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# Local Area Guide



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- Recreation Trails
- Area History
- Parks & Rec. Info
- Local Attractions
- Residential Services
- FWC License Centers
- Local Events

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Manatee County



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# Local Area Events



## JANUARY

- Martin Luther King Jr Celebration Banquet - Bradenton
- New Year Holiday Break Concert - Bradenton
- Seafood Festival - Bradenton
- Anna Maria Winter Arts & Craft Show - Holmes Beach
- Farmers Market - Lakewood Ranch (Year Round)
- Music on Main - Lakewood Ranch (1st Friday, Monthly)
- Manatee County Fair - Palmetto

## FEBRUARY - MARCH

- Fiddler Crab Festival - Bradenton
- Fine Arts Festival - Bradenton
- River Regatta - Bradenton
- Coquina Beach Market - Bradenton Beach (Mar-Dec)
- Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival
- Longboat Key Festival of the Arts
- I Heart My Community - Palmetto
- Realize Bradenton Artisan
- Pirates Spring Training - Bradenton
- North Manatee Kiwanis Beast Feast - Palmetto

## APRIL - MAY

- Desoto Seafood Festival - Bradenton
- Gulf Coast Rhythm & Ribs Fest - Bradenton
- Beach N' Food Truck & Music Festival - Holmes Beach
- Memorial Day Parade 7 Celebration - Lakewood Ranch
- Manatees Annual Taco Festival - Palmetto

## JUNE - JULY

- Live Music at Farmers Market - Anna Maria
- Annual Hoop It Up - Palmetto
- Classic Rock rewind Camp - Bradenton



- Fireworks Display - Downtown Bradenton

- 4th of July Fireworks - Manatee River; LECOM Park & Anna Maria Island
- Century Rock Camp - Bradenton
- Live Music on the Patio - Bradenton Beach
- Ellentons Back to School Bash
- 4thFest - Palmetto

## AUGUST - SEPTEMBER

- Annual Women's Event - Bayshore Gardens
- Walk For A Cure - Bradenton

## OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

- BayFest - Anna Maria Island
- The Hunsader Pumpkin Festival - Bradenton
- BooFest - Lakewood Ranch
- Ranch Nite Wednesdays - Lakewood Ranch (Oct-May)



- Longboat Key Triathlon & Duathlon
- Cortez Annual Stone Crab & Music Festival
- Festival of Skeletons - Bradenton
- Joyful Expressions Open Juried Show & Holiday Extravaganza - Bradenton

- Mixon Fruit Farms Harvest Festival - Bradenton
- Symphony on the Sand - Anna Maria Island

## DECEMBER

- Annual Holiday Party - Bayshore Gardens
- NYE Celebration - Bayshore Gardens
- K.O.P.S. (Kids & Officers Promoting Solidarity) Winter Night Out - Bayshore Gardens
- Pancake Breakfast - Bayshore Gardens
- Annual Nutcracker Ballet - Bradenton
- Blues Festival - Bradenton
- Bradenton Gulf Island Concert Series (Dec-Apr)
- Bradenton Riverwalk Holiday of the Arts Festival
- North Pole Express - Bradenton
- Old Manatee Candlelight Holiday Block Party - Bradenton
- Singing Christmas Tree - Bradenton
- Breakfast With Santa - Lakewood Ranch
- Deck the Halls - Lakewood Ranch
- Santa on Main - Lakewood Ranch
- Palmetto Gun Show
- Palmetto Winter Concert

*\*Events are subject to change*

# Residential Services

Clerk of Circuit Court.....	941-749-1800
Community & Veterans Services.....	941-749-3030
County Administration.....	941-745-3717
County Attorney.....	941-745-3750
County Extension & 4-H.....	941-722-4524
Financial Management.....	941-745-3730
Fire Department Bradenton.....	941-932-9600
Cedar Hammock.....	941-751-7090
East Manatee.....	941-751-5611
Longboat Key.....	941-316-1944
North River.....	941-721-6700
Parrish.....	941-721-2093
Southern Manatee.....	941-751-7615
West Manatee.....	941-761-1555
Human Resources.....	941-748-4501 X3865
Manatee Animal Control.....	941-747-5943
Natural Resources.....	941-742-5923 X6001
Sports & Leisure Services.....	941-742-5923
GIS.....	941-748-4501

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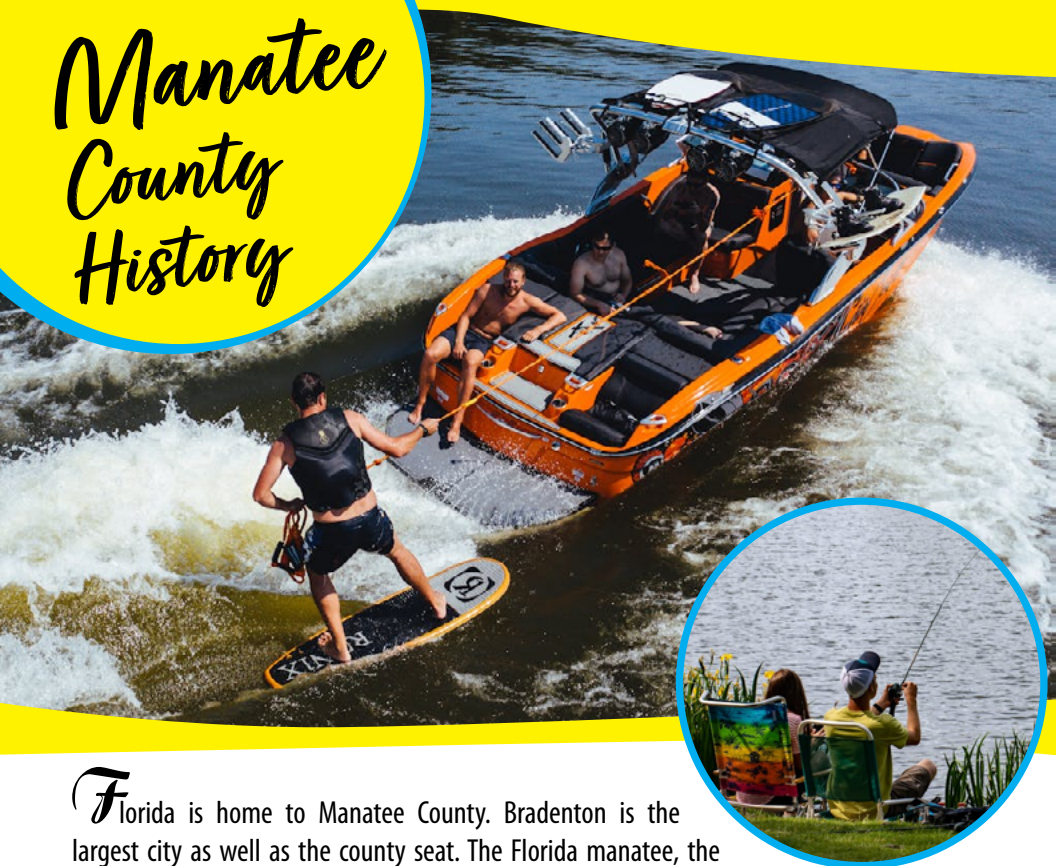
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# Manatee County History



