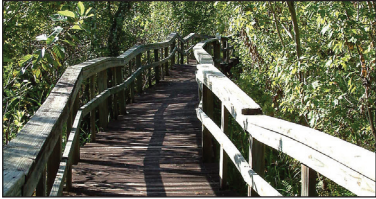




THE STORY OF JASPER AND EDINA
Jasper Crowley was the grandson of homesteader John Crowley, and was an educator, conservationist, and farmer. Jasper and Edina Truchot of the local Audubon created this non profit organization for guests to see how the early settlers lived.



1 BOARDWALK
This is the start of the ½ mile boardwalk that takes you through five Florida habitats to the Selby Tower overlooking the Tatum Sawgrass Marsh. You may step down off the tower and walk along Crowley Creek and then back on to the boardwalk.



2 LUBBER GRASSHOPPER
(*Romalea microptera*)
As you walk along the trails, you might see grasshoppers as they emerge from the ground. Hatching in the spring as small black insects, they will complete seven stages to their final transformation.



3 BEAUTYBERRY (*Callicarpa*)
Producing berries from August to January this plant is an important survival food for birds and other animals. The berries can be used to make wine and jelly and the crushed or infused leaves of this plant will ward off mosquitoes.



4 POISON IVY(*Rhus toxicodendron L.*)
Be on the look out for this pesky plant that if touched can cause skin inflammation. It has three dark-green or reddish-orange leaves. Woodpeckers are fond of the grapelike clusters of tiny, pumpkin-shaped seeds the plant produces.



5 MAPLE BRANCH SWAMP & MAPLE BRANCH CREEK
This large swamp has a large number of American elm, laurel oak, red maple and cabbage palm trees. Maple Branch Creek was known by early settlers as the “creek that never runs dry”.



7 SABAL PALMETTO
(*Arecaceae, genus Sabal*)
The state tree of Florida, the trunk and leaves of the “cabbage palm” are used by Native Americans to build chickee huts. The heart is used for food and is known as swamp cabbage or hearts of palm.



9 RED MAPLE (*Acer rubrum*)
A winter food for the white-tailed deer, “swamp maple” grows in almost any soil and propagates by samaras, or winged dispersal. The leaves turn scarlet in the fall and the sap is used on a small scale for maple syrup production.



11 CAROLINA WILLOW
(*Salix caroliniana*)
This native wetland tree contains salicin, which has similar effects as salicylic acid, a component of aspirin. Native Americans powdered the bark, leaves, and buds to extract salicin for medicinal purposes.



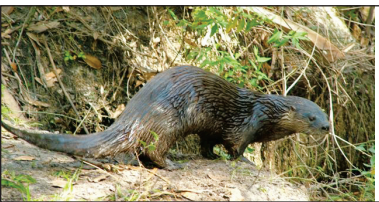
12 TATUM SAWGRASS MARSH AND THE MYAKKA RIVER
This marsh serves as an overflow area for the Myakka River. The storage capacity of the marsh has been reduced due to diking and diverting of the river. This is an excellent area for the serious birder.



13 GOLDEN SILK SPIDER
(*Aranea clavipes Linnaeus*)
At the observation tower in summer and fall you will see these harmless but intimidating spiders. Their silk shines like gold in the sunlight and is so strong that Native Americans used it for fishing line.



14 DAMSELFLIES & DRAGONFLIES
Sometimes called, “hawks of the insect world,” these insects feed on mosquitoes and other small insects. You may see them on the Swamp Hibiscus (*Hibiscus coccineus*) flower, which is edible and has medicinal properties.



15 RIVER OTTER (*Lontra canadensis*)
This playful mammal establishes burrows in permanent watersheds and is highly sensitive to pollution. The diet is mainly fish, and crustaceans are preferred. Predators include alligators, bobcats, coyotes, and dogs. Kits arrive in spring.



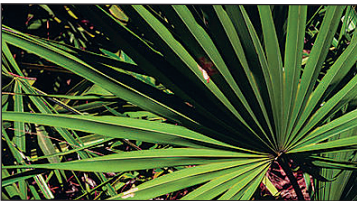
16 FLORIDA BUTTERFLY ORCHID
(*Encyclia tampensis*)
Found in hammocks and swamps from central Florida south, these are most typically found on live oak trees, but can grow on cypress, pop-ash, pond-apple, palm, and pine trees. Flowers in May-August.



