

SARASOTA COUNTY

Nature & Outdoors

From trails and parks to wildlife and beyond, nature is always waiting just outside in Sarasota County.

Nature Highlights

- The Celery Fields combines more than 400 acres of wetlands, renowned birdwatching opportunities, and Sarasota County's first micro forest, creating a unique destination for wildlife observation and environmental stewardship.
- Linking Sarasota and Venice, The Legacy Trail has become one of the region's premier outdoor amenities, welcoming walkers, runners, and cyclists along its expansive paved corridor.
- Marie Selby Botanical Gardens has 20,000 living plants.
- From riverbanks and wetlands to open prairies and forested canopies, Myakka River State Park delivers a remarkable glimpse into Florida's diverse ecosystems and wildlife.
- Osprey's Oscar Scherer State Park is one of the best places in the state to see the threatened Florida scrub-jay.

Nature Abounds Year-Round

SPRING

Spring in Sarasota County offers endless opportunities to explore the outdoors, from guided photography walks at The Bay and seasonal birdwatching at The Celery Fields and local Audubon rookeries to butterfly spotting at Selby's Historic Spanish Point. The season also brings the excitement of Major League Baseball spring training, as the Atlanta Braves and Baltimore Orioles return to their Sarasota County home fields.

SUMMER

The blaze of summer days means beachfront adventures and water fun. Let the kids search for sharks' teeth at Casperson Beach or take the dog for a stroll at Brohard Paw Park in Venice. Hear the kids shriek with delight as they cool off in the Children's Fountain at Bayfront Park in Sarasota. Also in Sarasota, get out on the water with Sarasota Bay Explorers' hands-on Sea Life Encounter Cruise, or test your skills on a rowing scull at Nathan Benderson Park Lake.

FALL

Mild temperatures of Fall are an ideal time to explore Sarasota County's outdoors. Paddle beneath mangrove canopies on a guided kayak tour, cycle the scenic Gulf of Mexico Drive on Longboat Key, or spend the night under the stars with glamping at Oscar Scherer State Park or waterfront camping at Turtle Beach Campground. Visitors can also enjoy golf and tennis at The Resort at Longboat Key Club, followed by open-air shopping and dining at St. Armands Circle.

WINTER

Mild winter temperatures make Sarasota County a playground for outdoor adventure. Take a guided Cycle through Myakka River State Park, enjoy the Sarasota Ski-A-Rees' thrilling water ski performances, explore the unique intersection of art and nature at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, where internationally recognized exhibitions transform the gardens each season, or paddle Sarasota Bay's mangrove-lined waterways in search of dolphins, manatees, and coastal birds.



The Bay Sarasota