

**PALATKA-LAKE BUTLER TRAIL STATE PARK**

**UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**APPROVED**

**STATE OF FLORIDA**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Division of Recreation and Parks**

**April 16, 2004**



Jeb Bush  
Governor

# Department of Environmental Protection

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

Colleen M. Castille  
Secretary

August 13, 2004

Ms. BryAnne White  
Division of Recreation and Parks  
Office of Park Planning, M.S. 525  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd.  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

**Re: Palatka-Lake Butler Trail State Park State Park, Lease #4338**

Ms. White:

On April 16, 2004, the Acquisition and Restoration Council recommended approval of the subject management plan. The Office of Environmental Services, acting as agent for the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, approved the management plan for the Palatka-Lake Butler Trail State Park State Park on August 13, 2004. Pursuant to Section 253.034, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 18-2, Florida Administrative Code this plan's ten-year update will be due no later than August 13, 2014.

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.

Sincerely,

Paula L. Allen  
Office of Environmental Services  
Division of State Lands  
Department of Environmental Protection

"More Protection, Less Process"

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Palatka–Lake Butler State Trail is located in Putnam, Clay, Bradford and Union Counties (see Vicinity Map). Access to the trail is at multiple points. Trailheads will be designated as part of this plan. The vicinity map also reflects significant land and water resources existing near the park.

For this plan, park acreage has been calculated based on the composition of natural communities, in addition to ruderal and developed areas. Currently the trail contains 611.27 acres.

At Palatka–Lake Butler State Trail, 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. The park was acquired on July 16, 2002 with funds from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund program (see Addendum 1).

### **PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE PLAN**

This plan serves as the basic statement of policy and direction for the management of Palatka–Lake Butler State Trail as a unit of Florida's state park system. It identifies the objectives, criteria and 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 intended to be consistent with the State Lands Management Plan. All development and resource alteration encompassed 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.

The plan consists of two interrelated components. Each component corresponds to a particular aspect of the administration of the park. The resource management component provides a detailed inventory and assessment of the natural and cultural resources of the park. Resource management problems and needs are identified, and specific management objectives are established for each resource type. This component provides guidance on the application of such measures as prescribed burning, exotic species removal, and restoration of natural conditions.

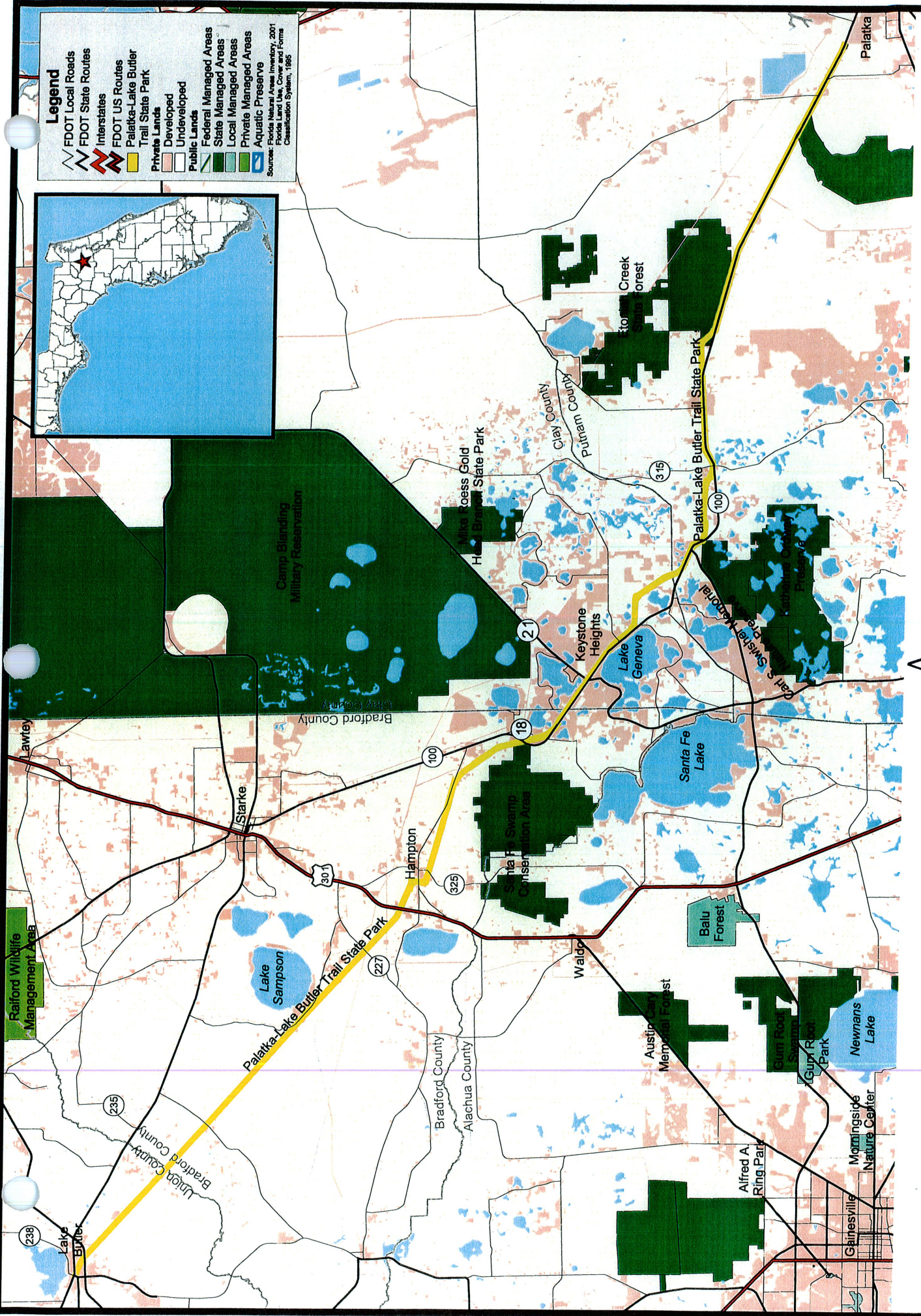
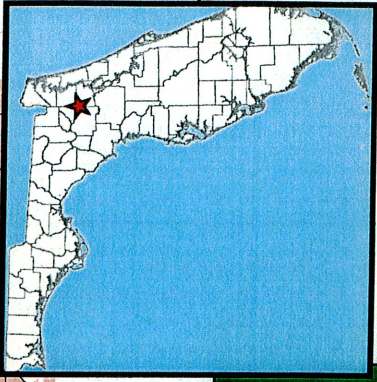
The land use component is the recreational resource allocation plan for the unit. Based on considerations such as access, population, and adjacent land uses, an optimum allocation of the physical space of the park is made, locating use areas and proposing types of facilities and volume of use to be provided.

In the development of this plan, the potential of the park to accommodate secondary management purposes (“multiple uses”) was analyzed. These secondary purposes were considered within the context of the Division’s statutory responsibilities and an analysis of the resource needs and values of the park. This analysis considered the park natural and cultural resources, management needs, aesthetic values, visitation and visitor experiences. For this park, it was determined that no secondary purposes could be accommodated in a manner that would not interfere with the primary purpose of resource-based outdoor recreation and conservation. Uses such as, water resource development projects, water supply projects, stormwater management projects, linear facilities and sustainable agriculture and forestry (other than those forest management activities specifically identified in this plan) are not consistent with this plan or the management purposes of the park and should be discouraged.

**Legend**

- FDOT Local Roads
- FDOT State Routes
- Interstates
- FDOT US Routes
- Palatka-Lake Butler Trail State Park
- Private Lands
- Developed
- Undeveloped
- Public Lands
- Federal Managed Areas
- State Managed Areas
- Local Managed Areas
- Private Managed Areas
- Aquatic Preserve

Source: Florida Natural Areas Inventory, 2001  
Florida Land Use, Cover and Forms Classification System, 1985



Scale: 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

North Arrow

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks  
Office of Park Planning

The potential for generating revenue to enhance management was also analyzed. Visitor fees and charges are the principal source of revenue generated by the park. It was determined that multiple use management activities would not be appropriate as a means of generating revenues for land management. Instead, techniques such as entrance fees, concessions and similar measures will be employed on a case-by-case basis as a means of supplementing park management funding.

## **MANAGEMENT PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

### **Management Authority and Responsibility**

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

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

The Trustees have also granted management authority of certain sovereign submerged lands to the Division under Management Agreement MA 68-086 (as amended January 19, 1988). The management area includes a 400-foot zone from the edge of mean high water where a park boundary borders sovereign submerged lands fronting beaches, bays, estuarine areas, rivers or streams. Where emergent wetland vegetation exists, the zone extends waterward 400 feet beyond the vegetation. The agreement is intended to provide additional protection to resources of the park and nearshore areas and to provide authority to manage activities that could adversely impact public recreational uses.

Many operating procedures are standard system wide and are set by policy. These procedures are outlined in the Division Operations Procedures Manual (OPM) and cover such areas as personnel management, uniforms and personal appearance, training, signs, communications, fiscal procedures, interpretation, concessions, camping regulations, resource management, law enforcement, protection, safety and maintenance.

In the management of Palatka – Lake Butler State Trail major emphasis is placed on maximizing the recreational potential of the park; however, preservation of resources remains important. Depletion of a resource by any recreational activity is not permitted. In order to realize the unit's recreational potential, development in the park is aimed at providing facilities that are accessible, convenient and safe, as needed, to support recreational use or the unit's natural, aesthetic, and educational attributes.

### **Park Goals and Objectives**

The following park goals and objectives express the Division long-term intent in managing the state park. At the beginning of the process to update this management plan, the Division reviewed the goals and objectives of the previous plan to determine if they remain meaningful and practical and should be included in the updated plan. This process ensures that the goals



and objectives for the park remain relevant over time.

Estimates are developed for the funding and staff resources needed to implement the management plan based on these goals, objectives and priority management activities. Funding priorities for all state park management and development activities are reviewed each year as part of the Division legislative budget process. The Division prepares an annual legislative budget request based on the priorities established for the entire state park system. The Division also aggressively pursues a wide range of other funds and staffing resources, such as grants, volunteers and partnerships with agencies, local governments and the private sector, for supplementing normal legislative appropriations to address unmet needs. The ability of the Division to implement the specific goals, objectives and priority actions identified in this plan will be determined by the availability of funding resources for these purposes.

### **Natural and Cultural Resources**

1. Identify, preserve and protect the natural resources of the trail.
  - A. Continue to develop and implement removal plans for invasive exotic plant and animal species and continue to cooperate with adjacent natural areas in the removal of exotic plants that have spread across boundary lines.
  - B. Monitor and protect listed species occurring within the state trail boundaries.
  - C. Identify areas in which the rail bed hinders conveyance of surface waters, and pursue funding for hydrologic restoration projects for these areas that will benefit natural communities adjacent to the trail.
  - D. Increase interpretation of the natural resources of the area.
2. Identify, preserve and protect the cultural resources of the trail.
  - A. Identify significant cultural resources within or adjacent to the rail corridor.
  - B. Register known historic and archaeological sites with the Florida Master Site File, possibly register the rail bed itself.
  - C. Protect historic and archaeological sites from disturbance by park development and visitor use.
  - D. Develop and implement interpretive programs designed to increase public awareness of cultural resources within the park and to promote public interest in resource preservation.

### **Recreational Goals**

3. Continue to provide quality resource-based, outdoor recreational and interpretive programs and facilities at the trail.
  - A. Identify and address potential conflicts between trail visitors and off-road vehicle users who may be visiting adjacent lands.
  - B. Establish native vegetative buffers along the trail corridor in areas of heavy development.
  - C. Discourage illegal dumping of trash in the trail corridor.
  - D. Design and implement interpretive programs and displays that feature the cultural, natural and recreational resources of the park.
4. Seek funding to expand recreational and interpretive opportunities at the park through the improvement of programs and the development of new use areas and facilities, as outlined in this management plan.
  - A. Pursue funding for additional shelters and covered benches to be located approximately every 1-3 miles along the trail.
  - B. Continue to work with agencies and managers of adjacent lands to develop primary access points for the trail.
  - C. Cooperate with federal, state, and local governments and other organizations in efforts to

connect the Palatka – Lake Butler State Trail to other multi-use trails.

### **Park Administration/Operations**

5. Promote volunteer activities in the park and develop partnerships.
  - A. Recruit and train volunteers to supplement staff and to assist the trail in meeting its goals.
  - B. Develop partnerships with other government agencies and other organizations to promote common goals and share resources as appropriate.
  - C. Form a Citizen's Support Organization to enhance fund-raising efforts, grants administration, volunteerism and public support.
6. Promote the trail as a significant tourist destination both locally and nationally.
  - A. Encourage tourism on the trail through contacts with the media.
  - B. Promote the trail through active association with local and statewide tourism offices.
7. Pursue staffing to meet basic operational requirements.
  - A. Add a Park Ranger and a Park Service Specialist to assist with intergovernmental affairs, volunteerism and citizen support organizations.

