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## Lee County, FL



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Lee County

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# Local Area Events

## YEAR ROUND

- Art Walk - Fort Myers ~ 1st Friday Monthly
- Fort Myers Farmers Market - Thursdays
- Music Walk - Fort Myers - 3rd Friday Monthly
- The Sunset Celebration @ Yacht Club - Cape Coral

## JANUARY

- Bonita Springs Natural Art Festival
- Cape Coral Art Festival & Marketplace
- Celtic Festival - Fort Myers
- Fort Myers Seafood & Music Festival
- Tour de Cape - Cape Coral
- VIVA Cape Coral Festival

## FEBRUARY

- Artfest - Fort Myers
- Burrowing Owl Festival - Cape Coral
- Cape Coral Bike Night (2nd Saturday)
- City Wide Clean Up- Bonita Springs
- Edison Festival of Light & Grande Parade - Fort Myers
- Rotary Club Arts & Crafts Fair - Sanibel-Captiva
- Sanibel Fashion Show
- Southwest Florida AG Expo - North Fort Myers
- Taste of Cape - Cape Coral

## MARCH

- BonitaFest - Bonita Springs
- Cape Coral Irish Festival
- Center for the Fine Arts Festival - Bonita Springs
- ECHO Global Food & Farm Festival - Fort Myers
- FitMix Fest - Fort Myers
- Fort Myers Beach Shrimp Festival & Parade
- PRIDE in Cape Coral

## MARCH (CONTD)

- Sanibel - Captiva Lions Club Annual Arts & Crafts Fair
- Sanibel Music Festival
- Sanibel Shell Festival
- Sounds of Jazz & Blues - Cape Coral
- Sounds of the Sand - Fort Myers
- Spring Training for MN Twins & Boston Red Sox - Fort Myers

## APRIL

- Cape Coral Bike Night - 2nd Saturday
- Cardboard Boat Regatta - Cape Coral - PET FRIENDLY!
- Celebrate Bonita - Bonita Springs
- "DING" Darling Day - Fort Myers
- Earth Day at the Refuge - Sanibel-Captiva

## MAY

- Annual Taste of the Beach - Ft Myers Beach
- Bonita Springs Short Film Festival
- Celebrate Memorial Day in Bonita Springs
- Cinco de Mayo Festival - Cape Coral
- "DING" Darling & Doc Fords Tarpon Tournament - Sanibel
- Fort Myers Film Festival
- Shark-a-Thon Fishing Tournament - Cape Coral

## JUNE

- Bonita Springs PRIDE Festival
- Contempo Dance Club - Bonita Springs
- Fathers Day @ Sun Splash - Cape Coral
- Fiesta Bonita
- Fringe Festival - Fort Myers
- Ocean Church Family Fun Day - Bonita Springs
- Worlds Richest Tarpon Tournament - Boca Grande

## JULY - AUGUST

- 4th of July Fireworks & Parade - Fort Myers Beach
- Best Patriotic Pet Contest - Cape Coral
- Great American Picnic - Cape Coral
- Independence Day Celebrations - Sanibel - Captiva
- Mango Mania - Pine Island
- Red, White & BOOM - Cape Coral
- Star Spangled Bonita
- Just for Fun Dog Show @ Rotary Park - Cape Coral

## SEPTEMBER

- Fort Myers Beach International Film Festival
- International Peace Day @ Jayce Park - Cape Coral - PET FRIENDLY!
- Island Hopper Songwriter Fest - Captiva Island, Cape Coral, Ft. Myers & Ft. Myers Beach
- Kids Fishing Derby - Cape Coral
- Shorts of The Fort - Fort Myers

## OCTOBER

- Cape Coral Bike Night - 2nd Saturday
- CJD Foundation - STRIDES 4 CJD - Bonita Springs
- Columbus Day Parade - Cape Coral
- Feeling Spooktacular in the Sunshine - Fort Myers
- German American Social Club Oktoberfest - Cape Coral
- Haunted Hikes - Cape Coral
- Italian Food Festival - Cape Coral
- Oktoberfest - Cape Coral

## NOVEMBER

- American Sand Sculpting Championship - Fort Myers
- Cape Coral Coconut Festival
- Fort Myers Boat Show
- Fort Myers Tip-Off
- Gulf Coast Showcase - Estero
- Taste of the Island - Sanibel Island - Captiva
- Taste of Lee - Fort Myers
- Veterans Day Parade - Cape Coral