Florida is home to Manatee County. Bradenton is the largest city as well as the county seat. The Florida manatee, the state's official marine mammal, inspired the county's name when it was established in 1855. For thousands of years, Native Americans had lived in what is now Manatee County. Archaeological digs at Perico Island and Terra Ceia, among other locations in the county, have revealed shell middens. The materials found during these digs belonged to Woodland period peoples. The Armed Occupation Act, which was passed in 1842, allowed people to settle in the region. One of the first colonies was the thirty-one-person Manatee Colony, which was commanded by Colonel Samuel Reid and comprised both Black and White residents. Joseph and Hector Braden were two other well-known early settlers who settled in a region close to the Manatee River in 1842. During the Panic of 1837, the two had lost the land for their plantations in northern Florida. The population as of the US Census 2020 was 55,698.

## CITIES

Anna Maria - 968  
Holmes Beach - 3,010  
Bradenton - 55,698 (County Seat)  
Palmetto - 13,323  
Bradenton Beach - 908

## TOWN

Longboat Key - 7,505

## CENSUS DESIGNATED

Bayshore Gardens - 19,904  
Samoset - 4,146  
Cortez - 4,121  
South Bradenton - 26,858  
Ellenton - 4,129  
West Bradenton - 4,247  
Lakewood Ranch - 34,877

West Samoset - 6,482  
Memphis - 9,024  
Whitfield - 2,989

*\*Populations are approximate.*

# Manatee County Communities

## BRADENTON

Manatee County is home to the City of Bradenton, which also serves as its County Seat. In the present-day Bradenton, there was a settlement called Angola that was founded by Maroons or runaway slaves and lasted from the late 1700s until 1821. It is thought to have stretched from Sarasota Bay to the Manatee River, which was formerly known as the Oyster River. It is estimated that there were 600–750 people living in the community. Because the Manatee River was too shallow for US Navy vessels to navigate at the time, Angola was a fairly large maroon settlement. Following Andrew Jackson's allies (the Creeks') attack on Angola, the settlement was abandoned. The natural beauty of the area drew Josiah Gates, who moved to the present-day Bradenton area in January 1842 with his family and eight slaves. Because it was close to Fort Brooke, Gates assumed that the area would be popular with new settlers, and that they would require a temporary place to stay while they built their homes. He constructed Gates House, an Inn, at one location and his house near today's 15th Street East. In addition, Gates is recognized as the first American settlers in modern-day Manatee County. The population of the city was 55,698 according to the 2020 census.

## PALMETTO

In Manatee County, sits the city of Palmetto. Since 1868, there has been a post office in Palmetto. After moving to the region close to the Manatee River in 1868, Samuel Sparks Lamb, a native of Clarke County, Mississippi, founded Palmetto. Recognized as the "Father of Palmetto," Samuel Sparks Lamb donated multiple land plots and mapped the city at its inception. The palmetto trees that were close to the original town site gave rise to the city's name. P.S. Harlee served as Palmetto's first mayor when the village was first incorporated in May 1893. He also ran the town's general merchandise store. After being reincorporated as a city in 1897, Palmetto expanded during the ensuing years. According to the 2020 census, 13,323 people were living there.

# Manatee County Communities

## LONGBOAT KEY

Situated between Sarasota Bay and the Gulf of Mexico, Longboat Key is situated south of Anna Maria Island. The counties of Sarasota and Manatee split it almost equally. Native

Americans were the original inhabitants of Longboat Key. Hernando De Soto served as Juan de Añasco's scout and was the first to explore the area that is now Longboat Key. In addition to being probably the first European man to see and explore Sarasota Bay, Boca Ciega Bay, and the Manatee River, he spent roughly two months trying to locate a landing site. Colin and Rowlin W. Witt claimed 7.15 acres on the island's north end as their first land claim in 1882, making them the first people of European descent to do so. In the late 1800s, a few more people made land claims on the island, but none of them are known to have settled there permanently. At Byron Corey's pier at the southern tip of the island, the first post office was opened in 1907. In addition, Corey was the first postmaster of Longboat Key. The post office operated until 1921, when a hurricane destroyed it. Longboat Key was incorporated in 1955. 7,505 people were living in the town as of the 2020 census.

## BAYSHORE GARDENS

In Manatee County, Bayshore Gardens is a planned community and census-designated place. Developer Sydney R. Newman bought the present-day neighborhood in 1955 and laid out a section between U.S. 41 and 26th Street West, which was named Bayshore Gardens Parkway. At nearly two million dollars, the property was acquired, making it the most costly land purchase in the region since the 1920s. The 3,200 acres, which were formerly fields used to grow tomatoes, would now contain a marina, parks, schools, churches, retail establishments, and healthcare facilities in addition to houses built in the then-popular mid-century modern style. In 2020, there were 19,904 people living there.

