

# WEEDON ISLAND PRESERVE

Today the Preserve balances ecological and cultural conservation and protection with the passive recreational needs of the public.

Weedon Island Preserve, at approximately 3,700 acres, is managed by Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management's Environmental Lands Division. The Preserve is a mosaic of rich mangrove forests, open mud flats and salterns, pine/scrubby flatwoods, and maritime hammocks. Visitors will enjoy the many natural wonders of this coastal preserve, rich with wading and water birds, native plants, and state-listed species like the gopher tortoise. Formerly

home to prehistoric people, the type-site of the "Weeden" Island culture, the Preserve has a long and colorful history with many changes. It was once home to a movie studio, an airport, a speakeasy, and private residences. Land speculators came and went and trash was dumped and cleaned up. What remains today is the direct result of a long-term commitment by volunteers, citizens, industry and governments to protect this

land for its ecological and cultural richness. In July 1972, Weedon Island was put on the National Register of Historic Places. It officially opened as Weedon Island State Preserve in 1980. In 1993, the State and County entered into a lease agreement bringing the management of the Preserve under direction of Pinellas County. Today the Preserve balances ecological and cultural conservation and protection with the passive recreational needs of the public. Enjoy "A Place to Remember."



# WEEDON ISLAND PRESERVE CULTURAL and NATURAL HISTORY CENTER

Understanding the natural and cultural history of the Preserve empowers citizens to make informed decisions about the environment and demonstrates how people and the natural world shape each other.



The Center offers this opportunity through interpretive tours and hikes, teaching programs, curriculum development, exhibits, presentations and workshops, and other events.

Designed with the help of Native Americans, and keeping with their tradition, the orientation of the Center in the landscape is along the four cardinal points of the compass, with the entrance facing east. A special curved wall is representative of the remarkable pottery of the early "Weeden" people who lived on the island some 1000 to 1800 years ago. The roof lines resemble the curved wings of a bird as it soars through the sky.



Completed in 2002, the Center blends the past and present into a truly exciting experience. The Native American and early European history of the Preserve is fascinating and helped shape the Preserve as we know it today. Come explore the Center's exhibits, admire the talent of local artists, and learn how

we still depend on the Tampa Bay estuary through workshops and presentations. Become part of the Preserve's future by learning about its past and present.



### Preserve and Center Hours vary.

Before visiting, call or visit our website. The Preserve closes approximately 15 minutes before sunset. Consult the closing time clock at the Preserve entrance gate for the exact closing time.

For additional information, please contact us:  
General Information: (727) 453-6500

Weedon Island Preserve  
Cultural and Natural History Center  
1800 Weedon Drive NE  
St. Petersburg, FL 33702



[www.weedonislandpreserve.org](http://www.weedonislandpreserve.org)

Pinellas County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To obtain accessible formats of this document, please contact us at (727) 453-6500/TDD-Text Phone (727) 464-4062.



# WEEDON ISLAND PRESERVE

## Visitor Guide

Weedon Island Preserve is located along the shores of Old Tampa Bay. This coastal system, comprised of aquatic and upland ecosystems, is home to numerous species of flora and fauna, an outstanding environmental education facility, and a rich cultural history. Come experience "A Place to Remember."



A Pinellas County Government Program

# Weedon Island Preserve

## Preserve Rules

- Under Pinellas County Preserve Ordinance 08-29 all plants and animals are protected.
- Releasing animals into the Preserve is illegal.
- Stay on marked trails.
- Park only in designated areas.
- The following are prohibited:
  - Smoking on trails
  - Alcohol
  - Weapons
  - Fire crackers and unauthorized campfires
  - Pets
  - Unauthorized motor vehicles
  - Overnight parking
  - Bicycles on the Bayside and Tower Boardwalks
  - Fishing on the Bayside and Tower Boardwalks
- Place trash in designated containers.

