

A Neighborhood Island

The Helen and Allan Cruickshank Sanctuary was originally part of a larger span of high, dry scrubby habitat. Whenever possible, the EEL Program acquires land to help connect existing natural areas. However, as landscapes are developed with buildings and roadways, natural habitats become fragmented (broken up and isolated). Because scrub is favored for development, the Cruickshank Sanctuary has become an "island" in the midst of a developed landscape.

Habitat Renewal

Historically, scrub and flatwoods areas caught fire from lightning strikes every five to twenty years. Fire is important as it returns nutrients to the soil and maintains vegetation height and thickness for native plants and animals.

Today, when a wildfire starts, chances are good that a neighborhood or business is nearby. Wildfires need to be extinguished quickly to protect people and buildings. However, when fires are suppressed, fragmented habitats do not get the benefits of a natural fire cycle.

Land Management in Action

The EEL Program actively conducts controlled burns to reintroduce fire to native habitats, while protecting adjacent private property. Controlled burns help the long-term survival of species like the gopher tortoise and Florida scrub-jay. These species need the low vegetation of a regularly burned landscape.

Cruickshank Sanctuary

360 Barnes Blvd • Rockledge, Florida

Sanctuary Hours

The Cruickshank Sanctuary is open from sunrise to sunset seven days a week.

Directions to the Sanctuary

From US-1 go west on Barnes Blvd and travel for 0.4 miles. Look for sign and entrance gate on right. From I-95 take Fiske Blvd Exit-195. At off ramp light, go straight (east) onto Barnes Blvd and travel 2.2 miles to entrance on left. Parking is not available at this time. A bike rack is located at the entrance gate.



More About the EEL Program

The commitment, time, and expertise of citizen volunteers plays a vital role in the management of EEL Program conservation lands. If you would like to volunteer with the EEL Program, please contact us.

Contact Information

For inquiries call or email the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program

Phone: 321-255-4466

Email: eel@brevardparks.com

www.eelbrevard.com

Brevard County Parks & Recreation • Florida

Helen and Allan Cruickshank Sanctuary



Map of Cruickshank Sanctuary



1-Mile Hiking Loop



Visitor Guidelines

Please stay on the trails for your own safety and for protection of the natural environment. Biking is not allowed within the Sanctuary.

Welcome to the Helen & Allan Cruickshank Sanctuary



Visitors may hike the one-mile trail on the 140-acre Sanctuary. The trail loops through pine flatwoods, patches of oak scrub, sand pine scrub, and freshwater depression marshes. Because there is a great diversity of habitats along the trail, there is also a great diversity of life to be spotted. Look for raptors circling overhead or perched in tall pine trees. Gopher tortoises and Florida scrub-jays are also commonly seen.

The Cruickshank Sanctuary, located in the City of Rockledge, is part of the sanctuary network established by the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program. The EEL Program acquired this property in 1994. Oral history indicates that turpentine collection, sand mining, livestock grazing, and farming may have occurred on site.