## DECEMBER

- Arts on Tap - Fort Myers
- Burroughs Home & Garden Holiday House - Fort Myers
- Cape Coral Boat Along Christmas Boat Parade
- Cape Coral NYE Party @ Cape Harbour
- City of Palms Classic - Fort Myers
- Edison & Ford Winter Estates Holiday Lights - Fort Myers
- Festival of Trees @ Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center - Fort Myers
- Fort Myers Beach Boat Parade
- Lighting of the Port Boca Grande Lighthouse & Museum - Boca Grande
- Luminary Holiday Stroll - Sanibel-Captiva
- Sanibel-Captive Luminary Holiday Stroll
- Santa Visits - Cape Coral
- The Springs of Bonita Christmas Eve Ceremony - Bonita Springs
- Tree Lighting Ceremony - Cape Coral

*\* Events are subject to change*



# Residential Services

Animal Services.....	239-533-7387
Clerk of Courts & Comptroller.....	239-533-5000
Community Development.....	239-533-8585
County Attorney.....	239-533-2236
County Commissioner.....	239-533-2224
County Lands.....	239-533-8833
Economic Development.....	239-338-3161
Extension Services.....	239-533-4327
GIS (Maps/Data).....	239-533-7304
Human & Veteran Services.....	239-533-7900
Innovation & Technology.....	239-533-2111
Library System.....	239-845-8585
Management & Budget.....	239-533-2221
Natural Resources.....	239-533-8109
Parks & Rec.....	239-533-7275
Public Safety & Emergency Management.....	239-533-3911
Public Transportation.....	239-533-8726
Sheriff.....	Emergency - 911..... Non Emergency..... 239-477-1000
Solid Waste.....	239-533-8000
Transportation.....	239-533-8580
Utilities.....	239-533-8845
Visitor & Convention Bureau.....	239-338-3500

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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.

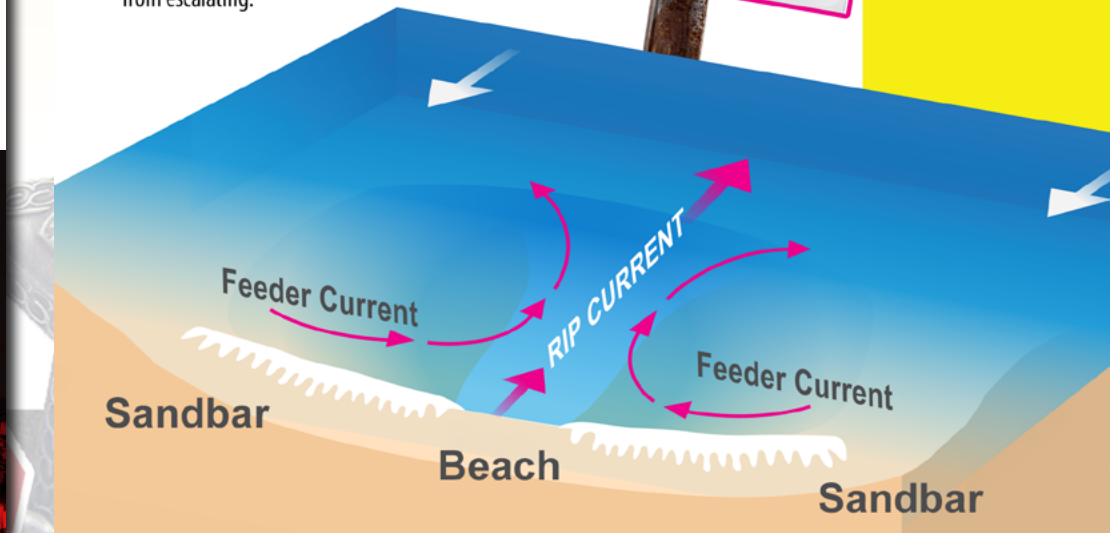
**2. Float & Conserve Energy:**

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:**

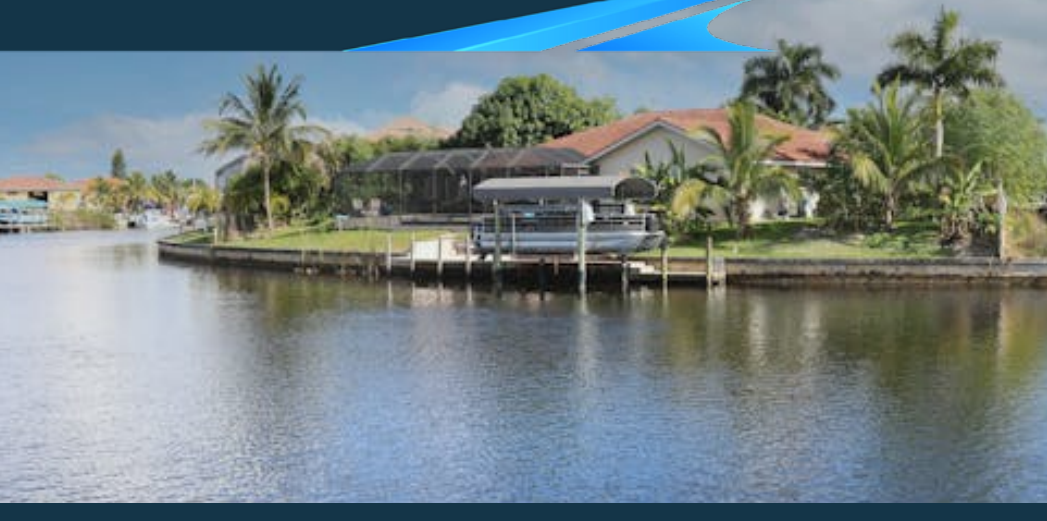
Wait for waves to push you towards shore and use them to assist your escape from the rip current. Time your movements with the breaking waves, and use the momentum to swim towards the shore. Be patient and persistent, and don't exhaust yourself by attempting to fight against the current.

