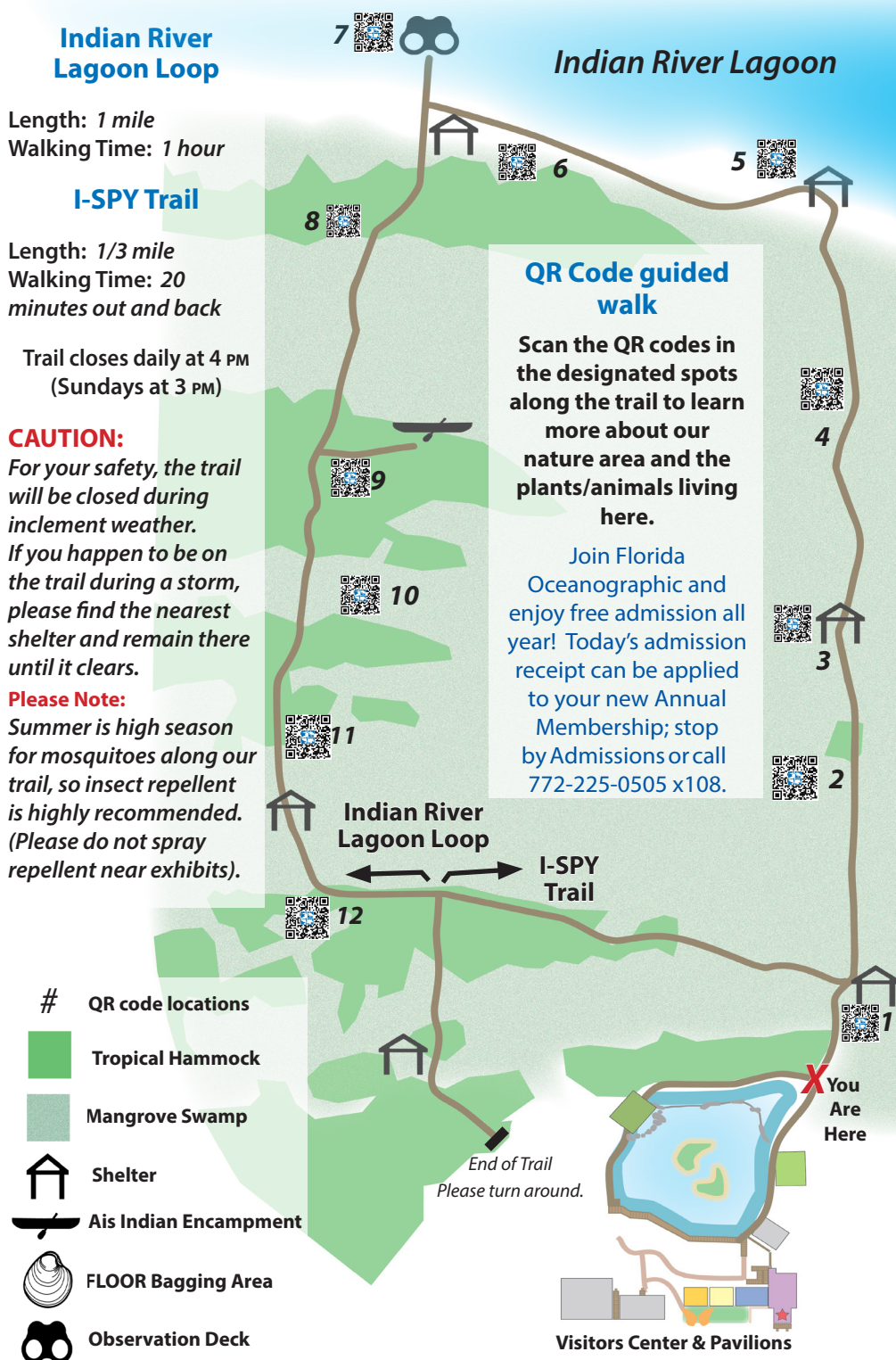




# NATURE TRAILS

To get the most out of your walk, take your time and use your senses.

