

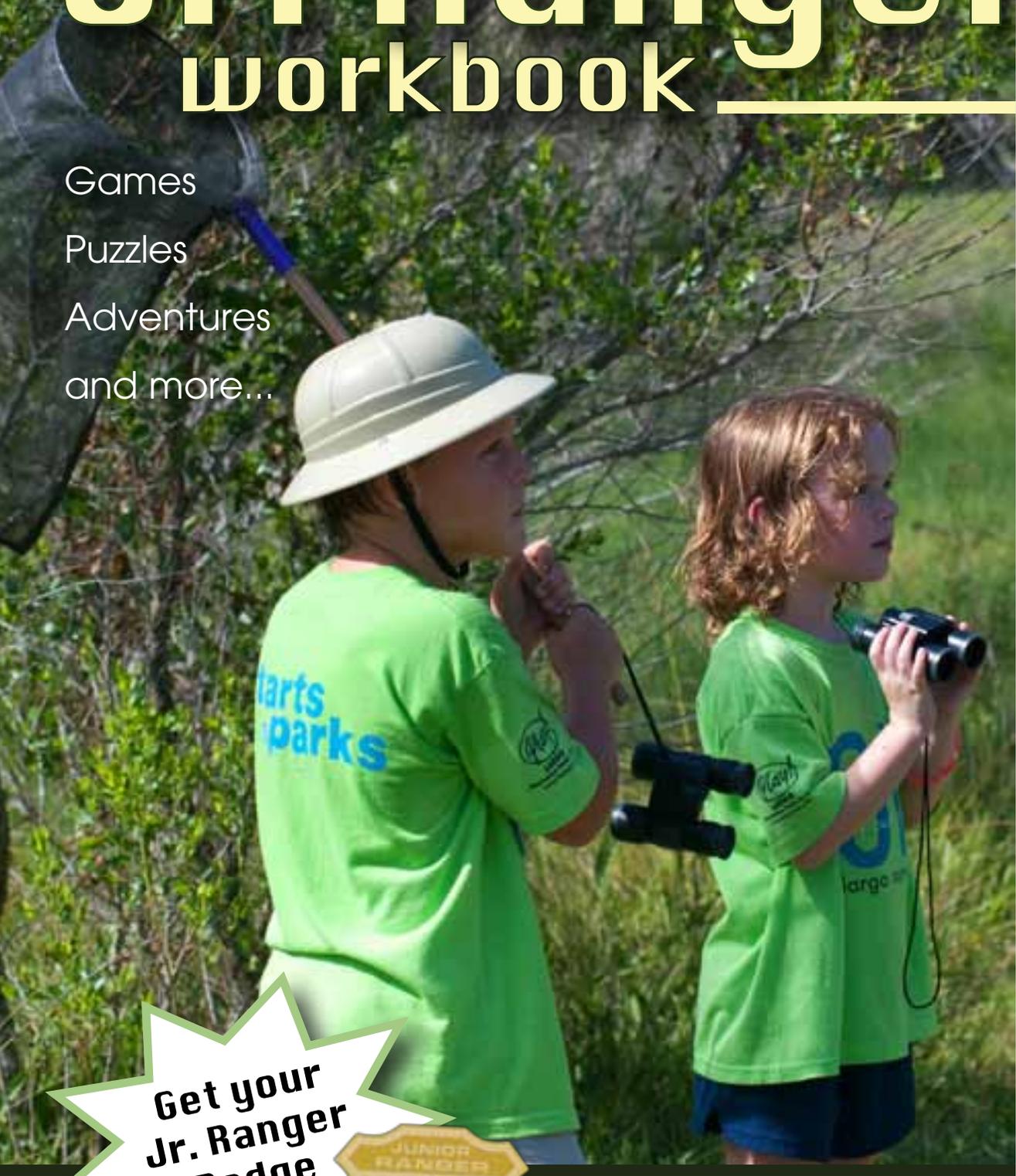
Jr. Ranger workbook

Games

Puzzles

Adventures

and more...



