

Public Meeting

Ravine Gardens
State Park



May 24, 2023

4:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Please provide any comments by **June 7, 2023**. Provide your comments to either of the following:

Contact Information:

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What is a Unit Management Plan?

Required under Florida Statutes 253 & 259, a Unit Management Plan (UMP) is a planning document that is prepared for all 175 state parks and trails. The purpose of this meeting is to receive public input on the draft UMP update for Ravine Gardens State Park.

Resource Management Objectives

Hydrological Management

- Conduct/obtain an assessment of the park's hydrological restoration needs.

Natural Communities Management

- Conduct natural community/habitat improvement activities on four acres of upland hardwood forest natural community.

Imperiled Species Management

- Develop/Update baseline imperiled species occurrence inventory lists for plants and animals.
- Monitor and document four selected imperiled animal species in the park.
- Monitor and document one selected imperiled plant species in the park.

Non-Native and Nuisance Species Management

- Annually treat five infested acres of invasive plant species in the park.
- Implement control measures on two nuisance species in the park.

Cultural Resource Management

- Assess and evaluate all 12 recorded cultural resources in the park.
- Bring one of 12 recorded cultural resources into good condition.



- Roads
- - - Trails
- Proposed Developments
- Ravine
- ▨ Protected Zones

- 1 **Support Area-** (1a) When given the chance, bury overhead powerlines and increase security measures. (1b) Add a 3-bay shop building and equipment shelter. Reconfigure this space to include the new structures.
- 2 **Residence-** (2a) Routinely investigate if these five homes can be used as staff residences or other support structures. (2b) Replace staff residence.
- 3 **Optimum Boundary-** Work with the City of Palatka to acquire the abandoned pool house. Once acquired, restore this space and enhance the road.
- 4 **Park Road and Parking Areas-** (4a) Redesign and improve parking area and traffic flow. Create more organized parking. (4b) Conduct an engineering study for park loop drive to enhance storm water management. Stabilize, pave, consider widening, and evaluate a potential setback distance for park drive. Increase park drive's informational signage about erosion formation and continue to prohibit parking along park drive.
- 5 **Court of States-** Repair, maintain, and restore log trellises.
- 6 **Civic Center-** Provide passive interpretation in a portion of the center. Once Water Works is acquired, connect the two areas with an interpretive trail.
- 7 **Formal Garden-** Form a planting plan. Install interpretive signage in the picnic area.
- 8 **Park Boundary-** Consider replacing the existing fence and installing a new fence with design elements that better control sheet flow.
- 9 **Ravine Area-** (9a) Conduct an annual inspection to evaluate the stability of the suspension bridges. Update interpretive signage and improve wayfinding. (9b) Consider conducting a hydrological study and form a storm water management plan for the loop drive and park boundary to fully address erosion issues.
- 10 **Optimum Boundary-** (10a) Once Water Works is acquired, form a trail connection to access the river tract. (10b) Work with the City of Palatka to acquire this property.
- 11 **River Tract-** (11a) Work with CSX to develop a Railroad Trail Crossing. (11b) Create a bridge crossing along the berm and construct an observation platform.

St. Johns County, State of Florida, Maxar, Microsoft



Ravine Gardens State Park

0 250 500 1,000 Feet



Conceptual Land Use Plan Map