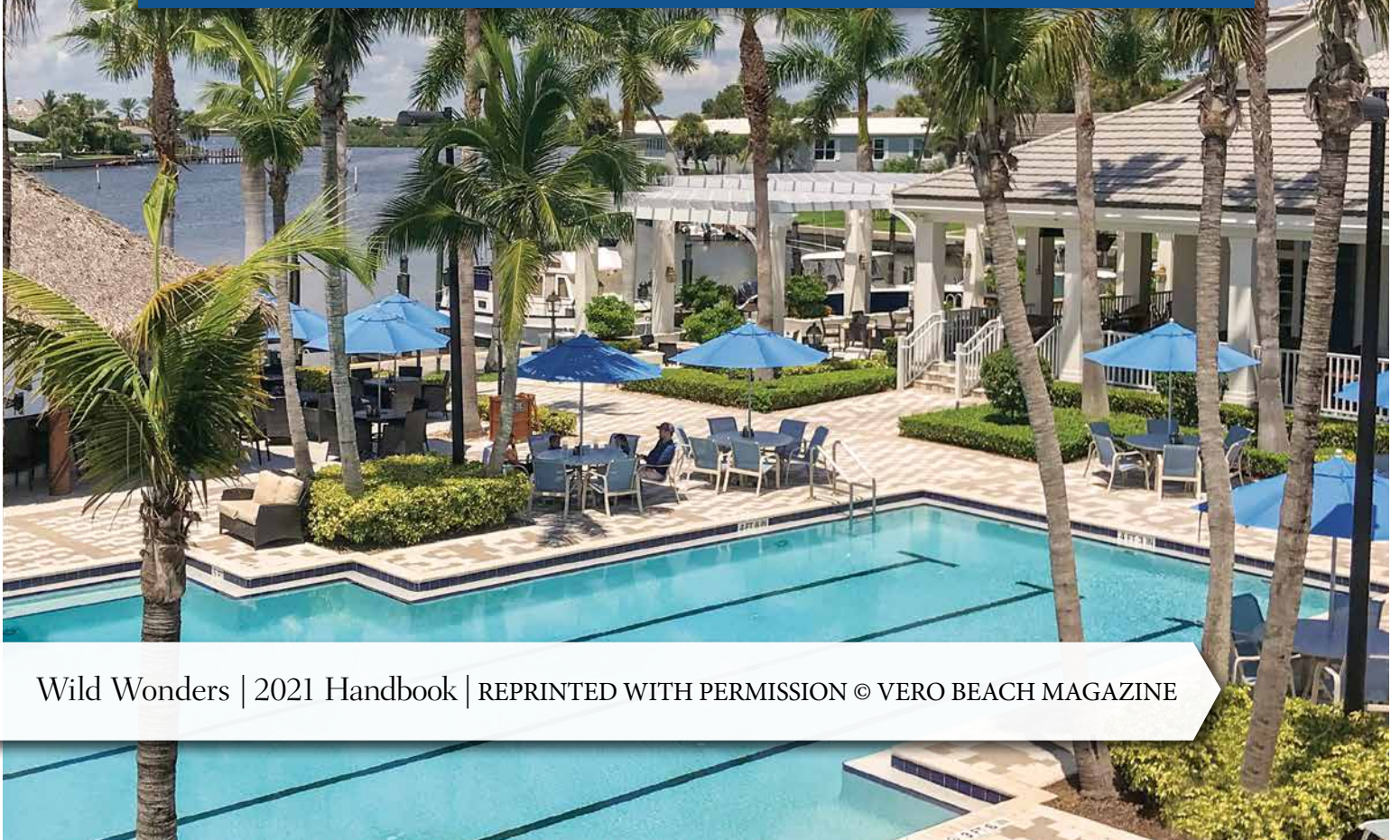


THE FIRST & THE ONLY
VeroBeach
Magazine

VeroBeach

2021 Official Handbook

The guide to living in the jewel of the Treasure Coast



Wild Wonders | 2021 Handbook | REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION © VERO BEACH MAGAZINE



MARTINA TANNERY

Toni Robinson Trail

Wild Wonders

Our lush landscape lures us outdoors

Here in Indian River County, it's easy to find opportunities to step off the beaten path and take a walk on the wild side. We've compiled a list of great places to go if you want to hike, birdwatch, or just enjoy the scenery. You will also find a guide to some of the plants, birds and creatures you might encounter. In case you want to create your own perfect outdoor retreat, we've also included basic gardening tips and resources.

