

# Guide to Pinellas County Blueways

Prepared by
THE PINELLAS COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
December, 2006

Revised April, 2010

inellas County has miles of beautiful shoreline, providing paddlers with a variety of opportunities and experiences as they explore the coastline and the rich array of marine and estuarine ecosystems that make up Pinellas County's waters. We invite paddlers to come and enjoy the placid waters of Tampa Bay and the shores of the Gulf of Mexico.



This Guide is designed to provide information on Pinellas County paddling opportunities useful to both residents and visitors. For the purposes of this Guide, the County is divided into sections, making it easier to follow and allowing the reader to pinpoint particular paddling opportunities in a specific geographic area of interest.

The Guide provides detailed information for each designated launch point, as well as information on the paddling trail experience. It is important to emphasize that each paddling opportunity is unique, with unique experiences and varying distances and levels of difficulty. Please plan your route accordingly and take all proper safety precautions before embarking. Have fun and enjoy the Pinellas County blueways!

# **Table of Contents**

Florida Circumnavigational Saltwa	ter Paddling Traili	Map 5	25
		Maximo Park	Fort DeSoto Park
Legend 1		Blackthorn Memorial	Bay Vista Park
		Map 5 GPS Coordinates	26
Blueways Map Locator	2		
		Map 6	29
Map 1	3	Downtown Gulfport	Clam Bayou Nature Park
John Chesnut Park	A.L. Anderson Park	Maximo Park	Fort DeSoto Park
Craig Park	North Anclote Park	Skyway Fishing Pier State Park	Bay Vista Park
Fred Howard Park Anclot	e Key Preserve State Park	Grandview Park	Lassing Park
Sunset Beach Park	Three Rooker Bar	Demen's Landing	North Shore Park
Live Oak Park	Pop Stansell Park	Coffee Pot Bayou Park	Crisp Park
Honeymoon I sland State Park		Map 6 GPS Coordinates	30
Map 1 GPS Coordinates	4	·	
•		Map 7	34
Map 2	9	Demen's Landing	North Shore Park
Live Oak Park	Pop Stansell Park	Coffee Pot Bayou Park	Crisp Park
Honeymoon I sland State Park	Dunedin Causeway	Weedon I sland Preserve	Gandy Boulevard Causeway
Dunedin Youth Guild Park Dunedin Marina		4 <sup>th</sup> Street North/Gateway Prese	erve
Caladesi I sland State Park	Stevenson Creek	Map 7 GPS Coordinates	35
Seminole Street Boat Ramp	Memorial Causeway	·	
Mandalay Park	Sand Key Park	Map 8	38
Map 2 GPS Coordinates	10	Allen's Creek	Myron A. Smith Bayview Park
		Cooper's Bayou	Safety Harbor Municipal Marina
Map 3	15	Mobbly Bayou Preserve	Philippe Park
Belleair Causeway	Park Boulevard Boat Ramp	Map 8 GPS Coordinates	39
Boca Ciega Millennium Park	Del Bello Park		
Lake Seminole Park Joe	's Creek Management Area	Points of Interest	42
War Veterans Memorial Park			
Map 3 GPS Coordinates	16	Interesting Plants and Animals in the Area	
Map 4	21	Safety Tips	47
War Veterans Memorial Park	Jungle Prada Park		
Downtown Gulfport	Clam Bayou Nature Park	Camping Guidelines & Additional Ir	mportant Supplies48
Maximo Park			
Map 4 GPS Coordinates	22	Useful Phone Numbers and Web L	inks49

# FLORIDA CIRCUMNAVIGATIONAL SALTWATER PADDLING TRAIL

The State of Florida, through the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT), has designated a saltwater paddling trail that follows the coastline of Florida, stretching from Big Lagoon State Park in the Panhandle, south to the Keys, and continuing north up the eastern coast to Fort Clinch State Park near the Georgia border. Comprehensive maps and trail segment descriptions of the designated route are available from the OGT website shown at the bottom of this page.

The route of the Circumnavigational Trail is segmented so that those paddlers who do not wish to paddle the entire route in one trip will be able to easily research their section of interest. OGT hopes the Circumnavigational Trail will help educate paddlers by highlighting the diverse environment that Florida has to offer, especially the 37 aquatic preserves traversed by the Trail. Paddlers on the Trail also have access to almost all of Florida's coastal parks, historic sites and recreation areas.

Segment 8, the portion of the Circumnavigational Trail located along the Pinellas County coast, begins at Anclote Key on the Pasco/Pinellas County border and continues south past Fort DeSoto Park toward Egmont Key. The Trail generally follows the Intracoastal Waterway side of the local barrier islands. The route is highlighted on Maps 1 though 5 of the Guide to Pinellas County Blueways as it follows the Gulf coast from north to south. Areas that may be of interest to a sea kayaker traversing the Pinellas County segment of the Trail are also highlighted in the Guide.

For more information, please visit the State of Florida Office of Greenways and Trails website at <a href="http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/paddling/saltwater.htm">http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/paddling/saltwater.htm</a>. This site provides the most up-to-date information regarding the Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail.

# PINELLAS COUNTY BLUEWAYS GUIDE LEGEND



**Beach Shower** 



NO LANDING



Restaurant



Camping



**Parking** 



**Restrooms** 



Canoe/Kayak Launch



Pay Phone



Wildlife Observation



Canoe/Kayak Rentals



**Picnic Tables** 



**BBQ** Grill



Concessions



Point of Interest



Water Fountain



**Groceries** 



Post Office



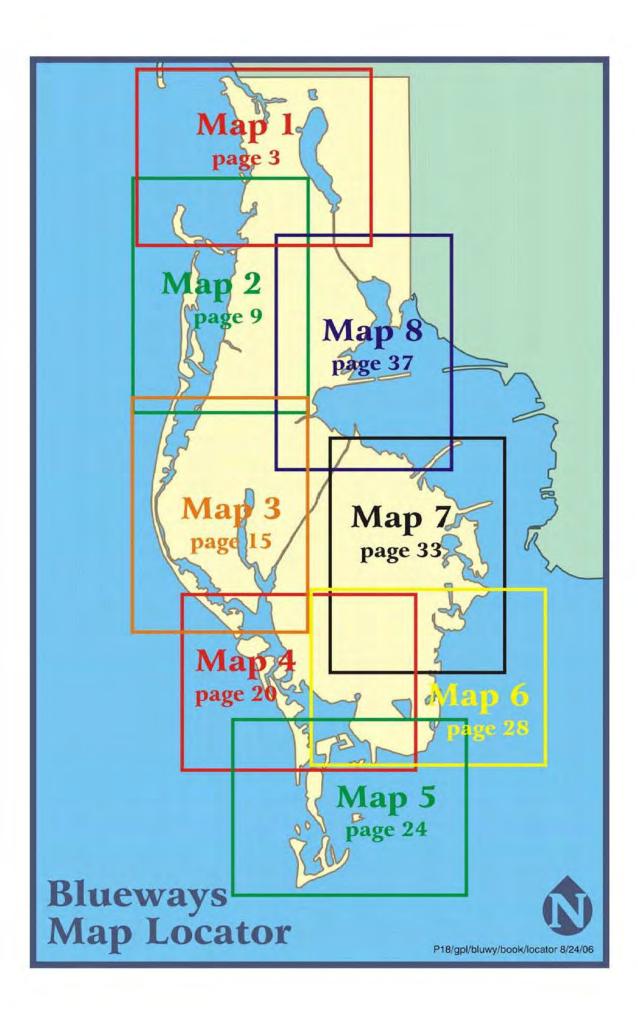
**Shelters** 

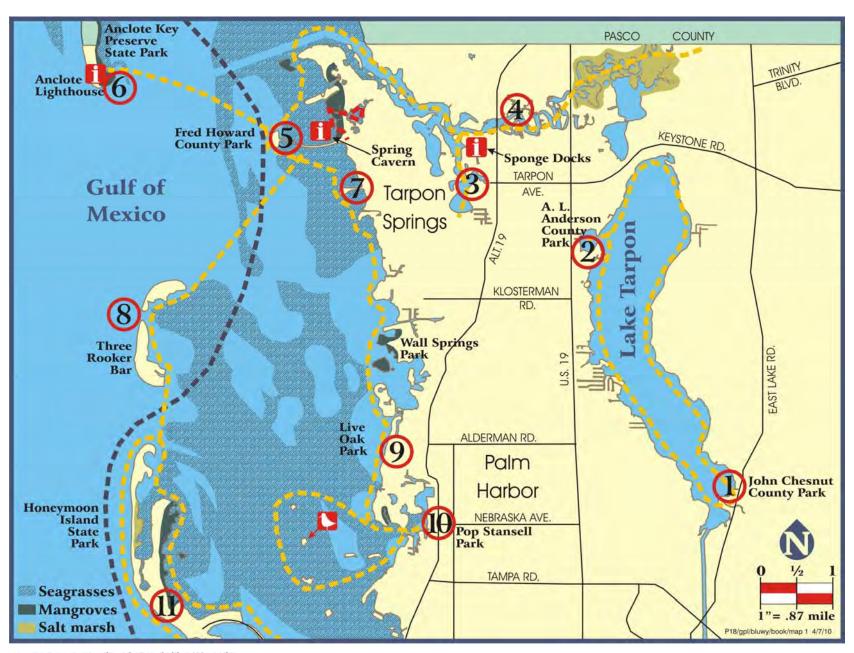


Hotel/Motels



Motor Boat Launch





Marked Paddle Trails
 Unmarked Paddle Trails
 Florida Circumnavigational
 Salt Water Paddling Trail

MAP 1

# MAP 1: GPS Coordinates for Highlighted Features Reachable from Launch Points\*

1.	John Chesnut Park	28.05.183'	082.42.081′
	Tarpon Turtle Rest.	28.08.770′	082.43.682'
	•		
2.	Anderson Park	28.08.006	082.44.280′
	Tarpon Turtle Rest.	28.08.770 <sup>′</sup>	082.43.682'
	·		
3.	Craig Park	28.08.761'	082.45.721′
	Sponge Harbor Point	28.10.225'	082.48.056'
	Piney Point	28.09.569	082.47.268′
	Alt. 19 Bridge Over rive	r 28.09.574	082.44.361'
	-		
4.	North Anclote River	N28.09.631	w082.44.774
5.	Howard Park Marked		
	Trail Put-In	28.09.321'	082.47.452'
	Mouth of Lake Avoca	28.09.623'	082.47.631'
	Appox. Center of		
	Lake Avoca	28.09.367'	082.47.527'
	Piney Point	28.09.569'	082.47.268'
6.	Anclote Lighthouse	28.09.922'	082.50.441'
7.	Sunset Beach	28.08.633'	082.47.403'
8.	Three Rooker Bar	28.06.832'	082.50.368'
9.	Live Oak Park	28.05.528'	082.46.872'
	Seaside Point Pier	28.04.855	082.47.091

10. Pop Stansell Park	28.04.741'	082.46.285'
From Park:		
1st Spoil I sland	28.04.385'	082.46.921'
Way PT. 008		
2nd Spoil Island	28.04.403'	082.47.306'
Way Pt. 009		
3rd Spoil Island	28.04.539'	082.47.957'
Way Pt. 010 (rookery)		
4th Spoil I sland	28.04.927'	082.48.275'
Way Pt. 011		
5th Spoil I sland	28.05.365'	082.48.275'
Way Pt. 012	00 05 7501	000 40 0771
6th Spoil I sland	28.05.753'	082.48.377'
Way Pt. 013		
11. Honeymoon I sland	N28.03.670 <sup>7</sup>	W082.49.796'



<sup>\*</sup>Please see launch point descriptions for details.

