McCarty Ranch Preserve is 3,107 acres of largely old Florida pinelands. The City purchased the property in 2012 and incorporated it into the City limits in 2013, with plans to use it as a water storage and treatment facility to help meet the City’s water demands for decades to come. Additionally, the property will serve as an environmentally-friendly passive recreational area for all to enjoy.
The City’s McCarty Ranch Preserve was named to recognize and honor the locally and statewide influential McCarty family. Charles Tobin McCarty, known as C.T., began growing pineapples in St. Lucie County during the 1880’s, and the McCarty family eventually expanded their St. Lucie County land holdings to accommodate their growing citrus farming and cattle ranching ventures. The family ran cattle on the ranch for many years, selling the last piece of it in 2004. The family’s influence extended throughout Florida, with C.T.’s grandson, Dan, becoming the state’s 31st governor in 1953. C.T.’s other grandson, John, managed the family ranch for many years and was keenly aware of its value to future generations as an environmental resource and potential water supply.

**Preserve Guidelines**

Public access to certain areas of the Preserve is limited.

One sealed electric motor per boat may be used after first obtaining a Boat Permit from the City’s Utility Systems Department (PSLUSD). Permit applications are available at PSLUSD or can be obtained by calling 772-873-6400.

Catch and release fishing is allowed. A Florida freshwater fishing license may be required for those 16 years of age or older. Wading is not permitted.

Kayaks and canoes are allowed in designated areas only.

Please note that personal flotation devices are required for each person occupying a canoe or kayak. A lifeguard is NOT on duty.

Per Florida statute, helmets are required for equestrians and cyclists under the age of 16. For safety reasons, we recommend riders of all ages wear appropriate safety gear.

Beware of natural, uneven terrain. Drive, park, walk, bicycle, and horseback ride at your own risk.

Beware of alligators, snakes, bobcats, panthers, feral hogs, and other natural wildlife.

Domestic pets must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet, and dogs must have a current rabies vaccination. Legitimate service animals are permitted.

**The following activities are prohibited:**

- Collection, destruction, or disturbance of plants, animals, rocks, minerals or other natural resources on Preserve property
- Littering/dumping
- Fires, all types including, charcoal barbecues, bonfires, etc. without a camping reservation
- Fireworks
- Hunting and archery
- Swimming or wading
- Alcoholic beverages without camping reservation
- ATVs, dirt bikes, or other off-road/recreational vehicles
- Gas-powered motorized watercraft and remote-controlled boats and planes

**IT STARTS IN PARKS**

**Port St. Lucie Preserve**

> www.cityofpsl.com/mccartyranch