

**WEEDON ISLAND PRESERVE  
CULTURAL and NATURAL  
HISTORY CENTER**

The mission of the Center is to interpret the natural, cultural, and archaeological history of the Preserve in order to demonstrate how the environment and people support and shape each other.

This is accomplished through interpretive tours and hikes, educational programs and curriculum development, exhibits and public outreach activities, presentations and workshops, and other events.



Designed with the help of Native Americans, and keeping with their tradition, the

orientation of the Center in the landscape is along the four cardinal points of the compass with the entrance facing east. A special curved wall is representative of the remarkable pottery of the early Weeden (alternate spelling) people that lived on the island some 1,000 to 1,800 years ago. The roof lines resemble the curved wings of birds. Portions of the Preserve are on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center opened in December 2002. Highlights of this beautiful three-story facility include two observation decks, a multipurpose room, an exhibit gallery, and a classroom.



**Hours:**

Weedon Island Preserve: Daily - Dawn to Dusk.  
Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center: Wednesday – Sunday 10 A.M. – 4 P.M.  
Closed Holidays

**WEEDON ISLAND  
PRESERVE**

Weedon Island Preserve, at approximately 3,700 acres, is situated on Old Tampa Bay in St. Petersburg.

Managed by the Environmental Lands Division of Pinellas County's Department of Environmental



Management, the Preserve is a rich mosaic of mangrove forests, open salt flats, pine flatwoods, and oak hammocks. Whether on the extensive paddling or hiking trails, or on the observation tower and boardwalks, visitors can enjoy the many natural wonders of this coastal preserve, which is rich with wading and water birds, native flora and fauna,

and species like the gopher tortoise, a Species of Special Concern in Florida.

**Weedon Island Preserve offers:**

- 🏠 A fishing pier with restroom facilities.
- 🏠 45-foot high observation tower.
- 🏠 6,600 feet of ADA-accessible boardwalk with two observation platforms.
- 🏠 Two self-guided paddling trails (canoes - kayaks not provided). Guided canoe outings, with canoe and gear, available by reservation.
- 🏠 Self-guided hiking trails. Guided hike outings available by reservation.
- 🏠 Picnic areas and a picnic pavilion.
- 🏠 Education Center that features exhibits and history of the island. Outside restroom available.
- 🏠 Bayside observation platform.
- 🏠 Two Canoe – Kayak launches.



**Weedon Island  
Preserve**

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

Weedon Island Preserve  
Cultural and Natural History Center  
1800 Weedon Drive NE  
St. Petersburg, FL 33702



[www.pinellascounty.org/environment](http://www.pinellascounty.org/environment)

Pinellas County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To obtain accessible formats of the document, please contact the Department of Environmental Management at: (727) 464-4761/TDD (727) 464-4106

ENVLND Ver 05.11.05



**WEEDON ISLAND  
P R E S E R V E**  
*Visitor Guide*



Weedon Island Preserve is located on the shores of Old Tampa Bay. This coastal system, comprised of aquatic and upland ecosystems, is home to numerous species of flora and fauna, an outstanding education facility, and a rich cultural history. Come experience “A Place To Remember.”

