amphitheater, a canoe/kayak launch, a large picnic pavilion, a beautiful building with a large veranda for watching sunsets, and a meeting room available for rent. Educational classes, guided nature and bird walks, and a variety of other nature-based programs are offered throughout the year.

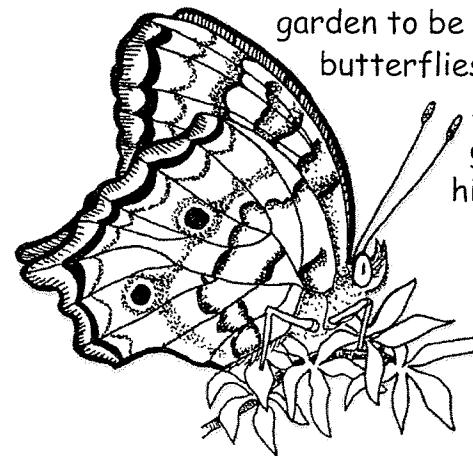


The park covers 208 acres, with the original 48 acres of Lemon Bay Park being acquired in 1986 as part of a \$20 million county bond referendum. In 1980, the Annita and Jacob France Foundation donated 113 acres fronting Lemon Bay to the New College Foundation with the stipulation that 23 acres of environmentally sensitive land be preserved in perpetuity as the "Jacob and Annita France Environmental Research Area." The Foundation sold the land in 1984 which was eventually acquired by Sarasota County. In 1998, 34 additional acres were donated to Sarasota County to be included in Lemon Bay Park. In 2005, 11 acres were purchased thru the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Acquisition Program. Two other smaller parcels of less than one acre each were purchased in 1999 and in 2007.

Natural habitats of the park include a black mangrove forest in the southern section, mangrove fringe and shoreline vegetation along the Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve, with pine flatwoods and scrubby flatwoods in the northern section. Wetlands include ditches and a freshwater swamp. Spoil and shell deposits from the dredging of the Intracoastal Waterway during the 1960's are located in the centrally developed portion of the park.

Look up into the sky and you may see a Bald Eagle soar overhead. Lemon Bay Park is an ideal habitat for the eagles, who build their nests in large Florida Slash Pines. One such nest may be viewed from the Eagle Trail through one of the eagle scopes. The eagles live along the shores of Lemon Bay to take advantage of the abundance of fish, their main source of food.

