

City of Marco Island

Prospective Florida Trail Town



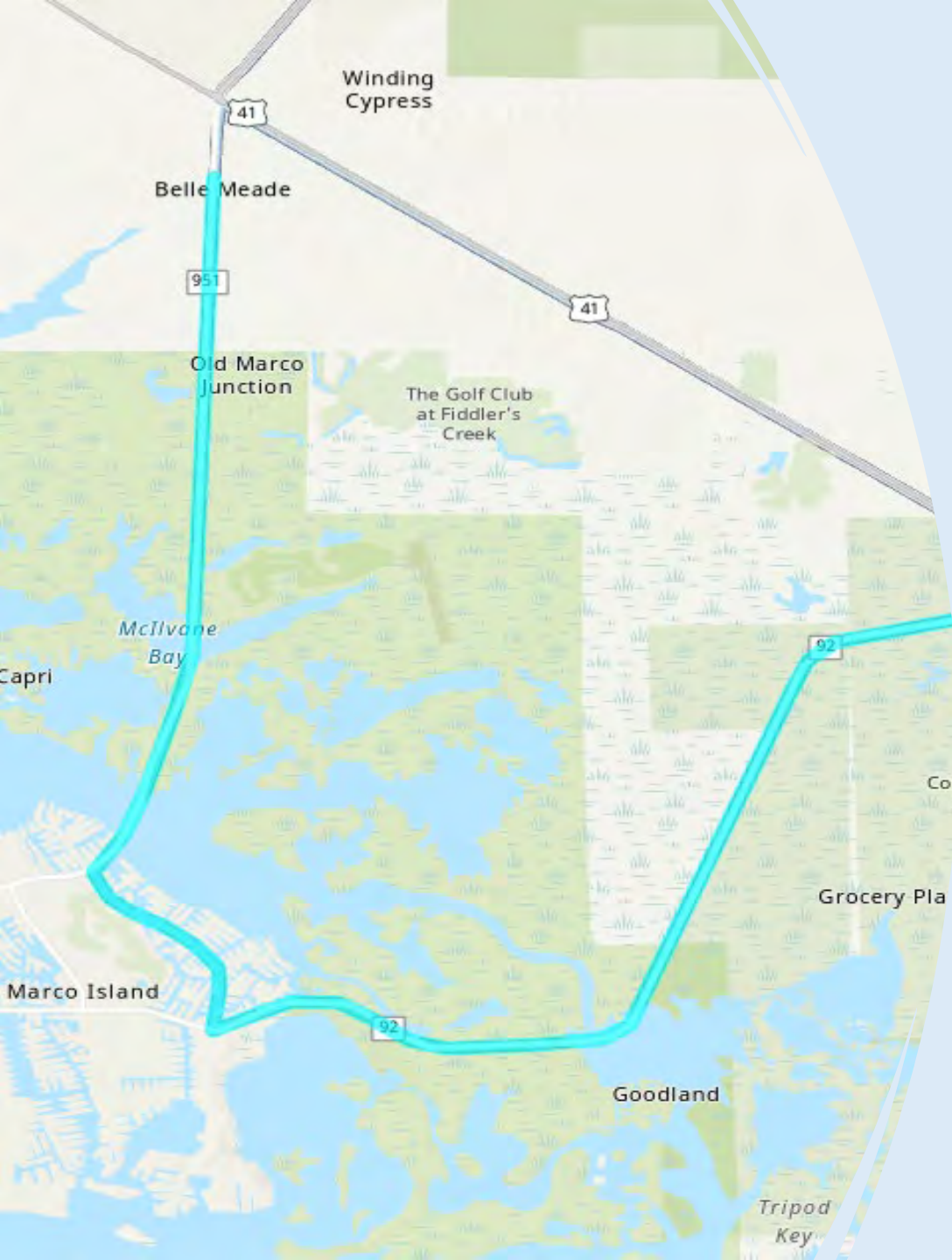
Location

- The City of Marco Island is in Southwest Collier County. It is approximately 30 minutes south of Naples and 40 minutes west of Everglades City (also a Trail Town).
- It is located on the southern portion of the Florida Heartland Regional Trail (formerly the Collier to Polk Regional Trail).



