Crystal River Preserve State Park

Planning Region: Gulf Coast

County: Citrus

Lease/Management Agreement Number: 4084

Overview: The purpose of Crystal River Preserve State Park is to protect the mosaic of diverse natural communities that sustain the biologically rich ecosystems comprising one of the state's largest springs complexes and an exemplary estuary, all of which provide outstanding resource-based recreational opportunities such as boating, paddling, fishing, hiking, biking, and nature appreciation.

Total Acreage: 27,692.64

Natural Communities	Acres
Limestone Outcrop	5.41
Mesic Flatwoods	1205.87
Mesic Hammock	105.46
Sandhill	52.74
Scrub	56.17
Scrubby Flatwoods	342.82
Shell Mound	40.71
Wet Flatwoods	236.40
Xeric Hammock	119.65
Basin Marsh	172.78
Basin Swamp	333.81
Depression Marsh	127.08
Dome Swamp	11.62
Floodplain Marsh	945.21
Floodplain Swamp	348.01
Hydric Hammock	5942.49
Mangrove Swamp	1671.30
Salt Marsh	14.465.90
Sinkhole Lake	2.54
Seepage Stream	26.36
Estuarine Consolidated Substrate	11.04
Estuarine Unconsolidated Substrate	203.05

Altered Land Cover	Acres
Artificial Pond	11.41
Borrow Area	88.48
Canal/Ditch	46.64
Developed	26.17
Invasive Exotic Monoculture	179.21
Pine Plantation	6.72

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Altered Land Cover	Acres
Restoration Natural Community	28.73
Road	4.65
Spoil Area	161.76
Successional Hardwood Forest	120.01

Acquisition: Crystal River Preserve State Park was initially acquired on August 20, 1974, as a donation from the Crystal River Development Corporation.

Resource Management Component Objectives

Hydrology

- Conduct/obtain an assessment of the park's hydrological restoration needs.
- Restore natural hydrological conditions and functions to approximately 648 acres of salt marsh, 139 acres of freshwater tidal marsh, 213 acres of hydric hammock and floodplain swamp, and 44 acres of wet flatwoods and natural communities.

Natural Communities

- Maintain 2,250 acres within the optimum fire return interval.
- Conduct habitat/natural community restoration activities on 36.6 acres of restoration natural community.
- Conduct habitat/natural community restoration activities on 31 acres of successional hardwood forest.
- Conduct habitat restoration on 193 acres of pasture areas.
- Conduct habitat/natural community restoration activities on 48 acres of exotic invasive monoculture.
- Conduct natural community/habitat improvement activities on 153 acres of mesic flatwoods natural community.
- Evaluate the process and funding necessary to restore 61 acres of linear spoil piles and tidal borrow areas in Zone CR-C3J to salt marsh.

Imperiled Species

- Develop/Update baseline imperiled species occurrence inventory lists for plants and animals.
- Monitor and document 5 selected imperiled animal species in the park.
- Monitor and document 3 selected imperiled plant species in the park.

Invasive and Nuisance Species

- Annually treat a minimum of 250 gross acres containing up to 91 infested acres of invasive plant species in the park.
- Implement control measures to remove a minimum of 150 exotic feral hogs in the park annually.

Cultural Resources

- Assess and evaluate 114 of 114 recorded cultural resources in the park.
- Compile reliable documentation for all recorded historic and archaeological resources.
- Bring 3 of 114 recorded cultural resources into good condition.

Land Use Component Objectives

Conceptual Land Use

New Entrance Station (State Park Street/Museum Point)

- Construction of an entrance station – pending land acquisition

Boat Basin Area

- Potentially relocate the park administrative office, sheds, and out-buildings to alternative area of park (Mullet Hole or Eco-Walk)

Mullet Hole

- Alternative park headquarters location

Eco-Walk Trail

- Alternative park headquarters location and potential campground
- Improve trail signage and wayfinding

7-Mile Loop Trail

- Eco-Walk Trail connector

Churchhouse Hammock Trailhead and Picnic Area

- Parking lot redevelopment
- Boardwalk extensions
- Stabilize trail

Redfish Hole

- Salt marsh restoration

Salt River

- Proposed paddling concessionaire

Optimum Boundary

Several parcels, approximately 5,000 acres in total, have been identified for the optimum boundary of CRPSP. Many of these parcels are included on the optimum boundary as a means to improve habitat connectivity in the marsh lands bordering the Gulf of Mexico and ensure the protection of some of the last remaining patches of the hydric hammock natural community in the state. Other parcels have been included for resource management and operational purposes. In particular, parcels north of State Park Street on the eastern boundary of the park may be required in order to achieve the conceptual development concept described above. These parcels will allow the park to construct an entrance station, which is needed to allow the park office relocation and campground development to take place.