

The Sea Pines Forest Preserve...

Our Natural Treasure

It is the prized possession of every Sea Pines property owner. It has been cared for and protected since Sea Pines was founded by Charles Fraser and his family - it is the Sea Pines Forest Preserve.

The land has been sculpted by changing sea levels over the past 15,000 years and traces of the first inhabitants still remain. The Indian Shell Ring is 4,000 years old and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Since 1700, the preserve was used to grow rice, indigo and cotton. As recently as the 1950's hunting and timber harvesting occurred in the preserve.

The 605 acres of land are now a place of peace and tranquility for owners and guests. Covenants protect the preserve and prevent homes or commercial buildings from being erected on the land. It is the largest tract of undeveloped land on Hilton Head Island and provides a valuable oasis of habitat for wildlife as well as outdoor recreation for humans. Bird watching is a popular activity - The National Audubon Society designated the preserve an Important Bird Area in 1998. Other popular activities in the preserve include fishing, hiking, picnicking and photography.

Points of Interest

The Warner W. Plahs Wildflower Field by Lake Thomas blooms from March to June. At Old Lawton Rice Field, view marshes and wildlife from a boardwalk and three observation decks. The boardwalk through Vanishing Swamp explores a secluded forest, where surface water rises and falls through the seasons. Fish Island, the center of the Preserve, offers prime views of the lakes for picnickers.



Guided Activities

A percentage of the revenue generated by the following services goes back to the Forest Preserve. These and other user fees (fishing and group outing permits) help offset the costs associated with operating the Preserve. We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy this wild and wonderful place! Reservations may be required.



Alligator & Wildlife Boat Tours (843) 686-5323

The H2O Nature Center provides guided tours of the pristine lakes of the Forest Preserve. Get a close-up view of Hilton Head's indigenous plant and animal life including native American Alligators.



Fishing, Walking and Wagon Tours (843) 842-1979

The Sea Pines Resort Recreation Department hosts several eco-adventures that discover the hidden treasures of the preserve. Relax on a wagon ride, catch a catfish in Lake Joe or enjoy a walking tour of the 4,000-year-old Indian Shell Ring or the 18th century Lawton Rice Field.



Trail Rides (843) 671-2586

Lawton Stables offers one-hour guided trail rides for adults and children 8 and older. Experience the preserve from horseback while being immersed in the natural beauty of the Lowcountry. Trails wind at a leisurely pace beneath a canopy of moss covered oaks and are suitable for novice riders.



Rules and Regulations

1. Hours: Sunrise to sunset.
2. No smoking or open fires are permitted.
3. Feeding or harassing alligators is illegal and could result in the animals removal.
4. Admire nature from a distance. Please stay on trails and boardwalks at all times.
5. Fishing: The stocked fishing lakes in the Forest Preserve are reserved for Sea Pines property owners, their guests, and resort guests. Fishing permits are required and can be obtained for a small fee at the CSA Security Office on Greenwood Drive. Minnow bait is not allowed.
6. Bicycles are not permitted on the walking trails. Please park your bicycles at the locations provided.
7. The picnic area on Fish Island is equipped with a shelter, picnic tables, grills, drinking water, and portable toilets. Permits for group outings must be obtained by calling the CSA office at (843) 671-1343.
8. Swimming is not permitted in the Preserve.

Contribute to the Cause

The Sea Pines Forest Preserve Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your support allows us to fulfill our mission and insures this valuable and unique Sea Pines' gem is given the care it deserves. Contributions are tax-deductible and can be sent to.

The Sea Pines Forest Preserve Foundation
175 Greenwood Drive
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

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The Sea Pines Forest Preserve



