

Visitor Guidelines

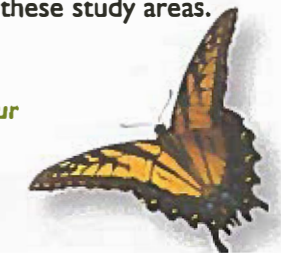
WELCOME

You are nature's guest. Our park is surrounded by urban activity. It's important that we take good care of these few wild places.

Protect and nurture this special place while you enjoy your surroundings.

- Don't disturb plants, animals, structures or exhibits.
- No pets please.
- The alligators are real. Feeding or disturbing alligators is hazardous, and prohibited by Florida law. Enjoy them from a safe distance.
- Gopher tortoises live in very dry areas. When surprised or afraid, the tortoise releases its store of water by defecating as a defense. Living in extremely dry conditions, it is important for it to save water. Do not pick up a gopher tortoise.
- For your own safety, please do not climb on railings, trees, or other objects.
- Prohibited in park: alcohol, drugs, loud or indecent language, fishing, hunting, radios or any type of music player without headphones, wading or swimming, roller skates/blades, skateboards, and mopeds.
- Scientific research is conducted periodically within the park. Observe all signs restricting access to these study areas.

Remember - Natural areas contain hazards not encountered in your home surroundings. Please stay on marked paths and be alert to your family's safety.





Lake Maggiore Island

Shaded by spreading live oaks, the island looks out on Lake Maggiore. Perched on dead branches, cormorants and anhingas fan their wings out to dry, turtles sun themselves and alligators drift by.



Swamp Woodlands

Winding along a creek, the path and boardwalk are shaded by bay, cypress, sugarberry and red maple trees. Box turtles hide in the leaf litter on the forest floor. The golden orb weavers spin their perfect web between the branches.

Prescribed Fire in the Preserve

Do you see charred tree trunks? Prescribed fire is one tool we use to mimic lightning-caused fire that would naturally restore and maintain our ecosystems. By reducing the buildup of fuels we protect our forests and our neighbors from dangerous unplanned wildfire.



Willow Marsh

Coastal willow's slender leaves provide food for orange dancing viceroy butterflies. The boardwalk passes over the rich muck which provides a home for a variety of ferns, hinting of an almost prehistoric flavor. Twelve-foot fronds of leather ferns lift above the boardwalk. Look for lizards and epiphytes (or "air plants") on the trees.



Wildlife

Boyd Hill Nature Preserve is home to a diversity of wildlife. You may encounter any of the 212 species of birds or 59 species of butterflies during your visit. Osprey and bald eagles soar, black and yellow zebra long wing and tiger swallowtails float overhead. Orange and iridescent green wings are like jewels hovering among the wild flowers. American Alligators bask in the sun's warmth and gopher tortoises munch on the new shoots of grasses.



Pine Flatwoods

Like the columns of a forest mansion, tall pines shade the path. This is borderland between the scrub and the broad-leaved forest. Look for pileated woodpeckers on the pines and tall snags. Southeastern five-lined skins flash through the sunlit patches in their pursuit of an insect meal.



Sand Scrub Trail

More than 12,000 years ago Florida was almost twice its current size. This place was the center of a vast scrubland stretching from horizon to horizon. Today, turkey oak, sand pine, and wiregrass hint of that distant time. Fall wild flowers cover these fields with color. Boyd Hill Nature Preserve is the home of the gopher tortoise. This is one of the most endangered habitats in the world.

Boyd Hill Nature Preserve

1101 Country Club Way-South • St. Petersburg, Florida

A precious oasis in the midst of Florida's most densely populated county.

Discoveries Await

- 245 acres of preserved habitat
- 5 miles of trails & boardwalks
- Lake Maggiore shoreline
- environmental education center
- aviary with live birds of prey
- 5 ecosystems
- gators, tortoises, eagles, osprey & more
- picnic area, playgrounds, grills & tables
- daily tram tours
- nature programs and classes

binoculars available

HOURS

	Mar-Oct	Nov-Feb
Tue. - Fri.	9 a.m. - 7 p.m.	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday	7 a.m. - 7 p.m.	7 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday	9 a.m. - 7 p.m.	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Monday	Closed	

Trails close 1/2 hour before park closing.
Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day

LEARN MORE

Visit Our Website:
stpeteparksrec.org/boyd-hill
(727) 893-7326