## LAKEWOOD RANCH

Situated in southeast Manatee County and north-eastern Sarasota County, Lakewood Ranch is a planned community and census-designated place (CDP) encompass-  
ing roughly 31,000 acres. John Schroeder first put the region together as Schroeder-Manatee Ranch (SMR) in 1905. Members of the Uihlein family of Milwaukee bought the land in 1922 for use as a ranch, raising cattle and timber. 34,877 people were living in the CDP as of the 2020 census.

## MEMPHIS

Memphis is a census-designated place (CDP) and unincorporated community located in Manatee County, Florida. The town's origins can be found in the planning of an 80-acre subdivision that was situated next to Palmetto in the 1880s. Originally owned by Tennessee-born Robert Willis (1855–1933), the land was later sold to I.E. Barwick (1854–1924), who divided it. By the 2020 census, the population had increased from 7,848 in 2010 to 9,024.



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**Bennett  
Park**

400 Cypress Creek  
Blvd, Bradenton

**Bishop Point**

2020 72nd St NW, Bradenton

**Black Stone Park**

2112 14th Ave W, Palmetto

**Braden River Park**

5201 51st St E, Bradenton

**Buffalo Creek Park**

7550 69th St E, Palmetto

**Bunker Hill Community Park**

35600 State Rd 62, Duette

**Coach Eddie Shannon Park**

501 17th St E, Palmetto

**Conservatory Park**

8027 Conservatory Dr, Sarasota

**Country Club East Park**

15015 Masters Ave, Bradenton

**PARKS & RECREATION**

**Crane Park**

37655 East State Rd 70, Myakka City

**Creekwood Park**

7025 44th Ave E, Bradenton

**East Bradenton Park**

1119 13th St E, Bradenton

**Fort Hamer Park**

1605 Ft. Hamer Rd, Parrish

**Governor Ron DeSantis Park**

7510 Prospect Rd, Sarasota

**Greenbrook Park**

6655 Greenbrook Blvd, Lakewood Ranch

**G.T. Bray Park**

5502 33rd Ave Dr W, Bradenton

**Holmes Beach Tennis Courts**

6200 Flotilla Dr, Holmes  
Beach

**John H.  
Marble Park**

3675 53rd Ave  
E, Bradenton



## Lakewood Ranch Park

5350 Lakewood Ranch Blvd, Bradenton

## Manatee Palms Park

6510 1st Ave E, Bradenton

## McArthur Park

455 McArthur Ave, Sarasota

## Myakka Community Park

10060 Wauchula Rd, Myakka City

## Ola Mae Sims Park

11800 Erie Rd, Parrish

## Palma Sola Park

7915 40th Ave W, Bradenton

## Palma Sola Scenic Highway

501 Montezuma Dr, Bradenton

## Portosueno Park

1206 Alcazar Dr, Bradenton

## Pride Park

815 63rd Ave E, Bradenton

## Rose Park

714 Palma Sola Boulevard, Bradenton

## Senrab Park

7817 Senrab Dr, Bradenton

## Seville Park

7823 Seville Cir, Bradenton

## Sunny Shores Park

36th Ave & 117th St W, Cortez

## Sylvan Oaks Park

715th 17th St E, Palmetto

## University Place Park

7850 Cooper Creek Pkwy, Sarasota

## Whitfield Park

7100 12th St E, Sarasota



## BEACHES

### Anna Maria Bayfront Park

310 North Bay Boulevard, Anna Maria

### Coquina Beach

2650 Gulf Drive, Bradenton Beach

### Manatee Beach Park

4000 State Rd 64 & Gulf Dr, Holmes Beach

### Palma Sola Causeway Park

9500 Manatee Ave W, Bradenton

## PRESERVES

Please call ahead to confirm park hours & fees if applicable.

### Duette Preserve

(Check Station)  
2649 Rawls Rd, Duette



### Emerson Point

5801 17th St S, Palmetto

### Jiggs Landing Preserve

6106 63rd St E, Bradenton

### Leffis Key Preserve

2351 Gilf Drive S, Anna Maria Island

### Moody Branch Preserve

13805 Taylor Grade Rd, Duette

### Neal Preserve

12301 Manatee Ave W, Bradenton

### Perico Preserve

11700 Manatee Ave W, Bradenton

### Riverview Pointe Preserve

8250 Desoto Memorial Hwy, Bradenton

### Robinson Preserve

17th Ave NW North Entrance (W/Valentine House)  
1704 99th St NW, Bradenton  
9th Ave NW South Entrance ("The Extension" w/ NEST & Canopy Zone)  
10299 9th Ave NW, Bradenton

### Rye Preserve

905 Rye Wilderness Trail, Parrish

### Ungarelli Preserve

4000 Palma Sola Blvd, Bradenton



# AREA ATTRACTIONS



## ADRENALINE ROW

1 mile long strip from Bradenton across Palma Sola Bay to Anna Maria Island.

