



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Legacy Trail
(FL)**
Florida



Legacy Trail (FL)

Florida

Overview The Legacy Trail runs for 23.2 miles through coastal communities between Venice and Sarasota, Florida. Through



Overview

The Legacy Trail runs for 23.2 miles through coastal communities between Venice and Sarasota, Florida. Through wetlands and coastal forests, the trail's interpretive signs point out local history and help users identify birds, lizards, snakes, tortoises, and rabbits that make homes in the area. Much of the trail is exposed, but shaded benches with drinking fountains appear nearly every mile, making journeys of several lengths comfortable.

About the Route

The Legacy Trail's northern endpoint is at 2240 Fruitville Rd (Sarasota). Leaving Sarasota, the trail curves to head

east for about 2 miles before turning south for the remainder of the journey. In Sarasota, the trail makes its way through suburban residential areas, until it crosses over Clark Road, where it becomes more forested. Once in the outskirts of Sarasota, the trail reaches Culverhouse Nature Park, home to a sizable community garden.

3.5 miles further south on a straightaway, the trail comes to the sprawling Oscar Scherer State Park, which offers ample opportunities for outdoor recreation, including camping, hiking, canoeing and kayaking along South Creek, and fishing and swimming in Lake Osprey. The trail runs practically directly through the middle of the park, and trails within offer scenic detours through the forested acres on either side.

South of Oscar Scherer State Park, the trail crosses south underneath FL-681, and continues for just under 3 miles before reaching a waterway crossing at Dona Bay. This segment enjoys tree-lined stretches of forest that enclose the trail. After Crossing Dona Bay, the trail breezes quickly through the town of Nokomis before crossing another waterway into Venice. In Venice, trail users are soon greeted by the Historic Venice Train Depot (303 E Venice Ave), a pale sunset orange structure that fits right into the beachy Florida color palette. Situated adjacent to a palm-tree-dotted waterway, the Mediterranean Revival style building dates back to 1927 and was once considered the finest station on the line. The depot now has an exhibit about the former Seaboard Coast Line Railroad. Check listings for opening hours. Next to the depot stands a bronze statue of circus star Gunther Gebel-Williams, as tracks were once used by the Ringling Bros and the Barnum & Bailey Circus. The trailhead by the depot has parking, restrooms, and drinking water.

After passing through downtown Venice, the trail continues south along the Intercoastal Waterway (ICW). The Legacy Trail's southern endpoint is at Shamrock Park & Nature Center (3900 Shamrock Dr, Venice), which features more walking trails, sports courts, and views of the intracoastal.



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States: Florida

Counties: Sarasota

Length: 23.2miles

Trail end points: 2240 Fruitville Rd (Sarasota)
to Shamrock Park & Nature Center (Venice)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Fishing, Wheelchair

Accessible, Walking

Parking & Trail Access

Parking and Trail Access

The Legacy Trail runs between 2240 Fruitville Rd (Sarasota) and Shamrock Park & Nature Center (Venice), with parking available at Shamrock Park.

Sarasota County's Breeze Transit also provides access to the trail via bus. Visit the [Breeze Transit](#) to plan your trip.

Parking is also available:

- 2150 Ringling Blvd (Sarasota)
- 7301 McIntosh Rd, at Culverhouse Nature Park (Sarasota)
- 234 Nippino Trail E (Nikons)

There are numerous parking options along this route, see [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



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