



# DESIGNATION OF Florida Geological Sites



Section 377.075(4)(e), Florida Statutes, provides that “[t]he State Geologist... shall designate areas as ‘state geological sites’ or ‘state invertebrate paleontological sites’ pursuant to the provisions of this section, which areas are determined to be of great and continuing significance to the scientific study and public understanding of the geological history of this state.” In determining whether to make such a designation the following will be considered:

1. Educational Value – Site is publicly accessible and provides a unique opportunity for visitors to observe, experience, and learn about the significance of the site and its connection to the local ecosystem.
2. Geologic Significance – Site contains a geologic feature that is rare, unique, exceptional, or otherwise of special geologic importance. Non-mutually exclusive subcategories of geological significance include:
  - a. Hydrogeology – Features that exhibit hydrogeological processes related to Florida’s aquifers (e.g., wetlands, lakes, springs, swallets).
  - b. Karst – Features formed by the dissolution of carbonate rocks or sediments (e.g., sinkholes, caves).
  - c. Fossils and Minerals – Sites that contain rare or unusually abundant rocks, minerals, or well-preserved fossils.
  - d. Geomorphology – Physical features of the earth’s surface that provide clear link to geological structure, processes, or history (e.g., dunes, erosional scarps).
  - e. Outcrops – Exposures, whether natural or exposed through human activity, that are designated type or co-type sections of geologic formations, or that contain unique geologic strata or sedimentary structures.
3. Geoheritage – Site or feature has played a significant role in cultural or historical events (e.g. prehistoric and historic quarry sites, places of social or religious gatherings).
4. Conservation – Condition of the natural state of the feature and degree to which land use and land management practices are likely to impact the inherent sensitivity of the natural geologic feature.