

WATER QUALITY

The health and biological productivity of the bay is dependent upon good water quality. Water quality depends on land use practices. If land use practices are such that runoff from the watershed contains pesticides, silt, fertilizers and oil, then the water quality in the bay will be degraded.

Action tips: Conserve water and be sure chemicals do not end up in your favorite lake, stream or river.



CYCLES

Everything is recycled in nature as part of the energy flow from the sun, through living organisms from one stage of their life to the next. This boardwalk deck was constructed from recycled plastic containers. They were ground up, melted down and made into plastic "lumber" for the boardwalk.

Action tips: Reduce, reuse and recycle. Try to avoid purchasing goods with excessive packaging, reuse items and then recycle them.

DIVERSITY

Many types of plants and animals are an indicator of the environmental health and stability of an area. Matanzas Pass Preserve has a mixture of tropical and temperate plants with a resulting high diversity of plant species.

Action tips: Do not remove plants or take animals as pets, in order to preserve diversity.



COMMUNITY

The preserve has a diversity of plant community populations occupying a given area; such as maritime oak hammock, transitional wetlands and mangrove forest. Each of these communities has a variety of species occurring within them and support a diversity of wildlife including raccoons, rabbits, hawks, owls, turtles, snakes, herons, fish and songbirds.

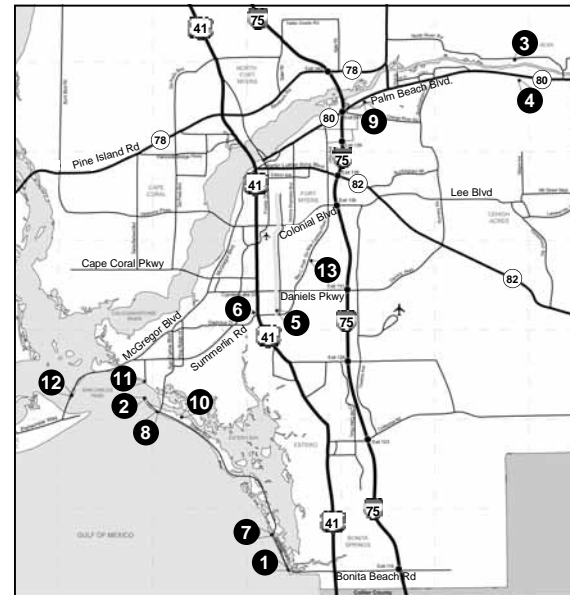
Action tips: Preservation and protection of plant communities is essential for a healthy ecosystem. Make sure natural areas are being preserved in your area.

CHANGE

Change is constant in the natural world. The preserve is shaped by changes including tides, elevation, storms, hurricanes, sea level rise, and infrequent freezing temperatures. Tidal flow, elevation difference and different plant communities are observable.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Friends of Matanzas Pass Preserve
Estero Island Historic Society
Estero Garden Club
The Town of Fort Myers Beach
Lee County Parks & Recreation
Community Resource Advisory Board/CRAB
Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
The Nature Conservancy
Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau
Tourist Development Council
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Florida Division of Forestry
Conservation 20/20
Many other local volunteer groups



REGIONAL PARKS, BEACHES & PRESERVES

- 1 - Bonita Beach Park
- 2 - Bowditch Point Regional Park
- 3 - Caloosahatchee Regional Park
- 4 - Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park
- 5 - John Yarbrough Linear Park
- 6 - Lakes Regional Park
- 7 - Little Hickory Island Beach Park
- 8 - Lynn Hall Beach Park
- 9 - Manatee Park
- 10 - Matanzas Pass Preserve
- 11 - San Carlos Bay Bunche Beach Preserve
- 12 - Sanibel Causeway Islands
- 13 - Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve



199 Bay Road
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
239-463-3764

Open from Dawn to Dusk
seven days a week

Limited Parking



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

INTRODUCTION

Matanzas Pass Preserve is one of the most unique places in our area. Estero Island has undergone major changes since the 1940s. Urban development, hotels, condominiums and economic development, have resulted in the alteration of the natural landscape.

It is one of the few natural habitats left on the island, being a home for diverse fauna and flora.

The preserve is located parallel to Estero Blvd on the bay side between Bay Oaks and the Red Coconut resort. The main entrance is located at the Historic Cottage beside the Beach School on Bay Road. The preserve has 60 acres and 1.25 miles of trails and several stops where one can enjoy and admire this natural treasure.

MATANZAS

The origin of the name "Matanzas" is lost in time. The sources are few and insufficient but without being too pretentious maybe we can determine where the place name of "Matanzas" comes from.

