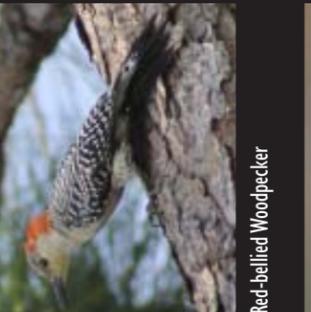


Seacrest Scrub Natural Area Photo Album

Mammals	 Gray fox	 Nine-banded Armadillo	 Eastern Gray Squirrel	 Raccoon
Reptiles	 Six-lined Racerunner	 Green Anole	 Eastern Box Turtle	 Black Racer
Birds	 Northern Mockingbird	 Red-bellied Woodpecker	 Northern Cardinal	 Cooper's Hawk
Insects & Spiders	 Great Southern White	 Halloween Pennant	 Silver Garden Spider	 Gulf Fritillary
Plants	 American Beautyberry	 Balmoss	 Fetterbush	 Tread-softly
	 Love Vine (covering Florida Rosemary)	 Coastalplain Honeycombhead	 Largeflower False Rosemary	

Preserving Palm Beach County's Good Nature

Welcome to one of Palm Beach County's natural treasures. Seacrest Scrub Natural Area preserves and protects Florida scrub habitat - one of Florida's most endangered natural communities. Scrub is found in small pockets along ridges in the middle of the state, as well as along the coastline. Scrub communities formed on old dunes which became inland ridges as the sea level fell. Because lands with scrub vegetation are typically high and dry, they were the first areas developed. It is estimated that less than 2% of Palm Beach County's scrub remains.

Seacrest Scrub Natural Area remained undisturbed throughout the early 1900s. In the 1930s, two-thirds of the site was cleared for agricultural purposes, including the growing of pineapples. Housing construction accelerated after World War II. By the 1980s the natural area was completely surrounded by residential development. In 1994 Palm Beach County and the City of Boynton Beach purchased Seacrest Scrub for \$2,050,000. The Florida Communities Trust provided \$888,705 in matching funds for this acquisition under its Preservation 2000 program.

This 54-acre natural area is part of a system of natural areas, protected to maintain the diversity of biological communities and species in Palm Beach County. The natural areas are open to the public for educational use and passive recreational activities such as hiking, nature photography, and bird watching.



Seacrest Scrub Natural Area is home to hundreds of plant and animal species. One of the more unusual scrub inhabitants is the powder-puff lichen. A lichen is two organisms (an alga and a fungus) working together to survive. The alga produces food and the fungus provides shelter.

Rules and Regulations

Prohibited on the Site:

- Smoking
- Hunting
- Feeding wildlife
- Alcoholic beverages
- Discharging firearms
- Pets or domestic animals
- Bicycles or motor vehicles
- Collecting plants or animals

Use only existing trails. This is a "no trash area." All items taken in must be taken out.

The natural area is open from sunrise to sunset, seven days a week, including holidays.

There are no toilets or drinking water at this site.

In an emergency, call 911 or the Boynton Beach Police Department at 561-732-8116.



Palm Beach County
Board of County Commissioners

In accordance with the provisions of ADA, this brochure may be requested in an alternate format.

Palm Beach County
Department of Environmental
Resources Management
2300 N. Jog Road - Fourth Floor
West Palm Beach, FL 33411-2743
Phone: 561-233-2400
www.pbcgov.com/em
www.facebook.com/pbcem

Seacrest Scrub Natural Area Trail Guide



A Florida Communities Trust
Preservation 2000 Project

Gopher Tortoise Nature Trail

This 950-foot accessible nature trail winds through a desert-like community called Florida scrub. Keep an eye out for red-bellied woodpeckers and gopher tortoises!

1 Seacrest Scrub is home to several protected plant and animal species, including the gopher tortoise. This reptile uses its strong front legs to dig a burrow up to 30 feet long. These cool underground tunnels shelter many other animals, including insects, snakes, and small mammals.



2 At first glance the scrub appears to be a dull landscape of tan sand, brown grasses, and gray-green trees. If you look closer, patches of bright color can be found. Look for the bright red stems of pokeberry, the cheery yellow and white flowers of beggarticks, and the red berries and glossy green leaves of wild coffee.



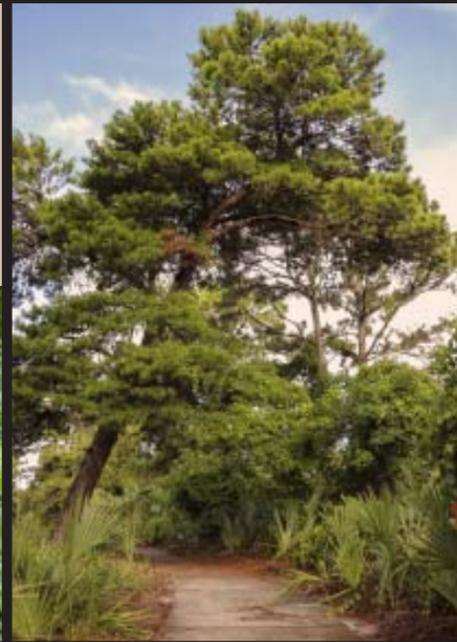
3 Gopher apple can be seen in the open, sunny areas of Seacrest Scrub. This relative of cocoplum is a low, slow-growing plant with small flowers that bloom in late spring. The whitish fruit is eaten by many animals, including raccoons, foxes, and gopher tortoises. Several "giant" gopher apples can be found next to this marker. These plants may be a half century old based on the diameter of their main stems.



4 Slash pines line the hiking trail at Seacrest Scrub Natural Area. These trees were the main source of lumber for early settlers to this area. Slash pines can reach heights of more than 100 feet. Their large cones are often seen littering the ground. Many animals eat the slash pine seeds, including squirrels and birds.



5 The primary purpose for acquiring Seacrest Scrub Natural Area was to preserve one of the last tracts of Florida scrub in southern Palm Beach County. Except for a few small areas in neighboring states, scrub is a plant community unique to Florida. Sand pines are only found in scrub habitat. They have shorter needles, smaller cones, and a shorter life expectancy than slash pines.



6 The smaller creatures of Seacrest Scrub are just as fascinating as the gopher tortoises and slash pines. The bright orange wings of gulf fritillary butterflies make them easy to spot as they flutter around the woods. The large webs of golden silk orbweaver spiders can span more than six feet across. The females hang head down in the center of the web. Don't worry, these spiders are not venomous.



Seacrest Scrub Trail System



- P** Parking
- i** Information
- Natural Area Boundary
- Nature Trail 0.18 miles (one way)
- Hiking Trail 1.15 miles

Seacrest Scrub Natural Area is located at 3400 S. Seacrest Boulevard in Boynton Beach. This 54-acre natural area protects scrub habitat, one of the rarest natural communities in Florida. Public-use facilities include a parking lot, bicycle rack, accessible nature trail, hiking trail, and a kiosk with educational exhibits. There are no restroom facilities or drinking water on the site.

Please use the designated nature and hiking trails as you explore the natural area. Do not feed the animals. When wild animals become dependent on handouts, they may lose their natural fear of humans and become aggressive and dangerous. Please dispose of your trash responsibly.

7 Birds of all shapes and sizes can be found at Seacrest Scrub Natural Area. Small songbirds like northern cardinals flit among the pines and oaks in search of food. Red-bellied woodpeckers peck away at the bark of dead trees to find grubs. Cooper's hawks perch atop the tallest trees using their incredible eyesight to find food. Listen for these and other birds as you explore the natural area.