## ALTITUDE TRAMPOLINE PARK

201 Cortez Rd W | Bradenton | 941-584-4700

## ANDERSON RACE TRACK

10101 US Hwy 41 N Bldg 5 | Palmetto | 941-723-3900

## ART CENTER MANATEE

209 9th St W. | Bradenton | 941-746-2862

## ARTEC COYOACÁN

1023 12th St W | Bradenton | 941-536-1411

## BOWLERO BRADENTON

4208 Cortez Rd | Bradenton | 941-758-8838

## BRADENTON MOTORSPORTS PARK

21000 S.R. 64 E | Bradenton | 941-748-1320

## BAYSHORE GARDENS PARK & RECREATIONAL DISTRICT

6919 26th St W | Bradenton | 941-755-1912

## BISHOP MUSEUM OF SCIENCE & NATURE

201 10th St W | Bradenton | 941-746-4131

## CAPTAIN BAMS' JUNGLE FLOAT

9000 Manatee Ave W | Bradenton | 941-720-3609

## CORTEZ CULTURAL CENTER

11655 Cortez Rd | Bradenton | 941-840-0590

## DEFY BRADENTON

7385 52nd Pl E Set# 29 | Bradenton | 941-900-4484

## DESOTO NATIONAL

8300 Desoto Memorial Hwy | Bradenton | 941-792-0458

## MEMORIAL

## ELLENTON ICE & SPORTS COMPLEX

5309 29th St E | Ellenton | 941-723-3663

## ELLENTON PREMIUM OUTLETS

5461 Factory Shops Blvd | Ellenton | 941-723-1150

## FAMILY HERITAGE HOUSE MUSEUM

5840 26th St W Bldg #3 | Bradenton | 941-752-5319

## FLORIDA MARITIME MUSEUM

4415 119th St W | Cortez | 941-708-6120

## FREEDOM FACTORY RACE TRACK

21050 FL-64 | Bradenton

## FUN GIRL ART

1001 12th Ave W | Bradenton | 941-448-7485

## THE FISH HOLE MINIATURE GOLF

115 Bridge St | Bradenton Beach | 941-778-3388

## INTENSE ESCAPE

5708 Manatee Ave | Bradenton | 941-251-9385

## ISLAND GALLERY & STUDIOS

456 Old Main St | Bradenton

## THE JOHN & MABLE RINGLING MUSEUM OF ART

5401 Bay Shore Rd | Sarasota | 941-359-5700

## KAYAK TOURS

9700 Manatee Ave W | Bradenton | 941-527-6355 / 941-527-6144

## MAIN STREET AT LAKEWOOD RANCH

8131 Lakewood Main St | Lakewood Ranch | 941-907-9243

## MANATEE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM

1015 6th St W | Palmetto | 941-721-2034



## MANATEE

## PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

502 3rd Ave W | Bradenton | 941-748-5875

## MANATEE VILLAGE HISTORICAL PARK

1404 Manatee Ave E | Bradenton | 941-749-7165

## MIXON FRUIT FARMS

2525 27th St E | Bradenton | 941-748-5829

## MOTE MARINE LABORATORY & MUSEUM

1600 Ken Thompson Pkwy | Sarasota | 941-388-4441

## MOTORWORKS BREWERY

1014 9th St W | Bradenton | 941-567-6218

## MYAKKA ELEPHANT RANCH

4450 Verna Bethany Rd. | Myakka City | (941) 702-0220 (by appointment only)

## PALMA SOLA BOTANICAL PARK

9800 17th Ave NW | Bradenton | 941-761-2866

## PIER 22

1200 1st Ave W | Bradenton | 941-748-8087

## RED BARN FLEA MARKET

1707 1st St | Bradenton | 941-747-3794

## REFLECTIONS OF MANATEE

1302 4th Ave E | Bradenton

## THE RESORT AT LONGBOAT KEY CLUB

220 Sands Point RD | Longboat Key | 941-383-8821

## SCF NEEL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

5840 26th St W | Bradenton | 941-926-7677

## SMUGGLERS COVE ADVENTURE GOLF

2000 Cortez Rd W | Bradenton | 941-756-0043

## RIVERWALK SPLASH PARK

452 3rd Ave W | Bradenton

## TREEUMPH! ADVENTURE COURSE

21805 State Rd 70 E | Bradenton | 941-322-2130

## VILLAGE OF THE ARTS

1227 12th St W | Bradenton | 941-306-3278

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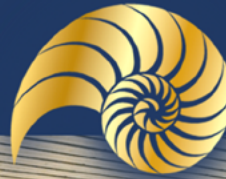
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You can purchase hunting and fishing licenses online <https://myfwc.com>, call (850) 488-4676 or visit one of the FWC agents available throughout the area:

## BRADENTON

### Dicks Sporting Goods

4108 14th St. W | Bradenton | 941-751-6900

### Manatee TC - Drivers License Office

904 301 Blvd. W | Bradenton | 941-741-4800

### WalMart (#528)

2911 53rd Ave. E | Bradenton | 941-753-6751

### WalMart (#1004)

5315 Cortez Rd. W | Bradenton |  
941-798-9341

### WalMart (#3474)

6225 E State Rd. 64 | Bradenton |  
941-708-2800

### WalMart (#5727)

5810 Ranch Lake Blvd. | Bradenton |  
941-799-5538

### Sunshine Ace Hardware - Bradenton

5409 Manatee Ave. | Bradenton |  
941-795-9442

## PALMETTO

### WalMart (#3370)

508 10th St. E | Palmetto | 941-723-2199



## CALL FOR A RIDE

Vintage Taxi Service.....(941) 962-8294  
Early Bird Transportation...(941) 201-1080  
ALD Limo.....(941) 925-9535  
Longboat Key Taxi.....(941) 306-6653  
Yellow Cab Executive.....(941) 955-3341

# Bradenton RIVERWALK PARK



The Bradenton Riverwalk is a 2.03-mile stretch of land lying between the Green and DeSoto bridges along the banks of the Manatee River. It is a major expansion of



Rossi Park. Visitors can enjoy a safe walking path along the river, fishing, interactive public art, a splash pad and playground, beach volleyball, a paved skateboard park, entertainment events and many educational activities along the beautiful Manatee River.



LOCATED ALONG THE  
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<https://myfwc.com>, Telephone: (850) 488-4676,  
 or scan the QR code.