### **Management Coordination**

The park is managed in accordance with all applicable Florida Statutes 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 DRP 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 park boundaries. In addition, the FFWCC aids the Division with wildlife management programs, including the development and management of Watchable Wildlife programs. The Department of State, Division of Historical Resources (DHR) assists staff to assure protection of archaeological and historical sites. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA) aids staff in aquatic preserves management programs. The DEP, Bureau of Beaches and Wetland Resources aids staff in planning and construction activities seaward of the Coastal Construction Line. In addition, the Bureau of Beaches and Wetland Resources aid the staff in the development of erosion control projects. Emphasis is placed on protection of existing resources as well as the promotion of compatible outdoor recreational uses.

On January 1, 2004, management authority for this property was transferred to the Department's Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT). OGT will manage the trail as part of its State Trails program.

### **Public Participation**

The Division provided an opportunity for public input by conducting a public workshop and an advisory group meeting. A public workshop will be held on September 30, 2003, and a DEP Advisory Group meeting will be held on October 1, 2003. The purpose of these meetings is to present the plan to the public and to provide the Advisory Group members the opportunity to discuss this draft management plan.

### **Other Designations**

Palatka–Lake Butler State Trail is not within an Area of Critical State Concern as defined in section 380.05, Florida Statutes. Currently it is not under study for such designation. The park is a component of the Florida Greenways and Trails System.

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

## **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMPONENT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

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 stated management measures in this plan are consistent with the Department's overall mission in ecosystem management. Cited references are contained in Addendum 2.

The Division's philosophy of resource management is natural systems management. Primary emphasis is on restoring and maintaining, to the degree practicable, the natural processes that shape the structure, function and species composition of Florida's diverse natural communities as they occurred in the original domain. Single species management may be implemented when the recovery or persistence of a species is problematic provided it is compatible with natural systems management.

The management goal of cultural resources is to preserve sites and objects that represent all of Florida's cultural periods as well as significant historic events or persons. This goal may entail 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 is often affected by conditions and occurrences beyond park boundaries. Ecosystem management is implemented through a resource management evaluation program (to assess resource conditions, evaluate management activities, and refine management actions), review of local comprehensive plans, and review of permit applications for park/ecosystem impacts.

### **RESOURCE DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT**

#### **Natural Resources**

The Palatka – Lake Butler State Trail occupies approximately 46 miles of an abandoned railroad right-of-way, passing through four counties (Putnam, Clay, Bradford and Union) en route from the western side of Palatka in Putnam County to Lake Butler in Union County. The rail bed traverses five natural communities, and provides visitors access to the north central Florida landscape in both developed and natural conditions.

The Palatka – Lake Butler State Trail is adjacent to Etoniah Creek State Forest, managed by the Division of Forestry (DOF). It is also located within 5 miles of Camp Blanding Military Reservation (National Guard and Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission), Gold Head Branch State Park (Florida Park Service), Katharine Ordaway Preserve/C.S. Swisher Memorial Nature Preserve (Univ. of FL/Nature Conservancy) and Santa Fe Swamp Conservation Area (Suwannee River Water Management District). These public lands are managed for different uses including research, forest production, wildlife management (hunting), and passive recreation.

#### **Topography**

The Palatka–Lake Butler State Trail is located within three physiographic regions of Florida (Brooks 1981a). From east to west, the Trail begins in the Eastern Flatwoods District and ends in the Sea Islands District.

The following subdivisions occur along the Trail:

1. Eastern Flatwoods District
  - a. Palatka Relic Hills – relatively high, but recent origin, hills (Plio-Pleistocene)

- b. Rice Creek Swamp – an ancient river bed
- 2. Sea Island District
  - a. Penny Farms Upland – a fairly broad terrace
  - b. Trail Ridge – a well-defined depositional ridge
- 3. Central Lake District
  - a. Interlachen Sand Hills – high sand hills over uplifted limestone
  - b. Perched Lakes and Prairies – surficial sands are clayey
- 4. Sea Island District
  - a. High Flatwoods – broad, upland plain

The trail begins in the flatwoods at modest elevation and drops into lowlands associated with Rice Creek. From there, elevations rise abruptly towards Trail Ridge. As one proceeds further west towards Keystone Heights, elevations rise again. Although the geology, soils and natural communities change, the elevations remain constant all the way to Lake Butler.

The natural topography is altered along much of the trail corridor, largely due to construction of the rail bed, adjacent roadways, power lines and access points. Construction activities along the historic rail bed were designed to provide consistent elevation grade and drainage, thus creating an artificially flat topography for the entire rail corridor. Adjacent topographic disturbances are also attributed to the construction and maintenance of State Road 100, which runs closely parallel to the trail for most of its length.

### **Geology**

The trail is underlain by at least seven different geologic deposits (Brooks 1981b). These range in age from the Pleistocene Princess Ann to the middle Miocene Hawthorn-Statenville Type.

From east to west the deposits are:

1. Pre-glacial Plio-Pleistocene lagoonal sands and clays, which are weathered and appear orange-red in color.
2. The Pleistocene Princess Ann beach and dune sand, shell and clays that represent lagoonal and estuarine facies.
3. The Miocene Hawthorn-Interlachen facies quartz sand/gravel with residual orange/red paleosol.
4. Pliocene undifferentiated sand with fine to very fine sand and humate zones.
5. The Miocene Hawthorn-Groveland Park facies with deeply weathered clayey sand.
6. The Pliocene Bone Valley Formation with sand and clayey fine sand.
7. The Miocene Hawthorn-Statenville Type with sand and clay and phosphoritic pebbles and granules.

### **Soils**

Palatka-Lake Butler State Trail traverses forty-eight specific soil types along its 46-mile path. These soils represent a typical cross section of soil types in Putnam, Clay, Bradford, and Union Counties. The artificial berm that supports the trail is composed of soils from adjacent ditches and borrow sites. Excavation and fill activities associated with the construction of this berm have permanently altered or destroyed the natural soil profile in and near the trail. For this reason, soil descriptions are not included in this plan.

Erosion control is the primary management concern for soils along the trail. The steep slopes associated with the elevated rail bed are subject to occasional erosion, especially where vegetative cover is lacking. Management activities will follow generally accepted best management practices to minimize or prevent soil erosion and conserve soil and water resources on site.

## **Minerals**

Some of the soils associated with the geologic deposits found in this area contain a phosphate-bearing matrix. No other minerals of commercial value are known.

## **Hydrology**

**Surface water resources.** The Palatka-Lake Butler State Trail passes through two main surface drainage basins, the St. Johns River and the Santa Fe/Suwannee River. These basins are managed by the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Suwannee River Water Management District, respectively.

From east to west, the trail begins in the St. Johns River basin as it crosses the upper floodplain of Rice Creek. Most of the main floodplain is bridged. The next drainage encountered is a canal associated with Etoniah Creek. This canal is also bridged.

At this point, the trail enters the perched lakes and prairies in the Putnam Hall – Keystone Heights area. The trail passes very close to a number of lakes, ponds, and prairies. Some of these water bodies are connected during high water conditions and it is possible that the trail may impede some surface flow.

As the trail continues past Keystone Heights, it is close to the Santa Fe Swamp, a natural area and important contribution to the Santa Fe River. There are some small surface hydrological disruptions in this area.

The next wetland area encountered is the Sampson River and swamp. In the swamp, the trail disrupts some surface flows. The Sampson River is bridged.

As the trail approaches the town of Lake Butler, it crosses the New River, with its large floodplain, and several small creeks, which flow into the New River. The New River is an important tributary of the Santa Fe River. The bridge over the New River has been badly burned, and will have to be rebuilt.

The natural surface hydrology within and immediately surrounding the Palatka – Lake Butler State Trail is altered by the elevated berm and associated parallel ditches, which were constructed for the rail bed. The berm impedes the natural overland flow of surface water, and can actually impound water during times of heavy rainfall. As mentioned above, the rail bed passes through multiple low-lying and wetland areas, and includes several bridge crossings. Other crossings are outfitted with assorted culverts to facilitate flow through the berm; however, the effectiveness of these structures in maintaining the natural hydroperiod of adjacent wetlands and freshwater systems has not yet been ascertained. The parallel ditches constructed adjacent to the berm provide drainage for the infrastructure; however, they may also channelize water in times of high flow, further altering allowing natural drainage patterns.

**Ground water resources.** Due to the highly variable geologic resources that this trail traverses, the number of aquifers along the route can vary from one to three. The primary aquifer throughout the length of the trail is the Floridan Aquifer. Its depth and width varies considerably. The recharge rates to this aquifer are very high in areas where it is unconfined or thinly confined.

The Surficial and Intermediate Aquifers are not contiguous throughout the length of the trail.

## **Natural Communities**

The system of classifying natural communities employed in this plan was developed by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) **FNAI Descriptions**. The premise of this system is that physical factors, such as climate, geology, soil, hydrology and fire frequency generally determine the species composition of an area, and that areas which are similar with respect to

these factors will tend to have natural communities with similar species compositions. Obvious differences in species composition can occur, 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.

The trail intersects five distinct natural communities in addition to ruderal and developed areas. Construction of the rail bed and continual maintenance of the railroad right-of-way caused permanent alteration of the natural communities within the trail corridor. Consequently, all lands within the trail corridor are classified as ruderal or developed, and a natural communities map is not included in this plan. Natural communities adjacent to the trail have been subjected to varying degrees of disturbance from both public and private use. Trail specific characterizations of the natural communities adjacent to the trail corridor are provided below. A list of plants and animals occurring along the trail is contained in Addendum 3.

**Floodplain swamp.** This community occurs primarily along the New River. It is dominated by red maple and water oak.

**Sandhill.** Prior to development of the rail bed and surrounding areas, this was the dominant natural community along the trail corridor.

**Mesic flatwoods.** This community was common in a couple of areas along the trail. Today, most of it is in active silviculture.

**Xeric hammock.** Scattered hammocks, dominated primarily by live oak and diamond leaf oak, occur on private lands. The occurrence of this community is likely the result of fire exclusion in the sandhill community.

**Blackwater stream.** Numerous blackwater streams flow under the rail bed.

**Ruderal.** The maintenance of the rail bed over the years has led to the ruderal condition found in the areas adjacent to the bed.

**Developed.** The central berm of the railroad bed constitutes the major developed feature in the trail right-of-way. Also occurring are multiple bridges situated in wetland areas. With the exception of the roads and power lines that intersect the trail, other developed areas along the route are located just outside the trail boundaries. Currently there are portions of several structures that have encroached on park property. Most of this development consists of small businesses associated with adjacent urban and suburban areas.

### **Designated Species**

Designated species are those that are listed by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC), and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDA) as endangered, threatened or of special concern. Addendum 4 contains a list of the designated species and their designated status for this park. Management measures will be addressed later in this plan.

The only designated species observed along the trail is the gopher tortoise (*Gopherus Polyphemus*). Along some portions of the trail, there are numerous tortoise burrows. The predominance of these is found near the base of the trail bed.

### **Special Natural Features**

Because of the elevation of the rail bed, several notable areas afford significant scenic vistas.

These vistas will improve as vegetation management proceeds.

### **Cultural Resources**

Evaluating the condition of cultural resources is accomplished using a three part evaluative scale, expressed as good, fair, and poor. These terms describe the present state of affairs, rather than comparing what exists against the ideal, a newly constructed component. 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 judgment is cause for concern. Poor describe 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 to reestablish physical stability.

A check of the Florida Master Site File revealed no documented sites within the park boundary. However, nine recorded sites are located within 0.5 mile of the park and an additional 27 sites are within 1.0 mile.

In the 1870s and 1880s, timber was becoming a more valuable commodity in southern Georgia and northern Florida. In 1881, the Georgia legislature authorized the formation of the Georgia Southern and Florida Railroad Company (GS&F). Its charter was to build a line south from Macon, Georgia to Clinch County, Georgia near the Florida state line. At that point, it would tie into the Savannah, Florida & Western Railroad.

In 1884, the Florida Legislature granted a charter for the Macon and Florida Air-Line Railroad Company to extend the GS&F tracks from the Georgia – Florida state line to Tampa/Charlotte Harbor on the Gulf coast, with a branch line to run to the St. Johns River. In 1888, the two companies merged into the Georgia Southern and Florida Railroad. The decision was made for the line to go to Palatka, a busy river port on the St. Johns River. The GS&F reached Palatka by March 1890. This turned out to be a lucrative rail line.

Due to poor management of funds and heavy mortgages, the GS&F went bankrupt in 1891. In 1895, J.P. Morgan attempted to gain control of the GS&F and reorganized the railroad into the GS&F Railway.

