

East End Marine Park Recreational Map

Managed by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Green Cay protects the endangered St. Croix Ground Lizard (*Pholidoscelis polops*). Beyond the beach, the refuge is closed to the public, has treacherous terrain and hazardous vegetation: please don't climb on Green Cay.

An ideal sandy beach for families, the waters of Chenay Bay are usually very quiet, and amenities are nearby.

Buck Island Reef National Monument
(National Park Service)

Cramer's Park has lifeguards on duty Wed-Sun as well as amenities such as picnic tables, restrooms and pavilions.

If you are an advanced snorkeler, check with the Park about touring our coral nursery!

Boiler and Brown Bays can be accessed from the same dirt parking lot. Both have some good snorkeling, but can be challenging, particularly in rough seas. Brown Bay can also have a strong current which may carry you to the west so be aware of your surroundings at all times. Be alert for sea urchins on entry and exit.

Short but sweet, the beach at Smuggler's Cove has a small forest of back beach vegetation.

Southgate Pond, is the largest in a series of salt ponds on the north shore of the park. The ponds are important habitat for year-round residents such as White-cheeked Pintail Ducks and White-crowned Pigeons. In the spring/fall and winter months, migratory birds (notably warblers and shorebirds) join the avian community in the mangroves.

Southgate Coastal Reserve is managed by St. Croix Environmental Association and there is a series of trails leading to a bird blind on the south shore of the pond. Access is from the trailhead on the northside of the road just east of Cheeseburgers in Paradise.

The Very Long Baseline Array telescope is part of a network of 10 telescopes from St. Croix to Hawaii that make precise measurements of celestial bodies.

Jack, Isaac and East End Bays provide significant beach nesting habitat for Hawksbill and Green Turtles. The hike from Pt. Udall parking area to Isaac Bay is appx. 0.5 mile, and winds through tall grass and cactus scrub. The distance to Jack Bay is appx. 1.5 miles; Ginger Thomas and other bushes provide slightly more shade behind Jack Bay. Goat Hill is a moderately strenuous 1 mile walk up an old road, with rewarding views. The Nature Conservancy has managed parts of the land in this area since 1999.

Rod Bay has a fairly short beach with a shady coconut grove right on the beach. The unusual hybrid coral *Acropora prolifera* is present in the waters of Rod Bay.

Popular with kitesurfers, Robin Bay has a long sandy beach, and a small salt pond near the access point.





The EEMP visitor center is open 9:30-4 Th & Fri and showcases USVI coastal and marine habitats. Also open on the first Sat of every month.

The Marine Park office is located at Great Pond Park. The Park also has the ruins of a Danish Great House, several picnic tables in the shade of tamarind trees, and an expansive view of Great Pond Bay's turquoise waters. The Department of Sports, Parks & Recreation manages the grounds.

Other To-Do's

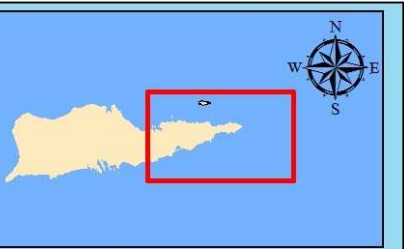
- | | | | |
|---|------------------------|---|--------|
|  | casino |  | golf |
|  | convenience store |  | hotel |
|  | watersport gear rental |  | marina |

Natural Highlights

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
|  | recommended snorkeling site |
|  | recommended beach |
|  | hiking trail |
|  | salt pond |

Park Regulatory Zones

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
|  | Shoreline Line Fishing |
|  | No Take |
|  | Recreation |
|  | Open |
|  | Sea Turtle Preserve |



0 0.5 2 Miles

Welcome to the USVI's first territorial park!

The East End Marine Park encompasses and abuts a variety of habitats, including fringing and patch coral reefs, seagrass meadows, sandy beaches, rocky shorelines, salt ponds & mangroves.



Visitor Tips

- **Leave Paradise in its Place!** Leave all shells, coral and other animals on the beach.
- **Leave no trace!** Take all food and garbage with you when you leave.
- **Be aware of your surroundings:** Do not touch or disturb living organisms on land or in the water. Corals in particular are sensitive to the touch, so snorkelers & divers are reminded to keep fins and hands at a distance.
- **Lock your car and don't leave any valuables.**
- **We love your dog,** but please keep Fido on a leash to avoid conflict with wildlife, and pick up pet waste so others can enjoy a clean beach.
- Check the **weather** at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/sju/> for updates on riptides and wave heights.
- **Fires are prohibited** on beaches in the Virgin Islands without a permit from the Fire Service
- **Don't forget to bring:**

Rashguard and hat or sunscreen (reefs prefer sunscreens without oxybenzone products!)

