

ITEM 17:

Consider a 10-year update to the Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve Management Plan (Lease No. 4195).

LOCATION:

Volusia County

APPLICANT:

Volusia County

STAFF REMARKS:

Background

Doris Leeper Spruce Creek (DLSCP) is a 2,513-acre preserve located in Volusia County. DLSCP is approximately eight miles southeast of Daytona Beach and 43 miles northeast of Orlando. The property lies within three local jurisdictions that include the City of Port Orange, the City of New Smyrna Beach, and Volusia County. Of the 2,513 acres, 1,932 are owned by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Trustees) and leased to the county under Lease No. 4195. The preserve consists of tracts separated by Spruce Creek, Strickland Bay, Turnbull Bay, Murray Creek and US 1.

The acquisition of DLSCP began in the mid-1980s, and involved several individuals, conservancy groups, and state and local governments and agencies. The Preserve was purchased through a joint effort with Volusia County and the state's Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Program. One of the primary reasons for acquisition was to protect one of the largest undeveloped tracts in the region.

The Volusia County Council named the Spruce Creek Preserve in honor of Doris Leeper, a nationally recognized artist, founder of Atlantic Center for the Arts, and the driving force in the establishment of Canaveral National Seashore. She was the founder of Friends of Spruce Creek Preserve and pushed for protection of this important area. Her pioneering conservation efforts led to the preservation of thousands of acres of protected parks and public land.

Management Plan Overview

The purpose of the acquisition of DLSCP through the CARL program was the protection, conservation and management of natural and cultural resources along while providing for public access and recreation. Current uses at the preserve are primarily related to public access and outdoor recreation. Public access is provided to all tracts and supported by adjacent parcels. Recreational activities available at DLSCP consist of hiking, biking, horseback riding, picnicking, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and wildlife observation.

The DLSCP contains 18 natural communities and altered land cover types. The predominant natural communities occurring on DLSCP are salt marsh, mesic flatwoods, and scrub. DLSCP supports diverse wildlife species including 36 birds, 10 reptiles and amphibians, eight mammals, and 42 fish. Twenty-three listed animal species have been documented at DLSCP.

There are 16 documented sites on state lands, and there are 18 recorded sites on adjacent conservation lands. The vast majority of these sites are new sites recorded by registered public archaeologists retained by local governments. For management purposes, the entire preserve is

considered to be archaeologically sensitive and investigation is undertaken prior to any site disturbance or recreational uses with potential for ground disturbance. All known cultural sites on DLSCP are monitored on an annual basis and action taken if necessary. Staff will develop appropriate remedial stabilization plans in conjunction with the Division of Historical Resources and the Bureau of Natural and Cultural Resources for earthen mounds.

The Florida Legislature requires that all land management plans include long and short-term goals. These goals must be measurable objectives, and short-term goals must be achievable within a two-year planning period. Pursuant to section 253.034, Florida Statutes, the Division of State Lands began compiling the short-term goals from each land management plan approved since July 1, 2016. The management plan identified objectives under the following short-term goals: habitat restoration and improvement, exotic and invasive species maintenance and control, cultural and historic resources, facilities and infrastructure, and public access, recreational and educational opportunities.

Public Involvement

A public workshop was held on January 31, 2022. The purpose of this meeting was to present this draft management plan to the public. Comments from public input were considered and where logistical and not contrary to the primary purpose and goals of this Plan, were incorporated. Following review and input of the Plan at the public workshop, a Management Plan Advisory Group meeting was held on February 2, 2022.

Surplus Lands

The evaluation of this site has determined that no portion of the DLSCP is to be declared surplus.

State Land Management Review Team

A Land Management Review (LMR) was conducted in August 2021. The review team found that the property is managed in accordance with the purposes for which it was acquired and the management practices, including public access, are in compliance with the management plan. One consensus recommendation was offered:

- 1) The team recommended regular spraying of the art center boundary fence to prevent further vine/vegetation encroachment.

