

Common Species on District Lands



Southwest Florida
Water Management District

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) manages water resources in the west-central portion of Florida according to legislative mandates. The District uses public land acquisition funds to protect key lands for water resources. The natural communities, plants and animals on these lands also benefit from a level of protection that can be experienced and enjoyed through recreational opportunities made available on District lands.

Every year, approximately 2.5 million people visit the more than 436,000 acres of public conservation lands acquired by the District and its partners. The lands are open to the public for activities such as hiking, bicycling, hunting, horseback riding, fishing, camping, picnicking and studying nature. The District provides these recreational opportunities so that residents may experience healthy natural communities. An array of natural landscapes is available from the meandering Outstanding Florida

Waters riverine systems, the cypress domes and strands, swamps and hammocks, to the scrub, sandhill, and pine flatwoods. The *Common Species on District Lands* brochure provides insight to what you may experience while recreating on public lands managed by the District.





Mammals

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Virginia Opossum
Didelphis virginiana

Roger W Barbour - Smithsonian Institute



Brazilian Free-Tailed Bat
Tadarida brasiliensis

iStock



Nine-Banded Armadillo
Dasypus novemcinctus
(nonnative)

Ivy Creek



Eastern Cottontail
Sylvilagus floridanus

iStock



Marsh Rabbit
Sylvilagus palustris

iStock



Eastern Gray Squirrel
Sciurus carolinensis

Adobe Stock



**Sherman's
Fox Squirrel**
Sciurus niger shermani

R.W. Van Devender - Smithsonian Institute



Cotton Mouse
Peromyscus gossypinus

iStock



Coyote
Canis latrans
(nonnative)

iStock



Red Fox
Vulpes vulpes
(nonnative)

iStock



Gray Fox
Urocyon cinereoargenteus

iStock



Black Bear
Ursus americanus

iStock



Raccoon

Procyon lotor

iStock



River Otter

Lutra canadensis

iStock



Striped Skunk

Mephitis mephitis

iStock



Bobcat

Lynx rufus

iStock



Feral Pig

Sus scrofa

(exotic, invasive)

Karen Gruenhagen - SWFWMD



White-Tailed

Deer

Odocoileus virginianus

A close-up photograph of a bird, possibly a blue-gray tanager, perched on a green palm frond. The bird is facing right, with its dark blue-grey back and wings contrasting with its lighter belly. The background is a soft-focus green and yellow, suggesting a natural, sunlit environment.

Birds

Southwest Florida
Water Management District

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Little Blue Heron
Egretta caerulea

