

Bald Eagles and Village of Estero Park



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Today's Presentation

- Basic Bald Eagle Natural History
- Regulations
- Park Design



- Occur throughout North America
- Rebounded since dramatic declines in the 1870-1970s
- Florida has a significant nesting population. Behind only Alaska and Canada
- Feed upon fish, birds, small mammals and roadkill or other dead animals

- Live 15-25 years
- Take ~5 years to reach breeding age and adult plumage
- Pair for life unless a mate dies
- Maintain a nest (or two) for many years

Bald Eagle Nests in Florida

- Usually in the tallest tree
- Typically, a slash pine
- Cell phone towers can be used
- Non-native trees can be used
- Begin nest prepping in September, laying eggs in October
- Usually, 1-2 eggs are laid

Bald Eagles are protected by:



- ▶ The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
- ▶ The Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- ▶ National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines



Prohibitions During Nesting Season (October 1 - May 15)

- No clearing within 330 feet of the nest (including exotic species)
- No new clearing or construction of trails within 330 - 660 feet of a nest without qualified eagle monitor
- No parking or hiking within 330 feet of a nest



Village of Estero's First Eagle Nest

-  Bald Eagle Nest
-  Eagle Nest 330 ft Buffer
-  Eagle Nest 660 ft Buffer

Park Design Options and Recommendations

- Reroute trail to keep it out of the 330-foot buffer
- Close the portion of the trail within the 330-foot buffer during nesting season
- Postpone exotic plant control within the 660-foot buffer until after nesting season
- Install an eagle nest monitoring deck with interpretative panels