

Okeechobee Battlefield

Historic State Park

Approved

Unit Management Plan

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**Division of Recreation and Parks
December 22, 2010**



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Charlie Crist
Governor

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Lt. Governor

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Secretary

December 22, 2010

Ms. BryAnne White
Office of Park Planning
Division of Recreation and Parks
Mail Station #525
3900 Commonwealth Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

RE: Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park

Dear Ms. White:

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 Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park management plan. The next management plan update is due December 22, 2020.

Approval of this land 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,

Marianne S. Gengenbach
Office of Environmental Services
Division of State Lands

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INTRODUCTION

Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park is located in Okeechobee County (see Vicinity Map); access to the park from 38th Avenue off U.S. Highway 441/98 (see Reference Map). In addition, significant land and water resources existing near the park are identified on the Vicinity Map.

Okeechobee Battlefield was acquired on November 30, 2006 with funds from the Florida Forever Program (see Addendum 1). At the park, public outdoor recreation and conservation is the designated single use of the property. There are no legislative or executive directives that constrain the use of this property.

PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PARK

Okeechobee Battlefield is the site of one of Florida's significant battles during the Second Seminole War. The Battle of Okeechobee, fought on Christmas Day, 1837, involved more than 1,000 United States military and volunteer soldiers, fighting against several hundred Seminole and Miccosukee warriors along the northern edge of Lake Okeechobee. The battle is considered a turning point in the war with full-scale attacks ceasing and the number of smaller skirmishes diminishing after the event. The purposes for managing this portion of the designated historic battlefield as a unit of the Florida State Park System are to preserve lands of state and national significance, interpret the battle and provide living history events for Florida's residents and visitors. Associated local heritage and the natural history of the surrounding area will also be interpreted.

Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park is classified as a special feature site in the Division of Recreation and Parks (Division) 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. State special feature sites must be of unusual or exceptional character, or have statewide or broad regional significance. They are managed to place primary emphasis on protection and maintenance of the special feature for long-term public enjoyment, and in the case of conflicts, resource considerations prevail over user considerations. It is important, too, to provide suitable buffer areas and areas within which an appropriate outdoor setting is maintained. Uses permitted of the special feature itself are almost exclusively of a passive nature. Other uses of the site are permitted if compatible. Program emphasis is directed toward the interpretation of the special feature for general public enjoyment. Development of the special feature is geared toward protection and maintenance, access, safety and convenience of the user, and interpretation. The primary type of feature involved determines designation of individual special feature sites; e.g., "state historic site," "state archeological site," etc.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE PLAN

This plan serves as the basic statement of policy and direction for the management of Okeechobee Battlefield 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. 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. This plan is the initial management plan for the park.

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 locate use areas and propose the types of facilities and programs and 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 Division's implementation progress, (2) timeframes for completing actions and objectives and (3) estimated costs to complete each action and objective.

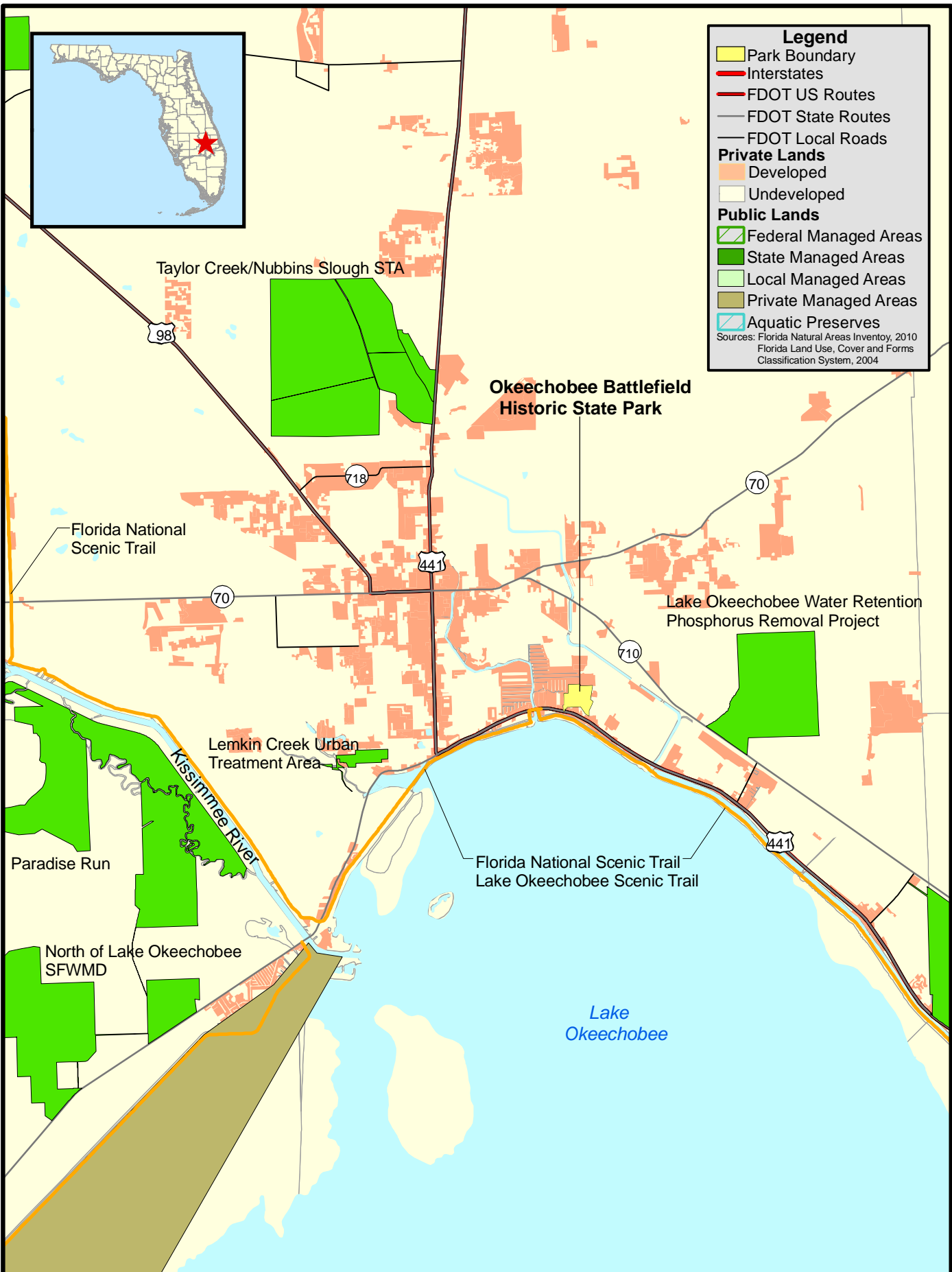
All development and resource alteration proposed in this plan is subject to the granting of appropriate permits, easements, licenses, and other required legal instruments. Approval of the management plan does not constitute an exemption from complying with the appropriate local, state or federal agencies. This plan is also intended to meet the requirements for beach and shore preservation, as defined in Chapter 161, Florida Statutes, and Chapters 62B-33, 62B-36 and 62R-49, Florida Administrative Code.



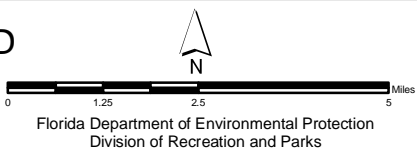
Legend

- Park Boundary
- Interstates
- FDOT US Routes
- FDOT State Routes
- FDOT Local Roads
- Private Lands**
- Developed
- Undeveloped
- Public Lands**
- Federal Managed Areas
- State Managed Areas
- Local Managed Areas
- Private Managed Areas
- Aquatic Preserves

Sources: Florida Natural Areas Inventory, 2010
Florida Land Use, Cover and Forms Classification System, 2004



**OKEECHOBEE BATTLEFIELD
HISTORIC
STATE PARK**



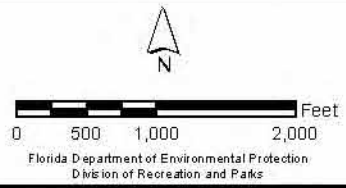
VICINITY MAP



LEGEND

- Park Boundary
- Florida National Scenic Trail
- 1939 Commemorative Battlefield Marker
- Okeechobee Battlefield National Historic Landmark

OKEECHOBEE BATTLEFIELD
HISTORIC STATE PARK



REFERENCE MAP

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 Division's statutory responsibilities and the resource needs and values of the park. This analysis considered the natural and cultural resources of the park, management needs, aesthetic values, visitation and visitor experiences. For this park, it was determined that cattle grazing could be accommodated in a manner that would be compatible and not interfere with the primary purpose of resource-based outdoor recreation and conservation. This compatible secondary management purpose is addressed in the Resource Management Component of the plan. 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 or the management purposes of the park.

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 interim cattle grazing would be appropriate at this park as an additional source of revenue for land management since it is compatible with the park's primary purpose of resource-based outdoor recreation and conservation.

The use of private land managers to facilitate restoration and management of this park was also analyzed. Decisions regarding this type of management (such as outsourcing, contracting with the private sector, use of volunteers, etc.) will be made on a case-by-case basis as necessity dictates.

MANAGEMENT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Management Authority and Responsibility

In accordance with Chapter 258, Florida Statutes and Chapter 62D-2, Florida Administrative Code, the Division 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 Division's Operations Manual (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 the Division's long-term intent in managing the state park.

1. Provide administrative support for all park functions.
2. Protect water quality and quantity in the park, restore hydrology to the extent feasible and maintain the restored condition.
3. Restore and maintain the natural communities/habitats of the park.
4. Maintain and improve imperiled species populations and habitats in the park.
5. Remove exotic and invasive plants and animals from the park and conduct needed maintenance control.
6. Protect, preserve and maintain the cultural resources of the park.
7. Provide public access and recreational opportunities in the park.
8. Develop and maintain the capital facilities and infrastructure necessary to implement the recommendations of the management plan.

The small size of the park limits the relative diversity and quantity of resource-based recreational opportunities. Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park contains no intact natural communities and the entire park is classified as ruderal and developed land. Since park lands were acquired for the protection of historical resources and as a staging area for battle reenactments, ruderal areas found within this park may receive a low priority for restoration in favor of park lands having a higher probability of successful restoration.

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 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry (DOF), assists Division staff in the development of wildfire emergency plans and provides the authorization required for prescribed burning. The Florida Fish and Wildlife

Conservation Commission (FFWCC), assists staff in the enforcement of state laws pertaining to wildlife, freshwater fish and other aquatic life existing within the park. In addition, the FFWCC aids the Division with wildlife management programs, including imperiled species management and Watchable Wildlife programs. The Department of State, Division of Historical Resources (DHR) assists staff to ensure protection of archaeological and historical sites. Division staff will collaborate with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to address water resource concerns within the park.

Public Participation

The Division provided an opportunity for public input by conducting a public workshop and an Advisory Group meeting. The public was held on September 21, 2010 and the Advisory Group was held on September 22, 2010. The purpose of these meetings was to present the plan to the public and to discuss this plan with the advisory group members (see Addendum 2).

Other Designations

Okeechobee Battlefield 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

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMPONENT

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Chapter 258, Florida Statutes, the Division of Recreation and Parks 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. The management measures expressed in this plan are consistent with the Department's overall mission in ecosystem management. Cited references are contained in Addendum 3.

The Division'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 park values.

The Division'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 types, burn zones, and the location of existing roads and natural fire breaks. It is important to note that all burn zones are within management zones; however, not all management zones include fire-dependent natural communities.

