

A landscape photograph of a pine forest. The foreground is filled with tall, green grasses and some yellow wildflowers. In the middle ground, there is a dense stand of tall, slender pine trees with green needles. The background shows a clear blue sky with scattered white, fluffy clouds. The overall scene is bright and natural.

Atlantic Ridge Preserve State Park
Public Meeting
March 16th, 2021



Meeting Overview

Agenda

- 5:30 Open House – Viewing of Maps and Staff Interaction
- 6:00 Welcome and Presentation of Draft Management Plan
- 6:30 Q&A Session – Staff Open House Continued
- 7:30 Adjourn

Objectives

- Present the draft management plan
- Gather public input on the draft management plan



Mission Statement

The mission of the Florida Park Service is to provide resource-based recreation while preserving, interpreting, and restoring natural and cultural resources.





Atlantic Ridge Preserve State Park





Recreation

Passive Recreation

- Hiking
- Birding
- Horseback Riding

5-year attendance average: 6,200 visitors

•The DRP manages the park for the purpose of protecting and preserving the richness of the natural communities and resources Atlantic Ridge Preserve State Park while providing opportunities for natural resource-based recreation and historic interpretation for the benefit of the people of Florida.

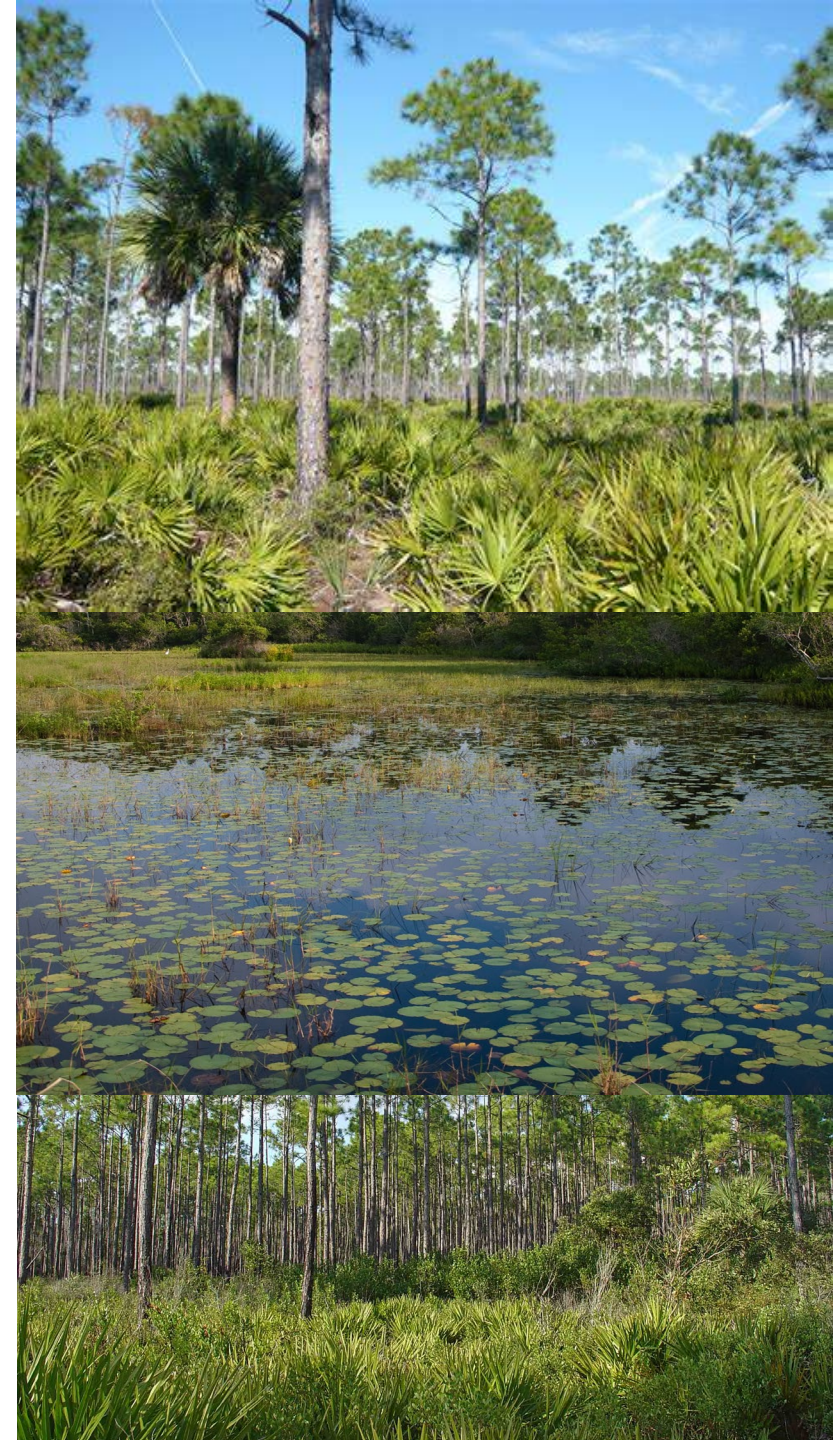




Natural Resources

The park contains 10 distinct natural communities:

