



GULF COAST HERITAGE TRAIL

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA, U.S.A.

WELCOME TO THE GULF COAST HERITAGE TRAIL, YOUR GUIDE TO PARADISE

The Gulf Coast of Florida is a tropical paradise with its aquamarine waters, white sandy beaches and fantastic fishing and boating opportunities. The area is also rich in history, culture and the arts; providing a wide range of unique destination experiences for everyone. Enjoy discovering paradise... On the Heritage Trail, you are invited to tour and visit an array of environmental, cultural and historical gems throughout the region, which includes beautiful Manatee and Sarasota Counties, Florida.

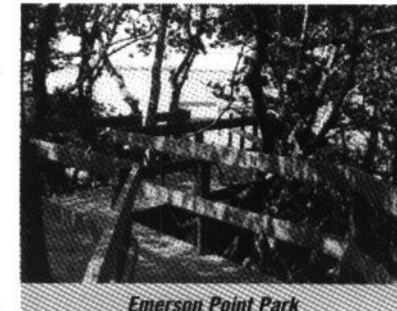


Lemon Bay Park

by numbers which are color coded: natural (environmental), cultural and historical. The Trail promotes a scenic auto tour route and includes bicycle staging areas where visitors may park then peddle to nearby destinations. Additionally, nature walks, scenic trails and wildlife viewing opportunities can be found at many of the points of interest. If you are interested in canoeing and kayaking, launch areas and locations offering canoeing or canoe trails have been mapped. Our area's history and the arts can also be enjoyed by using this guide. Because the Trail cannot be traveled in a day, it has been segmented into three areas: North, Central

and South. The recommended scenic routes are the most pleasant and offer the visitor a true experience by highlighting the character of the area. Each of the North, Central and South auto tour loops takes at least a full day (or up to several days, even a week) depending on the number of points of interest you decide to visit along the way. The North auto tour loop takes you through Manatee County which is rich in agricultural heritage. Enjoy the downtown waterfronts of Palmetto and Bradenton, along the scenic Manatee River, which offer a wealth of cultural and historical attractions. The Central auto tour loop focuses

on the City of Sarasota and northern Sarasota County. It is best known for white sandy beaches, arts, culture and fine dining. Enjoy Sarasota's cultural coast and the local treasures surrounding the gem of the area, Sarasota Bay. The South auto tour loop takes you through southern Sarasota County, which is known for its Mediterranean and Spanish style architecture in and around the City of Venice. Other treasures in the area include prehistoric sharks teeth finds, large nature preserves and canopy roads. Whether you're a naturalist, a canoeist, a cyclist, one who appreciates fine art and culture, or a history buff, the Gulf Coast Heritage Trail has something for you. Enjoy exploring the wonders of paradise...



Emerson Point Park

A B O U T T H E A R E A

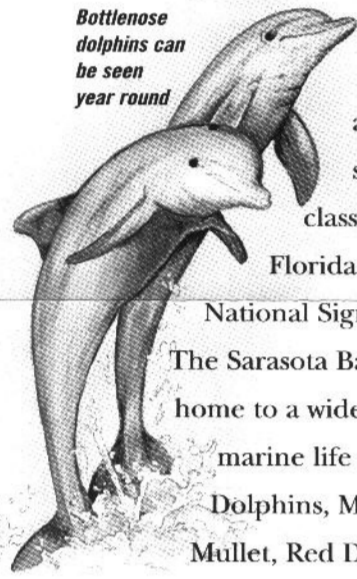
SARASOTA BAY

Located on the Southwest Coast of Florida, the Heritage Trail region encompasses numerous bays and rivers and is bordered by aquatic preserves; extending from Terra Ceia Bay to the north and

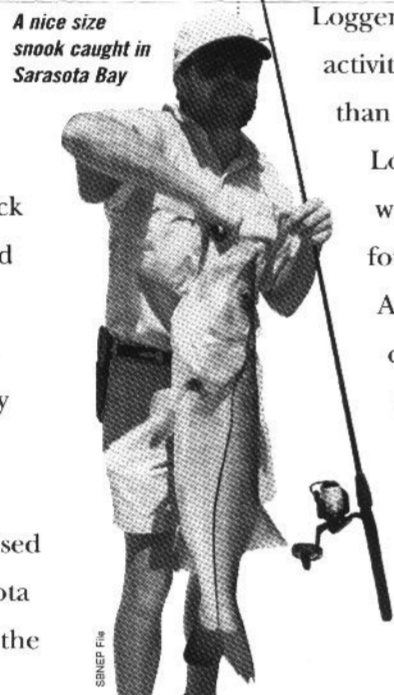
Lemon Bay to the south.

The crown jewel of the area, Sarasota Bay, is a small, subtropical estuary currently classified as an Outstanding Florida Water and an Estuary of National Significance.

The Sarasota Bay region is home to a wide variety of marine life including: Dolphins, Manatees, Black Mullet, Red Drum, Spotted Seatrout, Snook, Blue Crab, Stone Crab and Bait Shrimp. The endangered West Indian Manatees occupy Sarasota Bay during most months, and the large Bottlenose Dolphin population, which is largely comprised of permanent residents, calls Sarasota Bay home year round. In addition, the



Bottlenose dolphins can be seen year round



A nice size snook caught in Sarasota Bay



Enjoy the aquamarine waters of beautiful Sarasota Bay

Gulf beaches along the bay's barrier islands support

Loggerhead Turtles and their annual nesting activities. In 1997, more than 3,500 nests of Loggerhead Turtles were documented for the region. An estuary is a coastal area where fresh water from rivers and streams mixes with saltwater from the ocean. Also known as "cradles of the sea", estuaries provide important spawning grounds and nurseries for at



