

## KEY VISTA NATURE PARK

Welcome to Pasco County's newest park, dedicated in January, 2000. The park will contain additional features including observation decks and tower, boardwalks through wetland areas, and interpretive signage for archeological sites when fully completed in October, 2000. This is the only park in Pasco County which is dedicated totally to the environment and the wildlife to be found there, not to mention the incredible view of the Gulf of Mexico. Key Vista Nature Park affords nature trails and picnic areas. The park is not attended and is open from dawn til dusk year round.

### HISTORY:

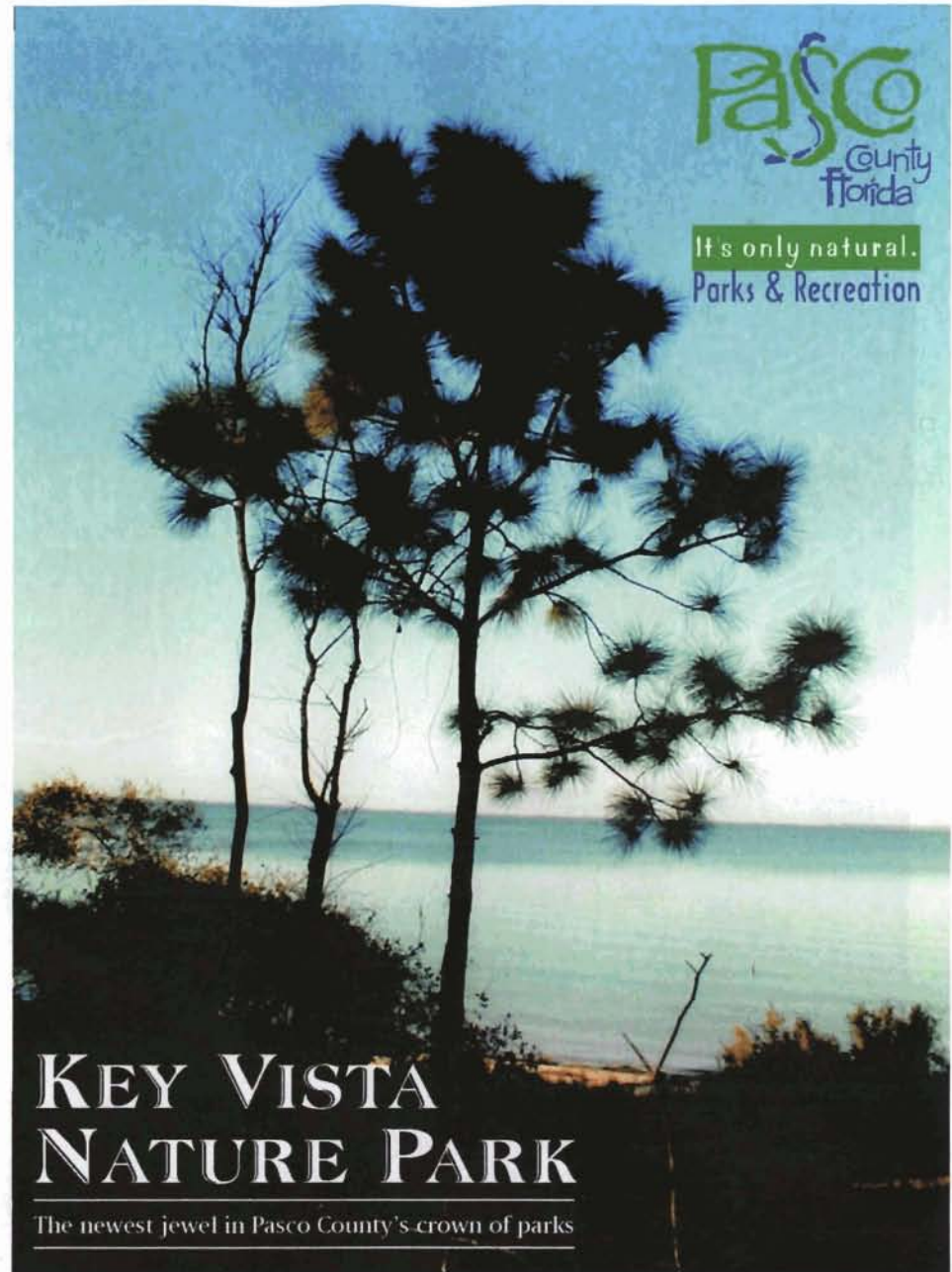
The 101 acre Key Vista Nature Park property was obtained in 1990 through the State Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) program. Half of the property is owned by the State and leased to Pasco County. The remaining half is owned by Pasco County. Funding to develop the site as a park was provided by the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners and the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program.

