



• BEACH ACCESS •
BEAUTIFICATION







Beach Access



Parks & Recreation
(239) 642-0575

101054 101054

No Beach Parking

No Plastic Straws















Welcome to Marco Island

Our beautiful beach is for everyone to share, including our birds and other wildlife. Please be respectful and avoid invading their space.



Brown Pelican

How Close is Too Close?

Wild animals and birds are sensitive to people so please observe them from a distance, if they act nervous and start to walk or fly away, then you are too close. Use binoculars for a better look.

snowy egret



black skimmer



willet



laughing gull



ruddy turnstone

LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLES (*Caretta caretta*) USE OUR BEACHES!



Between May 01 and October 31:
The Marco Island Beach is an important nesting habitat for the Loggerhead Sea Turtle

DO YOUR PART, KEEP OUR BEACHES DARK:

Adult and Hatchling turtles will get disoriented due to artificial lights:
No Flashlights, Campfires, Fireworks, or Flash Photography After 9 PM on Beach
All beachside lights should be off or shielded by 9 PM

PLEASE LEAVE ONLY YOUR FOOTPRINTS:

Do NOT Interfere with Turtles, Eggs or Nests
Sea Turtles need a beach free of barriers that would prevent nesting & hatching:
Remove all Beach Furniture, Equipment & Garbage from the Beach Every Night
No Bicycles or Vehicles on Beach - No Pets on the Beach

TO REPORT DISORIENTATED, INJURED, OR DEAD SEA TURTLES, PLEASE CONTACT THE:

Sea Turtle Stranding Network at : 1(888) 404-FWCC (3922)
City of Marco Island www.cityofmarcoisland.com
Article V, Sea Turtle Protection
Ordinance #01-035





































IDEAS TO IMPROVE

• BEACH ACCESS •













Florida Burrowing Owls

Your Feathered Neighbors

The Life of an Owl

Burrowing Owls live in open, grassy areas. They dig their own burrows, which can be up to 12 feet long underground. Some owls dig multiple burrows, like the owls in this park! Though there are at least four burrows here, they are all used by the same pair.

At the beginning of the nesting season in February, male owls collect objects from nearby and decorate their burrow with them as part of their courtship. They decorate with natural objects like grass and flowers and animal droppings, and with man-made objects like food wrappers and cigarette butts.

Burrowing Owls mate for life, and they return to the same burrow each year. The female lays up to seven eggs underground in the burrow, and she incubates them for four weeks. Chicks are old enough to start exploring outside the burrow at about two weeks old, and they are able to fly at six weeks of age. Both parents hunt for and feed their chicks and care for them for several months. At the end of the summer, the young owls leave their nest burrow and search for a new home.

Florida Burrowing Owls stay in Florida and do not migrate in the winter. Some owls use their burrows year-round, but many take shelter in bushes and trees and drain pipes instead.



UF IFAS Extension
University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Visit AudubonWE.org for more information about Burrowing Owls

Under Threat

Historically, Burrowing Owls were found in the grasslands of Florida. As more humans moved to Florida, most of these grasslands were developed, and now Burrowing Owls can be found in human-modified grassy spaces. Though Burrowing Owls can survive in suburban environments like Marco Island, they are still threatened by habitat loss and disturbance by humans.

On Marco Island, volunteers are protecting Burrowing Owls by marking their burrows. PVC pipe and rope surround the burrow and prevent it from being accidentally collapsed by heavy lawnmowers or people.

Burrowing Owls and their burrows are protected by law, and it is illegal to harm or harass them. The presence of owls does not prevent development, but you do need a permit.

Research and Monitoring

Volunteers from Audubon of the Western Everglades' Owl Watch monitor Marco Island's burrows throughout the nesting season. In 2018, volunteers found 193 pairs of owls nesting and counted a total of 438 chicks! This monitoring will help researchers learn how Marco Island's Burrowing Owl population changes over time.