### JOHN CHESNUT PARK

2200 East Lake Road, Palm Harbor













This Pinellas County Park covers approximately 255 acres and is located directly on Lake Tarpon. Raccoons, alligators, various waterfowl, hawks, vultures, tortoises/turtles, snakes, etc. reside in this park and provide interesting viewing for nature enthusiasts and families. This park is a popular launching site for several fishing tournaments each year, so motorized boat traffic can be heavy, especially on the weekends. Launching is available from the concrete boat ramp and parking is available during daylight hours only. The Tarpon Turtle Restaurant is accessible in the northwest

Park Telephone: (727) 669-1951.

#### 2. A.L. ANDERSON PARK 36699 US Hwy. 19, Tarpon Springs











corner of the lake and has water access via docks.



This 129-acre Pinellas County Park is characterized by hilly terrain, wooded areas, and beautiful vistas overlooking Salmon Bay and Lake Tarpon. With direct access to Lake Tarpon, paddlers have the opportunity to view a large variety of wildlife; fish, alligators, shorebirds, raccoons, snakes and turtles, to name a few. Launching is available at the motorized boat ramp or from a sandy area to the left of the boat ramp (look for a sign designating canoe and kayak launching). Motorized boat traffic can be heavy on the Lake, especially on the weekends. Parking is available during daylight hours only. Follow the shoreline to the north and you will arrive at the Tarpon Turtle restaurant, located in the northwest corner of Lake Tarpon. This restaurant has access via docks and is open seven days a week.

Park Telephone: (727) 943-4085.

#### CRAIG PARK 3.

5 Beekman Way, Tarpon Springs



This park is maintained by the City of Tarpon Springs and is located along Spring Bayou. While the park is surrounded mostly by a seawall, there is a boat ramp that can be utilized for canoe and kayak launching. Restrooms are available at the adjacent Recreation Center and there are lodging facilities within walking distance of the park. Spring Bayou is the site of the yearly Epiphany celebration in Tarpon Springs, a centerpiece of the Greek Orthodox religion. Leaving Spring Bayou and heading east, you will enter the Anclote River and find the Sponge Docks of Tarpon Springs. There are not any locations to "land" here, but from the water you can get an interesting perspective of the sponge industry. The Anclote River is home to a thriving commercial fishing and boating industry. Marinas line the northern side of the river while residential development is common on the southern side. Further upriver, beyond the U.S. Alt. 19 bridge, you will come to North Anclote Park on the northern side of the river. This makes a nice location to rest or have a picnic lunch. If you choose to continue upriver, you will come to a salt marsh environment, the largest of only a few in Pinellas County, which lines the banks of the river.

Park telephone: (727) 937-0838.

# NORTH ANCLOTE PARK

(No Facilities)

# 550 Old Dixie Highway, Tarpon Springs

Paddlers can use this City of Tarpon Springs Park as a landing site only. The park offers certain amenities, but they are located roughly one mile inland at the park's main entrance. There is no vehicle access to the waterfront. City of Tarpon Springs Parks Dept. (727) 942-5628.

# FRED HOWARD PARK 1700 Sunset Drive, Tarpon Springs















This Pinellas County Park consists of 155 acres and is located on the Gulf of Mexico. Howard Park's location provides access to the Gulf of Mexico by a mile long causeway where canoes and kayaks can launch. Ospreys, herons and eagles may be viewed by park visitors as they fish for food in the surrounding waters. Dolphins, sting rays and occasionally manatees are seen in the area. The park also offers 2.5 miles of marked canoe trails through the mangrove tunnels in the northern portion of the park. These marked trails are tidally influenced. There is also a spring cavern located just west of Howard Park, north of the causeway. Paddle north from Howard Park, following the coastline to the northeast past Piney Point and around Sponge Harbor Point and you will enter the Anclote River. Approximately one mile upriver, you will come to the Tarpon Springs Sponge Docks, home to the local sponge industry. Paddling from Howard Park to the northwest will take you across an approximate 2.5 mile stretch of open water to Anclote Key. Be aware of weather conditions for the day as there is no where to stop and seek shelter if you happen to encounter a fast-moving storm. Telephone: (727) 943-4081.

# ANCLOTE KEY PRESERVE STATE PARK

# Tarpon Springs











This Florida State Preserve is home to at least 43 species of birds, including the bald eagle and the American oystercatcher. This barrier island is an important location for bird-nesting and is accessible only by watercraft. Anclote Key is also the site of a restored, historic lighthouse, once used to guide boats into the Anclote River. The location of this preserve in the Gulf of Mexico allows for excellent fishing and shelling opportunities. Visitors must bring all necessary supplies to the park as amenities are limited. To reach this park, you are required to traverse a 2.5 mile stretch of open water. This area can be the site of rough water. Paddlers should be aware of the conditions and ensure that their watercraft is seaworthy enough to make the trip. Also, severe weather is common on summer afternoons in Pinellas County. Check local weather reports before heading out and prepare to be back to the mainland by early afternoon in the summer. The summer storms are fast-moving and can develop without much warning posing a particular risk when paddling such a great distance over open water. There is no charge for overnight stays in the primitive campground, but campers must first check-in by calling the park before arrival.

Park Telephone: (727) 469-5942

# SUNSET BEACH PARK 1800 Gulf Road, Tarpon Springs















This City of Tarpon Springs Park offers direct access to the Gulf of Mexico via its causeway and beach areas. Overnight parking is allowed at the site, but the gates lock at sunset. Be advised to inform the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department (727-582-6200) if you intend to leave your vehicle in the park overnight. From this launch, paddlers can either remain along the coastline or venture out into more open water to reach Three Rooker Bar. If remaining along the coastline, travel south and witness the variety of homes lining the waterfront. Pinellas County's Wall Springs Park is located along the shoreline roughly two miles south of the launch point. Wall Springs does not currently have any takeout points, but with a number of mangrove islands along its shoreline, there are excellent wildlife viewing opportunities in the area. Be aware of tide levels in this area as it is possible to become grounded here in an outgoing tide. If paddling out to Three Rooker, be aware of the large volume of motorized boat traffic that may be present in this area, especially on the weekends. Cross boating channels with caution. If leaving the coastline, be prepared to return to the mainland by early afternoon because of fast moving storms which may develop during the summer months. City of Tarpon Springs Parks Dept.: (727) 942-5628.

THREE ROOKER BAR (No Facilities)

Part of the Anclote Key Preserve State Park, this island is completely natural, without facilities and only accessible by watercraft. Three Rooker is an example of how barrier islands change and shift over time with the currents. Once a small hook-shaped island, Three Rooker became one long, curved land mass, but the island has recently split into two pieces at its center. Because this island has a large bird nesting colony, dogs are not allowed at any time and people are asked to observe wildlife from a distance. Wildlife viewing opportunities include dolphins, shore birds and pelicans. This island is accessible from a number of launch points, including the Dunedin Causeway and Howard Park. Be aware of potential rough water surrounding the island, especially on the Gulf side. Also, be aware of weather conditions as fast-moving storms can develop quickly during summer. Be prepared to return to the mainland by early afternoon in the summer months.

Park Telephone: (727) 469-5942.

## LIVE OAK PARK

600 Crystal Beach Avenue, Palm Harbor











This is a Pinellas County Neighborhood Park located on the Intracoastal Waterway, with easy access to the Gulf of Mexico. Kayak launching is available only in designated areas on the beach; look for signage. This facility is located within a short distance of many wildlife-viewing areas, including numerous spoil islands, a bird rookery where landing is not allowed, and expansive beds of seagrasses. There are also many homes lining the waterfront with various types of architecture. If you paddle north from this park, you will come to Pinellas County's Wall Springs Park. Wall Springs does not currently have any take-out points, but with a number of mangrove islands along its shoreline, there are excellent wildlife viewing opportunities in the area. Be aware of tide levels in this area as it is possible to become grounded here in an outgoing tide. South of Live Oak Park is the Seaside Point Pier and the Crystal Beach public

waterfront. Live Oak Park offers limited facilities. A post office is located within a short distance of the park (420 Crystal Beach Avenue) and there are several restaurants located along US Alternate 19, only a few blocks from the water. The Park is operated by the Pinellas County Parks Department (727) 464-3347.

# 10. POP STANSELL PARK

757 Florida Avenue, Palm Harbor

















Pop Stansell is a Pinellas County Neighborhood Park offering direct access to the Intracoastal Waterway. Launching at this park is available from the sandy beach. Many power boats use this area also, creating a potential parking and safety issue on weekends. Leaving the launch area, and heading west, paddlers will encircle a number of spoil islands, one of which is reserved for bird nesting - please observe from a distance. The water surrounding these islands is a great area to look for fish, such as mullet, which jump from the water, and other aquatic wildlife. The seagrasses in the area also provide important habitat and feeding areas for aquatic life, including the manatee and dolphin. The shores running both north and south of this launch point are lined with large homes of varying architectural backgrounds, offering views of local and imported styles. The Park is operated by the Pinellas County Parks Department (727) 464-3347.



### 11. HONEYMOON ISLAND STATE PARK



















Maintained by the State of Florida, this park boasts several nature trails and bird observation areas. A \$1 fee is required if entering the park via kayak, \$5 for a vehicle. This park features such wildlife as sea turtles, which come onshore to lay their eggs from May through October, and shorebirds, where species such as least terns and oystercatchers come to lay their eggs. Park managers may rope off some areas in an effort to protect the birds and their nests. Shelling can also be very good because of the island's location in the currents of the Gulf. Parking is only available within the park during daylight hours. This island can be circumnavigated, but be aware of potential rough water on the Gulf side of the island and strong currents in the passes. The eastern side of the island is rich in seagrasses and mangroves, offering a great opportunity for wildlife viewing. Head north from the island and you will come to Three Rooker Bar, a totally natural and undeveloped barrier island only accessible by watercraft. Three Rooker is important for bird nesting and represents how barrier islands shift and change over time. Please observe wildlife from a distance. Park Telephone: (727) 469-5942.