Get your
Jr. Ranger
Badge



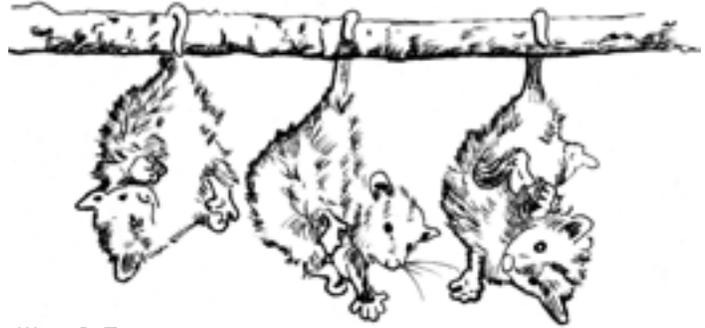
largoparks.com



Welcome to the Junior Ranger Program

This activity guide is your official welcome to the out-of-doors. When you go to the next page and begin to read, you will have an opportunity to explore the City of Largo's parks in many fun and exciting ways! This guide provides fun facts, hands-on learning activities and important information that relate to our environment and parks.

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE



Step 1

If you are 5-7 years old, complete activities 1-7.
If you are 8-12 years old, complete activities 6-11.
Ask an adult or park staff for help. There is no deadline for completing the program. A parent or guardian must initial the item in or next to the box below once an activity is completed.

Step 2

If able, attend one naturalist-led walk or nature program. All programs are listed in the City of Largo Recreation, Parks and Arts "Play" Magazine, at www.largonature.com, or ask a naturalist/ranger for information at the park.

Step 3

Pick up one bag of litter or exotic plants using a bag the size of those given out at grocery stores. If you do not have a bag, staff will be happy to supply one for you. Dispose of the bag in a trash can.

Step 4

When you have completed all of the activities required for your age group, you and the Naturalist Ranger must sign and recite the oath on the back of this guide. To get your Junior Ranger badge, take the guide to the nature center at George McGough Nature Park, 11901 146th Street N., Largo or call 518-3047. You may also contact the City of Largo Parks Division at 518-415 for more information or go to the Parks Building at 323 Central Park Drive, Largo.



HABITAT MATCH

A habitat is an area where plants and wildlife naturally live. Habitats can be above or below ground and hot, cold, dry, or wet. Food, water, space and shelter are very important for wildlife to have in a habitat. If one of these happens to be missing the wildlife may not survive.

In this exercise draw a line from the wildlife to its home.



ANIMAL CLUES

Who did it? Can you figure out who might have left clues of their presence behind?
Match the wildlife with the clues.

