

## Big Talbot Island State Park

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**Planning Region:** Atlantic Coast

**County:** Duval

**Lease/Management Agreement Number:** 3283

### Overview

Big Talbot Island State Park preserves one of the remaining undeveloped barrier islands in Florida and showcases unique natural features like fallen sun-bleached tree skeletons and "black rocks". Visitors have access to a segment of the country's longest biking and walking route, the East Coast Greenway, and the country's longest national recreational trail, the Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail.

**Total Acreage:** 1,679.82

<b>Natural Communities</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Coastal Grassland	4.41
Coastal Interdunal Swale	0.61
Coastal Strand	23.99
Depression Marsh	4.20
Estuarine Composite Substrate	53.07
Maritime Hammock	765.01
Marine Unconsolidated Substrate	61.40
Salt Marsh	181.47
Scrubby Flatwoods	476.91
Shell Mound	9.00
Wet Flatwoods	72.80

  

<b>Altered Landcovers</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Artificial Pond	0.12
Canal/ Ditch	2.00
Developed	23.51
Spoil Area	1.32

**Acquisition:** Big Talbot Island State Park was initially acquired on August 20, 1982, with funds from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF). Currently, the park comprises 1,679.82 acres. The Trustees hold fee simple title to the park and on May 31, 1983, the Trustees leased (Lease Number 3283) the property to DRP under a 50-year lease. The current lease will expire on May 30, 2033.

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## **Resource Management Component Objectives**

### **Hydrology**

- Assess the park's hydrological restoration needs.
- Restore or improve hydrological conditions to approximately 254 acres of Coastal Interdunal Swale wetlands and wet flatwoods.
- Evaluate and mitigate the impacts of soil erosion in the park.
- Continue to assist federal, state and local agencies with active monitoring of erosion and accretion cycles and assessment of beach and shoreline conditions following natural disasters.
- Continue to partner with federal, state and local agencies to fund, design, permit, improve and maintain coastal and beach management programs consistent with the mission of the Division.

### **Natural Communities**

- Maintain 250 acres within the optimum fire return interval.
- Conduct natural community improvement activities on approximately 400 acres of scrubby flatwoods at Big Talbot Island State Park.

### **Imperiled Species**

- Update baseline imperiled species occurrence list.
- Continue existing monitoring protocols for 12 selected imperiled animal species (4 marine turtle species, piping plover, red knot, Wilson's plover, least tern, black skimmer, American oystercatcher, Worthington's marsh wren, and MacGillivray's seaside sparrow).
- Continue existing monitoring protocols for 2 selected imperiled plant species (mound lily and angular fruit milkvine).

### **Invasive and Nuisance Species**

- Annually treat 24 gross acres equaling 1 infested acre of invasive plant species.
- Implement control measures on 1 invasive animal species.

### **Cultural Resources**

- Assess/evaluate 25 of 25 recorded cultural resources in the park.
- Compile reliable documentation for all recorded historic and archaeological resources.
- Bring 1 of 25 recorded cultural resources into good condition (Dune Edge site, Du16006).

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## **Land Use Component Objectives**

### **Conceptual Land Use**

#### Sawpit Creek Boat Ramp

- Consider conducting a structural redevelopment project.

#### Sawpit Creek Parking Area

- Reconfigure parking lots.
- Consider stabilizing another lane to exit the non-trailer parking area.

#### Bluffs Scenic Shoreline Picnic Area

- Reorganize picnic area to maximize parking.
- Construct a permanent restroom as feasible.
- Improve interpretation in the picnic area.

#### Bluffs Scenic Shoreline Overlook

- Implement stabilization measures and protect the overlook.
- Prevent makeshift paths with native vegetation plantings and appropriate signage.

#### Shoreline Access Trail

- Facilitate restoration of former shoreline access trail corridor.
- Stabilize the current shoreline access trail with appropriate materials.

#### Bluffs Scenic Shoreline Access

- Communicate the need with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for north and southbound turn lanes off State Road A1A.

#### Black Rock/Timucuan Trail Access

- Communicate with the FDOT to expand the parking area.

### **Optimum Boundary**

About fourteen parcels totaling approximately 1,492 acres have been identified for the park's optimum boundary. Several of the parcels surrounding the park are owned by the North Florida Land Trust and are a part of the Florida Forever Board of Trustees Pumpkin Hill Creek Project. Acquiring these parcels will provide the Division the opportunity to further protect surrounding waterways, conserve significant habitats, and preserve cultural resource sites.