Marked Paddle Trails
 Unmarked Paddle Trails
 Florida Circumnavigational
 Salt Water Paddling Trail

MAP 2

MAP 2: GPS Coordinates for Highlighted Features Reachable from Launch Points\*

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

Caladesi Is. Mangrove

Trail #2

End Caladesi Is. Trail #2

9.	Live Oak Park	28.05.528'	082.46.872'
	Seaside Point Pier	28.04.855'	082.47.091'
10.	Pop Stansell Park28.04 From Park:	.741'	082.46.285'
	1st Spoil Island Way PT. 008	28.04.385'	082.46.921'
	2nd Spoil Island Way Pt. 009	28.04.403'	082.47.306'
	3rd Spoil I sland Way Pt. 010 (rookery)	28.04.539'	082.47.957'
	4th Spoil I sland Way Pt. 011	28.04.927'	082.48.275'
	5th Spoil Island Way Pt. 012	28.05.365'	082.48.275'
	6th Spoil I sland Way Pt. 013	28.05.753'	082.48.377'
11.	Honeymoon I sland	N28.03.670′	W082.49.796′
12.	Dunedin Causeway (near rentals)	28.03.406'	082.48.483'
13.	Dunedin Youth Guild Park	N 28.02.123'	W 082.47.071′
14.	Dunedin Marina	28.00.692	082.47.630′
15.	Caladesi I sland Caladesi I s. Marina Caladesi I s. Mangrove	28.01.149' 28.01.924'	082.49.581' 082.49.156'
	Trail #1 End Caladesi Is.	28.01.924	082.49.156'
	Trail #1	28.01.911'	082.49.099'

Blueways

**Map Locator** 

28.01.481'

28.00.687'

082.48.913'

082.49.043'

Portage over South Public access no longer available Stevenson Creek Seminole Street Boat Ramp 27.58.443' 082.48.168 Mandalay Park 27.57.474 082.49.936' Memorial Causeway 27.58.621' 082.49.366' Sand Key Park 27.57.440' 082.49.936'

<sup>\*</sup>Please see launch point descriptions for details

#### 9. LIVE OAK PARK



See Park description on page 7

#### 10. POP STANSELL PARK



See Park description on page 8

# 11. HONEYMOON ISLAND STATE PARK



See Park description on page 8

# 12. DUNEDIN CAUSEWAY



This causeway connects the City of Dunedin mainland to Honeymoon I sland State Park and is under the management of Pinellas County. The causeway features parking and sandy beaches stretching almost its entire length, providing plenty of water access for canoe and kayaks. Camping is available on nearby spoil islands, but be aware of 'no landing' signs indicating off-limit bird rookeries. Rental facilities are available on the causeway's southern side. Overnight parking is allowed through the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, (call 727-582-6200) permit process, free of charge. North of the causeway is Honeymoon I sland. This island is home to a large bird-nesting population and a number of other sea animals, including the sea turtle. South of the Causeway is Caladesi Island. Accessible only by watercraft, Caladesi is an undeveloped island covered in native vegetation and surrounded by mangroves. On the northeastern side of the

island is an entry for the Caladesi Marina. Follow this trail (be careful to stay outside of the boat channel) to the southeastern portion of the marina. Here, you will find the beginning of a three-mile marked canoe and kayak trail through the mangrove tunnels. There are excellent wildlife viewing opportunities; look out for mangrove crabs and the occasional manatee outside of the tunnels. Under the management of the City of Dunedin Parks Division (727) 298-3278.

# 13. DUNEDIN YOUTH GUILD PARK 604 Buena Vista Drive North, Dunedin



A City of Dunedin Park, this facility features a canoe and kayak launching dock located on a canal with access to the Intracoastal Waterway. Tides heavily influence this launching area. Some portaging may be necessary when the tide is low. Parking is available during daylight hours only. Once you launch, turn west and head out of the canal into the Intracoastal Waterway. To the south and the west of the canal entrance, you will find a series of spoil islands. One of these islands is a bird rookery, so please, enjoy from a distance. These islands offer excellent wildlife viewing opportunities, as well as the surrounding waters which are rich with seagrass beds and provide vital habitat to a variety of shorebirds and fish. (727) 298-3278.

#### 14. DUNEDIN MARINA

51 Main Street, Dunedin



Owned and operated by the City of Dunedin, this marina provides boat ramp, sandy beach and floating dock access to canoes and kayaks. Launching from this location offers access to Caladesi Island to the west, Honeymoon Island to the northwest, and a number of spoil islands throughout the Intracoastal Waterway. Kayak racks are available adjacent to the floating dock for storage of kayaks. There is both a hotel and a restaurant within the marina and overnight parking is allowed near Edgewater Park (eastern edge of the marina). There are also a number of restaurants and local shops within walking distance of the launching area. This area is popular with motorized boaters and there can be very heavy traffic, especially on the weekends. Primitive camping is available on certain spoil islands in the Intracoastal Waterway, but be aware of 'no landing' signs indicating a bird rookery on some of them. (727) 298-3030.

#### 15. CALADESI ISLAND STATE PARK



















Named the #1 natural beach in the nation in 2008, this Florida State Park is one of only a few remaining natural islands in Florida. The island is accessible only by watercraft via a 108-slip marina with sandy beach and floating dock access for canoes and kayaks. The marina creates a high volume of motorized boat traffic, especially on the weekends. Be aware of channel crossings. The island features a three-mile marked canoe and kayak trail through the mangrove tunnels, which begins at the southeast corner of the marina and travels through the eastern side of the island. If you would like to circumnavigate Caladesi, there is a short portage on the southern tip of the island. A hurricane closed this pass a few years ago and the island is now connected with Clearwater Beach to the south. There is also a three-mile upland nature trail and a number of surrounding spoil islands. The waters along the eastern side of the island are lush with seagrass beds, encouraging the presence of marine mammals and numerous species of fish. The island itself is home to a number of nesting birds, including pelicans, snowy egrets and blue herons. There is a \$1 fee for landing within the park.

Park Telephone: (727) 469-5918.

# 16. STEVENSON CREEK US Alt. 19 North/Sunset Point Road, Clearwater

Public access is no longer available at this launch point.

# 17. SEMINOLE ST. BOAT RAMP Seminole Street/ US Alt 19 North, Clearwater













This public boat ramp facility is owned and operated by the City of Clearwater and offers direct access to the Intracoastal Waterway. There is a sandy beach area off to the right of the boat ramps for canoe and kayak access. From here a number of spoil islands can be explored, along with Caladesi Island. This facility can see large numbers of motorized water craft, especially on the weekends, and a channel crossing is necessary to reach Caladesi Island, so use caution. Parking is available 24 hours per day and may be limited on the weekends because of the high traffic volume at this site. Clearwater Parks & Recreation: (727) 562-4800.

#### 18. MANDALAY PARK

69 Bay Esplanade, Clearwater Beach













This park is owned and operated by the City of Clearwater and offers boat ramp access to the Intracoastal Waterway and a sandy beach for access to the Gulf. Turn north from the boat ramp and head towards Caladesi Island and multiple spoil islands. Caladesi is actually connected with Clearwater Beach because of a hurricane which closed this pass several years ago. The island and the surrounding islands are lined with mangroves on its eastern side and offer a multitude of wildlife viewing opportunities. There is metered parking available at the launch site during daylight hours only. A convenience store and post office are located nearby. Park Telephone: (727) 462-6138.

# 19. MEMORIAL CAUSEWAY Clearwater Beach



This Causeway is under the management of the Florida Department of Transportation and offers a sandy beach for canoes and kayaks to launch from on its southern side. Parking is undesignated and free on the side of the causeway. From here, exploration possibilities include a number of spoil islands (including a few bird rookeries) where landing is not allowed and Caladesi Island. To reach Caladesi, paddle north from the Causeway, following the Clearwater Beach eastern coastline until you reach the unspoiled nature of Caladesi. Once two separate islands, Caladesi Island and Clearwater Beach were connected following a hurricane several years ago. The spoil islands in the Intracoastal Waterway offer opportunities for bird watching, but be aware of those islands marked as bird rookeries and please observe from a distance. South of the launch site is Pinellas County's Sand Key Park. Be cautious if crossing the pass because of strong currents. Also be aware of posted channel markers and motorized boats. The marina facility near the launch site can create a high volume of traffic in the area, especially on the weekends. Clearwater Parks & Recreation: (727) 562-4800.

# 20. SAND KEY PARK 1060 Gulf Boulevard, Clearwater



















This Pinellas County Park's natural communities include a beach where sea turtles annually deposit eggs. A salt marsh with viewing benches further enhances the park, where heron, roseate spoonbill, great horned owl, anhinga, and common moorhen nest and feed. North of this park is Clearwater Beach and the Memorial Causeway. If you paddle east under the bridge and towards downtown Clearwater, you will come to a number of spoil islands. These islands offer excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing, including a number of fish and shorebirds. One of these islands is a bird rookery, so please look for signage and observe from a distance. Paddle south through the Intracoastal Waterway and you will come to more spoil islands, including two more bird rookeries. On the eastern bank of the Intracoastal Waterway, look for the historic Belleview Biltmore Hotel.

There is no landing allowed on the Biltmore property, but the site can be observed from the water. Lining the coast you will also see a great number of impressive homes of varying architectural styles. Sand Key Park provides direct access to the Gulf of Mexico. Please be aware that launching is from the beach and requires portage from the parking lot. Access to the Intracoastal Waterway is via Clearwater Pass. Boat traffic in the Pass can be heavy and currents strong. Metered parking is available during daylight hours only. Sand Key Park Telephone: (727) 588-4852.



MAP 3: GPS Coordinates for Highlighted Features Reachable from Launch Points\*

21.	Belleair Causeway	27.52.602′	082.35.668′
22.	Park Blvd. Boat Ramp	27.50.562′	082.50.335′
23.	Boca Ciega Millennium Park	27.49.912′	082.48.699′
24.	Del Bello Park	N27.49.858′	W082.49.866'
25.	Lake Seminole Boat Ramp	27.50.680'	082.46.671'
26.	Joe's Creek Landing/ Take-Out Joe's Creek Entrance	27.50.031' 27.50.228'	082.44.822' 082.45.176'
27.	War Veterans Memorial Park Launch	27.48.021'	082.46.211'



<sup>\*</sup> Please see launch point descriptions for details





## 21. BELLEAIR CAUSEWAY

West Bay Drive, Belleair Bluffs















Belleair Causeway is under the management of Pinellas County and offers a sandy beach for landing and parking. The adjacent boat ramp facility offers overnight parking and a number of amenities. This area can be subject to heavy motorized boat traffic, especially on the weekends. Paddle north from the Causeway and you will come to a number of spoil islands in the Intracoastal Waterway. These islands are home to a variety of shorebirds and have large fish populations in the water surrounding them. Two of islands are bird rookeries so please be aware of signage and observe from a distance. Keep an eye out for the historic Belleview Biltmore Hotel on the eastern shore of the Intracoastal Waterway (a description of the local landmark is on page 41). There is no landing allowed on the Biltmore property, but the site can be observed from the water. South of the causeway are more spoil islands, including one bird rookery. Continuing south, you will enter "the Narrows," named for the very narrow width of the Intracoastal Waterway for a two mile stretch. Here, please use caution as the current can be strong and motorized boat traffic can be heavy. At the end of the Narrows is the Park Boulevard Boat Ramp. Lining the coast in this area, you can view a

number of impressive homes. There are also mangroves lining much of the eastern coastline, offering excellent

Boat Ramp Telephone: (727) 588-4847.

wildlife viewing opportunities.