In 2002, the Norfolk Southern Corporation sold a stretch of the dismantled GS&F railroad corridor to become the Palatka – Lake Butler State Trail.

## **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

### **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 early successional communities such as sand pine scrub and coastal strand.

A timber management analysis was not conducted for this park. The total acreage for the unit is below the 1,000-acre threshold established by Florida Statutes. Timber management will be



reevaluated during the next revision of this management plan.

### **Additional Considerations**

Periodic pruning and mowing of vegetation along the trail will be necessary to maintain an open passage and encourage the growth of desirable plants. In most portions of the trail, tree and shrub growth will be encouraged to provide buffer zones along the edges, especially in the more developed areas. Current maintenance of adjacent highway rights-of-way and the past maintenance of the railroad right-of-way have left a wooded buffer that is very thin or nonexistent in some areas. In appropriate locations, scenic vistas will be developed and maintained to increase aesthetic and interpretive values for visitors. Likewise, where adjacent lands are occupied by private development, natural buffers will be established to increase aesthetic appeal. Buffer establishment by adjacent landowners may be encouraged through trailside interpretive signs and cooperative associations with local citizens.

### **Management Needs and Problems**

1. Unauthorized motor vehicle use on the trail threatens the stability of the trail and threatens wildlife species within the trail corridor.
  - A. Vegetation adjacent to the trail is crucial to maintaining the integrity of the side slopes of the railroad berm, and therefore the long-term stability of the paved trail surface. Unauthorized motor vehicle use adjacent to and on the trail creates ruts and exposes soil on the slopes to erosion.
  - B. The trail is utilized by wildlife species. Unauthorized use of motor vehicles on the trail is a threat to these species, particularly the gopher tortoise.
2. Construction of the railroad berm and of adjacent infrastructure has altered the natural hydrology of the communities adjacent to the trail corridor.
  - A. The existing railroad berm has disrupted natural overland flow.
  - B. The railroad berm transects wetlands and surface water bodies, altering the natural hydroperiods of these systems.
  - C. Location and function of all existing water control structures are not known.
3. Encroachment of residential and other development may negatively affect trail resources.
  - A. Residential development along the boundaries of the park is a source of encroachment by exotic species.
  - B. Commercial, industrial and urban development adjacent to the trail detracts from the trail's natural and aesthetic qualities.
4. Natural and cultural resources are impacted by invasive exotic species.
  - A. Numerous species of terrestrial exotic plants, many of them escapees from cultivation, are established along the trail corridor and threaten natural areas adjacent to the trail.
  - B. Feral hogs use the trail corridor for passage between adjacent lands. These animals are likely to disturb and disrupt natural and cultural resources within and adjacent to the park, especially wetland areas.
  - C. Domestic and feral dogs and cats have been observed within the trail corridor, many visiting from adjacent residential developments. These animals threaten native wildlife species that utilize the trail for foraging and for passage between adjacent areas.
5. Identification and documentation of cultural resources within the trail corridor are incomplete.
6. Illegal trash dumping occurs throughout the trail corridor.
7. Cultural and natural resource interpretive displays are needed throughout the length of the trail.

### **Management Objectives**

The resources administered by the Division are divided into two principal categories: natural

resources and cultural resources. The Division primary objective in natural resource management is to maintain and restore, to the extent possible, to the conditions that existed before the ecological disruptions caused by man. The objective for managing cultural resources is to protect these resources from human-related and natural threats. This will arrest deterioration and help preserve the cultural resources for future generations to enjoy.

1. Manage public access through education, interpretive programs, and enforcement of rules and regulations to protect natural and cultural resources.
  - A. Provide signage prohibiting unauthorized vehicle use, concentrating on areas where illegal access is known to occur.
  - B. Design and install buffers of native vegetation to limit access and to protect the side slopes of the railroad berm.
  - C. Design and implement interpretive displays to educate visitors about wildlife resources that utilize the trail corridor.
2. Alleviate, to the extent possible, the hydrologic disturbances that resulted from construction of the railroad bed.
  - A. Coordinate with the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) to locate all culverts and water control devices within the trail corridor and to assess their function. Compile priority lists for repair and maintenance of existing structures.
  - B. Coordinate with the SJRWMD and SRWMD to define areas of altered hydrology, to identify areas having insufficient numbers of water control structures, and to secure funding for studies and designs to improve overland and surface water flow.
3. Establish buffer zones to counter negative impacts of adjacent development.
  - A. Continue efforts to control encroachment of exotic species.
  - B. Educate and encourage adjacent landowners, through interpretive displays and outreach programs, to maintain native vegetation and natural wildlife habitat.
  - C. Design and install buffers of native vegetation to establish visual screens between the trail and commercial, industrial and urban development adjacent to the trail.
4. Improve natural communities along the trail by continuing to implement the park's exotics eradication program.
  - A. Initiate a program of exotic plant removal, focusing on the most invasive species and concentrating efforts near managed natural areas.
  - B. Work with community organizations such as the Humane Society to inform citizens about the threats domestic and feral dogs and cats pose to wildlife on public lands. If appropriate, trap and remove these animals from park property.
5. Identify and record archaeological and historical sites within the park and implement measures for their protection.
6. Remove existing trash dumps and implement measures that will discourage future dumping.
7. Identify areas where conflicts are likely between trail users and visitors of adjacent lands. Encourage safety, cooperation and positive interaction among user groups, through interpretive programs and public outreach.
8. Provide interpretation of the natural and cultural resources along the trail to promote visitors' awareness of, and support for, resource management issues within the park.

#### **Management Measures for Natural Resources**

##### **Hydrology**

The natural surface hydrology of lands surrounding the Palatka-Lake Butler State Trail has been significantly altered by the construction of the elevated railway bed. Extensive excavation and filling was done to achieve consistent grade and alignment of the rail corridor.

Low areas such as wetlands and small intermittent streams, were filled with borrow material and outfitted with various water control structures. While bridge and culvert structures do facilitate surface water movement from one side of the berm to the other, the elevated berm continues to impound water during storm events or times of flooding. In addition, the ditch system associated with the berm may channel surface water away from naturally low areas. The natural hydroperiods of surrounding surface waters are affected, to an unknown extent, by these physical alterations.

Restoration of the original hydrology would entail removal of the rail bed and restoration of the corridor to original grade, and it is therefore not feasible. Instead, a design is needed to alleviate the hydrologic alterations associated with the berm, and to restore, to the greatest extent possible, the original flow and flow patterns, which existed prior to construction. The hydrologic function of the surrounding watershed should be incorporated into the design, with special attention paid to identification of historic topographic features and natural surface water characteristics. Once defined, these features may be imitated utilizing engineered water control structures, including the existing structures where practical.

### **Prescribed Burning**

The objectives of prescribed burning are to create those conditions that are most natural for a particular community, and to maintain ecological diversity within the unit's natural communities. To meet these objectives, the park is partitioned into burn zones, and burn prescriptions are implemented for each zone. The park burn plan is updated annually to meet current conditions. All prescribed burns are conducted with authorization from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry (DOF). Wildfire suppression activities will be coordinated between the Division and the DOF.

At this time, it is not known if prescribed fire will be utilized as a management tool at this park due to the width of the trail and the disturbance of the historic natural communities.

### **Designated Species Protection**

The welfare of designated species is an important concern of the Division. In many cases, these species will benefit most from proper management of their natural communities. At times, however, additional management measures are needed because of the poor condition of some communities, or because of unusual circumstances that aggravate the particular problems of a species. The Division will consult and coordinate with appropriate federal, state and local agencies for management of designated species.

The gopher tortoise is the designated animal species most likely to be impacted by visitor use of the trail. There are a couple of segments that contain a significant number of tortoise burrows. Existing gopher tortoises and burrows along the trail will be protected from excessive disturbance and monitored to determine if trail activity negatively impacts them.

### **Exotic Species Control**

Exotic species are those plants or animals that are not native to Florida, but were introduced because of human-related activities. Exotics have fewer natural enemies and may have a higher survival rate than do native species, as well. They may also harbor diseases or parasites that significantly affect non-resistant native species. Consequently, it is the strategy of the Division to remove exotic species from native natural communities.

The ruderal nature of the Palatka - Lake Butler State Trail, its linear configuration with extensive edge, and the proximity of adjacent private lands preclude permanent eradication of exotic plants and animals within the park. Despite aggressive control efforts, continued encroachment of exotic plants and animals is expected along most of the route. Sections of the trail adjacent to public natural areas will be managed cooperatively with their respective management agencies. Exotic species along the remainder of the trail will be controlled as

time and staffing permit.

Eight exotic plant species are known to exist along the trail. Further surveys will likely reveal more. The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (EPPC) lists all eight as Category I or Category II plants, which are known to disrupt natural communities and therefore require special attention where present. A removal program will be developed, targeting all of these species, which includes cogongrass, Japanese climbing fern, Chinaberry, paper mulberry, camphor tree, loquat, Chinese tallow tree and castorbean. The highest priority will be on cogongrass and Japanese climbing fern, the species that have the greatest potential to spread rapidly along the length of the trail or into adjacent natural areas. Special attention will be given to infestations near or adjacent to natural managed areas.

Several exotic animal species have been documented within the trail corridor; most are presumed to be transient. Of those recorded, domestic/feral dogs and cats, feral hogs, and armadillos pose the most significant threats to the park's resources. If appropriate, an exotic animal species control program will be developed.

### **Problem Species**

Problem species are defined as native species whose habits create specific management problems or concerns. Occasionally, problem species are also a designated species, such as alligators. The Division will consult and coordinate with appropriate federal, state and local agencies for management of designated species that are considered a threat or problem.

No problem species have been identified at this unit.

### **Management Measures for Cultural Resources**

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. Approval from Department of State, Division of Historical Resources (DHR) must be obtained before taking any actions, such as development or site improvements that could affect or disturb the cultural resources on state lands (see **DHR Cultural Management Statement**).

Actions that require permits or approval from DHR include development, site excavations or surveys, disturbances of sites or structures, disturbances of the substrate, and any other actions that may affect the integrity of the cultural resources. These actions could damage evidence that would someday be useful to researchers attempting to interpret the past.

The general objective for the management of the cultural resources of the Palatka – Lake Butler State Trail is to protect, preserve, and interpret any prehistoric and historic resources of the park. Because of the possibility of cultural sites within the park, management measures for cultural resources should include drafting a proposal for an archaeological reconnaissance survey to investigate the park.

If the recommended archaeological reconnaissance survey locates and identifies any prehistoric and/or historic sites, management measures for cultural resources should develop a phased plan for managing the resources in the context of their surroundings. This should include developing a workable written plan for the physical management of the identified resources. The plan should outline approved methodologies for executing the plan and training staff and volunteers to manage the cultural resources of the park.

### **Research Needs**

#### **Natural Resources**

Any research or other activity that involves the collection of plant or animal species on park property requires a collecting permit from the Department of Environmental Protection.

Additional permits from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may also be required.

The main research need on this unit is thorough plant and animal inventories. These will be done as time permits.

#### **Cultural Resources**

Additional cultural and historical research is needed. It is recommended that an historian be hired to research the history associated with the railroad, so that this information can be interpreted along the trail.

Even if no significant sites are found in the unit, it is reasonable to assume that significant sites are located nearby. If so, these sites should be interpreted from either the trail, or a spur trail can take visitors to them.

#### **Resource Management Schedule**

A priority schedule for conducting all management activities that is based on the purposes for which these lands were acquired, and to enhance the resource values, is contained in Addendum 5. Cost estimates for conducting priority management activities are based on the most cost effective methods and recommendations currently available (see Addendum 5).

#### **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 of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (board) are being managed for the purposes for which they were acquired and in accordance with a land management plan adopted pursuant to s. 259.032, the board of trustees, acting through the Department of Environmental Protection (department). The managing agency shall consider the findings and recommendations of the land management review team in finalizing the required update of its management plan.

A land management review of the trail had not been conducted.

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

The Palatka-Lake Butler State Trail is located within four counties (Putnam, Clay, Bradford, and Union), about 60 miles south of Jacksonville in the northeast part of the state. The populations of these counties have grown 22 percent since 1990, and are projected to grow an additional 15 percent by 2010 (BEER, University of Florida, 2000). As of 2000, 20 percent of residents in these counties were in the 014 age group, 44 percent in the 1544 age group, 24 percent in the 4564 age group, and 12 percent were aged 65 and over, which reflects the state average for these groupings (BEER, University of Florida, 2000). Nearly 1.6 million people reside within 50 miles of the park, which includes the cities of Palatka, Pomona Park, Keystone Heights, Lake Butler, Gainesville, St Augustine and the southern suburbs of Jacksonville (Census, 2000).

