

**Do you love manatees? Would you like to see them up close and personal? Then check out Manatee Park in Ft. Myers!**

Located at 10901 State Road 80 (also known as Palm Beach Blvd) in Ft. Myers, Manatee Park is a non- captive warm water refuge for the Florida Manatee. With optimum viewing months of late December, January, and February, this is the best time to see these gentle beasts in their natural environment.

When the temperature in the Gulf of Mexico is below 68, the manatees visit the park in search of warm water. Interestingly, the warm water in the Manatee Park canal comes from the Florida Power and Light Power Plant across the street and is created as a byproduct of cooling off their equipment. The increase in temperature lures manatees from near and far, creating a viewing opportunity not usually found in our area of Florida.

Simply stroll along the path and watch the manatees—sometimes with their offspring—as they showcase their signature surface-and submerge rolling swim. Care to get closer? Boating, canoeing, and kayaking is permitted, with kayaks and canoes available to rent at the far end of the park along the river.

A few details:

- [Click here for manatee viewing guidelines](#)
- [Live webcam](#) of Manatee Park
- Parking fee is \$2 per hour or \$5 per day. \$10 for a Shuttle Van or \$20 for a Tour Bus per visit
- Kayak rentals and gift shop provided by the [Manatee Kayaking Company](#) (239) 913-9993
- Kayak launch available for self-launching.
- Dogs are **not** allowed at this park except for service animals. [Click here to find a park where you can take your dog.](#)
- [Volunteer Opportunities are available.](#)
- Educational programs, fishing, gardens, playgrounds, restrooms, walking path, wildlife viewing, paddlecraft launch, and picnic areas.
- The park has an extensive butterfly garden and is a demonstration landscape for the [Florida Friendly Landscaping™ \(FFL\) program.](#)



- Group Tours and programs are available on request. Call (239) 690-5030 for more information

### **Park Shelters**

Pavilion and Amphitheater Rentals are available to rent from April to November. Call (239) 690-5030 ext. 224 or email [Dzarriello@leegov.com](mailto:Dzarriello@leegov.com) for reservation information. Picnic areas are available first come, first serve unless rented for a private event.

### **Educational Resources**

- [Fish Identification](#)
- [Butterfly Identification](#)
- [Start a butterfly garden](#)
- [Manatee Poster](#)
- [Manatee Bingo](#)
- [Manatee Coloring Book](#)
- [Manatee Activity Book](#)