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



# Rip Currents





Modern day Lee County has a rich cultural heritage, with archaeological evidence pointing to the presence of the Caloosahatchee people between 500 and 1750 AD. By the time European explorers arrived, the Calusa tribe had established themselves in the area. Following European contact, Spanish colonists from Cuba and other territories set up temporary fishing settlements, known as ranchos, along the southern Gulf Coast of Florida. As the 18th century drew to a close, the Calusa were gradually replaced by the Seminole. When Florida became a U.S. territory in 1821, an influx of settlers sparked tensions with the native Seminole population. To counter this threat, Fort Myers was constructed in 1850 as a military outpost, named in honor of Col. Abraham C. Myers, who had served in Florida for seven years and was the son-in-law of the fort's founder. During the American Civil War, federal forces occupied the fort, aiming to disrupt the Confederate cattle supply from Florida. The fort played host to the Battle of Fort Myers in February 1865. The first permanent settlers arrived in 1866, followed by a significant wave of newcomers in 1882. The city was officially incorporated in 1885, and two years later, Lee County was formed from Monroe County, with Fort Myers serving as its County Seat. The county was named after Robert E. Lee, a prominent Confederate general. As of 2022, the population of Lee County stands at 822,453.

#### Cities

Bonita Springs - 53,644  
 Cape Coral - 194,016  
 Fort Myers - 95,989 (County Seat)  
 Sanibel - 6,382

#### Census Designated Places

Alva - 2,725  
 Bokeelia - 1,855  
 Buckingham - 4,443  
 Burnt Store Marina - 1,890  
 Captiva - 318  
 Charleston Park - 235  
 Cypress Lake - 13,727  
 East Dunbar - 1,935  
 Florida Gulf Coast University - 15,373  
 Fort Myers Shores - 5,774  
 Gateway - 8,401  
 Harlem Heights - 1,930  
 Iona - 16,908

#### Census Designated Places (Contd)

Lochmoor Waterway Estates - 4,204  
 Matlacha - 598  
 Matlacha Isles / Matlacha Shores - 277  
 McGregor - 7,976  
 North Fort Myers - 42,719  
 Olga - 2,270  
 Page Park - 747  
 Palmona Park - 1,240  
 Pine Island Center - 1,942  
 Pine Manor - 4,122  
 Pineland - 466  
 Punta Rassa - 1,620  
 San Carlos Park - 18,563  
 St James City - 3,876  
 Suncoast Estates - 4,097  
 Three Oaks - 5,472  
 Tice - 4,853  
 Verdalah - 1,791  
 Vilas - 12,687  
 Whiskey Creek - 4,842

#### Towns

Fort Myers Beach - 5,582

#### Village

Estero - 36,939

#### Municipal District

Lehigh Acres - 114,287

#### Other unincorporated communities

Babcock Ranch  
 Boca Grande  
 Cayo Costa (State Park)

*\*Populations are approximate.*

## Bonita Springs

When the Spanish arrived in 1513, seeking gold and slaves, they encountered a thriving population of thousands of Calusa Indians. However, the introduction of European diseases and the slave trade decimated the once-powerful Calusa Chiefdom over the next few centuries. The few remaining survivors fled to the Florida Keys and eventually to Cuba, with some possibly assimilating into the Seminole tribes that had taken refuge in South Florida. In the 1870s, government surveyors established a camp along the waterway now known as the Imperial River, in a remote area of Southwest Florida. After their departure, the site became known as Survey, and the waterway was dubbed Surveyor's Creek. Over the next decade, only a handful of homesteaders settled in the area. However, in the late 1880s, the population surged when Braxton B. Comer acquired 6,000 acres of land around Survey and brought in 50 families of indentured servants from Alabama, along with mules and equipment, to work on his vast plantation cultivating pineapples, bananas, coconuts, and other fruits. The subsequent decade saw a citrus boom, and Survey rapidly transformed from a scattered collection of homesteaders into a thriving community. In 1912, Harvie Heitman, J.H. Ragsdale, and fellow investors from Fort Myers purchased 2,400 acres around Survey. Heitman and his associate, Dan Farnsworth, surveyed the area and designed a small town with streets and avenues named after the investors. The developers deemed the name "Survey" lacking in appeal and opted to rename the town Bonita Springs. As of the 2020 census, the population of Bonita Springs had grown to 53,644.