#### Existing Use of Adjacent Lands

Land uses adjacent to the Palatka-Lake Butler State Trail include agricultural, rural, urban reserve, urban service, commercial, industrial, mixed, conservation and recreation. The effects of adjacent uses on the recreational trail are both beneficial and detrimental. Beneficial effects include the ease of access to the trail, connections to established city, county and state recreation facilities and conservation lands, and the scenic landscapes. Detriments include traffic congestion, multiple road and railroad crossings, and noise and air pollution from traffic and adjacent industrial activities.

This 46 mile long trail corridor extends through four counties (Putnam, Clay, Bradford and Union), from just north of the Palatka airport on State Route 100 at the south end of the trail

(in Putnam County) northwest to State Road 238 in Lake Butler (in Union County). At the south end, the trail right-of-way crosses through Etoniah State Forest where it becomes part of the Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST), and runs adjacent to Twin Lakes Park in Clay County. In Hampton (Bradford County), the trail right-of-way intersects with an active CSX railroad line. Over the course of the trail, the right-of-way crosses through 11 small towns, crosses eight creeks and passes within one mile of 11 lakes. For over half of its length, the trail parallels State Route 100. Among the major roads that cross the trail right-of-way are State Road 100, County Road 315, State Road 21, County Road 315, County Road 325, County Road 18, U.S. Highway 301, County Road 227, County Road 235, and State Road 238. The scenic character of the area through which the trail runs varies from more developed areas to timberlands and state forests to rural and pastoral.

Significant recreation opportunities near the trail include Ravine Gardens State Park, Etoniah State Forest, Florida National Scenic Trail, Rice Creek Swamp Conservation Area, Santa Fe Swamp Conservation Area, Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park, Twin Lakes Park, Camp Blanding Wildlife Management Area, and Lake Butler Wildlife Management Area. This trail is potentially a key component of a proposed 208-mile greenway connecting the Okefenokee Swamp to Teneroc State Reserve via the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway. It is also proposed that the trail will eventually be a part of the larger St Augustine - Lake City State Trail (currently in the acquisition phase).

#### **Planned Use of Adjacent Lands**

Over the last 20 years, Putnam, Clay, Union and Bradford Counties all have experienced a moderate rate of population growth. From 1980-1990, their populations increased by a combined rate of 25 percent. From 1990-2000, these counties experienced an overall rate of growth of 22 percent. Despite this growth, the land uses along the trail corridor are not expected to change significantly. Future adjacent development will affect the trail by generating increased vehicular traffic and additional road and driveway crossings along the trail. Crossing requests will be analyzed individually and permits will be granted with conditions that protect the safety and quality of the trail facility. Where possible, efforts will be made to consolidate driveways. Clear sight lines and signage will be required at each crossing. Traffic control devices may be required where warranted by anticipated traffic levels.

The Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) plans to add sidewalks in Clay County along State Route 21 from Keystone Heights to Gold Head Branch State Park and along State Road 100 from County Road 214 to Twin Lakes Road in 2006-2007. DOT also plans to resurface County Road 18 from State Road 235 to State Road 100 and add northbound and southbound left turn lanes to County Road 18 at State Road 100 in Bradford County. The Division should coordinate with DOT on the design of these projects to ensure that impacts to the state trail are given due consideration and that they can benefit the multiple uses of this trail.

Adjacent land uses that are incompatible with the recreational trail should be discouraged by local land development regulations. If development of such land uses is unavoidable, efforts to screen them may be partially effective. The establishment and maintenance of buffer zones with trees and shrubs along the edges of the trail corridor on the state-owned land will help mitigate visual impacts. Adjacent property owners should be encouraged to leave a buffer of undeveloped land outside the trail boundary for the same purpose.

The following four measures are recommended as a process through which the Division and local communities can work together to coordinate local growth with the development and preservation of the trail corridor:

1. Undertake the corridor wide assessment of "less compatible" land uses to assist local governments and private landowners in understanding what are not compatible adjacent uses.
2. Examine current land use designations along the corridor to identify potential, future problem areas; work with local governments and private landowners to reconcile the identified problems.
3. Evaluate each road intersection and identify current and potential future needs for signed, signalized or grade separated crossings; work with local and state governments to upgrade crossings as needed.
4. Establish interagency agreements to allow Division reviews of local development plans and state or federal transportation plans that affect the trail corridor.

Implementation of these measures will depend on the availability of Division staff time or volunteer efforts, and on the cooperation of other state agencies, local governments, and private landowners.

### **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.

The abandoned rail corridor varies from 100 to 200 feet in width. For the majority of its length, the right of way is 100, 150 or 200 feet in width. Railroad trestles and a bridge occur along the trail corridor where the railroad crossed over creeks and the New River. The trail corridor crosses two active rail lines, one in Sampson and the other in Hampton. The Division will work with the railroad and these two towns to make sure that these crossings are made as safe as possible for trail users.

The railbed is elevated above the adjacent grade along parts of the corridor. The elevation difference is greatest as it traverses low areas. The slope of the approximate centerline of the corridor was designed to be relatively level, making the resulting grade ideal for a shared use trail system. For approximately half its length between Palatka and Keystone, the trail follows State Road 100, breaking away only west of Keystone when it crosses into the more rural section of the trail.

The visual resources of the trail corridor cover a spectrum from excellent to poor. Beautiful views of lakes, pasturelands, forest, and creeks contribute to user enjoyment. Visual screening of unattractive surrounding land uses will be a goal of the Division's vegetation management along the trail boundaries.

No significant natural features are located within the trail corridor. The most important natural features exist within Etoniah Creek State Forest, nearby state parks including Ravine Gardens and Gold Head Branch, and the lakes and creeks that the trail corridor crosses or parallels.



Interpretation of these features should be included in the new trail facilities.

Intact archaeological features are not likely to be found within the right-of-way. Historic features located along the trail include an old train depot near State Road 235, the Old Bellamy Road, and various other possible sites. The Old Bellamy Road is the first federally funded road in Florida and is worthy of interpretation. Interpretation of the history of this region of Florida, as affected by the development of the railroad, also should be incorporated into the trail's interpretive programs.

### **Assessment of Use**

All legal boundaries, significant natural features, structures, facilities, roads, trails and easements 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**

The Georgia Southern and Florida Railway was chartered in 1885 to build a railroad from Macon, Ga. to Palatka, Florida, over a distance of 285 miles. The line opened between Macon and Valdosta in February, 1889 and completed to Palatka in March of the following year. In 1895, the railroad was reorganized as the Georgia Southern and Florida Railway under the control of the Southern Railway. In its final years, the line became a subsidiary of the Norfolk Southern Railway Company. The line was abandoned in sections during the 1970s and 1980s.

Typical of many abandoned railway corridors, the Palatka to Lake Butler Trail corridor has incidences of arsenic contamination in the soil at places along the central railbed and on adjacent shoulders. The contamination originated with the railroad ties, treated with creosote containing arsenic, which decomposed over time. A Phase II Environmental Site Assessment of the corridor was performed in 2001. The study identified approximately 37 percent of samples taken along the centerline of the railbed, and approximately 4 percent of samples taken at locations offset 15 and 20 feet either side of the railbed as exceeding the DEP Restricted I classification for arsenic contamination within areas of intensive recreational land use. Additional investigations and protection and remediation efforts will be implemented in these areas, as discussed below.

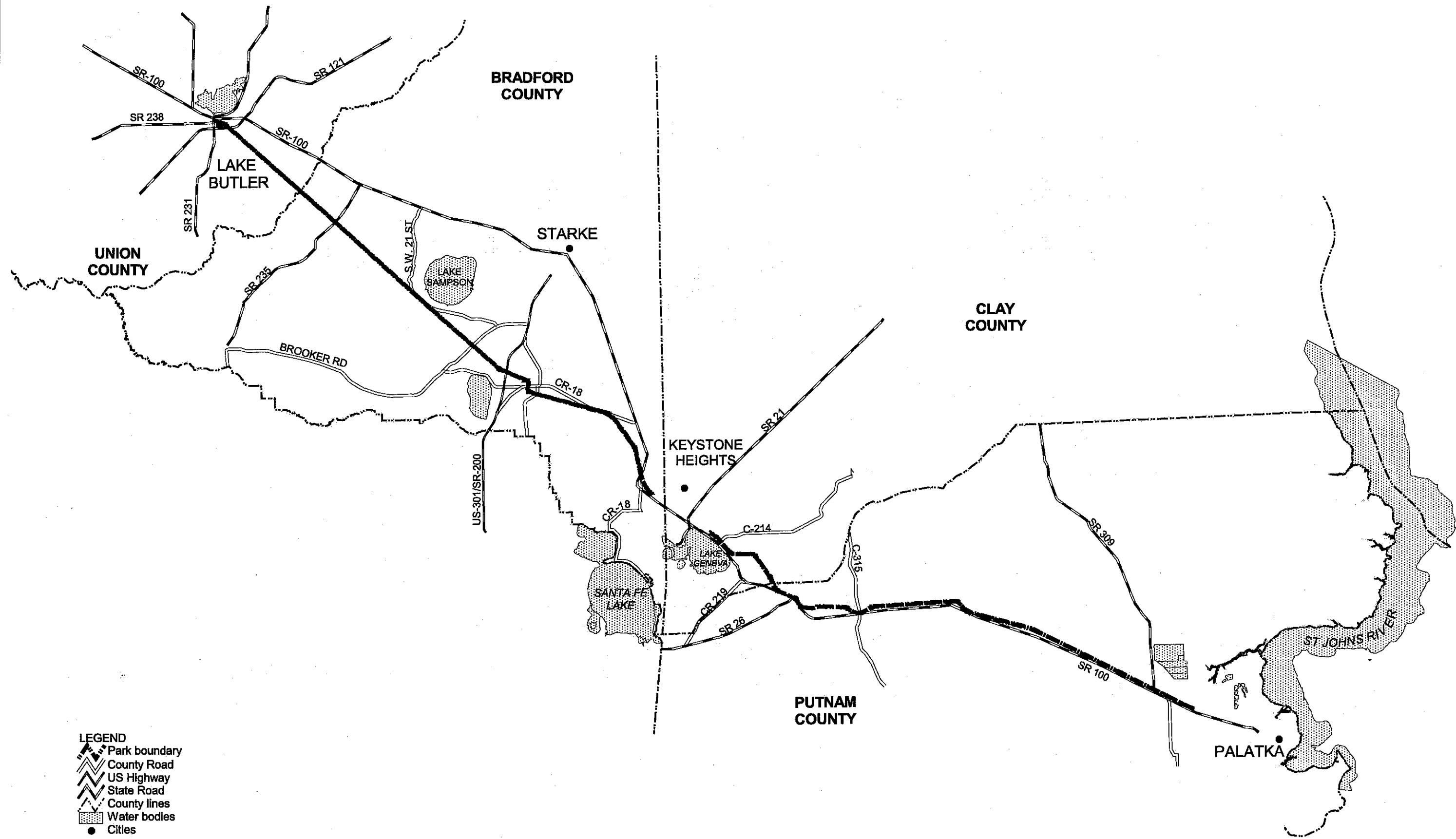
After abandonment of the rail line by Georgia Southern and Florida Railway Company, the trail corridor has had a variety of uses. These uses include private access to adjacent land holdings, as a roadway, hunt access within the Etoniah Creek State Forest, trash dumping, a junkyard, and other unauthorized uses. Gaining control of vehicular access to the trail will be a major management task for the Division.

#### **Recreational Uses**

The trail provides opportunities for walking, running, bicycling, skating and equestrian use. Portions of the trail corridor provide opportunities for nature study and wildlife observation.

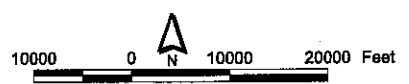
#### **Protected Zones**

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.



- LEGEND**
- Park boundary
  - County Road
  - US Highway
  - State Road
  - County lines
  - Water bodies
  - Cities

**PALATKA-LAKE BUTLER  
TRAIL STATE PARK**



Prepared by:  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks  
Office of Park Planning

**BASE MAP**

At the Palatka-Lake Butler State Trail, no areas have been designated as protected zones.