Drinking water

Snorkel gear

Trash bag

A Day Out!



There is a fun day out in the East End Marine Park for everyone! You might:

- Kayak around Green Cay island.
- Learn to sail, kiteboard or snorkel.
- Take a stand up paddleboard out for a spin.
- Watch Magnificent Frigatebirds, Ospreys, Kestrels and Brown Pelicans ride the air currents or catch their dinner.
- Fly a kite or throw a frisbee at Great Pond Park.
- Toss a fishing line from the beach in the recreational zone (marked in yellow on the map).
- Picnic under a pavilion at Cramer's Park.
- Take in a sunset meal at a restaurant overlooking the Park waters.
- Bike the challenging 13 mile East End Loop.
- Hike to Isaac and Jack Bays for a snorkel, or climb Goat Hill to enjoy westward views of St. Croix and our sister islands on a clear day.
- Play golf overlooking Park waters! Golf and disc golf are both available on the East End.



ON THE MAP

The East End Marine Park wraps around the east end of St. Croix, from Green Cay in the north to Great Pond in the south.

The annotated map overleaf indicates:

- Management zones
- Beach descriptions
- Snorkeling spots
- Hiking trails
- Gear rental locations
- Hotels & restaurants



Snorkeling?

Give seagrass a second look!

While most people seek out coral reefs for snorkeling, don't overlook the seagrass meadows. You might spot some of these organisms:

Juvenile fish of all kinds: butterflyfish, wrasse, angelfish, tang, parrotfish

Great Gastropods: Triton's trumpet (*Charonia variegata*), Flame Helmet (*Cassia flammea*), 3 conch : queen (*Strombus gigas*), milk (*Strombus costatus*) & hawkwing (*Strombus raninus*)

Acrobats: Southern Sting (*Dasyatis americana*) & Spotted Eagle Rays (*Aetobatus narinari*)

Funny shapes: Trunkfish (*Lactophrys trigonus*), Cushion Sea Star (*Oreaster reticulatus*), *Octopus spp.*

And if you're very lucky you might just see a juvenile Nassau grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*) or a seahorse (*Hippocampus spp.*)!

STXEEMP Management Areas

The Park is composed of four distinct zones, two of which you will encounter from shore:

- **Recreation Zone** Provides areas for snorkeling, diving, boating, and shoreline recreational take line fishing. Marine Park permits may also be issued for catch-and-release guide fishing and cast-net bait fishing. *All other traditional fishing is prohibited.*
- **No Take Zone** Designed to protect the near-shore environments and encompasses large, contiguous, diverse habitats. *All fishing, extraction and use of personal watercrafts is prohibited.*

Sea Turtle Etiquette

The beaches of the EEMP are shared spaces for turtles and humans, as turtles use them for nesting habitat. Be a good neighbor by taking your trash with you and keeping your dog on a leash.

If you should be lucky enough to encounter a turtle at night on the beach, do NOT interfere with her movements, and do NOT use any lights or photography around her. Sit quietly and observe from a distance.

The Endangered Species Act prohibits harassment, take, or alteration of behavior of sea turtles.

Please keep 50 yards away from turtles.

If you should see a turtle in distress, please call the Park, the Division of Fish & Wildlife (340) 773-1082 or Sea Turtle Assistance & Rescue hotline at (340) 690-0474.

Get Involved!

There are all kinds of opportunities to learn about and give back to the natural environments on the east end, and all over St. Croix.

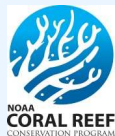
Check with the Park about ongoing tours and events, get on our volunteer email list or follow the Park's non-profit partner, The Friends of St. Croix East End Marine Park on social media.



Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*

(340) 718-EEMP (3367)
stxeemp@dpnr.vi.gov

Interactive map: <http://arcg.is/295Hzbx>



The East End Marine Park is supported by NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program

Photographs provided by: Rick Starr – Caroline Pott – St. Croix Environmental Association

United States Virgin Islands

Department of Planning and

Natural Resources

St. Croix

EAST END

Marine Park



MAP & RECREATION GUIDE

Protecting and enjoying our precious marine resources

v. Mar 2021

