

Manatee Park Facts

Since opening in 1996, Manatee Park has become an outdoor classroom for visitors of all ages. A wide variety of plants and animals can be seen while walking through the native plant habitats and beautiful butterfly garden.

While small in size, Lee County's 17 acre Manatee Park provides environmental education and programs for more than 100,000 visitors annually. ADA-accessible walkways and paths allow all visitors to tour the park.

Educational materials are available in the gift shop, which offers manatee and butterfly books and gifts. Refreshments are also available.

Why Do Manatees Come to Manatee Park?

During the cool winter months when the temperature of the Gulf of Mexico and rivers drops below 68 degrees F, the endangered Florida manatee seeks refuge from the cold waters by swimming into the Florida Power and Light warm water discharge canal. This non-captive manatee sanctuary provides a winter haven for these warm-blooded native mammals that live, feed and raise their young year round in the fresh, brackish or saltwater coastal areas of Florida.

More Than Just Manatees!

While at Manatee Park, don't miss:

- Butterfly Garden
- Native Plant Habitats
- Ethnobotany Trail
- Fishing Pier
- Seminole Chickee Hut
- Kayaking or Canoeing
- Playground
- Picnic Facilities
- Children's Activities (Eye-On-Nature and Bingo)
- Gift Shop

NO PETS PLEASE

Manatee Park Offers:

Informal Interpretive Talks:

During the winter season, red-vested volunteer naturalists offer information and answer questions about manatees, butterflies and plants.

All About Manatees:

November - March

Do you know that the endangered Florida manatee is a native marine mammal whose closest relative is the elephant? Join us for a free program to discover where manatees live, what they eat, and the challenges they face in the shallow coastal waters of Florida.

Manatee Park Habitats:

Since 1996, volunteers of the Coccoloba Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society have been planting butterfly gardens and creating native plant habitats throughout the park. Explore the park to discover how an empty piece of flat ground evolved into a place that provides food and shelter for many species of birds and other wildlife.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Ongoing volunteer opportunities are available throughout the year depending on interest. Call (239) 690-5030, ext. 224.

Calusa Blueway Outfitters and Gift Shop:



April - November: Call for reservations. Kayak/canoe rentals start at \$15/hour. Depart from the launch area at Manatee Park for a wonderful opportunity to paddle on the Orange River. For more information, call (239) 481-4600. www.calusabluewayoutfitters.com



10901 Palm Beach Blvd
Fort Myers, FL 33905

239-690-5030

1.3 miles east on S.R. 80 (I-75 Exit 141)



Photo courtesy Patrick M. Rose

Calusa Blueway Outfitters & Gift Shop (239) 481 - 4600
Kayak / Canoe Rental and Tour Info (239) 481- 4600
Manatee Park Hotline: (239) 690 - 5030
Lee County Parks and Recreation (239) 533 - 7275
Fees:
Parking: Parking fees vary seasonally

Manatee Park Hours: 8:00 a.m. - Sunset

Calusa Blueway Outfitters (239) 481 - 4600
Kayak & Canoe Rentals
Gift Shop / Concession

April - October Call for reservations

November - March 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

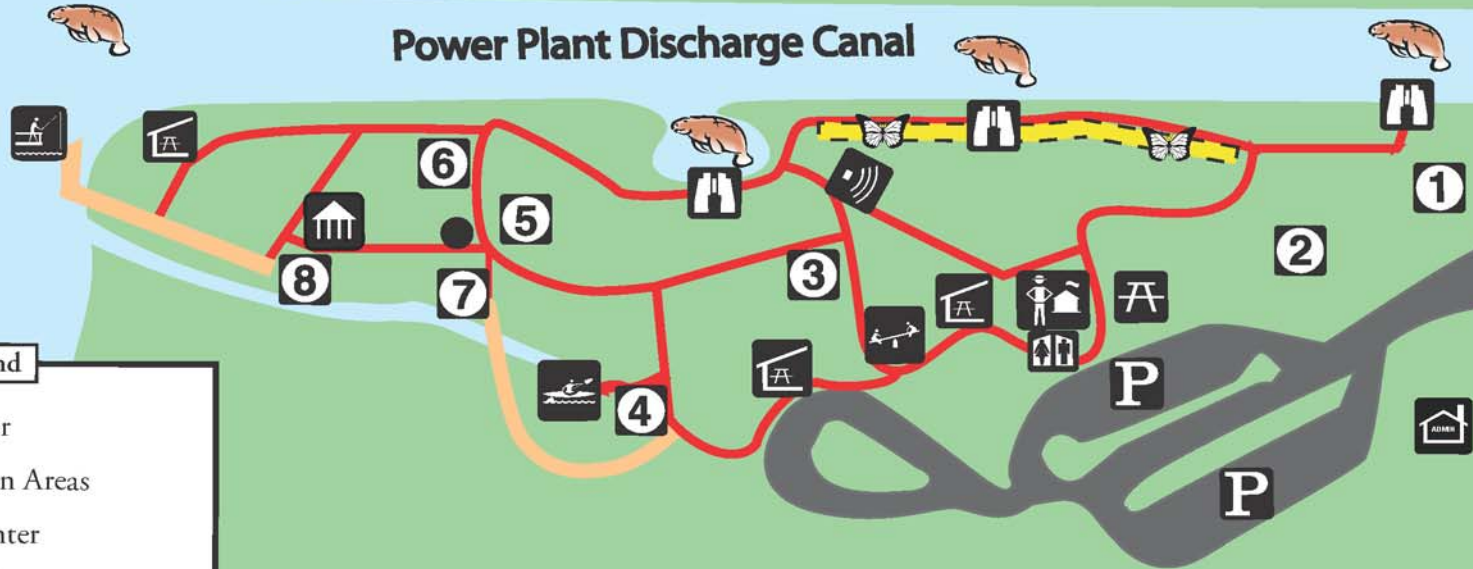
"Lee County Parks & Recreation...The Natural Place To Play"
WWW.LEEPARKS.ORG

Orange River

Welcome to Manatee Park



Power Plant Discharge Canal



Legend

- Fishing Pier
- Observation Areas
- Visitor Center
- Playgrounds
- Live Oak Amphitheatre
- Seminole Chickee Hut
- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Picnic Pavillions
- Picnic Tables
- Peace Pole
- Parking Area
- Restrooms
- Walkways
- Boardwalk
- Administration Bldg.

Habitat Areas

- 1 Florida Oak Grove
- 2 Wetland Habitat
- 3 Hardwood Hammock Habitat
- 4 Bayhead Habitat
- 5 Pine Flatwoods Habitat
- 6 Oak Rosemary Scrub Habitat
- 7 Riverine Wetland
- 8 Ethnobotany Trail
- Butterfly Garden

Lee County Parks Rules and Regulations

- Pets prohibited in park and on the beach (except at designated parks).
- No alcoholic beverages
- Park in designated areas only
- Live animals and shells, including sand dollars, sea stars, plants, artifacts, driftwood, natural or man-made features are protected by county law, no collecting.
- Launching of motorized watercraft prohibited except by special permit.
- Paddlecraft launching permitted at the Great Calusa Blueway Paddling trail sites.
- Ordinance 06-26 as amended enforced.