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Resident Annual: \$17.00  
 Resident Five-Year: \$79.00  
 Non-Resident Annual: \$47.00  
 Non-Resident 3-Day: \$17.00  
 Non-Resident 7-Day: \$30.00  
 Resident Annual Saltwater Shoreline License: No-Cost  
 Annual Resident Military Gold Sportsman's License: \$20.00  
 Annual Resident Gold Sportsman's License: \$100.00  
 Five-Year Resident Gold Sportsman's License: \$494.00  
 Annual Resident Silver Sportsman's 64+: \$13.50  
 Five-Year Resident Silver Sportsman's 64+: \$61.50  
 Resident Youth Fishing License: \$17.00  
 Resident Youth Gold Sportsman's License (available with completion of hunter education requirements): \$100.00

## Promotional Prices, Freshwater or Saltwater:

Annual Gold Sportsman - \$50.75, plus applicable fees  
 5-year Gold Sportsman - \$247.75, plus applicable fees  
 Lifetime Sportsman:  
 Age 0-4 - \$201.50, plus applicable fees  
 Age 5-12 - \$351.50, plus applicable fees  
 Ages 13-64 - \$501.50, plus applicable fees

## License-free Freshwater Days

First consecutive Saturday & Sunday in April  
 Second consecutive Saturday & Sun. in June

## License-Free Saltwater Days

First consecutive Saturday & Sunday in June  
 First Saturday in September  
 Saturday following Thanksgiving

## ONE DAY BAG LIMITS FOR FRESHWATER GAME FISH:

**5 Black Bass** (including largemouth, suwannee, spotted, choctaw & shoal bass, individually or in total), only one of which may be 16 inches or longer in total length. There is no minimum length limit for largemouth bass.

\* No person shall kill or possess any Suwannee, shoal, spotted, or Choctaw bass that is less than 12 inches in total length.

\* Chipola River and its tributaries: No person shall kill or possess shoal bass on the Chipola River or its tributaries. Any shoal bass that are caught must be released immediately.

**20 Striped Bass**, white bass, & sunshine bass (individually or in total), of which only 6 may be 24 inches or longer in total length.  
 \* In the Suwannee River, areas north & west of the Suwannee River, & in any tributary, creek or stream of the Suwannee River: the bag limit for striped bass is 3, each of which must be at least 18 inches in total length (20 fish combined bag limit).

\* In the lower Ochlockonee River (downstream of the Jackson Bluff dam to Ochlockonee Bay): the bag limit for striped bass is 3, only one of which may be 24 inches or longer in total length. There is no minimum length limit (20 fish combined bag limit).

**50 Panfish** including bluegill, redear sunfish (shellcracker), flier, longear sunfish, mud sunfish, shadow bass, spotted sunfish (stumpknocker), warmouth & redbreast sunfish, individually or in total.

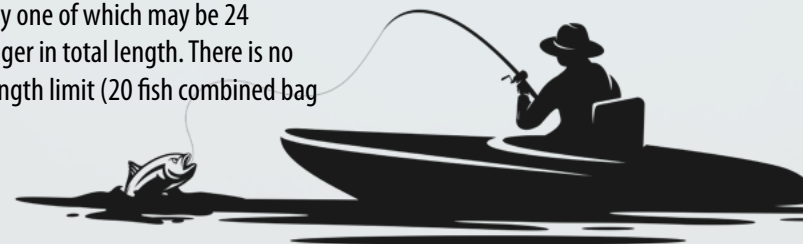
**25 Crappie** (speckled perch).

**2 Butterfly Peacock Bass**, only one of which may be 17 inches or longer in total length.

**10 Alabama Shad**, american shad, hickory shad, & blueback herring (individually or in total), which may only be taken with hook & line gear.

**25 American Eels**, must be nine inches or greater in total length. The recreational bag limit for american eels is 25 per angler per day. Wholesale/retail purchase exemption. Recreational anglers purchasing american eel as bait may possess more than the legal bag limit provided that the eels were purchased from a licensed dealer.

For more information check online: <https://myfwc.com>, Telephone: (850) 488-4676, or scan the QR code.



# Beach Flag WARNING COLORS

**Beach flags are commonly used to communicate important information to beachgoers. The color-coded flag system may vary slightly from one location to another, but the following are commonly recognized color meanings:**

**Blue Flag:** This flag is used to signify that lifeguards are on duty and that the area is being actively monitored for safety.

**Green Flag:** Indicates that it is safe to swim. The water conditions are generally calm, & there is a low risk of hazards such as strong currents or high waves.

**Yellow Flag:** Caution is advised. This flag suggests that there may be some hazards present, such as moderate surf or currents.

**Red Flag:** A red flag indicates high hazards & potentially dangerous water conditions. It is a warning that strong currents, high surf, or other dangers are present. It is advised to stay out of the water.

**Double Red Flags:** This is a more severe warning, & it typically means that the beach is closed to the public. Dangerous conditions, such as strong rip currents or severe weather, pose a significant threat.

**Purple Flag:** This flag is used to indicate the presence of dangerous marine life, such as sharks or jellyfish. It is advised to exercise caution.

Rip currents are powerful, narrow channels of fast-moving water that can pose a danger to swimmers and surfers. Getting caught in a rip current can be frightening, but knowing how to recognize and handle them can help you stay safe. Here's how to avoid or get out of a rip current in the ocean:

**1. Stay Calm & Don't Fight the Current:**

If you find yourself caught in a rip current, stay calm and try not to panic. Remember that rip currents do not pull swimmers underwater; instead, they pull them away from the shore. Avoid fighting against the current by swimming directly back to shore, as this can lead to exhaustion.

**3. Swim Parallel to the Shore:**

If you feel confident in your swimming abilities, swim parallel to the shoreline instead of trying to swim directly back to shore. Rip currents are typically narrow, so swimming parallel to the shore can help you escape the pull of the current. Once you're out of the rip current, you can then swim back to the shore at an angle.

**5. Seek Assistance if Needed:**

If you're unable to escape the rip current on your own or if you're feeling exhausted, continue to signal for help and wait for assistance from lifeguards or other beachgoers. Don't hesitate to call for help if you need it, as prompt action can prevent a dangerous situation from escalating.