RESOURCE DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT

Natural Resources

Topography

Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park is located approximately 900 feet to the north of Lake Okeechobee. It lies in a relatively flat area of the Osceola Plain (Brooks 1981a) and is only about 20 feet above National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) of 1929 (Aerostar Environmental Services, Inc., 2006). The landscape is severely disturbed with mostly fallow pasture, remnant cypress strand swamp and oak hammock. Before the construction of the Lake Okeechobee dike in the 1930s, and subsequent ditching throughout the park, the natural communities supported sawgrass, cypress and oak hammocks. Historically, drainage flowed south toward Lake Okeechobee.

Geology

The substrate at the park consists of Plio-Pleistocene deposits, preglacial Pleistocene lagoonal and prograded unlithified coastal sand, consisting of a shell-silt gray to greenish gray sand. (Brooks 1981b).

Soils

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service Soil Survey of Okeechobee County (USDANRC) identifies five classifications of native soils within in the park: Basinger fine sand; Floridana, Riveria and Placid soils, depressional; Udorthents, with two to 35 percent slopes; Okeelanta muck; and Adamsville fine sand, consisting of organic substratum (see Soils Map). Information provided in the soil survey is essential for determining the feasibility of hydrological improvements within the park as well as the consequential impacts, including those on surrounding lands.

Minerals

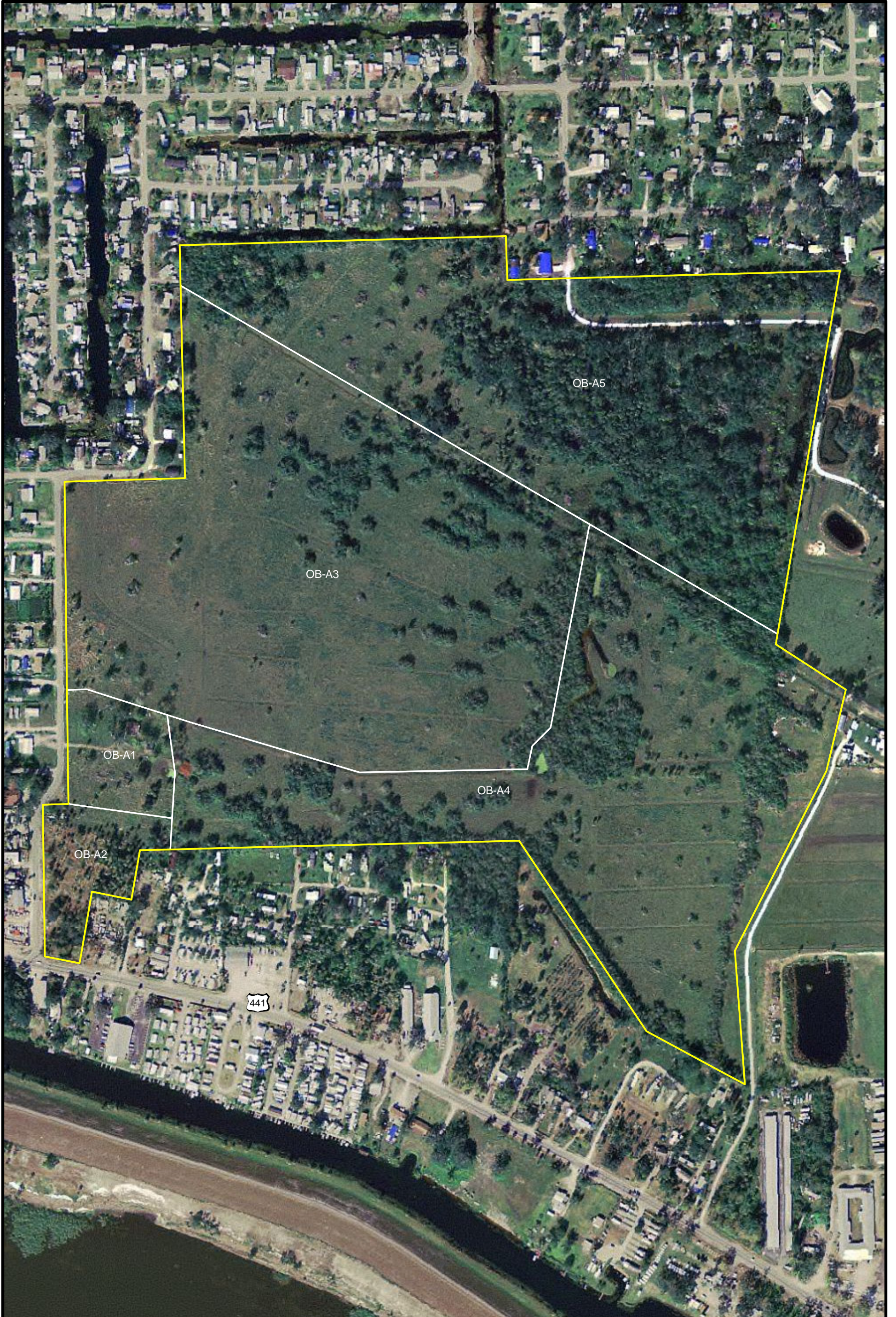
There are no known minerals of commercial value within the park.

Hydrology

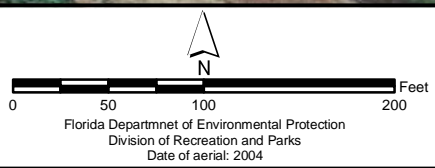
Based on historical accounts of the battle, much of the battlefield consisted of floodplain marsh, cypress slough and hydric hammock. Flood control measures for Lake Okeechobee and agricultural drainage ditches have altered the hydrology of the park by severing sheet flows and redirecting water away from Lake Okeechobee. As a result, ditches on adjacent lands and within the park rapidly convey unchecked pollutants into Mosquito Creek, an indirect tributary of Lake Okeechobee. The park contains neither significant groundwater recharge nor surface water storage areas.

Natural Communities

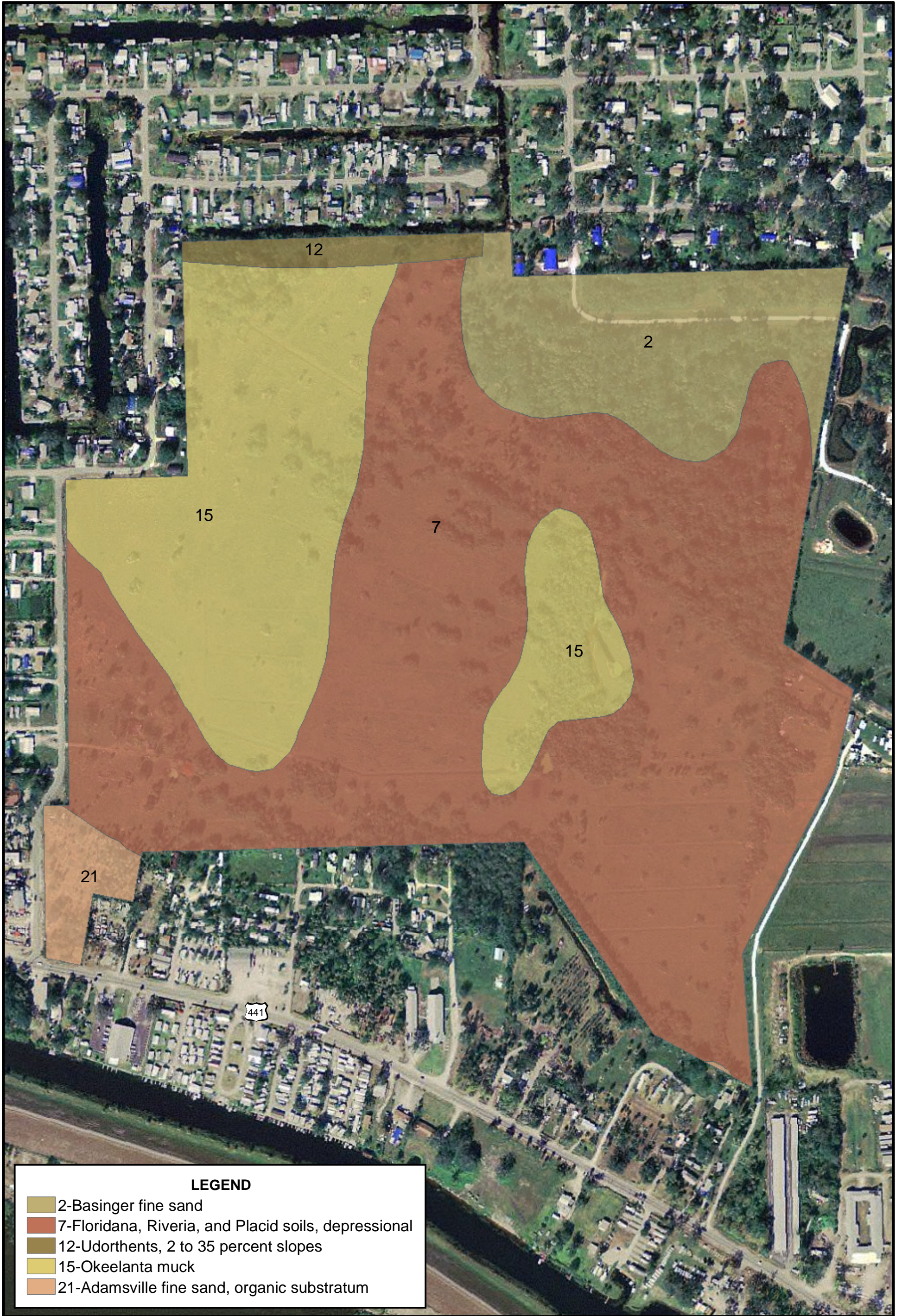
This section of the management plan describes and assesses each of the natural communities found in the state park. It also describes of the desired future condition of each natural community and identifies the actions that will be required to bring the



OKEECHOBEE BATTLEFIELD
HISTORIC STATE PARK



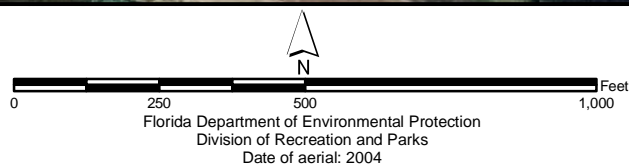
MANAGEMENT ZONES MAP



LEGEND

- 2-Basinger fine sand
- 7-Floridana, Riveria, and Placid soils, depressional
- 12-Udorthents, 2 to 35 percent slopes
- 15-Okeelanta muck
- 21-Adamsville fine sand, organic substratum

OKEECHOBEE BATTLEFIELD
HISTORIC STATE PARK



SOILS MAP

community to its desired future condition (DFC). Specific management objectives and actions for natural community management, exotic species management, and imperiled species management 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, soils, hydrology and fire frequency generally determine the species composition of an area, and 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 dependant 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, protecting viable populations of plant and animal species (including those that are imperiled or endemic), and preserving intact ecotones linking natural communities across the landscape.

Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park contains no intact natural communities. The entire park is classified as ruderal and developed land (see Natural Communities Map). A list of plants and animals occurring in the park is contained in Addendum 4.

RUDERAL

Desired future condition: The ruderal areas within the park will be managed to remove priority invasive plant species (EPPC Category I and II species).

