



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

CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENT SENT: 15 August 2024
CONTACT: Trish Schranck, Park Services Specialist
PHONE: 239-689-9282

STATE PARK TO OFFER GUIDED NATURE PROGRAMS IN SEPTEMBER 2024
-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 2024**. All programs will take place at Lovers Key State Park.

Space is limited for all events; reservations are required. To register, visit the Friends of Lovers Key’s Eventbrite page: <https://bit.ly/FOLKS-Events>

The park offers many recreational opportunities for visitors with disabilities. For accommodations assistance, please contact the park office at 239-707-6328.

September 2024 programs include:

Friday, September 6th at 10:00 a.m.
Beach and Estuary Walk

Program is free with paid park entry

Join a park ranger for a leisurely hike along the beach and estuary shorelines of Lovers Key. Discover the natural beauty of both ecosystems as you encounter the seashells, crustaceans, birds, and other creatures that reside amongst these waterways. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit <https://bit.ly/FOLKS-Events>.

Saturday, September 7th at 10 a.m.
Beach Cleanup

Park entrance is waived for participants

Join a park ranger for a beach cleanup at South 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, buckets, pickers, pencils, and data sheets will be provided. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit <https://bit.ly/FOLKS-Events>.

Thursday, September 12th at 8:15 a.m.
Lovers Key Garden Club Workday

Park entry fee is waived for participants

Join a park ranger to help maintain Lovers Key's native pollinator garden. Weeding, pruning, and planting are all on the table at a garden club workday, and we welcome both beginner and expert gardeners to participate. Closed-toe shoes are required, and work gloves, hand clippers, water bottles, sunscreen, bug spray, kneeling pads, and hats are highly recommended. Space is limited; reservations are required. *To register*, visit <https://bit.ly/FOLKS-Events>.

Friday, September 13th at 10:00 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 <https://bit.ly/FOLKS-Events>.

Friday, September 20th at 10:00 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 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 <https://bit.ly/FOLKS-Events>.

Event registration can be accessed at the following QR code:



The Friends of Lovers Key's Eventbrite Page:
<https://bit.ly/FOLKS-Events>

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, 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 ecosystems, history, and recreational opportunities available at the park. There's no better place to enjoy a slice of the real Florida than Lovers Key State Park.