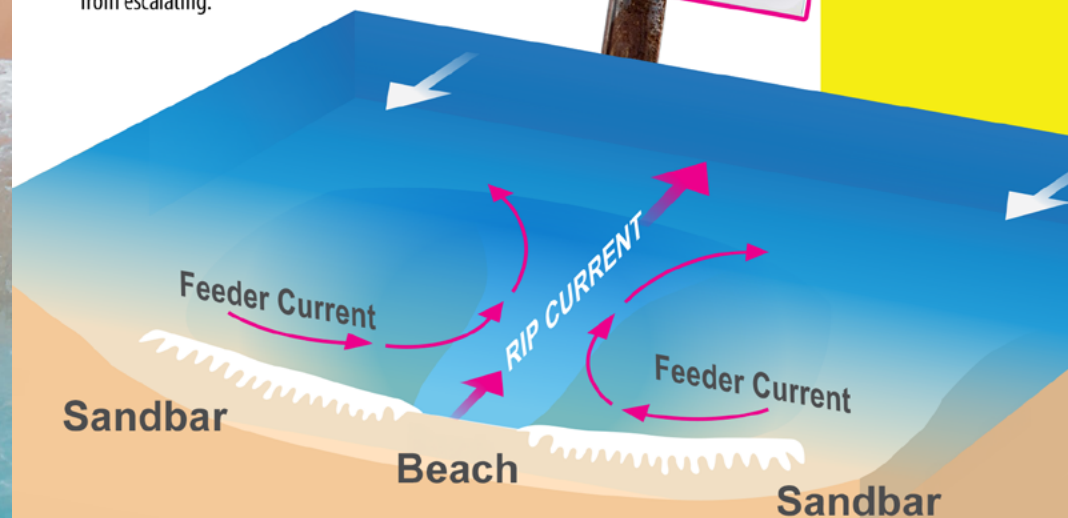
**2. Float & Conserve Energy:**

If you're unable to swim out of the rip current, conserve your energy by floating or treading water. Signal for help by waving your arms and calling for assistance if you see lifeguards or other beachgoers nearby. Most rip currents are narrow, and you will eventually be carried out of the current and into calmer waters.

**4. Use Waves to Help You Escape:**

Wait for waves to push you towards shore and use them to assist your escape from the rip current. Time your movements with the breaking waves, and use the momentum to swim towards the shore. Be patient and persistent, and don't exhaust yourself by attempting to fight against the current.

*Always swim at beaches with lifeguards present, heed warning signs, and follow any instructions or advice given by local authorities.*



# Rip Currents

# HURRICANE SAFETY

## Top Five Tips

If authorities issue evacuation orders, follow them promptly. Delaying evacuation can put your life and the lives of emergency responders at risk. They have the most up-to-date information on the storm and can provide guidance on the safest course of action. Remember that each hurricane is unique, so it's essential to stay informed and adapt your plans accordingly. Preparedness and early action are key to minimizing risks and ensuring the safety of yourself and your loved ones during a hurricane.

CAT 1-2  
74-110MPH

CAT 3-4  
110-156MPH

CAT 5  
157+MPH

## HURRICANE CATEGORIES

The Highest  
Recorded Wind Speed  
of a Hurricane is 215 mph

# Keep Your Pets Safe

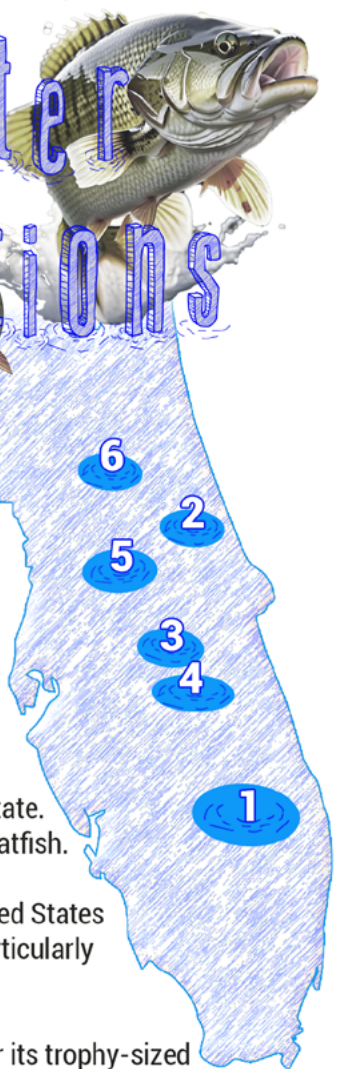
### HERE ARE A FEW KEY POINTS TO BE AWARE OF:

- 1. Leashing:** Always keep pets on a leash, especially near water bodies, to prevent them from wandering too close to potential alligator habitats.
- 2. Supervision:** Supervise your pets when they're outside. This is crucial during dawn and dusk, as alligators are more active during these times.
- 3. Avoid Water:** Keep pets away from lakes, ponds, and marshy areas where alligators might be lurking. Even small bodies of water can pose risks.
- 4. Training:** Ensure your pets have good recall and respond well to commands. This can help you quickly call them back if they venture too close to danger.
- 5. Feeding and Food Storage:** Do not feed alligators or leave pet food outside, as this can attract wildlife and increase the likelihood of encounters with alligators.



# Top Freshwater Fishing Locations

Florida is renowned for its abundance of freshwater fishing opportunities, with numerous lakes, rivers, and streams teeming with a wide variety of fish species. Here are some of the top freshwater fishing locations in Florida:



- 1. Lake Okeechobee:** The largest freshwater lake in the state. Anglers can target largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill, & catfish.
- 2. St. Johns River:** One of the few major rivers in the United States that flows north. It's a prime location for bass fishing, particularly in the upper stretches.
- 3. Lake Tohopekaliga (Lake Toho):** The lake is famous for its trophy-sized largemouth bass. It's a popular destination for bass anglers seeking the thrill of catching big fish.
- 4. The Kissimmee Chain of Lakes:** Comprising several interconnected lakes, the Kissimmee Chain offers diverse fishing experiences. Anglers can target bass, crappie, bluegill, and more in these interconnected waters.
- 5. The Harris Chain of Lakes:** Consists of several lakes interconnected by canals. It's known for its bass fishing, with Lake Harris being one of the most popular spots for anglers.
- 6. Rodman Reservoir:** Created by the damming of the Ocklawaha River, Rodman Reservoir is known for its trophy bass fishing. Anglers come here seeking the chance to catch monster-sized bass in a picturesque setting.