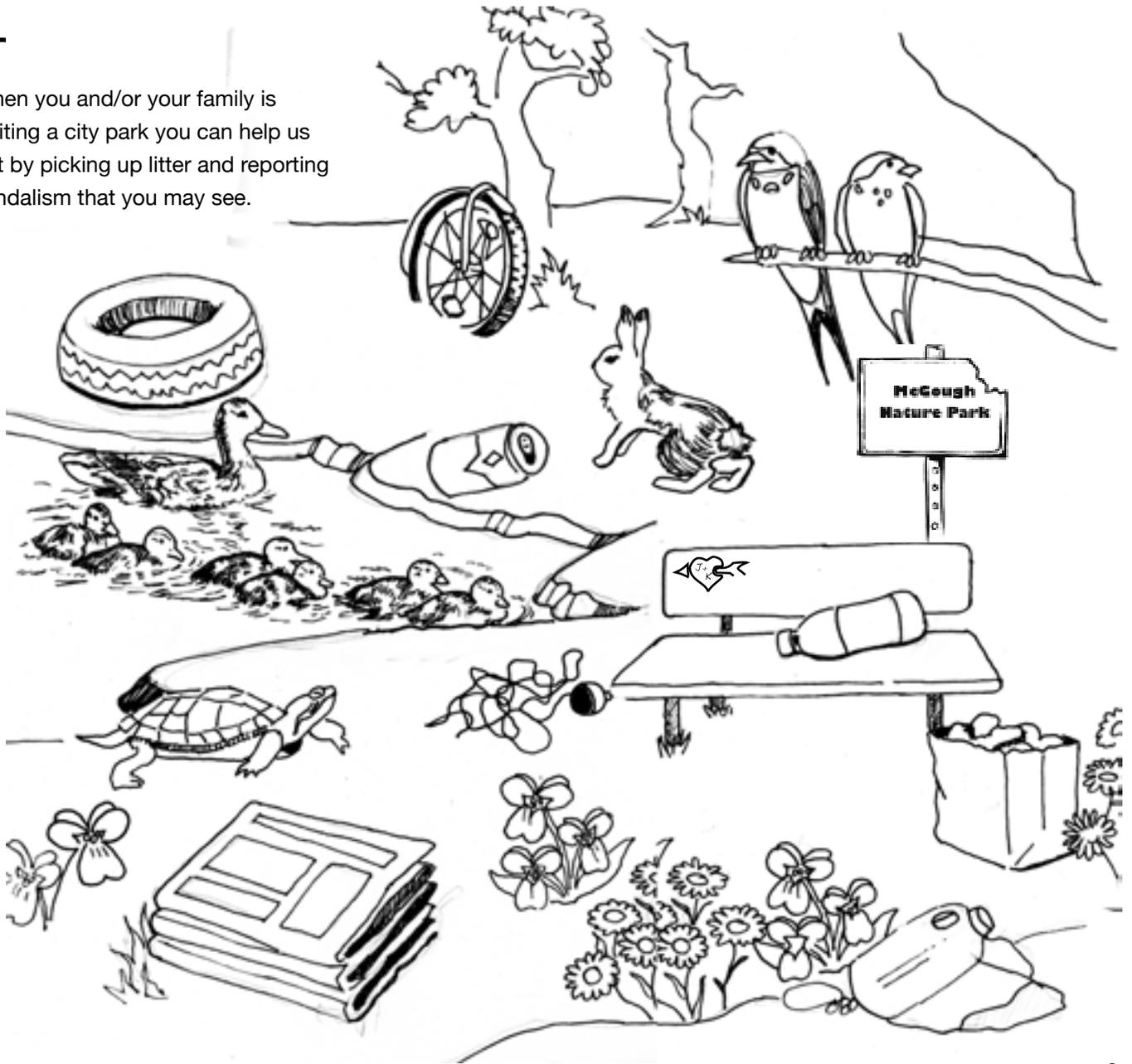


GET INVOLVED

What is wrong with this picture? Polluting of city parks is one of the biggest problems that park staff have to deal with every day.

Find 10 things in this picture that are wrong and circle them.

When you and/or your family is visiting a city park you can help us out by picking up litter and reporting vandalism that you may see.



Litter that is left in roadways and other areas is carried to rivers and streams and then to our oceans. If everyone pitches in we can keep our city clean.



BE SAFE

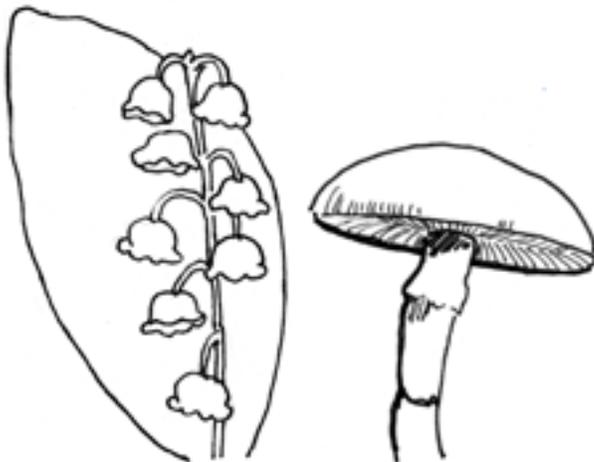
Important Safety Tips

Learn to recognize the venomous snakes and poisonous plants in your area.



Respect wildlife. Observe nature at a safe distance.

Putting leaves, stems, flowers, seeds, berries or wild mushrooms in your mouth is dangerous.



Do not feed or touch wild animals, especially alligators. Being fed by hand causes animals to lose their fear of humans and people-food isn't healthy for wildlife.

Take the time to carefully look first before you put your hands in any holes or crevices or step over logs. Keep on designated paths so plants are not trampled.



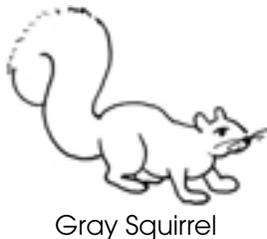
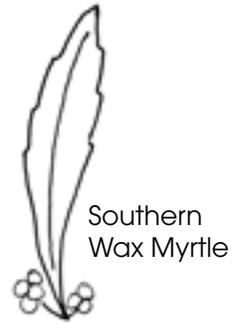
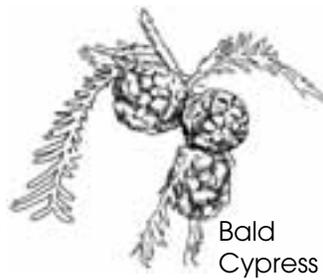
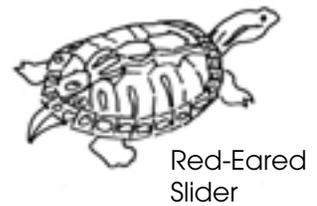
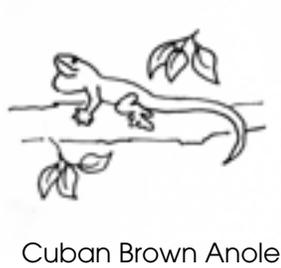
Can you list three other ways to keep you or wildlife safe.