## Cape Coral

In 1957, a pivotal moment in Cape Coral's history unfolded when Leonard and Jack Rosen, two brothers and seasoned real estate developers from Baltimore, Maryland, took to the skies to survey the Redfish Point peninsula, situated across the Caloosahatchee River from present-day Fort Myers. Alongside a small group of partners, they acquired a vast 103-square-mile tract of land, opting to finance their ambitious project through innovative sales contract factoring rather than relying on traditional bank loans. This bold approach enabled the rapid development of infrastructure, including the excavation of canals, the paving of streets, and the construction of homes and businesses. The city's promoters launched a marketing blitz unlike any other seen in Florida, showcasing Cape Coral's unique appeal. The city officially incorporated on August 18, 1970, and its population surged forward, only to be tempered by the regional real estate downturn that began in 2008. As of the 2020 Census, Cape Coral's population stands at 194,016.

## Fort Myers ~ County Seat

Located in Lee County, Florida, Fort Myers serves as the county seat. The area's history dates back to the Second Seminole War, when the U.S. Army established Fort Dulaney at Punta Rassa, near the Caloosahatchee River's mouth, between 1835 and 1842. After a hurricane destroyed Fort Dulaney in 1841, the army relocated to Fort Harvie, situated further up the Caloosahatchee River. However, Fort Harvie was abandoned in 1842 as the war drew to a close. The site of the former Fort Harvie was later used to build the new Fort Myers. During the American Civil War, Fort Myers became a hub for Confederate blockade runners and cattle ranchers, who thrived by trading with both the Seminole and Union soldiers. Following the war, Captain Manuel A. Gonzalez, who had previously delivered mail and supplies to the Union Army during the Seminole Indian Wars and Civil War, founded the Fort Myers community on February 21, 1866. The small town, with a population of 349, was officially incorporated on August 12, 1885. Today, Fort Myers boasts a population of 95,989, according to the latest census.



**Estero**

In Lee County, Florida, lies the incorporated village of Estero, whose name translates to “estuary” in Spanish. This picturesque village is situated adjacent to the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve, a pioneering nature reserve established in Florida. The preserve’s Mound Key, a significant archaeological site, is thought to have been the sacred hub of the Calusa Indians when they first encountered Spanish explorers in the early 16th century. The area’s modern development began in 1882, when German settler Gustave Damkohler introduced mulberry cultivation along the Estero River, paving the way for others to establish fish camps and the region’s inaugural citrus groves. The construction of Tamiami Trail, a major highway connecting Tampa and Miami, and two railroads in the 1920s greatly enhanced access to Estero, with the trail’s completion in 1928 marking a significant milestone. After decades of growth, Estero officially became a village on December 31, 2014, and as of the 2020 census, its population stands at 36,939.

**Lehigh Acres**

In the 1950s, a savvy businessman from Chicago, Lee Ratner, sought to minimize his tax liability after selling his pest control business. With the threat of high capital gains tax looming, Ratner invested in 18,000 acres of land in eastern Lee County, dubbing it the Lucky Lee Ranch. Cattle ranching proved a lucrative venture, but Ratner soon set his sights on land development, partnering with Gerald H. Gould, a Florida advertising expert, and two other investors. In 1954, their corporation began selling land in what would become Lehigh Acres, with Gould at the helm until the company’s sale in 1972. Over time, the community expanded to encompass 61,000 acres. Decades later, in 1992, Lee County declared Lehigh Acres a blighted area and empowered its Community Redevelopment Agency to address the infrastructure and planning shortcomings of the original development. As of 2020, the population of Lehigh Acres had grown to 114,287.

**North Fort Myers**

With a population of around 42,997 people as of the 2020 United States Census, North Fort Myers has evolved into a vibrant community boasting a diverse economy. This transformation was a long time in the making, with the area initially being settled in the late 19th century following the construction of the Florida Southern Railway in 1886. For many decades, the region remained predominantly rural and focused on agriculture, but this changed in the mid-20th century when rapid growth and development began to take hold. Today, North Fort Myers is characterized by a blend of residential, commercial, and industrial developments, featuring amenities such as shopping centers, restaurants, and light manufacturing facilities.

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## GO GREEN

### Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

reduce waste, reuse materials & recycle properly



Cut back on single-use plastics, conserve water, drive less



**Community/Home Gardens:** Really good at absorbing carbon dioxide. Cuts down on pesticides/fertilizers. Also benefits mental health and provides fresh food.