### ITEMS OF INTEREST:

- Two prehistoric archeological sites contained lithic artifacts as old as 5,000 years. The property was primarily a place where stone for tools was mined. Evidence was also found that there was an early 'store' on the site which may have supplied the first sponge fishing industry in the area, prior to the establishment of Tarpon Springs.
- One bald eagle and two osprey pairs have nesting sites.
- Two freshwater marsh areas are bordered by basin swamp. Due to the limited fresh water sources in the area, wildlife is drawn to the park property.
- Federally and/or State listed endangered and threatened species have been observed on the property. They include: Pine Snake, Gopher Tortoise, Sherman's Fox Squirrel, Snowy Egret, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Sandhill Crane, Tricolor Heron, Little Blue Heron, and Brown Pelican.
- Plant communities in the park are Sandhill, Mesic/Wet flatwoods, Scrubby Flatwoods, Basin Swamp, Freshwater marsh, Salt marsh, and coastal Strand and Berm.
- Five major soil types, as identified by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, are present: Sellers Mucky Loam Fine Sand, Astatula Fine Sand, Paola Fine Sand, Anclote Fine Sand, and EauGaillie Fine Sand.
- The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has classified the Gulf and waters adjacent to the park as Class III waters: Recreational, Fish, and Wildlife protection. Approximately 3 miles west, the gulf waters surrounding Anclote Key are designated as "Outstanding Florida Waters."
- The park includes approximately 1600 feet on the Gulf of Mexico and approximately 2200 feet along Rocky Creek and Sleepy Lagoon.
- Recent visits by the Audubon Society indicate that Key Vista Nature Park is one of the premiere 'birding' sites in the Tampa Bay Area. The park is expected to be added to the Florida Birding Trail.

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## KEY VISTA NATURE PARK

The newest jewel in Pasco County's crown of parks

A trip into the pristine unspoiled beauty of the Florida Gulf Coast, Key Vista Nature Park is a 'low impact' park, largely preserved in its natural state. Hiking trails, picnic areas, boardwalks, and observation areas are featured. A premiere 'birding' site, the park is already recognized by the Audubon Society for its abundance of species and is being added to the Florida Birding Trail.

2700 Baillies Bluff Road, Holiday, Florida 34691. (813) 929-1260 for further information.

*Gulf of Mexico*

*Bailey's Bluff Subdivision*

*Sleepy Lagoon*

*Rocky Creek*

**Main Picnic Area**

**Parking Lot**

**Educational Garden**

**Kiosk**

**Entrance**

**Trails**

**Trails**

**Trails**

**Restroom**

**Maintenance Building**

**Tower (Fall 2000)**

**Observation Deck (Fall 2000)**

**Observation Deck (Fall 2000)**

*Wetlands area*

*Wetlands area*

**Boardwalk (Fall 2000)**

**Eagles' Nest**

*750' buffer zone*

*Anclote Golf Park*

Baillie's Bluff Road



# KEY VISTA NATURE PARK

2700 Baillies Bluff Road  
Holiday, FL 34691

For information, call  
Anclote River Park at:  
(727) 938-2598