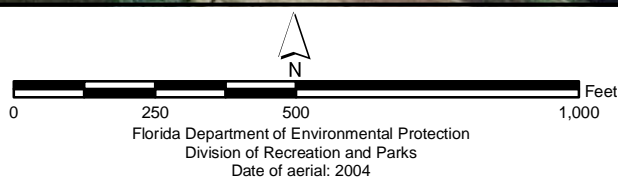
Description and assessment: 141.14 acres of the park are comprised of fallow pasture dominated by bahiagrass (*Paspalum notatum*). Three acres of degraded cypress strand swamp/slough and Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) dominates two acres of xeric hammock. Remnant species include bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), slash pine (*Pinus elliotii*) and cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*). Although these remnant hammocks and strands contain some canopy species and soils representative of natural hammocks and strands, the ground cover, shrub and sub-



LEGEND

- 84 - Ruderal-141.13 ac.
- 85 - Developed-4.18 ac.

OKEECHOBEE BATTLEFIELD
HISTORIC STATE PARK



NATURAL COMMUNITIES MAP

canopy layers are dominated by invasive exotic plant species (EPPC Category I and II species). In addition, at least 2.5 miles of ditching has severely disrupted the hydrology of the site.

General management measures: Comparable ruderal areas found in other parks have received a low priority for restoration in favor of areas having natural soils and hydrological conditions, which have a higher probability of successful restoration. Exotic plant removal and management will be the primary resource management activity in the ruderal area of the park. Invasive exotic plants, mainly Brazilian pepper and bahiagrass, dominate the majority of the property and will be controlled by removal and follow up treatments and interim cattle grazing leases.

DEVELOPED

Desired future condition: The developed areas within the park will be managed to minimize the effect of the developed areas on the small areas of remnant natural communities. Priority invasive plant species (EPPC Category I and II species) will be removed from all developed areas.

Description and assessment: Approximately 4.18 acres of developed area lies adjacent to 38th Avenue at the southwest corner of the park. This area contains the current entrance to the park and three 20th-century structures: a residence, detached garage and barn. The buildings are currently used by park staff for housing, shop and storage. A large maintained lawn area with a few mature trees surrounds the structures. This is used for parking and tents during reenactments.

General management measures: The developed area and associated structures should continue to be managed for their current use. Of the three structures, the barn is the oldest and may be a historic or locally significant structure. Exotic plant removal and management will be the primary resource management activity in the developed area of the park. The open lawn area should be maintained to facilitate battle reenactments and special events.

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 or the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) as endangered, threatened or of special concern. Currently, no imperiled species are known to occupy or visit the park. The small size and the absence or severely degraded condition of the natural communities within the park provide minimal significant habitat for native animal species.

The resource management of hardwood hammock areas within the park could provide shelter and food for resident and migratory songbirds if managed properly. Removal of

Brazilian pepper would open up the pasturelands and grasslands becoming more attractive to species such as the caracara or sandhill cranes. If feasible, the limited creation of permanent or ephemeral wetlands could attract nesting sandhill cranes and wading birds. Wetlands could also increase reptile and amphibian diversity. Bat, bird, herpetofauna and butterfly surveys would be useful tools in determining management strategies and priorities.

Exotic 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.

Invasive exotic plants, mainly Brazilian pepper and bahiagrass, dominate the majority of the property. Enhancement of the property will incorporate removal and ongoing maintenance as discussed in the Resource Management Program section of this plan.

Table 1 contains a list of the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) Category I and II invasive, exotic plant species found within the park (FLEPPC, 2009). 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 4.

Table 1: Inventory of FLEPPC Category I and II Exotic Plant Species

Common and Scientific Name	FLEPPC Category	Distribution	Management Zones
PLANTS			
Rosary pea <i>Arbus precatorius</i>	I	2	2,3,4,5
Air potato <i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i>	I	3	1,2,4
Surinam cherry <i>Eugenia uniflora</i>	I	3	1,2,3,4
Lantana <i>Lantana camara</i>	I	2	2,3,4,5
Peruvian primrose-willow <i>Ludwigia peruviana</i>	I	2	3,4,5
Japanese climbing fern <i>Lygodium japonicum</i>	I	2	3,5
Old World climbing fern <i>Lygodium microphyllum</i>	I	2	3,4,5

Common and Scientific Name	FLEPPC Category	Distribution	Management Zones
Chinaberry <i>Melia azedarach</i>	II	2	2,5
Bahiagrass <i>Paspalum notatum</i> var. <i>saurae</i>		4	3,4,5
Common guava <i>Psidium guajava</i>	I	2	3,4,5
Chinese tallow <i>Sapium sebiferum</i>	I	2	3
Brazilian pepper <i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	I	5	2,3,4,5
Tropical soda apple <i>Solanum viarum</i>	I	2	3,4,5
Syngonium <i>Syngonium podophyllum</i>	I	1	1,2
Caesar's weed <i>Urena lobata</i>	II	3	2,3,4,5

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.
- 5 = 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.

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 Division actively removes exotic animals from state parks, with priority being given to those species causing the 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 raccoons, gray squirrels, venomous snakes and alligators. Nuisance animals are dealt with on a case-by-case basis. A low-density presence of feral hogs has been confirmed by ground cover damage within the park.

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.

Special Natural Features

The park contains a remnant of the natural ridgeline of Lake Okeechobee. The feature is located adjacent to the southwestern boundary area of the park.

Cultural Resources

This section addresses the cultural resources present in Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park, which may include archaeological sites, historic buildings and structures, cultural landscapes and collections. The Florida Department of State 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 5 contains the 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 historic structures and landscapes 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 caused 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. Every cultural resource's significance derives from historical, architectural or archaeological contexts. Evaluation 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.

For collections, there are no criteria for use in determining the significance of collections or archival material. Usually, the 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. A summary of the FMSF inventory with evaluation of significance follows.

Pre-Historic 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 will be preserved in good condition in perpetuity, protected from physical threats and interpreted to the public.

Description: The Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park is located on a portion of the Okeechobee Battlefield, the site of the largest and bloodiest battle of the Second Seminole War (1835 – 1842). The Second Seminole War, the second in a series of three wars fought between white settlers and Native American tribes, was the longest and costliest of the wars in terms of both monetary expense and human casualties. The Battle of Okeechobee occurred on Christmas Day, 1837, when combined United States Army Infantry forces and Missouri Volunteers, led in part by Colonel Zachary Taylor and Colonel Richard Gentry, attacked several hundred Seminole and Miccosukee Indians who were encamped on the northeast shore of Lake Okeechobee. The Seminoles and Miccosukees, led by Alligator (Halpatter Tustenuggee), Coacoochee (Wildcat), and Apeika (Sam Jones), in all likelihood had been awaiting the arrival of the troops and held a defensive position upon a high hammock in a dense sawgrass swamp. Taylor ordered a full frontal assault against the Indians with the First Regiment of the Missouri Volunteers, lead by Gentry, in the center of the advancing line flanked by the Fourth Infantry and Sixth Infantry. Taylor's First Infantry was held in reserve. Of the soldier's casualties, 26 were killed and 112 wounded, and many of the wounded would

die of injuries soon after. The highest number lost were from the Missouri Volunteers. Gentry was mortally wounded early in the battle and passed away shortly after its conclusion. Similar casualties were estimated among the Indians. After such considerable bloodshed, Taylor called in the reserve First Infantry and caused the remaining Seminoles to withdraw, thereby claiming victory.

Although the war would continue for four more years and a Third Seminole War (1855–1858) would follow, the Battle of Okeechobee proved to be a costly blow from which the Indians never recovered. By the end of the Second Seminole War, the number of Seminole and Miccosukee Indians living in Florida would be reduced to less than 500 as most were forced to emigrate to Arkansas and eventually to Oklahoma.

The eastern portion of the park is located within the designated Okeechobee Battlefield area (8OB10). While the specific location of the battle is uncertain, an archeological study and survey conducted in 1995 by the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, Inc. indicated a "...high probability that the southeast corner of the project property [within the park's boundaries], including the ridge area, are part of the western edge of the battlefield...." (AHC Technical Report #114, p. 23). The study determined that the battle began at the berm or ridge area at the southeastern corner of the park and proceeded in a northeasterly direction in which the major action of the battle took place, within one-half mile of the park's boundary.

Several FMSF sites lie within the boundary of the Okeechobee Battlefield (8OB10) but outside of the park's boundaries, including the Taylor Camp site (8OB13), a dense artifact scatter associated with the Seminole culture (1716-present). This site is believed to be where Zachary Taylor's troops were encamped prior to the Battle of Okeechobee and is considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The portion of Okeechobee Battlefield (8OB10) within the park has yielded brass and iron fragments of an early nineteenth-century handmade pocketknife with credible connections to the battle. The fragments were found at the southeast corner of the park and transferred to the Historical Museum of South Florida, Miami, for conservation at the time of excavation.

A subsequent archaeological assessment and boundary determination of the Okeechobee Battlefield found additional historic evidence of the battle on a parcel adjacent to the location where the knife was found and included "...unfired and spent musket balls, as well as other potential battlefield artifacts such as a lead slag, a copper rivet from a cartridge box, a watch case, and a possible lead patch from a flintlock."

A second archaeological site, known as the Rowland Site (8OB55), is located at the southwestern corner of the park. The Rowland Site (8OB55) produced a sparse prehistoric aboriginal faunal midden near the southwest corner of the park. The origin

of the site is attributed to the Glades culture.

Condition Assessment: The portions of the Okeechobee Battlefield (8OB10) and the Rowland Site (8OB55) that are within the park's boundary are currently in good condition. Although the sites were previously altered by the development of the property, they are stable. The portions of the sites, lying outside the park's boundary, are threatened by commercial and residential development.

Level of Significance: The Okeechobee Battlefield (8OB10) was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1961 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1966. The site is considered nationally significant under National Historic Landmark Criterion 1 because the military action during this battle was the decisive action leading to the emigration of thousands of Seminoles to Oklahoma, and the eventual end of the Second Seminole War.

The Roland Site has been determined to be of local significance. This site is not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

General management measures: All of the archaeological sites listed in Table 2 will be managed using preservation treatments. Preservation includes protection from damage from resource management, natural causes, construction or human damage including looting.

Historic Structures/Sites

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: Three buildings are recorded in the FMSF: a barn (8OB291), a residence (8OB292) and a garage (8OB293). The barn is a wood frame vernacular building associated with early 20th-century agricultural and cattle grazing pursuits. The house and garage are both typical 1960s concrete block ranch style structures.

Twentieth-century development has destroyed the historic landscape on the northern shores of Lake Okeechobee. Land within the designated battlefield was plowed for conversion to dairy pasture and developed for residential and commercial uses without regard for the protection of archeological resources and historic landscape features. In 1998, The National Register of Historic Places documented the site as containing integrity in terms of place and setting as well as intact archeological remains. Portions of parklands within and outside the designated battlefield maintain open pastures and remnants of historic natural features, including a remnant cypress strand swamp/slough and a natural ridge that supports a degraded xeric hammock. These

will be important to the interpretive programs of the park. The landscape, however, cannot be considered a historic feature.

Condition Assessment: The barn is associated with early 20th-century agricultural and cattle grazing pursuits in the area, but has been altered over time. The house and garage are typical 1960s ranch style structures and retain much of their structural integrity. The condition of all structures at the park has been determined to be fair.

Level of Significance: The barn, residence and garage have not been evaluated for significance. While the barn probably is not eligible individually for the National Register due to alterations and the absence of associated structures in the immediate area, it might be eligible within the context of remaining early twentieth-century agricultural structures in Okeechobee County. However, in order for such a determination to be made, additional survey and research activities would need to be conducted countywide.