Timeline

- Self-assessment submitted – January 23rd, 2025
- Site visit completed – March 4th & 5th, 2025
 - March 4th – self tour of the city to evaluate the trails, parks and amenities by walking/biking.
 - March 5th – met with city officials, guided tour of the city, visited the chamber of commerce, tour of the city's historical museum and visited some other parts of the city.



SUN Trails

- There is not currently an existing SUN Trail on the island, but this Marco Island Loop Corridor is currently in the PD&E stage in the greater Florida Heartland Regional Trail (formerly the Collier to Polk Regional Trail).
- This loop will allow for a connection to US 41, which continues north to Naples and south to Everglades City.

Trails

- The City of Marco Island has several shared use paths, bike lanes and a few unpaved trails that connect trail users throughout the city.
- These trails are used by cyclists, runners, walkers and hikers.
- Maintained by the City Public Works department.



Unpaved Trails



**Marco Island Nature Preserve & Bird
Sanctuary (.34 mi)**



Otter Mound Preserve (.1 mi)

Paved Trails



**Multi-purpose trail along
Winterberry Drive**



**Multi-purpose trail along N
Collier Boulevard**



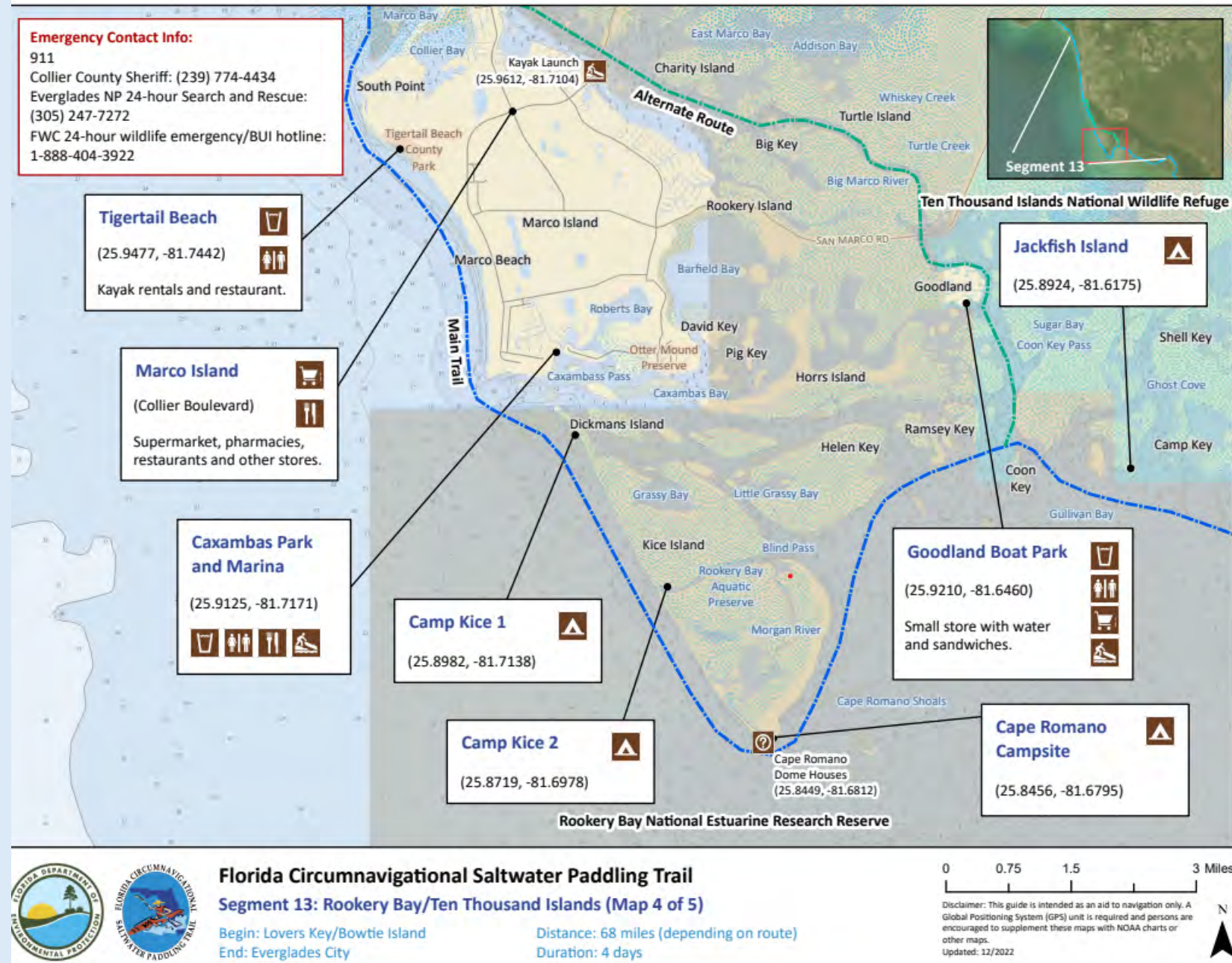
Trail Amenities

- Trash Cans
- Water Fountains
- Bike Racks
- Welcome Center
- Pavilions
- Picnic Tables
- Free Parking
- Benches
- Public Restrooms



Paddling Trails

- The Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail is adjacent to the island.