**Composting:** Decreases the amount of trash in landfills and reduces carbon emissions.

**Plant Trees:** Planting trees is a classic Earth Day activity.

**Local Food:** Buy local sustainable food.

**Clean-Up Events:** Organize or participate in local clean-up efforts.

**Upcycle Crafts:** Get creative by turning old items into new useful objects.





# FOSSILS

As we delve deeper into the ancient history of Lee County, it's time to uncover the secrets of the region's most prized fossil hunting hotspots. From the sun-kissed shores of the Gulf Coast to the winding rivers and streams, Lee County is a treasure trove of fossilized wonders waiting to be discovered. The Caloosahatchee River, which winds its way through the heart of the county, is a fossil hunter's paradise. Its sandy banks and shallow waters have yielded a wealth of ancient relics, including shark teeth, fossilized shells, and even the occasional mammoth tooth. Meanwhile, the beaches of Fort Myers and Cape Coral are renowned for their abundance of fossilized coral, sea urchins, and other marine specimens. For the more adventurous, the rural backwaters and creeks of Lee County offer a chance to stumble upon hidden gems, such as fossilized fish and even dinosaur bones. Whether you're a seasoned fossil hunter or just starting out, these hotspots are sure to provide a thrilling adventure beneath the surface of Lee County.

When you venture into the vast expanse of Lee County's fossil-rich terrain, it's essential to arm yourself with the right knowledge and techniques to increase your chances of uncovering those hidden treasures. Here are some valuable tips and tricks to keep in mind:

First and foremost, timing is everything. Fossil hunting is often a waiting game, and being prepared to adapt to the ever-changing weather and tides is crucial. Look for windows of opportunity during low tide, when the ocean's fury has subsided, revealing hidden coves and ancient layers. Be prepared to get your feet wet and your hands dirty, as the best finds often lie hidden beneath the surface of the sand and mud.

Another crucial aspect of fossil hunting is knowing where to look. Research is key, and studying the geological history of Lee County will help you pinpoint the most promising locations. Identify areas with a high concentration of fossilized remains, such as ancient riverbeds, coastal cliffs, and storm-exposed beaches. Don't be afraid to explore off the beaten path, as some of the most remarkable discoveries can be found in the most unexpected places.

When you do stumble upon a potential find, remember to handle it with care. Fossils are delicate and easily damaged, so it's essential to use the right tools and techniques to extract them from the surrounding rock or sediment. A gentle touch, a keen eye, and a patient hand can mean the difference between a prized discovery and a crushed relic.

Lastly, always keep in mind the importance of responsible fossil collecting. Lee County's rich fossil heritage is a precious resource that deserves to be protected and preserved for future generations. Be sure to follow local regulations, respect private property, and avoid damaging the environment in your pursuit of ancient treasures. By doing so, you'll not only ensure the continued availability of these hidden wonders but also contribute to the preservation of Lee County's unique cultural heritage.

## Parks & Recreation

### REGIONAL PARKS

#### Caloosahatchee Regional Park

19130 N River Rd. | Alva | 239-694-0398

#### Hickey Creek Mitigation Park

17980 Palm Beach Blvd. | Alva |  
239-229-0522

#### John Yarbrough Linear Park

14608 Six Mile Cypress Pkwy. | Fort Myers |  
239-218-1032

#### Lakes Park

7330 Gladiolus Dr. | Fort Myers |  
239-533-7578

#### Lehigh Acres Park

1400 W 5th St. | Lehigh Acres | 239-204-1165

#### Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

7751 Penzance Blvd. | Fort Myers |  
239-218-1032

#### Manatee Park

10901 SR 80/ Palm Beach Blvd. | Fort Myers |  
239-533-7521

### PRESERVES

*Primary Use Preserves (Designated Parking,  
Restrooms & Other amenities)*

#### Bowditch Point Park

50 Estero Blvd. | Fort Myers Beach |  
239-823-1447

\*\*Beach Access, Bird Watching, Fishing,  
Restrooms & Conservation Land.

#### Caloosahatchee Creeks Preserve

17100 McDowell Dr. | North Fort Myers |  
239-707-0862

\*\*Bike Trails, Boardwalk, Conservation Land,  
On Leash Dog Walking, Fishing, Hiking,  
Paddlecraft Landing & Launch, Pavilion,  
Restrooms & Viewing Areas.

### PRESERVES (CONTD)

#### Galt Preserve

3661 Stringfellow Rd. | St. James City |  
239-220-7243

\*\*Boardwalk, Conservation Land, Dog  
walking on leash, Fishing, Hiking Trails,  
Paddlecraft

Landing & Launch, Pavilion, Pier/Dock,  
Restrooms & Viewing Areas.

