

Amelia Island State Park

Planning Region: Atlantic Coast

County: Nassau

Lease/Management Agreement Number: 3377

Overview

Amelia Island State Park is part of a contiguous protected landscape of state and federal conservation lands including the Talbot Islands and Timucuan Ecological and Historical Preserve. The park preserves beach dune, maritime hammock, flatwoods, and various wetlands at the south end of Florida's northern-most barrier island, providing habitat for many coastal imperiled species as well as opportunities for recreation.

Total Acreage: 235.68

Natural Communities	Acres
Beach Dune	15.09
Coastal Grassland	34.70
Coastal Interdunal Swale	17.53
Coastal Strand	26.04
Estuarine Composite Substrate	0.12
Marine Unconsolidated Substrate	52.03
Maritime Hammock	53.59
Mesic Flatwoods	14.13
Salt Marsh	3.47

Altered Landcovers	Acres
Artificial Pond	0.17
Canal/ Ditch	5.89
Developed	9.84
Spoil Area	3.09

Acquisition: Amelia Island State Park was initially acquired on July 15, 1983, under the Save Our Coast program. Currently, the park comprises 235.68 acres. The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Trustees) hold fee simple title to the park and on November 19, 1984, the Trustees leased (Lease Number 3377) the property to Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) under a 50-year lease. The current lease will expire on November 18, 2034.

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Resource Management Component Objectives

Hydrology

- Conduct an assessment the park's hydrological restoration needs.
- Restore hydrological conditions to approximately 25 acres of Maritime Hammock and Coastal Interdunal Swale natural communities.
- 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 DRP mission.

Imperiled Species

- Update baseline imperiled species occurrence list.
- Continue existing monitoring protocols for 10 imperiled animal species (2 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 monitoring of diamondback terrapin nesting in cooperation with the Turtle Survival Alliance.

Invasive and Nuisance Species

- Annually treat 23 gross acres equaling 0.24 infested acres of invasive plant species with a focus on treatment of golden bamboo and skunkvine.
- Implement control measures on 1 nuisance species.

Cultural Resources

- Assess and evaluate 3 of 8 recorded cultural resources in the park (Sawpit Creek (DU08097), Entrance Redeposit (NA01091), and Beach Road Redeposit (NA01092)).
- Compile reliable documentation for all recorded historic and archaeological resources.
- Bring 3 of 8 recorded cultural resources into good condition.

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Land Use Component Objectives

Conceptual Land Use

Entrance

- Create stabilized access path from the upper parking area to the southern.
- Install directional signage along the proposed pathway.

Parking Area

- Provision for a small permanent restroom.

Equestrian Stables

- Improve wayfinding to the riding stables.
- Improve parking lot and access road.

Beach Access

- Provide sensitive habitat interpretation at the beginning of the proposed beach access path.
- Improve beach access to prevent unofficial trails.

South Beach Area

- Evaluate beach driving access points, corridors, and perpetuity as necessary to ensure resource protection and visitor safety.

Optimum Boundary

An approximately 50-acre parcel, bordering the northern park boundary has been identified for the optimum boundary of Amelia Island State Park. This area consists of high-quality maritime hammock and beach dune that would expand protection of imperiled coastal habitats and provide the opportunity for additional recreational opportunities.