



Welcome to the

Garcon Point

Hiking Trail

Operating Hours

Sunup until Sunset



Northwest Florida
Water Management District
81 Water Management Dr.
Havana, FL 32333-4712
(850) 539-5999

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The Garcon Point Water Management Area is located on Route 191 about nine miles south of Milton in Santa Rosa County. The area is only minutes away from Pensacola and is bordered by Escambia and Blackwater bays. The land was purchased in 1991 by the Northwest Florida Water Management District specifically to protect water quality in the surrounding bays. A second goal was to preserve the remaining natural habitats that are excellent remnant examples of once widespread types that largely have been lost through conversion to other lands uses. In all, the District has acquired some 3,235 acres on the Garcon Point peninsula, all of which is managed for water quality protection, natural habitat restoration, and public use.



Panhandle Lily

The natural communities found on Garcon Point include estuarine tidal marsh, wet prairie and wet flatwoods. The prairie community around the trail is especially species-rich and features many orchids and insect-eating plants such as pitcher plants, sundews, butterworts and bladderworts. There are so many insectivorous plants, one botanist titled Garcon Point the “Serengeti of carnivorous plants.” Especially showy are the large population of endangered white-topped pitcher plants and the globally imperiled panhandle lily. This is one of the few intact examples of pitcher plant prairies remaining anywhere in Florida. Please keep in mind that these rare habitats are very fragile and that plants trampled on or removed cannot be enjoyed later.



White-Top Pitcher Plant

Birdlife on Garcon Point is also highly varied and abundant. It is a prime viewing area for a number of very rare sparrows (both Henslow and Le Conte’s) and bluebirds, pine warblers, ospreys, harriers and red-tailed hawks are commonly reported.



LeConte's Sparrow



Henslow Sparrow

Special thanks to Vernon Compton and Lucy and Ron Duncan for information used in this brochure.



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