Paddling Trails



**Access at Goodland
Boat Park**



**Access at Tigertail
Beach**



**Access at Caxambas
Park**



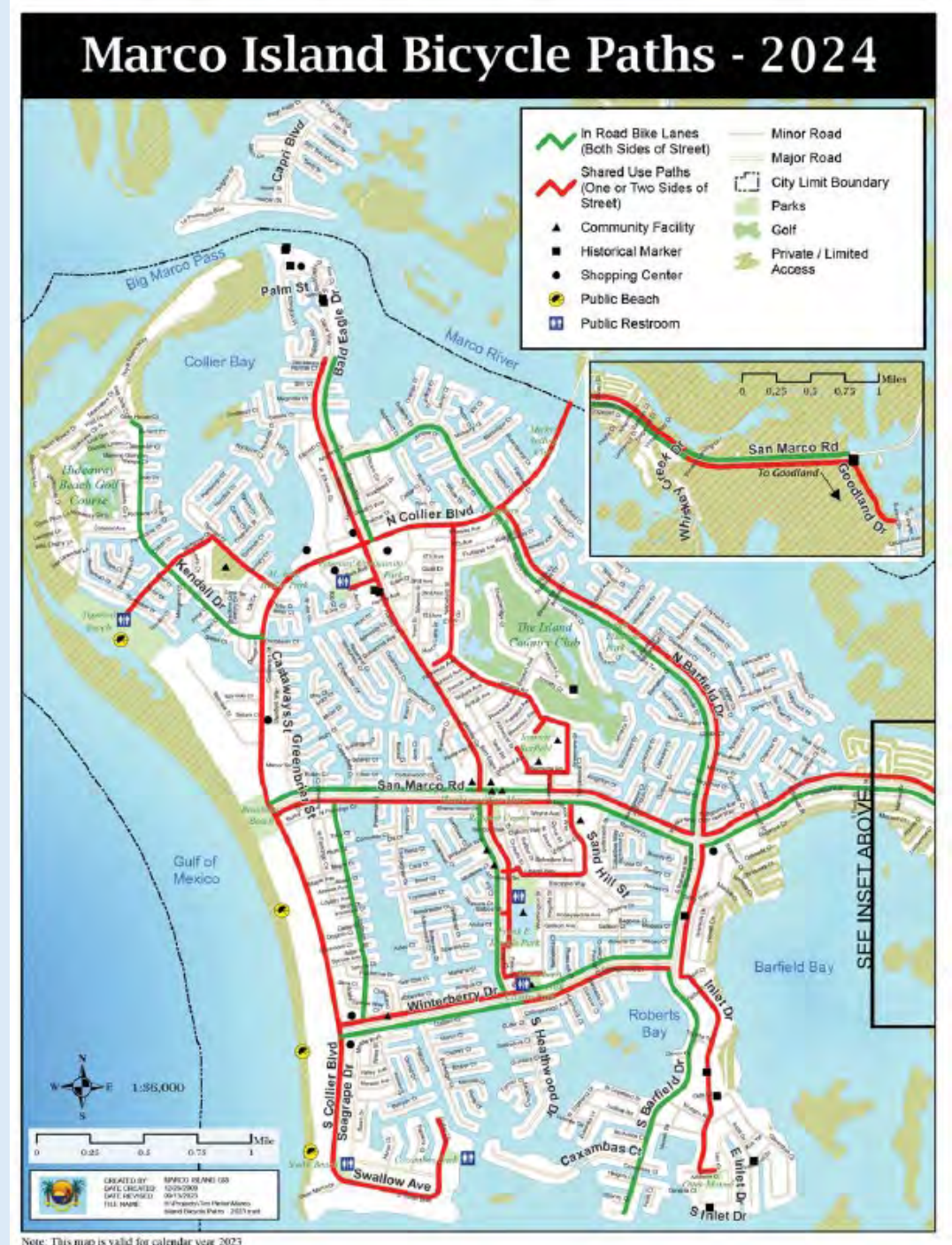
Signage

- Marco Island has wayfinding signage around the town to guide trail users to points of interest.
- This allows for more trail users to be able to navigate to attractions and businesses more effectively.



Wayfinding Maps

Points of Interest		
Shopping Centers	Community Locations	Historical Markers
A Town Center Mall B Shops of Marco C Marco Walk D Shops of Olde Marco E Island Plaza F Flagship/Sunset Plazas G Various Shopping Plazas H Esplanade	1 Art League 2 Caxambas Park 3 Charter Middle School 4 City Hall 5 County Library 6 Frank E. Mackle Park 7 Fire Station 8 Historical Museum 9 Jane Hittler Park 10 Leigh Plummer Park 11 Marco Eagle Sanctuary 12 NCH Healthcare Systems 13 Otter Mound Park 14 Police Station 15 Racquet Center 16 Residents' Beach - Private 17 Tommie Barfield Elementary 18 Veterans' Community Park 19 Winterberry Park Ball Fields 20 YMCA	1 Olde Marco Inn & Suites 2 Marco Village: 1870, Ferry Landing: 1912-1938 3 Marco Village School 4 Captain William D. Collier Homesite 5 Frank Cushing Archaeological Site 1895-1896 6 Marco Island Cemetery: Circa 1880 7 Memory to those Lost or Buried at Sea 8 Railroad Turnaround: 1927-1944 9 Caxambas Cemetery: Circa 1890 10 Kirk Archaeological Site 11 Burnham Clam Factory: 1904-1929 12 Indian Hill- Barfield Homesite, Caxambas School: 1890-1928, Heights Hotel: 20s & 30s 13 Pineapple Plantation: 1901-1906 14 Goodland Village & Access Road
