

**Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks**

**Natural Bridge Battlefield Historic State Park**

**Proposed Unit Management Plan Amendment, May 2020**

**Background**

Natural Bridge Battlefield Historic State Park is located in southeastern Leon County, approximately 5 miles east of the town of Woodville. Access to the park is from Natural Bridge Road via the Woodville Highway SR363. In October 2016, the Horn Springs acquisition expanded the park from 135.2 acres to 2,125.01 acres. This acquisition significantly increased the park's role in managing and protecting natural areas within the critical wildlife corridor along the St. Marks River.

The equipment inventory of this park administration has likewise increased to meet the expanded resource management needs of the much larger conservation property. There is therefore a corresponding need to construct a 6-bay pole barn within the existing support and ranger residence compound to adequately protect the equipment now stationed at the park. There are currently no formal shop buildings or other permanent support structures located in the park where this type of infrastructure is critical.

**Conceptual Land Use Plan**

**Proposed 6-Bay Pole Barn Addition**

A new 6-bay pole barn is proposed to be constructed to the ranger residence (see example below).



Example of type of pole barn to be constructed.

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Natural Bridge Battlefield Historic State Park coordinates a large amount of resource management activities and houses a large amount of equipment. With the addition of the Horn Springs tract, the need for a permanent and higher-functioning facility is considered an essential improvement to shelter the DRP's equipment and materials. There is currently no alternative support area designated for these properties. The Rakestraw House located in the park, which may support basic park administrative functions, is located within public view and does not offer the type of heavy equipment storage needed for maintenance and restoration of the park and its managed units.

The only existing support area currently has numerous undersized temporary structures to protect large pieces of resource management equipment needed to maintain the new Horn Springs addition property, St. Marks River Preserve, as well as the Natural Bridge Battlefield Property. The proposed 6-bay pole barn would allow for consolidation and critically needed protection of this equipment under a unified permanent structure.

**Potential Impacts to Natural and Cultural Resources**

Natural resource impacts are not anticipated as the footprint of the proposed structure is roughly equal to that of the temporary shelters it is intended to replace. This will also create no significant net increase in impervious surface. The proposed structure would occur entirely within the existing support and ranger residence compound without impact to any natural vegetation.

No adverse effects to historic resources are expected due to the minimal footprint of the proposed structure. As with all construction or other ground-disturbing activities on state land, however, review and recommendations by the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources (DHR) will be obtained before construction.