GOOD GUYS — BAD GUYS

Exotic (foreign) plants and animals are invading Florida at an alarming rate! These plants and animals are brought to Florida from other countries or regions primarily through shipping and trade. People may also have exotic animals as pets and they release them into the wild once they cannot care for them anymore.

How well do you know your native plants and animals? Circle those that you think are native and cross out those that you believe are exotics.



Brazilian Pepper

Burmese Python

Melaleuca



A WALK IN THE PARK

As you walk through the City of Largo's parks, keep your eyes open for wonders both large and small. Nature comes in an amazing diversity of sizes, shapes, colors and textures; use a hand lens to discover new things.



Rotting Log

I saw:

- _____ insect tunnels
- _____ insects
- _____ moss
- _____ tree rings



Fallen Leaf

I saw:

- _____ veins
- _____ stem
- _____ insects
- _____ insect holes



Wild Flower

I saw:

- _____ hairs on leaves
- _____ veins on leaves
- _____ petals on flower
- _____ buds

Ranger's Log

List and describe other things you looked at with your hand lens.

Draw a picture of what you found

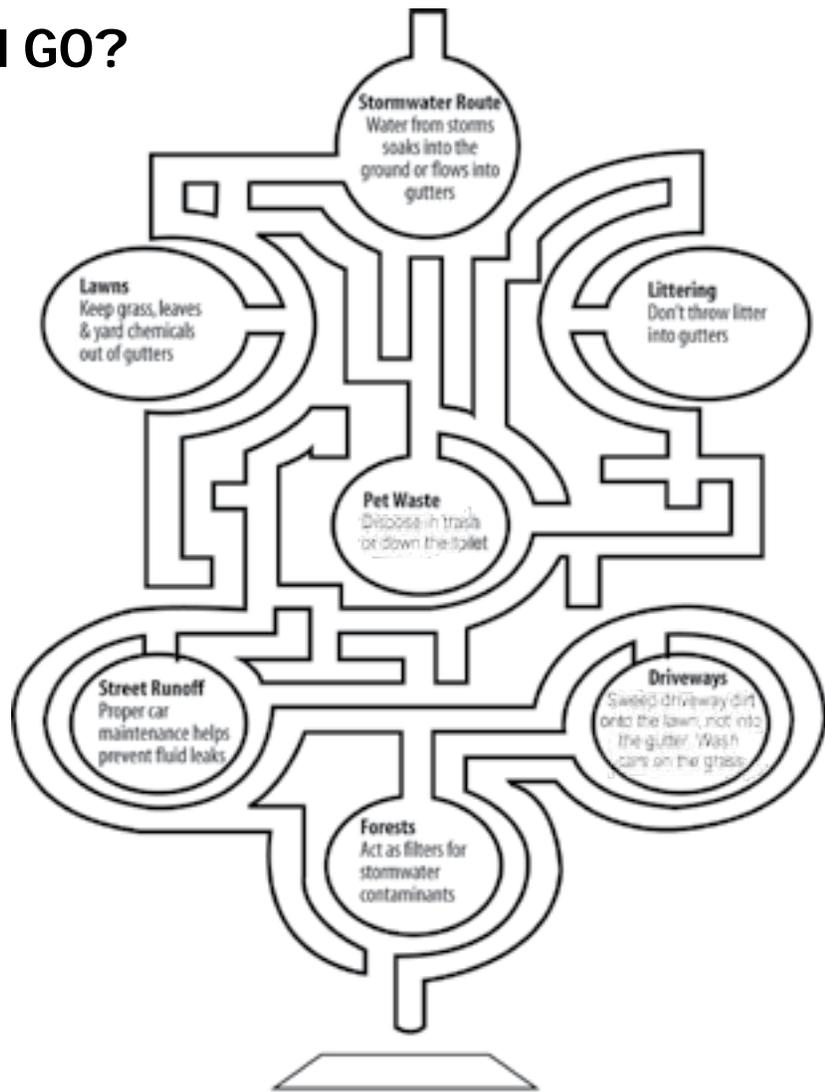


WHERE DOES ALL THE RAIN GO?

