

Carnivorous Plants

Grand Bay NWR protects one of the largest undisturbed expanses of pine savanna on the gulf coast. Within the savanna, beautiful - yet deadly - predators lurk, waiting for their next meal.

Carnivorous plants abound at Grand Bay. These unique assassins grow in acidic, boggy soils that are usually nitrogen-deficient. They rely on insects and other small animals to provide these important nutrients. Some of the carnivorous plants found on the refuge are shown here.

Butterworts

Carnivorous plants can be divided into two types: those with passive traps and those with active traps. Butterworts can be compared to active flypaper. The leaf surfaces are covered with glands that secrete mucilage to trap prey. As if caught in a spider's web, struggling prey become overwhelmed as their movements stimulate additional sticky glands on the leaf's edge.

Sundews

Quite similar to butterworts, sundews are a different type of active flypaper. Tentacles tipped with a sticky substance attract and catch their prey. These tentacles then bend around the insect to digest and absorb their prey.

Pitcher plants

Using a pitfall passive trap, the pitcher plants attract prey with nectar and vivid colors. Prey is allured to the pool of nectar beyond the lip of the pitcher where they cannot escape.

Bladderworts

The most remarkable trap system is set up by the bladderworts. Similar to an old-fashioned mouse trap, when a creature brushes against the bladder, a trap door opens and sucks the victim inside. Aquatic and terrestrial bladderworts can be found at Grand Bay. These are rare to see as much of the plant is underground.

Potential Species List

Sundews

- Drosera intermedia
- Drosera tracyi
- Drosera capillaris
- Drosera brevifolia

Pitcher Plants

- Sarracenia alata
- Sarracenia purpurea
- Sarracenia leucophylla
- Sarracenia psittacina



Yellow Trumpet Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia alata*) © Tom Carlisle



Spoonleaf Sundew (*Drosera intermedia*) by USFWS



Yellow Butterwort (*Pinguicula lutea*) © Tom Carlisle



Threadleaf Sundew (*Drosera tracyi*) © Tom Carlisle



Red Butterwort (*Pinguicula planifolia*) by Grand Bay NERR



Sidesaddle or Purple Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*) © Tom Carlisle



Whitetop Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia leucophylla*) by Larry Dees

Butterworts

- Pinguicula lutea*
- Pinguicula planifolia*
- Pinguicula primuliflora*
- Pinguicula pumila*

Bladderworts

- Utricularia purpurea*
- Utricularia radiata*
- Utricularia inflata*
- Utricularia juncea*
- Utricularia cornuta*
- Utricularia subulata*
- Utricularia foliosa*
- Utricularia biflora*

Contact Us

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Pitcherplant Flower © Tom Carlisle



Parrot's Beak Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia psittacina*) © Tom Carlisle



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Grand Bay is an important stopover sight for neotropical migrants as well as a winter destination for other birds. Many resident wildlife species also enjoy the rich diversity of habitats found within the protection of the refuge.



Jennifer Buchanan, Grand Bay NERR

Fire, under controlled conditions, is an important habitat management tool used at Grand Bay. Prescribed burning is critical for converting the more dense vegetation back to its historic savanna. Once the savannas are restored they are burned every three to five years to maintain habitat values and prevent them from returning to the shrub and flatwood habitats. The succulent green vegetation that returns shortly after burning is heavily utilized by wildlife.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) partners at Grand Bay NWR with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) to conduct long-term research, monitor water quality, and produce education and coastal stewardship programs.

Public Use opportunities on the refuge include hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation. The Grand Bay Coastal Resources Center is open for visitors Tuesday thru Saturday from 9am to 3pm (closed on federal holidays).

Escatawpa Nature Trails:

Located at the Mississippi State Welcome Center, these trails meander around mixed hardwood and pine forests and the scenic Escatawpa River. Three trails of different lengths are available. A ½ mile loop is ADA accessible with boardwalks and crushed stone. Open during daylight hours.

Oak Grove Birding Trail:

Located on the southern portion of the refuge, this trail is exactly as its name implies. Live oak trees dot this maritime forest known for good birding opportunities, particularly during the spring and fall migrations. Open during daylight hours.

