

Conserving Our Natural Resources

Check out a few Eco-Tips!

Each of us living in the Tampa Bay watershed is a part of the complex fabric of its various ecosystems. We are interconnected with the other organisms that call this place home and we have a responsibility to live a sustainable existence. As you walk these trails, look around you. Discover the wildlife that depends on Tampa Bay. Ask yourself how our growing numbers and daily activities may impact the Bay's ecosystems. Learn ways you can help sustain all things woven into this fabric of life.

Water Conservation

"Be water wise" eco-tips:

- Excess watering of your lawn can waste hundreds of gallons of water.
- Outdoor water use accounts for up to 50% of water consumed by households.
- Don't let your calendar tell you when to water – look to your plants and lawn for telltale signs of water needs.

"Area water use" eco-tips:

- The average Floridian uses about 124 gallons of water each day.
- Repairing a leaky faucet can save up to 30 gallons of water a day.
- Reduce mosquito populations by keeping yard containers free of standing water.

Eco-friendly Gardens and Lawns

"Bring your garden to life" eco-tips:

- Use slow-release organic fertilizers.
- Attract wildlife with native plants.
- Rid your surroundings of invasive exotic plants.
- Replace a portion of your lawn with a butterfly garden and save time, money and water.
- Leave some frond bases on palms to provide habitat beneficial to wildlife.

Mangroves Can Help Sustain Our Coasts

"Valuable plants living on the edge" eco-tips:

- Mangroves absorb storm surge and winds.
- Mangroves prevent coastal erosion by stabilizing shorelines.
- Mangroves provide nurseries and nesting spots for hundreds of species.
- Help keep our protective mangrove fringe healthy by following the trimming requirements in Pinellas County Code, Sections 166: 96 – 110.

Stewardship of the Tampa Bay Estuary

"Restoration and conservation of Tampa Bay continues" eco-tips:

- Estuaries are the most productive ecosystems in nature.
- Fresh water from the Tampa Bay watershed drains into the Bay, often carrying pollutants, such as fertilizers.
- Reduce or stop using toxic products.
- Scoop the poop, and properly dispose of animal wastes.

"Boater education remains the most effective way to protect the Bay" – eco-tips:

- Reduce careless routine spills from fueling practices and operation of outboard motors.
- When boating in the Bay, use marked channels.
- Support clean marina programs.

Coming Soon - Fall 2007!

Learn more about conserving our natural resources and life in the Tampa Bay watershed at the new Resource Center and Exhibit Gallery located in the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center.



Interpretive trail sign funding provided by:

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Pinellas County Environmental Fund
Pinellas County
Southwest Florida Water Management District
Friends of Weedon Island, Inc.

For additional information, please contact us:
General Information: (727) 453-6500
Guided Outing Reservations: (727) 453-6506

Weedon Island Preserve
Cultural and Natural History Center
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www.pinellascounty.org/environment

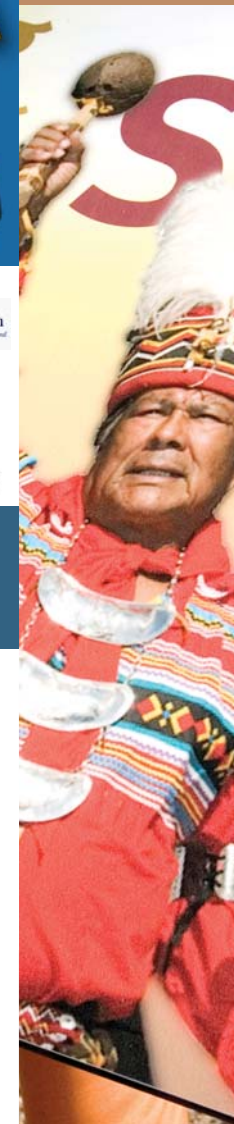
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WEEDON ISLAND PRESERVE

Interpretive Trail Guide



For more than 7,000 years, people have depended on the bounty of the Tampa Bay estuary for their survival, livelihood and happiness. We are part of the estuary and, in turn, part of Weedon Island Preserve. Come explore the connections between people and the Bay in *A Place to Remember*.



A Pinellas County Government Program

Riviera Bay



Weaving the Fabric of Life
(You are here!)

Department Store Palm

A Burning Question

Nature's Hotels

Surviving the Tides

Shelter from the Storm

Tale of Three Cities

Observation Tower

Plants that Live with Salt

Oyster Construction Crews

Weedon Island
Preserve Cultural and
Natural History Center

Ghost Runways

Pine Dining

Facing the Rising Sun

Ancient Habitat Art

Ditch Those Mosquitoes

Wading Bird Buffet

Islands in the Swamp

Whose Scat is That?

Snagging a Home / A Fungus Among Us

Night Moves

Legend

- ADA accessible boardwalk/paved trail
- Hiking trails
- Paved public road
- Access trail
- Shelter
- Parking
- Handicap parking
- Observation deck
- Restroom
- Drinking fountain
- Paddling launch
- Picnic area

