

## Little Talbot Island State Park

---

**Planning Region:** Atlantic Coast

**County:** Duval

**Lease/Management Agreement Number:** 3632

### Overview

Little Talbot Island provides critical wildlife protection, onshore and offshore, with nearly 50 shorebird species using the island for resting, nesting, or foraging. The island is one of the few places in northeast Florida where overwintering piping plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) occur. A segment of the country's longest biking and walking route, the East Coast Greenway, is also provided within the park.

**Total Acreage:** 1,531.38

<b>Natural Communities</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Beach Dune	128.87
Coastal Grassland	486.81
Coastal Interdunal Swale	172.68
Coastal Strand	167.70
Maritime Hammock	324.51
Marine Unconsolidated Substrate	128.07
Salt Marsh	60.51

  

<b>Altered Landcovers</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Artificial Pond	1.42
Canal/ Ditch	5.60
Developed	50.75

**Acquisition:** Little Talbot Island State Park was initially acquired in 1950 from Rollins College, and on June 5, 1951, by donation, from the Florida Department of Transportation. Currently, the park comprises 1,531.38 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 3632) the property to DRP under a 99-year lease. The current lease will expire on January 22, 2067.

# **Little Talbot Island State Park**

---

## **Resource Management Component Objectives**

### **Hydrology**

- Assess the park's hydrological restoration needs.
- Restore or improve hydrological conditions to approximately 254 acres of Coastal Interdunal Swale wetlands and wet flatwoods.
- 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**

- Maintain 250 acres within the optimum fire return interval at Big Talbot Island State Park.
- Conduct natural community improvement activities on approximately 400 acres of scrubby flatwoods at Big Talbot Island State Park.

### **Imperiled Species**

- Update baseline imperiled species occurrence list.
- Continue existing monitoring protocols for 12 selected imperiled animal species (4 marine turtle species, piping plover, red knot, Wilson's plover, least tern, black skimmer, American oystercatcher, Worthington's marsh wren, and MacGillivray's seaside sparrow).
- Continue existing monitoring protocols for 2 selected imperiled plant species (mound lily and angular fruit milkvine).

### **Invasive and Nuisance Species**

- Annually treat 24 gross acres equaling 1 infested acre of invasive plant species.
- Implement control measures on 1 invasive animal species.

### **Cultural Resources**

- Assess/evaluate 25 of 25 recorded cultural resources in the park.
- Compile reliable documentation for all recorded historic and archaeological resources.
- Bring 1 of 25 recorded cultural resources into good condition (Dune Edge site, Du16006).

## **Little Talbot Island State Park**

---

### **Land Use Component Objectives**

#### **Conceptual Land Use**

##### North Beach Area

- Extend the Dune Ridge Trail to the visitor parking area.

##### South Beach Area

- Remove defunct recreational infrastructure.

##### Fort George Inlet

- Continue engagement with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding erosion abatement.

##### Fort George Inlet Parking Area

- Install one interpretive panel.

##### Campground

- Relocate campsites to higher ground or elevate within the existing footprint.
- Armor authorized paths and prevent makeshift paths.

##### South Support Area

- Consolidate all volunteer RV sites.

##### Beach Access

- Improve beach access.

#### **Optimum Boundary**

A 23.95-acre parcel just north of Little Talbot and Long Island, just south of Bird Island, undergoes dynamic littoral sand drift but should be considered for acquisition given its proximity to the Talbot Islands. This parcel is owned by the City of Jacksonville, and if presented the opportunity should be acquired to preserve critical habitat and colonial nesting areas for shorebirds.