#### Hickey Creek Mitigation Park

17980 Palm Beach Blvd. | Alva |  
239-229-0522

\*\*Amphitheater, Bird Watching, Conservation  
Land, Fishing, Hiking Trails, Jogging &  
Walking

Path, Paddlecraft landing & Launch, Pavilion.  
Restrooms, Trail Shelters & Viewing Areas.

#### Matanzas Park Preserve

199 Bay Rd. | Fort Myers Beach |  
239-823-1447

\*\*Boardwalk, Conservation Land, Fishing,  
Hiking Trails, Paddlecraft Landing & Launch,  
Pavilion & Restrooms.

#### Prairie Pines Preserve

18400 N Tamiami Trail | North Fort Myers |  
239-707-0862

\*\*Conservation Land, Dog Walking on Leash,  
Equestrian Trails, Hiking Trails, Pavilion &  
Restrooms.



## COMMUNITY PARKS

### **Alva Park**

21471 North River Rd. | Alva | 239-694-0398

### **Boca Grande Park**

131 1st St. | Boca Grande | 239-357-8957

### **Brooks Park**

50 South Rd. | Fort Myers | 239-340-0397

### **Buckingham Park**

9800 Buckingham Rd. | Fort Myers |  
239-237-9306

### **Estero Park**

9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd. | Estero |  
239-533-1470

### **Harlem Heights Park**

7340 Concourse Dr. | Fort Myers |  
239-839-7062

### **Judd Park**

1297 Parkview Ct. | North Fort Myers |  
239-537-5443

### **Kurt Donaldson Park**

180 Hunter Blvd. | Cape Coral | 239-357-5443

### **Lehigh Acres Park**

1400 W 5th St. | Lehigh Acres | 239-204-1165

### **Lehigh Acres Trailhead Park**

213 David Ave. | Lehigh Acres |  
239-204-1165

### **Matlacha Park**

5477 Pine Island Rd. | Matlacha |  
239-771-1078

### **North Fort Myers Park**

2000 N Recreation Park Way | North Fort  
Myers | 239-533-7200

### **Nalle Grande Park**

8350 Nalle Grande Rd. | North Fort Myers |  
239-357-5443

## COMMUNITY PARKS CONTD)

### **North Shore Park**

13001 N Cleveland Ave. | North Fort Myers |  
239-357-5443

### **Olga Park**

2325 South Olga Dr. | Fort Myers |  
239-922-4219

### **Phillips Park**

5675 Sesame Dr. | Bookelia | 239-771-1078

### **Pinewoods Trail Park**

5901 Pine Island Rd. NW | Bookelia |  
239-771-1078

### **Rutenberg Park**

6500 South Point Blvd. | Fort Myers |  
239-340-0397

### **Schandler Hall Park**

419 Royal Palm Park Rd. | Fort Myers |  
239-357-5443

### **Three Oaks Park**

18251 Three Oaks Pkwy. | Fort Myers |  
239-478-6998

### **Veterans Park**

55 Homestead Rd. South | Lehigh Acres |  
239-533-7530

### **Wa-Ke-Hatchee Park**

16760 Bass Rd. | Fort Myers | 239-839-7062

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

### **Charlston Park**

2541 Charlston Park Dr. | Alva |  
239-229-0522

### **Hunter Park**

1526 Oak Dr. | Fort Myers | 239-357-5443

### **Mary Moody Park**

915 Lakeview Dr. | North Fort Myers |  
239-357-5443

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS (CONTD)