- Mesic Flatwoods
- Depression Marshes
- Flatwoods
- Dome swamps
- Hydric Hammock

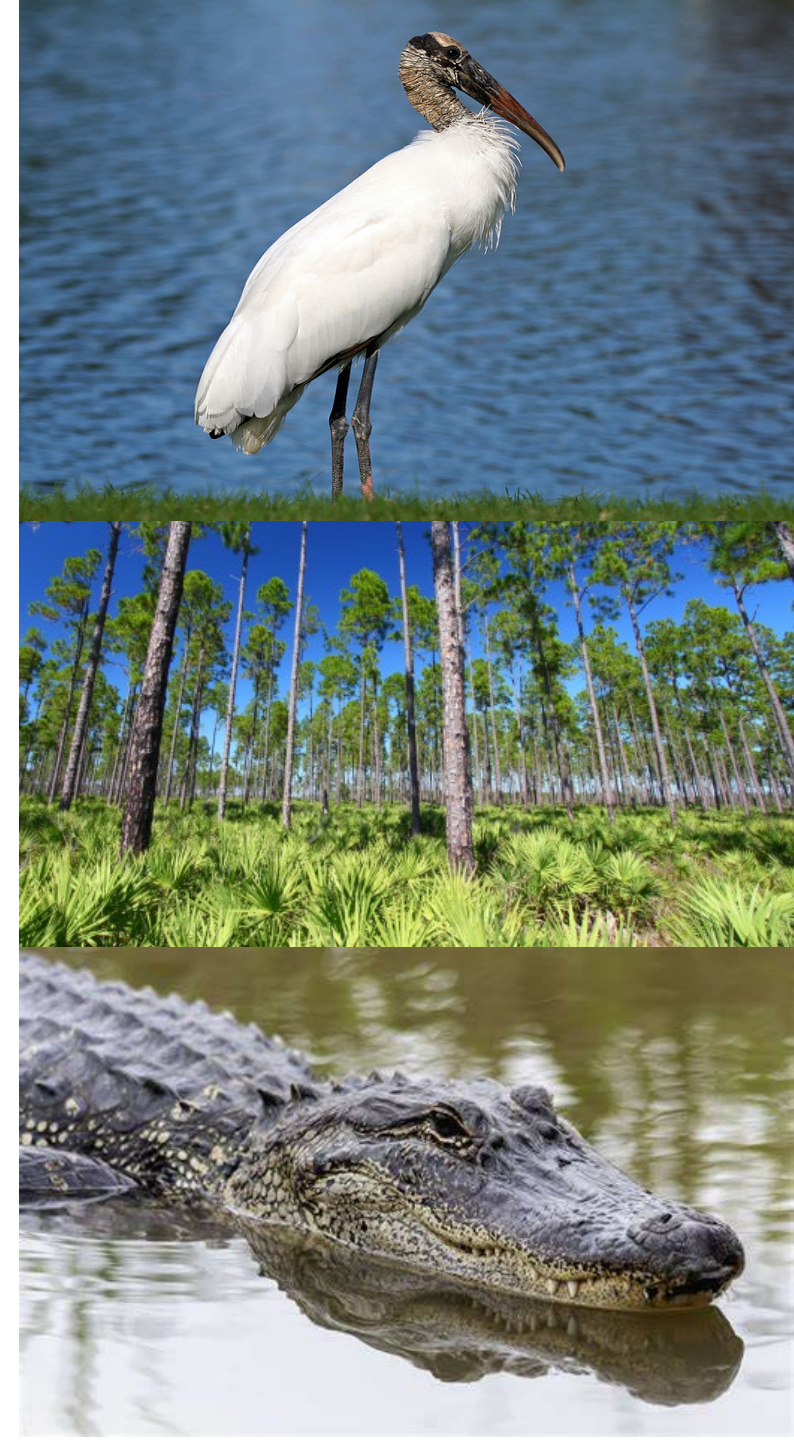




Natural Resources

Atlantic Ridge Preserve State Park protects and provides habitat for 3 imperiled plants and 8 imperiled animals including:

- American alligator
- Wood stork
- Banded wild pine
- Florida manatee





Natural Resources

31 exotic plant species listed by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council have been observed at the park including:

- Bishop wood
- Australian pine
- Air-Potato
- Old World climbing fern





Resource Management





Resource Management Objectives

Natural Communities Management

- Maintain 4,613 acres of the park with fire in 10 years
- Restore 464 acres of abandoned pasture

Imperiled Species Management

- Monitor gopher tortoises

Exotic Species Management

- Annually treat up to 1,628 gross acres of various exotic plant species
- Implement control measures on feral hogs





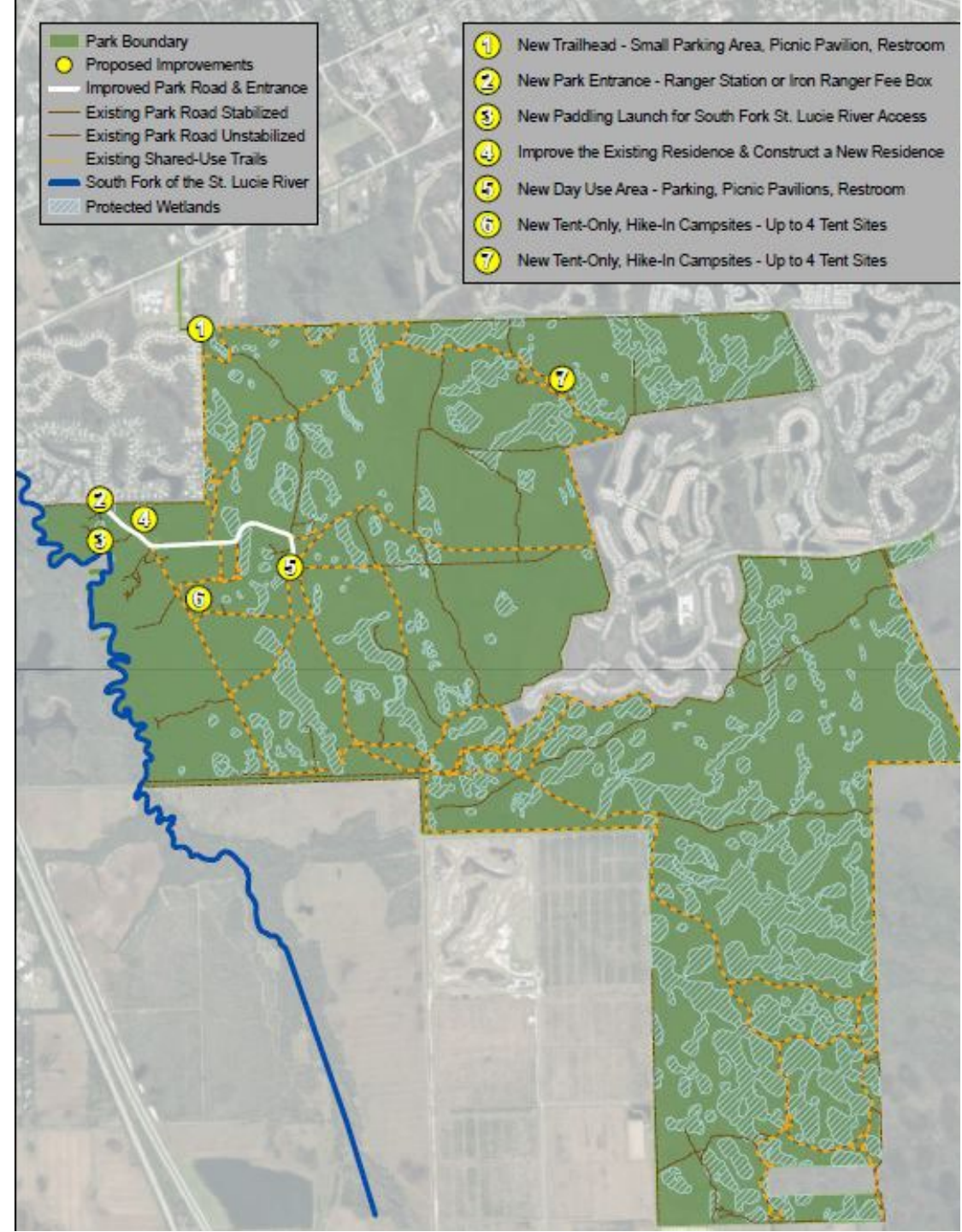
Conceptual Land Use Plan

The objective in park planning is to achieve a BALANCE between preserving natural conditions and providing public access for recreation purposes.



Proposed Developments

- Develop small trailhead
- Formalize Park Entrance
- Develop new Day Use Area
- Paddling Launch – St. Lucie River Access
- New Residence
- Improvements to current residence
- Primitive Camping Sites





Questions?

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Comment period ends March 30th, 2021
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