

## STEWARDSHIP

The Royal Palm Beach Pines Natural Area is managed by the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management, with the assistance of the Village of Royal Palm Beach and the Indian Trail Improvement District.

If you would like to help preserve this site or other natural areas managed by ERM, please call our volunteer coordinator at (561) 233-2400.

*Never doubt that a small group of citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*

- Margaret Mead



There may be poisonous animals and plants living on this site - it is their home. They will not harm you if you do not bother them!

The natural area is open from sunrise to sunset. Handicapped-accessible portable toilets are located at both the east and north parking lots. There is no drinking water provided at this site.

In accordance with the provisions of ADA, this document may be requested in an alternate format. Please contact ERM at (561) 233-2400.

Please return this trail guide to the box if you do not wish to keep it.

**ROYAL PALM BEACH PINES  
NATURAL AREA - NORTH LOT**  
13500 - 40th Street North  
Royal Palm Beach, FL



Palm Beach County  
Department of  
Environmental Resources Management

## SITE HISTORY

The Royal Palm Beach Pines Natural Area is a 747-acre preserve of high-quality pine flatwoods and wet prairies. Once it was part of the buffer lands surrounding the Loxahatchee Slough. Water flowed into this site from the west and south, then moved east to the slough. Water from the slough flowed either north into the Loxahatchee River or southwest into the Everglades, depending on rainfall patterns and water levels. Now Royal Palm Beach Pines exists as an island of wilderness, cut off from the slough and other buffer lands by roads, canals, and residential areas.

The County purchased 651 acres of the natural area for \$5,321,000 in 1992-1993 to ensure the preservation of its high-quality native plant and animal communities, and the listed plant and animal species they support. The County leases 85 acres from the Village and 11.23 acres from Saratoga in the Pines, and manages these lands as part of the natural area.



## NATURAL FEATURES

The natural area is a mosaic of pine flatwoods and wet prairies. The **pine flatwoods** have an open canopy of South Florida slash pines, with little understory and a dense groundcover of saw palmettos and gallberry. Other plant species include beautyberry, fetterbush, pennyroyal, and staggerbush.

## LISTED SPECIES

### ANIMALS

Bald eagle  
Florida sandhill crane  
Little blue heron  
Roseate spoonbill  
White ibis  
Wood stork

### PLANTS

Catesby's lily  
Celestial lily  
Hand fern  
Twisted air plant  
Yellow butterwort



**Wet prairies** are wet, treeless plains without a definite water flow and with a ground cover of grasses and herbs. Plants typical of this community include yellow bladderwort, floating hearts, and white-topped sedge. Wet prairies have standing water 50 to 100 days per year. Animals commonly seen on the Royal Palm Beach Pines Natural Area include anhinga, common egret, eastern cottontail, Florida snapping turtle, great blue heron, turkey vulture, raccoon, and red-bellied woodpecker.



The Riding Trail is a 2-mile loop trail located in the western portion of the site. It is accessible from the north parking lot at 40th Street and Avocado Boulevard, and via an equestrian crossing on North Road, west of F Road.

In sensitive areas such as Royal Palm Beach Pines, horses can cause a number of problems such as trail erosion and degradation, habitat fragmentation, weed introduction, and wildlife disturbance. Horseback riding will be allowed provided that there are no unacceptable impacts to plants and animals on the site.

