WELCOME!

T. Mabry Carlton, Jr. Memorial Reserve (Carlton Reserve) is comprised of 24,565 acres of numerous freshwater wetlands, pine flatwoods, dry prairies and shady oak hammocks. Purchased in 1984, the reserve is the source of Sarasota County’s largest well field, supplying a substantial portion of our drinking water. It also provides unique wilderness recreation opportunities like birdwatching, trail running, geocaching, orienteering, as well as habitat conservation and cultural heritage preservation.

THE WILD SIDE

As you explore the reserve, discover some of Florida’s natural beauty and wonder. Commonly seen wildlife includes sandhill cranes, white-tailed deer, wild turkey, bobcats, alligators, swallow-tailed kites, bluebirds and an assortment of wildflowers, such as butterfly orchids, pine lilies and the delicate blue flag iris.

FACILITIES

From this parking lot, visitors have easy access to the equestrian trailer parking lot, which connects to the Myakka Island Wilderness Trail. There’s also interpretive self-guided nature trails, picnic tables, visitor’s cabin, large reservable picnic pavilion, sustainable composting restroom and nature trails, picnic tables, visitor’s cabin, large reservable parking lot, which connects to the equestrian trailer parking lot, which connects to the Myakka Island Wilderness Trail.

HIKING, BIKING AND EQUESTRIAN TRAILS

You are just a few steps away from several hiking trails ranging from a less than 1-mile loop to the BoldlyGo Trail, a challenging 9.1-mile, single-track loop built and maintained by country volunteers for biking and hiking. (Follow the signs.) The backcountry offers more than 100 miles of marked, unpaved multi-use trails including the 12-mile Myakka Island Wilderness Trail, which connects with Myakka River State Park. These primitive trails provide visitors with the opportunity to explore natural Florida at its finest through hiking, off-road biking and horseback riding. (See map on back.)

NATURE/BIKE TRAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Name</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Trail</td>
<td>4 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange Trail</td>
<td>8 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Trail</td>
<td>2.1 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Trail</td>
<td>3 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BoldlyGo Bike Trail</td>
<td>9.1 miles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although most of the original buildings are now gone, a collection of exact replicas mark the historic Windy Sawgrass Cow Camp, which is where cow hunters once camped and gathered cattle from the open prairies and swamps. The cowboys camp is now a destination for horseback riders and hikers to camp in the old bunkhouse and stable their horses in the 12-stall rustic barn.

FOR YOUR SAFETY AND THE PROTECTION OF THE PRESERVES

- This preserve is open from 6 a.m. to sunset.
- Please leave all natural features, plants and animals undisturbed.
- Pack it in, pack it out. Please do not litter.
- Please take valuables with you and lock your vehicle.
- Sarasota Sheriff’s Office Non-Emergency: 941-316-1201
- Pavilion and primitive camping reservations: 941-861-5000

SOARING ABOVE THE HAMMOCK

This swallow-tailed kite is unmistakable in flight, with long, pointed wings and a deeply forked tail. This graceful bird rarely raps its wings while flying but almost continuously moves its tail, sometimes to nearly 90 degrees, enabling the bird to maintain a flight path, make sharp turns or circle treetops.

LIFE ON THE WING

- Once they learn to fly, kites spend more than 80 percent of their lives in the air.
- Dragonflies and cicadas are their main food, but they also eat snakes, lizards and tree-top nestlings.
- Kites nest and roost communally, especially right before migration, and can be found in groups of hundreds.

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