



Take in the beauty of Florida's wildlife and native plant communities while exploring both prehistoric and historic sites during your visit to Emerson Point Preserve. This 270 acre state-owned, county-managed preserve is located at the west end of Snead Island, west of Palmetto in Manatee County, Florida.

Emerson Point Preserve has witnessed extensive human use for over 4500 years. The most apparent evidence is the Portavant Temple Mound and surrounding shell middens. Overlooking the scenic Manatee River, the 1200 year-old Indian mound is the largest in the Tampa Bay Area.

Interpretive signs describe the life-ways of ancient inhabitants as well as subsequent Florida pioneers. Several historic home sites, occupied from the late 1800s to the 1960s, can be found along the Pioneer and Restoration trails, including one site located on top of the Temple Mound.

The Preserve contains a variety of native ecosystems including beaches, lagoons, salt marshes, mangrove swamps, extensive underwater grass flats, tropical hardwood hammocks, coastal strands, and upland wooded areas.

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Emerson Point Preserve

provides numerous recreational opportunities including hiking, biking, fishing, bird and animal watching.

The network of shell trails, boardwalks, and paved bike lane provides six miles of natural beauty. Other features include an observation tower, a canoe launch, and four picnic pavilions.

Gumbo limbo trees, centuries-old live oaks, strangler figs, wild coffee, and mangrove trees are a few of the plants you will see along the trails. Animals found in the Preserve include raccoon, fox, gopher tortoise, osprey, anhinga, wood stork, and roseate spoonbill, while the surrounding estuarine waters abound in sea life.



Directions to Emerson Point Preserve from Palmetto: Go west on 10th Street West, cross the bridge to Snead Island, right on Tarpon Avenue, then left on 17th which ends at the Preserve entrance.

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