**HERRING GULL**

**SANDHILL CRANE**

**SPOONBILL**

**OSPREY**

**GREAT BLUE HERON**

**EASTERN BROWN PELICAN**

**LEAST TERN**

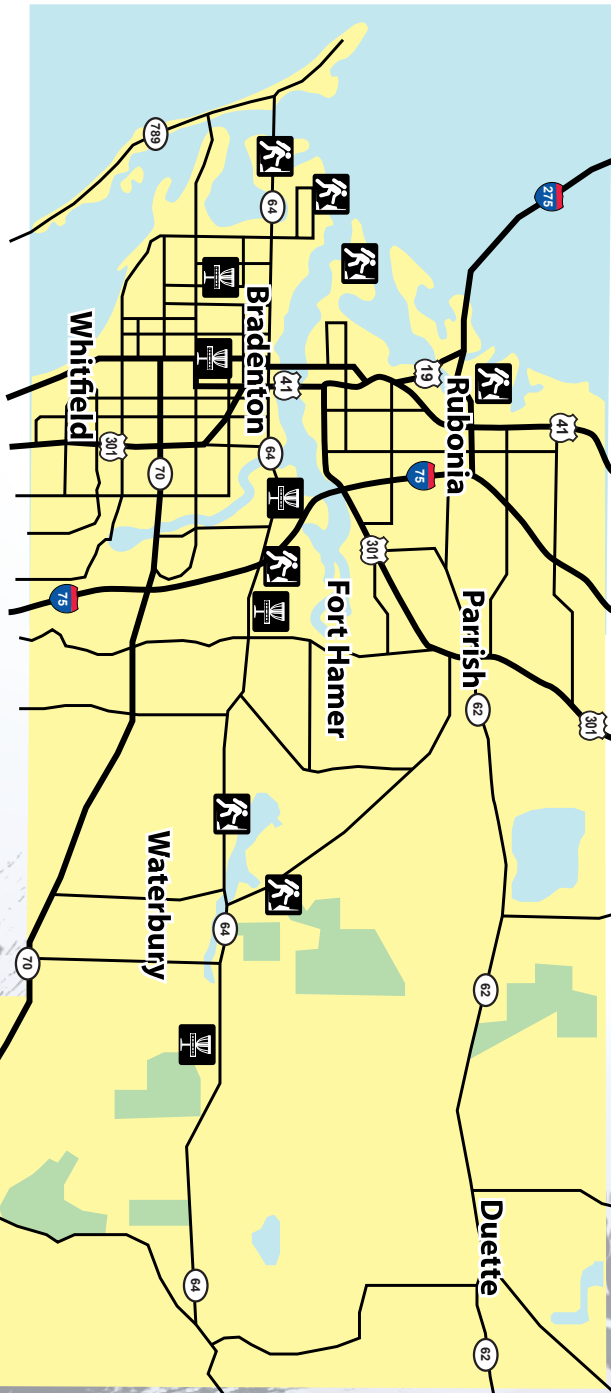
# BIRD WATCH



**Disc Golf Course**



**Hiking/Walking Trail**



## Health Benefits of the Outdoors

**Spending time in nature offers numerous benefits for physical, mental, and emotional well-being.**



**Stress Reduction:** Nature has a calming effect on the mind and body, helping to reduce stress levels. The peaceful surroundings, fresh air, and natural beauty can lower cortisol levels, decrease heart rate, and promote relaxation.

**Improved Mental Health:** Being in nature is associated with improved mood and mental health. Studies have shown that spending time outdoors can reduce symptoms of anxiety, depression, and other mental health disorders. Nature provides a sense of tranquility and perspective, which can help alleviate negative thoughts and emotions.

**Increased Physical Activity:** Nature encourages physical activity, whether it's hiking, biking, walking, or simply exploring outdoor spaces. Engaging in outdoor activities promotes exercise, which is essential for maintaining physical health and fitness. Additionally, being in nature often involves exposure to sunlight, which helps the body produce vitamin D and supports overall well-being.

**Enhanced Creativity & Cognitive Function:** Nature stimulates creativity and cognitive function. Research suggests that spending time in natural environments can improve problem-solving skills, boost creativity, and enhance concentration and focus. Nature provides a rich sensory experience that activates different parts of the brain, fostering cognitive development and innovation.

**Connection with the Environment:** Spending time in nature fosters a deeper connection with the environment and promotes environmental stewardship. When people experience the beauty and wonder of nature firsthand, they are more likely to develop a sense of appreciation and respect for the natural world. This connection can lead to greater awareness of environmental issues and a desire to protect and preserve natural habitats for future generations.

**Overall, being in nature offers a multitude of benefits for both physical and mental well-being, making it essential for maintaining a healthy and balanced lifestyle.**

# So, You have decided to get a pet... NOW WHAT??

**Commitment and Time:** Owning a pet is a long-term commitment. Before bringing a pet home, consider your lifestyle and ensure you have enough time to spend with your pet. Dogs, cats, and many other animals require attention, exercise, and mental stimulation.

**Choose the Right Pet for Your Lifestyle:** Different pets have varying needs, temperaments, and activity levels. Research and select a pet that fits well with your lifestyle, living situation, and family dynamics. Whether you choose a dog, cat, bird, fish, or any other animal, make sure you can provide for its specific needs.

**Proper Nutrition:** Feed your pet a balanced and nutritious diet suitable for their species and age. Consult with a veterinarian to determine the best food options for your pet's health and well-being.

**Regular Exercise:** Most pets need regular physical activity to stay healthy and happy. Engage in playtime and exercise with your pet daily, as it helps prevent obesity and provides mental stimulation.

**Routine Veterinary Care:** Schedule regular check-ups with a veterinarian to monitor your pet's health, get necessary vaccinations, and address any concerns. Early detection of health issues can often lead to better outcomes.

**Spaying/Neutering:** Consider spaying or neutering your pet if you don't plan on breeding. This helps control the pet population and can have health benefits for your pet.

