

Discover Mangrove Habitats

"I adore simple pleasures, they are the last refuge of the complex" -Oscar Wilde

Mangroves are located on the tidal shore lines (1) and contribute to the overall health of Florida's coastal zones. Their ecosystems trap and cycle various organic materials, chemical elements, and important nutrients.

The two main mangrove species that inhabit the Florida coast are: Red and Black. The Red Mangrove is a pioneering species and is found along the water's edge and has tangled, reddish roots called "prop roots". Prop roots supply air to the underlying roots and provide support and stability. These mangroves help protect uplands from storm winds, waves and floods.

The Black Mangrove is found further from the water's edge and serves as an integral wildlife food source. The vertical roots of the Black Mangrove extend above the highest tide level providing air to the underground and underwater roots. These roots are home to numerous species of fish, birds, and crustaceans (2), such as snapper, snook, tarpon, jack fish, sheepshead, oysters, and shrimp.

Because of the limited availability of freshwater in the salty soils, the mangrove plants have developed ways of limiting the amount of water that they lose through their leaves (3). They can restrict the opening of their stomata and vary the orientation of their leaves to avoid the harsh midday sun, which helps reduce evaporation. Once fallen, the leaves decompose quickly and become a food source for the wildlife living within the root system.



Area Mangrove Locations

