

Experience the Natural Magic of

Sirenia Vista Park



Come & See the Manatees!



Why do manatees come to Sirenia Vista Park?

Particularly during cooler months when the temperature of the Gulf of Mexico drops below 68°F, endangered Florida manatees seek refuge from cold waters by swimming into Florida canals and other warmer waterways. The canals around Sirenia Vista Park offer the perfect destination.

As a non-captive manatee sanctuary, Sirenia Vista Park provides a winter haven for these warm-blooded native mammals that live, feed, and raise their young year round in the fresh, brackish or saltwater coastal areas of Florida.

Lucky park visitors can view adult manatees and their calves from the vantage point of an elevated platform located along the Bows Canal on the eastern side of the park, as well as from the Park's new boardwalk (*Estimated completion Summer 2015*)

Manatee Viewing Manners

- Observe manatees from a distance.
- Avoid personal contact with wild manatees.
- Do not feed manatees as it is illegal.
- Stash your trash; discard monofilament line, hooks & other trash properly.
- When boating, practice the no-wake procedure and stop if a manatee is in front of your boat.

Sirenia Vista Park is an 8.4 acre environmental park located in Northwest Cape Coral where you can view manatees year round, especially in the cooler winter months of November to March, as well as see a variety of native birds and other wildlife that call this park home.

Park visitors can also kayak or canoe through a nearby mangrove forest, fish from an ADA accessible fishing pad, have a picnic overlooking the water, walk their dogs while taking in fantastic scenery and generally enjoy nature at its finest!



The park is open daily from sunrise to sunset with current amenities including:

- **Free Kayak/Canoe Launch Area** –
Provides access to the Calusa Blueway through Matlacha
- **Elevated Platform for Manatee Viewing**
- **ADA Accessible Fishing Pad**
- **Picnic Tables**
- **Osprey Nest**
- **Bat House**
- **Purple Martin House**
- **Walking Path**
- **ADA Restroom**
- **Boardwalk** (*Summer 2015*)



Kayak & boat tours are also available with advanced reservations. Call (239) 549-4606 for details.



Manatee Q & A

Q: *How big are Florida manatees?*

A: Adult manatees average 10 feet in length and 1,200 pounds; however, they have been known to reach lengths over 13 feet and can weigh over 3,000 pounds. Calves are three to four feet long and 60-70 pounds at birth.

Q: *What animal is the manatee's closest relative?*

A: The elephant. Manatees and elephants both have thick, gray skin with very sparse hair and similar toenails.

Q: *What do manatees eat?*

A: Sea grass, which grows on the bottom of both fresh and salt water bodies.

Q: *How long can a manatee hold its breath?*

A: Anywhere from 2-3 minutes up to 25 minutes.

Q: *What is special about the manatee's teeth?*

A: They have *marching* molars. When a tooth falls out, the teeth in back march forward to the front, filling the new gap and a new tooth starts growing in the back.

Q: *Are manatees cold-blooded?*

A: No, they are mammals and need to find warmer water if the Gulf temperature drops below 68°F.

Q: *Do manatees only live in Florida?*

A: They can be found in several places around the world but can easily be seen at Sirenia Vista Park.

History & Future of Sirenia Vista Park

In 2002, local resident and manatee enthusiast Maija Gadiant recognized the significance of the area near her home as being a safe resting location. She persuaded the City of Cape Coral to purchase the property for park development.

Since then, Sirenia Vista Park has undergone a number of improvements, thanks in part, to grant funding received from the Lee County Tourist Development Council as well as ongoing City and public support.

Major park enhancements thus far have included the addition of the kayak launch, fishing pad and elevated platform, as well as vastly improving the landscape by removing all non-native vegetation to provide more space for native trees and bushes to thrive.

As additional funding becomes available, future park plans include:

- Pier to view manatees
- Butterfly garden
- Manateeum / Education Center
- Observation tower
- Kayak storage building
- Variety of native vegetation

How You Can Help

1. Join the Friends of Sirenia Vista Park volunteer group. For details, please contact maijapedro@hotmail.com
2. Donate time to assist with coastal clean-ups and/or help to educate the public
3. Participate in state initiatives such as the Adopt-a-Manatee and Save the Manatee programs
4. Make a monetary contribution at the park's donation box. *(shown here)*

Tax deductible checks can be made payable to:

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife
Memo: *Sirenia Vista Park Fund*



Sirenia Vista Park

Ceitus Pkwy &
Old Burnt Store Road



Sirenia Vista Park

3916 Ceitus Parkway • Cape Coral, FL 33991
(Corner of Ceitus Pkwy & Old Burnt Store Rd)

Park Hours: Daily 8:00 a.m. - Sunset



CCFW
Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife

Cape Coral
FLORIDA
Parks & Recreation

**THE BEACHES OF
FORT MYERS
AND SANIBEL**
FORTMYERS-SANIBEL.COM

For more information:

(239) 549-4606

www.CapeParks.com