# 22. PARK BOULEVARD BOAT RAMP Park Blvd./Gulf Blvd., Indian Shores









This boat ramp is owned and operated by Pinellas County and offers direct access to the Intracoastal Waterway, including a number of spoil islands. Overnight parking is available in the boat ramp parking lot. Paddle north of this site and enter an area called 'The Narrows', where the width of the Intracoastal Waterway becomes very narrow. Heavy motorized boat use in this area can cause a hazard to small craft. Paddle south from the boat ramp and follow the eastern coastline around the shoreline and you will notice that the water becomes very shallow. Here, you can spot many varieties of fish and jellyfish. Boca Ciega Millennium Park is located to the east of the boat ramp, once you leave the Narrows. This park is lined with mangroves on the waterfront which support a diverse marine population. Continuing along the shoreline past Millennium Park, you will come to War Veterans Memorial Park and the entrance to the Cross Bayou Canal and Long Bayou. Keep an eye out for dolphins and manatees in these areas as well as a large variety of shorebirds.

Boat Ramp Telephone: (727) 549-6165.

## 23. BOCA CIEGA MILLENNIUM PARK

12410 - 74<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Seminole















The Florida Native Plant Society has recognized this 185acre Pinellas County Park for its use of native plant species in landscaping. The park's natural communities include pine flatwoods, coastal oak hammock, mangrove swamp, salt marsh, bay head and wetlands. A wide variety of Florida vegetation and wildlife highlights Boca Ciega Millennium Park's delightful environs. Keep an eye out for large numbers of jellyfish near the launching area and to the west of the park, along the coast. The launch area features a sandy beach area and a canoe/kayak washing station. It is tidally influenced, so some short portaging may be necessary to reach Boca Ciega Bay. Primitive camping is available on the spoil island directly south of the launching area. Upon leaving the short tunnel to reach the Bay, paddle to the west and follow the coastline. Here, you will have the opportunity to view a wide variety of fish. Continue towards the west and soon you will come to the Narrows; a very narrow stretch of the Intracoastal Waterway. Turning north into the Intracoastal Waterway will bring you to the Park Boulevard Boat Ramp. Along the coastline, look for a wide variety of impressive homes of varying architectural styles. Paddle to the east following the coastline and soon you will arrive at War Veterans Memorial Park and the entrance to the Cross Bayou Canal, an area frequented by

Park Telephone: (727) 588-4882.

dolphins and manatees.

#### 24. DEL BELLO PARK

17925 Gulf Boulevard, Redington Shores













Owned and operated by the City of Redington Shores, this park provides direct access to the Intracoastal Waterway, via a floating dock. When launching from this site, paddle out of the basin and turn north to travel through the "Narrows". Be alert, as motorized boat traffic can be heavy in this area, and the passage is narrow, providing little protection to paddlers. Paddle to the east, and you will come to Boca Ciega Millennium Park, heavy with mangroves and seagrass beds. This park is home to a large variety of wading birds and fish species that thrive off of the vegetation in the area. Paddle southeast and you will enter Boca Ciega Bay. Continue through the Bay to reach War Veterans Memorial Park, Jungle Prada and Cross Bayou. Dolphins are known to frequent this area so keep an eye out for them playing in the water. There are no facilities within the park, but there is a convenience store with a pay phone, a County park with restrooms, showers and water fountains, a motel and a restaurant, all within a short walking distance of the park. Parking is free and is available 24 hours along Gulf Blvd. City of Redington Shores: (727) 397-5538.

# 25. LAKE SEMINOLE PARK 10015 Park Boulevard, Seminole















Lake Seminole Park is owned and operated by Pinellas County and covers more than 250 acres. Lake Seminole Park is a designated wildlife habitat and sanctuary. Raccoons, alligators, various waterfowl, hawks, bald eagles, black vultures, tortoises/turtles, snakes, etc. reside in this park, and provide viewing opportunities for nature enthusiasts and families. The canoe/kayak launching area is directly south of the boat ramp and features a sandy beach area. Parking is available during daylight hours only. After launching, turn towards the north and paddle along the shoreline of the park. Here, you can observe a wide variety of the wildlife. Further to the north and to the west, you will see a variety of waterfront homes of varying architectural styles.

Park Telephone: (727) 549-6156.

# 26. JOE'S CREEK MGMT AREA Landing Site Only Park Blvd. / 78th Street North, St. Petersburg

This area is under the management of Pinellas County. The Management Area features a number of spoil islands and undeveloped banks with the opportunity to view various native birds and fish. There is a landing area along Joe's Creek on the northern bank of the waterway. Tides influence the entire Management Area, which may not be accessible in times of low tide. This area is rich with vegetation and fosters a diverse marine environment. Here, you can find excellent wildlife viewing opportunities, observing a number of shorebirds and fish species. This landing site can be reached from both War Veterans and Jungle Prada Park; paddle north into Cross Bayou and turn east into Joe's Creek. The landing site is approximately onehalf mile into the creek, on the northern bank.

# 27. WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK 9600 Bay Pines Boulevard, St. Petersburg

















War Veterans' Park is owned and operated by Pinellas County and consists of 122 acres located on Boca Ciega Bay with access to the Gulf of Mexico. This park is close to Cross Bayou, Long Bayou and Joe's Creek to the north. After you launch, keep an eye out for dolphins and manatees which have a tendency to frequent this area. Paddle towards the north from the launch point and pass by the motorized boat ramp. Be aware of channel markers as motorized boat traffic can be heavy in the area, especially on the weekends. Once you cross under the bridge (Bay Pines Boulevard), you will enter Long Bayou. If you paddle to the northwest, you will come upon a KOA Kampground (727-392-2233) with access to the water. Be aware of numerous oyster beds in this area, especially at low tide. If you want to stay overnight, reservations are recommended. To the northeast is the Cross Bayou canal. This area has a number of spoil islands and vegetation communities, and offers excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing, including dolphins, manatees, egrets and various species of shorebirds. Continue to paddle through the canal and you will come to the entry for Joe's Creek Management Area. This Pinellas County property is host to a variety of species of animals including birds and fish. There is a landing site roughly onehalf mile from the entrance to the creek if you choose to stop and rest. This area can be tidally influenced. From this launch site, it is also possible to circumnavigate Treasure Island. Paddle south/southwest from the launch point (be aware of boat traffic) and enter the Gulf of Mexico through John's Pass (see page 41 for more information on this historic fishing village). Use caution as the current in the pass can be very strong and boat traffic can be very heavy. Once in the Gulf, paddle south along the coastline and view the many hotels and condominiums from the water. Keep an eye out for dolphin fishing for dinner off of the

beach. Re-enter Boca Ciega Bay through Blind Pass at the southern tip of Treasure Island; this pass separates Treasure Island from St. Pete Beach. This area also can have very strong currents, so use caution. Return to the launch point by navigating around the dredged canals, heading to the north/northwest. Overnight parking in War Veterans Park is available at the boat ramp only. The launching area is a sandy beach next to Shelter #5.

Park Telephone: (727) 549-6165.



Marked Paddle Trails
 Unmarked Paddle Trails
 Florida Circumnavigational
 Salt Water Paddling Trail

MAP 4

# MAP 4: GPS Coordinates for Highlighted Features Reachable from Launch Points\*

27. War Veterans Memorial

Park Launch 27.48.021' 082.46.211'

28. Jungle Prada Park 27.47.230' 082.45.265'

Bird Rookery

(near Jungle Prada) 27.48.151' 082.45.602'

29. Downtown Gulfport 27.44.255' 082.42.427'

30. Clam Bayou Nature

Park 27.44.442' 082.41.661' Indian Key 27.42.261' 082.41.385'

31. Maximo Park 27.42.608' 082.41.055'

Indian Key 27.42.261' 082.41.385'



<sup>\*</sup> Please see launch point descriptions for details.

#### 27. WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK















See Park description on page 19

# 28. JUNGLE PRADA PARK Park Street / Elbow Lane North, St. Petersburg







Jungle Prada Park is a small, passive community park owned and operated by the City of St. Petersburg. Jungle Prada has a lengthy history in the City. This park, and the building north, was the site of a commercial complex, complete with a pool, tennis courts and St. Petersburg's first nightclub. It was at this club that Al Capone would visit, Babe Ruth was married and Duke Ellington would entertain. Today, the building houses Saffron's restaurant, complete with an Al Capone dining room and a safe the restaurant claims to have belonged to Al Capone and that has never been opened. This park features boat ramp access and a gravel/rock launching site located on the left side of the large parking lot. Direct access is offered to the Intracoastal Waterway with excellent wildlife viewing opportunities in the area. Paddle northwest from the launch site and in just over one mile, you will come to a bird rookery with many pelicans, please observe from a distance. Continue to the northwest to reach Pinellas County's War Veterans Park. North of this park is the entrance to Long Bayou and the Cross Bayou Canal. Dolphins and hawks can also be seen in the area. It is important to be aware of oyster bars, especially when the tide is low. There is a restaurant located north of Jungle Prada Park and overnight parking is available. City of St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation Department: (727) 893-7335.

#### 29. DOWNTOWN GULFPORT

















The City of Gulfport maintains a small beach park in its downtown. There is plenty of free parking along the streets of this quaint, Old-Florida style community. This beach area offers direct access to the Intracoastal Waterway and numerous opportunities for wildlife viewing. Pelicans, shorebirds, manta rays and dolphins have all been seen in this area. This beach park offers many amenities, along with nearby restaurants and a convenience store, all within walking distance. The nearby Clam Bayou Nature Park offers even more potential for wildlife sightings. To reach to the park, paddle east along the shoreline and you will find the bayou before the shoreline turns to the south. Next to the preserve is the Gulfport Municipal Marina, with such amenities as restrooms and a bait shop. City of Gulfport Parks Department: (727) 893-1067.