### **Miramar Park**

200 Avacado Court | Fort Myers |  
239-357-5443

### **Pineland Monument Park**

Waterfront Dr. | Pineland | 239-711-1078

### **Royal Palm Park**

300 Royal Palm Rd. | Fort Myers |  
239-357-5433

### **Shores Nature Trail Park**

13108 Fifte St. | Fort Myers | 239-533-7521

### **Telegraph Creek Paddlecraft Launch**

15700 North River Rd. | Alva | 239-694-0398

### **Tropical Point Park**

Tropical Point Dr. | St. James City |  
239-771-1078

### **Waterway Park**

5820 Poetry Lane | North Fort Myers |  
239-357-5443

### **Wheeler Road Community Park**

305 Wheeler Rd. | Boca Grande |  
239-357-8957

## NATIONAL & STATE PARKS

### **Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge**

1 Wildlife Dr. | Sanibel

### **Gasparilla Island State Park**

Gulf Blvd & Belcher Rd. | Boca Grande

### **Koreshan State Park**

3800 Corkscrew Rd. | Estero

### **Lovers Key State Park**

8700 Estero Blvd. | Fort Myers |  
239-463-4588

## BEACHES

### **Beach Park North**

26082 Hickory Blvd. | Bonita Springs

### **Blind Pass**

North of 6491 Sanibel Captiva Rd. | Sanibel

### **Bonita Beach Park**

27954 Hockory Blvd. | Bonita Springs

### **Bowditch Point Park**

50 Estero Blvd. | Fort Myers

### **Bowmans Beach Park**

1700 Bowmans Beach Rd. | Sanibel

### **Captiva Northbend Beach Access/ Alison**

### **Hagerup Beach Park**

14790 Captiva Dr. | Captiva

### **Crescent Beach Family Park**

1100 Estero Blvd. | Fort Myers

### **Gasparilla Island State Park**

Gulf Blvd & Belcher Rd. | Boca Grande

### **Gulfside City Park / Algiers Beach**

End of Algiers Ln. | Sanibel

### **Lighthouse Beach Access / On Sanibel Island**

Southern end of Periwinkle Way | Sanibel

### **Little Hickory Island Beach Park**

(AKA Access #10) - 26082 Hickory Blvd |  
Bonita Springs

### **Lovers Key State Park**

8700 Estero Blvd. | Fort Myers Beach

### **Lynn Hall Memorial Park**

950 Estero Blvd. | Fort Myers Beach

### **Newton Beach Park**

4650 Estero Blvd, Fort Myers Beach FL, 33931

### **San Carlos Bay Bunche Beach Reserve**

18201 John Morris Rd. | Fort Myers

### **Turner Beach**

17200 Captiva Dr. | Sanibel



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## Alico Areal

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239-395-2233

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239-992-2556

## Bonita Wonder Gardens

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## Top Five Tips



**1. STAY INFORMED**

**2. SECURE YOUR HOME**

**3. FOLLOW EVACUATION ORDERS & GUIDELINES**

**4. EMERGENCY SUPPLIES**

**5. EVACUATION PLANNING**

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.

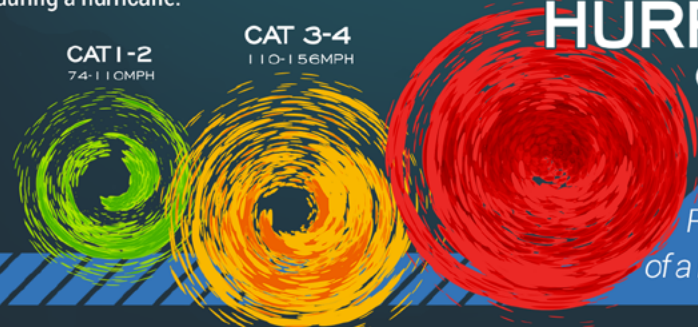
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157+MPH

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74-110MPH

CAT 3-4  
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**Fishermans Warf Fishing Pier**  
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**Four Mile Ecological Preserve Fishing Pier -**  
East End of SE 23rd Ter. | Cape Coral

**Imperial River Fishing Pier / Dock**  
27551 S Tamiami Trail | Bonita Springs

**Lighthouse Beach / Sanibel City Fishing Pier -**  
110 Periwinkle Way | Sanibel

**Lovers Key State Park Fishing Pier**  
8700 Estero Blvd. | Fort Myers Beach

**Lynn Hall Memorial Fishing Pier**  
(Heavily Damaged by Hurricane Ian) 950 Estero Blvd. | Ft. Myers Beach

**Matlacha Community Park Fishing Pier**  
4577 Pine Island Rd. NW | Matlacha

**North Shore Park Fishing Pier**  
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**Riverside Park**  
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**Shady Oaks Park Fishing Pier**  
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**Tarpon Street Fishing Pier**  
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**Yacht Club Community Park Fishing Pier**  
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**Burnt Store Boat Ramp**  
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**Cape Coral Yacht Club Boat Ramp**  
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**Davis Boat Ramp**  
2227 Davis Blvd. | Fort Myers

**Horton Park Boat Ramp**  
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**Imperial River Boat Ramp**  
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**Judd Park Hand Launch**  
Small Boat Ramp - 1297 Parkview Ct. | North Fort Myers

**Koreshan State Park Boat Ramp**  
3800 Corkscrew Rd. | Estero

**Lovers Key State Park Boat Ramp**  
8700 Estero Blvd. | Fort Myers Beach

**Matlacha Community Park Boat Ramp**  
4577 Pine Island Rd. NW | Matlacha

**Pineland Marina Public Boat Ramp**  
1392 Waterfront Dr. | Pineland

**Pine Island Commercial Marina Boat Ramp**  
6001 Maria Dr. | St. James City

**Punta Rassa Frizzell Kontinos Boat Ramp**  
15001 Punta Rassa Rd. | Fort Myers

**Rosen Park Boat Ramp**  
2414 SE 15th Terrace | Cape Coral

**Sanibel Boat Ramp**  
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**W.P. Franklin Lock & Dam TRecreation Area Boat Ramp**  
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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.