Make believe you are a drop of water. Your final destination will be Tampa Bay. Make your way through the maze to the bay staying clean and clear.

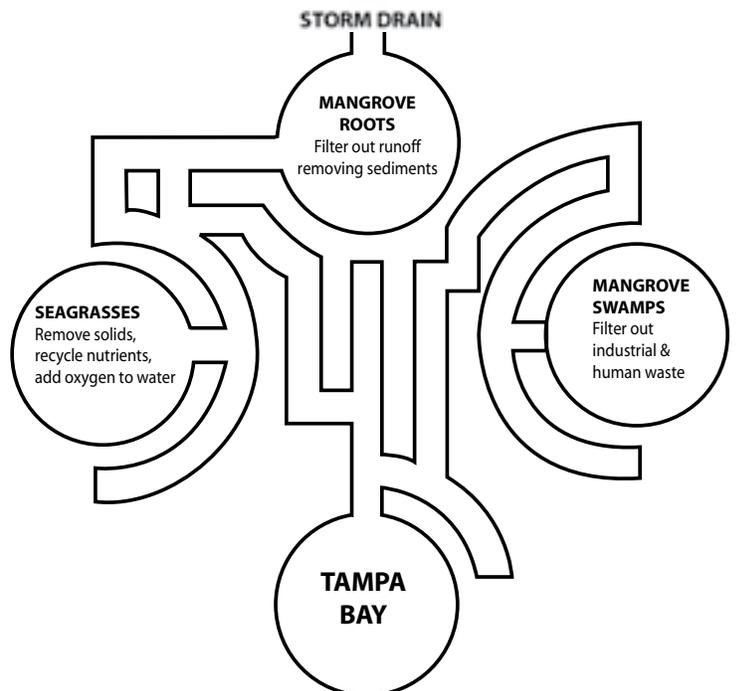
When it rains, water falls on roads, driveways, parking lots, sidewalks and lawns and then it makes its way through gutters, storm drains, pipes and ditches into Tampa Bay.

Along the way water goes from being clean and clear to dirty and discolored.



How does water get clean again?

In Florida, forests, swamps and saltwater vegetation play an important role in cleaning water. These habitats act as filters and help to clean the water.



Do your part by picking up garbage before it can wash into storm drains.



FLORIDA'S IMPERILED WILDLIFE

(Species of Special Concern, Threatened or Endangered)

Florida has approximately 118 species of wildlife that are considered to be either a species of special concern, threatened or endangered.

Species of Special Concern: Wildlife that is extremely uncommon, or has such specific habitat requirements that it needs to be carefully watched.

Threatened Species: Wildlife that will become endangered in the near future if steps are not taken to help preserve them.

Endangered Species: Wildlife that is threatened with extinction.

Keystone Species: An animal that other animals depend on for their survival.

Example: The gopher tortoise burrow provides shelter for up to 362 types of animals like the gopher frog, several snakes and some invertebrates. Certain species depend entirely on the gopher tortoise (a threatened species that can live to 100!)

P	O	K	T	C	V	R	K	C	T	A
A	I	C	E	G	B	I	L	M	O	L
Q	S	N	V	X	R	Y	Z	W	T	L
A	C	F	E	H	O	N	O	I	E	I
S	U	X	Y	S	W	R	O	G	P	G
B	E	E	T	A	N	A	M	O	W	A
F	I	J	K	E	P	A	D	P	C	T
P	A	N	T	H	E	R	K	H	M	O
Q	S	T	U	R	L	P	O	R	E	N
X	H	I	F	Y	I	W	V	R	T	W
L	N	J	G	Z	C	E	D	T	C	B
G	R	A	Y	B	A	T	Q	O	P	R
K	R	M	S	C	N	B	C	R	D	W
V	E	A	U	X	F	G	W	T	F	X
Z	E	W	O	O	D	S	T	O	R	K
O	D	B	T	Z	V	X	D	I	A	M
B	Y	B	T	Z	V	X	D	S	A	M
S	E	L	T	R	U	T	A	E	S	J
D	K	H	K	B	R	U	P	J	F	B



WORDS TO FIND:

ALLIGATOR
PINE SNAKE
GOPHER TORTOISE
BROWN PELICAN
SEA TURTLES

WOOD STORK
PANTHER
GRAY BAT
MANATEE
KEY DEER



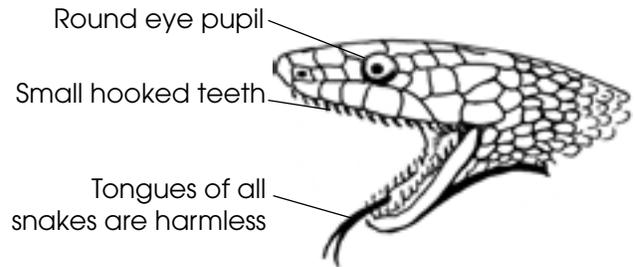
VENOMOUS SNAKES OF FLORIDA

Florida has approximately 44 species of snakes. Six of the 44 species are venomous and four of those are widespread throughout the state.

There are two types of venomous snakes in Florida. Pit vipers are identified by the presence of facial pits, elliptical (egg-shaped) pupils and a large triangular head. Coral snakes are small in size and have bright colored bands (red/black/yellow). The head of a Coral snake is small, its pupils are round, and its nose is black.

A common rhyme is used to identify the Coral snake and tell it apart from the mimicking Scarlet King snake:

*“Red touch yellow, kill a fellow.
Red touch black, friend of Jack.”*



Each number represents a letter from the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

16 25 7 13 25

3 1 14 5 2 18 1 11 5

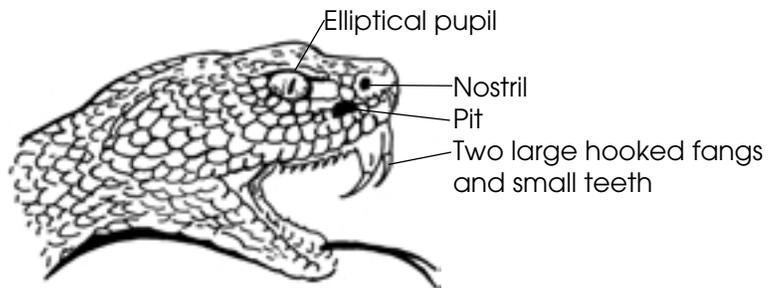
3 15 18 1 12 19 14 1 11 5

3 15 16 16 5 18 8 5 1 4

4 9 1 13 15 14 4 2 1 3 11

23 1 20 5 18 13 15 3 3 1 19 9 14

Pit vipers have a heat-sensing pit between their eye and nostril. The head of a pit viper is large and triangular shaped.



HEY RANGER!

Part of every ranger's job is helping visitors understand and enjoy the park.

Your Mission:

Imagine yourself as ranger for a day. Draw yourself within the outlined figure. Give yourself a name tag, badge, hat and uniform. Make sure you are smiling! Are you ready to answer some questions? Write your answers on the lines below each question.



HEY RANGER!

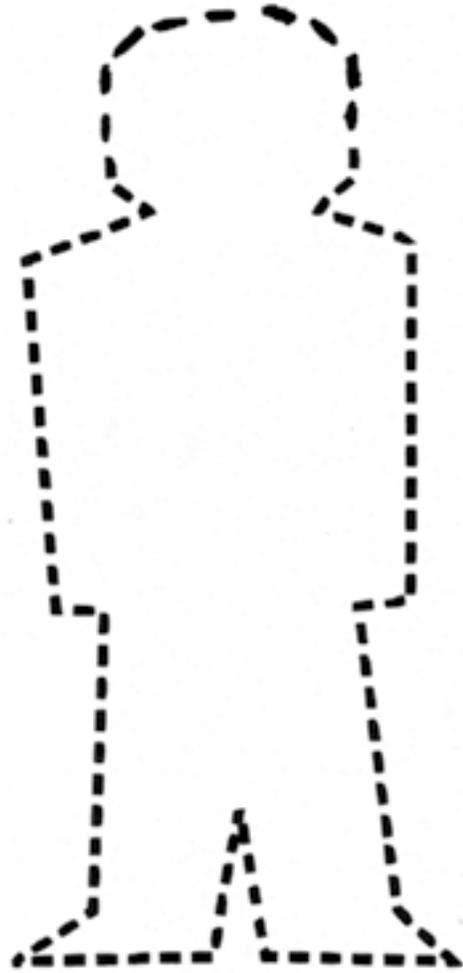
Why can't I go into the park?

