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**PRESS RELEASE: For Immediate Release [FORTMYERS BEACH]**  
**CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENTS: Lovers Key State Park JULY 2022**

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**STATE PARK TO OFFER GUIDED NATURE PROGRAMS IN JULY 2022**

*-Lovers Key State Park to host wildlife programs and recreational activities-*

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Lovers Key State Park will present weekly programs on park history, wildlife, and recreation throughout the month of **July**.

*Programs are included in park admission fees of:*

*\$4 for vehicles with 1 individual - \$8 for vehicles 2-8 individuals - \$2 per pedestrian or cyclist.*

All programs will take place at Lovers Key State Park, **8700 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach, Florida**. Registration is required for most events. The park offers many recreational opportunities to visitors with disabilities. For assistance or to register, contact the park office at 239-463-4588.

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**Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 a.m.**  
**Seashell Walk**

Program is free with paid park entry.

Join a park ranger for a relaxing hike along the Lovers Key shoreline. Learn the names of the seashells that wash ashore at the park, fun facts about the creatures who craft them, and the shelling regulations that help protect these iconic Florida treasures. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit [www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com](http://www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com).

**Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**  
**What's That In My Yard?**

Program is free with paid park entry. Join Florida Master Naturalist Tony Mauriello for an exciting lecture on the lives, origin stories, and ecological impacts of the non-native reptiles we find in our backyards. We'll discover the names of these scaly creatures, how they made their way to Southwest Florida, and what special adaptations have enabled them to thrive in Florida's ecosystems. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit [www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com](http://www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com).

**Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.**  
**Sensational Sharks**

Program is free with paid park entry. Join a park ranger for an interesting and informative lecture on sharks, the ocean's most sensational residents. Discover why these awe-inspiring elasmobranchs are often misunderstood and feared by the public, what crucial role they play in our ecosystems, and what you can do to help protect them. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit [www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com](http://www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com).

**Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.**  
**Savvy Sea Turtles**

Program is free with paid park entry. Join a park naturalist for an introduction to sea turtles, our savvy summer residents. Learn what sea turtles like to eat, where they live, and what you can do to help keep them safe on and off the beach. Space is limited; reservations required. *To register*, visit [www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com](http://www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com).

**Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.**  
**Walk on the Wild Side**

Program is free with paid park entry. Join a park ranger for a guided hike along our Black Island Trail. Learn about the fascinating vegetation and wildlife that reside in our maritime hammock ecosystem, explore our native butterfly garden, and enjoy a little local history along the way. Due to rainy season, trails may be flooded in sections, and participants may need to walk through shallow water. Closed toe shoes that can get wet, bug spray, and water bottles are highly recommended. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit [www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com](http://www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com).

**Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.**  
**Munchin' Manatees**

Program is free with paid park entry. Join a park naturalist for an interesting and informative lecture on our local, loveable manatees. Learn what these magnificent mammals are all about, and how you can help protect them. Live manatees are not included in this lecture. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit [www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com](http://www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com).

**Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 a.m.**  
**Magnificent Mangroves**

Program is free with paid park entry. Join a park ranger to discover the magnificence of mangroves, Florida's most vital intercoastal plants. Learn how to identify each of the four mangrove species native to Florida, what special adaptations allow them to thrive in saltwater environments, and how Florida law protects these critical coastal dwellers. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit [www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com](http://www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com).

**Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.**  
**Great Gopher Tortoises**

Program is free with paid park entry. Join a park naturalist to learn more about our resident gopher tortoises. Discover the differences between a turtle and a tortoise, why gopher tortoises are so important to the health of the ecosystem, and what you can do to help mitigate the current threats they face. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit [www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com](http://www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com).

**Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.**  
**Beach and Estuary Walk**

Program is free with paid park entry. Join a park ranger for a leisurely walk over the estuary and along the beach to discover the natural treasures of the Lovers Key shoreline. Learn about seashells, crustaceans, starfish, and other creatures that can be found in our waters. Participants should be prepared to spend time in the water. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit [www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com](http://www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com).

**About Lovers Key State Park**

Once a collection of secluded barrier islands, Lovers Key has become a premiere destination for wildlife viewing, and outdoor recreation in Southwest Florida. Previously destined to become the site of luxury condominiums, Lovers Key State Park was purchased for the people of Florida so the park's natural features could be enjoyed for generations to come. The two-mile stretch of beach is popular for shelling, swimming, picnicking, fishing, and swimming, while Black Island offers five miles of trails for hiking, bicycling, and wildlife viewing. The Welcome and Discovery Center is an educational hub for curious park goers to learn more about the wildlife, history, activities, and ecosystems of Lovers Key. Open 365 days a year, there's no better place to enjoy a slice of the real Florida than Lovers Key State Park.