# COASTAL PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE D.J. WILCOX PRESERVE BOARDWALK

Amy Griffin, Director SLC ERD

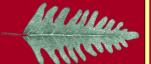




## ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

- PRESERVE, PROTECT & ENHANCE SLC'S NATURAL RESOURCES
  - ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS DIVISION
    - > DEVELOPMENT REVIEW, PERMITS
  - ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIVISION
  - ENVIRONMENTAL LANDS DIVISION
    - > 10,000+ ACRES / 70+ MILES OF GW&T'S AND PADDLING TRAILS

### DJ Wilcox Preserve





### Welcome to DJ Wilcox Preserve - Trailside

DJ Wilcox Preserve is a 106-acre site consisting of mixed upland and wetland natural communities including pine flatwoods, oak hammocks, and baygall swamp. In 2003, the County bought this property, which abuts the Indian River Lagoon, through a grant from Florida Communities Trust. The site was named after D. J. Wilcox, past owner of the property and former County Commissioner. Dewey Wilcox was a foreman for the East Coast Development Company (partly owned by Edwin Binney from Crayola fame) that was to create a new town called Indrio during the land boom of the late 1920's. The depression stopped the town from being built and Wilcox purchased much of the land from the company. In the late 1920's Wilcox moved his in-laws, the Aubrecht's, to the property. For more information on agest the remnants of the Aubrecht homestead (circa 1925) found north of the parking lot scan the QR symbol below or visit http://www.stlucieco.gov/pdfs/Wilcox\_Aubrecht\_Homestead\_Brochure.pdf.

Acquisition of the site expanded the Indrio North Savannahs Greenway and Trail system, a four-mile-long wildlife corridor and greenway that contains diverse habitatis. The corridor provides stategic habitat to birds such as wood storks, bald eagles, Florida scrub jays and black whiskered virieos, and animals such as gopher tortoises, American alligators, and West Indian manatees. In fact, the area is so diverse that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has categorized it as a "biodiversity hotspot" and priority wetland for wetland species.

DI Wilcox Preserve borders the Indian River Lagoon, the most ecologically diverse estuary in North America, with more than 4,000 species of plants and animals. Its preservation serves to protect the upland and wetdand communities bordering the lagoon (and thus the water quality) but it also provides the public with access to the lagoon.

The D.J. Wilcox Preserve is rich with flora and fauna typical to coastal ecosystems. A one mile interpretive trail has been established on the site that leads hikers through several different habitats including oak hammock, pine flatwoods, and a baygall swamp. Some of the largest slash pines in St. Lucie County exist on the site and provide prime habitat for bald eagles. An observation tower has been erected that allows visitors to view acres of mangrove wetlands which lie east of the trail.

### Restoration efforts

Most of the natural communities in Florida are adapted to fire. DJ Wilcox is no exception. This site relies on periodic fire to recycle plant nutrients and in some cases disperse seeds. Construction of a boardwalk to take hikers along the north side of the gator pond is expected to be complete in 2013. For more information on these practices contact our department or our partner the Florida Forest Service.

### Plants and animals

DJ Wilcox is home to many varieties of plants and wildlife. Commonly seen wildlife include American alligator, brown pelican, osprey, red-shouldered hawk, white libis, herons, egrets, the endangered wood stork, roseate spoonbills and many more.















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### Enjoy

Hiking, nature study, photography, and wildlife viewing. Use DJ Wilcox Preserve at your own risk. Be aware of uneven slippery terrain and trip hazards.

Always be prepared for the Florida heat, sudden thunderstorms/lightning & wildlife.

Call 911 in case of an emergency.

To ensure public safety and environmental protection, the following are not allowed:

- Motorized vehicles;
- Littering/destruction of property;
- Trapping, hunting, feeding, disturbing, or releasing wildlife;
- Removal of plants, animals, archeological or cultural resources.

While visiting the property, please keep pets on a leash.

Pack: water, snacks, sunscreen, insect repellent, a cell phone when venturing onto trails.

This site is open from Sunrise to Sunset.

For more information about this conservation area or other lands managed by St. Lucie County Environmental Resources, please scan the below QR symbol or contact us at:

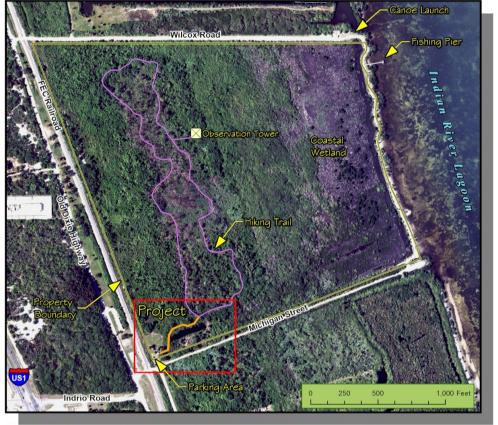
St. Lucie County Environmental Resources 2300 Virginia Avenue Ft. Pierce, Ft. 34982 (772) 462-2526



It takes your tax dollars to clean up vandalism and litter on public lands.

