



Birding Hotspots

St. Johns County, Florida



Dr. Robert Hayling Freedom Park

<p>Description:</p>  <p>MAP Hayling Freedom Park</p>  <p>MAP Alternate parking Eddie Vickers Park</p>	<p>Riberia Point was renamed the Dr. Robert Hayling Freedom Park by the City of Saint Augustine in 2017 in honor of a key leader of the Civil Rights Movement. Dr. Hayling organized local youth in the mid-1960s to peacefully demonstrate against Jim Crow laws denying access to the black community to local restaurants and stores. These protests led to the eventual passage of the first Civil Rights Acts.</p> <p>Seven years of efforts by concerned birders to designate the park as a site on the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail were successful in August, 2023, after 160 species of birds were reported on the E-Bird database. This official designation by the state Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) was unique for a small urban park and help shaped the destiny of the park.</p>
<p>Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail:</p>	<p>Yes. https://floridabirdingtrail.com/dr-robert-b-hayling-freedom-park/</p>
<p>Address:</p>	<p>601 Riberia St., St. Augustine, FL 32084</p>
<p>Phone Number:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Fee:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Hours of Operation:</p>	<p>Dawn to dusk</p>
<p>Handicap Accessibility:</p>	<p>The Park is ADA compliant.</p>
<p>Website:</p>	<p>https://www.citystaug.com/Facilities/Facility/Details/Dr-Robert-B-Hayling-Freedom-Park-6</p>
<p>Facilities Available:</p>	<p>Parking and restrooms are available at the nearby Eddie Vickers Park with limited parking for the handicapped right next to the park. Motorized vehicles are not allowed within the park, but limited guided Segway tours are allowed. Dogs must be leashed. There are a few picnic tables and benches.</p>
<p>Types of Habitats:</p>	<p>Encompasses almost nine acres of high marsh with a panoramic view of the confluence of the Matanzas and San Sebastian Rivers.</p>
<p>Other Information:</p>	<p>Part of the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail since 2023.</p>
<p>Level of Difficulty:</p>	<p>Easy to moderate. Some walking required to get to the Park.</p>
<p>Species:</p>	<p>Nelson's, Salt marsh and Seaside Sparrows can be spotted by patient birders during winter at high tide. American Kestrel, Loggerhead Shrike, Clapper Rail, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, and Little Blue Heron inhabit the area. Killdeer like to make their nest in the grass in spring within sight of the trail.</p>
<p>Bird Checklist Available:</p>	<p>eBird: https://ebird.org/hotspot/L8216151</p>