



DUDLEY FARM HISTORIC STATE PARK

Park Chapter

NORTH FLORIDA HIGHLANDS REGION

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Dudley Farm Historic State Park

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Dudley Farm Historic State Park

Planning Region: North Florida Highlands

County: Alachua

Lease/Management Agreement Number: 3366

Overview: Dudley Farm Historic State Park is the site of a historic farmstead representing nearly a century of Florida Farming, from the late 1850s to the 1940s. The farm remained within the Dudley family for 3 generations and much of their homestead has been protected as a National Historic Landmark. The interpretive complex, near the park entrance, helps contextualize what farming was like in Alachua County in the late 19th and early 20th century. In addition to protecting the rich cultural landscape, the park is home to a variety of natural and naturalized areas that can be enjoyed by hiking on the Pause and Ponder Trail. The Dudley Farm Historic State Park is also notable for numerous karst features including aquatic caves and solution depressions.

Total Acreage: 327.44

Natural Communities	Acres
Limestone Outcrop	0.014
Sinkhole	3.69
Upland Hardwood Forest	12.99
Upland Mixed Woodland	11.77
Aquatic Cave	0.01
Terrestrial Cave	0.04
Altered Land Cover	Acres
Abandon Field/ Pasture	120.34
Agriculture	5.9
Pasture - Improved	78.76
Restoration Natural Community	20.01
Successional Hardwood Forest	59.89
Developed	21.34

Acquisition: Dudley Farm Historic State Park was initially acquired on June 9, 1983. Currently, the park comprises 327.44 acres.

Resource Management Component

Hydrology

- Conduct/obtain an assessment of the park's hydrological restoration needs.
- Monitor impacts of erosion and sedimentation on the aquatic cave systems
- Monitor and evaluate the impacts of historic cattle dipping operations at Dudley Farm.

Natural Communities

- Maintain 175 acres within the optimum fire return interval.

Dudley Farm Historic State Park

- Conduct upland mixed woodland natural community restoration activities within 16 acres of currently designated pasture/field.
- Conduct natural community improvement activities to augment the natural progression of 24 acres of successional hardwood forest to upland hardwood forest.

Imperiled Species

- Update baseline imperiled species occurrence list
- Monitor and document tricolored bats in the park.
- Monitor and document 2 selected imperiled plant species in the park (incised agrimony and little ladiestresses).

Invasive and Nuisance Species

- Annually treat 3 gross acres of invasive plant species in the park.
- Develop and implement measures to prevent the accidental introduction or further spread of invasive plants in the parks.
- Implement control measures on invasive animal species in the park.

Cultural Resources

- Assess and evaluate 4 of 24 recorded cultural resources in the park.
- Compile reliable documentation for all recorded historic and archaeological resources.
- Bring 3 of 24 recorded cultural resources into good condition (main house, tobacco barn, chicken coops).

Land Use Component

Conceptual Land Use

Interpretive Complex

- Build new education center.
- Add back porch to Commissary.
- Update interpretation in Hodge Museum.
- Consider historic context of the present buildings.

Interpretive Trail

- Develop new trail.
- Include interpretation and wayfinding materials.

Homestead

- Continue maintenance.
- Conduct ADA accessibility assessment on Dudley farmhouse.

Perkins House

- Move Perkins House into the park.
- Develop interpretation.

Support Area

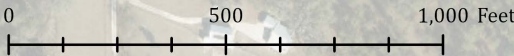
- Build new shop building.
- Develop 3-bay pole barn.
- Develop new volunteer campsite.

Optimum Boundary

The optimum boundary for Dudley Farm Historic State Park comprises 222 acres. These parcels include 2 parcels to the south and east and 3 parcels north and east of the current park boundary. Cultural resources such as caves and 1 prehistoric site would be protected after acquiring the north and east parcels. Some of the lands included in the optimum boundary were once owned by the Dudley Family. Finally, further acquisitions would buffer the historic area from future land use changes.



DUDLEY FARM HISTORIC STATE PARK
ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

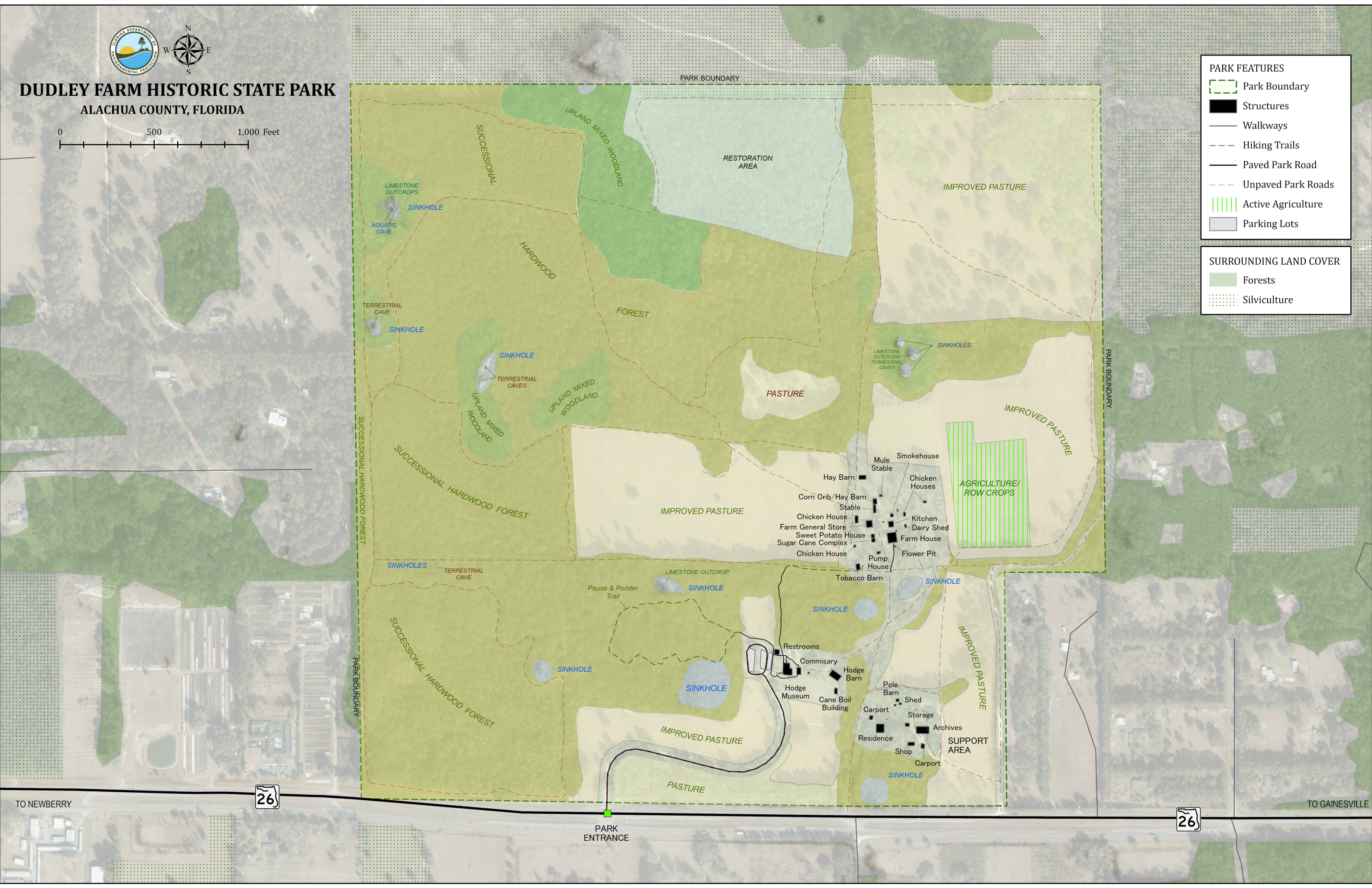


PARK FEATURES

- Park Boundary
- Structures
- Walkways
- Hiking Trails
- Paved Park Road
- Unpaved Park Roads
- Active Agriculture
- Parking Lots

SURROUNDING LAND COVER

- Forests
- Silviculture



TO NEWBERRY



PARK ENTRANCE



TO GAINESVILLE

INTRODUCTION

LOCATION AND ACQUISITION HISTORY

Dudley Farm Historic State Park is located in Alachua County. Access to the park is from State Road 26. The North Florida Highlands Region Map also reflects significant land and water resources existing near the park.

Dudley Farm Historic State Park was initially acquired on June 9, 1983. Currently, the park comprises 327.44 acres. The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Trustees) hold fee simple title to the park and on Oct. 31, 1984, the Trustees leased (Lease No. 3366) the property to the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) under a 50-year lease. The current lease will expire on Oct. 20, 2034.

Dudley Farm Historic State Park is designated single-use to provide public outdoor recreation and other park-related uses. There are no legislative or executive directives that constrain the use of this property (see appendix).

SECONDARY AND INCOMPATIBLE USES

In accordance with 253.034(5) F.S., the potential of the park to accommodate secondary management purposes was analyzed. These secondary purposes were considered within the context of DRP's statutory responsibilities and resource values. This analysis considered the park's natural and cultural resources, management needs, aesthetic values, visitation, and visitor experiences. It was determined that no secondary management purposes could be accommodated in a manner that would be compatible and not interfere with the primary purpose of resource-based outdoor recreation and conservation.

DRP has determined that uses such as, water resource development projects, water supply projects, stormwater management projects, linear facilities and sustainable agriculture and forestry (other than those management activities specifically identified in this plan) would not be consistent with the management purposes of the park.

In accordance with 253.034(5) F.S., the potential for generating revenue to enhance management was also analyzed. Visitor fees and charges are the principal source of revenue generated by the park. It was determined that no additional revenue generating activities are appropriate during this planning cycle. Generating revenue from consumptive uses or from activities that are not expressly related to resource management and conservation is not under consideration.

PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PARK

Park Purpose

The purpose of Dudley Farm Historic State Park is to preserve and interpret the Dudley Farm Historic Site and contextual environs.

Park Significance

- Dudley Farm Historic State Park is a living history site where visitors can experience a restored farmstead that was in use from 1870 to 1940. The park is the site of an authentic working farm showcasing a century of Florida farming history and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2021.
- In the 1800s, the Dudley Farm was a center of activity in Alachua County and played an integral role in the community's economic and political history.
- Numerous karst features are present within the park including caves and deep sinks. These features provide several direct surface-to-groundwater connections.

Central Park Theme

Travel back in time at Dudley Farm, an authentic farmstead that reveals the challenges and ingenuity of our shared agricultural heritage, including the evolution of human rights in the community.

Dudley Farm Historic State Park is classified as a special feature site in DRP's unit classification system. State special feature sites must be of unusual or exceptional character or have statewide or broad regional significance. These sites are generally either historic, archaeological, geological, botanical, or zoological by type.

Management of special feature sites places primary emphasis on protection and maintenance of the special feature. Permitted uses are almost exclusively passive in nature and program emphasis is on interpretation. Development at special feature sites is focused on protection and maintenance of the site, public access, safety, and the convenience of the user.

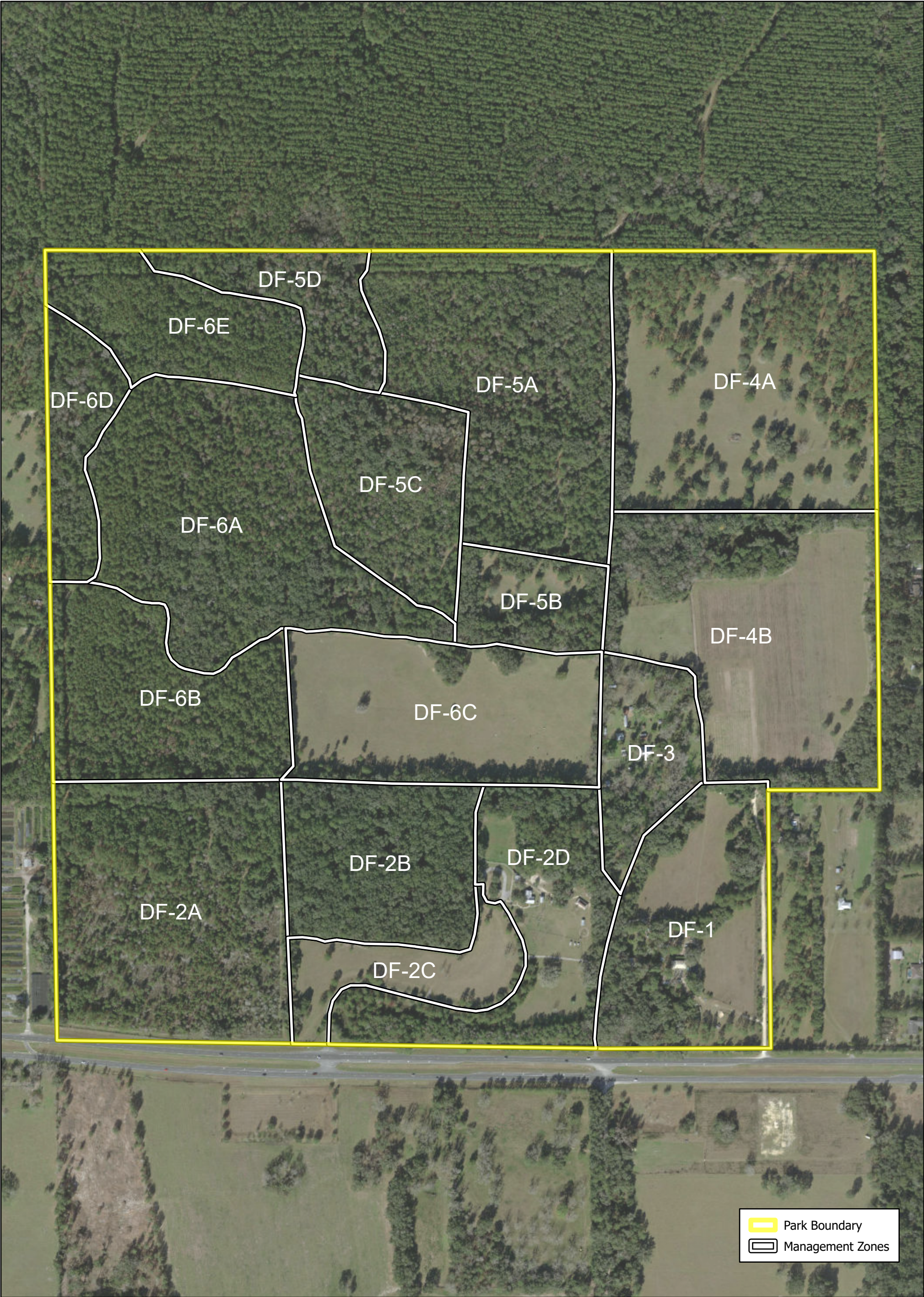
OTHER DESIGNATIONS


The unit is not within an Area of Critical State Concern as defined in section 380.05; Florida Statutes and is not presently under study for such designation. The park is a component of the Florida Greenways and Trails System, administered by the Department's Office of Greenways and Trails.


All waters within the park have been designated as Outstanding Florida Waters, pursuant to Chapter 62-302, Florida Administrative Code. Surface waters in this park are also classified as Class III waters by the Department. The park is not adjacent to an aquatic preserve as designated under the Florida Aquatic Preserve Act of 1975 (Section 258.35, Florida Statutes).

PARK ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Roof replacements on farmhouse and kitchen annex.
- Completed cattle pen in northern field as discussed in 2017 plan.
- Hodge Jones Barn open for interpretation.
- Continuation of natural community restoration in management zone 2A.

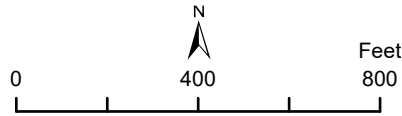


 Park Boundary

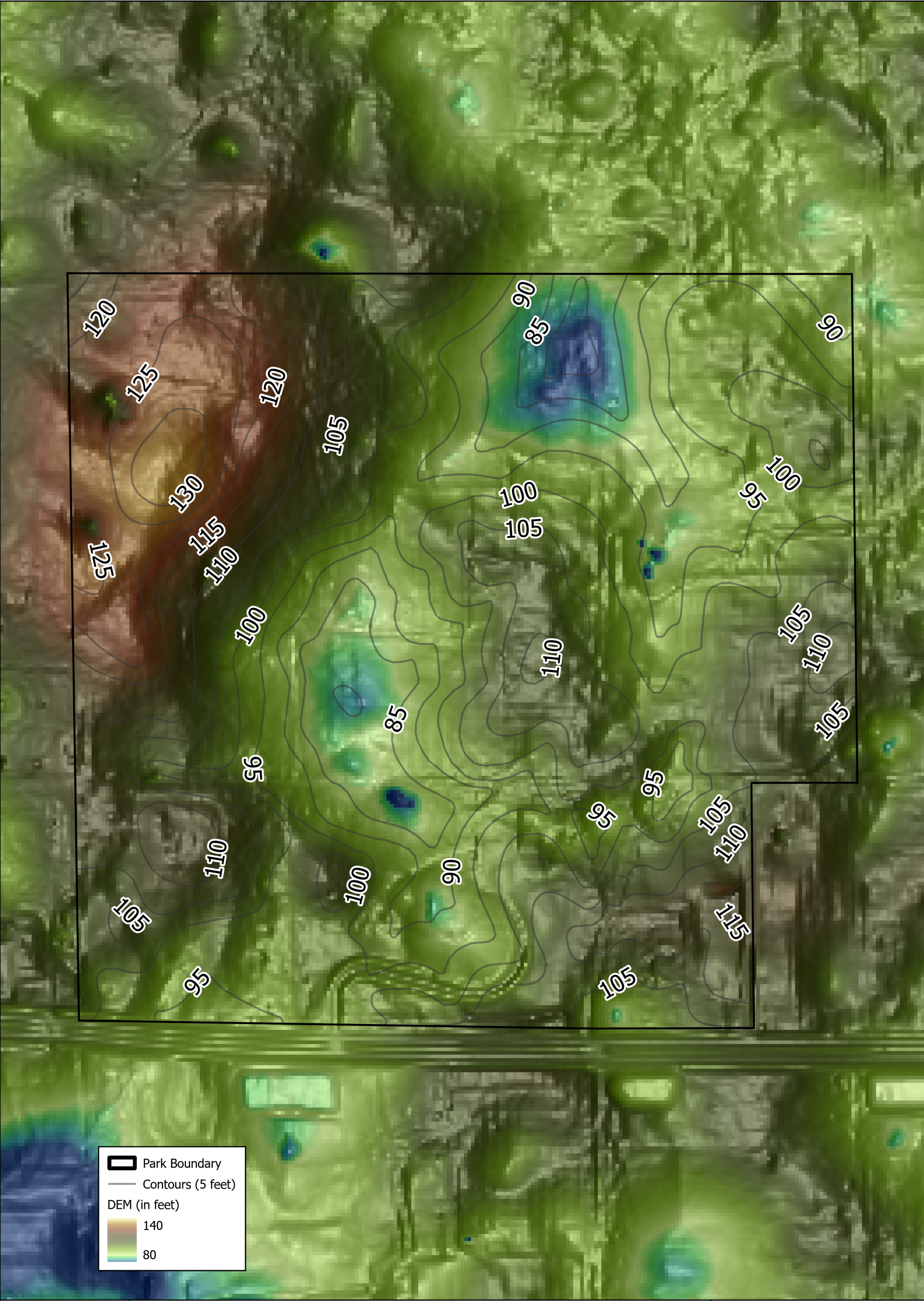
 Management Zones



DUDLEY FARM HISTORIC STATE PARK
Management Zones



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Park Boundary

Contours (5 feet)

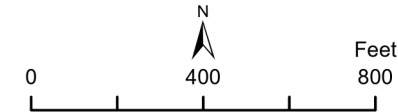
DEM (in feet)

140

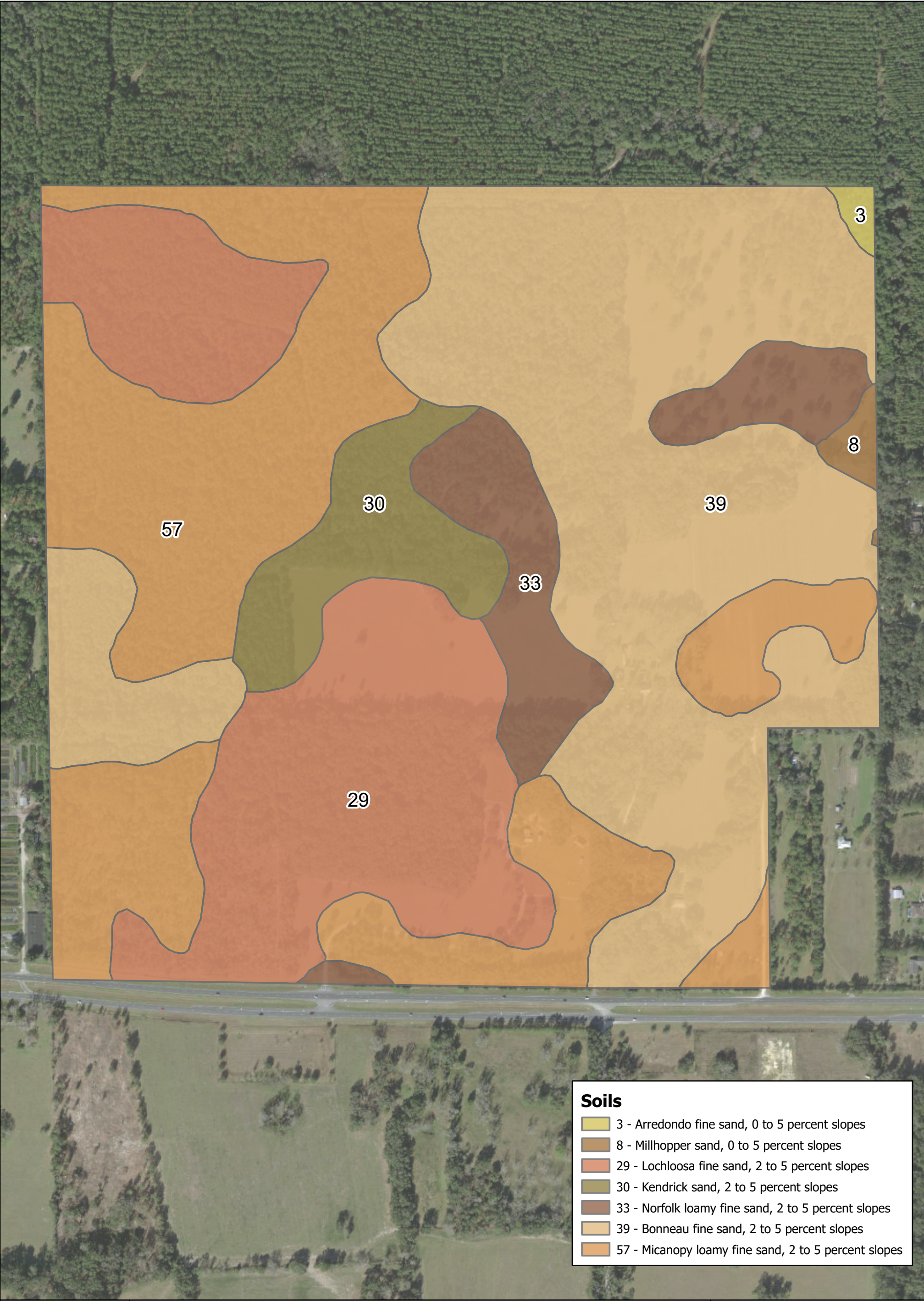
80










DUDLEY FARM HISTORIC STATE PARK
Topography



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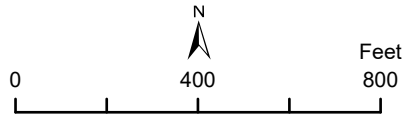


Soils

	3 - Arredondo fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes
	8 - Millhopper sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes
	29 - Lochloosa fine sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes
	30 - Kendrick sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes
	33 - Norfolk loamy fine sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes
	39 - Bonneau fine sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes
	57 - Micanopy loamy fine sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes



DUDLEY FARM HISTORIC STATE PARK
Soils



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RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMPONENT

Dudley Farm Historic State Park Management Zones			
Management Zone	Acreage	Managed with Prescribed Fire	Contains Known Cultural Resources
DF-1	20.54	N	Y
DF-2B	16.43	N	N
DF-2C	8.53	N	Y
DF-2D	19.13	N	Y
DF-3	9.28	N	Y
DF-5B	7.46	N	Y
DF-5C	15.03	Y	N
DF-6C	23.45	Y	Y
DF-6D	7.65	N	N

TOPOGRAPHY

Dudley Farm Historic State Park is located within the northern reaches of the Williston Karst Plain Province and eastern reaches of the broader Ocala Karst District. This region is characterized by a generally flat landscape with some relief present in the form of gently rolling hills and numerous solution depressions that were shaped by changes in sea level during the Pleistocene. The dominant topographic features at Dudley Farm are the abundant solution cave openings that provide a direct surface to groundwater connection. Elevations within Dudley Farm range from about 72 feet above mean sea level (msl) within a sinkhole to 132 feet msl at a point southeast of Cherry Pits Cave.

Most of the park's topography has been altered to some degree by past land use practices including intensive farming and road clearing, and more recently by firebreak maintenance. The majority of Dudley Farm's known cave openings are highly susceptible to the effects of erosion and sedimentation because of their proximity to these topographic disturbances. Fenceline Cave, for example, whose entrance has steeply sloping sides and is located very close to an unpaved service road, commonly has surface water runoff funnel directly into the cave system during significant storm events.

SOILS

According to the Soil Survey of Alachua County, Florida, soils at Dudley Farm are nearly level to sloping, well drained, and moderately well drained (Thomas et al. 1985). Some soils are sandy to a depth of 20 to 40 inches and are loamy below, while others are sandy to a depth of 40 to 80 inches and loamy below. These soils occur in the uplands. Complete descriptions of the seven soil types found at Dudley Farm are contained in Addendum 4 (see Soils Map).

The soil profile at Dudley Farm does not appear to have been extensively altered, despite its location in a region where phosphate mining was once a thriving industry and where limerock mining continues to this day. Dudley Farm has been managed as a small-scale agricultural homestead for at least the past century, but there is no physical evidence that the site was ever mined. The only soil disturbances to be expected would be in the upper soil horizons and would primarily be associated with farming activities. Bedding and plowing activities for crop production and conversion of uplands to improved pasture have

occurred across the majority of the park's landscape. Periodic fertilization of these areas may have caused changes in soil chemistry, and plowing in the uplands has caused some soil loss via erosion. Dudley Farm contains a historic arsenic contamination site from a former cattle dipping operation on the homestead. Constructed in the early 1920s near the Dudley farmhouse, an in-ground dipping vat was used to immerse cattle in a chemical bath as a preventative for infectious insect-borne diseases at a time when Texas tick fever was a major problem in the cattle industry (Hope 2005). Soil cores and groundwater well monitoring have verified that the Dudley dip vat site has been contaminated with arsenic and chlorinated hydrocarbons originating from these former cattle operations. Additional discussion of this issue appears in the Hydrology section below.

HYDROLOGY

Permanent surface waters such as streams and lakes do not exist within the Newberry Plains region (or at Dudley Farm). The absence of these water bodies is directly linked to local geology in that karst features such as sinkholes and solution pipes, as well as the sandy soils of the area, play a defining role in encouraging an almost immediate passage of rainwater and runoff into the Floridan aquifer via cave openings, or alternatively a rapid percolation through the soil.

The elevation at the top of the Floridan aquifer is about 42-46 feet MSL (Krause 1990). Therefore, this groundwater source may be visible in the deeper parts of some of the Dudley caves where the Hawthorn layer is perforated by the caves and the Floridan aquifer is in an unconfined state. Dudley Farm lies within the Rum Island-Gilchrist Blue Springshed, and groundwater flow beneath the park is northwest toward the Santa Fe River (Upchurch et al. 2011).

There is an extensive well monitoring database for the region surrounding Dudley Farm (DEP 2014). Numerous entities such as the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), environmental consulting firms and university researchers are all involved in the sampling of wells within the basin. The wells are used to monitor groundwater quality and background levels at various facilities including waste management, underground injection, groundwater contamination and cattle dip vat sites, and also at private residential areas and public areas. There are nearly 250 wells scattered across the regional watershed that have undergone various levels of sampling. Data from dedicated, long-term monitoring wells, used by state agencies for tracking water quality changes within watersheds, are accessible through a storage and retrieval database managed by DEP (DEP 2014).

There are nine water supply wells scattered around the park property, but currently only four are active, including one at each of the following: Dudley farmhouse, visitor center, shop complex and ranger residence. Of the nine wells, two were capped and abandoned (per recommendations from dip vat research – see below), two are uncased historic period wells at the old home place and behind the Dudley farmhouse that are only used for interpretation, and one is a pitcher pump well that is no longer used. The ranger residence well, which is the most recently constructed water supply structure in the park, was built during the severe drought of 1999-2002. During that same period, the depth of the Dudley farmhouse well was extended because of significantly decreased groundwater levels in the region (Copeland et al. 2011; Williams et al. 2011). In 2023, the DEP Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration (DEAR) received an easement to construct a groundwater monitoring well in the southeastern section of the park. The well depth is at 90 feet and sampled data will be part of a statewide DEP trend monitoring network.

One specific subset of well and soil testing data important to Dudley Farm is that associated with the abandoned cattle dipping site near the Dudley farmhouse. During the 1920s, the Dudley farmstead dipped its cattle in pesticides such as arsenic to control tick infestations. There is only one known cattle dip vat in the park, located in the southeast corner of zone DF-6C and currently isolated from humans and animals by fencing.

In 1995, DRP initiated rigorous soil testing at the cattle dip vat site (Woodward-Clyde Consultants 1995). During this initial assessment, the entire contaminant plume surrounding the dip vat was extensively delineated. Soils were found to be contaminated by both arsenic and chlordane, and high levels of arsenic were documented several feet below the soil surface.

Several investigations and analyses have subsequently been conducted by soil contamination experts at the University of Florida (Thomas 1998; Rhue 1997; Reve, personal communication 2002). Surface concentrations of arsenic at the dip vat site are up to two orders of magnitude higher than the acceptable risk level established for residential settings (Woodward-Clyde 1995, Thomas 1998). A well located 150 feet east of the cattle dip vat undergoes annual arsenic testing. No contamination has been found to date. Overall research conclusions are that arsenic is slowly migrating laterally toward the west and away from the homestead, with lateral movement of contaminants exceeding vertical movement (Thomas 1998).

However, vertical migration of more than 10 feet at some locations is occurring as the contaminant plume slowly moves through the clay soils below the site (Rhue et al. 1996; Reve, personal communication 2004). Soil experts state that it may take as many as 100 years for contaminants to completely move through the clay layers of the Hawthorn Formation and reach groundwater.

Nevertheless, questions have been generated regarding risk levels associated with potential groundwater contamination (Reve, personal communication 2004). It is apparent from available monitoring reports that very little arsenic contamination has been detected downslope from the dip vat site or in the vicinity of a sinkhole to the south, except for a few questionable surface samples (Thomas 1998). The dip vat's location on top of a natural bowl-shaped limestone formation near the ground surface allows this geologic feature to function like a dam and block the spread of arsenic eastward toward the farmhouse and southward toward the sinkhole (Reve, personal communication 2004).

Current recommendations from experts are to keep the site fenced and secure, prevent any soil disturbance and allow vegetation to recolonize the site. Even though there does not appear to be an immediate threat of groundwater contamination, monitoring and assessment of this site should continue to further delineate the spread of the plume and define the actual extent of the problem. Remediation of this site would require deep excavation since the arsenic plume occurs in high concentration at a significant depth.

Assessment of Needs

Objective: Conduct/obtain an assessment of the park's hydrological restoration needs.

Actions:

- Continue to cooperate with other agencies and independent researchers regarding hydrological research and monitoring programs at Dudley Farm.
- Continue to monitor surface water and groundwater quality at the park.

- Seek professional expertise in determining the sources and direction of groundwater flow in the park's aquatic caves.
- Continue to monitor land-use or zoning changes on properties bordering the park.

The most significant hydrological feature at Dudley Farm Historic State Park is the extensive aquatic cave system that underlies the park. This system is located toward the southern end of the Rum Island-Gilchrist Blue Springshed of the Santa Fe River Basin. The Dudley caves are well known within the local professional speleological community as important sites for numerous species of sensitive, cave dwelling fauna. Research and monitoring efforts by cave experts have produced an abundance of information documenting the Dudley cave systems (see details in the *Hydrology* and *Imperiled Species* sections). The following are hydrological assessment actions recommended for the park.

DRP will continue its tradition of close cooperation with state and federal agencies and independent researchers engaged in hydrological, geological and soils research and monitoring in the park, and will encourage and facilitate additional research in those areas. DRP will rely upon agencies such as the SJRWMD, United States Geological Survey (USGS) and DEP to keep it apprised of any declines in groundwater levels or any suspected contamination of groundwater in the region. DRP staff will continue to monitor Environmental Resource Permit and Water Use Permit requests for the region and provide timely and constructive comments as needed to promote protection of the park's aquatic cave resources. Additional cooperative efforts may include facilitating the review and approval of research permits and providing researchers with assistance in the field, including orientation to park resources. Recommendations derived from these monitoring and research activities will be essential to the decision-making process during management planning. One activity worthy of DRP support is continued cooperation with appropriate agencies or researchers in the further delineation of boundaries of the Rum Island-Gilchrist Blue Springshed.

Staff will continue to monitor land-use or zoning changes within lands bordering the park. Major ground disturbances on neighboring properties or inadequate treatment of runoff into local sinkholes could ultimately cause significant degradation of groundwater resources in the park. When appropriate, DRP staff will provide comments to other agencies regarding proposed changes in land use or zoning that may affect the park. In addition, DRP staff will closely monitor mining operations and other activities in the Rum Island-Gilchrist Blue Springshed, watching out for significant changes that might require the issuance of large consumptive use permits that could adversely affect park resources.

Monitoring and Abatement of Impacts

Objective: Monitor impacts of erosion and sedimentation on the aquatic cave systems.

Actions:

- Monitor erosion at entrances to the aquatic caves and evaluate and mitigate impacts as needed.

Because many of the aquatic caves beneath the park are naturally open ecosystems, they are continuously under threat from erosion and sedimentation. To reduce the threat, DRP will continue to monitor Dudley Farm Historic Park's network of aquatic cave entrances for disturbance issues and will coordinate with cave experts in obtaining detailed interior cave assessments. Certain cave entrances that are more susceptible to erosion, such as Cherry Pits, Garbage Pit and Fenceline Cave, will be monitored regularly. Erosion in these areas appears to be due to the proximity of a service road. If this continues to be an issue at this location, options such as moving the road farther away from the cave entrance will be pursued.

DRP will continue to investigate best management options for mitigation of erosion and sedimentation at all known cave access points. Wherever necessary, the park will implement corrective measures that reduce the impacts of soil erosion on aquatic cave resources.

Objective: Monitor and evaluate the impacts of historic cattle dipping operations at Dudley Farm.

Actions:

- Continue to cooperate with appropriate agencies and experts regarding soil, surface water and groundwater monitoring and assessment associated with the historic cattle dip vat contamination in the park.

In 1995, DRP identified a single significant area of concern within Dudley Farm where previous landowners had conducted intensive cattle dipping operations. Rigorous groundwater and soil sampling in vicinity of the dip vat revealed that soils in the area were severely contaminated. According to soils experts, however, those soils are not an immediate threat to contaminate local groundwater because they are contained within a natural bowl-shaped limestone formation. This subsurface geologic feature acts like a dam and is blocking contaminants from substantial downward spreading. Recommendations from University of Florida soil contamination experts were to continue the periodic monitoring and assessment of the dip vat area in order to document the extent of the contamination and track any additional spread. The DRP has been advised that any remediation of this site would require a deep excavation since the arsenic plume occurs at high concentration and extends to a significant depth.

DRP will continue to cooperate with DEP, other agencies and experts from the University of Florida concerning the long-term monitoring of water quality and soils in the area where cattle dipping operations had occurred. DRP will mitigate impacts as needed, using the best available means of remediation.

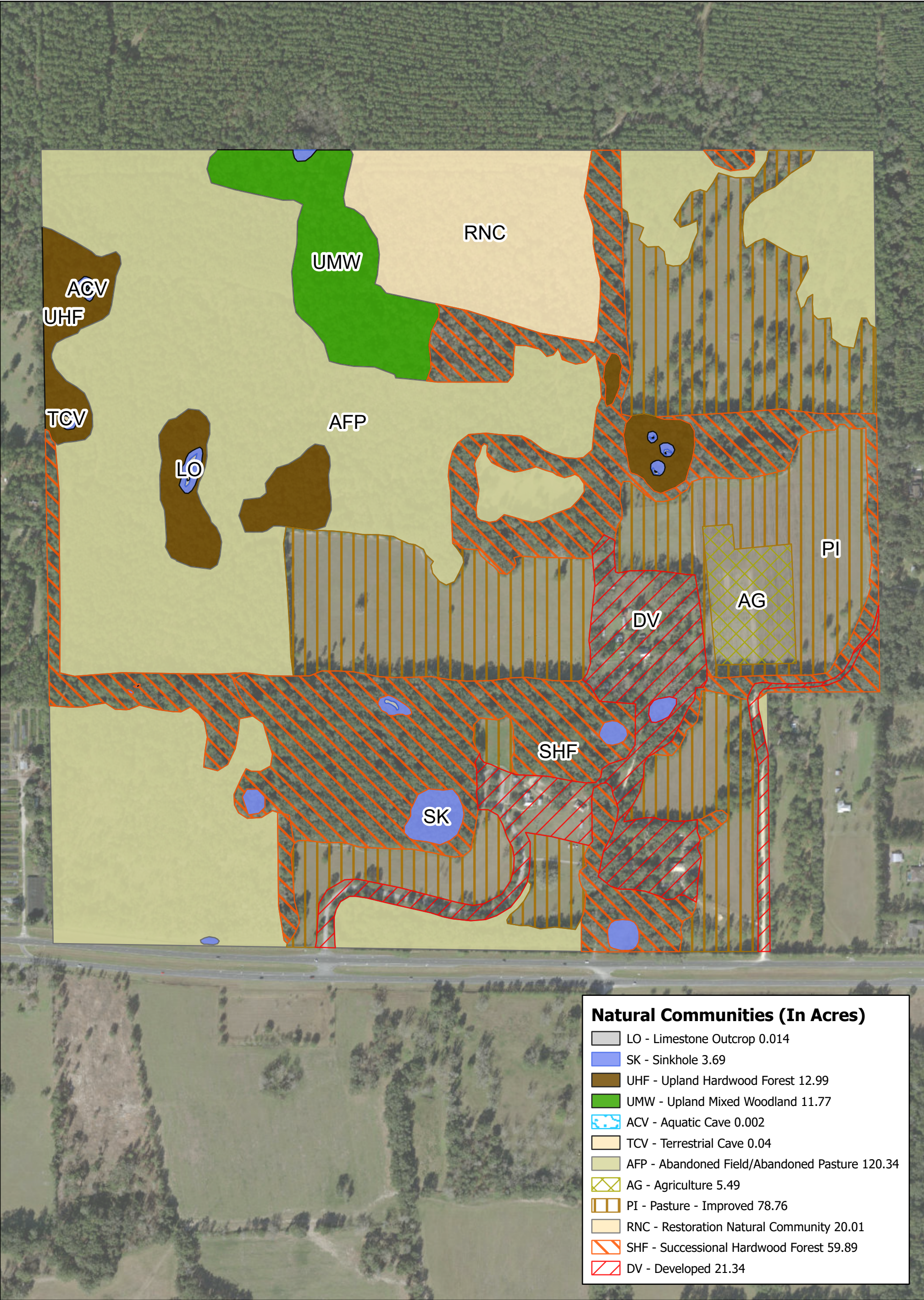
NATURAL COMMUNITIES

Upland Hardwood Forest

Prior to the advent of fire suppression and the spread of agriculture in the southeastern coastal plain, the upland hardwood forest natural community was less widespread than it is today. Historically, upland hardwood forest at Dudley Farm probably occurred only in narrow fringes around the major terrestrial caves. During the 20th century, the hardwood forest fringes likely expanded into adjacent disturbed habitats. Remnant pine stumps, quite possibly longleaf pine, can be found near several of the cave openings in areas now dominated by the hardwood species characteristic of upland hardwood forest. Aerial photographs from 1937 clearly show that clumps of hardwoods were left as buffers around the major cave openings, although most of the other natural communities at the site had been completely cleared and converted to agriculture by that time.

This community type appears to be in areas that were spared during previous episodes of land clearing on the farm, particularly near the cave openings. The older stands of upland hardwood forest are in relatively good condition, while the younger, more successional areas are in fair condition. Some of the latter areas may have once been upland mixed woodland. The upland hardwood forests have also been impacted by invasive plants. Coral ardisia (*Ardisia crenata*) is particularly problematic.

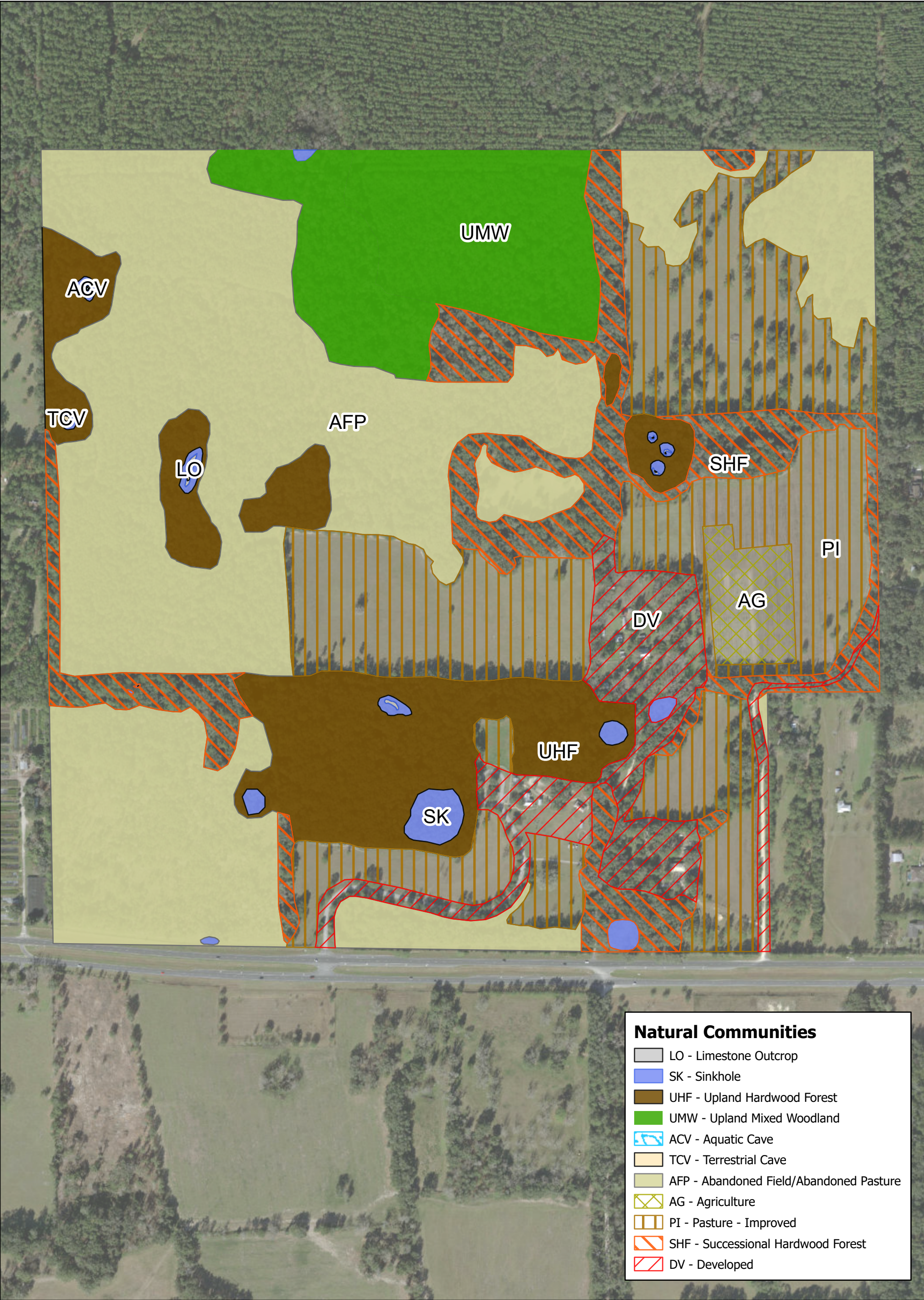
Management measures for upland hardwood forest include regular survey for and prompt removal of invasive plants, particularly coral ardisia and Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*).



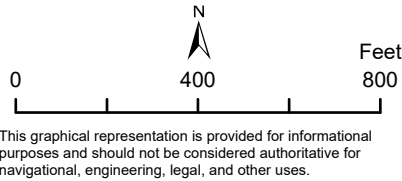
DUDLEY FARM HISTORIC STATE PARK
Natural Communities - Existing Conditions



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DUDLEY FARM HISTORIC STATE PARK
Natural Communities - Desired Future Conditions



Upland Mixed Woodland

Much of the Dudley Farm property was probably cleared of native longleaf pines before the 1900s, although the Dudley family did retain a large stand of longleaf pines on the north side of their holdings until the 1960s. Then the area was clear cut and the land sold. A 1937 aerial photograph shows what appear to be scattered longleaf pines, presumably with a native upland pine type of groundcover, just north of the current park boundary. Soil characteristics and historical references to longleaf pines being harvested on the site also support the conclusion that most of the current park was once upland mixed woodland or possibly upland pine. Early survey records also indicate that a type of high pine forest existed on the site. Very few upland mixed woodland or upland pine species remain today, however. The conversion of natural areas to agricultural fields and the grazing of livestock in remnant wooded areas have dramatically altered the natural landscape, not only at Dudley Farm Historic State Park, but also across much of north Florida.

The only area still classified as upland mixed woodland lies in the north-central portion of the park. It is a woodlot that does not appear to have been cleared by the Dudley family. Except for this remnant and the upland hardwood forest remnants near the cave openings, all the other forested areas in the park were cleared and converted to some form of agriculture. This upland mixed woodland is in poor condition due to lack of fire and invasion by offsite hardwood species.

Restoration of the upland mixed woodland will require periodic prescribed fires and substantial plantings of groundcover species and canopy tree species. Given the isolated and limited area of upland mixed woodland in the park, restoration will not be a high priority except in the context of restoration of the cultural landscape of this historic site. The former pasture area, now classified as a restoration natural community, that lies to the east of the upland mixed woodland will be the primary focus of longleaf ecosystem restoration efforts. Both areas will be managed with the goal of restoring at least the structural components of this high pine community, if not the complete species diversity.

Sinkhole

Several well-developed sinkholes occur within the park. Two notable sinkholes are located to the southeast and southwest of the main farmhouse on either side of the former access road (Old Jonesville Road). These sinks are broad depressions that formerly hosted heavy vegetative cover, including appreciable amounts of invasive plant species such as air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*), white yam (*Dioscorea alata*), mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*), small-leaf spiderwort (*Tradescantia fluminensis*) and coral ardisia. Park staff and volunteers have made considerable progress in removing invasive plants from these sinkholes. Another sinkhole, this one located adjacent to State Road 26 just east of the former access road to the farm, once held water periodically although now it rarely retains water.

Most of the sinkholes in the park are relatively stable and sediment-filled, although water usually percolates quickly through the accumulated soil layers. The sinkhole located southeast of the farmhouse appears to have developed a direct opening into the underlying limestone and now drains through a semi-vertical shaft several inches in diameter. Sinkholes also surround the openings of the various Dudley caves. These areas are described further in the section below dealing with terrestrial and aquatic caves. A portion of another large sinkhole, Dixie Sink, straddles the north boundary of the park. This sink is vegetated with mixed hardwoods. The sinkholes within the park are generally in good condition.

Erosion is a natural process associated with sinkhole formation and expansion. Sinkholes within the park will be protected from any unnatural disturbances that might accelerate natural rates of erosion. Public access to the sinkholes will be restricted to prevent impacts from foot traffic and to ensure public safety

around the cave openings. Protection from erosion is of highest priority where terrestrial and aquatic cave openings are associated with sinkholes. The park will also continue to control exotic plants within the sinkholes.

Limestone Outcrop

The limestone outcrops at Dudley Farm are associated with the sinkholes and the terrestrial and aquatic cave openings. The most well-developed limestone outcrops are found above Myrtle's Cave, Cherry Pits Cave, Dudley's Cave, Dudley's Tunnel and Watering Hole Cave. Most of these are in restricted or remote areas, so they are relatively undisturbed and are in good to excellent condition. At this time, no imperiled plant species have been documented on these outcroppings.

As with sinkholes, protection from erosion and from direct impacts of foot traffic are the primary protective measures for limestone outcrops. Although exotic plants are not common on these outcrops, they do occur in the surrounding area. Care must be taken when removing exotic plants near limestone outcrops to avoid destabilization of soils on steep slopes. Herbicide use must be limited, and if required, should be applied very selectively.

Aquatic and Terrestrial Cave

At Dudley Farm Historic State Park, these two natural community types often occur together. Terrestrial caves of varying dimensions connect the aquatic caves with the surface. The terrestrial portions of the cave systems are the best known subterranean features in the park (Krause 1990), although some limited exploration of the aquatic caves has also occurred (Morris and Butt 1995).

Twelve caves have been described as part of the original Dudley Farm cave complex (Krause 1990). A 13th cave was discovered in 1998. Presently, 10 of the 13 caves are under state ownership. The three caves that are privately owned lie to the north and east of the current park boundaries and are known as Dudley No. 10 (Emmel No. 1), Dudley No. 11 (Emmel No. 2) and Dudley No. 12.

The actual physical extent of the aquatic cave systems depends primarily on groundwater levels. Cave surveys by the Florida Speleological Society in 1989 documented groundwater levels at elevations between 42-46 feet, although evidence in the caves suggests that historical water levels were as much as 6 feet higher. Increased groundwater withdrawals and recent drought conditions are thought to have been responsible for the lowering of water levels (Krause 1990). Likely, the aquatic caves at the park are in good condition, although any increased erosion at the cave entrances could eventually have negative effects.

Aquatic cave systems require detrital input from aboveground sources, but unnaturally high levels of erosion can be detrimental.

The terrestrial caves at the park vary greatly in size and accessibility. Maps of five of the larger terrestrial caves have been published by Krause (1990). Several caves have been blocked or partially blocked by the erosion of sand and detritus into the cave openings. Watering Hole Cave is described as a large, eroded fissure with sediments blocking the cave entrance. This cave was presumably used by the Dudleys to water livestock. Dudley's Cave also contains a deep layer of sediment that may have historically blocked access to the deeper reaches of the cave. Erosion and sedimentation have affected most of the other caves to some degree.

The terrestrial caves appear to be in good to excellent condition. Although several have experienced accelerated erosion in the past, most of these areas appear to be stable at this time. Cherry Pits, Garbage Pit and Fenceline caves have been impacted in the past by erosion associated with adjacent service roads. Garbage Pit Cave was historically used as a refuse site by the Dudley family. Cave inspections were conducted in 2014 as part of a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) cave survey for tri-colored bats (*Perimyotis subflavus*). At that time, Cherry Pits, Myrtle's, Dudley's, Dudley's Tunnel, and Fenceline caves were accessed by DRP and FWC staff. The caves appeared to be in stable condition and not suffering from excessive erosion.

Populations of cave-dwelling animals, or troglobites, are found in many of the caves at Dudley Farm, particularly those that have direct connections to the Floridan aquifer. Troglobites recorded in the Dudley Farm caves include the Florida cave isopod (*Caecidotea hobbsi*), Hobbs' cave amphipod (*Crangonyx hobbsi*), and the light-fleeing cave crayfish (*Procambarus lucifugus*). In fact, Dudley Cave is the type locality for the Florida cave isopod. All three troglobite species listed above are designated by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) as globally and state imperiled or rare.

There are indications that Myrtle's Cave once served as a large roost site for bats (Krause 1990), but only a few individual southeastern bats (*Myotis austroriparius*) and tri-colored bats have been documented in recent years. According to research by FWC, Myrtle's Cave is not considered a historical maternity cave for southeastern bats (Gore and Hovis 1994). Small numbers of tri-colored bats have also been documented in several other caves at the park.

Aquatic and terrestrial caves are relatively stable environments that can be easily disturbed or damaged by outside influences. All of the cave entrances at the park are considered restricted areas and are not open for public access. This not only protects the caves from damage and erosion from foot traffic, but also protects the public from injury. Most of the cave entrances are either surrounded by steep slopes or are vertical shafts. Most require technical equipment for safe access. The caves are protected by virtue of their remote locations and wooded buffers, as well as existing fence lines that block easy access. The cave entrances are visually monitored for erosion and other potential impacts.

Altered Land Cover Types

Abandoned Field/Abandoned Pasture

Aerial photographs from 1937 reveal that most of Dudley Farm was under some form of cultivation. Interpretation of subsequent series of aerial photographs shows that in later decades many of the open fields on the farm were left fallow. Once abandoned, these fields were quickly invaded by loblolly pines (*Pinus taeda*). Small areas were allowed to succeed to pines (probably loblollies) during the 1940s, and larger areas, particularly in the northwest part of the farm, were beginning to be invaded by pines by the late 1940s. During the 1960s and 1970s, several areas in the northwest portion of the farm were clear cut and a second crop of loblolly pines allowed to regenerate. Other formerly cultivated areas, such as the west portion of the farm, were abandoned in the 1960s and eventually supported a stand of mature loblolly pines. Pines were also planted on approximately 30 acres in the southwest corner of the site around 1990 prior to state acquisition.

In 1995, loblolly pines in the northwest corner of the park became infested during a severe outbreak of southern pine beetles in Alachua County. The pines were clear cut to control the infestation. Several other pine beetle infestations of smaller scale were also treated in the western half of the property. In 2001, another outbreak of southern pine beetles occurred at the park. Nearly all the pines at Dudley

Farm Historic State Park were affected by this outbreak. Most areas dominated by pines were harvested in efforts to control the outbreak, although scattered live trees remained.

These clear-cut areas are most similar to and are mapped as abandoned field or abandoned pasture. But they are rapidly becoming dominated by laurel oaks and loblolly pines and are likely to become successional hardwood forests in due time. Historically, the Dudley family allowed fields and pastures to succeed to loblolly pine forests, and, after harvesting them, allowed loblolly pines to return. So, allowing these areas to succeed to loblolly pines is not historically inaccurate. However, if the park needs additional agricultural areas, including crop fields or grazing areas, some of these areas could revert to those purposes.

Agriculture

Portions of the pasture area to the east of the historic farmstead are used for growing sugar cane and other crops. The area currently being used for agricultural crops is mapped as agriculture, but this altered landcover type may contract or expand according to the needs of park operations.

Developed

Developed areas include most of the historic farm structures, the ornamental plantings and garden plots, the ranger residence, and the entrance drive and visitor center areas on the former Barry property. A complete list of all the developed areas may be found in the *Land Use Component*. Developed areas within the park will be managed to minimize their effects on adjacent natural areas. Priority invasive plant species (Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council Category I and II species) will be removed from all developed areas. Other management measures will include proper stormwater management and development guidelines that are compatible with prescribed fire management in adjacent natural areas.

Pasture – Improved

Although much of Dudley Farm was once an improved pasture, only those areas currently being mowed and maintained are mapped as improved pasture in this plan. These areas are concentrated near the historic farmstead and are used in part as pasture for the park's mules and cracker cow herd. The mowed pastures along the park entrance drive are maintained as part of the cultural landscape even though they are not currently used for grazing. The improved pastures are dominated by bahiagrass and other pasture grasses and broadleaf weeds. These areas will continue to be maintained as improved pasture.

Restoration Natural Community

The old fields or pastures in the north-central part of the park (zone DF-5A) were abandoned and loblolly pines were allowed to grow in the late 1970s and mid-1980s. These areas were clear cut during the 2001 southern pine beetle outbreak. Zone DF-5A lies to the north of the farmstead and is south of the longleaf pine stand that was cleared by the Dudleys in the 1960s and then sold. This zone has been planted with longleaf pines to restore an example of the native longleaf ecosystem that has been all but lost in this part of Alachua County. While complete restoration may not be feasible, restoration of the longleaf pines and some native groundcover should be possible to provide enhancement of the cultural landscape. The desired future condition for this area is upland mixed woodland.

Successional Hardwood Forest

The successional hardwood forests occur along old fence lines and in areas that were cleared at some point in the past century. These forests are relatively young and less diverse than the upland hardwood

forests that were not cleared. Where appropriate, these areas will be allowed to succeed towards upland hardwood forest.

Prescribed Fire

Objective: Maintain 175 acres within the optimum fire return interval.

Actions:

- Develop/update annual prescribed fire plan.
- Conduct prescribed fire on 20-230 acres annually.

Most of the prescribed fires at the park have been conducted to maintain the improved pastures and abandoned pasture areas. The areas that were clear cut to control southern pine beetles are now dominated by a mix of young loblolly pines and hardwood saplings. Prescribed fires may be used in these areas if necessary to reduce fuel loads. The area designated for interpretation of the historic longleaf pine ecosystem is currently being restored, and fire will be used to manage the longleaf pines and associated vegetation. Likewise, the planted longleaf in zone DF-2A in the southwest corner of the park will be managed with prescribed fire. Due to concerns over cultural resources and park facilities, prescribed fires are not conducted in certain zones, including DF-1, DF-2D, DF-3 and DF-5B. These areas are typically maintained by mowing.

During development of park firebreaks, staff will align the breaks in such a way as to minimize erosion in vicinity of the various caves and sinkholes. Maintenance of the improved pastures and abandoned pastures will benefit certain wildlife species, including gopher tortoises, that prefer open herbaceous habitats.

Restoration

Objective: Conduct upland mixed woodland natural community restoration activities within 16 acres of currently designated pasture/field.

Actions:

- Develop/update site specific restoration plan.
- Implement restoration plan.

The northern half of zone DF-5A has been designated a longleaf pine restoration area. This former pasture/field is adjacent to a poor-quality remnant of upland mixed woodland. The restoration of a longleaf pine and native hardwood stand in this area will help restore the cultural landscape of Dudley Farm Historic State Park and will provide a higher quality natural area for wildlife. The focus will be on restoring the structure and dominant plant species of an upland mixed woodland rather than the complete range of groundcover species. Periodic prescribed fires and selective hardwood and loblolly pine removal will be important components of the restoration process.

Improvement

Objective: Conduct natural community improvement activities to augment the natural progression of 24 acres of successional hardwood forest to upland hardwood forest.

Actions:

- Implement habitat improvement in successional hardwood forest.

The successional hardwood forest that lies between the historic farmstead and the visitor center/entrance facilities (zone DF-2D), along with the large block that lies west of this area (zone DF-2B), will be allowed to succeed to upland hardwood forest. Although cleared in the distant past, these areas are large enough and retain enough older hardwoods to allow development of an upland hardwood forest. Management measures required will include removal of invasive plants, particularly coral ardisia.

IMPERILED SPECIES

Most of the imperiled animal species at the park are associated with the aquatic and terrestrial caves and are described in the *Natural Communities* section. Another imperiled animal species that still occurs on the site is the gopher tortoise. A record for eastern indigo snake exists in the FNAI database, likely associated with gopher tortoise burrows.

The tri-colored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) has been documented in several of the terrestrial caves at the park. FWC has been conducting a study of the bat populations and monitoring conditions within the caves since 2014. The status of the tri-colored bat is of particular concern due to the drastic population reduction of this species due to the fungal disease known as white nose syndrome in caves in the United States and Canada. The tri-colored bat was proposed for listing as endangered by the USFWS in September of 2022.

Onsite management measures used to protect the aquatic and terrestrial caves from human disturbance, erosion, and contaminated runoff will also help preserve imperiled cave fauna such as tri-colored bats, cave isopods, amphipods, and crayfish. Changes in the type and intensity of land use in western Alachua County may directly impact regional groundwater quality and quantity, and indirectly affect local populations of rare aquatic invertebrates. The park will increase its frequency of patrol at caves if any show signs of unauthorized visitation or vandalism. The park will continue to conduct agricultural activities in a manner that will avoid negative impacts on gopher tortoises and will continue to burn the pasture areas.

Several imperiled plant species have been noted within the park. Incised agrimony (*Agrimonia incisa*) is typically found in upland pine or upland mixed woodland communities. It has recently been discovered in one of the pasture zones that is regularly burned. Little ladiestresses (*Spiranthes tuberosa*) and giant orchids (*Pteroglossaspis ecristata*) have also been documented in some of the pasture areas. No disking, plowing or other soil disturbance should occur in the vicinity of these imperiled plant species. On the other hand, mowing and burning of these areas should not negatively impact these species, and burning is likely to stimulate their growth and reproduction. Staff should learn to recognize these species so they can document any new populations and avoid disturbing the soil in their vicinity. Another imperiled plant, eastern sweetshrub (*Calycanthus floridus*), is cultivated within the Dudley Garden area and is not native to the region. All these species were documented as

part of an ongoing project to survey and voucher the plants of Dudley Farm in association with the University of Florida Herbarium.

Imperiled Species Inventory						
Common and Scientific Name	Imperiled Species Status				Management Actions	Monitoring Level
	FWC	USFWS	FDACS	FNAI		
PLANTS						
Incised agrimony <i>Agrimonia incisa</i>			LT	G3,S2	1,6,7	Tier 1
Eastern sweetshrub <i>Calycanthus floridus</i> (cultivated)			LE	G5,S2		Tier 1
Giant orchid <i>Pteroglossaspis ecrisat</i>			LT	G2G3, S2	1,6	Tier 1
Little ladiestresses <i>Spiranthes tuberosa</i>			LT		1,6	Tier 1
ARTHROPODS						
Florida cave isopod <i>Caecidotea hobbsi</i>				G1G2,S1S2	4,9,10	Tier 1
Hobbs' cave amphipod <i>Crangonyx hobbsi</i>				G2G3,S2S3	4,9,10	Tier 1
Light-fleeing cave crayfish <i>Procambarus lucifugus</i>				G1G2,S1S2	4,9,10	Tier 1
REPTILES						
Eastern indigo snake <i>Drymarchon couperi</i>	FT	LT		G3,S2?	1,6,7	Tier 1
Gopher tortoise <i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	ST			G3,S3	1,2,6,7,10,12	Tier 1
BIRDS						
Florida sandhill crane <i>Antigone canadensis pratensis</i>	ST			G5T2,S2		Tier 1

Imperiled Species Inventory						
Common and Scientific Name	Imperiled Species Status				Management Actions	Monitoring Level
	FWC	USFWS	FDACS	FNAI		
MAMMALS						
Tri-colored bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>		PE			9,10,13	Tier 3

Management Actions:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Prescribed Fire | 8. Predator Control |
| 2. Exotic Plant Removal | 9. Erosion Control |
| 3. Population Translocation/Augmentation/Restocking | 10. Protection from Visitor Impacts |
| 4. Hydrological Maintenance/Restoration | 11. Decoys (shorebirds) |
| 5. Nest Boxes/Artificial Cavities | 12. Vegetation Planting |
| 6. Hardwood Removal | 13. Outreach and Education |
| 7. Mechanical Treatment | 14. Other |

Monitoring Level:

Tier 1 - Non-Targeted Observation/Documentation: includes documentation of species presence through casual/passive observation during routine park activities (i.e. not conducting species-specific searches). Documentation may be in the form of Wildlife Observation Forms, or other district specific methods used to communicate observations.

Tier 2 - Targeted Presence/Absence: Includes monitoring methods/activities that are specifically intended to document presence/absence of a particular species or suite of species.

Tier 3 - Population Estimate/Index: an approximation of the true population size or population index based on a widely accepted method of sampling.

Tier 4 - Population Census: A complete count of an entire population with demographic analysis, including mortality, reproduction, emigration, and immigration.

Tier 5 - Other: may include habitat assessments for a particular species or suite of species or any other specific methods used as indicators to gather information about a particular species.

Inventory

Objective: Update baseline imperiled species occurrence list.

Actions:

- Continue to inventory the park to update imperiled species lists.

Fauna

Objective: Monitor and document tri-colored bats.

Actions:

- Continue to monitor tri-colored bat populations in the Dudley Farm caves in cooperation with FWC researchers.

The bat populations, including the tri-colored bat, have been monitored at the park since 2014 by FWC researchers investigating white nose syndrome. DRP staff will continue to coordinate with FWC to

support and participate in future surveys. A record of survey results is maintained by biological staff at the district 2 office.

Flora

Objective: Monitor and document two selected imperiled plant species in the park (incised agrimony and little ladies' tresses).

Actions:

- Develop a monitoring protocol for one selected imperiled plant species, incised agrimony.
- Implement monitoring protocols for two imperiled plant species, incised agrimony, and little ladies' tresses.

DRP staff will develop a monitoring protocol for incised agrimony and will implement monitoring protocols for it and little ladies' tresses. Those actions should help protect these imperiled plants from soil disturbance such as disking in areas of improved and abandoned pasture where the plants have recently been documented.

INVASIVE SPECIES

All of Dudley Farm was farmed during the tenure of the Dudley family. This disturbance has created a site vulnerable to invasion by invasive plants. Some of the traditional ornamental species planted at the farm are now known to be invasive species. A private nursery that currently bounds the western edge of the park provides an ongoing source of additional invasive plants. Fortunately, most of the invasive plants in the park occur in the southern portion around the farmhouse and other buildings.

The most prevalent invasive plants in the park are coral ardisia, mimosa, camphor-tree, air potato, and winged yam (or white yam). In 2013, an air potato biological control beetle, *Lilioceris cheni*, was released in the park. After that release, it became apparent that white yam, which is not eaten by the beetle, is more common in the park than air potato. The park will need to treat the white yam using conventional methods. A few small infestations of cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*) occur in the park. These should be treated twice annually, once in the fall before frost and once in the spring after regrowth begins.

Park staff regularly treats the invasive *Ardisia crenata* plants and maintains treatment and survey information in the DRP's statewide database. Because of the large infestation of ardisia, which is beyond the park's ability to control with in-house treatment, the park should seek additional funding for control of ardisia and other invasive plants.

The primary invasive animal that may cause problems in the natural areas at Dudley Farm Historic State Park is the nine-banded armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*). The invasive Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) and house mouse (*Mus musculus*) are potential problems at the historic farmstead.

In 2002, the red bay ambrosia beetle, *Xyleborus glabratus*, was first detected in the United States in Georgia. The beetle carries a fungal pathogen (*Raffaelea lauricola*) that causes laurel wilt disease and results in the death of red bays (*Persea borbonia*) and other species in the Lauraceae family. The beetle and its associated pathogen spread rapidly and by 2005 it was detected in Duval County (Mayfield and Thomas 2009). The beetle and laurel wilt have now spread throughout Florida and many of the surrounding states. While most of the adult red bays have been top killed, the trees continue to resprout from their roots. It may be that members of the Lauraceae will continue to survive as in a

shrub form as the remnant tree root systems continue to resprout. At this point, much remains unknown about the long-term impacts of this disease on red bays and other Lauraceae.

Invasive Species Inventory			
Scientific Name - Common Name	FISC Category	Distribution	Zone ID
<i>Albizia julibrissin</i> - Mimosa	I	Scattered Plants or Clumps	DF-2A, DF-2B
<i>Ardisia crenata</i> - Coral ardisia	I	Scattered Plants or Clumps, Scattered Dense Patches Dominant Cover	DF-3, DF-4A, DF-5A, DF-5B, DF-5C, DF-5D, DF-6A, DF-6C, DF-6D, DF-6E, DF-1, DF-2A, DF-2D, DF-4B, DF-6B DF-2B
<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i> - Camphor-tree	I	Scattered Plants or Clumps	DF-1, DF-2A, DF-2B, DF-2D, DF-3, DF-4A, DF-4B, DF-5A, DF-5B, DF-5C, DF-5D, DF-6A, DF-6B, DF-6C, DF-6D, DF-6E
<i>Dioscorea alata</i> - Winged yam	I	Scattered Plants or Clumps, Scattered Dense Patches	DF-3, DF-1
<i>Imperata cylindrica</i> - Cogon grass	I	Scattered Dense Patches	DF-2C
<i>Lonicera japonica</i> - Japanese honeysuckle	I	Scattered Plants or Clumps	DF-1
<i>Lygodium japonicum</i> - Japanese climbing fern	I	Scattered Plants or Clumps	DF-2A, DF-6A
<i>Melia azedarach</i> - Chinaberry	II	Scattered Plants or Clumps	DF-2A
<i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i> - Tuberous sword fern	I	Scattered Plants or Clumps	DF-1, DF-2A, DF-4A, DF-4B, DF-5A, DF-5B, DF-5C, DF-5D, DF-6A, DF-6B, DF-6C, DF-6D, DF-6E
<i>Paederia foetida</i> - Skunk vine	I	Scattered Plants or Clumps	DF-2A
<i>Pueraria montana</i> - Kudzu	I	Scattered Plants or Clumps	DF-3
<i>Sapium sebiferum</i> - Chinese tallow tree	I	Scattered Plants or Clumps	DF-2A, DF-2B
<i>Urena lobata</i> - Caesar's weed	I	Scattered Plants or Clumps	DF-6D
<i>Wisteria sinensis</i> - Chinese wisteria	II	Scattered Plants or Clumps	DF-1
<i>Xanthosoma sagittifolium</i> - Elephant ear	II	Scattered Plants or Clumps	DF-2D

Invasive Plant Treatment

Objective: Annually treat 3 gross acres of invasive plant species.

Actions:

- Annually develop/update an invasive plant management work plan.
- Implement the annual work plan by treating 3 gross acres in the park annually and by continuing maintenance and follow-up treatments as needed.

Staff should first focus on treating invasive plants in the northern zones of the park with the goal of keeping those areas relatively free of invasives. Species with the greatest potential to invade should receive the highest priority for treatment. These include cogon grass, skunkvine and ardisia. Staff should annually request assistance from the Florida Conservation Corps (FLCC) members for a workday. The park should also regularly submit an FWC project to request contract removal of invasives. Staff should continue to survey the park for new infestations on a regular basis

Invasive Plant Preventive Measures

Objective: Develop and implement measures to prevent the accidental introduction or further spread of invasive plants.

Actions:

- Develop preventative measures, including a protocol for equipment inspection and decontamination, designed to limit the accidental introduction and spread of invasive plants.
- Implement preventative measures, including the protocol listed in Action 1 above.

Invasive plants often invade an area accidentally through preventable methods of entry. To limit accidental introduction and movement of invasive species, park staff will develop and practice preventative measures, including a protocol for equipment inspection and decontamination. Activities such as mowing, logging, fire line preparation and road building can introduce or redistribute invasives via contaminated equipment. Fill dirt, lime rock, potted horticultural plants and mulch are all potentially contaminated by invasives even if they are not readily visible at the time of entry into the park. Some new infestations of invasives may be preventable by ensuring that contractors clean their equipment before entering the park. The further spread of invasives already established in the park may be avoided by making sure that staff and contractors do not move equipment from a contaminated area to an invasives-free area within the park without first cleaning their equipment.

Invasive and Nuisance Animal Control

Objective: Implement control measures on invasive animal species as they appear in the park.

Actions:

- Remove invasive animals as they appear in the park.

Dudley Farm Historic State Park has not had significant issues with invasive animals. If this should change in the future, the park will arrange to remove them as appropriate.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Prehistoric and Historic Archaeological Sites

Dudley Farm Historic State Park has four archaeological sites. All the sites contain prehistoric components and two of the sites also contain historic components. A predictive model has been completed for Dudley Farm (Collins et al. 2012). Forty-one percent of the park is of high or medium sensitivity for cultural resources.

Dudley Homestead (AL4828), referred to as the “old home place,” is the 19th- century site of the original Dudley farmstead. No structure remains standing. The archaeological site also has prehistoric components. It is located about a tenth of a mile from the historic farmstead (Dudley Farm Main House AL2328A), which was constructed circa 1882 and is still standing. A well that is probably associated with the “old home place” site needs to be recorded with the Florida Master Site File (FMSF), possibly as an update to AL4828.

Dudley Farm State Historic Site, 8AL2328, which encompasses the area of the Dudley Farm Main House and surroundings, is an archaeological site which is both historic (19th and 20th centuries) and prehistoric.

The two sites that are solely prehistoric, AL02612 and AL05685, are both lithic sites. Site AL02612, which covers about 11,000 square feet, contains lithic scatter from the Archaic Period and the Deptford culture. Material from AL05685 is of unknown age. The recorder of site AL02612 indicated it is probably eligible for the National Register. Very little is known about AL05685.

There are at least two additional archaeological sites yet to be recorded in the park. The first site consists of limestone foundation remnants in a wooded area north of the farmstead buildings and near the “old home place.” The remnants were described by Myrtle Dudley as belonging to slave cabins, but the buildings may actually have been tenant farmer dwellings. The second site is the area in and near Garbage Pit Cave. A previous geological survey (Krause 1990) indicated this area may have important information regarding prehistoric settlement.

The “old home place” (AL4828) needs botanical study. The current absence of identified remains pertaining to farm tenants at Dudley Farm may merely be indicative of a lack of research. The stone foundations of possible tenant houses need to be recorded with the FMSF as an update to this site.

Historic Structures

Dudley Farm Historic State Park has 18 historic structures, one resource group and one historic district comprising the historic structures and the farm landscape listed with the FMSF.

The core feature of the park is the Dudley Farm Main House (AL2328A) with its many associated farm structures. The house was built in the latter half of the 19th century but is constructed in the Georgian style that came into favor in the American colonies during the 1700s. The style of the house is practical and functional, and its central hall and windows provide cross ventilation. The house and associated farm buildings were built with heart pine from longleaf pines that grew on the Dudley property. The structures are set on limestone bases built from stone that was found on site.

In 2002, Dudley Farm was designated a National Register Historic District (AL4856). Most of the historic period resources were included in the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, however some historic structures or resources associated with the historic farm still need to be recorded with the FMSF. These include a variety of structures and are listed in the *Cultural Resource Management* section of the plan under Objective B.

Other historic structures which are not contributing features to the National Register Historic District also need to be recorded. These structures, which are either of a later date or were moved to their present location, include the Norman Dudley House and Garage, Hodges Jones Barn, Hodges Jones Windmill and the 1950s kitchen which currently serves as a shop. The Hodges Jones house, windmill and barn are located on the Barry property, which was acquired in 1997. Together they comprise a visitor center/interpretive area for orienting visitors before they enter the Dudley Farm Historic Homestead proper. In addition, DRP has been offered a historical structure from an adjacent landowner that would assist the park in more fully interpreting the historical context of Dudley Farm in the local community. The structure is a small house, called the Perkins House, that was built on the adjacent property by the Perkins family, an African American family that worked for the Dudleys.

Although the focus at Dudley Farm Historic State Park is the period from 1870 to 1940, the farm is recognized as a representative site whose primary purpose is to provide a view into a period of Florida's agrarian past that began shortly after statehood (1845) and ended over 100 years later. The Dudleys, like many others, emigrated from South Carolina to Florida during the early settlement period. The subsequent 100 years witnessed massive social change influenced by urbanization, immigration and industrialization. Not all factors were equally influential among population groups. For example, farming provided a stable and dependable way of life for thousands of Floridians throughout most of the period. The full extent of the century of change became apparent only toward the end of the period. By the close of World War II (1945), farms and the countryside had been transformed forever. Mechanization, the pervasiveness of a money economy, changes in patterns of ownership and tenancy, urbanization and the decline of rural populations, agricultural dislocations and crises, changes in scale of economic viability, and the aging of rural populations were clear trends by the late 1940s. The people of Florida are fortunate to have acquired a family farm whose story not only parallels the history of the state throughout the long tenure of the Dudley family but also provides important contrasts.

Philip Benjamin Harvey Dudley (1814-1881) established the place now known as Dudley Farm in 1858, at a time when the agricultural future of Alachua County seemed assured. By 1860, P.B.H. Dudley had established himself as a middle-class agrarian capitalist. He owned 30 slaves and 960 acres of land in Alachua County, which in 1860 was much larger than it is now. His granddaughter, Myrtle, described him as an "overseer" of about 200 slaves (Yunker interviews, 1983-84). He may have been both an owner and overseer, but it was ownership of 30 slaves that made Dudley a man of monetary significance. The material culture of the farm is largely the product of the efforts of his son, also named Philip Benjamin Harvey Dudley and called "Ben" (1852-1918), and his grandsons and granddaughters. Grandson Ralph Dudley was chiefly identified as the "farmer" of Dudley Farm (Davis 1970). Myrtle Dudley, who donated the core of the park to the state, was the youngest of Ralph Dudley's siblings.

Minimal evidence remains of the elder P.B.H. Dudley's physical presence on the property, although the archaeological site known as the "old home place" or Dudley Homestead (AL4828) is located only about one tenth of a mile from the existing main house. The old home place is distinct from the Dudley main house, also known as the home place (AL2328A), which is the core part of the area donated to the state

by Myrtle Dudley. An abandoned well slightly south of the old home place is probably associated with archaeological site AL4828.

There was some confusion in associating material things with their originators, and at least one early local history described the present farmhouse as the Dudley plantation house. The farmhouse or main house (AL2328A), however, was not built until at least the Reconstruction period of 1865-1876 (Davis 1970). A research team has cited a reasonable date for construction of the farmhouse as circa 1882 (Historic American Buildings Survey, 1992). The "old home place" archaeological site is the more likely location of any "plantation house." In addition, the original Florida landholdings of the Dudley family were in Archer, Florida, dating from the 1830s, and were not at the current location of Dudley Farm (Morgan Tyrone, personal communication).

The material presence, or built environment, of the farm (the farm's inventory of buildings, other structures, roadways, fence lines, etc.) grew throughout the life of Ben Dudley. Many of the farm's extant structures or their immediate predecessors were probably built during this time, approximately 1880-1915. Other elements of the farmstead were constructed in the 1930s during Ralph's time. By the outbreak of World War II (1941), the built environment of Dudley Farm was complete. Some structures were subsequently repaired, altered, demolished or moved, but the stock of buildings had achieved equilibrium. It is remarkable that this building stock experienced no major destructive fires. Perhaps like most farmers, the Dudleys were cautious caretakers of their land and structures but they were also fortunate.

Some built elements of the farm have changed, though to what degree is sometimes difficult to understand. A road attributed to the elder P.B.H. Dudley passed directly in front (south) of the Dudley farmhouse dooryard. Portions of the road still remain (AL05635 Old Gainesville Road). The family constructed a store (AL23280 Dudley Farm Pack/Store House) beside the road. During the second administration of President Grover Cleveland, the store also served as a post office (October 1892 - April 1894), a clue to probable family prominence in the local Democratic Party (Bradbury and Hallock 1962). Travelers sometimes stayed with the Dudleys, and drovers often overnighted near the house with their herds. A front bedroom in the house is known as "the company room." P.B.H. Dudleys Road was later replaced by State Road 26, about a quarter mile south. A portion of the older road continued to function as part of the network of farm lanes. The store building was moved north into the barnyard and used as a packinghouse and storage building. A shed addition to the south side postdates the move. It was built slightly before 1920 to garage the family's first automobile.

The approach to the front door of the farmhouse changed over the years. Early photographs show a simple, barely adorned front yard, apparently a swept open space. Interviews and photographs describe and illustrate how, as more organized plantings became popular throughout the nation, that popularity was mirrored in the dooryard. The family gardeners, women of Myrtle Dudley's generation, planted ornamentals like roses, amaryllis, and camellias. Myrtle Dudley has described how neighbors drove out to see the beautiful garden (Yunker interviews).

The family established a stand of pecan trees for home use and to generate supplementary income. Small pecan groves are common features of southern farms. They illustrate the ingenuity and tenacity with which families experimented with new strategies to provide additional cash in hard times. Like many of their neighbors, the Dudleys also established grape arbors, four of which remain (Scafidi interview). The pecan trees and grape arbors are important cultural features of the farm. They also

provide evidence of planning for production and subsistence and should be documented sufficiently to allow restoration.

Other components of a self-sustaining farm of the era include the Corn Crib (AL2328G), the Smokehouse (AL2328E), the Dudley Farm Stable (D) for mules (AL2328I), and the Dudley Farm Stable (AL2338J).

Tung oil production became economically important in Alachua County in the first half of the 20th century. Unlike many neighbors, the Dudleys evidently did not participate in the craze for tung oil trees that swept western Alachua County at that time. Nearby San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park, however, was once the scene of extensive tung oil tree cultivation. A few tung oil trees currently grow at Dudley Farm Historic State Park, but it is not known whether they are the volunteer remains of a grove or were seeded by some other means (Opdyke 1974; Scafidi interview).

Dudley was a family farm, but it was by no means a subsistence operation of the more common "40 acres and a mule" variety. The family always owned considerable acreage and grew the important cash crops of the times. It appears that they had assistance from tenants, day laborers or both. The elder and younger P.B.H. Dudleys grew cotton for market. Both had agreements with laborers or tenant farmers. The laborers and tenants were paid with a "furnish" partly consisting of pork and sugar cane produced at the farm (Yunker interviews, Reddy 1990). Cane syrup was produced at the Dudley Farm Sugar Furnace (AL2328N).

Later laborers or tenants may have worked on a cash basis, but it is noted that there were no more tenants after the beginning of World War II (Reddy 1990). The ethnicity of the tenant farmers is not known and has not been studied. However, a history of the area mentions Jonesville as a place where most of the land was owned by African Americans (Opdyke 1974).

Although the Dudley store is usually described as a neighborhood institution used by local people and passers-by, it may have also served as a commissary for tenants of the Dudley family and their neighbors. George McLarty, Miss Dudley's nephew, referred to the structure as a commissary (Yunker interviews).

Cotton was a traditional cash crop of the area. Although "King Cotton" came to Alachua County late in the antebellum period, it took hold and remained important long after the Civil War ended. Cotton was a labor-intensive product. It required a lot of human effort to plant, keep healthy and harvest. There is anecdotal evidence that cotton production declined in the late 19th century when a "worm" invaded the crop. The successful response to the crisis, also anecdotal, seems to have been to move the crop off established fields into newly cleared pinelands. Ultimately, cotton lost its appeal in the period around World War I (Parenica 1978).

The boll weevil invaded the cotton belt in Texas at the turn of the 20th century and steadily moved eastward, so that by the teens and twenties it was a living fact for Florida growers. Measures such as varying times of the planting and spreading poisonous dust could be taken to avoid great damage from the pests. Some of these measures were inconvenient, others noxious or dangerous, and still others worked well only when the scale of operation was larger than a small farm could support.

By the 1930s, local farmers had changed their crop preferences and many were producing flue-cured tobacco. This modern product could be industrialized on the small scale of a family farm, but it occasionally required large inputs of labor. A noticeable trend of the 1920s and 1930s was an ongoing

decline in rural population. There was a parallel decline, then stabilization, in flue-cured tobacco production. At the Dudley farm, tobacco production declined during the 1930s, coincident with family illnesses and the growth of the chicken and egg business. Also at this time, boys were moving away from the farm for more modern careers and the girls of the family who were educated to be teachers remained on the farm (Carlton Dudley, personal communication).

The most important physical resource relating to this activity is the tobacco barn (AL2328F), which was completed about 1935 according to Myrtle Dudley (this date may be a few years late). The barn and its accouterments, including the gas burners, are largely intact.

One farm activity that bridged the period between the decline in cotton and the end of the tobacco and chicken and egg businesses was the production of beef cattle for market. This activity apparently began around World War I with the introduction of purebred stock. The Dudleys had previously kept milk cows and free-ranging scrub cows, both for family consumption, but entry into the modern cattle business was an ambitious step. The physical remnants of cattle production are a 1920s-era cattle dip vat (AL2328K) and a "squeeze chute." This complex is located just outside the southwest corner of the home place. The vat serves as a reminder of the serious nature of farmers' wars with pests, especially Texas fever ticks, which threatened to destroy investments in bred stock. The squeeze chute facilitated the handling and loading of stock onto trucks. Structures within this complex have been modified over the years. For example, the squeeze chute is an obvious replacement of earlier mechanisms and tools. This replacement is now incorporated with the interpretation of the park – i.e., the continual need for farmers to replace or upgrade infrastructure for the purposes of raising and marketing crops.

Operating as a family farm, all members of the household participated. During the 1930s, as the switch from cotton to flue-cured tobacco occurred, Myrtle Dudley and at least one sister, Winnie, developed a chicken and egg business that served the area.

Myrtle Dudley and her nephew, Gordon Garland, described an enterprise involving many customers, some of whom were egg wholesalers (Yunker interviews). That business was interrupted on the eve of World War II and did not resume afterward for unclear reasons. The aging of Dudley family members and their consequent frailties and illnesses were a constant of the later 1930s. The corresponding need to spend more time caring for mother and siblings, as well as the effects of the Great Depression and World War II, may have led to the decline.

The business belonging to the sisters resulted in an expansion or improvement of elements of the farm. Eight structures, four of which survive, were constructed for the business. There is a large chicken house (Dudley Farm Chicken Coop AL2328R) and yard on the northwest side of the barnyard. A brooder house (AL2328Q) sits slightly north and east of the farmhouse. The small chicken coop (Coop No. 3) is located north of the tobacco barn and adjacent to the garden fence, and the northeast chicken coop (Coop No. 1) is located northeast of the farmhouse. In the 2004 unit management plan, these two chicken houses were called chicken coop 1 and 3 because that is their designation in the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) report (HABS, 1992). These are unrecorded structures that should be recorded with the FMSF using both of their names. This will clearly correlate their designation and description in the HABS report and the names currently in use by DRP staff.

Family illnesses of the 1930s stimulated a major change in the farmhouse. For about 50 years, the house was served by a traditional separate kitchen (Dudley farm kitchen, AL2328C), located several yards north. During the 1930s, the kitchen was moved south to meet the back porch of the house. This allowed

the elderly Fannie Dudley to move more easily from one building to the other. In the early 1950s, the kitchen structure was moved to the northwest corner of the barnyard, and an addition containing a modern kitchen and bathroom, both with running water, was built in its place. The back porch may have been incorporated in the addition to become an east-west hallway. This alteration seems to have been the final major change in the configuration of the Dudley home place (Yunker interviews). After the property was acquired by the state of Florida, the 1950s kitchen and bathroom were removed to restore the farmhouse to its previous design, and the original kitchen (AL2328C) was returned to its former place.

An orderly listing of the cultural resources of Dudley Farm may be divided into two parts: the Dudley homestead and the remainder of the farm. The Dudley homestead is located within the 23.8-acre parcel that Myrtle Dudley donated to the state. It includes all standing structures, the pecan trees, most of the grape arbors, fencing, and the old roads. Included in the remaining 232 acres of Dudley Farm are the following: farm fields, wood lots, the "old home place" site and associated well, the cattle dip vat, squeeze chute and pens, archaeological sites, including possible Native American sites and tenant dwellings, and certain sinkholes and cave entrances which may contain archaeologically interesting materials such as farm debris and household trash.

The well, round corral, and pens, while close to the Dudley farmhouse (AL2328A), are apparently cultural components of the old home place (AL4828). They will warrant more research when they are recorded with the FMSF.

The built environment at Dudley Farm represents a rich sample of vernacular design and construction. All structures, except the dip vat, cattle squeeze, sweet potato cellar and stone house, are wood frame construction, usually built from locally obtained pine. Framing is typically timber or post-and-beam. The foundations, ranging from assembled rubble to piers, are mostly masonry and make use of locally obtained limestone. Siding is generally wood, either board and batten, horizontal or vertical board without battens, or weatherboard (wood lap siding). The original wood exterior fabric of the north and south elevations of the Dudley house had once been covered with cement asbestos shingles. The shingles were removed during restoration of the house by DRP staff, and vertical board and batten fabric were restored to those elevations. Except for window frames and the shingled north and south elevations of the house, little exterior paint is evident. Paint analysis has not yet been undertaken, however.

All roofing, except for the dairy house, is tin or galvanized tin, either standing seam or corrugated. Metal was the roof material of choice in the mid-1920s, replacing earlier wood shingles. Although the danger of fire is often cited as a reason for replacing worn out shingle roofs with metal, the latter also had the virtue of being inexpensive. Installing a metal roof required less labor than did shingling the same area, since wood shingles usually were split by hand on site. Many structures have undergone roof work within the last 15 years (2009-14) as part of an ongoing effort to stabilize them.

The stone house (AL2328B) and sweet potato cellar (AL2328P), roughly constructed of limestone masonry, are exceptions to the general use of wood fabric. The stone house, which is located in the dooryard garden on the south side of the farmhouse, is constructed of informally assembled mortar and rubble masonry. Its earthen floor is approximately 2 feet below grade. The stone house's rear wall rises about 3 feet above grade, while its front (south) wall rises about 5 feet. The structure has served for storage or as a potting shed. Its southern exposure allows the starting of tender plants in pots or flats before actual planting time.

The sweet potato cellar is a dugout whose walls are limestone masonry. The liner walls rise about 1 foot above grade. When DRP assumed management of the property, the cellar structure was largely complete, except for the roofed portion that would have sat on the raised foundation. Myrtle Dudley referred to the roof as an "A-frame" (Yunker interviews; Scafidi interview).

Extrapolating from nearby structures, however, it was probably a conventional gabled roof with the gable ends pointing east and west. This portion could be visualized as a set of abbreviated frame walls and a roof. Once the state acquired the property, the roof and gabled ends were replaced to conform to this description. Entry to the existing structure is through a well-defined opening in the east wall.

Concrete is seldom visible as a primary structural material on the farm. However, the dip vat (AL2328K) and drip pad were constructed of concrete around World War I. This was part of a statewide effort to control insect pests and to eradicate the Texas fever tick from Florida cattle. The vat is a walkthrough treatment tank, located below grade. It stands as a reminder of local farmers' participation in the purebred cattle industry and their cooperation in combating a common threat to their economic wellbeing. The cistern, located at the northeast corner of the house, is partially constructed of concrete.

The floors of several barnyard structures consist of roughly poured concrete. These floors appear to have been added some time after initial construction. This is evident in the chicken houses, the eastern portion of the hay barn (AL2328H), the porch area of the dairy house, and one grain storage area adjacent to the milking room (AL2328L). As their needs changed, many farmers moved structures from one location to another. The hay barn, which was moved from another farm and then altered, is a major example, but other structures, specifically the store and kitchen, are known to have been moved also. Once these structures were floored with concrete, however, the likelihood of their being moved diminished greatly. Evidence of such activity at Dudley Farm, in the form of abandoned concrete floors, has not been discovered.

Ralph Dudley was regarded as a leading farmer in the Newberry area. Among the many post-World War I publications found on the property, there are many pamphlets advising about new developments in farming. The poured floors of the 1930s-era chicken houses may reflect the desire of the Dudleys to operate their business wisely, possibly in accordance with the most up-to-date agricultural practices of the time.

The structures at Dudley Farm are vernacular in that they were constructed and repaired using local materials. Vernacular structures, especially on farms, were rebuilt, repaired, and patched as needed on an ongoing basis. Thus, although most structures at the farm are patched and occasionally show signs of having been entirely rebuilt or upgraded, all exhibit great historical integrity. This is among the most important aspects of the farm: the structures remain much the way their builders intended them to be. If structures were moved, it was for a specific purpose by the builders or their descendants. This should be kept in mind during subsequent planning: the movement of structures into idealized "authentic" locations, though well intentioned, may be a serious error. This concept applies to the store, the location of which may be viewed as "new" and intrusive, but which has considerable historical legitimacy, especially with reference to established historic preservation practices.

The list of cultural resources described thus far is an inventory of standing structures that existed at Dudley Farm during the period from approximately 1880 to 1940. Other, less obvious resources carry equal importance. The most prominent of these are the historic Gainesville Road, which represented a southern boundary for the barnyard, the current and abandoned fence lines and lanes, the pecan grove

and grape arbors, the layout of the main house front flower garden, the old home place and well, and possible remains of other (tenant) dwellings.

The pecan trees have undergone preliminary study and documentation of the ages of the trees and the varieties of pecans produced, as well as mapping of the possible pattern of planting. The grape arbors have been the subject of similar studies.

Volunteers and staff have documented the plantings and landscape elements of the front dooryard garden. Currently (2014), a collection of the flora of Dudley Farm is being vouchered at the University of Florida Herbarium (Riley et al. University of Florida Herbarium Collections Catalogue). The collection includes all of the garden plants, which will allow a more accurate documentation of the plantings.

Another category of cultural resource management and historical recordkeeping at the park pertains to known features that are no longer extant such as structures, roads, fence lines and other cultural resources that have been lost over time, either to demolition and removal or to alterations of terrain. Examples may include outbuildings of the "old home place," gravesites or cemeteries. These resources will be identified through survey activity and the study of extant resources. They should be mapped as they are discovered and identified. Professional archaeologists have recently studied the "old home place" area and the original location of the detached kitchen, as well as part of the historic Gainesville Road (Dickinson and Wayne 2001, 2002).

The historic road may be studied as a cultural resource. Past research at the Old Bellamy Road within River Rise Preserve State Park has contributed considerable information about road building and the local environment. Likewise at Dudley Farm Historic State Park, fence lines and lanes present pictures of intentions and solutions to problems on a farm. Recording both current and abandoned fence lines and lanes will aid in planning development and activities throughout the park. A more comprehensive understanding of the historic structures at Dudley Farm will be achieved if DRP staff completes a Historic American Landscape Survey in which the farm structures are documented within the context of other details in the historic landscape.

Most historic structures of the park are in good condition – attributed largely to staff vigilance and a preventive maintenance strategy. Of the standing structures at Dudley Farm, the following are considered to be in good condition: the kitchen (AL2328C), corn crib (AL2328F), flower pit (AL2328B), cistern and well, pump house (AL2328M), pack/store house (AL2328O), sweet potato cellar (AL2328P), the stable (D) known as the mule stable (AL2328I), the stable (AL2328J), outhouse (AL2328D), smokehouse (AL2328E), cane syrup complex (AL2328N), hay barn (AL2328H), milk room (AL2328L), dip vat (AL2328K) area (including the squeeze chute), brooder house (AL2328Q), and the small and northeast chicken coops (Coops Nos. 3 & 1, respectively). These are optimistic assessments, based on the structures' abilities to withstand daily use and on their conditions compared to the other structures discussed below.

The buildings in fair condition are the dairy shed/canning house/laundry house, "long chicken house" (Dudley Farm Chicken Coop AL2328R) and tobacco barn (AL2328F). The dairy shed/canning house/laundry house needs structural work because the support posts are twisting in their concrete foundation, which is no longer level. The roof and siding are in good condition, however. The walls of the "long chicken house" are shifting and leaning and the foundation is unstable. There have been several previous attempts to stabilize this building. The tobacco barn has some battens which are being worn away by rainwater.

Additional unrecorded structures at Dudley Farm include the grape arbors and fences, which are in fair to good condition. Much has been accomplished in restoring historic split rail fencing throughout the farm.

While not structural, the planted landscape of the farm is an integral part of the historic landscape. Many of the trees of the home place are in poor condition despite regular pruning and care. These include pecans and cedars that are becoming senescent. They are either dying or they are shedding large pieces of themselves. The University of Florida Herbarium houses plant specimens from the historic landscape, farm garden and park in the Floristic Inventory of Dudley Farm Historic State Park.

A major difference between current DRP preservation of historic structures for posterity and the repairing of the same structures by the Dudley family for ongoing farm use lies in the degree of planning and preparation needed for repairs to be started and the standards to which the repair work must be held. DRP staff applies all of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties to its historic preservation activities. Adherence to these widely accepted standards is intended to enable work to be performed without sacrificing historical integrity while also providing methods to allow adaptations of structures for purposes beyond those envisioned by their original builders.

All buildings receive preventative maintenance which includes removal of vegetation from the foundation rocks, periodic leveling of the building foundations, application of a mix of turpentine and linseed oil on the first three feet of wood above the ground every 2-5 years, a monthly cleaning and damage check of all buildings, and a termite check for wood integrity and insect frass. A termite control company also inspects the structures four times per year and treatments are done as needed. In addition, some of the buildings behind the farmstead have their foundations raised, as well as leveled, every five to 10 years. Foundation raising is accomplished by the addition of lime rock fill and local limestone to maintain the nature of the original stone foundations.

Structures that have stone or concrete foundations experience deterioration at the point where the stone or concrete comes into contact with pinewood siding or framing. An acid-base exchange, encouraged by rain or dew, is apparently taking place at that point, and the fluid is wicked upward by the cell structure of the vertical siding members. Since all such structures are vulnerable no matter what their present state, appropriate design measures and technical solutions should be implemented when work is performed on them in the future. If buildings need repair, the park uses old wood in good condition for the repairs and uses aged tin for roof repairs.

A plan is needed for maintenance and replanting of the historic landscape. The plan should include guidelines for rejuvenation of the pecan orchard, historic trees, and grape arbors.

Collections

There is a considerable body of collection objects from the farm, most of which were obtained through donation by Myrtle Dudley and her nephews, George McLarty and Gordon Garland. Additional collection objects were acquired from purchased from Myrtle Dudley. To date, the collection numbers over 6,000 objects. The majority of these are either personal accessories or part of a substantial accumulation of ephemeral items that several generations of a family can leave on a farm. There is also a considerable

body of furnishings, of which furniture is the major constituent, though there are a few lamps and other accessories as well. All collection items are located within the park.

Because of the nature and size of the collection, a state-of-the-art collections building, the first of its type in the Florida Park Service, was constructed at Dudley Farm Historic State Park in 2008. It consists of a collection storage room, a cold room, a work room, and an office. The building has double baffle doors to control humidity and protect against fire, a sprinkler system, fireproof cabinets for film and audio documents, quilt racks, powder coated shelves for collection items, map and document storage, and a security alarm system. The collection storage room is kept at 68 degrees Fahrenheit. The cold room is used for fabric storage and is kept at 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

The Dudley furniture illustrates the family's adaptation to the changing ways of life on Florida farms. Some pieces are the result of skilled craftsmanship or custom manufacture. The family bed was clearly one of these. This is the bedstead Myrtle Dudley believed her grandparents had brought from South Carolina in the 1840s, although it has been modified in a few small ways. Professional conservators have identified a few other craftsman-produced pieces during their work. Most of the remaining furniture was mass-produced. Preliminary research indicates it was acquired, by and large, between 1890 and 1930. Most are utilitarian pieces such as bedsteads. Other mass-produced pieces are of a slightly later period, possibly 1920-50. These include an assortment of tables and chairs, possibly replacements of older pieces.

Other furniture was made, repaired extensively, or modified at home or locally. There are several locally handmade, hide-seated, ladder-back pine chairs. These are unadorned, although conservators have established that most of the chairs were painted long ago and the paint later removed. The chairs were apparently used throughout the house. The family table, located in the kitchen addition, was a homemade expansion of a factory-made piece. The factory-made dining chairs were of a type which could be acquired new from about 1890 through 1950. Almost all have been extensively modified or repaired. Among the tentative interpretations of this mass of materials is that, like many farm families, the Dudleys had little superfluous furniture.

The largest group of Dudley family possessions seems to have been acquired between 1880 and 1912. This period of apparent material expansion, from Mary Catherine Dudley's childhood through Myrtle Dudley's early adolescence, coincides with Fanny Dudley's childbearing years. These objects bear witness to the material demands of raising a family around the turn of the 20th century. This was also a period of some apparent prosperity for the family. Although the Dudleys were abandoning cotton for tobacco, and although the transition to raising purebred cattle had resulted in outflows of resources for construction materials and chemicals, the Dudleys were still able to purchase their first automobile during this period. Subscription magazines in the collection indicate the family stayed abreast of the popular culture of the time. Judging from the body of collection objects, most acquisitions after that time (or after the 1920s) were limited to personal items, sewing materials, and utilitarian objects, such as oil lamps and kitchenware--all serviceable, sturdy goods.

The Dudley collection also contains many family photographs dating back to about the 1870s, documents dating to the 1830s covering the family's time in South Carolina as well as Florida, assorted letters, and personal, legal and farm financial documents from about 1870 through 1940. There are also audio interviews with Myrtle Dudley in reel-to-reel and other formats.

The park collection is housed in four different areas: the Dudley Homestead, the collections building, the visitor center and around the commissary building. Dudley family items are in the Dudley Homestead and the collections building. The homestead is not air-conditioned, but the visitor center and collections building are both climate controlled. Periodic inspections are made to detect any issues with insects or other pests in the collections. The collections building was tented and fumigated in 2016 when silverfish were discovered.

In general, the collection items are in good condition. However, staff will need professional assistance when restoring several types of items and providing long-term care. In particular, the park will require professional guidance during restoration of documents and fabric items such as quilts and linens, or while continuing their maintenance in good condition.

Currently, management of the collection as outlined above falls to the Friends of Dudley Farm citizen support organization (CSO). The CSO has made considerable progress entering the collections objects into DRP's computerized collections inventory system, Past Perfect. Although the CSO members are very dedicated, the large number of collection items and the level of professional work and detail needed for the collection management is beyond their capabilities as volunteers. Professional collection management support is urgently needed. The collections building currently does not have Internet access, which has slowed the computerized inventory process.

Current in-house management of the collection includes regular cleaning and inspection of the furniture. Donated linens are used in the house so that the Dudley family linens can be preserved in the collections building. The visitor center displays are rotated on six-month intervals.

It would benefit the park to have modern models of the Dudley family quilts to display such that the originals could be kept in the climate-controlled collections building. Additional protection is needed for the collection in the farmstead. Sturdier room barriers such as those made of Plexiglas would keep visitors from entering the rooms and touching collection items.

Cultural Sites Listed in the Florida Master Site File					
Site Name and FMSF #	Culture/Period	Description	Significance	Condition	Treatment
AL2328 Dudley Farm State Historic Site	19 th & 20 th century American, Archaic	Archaeological Site	NRL	G	P
AL2328A Dudley Farm Main House	Post-Civil War Reconstruction, ca. 1880	Historic Structure	NRL	F	P
AL 2328B Dudley Farm Stone House or Flower Pit	Ca. 1920	Historic Structure	NRL	G	P
AL2328C Dudley Farm Kitchen	Ca. 1882	Historic Structure	NRL	G	P
AL 2328D Dudley Farm Outhouse	Ca. 1900	Historic Structure	NRL	G	P

Cultural Sites Listed in the Florida Master Site File					
Site Name and FMSF #	Culture/Period	Description	Significance	Condition	Treatment
AL2328E Dudley Farm – Smokehouse	Historic ca. 1882	Historic Structure	NE	G	P
AL2328F Dudley Farm – Tobacco Barn	Historic ca. 1930	Historic Structure	NE	F	P
AL2328G Dudley Farm – Corn Crib	Historic ca. 1905	Historic Structure	NE	G	P
AL2328H Dudley Farm – Hay Barn	Historic ca. 1924	Historic Structure	NE	G	P
AL2328I Dudley Farm – Stable (D)	Historic ca. 1905	Historic Structure	NE	G	P
AL2328J Dudley Farm – Stable	Historic ca. 1925	Historic Structure	NE	G	P
AL2328K Dudley Farm – Cattle Dip	Historic ca. 1900	Historic Structure	NE	G	P
AL2328L Dudley Farm – Milk Room	Historic ca. 1930	Historic Structure	NE	G	P
AL2328M Dudley Farm – Pump House	Historic ca. 1908	Historic Structure	NE	G	P
AL2328N Dudley Farm – Sugar Furnace	Historic ca. 1882	Historic Structure	NE	G	P
AL2328O Dudley Farm – Pack/Store House	Historic ca. 1890s	Historic Structure	NE	G	P
AL2328P Dudley Farm Sweet Potato Cellar	Historic 1890s	Historic Structure	NE	G	P
AL2328Q Dudley Farm Brooder House	Historic 1930	Historic Structure	NE	G	P
AL2328R Dudley Farm Chicken Coop	Historic ca. 1930	Historic Structure	NE	F	P

Cultural Sites Listed in the Florida Master Site File					
Site Name and FMSF #	Culture/Period	Description	Significance	Condition	Treatment
AL02612 Dudley Farm Prehistoric Site	Archaic and Deptford	Archaeological Site	NR	G	P
AL04828 Dudley Homestead	Historic early-late 1800s and 1900s; prehistoric	Archaeological Site	NRL	G	P
AL04856 Dudley Farm	1859-1952	Historic District	NRL	G	P
AL05635 Old Gainesville Road	Historic 1870s	Resource Group	NE	G	P
AL05685 Dudley Farm Prehistoric Site 2	Prehistoric	Archaeological Site	NE	G	P

Significance:

NRL – National Register Listed
NRE – National Register Eligible
LS – Locally Significant
NE – Not Evaluated
NS – Not Significant

Conditions:

G – Good
F – Fair
P – Poor

Recommended Treatment:

RS - Restoration
RH - Rehabilitation
ST - Stabilization
P - Preservation
R – Removal

Condition Assessment

Objective: Assess and evaluate four of 24 recorded cultural resources in the park.

Actions:

- Complete four assessments/evaluations of archaeological sites.
- Action 2 - Complete a Historic American Landscape Survey for the park's historic buildings and cultural landscape.
- Action 3 - Complete an archaeological survey of the site identified to receive the Perkins House prior to moving the house to the park.

All archaeological sites at Dudley Farm Historic State Park are currently in good condition, but in order to keep them that way park staff will need to visit them regularly and document any changes observed.

While the National Register of Historic Places registration form for the Dudley farmstead includes a sketched map of the farm fields as well as the historic structures, other details of the farm and of its functioning components could be documented in more precise detail and in an optimal format to preserve this information for the future. Since the farm passed directly from the Dudley family to DRP, the layout and function of the property is relatively unchanged. DRP should obtain a Historic American

Landscape Survey to document the structures within the context of the other details of the historic landscape. This survey should document such things as the site's absent resources (namely those structures, roads, fence lines, and other cultural resources that have been lost over time, either to demolition and removal or to alterations of terrain), current and abandoned fence lines and lanes, locations of historic farm fields, animal pens, the house flower garden, varieties of pecan and other crop trees, the Dudley Homestead AL4828 and its associated well and tenant house foundations, caves which may contain interesting farm trash, archaeological sites, and all other known but as yet undocumented features.

Documentation of Recorded Sites

Objective: Compile reliable documentation for all recorded historic and archaeological resources.

Actions:

- Ensure known sites are recorded/updated in the Florida Master Site File.
- Conduct Phase 1 archaeological survey for three high priority areas identified by the predictive model.
- Update and adopt a Scope of Collections Statement.
- Develop a protocol for long term management of the collection.
- Adopt and implement the Division Access Policy to allow a secure process to permit physical viewing of the collection by approved researchers.
- Develop and implement a conservation needs and restoration plan for fragile collection items such as photographs, documents, or fabrics.

Several historic structures or other resources at the farm still need to be recorded with the FMSF. These include but are not limited to: the grape arbors, dairy shed/canning house/laundry house, two chicken coops (the northeast chicken coop (coop No. 1) and the small chicken coop (coop No. 3), the main house well, cistern, water tower pilings, remnants of the Newnansville to Jonesville and Half Moon Lake Road that passes to the west of the Dudley Main House (AL2328A), the round corral, cattle squeeze chute, cotton and wash house foundation, and the stone foundations and well at the "old home place" (Dudley Homestead (AL4828)).

The Dudley Farmstead National Register of Historic Places registration form includes a sketched map of the farm fields as well as the historic structures. However, details of the farm/property's functioning components could be better documented to preserve this information for the future. Since the farm passed directly from the Dudley family to DRP, the layout and function of the property is relatively unchanged. These circumstances warrant documenting it in greater detail. The location of the historic farm fields, fence lines, animal pens, house flower garden, the Dudley Homestead (AL4828) and its associated well, caves that may contain interesting farm trash, archaeological sites and all other features should be documented via an Historic American Landscape Survey.

The predictive model that was completed for Dudley Farm indicates three high priority areas that have not yet had any archaeological work done. These three areas should be the focus of any Phase 1 survey.

The Dudley family migrations may in many ways be representative of the largescale movement of people from the Carolinas to Florida prior to statehood. While the park has a great deal of information about the Dudley family from about 1860 to 1950, much less is known about their time in South Carolina

and their early years in Florida before they founded Dudley Farm. Acquiring additional information about this period of family history should help us better understand the social history of that era.

Management of a collection the size of the Dudley collection is time-consuming and needs professional guidance. Actions 5-7 are items that need to be addressed to enable successful management and protection of the collection.

Preservation Measures

Objective: Bring three of 24 recorded cultural resources into good condition.

Actions:

- Stabilize the Dudley Farm Main House (AL2328A) chimney and address sagging boards on the ceiling. A structural engineer has evaluated the structure and made recommendations. Recommendations need to be executed.
- Replace the roof on the Dudley Farm Main House (AL2328A) with a new, historically accurate roof.
- Continue to implement a program for regular monitoring of all cultural sites.
- Continue to implement a cyclical maintenance program for each cultural resource.
- Bring the dairy shed/canning house/laundry house structure and the tobacco barn (AL2328F) into good condition.

Regular preventative maintenance is critical for the historic structures at Dudley Farm. Maintenance of the structures should be performed in accordance with a strictly established routine that describes time periods, tasks, and techniques. A maintenance schedule of this type is hereinafter in this plan called cyclical maintenance. A review of maintenance procedures by a professional conservator of buildings would determine if additional or newer methods are available. This would benefit the future preservation of the structures.

The following discussion lists actions taken since adoption of the previous management plan to maintain the historic structures, as well as actions that are needed to bring structures to good condition.

Preventative maintenance shall be used for all structures as delineated above, as well as any specific actions mentioned. The three structures in fair condition are discussed first.

The dairy shed/canning house/laundry house needs to be recorded with the FMSF. Its support posts, which are twisting in their concrete foundation, need to be straightened and stabilized, and the foundation needs to be leveled.

The tobacco barn (AL2328F) which is in fair condition, was treated for termites in 2007. Any affected siding and battens were replaced. The roof was redone in 2005. In the future, some battens will need repairing because they get worn down by rain. A few siding boards may need to be replaced in the next five years. These are difficult to find because very long boards (about 30-40 feet) are required to match the original boards.

Structures in Good Condition

The roof of the Dudley Farm stone house (AL2328B), or the flower pit, was replaced in 2004. No other significant repairs are currently needed. In 2022, the kitchen (AL2338C) was reroofed, the foundation was raised to counteract erosion, and the back porch was added to match photographs from the early 1900s. The outhouse (AL2328D) foundation was raised in 2010. Its tin roof will need to be replaced with old tin that is still in good condition in about five years. In 2010, the smokehouse (AL2328E) foundation was elevated, siding was repaired, rafters were replaced and the roof was redone.

The corn crib (AL2328G) foundation was raised and stabilized in 2010. It may need raising again in about five years. Corn is no longer stored in the corn crib, and this has helped to control rodent damage to the structure. The hay barn's (AL2328H) tin roof was replaced in 1997. Minor mortar cracks have been repaired. Only preventative maintenance is needed at this time.

The mule stable or stable D (AL2328I) and the stable (AL2328J) had their foundations raised in 2010 and foundation cracks were repaired. The roofs and some rafters were replaced. Individual pieces of damaged siding were also replaced. The ground around the mule stable was reworked to direct water away from the buildings and reduce future erosion.

Repairs were made to the cattle dip (AL2328K) in 2012. Boards were replaced, dead trees were removed and vegetation was kept low to restrict root growth from damaging the structure.

Foundation cracks in the milk room (AL2328L) were repaired in 2008 and the foundation was raised in 2010. In the pump house (AL2328M), floorboards and siding that were termite-damaged were repaired and the tin roof was replaced.

The sugar furnace (AL2328N), also known as the cane syrup complex, was used until 2011 for the sugar cane boils during "Cane Days" events at Dudley Farm. The number and frequency of boils was damaging the original furnace, so a reproduction furnace was built near the visitor center for use during Cane Days. The original furnace is no longer used. It has been repaired with appropriate mortar and limestone. The building foundation was raised in 2010, siding was repaired, one of the cracked kettles was replaced with the same size kettle, and metal work was protected. The metal components will need protective treatment approximately every two years, and the foundation needs to be evaluated periodically.

The pack/store house (AL2328O) roof was repaired in 2010 and some foundation rocks were replaced. Runoff water was rerouted to prevent erosion, and minor rodent damage was repaired. Low voltage lighting was added inside the building for visitor safety.

In 2010, the roof and wood-gabled ends of the sweet potato cellar (AL2328P) were rebuilt, and the tin roof was replaced with cedar shake shingles to match the original roof structure. The shingles were made on site. The shake shingles will need regular checking for damage and leaks.

The brooder house (AL2328Q) and the small chicken coop (Coop No. 3) and the northeast chicken coop (Coop No. 1) had foundation repairs, roof repairs and minor siding repairs in 2005-06. The latter two buildings still need to be recorded with the FMSF.

The cistern cover was replaced in 2008 and had minor repair work done in 2010. The well was covered with a wooden cap to protect the mortar and limestone from the weather. The cistern needs to be recorded with the FMSF.

Although the Hodge Jones House, barn, and windmill are not historic relative to the Dudley homestead, maintenance procedures for these structures should be similar to those used on the historic structures of the farm itself. The house has been adapted for use as a visitor and education center, as well as a park office. The barn serves as an interpretive station and is passed by most visitors to the farmstead.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Arthropod Control Plan

All DRP lands are designated as “environmentally sensitive and biologically highly productive” in accordance with Ch. 388 and Ch. 388.4111 Florida Statutes. If a local mosquito control district proposes a treatment plan, the DRP works with the local mosquito control district to achieve consensus. By policy of DEP since 1987, aerial adulticiding is not allowed, but larviciding and ground adulticiding (truck spraying in public use areas) is typically allowed. The DRP does not authorize new physical alterations of marshes through ditching or water control structures.

Dudley Farm Historic State Park does not have an arthropod control plan. Mosquito control plans temporarily may be set aside under declared threats to public or animal health, or during a Governor’s Emergency Declaration.

LAND USE COMPONENT

VISITATION

Visitors to Dudley Farm Historic State Park travel back in time to experience the life and story of Florida homesteaders through numerous exhibits, preserved buildings and structures dating between the 1880s and 1940s. The story of Dudley Farm begins with its founder Philip Benjamin Harvey (P.B.H.) Dudley who acquired the property in 1859 and continues through several generations that span the evolution from pre-mechanized to high-tech farming practices.

The extent and success of the farm is evident today in the preserved buildings and structures that once supported farm operations. The Dudley farmstead area exhibits where the Dudley family lived and worked. Staff in period costume provide guided tours, allowing visitors to experience what life was like on a working Florida farm in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Fields throughout the property support historic period crops, while the pastures are home to livestock including cracker cows and other animals that were raised by the Dudley family. The grounds feature numerous structures including the Dudley farmhouse, 1880s kitchen, vernacular gardens, and farm general store. Collectively, these facilities are examples of the Rural Vernacular architectural style, with many built from pine harvested on family property. The Dudley farmstead area of the park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The various facilities and agrarian elements within the park are enhanced by its natural setting which includes upland hardwood forest and upland mixed woodland. Karst features such as sinkholes, caves, and solution depressions occur throughout the park, adding to the appealing blend of natural and cultural resources.

Trends

From 2009 to 2019, visitation at Dudley Farm Historic State Park remained relatively consistent throughout the year. The cooler months, with more pleasant outdoor conditions, saw higher visitation while the summer months saw lower numbers.

Economic Impact

Dudley Farm Historic State Park recorded 22,091 visitors in FY 2022/2023. By DRP estimates, the FY 2022/2023 visitors contributed \$2,849,618 in direct economic impact, the equivalent of adding 40 jobs to the local economy.

EXISTING FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Park facilities are divided into three areas, including the interpretive complex, Dudley farmstead, and support area.

The park entrance includes an honor box and a circular parking area surrounded by open pasture. Adjacent to the parking area, several original and replica structures, which are intended to demonstrate a typical farmstead in the 1880s-1940s, are available for visitors to experience. The interpretive complex area includes the Hodge Museum, Hodge Barn, commissary, and a cane processing facility. Several of these structures, including the Hodge Museum, were donated to the park and moved to their current location.

The Hodge Museum houses a collection of historical displays from the time the Dudley family lived and worked on the farm with many artifacts arranged within an interpretive timeline. The museum also displays artifacts such as linens, equipment, ceramics, photography, quilts, pamphlets, and glassware. The Hodge Museum is a renovated historic structure that was moved to the property in the late 1990s. As mentioned above, it does not have historical connection to the Dudley farmstead.

The Hodge Barn, like the Hodge Museum, is a renovated historic building that was relocated to the park property in the 1990s. Its interior is utilized for storage, while the exterior includes a lean-to equipment shelter.

The commissary serves as the park gift shop. The building contains canned goods and other period-appropriate items for visitors to purchase such as syrup made from cane that is grown on the property and locally processed at the cane boil building.

To the west of the interpretive complex, is the Pause and Ponder Trail that traverses hammock and winds past sinkholes.

The centerpiece of the park is the Dudley farmstead, which features the Dudley farmhouse and support structures dating from the 1880s to 1940s. The various structures within the farmstead area provide historical interpretation relating to where and how the Dudley family lived and worked. There are 18 original structures, some of which include the Dudley farmhouse, dairy shed, and general store.

The Perkins House was the dwelling of Rebecca and James Perkins, built between 1885 and 1895. The house was formerly located on adjacent private property separated from the park by Northwest 182nd Street. Formerly enslaved, the Perkins acquired 40 acres near the Dudley property after emancipation. The modest wooden house they built there has been modified but still holds substantial historical importance. The house was moved onto park property for lasting protection and to ensure that the independent ambitions of African Americans who were part of this rural community are formally interpreted, both their adversities and successes.

The support area contains numerous buildings and facilities necessary for the operations of the park. Structures include several storage buildings, volunteer campsites, an abandoned well with pumphouse, one maintenance shop building, and one residence. There are two park volunteer sites located within the support area. There is also a climate-controlled collections facility that houses donated items and artifacts from the Dudley Family.

The small maintenance shop building, referred to as the 1950s kitchen, is used as a workspace and for storage. The building was originally connected to the back of the Dudley house but was moved following acquisition by DRP. It contains many original farmstead objects along with storage cases.

Facilities Inventory

<i>Interpretive Complex</i>	
Honor Box	1
Hodge Museum	1
Barn	1
Commissary	1
Cane Boil Building	1
Picnic Table	6
Pause and Ponder Trail (miles)	0.35
Restroom	1

Parking area	1
<i>Dudley Farmstead</i>	
Dudley Farmhouse	1
Dairy Shed	1
Wellhouse	1
Front Yard Garden	1
Cistern	1
Tobacco Barn	1
Sweet Potato House	1
Kitchen	1
Farm General Store	1
Corn Crib and Hay Barn	1
Hay Barn	1
Horse Stable	1
Sugar Cane Complex	1
Mule Stable	1
Chicken House	4
Smoke House	1
Flower Pit	1
Outhouse	1
<i>Support Area</i>	
Pole barn	1
Residence	1
Storage	1
Shop (1950s Kitchen)	1
Collections Facility	1
Pumphouse	4
Residence	1
Car port	2
Shed	2
Volunteer Sites	2

CONCEPTUAL LAND USE PLAN

Parkwide

Objective: Develop interpretive plan.

Actions:

- Create and implement a parkwide interpretive plan.

Comprehensive evaluation is needed to determine the most effective methods and placements of interpretive installations parkwide. The proposed interpretive planning strategy will focus interpretation on the historic namesake farmstead. Other features to be evaluated for their roles in the parkwide interpretive program include the Hodge Museum and associated buildings, proposed interpretive pavilion, interpretive trail, and the Perkins House. The type, design, quantity, and placement of interpretive elements to deepen understanding and improve orientation will be specified during this

planning process. The remaining objectives provide additional details for consideration for each Use Area.

Interpretive Complex

Objective: Improve content and aesthetics

Actions:

- Construct interpretive pavilion.
- Add back porch to commissary.
- Update interpretation in Hodge Museum.
- Consider historic context of present buildings.

There are elements of Dudley Farm Historic State Park that should be reassessed. The interpretive complex and the Dudley farmstead area are purposefully separated to preserve the distinctive, on-site, historic integrity of the Dudley home and farm buildings. Occupying separate locations within the park, however, arriving visitors can be initially unaware that the historic farmstead site is actually located a multi-minute walking distance to the north. Interpretation of both common elements and distinctions between the Interpretive Complex and the Historic Farmstead can contextualize and distinguish these two seemingly disparate areas.

There is creative freedom to interpret the complex as appropriate to the needs of the park as this use area is not restricted by the NHL criteria of the Dudley farmstead area. Although current structures at the interpretive complex are not tied to the farmstead area, they match the general time period and reinforce and contextualize the historic Florida agrarian theme of the park. Activities and structural elements that may not be historically accurate to the Dudley Farm, such as blacksmithing activities and the Hodge Jones windmill, should remain in this separate area. Consistent with the goal of preserving a historically accurate environment, this area hosts vendors and special uses that are not permitted at the historic farmstead site.

The interpretive complex is located near the east side of the parking area and is comprised of several structures of varying ages and origins. While the structures were relocated here from offsite, they currently serve as representative samples of historic periods of Florida's agricultural economy and development. Long-term disposition of the interpretive complex, however, must be evaluated. As the structures of the interpretive complex age and continue to require maintenance, their decline is anticipated. Where critical repairs and upkeep may be deemed infeasible, removal of the structures will be necessary. It may also be considered that the presence of offsite structures detracts from, rather than complements, the particular architectural and historical attributes of the original components of the Dudley Farm. Accordingly, a gradual succession plan is proposed to phase out the rustic offsite structures.

Rather than utilizing a parallel array of semi-historic structures, the park interpretive center should be minimal in size and complexity, devoted to the core purpose of the unit by providing the type of introduction to the NHL site that cannot be provided within or even adjacent to the buildings of the farmstead itself. As the farmstead must itself be preserved in its historic condition without anachronistic aids to interpretation or accessibility, the facility that visitors initially encounter upon arrival should serve to provide the site-appropriate suite of interpretive panels, audio-visual supplements, and comfort amenities.

Interpretive Pavilion

The most significant enhancement proposed for the interpretive complex is the construction of a multi-purpose open-air interpretive pavilion. The architecture of the structure should match the historical rural context and interpretive theme – evoking, to the extent feasible, the distinctive attributes found in the historic homestead itself. While an enclosed climate-controlled structure was contemplated during the planning process, the long-term recurring costs and maintenance was considered infeasible. Educational programming needs can be met with a well-designed open-sided shelter that features durable seating and interpretive installations.

Two alternative locations are identified for the proposed interpretive pavilion:

Open Field North of Parking Area/Northwest of Interpretive Complex

One location is in the open field to the north of the parking area or northwest of the interpretive complex. This location would provide a separate area that would be disjunct from the existing interpretive complex.

Interior of – or Adjacent to the Interpretive Complex

Another site for the education center would occupy a clearing between existing buildings at the center of the interpretive complex. This location would utilize the current and intended space for visitor arrival, particularly as the off-site structures are gradually removed as they become unserviceable. The field north of the parking area would be preserved as open space such that the northward viewshed toward the historic homestead would remain undeveloped. This field has potential to be intentionally incorporated with the broader rural landscape and may be viable for seeding with native wildflowers to mimic its probable appearance during the period of historic interpretation.

An identified drawback to being situated within the existing complex of interpretive buildings is that construction of a new structure would displace an established staging point for organized groups of visitors and vendors during events. Other locations near the parking area, however, are also well suited to accommodate tour groups and event vendors. This concern will also diminish with the successional removal of the off-site structures.

Commissary

The set of stairs in the rear of the commissary building are to be replaced with a small deck for better accessibility and safety for park staff and volunteers. This would allow improved access to the back side of the building.

Wayfinding

Interpretive panels in this area could be enhanced – depending on the expected duration of the off-site contextual structures. A panel could be positioned at the end of the sidewalk near the Hodge Museum to highlight the various structures in the interpretive complex and their role in demonstrating north Florida farm life comparable to the Dudley Farmstead. The inclusion of an informative park map panel, highlighting the location of the Dudley Farmstead is necessary to guide visitors to the park's historic focal point, which is not readily visible from the interpretive complex.

Hodge Museum

Interpretation of the African American presence at Dudley Farm should ultimately be included in the proposed interpretive pavilion. In the interim, this important element should be included in the Hodge Museum. Several new displays and interpretive materials would serve to highlight the role of African

Americans at Dudley Farm. Efforts to expand this interpretive element have included relocating the Perkins House onto the park boundary.

Interpretive Trail

Objective: Expand interpretive opportunities and context across the greater acreage of the park.

Actions:

- Develop new interpretive trail.
- Include points of interpretation and wayfinding.

An interpretive trail, extending from the Pause and Ponder Trail, will be developed to connect visitors to the relevant park themes along the route. Interpretive elements designed to enhance the experience and deepen understanding should include the historic landscape.

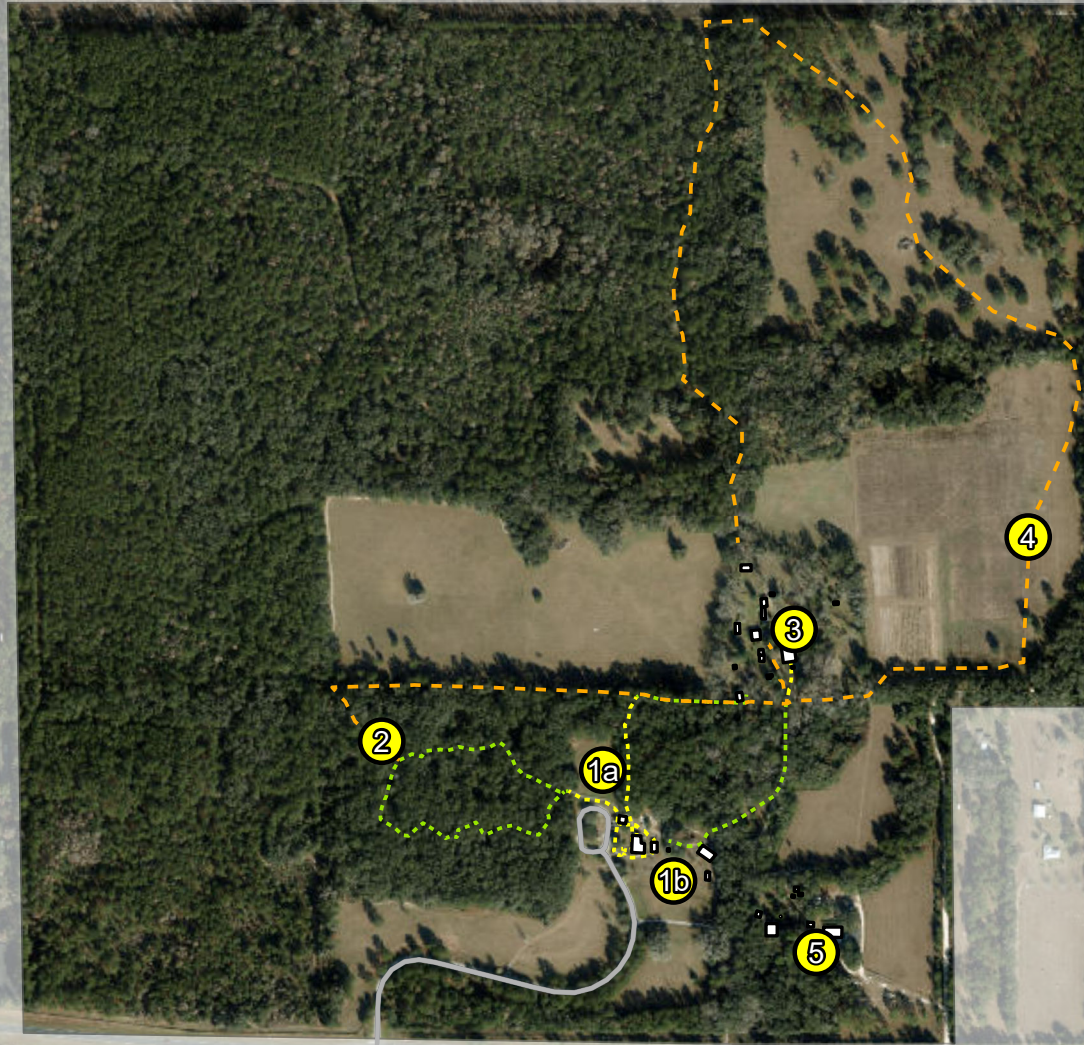
The trail will proceed north until it intersects with the Old Gainesville Road, taking visitors east past the cracker cow field. Views of the pasture can be highlighted describing cracker cows and their place within the park. Proceeding into the Dudley Farmstead area, the trail will bisect a small, gated area where livestock cross between two pastures. Although the trail will be temporarily closed for visitor safety during crossings, trail users will get an up-close look at livestock, authenticating the farmstead experience.

To the north, visitors will pass in vicinity of the “old home place,” which is the original Dudley family settlement, predating the current farmstead area. Interpretation of the original family home can provide historical depth and context to the extant farmstead. Further north, trail users will encounter the restored pineland near the park’s boundary which may be suited for interpretation. Longleaf pine and wiregrass were restored in this region of the park, delineating a possible source area of pine used to build historic structures throughout the park.

The trail will then reach the northern boundary at which point it will venture southward and enter the abandoned field, meandering past the Perkins House on the eastern side of the park. Specific alignment of the trail should incorporate more scenic elements to enhance the interpretive experience. Interpretation of the Perkins House should include the contextual history of the Perkins family, and more broadly, the African American independent farming experience in the latter 19th and early 20th century in rural Alachua County.

Lastly, the trail will reconnect with and follow portions of the Old Gainesville Road. Now defunct, these stranded road segments are preserved for interpretive context as they were historically part of the primary vehicular thoroughfare that provided access to the Dudley Farm and nearby communities.

The proposed path of the interpretive trail bypasses areas unsuitable for public access and display. The course of the trail intentionally avoids sensitive and potentially hazardous karst features on the western boundary of the park. Any new trail development should avoid direct impacts to restored natural communities.



-  Proposals
-  Structures
-  Existing Walkways
-  Proposed Trail
-  Existing Trails
-  Park Road Paved

1

Interpretive Complex - Improve wayfinding and interpretation, construct small deck on back of Commissary, develop new education center either in (1a) field north of the parking area or (1b) within the Interpretive Complex

2

Nature Trail - Develop new nature trail with interpretive panels

3

Dudley Homestead - Continue maintenance of homestead and conduct accessibility assessment on Dudley House.

4

Perkins House - Relocate Perkins House within park boundary and develop new interpretation

5

Support Area - Add one new volunteer site shop building and 3 bay pole barn



Dudley Farm Historic State Park

Conceptual Land Use Plan

0 1,000 2,000 Feet



Farmstead

Objective: Improve accessibility while preserving the historic experience.

Actions:

- Conduct accessibility assessment.

Within this planning period, an accessibility assessment should be performed on the Dudley farmhouse. Further interpretive opportunities should be explored for the Dudley House, either audio-visual or virtual tours. Continued preservation of historical accuracy is the focus for the Dudley Farmstead area. Any updates to the farmstead must be coordinated with the Division of Historical Resources and be consistent with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Historic Buildings as well as the National Historic Landmarks Program of the National Park Service.

Perkins House

Objective: Expand scope of preservation and interpretation.

Actions:

- Relocate Perkins House onto the park.
- Develop interpretation.

Relocation of the Perkins House, from nearby private property provides historical depth and context regarding relationship between the Dudley and Perkins families and equitable interpretation of the African American experience in Alachua County in the post-Reconstruction Era. Matching period gardens around each of the family houses will convey common life elements and practices.

Support Area

Objective: Enhance support infrastructure.

Actions:

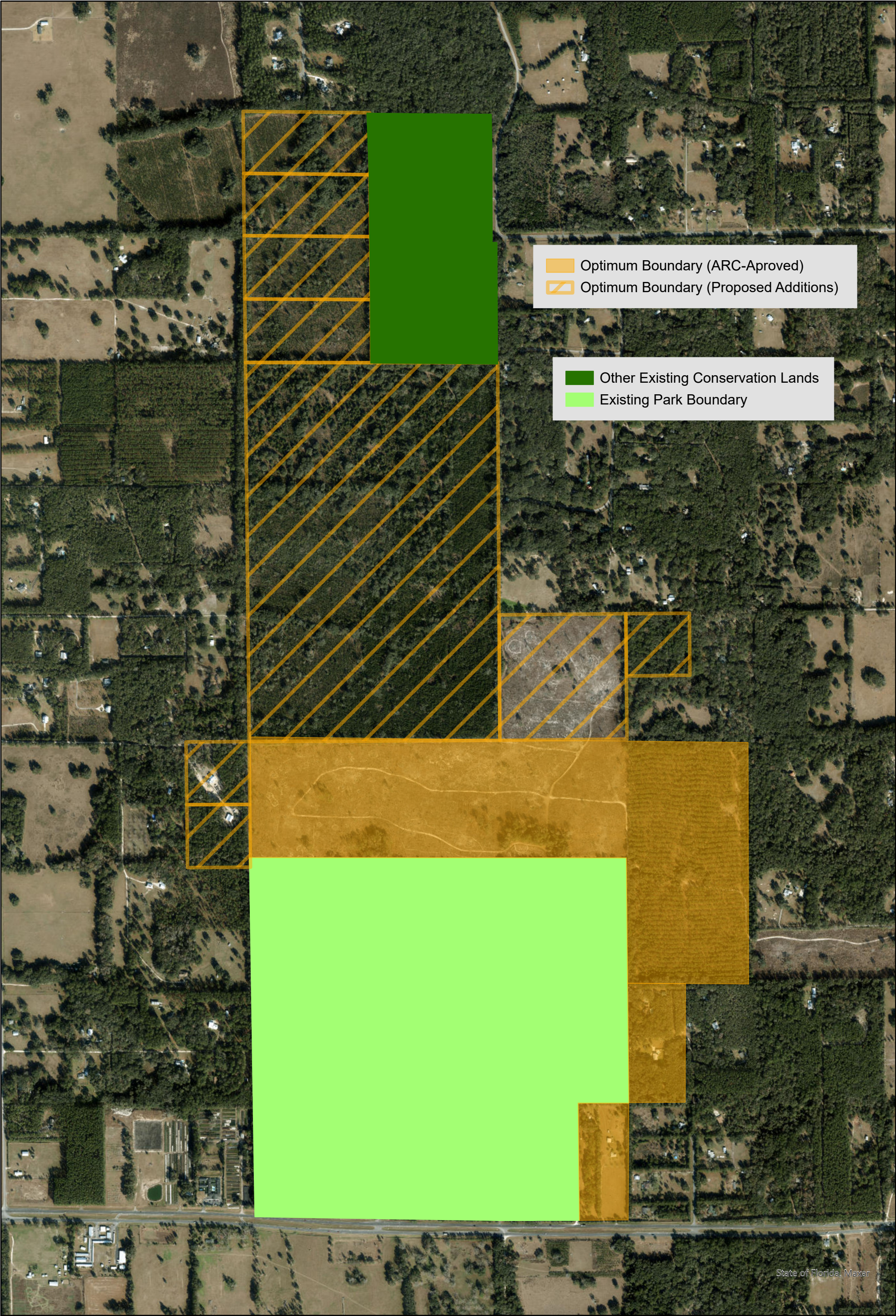
- Construct new shop building.
- Develop three-bay pole barn.
- Develop new volunteer site.

To improve the support area, a two-bay shop building and a pole barn are proposed. Replacement of auxiliary buildings would improve storage efficiency while reducing overall development footprint. The support area currently houses two volunteer sites. One additional site is proposed with full utility connection.

Repurposing of the 1950s kitchen building should also be considered once a new shop has been constructed.

OPTIMUM BOUNDARY

Optimum boundary parcels for the Dudley Farm Historic State Park total 222 acres. This includes areas located north, south, and east of the park. These parcels provide buffer from the expansion of residential development that would detract from the park's interpretive essence and historic sense of place. The parcels to the east and north would also incorporate additional cultural resources into public ownership.



Dudley Farm Historic State Park

Optimum Boundary Map

