Picnic Shelter
Shelter
Water
Bench
Playground
Main Trail: 0.82 miles
Old Bridge Trail: 0.09 miles
Field Mouse Trail: 0.26 miles
Pine Flatwoods Trail: 0.20 miles
Sand Scrub Trail: 0.32 miles
Wax Myrtle Pond Loop: 0.12 miles
Field Mouse Trail: 0.26 miles
Pine Flatwoods Trail: 0.20 miles
Sand Scrub Trail: 0.32 miles
Wax Myrtle Pond Loop: 0.12 miles
Uplands Trail: 0.60 miles
Wax Myrtle Pond Loop: 0.12 miles
Lakeside Trail: 0.75 miles
Swamp Woodlands Boardwalk: 0.13 miles
Lake Maggiore Island: 0.04 miles
Willow Marsh Boardwalk: 0.14 miles
Lake Maggiore Environmental Education Center

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, cowanons and anhingas flay their wings out to dry, turtles sun themselves and alligators drift by.

Willow Marsh
Coastal willow’s slender leaves provide food for orange dancing vicervo butterflies. The boardwalk passes over the rich muck which provides a home for a variety of ferns, thanks to an almost prehistoric flavor. Twelve-foot trunks of leather ferns lift above the boardwalk. Look for lizards and aphides (or “air plants”) on the trees.

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 wildfires.

Pine Flatwoods
Like the columns of a forest mansion, tall pines shade the path. This is boundary between the scrub and the broad-leaved forest. Look for piliated woodpeckers on the pines and tall snags. Southwestern Florida lit up those flesh through the sunlight patches in their pursuit of an insect meal.

Wildlife
Boyd Hill Nature Preserve is home to a diversity of wildlife. You may encounter any of the 212 species of birds or 39 species of butterflies during your visit. Osprey and bald eagles soar, black and yellow crows and eagle soar and sojourn. Snowy owls 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.

Sand Scrub Trail
More than 12,000 years ago Horusa was almost twice its current size. This place was the center of a vast sand island stretching from horizon to horizon. Today, turkey oak, sand pine, and wiregrass live 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
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. 1 a.m. - 7 p.m. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday 1 a.m. - 7 p.m. 1 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday 1 a.m. - 7 p.m. 1 a.m. - 6 p.m.
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