

Lee County Waterfront Guide

From Cape Coral canals to the back bays of Pine Island and Estero.

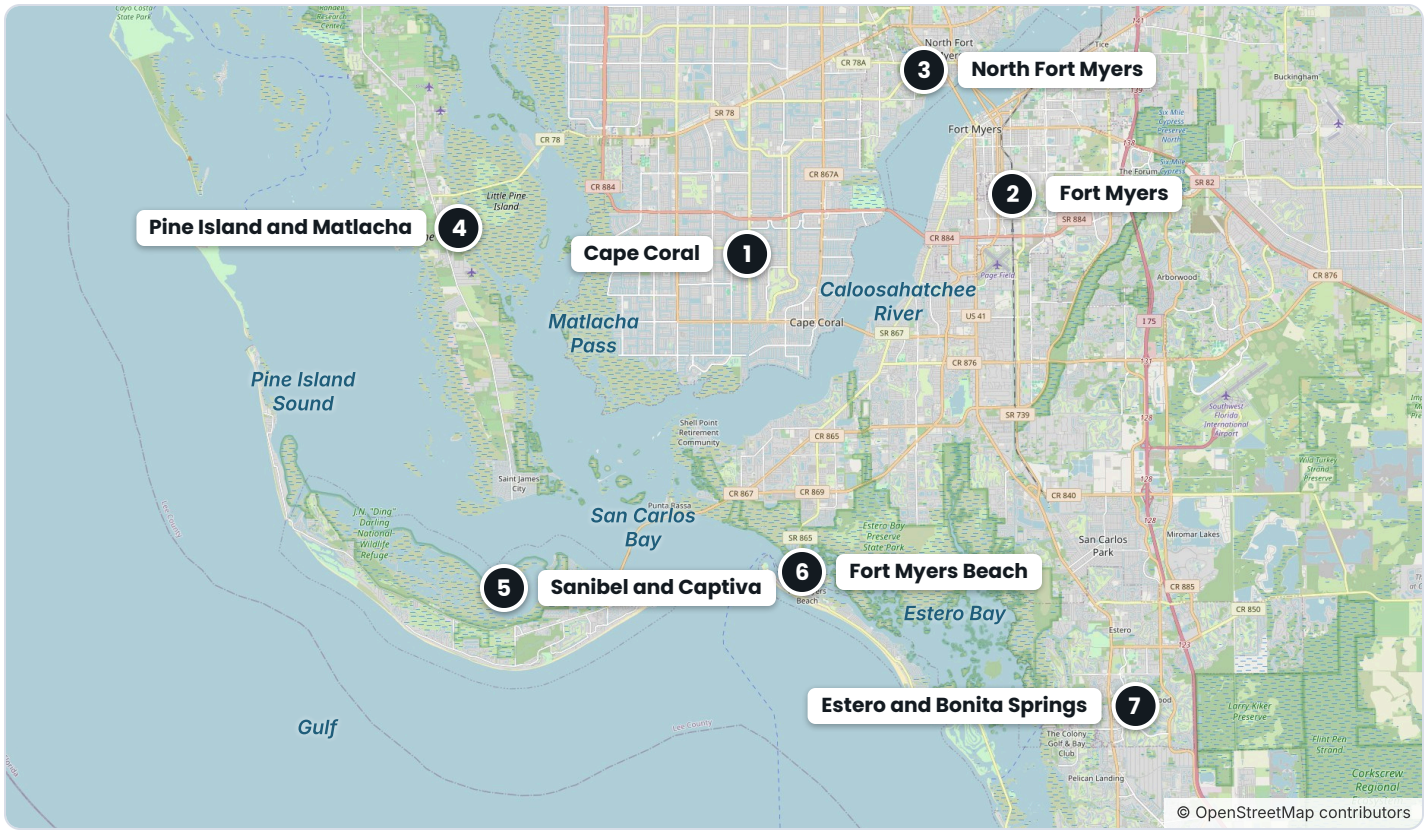
Lee County waterfront is not one kind of water. A Gulf-access canal, the open Caloosahatchee and a shallow back bay each ask for a different dock and lift setup. Use this guide to see what applies to your stretch of shoreline before you plan.

3 water types
salt, brackish and fresh, sometimes within one city

400+ miles
of canals in Cape Coral alone

1 to 2 days
on site for a typical floating dock; a lift adds about a day

12,000 lb
four-post cradle lift is a common starting point here



1 Cape Coral ↗ 2 Fort Myers ↗ 3 North Fort Myers ↗ 4 Pine Island and Matlacha ↗
5 Sanibel and Captiva ↗ 6 Fort Myers Beach ↗ 7 Estero and Bonita Springs ↗

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Area by area

1. **Cape Coral.** Gulf-access saltwater canals, freshwater canals and brackish stretches between them. Canal width and seawall condition shape the layout.
2. **Fort Myers.** The Caloosahatchee is tidal and open, with current and boat wake, so setups are planned for more movement.
3. **North Fort Myers.** River frontage and canal homes on the north bank, with the same tide and wake to plan for.
4. **Pine Island and Matlacha.** Shallow back-bay water on Pine Island Sound and Matlacha Pass. Draft and depth at low water come first.
5. **Sanibel and Captiva.** Aquatic preserves surround the islands, so projects can carry extra environmental review.
6. **Fort Myers Beach.** Estero Bay behind the island is shallow; check depth at the dock before sizing a lift.
7. **Estero and Bonita Springs.** Estero Bay and the Imperial River mix salt and brackish water. Shallow-draft boats are common.

Why the water level moves

- **Tide**, every day
- **Rainfall** and stormwater release
- **Wind**, which can push water in or out of a canal
- **Storm surge**

A floating dock rises and falls with the water, so the step to the boat stays about the same.

Who may review your project

- **Your city or Lee County** Community Development
- **Florida DEP**, for submerged lands and environmental resources
- **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**, Jacksonville District
- **Your HOA** architectural committee, where there is one

Which reviews apply depends on the property and the waterbody. Florida Statute 403.813 exempts some private docks in artificial waterways from state permitting when its conditions are met; local review can still apply. We go over the likely path at your estimate.

What we install in Lee County

- **Wave Armor modular floating docks.** Straight runs, T-docks and platforms you can add to later. 10-year warranty on docks.
- **PWC ports, boat ports and kayak docks.** Drive-on storage out of the water. 8-year warranty on ports.
- **QABL aluminum boat lifts.** 6061-T6 aluminum, built in Pensacola. 15-year structural warranty.
- **Dock and lift together,** planned as one layout.



> **A word on storms.** No dock should be sold as hurricane-proof. What helps is the right setup for your water, sound hardware, and a plan for the days before a storm.

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Lee County: Docks and lifts in Lee County · Fort Myers installs
Products: Wave Armor floating docks · QABL boat lifts · Install gallery
Next step: Request a free estimate or call or text (239) 872-4300.

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MacDuff Marine is an authorized Wave Armor dealer and Florida's exclusive QABL dealer. Fully insured, with installations performed by a licensed marine contractor partner. Checked November 2026. Permit rules and review times change; confirm with the agency before you build. Warranties per manufacturer terms.

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