iStock



Anhinga
Anhinga anhinga

iStock



**Great Blue
Heron**
Ardea herodias

iStock



Great Egret
Ardea alba

iStock



Snowy Egret
Egretta thula

iStock



White Ibis
Eudocimus albus

iStock



Wood Duck

Aix sponsa

iStock



Bald Eagle

Haliaeetus leucocephalus

iStock



Richard Gant - SWFWMD



Red-Tailed Hawk

Buteo jamaicensis

Sandhill Crane

Grus canadensis

iStock



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Wild Turkey

Meleagris gallopavo ♂

Pileated Woodpecker

Dryocopus pileatus

iStock



Blue Jay
Cyanocitta cristata

Mike Hancock - SWFWMD



Florida Scrub-Jay
Aphelocoma coerulescens

iStock



Eastern Bluebird
Sialia sialis

iStock



Northern Cardinal
Cardinalis cardinalis

♂
male

iStock



Northern Cardinal
Cardinalis cardinalis

♀
female

Mike Hancock - SWFWMD



Barred Owl
Strix varia

Trees & Shrubs

Southwest Florida
Water Management District



main photo: iStock
inset photo: David MacManus



Slash Pine

Pinus elliottii

main photo: Shirley Denton
inset photo: David MacManus



Longleaf Pine

Pinus palustris

Dennis Girard



Bald Cypress

Taxodium distichum

Shirley Denton



Saw Palmetto

Serenoa repens

Allen Boatman



Dahoon Holly

Ilex cassine

Shirley Denton



Laurel Oak

Quercus laurifolia

Shirley Denton



Water Oak

Quercus nigra

Dennis Woodland



Sweetgum

Liquidambar styraciflua

Shirley Denton



Sparkleberry

Vaccinium arboreum

main photo: Bill Eggers
inset photo: Caitlin Elam



Loblolly Bay

Gordonia lasianthus

Betty Wargo



Gallberry

Ilex glabra

Shirley Denton



Reticulate Pawpaw

Asimina reticulata

Guy Anglin



Pond Cypress
Taxodium ascendens

main photo: Allen Boatman
inset photo: Caitlin Elam



American Beautyberry
Callicarpa americana

Bob Bierman



Sea Myrtle
Baccharis halimifolia

Caitlin Elam



Fetter Bush
Lyonia lucida

Linda Cooper



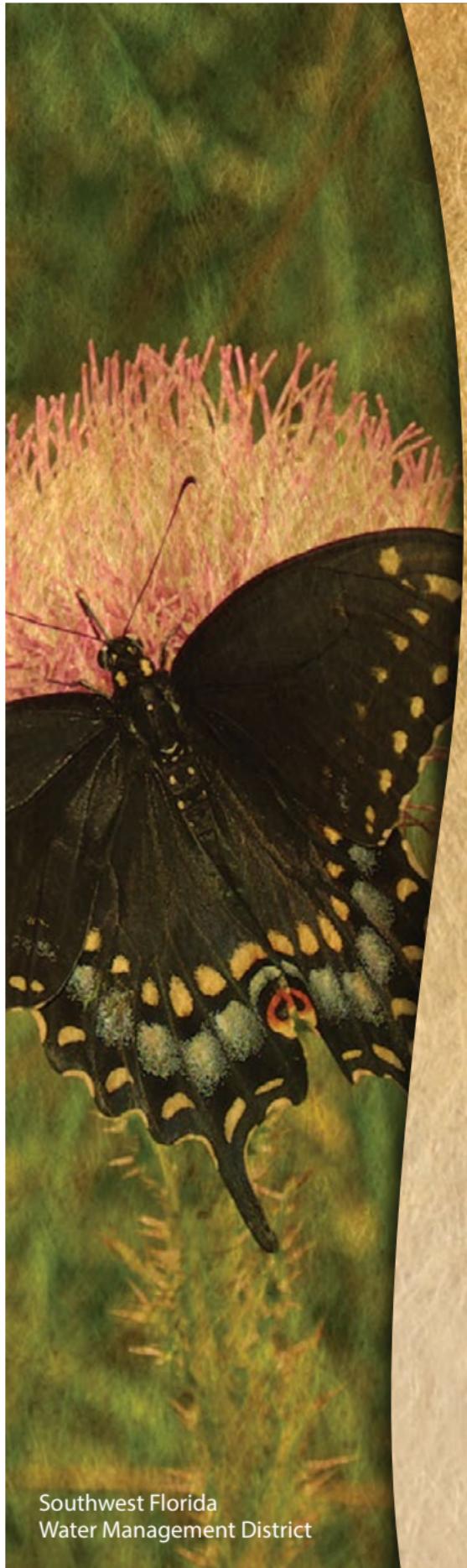
Common Buttonbush
Cephaelanthus occidentalis

Caitlin Elam



Myrtle Oak
Quercus myrtifolia

Butterflies



Southwest Florida
Water Management District

iStock



Cloudless Sulphur
Phoebis sennae

Linda Cooper



Zebra Swallowtail
Eurytides marcellus

Kathy C. Malone



Black Swallowtail
Papilio polyxenes

Kathy C. Malone



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Papilio glaucus

Linda Cooper



Giant Swallowtail
Papilio cresphontes

Kathy C. Malone



Sleepy Orange
Abaeis nicippe

Linda Cooper



Monarch
Danaus plexippus

Kathy C. Malone



Gulf Fritillary
Agraulis vanillae

Kathy C. Malone



**Common
Buckeye**
Junonia coenia

Alana Edwards



American Lady
Vanessa virginiensis

Kathy C. Malone



Viceroy
Limenitis archippus

Linda Cooper



Checkered White
Pontia protodice

Linda Cooper



Great Southern White

Ascia monuste

Kathy C. Malone



Ceraunus Blue

Hemiargus ceraunus

Alana Edwards



Zebra Heliconian

Heliconius charithonia

Linda Cooper



Queen

Danaus gilippus

Linda Cooper



Question Mark

Polygonia interrogationis

Linda Cooper



Hackberry Emperor

Asterocampa celtis

Wildflowers

Southwest Florida
Water Management District



Kathy C. Malone

Goldenrod

Solidago sp.