STATE LAW		
Public Beach Access		
Tigertail Beach Access Collier County City Beach Access (Royal Seafarer and the Maderia) Crystal Shores Beach Access South Beach Access Collier County		





Accessibility

- The shared use paths along Collier Blvd. (main corridor on Marco Island) connect businesses and lodging.
- Friendly reminders of safe trail usage is provided on the trail maps that are distributed around the city.

Marco Island --- A Bicycle Friendly Community

Enjoy the many Bike Paths on Marco Island - Bike Responsibly!
 Wear a Helmet at all times
 Use Lights when Riding at Night - Wear Bright Clothing

When Bike Riding in Roadways - Obey the Law, Avoid a Ticket!
 Always Ride with Traffic, Stay Right
 Obey all Stop Signs and Traffic Signals

When Bike Riding on Sidewalks or Shared Use Paths
 Bikes must Yield to Pedestrians on Sidewalks & Paths!
 Give Audible Signal (Bell or Voice) when Passing



Marco Island
Bicycle Path Map
2024

Be Courteous - Remember:
"Share the Road" is a Two Way Street!



City of Marco Island | Bike Path Committee
 2024 Edition | Marco Island FL 34145 | 941.385.6700 | www.marcoisland.com



Safety

- Wide Sidewalks
- Crosswalks
- Well lit business district
- Downtown navigable by foot/bicycle
- Emergency call boxes
- Safety initiatives
 - Police distributed bike bells and helmets
 - Public education on e-bike safety

Town Participation

- 3 Bike Shops offering rentals and sharing bike path/trail route maps
- Farmers Market every Wednesday
- Butterfly Garden and Food Forest along trail
- Local trail events