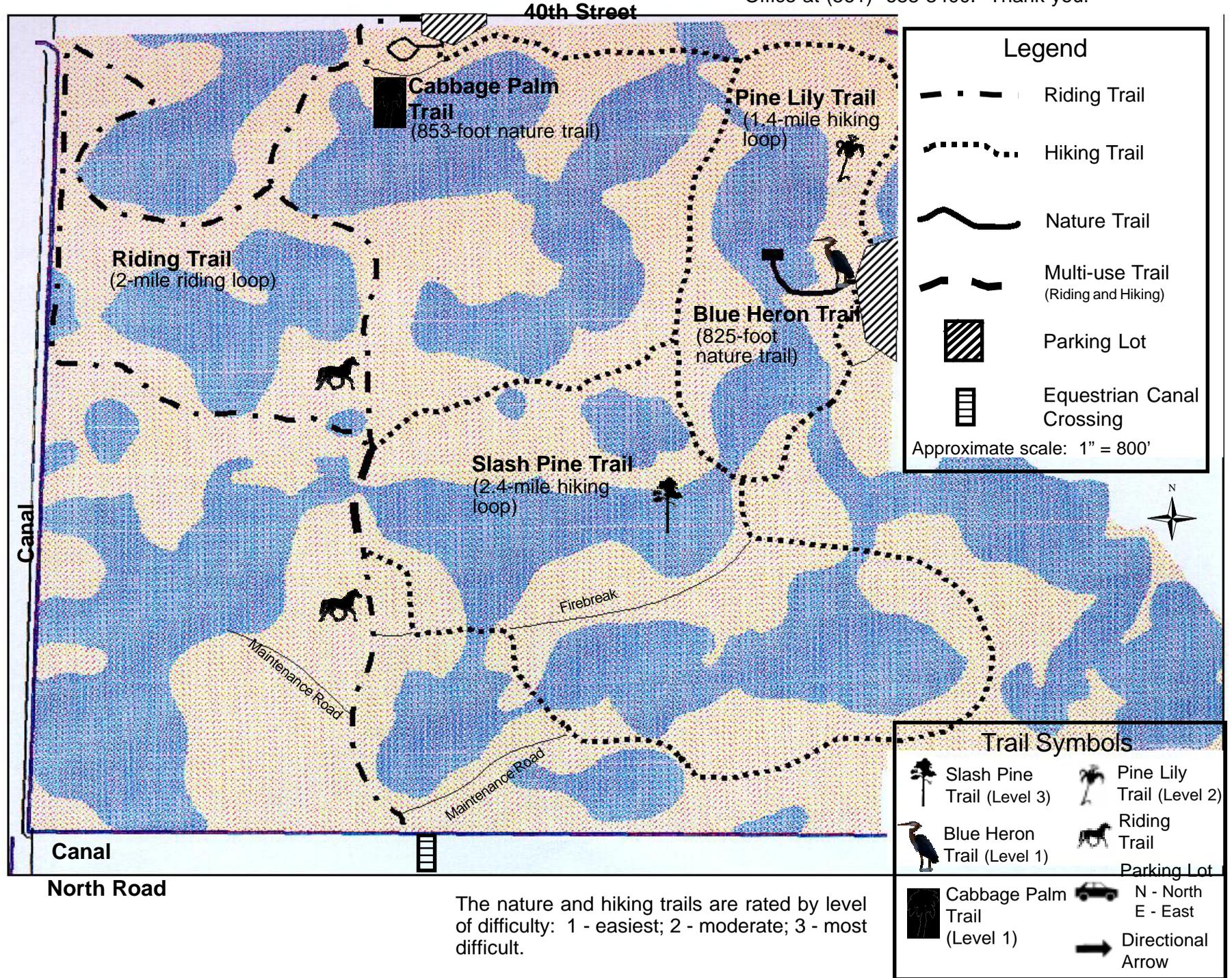
### RIDING TRAIL RULES

1. Equestrian use of this site is by permit only. All riders must comply with these rules, the natural area rules posted on the welcome sign, and any specific permit conditions.
2. Lock the gate immediately after entering or leaving. Do not give the combination to other people.
3. Stay on the designated riding trail. Lands adjacent to the trail are environmentally sensitive and will be damaged if these rules are not followed.
4. Horses are not permitted in the eastern part of the site or on the hiking trails. Riders have the right-of-way on the section of trail shared with hikers.
5. Accompany your horseback-riding guests (maximum of two guests per permit) at all times.
6. Carry your permit card and proof of a negative Coggins test and present them upon request.
7. Do not tie or hitch horses to trees or shrubs, or allow horses to graze on or otherwise damage vegetation.
8. Horses must be under control at all times. No galloping, running, or racing. Ride at your own risk.
9. All horses must walk when approaching or passing others. If riding abreast, one horse must yield to a passing horse. Horses known to kick must wear red ribbons in their tails.

Compliance with these rules is necessary for continued equestrian use of the site. Failure to comply will result in permit revocation and possible withdrawal of the equestrian use privilege.

An annual equestrian permit is available from ERM. Call (561) 233-2400 for further information and to request a permit application.

Please help to protect this site. If you see unauthorized vehicles or activities in the equestrian portion (western half) of the natural area, contact the Sheriff's Office at (561) 688-3400. Thank you!



The nature and hiking trails are rated by level of difficulty: 1 - easiest; 2 - moderate; 3 - most difficult.