Linda Cooper

Pine Lily

Lilium catesbaei



Michael Drummond

Carolina Jasmine

Gelsemium sempervirens



Shirley Denton

Deer Tongue

Carphephorus paniculatus



Glenn Fleming

Blue Flag

Iris hexagona



Caitlin Elam

Pale Meadow Beauty

Rhexia mariana

Glenne Fleming



Candy Root

Polygala nana

Shirley Denton



Pink Sundew

Drosera capillaris

Linda Cooper



Climbing Aster

Aster carolinianus

Caitlin Elam



Four Petal St. John's Wort

Hypericum tetrapetalum

Linda Cooper



American White Waterlily

Nymphaea odorata

Roger Hammer



Pickerelweed

Pontederia cordata

Caitlin Elam



Sabatia

Sabatia grandiflora

Brenda Herring



Lobelia

Lobelia sp.

Caitlin Elam



Fungus

Caitlin Elam



Atlantic St. John's Wort

Hypericum tenuifolium

Linda Cooper



Blazing Star

Liatris tenuifolia

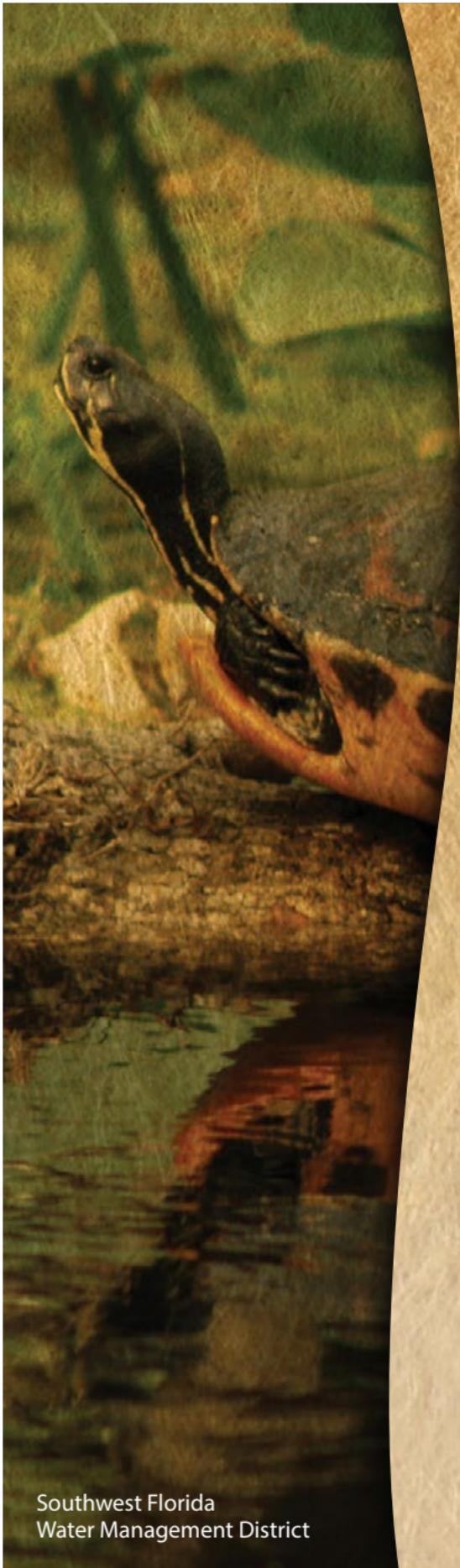
Caitlin Elam



Florida Air Plant

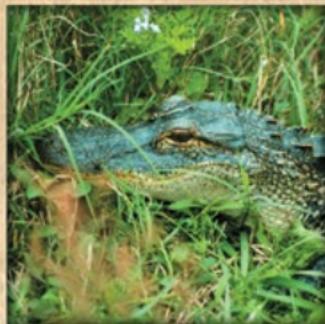
Tillandsia simulata

Reptiles



Southwest Florida
Water Management District

Richard Gant - SWFWMD



American Alligator
Alligator mississippiensis

Steve Johnson - UF



Eastern Fence Lizard
Sceloporus undulatus

iStock



Green Anole
Anolis carolinensis

Steve Johnson - UF



Brown Anole
Anolis sagrei
(nonnative, invasive)

