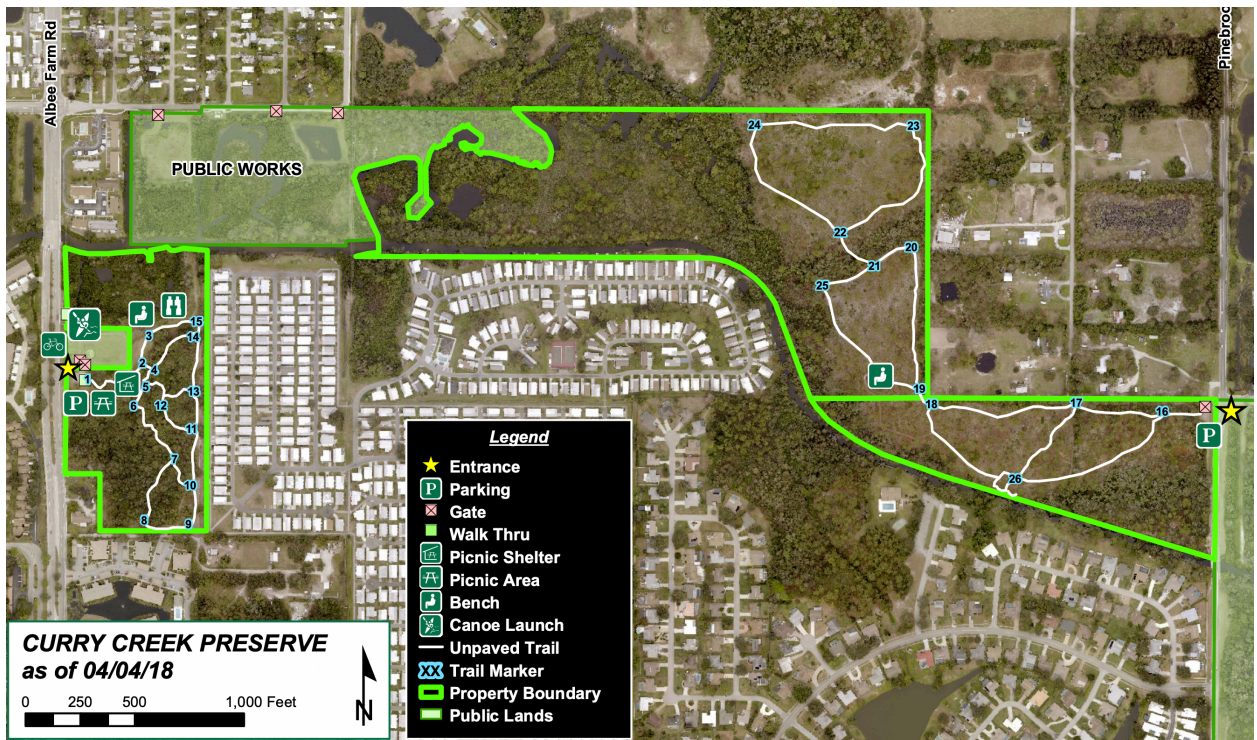
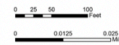
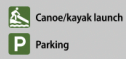
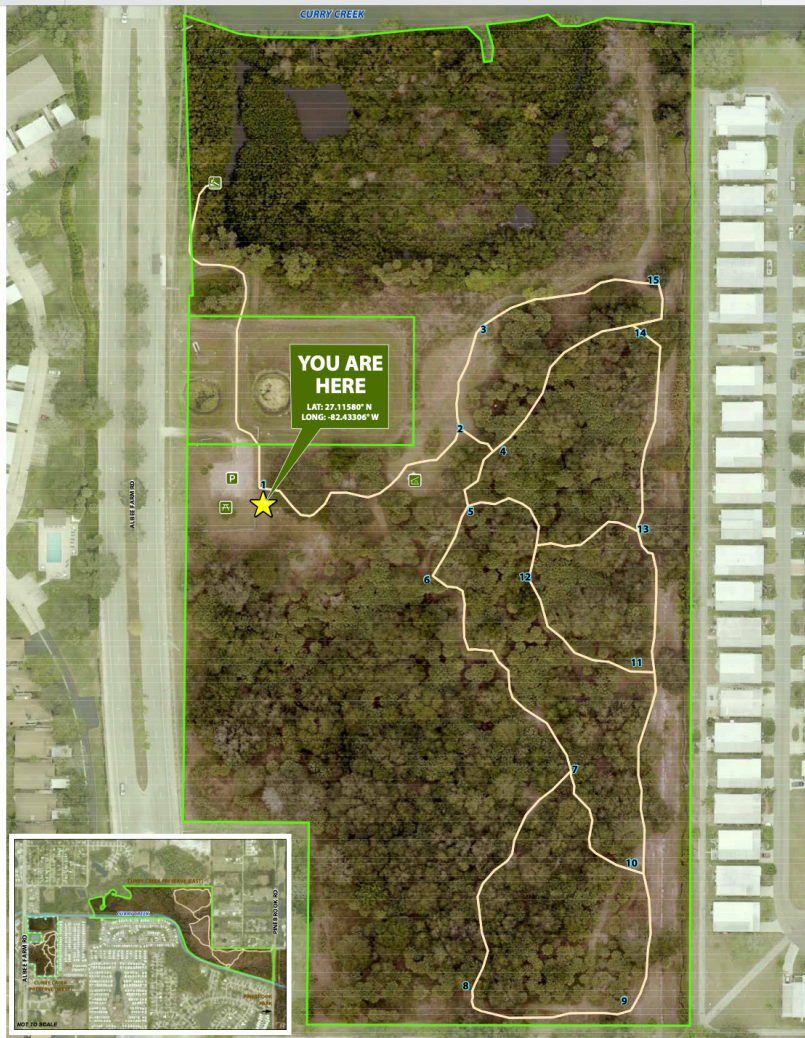