### **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 unit management plan, the Division assesses potential impacts of proposed uses on the resources of the property. Uses that could result in unacceptable impacts are not included in the conceptual land use plan. Potential impacts are more thoroughly identified and assessed through the site planning process once funding is available for the development project. At that stage, design elements, such as sewage disposal and stormwater management, and design constraints, such as designated species or cultural site locations, are more thoroughly investigated. Advanced wastewater treatment or best available technology systems are applied for onsite sewage disposal. Stormwater management systems are designed to minimize impervious 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 and Proposed Facilities**

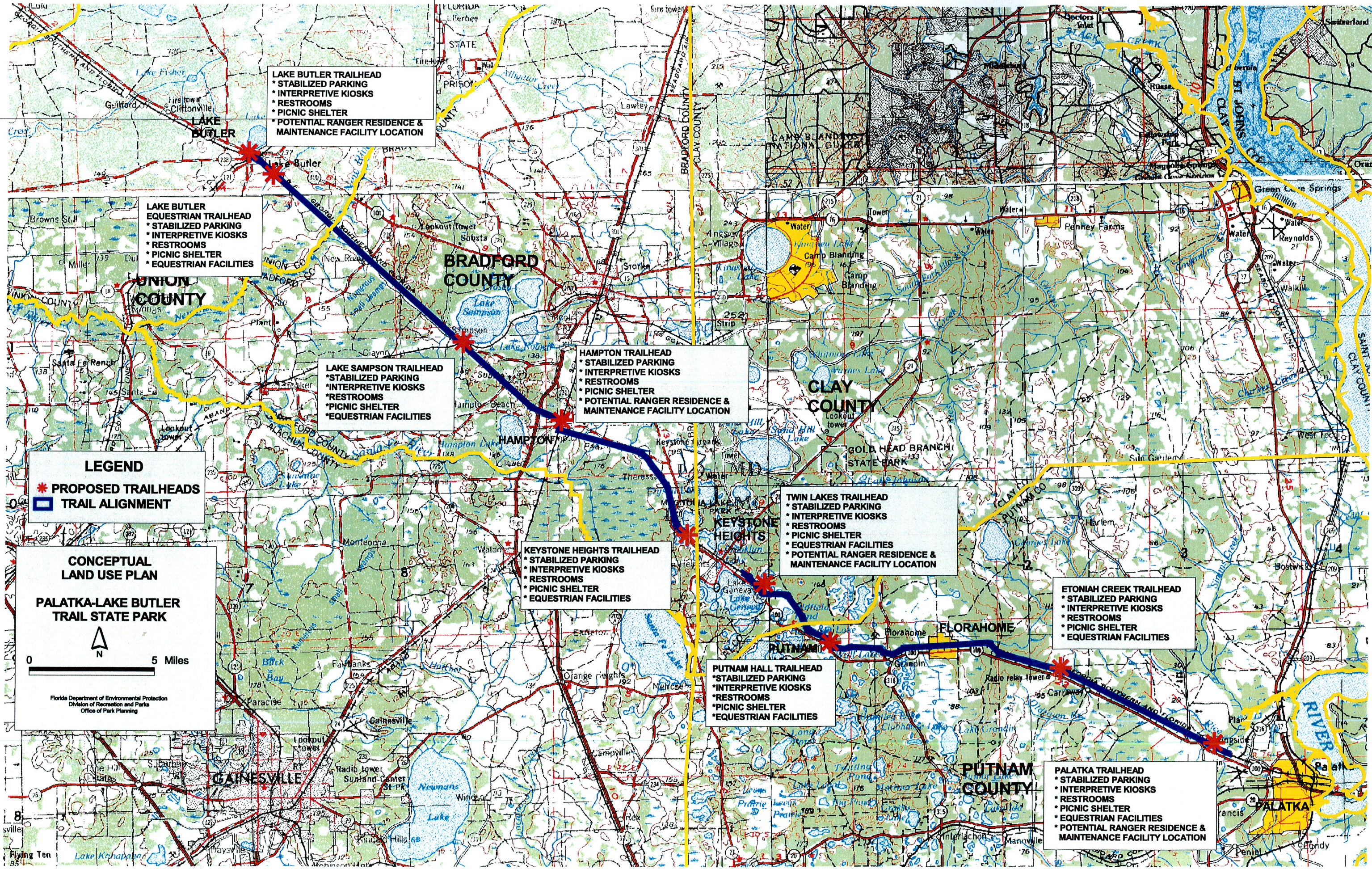
The Division has approached planning for the Palatka-Lake Butler State Trail within the context of a regional, public lands network. Trail connections with adjacent or nearby public lands, and to other recreational trails, such as the Florida National Scenic Trail and the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway, are integral to the long-term vision for this park.

The trail will be developed for recreational use by hikers, joggers, equestrians, roller bladers and bicyclists, as funding becomes available. Trailhead facilities will be constructed at appropriate intervals along the trail to allow for convenient access by users. Vehicle barricades, informational signage, traffic control devices and rest stops will be installed as needed to provide for safe and enjoyable use of the trail. Connections to the trail from other recreational facilities are recommended.

### **Recreation Facilities**

**Recreational Trail.** The entire length of the trail will contain a central paved asphalt surface 10 to 12 feet in width. Natural surface trails will parallel the paved trail where possible and will be available to equestrians and hikers. Equestrian use will be encouraged along the entire length of the trail. When within a city limits such as in Palatka, Keystone Heights or Lake Butler, trail use may be limited to hikers, joggers, roller bladers and bicyclists.

Arsenic contamination will be remediated by development of the recreational trail system discussed by this plan. The former railroad bed will be paved over, thus providing a cap containing the highest remaining levels of arsenic along the centerline of the berm. The paved trail will provide the barrier to any contact between humans and the remaining arsenic, and



**LAKE BUTLER TRAILHEAD**  
 \* STABILIZED PARKING  
 \* INTERPRETIVE KIOSKS  
 \* RESTROOMS  
 \* PICNIC SHELTER  
 \* POTENTIAL RANGER RESIDENCE & MAINTENANCE FACILITY LOCATION

**LAKE BUTLER EQUESTRIAN TRAILHEAD**  
 \* STABILIZED PARKING  
 \* INTERPRETIVE KIOSKS  
 \* RESTROOMS  
 \* PICNIC SHELTER  
 \* EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES

**LAKE SAMPSON TRAILHEAD**  
 \* STABILIZED PARKING  
 \* INTERPRETIVE KIOSKS  
 \* RESTROOMS  
 \* PICNIC SHELTER  
 \* EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES

**HAMPTON TRAILHEAD**  
 \* STABILIZED PARKING  
 \* INTERPRETIVE KIOSKS  
 \* RESTROOMS  
 \* PICNIC SHELTER  
 \* POTENTIAL RANGER RESIDENCE & MAINTENANCE FACILITY LOCATION

**LEGEND**  
 \* PROPOSED TRAILHEADS  
 ■ TRAIL ALIGNMENT

**CONCEPTUAL LAND USE PLAN**  
**PALATKA-LAKE BUTLER TRAIL STATE PARK**

0 5 Miles

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
 Division of Recreation and Parks  
 Office of Park Planning

**KEYSTONE HEIGHTS TRAILHEAD**  
 \* STABILIZED PARKING  
 \* INTERPRETIVE KIOSKS  
 \* RESTROOMS  
 \* PICNIC SHELTER  
 \* EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES

**TWIN LAKES TRAILHEAD**  
 \* STABILIZED PARKING  
 \* INTERPRETIVE KIOSKS  
 \* RESTROOMS  
 \* PICNIC SHELTER  
 \* EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES  
 \* POTENTIAL RANGER RESIDENCE & MAINTENANCE FACILITY LOCATION

**PUTNAM HALL TRAILHEAD**  
 \* STABILIZED PARKING  
 \* INTERPRETIVE KIOSKS  
 \* RESTROOMS  
 \* PICNIC SHELTER  
 \* EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES

**ETONIAH CREEK TRAILHEAD**  
 \* STABILIZED PARKING  
 \* INTERPRETIVE KIOSKS  
 \* RESTROOMS  
 \* PICNIC SHELTER  
 \* EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES

**PALATKA TRAILHEAD**  
 \* STABILIZED PARKING  
 \* INTERPRETIVE KIOSKS  
 \* RESTROOMS  
 \* PICNIC SHELTER  
 \* EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES  
 \* POTENTIAL RANGER RESIDENCE & MAINTENANCE FACILITY LOCATION

will eliminate the possibility of arsenic becoming airborne or leaching away into groundwater.

A more thorough environmental and public health investigation of the corridor to provide safe nonpaved horse and bike trails at appropriate locations will be conducted as part of the initial trail design effort, which is funded at this time. Different methods of containment and/or avoidance will be utilized where unacceptable quantities of arsenic are found along the downslope routes of these trails, tailored to the specific conditions of each site. All necessary efforts will be made to contain or remove the contamination, preventing it from becoming airborne or migrating from the site.

In the interim, before development of the trail, the contaminated areas will be posted. The manager will ensure that all management activities along the trail corridor minimize the creation of dust and prevent dermal contact with the affected soil. No affected soil will be excavated without appropriate protection and decontamination measures being taken.

**Trailheads.** The primary support facilities for the trail are trailheads, which function as interpretive, and visitor orientation stations, rest areas and the primary public access points to the trail. In addition to parking, all trailheads should include pay telephones (if possible) and informational signage informing users of trail rules, current trail conditions, emergency procedures, and generally orienting the visitor to the layout of the trail.

Nine primary trailheads should be located along the trail including: at start of the trail in Palatka, in Etoniah Creek State Forest, in Putnam Hall at or near the intersection of SR 100 and SR 26, at Twin Lakes Park in Clay County, on the western edge of Keystone Heights, at Bobby Shepard Park in Hampton, at or near lake Sampson and in Lake Butler (a secondary trailhead for equestrian use will be placed to the south of the city to avoid traffic/horse conflicts). These primary trailheads are recommended to have interpretive areas, restrooms, covered shelters, potable water, bicycle racks, hitching posts, parking and other amenities (Note: the Twin Lakes Park trailhead and Bobby Shepard Park trailheads already provide restrooms and parking lots). Trail interpretive areas should include environmental, historical and other visitor information. These areas would serve as the primary point to learn about trail resources, amenities, history, local recreational opportunities, and seek assistance from staff or volunteers. Permanent restrooms should be constructed at suitable locations with portable toilets being used elsewhere on the trail. Four trailheads have been designated as potential sites for ranger residences and maintenance areas. Four trailheads have also been designated as equestrian trailheads, all of which are located outside a city limits. More study is needed to determine the proper location for these facilities. With the exception of the Palatka, Keystone Heights and Lake Butler trailheads, the trailheads are conceptual and maybe moved depending upon the needs of the trail.

The Division anticipates local government, civic organizations, citizen groups, and private sector involvement in the funding, development and operation of facilities at the primary trailheads. Many of these trailhead developments may require agreements with Palatka, Clay County, Keystone Heights, Hampton, and Lake Butler.

At trailheads where equestrian parking areas are offered (the trailheads located south of Lake Butler, at Bobby Shepard Park in Hampton, on the western edge of Keystone Heights, Twin Lakes, Etoniah Creek State Forest, and west of Palatka), approximately one quarter of the recommended capacity should be maintained as oversized, stabilized parking for vehicles and trailers. Equestrian watering and hitching facilities should be provided at these trailheads. The Twin Lakes and Bobby Shepard Park trailheads already have parking and restrooms available.

**Rest Stops.** Rest stops are proposed to be located in suitable locations every two to five miles

along the trail. These facilities should be simple and could consist of a picnic table, shade trees, bicycle racks, and hitching posts. Potable water as well as horse watering troughs should be provided every five to seven miles along the trail.

**Additional trail connections.** To enhance the existing and potential network of public lands accessed by and from the Palatka-Lake Butler State Trail, trail connections to adjacent recreational facilities including: a trail from Keystone Heights to Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park along State Road 21 (in DOT's plans), a connection to the Florida National Scenic Trail in Etoniah Creek State Forest, a connection to Camp Blanding Wildlife Management Area, and a trail following US Highway 301 to Starke, should be developed.

The Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) is currently in the process of acquiring additional lands that will allow the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway to connect to the city of Palatka. Eventually, this connection could lead to an additional connection with the Palatka-Lake Butler State Trail. Another proposal has been made to develop a St. Augustine – Lake City trail in which the Palatka-Lake Butler State Trail would be a key component.

### **Support Facilities**

**Safety Measures.** Vehicle barricades will be placed as necessary to exclude motor vehicles from the recreational trail. Removable barricades will be provided, as needed, to allow emergency ingress and egress. Appropriate signage and pavement striping will be placed at each road crossing to warn both trail users and drivers of the intersection. Where the level of highway traffic renders a crossing unsafe, traffic control devices should be installed. Stop signs, street names and mileage markers should be placed on the trail at road junctions. All signs and traffic control devices will be installed consistent with Florida traffic laws and design standards. Security lights and pay phones should be provided at all trailheads when feasible.

**Residences and maintenance facilities.** Ranger residences are recommended at two sites along the trail to allow for efficient management and provide after-hours security. Potential locations for these residences are located on the Conceptual Land Use Plan. Small maintenance and storage facilities should be located with residence sites. These facilities should be located out of the public view for privacy and security.

**Vegetative buffering.** Vegetative buffering should be provided along portions of the trail that are visible to State Road 100 or along other areas where needed. Vegetation will provide for a more enjoyable experience for trail users and act as a sound or sight barrier for those people living or driving near the trail.

### **Facilities Development**

Preliminary cost estimates for the following list of proposed facilities are provided in Addendum 5. 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.

