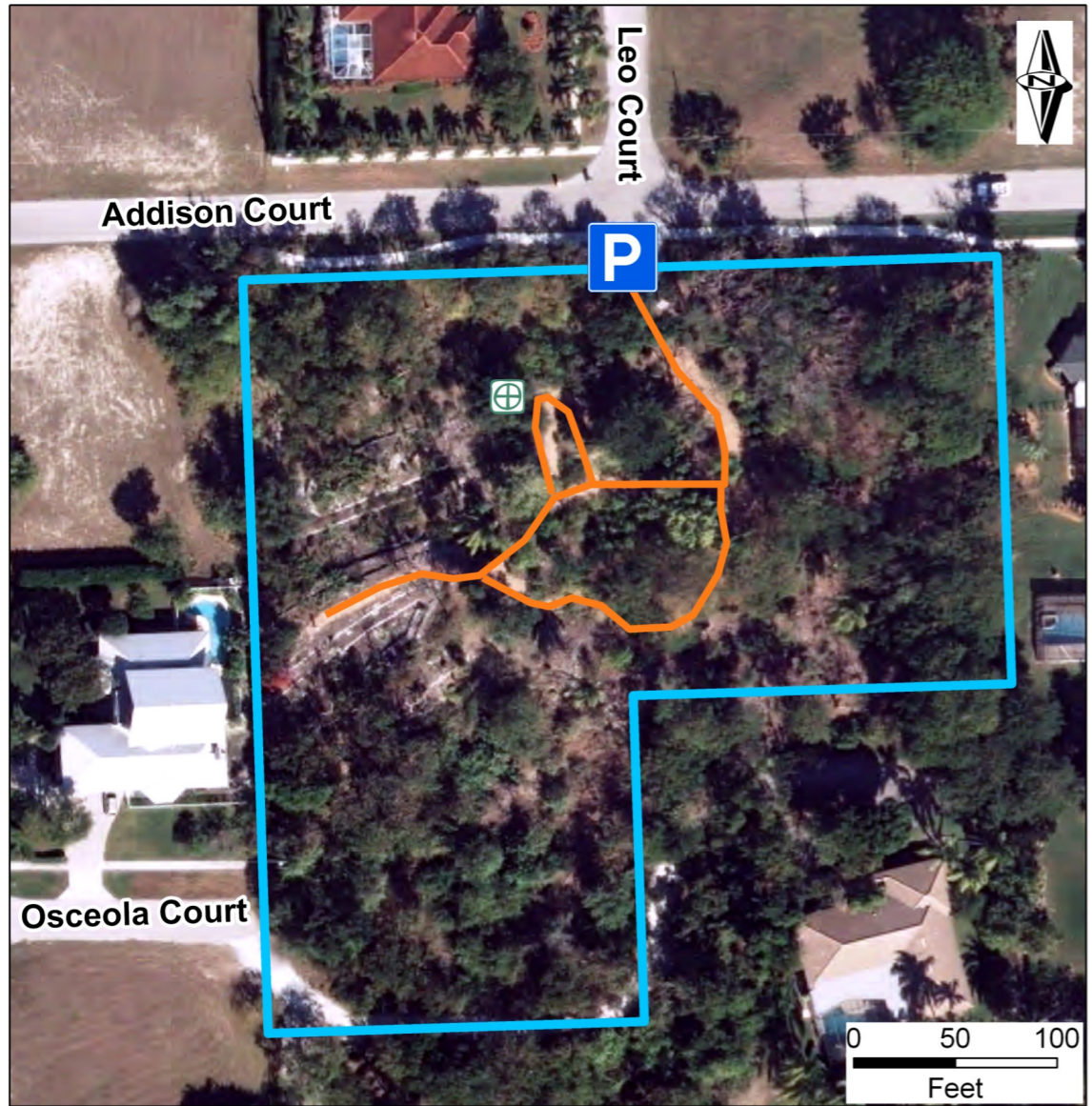


Conservation Collier: Otter Mound Preserve



Otter Mound Preserve: 1831 Addison Court, Marco Island, FL 34145

- Otter Mound Preserve
- Walking Trail
- Historic Out-house
- P Parking Area

Please, stay on the trails provided and respect the privacy of the neighbors of the preserve - Thank you.

Data Source: Preserve Boundary and 2006 Aerial Image
Courtesy of the Collier County Property Appraiser
Map Created by: Conservation Collier, A. Kasim
January 12, 2009



Directions:

From I-75 - take **Exit 101** (State Hwy 84 W/SR 951) **south** towards Marco Island/Naples. Continue south on SR 951 (Collier Blvd.) past Tami-am Trail East (US 41) towards Marco Island. Take the Jolly Bridge onto Marco Island and turn **left on N. Barfield Drive** (first traffic light). Travel 3.3 miles to Watson Blvd. Turn **left on Watson Blvd** and go 0.2 miles. Turn **right on Inlet Drive**. Turn **left on Addison Court** - parking lot will be on your right.

General Location of Otter Mound Preseve



Conservation Collier:
A tax payer funded, land acquisition program



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Visitor hours are from 8:00 am to dusk.

Please enjoy the preserve and remember, "take only pictures and leave only footprints".

