

Welcome to Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park, one of the last remaining stretches of undeveloped barrier islands on the southwest coast of Florida. Rest and relax on a mile of white sugar-sand beach and experience what has made this beach one of the nation's best. Take in the beauty of lush vegetation and abundant birdlife while strolling, swimming, boating, fishing, or picnicking in this 166-acre park.

## Natural Communities

The shoreline and its fringing vegetation offer the experience of untouched Florida. Beyond the beach are the fragile and beautiful sand dunes. The most prominent dune plants are sea oats, tall grasses that can withstand the harsh conditions of salt water and wind while holding together the dunes. Behind the dunes are cabbage palms and seagrapes, trees that are unaffected by the biting salt spray carried inland on the sea breeze. Sheltered by this protective screen, other tropical trees and shrubs survive. Strangler fig, catclaw, and seven-year apple are abundant.

Even in the absence of development, exotic plants, like the rapid-growing Australian pine trees and Brazilian pepper plants, threaten to displace native plants. Park rangers battle these invaders so native foliage can prevail.

A mangrove forest, with four species of trees, extends along the bay the length of the park. Red, white, and black mangroves along with the buttonwood tree make up this forest. Birds like the red-eyed vireo and the prairie warbler are partial to this mangrove habitat.

Bottlenose dolphins are common offshore while West Indian manatees are seen occasionally. During the summer, loggerhead turtles come ashore to nest at night. Countless shorebirds use the beach for resting and feeding.



### Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

### Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park

11100 Gulf Shore Drive North  
Naples, Florida 34108  
(239) 597-6196

[www.FloridaStateParks.org/Delnor-Wiggins](http://www.FloridaStateParks.org/Delnor-Wiggins)

