

ITEM 6:

Consider an update to the John D. MacArthur Beach State Park Management Plan (Lease No. 3205).

LOCATION:

Palm Beach County

APPLICANT:

Florida Park Service

DSL STAFF REMARKS:

Background

John D. MacArthur Beach State Park (JDMBSP) is in Palm Beach County. Access to the park is from State Road A1A. JDMBSP was initially acquired on July 7, 1981 with funds from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF). Currently, the park comprises 436.39 acres. The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Trustees) holds fee simple title to the park and on March 22, 1982, the Trustees leased the property to the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) under a fifty-year lease (Lease Number 3205).

The purpose of John D. MacArthur Beach State Park is to protect a unique and irreplaceable cross section of coastal Florida landscape for conservation and interpretation efforts that support valuable opportunities for resource-based recreation in one of Florida's most populous regions.

Management Plan Overview

The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) has identified six distinct natural community types at JDMBSP. They also identified one altered landcover type. The predominant natural communities are mangrove swamp and maritime hammock. Six species of imperiled plants and nineteen species of imperiled animals have been identified at JDMBSP.

The Division of Historical Resources (DHR) maintains a Master Site File that documents many of Florida's archaeological and historical features. A review of information obtained from the Florida Master Site File (FMSF) disclosed five archaeological sites within the park.

Approximately 6,000 feet of shoreline on the Atlantic Ocean at JDMBSP allow general beach recreation activities, including walking, sunbathing, swimming, shoreline fishing, snorkeling and scuba diving. Park facilities developed in the late 1980s provide safe, low-impact access to this beach for thousands of visitors each year. Nature trails, picnicking facilities, and the interpretive center provide visitors with a range of recreational, interpretive and environmental education programs in the maritime hammock area. The interpretive center features an exhibit area regarding coastal and marine ecosystems, aquarium displays, audio-visual presentation room, outdoor amphitheater, and restrooms. Since the park opened in 1989, an ambitious environmental education program has evolved in response to the unique character and quality of the natural systems and resources of the state park. The park's citizen support organization outfits visitors with kayaks to explore the estuary.

The Florida Legislature requires that all land management plans include long and short-term (ST) goals. These goals must be measurable objectives, and ST goals must be achievable within a two-year planning period. Pursuant to changes to Section 253.034, F.S., the Division of State

Lands tracks the status of short-term goals in each land management plan approved since July 1, 2016. The short-term goals from this management plan are included as part of this item.

While the ten-year management plan serves as the basic statement of policy and future direction for each park, several annual work plans provide more specific guidance for DRP staff to accomplish many of the resource management goals and objectives of the park. Where such detailed planning is appropriate to the character and scale of the park’s natural resources, annual work plans are developed for prescribed fire management, exotic plant management and imperiled species management. Annual or longer-term work plans are developed for natural community restoration and hydrological restoration.

Public Involvement

DRP solicited public input by conducting a public workshop and advisory group meeting on February 26, 2020. The purpose of the workshop was to present the management plan to the public. The purpose of the advisory group meeting was to provide the Advisory Group members the opportunity to review and discuss the management plan.

New recreational opportunities and facilities have been proposed that are appropriate for this park and consistent with the DRP mission. These include:

- Addition of a volunteer site located near the Satinleaf Picnic Area
- Repairs and renovations at Munyon Island
- Re-deck of Lagoon Boardwalk
- Connect the park to the county central sewer system
- Renovate bathrooms located at the Atlantic Beach Access/ Lagoon Boardwalk
- Replace the park’s shop
- Improvements to the South Paddling Launch area

Surplus Lands

The evaluation by the DRP determined that no portion of the JDMBSP is recommended for a potential surplus designation.

State Land Management Review Team

This property has not been subject to a recent review by an interagency land management review team.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the management plan.

ARC RECOMMENDATION:

- APPROVE
- APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS: _____
- DEFER
- WITHDRAW
- NOT APPROVE
- OTHER: _____

John D. MacArthur Beach State Park**Land Management Plan Short Term Goals**

Goal (ST)	Details of Goal	Objective	Details of Objective	Measures
VII	Provide public access and recreational opportunities in the park.	C	Develop 1 new educational program.	Number interpretive / education programs.

Source: Florida DEP, Office of Environmental Services, Revised 2019.

Lead Agency: Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

Common Name of Property: MacArthur Beach State Park

Location: Palm Beach County

Direct Economic Impact: FY 18-19 \$13,391,302 and 187 jobs added to local economy

Acreage: 436.39 Acres

Acreage Breakdown

Natural Communities	Acres
Beach Dune	18.61
Maritime Hammock	137.46
Mangrove Swamp	144.04
Estuarine Seagrass Bed	99.09
Estuarine Unconsolidated Substrate	15.79
Marine Unconsolidated Substrate	11.51

Lease/Management Agreement Number(s): 3205

Use: Single Use

Management Responsibilities

Agency: Dept. of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks

Responsibility: Public Outdoor Recreation and Conservation

Designated Land Use: Public outdoor recreation and conservation is the designated single use of the property

Sublease: None

Encumbrances: See Addendum 1 for details

Type of Acquisition(s): 1 (see Addendum 1 for details).