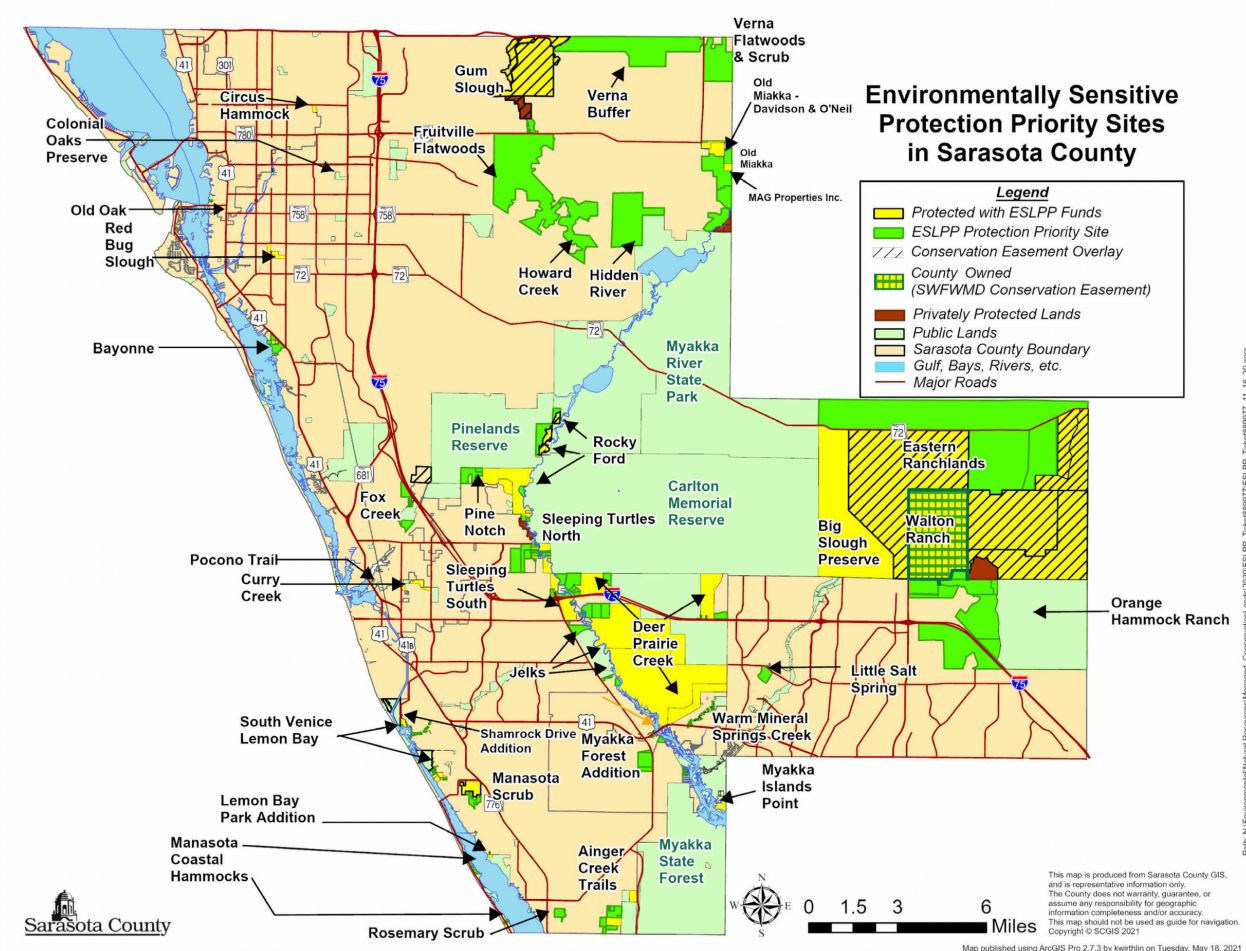
Curry Creek 2022





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Link to ESLPP: <https://www.scgov.net/government/parks-recreation-and-natural-resources/things-to-know/land-acquisition-programs>



LONGLEAF PINE FLATWOODS

An important remnant of longleaf pine flatwoods habitat occurs on this portion of Curry Creek Preserve. Longleaf pines, which are long-lived southern yellow pines, are well-adapted to withstand periodic natural fires. Under ideal conditions, longleaf pines can reach ages exceeding 400 years. The flatwoods habitat where these trees grow is home to many interesting plants and animals.