West Indian Manatees call Sarasota Bay their home

least two-thirds of the nation's fisheries. The area

affords tremendous recreational fishing opportunities. The Gulf Coast of Florida is also known as the Mangrove Coast. Historically, mangroves, sea oaks, sea grapes, palmettos and cedars dominated the lands that lie along the miles and miles of white sandy beaches that make up the Gulf Coast. Healthy wetlands and mangroves (integral components of the estuary ecosystem) provide a number of essential benefits to Sarasota Bay. These habitats provide food and shelter for



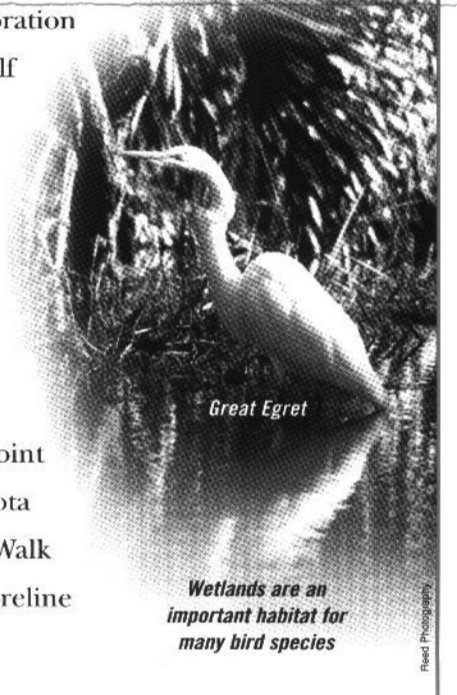
White Pelicans at Cortez in Winter

baylife, filter sediments and pollution and help to protect shorelines

from erosion. During the past 50 years, development has caused a decline in the quantity and quality of Sarasota Bay's wetlands. You can learn more about the importance of these vital wetland habitats, and what you can do to help, at one of the many wetland restoration sites located on the Gulf Coast Heritage Trail. Each site offers boardwalks, nature trails, educational signage and brochures. Visit the Coquina BayWalk at Leffis Key, Joan M. Durante Park, Quick Point Nature Preserve, Sarasota BayWalk, Bayfront BayWalk and Selby Gardens Shoreline Restoration Project.



People enjoying the view of Sarasota Bay at the Coquina BayWalk at Leffis Key



Great Egret

OTHER TYPES OF AREA ECOSYSTEM HABITATS

In addition to the important saltwater wetland habitats of the Sarasota Bay Region, there are other equally significant habitats that make up the watershed: flatwoods, prairies, hammocks, and freshwater marshlands. These types of diverse habitats with unique wildlife can be seen at state and

county parks within the region. For a glimpse of "Old Florida", visitors should not miss the spectacular Myakka River State Park. The Park includes more than 28,000 acres where Deer, Bobcat, Bald Eagle and the American Alligator roam free.



American Alligator

BIRDING

Some common birds to this region that you might see include: Great Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Great Egret, White Ibis, Brown Pelican, Osprey, Wood Stork, Yellow-Crowned Night Heron and the endangered Florida Scrub-Jay. Peruse the map and find natural points of interest frequented by birds (bird hot spots) and bird rookeries for viewing opportunities.



Yellow-Crowned Night Heron

Endangered Bird Life

Most of the Florida Scrub-Jay habitat in Southwest Florida has been fragmented and replaced by development. The scrubby flatwoods habitat preferred by Florida Scrub-Jays is also favored by humans for habitation. It is typically the highest and driest land near the coast, usually consisting of scrub oak-dominated vegetation with scattered patches of bare sand and a few, widely dispersed pine trees. Loss of habitat



Great Blue Heron

is becoming a threat to all birds and to all the species that inhabit the Gulf Coast. Be on the lookout for the Florida Scrub-Jay at such parks as Oscar Scherer State Park, Shamrock Park, Service Club Park, Duette Park and Rye Wilderness Park.



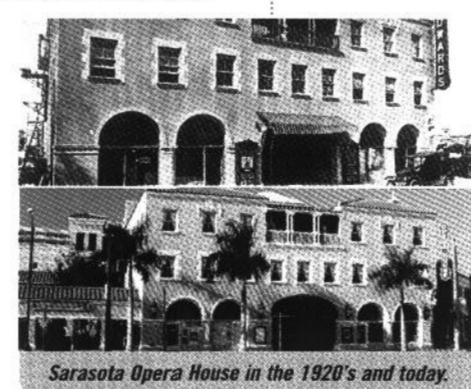
Florida Scrub-Jay at Oscar Scherer State Park

CULTURE

The Gulf Coast Heritage Trail offers an array of cultural attractions, which range from visual and performing arts and nationally famous museums to internationally renowned festivals. Home to many writers, artists and patrons, Manatee and Sarasota Counties present a year-round festival of the arts. Among the riches from which visitors may choose are productions on 12 theatrical stages, including six professional theater companies and three dinner theaters. At the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall (designed by Frank Lloyd Wright Associates), you can see a full season of artistic performances. Music lovers can select from among a symphony orchestra, an opera company, choral groups, smaller orchestras, concert bands and numerous jazz ensembles. The region's cultural community also offers outstanding ballet and ballroom dance companies. Visual arts are enhanced by six community arts organizations, four college galleries and nearly 50 commercial art galleries. A world-class collection of Baroque art along with a Circus Museum and Venetian-styled mansion are part of the Ringling Museum, a gift of John and Mable Ringling to the people of Florida. Other sites and museums such as the Crosley Museum and De Soto National Memorial educate visitors about the area's history. Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium is a renowned marine research and educational facility with exhibits featuring sharks, manatees, sea turtles and other marine life that inhabit nearby coastal waters. The South Florida Museum triplex showcases Florida from the stone age to the space age, and also offers a planetarium

