

Rocky Point Park

Even though I'm practically surrounded by water, one of my favorite local places is on land. It's the Rocky Point Park in East Stuart, FL. After navigating through the quaint neighborhoods, you turn down an unassuming paved road that dead ends about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile down. While easy to find by boat, it's not so easy to find by car, which makes it even more unique.

Once there, you're greeted with two access options; straight ahead is a gate and a wide swatch of open, or to the left is a quaint tree sheltered trail. About $\frac{1}{2}$ way down this trail, you'll notice the trail passes through two towering palm trees. Walking through them makes you feel like you're entering someplace special. The short trail takes a right turn and then opens up into the wide expanses similar to what you find in the Desert Southwest. This large grassy park is right on the intercoastal and faces what is known as "the crossroads". The crossroads are where the Indian River, the Intercoastal Waterway and the Atlantic Ocean meet. The long large grassy area is perfect for walking your pet or sitting on a blanket and enjoying the scenery. Along the water side of the park are benches, each shaded by palm trees. These benches are a perfect place to have lunch with a friend or enjoy some solitary moments of contemplation.



Stretching out into the water and running parallel to the shore are 2 long, wooden boardwalks which provide excellent views of the intercoastal and the newly created tidal pools. Looking into the tidal pools provides an up close look at the habitat restoration in progress and the aquatic life living there. Overhead, you'll easily catch a glimpse of a low gliding Pelican, a high flying Osprey scouting for fish, Great Blue Heron gliding into the tidal pools and Seagulls landing on the boardwalk near the fishermen.

The wide open space, the view, and the natural look of the park make it one of my favorite places to visit. I can literally spend hours there contemplating, taking photos, or just sitting along the water taking in the fresh air.

