

Trail Information

Preserve trails begin on either side of the parking lot, near the southeast and northwest corners.

Trail posts are color-coded to identify trails located in the western (red), central (yellow), and eastern (orange) sections of the preserve.

Cautions:

Visitors to the preserve do so at your own risk! Trail conditions are rough and there are a variety of hazards throughout the site.

Alligators, snakes, ants, stinging insects, poison ivy, and other poisonous plants are present. Some soils on the property contain arsenic. Do not ingest soils.

Perimeter Hiking Route:

For those interested in a long hike around the preserve perimeter, numbered markers have been placed on selected trail markers to direct you on a longer walk. Total distance for this route is approximately 2.3 miles.

Special Interest Points:

On the preserve map, you'll notice a series of special interest points marked by a pentagon symbol with a letter inside. At each of these points, we will be placing a sign with information about that site. (Signs will be added during 2021.)

Video Series:

We are developing a series of short videos about the Preserve that are accessible to visitors who have a smart phone. Point your camera at the QR code on the sign and follow the instructions on your screen to hear a short video about that site from one of our preserve volunteers.

Even if you don't have the necessary technology with you during your walk to watch the videos, you can watch them later from any computer with Internet access. The web link to access the Wildflower video series is:

youtube.com/user/lemonbayconservancy

About the Preserve

Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve is an 80-acre former golf course. When it was purchased by Lemon Bay Conservancy in 2010, it was heavily overgrown with Brazilian Pepper and other invasive species.

LBC's primary purpose for the preserve is to protect and enhance the habitats within the preserve to provide a refuge for wildlife and opportunities for environmental education and scientific research.

Freshwater ponds are located in the eastern and central areas of the preserve. Many of them drain to the west and eventually feed into the brackish (meaning "somewhat salty") waters of Lemon Creek along the preserve's western boundary.

Lemon Creek receives saltwater tidal flow from Lemon Bay via culverts under Placida Road. To the south of the Preserve, the creek is connected to Lemon Lake in Charlotte County's Amberjack Preserve.

The Lemon Creek estuary is an important nursery area for many marine species, including Tarpon, Snook, and Blue Crab. LBC is working with Florida Fish & Wildlife to study the juvenile Tarpon populations in the creek.

LBC gratefully acknowledges the major funding support provided by the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Commission (NOAA) for the preserve habitat restoration project that has been completed in January 2021.

As part of the restoration project, 10 acres of wetlands have been improved and 12 acres of new estuarine and freshwater wetlands have been added.

Invasive plants have been removed throughout the site and more than 10,000 native trees, grasses and shrubs have been planted in the uplands.

Extensive wetland plantings have also been completed to help filter stormwater flowing into the Preserve from surrounding communities to reduce excess nutrients before the water leaves the Preserve and enters Lemon Bay.



LEMON CREEK WILDFLOWER PRESERVE

Trail Map



Preserve Access:

Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve is privately owned, managed and maintained by Lemon Bay Conservancy (LBC).

Visitors to the Preserve do so at your own risk.

All visitors must review and comply with all posted preserve rules. Pets are not permitted. Hunting and fishing are not permitted.

The Preserve is open to Lemon Bay Conservancy members daily from dawn to dusk. The public is invited to visit the preserve only during regularly scheduled walks and public events.

Please Join Us:

LBC membership information and a schedule of activities are available on the Lemon Bay Conservancy website.

LBC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization managed by volunteers and funded by donations, memberships and grants.

If you are not already a Lemon Bay Conservancy supporter, please consider contributing to our conservation efforts and participating in our volunteer projects!

LemonBayConservancy.org

941-830-8922

Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve

March 2021

Trails

- East
- Center
- West

00 Perimeter Trail Markers

X Special Interest Points

Estuarine Wetlands

- Open Water
- Low Marsh
- High Marsh

Freshwater Wetlands

- Open Water
- Marsh

Mounds and Berms



Base Map from Google Earth