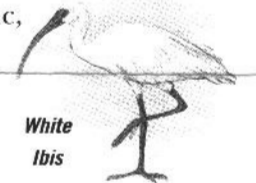


Manatee County Arts Fest 98



Sarasota Opera House in the 1920's and today

and manatee aquarium. Many local towns and cities within the region celebrate with art fairs and annual festivals. The Gulf Coast heritage village is further heralded by a Confederate reenactment, a colorful circus parade, a historic fishing village celebration in the Village of Cortez and Spanish Conquistador-themed events. Other options that draw enthusiastic audiences include film, jazz, new plays and chamber music, plus a six-month-long repertory theater festival. It is from all over the United States—as well as from many other parts of the world—that visitors and residents have traveled, each adding to and enjoying the cultural richness of this region, home of the Gulf Coast Heritage Trail.



White Ibis

HISTORY

The area's rich heritage centers around the Manatee River and Sarasota Bay. Mineral springs in southern Sarasota County and burial, midden and temple mounds located along the river banks and bay shore have provided evidence of human habitation from 10,000 to 12,000 years ago. Over the centuries, waterfront locations continued to attract inhabitants. When settlers first arrived in the 1840s, Florida was not yet a state. The territory was populated by scattered fishermen who came from Cuba and established ranchos on the coast for use primarily during the fishing season. Seminole Indians, though restricted by the federal government to interior lands, mingled with the new arrivals. At its creation in 1855, Manatee County consisted of 5,000 square miles and extended from the Gulf of Mexico to Lake Okechobee and from Tampa Bay to Charlotte Harbor. Most pioneer settlers arrived after the Civil War, and by 1880

approximately 2,800 people lived in scattered communities across the sprawling county. In the first decade of the new century, the arrival of electricity, railroads, telephones and automobiles ushered residents into the modern era. In the early 1920s, all of Florida experienced a period of rapid growth. Within the first five years of that decade, the area's population more than tripled and Sarasota County broke away from Manatee County. Always important industries, agriculture and fishing eased the counties through the depression of the 1930s. Federal economic programs helped fund a variety of public buildings and the development of Myakka River State Park. World War II military bases brought thousands of newcomers who, in later years, would return as residents. The region experienced a population explosion after the war, with the accompanying growth in industry, shopping centers, schools and tourist attractions and accommodations. As they did centuries ago, the scenic and bountiful waters of Manatee and Sarasota still draw new residents and visitors to their beautiful shores.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

GULF COAST HERITAGE TRAIL	Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program.....	941.359.5841
	Myakka River State Park.....	941.361.6511
STATE PARKS	Oscar Scherer State Park.....	941.483.5956
	Manatee County.....	941.749.7123
COUNTY PARKS	Sarasota County	941.316.1179
	Manatee County Department of Historical Resources.....	941.741.4070
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES	Manatee County Department of Historical Resources.....	941.316.1115
	Manatee County Cultural Alliance.....	941.721.0405
ARTS/CULTURAL INTERESTS	Arts Hotline.....	941.745.ARTS
	Sarasota County Arts Council.....	941.365.5118
	Manatee County Tourist Information Center.....	941.729.7040
	Sarasota County Tourist Information Center.....	941.957.1877
	Anna Maria Chamber of Commerce.....	941.778.1541
	Manatee County Chamber of Commerce.....	941.748.3411
	Longboat Key Chamber of Commerce.....	941.383.2466
	Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce.....	941.955.2508
	Venice Area Chamber of Commerce.....	941.349.3800
TOURIST INFORMATION	Sarasota County Chamber of Commerce.....	941.488.2236
	Englewood Chamber of Commerce.....	941.474.5511

*Some museums and art institutions have limited operating hours. It is recommended you call the information centers prior to your visit.

The Gulf Coast Heritage Trail is a cooperative project partnership between the Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program; the National Park Service, Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance Program; Manatee and Sarasota Counties; the City of Sarasota and other local municipalities.



NORTH

- 1 **Sunshine Skyway Fishing Pier:** (Skyway Dr.) at the north and south end, among the longest piers in the world offering spectacular views.
- 2 **Frog Creek Campground:** (8515 Baysboro Rd.) quiet area, offering fishing and canoeing.

PALMETTO HISTORICAL DISTRICT

- 3 **Palmetto Historical Park:** (10th Ave. W. and 6th St. W.) the site of Palmetto's first settlement, which now includes restored buildings, parks, businesses, shops, community clubs, a library and Heritage Park. Palmetto's first post office built in 1880.
- 4 **Olympia Theatre:** (10th Ave. W.) built in 1926, originally served as a theatre and the Palmetto Bakery which remained in operation until the 1950s. Today, it is under renovation for use as a performing arts and community center.
- 5 **Lamb House:** (Riverside Dr.) built by Julius A. Lamb in 1899, and purchased in the 1920s by J. Pope Harlee (son of Palmetto's first settlers). The beautiful home has been restored and is now a private residence. Viewing only, no tours available.
- 6 **Green Bridge Fishing Pier:** (Green Br.) built for \$1,000,000 in 1927; named for E.P. Green who first petitioned for the new bridge that spanned the Manatee River. Bike the Historic District and/or nearby Emerson Point Park.



