







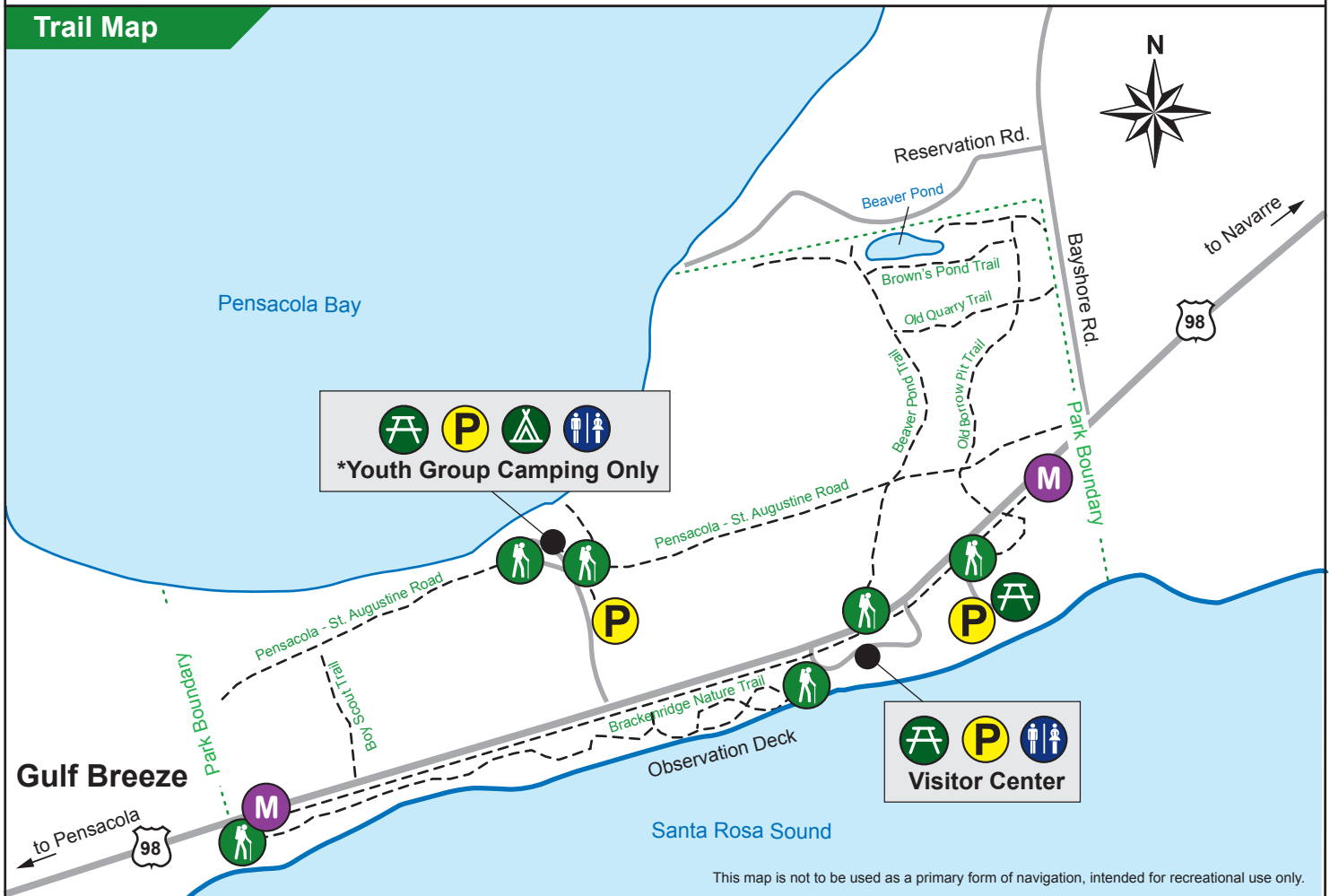
# 16. Naval Live Oaks Area (Gulf Islands National Seashore)

## Legend

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  Trailhead (Hiking)    |  Rest Rooms  |
|  Trailhead (Multi-Use) |  Camping     |
|  Parking               |  Picnic Area |



## Trail Map



## Description

*Fishing, Hiking, Biking, Swimming, & Birding*

Part of Gulf Islands National Seashore, the Naval Live Oaks Area preserves 1,400 acres for educational and recreational opportunities. The park is named after the beautiful oak trees that grow along the Intracoastal Waterway, Santa Rosa Sound. Draped at times in Spanish moss, these huge trees can grow up to 50 feet in height and live as long as 300 years. A short interpretive trail located behind the visitor center explains the use of live oaks for shipbuilding in the 1800's. The park also features picnic area, pavilion, group camping, and several short hiking trails.

**Landscape & Wildlife:** This mainland forest community offers hikers and bikers a likely encounter with wildlife. Commonly spotted animals include five-line skinks, gray squirrels, and a variety of birds such as osprey, belted kingfishers, and woodpeckers. Vegetation along the trails include hickory, southern magnolia, red basil, conradina, and more.

**Birding:** From the sound shoreline south of the visitor center parking, scope for goldeneye, scaup and other wintering ducks. As always in migration, check the live oaks for which this area was named; black-and-white warblers pick through resurrection fern on the sides of oaks in winter, and brown creepers are occasionally found scaling the trees.

### Access/Directions:

From Pensacola, take US 98 E approx. 4.5 miles. In Gulf Breeze, stay on US 98 E past intersection with SR 399. The visitor center and headquarters are approx. 2 miles ahead on S (right) side of road.