Whenever you are outdoors, we encourage you to respect the environment: Leave only footprints, and be appropriately cautious. Poison ivy is fairly common, so remember, "Leaves of three, let it be." When it comes to wild animals, keep your distance, no matter how good the photo opportunity. Most wildlife will simply vamoose if not confronted. When hiking near water, you may see an alligator sunning itself. Back off, and it will most likely enter the water, where it is more at home.

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Captain Forster Hammock Preserve

Hiking Trails

Blue Cypress Conservation Area

State Road 60 and County Road 512
 sjrwm.com/lands/recreation/blue-cypress
 This 60,000-acre conservation area near Blue Cypress Lake is under the aegis of the St. Johns River Water Management District.

It includes miles of levees that provide vantage points for viewing the open water, marshlands, cypress trees and native wildlife, including many species of birds.

Captain Forster Hammock Preserve

8610 Jungle Trail, south of CR 510
 ircgov.com
 This 110-acre preserve contains a short trail that offers a quick wilderness getaway in which

you're never very far from civilization. You'll start just east of Jungle Trail and emerge onto beach sand with the ocean before you. Birders are especially fond of this preserve during spring and fall songbird migrations.

Fort Drum Marsh Conservation Area

About 20 miles west of Vero Beach, 10 miles east of Yeehaw Junction; access south side of



- Properties Conserved by the Indian River Land Trust
- Priority Conservation Areas
- Other Conservation Areas

First established in 1990 to save McKee Botanical Garden, the Indian River Land Trust (IRLT) protects the land that protects the Indian River Lagoon.

IRLT offers free conservation tours and miles of hiking trails throughout Indian River County.

For more information, visit www.irlt.org.





CHRIS FASOLINO

Lagoon Greenway

State Road 60
sjrwm.com/lands/recreation/fort-drum-marsh
 Located at the southwestern corner of Indian River County, this 20,000-acre property offers some 5 miles of trails, including a boardwalk that traverses a hardwood swamp. This biologically diverse area also includes prairie and marshland as well as pine flatwoods.

Jungle Trail
traillink.com
 This 7.8-mile 1920s hard-packed sand road, now on the National Register of Historic Places,

stretches from Old Winter Beach Road north to the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge.

Lagoon Greenway
 Accessed at the intersection of Indian River Boulevard and 8th Street
 Indian River Land Trust
 772-794-0701
irlt.org
 This property comprises 187 acres, including 3 miles of trails for hiking, jogging or bicycling through oak hammocks, over wetlands and around a mangrove forest along the edge of the lagoon.

Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area
 150 9th St. SE (Oslo Road)
 As soon as you enter this 298-acre wilderness, you forget you are less than a mile from a shopping center. Trails and boardwalks take you through mature coastal hammock, scrubby flatwoods and wetlands that are home to such native plants as wildflowers, wild coffee, myrsine, marlberry, firebrush, saw palmetto, cabbage palms and a wide variety of other species. The South Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area is located just across Oslo Road.

Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge
 The entrance can be accessed off Highway A1A, 3.7 miles north of Wabasso Beach Road (CR 510) or from the south via Jungle Trail. Established in 1903 by an executive order of President Theodore Roosevelt, Pelican Island was the first national wildlife refuge in the United States. Visitors enjoy peaceful hiking trails, plentiful wildlife and an extraordinary view of the Pelican Island rookery in the Indian River Lagoon.

St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park
 1000 Buffer Preserve Drive, Fellsmere
 321-953-5005
floridastateparks.org
 With 22,000 acres of wilderness and 60 miles of trails, this state park is a local treasure. Habitats include long-leaf pine forests, grassland prairies, scrub cypress domes and swamps. Look for the rare Florida scrub jay and keep an eye out for bald eagles, gopher tortoises and a host of other native species. Even the elusive bobcat is known to make the preserve its home.

Toni Robinson Waterfront Trail
 Accessed at U.S. Highway 1 and 79th Street
 Indian River Land Trust
 772-794-0701
irlt.org
 A 1-mile trail encompasses open canopy scrub habitat, oak forest and an impoundment loop with a boardwalk through mangroves.



MARTINA TANNERY