# 30. CLAM BAYOU NATURE PARK Miriam Street / 29th Avenue South, Gulfport











Clam Bayou is an estuary where freshwater flows into the salty water of the bay. Here, you can view hermit crabs, ducks, pelicans, nesting egrets, mangrove crabs, manatees, dolphins and a wide variety of fish. Alligators and gopher tortoises have also been spotted in this area. Be aware of oyster beds, especially at low tide. This Park is maintained by both the City of Gulfport and the City of St. Petersburg, with launching areas on both Miriam St. S. in Gulfport, and across the water on 34th Ave. S. in St. Petersburg. Both launches offer crushed shell surfaces. These launches also offer access to Indian Key, part of the Pinellas National Wildlife Refuge, where you can paddle through the mangroves and observe the mangrove crabs and numerous varieties of shorebirds. When launching, follow the shoreline to the south and under one of the Pinellas Bayway bridges. Southeast of these bridges you will see an island covered in mangroves; this is Indian Key. Be aware of motorized boat traffic in the area, especially on the weekends. Clam Bayou Nature Park Telephone: (727) 893-1067 or 893-7326.

#### 31. MAXIMO PARK

34th St. So. / Pinellas Point Dr, St. Petersburg 









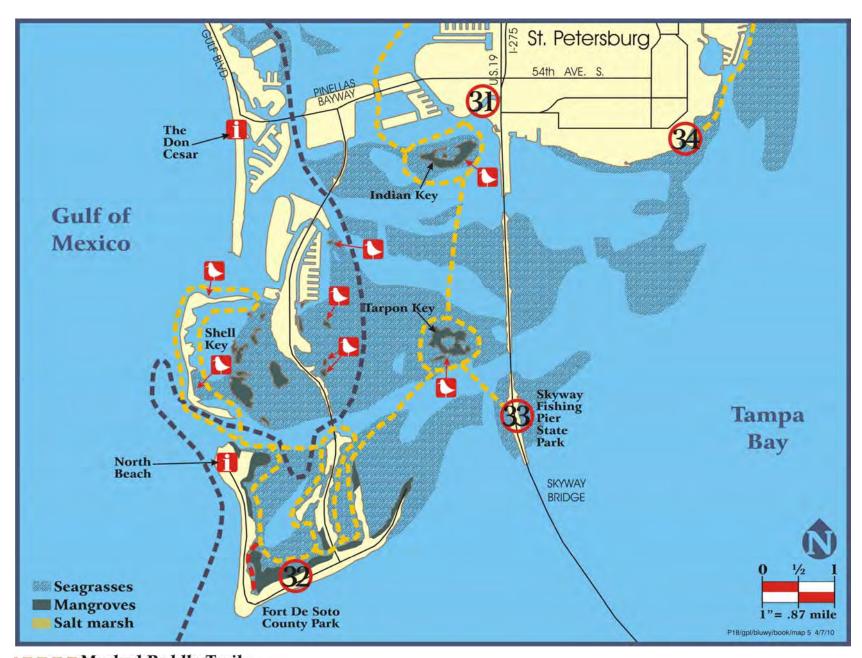




Maximo Park, owned and operated by the City of St. Petersburg, was built on an ancient Indian Mound, still visible in the southern end of the park. This park offers both a sandy beach for launching and a boat ramp that accesses Frenchman's Creek. There can be heavy motorized boat traffic from this site, especially on the weekends. From this park, it is an easy paddle south to Indian Key, part of the Pinellas National Wildlife Refuge (PNWR), where you can view numerous shorebirds and mangrove crabs. The area surrounding the refuge contains large quantities of seagrasses, contributing to the high numbers of fish, dolphins and manatees in the area. Frenchman's Creek is also known to have large numbers of manatees, especially in the winter months. Tarpon Key is the next large island south of Indian Key and, as part of the PNWR, offers paddlers additional wildlife viewing opportunities. (727) 893-7335.







MAP 5

MAP 5: GPS Coordinates for Highlighted Features Reachable from Launch Points\*

31.	Maximo Park I ndian Key	27.42.608' 27.42.261'	082.41.055' 082.41.385'
32.	Fort Desoto—No. Beach		
	Put-In	27.38.706'	082.44.488'
	Rest Location		
	(Shell Key)	27.40.457'	082.43.969'
	Billy's Restaurant-		
	Tierra Verde	27.40.492'	082.43.682'
	Fort Desoto Mangrove		
	Trail (not marked)	27.39.586'	082.43.634'
33.	Blackthorn Memorial	N27.38.951 <sup>′</sup>	W082.40.615'
34.	Bay Vista Park	27.42.224'	082.38.405'
	Coquina Key Park	27.44.257'	082.37.864'



<sup>\*</sup>Please see launch point descriptions for details.

# 31. MAXIMO PARK



See Park description on page 24

# 32. FORT DESOTO PARK 3500 Pinellas Bayway South, Tierra Verde



The largest park within the Pinellas County Park System, Fort DeSoto consists of 1,136 acres made up of five interconnected islands. The park's North Beach was named the #1 Beach in America in 2005. The park also features a 238-site campground and a historic fort used in the Spanish-American War. Launching here offers numerous wildlife-viewing opportunities. Paddle the park's 2.5 mile marked trail and view shorebirds, fish, dolphins, manatees and three different types of mangroves. Shell Key Preserve is north of Fort DeSoto, and here you can view nesting shorebirds and turtles, or camp in the primitive camping area on the southern end of the island in the public use area. No-cost camping permits are available online at www.pinellascounty.org/environment.

For more information regarding plant and animal life in the Shell Key Preserve, please visit:

http://www.pinellascounty.org/Environment/pagesHTML/envLands/el6000.html

From Shell Key, continue around Tierra Verde to the north and then to the east and you will come to the Tierra Verde Marina. Entering the small channel just east of Shell Key will bring you to Billy's Restaurant and some small shops. There are also numerous spoil islands in the area north of Fort De Soto and east of Shell Key where wildlife is plentiful. This area is also rich in seagrasses, contributing to the abundance of wildlife.

South of Fort DeSoto is Egmont Key State Park. Reaching this site requires the crossing of a major shipping channel that is subject to strong currents and is only recommended for experienced paddlers. Launching from North Beach is suggested for this trip. When crossing to Egmont Key, be aware of rough water. Check the local weather forecast before putting-in. In the summer months, fast-moving storms can quickly develop, often doing so in the afternoon, and can pose a threat to those paddling in such open water. Be prepared to be off of the water before early afternoon if planning this trip.

Launching is also available from the park's 30-lane boat ramp facility, the largest in the County. This boat ramp is used heavily by motorized boats, as is the channel leading to the Gulf. Be aware of the heavy traffic, especially on the weekends. A 35¢ toll is required to drive to the park. There is also a short, unmarked mangrove trail only open at high tide (see GPS locations).

Park Telephone: (727) 582-2267.

#### 33. BLACKTHORN MEMORIAL











Located on the North section of the Sunshine Skyway Fishing Pier State Park, this site is maintained by the Florida Department of Transportation. A memorial onsite commemorates the sinking of the Coast Guard cutter Blackthorn near this location in 1980. There is a sandy beach area next to the parking lot on the western side of the pier where launching is available. There is a \$1 toll to access the pier. Paddle northwest from this launch to Tarpon Key, part of the Pinellas National Wildlife Refuge. Seagrasses surround this key, creating a diverse ecosystem featuring dolphins, manatees, and a number of shorebirds and fish.



#### 33. BAY VISTA PARK

7000 - 4th Street, St. Petersburg















Bay Vista is part of the City of St. Petersburg Parks system. It offers access to Tampa Bay and the southeastern Pinellas County shoreline. There is a concrete boat ramp within the park, and a sandy area just to the left of the entrance for launching. There can be heavy boat traffic from this site, especially on the weekends. This area can be heavily influenced by the tides, especially to the southeast of the park where there are a number of salt flats. Manatees are common in this area, along with dolphins and a wide variety of fish and shorebirds, including pelicans, osprey and sting rays. The salt flats to the southeast offer some of the best fishing opportunities in the area. There is a bird rookery to the north, just south of Coquina Key at the entrance to Little Bayou. This island is home to a large population of pelicans, please observe from a distance. Coquina Key Park is located on the northern side of the Key and offers an excellent location to rest. Parking at Bay Vista is available during daylight hours only. (727) 893-7124.



Marked Paddle Trails
 Unmarked Paddle Trails
 Florida Circumnavigational
 Salt Water Paddling Trail

MAP 6

MAP 6: GPS Coordinates for Highlighted Features Reachable from Launch Points\*

29.

Gulfport Beach

Clam Bayou Nature Park



27.44.255'

27.44.442'

082.42.427'

082.41.661'

Clam Bayou Nature 30. Park 27.44.442' 082.41.661' Indian Key 27.42.261' 082.41.385' 31. Maximo Park 27.42.6081 082.41.055' Indian Key 27.42.261' 082.41.385' 34. Bay Vista Park 27.42.224' 082.38.405' Coquina Key Park 27.44.257' 082.37.864' Coquina Key Park 27.44.257' 082.37.864' 34. 35. Lassing Park 27.46.239' 082.37.812' Demen's Landing 27.46.290' 082.37.697 37. North Shore Park 27.46.889' 082.37.495' 38. St. Pete Pier 082.37.378' 27.46.436' 39. Coffee Pot Bayou Boat Ramp 27.48.018' 082.38.007 40. Crisp Park N 27.48.266' W 082.37.599'

<sup>\*</sup>Please see launch point descriptions for details.

### 29. DOWNTOWN GULFPORT



See Park description on page 23

#### 30. CLAM BAYOU NATURE PARK



See Park description on page 23

#### 31. MAXIMO PARK



See Park description on page 24

#### 32. FORT DESOTO PARK



See Park description on page 27

# 33. BLACKTHORN MEMORIAL



See Park description on page 28

# 34. BAY VISTA PARK



See Park description on page 28

#### 35. GRANDVIEW PARK

6<sup>TH</sup> Street / 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, St. Petersburg











A City of St. Petersburg passive park featuring boat ramp access to the water, Grandview offers direct access to Tampa Bay through a waterway known as Big Bayou. There is a small sandy area where launching is possible; look for the break in the mangroves where a number of dinghies are sitting. These boats are used by those mooring in the Bayou to reach the mainland. This area experiences some heavy motorized boat traffic, especially on the weekends. Just outside of Big Bayou lies a large field of seagrass beds, encouraging a variety of fish and shorebirds along the water's edge. Dolphins and manatees are also known to frequent the area. Not far from this location is downtown St. Petersburg, where there are a number of restaurants, hotels and attractions within walking distance of the water. Parking is allowed during daylight hours only. Coquina Key is located right across the Bayou from the launch and the park on the northern side offers an excellent place to rest. St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation Dept: (727) 893-7335.

