



# FOLK

## Friends of Lovers Key September 2026



A wonderful partnership has blossomed between Lovers Key and some very generous donors for our Native Pollinator Garden to come to life!



This whimsical addition to the Black Island Trail head was made possible by: The Bonita-Estero Women's club, Lowe's of Estero, Artful Exteriors Gardening Specialists, Natives of Corkscrew, Veranza, Sosa Landscape and the Friends of Lovers Key. It really does take a village to make our park shine!

Tuesday, August 25th Staff and volunteers of Lovers Key worked with landscapers from Artful Exteriors to create a new space in the park for people to stop and stay a while.



The new garden is adjacent to a picnic area where you can sit and soak in the garden vibes in the shade of an impressive strangler fig tree that also serves

as a focal point of the garden. Phase 2 is still to come for the garden, including a bubbling rock water feature and a butterfly shaped bench!

~Assistant Park Manager, Miranda Murphy



**No Ranger Left Hangry at Lovers Key —**

**Thanks to FOLK! 🥤**



There are no snack-time blues for our rangers at Lovers Key! Thanks to the generosity of our Friends group, Friends of Lovers Key (FOLK), our rangers never have to worry about going hungry or dehydrated while keeping the park running.

FOLK keeps our cabinets stocked with plenty of snacks, and our slushy machine spinning out refreshing, hydrating treats! From watermelon coconut to Gatorade flavors, these icy concoctions are helping us beat the dog days of summer. ☀️ ❄️

And the best part? The slushy machine has become a little source of ranger camaraderie — there's nothing quite like enjoying an ice-cold slush together at the end of a long, hot day of hard work.

Thank you, FOLK, for taking such great care of our park family! 💚 🌿

~ Assistant Park Manager, Miranda Murphy

# Ranger of the Month

**Ranger Stacey Francis** started out as a resident volunteer at Lovers Key State Park. She quickly became a valued member of the team.

In March of 2026 Stacey became an even bigger part of our team as a full time park ranger.

**Stacey brings almost 30 years of maintenance knowledge and skills** to her work at Lovers Key.

Not only does she have immense **knowledge as a automotive service master and master heavy equipment**

**operator**, she is willing to share her knowledge and teach other staff members new skills.

On top of the mastery of her craft, she is a **caring, reliable and dedicated teammate**. She cares about Lovers Key and her teammates and it shows in all of the great work that she does. From pruning trees around the park, keeping our equipment well maintained to coming up with innovative solutions to improve park processes, Stacey leads by example each day.

She was asked to be the District 4 large equipment trainer and has put a lot of thought and time into planning her curriculum so that she can share her knowledge and skills beyond Lovers Key State Park. Keep up the great work Stacey!

~ Assistant Park Manager, Miranda Murphy



# September Ranger Activities



## Shorebird Stroll

Fri, Sep 11 • 9:00 AM

**FREE**



## Jr. Ranger Program

Sat, Sep 19 • 10:00 AM

Please sign  
up on  
Eventbrite  
(Required)

Registration  
link as follows



## Beach Cleanup

Sat, Sep 26 • 9:00 AM

**Did you know your donation of \$50, \$80, \$1,500 to obtain a membership is tax deductible? When you make this designated donation, we give you 12 free entries to the park for a year. Lifetime members get a new card every January All FOLK donations go directly into the park!**

### Membership

501(c)3 Not-for-profit

Did you know purchasing a membership gets you 12 free entries into the park with up to 8 people in your car? We offer 3 different membership levels. **Plus, the funds raised help FOLK fund all we do for the park!**

**\$50 a year**

**\$80 a year**

**\$1,500 lifetime**



Show your Patron or Lifetime membership card at Flippers for a 15% discount on food, excluding alcohol