Steve Johnson - UF



Ground Skink
Scincella lateralis

Steve Johnson - UF



Common Garter Snake
Thamnophis sirtalis

Steve Johnson - UF



Eastern Racer (Black Racer)

Coluber constrictor

Adobe Stock



Red Rat Snake

Elaphe guttata guttata

Steve Johnson - UF



Eastern Ratsnake

*Pantherophis
alleghaniensis*

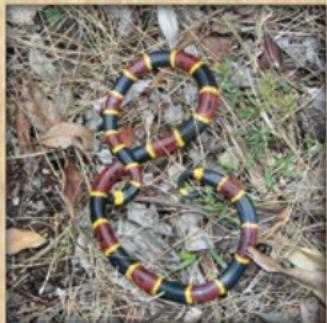
John B. Jensen



Eastern Ribbon Snake

Thamnophis sauritus

Steve Johnson - UF



Eastern Coral Snake

Micruurus fulvius
(venomous)

Henry Musthinsky



Cottonmouth Water Moccasin

Agkistrodon piscivorus
(venomous)

Southwest Florida
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Richard Gant - SWFWMD



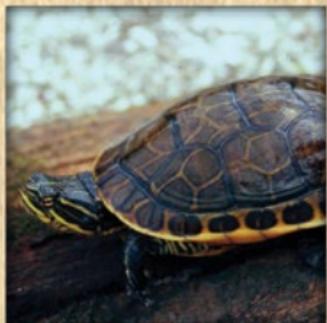
**Eastern
Diamondback
Rattlesnake**
Crotalus adamanteus
(venomous)

Richard Gant - SWFWMD



**Dusky Pygmy
Rattlesnake**
Sistrurus miliarius
(venomous)

John Jensen



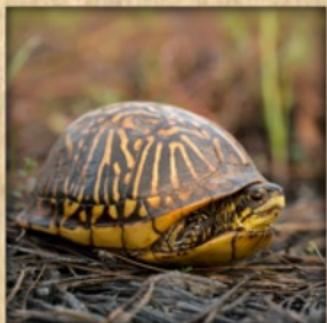
Chicken Turtle
Deirochelys reticularia

Richard Gant - SWFWMD



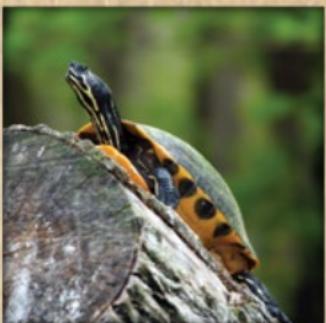
Gopher Tortoise
Gopherus polyphemus

Adobe Stock



**Florida
Box Turtle**
Terrapene carolina bauri

Richard Gant - SWFWMD



Peninsula Cooter
Pseudemys peninsularis

For additional information on District lands, order or download our *Guide to Recreation at the Southwest Florida Water Management District Lands* at WaterMatters.org/Recreation. The guide lists each property, its location and address and provides a QR code for additional information. You can also contact the District at (352) 796-7211 or via email at Recreation@WaterMatters.org.

All plants and animals on District lands are protected. Removing, destroying or harassing animals or plants from or on District lands is prohibited except for specifically authorized research efforts, hunting and fishing activities authorized by permit or Special Use Authorization, or District-initiated removals associated with reforestation, control of exotic or nuisance species, silvicultural timber harvests or other land management activities. Additional state and/or federal regulations may also apply.



VISAY 1-23-2026

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) does not discriminate on the basis of disability. This nondiscrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions, including access to and participation in the District's programs, services and activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation, or who would like information as to the existence and location of accessible services, activities, and facilities, as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act, should contact the Human Resources Office Chief, at 2379 Broad St., Brooksville, FL 34604-6899; telephone (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only); or email ADACoordinator@WaterMatters.org. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (Voice). If requested, appropriate auxiliary aids and services will be provided at any public meeting, forum, or event of the District. In the event of a complaint, please follow the grievance procedure located at WaterMatters.org/ADA.