An exclusive type of milkweed plant, found only in Florida, grows in scattered patches beneath the longleaf pines here. The white and lavender flowers of this species, appropriately named Florida milkweed (*Asclepias feayi*), can be observed from late spring until early fall.

Longleaf pine habitats once covered more than 90 million acres across the Southeastern Coastal Plain of the United States. Unfortunately, much of the original expanse of longleaf pine habitat has been lost due to development, highway construction and agriculture. Today, less than 2 percent of this increasingly rare habitat remains.

Link to Curry Family, Wading Bird Markers:
<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=124899>

Curry Family

Roberts Bay was named for Robert Roberts, who arrived in the area in 1871 and acquired property at the mouth of the bay. His land extended southward along the coast to the southern limits of the present City of Venice. Curry Creek was named for the Charles Curry family. Curry settled along the creek after marrying Frances, the daughter of Venice-Nokomis pioneers Jesse and Caroline Knight, in 1874.

WHAT'S IN THAT HOLE?

The gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), listed as a threatened species in Florida, is a very important inhabitant of longleaf pine flatwoods. Gopher tortoises dig extensive underground burrows and are known as a keystone species, as their burrows often provide homes for many other animals including snakes, amphibians and small mammals. Although they can live to more than 100 years of age, their average lifespan is between 40 and 60 years. Gopher tortoises dig burrows that can exceed 15 feet in



Gopher tortoise

length and range from 6 to more than 10 feet deep. They are herbivores, and eat mostly grasses, flowers, berries and leaves.





2. Marker detail: The Curry Family, 1914 and 1920

Home of Frank Curry 1926

Wading Bird text: Wading Birds

Wading birds, also called shorebirds, are members of the order *Charadriiformes*. There are approximately 210 species of wading birds, most of which are associated with wetland or coastal environments. Many species are migratory, but most are often resident or move only in response to rainfall patterns.

The majority of species eat small invertebrates, like worms and snails, picked out of mud or exposed soil. The varying bill lengths enable different bird species to feed in the same coastal habitat without competing with one another for food.

Common wading birds of Sarasota County are the various egrets, herons and ibis. The wood stork and the roseate spoonbill are often spotted in intertidal zones.



Link to Turpentine and Venice Ice House:
<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=124982>

Turpentine

Early in the 20th Century, turpentine camps were established in Nokomis and Venice. Typically black laborers cut a V-shaped “cat face” in the bark of pine trees, from which gum oozed into a clay or tin pot nailed to the tree. Others collected the gum, and the “stiller” heated it in a wood-fired still to produce the distilled turpentine and the resin residue. The finished products were shipped by rail to distant markets. R. S. Hall & W. O. Harrison leased land west of the railroad in Nokomis for a turpentine operation that used convict labor. The practice of leasing state convicts for labor was made illegal in 1919.

Venice Ice House

As part of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers' development of the current City of Venice



in the 1920s, the Venice Ice Company operated next to the railroad in Nokomis. At a time when homes and businesses did not have electric refrigeration, a cake of ice, delivered daily, kept food cold in an icebox. The Venice Ice Company produced 20-tons of ice a day to serve the southern part of the county.



Regarding Turpentine / Venice Ice House.

Over time, the extensive production of turpentine in the Carolinas and Georgia led to the destruction of the pine forests. Seeking new virgin timber, the industry turned south into Florida with its vast pine forests. This southward movement occurred in the 1900s. During this time the demand for labor led Florida to lease prisoners to the turpentine companies. Approximately 10 percent of the force in Florida was comprised of convict forced labor. In the 1900s, the average worker in the turpentine camps relied on the company for most of his goods and services. The camp provided small shacks or shanties for the workers and their families. In addition to housing, the worker was paid monthly. In the early 1900s, the average wage was based on the amount of trees worked. Workers could earn \$15-25 a month; however, in many camps the pay was often in the form of specie, scrip, or tokens usable in the company stores.

Link to The Brutality of Florida's Turpentine Industry:

<https://flowriter.net/2018/11/09/the-brutality-of-floridas-turpentine-industry/>

Cutting the Cat Face

Venice Ice Company