Researchers from the University of Florida are color banding Burrowing Owls across the state. These bands allow researchers and volunteers to identify individual owls and follow them from year to year, helping us learn more about these threatened birds like how long they live, where they go after they leave their birthplace, how far they travel, and how many young they produce in their lifetime.

If you see a banded owl, take a picture and send it to us at: OwlWatchMarco@gmail.com

Quick Facts:

- Florida Burrowing Owl, *Athene cunicularia floridana*
- Listed as State Threatened
- Digs burrows up to 12 feet long
- Does not migrate
- Eats insects, frogs, lizards
- Nests February - July
- Can be found in open, grassy areas - like at this park!

How can you help?

- Adopt an Owl at www.AudubonWE.org
- Observe owls from a safe distance away -
- If an owl hisses, back up!
- Keep pets away from burrows
- Limit your use of pesticides
- Volunteer with Owl Watch



Threatened Birds of Tigertail Beach

Black Skimmer

Black skimmers are large, dark birds with long, thin bills. They are found along the coast of Florida and the Gulf of Mexico.

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Least Tern

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Red Knot

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Be a Better Boater



Know your speed regulations, and obey speed zone signs.

A day on the water – sailing, skiing, boating, or fishing – can be a wonderful escape from the cares of everyday life. You can help everyone enjoy these pleasures and help take care of our aquatic resources with just a few simple actions.

Use caution near shore, and steer clear of grassbeds. Use marked channels for traveling on the water. This can help save shallow seagrass beds and your boat from damage.



Don't throw anything overboard. Plastics and fishing lure can be deadly to wildlife.

Dispose of trash properly. Don't sink bottles or cans. Recycle!

Pump sewage at an approved pump out station.



Know the depth of the water. Churning sediments can make the water cloudy, harming animals and plants.



Polarized sunglasses help you see the bottom, preventing groundings.



If you run aground, stop, lift your motor, and rock, paddle, or walk your boat to deeper water.



Check to make sure your boat engine is not leaking. Recycle your oil, and never dump it in a waterway.

Protect the Gentle Giant

Tragically, this gentle giant, the West Indian manatee, is a threatened species. A significant number of these slow-moving creatures are injured or killed by motorboats each year, and most manatees carry scars from past collisions. Others are killed when caught in floodgates and navigation locks, or when they eat or get entangled in discarded monofilament fishing line or hooks.



You Can Help!

- ✓ **AVOID SCUBA** and observe all manatee and boating safety signs.
- ✓ **Plan, paddle, or use a trolling motor** when near manatee beds.
- ✓ **Use polarized sunglasses** so you can see manatees and seagrass better.
- ✓ **Stay in the marked channels** where the water is deeper.
- ✓ **Do not throw trash**, especially plastics, and monofilament fishing line, in the water.
- ✓ **Do not feed manatees**, give them waste, or harass them – manatees need to stay wild to survive.

SAVE A LIFE!

Report accidental boat strikes to the nearest emergency to begin prompt rescue and rehabilitation. To report an injured, dead, or orphaned manatee, or one being harassed, please call:

- ✓ 1-888-454-3022
- ✓ FWC on your mobile phone
- ✓ or use VHF channel 16

Loss of habitat is also a serious threat to the manatee's survival. Many grass beds have been damaged by pollution or dredge and fill projects. Increased development and human population growth along the coast have eliminated many manatee feeding areas. Natural factors, including cold weather and the manatee's own low reproduction rate, also threaten the future of this native species.



Observe and Follow All Regulatory Signs



Illustrations and photographs: Jacksonville National Marine Sanctuary, Florida Department of Natural Resources, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

COMMON BIRDS *of Ormond Beach*

ANDY ROMANO BEACHFRONT PARK

For hundreds of years, these were the "right" whales to hunt. They were slow, lived in coastal waters, and their blubber-rich bodies floated after they were killed. By the 20th century, the population of North Atlantic right whales may have numbered only in the dozens. Today, this unique marine mammal remains in a struggle to escape extinction.









