

Yulee Sugar Mill Ruins Historic State Park

Planning Region: Gulf Coast

County: Citrus

Lease/Management Agreement Number: 3647

Overview

The plantation owner, David Levy Yulee, was a key person in Florida's history, and served as a member of the Territorial Legislative Council, the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate after Florida's statehood and in the Confederate Congress during the Civil War. The machinery seen at the sugar mill ruins is a premier example of the engineering and innovation of the early 19th century.

Total Acreage: 4.6

Natural Communities	Acres
Hydric Hammock	2.93
Altered Land Cover	Acres
Developed	1.67

Acquisition: Yulee Sugar Mill Ruins Historic State Park was initially acquired on June 24, 1953, using a donation from the Citrus County Federation of Women's Clubs through the Board of County Commissioners of Citrus County. The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Trustees) hold fee simple title to the park and on September 28, 1967, FBPHM transferred its title interest in Yulee Sugar Mill Ruins Historic State Park to the Trustees. On January 31, 1968, the Trustees leased the property back to FBPHM (now the Division) under a 99-year lease, Lease No. 2324. In 1988, the Trustees assigned a new lease number, Lease No. 3647, to Yulee Sugar Mill Ruins Historic State Park without changing the terms and conditions of Lease No. 2324, which will expire on January 30, 2067.

Resource Management Component Objectives

Hydrology

- Assess the park's hydrological restoration needs.

Natural Communities

- No objectives.

Imperiled Species

- Update baseline imperiled species occurrence list.

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Invasive and Nuisance Species

- Annually implement invasive plant work plan by treating 4 gross acres in the park.

Cultural Resources

- Bring the sugar mill ruins into good condition by implementing a regular monitoring program.
- Compile reliable documentation for all recorded historic and archaeological resources.
- Conduct interviews with descendants of people that were present and/or connected with the Yulee Plantation to compile oral histories.

Land Use Component Objectives

Conceptual Land Use

Sugar Mill Ruins

- Update interpretive signage to depict what life was like at Margarita Plantation.

County Road 490

- Options for rerouting road include:
 - Moving towards interior of park along Hydric Hammock ecotone.
 - Push road to the eastern edge of park boundary.
 - Use platted road right of way along eastern edge of potential park boundary.

Parking

- Transform abandoned road corridor into parking area and revegetate are around ruins.

Park Facilities

- Remove restroom.
- Relocate picnic pavilion.
- Create interpretive pavilion.
- Connect facilities with ADA walkways.

Subsistence Garden Re-creation

- Re-create historical subsistence garden integral to interpreting the people who lived and worked on the plantation.

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Optimum Boundary

The optimum boundary comprises approximately 4.2 acres and includes an old, platted road corridor running east and west of Yulee Drive, that contains a portion of the ruins. Proposed additions east of Yulee Drive afford more flexibility for road relocation and the inclusion of the museum/ café could significantly enhance the interpretive potential of the site.

Additions of forested parcels to the east and south boundary of the park would further increase the surrounding conservation land in the developed Homosassa area. Katherine Padula from University of South Florida has discovered ruins on an adjacent property that is believed to have been part of a hearth from one of the “slave quarters”. These parcels are believed to be inside the original footprint of the Margarita Plantation and may house other historic artifacts and structures.