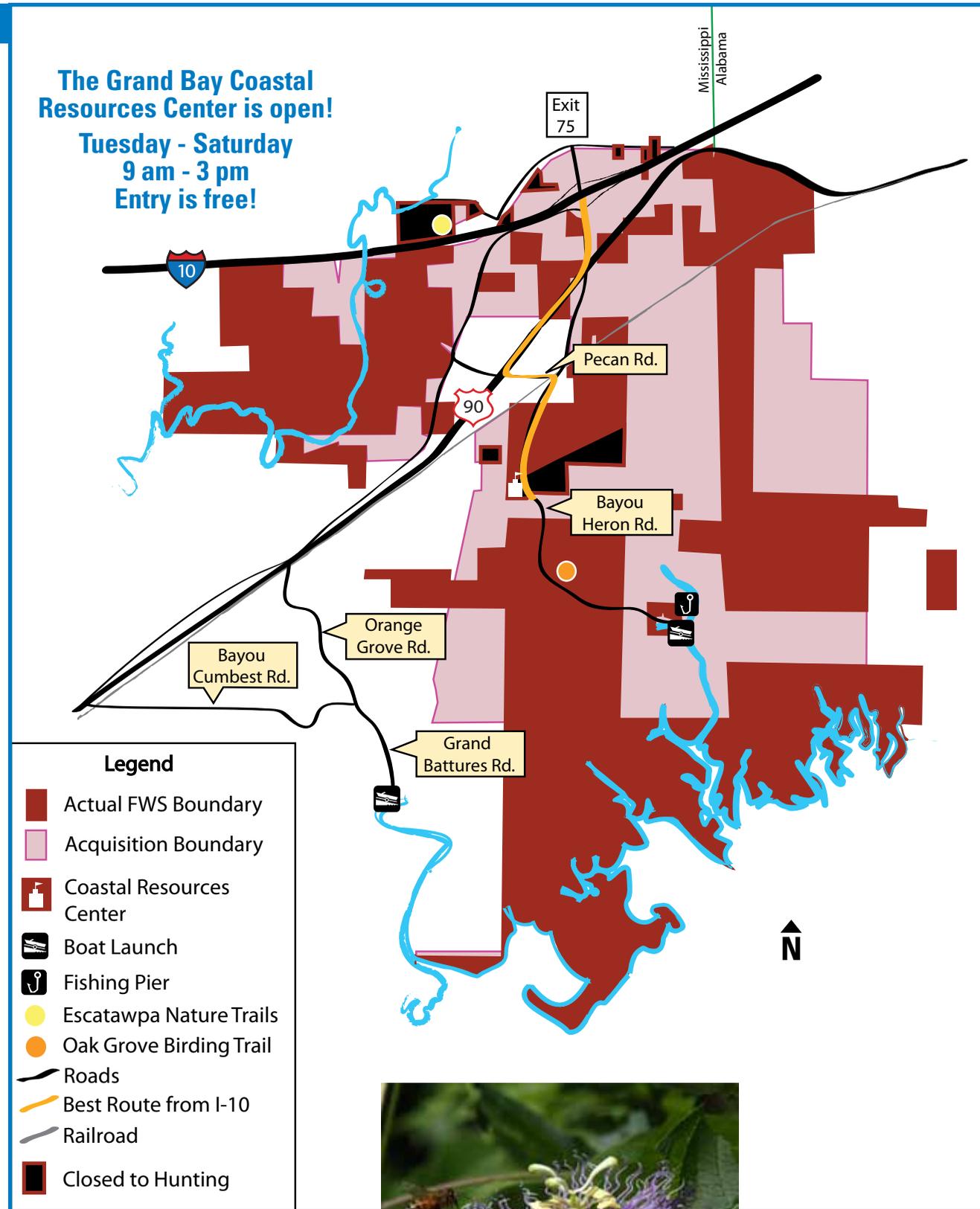
Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge is located in the coastal zone of Jackson County, Mississippi and Mobile County, Alabama. The refuge was established in 1992 to protect one of the largest expanses of Gulf Coast savanna remaining in a relatively undisturbed state. In addition to the savanna, Grand Bay protects a myriad of other habitats including cypress-tupelo swamps, brackish marshes, and oak and pine forests.



Larry Dees

The Grand Bay Coastal Resources Center is open!

**Tuesday - Saturday
9 am - 3 pm
Entry is free!**



Grand Bay Coastal Resources Center:

Learn more about the gulf coast habitats protected at Grand Bay in the Coastal Resources Center. Interactive exhibits educate on the importance of this land for wildlife and for humans and challenges us to all be a part of preserving them for future generations.

Hunting Program:

A separate brochure and permit are required to hunt at Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Visit our



Passion Flower, by Larry Dees

office or check on-line to receive a copy of that publication. Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Persons may

only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).