Sample:

Dogs like to chase wildlife.

Why can't I release my pet turtle into the park?

What should I do if I find a baby animal in the wild?

 _____



HEY RANGER!

The flowers in the park are so pretty. Can I pick some and take them home?

Yes No
Why or Why Not?

HEY RANGER!

Can I feed the animals in the park?

Yes No
Why or Why Not?



HEY RANGER!

Can I carve my name on the side of that tree?

Yes No
Why or Why Not?



BEAKS AND EATS

Each species of birds has a beak/bill whose shape and size is used by many people as a way to identify them. The most important function of a beak/bill is that of feeding and its shape and size helps determine the type of food that the bird eats.

Types of Beaks:

Sharp, hooked = meat/fish eater

Long, tubular = nectar feeder

Short, wide = insect eater

Pouch-like = fish eater

Short, stubby (cone shaped) = seed eater

Spoon-shaped = shrimp/aquatic animals

Long, slender (spear like) = reptile/
amphibian/insect/fish eater

In this activity draw a line from the bird to the utensil that best matches the use of the beak or bill. Once this has been completed continue to draw the line from the utensil to the food that the bird would eat.



HERON



NET



FLOWER



EAGLE



STRAW



SHRIMP



FLYCATCHER



SPEAR



FISH



HUMMINGBIRD



TWEEZERS



MOUSE



GOLDFINCH



STRAINER



INSECT



SPOONBILL



SCISSORS



FROG



PELICAN

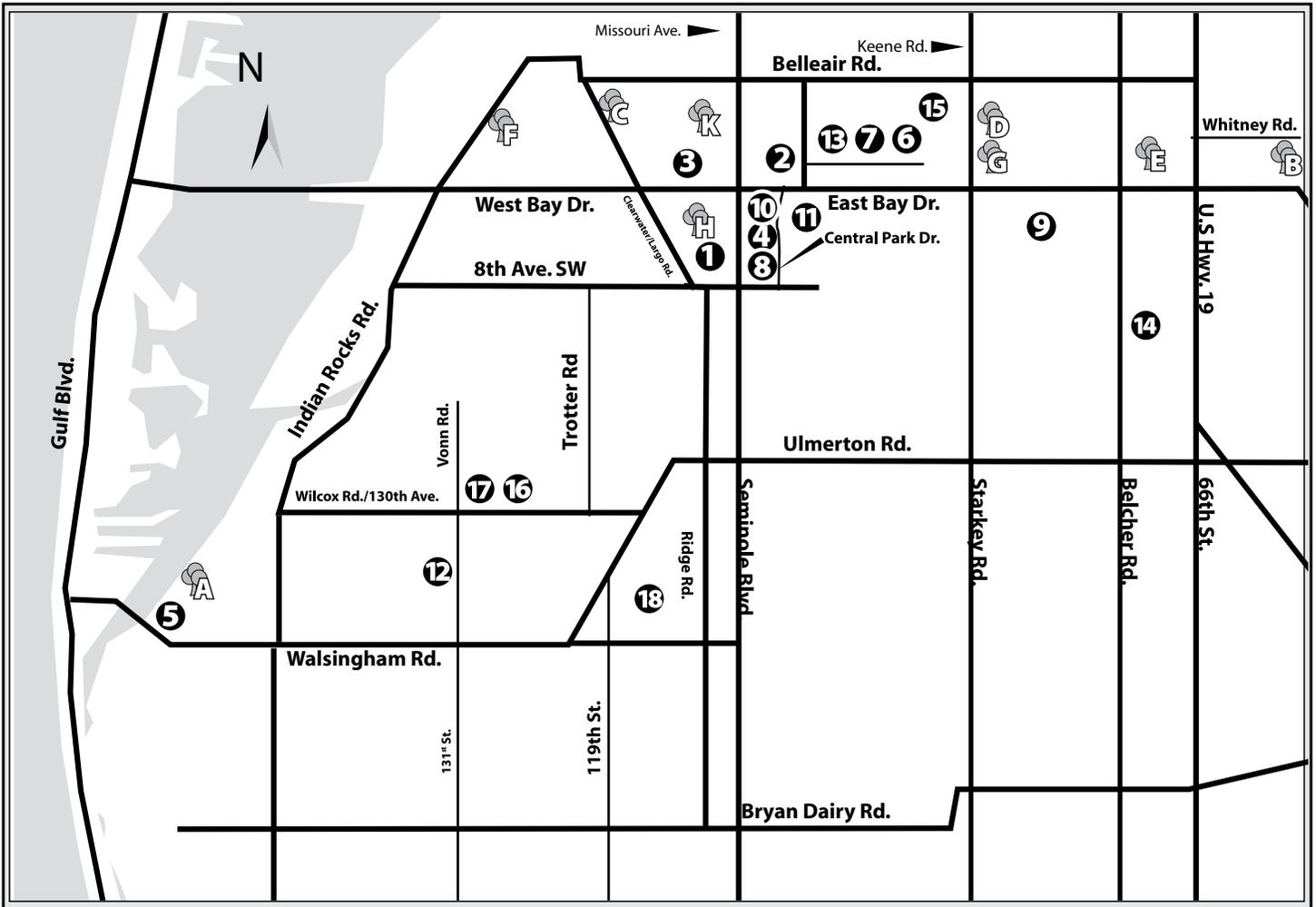


NUT CRACKER



NUTS/SEEDS





= Facility

- 1.....Bayhead Complex (R,I,F)
375 Seminole Blvd.—518-3094
- 2.....City Hall Administration(F)
201 Highland Ave.—587-6720
- 3.....Largo Community Center (R,I,F)
65 4th St NW—518-3131
- 4.....Largo Cultural Center (R,I,F)
105 Central Park Dr.—587-6751
- 5.....George C. McGough Nature Park (S,R,I,F,G,P)
11901 146th St. N—518-3047
- 6.....Highland Complex (S,R,I,F,G)