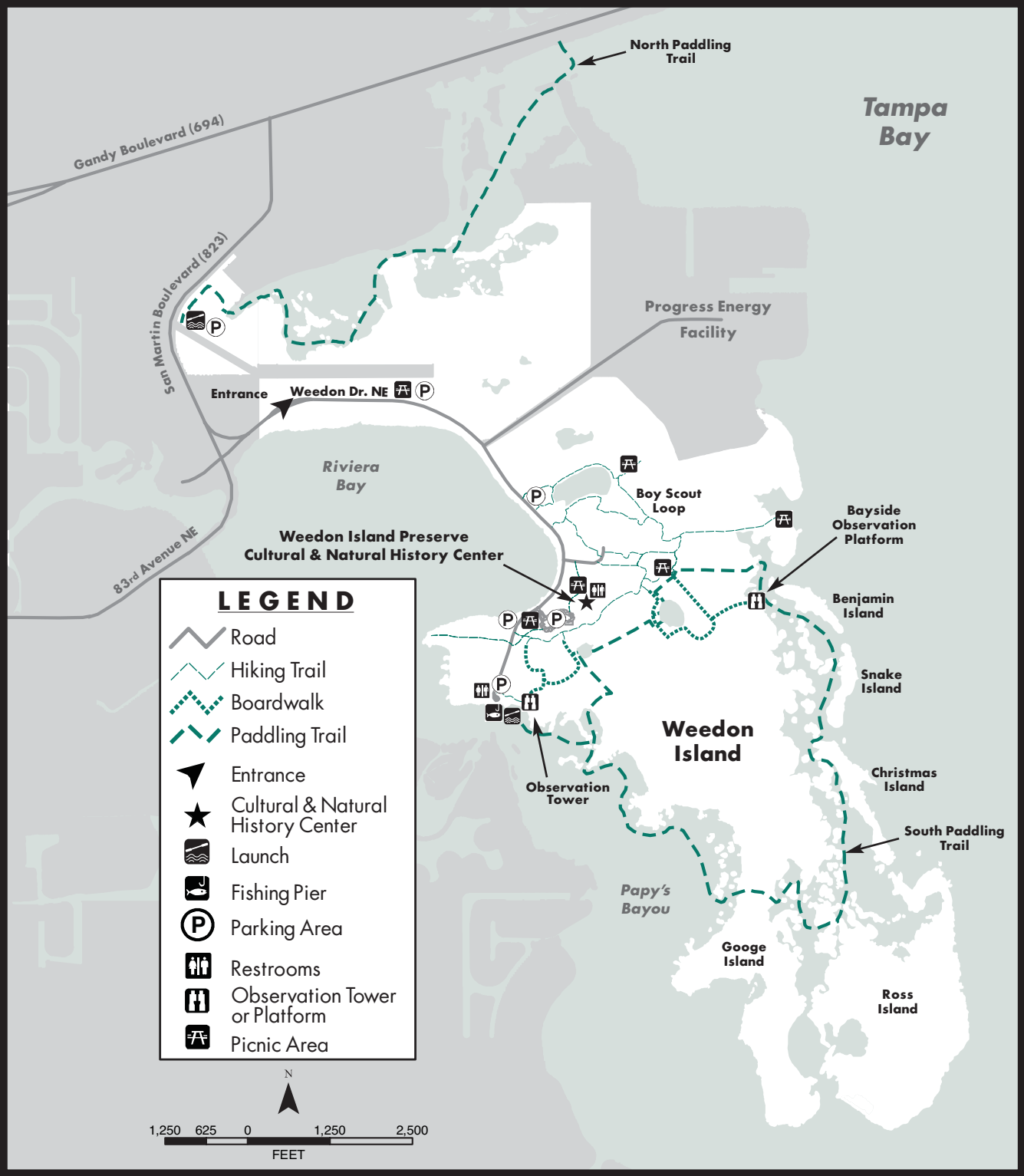


## What Can I Do?

**Boardwalk** – Approximately 4.7 miles of hiking trails meander through representative ecosystems at the Preserve. Almost two miles are handicap accessible - constructed of wooden boardwalks or pavement. The boardwalks extend through tidal flats and mangrove forests and provide viewing opportunities over saltwater ponds, which are often teaming with mullet and wading birds. The paved portion connecting the two boardwalk loops takes visitors through a pine flatwood community as it passes by the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center. Along the west boardwalk loop stands a 45-foot observation tower. On a clear day, this tower provides visitors with an excellent view of the Preserve as well as Tampa Bay and the cities of Tampa and St. Petersburg.

**Natural Hiking Trails** – Interested in exploring natural Florida? If so, meander along the 2.7 miles of hiking trails that extend through the Preserve's upland communities. Hiking adventures begin either at the main parking lot or at the trailhead for the Boy Scout Loop, a 1-mile loop trail. Parking for the Boy Scout Loop is located along Weedon Drive NE near the entrance road to Progress Energy. These trails take visitors through pine flatwoods and maritime and xeric hammocks. Picnic areas are interspersed along the trails. Be sure to take along water, sunscreen, insect repellent, and snacks while hiking these beautiful trails through natural Florida.

**Paddling Trails** – There are two paddling trails to enjoy at the Preserve. The North Paddling Trail originates in an enlarged mosquito ditch at the parking area along the east side of San Martin Boulevard. This 2-mile trail meanders through mangroves and Snug Harbor before it terminates at the beaches along Gandy Boulevard. The South Paddling Trail is a 4-mile loop best accessed at the canoe launch next to the fishing pier at the end of Weedon Drive NE. This trail meanders through mangroves, seagrass flats, between the islands of the Preserve, and along the edge of Tampa Bay. Expect to see wading birds such as reddish egret, roseate spoonbill, and white ibis. Often dolphins, manatees, sharks, and schools of mullet are spotted in the backwaters of the Preserve. Please bring plenty of drinking water, insect repellent, a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen. Both trails are best accessed during mid to high tides so be sure to check a tide chart.



## Other Happenings...

**Guided Tours** – Looking for a little interpretation and camaraderie while exploring Weedon Island Preserve? If so, join us on volunteer-led guided hiking and paddling tours. Guides are trained to answer questions about natural Florida and the Preserve and ensure everyone has a good time. If hiking is your interest – water, sunscreen, insect repellent, and a hat are all that is needed for this two hour hike. Binoculars and a keen ear help with locating and identifying birds along the trail. For guided canoe outings, bring water, sunscreen, insect repellent, a hat, and shoes that can get wet. Canoe, paddles, and personal flotation devices are provided. Space is limited so reserve a spot early by calling (727) 453-6506.



**Educational Adventures** – Sitting in the heart of the Preserve is the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center. Completed in 2002, this Center blends the past and present into a truly exciting experience. The Native American and early European history of the Preserve is fascinating and helped shape the Preserve as we know it today. Come explore our exhibits, discover local artists in the artist's gallery, or participate in the numerous workshops and presentations. Learning about our history and environment has never been more fun!

## Get Involved...

If you wish to become involved, please contact us at (727) 453-6500 to learn more about volunteer opportunities and the Friends of Weedon Island, Inc.