- 33 **Cortez School House:** (119 St. W.) built in 1912, the brick schoolhouse is defined by classically inspired wooden piers; the building retains its original floor plan, architectural detailing, and character.
- 34 **Historic Bridge Street:** (Bridge St.) quaint shopping and commercial district and location of the **Bridge St. Fishing Pier**, the first bridge to Anna Maria Island, built in 1920.
- 35 **Coquina BayWalk at Leflys Key:** (Gulf Dr.) spectacular 30-acre nature park with trails, wildlife education and panoramic vistas.
- 36 **Coquina Beach:** (Gulf Dr.) 96-acres of white sand accommodating more than two million visitors a year; picnic tables, grills and rest rooms.
- 37 **Beer Can Island:** (111 N. Shore Rd.) perfect for secluded beach walks, brilliant sunsets and wildlife viewing opportunities. (Over 200 species of birds have been spotted here.)
- 38 **North Shore Rd. Beach Access:** (100 N. Shore Rd.) pristine beach providing access to Beer Can Island.
- 39 **Historic Longbeach Village:** (Broadway) walk or ride your bike to see where the first house was built on the Key, and visit the old town dock overlooking Sarasota Bay.
- 40 **Longboat Key Art Center:** (6860 Longboat Dr. S.) in operation for more than 40 years offering exhibits and art classes in sculpture, pottery, copper enameling, jewelry, photography and more.

CITY OF SARASOTA CULTURAL DISTRICT

- 62 **Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall:** (777 N. Tamiami Tr.) designed by the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, this landmark has featured world-class music, dance and theater since 1970 and hosted such artists as Luciano Pavarotti, Willie Nelson and Julio Iglesias.
- 63 **Bayfront BayWalk:** (Next to Van Wezel) in the heart of downtown, take a stroll along the Sarasota bayfront while enjoying wildlife viewing.
- 64 **Sarasota Garden Clubs:** (131 Blvd. of the Arts) enjoy native plants, a butterfly garden, a 1/2-acre pond with turtles and ducks, and other wildlife viewing opportunities including wild parrots and herons.
- 65 **Sarasota County Department of Historical Resources:** (701 N. Tamiami Tr.) research the past through its varied collections of photographs and historical documents. Collections consist of late 19th and 20th century photographs, architectural drawings, maps, business and personal papers, newspapers and other archaeological artifacts.
- 66 **Sarasota Visual Arts Center:** (707 N. Tamiami Tr.) at this gallery find paintings, sculptures, jewelry, pottery and even a Florida Yard Demonstration Landscape.
- 67 **Florida West Coast Symphony:** (709 N. Tamiami Tr.) featuring classical music, pops, children's concerts and resident chamber ensembles; celebrates its 50th season in 1999, under the direction of the artistic director, Leaf Bloland.
- 68 **Cantennial Park:** (1059 N. Tamiami Tr.) largest boat ramp facility in Sarasota.
- 69 **Players of Sarasota:** (838 N. Tamiami Tr.) oldest community theater with auditions open to everyone.
- 70 **Whitaker Gateway Park:** (N. Tamiami Tr.) provides picnicking, a playground and a great vista of Sarasota Bay.
- 71 **Sarasota Opera House:** (61 N. Pineapple St.) listed on the National Registry of Historic Buildings and the League of Historic Theaters; celebrates its 40th season in 1999.
- 72 **Theatre Works:** (1247 1st St.) "actor driven theater" presenting productions in the historic Palm Tree Playhouse.
- 73 **Florida Studio Theatre:** (1241 Palm Ave.) one of the leading avant garde theaters in the area.

- 80 **Pinecraft Park:** (1420 Gilbert Ave.) 15-acre park offering wildlife viewing.
- 81 **Lakeview Park:** (7150 Lago St.) on Lake Sarasota, offers fishing and recreational activities.
- 82 **Siesta Public Beach:** (948 Beach Rd.) recognized as one of the most beautiful beaches anywhere and as having the whitest sand in the world (99% pure Quartz); offering concessions, picnic shelters, tennis courts, pavilion, ballfield, volleyball courts, fitness trail, a safety building and rest rooms.
- 83 **Turtle Beach:** (8918 Midnight Pass Rd.) bays to beaches park with a tidal lagoon connecting to Little Sarasota Bay; offering a large picnic shelter, volleyball court, horseshoe courts, dune walkers and rest rooms.
- 84 **Palmer Point Park:** (1/2 mile south of Turtle Beach) secluded bays to beaches park and popular spot for boaters and canoeists.
- 85 **Phillippi Estates Park/Edson Keith House:** (5500 S. Tamiami Tr.) 60-acre park with Indian middens dating back 2000 years. The Edson Keith House was built in 1916 in classic Italian renaissance style. Phillippi Creek was named after Felipe Bermudez, a fisherman from Cuba, who had an area ranch in the 19th century.
- 86 **Florida House Learning Center:** (4600 Benewa Rd.) futuristic house demonstrating sustainable designs and technologies for living in southwest Florida; also offers a Florida Yard Demonstration Landscape.
- 87 **Myakka River State Park:** (13207 St. Rd. 72) experience "Old Florida" in Florida's largest land-based state park (28,876-acres) featuring fishing, canoeing, hiking, bicycling, nature trails, horseback riding, boat and tram tours and exceptional wildlife viewing.