# Come Visit Us in Paradise!

**Park Hours:** 8 a.m. until sundown 365 days a year

**Welcome and Discovery Center Hours:**

Tuesday through Saturday  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

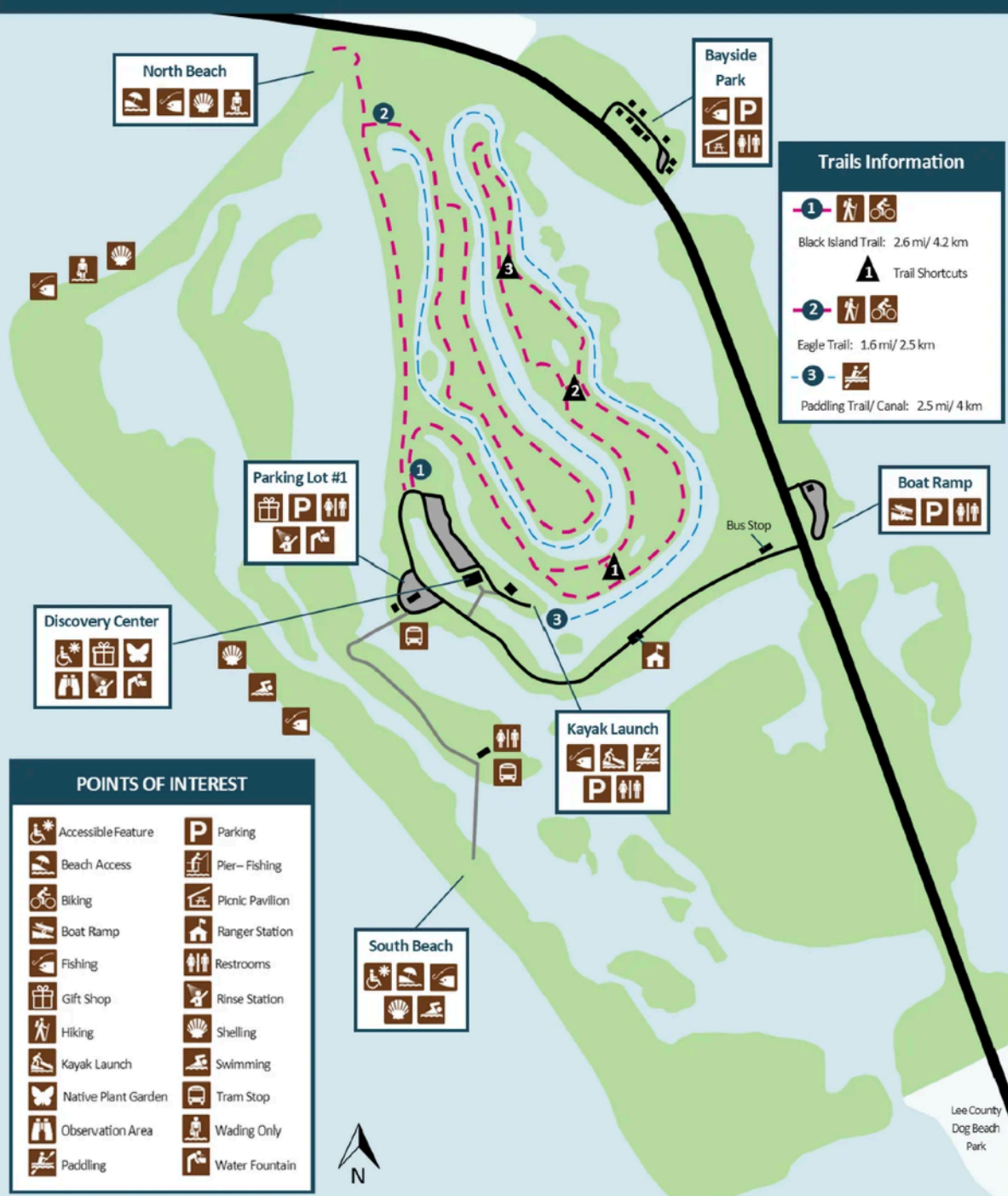
**Admission Fees:**

\$8 per vehicle (2 to 8 people per vehicle)  
\$4 single - occupant vehicle and motorcycles  
\$2 pedestrians, bicyclists, extra passengers, over 8 passengers in vehicle with holder of annual Entrance Pass

**FOLK MEMBERSHIP:** Free Admission with up to 8 passengers in your vehicle

~A Punch Card with 12 FREE Visits Per Year

## LOVERS KEY STATE PARK





**FOLKS Mission -  
Helping to Protect,  
Preserve and  
Support Lovers  
Key State Park**

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**Friends of Lovers Key**



## **Have You Thought About Becoming a Volunteer?**

The park needs a lot of volunteers in many capacities. Are you good at mechanics, a Mr./Ms. Fixit? We have a lot of machinery that needs repair and maintenance. Do you enjoy building things, or how about gardening and landscape maintenance. No green thumb necessary! As a volunteer you also have opportunities to help out during our events and being an ambassador for the park.



To inquire about becoming a Volunteer  
Email: [Mitchell.Bellock@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Mitchell.Bellock@FloridaDEP.gov)

# How to Control Our Webcam



Embark on your virtual tour with some helpful tips below.

## Instructions:

Click the icon with four arrows whenever you're watching the webcam livestream. This

will put you in a queue

for taking control of

the webcam for a

preset period of

time. **Only one**

**viewer can control**

**the camera at a**

**time.** The icon will

turn yellow while

you're waiting and

turn green when you're

in control. Once you have control, click the

eye icon in the top right corner of the video

player to change the camera position.



## **Newsletter Links**

### **Osprey Web cam**

**<https://friendsofloverskey.org/live-web-cam/>**

### **EventBrite**

**<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/friends-of-lovers-key-inc-17957393962>**

### **Membership**

**<https://friends-of-lovers-key.myshopify.com/products/folk-membership>**

### **Adopt-A-Nest**

**<https://friendsofloverskey.org/adopt-a-nest/>**

### **Online Shop**

**<https://friends-of-lovers-key.myshopify.com/collections/all>**

### **Matt's Beach shack**