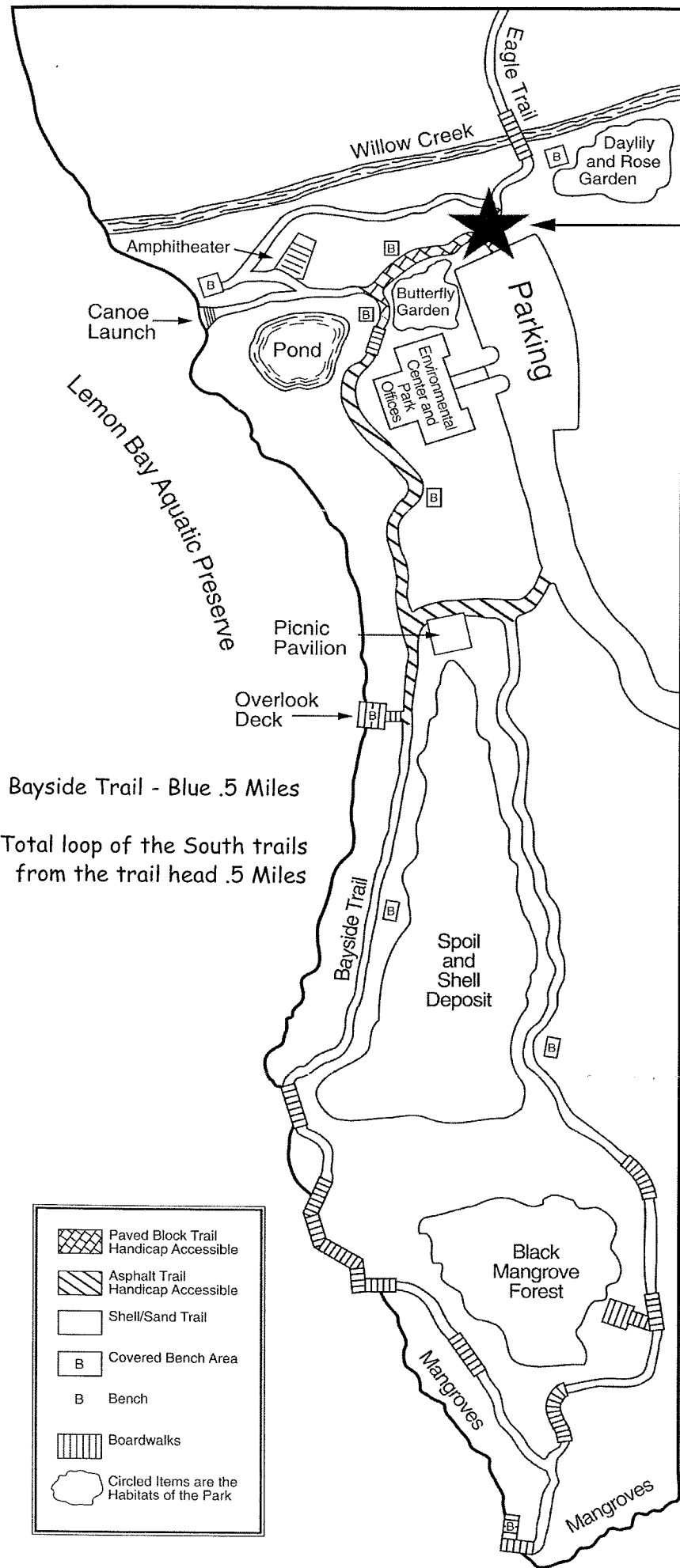
While walking through the Butterfly Garden stop and observe the caterpillars munching on the delicate new growth of the many plants. These plants have been specifically chosen for the garden to be eaten and enjoyed by the caterpillars. Take pleasure in watching the butterflies flit across the landscape from one flower to the next, sipping the sweet nectar and laying eggs on the leafy surfaces for their future generations. You might be lucky enough to even find a chrysalis hiding in the nearby bushes.



Enjoy the serenity of Lemon Bay, whether it is first thing in the morning to enjoy the sweet songs of the early birds, or late evening to observe the glorious sunsets over Manasota Key.

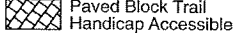

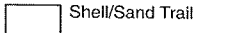
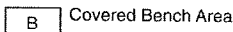
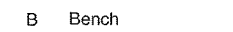
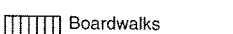
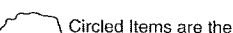
A special thanks to Patty Volz for allowing us to use her inspiring artwork.
Printed on recycled paper. 5-2008