Unique Features

Overview: John D. MacArthur Beach State Park is located Palm Beach County. The initial acquisition of John D. MacArthur Beach State Park occurred in 1981 from Palm Beach County.

The purpose of John D. MacArthur Beach State Park is to conserve and protect valuable natural communities such as the maritime hammock. The park has the best representation of this natural community in Palm Beach County.

Natural: The park contains three distinct natural features including: Lake Worth Cove, Munyon Island and the Atlantic Beach. Along with dense maritime hammocks throughout the park.

Archaeological/Historical: The cultural sites at the park represent the history of southeast Florida, as it served as an area for cultural ceremonies trade and commerce. There is evidence of prehistoric shell middens on the property, along with remnants of a historical hotel that was once located on Munyon Island, the Hygeia Hotel.

Management Goals, Objectives and Actions

Measurable objectives and actions have been identified for each of the Division's management goals for John D. MacArthur Beach State Park. Please refer to the Implementation Schedule and Cost Estimates in the Implementation Component of this plan for a consolidated spreadsheet of the recommended actions, measures of progress, target year for completion and estimated costs to fulfill the management goals and objectives of this park.

While, the Division of Recreation and Parks utilizes the ten-year management plan to serve as the basic statement of policy and future direction for each park, a number of annual work plans provide more specific guidance for Division staff to accomplish many of the resource management goals and objectives of the park. Where such detailed planning is appropriate to the character and scale of the park's natural resources, annual work plans are developed for prescribed fire management, exotic plant management and imperiled species management. Annual or longer-term work plans are developed for natural community restoration and hydrological restoration.

The work plans provide the Division with crucial flexibility in its efforts to generate and implement adaptive resource management practices in the state park system. The work plans are reviewed and updated annually. Through this process, the Division's resource management strategies are systematically evaluated to determine their effectiveness. The process and the information collected is used to refine techniques, methodologies and strategies, and ensures that each park's prescribed management actions are monitored and reported as required by Chapters 253.034 and 259.037, Florida Statutes. The goals, objectives and actions identified in this management plan will serve as the basis for developing annual work plans for the park. Since the

plan is based on conditions that exist at the time the plan is developed, the annual work plans will provide the flexibility needed to adapt to future conditions as they change during the ten-year management planning cycle. As the park's annual work plans are implemented through the ten-year cycle, it may become necessary to adjust the management plan's priority schedules and cost estimates to reflect these changing conditions.

Natural Resource Management

Hydrological Management

Goal: Protect water quality and quantity in the park, restore hydrology to the extent feasible and maintain the restored condition.

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

Natural Communities Management

Goal: Restore and maintain the natural communities/habitats of the park.

- *Objective: Within 10 years, have 0 acres of the park maintained within the optimum fire return interval.*
- *Objective: Conduct habitat/natural community restoration activities on 1 acre of beach natural community*
- *Objective: Conduct natural community/habitat improvement activities on 0 acres of natural communities.*

Imperiled Species Management

Goal: Maintain, improve or restore imperiled species populations and habitats in the park.

- *Objective: Monitor and document 3 selected imperiled animal species in the park.*
- *Objective: Maintain predation levels of marine turtle nests at or below ten percent*
- *Objective: Minimize costal armament and other impediments to nesting by working closely with regulatory and costal engineering agencies.*
- *Objective: Monitor and document 2 selected imperiled plant species in the park.*

Exotic Species Management

Goal: Remove exotic and invasive plants and animals from the park and conduct needed maintenance control.

- *Objective: Annually treat 3 acres of exotic plant species in the park.*
- *Objective: Implement control measures on 1 exotic animal species in the park.*

Cultural Resource Management

Cultural Resource Management

Goal: Protect, preserve and maintain the cultural resources of the park.