# 36. LASSING PARK

(No Facilities)

# Beach Drive / 18<sup>th</sup> Way S.E., St. Petersburg

Lassing Park is a waterfront beach park maintained by the City of St. Petersburg, without amenities or designated parking. Parking is available along the street in the neighborhood. This park provides access to Tampa Bay and a number of other St. Petersburg locations, including the downtown area where paddlers can find a number of restaurants and hotels within walking distance of the water.

This site can also be a great picnic or resting site if launching from other locations in the area. City of St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation Dept: (727) 893-7335.

#### 36. DEMEN'S LANDING

Bayshore Dr. / 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South, St. Petersburg





















This City of St. Petersburg Park is located downtown next to the St. Petersburg Pier. This site features many amenities and is within walking distance of numerous hotels, restaurants and attractions. The historic open air post office is also located within walking distance at 76 4<sup>th</sup> St. North. Boat ramp access is available for launching and there is ample free parking within the park. Overnight parking is available. After launching, paddle north of the marina and you will see the St. Petersburg Pier (for a complete description see page 42). North of the Pier, you will pass North Shore Park and enter Coffee Pot Bayou where you will see a pelican island just past the first bridge; please observe this rookery from a distance. South of Demen's Landing is the Port of St. Petersburg. In the southwest corner of the port is the entrance to Salt Creek. This creek once flowed through to Lake Maggiore, currently a freshwater Lake. Along the sides of the creek you will see the heart of St. Petersburg's ship and boat repair industry. Continue further south from the port, and you will pass Lassing Park, Big Bayou and Coguina Key. The coastlines here are rich in seagrass beds and offer excellent wildlife viewing opportunities. The homes along the coast are also impressive and are of varying architectural styles. City of St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation Dept: (727) 893-7335.

### 38. NORTH SHORE PARK

North Shore Dr/ 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.E., St. Petersburg









Maintained by the City of St. Petersburg, this park features a large sandy beach area where launching is available. Parking within this park is plentiful, free and available during daylight hours only. This park offers access to Tampa Bay and gives paddlers great views of downtown St. Petersburg from the water. One can view the St. Petersburg Pier, the Vinoy Hotel, and other historic views. Travel north from the park and enter Coffee Pot Bayou. In this body of water, you can find a bird rookery consisting of a large pelican population, please observe from a distance. Manatees, dolphins and a wide variety of fish and shorebirds also frequent the area. Motorized boat traffic is low in the bayou because of low bridges, but can be guite high near the launch point. South of the launch point you will pass downtown St. Petersburg and the Port of St. Petersburg. City of St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation Department: (727) 893-7335.

#### 39. COFFEE POT BAYOU PARK

1<sup>st</sup> St/31<sup>st</sup> Avenue N.E., St. Petersburg













Owned and operated by the City of St. Petersburg, this park offers boat ramp access at the top of Coffee Pot Bayou. This area is a common place to find manatees, and a wide variety of fish and shorebirds. About 0.75 mile south of the launch is a bird rookery, "Pelican Island", that is home to large population of pelicans, please observe from a distance. Boat traffic within this area is light because of low bridges, but can become quite heavy when entering Tampa Bay. Be aware of the channel crossings. South of Coffee Pot Bayou is downtown St. Petersburg. Once entering the bay, St. Petersburg Pier and the Vinoy Hotel can be seen to the south. There are restaurants and a grocery store within walking distance of Coffee Pot Park, further north on 1st Street. City of St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation Department: (727) 893-7335.



#### 40. CRISP PARK

Poplar/35th Avenue, N.E., St. Petersburg



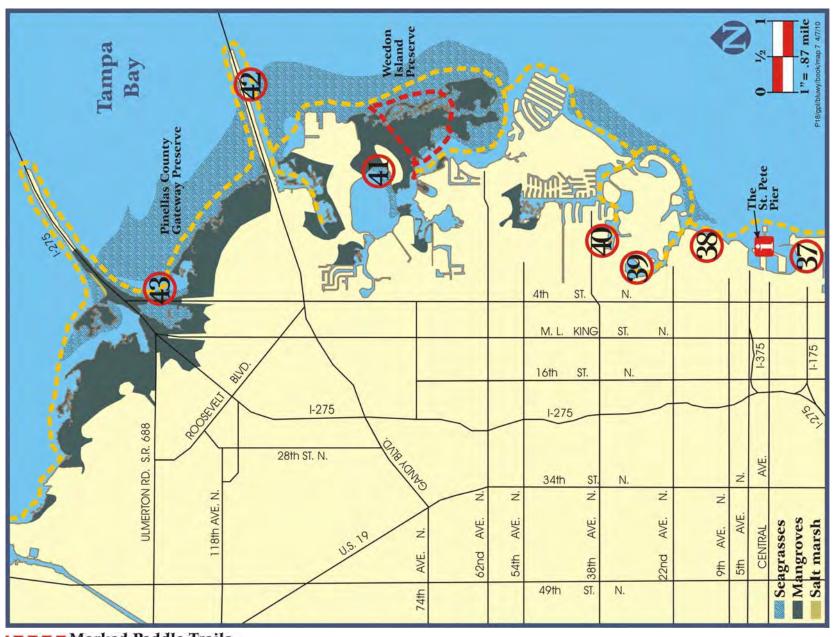








This City of St. Petersburg Park offers boat ramp access to Tampa Bay. Travel first through the channel and out along the residential coastline of Snell Isle and Shore Acres. Follow the channel to the east and then the south to reach Tampa Bay. A number of species of fish and birds inhabit these channels, co-existing with the large population of people along the water's edge. If you head north in Tampa Bay, you will come to Weedon Island Preserve, home to countless numbers of fish, shorebirds, dolphins, manatees and other animals. Head south in the bay and you will come to downtown St. Petersburg. Parking is available in Crisp Park during daylight hours only. City of St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation Department: (727) 893-7335.



Marked Paddle Trails
 Unmarked Paddle Trails
 Florida Circumnavigational
 Salt Water Paddling Trail

Map 7

MAP 7: GPS Coordinates for Highlighted Features Reachable from Launch Points\*

37.	Demen's Landing	27.46.290'	082.37.697
38.	North Shore Park St. Pete Pier	27.46.889' 27.46.436'	082.37.495' 082.37.378'
39.	Coffee Pot Bayou Boat Ramp	27.48.018'	082.38.007
40.	Crisp Park	N 27.48.266′	W 082.37.599'
41.	Weedon I sland Preserve	N 27.50.653′	W 082.36.658'
42.	Gandy Blvd Causeway (south side) (north side)	27.52.280' 27.52.602'	082.36.552' 082.35.668'
43.	4 <sup>th</sup> Street Launch Site	27.53.681′082.38.363′	



<sup>\*</sup>Please see launch point descriptions for details.

#### 37. DEMEN'S LANDING



See Park description on page 32

#### 38. NORTH SHORE PARK



See Park description on page 32

#### 39 COFFEE POT BAYOU PARK



See Park description on page 32

#### 40. CRISP PARK



See Park description on page 33

# 41. WEEDON ISLAND PRESERVE

1800 Weedon Drive N.E., St. Petersburg



This preserve, owned and operated by Pinellas County, contains approximately 3,100 acres of natural habitat, including mangrove swamps, intertidal flats and pine

flatwood uplands. Home to many different species of wildlife and plants, wildlife and nature viewing is at its best here. Tortoises, shorebirds, dolphins, manatees, mangrove crabs, stingrays, jellyfish and jumping mullet are just a few among the many species of animals found among the Weedon I sland ecosystem. On land, Weedon I sland has an extensive network of boardwalks and trails throughout the various habitats, as well as an Interpretive Center where people can learn about the natural and cultural history and environment of the Preserve. A marked canoe/kayak trail is available that leads through the groomed mangrove tunnels and into the shallow waters among the mangrove islands. The tunnels open into small, shallow lagoons in several places, offering excellent fishing opportunities. Combustion engines are prohibited on the east side of the Preserve, allowing a very diverse natural ecosystem to thrive. Keep an eye out for manatees in the shallow waters around the island, especially near the power plant on the northern part of the island. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated part of the surrounding area to the north of the power plant as a manatee sanctuary. Boating of any kind is restricted there, and watercraft are not allowed in the area between November 15 and March 31. Please observe regulatory signs. The mangrove tunnels through Weedon Island are very tidally influenced, and it is possible to become trapped in them during a receding tide. Mosquitoes can also be a problem within the tunnel system. The launching area offers a floating dock and a small, sandy beach to the left of the launch site. Parking is available during daylight hours only and only in designated parking areas. (727) 453-6500. For more information regarding the plant and animal life, please visit:

http://www.pinellascounty.org/Environment/pagesHTML/envLands/el6000.html

# 42. GANDY BOULEVARD CAUSEWAY Gandy Boulevard, St. Petersburg





This Causeway is under the management of Pinellas County and offers sandy beach areas for launching along both the northern and southern sides. There is also a bait shop and boat ramp access at the nearby Gandy Bridge marina, which charges a \$5 fee for use. This launch offers direct access to the north Weedon Island area. If launching from the south side of the Causeway, head south towards the power plant for possible manatee viewing, especially in the winter months. Please heed regulatory signs and avoid the accessrestricted manatee sanctuary. Head west among the spoil islands and look out for numerous horseshoe crabs, snook, sting rays and a variety of shorebirds in the area. Mangrove tunnels are located at marker #3, where you can spot mangrove crabs along the prop roots on each side of you and above your head. If launching from the north side of the causeway, follow the coast along the Pinellas County Gateway Preserve. Here, there are wide areas of seagrass beds, encouraging the diverse ecosystem. Dolphins, manatees, and a variety of fish and shorebirds reside here. There are also a number of oyster bars in the area which can be exposed in times of low tide. Parking is undesignated and along the causeway.

43. 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET NORTH/GATEWAY PRESERVE 4<sup>th</sup> St N/Howard Frankland Approach, St. Petersburg



Under the management of the Florida Department of Transportation, launching is available along 4<sup>th</sup> Street North at any of the breaks in the mangroves. Each break offers a

sandy beach surface and access to the Pinellas County Gateway Preserve. The protected waters close to the roadway are rich in seagrasses, fish and shorebirds. In those waters a bit further out, manatees and dolphins can often be seen. Paddle to the west along the shoreline and you will come to the St. Petersburg/Clearwater International Airport and the entrance to the northern end of the Cross Bayou Canal. Parking is undesignated along the causeway and launching is available wherever there is a break in the mangroves. Please do not disturb the mangroves or bird life.