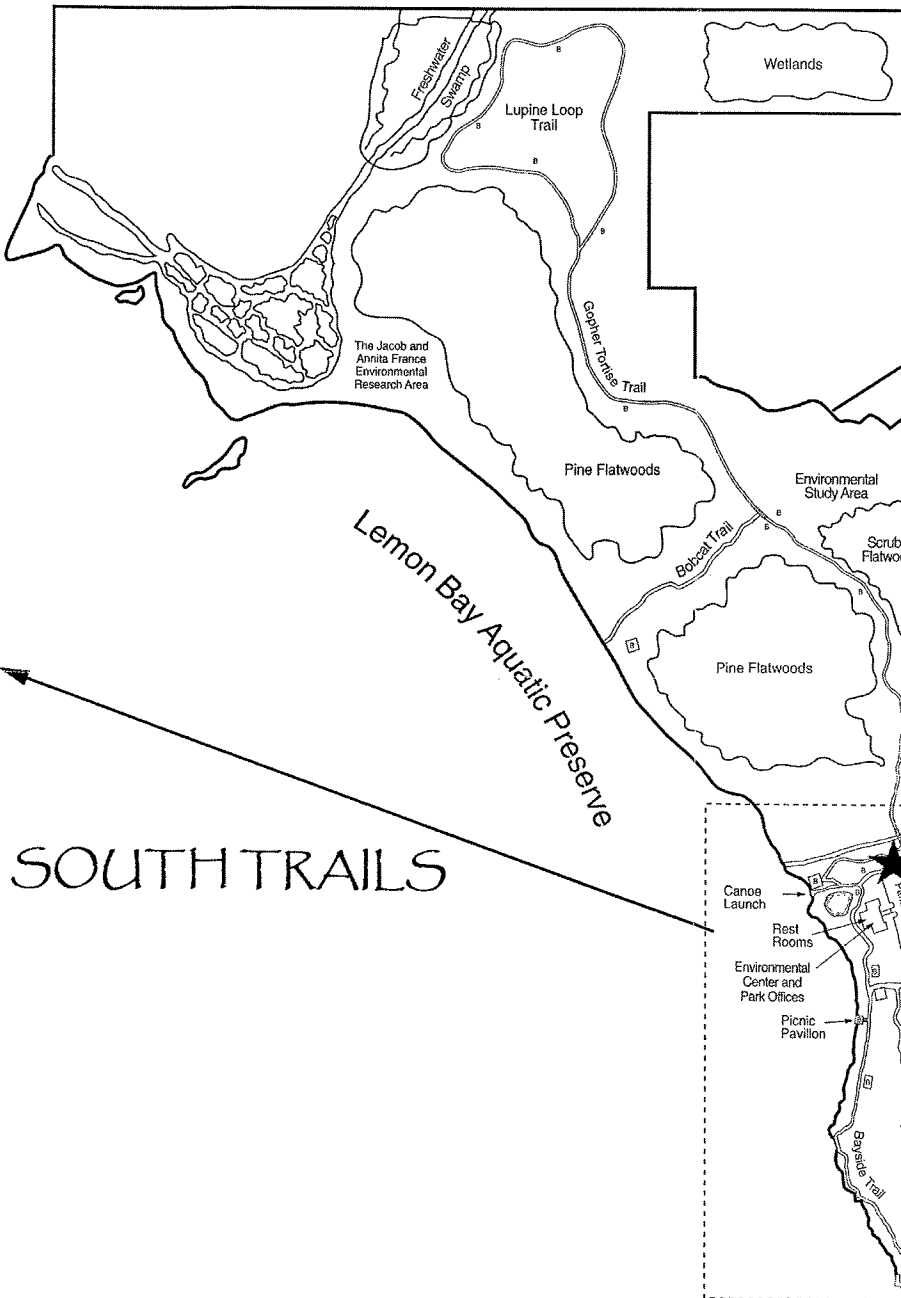
Trail Guide



Bayside Trail - Blue .5 Miles

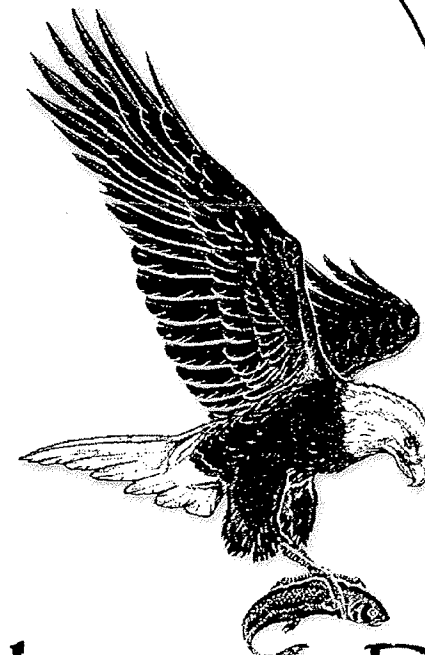
Total loop of the South trails from the trail head .5 Miles

-  Paved Block Trail Handicap Accessible
-  Asphalt Trail Handicap Accessible
-  Shell/Sand Trail
-  Covered Bench Area
-  Bench
-  Boardwalks
-  Circled Items are the Habitats of the Park

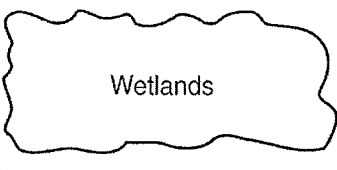


SOUTH TRAILS

NORTH TRAILS



Lemon Bay Park

-  Wetlands
- Follow the color-coded trail markers
- Eagle Trail - Brown .4 Miles
 - Bobcat Trail - Yellow .1 Miles
 - Gopher Tortoise Trail - Green .3 Miles
 - Lupine Loop Trail - Lavender .5 Miles
- Total loop of the North trails from the trail head approx 2 miles

You are here

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