### **Recreation Facilities**

#### **Palatka Equestrian Trailhead**

Parking (20 vehicles)

Interpretive kiosks

Restrooms

Picnic Shelter

#### **Site Amenities**

- Picnic tables (4)
- Bike racks
- Pay phones
- Equestrian hitching posts
- Equestrian watering troughs

- Landscaping

**Etoniah Creek Equestrian Trailhead**

Parking (10 vehicles)

Interpretive kiosks

Restrooms

Picnic shelter

Site amenities

- Picnic tables (4)
- Bike racks
- Pay phones
- Equestrian hitching posts
- Equestrian watering troughs
- Landscaping

**Putnam Hall Equestrian Trailhead**

Parking (10 vehicles)

Interpretive kiosks

Restrooms

Picnic Shelter

Site Amenities

- Picnic tables (4)
- Bike racks
- Pay phones
- Landscaping
- Equestrian hitching posts
- Equestrian watering troughs

**Twin Lakes Equestrian Trailhead**

Parking (20 vehicles – already provided)

Interpretive kiosks

Restrooms

Picnic shelter

Site amenities

- Picnic tables (4)
- Bike racks
- Pay phones
- Equestrian hitching posts
- Equestrian watering troughs
- Landscaping

**Keystone Heights Equestrian Trailhead**

Parking (20 vehicles)

Interpretive kiosks

Restrooms

Picnic shelter

Site amenities

- Picnic tables (4)
- Bike racks
- Pay phones
- Equestrian hitching posts
- Equestrian watering troughs
- Landscaping

**Bobby Shepard Park Trailhead**

Parking (10 vehicles – already provided)

Interpretive kiosks

Restrooms

Picnic Shelter

Site Amenities

- Picnic tables (4)
- Bike racks
- Pay phones
- Landscaping

**Lake Sampson Equestrian Trailhead**

Parking (10 vehicles)

Interpretive kiosks

Restrooms

Picnic Shelter

Site Amenities

- Picnic tables (4)
- Bike racks
- Pay phones
- Landscaping
- Equestrian hitching posts
- Equestrian watering troughs

**Lake Butler Equestrian Trailhead**

Parking (20 vehicles)

Interpretive kiosks

Restrooms

Picnic shelter

Site amenities

- Picnic tables (4)
- Bike racks
- Pay phones
- Equestrian hitching posts
- Equestrian watering troughs
- Landscaping

**Lake Butler Trailhead**

Parking (20 vehicles)

Interpretive kiosks

Restrooms

Picnic shelter

Site amenities

- Picnic tables (4)
- Bike racks
- Pay phones
- Landscaping

**Rest Stops (12)**

Interpretive kiosks

Picnic tables (2)

Site amenities

- Bike racks
- Equestrian hitching posts
- Equestrian watering troughs
- Potable water
- Vegetation

**Support Facilities**

Residences (2)  
Maintenance areas (2)

Vehicle barricades  
Signage

**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 identified as optimum boundary and no lands are considered surplus to the needs of the park.



## **Addendum 1—Acquisition History**

**Palatka–Lake Butler Trail State Park  
Acquisition History**

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**Purpose of Acquisition**

The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida (Trustees) has acquired Palatka to Lake Butler Trail to manage the property in such a way as to protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.

**Sequence of Acquisition**

On June 26, 2001, the Trustees obtained title to a 611.27-acre abandoned old railroad right-of-way that later became Palatka to Lake Butler Trail. The property was purchased from Georgia Southern and Florida Railway Company. The purchase was funded under P2000/ Greenways and Trails Program. Since this initial acquisition, the Trustees has not acquired any new lands to add to Palatka to Lake Butler Trail. The current area of the trail is 611.27 acres.

**Title Interest**

The Trustees hold fee simple title to Palatka to Lake Butler Trail. On July 16, 2002, the Trustees leased Palatka to Lake Butler Trail to the Division of Recreation and Parks (Division) under Lease No. 4338 for a period of fifty (50) years. This lease expires on July 15, 2052.

According to Lease No. 4338, the Division manages Palatka to Lake Butler Trail only for the conservation and protection of natural and historical resources and resource-based public outdoor recreation compatible with the conservation and protection of these resources.

**Special Conditions on Use**

Palatka to Lake Butler Trail is designated single-use to provide resource-based public outdoor recreation and other related uses. Uses such as water resource development projects, water supply projects, stormwater management projects, linear facilities and sustainable agriculture and forestry (unless otherwise specifically stated in this unit management plan) are inconsistent with the purposes for which Division manages the property and will be discouraged.

<b>Instrument:</b>	Quit Claim Deed
<b>Instrument Holder:</b>	Georgia Southern and Railway Company
<b>Beginning Date:</b>	June 26, 2001
<b>Ending Date:</b>	Forever
<b>Outstanding Rights, Uses, Etc.:</b>	The instrument holder reserves unto itself an exclusive and permanent easement for the installation, maintenance, and utilization of communications lines as well as any and all facilities/equipment incident thereto over, under, through, and across the subject property.

## Palatka-Lake Butler Trail State Park

### Advisory Group Members

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Chairman Teddy Siehler  
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**Palatka-Lake Butler Trail State Park**

**Advisory Group Members**

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St. Johns River Water Management District  
112 Cypress Road  
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## Palatka-Lake Butler Trail State Park

### Advisory Group Staff Report

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The Advisory Group appointed to review the proposed land management plan for the Palatka-Lake Butler Trail was held at the Keystone Heights City Hall, 555 South Lawrence Blvd in Keystone Heights, on Wednesday, October 1, 2003. Mr. Robbie Smith, Chairman Pat McGovern, Commissioner Nancy Harris, Commissioner John Cooper, Commissioner Wayne Smith, Commissioner Larry Lancaster, Mr. Mike Abbot, Chairman Teddy Siehler, Mr. Lex Green, Mayor Karl Flagg, Mayor Jim Mitzel, and Chairman Bill Grubbs did not attend. Ms. Pat Fouts represented Ms. Mary Wells and Mr. Rich Tillis and Commissioner Brantley Crawford represented Mayor LeRoy Stalvey. All other appointed Advisory Group members were present. Mr. Barry G. Fouts and Mr. Paul Still also attended. Attending staff were Bob Rundle, Larry Fooks, Donald Forgione, JB Miller, and KC Bloom.

Ms. Bloom began the meeting by explaining the purpose of the advisory group and reviewing the meeting agenda. She also provided a brief overview of the Division's planning process and summarized public comments received during the previous evening's public workshop and written comments submitted by non-attending members of the Advisory Group. She then asked each member of the advisory group to express his or her comments on the plan.

#### Summary Of Advisory Group Comments

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**Ms. Deborah Stewart-Kent** discussed the value of having the USDA Forest service involved in the planning process as the trail run has the potential to have links onto Federal lands. She also expressed concerns regarding a separate natural surface trail for hikers. She felt like the best way to avoid potential conflicts between equestrians and hikers was to have two separate natural surface trails for the respective uses. **Ms. Kent** also volunteered the services of the Florida Trail Association (FTA) for the building of a possible natural surface trail. She asked that a note about the Florida National Scenic Trail be added to the Recreation Resource Element section of the plan and asked that campsites for thru-hikers be added to the trail plan especially in the western section between Lake Butler and Keystone Heights. **Ms. Kent** then asked about the state of the New River Bridge. **Mr. Rundle** responded that the New River Bridge was burned down a few months back and it will be a matter of funding before it can be fixed. **Ms. Kent** continued by asking when the trail will be open for use. **Mr. Rundle** explained that the park service was advertising for a contractor to clear and mow the trail corridor. He stated that while the trail is not open for use, the Division is not chasing people out. **Ms. Kent** provided that FTA would be anxious to help build the trail.

**Mr. Kent Wimmer** stated that he would have a few wording changes to add and asked if he could forward them to Tallahassee. **Ms. Bloom** replied that she would be glad to receive them. **Mr. Wimmer** continued that people will be camping along the trail with permission or without so it would be better addressed now rather than later. He also asked that a note be taken that the FTA would gladly supply volunteers to help build some of a natural surface trail.

**Mr. George Edwards** provided an overview of the use of rail-trails by bicyclists. He stated that the plan is very well done, however, he requested that stronger language be added about connectivity to other trails. **Mr. Edwards** continued that areas with multiple uses could be better paved with reinforced concrete vs. asphalt as it is more durable. He also noted some concerns about the quality of the berms upon which the rail was built and suggested that some soil surveys be done in wet areas. **Mr. Edwards** requested that inline skaters be added to the list of potential users.

**Ms. Laura Price** stated some concerns about the multiple uses along the trail and suggested that the Gaineville-Hawthorne trail be used as a model for construction. She mentioned that black bears can be found along the trail corridor and should be added to the animal list. **Mr. Miller** responded that in compiling the species lists, staff generally only lists species that have been observed on the trail. **Ms. Price** expressed concerns about the safety of a Putnam Hall trailhead. She stated that the area has a bad reputation and that an alternative may be west of Florahome. **Mr. Rundle** replied that the reason for a Putnam Hall trailhead is the connection to highway 26 to Gainesville. He suggested that having an active presence in the area could help the reputation.

**Mayor Archie Green** discussed his concerns regarding the DOT ownership of the Keystone Right-of-

## Palatka-Lake Butler Trail State Park

### Advisory Group Staff Report

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Way for the trail. He suggested that a connection to Goldhead Branch State Park would be beneficial because along State Road 21, there are two county parks, the State Park and it could connect down to the beach in Keystone. **Mayor Green** also stated the desire for a trailhead on the western end of Keystone. **Mr. Wimmer** inserted that the USDA Forest Service is looking at buying some land near the Keystone Airpark and suggested that this land maybe a possibility for the western trailhead.

**Ms. Pat Fouts** stated that parking facilities for the equestrian trail users need to be large enough to park several rigs. She asked that gravel/ballast rock not be used for equestrian parking areas because it is hard on the horses. **Ms. Fouts** also suggested separate trails for equestrians and hikers.

**Mr. Don West** mentioned that forestry is not a viable option along the trail corridor. He suggested that an interpretive facility along the trail corridor in Etoniah Creek State Forest could serve the local middle school well. **Mr. West** suggested that the park continue to work with the State Forest to ensure a seamless trail/forest interface. **Ms. Bloom** injected that the Division met with the Forest manager and discussed a possible trailhead near Holloway Road.

**Mr. Rich Tillis** stated his support for the trail and encouraged the development of multiple trails where possible. He continued that the Lake Butler area has a large equestrian following and there will be a lot of local use on the trail once the New River Bridge is rebuilt. **Mr. Tillis** added that the City of Lake Butler would be glad to build and maintain the two trailheads proposed for Lake Butler.

**Ms. Dana Jones** offered her support for the plan.

**Mr. Kraig McLane** suggested that language be added to the plan about the trail as a component of the larger St. Augustine – Lake City trail that is currently undergoing acquisition and further planning. He stated that Palatka would like to eventually have a trailhead located near the center of town. **Mr. McLane** offered his support for natural-surface equestrian and hiking trails. He also stated that a group from the St. Augustine – Lake City Trail Leadership Committee is working on a name for both the St. Augustine-Lake City Trail as well as the Palatka-Lake Butler Trail.

**Ms. Sarah Bailey** expressed her support for the plan. She described the importance of our natural areas for migratory and other bird and mammal species. **Ms. Bailey** suggested that the trail should have a kiosk describing the importance of forestry to the maintenance of species diversity. She also described the need for a partnership with schools along the trail corridor and suggested that the Division really stress education. **Mr. Rundle** stated that interpretation and education is a primary component of the mission of State Parks and therefore will be an important component in the development of the trail. **Ms. Bailey** asked how the Division was expecting to keep ORVs off the trail. **Mr. Miller** explained the Division's policy on the use of ORVs on state park land and then suggested that while at first there may be ORV use, in time with an increasing user base, the ORV use will dramatically fall. **Ms. Bailey** also suggested that hitching posts and a water source should be included in the trailhead parking lots.

**Ms. Connie Califano** stated her support for the plan and trail project. She expressed her concerns about the use of Twin Lakes County Park for a trailhead. She stated that the parking lot at the park should be increased and that equestrian users should be kept away from the soccer fields. **Ms. Califano** also explained that gopher tortoises are located along the trail corridor by Twin Lakes and expressed concerns that they should be treated with sensitivity. She suggested that the public needs to be made more aware that dumping along the trail corridor is illegal. **Mr. Rundle** stated that the public is becoming more aware of the trail project and while dumping has continued, it has dropped off.