400 Highland Ave.—518-3016
- 7.....Highland Family Aquatic Center (S,R,I,F,G)
400 Highland Ave. —518-3018
- 8.....Historic Largo Feed Store (I)
295 Central Park Dr.—587-6751
- 9.....Lake Palms Outreach Center (R,I,F)
380 Fulton St.—518-3046
- 10.....Largo Central Park (S,R,P,G)
101 Central Park Dr.—586-7415

- 11.....Largo Central Park Nature Preserve (S,R,P)
150 Highland Ave. SE—586-7415
- 12.....Largo Golf Course (I)
12500 Vonn Rd.—518-3024
- 13.....Largo Skate Park
400 Highland Ave.—518-3016
- 14.....Largo Soccer Complex
1779 Belcher Rd.—518-3094
- 15.....Largo Sports Complex
1640 McMullen Rd.—518-3094
- 16.....Largo Tennis Center
13120 Vonn Rd. —518-3025
- 17.....Southwest Complex (S,R,I,F,G)
13120 Vonn Rd.—518-3125
- 17.....Southwest Pool (S,R,I,F,G)
13120 Vonn Rd.—518-3126
- 18.....Whitesell Softball Complex
12555 119th St.—518-3094

ABC = Neighborhood Park

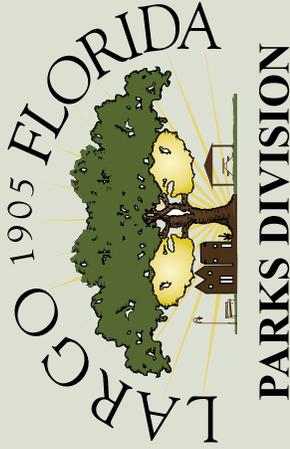
- A.....Bonner Park (S,R,G,P)
14444 143rd St.—518-3047
- B.....Datsko Park
3099 Whitney Rd.
- C.....Lake Villa Park (G,P)
619 8th Ave. NW
- D.....McMullen Park
2728 Oakwood Dr.
- E.....Northeast Park & Paw Place (S,R,G,P)
4630 East Bay Dr.
- F.....Northwest Park (G,P)
1599 8th Ave. NW
- G.....Sunshine Park (P)
2599 Keene Park Dr.
- H.....Ulmer Park (S)
301 West Bay Dr.
- K.....Woodrow Park (G,P)
290 3rd St. NW

**S=Shelters, R=Restrooms, G=Playground,
P=Pet Friendly, I=Indoor Facilities, F=Staffed**
Full details available at www.largo.com or
call the administration office at 587-6720



Jr. Ranger Pledge

"I pledge to do all that I can to protect natural places;
to continue learning about the natural world
and share that knowledge with my family and friends."



On behalf of the City of Largo,

I hereby certify that

has completed all the requirements to become a Jr. Ranger.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