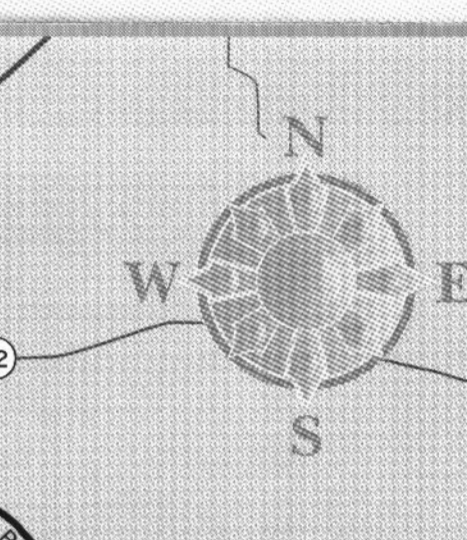
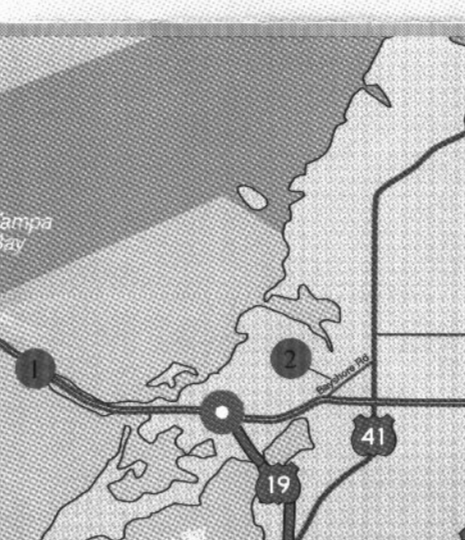
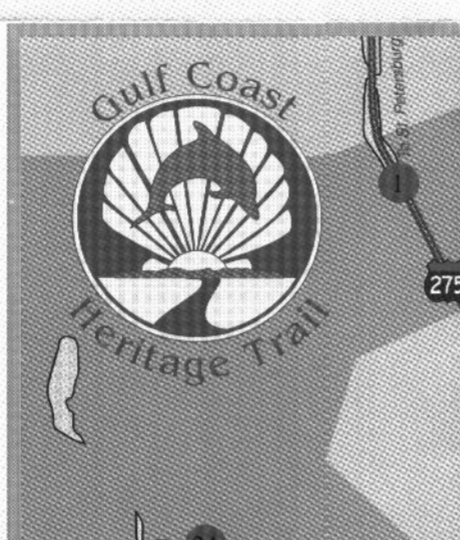
- 88 **Blackburn Point Bridge:** (Blackburn Point Rd.) historic one lane bridge with an adjacent park offering picnicking and fishing. Bike to nearby North Jetty Park.
- 92 **Blackburn Point Park and Bridge:** (800 Blackburn Point Rd.) historic one lane bridge with an adjacent park offering picnicking and fishing. Bike to nearby North Jetty Park.
- 93 **Oscar Scherer State Park:** (1843 S. Tamiami Tr.) offers nature and hiking trails, camping, swimming, picnicking, fishing, canoeing, and bicycling. Look for the endangered Florida Scrub-Jay.
- 94 **Nokomis Beach:** (901 Casey Key Rd.) Sarasota County's oldest public beach, with a pavilion, picnic shelters, a boardwalk and rest rooms.
- 95 **North Jetty Park:** (100 Casey Key) one of the best surfing beaches on the gulf coast of Florida and is popular for fishing; provides a bait stand, picnic shelters, volleyball courts, a concession stand, dune walkers and rest rooms.

- 104 **Caspersen Beach:** (4100 Harbor Dr. S.) recognized as one of the most enjoyable shelling beaches and a great place to find pre-historic sharks teeth; this park offers nature trails, wildlife viewing, dune walkers and rest rooms.
- 105 **Shamrock Park and Nature Center:** (3900 Shamrock Dr.) explore nature trails, picnic or attend instructional classes at this former homeland of Native American Indians.
- 106 **Manasota Beach:** (8570 Manasota Beach Rd.) this bays to beaches park is a wonderful place to take a quiet stroll, collect shells, or fly a kite; providing picnic shelters, dune walkers and rest rooms.
- 107 **Blind Pass Beach/Hermitage:** (6725 Manasota Key Rd.) the Hermitage, one of the oldest structures in Englewood, is located at this bays to beaches park offering a playground, a nature trail, a picnic shelter, dune walkers and rest rooms.
- 108 **Englewood Beach/Chadwick Park:** (Beach Rd.) offering picnicking, a playground and rest rooms.
- 109 **Cedar Point Park:** (SR 775, Placidia Rd.) 88-acres of hiking trails through southwest Florida pine flatwoods, oak scrub, salt flats and the mangrove fringe of Lemon Bay.
- 110 **Lemon Bay Playhouse:** (96 W. Dearborn St.) community-based theater hosting a variety of entertainment.
- 111 **Green St. Church and Museum:** (Green St.) built in 1926, was the first church in the Englewood area.
- 112 **Indian Mound Park:** (210 Winslow Ave.) five-acre park featuring a short educational trail showing Florida's native flora and fauna including a prehistoric Indian mound site (dating from 1000 BC).

