



Connecting With The Great Outdoors Comes Naturally At Fiddler's Creek

Mary Ann Mardh likes that she can relax on her lanai and see birds flying by or alligators basking in the sun on a nearby sandbank. In fact, Fiddler's Creek's natural setting is a big reason why she and her husband, Frank, decided to choose a home-site with a creek that attracts creatures of all kinds.

"The front of our house is civilization, and the back is like the Everglades," Mary Ann said. "We look forward to watching the wildlife."

Set on almost 4,000 acres, two-thirds of the land within Fiddler's Creek is dedicated primarily for nature preserves, lakes, parks, golf course and recreational areas, giving residents and visitors the opportunity to experience nature and wildlife within a number of settings. And this is what has drawn the Mardhs and many other residents to the community.

Fiddler's Creek is bordered on the west and south by Rookery Bay Reserve, one of the few remaining undisturbed mangrove estuaries in North America. Within the 110,000 acres of pristine mangrove forest, uplands and protected waters of Rookery Bay, a myriad of wildlife thrives in this unique habitat including over 150 species of birds and many threatened and endangered animals.

Before Fiddler's Creek was developed, much of the land it occupies, as well as the wetlands to its south, were cut off from their natural and historic water flows. In an effort to restore some of the damage done by decades of diversion of water flows during the construction of the Tamiami Trail, the community's developer constructed Fiddler's Creek's namesake creek, which channels and disburse the water flow in a manner that closely replicates historic patterns. The effort has resulted in the restoration and preservation of a vast ecosystem and provided a vital habitat for fish and wading birds. In fact, Fiddler's Creek is now one of 2,000 sites for the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count.

To spot some of the community's feathered friends, residents can stroll the boardwalk at Marsh Pointe Nature Park and take in the beauty of hundreds of acres of protected preserves from the Gazebo Overlook. Paul and Brenda Kaplan are just two of the community members you might find bird watching.

"Brenda is an avid birder, and I am an avid amateur nature photographer," said Paul. "And Fiddler's Creek provides plenty of opportunities for both."

The Creek Course at The Golf Club at Fiddler's Creek also was designed with nature in mind. Acclaimed golf course designer Arthur Hills incorporated sawgrass marshes, natural wetlands and thousands of oak and palm trees into his course design, which blends into its surrounding environment. Members report seeing everything from sandhill cranes to deer while on the links.



"We think the creek and natural areas outlining the right side of Hole 12 make it the most beautiful hole on the course," said Arthur and Elie Yuan, who have owned a home at Fiddler's Creek since 2004. "Not to mention the wildlife – birds, including eagles, and gators – that is plentiful."

Located on Collier Boulevard on the way to Marco

Island, Fiddler's Creek is an award-winning residential community in Naples, Florida developed by Gulf Bay Group of Companies. Fiddler's Creek has been named a Distinguished Club by BoardRoom magazine, a prestigious honor reserved for the top private clubs in the world.

Residents of Fiddler's Creek enjoy amenities that include the 54,000-square-foot Club & Spa at Fiddler's Creek, featuring a resort-style multi-pool complex, state-of-the-art fitness center, tennis and pickleball facility and both casual and fine dining restaurants. The Club & Spa offers a luxurious resort lifestyle and hosts numerous community-wide parties, signature events, clubs, classes and a variety of activities for residents of all ages.

Fiddler's Creek residents have the opportunity to join The Golf Club at Fiddler's Creek, featuring The Creek Course, an Arthur Hills-designed championship golf course ranked in Golfweek's 100 Best Residential Golf Courses in the U.S. for 15 consecutive years. Residents seeking a beach and boating lifestyle also have the opportunity to join The Tarpon Club, featuring exclusive beach access at Marco Beach Ocean Resort – ranked among the Top Resorts in the U.S. by Travel + Leisure's World's Best Awards and by Conde Nast Traveler – as well as resort and spa privileges, priority seating and dining rewards at Sale e Pepe and an on-site concierge. Members also enjoy preferred benefits at the full-service Tarpon Club Marina, located nearby on the Isles of Capri.

Pre-construction and move-in ready homes at Fiddler's Creek are priced from the \$400,000s to over \$2 million and are offered by six preferred homebuilders – Gulf Bay Homes, Stock Signature Homes, Taylor Morrison, Pulte Homes, Harbourside Custom Homes, and Ashton Woods Homes.

For membership details and more information about Fiddler's Creek and its inspiring natural setting, call 239-732-9300, stop by the Fiddler's Creek Information Center at 8152 Fiddler's Creek Parkway in Naples, or visit FiddlersCreek.com.

About Gulf Bay Group of Companies: Founded in 1986, Gulf Bay has successfully developed 16 luxury properties along the 1.5 mile stretch of Gulf-front land within Pelican Bay, including the new luxury high rise, Mystique. In addition to its history in Pelican Bay, Gulf Bay's other award-winning developments include The Brittany high rise on Park Shore Beach; Marco Beach Ocean Resort on Marco Island; and the 4,000-acre award-winning, master-planned community of Fiddler's Creek. Gulf Bay's completed and under development build-out market value of luxury residential properties is estimated in excess of \$8 billion. Aubrey J. Ferrao is the Founder and CEO of Gulf Bay Group of Companies.