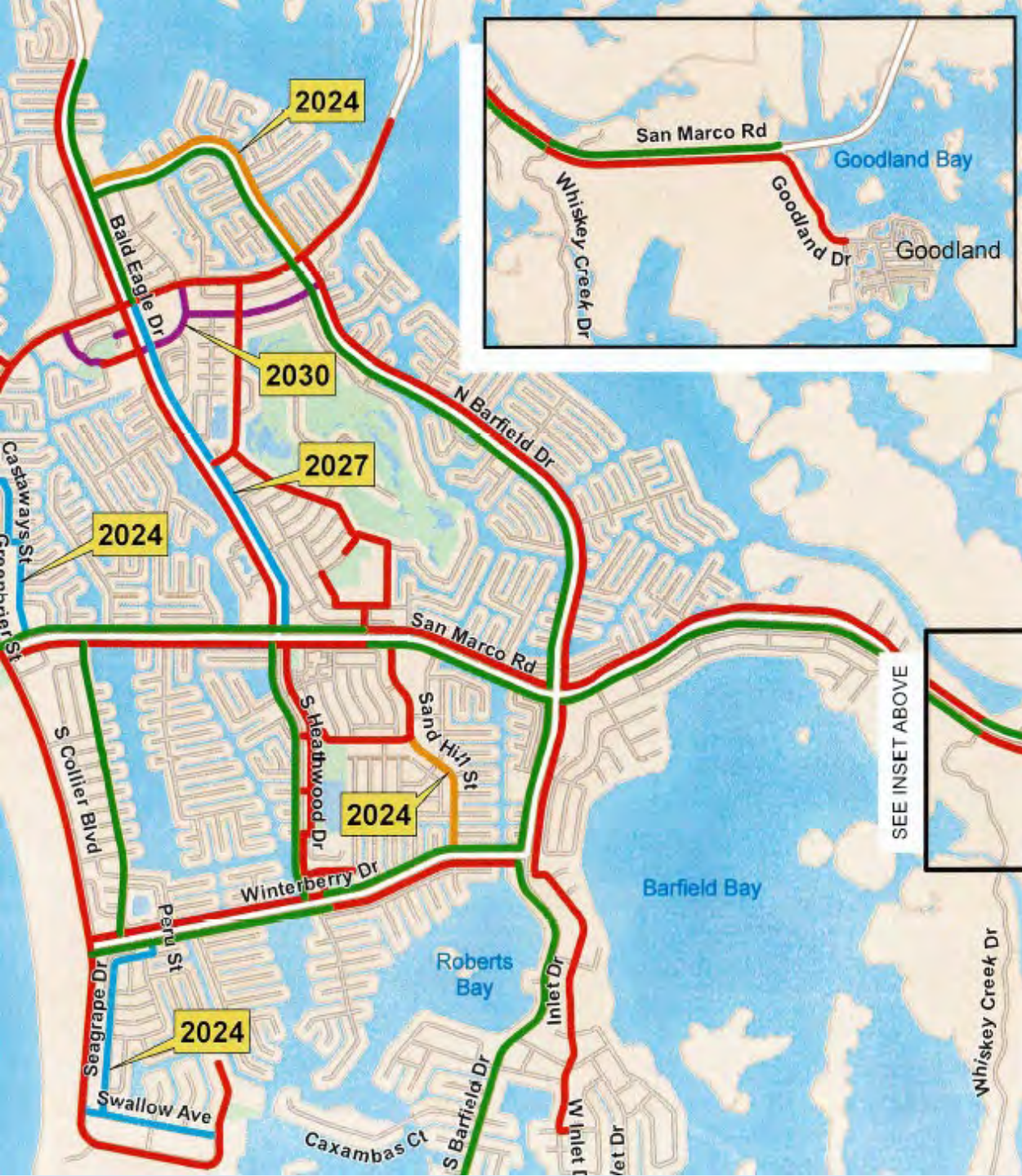
Business Pledges

1. Island Bike Shop

- Supported implementation of wayfinding signage on the trails.

2. Marco Island Chamber of Commerce





Local Development Plan

- Marco Island has a master plan/map with bike lanes and shared paths (both existing and planned).
- They also coordinate their funding and future plans with the Collier County MPO.



