

## Dudley Farm Historic State Park

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**Planning Region:** North Florida Highlands

**County:** Alachua

**Lease/Management Agreement Number:** 3366

### Overview

Dudley Farm Historic State Park is the site of a historic farmstead representing nearly a century of Florida Farming, from the late 1850s to the 1940s. The farm remained within the Dudley family for 3 generations and much of their homestead has been protected as a National Historic Landmark. The interpretive complex, near the park entrance, helps contextualize what farming was like in Alachua County in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. In addition to the protecting the rich cultural landscape, the park is home to a variety of natural and naturalized areas that can be enjoyed by hiking on the Pause and Ponder Trail. The Dudley Farm Historic State Park is also notable for numerous karst features including aquatic caves and solution depressions.

**Total Acreage:** 327.44

<b>Natural Communities</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Limestone Outcrop	0.014
Sinkhole	3.69
Upland Hardwood Forest	12.99
Upland Mixed Woodland	11.77
Aquatic Cave	0.01
Terrestrial Cave	0.04

  

<b>Altered Land Cover</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Abandon Field/ Pasture	120.34
Agriculture	5.9
Pasture - Improved	78.76
Restoration Natural Community	20.01
Successional Hardwood Forest	59.89
Developed	21.34

**Acquisition:** Dudley Farm Historic State Park was initially acquired on June 9, 1983. Currently, the park comprises 327.44 acres.

## **Dudley Farm Historic State Park**

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### **Resource Management Component Objectives**

#### **Hydrology**

- Conduct/obtain an assessment of the park's hydrological restoration needs.
- Monitor impacts of erosion and sedimentation on the aquatic cave systems
- Monitor and evaluate the impacts of historic cattle dipping operations at Dudley Farm.

#### **Natural Communities**

- Maintain 175 acres within the optimum fire return interval.
- Conduct upland mixed woodland natural community restoration activities within 16 acres of currently designated pasture/field.
- Conduct natural community improvement activities to augment the natural progression of 24 acres of successional hardwood forest to upland hardwood forest.

#### **Imperiled Species**

- Update baseline imperiled species occurrence list
- Monitor and document tricolored bats in the park.
- Monitor and document 2 selected imperiled plant species in the park (incised agrimony and little ladiestresses).

#### **Invasive and Nuisance Species**

- Annually treat 3 gross acres of invasive plant species in the park.
- Develop and implement measures to prevent the accidental introduction or further spread of invasive plants in the parks.
- Implement control measures on invasive animal species in the park.

#### **Cultural Resources**

- Assess and evaluate 4 of 24 recorded cultural resources in the park.
- Compile reliable documentation for all recorded historic and archaeological resources.
- Bring 3 of 24 recorded cultural resources into good condition (main house, tobacco barn, chicken coops).

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### **Land Use Component Objectives**

#### **Conceptual Land Use**

##### Interpretive Complex

- Build new education center
- Add back porch to Commissary
- Update interpretation in Hodge Museum
- Consider historic context of the present buildings

##### Interpretive Trail

- Develop new trail
- Include interpretation and wayfinding materials

##### Homestead

- Continue maintenance
- Conduct ADA accessibility assessment on Dudley farmhouse

##### Perkins House

- Move Perkins house onto the park
- Develop interpretation

##### Support Area

- Build new shop building
- Develop 3-bay pole barn
- Develop new volunteer campsite

#### **Optimum Boundary**

The optimum boundary for Dudley Farm Historic State Park comprises 222 acres. These parcels include 2 parcels to the south and east and 3 parcels north and east of the current park boundary. Cultural resources such as caves and 1 prehistoric site would be protected after acquiring the north and east parcels. Some of the lands included in the optimum boundary were once owned by the Dudley Family. Finally, further acquisitions would buffer the historic area from future land use change.