

HISTORY & NATURE

The beach slopes upward becoming sand dunes covered with sea oats. Located behind the dunes is a coastal hammock and hardwood forest. Much of the forest was once displaced by invasive plants such as Australian pines and Brazilian peppers. These aggressive species are being phased out, replaced by native trees and shrubs grown in the park nursery. Sea grapes, coco plums and seven-year apples are some of the interesting plants that can be found in the hammock.

The bay side of the park is a mangrove swamp which serves as the early summer habitat of the black-whiskered vireo, an abundant small bird. Its persistent call sounds like "grape jelly."

Bottle-nosed dolphins can be observed offshore daily, and West Indian manatees are seen on occasion. Loggerhead turtles are known to come ashore to nest on summer nights.

Long before today's visitors dined at nearby seaside restaurants, Calusa Indians thrived on this coast by harvesting the rich bounty of the Gulf and the bay waters. The Calusa built villages, raised large mounds, and dug canals for their boats.

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 a trading post where he traded goods with settlers and Seminole Indians.

Decades later, Collier County acquired the land through the philanthropic generosity of Lester J. and Dellora A. Norris, giving it 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.

DELNOR-WIGGINS PASS STATE PARK

11135 Gulf Shore Drive North
Naples, FL 34108
239-597-6196

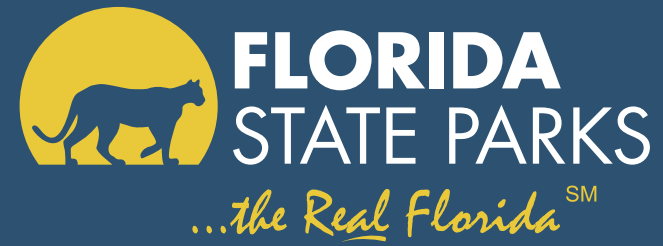
PARK GUIDELINES

Please remember these tips and guidelines, and enjoy your visit:

- Hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- All plants, animals and park property are protected. Collection, destruction or disturbance is prohibited.
- Pets are permitted in designated areas only and are not allowed on the beach. Pets must be kept on a hand-held leash no longer than six feet and be well-behaved at all times.
- Fishing, boating and swimming are allowed in designated areas only. A Florida fishing license may be required.
- Camping, fireworks and hunting are prohibited.
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
- Inquire at the ranger station about becoming a volunteer.. For information about joining Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park, call 239-597-6196.
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing equal access to all facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact the ranger station at 305-664-2540.

FloridaStateParks.org

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DELNOR- WIGGINS PASS STATE PARK

*Popular Destination Boasting
One Of The Most Pristine
Stretch Of Beaches*

EXPERIENCES & AMENITIES

Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park welcomes visitors to Florida's southwest coast. Rest and relax and experience what has made this beach one of the nation's best rated. Take in the beauty of waves on white sand, tropical vegetation and abundant birdlife while strolling, beachcombing, swimming, fishing or picnicking in this 166-acre park.

The park occupies a mile of relatively undisturbed barrier island, one of a few such undeveloped Gulf sites in this region, and is preserved for public access. Soak up the warm Florida sunshine and then cool off in the Gulf of Mexico. **Sunbathing** and **swimming** are some of the most popular activities here. Swimming is permitted from the southern boundary up to the middle of parking lot five, a distance of almost one mile. No swimming is permitted in Wiggins Pass due to the dangerous currents there. Visitors can stroll along the shore and hunt for **shells** or observe the various **bird species** along the water's edge. Collecting live shells is prohibited, including sand dollars and starfish.

Test your angling skills at the pass where the Cocohatchee River empties into the Gulf. Catches of snook, red drum and sea trout are common. A ramp is available for launching boats, or use the **boat ramp** dock to enjoy **fishing** in the bay waters.

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

Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park



DIRECTIONS

From I-75, take exit 111, (Immokalee Rd). Go west for 6 miles to the park entrance.