

# Manatees, Rescues, and Rehabilitation

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Southwest Florida Water Management District Committee Presentations



# Who is Ranger Kate



Park Services Specialist, nine years at HSWSP, background in corporate food service management, Certified Interpretive Guide, natural and cultural resource management, the original “Manatee Monday”



# Who We Are & What We Do





# Homosassa's Role with Manatees



## History

- Warm water refuge long before humans here.
- Roadside attraction in the 1960s.
- Manatee breeding program, 1980s.
- State park, 1989.
- Manatee rehabilitation, early 2000s.



# Homosassa's Role with Manatees



## Education

- Manatee Programs
  - Staff
  - Volunteers
- Roving
- Outreach
- Virtual Programs
- Manatee Monday



# Homosassa's Role with Manatees



## Conservation

- Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park – more than what visitors see.
- Natural spring environment with seasonal access.
- Warm water refuge.
- Seasonal & year-round sanctuaries.
- Manatee Watch.
- Water quality & monitoring.
- Partnerships.



# Homosassa's Role with Manatees



## Rehabilitation

- Manatee Rescue & Rehabilitation Partnership (MRRP).
- Wildlife Care Team.
- Manatee Treatment Pool.
- Non-critical residents.
- Non-releasable manatees.
  - Ariel
  - Betsy
- Release location.
- Manatee health assessments.



# Meet Our Manatees

## Ariel

- Rescued with mom, Amanda, from Lake Worth Inlet in 1973.
- Arrived to Homosassa in 1986.
- Sister to Betsy.
- Known for being curious and playful.
- Can be identified by small scars on her left side.





# Meet Our Manatees

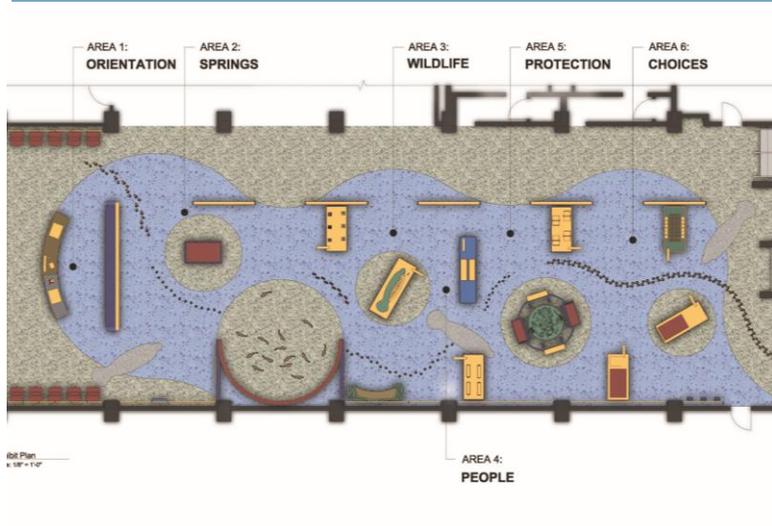
## Betsy

- Born at the park to mother Amanda in 1990; named after Park Ranger Betsy Dearth.
- Moved to the Cincinnati Zoo in 2010.
- Returned to her Homosassa home in 2017.
- Inquisitive and observant, will push nose against UWO windows.
- Known for her massive size.



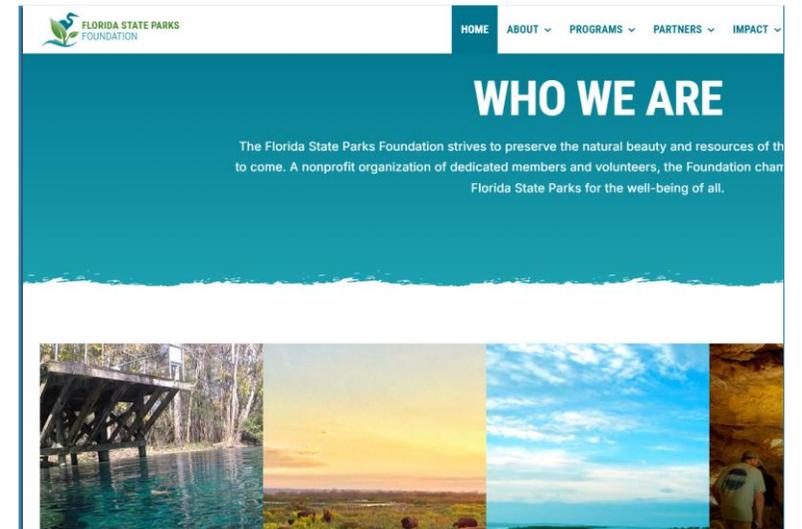
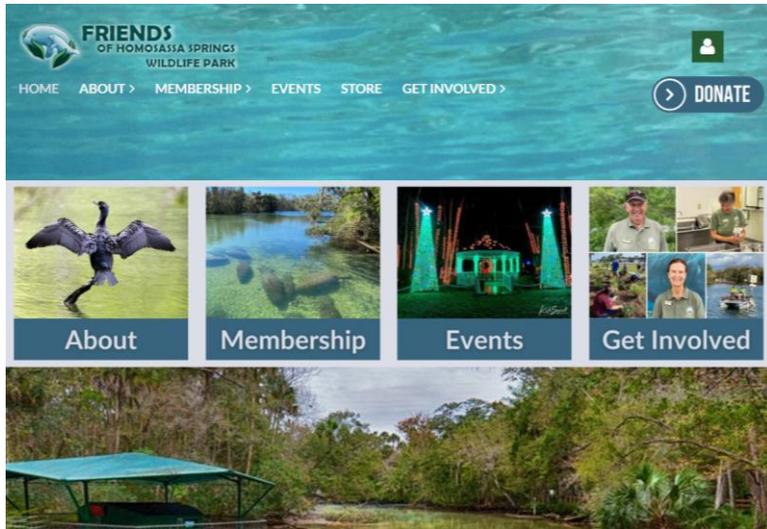


# What's happening at Homosassa





# Resources





# THANK YOU

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