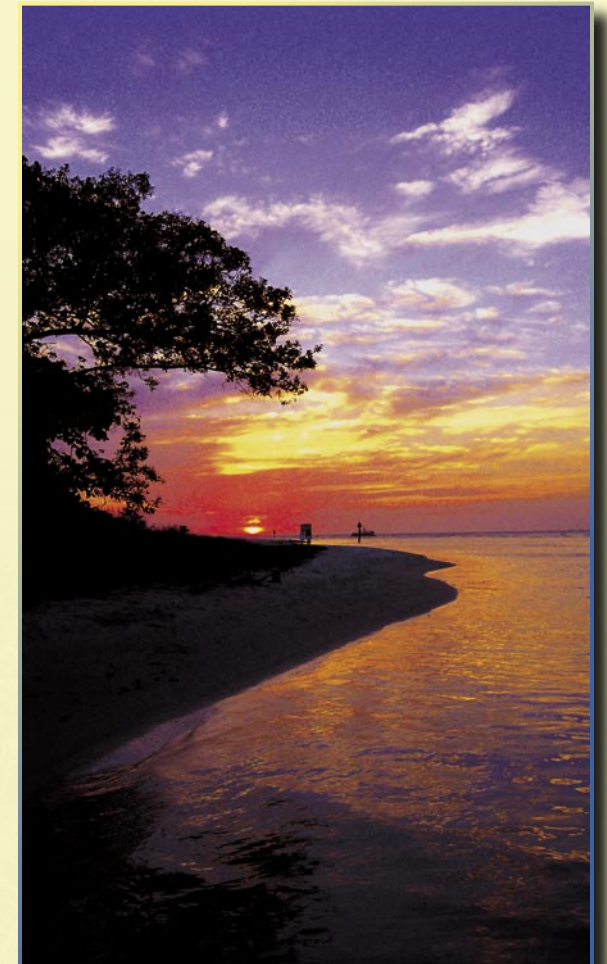
## Park Guidelines

- For your safety, please do not feed or attempt to touch any animals.
- Intoxicants and firearms are prohibited.
- Pets are allowed only along road shoulders and in picnic areas. They must be kept on a six-foot, handheld leash and be well behaved at all times. Pets are prohibited on beach and bathing areas.
- Camping is prohibited.
- Swimming is allowed only in designated areas. Swimming is not allowed in the pass.
- Boating is permitted in designated areas only.
- Live shelling is prohibited. This includes sand dollars and starfish.
- Observe state and local fishing regulations (posted at the ranger station). Dispose properly of monofilament fishing line—it can injure and kill wildlife.
- The park offers many recreational opportunities to visitors with disabilities. Should you need assistance for your full participation, please contact the park office. Beach wheelchairs are available on a first-come first-served basis.
- Open 8:00 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is required.

## Southwest Florida

# Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park

*The most popular state park in Southwest Florida*



...the Real Florida<sup>SM</sup>



**FLORIDA State Parks**  
...the Real Florida<sup>SM</sup>



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# History & Culture

Long before today's visitors dined at nearby seaside restaurants, Calusa Indians thrived here by harvesting the rich bounty of the water. The Calusa built villages and dug canals for their boats up and down this white-sand coast.

The written record of this area begins in the late 1800s with Joe Wiggins, the namesake of the pass. Wiggins, the first homesteader, ran an apiary and trading post where he traded goods with Seminole Indians and settlers.

Decades later, Collier County acquired the land through the philanthropic generosity of Lester J. and Dellora A. Norris—hence the name "Delnor." In 1970, the State of Florida purchased the land from Collier County for a state park. Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park opened in 1981.



Rod Wiley

- BOATING
- BOAT RAMP
- CONCESSION
- CANOEING
- FISHING
- OBSERVATION TOWER
- PARKING
- PAVILION
- PICNICKING
- SWIMMING
- RESTROOM
- SHOWER
- SNORKELING

### Directions

From I-75 - take Exit 111, Immokalee Road; go west for 5.2 miles to the park entrance.

# Real Fun in ...the Real Florida<sup>SM</sup>

With more than a mile of wide, sandy beaches, **sunbathing** and **swimming** are the most popular activities. Soak up the warm Florida sunshine and then cool off in the calm gulf waters. Stroll along the shore and hunt for **shells** or watch shorebirds feast along the water's edge.

**Picnic areas** with tables and grills are placed throughout the park. A **pavilion** may be reserved for parties or after-hour functions. Enjoy a shaded lunch with a view of the gulf to complement a perfect day at the beach. *Please help keep your state parks clean; dispose of litter properly.*

Test your **angling** skills at the pass where the Coghatchee River empties into the Gulf of Mexico and where catches of snook, red drum, and sea trout are common. *A fishing license is required for people 16 years and older.*

Use the **boat ramp** and newly refurbished dock to enjoy **fishing** in the back bay waters. Nature Recreation Management (239) 314-0110 sells **food, drink**, and other **merchandise** at the park. Beach equipment, **snorkel gear**, and **kayaks** can be rented for a more enjoyable visit.



Rod Wiley

## Florida Parks Timeline

**BP (Before Present)**  
Early Human Habitation

**1500-1700s**

1513-1564: Spanish exploration  
1565-1763: Spanish colonization  
1763-1783: British territory  
1775-1783: American Revolution

**1800s**

1817-18: 1st Seminole War

1855-58: 3rd Seminole War

1783-1821: Spanish territory  
1821-1845: U.S. Territory of Florida  
1845: Florida becomes 27th State  
1860-1865: American Civil War

**1900s**

1920s: Florida Land Boom  
1929: The Great Depression  
1940s on: WWII & Population Growth

1999-2001: Florida State Parks voted #1 in the nation

**2000**

7500 BP: Early Archaic people settle area  
2000 BP: Calusa Indians establish presence

1700s: Seminoles move to Florida

1813-14: Creek War

1835-42: 2nd Seminole War

1882: Joe Wiggins is first homesteader on record

1964: Lester and Dellora Norris donate land to Collier County

1981: Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park opens