The residence and garage do not meet the usual 50-year age criteria for consideration for the National Register. Neither do they meet the criteria of exceptional importance needed to trigger National Register consideration for buildings under the age of 50 years. Therefore, their significance has not been determined at this time. The three buildings will become 50 years of age during the ten-year period encompassed by this plan.

General management measures: The three historic buildings listed in Table 2 are used for day-to-day operation of the park. These structures will be managed using the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation. Rehabilitation acknowledges the need to alter or add to a historic property to meet continuing or changing uses while retaining the property’s historic character.

Table 2: Cultural Sites Listed in the Florida Master Site File

Site Name and FMSF #	Culture/Period	Description	Significance	Condition	Treatment
8OB10 Okeechobee Battlefield	American Acquisition and Development 1821-1945	Site	NR	F	P
8OB55 Roland Site	Prehistoric Unspecified	Site	LS	G	P
8OB291 Barn	Depression New Deal	Structure	NE	F	RH

Site Name and FMSF #	Culture/Period	Description	Significance	Condition	Treatment
8OB292 Residence	Modern 1950-Present	Structure	NE	F	RH
8OB293 Garage	Modern 1950-Present	Structure	NE	F	RH

Significance:

- NRL= National Register listed
- NR = National Register eligible
- LS = locally significant
- NE = not evaluated
- NS = not significant

Condition

- G= Good
- F= Fair
- P= Poor

Recommended Treatment:

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

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Management Goals, Objectives and Actions

Measurable objectives and actions have been identified for each of the Division’s management goals for Okeechobee Battlefield 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 period for completion and estimated costs to fulfill the management goals and objectives of this park.

While, the Division of Recreation and Parks 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 Division 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 Division 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 Division's resource management strategies are systematically evaluated to determine their effectiveness. The process and the information collected are used to refine techniques, methodologies and strategies, and ensure that each park's prescribed management actions are monitored and reported.

The goals, objectives and actions identified in this management plan will serve as the basis for developing annual work plans for the park. Since the plan is based on conditions that exist at the time the plan is developed, the annual work plans will 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 this state park was severely altered prior to acquisition, including critical changes to the regional hydrology of the Lake Okeechobee floodplain and the loss of significant ground water recharge areas within the park. These impacts make the restoration of original hydrological processes and conditions within the park unattainable. The Division will protect water quality in the park, improve hydrology to the extent feasible and maintain the improved condition.

Objective: Obtain an assessment of the park's hydrology and its relation to surface water flow and stormwater attenuation in the larger watershed.

In cooperation with the South Florida Water District, Okeechobee County and other agencies, further hydrological and topographical studies of the park should be conducted to determine feasible hydrological restoration projects within the park. If studies determine hydrological restoration is unobtainable, the studies will be used to identify possible remediation projects for existing conditions. Potential actions that may be recommended by the study include filling or plugging ditches, removing obstructions to surface water sheet flow, installing culverts or low-water crossings on roads or installing water control structures to manage water levels. Consideration may also be given to expanding the capacity for stormwater storage and treatment in the park. The Division will use best management practices to maintain the current water

quality levels at the park.

Objective: Monitor and analyze water resources at the park.

Division staff, with assistance from the South Florida Water Management District and volunteers, will monitor water quality on the park to determine if existing quality is being maintained or if improvement is being accomplished after future remediation projects are completed.

Natural Communities Management

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

Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park is intended to be a historic interpretive site and venue for battle reenactments. The original natural communities were dependent on water regimes that no longer exist, mainly because of the containment of Lake Okeechobee in 1937 and agricultural land use practices since that time. Most of the park is highly disturbed, consisting of improved pasture with smaller areas of developed land, and subject to severe invasive exotic plant infestation. Still, limited restoration of natural communities found within the northern area of Lake Okeechobee may be feasible.

Objective: Develop and implement a conceptual restoration plan for the park.

Complete restoration of the natural communities at the time of the battle is not possible due to severe hydrological alteration and clearing of the floodplain. Studies will be developed to determine possible restoration strategies for the park.

Objective: Conduct landscape enhancement activities on three acres of remnant cypress strand swamp/slough and two acres of xeric hammock communities and reintroduce a third original natural community, to the extent feasible, to support the park's interpretive program.

Landscape management is proposed for the enhancement of the two remnant natural communities, including cypress strand swamp/slough and xeric hammock, and, if feasible, the re-generation of a small area of floodplain marsh community for interpretive purposes. Enhancement activities proposed for this park are primarily directed toward removal and control of exotic plants and maintenance of open vistas and pastures for interpretive purposes. In addition, the Division will work with the South Florida Water Management District to identify potential locations within the pasture to regenerate examples of the original and historically documented floodplain marsh community.

Objective: Through competitive bids, develop interim partnerships with private-sector contractors to manage up to 140 acres of pasture for cattle grazing and other suitable activities.

Cattle grazing and other appropriate activities, using best management practices, will be put into place as an interim management activity to control exotic grasses and weeds and invasive exotic plants, while maintaining open pastures and vistas. The removal of

invasive exotic plants, activities to protect water quality in the park and other resource management actions will be priority requirements of the park's management agreements. If the cattle grazing option is implemented, then livestock will include Florida heritage breeds of cattle.

Imperiled Species Management

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

In the preparation of this management plan, Division staff consulted with staff of the FFWCC'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, Division staff consulted with FDACS. Data collected by the FFWCC, USFWS, 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.

Objective: Develop baseline imperiled species occurrence inventory lists for plants and animals if imperiled species are documented in the park.

At this time, no imperiled species have been documented in the park. Park staff will continue to monitor for the absence or presence 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 Division 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.

Objective: Annually treat five acres of exotic plant species in the park.

In order to treat exotic plant species, the park will pursue grant and volunteer resources.

Objective: Implement control measures on three exotic animal species in the park.

Control activities will focus feral hogs at the locations where the animals are causing the most damage. The park may also occasionally need to remove feral or stray cats and dogs from the park. These animals should be turned over to the county animal control facility.

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 Division'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.

A timber management analysis was not conducted for this park since its total acreage is below the 1,000-acre threshold established by statute. Timber management will be re-evaluated during the next revision of this management plan.

Cultural Resource Management

Cultural Resource Management

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 Division of Recreation and Parks is implementing the following goals, objectives and actions, as funding becomes available, to preserve the cultural resources found in Okeechobee Battlefield 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 and collections care must be submitted to the Florida Department of State, 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, pre-testing 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 DHR for consultation and the Division 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 the Division 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 DHR.

Objective: Assess and evaluate the three 20th-century structures in the park.

In consultation with the DHR, the park's barn and 1960s house and garage will be assessed and evaluated to determine their future use or disposition. Division staff will conduct a windshield survey to assess whether the park structures are unique in the context of Okeechobee County, to facilitate consultation with the DHR.

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

A Scope of Collections statement will be developed to guide future acquisition of collection items. The Okeechobee Battlefield area has been extensively examined in recent years by archaeologists. Little additional information is likely to be gained by further archaeological research in the portion of the battlefield currently lying within park boundaries.

Objective: Bring five of five recorded cultural resources into good condition.

Park staff will develop and implement annual monitoring plans for the park's cultural resources and the Florida Master Site File will be updated, as needed. Cyclical maintenance programs will be developed to maintain each site or structure in good condition. The three buildings will continue to be adapted for park residential and storage purposes. Rehabilitation standards will be employed in adapting and maintaining the structures until such time, that National Register significance can be determined. At that time, in consultation with the DHR, permanent plans for adaptive reuse or demolition will be developed for each building, as appropriate.

Resource Management Schedule

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

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 managing agency shall consider the findings and recommendations of the land management review team in finalizing the required update of its management plan. Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park has not been subject to a land management review.

LAND USE COMPONENT

INTRODUCTION

Land use planning and park development decisions for the state park system are based on the dual responsibilities of the Division of Recreation and Parks. 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, through public workshops, and environmental groups. With this approach, the Division 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 described and located in general terms.

EXTERNAL CONDITIONS

An assessment of the conditions 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 provides an opportunity to address various planning issues such as location, regional demographics, adjacent land uses and park interaction with other facilities.

Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park is located within Okeechobee County, approximately five miles southeast of the town of Okeechobee and about 72 miles northwest of Palm Beach, Florida, in the south central part of the state.

Public recreational resources within 20 miles of the park support a wide range of activities encompassing fishing, hiking, equestrian riding, bicycling, tent camping and boating. Lake Okeechobee, Allapattah Flats, Yates Marsh and the DuPuis Management Area are among the largest recreation areas near the park. In addition, the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail, a segment of the Florida National Scenic Trail, lies within a short distance of the park and is managed by the Department of

Environmental Protection, Office of Greenways and Trails. The 110-mile trail provides access to thirteen locally- and federally-managed camping areas on or adjacent to the trail.

Existing Use of Adjacent Lands

Most of the lands surrounding Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park support high-density residential development. The U.S. Highway 441 commercial corridor lies to the south of park and consists of mixed uses including residential, commercial, industrial and RV parks. Lands to the east of the park are remnants of improved pasture and support low-density residential use.

Planned Use of Adjacent Lands

Existing future land use designations of adjacent lands include Urban Residential Mixed Use (URMU) and Agriculture (A). The Okeechobee County Planning Department anticipates that the remaining undeveloped and agricultural lands will be developed in the future (Okeechobee County, 2004).

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.

Recreation Resource Elements

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

Land Area

Lands within the park consist of improved pasture and freshwater marsh. A remnant cypress strand swamp/slough persists in limited areas along the northern boundary of the park. Bald eagles have been observed at the site. Land conditions from past agricultural disturbances and seasonal standing water provide minimal recreation diversity within the park.

Archaeological and Historical Features

Designated areas of the Okeechobee Battlefield National Historic Landmark lay within park lands. The historic battlefield represents the site of one of Florida's most significant events during the Second Seminole War known as the Battle of

Okeechobee. On Christmas Day in 1837, more than 1,000 United States Army and Missouri Volunteer soldiers led by Colonel Zachary Taylor attacked several hundred Seminoles and Miccosukee north of Lake Okeechobee. Sam Jones, Alligator and Wildcat led the Native American Indians, and the battle resulted in the loss of 26 United States forces killed and 112 wounded, while 14 Native American Indians lost their lives. The battle is considered a turning point in the war because full-scale conflicts ceased to occur and the number of smaller attacks diminished. The battlefield is recorded in the Florida Master Site File, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1966 and later became a National Historic Landmark.

Archeological investigations in the park have identified an artifact site containing an object that dates from the Second Seminole War. This site and a disturbed area of high ground located at the southwestern corner of the park are the only known archaeological and historical features.

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

Historic forensic records of the battle refer to cattle owned by the Seminole Indians grazing on lands north of the lake as early as the 1830s. Nineteenth-century settlers expanded the traditional land use, developing both dairy farming and cattle ranching. During the 20th century, much of the land around Lake Okeechobee continued to be converted into agricultural use.

Future Land Use and Zoning

The Division 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 resource-based recreation opportunities.

The Okeechobee County Land Development Code has identified Future Land Use (FLU) within the park as Urban Residential Mixed Use (URMU) and zoning as Residential-Single Family (RSF) (Okeechobee County, 2004). Allowable FLU uses include the construction of site built homes, installation of modular homes and manufactured homes. Permitted zoning uses include public parks, playgrounds, playfield and county buildings such as public libraries (Okeechobee County, 1995). Special exceptions may need to be obtained by the Division from the County. The Division 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 resource-based recreation opportunities.