CENTRAL

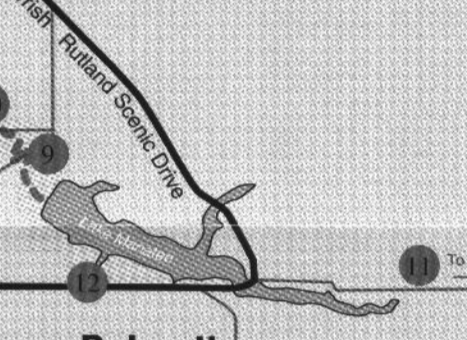
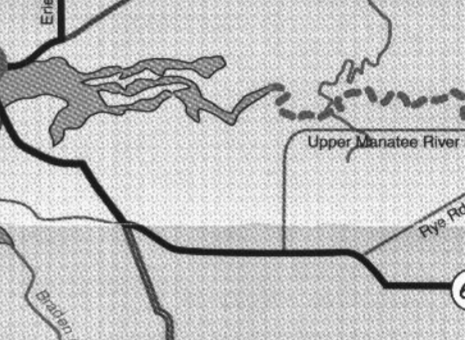
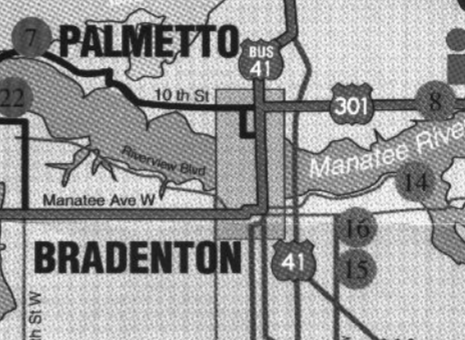
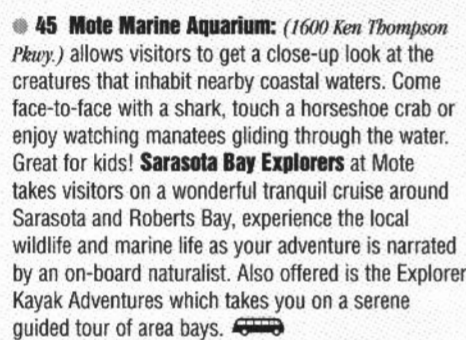
- 9 **Rye Wilderness Park:** (905 Rye Wilderness Trail) offering camping, nature trails, horseback riding trails, wildlife observing (such as deer and bobcat), fishing and canoeing along the upper Manatee River.
- 10 **Ray's Canoe Hideaway:** (1247 Hugel Park Rd.) near Rye Wilderness Park, offers facilities for canoeing, fishing and swimming.
- 11 **Duette Park:** (2649 Rawks Rd.) offers miles of nature trails, horseback riding trails, camping and hunting.
- 12 **Lake Manatee State Recreation Area:** (20007 S.R. 64) offers a 60-acre camping area, boat ramp, swimming, fishing and wildlife viewing.
- 13 **Braden River Canoe Trail at Jiggs Landing:** (6106 Braden River Rd.) offers bait, tackle, canoes, or fishing boats for a quiet day exploring the river.
- 14 **Braden Castle:** (St. Rd. 64 and 27th St. E) once the site of Dr. Joseph A. Braden's Sugar Plantation. View tin can tourist houses and the remains of Braden's home made of tabby.
- 15 **Family Heritage House:** (1707 15th St. E. & S 840 26th St. W.) resource for the study of African American achievements; video, audio tapes and literature let you explore the strengths of a people.
- 16 **Manatee Village Historical Park:** (604 15th St. E.) National Historic Site that offers a look at the heritage of the area's settlers. Special attractions include the Village of Manatee, the Cracker Trail, the Bunker Hill School, the Wiggins General Store, a smokehouse and a sugar cane mill.

- 41 **Joan M. Durante Park:** (5560 Gulf of Mexico Dr.) offers nature trails and boardwalks through a wetland and mangrove system; also includes gazebos, playgrounds and picnicking.
- 42 **Bicentennial Park:** (Gulf of Mexico Dr.) 1/2-acre park offering picnicking and a Florida Yard Demonstration Landscape.
- 43 **Quick Point Nature Preserve:** (100 Gulf of Mexico Dr.) 34-acre nature park offering trails, boardwalks, tidal pools, scenic vistas and wildlife viewing. Bike beautiful Gulf of Mexico Drive, City Island and nearby Lido Key.
- 44 **Overlook Park/New Pass Fishing Pier:** (101 Gulf of Mexico Dr.) provides access to Quick Point Nature Preserve.



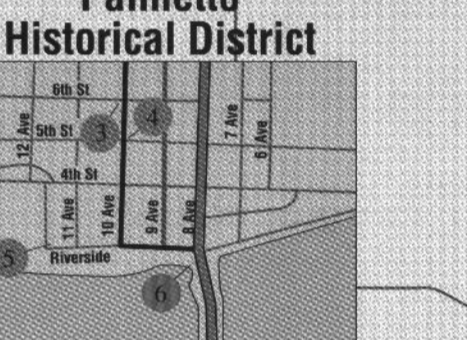
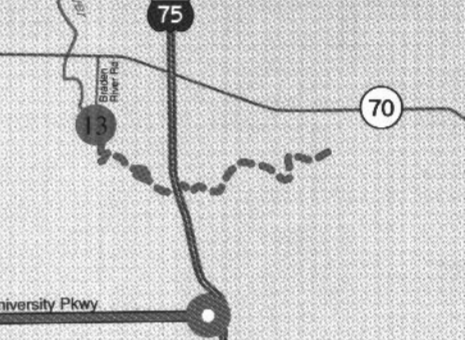
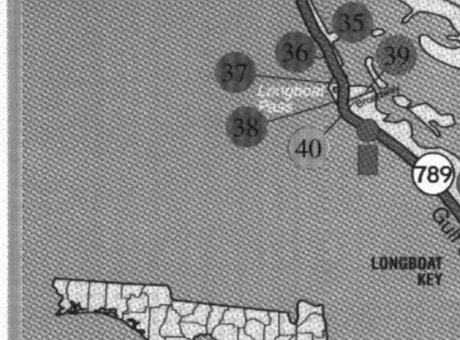
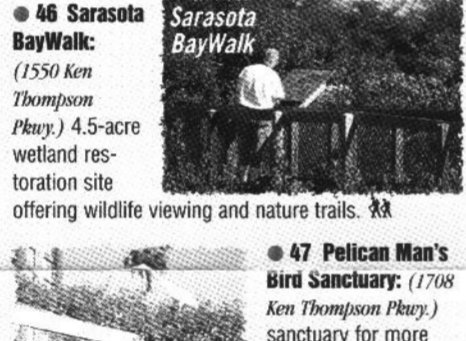
CITY ISLAND ENVIRO PARK

