

Fort Cooper State Park

Planning Region: Gulf Coast

County: Citrus

Lease/Management Agreement Number: 2541

Overview

The park preserves and interprets the site of a Second Seminole War fort where 380 sick and wounded soldiers of the First Georgia Battalion Volunteers survived 16 days of siege by over 500 Seminole Warriors. The park's natural areas provide diverse wildlife habitat, including sandhill, hardwood hammocks, basin marsh, and the 50-acre clearwater Lake Holathlikaha.

Total Acreage: 708.05

Natural Communities	Acres
Basin Marsh	107.02
Depression Marsh	2.57
Mesic Flatwoods	6.41
Mesic Hammock	178.40
Sandhill	292.90
Sandhill Upland Lake	46.00
Borrow Area	0.30
Developed	24.21
Pine Plantation	43.74
Successional Hardwood Forest	52.76

Acquisition: Fort Cooper State Park was initially acquired on December 23, 1970 with funds from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF).

Resource Management Component Objectives

Hydrology

- Assess the park's hydrological restoration needs.
- Restore natural hydrological conditions and functions to approximately 145 acres of sandhill upland lake natural community.

Natural Communities

- Maintain 330 acres within the optimum fire return interval.
- Conduct habitat/natural community restoration activities on 5 acres of sandhill community.
- Conduct habitat/natural community improvement activities on 37 acres of sandhill community.
- Conduct natural community/habitat improvement activities on 15 acres of mesic flatwoods community.

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- Conduct natural community/habitat improvement activities on 40 acres of pine plantation.

Imperiled Species

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

Invasive and Nuisance Species

- Annually treat 22 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 1 invasive animal species in the park.

Cultural Resources

- Assess and evaluate 15 of 15 recorded cultural resources in the park.
- Compile reliable documentation for all recorded historic and archaeological resources.
- Monitor and conduct additional assessments of recorded cultural resources determined to be in poor condition.

Land Use Component Objectives

Conceptual Land Use

Entrance Area

- Addition of an administrative support building

Day Use Area/Lake Holathlikaha

- Addition of a Fishing dock
- Restroom Accessibility Improvements

South End Support Area

- Replace sheds with one three-bay garage
- Replace portable restroom with a permanent restroom at the primitive campground

Optimum Boundary

At this time, no additional lands have been identified for management as part of the park. No lands are considered surplus to the needs of the park.