The 2021 LMR notes were reviewed as part of developing this plan and the agreed upon changes and recommendations were made to this management plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the management plan.

ARC RECOMMENDATION:

- APPROVE**
- APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS:** _____
- DEFER**
- WITHDRAW**
- NOT APPROVE**
- OTHER:** _____

LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (2022)

Lead Agency: Volusia County Location: Volusia County, Florida

Common Name of Property: Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve (DLSCP)

Acreage Total: 1932.26 acres

Acreage Breakdown:

Land Cover Classification	Acres	Percent
Blackwater Stream	25.84	1.3%
Bottomland Forest	61.69	3.2%
Coastal Hydric Hammock	7.48	0.4%
Developed	2.53	0.1%
Impoundment	5.01	0.3%
Improved Pasture	2.88	0.1%
Mangrove Swamp	8.95	0.5%
Maritime Hammock	166.38	8.6%
Mesic Flatwoods	257.78	13.3%
Mesic Hammock	103.56	5.4%
Salt Marsh	475.35	24.6%
Scrub	231.63	12.0%
Scrubby Flatwoods	185.71	9.6%
Spoil Area	3.44	0.2%
Successional Hardwood Forest	27.48	1.4%
Wet Flatwoods	176.05	9.1%
Wet Prairie	14.76	0.8%
Xeric Hammock	175.74	9.1%
Total:	1932.26	100%

Lease/Management Agreement No.: 4195 (Appendix A)

Use: Single: _____ Multiple: X Management Responsibilities: Agency: Volusia County
Responsibilities: Resource restoration, management, protection, law enforcement, user group management

Designated Land Use: Conservation Sublease (s): None Encumbrances: Yes

Type Acquisition: Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Program and Florida Forever Program.

Unique Features: Contains imperiled habitats, scrub, scrubby flatwoods, maritime hammock, and listed species. Eighteen (18) habitat types.

Archaeological/Historical: There are 34 documented (includes non-state lands) archaeological/historical sites including two on the National Register of Historic Places.

Management Needs: Habitat restoration and maintenance: user group management; hydrological preservation; exotic and invasive species maintenance; listed species habitat maintenance.