Otter Mound Preserve was named for the previous owners of the land. Approximately 2.45-acres in size, the preserve is in southwestern Collier County in a residential area of Marco Island. The entire preserve site sits on a Calusa shell mound that contains artifacts of both archaeological and historical significance. Collier County's **Conservation Collier** Program purchased the preserve in July 2004 because it contains tropical hardwood hammock habitat. The designated uses of the property are conservation, restoration, and passive public use. Management activities allowed are those necessary to preserve and/or restore this environmentally and historically sensitive land for the benefit of Collier County's present and future generations. The preserve opened to the public on March 7, 2007.



Gumbo Limbo (*Bursera simaruba*)

The History of Otter Mound Preserve...

The "Mound" on which Otter Mound Preserve sits was constructed by the Calusa from oyster, southern surf clam, lightning whelk, and other shellfish species.

Most people associate the name "Calusa" with the Native Americans that lived in South Florida from 500 - 1750 A.D. Unlike other cultures that achieved similar social complexity, the Calusa were fish-gatherer-hunters who practiced little to no agriculture.

Otter Mound Preserve is a small part of the Caxambas Point archaeological site (8CR107), which was once a 70-80 acre complex of shell features constructed by the Calusa. The Calusa constructed and occupied the site from approximately 750 A.D.-1200 A.D.. Today, the substrate of the ancient mound appears to be relatively undisturbed.

Otter Mound Preserve was also once part of Caxambas Village. In the early 1900's Caxambas Village was a thriving community that grew with the Marco Island clamming industry. Jim and Tommie Barfield, influential citizens in the history of Marco Island, once owned the property that is present day Otter Mound. They sold it to Charles Griner and his wife in 1919. Prior to 1950, Ernest and Gladys Otter, would vacation in Caxambas Village, spending the winters at the Griner's home. Eventually Mrs. Griner sold the property to the Otters after her husband's death in 1950. A house built in 1923 once stood near the center of the preserve. The Otters occupied the home until 1977 and burned down on Halloween in 1978. The **historic out-house** is the only structure left within the preserve.



Ernest and Gladys Otter outside their home.



By all accounts, Mr. Otter constructed the **whelk shell terracing throughout the preserve** sometime in the 1940s, 50s and 60s. Reports state that Mr. Otter used ancient Calusa whelks (*Busycon* sp.) that he found buried in and around his property to build the shell terracing.

Tropical Hardwood Hammocks...

The Shell Mounds created by the Calusa produced an environment that resulted in a tropical hardwood hammock community. This plant community also occurs naturally in South Florida. Historically, tropical hardwood hammocks existed as far north as Cape Canaveral on the east coast of Florida, and up to the mouth of the Manatee River on the west coast of Florida. However, development pressure resulted in the conversion of many of these forests to urban and agricultural uses. Today, this plant community occurs as remnant habitats in extreme south Florida.

Tropical hardwood hammocks are closed canopy forests characterized by evergreen and semi-deciduous woody species also found on many Caribbean islands. Hammocks primarily occur on the highest elevations (e.g., shell mounds) where flooding rarely occurs and are, therefore, prime areas for human habitation.

Native plant species common within the preserve include: soapberry (*Sapindus saponaria*), strangler fig (*Ficus aurea*), Jamaican dogwood (*Piscidia piscipula*), and yellow elder (*Tecoma stans*). The previous use of the preserve as an early 1900's home-site also led to the introduction of many non-native species such as: mango (*Mangifera indica*), royal poinciana (*Delonix regia*), guava (*Psidium guajava*), oyster plant (*Tradescantia spathacea*), air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*) and coral vine (*Antigonon leptopus*).

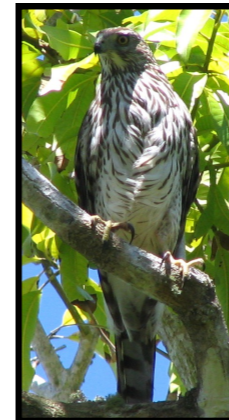
Tropical hardwood hammocks are great places to see many species of resident and migratory birds and the Florida Tree Snail (*Liguus fasciatus*) - a species of special concern.

Birds Observed at Otter Mound Preserve

Common name

Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>
Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>
White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>
Common Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaidura macroura</i>
Eurasian Collared-Dove*	<i>Streptopelia decaocto*</i>
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>
Red-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>
Eastern Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>
Fish Crow	<i>Corvus ossifragus</i>
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>

* = non-native species



Thank you for staying on the trails!

Cooper's Hawk perching in a tree at Conservation Collier's Otter Mound Preserve.



Indigo Bunting



Common Yellowthroat

Birds Observed at Otter Mound Preserve (continued)

Common name

Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>
White-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>
Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>
Northern Parula	<i>Parula americana</i>
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>
Blackpoll Warbler	<i>Dendroica striata</i>
Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>
Magnolia Warbler	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>
Bay-breasted Warbler	<i>Dendroica castanea</i>
Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>
Palm Warbler	<i>Dendroica palmarum</i>
Prairie Warbler	<i>Dendroica discolor</i>
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>
Tennessee Warbler	<i>Vermivora peregrina</i>
Golden-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>
Boat-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus major</i>
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>
European Starling*	<i>Sturnus vulgaris*</i>
Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>
Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>
Blue Grosbeak	<i>Guiraca caerulea</i>
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>