LEGEND

Park Boundary

ROADS

County Road

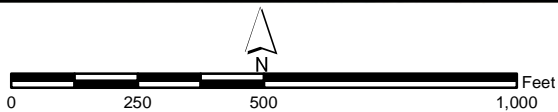
Park Road Unpaved

Structures

Water

County Easment

OKEECHOBEE BATTLEFIELD
HISTORIC STATE PARK



Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks
Date of aerial: 2004

BASE MAP

Current Recreational Use and Visitor Programs

Presently, recreational uses are limited to annual reenactments of the battle and are coordinated by The Friends of the Okeechobee Battlefield. In 2009, 2,300 visitors attended the living history event.

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.

Existing Facilities

Recreation Facilities

There are no recreation facilities in the park.

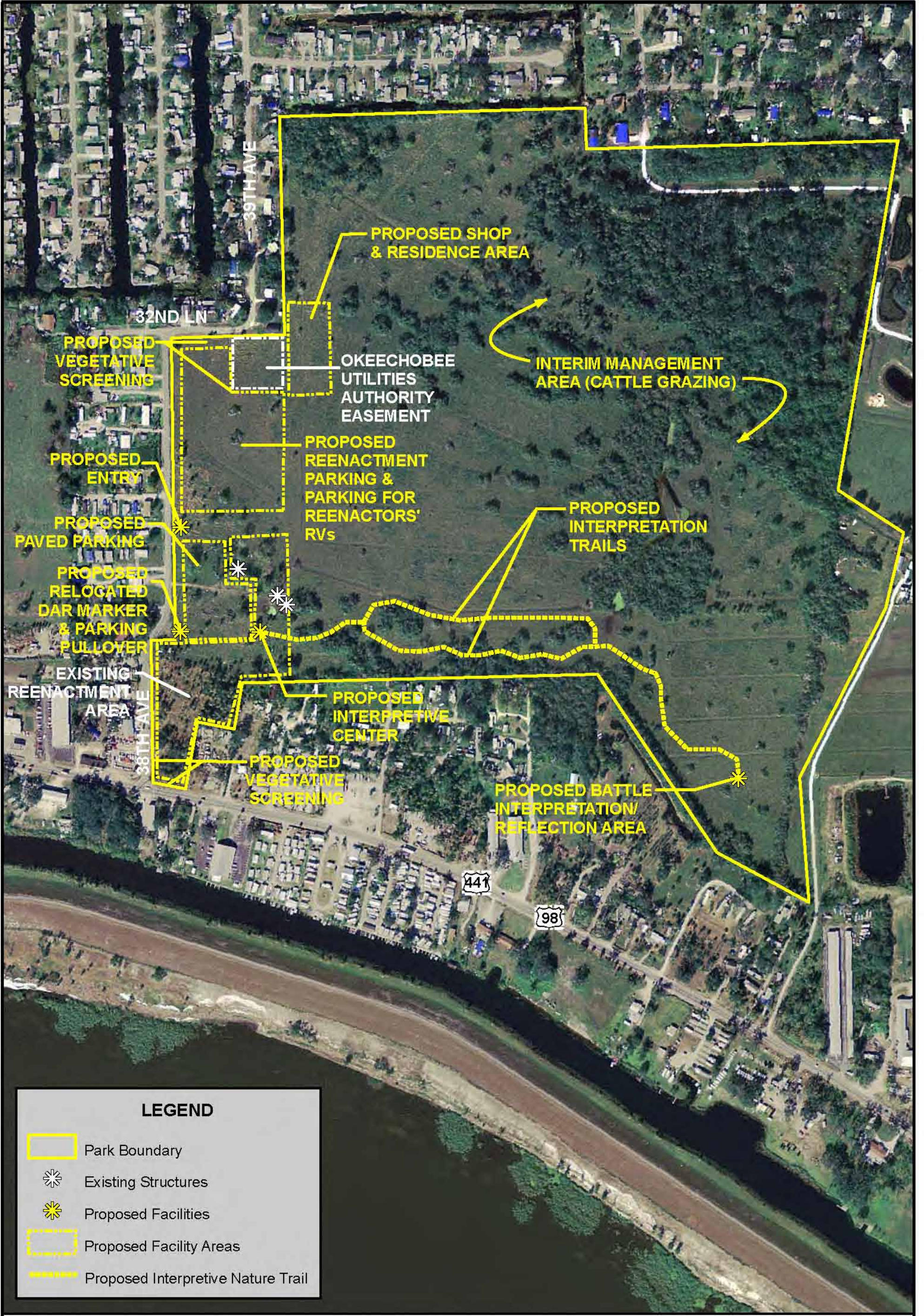
Support Facilities

Three existing buildings, including a residence, will continue to be adapted and used for park management.




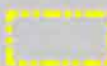
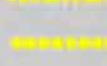
CONCEPTUAL LAND USE PLAN

The following narrative represents the current conceptual land use proposal for this park. As new information is provided regarding the environment of the park, cultural resources, recreational use, and as new land is acquired, the conceptual land use plan may be amended to address the new conditions (see Conceptual Land Use Plan). A detailed development plan for the park and a site plan for specific facilities will be developed based on this conceptual land use plan, as funding becomes available.

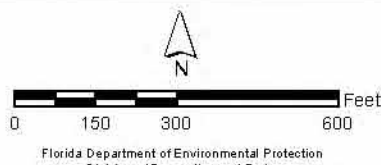
During the development of the management plan, the Division assessed potential impacts of proposed uses or development on the park resources and applied that analysis to decisions on the future physical plan of the park as well as the scale and character of proposed development. Potential impacts are more thoroughly 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 more thoroughly investigated. Municipal sewer connections, advanced wastewater treatment or best available technology systems are applied for on-site sewage disposal. Stormwater management systems are designed to minimize impervious



LEGEND

-  Park Boundary
-  Existing Structures
-  Proposed Facilities
-  Proposed Facility Areas
-  Proposed Interpretive Nature Trail

OKEECHOBEE BATTLEFIELD
HISTORIC STATE PARK



CONCEPTUAL LAND USE
PLAN

surfaces to the greatest extent feasible and all facilities are designed and constructed using best management practices to avoid impacts and to mitigate those that cannot be avoided. Federal, state and local permit and regulatory requirements are met by the final design of the projects. 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, the 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. New and improved activities and programs are also recommended and discussed below.

Objective: Maintain the park's special event carrying capacity at 2,300 visitors at one time.

Maintain staff support for the annual living history event that recreates the Battle of Okeechobee. The park will continue to provide opportunities for public participation and related vendors in the annual reenactment of the Battle of Okeechobee.

Objective: Expand the park's recreational carrying capacity to 288 users per day.

Recreation opportunities within the park will be expanded to provide an open-air Interpretive Center, trails, interpretation, picnicking and minimal camping facilities for the annual reenactment, as discussed below.

Objective: Develop new interpretive, educational and recreational programs.

An interpretive plan is recommended for the park. A new interpretive program will be developed to educate the public about the Battle of Okeechobee, including the political and cultural dynamics surrounding the battle. Other recommended programs should recognize the area's cattle ranching heritage at the time of the battle through present day and the park's natural resources, including the historical use of the local terrain in Native American warfare tactics and the historical changes of the park's natural communities due to regional land use practices.

Proposed Facilities

Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

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

New construction, as discussed below, is recommended to improve the quality and safety of the recreational opportunities that visitors enjoy while in the park, to improve the protection of park resources, and to streamline the efficiency of park operations. The following is a summary of new facilities needed to implement the conceptual land use plan for Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park:

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.

Objective: Construct seven new facilities and 0.75 mile of trail.

Recreation Facilities

Interpretive Center: The park has the potential for developing both historical and environmental education programs based on the governing interpretative theme of the Battle of Okeechobee by incorporating concepts of the political, social and landscape elements in which the event took place. Since much alteration to the original landscape has occurred, interpretation should include historic landscape descriptions, the landscape's role in Native American warfare and outcome of the battle, historical land management practices and resource protection.

An open-air interpretive center is recommended for the park to teach individuals and groups about the battle and local heritage and familiarize them with the park. It is recommended the center be located in an area between the park's existing structures and a proposed battle reenactment area. The center will function as a gateway and incorporate a series of kiosks, artifact displays housed in climate controlled enclosures (but viewed from outside), seating areas, a large picnic pavilion and a restroom. This concept will also result in a reduction of energy use in an interpretive facility that is both environmentally sound and cost effective. Visitors will gain further understanding of the battle and cultural landscape of the park as they traverse the park guided by interpretive kiosks and signage adjacent to proposed trails.

Trails and Interpretive Facilities: To improve the interpretive experience provided at the park, a universally accessible nature trail, approximately 0.75 mile in length, is proposed to originate from the interpretive center. The main trail will travel approximately 0.5 mile to an area adjacent to an archeological site associated with the battle near the southeast boundary of the park. This point of interest is intended to provide visitors with an area for reflection and contemplation of the battle. An

interpretive kiosk and shelter located in a quiet place should be provided. Boardwalks are recommended for portions of this trail during times of seasonal standing water.

A spur trail approximately 0.25 mile in length is proposed just north of the main trail. The spur trail will provide access to a cattle heritage interpretive area. The breed known as the Florida Cracker cattle was brought to Florida by the Spanish and herded by both Seminoles and settlers in the years leading up to the battle. Cattle are mentioned in historic narratives of the battle, and ranching has continued as an important lifestyle in the region to this day. It is recommended that a small resident herd of this heritage breed be maintained at the state park to interpret this aspect of the site's history. Interpretive signage, an overlook and a shelter are also recommended for this area.

It is proposed that a marker commemorating the Battle of Okeechobee be relocated from within the right of way of State Road 441 to a site within the park. The memorial was placed at its current site in 1939 by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and is an element of the battlefield's cultural history. The relocation to the suggested site off 38th Avenue will be in consultation with the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources (DHR), the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and DAR. A 40-foot wide pullover for parking is recommended.

Reenactment Area: As an element of battle interpretation, the existing reenactment area will be maintained in the southwestern corner of the park adjacent to the interpretive center. The space will provide a battlefield area, a spectator area and a vendor area.

Vegetative Screening: Screening is an important to maximize the recreational potential at the park. Vegetative screening adjacent to U.S. Highway 441/98 would buffer the impacts from traffic noise. Screening is also recommended adjacent to 38th Avenue and 32nd Lane and between recreation and support facilities. Native plant species appropriate to the conditions of the site should be incorporated into the planting design along with a more natural placement of plants.

Support Facilities

Entry and Parking: The improved park entrance will be located on 38th Avenue. The entrance should include a sign, fencing, landscape and flagpoles. A paved entry road and paved parking for 30 vehicles are also recommended and should be located adjacent to the interpretive center.

Reenactment Stabilized Parking Area: An additional parking area is recommended for reenactments and special events. This parking area will be

located north of the park entrance and will include facilities for minimal camping services during reenactments.

Shop and Residence Area: A shop and residence area will be located off the northeast corner of the events parking area. The shop area will include a three-bay shop building, a flammable storage building and a three-bay equipment shelter. A ranger residence for park staff is also recommended for this area. Utility hookups should be provided for one or two volunteer host sites nearby.

Facilities Development

Preliminary cost estimates for these recommended facilities and improvements are provided in the Ten-Year Implementation Schedule and Cost Estimates 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 Division in budgeting future park improvements, and may be revised as more information is collected through the planning and design processes.