- 45 **Mote Marine Aquarium:** (1600 Ken Thompson Pkwy.) allows visitors to get a close-up look at the creatures that inhabit nearby coastal waters. Come face-to-face with a shark, touch a horseshoe crab or enjoy watching manatees gliding through the water. Great for kids! **Sarasota Bay Explorers** at Mote takes visitors on a wonderful tranquil cruise around Sarasota and Roberts Bay, experience the local wildlife and marine life as your adventure is narrated by an on-board naturalist. Also offered is the Explorer Kayak Adventures which takes you on a serene guided tour of four bays.
- 46 **Sarasota BayWalk:** (1550 Ken Thompson Pkwy.) 4.5-acre wetland restoration site offering wildlife viewing and nature trails.
- 47 **Pelican Man's Bird Sanctuary:** (1708 Ken Thompson Pkwy.) sanctuary for more than 200 species of injured birds; learn about native birds and what you can do to protect them.
- 48 **Kon Thompson Park:** (1700 Ken Thompson Pkwy.) 84-acre park offering picnicking, fishing, canoeing or kayaking.
- 49 **City Island Boat Ramp and Bird Rookery:** (City Island Rd.) provides ideal access to Sarasota Bay; offers unique bird viewing.
- 50 **St. Armand's Circle:** (St. Armand's Cir.) where John Ringling started his real estate dreams, now offers world renowned dining and shopping pleasures.
- 51 **North Lido Beach:** (400 Ben Franklin Dr.) beautiful beach offering a nature trail and guarantees outstanding sunsets.
- 52 **Lido Beach:** (400 Ben Franklin Dr.) popular and active beach providing concessions, a gift shop, playground equipment, swimming pool and rest rooms.
- 53 **South Lido Park:** (2201 Ben Franklin Dr.) this bays to beaches park provides expansive views of the Gulf of Mexico, Big Pass and downtown Sarasota. The park also offers a nature trail, a self guided canoe trail, picnic tables, grills, playground equipment, volleyball court, horseshoe court and rest rooms.
- 54 **Bird Key Park:** (200 John Ringling Causeway) offers scenic vistas and recreational pursuits such as wind surfing and fishing (pets welcome).
- 55 **Caseyway Park:** (420 John Ringling Causeway) offers the **Tony Saprito Fishing Pier**, a bait shop (Hart's Landing) and a boat ramp.
- 56 **Gulf Coast Wonder & Imagination Zone:** (8251 15th St. E.) (Moving to 63rd Ave. 1999) offers more than 60 hands-on natural and physical science exhibits (great for kids). The Florida Yard Demonstration Landscape and Butterfly Garden offers a showcase of native Florida plants, a cistern, and a turtle and fish pond.
- 57 **John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art:** (5401 Reynolds Rd.) large collection of internationally recognized works by Italian and Northern European Renaissance Artists, in addition to French, Dutch, Flemish and Spanish works from the past five centuries.
- 58 **Ca'd'Zan:** (5401 Bay Shore Rd.) home of John and Mable Ringling is the "crown jewel" of the Ringling complex with stained glass windows, whimsical carvings, marble terraces, gardens and historic furnishings.



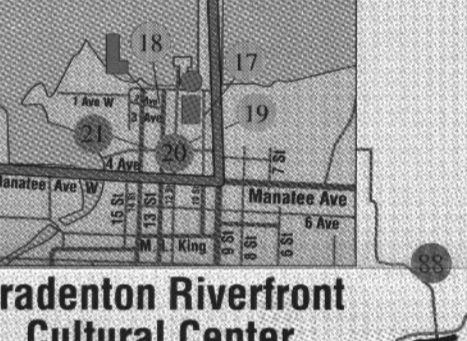
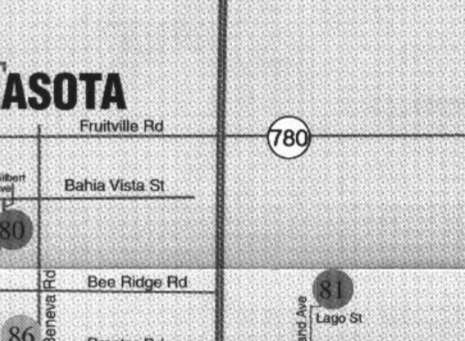
BRADENTON RIVERFRONT CULTURAL CENTER

