

San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park

Planning Region: North Florida Highlands

County: Alachua

Lease/Management Agreement Number: 2839

Overview

San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park is comprised of 24 natural communities, including one of the largest contiguous upland hardwood forests in the state, and karst influenced wetland associations such as blackwater streams that drain into sinkholes. The park provides over 40 miles of extensive off-road biking, as well as equestrian and hiking trails.

Total Acreage: 7,353.39

Natural Communities	Acres
Alluvial Forest	226.05
Bottomland Forest	690.73
Baygall	8.67
Basin Marsh	33.69
Basin Swamp	62.75
Blackwater Stream	17.77
Clastic Upland Lake	48.17
Depression Marsh	6.32
Dome Swamp	3.89
Floodplain Marsh	6.00
Floodplain Swamp	74.78
Limestone Outcrop	0.15
Mesic Hammock	19.52
Mesic Flatwoods	70.00
Marsh Lake	1.28
Sandhill	197.10
Sinkhole	9.76
Sinkhole Lake	35.25
Seepage Stream	4.54
Sandhill Upland Lake	4.11
Swamp Lake	16.24
Upland Hardwood Forest	2,939.52
Upland Mixed Woodland	892.59
Upland Pine	617.95

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Altered Landcovers	Acres
Abandoned Field/ Pasture	267.87
Artificial Pond	3.27
Borrow Area	3.46
Clearing/ Regeneration	3.97
Developed	6.00
Improved Pasture	322.25
Pine Plantation	9.16
Spoil Area	1.59
Successional Hardwood Forest	651.98
Utility Corridor	106.17

Acquisition: San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park was initially acquired in 1974 under the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program.

Resource Management Component Objectives

Hydrology

- Assess the park's hydrological restoration needs.
- Restore natural hydrological conditions and functions to approximately 2 miles of blackwater stream and 10 acres of sinkhole lake natural community.
- Evaluate and mitigate the impacts of soil erosion in the park.
- Monitor and evaluate the impacts of historic cattle dipping operations at San Felasco.

Natural Communities

- Conduct floral and faunal surveys and update the park's baseline plant and animal list.
- Within 10 years, have 2000 acres of the park maintained within the optimum fire return interval.
- Conduct habitat/natural community restoration activities on 212 acres of upland mixed woodland and upland pine natural communities.
- Conduct natural community/habitat improvement activities on 218 acres of sandhill/upland pine natural communities.
- Conduct natural community/habitat improvement activities on 30 acres of sandhill and mesic flatwoods natural communities.
- Conduct natural community/habitat improvement activities on 245 acres of sandhill and upland mixed woodland natural communities.
- Conduct natural community/habitat improvement activities on 200 acres of sandhill and upland mixed woodland natural communities.

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Imperiled Species

- Update baseline imperiled species occurrence inventory lists for plants and animals.
- Monitor and document 9 selected imperiled animal species in the park (striped newt, Holbrook's southern dusky salamander, tiger salamander, eastern indigo snake, Florida pine snake, short-tailed kingsnake, eastern diamondback rattlesnake, Florida scorpionfly and imperiled butterfly species).
- Monitor and document 3 selected imperiled plant species in the park (woodland poppy mallow, Flyr's brickell-bush and nettleleaf sage).

Invasive and Nuisance Species

- Annually treat 1000 gross acres or approximately 120 infested acres of invasive plant species in the park.
- Prevent the introduction and spread of invasive plants into the park.
- Survey the entire park for invasives at least 3 times over 10 years.
- Implement control measures on 1 invasive animal species in the park.

Cultural Resources

- Assess and evaluate 57 of 57 recorded cultural resources in the park.
- Compile reliable documentation for all recorded historic and archaeological resources.
- Bring 1 of 57 recorded cultural resources into good condition (Agricultural Structure #1, AL4980).

Land Use Component Objectives

Conceptual Land Use

Northern Trailhead

- Delineate and organize parking areas with signage, clearly demarcating driveways, and parking curbs.
- Install a new restroom and connect it to the municipal sewage system.
- Develop a sensory trail with specialized interpretive materials.
- Provide ecological and historic interpretation.

Millhopper Road Trailhead

- Reconfigure parking lot to provide at least six more parking spaces within the existing footprint.
- Install a permanent restroom and connect to the municipal sewage system.
- Provide an additional interpretive panel.
- Provide a safer pedestrian crossing along Millhopper Road.

Support Area

- Conduct a historic structure assessment for the tobacco barn.

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Turkey Creek

- Construct a bridge to improve trail system and management access.

Itchy Bottom Lake Picnic Area

- Construct a large rustic picnic pavilion.
- Install two picnic tables.
- Install interpretation pertaining to the significance of watershed protection.

Optimum Boundary

Several parcels, approximately 1,600 acres in total, are proposed for acquisition to support habitat connectivity in this majorly developed region, protect imperiled species from further development, and protect the park's significant natural communities from invasive species. Some properties within the parks optimum boundary include current and former pastureland. Acquiring these parcels would provide the Division an opportunity to protect valuable watersheds and karst features from nearby pollutants and restore natural ecological functions within these altered landcovers.