17 OAK HAMMOCK
This densely shaded habitat that occupies the slope between the wetland and upland area and produces acorns--an important food for wildlife. The surrounding “mesic” hammock also contains cabbage palms and Laurel oaks.



18 ZEBRA SWALLOWTAIL
(*Protographium marcellus*)
This butterfly has a wingspan of 2.5” to 4” and can be seen from February to December. This butterfly is usually found fluttering close to pawpaw trees nibbling on flower nectar and also minerals from the damp soil.




19 SAW PALMETTO
(*Serenoa repens/Sabal serrulata*)
A small native palm tree with “saw toothed” stems and white flowers that produce yellow berries. The berries turn brownish black when ripe and were used for food and medicine by the Seminole Tribe.



20 EPIPHYTES-SPANISH MOSS, RESURRECTION FERN, BROMELIADS, ORCHIDS, LICHEN
Commonly called, “air plants” epiphytes are adapted to survive without soil as they absorb water and nutrients from the air. Various types may grow on the same tree.

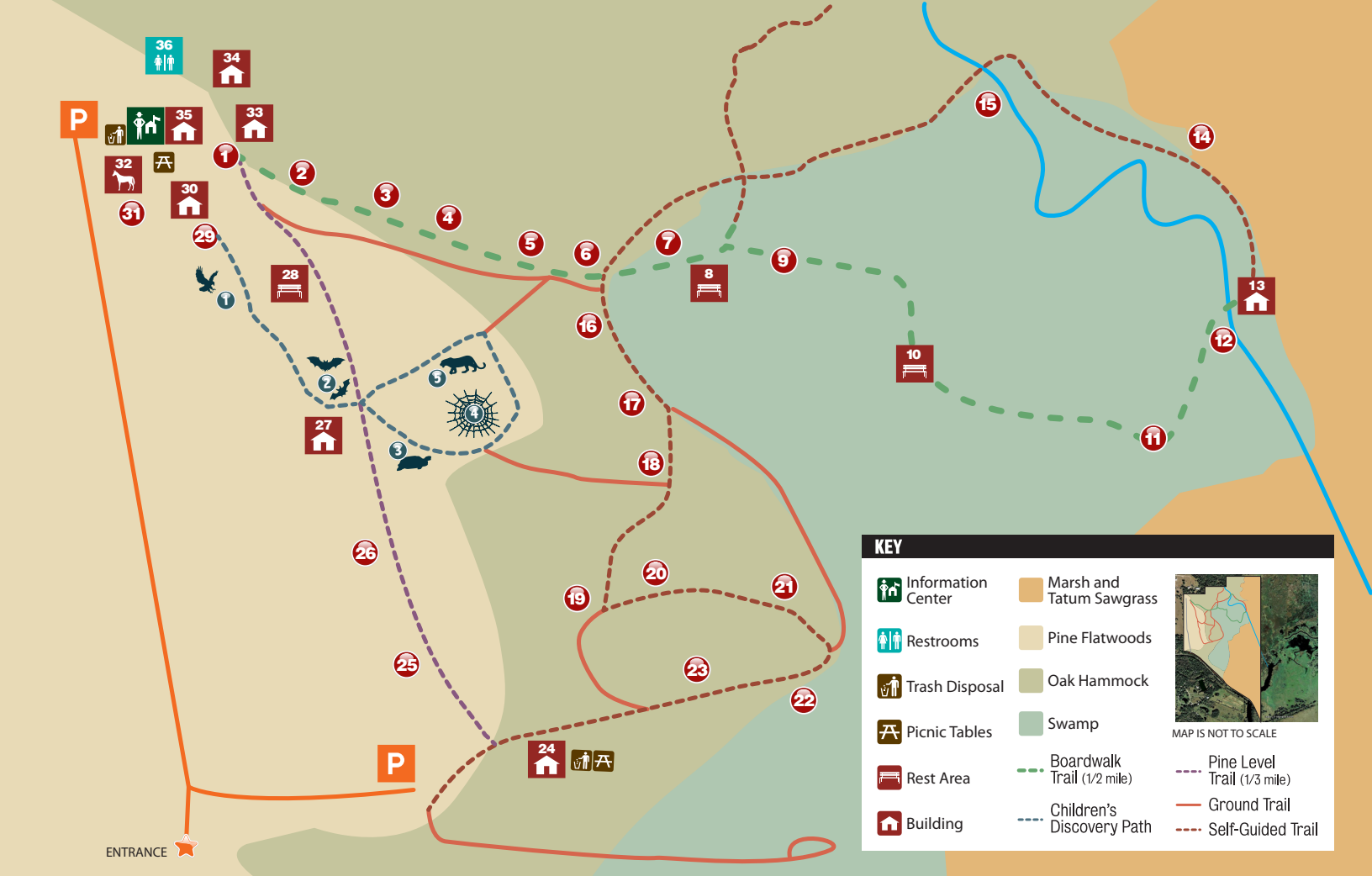


21 WILDCAT PASS
Bobcats are seen crossing here.
22 POP ASH SWAMP
The native “water ash” is tolerant of excessive soil moisture and periodic inundation with water. An understory plant, it is most commonly found in the shade of larger trees.



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23 INDIAN FIELDS

This semi-wilderness camping area is where Native Americans camped and kept a vegetable and herb garden. Look along the ground for the Leafless Beaked Lady Orchid (*Sacoila lanceolata*). This threatened native orchid has leaves in winter and lovely red flowers in summer.



24 EDINA TRUCHOT LEARNING CENTER

This learning center was designed for outdoor education. This facility is also used for special occasions. **CROWLEY FOLK SCHOOL**
A Folk School for Modern Folks
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25 PINE LEVEL TRAIL

The Pine Level Trail is a wagon trail that traversed between the county seat of Pine Level (between Arcadia and Myakka City) to Braidentown (present day Bradenton). Early settlers traveled on horseback, by ox-driven wagon, or on foot on this trail.