Construction and other park development should be concentrated in specific areas in order to preserve the remaining physical features of the battlefield and to maintain the open vistas that maintain a sense of area's cattle heritage. New facilities and improvements to existing facilities recommended by the plan include:

Recreation Facilities

Interpretive Center

Open-air Interpretive Center
Medium Picnic Pavilions (2)
Small Restroom (1)
Bicycle Rack (1)

Trails and Interpretive Facilities

Interpretive Nature Trail (.75 mile)
Small Pavilion (1)

Support Facilities

Entry and Parking

Park Entrance Road Improvements
Paved parking (30 vehicles)

Reenactment Parking Area

Stabilized parking (300 spaces)
Minimal Camping Facilities

Trails and Interpretive Facilities

Interpretive Signs (12)
Boardwalk (approx. 750 feet)
Overlook (1)

Battlefield Marker Area

Pullover Parking

Vegetative Screening

Shop and Residence Area

Shop Building (3-Bay)
Equipment Shelter (3-Bay)
Flammable Storage Building (1)
Ranger Residence (1)
Stabilized parking (10 vehicles)
Volunteer RV Sites (2)
Fencing

Existing Use and Recreational Carrying Capacity

Carrying capacity is an estimate of the number of users a recreation resource or facility can accommodate and still provide a high quality recreational experience and preserve the natural values of the site. The carrying capacity of a unit is determined by identifying the land and water requirements for each recreation activity at the unit, and then applying these requirements to the unit's land and water base. Next, guidelines are applied which estimate the physical capacity of the unit's natural communities to withstand recreational uses without significant degradation. This analysis identifies a range within which the carrying capacity most appropriate to the specific activity, the activity site and the unit's classification is selected (see Table 3).

Table 3--Existing Use and Recreational Carrying Capacity

Activity/Facility	Existing Capacity		Proposed Additional Capacity		Estimated Recreational Capacity	
	One Time	Daily	One Time	Daily	One Time	Daily
Trails						
Nature	0	0	8	32	8	32
Picnicking	0	0	48	96	48	96
Interpretive Center	0	0	40	160	40	160
TOTAL Typical Operation	0	0	96	288	96	288
Special Events	2,300				2,300	

The recreational carrying capacity for this park is a preliminary estimate of the number of users the unit could accommodate after the current conceptual development program has been implemented. When developed, the proposed new facilities would approximately increase the unit's carrying capacity as shown in Table 3.

Optimum Boundary

As additional needs are identified through park use, development, research, and as adjacent land uses change on private properties, modification of the unit's optimum boundary may occur for the enhancement of natural and cultural resources, recreational values and management efficiency.

At this time, no lands are considered surplus to the needs of the park. In addition, no parcels have been proposed as optimum boundary for the park.

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's 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 10-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

Preliminary work towards meeting the Division's management objectives has been accomplished at Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park. These accomplishments fall within three of the five general categories that encompass the mission of the park and the Division.

Park Administration and Operations

- Park staff established mail and utility services at the park.
- Park support is provided by administrative staff located at Jonathan Dickinson State Park.
- Okeechobee Battlefield Friends, Inc., a support organization for the park, has coordinated three annual battle reenactments at the park. The organization also received a grant that provided local schools with educational resources to teach students about the historic events that led up to the Battle of Okeechobee.
- The Division provided assistance and staff for three annual battle reenactments.

Resource Management

Natural Resources

- District staff conducted preliminary mapping and site assessment of the park.
- Land management and routine maintenance schedules have been established by park management.

Cultural Resources

- Staff for the Division's Bureau of Natural and Cultural Resources conducted an initial assessment of existing historic buildings and sites.

Recreation and Visitor Services

- Battle reenactments attract over 2,500 visitors per year to the park.

Park Facilities

- Repairs and maintenance have been conducted on the existing residence and garage. The buildings currently assist the park by providing a residence for state law enforcement officers.

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) summarize the management goals, objectives and actions that are recommended for implementation over this period. 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 actions have been identified that are unlikely to be carried out during the life of this plan unless additional resources are provided. The 10-year Implementation Schedule and Cost Estimates table therefore includes both “funded” and “unfunded” needs.

The administration of the state park is an ongoing cost that will increase in the future as additional staff, programs and responsibilities are assigned. These administrative costs include a variety of activities, such as the administration of personnel, the management of vendors and contractors for all the park’s supply and service needs and the coordination of the park’s Citizen Support Organization, to name a few.

The plan’s recommended actions, time frames and cost estimates will guide the Division’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 Division 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 Division’s annual legislative budget requests. When preparing these annual requests, the Division 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

Division pursues supplemental sources of funds and staff resources wherever possible, including grants, volunteers and partnerships with other entities. The Division'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 10-year management planning cycle.

Table 4
Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park
Ten-Year Implementation Schedule and Cost Estimates
Sheet 1 of 4

Please note: Although the public has access to recreation opportunities at Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park, the park is a new addition to the Florida state park system and has not been fully staffed nor developed this time. Therefore, many of the action and objectives identified here are considered to be unfunded needs at this time.

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 I: Provide administrative support for all park functions.		Measure	Planning Period	Total Estimated Manpower and Expense Cost* (10-years)
Objective A	Continue day-to-day administrative support at current levels.	Administrative support ongoing	C	\$13,791
Objective B	Expand administrative support as new lands are acquired, new facilities are developed, or as other needs arise.	Administrative support expanded	UFN	\$195,000
Goal II: Protect water quality and quantity in the park, restore hydrology to the extent feasible, and maintain the restored condition.		Measure	Planning Period	Total Estimated Manpower and Expense Cost* (10-years)
Objective A	Obtain an assessment of the park's hydrology and its relation to surface water flow and stormwater attenuation in the larger watershed.	Project complete	UFN	\$151,000
Objective B	Monitor and analyze water resources at the park.	Annual report	UFN	\$60,000

* 2010 Dollars
ST = actions within 2 years
LT = actions within 10 years
C = long term or short term actions that are continuous or cyclical
UFN = currently unfunded need

Table 4
Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park
Ten-Year Implementation Schedule and Cost Estimates
Sheet 2 of 4

Goal III: Restore and maintain the natural communities/habitats of the park.		Measure	Planning Period	Total Estimated Manpower and Expense Cost* (10-years)
Objective A	Develop and implement a conceptual restoration plan for the park.	# Acres restored or with restoration underway	UFN	\$11,000
Objective B	Conduct landscape enhancement activities on 3 acres of remnant cypress strand swamp/slough and 2 acres of xeric hammock communities and reintroduce a third original natural community, to the extent feasible, to support the park's interpretive program.	# Acres improved and maintained	UFN	\$120,000
Action 1	Enhance 3 acres of remnant cypress strand swamp/slough and 2 acres of remnant xeric hammock at the park.	# Acres enhanced	UFN	\$65,000
Action 2	Regenerate and maintain an area of unknown acres of floodplain marsh community to support the park's interpretive program.	# Acres maintained or with regeneration underway	UFN	UNK
Action 3	Provide landscape maintenance for the park's interpretive program areas.	# Acres maintained	UFN	\$55,000
Objective C	Through competitive bids, develop interim partnerships with private-sector contractors to manage up to 140 acres of pasture for cattle grazing and other suitable activities.	# Acres maintained	UFN	\$21,000
Goal IV: Maintain and improve imperiled species populations and habitats in the park.		Measure	Planning Period	Total Estimated Manpower and Expense Cost* (10-years)
Objective A	Develop baseline imperiled species occurrence inventory lists for plants and animals if imperiled species are documented in the park.	Baseline developed	ST	\$4,000
Goal V: Remove exotic and invasive plants and animals from the park and conduct needed maintaince control.		Measure	Planning Period	Total Estimated Manpower and Expense Cost* (10-years)
Objective A	Annually treat 5 acres of exotic plant species in the park.	# Acres treated	C	\$79,000
Objective B	Implement control measures on 3 exotic animal species in the park.	# Acres treated	C	\$12,500

* 2010 Dollars
ST = actions within 2 years
LT = actions within 10 years
C = long term or short term actions that are continuous or cyclical
UFN = currently unfunded need

Table 4
Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park
Ten-Year Implementation Schedule and Cost Estimates
Sheet 3 of 4

Goal VI: Protect, preserve and maintain the cultural resources of the park.		Measure	Planning Period	Total Estimated Manpower and Expense Cost* (10-years)
Objective A	Assess and evaluate the three 20th-century structures in the park.	Documentation completed	ST	\$2,500
Objective B	Compile reliable documentation for all recorded historic and archaeological resources.	Documentation completed	UFN	\$7,000
Action 1	Develop a Scope of Collections statement.	Statement developed	ST	\$2,000
Action 2	Monitor 5 recorded cultural sites and update the Florida Master Site File as needed.	5 Sites monitored	C	\$5,000
Objective C	Bring 5 of 5 recorded cultural resources into good condition.	5 sites in good condition	C	\$117,000
Action 1	Develop and implement annual monitoring program for park's 5 cultural resources.	Monitoring program implemented	ST	\$2,000
Action 2	Create and implement cyclical maintenance program for each cultural resource.	Program implemented	UFN	\$95,000
Action 3	Maintain 3 structures in good condition using rehabilitation standards until final disposition can be determined.	3 structures in good condition	UFN	\$20,000
Goal VII: Provide public access and recreational opportunities in the park.		Measure	Planning Period	Total Estimated Manpower and Expense Cost* (10-years)
Objective A	Maintain the park's special event carrying capacity of over 2,300 visitors at one time.	Special event capacity	C	\$35,000
Objective B	Expand the park's daily recreational carrying capacity to 288 users per day.	# Recreation/visitor opportunities per day	UFN	\$430,000
Objective C	Develop new interpretive, educational and recreational programs.	# Interpretive/education/recreational programs	UFN	\$42,000
Action 1	Develop and implement Interpretive Plan.	Plan implemented	ST	\$6,000
Action 2	Develop and implement 5 new programs.	Programs implemented	UFN	\$36,000
Goal VIII: Develop and maintain the capital facilities and infrastructure necessary to meet the goals and objectives of this management plan.		Measure	Planning Period	Total Estimated Manpower and Expense Cost* (10-years)
Objective A	Maintain all public and support facilities in the park.	Facilities maintained	C	\$61,000
Objective B	Construct 8 new facilities and .75 mile of trail.	# of facilities constructed; length of trail constructed	UFN	\$2,775,500

* 2010 Dollars
ST = actions within 2 years
LT = actions within 10 years
C = long term or short term actions that are continuous or cyclical
UFN = currently unfunded need

Table 4
Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park
Ten-Year Implementation Schedule and Cost Estimates
Sheet 4 of 4

Summary of Estimated Costs		
Management Categories	Total Estimated Manpower and Expense Costs* (10-years)	
Resource Management	\$585,000	
Administration and Support	\$208,791	
Capital Improvements	\$2,775,500	
Recreation Visitor Services	\$568,000	
Law Enforcement Activities ¹		
	¹ Law enforcement activities in Florida State Parks are conducted by the DEP Division of Law Enforcement and by local law enforcement agencies.	

* 2010 Dollars
ST = actions within 2 years
LT = actions within 10 years
C = long term or short term actions that are continuous or cyclical
UFN = currently unfunded need

Addendum 1 – Acquisition History

Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park Acquisition History

Purpose of Acquisition

The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida (Trustees) acquired Okeechobee Battlefield (designation undetermined), for conservation and protection of this National Historic Landmark site and, as one of the endangered historical sites in the United States. Okeechobee Battlefield is the most important battle site for the Second Seminole War in Florida.