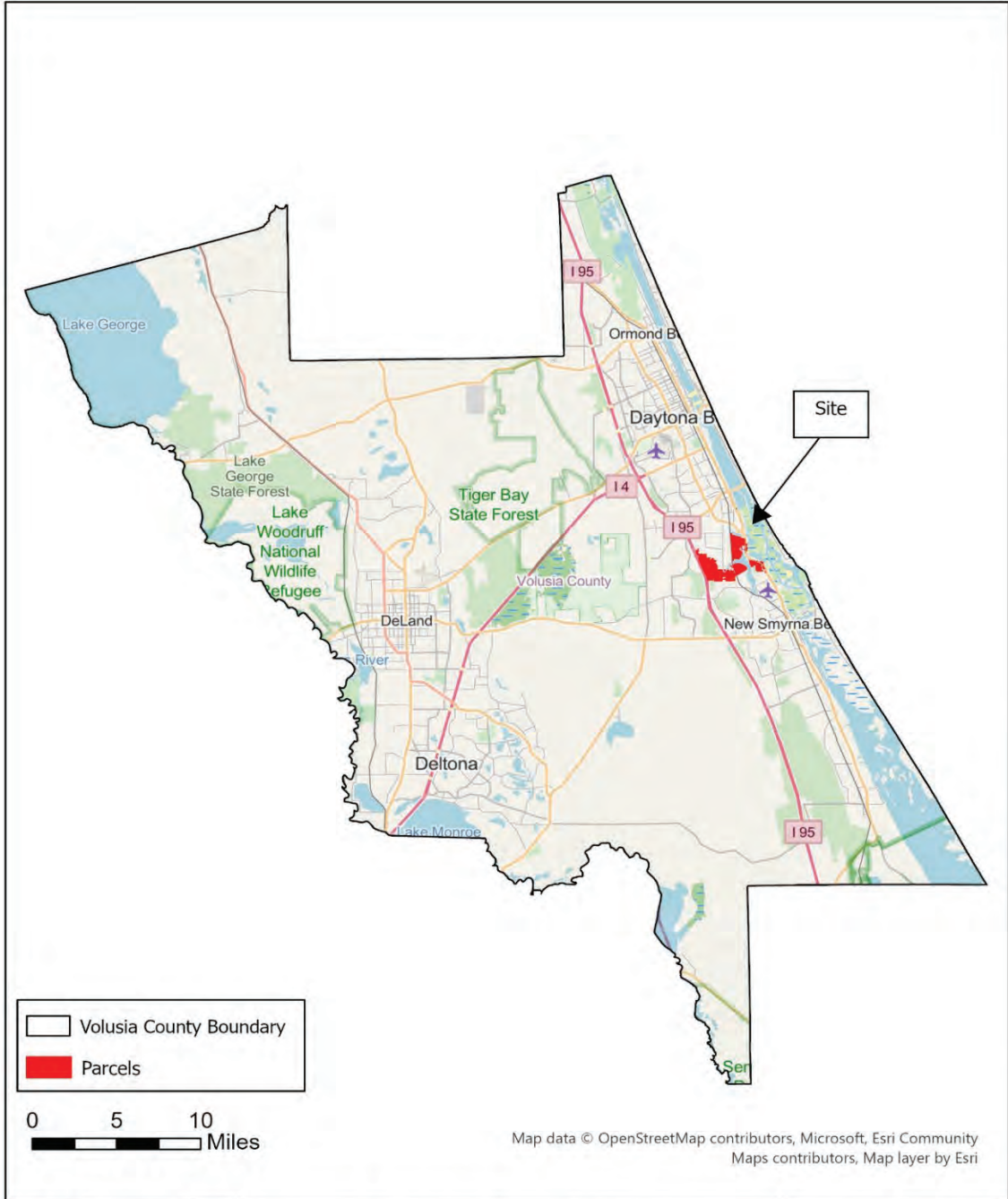
Acquisition Needs: 2,734 acres in optimal boundary: 2,473 acres acquired; 358 acres left for acquisition in optimal boundary Surplus Lands: none

Public Involvement: DSL Land Management Review; Management Plan Advisory Group, Public Hearing.

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE (FOR DIVISION OF STATE LANDS USE ONLY)