Otter Mound Preserve



Mackle Park



Caxambas Park



Winterberry Park

City Parks



Calusa Park



Veterans Community Park



Racquet Center



Leigh Plummer Park



Nature Preserve & Bird Sanctuary



Tigertail Beach Park



Jane Hittler Park





Marco Island Center for the Arts

Attractions along the trails



Marco Island Historical Museum



Overnight Accommodations

- Hotels
- Motels
- Bed & Breakfasts
- Vacation Rentals



Restaurant & Food Options

- Fast Food
- Locally owned Restaurants
- Coffee Shops
- Brewery
- Taverns
- Pubs
- Bakeries



Retail & Services

- Grocery Stores
- Convenience Stores
- Pharmacy
- Laundromat
- Banks/ATM
- Gas Stations
- Emergency Services
- Post Office



Nearby Attractions



Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

- DEP/NOAA cooperative
- 110,000 acres
- Undisturbed mangrove estuaries
- 150 species of birds



Goodland Boat Park

- Access to the Ten Thousand Islands
- 2 lane boat ramp
- Covered picnic pavilion
- Fishing pier

Community events



Tour de Marco Bike Event
(Annually in February)



Art Show



Wednesday Farmers Market
at Veterans Community Park

Historical Marker Tour

SELF-GUIDED HISTORICAL DRIVING TOURS

The 1976 Bicentennial Task Force Committee placed Historical Markers at places around the island that hold historical value. Follow this tour for an insight into Marco's fascinating past. Your first or final stop should be video at the Marco Island Historical Museum.

MARKER 1 (Located west side of City Hall, 50 Bald Eagle Drive)

Marco Island is the largest of the Ten Thousand Islands at 6,800 acres. It is one of the oldest places in North America inhabited by ancient Indians over 5,000 years ago. Around 800 A.D. it was the realm of the Calusa Indians. Between 1500-1800 the Spanish explored the region. After the Civil War, pioneers from the Southern States formed three settlements, Marco Village, Caxambas, and Goodland. In 1922, Barron Collier purchased Marco Island. Then in 1964, Deltona purchased and developed Modern Marco Island.

MARKER 2A (Located behind the entrance barriers at Ville de Marco, 1206 Edington Place, condos located in Olde Marco adjacent to the boat ramp, under the flag. You can park your car outside the gate, then walk around the gate. Site of Marco Village, one of the three villages originally located on the island which began about the same time. Marco and Caxambas grew in 1880's. Goodland grew in 1949. Marco Village was settled by the W. T. Collier family who had a mercantile store, hotel, and the Doozee Clam Factory which was established in 1911. The Caxambas Village was settled by the Barfield and Ludlow families. The Jim and Tommie Barfield family had the mercantile store, post office, and the Burnham Clam Factory which opened in 1904. Goodland Point was settled by Alexander Pettit, a farming family, who turned to fishing and guilting, when they discovered that the rich black earth on the shell mounds was only two inches deep. Goodland Point's name was shortened the summer of 1949 when it grew almost overnight. Barron Collier's sons cleared renters from Caxambas property by making them instant homeowners if they bought company property in Goodland. The Company would move renter's wooden houses free of charge, no money down, reasonable rates, and three years to pay!

MARKER 2B (Also located behind the entrance at Ville de Marco, 1206 Edington Place), Marco Village School at the site of the original Ferry Landing - "Location of one of the earliest schools on Marco Island which was finished in 1889". The school consisted of three rooms and was in session for seven months. During this period, if a student was over 14, they would quit school and work in the clam factory. The first ferry was a one car ferry from Marco Island to what is now Isles of Capri. Eventually, a bigger ferry, which was self-propelled, handled up to four cars thanks to lobbying efforts by Tommie Barfield. The ferry stopped in 1938 when the Goodland swing bridge connected to the mainland.

MARKER 3 (West side of Bald Eagle Dr., 1128 Bald Eagle Dr., in front of Marco Vista Condos), William David Collier's Home Site - Captain Bill Collier is credited with the economic development of Marco in the early years, circa 1880. He built the Old Marco Inn, and later, while digging muck to fertilize his garden he discovered ancient Indian artifacts, wooden materials, carvings and tools made of shell. This discovery ultimately led to Frank Hamilton Cushing's archaeological dig and finding the Key Marco Cat. Captain Bill invented the clam-dredging machine for two clam factories. He served two terms as a Collier County commissioner.

MARKER 4 (Close to above marker), Cushing Archaeological Site - "One of the most important archaeological digs in North America," according to Helmut Nickle, Metropolitan Museum Curator of Ornament. Nickle heard about the discovery of the panther lion god with a student in Germany. He never dreamed of living here and helping build a history museum in his retirement years. The two-month Pepper Hearst Expedition was organized in 1896 with Frank Hamilton Cushing discovering the prized artifact of a lion god referred today as the Key Marco Cat. This "cat" is a carving approximately six inches high currently on loan to the Marco Island Historical Museum through 2025. It is permanently housed in the Smithsonian Institution.

