



CULTURAL HISTORY INTERPRETATION AT FLORIDA STATE PARKS FAQ

WHAT IS DEP DOING?

A central component of the Florida Park Service's mission is interpretation of our resources, including history, and our staff take pride in our role in creating a sense of place by showing park visitors the best of Florida's diverse natural and cultural sites. Our state parks embrace Florida history, and strive to appropriately interpret the state's multicultural heritage with credibility and respect.

WHICH PARKS ARE BEING EVALUATED?

DEP will look at all of Florida's 175 award-winning state parks to determine which parks have elements that need to be addressed.

WHAT TYPES OF CHANGES ARE BEING CONSIDERED?

Areas that will be evaluated by DEP include, but are not limited to:

- Park names, purpose and significance
- Historical depictions (i.e., signage, stories, statues, interpretive materials, web content etc. that incorporate the roles marginalized groups played in the history of Florida that may not have been portrayed previously)
- Staff training on new interpretation
- Living history and battle reenactments

This process will evolve based on successes, lessons learned and issues that arise as we conduct this review. Further, we recognize that as we conduct this review, we expect that all parks will not need the same scope of modifications.

This is a draft and not final.

WHO WILL CONDUCT THIS REVIEW?

It is necessary for DEP to determine which state parks require reinterpretation, and how external expertise applies to each story of each park. To conduct this review, DEP will be establishing a planning team that will include at least ten people to ensure that a broad spectrum of input is provided and that external stakeholders including communities, advocates, partners and professional consultants are engaged as needed.

WILL PUBLIC INPUT BE A PART OF THIS PROCESS?

Some of the identified changes may require adaptation of the unit management plans for our state parks, which is a process that includes multiple opportunities for public input.

HOW CAN I KEEP UP-TO-DATE ON THIS PROCESS?

Information on this process and the status of this effort can be found on the Florida State Parks webpage here [\[LINK\]](#).