**Ms. Robin Turner** expressed her support for the plan and project.

## Palatka-Lake Butler Trail State Park

### Advisory Group Staff Report

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#### Public Comments

Mr. Paul Still stated that the plan was in need of some revisions. He continued that there was nothing written about the two water management districts that have some jurisdiction along the trail corridor. Ms. Bloom stated that it would be looked into and addressed. Mr. Still expressed his disappointment that Bradford County was not represented at the meeting. Ms. Bloom explained that Bradford County Commissioner John Cooper had been invited to the meeting. Mr. Still stated that the trail crosses an active railroad in Hampton and crosses US Highway 301 just west of Hampton. He continued that the railroad crossing would be dangerous and that the trail shouldn't cross US 301 until a pedestrian overpass could be developed. He stated that the area between County Road 235 and Sampson is wet in nature and isn't suitable for horses. Mr. Still explained that he believes a trailhead in the Sampson area should be built near County Road 235 rather than County Road 237 because a hunt club owns the adjacent land by 237 and shooting could be a concern. Mr. Rundle explained that the plan was conceptual in nature and those issues, while good ones, would be decided upon during the design phase of the park planning process.

The meeting was then adjourned.

#### Staff Recommendation

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A number of excellent discussions took place during the Advisory Group meeting. With minor revisions, staff recommends approval of the management plan as submitted.

**Addendum 2—References Cited**



## **Palatka–Lake Butler Trail State Park**

### **References Cited**

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Brooks, H. K. 1981a. Physiographic Regions. Fla. Coop. Ext. Serv., Inst. Food Agric. Sci., Univ. of Florida, Gainesville.

Brooks, H. K. 1981b. Geologic Map of Florida. Fla. Coop. Ext. Serv., Inst. Food Agric. Sci., Univ. of Florida, Gainesville.

**Addendum 3—Plant And Animal List**

Palatka–Lake Butler Trail State Park

Plants

Common Name	Scientific Name	Primary Habitat Codes (for designated species)
<b>Angiosperms – Dicots</b>		
Red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	
Common ragweed	<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	
Groundsel-tree	<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	
Beggar-ticks	<i>Bidens alba</i>	
Paper mulberry *	<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>	
American beautyberry	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	
----	<i>Carphephorus corymbosum</i>	
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	
Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	
Camphor tree *	<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	
Rabbit-bells	<i>Crotalaria rotundifolia</i>	
Persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	
Loquat*	<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	
Dog fennel	<i>Eupatorium capillifolium</i>	
St. Andrew's-cross	<i>Hypericum hypericoides</i>	
Dahoon holly	<i>Ilex cassine</i>	
Gallberry	<i>Ilex glabra</i>	
American holy	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	
Gopher apple	<i>Licania michauxii</i>	
Sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	
Japanese honeysuckle *	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	
Sky-blue lupine	<i>Lupinus diffusus</i>	
Shiny lyonia	<i>Lyonia lucida</i>	
Sweetbay	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	
Chinaberry *	<i>Melia azederach</i>	
Wax myrtle	<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	
Swamp tupelo	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	
Virginia creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	
Red bay	<i>Persea borbonia</i>	
Annual garden phlox *	<i>Phlox drummondii</i>	
Mistletoe	<i>Phoradendron serotinum</i>	
Wireweed	<i>Polygonella gracilis</i>	
Grass-leaved golden aster	<i>Pityopsis graminifolia</i>	
Painted-leaf	<i>Poinsettia cyathophora</i>	
Carolina laurel cherry	<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	
Black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	
Hog plum	<i>Prunus umbellata</i>	
Common guava *	<i>Psidium guajava</i>	
False dandelion	<i>Pyrrhopappus carolinianus</i>	
Sand live oak	<i>Quercus geminata</i>	
Bluejack oak	<i>Quercus incana</i>	
Laurel oak	<i>Quercus hemisphaerica</i>	
Turkey oak	<i>Quercus laevis</i>	
Water oak	<i>Quercus nigra</i>	
Sand post oak	<i>Quercus stellata</i>	
Live oak	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	
Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus caroliniana</i>	
Meadow beauty	<i>Rhexia sp.</i>	
Winged sumac	<i>Rhus copallina</i>	

\*Non-native Species

Palatka–Lake Butler Trail State Park

Plants

Common Name	Scientific Name	Primary Habitat Codes (for designated species)
Castorbean *	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	
Blackberry	<i>Rubus occidentalis</i>	
Wild petunia	<i>Ruellia caroliniensis</i>	
Cabbage palm	<i>Sabal palmetto</i>	
Buckthorn	<i>Sageretia minutiflora</i>	
Carolina willow	<i>Salix caroliniana</i>	
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	
Chinese tallow *	<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>	
Brazilian pepper*	<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	
Sensitive briar	<i>Schrankia microphylla</i>	
Sensitive briar	<i>Schrankia uncinata</i>	
Saw palmetto	<i>Serenoa repens</i>	
Bladderpod *	<i>Sesbania vesicaria</i>	
Gum bumelia	<i>Sideroxylon lanuginosum</i>	
----	<i>Sideroxylon reclinatum</i>	
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago spp.</i>	
----	<i>Tephrosia sp.</i>	
Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	
American elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>	
Sparkleberry	<i>Vaccinium arboreum</i>	
Shiny blueberry	<i>Vaccinium myrsinites</i>	
Deerberry	<i>Vaccinium stamineum</i>	
Mullein *	<i>Verbascum virgatum</i>	
Small viburnum	<i>Viburnum obovatum</i>	
Muscadine grape	<i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>	
Hercules-club	<i>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</i>	

Palatka–Lake Butler Trail State Park

Animals

Common Name	Scientific Name	Primary Habitat Codes (for all species)
<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>		
Frogs And Toads		
Florida cricket frog	<i>Acris gryllus dorsalis</i>	31, 81
Southern toad	<i>Bufo terrestris</i>	21, 81
Oak toad	<i>Bufo quercicus</i>	13
Green treefrog	<i>Hyla cinerea</i>	21
Squirrel treefrog	<i>Hyla squirella</i>	
Little grass frog	<i>Limnaoedus ocularis</i>	31
Southern leopard frog	<i>Rana utricularia</i>	48
<b>REPTILES</b>		
Crocodylians		
American alligator	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	48
Turtles		
Florida snapping turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentina osceola</i>	48
Gopher tortoise	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	13
Florida redbelly turtle	<i>Pseudemys nelsoni</i>	48
Stinkpot	<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i>	48
Florida box turtle	<i>Terrapene carolina bauri</i>	21
Florida softshell	<i>Trionyx ferox</i>	48
Lizards		
Green anole	<i>Anolis carolinensis</i>	21, 23
Six-lined racerunner	<i>Cnemidophorus sexlineatus</i>	13
Southeastern five-lined skink	<i>Eumeces inexpectatus</i>	21, 23
Eastern glass lizard	<i>Ophisaurus ventralis</i>	23, 81
Southern fence lizard	<i>Sceloporus undulatus</i>	13
Ground skink	<i>Scincella lateralis</i>	
Snakes		
Eastern cottonmouth	<i>Agkistrodon piscivorus conanti</i>	31
Southern black racer	<i>Coluber constrictor priapus</i>	13, 81
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus adamanteus</i>	13, 23
Eastern indigo snake	<i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i>	13
Corn snake	<i>Elaphe guttata guttata</i>	13, 23
Yellow rat snake	<i>Elaphe obsoleta quadrivittata</i>	21, 23
Eastern hognose snake	<i>Heterodon platyrhinos</i>	13, 23
Southern hognose snake	<i>Heterodon simus</i>	13, 23
Kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis getula</i>	21, 31
Eastern coachwhip	<i>Masticophis flagellum</i>	13
Eastern coral snake	<i>Micrurus f. fulvius</i>	21
Brown water snake	<i>Nerodia taxispilota</i>	31, 48
Rough green snake	<i>Opheodrys aestivus</i>	21
Florida pine snake	<i>Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus</i>	13
Eastern garter snake	<i>Thamnophis s. sirtalis</i>	21, 31
<b>BIRDS</b>		
Grebes		
Pied-billed grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	48
Cormorants		
Double-crested cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	48

\*Non-native Species

**Palatka–Lake Butler Trail State Park**

**Animals**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Primary Habitat Codes (for all species)</b>
Anhingas		
Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	48
Herons and Bitterns		
Great egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	48
Great blue heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	48
Cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	81
Little blue heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	48
Ibis and Spoonbills		
White ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	48
Storks		
Wood stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	48
Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	
Vultures		
Turkey vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	OF
Black vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	OF
Kites, Eagles, and Hawks		
Sharp-shinned hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	13, 21
Cooper's hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	21
Short-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>	
Red-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	13, 81
Red-shouldered hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	31
Northern harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	81
American swallow-tailed kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	31, 48
American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius sparverius</i>	13, 81
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	48
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	48
Pheasants, Turkey, and Quail		
Northern bobwhite	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	13, 23, 81
Wild turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	13, 23, 81
Rails and Coots		
Common moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	48
Limpkin		
Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>	48
Cranes		
Florida sandhill crane	<i>Grus canadensis pratensis</i>	48, OF
Plovers		
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	81
Gulls and Terns		
Ring-billed gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	OF
Pigeons and Doves		
Common ground dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>	13
Rock dove *	<i>Columba livia</i>	81
Eurasian collared dove*	<i>Streptopilia decaocto</i>	
Mourning dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	13, 81

\*Non-native Species

Palatka–Lake Butler Trail State Park

Animals

Common Name	Scientific Name	Primary Habitat Codes (for all species)
Owls		
Great horned owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	21, 23
Eastern screech owl	<i>Otus asio</i>	21, 23
Barred owl	<i>Strix varia</i>	31
Nightjars		
Chuck-will's widow	<i>Caprimulgus carolinensis</i>	21
Common nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	13, OF
Swifts		
Chimney swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	OF
Kingfishers		
Belted kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	48
Woodpeckers		
Northern flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	13, 81
Pileated woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	21, 23
Red-headed woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	13
Red-bellied woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	21, 31
Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	13
Downy woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	13, 21
Yellow-bellied sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	21, 31
Flycatchers		
Great crested flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	21, 31
Eastern phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	13, 81
Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	
Jays, Crows, and Magpies		
American crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	MTC
Fish crow	<i>Corvus ossifragus</i>	MTC
Blue jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	MTC
Swallows		
Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	OF
Tree swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	OF
Titmice		
Tufted titmouse	<i>Parus bicolor</i>	MTC
Carolina chickadee	<i>Poecile carolinensis</i>	13, 21
Wrens		
Ruby crowned kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	
Carolina wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	21, 31
House wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	81
Thrushes and Veery		
Eastern bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	13
American robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	MTC
Kinglets and Gnatcatchers		
Blue-gray gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>	13, 21
Mockingbirds and Thrashers		
Gray catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	81
Northern mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	13, 81

\*Non-native Species

**Palatka–Lake Butler Trail State Park  
Animals**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Primary Habitat Codes (for all species)</b>
Brown thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	81
Shrikes		
Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	13
Vireos		
White-eyed vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>	13, 21
Red-eyed vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	
Blue-headed vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	21
Yellow-throated vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	13
Warblers		
Yellow-rumped warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	MTC
Yellow-throated warbler	<i>Dendroica dominica</i>	13
Pine warbler	<i>Dendroica pinus</i>	13
Palm warbler	<i>Dendroica palmarum</i>	13, 81
Common yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	31
Black and white warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	
Northern parula	<i>Parula americana</i>	21, 31
Prothonotary warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	48
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	
American redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	
Orange crowned warbler	<i>Vermivora celata</i>	
Meadowlarks, Blackbirds, and Orioles		
Red-winged blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	48, OF
Brown-headed cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	13
Boat-tailed grackle	<i>Quiscalus major</i>	48
Common grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	13, 81
Eastern meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	13, 81
European starling *	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	81
Tanagers		
Summer tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	13, 21
Scarlet tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	21
Grosbeaks, Sparrows, and Buntings		
Northern cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	MTC
Bachman's sparrow	<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>	13
Swamp sparrow	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	
Song sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	31, 81
Savannah sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandvicensis</i>	13, 81
Rufous-sided towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	13
Vesper sparrow	<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>	
Chipping sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	13, 81
White-throated sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	81
American goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	
<b>MAMMALS</b>		
Didelphids		
Virginia opossum	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>	MTC
Edentates		
Nine-banded armadillo *	<i>Dasypus novemcinctus</i>	MTC

\*Non-native Species



**Palatka–Lake Butler Trail State Park  
Animals**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Primary Habitat Codes (for all species)</b>
<b>Lagomorphs</b>		
Eastern cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	13, 81
Marsh rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus palustris</i>	48
<b>Rodents</b>		
Southeastern pocket gopher	<i>Geomys pinetis</i>	13
Southern flying squirrel	<i>Glaucomys volans</i>	21, 48
House mouse *	<i>Mus musculus</i>	MTC
Eastern gray squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	21, 31
Sherman's fox squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger shermani</i>	13
Cotton rat	<i>Sigmodon hispidus</i>	13, 81
<b>Canids</b>		
Domestic dog *	<i>Canis familiaris</i>	MTC
Gray fox	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	13
Red fox *	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	13
<b>Felids</b>		
Domestic cat *	<i>Felis domesticus</i>	MTC
Bobcat	<i>Felis rufus</i>	MTC
<b>Procyonids</b>		
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	MTC
<b>Mustelids</b>		
Striped skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	MTC
River otter	<i>Lutra canadensis</i>	48
<b>Artiodactyls</b>		
White-tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	MTC
Feral hog *	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	21, 81

