

Devil's Millhopper Geological State Park

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

Planning Region: North Florida Highlands

County: Alachua

Lease/Management Agreement Number: 2697

Overview

Classified as a State Special Feature Site and National Natural Landmark, the Millhopper sinkhole and its exposed limestone strata provides a wealth of information about north Florida stratigraphy and paleontology. Devil's Millhopper Geological State Park supports flora, more characteristic of ravine systems in the southern Appalachians, and protects early park development constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s.

Total Acreage: 67.24

Natural Communities	Acres
Limestone Outcrop	0.11
Mesic Flatwoods	12.51
Sandhill	7.90
Scrubby Flatwoods	2.60
Sinkhole	3.38
Upland Hardwood Forest	13.95
Upland Pine	13.52
Depression Marsh	0.83
Dome Swamp	1.97
Seepage Stream	0.53

Altered Landcovers	Acres
Developed	2.02
Successional Hardwood Forest	7.92

Acquisition: Devil's Millhopper Geological State Park was initially acquired when the University of Florida transferred the original 36.09-acre property to the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Trustees) in 1972. Additional parcels were purchased through the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF) program and Florida Forever Additions and Inholdings program.

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Resource Management Component Objectives

Hydrology

- Conduct/obtain an assessment of the park's hydrological restoration needs.
- Restore hydrological conditions and functions to approximately 2 acres of depression marsh and dome swamp natural communities.

Natural Communities

- Maintain 30 acres within the optimum fire return interval.
- Conduct natural community restoration activities on 8 acres of the mesic flatwood community.
- Conduct natural community improvement activities on 5.5 acres of the depression marsh and upland pine communities.

Imperiled Species

- Update baseline imperiled species occurrence list.
- Monitor and document one selected imperiled animal species in the park (southern dusky salamander).
- Monitor and document one selected imperiled plant species in the park (hooded pitcherplant).

Invasive and Nuisance Species

- Annually treat 6 gross acres of invasive plant species.
- Develop and implement measures to prevent the accidental introduction or further spread of invasive plants in the park.
- Implement control measures on 4 nuisance and invasive animal species in the park.

Cultural Resources

- Assess and evaluate 6 of 6 recorded cultural resources in the park (Devil's Millhopper Park Entrance Gate (AL05656), CCC Trail Remains (AL05657), Millhopper (AL05697), Old Picnic (AL05698), Sink House (AL05699), Florida's New Deal Resources (AL5718)).
- Compile reliable documentation for all recorded historic and archaeological resources.
- Maintain the 6 recorded cultural resources in good condition.

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Land Use Component Objectives

Conceptual Land Use

Sinkhole Rim Trail

- Install interpretive signage along the trail without detracting the natural viewshed.
- Revegetate unauthorized entry points where necessary.
- Improve viewshed near the off-site University of Florida tower with vegetation or trail realignment.
- Assess erosion within the trails vicinity and implement erosion abatement measures as necessary.

Deer Run Creek Footbridge

- Replace the footbridge over Deer Run Creek.

Parking Area

- Reconfigure parking area to add at least five more parking spaces.
- Repave the entire parking lot.
- Relocate picnic infrastructure to a shaded location and provide several picnic pavilions.

Visitor Center

- Update interpretation inside the Visitor Center.
- Increase restroom capacity to accommodate the rise in visitation.
- Connect the restroom to municipal sewer system.
- Address issues with skylight guard on roof.

Staff Residence

- Connect the residence to the municipal sewer system when infrastructure becomes available, and connection is feasible.

Optimum Boundary

No further recommendations regarding land acquisition are appropriate at this time, as the park is surrounded to the west, south, and east by residential development, Interstate 75, and U.S. Highway 441.