ARC Approval Date: _____ BTIITF Approval Date: _____

Comments: _____

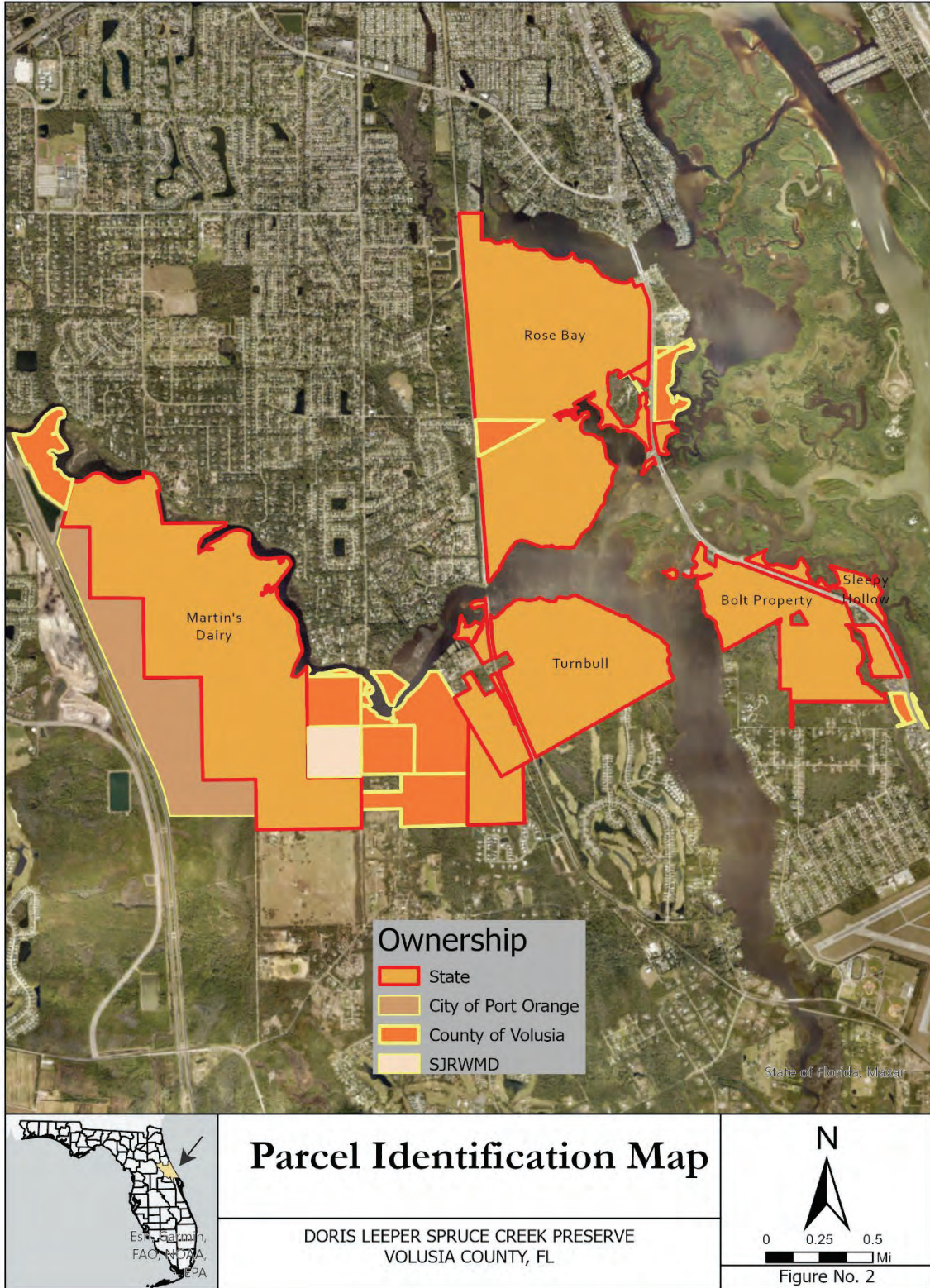


