

Canaveral

National Seashore
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Mosquito Lagoon - An Estuary

The Cradle to the Ocean

As you travel the canoe trail consider that you are taking a quiet ride through an area that is considered to be the Cradle to the Ocean, treat it gently.

The Estuary - What is it?

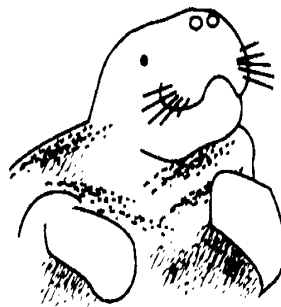
Estuaries occur in areas where fresh water meets and mixes with salty ocean waters.

Animal Life

You may not see it, but this estuary is full of life. Many of the fish, shrimp, clams and oysters spend part or all of their lives in this estuary. The shallow waters, salt marshes, sea grasses and mangrove roots provide excellent hiding places from larger predators. Some species grow in estuaries for a short time; others remain there for life.

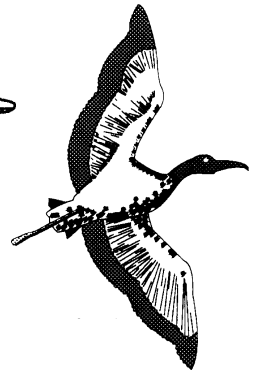
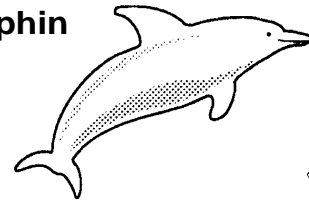
Larger animals depend on the waters for various reasons.

Sea turtles spend their adolescent years, growing up in the lagoon. Manatee come to eat the tender grasses that grow on the lagoon's floor. Birds nest in the mangrove trees. Dolphin feed on the schools of fish that are here. Many marine and land animals depend on the lagoon for food, shelter, breeding and nesting.

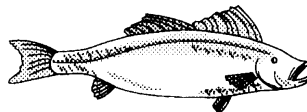


Manatee

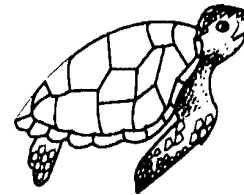
Dolphin



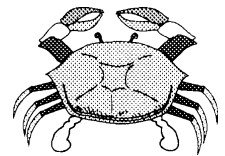
Wood Stork



Snook



Sea Turtle



Blue Crab



Oyster Bar

Mangrove Islands

White Mangrove



Red Mangrove



Black Mangrove

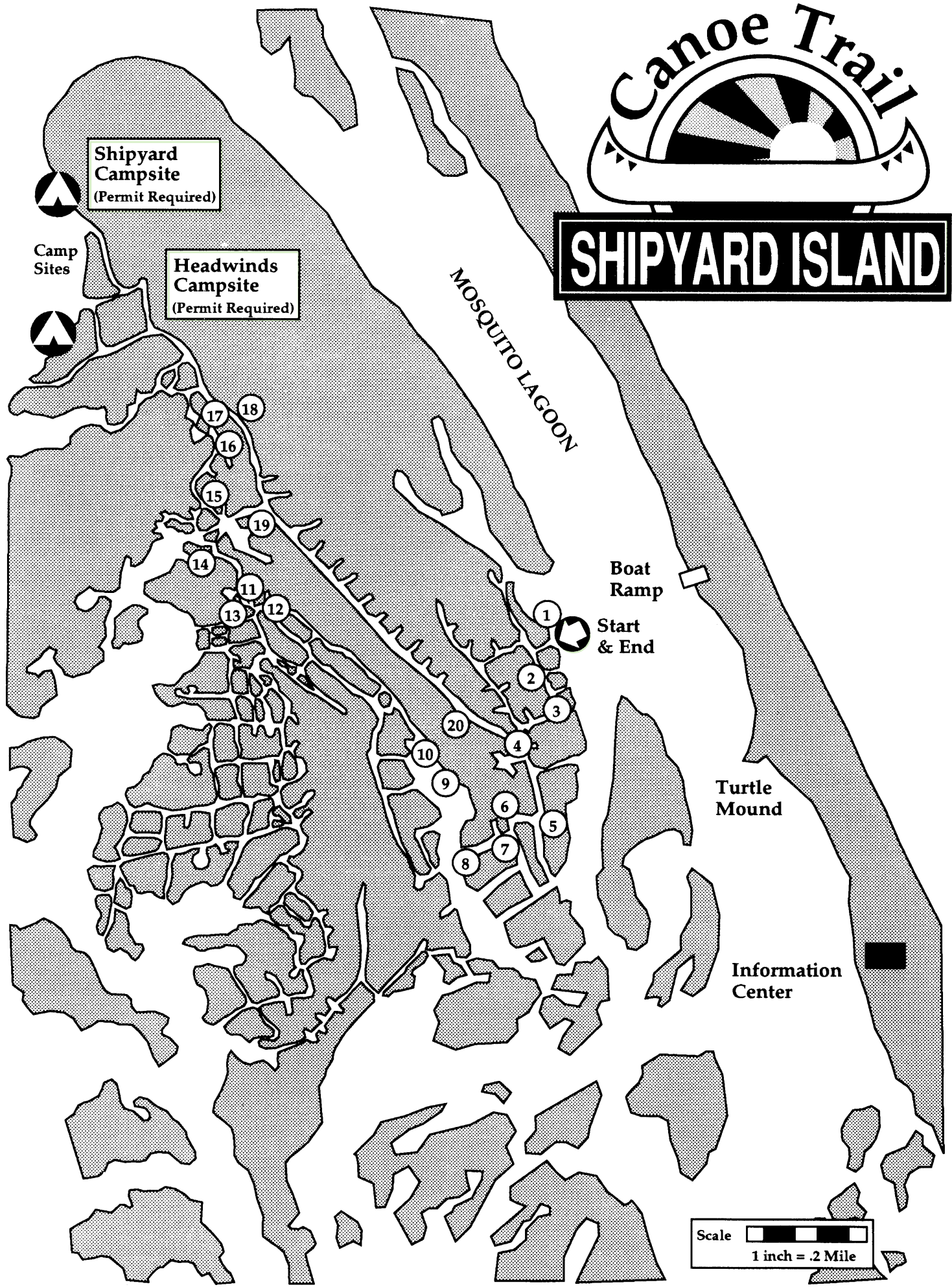
Red, Black and White mangroves thrive in the salty environment because they obtain fresh water from salt water. Many animals find shelter either in the roots or branches of mangroves.

The Red Mangrove grows at the water's edge. Because of its root system it appears to be standing or walking on the surface of the water. The roots of the mangroves and marsh grasses hold the soil in place and keep the shoreline of Mosquito Lagoon from eroding.

Mosquito Lagoon is a special place. Help protect it by learning how the lagoon plants and animals depend on each other, disposing of your litter properly, and abiding by the fishing limits.



SHIPYARD ISLAND



Shipyard Campsite
(Permit Required)

Camp Sites

Headwinds Campsite
(Permit Required)

MOSQUITO LAGOON

Boat Ramp

Start & End

Turtle Mound

Information Center

Scale 1 inch = .2 Mile