

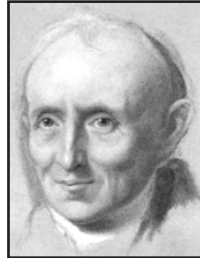


# BOWDITCH POINT REGIONAL PARK 50 ESTERO BLVD. FT. MYERS BEACH, FL 33931



## NATHANIEL BOWDITCH MARCH 26, 1773 - MARCH 16, 1838

Nathaniel Bowditch was responsible for the perfection of celestial navigation that is still utilized to this day. He was an astronomer, navigator and scientist known for two books: The New American Practical Navigator and a translation of Laplace's Mécanique Céleste.



**NATHANIEL  
BOWDITCH**

## ABOUT BOWDITCH: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

At the northern-most tip of the Town of Fort Myers Beach, stretching between the Gulf of Mexico and Matanzas Pass, is Bowditch Point. Here on Estero Island you can lounge on a sandy beach, swim in the Gulf, fish in the bay, canoe or kayak down the Great Calusa Blueway, and see dolphins frolicking as the sun sets over the Gulf of Mexico. Bowditch Point Regional Park also includes shaded and open picnic tables, grills, a café, and a souvenir shop, outdoor showers and restrooms.

## EXPLORE THE HABITATS

Over 1 mile of trails take you through various environmental communities. The property includes beach, tropical hardwoods, coastal scrub, and wetland hardwood forest plant communities. These ecosystems provide for many types of wildlife. Regularly seen species include gopher tortoise, osprey, and various types of shorebirds. From "Lookout Point" visitors are treated to panoramic views of the surrounding waters, with access to benches and an area with amphitheater-type seating. All this allows visitors to enjoy the tranquil beauty of nature.

## HOURS AND PARKING

The park is open from 8 AM to ½ hour past sunset. Parking is paid by the hour; handicapped parking spots are near the main entrance. There is no fee for pedestrian or bicycle access. A sheltered trolley stop at the entrance to Bowditch provides "park n' ride" convenience from the rest of Fort Myers Beach and nearby parking locations such as Summerlin Square and San Carlos Island.

## ACCESSIBILITY

We welcome people with disabilities and comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) by offering a wide wheelchair-accessible boardwalk and trail that leads to the beach. For further information regarding our accommodations and inclusion, please contact Amanda Gutierrez, Recreation Therapy/Inclusion Coordinator at 239-267-2181.

## FLIP FLOPS CAFÉ

The café offers food, snacks, beverages, catering for gatherings in the park, bicycles, beach chairs and other rental items: 239-765-7100.

## COME BY KAYAK OR CANOE

For those who want to paddle over to the preserve, Bowditch Point is Estero Bay Highlight No. 2 on The Great Calusa Blueway Paddling Trail map ([www.greatcalusablueway.com](http://www.greatcalusablueway.com)). On average, it's about an hours' paddle from Matanzas Pass Preserve, No. 4; and the Mound House, No. 5; and it is just a short trip across the bay from San Carlos Bay Bunche Beach Preserve, No. 1.



## WHAT'S A GOPHER?

A Gopher is a land tortoise that is listed as a threatened species. They like high, well drained, sunny spots to dig their burrows and lay their eggs. You might see them on "Gopher Hill" or crossing "Tortoise Trail." Remember, this is their home, so watch from a distance, and please do not feed or harass them.



## PHONE NUMBERS:

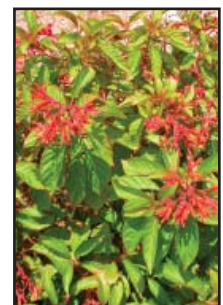
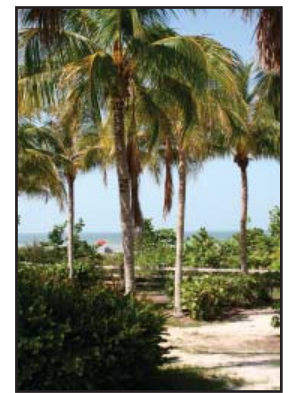
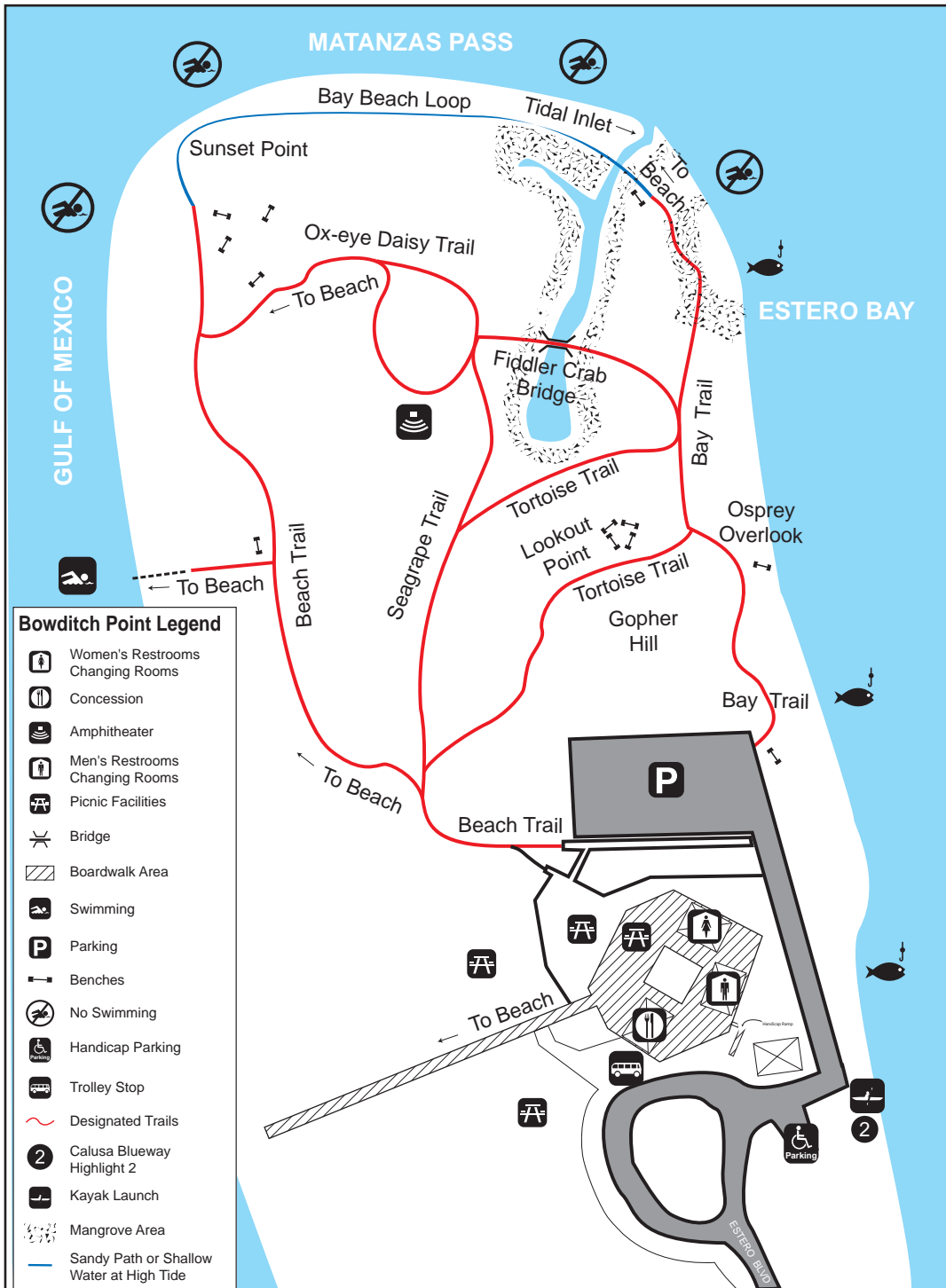
Information: 239-432-2127

Maintenance: 239-765-6794

Lee County Parks & Recreation: 239-533-7275

VISIT US AT: [WWW.LEEPARKS.ORG](http://WWW.LEEPARKS.ORG)

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## BOWDITCH POINT BACKGROUND

*Bowditch Point Regional Park is named after Nathaniel Bowditch. Many years ago sand that was dredged from the channel for boat traffic was deposited at the "point" of the island. This resulted in the 22 ft. high "Gopher Hill."*

*It was the only undeveloped property with shoreline on both the Gulf of Mexico and Matanzas Pass when the County purchased the property in 1987. In February 1994, the facility had its grand opening. In 2002 the park was cleared of exotic vegetation and restored with native plant communities.*