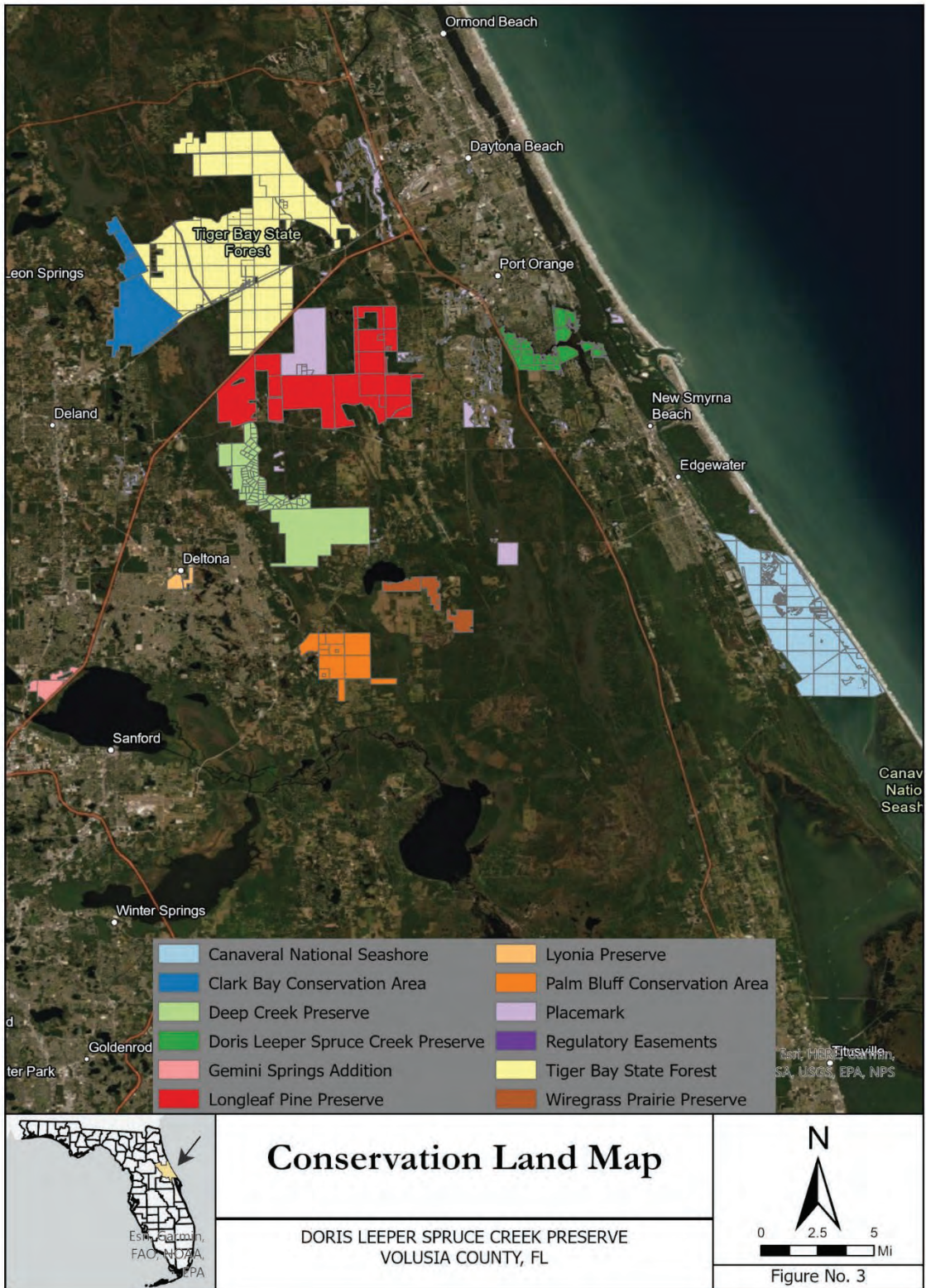
Location Map

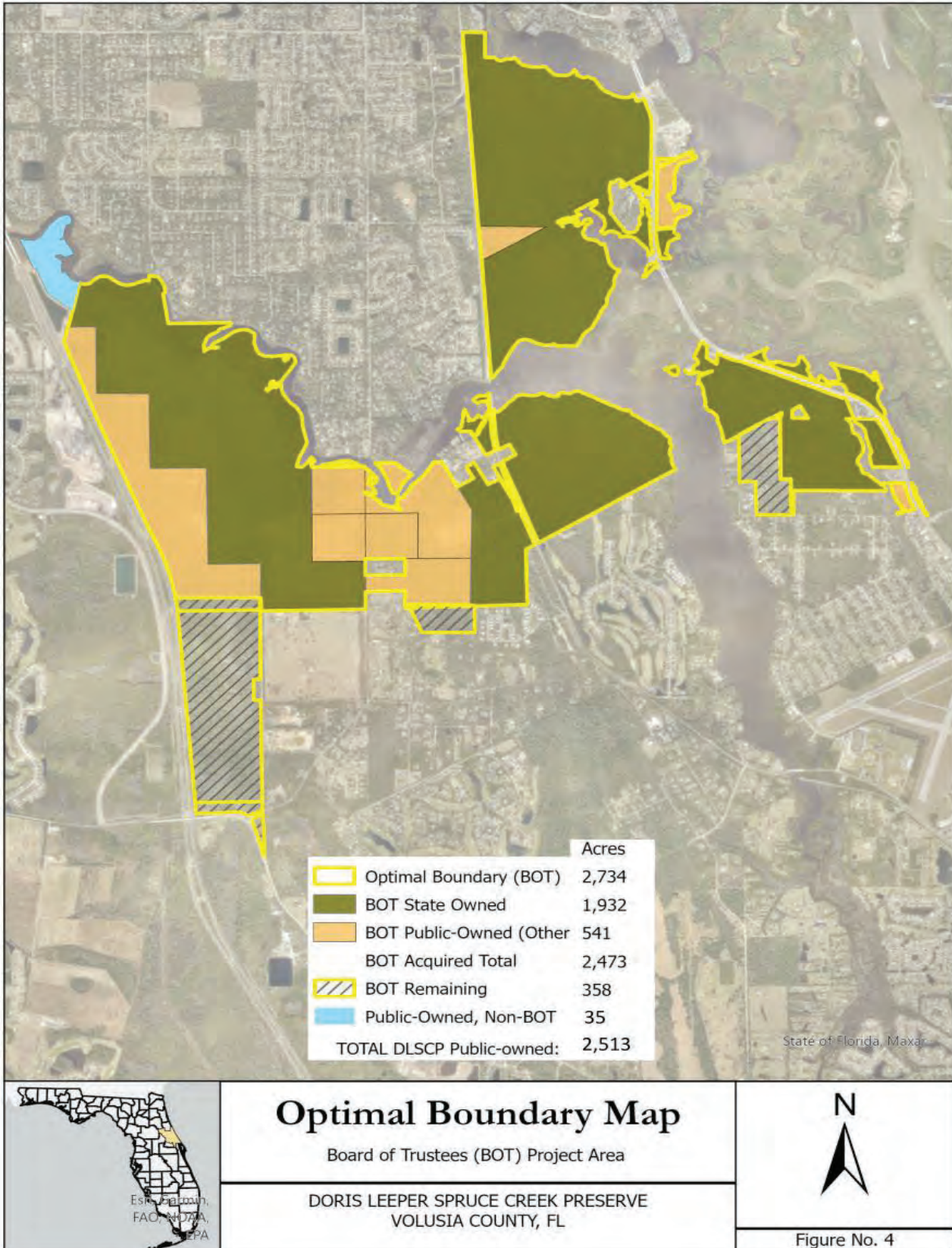
Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve
Volusia County, Florida