## Habitat Codes

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### TERRESTRIAL

1. Beach Dune
2. Bluff
3. Coastal Berm
4. Coastal Rock Barren
5. Coastal Strand
6. Dry Prairie
7. Maritime Hammock
8. Mesic Flatwoods
9. Coastal Grasslands
10. Pine Rockland
11. Prairie Hammock
12. Rockland Hammock
13. Sandhill
14. Scrub
15. Scrubby Flatwoods
16. Shell Mound
17. Sinkhole
18. Slope Forest
19. Upland Glade
20. Upland Hardwood Forest
21. Upland Mixed Forest
22. Upland Pine Forest
23. Xeric Hammock

### PALUSTRINE

24. Basin Marsh
25. Basin Swamp
26. Baygall
27. Bog
28. Bottomland Forest
29. Depression Marsh
30. Dome
31. Floodplain Forest
32. Floodplain Marsh
33. Floodplain Swamp
34. Freshwater Tidal Swamp
35. Hydric Hammock
36. Marl Prairie
37. Seepage Slope
38. Slough
39. Strand Swamp
40. Swale
41. Wet Flatwoods
42. Wet Prairie

### LACUSTRINE

43. Clastic Upland Lake
44. Coastal Dune Lake
45. Coastal Rockland Lake
46. Flatwood/Prairie Lake
47. Marsh Lake

### LACUSTRINE—Continued

48. River Floodplain Lake
49. Sandhill Upland Lake
50. Sinkhole Lake
51. Swamp Lake

### RIVERINE

52. Alluvial Stream
53. Blackwater Stream
54. Seepage Stream
55. Spring-Run Stream

### ESTUARINE

56. Estuarine Composite Substrate
57. Estuarine Consolidated Substrate
58. Estuarine Coral Reef
59. Estuarine Grass Bed
60. Estuarine Mollusk Reef
61. Estuarine Octocoral Bed
62. Estuarine Sponge Bed
63. Estuarine Tidal Marsh
64. Estuarine Tidal Swamp
65. Estuarine Unconsolidated Substrate
66. Estuarine Worm Reef

### MARINE

67. Marine Algal Bed
68. Marine Composite Substrate
69. Marine Consolidated Substrate
70. Marine Coral Reef
71. Marine Grass Bed
72. Marine Mollusk Reef
73. Marine Octocoral Bed
74. Marine Sponge Bed
75. Marine Tidal Marsh
76. Marine Tidal Swamp
77. Marine Unconsolidated Substrate
78. Marine Worm Reef

### SUBTERRANEAN

79. Aquatic Cave
80. Terrestrial Cave

### MISCELLANEOUS

81. Ruderal
82. Developed

**MTC** Many Types Of Communities

**OF** Overflying

**Addendum 4—Designated Species List**

**Rank Explanations  
For FNAI Global Rank, FNAI State Rank,  
Federal Status And State Status**

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

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

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

**FNAI GLOBAL RANK DEFINITIONS**

- G1 = Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or less than 1000 individuals) or because of extreme vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
- G2 = Imperiled globally because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or less than 3000 individuals) or because of vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
- G3 = Either very rare and local throughout its range (21-100 occurrences or less than 10,000 individuals) or found locally in a restricted range or vulnerable to extinction of other factors.
- G4 = apparently secure globally (may be rare in parts of range)
- G5 = demonstrably secure globally
- GH = of historical occurrence throughout its range, may be rediscovered (e.g., ivory-billed woodpecker)
- GX = believed to be extinct throughout range
- GXC = extirpated from the wild but still known from captivity or cultivation
- G#? = tentative rank (e.g., G2?)
- G#G# = range of rank; insufficient data to assign specific global rank (e.g., G2G3)
- G#T# = rank of a taxonomic subgroup such as a subspecies or variety; the G portion of the rank refers to the entire species and the T portion refers to the specific subgroup; numbers have same definition as above (e.g., G3T1)
- G#Q = rank of questionable species - ranked as species but questionable whether it is species or subspecies; numbers have same definition as above (e.g., G2Q)
- G#T#Q = same as above, but validity as subspecies or variety is questioned.
- GU = due to lack of information, no rank or range can be assigned (e.g., GUT2).
- G? = not yet ranked (temporary)
- S1 = Critically imperiled in Florida because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or less than 1000 individuals) or because of extreme vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
- S2 = Imperiled in Florida because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or less than 3000 individuals) or because of vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
- S3 = Either very rare and local throughout its range (21-100 occurrences or less than 10,000 individuals) or found locally in a restricted range or vulnerable to extinction of other factors.
- S4 = apparently secure in Florida (may be rare in parts of range)
- S5 = demonstrably secure in Florida
- SH = of historical occurrence throughout its range, may be rediscovered (e.g., ivory-billed woodpecker)
- SX = believed to be extinct throughout range
- SA = accidental in Florida, i.e., not part of the established biota
- SE = an exotic species established in Florida may be native elsewhere in North America
- SN = regularly occurring, but widely and unreliably distributed; sites for conservation hard to determine
- SU = due to lack of information, no rank or range can be assigned (e.g., SUT2).
- S? = not yet ranked (temporary)

**Rank Explanations  
For FNAI Global Rank, FNAI State Rank,  
Federal Status And State Status**

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**LEGAL STATUS**

- N = Not currently listed, nor currently being considered for listing, by state or federal agencies.  
**FEDERAL** (Listed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service - USFWS)
- LE = Listed as Endangered Species in the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act. Defined as any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
- PE = Proposed for addition to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants as Endangered Species.
- LT = Listed as Threatened Species. Defined as any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the near future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
- PT = Proposed for listing as Threatened Species.
- C = Candidate Species for addition to the list of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. Defined as those species for which the USFWS currently has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to support proposing to list the species as endangered or threatened.
- E(S/A) = Endangered due to similarity of appearance.  
T(S/A) = Threatened due to similarity of appearance.

**STATE**

**Animals**

(Listed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission - FFWCC)

- LE = Listed as Endangered Species by the FFWCC. Defined as a species, subspecies, or isolated population which is so rare or depleted in number or so restricted in range of habitat due to any man-made or natural factors that it is in immediate danger of extinction or extirpation from the state, or which may attain such a status within the immediate future.
- LT = Listed as Threatened Species by the FFWCC. Defined as a species, subspecies, or isolated population which is acutely vulnerable to environmental alteration, declining in number at a rapid rate, or whose range or habitat is decreasing in area at a rapid rate and as a consequence is destined or very likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future.
- LS = Listed as Species of Special Concern by the FFWCC. Defined as a population which warrants special protection, recognition, or consideration because it has an inherent significant vulnerability to habitat modification, environmental alteration, human disturbance, or substantial human exploitation which, in the foreseeable future, may result in its becoming a threatened species.

**Plants**

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

- LE = Listed as Endangered Plants in the Preservation of Native Flora of Florida Act. Defined as species of plants native to the state that are in imminent danger of extinction within the state, the survival of which is unlikely if the causes of a decline in the number of plants continue, and includes all species determined to be endangered or threatened pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.
- LT = Listed as Threatened Plants in the Preservation of Native Flora of Florida Act. Defined as species native to the state that are in rapid decline in the number of plants within the state, but which have not so decreased in such number as to cause them to be endangered.

**Palatka–Lake Butler Trail State Park**

**Designated Species**

**Animals**

<b>Common Name/ Scientific Name</b>	<b>FFWCC</b>	<b><u>Designated Species Status</u></b>	
		<b>USFWS</b>	<b>FNAI</b>
<b>REPTILES</b>			
Gopher tortoise <i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	LS		G3, S3
<b>BIRDS</b>			
Great egret <i>Ardea alba</i>			G5, S4
Little blue heron <i>Egretta caerulea</i>	LS		G5, S4
White ibis <i>Eudocimus albus</i>	LS		G5, S4
Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			G5, S3S4

**Addendum 5—Priority Schedule And Cost Estimates**

**Palatka–Lake Butler Trail State Park  
Priority Schedule And Cost Estimates**

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Estimates are developed for the funding and staff resources needed to implement the management plan based on goals, objectives and priority management activities. Funding priorities for all state park management and development activities are reviewed each year as part of the Division's legislative budget process. The Division prepares an annual legislative budget request based on the priorities established for the entire state park system. The Division also aggressively pursues a wide range of other funds and staffing resources, such as grants, volunteers, and partnerships with agencies, local governments and the private sector for supplementing normal legislative appropriations to address unmet needs. The ability of the Division to implement the specific goals, objectives and priority actions identified in this plan will be determined by the availability of funding resources for these purposes.

**Resource Management**

1. Provide public awareness and encourage stewardship and protection of the natural and cultural resources through education and interpretation. 0-5 years. **Estimated Cost: \$15,000.00.**
2. Initiate exotic removal program. 0-5 years. **Estimated Cost: \$60,000.00.**
3. Monitor populations of listed species such as the gopher tortoise. 0-5 years. **Estimated Cost: \$5,000.00.**
4. Manage trail corridor vegetation for aesthetic, interpretive and resource management purposes. 0-5 years. **Estimated Cost: \$25,000.00.**
5. Contract research on the history of the railroad and it's effect on the towns adjacent to it. 0-2 years. **Estimated Cost: \$10,000.**
6. Complete an archaeological reconnaissance survey of the park, marking any newly identified site locations with GPS technology. 2-5 years. **Estimated Cost: \$20,000.**
7. Protect and preserve any cultural resources of the Palatka – Lake Butler Trail State Park. 0-5 years. **Estimated Cost: \$2,000, plus \$1,000/year in reoccurring costs.**
8. Develop and implement a written plan to protect and preserve any recorded archaeological sites from erosion, slumpage, animal burrowing, root damage and tree fall, and vandalism. 2-3 years. **Estimated Cost: \$3,000.**
9. Establish monitoring measures to monitor any recorded archaeological sites for erosion, vegetation intrusion, animal burrowing, and human disturbance. 1-2 years. **Estimated Cost: \$1,000, plus \$1,000/year in reoccurring costs.**

**Administration**

- 10. Secure FTE position(s). 2-3 years. Estimated Cost: XXXX.**

**Total Estimated Cost: \$141,000 plus \$2,000.00/yr. in recurring costs.**



**Palatka–Lake Butler Trail State Park  
Priority Schedule And Cost Estimates**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Unit Price</b>	<b>Multiplier</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Recreation Facilities</b>					
12 Ft Paved Trail	46.000	mile	\$120,000.00	1.00	\$5,520,000.00
8 ft shared use trail	185000.000	LF	\$2.00	1.00	\$370,000.00
Bridge Repairs	1.000	ea.	\$1,600,000.00	1.00	\$1,600,000.00
Interpretive Kiosks	21.000	ea.	\$2,500.00	1.00	\$52,500.00
Medium Picnic Restroom	7.000	ea.	\$115,000.00	1.00	\$805,000.00
Medium Picnic Shelter	9.000	ea.	\$36,000.00	1.00	\$324,000.00
New Paved Parking (10 Car)	3.000	per 10	\$16,000.00	1.00	\$48,000.00
New Paved Parking (20 vehicles)	4.000	ea.	\$24,000.00	1.00	\$96,000.00
Picnic Tables and Grilles	21.000	pair	\$500.00	1.00	\$10,500.00
Site Amenities	19.000	ea.	\$5,000.00	1.00	\$95,000.00
<b>Support Facilities</b>					
Arsenic Remediation	46.000	mile	\$5,000.00	1.00	\$230,000.00
Equipment Shelter and Shop Bldg	2.000	ea.	\$100,000.00	1.00	\$200,000.00
Flammable/Small Storage Building	2.000	ea.	\$9,600.00	1.00	\$19,200.00
Ranger Residence (woodframe)	2.000	ea.	\$170,000.00	1.00	\$340,000.00
Vehicle Bollard	12.000	ea.	\$100.00	1.00	\$1,200.00
			Sub-Total		<u>\$9,711,400.00</u>
			20 Percent Contingency Fee		<u>\$1,942,280.00</u>
			<b>Total</b>		<b>\$11,653,680.00</b>

**NOTE:** These preliminary cost estimates, based on Divisions standards, do not include costs for site-specific elements not evident at the conceptual level of planning. Additional costs should be investigated before finalizing budget estimates. All items fall in the new facility construction category © of the uniform cost accounting system required by ch. 259.037 F.S.