- *Objective: Assess and evaluate 5 of 5 recorded cultural resources in the park.*
- *Objective: Continue to compile reliable documentation for all recorded historic and archaeological resources.*
- *Objective: Bring 1 of 5 recorded cultural resources into good condition.*

Ten-Year Implementation Schedule and Cost Estimates: See Table 5, pages 108-111

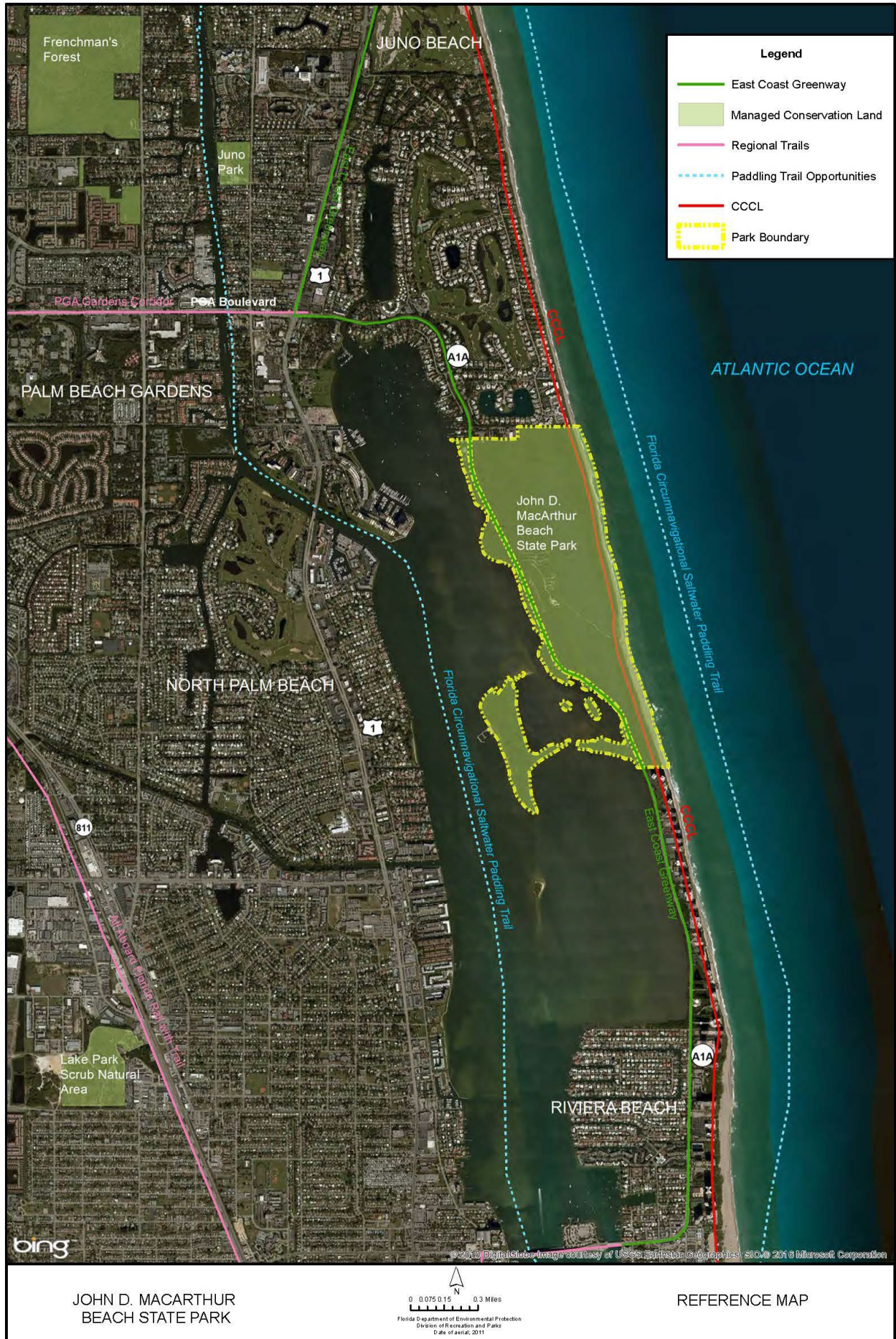
Acquisition Needs/Acreage: Approximately 400 feet of submerged lands are identified within the optimum boundary for John D. MacArthur Beach State Park (see Optimum Boundary Map, page 98). Property along the eastern side of the park is proposed for acquisition to provide additional worm reef protection and opportunities for the future expansion of recreational and interpretive opportunities.

Surplus Lands/Acreage: No lands are considered surplus to the needs of the park.

Public Involvement: DRP solicited public input by conducting a public workshop on Wednesday, February 26, 2020. The purpose was to present the management plan to the public. On Wednesday, February 26, 2020, an Advisory Group meeting was held. The purpose of this meeting was to provide the Advisory Group members the opportunity to review and discuss the management plan (see Addendum 2).

Summary of Conceptual Land Use Proposals

- New recreational opportunities and facilities have been proposed that are appropriate for this park and consistent with the DRP mission. These include:
 - Addition of volunteer site located near the Satinleaf Picnic Area
 - Repairs and renovations at Munyon Island
 - Redeck of Lagoon Boardwalk
 - Connect the park to central sewer of the county
 - Renovate bathrooms located at the Atlantic Beach Access/ Lagoon Boardwalk
 - Replace park's shop
 - Improvements to South Paddling Launch area



JOHN D. MACARTHUR
BEACH STATE PARK



REFERENCE MAP