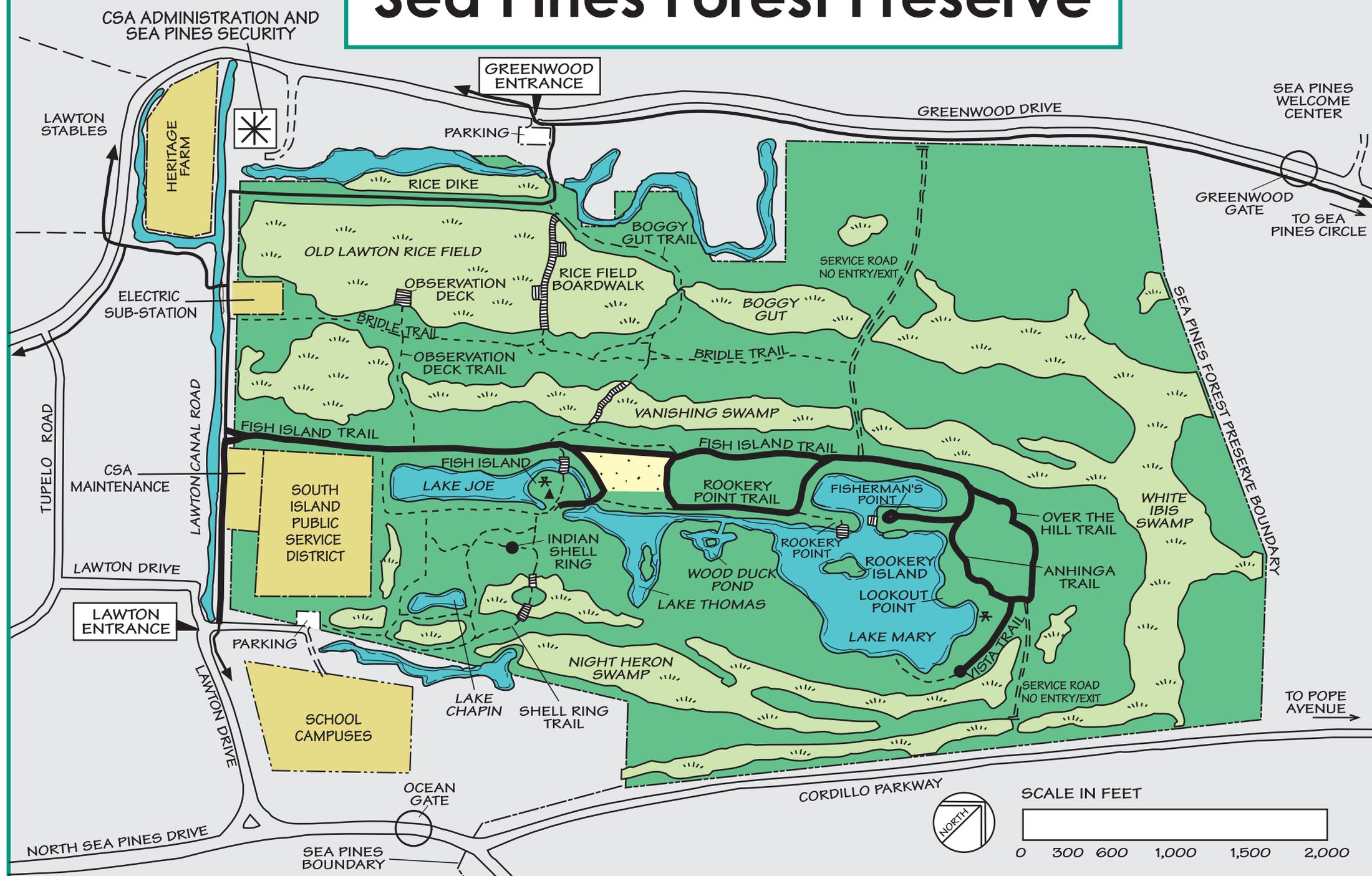
...Our Natural Treasure

Map & Activity Guide



SeaPinesLiving.com

Sea Pines Forest Preserve



Map Legend

- HABITATS:**
- FOREST
 - FRESHWATER WETLAND
 - WARNER W. PLAHS WILDFLOWER FIELD
 - LAKE/POND

- FACILITIES:**
- BIKE PATH
 - VEHICULAR TRAIL
 - WALKING TRAIL
 - OBSERVATION DECK/DOCK
 - WETLAND BOARDWALK
 - PICNIC TABLES
 - WATER/RESTROOMS
 - CSA ADMIN/SECURITY

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

The Forest Preserve is patrolled by a ranger and by Sea Pines Security.

**IN AN EMERGENCY
CALL: SEA PINES SECURITY
843-671-7170**

The road/trail intersections and attractions in the Forest Preserve are uniquely numbered. If possible during an emergency, describe your location to Sea Pines Security by reporting the number that is closest to you.