*There is more than meets the eye when you make the effort to really experience nature!*



## Nature Trail Sightings

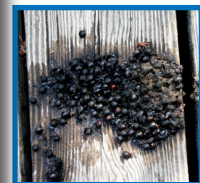
Watch for manatees and dolphins as you pass by the Indian River Lagoon.

Look along the edge of the mangrove swamps for burrows and the crabs inside.

Don't forget to look up to view the many birds utilizing the mangrove swamp habitat for resting and nesting.



Snake Skin



Raccoon Scat



Fiddler Crab Hole

Keep an eye out for clues to identify the animals that live in this coastal habitat.

## Please help us keep this natural area natural.

- ◆ Stay on the path.
- ◆ No smoking on the nature trail.
- ◆ Properly dispose of trash in the available receptacles.
- ◆ Leave the trail as you found it.
- ◆ Be respectful of local wildlife as you are a visitor in their habitat.

**As you explore the nature trails, use the signage along the way to help you discover and identify the unique plants and animals found in the barrier island system.**

**Here are some common species to look for:**

**Species common to the  
Tropical Hammock**

**PLANTS**

- Cabbage Palm *Sabal palmetto*—Florida's state tree
- Live Oak *Quercus virginiana*
- Gumbo Limbo *Bursera simaruba*
- American Beautyberry *Callicarpa Americana*

**EPIPHYTES (AIR PLANTS)**

- Spanish Moss *Tillandsia usneoides*
- Resurrection Fern *Polypodium polypodioides*
- Butterfly Orchid *Encyclia tampensis*

**ANIMALS**

- Bobcat *Lynx rufus*
- Raccoon *Procyon lotor*
- Marsh Rabbit *Sylvilagus palustris*
- Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus*
- Corn Snake *Elaphe guttata guttata*
- Green Anole *Anolis carolinensis*

**Species common to the  
Mangrove Swamp**

**PLANTS**

- Red Mangrove (#2) *Rhizophora mangle*
- Black Mangrove (#2) *Avicennia germinans*
- White Mangrove (#2) *Laguncularia racemosa*
- Buttonwood (#8) *Conocarpus erectus*

**ANIMALS**

- Mangrove Tree Crab (#4) *Aratus pisoni*
- River Otter *Lutra canadensis*
- White Ibis (#3) *Eudocimus albus*
- Great Blue Heron (#3) *Ardea herodias*
- Crablike Spiny Orb Weaver *Gasteracantha cancriformis*

**Species found in the  
transition areas between  
Tropical Hammocks and  
Mangrove Swamps**

**PLANTS**

- Pond Apple *Annona glabra*
- Giant Leather Fern *Acrostichum danaeifolium*

**ANIMALS**

- Fiddler Crab *Uca* sp.
- Osprey (#3) *Pandion haliaetus*



**Resurrection Ferns grow on the bark of live oaks.**

**During dry periods, the fern will turn brown, curl up and appear dead. After a rainfall, the fronds will unroll, become green and produce spores.**

**Native vs. Exotic-Invasive Species (#10)**

**NATIVE** species are species naturally found growing and thriving in a certain region. In Florida, we consider native plants and animals those that have been in the State since the Spanish explorers arrived.

**EXOTIC** species are not native to a region. And **INVASIVE** species grow aggressively in an area, which can stifle the growth of preexisting and native plants.



**Australian Pine**  
*Casuarina equisetifolia*

**Exotic-invasive plant species displace native species and can affect community functions of plants and animals. Invasive plant removal is a constant and crucial process to help protect native habitats.**

**Brazilian Pepper and Australian Pine are two prominent exotic-invasive species found in South Florida.**



**Brazilian Pepper**  
*Schinus terebinthifolius*

***Please visit the Gift Shop to find great books and field guides on local species.***



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