26 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The Crowley family followed the philosophy of "Use half and keep half." knowing land could be both productive and preserved. As responsible stewards of this gifted land we continue the tradition with sustainable agriculture programs.



27 TATUM RIDGE SCHOOL HOUSE

The Tatum Ridge Schoolhouse was built on Tatum Road and was closed in 1941 when Miakka Elementary and Tatum Ridge consolidated as Fruitville Elementary School—with Jasper Crowley as its first principal.



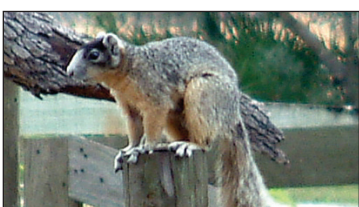
29 CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY PATH

A 3/8 mile long path with five discovery stations where kids learn about eagles, bats, the gopher tortoise, spiders, and the Florida panther. Each station has a fun, hands-on activity to experience what it is like to be one of these creatures.



30 TATUM HOUSE c. 1888-1892

One of the oldest examples of rural architecture in Sarasota County, it was donated to Crowley by the Albritton family in 1996. Behind the Tatum House is the Kitchen Garden, which utilizes natural gardening, companion planting, and heritage cultivars.



31 SHERMAN'S FOX SQUIRREL

(*Sciurus niger shermani*)
A Species of Special Concern, this largest member of the squirrel family has body color and size that vary. Florida species typically have a black head. Threatened longleaf pine trees provide food and shelter for them.



32 SUGAR CANE MILL

Cane grindings were one of the biggest social events of the year in early Florida. Stalks were squeezed through the metal rollers in a mill powered by mules or oxen. The cane is cooked down in the kettle for 8 hours to make syrup.



33 PIONEER MUSEUM

The historic objects found in this museum were mostly collected by Jasper Crowley. The museum is arranged like a general store, like the one John Crowley and his son James Jeremiah ran on the corner of Rawls road and Myakka Road.



34 HOMESTEAD CABIN

This one room cabin is typical of those built by pioneers when they first arrived to an unsettled area. The cabin is furnished with Crowley family heirlooms. Jasper Crowley built this cabin from wood reclaimed from his great uncle Gus's cabin.



35 BLACKSMITH

The blacksmith made tools, pots, irons, wagon wheels, and other common objects. The blacksmith also served as a veterinarian and shoed horses. John Crowley was the blacksmith for the Old Miakka area in the 1800s.