## BARBECUE DO'S:

- use proper barbecue equipment and tools, such as a grill, tongs, and spatulas.
- preheat your grill before placing any food on it.
- marinate your meat before cooking to enhance the flavor.
- keep a close eye on your food while grilling to prevent overcooking or burning.
- use a meat thermometer to ensure that your meat is cooked to the correct internal temperature.
- let your meat rest for a few minutes before slicing or serving to allow the juices to redistribute.
- keep your grill and utensils clean to prevent any foodborne illness.

## BARBECUE DON'TS:

- use lighter fluid to start your grill. Instead, use a chimney starter or electric starter.
- overcrowd your grill. Leave enough space between the pieces of meat to ensure even cooking.
- use a fork to flip your meat. Piercing the meat can cause it to lose its juices and become dry.
- baste your meat with sugary sauces too early in the cooking process, as it can burn and create a bitter taste.
- leave cooked meat out in the sun for too long, as it can spoil quickly.
- assume that meat is fully cooked by its color. Always use a meat thermometer to check the internal temperature.
- leave your grill unattended while it's still hot. Always make sure to properly cool it down before leaving it.



Enjoy your delicious  
buttered-up steak!

PREP: 35 MIN • TOTAL: 50 MIN



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We believe the little things make a big difference. Saying hello. Remembering a special occasion. Discussing a favorite book. Sharing a story. These seemingly small interactions are the foundation for a culture of caring shared throughout our entire organization. Celebrating each person's unique story, interests and talents is not only something we strive to do with our residents, but something we hope encourages and motivates our teams to be the best they can be.







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# Beach Warning Flag 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.



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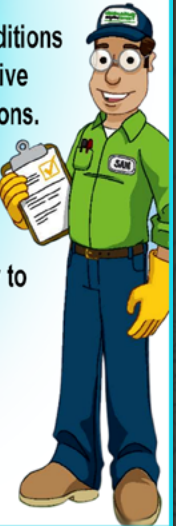
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# So, You have decided to get a pet... NOW WHAT??

**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.

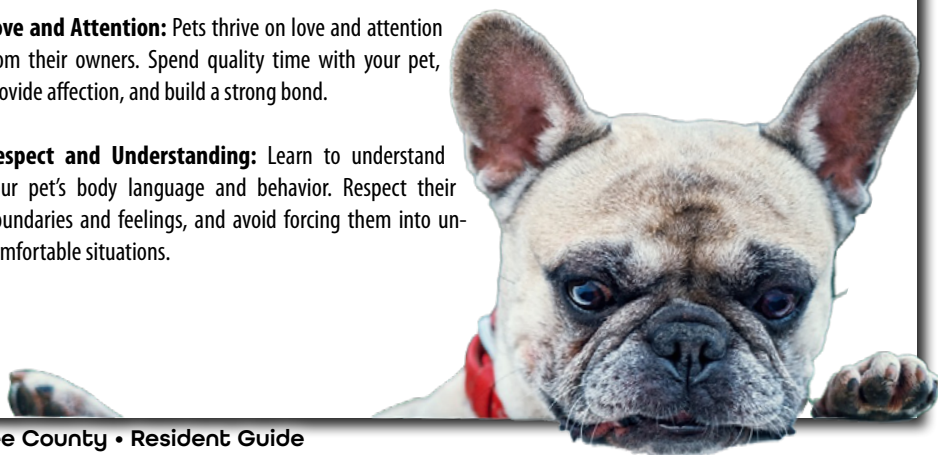
**Provide a Safe Environment:** Ensure that your home and yard are safe for your pet. Remove hazards, keep toxic substances out of reach, and provide appropriate shelter from extreme weather conditions.

**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?

### BARKINGHAM PARK

9800 Buckingham Rd. | Fort Myers |  
239-237-9306

### DOG BEACH

14436 Bonita Beach Cswy. |  
Bonita Springs | 239-229-0632

### K-9 CORRAL DOG PARK

9200 Corkscrew Blvd. | Estero  
239-533-1470

### PAWS 4 DUTY DOG PARK

55 Homestead Rd. S |  
Lehigh Acres | 239-533-7530

### POOCH PARK

1297 Parkview Ct. |  
North Fort Myers | 239-357-5443

### WOOF-A-HATCHEE DOG PARK

16760 Bass Rd. | Fort Myers |  
239-839-7062

## DOG PARKS OFF Leash







**BEWARE!**



**ALLIGATORS** are in Florida's lakes, rivers, streams, brooks, & canals. Sometimes they are found in people's swimming pools! So, watch-out: They like to eat small mammals.



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