- 17 **South Florida Museum, Bishop Planetarium, Parker Manatee Aquarium:** (201 10th St. W.) explores Florida from "Astronomy to Zoology" with exhibits on the area's cultural and natural history, astronomy and laser shows and the aquarium's manatee, Snooty, the oldest manatee "born and raised" in captivity. Great for kids!
- 18 **Manatee Players Riverfront Theatre:** (102 Old Main St.) offering fine entertainment for over 45 years with humor, memorable music and captivating stories.
- 19 **Art League of Manatee County:** (209 9th St. W.) a long-standing creative presence offering art with exhibitions, lectures and workshops.
- 20 **Riverpark Hotel:** (309 10th St. W.) newly renovated 1920s hotel, (a former getaway for the Chicago gangsters) which now offers fine dining, a pleasant stay and a breathtaking view of the Manatee River and the downtown area.
- 21 **Carnegie Library:** (1405 4th Ave. W.) built in 1918 and houses Manatee County's early records.
- 22 **De Soto National Memorial:** (North End 57th St.) 27-acre National Memorial offering nature trails, a living history camp and visitors center, and museum with educational films and artifacts.
- 23 **Bean Point Beach:** (N. Shore Dr. & N. Bay Blvd.) the first homestead landed here 100 years ago. A walkover provides a spectacular view (perhaps the most dramatic) of the Gulf of Mexico and Tampa Bay.
- 24 **Bayfront Park:** (N. Bay Blvd.) offering picnicking, walking and biking to nearby Bean Point Beach and the local fishing piers.
- 25 **Rod and Reel Pier:** (875 North Shore Dr.) built in 1947, the old style Florida pier offers fishing, casual dining and spectacular sunsets.
- 26 **Anna Maria City Pier:** (100 Bay Blvd.) originally built in 1911 as a dock for excursion boats from Tampa, the 736-foot pier attracts many sightseers and anglers.
- 27 **Anna Maria Island Historical Society Museum:** (402 Pine Ave.) built in 1920 as an ice house, the museum houses rare photos of settlers and artifacts such as shells, fossils, sharks teeth and antique quills. **Old City Jail:** (Next to museum) built in 1927, this landmark is a favorite for photographers.
- 28 **Island Players:** (10009 Gulf Dr. N.) founded in 1948, offers community stage productions.
- 29 **Anna Maria Island Art League:** (5312 Hobbes Blvd.) offers an exhibit gallery and art classes including watercolors and clay sculpting.
- 30 **Artists Guild of Anna Maria Island:** (5414 Marina Dr.) members include artists, actors, writers and musicians; with local artwork for sale including pastels, oils, watercolors and pottery.
- 31 **Manatee County Beach:** (Gulf Dr.) 10-acres of white sand with a playground, picnic tables, refreshments and rest rooms.
- 32 **Cortez Fishing Village:** (123 St. and Cortez Rd.) built in the 1880s, this quaint community has preserved the local heritage and offers walking tours and restaurants.



SOUTH

- 74 **Golden Apple Dinner Theatre:** (25 N. Pineapple Ave.) offers cocktails, candlelight dining and a professional Broadway show.
- 75 **Palm Avenue:** (Palm Ave.) artistic highlight showcasing several top art galleries on this quaint street.
- 76 **Burns Court:** (Burns Court) unique shopping cluster of 1925 Mediterranean Revival bungalows, offering antique stores, jewelry, clothing, restaurants and the Burns Court Cinema.
- 77 **Towles Court Artist Colony:** (Adams Lane and Morrill St.) includes working artists and artisans living in a renovated, picturesque downtown setting. Open studios and classes.
- 78 **Island Park:** (Baysboro Rd.) offers spectacular Bay views, children's and dolphin fountains and unforgettable sunsets on Sarasota Bay. Bike nearby Palm Ave. to downtown and/or along the bayfront to nearby Selby Gardens.
- 79 **Marie Selby Botanical Gardens:** (811 S. Palm Ave.) on Sarasota Bay, offers 20 distinct garden paths that showcase plant species from all over the world. Take a stroll through the butterfly garden, the bamboo pavilion, koi pond, banyon grove, palm grove, shoreline restoration and the baywalk. Selby Gardens also offers a collection of more than 6,000 orchids and a museum showing more than 20,000 colorful plants.
- 89 **Potter Park:** (6587 Potter Park Dr.) offers picnicking, nature trails and tennis and basketball courts.
- 90 **Osprey Fishing Pier:** (West End of Main St.) local fishing pier.
- 91 **Historic Spanish Point:** (337 N. Tamiami Tr.) features pioneer homestead buildings (from the late 1800s), beautiful gardens, prehistoric Indian Middens (dating from 1250 BC) and nature trails.
- 98 **Venice Little Theatre:** (140 W. Tampa Ave.) in the charming downtown district, offering stage presentations from comedies to musicals.
- 99 **Venice Art Center:** (390 Nokomis Ave.) offers free year-round exhibits of local artists' work and classes for all ages.
- 100 **Venice Beach:** (100 The Esplanade) best known for collecting sharks teeth, enjoy diving on a reef containing fossilized material located a quarter mile offshore. Also offers a pavilion, picnic tables, volleyball court, dune walkers and rest rooms. Bike nearby Harbor Drive to Caspersen Beach.
- 101 **Venice Fishing Pier:** (1600 Harbor Dr. S.) local fishing pier with wildlife viewing.
- 102 **Service Club Park:** (1190 Harbor Dr. S.) includes boardwalks, native scrub habitat, a secluded beach, picnicking and rest rooms. Look for the endangered Florida Scrub-Jay.
- 103 **South Brohard Park:** (South of Service Club Park) offers dune walkers, boardwalks and quiet beach walks.
- 113 **Lemon Bay Park Environmental Center:** (570 Bay Park Blvd.) 195-acres including nature trails, a butterfly garden, an environmental center and a canoe trail.
- 114 **Venice Area Audubon Rookery:** (Annex Rd.) highly used nesting spot by egrets, herons and anhingas.
- 115 **T. Mabry Carlton, Jr. Memorial Reserve:** (1800 Carlton Parkway) consisting of 24,565-acres featuring nature trails, wildlife viewing and environmental education about Florida's native habitat.
- 116 **Warm Mineral Springs:** (12200 San Servando Ave.) natural watering hole and world renowned spa (temperature of the lake holds a year round 87°F) forms a lake flowing with nine million gallons of water per day.
- 117 **Myakkahatchee Park:** (6968 Reisterstown Rd.) consisting of 131-acres providing picnicking, wildlife viewing and fishing.



KEY TO SYMBOLS



CITY OF SARASOTA CULTURAL DISTRICT END

VENICE CULTURAL AND HERITAGE PARK END

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