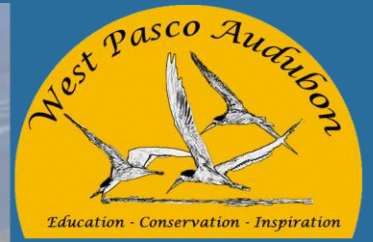


# Werner Boyce Salt Springs



## ABOUT

Werner-Boyce Salt Springs State Park covers approximately 4 miles of coastline and 4000 acres of land to the east (to US 19), just south of Hudson Beach. The history of Werner-Boyce Salt Springs goes back to the Tocobaga tribe, who used a quarry here for tools, and encompasses a period of use for cattle ranching, salt production during the Civil War, and later, turpentine production. In the twentieth century it became popular for mullet fishing, finally being purchased for preservation and use as a park in 1992. There are three entrances to distinct areas of the park, but for those who like to kayak, this is one of the best ways to visit and bird.

## BIRDS

American White Pelican, Reddish Egret, Roseate Spoonbill, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Black Rail, Sora Rail, Clapper Rail, Common Ground Dove, Gray Kingbird, Nelson's Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow.

eBird hotspot link:  
<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L228436>

## DIRECTIONS

From Highway 19 in New Port Richey go west on Salt Springs Road (main park), or west on Cinema Drive to Scenic Road (Scenic Road Trail), or west on 52 to end of the road (Black Rail Trail).

## FACILITIES

Parking, restrooms, kayak launch, and trails  
<https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/werner-boyce-salt-springs-state-park>



### TIPS

The main entrance of the park provides access to trails that include the salt springs and the Bald Eagle nest, with a viewing platform in breeding season. The kayak launch is located just west of the parking lot. The second entrance, at the intersection of Scenic Drive and Cinema Drive leads to a half-mile circular trail, and a shorter extension north to a riverside walk. This short walk is particularly interesting during migration. The northern entrance is at the end of SR 52 and provides access to the needle grass, the optimal location to search for the elusive Black Rail, as well as the Seaside Sparrow, although numerous other rails, wrens, and raptors can be found here also. To venture into the needle grass, do bring your boots and long pants. Bug spray is an essential item also.



Check out nearby **Port Richey Park** on Old Post Road, which is a short distance south of Werner Boyce on Millers Bayou. It is a small park, but can be quite productive. Parking at the end of the track there is a boardwalk from which oyster bars can be viewed with various gulls and terns, shorebirds (including a pair of Oystercatchers) can be seen when the tide is lower. Lots of waders can also be seen from here, and Northern Rough-winged Swallows nest nearby in the season. There is a boardwalk along the river with mangroves and shrubs providing cover for multiple species. Walking down to the children's play area you may well find House Finch and Eastern Bluebirds.