

## Visit Pine Island Conservation Area

### Sanctuary Hours

October-April—7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

May-September—7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



# Pine Island Conservation Area

### Visitor Guidelines

- ✧ All plant and animal life is protected
- ✧ Vehicles on established roads only
- ✧ Parking in established areas only – do not block roads or gates
- ✧ ATVs and tracked vehicles prohibited
- ✧ Airboats and gas-powered boats prohibited in the marsh ponds and North and South Borrow Lakes
- ✧ Electric motors allowed only in North Borrow Lake
- ✧ No Pets, except Guide Dogs (F.S. 413.08)
- ✧ Intoxicants and firearms prohibited
- ✧ Main entrance locked at closing times listed above. Any vehicles remaining will be locked in.

### Volunteer Program

Help protect conservation lands by donating your time and expertise. To participate as a volunteer at Pine Island Conservation Area or at any other EEL Program sanctuary, contact the EEL Program Volunteer Coordinator, at 321-255-4466 or email [eel@brevardparks.com](mailto:eel@brevardparks.com).



### Recreational Uses...

- 🌿 Fishing
- 🌿 Wildlife Viewing
- 🌿 Canoe & Kayaking
- 🌿 Hiking & Bicycle Trails



Visit [pica.eelbrevard.com](http://pica.eelbrevard.com)

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

Brevard County  
Environmentally Endangered Lands Program

[www.eelbrevard.com](http://www.eelbrevard.com)



# A Natural Treasure

## on the Space Coast

### Ice-Age to Pre-Ais Indians

From Ice-Age animals to pre-Ais Indians to early pioneers, Pine Island Conservation Area has a rich history. Mastodon tusks, pottery sherds, and 19th century farm tools found on site help piece together the story of this special place.

The oldest home in Brevard County, the 1875 Sams' family cabin, and a large circa 1890 home are located here. The home and cabin will undergo restoration to become the future Pine Island Management and Education Center.

### Plant & Wildlife Diversity

Many species of wading birds, shorebirds, waterfowl, and migratory birds abound in the Pine Island Conservation area. The pine flatwoods provide habitat to resident and migratory songbirds. Red-tailed hawks, ospreys, and black vultures are often sighted, with occasional bald eagles seen soaring above. Reptiles and amphibians including alligators and aquatic turtles are common, as are mammals such as bobcats, river otters, raccoons, and opossums that seek food and refuge on the site.

### Conservation Partners

Adjoining the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge to the north, the 1000-acre conservation area is jointly owned by the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program and the St. Johns River Water Management District. Acquired to buffer the Indian River Lagoon from development impacts along two-miles of shoreline, the conservation area also reduces habitat fragmentation and provides passive recreation and environmental education opportunities.

### Environmentally Endangered Lands

Pine Island Conservation Area is a focal point for the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program's Central Region. The EEL Program, established in 1990, is designed to protect natural habitats in the county by acquiring environmentally sensitive lands for conservation, passive recreation, and environmental education. This initiative made conservation history when citizens voted to tax themselves for acquisition of endangered lands through a willing seller program, and for maintenance of those natural resources provided by specialized staff and volunteers.

 *The EEL Program mission is to protect and preserve biodiversity through responsible stewardship of Brevard County's natural resources.*

## Humans and Nature... Forces of Change throughout History



### Explore Recreational Opportunities

View the Pine Island Conservation Area site map to locate the recreational activities described here:



**Hiking** Two hiking trails accessed from a trailhead 0.5 miles from the entrance parking area offer moderate 1.3 mile and 1.5 mile walks through the pine flatwoods and hydric hammock habitat types. Each trail features overlooks providing visitors with panoramic vistas of shallow water feeding habitat of wading birds, shorebirds, and waterfowl.



**Canoe/Kayaking** Two canoe trails, a 2.3-mile loop run and a 3.0-mile run, invite a relaxing way to observe wildlife. Canoes may be launched from the Marsh Pond or Sams Creek launch sites. During low water periods the natural channel connecting the north marsh ponds is impassable



**Wildlife Viewing** Observation of wading birds is common, with fall migration bringing numerous species of waterfowl, shorebirds, and the white pelican to feed and rest in the shallow marsh pond and shore waters. American alligators and aquatic turtles bask near the water's edge. The West Indian Manatee frequently seeks refuge in the peaceful waters of Sams Creek/Rinker Canal, and may be observed resting at the north end of the canal, particularly during winter and early spring months.



**Fishing** Fishing is allowed throughout the conservation area.



**Biking** Biking is permitted only on established roads. Please do not ride bikes on hiking trails.

### Conservation Lands Work To...

- ✦ Protect rare and endangered species
- ✦ Improve wildlife habitat
- ✦ Protect aquifer recharge areas
- ✦ Provide passive recreation
- ✦ Serve as living classrooms
- ✦ Improve our health and quality of life
- ✦ Benefit our local economy



# PINE ISLAND CONSERVATION AREA

## Recreational Uses



### HOW TO FIND PINE ISLAND CONSERVATION AREA

Take I-95 and exit on SR 528 East toward Merritt Island

Proceed east on SR 528 approximately 7 miles to SR 3

Take the SR 3 exit and turn left (north) over the Barge Canal

Stay on SR 3 for 5 miles to Pine Island Road and turn left

The Main Entrance Gate is 2.5 miles—located at the western terminus of Pine Island Road

### HOURS

October through April  
7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

May through September  
7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

RECREATIONAL USES	
	Internal Mixed-Use Vehicles yield to Bicycles, Pedestrians, Horses
	Recreational Mixed-Use Bicycles, Pedestrians, Horses
	Hiking Trail
	Canoe Runs
	Entrance Gate
	Parking
	South Gate Restricted Access
	Wildlife Viewing Blinds
	Bicycles Allowed
	Canoe Launch
	Fishing
	Trail Head
	Hiking Trail
	No Swimming
	Wildlife Viewing Area
	Marsh/Cattail
	PICA Boundary
	Open Water
	Uplands