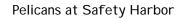
Marked Paddle Trails
 Unmarked Paddle Trails
 Florida Circumnavigational
 Salt Water Paddling Trail

Map 8

MAP 8: GPS Coordinates for Highlighted Features Reachable from Launch Points

44.	Allen's Creek Launch Site	Public access no longer available	
45.	Myron A. Smith Bayview Park	N 27.57.489	W082.42.585
46.	Cooper's Bayou Park End of Cooper's Bayou	27.58.386' 27.57.914'	082.41.819' 082.42.229'
47.	Safety Harbor Marina	27.59.322'	082.41.181
48.	R.E. Olds Park Philippe Park	28.01.848' 28.00.187'	082.40.210 082.41.343'
49.	Mobbly Bayou Preserve Entrance to	28.01.585′	082.39.531′
	Mobbly Bayou	28.01.147′	082.38.987′









Boat Launch at Philippe Park

<sup>\*</sup> Please see launch point descriptions for details.

# 44. ALLEN'S CREEK 17900 US Hwy. 19, St. Petersburg

Public access is no longer available at this launch point.

# 45. MYRON A. SMITH BAYVIEW PARK 3035 Gulf-to-Bay Boulevard, Clearwater









Located immediately west of the north end of the Bayside Bridge, this City of Clearwater Park was designated for passive daytime recreational use. Amenities include limited parking, a small sand beach about 100 yards from the parking area, a drinking fountain, benches, trash cans and a one-half mile scenic walking trail with two shade shelters and many large oak trees. The area is tidally influenced and may be more difficult to access during low tide. From here, paddle east and north along the coastline, passing under the Bayside Bridge and the Courtney Campbell Causeway to enter Upper Tampa Bay for access to Safety Harbor and Parking is available in Bayview Park during daylight hours only. City of Clearwater Parks & Recreation.: (727) 562-4800.

# 46. COOPER'S BAYOU PARK 709 Bayshore Boulevard, Clearwater





The City of Clearwater developed this park for passive recreation along the waterfront, with few amenities but many scenic views. Launching is available on the hard mud surfaces along the waterfront where there are breaks in the mangroves, in the north and south portions of the park. The sides of the bank are steep towards the north. Launching from the park puts you right in the middle of Cooper's Bayou. This area is a tidally influenced body of water that is lined with mangroves and rich in biodiversity. A number of fish inhabit the waters here and shorebirds thrive along the water's edge as well as several oyster beds along the waterfront. Egrets, hawks and stingrays have all been known to frequent the area. From here, paddle north along the coastline for easy access to downtown Safety Harbor and Upper Tampa Bay. Along the waterfront are vast expanses of seagrasses, so keep an eye out for manatees and dolphins in this area. South of this bayou is the Courtney Campbell Causeway. Paddle under the Causeway and follow the shoreline to the west and south to access Allen's Creek. Amenities include parking, a designated canoe/kayak launch area, a drinking fountain, benches, trash cans and a "misty" shower. The Ream Wilson Clearwater East-West Trail also runs through the park. Clearwater Parks & Recreation: (727) 562-4800.

# 47. SAFETY HARBOR MUNICIPAL MARINA Bayshore Boulevard/Main Street, Safety Harbor



















Owned and operated by the City of Safety Harbor, this marina offers both boat ramp and a sand/rock launch access to Upper Tampa Bay and Safety Harbor. Located at the east end of Main Street in downtown Safety Harbor, this launching site is within a close distance to a number of restaurants, stores and the historic Safety Harbor Resort and Spa. In Upper Tampa Bay and Safety Harbor, keep an eye out for manatees and dolphins. Also, a wide variety of fish and shore birds inhabit this area as it is rich in seagrasses that sustain the wildlife population. Paddle north of the launch site and follow the coast to reach Philippe Park. From here, you can circumnavigate the harbor or cross the water to the Mobbly Bayou Preserve. Overnight parking is available with a free pass from the Community Center. A post office is located within walking distance at 303 Main Street. Safety Harbor Marina telephone: (727) 724-1572.

#### 48. PHILIPPE PARK

2525 Philippe Parkway, Safety Harbor











Pinellas County owns and operates this 122-acre park, shaded by large oaks and other hardwood trees. Offering direct access to Old Tampa Bay, Philippe Park has both sandy beach and boat ramp access to the water. An ancient Indian mound is located in the south of the park near the beach launching area. Across the water is the Mobbly Bayou Preserve. This Preserve is home to a number of species of animals and plants and provides excellent wildlife viewing opportunities. In the Bay you can often find manatees and dolphins, and pelicans are almost always perched on the electricity towers crossing the Bay just south of the Park. Near the shore, keep an eye out for stingrays and jellyfish. Parking is available during daylight hours only within the park. The City of Oldsmar operates two parks on the other side of the Bay, one is passive, and the other (R.E. Olds) has restroom and water facilities, and is available as a resting place. Look for the blue roof of the gazebo.

Park Telephone: (727) 669-1947.

# 49. MOBBLY BAYOU PRESERVE 423 Lafayette Boulevard, Oldsmar









The City of Oldsmar maintains a small boat launch and two floating docks that allow access to Mobbly Bayou, Upper Tampa Bay and Safety Harbor. This Preserve is home to a variety of animals, including fish, shorebirds, raccoons and rabbits. Manatees and dolphins are a common sight in the Bayou, with mangroves lining the waterfront of this Preserve. Some of these areas are still under development and future improvements are planned, including a large-scale ecosystem restoration project. Paddle through the bayou and enter the Bay on the eastern-most part of Pinellas County. Follow the coastline to the south to skirt the Preserve, entering Safety Harbor after rounding the point. Here, you can circumnavigate the Harbor, or cross the water to reach Philippe Park or downtown Safety Harbor just a little to the south. Parking at the Preserve is available during daylight hours only. The surrounding waterways are very tidally influenced. Telephone: (813) 749-1263.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

#### Anclote Key Lighthouse (Map 1)



The Anclote Key Lighthouse was built in 1887, designed to mark the entrance into the Anclote River. The lighthouse was serviced by a series of keepers living on the island, until its automation by the U.S. Coast Guard in 1952. Following its automation, vandalism caused the lighthouse to fall into disrepair, and it was

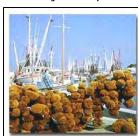
decommissioned in 1984. The Lighthouse was re-lit in 2003 following a campaign by the Gulf Islands Alliance Citizen Support Organization and is maintained once again by a keeper (park ranger) living on the island.

#### Spring Cavern near Howard Park (Map 1)

This natural spring is located about 200 yards due north of the second bridge from the mainland on the Howard Park Causeway. If you plan to dive this sink, it is important to do so at high tide and to make sure that you have a diving flag signifying your position. There can be heavy traffic by wave-runners in this area, especially on the weekends.

#### Tarpon Springs Sponge Docks (Map 1)

The Sponge Docks is the site of one of the leading natural sponge industries in the world. Here, all aspects of the sponge industry take place, including the harvesting of the sponges and



weekly auctions to wholesalers. Located in the "Sponge Capital of the World," these docks have created a lively tourism industry, being the focal point for over 100 shops and many restaurants, featuring some of the most authentic Greek cuisine in Florida.

#### Belleview Biltmore (Map 3)

Located in the Town of Belleair, this historic site has been operating as a hotel since 1897, serving such guests as the Studebakers, the DuPonts, the Vanderbilts, and Margaret Thatcher. Known as the



"White Queen of the Gulf", this hotel was once completely self-sufficient, with its own post office, police department and fire department. It is reputed to be the world's largest occupied wooden structure. The Biltmore was named to the National Registry of Historic Places in 1979 and boasts an Olympic sized swimming pool, 18-hole golf course and red clay tennis courts.

### John's Pass Village (Map 4)

This quaint fishing village at the south end of Madeira Beach features a 1,100-foot long boardwalk, 100 retailers – with unique shopping, cruise lines, a variety of restaurants, boat rentals, jet skiing, and parasailing – and the local fishing fleet. This site is home to the legend of Pirate John LeVeque, who is believed to have buried his treasure on Madeira Beach in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Upon returning for his treasure after a hurricane, LeVeque found that the beach had been washed away and a Pass was created between what is now Madeira Beach and Treasure I sland. LeVeque stayed in the area, fishing and swimming the waters and searching for his treasure. John's Pass is named for LeVeque in honor of his discovery of the area and for the treasure he never found again.

#### The Don Cesar (Maps 4 & 5)

Built in 1924 by Thomas Rowe, the Don Cesar fulfilled his dream to build a pink castle. The 'Don' has hosted a number of rich and famous guests, including F. Scott Fitzgerald, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Al Capone. Facing financial troubles during the Depression, the New York Yankees signed a 3-year contract with the Don to house the players during spring training, bringing in substantial funds and an entourage of sports writers and editors, nearly filling the hotel to capacity and saving the Don from closure. In 1944, the US Army seized the hotel and used it as a convalescence center for troops wounded in the battlefield. The Army left in 1945, but the hotel was subsequently taken over by the



Veteran's Administration and other government offices, before being vacated and falling into severe disrepair. The hotel was refurbished and re-opened in 1973, being named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975, and continues to operate as a hotel to this day.

#### North Beach (Map 5)

In 2005, Stephen Leatherman (Dr. Beach) named North Beach in Fort DeSoto County Park 'America's Best Beach'. Beaches are the number one recreational destination for Americans. This all natural and undeveloped beach offers vast stretches of white sand and natural vegetation. At high tide, the beach may become an island of its own, requiring a pleasant wade out to its pristine sand.



The St. Petersburg Pier (Maps 6 & 7)



The Pier has been a landmark in downtown St. Petersburg since 1899. Renovated as the 'Million Dollar Pier' in 1926, and again in 1973 as the inverted pyramid that it is today, the Pier has stood for over a century as a gateway to St. Petersburg from the sea. Today, the Pier houses an aquarium, several restaurants and a number of specialty shops. Fishing is a popular pastime along the approach to the building, with rod rentals and bait for sale at the Pier bait house. Dolphin watching tours operate daily from the Pier on chartered boats. On the landside, downtown St. Petersburg – with its large number of sports venues, hotels, retail shops and museums – offers many diversions.

#### INTERESTING PLANTS AND ANIMALS IN THE AREA

#### WEST INDIAN MANATEE



Manatees can often be seen in the coastal waters surrounding Pinellas County. If you happen to spot a manatee, please contact the Pinellas County Manatee Watch Line at (727) 464-4077. The Watch Line is an important

tool used to identify area locations frequented by the manatee. Manatees have an average length of 10 feet and weigh 800-1200 pounds. Manatees can be found living in freshwater, brackish or marine environments and are herbivorous (feeding on plant material), consuming 80-100 pounds of vegetation daily. These gentle marine mammals are the source of the legendary "mermaids of the sea". Today, the West Indian Manatee is classified as a Federally endangered species and is threatened by boat and barge traffic, flood control structures, loss of habitat, pollution, and carelessly thrown trash and fishing gear. As these mammals are protected, do not harass or feed them.

#### AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER

Around Pinellas County, you will encounter a number of oyster beds. The beds are found where currents can carry particles of food to the oysters. When oyster larvae are produced, it is carried in the current and attaches to another oyster to grow.

This creates clusters of oysters, or the beds that you see in the water. The American Oystercatcher is a shorebird which preys upon the oyster beds, along with crabs and starfish.



#### **MANGROVES**



There are three species of mangroves common to Florida that can be seen along the Pinellas County coastline. Red mangroves grow along the shore and are often referred to as walking trees because their <u>prop</u> roots give the appearance of walking. Behind these, grow the black mangroves, which

are identifiable by their numerous finger-like projections called pneumatophores. These pneumatophores protrude from the soil and help bring oxygen to the tree's roots. The white mangrove has light yellow-green leaves which are oval and have two small glands at the base of each leaf blade. Mangroves are essential to the environment of Pinellas County, providing organic matter to feed fish life and encourage a diverse aquatic habitat. Mangroves also filter human pollution and protect the mainland of Pinellas County from flooding associated with storm surge.

#### **BOTTLENOSE DOLPHINS**

This type of dolphin is common to the waters surrounding

Pinellas County and resides in groups called "communities" which tend to remain within the same general location for a number of generations. Dolphin feed on a variety of fish, including mullet, pinfish and pigfish.



#### **ALLIGATORS**



Alligators are present in virtually every freshwater body of water in the region. These prehistoric reptiles are normally afraid of humans and will keep their distance. It is illegal to feed alligators because it causes them to lose their

natural fear of humans and, as a result, they may begin to associate humans with food. Be careful during the month of May, which is peak mating season for alligators, as they may become territorial. Alligators can be dangerous; do not approach or harass them.

#### **STINGRAYS**

This animal is common in the shallow waters around the Pinellas County coastline. Stingrays feed from the bottom of the sea floor and can be seen floating, or 'flying', through the water. Stingrays are not



aggressive, but will 'sting' you with their tail if stepped on. Pinellas County advises those wading in the coastal waters to do the 'Stingray Shuffle', shuffling your feet and kicking up sand as you walk. Stingrays rest in the sand and can be difficult to spot if they have buried themselves.

#### FISH

There are a great number of species native to the coastal areas of Pinellas County. One species that you will often find close to the coast and in mangrove areas is the mullet. This fish is recognizable because it often takes flying leaps out of the water. In those shallow areas around Weedon Island and just outside of Boca Ciega Millennium Park, it seems that there is almost always a mullet jumping near you. Other varieties of fish to look for include striper, snook, and amberjack (in deeper water).

#### **HFRON**

The Great Blue Heron in Florida comes in two colors; gray and white. While they are the same



White Morph Heron

45

species of bird, the white morph colored heron is distinguishable by a solid white body, yellow beak and pale legs. The gray colored heron has a gray body, a white crown stripe and a black plume extending from behind the eye to behind the neck. Herons in general have a large body, an 'S' shaped neck and long legs. Herons gather in shallow, coastal waters where fish are abundant. It is not uncommon to find these birds in large groups in



Great Blue Heron

shallow waters near mangrove areas fishing for a meal. Herons are also known for incorporating other animals into their diet, including mice.

#### **EGRETS**



Snowy White Egret

The Great Egret is also known as a large, white heron. Common to the coastal waters of Pinellas County, these birds are similar to the white morph Great Blue heron, but slightly smaller in size. The egret has a white body with long black legs and feet. Its neck is 'S' shaped and its bill is long and yellow. The snowy white egret, distinguished by its yellow feet, is another bird

in the egret family common to the area. The Great Egret sustains itself mainly on fish and is the symbol of the National Audubon Society, one of the oldest environmental organizations in North America.

#### **BROWN PELICAN**

This variety of pelican is the only dark colored pelican out of

seven different types, and also the only one that dives from the air to catch its food in the water. The Brown Pelican is found on coastlines throughout Pinellas



County. In fact, there are a couple of 'pelican islands' located on the eastern side of the County, one south of Coquina Key and the other in Coffee Pot Bayou. The Brown Pelican is listed as a Species of Special Concern in Florida, as shooting the birds for feathers and to 'protect' the fish populations became commonplace in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Deaths attributed to pesticide poisoning, especially by DDT, was also a main contributor. Over the last few decades, however, the population numbers have begun to climb again and the brown pelican is gradually recovering.

#### WOODSTORK



This bird is large, long-legged wader with a long neck and a large, slightly curved bill. There are no feathers on the woodstork's head or neck, but it has plumed white feathers on its body and

black feathers on the bottoms of

its wings. This stork flies with its neck extended and feeds mainly off of coastal fish. This bird is listed as Endangered, because of its mangrove habitat decreasing due to wetland development.



#### ROSEATE SPOONBIL



This bird is listed as a Species of Special Concern in the State of Florida. Locally, they are commonly found in coastal mangrove or spoil islands. It is the only spoonbill species in the

Western Hemisphere and the only pink bird to breed in Florida. This bird is vulnerable to human disruption of its nesting colonies and to the alteration of its feeding habitats.

#### **GOPHER TORTOISE**



These herbivorous reptiles are classified as a Species of Special Concern by the State of Florida. The gopher tortoise is common in many upland habitats in Florida, including scrub, pine flatwoods and dunes along the

beach. The tortoise requires sandy soil for burrowing into the ground, small plants to eat and an open tree canopy to allow sunlight through. The burrow provides the tortoise with protection from predators, extreme heat conditions and stormy weather. The main threats to gopher tortoises today are habitat destruction, invasive species and an upper respiratory disease which has been spreading throughout the tortoise population.

#### **SEAGRASSES**

Seagrasses are submerged aquatic vegetation and an integral part of our local marine environment. A single acre of seagrass can produce 10 tons of leaves per year, which provide food, habitat and breeding areas for fish, shorebirds and aquatic mammals. These beds also provide protection to juvenile fish and dampen the effects of wave action on the coastline. When in seagrass areas use caution to not damage or otherwise harm this vegetation. The greatest threats to seagrasses come from pollution and propeller scarring. In Pinellas County, special seagrass protection areas exist around both Fort DeSoto Park and Weedon Island. St. Joseph's Harbor, between Tarpon Springs and Dunedin, is also heavily vegetated with seagrasses. Special precautions should be taken in these areas so as to not damage this vital habitat.

# **SAFETY**

#### WEATHER AND WATER CONDITIONS

- Summer storms can approach quickly and without warning, often in the afternoon. Check the local weather forecast before heading onto the water, and be sure that you leave sufficient time to return by early afternoon if you are traveling far from shore. Heed all small craft advisories when going out into all non-inland coastal water.
- Some of the launch sites and surrounding areas are tidally influenced. Check local tide charts before leaving.
- Currents can be very strong near the passes separating the barrier islands. Please use caution when crossing these passes.
- When traversing open water, water conditions may become rough quickly and canoes and kayaks may become swamped with water. Please use caution when paddling to such places at Anclote Key and ensure that your craft is seaworthy enough to travel the distance safely.
- Pinellas County has a large number of motorized boats. Motorized boat traffic can be heavy, especially on the weekends. Please use caution when crossing a channel; do so quickly and safely.
- Five short blasts on a whistle or horn is the international signal for an emergency.

#### REQUIRED GEAR

- Florida Law requires that a US Coast Guard Approved personal floatation device (PFD) be readily accessible and wearable at all times for each person in a watercraft. All persons under the age of 6 years are required to wear a PFD at all times when on the water.
- A marine whistle, bell or horn approved by the US Coast Guard must be within reach at all times in case of emergency.
- A Coast Guard Approved 360-degree white light is required of each boat for use after dusk.
- A Florida fishing license is required for persons aged 16 and older.
- All canoe motors must be registered with the State of Florida.
- All canoes longer than 16 feet must be titled.

#### CAMPING GUIDELINES

Camping is allowed on all spoil islands that are not designated as bird rookeries

- $\circ~$  Be aware of any posted signs or warnings before landing on an island Spoil islands offer primitive camping only
  - o Make sure that you have the tools to build yourself a pit toilet
  - o Only build fires in clear areas below the high tide line
  - o Do not destroy vegetation on the island to use for firewood; bring your own firewood or use driftwood along the shore
  - o Disperse the coals and ashes from your fire into the ocean before leaving

Follow the 'Leave No Trace' guidelines

- o Make sure that everything you bring onto an island is brought off with you when you leave; bring trash bags and double-check your area before leaving to ensure that you have everything that you came with
- o Leave the island exactly as you found it, leaving only footprints
- o For more information on 'Leave No Trace' guidelines, visit www.lnt.org

Bring plenty of potable water when camping

#### ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT SUPPLIES

At least one gallon of drinking water per-person per-day Binoculars

An extra paddle for each boat GPS System

First Aid kit Compass

Bow and Stern line Cell Phone

Flashlight Dry Bag

Insect Repellent Water Shoes

Sunglasses, Sunscreen, Hat Map

Change of dry clothes

# USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS AND WEB LINKS

#### **ASSISTANCE**

PINELLAS COUNTY INFORMATION

US Coast Guard - (727) 824-7534

Pinellas County Planning Department - (727) 464-8200 www.pinellascounty.org/planning

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office - (727) 582-6200

DIAL 911 FOR ALL EMERGENCIES

Pinellas County Parks Department - (727) 464- 3347

www.pinellascounty.org/parks

Florida Fish & Wildlife - (813) 272-2516

Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management

(727) 464-4761

FDEP Office of Greenways & Trails

www.pinellascounty.org/environment

Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail (850) 245-2052

Pinellas County Species List

www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/paddling/saltwater.htm

www.pinellascounty.org/environment/pagesHTML/envLands/el6000.html

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Manatee Watch Line - (727) 464-4077

NOAA Weather Service for Tampa Bay Area - (813) 645-2506

www.nhc.noaa.gov

Fishing License

1-888-FISH FLORI DA (888-347-4356)

www.floridaconservation.org/license.html

Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary - (727) 391-6211 www.seabirdsanctuary.org

Mote Marine Aquarium/Laboratory - (941) 388-4441

# Paddle Pimellas!

The Pinellas County Blueways Guide is also available online. Please visit <a href="https://www.pinellascounty.org/plan/blueways">www.pinellascounty.org/plan/blueways</a>



We are very interested in your input and appreciate your feedback. If you have any questions or ideas for improving this Guide, please email us at <a href="mailto:blueways@pinellascounty.org">blueways@pinellascounty.org</a>

If you would like to tell us about a specific launch site or paddle trail that is not included in this Guide, please visit our webpage at <a href="https://www.pinellascounty.org/plan/blueways">www.pinellascounty.org/plan/blueways</a> and click the Paddle Trail Log link to download a form that can be completed and mailed to:

Pinellas County Planning Department ATTN: Blueways Coordinator 600 Cleveland Street, Suite 750 Clearwater, FL 33755