## Boardwalk

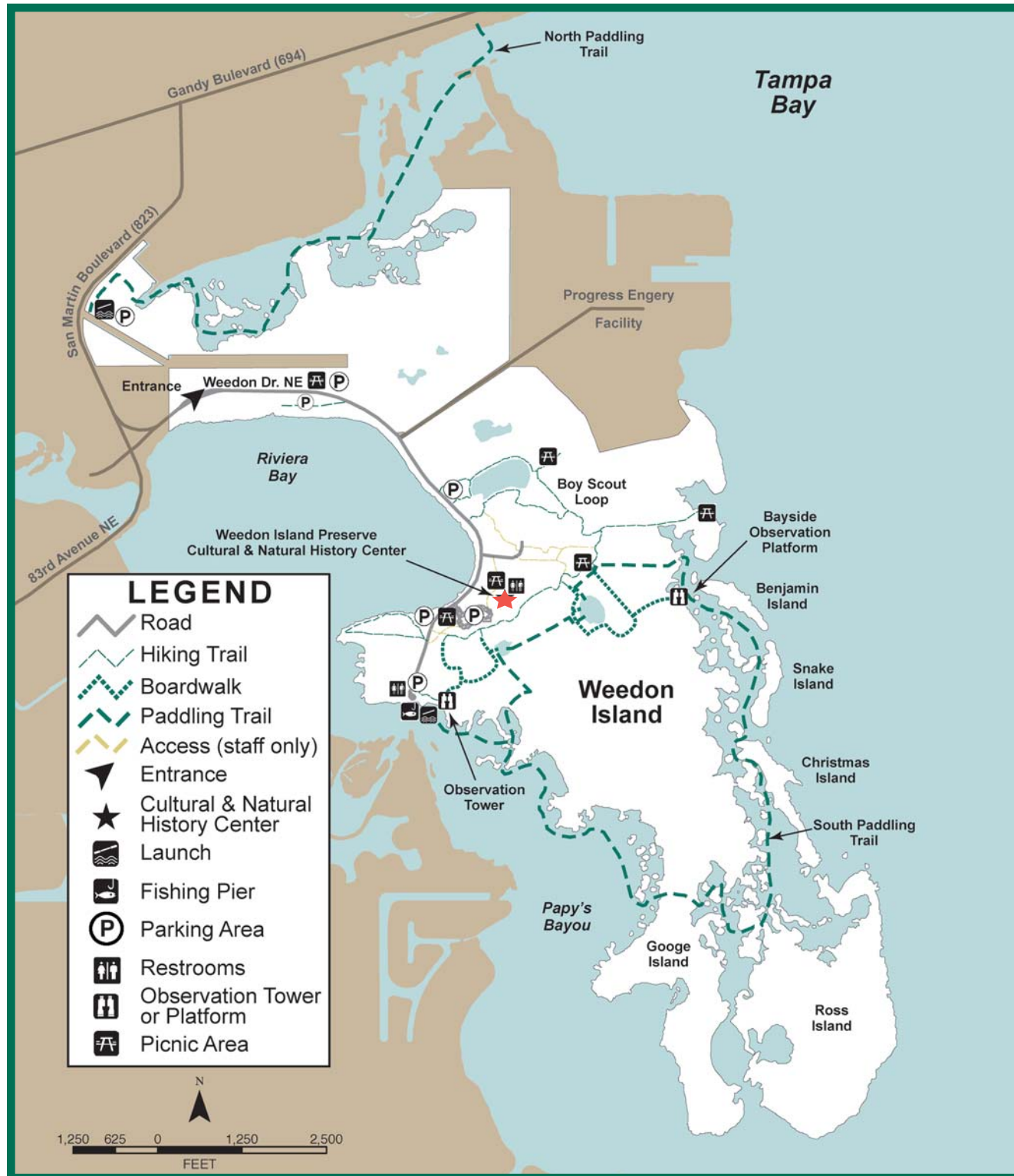
- 2 miles of boardwalk and paved trails
- 45-foot observation tower
- 3 observation platforms and a picnic area

## Hiking

- 2.7 miles of natural trails
- Picnic facilities

## Pier and South Paddling Trail

- 200' fishing pier w/restroom facilities
- State and Federal fishing regulations apply.
- 4-mile loop, self-guided paddling trail
- Canoe/kayak launch site
- Wash station for canoes/kayaks
- All water activity must end 30 minutes prior to posted closing time.



## North Paddling Trail

- 2-mile trail self-guided paddling trail
- Parking and launch site off San Martin Blvd.

## Kayak/Canoe Rentals

- On-site rental available on weekends and holidays.
- On-call rentals available on weekdays.
- Call (727) 453-6500 for more information.

# Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center

## Center Activities and Amenities

- Environmental educational programs for all ages
- Specialized workshops
- Guided canoe tours (equipment provided)
- Guided hikes, including specialty hikes
- Exhibit gallery
- Featured art gallery
- Local artist gallery
- Gift shop
- Refreshment vending machine

## Get Involved

- Volunteer opportunities
  - Receptionist/Information/Education Assistants
  - Cultural Resource Assistants
  - Hike Guides
  - Canoe Guides
  - Land Management Assistants
- Friends of Weedon Island, Inc.
- Call (727) 453-6500 for information.