MARKER 5 (Located on west side of Bald Eagle Dr., 489 W. Elkcam Circle, beyond Elkcam Circle and adjacent to cemetery entrance road), Marco Island Pioneer Cemetery - An "old island cemetery where many settlers and their descendants are buried." Among those buried are the three sons of Captain Bill Collier who tragically drowned at sea during a storm in 1896. The Marco Community Church, Marco Island's first church, was built in 1937 with donations from sawmills and lumber mills spearheaded by Mrs. Caroline Robinson and her Sunday school class of twenty-two

children. The cemetery and the church are still in use today by island residents.

MARKER 6 (Located adjacent to the entrance road to cemetery, west side of Bald Eagle Drive, 400' south of Elkcam Circle), A memorial plaque located next to this marker is dedicated to "Those lost or buried at sea." "The Lord maketh the storm to cease: So that the waves thereof are still."

MARKER 7 (Bald Eagle Dr. then left onto Bayport until you reach Society Ct. Turn right, proceed to the end of the Cul-de-Sac), Railroad Turn-A-Round - "Presumed to be the 'depot' or 'turn-a-round' of the old railroad." The Atlantic Coast Line Railway began operations in 1927 to the island to pick up the clams from the J. H. Doozee and E. S. Burnham cannery operations, making two trips a day. While the train did not carry passengers, it brought wealthy visitors from the north to the islands in their own train-cars. The postmaster met the train at the turn-a-round to pick up mail that was being delivered to the island. Eventually the train stopped when the clam beds were depleted around 1944.

MARKER 8 (South Barfield Dr., northbound across from Wesley United Methodist Church), Fred Ludlow of Ohio developed a pineapple plantation that consisted of over 100 acres. At the time, it was believed to be the largest pineapple plantation in the State. At its peak, he employed 20 workers and had a packing house. Acreage extended as far as the current Shops of Marco shopping center.

MARKER 9 (On Inlet Dr. between Travida Terrace and Olds Ct.), Caxambas Cemetery, Circa 1890 - "Primitive Cemetery, typical of internment practices of the early Florida period." Early settlers and an unknown sea captain are buried there.

MARKER 10 (After visiting Marker 9, continue down to Olds Ct. and take a left), Kirk Archaeological Site - "Calusa Indian Burial Mound with artifacts and bones dating back to ancient times. Ancient Spanish maps indicate fresh water in the area making Caxambas one of the oldest place names in North America." This site was named for Bud Kirk who discovered it. He and Jane Hittler wrote the descriptions and placed the historical markers for the 1976 Bicentennial Task Force Committee.

MARKER 11 (South on Inlet Dr. after passing Osceola Ct.), Burnham Clam Factory - "Operated from about 1904-1929; it was the original clam canning factory in the Caxambas area. It closed its doors when their dredge sank in 1929. Another clam factory on the island, operated by J. H. Doozee came to their rescue in an effort to keep local residents employed during the Depression. In 1932, however, the Burnham site was destroyed by a hurricane.

MARKER 12 (Scott Dr. and Indian Hill Rd.), Indian Hill and Heights House - Barfield Homesite - Originally "The Heights", highest point in Southwest Florida. Site of J. M. and Tommie Barfield home and the Heights Hotel (1908). "Site of Caxambas School; built in 1896. One of the earliest schools on Marco Island." The Heights Hotel, a 20-room structure seated high atop Indian Hill, featured a panoramic view of the waterways and the Ten Thousand Islands to the south. The hotel was later abandoned, as a Curator of Ornament waiting development which failed to materialize.

MARKER 13 (Take S.R. 92 east to Goodland; stay to right into Goodland near painted water tank), One of the oldest named places in North America, Goodland was built by early settlers on a Calusa Indian shell mound. The access road of clamshells was built single-handedly by Harry Pettit using his wheelbarrow to fill in the gaps between the shell mounds thus creating the historic winding shell road 1936-38. In 1949, the village was established when 18 homes and businesses were moved almost overnight from Caxambas.

SELF-GUIDED TOUR MAP