The early inhabitants of this area were the Calusas or Calos (fierce people). Carlos was their chief. The chronicles say that Ponce de Leon landed in Florida in 1513 and was killed by the natives in 1521.

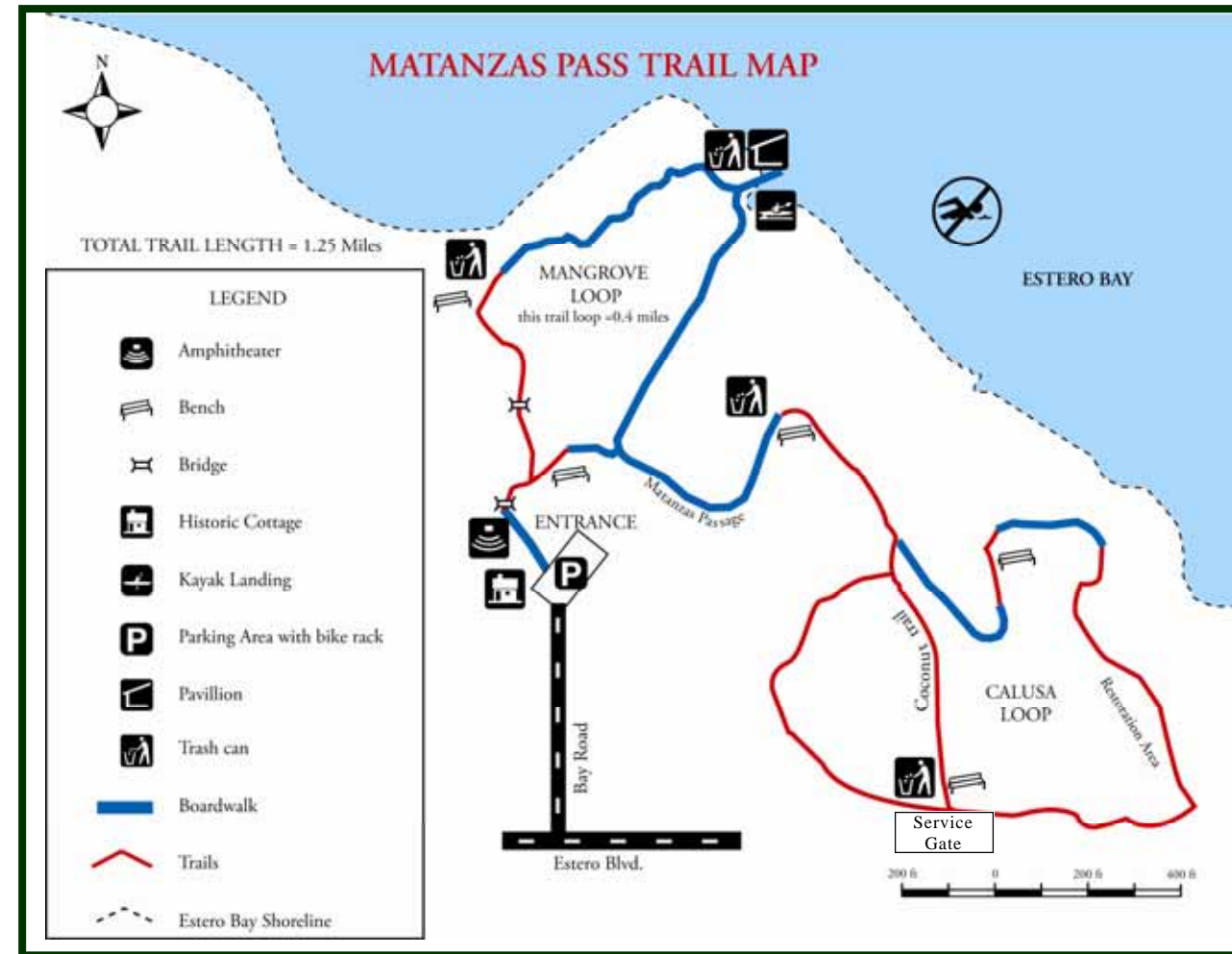
Matanzas means "slaughters" in Spanish. It is a very illustrative and meaningful name that probably describes the events that happened between the Calusas and first Castilians that disembarked in this land at the beginning of the sixteenth century.



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.
- Parking ordinance 06-26 fee enforced.

Lee County Parks and Recreation
3410 Palm Beach Blvd.
Fort Myers, FL 33916
Visit us at: www.leeparks.org



Volunteer Opportunities are available. Please call Volunteer Services at 239-432-2159 or email kcahill@leegov.com for more information.