

Anclote Gulf Park



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ABOUT

This Pasco County park is located north of the Duke Energy power plant and immediately south of Key Vista Nature Park, to which it is connected via a coastal footpath. It is best known for its observation and fishing pier, which give good visibility up and down the coast. This park has more the feel of a general recreation park than Key Vista Nature Park, with grassy picnic areas and a dog run. Yet this can prove one of the most useful locations in Pasco to scan the Gulf. As of writing this guide, 176 species have been recorded at this location on eBird.

BIRDS

Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Magnificent Frigatebird, Herring Gull, Sandwich Tern, Reddish Egret, Roseate Spoonbill, Bald Eagle, Belted Kingfisher, Gray, Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Monk Parakeet

eBird hotspot link:
<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L127318>

DIRECTIONS

From Highway 19 go west on Alt. 19 one mile to Anclote Blvd. Turn right and go two miles to Bailey's Bluff Road. Turn right, one mile to the park.

2305 Baileys Bluff Road, Holiday

FACILITIES

Parking, restrooms, picnic pavilion, fishing and observation pier, canoe launch.



TIPS

From the parking lot, check the outflow canal at the power plant for waders including Night Herons, and walk the pier. Using a scope from the pier may pick up shorebirds along the coast towards Key Vista including Whimbrel to the north at low tide. This can be a great location to watch Kingfishers and also Raptors, with Osprey at work year round and Bald Eagles, which nest nearby, at work during the season. At high tides the mud flats are not visible. Best to catch this location as the tide is retreating, when you can walk the mud flats for shorebirds.

There is a small cattail pond in the center of the parking area that seasonally hosts wrens, rails and sparrows. Wires in the parking lot can also play host to a variety of doves, Kingbirds, Loggerhead Shrike and others. To the north of the park there is a boardwalk through the mangroves and coastal vegetation that continues on to Key Vista Nature Park.



A coastal bike path was recently completed to connect several of the Pasco coastal parks. This has opened up an area to the east of Baileys Bluff Road (opposite the park entrance) that can be useful for finding migrating warblers in fall and spring. This location has its own recently created eBird hotspot location at <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L12671653>. Anclote River Park lies about a mile to the south while Key Vista Nature Park lies about half a mile to the north.