Sequence of Acquisition

On June 30, 2006, the Trustees purchased the 158.04-acre property that constitutes the present area of Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park from Rowland Foundation, Inc. a Kentucky Corporation, at a cost of \$392,525.00. The purchase was funded under the Florida Forever land acquisition program.

Management Leases

On November 29, 2006, the Trustees leased the Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Department), Division of Recreation and Park (Division) under Lease No. 4537. The lease is for a period of fifty (50) years, which will expire on November 28, 2056.

According to Lease No. 4537, the Division manages Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park only for the development, conservation and protection of natural and cultural resources of the park. Use of the property is for resource-based public outdoor recreation that is compatible with the conservation and protection of the resources.

Title Interest

The Trustees hold fee simple title to Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park.

Special Conditions on Use

Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park is designated single-use to provide resource-based public outdoor recreation and other park related uses. Uses such as water resource development projects, water supply projects, storm-water management projects, and linear facilities and sustainable agriculture and forestry, unless specifically stated otherwise in this park management plan are not consistent with the management purposes of the park.

Outstanding Reservations

Okeechobee Battlefield contains no outstanding reservations and encumbrances.

Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park Acquisition History

Addendum 2 – Advisory Group Members and Report

Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park Advisory Group Members

The Honorable Dowling Watford
City Councilman
701 NE 5th Street
Okeechobee, Florida 34972

Mr. Willie Johns
1025 Billy Joe Way
Okeechobee, Florida 34974

Mr. Willard (Bill) Steele
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
34725 W. Boundary Road
Clewiston, Florida 33440

Mr. Mark Nelson, Park Manager
Jonathan Dickinson State Park
16450 SE Federal Highway
Hobe Sound, Florida 33455

Mr. Gary Ritter, Land Manager
South Florida Water Management
District
205 N. Parrot Avenue, Suite 201
Okeechobee, Florida 34972-2916

Mr. Joseph deBree III
Forest Area Supervisor
Florida Division of Forestry
5058 SW Citrus Boulevard
Palm City, Florida 34990

Mr. Brandon Shad
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Commission
Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management
Area
1937 Banana Grove Road
Moore Haven, Florida 33471

Mr. Mariano Corona, Chairman
Okeechobee Soil and Water
Conservation District
6830 SW 13th Street
Okeechobee, Florida 34974

Ms. Shawn Henderson, President
Okeechobee Battlefield Friends, Inc.
1629 SW 28th Avenue
Okeechobee, Florida 34973

Mr. Paul Gray
Audubon of Florida
3124 Irish Drive
Lorida, Florida 33857

Mr. Elvie Posey, Representative
Okeechobee Business Development
Board
Berger Real Estate
425 SW Park Street
Okeechobee, FL 34974

Mr. Bruce Homer
900 Parrott Avenue
Okeechobee, Florida 34974-5266

Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park Advisory Group Members

Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park Advisory Group Report

The appointed Advisory Group met to review the draft management plan update for Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park at the Okeechobee Civic Center on Wednesday, September 22, 2010. The Honorable Dowling Watford, Mr. Willard Steele, Mr. Gary Ritter and Mr. Mariano Corona did not attend the meeting. Attending Division staff included Mark Nelson, Ernie Cowan, Miranda Cunningham and Jill Owens.

Staff began the meeting by giving a brief summary of the Public Meeting and description of the procedures used to conduct the Advisory Group review of the draft management plan. Division staff opened the floor for questions and comments.

SUMMARY OF ADVISORY GROUP COMMENTS

Mr. Homer stated his support for the park as an asset to the community.

Dr. Gray stated that he would like to see the hydrological conditions that support the sawgrass marsh habitat reproduced for the story of the battle and for environmental education. He also said that planting a wall of cypress trees would recreate the protective habitat used by the Seminoles during the battle. He suggested details of the Native American/Taylor campsite needed further investigation and would like the addition of an Optimum Boundary to the plan that includes site. In addition to the proposed Cracker Cattle, he mentioned Cracker Ponies and a Native American garden to enrich the interpretative program. Mr. Gray also confirmed his understanding of the park's budget constraints as explained by the staff at the second Public Workshop.

Mr. deBree commented that he did not realize the park existed at its location and said the sited needed to be identified for the public. He asked park staff to identify possible future funding sources and if the park had a grazing plan. Miranda Cunningham confirmed the Division's practice of retreating areas with infestations of invasive exotic plant species. She said staff will focus on Brazilian pepper, the most disruptive species in the park, and would determine a treatment plan for the management of Bahia grass following the proposed hydrological studies. She added that maintaining pastures of Bahia grass for cattle grazing is necessary for the park's interim land management proposal. Addressing Mr. deBree's final question, Ernie Cowan explained that the Division does not typically write cattle management plans.

Mr. Shad commented on the proposed treatment of Bahia grass and suggested a series of retreatments in order to meet the objective. He approved of the plan's land management perspective and imperiled species monitoring proposal.

Mr. Posey expressed concern with regard to increased visitor traffic on the surrounding residential area. Mr. Homer, an adjacent residential landowner, said he did not anticipate any problems. Mr. Posey said he would like to see heritage breeds maintained on the property as an important part of the battle's story. Mr. Posey inquired if there was a timeline for funding and if the site would be ADA accessible.

Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park Advisory Group Report

Mr. Posey also inquired if the Natural Resources Conservation Service needed to approve cattle grazing activities at a recreation site.

Ms. Henderson announced February 5th and 6th of next year as the dates for the next battle reenactment. She said she was grateful for the development of the management plan and saw it as an important step for the park. She mentioned "School Day" events developed by the Friends of Okeechobee Battlefield, Inc. and that the program was benefitting children in public and home schools in the Okeechobee area and a charter school in Brighton. Ms. Henderson stated she would also like to see the re-creation of the saw grass marsh habitat as part of the battle's story. She mentioned that interpretation is very important to the site and that Friends, Inc. was ready to assist the Division with the development of the park, including help with grant and other funding sources. She noted she would like to see the Division aim high concerning the park's future development and its interpretive programming.

Mr. Johns also expressed his concern regarding the impacts of the park's entry on the adjacent residential area. He said he might be able to help with sources for grant funding to get park development moving. Mr. Johns stated he would like to see the reenactment area moved near the park's remnant hammock for further historical accuracy and possibly the inclusion of the Andalusian Cattle heritage breed, which is also found at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park. He suggested the staff cut the park's existing Bahia grass to sell for sod as done by landowners in the area.

Mr. Ritter provided comments at the Second Public Workshop Meeting. He affirmed the park's objective to obtain a hydrological study to determine the extent or likelihood of restoration or improvement efforts of the site's natural communities and possible impacts to the surrounding area.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

Dr. Gray also submitted a written summary of his comments adding that the hydrology had influenced the outcome of battle and the entire Second Seminole War. He also expressed the importance for interpretive maps to present the regional context of the battle. He supports the idea of a chickee-influenced design for the open-air visitor center. He noted he would like the park to expand the current proposed trail to include a larger park-wide loop trail.

The Honorable Dowling Watford also submitted a written summary of his Public Workshop Meeting comments. The Councilman said the Chickee design elements should be added to the proposed open-air visitor center in honor the Seminole Indians. He expressed the need to move the off-site historic battlefield monument presented by the Daughters of the American Revolution to a site at the park. He said temporary signs identifying the park should be considered and inquired if the park could be opened to the public before the construction of the proposed facilities. He also wanted

Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park Advisory Group Report

information about the park's vision for the reflection area.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The park currently has only a minimal budget to conduct routine maintenance and land management activities at the park. The Division will seek funding to provide initial public access to the park and will consider potential impacts to the surrounding area and adjacent property owners as development of the park moves forward. The Division has also identified the need to develop appropriate interpretive strategies for the park.

The Division feels that it is important to conduct hydrological studies prior to development of any natural community restoration plans, and any revision to the proposed conceptual land use plan. Discussion of future natural community restoration projects and additional refinement of the conceptual land use plan will occur during the next management plan cycle.

Division staff has discussed Dr. Gray's suggestion that an optimum boundary including the American/Taylor Campsite be included in the park's management plan. Given the cost and difficulty of acquiring that site and the intervening private land that would connect the site to the park boundary, and considering that the staffing and operating resources available to manage the state park are minimal and will likely remain so for the foreseeable future, it is recommended that no additional land acquisition be considered at this time.

Mr. Nelson addressed Mr. Watford's inquiry regarding expedited public access to the park. Mark explained that the park service is on a continuation budget and has been experiencing incremental cuts. He said funds from the Fixed Capital Outlay budget might absorb some of the start-up costs and that he would seek funding sources for a "start-up kit" to provide initial public access. Mark commented that approval of the plan will get the process of development going and said he did not want to advertise the park before visitor facilities were constructed. In response to concerns regarding visitor impacts to the adjacent residential area, Mr. Nelson stated that most parks must consider the surrounding developed areas and work to maintain good relations with adjacent property owners. Mr. Nelson also said that during the planning period of this initial 10-year plan, staff would evaluate the site to determine the best use the park's lands, including the most favorable battle reenactment area.

With these changes, Division staff recommends approval of the draft management plan for Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park.

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.”

State park management plans are reviewed by advisory groups that are composed in compliance with these requirements. 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. Additional members may be appointed if special issues or conditions exist that require a broader representation for adequate review of the management plan. 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.

From: GRAY, Paul [pgray@audubon.org]
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2010 4:00 PM
To: DeBuono, Jillaine
Cc: GRAHAM, Jane; ROMINE, Traci
Subject: Recap of battlefield thoughts
Hi Jill,

Thanks for allowing me to participate in the Advisory Group for the draft Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park Management Plan. I think your plan is very thoughtful and is focusing on appropriate angles for the Park. The Park Service seems to have a good feel for the many important angles of interpretation for this park.

This email repeats what I think are key points among those we discussed at the meetings.

Hydrology: As all present agreed, it will be very important to the ultimate quality of this park, and to a visitor's appreciation of what the battle entailed, to restore the sawgrass marsh conditions to the maximum extent possible. Just as The Weather Channel has the program "How weather changed history," this battlefield could have a program entitled, "How hydrology influenced this battle, and the entire Seminole War." The marsh reflects original Florida and the (beneficial) use of the marsh by the natives and the (negative) use by the soldiers reflected two different ways to deal with natural Florida. The entire war carried this undertone of understanding how to work with Florida, and is a question we grapple with still today. Plus, the marsh reflects the original Okeechobee, which is a story unto itself.

Regional interpretation: The battlefield was part of a larger story and many areas around are of geographical and historical importance. A map of the region with narration of natural and human features (Kissimmee Prairie, the old lake ridge along Hwy 441, Taylor's route from Bassinger, "Taylor's camp," and so on). Not only can visitors learn more of interest, the Chamber of Commerce will appreciate an extended visitor presence!

Indian cattle and ponies on site would be great. And please consider an Indian garden with traditional plants (pumpkins, corn, ??). The accounts of the war spend much time discussing soldiers seeking for, and destroying gardens, including the Bowlegs garden that was a spark for the third active conflict.

Optimal boundary: Establishing this should be a priority just in case an opportunity arises to acquire more of the area in the future.

Visitor amenities: I like the open-air facility idea, and especially the idea of having a chickee design. The trail location and amenities look good, and having a loop trail around the area would be desirable too.