**Training and Socialization:** Properly train your pet to follow basic commands and have good manners. Socialize them with other animals and people from a young age to prevent behavioral issues later on.

**Provide a Safe Environment:** Ensure that your home and yard are safe for your pet. Remove hazards, keep toxic substances out of reach, and provide appropriate shelter from extreme weather conditions.

**Grooming:** Regular grooming is essential for most pets. Brush their fur, trim nails, and clean their ears as needed to keep them comfortable and healthy.

**Identification and Microchipping:** Keep identification tags with your current contact information on your pet's collar. Consider microchipping your pet as an extra measure to ensure they can be identified if lost.

**Love and Attention:** Pets thrive on love and attention from their owners. Spend quality time with your pet, provide affection, and build a strong bond.

**Respect and Understanding:** Learn to understand your pet's body language and behavior. Respect their boundaries and feelings, and avoid forcing them into uncomfortable situations.



**Patience and Forgiveness:** Pets, especially young ones, can be mischievous or have accidents. Be patient with them during the training process and forgive any mistakes they make along the way.

**Emergency Preparedness:** Have a plan in place for emergencies, including natural disasters. Know how to evacuate with your pet safely if needed.



**If you have just rescued / adopted a new fur baby, please it is important to remember the 3-3-3 RULE:**

### **3 Days:**

In the first 3 days being in its new home, they will be feeling overwhelmed, scared & unsure of what is going on. They may also be uncomfortable being "themselves", and may not want to eat or drink. They may want to "shut down" or hide under a bed or in a crate, and they will test boundaries.

### **3 Weeks:**

At this point, they may be a lot more comfortable & settling in. Learning a new routine can be overwhelming, so please be patient. By now they may have figured out the new environment & accepted that this may be their FURever home. Their personality traits will start to show, as well as any behavior issue that may be present.

### **3 Months:**

For most fur babies, 3 months is enough time to finally be comfortable and begin to build trust and a true bond. A sense of security may be present & a set routine will help this process.

*Please know that this is not the rule with every rescued or adopted pet, as some may need 6 months to a year to adjust & adapt, depending on MANY factors. Age of animal, what type of an environment did they come from?*

## DOG PARKS

### **Blackstone Dog Park**

2112 14th Ave W, Palmetto

Hours : Sunrise - Sunset.\* Closed for maint/clean Thurs 7-10AM & last Friday every month 2PM-7AM Saturday for pesticide control.

Amenities : Covered shelters, Free waste bags & area exclusive for fragile, small & elderly dogs.

### **Dog Leg Canine Park**

7550 69th St E, Palmetto

Hours : Sunrise - Sunset.\* Closed for maint/clean Thurs 7-10AM & last Friday every month 2P-close.

Amenities : 3 acre fenced in dog park with exclusive small/elderly/fragile dog area, free waste bags, doggie drinking fountain & covered shelter.

### **Paw Patch Dog Park**

7025 44th Ave E, Bradenton

Hours: 7A-11P

Amenities: 2 acres fenced in park with area exclusive for small/fragile/elderly dogs, doggie drinking fountain, free waste bags & pavilion.

### **Laurie Crawford Dog Park** - \*Formerly known as "Happy Tails Canine Park"

51st St, Bradenton

Hours: Sunrise - Sunset \*Closed Mondays & Thursdays 7-10A & last Friday every month from 2P-7A Saturday for pesticide control.

Amenities: 3 acres of fenced in dog park that expands to 4.5 acres with tree shaded areas. Exclusive area for fragile/elderly/small dogs. Doggie drinking fountain, free waste bags, pavilions & picnic tables.

### **Happy Paws Dog Park**

11800 Erie Rd, Parrish

Hours : 7AM-10PM

Amenities : Fenced in 1.5 acre dog park with enclosed exclusive area for small/fragile/elderly dogs, agility course, doggie drinking fountain, free waste bags & a pavilion.



# WORD SEARCH

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 STDYIHIQUIFEZBXZOGTNZYUSHAP EIG  
 PNPYAGEKYUKLLRVKMLS IHQPHYPNBUB  
 HGHECRRVITLOMNLHYHBBBUYMW TJVSSV  
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 LMOEZOBGKAVGUTGVUYTYVSAABTPCM  
 MVSNGKHOOLKNEOSTLNSAQAOXRFFAUO  
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BRADENTON BEACH  
 HOLMES BEACH  
 ONECO  
 GILLETTE  
 BAYSHORE GARDENS  
 SAMOSET  
 RUBONIA  
 WATERBURY  
 CORTEZ  
 PALMETTO  
 MANAVISTA  
 LONGBOAT KEY  
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# THANK YOU



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# BUTTERED-UP *Steak*



Simple meal with a *Gourmet* Feel

## INGREDIENTS

2 steaks (ribeye or sirloin are good choices)

Salt and pepper

2 tablespoons unsalted butter

2 cloves garlic, minced

Fresh herbs (optional)

## INSTRUCTIONS

1 Take the steaks out of the refrigerator and let them come to room temperature for about 30 minutes. This helps the steak cook more evenly.

2 Preheat your oven to 400°F.

3 Season the steaks generously with salt and pepper on both sides.

4 Heat a large skillet over high heat until very hot. Add the steaks and cook for about 2-3 minutes per side, until nicely browned.

5 Remove the steaks from the skillet and place them on a baking sheet.

6 In the same skillet, add the butter and garlic. Cook for about 30 seconds, stirring constantly, until the garlic is fragrant.

7 Pour the garlic butter over the steaks on the baking sheet.

8 Place the baking sheet in the oven and cook for about 5-7 minutes for medium-rare doneness, or longer if you prefer your steak more well-done.

9 Remove the steaks from the oven and let them rest for a few minutes before slicing.

10 Serve the steak with any remaining butter from the baking sheet and fresh herbs if desired.

*Enjoy your delicious  
buttered-up steak!*

PREP: 35 MIN • TOTAL: 50 MIN



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• Play  
• Stay

LOCALLY



*...and support the community you live in!*