**About the Area**

**The Gulf of Mexico Area** is a picturesque setting of lagoons, levees, and marshes, separated from the Gulf of Mexico. The area offers many opportunities for boating and wildlife observation.

**Sarasota Bay** is an estuary located near the city of Sarasota, Florida. It is a shallow and brackish water body that provides habitat for a wide variety of marine life. The bay is popular for fishing, boating, and wildlife watching.

**Seagrasses**

Seagrasses are marine plants that grow underwater and provide habitat for many marine creatures.

**Boating Safety**

Always be aware of your surroundings and the safety of others. Be sure to wear life jackets and follow boating regulations.

**Birding Tips**

- Enjoy watching birds from a distance.
- Avoid disturbing or altering the birds' natural behaviors.
- Observe birds from a safe distance.
- Avoid making loud noises or sounds.
- Respect the birds' habitat and their natural behaviors.

**Manatees**

- Manatees are large, slow-moving, and docile creatures.
- They are known for their unique tail flukes.
- They are found in Florida's coastal and estuarine waters.
- They are highly endangered and protected by law.

**Dolphins**

- Dolphins are intelligent and social creatures.
- They are known for their acrobatic abilities.
- They are found in Florida's coastal waters.
- They are highly protected and should be viewed from a safe distance.

**Sea Turtles**

- Sea turtles are large, marine reptiles.
- They are known for their long-distance migration patterns.
- They are highly protected and should be viewed from a safe distance.

**Resources**

- Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge
- Manatee sculptural garden
- Sarasota Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Sarasota Bay Nature Center
- Sarasota County Parks

**Additional Information**

- Always be aware of your surroundings and the safety of others.
- Be sure to wear life jackets and follow boating regulations.
- Respect the wildlife in their natural habitats.
- Avoid disturbing or altering the wildlife's natural behaviors.
- Observe wildlife from a safe distance.
- Avoid making loud noises or sounds.

**Contact Information**

- Sarasota Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
- Sarasota Bay Nature Center
- Sarasota County Parks
- Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge