

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

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June 12, 2017

Steven Cutshaw
Division of Recreation and Parks
Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 525
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

RE: Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park - Lease No. 3620 (Formerly 2324)

Dear Mr. Cutshaw:

The Division of State Lands, Office of Environmental Services, acting as agent for the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, hereby approves the Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park management plan. The next management plan update is due June 12, 2027.

Acceptance of this management plan does not waive the authority or jurisdiction of any governmental entity that may have an interest in this project. Implementation of any upland activities proposed by this management plan may require a permit or other authorization from federal and state agencies having regulatory jurisdiction over those particular activities. Pursuant to the conditions of your lease, please forward copies of all permits to this office upon issuance.

Sincerely.

Raymond V. Spaulding

Office of Environmental Services

Division of State Lands

Department of Environmental Protection

Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park

ApprovedUnit Management Plan

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Division of Recreation and Parks

June 2017



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INTRODUCTION

Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park is located in Nassau County (see Vicinity Map). Access to the park is from Estrada Street off of C.R. 105A and 14th Street (see Reference Map). The Vicinity Map also reflects significant land and water resources existing near the park.

Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park was initially acquired on December 30, 1941. Currently, the park comprises 0.80 acres. The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Trustees) hold fee simple title to the park and on January 23, 1968, the Trustees leased (Lease Number 2324) the property to DRP under a 99-year lease. The current lease will expire on January 22, 2067.

Fernandina Plaza 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 Addendum 1).

Purpose and Significance of the Park

The purpose of Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park is to preserve and interpret an essential element of a typical Spanish town plan associated with the Spanish colonial history of the 3rd oldest city in Florida.

Park Significance

- Officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990, the park preserves the historic plaza of Old Town Fernandina, which was the last planned Spanish town in North America during the late Second Spanish Period.
- The park protects the former site of the central parade ground for Fort San Carlos, a Spanish fort built in 1816 that was used to defend the Spanish colonial town from United States federal troops.
- From the scenic bluff overlooking the Amelia River, the park provides an ideal location for recreational activities such as picnicking and can be reserved for small family gatherings or weddings.

Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park is classified as a Special Feature Site in the DRP's unit classification system. A special feature is a discrete and well-defined object or condition that attracts public interest and provides recreational enjoyment through visitation, observation and study. A state special feature site is an area which contains such a feature, and which is set aside for controlled public enjoyment. Special feature sites for the most part are either historical or archaeological by type, but they may also have a geological, botanical, zoological, or other basis. State special feature sites must be of unusual or exceptional character, or have statewide or broad regional significance.

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

Purpose and Scope of the Plan

This plan serves as the basic statement of policy and direction for the management of Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park as a unit of Florida's state park system. It identifies the goals, objectives, actions and criteria or standards that guide each aspect of park administration, and sets forth the specific measures that will be implemented to meet management objectives and provide balanced public utilization. The plan is intended to meet the requirements of Sections 253.034 and 259.032, Florida Statutes, Chapter 18-2, Florida Administrative Code, and is intended to be consistent with the State Lands Management Plan. With approval, this management plan will replace the 2004 approved plan.

The plan consists of three interrelated components: the Resource Management Component, the Land Use Component and the Implementation Component. The Resource Management Component provides a detailed inventory and assessment of the natural and cultural resources of the park. Resource management needs and issues are identified, and measurable management objectives are established for each of the park's management goals and resource types. This component provides guidance on the application of such measures as prescribed burning, exotic species removal, imperiled species management, cultural resource management and restoration of natural conditions.

The Land Use Component is the recreational resource allocation plan for the park. Based on considerations such as access, population, adjacent land uses, the natural and cultural resources of the park, current public uses and existing development. Measurable objectives are set to achieve the desired allocation of the physical space of the park. These objectives identify use areas and propose the types of facilities and programs as well as the volume of public use to be provided.

The Implementation Component consolidates the measurable objectives and actions for each of the park's management goals. An implementation schedule and cost estimates are included for each objective and action. Included in this table are (1) measures that will be used to evaluate the DRP's implementation progress, (2) timeframes for completing actions and objectives and (3) estimated costs to complete each action and objective.

All development and resource alteration proposed in this plan is subject to the granting of appropriate permits, easements, licenses, and other required legal instruments. Approval of the management plan does not constitute an exemption from complying with the appropriate local, state or federal agencies.





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

Uses such as water resource development projects, water supply projects, stormwater management projects, linear facilities and sustainable agriculture and forestry (other than those forest management activities specifically identified in this plan) are not consistent with this plan.

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 multiple-use management activities would not be appropriate as a means of generating revenues for land management. Instead, techniques such as entrance fees, concessions and similar measures will be employed on a case-by-case basis as a means of supplementing park management funding.

DRP may provide the services and facilities outlined in this plan either with its own funds and staff or through an outsourcing contract. Private contractors may provide assistance with natural resource management and restoration activities or a concessionaire may provide services to park visitors in order to enhance the visitor experience. For example, a concessionaire could be authorized to sell merchandise and food and to rent recreational equipment for use in the park. A concessionaire may also be authorized to provide specialized services, such as interpretive tours, or overnight accommodations when the required capital investment exceeds that which DRP can elect to incur. Decisions regarding outsourcing, contracting with the private sector, the use of concessionaires, etc. are made on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the policies set forth in DRP's Operations Manual (OM).

Management Program Overview

Management Authority and Responsibility

In accordance with Chapter 258, Florida Statutes and Chapter 62D-2, Florida Administrative Code, the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) is charged with the responsibility of developing and operating Florida's recreation and parks system. These are administered in accordance with the following policy:

It shall be the policy of the Division of Recreation and Parks to promote the state park system for the use, enjoyment, and benefit of the people of Florida and visitors; to acquire typical portions of the original domain of the state which will be accessible to all of the people, and of such character as to emblemize the state's natural values; conserve these natural values for all time; administer the development, use and maintenance of these lands and render such public service in so doing, in such a manner as to enable the people of Florida and visitors to enjoy these values without depleting them; to contribute materially to the development of a strong mental, moral, and physical fiber in the people; to provide for perpetual preservation of historic sites and memorials of statewide significance and interpretation of their history to the people; to contribute to the tourist appeal of Florida.

Many operating procedures are standardized system-wide and are set by internal direction. These procedures are outlined in the OM that covers such areas as personnel management, uniforms and personal appearance, training, signs, communications, fiscal procedures, interpretation, concessions, public use regulations, resource management, law enforcement, protection, safety and maintenance.

Park Management Goals

The following park goals express DRP's long-term intent in managing the state park:

- Provide administrative support for all park functions.
- Protect water quality and quantity in the park, restore hydrology to the extent feasible and maintain the restored condition.
- Restore and maintain the natural communities/habitats of the park.
- Maintain, improve or restore imperiled species populations and habitats in the park.
- Remove exotic and invasive plants and animals from the park and conduct needed maintenance-control.
- Protect, preserve and maintain the cultural resources of the park.
- Provide public access and recreational opportunities in the park.
- Develop and maintain the capital facilities and infrastructure necessary to meet the goals and objectives of this management plan.

Management Coordination

The park is managed in accordance with all applicable laws and administrative rules. Agencies having a major or direct role in the management of the park are discussed in this plan.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Florida Forest Service (FFS), assists DRP staff in the development of wildfire emergency plans and provides the authorization required for prescribed burning. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) assists staff in the enforcement of state laws pertaining to wildlife, freshwater fish and other aquatic life existing within the park. In addition, the FWC aids DRP with wildlife management programs, including imperiled species management. The Florida Department of State (FDOS),

Division of Historical Resources (DHR) assists staff to ensure protection of archaeological and historical sites. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Florida Coastal Office (FCO) aids staff in aquatic preserves management programs. The DEP, Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems aids staff in planning and construction activities seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL). In addition, the Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems aid the staff in the development of erosion control projects.

Public Participation

DRP provided an opportunity for public input by conducting a public workshop and an Advisory Group meeting to present the draft management plan to the public. These meetings were held on March 15, 2017 and March 16, 2017, respectively. Meeting notices were published in the Florida Administrative Register, March 6, 2017 Vol. 43/44, included on the Department Internet Calendar, posted in clear view at the park, and promoted locally. The purpose of the Advisory Group meeting is to provide the Advisory Group members an opportunity to discuss the draft management plan.

Other Designations

Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park is not within an Area of Critical State Concern as defined in Section 380.05, Florida Statutes, and it 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.

There are no surface waters located within the park boundaries. This park is adjacent to Fort Clinch State Park Aquatic Preserve, as designated under the Florida Aquatic Preserve Act of 1975 (Section 258.35, Florida Statutes).

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMPONENT

Introduction

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) in accordance with Chapter 258, Florida Statutes, has implemented resource management programs for preserving for all time the representative examples of natural and cultural resources of statewide significance under its administration. This component of the unit plan describes the natural and cultural resources of the park and identifies the methods that will be used to manage them. Management measures expressed in this plan are consistent with the DRP's overall mission in natural systems management. Cited references are contained in Addendum 3.

The DRP's philosophy of resource management is natural systems management. Primary emphasis is placed on restoring and maintaining, to the degree possible, the natural processes that shaped the structure, function and species composition of Florida's diverse natural communities as they occurred in the original domain. Single species management for imperiled species is appropriate in state parks when the maintenance, recovery or restoration of a species or population is complicated due to constraints associated with long-term restoration efforts, unnaturally high mortality or insufficient habitat. Single species management should be compatible with the maintenance and restoration of natural processes and should not imperil other native species or seriously compromise the park values.

The DRP's management goal for cultural resources is to preserve sites and objects that represent Florida's cultural periods, significant historic events or persons. This goal often entails active measures to stabilize, reconstruct or restore resources, or to rehabilitate them for appropriate public use.

Because park units are often components of larger ecosystems, their proper management can be affected by conditions and events that occur beyond park boundaries. Ecosystem management is implemented through a resource management evaluation program that assesses resource conditions, evaluates management activities and refines management actions, and reviews local comprehensive plans and development permit applications for park/ecosystem impacts.

The entire park is divided into management zones that delineate areas on the ground that are used to reference management activities (see Management Zones Map). The shape and size of each zone may be based on natural community type, burn zone, and the location of existing roads and natural fire breaks. It is important to note that all burn zones are management zones; however, not all management zones include fire-dependent natural communities. Table 1 reflects the management zones with the acres of each zone.

Table 1. Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park Management Zones					
Management Zone	Acreage	Managed with Prescribed Fire	Contains Known Cultural Resources		
FR-1	0.80	N	Υ		

Resource Description and Assessment

Natural Resources

Topography

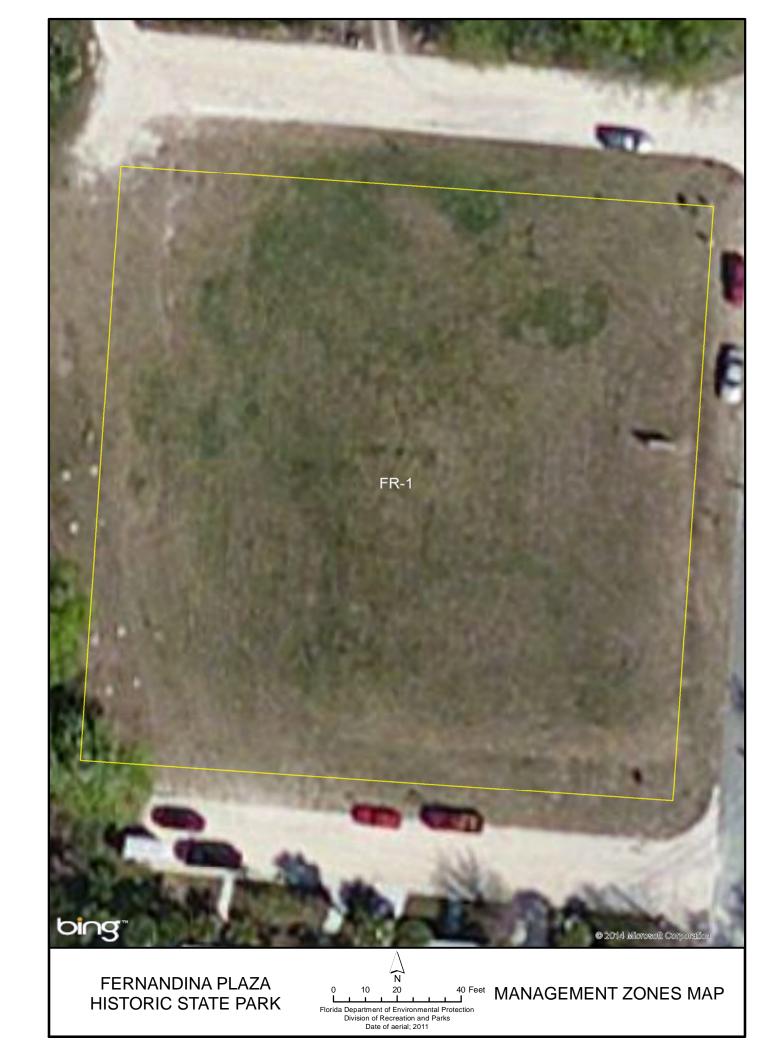
Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park is located in the historic town of Old Fernandina at the north tip of Amelia Island, placing it within the Coastal Lowlands physiographic zone, more specifically within the Atlantic Coast Lowlands, Atlantic Coastal Ridge, Lagoons and Barrier Chain (Puri and Vernon 1959). Fernandina Plaza lies just east of the Amelia River and its extensive saltmarsh system. The elevation of the site is approximately three meters above mean sea level; the terrain is essentially flat. The original topography of the site has undoubtedly changed considerably because of human occupation and the construction of Fort San Carlos nearby.

Geology

The geomorphology of Fernandina Plaza is similar to that of Fort Clinch State Park, which is located approximately half a mile to the north and east. The core of Amelia Island consists of Pleistocene deposits. The Pleistocene base is the Silver Bluff formation, formed 35,000 years BP. Younger Holocene deposits overlie them (Henry 1971). Each of these recent sediments is composed of undifferentiated surface materials containing fine-grained sands with clay lenses and shell layers interspersed. Underlying the recent sediments is the Hawthorn Group of middle Miocene age. Beds of sand and clay are dominant in the Hawthorn Group, except near the base of the formation where hard beds of sand and carbonate occur. Underlying the Hawthorn group is the Ocala Limestone, consisting of relatively pure white limestone of Eocene age.

Soils

The soils of Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park are Entisols in the psamment suborder. The only soil type is Kershaw fine sand (see Soils Map), which is a gently sloping, excessively drained acid soil common on ridges and isolated knolls. The water table is typically at a depth of greater than 72 inches (Watts 1991). See Addendum 3 for a complete soil description. No significant soil erosion currently occurs at Fernandina Plaza; however, riverbank erosion does occur on the parcel immediately to the west. If this erosion continues, the shoreline may eventually recede to the park boundary. Management activities will follow generally accepted





best management practices to prevent soil erosion and conserve soil and water resources on site.

Minerals

There are no known commercial mineral deposits within the park.

Hydrology

There are no surface water features at the park. The western property line, however, lies within 10 meters of the Amelia River. The property immediately west of the park is adjacent to the river and has experienced significant long term soil loss due to erosion along the riverbank. Within Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park, however, soil erosion and runoff are not yet problems because of site characteristics that facilitate water absorption (e.g. level topography, porous soils, and complete vegetative cover). Increased use of the park and continued erosion of the shoreline on the adjacent property could eventually cause erosion issues within the park. Currently there are no groundwater concerns.

Natural Communities

This section of the management plan describes and assesses each of the natural communities found in the state park. It also describes of the desired future condition (DFC) of each natural community and identifies the actions that will be required to bring the community to its desired future condition. Specific management objectives and actions for natural community management, exotic species management, imperiled species management [and population restoration] are discussed in the Resource Management Program section of this component.

The system of classifying natural communities employed in this plan was developed by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI). The premise of this system is that physical factors such as climate, geology, soil, hydrology and fire frequency generally determine the species composition of an area, and that areas that are similar with respect to those factors will tend to have natural communities with similar species compositions. Obvious differences in species composition can occur, however, despite similar physical conditions. In other instances, physical factors are substantially different, yet the species compositions are quite similar. For example, coastal strand and scrub--two communities with similar species compositions--generally have quite different climatic environments, and these necessitate different management programs. Some physical influences, such as fire frequency, may vary from FNAI's descriptions for certain natural communities in this plan.

When a natural community within a park reaches the desired future condition, it is considered to be in a "maintenance condition." Required actions for sustaining a community's maintenance condition may include; maintaining optimal fire return intervals for fire dependent communities, ongoing control of non-native plant and animal species, maintaining natural hydrological functions (including historic water flows and water quality), preserving a community's biodiversity and vegetative

structure, protecting viable populations of plant and animal species (including those that are imperiled or endemic), and preserving intact ecotones that link natural communities across the landscape.

The park contains no distinct natural communities and 1 altered landcover type (see Natural Communities Map). A list of plants and animals known to occur in the park is contained in Addendum 5.

Altered Landcover Types

<u>Developed</u>

Desired Future Condition: There is no desired future condition for Fernandina Plaza other than preservation as a cultural site.

Description and Assessment: The entire 0.80-acre park is classified as a developed area. A turf grass lawn and a State of Florida Historic Marker are the only visible features.

General Management Measures: Management of the plaza will require periodic maintenance of the turf grasses that protect the cultural site from erosion. Maintenance measures will include regular mowing and the removal of any woody vegetation that begins to encroach on the site. Monitoring of shoreline erosion on the adjacent parcel will also be necessary, as will protection of the plaza from vandalism and vehicular damage.

Imperiled Species

Imperiled species are those that are (1) tracked by FNAI as critically imperiled (G1, S1) or imperiled (G2, S2); or (2) listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) or the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) as endangered, threatened or of special concern.

No imperiled species have been recorded in the park.

Exotic and Nuisance Species

Exotic species are plants or animals not native to Florida. Invasive exotic species are able to out-compete, displace or destroy native species and their habitats, often because they have been released from the natural controls of their native range, such as diseases, predatory insects, etc. If left unchecked, invasive exotic plants and animals alter the character, productivity and conservation values of the natural areas they invade.

Exotic animal species include non-native wildlife species, free ranging domesticated pets or livestock, and feral animals. Because of the negative impacts to natural systems attributed to exotic animals, the DRP actively removes exotic animals from



state parks, with priority being given to those species causing the greatest ecological damage.

In some cases, native wildlife may also pose management problems or nuisances within state parks. A nuisance animal is an individual native animal whose presence or activities create special management problems. Examples of animal species from which nuisance cases may arise include venomous snakes or raccoons and alligators that are in public areas. Nuisance animals are dealt with on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the DRP's Nuisance and Exotic Animal Removal Standard.

Detailed management goals, objectives and actions for management of invasive exotic plants and exotic and nuisance animals are discussed in the Resource Management Program section of this component.

The two dominant plant species recorded to date at Fernandina Plaza are exotic turf grasses. They are not considered a threat, however, because they form a continuous groundcover that stabilizes the site's cultural resources. Regular mowing of the exotic turf grasses is essential for maintaining continuity of the groundcover, preventing invasion by woody vegetation, controlling erosion, and protecting cultural resources. Two exotic plant species that are considered invasive, lantana (*Lantana camara*) and paper mulberry (*Broussonetia papyrifera*), have been recorded on property immediately west of Fernandina Plaza, so park staff should be vigilant for their possible spread into the park. If any invasive exotic plants are discovered in the park, control may be achieved through frequent mowing or the application of appropriate herbicides.

Table 3 contains a list of the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) Category I and II invasive, exotic plant species found within the park (FLEPPC 2011). The table also identifies relative distribution for each species and the management zones in which they are known to occur. An explanation of the codes is provided following the table. For an inventory of all exotic species found within the park, see Addendum 5.

Table 2. Inventory of FLEPPC Category I and II Exotic Plant Species								
Common and	FLEPPC	Distribution	Management					
Scientific Name	Category	Distribution	Zone (s)					
PLANTS								
N/A								

Distribution Categories

- 0 No current infestation: All known sites have been treated and no plants are currently evident.
- 1 Single plant or clump: One individual plant or one small clump of a single species.
- 2 Scattered plants or clumps: Multiple individual plants or small clumps of a single species scattered within the gross area infested.
- 3 Scattered dense patches: Dense patches of a single species scattered within the gross area infested.
- 4 Dominant cover: Multiple plants or clumps of a single species that occupy a majority of the gross area infested.
- Dense monoculture: Generally, a dense stand of a single dominant species that not only occupies more than a majority of the gross area infested, but also covers/excludes other plants.
- 6 Linearly scattered: Plants or clumps of a single species generally scattered along a linear feature, such as a road, trail, property line, ditch, ridge, slough, etc. within the gross area infested.

No exotic animals have been recorded at Fernandina Plaza.

Special Natural Features

There are no special natural features in the park.

<u>Cultural Resources</u>

This section addresses the cultural resources present in the park that may include archaeological sites, historic buildings and structures, cultural landscapes and collections. The Florida Department of State (FDOS) maintains the master inventory of such resources through the Florida Master Site File (FMSF). State law requires that all state agencies locate, inventory and evaluate cultural resources that appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Addendum 7 contains the FDOS, Division of Historical Resources (DHR) management procedures for archaeological and historical sites and properties on state-owned or controlled properties; the criteria used for evaluating eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, and the Secretary of Interior's definitions for the various preservation treatments (restoration, rehabilitation, stabilization and preservation). For the purposes of this plan, significant archaeological site, significant structure and significant landscape means those cultural resources listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The terms archaeological site, historic structure or historic landscape refer to all resources that will become 50 years old during the term of this plan.

Condition Assessment

Evaluating the condition of cultural resources is accomplished using a three-part evaluation scale, expressed as good, fair and poor. These terms describe the present condition, rather than comparing what exists to the ideal condition. Good describes a condition of structural stability and physical wholeness, where no obvious deterioration other than normal occurs. Fair describes a condition in which there is a discernible decline in condition between inspections, and the wholeness or physical integrity is and continues to be threatened by factors other than normal wear. A fair assessment is usually a cause for concern. Poor describes an unstable condition where there is palpable, accelerating decline, and physical integrity is being compromised quickly. A resource in poor condition suffers obvious declines in

physical integrity from year to year. A poor condition suggests immediate action is needed to reestablish physical stability.

Level of Significance

Applying the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places involves the use of contexts as well as an evaluation of integrity of the site. A cultural resource's significance derives from its historical, architectural, ethnographic or archaeological context. Evaluation of cultural resources will result in a designation of NRL (National Register or National Landmark Listed or located in an NR district), NR (National Register eligible), NE (not evaluated) or NS (not significant) as indicated in the table at the end of this section.

There are no criteria for determining the significance of collections or archival material. Usually, significance of a collection is based on what or whom it may represent. For instance, a collection of furniture from a single family and a particular era in connection with a significant historic site would be considered highly significant. In the same way, a high quality collection of artifacts from a significant archaeological site would be of important significance. A large herbarium collected from a specific park over many decades could be valuable to resource management efforts. Archival records are most significant as a research source. Any records depicting critical events in the park's history, including construction and resource management efforts, would all be significant.

The following is a summary of the FMSF inventory for the park, including an evaluation of the significance of each site.

Prehistoric and Historic Archaeological Sites

Desired Future Condition: All significant archaeological sites within the park that represent Florida's cultural periods or significant historic events or persons are preserved in good condition in perpetuity, protected from physical threats and interpreted to the public.

Description: The FMSF lists two sites for the park, NA10 (Fernandina Town Lot, or Fort San Carlos) and NA10a, a shell and sand midden within the boundaries of NA10. According to the Predictive Model for the park, Site NA10 intersects the boundaries of Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park (Collins et al. 2012). The plaza site, which archaeologists Ripley Bullen and John Griffin named the Plaza Lot, lies immediately south of the apparent former location of Fort San Carlos (Bullen and Griffin 1952). It represents the largest known undeveloped portion of an assemblage of Spanish properties in Fernandina in the late 1780s, when the Spanish government acquired it in a land exchange. Most of these properties were developed for municipal or military purposes during the Second Spanish Period of 1784-1821, which archaeologists John Griffin and Robert Steinbach consider to be the most significant period in the history of Old Town Fernandina (Griffin and Steinbach 1991). The Fernandina Town Lot is encompassed within and is cited as a contributing property to the Old Town Fernandina Historic Site (NA238), which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1990.

Archaeological investigations at Fernandina Plaza, which began in the early 1950s, have revealed intermittent occupation and use of the Plaza Lot area for as long as 4,000 years, beginning with the Orange Period (2000 BC - 500 BC) and continuing to this day (Bullen and Griffin 1952). Archaeologists in the 1950s initially believed that the site was an extensive village, based on their discovery of a shell and sand midden (recorded as site NA10a) at the northern edge of the Plaza Lot. More recently, however, the origins of the "midden" have been reinterpreted as a byproduct of earthmoving during Spanish construction activities, and this has prompted reconsideration of the aboriginal activities at the site as intermittent rather than constant (Griffin and Steinbach 1991).

Early observers on Amelia Island (around 1675) had mentioned the existence of a small pagan settlement of Yamassee Indians at the north end of the island (Bullen and Griffin 1952). Historical descriptions of the location of that Yamassee village suggest that it was located at Old Town Fernandina, although there has been no absolute confirmation of that conclusion (Griffin and Steinbach 1991). The Yamassee settlement apparently diversified and expanded, but it was rather short-lived. South Carolinian Colonel James Moore effectively ended it in 1702 when he raided the site during his advance on St. Augustine. All inhabitants were purportedly enslaved, killed, or driven away. Later, when Ogelthorpe's Georgians paused on Amelia Island en route to their siege of St. Augustine (1745-1746), they found the island deserted (Bullen and Griffin 1952).

The Town Lot (Plaza Lot) first appeared on a map in 1769. This map contained a layout for the future Old Town settlement that included a blank space representing an open plaza lot. In the opinion of archaeologist Ripley Bullen, this layout was for a town that was proposed at the time but not yet developed (Bullen 2008). As late as 1777, there appeared to have been no suggestion of actual town development. Except for encampments of English colonial invaders, the site had stood virtually uninhabited since the 1702 English raids on Spanish Florida (Bullen and Griffin 1952). That situation changed in the 1780s, however, when an English widow from St. Augustine named Maria Mattair received a land grant from British Governor Tonyn for 200 acres that included the Town Lot. Maria and her two children farmed the Town Lot area from 1784 until 1788, at which time the Spanish colonial government assumed possession after a land exchange that gave the Mattair family equivalent property elsewhere on north Amelia Island (Bland and Associates 2007).

The town lot, or plaza, was an essential element of any Spanish colonial town plan. Government offices were designed to face the plaza, and in the case of this coastal village, the plaza could be fortified for defensive purposes. There is a record of a Spanish army encampment in the Fernandina Plaza area in 1801. The Spaniards established a small fort there, including a battery of three cannons, from 1801 to 1814 (Bullen 2008). The fort was captured in 1812 by the Florida Patriots, a makeshift force of U.S. troops and volunteers under the command of U.S. General George Matthews, but the troops were evacuated in May of 1813 and the Spanish government resumed control, building a larger Fort San Carlos on the site within a couple years (Smith and Bullen 1971). The Spanish hold on the fort only lasted until the summer of 1817, when a succession of adventurers occupied it until

federal troops intervened once again in December 1817 (Griffin and Steinbach 1991). By 1821, Spain had ceded Florida, including Fernandina, to the United States. The Town Lot subsequently faded into obscurity, although the military is known to have used it during both the Civil War (1861-1865) and the Spanish American War of 1898 (Bullen 2008).

Site NA10 originally extended westward to the edge of the Amelia River, but severe riverbank erosion has significantly reduced its area. Archaeologists who conducted digs in 1951 and 1963 estimated that two-thirds of the Town Lot had eroded into the Amelia River over the years (Smith and Bullen 1971). A small-scale study of the Town Lot in 2008 discovered that a United States Geological Survey marker used in laying out the grid for the 1963 excavation had completely disappeared and that the replacement marker, located 20 feet south of the original, was threatened by a similar fate (Miller 2009). Today, most of what remains of the Town Lot site is contained within Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park. It is maintained as an unfenced grassy area.

Condition Assessment: The Town Lot, NA10, is in fair condition. Although extensive archaeological sampling and investigation have occurred since 1950, excavation holes were refilled and the resulting grassy surface at the plaza is largely undisturbed by looting or pot holes. Vehicular access is unrestricted and occasionally the park has been used as a parking lot. This gives rise to concerns about the long term effects of such use on an unevenly graded archaeological resource. Site NA10a is in poor condition due to multiple major disturbances over the years.

No significant erosion threatens the cultural resources within the park itself, but chronic erosion along the Amelia River shoreline compromises the portion of the Town Lot site located on the adjacent vacant waterfront property. If this erosion continues unchecked, the shoreline may recede to the park boundary, necessitating immediate erosion control measures to protect the park's archaeological resources.

While preservation and interpretation of a significant cultural resource are the reasons for the existence of Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park, the park remains essentially undeveloped. This may be interpreted as downgrading the importance of the site's archaeological resources and may diminish their meaning for the area. It also downplays the significance of this footprint of late Second Spanish Period Florida. As the National Register nomination notes, the Old Town Fernandina Historic Site constitutes a major portion of the last planned Spanish town in (eastern) North America. The Town Lot is a relatively unchanged element in that plan and contributes to our understanding of it. As a contributing property to the National Register district, it affords the possibility of important and productive research and study.

General Management Measures: Because of the extent of known archaeological and historical resources in vicinity of NA10, management measures for Fernandina Plaza will include conducting extensive historical analyses of the cultural features of the Town Lot prior to 1821 to ascertain locations and chronology of the features. This

will entail additional review of the archaeological fieldwork conducted at the site since the 1950s.

The park will be managed to prevent disturbances to the site from vehicular traffic or vandalism. The shoreline of the adjacent parcel will be monitored annually to determine the progression of erosion and whether it threatens archaeological resources within the park. Any development of the park will be undertaken only with due consideration of the design of historic cultural features. Ground disturbing activities will be conducted only in accordance with Division policy.

Park staff will develop an interpretive program and the Division will design standalone interpretive exhibits to educate visitors about the significance of the Town Lot and Fort San Carlos in the context of local history. Person-to-person interpretive activities may be an integral part of the interpretive program.

Historic Structures

Desired Future Condition: All significant historic structures and landscapes that represent Florida's cultural periods or significant historic events or persons are preserved in good condition in perpetuity, protected from physical threats and interpreted to the public.

Description: There are no historic structures at Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park. The cultural landscape consists of an open, relatively flat, well-maintained, 0.8-acre turf grass lot. The site's open aspect dates back to at least 1801, when the Spanish military presence at Fernandina manifested itself in the form of a small fort at the site.

Condition Assessment: Refer to the Prehistoric and Historic Archaeological Sites section above.

Level of Significance: Refer to the Prehistoric and Historic Archaeological Sites section above.

General Management Measures: Refer to the Prehistoric and Historic Archaeological Sites section above.

Collections

Desired Future Condition: All historic, natural history and archaeological objects within the park that represent Florida's cultural periods, significant historic events or persons, or natural history specimens are preserved in good condition in perpetuity, protected from physical threats and interpreted to the public. Description: There is no park collection.

Condition Assessment: Not applicable since there is no park collection.

Level of Significance: Not applicable since there is no park collection.

General Management Measures: Not applicable since there is no park collection.

Detailed management goals, objectives and actions for the management of cultural resources in this park are discussed in the Cultural Resource Management Program section of this component. Table 4 contains the name, reference number, culture or period, and brief description of all the cultural sites within the park that are listed in the Florida Master Site File. The table also summarizes each site's level of significance, existing condition and recommended management treatment. An explanation of the codes is provided following the table.

Table 3. Cultural Sites Listed in the Florida Master Site File								
Site Name and FMSF #	Culture/Period	Description	Significance	Condition	Treatment			
NA10 The Town Lot	Historic/Unspecified	Archaeological Site	NE	F	Р			
NA10a Shell and Sand Midden	Prehistoric/Unspecified	Archaeological Site	NE	Р	Р			

Signi	<u>ricance</u>	Con	<u>iaition</u>	Reco	<u>mmenaea</u>	
NRL	National Register listed	G	Good	Treat	reatment	
NR	National Register eligible	F	Fair	RS	Restoration	
NE	not evaluated	Р	Poor	RH	Rehabilitation	
NS	not significant			ST	Stabilization	
				Р	Preservation	
				R	Removal	
				N/A	Not applicable	
				NA	Not accessible	
				NE	Not evaluated	

Resource Management Program

Management Goals, Objectives and Actions

Measurable objectives and actions have been identified for each of the DRP's management goals for Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park. Please refer to the Implementation Schedule and Cost Estimates in the Implementation Component of this plan for a consolidated spreadsheet of the recommended actions, measures of progress, target year for completion and estimated costs to fulfill the management goals and objectives of this park.

While the DRP utilizes the ten-year management plan to serve as the basic statement of policy and future direction for each park, a number of annual work plans provide more specific guidance for DRP staff to accomplish many of the resource management goals and objectives of the park. Where such detailed planning is appropriate to the character and scale of the park's natural resources, annual work plans are developed for prescribed fire management, exotic plant management and imperiled species management. Annual or longer-term work plans

are developed for natural community restoration and hydrological restoration. The work plans provide the DRP with crucial flexibility in its efforts to generate and implement adaptive resource management practices in the state park system.

The work plans are reviewed and updated annually. Through this process, the DRP's resource management strategies are systematically evaluated to determine their effectiveness. The process and the information collected is used to refine techniques, methodologies and strategies, and ensures that each park's prescribed management actions are monitored and reported as required by Sections 253.034 and 259.037, Florida Statutes.

The goals, objectives and actions identified in this management plan will serve as the basis for developing annual work plans for the park. The ten-year management plan is based on conditions that exist at the time the plan is developed. The annual work plans provide the flexibility needed to adapt to future conditions as they change during the ten-year management planning cycle. As the park's annual work plans are implemented through the ten-year cycle, it may become necessary to adjust the management plan's priority schedules and cost estimates to reflect these changing conditions.

Natural Resource Management

Hydrological Management

Goal: Protect water quality and quantity in the park, restore hydrology to the extent feasible and maintain the restored condition.

The natural hydrology of most state parks has been impaired prior to acquisition to one degree or another. Florida's native habitats are precisely adapted to natural drainage patterns and seasonal water level fluctuations, and variations in these factors frequently determine the types of natural communities that occur on a particular site. Even minor changes to natural hydrology can result in the loss of plant and animal species from a landscape. Restoring state park lands to original natural conditions often depends on returning natural hydrological processes and conditions to the park. This is done primarily by filling or plugging ditches, removing obstructions to surface water "sheet flow," installing culverts or low-water crossings on roads, and installing water control structures to manage water levels.

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

There are no hydrological restoration needs at Fernandina Plaza. Although no specific hydrological management is necessary at the park, staff will comply with best management practices to prevent soil erosion or other impacts to water resources offsite.

Action 1 Staff will monitor the site and protect it from soil erosion caused by unauthorized vehicular access or other disturbances.

Natural Communities Management

Goal: Restore and maintain the natural communities/habitats of the park.

The DRP practices natural systems management. In most cases, this entails returning fire to its natural role in fire-dependent natural communities. Other methods to implement this goal include large-scale restoration projects as well as smaller scale natural communities' improvements.

Due to no natural communities existing at Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park and the park's developed character, there is no need for restoration or improvement to maintain the desired future condition of natural communities.

Imperiled Species Management

Goal: Maintain, improve or restore imperiled species populations and habitats in the park.

The DRP strives to maintain and restore viable populations of imperiled plant and animal species primarily by implementing effective management of natural systems. Single species management is appropriate in state parks when the maintenance, recovery or restoration of a species or population is complicated due to constraints associated with long-term restoration efforts, unnaturally high mortality or insufficient habitat. Single species management should be compatible with the maintenance and restoration of natural processes, and should not imperil other native species or seriously compromise park values.

In the preparation of this management plan, DRP staff consulted with staff of the FWC's Imperiled Species Management or that agency's Regional Biologist and other appropriate federal, state and local agencies for assistance in developing imperiled animal species management objectives and actions. Likewise, for imperiled plant species, DRP staff consulted with FDACS. Data collected by the USFWS, FWC, FDACS and FNAI as part of their ongoing research and monitoring programs will be reviewed by park staff periodically to inform management of decisions that may have an impact on imperiled species at the park.

Ongoing inventory and monitoring of imperiled species in the state park system is necessary to meet the DRP's mission. At this time, no imperiled plant or animal species have been documented in the park. DRP staff will continue to monitor for the appearance of imperiled species at this site.

Exotic Species Management

Goal: Remove exotic and invasive plants and animals from the park and conduct needed maintenance control.

The DRP actively removes invasive exotic species from state parks, with priority being given to those causing the ecological damage. Removal techniques may include mechanical treatment, herbicides or biocontrol agents.

The exotic turf grasses at Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park function as soil stabilizers and their continued presence is desirable. Currently the park is free of FLEPPC Category I and II exotic plant species. However, invasive exotics from adjacent properties are quite capable of spreading into the park. DRP staff will regularly monitor the park for such occurrences and will promptly treat any invasive plants observed.

There are no issues with exotic animals in the park, hence no control measures are currently being implemented.

<u>Cultural Resource Management</u>

Cultural resources are individually unique, and collectively, very challenging for the public land manager whose goal is to preserve and protect them in perpetuity. The DRP will implement the following goals, objectives and actions, as funding becomes available, to preserve the cultural resources found in Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park.

Goal: Protect, preserve and maintain the cultural resources of the park.

The management of cultural resources is often complicated because these resources are irreplaceable and extremely vulnerable to disturbances. The advice of historical and archaeological experts is required in this effort. All activities related to land clearing, ground disturbing activities, major repairs or additions to historic structures listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places must be submitted to the FDOS, Division of Historical Resources (DHR) for review and comment prior to undertaking the proposed project. Recommendations may include, but are not limited to concurrence with the project as submitted, pretesting of the project site by a certified archaeological monitor, cultural resource assessment survey by a qualified professional archaeologist, modifications to the proposed project to avoid or mitigate potential adverse effect. In addition, any demolition or substantial alteration to any historic structure or resource must be submitted to the DHR for consultation and the DRP must demonstrate that there is no feasible alternative to removal and must provide a strategy for documentation or salvage of the resource. Florida law further requires that DRP consider the reuse of historic buildings in the park in lieu of new construction and must undertake a cost comparison of new development versus rehabilitation of a building before electing to construct a new or replacement building. This comparison must be accomplished with the assistance of the DHR.

Objective A: Assess and evaluate 2 of 2 recorded cultural resources in the park.

Action 1 Complete 2 assessments/evaluations of archaeological sites.

Action 2 Develop a simple, repeatable protocol for tracking cultural resource changes at Fernandina Plaza.

Park personnel from Fort Clinch currently visit Fernandina Plaza on a regular basis, checking for signs of natural erosion or damage caused by vehicles, looters, or park visitors, and assessing potential threats from invasive exotic plants as well. However, establishment of a more formalized evaluation process would generate baseline and comparative information for sites NA10 and NA10a. To enable that process, park staff will develop a simple, repeatable protocol for tracking changes at Fernandina Plaza, preferably consisting of a baseline photograph and a condition checklist sheet. Photographs would only need to be retaken if a change in condition occurred at the site.

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

Action 1 Encourage additional archaeological/historical research at Fernandina Plaza.

The park has already recorded and updated all known sites in the Florida Master Site File and completed a predictive model for high, medium and low probability of locating archaeological sites within the park. The Division will encourage cultural resource research at the park that will consist of three components:

- 1. Design research: Conduct extensive historical research on cultural features present in the Town Lot during the period before American acquisition (1821) to determine locations and chronology of features. This will entail additional review of the archaeological fieldwork conducted at the site since the 1950s.
- 2. Research about past human activities: Conduct further research about past human activities at the Town Lot to support person-to-person, first person, and participatory interpretive activities.
- 3. Research about subsurface cultural elements: Provide support for extensive, well-prepared, professionally supervised anthropological research, including archaeology projects. This work should include summarizing previous excavations and planning and undertaking future ground-disturbing research, in compliance with Chapter 267, Florida Statutes.

Objective C: Bring 2 of 2 recorded cultural resources into good condition.

- Action 1 Implement a regular monitoring program encompassing both cultural sites in the park.
- Action 2 Create and implement a cyclical maintenance program for the park's cultural resources.

The park still needs to develop a standard means of documenting its cultural resource monitoring and cyclical maintenance programs. Improving site NA10 from fair to good condition will require full implementation and documentation of those programs. Current cyclical maintenance activities include regular mowing, removal of invading hardwoods, prevention of vehicular damage to the turf grass cover, and checking for the appearance of invasive exotic plants. Bringing the shell midden site, NA10a, to good condition will entail preventing further disturbance of the remaining shell fragments.

Special Management Considerations

Timber Management Analysis

Chapters 253 and 259, Florida Statutes, require an assessment of the feasibility of managing timber in land management plans for parcels greater than 1,000 acres if the lead agency determines that timber management is not in conflict with the primary management objectives of the land. The feasibility of harvesting timber at this park during the period covered by this plan was considered in context of the DRP's statutory responsibilities and an analysis of the park's resource needs and values. The long-term management goal for forest communities in the state park system is to maintain or re-establish old-growth characteristics to the degree practicable, with the exception of those communities specifically managed as early successional.

Since there is no timber on the property and its total acreage is below the 1,000-acre threshold established by statute, a timber management analysis was not conducted for this park.

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. Mosquito control plans temporarily may be set aside under declared threats to public or animal health, or during a Governor's Emergency Proclamation. There is no arthropod control plan established for the park.

Sea Level Rise

Potential sea level rise is now under study and will be addressed by Florida's residents and governments in the future. The DRP will stay current on existing research and predictive models, in coordination with other DEP programs and federal, state, and local agencies. The DRP will continue to observe and document the changes that occur to the park's shorelines, natural features, imperiled species

populations, and cultural resources. This ongoing data collection and analysis will inform the Division's adaptive management response to future conditions, including the effects of sea level rise, as they develop.

Resource Management Schedule

A priority schedule for conducting all management activities that is based on the purposes for which these lands were acquired, and to enhance the resource values, is located in the Implementation Component of this management plan.

Land Management Review

Section 259.036, Florida Statutes, established land management review teams to determine whether conservation, preservation and recreation lands titled in the name of the Board of Trustees are being managed for the purposes for which they were acquired and in accordance with their approved land management plans. The considered recommendations of the land management review team and updated this plan accordingly.

Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park was not subject to a land management review because of its small size (0.8 acre)

LAND USE COMPONENT

Introduction

Land use planning and park development decisions for the state park system are based on the dual responsibilities of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP). These responsibilities are to preserve representative examples of original natural Florida and its cultural resources, and to provide outdoor recreation opportunities for Florida's citizens and visitors.

The general planning and design process begins with an analysis of the natural and cultural resources of the unit, and then proceeds through the creation of a conceptual land use plan that culminates in the actual design and construction of park facilities. Input to the plan is provided by experts in environmental sciences, cultural resources, park operation and management. Additional input is received through public workshops, and through environmental and recreational-user groups. With this approach, the DRP objective is to provide quality development for resource-based recreation throughout the state with a high level of sensitivity to the natural and cultural resources at each park.

This component of the unit plan includes a brief inventory of the external conditions and the recreational potential of the unit. Existing uses, facilities, special conditions on use, and specific areas within the park that will be given special protection, are identified. The land use component then summarizes the current conceptual land use plan for the park, identifying the existing or proposed activities suited to the resource base of the park. Any new facilities needed to support the proposed activities are expressed in general terms.

External Conditions

An assessment of the conditions that exist beyond the boundaries of the unit can identify any special development problems or opportunities that exist because of the unit's unique setting or environment. This also provides an opportunity to deal systematically with various planning issues such as location, regional demographics, adjacent land uses and park interaction with other facilities

Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park is located in the City of Fernandina Beach within Nassau County in the northeast corner of the state. Approximately 700,000 people live within 30 miles of the park (U.S. Census 2010).

The population of Nassau County is diverse in terms of demographic characteristics. According to U.S. Census data (2013), 13% of residents in the county identify as black, Hispanic or Latino, or another minority group. Forty percent of residents can be described as youth or seniors (U.S. Census 2013). Two-thirds (65%) of the population is of working age (16 to 65) (U.S. Census Bureau 2013). In 2013, the per capita personal income for Nassau County was

\$45,817, slightly higher than the statewide average of \$41,497 (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis 2013).

There are considerable publicly-owned resource-based recreation opportunities within 15 miles of the park. These include Amelia Island State Park, Big Talbot Island State Park, Fort Clinch State Park, George Crady Bridge Fishing Pier State Park, Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve State Park, and Little Talbot Island State Park, all of which are managed by the DRP. These parks offer fishing, picnicking, paddling, birding, camping, hiking, biking, and beach access, as well as excellent educational opportunities related to area ecosystems, history, and archaeological sites. Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve is federally managed and provides historic interpretation, nature observation, boating, and fishing. The Florida Forest Service allows hunting, wildlife viewing, hiking, horseback riding, and paddling on Four Creeks State Forest. In addition, locally managed recreation opportunities exist at Betz Tiger Point Preserve, the Timucuan Trail, Egans Creek Greenway, and Half Moon Island Preserve.

The park is located in the Northeast Vacation Region, which includes Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns counties (Visit Florida 2013). According to the 2013 Florida Visitor Survey, approximately 6.6% of domestic visitors to Florida visited this region. Roughly 86% visitors to the region traveled to the Northeast for leisure purposes. The top activities for domestic visitors were visiting friends or relatives and beach/waterfront. Summer was the most popular travel season, but visitation was generally spread throughout the year. Most visitors traveled by non-air (81%), reporting an average of 3.5 nights and spending an average of \$115 per person per day (Visit Florida 2013).

Florida's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) indicates that participation rates in this region for saltwater beach activities, freshwater fishing, freshwater boat-ramp use, visiting archaeological and historic sites, wildlife viewing, bicycle riding, hiking, and camping are higher than the state average with demand for additional facilities increasing through 2020 (FDEP 2013).

Existing Use of Adjacent Lands

Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park is located in Old Town in the City of Fernandina Beach, along the Amelia River. It is bound to the north by White Street, east by Estrada Street, and south by Someruelus Street. The park is surrounded by single-family residential dwellings in the historic Old Town district. The Old Town Historic District is characterized as a waterfront neighborhood with homes dating back from the mid-1800s. The water and heritage of this area are the main attractors for tourism. A few miles south of the park is the Port of Fernandina, situated on the east side of the Amelia River. The port is about 23 acres and is surrounded by container yard storage. Egan's

Creek runs a mile north of the park. Across the creek lies Fort Clinch State Park.

Planned Use of Adjacent Lands

Nassau County is within the Northeast Florida Regional Council alongside Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Putnam, and St. Johns counties. This area of the state is often referred to as the First Coast. The developed areas in the region are anticipated to double by 2060, which would increase the population to nearly 2 million people (NEFRC 2014). Nassau County's population is projected to add 99,800 people by 2030, reflecting a 36% increase from 2010's population of 73,314 (Census 2010). The City of Fernandina Beach's seasonal population was an estimated 1,160 people in 2010, with an anticipated increase to 1,331 in 2030 (Nassau County 2013).

Property adjacent to the park is zoned for Old Town Historic District One (OT-1), which is intended to protect historic features unique to the area. Allowable uses include the development and maintenance of single-family residential units and compatible accessory uses (City of Fernandina Beach 2006). The Future Land Use Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan designates these lots for High Density Residential (HDR) development, allowing single and multi-family dwellings. A minimum of 4 units per acre and a maximum of 10 units per acre is allowed (City of Fernandina Beach 2011). The port district is zoned as Industrial to accommodate the railroad lines, container yard, and wharf area (OHPA 2014). A review of proposed comprehensive plan amendments in the city and county indicate that no substantial development projects are proposed that would impact the park.

Property Analysis

Effective planning requires a thorough understanding of the unit's natural and cultural resources. This section describes the resource characteristics and existing uses of the property. The unit's recreation resource elements are examined to identify the opportunities and constraints they present for recreational development. Past and present uses are assessed for their effects on the property, compatibility with the site, and relation to the unit's classification.

Recreational Resource Elements

This section assesses the park's recreational resource elements, those physical qualities that, either singly or in certain combinations, can support various resource-based recreation activities. Breaking down the property into such elements provides a means for measuring the property's capability to support potential recreational activities. This process also analyzes the existing spatial factors that either favor or limit the provision of each activity.

Land Area

Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park is 0.8 acres located in the Old Town Fernandina Historic District. The site boundary is essentially square, with each side measuring 186 feet long. There are currently no facilities on the site and the area is maintained as a mowed lawn. There are opportunities onsite for interpretation and picnicking.

Natural Scenery

The park provides an unobstructed, elevated view of the Amelia River and Cumberland Sound. The undeveloped condition of Little Tiger Island allows excellent natural views across the waterway conducive to photography and nature viewing.

Archaeological and Historical Features

The historic site marks the location of Fort San Carlos, constructed in 1816 to protect Spanish interest in Northern Florida, as well as serving as the Town Lot or Plaza. The occupation of the site and history of Fort San Carlos offer opportunities for interpretation with signage and programming. The park is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Assessment of Use

All legal boundaries, significant natural features, structures, facilities, roads and trails existing in the unit are delineated on the base map (see Base Map). Specific uses made of the unit are briefly described in the following sections.

Past Uses

This site is also part of a larger area occupied by Native Americans for thousands of years. The St. Johns People dwelled here from as early as 1000 B.C. and their Timucuan descendants occupied the area for about 2,000 years. With the arrival of the Spanish, the property functioned as the Town Lot, an essential element of Spanish colonial town layouts.

Future Land Use and Zoning

The DRP works with local governments to establish designations that provide both consistency between comprehensive plans and zoning codes and permit typical state park uses and facilities necessary for the provision of resourcebased recreation. Park property is zoned for Recreation (REC). Land within this district is intended for land devoted to parks and recreation facilities. These facilities can include parks, open spaces, activity-based development, and publicly-owned recreational facilities (City of Fernandina Beach 2006). The park is identified as Recreation in the City of Fernandina's future land use element. This designation includes public and private parks and recreation allowing playgrounds, picnic areas, trails, paths, and active or passive open space (City of Fernandina Beach 2011). There are no expected conflicts between the future land use or zoning designations and typical state park land uses.

Current Recreational Use and Visitor Programs

There are no currently approved public recreational uses of the site. The property's lawn area is sometimes used by local residents for informal play, picnicking, and watching fireworks during special occasions. The site is occasionally used as a staging area for walking tours of the surrounding historic district.

Other Uses

There are no other uses at Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park.

Protected Zones

A protected zone is an area of high sensitivity or outstanding character from which most types of development are excluded as a protective measure. Generally, facilities requiring extensive land alteration or resulting in intensive resource use, such as parking lots, camping areas, shops or maintenance areas, are not permitted in protected zones. Facilities with minimal resource impacts, such as trails, interpretive signs and boardwalks are generally allowed. All decisions involving the use of protected zones are made on a case-by-case basis after careful site planning and analysis.

At Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park, the entire property has been designated as a protected zone due to its cultural significance. The park's current protected zone is delineated on the Conceptual Land Use Plan.

Existing Facilities

Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park has two historic markers located on the northeastern and southeastern corners of the lot. There are also two interpretive kiosks on site that educate visitors on the Spanish slave ship, Guerrero (see Base Map).

Historic Marker (2) Interpretive Kiosks (2)

Conceptual Land Use Plan

The following narrative represents the current conceptual land use proposal for this park. The conceptual land use plan is the long-term, optimal development plan for the park, based on current conditions and knowledge of the park's resources, landscape and social setting (see Conceptual Land Use Plan). The conceptual land use plan is modified or amended, as new information becomes available regarding the park's natural and cultural resources or trends in recreational uses, in order to adapt to changing conditions. Additionally, the acquisition of new parkland may provide opportunities for alternative or expanded land uses. The DRP develops a detailed development plan for the park and a site plan for specific facilities based on this conceptual land use plan, as funding becomes available.

During the development of the conceptual land use plan, the DRP assessed the potential impact of proposed uses or development on the park resources and applied that analysis to determine the future physical plan of the park as well as the scale and character of proposed development. Potential resource impacts are also identified and assessed as part of the site planning process once funding is available for facility development. At that stage, design elements (such as existing topography and vegetation, sewage disposal and stormwater management) and design constraints (such as imperiled species or cultural site locations) are investigated in greater detail. Municipal sewer connections, advanced wastewater treatment or best available technology systems are applied for on-site sewage disposal. Creation of impervious surfaces is minimized to the greatest extent feasible in order to limit the need for stormwater management systems, and all facilities are designed and constructed using best management practices to limit and avoid resource impacts. Federal, state and local permit and regulatory requirements are addressed during facility development. This includes the design of all new park facilities consistent with the universal access requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). After new facilities are constructed, park staff monitors conditions to ensure that impacts remain within acceptable levels.

Potential Uses

Public Access and Recreational Opportunities

Goal: Provide public access and recreational opportunities in the park.

The existing recreational activities and programs of this state park are appropriate to the natural and cultural resources contained in the park and should be continued.



Proposed Facilities

Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

Goal: Develop and maintain the capital facilities and infrastructure necessary to implement the recommendations of the management plan.

The existing facilities of this state park are appropriate to the natural and cultural resources contained in the park and should be maintained. New construction, as discussed further below, is recommended to improve the quality and safety of the recreational opportunities, to improve the protection of park resources, and to streamline the efficiency of park operations.

Objective: Maintain all public and support facilities in the park.

All capital facilities, trails and roads within the park will be kept in proper condition through the daily or regular work of park staff and/or contracted help.

Facilities Development

Preliminary cost estimates for these recommended facilities and improvements are provided in the Ten-Year Implementation Schedule and Cost Estimates (Table 4) located in the Implementation Component of this plan. These cost estimates are based on the most cost-effective construction standards available at this time. The preliminary estimates are provided to assist the DRP in budgeting future park improvements, and may be revised as more information is collected through the planning and design processes.

Due to the historical significance of the site, development is limited to interpretation, benches, or picnic tables. No additional facilities are proposed at Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park, but minor improvements can be made over the life of the plan.

Optimum Boundary

The optimum boundary map reflects lands considered desirable for direct management by the DRP as part of the state park. These parcels may include public or privately owned land that would improve the continuity of existing parklands, provide the most efficient boundary configuration, improve access to the park, provide additional natural and cultural resource protection or allow for future expansion of recreational activities. Parklands that are potentially surplus to the management needs of the DRP are also identified. As additional needs are identified through park use, development, and research, and as land use changes on adjacent property, modification of the park's optimum boundary may be necessary.

Identification of parcels on the optimum boundary map is intended solely for planning purposes. It is not to be used in connection with any regulatory

purposes. Any party or governmental entity should not use a property's identification on the optimum boundary map to reduce or restrict the lawful rights of private landowners. Identification on the map does not empower or suggest that any government entity should impose additional or more restrictive environmental land use or zoning regulations. Identification should not be used as the basis for permit denial or the imposition of permit conditions.

At this time, no lands are considered surplus to the needs of the park and no additional lands are identified for acquisition.

IMPLEMENTATION COMPONENT

The resource management and land use components of this management plan provide a thorough inventory of the park's natural, cultural and recreational resources. They outline the park's management needs and problems, and recommend both short and long-term objectives and actions to meet those needs. The implementation component addresses the administrative goal for the park and reports on the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) progress toward achieving resource management, operational and capital improvement goals and objectives since approval of the previous management plan for this park. This component also compiles the management goals, objectives and actions expressed in the separate parts of this management plan for easy review. Estimated costs for the ten-year period of this plan are provided for each action and objective, and the costs are summarized under standard categories of land management activities.

Management Progress

Since the approval of the last management plan for Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park in 2004, significant work has been accomplished and progress made towards meeting the DRP's management objectives for the park. These accomplishments fall within three of the five general categories that encompass the mission of the park and the DRP.

Management Plan Implementation

This management plan is written for a timeframe of ten years, as required by Section 253.034 Florida Statutes. The Ten-Year Implementation Schedule and Cost Estimates (Table 4) summarizes the management goals, objectives and actions that are recommended for implementation over this period, and beyond. Measures are identified for assessing progress toward completing each objective and action. A time frame for completing each objective and action is provided. Preliminary cost estimates for each action are provided and the estimated total costs to complete each objective are computed. Finally, all costs are consolidated under the following five standard land management categories: Resource Management, Administration and Support, Capital Improvements, Recreation Visitor Services and Law Enforcement.

Many of the actions identified in the plan can be implemented using existing staff and funding. However, a number of continuing activities and new activities with measurable quantity targets and projected completion dates are identified that cannot be completed during the life of this plan unless additional resources for these purposes are provided. The plan's recommended actions, time frames and cost estimates will guide the DRP's planning and budgeting activities over the period of this plan. It must be noted that these recommendations are based on the information that exists at the time the plan was prepared. A high degree of adaptability and flexibility must be built into this process to ensure that the DRP can adjust to changes in the availability of funds, improved understanding of the park's

natural and cultural resources, and changes in statewide land management issues, priorities and policies.

Statewide priorities for all aspects of land management are evaluated each year as part of the process for developing the DRP's annual legislative budget requests. When preparing these annual requests, the DRP considers the needs and priorities of the entire state park system and the projected availability of funding from all sources during the upcoming fiscal year. In addition to annual legislative appropriations, the DRP pursues supplemental sources of funds and staff resources wherever possible, including grants, volunteers and partnerships with other entities. The DRP's ability to accomplish the specific actions identified in the plan will be determined largely by the availability of funds and staff for these purposes, which may vary from year to year. Consequently, the target schedules and estimated costs identified in Table 4 may need to be adjusted during the ten-year management planning cycle.

Table 4 Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park Ten-Year Implementation Schedule Cost Estimates - Page 47

NOTE: THE DIVISION'S ABILITY TO COMPLETE THE OBJECTIVES OUTLINED BY THE MANAGEMENT PLAN IS CONTINGENT ON THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR THESE PURPOSES. **Estimated** Planning Manpower and Goal I: Provide administrative support for all park functions. Measure **Expense Cost*** Period (10-years) Objective A Continue day-to-day administrative support at current levels. Administrative support C \$1,585 ongoing **Estimated** Goal II: Protect water quality and quantity in the park, restore hydrology to the extent feasible, and **Planning** Manpower and Measure maintain the restored condition. Period **Expense Cost*** (10-years) Conduct/obtain an assessment of the park's hydrological needs. Assessment conducted С \$5,600 Objective A Action 1 Staff will monitor the site and protect it from soil erosion caused by unauthorized vehicular access or Site Monitored \$5,600 other disturbances. **Estimated Planning** Manpower and Goal III: Restore and maintain the natural communities/habitats of the park. Measure Period **Expense Cost*** (10-years) There are no natural community restoration activities or improvement activities for this park. \$0 **Estimated Planning** Manpower and Goal IV: Maintain, improve, or restore imperiled species populations and habitats in the park. Measure **Expense Cost*** Period (10-years) There are no imperiled species in this park. \$0 **Estimated** Goal V: Remove exotic and invasive plants and animals from the park and conduct needed maintenance-Manpower and **Planning** Measure control. Period **Expense Cost*** (10-years) There are no invasive exotic plants or animal species that need to be removed from the park. \$0

Table 4 Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park Ten-Year Implementation Schedule Cost Estimates - Page 48

NOTE: THE DIVISION'S ABILITY TO COMPLETE THE OBJECTIVES OUTLINED BY THE MANAGEMENT PLAN IS CONTINGENT ON THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR THESE PURPOSES.

Goal VI: Prote	ect, preserve and maintain the cultural resources of the park.	Measure	Planning Period	Estimated Manpower and Expense Cost* (10-years)
Objective A	Assess and evaluate 2 of 2 recorded cultural resources in the park.	Documentation complete	ST	\$575
Action 1	Complete 2 assessments/evaluations of archaeological sites.	Assessments complete	ST	\$375
Action 2	Develop a simple, repeatable protocol for tracking cultural resource changes at Fernandina Plaza.	Protocol developed	ST	\$200
Objective B	Compile reliable documentation for all recorded historic and archaeological sites.	Documentation complete	UFN	\$25,500
Action 1	Encourage additional archaeological/historical research at Fernandina Plaza.	Archaeological research completed	UFN	\$25,500
Objective C	Bring 2 of 2 recorded cultural resources into good condition.	# Sites in good condition	LT	\$10,200
Action 1	Implement a regular monitoring program encompassing both cultural sites.	# Sites monitored	С	\$2,000
Action 2	Create and implement a cyclical maintenance program for the park's cultural resources.	Maintenance program designed and implemented	LT	\$8,200

Table 4 Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park Ten-Year Implementation Schedule Cost Estimates - Page 49

NOTE: THE DIVISION'S ABILITY TO COMPLETE THE OBJECTIVES OUTLINED BY THE MANAGEMENT PLAN IS CONTINGENT ON THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR THESE PURPOSES.

Goal VII: Pro	ovide public access and recreational opportunities in the park.	Measure	Planning Period	Estimated Manpower and Expense Cost* (10-years)
Objective A	Maintain the park's current recreational carrying capacity.	# Recreation/visitor	С	\$3,170
	evelop and maintain the capital facilities and infrastructure necessary to meet the goals and this management plan.	l Measure	Planning Period	Estimated Manpower and Expense Cost* (10-years)
Objective A	Maintain all public and support facilities in the park.	Facilities maintained	С	\$5,547
Objective B	Continue to implement the park's transition plan to ensure facilities are accessible in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act of 1990.	Plan implemented	ST, LT	\$5,000
Summary of I	Estimated Costs			
	Management Categories	•		Total Estimated Manpower and Expense Cost* (10-years)
	Resource Managemen			\$41,875
	Administration and Suppor			\$1,585
	Capital Improvements	3		\$5,000
	Recreation Visitor Services			\$8,717
	Law Enforcement Activities			
		1Law enforcement activication conducted by the FWC D local law enforcement ag	vivision of Law Er	



LAND ACQUISITION HISTORY REPORT						
Park Name	Fernandina Pla	aza Historic State Park				
Date Updated	1/7/2016					
County	Nassau County	y, Florida				
Trustees Lease Number	3260 (Original	Lease No. 2324)				
Current Park Size	0.80 acre	,				
Purpose of Acquisition	The State of Florida acquired Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park for public purpose.					
Acquisition History						
Parcel Name or Parcel DM-ID	Date Acquired	Initial Seller	Initial Purchaser	Size in Acres	Instrument Type	
Original Lease No. 2324	12/30/1941	The United States of America	The Florida Board of Forestry and Parks	0.8	Quitclaim Deed	
Management Lease						
Parcel Name or Lease Number	Date Leased	Initial Lessor	Initial Lessee	Current Term	Expiration Date	
Lease No. 3260 (Original Lease No. 2324)	1/23/1968	Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund	The Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials	99 years	1/22/2067	
	Type of					
Outstanding Issue	Instrument	Brief Description of the Outstanding Issue Outstanding Issue			ding Issue	
Reverter	Quitclaim Deed	The property is to be used for public purposes. If the property is not used for Public purpose, it will revert to the United State of America. Perpetuit			netuity	



Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park Advisory Group Members

Local Government Representative

The Honorable Robin Lentz, Mayor City of Fernandina Beach

Agency Representatives

Heath Alboher, Park Manager Division of Recreation and Parks Fort Clinch State Park

Blair Hayman, Regional Biologist Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Dean Woehrle, Chair Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District

Mike Wisenbaker, Archaeologist Florida Department of State Division of Historical Resources

Erica Hernandez St. Johns River Water Management District

Andrea Noel, Manager Florida Coastal Office Fort Clinch Aquatic Preserve

Environmental and Conservation Representatives

Elizabeth Guthrie North Florida Land Trust

Chris Farrell Audubon Florida

Local Private Property Owner

Richard Scott, Local Resident Property Owner

Recreational User Group Representatives

Ray Hetchka Kayak Amelia

Mark Atkins, President North Florida Bicycle Club

Paul Haydt, Coordinator East Coast Greenway Alliance

<u>Cultural Resource Organization</u> <u>Representative</u>

Tom Oliver, President General Duncan Lamonte Clinch Historical Society

Tourism and Economic Development Representative

Gil Langley, President Amelia Island Tourist Development Council

Citizen Support Organization

Don Hughes, President Friends of Fort Clinch State Park

The advisory group meeting to review the proposed unit management plan (UMP) for Fort Clinch State Park and Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park was held at the Visitor Center at Fort Clinch State Park on March 16, 2017 at 9:00 am.

Len Kreger represented Mayor Robin Lentz. Susan Taylor represented Mark Atkins. Anita Oliver represented Tom Oliver. Dean Woehrle, Mike Wisenbaker, Andrea Noel, and Paul Haydt were not in attendance. All other appointed advisory group members were present, as well as Michael Leary and Kelly Colvin. Attending staff were Clif Maxwell, Dan Pearson, Heath Alboher, Cody Peters, Jason Mahon, Mari Schwabacher, and Tyler Maldonado.

Mr. Maldonado began the meeting by explaining the purpose of the advisory group and reviewing the meeting agenda. He provided a brief overview of the Division of Recreation and Parks' (DRP) planning process. Mr. Alboher summarized public comments received during the previous evening's public hearing. Mr. Maldonado then asked each member of the advisory group to express his or her comments on the plans.

During the two-week public comment period following the advisory group meeting, the DRP received numerous emails from members of the public about the Fort Clinch State Park unit management plan. The major themes of these emails are as follows:

- Local residents emphasized the importance of the fishing pier as a recreational asset at Fort Clinch State Park and urged the Florida Park Service to replace the pier as soon as possible.
- Concerns were raised with the proposed Atlantic beach campground expansion, citing potential impacts to the surrounding natural communities and species habitat.
- Similarly, park visitors expressed apprehension toward the proposed trail from the Atlantic beach campground to the beach parking area and the proposed improvements to the Willow Pond trailhead.
- Members of the public opposed language in the Introduction referring to potential revenue generation and secondary management purposes such as sea oat harvesting and alternative energy.

Summary of Advisory Group Comments

Len Kreger (Vice Mayor, City of Fernandina Beach) stated he had one of their city planners review the management plans, and no glaring issues were found. Mr. Kreger discussed the mosquito ditches that are scheduled for restoration in the management plan. He stated the City is addressing similar issues outside of the park property within its jurisdiction, and he offered technical assistance from the City for stormwater engineering. Mr. Kreger remarked on beach re-nourishment taking place on park property. He recommended DRP should develop sea level rise standards beyond what is stated in the management plan. He stressed the

importance of ensuring a balance between conservation of the park's natural resources and public access for outdoor recreation purposes. Mr. Kreger expressed the willingness of the City to partner with the park on issues of mutual concern. He finished his comments by stating that the fishing pier is a local community asset with a high demand for public recreational access and should be replaced as soon as possible.

Susan Taylor (North Florida Bicycle Club) started by stating that Fort Clinch State Park is a jewel for cycling. She asserted there should more of an effort to promote safety for cyclists, citing there is an issue with cars exceeding the posted speed limit on the park roads. Ms. Taylor suggested more attention should be paid to educating drivers and cyclists about safe usage of the park roads. She supported the proposed trail connecting the beach campground with the beach parking area and expressed a desire to see the current mountain biking trail extended. She acknowledged potential carrying capacity issues associated with bike races and special events. Lastly, Ms. Taylor asked questions concerning the disappearance of bobcats from the park property and the procedures associated with trapping feral cats. It was explained that bobcats may have died off as a result of diseases transmitted by feral cats.

Don Hughes (President, Friends of Fort Clinch) complimented the management plan for its comprehensive scope. He stated the plan seems realistic and reasonable. He spoke on behalf of the park's citizen support organization (CSO) and said there were no concerns with the management plan from the group. However, he commented that the DRP should minimize any impacts to wildlife and the beach dune natural communities from the proposed expansion of the beach campground. Mr. Hughes asked if the bathhouse at the beach campground would be able to accommodate the expansion of the campground, and it was explained that the bathhouse has the capacity to handle the proposed campground expansion.

Ray Hetchka (Kayak Amelia) questioned the secondary purposes and revenue generation language in the management plan. He asked if there was any consideration to allow hunting on the park property. It was explained that hunting will never be allowed at Fort Clinch State Park, and the secondary purposes language will be updated to reflect that it has been determined that secondary purposes cannot be accommodated at the park. Mr. Hetchka wished the DRP good luck with implementing the management plan.

Anita Oliver (General Duncan Lamonte Clinch Historical Society) mentioned that she brought a historical perspective to the group, and she supports the construction of the Civilian Conservation Corps memorial statue on the park property. She stated that she shares the concerns of other advisory group members regarding the balance of protecting the natural resources and providing outdoor recreation opportunities.

Richard Scott (Local Private Property Owner) echoed Mr. Hughes and complimented the comprehensive scope of the management plan. He remarked that Fort Clinch State Park is different than most state parks in that it is largely an urban park in a developing city. He stated there is high demand for outdoor

recreational opportunities at the park. Mr. Scott commented that the park is an exceptional community resource, and he believes the management actions should be sensitive to the balance between conserving natural resources and providing recreational opportunities.

Erica Hernandez (St. Johns River Water Management District) applauded the DRP on the management plan's thorough property analysis. She stated that the diamondback terrapin seemed to be missing from the imperiled species list and should be added if it can be proven that the species has been observed on park property. She suggested the kayaking community should be engaged in order to educate residents about species that use the shoreline for nesting. One of Ms. Hernandez's concerns was associated with the restoration of mosquito ditches. She commented that the management plan has a good explanation of the mosquito ditches' impacts, but there seems to be more discussion of analysis and surveying as opposed to outlining how the issue will be solved. She pointed out that this restoration activity is an unfunded need, and she suggested that if the resources are lacking then the DRP should attempt to cultivate collaborative partnerships with the city, county, and/or non-governmental organizations to leverage funding and technical support. Ms. Hernandez was also concerned with the recreational carrying capacity language in the management plan. She stated there is no explanation or justification for how the DRP came up with its recreational carrying capacity figures, and these figures do not take into account the ecological impact of increasing the recreational carrying capacity of the park. It was explained that the Office of Park Planning website has a link to a document that contains the equations for how recreational carrying capacity is calculated, and an example was given to illustrate which factors go into calculating the figures. She recommended that the Willow Pond trailhead improvements language should be clarified to accurately reflect the DRP's intentions for the area. Ms. Hernandez also provided the DRP with written comments, which can be seen below in the summary of written comments from advisory group members section.

Gil Langley (President, Amelia Island Tourism Development Council) stated that he believes the Florida Park Service does an expectational job at maintaining and preserving its properties. Although he commented that he does not think there is too much tourism occurring, he echoed his peers' acknowledgement of the need to balance the conservation of park resources with the demand for outdoor recreation opportunities. He asked if there a number that the DRP would consider to be the park's maximum recreational carrying capacity. It was stated that the park is nearing its maximum recreational carrying capacity. Mr. Langley mentioned that the addition of 10 RV camping sites at the beach campground seems to be an appropriate expansion. He remarked that the growth in volunteers is at a higher rate than the increase in visitors. He suggested the park should consider incorporating technology such as QR codes and online recordings to help with interpretation of the park's natural and cultural resources. Lastly, he asked about the increasing deer population at the park and how this population growth could be controlled. It was explained that natural predators such as coyotes can help control deer populations, and may cause deer to spend less time in the open, thereby reducing their impacts on sensitive coastal grasslands and beach dunes.

Elizabeth Guthrie (North Florida Land Trust) complimented the DRP on the management plan and said it was a vast improvement over the previous 2004 plan. She stated that her concerns were mostly satisfied after reading the goals and objectives section of the management plan. She asked if the recreational carrying capacity matches the parking capacity. It was explained that if the parking lots fill up, then the park will close the entrance; however, this rarely, if ever, happens at Fort Clinch State Park. Ms. Guthrie supported the management goals associated with the optimum boundary, comprehensive flora and fauna survey, and restoration of mosquito ditches. She appreciated the sea level rise section and suggested that this section should be expanded beyond what is currently included in the management plan.

Blair Hayman (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) stated the management plan is comprehensive and well-written. She appreciated the imperiled species language and supported the imperiled species monitoring management goal. She also suggested the diamondback terrapin should be added to the imperiled species list.

Chris Farrell (Audubon Florida) commented on beach re-nourishment projects and potential impacts to nesting shorebirds. He stated that it should be an important focus to minimize the impacts of beach re-nourishment on nesting shorebird populations and the beach dune natural communities. He suggested the DRP should consider adding imperiled species such as Wilson's plover to the imperiled species list in the management plan. He was concerned that the proposed trail and additions to the beach campground could have detrimental impacts to species and habitat in this area. He asked if public input would be allowed once the specific design and location of the trail is determined. Mr. Farrell supported the optimum boundary map and stated that the Florida Park System is an economic engine for Florida and should receive significant investment to acquire additional conservation lands.

Summary of Written Comments from Advisory Group Members

Erica Hernandez (St. Johns River Water Management District) wrote that education about the sensitive habitats and monitoring of disturbance should be key components in the management of the park. She stated that the Florida Park Service could benefit from more local and regional support from staff with biological backgrounds to ensure that natural resources are protected for the enjoyment of park visitors. She commented that the descriptions of the park's existing conditions are thoughtful and well-described. In addition, the park's geomorphology and natural community descriptions were well-researched and helpful in understanding the complexities around the park. She supported the strong descriptions of the park's historic mosquito ditches as a threat to human health because of the potential to breed mosquitos, and the threat they pose to fresh water environments and upland vegetation with salt water intrusion and artificial draining. She wrote she is concerned about the transparency of the recreational carrying capacity analysis, stating that clearing sensitive beach habitat for campsites, increasing public access through coastal dunes and grasslands, and causing increased breaks in maritime habitat canopy cover for parking lots would be detrimental to natural

community integrity in the park. Lastly, she submitted the park should engage shoreline owners and investigate opportunities for shoreline enhancement at Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park to protect the site, potentially engaging the city, aquatic preserve, and volunteers.

Mike Wisenbaker (Florida Department of State – Bureau of Archaeological Research) thanked the Florida Park Service for giving the Division of Historical Resources (DHR) an opportunity to be part of the advisory group and stated that the Florida Park Service has an excellent handle on its archaeological and historical resources. He urged park staff to implement the cultural resource management goals and objectives as stated in the plans and offered DHR's assistance with cultural resource conservation.

Chris Farrell (Audubon Florida) appreciated that no secondary uses were identified as compatible with the proper management of Fort Clinch State Park. He stated that additional discussion is needed about the expansion of the Atlantic beach campground and the proposed trail to the park road and suggested that stakeholders be convened to discuss any plans that result in habitat loss or degradation. He wrote if sea oat seed collection is considered, it should only be permitted as necessary for conservation purposes and done in a manner that protects beach dune health. Lastly, Mr. Farrell commented that efforts to improve management for shorebirds should be prioritized and recommended additional visitor outreach should be conducted for educational purposes.

Summary of Public Comments

Michael Leary (Local Resident) stated that he is a native resident of Fernandina Beach and has been a fixture at Fort Clinch State Park for decades. He suggested that the park honor the Civilian Conservation Corps by prioritizing conservation and suspending infrastructure development. He expressed his commitment to what is wild and natural, and he voiced his concerns with the seemingly never-ending development of new recreational facilities at the park. He echoed concerns that were voiced in regards to the maximum recreational carrying capacity. He stated that further development at the park would be a disservice to conservation efforts.

Staff Recommendations

The staff recommends approval of the proposed management plans for Fort Clinch State Park and Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park as presented, with the following significant changes:

 All references to sea oat harvesting and alternative energy as secondary management purposes will be removed. The revised language in the Introduction will read as follows:

"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

Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park Advisory Group Summary Report

the resource needs and values of the park. This analysis considered the park's natural and cultural resources, management needs, aesthetic values, visitation and visitor experiences. For this park, it was determined that no secondary purposes could be accommodated in a manner that would not interfere with the primary purpose of resource-based outdoor recreation and conservation."

- The diamondback terrapin will be added to the text of the imperiled species section in the Resource Management Component. Wilson's plover will be added to the Imperiled Species Table and discussed in the text of the imperiled species section.
- Language will be added to the Land Use Component that states the proposed trail from the Atlantic beach campground to the beach parking area will run along the existing park road and will not traverse through the beach dunes. The proposed Willow Pond trailhead improvements will be clarified to state that the improvements will include one paved ADA space, and the designated parking area will be stabilized (not paved) to address soil erosion issues associated with this location.
- It has been determined that the proposed Atlantic beach campground expansion is appropriate and supports the DRP's mission of providing resource-based recreational opportunities while preserving, interpreting, and restoring natural and cultural resources. Language will be added to the Land Use Component that directs site designs for the proposed Atlantic beach campground to incorporate low-impact development standards and avoid disturbing nesting shorebird habitats.
- Improvements to the park road will be added to the Land Use Component. These improvements will be geared toward enhancing cyclist and pedestrian safety on the park road and will include measures such as shared-lane markings, pedestrian crossings, and signage that prompts drivers to be aware that cyclists have full access to the park road.

Notes on Composition of the Advisory Group

Florida Statutes Chapter 259.032 Paragraph 10(b) establishes a requirement that all state land management plans for properties greater than 160 acres will be reviewed by an advisory group:

"Individual management plans required by s. 253.034(5), for parcels over 160 acres, shall be developed with input from an advisory group. Members of this advisory group shall include, at a minimum, representatives of the lead land managing agency, co-managing entities, local private property owners, the appropriate soil and water conservation district, a local conservation organization, and a local elected official."

Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park Advisory Group Summary Report

Advisory groups that are composed in compliance with these requirements complete the review of State Park management plans. Additional members may be appointed to the groups, such as a representative of the park's Citizen Support Organization (if one exists), representatives of the recreational activities that exist in or are planned for the park, or representatives of any agency with an ownership interest in the property. Special issues or conditions that require a broader representation for adequate review of the management plan may require the appointment of additional members. The Division's intent in making these appointments is to create a group that represents a balanced cross-section of the park's stakeholders. Decisions on appointments are made on a case-by-case basis by Division of Recreation and Parks staff.



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Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park Soil Descriptions

31 – Kershaw fine sand, 2 to 8 percent slopes – This is a gently sloping or sloping, excessively drained soil on broad ridges and isolated knolls. Slopes are smooth to concave. Permeability is very rapid, and the available water capacity is very low. The seasonal high water table is at a depth of about 72 to 80 inches or more during most of the year.

In 98 percent of the areas mapped as this soil type, Kershaw and similar soils make up 92 to 100 percent of the mapped unit. Included are small areas of Ortega soils--dissimilar soils which make up 0 to 8 percent of the mapped unit. They are in lower positions on the landscape than the Kershaw soil.

Typically, the surface layer is very dark, grayish-brown fine sand about 7 inches thick. The underlying material is fine sand, to a depth of about 80 inches. It is yellowish brown in the upper part and yellow in the lower part. Some soils occurring in areas of this map unit are similar to the Kershaw soil but have a light-colored subsurface layer 1 to 4 inches thick.



Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park Plants

Common Name Scientific Name Primary Habitat Codes (for imperiled species)

ANGIOSPERMS

MONOCOTS

Garlic Allium sp.

DICOTS

Sugarberry; Hackberry Celtis laevigata Mexican clover Richardia sp. *

Texas vervain...... Verbena officinalis subsp. halei

Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park Animals

Common Name	Scientific Name	Primary Habitat Codes
	BIRDS	
Gulls Laughing Gull	. Leucophaeus atricilla	OF
Pigeons and Doves Rock Pigeon Eurasian Collared-Dove		
Swifts Chimney Swift	. Chaetura pelagica	OF
Mimids Northern Mockingbird	. Mimus polyglottos	DV
Starlings European Starling	. Sturnus vulgaris *	DV
Blackbirds and Allies Boat-tailed Grackle	. Quiscalus major	DV
	MAMMALS	
Rodents Eastern Gray Squirrel	. Sciurus carolinensis	DV
Carnivores Feral Domestic Dog Feral Domestic Cat Raccoon	. Felis domesticus *	DV

Primary Habitat Codes

TERRESTRIAL	
Beach Dune	
Coastal Berm	CB
Coastal Grassland	
Coastal Strand	
Dry Prairie	
Keys Cactus Barren	KCB
Limestone Outcrop	LO
Maritime Hammock	MAH
Mesic Flatwoods	MF
Mesic Hammock	MEH
Pine Rockland	PR
Rockland Hammock	RH
Sandhill	SH
Scrub	SC
Scrubby Flatwoods	
Shell Mound	SHM
Sinkhole	SK
Slope Forest	SPF
Upland Glade	UG
Upland Hardwood Forest	UHF
Upland Mixed Woodland	UMW
Upland Pine	UP
Wet Flatwoods	WF
Xeric Hammock	XH
PALUSTRINE	
Alluvial Forest	ΔF
Basin Marsh	
Basin Swamp	
Baygall	
Bottomland Forest	
Coastal Interdunal Swale	
Depression Marsh	
Dome Swamp	
Floodplain Marsh	
Floodplain Swamp	
Glades Marsh	
Hydric Hammock	
Keys Tidal Rock Barren	
Mangrove Swamp	
Marl Prairie	
Salt Marsh	
Seepage Slope	
Shrub Bog	
Slough	
Slough Marsh	
Strand Swamn	

Primary Habitat Codes

Wet Prairie	WP
LACUSTRINE	
Clastic Upland Lake	CULK
Coastal Dune Lake	CDLK
Coastal Rockland Lake	CRLK
Flatwoods/Prairie	FPLK
Marsh Lake	
River Floodplain Lake	
Sandhill Upland Lake	
Sinkhole Lake	
Swamp Lake	SWLK
RIVERINE	
Alluvial Stream	AST
Blackwater Stream	BST
Seepage Stream	SST
Spring-run Stream	SRST
SUBTERRANEAN	
Aquatic Cave	ACV
Terrestrial Cave	
ESTUARINE	
Algal Bed	EAB
Composite Substrate	
Consolidated Substrate	ECNS
Coral Reef	ECR
Mollusk Reef	EMR
Octocoral Bed	EOB
Seagrass Bed	ESGB
Sponge Bed	
Unconsolidated Substrate	
Worm Reef	EWR

Primary Habitat Codes

MARINE	
Algal Bed	MAB
Composite Substrate	MCPS
Consolidated Substrate	MCNS
Coral Reef	MCR
Mollusk Reef	MMR
Octocoral Bed	MOB
Seagrass Bed	MSGB
Sponge Bed	
Unconsolidated Substrate	
Worm Reef	
ALTERED LANDCOVER TYPES	
Abandoned field/Abandoned pasture	AFP
Agriculture	AG
Artificial Pond	AP
Borrow Area	BA
Canal/ditch	CD
Clearcut pine plantation	CPP
Clearing/Regeneration	CL
Developed	DV
Impoundment	IM
Invasive exotic monoculture	IEM
Pasture - improved	PI
Pasture - semi-improved	PSI
Pine plantation	PP
Restoration Natural Community	RNC
Road	
Spoil area	SA
Successional hardwood forest	
Utility corridor	
MISCELLANEOUS	
Many Types of Communities	MTC
Overflying	



The Nature Conservancy and the Natural Heritage Program Network (of which FNAI is a part) define an <u>element</u> as any exemplary or rare component of the natural environment, such as a species, natural community, bird rookery, spring, sinkhole, cave or other ecological feature. An <u>element occurrence</u> (EO) is a single extant habitat that sustains or otherwise contributes to the survival of a population or a distinct, self-sustaining example of a particular element.

Using a ranking system developed by The Nature Conservancy and the Natural Heritage Program Network, the Florida Natural Areas Inventory assigns two ranks to each element. The global rank is based on an element's worldwide status; the state rank is based on the status of the element in Florida. Element ranks are based on many factors, the most important ones being estimated number of Element occurrences, estimated abundance (number of individuals for species; area for natural communities), range, estimated adequately protected EOs, relative threat of destruction, and ecological fragility.

Federal and State status information is from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (animals), and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (plants), respectively.

FNAI GLOBAL RANK DEFINITIONS

G1 Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer
occurrences or less than 1000 individuals) or because of extreme
vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or fabricated factor.
G2 Imperiled globally because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or less than
3000 individuals) or because of vulnerability to extinction due to some
natural or man-made factor.
G3 Either very rare or local throughout its range (21-100 occurrences or
less than 10,000 individuals) or found locally in a restricted range or
vulnerable to extinction of other factors.
G4 apparently secure globally (may be rare in parts of range)
G5demonstrably secure globally
GH of historical occurrence throughout its range may be rediscovered
(e.g., ivory-billed woodpecker)
GX believed to be extinct throughout range
GXC extirpated from the wild but still known from captivity or cultivation
G#? Tentative rank (e.g.,G2?)
G#G#range of rank; insufficient data to assign specific global rank (e.g., G2G3)
G#T#rank of a taxonomic subgroup such as a subspecies or variety; the G
portion of the rank refers to the entire species and the T portion refers
to the specific subgroup; numbers have same definition as above (e.g.,
G3T1)
= = : · /

G#Q	rank of questionable species - ranked as species but questionable whether it is species or subspecies; numbers have same definition as above (e.g., G2Q)
G#T#Q	same as above, but validity as subspecies or variety is questioned.
	due to lack of information, no rank or range can be assigned (e.g., GUT2).
G?	Not yet ranked (temporary)
S1	Critically imperiled in Florida because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or less than 1000 individuals) or because of extreme vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
S2	Imperiled in Florida because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or less than 3000 individuals) or because of vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
S3	Either very rare or local throughout its range (21-100 occurrences or less than 10,000 individuals) or found locally in a restricted range or vulnerable to extinction of other factors.
S4	apparently secure in Florida (may be rare in parts of range)
	demonstrably secure in Florida
	of historical occurrence throughout its range, may be rediscovered (e.g., ivory-billed woodpecker)
SX	believed to be extinct throughout range
SA	accidental in Florida, i.e., not part of the established biota
SE	an exotic species established in Florida may be native elsewhere in North America
	regularly occurring but widely and unreliably distributed; sites for conservation hard to determine
SU	due to lack of information, no rank or range can be assigned (e.g., SUT2).
S?	Not yet ranked (temporary)
	Not currently listed, nor currently being considered for listing, by state or federal agencies.

LEGAL STATUS

FEDERAL

(Listed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service - USFWS)

LEListed as Endangered Species in the List of Endangered and				
Threate	ned Wildlife and Plants under the provisions of the Endangered			
Species	Act. Defined as any species that is in danger of extinction			
through	out all or a significant portion of its range.			
PE Propose	d for addition to the List of Endangered and Threatened			
Wildlife	and Plants as Endangered Species.			
become	s Threatened Species. Defined as any species that is likely to an endangered species within the near future throughout all or cant portion of its range.			

	Proposed for listing as Threatened Species. Candidate Species for addition to the list of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. Defined as those species for which the USFWS currently has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to support proposing to list the species as endangered or threatened.			
• •	Endangered due to similarity of appearance. Threatened due to similarity of appearance.			
EXPE, XE essential.	Experimental essential population. A species listed as experimental and			
EXPN, XN	Experimental non-essential population. A species listed as all and non-essential. Experimental, nonessential populations of			
endangered species are treated as threatened species on public land, for				
consultation	purposes.			
<u>STATE</u>				
ANIMALS	. (Listed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission - FWC)			
FE	. Federally-designated Endangered			
FT	. Federally-designated Threatened			
FXN	. Federally-designated Threatened Nonessential Experimental Population			
FT(S/A)	. Federally-designated Threatened species due to similarity of appearance			
ST	Listed as Threatened Species by the FWC. Defined as a species, subspecies, or isolated population, which is acutely vulnerable to environmental alteration, declining in number at a rapid rate, or whose range or habitat, is decreasing in area at a rapid rate and therefore is destined or very likely to become an endangered species within the near future.			
SSC	Listed as Species of Special Concern by the FWC. Defined as a population which warrants special protection, recognition or consideration because it has an inherent significant vulnerability to			

its becoming a threatened species.

habitat modification, environmental alteration, human disturbance or substantial human exploitation that, in the near future, may result in

PLANTS (Listed by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services - FDACS)

LEListed as Endangered Plants in the Preservation of Native Flora of Florida Act. Defined as species of plants native to the state that are in imminent danger of extinction within the state, the survival of which is unlikely if the causes of a decline in the number of plants continue, and includes all species determined to be endangered or threatened pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

LTListed as Threatened Plants in the Preservation of Native Flora of Florida Act. Defined as species native to the state that are in rapid decline in the number of plants within the state, but which have not so

decreased in such number as to cause them to be endangered.



These procedures apply to state agencies, local governments, and non-profits that manage state-owned properties.

A. General Discussion

Historic resources are both archaeological sites and historic structures. Per Chapter 267, Florida Statutes, 'Historic property' or 'historic resource' means any prehistoric district, site, building, object, or other real or personal property of historical, architectural, or archaeological value, and folklife resources. These properties or resources may include, but are not limited to, monuments, memorials, Indian habitations, ceremonial sites, abandoned settlements, sunken or abandoned ships, engineering works, treasure trove, artifacts, or other objects with intrinsic historical or archaeological value, or any part thereof, relating to the history, government, and culture of the state."

B. Agency Responsibilities

Per State Policy relative to historic properties, state agencies of the executive branch must allow the Division of Historical Resources (Division) the opportunity to comment on any undertakings, whether these undertakings directly involve the state agency, i.e., land management responsibilities, or the state agency has indirect jurisdiction, i.e. permitting authority, grants, etc. No state funds should be expended on the undertaking until the Division has the opportunity to review and comment on the project, permit, grant, etc.

State agencies shall preserve the historic resources which are owned or controlled by the agency.

Regarding proposed demolition or substantial alterations of historic properties, consultation with the Division must occur, and alternatives to demolition must be considered.

State agencies must consult with Division to establish a program to location, inventory and evaluate all historic properties under ownership or controlled by the agency.

C. Statutory Authority

Statutory Authority and more in depth information can be found at: http://www.flheritage.com/preservation/compliance/guidelines.cfm

D. Management Implementation

Even though the Division sits on the Acquisition and Restoration Council and approves land management plans, these plans are conceptual. Specific information regarding individual projects must be submitted to the Division for review and recommendations.

Managers of state lands must coordinate any land clearing or ground disturbing activities with the Division to allow for review and comment on the proposed project. Recommendations may include, but are not limited to: approval of the project as submitted, cultural resource assessment survey by a qualified professional archaeologist, modifications to the proposed project to avoid or mitigate potential adverse effects.

Projects such as additions, exterior alteration, or related new construction regarding historic structures must also be submitted to the Division of Historical Resources for review and comment by the Division's architects. Projects involving structures fifty years of age or older, must be submitted to this agency for a significance determination. In rare cases, structures under fifty years of age may be deemed historically significant. These must be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Adverse impacts to significant sites, either archaeological sites or historic buildings, must be avoided. Furthermore, managers of state property should make preparations for locating and evaluating historic resources, both archaeological sites and historic structures.

E. Minimum Review Documentation Requirements

In order to have a proposed project reviewed by the Division, certain information must be submitted for comments and recommendations. The minimum review documentation requirements can be found at:

http://www.flheritage.com/preservation/compliance/docs/minimum_review_documentation_requirements.pdf .

* * *

Questions relating to the treatment of archaeological and historic resources on state lands should be directed to:

Deena S. Woodward
Division of Historical Resources
Bureau of Historic Preservation
Compliance and Review Section
R. A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Phone: (850) 245-6425

Toll Free: (800) 847-7278 Fax: (850) 245-6435

The criteria to be used for evaluating eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places are as follows:

- Districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects may be considered to have significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and/or culture if they possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:
 - a) are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; and/or
 - **b)** are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; and/or
 - embody the distinctive characteristics of type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; and/or
 - **d)** have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.
- Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures; properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes; structures that have been moved from their original locations; reconstructed historic buildings; properties primarily commemorative in nature; and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the *National Register*. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:
 - a) a religious property deriving its primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
 - a building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or
 - a birthplace or grave of an historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building directly associated with his productive life; or
 - a cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, distinctive design features, or association with historic events; ora reconstructed building, when it is accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or a property primarily commemorative in intent, if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance; or
 - e) a property achieving significance within the past 50 years, if it is of exceptional importance.

Preservation Treatments as Defined by Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines

Restoration is defined as the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems and other coderequired work to make properties functional is appropriate within a restoration project.

Rehabilitation is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations and additions while preserving those portions or features that convey its historical, cultural or architectural values.

Stabilization is defined as the act or process of applying measures designed to reestablish a weather resistant enclosure and the structural stability of an unsafe or deteriorated property while maintaining the essential form as it exists at present.

Preservation is defined as the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. New exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment; however, the limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project.