



Lovers Key State Park
8700 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENT SENT: 6 August 2022
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STATE PARK TO OFFER GUIDED NATURE PROGRAMS IN SEPTEMBER 2022
-Lovers Key State Park to host wildlife programs and recreational activities-

FORT MYERS BEACH – The Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Lovers Key State Park will present weekly programs on park history and wildlife throughout the month of **September**. All programs will take place at Lovers Key State Park, and registration is required for all events unless otherwise stated.

The park offers many recreational opportunities for visitors with disabilities. For help with accommodations, please contact the park office at 239-463-4588.

September programs include:

Friday, September 2nd 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.

Saturday, September 3rd 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. Closed toe shoes, sunscreen, bug spray, and water bottles are highly recommended. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com.

Wednesday, September 7th 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.

Saturday, September 10th 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. Closed toe shoes, sunscreen, bug spray, and water bottles are highly recommended. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com.

Wednesday, September 14th 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.

Friday, September 16th 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.

Tuesday, September 20th at 10:00 a.m.
Fishing Clinic

Program is free with paid park entry

Join two park naturalists to learn more about fishing in Southwest Florida. You'll discuss a variety of tackle and fresh bait rigs, discover the best places to drop a line at the park, and learn

the rules and regulations for fishing in Southwest Florida. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com.

Wednesday, September 21st 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.

Wednesday, September 28th at 10:30 a.m.
Delightful Dolphins

Program is free with paid park entry

Join a park naturalist to learn more about our local dolphins. Discover the unique anatomy of these marine mammals, how they help maintain balance in the food web, and what you can do to keep them safe. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com.

Friday, September 30th at 10:30 a.m.
Beach Cleanup: North Beach

Program is free with paid park entry

Join a park ranger for a beach cleanup at North Beach. Enjoy a lovely hour on the beach as you do your part to keep our state park (and planet!) clean. Participants will record the types of trash they collect, and the findings will help inform park messaging. Gloves, trash bags, pickers, pencils, and data sheets will be provided. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit www.LoversKey.Eventbrite.com.

Event registration can be accessed at the following QR code:



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. Additionally, 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.