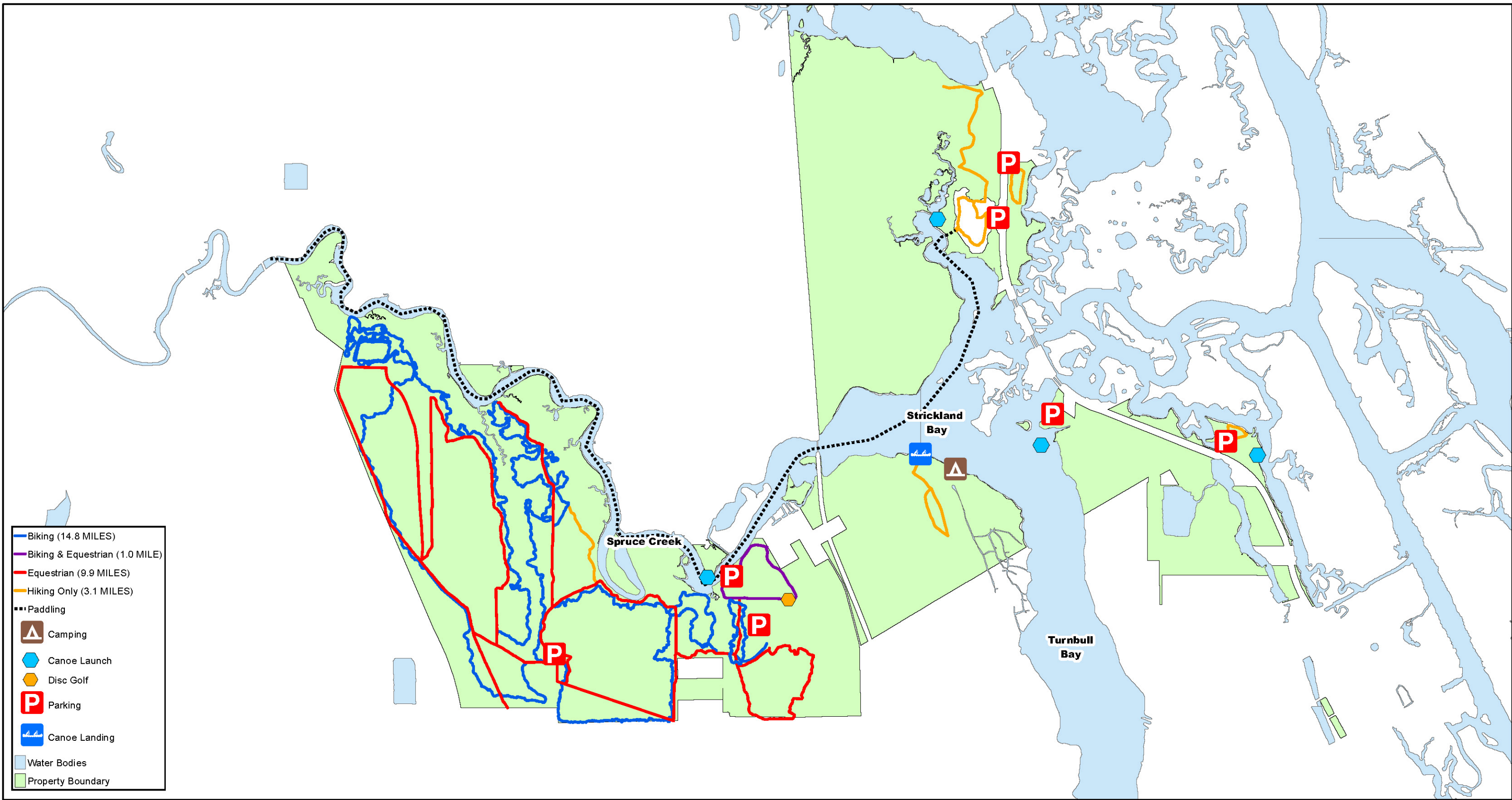


Figure No. 1



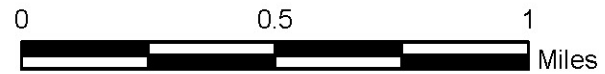






- Biking (14.8 MILES)
- Biking & Equestrian (1.0 MILE)
- Equestrian (9.9 MILES)
- Hiking Only (3.1 MILES)
- - - Paddling
- Camping
- Canoe Launch
- Disc Golf
- Parking
- Canoe Landing
- Water Bodies
- Property Boundary

NOTICE:
 THIS MAP IS CONCEPTUAL AND INTENDED FOR GENERAL PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES, LOCALES, AND ACREAGES MAY CHANGE DEPENDING UPON CONSIDERATIONS SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, SITE SPECIFIC CONDITIONS, WEATHER, MARKETS, PROJECT PRIORITIES, AND AVAILABILITY OF STAFF. ALL ACREAGES ARE APPROXIMATE.
 October 2022 ARC Meeting



1 inch = 2,000 feet
 Created by: Resource Stewardship
 January 2022



Resource Stewardship Division
 123 W. Indiana Ave
 Deland, FL 32720

Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve Habitats