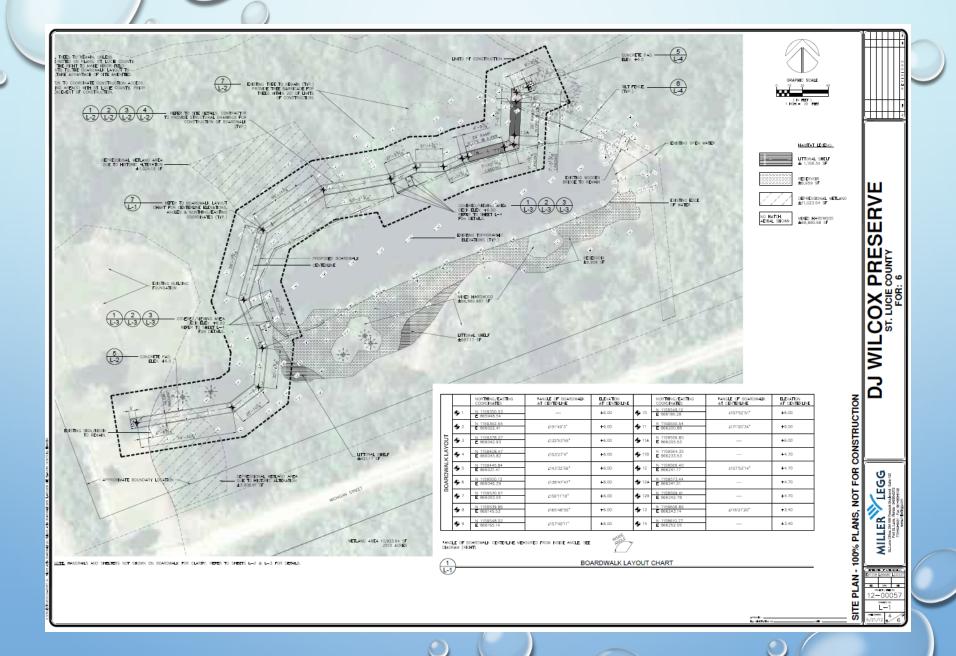
Please help keep this area clean — Pack trash out with you





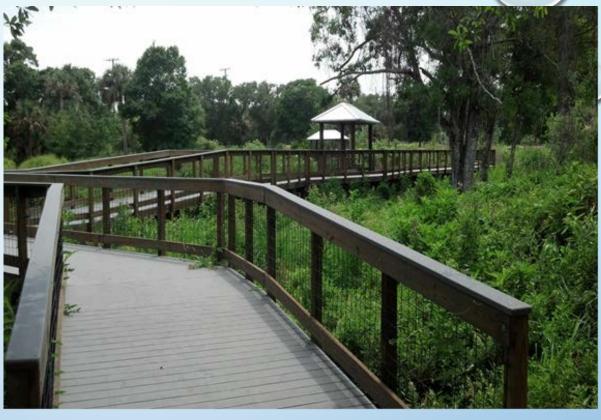






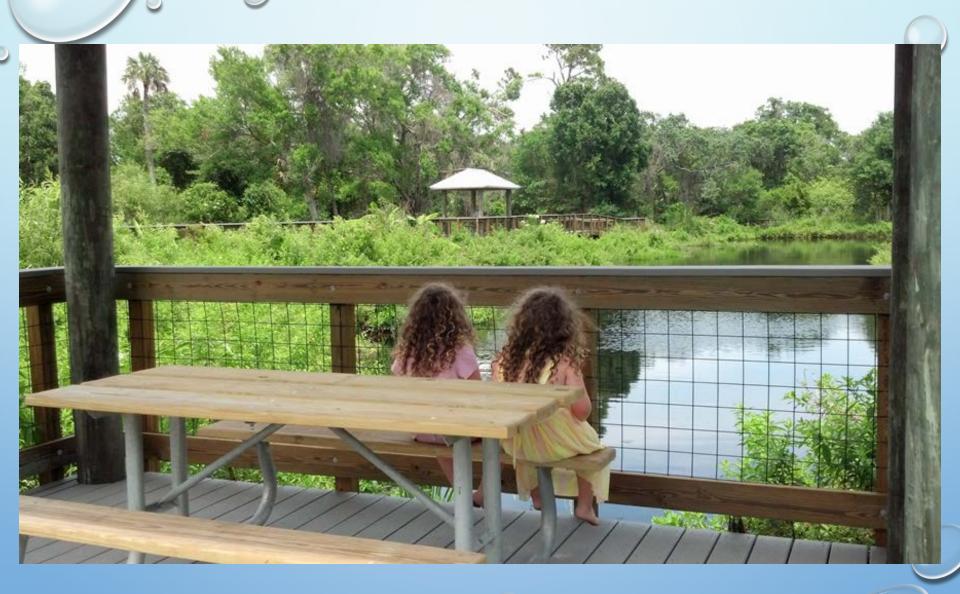












https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5 Rp5Sugls&list=UU5caV d8tOAH3ewx-B1EVqg

