

## Fort Clinch State Park

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**Planning Region:** Atlantic Coast

**County:** Nassau

**Lease/Management Agreement Number:** 3620

### Overview

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the park protects pre-Civil War Era Fort Clinch, the fort's historic artifacts, and numerous imperiled species habitats on the state's northernmost barrier island, including one of the state's most outstanding examples of maritime hammock. Fort Clinch State Park was one of the eight parks constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps which was the impetus for the Florida State Park system.

**Total Acreage:** 2,178.20

<b>Natural Communities</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Beach Dune	50.13
Coastal Grassland	263.60
Coastal Strand	203.60
Maritime Hammock	762.59
Coastal Interdunal Swale	15.55
Salt Marsh	660.23
Estuarine Unconsolidated Substrate	70.14
Marine Unconsolidated Substrate	48.49

  

<b>Altered Landcovers</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Borrow Area	6.87
Canal/ Ditch	18.27
Developed	53.82
Spoil Area	19.68
Utility Corridor	5.24

**Acquisition:** Fort Clinch State Park was initially acquired on September 20, 1935, using "Old Money." Currently, the park comprises 2,178.20 acres. The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Trustees) hold fee simple title to the park and on January 23, 1968, the Trustees leased (Lease Number 3620) the property to DRP under a 99-year lease. The current lease will expire on January 22, 2067.

## **Fort Clinch State Park**

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### **Resource Management Component Objectives**

#### **Hydrology**

- Conduct/obtain an assessment of the park's hydrological restoration needs.
- Restore natural hydrological conditions and functions to approximately 1 acre of Coastal Interdunal Swale natural community.
- 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**

- Complete a comprehensive floral and faunal survey and update the park's baseline plant and animal list with newly acquired land.

#### **Imperiled Species**

- Develop/Update baseline imperiled species occurrence inventory lists for plants and animals.
- Monitor and document 8 selected imperiled animal species in the park (Worthington's marsh wren, Macgillivray's seaside sparrow, 3 marine turtle species, piping plover, Wilson's plover, and least tern).
- Monitor and document 2 selected imperiled plant species in the park (shell-mound prickly pear and pine pinweed).

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

- Annually treat 1 acre of invasive plant species in the park.
- Implement control measures on 3 invasive animal species in the park.
- Develop and implement measures to prevent the accidental introduction or further spread of invasive plants in the park.

#### **Cultural Resources**

- Assess and evaluate 20 of 20 recorded cultural resources in the park.
- Compile reliable documentation for all recorded historic and archaeological resources.
- Bring 7 of 20 recorded cultural resources into good condition (bastion gun ports (NA00080), Latrine (NA000721), Combination Building (NA00720), Residence-Ranger BL027013 (NA01283), Bathhouse, River Camp BL027023 (NA01287), Rear Range Beacon Oil Storage House (NA00983), CCC era park entrance drive (NA1282)).

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## Land Use Component Objectives

### Conceptual Land Use

#### Parkwide

- Repair plumbing and electrical infrastructure.
- Improve Fort Clinch Road and other access roads.
- Extend the multi-use trail down connecting roads.

#### Entrance Area

- Pave an additional ingress lane.
- Provide a pass scanner and gate code at end of proposed lane.

#### Willow Pond Trailhead

- Reroute the multi-use trail to bypass the parking area.
- Improve parking lot.
- Provide a crosswalk to lighthouse oil storage building ruins.

#### Atlantic Beach Campground

- Upgrade utilities at each campsite.

#### Amelia River Campground

- Stabilize campsites with permeable materials.
- Upgrade utilities at each campsite.
- Convert to underground utilities.
- Provide additional campsites within the existing footprint.

#### Visitor Center

- Improve parking lot to reduce flooding.
- Reconfigure/renovate interior to maximize conference room space.
- Extend sidewalk to the picnic area.

#### Fort Clinch Picnic Area

- Provide playground replacement parts.

#### Beach Use Area

- Construct two covered pavilions in the coastal grassland natural community.

#### Nassau House

- Remove existing structures and access road.
- Renaturalize existing footprint and secure area from any public access.

#### Martins Island

- Replace and maintain the dock.

#### Tiger Island

- Consider installing a tent platform for the primitive site.

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### Fort Clinch Road

- Plant natural deterrents to prevent erosion scars and habitat disturbance.

### Southeast Park Boundary

- Install enforceable signage to deter makeshift paths.
- Continue to install fencing.

### **Optimum Boundary**

To the west several large parcels, approximately 1,700 acres have been identified for Fort Clinch State Park's optimum boundary. The adjacent Florida Forever Board of Trustees Project for Tiger Island and Little Tiger Island should continue to be acquired to protect valuable estuarine tidal marsh, one of the highest nesting concentrations of several shorebird species, habitats for overwintering species, and aboriginal cultural resources. An extensive salt marsh system bordering the park should also be acquired to supplement protection for the City of Fernandina's Egans Creek Greenway, preserve endangered species habitats, and necessitate watershed protection.