Thanks again, and I must add that as a Missourian by birth, I promised Shawn I would get in one of the re-enactments and get shot on behalf of my home State.

Paul

(1) Chickee Nest ?? Appearance ?

(2) monument ? (DAR)

(3) Temporary Site ?

(4) Open Source ?

(5) Expansion } Yes

Douglas Watford

Addendum 3 – References Cited

Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park References Cited

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Addendum 4--Plant And Animal List

Okeechobee Battlefield – Plants

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

Swamp Fern	Blechnum serrulatum	
Japanese climbing fern*	Lygodium japonicum	
Old world climbing fern*	Lygodium microphyllum	
Cinnamon fern.....	Osmunda cinnamomea	25
Resurrection fern.....	Pleopeltis polypodioides	
Boston fern.....	Nephrolepis biserrata	
Downy Shield fern*.....	Thelypteris dentata	

GYMNOSPERMS

Red cedar.....	Juniperus virginiana	
Slash pine	Pinus elliottii	
Pond-cypress.....	Taxodium ascendens	
Bald-cypress.....	Taxodium distichum	

ANGIOSPERMS

MONOCOTS

.....	Andropogon sp.	
Climbing day flower.....	Commelina diffusa	
.....	Cyperus sp.	
Variable witchgrass	Dichanthelium commutatum	
Witchgrass.....	Dichanthelium ensifolium var. unciphyllum	
Air potato*	Dioscorea bulbifera	
Baldwin’s spikerush	Eleocharis baldwinii	
Viviparous spikerush	Eleocharis vivipara	
Common yellow stargrass	Hypoxis juncea	
Bog rush.....	Juncus elliottii	
Monk orchid*	Oeceoclades maculata	
Maidencane.....	Panicum hemitomon	
Bahiagrass*	Paspalum notatum var. sauræ	
Pickeral weed.....	Pontederia cordata	
Cabbage palm.....	Sabal palmetto	
Little bluestem	Schizachyrium scoparium	
Saw palmetto	Serenoa repens	
Greenbrier	Smilax auriculata	
Lopsided Indiangrass	Sorghastrum secundum	

* Non-native Species

Okeechobee Battlefield – Plants

Common Name	Scientific Name	Primary Habitat Codes (for imperiled species)
St. Augustinegrass	<i>Stenotaphrum secundatum</i>	
Syngonium	<i>Syngonium podophyllum</i>	
Spanish moss	<i>Tillandsia usneoides</i>	
Fakahatchee grass	<i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>	
Broadleaf cattail.....	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	

DICOTS

Rosary pea*.....	<i>Abrus precatorius</i>
Red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
Pond apple	<i>Annona glabra</i>
American beautyberry.....	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>
Papaya*	<i>Carica papaya</i>
Spadeleaf	<i>Centella asiatica</i>
Nuttall's thistle	<i>Cirsium nuttallii</i>
Sour Orange*	<i>Citrus aurantium</i>
Showy rattlebox*	<i>Crotalaria spectabilis</i>
Surnaim cherry*	<i>Eugenia uniflora</i>
Dog fennel.....	<i>Eupatorium capillifolium</i>
Morning glory sp.	<i>Evolvulus sp.</i>
Strangler fig.....	<i>Ficus aurea</i>
Stiff marsh bedstraw.....	<i>Galium tinctorium</i>
Hibiscus sp	<i>Hibiscus sp.</i>
Manyflower Marshpennywort.....	<i>Hydrocotyle umbellata</i>
Lantana*.....	<i>Lantana camara</i>
Peruvian primrose-willow*	<i>Ludwigia peruviana</i>
Wax myrtle.....	<i>Myrica cerifera</i>
Virigina creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>
Swamp smartweed	<i>Polygonum hydropiperoides</i>
Common guava*	<i>Psidium guajava</i>
Seminole balsamo	<i>Psychotria nervosa</i>
Wild coffee	<i>Psychotria tenuifolia</i>
Chapman's oak	<i>Quercus chapmanii</i>
Laurel oak.....	<i>Quercus laurifolia</i>
Myrtle oak	<i>Quercus myrtifolia</i>
Virginia live oak	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>
Coastalplain willow	<i>Salix caroliniana</i>
Chinese tallow*.....	<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>
Lizard's tail	<i>Saururus cernuus</i>
Brazillian pepper*	<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>

* Non-native Species

Okeechobee Battlefield – Plants

Common Name	Scientific Name	Primary Habitat Codes (for imperiled species)
American black nightshade	<i>Solanum americanum</i>	
Tropical soda apple*	<i>Solanum viarum</i>	
Eastern poison ivy	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>	
Caesar's weed*	<i>Urena lobata</i>	
Muscadine	<i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>	

Okeechobee Battlefield – Plants

Common Name	<i>Scientific Name</i>	Primary Habitat Codes (for imperiled species)
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Okeechobee Battlefield – Animals

Common Name	Scientific Name	Primary Habitat Codes (for all species)
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AMPHIBIANS

Frogs and Toads

Florida cricket frog.....	Acris gryllus dorsalis.....	29,50
Southern toad	Bufo terrestris	21,22
Oak toad	Bufo quercicus.....	13,29
Green treefrog.....	Hyla cinerea	8,21,25
Southern chorus frog.....	Pseudacris nigrita	8,25
Little grass frog.....	Pseudocris ocularis	8,25,31
Southern leopard frog	Rana sphenocéphala	25,50,53

REPTILES

Lizards

Green anole	Anolis carolinensis	8,21,22
Southeastern five-lined skink	Eumeces inexpectatus	22
Southern fence lizard.....	Sceloporus undulatus undulatus.....	13,22

Snakes

Southern black racer	Coluber constrictor priapus	8,13,22
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake.....	Crotalus adamanteus	8,13,22
Corn snake	Elaphe guttata guttata	8,13,22
Yellow rat snake	Elaphe obsoleta quadrivittata.....	21,22
Eastern coachwhip.....	Masticophis flagellum flagellum.....	13,22
Eastern garter snake	Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis	8,28,31

BIRDS

Hawks, Eagles and Kites

Red-tailed Hawk	Buteo jamaicensis.....	
Red-shouldered Hawk	Buteo lineatus	
American Kestrel.....	Falco sparverius	
Bald Eagle.....	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	
Osprey.....	Pandion haliaetus.....	

Vultures

Turkey Vulture	Cathartes aura.....	8,15,OF
Black Vulture	Coragyps atratus.....	8,15,OF

Okeechobee Battlefield – Animals

Common Name	<i>Scientific Name</i>	Primary Habitat Codes (for all species)
Turkey and Quail		
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	
Doves		
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	81
Common Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>	8,13
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	MTC
Owls		
Barred Owl	<i>Strix varia</i>	25,30,33
Swifts		
Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	OF
Woodpeckers		
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	MTC
Red-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	MTC
Jays and Crows		
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	8,13,22,OF
Fish Crow	<i>Corvus ossifragus</i>	OF
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	MTC
Swallows		
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	53,OF
Wrens		
Carolina Wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	MTC
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	8,13
Thrushes		
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	MTC
Thrashers		
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	8,15
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	13,81,82
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	8,21,82
Starlings		
European Starling*	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	82

* Non-native Species

Okeechobee Battlefield – Animals

Common Name	<i>Scientific Name</i>	Primary Habitat Codes (for all species)
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Warblers

Prairie Warbler	<i>Dendroica discolor</i>	8,13,22
Yellow-throated Warbler	<i>Dendroica dominica</i>	13,22
Palm Warbler	<i>Dendroica palmarum</i>	8,13,22
Pine Warbler	<i>Dendroica pinus</i>	13,22

Sparrows

House Sparrow*	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	82
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Meadowlarks, Blackbirds and Orioles

Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	25,29,33
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	13,81,82
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	13,81

Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Buntings

Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	MTC
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MAMMALS

Didelphids

Opossum	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>	MTC
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Insectivores

Shorttailed shrew	<i>Blarina carolinensis</i>	21,22
Least shrew	<i>Cryptotis parva</i>	13,22

Moles

Eastern mole	<i>Scalopus aquaticus</i>	13,22
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Bats

-----	<i>Lasiurus sp.</i>	20,21
Southeastern bat	<i>Myotis austroriparus</i>	80
Eastern pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus subflavus</i>	80

Edentates

Nine-banded armadillo*	<i>Dasypus novemcinctus</i>	MTC
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Lagomorphs

Eastern cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	8,22
Marsh rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus palustris</i>	28,29

* Non-native Species

Okeechobee Battlefield – Animals

Common Name	<i>Scientific Name</i>	Primary Habitat Codes (for all species)
Rodents		
Cotton mouse.....	<i>Peromyscus gossypinus</i>	8,20,21,22
Gray squirrel.....	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	MTC
Hispid cotton rat	<i>Sigmodon hispidus</i>	13,22
Carnivores		
Raccoon.....	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	MTC
Artiodactyls		
White-tailed deer.....	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	MTC
Wild pig*	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	MTC

* Non-native Species

Addendum 5 – Cultural Information

Management Procedures for Archaeological and Historical Sites and Properties on State-Owned or Controlled Properties (revised February 2007)

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 in the following:

Chapter 253, F.S. – State Lands

Chapter 267, F.S. – Historical Resources

Management Procedures for Archaeological and Historical Sites and Properties on State-Owned or Controlled Properties (revised February 2007)

Chapter 872, F.S. – Offenses Concerning Dead Bodies and Graves

Other helpful citations and references:

Chapter 1A-32, F.A.C. – Archaeological Research

Other helpful citations and references:

Chapter 1A-44, F.A.C. – Procedures for Reporting and Determining Jurisdiction Over Unmarked Human Burials

Chapter 1A-46, F.A.C. – Archaeological and Historical Report Standards and Guidelines

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings

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, pre-testing 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 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.

**Management Procedures for Archaeological and Historical Sites and Properties on
State-Owned or Controlled Properties (revised February 2007)**

E. Minimum Review Documentation Requirements

In order to have a proposed project reviewed by the Division, the following information, at a minimum, must be submitted for comments and recommendations.

Project Description - A detailed description of the proposed project including all related activities. For land clearing or ground disturbing activities, the depth and extent of the disturbance, use of heavy equipment, location of lay down yard, etc. For historic structures, specific details regarding rehabilitation, demolition, etc.

Project Location - The exact location of the project indicated on a USGS Quadrangle map, is preferable. A management base map may be acceptable. Aerial photos indicating the exact project area as supplemental information are helpful.

Photographs - Photographs of the project area are always useful. Photographs of structures are required.

Description of Project Area - Note the acreage of the project, describe the present condition of project area, and any past land uses or disturbances.

Description of Structures - Describe the condition and setting of each building within project area if approximately fifty years of age or older.

Recorded Archaeological Sites or Historic Structures - Provide Florida Master Site File numbers for all recorded historic resources within or adjacent to the project area. This information should be in the current management plan; however, it can be obtained by contacting the Florida Master Site File at (850) 245-6440 or Suncom 205-6440.

* * *

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

Susan M. Harp, Historic Preservation Planner
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) 245-6333

**Management Procedures for Archaeological and Historical Sites and Properties on
State-Owned or Controlled Properties (revised February 2007)**

Eligibility Criteria for National Register of Historic Places

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

- 1) 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
 - c) 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.

- 2) 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
 - b) 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
 - c) 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
 - d) a cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, distinctive design features, or association with historic events; or

Eligibility Criteria for National Register of Historic Places

- e) a 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
- f) 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 code-required 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 which 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.

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